



York 2040 Committee Meeting #19

Wednesday, May 5, 2021 – 5:00 PM

Senior Center of York – 5314 George Washington Memorial Highway

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Meeting Notes – February 3, 2021
3. Committee Discussion of Draft Economic Development Element
4. Other Business
5. Citizen Comments
6. Adjournment

Attachments:

- Draft Meeting Notes, February 3, 2021
- Draft Economic Development Element

MEETING NOTES
York 2040 Committee

Wednesday, February 3, 2021 – 5:00 p.m.
Electronic Meeting

Members Present: Mark Bellamy, Gregory “Skip” Brooks, Leigh Houghland, Montgoussaint “Montee” E. Jons, Michael S. King, Vivian McGettigan, R. Anderson Moberg, Richard Myer, Sheila L. Myers, Jacob Rizzio, Cowles “Buddy” Spencer

Staff Present: Timothy Cross, AICP, Deputy Director of Planning and Development Services; Earl Anderson, AICP, Senior Planner; Amy Parker, Senior Planner; Daria Linsinbigler, Planning Assistant; Justin Atkins, Assistant County Attorney; Gail Whittaker, Public Information Officer

Member Absent: Chad Green, Eugene Seiter

Call to Order

Chairman King called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 p.m. and stated for the record that the meeting was being held by electronic means without a quorum being physically assembled in one place, pursuant to an emergency ordinance adopted by the York County Board of Supervisors on June 16. He stated that the meeting was being held remotely under the emergency “continuity of government” ordinance adopted under Code of Virginia Section 15.2-1413, allowing public meetings of County boards, commissions, and authorities to meet remotely. Chairman King noted that this action was taken because of the health emergency resulting from the coronavirus pandemic, making an assembly of the Committee and staff and members of the public in one place unsafe because of the highly contagious nature of the virus.

Chairman King introduced himself and announced that he was participating remotely along with other Committee members and staff.

Approval of September 2, 2020 Meeting Notes

On motion of Ms. Myers, the September 2, 2020, meeting notes were approved unanimously.

Committee Discussion of Draft Transportation Element

Chairman King stated that the draft Transportation element of the Comprehensive Plan was distributed to the Committee members in December and that staff had emailed the members a compilation of all written comments that were received, along with the staff’s responses. He opened the floor for additional comments on the draft Transportation element.

Ms. Myers commented that the document was well done and that it is clear that a tremendous amount of funds would be required to address all of the County’s transportation needs. She stressed the importance of setting priorities so that resources are used effectively.

Mr. Jons commented that there are a lot of acronyms in the document and he suggested that a glossary be included. In addition, he questioned the categorization of the six highway Levels of Service, stating that he felt they should be grouped into pairs: A and B, C and D, and E and F. Mr. Cross responded that the Comprehensive Plan will include a glossary, as the current Plan does, and possibly a separate glossary of acronyms as well. With regard to Levels of Service (LOS) explained that LOS A, B, and C are grouped together because they all represent good travel conditions, while E and F are grouped together because they represent unacceptable travel conditions. LOS D, he explained, represents traffic conditions that are on the margin – acceptable but approaching unacceptable – so it is qualitatively different from A, B, and C on the one end and E and F on the other.

Mr. Brooks asked if electric vehicles should be addressed in the document. Mr. Cross responded that since the public benefit of these vehicles is reduced vehicle emissions, he planned to address them in the Environment element of the Plan, which deals with air quality. He stated that the County has installed a total of ten chargers at charging stations all over the County, including the two libraries, the York-Poquoson Courthouse, the Riverwalk Landing parking garage, and New Quarter Park, and he added that a Chevy Volt hybrid vehicle has been added to the Real Estate Assessment Office's fleet. Mr. Bellamy added that more chargers will be installed this summer at the County Operations Center on Goodwin Neck Road as part of a project to upgrade the vehicle fueling station. He also reported that the Williamsburg Area Transit Authority (WATA) Board of Directors, on which he serves as York County's representative, has asked the WATA staff to look into the possibility of adding electric vehicles to its fleet. Mr. Myer suggested that the Plan include a recommendation that the Zoning Ordinance be amended to require electric vehicle chargers in shopping centers and other large-scale commercial developments.

Mr. Myer asked if the various objectives and implementation strategies are listed in priority order, which is implied by the numbering. Mr. Cross said that was not the intent and that the statements are numbered for easy reference only. He stated that the Plan's introductory section will include an explanation of the format of the goals, objectives, and implementation strategies and that language can be included stating that the numbering should not be construed to represent prioritization.

Mr. Myer stated that he agrees with the written comment that the Additional \$200 Speeding Fine Program might be given greater importance than it deserves, adding that he suspects the signs are not very effective in deterring speeders. In response, Mr. Cross agreed that there is no statistical evidence that these signs are effective, and he reiterated the staff's written response to the comment, stating that the strategy can be broadened into a more general statement about traffic-calming measures.

Mr. Jons asked about park-and-ride lots, noting that the existing lot on East Rochambeau Drive does not appear to be heavily used. He asked about the rationale for the planned park-and-ride lot along Victory Boulevard, and he suggested that these lots might be used more if there were more public awareness. Mr. Cross responded that the County committed to constructing a park-and-ride lot on County-owned land behind the Tabb Fire Station as part of its application for SMART SCALE funding to widen Victory Boulevard between Route 17 and Hampton Highway. He explained that by including this feature, the County was able to earn additional points in the project prioritization process.

Ms. Myers commented that many of the WATA bus stops do not have bus shelters, which could discourage people from using bus services during inclement weather. She felt that adding more shelters should be a priority.

Mr. Cross thanked Mr. Jons, Mr. Rizzio, and Ms. Myers for providing written comments on the draft document.

Youth-Specific Plan Recommendations

Mr. Rizzio stated that he had spoken with Mr. Cross about incorporating some recommendations in the Comprehensive Plan that are specifically related to youths. Specifically, he suggested involving youths and young adults in future Comp Plan updates and also in various County boards and commissions, such as the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, the Beautification Committee, the Library Board, and possibly the Alcohol Safety Action Program since part of its mission is to assist with planning of the Drinking Under the Influence (DUI) Youth Project. In addition, he spoke about the possibility of increased internship or mentorship opportunities with the County for younger residents and some sort of formal opportunity for youth input into School Board policy, which he acknowledged would really be a decision for the School Board and not the County. Chairman King responded that he likes the idea but is not sure it fits within the scope of the Comprehensive Plan. Ms. McGettigan agreed, adding that it might be better for Mr. Rizzio to pass the suggestions along to the County Administrator. Mr. Brooks expressed surprise that there is not currently an opportunity for youth input into school-related decision and stated that he feels there should

be. Mr. Jones stated that in future Comp Plan updates, he would like to see two youth representatives on the steering committee – one from the upper County and one from the lower County. Ms. McGettigan added that Mr. Rizzio's service on the Committee has demonstrated the value of having youth representation, stating that the Comp Plan update process has benefitted greatly from his participation.

Citizen Comments

Doug Holroyd, 103 Marina Point, stated that the draft Transportation element is well done but that he feels it should include language recommending the development of action plans by a qualified traffic engineer to address the road segments and intersections that are identified as dangerous.

Closing Remarks

Chairman King asked staff if it would like to make any closing remarks before the meeting is adjourned. Mr. Cross stated that he feels the citizen comment is addressed in the document, which sets forth as an implementation strategy to "Work with VDOT, the HRTPO, and the Sheriff's Office to identify dangerous roadway segments and intersections and to develop countermeasures to enhance safety." Lastly, Mr. Cross thanked Mr. Anderson for working late on his birthday to manage the Zoom meeting, noting that without his technical prowess, the meeting would not have been possible.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.