

2020

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP PLAN

L  S A L A M  S

Vision

Los Alamos is a world-renowned community where discovery and innovation are inspired by its dramatic history and magnificent mountain setting. We offer extraordinary educational, recreational, and cultural opportunities in a vibrant small town atmosphere.



**Communication and Transparency,
Environmental Sustainability, Operational Excellence,
Coordination and Cooperation with Laboratory,
and Regional and National Partners**



In January, 2020, the Los Alamos County Council, County staff and community members identified 7 strategic priorities and four cross-cutting goals; these were subsequently adopted on February 4, 2020. These priorities and goals address challenging issues important to the community that Council agrees to make progress on in the coming year; they will support and help enable multiple other initiatives currently underway. This does not mean that the County will only work on and invest in these priorities, they are a tool to help assure that in the context of all of the ongoing County efforts, a focus on a few high-level, important but challenging issues is maintained.

For each of these priorities, concrete actions for addressing them will be identified. Additionally, multiple mechanisms will be used to promote engagement with the community to clearly and more broadly communicate what the priorities are and elicit ideas and creative solutions for making progress. The status of the priorities will be reviewed and reported on regularly; a high-level summary of progress made toward the 2019 strategic priorities is provided in the State of the County Annual Report, January 7, 2020.

Ongoing improvement in communication and transparency, environmental sustainability, planning for appropriate levels of County services and coordination with Los Alamos National Laboratory and regional partners are overarching goals that will be components of all our efforts.



Priority Areas

Increasing the amount and types of housing options.

This includes a variety of housing options for all segments of the community, from affordable to new options for those interested in downsizing or moving closer to central areas of the community. The 2019 Housing Market Needs Analysis identified that needs are distributed among all income ranges but that it is particularly acute for middle- and lower-income households.

Protecting, maintaining and improving our open spaces, recreational, and cultural amenities.

Los Alamos County open spaces and cultural attractions are greatly valued by the community and provide opportunities for recreational and economic growth; appropriately allocating resources to ensure their health and sustainability is important to our citizens.

Enhancing support and opportunities for the local business environment.

This includes appropriate support for existing businesses, growing new businesses, and supporting technology start-ups and spin-offs.

Improve utilization and aesthetics of vacant buildings and properties.

Land availability in Los Alamos County, and in particular in the downtown areas, is limited and there is a desire to work towards better utilization, opportunities for new businesses, and improved aesthetics.

Supporting social services improvement.

Behavioral, mental and physical health and social services are important quality of life components; there are key areas where appropriate types and levels of county support could help address current needs.

Expand transportation and mobility options and address parking challenges.

Work with regional partners and the Laboratory to consider holistic solutions for the needs and challenges facing Los Alamos and White Rock in the context of expanded housing and employment in the County and the desire to create a walk-, ride-, and environmentally-friendly community.

Investing in infrastructure.

Appropriately balancing maintenance of existing infrastructure with new investments in county utilities, roads, facilities and amenities, which will help improve environmental stewardship, sustainability, and quality of life, while allowing for sustainable growth.

As noted, establishing these priorities is intended to help maintain focus on issues important to the community and support and help enable multiple ongoing initiatives important to the future of our community. These initiatives have benefitted from significant public involvement, time, and expertise and it is essential that we continue to work on:

Implementation of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan, including an emphasis on neighborhoods and effectively managing commercial growth.

Implementation of the 2018 Tourism Strategic Plan.

Utilizing the recommendations of the Community Development Advisory Board.

Addressing issues noted in the 2018 State of Health in Los Alamos.

Pursuing key goals described in 2019 Los Alamos County Economic Vitality Plan.

Communication and partnering with Los Alamos Public Schools and the University of New Mexico-Los Alamos, as appropriate, to support the high-quality educational opportunities in the community.

Collaborating with Los Alamos National Laboratory as the area's #1 employer.

Work towards the Department of Public Utilities Strategic Goals and integration of these efforts with activities in support of the County's strategic priorities will be essential for achieving desired outcomes effectively and efficiently; mechanisms for improving this integration are being implemented.