

### **COUNCIL MINUTES**

January 4, 2024

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Study Session in the lower-level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on January 4, 2024, at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

COUNCIL ABSENT

OFFICERS PRESENT

John Giles Francisco Heredia Jennifer Duff Mark Freeman Alicia Goforth Scott Somers Julie Spilsbury None

Christopher Brady Holly Moseley Jim Smith

Mayor Giles conducted a roll call.

### 1. Review and discuss items on the agenda for the January 8, 2024, Regular Council meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff and the following was noted:

Conflict of interest: None

Items removed from the consent agenda: None

Police Commander Stephanie Derivan introduced Police Sergeant Matthew Kuntz and displayed a PowerPoint presentation on Item 5-a, (Approving and authorizing the City Manager to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Mesa Unified School District #4 for Surveillance System Emergency Access. (Citywide)), on the Regular Council meeting agenda. (See Attachment 1)

Commander Derivan commented that the City of Mesa (COM) will partner with Mesa Public Schools (MPS) and integrate the camera system into the Real Time Crime Center (RTCC).

Sergeant Kuntz discussed the purpose of utilizing intelligence to elevate the Mesa Police Department (PD) in order to improve safety at MPS. He advised that as a result of the technology available, the PD will be able to respond to a major incident, such as an active shooter, by as much as three to five minutes faster than any other agency involved in policing in

the nation. He advised that by partnering with MPS, the PD will have access to 2,500 cameras throughout the city and explained the benefits of accessing the cameras in real time. (See Pages 2 and 3 of Attachment 1)

Sergeant Kuntz described the restrictions for access to MPS cameras and how the PD intends to utilize them. He indicated the recordings will be subject to audit and the PD will be transparent on their use of the cameras. (See Page 4 of Attachment 1)

In response to a question from Councilmember Spilsbury, Sergeant Kuntz replied that the PD is collaborating with Gilbert Public Schools and Queen Creek Schools and their superintendents, who have shown interest in having the Mesa PD access cameras for schools within Mesa's boundaries.

In response to questions from Councilmember Freeman, Sergeant Kuntz responded that the PD will have access to all cameras within MPS, but it is at the discretion of the individual school. He described the process when someone calls 911.

Mayor Giles thanked staff for the presentation.

Finance Director Irma Ashworth introduced Jean Dietrich, Signing Director of Clifton Larson Allen LLP, and displayed a PowerPoint presentation on Item 9-a, (Accepting the City of Mesa's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and Single Audit Report for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2023), on the Regular Council meeting agenda. (See Attachment 2)

Ms. Ashworth discussed the results from the ACFR for fiscal year (FY) 2023. She stated there were no findings and the City complied with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. (See Page 2 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Ashworth commented the FY 2023 Citywide revenues have increased by \$85 million compared to FY 2022. She provided a breakdown of the revenues generated by the governmental activities based on major categories. She explained that the unrestricted intergovernmental revenue is the revenue received from state shared revenue, state shared income tax, state shared sales tax, and the City's vehicle license tax. She noted the increase in FY 2023 reflects a two-year lag on the revenues that were received from the state. She added as a result of the City using a methodology and a percentage to transfer utility funds to the General Fund, the transfers have remained consistent over the past three years. She reported that the City's program revenues are a majority of the City's federal funds received and have decreased due to the expiration of the Emergency Rental and Utility Assistance Program (ERAP) funds in FY 2023. (See Pages 3 and 4 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Ashworth compared the City's net position over the last five years. She explained that the net position is the sum of the City's assets less its liabilities, and the City's revenues exceeding expenses results in Mesa's net position, which has continued to increase over the last five years for overall revenue of the City. (See Page 5 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Ashworth reviewed the total assets which have increased to \$5.3 billion, a slight increase over last year. She commented that the major components of the City's assets are capital

assets, including buildings, infrastructure, water plants, and treatment plants, followed by cash and investments. (See Page 6 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Ashworth summarized the cash and investments breakdown as of June 30, 2023. She advised that some investment funds are available for cash immediately. She shared that the cash with the fiscal agents of \$132.5 million is money that was provided to the Trustee to make the City's bond payment due on July 1, 2023. She explained long-term investments are invested from one to five years; however, they are also liquid, and the City can sell any of them if funds are needed. She reminded Council that many of the funds have already been allocated. (See Page 7 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Ashworth stated the City's total liabilities are \$4.1 billion, with the two major liabilities being long-term obligations, which include revenue bonds, General Obligation (GO) bonds and revenue obligations, followed by pension and Other Post-employment Benefits (OPEB) liabilities. (See Page 8 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Ashworth reviewed the long-term obligations, which have decreased slightly. She described how each type of bond is paid. She noted that the utility revenue bonds have decreased, but the utility revenue obligations have increased due to the fact that the City is now issuing obligations rather than bonds. (See Page 9 of Attachment 2)

In response to a question from Councilmember Duff, Ms. Ashworth replied that the City does not take out bonds until projects are ready to begin. She explained that the City has GO authorizations that have not been utilized yet and will use those authorizations when the City issues bonds on the market. She added on December 7<sup>th</sup> the City received proceeds and issued both GO bonds and some Utility Revenue Obligations; however, only the GO bonds have to be voter authorized.

City Manager Christopher Brady advised that the excise tax obligations refer specifically to the ASU project outstanding debt, which is coming from the General Fund pledge to pay back the debt service of approximately \$2.7 million per year and goes to the voters for authorization.

In response to a question from Councilmember Spilsbury, Mr. Brady explained the process of going to the voters for authorization to sell debt over multiple years.

Ms. Ashworth discussed the breakdown of pension and OPEB unfunded liabilities. She stated that the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) and Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) pension funds have increased in comparison to the prior year, while the City's OPEB plan has decreased. She pointed out the unfunded liability is determined by many actuarial assumptions. (See Page 10 of Attachment 2)

Mr. Brady clarified that the actuarial study is performed regularly, and the City takes an aggressive approach to paying down the liability each year by paying more than the minimum required, with a goal of having it paid off in less than the 19 years.

Ms. Ashworth advised at the January 8, 2023, Council meeting, the partner on the engagement will provide a presentation regarding the results of the audit.

Mayor Giles thanked staff for their presentation.

### 2-a. Hear a presentation, discuss, and receive an update on Mesa's 2050 General Plan.

Planning Director Mary Kopaskie-Brown introduced Assistant Planning Director Rachel Nettles; Senior Economic Development Project Manager Jeffrey Robbins; Bruce Meighen, President and CEO of Logan Simpson Design, and displayed a PowerPoint presentation. (See Attachment 3)

Ms. Kopaskie-Brown provided an outline of the update to the General Plan (GP) and the initiation of the public outreach portion of the project. She discussed the updated approach to the GP after an extensive public outreach program. She reviewed the schedule for the GP. (See Pages 2 through 4 of Attachment 3)

Mr. Meighen discussed the existing conditions report and acknowledged many of Mesa's accomplishments, including being recognized as a mega city that brings opportunities. He discussed Mesa being a major housing provider that provides utilities in the right way and reduces the per capita water use for an efficient use of Mesa's resources. He noted Mesa is moving towards sustainability with electric vehicle (EV) charging, recycling, and investments in quality of life. (See Pages 5 through 7 of Attachment 3)

Mr. Meighen stated the Community Engagement Plan is a requirement by state law. He recognized the General Plan Citizen Advisory Committee (GPCAC) for their efforts. He shared a summary of the various types of community engagement that Mesa conducts to receive input from their citizens. (See Pages 8 through 10 of Attachment 3)

In response to a question from Councilmember Goforth, Mr. Meighen replied that the City's involvement in community engagement has been above average, as well as positive. He credits the success of Mesa's community engagement to a variety of techniques utilized including multiple languages, and the location of events in each district.

Mr. Meighen commented that the plan needs to represent the community and he highlighted requests from the community. (See Page 11 of Attachment 3)

Ms. Kopaskie-Brown reviewed the process that determines the vision and guiding principles for the 2050 GP, which includes utilizing the vision and objectives of the 2040 plan. She stated the main goals of the vision statement, which reflects what is included in the 2050 GP. (See Pages 12 and 13 of Attachment 3)

Ms. Nettles highlighted the content and components of the GP. She noted that the implementation for the GP will include a standalone document, which differs from the 2040 plan. She advised that the standalone document was developed to be a living document that could evolve over time. (See Pages 14 and 15 of Attachment 3)

Ms. Nettles described the organization of the GP including five chapters based on three core values derived from the public engagement and comprised of the main sections of the plan. (See Page 16 of Attachment 3)

Ms. Nettles summarized the GP chapters and stated that detailed information on community engagement can be found in the community engagement report included in the appendices. She noted the introduction includes the plan structure to create a road map for how to use and read the GP. She explained that Chapter 3 is organized in a different manner since it includes a future land use plan and defined the placetypes. (See Pages 17 through 21 of Attachment 3)

Ms. Kopaskie-Brown clarified that the placetype mapping identifies more specific boundaries to the parcels instead of crossing over parcels.

Ms. Nettles reviewed the Growth Strategy map which is a new concept in the GP and is meant to be a companion to the placetype maps and provide another level of analysis when considering future land use changes. She noted the map identifies areas within the city for various strategies that will help inform how staff makes decisions when development comes in. (See Page 22 of Attachment 3)

Ms. Nettles described the strategies for Chapters 4 and 5 of the GP, which includes the implementation of the plan. (See Pages 23 and 24 of Attachment 3)

Ms. Nettles described the purpose and details of the action plan, which is updated yearly as priorities and conditions can change. She stated that the City collaborates with other departments and planning teams to integrate their strategies into the GP. (See Pages 25 and 26 of Attachment 3)

Mr. Robbins stated that Mesa has a large diverse population and requires various approaches to public outreach. He reminded Council that today is the beginning of the 60-day review period, required by State law and provides the Council, state agencies, and residents with an opportunity to participate in the plan. He explained the 2050 GP is now digitized and available at <u>www.tomorrowsmesa.com</u> and can be reviewed and commented on by residents. He discussed the various options for the community to provide feedback, adding the City is exploring other options to make participation more inclusive and equitable. (See Pages 27 and 28 of Attachment 3)

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Duff, Mr. Meighen replied that technology on browsers can translate documents to Spanish. He added that he will research for other alternatives and tools to make the GP materials more accessible in Spanish.

Mr. Meighen mentioned that residents can enter unbiased independent feedback to the GP document that others cannot view. He noted to ensure that every person's voice is heard, a presummarized report is generated and categorized according to the names of the individuals, whether they participated by survey or entered comments on the digital document.

Mr. Robbins continued reviewing the public review period that will include a public meeting held in each of the six districts. He reported messages will be posted on social media to inform the community of the meetings. He discussed the City's integrated media strategy and efforts to engage more residents. (See Page 29 of Attachment 3) In response to questions from Councilmembers, Mr. Robbins explained that the City plans to use a separate engagement tool to collaborate with MPS in contacting high school students who participated in providing suggestions to the GP. He emphasized that the City has to receive permission from MPS, but the City would like to notify them that the document students helped create is now available to the public.

Discussion ensued relative to distinguishing placetypes, growth strategy, connecting a variety of different placetypes across the city, coordination of the GP with the Transportation Plan, and opportunities to support urban areas.

Mayor Giles thanked staff for the presentation.

### 3. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of various boards and committees.

- 3-a. Education and Workforce Development Roundtable meeting held on September 6, 2023.
- 3-b. General Plan Advisory Committee meeting held on September 25, 2023.
- 3-c. General Plan Advisory Committee meeting held on October 23, 2023.

It was moved by Councilmember Spilsbury, seconded by Vice Mayor Heredia, that receipt of the above-listed minutes be acknowledged.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Giles–Heredia–Duff–Freeman–Goforth–Somers–Spilsbury NAYS – None

### Carried unanimously.

At 9:00 a.m., Mayor Giles excused Vice Mayor Heredia from the remainder of the meeting.

### 4. Current events summary including meetings and conferences attended.

Mayor Giles and Councilmembers highlighted the events, meetings and conferences recently attended.

### 5. Scheduling of meetings.

City Manager Christopher Brady stated that the schedule of meetings is as follows:

Monday, January 8, 2024, 5:15 p.m. – Study Session

Monday, January 8, 2024, 5:45 p.m. – Regular meeting

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### 6. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 9:04 a.m.



I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of January 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK

lr (Attachments – 3)



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# PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Study Session January 4, 2024 Attachment 1 Page 2 of 4

### PURPOSE

time advanced technology methods. prevent, identify, disrupt, and solve crime through intelligence led, real-The mission of the Mesa Police Department Real Time Crime Center is to

enhance public safety, specific to our schools Partnering with Mesa Public Schools creates an invaluable opportunity to

- Real-time access to approximately 2500 live camera feeds
- emergencies Paired with existing RTCC resources to greatly expedite police response to school related

## PROCEDURE

a school campus, even before our dispatchers or patrol officers become will utilize resources, such as Live911, to be alerted to an emergency on aware. In the event of a school related crime in progress, operators in the RTCC

0

4.2024

suspects, victims, and vehicles to dramatically improve the response to students, faculty and officers, and likely resolve the incident several time and effectiveness of arriving officers. This will increase the safety RTCC Operators will utilize MPS cameras to immediately search for possible. <u>minutes</u> faster, and with a more successful outcome, than previously

- If the suspect is located, the RTCC can direct officers uninterrupted to the threat
- cursory search by officers (at least 10-20 minutes) before a full search is conducted (would likely take hours) Allows operators the ability to 'virtually clear" an entire campus in mere minutes, as opposed to a



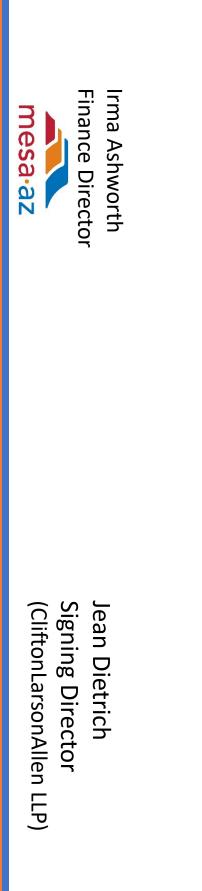
## RESTRICTIONS

Access to MPS cameras will be limited. Cameras only viewed during an active investigation that specifically impacts a school.

No proactive monitoring

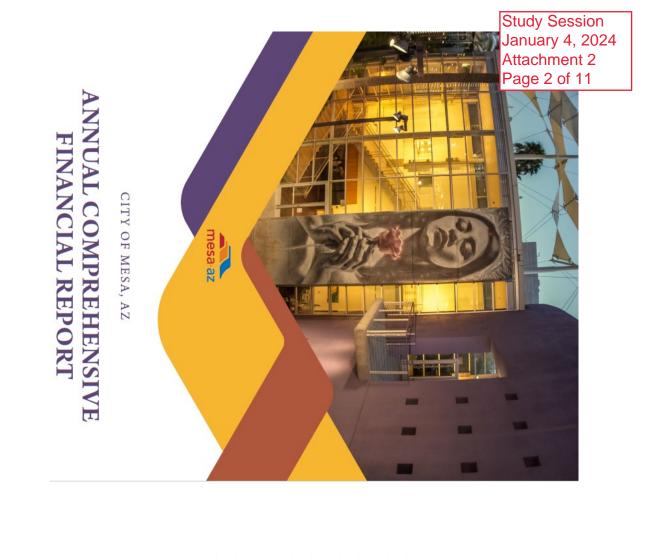
The RTCC does not record or have access to MPS recorded video.

- If recording needed, would request directly from MPS Security
- Potential for 3-5 minute continuous "play back" buffer that would allow RTCC Operators ability to go back just a few minutes during an active investigation to assist in locating suspects, vehicles and direction of travel



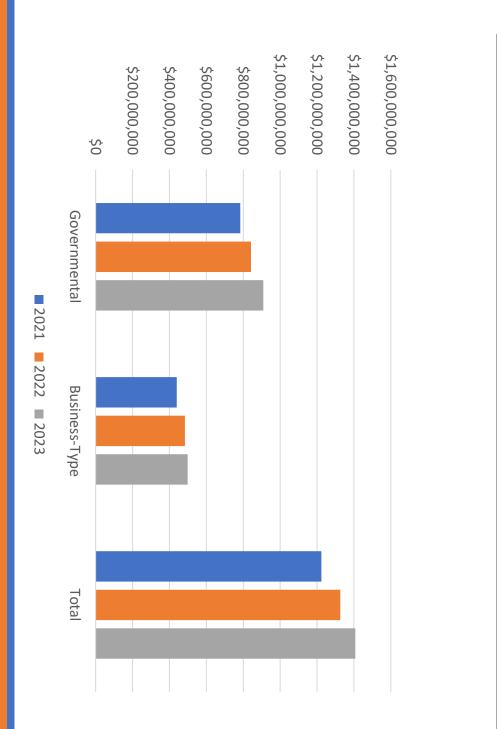
## Serview of Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

Study Session January 4, 2024 Attachment 2 Page 1 of 11



Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

- Unmodified report issued
- No Findings
- Follows Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)
- Complies with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB)



Study Session January 4, 2024 Attachment 2 Page 3 of 11

FY 2023 City Revenue's increased by \$85 million

**Financial Highlights** 

\$100,000,000 \$150,000,000 \$400,000,000 \$450,000,000 \$200,000,000 \$250,000,000 \$300,000,000 \$350,000,000 \$50,000,000 Ŷ Taxes Intergovernmental **2021 2022 2023** Unrestricted Transfers **Program Revenues** 

Study Session January 4, 2024 Attachment 2 Page 4 of 11

Governmental Activities – Revenues Fiscal years 2021, 2022 and 2023

\$1,000,000 \$1,200,000 \$1,400,000 \$800,000 \$200,000 \$400,000 \$600,000 Governmental Activities Ŷ 2019 2020 Business-Type Activities 2021 Total Government 2022 2023

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5-year Net Position Comparison



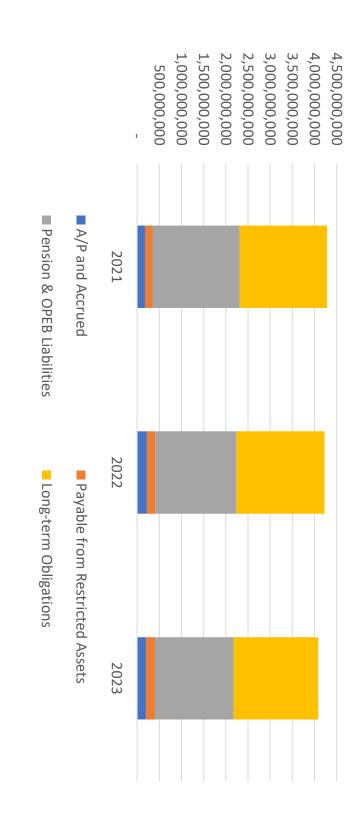
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### Cash and Investments as of June 30, 2023

Cash	$\mathbf{S}$	40,856,000
Investment in Local Govt. Investment Pools		10,808,000
Cash with Custodian		15,023,000
Cash with Fiscal Agents		132,726,000
Long-Term Investments		1,027,315,000
Total Pooled Cash and Investments	$\frac{1}{5}$	1,226,728,000

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### Total Liabilities \$4.1 Billion



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## Long-term obligations

Issue Type	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2023
<b>General Obligation Bonds</b>	\$ 318,950,000	\$284,955,000
Highway User Revenue Bonds	39,030,000	29,030,000
Utility Revenue Bonds	1,227,750,000	1,112,515,000
Utility Revenue Obligations	84,795,000	138,725,000
Excise Tax Obligations	34,180,000	32,935,000
Total	<u>\$ 1,704,705,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,598,160,000</u>
<b>Community Facility District</b>	<u>\$91, 816,000</u>	\$ 98,955,000

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# Pension and OPEB Unfunded Liability

Plan	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2023
ASRS Pension	\$ 208,353,000	\$ 263,694,000
<b>PSPRS - Fire Pension</b>	213,314,000	253,036,000
<b>PSPRS - Police Pension</b>	419,147,000	485,351,000
PSPRS - Police OPEB	9,577,000	11,401,000
City OPEB Plan	978,037,000	778,046,000

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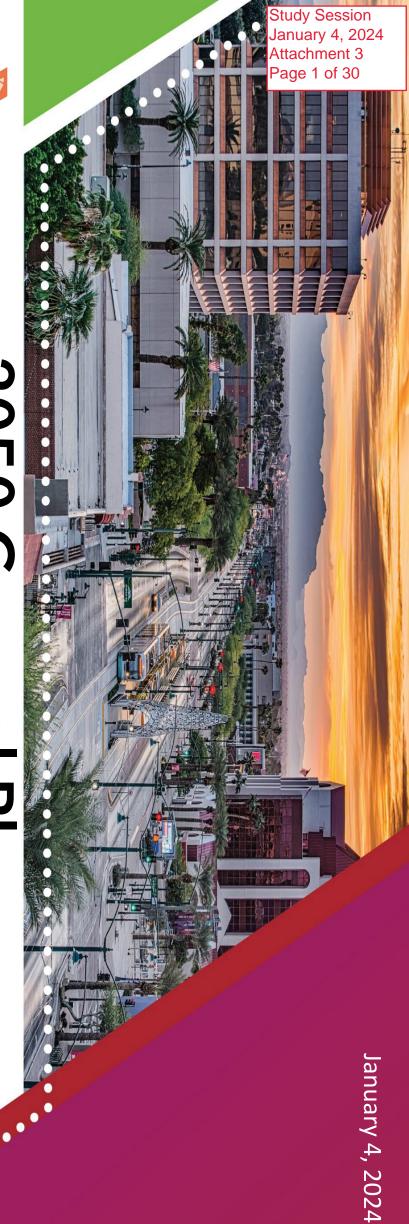
### (480) 644-2605

Irma.Ashworth@mesaaz.gov

**Finance Director** 

Irma Ashworth

## Questions ?





## 2050 General Plan Update

**Planning Director** Mary Kopaskie-Brown, AICP

**Rachel Nettles, AICP Assistant Planning Director** 

**Bruce Meighen, AICP** 

Logan Simpson Design

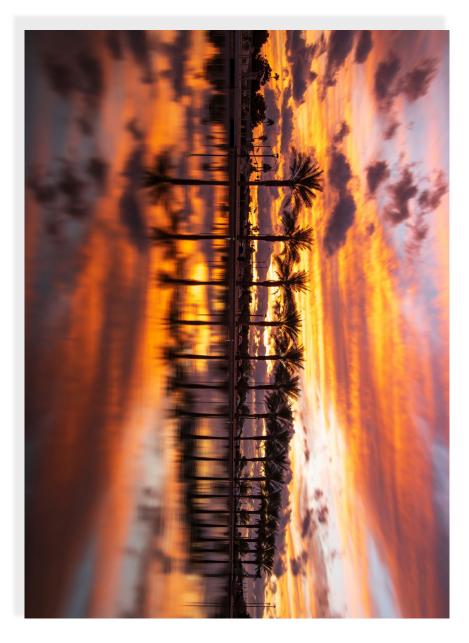
Project Manager

Jeff Robbins, CEcD

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# PRESENTATION

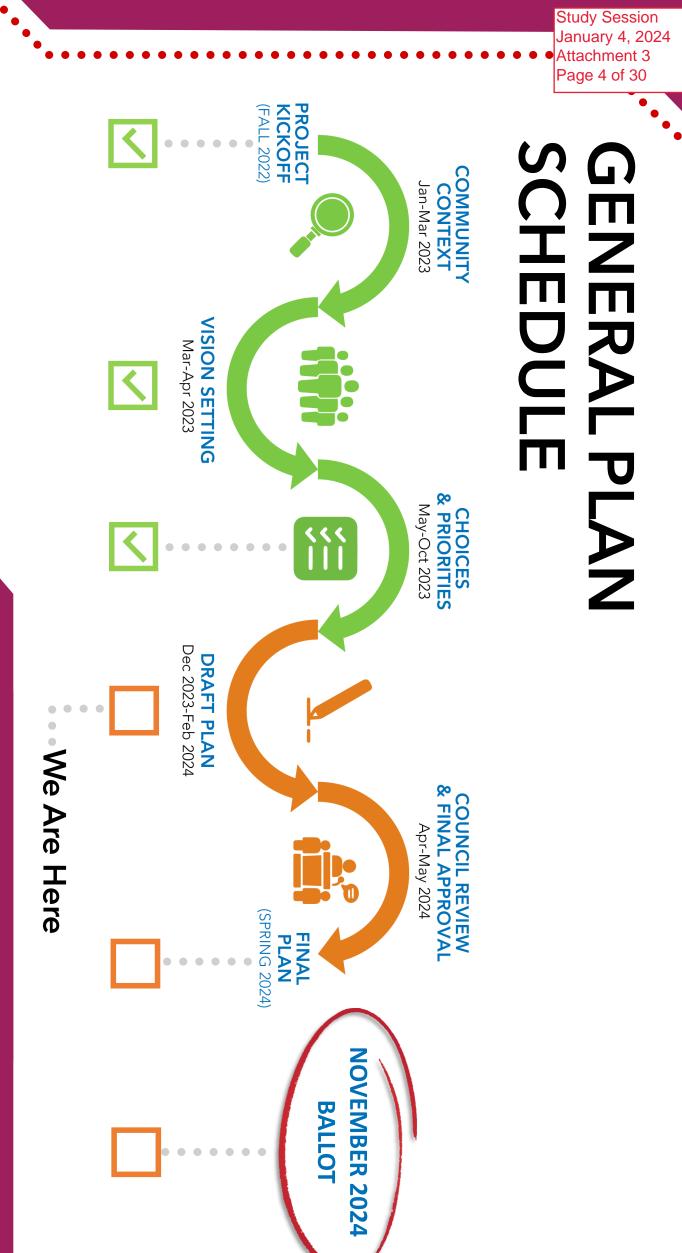
- Existing Conditions
- Community Engagement
- Vision Setting
- Plan Structure and Content
- Public and Council Review



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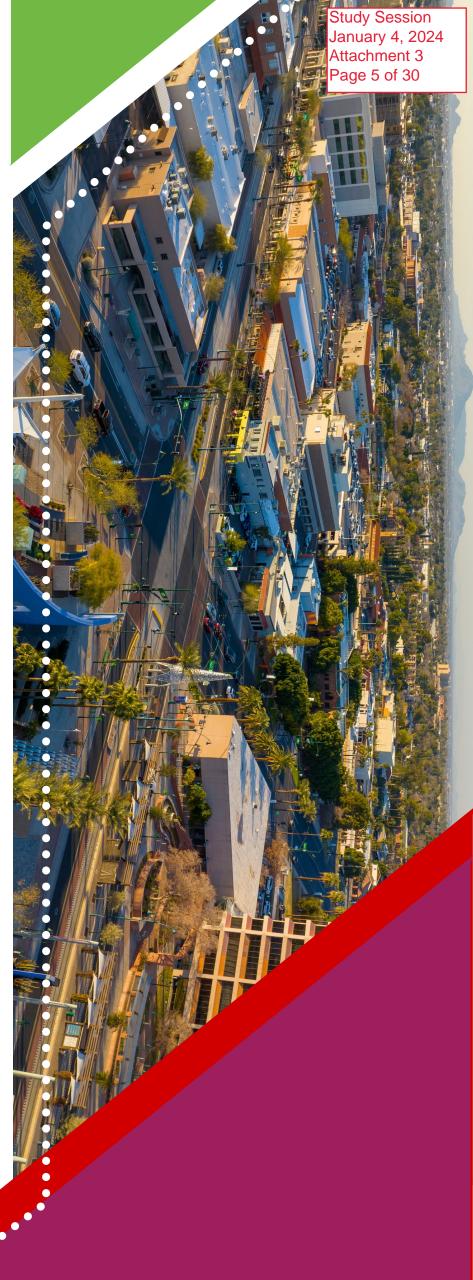
### GINERALPLAN UPDATE APPROACH Clear and concise User friendly - easy to understand Driven by public input

Relevant for all City Departments lexible frameworl lear Action Plan

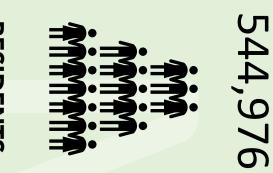




# **Existing Conditions**



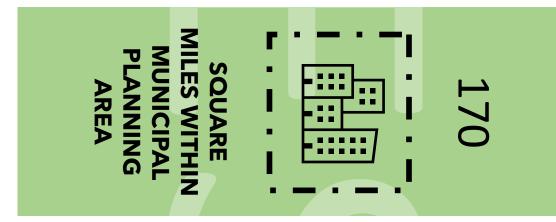


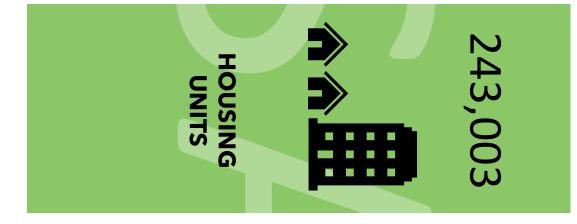


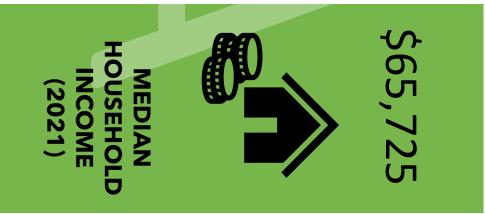


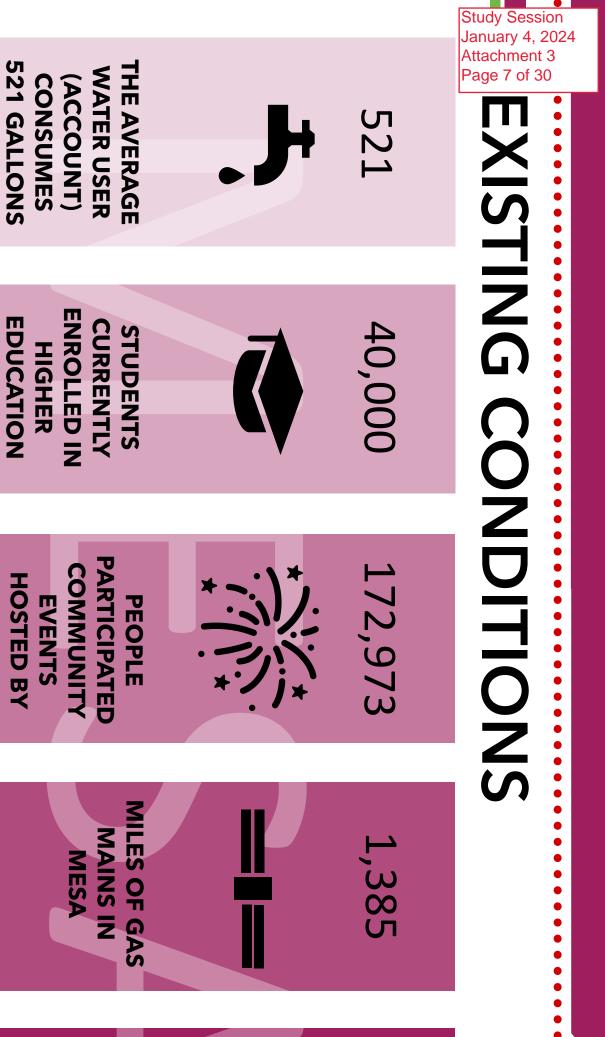


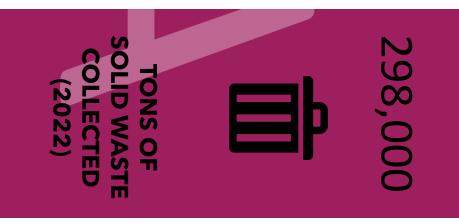
THIRD MOST POPULOUS CITY IN ARIZONA (2021)







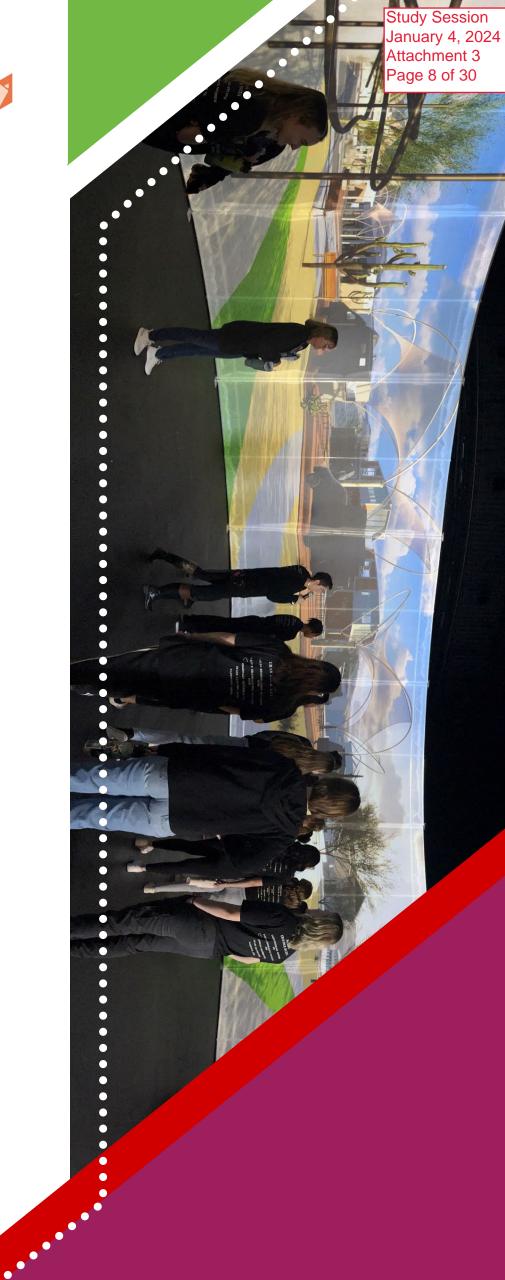




OF WATER PER DAY

PRCF





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# Committee **General Plan Citizen Advisory**

- Ron Williams Chair
- Ivonne Garcia Rodriguez
- Jessica Sarkissian
- Scott Thomas Vice Chair
- Megan Neal
- Jocelyn Skogebo
- Sarah Frechette

\*From left to right. Sarah Frechette not shown



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# **ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY - 2023**



Over 6,000 people participated in public engagement events



3 online surveys with 3.5k+ respondents



www.at over 65 events and General Plan presence meetings citywide



Study Session January 4, 2024 Attachment 3 Page 11 of 30 Traffic and Trails Prioritize Kedevelopment Public Safety mercial & Retail Choice **Business Friendly** ORRO NG OUR FU Preserve Neighborhood Character More Options For Activities Housing Affordability and Choice Quality Places stewardship Environmental



Vision Setting



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# 2050 VISION STATEN

Mesa is a safe, desirable, family-centered co

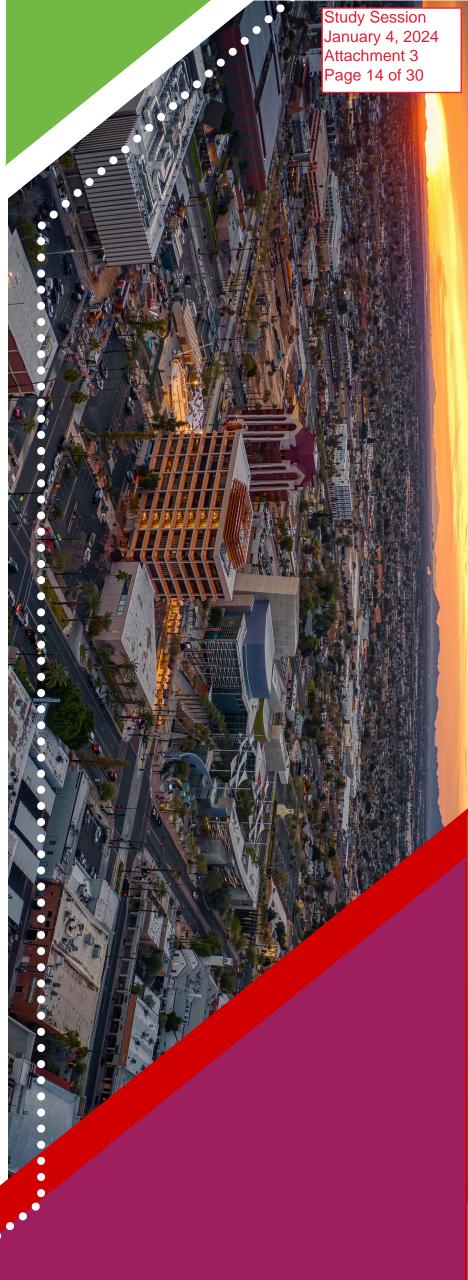
Celebrates our heritage and innovative sp

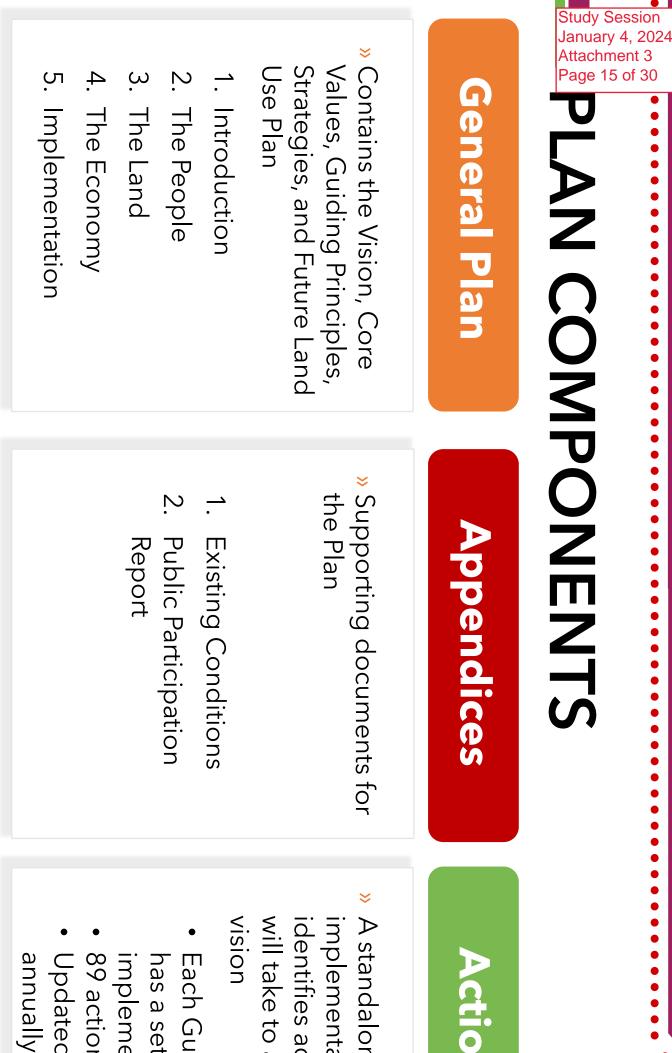
Seeks economic prosperity for all; Prioritizes quality places; and

Offers choices where we live, work, play, and learn.



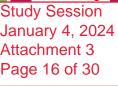
# Plan Structure & Content





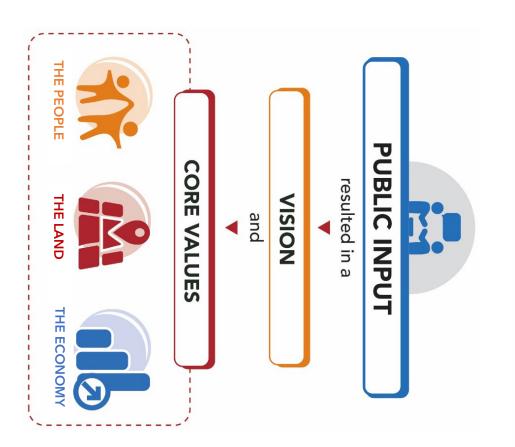
### **Action Plan**

- » A standalone VISION will take to achieve the implementation tool that identifies actions the City
- Each Guiding Principle 89 actions total implement Strategies has a set of actions that
- Updated and evaluated



# HAPTER ORGANIZATION

- 5 Chapters
- Organized around the Core Values
- The Land
- The People
- The Economy
- Each chapter contains
- Introduction
- Section Elements
- Guiding Principle
- Strategies



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### CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

- What is a General Plan?
- Community engagement summary
- Mesa's history
- Key statistics
- Plan structure
- Vision statement and description of core values, guiding principles, strategies, actions\*

### WHAT IS A GENERAL PLAN?

A General Plan is a comprehensive framework to guide the future of Mesa.

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#### THE TOMORROW'S MESA 2050 GENERAL PLAN

Creates a Vision, Guiding Principles, and Strategies to tie together the City's plans and policies related to the following three Core Values:



#### **CITYWIDE PLANS**

help implement the General Plan.

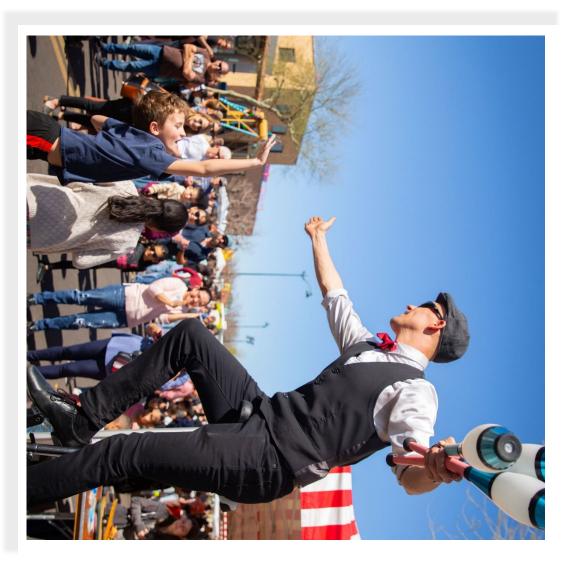
Arizona Museum of Natural H	Parks, Recreation, and Com	Redevelopment Areas Master Plan	Transit Master Plan
Arizona Museum of Natural History. i.d.e.a. Museum and Mesa Arts Center Strategic Planning	Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities Master Plan	Transportation Master Plan	Climate Action Plan
Arts Center Strategic Planning	Balanced Housing Master Plan	Water Resources Master Plan	Smart City Strategic Plan

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#### CHAPTER 2 THE PEOPLE

Contains 4 sections which describe strategies for:

- Great Neighborhoods\*
- History, Arts and Cultural\* Resources
- Human Services\*
- Public Safety\*



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#### CHAPTER 3 THE LAND

Contains 4 sections which describe strategies for:

- Housing\*
- Circulation and Mobility\*
- Parks and Open Space\*
- Land Use and Urban Design\*

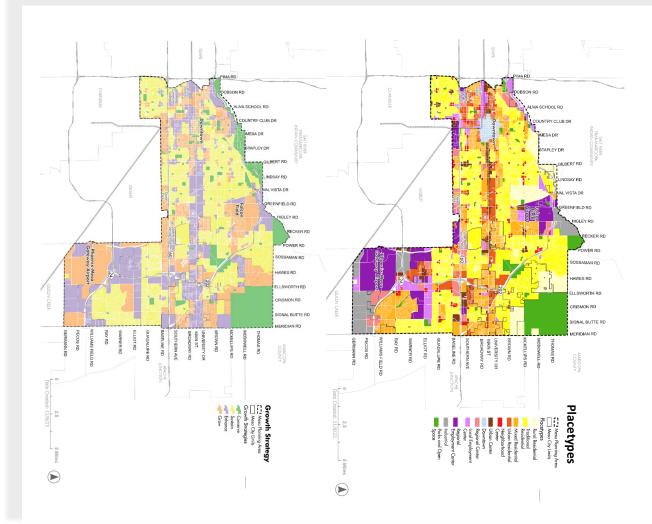


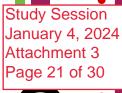
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#### CHAPTER 3 THE LAND

The Land Use and Urban Design section contains the Future Land Use Plan consisting of:

- Placetype descriptions\*
- Placetype Map\*
- Growth Strategy Map
- Consistency Criteria



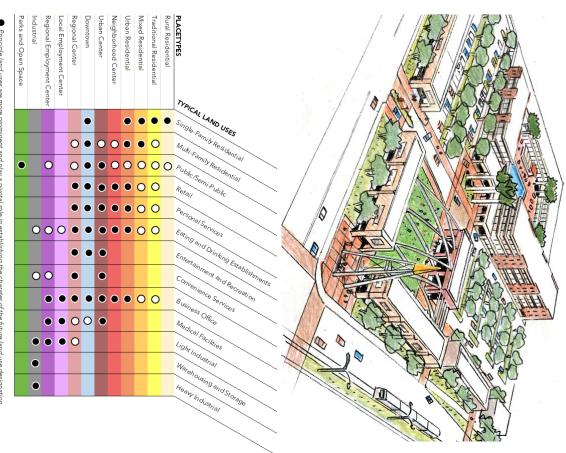


### THE LAND

### Placetypes describe:

- Character of a place
- Typical land uses and target land use mix
- Density and intensity of development
- Urban design characteristics

### of the 12 Placetypes Placetype Map depicts the location

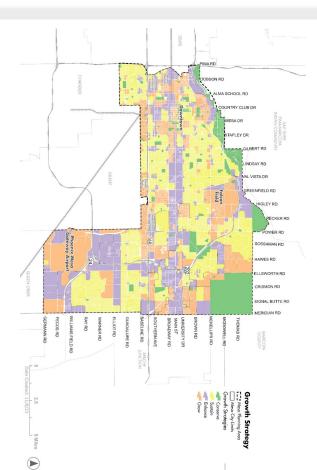


Principle land uses are more prominent and play a pivotal role in establishing the charater of the future land use designatic Supporting land uses are less prominent andserve to support the principle land uses



development in terms of 4 growth strategies: Growth Strategy Map provides guidance for evaluating future

- **Conserve** areas that **should be preserved** and remain largely in their current conditions
- Sustain areas of stability encouraged to remain generally in their current condition but may see mild redevelopment
- **Enhance** areas that are in good condition but encouraged to continue to develop or reuse existing land and buildings as they age
- Grow vacant, transitioning, blighted, or underutilized redevelopment land capable of supporting **new development or**

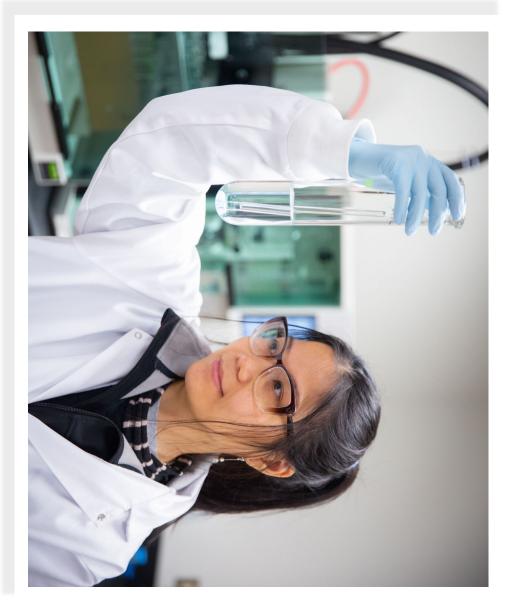


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### CHAPTER 4 THE ECONOMY

Contains 4 sections which describe strategies for:

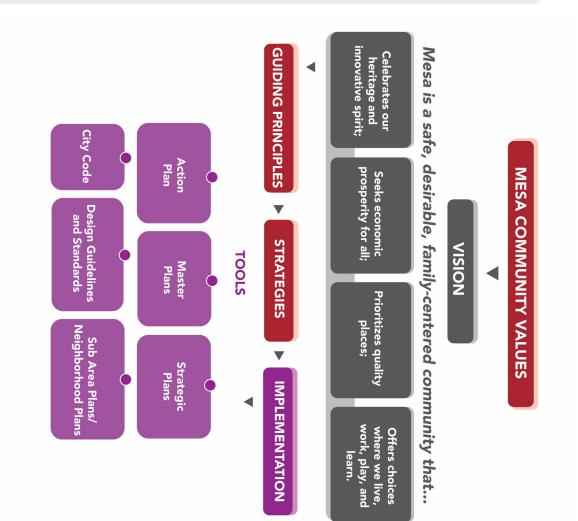
- Economic Development\*
- Environment, Conservation, Energy, and Water\*
- Public Facilities and Services\*



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### CHAPTER 5 IMPLEMENTATION

- Describes the General Plan implementation tools (i.e., City Code, Design Guidelines, City Plans)
- Introduces the companion Action Plan
- Describes the General Plan amendment process\*





## ACTION PLAN

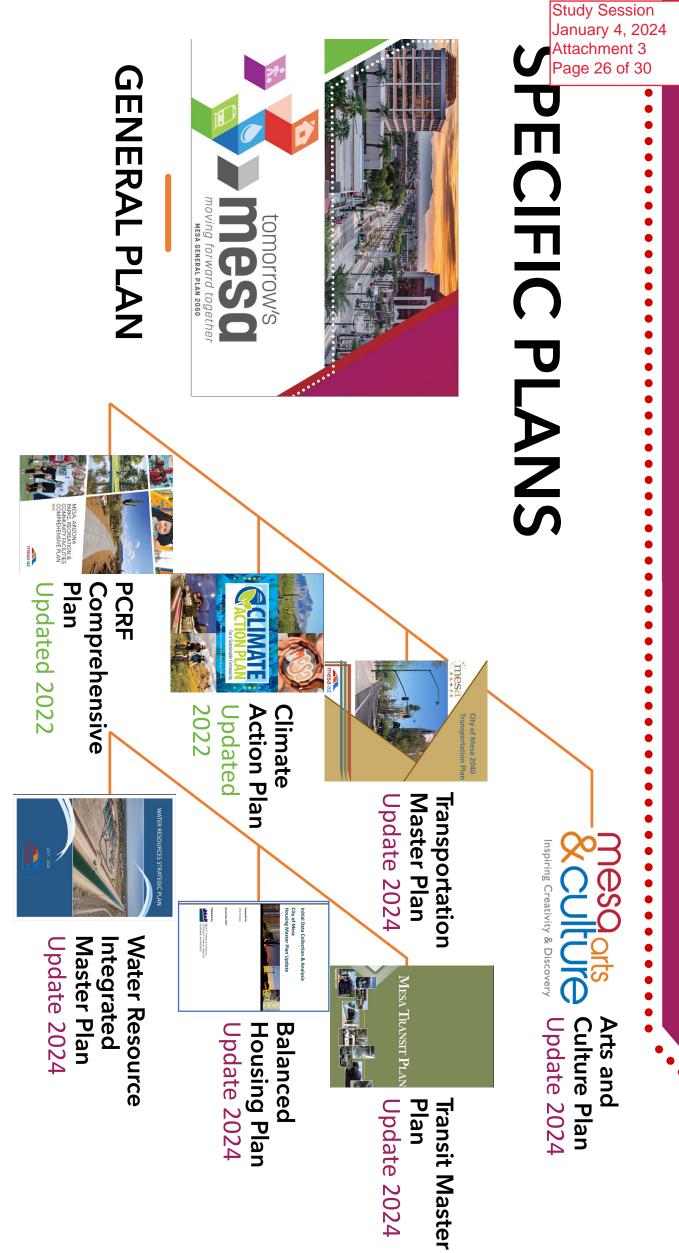
- Standalone implementation tool
- Provides actions for City Departments **Guiding Principles** to implement the General Plan's
- Intended to be updated periodically to reflect
- Accomplishments
- Available resources
- Potential shifts in policy direction
- statute required annual report Will serves the dual purpose for the













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# **UBLIC REVIEW PERIOD**

## A Multifaceted Approach:

- 60-day Review -- January 4<sup>th</sup> March 4th
- 2050 General Plan draft and survey available at www.tomorrowsmesa.com
- General plan in 2 Minutes or Less
- Six public meetings 1 per district
- Late February
- Public promotion through social, print, newspapers, HOA's, out-of-home, and access at public libraries.

Council Action	•MayPublic Hearing and Cou
Immary	Public Feedback Summary
ommendations	•AprilP&Z and GPAC Recomm
	•FebruaryThe Land
onomy	•FebruaryThe People/The Economy

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Radification by Mesa voters November 5, 2024





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Study Session