

Citizens Planning Academy
May 12, 2005
Agnor-Hurt Elementary School
Meeting Summary

Dennis Rooker, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, and Ken Boyd, Vice Chairman, welcomed those who attended the Places29 Citizens Planning Academy that was held on May 12, 2005, at Agnor-Hurt Elementary School. Approximately 100 people listened to presentations about Places29 from County and Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission staff. The planning academy was the kickoff event for the two-year-long process of preparing and adopting a master plan for the County's four Northern Development Areas.

“Places29: Creating and Connecting Communities in Northern Albemarle” is the focus of the master plan. The master plan will incorporate the results of a transportation study of the US 29 north corridor that is being conducted simultaneously.

The speakers stressed:

- The Places29 master plan is a coordinated effort between Albemarle County, the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, the Virginia Department of Transportation, the City of Charlottesville, and the University of Virginia.
- The Board of Supervisors requested that the Northern Development Areas—Neighborhoods 1 and 2, and the communities of Hollymead and Piney Mountain—be the next areas to be master planned.

- The County provides many services and supports efforts to improve the quality of life in the Development Areas. Additional services and amenities, such as an expanded library, are planned for this area.
- By encouraging development in areas where County services are available, the County helps preserve the Rural Areas.
- While it might have been better for the County to prepare this master plan years ago, it's being prepared now—so now is the time for public input.
- The County's population continues to grow. The average age is increasing as the population ages.
- The Neighborhood Model provides the guiding principles for the master plan, including neighborhood friendly streets and paths, parks and open space, neighborhood centers, mixture of uses, and mixture of housing types and affordability, among others.
- The increase in traffic on US 29 that results in so much congestion must be addressed if the County is to preserve its character and economy.
- The key to a successful master plan will be to coordinate land uses with transportation.
- The US 29 North Corridor Transportation Study is being prepared by the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission. It is an extension of the 29H250 Study, Phases 1 and 2. The transportation study will include the entire 10-3/4 mile corridor from the 250 Bypass to the Greene County line, and will consider vehicles, transit, pedestrians, and bicycles.
- The master plan will have three parts: a land use map, a set of unified design principles, and a set of implementation strategies. It will also include cost estimates for

recommended improvements so that local officials and the public can make good decisions and set realistic priorities.

- The County expects the draft master plan to be ready for the public review and approval process beginning in August 2007.