AC44
ALBEMARLE COUNTY 2044

Community Input Themes: Community Facilities



This document includes an overview of community engagement opportunities and major themes heard through community input related to Community Facilities. These themes, along with direction from the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors, technical research and best practices, and input from staff and partner agencies, inform the development of Comprehensive Plan recommendations.

PHASE 1 ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

We asked for community input on:

- The successes and challenges of the current Growth Management Policy (per the 2015 Comp Plan) and what should be prioritized with a Policy update
- Options for updating the Growth Management Policy to address 1) projected demand and population growth; 2) equitable access to services/resources; 3) implementing the Climate Action Plan and build community resilience
- The draft Guiding Principles and whether they guide us toward a more equitable and resilient community

AC44 Guiding Principles



Engagement opportunities included:

- 3 online questionnaires
- 4 round tables
- 5 pop-ups
- 4 open houses

Phase 1 Engagement Totals:

- **Attendance at in-person and virtual events: 254**
- **Online questionnaire responses: 637**
- **Website visits: 6,964**







PHASE 2 ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

We asked for community input on:

- Challenges, priorities, and opportunities for each Comp Plan topic
- What we want our community to be like in 2044, with questions including:
    - How do you want to get around the County in 2044 (e.g. walk, bike, drive, take transit)?
    - What business or job opportunities do you need to ensure you are financially stable and secure in 2044?
    - How might your housing needs change between now and 2044?
    - What types of businesses, amenities, recreational opportunities and housing do you wish you had closer to where you live?
    - How do you think your life will be different in the next 20 years as a result of climate change, and what should local government due to address future climate change impacts?
- Planning toolkits for coordinated land use and transportation planning, with the specific topics of Activity Centers, Development Areas boundaries, Rural Communities, Community Resilience Hubs, and Rural Interstate Interchanges
- Draft Goals and Objectives for each Comp Plan topic

Phase 2 Engagement Totals:

- **Attendance at in-person and virtual events: 443**
- **Online questionnaire responses: 861**
- **Community chat kits and field notes: 52**
- **Website visits: 16,186**

Engagement opportunities included:

- 3 rounds of online questionnaires
- 10 pop-ups
- 6 open houses
- 2 workshops
- 6 Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings
- Community chat kits
- Stakeholder meetings with organizations and groups such as the Jefferson Area Board for the Aging (JABA), the County's Economic Development Authority (EDA), Charlottesville Area Developers Roundtable (CADRe), and County Committees including the Natural Heritage Committee, the Architectural Review Board, the Historic Preservation Committee, and the Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee





COMMUNITY INPUT THEMES

The following summary highlights the major themes from community engagement heard to date related to Community Facilities. It should be noted that there is significant overlap with other chapters, including Resilient Community, Transportation, and Parks, Recreation, and Open Space:

Community facilities and service provision needs

- More libraries are needed, which could include small or mobile libraries in the Rural Area
- Concern with school capacity and bus availability for students; capacity needs to keep up with growth
- More after school activities and care options are needed. The Boys and Girls Club was cited as an example of a strong existing program, but more are needed
- Provide more recycling options and encourage waste reduction through education and incentives
- Improve broadband service provision, especially in the Rural Area
- Continue to have recreational spaces for community use at schools

Improve community and climate resilience

- Protect against flooding, including with improved stormwater management. There is concern about potential future flooding impacts
- Ensure the county has adequate water supply, especially with increasing risks from climate change such as heat and droughts
- Support solar and renewable energy
- Consider that more people may move here from coastal areas of Virginia due to climate change/sea level rise
- Address failing septic systems, especially when they could impact public water supplies and when homeowners need financial assistance; consider options to connect to public water/sewer when feasible to improve health/safety/welfare
- Concern with above ground power lines and losing power during storms when trees fall on lines
- Community input generally indicated support for community hubs, with the need for community centers with classes/events/programming, affordable food access, senior or youth centers and related programming, and emergency shelter with phone/internet access. Preference to use existing buildings (e.g. schools, community centers, fire stations) in the Rural Area
- Use low impact development (LID) for stormwater management for County-owned facilities

Improve options for accessing community facilities

- Improve options for biking and walking to community facilities, especially schools and libraries
- Provide more transit stops and park and ride lots to be able to take transit to community facilities
- Provide more electric vehicle charging stations and bicycle parking at community facilities

