



# We Asked, You Shared

**Project:**

Comprehensive Plan Public Meetings

**Timeframe:**

February-April 2026

**Participation:**

Over 100 community members





## What We Asked

Share your ideas on **community identity, connectivity, natural resources, affordability, and infrastructure** to help shape the next 20-25 years in Charles County.



## What We Heard

### Community Identity and Design

- Strong pride in Charles County's rural character
- Concerns that current development patterns are diminishing the county's rural feel.
- Calls for stronger, more cohesive placemaking and community design.
- Significant interest in community events, local businesses, and nature-based recreation as ways to strengthen local identity.
- Concerns about overreliance on big-box retailers and chain development.

### Connectivity

- Concerns about traffic congestion along MD 5 and MD 210, limited east-west connections, and heavy dependence on automobiles.
- Identified gaps in sidewalks, bikeways, transit service, and safe pedestrian crossings.
- Emphasized that major transportation investments should be carefully coordinated with future land use decisions.





# What We Heard

## Natural Resources

- Strong support for protecting forests, farmland, waterways, wetlands, and biodiversity.
- Concerns that development outside designated growth areas is contributing to environmental degradation and placing additional pressure on water resources.
- Shared agreement on the need for clear, science-based regulations, meaningful public engagement, and stronger enforcement.
- Interest in expanding public access to natural areas and outdoor recreation opportunities.

## Affordability

- While Charles County remains relatively affordable compared to neighboring jurisdictions, residents expressed concern that rising housing costs, limited housing options, and infrastructure challenges could threaten that advantage.
- Support for expanding “missing middle” housing options.
- Interest in improving walkability, transit access, and proximity to everyday destinations and services.

## Infrastructure

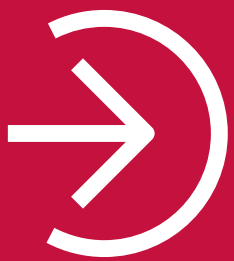
- Concerns about whether infrastructure is keeping pace with growth.
- Calls for more equitable access to parks, recreation facilities, and community amenities.
- Desire for greater accountability and follow-through on planned projects.
- Support for resilient, fiscally responsible infrastructure planning and investment.





## What We're Planning

- We will complete an existing conditions report to tell us the current state of the County.
- We will review all of the feedback we have received and develop recommended policies that reflect community needs and desires.
- We will draft a plan that takes into account the technical analysis and community input.
- We will come back to you with a draft plan to make sure we heard you correctly and get your feedback.



## Next Steps

- **End of June 2026:** Complete and close initial public input phase.
- **Mid-Summer – Early Fall 2026:** Complete technical analysis and draft plan document.
- **Fall 2026:** Present plan to public for feedback and make refinements
- **Winter 2027:** Complete process to adopt (approve) plan



## How You Can Stay Involved

- Sign up on Engage Page for notifications to keep updated on the process and upcoming opportunities for feedback
- Give your feedback on draft plan document

