

Town of Silver City
Joint Workshop
April 23, 2026

Agenda

Introduction to Comprehensive Planning – 5min

SWOT Exercise – 10 min

Recommendation Review

Universal Recommendations – pg. 2

Land Use & Community Design – pg. 3

Transportation & Circulation – pg. 5

-- BREAK --

Housing – pg. 7

Public Facilities & Services – pg. 9

Economic Development –pg. 11

Natural Resources & Hazard Mitigation – pg. 13

Universal Recommendations

- **Fiscal Impact** - Evaluate the costs and benefits of new development and require developers to help fund necessary off-site improvements, including impacts on transportation, infrastructure, community facilities, and housing.
- **Private/Public Partnerships** - Promote partnerships between public and private entities to advance Town priorities.
- **Grant Funds** - Pursue federal, state, and private funding to support community and Town projects.
- **Infrastructure and Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP)** - Use the ICIP process to strategize and prioritize Town projects and investments.
- **Intergovernmental Coordination** - Collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions and regional agencies to coordinate land use planning and community design efforts
- **Comprehensive Plan Consistency Review** - Review public projects and policies to ensure they align with and support the goals of the Comprehensive Plan.
- **Development Review** - Use the development review process to evaluate infrastructure, transportation, housing, and land use impacts, and require mitigation for project-related costs.
- **Public Engagement** – Increase awareness of Town efforts and programs and ensure residents, non-profits, and businesses are involved in planning and implementation.

Land Use & Community Design

Development Regulations	
Update zoning regulations to align land use and design standards with housing, transportation, economic development, and community goals.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Growth Management Strategy	
Adopt policies specific to low-growth or no-growth communities that concentrate development in specific areas to minimize sprawl and further extension of Town roads and utilities. Focus on redevelopment, rather than new development and multiuse facilities rather than single-use.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Impact Fees and Building Permits	
Reevaluate and adjust development fees to ensure they cover administrative and infrastructure impact costs.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Notes	

Master Pedestrian Plan	
Continue developing and implementing a plan to improve pedestrian facilities and walkability throughout the Town.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Special Districts	
Utilize existing special districts (Arts & Cultural, Metropolitan Redevelopment, and Main Street) to help finance targeted area improvements such as building rehabilitation, lighting, landscaping, and streetscape enhancements.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Neighborhood, District and Area Plans	
Partner with residents to create tailored neighborhood and district plans that reflect the character and needs of different areas.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Streetscape Design Guidelines and Signage	
Adopt streetscape and signage standards that strengthen neighborhood identity and enhance the public realm.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Notes	

Transportation & Circulation

Active Transportation Plan

Develop a plan that maps out how to safely move around Silver City by foot, bike, or other micromobility options: improve walkability, expand bicycle access, and create a connected recreation trail system across Town that serves all users.
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How does the Town support?

	Staff Time /	Funding /	Coordination
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Priority Level

Low / Medium / High

Neighborhood Traffic Management Program

Establish a resident-driven traffic management program to identify and address localized neighborhood safety concerns.

How does the Town support?

Staff Time / Funding / Coordination

Priority Level

Low / Medium / High

Strategic Transit Service Plan

Develop a strategic plan to improve transit service frequency, expand routes, and identify future transit corridors.

How does the Town support?

Staff Time / Funding / Coordination

Priority Level

Low / Medium / High

Notes

Streetscape Improvement Program	
Upgrade major corridors with sidewalks, bike lanes, lighting, landscaping, and other improvements to enhance safety and appearance.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Pilot-Based Street Design Strategy	
Emphasize the use of low-cost, temporary materials (e.g., paint, striping, modular barriers, and interim landscaping) to test and refine roadway improvements. This allows for the evaluation of safety, functionality, and user experience in real-world conditions before making permanent capital investments.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Notes	

Housing

New Housing & Diversify Housing Options	
Allow more housing by right, clarify housing calculations in the code, and continue zoning reforms.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Systemic Vacancies and Problem Properties	
Through various measures such as a commercial property vacancy ordinance or a Vacancy working group, begin to address systemic vacancy in a consistent manner.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing	
Rehabilitate housing so that residents can safely stay in their homes and that affordable housing stays in the market.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Notes	

Development Incentives	
Provide financial incentives to encourage the construction of affordable housing and address current shortages.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Internal Staff Capacity for Community Development	
Find creative ways to fund efforts towards technical support, grant writing, and regional solutions for housing.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
One-Stop Shop for Community Resources	
Maintain existing stability of the community by improving accessibility and visibility of local social services available to residents.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Notes	

Public Facilities & Services

Annual Budget	
Prioritize funding for essential public services and facilities, including police, fire, water, sewer, and key community amenities like the Library and Museum.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Asset Management Plan & Asset Replacement Fund	
Complete an Asset Management Plan and establish a dedicated fund to maintain and upgrade Town facilities to current standards and codes.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Fire Hazard Reduction Program	
Strengthen fire prevention and public education efforts, especially in high-risk areas.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Notes	

GIS Database	
Maintain an up-to-date GIS system to track zoning, infrastructure, parks, facilities, and other Town assets and plan for maintenance and future needs.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Joint Response Agreements	
Maintain and strengthen joint emergency response agreements to enhance disaster preparedness and public safety.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Master Plan	
Advance a comprehensive master plan to guide parks, trails, and open space investments that support quality of life and broader community goals.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Proactive Infrastructure Strategy for Climate Resilience	
Reduce vulnerability of Town owned utilities, infrastructure, and facilities through utility hardening and redundancy. Conduct a risk and resilience plan for Town water and wastewater and look into enhancing public facilities to be resiliency hubs.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Notes	

Economic Development

Targeted Business Retention and Expansion	
Strengthen support for existing local businesses through technical assistance, small business resources, and coordinated outreach.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Economic Development Plan	
Develop and maintain a clear, actionable economic development strategy that identifies target industries, funding opportunities, and priority projects. Ensure alignment with other Town efforts and create a realistic implementation plan.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Workforce Development and Local Career Pathways	
Partner with Western New Mexico University, local schools, and employers to create workforce training, internships, and apprenticeship programs tied to local industries.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Diversified and Resilient Economic Base	
Promote a balanced economy that builds on Silver City's strengths: arts and culture, outdoor recreation, education, healthcare, and small-scale entrepreneurship.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Notes	

Strategic Tourism Development	
Enhance tourism as an economic driver while maintaining its community-scale character: better connect outdoor recreation, arts and culture, and historic assets.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Downtown Activation	
Support the continued revitalization of downtown by promoting mixed land uses, encouraging upper-story residential uses, and increasing day and nighttime activity.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Development Incentives	
Use Town incentives to support projects that create jobs, strengthen the economy, and enhance arts, culture, and community facilities	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Downtown Activation	
Support the continued revitalization of downtown by addressing underutilized properties, encouraging upper-story residential uses, and increasing day and nighttime activity.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Notes	

Natural Resources & Hazard Mitigation

Context-Sensitive Design Guidelines

Update and adopt design guidelines that respond specifically to Silver City's environmental conditions, including wildfire risk, water scarcity, and topography.

How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High

Incentives for Resilient and Water-Conscious Development

Expand development incentives to prioritize resilience outcomes, such as water-efficient design, on-site stormwater retention, tree preservation, fire-wise construction, and defensible space maintenance.

How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High

Environmental Overlay Zones and Targeted Zoning Updates

Update zoning to include overlay districts or standards that protect high-risk, including floodplains, steep slopes, and wildfire-prone zones.

How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High

Notes

Community Education and Stewardship Programs	
Update and adopt design guidelines that respond specifically to Silver City’s environmental conditions, including wildfire risk, water scarcity, and topography.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Comprehensive Wildfire Resilience and Forest Management	
Expand development incentives to prioritize resilience outcomes, such as water-efficient design, on-site stormwater retention, tree preservation, and fire-wise construction.	
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
How does the Town support?	Priority Level
Staff Time / Funding / Coordination	Low / Medium / High
Notes	