# **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

A Comprehensive Plan is only as good as the quality of the public involvement utilized during its development. The County created a series of options for public participation and input throughout the Comprehensive Plan process to reflect the broadest cross section of community interests and concerns. To ensure that residents were provided opportunities to be involved in the planning process in a manner that fits their schedules and interests, meetings were scheduled for various times and citizens were invited to participate via email or hard-copy surveys.

In February and March of 2023 there were ten (10) public input sessions to gather input and information. In the Summer of 2023, there was an internal County review of the completed draft of the Comprehensive Plan, and one (1) County Council meeting with public input leading up to the First and Second Readings on the Comprehensive Plan by City Council.

# **In-Person Meetings**

The County and Comprehensive Plan consultant team organized and facilitated ten (10) public input sessions. Each session was in drop-in format to allow respondents to attend when available. Input received was specific to Land Use maps as well as large boards that provided feedback for various elements from short term implementation projects to future development plans. A summary of the input is provided below.





# LAURENS COUNTY

ten year comprehensive

Land Use | Housing | Economic Development | Community Facilities | Transportation Natural Resources | Population | Priority Investments | Cultural Resources | Resiliency

PLEASE
PARTICIPATE IN
OUR
ONLINE

Help us determine the future of Laurens County. How can we improve? Where should growth occur? What are the biggest challenges facing our future?

**SURVE** 

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/laurenscounty2033

2/13/23 - Gray Court Fire Department 52 Dove Rd, Gray Court, SC 29645

2/15/23 - Hickory Tavern Fire Department 73 Hickory Heights Dr, Gray Court, SC 29645

2/20/23 - Laurens County Fire - Station 21 94 Ranch Road Laurens, SC 29360

2/22/23 - Cross Hill Fire Dept. Station 4 Darkwood Dr, Waterloo, SC 29384

2/23/23 - Western Laurens Fire Dept. Station 2 10849 Indian Mound Rd, Ware Shoals, SC 29692

2/27/23 - Joanna Fire Department Station 105 N Main St, Joanna, SC 29351

2/28/23 - Renno Fire Department 23196 SC-72, Clinton, SC 29325

3/2/23 - Clinton Station 1-Headquarters 404 N Broad St, Clinton, SC 29325

3/6/23 - Laurens County Fire - Thompson Road 2115 Thompson Road, Fountain Inn, SC 29644

3/7/23 - Maddens Fire Station 2853 Stagecoach Road, Laurens, SC 29360

All Meetings are from 5:00pm - 6:00pm and are drop-in format with stations for public comment.

For more information contact Blake Sanders at blake@studiomainllc.com

#### AS WE LOOK TO THE NEXT 10 YEARS, WHERE DO YOU WANT THE COUNTY TO GROW?

- Common sense
- Follow the infrastructure
- After more planning has taken place address roads, schools, sewer, water, etc.
- Along industrial corridors
- Not along agricultural corridors
- Grow with larger lot single family residences
- Communities and areas should have more voice in what is happening in their area
- Zoning is not the answer

## WHAT IS A WORD OR PHRASE THAT YOU WANT TO DESCRIBE LAURENS COUNTY IN 2033?

- Large lot County
- Controlled growth
- Transparent
- Open
- Ready for industry
- Uncrowded
- Relaxed

# WHAT ARE YOUR BIGGEST CONCERNS FOR THE FUTURE OF LAURENS COUNTY?

- County is changing too fast
- Not enough infrastructure to support
- Zoning
- Protection of wildlife and natural resources
- Not enough public services (library, senior centers, etc.)
- Protection of agricultural property
- No access to healthy foods (eg. Grocery store in Western Laurens County)
- We don't want to end up like Greenville County
- We don't stay an agriculture community.

## WHAT ARE YOUR BIGGEST TRANSPORTATION WANTS AND NEEDS FOR THE FUTURE?

- Fix the roads
- Signals, turning lanes, and speed limits
- Enforcement of speeding
- Roads need shoulders
- I-385 needs additional exits
- Public safety can't respond lack of facilities and access roads

<sup>\*\*</sup>A complete list of comments has been provided to Laurens County Council. \*\*