

December 14, 2019

**Buncombe County Commissioners**

75 pages via email

Dear Buncombe County Commissioners,

The purpose of this letter is to share the results of the 13 public input sessions for the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan and outline key discussion items for our meeting on **Tuesday, December 17** from **8:30-Noon**. We'll meet in the **1st Floor Conference Room of the County Administration**.

**Key Themes from Public Input:**

- The following nine themes were most popular at public input sessions: Education/Schools; Employment, Economic Development & Partnerships; Transportation; Community (sense of, access to services, place-making); Housing; Children/Youth/Pre-K & Childcare; Natural Resources (water and air quality, greenspace, farmland & food); Energy and Waste Reduction; and Criminal Justice and Public Safety.
- Summaries of all public input are included in this packet.

**Discussion Topics for our Dec. 17 Meeting:**

- Review public input. Staff will be in attendance at the meeting to answer any questions.
- Review the Strategy House (see attachment). What additions do we want to make to our 2020-2025 goals as a result of public input?
- Review the recommendation about Equity: how can the Commissioners address these, e.g. add it as a foundational goal, or as a value?

Please call or email if you'd like to discuss these items prior to our meeting.



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Cc: Buncombe County Manager, Assistant Managers and Department Heads  
Attachments: 13 Public Input Summary documents (71 pages); Theme Summary; Strategy House V3



*Vision*  
**A caring community in harmony with its environment  
 where citizens succeed, thrive, and realize their potential.**

*Values*  
**Respect – Integrity – Collaboration - Honesty - *Equity***

**FOCUS AREAS**

**Environmental & Energy Stewardship**

*Vision: High quality air, water, farmland and renewable energy for future generations*

**Educated & Capable Community**

*Vision: A county where all residents thrive and demonstrate resilience throughout their lives*

**Vibrant Economy**

*Vision: A robust and sustainable regional economy that builds on our homegrown industries and talent and provides economic mobility for residents*

**Resident Well-Being**

*Vision: Our residents are safe, healthy, and engaged in their community*

**2025 GOALS**

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Increase third grade literacy rates especially among underperforming students

Increase median household income to North Carolina benchmark

Expand and maintain cultural and recreational assets

Maintain acreage of farm and undeveloped lands

Protect older residents' ability to age in place

Increase total employment in region's targeted industries

Increase access to public transit and paratransit services

Increase kindergarten readiness

Implement land use strategies that encourage affordable housing near transportation and jobs

Reduce jail population (to eliminate need for detention center expansion)

Improve connections between local jobs and residents who need them

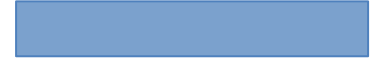
Eliminate opioid overdose deaths

**FOUNDATIONS**

**Strong infrastructure** (information technology, facilities, risk management, *community engagement*, evaluation and administration) committed to best-in-class performance to support the Board and its strategic focus areas

**Resources:** the funding, talent, and partnerships that enable high quality delivery of services.

## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES



## DRIVING TRENDS

- Climate change
- Loss of farmland
- Growing population
- Increasing pressure from climate change

- Growing racial gaps in educational achievement
- Shortage of affordable quality childcare options
- Declining enrollment in traditional public schools
- Growing population

- Growing housing supply cost
- Growing cybersecurity threats
- Growing cost of living
- Growing share of county expenditures
- Economic and equity disparities
- Low wages for workers
- Growing population

- Growing jail population
- Rising burden of chronic conditions and obesity
- Growing public health spending on health care
- Growing challenges in children's health
- Increasing philanthropic opportunities
- Increasing opioid emergencies and deaths
- Growing population

**Buncombe County Strategic Planning  
Community Input Session – Environmental Stewardship  
10/19/2019**

Theme	Land Use/Permitting
<p><b>What would success look like?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulation of development</li> <li>• Fire prone forest ordinance</li> <li>• Unobstructed mountain views (clustered, denser development away from steep slopes)</li> <li>• Proactive zoning and land use               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Urban planning – population increase</li> <li>○ Managing growth</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Improving and enforcing zoning regulations and land use policies with no exceptions (such as conditional use permits).</li> <li>• Construction: All new construction has been guided by environmentally sound principles and practices. All old construction has been assessed and improved for energy efficiency.</li> <li>• Land conservation – limiting development</li> <li>• Land use/development               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ High density housing</li> <li>○ Protect slopes</li> <li>○ Green space requirements</li> <li>○ Public transportation</li> <li>○ Sustainable farmland</li> <li>○ Runoff control (best practices)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Goals with greatest impact</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate high-density development in existing high-density areas.</li> <li>• Improve zoning and building code controls to allow more intense development.</li> <li>• Facilitate high density development in existing built-up areas while discouraging mountainside development.</li> <li>• Manage growth/maintain character</li> <li>• Improve mountaintop, river/stream and steep slope controls.</li> <li>• Maintain Mountains (view shed, landslide, visibility) – could fall into greenhouse gas goal</li> <li>• All new construction projects should be guided by environmentally sound principles and practices, taking the need for conserving green spaces into consideration.</li> <li>• Improve and enforce land-use policy so that commercial and residential development does not negatively impact water quality, air quality, mountain views, population growth, farmland, forests, etc.</li> <li>• Ensure that public utilities and private companies do not interfere with the implementation by eminent domain procedures.</li> <li>• Rewrite land use planning/zoning to manage growth by directing development to areas where infrastructure can be provided.</li> <li>• Designate land near urban centers for prices controlled housing.</li> <li>• Preserve natural heritage of community through smart, intentional zoning, land use and development goals.</li> <li>• <i>Better land use: preserve farmland, greater greenspace within developments, zoning for smarter land use</i></li> </ul>

Theme	Energy
<p><b>What would success look like?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy changes on electricity sales (3<sup>rd</sup> party energy sales) renewable energy focused</li> <li>• Educating public and government on levelized cost of energy to show true lifecycle costs</li> <li>• Renewable energy at 100% - Commercial and residential</li> <li>• 100% renewable energy 5 years early (2025). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Solar on all public buildings, unused land, schools/AB Tech, landfill, bus.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Break Duke Energy Monopoly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Geothermal HVAC (District)</li> <li>○ EV charging stations</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Goals with greatest impact</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate energy transportation infrastructure</li> <li>• Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency and putting solar on county land and building</li> <li>• 100% renewable energy</li> <li>• Install solar and energy storage on all viable municipal facilities.</li> <li>• Allowing 3<sup>rd</sup> party electricity sales (give us options besides Duke Energy) with the goal of the entire county reaching 50% renewable energy by 2025 and 100% by 2030. Acknowledging the impact of our energy use in the greater climate change emergency.</li> <li>• Increase solar energy and geothermal use to decrease greenhouse gases and decrease climate change.</li> <li>• Facility energy transition: EV fleets, EV charging stations, geothermal HVAC systems (esp. district systems, PVs, etc.</li> <li>• Reduce greenhouse gas via 100% renewable energy production</li> <li>• Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and work towards carbon neutrality as a county.</li> <li>• Greenhouse gas reduction: better rural transportation, carbon reduction public buildings, electric car provisions/facilitation, trail system for non-motorized movement.</li> <li>• <i>Coalition with surrounding municipalities to ensure success and support for 100% renewable efforts with equity for all as the guiding principle.</i></li> </ul>

Theme	Water Quality Protection
<p><b>What would success look like?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watershed management</li> <li>• Water-side monitoring and zoning (erosion control and flood safety) buffer zones, etc.</li> <li>• Addressing storm water/runoff to protect local rivers and streams (clean and clear water after ALL rain events.</li> <li>• Tightening water ordinances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Clean Rivers – French Broad</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Save floodplains for farmland</li> <li>• Riparian zones for health of rivers and small streams</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goals with greatest impact</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect streams/rivers</li> <li>• Monitor water quality and quantity for all species – pollution control</li> <li>• Development and education of watershed impact related to development, farmland, flood control, contaminant containment. Water quality is a measurable indication of the environment. We</li> </ul>

	<p>all live downstream. Regulation and maintenance of green spaces related to water quality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watershed restoration and water quality management.</li> <li>• Increase riparian zones on rivers and creeks to improve water quality and to preserve farmland and undeveloped land.</li> <li>• Improve water quality by toxic runoff prevention and erosion runoff prevention</li> </ul>
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Theme	Funding
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hotel tax – funding</li> <li>• Incentives for carbon sequestration in local agriculture</li> </ul>
Goals with greatest impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tax 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> homes</li> <li>• Create a “fire tax” on homes built in fire-prone forestland, prioritizing south facing, rocky, thin-soiled areas that are likely to burn when droughts get worse in the future. This would disincentivize building in remote places that will be hard for the county to protect (example: High Rock Acres development off of Route 9) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The money from this tax could go towards preservation of farmlands or increasing renewable energy throughout the county.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• McMansion tax – non-legacy farmland protected out-of-state \$1 million and homes taxed more. Creates funding for green initiatives and affordable urban housing. Targeted tax legislation to get money from those who can afford it.</li> <li>• Tree tax – homeowners/builders must pay for each tree cut down during lot clearing for new homes</li> <li>• Incentivizing resilient, sustainable, local agriculture including soil carbon sequestration incentives, agricultural conservation easements, and wild-land agricultural buffers. Acknowledge, consider and give additional opportunities for food-producers of color and focus on affordable, healthy food availability for poor communities and communities of color.</li> </ul>

Theme	Collaboration/Public Engagement
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community participation in program development</li> <li>• Working with Asheville and other municipalities for a unified vision and policy-making.</li> <li>• Engaged Populace <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Non-profits</li> <li>○ County/City coalition</li> <li>○ Community engagement</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Education and culture development</li> </ul>
Goals with greatest impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An outreach board, committee or agency that can form a coalition and coordinate the action of the motion of this vision.</li> <li>• <i>Coalition with surrounding municipalities to ensure success and support for 100% renewable efforts with equity for all as the guiding principle.</i></li> <li>• Cross-county and cross-city communication</li> </ul>

Theme	Greenspace/Farmland Protection
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain and prioritize green space</li> <li>• Increase incentives for farmland conservation easements.</li> <li>• Farmland preservation</li> </ul>
Goals with greatest impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain increase of quality farmland acreage/parks/green space</li> <li>• Preserve green space and farmland</li> <li>• Preserve greenspace and farmland for future generations.</li> <li>• Maintain quality acreage of farms, undeveloped lands, state parks and public green spaces; thereby ensuring high water quality, limiting storm water runoff and monitoring data.</li> <li>• <i>Better land use: preserve farmland, greater greenspace within developments, zoning for smarter land use</i></li> </ul>

Theme	Public Transportation
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bicycle Expansion</li> <li>• Transportation: Electric public for rural residents (Mountain Mobility, School buses)</li> </ul>
Goals with greatest impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Provide equitable public transportation for all county residents.</i></li> <li>• More bicycle use with protected lanes</li> </ul>

Theme	Equity
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equity at every stop of process going forward</li> </ul>
Goals with greatest impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Provide equitable public transportation for all county residents.</i></li> <li>• Inclusivity of marginalized communities in planning</li> </ul>

Theme	Waste Management
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased creativity in waste/landfill/recycling</li> </ul>
Goals with greatest impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landfill and trash collection, disposal, containment, reuse, recycle</li> </ul>



**Buncombe County Strategic Planning  
Community Input Session – Educated and Capable Community  
10/22/2019**

Theme	Education
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue support of early childhood education and providers (all children at grade-level reading by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade)</li> <li>• Increasing support for different programming and making it accessible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Early childhood</li> <li>○ School</li> <li>○ After school</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Focus on life skills (courses/programs) helping build resilience.</li> <li>• Incentivize educators including early educators so they stay here.</li> <li>• Opportunities for student engagement with higher education</li> <li>• Graduate all students to be college, career and community ready</li> <li>• Literacy skills for all students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reading, writing, mathematical, scientific, financial, civic literacy.</li> <li>○ Remediation and Acceleration.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Eliminate the achievement/opportunity gap (x2)</li> <li>• Greater/expanded access to affordable, high-quality early education</li> <li>• Emphasis on career options other than college</li> <li>• Strong levels of literacy (including financial) among graduates</li> <li>• Rotating lecture series to enhance learning throughout lifetime</li> <li>• Increase access to affordable/funded high-quality early education with business support</li> <li>• Innovation in K-12 Public Schools</li> <li>• Universal Pre-K connecting to K-12 and career training</li> <li>• Continue programming connecting behavioral and physical health into education system</li> <li>• Address racial and socioeconomic disparities with evidence-based, success-driven models</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare all kids for success by assuring they have the literacy skills they need <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Caveat being that we double down on building literacy skills with kids who are already behind, and that we provide early intervention for our youngest children – particularly those in poverty.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• To integrate “education” into citizens’ mindset so thoroughly that it ceases to be something that is inflicted on them from 5-18. It starts at birth and continues into old age, and happens where people live – all over the county.</li> <li>• Education does not end at high school; high school prepares you for future education. Training and education are a continued, necessary part of life and growth.</li> <li>• Focus on education that includes behavioral health and life skills, also financial skills including careers starting with very young children.</li> <li>• Increase access to high quality, affordable early education.</li> <li>• Eliminating the achievement/opportunity gap in our school system through a whole child approach to education in city and county schools by 2030 (x3).</li> <li>• Computer literacy training for older adults and children</li> <li>• Inclusion of physical and behavioral health in all formal “learning”/teaching curriculum</li> </ul>

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Community Input Session – Educated and Capable Community  
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be bold in moving quickly towards universal Pre-K, empowering existing efforts by and for community.</li> <li>• Trauma informed, resilience-building education, health and community supports integrated into schools and community, and healthcare.</li> <li>• Pre-K with transition to K-12 to create career and/or college ready individuals.</li> <li>• Increase access to life skills/professional development programs for small business, non-profit organizations and individuals.</li> <li>• Increase funding for early childhood, K-12 and Community College.</li> <li>• Grade level reading by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade</li> <li>• Look at idea of “targeted universalism” (Jon Powell) regarding education.</li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Transportation</b>
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public multi-modal transportation within Buncombe County</li> <li>• Public transportation available to access work, home and childcare</li> <li>• Affordable and expansive regional transportation network</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make it feasible for people to work in Asheville but live miles away where housing is less expensive.</li> <li>• Provide transportation and other resources required so educational opportunities for all ages can be achieved.</li> <li>• Regional transit master plan with GIS and safe-routes to school, backed by dedicated funding stream.</li> <li>• <i>Accessible services and basic needs (including transportation and employment opportunities)</i></li> <li>• More user-friendly public transportation (x2)</li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Jobs/Pay</b>
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workforce Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Working with kids – internships/mentoring</li> <li>○ Higher paying jobs</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Living wage \$15 per hour</li> <li>• Professional development for small business/non-profit organizations in the growing economy</li> <li>• Encourage Buncombe County residents to become teachers along with compensation</li> <li>• Recruit and retain most-qualified teachers (especially people of color reflective of population) through affordability</li> <li>• Robust apprenticeship programs for trades</li> <li>• Early childhood teachers would also receive county supplements to put them on parity with public school teachers</li> <li>• Workforce development for existing and new industries</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the creation of a robust apprenticeship program that works closely with the business community.</li> <li>• Better pay/benefits/incentives for educators including Early Education (x2)</li> <li>• By decreasing poverty among minorities, the education achievement gap and recidivism rates will drastically improve.</li> <li>• Leverage the county’s ECE fund to attract private and businesses investments needed to grow our ECE programming and improving access and affordability for families.</li> </ul>

**Buncombe County Strategic Planning  
Community Input Session – Educated and Capable Community  
10/22/2019**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessible services and basic needs (including transportation and employment opportunities)</li> <li>• Prioritize number of people trained as peer support specialists for all areas and need – not just recovery/mental health</li> <li>• Create a program for B-CORPS or social benefit organizations/businesses.</li> <li>• Wages</li> <li>• Living wage of \$15 per hour</li> <li>• County subsidize pay to childcare workers so they can be on par with public school teachers</li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Children</b>
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality pre-k childcare opportunities for all children</li> <li>• Focus on first 200 days of a child’s life</li> <li>• Serve the “whole child” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Education</li> <li>○ Social/emotional</li> <li>○ Family</li> <li>○ Behavioral/mental health</li> </ul> </li> <li>• More and better childcare slots</li> <li>• Ensure that all kids have educational and life skills competencies, e.g. resilience in all educational domains (more than just literacy)</li> <li>• Dramatic increase of kids ready to learn, especially children of color</li> <li>• Parents of infants understand impact of first 2,000 days and their role</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children can articulate their future and have caring adults help them achieve their future goals: career, housing and education.</li> <li>• Insure all ages have the literacy and other life skills they need through quality childcare, public education and community outreach (x3)</li> <li>• Ensure all children and their families have limited barriers to success, including affordable housing, safe neighborhoods, transportation, food, health care and mental health supports.</li> <li>• Create a county that puts young children and their first 2,000 days as a top priority by providing resources, a top-notch early childhood education workforce, a whole child teaching approach, greatly improved compensation for the workforce, availability of space for families who need them.</li> <li>• All children who want attend high-quality early child care programs</li> <li>• All children become contributing community members as adults</li> <li>• Prepare all kids, starting with early childhood, for success by assuring they have the literacy skills they need (reading, writing, thinking, speaking, mathematical, financial, civic, scientific) so they graduate career or college and community ready.</li> <li>• Access to high-quality Pre-K programs to ensure students are ready for their first day of school.</li> <li>• Provide social, emotional, behavioral and mental health supports so students are ready and able to learn.</li> <li>• Prepare all kids for success by assuring they have access to quality early learning, quality teaching and learning and resources to meet individual needs.</li> </ul>

**Buncombe County Strategic Planning  
Community Input Session – Educated and Capable Community  
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare all kids for success by providing a plan and funds that ensures all kids are prepared for their future.</li> <li>• Help all kids get the skills they need.</li> <li>• No one spends more than 10% of their household income on childcare.</li> <li>• Increase number of children reading on grade level at 3<sup>rd</sup> grade with no disparity for children living in lower economic situations through strong early childhood education and Pre-K.</li> <li>• Universal high quality early childhood, including social, emotional health as well as literacy</li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Housing</b>
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordable Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Preserving historical importance</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Safe and affordable housing options for all</li> <li>• Homeless student numbers drop below 50 because County helped increase the supply of affordable housing.</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase opportunities for people living in poverty to receive benefits (affordable and accessible programming and resources) that increase their ability to have a successful future.</li> <li>• Affordable housing available through county funds.</li> <li>• Implement a plan to help individuals that cannot afford affordable housing increase their household income.</li> <li>• Focus on homelessness and the drug crisis by mental health evaluation first and treatment.</li> <li>• Possibly provide housing in concentrated areas and treatment there also.</li> <li>• By addressing the needs of our poor students and families by providing more affordable housing,</li> <li>• No one spends more than 30% of their household income on housing.</li> <li>• Established “housing first” and “ECE first” models for families.</li> <li>• Actually do something about workforce/affordable housing.</li> <li>• Increase affordable housing opportunities mixed with affluent housing to build community.</li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Health</b>
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opioid crisis solved</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• greater use/access to high-quality healthcare</li> <li>• Focus on the whole person and community (health, mental health, education) to raise grounded/resilient and ready to succeed and work citizens/community members.</li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Equity</b>
<b>What would success look like?</b>	

**Buncombe County Strategic Planning  
Community Input Session – Educated and Capable Community  
10/22/2019**

<p><b>Goals with greatest impact</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build a community where all have equitable access to resources (housing, transportation, health and mental health, food, education) upon which to base their best and most successful life.</li> <li>• Ask the marginalized communities for their opinions/suggestions and LISTEN! You must go to them – they will not come here.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Theme</b></p>	<p><b>Community</b></p>
<p><b>What would success look like?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resource Centers             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Education – all levels (ECE)</li> <li>○ Employment/workforce development/mentoring</li> <li>○ Counselling – career dev – life skills</li> <li>○ Health</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Family Support             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ By people with lived experience</li> <li>○ Addressing resilience and trauma</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Integrate neighborhoods socially and economically</li> <li>• High-speed internet for all education and health</li> <li>• Celebrate our successes</li> <li>• Understand economics, education and poverty go hand-in-hand with crime rate.</li> <li>• Must address trauma</li> <li>• Be willing to repair the damages caused by biased policies</li> <li>• Individualized case management/navigation to help heal and connect to needed resources.</li> <li>• Basic needs of all met to enable focus on personal and professional growth</li> <li>• Strong cultural identity and understanding such as through public art</li> <li>• Higher utilization of Community Centers for multi-generational learning opportunities and programs</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goals with greatest impact</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide support systems and programs that will enable increased education opportunities in neighborhoods, community centers, early childhood centers, schools and after-school programs.</li> <li>• Funds used for skills/education in community centers or at schools for summer</li> <li>• Community centers that support learning and resiliency at all life stages: prenatal, early ed, after-school, adult and parent education.</li> <li>• Increase County managed community centers/other public facility utilization for free programming targeting families, children and older adults.</li> <li>• Create intergenerational programs to increase reciprocal social support for socially isolated older adults and at risk youth</li> <li>• Provide social, emotional, physical, behavioral/mental health supports for children, families and community.</li> <li>• Enhance our cultural and public art offerings that embrace and celebrate our diversity.</li> <li>• Help the elderly in communities know the services that can help them.</li> <li>• Eliminate areas of concentrated poverty where more than 30% of the community is low wealth.</li> </ul>

**Buncombe County Strategic Planning**  
**Community Input Session – Educated and Capable Community**  
**10/22/2019**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Value people’s lived experience</li><li>• Ensure families have access to essential services in their communities, including affordable housing, career development/mentoring, health and quality education (including early childhood education).</li><li>• High speed internet in all of Buncombe County</li><li>• Utilize Community Centers better for resource centers/hot spots/food distribution/health</li><li>• Use the wisdom of elders.</li><li>• Community centers throughout the county available by public transportation, offering job skills, after-school, childcare, career training, medical and dental check-ups, shots, small business training, mental health counseling, financial literacy, etc. Along with shared resources such as a community meeting space, community commercial kitchen, community internet labs, community mentoring program.</li><li>• Socioeconomic integration</li></ul>
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**Buncombe County Strategic Planning  
Community Input Session – Vibrant Economy  
10/23/2019**

Theme	Employment, Economic Development & Partnerships
<p><b>What would success look like?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing small workshop incubators to help with professional growth and performance.</li> <li>• Determined who lives here – retirees, millennials, young people – what jobs and where money is being spent and integrated tourism.</li> <li>• Reinstate a public access media center for small business startups and highlighting other businesses and events in the local area.</li> <li>• Low unemployment rate maintained</li> <li>• Higher median incomes especially minorities</li> <li>• Lots of cottage industries – range of jobs</li> <li>• Help retiring business owners with succession planning. Keep these businesses rooted in our community. Help them sell to their employees via ESOP or Coop strategies that expand opportunities for ownership and equity for workers. See <a href="http://www.project-equity.org">www.project-equity.org</a> – they have study on Western North Carolina. Employee ownerships doesn't only increase median income, it build wealth and closes the gap.</li> <li>• Incentivize and support locally-owned businesses. Build stronger partnerships with businesses alliances including Asheville Grown, AIR, ASAP, Just Economics, Green Opportunities, Mountain BizWorks</li> <li>• Find more economic leakage based on existing successful industry. Help business alliances get the word out.</li> <li>• One of economic growth in small businesses</li> <li>• Sharing of local resources and information</li> <li>• Finding rapid ways to stay relevant while growing</li> <li>• Linkages between city and county</li> <li>• County government recognizes the city has great impact on the county's economy.</li> <li>• Success would not stop at county boarder</li> <li>• Tourism integrated into larger economy</li> <li>• County-funded contribution to infrastructure for tourist industry (parking, park &amp; ride)</li> <li>• Enhanced quality of life to attract businesses (sports facilities, arts and entertainment, public education, law enforcement/emergency services)</li> <li>• Ready built sites for industry</li> <li>• Growth of airport</li> <li>• Expand north, east and west (Swannanoa, Candler, Weaverville)</li> <li>• Success must not be limited to economic growth. Success must include happy and health lives in an environment where wealth is distributed throughout the community.</li> <li>• Success would include an economy that relies most on local exchanges cutting down on outside disturbances while sheltering the environment.</li> </ul>

**Buncombe County Strategic Planning  
Community Input Session – Vibrant Economy  
10/23/2019**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Success would include protection of our local economy and environment by regulating and informing tourist of where they are and what they are experiencing.</li> <li>• Success would include an understanding that it is not the county's responsibility to provide incentive for unmanaged growth.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goals with greatest impact</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Incubators sponsored by county.</li> <li>• Jobs throughout county not just Asheville.</li> <li>• County support for multiple business incubators – space, equipment, funding</li> <li>• More focus on partnership with the city with the county taking more of a leadership role.</li> <li>• We need you to be partnering with the city in developing a LUIG (Land Use Incentive Grant) like program. We are refining the tool to be easier to use but our resources are limited; we need your portion of the prop tax abated/rebated too if we really want to make a difference in housing supply and affordability.</li> <li>• Invest in downtown. If you want sustainability, whether environmentally, socially or fiscally...you need an incredible, strong, vibrant, bustling downtown. Downtown needs an updated master plan, design guidelines, and VDO. You should match the city on its funding to do so. Same for riverfront area. We can partner the two with your help.</li> <li>• Economies based on local distribution and productivity with tourism as a second or third priority.</li> <li>• Stop urban sprawl.</li> <li>• County pursue business outside of tourism/outdoor</li> <li>• Please evaluate how much revenue comes to the county from downtown. If you haven't, you will be surprised and perhaps invest more into it.</li> <li>• Join in efforts to create a canopy/forestry plan for the region, city and downtown.</li> <li>• Do not extend water and sewer lines to rural areas or steep slope.</li> <li>• Allow for free enterprise</li> <li>• Look to free enterprise</li> <li>• Continue with planning sessions, spaces to be a part of the preparation of the city growth, and what will benefit the native or locals as a whole in this county.</li> <li>• Attract both "soft" (desk job) and "hard" (manufacturing) companies</li> <li>• Industries could be brought into fit our county as far as nature, climate, outdoor opportunities.</li> <li>• New and diverse business could be pursued and then people educated to do those jobs. I'm thinking of businesses outside of tourism and outdoor business.</li> <li>• County offer more public input</li> <li>• Recognizing the possibility of a quickly changing environment, politic, social and environmental and acting with political, social economic and environmental justice in mind.</li> </ul>



**Buncombe County Strategic Planning  
Community Input Session – Vibrant Economy  
10/23/2019**

<b>Theme</b>	Transportation
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Later transportation</li> <li>• Older population can still work part time or volunteer at work places by using public transportation.</li> <li>• Public transportation is available to high/middle schools key residential areas outside the city limits.</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need you to participate in funding transit ASAP, not only in helping with the TMP, but also in ordinances that support dense, multimodal, mixed use developments. Add the sales tax that can be solely for transit.</li> <li>• Transportation is huge!</li> <li>• Develop road system to accommodate transportation of products to/from the area, and to expedite access to/from the airport and nearby cities (including TN and SC)</li> <li>• Countywide transportation with later hours</li> <li>• Countywide, useful transportation system extensive enough to capture riders and thick enough to be used. Goals to reduce automobile use and get people to and from work. Collapse the public school bus system into this.</li> <li>• Please add your support to the Bus to Rail initiative, allowing our community to gain access to alt transportation to other regions.</li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	Housing
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that all housing developments have 30% allotment for existing and new housing</li> <li>• Safe affordable housing for middle to upper middle class.</li> <li>• Workforce affordable housing is available, of good quality, convenient, and truly acceptable for poor, lower middle class people who are young students and growing in their careers.</li> <li>• Many housing choices for residents other than living in oversized single-family homes far away from urban centers.</li> <li>• Love the Mountain Community Capital Fund! Could we build this and utilize some of it assist employees becoming owners? There is a great model in CA called Quality Jobs Fund.</li> <li>• Preservation of historic properties is a priority and that history is respected.</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need you to reign in Airbnb/STVRs in the county. They now represent 1/3 of all overnight stays, coming in over 1,000,000 nights in 2018. This is removing housing at a rate exponentially higher than we can build it, while also experiencing a shortage of 5,000 units.</li> <li>• We need help with educating property owners on accepting housing vouchers. AHA has funds to place 300 more families and there are no units. We need to strategize ways to remove stigmas and prevent new construction from not accepting vouchers (TIP – write it into LUIG). Ideas I like include funding orgs like GO! To weatherize units of landlords that accept vouchers (Natalie Bailey idea), funding insurance policies that protect homeowners/landlords from damages, loss of rents, etc.</li> <li>• Allow for density/small houses</li> <li>• Elderly facility combined with childcare</li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	Taxes

**Buncombe County Strategic Planning  
Community Input Session – Vibrant Economy  
10/23/2019**

<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determining who lives here using the census to what jobs are necessary and where people are spending their money.</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please help us get the state to return to reporting retail taxes by zip code. They stopped in 2009 and halted data collection and analysis that shows us how important urban centers are to the region and to fiscal sustainability.</li> <li>• We need your support (Commissioners) on reigning in tourism tax dollars. No one is saying kill it – shoot – yes, to be more in line with the state “guidelines”. Other communities can spend a greater % on local needs and can spend on needs that are not bricks/mortar/capital. Help us get to 70/30, 60/40, 50/50 and to redefine “capital projects”. This is our chance; we won’t get the CVB/TDA back at this nimble stage for 10 years. Grab the chance while they’re undergoing their planning.</li> <li>• Lower taxes</li> <li>• Lower taxes and make it profitable for people to start businesses</li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	Criminal Justice
<b>What would success look like?</b>	
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for families of incarcerated individuals</li> <li>• Focus on criminal justice reform. Is it profit motivated or to stop recidivism rates? Drugs are from underlying emotional defects from childhood traumas. Support of treatment centers.</li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	Equity
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We would not be on the bottom for African American communities in state and nation</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use an equity lens</li> <li>• Use EQUITY as the primary goal!</li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	Community Support
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Role model for other communities.</li> <li>• Don’t ask what we can do for you; what you do for us? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Giving people back the community</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Magnet for many people</li> <li>• Would be the beacon for sharing other communities for how it’s done</li> <li>• Safe places of strategic planning and action planning</li> <li>• Put a theme park around the airport area</li> <li>• Producer of foods to ship out.</li> <li>• Focus on Buncombe being a hub to vacation sports. Using Buncombe as center point; launch-point for going to different areas (Gatlinburg, Carowinds, Ocean, Mountains, Cities)</li> <li>• Not begging and spending time and money for industry by giving away too many incentives (stop corporate welfare). If business wants to be here, let</li> </ul>

**Buncombe County Strategic Planning  
Community Input Session – Vibrant Economy  
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	<p>the marketplace play out. Do not create artificial government giveaways to influence business decisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community access center – info</li> <li>• List-serve for County activities</li> <li>• Community Trust: livestream more meetings/public sessions. Provide Spanish translation when possible.</li> <li>• Offer mental health counseling for all inmates incarcerated in the jail.</li> <li>• BCTV needs to focus on government programming and not winning awards.</li> <li>• “Starving artists” is not a cliché - having an area for artists to display and sell their work</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access for home-bound residents</li> <li>• Support drug treatment centers</li> <li>• Community media center for small business startups. Highlight local business and events for those who are house bound. Encouraging transparency in local government. Varied community involvement to dispel separation of race, religion, sexual orientation.</li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	Education
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early childhood education</li> <li>• Education access equal rights to access higher educational opportunity.</li> <li>• Expand vocational training based on successful existing industry and start early in public schools. Do Buncombe County Schools have a program like In Real Life? Could be a good model.</li> <li>• Opportunity/achievement gap in both schools systems eliminated.</li> <li>• All young children and their families who seek and need quality child care and Pre-K can access it at an affordable price.</li> <li>• Quality, affordable higher ed training with early childhood (training facility)</li> <li>• 24/7/365 county operated child care</li> <li>• Opportunity gap</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educational relevancy to change and growing world.</li> <li>• There could be educational opportunities to fit the needs of these businesses</li> <li>• More education related to jobs</li> </ul>

**Buncombe County Strategic Planning  
Community Input Session – Resident Well-Being  
10/24/2019**

<b>THEME:</b>	RECREATION/GREENWAYS
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand greenways and walkable/bikeable communities, especially near schools.</li> </ul>
Goals with Greatest Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A free and accessible recreation system including greenways, parks and gyms with staff dedicated to providing program, encouraging use and trained to identify physical and mental health problems</li> <li>• <i>Walking, biking paths connecting to schools and community resources.</i></li> <li>• Implement the greenway plan and add sidewalks through all neighborhoods, to all schools. This should be done for all neighborhoods within ¼ mile of any school. Also, expand bike lanes to make biking safer.</li> <li>• Connected greenways and trails encourage connections to schools and sports fields. Support children community to school, reduce childhood obesity, increase adult active lifestyle.</li> <li>• <i>Improve transportation, i.e. light rail, bus (especially for rural areas), walkways, bikeways, greenways, etc.</i></li> </ul>
<b>THEME:</b>	HEALTH
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved access to healthcare services, including mental health and substance abuse.</li> <li>• Caring for the whole person <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One stop shop community center</li> <li>- Diet: food pantry</li> <li>- Exercise/recreation</li> <li>- Mental health/counseling (children 5-16, those exposed to trauma”</li> <li>- Clinics</li> <li>- Education</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Equitable access to affordable (free) healthcare and the means to live a healthy lifestyle</i></li> <li>• Coordinated approach to substance prevention, response and accountability</li> </ul>
Goals with Greatest Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An accessible, low cost clinic system that operates through the county as well as in schools (perhaps on a rotating basis) so that all citizens’ physical and mental health needs can be met.</li> <li>• Post Operative Care</li> <li>• Public spending on healthcare – redefine with housing, transportation, food, education</li> <li>• Healthcare</li> <li>• Transportation: equitable access to one-stop shop of whole-person health care (transportation and walkability).</li> <li>• Treating the whole person – access to healthcare for all focusing specifically on undervalued/underserved populations (African-American, Latinx, elder, children)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthcare including substance abuse treatment, mental health counseling, trauma services</li> <li>• Assist with court, medical, education</li> </ul>
<b>THEME:</b>	TRANSPORTATION
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Expand bus routes, especially to rural areas.</i></li> <li>• Improved access to a range of transportation options – improved roads, buses, non-motorized options – equitable across the county.</li> <li>• Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Livable communities with connected sidewalks</li> <li>○ Access to preventative healthcare/pharmacies</li> <li>○ Safe areas for non-motorized transportation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Goals with Greatest Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to cheap and dependable transportation throughout county</li> <li>• Expand bus lines out from Asheville into the county where many people live.</li> <li>• <i>Walking, biking paths connecting to schools and community resources.</i></li> <li>• Don't just increase traffic lanes but encourage alternate modes of transportation. Encourage flex time.</li> <li>• Access cheap/dependable transportation in the rural areas of Buncombe County</li> <li>• Improve the public transportation system to the point that it would not be necessary to own a car anywhere in the county – expanded routes, extended service times, no more than one hour waits.</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• <i>Transportation: equitable access to one-stop shop of whole-person health care (transportation and walkability).</i></li> <li>• <i>Improve transportation, i.e. light rail, bus (especially for rural areas), walkways, bikeways, greenways, etc.</i></li> <li>• Expand transportation access and types</li> <li>• Transportation – improving access to services/opportunities</li> <li>• <i>Rural areas – consider an inexpensive or free transport service (think Uber) on-call.</i></li> </ul>
<b>THEME:</b>	EDUCATION
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise teacher pay.</li> <li>• Require anti-violence and healthy relationship programming in schools.</li> </ul>
Goals with Greatest Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education – provide the tools to enhance community knowledge/engagement. Identify challenges for students within schools &amp; then create programs to address them.</li> <li>• Greater vocational skills and training at high school for young people who may not go to college. Work with local business and manufacturers to identify skills. Develop greater life skills, conflict resolution.</li> <li>• Technical trainings in high school: linking public schools, businesses, county, non-profits, 18-20 year olds skilled.</li> <li>• <i>Assist with court, medical, education</i></li> </ul>
<b>THEME:</b>	COMMUNITY
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote civic engagement and volunteerism</li> <li>• Cultivate culture of giving <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grant writing</li> <li>- Create awareness (needs)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	- Promote school – elder law (state planning)
Goals with Greatest Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a community investment and committee (with paid staff and community members/ reps) to focus on and operationalize safe and affordable housing and transportation.</li> <li>• Improve community resources. Understanding what is available, provide facilitation (counseling, mental health, housing)</li> <li>• Community investment fund (county/citizens)</li> <li>• Cultivate culture of giving</li> <li>• Volunteer orientated opportunities.</li> <li>• Stop the US vs. THEM mentality (government and citizens). We are our brothers’ keeper mentality. What affects one effects all.</li> <li>• <i>Access to resources – expand current systems</i></li> <li>• <i>Provide full access to healthcare, childcare, and social services.</i></li> <li>• <i>Comprehensive access to 100% of existing services in Buncombe County for 100% of the population.</i></li> <li>• County support for community centers as real centers of local community: clinics, childcare, community functions, possibilities for volunteering.</li> <li>• Community investment fund</li> </ul>
<b>THEME:</b>	RURAL ACCESS/CONNECTIVITY
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Expand bus routes, especially to rural areas.</i></li> <li>• Townships and villages – HEARD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilitate community engagement</li> <li>- Reinvest in rural community</li> <li>- Cultural</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Broadband countywide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Enhance connections</li> <li>○ Enhance access to education</li> <li>○ Forums for sharing information</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Goals with Greatest Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Access to resources – expand current systems</i></li> <li>• Connectivity – broadband, community access and outreach, community involved activities</li> <li>• Expand education, employment and services to rural communities (include Broadband, community engagement, cultural outlets, etc.) – self sufficient.</li> <li>• <i>Provide full access to healthcare, childcare, and social services.</i></li> <li>• <i>Rural areas – consider an inexpensive or free transport service (think Uber) on-call.</i></li> <li>• <i>Comprehensive access to 100% of existing services in Buncombe County for 100% of the population.</i></li> <li>• Reach out to all segments of county</li> <li>• First – back up and start over with this group. Word isn’t getting out about meeting. Goal would be to have community meetings in rural area and ask what are the needs/desires of each community.</li> </ul>
<b>THEME:</b>	HOUSING
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

<b>Goals with Greatest Impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Expand affordable housing and include physical accessibility/universal design/visibility to allow aging in place (and enhance caregiver support)</li> <li>• Safe and affordable housing</li> </ul>
<b>THEME:</b>	YOUTH
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A community focus in support of families (safe, health, resilient) as a means of reducing violence and improving opportunities for children.</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with Greatest Impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Childcare</li> <li>• Strong youth/child focus – safety, education, diet, counseling, technical, mentorship, activities</li> <li>• Strong youth and child focus</li> </ul>
<b>THEME:</b>	EQUITY
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Equitable access to affordable (free) healthcare and the means to live a healthy lifestyle</i></li> <li>• A focus on equitable opportunities for youth in education, employment and hope for the future.</li> <li>• Focus on underserved/underrepresented <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Elder</li> <li>○ African-American</li> <li>○ Youth 18-20</li> <li>○ Lantinx</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Goals with Greatest Impact</b>	
<b>THEME:</b>	JUSTICE SYSTEM
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jail system – can we identify the family behind the inmate to create and strengthen their support system.</li> <li>• Access to swift and fair justice for victims and offenders.</li> <li>• Invest in community policing.</li> <li>• Mental health assessment to identify services needed to decrease recidivism.</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with Greatest Impact</b>	
<b>THEME:</b>	ECONOMY
<b>What would success look like?</b>	
<b>Goals with Greatest Impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locally driven economy – commitment to internal circulation</li> </ul>

**Buncombe County Strategic Planning  
 Community Input Session – Environmental Stewardship  
 10/25/2019**

Theme	Energy
<p><b>What would success look like?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County invest in widespread rooftop solar and community oriented storage capacity</li> <li>• Require utilities to have equitable net metering</li> <li>• Increased solar charging stations</li> <li>• Utility systems are fairly priced and flexible. End Duke’s monopoly.</li> <li>• Widely distributed roof top solar and storage capacity</li> <li>• Duke has converted to 100% renewable with natural gas</li> <li>• Solar PV on most businesses, many residences</li> <li>• Control of energy supplies: establish a county-owned energy district</li> <li>• Find a way to enable 3<sup>rd</sup> party sales of energy to encourage distributed energy grid</li> <li>• County coordinates plan for private sector solar plus energy efficiency (ex. roof tops, wind turbines)</li> <li>• <i>County-stimulated/supported business community cooperation for solar on commercial building.</i></li> <li>• Aggressive carbon negative policies beyond the 20% net zero gases already in place</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goals with greatest impact</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% renewable energy ASAP</li> <li>• <i>Similar to how the county buildings are submitting a bid together for rooftop solar, campaign and help fund solar bids so neighborhoods can have rooftop solar.</i></li> <li>• Increased use of electric vehicles, including county sponsored solar electric vehicle recharging stations (like Earth Fares on Hendersonville Rd) and parking for electric vehicles specifically</li> <li>• Shift to renewables             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wind and solar and composting sources of energy</li> <li>○ Efficiency efforts and codes</li> <li>○ 3<sup>rd</sup> party sales of solar</li> <li>○ Regional control of the energy grid</li> <li>○ Agro-photo voltaic</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Reduce waste – solid waste, energy waste</i></li> <li>• Steps toward 100% renewable energy/increased energy efficiency.</li> <li>• Raise the issue that as a community, we are greatly handicapped by Duke Energy’s monopoly status in this state. Challenge this in every possible way, including changes to the city and county charters, so that both government bodies can make the locally and regionally impactful changes that will provide energy that is clean, community controlled, equitable and affordable.</li> <li>• Renewable Energy – increasing EV infrastructure, state level support, encouraging community solar, eliminating local barriers to solar (i.e. HOA restrictions)</li> <li>• Communitywide goal for renewable energy development (public/private)</li> <li>• 100% renewable energy for Buncombe County and Asheville City including school properties within 5 years</li> <li>• Increase energy efficiency and renewables</li> <li>• Housing affordability via making homes more efficient (and lower income homes)</li> </ul>



Theme	Land Use/Permitting
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharpen building codes for efficiencies</li> <li>• Focus on growth (inevitable) without sprawl.</li> <li>• <i>Land development committee that includes municipalities through Buncombe County works together to protect and support farmland, forests and sustainable development</i></li> <li>• Policies that link density of housing developments to protection of open space.</li> <li>• Improve % of impervious surface added in county</li> <li>• Manage for big storm events</li> </ul>
Goals with greatest impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase housing density in cities and near-city areas of county; focus on making it easy for people to reside close to the places they actually live their lives (work, play, etc.)</li> <li>• Reduce pollution using best available practices.</li> <li>• Create and implement a countywide connectivity master plan that provides better accessibility, no sprawl, green spaces for health and farms for healthy foods.</li> <li>• Recognize impact of infrastructure choices (farming services, transportation)</li> </ul>

Theme	Equity
What would success look like?	
Goals with greatest impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting low-income communities – access and education to outdoors and environment</li> <li>• Healthcare for all – even marginalized people; will have a lower total cost to society.</li> </ul>
Theme	Healthy Life
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Countywide connectivity and healthy living and healthy food through coordinated approach</i></li> </ul>
Goals with greatest impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Increase access to the outdoors and environmental education to underserved communities and young people which will improve resident well-being (physical and emotional health)</i></li> </ul>

Theme	Water Quality Protection
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address the dirty French Broad narrative and address real concerns (i.e. e-coli every year)</li> <li>• Improve all stream restoration</li> <li>• Stream sedimentation reduced/minimized through control and enforcement</li> <li>• Waterways are clean and provide recreational opportunities for all. Storm water systems are up to date and keep trash and pollutants out of waterways.</li> <li>• County policy for protection of stream margins</li> <li>• Empower the Buncombe Soil and Water District to educate farmland owners and leverage state/national resources to reduce agricultural storm water runoff</li> </ul>
Goals with greatest impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empower Soil and Water Conservation District to mitigate pollution sedimentation of surface waters.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving water quality through investments in storm water, land protection and restoration. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Educate developers and permittees on storm water management (there are better ways to manage than just retention basins)</li> <li>○ Provide financial support or incentive to better manage storm water</li> <li>○ Protect (provide county funding) to preserve/conservate important parcels and also help existing conservation landowners (including farmers) with riparian buffers. Reduce acreage lost during big storm events while also reducing silt and sedimentation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Strong programs for river and stream restoration</li> <li>• Improve storm water runoff management – no net increase in impervious surface.</li> </ul>
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Theme	Funding
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restructure BCTDA to help with our infrastructure/100% renewables by 2030</li> <li>• Broadly supported public funds for ambitious and intentional plan</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct campaign for bond referendum, linked with how to spend the dollars on conservation</li> </ul>

Theme	Waste Management
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food waste is composted or used in bio gas digesters for methane</li> <li>• Anti-littering laws are being enforced, so the roadsides, waterways and neighborhoods are litter-free</li> <li>• All food waste is composted locally and organically</li> <li>• Biogas digesters now handle all sewage and generate electricity</li> <li>• Biogas digesters in many restaurants provide cooking gas</li> <li>• Countywide curbside composting is available to all residents</li> <li>• Plastics ban</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Reduce waste – solid waste, energy waste</i></li> <li>• Improve recycling, offer curbside composting</li> </ul>

Theme	Collaboration/Public Engagement
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More community rights</li> <li>• We need leaders and public to acutely understand the importance.</li> <li>• Help people take personal responsibility for their environmental impact.</li> <li>• Accept the inevitable tension between individual rights and the rights of all individuals in the community and err on the side of the community</li> <li>• Pass a community bill of rights giving our community more voice in the decision that affect us, ex. corporate/fossil fuels having the right to pollute our community.</li> <li>• Rather than working in the background on behalf of these goals for long-term conservation, pursue a defined high-profile campaign or</li> </ul>

	<p>initiative, which weaves together goals of connectivity of green spaces, transportation goals and access for a cohesive campaign.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>County-stimulated/supported business community cooperation for solar on commercial building.</i></li> <li>• <i>Land development committee that includes municipalities through Buncombe County works together to protect and support farmland, forests and sustainable development</i></li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with marginalized people and communities of color and historically underrepresented groups to address green initiatives (i.e. how does a poor single mother have time to prioritize community gardening, solar, compost, etc?)</li> <li>• Providing jobs for homeless picking up trash, landscaping, including edible gardens</li> <li>• <i>Similar to how the county buildings are submitting a bid together for rooftop solar, campaign and help fund solar bids so neighborhoods can have rooftop solar.</i></li> <li>• Identify core group of champions on county commission, business leaders and others with local influence to plan steps of initiative</li> <li>• Formalize committed volunteer leadership</li> <li>• Invite consultants such as Trust for Public Land or representatives of other counties in the Southeastern US who have conducted successful long-term conservation initiatives in their communities to come tell us how to succeed.</li> <li>• Launch awareness campaign to build broad support for a bond referendum or other community initiative.</li> <li>• Implement the conservation initiative in public/private partnership between county government and non-profit land trusts.</li> <li>• County encouragement of local communities</li> <li>• Commitment to work with other municipalities to secure statewide changes essential to promote renewables (REPS, Regulatory changes to Duke Energy)</li> <li>• Get involved with State Clean Energy Plan by NC DEQ.</li> </ul>

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Nature/Wildlife</b>
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Love creation – care for it wisely.</li> <li>• Live with nature. Turn off HVAC in mild weather.</li> <li>• Protect high value wildlife habitat, including plants, pollinators</li> <li>• Increase outdoor access – ease of interacting with environment</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support bears</li> <li>• Promotion of trail-running and trail hiking to bond people to the land, increase enthusiasm for various fitness activities and promote more sustainable tourist attractions to our area.</li> </ul>

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Air Quality</b>
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pay attention to chemical pollution in the air: glyphosate and in water supply</li> <li>• Improving air quality by reducing vehicle emissions (greenway network, park and ride programs, public transit investments)</li> <li>• <i>Improve air quality by reducing vehicle congestion</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Expand greenway networks</i></li> <li>○ <i>Reduce prioritization of parking – instead invest in better public transportation, park and ride programs and more connected greenways, road diets and more bike lanes.</i></li> </ul>
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Theme	<b>Greenspace/Farmland Protection</b>
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increase local county funding to leverage state/federal money to purchase ag. Conservation easements on prime and state important sales</li> <li>● More funding for transactional costs for conservation easements</li> <li>● Double or triple the amount of farmland in conservation easement</li> <li>● County connected by conserved green space, farmland, conserved corridors that connect regions of county.</li> <li>● County actually supports farming with infrastructure as well as promotion of farms and buying practices.</li> <li>● Broadly supported public referendum for a bond to support purchasing conservation easements and land to preserve farms and scenic open space in the county – with those funds being available to leverage federal and state grant programs and private philanthropic donor contributions.</li> <li>● Enthusiastic leadership among government leaders and other community champions for an ambitious carefully planned long-term community initiative to preserve farms and open space in the county.</li> <li>● We need Buncombe County’s business and other leaders to fully understand and value the ambitious proactive steps that are needed to achieve long-term conservation goals for the county.</li> <li>● Community-wide farmland trusts that allow for large and small scale community food production</li> <li>● More funding would be directed toward transactional costs to help landowner protect their land in conservation easements.</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increase funding for purchase of conservation easements</li> <li>● Maintain acreage of undeveloped lands – promote sustainable development, restore forests, including urban forests, create community land trusts for conserving small parcels of land, especially in urban areas.</li> <li>● Encourage working landscapes</li> <li>● Maintaining farmland and undeveloped land</li> <li>● Conduct GIS planning to describe what success would look like in terms of conservation initiative.</li> <li>● Provide the funding to make farmland, forest and green space preservation financially viable for landowners who would like to support it.</li> <li>● Investment in land protection – both farmland, forestland and open space. Supporting farmers and landowners with protecting/improving water quality.</li> <li>● Maintain current farmland and undeveloped lands through conservation and proactive utilization.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communitywide goal and process for specifying land protection includes streams and tree protection, conservation easement, ag land protections.</li> <li>• Increase preservation of forestry and ag lands through public/private efforts and collaboration</li> <li>• Protect more land in county through conservation easements for farms and forests.</li> </ul>
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Theme	Transportation
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-county transit plan (van pools, business focus on employment transportation)</li> <li>• Transportation – focus on access not transport</li> <li>• Use public transportation – drive less</li> <li>• Reduce commute times/traffic and improve non-single car use/time</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve access (public transit, walkability, affordable housing near worksites)</li> <li>• Transportation – energy/pollution</li> <li>• Build more strategic parking garages, have vans/shuttles</li> <li>• Have vans for after hours (24 hr!) for people to go to work/classes/city-county meetings</li> <li>• Businesses furnish employee transportation</li> <li>• To reduce private automobile usage in the county using carrots and sticks</li> <li>• Parking Downtown – reconsider priority</li> <li>• Improved countywide public transportation system (hours, routes, frequency)</li> <li>• <i>Improve air quality by reducing vehicle congestion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Expand greenway networks</i></li> <li>○ <i>Reduce prioritization of parking – instead invest in better public transportation, park and ride programs and more connected greenways, road diets and more bike lanes.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Public transit achieves 3 goals: decrease fossil fuel, increase air quality and equity.</li> </ul>

Theme	Farming/Food/Local Food
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote consumption of local food and permaculture</li> <li>• Eat mostly plants – no “food products”</li> <li>• Buy local crops and plants adapted to the county.</li> <li>• Plant native plants. Eliminate grass</li> <li>• Encourage neighborhood mini-farms</li> <li>• Adoption for restorative and regenerative agriculture practices (over cropping, no till, permaculture, agroforestry and silva pasture)</li> <li>• Restorative farming initiative/education</li> <li>• Farm coalitions for various stewardship paths of stakeholders</li> <li>• Support family farms, large and small</li> <li>• Sustainable food systems</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food – teaching gardening. Planting eatable gardens throughout city/county.</li> <li>• Improved infrastructure of access to markets and resources needed to maintain the economics of agriculture in the county.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Schools to farms connections (education on our food supply and packaging problems)</i></li> <li>• Regenerating ag practices actually draw carbon into soil and rebuild soil.</li> </ul>
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Theme	Education
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase education in public schools – partner the strategic plan goals</li> <li>• Find ways around doubts on climate change</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing education at all levels of the public</li> <li>• Community education – investments in childcare and teacher support</li> <li>• Fully fund early childhood education and day care so the community can, through education, see the connection between quality of life and environmental goals.</li> <li>• <i>Increase access to the outdoors and environmental education to underserved communities and young people which will improve resident well-being (physical and emotional health)</i></li> </ul>

Theme	Tree Canopy/Urban Forestry
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase tree canopy especially in municipalities</li> <li>• Encourage re-forestation/tree planting</li> <li>• The loss of trees, especially in Asheville would be reversed with tree canopy increased.</li> <li>• Investing in green dominate infrastructure and valuing our urban forest/ecosystems for the ability to increase community resilience in this climate oasis.</li> <li>• Allowing more status and recognition for the historical and ecological value of trees in our community, more protection.</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban forestry – balance development with preserving urban forest canopy</li> <li>• Preserve our urban tree canopy and increase it over time. Value it!</li> <li>• Recognize the work trees do for our community with mitigating storm water, cooling our neighborhoods and sequestering carbon.</li> <li>• Don't cut down trees for solar energy – find other ways to build that infrastructure.</li> </ul>

Other GOALS:

- To think about and act upon ways to RE-FIX Carbon
  - o Tree planting and protections
  - o Regenerative agriculture efforts including silvo-pasture
  - o Countywide composting
  - o Supports in statutes and laws to preserve farmlands
  - o Reducing – controlling waste
  - o See DRAWDOWN book for other ideas

- Environment – 5 years from now
  - Weatherize 2,000 low income homes
  - 100 MW of new solar in BC
  - 20 MW of energy storage in BC
  - Have at least 10 MW of wind energy in BC under contract
  - Have 1000 public EV charging points in BC
  - Build miles of connecting hiking/biking trails
  - New funding sources identified
  - Be available
  - Protect more land

**Buncombe County Strategic Planning  
Community Input Session – Educated and Capable Community  
10/26/2019**

*Italicized items are associated in more than one theme.*

Theme	Education/Schools
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Satellite learning sites for formal learning. Classes taught via distance learning at library (college, tech, high school)</li> <li>• Study of why there are gaps</li> <li>• More emphasis on schools/teaching (input from teachers) parents’ welfare – child care, health care access</li> <li>• Collaboration between public and private schools</li> <li>• Support AB Tech’s programs</li> <li>• Embracing all models of education and raising the standard of excellence in instructional quality               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Focused recruitment and retainment initiatives</li> <li>○ School choice is not a bad word</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Wrap around services in schools</li> <li>• Challenge the framework of understanding in what declining enrollment may-mean</li> <li>• Graduates are following their career (whether college or entering the workforce) with a solid understanding of their expertise</li> <li>• More teacher support in K-3</li> <li>• Afterschool resources</li> <li>• Summer resources</li> <li>• Free community college for citizen of Buncombe County – AB Tech promise scholarships</li> <li>• State-of-the-art programs in Cybercrime, Agribusiness and social-entrepreneurship at AB Tech. County support for these programs.</li> <li>• Stronger pipelines from K-12 to AB Tech to universities. Leverage success of AB Tech’s nationally recognized Pathway Project.</li> <li>• Recognize AB Tech as a valued community partner.</li> <li>• School dropouts diminish.</li> <li>• Literacy rates are as high as possible.</li> <li>• All children are able to have post-secondary education</li> <li>• Achievement gaps are close to eradication</li> <li>• Families are more involved in and supportive of schools</li> <li>• County and City leaders are fully involved in and supportive of efforts to meaningfully establish county and city schools and the quality education of students</li> <li>• Support training and vocational programs to ensure residents have the skills needed for advanced manufacturing</li> <li>• Greater collaboration/consistency in policies between ACS &amp; BCS               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Transition to kindergarten plan</li> <li>○ Share definition of school readiness</li> </ul> </li> <li>• K-3 is developmentally appropriate</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School provides their own development day child care programs</li> <li>• Limit/moratorium on charter schools</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive vision of education that runs from birth to past retirement. (being able to present a vision/strategic plan that supports the importance of education at all levels of life, will lead to an educated and capable community)</li> <li>• After school/summer services Pre-K through middle school</li> <li>• Embrace and encourage multiple options and approaches to education rather than “one size fits all” to match educational resources with individual needs but monitor and intervene as needed to assure equity.</li> <li>• Build a network of schools to establish, share and collaborate in best practices in literacy and community development. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Include charters, traditional, private and homeschool</li> <li>○ Embrace change and options as a catalyst to improve equitable practices</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Break the cycles of poverty and oppression through education (all ages)</li> <li>• County/City/School staff administrators take REI training/Implicit Bias Training</li> <li>• Learning for growing</li> <li>• Literacy</li> <li>• Preparing children with communication, literacy skills</li> <li>• Develop mechanism for better access to existing ed. Resources – i.e. technology directly to citizens</li> <li>• Continual educational opportunities beginning with Pre-K to help eliminate gap in school success among races/ethnic groups. Would incorporate more social services for families.</li> <li>• Establishing the full range of practices needed to effectively approach these needs.</li> <li>• Eliminate the opportunity/achievement gap (so that race or zip code are not predictive of success)</li> <li>• All students graduate high school prepared for college, career and community engagement/involvement</li> <li>• A robust community school model that engages students, parents, teachers and communities in ensuring opportunity gaps are eliminated, students graduate from its community college and career ready and adequate SH/MH services for students/families.</li> <li>• Free community college</li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Transportation</b>
<b>What would success look like?</b>	
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better public transportation system</li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Jobs/Pay</b>
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educators find value in teaching and can support their own families based on a true cost of living salary.</li> <li>• Properly paid ECE teachers</li> <li>• Employers pay a living wage</li> <li>• Greater investment in education – teacher salaries</li> </ul>

<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early childhood educational support with an emphasis on addressing income inequity. This may go a long way in helping strengthening home life</li> <li>• Better pay for early childhood educators (County supplements)</li> <li>• Seeing that completion of grade 12 yields a pathway to either employment, career or additional education.</li> <li>• Investments in teacher salaries from ECE to community college.</li> <li>• <i>Improved support for teacher’s pay and resources in the schools so children and families are supported and rewarded.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Children</b>
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children discover their gifts and participate in class and community feeling a sense of community</li> <li>• Invest in first 200 days – access to every family that chooses early learning center placement</li> <li>• Social-emotional health of children and families</li> <li>• Better early childhood education</li> <li>• Pre-K seen as part of the education continuum, offered through public</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare all children for success by assuring they have the social and emotional skills they need</li> <li>• ALERT: DO NOT have African American 4 year old or younger in a classroom setting! Allow them their years of play. Putting them earlier into the “School-to-Prison-Pipeline”. Yes, they may be able to read earlier, but it won’t matter if they get into the toxic system and are eventually put into jail or prison!!</li> <li>• All children have access to high quality, early learning and education during first 2000 days</li> <li>• Investments in childhood development in first 2000 days</li> <li>• Institute an Early Childhood program</li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Criminal Justice</b>
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capable community – where are there lacks? Unemployable? Prison population?</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jail populations diminish</li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Housing</b>
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to affordable housing – county invests in new develop includes % of units that are affordable</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordable housing available to all</li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Equity/Inclusion</b>
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public school students achieving at high levels regardless of race, economic situation or neighborhood.</li> <li>• A network of support systems working together to support students in the gap – those who are typically marginalized or educationally disadvantaged.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminating barriers to high quality education</li> <li>• Greater ties between minority communities (black and Hispanic) and AB Tech</li> <li>• Equity and inclusion focus and investment</li> <li>• Department of Equity and Inclusion</li> <li>• Racial equity at the heart of all ed planning/teacher training</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removing barriers to opportunities</li> <li>• Equity and inclusion is a priority for children’s service provides (pre-school and K-12)</li> <li>• Diminishing equity gap and increasing opportunity gap in schools addressed to include birth to high school graduation.</li> <li>• County department for equity inclusion – a dedicated person or team of people always thinking about how to make education more inclusive to minorities and underserved parts of our community.</li> <li>• Creation of County Department of Equity, which works across sectors.</li> <li>• Racial equity at the core of education and county policies and practices.</li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Community &amp; Seniors/Adults</b>
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support aging in place</li> <li>• Access to resilience training – resilience training for all Library services and facilities heavily used and serving as community learning and cultural centers for all ages.</li> <li>• Adequate library facility square footage for the population as recommended by nationally accepted standards.</li> <li>• Fewer, but strategically located library facilities.</li> <li>• Every community within BC has an accessible town square, meeting learning site known as the library. Its place is open lots of hours and provides programs and services for personal growth and learning.</li> <li>• Early learning tie in with child care and library story hour; parental learning support</li> <li>• Community engagement sites, where territory platform is non-threatening – open place – town square.</li> <li>• Library as place and platform; accessible and used by all age groups. First resort not last resort.</li> <li>• Assess how public library can assist</li> <li>• <i>Capable community – where are there lacks? Unemployable? Prison population?</i></li> <li>• Adequate resources are in place, mobilized and organized to assure that each BC resident has the opportunity to develop themselves to their maximum intellectual potential throughout their lives.</li> <li>• Shift in thinking from reactive to proactive model</li> <li>• Communities are safe</li> <li>• <i>Families are more involved in and supportive of schools</i></li> <li>• Support community organizations to ensure educational excellence for every student – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading/8<sup>th</sup> grade/HS graduation.</li> <li>• Paid family leave – adoption of family-friendly</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senior support and activities center</li> <li>• Elders are able (transportation, financial support, information provided) to access community programs and services.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adults have opportunities for free, life-long learning and work/job skill development</li> <li>• Establish non-traditional educational opportunities for growing 65+ population, adult disadvantaged through training, resources, services (using library as platform). Free and accessible to all of Buncombe County.</li> <li>• Replace “elderly” with elderSupport for family engagement in their children’s education.</li> <li>• Increase access to comprehensive family support programs and high quality early childhood education.</li> <li>• Educational opportunities for those incarcerated – wide service re-entry opportunities.</li> <li>• <i>Early childhood educational support with an emphasis on addressing income inequity. This may go a long way in helping strengthening home life</i></li> <li>• Develop and financially support an educational model that builds from “cradle to grave” with wrap around community support (mental health, healthcare, home support) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ First 2000 days – early ed</li> <li>○ K-12 – best practice</li> <li>○ Post grad lifelong learning</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Volunteer Registry</li> <li>• County provided and other community services are coordinated and easily accessed.</li> <li>• Every eligible resident votes in local elections</li> <li>• Identifying and considering the education, social and emotional and operational needs of the full range of the population by county, city and corporate operations.</li> <li>• Educational and vocational access in correctional facilities and upon/after re-entry.</li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Funding</b>
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>State-of-the-art programs in Cybercrime, Agribusiness and social-entrepreneurship at AB Tech. County support for these programs.</i></li> <li>• <i>Invest in first 200 days – access to every family that chooses early learning center placement</i></li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equitable funding across all school types (charter vs. standard public schools)</li> <li>• Make the most of limited resources by doing more with less – best practices – leverage with NFP/Philanthropic resources</li> <li>• <i>Develop and financially support an educational model that builds from “cradle to grave” with wrap around community support (mental health, healthcare, home support)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>First 2000 days – early ed</i></li> <li>○ <i>K-12 – best practice</i></li> <li>○ <i>Post grad lifelong learning</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Improved support for teacher’s pay and resources in the schools so children and families are supported and rewarded.</i></li> <li>• Working on identifying and procuring sufficient resources and financial practices to establish and maintain the services needed.</li> </ul>

## QUESTIONS:

- How dynamic will the plan be?
- Is there data on income disparities?
- Are we considering educated and capable together or distinct?
- Is there a trend re: child poverty rates that could be shared? Seems critical to accompany population trends.

**Buncombe County Strategic Planning  
Community Input Session – Resident Well-Being  
10/29/2019**

Theme	<b>Equity, Cultural inclusion and Preservation</b>
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equitable allocation of resources</li> <li>• Improved health measures to address/remove racial disparities including maternal and child health</li> <li>• New development is equitable, inclusive and mindful/respectful of community history.</li> <li>• Celebrating diversity</li> <li>• Economic health wellbeing</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equity for all</li> <li>• Effects of redlining and urban renewal to African American community, wealth from businesses and homeownership being stripped, which depleted generational wealth. Reparations!</li> <li>• Equitable allocation of resources that focus on Maslow’s hierarchy of needs</li> <li>• Mandated racial, equity and inclusion training for decision makers if not all folks working at county level.</li> <li>• Real commitment to equity and the celebration of diversity in county services and programs.</li> <li>• Significant attention to racial equity – dedicated office/department for equity and inclusion.</li> <li>• “Center” people on the margins</li> <li>• Incorporate voices for folks that are at the margins.</li> <li>• Address health inequities/disparities with community wellness initiative and incentives with marginalized groups.</li> <li>• Equity focus to remove historical/systemic/structural/resource barriers to goal 1. This includes dismantling racism and white privilege; gender discrimination; language inclusion; able-ness; criminal record, immigration status</li> <li>• Access to things that are often considered “elite” (i.e. art, entertainment, housing, etc.)</li> <li>• Maintain cultural and recreational assets. Give the residents the opportunity to understand the historical facts of each community.</li> <li>• Let’s maintain some of our identity; Native American, African American community monuments</li> <li>• Also create/preserve diverse neighborhoods and communities</li> </ul>
Theme	<b>Healthy Lifestyle</b>
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to healthy outdoor recreation opportunities for seniors and others. Provide support services for those who want to exercise.</li> <li>• Addressing climate emergency               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Eradicating toxic substances</li> <li>○ Spraying road (NCDOT/DUKE)</li> <li>○ Banning glyphosate</li> <li>○ Eliminating fluoride in public water</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Everyone has access to healthy food consistently</li> <li>• Expanded healthcare and incentives</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connecting trail system so people can engage with each other without driving – but by means providing exercise as well as community centered parks</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grocery stores in poor communities (reduce obesity)</li> <li>• We have a connected system of bike lanes, sidewalks, trails/paths that connect our community (neighborhoods, parks, schools, businesses, etc.) in a safe way for those not using vehicles, in a way that fosters free and accessible fitness, in a way that creates community connection.</li> <li>• Overall improved health and wellness</li> <li>• Recognize we are facing a climate crisis. Allow and enforce SMART development. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increase requirements for tree protection</li> <li>○ Increase requirements for waterway protections</li> <li>○ Let's not be owned by developers and tourists</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Affordable Housing</b>
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing – Increase safe and affordable housing/housing for all</li> <li>• Access to safe, affordable, stable housing for all residents (quantitative data i.e. decrease in student homelessness and decrease in cost burden measures)</li> <li>• Affordable housing options throughout the county for those that are currently homeless and rent burdened.</li> <li>• Providing more affordable housing access and options</li> <li>• A strong network of homeless prevention and a real continuum of care coalition that is funded and supported</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordable housing policy creatively outside of Dillon's Rules. Inclusionary of incentives if need be.</li> <li>• Affordable housing option throughout the county for those that are currently homeless and rent burdened (including landlord incentives and acceptance of all rental vouchers)</li> <li>• Safe, affordable, inclusive (mixed income) housing and communities to break down 'othering"</li> <li>• Homeless population/affordable housing practices</li> <li>• Increase investment by the county (or creation of policies) that increase number of affordable housing units available and cap rental prices</li> <li>• More affordable and accessible housing options. Stable housing for all</li> <li>• Access to affordable housing and housing security</li> <li>• Housing activism living/community living concepts</li> <li>• Expand access to safe, affordable housing for all residents.</li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Pre-K/Affordable Child Care</b>
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Childcare</li> <li>• Childcare and education are accessible and affordable for all children and families so parents can work and earn a living wage.</li> <li>• Investment in the first 2000 days of childhood development and accessible childcare</li> <li>• Access to affordable early childhood education.</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actions that create a greater sense of community, belonging and self-worth (i.e. employment opportunities, more educational opportunities for all ages; especially PreK, and public centers where people can gather (parks, trails, cultural centers)</li> <li>• Ensure access to quality childcare and education for all children birth through high school</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Childcare and education are accessible and affordable for all children and families so parents can work and earn a living wage.</li> <li>• Not having preschools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Puts African American students in the school-to-prison pipeline sooner</li> <li>○ They may be able to read, but that is not as important as the trauma they experience in school with teachers not having equity training and/or being in jail/prison</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Transportation</b>
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Transportation access to various needed services</li> <li>• Better transportation network for those who don't drive and offer options to those who do.</li> <li>• More efficient, cost-effective, accessible transportation and infrastructure.</li> <li>• Safe to get from point A to point B without a car (sidewalks, bike lanes, trails/paths, buses)</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase public transportation to all areas of Buncombe County. This will improve people's ability to work, to access healthcare, education and will reduce carbon emissions and traffic. It will also help impoverished rural communities have access to above along with helping population growths movement to areas with more affordable housing options.</li> <li>• Efficient, conservative and accessible transportation and transportation infrastructure</li> <li>• Safe streets and alternative transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Less need for cars, greater health, public infrastructure to free private resources</li> <li>○ More social streets</li> <li>○ Lives saved/property damage avoided</li> <li>○ Road space reallocated for bus priority, walking, bicycling and trees</li> <li>○ Business corridors strengthened by way of slower speeds/more pedestrians</li> </ul> </li> <li>• An enhanced and equitable transportation network available to all residents</li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Community, Access to Basic Needs and Services</b>
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elimination of food insecurity</li> <li>• Enhanced access to services for people of all ages and abilities (including jobs, education, entities, arts, etc.)</li> <li>• Access issues for people with disabilities including/not limited to physical barriers</li> <li>• Connect neighborhoods and the greater community</li> <li>• Love and belonging for all, a community with services for all</li> <li>• Accessible art in public spaces</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commit funding and resources to assist in meeting the basic needs of all residents to increase wellbeing: affordable housing, transportation, education, access to healthy food, mental health and substance abuse services. Doing so will grow public trust</li> <li>• Actions that enhance and grow residents' ability to have access to food, health services, work, childcare and community in general (i.e. public transportation and trail system/alternatives to driving a car.)</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People who work in Buncombe County should be able to live here and meet their needs.</li> <li>• Increased access to housing, food, education, etc.</li> <li>• Significantly increased funding to support collaborative efforts that meet the basic physiological and safety needs of all residents.</li> <li>• Better coordination of care. Bridge services, make them accessible to everyone.</li> <li>• Develop trauma-responsive, people-responsive systems that prioritize meeting people’s needs over punishing them for needs not met.</li> <li>• Accessibility and connectivity across the county to jobs, amenities, community spaces, food, health and wellness, housing opportunities.</li> <li>• Prioritize stable, supported families (which would drive more parent education and supports, more prevention, less incarceration and punitive, disruptive intervention, more focus on stable employment and housing, more affordable, reliable childcare, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Education</b>
<b>What would success look like?</b>	
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All children in Buncombe County will succeed</li> <li>• Better communication with school admin and parent for better impact with educational outcomes.</li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Improved Collaboration and Engagement with the Public</b>
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community engagement strategies that enables neighbors to share resources, learn, grown and support one another</li> <li>• Continues support for collaborative community initiatives</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buncombe County events/meetings calendar for commissions/committees/etc</li> <li>• Community engagement – language/acronym resource</li> <li>• Provide funds for community members working on city/county projects</li> <li>• Not ask for feedback for lip service</li> <li>• Restructure how you do strategic planning: People – Commissioners – People = Goals</li> <li>• Increase resident connection (to each other, local leaders and services). Cannot have trust without connection!</li> <li>• Collaboration between elected official, public agencies, private organizations and communities.</li> <li>• Transparency in budgeting and focus on community health and well-being (parks, transportation, housing, education)</li> <li>• Our voices are in the development as opposed to only after completion.</li> <li>• Incentive for communities that are already doing collaborative relationships with Buncombe County.</li> <li>• Preservice the Asheville culture while offering new ways to engage the community that provides accessibility to all.</li> <li>• Space in which the community is able to clearly visualize the whole picture of all our activism movements and contribute</li> <li>• Invest in community/neighborhood-based strategies that help communities and neighborhoods share resources, set goals and create plans to address the needs of all residents.</li> <li>• Establish a coalition of services with a primary focus on prevention (homelessness, food insecurity, child and family health access, criminal justice intervention services)</li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Address Substance Abuse/Mental Health</b>
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive SA/MH cradle to grave</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connect and implement best-in-class, emerging way to deal with drug epidemic in a non-punitive way</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehensive, collaborative SA/MH coordination across services and sections</li> <li>A county task force established for dealing with opioid epidemic and other serious drugs that is informed by the best learning nationwide and empowered to implement the learnings.</li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Responsive Tourism Development</b>
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TDA funding goes to local community needs (schools, transit, trees, Stephens Lee Museum, Community Resource Center)</li> <li>Maintaining a healthy balance and creating harmony between residents and tourism.</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restructure BCTDA revenue towards community needs: schools, urban forestry program, transit</li> <li>Community balance between tourism and the need of residents.</li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Justice System &amp; Public Safety</b>
<b>What would success look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No violence</li> <li>Safe, affirming relationships with law enforcement</li> <li>Jail diversion with substance use treatment focus</li> <li>Improved re-entry programs and more job-readiness programs</li> <li>Decreased tolerance of violence (sexual, IPV and child abuse) in our schools, workplaces, etc.</li> <li>Better coordination of first responders</li> <li>Safety on streets</li> </ul>
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address growing jail population – transformative justice, trauma-informed education with law enforcement, courts and prisons</li> <li>Training, education and offer, promote, invest in systems of accountability regarding law enforcement and court officials understand and use of best practices in the areas of racial equity, trauma and substance abuse.</li> <li>Promote transformative justice initiative/alternatives</li> <li>Reduce jail populations and trauma this produces</li> <li>Jail diversion programs with extensive substance use treatment, job placement, trauma-informed law enforcement, judges and monthly implicit bias exercises and testing.</li> <li>Law enforcement that reflects the population it serves</li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>
<b>What would success look like?</b>	
<b>Goals with greatest impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Asheville city and other municipalities</li> </ul>

**Other Comments:**

- Eliminate this goal. It is not specific enough. It should be implicit throughout.
- The DRAFT GOALS are NOT the right ones!!
- I think it is interesting that the draft goals have nothing to do with any of the conversations in the room.
- Get the right emotion from the struggle
- Triple bottom line decision-making – economic/social/cultural/environmental factors
- Increase public trust

**QUESTIONS:**

- How were language access needs considered?
- Can you say more about the draft goal about public trust?
- Where does transportation fit in?
- How do we share input from specific organizations/community groups?
- Community should be engaged on the front-end and feedback incorporated
- Social Justice Group should be formed.

**Buncombe County Strategic Planning  
Community Input Session – Vibrant Economy  
11/1/2019**

<b>THEME:</b>	TRANSPORTATION
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanded transportation</li> <li>• Countywide reliable transportation</li> <li>• Regional transportation (multi-modal, interstate, air)</li> </ul>
Goals with Greatest Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Provide affordable housing in the county with public transportation to downtown and other work areas.</i></li> <li>• Transportation for all</li> <li>• Create new feeder greenways and implement those already planned.</li> </ul>
<b>THEME:</b>	EQUITY
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More inclusivity of marginalized groups (i.e. people of color, incarcerated, etc.)</li> <li>• Equitable community</li> <li>• Close racial disparity gap in both education and income</li> <li>• <i>There is more access to capital for small business, especially start-ups at an equitable rate</i></li> <li>• Equity in all endeavors and not fake equity</li> <li>• Accessible, free meeting space for social and racial justice initiatives with plenty of parking</li> <li>• The YMI is a flourishing center of the African-American Community.</li> <li>• There are thriving businesses owned by people of color</li> <li>• People are buying from businesses of color/contracting with them</li> <li>• Economic inclusion and mobility</li> </ul>
Goals with Greatest Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity for all</li> <li>• Promote paths to economic mobility</li> <li>• <i>Inclusiveness – bring folks in marginalized, previously incarcerated margins, black/brown people-fill jails, occupy</i></li> </ul>
<b>THEME:</b>	COMMUNITY
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase standard of living/happiness</li> <li>• Council for contracting and procurement – focus on minority-owned businesses</li> <li>• Fund libraries better</li> <li>• Establish a joint public arts and cultural resources commission with city and county and develop public art and culture master plan</li> <li>• Redistributing funds for arts and culture events that lead to greater ROI.</li> <li>• Number of citizens requiring county services has declined</li> <li>• Create community hubs throughout area</li> <li>• Increasing affordable/accessibility to county broadband internet.</li> <li>• Strong partnerships and trusting collaborations have been formed – there is a sense of real community without divisiveness, with representation from all member, not just select groups.</li> <li>• <i>There are accessible and affordable spaces for all potential and new business</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>There is a small business incubator focused on people of color with free technical assistance</i></li> </ul>
Goals with Greatest Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food security especially real food, not processed food</li> <li>• Neighborhood hubs i.e. libraries</li> <li>• Provide countywide infrastructure to support community residents</li> <li>• Strengthen community hubs: ideas consistent through sessions; affordable childcare, food, education, life skills, business incubators, transportation</li> <li>• Increase standard of living/happiness (use broad/many measures)</li> <li>• Establish an Asheville-Buncombe Public Art and Cultural Resources Commission and create a Public Art and Cultural Resources master plan to drive economy development</li> <li>• More sustainable support for the arts in the city/county – this can include increase median income, public support plans, strategic partnership</li> <li>• Making the greater Asheville area desirable as a place to live, visit, work and play</li> <li>• Expand the River Arts District to run from Bent Creek to North of Woodfin</li> </ul>
<b>THEME:</b>	CHILDREN & PRE-K EDUCATION
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universal childcare</li> <li>• Quality childcare and education for all children, including trade school and higher education</li> <li>• Every family has access to high quality childcare.</li> <li>• Affordable childcare</li> </ul>
Goals with Greatest Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Provide quality childcare and education for all children birth to high school and beyond</i></li> <li>• Universal child care (win, win, win)</li> </ul>
<b>THEME:</b>	EDUCATION
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Quality childcare and education for all children, including trade school and higher education</i></li> <li>• Invest in top-tier work-based learning designed by employers for emerging industries</li> <li>• Increasing arts and education programs to improve SAT scores, reduce juvenile crime, increase graduation rates and make our schools more desirable for relocation.</li> <li>• More Buncombe County high schools with apprenticeships focused on skilled trades</li> <li>• There is more general education about business finance</li> <li>• BCS and AB Tech Graduation rates</li> </ul>
Goals with Greatest Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education – continuous</li> <li>• Provide quality childcare and education for all children birth to high school and beyond</li> <li>• <i>Focus on education: job growth</i></li> <li>• Invest in skills and/or talents and education of all residents</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased arts in education – this will increase the viability of students entering the workforce as artists or other professions</li> <li>• Increase arts education and professional development program to improve the public school system and support the development arts and cultural professionals and businesses</li> <li>• Close opportunity gap for public school students across the city, county and region</li> </ul>
<b>THEME:</b>	COLLABORATION
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City/County Collaboration-development and transportation</li> <li>• Great partnerships between county, city and other organizations</li> <li>• Vibrant economy tied to other county strategic goals</li> <li>• Develop infrastructure building collaboration (City-County)</li> <li>• Housing, infrastructure and transit are integrated development plans</li> </ul>
Goals with Greatest Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City-county collaboration: development strategies, infrastructure, transit</li> <li>• Recognize that investments in the City of Asheville generate ROI for County government</li> <li>• Develop infrastructure built on collaborative efforts</li> <li>• Reaching across lines and become more regionalized</li> </ul>
<b>THEME:</b>	ACCOUNTABILITY
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance metrics for NGO’s funded by county</li> <li>• Use metrics to assess initiatives</li> <li>• Data driven governance</li> </ul>
Goals with Greatest Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use metrics for specific programs to assess success of initiatives</li> </ul>
<b>THEME:</b>	CRIMINAL JUSTICE, COMMUNITY RE-ENTRY
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jail training program</li> <li>• More resources for returning citizens</li> <li>• Embracing re-entry as a foundational part of workforce development</li> <li>• More local government funds for returning citizen affairs of Buncombe County</li> <li>• Ban the box</li> </ul>
Goals with Greatest Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More local government resources contributed to returning citizen affairs (County and City)</li> <li>• Eliminate barriers to community and workforce re-entry for formerly incarcerated people</li> <li>• <i>Inclusiveness – bring folks in marginalized, previously incarcerated margins, black/brown people-fill jails, occupy</i></li> </ul>
<b>THEME:</b>	EMPLOYMENT & DEVELOPMENT
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grow job base</li> <li>• Prepare for Recession within 5 years</li> <li>• Incentivize business owners to provide living wages</li> <li>• Prioritize local/regional and small business partners</li> <li>• Every citizen has sustainable employment</li> <li>• Wage increase through economic diversity</li> <li>• More homegrown business and talent (start-up to HQ)</li> <li>• There is a wide network of people available to provide risk capital for start-ups.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MCCF has flourished and had impact</li> <li>• <i>There are accessible and affordable spaces for all potential and new business</i></li> <li>• <i>There is a small business incubator focused on people of color with free technical assistance</i></li> <li>• <i>There is more access to capital for small business, especially start-ups at an equitable rate</i></li> </ul>
Goals with Greatest Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop commercial tax base to relieve residential tax burden</li> <li>• We must continue to grow our existing job base to recruit new ones that pay sustainable, resilient wages for years to come</li> <li>• <i>Focus on education: job growth</i></li> <li>• Invest in jobs growth. Jobs = better outcomes in health, education, safety, wellbeing, inclusion, upward mobility</li> </ul>
<b>THEME:</b>	HOUSING
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-displacement policies – link affordable housing and economic mobility</li> <li>• Increasing diversity of housing supply – Re-zoning</li> <li>• High density affordable housing</li> <li>• The county has partnered with Asheville-Buncombe Community Land trust regarding county-owned properties so that properties are available for affordable housing</li> <li>• Jobs base = cost of housing</li> </ul>
Goals with Greatest Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the diversity of housing supply</li> <li>• <i>Provide affordable housing in the county with public transportation to downtown and other work areas.</i></li> </ul>
<b>THEME:</b>	NATURAL RESOURCES
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grow more utilization of natural resources and less utilization of extracted resources</li> </ul>
Goals with Greatest Impact	
<b>THEME:</b>	HEALTH
What would success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordable healthcare</li> </ul>
Goals with Greatest Impact	
	TAXES
What would success look like?	
Goals with Greatest Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop commercial tax base to relieve residential tax burden</li> </ul>

**RESIDENT WELL BEING:**

Health/Substance Abuse/Mental Health

- Bring resources to combat drug abuse
- Access to Healthcare/transportation
  - o Wellness clinics in churches
- Maintain local area healthcare centers

Community

- County support of the Barnardsville Vol. Fire Dept.
- Options for Elder Care in Barnardsville
- Improve cultural assets
- Develop communities of support to further disparate interests (red vs blue, rural vs urban vs suburban)
- Consider support of intentional communities
- Foster ongoing citizen discussions of issues

Criminal Justice/Public Safety

- Future plan of action for crime prevention

Land Use/Development

- Pay attention to Asheville redevelopment of Cellular Center – Thomas Wolfe Auditorium
- Chance percent of TDA percentage to infrastructure instead of tourist advertising.
- Increase sustainable economic growth projecting in to the future

Employment, Econ Development & Partnerships

- Diversify population – encourage economic opportunity (meaningful for career building) for young people
- Develop African American and Hispanic middle class

Accountability & Performance Measurement

- Is the county budget made public (transparent to residents to maintain trust)?

**VIBRANT ECONOMY:**

Rural Access/Connectivity

- Access to broadband



- Major leap in internet access

#### Land Use, Development & Public Investment

- Develop a 5 year plan for economic development in Barnardsville
  - o Build plan on existing institutions in Barnardsville Fire Dept., Elementary School, Community Club, churches
- Limit regulation/government by NC State edict!

#### Transportation

- Public transportation that not only would be affordable to those working, retired or elderly
- Identify and support (through education) the industries that are profitable
- Transportation access

#### Funding

- Incentives for brownfield redevelopment for infill
- Infill, brownfield, redevelopment – preserves land and helps with environment

#### Employment, Econ Development & Partnerships

- Online resource centers supporting skills and economic development

#### Community

- Online community hubs fostered similar to town crier of the old days to stimulate community development

#### Collaboration/Public Engagement

- Develop relationships with similar towns (like “sister” cities) to stimulate new ideas and support

#### Education/Schools

- Computer skills development

#### **EDUCATED AND CAPABLE COMMUNITY:**

##### Children/Youth/Pre-K & Childcare

- Early childhood education in Barnardsville
- No supplementation of county funds toward childcare. Possibly toward mobility for the elderly
- Quality early childhood education

##### Rural Access/Connectivity

- Extension of Broadband
- Development of internet for all of Buncombe County

##### Employment, Econ Development & Partnerships

- Have jobs that will keep educated people in the area
- Coordination of business, industries and skill educators to create possibilities.

- Get high powered economic opportunities interested in developing populace from ground up – to work with AB Tech and UNCA to spur economic development

#### Education/Schools

- Allow less expensive educational expenditures for those wishing to continue their education. Amount of student loans continues to be problematic.
- Measure and publicize our local schools success or lack of

#### Transportation

- Better advertisement of services for Mountain Mobility.

#### Community

- Strengthen community centers

### **ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP:**

#### Natural Resources

- Farm Preservation: Land protection and economic support
- Protection of the Big Ivy river water quality

#### Land Use, Development & Public Investment

- Limit ridgeline development
- No conservation in perpetuity – only specified zoning restrictions per ordinance
- Limit infrastructure development with eye on wide development
- Encourage development of leaders of individual communities to represent their interests in the larger whole (respecting the histories of different initiatives)

#### Funding

- Explore more incentives (cost-sharing programs, grants for farms)
- Lower not just the farmland taxes but the farmland owner's residence taxes (if he lives on this farmland)
- Lower or freeze property taxes on farms so that farms won't have to be sold to pay for elder's living expenses
- County tax advantage related to solar power usage
- Controls on effect on money interests to protect common good

#### Energy & Waste Reduction

- Increase electric vehicles to mitigate greenhouse gas problem
- Increase electric car fueling stations

**RESIDENT WELL BEING:**

Transportation

- Public transportation
- Increase access to widespread and affordable public transportation. This transportation must be powered by renewable energy too.

Equity/Inclusion

- Increase cultural pride.

Education/Schools

- Educated population
- Increase education of public on safe and discerning use of internet.

Community (sense of, access to services, place-making)

- Develop community gardens
- Increase access to assistance to close the technology gap for older or underserved residents. They cannot apply for many programs or services because they do not understand or have access to technology.
- Provide assistance workshops on how to apply for state/fed assistance and insurance – disability, healthcare, identification. Could be informational.
- Food and shelter for the homeless – opportunity for rehabilitation and training for viable employment.
- Encourage and supporting the arts at all levels
- Community garden support
- Increasing efforts to create social ties and create places for communities to connect with each other in physical space, which will positively impact jail populations, drug use, health issues, etc.
- Building trust among leaders and communities by absolute actions and not words

Housing

- Lowest per capita income: cost of living
- Allow tiny houses
- Build small apartments for elderly-low income
- Develop housing for the homeless, i.e. tiny houses
- Reduce homelessness

Criminal Justice/Public Safety

- Police in area more

- Law abiding sheriff who doesn't release illegal immigrant felons into the community when ICE can get them out of the community
- Have more police officers monitoring roads for violations of drivers
- Enforcement of traffic laws. It has become increasingly dangerous on roads in Buncombe County. Increase presence of law enforcement officers who enforce the law.

- 

#### Employment, Econ Development & Partnerships

- Increase wages/decrease gaps in wages (social detriments of health)
- Decrease gender wage gap
- Bring in more tourism to support more jobs
- Access to employment for those released from prison – backs up to quality training in prison – address recidivism

#### Children/Youth/Pre-K & Childcare

- Implement a way to support child care – private or public
- Affordable childcare with emphasis on quality early childhood education

#### Funding (taxes, alternate sources, add'l investment)

- Low taxes
- Tourism is causing rising costs. Stop investors or heavily tax investors who don't live in community to give back to all
- Change policy to have developers who are building large buildings to allocate 20% to service or low income people.

#### Health/Substance Abuse/Mental Health

- Increase accessibility to quality preventative healthcare
- Mental health access – affordable/free, individual/group
- Swannanoa – have a more diverse choice of doctors
- Healthcare available for all
- Low cost medical clinics (more affordable/free mental health access)
- County health dept. outreach through mobile clinics to underserved populations
- Emphasis on drug education and treatment
- Opioid crisis – have all doctors responsible for drugs they prescribe
- Better hospitals. Mission recently was downgraded to a "C".
- Address ongoing drug addiction through programs, funding, etc.
- Maintaining/establishing healthcare access, in light of for-profit healthcare now being dominant

#### Land Use, Development & Public Investment

- Good trash pickup, street lights, good water
- No new regulations on landowners
- Encourage compact housing with dense landscaping.
- Not increase density

#### Natural Resources (water & air quality, greenspace, farmland & food)

- Provide food for the food insecure
- Increase local food security and access to healthy food.
- Food security

#### Recreation/Greenways/Healthy Life

- Make our town and county pedestrian friendly via sidewalks and connecting greenways
- Recreational spaces
- Recreational spaces – healthy activities
- Full access to playground
- Building safe sidewalks and bicycle paths
- Provide opportunities for all people to be active as a natural part of their daily activities (i.e. access to greenways and parks)
- Provide adequate access to healthy food for all residents.
- Completion of a countywide greenway system
- Provide options for people to stay active
- Protect and enhance greenspace in the cities, including pedestrian and bike friendly roads

#### Energy & Waste Reduction

- Reduce greenhouse emissions/carbon footprint via building operations, transit options, and public pressure Duke Energy to utilize much more renewable energy sources.

### **VIBRANT ECONOMY:**

#### Transportation

- Efficient and effective public transportation
- Free bus transportation available to all citizens
- improved public transportation

#### Education/Schools

- Vocational training is available, affordable, accessible and supported/integrated with industry partnerships
- Educated population
- Support AB Tech and skilled trades, small businesses such as lawn care, home repair, etc.
- Make sure all races have the same education
- Have more educational festivals – reading science environment not just one topic at a time

#### Community (sense of, access to services, place-making)

- Develop a “cottage industry” mentality and form a self-sufficient community/county
- Nourish community connections through support of public recreational spaces and programming for diverse populations

- Focus not just on middle-class needs, priorities, and concerns but those of the truly poor.

#### Housing

- Reduce housing costs/increase housing opportunities
- Help the homeless by creating spaces that help them to move forward
- Allow for areas of small/micro houses for anyone (homeless, working low-to-moderate income to live)
- Affordable housing within the county
- Increase affordable housing options for the workforce
- Workforce housing
- Invest in workforce housing and relax ordinances prohibiting alternative housing
- Affordable housing for working people
- Abundant and affordable housing
- Affordable housing

#### Employment, Econ Development & Partnerships

- Create zones of affordable business space
- Regional collaboration to ED projects (increase wages, economic diversity)
- Attract business
- More manufacturing
- Encourage/incentivize businesses to relocate to Buncombe County or to expand their operations that will bring high-wage employment with opportunities.
- We need more manufacturing and food or hotels
- Good enough employments so individual persons don't have to work two jobs. Good enough jobs, less stress, better health, happier communities, more time to practice environment stewardship and volunteerism.
- Encourage the entrepreneurial spirit.
- Jobs that require skills above basic education. Workers who will be able to support their families and not work several hours.
- Increase economic activity; i.e. jobs, business creation across all levels (size of company, variety of business types)
- Diversity of industry – not dependent on service economy
- Increase minimum hourly wage to a living wage
- Focus on supporting local businesses and on employing local people. No more selling off our homegrown businesses, such as Earth Fare and Whole Foods. The county could find ways to encourage homegrown business and to discourage large corporate chains. Tourists for example, love our local breweries and locally crafted art.
- Raising the minimum wage, which is shown to alleviate many of our significant issues
- Support local small businesses
- Encouraging small businesses to relocate or start up with perhaps incentives
- Diversification of tourism economy

#### Children/Youth/Pre-K & Childcare

- Community childcare available at costs adjusted to income

Funding (taxes, alternate sources, add'l investment)

- Low taxes

Land Use, Development & Public Investment

- Swannanoa needs a new library
- Zone rules that support greenspaces, wider sidewalks, etc.
- Maintain/build infrastructure

Recreation/Greenways/Healthy Life

- Green spaces, greenways, trails, parks
- Green spaces etc to support tourism

Rural Access/Connectivity

- Swannanoa – have more choice to eat fast food and have a bank
- Support free internet or internet access for home based occupations

### **EDUCATED AND CAPABLE COMMUNITY:**

Transportation

- Expand mass transit

Education/Schools

- Increase opportunities for lifelong learning
- College and quality trade schools
- Student Debt
- Support AB Tech and skilled trades
- Whatever happened to that tax for AB Tech?
- Increase access/provide programs and services to young adults to assist with applying for employment and applying for college and scholarships. Teach them how to be responsible with money. Programs in schools
- Attract/keep best teachers with affective methods/curriculum
- All children can read at their grade level or higher
- All public schools have top-tier talent (teaching, administrators)
- Extend the school year for all children to 210-220 days
- Focus on resources to address racial education gaps
- Try to increase all children to be in classes together and not separated by schools headed in one direction
- Increase access to and support of public school education
- No child left behind – no matter age or race.
- More industry training, vocational training

- Increase number of teachers and merit based salary increases.
- Use the successful educational models of some charter schools – Evergreen, Art Space, etc. and bring these to a larger population in the county. These are model schools with great staff and outcomes and this type of education should not be up to winning the lottery.
- Post-secondary education access
- Go to schools to find the poor and find out what they feel is important to them.
- Access to post-secondary education at all ages and stages
- Increase funding of county schools and increase teacher salaries
- Encourage vocational education in fields where well-paying jobs are available.
- Parental involvement

#### Community (sense of, access to services, place-making)

- Promote/support “Cottage Industries” to enable community self sufficiency
- Elderly can find services
- Increase access to counselors in school for youth to feel comfortable addressing needs such as domestic violence, drugs, food insecurity.
- Create opportunities within and without educational institutions to learn valuable practical life skills
- Create opportunities for residents and business owners to learn and be supported in engagement with local and county government
- Senior citizens have access to high quality community services and programs
- Educational and enrichment activities should be accessible and affordable to the residents.
- Host more of this type of event where community members participate in the bigger picture. Advertise widely.
- Provide presentations about internet and business scams so people can discern and make good
- Need more drug rehab places and long stay
- Emphasis on food security
- Expand library funding and capabilities to reach out to all young people.
- Support for libraries across the county, especially digital resources

#### Housing

- Safe, affordable housing

#### Employment, Econ Development & Partnerships

- Attract industry sectors which may require greater educational experiences
- Our goal is to have educated and capable community by having better employments for families to have less stress and financial worries so that they can contribute to the community, feed their family and focus on a better quality of living.
- Providing a living wage to all staff that work in childcare

#### Children/Youth/Pre-K & Childcare

- Head Start programs
- More and cheaper early childcare



- Support very early childhood development
- Childcare is available to all that need the service with quality, accessibility and affordable
- Full access for all children birth-5 to high quality childcare at an affordable cost of fully subsidized
- High quality and easy accessible, 24-hour available childcare in order that any family may work anytime.
- Affordable childcare – resources for centers to receive support financially and in services to better equip young children for the future.
- Early childhood educational opportunities should be available across the county.
- Early childhood education for all races
  - Reading
- Increased funding for daycare, primary and secondary education
- Community daycare infrastructure
- Early childhood education support (subsidy)
- Abundant and affordable childcare for everyone

Funding (taxes, alternate sources, add'l investment)

- Library funded

Health/Substance Abuse/Mental Health

- Center maternal health

Collaboration/Public Engagement

Land Use, Development & Public Investment

Natural Resources (water & air quality, greenspace, farmland & food)

Recreation/Greenways/Healthy Life

- Promote use of bicycles
- Provide healthy food during the activities.

Rural Access/Connectivity

- High speed internet

## **ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP:**

Transportation

- Improve Mountain Mobility access/public transportation
- Have a better mass transit system
- Better use for public or shared transportation
- Increase access to alternative means of transportation.
- Free electric bus service around county
- Vehicles run on solar energy (buses, etc.)

## Housing

- Acknowledge that “homelessness” is going to be with us for the foreseeable future. Establish “camps” with port-a-johns and a dumpster. Set up a few of the portable storage sheds for a cooking and shower area.

## Land Use, Development & Public Investment

- A transfer station in the east end of Buncombe County
- Slope protection (mountainsides are being defaced by development)
- Protect all creeks and rivers from storm water runoff, sediment/erosion from development and construction projects and strengthen/enforce all existing regulations and ordinances.
- Before building new homes, the whole place needs to be looked at for water runoff.
- You can have policies that encourage maintaining farmland and undeveloped land while protecting private property rights for landowners ability to do as they wish
- Increased supervision of infractions
- Limit development. The Board of Adjustments must stop approving conditional use permits to developers that make exceptions to county and state laws.
- Protect farmland from development through easements and ecological agricultural development projects.
- Adding teeth to enforcement of environmental regulations on industry in the county, including agriculture, with particular focus on water quality.
- Change policy and laws to stop the cutting of all the trees on property (not somewhere else) i.e. must keep 20% of property in trees.
- Preserve existing trees by regulating the number and types of trees that are removed for development.
- Require trees to be planted to replace the trees that are lost
- Improve storm water drainage by regulating development and educating home and commercial builders.
- Continue to limit development on ridge tops

## Natural Resources (water & air quality, greenspace, farmland & food)

- Conservation and protection of drinking water resources
- Steward development
- End unnecessary development/destruction of resources and protect watersheds
- Sustainable agriculture
- As already identified, reserve land for natural undeveloped spaces and farms
- Continue and further develop clean-up and protection of waterways and groundwater
- Make pollinator gardens
- Address bear population – education – safety
- Set strict storm water ordinances and practices
- Preserve open-space, farm land
- Maintain amount of greenspace, farms, forests, large tracts of undeveloped land
- Collaborate with conservation trusts to protect more open space and farmland

- Save land near rivers and streams where flat for growing food
- Increase the number of viable small farms supplying local food to the community
- Prioritize maintenance of farms and wilderness
- We need to be alive and breathe in 2025.
- Increased land conservation education
- Protect natural resources

#### Recreation/Greenways/Healthy Life

- Preserve/protect/expand parks, greenways
- Build out Buncombe Co. greenways to connect as much as possible between communities, area attractions, have bicycle lockers, commuter parking lots, incentives from county to use bicycles for transportation.
- County programs for getting outdoors at any age.
- Completion of a countywide greenway system

#### Energy & Waste Reduction

- Reduce carbon emissions (start with building, transit, green the grid)
- reduce greenhouse emissions
- Implement clean energy solutions across the board (buildings, transportation)
- Have programs that cuts cost of energy (insulation installed for houses, etc.)
- Reduce greenhouse gases is a ridiculous goal
- Mandatory fees for all bottles and cans that could be recycled
- Places to get rid of things that clutter the community that is easily accessible and affordable.
- Eliminate/reducing carbon producing vehicles that are operated by the county/city
- Solar energy
- Wider recycling and ways to compost food waste
- Focus on the goal of 100% renewable energy, clean water, clean air, and maintaining habitat for wildlife in addition to public lands for the enjoyment and well-being of humans.

**RESIDENT WELL BEING:**

Transportation

- Public transit
- Increase countywide access to public transit
- Excellent, electrified affordable public transit allows everyone access to jobs and recreation

Equity/Inclusion

- Equity
- Focus/understand equity – more and more people of color will be moving into county
- Racial/Equity training for county staff
- People are a cultural asset. We need goals to keep our families healthy, out of poverty, to end the racial wealth divide of racial achievement gap and out of jail.
- Increase the availability of a Buncombe that is inclusive; equitable with policy that reflects all of the people who live/work here.

Education/Schools

- Decreasing the achievement gap and reducing the school-to-prison pipeline – start training

Community (sense of, access to services, place-making)

- Give resident's concerns a higher standing when considering the impact of new developments
- Provide things to do for the black community (will decrease crime and problems)
- Add "arts"
- Expand and maintain cultural, arts and recreational assets (making them increasingly accessible to all community member across language, race, ethnicity, age and county geography)
- Educate all community members about trauma and resilience strategies to increase community wellbeing, violence prevention, population health and increased connection.

Housing

- Affordable housing/address homeless
- 0 Homeless population long-term
- Affordable housing
- Provide housing for homeless
- Significantly more investment in affordable housing, by taking a much stronger partnership role with the city of Asheville and other municipalities.
- Safe, affordable housing
- *Affordable housing and childcare over hotels*

Criminal Justice/Public Safety

- Justice Rehabilitation
  - DV
  - Restorative justice
  - No cash bail
- Reducing jail population – economic job training opportunity

## Employment, Econ Development & Partnerships

- Increase funding to support black businesses
- Support individuals interested in opening in-home childcare (Community members)
- Living wage

## Children/Youth/Pre-K & Childcare

- Do not put black kids in preschool – it is an early path to the school-to-prison pipeline.
- *Affordable housing and childcare over hotels*
- Early Childhood Education/Care options

## Funding (taxes, alternate sources, add'l investment)

- Provide sufficient funding to maintain government facilities at a high level and expand the recreational opportunities
- Infrastructure

## Health/Substance Abuse/Mental Health

- Effectively collaborate with other entities in healthcare to improve public health (Dogwood Trust, YMCA, UNCA, MAHEC)
- Access to healthcare from birth to grave
- Free (or affordable) healthcare
- No more fossil fuel emissions – decrease asthma
- Access to mental health services/Medicaid

## Collaboration/Public Engagement

- Collaborate in planning with other major entities in town to help plan for the community's future (City, TDA, UNCA, AB Tech, HCA, Dogwood)
- Increase public trust by ensuring that all residents participate in planning processes, set goals and evaluate, use equity lens in outreach and engagement.
- Full participation of all citizens on issues that impact them

## Natural Resources (water & air quality, greenspace, farmland & food)

- Cultural and rec assets – clean rivers

## Accountability & Performance Measurement

- Hold agencies that receive county money accountable. Focus on successes!
- Missing an analysis of the trends to then identify goals and outcomes.
- Increase public trust through accountability and action
- I do not think increased public trust should be a goal. It will be an outcome of our goals.
- Public Trust
  - Stop telling us it is all about money or Raleigh
  - Raise taxes on hotel rooms – put back into county – not hotel ads
  - Racial justice and equity – affordable housing (tiny houses), police sensitivity training
  - Get guns off street
  - Opioid treatment/prevention

## **VIBRANT ECONOMY:**

### Transportation

- Provide access to transportation 24/7 to jobs

### Equity/Inclusion

- Equity
- Increase median income. Address raising income through equity lens
- More jobs in diverse industries with a focus on the POC community.
- Create a formula/equation that will result in equitable median income

### Housing

- Determine how county revenues will be spent on affordable housing opportunities – subsidize, etc.
- Change housing policies to allow tiny homes and mother-in-law units in single family neighborhoods
- Significantly more investment in affordable housing, and equitable opportunities for employment throughout the community.
- Affordable housing for impoverished communities. Economic inclusion and opportunities.

### Criminal Justice/Public Safety

- Reduce jail population with job training, living wage, placement, portals of opportunity

### Employment, Econ Development & Partnerships

- Break free of the tourism economy
- Create economic diversity by attracting new business to the community
- Attract national businesses who understand the recreational and health/wellness benefits of national forest, access/transportation, and greenspace.
- Support tourism and controlled growth
- Augment innovative aspects to create greater economic vibrancy. (Healthcare innovation – Dogwood Trust, environmental – Blue Horizons, Craft Beer innovation. What’s next?)
- Recruit businesses with higher wages
- Focus on ending poverty by specifically raising the lowest wage – not focusing on median income.
- Living wage
- Grants for entrepreneurs for all ages
- Second chance for employing felons/criminal history
- Promote worker-owned cooperative businesses to provide vitally important services such as transportation supplements, alternatives, growing more food, transitions to locally made products vs. being a tourist economy. Help POC owned businesses.
- Local business – intentional minority inclusion with training and technical assistance
- Expand demographics and provide possible training diversity and support for lower income individuals in order to improve median income
- Increase minimum wage to a living sustainable income
- Sustainable minority business development/incubators. Black Buncombe residents can only be part of a thriving community if they themselves are economically stable.
- Getting more industry/tech/living wage positions and industries back into Buncombe.
- Create a living wage (minimum) expectations for businesses in Buncombe County.
- Living wage is the norm

- Increase average income
- Countywide living wage (\$15/hour)
- Living wage, rent control

#### Funding (taxes, alternate sources, add'l investment)

- Totally revamp the TDA: if you have to abolish it/reduce its influence to refocus it to a sustainable economy. Yes we need money from tourism, but it needs to be sustainable.
- Redirect more TDA funds to project geared to benefit residents (less money for marketing; more money retained)
- Focus resources equitably
  - Invest directly to impoverished communities
  - Take out the non-profit middleman
  - Minority business owners
- Have tourist/tourism industry businesses pay taxes (through hotels, etc.) that directly support increased quality of life/accessibility of resources to support housing that is safe and affordable in Buncombe County. (make this available to public servants like public educators, bus drivers, all early educators including head start and early head start, law enforcement, etc.
- Hotel tax distributed more evenly

#### Collaboration/Public Engagement

- When they do what their mission suggests, they will be working on their exit strategy

#### Land Use, Development & Public Investment

- Note: Rich people will continue to come and pay taxes and spend money until the infrastructure (service community) collapses under inequities. Focus needs to be on young, affordable housing, transit, equitable solutions.
- Downtown investment (all municipalities)
- Invest in downtown
- Development without displacement. Protect neighborhoods where low income people, communities of color and immigrant communities have created community infrastructure to thrive in spite of barriers.

#### Natural Resources (water & air quality, greenspace, farmland & food)

- Welcome new technologies for climate

#### Accountability & Performance Measurement

- Hold non-profits receiving county funds accountable for successful outcomes

### **EDUCATED AND CAPABLE COMMUNITY:**

#### Equity/Inclusion

- Equity
- Commissioners and staff need equity training. I have been to listening session on various topics with various commissioners. I have heard the word “equity” but I don’t think that commissioners understand the word equity.
- Bring equity focus to literacy issues in school/community
  - Look at/address historical social constraints
  - Focus on raising economic levels of folks

- If you focus on elderly, look at it from bottom up, not all the wealthy transplants.
- Eliminating opportunity gap
- Close achievement gap between whites and minorities
- Provide opportunities for higher paying jobs for minorities
- Racial equity training/cultural competency/implicit bias training for all school staff
- Use an equity lens to identify and fund strategies around root causes of the racial achievement gap
- Invest heavily in racial equity and resiliency-trainings in public schools systems – both for educators and admins and parents and students
- Close the racial achievement disparity by eliminating poverty and racism via a \$15 minimum wage and equity measures such as reparations for people of color.
- Study history of colonization to understand how the groundwater was set to dismantle systems of oppression – see how history repeats to disrupt. This one goal for all quadrants
- Discontinue “Poverty Pimping”
- The current draft goals don’t address any of the issue that my community faces

#### Education/Schools

- Prepare children for increase literacy and employable skills
- Increase pay to teachers while promoting and recognizing teachers who do a great job
- Engage large number of retirees who have specific skill sets and try to get them engaged with the development of the youth – high school aged kids
- Show kids the benefit of strong education
- Tap into retirement population to assist in local school systems – take lead in coordinating those resources
- Expand job training/continuing education opportunities
- Teacher pay, retirees skill sets, show kids benefit
- POC in visible education roles – in classrooms, admin, etc.
- Restorative Justice programs in Middle/High Schools
- Free Community College for residents (regardless of citizenship)
- Engaging elder in public school system
- Recognizing students in poverty/students of color to come to school traumatized – address this!!
- Empower families to be first and best educated.
- Reduce school to prison pipeline
- Eliminate achievement gap
- We cannot increase literacy until we increase the brain development and social emotional capacity of children 0-5 and their parents need the support, education, respect and space for reflection and learning to make that possible. Likewise their childcare providers and early educators need both increased wages and increased professional development and emotional support/education. 85% of brain development happens in first 3 years.
- Parent engagement in schools
- Opportunity gap decreased
- Prepare kids – literacy math and critical thinking
- Vocational training
- Growing racial gaps in educational achievement
- Prepare all kids for success by assuring they have the literacy skills they need
- Discontinue tracking

#### Community (sense of, access to services, place-making)

- Elderly access to services/programs



## Housing

- Affordable housing – financial part
- Significantly more investment in affordable housing, by taking a stronger partnership role with the City of Asheville and other municipalities.
- Decreasing elderly people rent or putting a cap no matter where they live
- New apartments coming – set aside 20% for low income
- Growing housing cost and supply

## Criminal Justice/Public Safety

- Racial gap – suspension and restorative justice

## Employment, Econ Development & Partnerships

- Provide economic opportunities – especially to small and minority businesses
- Partner with local businesses to provide training opportunities for local individuals in order to build community growth and raise the skill set levels.

## Children/Youth/Pre-K & Childcare

- Focus on young people (we love elderly, but I think this will follow). Literacy is too narrow a focus.
- Follow through and pursue the current focus on early childhood education and childcare initiatives.
- Reduce regulatory constraints to allow more affordable childcare
- Providing universal free childcare and support local in-home childcare workers and centers
  - Multilingual capacity-building and training
- Create an environment that allows childcare service providers to lower their fees
- Government should know development milestones

## Funding (taxes, alternate sources, add'l investment)

- Develop infrastructure to deal with growing population

## Health/Substance Abuse/Mental Health

- Support the capacity for health attachment, optimal brain development and social emotional wellbeing of infant, toddlers and preschoolers and all the adults who hold and raise them.

## Collaboration/Public Engagement

- Develop tools to communicate with residents – social media, etc.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP:**

### Transportation

- Transit – work with city on no-fare transit/expand more
- Increase county access to transit by increasing sales ¼ cent.
- There is a lot of talk about greenways, bicycle lanes and sidewalks as a way to decrease emissions, but if not dealt with as part of a larger context around development and gentrification, they are often strategies that lead to increased gentrification – pushing low income people who currently use public transportation further out to the county where they lose access to public transportation.

- Meaningful investment in public transportation so that it is a dominant and reliable source of transportation through the county
- Expanded and revision public transportation with smaller buses.
- Excellent public transportation

#### Equity/Inclusion

- Equity

#### Housing

- Invest in affordable housing stock and solutions such as resident-owned mobile home parks; de-incentivizing expensive housing development, and de-incentivize or prohibit short-term rentals
- Develop affordable housing units instead of hotels
- More affordable home for people trying to buy homes.

#### Employment, Econ Development & Partnerships

- A decent cost of living wage.
- Jobs/Partnerships – competent

#### Collaboration/Public Engagement

- Collaboration with County/City/UNCA to leverage problems
- Partner with local institutions (i.e. UNCA) to address environmental concerns. There's a wealth of untapped potential, students, undergraduate research, knowledge of seniors at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

#### Land Use, Development & Public Investment

- Promote planning and zoning regulations which promote higher density development while maintaining high quality design
- Repurpose vacant or distressed commercial properties which amazon is crushing. City or County should buy these and do site prep and then resell to developers who can create a combination of market rate and affordable housing.
- Maintain farms and undeveloped lands? Develop a sustainable plan – socially, economic, environment, equitable. Yes, its good to maintain our beauty and development, but it must be based on reality of growing trends.
- Don't approve new development with infrastructure in place to handle it
- Zoning for smart growth throughout the county (storm water, traffic, density)

#### Natural Resources (water & air quality, greenspace, farmland & food)

- People come to Asheville for its natural beauty, be intentional about protecting one of our most valuable assets, our natural beauty
- Determine how you can grow without reducing acreage of farms and undeveloped land.
- Meaningful investment in clean drinking water access, equitably throughout the community.
- Protect the canopy – build around trees – car-less downtown Asheville with parking garages encircling
- Recognize rights of nature
- River quality/reduce waste water releases into French Broad
- I believe every focus area is impacted by the climate emergency and we must account for that.

#### Energy & Waste Reduction

- Reduce greenhouse gas emission by:
  - Improve use of electric vehicles
  - Improve housing effectiveness in power usage – insulation
- Good idea “reduce greenhouse gas emissions” – be specific. Develop comprehensive plan to promote (e.g. tax incentives, etc) for private sector to get on board, use leverage of county holdings to put pressure on Duke Power, etc. to move toward clean energy
- Greenhouse gas emission reduction
- Reduce emission while balancing other needs
- Free solar installation for low-income residents
- Promote more solar power use
- Stop greenhouse emissions – set up a county-owned utility in place of Duke
- Solar panels on all county buildings
- 100% renewable goals
- Spearhead and support more renewable energy production, development and conversion away from fossil fuels.
- Decrease carbon emissions
- Green building/infrastructure
- Reduce greenhouse emissions
  - Replace or change animal agriculture
  - Use electric 15 passenger vans for transportation with routes going everywhere 18 hrs/day
  - Because of high costs of housing more people commute – carpool credits/mass transit
  - Maintain acreage
    - Tiny house communities – legal and zoned
    - Vertical agriculture everywhere
  - Energy – clean
    - Stop Duke’s illegal monopoly (state governed but hold accountable)
    - Allow districts to have own electricity via sun/wind/new technologies – use grid
- Duke Power coal ash dump

**RESIDENT WELL BEING:**

Transportation

- Transportation
- Improve transportation in rural areas
- Develop reliable transportation/buses for county
- Transportation - Can we expand bus service into Enka-Candler area? Bus service into town would benefit many goals

Education/Schools

- Education opportunities tied to workforce needs – create opportunity system

Community (sense of, access to services, place-making)

- People are connected with community and neighbors and have purpose in their existence.
- Ensure older adults received comparable funding to children's services in Buncombe County
- Focus on the growing trend of elder neglect and fraud/scam prevention
- Improve/support aging in place
  - Caregiver support
  - We have great programs but little promotion of them
- Population growth – what our changing demographics needs
- Define population growth – age, race, education, profession
  - Determine each groups' strengths and needs
  - How best to address needs

Housing

- Affordable housing

Employment, Econ Development & Partnerships

- Living wage and social supports including affordable housing
- Living wage
- The widening divide between the 1% of the population and everyone else – the wage gap

Funding (taxes, alternate sources, add'l investment)

- Offer communities the option to collectively supply for regional specific need grants to solve their pressing issues and help them implement those visions – percentage of sales tax/population measure
- Stop encouraging so much tourism. Use more hotel taxes to support infrastructure instead of advertising for more tourism. Get rid of the agency that constantly encourages visitors – TDA.

Health/Substance Abuse/Mental Health

- More focus on drug rehab programs

#### Land Use, Development & Public Investment

- Begin intergenerational planning with all aspects of county planning, this will increase community vitality.

#### Natural Resources (water & air quality, greenspace, farmland & food)

- Everyone has access to quality food, water and healthcare

#### Recreation/Greenways/Healthy Life

- Greenways
- Bicycle incentives
- Expanded opportunities for positive experience with fresh food and/or healthy food environments
- County sets example for workplace and community wellness initiatives
- We should increase our recreational assets and ensure they are accessible by all, especially making sure each of our communities has assets in their communities
- Provide opportunities and facilities for residents to participate in physical exercise.

#### Accountability & Performance Measurement

- New section – Governmental Services
  - #1 in online services
  - Empire commission to limit expansion
  - Lead in collaboration with city and schools and Land of Sky
  - Create transparency mechanism
  - Empower oversight review team for 2 years

#### Rural Access/Connectivity

- We need a strong internet system countywide – not just in the urban area

### **VIBRANT ECONOMY:**

#### Transportation

- Alternative transportation enables people to live and work in all areas of the county.

#### Education/Schools

- Affordable childcare options
- To have an educated workforce who will be trained for high paying jobs – special skills needed in robotics/computer programming

#### Housing

- Reducing high cost of housing

- More workforce living housing areas. Workers can't afford to live here

#### Employment, Econ Development & Partnerships

- Living wage and social supports including affordable housing
- Living wages – can't spend money if you don't have any.
- Incentives to small local vendors or to consumers who shop small
- Goal needs to be connected to percent of people below livable wage
- Support homegrown/entrepreneurial local and small businesses.
- Provide support and initiatives to homegrown businesses
- Lower restrictions to new businesses cost and fees
- Raise – encourage living wages
- To develop a program for business development to highlight the benefits of moving a company to Buncombe County.

#### Funding (taxes, alternate sources, add'l investment)

- Develop plan where people who already do live here do not have the tax base raised by development so high that they must move

#### Collaboration/Public Engagement

- Economic goals complementing and supporting other strategic goals
- Develop more areas where new innovators can share office space

#### Land Use, Development & Public Investment

- Improve infrastructure in Enka-Candler
  - Water/sewer down 19/23 to allow retail development

#### Recreation/Greenways/Healthy Life

- Strong community hubs of dense population and preserved greenspace for all to enjoy

#### Energy & Waste Reduction

- Solar/wind infrastructure. It would bring jobs and save money

#### Rural Access/Connectivity

- Full broadband coverage in county
- WE must ensure that every BC household has affordable, high speed internet; this directly impacts education, health, and economic outlook
- High-speed internet is accessible in every part of the county.

### **EDUCATED AND CAPABLE COMMUNITY:**

#### Transportation

- Bring public transportation system to the county

## Education/Schools

- A literacy program where seniors help new readers practice their proficiency. Good for both parties' brains!
- Access to education
- What can we do to increase traditional public school enrollment.
- Support our public schools in all areas – academic, social services, arts and extra-curricular
- Increase technical and trade based programs
- Educational institutions from preschool to college located in every community and access to those institutions for all citizens no matter their income level.
- Every BC citizen is able to pursue advanced education beyond high school to improve their quality of life.
- Redirect resources toward children in the classroom vs admin functions
- Provide incentives for GED recipients
- More funding for public education
- Develop a partnership with AB Tech to institute programs that will enhance our workforce
- Older adults have access to affordable continuing education
- The achievement gap no longer exists
- Support public schools – not private

## Community (sense of, access to services, place-making)

- One-stop shop for older adults and caregivers that is county funded and supported with senior center, adult day center, meal site, exercise, resources, etc. Much like Family Justice Center
- Support working family caregivers as we do similarly to working moms and dads
- Do increase access for elderly to community services and programs

## Employment, Econ Development & Partnerships

- Living wage and social supports
  - Obamacare
  - Food stamps
  - Reliable extended bus services
  - Construction of small-size affordable housing so that baristas, back-of-house restaurant workers have a path to home ownership
  - Minimum wage
- A Living wage
- Increase median income
- Home health/in-home aid – lack of people in these jobs
- Attract more major employers, mid-level employment opportunities, support agriculture, balanced tourism to keep our young people here, and the resources we spend on their education working for Buncombe as the age.
- Multiple, major employers in every region of county paying above average wages
- Create a unified, seamless talent force development for Buncombe County – expand goal beyond preschool

#### Children/Youth/Pre-K & Childcare

- Increase quality affordable childcare option
- Assure that all children 2-5 have quality free daycare and are offered developmentally appropriate learning.
- All youth receive a quality early childhood education
- All children have access to education beginning with pre-k or before
- Children have time to play – get outside and be creative

#### Funding (taxes, alternate sources, add'l investment)

- Look at property tax breaks for older adults

#### Recreation/Greenways/Healthy Life

- Improved nutrition and connectors with positive food environment/wellness initiatives

#### Rural Access/Connectivity

- Expansion of water and sewer regionally as well as broadband access

### **ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP:**

#### Transportation

- Better mass transit (Sorry ART Bus, ya just don't cut it)
- Provide free transportation in city/county
- Transportation and roads that allow better flow or eliminate traffic so they don't sit for long periods of time wasting gas

#### Community (sense of, access to services, place-making)

- End urban sprawl/create more of a community

#### Housing

- Protect land by making dense housing affordable and desirable (updated amenities, views of protected land)
- Accessible and affordable housing options for all incomes and ages

#### Land Use, Development & Public Investment

- County zoning
- Increase water and sewer access to eliminate septic systems and keep waterways cleaner
- Coupons if property is restricted zoning to give value for loss of use. Can sell for density credit later.
- Better zoning or implement zoning in all of county – empower officials to shape future – right now, hand-tied
- Incentives



## Natural Resources (water & air quality, greenspace, farmland & food)

- Plant 100 more trees than we did the year before
- Farmland succession planning
- Conservation easements that do not preclude farming
- Support economically sustainable/viable working farms
- Increase long-term success of new and beginning farmers
- Develop and employ a plan for farmland and woodland preservation and management
- Conserve all prime soils for current and future farm sustainability
- Double land conservation efforts while we still have the undeveloped land
- Conserve green spaces, farmland, woodland in Buncombe County. Preserve critical view sheds.
- Ensure runoff and storm water regulations to reduce silt and waste entering our waterways.
- Protect clean water and air
- Save farmland – save undeveloped land
- Give more farmers tax benefits for smaller farms even if they aren't producing as much
- Preserve and protect farmland by ensuring aging farmers have reduced property taxes even when they can no longer physically farm

## Recreation/Greenways/Healthy Life

- Create parks and preserve greenspace now for future generations
- Bike/walking trails connect our population hubs (European model)

## Energy & Waste Reduction

- Comprehensive climate response plan
  - Take over the utility as enabled by NC 1976 (40 towns do this)
  - Insulate/retrofit housing
  - Enable solar capacity
  - Reliable, extended bus service
  - Restore train service
- I am very impressed with the phrase GREEN NEW DEAL and its growing adoption by many cities, states and countries.
- Recycling made easy
  - Better understanding of what can be and how
- Develop standards that are enforceable to combat greenhouse gases

**RESIDENT WELL BEING:**

Transportation

- Public transportation: ubiquitous, frequent, inexpensive or free.

Equity/Inclusion

- Equity in access to wellness/preventative care and healthcare for Buncombe citizens

Housing

- Affordable housing: new rule – apartment building with 20% affordable rents
- Bringing more infrastructure up to date as housing supply is increase.
- Equity – the goals for this will not look the same across communities and races. First of all, affordable housing needs to be addressed but not talking about median income. I want to see affordable housing for low-income communities.

Children/Youth/Pre-K & Childcare

- childcare and preschool
- Early childhood education

Health/Substance Abuse/Mental Health

- Providing financial assistance to those uninsured or underinsured (and unable to apply for assistance through programs such as Project Access) to access specialty care now that HCA no longer provides 100% discounts on ambulatory care for those who qualify.
- Mission's sale is already impacting services. Keep rural clinics open as much as possible.
- Quality healthcare and wellness

Collaboration/Public Engagement

- Please hold more sessions like this. The more regular they are, the more...
- Have more engagement opportunities will help build trust

Land Use, Development & Public Investment

- Better control of rapid development of high density residential housing and/or commercial development
- Improvement of infrastructure roads/water/sewer prior to not after development
- Better/safer roads
- Better options for getting motorists around the expansive Biltmore Estate property
- Remove rumble strips on Overlook Rd
  - Severely destructive to our quality of life

Recreation/Greenways/Healthy Life

- More funds allocated to greenspace preservations (farmland/recreational lands)
- Build and maintain facilities for creating and sharing artistic expression of diverse forms
- More greenways resource allocation – prioritize low-income communities.
- Remove unhealthy food options in schools
- Recreational assets are critical for community – especially kids

Accountability & Performance Measurement

- Public trust – will commissioners be accountable for periodic measurement of strategic goals?
- General comment: look at long-term plan and 5 year plan within 10/20 year plan
- Align county and municipalities strategic plans – more effective use of resources!

**VIBRANT ECONOMY:**

Transportation

- Free or low cost public transportation
- Public transportation

- Improved public transportation
- Transportation

#### Equity/Inclusion

- Equity

#### Education/Schools

- Education gap will help with this

#### Community (sense of, access to services, place-making)

- Make sure every citizen has opportunities to succeed in life through work, personal creative and learning.

#### Housing

- Affordable housing and increased support for those with poor credit or short rental histories/history of eviction to access housing and affordable security deposits.
- Affordable housing

#### Employment, Econ Development & Partnerships

- Bring in new light industry with higher paying jobs
- Stop funding for new industry through tax rebates or financial incentives.
- Diversity of small businesses
- Fair wages
- Jobs that are wage-appropriate to the cost of living in Asheville.
- More jobs other than service industry
- The impact and incidence of the condition of poverty has been reduced for Buncombe residents.

#### Children/Youth/Pre-K & Childcare

- Have emphasis on public education funding (free preschools/free daycare for working parents)
- Affordable childcare
- Childcare
- Childcare to meet all needs – early childhood education
- Affordable early-childhood education for workers to take their children there while they go work.
- Early care and education
- Quality childcare options

#### Land Use, Development & Public Investment

- Allow growth that is managed

#### Recreation/Greenways/Healthy Life

- AS will maintaining greenspace and encouraging walkable communities

### **EDUCATED AND CAPABLE COMMUNITY:**

#### Equity/Inclusion

- Severely reduce racial inequities
- Equity

#### Education/Schools

- Greater support of early education program and adult learning programs
- Closing the achievement gap must involve more than literacy. Schools and families need help to provide social-emotional literacy and support critical thinking skills and access to resources. Minority students need to be “seen” and nurtured and given hope for their futures. We need minority staff and teachers.
- It is not a literacy issue, it is a creating a good environment of well-being to all citizens and then education will increase. It is a matter of access to resources that produces focus in education and therefore better performance.
- Equity in access and opportunities to quality public education K-12 – eliminate racial gaps in achievement

- Cultural appropriate education
- Significant steps taken to reduce achievement gap/opportunity gap in education system
  - I think this will drive success in many of the other goals the county has. Have a push to improve quality of teachers, educators at all levels to provide superb education for everyone.
- Access to public education system

#### Criminal Justice/Public Safety

- Training, emotional support and jobs for former prisoners

#### Children/Youth/Pre-K & Childcare

- Early education emphasis in poorer communities – trying to involve parents and preschool education
- Increased access to affordable afterschool programs to help working parents
- Early childhood education
- Affordable but high quality early childhood education.
- Access to quality early care and education for Buncombe families

### **ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP:**

#### Transportation

- Develop long-term plans and the financing to develop a public transportation system that better serves everyone. I would like to see a system of smaller electric buses or even a commuter train system.
- Climate-friendly public transportation.
- Encourage use of transit

#### Equity/Inclusion

- Equity

#### Land Use, Development & Public Investment

- Place some limits on high-end developments and focus more on neighborhoods with small businesses and small parks and community gathering places. Hopefully this will help us avoid “sprawl” that harms the environment.

#### Natural Resources (water & air quality, greenspace, farmland & food)

- Preserve the beautiful natural areas of Buncombe County

#### Recreation/Greenways/Healthy Life

- Maintaining undeveloped land and increasing public greenspaces without displacing and destroying low-income developments
- Provide opportunities for outdoor activity by encouraging access to natural areas
- Walkable neighborhoods and downtown.
- Encourage more walkable communities
- Expand greenspace

#### Energy & Waste Reduction

- Launching initiatives to increase recycling and trash cleanups in public spaces and private residential areas
- Continued reduction of CO2 in County government activities.
- Education of the community on how to reduce CO2 emissions in business and personal life.
- Access to renewable/solar energy to low-income households. Increase of philanthropic opportunities that some/all communities, many philanthropists’ keeps giving to the same non-profits that serve the same “white” communities and many even have duplicated services.
- Reduce plastic use
- Continue goal toward reducing emissions

- Further recycling efforts
- Ban single-use plastics

#### Accountability & Performance Measurement

- Publicly report progress of environmental initiatives
- Growing population – establish master plan addressing housing, transit, high quality employment with public input/progress
- You are on the right track – just need to do more of it and focus