

Staunton Comprehensive Plan

UPDATE 2045



EPRPC

OPEN HOUSE

Jan 22, 2025
at Staunton High School

125 +
Attendees

16
Informational Posters

3
Interactive Stations

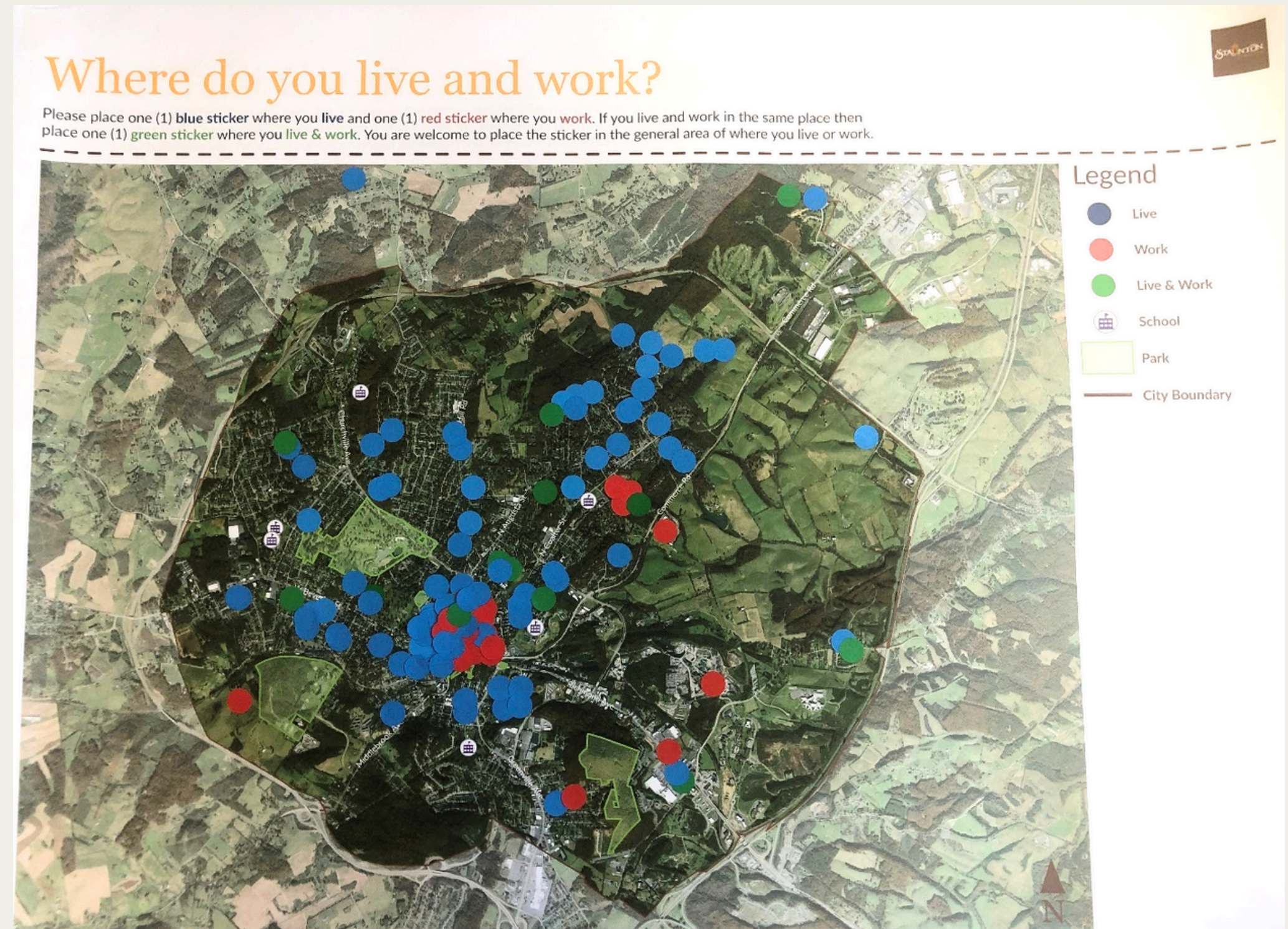
15+
Staff and Volunteers



OPEN HOUSE RESULTS

Station 1: Awareness

- Station 1 introduced the comprehensive plan, its goals, and city demographics, with staff available for questions.
- Attendees were asked to place a dot on the map where they live and work. The map activity revealed strong participation from downtown, northern, and western Staunton. However, southern Staunton and the Richmond Highway area showed significantly lower representation.
- Attendees were asked how they heard about the Open House.
 - **40%** learned about it from **email**
 - **33%** learned about it from **social media or another form of media**
 - **20%** learned about it from a **friend or family member**
 - **7%** learned about it from **another organization** they are apart of



OPEN HOUSE RESULTS

Station 2: Community Needs

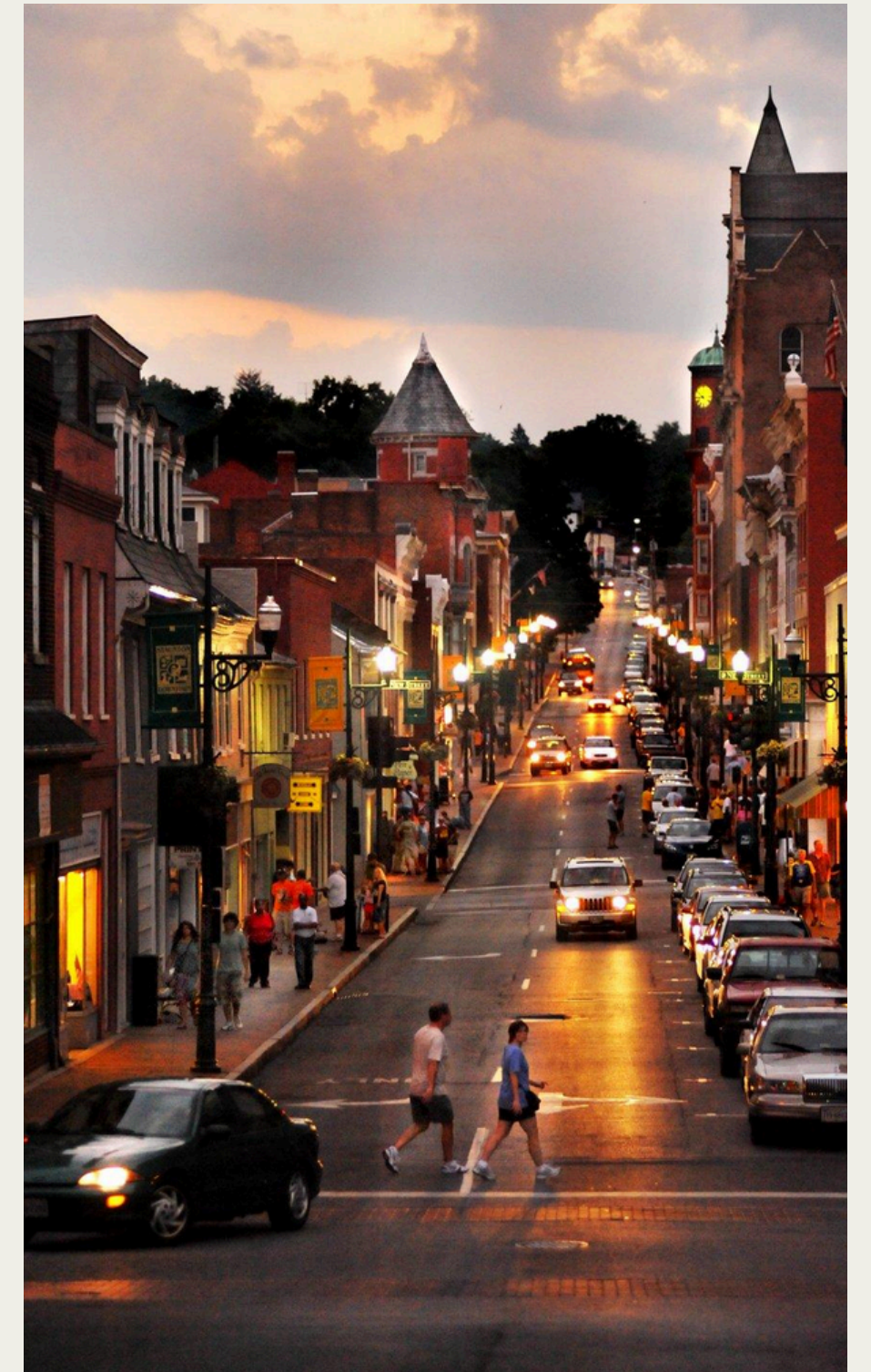
Attendees were asked to identify strengths and challenges associated with 11 key areas of the comprehensive plan:

- Land Use
- Economic Resources & Development
- Housing
- Transportation
- Public Infrastructure
- Education
- Health & Human Services
- Public Safety & Welfare
- Environmental Resources
- Cultural & Historic Preservation
- Recreation

Station 3: Goals

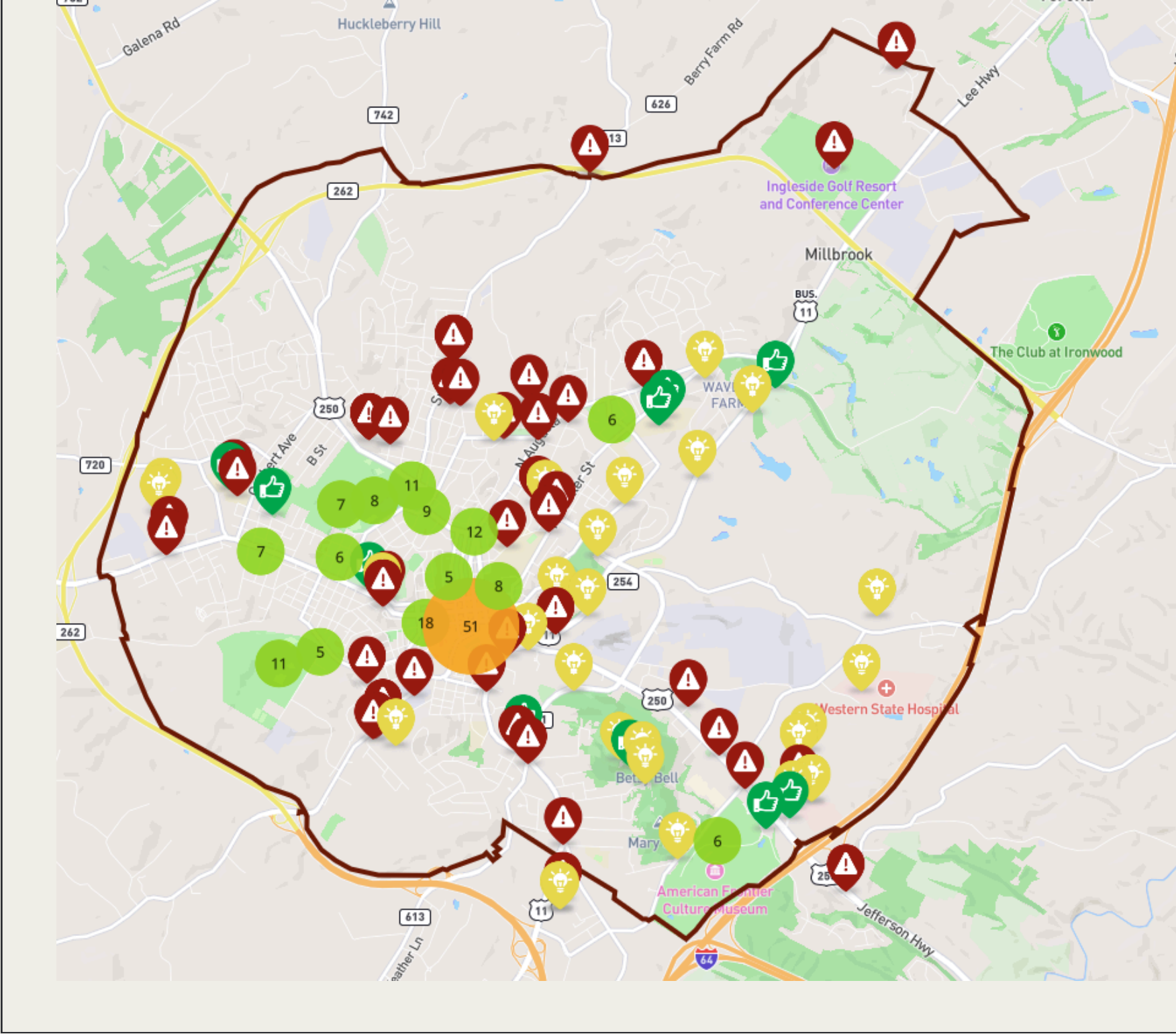
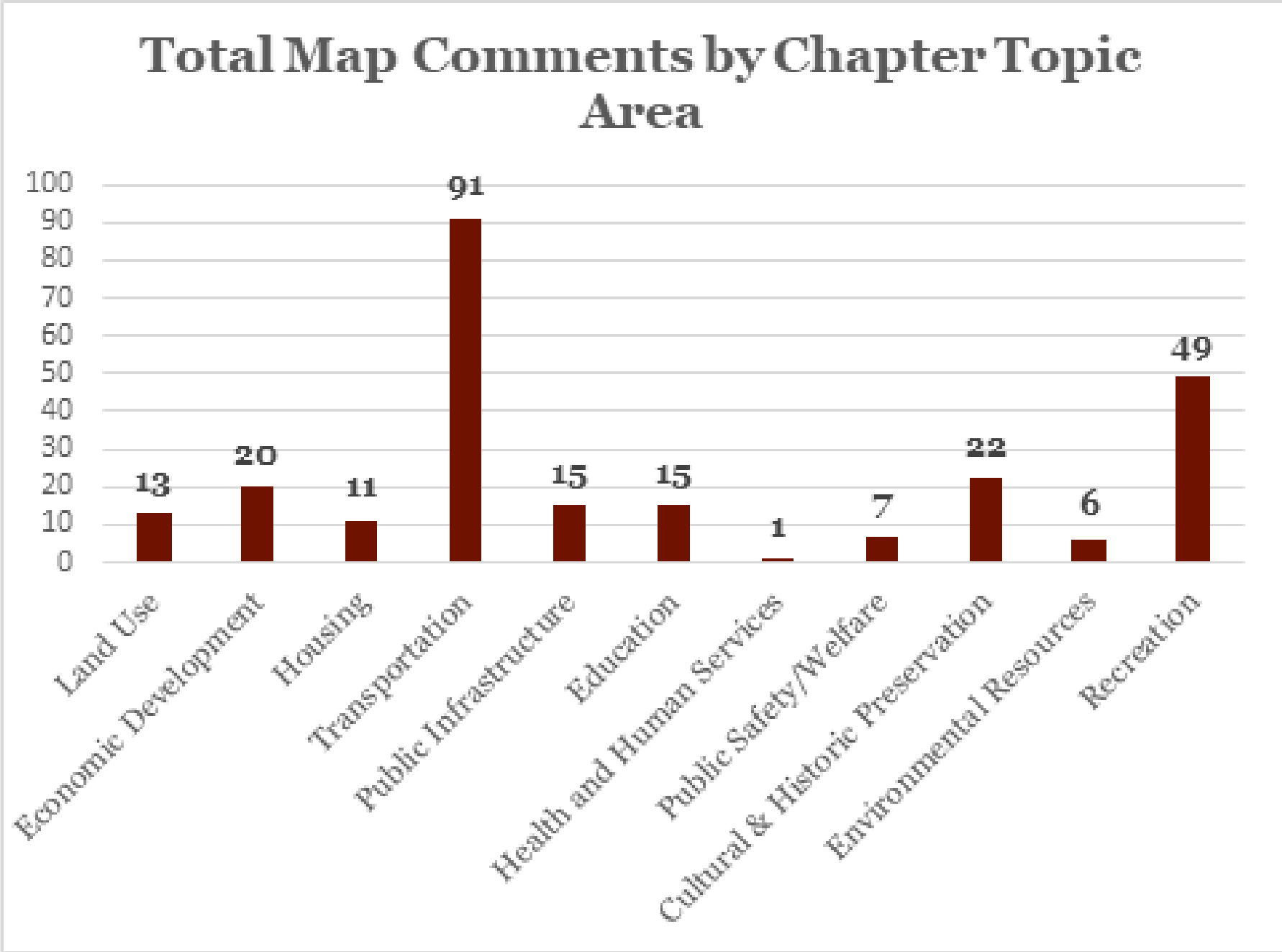
Attendees were asked to brainstorm goals or ideas for several different topics.

- **Open Space & Environment:** Waste reduction, expanded recycling, green space development, and habitat protection
- **Transportation & Parking:** Improved bike and pedestrian infrastructure, expanded public transit accessibility, and increased safety measures.
- **Community Character:** Fostering diversity, supporting small businesses and historic preservation, and cultivating a community identity unique to Staunton
- **Economic Development:** Supporting local businesses, enhancing amenities, and promoting sustainable tourism and job growth, while preserving community character and affordability.
- **Neighborhoods & Housing:** Adaptive reuse strategies for affordability, improved property maintenance, short-term rental regulations, and beautification with green spaces and walkable, integrated designs.



SOCIAL PIN POINT MAP SURVEY

The map survey encouraged commenters to identify locations around Staunton that are a favorite place, where they have a big idea, or where they would like to see improvements. The survey was available from the day of the open house until March 3, 2025. In total we received 258 comments from 55 people.



SOCIAL PIN POINT RESULTS BY TOPIC



Transportation **91 Comments**

- 20 “Big Ideas,” focusing on sidewalks, bike lanes, trails, and traffic patterns.
- 2 “Favorite Thing” comments, highlighting pedestrian improvements along Central Avenue.
- 69 “Needs Fixing” comments. Most related to wanting crosswalks and pedestrian improvements at high-trafficked intersections and streets. Other improvements included speeding concerns, traffic light timing issues, and aging infrastructure.

Recreation **49 Comments**

- 21 “Big Ideas” included wanting more trails in other parks, improving Betsy Bell and Mary Gray into a recreational destination, adding more sports complexes and facilities, locations for playgrounds, and wanting more amenities for young people.
- 23 “Favorite Things” included features in Montgomery Hall Park and Gypsy Hill Park, such as trails, the natural playground, the duck pond, hills for sledding, recreational facilities, and the dog park.
- 8 “Needs Fixing” comments included concerns about invasive plant species, and recreational facility upgrades.

Cultural & Historic Preservation **22 Comments**

- 4 “Big Ideas” included supporting more public art and smaller bands, adding historical markers at Montgomery Hall Park, and added information stations about specific historic buildings.
- 15 “Favorite things” highlighted local artists and art organizations, specific events, and appreciation for the local museums.
- 3 “Needs Fixing” comments pointed out specific properties that need better historic preservation practices.

Economic Development **20 Comments**

- 8 “Big Ideas” locating where small businesses could thrive. Respondents also asked to expand the Dine-out Downtown event to include various types of businesses and suggested beautifying the area and improved signage.
- 12 “Favorite Things,” showing appreciation for small businesses, restaurants, the farmers market, and the downtown area.

SOCIAL PIN POINT RESULTS BY TOPIC



Public Infrastructure **15 Comments**

- 7 “Big Idea” comments pointed out specific roads that need sidewalks and pedestrian improvements, street lighting, and improvements to parking lots.
- 3 “Favorite Thing” comments shared appreciation for recent infrastructure improvements, including repaving roads, parking on Lewis Street, and the new bus hub on Lewis Street.
- 5 “Needs Fixing” comments were left on the map survey, requesting specific areas that need responsible lighting as well as water, sewer, and road upgrades in Uniontown.

Education **15 Comments**

- 1 “Big Idea” comment suggested better partnerships with local schools, including VDSB.
- 12 “Favorite Things,” highlighted the positive aspects about the school and library system, teachers, and Mary Baldwin University.
- 3 “Needs Fixing” comments requested school-owned recreational facility upgrades to the tennis courts, facility upgrades in general to specific schools, and better support for Mary Baldwin University.

Land Use **13 Comments**

- 1 Big Idea comment suggested an area in the city to be rezoned to residential to accommodate more housing.
- 12 were “Needs Fixing” comments, calling out areas that need property maintenance, code enforcement, and have stormwater runoff issues.

Housing **11 Comments**

- 2 “Favorite Things” comments, which highlighted beautification efforts by local organizations on specific properties.
- 4 comments were “Big Ideas,” focused on the need for services and resources to assist the unhoused.
- 5 comments fell under the “Needs Fixing” category and focused on properties that need more maintenance and other comments related to those who are unhoused.

SOCIAL PIN POINT RESULTS BY TOPIC



Public Safety **7 Comments**

- 1 was a “Big Idea” comment, identifying an unsafe intersection for drivers.
- 6 of the comments were “Needs Fixing” items, emphasizing speeding concerns on specific roads and feral cat issues in the city.

Environmental **6 Comments**

- 4 “Big Idea” comments included creating a Stream Protection Overlay to protect water quality, utilizing green building practices for new and existing buildings, daylighting more streams, and turning city-owned right-of-way strips into small native plant gardens.
- 2 “Favorite Thing” comments, appreciating Bells Lane and a specific location with a native flower and pollinator garden.

Health & Human Services **1 Comment**

- 1 “Favorite Thing” comment, sharing appreciation for Jones Garden and all of the local nonprofit organizations in Staunton.



STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS



- Economic Resources & Development
- Housing
- Transportation & Public Infrastructure
- Education
- Health & Human Services
- Public Safety & Welfare
- Environmental Resources
- Cultural & Historic Preservation
- Recreation
- Underrepresented Groups

STAKEHOLDER MEETING THEMES



Infrastructure and Development Challenges:

Many groups, including Transportation & Public Infrastructure, Housing, and Public Safety, highlighted issues related to aging or inadequate infrastructure, development pressures, and the need for strategic planning to address growth. This includes things like roads, sidewalks, housing, and public facilities.



Community Engagement & Equity

The Underrepresented Groups, and to some degree, other groups like Education and Recreation, emphasized the importance of inclusive engagement, equitable access to resources, and addressing disparities within the community. There was a common thread about ensuring all residents feel heard and have equal opportunities.



Economic Sustainability & Growth

The Economic Resources and Development group, and to an extent, Cultural and Historic Preservation, Housing and Recreation, focused on balancing economic growth with maintaining the city's character and quality of life. This includes supporting local businesses, attracting tourism, and creating jobs, while also preserving historic assets.



Resource Management & Collaboration

Across various sectors, including Health and Human Services, Environmental Resources, and Housing, there was a consistent theme of needing to maximize limited resources and foster collaboration between organizations. Groups discussed the importance of partnerships, coordination, and efficient use of available funds and assets.

PUBLIC INTERCEPTS

Farmers Market

Saturday,
April 5



Earth Day

Saturday,
April 26



Building Bridges

Saturday,
April 26



WHAT'S NEXT?

- ~~Task 1: Project Management~~
- ~~Task 2: Public and Stakeholder Engagement~~
- ~~Task 3: Gather and Analyze Data~~
- Task 4: Identify Community Needs
- Task 5: Craft a Vision and Goals
- Task 6: Develop and Evaluate Solutions
- Task 7: Develop and Validate the Plan



Next Event

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 5:30 - 7:00 PM

AT STAUNTON HIGH SCHOOL