
City of Moscow
Comprehensive Plan Update
2007-2008

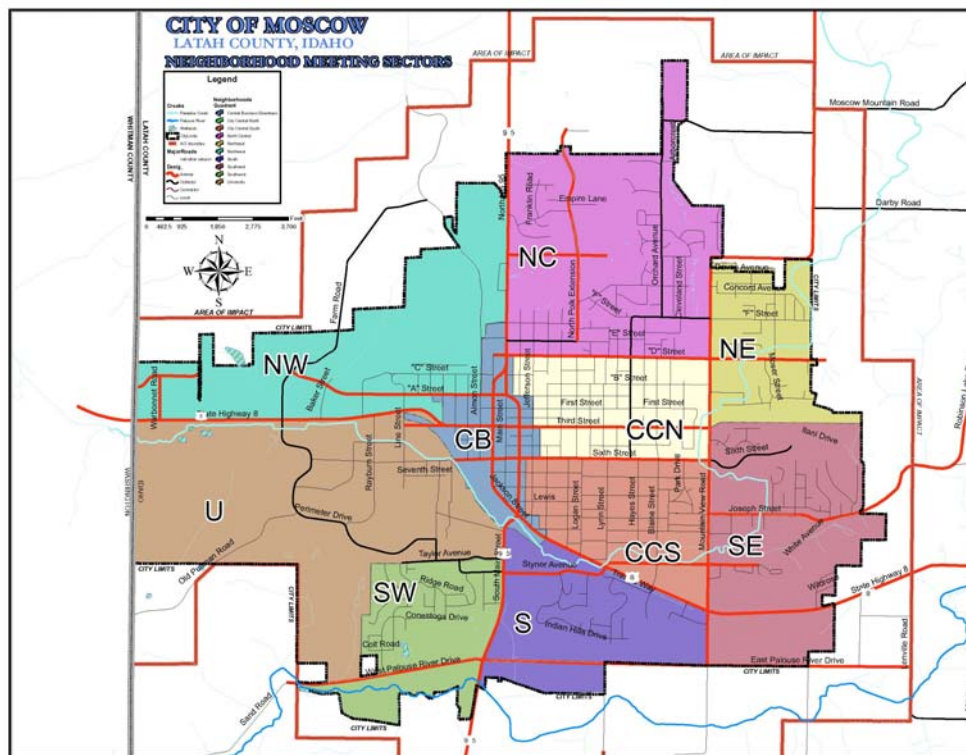
Moscow Dialogues
Session II
Discussion Guide

The Moscow Dialogues: An Opportunity for Neighborhood-level Planning and Action

The Moscow Dialogues will consist of a series of four small-group sessions. They will be conducted in various sectors of the City, and are meant to foster neighborhood level discussion about community development and planning issues.

The Dialogue sessions held this spring are designed to help residents articulate the values and priorities that should underlie the new Comprehensive Plan. The final two sessions, held in the fall, will give participants a chance to assess the draft Plan, and to decide what the Plan means for their neighborhood. Community members will be encouraged to work together on objectives that will improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods.

Although Moscow has many neighborhoods, they are not all formally recognized or represented as individual neighborhoods with identified geographic boundaries or land use plans. More neighborhoods exist in Moscow than can readily be identified and managed individually for purposes of rewriting the Comprehensive Plan. Therefore, the Moscow Dialogues and related neighborhood discussions will be conducted based on geographic sectors of the City that have been identified and used as part of the Moscow Citizen Surveys that were conducted in 2001 and 2004. Dialogue meetings to discuss neighborhood issues will be conducted in each of these sectors, as shown on the map below.



About the Moscow Dialogues and the Role of Facilitators

The Moscow Dialogues will be small-group discussions about various community planning and development issues where every voice can be heard, equally and respectfully. They are based a proven set of organizing and small-group techniques that many communities refer to as 'study circles.' In other places, these strategies have helped communities develop their own ability to solve problems by bringing all kinds of people together to think, talk, and work to create change. The Study Circles Resource Center provided free technical assistance to this project.

The facilitator is key to making the dialogue work, by helping the members talk and work together productively.

There are five principles that distinguish this kind of approach:

- Involve everyone. Demonstrate that the whole community is welcome and needed.
- Embrace diversity. Reach out to all kinds of people.
- Share knowledge, resources, power, and decision making.
- Combine dialogue and deliberation. Create public talk that builds understanding and explores a range of solutions.
- Connect deliberative dialogue to social, political, and policy change

In this approach to community problem solving, it is the facilitators who have the ultimate responsibility for the quality of the democratic discussion. They are usually volunteers who reflect the diversity of the community—people who are willing to give their time to engage their peers in productive, small-group, public discussions. Special training and support is provided to build their skills and experience.

The *facilitators* are responsible for what happens “inside” a dialogue:

- the quality and productiveness of the conversation
- helping people explore a range of viewpoints
- making space for all voices
- building trust across differences
- helping participants make progress on the issue by connecting their dialogue to action.

**Session 2: Charting a Course for the Future of Moscow:
Talking about key priorities, issues, and values**

In this session, we'll continue talking about your neighborhood within the context of the topics that are included within The Plan. You will be presented with a draft summary of the input that was received during the first dialogue session as well as during the community-wide Moscow Congress meeting. This is an opportunity to discuss these topics in the broad context of the community as a whole, and to communicate issues or concerns that your neighborhood has about items such as pedestrian walkability, park facilities, traffic and housing. The following is a list of topic areas that may be important to your neighborhood, and which are also important to the city.

You are certainly not required to discuss all of the topic areas listed below, so please feel free to discuss those that are most important to you and your neighborhood. The bulleted points below were items of interest and concern raised during the Moscow Congress meeting.

Land Use, Housing and Character

This topic area focuses on Compatibility and Appropriateness of new development and address Natural Resources, Special Sites, Natural Hazards, Community Design, Land Use, Downtown Central Business District, and Housing. Themes brought up through the public input process have included:

- Neighborhood Appropriateness:
 - Street Type, Character, Historic Resources, Zoning Regulations, Uniqueness, Integrity, Building Design/Appearance
- Public Spaces:
 - Walkability, Greenspace, Beautification, Landscaping, Parks, Schools
- Mixed Uses and Affordability:
 - Housing Conversions, Commercial Nodes, Senior Housing, Affordable Housing
- Downtown & Gateways:
 - Parking, Small Business, Beautification

Notes: _____

Community Mobility

The goal of this topic area is to ensure adequate preservation of Right-of-Ways and Development of the Transportation System while addressing Automobile, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Traffic as well as Public Transportation needs and impacts. Themes brought up through the public input process have included:

- Community Traffic, Ring-Road/Bypass:
 - East-West Connectivity, Greenbelt, Preservation of Character, Impact to Downtown, Agricultural Uses, Arterial Locations, Truck Traffic
- Neighborhood Traffic:
 - Connectivity, Street Width/Type, Design Considerations, Traffic Calming, Planned Grid, Block Size, Trade-offs, Identify Traffic Concerns
- Pedestrian, Bicycle, Multi-Modal, Transit:
 - ADA Universal Access, Pedestrian Connections/Easements, Multi-modal, Sidewalks, Pathways, All Ages, Nodes
- Design:
 - Master Plan of Streets, Street Width/Type, Multiple Modes, Traffic Calming, Landscaping/Beautification

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Recreation and Culture

This topic area addresses the Adequacy and Needs of parks and recreation facilities to insure they are up to date with the existing and future growth of Moscow. Themes brought up through the public input process have included:

- Park Location & Maintenance
- Pathways & Pedestrian Connections
- Wildlife Corridor, Greenspace Preservation

Notes: _____

Growth Management and Capacity

This topic area considers the ability of facilities and infrastructure to support future growth. Public Services, Facilities and Utilities as well as School Facilities and Transportation are included in this area of discussion. Themes brought up through the public input process have included:

- Planning:
 - Standards/Predictability, Adherence to Plan, Control of Uses/Placement, Aesthetics, Design, Appropriate Growth, Affordable Housing, Facilities, Nodes, Mixed Uses, Community and Intergovernmental Input, Control Scale/Sprawl
- Sustainability & Preservation:
 - Preservation of Greenspace/Farmland, Water, Utilities, Facilities, Recycling, Efficiency in Infrastructure and Growth
- Flexibility:
 - Mixed Uses, Innovation, Creativity, Zoning Constraints,

Notes: _____

Economic Development

This topic area seeks ways to Strengthen and Diversify the economy. Growth, Location, and Character of new commercial development should be discussed. Themes brought up through the public input process have included:

- Regional Issues:
 - Knowledge Corridor, Whitman County Development, Water, Develop Relationships, Work Together
- Local Business:
 - Medical & Educational Focus, Promote New Business, Downtown, Government Facilities
- Availability/Opportunity:
 - Locations for Motor Business & Industries, Redevelopment Areas, Green Businesses, Culture and Arts, Infrastructure, Job Creation/Employee Base, Home Businesses, Parking/Mobility Availability

Notes: _____
