

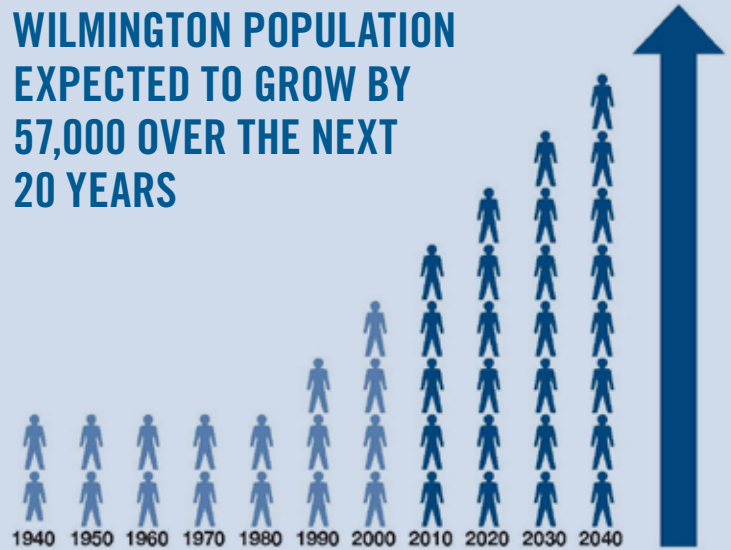
WILMINGTON Comprehensive Plan

CITY OF WILMINGTON PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT

Summer 2017

In the next 25 years, Wilmington is expected to grow by 60,000 more people and the 3-county region as a whole will grow by about 300,000 more people. Where will that many people live? How will they travel around the region? We've got a plan for that. The city's long-term plan for growth, called the Comprehensive Plan, will help set growth regulations and guide development for the next 25 years. The plan was put together with extensive citizen input. *Here's the top 10 points from the city's plan that will help us better accommodate growth in our changing city:*

WILMINGTON POPULATION EXPECTED TO GROW BY 57,000 OVER THE NEXT 20 YEARS



1 Make Shorter Trips Possible

When people have to travel even just a mile or two on a major road to get to a grocery store, they aren't stuck in traffic, they ARE traffic. Neighborhood grocery stores are just one way to bring services and employment closer to where people live. This keeps people from having to drive as much, especially for something like a loaf of bread or a carton of milk.





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Promote mixed use development

The value of mixed-use development comes from locating living, working, and shopping all in one place. This was popular before cars when people had to walk or ride a horse and today it can greatly reduce traffic on our streets and provide some convenience to our busy lives.

Encourage density, but not just anywhere

Having higher density in some areas make a lot of sense and maximizes use of existing public infrastructure. Benefits of density include a well-connected street network, public transportation, and easy access to shopping, jobs and entertainment.

3



Make walking and biking a real mobility option

Survey after survey tells us that Wilmington residents want more safe walking and biking options. We are making connections, building new trails, and requiring developers to put in sidewalks in most instances. We also want to make these bicycle and pedestrian facilities, now viewed as a recreational asset, become a true transportation asset. Each cyclist means there is one less car sitting in traffic.

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Build so that public transit can improve

For public transportation to be an option a lot more people will use, it must be frequent, reliable, and take people where they want to go. The more people can use it reliably, the less they will use their cars.



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Build where assets are already invested

Wilmington has hundreds of buildings, vacant lots and building sites that could be repurposed and/or developed. Making good use of what is already in place saves the cost of extending and maintaining new infrastructure.

REDEVELOPMENT EXAMPLE



Kmart parking lot on South College Road... more than 450 parking spaces, no landscaping, no sidewalk/pedestrian access



Could become... mixed-use center near UNCW with open space, sidewalk/trails, multi-story apartment buildings and various stores

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Build complete streets

“Complete streets” have room not just for driving, but also for cyclists and pedestrians, as well as sidewalks and on-street parking. Someone living or working can walk or bike instead of drive to nearby businesses while enjoying an attractive space that welcomes people as well as cars.

Build safe places

“Eyes on the streets” means that cities and neighborhoods are safer when they are built to maximize the number of people who are naturally watching their surroundings. Examples include storefronts with windows, houses with functional front porches, parks and other public places surrounded by apartments, restaurants and shop fronts.

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Make sure cultural and recreational facilities keep up

Cultural and recreational facilities are what distinguish an average community from a great one. It is critical that our facilities keep pace with the growth of the area and remain easily accessible.

Preserve what makes Wilmington unique

We know that our quality of life amenities such as the river, historic downtown, and our cultural and recreational opportunities are attractive to current and future residents and visitors. One thing we heard over and over again at citizen input meetings was to preserve the character of our neighborhoods and protect our historic homes.

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If you want to see the plan, go to our website at wilmingtonnc.gov/comprehensiveplan