# Policy Audit

The Policy Audit provides one of the first steps in preparing a new comprehensive plan: understanding and documenting the existing policy direction that guides community decisionmaking and public investments. The Policy Audit:

• Synthesizes community-wide policies from numerous city and county plans;

- Organizes these policies using the plan framework and community planning topics;
- Ranks policy maturity and identifies policy gaps for exploration during the Charlotte Future process; and • Captures staff's input on policy effectiveness and relationship to implementation.



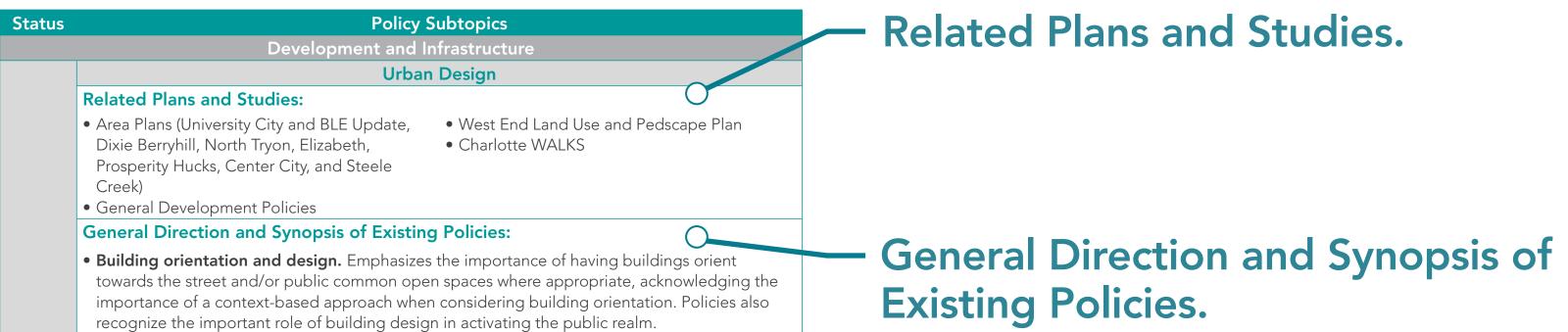
# Audit Organization

The following six topical plan elements and their relevant policy subtopics were used as the organizing framework for the policy audit:

1. Community Values & Vision 2. Livable & Connected City 3. Inclusive City

4. Healthy & Sustainable City 5. Prosperous & Innovative City 6. Regional City

Each of the six sections introduces the relevant policy subtopics and lists the following information for each subtopic:





## **Policy Audit Process**

- Began with preliminary plan organization. Identified policy subtopics. • Constructed policy database.
- Reviewed plans. Identified policies. • Categorized policies. Identified policy gaps.

• Staff effectiveness rating • Staff confirmation of Policies & Gaps

recognize the important role of building design in activating the public realm. • **Compatibility and integration.** Encourages development that is compatible and well integrated with existing neighborhoods. Specific characteristics mentioned in these policies that promote compatibility and integration include landscaping/open space, scale, massing, and height of new development.

• Human-scale design. Promotes a well-scaled, pedestrian-friendly environment. Policies encourage visual interest along the ground floor through the use of glass windows, landscaping, and active uses. Policies also support having a network of smaller blocks compared to having one large "superblock".

#### Potential Gaps for Exploration:

• Additional clarity and guidance. More clarity and consistent policy direction will be needed in order to help realize the general aspirations the city has established for building orientation and design, and compatibility and integration. Future work on Place Types will need to clearly illustrate and provide more clarity on how to best provide transitions between new and existing development (e.g., height, use, separation, orientation). The interface between different street and land use typologies will also need to be explored in order to provide a more place-based approach to building and street design.

Policy Maturity.

**Potential Policy Gaps for Exploration.** 

Identification of Additional Policies

• Theming and synthesis of community-wide policies. Summarized policy gaps.

## **Policy Maturity Ratings**



Policy Seeds Have Been Planted. Policy subtopics that are emerging issues or topics within the community that have little to no guidance by current policies. Moving forward, these subtopics can be explored for opportunities to advance new policies and provide future guidance.



Policies Have Taken Root. Policy subtopics with basic foundational goals and policies. Moving forward, additional new policies and enhancements to existing policies will be considered.



- Need for overarching vision framework to provide common structure for organizing linkages to other plans.
- Many neighborhood / area plan policies should be considered for community- wide application.
- Development policies in the neighborhood/area plans are very prescriptive; place types being developed for the new plan are an opportunity to identify





Well Established Policies. Policy subtopics with established goals and policies that have developed over time. Moving forward, existing policies could be modified and enhanced to reflect up-to-date practices of the City or recommended best practices.

Note that the maturity rating does not necessarily reflect the effectiveness of the policy. Some policies that are well established are not as effective as they could be and the comprehensive plan is an opportunity to address such shortcomings. needed Unified Development Ordinance (U.D.O.) changes to put regulatory guidance in the right place.

- Community has an interest in advancing sustainability objectives.
- Place Types can help with unclear policy guidance on development related issues (infill, complete neighborhoods, urban design).
- Many policy gaps are opportunities for policy coordination with partner organizations and agencies.
- Some policy subtopics are emerging issues and an opportunity for Charlotte to lead the nation in setting policy direction.



# Policy Audit



#### 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

## Plan Element Policy Subtopics

The information below includes the six topical plan elements and their relevant policy subtopics which have been organized by their policy maturity rating.

#### **COMMUNITY VALUES & VISION**

- Well Established Policies
- » Vision statements
- » Value statements
- » Other expressed community aspirations

#### **HEALTHY & RESILIENT CITY**

- Well Established Policies
- » Reducing carbon footprint and energy use
- » Renewable energy generation
- » Protecting air quality

#### LIVABLE & CONNECTED CITY

#### Well Established Policies

- » Future land use and community character
- » Urban design
- » Public spaces
- » Green building and sustainable site design
- » Connectivity and circulation
- » Context sensitive street designs
- Policies That Have Taken Root
- » Growth management, annexation, and ETJ
- » Historic preservation
- » Redevelopment, infill, and neighborhood protection
- » Complete neighborhoods
- » Transit supportive development
- » Provision of utilities, concurrency, and priority investment areas
- » Active living environment (parks and recreation)
- » Transportation safety
- » Multimodal network complete streets (streets, transit, ped, bike, shared mobility/dockless)
- » Access management
- » Design of streetscape and walkability (nexus with built framework)
  » Travel demand management
  » Parking

- » Water quality protection and water conservation
- » Resiliency from flooding / watershed management
- Policies That Have Taken Root
- » Environmental stewardship and green infrastructure (connected natural networks and open space)
- » Green stormwater infrastructure
- » Habitat conservation / urban tree canopy / native plant species
- » Reducing waste / increasing reuse and recycling
- » Brownfields and superfund sites
- Policy Seeds That Have Been Planted
- » Climate adaptation
- » Urban food systems
- » Urban heat island effect

### **PROSPEROUS & INNOVATIVE CITY**

- Well Established Policies
- » Green economy
- Policies That Have Taken Root
- » Education / Childcare/ job training of local workforce
- » Economic diversification
- » Entrepreneurship and innovation (small business)

- Policy Seeds That Have Been Planted
- » Jobs-housing balance
- » Curb lane management
- » Autonomous vehicles

## INCLUSIVE CITY

- Well Established Policies
- » Public safety

#### Policies That Have Taken Root

- » Housing affordability, diversity, and accessibility
- » Equitable provision of public services and facilities
- » Access to healthy lifestyles (recreation and healthy foods)
- » Transparency and accessibility of government
- » Complete communities (support for vulnerable populations)
- » Inclusivity and a sense of belonging
- Policy Seeds That Have Been Planted
- » Neighborhood reinvestment without displacement
- » Environmental justice

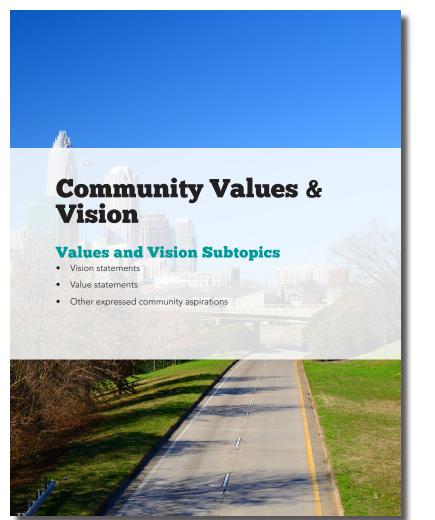
- » Public and community arts
- » Fiscal health
- » Smart city / technology
- » Business-friendly community
- Policy Seeds That Have Been Planted
- » Equitable hiring practices
- » Reduction of income gap
- » Global competition
- » Access to capital

### **REGIONAL CITY**

#### Policies That Have Taken Root

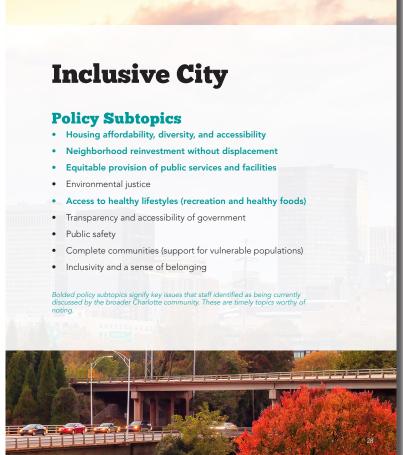
- » Regional collaboration
- » Planning in multijurisdictional areas of common interest
- » Center City / Regional destination
- » Regional connectivity

Note that the maturity rating does not necessarily reflect the effectiveness of the policy. Some policies that are well established are not as effective as they could be and the comprehensive plan is an opportunity to address such short comings.



#### Liveable & **Connected City Policy Subtopics** Development and Infrastructure Growth management, annexation, and Future land use and community characte Urban design Historic preservation Redevelopment, infill, and neigh Complete neighborhoods ansit supportive development Active living environment (parks and recreation Public spaces Transportation Transportation safety Multimodal network - complete Access management Curb lane management Design of streetscape and walkability (nexus with built framew Parking







#### Prosperous & Innovative City

#### Policy Subtopics Education / Childcare/ job training of local workforce

- Equitable hiring practices
  Reduction of income gap
  Economic diversification
- Green economy
  Entrepreneurship and innovation (small business)
  Public and community arts
  Global competition
- Access to capital
  Fiscal health
  Smart city / technology
- Business-friendly community
  Bolded policy subtopics signify key issues that staff identified as being currently
  discussed by the broader Charlotte community. These are timely topics worthy of









