

Public Input Window #3

SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Overview

During the final phase of public engagement for the creation of the Buncombe 2043 Comprehensive Plan, staff hosted in-person information Exhibits at 11 urban and rural locations throughout the county. The public was invited to speak with a Planner, learn about the Plan creation process, and share their input about the draft Plan document and proposed Future Land Use map (FLUM). An identical virtual exhibit was also available online, which attracted hundreds of additional participants.

Below is a summary of the public input received through the Phase 4 poll (the 3rd input opportunity). Poll responses and open-ended comments are being reviewed to further refine the Plan in order to create a final draft that will go to the Buncombe Planning Board and Board of Commissioners for review prior to adoption.

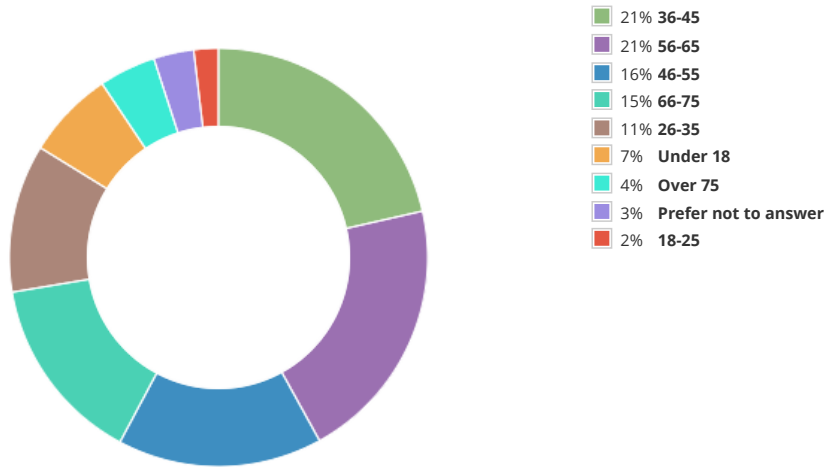
Participant Demographics

Below is a demographic summary about the individuals who completed this Phase 3 poll.

Project Engagement

VIEWS	3,610	PARTICIPANTS	1,368
RESPONSES	25,162	COMMENTS	967
SUBSCRIBERS	1		

What is your age?



1,319 respondents

What is your race/ethnicity?

78%	White	1004 ✓
14%	I prefer not to answer	180 ✓
6%	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish	73 ✓
3%	Black or African-American	37 ✓
2%	Other	29 ✓
1%	Asian	10 ✓
1%	American Indian or Alaska Native	8 ✓
0%	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1 ✓

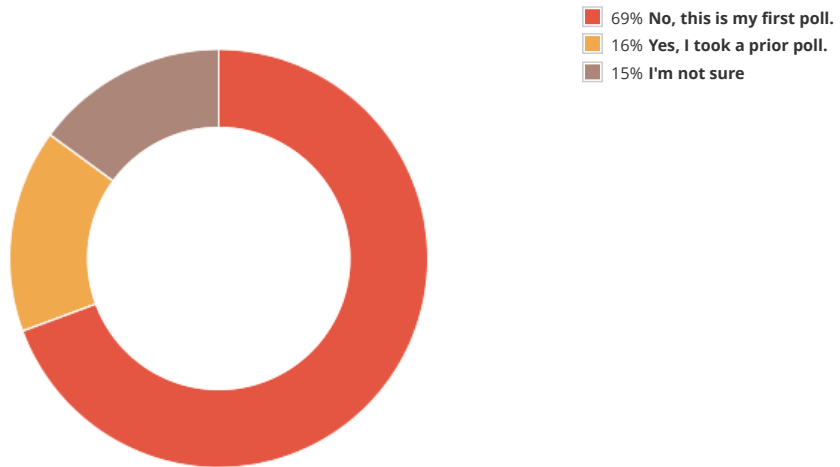
1,291 Respondents

Do you live, work, own property, or go to school in Buncombe County? (Select all that apply.)

88%	I live in Buncombe County	1139 ✓
58%	I own property in Buncombe County	743 ✓
51%	I work in Buncombe County	657 ✓
10%	I go to school in Buncombe County	130 ✓
2%	Other	31 ✓

1,289 Respondents

Did you take the 1st or 2nd Comprehensive Plan Activities in the last year of the planning process?



1,286 respondents

What is the zip code of the area where you live?

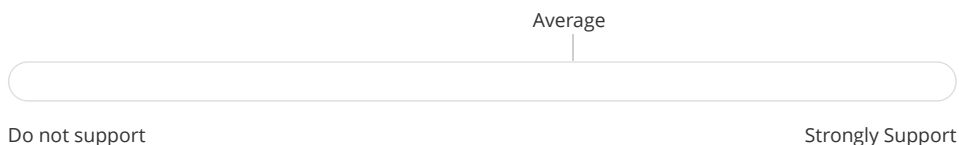


Poll Results - Vision Themes

Below are the results of the Phase 4 poll showing the response averages for each topic question. Participants were asked to indicate to what degree they did or did not support each of the 5 Vision Themes listed below.

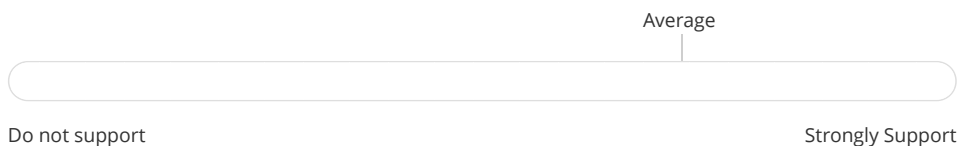
STRIVE TO ACHIEVE EQUITY:

Buncombe County will strive to address social, economic, and environmental inequities by repairing and investing in historically disadvantaged communities and removing inequitable land use and transportation policies and regulations.



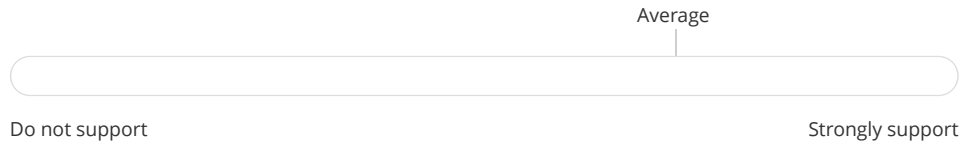
COMMIT TO SUSTAINABILITY:

Growth and change in the County will be sustainable and achieve resiliency to hazards, conversion to renewable energy systems, protection of natural resources, and support a sustainable local economy in a manner that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.



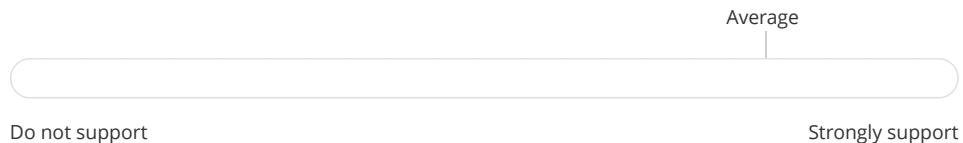
ACHIEVE LIVABILITY & AFFORDABILITY:

Residents will have safe, accessible, and affordable housing and multi-modal transportation choices to create a more connected, walkable, healthy community that accommodates the diverse needs of residents.



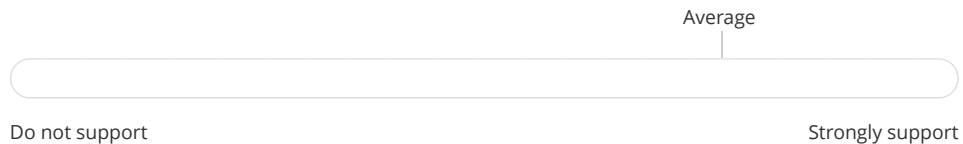
FOCUS ON CONSERVATION:

Natural resources, farms, and rural lands will continue to provide picturesque landscapes; healthy water, air, and soil quality; and opportunities for nature and recreation-based economic development.



ROOT EFFORTS IN COMMUNITY:

County decision-making will be rooted in the outcomes of engagement efforts with residents, landowners, and business owners. The County will support opportunities for community interaction and will steward public resources in a fiscally efficient and transparent manner.

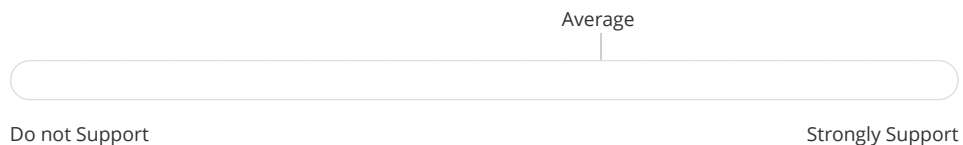


Poll Results - Goals

Below are the results of the Phase 4 poll showing the response averages for each goal topic question. Participants were asked to indicate to what degree they did or did not support each of the 7 Goals listed below.

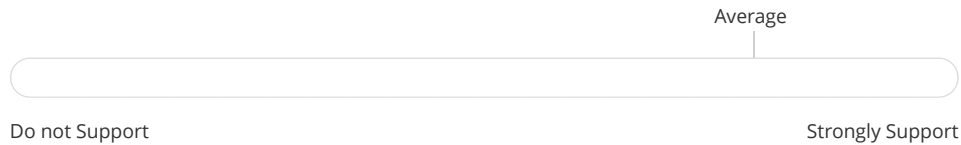
Growth, Equity, and Conservation Goal:

Growth will result in sustainable development patterns that expand affordable and middle-income housing options for residents and job opportunities for the local workforce, protect historically disadvantaged neighborhoods and businesses from displacement and gentrification, and create centers for shopping, dining, and recreating. New development will maximize developable lands in key growth areas and transportation corridors through mixed-use and clustered development designs that lessen climate impacts and are more resilient to hazards. Growth will be directed away from priority conservation areas using a variety of public and private tools.



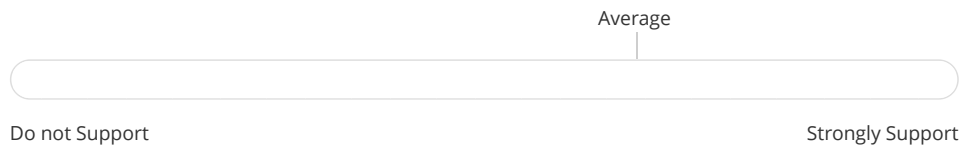
Farms, Forests, and Environmental Protection Goal:

A minimum of 20% of the county's open lands will be protected from development. Priority natural environments that support clean water, provide habitat for wildlife, offer nature-based recreation, and provide picturesque rural views will be conserved. Priority farms, forests and other working lands will be maintained for the benefit of current and future generations.



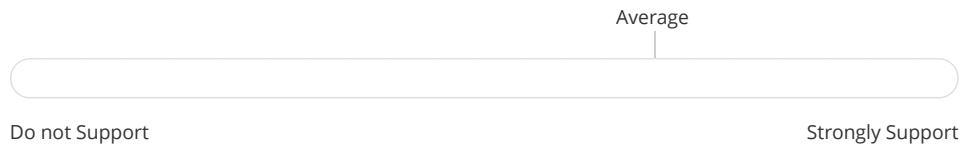
Transportation and Connectivity Goal:

Sustainable growth patterns will be supported through expansion of equitable, affordable, and more varied transportation choices (walking, biking, taking transit, and driving) that prioritize safety for users, reduce climate impacts, and provide greater access to travel between live, work and play destinations, especially for those with limited vehicle access and who have historically been underserved by the transportation network. Buncombe County will leverage regional partnerships to improve the transportation system and reduce single passenger vehicle miles traveled through enhanced transit service, provide greater connectivity between current and future destinations, and expand infrastructure for renewable fuel vehicles.



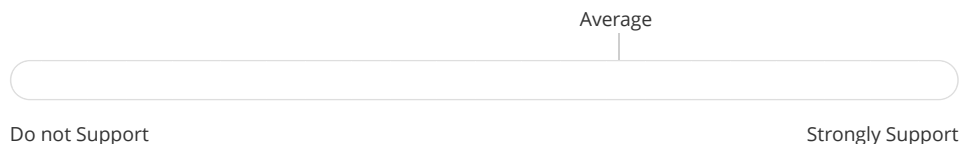
Economic Development, Education, and Jobs Goal:

Buncombe County will be home to a diverse and adaptable economy of living wage industries that employ local workers, support equitable access to employment, and help meet quality of life needs of residents, such as access to childcare. It will strive to address inequities within the local workforce through collaborating with economic development partners; building capacity for entrepreneurship, business development, and worker-ownership/ESOPs (employee stock option plans) in historically disadvantaged communities; and promoting living wage or higher wage opportunities for residents. The County will address any land use policy and regulatory barriers to business development. The County will partner with Buncombe County Schools, Asheville City Schools, and other education partners like A-B Tech to support more sustainable and resilient school campuses. The County will also coordinate and support the school districts in efforts to enhance academic achievement and reduce the racial achievement gap with a broad spectrum of abilities through new programs, such as vocational or living skills courses.



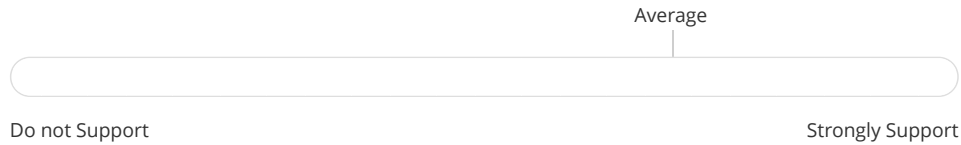
Infrastructure and Energy Goal:

Buncombe County has committed to converting its internal operations (by 2030) and energy use of the entire Buncombe community (by 2042) to 100% renewable energy. Infrastructure will be expanded across the County to support renewable fuel vehicles, broadband access, and renewable energy use. Rebuilding of aging infrastructure and decarbonizing utility structures to support these renewable energy targets will be prioritized. The County will coordinate with partner utilities to encourage development in growth areas and away from priority conservation areas and important water resources. Long range public facilities and services planning will ensure appropriate levels of service to support future growth and promote public safety.



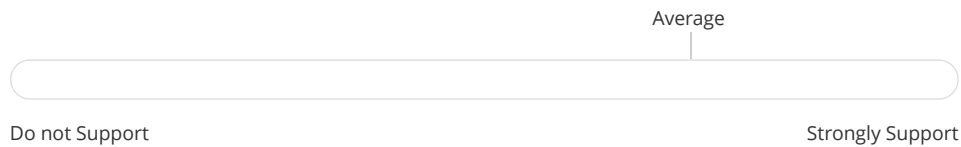
Hazards and Resiliency Goal:

In partnership with private landowners, Buncombe will protect important resources and assets (food, housing, businesses, energy systems) from the impacts of natural and manmade hazards. The County will manage existing and future environmental impacts by implementing green infrastructure and nature-based solutions. Development will be limited in high hazard areas prone to floods, wildfires, and landslides. The County will be ready to respond to future events through enhanced emergency preparedness efforts and reduced response times of first responders.

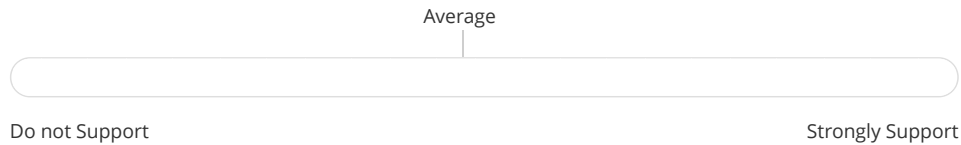


Health and Recreation Goal:

Residents living within the County's growth areas will have proximate access to natural recreation lands, greenways, trails, or parks, and the County will prioritize access to historically disadvantaged communities. Residents will have equitable access to mental health, substance abuse, and general healthcare services that support improved health outcomes and the social determinants of health across the County. Buncombe County will promote development patterns that support aging in place and the health of all residents.



How much do you support the planning guidance shown on the map and categories?



Poll Results - Actions

Below are the results of the Phase 4 poll showing the priority rankings for each topic area. Participants were asked to rank which topics they wanted the County to prioritize over the next 20 years. Ranking was done on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the most important and 10 being the least important priorities. Below is a summary showing the final ranking of priorities based on all responses.

<p>What would you like to see Buncombe County prioritize in the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan over the next 20 years?</p> <p><i>Ranking from 1 to 10. 1 being most priority, 10 being least priority.</i></p>	<p>PRIORITY RANKING</p>
<p>Environmental Conservation: Implement new policies that support the protection of agricultural and forest lands, environmentally sensitive areas, and rural communities.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Housing: Expand and protect affordable and accessible housing choices and implement equity-oriented housing policies that address historically disadvantaged groups and other neighborhoods at-risk of gentrification and displacement.</p>	<p>2</p>

Economic Development, Education, and Jobs: Focus economic development activities on growing businesses and jobs that can employ local workers, support skill building and training of the local workforce, and ultimately advance the wealth generation of residents.	3
Health and Recreation: Develop long-term plans for the expansion and development of parks, recreation, greenways, and trails and to provide equitable access to health services and healthy lifestyle choices to all residents.	4
Public Safety and Services: Develop a long-term planning process to make sure public safety, fire, and emergency management service needs of existing and future residents can be met.	5
Growth: Implement new development and re-development policies to promote more sustainable land use patterns and designs that maximize the use of public infrastructure, conserve important farmlands and open space, and address historic inequities faced by historically disadvantaged communities through more choices for housing, commercial, and employment spaces.	6
Equity: Implement policies to support development of a more equitable community that provides housing, employment, and quality of life options for all residents, regardless of race, ethnicity, or income.	7
Transportation and Connectivity: Work with transportation planning partners to create a balanced transportation network including the development of a safe road network, and multimodal options including transit, bicycle, and pedestrian options accessible to residents and workers.	8
Infrastructure and Energy: Partner with utility providers and neighboring jurisdictions to coordinate growth and infrastructure plans across the region.	9
Hazards and Resilience: Build capacity for community resilience and preparedness to respond to disasters, implement green infrastructure and nature-based solutions to reduce the risk of hazards, and use existing hazard mitigation plans to guide emergency response and land use decisions.	10