

Meeting Summary – Public Meeting #2 ▼

Summary

Recommendations from the Town Plan were shared to develop transportation, land use, economic development and recreation priorities. Approximately 40 persons attended the meeting and gave feedback. A formal presentation on the plan was given in the beginning of the workshop and the remainder of the meeting was open house format for attendees to engage with materials and give feedback on information from the plan at 6 Stations. The meeting was advertised in both English and Spanish. Specific outreach was performed to engage churches and community leaders. Laptops and paper copies of the survey were provided for participants at the meeting to take the plan survey.

▼ Meeting Date

Date: Tuesday February 19th
Time: 6:00PM – 8:00 PM
Location: Smithfield Fire Department

▼ Station 1: Vision and Goals

- Participants liked the following Ham and Yam Festival “Smithfield Needs...” images
 - Coffee Shops
 - More greenways
 - Local Restaurants
 - YMCA
 - Historic Preservation
 - People getting along
 - More things for young adults to do
- Comments on draft Vision statements
 - Vision Statement #1
 - Need to clarify what our character actually is
 - Need connections everywhere, not just to the river
 - Highlight our position relative to Johnston County and the Triangle
 - Inclusive- need to emphasize that
 - Vision Statement #2
 - Slight preference, I more vote than #1
 - Balance of growth and reinvestment, not balanced growth
 - Consider legacy, preservation or repurposing instead of reinvestment
 - Ideally want a proportion of 20% growth and 80% maintenance
 - Tiny house community!
- Comments on Plan Goals
 - Balanced Growth- need more trees, and green in the form of landscaping and nature
 - Vibrant Downtown- Need parking downtown- perhaps a deck, but only if it has commercial on ground floor and preferably upper floor uses

- Healthy Neighborhoods- several people remarked that rentals need to be better maintained, and code enforcement used more often
- Community Character- strike “maybe (just maybe)”- it doesn’t sound positive

▼ Station 2: Move and Connect

→ Comments on draft Roadway Recommendation maps and boards:

- Roadway Recommendations
 - Potential for 3rd Street to become one-way with angled street parking
 - E Market Street northwest of I 95, use a phased approach; Phase 1: Access management, Phase 2: Widening
 - Modernize NC 210 and Galilee Road to create a loop around Smithfield that connects into S Brightleaf Boulevard
 - Modernize Old Goldsboro Road
 - US 301 near Lee Street is a floodway
 - Add commuter rail with a platform station at Wilson’s Mills
- Outlet Center Drive Roundabout
 - Leave the roundabout as is- people are just getting used to it
 - Ensure people cannot enter Outlet Center Drive to US 70 from the ramp
 - Clear the trees to open sight lines
 - Signage instructing drivers of U-turn availability 500-feet ahead would be a cheap near-term solution to increase safety at Outlet Center Drive.
 - Consider deterrents for wrong-way travel in the proposed roundabout configuration
 - The section of Outlet Center Drive with turnouts is the problem
 - People go quickly across US 70 to Outlet Center Drive
 - Consider leaving median except in the roundabout
- Context Areas
 - There were no comments regarding the proposed context areas. The public was generally pleased with the recommendations
- Pedestrian Priority Areas
 - Associate a specific way to make greenways and pedestrian routes more appealing
- Downtown Transportation
 - Reroute truck traffic away from Market Street
 - Enforce the parking ordinance
 - Turn 3rd Street into a one-way
 - Add a wrapped parking deck with commercial on the first floor with upper floor residential
 - Several locations were suggested for potential parking decks including the corner of E Johnston Street and S 3rd Street, as well as the block of E Market Street between N Second Street and N Third Street

▼ Station 3: Land Use and Balanced Growth

→ Comments at land use station on maps and boards:

- Downtown
 - Allow Bed & Breakfasts in the historic area
 - Incentives for upstairs residential Downtown
 - Allow left turns on 3rd Street from Market Street

- Reroute truck around Downtown
- Allow accessory dwelling units in Smithfield
 - Require hookup to electric, water, sewer
- Bring back community garden
- Consider a tiny house neighborhood! | No tiny houses!
- East Smithfield
 - Bad drainage on Old Goldsboro Road
 - Improve road and fix stormwater issues in Pine Acres subdivision
 - Things for kids to do on east side of town are needed
 - Sidewalks to and from Pine Acres needed
 - Belmont Community Center/gym is an asset on the east side
 - History of neighborhood is important (old high school)
 - Gym being renamed to Coach Reginald Ennis Pavilion
- Land Use Map / Board
 - Show Talton Park as Conservation and Open Space
 - Also show cemeteries in North Smithfield historic area as Open Space
 - Move post office to west Smithfield
 - Show future jail/courthouse on east side of I-95 in NW quadrant of Yelverton Grove Road and US 70 Business
 - Protect residential neighborhoods from commercial encroachment (we agree!)

▼ Station 4: Healthy Neighborhoods and Community Character

→ Comments on Greenways

- Agree with MST/Neuse River Greenway extensions for our running club!
- Add downtown walking routes with distance and times with historic markers/features; could be audio/interactive and gps enabled
- Need destinations, including restaurants or places to get food closer to the trail
- Make the alignment north of Talton Park follow the river out of downtown, create a loop with the Aquatic Center trails and existing Neuse Riverwalk
- We need ideas for what to do with land in the floodplain along the greenway, especially the area across the river from the Neuse Theater
- Link the Greenway to the school off Galilee Rd
- Like the loop idea
- Extend the Greenway south to Holts Lake, link recreation opportunities

→ Comments on Park Search Areas

- Within the park search areas, and near downtown, is there a way to add a flat downtown gathering space? For outdoor concerts, town farmer's markets, etc? Think Clayton or Knightdale Station Park
- Agree with the park search area off NC Hwy 210 to the east of downtown. This is an expansion area for the town.
- Agree with park search area just east of Downtown, on the other side of the river from the Riverwalk. Especially if it enhances the appearance as you approach on Highway 70. Currently it looks worn down and is not a good gateway

▼ Station 5: Survey and Comment Forms

→ Summary of Comments:

- Divert trucks around downtown US 70
- Community gardens to be reviewed
- Tiny house approval for alternative housing
- Commercial house sharing for seniors
- I love the word “inclusive” for our vision and when forming our goals. It shows we are a welcoming community with a variety of residents!