

Caroline County Planning & Codes Administration



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Caroline County Comprehensive Plan Public Meeting Transportation and Emergency Services Summary May 22, 2008, 6:30-8:30 PM, HAPS Building

Attendees: Betsy Walk CC P&C; Katheleen Freeman CC P&C; Margaret Iovino, Citizen; Joanne Shipley, Citizen; Robert Clendaniel, Citizen; Sarah Pearce, Times Record; Albert Lee Cheezum, Citizen; and Thomas E. Cheezum, Citizen.

The second public meeting to address citizen interests in planning for the County Comprehensive Plan was held May 22, 2008 and was dedicated to the discussion of transportation and emergency services. There were no planned presentations for this meeting. The floor was open for comment and citizen led discussion.

The overall discussion centered around transportations in and around the Towns, particularly Preston and Denton. Citizens representing Preston were concerned about the proposed Preston Bypass. They felt that if there were a bypass it should go behind the school, but did not think Preston needed a bypass because it would be detriment to the businesses in Town. The citizens felt that growth in the Town needed to be stopped. A citizen from the Town of Denton expressed concern about the impending Wal-Mart and the affect that the super store would have on traffic, particularly at the intersection of Maryland Route 404 and Legion Road.

According to Smart Growth Principles governing planning in the State of Maryland, growth should be directed to existing towns and population centers. So the conversation naturally progressed into the topic of growth and how to slow it down or prevent it. Ms. Walk stated that the population was projected to grow, so it is a matter of managing the growth more than preventing it. One citizen mentioned further down-zoning County land, so that agricultural land could not be further subdivided. Ms. Walk agreed that down-zoning may work, but that much of the agricultural community relies on the ability to subdivide their land to secure income for retirement and that down-zoning may not be well received.

Emergency services were discussed briefly. Citizens expressed concern that the current services would be insufficient as the population grows. Citizens mentioned that there is a way to make developers provide things like fire trucks, ambulances, emergency care clinics and the like, however the pain of growth is felt more in the long term expenses such as those related to personnel and that developers would not agree to pay for the

salaries of additional emergency services personnel. A citizen suggested the possibility of having developers pay into a fund for emergency services based on the number of units that would be able to provide funding for the expansion of services as the population grows. The overwhelming sentiment of the citizens that evening being that they should not have to pay to prepare for a growth in population that they do not want. The citizens would like to see the developers paying more for these services that will be affected by the incoming population.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.