Draft FY 2017-2022 Strategic Plan

Provide your feedback on the City’s Draft FY 2017-2022 Strategic Plan

All Registered Responses sorted chronologically

As of December 9, 2016, 9:01 AM
Draft FY 2017-2022 Strategic Plan

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As of December 9, 2016, 9:01 AM, this forum had:

Attendees: 256
Registered Responses: 45
All Responses: 64
Hours of Public Comment: 3.2

This topic started on November 15, 2016, 9:56 AM.
Responses

1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?

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Other thoughts?

Answered 38
Skipped 7

- 1 2016 2022 aging alexandria all also community crashes from goal goals health include increase indicators injuries its just key like more number people percentage plan reduce residents S safe safety section services strategic traffic transportation under vision who

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.

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3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.

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Alexandria’s Draft Vision for 2022

In 2022, Alexandria is a historic, inclusive city with distinct, vibrant neighborhoods, a well-managed government, a safe community, flourishing arts, culture, and recreation, a strong economy, thriving children and youth, environmental sustainability, healthy residents, and multimodal transportation.

Making the Vision a Reality

Our City’s draft vision contains ten thematic areas that the City is focused on achieving by 2022. In order to further understand and achieve our vision, each of these ten themes are explained below. Although these themes are described separately, they are intertwined and impact one another.

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Individual thematic areas

Distinctive and Vibrant Neighborhoods
Inclusive City
Well-Managed Government
Safe and Resilient Community
Flourishing Arts, Culture and Recreation
Strong Economy
Thriving Children and Youth
Environmental Sustainability
Healthy Residents
Multimodal Transportation

1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?
Somewhat agree

Other thoughts?
In the Multimodal Transportation Section, I suggest these changes/comments:

Key Indicators to Achieve by 2022:
- Increase the percentage of commuters using alternative transportation options from 37% in 2013 to 40%.??
- Not sure what alternative transportation but this metric is lumping several different modes into one bucket so the math is impossible as each mode has its own baseline. So, break this out in each mode and set a quantifiable for each:
  - Metro Ridership: increase metro use by city residents from X to Y %
  - DASH Ridership: increase Dash ridership by city residents from X to Y %
  - Bicycle Ridership: increase Bicycle commute Ridership from X to Y %

Alternatively or in addition use the metric that tracks the number of privately owned cars per household. I
believe you are already tracking this statistic so should be easy to follow & measure:
- Reduce the number of cars per household by X%. From X in 2015 to Y in 2022

If the city staff is serious about achieving Vision Zero goals then all the crash statistics need to be reduced in line with the Vision Zero goal (I believe it’s Zero by 2028)

- Reduce the number of traffic crashes from 1,440 crashes in 2015 to 700 crashes by 2022.
- Reduce the number of traffic crashes that result in fatalities and severe injuries by 50% by 2022.
- Reduce the number of pedestrians and bicycles struck by vehicles by 50% by 2020.
- Increase Alexandria’s Pavement Condition Index rating from 58 out of 100 (fair) in 2016 to 71 out of 100 (satisfactory).
- Maintain the percentage of residents with a positive view of the overall ease of getting to places they usually visit at or above 2016’s 73%.

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
   Participated in one or more of the online engagement opportunities

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.
   Neighbor
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1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?
   Somewhat disagree

Other thoughts?
While I am happy to see attention paid to reducing traffic collisions and injuries related to traffic collisions, I think it is wrong for all the traffic safety metrics to be stashed in the Multimodal Transportation section. Let's face it, the plan is organized around the same general Focus Area Teams as the City budget, and tucks traffic safety away as something for the department of Transportation & Environmental Services to deal with, presumably through capital budget construction projects. The reality is that traffic safety also needs the support of public safety, particularly the Police department. While poor right of way engineering is widely accepted as a contributing factor to many traffic collisions, so are distracted driving and speeding (which, among other things, reduces drivers' effective field of vision and reaction distances).

As a concrete suggestion, I propose
1) moving all the traffic safety measures to the Safe and Resilient Community section
2) adding a measure to Multimodal Transportation about resident perception of safety moving around the city on foot or bicycle
3) making the targets more aggressive. Why do we seek to increase the use of alternative transportation by 8% but only seek to reduce traffic collisions by less than 3%? Seek to reduce traffic collisions by 50%.

Under Distinctive and Vibrant Neighborhoods, the second indicator is not useful. Distinctiveness and vibrancy are not about (new) development, they're about what exists, both old and new, and both residential and commercial. Survey residents on whether they feel their neighborhoods are distinctive and vibrant.

Also: I agree with everything Zack DesJardins wrote, and Randy Cole's note about seeking to reduce the cars per household ratio. The City should focus on people and living, not motor vehicles and driving.

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.

No response

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.
Social media
Other - City website
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1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?
   Somewhat agree

Other thoughts?
1. I am concerned that the goal to "Maintain the percentage of residents with a positive view of the overall ease of getting to places they usually visit at or above 2016's 73%" could conflict with steps to make our streets safe. Please add the phrase "to the maximum extent possible while ensuring safety first" to this goal.

2. The City Council will consider a proclamation in January 2017 to achieve zero fatalities and serious injuries from traffic crashes by 2028. The associated Strategic Plan goal should be reworded to focus on fatalities and injuries, and, include a quantifiable level to be achieved by 2022. Focusing on reducing fatalities and injuries is a broader and more important measure that includes taking steps to reduce the degree of injury if a crash occurs, such as lower vehicle speeds. Suggested Goal: Reduce the number of fatalities and severe injuries from traffic crashes by at least 50% from the 2008-2015 averages of xx fatalities per year and yy injuries per year for the period 2010-2015. This goal should be repeated in the "Safe and Secure" section, not just the "Multi-modal Transportation Section" since the goal is share across these areas.

Thanks.
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Participated in one or more of the online engagement opportunities

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eNews
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   Somewhat agree

Other thoughts?
In light of the number of deaths and injuries in Alexandria due to motorists striking pedestrians, under the Safe & Secure section the city should also seek to reduce or eliminate pedestrian deaths and injuries due to motor vehicle collisions.

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3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.
   Other - civic organization
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Somewhat agree

Other thoughts?

Multimodal Transportation
Our parking policy is a relic of the 50’s and only serves to create more expensive housing filled with parking spaces no one wants to pay for. In North Old Town, this policy created eight largely empty parking garages on land which could be tax-revenue producing homes and businesses. While Alexandria’s parking policy was slightly updated in 2015, that update left in place the old policy in land covered by small area plans which cover the most attractive development sites. This policy led directly to the cancellation of Mt Vernon Village because developers could not attract banks to finance some 900 expensive parking spaces for just 300 apartments and some retail. When a developer proposed 270 parking spaces for 361 apartments in the Carlyle neighborhood, citing their backwards area plan city staff required the developer to add 98 parking spaces in an ugly surface lot for a total of 358 parking spaces for 361 apartments, a ridiculous outcome in a neighborhood which has the highest walking and transit commuter rates in the city and the lowest number of car commuters. Replace ALL existing parking policies with Transportation Demand Management (TDM) which both Arlington and DC use.
Unlike our bad broad strokes policy, TDM acknowledges that every development is different and aims to reduce the number of parking spaces by encouraging the developer to offer alternatives such as free transit passes, indoor bike storage, and free Capital Bikeshare membership. Since there are fewer parking spaces that the developer has to finance, they can charge less for each space which reduces demand for our nearly free on-street parking spaces.

Under the alternative transportation options from 37% 40% is a head scratching goal because just 55% of Alexandrians drive alone to work, a number has continued to decline. Instead, aim to add thousands of jobs and new residents without adding traffic just like the city has done in Carlyle neighborhood. Aim for 67% of Alexandrians using alternative transportation options.

Reduce the number of traffic crashes from 1,440 crashes in 2015 to 1,400 crashes. Is this a typo? What methodology or evidence generated 1,400? It seems made up because I thought we were aiming for zero by 2028 so with 2022 halfway there, how about a 50% reduction? Most other cities have chosen this kind of interim goal for their Vision Zero plans.

Reduce the number of traffic crashes that result in fatalities and severe injuries. Another typo, the ultimate 2028 goal is to ELIMINATE traffic fatalities and serious injuries. Again, aim for a 50% reduction in line with Vision Zero by 2028.

Reduce the number of pedestrians and bicycles struck by vehicles. Why set such an ambiguous goal? From what to what? Count how many people were struck by vehicles and aim for a 50% reduction in line with Vision Zero.

Increase Alexandria’s Pavement Condition Index rating from 58 out of 100 (fair) in 2016 to 71 out of 100 (satisfactory). This goal is another relic from the 20th century. Replace this goal entirely with a requirement that all streets meet Complete Streets standards and combine it with a goal of repaving 25% of our lane miles by 2022. Road dieting 40+ miles of unneeded traffic lanes, 8-9% of the total will help achieve this goal.

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Other - email

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.
Neighbor
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Somewhat agree

Other thoughts?
The draft content is missing a few very important concepts and principles. For example, there is nothing in the draft plan that discusses, mentions or even hints at the value of volunteerism and its positive impacts related to several themes and issues: vibrant neighborhoods, Alexandria as an inclusive City, being a resilient community especially in preparation for and response to emergencies, social connections and individuals' health. Also, the Well-Managed Government theme says, "Major policy decisions...and are reflective of community engagement." But, there is no reference under supporting plans, documents and policies to Alexandria's Civic Engagement Principles and Framework or the City Council resolution. It would also be more useful if there was a key indicator on community engagement to assess how well we are doing. Under the Inclusive City theme, the reduction of homeless indicator should be a greater goal/target that just reducing the number of people who are homeless by 16 people over 5 years. Under the Safe and Resilient Community theme, are the response times reversed or is it just the way I am reading them. It looks like we want to increase the response times (e.g., from 6:52 to 6:30; from 5:67 to 6:30)? The Strong Economy theme is missing one of the key budget drivers: increasing the commercial tax base to increase revenues and reduce residential taxes. The Thriving Children
and Youth theme is missing discussion on, and an indicator of, children and youth mental health. Alexandria data shows this is an area where we all need to place greater focus and attention. The Healthy Residents theme discussion does not include anything about the relationships of parks, open space, employment, housing, education, etc to the health and wellbeing of people. Also, there is nothing under this theme about mental health and wellness. Additionally, the supporting plans, documents and policies do not include the Alexandria Community Health Improvement Plan. While not a City Council approved plan, it is an important plan for improving the health and wellbeing of everyone in Alexandria. It is guiding a lot of strategies, programs and collaborations for improving the health and wellbeing of Alexandrians.

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
   Attended one or more meetings or open houses
   Participated in one or more of the online engagement opportunities
   Contacted City staff directly

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.
   eNews
   Social media
   Other - City Council meetings.
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Somewhat agree

Other thoughts?
1. Agree with most sections. Great transportation commuting goals. Truly believe the goals for environmental sustainability could be a little higher and include more elements.

2. Alexandria could strongly benefit with efforts to REDUCE the amount of waste, not only divert it. Increasing reusing opportunities, strengthening the composting program to most residents and also commercial vendors. On the same note, improving the handling of other materials that have higher and better potential uses like all the hair from salons in Old Town or all the food that is currently being thrown away to dumpsters. Making Old Town “Zero Waste” could reduce expenses, maximize profit for businesses there and attract more conferences and costumers. Other efforts and better promotion of services for residents is needed, for example to properly divert hazardous material such as batteries, chemicals, medicine, led broken bulbs, etc.

3. Finally, I want to mention I felt some tensions around the Farmer's Market prior to election week. Inclusion and understanding, ecumenical or similar efforts for peace and respect for the multicultural population of
Alexandria would be helpful to long-term peace too.

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Social media
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   Somewhat agree

Other thoughts?
After reading through the documents above, I find most of the material agreeable however in the Safe and Resilient Community section, there is one element missing with respect to safety. I feel that the city ought to include a goal to reduce or eliminate traffic injuries in our city. People walking, cycling, driving, or taking transit ought to feel safe when travelling through Alexandria. Adding this to our strategic plan gives our city officials the precedent and guidance to enact policy in pursuit of this specific goal.

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   Attended one or more meetings or open houses

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   Somewhat disagree

Other thoughts?
As the chair, strategic planning, I am submitting this on behalf of the Alexandria Commission on Aging, which approved unanimously at its December 8, 2016 meeting the comments that I am including here.

Commission on Aging Response to the Draft Vision for Community Input for the City’s Strategic Plan

The Commission on Aging has reviewed the Draft Vision available on the Engage Alexandria website, and approved the recommendations cited below (and in accordance with the categories specified in the Vision) at its meeting on December 8, 2016.

While the draft Vision has some excellent proposals, more specific recommendations regarding the needs of older residents are essential. While “The Alexandria of Our Future, A Livable Community for All Ages: Strategic Plan on Aging, 2013 – 2017” successfully focused the city on the steps it should take to make Alexandria a more livable community for all ages, serious gaps still exist. A further complication of the Vision for 2022 in
referencing the current Aging Plan is its five-year span, which ends in 2017.

In late spring of this year, the Mayor and City Council authorized the City, at the request of the Commission on Aging, to join the AARP/WHO Age-Friendly Community Network (AFCN). A condition of membership is submission of a plan for enhancing Alexandria’s age friendliness for consideration by AARP/WHO by early 2018. (The City has complete flexibility in determining its priorities, but AARP/WHO will review the involvement of older adults in developing the plan and the establishment of appropriate indicators for assessing progress.)

Its membership in the AFCN gives the city a great opportunity to develop a plan that would encompass the years 2018 to 2020. Membership in the Network affords the city the abundant planning resources and innovative ideas available through AARP/WHO.

The Commission on Aging is responsible for developing the plan, in consultation with older residents, the Division of Aging and Adult Services, City agencies, organizations that serve seniors, the faith community, non-profit organizations, businesses and others. The City Council will review the plan and determine its readiness for submission to AARP/WHO.

Given the absence of an aging plan that conforms with the timeframe of the City’s Strategic Plan, the Commission recommends that the City’s plan include an eleventh theme that could be called “active and secure aging”. The benefit for the City’s strategic planning would be its attention to the livability requirements of older adults and adult residents with disabilities. Though their needs often are similar to those of younger residents, it is very important that the consequences of aging and adult disability are taken into account as communities engage in planning for all of their residents. Increased longevity is a boon, but protecting its benefits requires communities to offer appropriate affordable, accessible and rent-supported housing; varied transportation options; community-based services; robust communications about available services and programs; continued involvement by residents in social and civic life; excellent health care, including preventive services and attention to chronic conditions; opportunities for wellness; and safety.

The following are our recommended additions (preceded by boxes following the City’s indicators) to the Draft City Strategic Plan:

Inclusive City (Aging Plan referenced)

In 2022, Alexandria is a caring, compassionate, fair, just and equitable city that supports an affordable and livable community for all. Alexandria provides high-quality social services to eligible residents to reduce poverty and increase self-sufficiency. The City is welcoming to people in all stages of life and is known as an age-friendly community. The City has closed the broadband gap by ensuring quality access.

Key Indicators to Achieve by 2022:

• Reduce the percentage of low- and moderate-income households considered to be housing cost burdened from 2015’s 67%.
• Increase the percentage of residents who do not perceive barriers to living in Alexandria based on age, gender, race, national origin, religion, disability, or sexual orientation from 2016’s 80%.
• Reduce the percentage of residents living in poverty from 2014’s 9.6%.
• Maintain the unemployment rate below the regional, state and federal unemployment rate.
• Reduce homelessness from 224 persons in 2016 to 208.

  Increase Alexandria’s net stock of affordable and accessible housing and assisted living units;
  Educate residents and managers of Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities about public and private supportive services that can be accessed locally and provided onsite;
  Support through the development process “housing for a lifetime” features in both new housing and redevelopment of existing housing;
  Assess and increase if necessary the City Tax and Rent Relief Programs for the Elderly and Disabled.

Safe and Resilient Community (Aging Plan referenced)

In 2022, Alexandria residents and visitors feel safe at all hours. If they require help, the response from well-trained staff is timely, courteous and professional. Preventable problems are avoided and the City takes a regional view of planning for safety and emergency response and recovery. The community is resilient and prepared to handle emergencies and emerging risks. Buildings in Alexandria are up to code to ensure they are structurally sound and safe.

Key Indicators to Achieve by 2022:

• Reduce the number of violent crimes from the 2015 rate of 209 incidents per 100,000.
• Reduce the response time for 90% of medical incidents from 6:52 (six minutes and fifty-two seconds) in 2016 to 6:30 (six minutes and thirty seconds).
• Reduce the response time for 90% of fire incidents from 6:57 (six minutes and fifty-seven seconds) in 2016 to 6:30 (six minutes and thirty seconds).
• Increase the percentage of residents who have a positive overall feeling of safety in Alexandria from 2016’s 80%.
• Increase the City’s Building Insurance Services Office rating from 82 out of 100 in 2016 to 85 out of 100.

  Special needs populations within the city of Alexandria are defined and identified so that appropriate support is available to them in the event of an emergency.
  Provision of appropriate education of and services for special needs populations support them in time of emergency;
  The Office of Emergency Management assures the safety of special needs populations in cases of emergency.

Flourishing Arts, Culture and Recreation

The City has a network of accessible parks and public open spaces that define neighborhoods and provide connections to local and regional open space systems and trails. Alexandria’s parks will be a combination of active and passive open spaces and are intended to integrate historical interpretive elements and public art. The design of these spaces will create and enhance active public gathering places for neighborhood performances, concerts, and cultural activities.

Key Indicators to Achieve by 2022:

• Maintain the percentage of residents satisfied with opportunities to attend arts, culture, and music activities at or above 2016’s 74%.
• Maintain the 2015 rate of 7.3 acres of open space per 1,000 residents.
• Increase the percentage of Alexandria households participating in recreation programs from 2016’s 52%.
Provide additional recreation opportunities for older residents. Provide accessible community spaces where older adults, those with disabilities and others can safely convene/drop-in to meet others, not just for recreational or organized programs.

Strong Economy
In 2022, Alexandria is a business destination and center of innovation. Mixed-use development is oriented around transit hubs and activity centers. Alexandria’s business community is diverse and robust, and the historic district attracts visitors that contribute to the tax base.

Key Indicators to Achieve by 2022:

• Increase the local gross domestic product from $11.1 billion in 2015 to $12.3 billion.
• Reduce the office vacancy rate from 15.6% in 2015 to 12.4%.
• Increase the number of jobs in Alexandria from 106,238 in 2015 to 113,850.

Support increased availability of help for older and disabled residents seeking part- or full-time work (particularly important, given fixed incomes and rising living costs);

Healthy Residents (Aging Plan referenced)
In 2022, Alexandria ensures equal and ready access to opportunities that promote mental and physical well-being, and a happy, active lifestyle. Alexandria will work to reduce inequities in the health system, increase access to care for all residents and provide a system of support for residents with behavioral health needs.

Key Indicators to Achieve by 2022:

• Increase the percentage of residents who feel they are in very good or excellent health from 2016’s 73%.
• Increase the percentage of clients who improve functioning after receiving emergency services from 2016’s 90%.
• Reduce obesity among city residents from 16% in 2013-2014 to 13%.

Include provision for a locally funded nursing case management program for older City residents, including residents in subsidized housing;
Work with the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria to identify additional methods for reaching older adults who may be eligible for additional health interventions;
Develop intergenerational events or programs to provide this important information to older adults, residents with disabilities and all family members;
Provide intergenerational service locations and programs that bring together people of various ages and abilities;
Enhance education, services, and respite care for family members providing care for children, adults, and parents with health and/or mental health problems;
Include needs of those with disabilities;
Plan for accommodating needs of those with dementia;
Inform and support caregivers, to include those in minority communities who may need assistance in understanding what is available to older family members.

Multimodal Transportation (Aging Plan referenced)
In 2022, Alexandria is regionally linked and easy to navigate regardless of resources or ability. The City supports a wide variety of connected transportation options that enable access to daily activities. Public transportation has reliable and frequent service that is clearly communicated and understood.

- Increase the percentage of commuters using alternative transportation options from 37% in 2013 to 40%.
- Reduce the number of traffic crashes from 1,440 crashes in 2015 to 1,400 crashes.
- Reduce the number of traffic crashes that result in fatalities and severe injuries.
- Maintain the percentage of residents with a positive view of the overall ease of getting to places they usually visit at or above 2016’s 73%.
- Increase Alexandria’s Pavement Condition Index rating from 58 out of 100 (fair) in 2016 to 71 out of 100 (satisfactory).
- Reduce the number of pedestrians and bicycles struck by vehicles.

- Implement Complete Streets design standards that provide safe and accessible streets for all users and prioritize pedestrians. This strategy should include the elimination of brick or paver sidewalk surfaces in areas of new development or redevelopment (with the exception of the historic district, Old Town).
- Provide a metric to use as a baseline (i.e., actual crashes in 2015 or 2016) and ask that there be a specific reduction in crashes from that baseline. We will be halfway through a Vision Zero implementation program at the end of the Strategic Plan. We should try to reduce the number of traffic crashes that result in fatalities and severe injuries and the number of pedestrians and bicycles struck by vehicles by 50%.
- Approve Vision Zero as a means of achieving the goals of a multi-modal transportation system.
- Improve the total fixed route transit system to include the waiting area, customer service provided by operators, enforcement of priority seating, security and accessibility, and accessibility of paths of travel to and from transit stops.
- Provide public information on transit safety and security as a means of assuring real and perceived safety concerns are addressed at passenger waiting areas and on board transit vehicles.
- In order to insure accessibility of multi-modal transportation, a centralized information system should be developed that can be accessed by people needing information on applicable mobility resources for them. The Commission on Aging is also very concerned about the need for more attention to racial and ethnic minority and LGBT communities to inform them about the health and community-based services available in the City. Too frequently these communities experience disparities in health that should be addressed. The Commission, with the support of AARP, expects to hold listening sessions in these communities.

In summary, the Commission on Aging urges the City Council to specifically include “active and secure aging” as an eleventh theme in the City’s Strategic Plan. Should it be preferable, because the Council will review and approve the Age-Friendly Community Plan prior to its submission to AARP/WHO, the City’s Strategic Plan could simply reference it for incorporation when the AFCN Plan is approved.

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
   - Attended one or more meetings or open houses
   - Participated in one or more of the online engagement opportunities

All Registered Responses sorted chronologically
As of December 9, 2016, 9:01 AM  http://www.peakdemocracy.com/4147  Page 33 of 123
3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.
eNews
Neighbor
Alexandria’s Draft Vision for 2022

In 2022, Alexandria is a historic, inclusive city with distinct, vibrant neighborhoods, a well-managed government, a safe community, flourishing arts, culture, and recreation, a strong economy, thriving children and youth, environmental sustainability, healthy residents, and multimodal transportation.

Making the Vision a Reality

Our City’s draft vision contains ten thematic areas that the City is focused on achieving by 2022. In order to further understand and achieve our vision, each of these ten themes are explained below. Although these themes are described separately, they are intertwined and impact one another.

Accompanying each theme are three sections:

The first section contains a paragraph that describes what the theme specifically means to the community. The second section is a set of indicators with targets that provide actionable goals. These indicators and targets help us track our progress, successes, and challenges. Although Alexandria’s government does not control these indicators, we are working to influence them. By making the indicators a primary part of the plan, the City is committing to tracking and reporting on the progress of the plan to the community throughout the life of the document. The third section includes the City’s plans, documents, and policies that support achieving each theme and related indicators.
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Multimodal Transportation

1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?
Agree

Other thoughts?
The Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness would like to offer our comments on the Alexandria Draft FY2017-2022 Strategic Plan. We are pleased to see that there are a number of specific goals related to issues affecting the housing stability of lower-income households in Alexandria, including decreasing homelessness, decreasing the percentage of low-income families that are cost burdened, and decreasing the poverty rate. As the consortium of private groups working on preventing and ending homelessness in the City, we would like to suggest the following modifications to the plan:

1. The goal to reduce homelessness from 224 to 208 individuals over 5 years is too modest, as this represents less than a 10% decrease over 5 years. We suggest that the City adopt as a goal a 5% per year decrease in homelessness which would bring the number of individuals who are homeless down from 224 to 173 by 2022. While we realize that as we reduce homelessness it is necessary that we focus our efforts on the hardest to serve, we think a 5% per year reduction should be achievable over the next 5 years.

2. There should be a numeric goal for reducing poverty and reducing the percentage of cost-burdened
households. While the plan states a poverty rate of 9.6% and a cost-burdened percentage of 67%, there is no goal for the reduction to be realized in these rates. There should be a specific goal detailed in the plan for these measures as there are numeric goals for most of the other areas of focus.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments.

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.

   Contacted City staff directly

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.

   eNews
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   Somewhat agree

Other thoughts?
   The theme areas hit the right marks. I'm concerned that some of the key indicators in the multimodal transportation area are nonspecific. (i.e. reduce number of pedestrians and bicylists hit by vehicles and number of crashes that result in fatalities and specific injuries). Why not by a specific percentage? We'll be at the halfway point of our vision zero implementation strategy in 2022 so I suggest using 2016 as a baseline and seeking to reduce by 50% the number of serious crashes and numbers of cyclists and pedestrians struck.

   I'd like to see a safe streets indicator added to the safe and resilient section of the plan. We reference complete streets planning documents here but should in recognition that traffic safety is not just a transportation responsibility but will also contribute to overall feelings of safety.

   Should DASH's last COA be included as a supporting document in the multi-modal transportation section?
2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.

- Participated in one or more of the online engagement opportunities

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.

- Other - city's website
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1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?
Somewhat agree

Other thoughts?
No response

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
Participated in one or more of the online engagement opportunities

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.
eNews
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   Somewhat agree

Other thoughts?
Under the Healthy Residents section on Page 7, I would like to see the City add a Key Indicator that addresses the City’s services provided to the mental health and substance abuse community. I know the City has placed a lot of emphasis on reducing childhood opioid dependency, and I would like to see some of that reflected under the Key Indicators. I would recommend framing it as coverage of services as a % of the population, or a reduction of X% in substance abuse.

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
   No response

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.
eNews

Draft FY 2017-2022 Strategic Plan
Provide your feedback on the City's Draft FY 2017-2022 Strategic Plan
Alexandria’s Draft Vision for 2022

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   Somewhat agree

Other thoughts?
I am surprised that the Library is not mentioned as a measuring point under Well-Managed City. Over many years work at the library I have frequently heard very positive comments about the direct customer service received at the library, and many positively connect this to 'excellent use of my tax dollars.'

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   Somewhat agree

   Other thoughts?
   I do not see a plan for taking care of the City’s buildings and maintaining them so the citizens who visit or use them have the highest standards in public spaces.

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
   Participated in one or more of the online engagement opportunities
   Contacted City staff directly

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.
   eNews
   Social media
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1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?
   Somewhat agree
   Other thoughts?
   With the city about to implement a Vision Zero program I strongly believe that it deserves some mention in the Multimodal Transportation or Safe and Resilient Community section of the Strategic Plan.

   We as a community have agreed that traffic is now unbearable and the injuries and deaths caused by motor vehicles are unacceptable. It needs to be stated clearly in our strategic plan so there is no doubt the city stands behind Vision Zero. I write this as another pedestrian was severely injured with life threatening injuries less than 48 hours ago.

   Please include VZ in our Strategic Plan.

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
   Participated in one or more of the online engagement opportunities
Contacted City staff directly

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.
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1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?
Somewhat agree

Other thoughts?
Overall, I think the draft content reflects the kinds of goals Alexandria should be working towards over the next several years. However, I have a few caveats: The biggest, which has been mentioned by other commenters, is that perceptions of citizens (e.g. "percentage of residents satisfied...") shouldn't be key indicators unless the sampling is random or stratified. If perceptions are gauged using an online form like this, it's too easy for one or two interest groups to influence the results. Based on the responses here, it's clear that The Art League asked its members to respond. There's nothing wrong with that, and I happen to love TAL and want it to stay in Alexandria forever. But if 10%+ of respondents are coming to discuss TAL, these results clearly aren't reflective of the whole City. If random or stratified sampling can't be done economically, I think all the key indicators should be based on more solid data. Likewise, I'd prefer all of the goals to be specific; there are a few that discuss "decreasing" something, for example, but don't specify the current amount or the future goal amount. In the Inclusive City section, I'd like to see a key indicator that aligns with closing the broadband gap. In the Well-Managed Government section, I'd like to see a key indicator that shows increased community engagement (to inform policy decisions). In the Strong Economy section, I'd like to see something about our small,
independently-owned businesses. Many have shut down in the last couple of years, and that is alarming to residents who value Alexandria's unique shops and restaurants. In the Thriving Children and Youth section, I'd like to see a lot more about our public schools: STEAM emphasis, timely/relevant technical education options (e.g. cyber security), goals that reach far beyond standardized tests' bars of achievement. I'd also like that section to have key indicators relating to bullying and possibly suicide.

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
Participated in one or more of the online engagement opportunities

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.
eNews
Other - Arts Commission
Alexandria's Draft Vision for 2022

In 2022, Alexandria is a historic, inclusive city with distinct, vibrant neighborhoods, a well-managed government, a safe community, flourishing arts, culture, and recreation, a strong economy, thriving children and youth, environmental sustainability, healthy residents, and multimodal transportation.

Making the Vision a Reality

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Inclusive City
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Safe and Resilient Community
Flourishing Arts, Culture and Recreation
Strong Economy
Thriving Children and Youth
Environmental Sustainability
Healthy Residents
Multimodal Transportation

1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?
Neutral

Other thoughts?
Under Inclusive City, suggest adding: Increase Alexandria’s network of affordable and accessible housing and assisted living units; educate residents and managers of Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities about public and private supportive services that can be accessed locally and provided onsite; support through the development process, housing for a lifetime features (in both new and re-development projects); track and keep Council advised re City Tax and Rent Relief Programs for the Elderly and disabled. Under Safe and Resilient Community, add provision of appropriate education of and services to support special needs populations in time of emergency; Under Flourishing Arts, Culture, and Recreation: Provide community convening spaces where seniors and others can safely convene/drop-in to meet others, not just for recreational or organized programs; Under Strong Economy, add: support increased availability of help for older residents seeking part- or full-time work (particularly important, given fixed incomes and rising living costs); Under Healthy Residents, add: fund a nursing case management program for older City residents, including those in subsidized housing; provide funding to better coordinate education of and intake for services for adults needing services from multiple City departments; provide intergenerational service location and programs that bring together people of various ages and backgrounds.
ages and abilities; enhance education, services, and respite care for family members providing care for children, adults, and parents with health and/or mental health problems; Under Transportation, add: make walking areas psychologically and physically safe for older and disabled individuals, e.g., not having to jump out of the way of fast bicycles, not using brick pavers which heave up and are potential fall hazards or impediments for wheelchairs and strollers.

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
Contacted City staff directly

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.
eNews
Other - Commission on Aging has discussed
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1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?
   Somewhat agree

Other thoughts?
I'm especially interested in improving aquatics facilities at Chinquapin. This is the City's only indoor pool, but it's unusable for lap swimmers much of the time due to team practices and (paid) classes. Alexandria's aquatics facilities lag far behind those of neighboring jurisdictions.

New aquatic facilities should allow for lap swimming by individuals most of the time and also include a hot tub - shown to have therapeutic properties.

Lap lanes should allow for ladders in at least some lanes. Not everyone can pull themselves up out of the water and then feel safe standing up on a slippery pool deck with no handrails. Pools need to be accessible to everyone, not just the young and athletic.

Finally, the Chinquapin study should be listed under "City plans" for the "Healthy Residents" thematic area as well as "Flourishing arts, etc."
2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
Attended one or more meetings or open houses
Participated in one or more of the online engagement opportunities
Contacted City staff directly

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.
Other - City website
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1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?
   Somewhat agree

Other thoughts?
The top priority for budgeting should be to upgrade, rebuild as necessary, and expand ACPS schools. This will serve to 1) keep households with children from leaving Alexandria or making it more likely (than Arlington or Fairfax County) that families will send their children to private school; 2) increase the education and well-being of low-income children (thereby addressing other priorities for the draft plan). The City’s planning process should focus on finalizing and funding the CIP first, rather than on redistricting schools, which may result in avoiding or delaying critical funding.

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
   No response

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than
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eNews
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1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?
Agree

Other thoughts?
No response

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
Attended one or more meetings or open houses
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1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?
Somewhat disagree

Other thoughts?
The structure of the plan is great in attempting to link the vision with quantifiable goals and I don't necessarily think any of the goals are "bad" in isolation, but the plan is too ambitious to be considered remotely achievable

Two specific concerns with the draft plan that I think will result in a failure to achieve the vision outlined:

1) Some of these goals conflict with each other. I have no idea whether analysis was done to see if the economic growth goals pay for the cost of other goals, but if the strategic plan is going to outline goals at this level of specificity without having a plan to pay for them it seems they face a low chance of success. Many of them will require additional funding to accomplish. Increasing taxes is in direct conflict with some of the goals (e.g., inclusive city, value for services). How do we meet the economy goals while at the same time lowering emissions and maintaining open space?

2) Similar to another comment, I disagree with any key indicator based solely on opinion surveys (unless the
surveys are scientifically performed). Also, for opinions like "barriers to entry based on age, gender, ..." or "value for services" some people will always be unhappy no matter what (sometimes without a rational reason). It's unclear the extent the survey results are representative and that those citizens with issues have reasonable concerns that the City could take some reasonable action to address.

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.

   No response

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.

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1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?
   Disagree

Other thoughts?
The vision is much too broad and aggressive to be taken seriously. The themes expressed there are very important and I agree that we should take steps towards them, but we're not going to achieve "environmental sustainability" by 2022! Not all children will be healthy and thriving by then! And so on. Let's not make this an empty slogan that caters to every person's desires, but rather a plan that we can all agree on and that will not simply be ignored because it is so unrealistic. Yes, we can have the themes, but let's create a realistic vision for 2022 and then steps that will get us there. Or set the vision for farther in the future.

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
   Participated in one or more of the online engagement opportunities

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than
one answer.
Other - through a city commission
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1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?
Somewhat disagree

Other thoughts?
This vision has too much fluff, as demonstrated by all of the beautiful adjectives used to describe the City. The real question is who is accountable for achieving these results. In particular, who loses their job if we fail to increase the percentage of residents who think they get value for their money? (Only 52% think so now - I’m willing to wager anyone on Council that the number falls by 2022.)
On a more positive note, one of the gems that makes Alexandria a center of the arts is the Art League. I’m not sure how many residents realize that Alexandria hosts one of the nation's premier art schools, open to all residents, as well as attracting students from as far as Philadelphia. The challenge facing the Art League is that it could be developed out of existence. It lost a significant amount of studio space to the development of the Indigo Hotel. Most of its remaining studio space is located in the building on the west side of Fairfax, between Madison and Montgomery. If that space is lost, the Art League will be forced to find space elsewhere. The loss of the Art League will be a significant loss to our community and our reputation as an arts center.

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this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
Participated in one or more of the online engagement opportunities
Contacted City staff directly

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.

- eNews
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1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?
   Somewhat agree
   Other thoughts?
   No response

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
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3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.
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   Agree

Other thoughts?
The Eco-City Charter and plan are not mentioned. They were pretty groundbreaking and still seem relevant to the sustainability theme, as well as transportation.

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
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1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?
Somewhat agree

Other thoughts?
Please preserve the Art League Madison Annex and the Torpedo Factory. I enjoy spending time at the Torpedo Factory and enjoy taking classes there and at the Madison Annex.

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
No response

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.
Other - email from the Art League
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1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?
   Somewhat agree

Other thoughts?
Alexandria loses business due to the high cost of rent. What can be done about it?

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
   Participated in one or more of the online engagement opportunities

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.
   Other - e-mail from Art League
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1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?  
   Disagree

Other thoughts?  
I believe that the Torpedo Factory and all studio spaces and shops and the Art League should be left as IS...period. No fiddling with an outstanding successful Arts location that attracts tourist from all over the world and serves the community with A+++++ on going opportunities to learn and appreciate various art forms.

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.  
   Other - read my response to question one above.

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.  
   Other - I am a member of the art league and receive their news letters
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Flourishing Arts, Culture and Recreation
Strong Economy
Thriving Children and Youth
Environmental Sustainability
Healthy Residents
Multimodal Transportation

1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?
Neutral

Other thoughts?
There are no details provided-- just a generic feel-good list. I'm all for the items listed above, but at what cost? For example the "Flourishing Arts, etc" makes no mention of the incredibly valuable Art League Madison Street educational facility. Will the Madison Street Annex be leveled to make way for something else on your list? That would be a shame for children and adults alike.

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
No response

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.
Other - The Art League
Alexandria’s Draft Vision for 2022

In 2022, Alexandria is a historic, inclusive city with distinct, vibrant neighborhoods, a well-managed government, a safe community, flourishing arts, culture, and recreation, a strong economy, thriving children and youth, environmental sustainability, healthy residents, and multimodal transportation.

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1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?
   Somewhat agree

Other thoughts?
The plan doesn't specifically state whether or not the art league gallery and classes will remain.

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
   No response

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.
   Other - Art league email
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1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?
   Somewhat agree
   
   Other thoughts?
   No response

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
   Other - I was unable to participate in the meeting and open houses, but received feedback that they did not provide the best format for giving feedback to staff on community feedback.

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.
   eNews
   Other - Through a commission that I am a member of.
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1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?

Somewhat agree

Other thoughts?
An actual active citizens oversight committee for all operations of the city, departments, schools and policing is needed. Real oversight not just a spot to park a citizens complaint. How and where in the draft of thematic areas does it address discrimination, that includes all people from different cultures, and races and ages. Where does the draft include accountability and assurance that diverse populations are treated fairly, that includes both the residents and businesses. Is diversity training provided to the city government employees, department heads and mayor / council? When these tough questions are not addressed, then how can thematic areas as described actually be representative of a truly inclusive city. How much of the thematic is imposing select lifestyle preferences on the community? So often decimation is treated as a black and white problem only, its not, its about all cultures and all people. The reality is, there are residents and businesses that are fearful of being harassed, picked on, pushed around and ignored by city staff, departments, and council, even among neighbors. If the difficult evaluations are not included in the thematic areas then the city runs the risk of becoming elitist. Where is it addressed in the draft that minority youth, businesses and families are afraid of the police and interactions with the city. This should be an its own thematic area.
2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
Participated in one or more of the online engagement opportunities

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.
eNews
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1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?
Somewhat agree

Other thoughts?
Need to include how by 2022, the city-owned fiber backbone infrastructure will play a vital role in enhance the City’s following thematic goals: Inclusive City; Safe & Resilient City, Flourishing Arts & Culture, Strong Economy, Environmental Sustainability, Healthy Residents, Multimodal Transportation.

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
Participated in one or more of the online engagement opportunities

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.
Other - email blast by City
Alexandria’s Draft Vision for 2022

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1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?
   Somewhat agree

Other thoughts?
Within "thriving children and youth" I'd like to see more focus on the education and health of children and youth. Specifically, ensuring that (1) schools are high-quality and provide a variety of learning opportunities, (2) student truancy, suspension, and expulsion rates are low, and (3) children and youth have both space and time to participate in physical activities - crucial for both their mental and physical health. I recognize that elements of these issues are addressed in specific plans, but I'd like to see these issues called out specifically in the strategic plan goals.

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
   Participated in one or more of the online engagement opportunities
   Contacted City staff directly
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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Draft FY 2017-2022 Strategic Plan
Provide your feedback on the City's Draft FY 2017-2022 Strategic Plan
Alexandria’s Draft Vision for 2022

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1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?
   Somewhat agree

Other thoughts?
Needs more specific goals in supporting the schools. This is the main detractor and frustration for young families moving and investing in the city.

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
   Participated in one or more of the online engagement opportunities

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.
eNews
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1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?
Neutral

Other thoughts?
1. The distinctive and vibrant neighborhoods section seems biased against urbanism. The 83% goal for happiness with historic preservation is too high - it would effectively give development opponents in Old Town a veto over this metric, and thus provide a bad incentive. The quality of development question will likely elicit peoples vague discontent with contemporary architecture. Better would be something that addressed actual vibrancy - street design, pedestrian friendliness (in the aesthetic and usefulness sense, not safety) etc. Look at the Tysons Urban District guidelines, or the work of Christopher Leinberger.
2. The transportation section, on the other hand lacks ambition. If we are serious about Vision Zero, just reducing fatalities and serious injuries is not enough - a numeric goal is needed. The numeric goal that does exist, for total crashes, is not ambitious enough. The goal for shift to alternative transportation is not ambitious enough.

I have no comments on the other sections. All in all this effort seems like a retreat from the goal of taking advantage of our location and other advantages to succeed as a vibrant, walkable, urban community.
2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
No response

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.
Social media
Alexandria’s Draft Vision for 2022

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1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?
   Agree

   Other thoughts?
   No response

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
   Other - None

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.
   eNews
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1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?
   Somewhat agree

Other thoughts?
I am particularly interested in housing and poverty issues and was pleased to see that there is a goal for reducing homelessness. However, I believe a reduction of less than 10% from 224 to 208 over 5 years is quite modest and a higher goal should be included. I was also pleased to see that there is a focus on decreasing those low-income households that are cost-burdened as well as those households living in poverty. I was disappointed, however, that there is no goal for these areas of focus. The City should set a numeric goal in these areas.

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
   Participated in one or more of the online engagement opportunities

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than
one answer.
eNews
Other - Participation in meetings on homeless issues
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1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?

Agree

Other thoughts?
I think a key indicator of the Thriving Children and Youth to achieve by 2022 should be for Alexandria public school ratings to be increased from their current levels to at or 10. Also, I think measurement of whether key indicators need to be more objective than just residents opinion for some of these themes, such as distinctive and vibrant neighborhoods. I think residents opinion is good, if you can have a majority of participation. Otherwise, there needs to be additional indicators. Maybe involve a historic preservation society to determine whether historic preservation is continuing or ask them for an indicator, for example. And have a similar involvement with a nonprofit regarding development indicators. Same for inclusive city and other thematic areas. Indicators should also involve a subject matter expert. Also, how are these percentages calculated? Are ALL Alexandria residents polled? If not, it seems that these percentages are not representative. If only 10 people participate in a poll and all agree on an issue, does that it is reported as 100% of residents agree? If so, this does not seem like a good measure.

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in
this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
Other - I am a new resident so I this is the first opportunity I have had to participate

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.
Other - Community Association
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1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?
   Agree

Other thoughts?
I'm concerned about the measurement of 'opinions' to quantify the goals collected via online responses--i.e. those goals that quantify how the city residents 'feel' about the quality of services. Without proper sampling these can be very biased results that are not representative. Many people do not have online access or the ability to attend meetings. Many of your goals are indeed quantifiable through existing administrative records from the city, the state and the federal government.....economic data (employment, Gross City Product, demography), education attainment, transportation and safety, water and environment quality, etc. However, how city residents 'feel' about the city can be influenced by small subsets of residents who strongly approve or oppose single issue projects. Please focus the majority of your measurement on hard data rather than online or opinion surveys unless they are done in a valid statistically representative fashion that represents all of Alexandria residents.

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
Contacted City staff directly

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.
Neighbor
Alexandria’s Draft Vision for 2022

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   Agree

   Other thoughts?
   No response

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   No response

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.
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Flourishing Arts, Culture and Recreation
Strong Economy
Thriving Children and Youth
Environmental Sustainability
Healthy Residents
Multimodal Transportation

1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?
   Agree

   Other thoughts?
   No response

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
   No response

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.
   eNews
Alexandria’s Draft Vision for 2022

In 2022, Alexandria is a historic, inclusive city with distinct, vibrant neighborhoods, a well-managed government, a safe community, flourishing arts, culture, and recreation, a strong economy, thriving children and youth, environmental sustainability, healthy residents, and multimodal transportation.

Making the Vision a Reality

Our City’s draft vision contains ten thematic areas that the City is focused on achieving by 2022. In order to further understand and achieve our vision, each of these ten themes are explained below. Although these themes are described separately, they are intertwined and impact one another.

Accompanying each theme are three sections:

The first section contains a paragraph that describes what the theme specifically means to the community. The second section is a set of indicators with targets that provide actionable goals. These indicators and targets help us track our progress, successes, and challenges. Although Alexandria’s government does not control these indicators, we are working to influence them. By making the indicators a primary part of the plan, the City is committing to tracking and reporting on the progress of the plan to the community throughout the life of the document. The third section includes the City’s plans, documents, and policies that support achieving each theme and related indicators.
Please review the draft document below. You have the choice of viewing the draft as a whole or by the ten draft thematic areas individually. After your review, please answer the questions that follow.

Draft document
Individual thematic areas

Distinctive and Vibrant Neighborhoods
Inclusive City
Well-Managed Government
Safe and Resilient Community
Flourishing Arts, Culture and Recreation
Strong Economy
Thriving Children and Youth
Environmental Sustainability
Healthy Residents
Multimodal Transportation

1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?
   Agree

   Other thoughts?
   Address critical CIP needs for City and School priorities!

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
   Contacted City staff directly

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.
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Multimodal Transportation

1. Do you think the draft content linked above reflects what the City should be working toward through 2022?
   Somewhat agree

Other thoughts?
Need to be working on transportation options for elderly.

2. We are continually evaluating and trying to improve our planning processes. If you participated in this planning process, please let us know how. You may select more than one option.
   Other - Heard from neighbors what had gone on in meetings.

3. How did you learn about the FY2017-2022 City Strategic Plan process? You may choose more than one answer.
eNews