

City Council Work Plan FY23 to FY24



Falls Church 2040 Vision, adopted April 10, 2017

In the year 2040, the City of Falls Church is a welcoming & inclusive community – a special place in the heart of Northern Virginia. Involved citizens are key to the City’s long-term success as a leader in education, environmental sustainability, multi-modal transportation, and vibrant economic development. By investing in neighborhoods, community services and facilities, schools, and parks the City preserves small-town character and history while honoring a deep commitment to progress and a growing community. The continual rejuvenation of robust commercial areas supports the City’s high quality of life for all citizens.

Council Two Year Work Plan Initiatives FY2023 through June 2025

This City has several guides for development and administration of the City. These guides include the annual budget, the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), the Comprehensive Plan, Small Area Plans, and Master Plans. Through a collaborative process that involved advisory board and commission members and senior staff, the City Council identified the following short list of policies and projects as the most important to deliver over the next two years in order to advance the vision and goals of the City. This is not inclusive of major development projects, CIP projects, and other normal business of the City.

	Quarter	2022		2023				2024		Staff Lead	Board/ Commission	Status (To be Updated Quarterly)
		3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2			
	Small-Town Character in an Urban Setting											
1	Install Commercial District amenities that create a vibrant, attractive sense of place, to include some combination of flower baskets, Banners, Tree lighting, and Flags.									EDO (Wittsman)	EDA	
2	Implement an enhanced tree lighting plan; select street lighting vendor evaluate the feasibility of expanding lighting for the entirety of Broad Street.									DPW (Bradley)	EDA, UFC	
3	Expand street flower basket program to include S. Washington Street intermodal plaza.									DPW (Prince)	EDA	
4	Adopt the East End Planning Opportunity Area Plan , currently under development, and schedule implementation of public improvements through the CIP.									CPEDS (Bazemore)	PC	
5	Park and Open Space Initiatives [^] Finalize and adopt Fellows Property Master Park Plan and begin to implement the plan									R&P (Schlitt)	R&P	
6	City Support for Community Run Events and Festivals Refine the existing Special Events Policy and Application Process to allow city financial support encouraging more volunteer/community-led events while									R&P (Schlitt/Williams)	R&P	

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		3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2			
7	Public Art Initiatives Develop and adopt a concise and readable City Public Art Policy that incentivizes, guides, and encourages public art, and private art with a public face, throughout the City.									R&P (Price)	FCA&H	
8	Complete at least 4 utility box wraps , with local artists in the lead and the City as facilitator.									R&P (Price/Youngs)	FCA&H	
9	Update City Streetscape Design Guidelines , with focus on the question of brick sidewalks and brick pedestrian crossings.									CPEDS (TBD) DPW	CACT, PC	
	Economic Sustainability and Vitality											
1	Economic Growth and Diversification Strategies Monitor the major construction projects underway, including West Falls, Broad and Washington, Founders Row I, and Founders Row II.									CPEDS (Russell)		
2	Identify top commercial uses desired in new developments, which also reflect current market trends, in the City, and negotiate for those uses in the Special Exception process.									CPEDS (Wittsman)	EDA	
3	Develop four new “parklets” for outdoor dining and gathering.									CPEDS (Snyder)	EDA	
4	Adopt a Transition-zone Zoning Code amendment that facilitates redevelopment of smaller infill properties with appropriate building heights and uses that enable a harmonious transition between higher density business districts and lower density residential neighborhoods, and promote environmental sustainability.. <i>(Note: linked with Inclusiveness and Social Sustainability, below)</i>									CPEDS (Stoddard)	PC	
5	Downtown Parking Work with existing businesses to promote shared parking agreements , and work with developers to encourage shared parking arrangements with existing businesses in new development and amend code to allow parking flexibility for older commercial properties when they are renovated.									CPEDS (Wittsman)	EDA	

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6	Complete a study to update residential parking requirements and Transportation Demand Management (TDM) requirements in the Zoning Code. (Note: the City applied for a COG grant for this study, which was not awarded. A study is not currently funded).									CPEDS (TBD)	PC	
7	Standardize commercial district parking regulations to reduce confusion and aid enforcement.									CPEDS/DPW/PS (Sikes)	EDA	
Safe and Complete Streets for Mobility and Accessibility												
1	Identify the locations and install sidewalk improvements using the \$1.4 million in ARPA funds budgeted by City Council with focus on Social Equity and Safe Routes to School.									DPW & CPEDS (Puzin)	PC, CACT	
2	Update the City’s ADA Transition Plan , that sets the highest accessibility standards, above the minimum ADA standards, for all City rights of way. Remove utility poles from City sidewalks.									DPW (Puzin)	PC, CACT	
3	Update the Neighborhood Traffic Calming (NTC) Program procedures to incorporate lessons learned in recent projects, including clarifying the roles of resident block captains, CACT, and staff project manager in communicating project status and decisions.									CPEDS (Sikes)	CACT	
4	Develop a plan, with new resources for Council review and funding approval to allow the City to rapidly execute smaller safety improvements in response to resident concerns.									DPW (Bradley)		
5	Adopt an updated City-wide Bike Master Plan , using the Virginia Tech Student Study as a beginning point, and which will include developing and adopt Safe Routes to School for biking to the MEHMS/Meridian Campus, and include the option of adding additional ROW in order to have a complete street.									CPEDS (Oddenino)	PC, CACT	
6	Install new bike lane facilities as called for in Bike Master Plan whenever a street is repaved (either by the City, a Developer, or other partners.) and consider physical barriers to provide further protection to existing Bike lands.									DPW (Bradley)		
7	Complete the Parks and Open Space Connections Study , which seeks ways to connect the W&OD with Berman Park, Howard Herman Stream Valley Park, and with Cavalier Trail.									CPEDS (Odeninno)	PC, R&P, CACT	

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		Quarter 3	Quarter 4	1	2	3	4	1	2			
8	Engage with the regional planning effort for Bus Rapid Transit from Alexandria to Tysons, and incorporate this regional plan into all City planning documents and CIP.									CPEDS (Odeninno)	PC	
9	Implement the Smart Cities grant in coordination with the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, VDOT, and private developers at the West Falls project, which will apply \$10 million in state funding to bring emerging technologies in transportation innovation to this district.									CMO (Mester)	PC, CACT	
10	Complete the final design for the Park Avenue Great Streets Project , (undergrounding utilities, installation of streetscape along Park Avenue from the State Theater to the Library, and award a construction contract for this project.)									DPW (Astorga)	PC	
11	Consider pros and cons of a new Commercial and Industrial (C&I Tax) for Transportation Improvements in the FY2024 Budget									CMO (Shields)	B&F	
	IMPLEMENT CIP PEDESTRIAN and BIKE PROJECTS											
	The Park Ave Great Streets Project									DPW (Astorga)		30% complete plan
	The Broad Street Multi-modal Project									DPW (Freda)		
	The Broad Street Hawk Signal Pedestrian Crossings Project									DPW (Freda)		
	The W&OD Street Crossings Project									DPW (Odeninno)		
	The Berman Park Crossing Project									DPW (Odeninno)		60% complete plans
	The intersection improvements at N. Washington and Columbia.									DPW (Freda)		100% complete plans
	The intersection improvements at S. Maple and Annandale.									DPW (Freda)		100% complete plans, ROW finalization
	The Oak Street Bridge, with improved pedestrian facilities.									(VDOT)		
	The Greening of Lincoln (stormwater and traffic calming)									DPW (Dudley)		
	Public Health and Public Safety											
1	Traffic Safety Enforcement Complete the feasibility study for Speed Camera enforcement for school zones and work zones; Implement the recommendations of that study.									PS (Rau)		
2	Complete a study on the pros and cons of 20 MPH Speed Limit plan for residential streets in the City, and take the appropriate actions based on the results of that study.									PS & DPW (TBD)	CACT	
3	Expand photo red to cover an additional intersection.									PS (Rau)		

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4	Emergency Management Meet with Condo Boards in the City to assist them with emergency planning relating to prolonged power outages, fire, weather, terrorism emergencies.									OEM (Carter)		Ongoing now
5	Engage in the update to the Regional All Hazards Emergency Management Plan .									OEM (Statie)		Work underway now. Targeting January 2023 adoption by Region.
6	Complete Reunification Plan for students and parents for all Public Schools and St. James School.									OEM (Carter)	SB	
7	Emergency Communications Complete the Next-Gen 911 project to allow for residents to contact 911 emergency services through multiple communications platforms.									PS (Rau)		
Environmental Sustainability and Leadership												
1	Carbon Emissions Reduction ^ Implement the DPW Green Fleet grant, which includes six new EVs and 6 new hybrid vehicles, and 10 charging stations.									DPW (Holmes)		
2	Complete the LED Streetlight pilot program, evaluate the results, and execute the City-wide conversion project.									DPW (Millard)		
3	Adopt a Community Energy Plan that sets out the practical strategies and programs needed community wide to achieve the City’s adopted greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.									CMO (Mester)	ESC	
4	Adopt a City Government Energy Plan to lay out the practical steps needed by general government and schools to achieve the City’s adopted greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.									CMO (Mester)	ESC	
5	Engage with the NVTA and TPB on policy changes in the transportation sector to reflect emerging technologies and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.									CMO/CPEDS/ DPW (TPD)	PC, ESC	
6	Develop City Green Building Design Guidelines for private and public buildings to include tree canopy and biophillic design concepts. (Note: linked project - see Update Building Standards, under Small Town Character)									CPEDS (TBD)	PC, ESC	
6	Complete the Community Center energy efficiency upgrades for lighting and HVAC.									DPW (TBD)		

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7	Stormwater Infrastructure and Watershed Management ^ Complete construction of the following priority stormwater projects prioritized by the Stormwater Task Force: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trammel Branch Project • Hillwood 1 Project • Sherrow Ave Project 								DPW (Dudley)	PUC		
8	Complete the design phase for Greening of Lincoln Project and Greening of Lincoln West Project.								DPW & CPEDs (Dudley)	PUC, CACT		
9	Complete a watershed-wide Stormwater System Model to drive stormwater CIP investments and to evaluate private developments impact on downstream stormwater system.								DPW (Dudley)	PUC		
11	Consider policy similar to Arlington’s 3 inch rain detention policy.								DPW (TBD)	PC, PUC		
12	Sanitary Sewer Systems Capacity ^ Expand sanitary sewer capacity to handle West End growth by 1) purchasing additional treatment capacity from Fairfax County (Alexandria Renew Plan) and 2) completing the pipe bursting expansion project. <i>(Note: both are paid for with developer connection fees)</i>								DPW (Puzin)	PUC		
13	Initiate a study to identify sources of Inflow and Infiltration in the sanitary system that cause sewer backflows in the Hillwood Ave sewer shed, and in the West Columbia/Lincoln Ave sewer shed. Begin to implement the recommendations from that study.								DPW (TBD)	PUC		
14	Solid Waste Management Complete an update to the 10-year Solid Waste Plan . The update should address issues such as recycling rates, solutions for glass recycling, and evaluate the merits of a “pay as you throw” policy.								DPW (Marquetti)	ESC		
Inclusion and Social Sustainability												
1	Affordable Housing Strategies Expand homeownership and rental ADU program to meet general government and school employee income levels and housing needs.								HS (Mark)	HC, SB		
2	Develop a plan to preserve and expand affordable housing at properties such as The Fields, Virginia Village, Broadfalls, Merrill House.								HS (TBD)	HC		
3	Update City Demographics & Housing Study that ties population growth with housing need projections and sets target for new affordable units at various housing types, sizes, and AMI levels (including “Missing Middle” housing).								HS (TBD)	HC		

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4	Diversity and Inclusion in Citizen Appointments and City Management Increase diversity in appointments to Boards and Commissions, to include racial, ethnic, economic, and housing type diversity									CC (Prince)		
5	Pursue a Charter Amendment to strike the registered voter requirement for appointment to Boards and Commissions.									CMO (Mester)		
6	Complete a cultural assessment of the City government work place, to develop a better gauge on how the City work place handles issues of diversity, inclusion, equity, and belonging, from the perspective of city employees, to include a review of City policies as well as direct input from City employees. Implement the recommendations from this cultural assessment.									HR (Mason)		
7	Continue to implement the actions and strategies recommended by Boards and Commissions on promoting social equity in the City.										CC	
8	Consider the creation of Social Justice Committee .											
9	Consider amendments to the Zoning Code to allow greater flexibility for accessory dwelling units in residential zones, and other measures, to expand the availability of housing in the City.											
Effective and Responsive Government Services												
1	City/Citizen Education & Communication Initiatives Develop communications enhancement plan for the City, to include reconstructing the City website to make it more navigable, more engaging and dynamic.									OCOM (Finarelli)	Gov Ops	
2	Communicate City progress on strategic objectives on a regular sustained basis.									CMO (Shields)		
3	Assess the purpose, type, frequency, and duration-of public meetings (City Council, boards & commissions, citizens committees) and report to City Council with findings and recommendations by Fall 2022.									CMO (Shields)	Gov Ops	
4	Human Resources Support Complete employee Compensation and Classification Study by fall 2022 and implement recommendations. Ensure that City pays a living wage to all employees; evaluate the effectiveness of the FY23 action to set a minimum \$15 per hour wage and implement measures as needed.									HR (Mason)	Gov Ops	

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	Complete staffing study by January, 2023 to inform FY2024 budget development.											
5	Customer Friendly Initiatives Implement web site update so that residents and businesses can conduct City business online more easily.									Finance (TBD)	Gov Ops	
6	Building permits: implement one-day walk through permit process for small tenant improvement projects; and implement web site upgrade to allow building permits to be submitted and status tracked online.									CPEDS (Russell)		
7	Cultivate positive and strong customer service mindset across all functions and departments.									CMO (Shields)		
8	Conduct a Survey of the Community to provide statistically valid data on resident views on City Services.									CMO (Mester)	CC	
	Partnership for Education											
1	City/Schools Cooperation Complete and formalize a revenue sharing agreement between the City and the Schools, including School reserve policy, policy on funding school capital needs, and allocation of developer contributions.										B&F	
3	Plan and Celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the City and Schools in August 2023											