

Chapter 10:

Implementation

Design updated June 2016

1.0 Introduction

The purpose of this section is to identify specific actions, that can be taken to implement the goals and objectives of the plan over a five-year segment of the planning period. The plan proposes controlled and managed growth tied to the availability and sufficiency of public facilities and services.

As the needs of an increasingly older population shift towards reliance upon proximity to community facilities, and the demands of new residents shift towards additional services, the efficiency of providing these services becomes more important. All of these factors contribute to the importance of directing growth to where it can be most efficiently served, which supports the policy of concerning new development mainly in and around the towns and in the unincorporated places that are served by public facilities.

To fully implement this plan will continue to require political resolve and a substantial commitment of personnel and financial resources. In addition, it will require close coordination and cooperation among personnel at the State, County, Town, and Sanitary District levels. Progress made toward implementing the actions proposed in this section will be reviewed annually by a committee formally constituted by the Board of Supervisors.

2.0 Specific Implementation Actions and Responsibility

2.1 Natural Resources

Action: Develop a county-wide stormwater management plan, coordinate with towns' stormwater management plans, and prepare a budget to implement the plan.

Responsibility: Director of Planning & Code Enforcement, 2005-2006

Action: Develop an ordinance requiring pump outs of septic systems at intervals determined by the County.

Responsibility: Director of Planning & Code Enforcement, Health Department, 2006.

Action: Develop a sinkhole ordinance to identify and protect sinkholes from accumulating groundwater contaminants.

Responsibility: Director of Planning & Code Enforcement, 2007

Action: Aggressively pursue expansion of Best Management Practices in riparian areas. Increase number of miles of stream bank protection by 10% per years, 2006-2010

Responsibility: Natural Resources Conservation Service, Lord Fairfax Soil &

Water Conservation District, County Administrator.

Action: Support the Regional Water Resources Policy Committee by participating in funding the committee's work. This committee is in the process of preparing a Water Resources Strategic Plan for the Shenandoah River watershed.

Responsibility: Board of Supervisors 2005

2.2 Land Use Controls and Residential Development

Action: Develop an Open Space Development ordinance to replace the existing subdivision ordinance. Open Space Development would apply to any parcel rezoned RR-A or RR-C. A minimum of 70% of the subdivision acreage would be open space in perpetual easement. Minimum lot size, taking into account road requirements, would be .75 acres for RR-A and 2.75 acres for RR-C.

Responsibility: Director of Planning & Code Enforcement, Zoning Administrator, 2005

Action: Establish a system providing a reasonable basis for rezoning proffers inside and outside the public services areas.

Responsibility: County Administrator 2005

Action: Develop a specific package of incentives to encourage the inclusion of affordable housing in new development planning.

Responsibility: Director of Planning & Code Enforcement, Zoning Administrator, 2005

Action: Develop special ordinances/overlay districts to protect sensitive land and water resources from potential pollution and to preserve battlefields and other historic, scenic, and cultural resources.

Responsibility: Director of Planning & Code Enforcement, Zoning Administrator, 2006

Action: Convene an ad hoc advisory committee to study the merits of the purchase of development rights (PDR) as a means of permanently preserving agricultural land in the county. PDR is a recognized tool for protecting rural areas but has been little used in the Commonwealth. Determining what parcels of land are worthy of this designation and how such purchases would be paid for a key issues to be addressed.

Responsibility: Board of Supervisors, 2005

Action: On a detailed map of the county, identify those areas such as wetlands, sinkholes, etc. which are unsuitable for future development. Post to the Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

Responsibility: Director of Planning & Code Enforcement, 2005.

2.3 Economic Development and Tourism

Action: Working with local farmers, agricultural organizations, and agriculturally related businesses, develop a set of economic development strategies in relation to agriculture.

Responsibility: Director of Economic Development, 2005-2006.

Action: Working with local chambers of commerce, electric power companies, telecommunications companies, health service providers, the Superintendent of Schools, VDOT, the taxing authority, the Director of plans, and others as appropriate, develop a strategy for maximizing the “climate” for attracting new business and industries of the type described in the next paragraph.

Responsibility: Director of Economic Development, 2005-2006

Action: Hire a consulting firm of national stature to assist the county in finding and recruiting companies that pay significantly higher wages/salaries, are environmentally clean, and have a research, engineering, technology, or knowledge base component.

Responsibility: Director of Economic Development, 2005-2006

Action: In keeping with the view that such companies value academic excellence in their employees and future employees, commit to enhancing the academic excellence in the county’s high schools, particularly with respect to those who aspire to a four-year college education. Specifically, appropriate from local resources 5% more per years, over and above other increases, for each of the next 5 years for school operating expenses. This 5% per year increases should be earmarked for improvements in education equality.

Responsibility: School Board and Board of Supervisors, 2006

Action: Utilize the additional operating funds to achieve the following goals by 2010:

Pupil/teaching position ratios, grades 8-12: reduce from 14.4 to 11.

Percent of students taking SATs: increase from 46 to 65.

Average SAT scores: increases, for each of the next 5 years for school operating

Percent of students going on to 4 year colleges: increase from 34 to 40

Percent of teachers with relevant master’s degrees: increase to 50.

Responsibility: School Board & Superintendent of Schools

Action: To enhance role of Tourism as an engine for economic prosperity: Form a county-wide Chamber of Commerce

Responsibility: County Administrator; Town Chambers 2006

Action: Develop plans for all full-service County Tourism and Information Center, to become operational by 2012. Plans to be ready by 2009.

Responsibility: Director of Tourism

Action: Identify specific scenic vistas throughout the county, erect appropriate roadside markers, and promote procedures for protecting, insofar as possible, those vistas from encroachment.

Responsibility: Director of Tourism, Director of Planning & Code Enforcement 2007

Action: Explore with the Virginia Employment Commission the possibility of establishing a satellite office in Shenandoah County similar to that of the Social Security Administration. Such an office should list local job opportunities, not just regional ones.

Responsibility: Director of Economic Development 2005

2.4 Community Facilities

Action: Explore ways of making full utilization of classroom space before embarking on a new school building program.

Responsibility: School Board 2005 and following.

Action: Upgrade the county jail, public safety, and court facilities.

Responsibility: Board of Supervisors & Sheriff's Department, 2005-2006

Action: Act on one of the 3 options for renovating the Edinburg School as a cultural arts center, the cost of renovation to be borne primarily by private funding.

Responsibility: Board of Supervisors 2005

Action: Update and then fund and implement the Master Indoor/Outdoor Recreation Plan

Responsibility: Department of Parks and Recreation 2005 and Board of Supervisors 2006-2010

Action: Promote the concept of privately funded or private sector/Shenandoah Memorial Hospital partnership to create a county-wide wellness center by 2010.

Responsibility: Department of Parks & Recreation starting in 2006

Action: Commission a study to determine the optimum use of the North Fork Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Responsibility: North Fork Wastewater Treatment Authority 2005

2.5 Transportation

Action: Implement the recommendations of the Old Valley Pike Corridor Plan; create a corridor overlay district; encourage VDOT to implement safety improvements at dangerous locations; and apply access management criteria along the corridor.

Responsibility: Director of Planning & Code Enforcement 2005

Action: Review and revise as necessary the subdivision ordinance to provide appropriate design for streets and facilities and provision for pedestrian and bicycle travel in new developments.

Responsibility: Director of Planning & Code Enforcement 2005

Action: Commission a professional study to develop a transportation plan through 2025, to include; Safety and volume improvements in the primary and secondary road network; An I-81 interchange north of Woodstock; Future needs for public transportation, e.g., bus service; Protection of scenic, battlefield, and historic resource; and Provisions for pedestrian and bicycle travel.

Responsibility: Director of Planning & Code Enforcement

Action: The proposed widening of I-81 (to at least 4 lanes in each direction) could have severe adverse economic, environmental, historical, and quality of life consequences for the Valley. The County, through the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission, should work to have all jurisdictions along the I-81 Corridor petition the Governor and the General Assembly to explore all strategic alternatives to widening I-81 in this fashion. Other alternatives should include a regional high speed rail line, and safety improvements to the existing interstate. The County should remain engaged on this subject until it is resolved.

Responsibility: Board of Supervisors and County Administrator – 2005 and following.

2.6 Administration

Action: Establish a permanent Citizens Advisory Committee on the Comprehensive Plan. The committee will support the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission and will function under the direction of the Director of Planning and Code Enforcement. It will propose updates and revisions to the Plan as they are needed. On an annual basis the committee will review the actions of the previous 12 months and report its finding to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

Responsibility: Board of Supervisors 2005

Action: In the staff reports accompanying relevant Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors agenda items, indicate whether or not the proposed action conforms to the Comprehensive Plan.

Responsibility: Director of Planning and Code Enforcement, 2005 and following

Action: Form a permanent joint council composed of town managers and the county administrator, such council to meet on a regularly scheduled basis and with a jointly agreed upon agenda.

Responsibility: Board of Supervisors 2005

Action: Make planning staff additions appropriate to be expanding planning needs of the county.

Responsibility: Board of Supervisors 2005