

thunderstorms

High 79, low 60
Mostly sunny Sunday
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Master plan foresees high-tech Detroit

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In the 21st Century, the Tigers would play in a domed stadium, downtown office buildings would display African architectural themes, and an aerial tramway would shuttle tourists from Detroit to Windsor, according to the city's proposed master plan.

City planning officials on Friday allowed Free Press reporters to read the proposed plan. To be published next week, it will be the first for Detroit in 34 years and the second in city history. It outlines social, economic and physical policies to chart the city's future.

Some ideas — including the dome and tramway — are old ones. Others —

A domed stadium, tramway to Windsor

such as the African motifs — are new. Such forms include the tapered walls used by the Dogon people of west Africa.

The plan says the automobile industry should continue to provide the base for Detroit's economy but emphasizes luring new businesses — from genetic engineering and manufactured housing to laser technology and specialty chemicals.

The plan recommends that most new development and employment be clustered around an upside-down "T" formed by the city's riverfront on the

south and Woodward Avenue extending north, with Grand River and Gratiot as offshoots.

It says the "T" will be laced with fiber optics cables for the high-speed transmission of information.

It acknowledges that much of Detroit is abandoned or vacant. Because there is little market value for such land, the plan recommends "the immediate objective for city policies must be directed toward cleaning up" vacant lots, possibly by planting wildflowers.

Unless a massive effort is undertaken to rehabilitate the city's aging hous-

ing, "abandonment of well over half of the city can be expected to increase at a vastly accelerated pace during a very short period," the report says.

The plan envisions massive rezoning of commercially zoned land along city streets to encourage construction of local service businesses.

It suggests making Eastern Market "more efficient and modern" and converting the riverfront cement plant towers into "unique high-rise housing structures."

It recommends "increasing public education on issues of importance to

the elderly," and proposes encouraging "ethnic commercial establishments . . . among the most successful small businesses" in Detroit.

The plan calls for building a secondary pedestrian bridge system linking downtown buildings, advocates Cobo Hall expansion and supports developing a light-rail transit system up Woodward.

The plan, ordered by the 1974 City Charter, was written by the city's Planning Department. To become official policy, it must be approved by the City Council after public hearings.

Free Press Staff Writers Patricia Edmonds and W. Kim Heron contributed to this report.