



MEETING MINUTES

Project: Red River Comprehensive Plan

Subject: First Public Meeting

Meeting Date/Time: 7/24/2024, 3:00 – 4:00 PM and 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Attendees: See sign in sheets

SUMMARY

The first public meetings for the update to the Comprehensive Plan took place at the Red River Conference Center on July 24, 2024. Two meetings were held, an afternoon meeting targeting young families and a general public meeting in the evening. The purpose of the meetings was to introduce the project and the Project Team and facilitate a visioning session for the future of Red River.

Jackie Fishman (Principal, Consensus Planning) made a presentation on the planning process, plan elements, guiding principles for public outreach, the project timeframe, and the community survey currently underway. She led the visioning session starting with a series of questions that were developed by Consensus Planning.

The following is a summary of the discussion:

VISIONING QUESTIONS

1. How would you describe Red River to someone who has never been to Red River and was thinking about moving here?

Afternoon Meeting:

- Beautiful
- Challenging
- Perception of people that live in Red River
- Many small business owners, hard working
- Lots of work
- Work available for trades
- Tourist Town
- No factories – must be determined to work and be flexible
- Seasonal work
- No big box stores. Shopping is local
- Safe and slow pace

- Quality of life is great / Visual beauty
- Locally owned businesses
- Sense of family – tight knit, unity
- Remote and hard to get to for deliveries and air travel

Evening Meeting:

- Challenging
- Expensive to live here
- Worth it!
- Great walkability
- No parking meters
- No red lights
- Lack of growth potential for private development
- Lack of places to run a business out of
- Great place to raise kids, if you can afford it
- People are wonderful
- Outdoor recreation activities
- Great EMS and Fire Departments
- Lack of high school for upper grades
- Revolving door of residents and employees
- Red River is a tourist town. The population increases and decreases drastically
- December and July are the busiest months. April is very slow
- Living in Red River is not a continuous vacation
- It is a lot of work to live in Red River
- Red River is actually a very small town
- Tourist prices year round
- Red River is food desert
- One must adapt to mountain conditions
- Beautiful town, wonderful people
- Geographic challenges = Economic challenges
- Kids leave and don't come back
- No industry – manufacturing
- Environmental vulnerabilities from the natural environment

2. What are the 3 most important aspects of Red River that should be preserved for the future?

Afternoon Meeting

- National forest
- Balance between tourism / tourist trade and those not in the tourist trades
- Willingness to adapt and change
- Keep small town feel, but also keep improving

- History
- School

Evening Meeting

- School
- Post Office
- History of Town
 - Support historical society
 - Preserve structures
- Ski Area
- Parks
- Protect natural resources
- Population not growing enough to service the growth
- People, keep the population that lives here
- Protect the Town from visitors that overrun the Town and are destructive or disrespectful; the people and the businesses need protection
- Tourism that respects the Town and businesses
- Small businesses preserved
- Preserve the uniqueness
- Need infrastructure improvements
- Tranquility
- No franchises in Red River
 - Codify with ordinances to keep them out
- Tight knit community that looks out for each other and has each other's back

3. What are the 3 most important aspects of Red River that should be changed or improved?

Afternoon Meeting

- Housing opportunities
- Daycare
- Younger generation of working families
- Small business protection/business space
- More to do for young families, especially very young children
- Parks – Improving infrastructure, modernize to current needs and desires
- Weekend community activities in the park for local residents, not just tourist related
Events to bring the community together
- Improvements to the school. More teachers

Evening Meeting

- Town infrastructure – water, sewer, internet/broadband, roads off Main Street
- Affordable housing
- Willingness to adapt and change

- Implementation
- Accountability
- Underground power lines
- Public transit to Taos
- Sidewalks on local streets off Main Street
- More crosswalks Downtown
- More walkability on older streets
- Bicycle lanes and bicycle infrastructure on local and Main Street
- Medical facilities – pharmacy
- Keep seniors in Red River with better medical access and senior center or multi-generational center
- School system – need a K-12 school; possible to create partnerships with other districts to get high school grades

4. Which areas or neighborhoods in Red River are most in need of improvement?

Afternoon Meeting

- There are lots of improvements happening now
- Walkability outside of Downtown
- Tenderfoot area needs sewer and drainage improvements
- High Street needs improvements

Evening Meeting

- High Street
- Main street needs more open businesses
- Post Office
- Tenderfoot Area
- Powderpuff Area
- Hill Crest

5. It's now 2044, how would you describe Red River to someone who has never been here and was thinking about moving here?

- It is like living in a Hallmark Movie.
- A small, friendly, connected community focused on outdoor recreation tourism with great schools, public safety, and medical care in a tranquil woodland setting.
- A place of rich community and seeped in opportunity. Rich in community, culture, history, and quality of life. "There's a place for you here".
- With a few exceptions, it is just like the small town when I first came here as a 12 year old kid in 1971.
- Red River has grown by 100%. Infrastructure is all 20 years old and newer. There is affordable housing for year-round living with K-12 private/public schools. New doctors/dental facilities for basic healthcare needs. New businesses, new restaurants, daycare, and utility needs.

- It's a concept town with a quaint Main Street. Main Street has fantastic walkability with stores, restaurants, bars, and activities. It was founded at the turn of the century and nested in a valley surrounded by Carson National Forest. You won't find a better sense of community and support amongst residents. It's a great place to raise a family and enjoy outdoor recreation. The Town beautifully blends it's a ski town and rodeo town (my dream) personalities. It's not always busy though, and it's not for everyone. The economy is driven by tourism and the off-seasons are slow for business owners and many jobs are seasonal. We have a medical clinic, but an emergency room is miles away.
- Where is my jet park and my flying car? My grad school showed movies and said we would have them in the future.
- Quaint, friendly town with activities for all! Caring atmosphere, well worth the price.
- Red River is still a great town to raise kids and a tranquil place to participate in oxygen fueled outdoor recreation. The school continues to be responsive to the community and an excellent provider of education to future citizens of the community.
- Great community with many opportunities and a wonderful place to raise your family. The School is awesome!
- A family friendly quiet community that enjoys living in the mountains, enjoys an active outdoor life, and enjoys living with our neighbors and friends in a close knit community.
- In 2044...Affordable housing is available. School through 12th Grade. Community Recreation Center for family activities and sports. Daycare. Medical services. Strong local workforce.
- Beautiful small-town environment. Be prepared for the changing seasons. Work hard play hard.
- A thriving community with a wide demographic balance. Quaint, yet progressive and creative. Family oriented development. Friendly community that is tight and involved. Compassionate aspiring creative, individuals into community leaders.
- More building upright – condos/townhomes to provide more housing. Good school systems. More medical services.
- Come! Come! Come! Beautiful tranquil small-town living! To live here while you're earning your living there are multiple short-term jobs in food and hospitality with 3+ months of slow times to catch your breath. We have fantastic high-speed internet for those who can work remotely. Our school is 5 star! Our EMS/Fire lead the State.
- A thriving community of multi-generational families that exists without a total focus on tourism. Create a lumbermill, furniture creator, public sledding area for non-skiers, "off-season" activities and industry.
- You should get here sooner!
- Landlocked by the USNF so it will never get any larger, only better.
- Beauty – breathtaking scenery. Family-owned business. Amazing family activities with a lot of recreational options. Clear mountain air. Plenty of restaurants to choose from.
- Still a place that accommodates people of all ages with incomparable beauty. Younger families living full-time due to available housing and work. Safe lively community with great medical services and entertainment options. Perhaps a community garden where

young and old can learn or teach how to care for our nature. If no shopping in towns affordable transportation or alternatives.

- It would be nice to see more childcare in the future. Family and kid friendly activities year round, weekends and evenings. My hope in the near future is to have a high school, so we don't have to travel so far for education for our children. I am also hoping I can tell people about our amazing Rec Center we have in town. It would be nice to have one that has a gym. Swimming pool, childcare.....
- A quaint little town / opportunity for families to have their own businesses and thrive. Class A schools, daycare, activities, plentiful housing. Outdoor recreation, great restaurants, new great RV camping, lodges, and a great ski area.
- Opportunities for families: Schools (high school) senior center/family center, daycare etc. Vibrant diverse community. Businesses outside of tourism more year round opportunity. A town that has kept up. Not doing major, major overhauls every 30 years. But doing a better job of maintaining and adapting to changes. Affordable housing for young families. Trade opportunities. Trade school internships, etc. Safe, beautiful, well-maintained, forest and recreational opportunities. Beautiful fun and safe parks with opportunities to have more events activities, etc. Infrastructure to support it all that is well-maintained.
- Beautiful! Modern infrastructure. Still no affordable or "starter" homes increased and "more" sufficient rental housing. Many job opportunities. Great place for families. Expanded ski area. Lots for kids and young adults to do. Faster and faster to get to ?? (increased transit). Childcare access. Good primary and secondary education options.
- Younger generation sustaining the tourism economy of Red River and adjusting to the ever-changing climate of tourism in our area. Families and younger people are able to live, work, and own businesses in town. The Town has embraced growth and change to meet the demands of tourism and living in Red River. An affordable destination to visit and also live. Accessibility to outside services and improved such as trades and travel. A school that supports and harbors growth of the kids, focused on the outdoors and education.