

Livable Fairfax

Preparing the City's 2035 Comprehensive Plan

February 22, 2016 Planning Commission Work Session

Summary of Revisions Made to Survey

- Demographic questions moved to the beginning
 - Added 2 questions to ensure good sample/compare w/Census
 - Some questions provide info about the community beyond Census data, i.e., “where did you move from?”
- Satisfaction questions moved to the end
 - Replaced detailed list with general survey categories
- Added question on specialty housing
 - (affordable, luxury, senior and student housing)
- Changed “within or near” shopping areas to “within a 10-minute walking distance”
- Added “preserve existing housing stock” to affordable housing question

Summary of Revisions Made to Survey

- Revised question on limiting the size of houses
- Changed response for environmental features question from “yes/no” to “ranking”
- Replaced sidewalk & bike questions with NAR 2015 *National Community and Transportation Preference Survey* questions on what keeps people from walking or bicycling more
- Changed “don’t know” to “none of the above/no opinion”
- 2 additional satisfaction questions proposed (33-34)



City of Fairfax Community Survey - REVISED

Introduction

The City of Fairfax is collecting feedback from City residents and business owners, like you, to help develop direction for the preparation of the City's Comprehensive Plan. Additionally, we would like your input on services the City provides. The survey should take 10 minutes to complete.

A comprehensive plan is a policy document that describes a community's vision for how it wants to grow and develop over the next 20 years. It provides guidance on land use, transportation, housing, economic development, environment, public facilities, parks, recreation and historic preservation. It informs zoning and budget decisions. All localities in Virginia are required to prepare and adopt one.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to provide your input. We appreciate your feedback and look forward to your opinions informing the City of Fairfax Comprehensive Plan.

Please tell us a little about yourself

- 1) Are you a resident or a business owner? (Choose one) New Question
 - a. Live in the City of Fairfax
 - b. Own a business in the City of Fairfax
 - c. Live and own a business in the City of Fairfax (skip to #9)

- 2) How old are you? (Choose one)
 - a. Under 20
 - b. 20-29
 - c. 30-39
 - d. 40-49
 - e. 50-59
 - f. 60-69
 - g. 70-79
 - h. 80 or older

- 3) How many people live in your household? (Choose one)
 - a. 1
 - b. 2 New Question
 - c. 3
 - d. 4
 - e. 5
 - f. 6 or more

- 4) How many people in your household are under the age of 20? (Choose one)
 - a. 1 New Question
 - b. 2
 - c. 3
 - d. 4
 - e. 5
 - f. 6 or more

- 5) What type of residence do you live in? (Choose one)
 - a. Single-family home
 - b. Duplex
 - c. Townhome
 - d. Apartment
 - e. Condominium
 - f. Other _____
 - g. Don't live in the City (Skip to #9)

- 6) What is the name of the neighborhood you live in?
 - a. _____
 - b. Not sure

- 7) How long have you lived in the City of Fairfax? (Choose one)
 - a. Less than 1 year
 - b. 1-5 years
 - c. 6-10 years
 - d. 11-20 years
 - e. 21-30 years
 - f. More than 30 years
 - g. Born in the City of Fairfax and have always lived here (skip to #7)

- 8) Where did you move from? (Choose one)
 - a. Alexandria

- b. Arlington County
- c. Fairfax County (including Falls Church)
- d. Loudoun County
- e. Prince William County (including Manassas & Manassas Park)
- f. Somewhere else in Virginia
- g. Washington, DC
- h. Maryland
- i. Other _____

9) Where do you work? (Choose one)

- a. Within the City of Fairfax
- b. Alexandria
- c. Arlington County
- d. Fairfax County (including Falls Church)
- e. Loudoun County
- f. Prince William County (including Manassas & Manassas Park)
- g. Somewhere else in Virginia
- h. Washington, D.C.
- i. Maryland
- j. Self-employed or work from home
- k. Retired or stay at home
- l. Student
- m. Other _____

Comprehensive Plan

10) How familiar are you with the City of Fairfax Comprehensive Plan? (Choose one)

- a. Very familiar
- b. Somewhat familiar
- c. Not very familiar
- d. Never heard of it

11) How would you prefer to learn more about the City's effort to prepare a new Comprehensive Plan? (Choose all that apply)

- a. Public meetings or open houses
- b. Email or Fairfax City Alert
- c. Text messages
- d. Facebook, Twitter or Instagram
- e. Staff office hours in the community (at the library, local coffee shop, etc.)
- f. Other _____
- g. Not interested in learning about the Comprehensive Plan

Housing

12) Which of the following housing types do you think is most needed in the City? (Choose one)

- a. Single-family homes
- b. Duplexes
- c. Townhomes
- d. Apartments
- e. Condominiums
- f. Other _____
- g. None of the above/No opinion

13) Please rank in order of importance the specialty housing you think is needed in the City (Rank 1 through 4 with 1 being most needed and 4 being least needed).

- ___ Affordable housing
- ___ Luxury housing New Question
- ___ Senior housing
- ___ Student housing

14) Which of the following types of new housing development do you think should be a priority within a 10-minute walking distance of commercial shopping centers in the City? (Choose one)

- a. Single-family homes
- b. Duplexes and townhomes
- c. Apartments and condominiums
- d. Apartments and condominiums that include a mix of market-rate and affordable units
- e. Apartments and condominiums with a mix of office and commercial uses
- f. Apartments and condominiums that include a mix of market-rate and affordable units, office and commercial uses
- g. No new housing is needed within a 10-minute walking distance of commercial and shopping centers
- h. Other _____
- i. None of the above/No opinion

15) What do you think is the most important role the City can take to ensure the availability of affordable housing? (Choose one)

- a. Preserve the existing housing stock New Response
- b. Provide financial assistance to residents (such as rental assistance or down payment assistance loans or home improvement assistance as is provided through the Neighborhood Renaissance Program)
- c. Provide tax or zoning incentives to housing developers
- d. Invest in affordable housing

- e. Other _____
- f. None of the above/No opinion

16) Please indicate if you support or oppose limiting the size of houses in your neighborhood?

(Choose one) **Revised Question**

- a. Strongly support limitations
- b. Somewhat support limitations
- c. Neither support or oppose limitations
- d. Somewhat oppose limitations
- e. Strongly oppose limitations

Land Use and Development

17) What types of businesses would you like to see more of in the City? (Choose up to three types)

- a. Auto dealerships
- b. Banks
- c. Big box retail stores
- d. Coffee shops and cafés
- e. Entertainment (like a movie theater, music venue, bowling alley)
- f. Fitness centers and gyms
- g. Gas stations and convenience stores
- h. Grocery and gourmet food stores
- i. Hotels and other lodging
- j. Personal services (like a beauty salon, dry cleaner, massage therapy)
- k. Restaurants
- l. Specialty retail stores
- m. Other _____
- n. Do not want any more new businesses in the City

18) To what extent do you think each of the following would benefit the City's economy in the next five to ten years? (1 = Most Beneficial, 2 = Beneficial, 3 = Least Beneficial, 4 = No Opinion)

- ___ Construction of new single-family homes, duplexes or townhomes
- ___ Construction of new apartments, condominiums or mixed-use buildings
- ___ Improvements to area roads, pedestrian or bicycle facilities
- ___ Investments in schools
- ___ Investments in parks, trails and recreation facilities
- ___ Promotion of green businesses and jobs
- ___ Recruitment of new businesses and corporations
- ___ Retention of existing businesses and corporations

- ___ Tax incentives to recruit and/or retain businesses and corporations
- ___ Other _____

19) Please rank in order of importance the environmental features you think the City should encourage or require in new developments? (Rank 1 through 5 with 1 being most important and 5 being least important) **Revised Responses**

- ___ Community gardens and composting stations
- ___ Green or vegetated roofs
- ___ Rain gardens that capture and absorb stormwater
- ___ Solar panels and other energy efficiencies
- ___ Tree plantings and use of native landscaping

Transportation

20) How often do you use the following types of transportation to go to work, school, shopping or for leisure? (Choose one frequency for each type)

- a. Automobile
Daily, Once or twice a week, Once or twice a month, Once or twice a year, Never
- b. Public Transportation (CUE bus, Fairfax Connector, Metrorail, Metrobus)
Daily, Once or twice a week, Once or twice a month, Once or twice a year, Never
- c. Bicycle
Daily, Once or twice a week, Once or twice a month, Once or twice a year, Never
- d. Walk
Daily, Once or twice a week, Once or twice a month, Once or twice a year, Never
- e. Other _____
Daily, Once or twice a week, Once or twice a month, Once or twice a year, Never

21) What type of transportation do you use one or more times per week to commute to work or school? (Choose all that apply)

- a. Automobile
- b. Bus (CUE, Fairfax Connector or Metrobus)
- c. Metrorail
- d. Bicycle
- e. Walk
- f. Other _____
- g. Not applicable (Retired, work or stay at home)

22) Please indicate if any of the following keeps you from walking more in the City. (Choose all that apply)

- a. The places I need to go are too far to walk
- b. Poor/unpredictable weather
- c. Too few sidewalks or trails
- d. My health
- e. I do not feel safe because of traffic
- f. I do not feel safe because of crime

Replacement Question

23) Please indicate if any of the following keeps you from bicycling more in the City. (Choose all that apply)

- a. The places I need to go are too far to bike
- b. Poor/unpredictable weather
- c. Too few bike lanes or trails
- d. My health
- e. I do not feel safe because of traffic
- f. I do not feel safe because of crime
- g. I do not have access to a bike
- h. I do not know how to bike

Replacement Question

24) If you were deciding today where to live, please indicate how important having each of the following is to you. (1 = Very Important, 2 = Somewhat Important, 3 = Not Very Important, 4 = Not At All Important)

- ___ Sidewalks, trails and places to take walks
- ___ Easy access to the highway
- ___ Being within an easy walk of other places and things in the community
- ___ Being within a short commute to work
- ___ Having public transit nearby
- ___ Bike lanes and paths nearby
- ___ Having access to bikes to use around the City (like Capital Bikeshare)

New Question

25) Which of the following do you think would be more beneficial to support all aspects of the City's transportation network? (Choose up to three)

- a. Bike lanes and bike paths/trails
- b. Bus transit improvements (additional bus shelters)
- c. Construct new sidewalks and crosswalks where they currently do not exist
- d. Improved street connectivity (building new streets to connect existing streets, creating more of a grid-style street layout)
- e. Improved traffic flow

- f. Off-street parking facilities (surface lots, parking garages) downtown/Old Town Fairfax
- g. On-street parking downtown/Old Town Fairfax
- h. Pedestrian street lighting
- i. Repair and maintain sidewalks and crosswalks
- j. Repair and maintain streets
- k. Other _____
- l. None of the above/No opinion

City Services, including Customer Service

26) How would you rate each of the following City services? (1 = Excellent, 2 = Good, 3 = Fair, 4 = Poor, 5 = Not Applicable or Don't Know)

- ___ Building and zoning code enforcement and inspections
- ___ Public safety (Police, Fire & Rescue)
- ___ Road maintenance
- ___ Trash/recycling pick-up, snow removal
- ___ Other City services not listed _____

27) Do you think the City does a good job providing information and obtaining input from residents, business and property owners on critical issues? (Choose one)

- a. Strongly Agree
- b. Agree
- c. Disagree
- d. Strongly Disagree
- e. No opinion

28) How do you get information about City services? (Choose all that apply)

- a. Calling City Hall
- b. City of Fairfax web page (www.fairfaxva.gov)
- c. Cityscene newsletter
- d. Cityscreen-12
- e. Fairfax City Alert
- f. Local newspaper (Fairfax Connection, Fairfax County Times)
- g. Other _____

29) Have you contacted the City during the past year? (Choose one)

- a. Yes
- b. No (Skip to #31)

30) During your interactions with the City in the past year, please rate your satisfaction with City employees for each of the following: (1 = Always, 2 = Usually, 3 = Sometimes, 4 = Seldom, 5 = Never)

- It was easy to find someone to address my request.
- The response time was reasonable.
- I was able to get my question/concern resolved.
- City employees were courteous and professional.

Quality of Life

31) How satisfied are you with living and/or owning a business in the City of Fairfax? Please rank your satisfaction with each of the following? (1 = Very Satisfied, 2 = Satisfied, 3 = Dissatisfied, 4 = Very Dissatisfied, 5 = Not Applicable/No Opinion)

- Housing **Revised Responses**
- Land use and development
- Transportation
- City services, including customer service

32) Overall, how satisfied are you with living and/or owning a business in the City? (Choose one)

- a. Very Satisfied
- b. Satisfied
- c. Dissatisfied
- d. Very Dissatisfied
- e. No opinion

35) Please provide below any other concerns or issues you would like to see addressed in the City's Comprehensive Plan:

36) Please provide your email address if you would like to receive updates on the Plan.

The Center for Social Science Research (CSSR) is conducting this survey. CSSR is a multidisciplinary research center within the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at George Mason University.

Proposed Additional Questions:

33) How likely is it that you would recommend the City of Fairfax to a friend or colleague as a great place to live?

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|------------------|--|
| Not at all likely | | | | | | | | | | | Extremely likely | |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | | |

34) How likely is it that you would recommend restaurants and/or businesses in the City of Fairfax to a friend or colleague?

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|------------------|--|
| Not at all likely | | | | | | | | | | | Extremely likely | |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | | |

Comprehensive Plan Next Steps

- Survey
 - February 29 – Mail survey postcard
 - April 18 – Data collection closed for reporting purposes
 - May 31 – Draft survey report to City
 - June 17 – Final survey report to City
- Process
 - March 14 – Work session on schedule and TOC

Comments/Questions
