

Introduction

The Fort Knox Compatible Use Plan (CUP) study identifies areas of current and potential land use conflicts between the Fort Knox Military Reservation and local units of government. This study aims to promote compatible civilian development to support the long-term sustainability and missions of Fort Knox, as well as to preserve and protect the public health, safety, and general welfare of those living near an active military installation.

Why a Compatible Use Plan

As communities surrounding military bases expand, prosper, and advance economically; it is important to ensure the continued mission sustainability of nearby military installations. To provide an outlet for constructive and ongoing dialogue between local governments and their neighboring installations, the U.S. Department of Defense identified the need for a Compatible Use Plan (CUP). Formerly known as a Joint Land Use Study (JLUS), the CUP is administered through the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC). Known as the Office of Economic Adjustment prior to 2021, the OLDCC “...assists states and local governments to maximize support of the military mission.”¹ Military Installation Sustainability and in turn CUP is one such program they provide toward achieving that goal.

What is a Compatible Use Plan

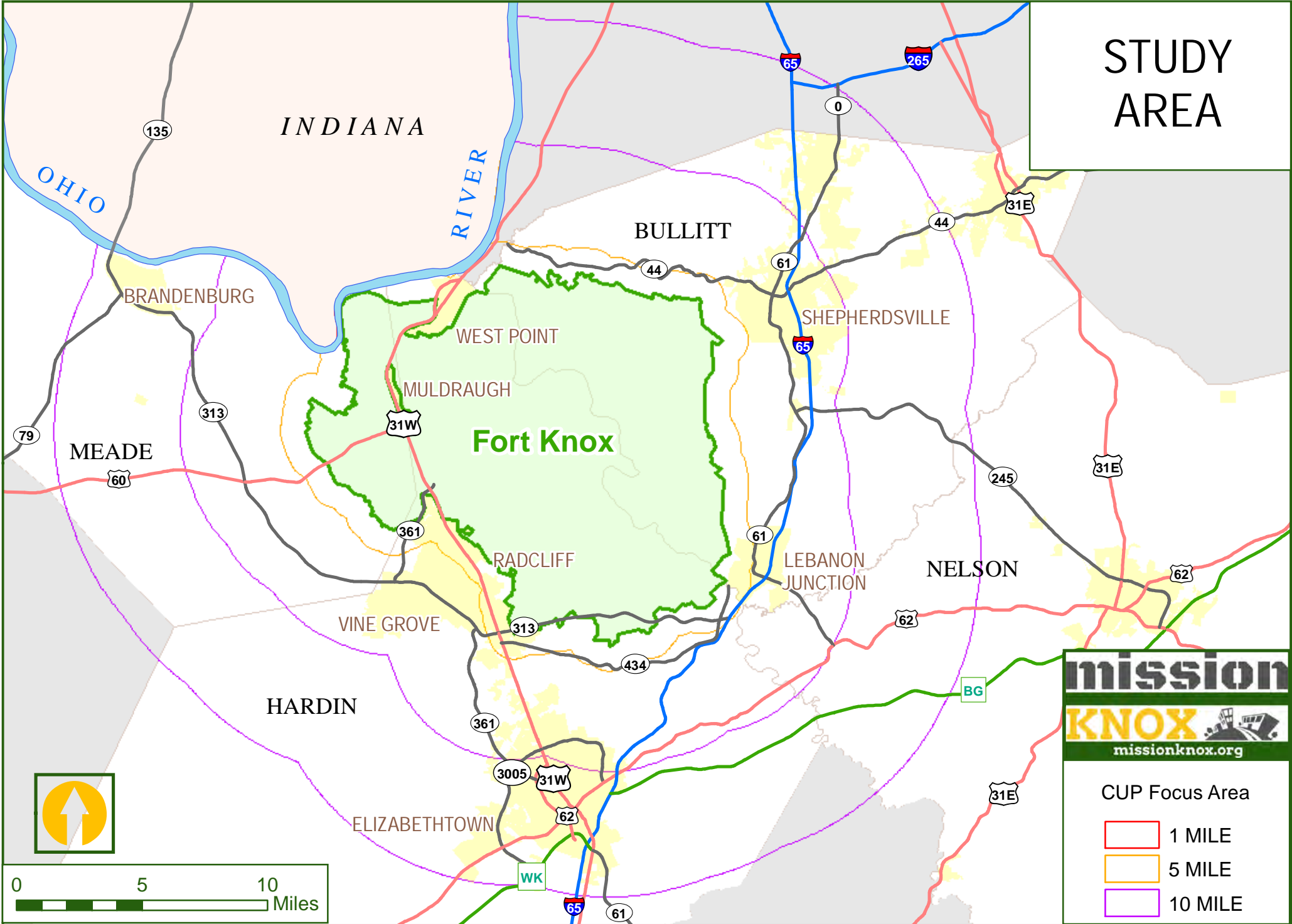
To facilitate this dialogue, the CUP brings together local, state, and federal leaders, citizens, property owners, various interested parties,

and military officials to provide a forum to identify issues and the best methods to ensure continued community viability. Concurrently it enhances the ability that military training efforts and other mission critical tasks can be effectively conducted. By mitigating incompatible civilian development and identifying strategies to reduce the operational impacts on adjacent lands, including environmental impacts of military operations, success can be achieved by all.

The Lincoln Trail Area Development District (LTADD), a regional planning organization, served as the study sponsor and provided the technical support. LTADD received local input from across the region and active participation from Fort Knox. The study partners are listed in the “Study Area” section following.

Study Area

The primary study area includes the Fort Knox installation and neighboring counties and cities that are directly impacted, or may be directly impacted, by Fort Knox operations. To focus in on the many specific issues that are primarily driven by geographic proximity the study area was further refined by concentric rings of one, five, and ten miles. This did not preclude exclusion of any other issues that were revealed during the information collection and analysis phase of the study. This focus area is illustrated on Map 1.



STUDY
AREA



CUP Focus Area

- 1 MILE
- 5 MILE
- 10 MILE

MAP 1 - STUDY AREA

Study Process

LTADD Staff in conjunction with input from OLDCC created a plan for managing the study. This included items such as compiling lists of potential committee members, creation of a public participation plan, plans for data gathering and analysis, creation of a website and social media presence, and a timeline for conducting the elements of the study. The original timeline of the study can be seen in Figure 2.

The broad based, regional participation required was done through two committees. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Executive Committee (EC).



Figure 1 CUP Executive Committee Meeting 9 Jan. 2020.

The TAC was comprised of a variety of individuals to include: city and county planners, infrastructure planners, school and business leaders, community organization leaders, and staff from Fort Knox Garrison

Command. The TAC was tasked with guiding the technical direction and assisting in data requests necessary for the study.

The EC was made up of area Mayors, County Judge-Executives, military organization leadership, and state and regional agency executives. The EC was formed for the purpose of guiding the overall direction of the process and ultimately, to endorse the final CUP report. A list of all stakeholder organizations can be seen in the Acknowledgements.

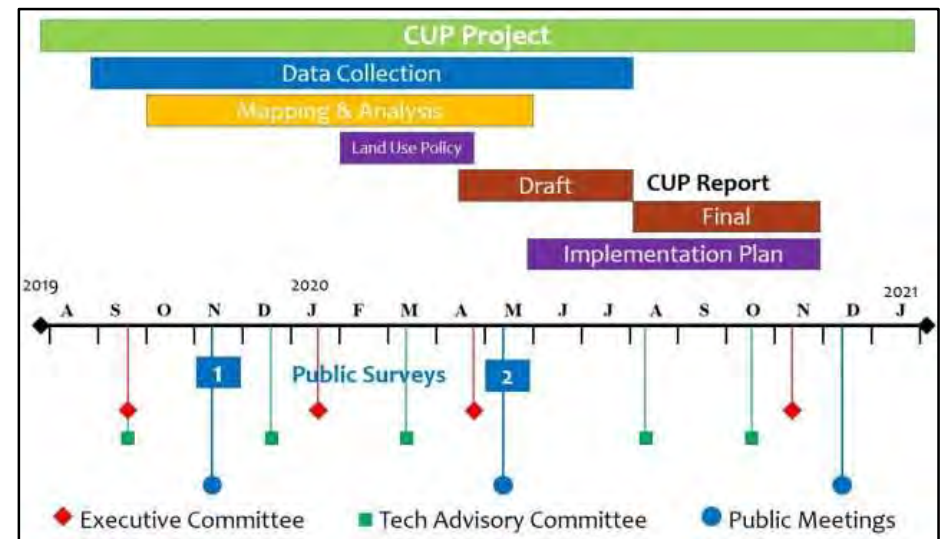


Figure 2 CUP Timeline (Original Sept. 2019)

Public Outreach and Involvement

The CUP study process promoted public involvement which was solicited and encouraged. This public involvement process included public meetings, the establishment of a social media page (Facebook-Mission Knox), the establishment of a website (www.missionknox.org),

and involved the use of public surveys to invite comment and feedback on the study as it progressed.

A total of two rounds of public meetings were held in geographically dispersed locations throughout the study area. These public meetings were held in the Fall of 2019 and again in the Fall of 2021. Additional public meetings were scheduled to be held in the Spring of 2020, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these public meetings were not allowed to be conducted per guidance from public health officials.



Figure 3 Survey Postcard Notice

The public was solicited to take part in an initial survey related to the CUP study process in conjunction with the first round of meetings. Specific focus regarded sentiment towards their individual existing relationship with Fort Knox. The survey contained questions relating to noise, vibration, economic impact, and communications between Fort Knox and the public. In addition, some demographic questions helped establish the background and geography of the survey participants.

This survey was made available in hard

copy at all public meetings and in a digital format through our online presence. The survey and meetings were promoted thru local and social media and the Mission Knox website. The website also served as a repository for all information relating to the CUP study process, including past and future events, meeting minutes, as well as news updates and an overview of the CUP study. A similar survey was conducted once the draft plan was released. This survey also asked for

feedback on the study and requested follow-up with any issues that were felt to not have been addressed.



Figure 4 Public Meeting at Brandenburg.

WILL REVISE AS SUBSEQUENTLY REQUIRED AFTER MEETINGS CONDUCTED IN OCT. 2021.

The second round of public meetings were presented in a similar format. A brief presentation on the CUP study and Fort Knox followed by an overview of the draft plan resulting from the study at the time of the meeting. A survey was conducted for input regarding the various elements of the draft plan with particular focus on the completeness of the compatibility issues as presented and the potential mitigation elements to be included in the implementation plan that resulted.

The initial public meeting was held November 7, 2019 at the Colvin Community Center in Radcliff, KY, the second public meeting November 13, 2019 at Shepherdsville City Hall in Shepherdsville, KY, and the third public meeting November 25, 2019 at the Meade County Courthouse in Brandenburg, KY. The public meetings were attended by a minimum of

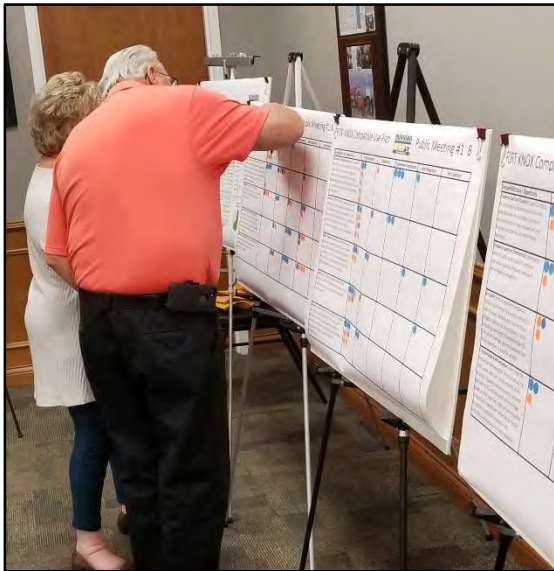


Figure 5 "Sticker Exercise" Shepherdsville Public Meeting.

four LTADD staff members and members of the public. were advertised on social media and in local newspapers.

The public meetings were conducted via the use of a presentation from LTADD staff along with a public involvement activity that allowed members of the public to participate in a visual "sticker exercise" to prioritize which compatibility issues were most important to them.

Several displays which illustrated the CUP study area and potential concerns were available for review during the meeting. The LTADD staff were made available after the presentation to assist in answering questions related to the study. Some members of the Fort Knox Garrison Command also in attendance at the meetings also generously made themselves available to respond to inquiries from other members of the public. Brochures with additional information about both CUP and Fort Knox were available for distribution to attendees. These "Fast Facts" created by LTADD staff were also made available on the website.

These handouts, and example seen in Figure 6, are included in Appendix A. The results of the meetings and surveys are also included in Appendix A under "Survey Reports".



Figure 6 Fast Facts #1, side A.

Committee Formation and Activity

The two committees formed to assist in the study are also considered to be part of the “public”. While they also have a vested interest in their communities and the viability of Fort Knox, they bear the additional burden of implementing policies to achieve that goal. As previously described, they represented a wide array of decision makers and others involved in the day-to-day conduct of business in the region. Based on the list of prospective members for each committee, invitations were distributed to a joint “Kick-off” meeting of both committees.

This meeting was held on September 20, 2019, at the Colvin Community Center in Radcliff, KY (located approximately five miles from Fort Knox Army Garrison Headquarters). The invited guests included the proposed TAC and EC membership for an introduction to the CUP study process. This meeting was also attended by Fort Knox Commanding General, MG John R. Evans, Jr. who delivered an informative introduction regarding Fort Knox and its short-term and long-term future. LTADD, the project sponsor, presented an overview of the study process, goals, timelines, geography, and other details. A follow-on question and answer session was conducted to provide as much information as possible to audience and begin to gain initial feedback from the members regarding their needs and concerns. The Joint Committee meeting was considered to be very successful overall. In total 46 individuals representing entities from across the study area were in attendance.



Figure 7 Launch Meeting, Radcliff.

This initial meeting was followed up with separate meetings of the two committees. These were conducted after the November public meetings to provide feedback on their outcomes. The TAC met on December 5, 2019, with 19 members in attendance. The meeting was led by LTADD staff who provided status on data acquisition, reports on the public meetings and survey results, and then conducted an input session from the TAC members to gain their priorities, concerns, goals, and needs going forward. In closing, LTADD staff presented a summary of the next steps in the process. The EC met January 9, 2020, with a similar agenda and platform to the TAC. In addition, the outtakes to the TAC meeting were also discussed. This was followed by a roundtable discussion between the 12 attendees and the LTADD staff which provided opportunities to gather more public and official involvement. Highlighted were requests to present to fiscal courts, city council meetings, chambers of commerce and other similar bodies the insights and outcomes of the study going forward.

COVID-19 Issues

The issue of the COVID-19 pandemic during the original timeline presented many new and unforeseen issues to deal with. LTADD, like many other agencies, closed its offices to the public. As of March 20th, 2020, approximately 90% of the LTADD staff began teleworking at that time. As a follow up to OMB Memorandum M-20-18; LTADD staff participated in the OLDCC (OEA) Covid-19 webinar conducted on April 9th regarding policies and procedures going forward with grant programs.

Subsequently the original timeline was adjusted numerous times in response to this ongoing and unpredictable issue. The April 28th Community Information Exchange (CIE) sponsored by The Ft. Knox Public Affairs Office was canceled March 30th due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In lieu of a physical meeting with the Technical Advisory Committee scheduled for mid-March, a questionnaire was sent out requesting input. Of interest were potential public survey questions, current encroachment issues, noise issues addressed in local planning and zoning policies, other zoning or legal restrictions on development that emphasize or address compatible use issues.

The Executive Committee meeting, scheduled for April 30th was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the three Public Meetings, one each in Bullitt, Hardin, and Meade Counties, and a corresponding survey previously scheduled for the May timeframe were also canceled as of April 14th.

These setbacks created some suspension of ongoing activities of staff due to the need to respond to other COVID related needs in our

communities and adapting to the new work environments that resulted from office closures and shutdowns.

The pandemic severely hampered our abilities to conduct traditional “face-to-face” citizen participation working sessions; and negatively impacted LTADD’s ability to follow the original goals and outcomes projected during this period. However, beginning in July, LTADD once again adjusted its efforts and restructured various tasks. This due to the continued limitations placed on public interaction resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and the necessity to continue to work toward the overall goal of completing the Fort Knox CUP Study and Implementation Plan.

The staff continued to gather and process data necessary to the creation of the study. A draft of the study was begun using the available information and further inquiries were made regarding additional data of public agencies and in particular their land use, transportation, permitting, and similar planning components.

In October 2020 LTADD was contacted by OLDCC and advised to request an extension which was subsequently approved on November 3, 2020. The extension pushed forward all due dates one calendar year. The overall framework of events and flow did however remain intact, which enabled this study to be completed. A final timeline for the study is presented in Figure 8.

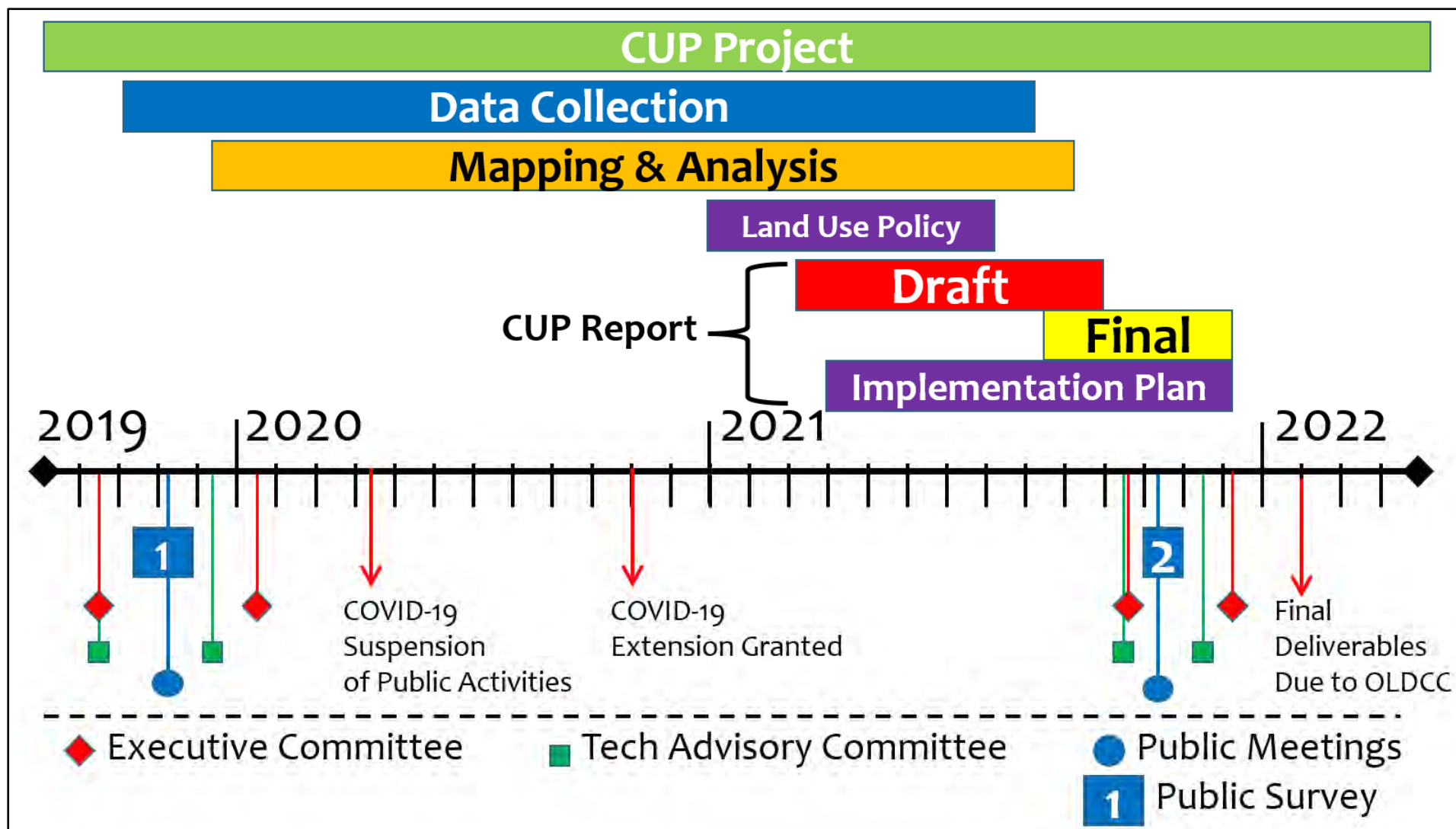


Figure 8 CUP Timeline (Final Aug. 2021)