

JAMES ISLAND FEEDBACK SESSION

Participant Comments and Questions

City Staff/Officials Comments

What are the key changes since last plan?

Urban Core changed to city center

Where are City Center areas on James Island?

Along Maybank highway at some of the highest areas

Why was Ocean Neighbors built if it was outside of the UGB? And will changing the UGB affect the way the area is developed in the future?

I can't tell you why Ocean Neighbors was built, but in our thinking, this wouldn't impact rural areas because they have lower densities anyway (1 unit per acre).

Trying to mesh what the community told you with the recommendations- can we expect that if elevations are not suitable for development, they will not be developed?

From a pure planning standpoint, yes. We're trying to align land use with elevation and other factors. But land use often comes down to political decisions.

Though the Comprehensive Plan flies at a high level, it will directly inform individual land use and zoning.

Every time a land use decision comes to Planning Commission, we look at the Comp Plan land use map.

Other folks on the call are very interested in transportation/mobility. We successfully advocated for increased bus frequency and saw a 39% uptick in ridership.

What about parking or getting to a bus stop? Are there plans for parking at transit stations on the Island? I would love to ride a bus, but can't get to the bus.

My HOA has been interested in the maintenance of the Rawls? Creek drainage basin that flows into the Wappoo Cut. When the City took over the drainage easement, they did not take over maintenance?

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More of a comment to bring to stormwater staff, not the 30,000 view of the Plan. Seems to be an issue of the HOA and maintenance agreements.

We're having the same issue with drainage, the City is working on easements with us, making a plan for the drainage issue (30 years in the making). Planning to put some money in the budget finally after 20 years. Also interested in the leveling of the Dill Sanctuary, I watch the water drain into my neighborhood in Ferguson Village. The land has fallen over time. I've talked to SCDOT trying to get the ditches cleaned up.

If I was talking about a 10 year plan, the question I'd put to the staff is that you know about the poor communication in the past. What internal changes will be made so that communities are not left so frustrated and not heard. It seems systematically that we are always told to talk to this person, that person. Need an internal audit of how we can do this better.

That is probably the innerworkings of our City's structure. There is dedicated staff now to forward citizen calls. I think that this process has been the most transparent ever.

Whole neighborhoods have been saying that we have been asking for services for 30 years, but nothing has been done. Someone needs to be looking out as to why the requests aren't being fulfilled. In what way can we help our communities be assured that even if we have to wait a while, that there is a process and you'll get to us. I want a commitment on the record that no neighborhood should be left behind as others get their promises fulfilled.

A lot of residents are willing to grant easements for cleaning of ditches, but it's prolonged and hung up when multiple jurisdictions are involved. Things get dragged out so long because of the split jurisdictions. It would be great if people could work together to streamline the process.

I am more interested in transit and transportation. Need connections between the neighborhoods and the main transit corridors. Folly has bike lanes, but I have to ride on a 40 mph road to get there. We need to connect the big hubs with the areas that people live.

Need more inspectors. Blocked drainage pipes- keep finding them. The planning commission is required to keep an inventory of drainage. Need more drainage ground truthing. Finding stuff that is not in the AECOM report. We've hired our own engineers. We pay the highest taxes in South Carolina, we need more accountability.