



## Roanoke County 200 Plan: 2021 Community Meeting Summary

### Countywide Meetings

#### Meeting: South County Library – Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Attendee Count: 28

#### Meeting: Green Ridge Recreation Center – Thursday, November 18, 2021

Attendee Count: 11

Staff present – Nov. 17:

Planning	Long Range	Transportation	Zoning	Economic Dev.
Philip Thompson Cecelia Monnin	Bailey Howard-DuBois Alex Jones Cecile Newcomb	Megan Cronise Isaac Henry Will Crawford	Becky James	Wade Taylor <b>GSPRT</b> Lindsay Webb

Staff present – Nov. 18:

Planning	Long Range	Transportation	Zoning
Philip Thompson	Bailey Howard-DuBois Alex Jones Cecile Newcomb	Megan Cronise Isaac Henry Will Crawford	Becky James Alyssa Dunbar

## Land Use

#### Meeting Exercise: Place post-it note comments on the map.

1. Where are current issues with land uses?
2. Where are there zoning enforcement issues?
3. What types of development are desired?
4. Where should new development go?
5. Where should redevelopment happen?

#### Meeting Exercise Comments:

North County:

- Do not want the Burton Center built at Poage's Farm because it's too far out. It needs to be in a more central location.
- Incorporate the village concept throughout the County in appropriate places (Mount Pleasant, Glenvar, etc.).
- Preserve trees and vegetation and plant more trees where and whenever possible (during redevelopment or new development).

#### General Comments:

- People at the countywide meetings generally did not show much interest in land use, except the few who commented. There was not a strong common theme, as there were so few comments.
- One person stated that the meeting provided the most information he had received since moving here 2 years ago.



## Community Facilities

### Meeting Exercise: Tell us about the facilities that you use.

Leave a suggestion or comment about issues or needs for community facilities.

### Meeting Exercise Comments:

#### South County:

- 16 citizens came to the meeting specifically to request that the pottery studio at the Brambleton Center needs to reopen like it was prior to COVID-19.
- Pottery classes in the county were always really popular and always are filled with a wait list.
- There needs to be more Roanoke County Parks and Recreation art classes offered in general, including pottery.
- The former Brambleton Center pottery studio space needs to be upgraded as it was small for the large demand.
- There are scholarship opportunities for pottery students in Roanoke County Public Schools.
- Pottery is a community treasure. More funding on equipment, programming, etc.
- Youth should be involved in pottery. The Brambleton Center was one of the only facilities in the region.
- Oak Grove Park needs improvements and clean up – more picnic areas and trails on the neighboring outparcel.
- The current Roanoke County recycling program needs to be picked up more often with more drop off locations.
- Roanoke County needs to accept glass recycling.
- Roanoke County needs to explore curbside recycling pick up.
- No internet in many locations along Yellow Mountain Road and Mayland Road.
- A high quality skate park is needed in Roanoke County. Starkey Park and Walrond Park were options suggested by citizens.

#### North County:

- More recreation centers like Green Ridge (gyms, pools, etc.) around the county, specifically in South County.
- Continue to support major capital project investments including new facilities and major facility renovations/upgrades.
- Better and more landscaping/placemaking elements at Roanoke County facilities, gateways, and street medians.
- More recycling options.

### General Comments:

- The South County meeting was attended by 16 citizens to specifically request pottery be offered again by Roanoke County Parks, Recreation, & Tourism.
- More recycling options have been requested at nearly every single community meeting this Fall.



## Transportation

### Meeting Exercise: What are the transportation needs in this area?

Leave a comment about: Road safety issues, Pedestrian, bicycle and/or transit needs.

### Meeting Exercise Comments:

#### South County:

- Need a guardrail on Route 221 beyond Back Creek school.
- Need bike lanes on Route 221 near Harris bridges.
- Would like more wooded trails in the Cave Spring area and South County in general.
- Put barriers between traffic and bikes on bike lanes, specifically on Route 419.
- Ogden Road needs sidewalks and bike lanes.
- Add bike lanes on secondary roads off Route 419 into neighborhoods.
- Need more sidewalks to connect Branderwood to the South County Library and area parks.
- Pave the Wolf Creek Greenway.
- Provide bike access to Hidden Valley Middle School (put cut in guardrail).
- Make Route 419 bicycle friendly.
- How do you make Route 220 pedestrian accessible? Walmart is an attractor and people who work or shop there walk on the road.
- Add safe access to LewisGale Hospital on Mudlick Road and both sides of Route 419 [this location is in the City of Salem].
- Do not implement the through-cut plans on Route 220.
- Construct an off-road corridor from Route 460 (East County) to Bent Mountain, connecting to the Blue Ridge Parkway Trails. This will spur economic development and make the community healthier.
- Connect the Blue Ridge Parkway to Explore Park and the Roanoke River Greenway.
- Connect the Blue Ridge Parkway Parallel Trail to the Connector Trail at Gum Springs Overlook to Chestnut Ridge Trails.
- Add a wide sidewalk to Garst Mill Road.

#### North County:

- Merge is very tight on I-581 Exit 2 interchange. Improve this interchange.

### General Comments:

#### South County:

- Need more bike lanes throughout County, specifically connecting to greenways.
- Add bike lanes anywhere they are able to be added.
- Construct connectivity corridors to connect subdivisions using utility right-of-way. This would reduce traffic on secondary roadways.
- Include connectivity via alternative transportation in all County plans.



- We want a healthy community. Support funding for Safe Routes to Schools. Encourage passive recreation and transportation (i.e. trails, greenways, and sidewalks).
- Support the use of electric bikes for older residents who would like to be active.
- Village centers should have bicycle and pedestrian connectivity to neighborhoods.
- Include the following in all Community/Town Center Plans: 1) Ability of students to walk or bike to school, 2) Bicycle and pedestrian access to parks, 3) Connect parks to one another by trails.
- All major roads should include safe bicycle access.
- Empower people who cannot drive due to health reasons or age (too young or too old) to walk or bike by adding safe corridors on roads and trails.
- Work with the Blue Ridge Parkway and other organizations to connect natural and green areas.
- Increase tree canopy. "Vitamin N," Vitamin Nature, restores our soul and heals our body, both physically and mentally.

North County:

- Bicycle roll-on service needed on Amtrak.
- Provide bicycle and pedestrian accommodations to schools from nearby neighborhoods.

### Protection and Preservation

Meeting Exercise: Leave a comment about natural and cultural resources on the map. Tell us what this map is missing? What's valuable to you and why? What is impacted or needs improvement?

#### Meeting Exercise Comments:

South County:

- Concerned about flooding on (City) greenways; this is a future maintenance for County greenways as they expand.
- A threat to forests in Roanoke County is the Spotted Lanternfly. Its host is the invasive Tree of Heaven. Public education should be provided early before it becomes a major problem in this area.
- There is flooding on Merriman Road east of the soccer complex. This creates a concern in the winter about ice on the road.
- Protect our natural areas and preserve the forested landscape.

North County:

- I support limited development within commercial areas in order to protect the rural areas of the County and natural resources.
- Enforce panhandling restrictions along major roadways.
- Protect viewsheds along the Blue Ridge Parkway.
- Protect historic resources and recognize the existing historic structures.
- Are bagworms a threat in the County?



- Preserve trees and vegetation and plant more trees where possible.

*Summary Approved: PGT*