ENVISION

ACCOMPLISHMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Guiding Growth Through Comprehensive Planning
Initiatives Referenced: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.26

- Advanced the 2040 Comprehensive Plan draft — shaped by extensive public engagement — to guide land use and policy decisions for the next two decades
- Reaffirmed Strategic Growth Areas (SGAs) to ensure appropriate development and economic growth while preserving each area's character
- Updated the City's Master Transportation Plan to include the integration of the Local Road Safety Action Plan and refinements to the CUBE transportation model
- A request to fund the development of a new Zoning Ordinance is anticipated during the FY27 budget process

Properties and Land Use Progress
Initiatives Referenced: 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.21

- A community engagement toolkit for land use initiatives is in the final stages of development and is expected to be completed by summer 2025.
- A list of 2,061 verified City-owned parcels has been compiled and is under review to address data gaps and discrepancies.
- A presentation to City Council regarding potential areas for infill development and/or redevelopment is anticipated in 2026.
- Maps and spreadsheets identifying City-owned land suitable for industrial or business development are expected to be shared with City leadership in August 2025.

Expanding Affordable Housing and Reducing Homelessness
Initiatives Referenced: 2.9, 2.10, 2.11, 2.13, 2.14

- The Housing Study report was completed, presented to City Council and adopted by resolution in the first half of 2024.
- The Attainable Workforce Housing Performance Grant was adopted by City Council and the Virginia Beach Development Authority (VBDA). Staff is finalizing application materials for a program launch in the second half of 2025.
- Planning and Community Development anticipates presenting a refined, expedited planning process for affordable housing projects to City Council later this year.
- A public education campaign to raise awareness of the need for affordable housing began in summer 2025.
- City Council adopted the Community of One Plan in FY24. and staff is currently finalizing the five-year implementation plan.

Enhancing Resilience to Flooding and Stormwater Challenges
Initiatives Referenced: 2.15, 2.16, 2.17, 2.18, 2.19, 2.22

- Continued implementation of the Flood Protection Program, maintaining transparency through the Ripple Effect Visualization Tool and regular Council briefings
- Completed all Stormwater Master Plans — marking a significant milestone for flood mitigation and resilience efforts
- Launched American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)-funded stormwater maintenance and repair programs and advanced regional collaboration with progress on the 17th Street Regional Facility

Planning and Community Development Customer Service Enhancements
Initiatives Referenced: 2.8

- Extended service desk hours and added two new positions to oversee customer experience, coordinate front counter operations, manage the main phone line, and respond to inquiries
- Implemented a new payment platform and queue management system
- A dashboard is being developed to improve transparency and track permit and site plan approval times more effectively.

Economic Growth
Initiatives Referenced: 2.20, 2.23, 2.24, 2.27, 2.30

- Major employers adding jobs in Virginia Beach include: Acoustical Sheetmetal, Amazon, Born Primitive, Chorus Intelligence, DOMA Technologies, Globalinx Data Center, KPMG, Sirius Analysis, STIHL, Thayar Mahan, The Noise Corporation of America, ZIM Shipping and several new businesses at the International Incubator
- Maxbyte Technologies launched Industry 4.0 readiness assessments and leadership training.
- The City supported youth entrepreneurship mentoring, hosted career fairs and collaborated with Tidewater Community College on hospitality and culinary programs.
- Collaboration with Old Dominion University (ODU) led to the creation of several working groups:
    - Regional Development Working Group: Focused on strategies to enhance economic, social and environmental outcomes across the region
    - AI/Infrastructure Working Group: Addressing data science, cybersecurity, and the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on business and technology development
    - Workforce Development Working Group: Partnering with ODU and the Convention and Visitors Bureau to provide mentorships, internships and targeted training for talent in the tech sector
- The final report on the Central Beach District is expected to be released before the end of summer 2025.
- Multiple departments continue working with the Southside Network Authority (SNA) and contractor Danella to implement the Regional Connectivity Ring.

Environmental Initiatives
Initiatives Referenced: 2.25, 2.28, 2.29

- Partnered with Tidewater Community College (TCC) to support offshore wind-related classes and certifications
- Hosted the 2025 International Partnering Forum, the largest offshore renewable energy conference in the Americas
- Finalizing negotiations for solar installations at Kempsville and Williams Farm recreation centers
- Exploring solar installation options at the Resource Recovery Center
- Renewed the City's contract with TFC Recycling