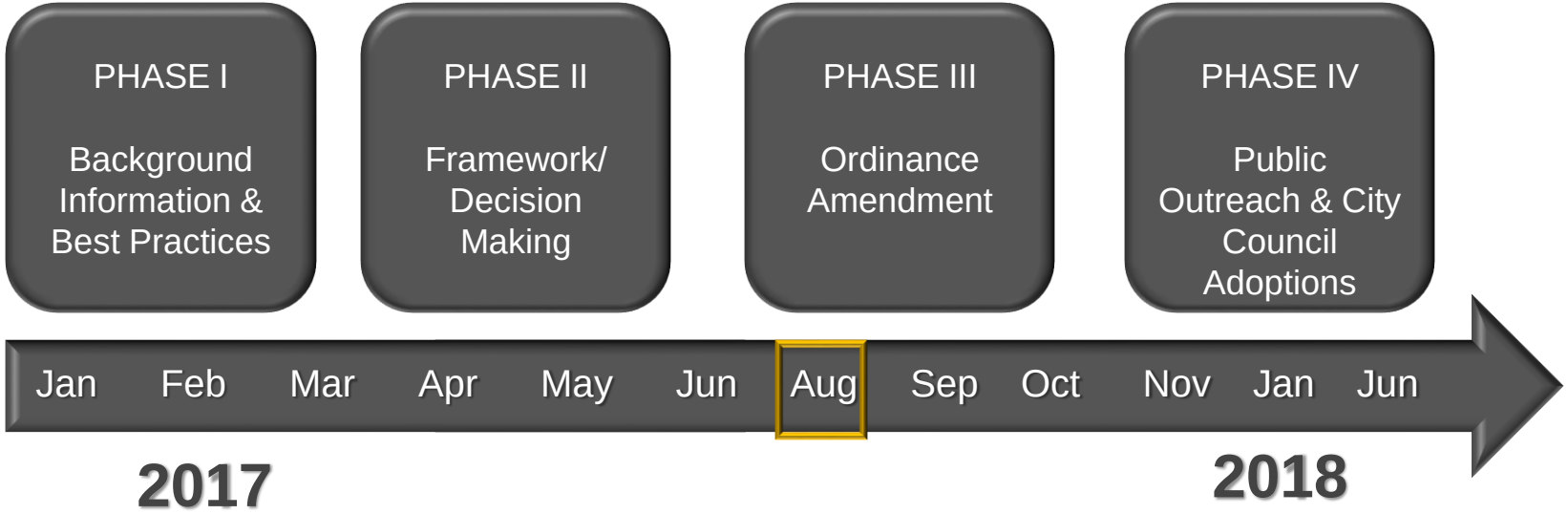
Walkable Places

Planning and Development Department
City of Houston

Walkable Place Committee
August 9, 2017

Project Schedule



Agenda

- Meeting Recap
- Guiding Principles for the Proposed Regulatory Framework
- Potential Regulatory Framework & Application Based Process
- Parking Subcommittee
- Public Comment

June Meeting Recap

- Many tools are required to promote walkable places
- How to integrate other tools with the regulatory tool?
  - Holistic Approach
  - Parallel Efforts
  - Evolving Process

June Meeting Recap

- **Potential Application Based Process**
  - Application Process for Walkable Place Areas

    Submittal – Review – Public Notification –

    Planning Commission Approval – City Council Action
- **Clarification**
  - Applied to all properties within the area

June Meeting Recap

- **Potential Location Criteria, such as:**
  - Some Existing Urban Forms
  - Activity Population Density
  - Mixed of Land Uses
  - Accessibility to Transit
- **Discussion**
  - Potentially picking winners and losers?
  - New proposal: allow any areas to be eligible for promoting walkable places

Discussion

- Do you have any additional thoughts or clarification regarding the June meeting discussion?

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Guiding Principles for Proposed Regulatory Framework

- Sensitive to local context
- Ensure walkabel urban form across area
- Promote safe multi-modal transportation
- Create pleasant experience
- Local support

Sensitive to Local Context

- Allow rules for an area's unique needs

Ensure Walkable Urban Form

- Provide assurance that adjacent developments will also participate.

Promote Safe Multi-modal Transportation

- Accommodate increased density
- Reduce automobile dependency
- Ensure safety & accessibility

Create a Pleasant Experience

- Create a sense of place, not a place to walk through

Local Support

- Sufficient support

Discussion

- Are these the right guiding principles?
  - Sensitive to local context
  - Ensure walkable urban form across area
  - Promote safe multi-modal transportation
  - Create pleasant experience
  - Local support

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Proposed Regulatory Framework

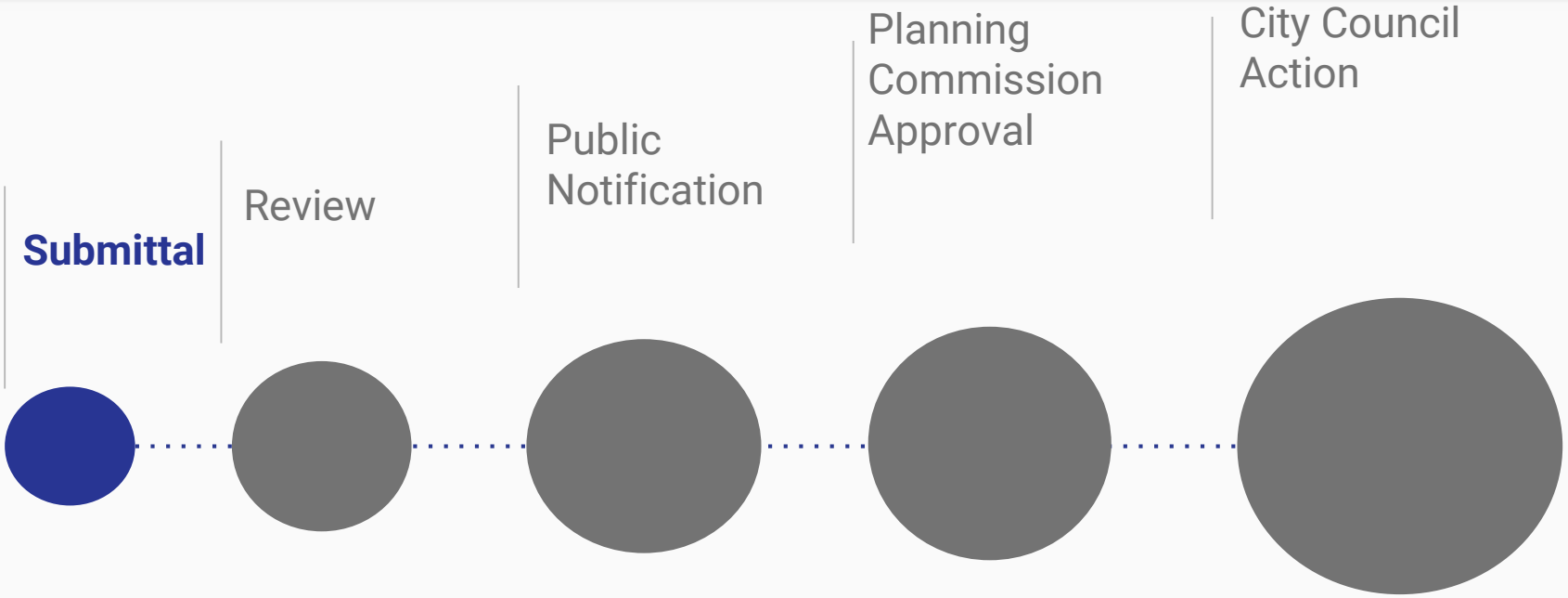
- Enable rules to create walkable place districts:
  - No limits on locations
  - Allow unique rules for each district
  - Rules support walkable urban form & encourage safe pedestrian activity
  - Proposed rules applied to all properties within the walkable place district
  - Ensures proposed rules supported locally

Discussion

Potential Application Based Process

- Meet application submittal requirements
- Reviewed based on certain criteria
- Public notification
- Planning Commission approval
- City Council action

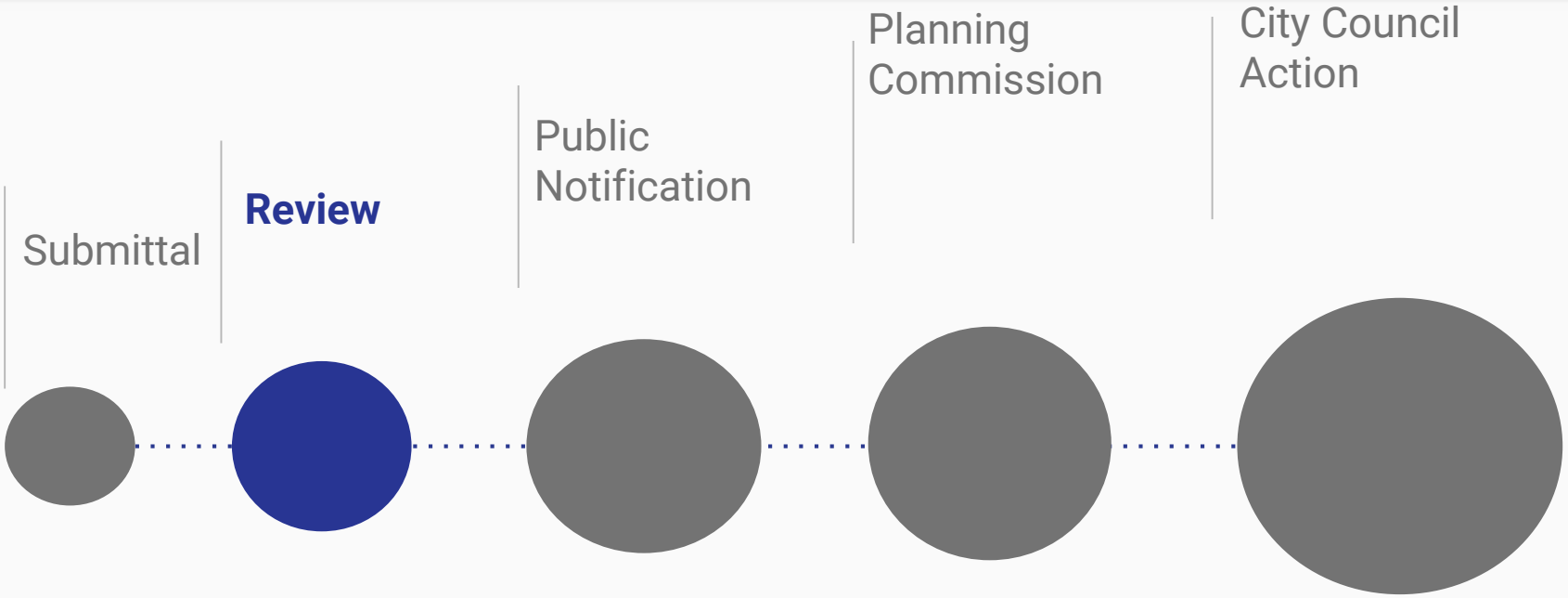
Potential Application Based Process



Submittal

- The submitted application shall:
  - Define the application area
  - Describe context of the application area
  - Identify unique rules from a menu of elements, such as:
    - Building Line
    - Pedestrian Realm
    - Landscaping
    - Design Elements
    - Parking

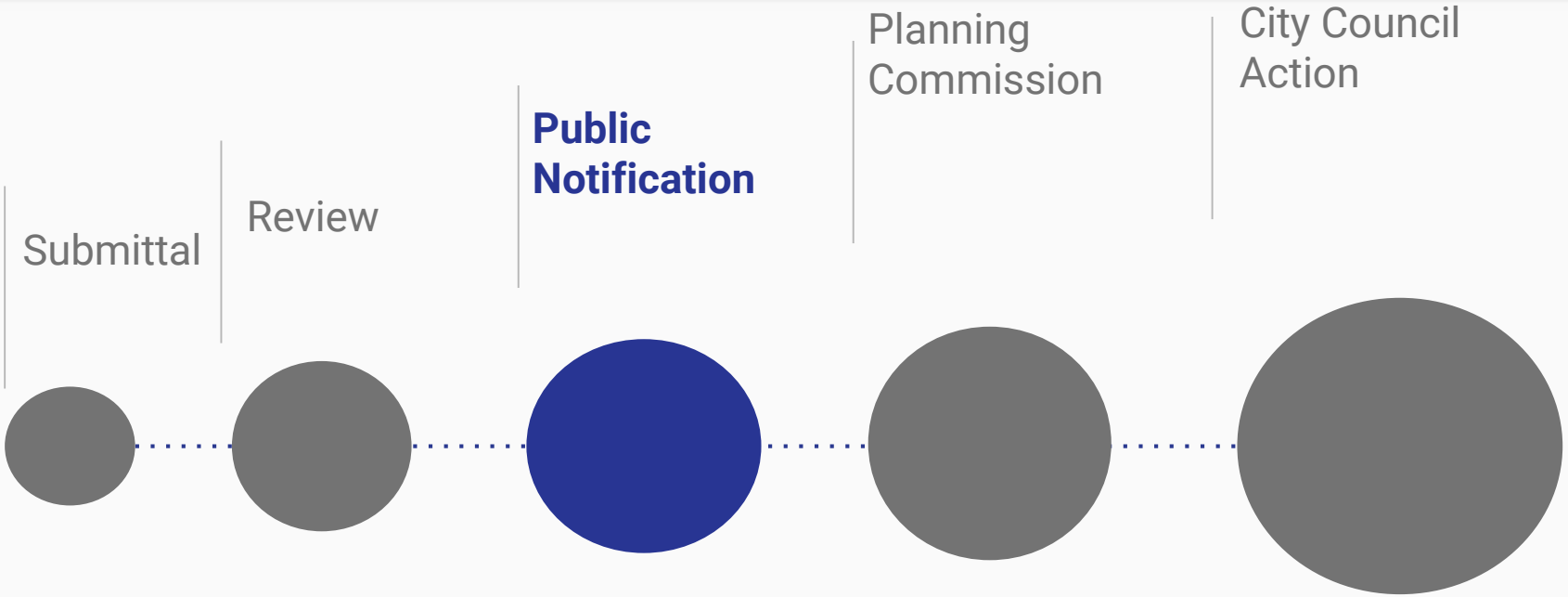
Potential Application Based Process



Review

- Potential review criteria:
  - Consider walkable urban context if exists
  - Creates supportive pedestrian realm
  - Potential to generate pedestrian activity
  - Sensitive to adjacent land uses

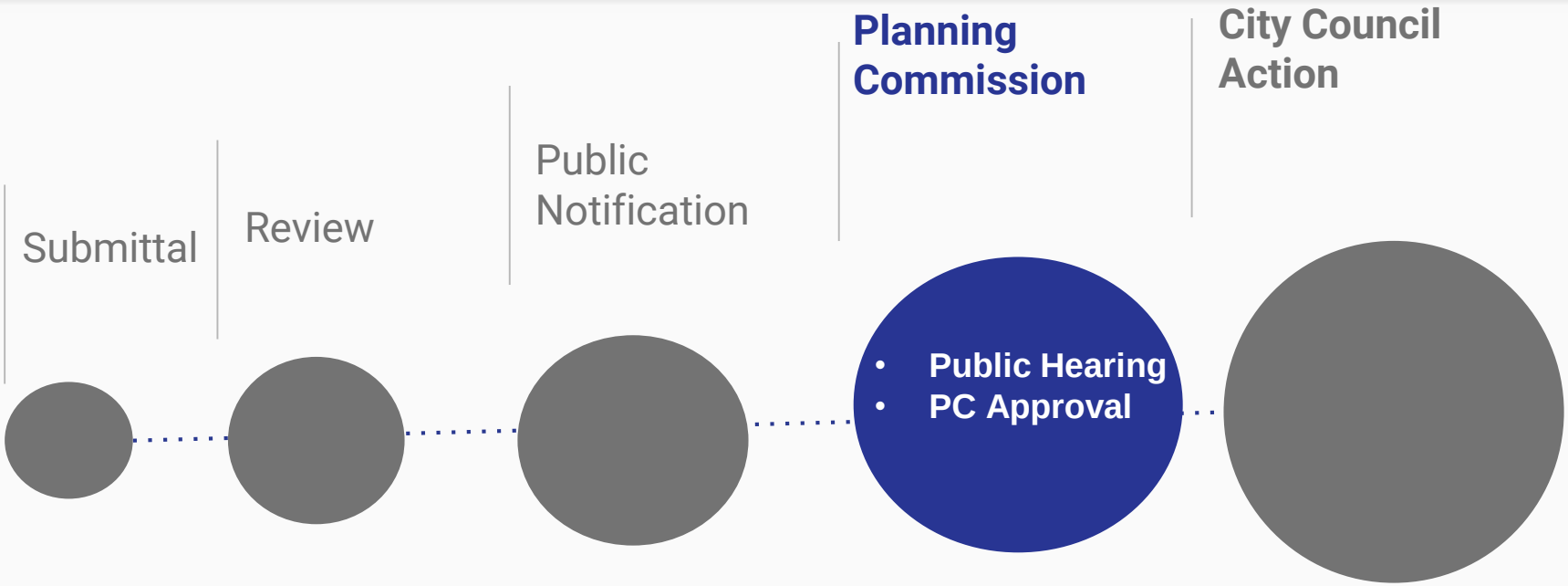
Potential Application Based Process



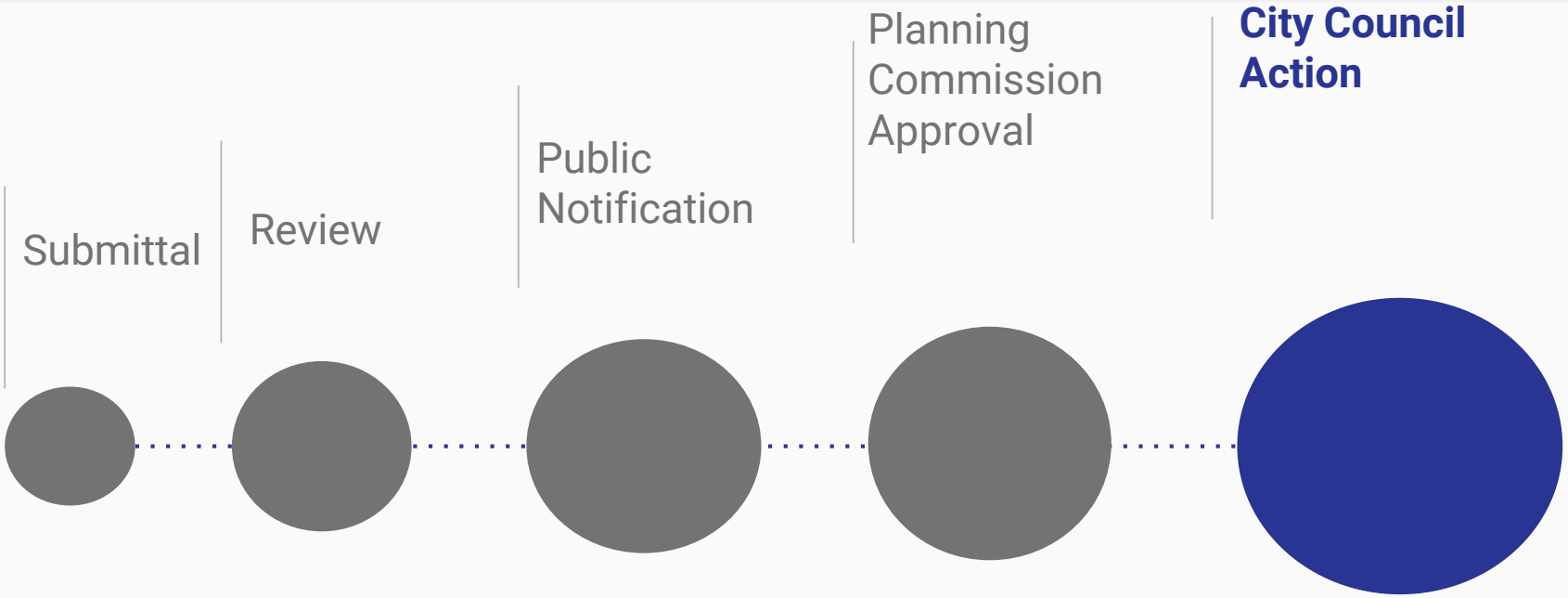
Public Notification

- Notify stakeholders and provide opportunity for input

Potential Application Based Process



Potential Application Based Process



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Parking Subcommittee

- Discuss parking policy and related parking strategies to promote walkable places
- Develop a parking practice reference guide for future applications
- August Subcommittee meeting is postponed until later

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