



**TOPICAL AREA OUTREACH: PART #3**  
**(COMMUNITY FACILITIES, TRANSPORTATION + ENVIRONMENT/RESILIENCY)**  
**Overview + Summary of Feedback: July 2023**

**OVERVIEW**

The Comprehensive Plan addresses a variety of different topics. As part of the Envision Hanover planning process, preliminary recommendations related to Community Facilities, Transportation, and Environment/Resiliency were presented to the public in July 2023, allowing stakeholders to provide feedback prior to compilation of a full draft plan.

Stakeholders were invited to provide feedback in a variety of ways:

- Attend in-person meetings (where participants could listen to a presentation and then visit stations addressing the different topical areas);
- Participate in a webinar; and/or
- Attend a “Stop and Chat” event (where participants could ask the project team questions at informal office hours held at a library).

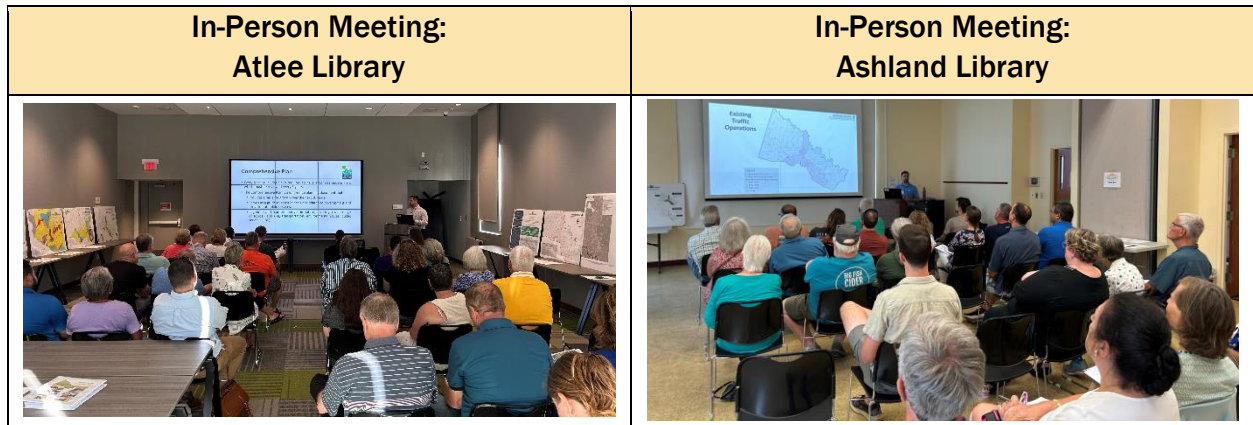
The project team not only introduced preliminary recommendations related to the three primary topic areas (Community Facilities, Transportation, and Environment/Resiliency), but provided an overview of recommendations related to previously-discussed topic areas (Land Use, Economic Vitality, History + Culture, Active Living, Housing, and Rural/Agricultural).

Documents presented at these meetings were posted on the Envision Hanover website for public review.

**Topical Area Outreach: Part #3  
(Community Facilities, Transportation + Environment/Resiliency)**

Date	Location	Event Type	Number of Participants
Monday, July 10, 2023 (12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.)	Webinar	Webinar	10
Monday, July 10, 2023 (6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.)	Rockville Library	In-Person Meeting	12
Tuesday, July 11, 2023 (6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.)	Atlee Library	In-Person Meeting	33
Thursday, July 13, 2023 (6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.)	Mechanicsville Library	In-Person Meeting	17
Monday, July 17, 2023 (6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.)	Ashland Library	In-Person Meeting	29
Tuesday, July 18, 2023 (3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.)	Atlee Library	Stop and Chat Event	8
<b>Total Event Participants</b>			<b>109</b>

\*A recording of the webinar was posted on Hanover County's YouTube page. There have been 20 views (as of July 19, 2023).



These events were promoted in a variety of ways:

- Posting on the Project Website
- Social Media Posts
- Mass Emails via Envision Hanover Contact List
- Articles in County Email Blasts
- Contributed Report/Article in the *Mechanicsville Local*
- Presentations to the Community Participation Team and Board of Supervisors

## FEEDBACK RECEIVED

Participants provided verbal feedback to members of the project team at the in-person meetings, while others submitted written comments in a variety of different ways. Verbal comments received at each meeting are summarized below, as well as the written comments submitted through July 19, 2023. About 10 written responses/comments were submitted.

Below is a summary of comments received regarding different concepts and ideas related to all of the topic areas discussed. This feedback is from written comments submitted at the events, written comments submitted outside of the events (including via email and through the project website), and through discussions between members of the project team and participants.

### *Community Facilities*

- There is interest in having additional parks and recreation facilities, with the following feedback received:
  - There is interest in having neighborhood parks with different amenities, especially within suburban areas.
  - There is interest in having additional athletic fields (including artificial turf fields), especially within suburban areas.
  - One participant expressed interest in purchasing extremely large tracts of land (500 acres or more) for large-scale parks that could offer amenities infeasible on smaller tracts, such as shooting ranges.
  - Some participants wanted greater specificity within the Comprehensive Plan regarding the location of future parks and recreational facilities (instead of waiting until the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is complete).
- One participant recommended that Henry-Clay Elementary School be used for a trade school.
- One participant recommended that libraries have a section for adults only.
- One participant expressed concerns regarding the proposed relocation of Bell Creek Middle School/Mechanicsville High School and impacts the proposed schools could have on Pole Green Road.

### *Transportation*

- Several participants expressed concerns regarding the proposed Woodside Lane Parallel Road (a newly-proposed concept road west of Woodside Lane), citing concerns regarding negative impacts to Washington Lacy Park, potential negative impacts to residents along Jamestown Road, and the cost of the project relative to its positive impacts on the County's transportation network.
- Some participants expressed concerns regarding the designation of Goddins Hill Road/Mount Hermon Road as a *focus corridor*.

- Some participants had interest in high-speed rail, with one participant commenting it could help relieve congestion on Interstate 95.
- One participant requested that transit and/or commuter buses be considered as a way to help relieve traffic congestion.
- Some participants expressed concerns regarding the impacts new development within adjacent localities could have on local roadways, including the following:
  - Amazon Distribution Center in Henrico County and impacts to Meadowbridge Road.
  - Redevelopment of Virginia Center Commons in Henrico County.
  - Impacts additional development within King William County could have on the local transportation network.
- One participant commented that grade-separated railroad crossings are needed to improve safety and reduce congestion (Example: Ashcake Road/Railroad Crossing near the Town of Ashland/Hanover County Boundary).
- Some participants indicated that no development (or limited development) should occur, so that there would be less additional traffic impacting local roadways.

#### *Environment/Resiliency*

- One participant indicated that recommendations regarding environmental protection should be stronger (use the word *required* versus *encouraged*).
- Several participants expressed concern regarding solar energy facilities (solar farms), with some participants indicating that those types of facilities should be banned altogether.
- Several participants indicated that solar energy facilities should be located on existing buildings and/or over parking lots.
- Some participants expressed concern regarding potential impacts solar energy facilities could have on water quality.
- Some participants are interested in encouraging LEED certification and other energy-efficiency measures.
- One participant expressed concern regarding invasive species and impacts on rural landscapes.

#### *Active Living (Pedestrian/Bicycle Mobility)*

- Some participants expressed opposition to Old Telegraph Road being designated as part of the *pedestrian/bicycle spine network*, recommending that Lakeridge Parkway be part of that network instead.
- One participant expressed interest in shifting U.S. Bicycle Route 76 to Rural Point Road or another roadway that is less congested than Atlee Road, Atlee Station Road, and Sliding Hill Road.

### *Land Use*

- One impacted landowner expressed opposition to the proposed *Suburban Transitional Residential* land use designation applied along the south side of Ashcake Road/Ashland Road, requesting that the area remain designated *Suburban Neighborhood Residential*.
- One participant indicated that higher-density residential development should not be recommended along Shady Grove Road south of Meadowbridge Road.
- Some participants want to limit the number of new homes built each year.
- Some participants expressed concerns regarding the residential component that can be incorporated into development within the *Employment Center* land use designation, as that land use designation recommends that no more than 30% of a development be dedicated for residential uses.

### *Housing*

- Some participants indicated that affordable housing is an issue, and that additional tools are need to provide and/or require affordable housing.

### *Rural*

- Some participants recommended that the County further promote and advertise different tools and resources that are available to landowners interested in conserving their properties.
- One participant expressed concern regarding recommended buffers along rural roadways.

### *Historic and Cultural Resources*

- One participant expressed concern regarding a by-right development within the A-1 zoning district on Rural Point Road, which was constructed on a battlefield site without review by the Historical Commission.

### *Economic Vitality*

- Some participants expressed opposition to the proposed Economic Development Zone (EDZ) between Ashland and Doswell along Interstate 95.

### *General*

- One participant expressed concern that the Comprehensive Plan Update process is too fast.
- One participant expressed interest in continuing to discuss and promote the Comprehensive Plan after adoption, raising awareness regarding its role and importance in decision making.