

Public Participation

City Of Wilmington

Development Services
 Planning Division
 Engineering
 Economic Development Liaison
 Parks, Recreation & Downtown Services
 Central Services, Parking
 Public Services, Utilities
 Community Services, Code Enforcement
 Wilmington Police Department
 Members of City Council

Downtown Stakeholders

Wilmington Downtown, Inc.
 Downtown Wilmington Association
 Wilmington Industrial Development
 Tourism Development Authority
 Wilmington Harbor Enhancement Trust
 Cape Fear Community College
 Residents of Old Wilmington
 North Side Community Representatives
 Real Estate Developers

More than 100 Individual Citizens

Planning Process

The development of this Plan has included: (1) an identification of needs based on a review of existing plans and policies, interviews with local citizens, business owners and other stakeholders, and an analysis of existing conditions, including field reconnaissance surveys of the community's physical fabric; (2) the preparation of potential alternatives for consideration; and (3) the development of broad directives and specific recommendations.

Community input has been central to the planning process. Each phase of the process has been organized around a public meeting to ensure the Plan is well-informed with public sentiment and opinion. The meetings included a kick-off meeting and four subsequent workshops with the public. The kick-off meeting was held in January 2004 with the Steering Committee to review project goals and desired outcomes of the planning process. Members of the Steering Committee included: representatives from the

City of Wilmington's Planning Division; Parks, Recreation and Downtown Services Department, Economic Development Department, and Central Services Department; and the Executive Director of Wilmington Downtown, Inc.

The first public workshop, held in February 2004, summarized market and land use conditions, perceptions and quality of life concerns, and development opportunities and constraints, and provided an opportunity to receive public input on those conditions. The second workshop, held in March 2004, engaged citizens in the synthesis of three alternative development scenarios into a draft plan. The third workshop, held in May 2004, involved citizens in specific discussions on the draft plan and priority implementation strategies. The fourth public meeting, held in October 2004, was a presentation of the draft report at a joint work session of the Planning Commission and City Council.



Citizens discuss alternatives for Wilmington's new waterfront downtown during the second public workshop.