

Manager's Update

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[City Council Meeting - 2026 Annual Retreat – Jaycee Park - Saturday, January 24](#)

Reminder that Council will meet **Saturday** for their scheduled retreat session at **8:00 A.M.** The agenda for the meeting has been published:

<https://pub-raleighnc.escribemeetings.com/>

INFORMATION:

[Homeless Encampment Reporting Tool Information](#)

Staff Resource: Erika Brandt, Housing and Community Development, 996-6975, erika.brandt@raleighnc.gov

Community members can report the location of potential encampments through an online reporting tool hosted on the Wake County Continuum of Care (CoC) website (select “Resources” then “Homeless Camp Reporting Tool”): <https://wakenc507.org/>

Reports submitted through this tool are received by the ACORNS unit in the Raleigh Police Department and are designed to inform the coordinated work of street outreach teams across the CoC. City Housing and Community Development staff are working closely with CoC leadership and ACORNS to streamline the

reporting and response process in order to improve information flow and coordination among street outreach teams.

(No attachment)

Historic Design Standards Update

Staff Resource: Tania Tully, Planning and Development, 996-2674, tania.tully@raleighnc.gov

In February 2026, a project to update the *Design Guidelines for Raleigh Historic Districts and Landmarks* will begin. The adopted FY26 budget includes Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds in the amount of \$193,000 for the development of historic district design standards and a preservation plan. The Design Standards project uses \$78,000 of the CIP funds to update and augment the current design guidelines. Design standards are required by state law for the Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) Committee of the Raleigh Historic Development Commission to review COA applications. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum that includes additional information and an estimated timeline.

(Attachment)

Monthly Update - Reflecting Raleigh: The Next Comprehensive Plan

Staff Resource: Sarah Shaughnessy, Planning & Development, 996-2234, sarah.shaughnessy@raleighnc.gov

As Council will recall, Reflecting Raleigh is the process for developing the Next Comprehensive Plan. The project is now well into its second of five phases. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum providing an update on phase 2 activities including the Civic Assembly, which met for the first of six meetings on Saturday, January 10 to learn about the city's existing growth framework and provide recommendations on how neighborhoods near frequent transit should develop over the next twenty years. Phase 2 also includes five Technical Teams, which began convening this week. Based on community priorities identified in Phase 1, existing conditions, and emerging trends from the Reflecting Raleigh Community Inventory and their technical expertise, these teams will provide policy recommendations for the Next Comprehensive Plan.

(Attachment)

Weekly Digest of Special Events

Staff Resource: Sarah Heinsohn, Office of Special Events, 996-2200, sarah.heinsohn@raleighnc.gov

Included with the *Update* materials is the special events digest for the upcoming week.

(Attachment)

Council Member Follow Up Items

No Items This Week

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Patrick O. Young, AICP, Director
From	Tania Tully, Preservation Planning Supervisor
Department	Planning and Development
Date	January 23, 2026
Subject	Historic Design Standards Update

Overview

Design Standards (or guidelines) are required by state law (NCGS Section 160D-947(c)) for the City to enforce the Historic Overlay District (HOD) regulations and process Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) applications. The adopted FY26 budget includes Capital Improvement Program funds in the amount of \$193,000 for the development of 1) historic district design standards and 2) a preservation plan. Work on the Design Standards project will begin in February of this year and will update and augment the *Design Guidelines for Raleigh Historic Districts and Landmarks* (adopted 2017). The Preservation Plan project is expected to kick-off in mid to late May 2026. Process and community engagement for both projects will be coordinated for efficiency.

Design Standards Intent and Scope

The intent of this project is to make Design Standards that are easy to use for applicants, designers, the COA Committee of the Raleigh Historic Development Commission, and staff. The project will amend the Design Standards to improve usability, add specificity about the character defining elements of each HOD, add design standards tailored to reflect the special character of each HOD, and enhance design standards related to non-character defining elements. The result of the project will be nine sets of Design Standards – one for each of the eight HODs and one for Raleigh Historic Landmarks.

Development of the updated Design Standards will include robust community engagement. A combination of virtual and in-person events will be used to engage property owners in each of the HODs as well as stakeholders Citywide.

Process and Estimated Timeline

Proposals were sought from qualified consulting firms specializing in historic preservation, architecture, architectural history, or a related field with demonstrated experience creating design guidelines/standards, experience working with local design review boards and commissions, and with community engagement. An initial Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued in September 2025. Due to limited response, the RFP was

reissued in November 2025. Three proposals were received in response to the reissued RFP. In December 2025, the multi-departmental evaluation team selected The Lakota Group as the most qualified and responsive firm. Contract negotiations are underway.

The Design Standards project is expected to take 12 months. Below is the anticipated schedule along with expected City Council updates.

- February/March 2026: Internal Project Kick-off, Document Review, Community Engagement Plan Approved, Historic Resources Review
 - Manager's Update focusing on the Community Engagement Plan
- April/May 2026: Field Documentation, Community Engagement begins – to include online-surveys, listening sessions, community speak-outs, etc.
 - Manager's Update with community engagement opportunities
- June/July 2026: Issues and Engagement Memorandum
 - Manager's Update
- July/August 2026: Drafting the Design Standards
 - RHDC annual report to City Council to include project update.
- September/October 2026: 1st Draft review by RHDC
 - Manager's Update with dates of upcoming public draft timeframe
- October/November 2026: 2nd Draft available for public comment
- November/December 2026: 3rd Draft presented to RHDC
 - Manager's Update
- January 2027: Final Presentation and adoption by RHDC
 - February 2027: Presentation to City Council

Preservation Plan

The Preservation Plan project is expected to kick-off in mid to late May 2026 with community engagement activities beginning in August 2026. This will coincide with the drafting of the updated design standards. The Preservation Plan will be developed over the course of 18 months with the goal of adoption prior to completion of Reflecting Raleigh: the Next Comprehensive Plan.

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Patrick O. Young, AICP, Planning & Development Director
From	Sarah Shaughnessy, AICP, Principal Planner
Department	Planning and Development
Date	January 23, 2025
Subject	Monthly Update on Reflecting Raleigh: The Next Comprehensive Plan

Overview

Raleigh's Comprehensive Plan serves as the city's long-term vision for the built environment. [Reflecting Raleigh](#) is the process of developing the Next Comprehensive Plan, which will include a focus on sustainable and equitable growth, aligning adopted city plans and priorities, and enhanced community engagement.



The project is now well into its second of five phases. This memorandum provides an update on phase 2 activities.

Raleigh Civic Assembly

The [Reflecting Raleigh Engagement Strategy](#) is built around four primary principles with the underlying goal of hearing from a broad, representative section of the Raleigh Community. One of the strategies staff are employing to achieve this goal is convening a Civic Assembly.

A Civic or Citizens assembly is a broadly representative group of randomly selected residents who come together to learn about, deliberate on, and make recommendations for a particular policy issue, framed as a remit. [On October 7](#), City Council unanimously approved the following staff-recommended remit:

Raleigh is in the process of improving transit service around the city. How should the next comprehensive plan help improve access to the new service? What should the neighborhoods around frequent transit look like?

On January 10, the Raleigh Civic Assembly met for the first time. The result of months of preparation and collaboration across the organization, this Civic Assembly is the first to be convened in the state of North Carolina and in the Southeastern United States. Raleigh is also the largest city in the United States to use this process.

The first session included presentations from city staff and local and regional experts to help assembly members understand the context of neighborhood change in Raleigh, the current growth framework, and how Raleigh is projected to continue to grow and develop. All of the presentation materials from session 1 are available on the [project webpage](#).

Technical Teams

Alongside the Civic Assembly, five teams of technical experts will provide policy recommendations on five broad topics:

- Land Use
- Transportation
- Housing & Neighborhoods
- Natural Resources
- Infrastructure & Community Services

These teams will meet monthly for six months, beginning this week.

Each team will consist of city staff, representatives from Council-appointed boards and commissions, and experts from the Raleigh community, selected by application and appointed by Council at their [meeting on December 2](#). [A memorandum](#) with a list of technical team members and the topics each team will review was provided in the back-up materials for that meeting.

Additional Project Updates

The work of the Civic Assembly and of the Technical Teams will build on the feedback staff received during phase 1 of the project. [A full report on phase 1](#) is now available on the project website. You can also [view the Executive Summary](#) for an abbreviated look at engagement activities and key takeaways.

Phase 2 initiatives are also informed by an analysis of existing conditions and emerging trends. A full Community Inventory report on those topics will be available later this month.

Concurrently with the work of the Civic Assembly and Technical Teams, staff will be conducting informational interviews with institutional partners, including state agencies, staff in neighboring municipalities, and major employers in Wake County. The goal of these interviews is to contextualize emerging trends and ensure alignment of planning objectives. Any representative of an organization or institution working in Raleigh is invited to provide feedback to staff [online through Engage Raleigh](#).

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, January 23 – Thursday, January 29

City of Raleigh Office of Special Events

specialevents@raleighnc.gov | 919-996-2200 | raleighnc.gov/special-events-office

NOTE: Schedules are subject to change due to inclement weather. Please check event websites for the latest information.

Permitted Special Events

[ARTivation: The Iceberg Trail](#)

Market Plaza

Through Monday, February 16

Event Time: 8:00am - 11:00pm daily

Associated Impacts: Market Plaza will be used until 11:45pm on 2-17-26.

Other Upcoming Events

[All Mozart – NC Symphony](#)

Friday, January 23 & Saturday, January 24

Meymandi Concert Hall

[Walk for Peace](#)

Saturday, January 24 (estimated)

Raleigh

[Closing Reception – Then and Now Exhibition](#)

Saturday, January 24

Pullen Arts Center

[Syracuse vs. NC State](#)

Tuesday, January 27

Lenovo Center

[Utah Mammoth vs. Carolina Hurricanes](#)

Thursday, January 29

Lenovo Center

[The Glenn Miller Orchestra](#)

Thursday, January 29

Meymandi Concert Hall

Public Resources

[Event Feedback Form](#): Tell us what you think about Raleigh events! We welcome feedback and encourage you to provide comments or concerns about any events regulated by the Office of Special Events. We will use this helpful information in future planning.

[Road Closure & Road Race Map](#): A resource providing current information on street closures in Raleigh.

[Online Events Calendar](#): View all currently scheduled events that impact city streets, public plazas, and Dix Park.

New Amplified Noise Ordinance Takes Effect January 2026

The City Council approved a [new amplified noise ordinance](#), which went into effect Jan. 1, 2026. Stadiums, arenas, and outdoor sports or entertainment venues, including amphitheaters, are exempt. Parades, outdoor events, races, festivals, and concerts that receive a permit from the Office of Special Events are also not subject to the ordinance.