

H. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

1. Overview

A comprehensive master plan is only as good as the people who use it and implement it. All plans, no matter how well they may be prepared, are doomed to fail if they are not implemented. The preparation and adoption of this plan is not the end of the process, but rather the first important step in a continual process of efforts to improve the future of the Village of Buchanan. Implementation of the over 125 specific recommendations contained in this plan by elected and appointed officials, agents, employees and individual residents of the Village is the necessary action and process to make this a successful plan.

From the very beginning, the process of preparing this new comprehensive master plan has focused on making specific recommendations that will make it relatively easy to implement.

2. Planning Objective:

Vision: The newly adopted Comprehensive Master Plan of the Village of Buchanan will be regularly and continuously referenced, reviewed, and discussed as part of everyday activities by elected and appointed officials, employees and agents of the Village as well as existing and prospective residents, business and property owners as a guide for all capital investment plans and improvements, and all land use and environmental regulations and decisions.

Objectives:

- #1: Encourage and facilitate access, review and use of the comprehensive master plan.
- #2: Ensure that the use of and reference to the comprehensive master plan is part of everyday operating procedure for all official village activities by elected and appointed officials, staff, consultants as well as residents and applicants and developers.

3. Planning Recommendations:

The following implementation strategies should follow completion and adoption of the new Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP) (including any subsequent specific plans, reports or studies):

- #1: *Require copies of the CMP to be distributed to all board members and staff, the City of Peekskill, the Town of Cortlandt and the Westchester County Planning Department.*
- #2: *Copies of the entire CMP and the Village Code should be made available on the Village web site.*

- #3: *The Village Code book should include the entire CMP (and any amendments) as an appendix, or the CMP (including future amendments) should at least be distributed with every copy of the Village Code Book.*
- #4: *Copies of the CMP should be made part of the application package for all applicants and part of a welcome package for new residents.*
- #5: *Copies of the CMP document and large scale presentation maps should be kept in the board rooms and available at every board meeting for easy reference.*
- #6: *Regular reference to the CMP objectives and recommendations should be required in all memos, reports, studies and resolutions affecting capital and planning decisions.*
- #7: *The Village should prepare a priority list or matrix of the objectives and recommendations identifying the relevant:*
- a. Planning topic/subject (e.g. Community Character; Environmental Resources; Land Use; Transportation, etc.)*
 - b. Objective (numbered by chapter)*
 - c. Recommendation (1-126 numbered by chapter, e.g. Objective #3-13, etc.)*
 - d. Involved and responsible parties (VB, PB, ZBA, staff/consultants, Special committee, Local Development Agency, adjoining municipalities, other agencies)*
 - e. Effort and cost required (low, medium, high or rough approximation in dollars)*
 - f. Time required (6 months, 1-2 years, 2+ years, Ongoing, etc.)*
 - g. General priority (e.g. low, medium, high).*
- #8: *The Village should require regularly scheduled review of the CMP (annual/continual; 5 years maximum by law) for all Boardmembers and elected officials, including staff and consultants.*
- #9: *The Village should require regularly scheduled reviews of the priority list/matrix and an annual or more frequent report on the status of implementation projects and progress. The review/report can/should be made part of a report to the residents to show progress and to reinforce the public's interest and awareness of the role and importance of the CMP.*
- #10: *Consideration should be given to establishment of special implementation committees (by interest and topic), perhaps with an oversight committee.*

- #11: Consideration should be given to holding special public outreach and meetings on topics and issues of concern (e.g. Village Circle, traffic improvement, historic preservation and revitalization; beautification, open space, etc.)*
- #12: The Village should meet regularly with the City of Peekskill, the Town of Cortlandt and Westchester County, and other local agencies and organizations, to review and discuss their respective plans and opportunities for cooperation on issues of mutual interest.*