

# Livable Fairfax City

*Giving a voice to the community's vision for the future*



*2035 Comprehensive Plan*

Comprehensive Plan Briefing  
Commission on the Arts  
June 21, 2016

# What is a Comprehensive Plan?

Describes a community's vision for how to grow and develop in the near future (20-year planning horizon);

Provides guidance on land use, transportation, housing, economic development, environment, public facilities, parks, arts, and historic preservation;

Informs City zoning and budget decisions – i.e., the capital improvement program (CIP).



# Mandated by Code of Virginia

Comprehensive plan mandatory for all localities since 1980;

Planning commission tasked with preparing and recommending comprehensive plan to governing body (City Council), which is responsible for adoption;

Plan intended to be general in nature and identify “approximate” locations & characters of major features;

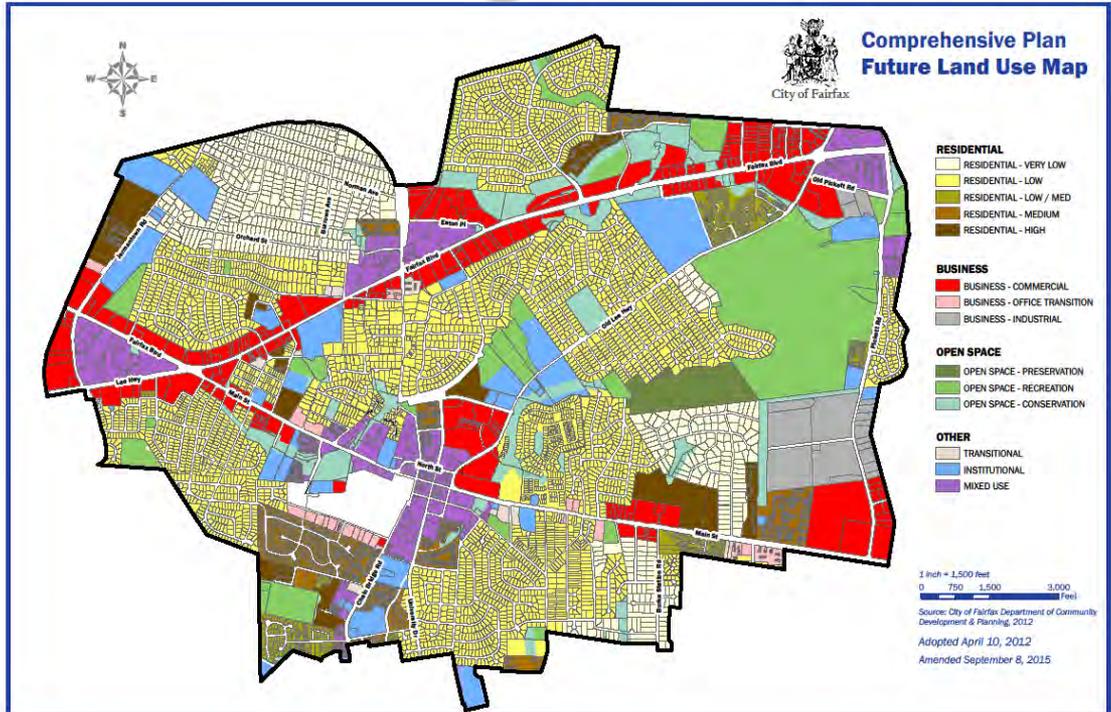
Must contain a transportation plan which identifies needs and recommendations, and transportation improvements;

Must designate areas & means for construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance of affordable housing.



# Mandated by Code of Virginia

Methods of implementation:



# Mandated by Code of Virginia

At least once every 5 years the comprehensive plan must be reviewed by the planning commission to determine whether it should be amended:

2004 – Plan adopted

2008-2011 - Planning Commission reviewed Plan

2011 - Planning Commission recommended major update:

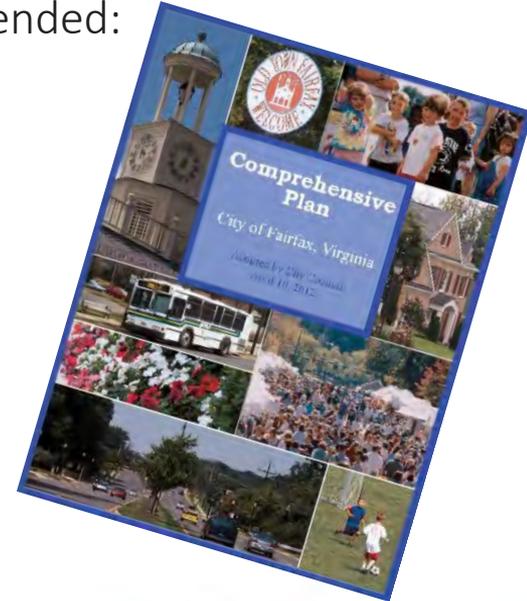
1st step – Amend existing Plan (minor revisions)

2nd step – Draft new Plan

2012 - City Council adopted minor revision to 2004 Plan

Updated population and housing data

Incorporated Fairfax Boulevard Master Plan (Appendix D)



# Comprehensive Plan Process

Following process initiated in 2011

CD&P staff and Planning Commission to lead:

With input from City Council, City Boards and Commissions, residents, business owners, other stakeholders (GMU, County, etc.) and City staff;

Standing Planning Commission work session item;

Kick-off process with community survey.



# Comprehensive Plan Process

## Initial Community Input (Winter 2016)

- Develop and distribute community survey

  - Survey results to be used to formulate vision, goals and objectives*

## Plan Development (Spring 2016-Winter 2017)

- Determine content areas/table of contents

- Develop detailed schedule and workplan

- Collect and analyze data

- Share analysis and develop alternatives w/community input

- Solicit feedback w/community input and develop plan recommendations

## Draft Plan (Spring/Summer 2017)

- Solicit comments from community on draft plan and revise accordingly

## Final Plan (Summer/Fall 2017)

- Hold public hearing and recommend

- revised final plan



# Project Management

- Led by Planning Commission & Planning Division staff
- Planning staff:
  - In-house “consultant”
  - Different staff teams to lead content areas
- Multimodal transportation plan (9-month process):
  - Consultant led
  - Coordinated with overall Plan development





# Multimodal Transportation Plan

City received federal funding to prepare plan

Nelson\Nygaard

AECOM, ZGF Architects, Data Collection Group, Sharp & Co.



Plan Goals:

Educate stakeholders and public on trends in multimodal transportation planning and design;

Develop a vision for the City that supports a multimodal transportation system;

Set priorities, including concept-level cost estimates for certain projects, for achieving that vision.



# Community Survey

Provides an opportunity for the community to identify issues and be part of the process from the beginning:

**Proactive** – as opposed to reactive -- approach

Bottom-up process... collect ideas before presenting ideas

Raises awareness of planning process

Recognizes matters and issues of importance  
to be evaluated in greater detail

Ensures a more complete discussion

Survey Results Meeting – June 6



# Kid's Survey

## Help us shape the future of the City of Fairfax!

10 minutes of your time  
will help shape the next  
20 years of our community!



**Kids!**

We want to hear  
from you too!

Ask your parents to help you answer  
ten short questions online at:

<http://tinyurl.com/ffxkidssurvey>



Share your thoughts with us at:  
<http://cssr.gmu.edu>



Use the registration number  
from your postcard to log in  
and complete the survey  
before April 18.



# Kid's Survey

- ≈ 620 surveys completed
- Age Range: majority 7 -13
- Survey Distribution
  - Easter Egg Hunt, March 26
  - Daniels Run Elementary
  - Providence Elementary
  - St. Leo's
  - Lanier Middle
  - Open online survey



# Kid's Survey



## City of Fairfax Kid's Survey

We want to know what you think about the City of Fairfax. Help us develop the plan for how our city will grow and develop over the next 20 years.

1. How old are you?

8 years old

2. Where do you live?

Cambridge station

3. Does your family recycle?

yes

4. Where do you go to school?

St. Leo's

5. Do you walk or bike to school?

NO

6. Is there a park near your house?

yes

7. Do you walk or bike to the park?

yes

8. Where is your favorite place to visit in the City?

Van Dike park

9. What do wish we had in the City that's not here now?

Mini Golf

10. If you were Mayor for the day, what would you do?

Tell all the teachers  
to give the students  
no homework.

Thanks for taking the survey!!!!









# Public Engagement Strategy

**Traditional Outreach + Technology + Creativity =  
Universal Awareness and Maximum Participation**

Public meetings, open houses, focus groups

Email, city alert

Text messages

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram

Staff hours in the community

*(i.e., @ library, coffee shop)*

Go where people gather...

*Rock the Block, Fall Festival, etc.*



# Plan Development

- Place-based plan (recommended during 2011-12 process)

*Provides context to topic/content areas*

- Use of maps and other imagery to tell the Fairfax story
- Collect and analyze data that answers key questions
- Solicit input through mix of traditional and non-traditional engagement strategies
- Written in an easy-to-understand style
- Linkages between various content areas



# Proposed Chapter Outline

## 1. Introduction

- Vision Statement
- Planning Process
- Statutory Requirements

## 2. Land Use Strategies

- Land Use
- Neighborhoods
- Redevelopment Areas
- Housing
- Community Design & Historic Preservation

## 3. Transportation, Mobility and Connectivity

## 4. Environmental Sustainability

- Natural Environment
- Sustainability Initiatives

## 5. Economic Vitality

- Business Retention and Promotion

## 6. Community Services

- Education
- Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts
- Public Safety
- Infrastructure and Utilities

## 7. Implementation

- Strategies, Priorities, Performance Metrics

**Appendices:** Fact Book, Community Survey, Community Outreach

# 1. Introduction

- **Vision Statement**
  - Results of community survey used to define major themes
- **Planning Process**
  - Description of steps taken to develop the Plan
- **Statutory Requirements**
  - Code of Virginia - Sections 15.2-2223 and 15.2-2224
  - Required vs optional elements



# 2. Land Use Strategies

- **Land Use**
  - Future land use map and land use categories (*req*)
- **Neighborhoods**
  - Descriptions/character
  - Stabilizing force in City
  - Infill housing, connectivity
- **Redevelopment Areas**
  - Centers/nodes and corridors
  - Urban Development Areas (*optional*) HB2 eligibility
- **Housing**
  - Existing housing stock
  - Designate areas for construction, rehab and maintenance of affordable housing (*required*)
  - Senior and student housing
- **Community Design & Historic Preservation**
  - Placemaking opportunities
  - Historic & cultural resources



# 3. Transportation, Mobility & Connectivity

- Multimodal transportation plan that designates a system of transportation infrastructure needs
- Required elements:
  - Consider roadways, pedestrian & bicycle accommodations and public transportation facilities
  - Show hierarchy of roads (arterials, collectors, and local)
  - Map of improvements with cost estimates
  - VDOT review prior to final consideration and adoption



# 4. Environmental Sustainability

- **Natural Environment**

- Location and features of natural elements

- **Sustainability Initiatives**

- Meeting needs of present without compromising ability of future generations to meet their needs
- Identify specific practices/programs to reduce overall impact of built environment on natural environment
- Sustainability as a concept considered throughout Plan



# 5. Economic Vitality

- **Business Retention and Promotion**
  - Strategies for retention and promotion for both bricks and mortar investments and policies that provide assistance or opportunities to local businesses
  - Linkage between neighborhood centers and access to goods and services as measurement of quality of life



# 6. Community Services

- **Education**
  - Public facilities and services; future needs
  - FCPS and George Mason University
- **Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts**
  - Incorporate 2014 Strategic Master Plan
  - Trails may be updated as part of multi-modal plan
- **Public Safety**
  - Police and Fire facilities and services; future needs
- **Infrastructure and Utilities**
  - Public facilities and services; future needs



# 7. Implementation

- **Strategies, Priorities and Performance Metrics**
  - Provide direction on how to achieve vision for the City
  - Identify and prioritize specific strategies to advance goals and objectives
  - Identify responsible party for strategies
  - Establish process for ongoing monitoring of progress toward goals



# Plan Development – Input/Coordination

Key Content Areas	City Staff and Others	Boards/Commissions
Land Use Strategies	CD&P, Historic Resources	BAR, CAC, FRHC, PC, Historic Fairfax City Inc.
Transportation, Mobility and Connectivity	Public Works, VDOT, WMATA, GMU, Fairfax County, NVTC, MWCOG	PC
Environmental Sustainability	Sustainability Coordinator, Public Works, Parks & Recreation	ESC, PC
Economic Vitality	Economic Development, City Manager	EDA, PC
Community Services	City Schools, GMU, Parks & Recreation, Police, Fire, Public Works, Fairfax Water, Fairfax County	School Board, PRAB, <b>Commission on the Arts</b> , PC

# Schedule

	Spring 2016	Summer 2016	Fall 2016	Winter 2017	Spring 2017	Summer 2017
Initial Input (Community Survey)	*	*				
Plan Development		^	* ^	* ^		
Draft Plan					*	
Final Plan						*

\* Milestone Public Activity (Survey Results, Data Analysis, Development Scenarios, Plan Recommendations, Public Hearings)

^ Key Coordination with City Boards and Commissions

*Note: Coordination with City Council to occur throughout the planning process*



# Data Collection & Key Questions

What is the character, design and visual identity of the City's commercial areas/centers?

Do each of the commercial centers include vibrant public spaces for people to gather and hang out?

Are there scenic views or vistas in the City?

Does the City sponsor events and programs to promote the cultural arts? In the commercial centers?



# Comments / Questions:

We're always available to talk:

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