

CHAPTER 7*Conclusion***Moving forward**

The UNOP planning process has yielded two different products: District Plans and a Citywide Recovery and Rebuilding Plan. The Citywide Plan will be submitted to the City Planning Commission, the City Council, and the Mayor for formal approval and will then be submitted to the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) to become part of the state’s recovery planning. The Citywide Plan focuses on infrastructure projects designed to hasten the city’s recovery and guide public and private investment decisions. Projects identified in the District Plans have been incorporated into the Citywide Plan.

In addition to providing the foundation for the Citywide Plan, the District Plans offer a framework to support the ongoing efforts of the thousands of New Orleans’s residents in District 7 and other districts who became citizen planners over the last year—and who have actively shaped a vision for a city that is safer, stronger, and more humane.

The completion of this planning process and adoption of its recommendations by city government and the state represent an essential step in moving New Orleans forward, but these milestones will not be sufficient to guarantee implementation. Over the next several years, the continued commitment of residents, working closely with elected leaders, will be essential to translating the promise of these plans into rebuilt homes, neighborhoods and public places that reflect the city’s best traditions.

The UNOP recommendations may require changes to various city plans and policies—including the city’s Master Plan, Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, buildings codes, and capital improvements program—as well as federal and state policies and programs. In the near-term the most important step will be for elected officials to incorporate the voices of citizen planners into the city’s planning and development process so that their energy and commitment continue to shape the path forward.