JUNE 2026

Public Involvement Plan

CITY OF MCALESTER, OK
LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE UPDATE

Contents

Project Overview 3
Roles & Responsibilities 3
- Consultant Team 3
- City Staff 3
- Planning Commission & City Council 4
- Key Stakeholders 4
- McAlester Community 4

Public Involvement Goals 4
- Goal 1 4
- Goal 2 4
- Goal 3 4

Outreach Strategies & Schedule 5
- Project Website 5
- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meetings 5
- Stakeholder Interviews 5
- Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) Meetings 5
- Community Open House 5
- Joint Workshops 5
- Adoption Meetings 6
- Outreach Schedule 6

Project Overview

The City of McAlester seeks to update its Development Code to support implementation of the *Moving McAlester Forward 2040* Comprehensive Plan. The City's Development Code includes regulations that govern the use and development of land within the City limits and the surrounding area (in some cases). To bring the City's Comprehensive Plan to fruition, it is vital that local land use regulations permit and enable future goals. To review the City's current code, please visit library.municode.com or click here.

This Public Involvement Plan is developed at the beginning of the Development Code update process to outline the overall engagement goals and strategies that will be enacted. The process is anticipated to continue over a period of 18 months, beginning in June 2026. The process includes three core phases:

- **Phase 1:** Code Diagnostic
- **Phase 2:** Code Development
- **Phase 3:** Code Adoption
- **Phase 4 (optional):** Zoning Map Development

Roles & Responsibilities

Consultant Team

Freese and Nichols, Inc. (FNI) serves as the prime consultant leading the Development Code update process. FNI's team includes a combination of urban planners, designers, and engineers who specialize in community engagement and the development of land use regulations.

City Staff

Members of the City's Community Development department will comprise the Core Team, working closely with the Consultant Team to provide initial review and commentary on draft amendments. Representatives from other departments, including Parks & Recreation, Economic Development, Public Information, and Public Works will also be involved throughout the process, serving as a Technical Advisory Committee. The Core Team is encouraged to meet with the Technical Advisory Committee prior to meetings with the Consultant Team to discuss draft documents and ensure consensus among the City Staff. Additionally, Technical Advisory Committee members are invited to join Core Team/Consultant Team meetings if a particular topic is of interest.

Planning Commission & City Council

The Planning Commission and City Council will receive updates on the Land Development Code during periodic joint workshops, ensuring that elected and appointed officials are up-to-speed on current progress. These updates will also serve as an opportunity to solicit policy guidance from the Commission and Council should issues arise.

Key Stakeholders

Key stakeholders are those who frequently use or may be affected by the City's Land Development Code. Examples include local homebuilders associations, local contractors, local/regional developers, design professionals, and large property owners with anticipated developments. Additionally, external agencies that may be affected by the Code update will be contacted at applicable points throughout the process to discuss overlapping issues.

McAlester Community

The entire McAlester community is encouraged to participate in this process. Community-wide engagement will occur during Phase 1 of the project, consisting of both online activities and in-person meetings. FNI will provide materials to notify the community of ongoing progress. Furthermore, informational resources, draft documents, and open comments will be available on the project website throughout the process to enhance public understanding of the Development Code update.

Public Involvement Goals

Goal 1

Provide clear, accessible education to community members on the role, purpose, and update process of development regulations.

Goal 2

Collect specific, actionable feedback from code users and stakeholders to identify priority improvements.

Goal 3

Establish a shared vision for McAlester's desired community character as part of the update process.

Outreach Strategies & Schedule

Project Website

The FNI Team will develop and host a project website that contains updates on planning processes, information about upcoming events, and links to relevant resources and initiatives. This website will also support a variety of community engagement tools, including online surveys, virtual idea walls, and mapped community feedback.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meetings

McAlester City Staff will form a Technical Advisory Committee of internal representatives responsible for code compliance review, related development agencies, and other interested parties. The FNI Team will host regular virtual meetings with this Committee to discuss relevant project topics and review drafts of the updated Development Code.

Stakeholder Interviews

The FNI Team, supported by City Staff, will host in-person stakeholder interviews to collect input on issues resulting from the current Code and to brainstorm potential solutions. City Staff will identify key community participants and secure the venue, while FNI will prepare interview materials and assess interview output.

Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) Meetings

The FNI Team, supported by City Staff, will conduct meetings with a Stakeholder Advisory Committee to review Code content, collect feedback from a Code-user perspective, and optimize Code functionality. FNI will present an in-person draft of the Diagnostic Report at the end of Phase 1, while additional meetings will be scheduled virtually.

Community Open House

The FNI Team, supported by City Staff, will facilitate an open house meeting during the course of the project. This meeting will review project process with the community and discuss related issues before Code development begins. FNI is responsible for developing all presentations, flyers, activities, and other materials.

Joint Workshops

The FNI Team, supported by City Staff, will organize joint workshops for the Planning Commission and City Council at key project milestones. The purpose of these workshops is to keep local decision-makers aware of project progress and to address policy-related issues. The SAC will be invited to attend one of these meetings.

Adoption Hearings

The FNI Team will present project materials to the Planning Commission and City Council once the Code is complete and docketed for adoption.

Outreach Schedule

As shown in the table below, most public engagement is concentrated in Phase 1. Phase 2 includes a series of work sessions to review and refine the draft Code, as well as Planning Commission briefings to assess particular modules and invite direction regarding outstanding policy issues. A final open house, as well as a final joint workshop, will occur during Phase 3, followed by two adoption hearings. If Phase 4 is executed, it will include two additional Technical Advisory Committee meetings.

	Phase 1 (Jun. 2026 - Oct. 2026)	*Phase 2 (Oct. 2026 - Aug. 2027)*	*Phase 3 (Aug. 2027 - Nov. 2027)*	*Phase 4 (optional) (Feb. 2027 - May 2027)*
TAC/SAC Meetings	2	9		2
Stakeholder Interview Period	1			
Community Open Houses	1			
Elected Body Briefings	1	2		
Joint Workshops			1	
Adoption Hearings			2	

