WHAT IS A COMP PLAN?

- Policy guide that informs decisions about capital investments and land use
- Vision document for the future of Valencia County; established through a community-driven process
- Outline existing conditions, challenges, and opportunities
- Consider needs 20+ years into the future
- Strategies to achieve County goals and policy priorities
- Policy document rather than a regulatory document (different than the zoning code)
WHY IS A COMP PLAN IMPORTANT?

- Identify general infrastructure and facility needs
- Understand and anticipate changing demographics and economic conditions
- Reference document for staff, residents, and policy-makers in development of CIP
- Qualify for grant funding; state recommends that a Comp Plan be updated every 5 years
CHAPTERS / COMPONENTS

• Community Profile / Demographics
• Economic Development
• Land Use
• Housing
• Community Services
• Transportation
• Utilities / Water Resources
• Natural Resources / Environment (includes Hazards)

Structure of Individual Chapters

• Existing Conditions
• Community Priorities
• Policies and Action Items
WHAT DO WE KNOW? – POPULATION DYNAMICS

- Modest growth at County level in last 5-10 years
- Recent increase in housing demand
- County forecast (MRCOG): 2016-2040
  - 4% total population growth
  - 5% total employment growth
  - Majority of growth is likely to occur in incorporated areas
WHAT DO WE KNOW? – POPULATION DYNAMICS

- Increasing share of the population will be over age 65
- Decreasing share of population:
  - under 18
  - Likely to participate in the workforce (i.e. ages 18-64)
- Implications for senior services, school enrollment, travel patterns, etc.
WHAT DO WE KNOW?
GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

• Development in Los Lunas
  o New housing and commercial activity
  o Facebook and supporting businesses

• River crossing in design phase
  o Alleviate congestion on NM 6
  o Improve access for Valencia County residents
  o Could open new land for development
  o Phase I: Connection between NM 314 & NM 47
  o Phase II: Interchange and connection from I-25 to NM 314
• Activity centers identified by MRCOG

• Comp Plan will evaluate locations prioritized for future growth and development
WHAT DO WE WANT TO KNOW?

**DESIRED FEEDBACK**

- What are the greatest opportunities for Valencia County in terms of attracting new businesses and visitors?
- What are the best parts about living/working in Valencia County?
- What is the one (or two) thing would you most like to change?
- What are you most concerned about?
WHAT DO WE KNOW?

STAFF FEEDBACK

• High quality of life in Valencia County
• Combination of rural lifestyle and proximity to urban amenities
• Unincorporated areas where additional services are desired; other areas where rural land uses should be preserved
• Previous Comp Plan (2005) does not provide sufficient guidance on land use decisions
• Tension: urban growth versus rural identity
• Balance the desire for economic opportunities with development patterns that are consistent with Valencia County
OTHER QUESTIONS AND ISSUES

• Impacts of COVID:
  o Travel patterns
  o Desired community services
  o Housing demand

• Water resources / drought conditions
PROJECT WEBSITE

- Link now available on Valencia County website
- Resource hub for updates and Comp Plan materials
- https://bhinc.com/valencia-county-comp-plan/
PUBLIC OUTREACH SURVEY

- **Available** on project website through April 15
- Combination of multiple choice, ranked order, and open-ended questions
- Gain insights into public priorities and areas of concerns
- Results to be integrated into Comprehensive Plan
SCHEDULE

- Staff workshop (December 2020)
- Commission workshop (February 2021)
- Public outreach (Phase 1 – Spring 2021)
- Plan development
  - Data collection / Existing conditions
  - Policies and Action Items
- Public outreach (Phase 2 – Late Summer 2021)
- Draft & Final Plan (Fall 2021)
NEXT STEPS/OUTREACH EFFORTS

Phase I – Public Outreach

• Project website
• Online survey – Open through April 15
• Virtual workshops
  • Wednesday, March 24: 12-1 PM
  • Thursday, March 25: 6-7 PM
• Other efforts to be determined, pending public health restrictions
Phase I – Public Outreach

- Project website
- Online survey – Open through April 15
- Virtual workshops
  - **Wednesday, March 24: 12-1 PM**
  - **Thursday, March 25: 6-7 PM**
- Other efforts to be determined, pending public health restrictions

How can you help?

- Take the survey!
- Share survey and meeting information with neighbors and constituents
- Send us your comments
QUESTIONS

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