



## Summary of Feedback from Project Kickoff Stakeholder Interviews

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

The City of Laramie is undertaking a pivotal update to the community's Comprehensive Plan—an essential blueprint that will shape land use, development, and growth for the next two decades. This update will combine forward-thinking policies with input from the people who know Laramie best—its residents, business owners, and stakeholders. Thoughtful contributions gathered during public engagement will directly inform the government's strategy, ensuring a balanced approach to the challenges and opportunities ahead.

The Comprehensive Plan update process – titled Forge Laramie – is led by the City Planning Division with support from Clarion Associates, Yard & Co., AVI, and Fourth Economy ("Project Team"). The project team will combine their national planning experience with local expertise to produce a Plan that is rooted in community values and aspirations and reflects the needs and priorities of Laramie residents.

The Forge Laramie project is anticipated to be completed in 18 months, with the adoption process beginning in the fall of 2026. For more information please visit the project website at [www.forgelaramie.com](http://www.forgelaramie.com).

### STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

The project team hosted 18 in-person interviews on June 24 and 25, 2025, speaking to a total of 48 stakeholders. The list of stakeholder groups interviewed as part of this process is provided below.

- Albany County School District (ACSD)
- Laramie City Council
- Laramie City Manager's Office
- Laramie Fire Department
- Laramie Parks and Recreation Department
- Laramie Planning Division
- Laramie Police Department
- Laramie Solid Waste Division
- Laramie Streets Division
- Laramie Utilities Division
- Laramie County Community College (LCCC)
- Laramie Regional Airport
- Laramie Main Street Alliance
- Laramie Soup Kitchen

- Visit Laramie
- WyoTech

## KEY THEMES AND TAKEAWAYS

In January of 2025, the City Council adopted policy goals and objectives to promote the overall efficiency and effectiveness of City services and facilitate community building for current and future generations. These goals include:

- Engagement and Communication
- Housing
- Enabling Resources and Inputs
- Infrastructure that is Housing- and Business-Ready
- Safety and Wellbeing
- Economic Opportunity and Development
- Public Transportation and Accessibility
- Environmental

These goals have been used as the framework for organizing key themes derived from the project kickoff stakeholder interviews, as described in greater detail below. Each section begins with the City Council policy statement associated with each goal, followed by key takeaways from the stakeholder interviews.

### ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

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*Civic engagement is a valued part of our municipal decision-making process that maximizes local capacity by building upon varied perspectives. Two-way communication sharing fosters trust between residents and city government and furthers Laramie's values of transparency, accountability, and integrity.*

#### COLLABORATION

- Need to coordinate with Albany County on overlapping comprehensive plan issues
- Desire among several organizations to improve partnership and collaboration with University of Wyoming

#### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Critical to work closely with residents, property owners, and business owners located within the western portions of the city throughout the Forge Laramie process
- Need to work closely with community education partners (University of Wyoming, LCCC, WyoTech, and ACSD)

## TRANSPARENCY AND INFORMATION SHARING

- Support for finding new, more effective ways of sharing government information with the general public

## HOUSING

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*Housing choices and affordability are essential to the overall success of the community and the quality of life and prosperity of residents. Laramie's high cost of both land and construction make it challenging to produce lower priced housing.*

### HOUSING COSTS

- Difficult to attain workforce housing in Laramie (teachers, fire fighters, etc.)
- Great concern for the lack of affordable housing throughout Laramie
- Frustration with the higher housing costs in Laramie, as compared to surrounding communities

### HOUSING LOCATION

- Support for housing in or near downtown
- Lack of on-campus housing to support the needs of students from all higher education institutions (which impacts the community's rental market more broadly)

### HOUSING STOCK

- Support for expanding the types of housing units allowed in Laramie (missing middle housing, homes on smaller lots, etc.)
- Support for improving housing conditions of rental properties

### HOUSING SUPPLY

- Need to increase the number of housing units available in Laramie
- Desire for larger, outside developers to participate in the local housing market
- Concern about the relationship between housing development and business development (which comes first?)

## ENABLING RESOURCES & INPUTS

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*To achieve the community's needs and vision will require resources and inputs necessary to build capacity and a bridge to the future.*

### FISCAL CHALLENGES

- Need to educate the general public about local government financing and the limitations Laramie faces compared to other Wyoming communities
- Concern for the impact of State property tax legislation on City budget

- Desire to build awareness about the capital improvements the City has made to become a more resilient community

## INFRASTRUCTURE THAT IS HOUSING- & BUSINESS-READY

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*The community's success builds upon the publicly operated infrastructure that ensures human health and facilitates business and commerce; healthy infrastructure supports a thriving Laramie.*

### ENERGY

- Great concern for the limited capacity of existing energy infrastructure
- Interest in supporting and expanding renewable energy sources in the future, such as solar and wind energy development

### STREETS

- Frustration with roadway infrastructure maintenance
- Need to increase City workforce as Laramie grows to keep up with level of service expectations

### UTILITIES

- Understanding that growth pressures will impact utility capabilities, and potentially require new facilities/tools/resources (garbage trucks, water treatment plant, etc.)
- Understanding that water capacity is not currently a limiting factor in new development, though the transmission of water may be

## SAFETY & WELLBEING

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*The physical safety and emotional wellbeing of community members and visitors is essential as they go about living, working, and playing throughout Laramie and essential for a high quality of life.*

### EMERGENCY SERVICES

- Need to expand fire department workforce as City grows
- Need to update emergency service facilities which have become outdated and are not large enough to meet City needs (RFP is out for new safety center)
- Interest in focusing on proactive safety management (community risk reduction) and building positive relationships with the public through community engagement

### PARKS AND RECREATION

- Interest in updating the Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Interest in discussing and identifying public recreation uses as part of the Monolith Ranch property
- Concern for operating and maintaining existing recreation facilities around the city

- Great support for the City's park system—high-quality parks that serve many users

### QUALITY OF LIFE

- Appreciation for the quality of local schools
- Appreciation for the low crime rate and overall feeling of safety in the community
- Love the small-town look and feel of the community
- Skepticism of growth, and a desire to see well-managed growth
- Need additional activities for children (summer and winter)
- Appreciation for the diversity of events and activities in Laramie (sports, arts and music, cultural events, etc.)
- Desire to see more shopping and dining options in Laramie

## ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY & DEVELOPMENT

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*An engine of growth for Wyoming, Laramie is a welcoming cultural capital, education hub, and center for economic opportunity.*

### BRAIN DRAIN

- Concern for the number of adults relocating to find jobs outside of Laramie (and outside of Wyoming, more generally)
- Concern around the decline in enrollment numbers in the ACSD (which may be associated with the movement of 30+-year-olds to other communities)

### CITY REGULATIONS

- Need to improve flexibility in the zoning code, including opportunities for adaptive reuse of existing structures and nonconformities
- Interest in improving the development review process, which is perceived as being difficult to navigate
- Interest in establishing a business licensing program, which would help business owners determine if their proposed business could be established in a specific location
- Need to discuss impacts of narrower streets and roadways on service vehicles (firetrucks, garbage trucks, etc.)

### DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- West Laramie (improved connectivity, housing, retail and dining options, grocery store, etc.)
- West Side (balance redevelopment opportunities and the need to create better connections to downtown with concerns for displacing existing residents and businesses)
- Slate Elementary School site
- Laramie River (local recreation and tourism uses)

- Reinvest/rehabilitate housing north of Highway 30 and west of the university

### **DOWNTOWN**

- Support and appreciation for downtown Laramie as a destination for shopping, dining, and community events
- Concern that there isn't enough parking available downtown

### **EDUCATION**

- Interest in higher education institutions offering more classes, but space is limited (particularly for LCCC and WyoTech)
- Concern that there is not enough parking available at/around the University of Wyoming

### **GATEWAY CORRIDORS**

- Support for physical improvements and reinvestment along the City's gateway corridors
- Desire to see better property maintenance along the City's gateway corridors (and throughout town)
- Need to work with Albany County to improve land in County's jurisdiction that serves as gateway to Laramie

### **TOURISM**

- Desire to leverage outdoor recreation as an economic development opportunity, including hunting, fishing, and outdoor sports
- Need to establish ways to get tourists off the interstate/highway and into the City (to stop and spend money)

### **WORKFORCE**

- Difficulty hiring adjunct, seasonal, and part-time employees (likely influenced by high housing costs/lack of diverse housing options)
- Need workforce development programs with a direct pipeline to local industries
- Desire to see new businesses/industries opening in Laramie

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION & ACCESSIBILITY**

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*Public transportation ensures access to jobs, healthcare, and education, and contributes to the overall quality of life of residents.*

### **AIRPORT SERVICE**

- Need for revenue sources and local support to maintain essential air service in Laramie
- Interest in re-establishing shuttle to Denver International Airport

### **CONNECTIVITY**

- Desire for improved pedestrian network (sidewalks, pedestrian bridges, etc.)

- Need to connect West Laramie (including the WyoTech campus) to the rest of the community

## PUBLIC TRANSIT

- Desire to establish diverse public transit options (fixed route, airport shuttles, on-call services, etc.)
- Need for public transit to connect key destinations throughout the community (West Laramie, higher education campuses, outdoor recreation, downtown, airport, etc.)

## ENVIRONMENTAL

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*Nestled in the sweeping valley of the Snowy Range and Sherman Hills, Laramie treasures our environment and acts as a steward of our lands and natural resources as we pursue a carbon neutral future.*

## HAZARD MITIGATION

- Need to be mindful of the City's preparation and response to fires (in the event of wind blowing embers, or in the event of a fire downtown where water pressure/transmission is lower)
- Concern for new development occurring in the floodplain (and existing development within the floodplain)

## RESOURCE PROTECTION

- Desire to build the community's understanding of the City's existing resources
- Support for protecting the Casper Aquifer

## NEXT STEPS

The key themes identified above, in combination with input from Laramie residents and business owners, will be used to guide development of the updated Comprehensive Plan. Community engagement events kicked off this summer and will continue throughout the course of the project. To learn more about upcoming engagement events, visit the project website at [www.forgelaramie.com](http://www.forgelaramie.com).