

Staff Technical Team Meeting – Durham's New Comprehensive Plan

1/22/2021

10:30am – 12:00pm

Agenda

Disclaimer: This meeting and chats will be recorded to share out with those unable to attend.

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| 10:30 am- 10:45 am | Introductions and Icebreaker | Scott Whiteman, Policy and Urban Design Manager |
| 10:45am – 11:00am | Call to Collaborate | Sara Young, City/County Planning Director |
| 11:00 am – 11:25am | Process so Far | Carl Kolosna, Sr. Planner |
| | Process for Drafting the Objectives, and | Erin Parish, Sr. Program Administrator |
| | Overview of Objectives | Scott Whiteman |
| 11:25am – 11:50am | Discussion | Lisa Miller, Sr. Planner |
| 11:50am – 12:00pm | Next Steps | Scott Whiteman |

Notes:

- 1. 10:30-10:45 Introductions and Icebreaker** *Do you have any resolutions for the start of this year?*
- 2. 10:45-11:00 Call to Collaborate**

Sara Young shared different definitions of collaboration and called the team to collaborate together. Why is it important for you all to collaborate with Planning?

- Land use underpins everything that we can do from an affordable housing and community development perspective. If we can't do that we're missing the point. This is the City's plan not the Planning Department's plan.
- Infrastructure and the Comp Plan are married
- Intertwined coordination between land use and transportation infrastructure we're building for the future
- We all have a different perspective to bring to the table and work with different populations or different segments of the community and it'll be better if we bring all that together
- Between the City and County we have all different individual plans and at times those visions have a unique niche in helping city or county achieve that goal. The benefit of the Comp Plan is to find the unifying themes so we can take those different visions and find the commonality and unify them.
- We have all these different departments on planning side and from the public works side we need to bring a public works perspective for future maintenance for all the new areas of the city
- Not having a plan is also having a plan too—different layers of governance should support each other and align public investments so we can create something more cohesive and visionary

We're excited to see us move to our upcoming phases of work and it sounds like we're all on the same page and we're all in this together. Thank you for your collaboration and work together.

3. 11-11:25 Process so Far Slides 3 (overview) through 16 (qualitative data analysis) *Process for Drafting the Objectives*, and Slide 17 (qualitative data analysis process) *Overview of Objectives Slides 19-24 (draft goals and objectives through how will the objectives be used?)*

- Carl Kolosna gave an overview on approach and what we've done so far (created draft Goals and objectives)
- Erin Parish explained the qualitative data process for understanding resident input, finding patterns, and constructing goals and objectives
- Scott Whiteman gave an overview of the goals and objectives and how they can inform policies.

4. 11:25-11:50 Discussion

What kind of things are you excited to see from these objectives?

What questions do you have?

Do these objectives reflect the types of things you're hearing from residents?

What's missing from these objectives from your perspective?

- This is a huge amount of work—especially in COVID times—it forced us to do some creative things. I love seeing all of it. It sounds like Durham and the things we hear all the time: the focus on equity and that we want all of Durham to benefit. I'm very excited to dig deeper in the Resilient Carbon Neutral objectives. In the environmental objectives overall it still seems very people-oriented and we didn't ask the creatures or the trees about their ideal Durham. What may be missing is the intrinsic value of nature in addition to people and those things go hand in hand but it's not very explicit. There's room in the Comp Plan to think about habitats and corridors and climate change. I'd like to see this enhanced a bit more.
- Excited to see objectives around celebrating culture community
- I have only looked at the housing objectives, but I thought they did a good job capturing the key issues that we hear around affordability and creating different options within neighborhoods.
- I don't really see anything about how heavily we are treading on the earth and how extractive our activities are as far as natural resources. Water conservation is important—do we want to be efficient for how we use water-- there's nothing in this about it. Not necessarily a problem but a whole piece of infrastructure is missing from this. Transportation is there and that's more obvious but not necessarily other infrastructure and services. If there are things that come out of the Comp Plan that necessitate infrastructure—I want to make sure there's support for how we do things tied to Comp Plan
- A consideration for later--not today's discussion. In general, Tobin and Sydney are bringing up the concern about how or do we integrate city planner people concerns into the comp plan regardless of whether or not average residents demonstrated a high level of concern about the stuff we'd be focused on?
- The questions were of the vision of the city people want to see (the end goal). I think pieces like infrastructure and conservation are more related to the how we get there (the means to the end goal)
- Just because residents don't say it doesn't mean we wouldn't care about it in the Comp Plan. As far as cultural resource protection, archaeological sites, aren't really in here but they're important and the community cares about them but it's usually something planners put in the plan that we know fits in the vision. There are explicit policies about historic and cultural resources in the existing plan. I'm not seeing much discussion of that in these objectives.
- My question is have you all started to think a bout the bucket of things the community has offered us and can't be articulated best through the Comp Plan and where those can be implemented? Thinking about the Jobs objectives --there are parts of those objectives that are tied in other policy decisions- what's the balance? Traditionally economic development is trying to create an environment for attracting businesses that create jobs—the City is not in the business of creating jobs—and we should think about that in the way the objectives are framed –how do we attract the type of employment opportunities that we want because we're not really creating jobs or as many jobs as we attract.

- Big picture, what we hear the most of is about growth management and we're going through a school boundaries assessment because of growth management of the existing comp plan. These objectives address the Look (design) , Function (good examples of co-location) and Feel. For the school resource officers point, I want to lift up that that's a very deep pool and if this is an element of the comp plan that be aware that this topic is a big one and is well beyond land use and transportation. This sounds like how we're staffing at the teacher level—just a broad question –have you thought deeply about how it ties to a comp plan?
- Lisa: We want to reflect what we're hearing from residents. The outreach team told us that we don't have an objective around Crime and Policing and we had a whole lot of comments about crime and policing but they were really split about what people wanted to see happen. One area of consistency was removing SROS and police presence in the schools.
- One of things we're continuing to see and at an exacerbated rate is in-migration to the Triangle from other regions in the US. There are a number of reasons people are flocking to this area. We have to be mindful of as we start to see larger growth rates than anticipated . We're looking for quality employers with good benefits and we see the larger goals and it's up to us to develop that road map to get there. Willing to share the policy language we use. What do we mean by accessible? We're interested in access to Treyburn and last mile connections to RTP—we're doing a number of things on the awareness side to increase awareness and we're finding significant populations that we're trying to support are not aware of the opportunities that exist-working on this workforce development piece. I'm interested in understanding more about what we mean by this.
- Lisa: Many of these objectives are intertwined and much of what Andy shared is wrapped up in access to information in the "Community Engagement" objective and would love to collaborate and discuss more.
- When I think of a Comp Plan I think about where is that located in the general statutes and it's in the rules related to regulating development- and it's interesting to me to think about SROs and policing—I'm curious, is the comp plan envisioned as a larger plan that does more than regulate development? Some of these things don't seem development related—just a question-how broad are we thinking the Comp Plan should be or will be?
- Lisa: In terms of policies in the Comp Plan – that's something we'll need to work through together but in terms of a vision for what our community is saying we want and need for the future—it's important for us to be reflecting that more broadly and looking at ways to connect people with programs and policies that aren't within development but are still really important to our overall community. Recognizing that we can't think about development without also thinking about all these things and the way they're interconnected. Understanding all these things as we're making land use decisions.
- I think there is also an opportunity to make connections between what residents have identified and the supportive "infrastructure" that is needed in future engagement forums were residents (particularly those that have been traditionally marginalized) are

meaningfully included in collaborative decision-making processes that are focused on the specific goal/objective areas

- It's helpful to other groups who are doing various engagements related to school policing and needs of young people to see this sentiment affirmed in this massive engagement. It adds voice to those other efforts that might be smaller scale
- Sara Young: Yes a lot of these issues aren't directly land use issues – but we can think about these things creatively—and if we're really embracing the notion that this plan brings all our departments and agencies together and coordinating so we're not going out to community for all our siloed projects. If you all can take this information here – you can take this information and inform your work so you don't have to do separate engagement. I hope you all will take the bits and pieces back, use it, and address it in a holistic way.
- I share the concerns about how we don't want to ignore the input we've gotten but as you grow the plan then you'll end up having sections related to policing but not invested in or implemented by that department. Maybe take what we can use in the Comp Plan and hand off the other ones to other departments to work on. We don't want the Comp Plan to be so big and broad that it loses focus.
- Sara Young: We need to be super transparent for how we communicate this to the public and right size expectations that the Comp Plan isn't going to address some of these things but the city and county aren't going to lose track of some of things. That's where we need your help. This is crucial to creating and keeping trust.
- Opportunity here to show effective governance here—DPS is embarking on a new plan – growth, equity, and access. I want to receive these objectives from your community engagement efforts but also we're hearing from parents about why certain schools are overcrowding etc. The dialogue is bidirectional and how do we share the input we're hearing? We're also hearing about connectivity and walkability. Want a mechanism to share what we're hearing about growth, equity, and access.
- Planning will need to think about what it looks like to steward that vision - in terms of scope/roles and how that's communicated to the community and depts. so people understand what is happening with this vision and who is working on the various aspects of it
- This is EXACTLY how the current plan is. There is a section on fire that we don't use, can't do---it's already such a giant, overflowing kitchen sink--I'd hoped greater focus would get us a more powerful/implementable plan
- Isn't that why there are multiple departments on this call? so that they are part of understanding how their work is reflected in the plan? and can continue implementing it?
- Lisa: There's so many ways our work can reinforce each others and we should build on the engagement work we're all doing.