

Minutes from the work session of the Planning Commission of the County of Henrico held in the Manager's Conference Room, County Administration Building in the Government Center at Parham and Hungary Spring Roads, beginning at 6:00 p.m., September 15, 2022.

Members Present: Mrs. Melissa L. Thornton, Chair (Three Chopt)
Mr. Gregory R. Baka, Vice-Chair (Tuckahoe)
Mr. C. W. Archer, C.P.C. (Fairfield)
Mr. Robert H. Witte, Jr. (Brookland)
Mr. William M. Mackey, Jr. (Varina)
Mr. R. Joseph Emerson, Jr., AICP, Director of Planning,
Secretary
Mr. Daniel J. Schmitt (Brookland)
Board of Supervisors' Representative

Also Present: Ms. Jean M. Moore, Assistant Director of Planning
Mr. Ben Sehl, Senior Principal Planner
Ms. Rosemary D. Deemer, AICP, County Planner
Mr. Seth Humphreys, County Planner
Mr. Livingston Lewis, County Planner
Ms. Molly Mallow, County Planner
Ms. Kelly Drash, County Planner
Mr. Brendan McDowell, County Planner
Ms. Ashley Austin, Department of Public Works

The Commission convened a work session in the Manager's Conference Room at 6:02 p.m.

Mrs. Thornton called the work session to order, then turned the meeting over to the Secretary of the Planning Commission, Mr. Joe Emerson, Director of Planning. Mr. Emerson explained the work session would continue the discussion on the development of the 2045 Comprehensive Plan. He then turned the meeting over to Ms. Rosemary Deemer.

Ms. Deemer introduced Ms. Ashley Austin with Henrico County Department of Public Works (DPW) and outlined the evening's talking points. Handouts comprised of general overall public engagement and open-ended survey questions, and the draft Bike map comment summaries had been distributed in the second packet.

Discussion began with the Draft Bike and Trails Plan Report draft. This report, along with the corresponding Transportation chapter and Major Thoroughfare Plan map will comprise one element of the 2045 Comprehensive Plan. The report, compiled by a sub-consultant, details responses about public transportation. Information for the report was sourced from the Residents' Survey, the Recreation and Parks Survey, the Spring Visioning event and the Henrico County Department of Public Works' online mapping activity.

Ms. Deemer discussed transportation-related feedback from all four sources and compared similar responses where applicable. Respondents supported adding sidewalks to older neighborhoods and commercial corridors, were concerned about traffic congestion and pedestrian safety, and expressed a desire to use alternative modes of transportation more than they currently do. She reviewed transportation comments from both the mapping activity that was part of the Spring 2022 visioning event, as well as those from DPW's online draft bike map exercise.

To complete the summary of Phase II's public engagement efforts, Ms. Deemer reviewed the five key themes identified during the process. They included strong support for providing more bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and protection of environmentally sensitive lands, open spaces and rural areas, emphasis on the value of providing a safe environment for residents, management of the location of future growth with a preference for redevelopment and infill and support for addressing affordable housing needs. Links to comments and results are available to the public.

Staff will use the input gathered to help shape goals and objectives for the 2045 Comprehensive Plan, as well as assisting the development of alternative growth scenarios. Copies of both survey results and corresponding appendices have been posted to the project website. Staff anticipates uploading the information presented this evening by the end of the month.

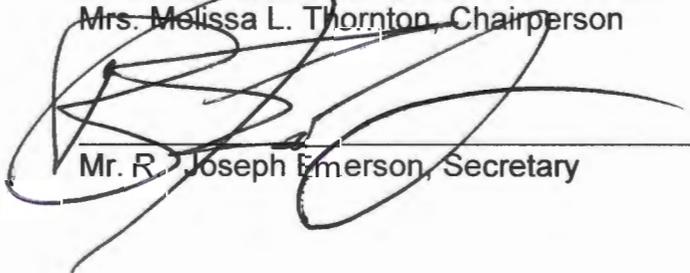
A handout explaining data weighting was circulated. Phase II is in its final stages and in-depth data regarding residential and non-residential development and county growth trends is in the works as is a current housing characteristics summary. Also, to come, an analysis linking non-residential development and the demand for housing.

Ms. Austin and Ms. Deemer answered questions and took notes.

The Commission recessed its meeting at 6:30 p.m.



Mrs. Melissa L. Thornton, Chairperson



Mr. R. Joseph Emerson, Secretary