Chapter Session Responses

Individual Responses

Facilities

1. What reactions do you have to the recommended updates?
   - Inventory and condition assessment is great. Will also require prioritization since City won’t be able to do it all. Maybe this can include level of service goals and analysis for facilities.
2. What have we missed with the updates? Please provide comments.
   - Integration between infrastructure and facility categories. For instance, when upgrade or maintenance done to a utility, consider piggybacking some stormwater, trail, sidewalk, or other improvement to enhance efficiency. Also, shared, facility development/management with County, others.
3. What should be removed from the chapter updates? Please provide comments.
4. What are the greatest challenges to achieving the chapter goals?
   - Explain clearly relevance of facilities to citizens’ everyday lives – make it more compelling

Economic Sustainability

1. What reactions do you have to the recommended updates?
   - I like the focus on raising awareness of the city’s ethnic diversity
   - Would like to see more development of African American historic/tourist sites
   - See e.g. Blue Ribbon commission recommendations
   - Please keep the specific reference to African American history
2. What have we missed with the updates? Please provide comments.
   - I’d like to see DED staff work proactively with NDS to make the regulatory process clear, reduce uncertainty and improve customer service
3. What should be removed from the chapter updates? Please provide comments.
4. What are the greatest challenges to achieving the chapter goals?
   - Scarcity of land

Environment

1. What reactions do you have to the recommended updates?
   - Charlottesville has a waterfront – not appreciated, river needs attention and should probably be highlighted as separate entity
   - Fry Springs developed property – how does that impact environment
   - Green space in terms of environment
2. What have we missed with the updates? Please provide comments.
   - As of March 4 there wasn’t an update online for the land use chapter
   - Connection to development and food
   - Some language is troubling like “encourage” and “monitor”
• Difficulty in determining public vs private for public members
• 1.6 utilities and streetscapes – were not able to accomplish this in many areas
• Should include protection of urban agriculture spaces

3. What should be removed from the chapter updates? Please provide comments.
• 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 2.3 – were better in 2013 language
• Goal 3 – Mention “sites”
• 1.7 – can we reword it to “open up opportunities” for tree planning or inform

4. What are the greatest challenges to achieving the chapter goals?
• Trees and rivers don’t vote
• Whole is greater than sum of parts
• After thought
• Inability to change code

**Housing**

1. What reactions do you have to the recommended updates?
• Update the vision – How is Charlottesville changing? One page with vision and goals then lay out goals in more detail in additional pages
• Homelessness needs to be included in the funding goal – homeless programs like Rapid Re-housing and Permanent Supportive Housing need to be scaled up with additional funding
• Pretty good – organized differently but hit most of the issues
• This eliminated Goal #1 which established impacts of regulating and land use change on affordable housing – provides the basis for PC and Council to evaluate rezoning, SUPs, and other ZTAs, SMAs, etc. with the context of impacts on affordable housing
• Ensure stated housing goals are reflected in the land use map

2. What have we missed with the updates? Please provide comments.
• Define affordable housing and levels in Charlottesville so each goal speaks to each level
• Homelessness as a separate goal
• Not sure about community impact concerns
• Some titles need working on (Goal 1 has no title)
• This chapter should emerge from housing strategy. Presumable it will have goals and strategies
• Tie increased density and height bonuses for affordable housing to real data on needs and costs (i.e. housing needs assessment)
• Goals to be more precise
• UVA – partnerships, student impact on housing
• Homeless housing needs – funding for, make sure these are explicit
• Need housing strategy first
• Stronger wording re: fair housing enforcement
• Definition of affordable housing – need to include/identify tiers and focus goals
• Land use map and housing chapter need to align
3. What should be removed from the chapter updates? Please provide comments.
   - Either shorten and keep strategies vague or add specific about income levels, neighborhoods, and land use
   - 6.2 and 1.4 seem to be the same
   - Enforcement of fair housing act
   - Remove emphasis on pushing affordability at extremely low incomes onto developers or these units will not get built

4. What are the greatest challenges to achieving the chapter goals?
   - Creating coalitions to work together to have the goals tied into council decision making
   - Need to identify key parcels that can reconnect neighborhoods that are hidden valleys
   - Funding
   - Concerns about affordability – define (levels)
   - Please don’t update housing chapter until comprehensive housing strategy is adopted

Transportation

1. What reactions do you have to the recommended updates?
   - Note important regional destinations
   - Seem minimal
   - Suburban partnership (county/city?)
   - Need more quantified goals (e.g. mode split)
   - AV impacts are largely unknown but future proofing is wise
   - Minimal
   - Goals – more measurable (quantifiable)
   - Add universal design – i.e. accessible city
   - Vague
   - Minimal
   - Technologies – use Uber like bus services
   - Does plan provide new services like door to door services
   - Public vs private services

2. What have we missed with the updates? Please provide comments.
   - Rideshare, ev charging stations, ride hailing drop off
   - Regional strategies and role of RTP – Is this intended to be within city or county
   - 7.7 and 7.5 need updating, question about ¼ mile radius
   - Goal 8
   - Talk about universal design, all ages and abilities – check goal 1
   - BPAC as review
   - Sidewalk closures and traffic management
   - Competition for curb space
   - Consider replacing sustainable with green infrastructure
   - Have comp plan be more specific/quantifiable/measurable
- AV vehicles for public transit (modeling for JAUNT) – door to door
- Rt. 29 improvements (tweak)
- Emerging technology
- Ride sharing
- Electric vehicle charging stations
- Regional strategies/transportation partnership
- AVs/parking
- Competition for curb space
- Is parking pricing in the comp plan already? It should be.
- Universal design, not just meeting ADA
- Addition – urban development
- Goal 8 – more specific on new modes of transportation (uber, emerging technologies)
- Sustainable – term vague
- Why are we running big buses
- Encourage UVA to have students live closer to UVA to decrease traffic
- Tech – AV’s, electric charging stations, parking loading at curb space
- Regional strategies – suburban park and ride facilities, Hydraulic/Emmet planning efforts, Lynchburg-Cville rail system
- Safe ped ¼ mile radius – provide safe ped
- Construction detours not consistent and adequate for ADA
- Goal 8 – “sustainable” transportation is vague, replace terms
- Wants quantifiable goals (ex. 20% by 2020…)
- Better marketing coordination – one central coordination for all modes, European model
- Need to state vision better in other chapters

3. What should be removed from the chapter updates? Please provide comments.
- 5.4 Parking remove
- Look at places to remove qualifiers
- Goal 2.10 “Encourage…”
- Consider removing ¼ mile radius
- Roanoke rail extension – has been completed
- Metering parking – put back?
- “as appropriate” – take out, not quantifiable
- “encourage” – wrong word?
- Parking meters – 5.4 should this still be there
- Unnecessary qualifiers not really a vision
- Mobility as a service – European model
- Not just meet minimum ADA, require universal design for all
- Remove huge buses running empty
- Parking metering pilot example

4. What are the greatest challenges to achieving the chapter goals?
- 6.10 – coordinate marketing and communication transit/bike/walk/lots
- Political will, inertia, funding
- Marketing
- Same as always – implementation gaps, funding, and political will
- Political will
- Funding
- Shifting mindset
- Bus routes not working at airport
- Regional bus issues

**Historic Preservation**

1. What reactions do you have to the recommended updates?
   - Generally agreeable
   - Particularly agree with prioritizing CLR for Downtown Mall and prioritizing unsurveyed neighborhoods for survey
   - Downtown Mall – cultural landscape
   - Not all goals are specific (measurable – need more specific)
   - Be clear about public vs private

2. What have we missed with the updates? Please provide comments.
   - Vision setting and long range planning
   - Historic preservation and urban design are different things
   - Should look at using zoning to help former residential areas to return to their historic use – now that housing is short and office space more available (Little High, MJ, JPA, etc.)
   - Develop a standards manual by PLACE – street furniture, lights, etc.
   - Protect/encourage trees and natural areas
   - Use alleys for historic purpose
   - Need to continuously update Comp Plan, incentive, lobbyist for money

3. What should be removed from the chapter updates? Please provide comments.
   - Same goals in 2013
   - Goal 1, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 2.3

4. What are the greatest challenges to achieving the chapter goals?
   - Not letting the status quo absorb innovation
   - Complexity, zoning/land use, code, lack of metrics

**Community Engagement**

*No chapter to review so just wrote general comments:

- Social media
- Bring in people that don’t feel like they’re part of the decision making process
- Lack of community engagement with the African American community
• Have people that don’t use electronic media
• Backbone of effective government
• Value process, not rushes to a product
• Use of posters and radio to market
• More transparent about process so less of a learning curve, start from a higher common ground
• How to balance community needs/desires with the process mandated by state
• Community events
• Everyone is complaining but not working together
• Have an action plan
• Language barriers
• Dialogue on how people are affected by white supremacy and class (social, money, education)
• Decision is already made when community engagement starts
• Listening spaces
• Don’t paint with a broad brush (not every department in city hears the feedback from community)
• Network of community connection
• How to create a common vision and stay plugged in if can’t make a meeting
• Build resilience and trust
• Note where people’s input had an impact
• Should know who decision maker is, know what rule are, know what power citizens have
• IAPP (International Association for Public Participation)
• Private process of engagement to convey a combined or community position
• Identify avenues of communication
• Community design center no longer against
• Funding source for neighborhood associations
• Community engagement is most important chapter
• Special constituencies
  o Under-represented
  o Youth
  o Seniors (?)
  o Low wealth immigrants
  o Those with disabilities
  o Who’s not at the table (meetings)
  o People who don’t use digital/electronic media
Group Discussion Notes

Community Facilities

- 1: Define level of service per facility to help guide and prioritize needs
- 4: Need more police space and regional approach
- 1: Sustainable and stewardship should be in all areas
- 1: Use technology on public side too
- 1: Include libraries specifically
- What have we missed?
  - Technology on citizen side as well
  - Distinguish “facility” from “infrastructure” and define
  - Overhead utilities – put on 1 side of street
  - Should trees be infrastructure?
  - Locate underground utilities in streets not green spaces
  - Ensure cross discussion between silos/depts. i.e. utility/tree/trail
  - Where are shared opportunities with county (parks/trails)
- Remove?
  - Nothing
- Challenges
  - Money
  - Facility space (police)
  - Better chapter layout – user friendly and simple language
  - Vision statement
  - How to intersect and overlay with zoning/permitting/etc. (practices and policies)
  - Tree/canopy benefits to water section

Economic Sustainability

- Need to support local cultural economic development at the same time as tourism development
- There’s opportunity for minority business development but it’s covered well in the chapter
  - More explicitly mentioned
- Particularly for African American tourism
- How are we pursuing larger corporations to provide greater number of jobs
- Opportunity for city/county to work together to bring large companies to the area
- Then look at training workforce for these companies
- Create a more seamless interaction between developers and city (NDS)

Environmental

- Goals 1 and 2
  - Hire expert opinions on improving the environment for the river
  - Incorporate river in urban planning
o Rivanna River should have own chapter in comp plan, focus take off of rivers
o Move to land use Goal 3?
o Work needs to be done for water resources protection program
o Drainage issues
o Concerned about removing tree canopy
o Piping streams that lead to wetlands
o Solar ready construction
o Disconnect between planning and development
o Goals should have clear outcomes
o Tree canopy is being reduced and it’s just being monitored
o Tree canopy should increase
o Vision of tree lined streets, but unable to accomplish due to utilities and streetscape design
o Sites, LEED program, include as reference

- Goal 3
  o 2013 plan was better and stronger for trees 1.4, 1.5, and 1.6, 2.3
  o 1.7 reword to open up tree plantings to increase efforts to provide more tree planting

- Goal 4
  o Not one sided
  o Challenge to find places for trees
  o Not able to change code

**Community Engagement**

- Why are you interested in community engagement?
  o Decisions are made by people who do not reside in the City
  o Low-income residents are outside of the decision-making process
  o Concerns with lack of community engagements – specifically the African American community
  o Learn from mistakes of the past
  o Have a hard time getting people engaged
  o People who do not have electronic media
  o Community engagement is the backbone of effective government
  o Underrepresentation limited to seniors, those with low education
  o Racial justice issues – African American community
  o Characteristics of white supremacy in organizations – lack of community engagement – value process, rushing to product/outcome
  o The need for outreach outside of electronic media – need for grassroots outreach (posters, radio), 101.3 reaches the public in a different way than the government does – input from other sources
o Find ways of being transparent about how development processes happen, to support the learning curve of the community (higher common ground), terminology and lack of information
  o People are not understanding one another

- How do we balance the need and desire with the process that the City is currently under? How do we balance the clock? Deadlines and timelines?
- Community events with working around community and collaboration
  o Everyone is complaining but not working together
  o Having an actual plan with action steps and strategies
  o Collaborative meetings working together towards a solution
  o Creating organizations and systems that lead to empowerment – through media, website, and community events
- Having a dialogue on how we are affected by white supremacy and class
- People who are not heard and are not a part of the process and a product is provided
- Design of the conversation – format that is healthy – creating listening spaces
- There have been a number of comp plan meetings – not everyone can make all of the meetings
- Not every body in government listen to the community – a decision is made
- Underlying issues
- Meetings that feel like formality
- How do we find the tools within the system to provide accountability?
- There is no sense of the overall reason why community engagement
  o How do we create a big common vision so we have a sense of community engagement so everyone is plugged in and updated
- Issue of trust and mutual respect, how do we build resilience and mutual trust?
- How do we get people invested?
- Should know who is the decision-making body and what the roles are (explanation of level of power)
  o IAAP – International Association for Public Participation
    ▪ Community designs the public participation process
    ▪ So we aren’t guessing how to engage people, when to have meetings, etc.
- Should there be more of a private process?
- Important to know who can talk
- ID avenues of communication
- Posters – could be a system of artists developing posters
- Community design center
- Defunding of neighborhood association has led to collapse in communication
- Suggest that community engagement be the first chapter and not the last chapter