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News Release

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Engage Durham Hosts First Community Workshops for New Comprehensive Plan and County Transit Plan

Five Listening-and-Learning Sessions Set for November; Spanish Interpretation, Child Care, and Refreshments Provided

DURHAM, N.C. – If you're interested in helping shape the community's vision for future growth, RSVP now to attend one-of-five workshops throughout November.

Hosted by the Durham City-County Planning Department, the [Engage Durham Listening-and-Learning Workshops](#) — the first community-engagement events for this three-year process — are designed to seek input from people who live, work, own a business, go to school, or simply care about the future of Durham. The ideas and opinions collected during these workshops will help shape the foundation for Durham's [new Comprehensive Plan](#), the broadest policy document a community can create that links all the important aspects of a community — land use, housing, transportation, natural environment, etc. — into one policy document.

According to Durham City-County Planning Director Patrick Young, the new Comprehensive Plan is long range in scope, and will focus on the ultimate needs of the Durham community rather than the pressing concerns of today. "Since the passage of the existing Comprehensive Plan in 2005, Durham County has added approximately 49,000 new jobs and 57,000 new residents. Over the next decade, it's projected we will see an additional 19,000 jobs and 43,000 new residents," Young said. "Durham is changing and it is critical that our community has a clear land use policy for the future that is our statement of how we want to grow and develop. Since this new plan is to become our collective guide, it is absolutely necessary that we have community input from every segment of Durham, and we're beginning our community outreach now to provide opportunities for everyone to help shape the future of our community."

[Five workshops](#) will be held November 14-19 at locations throughout Durham. To begin, these workshops will include information to help attendees understand what a Comprehensive Plan is, how it's relevant to them, and to provide an overview of the process. Then, the majority of the session will create a space for community members to share with each other and with Planning staff their experience of Durham today, in the past, and their hopes for the future. Since transportation is an important aspect of the Comprehensive Plan, attendees will also be able to provide their thoughts on the Durham County Transit Plan, which is now under development alongside the Comprehensive Plan.

The five workshops are as follows:

Thursday, November 14 from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Hillside High School, 3727 Fayetteville St.

Monday, November 18 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Durham County Administration II Building, 201 E. Main St.

Saturday, November 16 from 10 a.m. – noon
Carrington Middle School, 227 Milton Rd.

Tuesday, November 19 from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Rogers-Herr Middle School, 911 W. Cornwallis Rd.

Sunday, November 17 from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Southern High School, 800 Clayton Rd.

All workshops are identical in format and content, so attendees are encouraged to RSVP for a two-hour workshop to attend that is most convenient for their schedules. Doors open 30 minutes early and Spanish interpretation, free child care, and light refreshments will be provided at each workshop. To RSVP in English, visit <https://engagedurham.com/youre-invited/>. To RSVP in Spanish, visit <https://engagedurham.com/queda-usted-invitado>.

For more information about the Comprehensive Plan process or the upcoming workshops, visit <https://engagedurham.com/ComprehensivePlan>, or contact Durham City-County Planning Department Senior Urban Designer Lisa Miller at Lisa.Miller@DurhamNC.gov or (919) 560-4137, ext. 28270 or Assistant Director Sara Young at Sara.Young@DurhamNC.gov or (919) 560-4137, ext. 28256.

About the Durham City-County Planning Department

The [Durham City-County Planning Department](#) is the planning agency for the City and County of Durham. The department works with the community to develop long-range and special area plans containing policies to direct growth. Guided by the City's Strategic Plan, the department helps to make Durham a great place to live, work, and play by working to create a strong and diverse economy, and thriving and livable neighborhoods, as well as the County's Strategic Plan goals of Environmental Stewardship and Community Prosperity and Safe Community.

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