Reflecting Raleigh

THE NEXT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Raleigh
Planning

PHASE 1
Engagement Report

DECEMBER 2025

Contents

Introduction

The Comprehensive Plan describes how Raleigh should grow and develop in a way that is environmentally sustainable, financially feasible, and socially equitable. It includes polices that guide future land use development, align future infrastructure and services, and coordinate public investment with anticipated growth.

Raleigh's 2030 Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2009 and updated in 2019. Reflecting Raleigh is the process of creating a new Comprehensive Plan with city staff, elected and community leaders, and with Raleigh residents.

Reflecting Raleigh will be a multi-year process divided into five phases.

This report summarizes engagement activities and public input received during Phase 1. Key themes and emerging issues will inform plan development in Phase 2 of the project.

Key Takeaways from Phase 1

Phase 1 of Reflecting Raleigh included a range of engagement activities designed to share information with the public on best practices, key challenges, and opportunities as Raleigh grows and to collect information from the public on priorities, challenges, community assets, and solutions. Activities included:

6 Two-part Thematic Community Conversations and a "Host Your Own Conversation" Toolkit

18 Ask-A-Planner Events

7 Online Surveys

29 Community Events

13 Presentations to City Boards & Commissions

20 Small Group Presentations to Community & Neighborhood Organizations

8 Monthly Email Newsletters and Robust Website and Social Media Communication

Across activities, five top priorities emerged from participant input:

1. Community education and engagement

2. "Smart" growth through strategic density and connectivity

3. Housing affordability, variety, and supply

4. Sustainable development and infrastructure

5. Preservation and distribution of natural resources

Report Organization

The next section of this report, "Engagement Activities," provides detailed description of Reflecting Raleigh Phase 1 engagement activities, information on who participated in those activities, and metrics to assess progress toward the engagement goals laid out in the Reflecting Raleigh Engagement Strategy. Following, the "Community Input" section provides a thematic summary of participant input. The report concludes with information on incorporating input and the next steps for future engagement.

Overall, this report documents and honors the efforts to seek and provide input and, along with the Reflecting Raleigh Community Inventory, will lay the groundwork for developing Raleigh's Next Comprehensive Plan.

Engagement Activities

Engagement Framework

Engagement with staff, elected and community leaders, and with residents is essential to developing a successful plan. The Reflecting Raleigh process is built around four primary engagement principals, with the goal of hearing from a broad, representative cross-section of the Raleigh community.

1. Facilitate Inclusive Participation

2. Enhance Awareness and Understanding of Planning

3. Incorporate Community Feedback

4. Promote Effective Public Communication and Coordination

Reflecting Raleigh's Engagement Strategy is informed by **Raleigh's Public Participation Playbook**, leveraging the IAP2 Spectrum of Participation to guide engagement strategies and meet these goals at each phase in the process.

Phase 1 took place between July 2024 and July 2025, kicking off with the first public event in August 2024. A broad range of activities offered residents different opportunities to engage with city staff and fellow residents at different points along the spectrum, and in alignment with the project's engagement principals.

Phase 1 Activities

Community Conversations

Between August 2024 and July 2025, City of Raleigh staff hosted six two-part Community Conversations on topics that matter most to Raleigh residents:

- **Housing Choice and Affordability**

- **Weathering the Storm: Stormwater Management & Priorities**

- **A City in Motion: Traffic and Transportation Solutions**

- **Branching Out: Trees and Urban Ecosystems**

- **Rooted and Growing: Neighborhood Change**

- **Sustain-A-City: Infrastructure and Services**

The goal for each of these events was to facilitate the two-way sharing of information. Each topic included presentations from one or several subject matter experts from the field and a state of the city presentation from city staff to share information on best practices, emerging issues, challenges, opportunities, and lessons learned from related work in peer cities. Armed with an understanding of some of the root causes of challenges and trade-offs of various solutions, Raleigh residents then shared their experiences and priorities with city staff through a series of facilitated tabletop conversations using the World Café method of facilitation.

A full meal, childcare, and Spanish translation services were provided at all events, with additional accommodations available as needed. The events were also located strategically across the city, in neighborhoods whose residents are characteristically underrepresented in
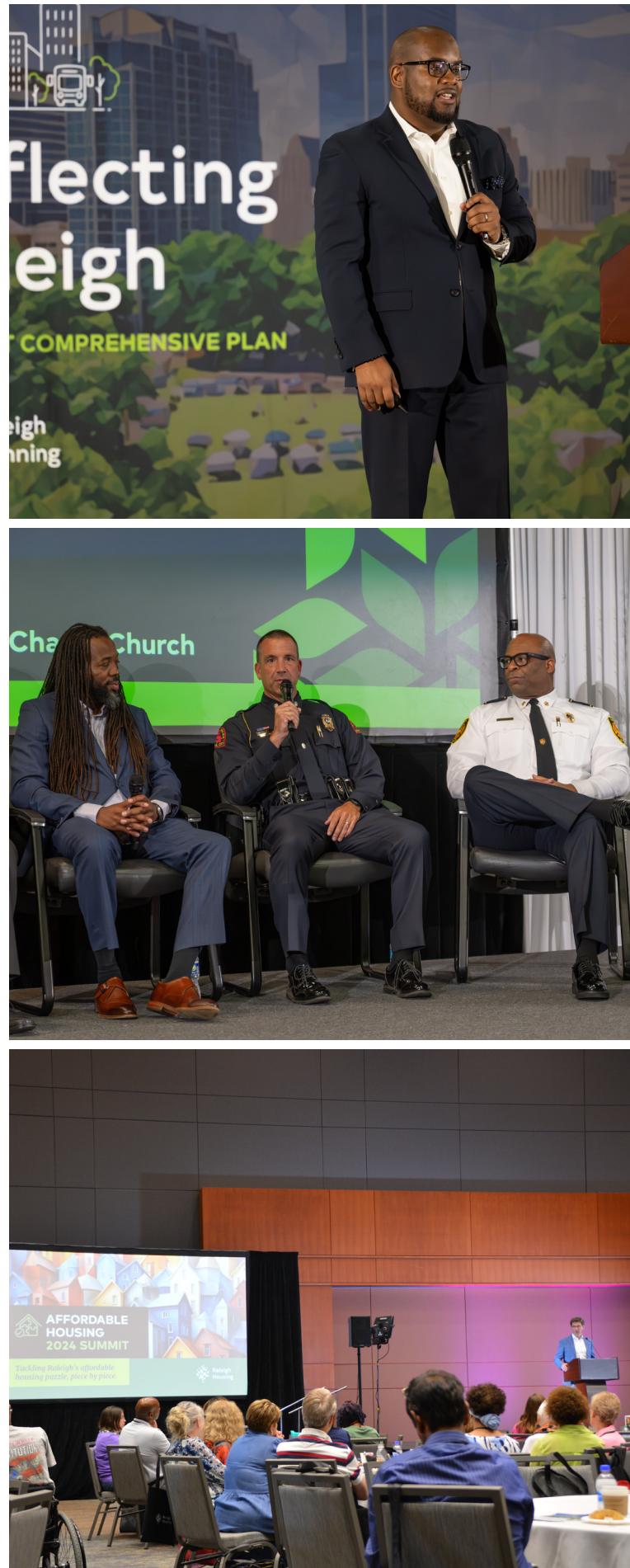
city plans and initiatives, at venues such as churches and community centers where people felt comfortable, and at facilities that were accessible by multiple modes of transportation.

Presentations were live streamed, recorded, and uploaded to the Reflecting Raleigh webpage to allow for remote viewing. The tabletop conversations were not recorded so that participants felt comfortable to speak freely, but thematic summaries of the conversations were uploaded to the project webpage with other event materials. Staff also developed a resource guide of Community Conversation materials to allow residents and community groups to host their own Community Conversation and share notes with staff.

Each event had a robust communications and promotion plan that included website and social media posts, bus advertisements, and paid advertising with local print and digital media outlets. Staff prioritized media channels and communications strategies designed to reach residents typically underrepresented in city planning initiatives, namely Spanish speakers and people of color.

Overall, 745 people attended Reflecting Raleigh Community Conversation events, and, at the time of this report, the recorded presentations have received a total of 3,295 views on YouTube.

Ask-A-Planner Events

Each set of Community Conversation themes included three Ask-A-Planner events where residents had opportunities to drop in during a three-hour time window to speak with a staff member one-on-one to answer additional questions or discuss issues related to comprehensive planning in greater depth. Two of the three Ask-A-Planner events were in-person at community centers located across the city to ensure adequate geographic reach. One of the three Ask-A-Planner events was hosted as

a virtual webinar. A total of 64 people attended the Ask-A-Planner events.

Online Surveys

Phase 1 of Reflecting Raleigh included seven online surveys, published on **Engage Raleigh**, the city's online public engagement hub. To inform the **Reflecting Raleigh Engagement Strategy**, staff first published an **Engagement Preferences survey** to collect information on ways Raleigh residents preferred to engage in and receive information on city-led initiatives and to identify common barriers to participation. A total of 384 people participated in this initial survey.

Additionally, staff published six topic-based surveys in conjunction with the six Community Conversation topics:

- **Community Housing Priorities**
- **Stormwater Management & Priorities**
- **Traffic and Transportation Solutions**
- **Trees and Urban Ecosystems**
- **Neighborhood Change**
- **Sustainable Infrastructure & Services**

Questions on these topic-based surveys were designed to collect information on policy priorities and to gauge public opinion on potential trade-offs inherent in long-range policy decisions. A total of 1,266 people participated in these online surveys. The most popular surveys were Trees and Urban Ecosystems, with 334 respondents, and Community Housing Priorities, which had 332 respondents. The Infrastructure and Services survey received the fewest responses, with 129 participants.

Engagement with Boards and Commissions

At the beginning on Phase 1, staff offered to present or share informational materials to each of the city's 18 council-appointed boards and commissions. Staff made presentations to 12 of these bodies and one sub-committee, sharing information on the project scope, timeline, and opportunities to engage in the process. These presentations were informational, and staff took feedback on effective ways to reach Raleigh residents and community stakeholders in the first phase of the project. Representatives from each board or commission will be invited to participate as technical experts in the second phase of the project.

Small Group Presentations

City staff also presented to 25 community organizations, student groups, and neighborhood groups, including eight Citizen Advisory Councils (CACs) in this initial phase. Presentations were designed to share information on the project and to promote additional ways to engage in the Reflecting Raleigh process. Each of the city's active CACs were contacted to offer a presentation. Additional engagements included speaking to the Method Civic League, the Partners for Environmental Justice Watershed Learning Network, and with students at Caroll Middle School, Exploris Middle School, and Hillburn STEM Academy. Planning and Development, and Community Engagement staff worked together to compile a list of community leaders and organizations with whom to share information and offer staff presentations. Staff shared invitations to each Community conversation event, and the Community conversation toolkit with each of these community stakeholders.

Event Tabling

In addition to the strategies listed above, staff attended 29 events hosted by other city staff or members of the Raleigh community to share information, promote the Community Conversations, and promote the survey. Staff interacted with 1,744 people at these tabling events, speaking with residents about their vision for Raleigh's future, their priorities across different topic areas, and the challenges and opportunities they associate with living in a growing city. Staff created comment cards in English and Spanish to help facilitate these conversations.

Digital Communication

Throughout Phase 1, Reflecting Raleigh staff maintained regular communication with city staff, residents, and community partners. A **project webpage** provides up-to-date information on the project overall with links to additional resources, including several data dashboards on various Community Conversation topics. An **events webpage** offers details and registration information for upcoming Reflecting Raleigh events. The website provides an option to subscribe for project updates, which the staff team sends out monthly through the city's GovDelivery platform. Between August 2024 and July 2025, a total of 3,708 people viewed

the Reflecting Raleigh website, and 1,683 people visited the Reflecting Raleigh events page.

Raleigh staff also shared information and promoted upcoming events via social media. Between December 2024 and June 2025, staff posted five reels promoting Community Conversations. These reels received an average of 1,217 views and 41 interactions, with the most popular reel receiving over 1,700 views. In addition to these promotional reels, Raleigh staff also shared 20 posts and short clips sharing information about upcoming events, Ask-A-Planner sessions, and surveys. Those posts received an average of 450 views and 13 interactions, with the top post receiving over 1,000 views.

One social media series, the Reflecting Raleigh Portrait Project, features photos of residents from across the city on the Raleigh Planning Instagram account along with quotes about what they like about Raleigh and what they envision for their city in the future. This initiative, which will run throughout the project, creates opportunities for staff members to speak one-on-one with residents they meet in public spaces, particularly those who may not otherwise engage with city staff. Between December 2024 and June 2025, the Raleigh Portrait Project received an average of 622 views and 28 interactions per post across 13 posts.

Engagement Reach

During the 12 months of Phase 1, more than 8,000 people engaged with Reflecting Raleigh in some capacity, virtually or in-person. 755 people attended a Community Conversation event, 908 people attended a presentation, and over 1,848 people engaged with staff at an Ask-A-Planner or other community event.

The highest level of engagement was among online participants with 3,295 views of recorded presentations on YouTube, and 1,650 people completing online surveys.

Staff hosted or attended 91 engagement events at different locations across the city in all five City Council districts.

In-Person Engagement

Format (count)	Reach
Community Events (29)	**1,784**
Small Group Presentations (41)	**908**
Raleigh Boards and Commissions (13)	149
CACs and Neighborhood Organizations (8)	190
Schools (3)	130
Other Community Organizations (17)	439
Community Conversations (12)	**745**
Affordable Housing (2)	311
Weathering the Storm (2)	85
A City in Motion (2)	68
Branching Out (2)	120
Rooted and Growing (2)	77
Sustain-A-City (2)	94
Ask-A-Planner Events (18)	**64**

Online Engagement

| Format (Count)	Reach
Website	**5,391 total views**
Project Page	3,708
Events Page	1,683
Social Media (38)	**29,614 total views**
Portrait Project (13)	622 avg. views	28 interactions
Informational Posts (20)	450 avg. views	13 interactions
Promotional Reels (5)	1,217 avg. views	41 interactions
Monthly Emails (8)	**9,247 total subscribers**
Online surveys	**1,650 total participants**
YouTube	**3,295 total views**

Engagement Events

Reflecting Raleigh Phase I
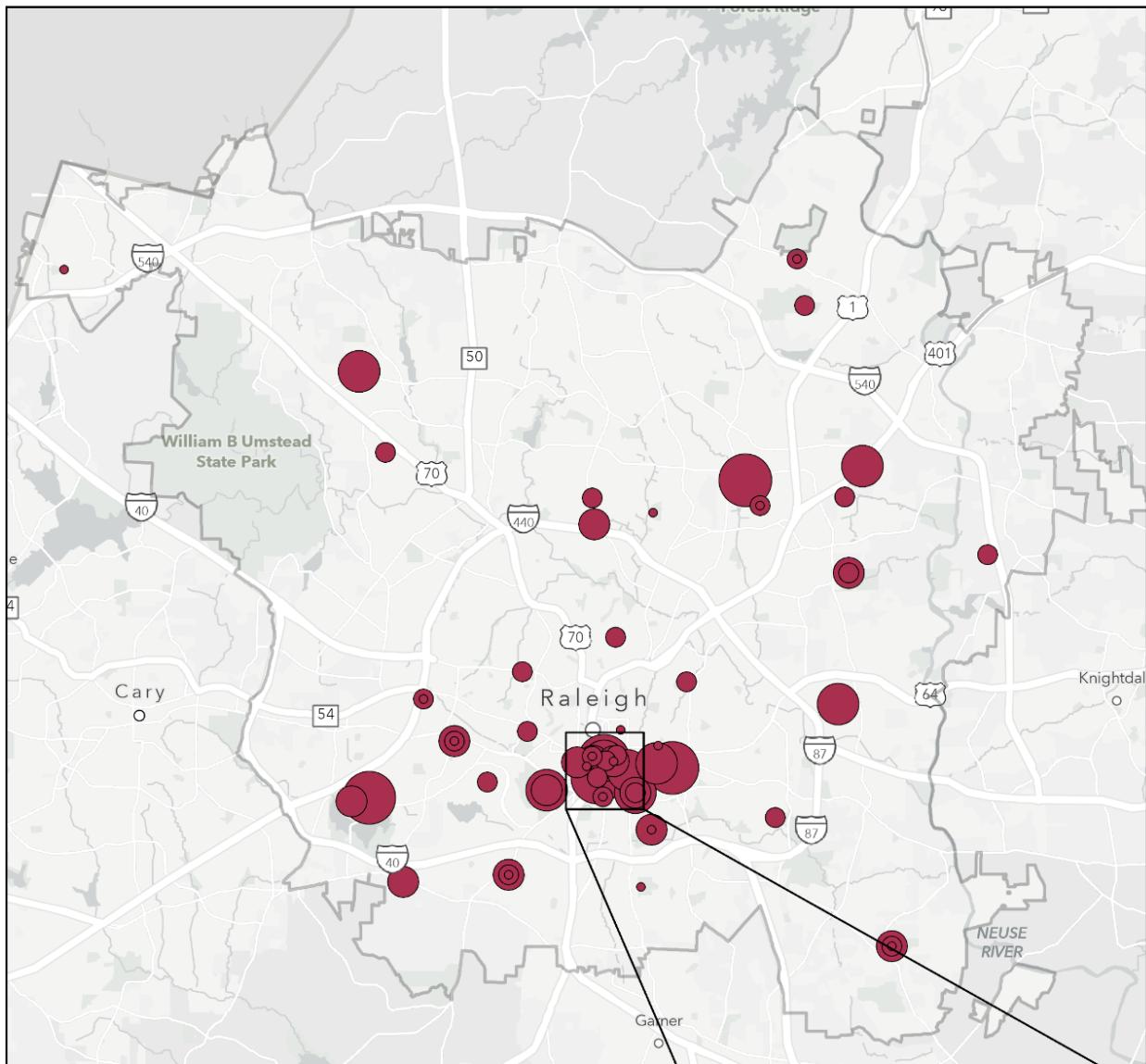
Event Reach

- · 0 - 10
- ● 11 - 30
- ● 31 - 50
- ● 51 - 100
- ● 101 - 300

Engagement Events
Reflecting Raleigh Phase I
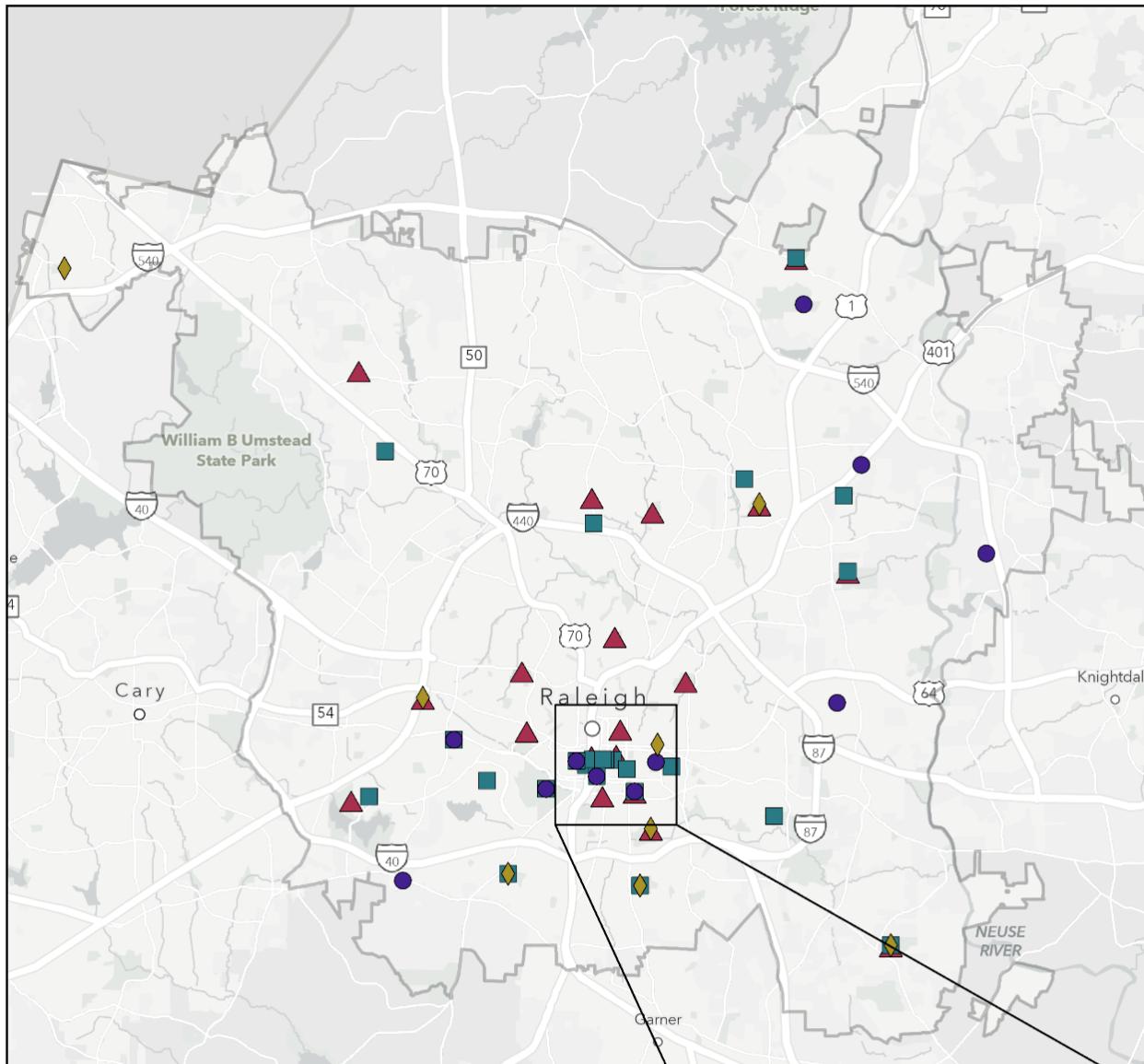
Event Type

- ◆ Ask-A-Planner
- ● Community Conversation
- ■ Community Event
- ▲ Presentation
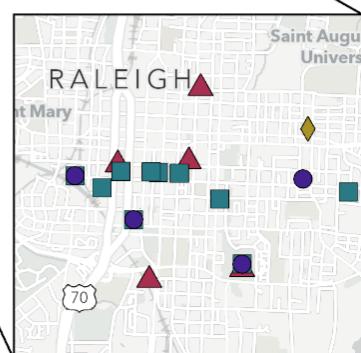
Community Input

During Phase 1, more than 12,000 people participated in Reflecting Raleigh in some capacity, virtually or in-person.

Across activities, five priorities emerged from participant input:

1. Community education and engagement

2. "Smart" growth through strategic density and connectivity

3. Housing affordability, variety, and supply

4. Sustainable development and infrastructure

5. Preservation and distribution of natural resources

The City of Raleigh's Office of Strategy and Innovation (OSI) conduct a **biannual Community Survey** with statistically significant representation from residents across Raleigh. It presented the 2024 survey findings to City Council on May 6, 2025. Survey respondents named three issues as the top priorities that Raleigh will face over the next five years:

- **76%** said affordable housing,

- **61%** said pace of growth, and

- **43%** said transportation.

The feedback from Reflecting Raleigh public engagement efforts aligns with these priorities, identifying them as areas of high need over the next 20 years.

Emerging Priorities

Community Education and Engagement

At every in-person event and in all the project's online surveys, residents expressed a desire to engage with the City. Raleigh residents appreci-ate and want more opportunities to learn about and contribute to creating vibrant neighbor-hoods. Even though this topic was not originally included in a survey or conversations questions, it often surfaced in open responses and event discussions. Residents asked to be involved in city initiatives and programs as volunteers, from planting native trees to cultivating community gardens. Across topic areas, participants also expressed appreciation for the level of detail provided in each Community Conversation and asked for additional events and resources to educate residents, nonprofit organizations, and developers on best practices for managing city growth and development. Some participants asked how they could get involved in advocacy efforts at the state level, particularly related to housing and transportation topics.

> *"The Reflecting Raleigh series has been excellent! I encourage continuing to educate us citizens with these topics. It has broadened my knowledge of what it takes to run and to envision the future of a city."*
> *– Online survey participant*

Takeaways for the Plan

Resident reflections: People appreciate and want more opportunities to learn and engage. The City should continue to share information and be creative in communicating what resources are already available for residents.

> **Already in motion:** This feedback can improve delivery of existing programs and inform other plans that help shape the city.

→ **On the horizon:** Public engagement for Reflecting Raleigh will continue to be a two-way learning opportunity. Residents will have an opportunity to learn about important issues from city staff and other experts and city staff will have an opportunity to learn from residents about what they value and how they'd like to balance different trade-offs.

Resident reflections: Creative engagement strategies can help reach under-represented residents. Demonstrating how resident input shapes the plan is important for establishing trust and sustaining engagement.

→ **Already in motion:** The Reflecting Raleigh process will continue to leverage a variety of engagement strategies and show how input will be used to shape the plan. This report is an example.

Already in motion: Public input will continue to guide plans and projects in the shorter term. For example, Raleigh's Strategic Plan includes an initiative to enhance how resident input shapes services.

Smart Growth Through Strategic Density and Connectivity

Managing the location, pace and intensity of continued growth was another dominant theme across engagement activities. Many residents want to see strategic, distributed density and public investment in transit and multimodal transportation options. At the same time, comments and conversation highlighted a tension between stated priorities, and the preferences people revealed through their choices of where to live and how to get around.

"I believe that focusing on walkable communities, frequent and reliable public transportation, and infill development is crucial to the success of Raleigh."
    – Online survey participant

"In the future, Raleigh…will be the premier city in the southeast and the leader in urban public transit"
    – Comment card

- **67%** percent of survey respondents are willing to live in a denser neighborhood or smaller space if they can walk to convenient amenities

- **60%** of respondents currently live in or prefer to live in a single-family home

- **61%** of survey participants would prefer to take transit to move around the city

  - **17%** percent of survey participants take transit for their commute to work; **83%** drive alone.

Takeaways for the Plan

Resident reflections: People either would like to see additional density or will accept density if it facilitates more walkable neighborhoods with places to walk to, like neighborhood-scale retail, and safe ways to get there, like additional side-walks. At the same time, most people who took the housing online survey either live in or prefer to live in a single-family home.

→ **On the horizon:** As part of the process for developing the next comprehensive plan, the technical teams and the civic assembly will evaluate the city's current growth framework to strategically focus density as Raleigh grows. Allowing a range of housing types will give more people the option of living in a mixed use, walkable neighborhood.

Resident reflections: People want to see investment in a robust multimodal network and would prefer to take transit to move around the city. At the same time, most people currently commute by driving alone.

→ **On the horizon:** The Next Comprehensive Plan will leverage and align with existing plans like the Wake Transit Plan, the Active Mobility Plan, and plans for Bus Rapid Transit to support a safe, reliable, and well-connected multimodal network.

Resident reflections: Residents make choices about where to live and how to get around based on what's convenient, safe, and available, even if it's not what they prefer.

→ **On the horizon:** The Next Comprehensive Plan will include policies that support

housing and transportation choices by facilitating the development of a range of housing types and the development of a robust, multimodal transportation network. Allowing different options will give residents flexibility to choose what works best for them.

Housing Affordability, Variety, and Supply

Among those that engaged in Phase 1, residents universally agreed that housing in Raleigh is becoming increasingly unaffordable, though residents were divided on how best to address affordability. Residents who expressed concerns about rapid growth and development often cited increasing housing costs and fear of displacement as primary reasons to keep density low. At the same time, other residents called for higher-density development to provide additional housing, acknowledging that increasing Raleigh's housing supply is an essential component of keeping housing costs low in a growing city.

"It's three times my income just to rent."
– World Café participant

"More affordable housing could be an option, but everything is going up except wages."
– World Café participant

"Update policies to make it easy to develop in a way that supports the city's goals. With high land costs and overly restrictive ordinances, a $1m+ teardown McMansion is often the only profitable development option. We want more affordable options, which will only pencil out with increased density. Reduce regulations to allow increased density in more residential zones."
– Survey participant

"[There is] too much focus on creating denser neighborhoods without preserving what makes Raleigh appealing and livable

- the tree canopy and streams, open areas, community spaces, new construction that is scaled to existing structures, walkability, buffer zones between differing land uses."
– Survey participant

- **75%** of survey respondents describe their ideal neighborhood as offering "a variety of housing types that serve households of different size, income, and stage in life."

- Survey participants were evenly split on how to address development in highly desirable neighborhoods. **50%** want to preserve existing density and built character, even if it means homes become more expensive. **50%** would like to allow denser housing types even if it means a change in a neighborhood's physical character.

Takeaways for the Plan

Resident reflections: People agree that housing is becoming increasingly unaffordable as rising housing costs have not kept pace with household income.

→ **Already in motion:** The Department of Housing and Community Development continues to offer a range of programs that fund or partially fund affordable housing development, improve existing affordable housing, revitalize older neighborhoods, and support related human services.

→ **On the horizon:** These observations are also borne out in the data. Over the last 10 years, both sales price and rent have increased at a rate faster than household income. As part of developing the Next Comprehensive Plan, the city is exploring strategies and innovative ways that other growing cities have been able to reduce and stabilize housing prices.

Resident reflections: There is support for a range of housing types.

→ **On the horizon:** Recent changes to Raleigh's development regulations (UDO) allow more types of housing to be built in more places in the city. The next phase of Reflecting Raleigh will look at policies that can further support a range of housing options at a range of prices.

Resident reflections: There is also debate over where to build them. Residents are divided over where to build new units and how to balance housing development with other community priorities.

On the horizon: Most community conversations included a questions about where new growth and additional density should be distributed. Most people indicated that denser residential development should be close to transit, with access to food, employment, and other resources. In Phase 2 of Reflecting Raleigh, the Civic Assembly will provide recommendations on what the neighborhoods within and around frequent transit corridors should look like, including how dense they should be and how much of the city's new residential development they should absorb. Technical teams will also weigh these different priorities when developing housing and land use policies for the Next Comprehensive Plan.

Sustainable Development

With rapid and consistent growth, residents shared that sustainable infrastructure is a priority, acknowledging both financial and environmental impacts of city planning decisions. Many participants were wary of building on city outskirts, preferring to build where infrastructure already exists to save on long-term costs. Though undeveloped land further from the city center is more affordable, residents shared concerns about a shrinking tree canopy and higher long-term costs for the city on infrastructure and services. Other community members were concerned that existing infrastructure may not be able to handle stormwater management if infill development adds to the existing systems without making them more sustainable. Suggestions included an emphasis on climate resilience and green infrastructure as well as maintenance and development of existing infrastructure. Residents shared strong desires to see innovative green solutions and collaborative partnerships between the city and other organizations.

"I believe that focusing on walkable communities, frequent and reliable public transportation, and infill development is crucial to the success of Raleigh. Continued sprawl will only further burden future generations with a tax base unable to maintain the required infrastructure of low-density development. A robust comprehensive plan that outlines a future Raleigh that incorporates suitable and sustainable density to enable a viable mass transit system and a better quality of life is essential."
   – Survey participant

"Adding people to our city is a positive attribute to our city, but we should build vertically instead of sprawling outward and using up all of the land we have."
   – World Café participant

"Infill and tear downs in older neighborhoods with limited stormwater infrastructure continues to increase stormwater issues. Increased density is fine if adequate stormwater infrastructure exists, however, this is not the case in many older neighborhoods like Five Points."
   – Survey participant

- **63%** of survey participants prefer stable city services and low taxes, even if it means more dense development

- **25%** of survey participants prefer low-density and stable services, even if it means higher taxes

- **12%** of survey participants prefer low taxes and low density, even if it means reduced services

Takeaways for the Plan

Resident reflections: People acknowledge that density allows for more efficient, and cost-effective, service delivery. Strategic density can be more fiscally sustainable for the city.

→ **On the horizon:** Phase 2 of Reflecting Raleigh will focus on developing policies that support mixed-use centers connected by strong transit system and distributed density. Long-term goals will focus on the efficient distribution of infrastructure and services and making it so that residents have less far to travel between home and other destinations.

→ **On the horizon:** Phase 2 will also include a robust evaluation of the net costs of continued growth, better linking cost metrics with different patterns of development.

Resident reflections: The community is divided on the environmental benefits of density. In conversations and survey comments, many noted that a denser land use pattern can reduce transportation emissions and preserve natural resources at the city's edges. Others mentioned the benefits of minimizing additional impervious surface by building in areas that are already developed. Still other residents noted the potential for density to increased urban heat, the potential loss of mature and heritage trees in infill areas, and the impacts of additional infill development on aging stormwater infrastructure.

→ **On the horizon:** The Next Comprehensive Plan will align with the recently updated Stormwater Design Manual as well as the Community Climate Action Plan and evaluate best practices and state standards for floodplain management.

Preservation and Distribution of Natural Resources

Raleigh residents take pride in their City of Oaks. Community input reflected a desire to protect, restore, and celebrate Raleigh's trees. Though most comments and requests related to tree preservation on private or residential development, people also asked for increased tree coverage and green space on public land and along city streets. Participants expressed a preference for maintaining mature trees over replacing them with younger ones. They also asked for more planting of native trees, especially oak trees, to honor Raleigh's natural environment. Advocates of increased tree canopy emphasized the benefits of mature trees in aiding stormwater management. Others asked the city to prioritize historically underserved areas, low-income neighborhoods, and areas with higher recorded temperatures in its efforts to maintain green space and natural shade. Tree preservation was one area where residents shared a strong desire to volunteer their time and energy and partner with the city or create their own initiatives.

> *"Everyone should be responsible for supporting the environment. City Council sets policy, city employees follow policy, and city residents and neighborhood groups do their part. But we also need more educational opportunities for residents to understand the benefits of taking action."*
> *– World Cafe participant*

Takeaways for the Plan

Resident reflections: Future planning policy should prioritize the preservation of mature trees, habitat continuity, and the equitable distribution of resources. Policy should also address future climate impacts like heat and flooding.

→ **On the horizon**: In Phase 2 of Reflecting Raleigh, a Technical Team of natural resource experts and practitioners will advise on land use policy that will protect connected habitat and strategic natural resources and think about equitable access to those natural resources.

Resident reflections: Partnerships with resident volunteer groups, private development, and other institutional and community organizations are key to reaching the city's ambitious goal, particularly with respect to increased park access, and environmental stewardship.

→ **On the horizon:** This feedback will inform goals and policies in the Comprehensive Plan and guide the implementation of the city's long-term goals through the strategic plan as well as operational and programmatic plans like the Parks Master Plan.

Other Insights by Topic

Housing Choice

The Reflecting Raleigh Community Conversation series kicked off with a day-long Affordable Housing Summit, which featured seven different presentations from city staff, academics, and technical experts on housing finance and housing policy. Bookending the series, the final event featured a screening of the Summit's keynote presentation, "Homelessness is a Housing Problem," followed by a World Café, or series of facilitated tabletop conversations. The final event was fully bilingual, hosted in English and Spanish with interpreters to support the World Café dialogue.

An online housing priorities survey was completed by 332 people. 260 attended the Housing Summit in August of 2024, and 51 people attended the Housing Summit Recap event in August of 2025.

Participants named rising costs and a shortage of housing units as two main contributors to the lack of affordable housing options, especially for low-income households. They identified three top issues related to affordable housing:

1. **Housing that is available is located far from retail and employment centers and requires a long commute and/or the use of a private vehicle.**

2. **Not enough housing options for people earning 30% or less of the area median income ($30,600 for a 3-person household)**

3. **Not enough housing options for people earning 60-80% of the area median income ($61,200-81,600 for a 3-person household)**

Both renters and homeowners were concerned about higher rent, mortgages, and taxes. Many residents emphasized that up-front expenses such as security deposits, down payments, and application fees are significant barriers to securing housing or moving into higher-quality or more stable homes. Some people have needed to work longer hours, take on additional jobs, or sacrifice other essentials like healthcare or food as their wages have not risen to match the cost increases. One parent explained:

"More affordable housing could be an option, but everything is going up except wages. When you try to move into a safer, more decent place, it could be harder or even impossible for a single person to do... And what type of neighborhood are you creating? And what type of neighborhood are you creating? You can't find a place where you can get started, and it's harder with children. You have to take schools into account. There are many more options for people with resources."

Because of their limited housing options, several participants described having overcrowded and unsafe living conditions, frequent relocations, and limited access to transit. One participant asked,

"Can the city tell me why it is so difficult for me to get a place to live while I am working [11 hours per day] and still can't afford a home independently?"

Others shared similar frustrations.

Many people asked for more small, affordable housing options over luxury homes. One resident remarked,

"In the 1950s, full families made do with much smaller houses. Why do we need all these 2,000 square foot or more houses?"

There was also broad support for increasing housing density near existing transit and amenities to alleviate supply shortages without contributing to urban sprawl. However, when given a list of different housing types, 60% of 141 survey respondents said they either live in or would prefer to live in a single-family detached home. People asked the city to prioritize housing for high-need populations, including seniors, low-income families, immigrants, people with disabilities, and people experiencing homelessness.

Accessibility of housing resources was another common topic of discussion. Residents want to see improved communication and language access, especially for non-native English speakers, to help them navigate housing services and tenant rights. Many people are also interested in programs that aid first-time homebuyers. One person asked,

"What education programs are there for people who don't know they may qualify for assistance? Some 'lower' income people may not consider themselves as 'poor enough' to qualify like teachers and administrative staff."

Several participants also suggested expanding city outreach to people with limited TV or internet access by using partnerships with local organizations, door-to-door knocking, and multilingual platforms.

Café Questions

1. What has been your experience with housing in Raleigh?

2. While building more homes can be good for the city, putting too many in one area could cause certain issues for a neighborhood. What do you think is a good way to distribute development equally across the city?

3. How important is affordable housing to you compared to other city priorities? What do you think the biggest trade-offs are in making housing more affordable?

Housing Insights:

- Most people think that the strategies and programs presented at the summit could work in Raleigh. These included a housing-first program to end homelessness in New Orleans, and a revolving loan fund for affordable housing development, piloted in several cities across the county.

- When asked what their experience with housing in Raleigh has been, World Café participants at every table shared that the dramatic increase in housing cost is adding strain to their daily lives.

- People who engaged cited a lack of housing as a main contributor to the affordability crisis, calling for small, affordable options over luxury homes, and supporting increased housing density near transit and amenities.

- When asked how important affordable housing is compared to other city priorities, most World Café participants explained that it was the number one priority. Other priorities that participants identified in relation to housing included food access, public transportation, and social connectedness.

View a **summary of the World Café**.

View the **results of the online survey.**

Stormwater

The second theme in the Reflecting Raleigh Community Conversation series was "Weathering the Storm: Stormwater Management and Priorities." The two-day event featured a presentation on the basics and evolution of stormwater management from staff at an environmental engineering organization, a fireside chat between Raleigh's Stormwater Manager, the chair of Raleigh's Stormwater Advisory Commission, and a World Café conversation.

A total of 145 people completed the stormwater survey and 85 attended the two Community Conversation events.

More than half of survey respondents want to see Raleigh significantly increase its investment in repairing and replacing aging infrastructure and building green stormwater infrastructure. Other programs with broad support included finding and fixing pollution sources and educating the public about stormwater. In

contrast, 46% of respondents did not want the city to invest more in assisting homeowners with pipe repairs on property, and 43% did not think the city should increase its investment in maintaining or upgrading dams. Similarly, 42% did not want the city to invest more resources in buying out houses in the floodplain. However, many property owners shared that they were frustrated with stormwater damage on their property and asked the city to more strictly enforce existing regulations on new development.

Participants at the Community Conversations emphasized that stormwater challenges disproportionately burden low-income and underserved communities. They suggested revising stormwater fees to reflect impact and ability to pay and consider distribution between commercial and residential properties. People asked for clearer communication on how their stormwater fees benefit their communities and additional data on water quality and program

benefits. Residents also highlighted the need for infrastructure investment in historically underserved areas like Southeast Raleigh to address existing inequities in flood protection.

Residents shared that many people in their community remain unaware of how stormwater systems function or impact their daily lives. Participants asked for more inclusive outreach methods and education campaigns to reach underserved communities. Among the 86 respondents, 52% expressed interest in learning more about how development is regulated in Raleigh and where residents have input in the process. Meanwhile, 44% indicated they wanted more information on how to access funds through Raleigh Rainwater Rewards to install green stormwater infrastructure on their property

With strong desires to prioritize green infrastructure like permeable pavement, and rain gardens, residents want to see creative and sustainable solutions to stormwater management in the future. They hope to see the City of Raleigh leverage existing partnerships while forging new ones so that Raleigh can learn from other cities and pilot innovative stormwater solutions.

> *"Stormwater must be considered holistically with and within Planning, Transportation, and Sustainability initiatives, not considered in a vacuum. Tree preservation should be prioritized to prevent clear-cutting associated with infill development. Vulnerability and need vary spatially, which should be considered."*
>   *– World Café participant*

Café Questions

1. What are your biggest concerns related to stormwater in Raleigh?

2. Raleigh is likely to continue to grow. How much of new growth do you think should be focused in already developed areas? How much should be closer to the city's edges?

3. What do you think would motivate private residents and developers to make voluntary stormwater improvements, beyond what they're required to do?

4. Have you heard of stormwater management strategies in other cities that you think could work in Raleigh? What local organizations or other groups should Raleigh partner with to improve stormwater management or expand existing programs?

Stormwater Insights

- **People who engaged ranked the following as their top concerns related to stormwater:**

  - Pollution in streams, creeks and rivers

  - Flooding in neighborhoods and streets from smaller streams and pipes

  - Aging infrastructure

- **People worry the most about the following risks:**

  - Climate change and the increasing severity of storms

  - Failure of aging infrastructure

  - Greenfield development in areas that were most recently forests of farms

- **Participants want to see the city increase investment in green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) and repairing and replacing aging infrastructure.**

- **World Café and survey participants both noted they would like to see increased environmental education for residents as well as developers.**

View a **summary of the World Café.**

View the **results of the online survey**.

Transportation

"A City in Motion: Traffic and Transportation Solutions" featured presentations from a national researcher on transportation and equity, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, local and regional transportation leaders, as well as a state of the city presentation from Raleigh's Assistant Transportation Director. This event also concluded with a World Café.

A total of 163 people completed the transportation survey and 68 attended the two Community Conversation events.

Community members overwhelmingly desire walkable and bikeable neighborhoods and transit-oriented development. Though 83% of survey participants said they usually drive alone, 61% of 152 people said they would prefer to use transit to move around the city. When deciding which mode of transportation to use, travel time was the biggest factor for most participants.

Over half of survey respondents would like to see policies in the Next Comprehensive Plan that:

- Support transit and transit-oriented development (75%)

- Support walkability and bike-ability (74%)

- Encourage transportation safety (60%)

- Use greenways as transportation corridors (54%)

Connectivity and accessibility were major themes in transportation discussions. Participants want to see more sidewalks and crosswalks, greenway-oriented development, and improved connectivity between mixed-use centers, amenities, and other municipalities throughout the Triangle. The map below shows specific locations and corridors where residents identified "missing" connections.

Many community members would also like to see increased investment in additional transport types like rail, metro, trolley, and scooters or skateboards. One resident shared:

> *"The goal is not to eliminate car traffic, but to provide alternative transit. Right now, for many people, the only practical choice is driving. A well-designed transit system should be frequent, reliable, and comfortable, reducing the inconvenience of bad weather or missing important meetings."*

Other major themes included urban density and land-use planning, public transit efficiency and innovation, and infrastructure and safety improvements. Participants felt that strategic land use decisions like mixed-use

and infill development can make it easier to get around without a car. They also suggested establishing park-and-ride hubs for people who live outside the downtown core and a large outreach and marketing campaign to address public perceptions of transit. Safety concerns currently dissuade many people from taking the bus, even if it is frequent and accessible. One participant said:

> *"Most Raleighites are generally used to traveling nearly exclusively via personal vehicle. [They] will simply refuse to consider transit as an option if the experience is unpleasant or doesn't seem safe. It doesn't have to be a luxury experience, but the buses and bus stops should be clean and feel very safe at a bare minimum."*

N

Key Destinations

Missing Connections

Barrier

(1) Hillsborough St (NC State Fairgrounds Area): Missing Connection to Downtown
(2) Atlantic Avenue: Lacks Safe Bike/Ped Infrastructure
(3) Capital Blvd (North of Crabtree): Missing Connection to Downtown
(4) US-401 (Crossing the Neuse River): Missing Connection to Triangle Town Center
(5) New Bern Avenue: Dedicated Bus Lanes
(6) Six Forks Road: Dedicated Bus Lanes

(7) Buck Jones Rd: Constant Speeding - Unsafe
(8) Southall Rd: Lacks Bike/Ped infrastructure
(9) Buffaloe Rd: Lacks Bike/Ped Infrastructure
(10) Strickland Area: Lacks Multimodal Transportation
(11) Outer Glenwood Ave to Downtown: Lacks Railcar/Streetcar
(12) New Bern Ave (Past the Beltline): Lacks Dedicated Bus Lanes

Café Questions

1. As Raleigh expands outward, how do you think we should get people where they need to go?

2. Think about a trip you made today - to the store, to your kid's school, to work, to this meeting. How did you travel? What made your trip easy, or challenging?

3. Have you heard of transportation solutions in other cities that you think could work in Raleigh? What partnerships should Raleigh pursue to improve or expand existing programs?

Transportation Insights

- Travel time is the biggest factor in determining mode choice for survey participants.

- As Raleigh continues to grow, residents would like to see the city prioritize investment in the following:

    - Crosswalks and sidewalk connectivity

    - Increased transit frequency

    - Improved greenway connectivity and greenway-oriented development

- Residents would like to see a variety of transportation options beyond driving, including better support for biking, walking, public transit, first-and-last-mile connections, and park-and-ride facilities.

- World Café participants underscored that how the city grows will directly impact transportation. Participants felt that strategic land use decisions can make it easier to get around without a car, notably by increasing density and walkability, planning for mixed-use neighborhoods, prioritizing infill over greenfield development, and encouraging housing near transit.

- Transit efficiency and transportation safety were other common themes in the World Café discussion.

View a **summary of the World Café**.

View the **results of the online survey**.

Trees and Urban Ecosystems

"Branching Out: Trees and Urban Ecosystems" featured a keynote presentation from the director of Trees Atlanta, a non-profit organization focused on tree conservation and environmental education, a state of the city presentation on Raleigh's tree canopy, programs, and regulations in from Parks and City Planning staff, and a World Café conversation.

A total of 335 people completed an online survey and 120 attended the two Community Conversation events.

The top three issues of greatest concern to residents included:

- loss of mature trees in already developed areas

- loss of tree canopy in undeveloped areas and;

- loss of shade leading to increased heat.

Of survey respondents, people want the Next Comprehensive Plan to include policies that:

- Encourage tree planting and preservation on city-owned property (83%)

- Encourage designing with nature (76%)

- Support and incentivize green stormwater infrastructure to reduce flooding impacts and promote better water quality (73%)

- Support high quality open space areas/amenities (61%)

- Support non-car transportation modes to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions (57%)

At the Community Conversations, people were also worried about inequitable distribution of tree canopy throughout the city. They encouraged the city to focus on planting more native trees in lower-income areas, which often have less shade and higher temperatures. Other key themes that emerged from discussions included a desire for community education and empowerment, policy reform to prioritize preservation of natural resources beyond just trees, and development strategies that integrate trees and green spaces more fully into the built environment. As with other topic areas, people want to see innovation and additional partnerships to address the preservation and distribution of Raleigh's urban ecosystems.

Residents asked for ways to get involved in planting native species around the city, and homeowners asked for resources and guidance on appropriate selection and placement of native trees on their property. Many comments and requests related to tree coverage in residential areas, so neighborhoods and homeowner associations could also benefit from city guidance on best practices on private property. One resident emphasized:

> *"Good citizenship means caring about places. Putting an emphasis on what it means to be a good citizen as an individual and as a professional might change how some developers behave."*

Other community members encouraged the city to support policies and initiatives that cultivate long-term place attachment, so that residents can enjoy their local green spaces and learn to be stewards of the natural environment.

Café Questions

1. Raleigh is expected to continue growing. In what areas of the city should Raleigh focus new development to accommodate this growth?

2. Which groups do you believe are responsible for supporting and protecting Raleigh's natural resources? What are their specific responsibilities? How should they coordinate their efforts?

3. Have you heard of tree protection and expansion programs in other cities that you think could work in Raleigh? What partnerships should Raleigh pursue to improve or expand existing programs?

Urban Forestry Insights

Residents prioritized the following concerns related to environmental resources in Raleigh:

- Loss of mature trees in developed areas

- Loss of tree canopy in areas that are undeveloped

- Loss of shade and increased urban heat

- Residents would like to see resources divided across programs ranging from tree planting, to green stormwater infrastructure, to invasive species management to support and protect urban ecosystems as Raleigh grows.

- When asked where Raleigh focus new growth World Café participants shared that the city should "build up and not out" and focus new growth where impacts are lower, such as in already urbanized areas. Participants also highlighted that tree conservation and natural resource access should be prioritized in historically under-resourced parts of the city.

- World Café participants also shared that everyone has a role in protecting Raleigh's natural resources, highlighting a need for education and strong partnerships between the city, non-profit organizations, and private property owners.

View a **summary of the World Café**.

View the **results of the online survey**.

Neighborhood Change

The first night of "Rooted and Growing: Neighborhood Change" featured a keynote presentation from the director of the Center for Community Progress and a nationally known writer and research on economic development, followed by a panel discussion with local leaders in historic preservation, community development finance, and affordable housing. Raleigh's Assistant Planning Director delivered a state of the city presentation on the history of the city and current trends in neighborhood development. A World Café conversation completed the event.

A total of 163 people completed the online survey and 77 attended the two in-person Community Conversation events.

Neighborhood Change was a topic area where some preferences were clear across participants and others were highly contested. Most residents who engaged with Reflecting Raleigh shared that they prefer neighborhoods with a variety of housing types that serve households of different sizes, incomes, and life stages over more homogeneous neighborhoods. Residents also placed high value on walkability, with two-thirds of survey respondents said they are willing to live in a denser neighborhood and/or in a smaller space if they can easily walk to amenities.

Most survey respondents want the Next Comprehensive Plan to include policies that:

- Support transportation connectivity through transit, walkability, bike-ability, and maintaining a gridded street network (73%)

- Support the development of quality open spaces and enhance the public realm (70%)

- Address the size, location, and composition of mixed-use centers, including neighborhood-scale retail (64%)

Community members disagreed on how they thought the city should handle land-use policy in highly desired neighborhoods. When a neighborhood's land prices rise from demand, there is pressure to redevelop older structures. Half of survey respondents said that the city should seek to preserve the existing density and built character, even it means that homes become much more expensive. However, the other half thought the city should allow denser housing types and let more people live in the neighborhood, even if it means that the physical character changes significantly. This topic will be an important consideration as the city continues to develop the Next Comprehensive Plan.

With so much growth happening in Raleigh, residents were concerned about overdevelopment, density, and loss of homeownership opportunities. Several objected to large corporations buying homes, driving up prices, and limiting housing options for average-income residents. While some homeowners perceived a decline in their property values due to infill development, others were worried that their property values had increased to a point where they may not be able to afford their taxes. Fears of displacement were common in low-income and high-demand neighborhoods.

Other concerns stemmed from a critical need for infrastructure and amenities that align with the growth of a neighborhood. Community members cited traffic congestion, insufficient transit options and sidewalks, and outdated utilities as contributing to diminished quality of life in their neighborhoods. Others desired more parks, playgrounds, community centers, libraries, and other amenities to support and connect residents of all ages and backgrounds. Safety and accessibility were also important priorities.

Café Questions

1. Share a story about how your neighborhood has changed over time. What has been your experience with that change?

2. How do you feel about your neighborhood accommodating a wider range of housing types, such as four-unit apartments or townhouses, even if that means more physical change?

3. What is your vision for your neighborhood? In the next 20 years what would you like to see your neighborhood become?

Insights about Neighborhood Change

- Most people would prefer to a neighborhood should offer a variety of housing types that serve households of different size, income, and stage in life, compared with neighborhoods comprised of homes that are all similar in terms of size, layout, and price.

- Most people are willing to live in a denser neighborhood with a smaller space if it means they can walk to convenient amenities.

- Participants in the World Café noted changes in housing cost, housing types, and rapid development. Some of the strains people observed included a lag in infrastructure to serve a growing population, a lack of transportation connectivity, and a change in community identity.

- Participants noted the tension between historic and cultural preservation and additional density and affordability. While the trade-off between new development and neighborhood character protection came up frequently in conversation, several survey participants framed the tension as a false dichotomy with potential compromises.

- In the future, Raleigh residents want their neighborhoods to be well-connected with affordable housing and public places where neighbors can connect with each other.

View a **summary of the World Café**.

View the **results of the online survey**.

Sustainable Infrastructure and Services

"Sustain-A-City: Infrastructure and Services" rounded out the Community Conversation topics, with a keynote presentation from the lead of Urban 3, a planning and design firm focused on helping cities understand the cost of different land use decisions. The Raleigh Planning Director brought these concepts home to the local context. The event concluded with a world café conversation.

A total of 129 people completed the survey, and 94 attended the Community Conversations.

Participants reported that they were highly satisfied with the quality of Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities; Solid Waste Services; Raleigh Water, and Public Safety and Emergency Response. Transportation had the lowest ranking, with 47% respondents rating service quality as "below average" or "poor."

Much of the conversations around infrastructure and services related to residents' desire for more investment in public transit and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure. Survey respondents wanted to see the city prioritize:

- Walkable neighborhoods **(78%)**,

- Reliable and efficient public transit **(72%)**, transportation connectivity and;

- Active mobility (walking and biking) **(68%)**, and;

- Greenways and connected public open space **(65%)**.

Most people were willing to pay higher taxes for additional or enhanced services, especially Transportation – including maintenance of city streets and sidewalks – and Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities including parks, city pools, public art, and recreational programs.

When presented with trade-offs to consider, 63% of 116 survey respondents prefer having stable city services and low taxes, even if it means more dense development.
One participant shared:

> *"We spread out and it is impacting our quality of life. We are not a 15-minute city; you have to get in the car. I would rather be in a denser space with better services."*

Most residents who engaged with Reflecting Raleigh want to see the city focus development in areas with existing infrastructure and services, rather than expanding to undeveloped areas at the city's edge.

Residents want safer, more walkable neighborhoods with better pedestrian infrastructure and easier access to get around without a car. Many support higher density and neighborhoods where they can walk to meet their daily needs if it leads to improved sidewalks, bike lanes, and transit connections that make the city more accessible and livable for all.

> *"Everyone needs a car here. Make things denser and more walkable, with a range of services and better transportation options. We don't want the city to become choked with traffic. How do we bring the entire city back together and make it more walkable and functional? The city is better without a car. More bike infrastructure, and more public transportation."*
> – World Café participant

Residents appreciate services like trash and leaf pickup but worry they may not keep up as the city grows. They also want a citywide composting program, better ways to learn about city services, and clearer information on how to engage with city staff and leadership.

People also shared their love of existing community gathering spaces where people can gather and spend time together. They want more fun events and entertainment for all ages, especially for families, preteens, and seniors, so that everyone in the community has ways to connect and enjoy time with their neighbors. As one resident stated, "Walkability is great when you have things to walk to."

Café Questions

1. Which city services are working well, and which ones need improvement? Which additional services and resources would you be willing to pay more for?

2. Which two of the three are most important to you: density of development, quality of services and infrastructure, cost of property taxes? What do you think the relationship is between development density, public services, infrastructure, and cost of property taxes?

3. What do you think are the biggest challenges for serving new and existing residents as Raleigh grows? What do you think are the biggest opportunities?

Infrastructure and Service Insights

The majority of survey participants rated city services highly, with most rating them as excellent or above average. These results align with the results of Raleigh's biannual community survey.

Most survey respondents would be willing to pay higher taxes for enhanced transportation and parks infrastructure and services.

- People who engaged on this topic would prefer to see new development focused in areas with existing infrastructure, rather than or prior to expanding to Raleigh's edges.

- Most people believe that developers and private property owners should be responsible for the upfront costs of public infrastructure and that the city should be responsible for long-term maintenance, though many responded that should depend on the size and scale of the development.

Key themes from the community conversation included:

- "Smart" and sustainable growth

- Walkability and accessibility

- High quality city services

- Affordability

- Trees and green space

- Community recreation

View a **summary of the World Café**.

View the **results of the online survey**.

Insights by Demographics

Though only one in three survey participants volunteered their demographic information, a few trends emerged based on age and household income.

Generational Differences on Density

There were some notable distinctions between survey respondents by age group, especially in the debate over density and neighborhood change. Participants under the age of 55 were much more likely to think that the city should allow denser housing types and let more people live in the neighborhood, even if it means that the physical character changes significantly. Participants over the age of 55 were more likely to say that policy should seek to preserve the existing density and built character, even if it means that homes become much more expensive. Though these differences were stark, the city would like to see more input from representatives across racial and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Differences in Feedback by Household Income

Responses skewed toward higher income households. Among survey respondents, 177 reported household incomes over $100,000, compared to 105 with incomes below that level.

Between these two groups, there were a few noteworthy distinctions in survey responses. First, lower-income individuals placed a higher priority on restricting development in the floodplain. They were also more worried about aging infrastructure failing than higher-income participants. Lower-income participants were also more likely to ask for policies that encourage economic development through neighborhood reinvestment and small business support (86% vs. 61%).

Meeting Engagement Goals

A common standard for public engagement in Comprehensive Planning is to reach 3% of the total population. With over 12,000 unique touchpoints in Phase 1, Reflecting Raleigh is well on the way to reaching 15,019 people, or 3% of the city's 500,639 residents.

Beyond the quantity of people engaged, the Reflecting Raleigh process aspires to create meaningful engagement opportunities aligned with the four principals laid out in the engagement plan, and to engage with residents who represent the range of perspectives, lived experiences, and demographic characteristics of everyone who calls Raleigh home. Demographic information of who has participated is incomplete; however, survey demographics paired with information about location and attendance at in-person events, suggests Reflecting Raleigh is meeting some goals for representative feedback, and highlight where the project might focus future engagement efforts.

Of 1,650 survey participants, only 34% provided demographic information. Based on this limited data, survey participants represent only a portion of Raleigh residents. Individuals over the age of 55 are overrepresented in the surveys, while youth and young adults under the age of 25 are under-represented.

Age of Survey Participants vs. City Population

Age Group	Survey	City
Under 25	4%	32%
25-34	17%	19%
35-44	17%	14%
45-54	13%	13%
55-64	18%	10%
Over 65	31%	12%
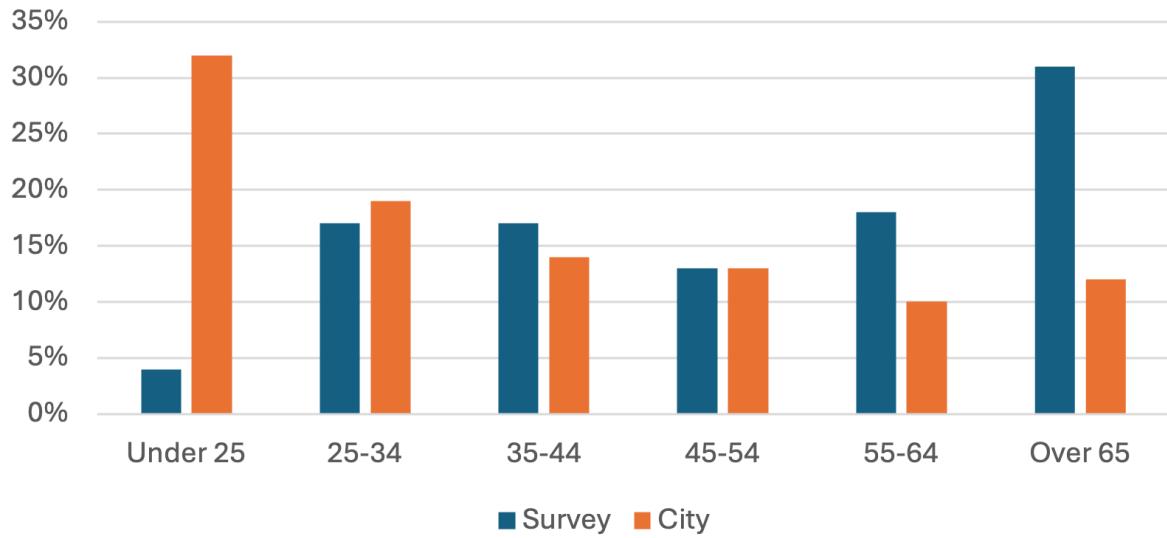
Race of Survey Participants vs. City Population

■ Survey ■ City
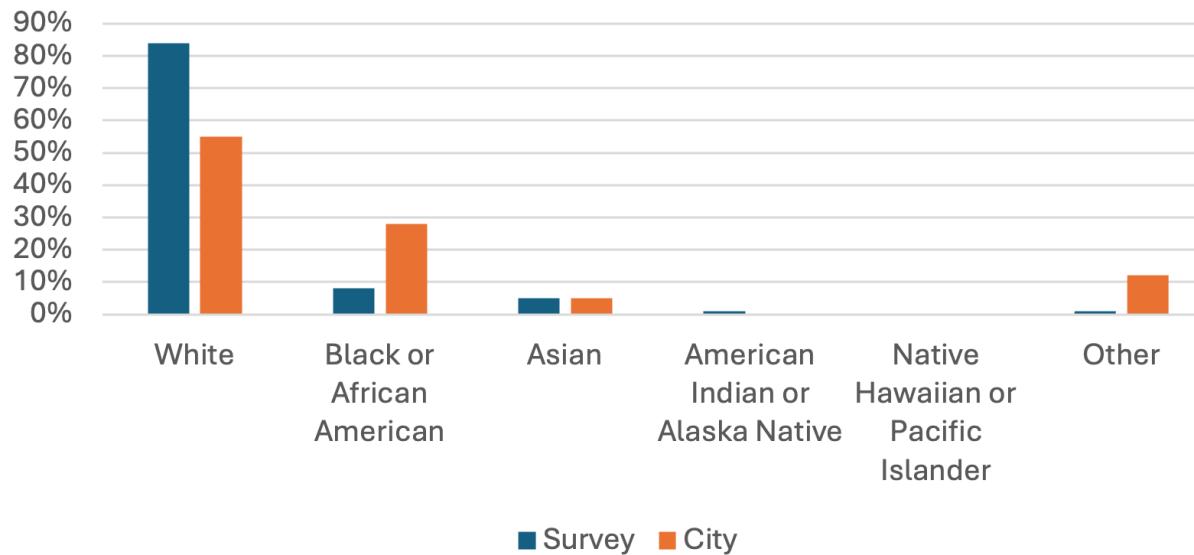
Ethnicity of Survey Participants vs. City Population

■ Survey ■ City
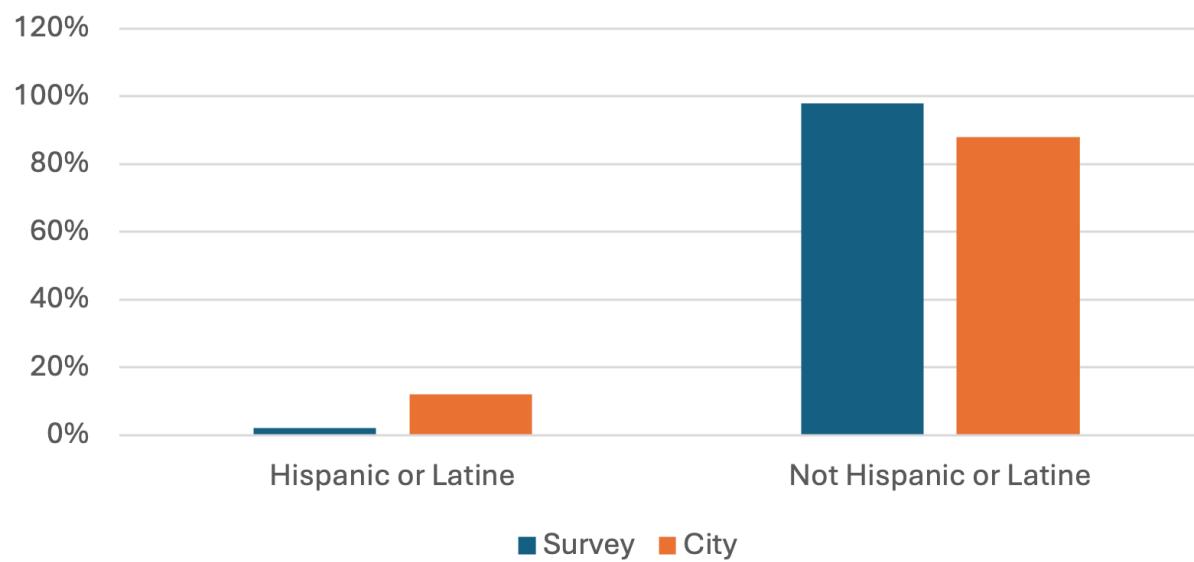
Black and Hispanic or Latine residents were underrepresented in the surveys.

Income of Survey Participants vs. City
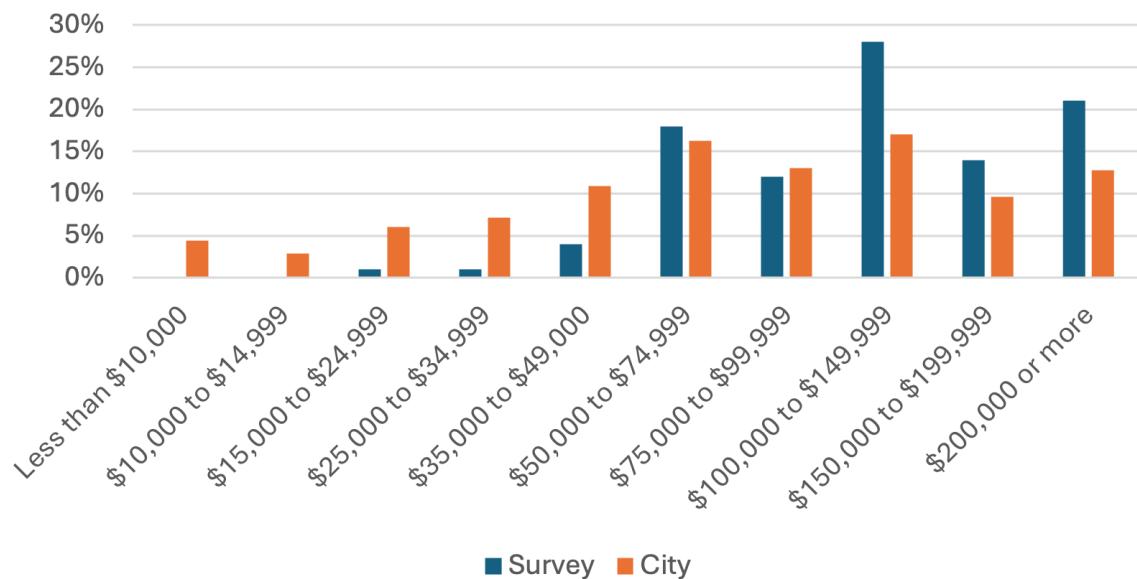
Lower-income households (those earning less than $50,000 annually) were also underrepresented.

Housing Tenure of Survey Participants vs. City
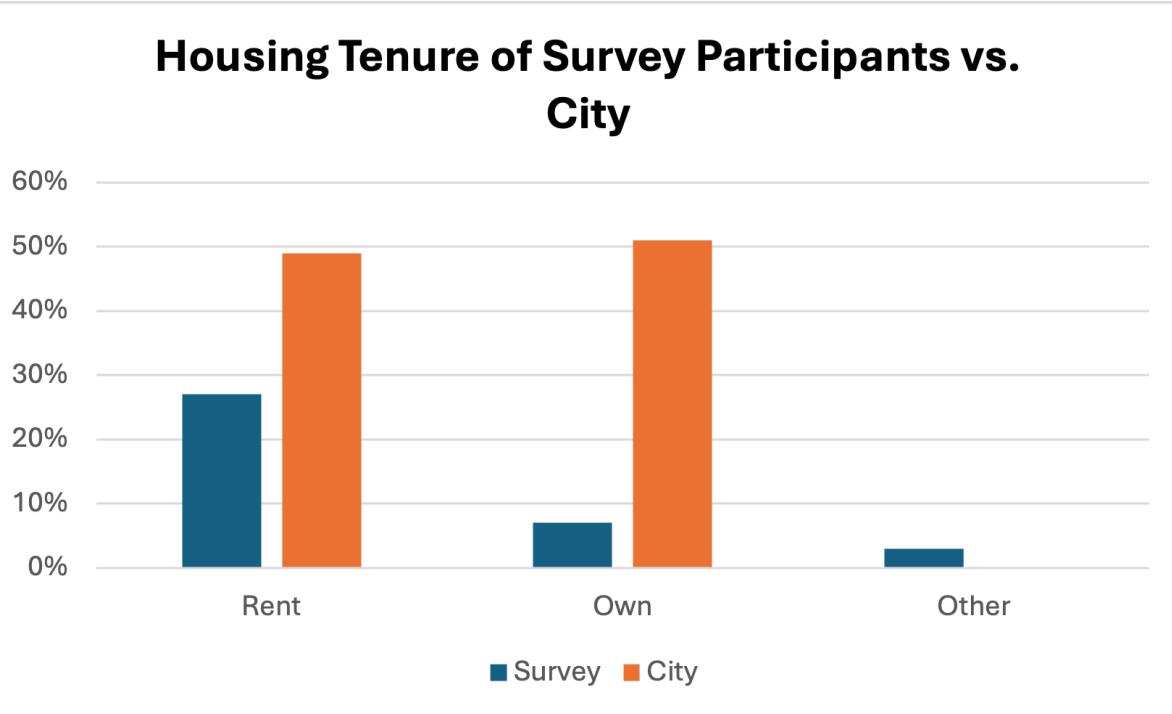
Renters were underrepresented in the survey. The "Other" category includes individuals experiencing homelessness, youth living with family, students living in dorms, and other individuals without a permanent address.

The project team cannot track the demographic characteristics of who engaged on YouTube or social media, though this kind of online engagement made up nearly 40% of all of Phase 1 engagement.

To balance out overrepresentation online, the project team prioritized hosting and attending in-person events located in neighborhoods with or likely to reach a higher proportion of residents of color and youth and younger adults. Attendees at in-person events were not asked to provide any demographic information but based on the location and attendance at these events, it is likely that residents who engaged in Phase 1 are more diverse than what is reflected in the survey data.

The most successful events in terms of connecting with residents who have not engaged with the city previously were at Black and Hispanic churches, where church leadership promoted our events to their members.

Most people who attended an in-person event heard about it through word of mouth from a friend, neighbor, or trusted organization. Most people who engaged online learned about the project on the City of Raleigh website or in a Reflecting Raleigh monthly email.

Other communications strategies staff will continue to use in alignment with the Reflecting Raleigh engagement principles include:

- Paid advertising in media outlets with high readership among Spanish speakers and people of color.

- Free advertising in areas with high foot traffic such as yard signs in parks and

at entrances to greenways and digital kiosk (IKE) ads in downtown Raleigh.

- Ads on GoRaleigh buses.

- Sharing printed information at community events, community centers, and with partner organizations.

Future engagement strategies will leverage existing partnerships to connect with residents who do not often engage with the city. Future phases will seek to engage with more residents of color, individuals earning below the area median income youth and young adults, and renters.

Conclusion and Next Steps

Reflecting Raleigh is a 2.5-year process with five phases. Phase 2 will incorporate the emerging themes and topical insights from Phase 1 into the recommendations for the Next Comprehensive Plan's vision, goals, and long-term planning policies. A series of Technical Teams will bring together local subject matter expertise to inform the technical content of the plan. A Civic Assembly will bring together a representative group of residents to provide more targeted input on values, priorities, and how to balance trade-offs.

Throughout Phase 1, residents emphasized that transparency and accountability are essential to fostering trust and sustained engagement. One goal of this report is to demonstrate to all who took the time to engage that their input was received and to show how their input will be incorporated into the plan for Raleigh's next 20 years.

Appendix

Complete list of engagement activities

Engagement Activity	Location	Address	Date	Time	People Engaged
Community Conversations					**755**
Housing Affordability and Choice - Summit	Raleigh Convention Center	500 South Salisbury Street	August 17, 2024	10a - 4p	260
Housing Affordability and Choice - Recap & World Café	Iglesia de Pacto de Vida Eterna	1021 Corporation Parkway	July 10, 2025	6-8p	51
Weathering the Storm - Stormwater Keynote	Martin Street Baptist Church	1001 East Martin Street	December 4, 2024	6-8p	54
Weathering the Storm - State of the City and World Café	Martin Street Baptist Church	1001 East Martin Street	December 9, 2024	6-8p	31
A City in Motion - Transportation Keynote	Raleigh Union Station	510 West Martin Street	February 12, 2025	6-8p	38
A City in Motion - State of the City and World Café	Chavis Community Center	505 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard	February 26, 2025	6-8p	30
Branching Out - Trees and Urban Ecosystems Keynote	Durant Campbell Lodge	3237 Spottswood Street	March 11, 2025	6-8p	86
Branching Out - State of the City and World Café	Dix Park Chapel	1030 Richardson Drive	March 18, 2025	6-8p	34
Rooted and Growing - Neighborhood Change Keynote	Watts Chapel Missionary Baptist Church	3703 Tryon Road	April 15, 2025	6-8p	58
Rooted and Growing - State of the City and World Café	St Matthews Baptist Church	5400 Louisburg Road	April 22, 2025	6-8p	19
Sustain-A-City - Infrastructure and Services Keynote	Wake Chapel Church	3805 Tarheel Club Road	May 29, 2025	6-8p	29
Sustain-A-City - State of the City and World Café	NC State University McKimmon Center	1101 Gorman Street	June 3, 2025	6-8p	65

Appendix

Complete list of engagement activities

Engagement Activity	Location	Address	Date	Time	People Engaged
Ask-A-Planner Events					**64**
Housing #1	Online	Online	September 18, 2024	3-6p	3
Housing #2	Tarboro Road Community Center	121 North Tarboro Street	September 25, 2024	3-6p	2
Housing #3	Green Road Community Center	4201 Green Road	October 2, 2024	3-6p	0
Stormwater #1	Online	Online	December 12, 2024	3-6p	3
Stormwater #2	Carolina Pines Community Center	2305 Lake Wheeler Road	January 9, 2025	3-6p	3
Stormwater #3	Barwell Road Community Center	5857 Barwell Park Drive	January 15, 2025	3-6p	1
Transportation #1	Green Road Community Center	4201 Green Road	February 25, 2025	3-6p	2
Transportation #2	Carolina Pines Community Center	2305 Lake Wheeler Road	February 27, 2025	3-6p	2
Transportation #3	Online	Online	March 3, 2025	3-6p	1
Trees #1	Online	Online	March 20, 2025	3-6p	2
Trees #2	Biltmore Hills Community Center	2615 Fitzgerald Drive	March 24, 2025	3-6p	1
Trees #3	Walnut Creek Wetland Center	950 Peterson Street	March 27, 2025	3-6p	2
Neighborhood Change #1	Method Community Center	514 Method Road	April 28, 2025	3-6p	1

Appendix

Complete list of engagement activities

Engagement Activity	Location	Address	Date	Time	People Engaged
Neighborhood Change #2	Tarboro Road Community Center	121 North Tarboro Street	April 30, 2025	3-6p	1
Neighborhood Change #3	Online	Online	May 6, 2025	3-6p	1
Infrastructure & Services #1	Brier Creek Community Center	10810 Globe Road	June 10, 2025	3-6p	2
Infrastructure & Services #2	Barwell Road Community Center	5857 Barwell Park Drive	June 11, 2025	3-6p	31
Infrastructure & Services #3	Online	Online	June 16, 2025	3-6p	6
Presentations to Boards and Commissions					149
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission	Raleigh Municipal Building	222 West Hargett Street	September 16, 2024	6-8p	10
Historic Cemeteries Advisory Commission	Tucker House	418 North Person Street	September 26, 2024	6-8p	6
Stormwater Advisory Commission	Raleigh Municipal Building	222 West Hargett Street	October 3, 2024	3-5p	22
Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities	Pathways Center	900 South Wilmington Street	October 17, 2024	12-1p	17
Parks, Recreation and Greenways Advisory Board	Raleigh Municipal Building	222 West Hargett Street	October 17, 2024	6-8p	5
Sustainability, Wildlife, and Urban Trees Subcommittee	Raleigh Municipal Building	222 West Hargett Street	November 6, 2024	4:30-6:30p	12
Design Review Commission	Raleigh Municipal Building	222 West Hargett Street	November 7, 2024	4:30p - 7:30p	8

Appendix

Complete list of engagement activities

Engagement Activity	Location	Address	Date	Time	People Engaged
Hispanic and Immigrant Affairs Board	Pathways Center	900 South Wilmington Street	November 13, 2024	6-8p	11
Raleigh Historic Districts Commission	Raleigh Municipal Building	222 West Hargett Street	November 20, 2024	8-10a	11
Community Engagement Board	Green Road Community Center	4201 Green Road	December 11, 2024	4:30-6:30p	12
Human Relations Commission	Pathways Center	900 South Wilmington Street	December 12, 2024	5:30 - 7:30p	15
Raleigh Arts Commission	Pullen Arts Center	105 Pullen Road	February 18, 2025	6-8p	11
Police Advisory Board	Pathways Center	900 South Wilmington Street	March 26, 2025	5:30p - 7p	9
Presentations to Other Groups & Organizations					629
Raleigh Planning Academy	Jaycee Community Center	2405 Wade Avenue	September 13, 2024	6-8p	16
Raleigh Neighborhood College	Five Points Center for Active Adults	2000 Noble Road	September 26, 2024	5-8p	20
Hillburn Academy Students	Hillburn Academy	7100 Hillburn Drive	October 1, 2025	8a-9a	75
Raleigh Planning Academy	Jaycee Community Center	2405 Wade Avenue	October 9, 2024	5-8:30p	28
Southwest Raleigh CAC	Online	Online	October 14, 2024	7-8p	10
North Raleigh CAC	Abbotts Creek Community Center	9950 Durant Road	October 28, 2024	7-8p	12

Appendix
Complete list of engagement activities

Engagement Activity	Location	Address	Date	Time	People Engaged
Midtown CAC	Eastgate Park Community Center	4200 Quail Hollow Drive	October 28, 2024	7-8p	10
Hillsborough-Wade CAC	Online	Online	November 12, 2024	7p	60
Southeast Raleigh CAC	Barwell Road Community Center	5857 Barwell Park Drive	November 14, 2024	7p	8
Watershed Learning Network	Walnut Creek Wetland Center	950 Peterson Street	November 16, 2024	10a-2p	30
West Raleigh CAC	Online	Online	November 20, 2024	7p	25
Wake County Planners	Online	Online	November 22, 2024	10-11:15a	20
Carroll Middle School Students	Carroll Middle School	4520 Six Forks Road	January 9, 2025	9-10a	25
East Raleigh CAC	Lions Park Community Center	516 Dennis Avenue	January 13, 2025	7-8p	25
Five Points CAC	Online	Online	January 13, 2025	7-8p	40
District D Neighborhood Meeting	Thomas Crowder Woodland Center	5611 Jaguar Park Drive	January 18, 2025	9a-12p	35
Oaks and Spokes	Online	Online	January 22, 2025	3P	4
Raleigh Planning Academy	Chavis Community Center	505 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard	February 5, 2025	6-8p	25
Raleigh Neighborhood College	Five Points Center for Active Adults	2000 Noble Road	March 30, 2025	5-8p	20
Watershed Learning Network	Walnut Creek Wetland Center	950 Peterson Street	March 22, 2025	10a-2p	40

Appendix

Complete list of engagement activities

Engagement Activity	Location	Address	Date	Time	People Engaged
District C Neighborhood Meeting	Barwell Road Community Center	5857 Barwell Park Drive	April 16, 2025	6:30-8:30p	10
Raleigh Planning Academy	Abbotts Creek Community Center	9950 Durant Road	May 16, 2025	6-8p	21
Exploris Middle School Students	Exploris Middle School	401 Hillsborough Street	June 3, 2025	1-3p	30
Method Civic League	Method Community Center	514 Method Road	June 21, 2025	10a-12p	15
Raleigh Planning Academy	Marsh Creek Community Center	3050 North New Hope Road	July 25, 2025	6-8p	25
Community Events					**1784**
Engage Raleigh Expo	NC State University McKimmon Center	1101 Gorman Street	September 7, 2024	1-3p	50
Raleigh Tamale Festival	Moore Square	201 South Blount Street	September 21, 2024	2-6p	35
Jazz in the Square	Moore Square	201 South Blount Street	October 3, 2024	6-8p	10
Raleigh Dominican Festival	Carolina Pines Community Center	2305 Lake Wheeler Road	October 6, 2024	12-4p	40
MED Week Celebration	Chavis Community Center	505 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard	October 9, 2024	6-8p	12
Carolina Pines Park-HOWL-O-Ween!	Carolina Pines Community Center	2305 Lake Wheeler Road	October 19, 2024	10a-12p	15
Fall Festival at Worthdale	Worthdale Park	1001 Cooper Road	October 24, 2024	6-8p	15

Appendix

Complete list of engagement activities

Engagement Activity	Location	Address	Date	Time	People Engaged
Barwell Fall Festival	Barwell Road Community Center	500 East Davie Street	October 25, 2024	5-7p	12
Transportation & Treats	Marsh Creek Community Center	3050 North New Hope Road	October 30, 2024	4-7p	35
Commerce Place Open Street Kick-Off	Commerce Place	24 Commerce Place	November 1, 2024	4-8p	7
Envisioning Urban Futures Expo	NC State University Hunt Library	10770 Partners Way	November 13, 2024	5:30-9p	15
Oaks and Spokes Tabling Event	Transfer Food Hall	500 East Davie Street	February 7, 2025	6-8p	62
Family Friendly Workshop	River Cane Wetland Park	4700 Kyle Drive	March 3, 2025	9-12p	15
Safe Streets for All Event	Abbotts Creek Community Center	9950 Durant Road	March 5, 2025	4-7p	5
Biltmore Hills Community Conversation	Biltmore Hills Community Center	2615 Fitzgerald Drive	March 8, 2025	11a - 1p	5
Women of Substance Dinner	The Garden at Berean	2400 East Millbrook Road	April 25, 2025	6-8p	300
Raleigh Earth Day Celebration	Dix Park	1030 Richardson Drive	April 25, 2025	4-8p	50
Historic Bike Ride	Nash Sqaure	200 South McDowell Street	May 3, 2025	10a-12p	45
Wake Co. Smart Start Block Party	Roberts Park Community Center	1300 East Martin Street	May 17, 2025	10a-2:30p	250
Permit Pathways Event	One Exchange Plaza	1 Exchange Plaza	May 22, 2025	1-4p	25
Midtown Market	North Hills	4150 Main at North Hills Street	May 24, 2025	8a-12p	36

Appendix

Complete list of engagement activities

Engagement Activity	Location	Address	Date	Time	People Engaged
Raleigh Garden Community Resource Fair	Raleigh Garden Apartments	6133 Giles Street	May 29, 2025	5p-6:30p	20
Raleigh in Motion Open House	Chavis Community Center	505 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard	June 11, 2025	4:30-7p	100
Fayetteville Streetscape Open House	City of Raleigh Museum	220 Fayetteville Street	June 16, 2025	5:30p - 7:30p	70
Fair Housing for All	NC State University McKimmon Center	1101 Gorman Street	June 20, 2025	9a-3p	0
Out! Raleigh Pride 2025	Downtown Raleigh	Fayetteville Street	June 21, 2025	1-3p	300
World Refugee Day	Athens Drive High School	1420 Athens Drive	June 21, 2025	4-7p	200
Disability Pride Month	Raleigh Convention Center	500 South Salisbury Street	July 19, 2025	1-4p	15
Real Matter: State of the City	Raleigh Union Station	510 West Martin Street	July 27, 2025	5-7p	40
				Total	3381