

Lancaster 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

March 29, 2022 - 6:00pm

Meeting Summary

Attendance

Steering Committee Members Present: Melvin Stroble, Kim Lineberger, Melissa Thornton, Audrey Currey, Susan DeVenny, Brad Bucy

Steering Committee Members Absent: Britt Blackmon, Brian Hernandez, Mike Neese, Ben Levine, Jon Hardy, Michelle Evans

County Staff Members: Ashley Davis, Rox Burhans

Benchmark Planning Team: Jason Epley, Vagn Hansen, Bridget Callea

Guests: Billy Mosteller, District 3 County Council Member

Welcome

The meeting began at 6:00 with introductions from those in attendance.

Community Survey Update

The community survey was opened on March 11 and will be open for two more weeks (closing on April 11). There have been 1,087 responses to date, which makes it a statistically significant survey. Benchmark asked steering committee members to help spread the word before the closing of the survey so that we can reach as many people as possible.

Planning Area Focus Groups

In addition to the steering committee, the project team will be meeting with three focus area planning groups (Panhandle, Greater Lancaster, and Southern Lancaster). About five meetings will be held with each group throughout the process to get input specific to each planning area. The first set of meetings will be scheduled for March 30th and March 31st.

Listening Sessions Summary

Since the last steering committee meeting, the Benchmark team met with approximately 40 people in small groups on February 10th, 11th, 23rd, and 24th. Staff and consultants identified a variety of groups with various expertise (public works, emergency services, MUSC (hospital), non-profit groups, schools, USC Lancaster, County planning / development, utility providers, parks and recreation, economic development, City of Lancaster, and Town of Van Wyck) to interview about the Plan. Benchmark team members presented the information they learned from these meetings and engaged in conversation with steering committee members about major issues and opportunities for the County. The findings were presented by topic area: public safety, transportation, development interests, healthcare, non-profit / community groups, parks and recreation, education, utilities, count planning / development services, economic development, and municipalities.

Baseline Review Continued

The Benchmark team presented some additional background information as part of the Baseline Review. Specifically, they covered regional population changes, the State's projection for Lancaster County's future population growth, anticipated school capacities, land cover changes, agricultural statistics, and the AARP Livable Index. Much of this content was specifically requested from steering committee members in previous meetings and was meant to answer some pressing questions about how the County compares to its neighbors and other communities.

Next Steering Committee Meeting Date

The next Steering Committee meeting will be Tuesday, April 26th at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the County Administration Building.