

City of Beckley Comprehensive Plan Update
Proposed Public Visioning Session Organization
August 21, 2013

Efforts are made to attract large numbers of residents, and this event begins with a brief presentation. After a brief presentation, people are asked to join together in small working groups (8-12 people). Each working group is given maps of Beckley and asked to spend about 20-30 minutes on each of the three topics discussed below. Participants can draw on the maps and make notes. Each group will be asked to present to everyone at the conclusion of this visioning session.

There are no right or wrong answers for this exercise. We simply hope to understand how residents view their community and look for common themes among the responses and the results from each group. We want to use this information to hone in on the topics we need to address in greater detail in future steps in the planning process.

1. Residential neighborhoods

Identify areas within the City that are known as, or function as “residential neighborhoods.” These could center around a school, or park, or some other asset. Neighborhoods can also simply be places where homes are similar, where residents have much in common, and there is a general feeling of belonging.

With neighborhood boundaries defined – provide the following:

- Draw a star at the main entrance(s) to each neighborhood
- List one or two neighborhood assets (i.e., low crime, well-maintained homes, lots of sidewalks, close to shopping, etc.)
- List one or two neighborhood challenges (i.e., no sidewalks, some homes in disrepair, messy yards, etc.)

Neighborhoods identified in the 2001 Plan included the following (but people should not feel limited to these choices and should feel free to define neighborhoods in similar or different ways).

- Maxwell Hill Area
- Shadow Wood Subdivision
- Sprague
- New River Park Neighborhood
- Harper Hill Neighborhood
- East Park Neighborhood
- East Beckley Neighborhood
- Bowling Addition
- Pinecrest Area
- Woodcrest Neighborhood
- North Plaza Mall Area
- Bibb Avenue Area
- Froggy Bottom
- Redbrush Neighborhood

2. Districts and Areas

Apart from the residential areas defined above, identify districts or areas in Beckley that have similar qualities. When done, the identification of these areas, and the previously defined neighborhoods should cover all of Beckley. Similar qualities include places where all the buildings are similar in size and type and are used for generally the same purposes (retail sales, strip mall, restaurants, etc.). Similar qualities can also be larger areas where multiple buildings relate to each other with similar function (a school campus, health care complex, industrial park, etc.). Uptown Beckley is a unique district or area and it should be defined on the map using boundaries that make sense to each group.

With Districts and Areas defined– do the following:

- Label each area with a name that makes sense to the group
- List one or two district or area assets
- List one or two district or area challenges

Examples of special districts or areas might include the following (but people should not feel limited to these choices):

- The university district
- Tamarack area
- North Plaza Mall Area
- Various hospital campuses
- School campuses
- New River Park/Mine area
- Ragland Road industrial area
- Automobile row
- Proposed development areas around the bypass road

3. Corridors

Identify 8-12 major road corridors in Beckley. These are heavily traveled routes that connect major destinations within Beckley and link with outside destinations. Corridors are areas that provide both motorized and non-motorized mobility. They are the connective elements of the community and often cut through or across neighborhoods or districts/areas.

With corridors defined– do the following:

- Identify problems with each corridor (these might include congestion, lack of sidewalks/bike lanes, safe pedestrian crossings, poor signage, etc.).

Possible corridors include:

- Harper Road (3)
- Kanawha Street (210)
- Robert C Byrd Drive (16)
- The new bypass Road
- Eisenhower Drive (19)
- New River Drive
- Ragland Road
- Stanaford Rd. (41)
- Maxwell Hill Road