

2045 Comprehensive Plan Update Work Session Notes

February 20, 2024

Planning Commission Members: Mike Shepp, President; Wade Louthan, Secretary; Steve Stolipher, County Commission Liaison; Jack Hefestay, and Aaron Howell were present in person. A quorum of the Planning Commission was present for the Work Session.

Staff: Jennifer Brockman, Chief County Planner; Luke Seigfried, County Planner; Michelle Evers, Planning Clerk; were present in person.

Executive Summary

On 2/20/24 the Planning Commission held a work session to discuss the public input from the Mapping Jefferson County's Future public input meeting. The Planning Commission also reviewed the Future Land Use map.

Agenda

1. Jefferson County Development Authority Staff Presentation
 - a. Staff Presentation on JCDA Recommendations
2. Livability Profile
 - a. Planning Commission Requested Information
 - b. Staff Presentation on Input Meeting Results
 - c. Future Land Use Map

Item 1: Community Outreach Preparation

Mr. Seigfried informed Planning Commission that the Jefferson County Development Authority(JCDA) has prepared a list of suggestions for the Goals, Objectives, and Action Items. Due to a scheduling conflict, a representative from the JCDA was not available to present to the Planning Commission at the meeting. Commissioner Shepp asked staff to request the JCDA have a representative attend the next Work Session and explain their suggestions to the Commission.

Item 2: Livability Profile

At the December 2023 Planning Commission meeting staff was asked to gather information regarding serious injury or death resulting from automotive incidents from the Sheriff's office. Staff presented this information and answered questions. Commissioner Hefestay asked staff to reach out to Emergency Services Authority about ambulance response times in the County by area and any drug related fatality information. Commissioner Stolipher suggested reaching out to the director of ESA for heat maps or other data. Commissioner Howell asked staff to retrieve information regarding pedestrian fatalities data and mentioned its importance. Ms. Brockman mentioned that the Hagerstown-Eastern Panhandle Metropolitan Planning Organization director would have this information and staff would reach out to gather this data.

Staff proceeded to present a summary of the comments collected from the Mapping Jefferson County's Future. The full report is included in the packet. Key points included potential pedestrian-bike paths, land use comments, and transportation safety. Planning Commission discussed the comments.

Mr. Seigfried mentioned that many comments were specific to municipalities and staff had organized these comments into reports for the relevant municipalities, being Charles Town, Ranson, and Shepherdstown. Planning Commission agreed with staff and suggested sending the Public Comment reports to the municipalities Planner and Mayor.

Planning Commission asked staff to schedule the fifth and final public input meeting at their discretion in May or June. Prompted by a citizen comment, Planning Commission agreed that a summary of the accomplishments of the Envision Jefferson 2035 would be a good report to include in the 2045 Comprehensive Plan.

These notes were prepared by Luke Seigfried.