

# The Area Planning Process

## *The Legacy Toolkit*



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### Area Plan Program for Winston-Salem/Forsyth County

In 2004, the City-County Planning Board (CCPB) adopted boundaries, names, and priority rankings for six urban Area Plans, a Downtown Plan, and twelve suburban/small town/rural Area Plans. At that time, the CCPB also adopted a specific Area Plan process. It is the goal of the Planning Board to develop a process which enables staff to cover more of the community and serve more citizens with Area Plans by producing them within a shorter, more focused time frame. Planning staff coordinates a process which includes working with the Winston-Salem Department of Transportation (WSDOT), an Interdepartmental Committee, and a Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) for each plan. Two opportunities for general citizen input are also included: a specific Visioning exercise conducted by staff early in the process and open community meetings held after the plan has been drafted.

The CCPB also has a standard Area Plan format to assist in using and finding information in Area Plans. Consistent components in each Area Plan include maps using consistent colors and conventions for land use designations. Consistency between plans is important to Planning staff, City and County staff, the CCPB, elected officials, and the public as the plans provide invaluable guidance for zoning and other decisions. A standard format also significantly reduces the time staff spends on document and map preparation.

An information page for each plan within the Planning Department's web site is the main focus for sharing information with the community throughout the process. Completed Area Plans may also be found on the CCPB web site. When adopted, each Area Plan becomes part of the Comprehensive Plan, *Legacy*. The Planning Board has the responsibility to see that each Area Plan is consistent with the broad public interest and with the elements of *Legacy*. For more information about Area Plans on-line, visit the Planning Department web site at [www.cityofws.org/Planning](http://www.cityofws.org/Planning).

