

# Fresno City Council to decide on 2035 general plan

By Tim Sheehan

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**What:** Fresno City Council discussion and vote on the 2035 general plan

**When:** 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18. A general period for public comment on the entire council agenda opens at 1:30 p.m.

**Where:** Fresno City Hall, 2600 Fresno St.

**Details:** [fbinks.com/genplan](http://fbinks.com/genplan)

The public has had its say; now it's the Fresno City Council's turn to debate, and likely vote, on a new plan intended to slow the city's outward expansion.

The council will take up the proposed [2035 general plan](#) when it meets at 5 p.m. Thursday. But the wide-ranging plan — which emphasizes a preference for “infill” residential and commercial development on land already within the city's urban footprint and trying to rein in decades-long patterns of urban sprawl at Fresno's edges — championed by Mayor Ashley Swearengin could face a close vote. At least two of the seven members, Clint Olivier and Sal Quintero, voted against the general themes back in 2012, when the city launched the formal process of preparing the plan, and Council President Steve Brandau has said he plans to oppose it as well.

The council's consideration comes fresh off the heels of a [five-hour public hearing](#) last week in which about 90 people spoke — including many who believe the public should have more time to review the 500-or-so pages of the plan as well as nearly 3,900 pages of environmental analysis and appendices.

How Fresno grows is the prevalent theme of the plan. The chapter on the city's “urban form” includes a discussion of moving “from a city dominated by suburban growth to one that also shares increased urban development in the form of infill and rehabilitation within the current city limits, along with new activity centers with mixed uses and neighborhoods in growth areas.”

“The basis of this plan's concepts are formed by balancing more efficient infill, downtown and neighborhood revitalization, transit-oriented development along major streets; mixed uses in new activity centers in growth areas; and the building of complete neighborhoods” instead of collections of disparate subdivisions.

And while much of the public discussion has focused on such land and development provisions, the plan represents a much broader blueprint for the city's future beyond where and how many homes ought to be built. Additional elements are concerned with economic development, transportation, parks, public works and emergency services, environmental protection, historic and cultural resources, noise and safety, and public health.

An open public comment period shortly after Brandau calls the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. will give people one last opportunity to weigh in — three minutes at a time — on the general plan or any other city issue.

The council potentially has several actions to take to formalize the plan, including considering a slew of amendments proposed by members after last week's public hearing; certifying the environmental impact report; adopting the plan

itself; and approving resolutions to update the final incarnation of the plan to reflect recent changes proposed by the city's development staff and council members.

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