

# February Focus: Circulation Element



The February General Plan – 2025 topic will be Circulation. So what is circulation and why is it so important to the future of the City? Well if you want to have a simple analogy, the City's circulation system might act a lot like the circulation system in your own

body. The heart being the center with its miles of major arteries, veins, blood vessels all working continuously to keep us alive and moving. An unexpected clot can have catastrophic effects on the system and cause real problems.

The City of Coolidge Circulation Plan is critical to the well being of a healthy, happy and prosperous community. This circulation system is designed to evolve as the City grows. What is currently a two lane agricultural dirt road may eventually serve in the future, as a major arterial street, carrying tens of thousands of vehicles per day. The plan also focuses on alternative modes

of transportation beyond the automobile including pedestrian and equestrian facilities, bicycling, bus transit, airport, and passenger rail service.

The City of Coolidge Mayor and City Council recently adopted a Master Transportation Study prepared by Wilson & Company who has expertise in this type of planning. Growth Management Staff and Wilson & Company will introduce the adopted Master Transportation Plan to participants during the February meeting and obtain input on how the plan could be improved or modified.

## Get Involved! General Plan Event Calendar:

### 2013

- January 15:** Kick-off Meeting/Land Use
- February 7:** Circulation
- March 7:** Open Space
- April 4:** Growth Areas
- May 2:** Cost of Development
- June 6:** Water Resources
- July 11:** Environmental Elements
- August:** Land Use Final Draft
- September:** Circulation Final Draft
- October:** Open Space Final Draft
- November:** Growth Areas Final Draft
- December:** Water Resources Final Draft

City of Coolidge  
Department of Growth Management  
(520) 723-6075



### 2014

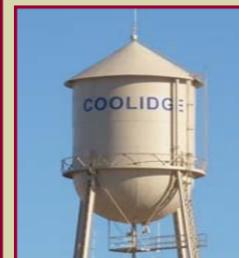
- January:** Environmental Final Draft
- February:** Development Cost Final Draft
- March:** Begin 60 Day Review Process  
**May 5:** 60 Day Review Ends
- May 7:** Planning & Zoning Commission Hearing @ City Council Chambers
- May 14:** Planning & Zoning Commission Hearing @ Coolidge Library
- June 9:** City Council Review
- June 23:** City Council Adoption
- June 23:** Begin 120 Day Waiting Period
- November 4:** VOTE!!

**Rick Miller**  
Director of Growth Management  
rmiller@coolidgeaz.com

### CITY OF COOLIDGE GENERAL PLAN

#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Circulation Meeting  
February 7 @ 6:00pm  
City Council Chambers



# 2025-The Future Today

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

JANUARY 2013

## General Plan Kick-off a Success!

The official kick-off to the Coolidge General Plan 2025 planning process was a huge success. Over sixty-five participants from a broad cross-section of the community attended to offer thoughts about how we view Coolidge today and what we can do to be seen as a happy, healthy, and prosperous City in the future. The participants also discussed some possible challenges we might face in reaching that desired vision.

A special thank you goes out to Interim Coolidge Unified School District Superintendent Pat Jimenez for volunteering to record the responses during the evening's presentation.



The three questions asked were:

*Coolidge Today is?*

*Coolidge in the Future is?*

*Challenges to our Vision?*

City of Coolidge Growth Management staff will take the common elements found in answers to these questions to formulate a Vision Statement. This Vision Statement will be included in the Final Draft of the Plan along with each element, our goals, policies, and objectives to help guide us to the future the community expects

Find out the answers inside on page 2!

## Citizens Work on Land Use Concepts

During the General Plan Kick-off meeting, participants separated into six working groups to undertake a land use planning exercise. Growth Management Director Rick Miller suggested that the seventeen land use classifications in the 2003 General Plan could be reduced to six in the new land use plan.

The six general land use classifications could be stated with the titles of: Agriculture, Rural, Neighborhood, Downtown Core, Commerce/Business, and Industrial.

A representative of each group shared their concepts in a brief presentation at the end of the exercise.

City staff will take the concepts presented at the meeting and prepare a draft Land Use concept plan that can be further refined during the planning process as participants discuss other elements of the General Plan, including but not limited to, Transportation and Parks/Open Space.



Have a look inside on page 3 for a summary of the land use objectives that were presented.

## Coolidge Today is.....



Community members exchange ideas

- Ideally situated between Phoenix and Tucson
- Upcoming "Arts Hub" of Pinal County
- A growing/diverse community
- A great place to raise a family
- A historic place
- A major agriculture center
- A place with affordable housing
- Situated in a great position for transportation opportunities w/existing public transit
- A safe and low crime community
- Home to a historic WWII airport
- Rich with educational programs including CUSD, Imagine, CAVIT, and CAC
- Abundant with parks including the Casa Grande Ruins
- A great place to start a business
- A strong faith based community
- A bedroom community
- In need of downtown revitalization
- Growing in poverty level

*"It has been said that we should invite the vision of young people looking forward as opposed to old people looking backward"*

Citizen Planners forming a vision



## Coolidge in the Future is.....

- A community that will grow its tax base and keep it home
- A cultural center
- A well planned and managed city with strong leadership
- The epicenter of educational excellence
- A recreational community
- A community that actively seeks job opportunities to keep our young people here
- A place for clean industry
- Where unique and home grown businesses will flourish
- Thriving/attractive to the tourism industry
- Maximizing opportunities and partnering with the Casa Grande Ruins
- A wise steward of natural resources
- Broadcasting local news and events at local radio
- A great neighbor with the Gila River Indian Community
- A community with strong families and active seniors
- A warm, inviting, clean, and beautiful City
- Capable of delivering necessary public services to serve new growth
- A City with generally acceptable laws and regulations that promote quality development
- Prospering with individuals that have strong faith based foundations
- Not a bedroom community

## Challenges to our Vision.....

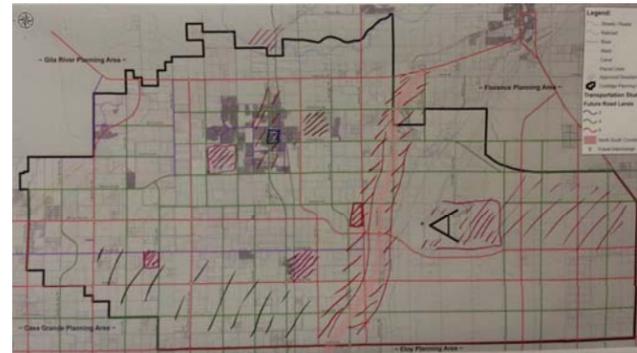
- Lack of funding and limited resources
- Community apathy
- Federal, State, and County regulatory environment
- Lack of leadership along the way

## Land Use Concepts Summary:



Citizen Planners plotting the future

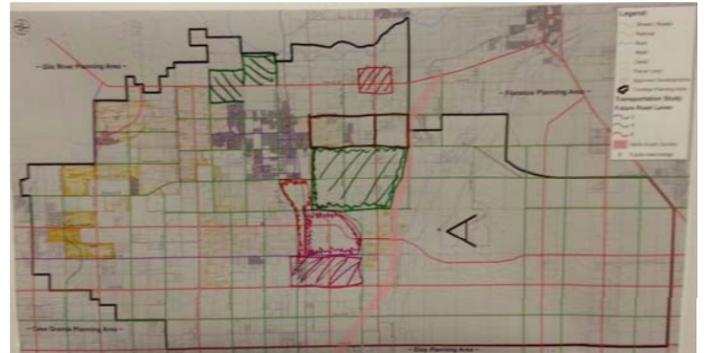
Our citizen planners had some great ideas. Listed below is a summary of the concepts presented:



- Industrial should be located in proximity to the Union Pacific Railroad, the Coolidge Airport, the Randolph Industrial Zone, and the Coolidge Industrial Park near the City's wastewater treatment facility.
- Future higher intensity commerce and business should be located along the proposed North/South Freeway, along with mixed higher density residential to support the commercial development.
- Additional commercial development should be situated at the



- intersections of major arterial streets, as designated on the City's Comprehensive Transportation Plan.
- A need to identify one or more regional parks in the area to serve the community; Heartland Ranch area was mentioned as one possibility.
- Embrace the land use concepts presented in the Pinal County Comprehensive Plan near the Coolidge Airport, which includes a long range vision for a regional airport.
- Illustrate and emphasis placed on the Downtown Core area and along Arizona Boulevard.
- Preserve agricultural areas for as long as possible, recognizing that they play an important economic role today and will continue to do so in the future.



- Establish a "softer" entrance from the northwest out of respect for the Gila River Indian Community and the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument.
- Designate Truck Routes around the Downtown Core to keep heavy trucks from destroying downtown surface streets, while also making the downtown more conducive to the pedestrian friendly vision of the Downtown Core.
- Continue to recognize City approved zoning entitlements and illustrate those areas as neighborhood on the Land Use Policy Map.

