

RFP for Disposition – Consistency with Comprehensive Plan

The City of Saint Paul Comprehensive Plan is the City’s blueprint for guiding future development. It is designed to respond to existing and anticipated trends in markets and the built environment. It contains six city-wide subject-based plans, one of which is Housing. While all actions of the Housing Division of PED are designed to ultimately implement the Comprehensive Plan, certain actions target various parts of the overall strategy. The disposition of properties with subsidy and the properties with obligations addresses two of the Major Strategies: Preserve and Promote Established Neighborhoods and Ensure the Availability of Affordable Housing Across the City.

Specific Comprehensive Plan goals addressed by this program include:

2.1. Maintain the vitality and high quality of life in existing stable neighborhoods by engaging in a variety of actions

- g. Support private investment in the existing housing stock by using city loans as a leverage. Preserve properties designated historic;
- h. Promote new construction of mixed-income housing to build upon existing neighborhood vitality and to improve the fiscal health of the City;

2.13. Continue to assess vacant housing conditions with City/HRA partners such as community development corporations, nonprofit organizations, private developers, district councils, and block groups, and prioritize City/HRA revitalization assistance to areas with less vibrant housing markets.

2.15. Engage the investor and lender communities to revitalize areas with high concentrations of vacant housing and foreclosures.

- a. Engage vacant property owners with a stake in the foreclosure issue in Saint Paul, potentially as an opportunity to recover some of their losses by selling some of their properties at a discount to City/HRA partners working to rehabilitate vacant housing;
- b. Make use of all available City/HRA tools to ensure that owners of vacant properties maintain their properties to City standards.

3.1. Support the preservation of publicly-assisted and private affordable housing.

- d. Support the preservation of other low-income housing units under private ownership and management. The City/HRA should actively work with private owners to ensure the long-term affordability of such units, particularly in neighborhoods where there are fewer housing choices for low-income people;

3.2. Support new housing opportunities for low-income households throughout the city.

b. Encourage the acquisition of privately-owned affordable housing and land for affordable housing by nonprofit organizations, land trusts, community development corporations, religious institutions, tenants, or private sector actors committed to affordable housing, thereby protecting it from upward pressure on prices and rents. This is a priority in areas expected to experience gentrification;

c. Require all district councils and City-appointed citizen task forces to plan for the production and preservation of affordable housing in their area, through district plans, small area plans, station area plans, or other neighborhood planning processes. These plans should show how each neighborhood or planning area will contribute to citywide goals, by identifying key vacant or under-utilized sites for new mixed-income housing and sites that would provide residents of new housing access to transit and active lifestyles;

Section 3.2.c provides the official charge to Saint Paul District Councils to address the production and preservation of affordable housing in their District Plans. The Disposition Strategy focuses in three neighborhoods: Dayton's Bluff (District 4), Payne-Phalen (District 5), and Thomas-Dale (District 7). Responsively, the City's Disposition Strategy works to meet the following goals of those plans.

West 7th/Fort Road Plan (District 9)

1. Maintain a diversity of households in regard to income, age, and race/ethnicity.
2. Maintain existing housing stock while developing new housing to meet the diversity of household's needs.
3. New construction should respect and complement the character of existing housing in the community.
4. Housing stock, both new and refurbished, should continue to provide a mix of incomes with affordable places to live.