

## Establishing a Legacy for our Future!



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This has been a year of surprises, for sure. Who would have thought at the beginning of 2008 that we would have seen all the things that have transpired on the national, international and economic front? But change has happened, and we all await what 2009 will have in store for us – hopefully, an economic recovery!

Our Winston-Salem and Forsyth County community has seen change as well. Many of those changes have been good – others maybe not so good. One thing for sure, however – as the national and regional economy improve, our City and County are well positioned to pick up where things left off!

As we focus on what needs to be done to create jobs and growth opportunities, the community has already put in place many of the key initiatives from the adopted **Legacy Comprehensive Plan** that were designed to help us maintain and even improve one of our key assets – our high quality of life. Here is a summary of what has happened to implement the plan over the last seven years since adoption by the local governments in Forsyth County:

1. A strong focus on the vitality of Downtown and the Center City as the area where business, living, entertainment, arts, research, tourism, meetings, and recreation all come together in a walkable, attractive environment. This has been accomplished through public-private partnerships that have resulted in key public improvements, new construction, and adaptive reuse of historic buildings.



2. The beginning of new mixed-use developments in center city and suburban areas that emphasize live, work and shopping in an interactive, walkable environment.
3. Establishment of a program for creating more detailed area plans for smaller areas covering the entire county, with most of the City and County now covered.

4. Preparing and implementing revitalization plans for distressed urban neighborhoods and deteriorated urban commercial areas.
5. UDO and other development regulation amendments that will greatly assist in re-shaping the physical character of development:
  - Revision of permitted uses and building codes to encourage reuse of buildings downtown for a variety of mutually supportive mixed uses

- A special zoning district encouraging mixed-use developments
- Revised street standards, including provisions for sidewalks and better street connectivity between neighborhoods
- Overhaul of cluster subdivision (PRD) regulations requiring better quality and more functional open space
- New infill development regulations which make new construction and additions in older neighborhoods more compatible with the pattern of existing homes
- Parking regulation changes which reduce required spaces and impervious surfaces, as well as making easier the reuse of older buildings built with less parking
- Overhaul of regulations governing location, design and appearance of big-box retail developments
- Revised on-premise sign regulations which will greatly improve the appearance of major streets through reduced size and height of many free-standing signs
- Creating incentives for farmland preservation through establishment of Voluntary Agricultural Districts and agricultural tourism uses
- Improving environmental protection measures through revised erosion control measures, establishment of stream buffers, stormwater management requirements, and a proposal being considered for enhanced tree planting and preservation
- 6. Greater attention to historic preservation as a key factor in promoting our community character and economic development.

*Continued on back...*

Establishing a Legacy continued...

7. Being proactive with land use planning to designate hundreds of acres of land for new economic development, which allowed for Dell, the Piedmont Triad Research Park, and other industrial and commercial sites.
8. Planning for creation of a more complete transportation system which is more sustainable and resilient to energy costs and

economic stress through successful technologies such as modern streetcars, regional rail and other transit enhancements.

9. Preparing plans which now await funding for an interconnected system of greenways across the City and County, and an enhanced inventory of parks and open spaces to serve the future population.

These are initiatives that not only protect and improve our quality of life, but they also make us even more ready for a substantial level of economic growth in an environment that is at the same time more green!

Best wishes for a better 2009 in a community that is better prepared for the future!



## Alphabet Soup

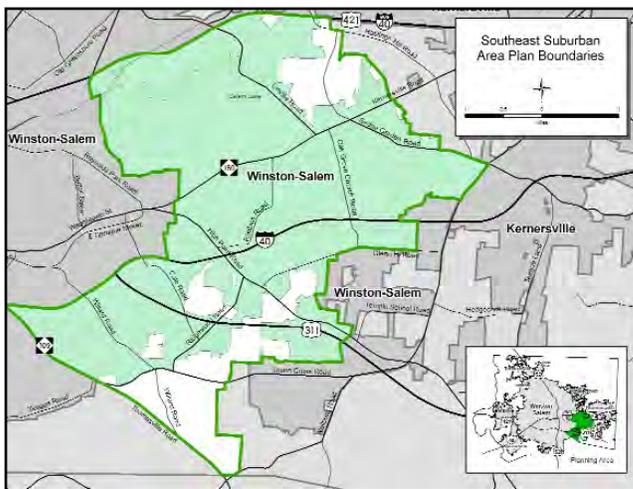
Transportation planners love their acronyms, and they have six of them in need of your feedback, starting with the LRTP (Long Range Transportation Plan), which looks at the need for streets and highways, bike lanes, sidewalks and public transportation, and more through 2035.

Also in need of feedback are drafts of the AQCDR (Air Quality Conformity Determination Report), the EJP (Environmental Justice Plan), the CMP (Congestion Management Processes) plan, portions of the CTP (Comprehensive Transportation Plan) and the Needs List of priority projects for the MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) of the Winston-Salem Urban Area.

The 2035 LRTP was developed based on the goals and recommendations of the land use and transportation plans of communities in the Winston-Salem area, which includes the *Legacy Comprehensive Plan*, and was drafted by staff of the Winston-Salem Urban MPO in consultation with staff from other MPOs in the Triad and PART (Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation).

In early January, the CCPB (City-County Planning Board) will review and then consider endorsement of the Goals and Objectives of the plan. Following that, in late January 2009, the MPO's TAC (Transportation Advisory Committee), which includes representatives from the fifteen member governments and the North Carolina Board of Transportation, will consider adoption of all components of the LRTP.

Drafts of the 2035 LRTP are available online at [dot.cityofws.org](http://dot.cityofws.org), and printed copies are available for review at CCPB, WSDOT (Winston-Salem Department of Transportation), and at all town halls and public libraries in the urban area. The public comment period runs through January 12, 2009.



### Southeast Suburban Area Plan Vision Meeting

Thursday, January 15, 2009

6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Sedge Garden Recreation Center • 401 Robbins Road • Winston-Salem 27107

For more details visit our web site:

[www.cityofws.org/planning](http://www.cityofws.org/planning)

### Want more information?

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The City-County Planning newsletter is produced and written by Planning staff in order to spread the word on the variety of things that we do and all the people we work with. If you have comments or questions, please contact us by phone or by email, [GLYNISJ@cityofws.org](mailto:GLYNISJ@cityofws.org).

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