

First, What is a Comprehensive Plan?

- ❑ A comprehensive plan is a long-range plan for livability and what the community wants to look like in the future.
- ❑ A planning tool that highlights values and priorities and guides decision making as the community grows.
- ❑ The Code of Virginia requires local planning commissions to prepare and recommend a comprehensive plan and to review that plan every five years to consider amendments that reflect current needs.
- ❑ A comprehensive planning effort aims to meet the needs of current and future generations by coordinating and integrating the systems on which they depend (like transportation, housing, public spaces, facilities and services)

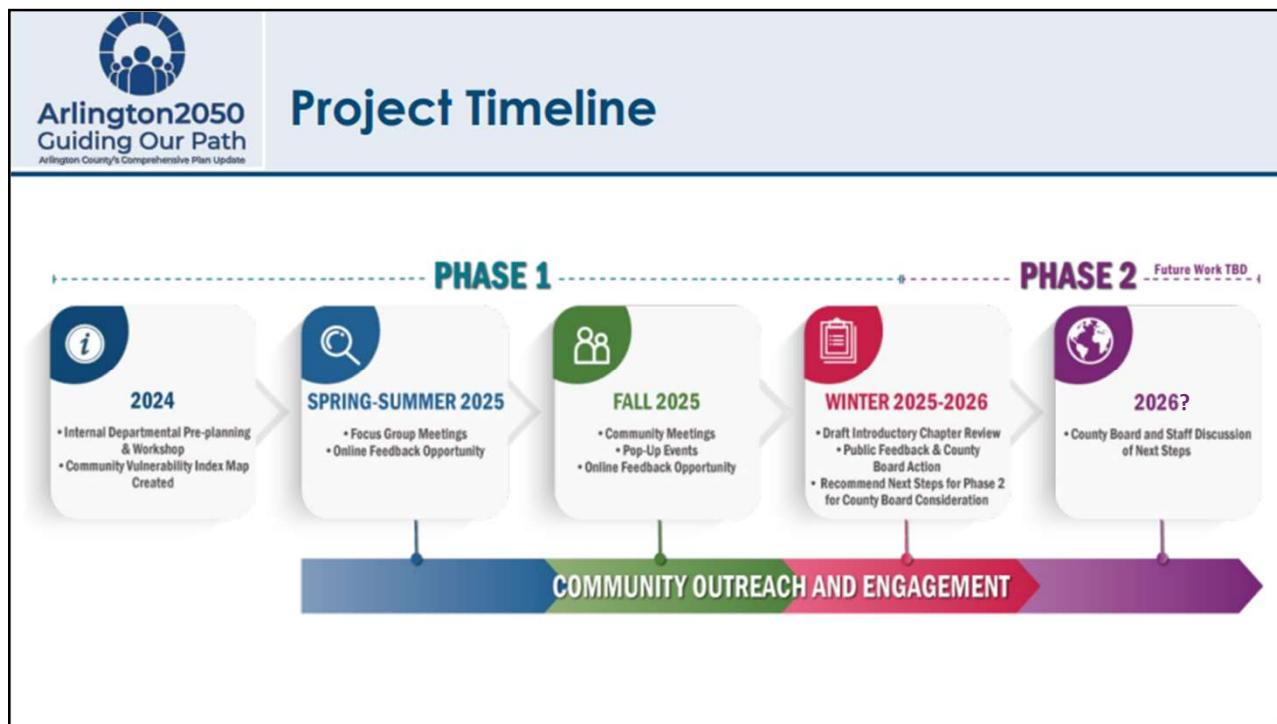
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The Comprehensive Plan – Then and Now

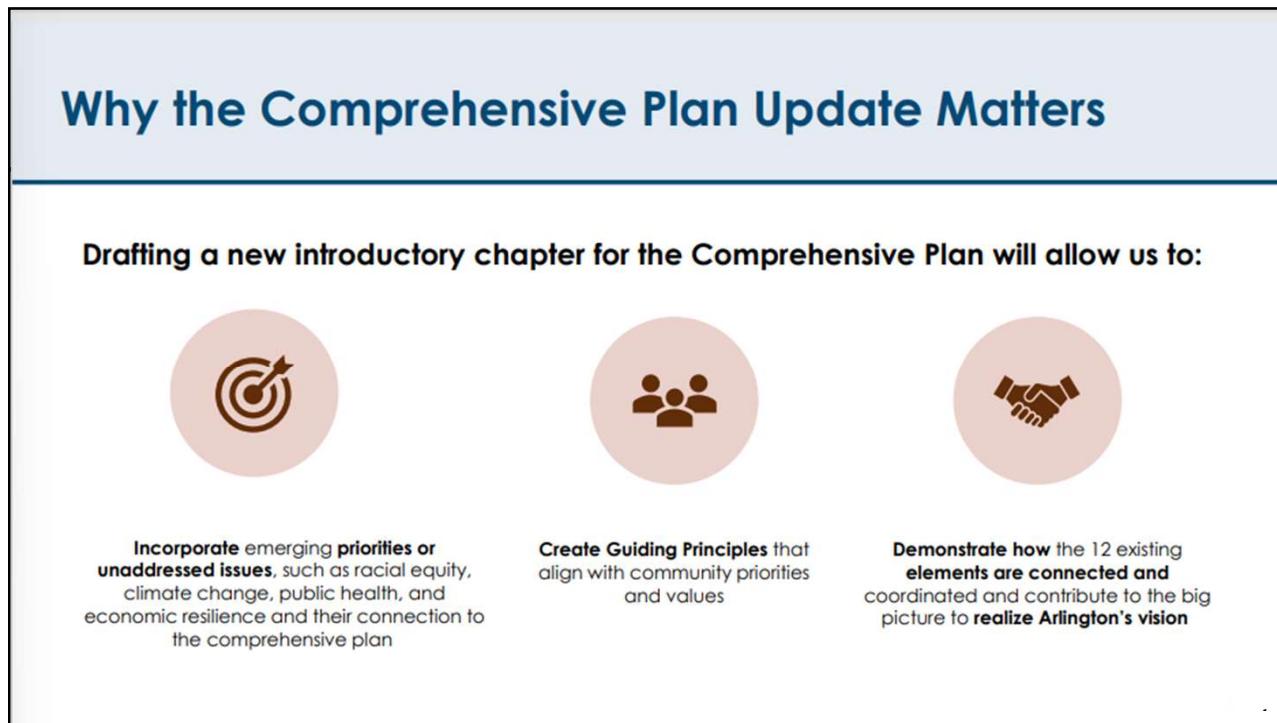
- ❑ Established on August 27, 1960, the original draft of the Comprehensive Plan included 5 elements:
 1. General Land Use Plan
 2. Water Distribution System Master Plan
 3. Sanitary Sewer Collection System Master Plan
 4. Storm Sewer Plan
 5. Transportation Plan
- ❑ Over time, the Comprehensive Plan was amended/expanded to include 12 elements. 
- ❑ The Plan is reviewed and updated every 5 years, with updates to individual elements on their own schedule.
- ❑ The County's last review recommended updating the Comprehensive Plan Goals and Objectives, not changed since 1960.



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Comprehensive Plan Update – Phase 1 Engagement

- Public engagement concluded Sunday, November 16
- Thank you to all community members and staff.
- This engagement aimed to reach a broader spectrum of the community by:
 - Meeting people where they are: Focus groups Community meetings Pop-ups Street canvassing Online survey
 - 50+ neighborhoods, renters and owners, all ages (including 30–40s), both non-English and English speakers
 - Bringing together frequently engaged and newly engaged community members together to share their input, learn about the Comp Plan, and understand how they can see themselves in it

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Engagement Highlights

- Focus groups: 10 sessions, 100 participants
- Community meetings: 4 meetings, 122 attendees
- Pop-ups: 7 events, 731 people
- Street canvassing: 1,622 interactions
- Online feedback: 6,700+ comments

Participation grew from the Spring (~100) to the Fall (>3,400)

Learn more at: [Comprehensive Plan – Official Website of Arlington County Virginia Government](#)

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Next Steps

- Staff will use this input to draft a **new introductory chapter** this winter
- This work **will not** change any of the existing 12 elements of the Comprehensive Plan, including the General Land Use Plan
- The draft introductory chapter **will**:
 - Explain how the 12 elements connect to support County goals
 - Include data about what life is like in Arlington today
 - Present guiding principles that reflect lived experiences, community needs and values
- Staff will also propose a process for future Comprehensive Plan element updates to align with the guiding principles
- **Board action** will be needed to accept any of these recommendations