

# Help shape the future of Santa Maria!



In the future, what will Santa Maria be like? How will people get around? Where will Santa Maria residents work, play, and shop? The City of Santa Maria is thinking about these questions today as we update our General Plan. We need your help to make sure the updated General Plan reflects the Santa Maria community's visions and priorities for the future!

## Why is Santa Maria updating its General Plan?

Santa Maria's existing General Plan contains seven topics, or "elements," updated between 1995 and 2015. Many policies in the existing General Plan are still relevant today, but the General Plan needs to be updated because the community faces new opportunities and challenges, including population growth, housing affordability, climate change, and much more. Some of the topics the General Plan will cover include land use, mobility, environmental justice, safety, noise, conservation, and open space. The updated General Plan will help improve Santa Maria by creating opportunities to enhance the quality of life for all members of the community, while also preserving the things about Santa Maria that make it unique and special.

### What is a *General Plan*?

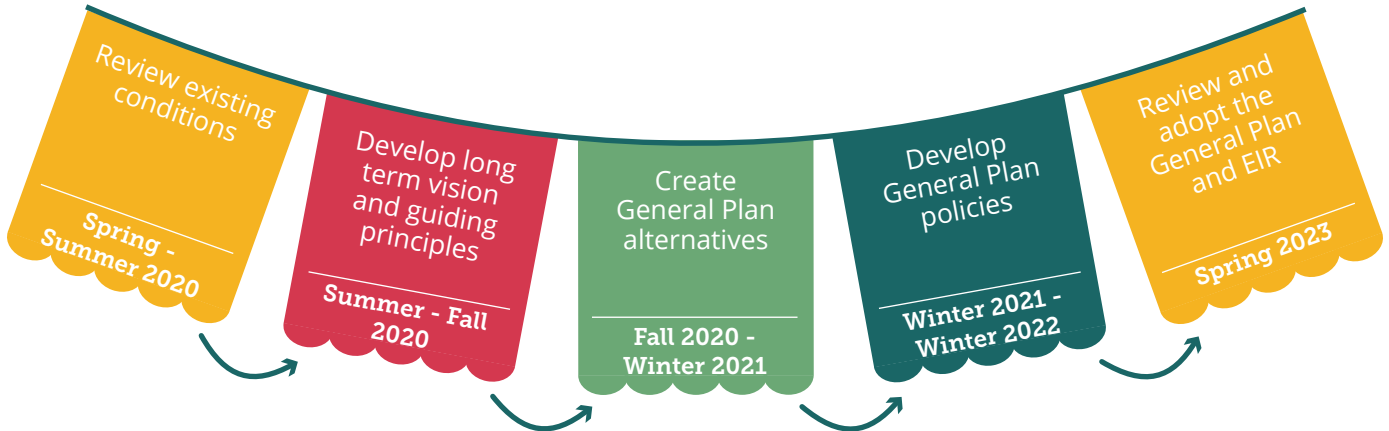
A general plan is a city's primary guide for land use and development decisions. It is a city's blueprint, or constitution, to guide preservation and change. The City must update its General Plan periodically to respond to the changing needs and conditions of the city and region and to reflect new State laws.





## What are the steps and the timeline?

The General Plan update process will consist of five major steps. The community will have the opportunity to participate during each stage. The General Plan update process kicked off in January 2020 and is scheduled to conclude in early 2023.



## We need your help!

Everyone has a role to play in updating the General Plan - including you! You are the expert. You know what's great about Santa Maria, what should change and stay the same, and who we should reach out to. Your participation will help us make sure the updated General Plan represents the community's voice. The City will provide plenty of opportunities to participate and stay informed in the General Plan update process, including:

- Community surveys
- Meetings with the City Council and Planning Commission
- Interactive project website
- Informal "pop-up" events
- Community workshops
- Stakeholder and neighborhood meetings



## Need more information?

Visit the project website [imaginesantamaria.com](https://imaginesantamaria.com) for project updates and to sign up for updates.

Feel free to contact the City of Santa Maria Community Development Department:  
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