

Written Comments from Forward 2045 Public Meetings

A big affordability issue is energy bills. That will get worse soon as Duke Energy raises rates. So, city/county should put up a robust effort to help people with lower and moderate incomes to take advantage of the vast federal support that now exists for weatherization and electrification of buildings.

Public/ affordable housing that uses public funds should be held to a higher energy-efficiency standard than NC building code – Also, publicly funded housing should not have natural gas infrastructure. This does not alter codes but uses power of the purse to nudge things in a positive direction.

For land that can't or won't be built on, city/county should prioritize wildlife habitat appropriate to the piece of land. This could be, for example, lots acquired through FEMA funding after being condemned, or open spaces at water treatment sites that really do not need to be mowed, or even public parks in areas not developed for play or foot traffic.

Regarding housing vs. land preservation, we need to diversify even if the NIMBY's (not in my back yard) throw a fit.

We need light rail. We should be able to board a train out of town.

Maybe the stores, retail, doctor offices being built near neighborhoods should be at the price range of those who live there. Ex) putting a whole foods in East Winston. Yes, it helps with healthy food, but no one can afford it.

The question about ride share may be confusing to some folks. In WS, maybe the best way to use a system like that would be as a compliment to a bus system that has fewer routes, but higher frequency.

In the downtown area, we should reduce on-street parking and raise prices, but couple with a frequent shuttle service that serves parking ramps and retail areas.

Install way more roundabouts.

US 52 downtown is a disaster, make it twice as wide.

I loved this [public meeting] opportunity. It is very beneficial to talk face-to-face with city staff. However, it was missing the opportunity to talk face-to-face with people that have different perspectives. Reading posit-it notes left by others only had a marginal substitute. Need to advertise. Michele's email had the best (LARGE) graphics I have seen. Too many people have no clue how important this is. Many are jaded by the nebulous comprehensive plan bridging over to Forward 45. Inconsistency at PB meetings justify votes.

Strongly support the exploration of micro-transit! At least do a pilot; research the experience of Wilson NC with the Via system. Micro-transit creates more job opportunities (more drivers, mechanics, etc.) Emphasize electric vehicles in transit including micro transit. Sell or lease our existing bus fleet (WSTA) to local larger employers or sell to other private/public groups elsewhere.

I would support any and all attempt to make housing livable and affordable for those who make less than \$100,000. Whether grant, nonprofits, or legislation. Something has to give for those people. I'll pay more taxes!

I work at the local trauma center; I am completely shocked by the gun violence. I have traveled all across the country as a nurse and have never seen it like I have here. It breaks my heart to have so many kids involved. How do we solve this problem? The state of this country limits actions on guns. With everything, I think education is the key. What can we do for our kids in this country to keep them away from weapons? Are we in schools teaching? Are we reaching young people? Thanks for everything!

Among the housing issues, we must consider the needs of senior citizens, especially single people with little income and no family. Seniors need smaller places in safe neighborhoods with access to grocery stores, doctors, etc. The homes need to be built with their physical needs in mind. Also, low income mentally and physically handicapped people need housing. The situation at Crystal Towers should be a wakeup call for someone. If Crystal Towers is closed for

renovations/rebuild, over 200 people have nowhere to go. As we get older, more of us will have mobility issues and little money for housing.

It would have been great to have examples of the economic development ideas you are looking at.

Please for the love of god more separated bike lanes. Paint is NOT infrastructure. The current state of bike lanes is not safe.

The way the questions were asked in the panel “residential zoning change options” unfairly prejudiced the 1st and 2nd option by listing a negative impact. While there were no negative options listed on the “blue” options.

Intentional inclusion of community gardens with planning for multi-residential units would be more appealing and contribute towards additional amenities to attract and retain citizens.

Much better sidewalk maintenance needs to happen – what we have is ok it just needs to be maintained. Sidewalks need to be cleared of vegetation, trash, vehicles. Zoning and inspections and police need to enforce laws and regulations.

Zoning changes (allowing quadplexes) should allow the market to handle rising cost of housing. There are too many major streets with no sidewalks and/or poor or non-existent pedestrian signals/safety. This should have been taken care of decades ago.

There is concrete damaged on a bridge on first street after the northwest Ave. intersection but before Citadel. It has been that way for several years. It would be nice to see it fixed. Thank you

More affordable options (\$700-800 a month everything included except cable and phone) in better areas for seniors. More affordable options for disabled seniors off old Greensboro Rd. down Barbara Lane Avenue. Do not build more homes into back of cemetery. Not a police patrolled area on a night basis at Emmanuel village homes.. And no professional maintenance man.

Access and mobility is my top priority in the plan. Need to expand network of sidewalks, bus routes + bike lanes. In particular I want to voice support for expanding sidewalks and buses along Thomasville Road/ Highway 109. Sidewalks stop south of I-40 yet I see people walk/scooter/bike along this stretch of road all the time (including on my way to this meeting). There is clearly a demand for non-car methods of transit along this road yet it is super dangerous currently with how high the speed limit is along highway 109.

More urban or remodeling older homes. Help from grants. US to NC urban renewal to repair failing homes in 27105, 27106 area so won't seem like unkept areas. We need immediate clean storm drain continuing in the 27105 zip code overall. Every 2 months clean out gunk.

I don't like deeming available land as underdeveloped land. Ex: Timberland/forests have uses economically, culturally, socially and quality of life.

Too many new people coming to Forsyth. I have no desire to "grow" Forsyth. Keep it small and simple. Don't use local tax funds to support businesses.

If incentives can be built into "economic development" efforts that prioritize local women, minority, veteran owned businesses, the efforts will have a multiplier effect.

Safety improvements in built environments. I agree with improving the aesthetics of blighted areas and reusing vacant and underutilized buildings if and only if the improvements do not displace community members.

Money needs to be spent on city infrastructure, specifically regarding street signage and pedestrian lighting upgrades. All the older mercury + sodium vapor lamps should be replaced/upgraded to brighter LEDs for safety reasons. This not only is true for neighborhoods but around downtown. Every entrance into the city gives an impression of neglect and poor management.

Some type of rail transit has to be a part of any regional plan here. Building more roads is unsustainable, too expensive, and not economically friendly.

I would love to see parking lots covered, with solar panels on top – it would be easy to provide electric car chargers.

Increased # of handicap parking spaces from current state mandates as baby boomers age.

Bike + pedestrian infrastructure are BOTH essential.

Encourage new housing on transit routes

Encourage transit use with more night and weekend service as well as increased frequency on heavily used routes.

Build bike/ped connections to activity centers, parks, schools

Can we think more like Savannah, Georgia, which by preserving the historic square downtown they have shaped the economy through tourism.

Make racial/equity justice a cornerstone value for ALL planning decisions.

Reduce noise pollution through ordinances – vehicles, gas-powered lawn/landscape equipment

Creating historic sites that focus on and promote the LGBTQ+ community and highlight the areas where we make contributions and respect our history.

Urban heat islands and lack of trees are strongly connected, and call for increased tree conservation in both existing neighborhoods and new developments.

Racial justice in housing, economic development and open land/park sites. We can and must do better!

New housing development must include tree and stream conservation in order to protect public health and livability. Urban heat islands from lack of tree cover is a growing threat to health in lower-income and minority neighborhoods.

Focus on what makes us a unique city

Overall, I would love if after the current public transport is expanded, encouraging multi-modal connections to other cities within the triad should be pursued.

New housing developments must include tree and stream conservation in order to protect public health and livability. Urban heat islands from lack of tree coverage are growing especially in low-income and minority neighborhoods.

Allow modular homes in municipalities. Allow conversion of containers to living units

Education should be a must and not a thought. Not mentioned anywhere as a priority.