

# VALENCIA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



## County Commission

February 3, 2021

# 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

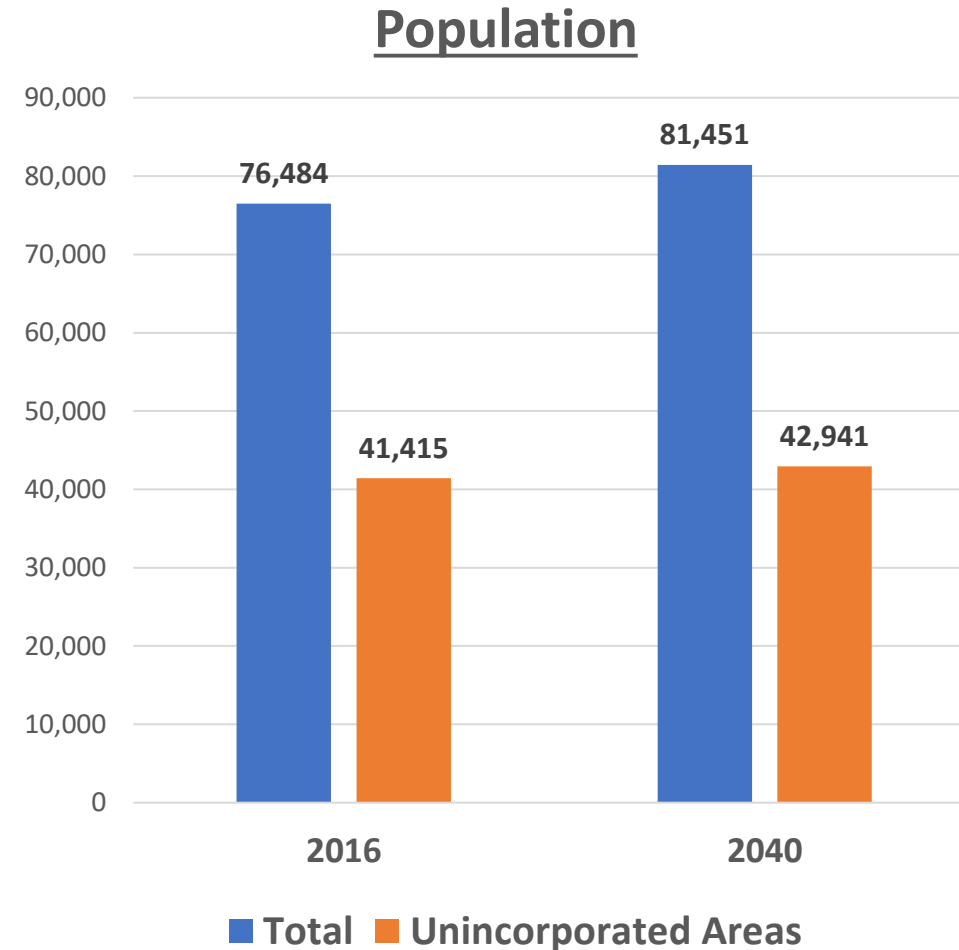
- Community Profile / Demographics
- Economic Development
- Land Use
- Housing
- Community Services
- Transportation
- Utilities / Water Resources
- Natural Resources / Environment  
(includes Hazards)

## Structure of Individual Chapters

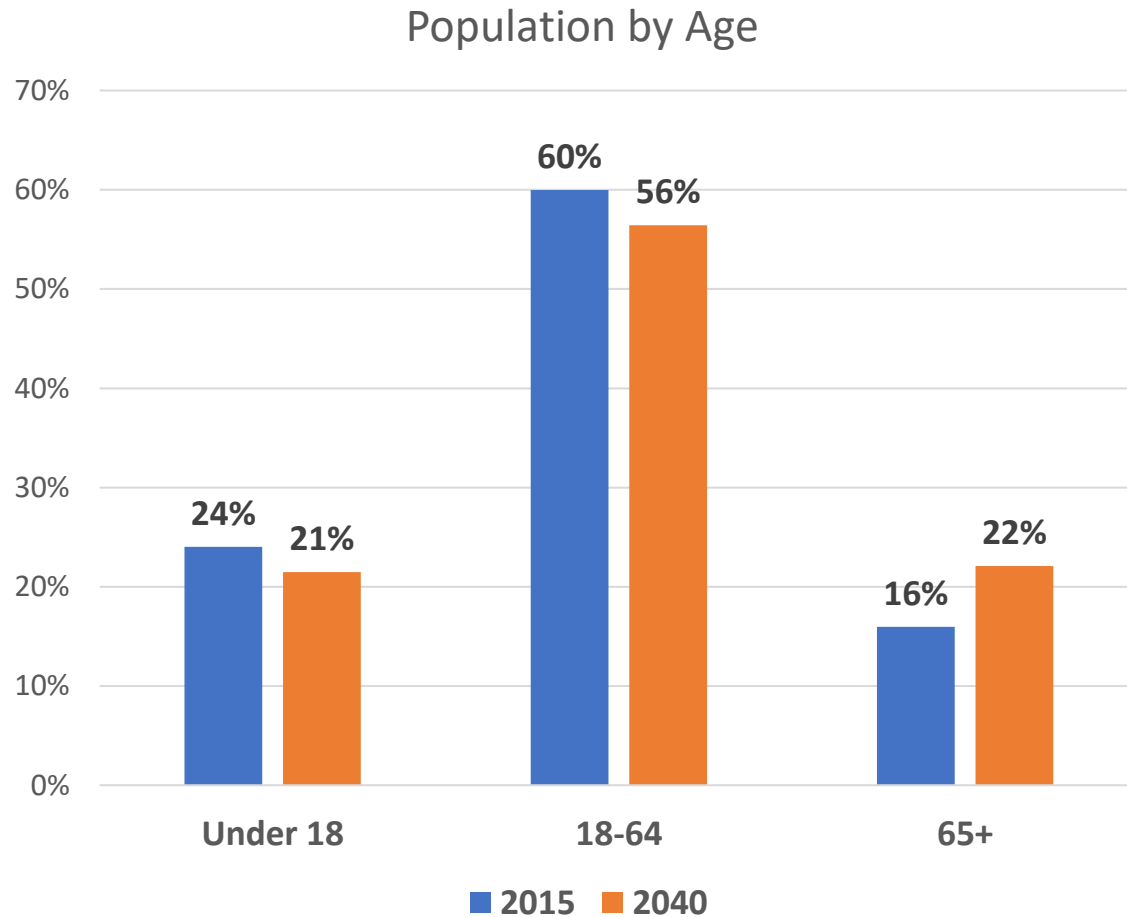
- Existing Conditions
- Community Priorities
- Policies and Action Items

# 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 ?

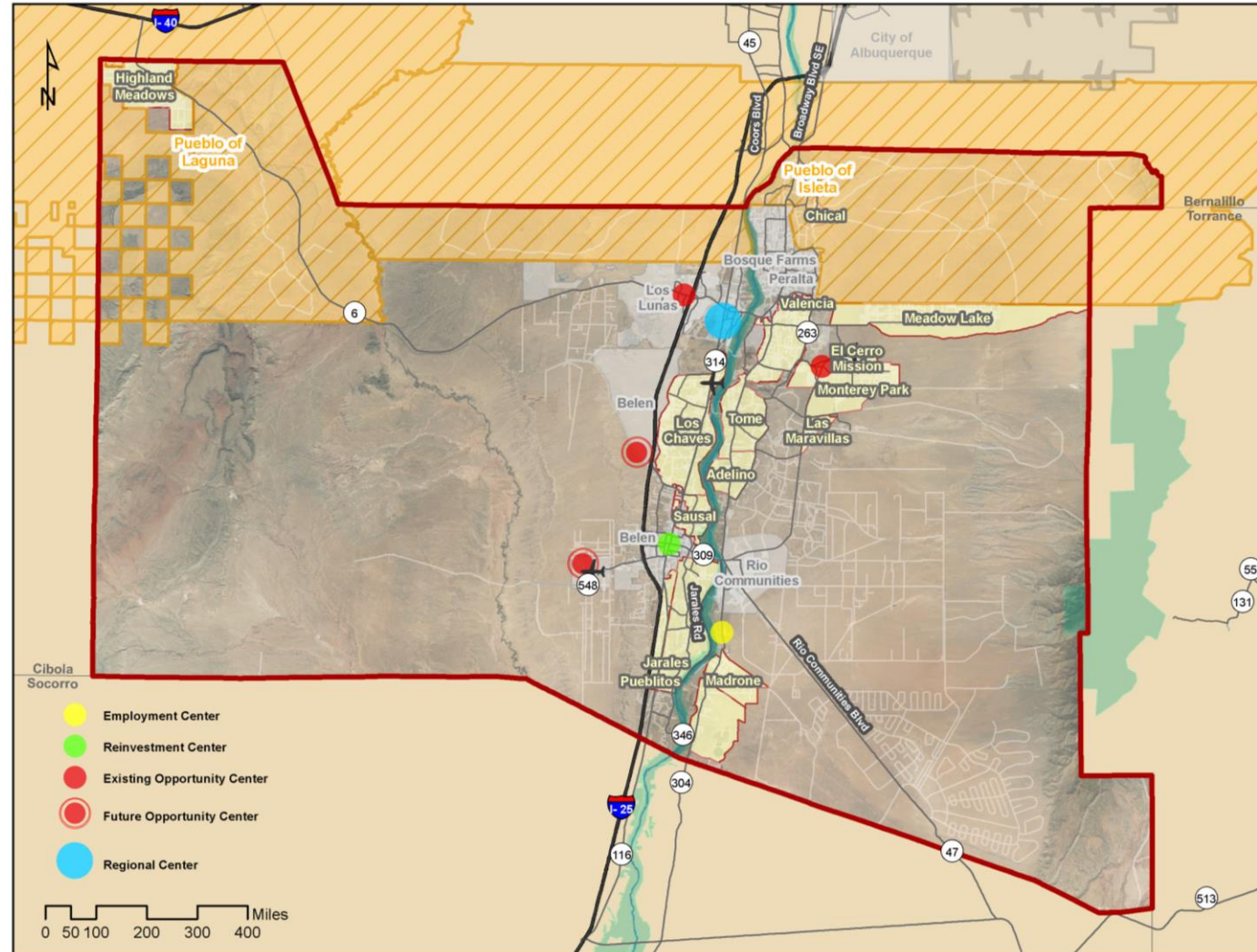
## *GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT*

- Development in Los Lunas
  - New housing and commercial activity
  - Facebook and supporting businesses
- River crossing in design phase
  - Alleviate congestion on NM 6
  - Improve access for Valencia County residents
  - Could open new land for development
  - Phase I: Connection between NM 314 & NM 47
  - Phase II: Interchange and connection from I-25 to NM 314

# WHAT DO WE KNOW?

## *GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT*

- 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?

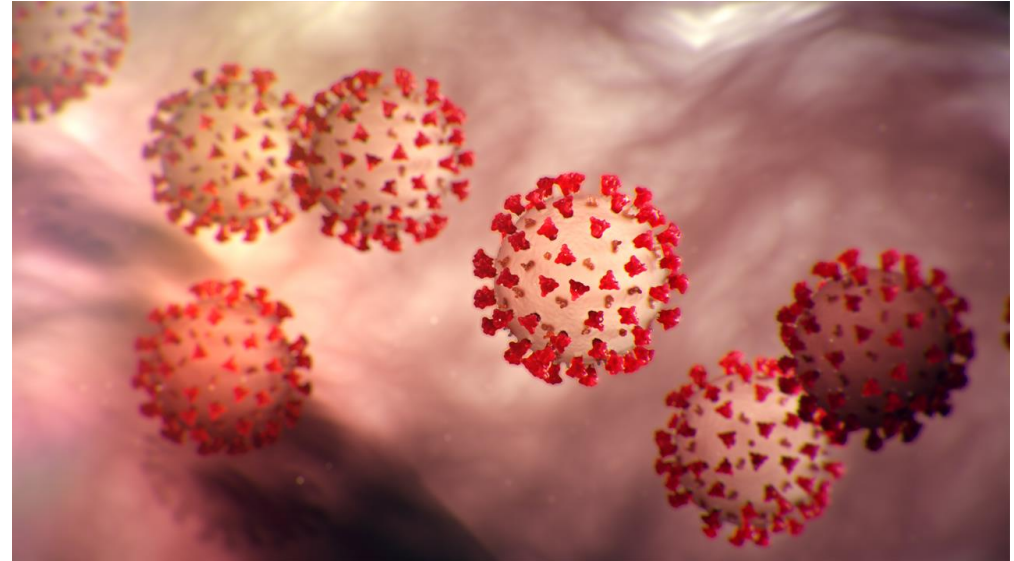
# WHAT DO WE KNOW?

## *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

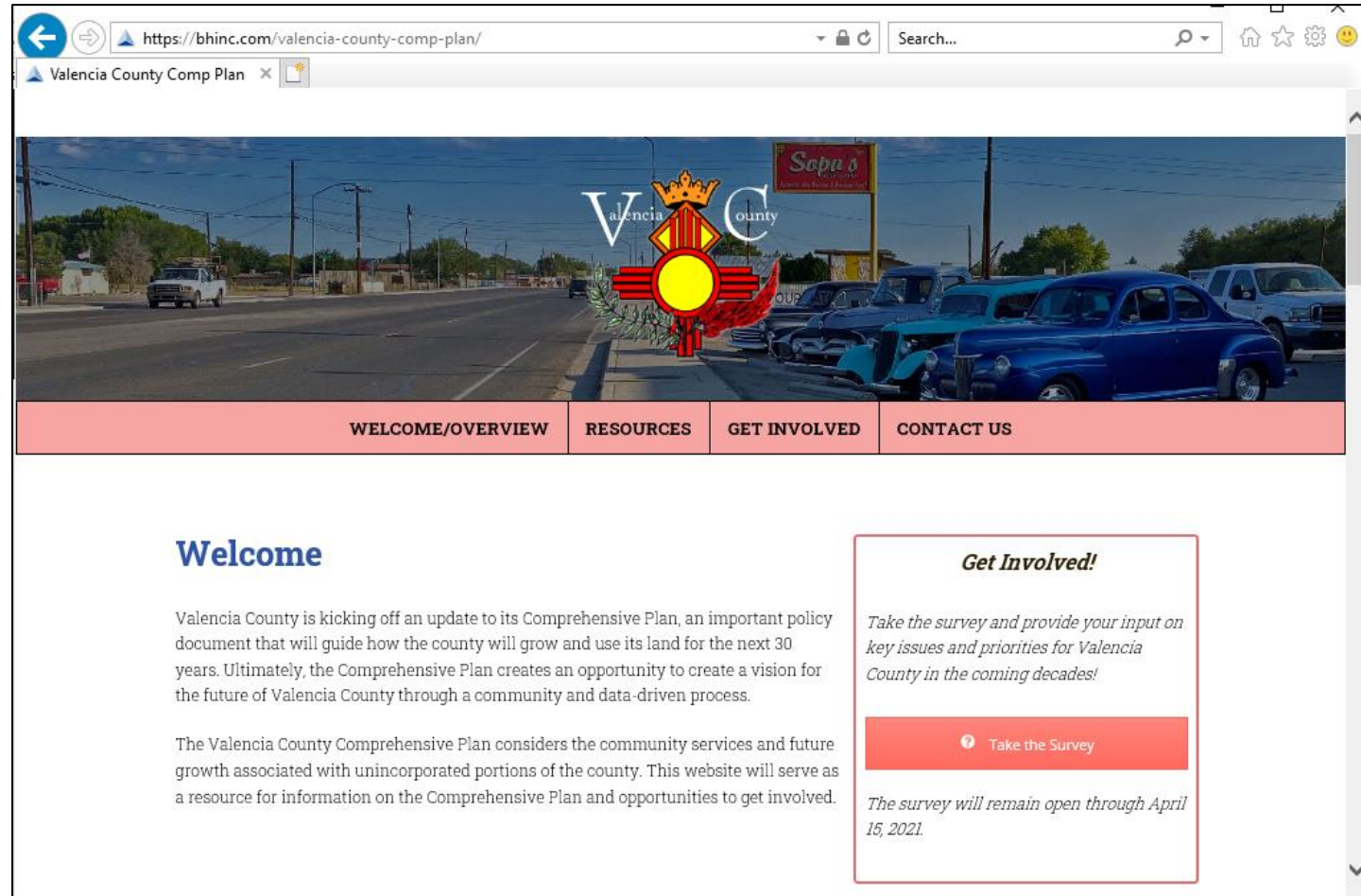
# OTHER QUESTIONS AND ISSUES

- Impacts of COVID:
  - Travel patterns
  - Desired community services
  - Housing demand
- Water resources / drought conditions



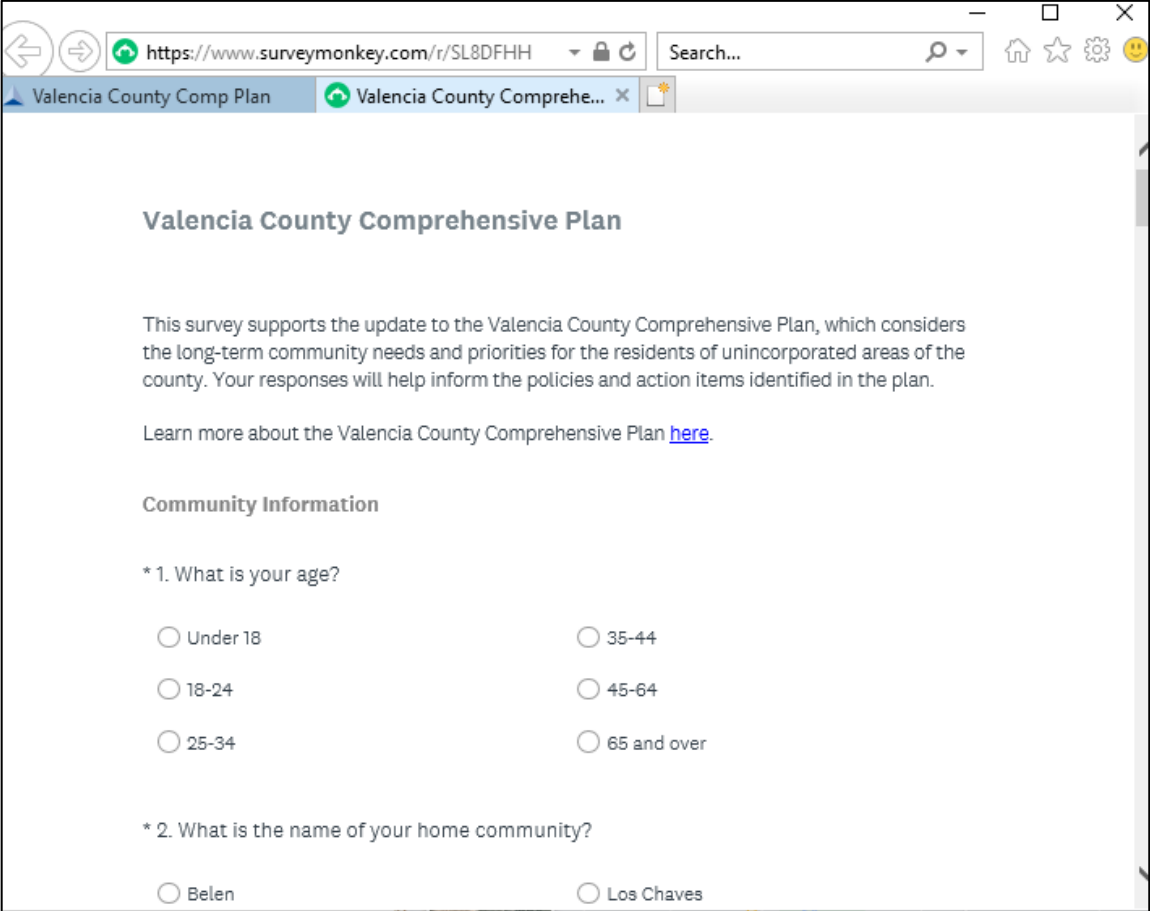
# PROJECT WEBSITE

- 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



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SL8DFHH>. The survey title is "Valencia County Comprehensive Plan". The introductory text states: "This survey supports the update to the Valencia County Comprehensive Plan, which considers the long-term community needs and priorities for the residents of unincorporated areas of the county. Your responses will help inform the policies and action items identified in the plan." A link is provided: "Learn more about the Valencia County Comprehensive Plan [here](#)."

**Community Information**

\* 1. What is your age?

<input type="radio"/> Under 18	<input type="radio"/> 35-44
<input type="radio"/> 18-24	<input type="radio"/> 45-64
<input type="radio"/> 25-34	<input type="radio"/> 65 and over

\* 2. What is the name of your home community?

<input type="radio"/> Belen	<input type="radio"/> Los Chaves
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# 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

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## 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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