

Joint Open House Summary

Comprehensive Plan 2034/ Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Meeting Logistics

July 21, 2014 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Brookhaven City Hall (Council Chambers)

Attendees

A total of 73 individuals registered their attendance at the Open House. Attendees included members of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, the Comprehensive Transportation Steering Committee, Mayor J. Max Davis, City Council members Rebecca Chase Williams and Joe Gebbia, Susan Canon (Assistant/City Manager and Community Development Director), and members of the general public.

Summary

The meeting was an open house format that allowed the public to review displays for Comprehensive Plan 2034 and the Comprehensive Transportation Plan. Comprehensive Plan 2034 displays included a summary of the planning process and project framework, community vision and goals, character area narratives, and implementation strategies and action items by plan element. Transportation Plan displays included intersection/corridor improvements, bike/pedestrian improvements, a summary of survey and public input, special area and corridor projects, and possible solutions.

Supplemental information and handouts were also available for both planning processes including a schedule of upcoming public hearings to the City Planning Commission and City Council. A looping presentation provided a summary of both plans.

Attendees were able and encouraged to give input in a variety of ways for both plans, including comment forms, sticky note comments placed directly on displays, and comments provided directly to the planning team. Comments received at the meeting are provided on the following pages.



Comprehensive Plan 2034 Input

Implementation Strategies + Action Items

The majority of the input received was regarding implementation strategies by plan element. Public input is provided in italics below each need/opportunity or action item.

Land Use

- 1.2.1: Conduct neighborhood specific surveys regarding infill uses for designated neighborhoods in the city.
 - *Good idea!*
- 1.4.1: Establish streetscape standards for major roads within the City's Zoning Ordinance and Code review, requiring street trees and Complete Street principles.
 - *Yes!*
- 1.5: Review tree ordinance (ensure appropriate protection).
 - *Identify and let citizens identify important trees and protect them!*
 - *Need the moratorium so citizens can have a chance to review and comment.*
 - *Tree cutting moratorium till new ordinance is adopted.*
- 1.6.1: Continue Code Enforcement efforts.
 - *Let's not let developers tear down small, ranch, attractive homes for these large, ugly McMansions!*
- 1.7.3: Ensure that community gardens and other healthy, local foods initiatives are permitted in City's ordinances.
 - *Great Idea!*
 - *Don't cut trees to accomplish this.*

Community Facilities + Resources

- 2.2.2: Review City's adopted stormwater management ordinances and update to reflect recommendations of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District 2009 Watershed Management Plan. Consider incorporation of rain gardens and bio-detention ponds as a stormwater management component and other BMPs.
 - *Great idea!*
 - *History of city not enforcing former DeKalb standards because not in flood zones - need to make gravel pits/etc. Maybe get developers together to discuss.*
- 2.4.1: Enter into discussions with the local electric and communications provider to discuss costs and options for burying utilities.
 - *Great!*

Economic Development

- 3.1.1.a: Create a citywide Economic Development Plan and Strategy.
 - *Create restaurant and business opportunities along north fork of Peachtree Creek.*
 - *Not if you have to cut trees to develop land.*
 - *No more dirty waterways.*
 - *Thumbs up!*

- 3.2.1: Convene a committee of local leaders representing diverse constituencies to gain insight on the types of community events they would support and potentially host or sponsor.
 - *Don't give away free use of parks for outside promoters and vendors who make money and drive out of city. This burdens city and residents and provides no economic gain*
 - *Idea: Food trucks in Brookhaven parks on Tuesday or Thursday [at] corner of Osborne and Peachtree; 5000 people came to soccer fest using MARTA*
 - *Not during week! No parking!*
 - *Walkable area - good idea!*
 - *No! Bad idea!*
- 3.3: Use the Buford Highway Economic Development Strategy to drive development of a citywide Economic Development Strategy.
 - *Do not even consider eminent domain.*
 - *Where is North Fork Linear Park?*
 - *Right!*
 - *Nicer for a park*
 - *Shut down Pink Pony. Horrible place for families*
 - *It's not a place for families (don't take them there)!*
 - *Leave PP alone!*
 - *I second that emotion.*
 - *Third - who cares?*
- 3.5.2: Develop and continually evaluate the criteria for business retention and expansion visits, in addition to size, and ensure the data that is collected is actionable.
 - *Will the city do this? Someone else could. If so, it doesn't need to be expensive.*
- 3.6: Leverage the Brookhaven MARTA station to encourage further desirable development along the Peachtree Corridor.
 - *Desirable = walkable!*

Population

- 4.2: Promote the aging population.
 - Put the aging population in the details - what does "promote the aging pop" mean?
 - *Yes!*
- 4.2.1: Complete the Atlanta Regional Commission Local Government Lifelong Communities Assessment Survey.
 - *Promote Brookhaven as a Lifelong Community.*
 - *Really good program! We need to be a part of that.*
- 4.4: Enhance City's communication with public.
 - *We need to have posters that have the city website on them so people can know where to go. Collect emails that way.*
- 4.4.4: Create a biannual City magazine.
 - *Why? Okay if paid with City \$.*
- 4.5.1: Develop a public art program via ordinance.
 - *Local organizations can lead this. City can help with zoning.*

Housing

- 5.1.2: Complete an analysis to explore application of accessory housing units in different areas of Brookhaven.
 - *Accessory units - smart idea!*
- 5.2: Preserve safe and affordable housing in the community.
 - *Affordable housing is very important!*
 - *We can't just be a rich community. That's not a good thing.*
 - *Streetlamps for subdivisions*
- 5.2.2.b: Cross-train police officers for code enforcement needs (after hours).
 - *Code Enforcement for 'dirty' developers who clear cut.*
 - *Agree strongly.*
 - *Needed for weekends when 'dozing' happens*
 - *Amen to that.*
- 5.3.3: Participate in updates to the DeKalb County Consolidated Plan to identify opportunities to meet Brookhaven affordable housing needs.
 - *Check.*
- Additional housing comments
 - *Ban the mansions!*
 - *Not on any but huge lots.*
 - *80% - 90% of developers here are not licensed home builders.*

Character Area Input

Limited comments were provided on each of the 13 character area narratives on display. *Public input is provided in italics below each Character Area.*

Osborne

- *Kendrick Road has cut-through traffic issues and could benefit from traffic calming.*
- *A crosswalk is needed at Chalfont Walk and Osborne Road to access the sidewalk on the opposite side of the street.*
- *A bike lane along Osborne Road is desired.*
- *Remove the language about vehicular connections, only pedestrian are desired.*
- *Pedestrian connections to Town Brookhaven are desired in this area.*

Peachtree Corridor Overlay District

- *The City should hold Food trucks events in Brookhaven Park, like those in Blackburn Park.*
- *The Savoy at Town Brookhaven development violates codes by working at night in spite of numerous violations and fines.*
- *In the Peachtree Corridor Overlay District, the language about the overlay being overly prescriptive should be removed. Too many variances have been issued to developers who have developed under this. We need to hold strong to the vision of the overlay. We need to limit curb cuts on Peachtree Street.*

- *Don't water down LCI overlay.*
- *Limit curb cuts.*
- *Limit curb cuts on Peachtree; promote/push interparcel connections.*
- *Fernwood Park isn't really a park.*

Briarwood Park

- *Briarwood [Park] really needs a lot of Work!!*

Buford Highway Corridor

- *Connect to the Beltline!*
- *Connection to the Beltline.*

Other Input Received

- *Access management - limit curb cuts.*
- *Gateway features should not be/include apartment complexes or similar.*
- *Gateway features should not be apartments or similar.*
- *Don't have apartment buildings at the of gateway areas of the city! Especially in Perimeter Center area.*