

Task Force Identifies Draft Guiding Planning Principles and Begins Next Phase of Planning

In March 2005, the Tysons Land Use Task Force was charged with coordinating community input and making recommendations with regard to updating the 1994 Tysons Comprehensive Plan to include the incorporation of four planned Metro stations into Tysons Corner. The Task Force, a 35-member group representing residents, businesses, major employers, and community and civic organizations, has been working to envision a positive and exciting future for Tysons Corner.

Listening to Our Neighbors

The Task Force's first task was to study the existing Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan and issues related to planning for growth and transit-oriented design. The Task Force then sought extensive public comment on key values and concerns for the future of Tysons Corner. In January and February 2006, the Task Force heard from 424 people – via 20 dialogues and on-line comments -- who identified a wide variety of important community values, issues and concerns regarding Tysons' future. These values included creating an increased sense of place in Tysons Corner, improving traffic conditions, improving public facilities infrastructure, protecting surrounding communities, increasing residential options, and managing growth, among others. The full report of this initial community outreach can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/tysonscorner/

Identifying Strong Planning Principles

After considering all of the values and issues raised by the community, the Task Force identified a set of Draft Guiding Planning Principles. These principles are designed to provide clear and fundamental direction to the identification, development, and evaluation of transportation and other infrastructure improvement options for Tysons. The Draft Guiding Planning Principles are included as an attachment to this update.

Engaging Urban Planning Assistance

As the Task Force contemplated its work, it realized the importance of making Tysons Corner a world-class model for effective planning. Rather than push ahead with the original aggressive schedule to create design options by this fall, the Task Force requested that the County retain the services of a preeminent urban planning team. Specifically, the Task Force recommended the retention of a firm with experience in planning for redevelopment of substantial land areas for transit-oriented uses such as in Tysons Corner. The Task Force proposes to use the firm to synthesize the community input and Task Force work, and provide a visualization of what Tysons can become. The Task Force believes that the additional effort and time will greatly enhance the overall plan for Tysons Corner.

(continued)

Continuing the Dialogue

The Task Force is committed to open communication and ongoing public input to its process. It is working to improve the quality and accessibility of information on the County web site which contains all information pertaining to the Task Force. The Task Force also maintains an email list and telephone information line. All Task Force meetings are open to the public and the schedule is posted on the web site. Interested stakeholders are invited to sign up for email or regular mail updates on the web site or at the contact points identified below.

The Task Force is currently soliciting public input on the Draft Guiding Planning Principles. Comments will be accepted through August 18, 2006 so that input can be considered at the August 28 Task Force meeting.

Comments, input, and questions can be provided by phone at 703-324-1344, email at tysonscornerspecialstudy@fairfaxcounty.gov, or mail to

Tysons Corner Special Study
Dept. of Planning & Zoning
12055 Government Center Pkwy., Suite 730
Fairfax, Virginia 22035-5505

Next Activities

Once County approval and support for engaging a preeminent planning firm is confirmed, the Task Force will provide information about the process of soliciting for and selecting a firm. A revised schedule of planning activities will be developed in conjunction with the new planning firm and shared with the public as soon as it is known.



Current and complete information about the Tysons Land Use Task Force and the process of updating the Tysons Comprehensive Plan can be found at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/tysonscorner/>

Reasonable accommodations will be made upon request. Please call 703-324-1334, TTY 711, for more information.