
CHAPTER 3. GROWTH STRATEGY

SERVICE MISSION

Promote balanced growth and the expansion of the tax base.

There are two Growth Strategy goals:

1. Pursue annexation opportunities for residential, commercial, and industrial development.
2. Support additional activities to increase tax base growth in the existing city limits.

RESULTS

For this strategy, respondents were asked to rate their approval of a variety of growth-related policies the city is considering. These policies were designed to gain insight about public perception and opinion about the Growth Strategy.

Overall, the responses to the various approaches the city is considering using to address issues related to growth was very positive. As Figure 3-1 shows, over 90 percent of the respondents like the idea of Des Moines protecting environmentally sensitive areas; this was the highest response rate of all the asked approaches. Also high in approval were farmland protection (81%), establishing growth boundaries (80%), and expanding public transit (79%).

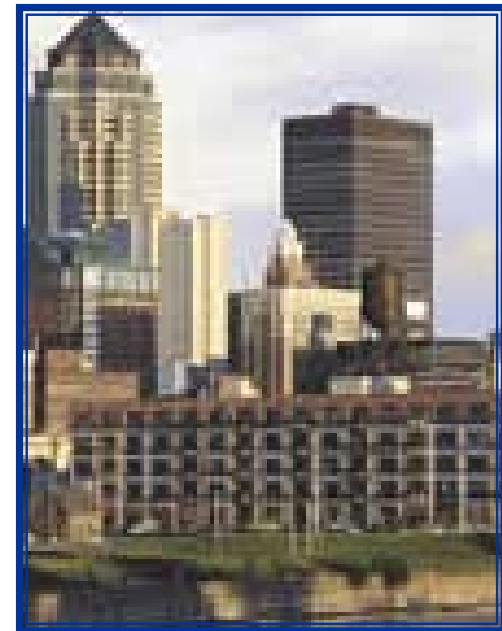


Figure 3-1. Growth-Related Issues



COMMENTS

Only 23 comments were received that were tied directly to the Growth Strategy (Table 3-1). The comments urged Des Moines to develop urban areas and vacant lots, improve and widen main streets and freeways, and develop a light rail/mass transit system. One respondent suggested that Iowa become a pro-vision environment, and another asked that growth be controlled. One could conclude that by the few comments received, people in Des Moines do not feel that growth in the city, particularly for those issues included in the survey, is a problem.

Table 3-1. Growth Strategy Comment Categories

	Number	Examples
Development	11	In urban areas; develop vacant land for growth
Freeway/streets	4	Widen; add lanes; generally improve
Light rail/mass transit	5	Develop transit system
Other	3	Control growth; develop a pro-vision environment