Community Member Feedback
Phase 1 (step 3):

This document is a compilation of feedback from engagement related to the third step of community engagement during AC44 Phase 1.

During this round, Community members were invited to share their feedback on four "Big Ideas" for an equitable and resilient community through a series of roundtables and an online questionnaire. Community members were asked to consider: do the Big Ideas reflect your vision of our community in 20 years? Do they guide us towards a more equitable and resilient community? And if not, what's missing?

The table of contents listed below provides page numbers and a link to a full compilation of community feedback from each format.

Format / Date	Total Attendance / Responses	Pages / Link
Email Correspondence & Online Comments 07/19/2022 – 9/21/2022	15	Pages 2-5 Email Correspondence & Online Comments
Roundtables (in-person and virtual) 08/29/2022-09/20/2022	~115	Pages 6-26 Roundtables Summary
Online Questionnaire #3 (open 09/02-09/18/2022)	24	Pages 27-42 Questionnaire Report
Working Group Meeting Notes 08/09/2022; 09/13/2022	n/a	Pages 43-62 Meeting #4 Notes Meeting #5 Notes
Community Voices 08/2022	10	Available on the County website at the following link: https://www.albemarle.org/government/county-executive/communications-public-engagement/let-s-talk-albemarle

Email Correspondence & Online Comments

Dates received 7/19/22 – 9/21/2022

Date	Email Text + Attachments
7/19/22	I am writing in support of the Three Notched Trail. The trail would be a great addition to non motorized transportation and recreation in Albemarle County.
7/19/22	As Ablemarle County updates it's comprehensive plan, I am writing in support of the development of the Three Notched Trail. The Three Notched Trail would help meet all of the recent County-wide strategic initiatives including climate action planning, economic development, and multi-modal transportation planning. While we believe this trail would benefit all residents of the area, our family been significantly impacted by the lack of a resource like this in our community. When we moved to the area three years ago we were really interested in living in Crozet or somewhere west of Charlottesville. However, we really like to commute by bike and the lack of safe routes between Crozet and Charlottesville did not allow Crozet to be an option for us. Additionally, we have 2 kids under give that really like to ride either on their own bikes or on our bike seats. Flat rail trails and gravel roads are perfect for this. Unfortunately, our community lacks any sort of trail like that. The closest we have is Riverview Park, but it doesn't really allow for the longer bike rides that our family enjoys. We routinely drive 45 minutes or an hour to enjoy these kinds of trails (Lynchburg, Piney River Trail). It would be great for our community to have a resource like this for both family recreation and active transportation.
7/19/22	I would like to voice my support for the Three Notched Trail in the Albemarle County Comprehensive Plan. The Three Notched Trail would help meet all of the recent County-wide strategic initiatives including climate action planning, economic development, and multi-modal transportation planning. We live in the Highlands neighborhood on Three Notched Road where the trail would run. This trail would make a fantastic addition to the area providing safe access for all ages to walk or bike to local businesses and other neighborhoods. Please make sure this long-awaited trail stays in the comprehensive plan.
7/19/22	As a longtime Charlottesville resident, I am emailing to share my support for the proposed Three Notched Trail. The TNT would help meet many of the Albemarle County-wide strategic initiatives outlined in the Comprehensive Plan, including climate action planning, economic development, and multi-modal transportation planning. In addition, it would bring outdoor enthusiasts to the area which would lead to greater tourism opportunities, and provide a safe alternative for bicyclists. I hope you consider the many benefits an interconnected trail like this would offer the city of Charlottesville and surrounding communities.

7/19/22	I'm writing to encourage the development of the Three Notched Trail from Crozet to Charlottesville. We lived in Crozet until June of 2022. We love to bike and always thought it'd be wonderful to bike to Charlottesville, but no way were we going to bike on 250! How wonderful it'd be if there was a rails to trail for biking! Well, we moved to Madison, WI last July and have found biking heaven! So I'm writing to pass along information that yes, it can be done, and that having safe bike trails/lanes is such a bonus for the community. Madison is a community..."where anyone can ride a bicycle conveniently and comfortably to any place year round." And let me tell you, it gets COLD here, but people actually bike year round! There is well over 100 miles of bike trails and lanes in the Madison area, and even more throughout the state. There is a bike friendly culture here. Not only do people bike for exercise and recreation, but many commute to work. I have 2 adult sons that do this about 9 months out of the year. Here are a few links to check out: https://www.traillink.com/city/madison-wi-trails/ https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/recreation/biking https://www.cityofmadison.com/bikeMadison/about/platinumBiking.cfm https://cityratings.peopleforbikes.org/cities/madison-wi https://bikeleague.org/content/resources-building-bicycle-friendly-community-0 I looked at your website and totally agree with all the benefits of a trail such as this! Yes, yes, yes! It may take awhile to develop a bike friendly culture, but we are seeing the fruits of the work people have done here in Madison to build a fantastic community of bikers of all ages, stages, sizes, etc. People that drive here even stop, move over, and slow down for people on bikes! I can't say I always experienced that in Crozet, unfortunately. Through education and the development of safe areas for biking, I believe that the culture can changes from, "Get off the road!" to an attitude of acceptance and co-existing on paths and roadways. We loved living in Crozet and hope that you are able to make your vision for a better, bikeable community a reality. One more thing! Madison has great B-cycles! "Madison BCycle is a great way to get around town or campus. Madison BCycle members can pick up a bike at any station and return it to that same station or any other station when they're done. Using their BCards or the BCycle App, members can unlock a bike in seconds. Returning a bike is even easier. Just roll it into a dock and walk away. " madison.bcycle.com

	Check it out!
7/19/22	I am writing to express my support for the inclusion of the Three Notched Trail in the County's comprehensive plan. I support the statement of the Three Notched Planning Group that the trail would help meet the "recent County-wide strategic initiatives including climate action planning, economic development, and multi-modal transportation planning."
7/21/2022	I'm in full support of the three notched trail!!!
7/21/2022	I am writing in support of the Three Notched Trail. The creation of the TNT would help meet recent county-wide strategic initiatives including climate action planning, economic development, and multi-modal transportation planning. I am an avid outdoorswoman and member of the board of the Charlottesville Area Trail Runners. The development of the Three Notched Trail would be an amazing recreational and commuter trail resource. All of our existing local parks with improved trail surfaces are wildly popular with walkers, runners, bikers and bike commuters. Many of the area gravel roads that we run and bike on are seeing more traffic and many of those roads are becoming paved, making them more hazardous for recreation. By creating the Three Notched Trail, we would have an additional long-distance, off-street trail that will provide a safe recreational option. The Three Notched Trail would not only be beneficial to those seeking recreational opportunities but also the wider community by reducing carbon emissions. Many of us drive long distances to get to trailheads in the mountains and perhaps by tying our communities to the mountains, we would not have to drive to access these outdoor opportunities. The Three Notched Trail could also provide a critical automobile-free commuting link from surrounding communities to the University of Virginia and the associated medical center. Developing a long-distance trail in Central Virginia is an investment in our regional community. This is forward-thinking infrastructure that builds towards the kind of sustainable community that the entire USA will be working towards in the coming decades.
7/25/2022	Please do all within your power to make this trail a reality. I know we've a long way to go but I love biking around this town (hills be damned!) and am eager for more alternatives to car commuting. Also, recent trips on the greenbrier and va creeper trails have shown how much sustainable tourism is generated from these investments. I'd love to have something similar in our own backyard!

7/25/2022	Writing to express my support for the proposed bike trail.
7/26/2022	I am sorry I missed the survey but please count me as a strong supporter of this multiuse trail. What a joy for all of us here and for visitors to this area. Nothing but a win win situation. Thank you for considering and supporting the trail.
8/25/2022	We are in support of the proposed Three Notched Trail system. We encourage you to take action to get the trail system built.
8/26/2022	Dear Team AC2044, The Cville100 climate coalition recently hosted a public meeting, "Climate Change: What Does it Mean for my Community?" The event included presentations by the PEC and Green Fin Studio of significant (and alarming) findings from the Albemarle County climate change vulnerability and risk assessment, plus a discussion by Resilient VA of other communities' steps to incorporate climate resilience planning into their comprehensive plans. If we are wise, we will incorporate climate resilience planning into the new County comprehensive plan. This meeting provided a starting point for such an effort. Here is a link to a recording of the meeting. If you couldn't attend, I urge you to have a look. Thanks for your consideration.
9/07/2022	I don't know the solution, but new development must stop pouring all the traffic onto 29. There is only so much traffic the road can bear. Interconnected streets and neighborhoods is the only answer and I don't see that happening here. Neighborhoods and new apartment developments all end in a "dead end", circling back to 29 instead of into another alternate route. It's a serious problem.
9/19/2022	This was fascinating to read (the notes). I was out of town and also wasn't sure it would be helpful to come since I'd been to the virtual meeting - reading the notes, however, really helps understand the issues in the area. Also, I can really understand how important it is to keep bears and trash separated. I wonder if the chain link fence will keep bears out of the recycling center if it goes in at the Keene location. Affordable housing, transportation, and the ability to age in place and have young people return to live in their communities are such important issues to address. Thank you for making these transparent! I love this public conversation!

August 29, 2022: AC44 Roundtable at COB McIntire

Green and Resilient

- Concern with losing open/natural space to new development
- If restrict housing here, people may end up living further away/needing to commute in
- Local growth affected by national/systemic trends
- Consider distribution of costs and benefits to different groups
- Better preserve tree canopy with new development without increasing housing costs
- New development and protecting the environment (both and)
- Carbon neutral growth and tree canopy, solar, redevelopment
- Sustainability- finite natural resources; needed now and for the future
- More consideration of costs and benefits
- Actions/details will be more challenging than high level
- Walkable/bikeable connections
- More emphasis on "how" for carbon neutral
- Cost and affordability concerns (associated with density)
- More enforcement
- Advantages of efficient design (more popular concept today)
- Public transportation – needs to be convenient and reliable
- Tools and application are challenges
    - Easy to support ideas
    - Think longer term
- Density and revenue are needed to support some concepts, e.g. transit
- Where we put density matters
- "How" could include density, transit, infrastructure, and investment
- Nothings specific about built environment
- All "good"
- Educating public about green resilient
- Urban greenspace/agricultural uses important; opportunities for greening/agriculture in Development Areas
- Like equitable and resilient
- Don't like word/phrase "intact waterways"
    - Hasn't been that way
- Why is mixed use part of this idea? Seems to fit more with connected
    - Gas prices increasing?
    - What does mixed use mean here?
    - More distributed uses around the County?
    - Not protecting Rural Area?
    - Supposed to keep growth in growth areas
    - Crozet example – full?
    - Country stores, etc. in Rural Area
    - Don't want to turn Esmont into Scottsville
- Specifics of how we get there – green and resilient are mixed
- "Welcome our tribe back" seek feedback from indigenous communities
- Need to interpret and understand how people feel about the past – all groups
- How mixed use is applied, and where
- Words are important in plan

    - Specific about native tree canopy to stay for yards, not trees for paper etc.
- How to address the increasing tax burden that comes with increased growth (especially for long time residents)
- How to implement these big ideas; what incentives do we need to establish
- Work with natural systems in site development
- 20 years from now...
    - Concerned about growth, rural growth
    - Housing everywhere
    - Increasing businesses in rural area, like wineries
    - Worried if vision will be carried out
    - Good community for children

Welcoming and Equitable

- Zoning and housing geared, not much about inclusion, cultural resources
    - Many immigrant communities here, challenges adapting to community
    - Better engagement with community
- Words don't feel "welcoming"
- Affordable – we're heading in opposite direction, fast
- If I can't make rent, can't be at the block party
- Variety of housing types needs to be more spelled out (not much variety now)
- Is affordable to all achievable
    - Is that a burden the community is willing to take on?
- Affordable to all – cannot find different sized housing
- Lots of square feet, poor design
- Need more variety
- Builders build for higher income communities
    - Have not gotten to building more affordable housing
- Different word than "encouraging"
- Housing that responds to the variety of income levels
- Transportation needs are not met
- Contradiction with appropriately scaled, judge it on something besides height
- Affordable housing should mean affordable to all
- More accessible
    - transportation important to access affordable housing (roads, transit, etc.)
- "Attainable" and "sustainable" important to housing affordability
- Important to create "places" (a recognizable community/neighborhood)
- "Welcoming" - important to provide high quality development (the 5%; attractive with amenities, open space)
    - 95% is important (agriculture, open space)
- How do we balance inconsistent goals
    - (plan for growth expected, protecting open space)
- Not creating income segregated communities
    - Living harmoniously together
- "Complete" community
- Affordable housing is key --> distributed
- Local employees can't afford to live here
    - Counter to carbon goals

    - Engage with those who work here but can't afford housing
- Transportation is part of affordability
- Public transportation difficult in a rural county
- Framework for public engagement – need varied options
- Distribution/prioritizing grant funds to those with most need
- Access to greenspace
- Appropriate in scale language: feels like a change in direction/seems out of place with neighborhood model and could be used against a diversity of housing types
- Higher density housing is more affordable, but density alone is not enough to affordable housing; need a more robust housing trust fund and developers also use fed/state programs
- A lot of affordable housing is in the rural area – then given a lower level of service which seems unfair
- Most of the industry/job force is on white collar jobs; economic development should also support social needs and jobs for current residents
- Housing for different stages of life – e.g. studio apartment for single seniors

Connected and Accessible

- Redefine mobility and expand what transit means
    - Rideshare, shuttles, etc.
- Great page
- No public transit agency is controlled by county, except schools, shortage of drivers – low wages, the county can do better
    - Community that is equitable should not be cheap with wages
    - Affordability for drivers to live in community
- Part of the problem is they can't live here, affordability
- Wholistic picture
- Bus drivers living in surrounding counties
    - Not racial equity
    - Not sustainable – having drivers live outside community, have to drive
- Need more compact density
- Compact development helps be more resilient
- Need to get public transportation to outer growth area
- Carless pre covid = covid made transit costs increase
    - More expensive to rent a car
    - Fewer rideshare options
    - Reduced/unreliable buses
- Bus unreliability and work issues
- Connect buses with Jaunt – not accessible to all, limited timing, have to walk far
- Making connection to existing greenspaces
- Use greenspaces along stream corridor
- Safe streets ("complete" streets)
- Incentives to get open spaces/greenspaces/amenities
- Need for public transportation option for communities and low-income families
- Crossing over major roads and connected sidewalks
- More neighborhood scale parks (they provide transportation connections/links)
- Connectedness encourages healthy lifestyles
- Specify UVA and Cville (in last point on Big Idea) and coordinate / growth projections

- Public transit doesn't fund itself
- Not reliable (public transit)
- Consider electric buses
- New tech / small scale transit such as e-bikes
- Safety considerations with e-bikes, pedestrians, etc.
- County is built for cars
- Costs to build, lost land/density
- Connectivity is key, lower cost
- No-idle bus policy
- This is an economic engine
- Lower carbon is imperative
- Transportation and housing are two key concepts
- Need to connect where people are and where they want to go: put the trail/transit in and people will use it
    - Pleasant; safe; tree canopy
- e-bikes have made biking easier/faster
- Facilities look different in rural areas vs. development areas
- Strategic placement of connections
- Example of Avon St Extended and Rt 20 – not safe for walking and biking
- Consider funding/costs of these projects
- Could autonomous vehicles be an option to get people to work and shopping/recreation, especially for those without cars
- Broad band --> type of connectivity
- Rail service – it's already increasing in Virginia; Amtrak is great

Thriving and Prosperous

- Appropriately zoned and available land
- Losing land that was zoned industrial to a different use
- Partnerships to make redevelopment (and infill) projects happen; proactive
    - could start with outreach to current owners
- Prosperous doesn't have to mean growing (economically)
- Planning around existing job training pathways/pipelines
    - Pathways to stay in Albemarle (value and support those pathways)
    - More emphasis on job training in school; partnerships
- Diversify economy; it's not just tourism
- Add healthy community (maybe in one of the other Big Ideas)
- Establishing new small business
- Revamp/improve development review process – high cost with long process
- Many of these concepts are in conflict with one another
    - Need a core strategy/focus
- Building Light Industrial is not working in county
- Look at communities who were in our position ~ 10 years ago (Colorado ex)
- Project ENABLE – tax breaks for companies hiring from outside the county
    - Bring companies that bring jobs for existing residents
    - Expensive housing attracting other people
- We should not try to put up walls, we should welcome them no matter what brought them here
- There are not tax breaks for small, minority owned, or local business

- UVA- PILOT
    - Brings companies here
- Use incentives to support equity and resiliency
- Project ENABLE is focused on incentivizing outside businesses
- Fear of more projects like downtown hotel – incentives that never materialize
- This idea seems different – somewhat disconnected
- Negative inputs to attracting new business
    - Don't provide incentives to new businesses, only existing
- Give incentives to businesses transitioning to be more resilient
- Shopping center redevelopment in prime areas
- "How to get there" - redevelop brownfield site
- Incentivize redevelopment
- Sustainable wages are critical
- Economic development that is environmentally sustainable
- Jobs for all economic levels
- More and services for (that support) employees (child care, transportation options, education)
- Balanced, well managed economic development

Exit Survey Responses

What's missing?

- Consider effects of energy policy decision on the next 7 generations (re equity and environment)
- Create a community that attracts diverse residents and thinking and businesses
- Unintended consequences; costs
- Public and private infrastructure
- Equitable and affordable housing won't emerge organically from increased density as the plan imagines. We need to invest in our housing trust fund to secure this reality.
- A commitment to sustainability
- Economic vitality; housing affordability
- How will we pay for the improvements we need? How do we change hearts and minds of people who only want to maintain large lots, large houses? How do we emphasize the need to change our lives to address climate change?
- Health benefits of future that plan for and addresses climate change; important to get people walking
- No discussion of a circular materials economy, which we should be developing, too!
- Access to education – better funded public schools, land available for child care centers (more land!), churches, etc. More funding for recreational amenities like sports fields!!!
- The concept of creating 'places' that are lovable and well defined
- More emphasis on the environment, incentives to create greenspace
- Probably premature to question this but providing incentives and procedures to implement each idea will be very important

What is your vision for Albemarle County?

- Accessibility for seniors; affordable, accessible and connected with a green transit system; a cleaner watershed and clean air to support the health of community; energy-efficient homes; equity and justice (environment, food, housing, education)
- Efficient, rational, 100 year thought
- A place that generations can afford to live in; area has become very expensive

- I want a place that my children will want to grow up in, and one where they have the opportunity to stay.
- A vision built on the pursuit of sustainability (recognizing the need to limit humanity's impacts to levels that allow coexistence with the natural world)
- Expanded development area to allow increased housing and industry and increased green space
- I want to maintain the ability to leave my house in Crozet and be in the country in 10 minutes, while also being able to walk a few blocks to go out to lunch or buy a donut.
- Walkable/bikeable connected community – all new buildings are carbon neutral and energy efficient/solar. Access to green spaces, lots of tree canopy, smaller footprint housing that is affordable; developed in brownfields.
- Quality of life for all – clean water, green and healthy canopy, and ecosystems. Clean transportation.
- Less disparity between high and low income areas, by allowing more density in more areas, less opposition to new uses (or re-developed uses). Less opposition to change of all kinds.
- Much more walkable; more in harmony with natural systems
- 'Nice' living communities with good transportation, roads, and greenspace
- More community – too many residents are not part of the community; more public transportation that is affordable; especially in developing communities
- Truly affordable housing; controlled development taking into account infrastructure, natural resources, etc.

September 1, 2022: AC44 Virtual Roundtable (Zoom)

Big Idea: Green and Resilient

- We want our natural environment to stay as beautiful as it's been, but development permits are going out left and right, trees are getting cut down.
- It feels like we allow the developers to take charge and it feels like growth is out of control.
- Keep green spaces green and protecting our waterways.
- use more low impact development and preserve more of the tree canopy
- put trees along stream beds to preserve buffers
- Promoting sustainable land uses and development practices - no more clear-cutting. "Finger pruning"
- maintain protection of our reservoirs; think about climate change and droughts. have a clean and healthy water source for our population
- Need to control invasive species that are choking out native trees and vegetation.
- Sustain our population and have a clean healthy water source. Rivanna River needs care to prevent erosion to ensure healthy streams.
- Conservation - in 20 years, if we want natural beauty, conservation may affect our standard of living. We need to take care of the natural beauty.
- Affordability - energy provision for everyday life
- Land use program - assists landowners to keep land rural and used for Ag and open space uses
- Need to balance preservation of open space and utilization of areas for development and housing
- There are good practices in place with stream buffers and encouraging tree planting along waterways
- encourage incentives for planting trees
- Protecting and encouraging agriculture

- decrease dependency on fossil fuels
- Incentivize and encourage infill development
- Design new construction to withstand impacts of climate change and increased storms
- Meet and exceed state and local requirements for stormwater management
- Schuyler Quarry Gardens - good example of native plants with an impact on fewer mosquitos and other benefits
- These are strong big ideas
- Strong agreement from group members on ideas here
- Emphasis on planting native plants and the benefits that they can bring
- Can development be done in a way that works in concert with healthy ecosystems and access to food and nature. What about edible plants and herbs in planters along the side of the road?
- How can we plant vegetation that is native and natural to this area (and edible!), compared to grass and non-native decorative plants?
- Greater access to natural areas across the County
- Balance in historical recognition of all the peoples and cultures who were and have been here, who contributed to this area
- Development is inevitable. How can we discourage developers from clearcutting an area and planting slender trees? What incentives and regulation can we use to promote retention of mature trees?
- Honoring folks who are buried in the community who may have helped to build the community (cultural resources, marking local cemeteries)
- Keep rivers and streams as healthy as possible. There are also historic and cultural resources along shores of waterways.
- Passionate about natural spaces. Small attractive forests can still have viable ecosystem. There are competing interests - desire for low taxes, but need for services and desire to preserve
- Many parks in Southern Albemarle and conservation easements. Communities are fractured and not well connected.
- Recycling area around Keene/Green Mountain Country Store. Close to Esmont. But would remove forest to put in impermeable surface. "Green" effort may be counterintuitive
- If we are going to be green/resilient. Need to depend on nature to lead us to that end. Respect the natural systems that are doing the most good
- County has done so much good work to identify rare and natural plants and share that knowledge. Make an effort to connect people to resources around them through education
- Would be nice to make sure that our parks are more accessible to people who might otherwise not feel welcome (esp. people with disability). Public spaces are meeting spaces
- Monacan Nation should be involved in conversations about preserving sites of cultural significance
- Missing from all 4 big ideas - how do you get these ideas into the minds of the people who are not attending this meeting
- Esmont community in Yancey should also be included
- There are other populations with a heritage in So. Albemarle. Invisible stories need to be told.
- New monument for displaced people from Shenandoah National Park and Ivy Creek work
- Are we not resilient now or how do we know if we will be resilient in 2044?
- We should look at countywide water resources
- The NRC (Natural Resource Council??) has supported water lines into rural areas to address drought
- Like all of this except last bullet on 'what is it' - don't think we can achieve carbon neutrality

- Support all of these points
- Support compact mixed use development in our development practices for Development Areas
- Need to preserve and/or restore tree canopy.
- Are we addressing the water quality of all our private lakes?
- Virginia has the most tree canopy of all states. But air quality locally has been horrible. Asthma is on the increase.
- The Code building is a good example of energy efficient design - e.g. 'living roof.'
- Belvedere used solar and sustainable design in their marketing but had to drop some of those features due to the economy.
- Educate public about green design options for buildings. Could county promote and provide examples?
- The government should take some responsibility for planting new trees and picking up trash
- Help organize trading plants, home gardens, and coordination with people's efforts
- We need buffers with trees to protect the streams. Prevent other operations and agriculture right up to the waterways
- Government support planting trees, fruit-bearing plants, urban farming, and community agriculture on vacant lots.
- Teach kids where their food comes from. Invest in community gardens in the urban ring.
- Invest in local food systems as opposed to non-native flowers
- Focus on food systems and community gardens near the Four Seasons. There seems to be space near the pond near Four Seasons. Or the area across from Albemarle HS
- Behind the Rio library - making a floodable park. Envisioning that space for events and other draws

Big Idea: Welcoming and Equitable

- Welcoming is a feeling of being accepted in your community and you are welcome.
- Pantops area doesn't feel as welcoming as it did when we first moved here. This is because of traffic. Many people don't wave or say hello in the new developments.
- Reality is that housing is not affordable here; where is the affordable housing, especially for young people. Need to carry ideas through
- The lack of housing affordable to service workers is a barrier to being a welcoming community.
- Need more developer incentives to build affordable housing
- Increases quality of life when can live closer and don't need to commute long distance
- School teachers, police, service industry workers cannot afford to live in Albemarle; have to live further away. We should be able to provide housing for them in Albemarle
- Housing that is getting built is not affordable
- Where are all the people projected to move here going to live? Is this really sustainable? How will the County handle an additional 30,000 residents? And address housing costs? People are building second homes here
- Distribution of services/resources/amenities - not happening currently in the Rural Areas. How do we get there? Such as broadband, bus service, recycling services
- Need for reliable bus service. Need better infrastructure as we grow, especially managing traffic. What could we do for mass transit to reduce driving?
- Inclusive community with more diversity and inclusion. Income equity and being able to live within the County.
- Quality of life - services and green spaces; parks and greenspaces
- Cost for starter homes is too high, how to make housing more affordable?

- Much of the working population has to live elsewhere, improve housing affordability to decrease transportation demand
- Need increased ways to support farming, agriculture, landscaping
- Need to increase affordable housing provision within new development
- Update planned growth patterns - e.g. Crozet has expanded beyond its original plan
- Affordable real estate
- affordable housing provision could decrease transportation and emissions
- Provide incentives to make land and housing accessible for locals (instead of wealthy transplants)
- Can we realistically provide housing variety everywhere in the County? Do we need to focus housing variety in areas where there is the most growing diversity/population?
- Also we need to think about the rural villages in a distinct way from the more urban areas.
- Importance and usefulness of telehealth
- In rural areas, there is a 2-acre minimum for property size, so this can be a challenge for affordable housing and varieties of housing types. Also transportation distance
- Can we have a more detailed breakdown in the prediction of population growth to better understand what services are needed to support segments of the population?
- Rural Area access to fast, reliable, affordable internet
- Equitable support for community centers and health clinics in Rural Area. Keep them in communication chain about what is happening in the County
- How can we also balance the Rural Area character with bringing key services and resources to meet basic human needs. What services and resources in RA will help keep people there for work, play, and education?
- Use small towns, smaller development areas outside urban ring as opportunities to bring more services to Rural Area. Focus services in areas that are already slightly developed.
- We are underutilizing this area (the River?) in Albemarle.
- Vision for the County 40 years from now - buildings should be smaller and more transportation access to places. Wide variety of housing choices.
- I'm on the Alb Co Dept of Social Services Advisory Board and one thing we've talked a lot about recently is that Human Services (ensuring not just that needs are met but that folks are able to live with dignity and with a high quality of life) is as important as issues such as land use, etc. I'm a huge proponent of high-density, affordable housing with easy access to resources.
- I'm thinking about this and my vision of the county is heavily affected by my love of natural spaces and my access based on my daughter's experience when she lived here (she moved to NYC in May). So there really aren't good ways for people in the county who live in wheelchairs to experience a visitable accessible life. Retire-in-place speaks to accessible housing throughout a life and there is too little of it, of sidewalks, of access in parks and social spaces.
- We need high density affordable housing everywhere
- Invest in Scottsville library
- People need to feel belonging, dignity. Lack of internet means lack of access to information and civic participation.
- I'd love to understand better how to connect rural communities so they can participate in an informed way.
- Where is the growth predicted to go?
- Fits with my vision of the County
- County has a variety of community types with different needs - addressing the needs differently.
- Public/private need to work together - how do we encourage/incentivize the private sector to work with public?

- How do we equitably distribute things - is it public private sector responsibility?
- JABA has volunteer opportunities to volunteer to help others in need, e.g. lawn mowing, etc.
- Does anything need to shift in our policies today? Should we change the way we approve development today to get us to where we want to be in 20 years? Look at what we've been approving and does it get us there?
- Challenging to achieve the "What is it?"
- How adaptable are we to change?
- Important to have service industries with housing for their employees.
- Need to have public art to make people feel welcome & contribute to quality of life.
- Earlysville Exchange could have a "welcome to Earlysville" mural - paid for by local community.
- The Bridge could be a source of grants and muralists
- Could we supply Earlysville with water so that it could have higher density housing in a village. Support Earlysville being part of the County's mission of equity and affordability
- Don't want to see Albemarle price out the people they need.
- The lack of affordable housing is pushing people out of town and creating more commuting
- Housing prices are pushing people out to Lake Monticello and the valley
- Emphasize affordable housing and mixed-use housing. You have to drive everywhere.
- Implement affordable housing (ownership) options. It may potentially limit resale but find balance with long-term ownership options

Big Idea: Connected and Accessible

- Crozet Connect service has been great! Let's do this for other areas - Pantops, growth areas in the north, etc.
- Regional cooperation is needed
- Crozet trails crew - sometimes challenging working with VDOT/permitting to get trails done. Need less resistance to these great ideas and connections. more working together
- Three Notched Trail crew - need partnerships with nonprofits, volunteer groups, County, when creating something beneficial for a connected community
- Collaboration with County and other organizations to overcome resistance to connect and expand trail networks.
- better pedestrian access/safety on Rt 29 and Pantops
- Need more bus service in Hollymead. This was proffered during approval of construction permits, but never come to fruition.
- Pedestrian access - sidewalks along 29 North; safe crosswalks in Pantops are gravely needed
- no crosswalks for 250/Pantops; not safe to walk to stores and services
- There was a proposal to do an overhead walkway from Westminster Canterbury to the DMV and Starbucks, but only a crosswalk was constructed. Safer pedestrian crossings (bridges) are needed, especially near senior housing.
- Connected bike paths are needed. Current bike facilities are very discontinuous. Trail/bike system available instead of driving.
- Transportation improvements, access, environmental sustainability to accommodate future growth.
- Variety of transportation types, public transit
- Expanded rail opportunities - more RELIABLE rail service
- Roadways are a barrier to trails and greenways
- Transportation - linking centers within County; encourage local use of amenities
- Maintain existing parks and trails, encourage opportunities for green transportation

- Expanded bus service on a regional scale
- County is doing a good job offering parks and trails
- Crozet has done a good job of providing housing variety with access to parks and greenspace
- Some roadways (e.g. Rt 29) are not practical for bike/ped paths
- Expanded public transportation, increased bus access especially to areas lacking
- Bike ped paths important in neighborhood areas
- Transportation is important, but public transportation use is limited
- Expand or create new opportunities for public transit. Train was an important mode of transit in early 20th Century
- Encourage business community to create better transportation and transit options
- Transportation ideas: monorail system? (increases access to different areas, especially services that people need). Could we study investing in monorail here in Albemarle?
- How can we make sure VDOT is part of the process given their decision-making power over roads?
- Increasing bike, ped, and transit options are huge issues in the Rural Area. Important to have stakeholders (e.g., community, VDOT) to at the table. Greener, safer, healthier.
- In Rural Area, need for more bike and ped infrastructure. However, there is also a need for more engagement with landowners to acquire easements for safe routes. Landowners are key stakeholders.
- Could there be specific engagement with HOAs as groups in the Comp Plan update process? Good way to communicate out and get input. One HOA reached out to three other HOAs and successfully connected their trail network system. Also can we look at grants to do some of this work?
- Living in Pantops is a major challenge for accessibility for modes other than driving
- Access to walkways and parks is really important. Making sure that we retain or add tree shade/canopy will be important for heat.
- Ensure that parks are promoted throughout the County so there is public space for folks throughout the County
- Federal infrastructure bill opportunities?
- When someone says that they can't cross Rte 250 between home and a grocery store, that reflects a planning oversight from 20 years ago.
- Closing Free Bridge Road from Rivanna River will enable all people to have a safe walkable path that borders the river. Semi-permanent structures, craft fair.
- What is missing is action by Albemarle Co Supervisors and cooperation with VDOT to make this idea a reality.
- Wildrock audit - Nearby Nature - it's not equitably distributed throughout the County. All kids/people should have access to nature by their front door
- Huge issue with transportation in schools. Need to make schools more walkable. There are some neighborhoods that are walkable to 3 levels of schools, but not safe ways
- Southern Albemarle - can't make schools walkable due to consolidation and proximity. Can create green spaces so all people have access. Want to keep southern part of the co. accessible (ADA)
- How do you cross the big roads? It's very expensive and needs some brainstorming/included in the plan.
- Public transportation would be very helpful, even in town, and I don't know what the needs are in the rural spaces. Making the town more walkable and bikeable is important.
- Young people need places to be more connected

- It would be nice to see high school students included in some of the planning commission conversations. Good for them, good for us.
- All of these ideas should be connected as one. Do they all fit with one another?
- Public transportation may not be that highly used in 20 years
- Support bicycling and pedestrians
- Support providing an option of a mixed use compact neighborhood such as Hollymead - not for everyone though.
- Support bike/ped in rural areas
- Who have we forced into public transportation in 20 years to achieve this goal? Americans want freedom of choice to use their personal vehicles. Does the Board have data on how many people can we drive to public transportation?
- However, in Europe, public transportation is viable.
- People need to shovel sidewalks - sidewalks need to be maintained. Lots of missing sidewalks.
- Support wildlife corridors in rural areas
- Why does Berkmar have multiple options for biking and pedestrian?
- Could we have train options in the future?
- Rural areas need walking/biking paths. Off road if possible.
- Electric bike trails, etc. - These ideas are already happening!
- We need to work on our grid to be able to facilitate the transition to electric vehicles, etc.
- Expand the coverage and frequency of public transportation
- Providing trails provides equity for all abilities and resources
- Consider streams and waterways - improvements to help more people be able to recreation up and down the river
- The bus stops need cover from the weather. Need trashcans next to the bus stops.
- There are bike and pedestrian paths that deadend
- Three-Notched trail coming to fruition and other long greenways
- Integrating transit and connections between the County and City
- Become a place where biking is successful and connects communities
- Making pedestrian connections across US29. Make US29 safer for pedestrians. Make a more connected community.
- Bike and pedestrian connections over the river
- Addressing the 5th street area and including more multi-modal connections

Big Idea: Thriving and Prosperous

- with a limited growth area, there is a conflict for ensuring have land available for industry
- Bridging the divide - Reducing Economic inequities
- Ample job opportunities - how do you measure economic success? What does that mean? Subsistence living? Living in a mansion? Economic success means - Making enough to have a good place to live, a vacation 1-2 times a year, and be comfortable.
- Rivanna District recruited the national defense industry, but this was inconsistent with the neighborhood's culture.
- very high cost of living; need a high income to afford living here
- What industry do we really want? How do we have the jobs and opportunities without rampant growth and negative environmental factors like waste and pollution.
- look at the economic inequalities across the County, including the Rural Area. people are working multiple jobs. how to bridge divide between new industries/high paying jobs and those working multiple jobs

- Focus on local labor market. People who work jobs in Albemarle County live here too, not in DC or Greene County.
- Need to foster cooperation for development to support businesses
- Some county development processes are prohibitive for fostering businesses
- Find ways to support trade/craft development, job skills
- Involving technology and craft opportunities in public education K-tech
- Enhance coordination between local education and training and opportunities for local employment
- Expanding trade services trade/skills training
- Incentivizing and allowing business expansion within commercial zoned areas. Too many barriers
- Reduce barriers for business development in appropriate areas, may include appropriate rural businesses
- These are excellent visions that match my ideas.
- Could there be a way to locate new businesses in places like Scottsville so that folks can stay locally? Can this be done in a way that balances the Rural Area character?
- Rural villages should begin to expect some growth to support the folks there.
- Satellite centers for CATEC and PVCC?
- Can we attract industries that offer training as part of hiring?
- We also have an aging community that often enjoys the County. But often younger folks don't see job opportunities for them here in Albemarle. They have to leave for jobs.
- There is a tension between the peace and quiet in Rural Area and the need for opportunities for youth.
- Nexus of aging population and youth leaving for jobs creates a challenge for care for aging community members.
- Nursing homes and retirement facilities sprinkled all over the County so folks can stay near home and other family members.
- There is a link between proximity of schools and schoolchildren to aging community members because retired folks can volunteer to tutor for reading, which helps educational attainment.
- Making strides towards part of that. So. Alb. is getting broadband, but pre-covid, so many people didn't have access to internet. Still not stable internet. Can't improve access to jobs/education without internet. Invest in Scottsville library
- DSS does so much work in our community to make a thriving community. Internet access is very important to foster employment partnerships.
- concentrate industries around the concept of resilience as part of the economy. Not enough connection to equity and resilience
- What can entice people to go into jobs that would get people thinking differently
- UVA has programs to train the workforce for these emerging industries.
- Need coordinated growth with community input
- Sun Tribe is an example of new industry types
- Support all points - including providing enough land/infrastructure for future job growth
- Vector Space - Lynchburg example of markers space. They made a multi-disciplinary space to teach trades, skills, using tools, etc. It is a 24-hour space. It covers art, technology, etc.
- Have a really robust trade program - even in the high schools
- Having more opportunities for mid-career growth and training
- Beckley West Virginia and Ashville NC have an artesian space
- Look at the semiconductor industry and its growth
- Promoting EV charging and embracing changes in technology needs

- Economic and social spaces intertwined. Create a place like IX
- IX Park and a collection of businesses, incubators, commercial kitchens, etc. Give access to small businesses that don't' have access to those amenities - have a place where people can express themselves
- Target Fashion Square Mall for redevelopment into a neighborhood model with coffee shops, offices, businesses, and housing as well. Add green space and a park-like area

Exit Survey Responses (from Bang the Table)

What's missing?

- The Board of Supervisors members need to hold many more and more regular community round tables with the public throughout the year where the Supervisors listen to the public's topics and answer questions.
- It struck me while participating in the virtual session that we have an abundance of good ideas and enthusiastic citizens that want to help in mapping out our 20 year vision. All efforts should be made to involve folks along the way. Also, to be successful I think we need to stress collaboration with the City of Charlottesville (not sure I saw that mentioned anywhere), along with VDOT and other state and govt agencies that we would need to achieve goals, particularly related to transportation issues.

What is your vision for Albemarle County?

- Less taxation, regulations; residents left alone.
- smart growth balanced with high quality living for all

September 15, 2022: AC44 Roundtable at Yancey Community Center

Green and Resilient

- Urban areas should be green too
- Tourism connected to place – Scottsville, eco-tourism
- Create/green affordable housing
- Park space and amenities
- Green requires education, resources
- These sound great; the challenge is getting there
- Tree canopy is important (and used to be better here), but we've been losing it; need experts to fix the instability of the natural environment
- Need County to help prioritize tree protection; every year seems to get worse; many trees on private property
- This is visioning, but these issues are affecting the County now
- Pine bore decimating trees in this area; weakens tree canopy; which makes more likely to fall in storms; need expert to encourage healthy forests
- Power companies need to maintain trees that could affect lines
- Farms used to provide a living for many here, but different now; less productive; could be more involved in community services instead of just being protected
- 'Protected farms': seems like big landowners have more influence; protected needs more definition -> specific to farms, not down the road
    - Connected to strategic density; grow up not out; decreases traffic
- More restrictions for logging
- Should have requirement to replace tree canopy

- Sounds good, like the idea of preserving countryside; keep development in compact area
    - How compact can we make it? There has been a lot (so much) development. It feels like it's been too much (Redfields area and expanding south); we are protecting certain areas and not others
- Does this meet vision...no, too late; too much development occurring now in County
- Protecting farms/natural areas is good
- Sustainability needs to be highly emphasized
- A healthy environment but also with services and economic opportunity, much needed
- Add to farms and natural areas – add note of importance of addressing fragmentation

Welcoming and Equitable

- Healthcare services – distributed in Southern Albemarle
- Affordability of housing is issue locally
    - People leave to other cities to find housing, more aggressive housing policy needed
- Some people want to stay in rural places like Southern Albemarle but can't afford housing
- Want both resources and facilities but also protected forests, green space
- Land costs higher in rural areas, larger parcels – these are often purchased by people from out of the area
- Strengthen network of people for natural disaster response
- Internet unreliable
- No opportunities for younger generations
    - Lack of starter homes
    - Need facilities and amenities
- Co-location of services: Keene convenience center
- Need central area for community info/communications
- South of Carters Bridge neglected
    - School closed, lack of cell service; can't call in emergency
- Nothing here for younger families
    - No internet, issue with school work
    - Need medical support, healthcare
    - People are leaving for lack of opportunity
- History of poverty
- Need some housing/amenities/services, but not at Crozet/Development Area level
    - Not realistic to have Development Area growth here, but having protected Rural Area/farms means isolated here; nothing Development Areas-like here; nowhere in Southern Albemarle named as a crossroads community
    - Some services closer by would be great; a balance
    - Esmont used to be a village; explore that concept
- Housing that is affordable for the average person
- Not all services need to be within each neighborhood (some are larger/regional)
- Growth and affordable housing in Southern Albemarle, and additional housing types
    - Younger people are not staying in Southern Albemarle
- Housing costs have increased significantly recently; people who lived and grew up here have to move to surrounding localities or out of the area
    - Commuting/transportation costs a concern
- Few healthcare resources in Southern Albemarle
- PVCC -> would be great to have educational/training opportunities in Southern Albemarle

- Practical to have some medical services in Southern Albemarle
- Need good communication about these topics
- Trash and litter is an issue here (and bears in trash); too far to Crozet
    - Could have trash sticker as option, like in City; no pickup available here
    - See benefit of a trash drop off site, if managed well
    - Taxpayer funded pickup option (even once a month)
    - Colorado example: bear-proof garbage cans; have ordinance
    - Bears getting into trash becoming more of an issue here lately
- Along with housing, many additional things that need to go with that; trash service, recycling, transportation
    - Used to be trash drop off in Keene
- Feels like Southern Albemarle forgotten for larger Development Areas
    - Many differences within Southern Albemarle (Esmont, Scottsville, Keene, Howardsville, etc.)
- People can't move back here with cost of housing
- People are looking for senior services/living, aging in place
- If Keene recycling center is well-managed, would be great (like McIntire); needs to be an asset
- No affordable rental properties here
- Seeing new development, but it's not affordable
- If have growing neighborhood, need the infrastructure
- People have to choose between affordability and their community
- Need to fix some of our infrastructure deficits, e.g. undergrounding power lines; power loss with storms is a huge issue
    - Could also benefit trees (not interfering with power lines)
    - Power gets restored in denser areas first
- Sounds like the dream
- Wonder how it happens
- Who is being included in population growth numbers? Are students being included? Student housing?
- Like hearing things that are happening, e.g. Fashion Square Mall
- Like the use of existing structures
- Where is the County going to grow? Where are the growth areas going to be?
- Public investment in affordability; needs to be infused
- Expand affordability programs, policies, etc.
- Keep it so that affordable units don't turn over
- Concern about transportation while a lot of housing is being built; not many roads to get there; trees coming down
- Should be affordable for people who work in Albemarle County
- Distrust in Board when they cut the Yancey School
- Not enough affordable housing
    - How can we fund it (achievability)? How do we get there? We've had ideas for 20 years
    - Cost as a concern
- NIMBYism
- Board doesn't give enough funds to Esmont
- People can't afford to live here in community
- More discussion of important issues with County leadership and decisionmakers
- Incentivize redevelopment
- Concern with displacement of residents from new development

- Lack of political representation for rural residents

Connected and Accessible

- Have to drive to Charlottesville for everything; contributes to greenhouse gas emissions
- No transit here
- Rideshare/JAUNT at Keene
- Need for VDOT to clear roads after storm
- Community could come together, create network to respond when needs exist – County could support this
- School districts/lines/zones create separation between communities even within Southern Albemarle
- Lack of road maintenance is a safety issue
- No e-scooters/bikes in Southern Albemarle
- Bicycling is not safe on rural roads
- Speed concerns within denser parts of rural area – doesn't seem equitable between different areas
- Description of Big Idea doesn't sound like Southern Albemarle, sounds more like Crozet
    - Don't have the same parks and services here
    - Don't want to be a mini-Crozet in Southern Albemarle
    - Would be great to have transportation opportunities, but can't have if everything is protected; need something between Rural Area and Development Area
- Community here advocated to get a trail, because before there was nowhere safe to walk
- Keene to Charlottesville: only one passing place so no way to get around; Route 20 needs improvements
    - Strategic additional passing lanes, like Rt 250 to Afton
    - Tourists add to traffic as well
- Route 20 has traffic and safety issues
- Route 20 and Keene intersection: safety concerns especially with recycling center
    - Transportation needs to be safe
    - If have better internet, more work from home so less traffic volume
- Have natural beauty and transportation improvements
- Transit would be great, JAUNT?
- Scottsville has 200+ unit proposal; will impact traffic; how do we improve roads in this area (Southern Albemarle) like in other parts of the County
- Open spaces and trails should be connected and accessible
- Not enough room to share with cyclist (3 feet plus travelway) particularly for children
- Diamond lanes silly/not connected/not protective; needs to be separate from highway
- Nice to have sidewalks to community center, trails
- Drivers only slow down for dogs, not people or groups of people
- Land bridges work for animals/natural systems
- Have to plan with JAUNT for pick up, not reliable
    - Improve access to transportation
- Can we connect with UVA and city buses
- Transportation important as people get older
- Safety and capacity of roads in Esmont; need safe access to accommodate growth
- Rural Area – nice to see clean streets, streams
- Route 20 is the only road here – traffic, maintenance, safety, capacity

- Development impact on old growth trees/Route 20 construction
- Pervious materials for trails
- Balancing these ideas with property owners expectations
- Encourage lower impact commercial activities
- Small businesses (e.g. country stores)
- Need for infrastructure to keep up with growth

Thriving and Prosperous

- Need resources, job training, especially in Southern Albemarle -> CATEC, PVCC, satellite training in trades
- Small businesses or non-profits don't have space, start up costs are too high
- These are (Yancey Community Center as example) the same services that would keep people in Southern Albemarle
- Southern Albemarle lacks amenities, jobs
- No jobs here; need blue collar jobs
- No reliable internet in this area; takes weeks to be fixed when goes out; can't have ready workforce without that
- Need affordability too, not just access
- Need more competition for phone and internet providers
- Shouldn't the Comp Plan and Zoning be in alignment?
- Discussion of idea of rural villages
- Need to look at types and scale of services, what we want and need
- Community facilities in Southern Albemarle lacking generator/resources to have safe warming and cooling centers
- Lack of job opportunities in existing communities that are accessible to Rural Area residents
- Who is the community we're building for?
- Business should have apprenticeships to build in; jobs that allow people to stay
- Students leave
- Want to live in community of retirees and tech
- Is Albemarle a rich county, who are the majority
- Are we business friendly?
- Who are we attracting?
- Where do schools fit in? What will education-related items mean?
- Can schools look different, now and in the future?
- Align school vision with Comp Plan and affordability
- Feels like major systems not working together (schools and Board)
- Everything sounds wonderful but not trusting that County will include community in process
- Job training programs are important
- Infrastructure needed to support growth and economic development
- Regional planning (other counties) needed to accomplish this
- Need job training and access to resources
- Services closer to residents
- Use PVCC for implementing (important resources)
- Basic 'trades' training

Exit Survey Responses (from Bang the Table)

What's missing?

- Being from Western Albemarle, I learned a lot about the legitimate arguments made by those from Southern Albemarle that they are the poor stepchild of the whole. They deserve better and should be listened to helped to establish a viable community in their part of the county
- More equitable representation of minority demographics in all steps of the process. Adjusting meetings/schedules/places/compensation in a way that is more welcoming/interesting to them.

What is your vision for Albemarle County?

- Development clustered so our beautiful rural areas remain. Bike lanes with at least 3'.
- Growth in growth areas and rural areas made accessible for all of us.
- Good paying local jobs with training
- A community where diversity, equity, and sustainability are commonplace.

September 20, 2022: AC44 Virtual Roundtable (Zoom)

Green & Resilient

- Land Use programs are very helpful to support small farms.
- Tree canopies are very important. Need to be aware of the value of protecting and enhancing natural resources now and in years to come
- Help protect trees and help the people who own them to protect them. It can get very expensive. It takes a long time to grow a tree
- Promote incentives for solar energy that provide access to all. Right now it is unaffordable for most people, though resources exist
- Add retrofit older homes/businesses for energy efficient design. Support programs like LEAP
- Enhance and maintain the trail infrastructure that we have. Build on what we have and MAINTAIN it.
- importance of maintaining greenfields - especially for climate
- Support for ideas
- Needs to be sooner than 120 years
- Priorities: Internet, food security, affordability
- How do we actually get here
- County needs to be very directed in what it is doing
- Sounds good if County puts more detail in the Comp Plan
- On point 3 under "What is it?" add to the end "taking into account future projections of climate impact"
- Development (buildings, roads, bridges) all impacted by increased rain, storms, flooding; design that is resilient in construction and longevity
- Equity and Climate change should be the overarching lens rather than the top 4
- Agreed that development and growth should be balanced with climate change goals; Agreed that support staff should be able to live in town
- These are too much; they need to be simplified; the Board of Supervisors need to get the main points

Welcoming & Equitable

- need opportunities for safely aging in place; especially in rural areas
- continuing to find ways to reach rural residents who need services
- allow businesses to use properties that are zoned for commercial in Rural Area - this will add to tax revenue and provide amenities in the community.

- there are many expensive estates in the County that don't support goals for equity & climate
- infrastructure that is available to rural communities is not supportive of equity; there is a division between those who have large estates and can afford to pay for high-speed internet connection, smaller property owners are underserved and don't have internet/communications access
- Questions: How do you conquer some of these? How are we reaching communities without zoom?
- 3 priorities +1 1) broadband access (desire for ting) 2) food insecurity 3) poverty and inequality (access to health care) 4) affordable housing (lack of public transportation; transportation is reliant on personal vehicles)
- -how do people get places, including jobs, without a car?
- Affordable housing
- Why have we not embraced light rail (Ivy, Pantops, etc.)? Particularly if this is such a contributor to greenhouse gases
- Technology is requiring older generations to keep up and help is needed (cell phones but also light rail)
-

Connected & Accessible

- people are driving in from adjacent localities because they can't afford to live here - need to coordinate housing with transportation
- "appropriately scaled" should also relates to school, transportation, infrastructure capacity
- Concern about bicyclist safety - specifically Rt. 22 and 250 and locations where there are blind hills and curves
- Public transportation in the city is well funded but underutilized
- Rural Area residents need cars to travel around and this increases inequity & GHG emissions; opportunities for increasing public/cooperative transportation; this ties into climate goals
- Safety on roads. Normalizing vehicular manners (people run red lights all the time, drivers rush)
- Uber is not an option in some places; transportation is a challenge in more rural areas
- Biking does not feel safe on rural roads; Walking does not feel safe ("That's just the reality"); no shoulder
- Dedicated bike paths; separated from vehicles (off-road paths)
- Roads that could benefit from traffic calming - Rio, 5th, Avon
- Get single-occupancy vehicles off the road; need to stop building roads
- Improving connectivity improves accessibility
- Make 29 corridor accessible (stores that offer products in bulk are located along that corridor)
- Light rail on main corridors (agreement)

Thriving & Prosperous

- Historic research is important to validate the past and support equity
- Historic resources and leverage tOurs of larger farm estates, but there is a lot historic value in smaller areas in Keswick that are still being uncovered.
- How does this relate to PVCC's Network to Work initiative
- Growth puts pressure on transportation and traffic.
- PEC work acknowledges/maps historic cross-roads communities that date back to 1800's with the goal of acknowledging/understanding histories as part of the SW Mountains Historic District
- Century Link needs to be replaced. Everyone should be included in the opportunity to communicate.

- Crozet example - expansion in the greenfield areas, but infill has lagged behind. Would be nice to encourage infill.
- How do we go about achieving this? Some businesses are predatory. Devil is in the detail in what businesses the County encourages.
- company that will build community ties and invest
- living wage
- Who do you let in? Who do you give tax advantages? What kind of jobs are we bringing in?
- Invest in training our children and people (here presently and in future) for jobs so they are competitive for a good job
- Community of this wealth can and should do better for transportation and allowing people to get to job opportunities
- Recognize an interconnectedness of goals
- Development is a serious question and at-odds with resiliency; can't have continued growth without counter-vailing climate activities
- It's a big goal to decrease carbon omission and offset carbon increases with development
- Different types of businesses affect the resiliency and have different impacts on resources and pollutions
- How have other communities around the country balanced development with climate goals? ...economic development in the context of other goals
- many support staff do not live in County but in surrounding areas; COVID showed us the "mission-critical" jobs; we need support staff to be a part of the community and part of the growth and prosperity (Importance of affordable housing)

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Questionnaire #3: Big Ideas

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT
28 January 2022 - 20 September 2022

PROJECT NAME:
AC44: Plan for Growth

BANG THE TABLE engagementHQ

SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1 Think about your vision for Albemarle County in the next 20 years. Share a six-word story to describe your vision.

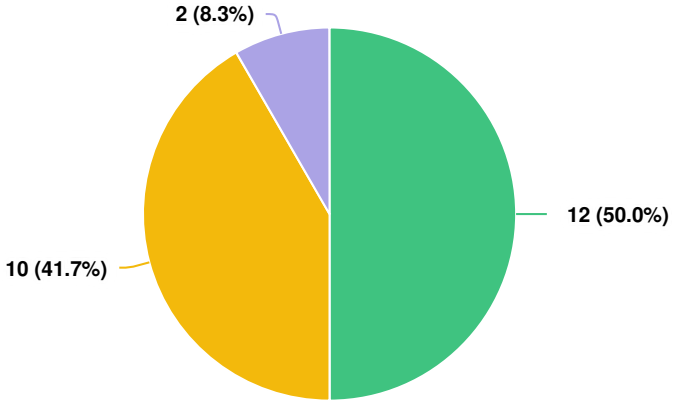
Screen Name Redacted 9/05/2022 04:44 PM	Equitable opportunity for all, prioritizing BIPOC households.
Screen Name Redacted 9/07/2022 02:10 PM	protected rural areas and water supply
Screen Name Redacted 9/07/2022 02:16 PM	Caring for the natural, historical and scenic beauty
Screen Name Redacted 9/07/2022 02:27 PM	Equality for all!
Screen Name Redacted 9/07/2022 02:49 PM	Green space preserved for overall health.
Screen Name Redacted 9/08/2022 09:50 AM	Sophisticated environmental progressive heartfelt community
Screen Name Redacted 9/07/2022 04:04 PM	Save green spaces or suffer consequences!
Screen Name Redacted 9/07/2022 04:10 PM	lots of nature
Screen Name Redacted 9/08/2022 09:03 AM	Dense mix plus protected rural areas
Screen Name Redacted 9/09/2022 04:55 AM	Clean, rural, agriculture, uncongested, open
Screen Name Redacted 9/09/2022 08:52 AM	A healthy environment with fair opportunities
Screen Name Redacted 9/11/2022 12:43 PM	Preserve/conserve as much land as possible. Curb/stop development of subdivisions on open/ag land.

Screen Name Redacted 9/12/2022 07:42 AM	Promote an inclusive and climate-friendly community.
Screen Name Redacted 9/12/2022 04:10 PM	focus on preservation of our natural beauty
Screen Name Redacted 9/12/2022 04:30 PM	Pedestrian and bike friendly
Screen Name Redacted 9/12/2022 04:51 PM	Thriving ecosystem, restricted (intelligent) growth, whole-population wellbeing.
Screen Name Redacted 9/13/2022 01:56 PM	Build better infrastructure and schools before projected growth occurs.
Screen Name Redacted 9/13/2022 02:02 PM	Affordable
Screen Name Redacted 9/15/2022 10:07 AM	Environmental resources and undeveloped lands preserved
Screen Name Redacted 9/15/2022 07:53 PM	better infrastructures, less invasion rural area,
Screen Name Redacted 9/16/2022 10:33 PM	Preservation of natural world with healthy ecosystems that ensure clean water, air and biodiversity
Screen Name Redacted 9/18/2022 02:59 PM	More diverse and affordable housing
Screen Name Redacted 9/18/2022 05:23 PM	Albemarle County is Solar ready!

Optional question (23 response(s), 1 skipped)
Question type: Single Line Question

Big Idea: A Green and Resilient Community

Q2 Does this Big Idea reflect your vision of our community in 20 years and guide us toward a more equitable and resilient comm...



Question options

Yes | Yes, but with the following change(s) | No

Optional question (24 response(s), 0 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q3 What change(s) should be made?

Screen Name Redacted 9/05/2022 04:44 PM	Prioritizing resiliency for households who are most at risk for climate change impacts - lower-income households.
Screen Name Redacted 9/07/2022 04:10 PM	preserve and context history: don't remove it.
Screen Name Redacted 9/09/2022 04:55 AM	Keep dense development that are already dense. Crozet is an example of bad development. The development around Crozet is not compatible with a rural area.
Screen Name Redacted 9/12/2022 04:10 PM	some additional commercial properties amongst the development
Screen Name Redacted 9/12/2022 04:30 PM	Ditch the carbon - neutral stance. Focus on other ideas and let innovation handle that

Screen Name Redacted 9/12/2022 04:51 PM	Look at existing policies, like the agricultural land use tax. Why do landOWNERS get the benefit, and not the people actually performing the work? (farmers) How can enforcement be changed to encourage beneficial practices like rotational grazing, and elimination of chemical pesticides/herbicides? How can that tax be adapted to encourage ecological restoration, and not just agriculture? Other ideas include decentralization of energy (like small-scale solar grids over parking lots, which also reduces heat islands), converting some roadways to be bike and pedestrian only, changing county policy to only use native plants and seed mixes, reducing or prohibiting hunting for sport (ie hunting with dogs), preventing development directly along roadways, not allowing developers to clear cut whole areas - especially next to stream - and instead to require them to save 'wild' ecological spaces within housing developments...
Screen Name Redacted 9/15/2022 10:07 AM	In conflict with proposed increase in development in designated growth areas
Screen Name Redacted 9/15/2022 07:53 PM	more control of developments and really protecting the rural area, with more trees for forestry
Screen Name Redacted 9/15/2022 09:24 PM	In bullet 2 of How - replace encourage with require.
Screen Name Redacted 9/16/2022 10:33 PM	Healthy ecosystems depend on biodiversity.. Albemarle County adopted the Biodiversity Action Plan in 2018. There should be some reference to this in this Big Idea. Protecting biodiversity needs to be in the "How do we get there" section. I also recommend changing the "Healthy and whole ecosystems" to "Healthy ecosystems that are rich with biodiversity"

Optional question (10 response(s), 14 skipped)
Question type: Essay Question

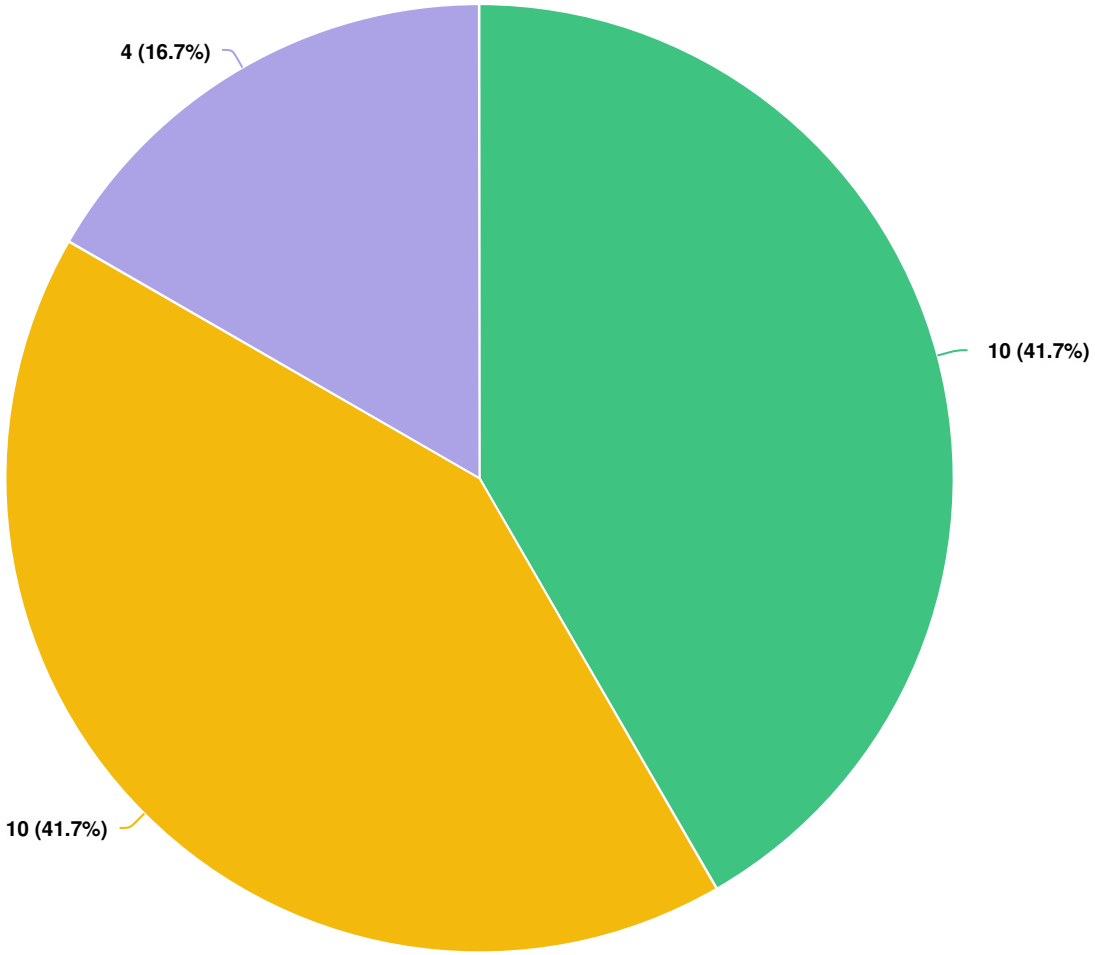
Q4 Please share why you feel that this Big Idea does not reflect your vision for our community

Screen Name Redacted 9/07/2022 02:27 PM	I do not job opportunities for the majority of residents in this vision
Screen Name Redacted 9/07/2022 04:04 PM	It is packed full or jargon. Huge mistakes have already been made. Too much development resulting in traffic nightmares and personal risk. Route 29 is a classic case - not providing safety measures for pedestrians and cyclists. Let's provide more measures to fix the difficulties that already exist, before increasing development!

Optional question (2 response(s), 22 skipped)
Question type: Essay Question

Big Idea: A Welcoming & Equitable Community

Q5 Does this Big Idea reflect your vision of our community in 20 years and guide us toward a more equitable and resilient community?



Question options

Yes | Yes, but with the following change(s) | No

Optional question (24 response(s), 0 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q6 What change(s) should be made?

Screen Name Redacted 9/07/2022 02:10 PM	Ensure that providing services within the Rurals is appropriate in scale and character.
Screen Name Redacted 9/07/2022 02:16 PM	It's not really a yes…I have reservations about dense housing and allowing multi family apartments in current residential suburbs.
Screen Name Redacted 9/07/2022 02:49 PM	not changes - just to note that it is just a little scary...
Screen Name Redacted 9/12/2022 04:30 PM	You say to continue to be transparent but it hardly seems that way
Screen Name Redacted 9/12/2022 04:51 PM	High density housing in the urban center! Multi-family units and development. Requiring lower income housing in all developments. Requiring developments to be planned around public transit, bikes, and pedestrians. Ensuring that clean drinking water is actually available for the full scope of any development.
Screen Name Redacted 9/13/2022 01:56 PM	Affordable housing is fine but without infrastructure and schools to support it, it only causes overcrowding of already crowded resources.
Screen Name Redacted 9/15/2022 10:07 AM	"Locating higher density development strategically where access and services are already located" conflicts with proposed increased development density in Crozet Growth Area.
Screen Name Redacted 9/15/2022 09:24 PM	In the last bullet of How, replace 'Continuing to improve' with 'require'. accessibility and transparency of local government process.
Screen Name Redacted 9/16/2022 10:33 PM	Housing should be energy efficient and enjoy the shade from tree canopy
Screen Name Redacted 9/18/2022 05:23 PM	I'd like to see more focus on the use of tiny house clusters and allow fill-ins over garages and in back yards. Workers need to be able to find affordable housing too. In addition, I suggest the permits for all types of development be encouraged to use passive solar design and factor in EV capabilities. So that especially includes siting, use of

	landscaping, extending eaves to reduce solar gain, white roofs. Very important to signal that roof designs need to be solar ready and oriented to the south as much as possible. Some areas may require more of a Community Solar approach. The Federal DOE has an accelerated permit process on software for use by counties if not used already.

Optional question (10 response(s), 14 skipped)
Question type: Essay Question

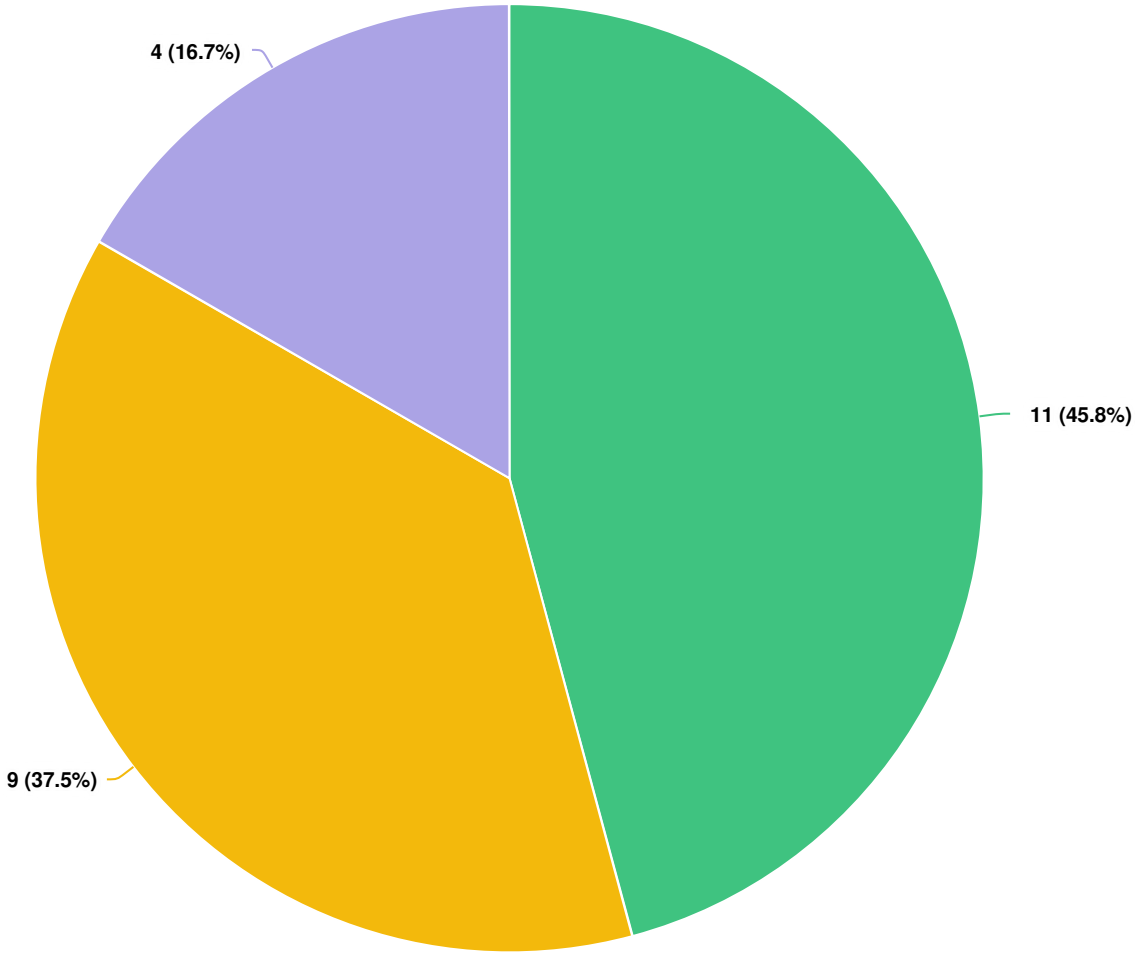
Q7 Please share why you feel that this Big Idea does not reflect your vision for our community

Screen Name Redacted 9/07/2022 04:04 PM	Again, the proposals are full of nonsense - just the run of the mill promises that support big businesses.
Screen Name Redacted 9/07/2022 04:10 PM	totally unrealistic -- a waste of time and resources. People will do well on their own provided barriers are removed.
Screen Name Redacted 9/09/2022 04:55 AM	I moved from Loudoun county to Albemarle. Loudoun used to throw terms like these around and because of them the taxes on my farm tripled in 9 years.

Optional question (3 response(s), 21 skipped)
Question type: Essay Question

Big Idea: A Connected & Accessible Community

Q8 Does this Big Idea reflect your vision of our community in 20 years and guide us toward a more equitable and resilient community?



Question options

Yes | Yes, but with the following changes | No

Optional question (24 response(s), 0 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q9 What change(s) should be made?

Screen Name Redacted 9/07/2022 02:16 PM	I'm all for trails! But not for taking lanes away from cars for bikes
Screen Name Redacted 9/09/2022 08:52 AM	Encourage availability and use of public transport.
Screen Name Redacted 9/12/2022 04:10 PM	connecting rt 250 to rt 240 via Eastern Ave or a pedestrian bridge
Screen Name Redacted 9/12/2022 04:51 PM	Bike lanes next to parallel parking are NOT SAFE for bikers and should not be considered as "encouraging mutimodal transportation." Development of greenways between urban centers would be amazing. Separated bike lanes even more amazing. Public transportation in general. Requiring developments to include all of this.
Screen Name Redacted 9/13/2022 01:56 PM	Infrastructure to support walking and cycling within the community is a must but so are the laws and enforcement by police for those that endanger the lives of others while recklessly driving their cars and trucks.
Screen Name Redacted 9/15/2022 10:07 AM	Ensure that connectivity of natural corridors in the Rural Area means NATURAL, not human-impacted land
Screen Name Redacted 9/15/2022 09:24 PM	Add to the last bullet of How, 'regional "and federal" transportation opportunities'.
Screen Name Redacted 9/16/2022 10:33 PM	Need to promote use of rail where those rail lines exist
Screen Name Redacted 9/18/2022 05:23 PM	New major roads may need to have natural overpasses or tunnels for wildlife to safely cross over/through. Can we apply some of the ideas used in European cities to increase bike use?

Optional question (9 response(s), 15 skipped)
Question type: Essay Question

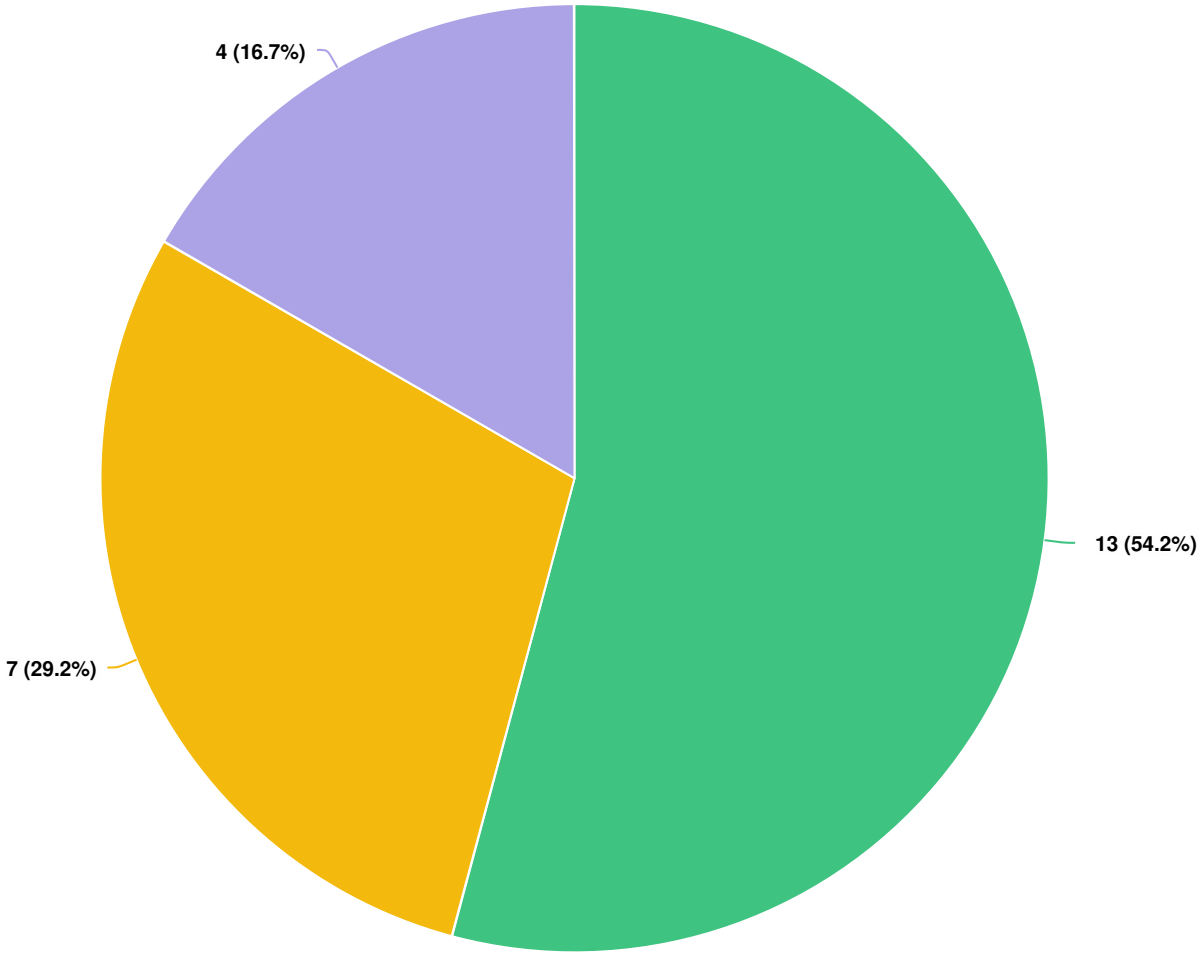
Q10 Please share why you feel that this Big Idea does not reflect your vision for our community

Screen Name Redacted 9/07/2022 02:27 PM	I do not see realistic options for families to "get around" on a daily basis. Transporting weekly groceries and a family together. (ie can't ride a bike with a 2 month old, 3 year old and a week of groceries.)
Screen Name Redacted 9/07/2022 04:04 PM	"Guide us toward a more equitable and resilient community" Equity is important, now!
Screen Name Redacted 9/07/2022 04:10 PM	biking is not realistic for most of Albemarle; neither is public transit: too spread out
Screen Name Redacted 9/15/2022 07:53 PM	less bicycles and walking areas in rural areas where we have farming , connection to other rural area, more land use for forestry,, crop' s growing, and keeping Albemarle more rural

Optional question (4 response(s), 20 skipped)
Question type: Essay Question

Big Idea: A Thriving and Prosperous Community

Q11 Does this Big Idea reflect your vision of our community in 20 years and guide us toward a more equitable and resilient community?



Question options

Yes | Yes, but with the following change(s) | No

Optional question (24 response(s), 0 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q12 What change(s) should be made?

Screen Name Redacted 9/07/2022 02:49 PM	Again - not changes, but the thought of industry growth is a bit disturbing.
Screen Name Redacted 9/09/2022 08:52 AM	Encourage innovative, environmentally friendly farming practices to make farms viable and profitable.
Screen Name Redacted 9/12/2022 04:10 PM	solar farms
Screen Name Redacted 9/12/2022 04:51 PM	"Economic opportunities" should also be in line with greater community values, such as climate resilience, restricted/intelligent growth, and wellness of citizens and ecosystem. Tourism or industry that depletes or damages the land does not build a thriving community.
Screen Name Redacted 9/15/2022 10:07 AM	Ways to reduce local age discrimination so that skills of the entire workforce can be utilized, opportunities are more equitable, & the workforce is more diversified
Screen Name Redacted 9/15/2022 09:24 PM	Need to add the following to bullet 2 of How: 'by providing educational, training & certification programs and opportunities'.
Screen Name Redacted 9/16/2022 10:33 PM	Make sure that we have the resources to support this economic growth like water and ability to support increased traffic on our roads. Rather than destroying natural landscape to make room for economic development we need to focus on redeveloping brownfields.

Optional question (7 response(s), 17 skipped)
Question type: Essay Question

Q13 Please share why you feel that this Big Idea does not reflect your vision for our community

Screen Name Redacted 9/07/2022 04:04 PM	Jobs are nothing without the necessary immediate improvements in public transportation, housing and childcare.
Screen Name Redacted 9/09/2022 04:55 AM	Albemarle should strive to be a bedroom community to other counties. Again I'll use Loudoun County as an example. The eastern part of Loudoun back in the 80's was farmland. Then the county decided that it need to encourage commercial development in the east. With commercial development comes demand for housing. When we moved from Loudoun, all of the farm land in eastern Loudoun was gone.

Optional question (2 response(s), 22 skipped)
Question type: Essay Question

AC44 Working Group 1

Meeting 4 Notes

Tuesday, August 9, 2022

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Attendees: William Hoare, Rod Walker, Ken Wilkinson, Gwen Cassady, Olivia Branch, Doug Horwitz, Peter Thompson, Sharon Korinek, Chet Seapy

Presentation: PC Work Session Overview

Planning Commission Work Session Overview

-Summarized potential options

-Discussed potential common themes

We are moving into Step 3 of engagement

-Online opportunities

-Roundtables

Options are broad policy options for growth management

Just considerations to develop a common vision.

What are we hearing that's common?

After step 3 – develop growth management vision

What are the other chapters?

10-12 others. We're looking at how other comprehensive plans are structured. It doesn't have to be the same as it is now.

When do those get addressed?

Later phases. Vision framework will inform the other phases

There are lots of other things going on, these things need to be addressed in here. Will other things get addressed at all? If there are topics that are not in our scope, they will not get addressed?

Not the intention. This is the most challenging topic, and it may inform chapters, but this isn't necessarily the vision for all the other chapters.

Concerned with natural resources and other growth issues that aren't coming up.

Can highlight what is missing here

Commercial developments in the rural areas – talked to neighbors in Earlysville and they laughed, said water and sewer was needed. How are you going to develop that? Why bring it up when its been squashed in the past.

Implementation of any options will need to be discussed. Need to start high and can find it will not work when it gets lower/more detailed. We still want to capture these.

Shared community input to date with PC

-All options had interest, some more than others

-Summary of what the county is hearing (see slide 7)

> -polarity of comments. Some things that are opposed to each other, not unusual. Trying to get to a common vision

-Seven Common Themes shared with PC (See slide 8)

> -What are areas people seem to have agreement on? Can address some of the seven options.

Will rework seven common themes when going forward

Adding anything to these? Sometimes if you don't get things in early they don't get added. For instance, what do we mean by equity?

Equitable access to resources and opportunities. Addressing inequities in Equity Profile

Biggest concern is the have and have nots gap. Seems like the issue is buried a little.

This is not the end, there's a whole round of engagement left in this phase.

Am I the only one feeling that equity is under emphasized?

Yes, not displayed or conveyed in current language. Such as equity to greenways in the rural area.

More concerned with economic inequities.

Affordable housing – number of available affordable houses versus getting it. Who's in charge of getting these people qualified?

That is more implementation. We do need to get to that once there's agreement that this is the way to go.

When there are units available, why aren't they getting them?

Dive into housing chapter, will get to more specifics about that. Plus, new Housing Albemarle policy. Implementation in the housing policy as well, and it's much more detailed. Housing Albemarle is folded into Comprehensive Plan. Multiple ways to address that.

How do we measure success? That is a key measure.

Looking at things that haven't worked in the past. 10th and Page (in the city) as an example.

If you really want to build equity in the plan, should list the perceived inequities that are out there today that we are addressing.

Equity Profile – done in 2021. Starting point.

Needs to be more specific. What real problems do you want to solve in implementation.

Is that online?

Can email it to members after.

Also, board resolution in 2019 about equity.

Have to know what problem you're trying to solve.

Can dive more into these in the future.

Common themes are still in a draft state. Trying to move away from Jargon.

High Level summary of themes (slide 9)

Discussion

What do you think of draft common themes?

What do you think of the common themes as a basis for the next round of public engagement?

Watched the PC meeting, many things in the themes they agreed with. Needs to be more emphasis on data. What do these terms mean? What is equity? What is climate action? Set specific standards and goals.

Broadened community input – what are popups?

Go into community with engage Albemarle van, open time to ask questions, more casual

Where in the past?

Lists a bunch

Bringing those to large events – Fridays After Five, meetings of community groups, other diverse groups – events that are already happening with groups already established.

Going to Soul of Cville on Saturday, veteran event at the end of the month. All the questionnaires online will now have optional demographic questions.

How successful have those been so far? The popups.

Try to make the content easy and accessible. Going to large existing events are successful. Try to make it fun and approachable.

Wording, instead of growth management, how do you want your community to look 20 years from now?

Initial wording means a lot.

"Action focused" theme – we're going to do that no matter what. Does it need to be a theme?

Climate action related themes – maybe only have a few common themes with related concepts under.

We can look at incorporating/combining some themes as subthemes.

Narrowing before more community feedback is not good, too early. Design importance is also aesthetics.

For popups – school orientations. Engage students and young people, what they want to see too. PVCC too.

Focus groups are broad or focused on specific themes? Does not want them narrowed down this early.

Where do we discuss other impact of growth? In the rural areas, population increase pushes more pressure on things such as parking lot at sugar hollow reservoir. How do things like that get addressed? Clearly an impact of growth. Growth is going to cause all kinds of problems – roads. Problem areas in the county.

That can fall under sustainable pace.

Growth's impact on the other 95% of the county

How are we going to alleviate existing problems with 30% more people?

Having to take care of grandkids – algae at pond, paid and couldn't swim. Why don't we have a public swimming pool?

Infrastructure has not kept up with growth, is what I'm hearing. Hearing we haven't met that yet, and we need to bring infrastructure up to where we are now.

Identify biggest critical impacts where growth will affect infrastructure.

A lot of things identified before today that we are short on. Start with those.

Access to parks is not as equitable in the development area.

Requirements for apartments and townhouses to add tennis courts? Why haven't they done it?

There are open space and recreation requirements for development – by-right and rezonings/special use permits. But those can be private for that neighborhood.

Those people will then not go and use the ones the rest of the people are going to use.

Lot sizes in the rural area should be looked at. Can be much more dense than they are now. Should look at cluster development. – could go under strategic density.

Making sure the general public understands what rural villages mean, and are services growing in congruence with rural growth.

Clear definitions. It's hard to get into specifics about policies now, trying to stay away from specific implementation things that could be red flags to some people.

People need to understand what a village entails.

Definition or examples?

Both.

None of these common themes specifically say village either.

Glossary – defining things like village, resilience, services, etc. Services could be a lot of things, almost too complicated to be of use.

Anything else missing?

City has connecting greenways like the Rivanna trails. How do we connect county greenways and blueways?

Could be in transportation – but sometimes needs extra attention.

In the rural areas, concept of division rights. I've never seen a map of the county with the unused development rights – maximum potential build out of rural areas.

Something staff has asked for. Takes significant deed research. Could spend hundreds of hours per property. Can connect people with zoning folks if they're interested in their property or learning more about the process.

Back to community engagement – schools project, high school/junior high students will be heavily impacted by this plan, could tie into government courses.

Maintain the tree canopy for development. Very specific, hasn't been mentioned yet.

Already under number 3. But hearing that specific examples are important.

Tree canopy is dying in Charlottesville with kudzu. Don't lose sight of maintaining the canopy you have. Addressing Invasive species is involved in maintaining tree canopy.

BREAK

Engagement step 3 -- Roundtables

The next step in community engagement will be asking community members to provide feedback on themes. Less jargon, but same type of content.

Online questionnaires, three in-person roundtables (slide 15)

Adding a conversation kit that people can take into their community – "meeting in a box." You could take it to your community.

All three – online questionnaire, roundtables, meeting in a box – have same questions, images.

What do you think of this engagement approach?

When you advertise this – critical to explain what this is and what it's not. It's not a discussion of the comp plan, it's a discussion of the growth management plan, not the other 10 chapters. Set the right expectations. Ask specific questions.

We're working on how to keep questions at this high level.

Have a note taker at the roundtable tables?

Locations of the roundtables?

Have tentative locations – Yancey School Community Center, McIntire County Office Building, another

White Hall Community Building?

Has anybody ever seen a public housing project they would like to live in?

Varieties of yeses

Will there be a virtual roundtable?

Yes, on zoom.

How does that get communicated?

Amail, comprehensive plan update email list, NBC29 spot, social media, community partners, flyers at popups, workgroup members sharing.

Will those get to an equitable distribution?

Do you have suggestions?

I could easily see these not reaching those people.

Tap into social services community, rotary club

Backpack for students flyers.

What does that flyer look like?

Lists county email address for plan, phone numbers, online survey.

Email outreach list?

Opt-in comp plan is around 500, amail is around 9,000.

How many who took the survey, have those emails?

Mostly anonymously

Can you target affordable housing areas? Put the flyers on buses?

Affordable housing is teachers, fire fighters – has a whole new definition, much broader than those who need assistance. I'm a senior, I want affordable housing.

Can target people for survey from

Use survey monkey? Current site too overwhelming.

Using check boxes.

Large employers, have interviews with HR at large employers in county?

But you need to make sure all employees are being heard.

Need to scale to staff resources too.

Teachers, police, post office.

Can send meeting in a box out to business leaders, etc.

How long will roundtables last? Meeting in a box?

Hour and a half.

Still concerned about trying to reach people we're not reaching -- social services staff have connections, unite way, food bank, free clinic, faith communities. Understand limited staff capacity, but can leverage other communities. Need to reach new organizations. Center for non-profit excellence.

Demographics of who shows up at the roundtables being opt in – you can look around and see similarities and how representative of an audience you have. If it's all based on 60-year-old white people, need to acknowledge that and seek more input.

Neighbors say it's not going to make a difference, the county will do exactly what it wants to do. I try to explain to them, but they don't get it.

But that's not true, we have better solutions because the county listens to residents.

Should make outreach information short, succinct.

What questions we're asking -- "What do you think, like or don't like and what's missing." Those can get a general read, and commonalities about things missing. What else should we ask?

How important are these themes to you? Ranking/prioritizing.

Get glossary up on website, or few key terms.

What kind of affordable housing should we have in Charlottesville?

Reading story on DP front page, I wouldn't want the city to be my landlord if it took forever to get elevator fixed.

Can re-group common themes.

Have to be careful not to turn it into a question everyone will say yes to.

Should do ESG – environmental, social, governance – groupings

Have at least one qualitative question on the survey – "Where do you want to see Albemarle County 20 years from now?"

Thinking that all questions will be open ended. But moving away from the idea of "growth" to "community," could be that.

People need to understand that there will be 30% growth.

That's assumed, but numbers have been wrong in the past.

If you sit on the sidelines, you can't complain.

Adjacent county impacts? Like transportation.

Part of each chapter and other regional plans Albemarle is part of.

Where does education come into this? Artificial Intelligence will have a huge impact.

How we educate is left to the school division, infrastructure for the schools is in conjunction with government.

Goals today might not be goals 20 years from now, asking about greatest needs in the future.

Seen in other communities, asking what housing needs could be in the future for individuals.

Education is important, need to have an overarching care for life-long learning, not just k-12. Need to put money where our mouth is for lifelong learning. Saying the school division takes care of that is passing it.

We're going to need retraining in the future.

There is a community facilities chapter currently. Not an education chapter currently.

Education should be included in the vision statement.

Should be addressed throughout in the current plan, as it's in the current comprehensive plan vision the board set.

Solar, energy efficiency Who actually is it in the county that says we have to have this R-value in the walls and ceiling [measure of building insulation]?

The state

Could add incentives in zoning

Does Albemarle have the power to up requirements?

No, just as incentives.

Is the county in contact with people in Richmond?

Yes

Do you all talk to state senators and house reps about these things?

Yes, board sets legislative priorities and works with elected officials in Richmond.

30% are planning horizons, using as an increment to plan for

Does the comprehensive plan have things like does the county want solar farms?

Yes, policies in plan

Any larger climate goals in plan? Net carbon neutral?

Part of comp plan is looking at plan like the county's climate action and adding it as policies in the comprehensive plan.

These should go on a list of what the county should lobby for in Richmond in the future.

Surprised by how people don't know how things work, continue to work on civic engagement in the future.

Need to start with education of the youths.

Next Steps:

Slide 19

This group meets until October

How do we find out what happens at the end?

Monthly digest in email list for comp plan,

No plan to allow us as alum to attend later working group sessions?

Not at this point

But maybe

Keep in touch about specific chapters where working group members might be interested in

Notes from flipcharts during Working Group discussion:

What do you think of the Planning Commission feedback?

- More emphasis on data/measures of success
- Clear definitions of terminology
- Need glossary for items like services, villages, equity, etc.
- Connecting City/County greenways
- Need buildout analysis for rural areas
- Invasives species aspect of tree canopy preservation

What do you think of the Draft "Common Themes"?

What do you think of the Common Themes as a basis for the next round of public engagement?

- Where to engage others
    - Pop-ups at back to school events & engage youth
    - PVCC pop-up to get 20-something age group
    - Bring pop-ups to other events or established groups
- What needs to be added or added onto
    - Greening & design should include aesthetics
    - County studies have already identified places that are deficient
    - Strategic density - lot sizes need to be looked at - could be more dense
    - Maintaining the tree canopy - already shown in #3 → need to share examples when talking to the public
    - Make sure residents understand Rural Villages
        - Include in sustainable pace & strategic density
        - Include photos & bullet point descriptions
    - Add impacts of growth on rural areas
- What needs to shift/change
    - Need to emphasize equity in the themes (economic equity in addition to other equity aspects)
    - Change "growth management" to something more friendly → sustainability/resilience?
    - Does "Action Focus" need to be a theme?
    - Have fewer common themes with bulleted list of sub themes
    - Don't narrow themes before public comment

What do you think of this engagement approach?

- Keep all themes together - each engagement opportunity includes all themes
- Distribution of Round Table sessions

Suggestions for meaningful input and dialogue

Suggestions to ensure strong participation from all citizens (especially those who typically don't get heard)

- Other groups and organizations
    - Schools starting back up, includes PVCC; school government (or other) class that is already established
    - Existing community groups & organizations
    - Rotary Club
    - Brochures in school supply backpacks
    - Social services network, United Way, food bank, faith communities, Center for Nonprofit Excellence
- Finding users
    - Contact social services
    - Friends & family email may not get to those that don't typically participate

    - Target users - buses, affordable housing locations
    - Talk to large employers to find out employee needs (i.e. HR person might have knowledge)
        - Use meeting in a box
- Messaging
    - Advertising - explain what this is & is not
    - Continue efforts to teach people about the process - many people just don't know
    - Clarify affordable housing - publicly funded vs. privately funded
    - Prioritize importance of themes
    - Differentiate between Environmental/Social/Governance (ESG)
    - Need to weave data about growth into the assumptions
- Engagement – in person
    - Poster - include questions so people know what you're looking for
    - Need a facilitator & note taker at each table
    - Whitehall Community Building as possible location
    - Consider capturing demographics at Round Tables
- Engagement – survey
    - 1 qualitative question - where do you want to see Albemarle County 20 years from now?
    - Survey - provide summary of the survey to give to WG members
    - Keep the survey simple for user & simple for summary purposes
    - What does affordable housing mean to you? Etc.
    - What are the greatest needs in the future?
- Other considerations
    - Impacts to adjacent counties (i.e. transportation)
    - How do the climate action goals tie into the comp plan discussion? (these need to tie in)
    - Education
        - Where does education fit into the plan?
        - K-12/Lifelong Learning
        - Equity, retraining,
        - Part of the vision & should be woven throughout
    - Potential action items for legislative agenda
        - Carbon neutral? Net neutral?
        - Solar farms

AC44 Working Group 1

Meeting 5 Notes

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Attendees: William Hoare, Rod Walker, Ken Wilkinson, Olivia Branch, Doug Horwitz, Peter Thompson, Sharon Korinek, Chet Seapy, Bill Brase

Presentation

Breakout discussions for big ideas

Engagement check-in

We are in the third round of public engagement

Developed growth management policies and big ideas

- Common themes were used to form four "big ideas"
- Foundation for the end of phase one – a draft framework for equity and resilient community

Sought/seeking input on bid ideas through survey and roundtables

Draft framework will go to PC and then BOS

Anything different in community input versus working group input?

Not really, these ideas are very high-level, hard to argue with. Getting a variety of ideas of how to implement.

We're still in phase 1 – Plan for Growth

Next is drafting policies

Purpose of this phase of public engagement – roundtables, with small groups – to share the big ideas and get feedback. These will be used to develop a framework for an equitable and resilient community.

Incorporating equity and climate action into plan as lenses

Equity [see slide 7]

Climate Action [see slide 8]

Population projections [see slide 9]

Draft Big Ideas – Green and Resilient, Welcoming and Equitable, Thriving and Prosperous, Connected and Accessible

Creates common ground for foundation

Helps with policy guidance

Future engagement roundtables [see slide 12]

Has anyone been to the roundtables yet? None have.

Next steps

Refine big ideas from input, put into draft framework

Sharing framework with PC on Sept. 27

Further revise the framework, then share with the BOS at a work session

What we're hearing so far:

Getting significant support overall

[see slide 15]

"Robust educational and job training opportunities for all" is already included. How is that different?

Some people didn't think it emphasized existing local residents enough.

A nuance.

Others -- local food systems and community gardens, support for local artists, maker space for small businesses, regional corporation

Input is being used to shape a narrative for the draft framework

Resilient – I don't get what you're trying to communicate by resilient.

Used very much in the business community now a days, quick to adapt

Resilience – making climate action actionable. Goal is to be able to react to changing climate factors.

No idea that was referring to climate action

Resilience is in the eye of the beholder – kind of ambiguous and vague.

Flexible might be a better word

But flexible has the same problem.

Adaptability is not just around climate change.

How do we preserve what we have in the face of change?

Anything about conservation easements in this?

Not yet, that's more around implementation.

Upcoming climate resiliency planning effort – helpful to characterize resilience more specifically here.

The county wants to cut emissions, is there specifics what the county wants to do?

There are details in the Climate Action Plan.

How does the Climate Action Plan work with this process?

Multiple county plans – housing, small area, etc. – this Comprehensive Plan is more general. The draft framework can be used on all of them to give policy guidance.

Are these plans accessible to the public online?

Yes.

Split into two groups for roundtable activity to provide input on Big Ideas

Group 1

Connected and Accessible Community

How do we increase connection in rural areas?

How do we increase green/park access in already developed and dense areas?

How can I stay in the county and be able to maintain my independence as I age (fixed income/limited mobility)? Will I be able to access transportation?

Greenspace is very important, not just designated parks. Shaded areas are needed (tree island requirement).

Welcoming and Equitable Community

Skepticism about whether we can achieve this.

How do prefab/mobile homes factor into this?

County-led redevelopment?

Opportunity for locally-owned, walkable businesses adds to welcoming characteristic

Thriving and Prosperous Community

How is the University of Virginia represented and responsible/partner with the county?

County Schools/Piedmont Virginia Community College are connected, maybe UVA isn't connected as much?

What gaps can UVA fill?

We need to do better at building awareness of existing programs

Dairy Market (in Charlottesville) is a great example – many of the restaurants were food trucks

Example: development near Cascadia where Grit Coffee has a shop (Riverside Village)

Incentive for first floor commercial, upper levels residential (vertical mixed use)

Green and Resilient Community

Should also include environmental responsibility

Greater density feels like it is contradictory to "green."

How do we make currently existing land use carbon neutral? Skeptical that that can be achieved taking out current state into account.

How is transportation factored into this?

How does this work respond/relate to surrounding areas?

<u>Group 2</u>

Green and Resilient Community

Sustainable – preserving what we have? Depends on the topic and context.

Pictures give examples

Adapting – solar panels may be out in five years. Saying that is what technology will look like in 20 years looks like

To impact the carbon footprint, we need to change what things look like now. Changing insulation values in buildings. Changing efficiency ratings on air conditioners –saying we're not going to sell certain levels of air conditioners in Albemarle County.

Talking about building codes – the question is does the county have the commitment to be as tough as we want to be to accomplish these goals?

Want to make sure we are protecting, adapting to climate change isn't capturing what we're looking for

Looking at images - we want to preserve stream characteristics; solar panels show adaptability – not an either or between preserve and adapt.

Could the county give more density for making more efficient buildings and developments?

Yes

Does the county have the power to dictate, instead of incentives?

Could write into building code

The county should dictate what it can dictate and incentivize the rest. If they're serious they need to do this to accomplish the goals. I think we should be aggressive.

It's easier to back off then to add on.

Is the word "promote" enough?

I would say "dictate where possible, promote elsewhere."

Land use practices and development

Strength of the languages is missing throughout, connection of the big ideas

Working with surrounding communities should be an overall theme in the whole plan

Discussion about affordable housing, Regional Housing Partnership

Welcoming and Equitable Community

Equity – don't see any metrics. How do you define equity? Equity in what. Where are we at today? How do we know if we've improved that?

Equity profile for Albemarle – shows where we are now

Should get translated into "here are 10 metrics we want to improve over the next 20 years."

If you say what the 10 metrics are, that is what people are going to focus on improving.

How do you measure affordable housing? Where is Albemarle county at right now?

See in the Equity Profile

Needs to be translated into how we're going to achieve that.

Comprehensive Plan is North star

So we're developing metrics for climate and not equity?

Those weren't metrics created by the comp plan process

There was a housing needs assessment done and a housing policy added

Welcoming hasn't been touched on – how can we make the county more welcoming?

What happens when someone moves into the county? Are they welcome?

Nonprofit sector fills vital gaps – is there an opportunity to put in more support for those organizations. Gaps in county-managed recreation, instead making small investments into non-profits, which has been done by practice and not policy. County has leveraged with nonprofits.

Fourth bullet point – "ensuring an equitable distribution of services, resources and amenities.

Not specific around non-profits

Could the county change and provide those things on their own in the future? How could things change in the future?

What else is missing?

School class sizes should be addressed – smaller class sizes, teachers have more time to spend with students. If school system was an attraction like UVa, hospitals, etc. it could attract new businesses. Also need more attention for immigrant communities

If we make it too welcoming, that 30,000 is going to become 50,000. Welcoming to people already here is important, but we don't necessarily want to go out and tell everyone this is where the people want to be. Double edged sword.

Can this be addressed in the comprehensive plan?

I don't know.

There used to be a group for sustainable population, limiting population – always a tension there

Connected and Accessible Community

Challenges with doing stuff in the rural areas to increase traffic, some people are not going to welcome that. It has to be done in a way that's not going to affect the perceived impact of quality of life.

Sugar Hollow is going to be a challenged place – it's already crowded on the weekends. Something has to be done, but you don't want to turn it into a four-lane highway.

Not just increasing but improving.

Being sensitive to the people and environment that are already there.

Need to connect rural and development areas to make it safe – ensure interconnectivity

Blueways – using the Rivanna River more

Making sure the county is using electric vehicles as a government

Parking in popular areas is an issue

Should be more parks – if parking lots are full, is that a signal saying more are needed?

No indoor recreation from the county. Extremely narrowly focused on parks.

How much parks land is undeveloped?

A lot. They could actually act on it.

If they have the land, they need to use additional land.

Boys and girls club example for good, shared use of schools land

Does the county need to partner with a gym to provide recreation?

Boys and girls club, YMCA, senior center, etc. – Keep public/private partnerships, and codify it in comprehensive plan

Transportation and climate?

County could promote the next generation of clean transportation.

Thriving and Prosperous Community

If a company came to Albemarle and said they'd build a solar manufacturing facility that's going to provide 3,000 jobs, do we want that?

Why was tourism selected as an industry we want?

What about agriculture?

Tourism brings people in temporarily.

Are we talking about Monticello and Montpelier?

How are we determining what we want?

Target industries in in Project Enable – the county's economic development plan.

Are we assuming that's known?

I assume what we would prefer to have is small to medium sized, locally owned businesses, not large retail stores. Should we say that?

Isn't the market going to be the driver?

Getting people in the trades is something that the community needs to sustain itself. We've got to train these people. That could be up there.

County government could support local businesses.

"Clean industry" non-polluting

Why aren't data and metrics included in the other three Big Ideas? Put equivalent of that in other big ideas.

Job opportunities – what kind of jobs are needed for people who are here? Promote the notion that we should understand the unemployed population and what jobs do we need for them?

Albemarle looks the way it does because of farming. Many small farms are barely hanging on. If land use taxation is diminished, many of those could go away.

Healthcare costs

This focuses so much on jobs, missing big part of the story. People are underemployed, need affordable housing, improved transportation.

Need to remember the four big ideas are interconnected.

It's not clear that just having ample job opportunities is enough.

People have to move further out, no public transportation, have to drive which causes more pollution, spending money and time on driving -- we have to break the cycle.

What does it take to have people living and working here?

Back to whole group -- engagement check in

Anything you've been hearing from your networks?

Healthy and whole ecosystem, a lot of skepticism that the county will step up to do what needs to be done. Increase natural areas. A lot of problems on public and private property. Is the county willing to step in and do something? Commitment money, recognizing the problems. Will they actually do what's needed? How serious is the county about achieving and maintaining goals?

Will retirees be able to afford to stay here as property taxes increase? It's really a balancing act.

We can be optimistic in a 20-year outlook, this isn't a budget.

Need to be looking at additional sources of revenue to support some of these.

Thought about doing a zero-based budgeting?

It's been discussed – I would argue that what the county does makes sense.

Biggest concern from neighbors is the growth management. Might be because we live and how much things have changed in the past 20 years. People say that there's too much growth.

Population goes up by 30%, arguably 30% more people doing stuff in the county. How is that going to be handled in the rural areas – roads, trash, traffic?

So are the development areas – Rio Point development. There are not enough roads now.

How to not decline the quality of life.

Who are the 30% and what will they need?

New houses in neighborhood – nine new families, many have kids. I think the idea of having no growth in the county, we all would die off eventually.

How can we diversify community engagement?

Do we engage with the city? Residents who would want to move to the county but can't.

Is there engagement with potential or former residents?

Need to engage children, different types of families

How do you tap into different types of communities?

Do we send flyers home with kids in schools?

Working with the school division. In October, 300 freshmen will come to the county government for an hour.

Format would have to be different. People are busy working, don't have time. Go to workplace or where they live, needs to be short and concise. People are busy.

Event with three Black churches – Sept. 20 Zoom roundtable. If you want to reach the underserved, you need to go where they are. Sororities and fraternities alumni groups, 100 Black Men of Central Virginia, etc.

Let's Talk Albemarle podcast.

Held local NAACP community engagement session on Sept. 12.

What are the roadblocks with schools?

Meeting with equity team next week. It's also about local government showing up generally.

If the city increases in population, how does that affect the county and what we're doing?

People here attending future meetings in later rounds?

Up to county staff. Six working groups. Is there a process for doing that fairly, so it isn't that one person has an outstanding influence on the county.

This is one piece of input, it's not like if you don't get on the working group your voice isn't heard.