



2012 – A Year of Planning for the Future



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Director of Planning

2012 proved to be a very productive year from a community planning perspective – a year that will hopefully position us well for the growth that will come in a better economy.

First and foremost in planning events of significance, the *Legacy 2030 Update* was completed and adopted unanimously by both the Winston-Salem City Council and the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners. This update to the original *Legacy Plan* adopted in 2001 will extend the forward look of our comprehensive plan to 2030, with a population increase by that time of 120,000 residents and an additional 66,000 jobs. To be ready for this growth and maximize the beneficial effects of it, our community needs to make the best use of its limited resources to encourage a diverse range of living choices that will meet the needs of an increasingly diverse mixture of households.

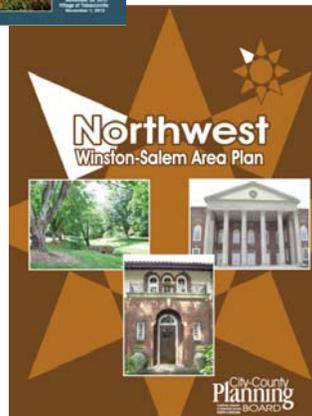
The Planning Board and staff received valuable input that helped guide the writing of the update from over 450 citizens who attended community meetings in person on the *Legacy Update*, as well as hundreds of others who commented at our www.legacy2030.com website, and thousands of others who visited the

As we hope for better times economically in 2013, I thought it might be useful to reflect on the year just past.

website. The efforts to involve the public throughout the process in some creative ways were recognized this past fall by the NC Chapter of the American Planning Association with their Outstanding Planning Award for Innovations in Public Outreach.



The *Legacy Update* will now move into the implementation stage over the next several years, as the many recommendations contained within it are further studied and considered.



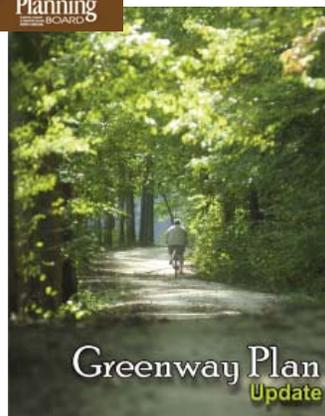
Other planning efforts in 2012 complement the *Legacy Update*, but in more specific ways.

The *Northwest Area Plan* and the *West Suburban Area Plan* were completed and adopted by the City Council and/or the County Commissioners, as appropriate. Also, work began on two updates to existing area plans that

needed revisiting – the *Downtown Plan* and the *Tobaccoville Area Plan*. Area plans help provide more specific detailed recommendations concerning growth and development in these areas than a countywide plan can feasibly cover – plus, they allow for even more “hands-on” participation by residents and land owners in the area.

An update to the 2002 City-County *Greenway Plan* was completed and adopted in 2012. This update provides more guidance on priorities for future greenway segments, with those priorities selected based on construction feasibility, potential for connectedness to additional destinations, and the level of support from residents of the area. The *Greenway Plan Update* also had many opportunities for public input before it was completed and adopted.

Among the many historic preservation initiatives of 2012 were the publication and effective date of the revised guidelines for the Old Salem and Bethabara Local Historic Districts; the conducting of a variety of activities in May during Historic Preservation Month; the completion of two significant studies on the Bethania Freedmen’s Community and Forsyth County’s Agricultural Heritage; and the placement of three local historic markers.



Community appearance initiatives were highlighted by the biennial Appearance Awards program in the spring, and a very successful Community Roots Day in the New Walkertown and Waterworks Road areas in the fall.

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In cooperation with the City and County's emergency service providers, staff completed work this year on a unified City-County approach to street naming and addressing. This will enable a rational and predictable system of naming and addressing that will assist residents and businesses in finding addresses, but most importantly, will help emergency responders in getting as quickly as possible to locations to which they are called. The ordinance codifying these standards has been adopted by the

City Council, and is currently pending review and adoption by the elected bodies of the County and the small towns.

Other studies and plans will help Forsyth County prepare for the future. A study was done on the County-owned potential sites for the new Central Library. Planning staff also prepared a master plan for the future enhancement of Horizons Park in the northeastern portion of the county. Also, Planning staff completed a report and recommendations for the Northeastern Rural Area, which complements the study requested by the County

Commissioners a year earlier for the Western Rural Area of the County.

All this planning activity should serve the city and county well into the future as the economy improves and growth and development begin to pick up again. Being ready for growth – while preserving the attributes that make our community special – is the mark of a community that can take full advantage of the opportunities that the future will bring. Let's look for some good things to happen here in 2013! Happy New Year!

– Paul Norby

Area Plan Update Process Underway for Three Area Plans

City-County Planning staff has been busy working on three different area plan updates recently: The *Downtown Winston-Salem Plan*, the *Tobaccoville Area Plan*, and the *Southeast Forsyth County Plan*. These plans will be the first in a countywide series of updated area plans intended to reflect the principles of the recently adopted *Legacy 2030 Comprehensive Plan*.

The *Downtown Winston-Salem Plan* has been under development for the past year and a half, and is nearing completion. Two public comment meetings were held this November where a draft plan was presented to citizens. Comments from these meetings have been incorporated into the draft plan, which will likely be

presented to the Planning Board at its January 24 work session. A Planning Board public hearing on the plan is anticipated to be held in February with elected body adoption following in the spring.

The *Tobaccoville Area Plan* is also entering its final stage of development. Three public meetings on the plan were held this fall, and a draft document has been developed. This draft will be presented at a fourth community meeting on January 8 from 6-8 p.m. at the Village of Tobaccoville recreation center. If the plan's recommendations receive citizen support at this meeting, the plan will be presented at the January 24 Planning

Board work session, with a February Planning Board hearing. Adoption by the Forsyth County Commissioners is expected in the spring.

The *Southeast Forsyth County Plan* will start its public participation phase with a plan kickoff meeting on January 15. This meeting will be from 6-8 p.m. at Union Cross Elementary School on High Point Road. Citizens who live or work in the area are invited to come out and share their thoughts on what should change as we prepare to update the existing nearly ten-year-old *Southeast Forsyth County Plan*. Public meetings to further develop the plan are anticipated in February, March, and April of 2013.



Want more information?

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