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OVER 100 CITIZENS GIVE INPUT AT PORTSMOUTH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE WORKSHOPS

PORTSMOUTH, VA (NOVEMBER 14, 2016) – Portsmouth planning officials asked for citizen input as they update the City’s comprehensive plan, and it got just that. More than 100 people showed up at the two public workshops offered on Nov. 10. One was at noon on the TCC – Portsmouth campus, and the other was at 6:30 at Churchland High School.

The diverse participants, working in groups of up to eight people, placed red and green dots on a city map to highlight their praise and optimism for areas of the city. Portsmouth Planning staff and their consultant team will analyze this input to begin crafting a vision for the updated Plan . The updated vision will be shared with citizens at the next public meetings in February.

It was announced that those unable to attend the workshops can still weigh in online at the project website -- BuildOnePOrtsmouth.org, on Twitter, @portsvaevents, or on Facebook, facebook.com/Portsmouth.va. For those without Internet access, each public library has paper surveys and online information at its computer stations.

The last comprehensive plan, *Destination 2025: Setting A Bold New Course*, was adopted by the City Council in 2005. This update entitled *Build One Portsmouth: Working Together, Shaping Our Future*. It will build upon the 2005 plan, as well as community and neighborhood plans.

This update will take approximately year and a half to complete and present to City Council for adoption. During this time, the city will continue to reach out to all citizens including the faith-based, minority, civic, social, education, environmental, business, senior citizen, military, healthcare, preservation, and historic community organizations, as well as other stakeholder groups. An Outreach Team has been formed to assist with identifying opportunities to share information and receive input. Stakeholder interviews have already begun. The city asks that any group that wishes to have an update at their own meetings or events contact the project manager, Mr. Brian Swets, directly.

Follow up public meetings will be held in February 2017, and those dates will be posted on the social media platforms and disseminated through the Outreach Team once confirmed.

For more information, contact Brian Swets, city planning department, at 757-393-8836 EXT. 4237 swetsb@portsmouthva.gov.



Sen. L. Louise Lucas was among more than 100 participants at the Focus on the Future public workshops.

