AC44
ALBEMARLE COUNTY 2044

Community Input Themes: Cultural Resources



This document includes an overview of community engagement opportunities and major themes heard through community input related to Cultural Resources. 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 Cultural Resources:

Recognize and celebrate our local historic, scenic, and cultural resources:

- Collaborate with indigenous groups for tribal acknowledgment and commemoration.
- Recognize Black and African American and historic Freetown communities in the Rural Area. Consider using the UVA Finding Freetowns project and ways to better share Freetown histories and engage with community members.
- Identify cultural opportunities and resources unique to the area.
- Continue to add historic markers to share information about the county's history.
- Share more inclusive histories with historic preservation efforts and equitable recognition of historic resources.
- Use tourism to support historic preservation, including through educational events.

Improve protections for local resources:

- When asked the question 'How would you prioritize the following ways to protect our historic and cultural resources?', the top three answers (in order of priority) were:
    1. Provide additional incentives to property owners to preserve historic and cultural resources.
    2. Provide more information about local historic and cultural resources in walkable areas such as parks and along trails.
    3. Adopt regulations to protect historic and cultural resources.
- The County should do more to prevent 'demolition by neglect' of historic structures.
- Increase protections for cemeteries.
- Even though historic post offices may not be as necessary as other land uses in the Rural Area, appreciate that they are being preserved.
- Update the County's lighting ordinance to better protect dark skies and to decrease light pollution.

Adaptive reuse of historic resources:

- Improve historic preservation and adaptive reuse in villages and rural communities in the Rural Area, using an appropriate small and rural scale. Some comments suggested that if an existing building is not salvageable and must be torn down, the new building should have to have the same footprint as the previous building.
- Historic buildings in the Rural Area can be adaptively reused as community gathering places and resilience hubs. One example shared was to recognize Spring Hill Baptist Church as historic landmark and repurpose the church to be a community center with access to local government and health services.

Responses to Phase 2 questionnaire question on protection of cultural resources

