2014 Status Report

The Legacy 2030 Update is the comprehensive plan adopted by Forsyth County and all its municipalities centered around the themes of fiscal responsibility, sustainable growth and livable design. A large and diverse group of citizens was involved in the creation of this Plan. Successful implementation of plan recommendations will result in keeping our rural areas rural, providing a diversity of residential options, improving accessibility and livability, and helping our community thrive in the new economy.

This is the first of what will become annual reports to the community on progress in achieving the goals of Legacy 2030.
Major Accomplishments

Implementing Legacy 2030
Twelve major goals were identified in The Legacy 2030 Update. Following is a summary of the progress made in positively addressing the goals of the plan.

Growth Management and Land use
Goal: Make efficient use of limited land capacity
Accomplishments
- A strategy for including Growth Corridor and Activity Center development in area plans was endorsed by the Planning Board.
- Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) amendments were made to facilitate the application of some of Legacy 2030 principles, including limiting sweepstake operations and allowing agriculture in the city.
- Piedmont Together, the Triad's regional sustainability plan, was adopted by the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART).
- A development opportunities site study and a report on Forsyth County's residential carrying capacity have been completed.

Transportation
Goal: A balanced, sustainable, multimodal transportation system
Accomplishments
- The 2035 Transportation Plan Update was adopted.
- A 2013 Winston-Salem Regional On-Board Transit Survey report was completed. A new route system is under review.
- A Complete Streets Policy adopted by the Transportation Advisory Committee is to be further considered by the Planning Board.
- A Comprehensive Parking Study was presented to the Planning Board. UDO Amendments will be considered over the next year.
- A Bicycle, Pedestrian and Transit Study Wake Forest University Area was completed.
- The Salem Creek Connector, the Union Cross Road Improvements and Macy Grove Road extension and interchange are under construction.
- The Peters Creek Parkway Corridor study was completed.
- A bicycle and pedestrian crash analysis, walk/bike audits and pedestrian safety projects were completed.
- A total of 9.5 miles of roadway were designated as bike lanes and 4.7 miles of sidewalks were constructed by the City.

Economic Development
Goal: Attract new and expand existing businesses
Accomplishments
- The adaptive reuse of buildings has created employment opportunities in downtown Winston-Salem.
- A 565-acre business park and mixed-use development has been approved at the northeast quadrant of the I-74/US 311-NC 66 interchange in southeast Forsyth County.
- The completed 2013 Forsyth County Trends report highlights important demographic, economic, development, environmental and transportation trends in the community.

Environmental Quality and Sustainability
Goal: Preserve, enhance, and protect our environmental resources
Accomplishments
- A Sustainable Zoning Practices Report which made recommendations for addressing issues of sustainable growth and development was completed.
- Regulations for solar farms were adopted. The first solar farm in Forsyth County was approved.
- The Town of Walkertown amended its UDO to provide a higher degree of protection from light pollution.
Healthy, Complete and Equitable Communities
Goal: Improved health and well-being
Accomplishments
- An overview on Healthy Design Principles and Health Impact Assessment, Winston-Salem/Forsyth County was completed. Work is to continue in this area.
- An ordinance amendment, which allows agricultural crop and livestock production within Winston-Salem, was adopted.
- Horizons Park Conceptual Master Plan and the Kernersville Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update were completed.
- Construction of the Little Creek Greenway is currently underway.

Community Character
Goal: A distinctive image
Accomplishments
- The Forsyth County Design Review Guidelines for Local Historic Landmarks were adopted.
- Eight Local Historic Markers were installed, three Local Historic Landmarks were designated and two buildings were listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- The Planning Board gave its support to forwarding the report Public Art - Planning and Opportunities for the City of Arts and Innovation to elected officials.

Downtown and the Center City
Goal: A vibrant, exciting Downtown and Center City
Accomplishments
- The 2013 update of the Downtown Plan was adopted.
- The existing library site was chosen as the site of a new public library.
- New downtown housing and office developments at the intersection of First Street and Peters Creek Parkway, and the corner of Fourth and Broad Streets will add to the vibrancy of downtown Winston-Salem.
- The Urban Circulator - Alternatives Analysis and recommended locally preferred alternative of the modern streetcar was approved and forwarded to the Federal Transit Administration.

Neighborhoods and Towns
Goal: Enhance neighborhoods and towns
Accomplishments
- Recommendations for enhancing neighborhoods have been included in area plans.
- Illustrations showing how neighborhoods could be enhanced were included in the Southeast and South Central Winston-Salem area plans.
- Kernersville updated its land use plan for sections of Old Winston Road, South Cherry Street and Southern Street.

Rural Character
Goal: Preserve, protect, and enhance the Rural Area
Accomplishments
- Forsyth County received a State grant to complete a Farmland Preservation Plan.
- Forsyth County's Community Food System: A Foundation to Grow 2013 was completed and a Forsyth County Food Consortium was created.

Area Plans
Goal: Translate Legacy 2030 on a community level.
Accomplishments
- Area plan updates have been adopted for the Tobaccoville, Downtown Winston-Salem, Southeast Forsyth County, Southeast Winston-Salem, North Suburban and the Winkertown areas.
- An Area Plan Status Report was completed.
Key Public Investments

**Goal:** Use public improvements to catalyze investment.

**Accomplishments**
- The recently constructed Research Parkway will facilitate new development in the Wake Forest Innovation Quarter.
- Revitalizing Urban Commercial Areas (RUCA) projects have catalyzed further investment in urban neighborhoods.

Celebrations and Awards

*The Legacy 2030 Update* was recognized as an outstanding plan for the future of the city and county. Awards received were:
- The Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan by the American Planning Association (APA) in 2014.
- The Marvin Collins Outstanding Planning Award for Multijurisdictional Comprehensive Planning by the North Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA-NC) in 2013.
- An Achievement Award for Public Outreach and Involvement by the National Association of Counties in 2013.
- The National Planning Achievement Award in Public Outreach by APA in 2013.
- The Innovations in Public Involvement Award from APA-NC in 2012.

Moving Forward

Implementation of the award winning *Legacy 2030* got off to a good start. Initiatives were undertaken to move forward in achieving its goals. There are, however, challenges ahead. Particularly challenging is coming to grips with some of the new issues addressed in the plan concerning healthy design, urban agriculture, equity, age-friendly communities, alternative energy, complete streets, and fiscal responsibility. These issues and others will be further studied and addressed in the coming years and reported on annually. We look forward to more active citizen involvement over the next year in creating a more livable community.

City of Winston-Salem

Mayor: Allen Joines
City Council: Vivian H. Burke, Mayor Pro Tempore, Northeast Ward
Denise D. Adams, North Ward
Dan Besse, Southwest Ward
Robert C. Clark, West Ward
Molly Leight, South Ward
Jeff MacIntosh, Northwest Ward
Derwin L. Montgomery, East Ward
James Taylor, Jr., Southeast Ward
City Manager: Lee Garrity

Forsyth County Board of Commissioners

Richard V. Linville, Chairman
Gloria D. Whisenhunt, Vice Chair
Mark Baker
Walter Marshall
David R. Plyler
Bill Whiteheart
Everette Witherspoon

County Manager: Dudley Watts, Jr.

City-County Planning Board

Arnold G. King, Chairman
Allan Younger, Vice Chair
Tommy Hicks
Clarence R. Lambe, Jr.
Darryl Little
Barry A. Lyons
Lynne Mitchell
Paul W. Mullican
Brenda J. Smith

Director of Planning and Development Services:
A. Paul Norby, FAICP