



Comprehensive Plan **Diagnostic**



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Overview

The recommendations included in this diagnostic report assess the City of Martinsville’s Comprehensive Plan to provide a framework for the Plan’s update.

Purpose and Scope

The Comprehensive Plan is a long-range planning document that establishes a vision for the future of a locality. To prepare the City of Martinsville for a future Plan update, Berkley Group, a Virginia-based local government consulting firm, completed a diagnostic assessment of the City of Martinsville 2021 Comprehensive Plan. This assessment includes the following components:

- Review of the Comprehensive Plan (Amended & Adopted July 27, 2021) for compliance with the requirements of the *Code of Virginia*;
- Review of the Comprehensive Plan for compatibility with current planning best practices, as guided by the American Planning Association (APA);
- Review of existing maps;
- Summary of plan strengths and weaknesses based on *Code* compliance and alignment with planning best practices;
- Assessment of the content, structure, and consistency of the plan for completeness and ease of use; and
- Identification of final recommendations for incorporation into a future Comprehensive Plan update.

Diagnostic Process

The diagnostic process included a comprehensive review and evaluation of the current Comprehensive Plan by the Berkley Group consulting team. The team assessed conformance with the *Code of Virginia*, identifying each requirement by type (mandatory, optional, or not applicable) and summarizing the Plan's effectiveness in meeting these requirements; see **Appendix A** for a full list of findings.

The team also assessed the Plan's effectiveness in meeting the American Planning Association (APA) Comprehensive Plan Standards for Sustaining Places. These best practices are the result of a four-year effort by the APA to define the role of comprehensive plans in addressing the sustainability of human settlements and provide a set of planning best practices to serve as a resource in the preparation of Comprehensive Plan updates. They are optional standards for creating livable, healthy, and sustainable communities, and can be reviewed in greater detail in **Appendix B**.

These recommended changes will provide the City with a roadmap for an updated Comprehensive Plan that improves the ability of public officials, citizens, and stakeholders to build their envisioned community.

Report Resources

Click the linked pages below to explore the resources used in this report.

[Code of Virginia](#)



[APA's Comprehensive Plan Standards for Sustaining Places](#)



[The City of Martinsville's Current Comprehensive Plan](#)



Key Findings



Overall, the City of Martinsville’s Comprehensive Plan complies or partially complies with most mandatory items of the *Code of Virginia*; however, most of the optional provisions are not fully included. The most necessary improvements to achieve full compliance with the *Code* and align with best planning practices include a transportation section update to highlight priority projects, cost estimates, and alignment with Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) standards, including the statewide VTrans plan and the Six-Year Improvement Plan (SYIP). Additionally, the Plan should incorporate a dedicated section on manufactured housing that assesses current conditions and outlines strategies to address this housing need. Modern land use considerations, such as broadband infrastructure and resilience planning, are also essential to meet both *Code* requirements and contemporary best practices, particularly in the areas of hazard mitigation and disaster recovery. An implementation plan should be created to include detailed strategies,

designate responsible parties, and establish clear timelines to enhance accountability and effectiveness.

To strengthen the Plan’s connection to the community, future updates should prioritize a more comprehensive integration of public input across all sections. Incorporating key themes throughout each chapter would better reflect resident priorities within the Plan’s goals and strategies. Additionally, assumptions about Martinsville’s future and analyses of existing conditions—currently based on outdated data—should be updated to reflect both the latest data and community insights, ensuring the Plan offers well-grounded alternatives for future growth and investment.

A robust public engagement strategy is essential for the next update to document and summarize input that directly informs the City’s vision and goals. This approach will foster a transparent planning process that better aligns with the *Code of Virginia* and planning

best practices. Furthermore, the updated Plan should be accessible to the average reader, with a glossary of key terms, infographics, and clearly captioned visuals to clarify complex information. By including these features and distilling core elements into an executive summary, the Plan will encourage broader community engagement and understanding.

Additionally, the current Plan reads more as an extensive community profile than as a functional, implementable policy document. To increase its utility as a guiding resource, the Plan should be restructured to clearly present a community vision, goals, strategies, and actionable implementation steps grounded in public engagement, existing conditions, and relevant data. The document would also benefit from impactful visuals to enhance clarity and engagement. To reduce redundancy, data should be streamlined to highlight only the most essential information, with a more detailed community profile included as an appendix.

Improvements to address *Code of Virginia* requirements will focus on updating information to reflect current data, incorporating any applicable new studies or plans, documenting recent and planned capital improvements, and reviewing policy strategies for changes based on public engagement and direction from the Planning Commission and City Council.



Under Section 15.2-2223 of the Code of Virginia, every locality is required to adopt and maintain a Comprehensive Plan for the territory that it governs. Once adopted, this plan must be reviewed at least once every five years. This ensures that local governments continue to evaluate changing community needs and actively work to achieve the goals identified in the plan.

Code of Virginia Compliance

The *Code of Virginia* establishes required and optional elements for adopted Comprehensive Plans. For example, the *Code* requires elements such as a description of future community trends, a transportation plan identifying priority projects, and recommendations to promote the development and maintenance of affordable housing, including manufactured housing. Some optional elements in the *Code* include description of future facilities development, identification of existing facilities (such as parks, sports fields, hospitals, schools, etc.), and the designation of historic or urban renewal areas. This diagnostic includes a matrix (**Appendix A**) that categorizes each part of the *Code* by type (mandatory or optional) and includes an analysis and recommendation based on review of the existing plan.

Key recommendations from the *Code of Virginia* analysis include the following:

- The Plan should be updated to show existing conditions and data, using the most recent information from the U.S. Census Bureau, the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), along with other reputable data sources.
- The Plan should include an assessment of current conditions for manufactured housing, including locations, structural soundness, and identified needs, as well as strategies to address manufactured housing requirements in the City per the *Code of Virginia*. Additionally, affordable housing availability in the City should be evaluated, with strategies revised as necessary to meet updated needs.
- The Plan needs a more robust discussion of broadband, which is now required for inclusion by the *Code of Virginia*. Resilience and hazard mitigation planning, which often includes post-disaster economic recovery, also should be incorporated.

“Best practices are the planning action tools used by communities to activate the desired principles, processes, and attributes of their comprehensive plans. They are analogous to the body’s muscles and tendons, linking and moving the components of the planning structure. Based on state-of-the-art practices found in leading plans and planning literature, they represent the best thinking of the planning profession on how to carry out the vision and goals of their plan.”

- American Planning Association

Best Practices

The best practices analyzed as part of this diagnostic process are the result of an extensive effort by the American Planning Association (APA) to define the role of comprehensive plans in addressing the sustainability of human settlements. Traditionally, comprehensive plans focus on land use and physical development. These best practices cover ten planning principles and are established to respond to modern community needs and societal trends, such as an increased demand for citizen participation, a greater focus on implementation, and a heightened awareness of climate change and its impacts.

The best practices diagnostic matrix (**Appendix B**) evaluates the 2021 Comprehensive Plan’s use of these ten best practices as a means of benchmarking the document against some of the most effective comprehensive plans across the country. They are added to provide a more complete analysis and facilitate discussion throughout the Plan update process and should not be interpreted as requirements.

APA’s Sustaining Places

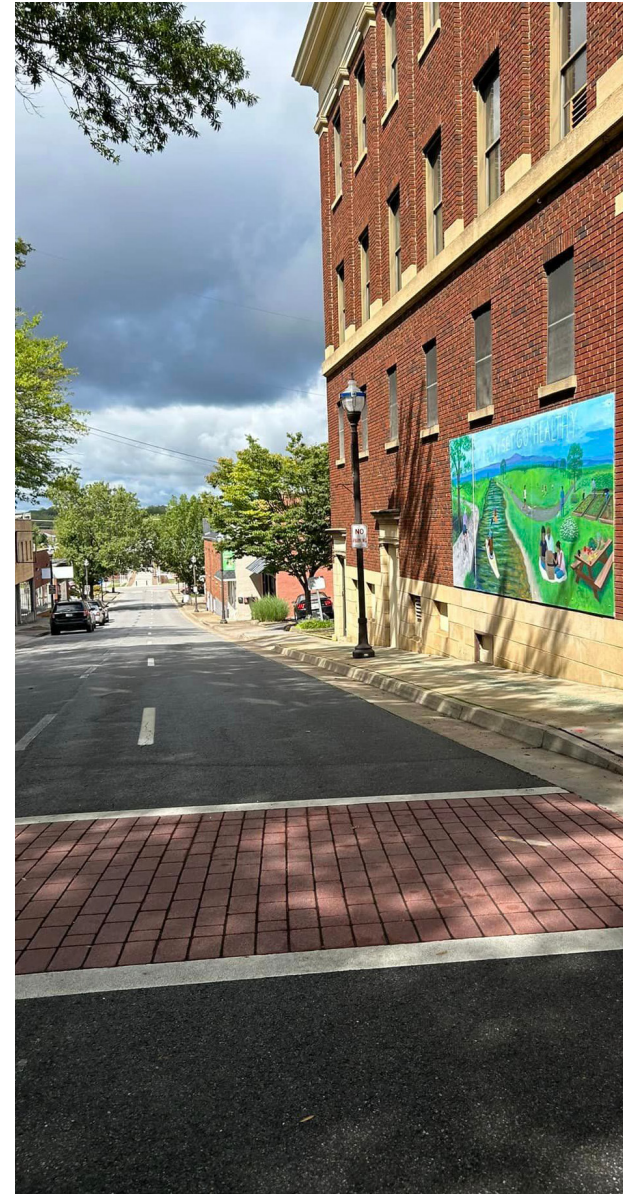


Scan the QR code with your mobile device camera to see a PDF of the principles discussed in APA’s Comprehensive Plan Standards for Sustaining Places.



The City of Martinsville's 2021 Comprehensive Plan is *most effective* in the **livable built environment**, **responsible regionalism**, and **coordinated characteristics** categories:

- Both the Transportation and Land Use Chapters identify the City's Urban Development Areas (UDAs), which include traditional neighborhood design (TND), walkability, bikeability, infill development, and mixed-use land patterns. Recommend reviewing the UDA boundaries and adjusting to reflect recent and projected development and population trends; also address integration of transit-oriented development (TOD) into the UDAs.
- The current Comprehensive Plan includes a robust housing plan with data and existing conditions from the early 2000s. The housing plan should be updated with current conditions, data, and projections, including strategies from recent regional housing studies or plans.
- The Plan covers numerous regional documents and plans that the City has approved or adopted, and studies and reports that were used in the development of the Plan. Responsible regionalism should be continued in future updates and in coordination with Henry County's Comprehensive Plan.
- Historic resources are covered thoroughly in the Cultural/Historic Resources Chapter, including details regarding multiple initiatives to conserve and reuse historic resources.
- The "Complete Streets & Multimodalism" section of the Transportation Chapter discusses the infrastructure needed for this type of development. Recommend updating existing conditions, identifying current and future needs and strategies, and including specific projects the City will implement to develop complete streets.



The City of Martinsville's 2021 Comprehensive Plan is *least effective* in **harmony with nature, authentic participation, accountable implementation, and consistent content:**

- The Natural Conditions Chapter is primarily focused on stating existing conditions. The chapter should be updated with today's existing conditions, environmental regulations, and ways the City can protect, remediate, and preserve its natural resources.
- Air quality, climate change, renewable energy, solid waste, and water conservation are not addressed in the current Plan. The City should address these practices and identify key opportunities for progress. By including data and policy statements for these elements, Martinsville will improve resilience while bolstering the City's image and regional competitiveness.
- The current Comprehensive Plan does not include any indication that community engagement was used to draft the Plan. When updating the Plan, a robust public engagement strategy should be followed to collect ample public input. The input should be well documented and summarized in the updated Plan, including ways that the input informs the goals and vision for the City's future.
- The Plan should be evaluated for comprehensibility for the average reader. This may include, but not be limited to, a glossary with key terms and definitions; the use of infographics to communicate complex data; clear visuals with captions; graphics to encourage readers to explore additional resources; and condensing the most important elements into an executive summary. Where possible, the Plan should use common lay vocabulary.
- Goals, objectives, and strategies should reflect current priorities and be clear, concise, and measurable. As a best practice, all policy items should be included both in the implementation chapter and in the individual element chapters to provide a clear connection between existing conditions and forward progress.
- The Recommendations Chapter categorizes specific recommendations but does not include funding sources (except for transportation projects), responsible parties for each action, or other information to guide successful implementation. The Plan should include a thorough implementation plan that clearly states actions, responsible parties, funding sources, timeframes, and metrics to evaluate progress on each strategy.

Priority Items for the Comprehensive Plan Update

1. Ensure all required items of the *Code of Virginia* are clearly incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan, including, but not limited to, manufactured housing, resilience, and amendment processes. Optional provisions should be incorporated as desired by the City.
2. Format the Plan to include a community vision, goals, strategies, and implementation actions based on public engagement, existing conditions, and data, and communicated with compelling visuals. Data can be condensed to avoid redundancy and only include the most pertinent information; this can also be done through the inclusion of a community profile as an appendix.
3. Plan for multi-modal transportation; this is essential for creating a comprehensive and accessible transportation network that supports various mobility options, including bicycling, walking, and public transit. This also includes providing guidance for complete streets.
4. Incorporate a Prioritized Transportation Project List into the Comprehensive Plan that includes detailed project descriptions, cost estimates, and specific locations. This will enhance transparency, improve planning efficiency, and guide future investments in the transportation network.
5. Provide the physical capacity for economic growth and include considerations for adapting to evolving economic demands and infrastructure needs.
6. Provide guidance for accessible and quality public services, facilities, and health care to minority and low-income neighborhoods. This is crucial for fostering equity and inclusivity, ensuring access to essential services across demographics.
7. Develop a robust future land use framework that provides clear guidance for growth, preservation, and development priorities across Martinsville. The framework should designate land use categories, define growth areas and conservation areas, integrate multimodal and sustainable design, promote compatibility with adjacent uses, and provide guidance for future zoning changes.
8. Indicate specific, measurable strategies for all Plan elements. Consolidate all strategies into an implementation plan, with a matrix that clearly assigns a timeframe, responsible department, estimated cost, and resources to guide implementation. A select number of catalyst projects, or strategies that will be the most transformative for the City, can also be identified and included in an implementation plan.

Next Steps

Berkley Group will provide the findings of this diagnostic report to the City of Martinsville. Reviewing and discussing this report will help build a strong foundation for future updates to the City's Comprehensive Plan.

The immediate next steps for the City of Martinsville are as follows:

1. Determine which components of this report will be prioritized for inclusion in future updates of the Comprehensive Plan.
2. Identify additional projects and priorities for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan, as recommended by the Planning Commission and City Council.
3. Conduct public engagement with the community at the outset of the update process to determine community goals and priorities.



Conclusion

The City of Martinsville should be commended for undertaking a thorough review of its Comprehensive Plan; this provides the foundation for future updates and will serve to better articulate the community’s core vision of the future. This vision should be rooted in community values and developed through robust and equitable community engagement.

In addition to incorporating community engagement, the Comprehensive Plan update should include revisions to fully comply with the *Code of Virginia*. If desired, the community can not only comply with minimum standards, but restructure the Plan as an engaging, easy to use document and include APA best practices to work toward a more resilient, balanced, and healthy community.

The recommendations outlined in this report establish a detailed analysis of the 2009 Comprehensive Plan and its alignment with the *Code of Virginia* and APA Standards of Sustaining Places. Utilizing the information and recommendations contained in this report and included appendices will help forge a path towards a healthier and more vibrant City.





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Appendix A

Code of Virginia
Diagnostic Matrix

	VA Code Section 15.2-	Intent	Compliance	Comp. Plan Reference	Consultant Comments/Recommendations
1.	2222	Transportation plan coordination with Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)	Mandatory	Included Ch. 8, Various ¹	<p>The Transportation chapter includes a section about the Virginia Chapter 527 Program. Additionally, there are several mentions in the Plan of VTrans, the Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP), and SMART Scale as transportation guidelines and tools for the City to leverage. The upcoming Plan update should seek to retain appropriate background information but update details to reflect the most current set of data and projects.</p> <p>The Comprehensive Plan update will require a 90-day VDOT review period as outlined in this Section of the Code of Virginia. Prior to VDOT review, recommend updating the Plan to reflect current data, current priority transportation projects and plan(s), potential funding sources, and to include all content required by the Code of Virginia.</p>
2.	2223	Comp. Plan prepared and adopted; scope and purpose	Mandatory	Partially Included Ch. 1, pgs. 1-5	<p>The Plan includes the adoption resolutions, which state the requirements of state code along with the pertinent references. The Introduction section of the Plan also includes language verbatim from this section of State Code. However, there is no information about community engagement in relation to development of the Plan, which is a key component of informing long-range planning.</p> <p>Recommend adding additional discussion of the need to continuously engage the community as the Plan is implemented. Recommend including the results of community engagement feedback in the Plan or as an appendix, and drawing upon community input as each Plan element is drafted.</p>

¹ Editor's Note: Several Chapters of the *Martinsville, VA Comprehensive Plan, Amended and Adopted by City Council July 27, 2021*, do not have page numbers. The page numbers used in this column are the PDF page numbers.

	VA Code Section 15.2-	Intent	Compliance	Comp. Plan Reference	Consultant Comments/Recommendations
3.	2223 (A)	Existing Conditions	Mandatory	Partially Included Chapters 1–9	The Plan establishes thorough descriptions of existing conditions for the Economy, natural conditions, community facilities, services, and utilities, cultural and historic resources, and housing for 2009, and transportation, and land use which were updated in 2021. The Plan does not mention any community engagement in relation to development of the Plan. Recommend including a robust public engagement strategy and results from public input gathered. Recommend updating all demographic data to reflect current conditions and trends. See Line Item #4.
4.	2223 (A)	Future trends of growth and requirements of territory and inhabitants	Mandatory	Included Ch. 1, pgs. 20-30 Ch. 2, pgs. 39-43 Ch. 9, pgs. 264-5 Ch. 10, pgs. 275-276	The Plan includes total population trend data through 2020 and discusses historic population trends and their effects on public services, community facilities, and the economy, along with economic development strategies. The Plan includes a future land use plan (pgs. 245-274). Recommend updating all demographics data to include data from the 2020 U.S. Census and most recent American Community Survey. Recommend including and analyzing the most recent population projections from the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service.
5.	2223 (A)	Purpose to promote health, safety, welfare, etc.	Mandatory	Included Introduction	The purpose of the Comprehensive Plan is established in the Introduction.
6.	2223 (A)	Designate the general or approximate location, character, and extent of each feature, including any road improvement and any transportation improvement, shown on the plan and shall indicate where existing lands or facilities are proposed to be extended, widened, removed, relocated, vacated, narrowed, abandoned, or changed in use	Mandatory	Included Ch. 8, pgs. 165-184, 201- 206	The Transportation Plan chapter includes maps and a discussion of Martinsville’s existing transportation network and future needs, urban development areas (UDAs), passenger rail, intercity bus service, and specific transportation needs and projects for UDAs. The chapter also has a section for “complete streets and multimodalism.” The Comprehensive Plan complies with this Section of the Code of Virginia, but it is recommended that Martinsville review designated development areas and identified transportation improvements to update as needed based on current conditions.

	VA Code Section 15.2-	Intent	Compliance	Comp. Plan Reference	Consultant Comments/Recommendations
7.	2223 (B)	<u>Chapter 729 Regulations</u>	(See Line Items 8 – 15)		See recommendations below.
8.	2223 (B)(1)	Contains inventory of existing transportation facilities	Mandatory	Included Chapter 8, pgs. 165-244	The Plan includes inventory and maps of transportation assets and data, including the UDAs, VTrans IEDAs (Industrial Economic Development Authority), project maps, functional classification, bridges & culverts ratings, AADT (average annual daily traffic), volume to capacity ratio, crash data, level of service, bike plan, and freight generators. Recommend updating with the most up-to-date data from VDOT and the City.
9.	2223(B)(1)	Contains transportation needs assessment (current and future performance and conditions, future required improvements)	Mandatory	Included Ch. 8 pgs. 183-189	The Transportation Chapter was updated in 2021 and includes a needs assessment as required by this section.
10.	2223 (B)(1)	Contains recommendations	Mandatory	Included Ch. 8, pgs. 175-178, 184- 191 Ch. 10, pgs. 278-279	The Transportation Plan meets this Code requirement through identifying both general transportation strategies and recommendations for specific transportation improvements. Recommend updating recommendations, maps, and plans to reflect changes in facility needs and completion of recent projects. Recommend including an updated, prioritized matrix of implementation steps and projects, with target dates, estimated cost, and current potential funding sources. Metrics may also be included as part of the implementation plan, if desired.
11.	2223 (B)(1)	Recognize hierarchy of roads	Mandatory	Included Ch. 8, pgs. 194-196	The Transportation chapter of the Plan includes a table of roadway functional classifications and a map. The Comprehensive Plan complies with this Section of the Code of Virginia, but it is recommended that Martinsville review and update to incorporate any changes to functional classifications.

	VA Code Section 15.2-	Intent	Compliance	Comp. Plan Reference	Consultant Comments/Recommendations
12.	2223 (B)(1)	Align transportation improvements with planning assumptions that will influence the transportation network (population growth, employment growth, location of critical infrastructure)	Mandatory	Partially Included Ch. 8, pgs. 192-193, 201-206	<p>The Plan includes goals to provide multi-modal transportation infrastructure, including providing for those for whom driving is not an option due to age, disabled populations, and those who may be economically disadvantaged. The Plan also addresses recent innovations in transportation, as well as the need for transportation upgrades to better facilitate economic development.</p> <p>While the transportation plan includes sections about smart growth, complete streets, TND (traditional neighborhood design), and key City projects, it does not specifically discuss the relationship between the transportation network and affordable, accessible housing.</p> <p>Recommendations should specifically address aligning transportation infrastructure with affordable, accessible housing/neighborhoods and community services for elderly and disabled persons.</p>
13.	2223 (B)(2)	Contains map of recommended transportation improvements	Mandatory	Included Ch. 8 pgs. 189, 191, 222	<p>The Plan contains maps of transportation improvements, including those to bicycle infrastructure.</p> <p>Recommend including an updated map(s) to accompany identified priority transportation projects. Identification of recommended transportation improvements should continue to incorporate recent information from VTrans, the Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP), and other recent local and regional transportation plans and studies.</p>
14.	2223 (B)(2)	Contains VDOT cost estimates for recommended improvements	Mandatory	Partially Included Ch. 8, pgs. 184; 186-188	<p>The Plan identifies a variety of project funding sources, but it does not include cost estimates for recommended improvements, except for the four SYIP projects.</p> <p>Recommend including planning-level cost estimates for any recommended transportation improvements. Cost estimates can be sourced from VTrans, SYIP, VDOT, the West Piedmont Planning District Commission (PDC), and other identified transportation studies, as available.</p>

	VA Code Section 15.2-	Intent	Compliance	Comp. Plan Reference	Consultant Comments/Recommendations
15.	2223 (B)(3)	Consistent with Statewide Transportation Plan, Six-Year Improvement Plan, and location of routes to be followed by roads comprising systems of state highways set by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB)	Mandatory	Partially Included Ch. 8, pgs. 178-184	Chapter 8 identifies Virginia transportation project funding sources and lists the projects funded in the SYIP for Martinsville; however, the SYIP referenced is from FY 2021. The Plan must be updated to ensure consistency per VDOT requirements. This includes incorporating the most recent VTrans recommendations; indicating significant new, expanded, or relocated roadway projects under VDOT control from the SYIP; and showing CTB route locations. Recommend including a section in the Transportation Chapter explaining consistency with statewide plans as required by this Section of the Code of Virginia.
16.	2223(B)	Future Requirements of Territory	(See Line Items 17 – 28)		See recommendations below.
17.	2223(C)	Long-range recommendations for the general development of the locality shown with maps, plats, charts, and descriptions	Mandatory	Included Ch. 9, pgs. 261-275, 263, 280 Ch. 10, Various	The Plan includes a Land Use Plan chapter to guide development, which includes maps, charts, graphics, and descriptions that include long-range recommendations for the general development of Martinsville, including a future land use map (FLUM). The Plan also identifies recommendations for each of the planning elements in Chapter 10. Recommend updating goals, objectives, and strategies, and maps, based on data, public engagement, staff direction, Planning Commission/City Council input, and modern planning best practices.

	VA Code Section 15.2-	Intent	Compliance	Comp. Plan Reference	Consultant Comments/Recommendations
18.	2223(C)(1)	Designation of areas for public and private development and use; residential; housing; business; industrial; agricultural; mineral resources; conservation; recreation; public service; flood plain and drainage; etc.	Optional	Partially Included Ch. 9, pgs. 261-263	<p>The Plan provides a Future Land Use framework and map, designated UDAs, and designates future land use classifications for typical development types and territories on a map; however, the classifications are not specifically described. The chapter provides an analysis of existing land use and zoning analysis, including maps and thorough descriptions of existing zoning and development patterns.</p> <p>Recommend describing future land use categories to clearly provide their intent and focus. The FLUM and UDAs can also be updated as, based on feedback from the community, City staff, and City leadership. Update maps as needed to reflect current and anticipated development patterns. A Zoning Ordinance and map analysis can be undertaken as a separate project, if desired by the City.</p>
19.	2223 (C)(2)	Designation of a system of community service facilities such as parks, sports playing fields, forests, schools, playgrounds, public buildings and institutions, hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, community centers, waterworks, sewage disposal or waste disposal areas.	Optional	Partially Included Ch. 5, pgs. 86-124	<p>Chapter 5, Community Facilities, Services, and Utilities, provides information that sufficiently satisfies the intent of this state code section. However, the information and data is based on existing conditions and projections from 2008.</p> <p>Recommend updating all data and information using latest Census Bureau data and Weldon Cooper Center projections, existing conditions, available studies, and staff- and community-identified needs. Maps, graphics, and tables would be beneficial in identifying both the existing system of community service facilities and potential new facilities.</p>
20.	2223 (C)(3)	The designation of historical areas and areas for urban renewal or other treatment.	Optional	Included Ch. 6, pgs. 125-137	<p>The Cultural/Historic Resources chapter describes three historic districts that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and two additional areas that the City was pursuing historic designations for at the time. This chapter also describes the City's ARB (architectural review board), which had recently been formed at the time of drafting, and design guidelines that were being planned.</p> <p>Recommend including an updated map and inventory of designated historical areas and sites. Other information in this chapter should be reviewed and updated as needed.</p>

	VA Code Section 15.2-	Intent	Compliance	Comp. Plan Reference	Consultant Comments/Recommendations
21.	2223 (C)(4)	Designation of areas for the implementation of reasonable measures to provide for the continued availability, quality, and sustainability of groundwater and surface water	Optional	Partially Included Ch. 3, pgs. 79-81 Ch. 10, pg. 276	The Natural Conditions chapter discusses flooding and floodplains, but does not include protection strategies for groundwater and surface water beyond what is included in the regional hazard mitigation plan. Additionally, the floodplain data used in the Plan is from 1981 and should be updated to provide a more accurate context for recommending strategies. The Plan includes one recommendation to adhere to required erosion and sediment controls. Recommend updating with the most recently available data and including robust strategies and implementation measures to both meet this state code requirement and provide stronger guidance for the protection of the City's groundwater and surface water.
22.	2223 (C)(5)	A capital improvements program, a subdivision ordinance, a zoning ordinance and zoning district maps, mineral resource district maps and agricultural and forestal district maps, where applicable;	Optional	Partially Included Ch. 3, pgs. 71-72 Ch. 9, pgs. 245-260	Chapter 3, Natural Conditions, includes a section on mineral resources and a geology map, and the Land Use Plan in Chapter 9 thoroughly explains zoning, with accompanying maps. The remaining items in this section are not provided. Recommend including new/updated information and maps to provide for this section of state code.
23.	2223 (C)(6)	The location of existing or proposed recycling centers;	Optional	Ch. 4, Pg. 94	The Plan states the availability of recycling services and infrastructure, but does not include information about proposed recycling facilities or other associated improvements. Recommend updating the Plan to include the City's current recycling services and infrastructure, including assessment of future needs, along with identification of existing or proposed recycling centers. A map or table may be a helpful visual aid to support analysis.
24.	2223 (C)(7)	The location of military bases, military installations, and military airports and their adjacent safety areas	N/A	N/A	This section does not apply to Martinsville, as the City does not have military infrastructure.
25.	2223 (C)(8)	The designation of corridors or routes for electric transmission lines of 150 kilovolts or more	Optional	Not Included	The plan does not mention corridors or routes for electric transmission lines.

	VA Code Section 15.2-	Intent	Compliance	Comp. Plan Reference	Consultant Comments/Recommendations
26.	2223 (D)	Current and future considerations for affordable housing - area designation, implementation measures for construction, maintenance, and rehab	Mandatory	Included Ch. 6, pgs. 151-154, 156-164 Ch. 10, pg. 278	Chapter 6, Housing Plan, includes robust data regarding housing, including cost for renting and buying. The chapter includes information on neighborhood rehabilitation projects that were completed and those planned, including affordable housing. A housing affordability analysis includes housing needs and goals. Associated recommendations are included in Chapter 10. Recommend updating existing affordable housing conditions and future considerations based on updated community data, such as population and employment. Recommend including clear strategies for the provision of affordable housing options in Martinsville and including in an implementation plan.
27.	2223 (E)	Consider strategies to provide broadband sufficient to meet the current and future needs of residents and businesses	Mandatory	Partially Included Ch. 2, pg. 38 Ch. 3, pgs. 63-64 Ch. 9, pg. 265	Broadband is addressed for industrial parks, with respect to economy and land use in 2009. The Plan does not include recommendations or strategies to meet the requirements of this section. Recommend updating data to identify existing broadband service areas and future needs/considerations, including those related to equity.
28.	2223 (F)	Consider strategies to address resilience, as defined.	Optional	Not Included	Resilience as defined in this Section of the Code of Virginia is not addressed. Recommend amending the Plan to include discussion and strategies that address resilience, including those of the region's Hazard Mitigation Plan, as defined in this section of the Code of Virginia.
29.	2223.1	Comprehensive Plan to include urban development areas (UDA)	Optional	Included Ch. 8, pg. 168-172 Ch. 9, pgs. 266-272	The Plan designates three specific areas of the City as UDAs and includes maps, descriptions, framework, vision, transportation needs and projects, and development concepts. Recommend evaluating UDA boundaries to ensure they are still appropriate, and whether any other areas of Martinsville meet criteria for UDA designation.
30.	2223.2	Comprehensive Plan to include coastal resource management	N/A		This section does not apply to Martinsville.

	VA Code Section 15.2-	Intent	Compliance	Comp. Plan Reference	Consultant Comments/Recommendations
31.	2223.3	Strategies to combat sea-level rise and recurrent flooding	N/A		This is not applicable, as Martinsville is not located in the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission.
32.	2223.4	Strategies to promote transit-oriented development	N/A		Martinsville's population is under the 20,000 threshold for mandatory TOD provisions.
33.	2223.5	Manufactured housing as a source of affordable housing	Mandatory	Not Included	<p>The Plan does not address manufactured housing and therefore does not meet this requirement.</p> <p>Recommend amending the Plan to include specific strategies and implementation steps to promote manufactured housing as a source of affordable housing.</p>
34.	2224	Surveys and studies shall be made in preparation of Comprehensive Plan on topics such as: land use, agricultural preservation, development trends, historic areas, environmental resources, infrastructure, transportation, affordable housing, etc. (<i>See full list in 15.2-2224</i>)	Mandatory	Chs. 2-9	<p>The plan includes a comprehensive assessment of community conditions. These conditions and measures are explored through the various chapters of the plan.</p> <p>Recommend maintaining and updating existing data and adding new data as appropriate.</p>
35.	2224 (A) (2)	Probable future economic growth	Mandatory	<p>Included</p> <p>Chs. 2,3,9</p>	<p>The local economy and potential economic growth based on existing conditions, historic demographic trends, and population growth scenarios are discussed at length in Chapter 2, Population and Demographics, Chapter 3, Economy, and Chapter 9, Land Use.</p> <p>Recommend updating population and demographics data, and economic growth goals and principles as needed. Add current economic growth trends and projections, as available.</p>

	VA Code Section 15.2-	Intent	Compliance	Comp. Plan Reference	Consultant Comments/Recommendations
36.	2224 (A) (2)	Probable future population growth	Mandatory	Included Ch. 2, pgs. 21-22	The Plan discusses population projections up to 2020. Recommend updating to include the most recent data from the U.S. Census and the most recent population projections from the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service.
37.	2224 (B)	Contains current official map of locality	Mandatory	Partially Included <i>Various</i>	The Comprehensive Plan includes a Census block and tract map, along with many other locality maps, but does not specifically identify one as the official map of the City. Recommend including an official map of the City at the beginning of the Plan to clearly establish planning jurisdiction.
38.	2224 (B)	Contains implementation methods, which may include but need not be limited to official map, CIP, subdivision ordinance, zoning ordinance and zoning map, mineral resource map, recreation and sports resources map, and dam break inundation zones map.	Mandatory	Partially Included Ch. 9	The Plan includes several maps including an Existing Land Use and Future Land Use Map, zoning maps, and identification of UDAs. Maps of natural conditions, facilities, historic resources, and transportation conditions are also provided. The Plan includes recommendations that correspond with planning elements, but does not identify specific implementation methods. Additionally, many of the included recommendations are often not specific enough to provide sufficient direction. Recommend amending the Comp. Plan to include updated maps as recommended in this section of Code of Virginia, using the most recently available data. Recommend developing clear strategies with implementation methods and timeframes.

	VA Code Section 15.2-	Intent	Compliance	Comp. Plan Reference	Consultant Comments/Recommendations
39.	2225	Notice and hearing on plan; recommendation by local planning commission to governing body; posting of plan on website	Optional Process – Information Only	Partially Included	<p>The Plan does not include information about the recommendation process as outlined by this Section of the Code of Virginia.</p> <p>The Plan is posted on the City’s Planning & Development webpage. Additionally, the resolution at the beginning of the Plan notes that both Planning Commission and City Council held public hearings to consider the Plan.</p> <p>Prior to adoption of any amendment(s) to the Comp. Plan, the Plan should follow public notification and hearing procedures outlined in Code of Virginia. Recommend including additional details about the recommendation process in the Plan.</p>
40.	2226	Adoption or disapproval by governing body	Optional Process – Information Only	Included Pgs. 2-8	<p>The Plan meets this section of state code and is posted on the City’s website for public access.</p> <p>Prior to adoption of any amendment(s) to the Comp. Plan, the Plan should follow public notification and hearing procedures outlined in the Code of Virginia. Recommend including information about the adoption process in the Plan.</p>
41.	2227	Return of plan to local planning commission; resubmission	Optional Process – Information Only	Not Included	<p>The Plan does not address this process.</p> <p>Prior to adoption of any amendment(s) to the Comp. Plan, the Plan should follow public notification and hearing procedures outlined in Code of Virginia.</p>
42.	2228	Adoption of parts of plan	Optional Process – Information Only	Not Included	<p>The Plan does not discuss adoption of parts of the plan.</p> <p>Recommend referencing the Code of Virginia section regarding adoption. Sections or Divisions may be adopted as work progresses.</p>
43.	2229	Amendments process	Optional Process – Information Only	Not Included	<p>The Plan does not address this process.</p> <p>Recommend including the amendments process in the Plan. Amendments shall be properly advertised, and recommendation and action shall be subject to the timeframes set in the Code of Virginia.</p>

	VA Code Section 15.2-	Intent	Compliance	Comp. Plan Reference	Consultant Comments/Recommendations
44.	2230	Five-year review	Mandatory	Included Pg. 16	Information regarding the five-year review and the pertinent state code section are included in the Introduction of the Plan. The Plan was last updated in 2021, meaning that the City's upcoming Comprehensive Plan update will serve to meet the five-year review requirement. This diagnostic evaluation will aid in directing both mandatory and optional, desired edits to the Plan as drafting progresses.
45.	2230.1	Optional public facilities study and requirements of study	Optional	Partially Included Ch. 4, pgs. 86-124	Chapter 4, Community Facilities, Services, and Utilities provides a robust summary of existing conditions, but does not include a specific study of public facilities needed for full implementation of the Plan. Pertinent regional studies, such as the Regional Water Supply Plan, are briefly mentioned. Recommend updating this chapter with a study of public facilities which would be needed if the Plan is fully implemented.
46.	2231	Incorporated towns and adjacent unincorporated territory may be included	N/A		Martinsville is a City; therefore, this provision of the Code of Virginia is not applicable.
47.	2232	Legal Status of plan	Mandatory	Included Pg. 16-17	The Plan includes this section of the Code of Virginia.

Additional Comments	Consultant Comments/Recommendations
General clarification and streamlining of plan content	<p>Organization, formatting, readability, and comprehension of the Plan could be improved with a linear structure beginning with identification of key themes and community engagement findings, followed by Plan element chapters that each identify existing conditions, issues and opportunities, goal statements, objectives, and strategies. A thorough implementation plan should be included at the end of the Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing conditions should be updated and restructured for clarity, ease of use, and to reflect current issues and opportunities. Some existing conditions can be detailed in a community profile or appendix; interactive links can also be used to reference pertinent studies without reiterating their content in the Plan.

Additional Comments	Consultant Comments/Recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies should be as clear and directive as possible to provide both direction for the City and transparency for the community. • Including a chapter dedicated to strategies and implementation steps would improve clarity and transparency, ultimately benefiting the City's ability to successfully implement the Plan. • Photos, maps, charts, and graphics should be increased, and lengthy paragraphs of text decreased, to have a more illustrative, engaging, and user-friendly plan. All visual elements should be high-quality and labeled with titles, captions, and sources, as appropriate. • Standardized labeling and mapping elements are encouraged for readability. • Image quality should be clear and all data sources should be cited.
Public Input and Engagement	The Plan does not include a public engagement process. Any Plan updates or amendments should include public engagement methods that strive to achieve robust and diverse participation through innovative methods such as pop-up or weekend events, online and social media outreach, and interactive charettes or workshops. The feedback received during these engagement events should be summarized, either in the Plan or as an appendix, and drawn upon to guide document drafting. Martinsville should continue to engage its community in planning and implementation efforts after amendments to the Plan are adopted.
Policies, Objectives, and Strategies	Recommend a thorough review and update of the goals, policies, and strategies to reflect current conditions and priorities. Strategies should be specific, measurable, and concise to guide Martinsville in successful implementation.
Implementation Plan	All strategies identified in the Plan chapters should be included in an implementation matrix that assigns each strategy and/or recommendation the following: implementation type, responsible party, and time frame for completion (short-, medium-, and long-term implementation). If desired, clear metrics and cost estimates can be included as part of the implementation matrix to help guide decision-making and serve as an additional measure of accountability for the City.
Mapping	Recommend updating maps to reflect the most recently available data and to ensure all relevant Code of Virginia requirements are met. Maps should be consistently formatted, and reference numbers and titles should be included for all maps. All maps should be full-page when possible for legibility. A table of maps/figures should be provided at the beginning of the Plan for ease of use.
Development Concepts & Recommendations	The Future Land Use Map (FLUM) included in the current Plan does not include descriptions of the classifications used on the map. Recommend updating conditions and goals for the FLUM classifications based on updated data, maps, and public engagement findings. Draw on updated local and regional plans and studies as needed and available. FLUM classifications should communicate the City's expectations and priorities for future development as a means of guiding subsequent implementation steps, including zoning text and map amendments and future plans.

Appendix B

Best Practices
Diagnostic Matrix

Principle		Description
1. Livable Built Environment		Ensure that all elements of the built environment, including land use, transportation, housing, energy, and infrastructure, work together to provide sustainable places for living, working, and recreation.
Included	Best Practices	Analysis / Recommendation
Yes	1.1 Plan for multi-modal transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The “Complete Streets & Multimodalism” section of the Transportation Chapter discusses the infrastructure needed for this type of development. Recommend updating existing conditions, identifying current and future needs and strategies, and including specific projects the City will implement to develop complete streets. Page 220-224 covers the West Piedmont Regional Bicycle Plan and Priority and Vision Recommendations for Bicycle Infrastructure. Recommend updating existing conditions, strategies, and projects for bicycle/multi-use infrastructure. The Plan recognizes public transportation as valuable, and the Recommendations Chapter includes transit initiatives; however, no timeframes or implementation steps are included. Recommend updating existing conditions to include paratransit and new strategies and project priorities to support and grow public transportation. The Plan does not address accessibility for the disabled and challenged. Recommend including existing conditions, future needs, and strategies to provide accessible (ADA) public facilities and spaces throughout Martinsville. Recommend also addressing paratransit and additional detail regarding services provided by Piedmont Area Regional Transit (PART). In 2009, many workers were commuting out of the City for employment. Recommend updating data, identifying employment centers, and addressing public transportation to these areas, and other investments to support economic stability. Both the Transportation and Land Use Chapters identify the City’s Urban Development Areas (UDAs), which include traditional neighborhood design (TND), walkability, bike ability, infill development, and mixed-use land patterns. Recommend reviewing the UDA boundaries and adjusting to reflect recent and projected development and population trends; also
No	1.2 Plan for transit-oriented development	
No	1.3 Coordinate regional transportation investments with job clusters	
Yes	1.4 Provide complete streets serving multiple functions	
Yes	1.5 Plan for mixed land-use patterns that are walkable and bikeable	
Yes	1.6 Plan for infill development	
Yes	1.7 Encourage design standards appropriate to the community context	

Principle		Description
1. Livable Built Environment		Ensure that all elements of the built environment, including land use, transportation, housing, energy, and infrastructure, work together to provide sustainable places for living, working, and recreation.
No	1.8 Provide accessible (ADA) public facilities and spaces	<p>address integration of transit-oriented development (TOD) into the UDAs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic resources are covered thoroughly in the Cultural/Historic Resources Chapter, including details regarding multiple initiatives to conserve and reuse historic resources. • Green building, low-impact development, and energy conservation are not addressed in the Plan. Recommend including existing conditions and future needs, goals, and strategies for these and other climate and environmental issues. • The Plan references the West Piedmont Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHP) multiple times, and includes a map and discussion of floodplains, but it does not explicitly discourage development in hazard zones. Recommend discussion of flood hazard zones in relation to land use and development.
Yes	1.9 Conserve and reuse historic resources	
No	1.10 Implement green building design and energy conservation	
No	1.11 Discourage development in hazard zones	

Principle		Description
2. Harmony with Nature		Ensure that the connection between natural resources and human well-being are explicitly recognized and that maintaining the health and viability of natural resources is a primary objective.
Included	Best Practice	Analysis / Recommendation
No	2.1 Restore, connect, and protect natural habitats and sensitive lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Chapter includes a section for parks and recreation, including parks resources. The Natural Conditions Chapter is primarily focused on stating existing conditions. The chapter should be updated with today's existing conditions, environmental regulations, and ways the City can protect, remediate, and preserve its natural resources. The Recommendations Chapter makes seven recommendations for Natural Conditions. Three of these are ways to market the City – two related to environmental conditions and one related to historic attractions. Recommendations should be updated to state actions the City will take to remediate, preserve, and protect its environmental resources. Marketing actions should be grouped with economic recommendations. All policy actions should be clear, concise, and measurable to aid the City in implementation. The Natural Conditions Chapter addresses development with respect to soils, slopes, and floodplains. Air quality, climate change, renewable energy, solid waste, and water conservation are not addressed. The City should address these practices and identify key opportunities for progress. By including data and policy statements for these elements, Martinsville will improve resilience while bolstering the City's image and regional competitiveness.
No	2.2 Plan for the provision and protection of green infrastructure	
Yes	2.3 Encourage development that respects natural topography	
No	2.4 Enact policies to reduce carbon footprints	
Partial	2.5 Comply with state and local air quality standards	
No	2.6 Encourage climate change adaptation	
No	2.7 Provide for renewable energy use	
No	2.8 Provide for solid waste reduction	
No	2.9 Encourage water conservation and plan for a lasting water supply	
Yes	2.10 Protect and manage streams, watersheds, and floodplains	

Principle		Description
3. Resilient Economy		Ensure that the community is prepared to deal with both positive and negative changes in its economic health and to initiate sustainable urban development and redevelopment strategies that foster business growth and build reliance on local assets.
Included	Best Practice	Analysis / Recommendation
Yes	3.1 Provide the physical capacity for economic growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Economy Chapter focuses on existing conditions, jobs, and attracting and sustaining industrial and business growth. The Recommendations Chapter includes initiatives to build the economy. However, the Plan does not address emerging economic factors such as remote work, workforce development, and outdoor tourism. Recommend including the most recent data and discussion of modern economic factors, including updated strategies to support economic growth. The Chapter does not specifically address a balanced land use mix for fiscal sustainability. Recommend making the case for mixed-use development patterns as a strategy for economic vitality. The Transportation Chapter designates UDAs and includes recommendations to enhance mobility for residents to travel for shopping, work, etc. Neither the Transportation nor Recommendations Chapter specifically discuss, or provide strategies for, transportation to employment centers. A clear connection between transportation and job accessibility should be established in the updated Plan. Update the Plan according to emerging federal and state transportation planning practices and projects, especially related to heavy truck traffic and regional mobility. Update recommendations to address unfinished actions from the current Plan, and establish new actions as needed.
No	3.2 Plan for a balanced land-use mix for fiscal sustainability	
Partial	3.3 Plan for transportation access to employment centers	
No	3.4 Promote green businesses and jobs	
Yes	3.5 Encourage community-based economic development and revitalization	
Yes	3.6 Provide and maintain infrastructure capacity in line with growth or decline demands	
No	3.7 Plan for post-disaster economic recovery	

Principle		Description
4. Interwoven Equity		Ensure fairness and equity in providing for the housing, services, health, safety, and livelihood needs of all citizens and groups.
Included	Best Practice	Analysis / Recommendation
Yes	4.1 Provide a range of housing types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan provides extensive data for existing housing conditions in Martinsville, with a detailed discussion of why both new development and revitalization are important. Several strategies address providing a balance of housing options for various ages and lifestyles and creating a blight action plan. This balanced approach should be continued in the upcoming Plan update. The Plan does not specifically plan for a balance of jobs and housing or the health and safety of at-risk populations. Recommend clearly stating the importance of housing as an economic development tool to attract new employers, residents, and businesses. The Plan should acknowledge at-risk, minority, and low-income populations in the City, with strategies to encourage their well-being and quality of life. The Plan does not specifically address environmental justice. Further, there is minimal discussion of preparing for and responding to natural disasters such as hurricanes, storms, flooding, and extreme heat. Recommend acknowledging the increased frequency of these events and providing strategies for mitigating impacts on the community.
No	4.2 Plan for jobs/housing balance	
Yes	4.3 Plan for the physical, environmental, and economic improvement of at-risk, distressed, and disadvantaged neighborhoods	
No	4.4 Plan for improved health and safety for at-risk populations	
Yes	4.5 Provide accessible and quality public services, facilities, and health care to minority and low-income neighborhoods	
Yes	4.6 Upgrade infrastructure and facilities in older and substandard areas	
Yes	4.7 Plan for workforce diversity and development	
Partial	4.8 Protect vulnerable populations from natural hazards	
No	4.9 Promote environmental justice	

Principle		Description
5. Healthy Community		Ensure that public health needs are recognized and addressed through provisions for access to healthy foods, physical activity, recreation, health care, environmental justice, and safe neighborhoods.
Included	Best Practice	Analysis / Recommendation
Yes	5.1 Reduce exposure to toxins and pollutants in the natural and built environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Community Facilities, Services, and Utilities Chapter addresses health and wellness with respect to the Martinsville-Henry County Coalition for Health and Wellness and the Harvest Foundation. Several recommendations address other aspects of community health, including recreation programs, facilities, and walking and biking trails. The Plan includes a recommendation for redevelopment of vacant industrial sites but does not plan for mitigation of brownfields; a Plan update should address mitigation and redevelopment of brownfields and other potentially hazardous sites. Table 10 of the current Comprehensive Plan includes recommendations for alternative mobility in Martinsville, including greenways in the vicinity of new TNDs and trail linkages between parks and neighborhoods. However, the Plan should include clear implementation strategies regarding accessibility to these assets from all neighborhoods. The section “Recent and Planned Transportation and Development Projects” of the Transportation Chapter discusses an area identified as a food desert, but no action to address the need for healthy foods is included. Recommend clearly acknowledging the importance of food security, especially for vulnerable populations such as youth and the elderly. Equitable access to childcare, health care through various providers, and the challenges of accessible parks and recreation facilities are discussed in the Plan, but there are no recommendations to increase accessibility. The Plan should be updated to address universal accessibility as listed in 5.7.
Yes	5.2 Plan for increased public safety through reduction of crime and injuries	
No	5.3 Plan for the mitigation and redevelopment of brownfields for productive uses	
Yes	5.4 Plan for physical activity and healthy lifestyles	
Partial	5.5 Provide accessible parks, recreation facilities, greenways, and open space near all neighborhoods	
No	5.6 Plan for access to healthy, locally grown foods for all neighborhoods	
No	5.7 Plan for equitable access to health care providers, schools, public safety facilities, and arts and cultural facilities	

Principle		Description
6. Responsible Regionalism		Ensure that all local proposals account for, connect with, and support the plans of adjacent jurisdictions and the surrounding region.
Included	Best Practice	Analysis / Recommendation
Yes	6.1 Coordinate local land use plans with regional transportation investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan covers numerous regional documents and plans that the City has approved or adopted, and studies and reports that were used in the development of the Plan. The emphasis on responsible regionalism is one of the current Plan's strengths and should be continued in future updates, and in coordination with Henry County's Comprehensive Plan. The current Comprehensive Plan includes a robust housing plan with data and existing conditions from the early 2000s. The housing plan should be updated with current conditions, data, and projections, including strategies from recent regional housing studies or plans. The Plan should be updated with recent regional initiatives, plans, and strategies, particularly any that are pertinent to transportation, environmental protection, or economic development. Recommend coordinating parks and recreation planning with any regional directives for green infrastructure and environmental preservation.
Yes	6.2 Coordinate local and regional housing plan goals	
No	6.3 Coordinate local open space plans with regional green infrastructure plans	
Yes	6.4 Delineate designated growth areas that are served by transit	
Yes	6.5 Promote regional cooperation and sharing of resources	
Yes	6.6 Enhance connections between local activity centers and regional destinations	
Yes	6.7 Coordinate local and regional population and economic projections	
Yes	6.8 Include regional development visions and plans in local planning scenarios	
Yes	6.9 Encourage consistency between local capital improvement programs and regional infrastructure priorities	

Principle		Description
7. Authentic Participation		Ensure that the planning process actively involves all segments of the community in analyzing issues, generating visions, developing plans, and monitoring outcomes.
Included	Best Practice	Analysis / Recommendation
No	7.1 Engage stakeholders at all stages of the planning process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic assumptions about Martinsville’s future, and robust analyses of existing conditions, are included throughout the Plan. These assumptions and analyses should be updated to be based on both the most recent data and community input to provide accurate alternatives for growth and investment in the City. The current Comprehensive Plan does not include any indication that community engagement was used to draft the Plan. When updating the Plan, a robust public engagement strategy should be followed to collect ample public input. The input should be well documented and summarized in the updated Plan, including ways that the input informs the goals and vision for the City’s future. The Plan should be evaluated for comprehensibility for the average reader. This may include, but not be limited to, a glossary with key terms and definitions; the use of infographics to communicate complex data; clear visuals with captions; graphics to encourage readers to explore additional resources; and condensing the most important elements into an executive summary. Where possible, the Plan should use common lay vocabulary.
No	7.2 Seek diverse participation in the plan development process	
No	7.3 Promote leadership development in disadvantaged communities during the planning process	
No	7.4 Develop alternative scenarios of the future	
No	7.5 Provide ongoing and understandable information for all participants	
No	7.6 Use a variety of communications channels to inform and involve the community	
No	7.7 Continue to engage the public after the comprehensive plan is adopted	

Principle		Description
8. Accountable Implementation		Ensure that responsibilities for carrying out the plan are clearly stated, along with metrics for evaluating progress in achieving desired outcomes.
Included	Best Practice	Analysis / Recommendation
Partial	8.1 Indicate specific actions for implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Recommendations Chapter categorizes specific recommendations but does not include funding sources (except for transportation projects), responsible parties for each action, or other information to guide successful implementation. The Plan should include a thorough implementation plan that clearly states actions, responsible parties, funding sources, timeframes, and metrics to evaluate progress on each strategy. Goals, objectives, and strategies should reflect current priorities and be clear, concise, and measurable. As a best practice, all policy items should be included both in the implementation chapter and in the individual element chapters to provide a clear connection between existing conditions and forward progress. Annual status updates on Plan implementation should be provided to the Planning Commission and City Council. The Plan should include a strategy directing the development of a standardized process that regularly informs the public about implementation progress.
No	8.2 Connect plan implementation to the capital planning process	
No	8.3 Connect plan implementation to the annual budgeting process	
Yes	8.4 Establish interagency and organizational cooperation	
Partial	8.5 Identify funding sources for plan implementation	
No	8.6 Establish indicators, benchmarks, and targets	
No	8.7 Regularly evaluate and report on implementation progress	
No	8.8 Adjust the plan as necessary based on evaluation	

Principle		Description
9. Consistent Content		Ensure that the plan contains a consistent set of visions, goals, policies, objectives, and actions that are based on evidence about community conditions, major issues, and impacts.
Included	Best Practice	Analysis / Recommendation
Yes	9.1 Assess strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan lacks public engagement, a community vision of the future, goals, and strategies. Therefore, recommendations are based on existing conditions and data but are not guided by a vision and goals for the community. Community engagement is the backbone of a successful Comprehensive Plan; see 7, Authentic Participation for associated recommendations. The current Plan reads as an extensive community profile rather than a guiding, fully implementable policy document. The Plan should be formatted to include a community vision, goals, strategies, and implementation actions based on public engagement, existing conditions, and data, and communicated with compelling visuals. Data can be condensed to avoid redundancy and only include the most pertinent information; this can also be done through the inclusion of a community profile as an appendix.
Yes	9.2 Establish a fact base	
No	9.3 Develop a vision of the future	
No	9.4 Set goals in support of the vision	
No	9.5 Set objectives in support of the goals	
No	9.6 Set policies to guide decision making	
No	9.7 Define actions to carry out the plan	
No	9.8 Use clear and compelling features to present the plan	

Principle		Description
10. Coordinated Characteristics		Ensure that the plan includes creative and innovative strategies and recommendations and coordinates them internally with each other, vertically with federal and state requirements, and horizontally with plans of adjacent jurisdictions.
Included	Best Practice	Analysis / Recommendation
Yes	10.1 Be comprehensive in the plan's coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan addresses a wide range of relevant planning topics including natural conditions; community facilities, services, and utilities; cultural and historic resources; housing; transportation; and land use. Many mandatory elements from the Code of Virginia have been included; see Appendix A for additional information on achieving full compliance with state regulations. Plan updates should look for opportunities to be innovative, creative, and incorporate modern planning best practices. Much of this should be informed by community engagement and feedback. Upon completion, the Plan should be available online and the future land use map provided in an interactive mapping software for public use. Consider creative use of other platforms, including but not limited to the City's website and social media pages, to inform the community routinely and effectively of implementation progress.
Yes	10.2 Integrate the plan with other local plans and programs	
No	10.3 Be innovative in the plan's approach	
No	10.4 Be persuasive in communicating the plan	
Yes	10.5 Be consistent across plan components	
No	10.6 Coordinate with the plans of other jurisdictions and levels of government	
Yes	10.7 Comply with applicable laws and mandates	
Yes	10.8 Be transparent in the plan's substance	
No	10.9 Use formats that go beyond paper	

Code of Virginia Section	Type of Content	Status	Map Currently Included in Comprehensive Plan:	Data Source*
§ 15.2-	Overall Requirements			
2223 (B) (1)	Roads	Optional	Chapter 8	Local, VDOT
	Bicycle accommodations (<i>proposed improvements only</i>)	Optional	Chapter 8	Local, WPPDC
	Pedestrian accommodations	Optional	No	Local, WPPDC , VDOT
	Railways	Optional	No	Local, VGIN
	Bridges and Culverts	Optional	Chapter 8	VDOT
	Waterways	Optional	No	Local, VGIN, DEQ
	Airports	Optional	N/A	N/A
	Ports	Optional	N/A	N/A
	Public transportation facilities	Optional	Chapter 8	Local, WPPDC , PART
	Functional classes	Optional	Chapter 8	VDOT
	Crash data	Optional	Chapter 8	VDOT
	Annual average daily traffic (AADT)	Optional	Chapter 8	VDOT
	Level of Service (LOS)	Optional	Chapter 8	VDOT
	Road and transportation improvements/projects	Mandatory	Chapter 8 3 maps	Local, WPPDC, VDOT, to be created
2223 (C)*	Future Land Use	Mandatory	Chapter 9	Local & to be created
	Community facilities – services, utilities, public buildings, recycling centers, electric transmission corridors	Optional	No	Local
	Community facilities – recreation (<i>parks only</i>)	Optional	Chapter 4	Local & DCR
	Wetlands / Watersheds	Optional	No	Local, DCR, DEQ
	Flood plain and drainage (<i>Flood Hazard Zones</i>)	Optional	No	Local & FEMA
	Conservation areas	Optional	No	DCR & Local
	Mineral resources	Optional	No	Virginia Energy
	Historic Resources / Areas	Optional	Chapter 5 Chapter 9	Local & DHR
	Military designated areas	Optional	N/A	N/A
	Agricultural and Forestal Areas	Optional	N/A	N/A
	Economic incentives (tourism zones, enterprise zones, etc.)	Optional	No	Local, VEDP

Code of Virginia Section	Type of Content	Status	Map Currently Included in Comprehensive Plan:	Data Source*
§ 15.2-	Overall Requirements			
	Housing	Optional	No	Local, To Be Created
	Communications facilities	Optional	No	Local
	Groundwater & surface water protection	Optional	No	Local
2223.1 (B) (4)	Urban Development Areas (UDA)	Optional	Chapter 8, 9	VDOT & Local
2224 (B)*	Area covered by plan	Mandatory	No	Local
	Dam break inundation zones	Optional	No	Local
N/A	Other Maps Included in the Existing Plan			
	Census Tracts and Block Groups Maps (2)		Chapter 1	U.S. Census Bureau
	Martinsville City Geology Map		Chapter 3	VGIN
	Martinsville City Slope Map		Chapter 3	VGIN
	Martinsville General Soil Map		Chapter 3	VGIN
	Martinsville City Public Schools		Chapter 4	Local
	Martinsville City Traffic Volumes		Chapter 8	Local, VDOT
	Martinsville City Parks and Trails Inventory		Chapter 8	Local
	Henry County VTRANS 2045 IEDAs		Chapter 8	VDOT
	City of Martinsville Walkability Assessments		Chapter 8	Local
	City of Martinsville Volume to Capacity Ratio 2017		Chapter 8	Local, VDOT
	Martinsville City Freight Generators (July 2007)		Chapter 8	Local
	City of Martinsville Fayette Street Project Area		Chapter 8	Local
	Martinsville Land Use Map (existing)		Chapter 9	Local
	Martinsville Zoning Maps (4)		Chapter 9	Local

*Code of Virginia requires items in this section to be included in the plan through maps, plats, charts, and/or descriptive matter. Maps are an optional feature.

*A list of acronyms can be found on the following page.

ACRONYMS			
WPPDC	West Piedmont Planning District Commission	PART	Piedmont Area Regional Transit
DCR	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation	USGS	United States Geological Survey
DEQ	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality	VDOT	Virginia Department of Transportation
DHR	Virginia Department of Historic Resources	VEDP	Virginia Economic Development Partnership
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration	VGIN	Virginia Geographic Information Network
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency	VIMS	Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Appendix C

Map Elements

Diagnostic Matrix