

**The COR Development Plan
Clarification/Audit of Current Vision
Outcome of Planning Commission Work Session
July 9, 2015**

Overview of this document

1. Quick Summary/History of The COR
2. Comparison of Master Plan Versions
3. Future Policy Questions

Section 1: Quick Summary of The COR

- 2020 Comprehensive Plan
- City of Ramsey Ballot Advisory Question
- Ramsey Town Center Design Charrette

2020 Comprehensive Plan

The 2020 Comprehensive Plan was developed/amended between 1998 and 2001. The 2020 Plan called for a mixed use development. Part of the primary reason was to identify an opportunity to address forecasted household growth while protecting the rural character of much of the existing community. The 2020 Plan called to concentrate more of the growth forecasts in a smaller area of the community.

City of Ramsey Ballot Advisory Question

In 2001, the City of Ramsey included several Ballot Questions pertaining to the City Charter as well as multiple Advisory Ballot Questions. Of note to this discussion, a question asked was the following:

“Do you want a Town Center with restaurants, shopping and other amenities along the Highway 10 Corridor?”

In the general election in 2001, 61.20 responded yes to the above question; 38.20 voted no.

Ramsey Town Center Design Charrette

Between 2002-2003, with amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and results from the Advisory Ballot Question, the City embarked on an in-depth public process to assist in the planning for the Ramsey Town Center. Step No. 1 of the current exercise is to develop a summary of the output of this process (previous vision).

2009/2010 Re-visioning Exercise

Following the foreclosure of the Ramsey Town Center development and the purchase by the City of approximately 150 acres of the development, the City embarked on an effort to revise the vision to better match market conditions at that time. Step No. 2 of the current exercise is to develop a summary of the output of this process (current vision).

Section 2: Comparison of Ramsey Town Center Master Plan to The COR Development Plan

Ramsey Town Center Master Plan	The COR Development Plan
Land Use and Development Standards	
Mixed Use – Vertically mixed use buildings in center	Mixed Use – Mix of uses within each block; single use buildings acceptable
Strong shared parking strategies	Shared parking strategies reduced, but encouraged (floor area ratio reduced)
Development regulations all but required shared, structured parking in first quarter-mile.	Vision remains such to pursue shared, structured parking structures, but stops short of requirement.
High densities to support retail and protect rural character of other areas of community	Still high density, but less than original vision
Centered around transit station	Centered around transit station
Strong 'Blue System' – multi-use surface water management	Blue system amended, but still in existence – see Lake Ramsey planning
1.0 Floor Area Ratio amended to 0.75	0.75 FAR amended to 0.65
2 accesses planned on Armstrong Boulevard	1 access allowed on Armstrong Boulevard due to access spacing and elevation of Armstrong Interchange
Emphasis on pedestrian orientation	Emphasis on pedestrian orientation, but diminished in West 30
Strong streetscape design standards	Strong streetscape design standards
Strong Downtown Feel in center with densities of multi-story buildings, high quality design, mix of uses (residential and commercial)	Strong Downtown Feel in center with densities of multi-story buildings, high quality design, mix of uses (residential and commercial)
Building Design	
Strong architectural standards for individual buildings	Strong architectural standards for individual buildings
Architectural Review Committee – review all new plans and models	No Architectural Review Committee
Strict Sign Standards	Relaxed Sign Standards, yet still stricter than citywide standards
Parks, Recreation, and Open Space	
Master Park Plan	Master Park Plan still intact – but with amendments
West Meandering Commons 'mirrors' East Meandering Commons (now The Draw)	West Meandering Commons now Lake Ramsey Commons – layout amended
Park Dedication + Additional contribution to parks	Base Park Dedication – reduced rate granted for high density residential
Land Use Sub-Areas	
Medium Density Residential in north west corner of development	Traditional suburban retail in north west corner of development (The 'West 30')
Office Park Development in south east corner	Office Park Development in south east corner

Section 3: Policy Questions for Future Discussion and/or Survey (City Council, Advisory Boards and Commissions, Residents)

The intent is to frame a series of questions to send as a survey to advisory boards and City Council. The intent at this stage is not necessarily to answer these questions specifically, but feedback and consensus is more than welcome.

Land Use and Development Standards

1. How much vertically mixed-use buildings is too much?
2. How do we plan for a mix of single-use buildings on a single-block (what happens if the last user in is locked in to a particular use, but doesn't want that use)?
3. How should the City manage parking in The COR? Should the City establish a new strategy for shared parking?
4. How should the City define parking calculations?
5. The remaining westerly leg of Ramsey Parkway – should that continue to have an enhanced design (green medians, enhanced plantings, etc. Similar to existing leg without one-way segments on larger stormwater feature in middle)?
6. Do we want to continue to allow uses with a drive-thru and gas stations?

Building Design Standards

7. Are The COR sign standards still too strict?
8. Should the City re-establish some form of an Architectural Review Committee for The COR?

Land Use Sub-Areas

9. How flexible should Staff be in recommending boundary changes to Sub-District Boundaries?
10. Should the City explore or otherwise re-evaluate the vision of the north west quadrant of the development (south east corner of Armstrong Boulevard and Bunker Lake Boulevard)?
11. The remaining undeveloped area just east of Coborn's – should that stay retail, or is Staff able to entertain residential inquiries?
12. Should we continue to hold the area west of Center Street north of Sunwood Drive for a community type use such as a Community Center or movie theater?