



July 11, 2016 Planning Commission Work Session
Discussion of the 2035 Comprehensive Plan Vision Statement

Purpose of a Vision Statement

- Describes a community's values, aspirations and shared image of what it wants to become over the next 10 to 20 years
- Should be forward thinking and written in a positive, affirmative and inspirational style

Current Comprehensive Plan Introduction and Vision

Introduction

The City of Fairfax has a strong sense of community and an attractive small town atmosphere. This Comprehensive Plan, as the City's official guide to future development, seeks to protect and enhance those distinctive qualities of the City.

**The Vision – Building on Our Respected
Traditions; Addressing Our Pressing Concerns**

Current Comprehensive Plan

Guiding Principles

- Protect, sustain, and enhance the City’s residential neighborhoods, centers of commerce and “small town character” by:
 - Promoting revitalization in declining neighborhoods and commercial properties
 - Promoting replacement of facilities beyond repair
 - Promoting attractive, traditional design
 - Assuring efficient movement of traffic

Norfolk Vision Statement

Norfolk, a real city that is a great place to live, work and play, with:

- Strong and safe neighborhoods where people want to live, each with its own unique identity and design;
- A comprehensive transportation system – rare among cities of its size – that offers a wide variety of choices, while also serving as a regional transportation hub;
- A healthy economy that provides varied employment opportunities for a well-trained workforce, a world class port, a strong military presence, with a vibrant Downtown and thriving commercial centers throughout the City;
- A sustainable environment that is not simply protected, but enhanced;
- A variety of well-maintained housing options that are affordable and accessible to all residents;
- Opportunities for learning that extend through all stages of life;
- A well managed government that provides efficient and accountable public services to its citizens;
- A wide variety of cultural and recreational opportunities that lead to a fun and healthy lifestyle for a diverse population;
- A long and rich history that is reflected in its architecture and cultural resources; and
- A commitment to regional cooperation, recognizing the importance of a regional approach in the 21st Century.

Norfolk Model

- Vision – destination for where Norfolk will be in 2030
- Goals – general statements of the ideals toward which the City strives
- Outcomes – define what success would look like for each goal
- Actions – define the specific steps necessary to realize each outcome and, ultimately, each goal
- Metrics – provide a method to measure progress toward achieving each goal

Norfolk Transportation Chapter Example

"Norfolk, a real city that is a great place to live, work and play, with: A comprehensive transportation system — rare among cities of its size — that offers a wide variety of choices, while also serving as a regional transportation hub."

Transportation Goal 1. Connect residents and visitors with business, employment, shopping, educational, and activity centers through a safe and efficient multi-modal regional transportation system.

Outcome T1.1. A street and highway system that allows people and goods to be moved safely, conveniently, and efficiently.

Metrics:

- *Percent of the road network operating at a congestion level of "Low" or "Moderate."*
- *Percent of lane miles of roads exceeding a Pavement Quality Management (PQM) rating of 60.*

Action T1.1.1. Monitor congestion levels and strive for low or moderate congestion on all roadway segments at peak times and prioritize improvements on those roads that are rated severe congestion. (see Map T-4).

2035 Comprehensive Plan Vision

- Represents the envisioned future Fairfax City 15-20 years from now
- Based on feedback received from community survey, City Council & Planning Commission work sessions, and City boards & commissions
- Positive and inspiring
- Provided as a series of statements – one for each content area (shown in parenthesis)

Draft 2035 Comprehensive Plan Vision

In 2035, Fairfax is a city with ...

- The charm of a small town situated in the center of the growing northern Virginia region and within easy access to the nation's capital;
- Welcoming, congenial neighborhoods each with its own unique character;
- Five neighborhood centers of commercial activity, including Old Town Fairfax, that contain grocery stores, restaurants, entertainment, coffee shops, cafés and retail stores;
- A mix of affordable, moderate and upscale housing for those just starting out, raising a family or living out their golden years;
- Architecture respectful of its historic past that contributes to a vibrant place;
- Options for residents to easily and safely go to school, work, shop and move about either by walking, bicycling, bus transit or automobile;
- A healthy ecosystem of native plants and waterways, contiguous natural habitat areas and a bountiful tree canopy;
- Sustainable living and building practices that prevent further ecological harm and conserve resources through the use of renewable resources;
- Economic vitality and a small business culture that promotes entrepreneurial leadership and partners with George Mason University;
- Access to world-class schools and a great education from pre-school to post high school in which students meet high academic standards, lead ethical lives and demonstrate responsible citizenship;
- Inviting and beautifully maintained parks and open spaces for residents and visitors to enjoy, explore and gather with family and friends;
- Numerous special events and an inspiring cultural arts program;
- Exceptional police and fire safety services; and
- Safe, well-maintained infrastructure and access to technology.

Draft 2035 Comprehensive Plan Vision

In 2035, Fairfax is a city with ...

The charm of a small town situated in the center of the growing northern Virginia region and within easy access to the nation's capital (land use);

Welcoming, congenial neighborhoods each with its own unique character (neighborhoods);

Five neighborhood centers of commercial activity, including Old Town Fairfax, that contain grocery stores, restaurants, entertainment, coffee shops, cafés and retail stores (redevelopment areas);

A mix of affordable, moderate and upscale housing for those just starting out, raising a family or living out their golden years (housing);

Architecture respectful of its historic past that contributes to a vibrant place (community design and historic preservation);

Draft 2035 Comprehensive Plan Vision

In 2035, Fairfax is a city with ...

Options for residents to easily and safely go to school, work, shop and move about either by walking, bicycling, bus transit or automobile (transportation);

A healthy ecosystem of native plants and waterways, contiguous natural habitat areas and a bountiful tree canopy (natural environment);

Sustainable living and building practices that prevent further ecological harm and conserve resources through the use of renewable resources (sustainability initiatives);

Economic vitality and a small business culture that promotes entrepreneurial leadership and partners with George Mason University (economic vitality);

Access to world-class schools and a great education from pre-school to post high school in which students meet high academic standards, lead ethical lives and demonstrate responsible citizenship (education);

Draft 2035 Comprehensive Plan Vision

In 2035, Fairfax is a city with ...

Inviting and beautifully maintained parks and open spaces for residents and visitors to enjoy, explore and gather with family and friends (parks and recreation);

Numerous special events and an inspiring cultural arts program (cultural arts);

Exceptional police and fire safety services (public safety); and

Safe, well-maintained infrastructure and access to technology (infrastructure and utilities).

Next Steps

- July 25 Planning Commission Meeting
 - Continue work session discussion
- July thru September Solicit Community Input
 - City Council, City boards and commissions, City staff
 - Rock the Block, Cityscene, social media
- September 26 Planning Commission Meeting
 - Move vision statement to “Items not requiring a public hearing” for public comment

Comments/Questions