



Carrboro Connects – Task Force Meeting #7 Summary

301 West Main Street, Carrboro, North Carolina 27510

September 23, 2021 – Remote Meeting via Zoom

Task Force Members	Public	Town Staff	Consultant Team
David Jessee (Co-Chair)	n/a	Ben Berolzheimer (Planning)	Cyatharine Alias
Quinton Harper (Co-Chair)		Charles Harrington (RPCR)	Benito Garcia
Wamiq Chowdhury		Patricia McGuire (Planning)	Scott Goldstein
Miles Fitch		Wendell Rodgers (RPCR)	Teresa Lockamy
Braxton Foushee		Marty Roupe (Planning)	Heidy Persaud
Rachel Gaylord-Miles		Anne-Marie Vanaman (Housing)	Francie Sallinger
Lauren Joca	Town Council		
Elmira Mangum	n/a		
David Markiewicz			
Mark Moshier			
Jim Porto			
Soteria Shepperson			
Amy Singleton			
Jacqueline Thompson			
Anahid Vrana			
Alyson West			

Task Force Members Not in Attendance: Lorie Clark, David Dixon, Catherine Fray, Maggie Funkhouser, Jacqueline Helvey, Mariela Hernandez, Dan Mayer, Eliazar Posada, Abi Raja, Rasam Tooloee

OVERVIEW

To cap off a busy week that included the release of the [Preliminary Draft Plan](#), a Town Council Update on Tuesday, September 21, and a Virtual Community Open House on Wednesday, September 22th, the Carrboro Connects Task Force met virtually for their seventh meeting on September 23rd.

Patricia McGuire opened the meeting and shared the Town Council's Resolution, which thanked the Task Force members for the time, talent, creative energy, and passion dedicated to Carrboro Connects and requested participation in up to two additional meetings leading up to adoption of the Comprehensive Plan.

The Task Force meeting agenda, presentation, and this summary can be viewed at www.carrboroconnects.org/events.

FEEDBACK FROM TOWN COUNCIL & OPEN HOUSE

Scott Goldstein and Cyatharine Alias of the project team shared some of the feedback on Carrboro Connects heard from Town Council at their meeting on Tuesday, September 21st:

- “New normal for engagement”
- “Puts Carrboro's values into brick and mortar”
- Would like to see continued engagement; circle back to groups engaged early on
- Make sure youth and seniors are consulted; find people who haven't been at the table
- Would like project evaluation criteria to include “access”
- Focus on locally-owned businesses, not just local businesses

Scott and Cyatharine also recapped general takeaways from the Virtual Open House, which can be found in the Open House summary at www.carrboroconnects.org/events.

BREAK-OUTS: IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES

The bulk of the meeting was spent in breakout groups, with a main objective of each group coming to consensus around five projects that should be implemented within the first five years of plan adoption (noting that the plan will be updated in five years).

Each Task Force member was to suggest up to three strategies or projects, and then the breakout group would collectively choose the top five projects, while considering the following evaluation criteria:

- Which strategies and/or projects will best **advance race and equity** and **climate action**?
- Which strategies and/or projects are likely to have the **greatest positive community impact** to meet the plan's goals **over the next five years**?
- How will these projects **expand access to places, resources, and programming**?

The groups then re-convened in the main session and reported back on their top five strategies, summarized below. *(Note: The top five Climate Action strategies will be added at a later date.)*

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Five Year Priorities

- 3.4 Acquisition of land for affordable housing +4
- 1.2 Reduce barriers for new homebuyers +1
- 6.3 Pursue federal and state housing funds +2
- 3.1 Expand the provision of Accessory Dwelling Units +2
- 6.2 Explore passage of a housing bond +1

Additional strategies and projects mentioned:

- Advocacy for state legislation to allow municipalities require developers to include affordable housing (inclusionary) in exchange for density
- Tiny homes (land use chapter)
- 1.3 Expand resources for Land trust model
- 3.2 Support options for older adults and persons with different abilities
- Support projects seeking 9% Tax Credits to serve 30% AMI
- 2.3 Support rental housing through the Affordable Housing Fund
- 3.3 Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing – mobile homes and manufactured housing
- Expanding capacity for Town staff

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

- 1.1: Centering equity in transportation planning process
 - Compensating people for their time
- 4.2: Investigate and reduce negative effects of parking requirements on housing costs
- 2.2: Create safe streets and trail networks for peds/bikers
 - J: Develop connected systems of on and off -road facilities to accommodate varying level of cyclists
 - Sidewalks need more attention. Missing pieces of sidewalk.
- 4.1e. Electric vehicle chargers/Electric bike chargers (more stations)
- 3. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles by 80% by 2030.
 - 2.1.b. Seek to increase funding from the Triangle TDM and partner with transit authorities.
 - 2.1: Encourage non automobile use in the community, reduce VMT through land use decisions

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

- 2.1 Well-planned and designed higher density and mixed-use development in the downtown
- 3.3 Expand tourism opportunities
- 1.1 Living wage
- 1.2 Support existing and attract new businesses that include a range of BIPOC, gender and abilities

- 2.2 Strengthen other business districts and commercial areas / rezoning

Additional strategies and projects mentioned:

- 3.4 Support/attract business opportunities and unique ownership models/coop model
- 1.3 Expand access to capital for entrepreneurs and small businesses +1
- 4.2 Promote green economy
- 4.1 Promoting energy efficiency and green buildings
- Improving managing of parking spaces in the downtown area
- 3.1 Support access to capital to the cultural community - BIPOC

RECREATION, PARKS, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

- 2.3: Preserve, enhance and promote access to existing parks and open spaces through partnerships with other agencies
- 1.1B: Conduct a feasibility study for an indoor recreation center/swimming pool in Town.
- 4.3: Continue to support, fund, and install public artwork throughout Town to celebrate the history and story of Carrboro
- 2.5: Support the development of greenways and trails for public use, creating a complete network of connected greenways connecting parks, open spaces, and areas for biking, walking, and wildlife corridors.
- 2.1C: Consider ways the Town can coordinate with and encourage Orange County to implement plans for Twin Creeks Park

LAND USE

- 2.1 A - Pursue concerted land use planning/small land use plans for high priority/high potential areas; identifying areas ripe for dense affordable housing/development
- 2.2 - Preserve and promote the availability of affordable housing along key corridors and nodes that are transit-accessible, walkable and bikeable
- 4 - Promote land use planning and development that reduces GHG emissions through reducing auto-dependence; including amenities within 15min walk
- 5.1 - Increase the amount of land available for commercial and mixed-use development; increase density in creative way that doesn't price out anyone
- 5.2 - Improve the development approval process to be more predictable and efficient while continuing to offer vibrant community participation

PUBLIC SERVICES

- Goal 1, 2, 3 Police Dept. - response to be appropriate; better skilled at resolving domestic issues with the right personnel
 - Appropriate – meaning response needs to deescalate situations; does not always mean a person with uniform/badge needs to resolve the situation
- Goal 1 & 3 Information technology - having information be more integrated within departments, synergy and tie things together

- Goal 1 Planning – Provide thorough, timely and responsive service, ensuring accuracy, effective and efficient use of financial, human and physical resources, innovative and engaging support for community initiatives, and clear and successful communication strategies; timely response - difficult to respond to items when information is not readily available
 - Transparency within planning departments; predictability is key; knowing the timeline of a particular project/process
- Goal 1 Finance - strengthen financial accountability throughout the organization
- Goal 1 Town Manager - To lead an organization that functions well internally and implements Council policies in a timely, effective, efficient, and friendly manner.

NEXT STEPS

The project team is grateful to each Task Force member for their participation over the past year. The planning process is not yet over, and the Task Force's continued review and participation in Carrboro Connects is much appreciated!

Timeline:

- October 4th–27th: Town Council Work Session and Advisory Boards Review
- October/November TBD: Review session with Task Force
- Oct 27th–Nov 5th: Preparation of Draft for Public Hearing
- November 16th: Public Hearing
- January –March: Continuation of public hearing and adoption of plan