

**Comprehensive Plan Community Meeting – Indian River
Focus Area Notes + Exceptional Future Meaning
September 14, 2023**

Placemaking and Design

- Create attractive streetscapes
- Add more trees to the City. Please stop tearing trees down. Trees should be what separates us from the other cities.
- Combine housing and businesses together instead of zoning each separately (mixed use) (+1)
- Public art! (+1)
- Incorporate high-capacity transit guideway designs into streetscape designs (this shows that transit+pedestrians+cyclists are a priority and can safely go between the different transportation modes).
- More attention to our parks – we have the best around – the Locks, etc. should have a bigger draw – same with Centerville – no place in the 7 cities have such.
- Historic marking recognition for Indian River-Oaklette
- Create “gateway” on Indian River Road at Norfolk and VB borders
- Landscaping along Indian River Road

Quality of Life

- Neighborhood parks, green spaces, pocket parks
- Community grocery stores, and shopping (+1)
- Walkability
- More sidewalks/bike infrastructure connecting to transit to encourage more active and sustainable lifestyles (+1)
- More sidewalks to encourage walking (+1)
- Consider adding public pools
- More medical facilities for the aging residents (doctors, urgent care, hospital at south end of the City)
- More rec. centers (+1)
- Park/amenity space in all neighborhoods for by-right developments and those that require rezoning.
- More/new rec centers and community pools
- City assistance in enforcing existing covenants

Infrastructure and Connectivity

- Build out bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure to create backbone routes across city – especially for the children (+1)
- Improve pedestrian and bike connectivity between residential neighborhoods + nearby shopping + schools, libraries, etc. (+1)
- Improve regional transit networks and incorporate transit signal priority to improve commute times along future high-capacity transit corridors. (+1)

- On Battlefield and Greenbrier, develop signal priority movement of transit vehicles (+1)
- Rapid bus transit, bike lanes, road diets for underutilized roads, ext River Birch Run
- I am impressed with the majority of the infrastructure, etc!
- Redevelop Indian River shopping center and Indian River Road corridor to improve character of the gateway between VB+Norfolk. Indian River Road acts only as a “thru” street – speed limit reduction needed.
- Sidewalks, lines, drainage on US 13 south of Auburn Road to Battlefield
- Dredge the Indian River

Housing and Equity

- Affordable and mixed use housing (+1)
- Better public transportation (+1)
- Public transit for seniors and students who cannot drive (+1)
- More frequent transit service... later evening service
- Do not increase density in the areas already developed as single family and lower density. Make well “planned” decisions of multi-family
- More 55+ - many residents who moved to Chesapeake 30-40 years ago fall into this group
- Protect integrity of older housing stock and neighborhood character
- Later span and more frequent HRT service (+1)
- Better transit that connects people to jobs, schools, recreation, and medical, etc. (+1)
- Encourage brownfield development to meet housing needs (mixed-use on existing, underutilized surface parking in shopping centers and office parks)
- Stop replacing 1 lot brick homes with 2 plastic houses

Economic Prosperity

- Stop building so many apartments in the Greenbrier (West) area. And, add a basketball sportsplex in lieu of the Greenbrier Mall!! (Talk about economic prosperity!!!)
- Support local and small businesses. (+1)
- Indian River shopping center revitalization... incentives for attracting a grocery store anchor. (+2)
- Encourage redevelopment of underutilized shopping centers and office parks to meet housing demands
- Tap into our waterfront properties such as “the lock,” Elizabeth River, Northwest River for businesses such as restaurants similar to Blue Pete’s in VB or Big Woodies, etc. Make them a destination – the Amber Room @ Veterans Bridge has a good rep.
- More focus on South Norfolk and Indian River. Money was set aside for SN, however the library is the main focal point.
- Redevelop Indian River shopping center! Mixed use
- Set up (SNRC) Commission for Indian River such as SN
- Redevelop Greenbrier Mall – mixed use – maybe high end stores to supplant current absence at MacArthur mall

Growth Management and Rural Areas

- Infill development should meet high architectural standards

- Make sure infrastructure (stormwater, sewer, schools, transportation) support new and infill development
- Widen Volvo Parkway, add more sidewalks (yes, even in rural areas) for walkability or for bicycles... direct growth towards the interstate
- Keep our green spaces
- Protect your agricultural heritage... focus growth in Greenbrier Area
- High capacity transit along the City's growth areas (+1)
- Focus growth in established areas north of the bridges: Greenbrier, South Norfolk, Western Branch. Find ways to motivate landowners to build on unused residential lots
- More redevelopment in South Norfolk – housing and lots are developed perhaps easier transition for newer homes
- Schools/children/teacher ratio main focus before increase in housing.
- Make properties such as Bergeys, Greenbrier Farms, the Chesapeake Arboretum historic “properties” not just buildings if not already.
- Develop an ag. reserve program to protect certain rural tracts.

Environment and Resilience

- Develop Urban Forestry Master Plan and Green Infrastructure Plan
- Increase tree canopy (+1)
- Stormwater mitigation and improved water quality
- Plan for sea level rise and increased rainfall
- Increase trees in neighborhoods
- Add sidewalks
- Potable water – Norfolk Highlands – while safe – even after Aqua basically went away I still have orange residue in my tub and sinks
- Storm drains need to be cleaned regularly – possibly by inmate work force
- Encourage solar and wind at small and large scale (+1)
- Be ready to upgrade electrical distribution network
- Adopt sustainability practices – council
- Adopt dark skies practices to reduce light pollution
- Reduce waste (trash), little prevention
- Need public recycling contract – house to house

What Does Creating an Exceptional Future Mean to You?

- Higher end shopping
- Better public transit
- Identify flood sensitive areas on the Land Use Plan and plan accordingly.
- A sustainable, eco-friendly and inclusive environment focused on community.
- Basketball sportsplex instead of Greenbrier Mall
- More small businesses and entrepreneurs.
- Buy local.
- Parks and green spaces
- Public transportation
- Walkable/bikeable
- A walkable/bikeable city with trees, parks, open space in which people live in harmony with their neighbors and nature
- Better public transit.
- Walkable areas.
- Pools!!
- Better transit! To provide an alternative to the SUV that is also attractive to choice and non-choice riders alike.
- Pools in the Rec Centers.
- More retail and restaurants.
- Don't go crazy on development of multi-family.
- Walkable city.
- A city that is welcoming to people of all backgrounds, lifestyles, mix of residential, affordable housing, transit and pedestrian-friendly.
- More neighborhood sidewalks.
- Better Rec Centers.
- Focusing on the Arts.
- Balance growth agricultural, residential – protect environment
- Balancing housing and commercial demand/needs with infrastructure capacity
- Thoughtful growth
- Protect agricultural heritage
- Focus growth around Greenbrier
- Better transit
- Implementation time table and score card to track progress on plan