

## Boards and Commissions Meeting Notes

January 30, 2020

### Agenda

1. Introductions & Logistics (10 minutes)
2. Purpose and Role of Boards & Commissions (5 minutes)
3. Introduction to the New Comprehensive Plan (10 minutes)
4. Engagement Process for the Comprehensive Plan (10 minutes)
5. Questions & Reactions (15 minutes)
6. Introduce the rest of PUD Staff & Discussion (30 minutes – 15 minute group discussion; 15 minutes report out)
7. Next Steps & Adjourning (5 minutes)

### Meeting Notes

#### Questions & Reactions

#### 1. **What are the goals for 2050?**

The Durham community has a unique opportunity to decide what the goals are for growth and development by 2050. The goals of the plan are not being determined by staff, but rather, will be co-developed with the community over the coming months.

#### 2. **How can our boards and commissions influence what's written in to the plan? I can see how we can influence goals, but what about the rest? I don't want to miss an opportunity.**

The public engagement phase thus far for the Comprehensive Plan is currently very broad in terms of content. We have conducted 5 listening and learning workshops supplemented by engagement ambassador outreach work to help understand what people care about in Durham and what people are feeling is impacting their lives today. This information will be used to develop the plan's community goals. Once these goals are developed, the planning team will narrow the scope for the next phases of engagement.

Specific policies will be developed with your help and other technical parties involved with developing the plan such as the City-County Staff Technical Team and the Communications team. Boards and Commissions are typically comprised of interested residents with diverse perspectives, expertise, and connections to all parts of Durham. We want you all to be engaged in the equitable engagement process, hear what people in the community are saying, and help Staff think through specific recommendations around topics your groups care about. City and County staff from various departments are considered stakeholders since population growth and new buildings impact city and county services. We have formed a Staff Technical Team to help us think about how to implement the community goals and identify tradeoffs and decision points for the City Council and County Commissioners to consider as the planning process becomes more specific around various topics.

**3. How would the prior plans be graded?**

This process will create a new Comprehensive Plan. The previous 2005 Comprehensive Plan and earlier Comprehensive Plans may be used as a reference or starting point to build an updated plan. Also, other prior City and County plans are being reviewed to determine their relevance and ensure that they fit with the Comprehensive Plan. Our staff are working to ensure that all up-to-date and relevant previous plans will be aligned with the new Comprehensive Plan.

**4. How do we discern what we have to have? Are we making sure we're getting the feedback on the things we need to have feedback on?**

This is an iterative process that starts broadly and eventually focuses the scope of work. The first round of engagement has been very broad and included open-ended questions like "What does an ideal Durham look like to you?" and "What is on your mind about Durham?". These questions were meant to allow public participants to bring up topics they care most about to form the plan's main goals. The ENGAGEDurham process is working to reach as many people as possible with an emphasis on communities who have been traditionally underserved or excluded from the planning process to ensure we are getting feedback on the things we need to have feedback on. As the ENGAGEDurham process continues, we will try to hear from more people and engage with groups like you, boards, commissions and committees to see if there was anything we missed in the first round of engagement. Throughout the process, there will be a constant communication loop to receive feedback and input from the public and other stakeholders, and for our planning staff to report back, solicit comments and verify that we heard things correctly.

**5. Can you provide demographic information (including race, gender identity, income, age, etc) for the Planning Department, the Outreach Team, and the Engagement Ambassadors?**

**Planning Department** - percentages related to demographics

74.5% white

17% black

6.4% Hispanic\*

2.1% all other

\*MUNIS combines race and ethnicity so the Hispanic number may not be completely accurate.

**Engagement Ambassadors** - We are currently pulling together a demographic summary of the ambassadors for a February 17<sup>th</sup> report. We will share that information with you once it is completed.

**Outreach Team** - We are currently compiling demographic data of the outreach team members. In total there have been 160 outreach team member nominees. Once we have this information, we will share it back with you.

**6. Do we have to have a new plan because we unexpectedly grew so fast?**

Durham has changed a lot since 2005 (when the last Comp Plan was adopted). The creation of new technologies, aging infrastructure and growing/changing population of Durham are all reasons why we need a new Comp Plan. The priorities and issues in the early 2000s re not the same as today or as anticipated for the future.

We've also learned there are some things that we didn't do well with the 2005 Comprehensive Plan. There needs to be an emphasis on key infrastructure like water and sewer, bus transit, and fire protection and EMS. There also needs to include mechanisms for funding. It also needs a scope that focuses on what Comprehensive Plans can actually influence.

**7. How do we take state politics and the limitations it imposes into account with this plan?**

In the Comprehensive Plan we're looking at Durham's long range future and a lot can change over a generation. In the planning process, we have to be aware of the State's statutory limitations on our work in local government, but, we should be cautious not to constrain our thinking too much. There are some things that may change as politics changes in North Carolina. It's a delicate balance and subject to more discussions once we get in to the policy development stage of the plan.

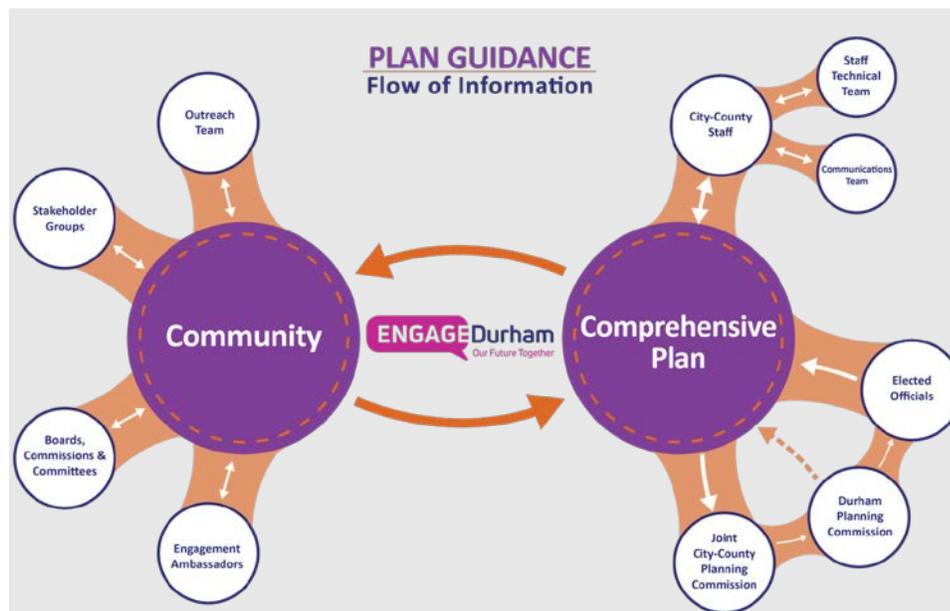
**8. The bicycle and pedestrian group reviewed the current plan at their retreat and noticed that people are not mentioned in the plan, instead modes of transportation are mentioned, moving objects. They are now ready to provide adaptive feedback based on that retreat exercise. They are happy to share their process from the retreat. They encourage us to include people in the plan.**

**9. How do you see policy changes implemented during the timeline?**

We may discover during the engagement phases that there may be more implementable items that can be changed about Durham’s development regulations. As those are identified, Planning Staff can begin proposing amendments to the City Council and County Commissioners to begin implementing the plan at a faster pace, while there is still momentum and engagement with this work.

**10. Who has their hands on this thing? Who approves it, adopts it, etc.?**

The City-County Planning Department, specifically the Policy and Urban Design Team, is responsible for delivering the plan. The Joint City County Planning Commission (JCCPC) and the Planning Commission are advisory in nature and will make recommendations to City and County elected officials. Ultimate approval is by the City Council and Board of Commissioners. Also community and board engagement will be constant throughout the process. For more information about the Comprehensive Plan’s process and groups involved visit [ENGAGEDurham.com](http://ENGAGEDurham.com). Below is an image showing who is involved with the Comprehensive Plan.



**11. To what degree is there synthesis and production of the recommendations?**

The recommendations in the Comprehensive Plan will come from two primary sources 1) what we’re hearing from people as part of the public engagement process 2) from our staff technical team about how to deliver city services and operations in response to the community goals.

**12. Will you be presenting portions of the plan to the relevant commissions for additional feedback as you go?**

Yes. Planning staff is limited in our ability to visit every board and commission for each portion of the plan development. So, as we identify more specific topics for consideration, we will seek out the board(s) most relevant who have expertise in the topic area for feedback and assistance. Every draft for consideration by elected officials will be made available for anyone who wants to review and provide comment. With your help, we can make sure your board, commission or committee is aware of when there are items to review. In some instances, we may need to do a special presentation but our hope is that you can help contribute to the development of the plan by being the liaison between us and your group.

**13. To what extent is the transit plan separate from the Comprehensive Plan? Are you doing the same community outreach with the transit plan?**

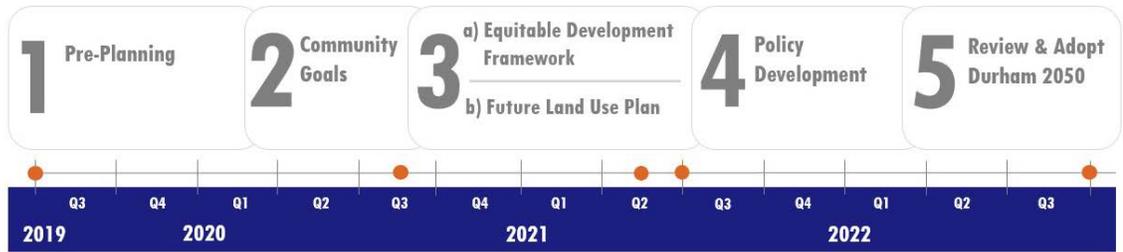
The Transit Plan and Comprehensive Plan are separate plans. While the Comprehensive Plan is a deliverable from the City-County Planning Department, the Transit Plan is being managed by the Durham-Chapel Hill- Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization in partnership with GoTriangle, GoDurham, Triangle J Council of Governments, City of Durham Transportation Department and the City-County Planning Department. Additionally, the Transit Plan is on a shorter timeframe with a sooner adoption date, therefore. The Transit Plan's outreach has aligned with the Comprehensive Plan's engagement thus far to form the Transit Plan's goals. Moving forward, we are working to overlap as much outreach as possible with the Comprehensive Plan's engagement along with following the same equitable engagement blueprint under the ENGAGEDurham umbrella in developing the Transit Plan. While there is a more immediate need for adopting the Transit Plan, the Comprehensive Plan will inform additional amendments to the Transit Plan.

**14. What's the timeline of the transit plan?**

The Durham County Transit Plan has an adoption date set for January 2021.

**15. Do you do the plan by steps, or do you put out pieces of each one as you complete it? Is it done category by category, housing, public safety, etc.?**

The Comprehensive Plan will be carried out and adopted in steps based on the phases or sections of the plan (Community Goals, Equitable Development Framework, Future Land Use Plan, Policy Development). Planning staff will move forward with adopting portions as they are completed, instead of waiting to adopt all at the end. Below is a timeline showing the phases of the Comprehensive Plan's development.



● Proposed adoption dates

Our experience with the 2005 Comprehensive Plan has shown us that thinking about land use, growth, and development in distinct categories can lead to the unintended consequence of thinking about new development—and our work as a local government—in siloed ways. For example, the 2005 Comprehensive Plan had different chapters that covered topics like transportation, water and wastewater, historic preservation etc. While those topics will still need to be addressed in the new Comprehensive Plan, we want to challenge ourselves to think more holistically about how our places are developed. We want to be able to look at the new Future Land Use Plan and understand all the pieces of growth—how the street network comes together, what does open space look like, what are the housing types needed—of a given area so that the City Council and County Commissioners can understand how development will impact the community as a whole and not just one single parcel. In practice, we may have discussions where we focus on topics with you all, but we want to remember how all the pieces connect back to land use and the regulations we can put in the place to encourage coordination of all the moving pieces. So, the plan will be organized and adopted into sections which may cover an array of topics or categories.

**16. A desire was expressed to start with the highest priority parts of the plan.**

**17. How are Duke University and Duke Hospital system involved in this plan?**

We recognize Duke is a major Durham stakeholder and they will be informed as the plan progresses. We're still in the early stages and wanted to check in with the community first about what Durham wants for its future. We will be engaging with other major stakeholders, like Duke, as the plan progresses.

**18. How are people who transit in and out of the county impacting the plan and infrastructure? How do other county's actions impact our infrastructure?**

Durham's commuting population certainly has a significant impact lots of things—from our roads to sales taxes. Coordination with our neighboring jurisdictions will also be an important component going forward.

### Summary of Group Discussion

#### *Topics discussed as expertise areas in the small groups:*

- housing & pay inequality, climate change resiliency, transportation, barriers to end homelessness, land available for affordable housing, synergy & friction with Duke Health Systems comprehensive plan,
- Expertise with housing, consideration of pet owner population and the built environment, preserving our history,
- Site development, compatibility with bus stops, trails and parks, transit and transportation, community inclusion for people with different abilities, social determinants of health, housing, funding for new development, need for bike trails and park security

#### *Recommendations:*

keep website updated, access to working documents for boards and commissions for visibility and transparency, leverage homeowners associations to disseminate bite size information, reps to committees updated by email, continue meetings like this, give us slide decks, empower us to go back and give feedback and information, listserv to get info out, advertise website, social media can be overused, commissions have outward facing meetings to spend a little time on their business but then more time on the planning process,

The appearance commission is planning an event about building design and environmental design that affects children. A good chance to consider children.