



Carrboro Connects – Task Force Meeting #1 Summary

301 West Main Street, Carrboro, North Carolina 27510

September 17, 2020 – Remote Meeting via Zoom

Task Force Members	Public	Town Staff	Consultant Team
Catherine Fray (Chair)	Leigh Anne King	Ben Berolzheimer	Cyatharine Alias
David Jessee (Co-Chair)	Barb Stenross	Rebecca Buzzard	Marcella Bondie Keenan
Quinton Harper (Co-Chair)		Evan Crane	Carol Brobeck
Sarah Brown		Julie Eckenrode	Erin Cigliano
Wamiq Chowdhury		Charles Harrington	Benito Garcia
Lorie Clark		Jon Hartman-Brown	Scott Goldstein
David Dixon		Laura Janway	Teresa Lockamy
Miles Fitch		Anita Jones McNair	Heidy Persaud
Braxton Foushee		Patricia McGuire	Francie Sallinger
Maggie Funkhouser		Tina Moon	Drew Williams Clark
Rachel Gaylord-Miles		Marsha Pate	
Lauren Joca		Marty Roupe	
Conner Lopez			
Elmira Mangum			
David Markiewicz			
Dan Mayer			
Mark Moshier			
Eliazar Posada			
Abirami Raja			
Soteria Shepperson			
Amy Singleton			
Jacqueline Thompson			
Rasam Tooloee			
Anahid Vrana			
Alyson West			

Task Force Members Not in Attendance: David Dixon, Jacqueline Helvey, Mariela Hernandez, Jim Porto, Tim Turner

OVERVIEW

September 17th, 2020 marked the first meeting of the Task Force for the Carrboro Connects Comprehensive Plan. The meeting was held remotely via Zoom from 6-8:30pm, with participation from nearly 50 people including Task Force members, Town staff, members of the public, and the consultant team. Prior to the meeting, Task Force members were given some pre-meeting homework. They were asked to: send in photos of places of interest or things they are passionate about in Carrboro, complete a brief questionnaire to share areas of interest and demographics to ensure diverse representation, and review a [Draft Interview Summary](#) of conversations with over 60 Carrboro residents, officials, and community leaders.

The first meeting focused on the vision for the plan, an overview of community engagement, and breakout discussions regarding issues and opportunities by topic area.

MEETING OPENING, WELCOME, AND INTRODUCTIONS

Catherine Fray, Task Force chair, opened the meeting at 6:05 PM with a warm welcome, thanking everyone for joining. Catherine then handed it off to Mayor Lavelle, who welcomed the group and set the tone for the evening:

“Your participation means a great deal to me and our Town Council...We value your perspectives and this marks the beginning of what will be a really visionary experience for our town. This is our first ever comprehensive plan – we didn't think we'd be doing this over Zoom, but we're thankful you're here today because we want to get this plan right. We have a lot of priorities in town – a pandemic, climate change, our fight against systemic racism...a lot of important work at the local level. And you all get to be part of it with the comprehensive plan.”

Next, Mayor Pro Tempore Foushee shared remarks via a pre-recorded video. She explained the importance of the comprehensive planning process and the Task Force's role in it:

“We understand that a comprehensive plan is critical to shaping our collective future. This plan will help to guide decisions that will shape us, our children, and grandchildren. It will lead to our town becoming a more just, resilient and sustainable community....we are asking that you really lean in. Your participation is so critical – you are the eyes and ears of planning process. In your role as task force member we ask that you reach into your networks, pull in more people, and let's make sure that everyone has an opportunity to participate. Now let's get planning!”

CHARGE FOR THE TASK FORCE

Catherine Fray went over ground rules and Zoom tips for the meeting, and then shared her thoughts on the charge for the Task Force:

“You all are the tip of iceberg and we need you to reach out to your network – the plan is about brining all of us together, not just those of us here but all those who we can reach. Carrboro

Connects is about those connections, the process, and making sure we can all be creative and collaborative and learn from each other.”

Quinton Harper and David Jessee are Co-Chairs of the Task Force. Quinton shared opening remarks as well, motivating the Task Force members to celebrate past planning work and to recognize the power of collaboration in this process:

“I want you all to take a moment to celebrate yourselves because you have done a great job in your various roles in Carrboro...there’s been a lot of great work over the past few years. We simply won’t be able to hit our goals if we’re doing this alone—we are stronger together...There are so many folks who are not here tonight whose voices are equally valuable. I hope we can bring the stories of those voices into this space.”

Following Quinton’s remarks, David prompted all participants to use the chat tool in Zoom and type one word to describe how they were feeling in that moment—some of the most commonly mentioned words were: **hopeful, excited, energized, motivated, optimistic, curious, and ready.**

WHY DO A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN NOW?

Patricia McGuire, Planning Director for the Town of Carrboro, explained why the Town has decided to undertake a Comprehensive Plan in the current moment. Though Carrboro has done a tremendous amount of planning, these plans have usually been focused on one topic, rather than the sum of many topics in a comprehensive way. Vision 2020, completed twenty years ago, was the last time the Town “checked in about what the Town as a whole thought of itself and the future and set forth a broad vision for the Town.”

“So why now? Our town’s population has changed, and some needs and wants are different now. We need to check in with people and understand what they want now and how they see interests and desires going forward. The Town has an opportunity and need to address racial equity and the changing climate – two tremendously huge issues that face us and intersect with so many other things that are functions of the Town,” stated Patricia McGuire.

WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND WHAT CAN IT ACHIEVE?

Scott Goldstein is a Principal at Teska Associates, a community planning consulting firm, and the Project Manager for the Carrboro Connects Consultant Team. Scott described what a comprehensive plan is and what it can achieve:

- Thorough and thoughtful assessment of existing and future conditions.
- Expression of vision, values, and expectations.
- Guidance for desired development and services that guides regulations and programs.
- Realistic description of fiscal and human resources needed to accomplish vision, values, and expectations.
- Process for evaluation and updates.

He also emphasized the importance of community engagement, calling for the Task Force members to bring in new perspectives as part of this community-wide effort: “This is a way to lay out an agenda for how your partners will work together—we really hope the plan lays out a

coordinated set of activities across the private sector, nonprofit sector, and government. It's about taking the values you share as a community and putting them into decisions that the Town makes."

VISIONING EXERCISE

Next, Teresa Lockamy, of Lockamy Consulting and the Carrboro Connects consultant team, led the group through a visioning exercise. Using an online, live-polling platform called Mentimeter, Teresa guided participants through four questions. Meeting participants provided answers by typing into their phones during the meeting, and then their anonymous answers would appear on the shared screen in real-time. These questions and results are shown below (note: this exercise was not intended to be a statistically significant survey, but rather a way to check in and get a general understanding of Task Force sentiments.)

How would you describe Carrboro today in three words?



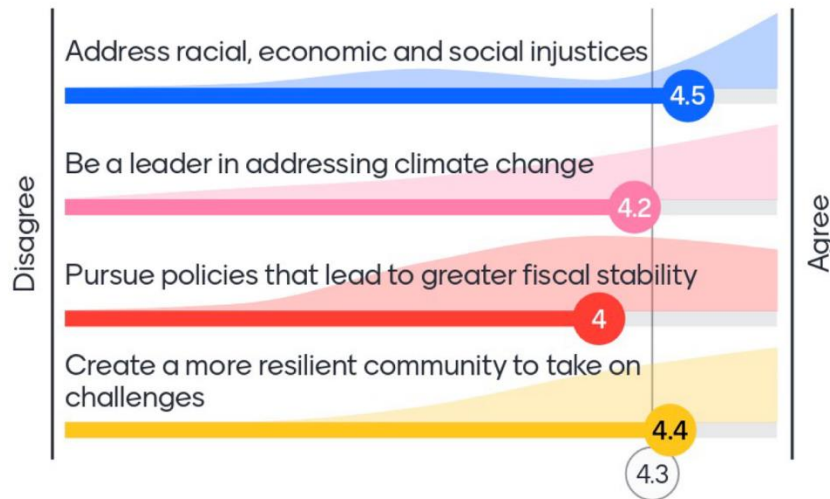
What would you like Carrboro to be in 20 years? (3 words)



What are the greatest challenges in reaching this vision (one or two phrases) ?

NIMBY	NIMBYs	Balancing priorities successfully
Apathy	Being afraid to get uncomfortable	scarcity mindset
Affordable housing	Lack of affordable housing.	Resistance Consensus
Finite land	Economic development	Market dynamics and limited resources
Affordability,	Climate change	Systemic racism.
Expertise needed	Civic pride in how we present ourselves	Inclusion, short sightedness, lack of empathy
Sprawl	Fiscal constraints	Affordability
Limited resources	Overcoming invisible biases	Limited vision of leadership
Reaching and including of diverse communities.	thinking inside the box	Not a lot to of places to grow. Inclusionary housing important with lack of NIMBY.
Tragedy of the commons	Recognizing institutional problems	adhering to a fixed mindset without true openness to compromise
No sprawl	Cul de sac communities	Growing population
Engagement	BANANA-Build absolutely nothing anywhere near anyone	Consensus
lip service	Climate change	A lack of sources for increased tax revenues in lieu of raising the base tax rate
Being comfortable with different types of neighbors.	Realistic development timelines for the entitlement process and construction	Limited resources
Agree	Address racial economic and social justice	Address racial, economic and social injustices

What principles should guide the plan?



RACE AND EQUITY PRINCIPLES

Anita Jones-McNair, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Resources Director for the Town of Carrboro, provided an overview of the Town's efforts towards race and equity:

"Thank you for your commitment to shaping the town of Carrboro for years to come. It is important that the framework begins and ends with racial equity. Our deliberate journey began in October of 2018 when the Council unanimously voted to begin race and equity work. In November, we joined GARE, which stands for Government Alliance for Race and Equity...The Town developed a leadership core team, and that core team is currently participating in a North Carolina cohort that culminates in October. We started conversations with our partners in Orange County so that we can have a county-wide message and plan, and each jurisdiction is now a member of GARE. Once we finish our participation in the cohort, training of staff, boards, commissions, and task forces like this will begin. The virtual training is about six hours and those details will be forthcoming. We also would review our practices and procedures using a racial equity lens."

Anita also shared the Town of Carrboro's Vision statement on race and equity:

The Town of Carrboro envisions being a community where race does not determine outcomes and all have equitable opportunities and resources. We envision a time when participation in community events, programs and advisory boards represent community demographics. All will feel safe, secure and know their voice is valued. We strive to be an inclusive and open minded organization that has a culture created by its diverse staff, which serves the public through a social (racial) justice lens.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND WEB SITE

Erin Cigliano, Principal at Teska Associates and Engagement Lead for the Carrboro Connects consultant team, then provided an overview of the community engagement plan and the project website.

“Outreach is so much more than a website or a meeting – it requires a multifaceted process, clear communication, and engaging with partners early and often. Creating comfort, building trust, and providing choice are essential. Success of the plan depends on hearing from all members of the community, and to do that we can't rely on just one tool or one means.”

Erin explained several different approaches: interactive tools, in-person engagement, and various forms of information sharing – marketing, promotion, and reporting back. The Carrboro Connects outreach process will be transparent, intentional, and focused on building relationships. We will tap into different ways that people are already communicating, and try new forms such as virtual keynote speakers, idea-sharing via text message, and posters around town in different languages.

Erin shared the process and thinking behind the Carrboro Connects project identity (logo). Building meaningful connection starts with identity. The project team took information shared in interviews to create a logo that would resonate with the spirit of Carrboro. It is trilingual (English, Spanish, and Burmese) and includes three slightly different logos as part of an identity suite that celebrates the different facets at play in the plan: race and equity (orange color scheme, similar to Carrboro's racial equity logo), climate change (the green color scheme), and social and cultural vibrancy (multi-color version).



Erin then walked through the project website, www.carrboroconnects.org. Different tools include a “My Block, My Carrboro” mapping tool to understand which neighborhoods participants are representing; a Share Ideas tool, a Q&A tool, and a Map Input tool for comments focused on specific areas and plan issue areas. Finally, the site registration tool doubles as an engagement tracker to make sure that all segments of the community are participating in the process.

TOPIC AREAS OF PLAN & INTERVIEW FEEDBACK

Scott Goldstein then shared a brief recap of the 60 stakeholder interviews conducted to date. The main sentiment expressed in these interviews is that the community of Carrboro is a wonderful place that is continually striving for better. Questions asked in the interviews are similar to some of the questions we are asking in this meeting and will continue to ask in the beginning phases of engagement, which is intentional—we really want to identify Carrboro's values, so that those values can connect to the strategies and projects that emerge from the plan.

The comprehensive plan, and this meeting's breakout sessions, will focus on the following five topics areas, with additional cross-cutting themes that frame all aspects of the plan:

Topic Areas

1. Environment and Climate Change
2. Transportation and Infrastructure
3. Economic Sustainability
4. Affordable Housing
5. Recreation, Parks and Culture

Cross-Cutting Themes

- Race & Equity
- Climate Action & Resiliency
- Fiscal Sustainability
- Income Inequality

BREAK OUT DISCUSSIONS

All meeting participants were assigned to two breakout groups, based on preferences expressed in a pre-meeting questionnaire. The notes that follow are from discussions held in each of the topic area's two sessions.

Recreation, Parks and Culture

BREAKOUT GROUP 1 ATTENDEES:

Task Force Members: Braxton Foushee, Leigh Anne King, Anahid Vrana,

Staff: Charles Harrington, Anita Jones McNair

BREAKOUT GROUP 2 ATTENDEES:

Task Force Members: Wamiq Chowdhury, Amy Singleton, Alyson West

Staff: Charles Harrington, Anita Jones McNair

Q1: How would you characterize Carrboro's focus on recreation, parks, arts and culture?

- "MLK park was packed, visual arts -- you turn your head in 2-3 directions, fire department has the most beautiful mural -- I want to see more art in parks!"-- Anahid Vrana
- "We need a comprehensive bike connectivity plan that integrates art "-- Anahid Vrana
- "We do a great job on naming parks, but we can do a better job of telling the stories of older parks, Libba Cotton Trail. My son loves going to the historic marker on Weaver Street." -- Leigh Anne
- "Lived in Carrboro for nearly 30 years, so pleased with MLK Park opening. It is fabulous to see this park has been built." -- Amy Singleton

- “I have been here for 2 years, I moved here largely because of the access to arts and culture. This is definitely the smallest town I've lived in. Access to music, wonderful venues, cat's cradle, culture -- I've made a ton of friends here -- artists and creators, (cohesion through the arts and culture). I'd love to see this preserved and furthered in the future. Ensure it is genuine and authentic -- not top down.” – Wamiq Chowdhury
- “For the size of our town, we really put our foot forward in integrating arts into projects from a municipal standpoint.” – Alyson West
- “Carrboro is very green, but the park space is less green / need more trees... and not as accessible. Caroline North Forest is a missed opportunity, this could be opened up to more ppl, make it a nature preserve, more navigable terrain.” – Alyson West

Q2: Where would you like Carrboro to be in 20 years?

- “Do we have enough stuff for people in their later ages? Are there chances for multi-generational interactions? What does this look like in the recreation sense?” – Leigh Anne
- “There is an opportunity for a community center -- this needs to be a huge cooperative between Carrboro, Chapel Hill, and Orange County so there is shared access.” – Anahid Vrana
- “We need to take on a dedicated effort with DOT. Biking out to 86 is treacherous at best. So many people do it to get out of town -- and it is not safe. Women typically ride on Wednesdays, men on Saturdays.” – Braxton Foushee
- “I could not agree more -- Carolina North and Adams Tract -- improve the connectivity. I would love to see more connectivity between Bolin Creek. The area around the high school, and connectivity therein is great, but we still have work to do.” – Amy Singleton
- “Carrboro Music Festival is my favorite; I haven't been to the Film Festival. I am happy to know the arts center will be in their own free-standing space; lots of fun stuff on the horizon!” – Amy Singleton
- Location: Rogers Road Area - Those kids play soccer, two big fields - we have a good mixture of kids participating between ages 7-12 in other areas that we don't see all the time. Need to understand better what they are doing in other parts of town.
- How can we celebrate more cultures? How welcome do people who are lower income, from foreign countries feel coming to our parks? Do we have an understanding of perceived access and whether our parks are inclusive and welcoming? – Leigh Anne
- “Use arts and culture to further breakdown silos between communities. We have a real opportunity to be intentional with our arts and culture spaces -- being led by the community and what folks would like to see. Particularly, engage specific demographics within those communities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds, etc. Think about how to design spaces and integrate programming so folks come and use them.” – Wamiq Chowdhury
- “There are a lot of opportunities with the library branch going in, as a community public space --- something to take advantage of, for sure.” – Alyson West

3. What are the challenges facing recreation, parks and culture?

- “Be intentional. Go to the community, door to door, ask folks their experience.” – Wamiq Chowdhury
- “Connectivity and access no matter where you live, keep transit lines open.” – Amy Singleton
- “Prioritize health benefits of greenspace and make it a metric and goal.” – Alyson West

Economic Sustainability

BREAKOUT GROUP 1 ATTENDEES:

Task Force Members: David Jessee, Elmira Mangum, David Markiewicz, Miles Fitch, Quinton Harper, Abirami Raja

Staff: Jon Hartman-Brown, Marty Roupe

BREAKOUT GROUP 2 ATTENDEES:

Task Force Members: Barb Stenross, Connor Lopez, Jacqueline Thompson, Lauren Joca, Mark Mosher, Abirami Raja, Soteria Shepperson, Rasam Tooloee

Staff: Lorie Clark, Jon Hartman-Brown

Q1: How would you characterize Carrboro’s focus on economic sustainability today?

- Businesses need more support and fewer barriers to startup/operations:
 - Taxes and building rents are high, therefore the capital needed to start a business is high and operational costs require highly successful businesses
 - Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) and low-income entrepreneurs face the greatest barriers—need more support and would benefit from a more supportive business environment with lower costs to entry
- Too many employees cannot afford to live in Carrboro or even Orange County, testament to lack of affordable housing
- Development is piecemeal and would be better if done at a larger scale, such as by block
- The Chamber of Commerce gave a report last week indicating that Carrboro is at the top of the state for taxes and expensive places to operate a business—ahead of Chapel Hill. Carrboro is not a place where you want to be—if you want to be economically sustainable. You don’t want to be the folks with the highest taxes.” – Mark Mosher
- “Here at the coffee shop, it’s like how do we sell coffee? What else can we find to sell? Sustainability has been very difficult. Also, even before the pandemic, a lot of the businesses were family owned and if that person left, the building was just abandoned

because it costs so much money to start businesses here.” - Soteria Shepperson, Business Owner, Johnny's Gone Fishing

Q2: Where would you like Carrboro to be in 20 years regarding economic sustainability?

- Support small, local businesses because they tend to better support the community
- A greater mix of property types to help lessen the tax burden for everyone
- Business-friendly environment that allows for the creation and growth of small businesses
- “Economic sustainability should make sure people can love, work and play in Carrboro. Many people can do only 1 or 2, not all 3. The Comprehensive Plan needs to outline the principles around how we make decisions to apply a consistent framework in the review of development proposals.” – Abi Raja
- “Many chain stores in Carrboro are the highest producing stores, which is great, but it increases the price to do business and makes it more difficult for small businesses to open and operate.” -David Jessee
- “We want sustainable, equitable, livable—to have that it will take a system approach wherein we don't gain one at the expense of another. We need to make sure that businesses can market themselves. The Town needs to be welcoming to business owners.” - Rasam Tooloee

Q3: What do you think are the greatest challenges relating to economic sustainability?

- Reducing end costs for residents and businesses by understanding the root causes of higher cost development
- Maintain high standards but lessen the friction that businesses face
- “Greatest challenge will be to accomplish our goals and keep things affordable. Diversity is what brought me to this community.” – David Mosher

Environment and Climate Change

BREAKOUT GROUP 1 ATTENDEES:

Task Force Members: Wamiq Chowdhury, Lauren Joca, Barb Stenross

Staff: Laura Janway, Marsha Pate, Tina Moon

BREAKOUT GROUP 2 ATTENDEES:

Task Force Members: David Dixon, Abirami Raja, Anahid Vrana

Staff: Laura Janway, Marsha Pate, Tina Moon

Q1: How would you characterize Carrboro's focus on the environment?

- Town's desire on environment and climate change, there is strong voice on town council and active community members. Have just started learning what the environmental boards do – in state of flux for future structure. Been impressed on general desire. There's a lot of focus on individual choices and practice. Curious to learn more about the business regulation side of it. The intersection of issues: sustainability and housing affordability. – Wamiq Chowdhury
- There's a lot that the state doesn't let the town do – Carrboro can't [ban] plastic bags. Working with business to recognize the businesses that are green. EAB advised recognizing great businesses doing green things. There are ways to recognize instead of regulating. – Laura Janway
- Would like to see us do more. Concerned about loss of trees in the area. Stormwater and more development going in. The importance of removing invasive plants and educating the public. Like the town's focus on trying to reduce fossil fuels regarding transportation. – Barb Stonehaus
- "As a resident, don't see a lot of actionable changes. Can't say that there's a plan to make the climate and environment changes. We talk about how the environment is great, but I don't see resources going into it." – Abirami Raja
- "The intention and desire are good. The map to achieve the intention isn't in place. The context is always changing also. The area is filled with environmental scientists with all the academic institutions. We should tap into their expertise to help inform the plan." – Anahid Vrana
- "Carrboro positions itself as ecofriendly – with people taking alternative transportation. It's hard to see the implementation because it's hard to have big capital projects that show off what the town is doing. I think a lot more is dependent on how the residents are able to live their lives. So, town should enable carefree lifestyles and education programs around the environment." – David Dixon

Q2: Where would you like Carrboro to be in 20 years?

- Retrofitting and revisiting stormwater management in the heavily built out areas. The downtown areas and just outside of that. The built-out areas don't have same regulations as the newly developed areas. – Lauren Joca
- "Hearing from seniors about a walkable Carrboro and opportunity for those with mobility issues to access businesses as well. There's another layer of walkability when thinking about those with less mobility." – Marsha Pate

- “Actively work on addressing racial equity piece of climate change. In Chapel Hill, some studies show where the coal plant sits and it's more low income, minoritized residents. We need to keep track of disparate impacts because a lot of times those are not easily visible to the community.” – Wamiq Chowdhury
- “Want to maintain outdoor space. That is what people love about Carrboro. Want to continue invest in green ways, parkways, outdoor areas. For Climate Change, it crosses everything. Any project we do, should include a climate change conversation. It needs to be a part of everyday conversation.” – Abirami Raja
- “In terms of living in town but outside – the NC climate allows for an outdoor experience. I'd like to be sure of an energy footprint. Things are built and constructed with multi-purpose task. The farmers market can be a market and a playground and a concert hall and a town meeting hall. Want a footprint that is small and efficient. Composting system – get everyone on it. Needs to be a huge part of children's and grandchildren's education.” – Anahid Vrana
- “Environmental preservation. If and when Carrboro continues to develop needs to be done thoughtfully. Would like infill development and increase density where it makes sense. In terms of resilience, manage and cope with the effects of climate change, not just reduce carbon footprint. It's going to get hotter no matter what. How do we make sure people can weather the increasing droughts?” – David Dixon

Q3: What are the biggest challenges to getting to this vision for the environment?

- “Keeping a handle on emissions is really important, it's great that it's a priority now.” – Marsha Pate
- Limitations on municipal government powers. So, using positive measures instead of regulations. – Wamiq Chowdhury
- “Loss of biodiversity is a major problem; deer pressure is huge.” – Barb Stenross
- “We need to pack houses into an area to keep the environments safe while maintaining health and safety of the homes. We have to think about the balance for good lifestyle.” – Anahid Vrana
- Addressing climate change and managing the balancing of goals and prioritization that might conflict.

Housing

BREAKOUT GROUP 1 ATTENDEES:

Task Force Members: Rachel Gaylord Miles, Amy Singleton, Mark Mosher, Jacqueline Thompson, David Dixon, Eliazar Posada, Maggie Funkhouser

Staff: Rebecca Buzzard

BREAKOUT GROUP 2 ATTENDEES:

Task Force Members: Sarah Brown, Braxton Foushee, Catherine Fray, Quinton Harper, Jacqueline Helvey, Elmira Mangum Soteria Shepperson,

Staff: Rebecca Buzzard

Q1: How would you characterize Carrboro's focus on housing?

- Developers struggle to understand the process of affordable housing as it not currently clear
- Need to update town rules (C.U.P.) to better reflect desired affordable housing goals
- Carrboro has a lengthy process to get things approved and must step up to identify what it wants
- Current housing climate feels exclusive (leaves people out), inequitable (few housing options) and unaffordable to many (i.e. teachers, town emps., service workers, etc.)
- "Developers struggle to understand the process of affordable housing as it not currently clear."

Q2: Where would you like Carrboro to be in 20 years?

- Need to know what the public wants re: affordable housing, inclusionary zoning, mixed, more density?
- People have no biases re: affordable housing: accept mixed wealth communities
- Find ways to change land use guidelines re: home ownership for lower income workforce
- Attract developers with desire to build quality affordable housing
- Important to build wealth through home ownership among people of color, housing that people can buy
- "Think creatively re: potential affordable housing options (e.g., use of town land, tiny home developments, mobile home parks, adjust density allowances to account for limited land, etc.)" – Amy Singleton
- "Affordable housing does not just mean more affordable rental units; need affordable homes for sale." – Eliazar Posada
- "Renters should not be unduly financially burdened by cost of rent." "A place where no one is unhoused."

- “People who work in Carrboro should be able to afford to live in Carrboro – not just mobile homes.”

Q3: What do you think are the greatest challenges relating to affordable housing?

- Agree on “what makes housing affordable in Carrboro?”
- Zoning and land use are significant factors in determining what kind and where development will occur
- People are opposed to certain types of development, citing NIBYism – creates conflict and no compromise
- No enabling NC legislation to be able to use tools (used in other states) to address critical elements of affordable housing
- Align transportation goals with affordable housing to avoid gentrification

Transportation and Infrastructure

BREAKOUT GROUP 1 ATTENDEES:

Task Force: Sarah Brown, Connor Lopez, Catherine Fray, Rasam Tooloee, Alyson West

Staff: Patricia McGuire

BREAKOUT GROUP 2 ATTENDEES:

Task Force Members: Miles Fitch, Maggie Funkhouser, David Jessee, David Markiewicz, Rachel Gaylord Miles

Staff: Marsha Pate, Tina Moon

Q1: How would you characterize Carrboro’s focus on transportation and infrastructure?

- Public transport doesn't cover my neighborhood, making active trans more difficult and unsafe for his kids. Suggested smaller buses, increased engineering and safety treatments and more bike lanes. – Rasam Tooloee
- Agreed with need for striped lanes, biceped network is disconnected – Catherine Fray
- “NCDOT owns many roads though, so Town may not have jurisdiction, but traffic calming is important.” – Alyson West
- “Mostly use bike or car, bike paths are pretty shoddy, disconnected.” – Connor Lopez

- Another common theme is parking, which usually decodes to parking downtown – Catherine Fray
- “Aspirational”, we’ve done a lot of the easy work, bike plan etc., now we need to pick off some of the harder stuff.” – Rachel Gaylord Miles
- “Disconnected bike network, need a master plan for biking and parking, not so popular but we need a central parking location that is easy to find/access (mentioned it would be nice to have a parking app).” – David Jesse
- “We don’t have a parking problem, we have a transportation problem”, but once you get far from downtown it isn’t practical to assume you can cycle downtown, the parking problem is that we have a downtown parking problem and not so much a suburban area parking problem. – David Markiewicz

Q2: Where would you like Carrboro to be in 20 years?

Transportation

- Fewer cars, more focus on mobility justice, address disability access
- Fewer fossil fuel powered vehicles
- Health and wellbeing should be metrics in transportation as opposed to auto-based metrics (thruput, delay, congestion, etc.)

Energy

- Make the grid more resilient – such as battery backup in MF so can store in off-peak and use in peak
- Climate Change/Energy can be polarizing, because it’s often an all-or-nothing strategy, need aggressive but achievable strategies/benchmarks. Self-sustaining in 20 years would be great
- Nuclear viable stopgap during transition from fossils to renewables

Stormwater

- Use the Public ROW for green infrastructure

Q3: What are the biggest challenges to getting to this vision for transportation and infrastructure?

- “Town’s patchwork approach, needs to be more unified and resilient planning (integrated). Creating public/private citizen collaboration, Town can only control a fraction of what goes on in the town.” – Catherine Fray
- “Working with NCDOT, they do own most of the roads that we’re naming as not being great.” – Sarah Brown

- Understand that you need to increase revenue without increasing rate, but which comes first? – Maggie Funkhouser

DEBRIEF AND NEXT STEPS

Following the two breakout sessions, meeting attendees were brought back into the main Zoom session for a quick debrief and summary of next steps:

“These issues are deep and take deep conversations, I’m excited to hear everybody’s feedback and voice and I feel very assured that we will come out of this process trying to make a better Carrboro.” –Quinton Harper

“There’s a lot to take on here, but that’s where you folks step in and I feel confident that we’ll be able to streamline all input that comes in and have successful outreach to make sure that all voices are heard.” –David Jessee

Next Steps:

1. Continue to send photos (and why you took them) to Scott at sgoldstein@teskassociates.com
2. We will be sending out a link to a dedicated website for Carrboro Connects soon!
3. We will be sharing draft Issues and Opportunities reports to review before the next Task Force meeting.
4. Conduct 3 interviews before the next meeting.
5. Upcoming meeting Dates:
 - a. Oct 22 5:30 PM | Task Force Meeting 2
 - b. Oct 29 7:00 PM | Community Meeting 1 (since changed to November 19)
 - c. Nov 12 5:30 PM | Task Force Meeting 3
6. Race and Equity Training
7. For those interested, Orange County Planning is hosting a Transit Summit on Oct 1 at 5:00-8:00 PM (www.octransit2020).

ADJOURNMENT

Task Force Meeting #1 adjourned by 8:32pm. Thank you to all who participated for your time and enthusiasm!