

TOWN OF HERNDON - DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
SEPTEMBER 25, 2019 PUBLIC MEETING – INPUT RECEIVED

Comments from breakout groups:

Parks and Recreation

Park Maintenance including Bruin Park run by Fairfax County Park Authority -concern with dead trees (both standing and down on the ground) and conditions of sidewalk and courts

Coordination with Fairfax County

Open space in the HTOC and TRG and insuring connections to regional trails

Preserve green space and recreational facilities during redevelopment

Haley Smith Park – more park amenities needed

(NOTE: artificial turf field with lighting and other park improvements are included in the adopted FY 2020 – FY 2025 CIP at Fiscal Year 2023, with new playground equipment planned for Fiscal Year 2024).

Transportation

Walkability improvements makes for a more friendly, inviting, engaged community

General support for multimodal measures

Zone parking – related to anticipated parking problems north of TRG as a result of the opening of Herndon Metrorail Station

Need for street connectivity to provide alternatives and assist in reducing versus traffic congestion

Need to coordinate future roadway improvements with adjoining Fairfax and Loudoun Counties. For example: Fairfax County’s proposed Monroe Street improvements coordinated with the town’s (south) Van Buren Street improvements.

Need to push for regional view on transportation planning (to include multimodal and ‘complete street’ initiatives) and congestion relief measures

Elden Street corridor – need for improved signal synchronization

Need for a comprehensive multi-modal approach in providing access to Innovation Metrorail Station and Herndon Metrorail Station

Provide trail connection from the Downs neighborhood to the Transit Related Growth area and the Metrorail Station. This comment included acknowledgement that many in the neighborhood disagree.

Van Buren and Alabama intersection: re-evaluate the need for signalization as part of the Van Buren Street improvements. Can it be implemented later?

Retain community while relieving congestion – a challenge and balancing act

Sustainability and Heritage Resources

LEED Certification Requirements

Stream restoration

Tree preservation

Association between built environment and wellness

(there were no comments on Heritage Resources)

Housing and Residential Areas

Performance standards for housing, especially new construction; deal with quality problems with builders; negative impact on owners and renters when there are extensive construction problems; potential negative impact on other properties in HTOC area

Allow short-term rentals so that owners can have supplemental income to help them stay in their homes. Others expressed concern on impacts to stable neighborhoods if allowing transient use through short-term rentals.

Fulfill need for age-based housing as well as housing with accessibility

Provide for Accessory Dwelling Units in existing housing

Consider rent control on private sector housing

Preserve existing affordable housing

Pursue county support for new affordable housing

Intermix affordable housing units in market rate projects

Economic Development

Maintain town character

Technology sector recruitment

Encourage entrepreneurship

Support incubators and co-working

Focus on minority-owned businesses

Distinguish Herndon from Reston, Vienna (market sectors)

Recruit corporate headquarters to town

Focus on Metrorail area in recruitment

Smart city infrastructure

Streamline zoning process

Building permit – streamline process and guide users through the process

Provide clear documents with the requirements for opening a business

Encourage renewable energy infrastructure

Recruit green businesses

Comment cards filled out at the meeting by participants:

1. Never allow [name of development company] to build in Herndon again
2. With more population there will be more cars and more pollution; so the town should go after renewable energy and create jobs for people, especially the youth so that they are busy, have income and are discouraged from going after drugs and crime.
3. Address population growth. More people take up more land; since housing takes up land area, it reduces farmland to grow crops to feed the population; which in return will end up causing us to import more food.

4. Environment and sustainability are important issues for the future. We need to reduce the town's impact on global warming. Reduce plastic use and educate residents on proper recycling techniques so recycling doesn't get diverted to landfills or oceans.
5. Encourage residents to compost food waste versus sending it to landfills.
6. Building permits should reduce asphalt/concrete heat sinks to the maximum extent possible.
7. Land use should maximize the use of trees to absorb greenhouse gases.
8. Transportation areas should be cyclist/walker friendly.
9. The town should have designated commuter parking lots to encourage carpooling.
10. Develop a campaign to reduce polluted runoff to storm drains.
11. Policies should strive to retain "town" character, which is unique to Fairfax County; stronger adherence to Heritage Preservation guidelines to protect the Historic District.
12. Reduce high density housing projects and approvals for large homes on small lots (size of house should be in proportion to the size of the lot)
13. More green space and projects to reduce congestion; encourage drivers to use Herndon Parkway versus driving through the middle of town on Elden Street.
14. Retain diverse events for town residents. Don't scale back on Herndon Festival or fireworks displays. I was very disappointed to see the Homecoming Parade was re-routed last year.
15. Don't let Herndon be homogenized with the rest of Fairfax County.
16. Better signage / directional arrows are needed in the Municipal Center parking garage to assist newcomers.

Comments received by the Community Development e-mail:

Resident concerned on traffic with more downtown development planned; especially traffic on Elden Street and Van Buren Street; traffic mitigation during construction as

well as after build-out. Does not believe that walkability of the site will be enough to offset traffic impacts.

Another resident concerned about climate change, jobs, drugs and rehab programs, human trafficking, education, the need to plant more trees and retain green space versus the impact of more urban construction.