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### **City of Cozad Honored for New Comprehensive Plan**

The City of Cozad was awarded the "Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan" award from American Planning Association –Nebraska Chapter during the Annual Nebraska Planning Conference in Kearney held March 8 through 10.

The award recognizes "a comprehensive or general plan that advances the science and art of planning. The award honors America's most famous planner, Daniel Burnham, for his contributions to the planning profession and to a greater awareness of the benefits of good planning"

The new plan included past economic development studies and strategies for the downtown area; while, updating portions of the downtown strategies toward new housing concepts to put more people immediately adjacent to the downtown businesses.

The comprehensive plan also incorporated key concepts and strategies found in a newly completed master plan for a new industrial/commercial park near Interstate 80. The comprehensive plan also developed, in conjunction with the zoning regulations, strategies for continued and strategic development along Nebraska Highway 21 which runs through the community and is the main connection to Interstate 80.

The plan includes key insights, goals, and policies based upon the input from these engagement events. The MindMixer engagement process had 741 unique visitors and 3,819 page views during the period the site was open. Individuals taking part in the MindMixer engagement received points for different levels of engagement and the participant receiving the most points received \$100 in local Chamber bucks as an incentive.

The community has committed to moving forward during the planning period with many of the goals and policies identified in the plan. As mentioned previously, the community has not only formed goals and policies around land use but housing, economic development, employment, and business retention.

Besides the document being adopted by the city, Cozad Development Corporation has also embraced the document as part of their efforts to improve the community. Many of the letters of support come from the economic development side of the community and local businesses.

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