

**Fairland & Briggs Chaney Master Plan Visioning Workshop**  
**6/27/2022 (6pm-8pm)**  
**Blue Breakout Group Notes**

1. Improve Transit to Silver Spring. Accessibility is important, should be at grade, but the current investment for transit is taking place too far north.
2. Economic dynamic is not very good. Too few well-paying jobs. Most jobs are mid-to low paying. There needs to be more people in the community with disposable income, which will help begin moving the improvements that are needed in the area. Many apartments and houses have more than one family in order to afford to live there.
3. Twenty-five years ago the shopping center had better stores. A Giant, a Payless shoe shop as well as the mom & pop shops. Crime rate went up in the 90's. At the same time the overall income of the area went down and could no longer support some of the bigger shops. Would like a better major grocery store.
4. Open better lanes for pedestrians and cyclists. It needs to be safer to travel in ways that do not involve a car.
5. Transit – BRT is a regional issue beyond the actual Master Plan area. BRT needs to be integrated. BRT needs to loop through job hub areas, such as Viva White Oak. The service needs to be well-designed and seamless.
6. Shopping Center design was impacted when the massive cloverleaves and access lanes to the ICC were built. It got cut off from easy access for shoppers.
7. The Old Columbia & Briggs Chaney shopping center is isolated and the two shopping areas on either side of US 29 should be integrated.
8. This mature neighborhood needs a circulator bus to connect the residents to the various shopping centers, the flash system, and the car repair area.
9. DC has a circulator that connects Capital Hill to Georgetown. It's a good example of what this area needs to become more integrated. White Oak and Burtonsville should be included in that circulation pattern.
10. How much section 8 housing is located in this area? Home values should be able to increase rather than decrease. This is not possible if section 8 housing and low-income density continues to be increased in this area.
11. Education in East County has not been very well rated. Although some improvements have been made to the High School, the other levels of education need to improve.

12. School system needs to do a boundary adjustment for the northeast consortium.
13. The East County Management Center had a hard time coming up with cultural sites to celebrate, such as the Underground Railroad in Sandy Spring. How about the burial site for the free woman of color who had her own farm? The artifacts from that archeological dig should be brought back from Baltimore and placed in the area.
14. FDA has a visitor's center and historical center – but not very accessible to the public.
15. The massive interchange has disconnected the community. This needs to be brought down to a human scale rather than taking up so much space and so completely dividing the community.
16. A community history center should be placed at the High School in the midst of all of that sea of parking. Students need to learn about this type of history.
17. Verizon has two facilities. East side is only a processing center and looks abandoned. The west side is administrative. East side seems to have a lot of wasted parking spaces.
18. Regional Parks need to be connected to one another by trails for biking and walking.
19. Viva White Oak will bring many new students, but the current boundary cannot support that increase. Public Schools needs to address this issue.
20. The Paint Branch trail does not connect to the community on the east side of MD 29. There needs to be access points to this important trail. All of the Parks need to be connected by a robust trail system.
21. Too few walking paths in the northern section (north of Briggs Chaney).
22. The people on the west side of US 29 don't have a way to get to the recreation centers. They have access to the Paint Branch trail, but not to the recreation centers, playing fields and other Park amenities.
23. Section 8 families receive government vouchers. These should be equitably distributed throughout the county. In the same way, affordable housing that is based on the percent of local incomes should also be equitably distributed throughout the County and not concentrated in one part of the County.
24. Accessibility to the future recreational facilities in Viva White Oak needs to be planned so that it is available to kids in FBC.
25. Pickle Ball is a big thing for older people, but kids are starting to get interested as well. This should be accommodated within the Park system.

26. A challenging physical terrain is a reality in this area. Biking can be difficult, and you need to be very fit in order to use the trails. It is a reality of the physical terrain. It would be helpful if some of these physical limitations could be mitigated as part of the plan.

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### **Pink Breakout Group Notes**

#### **Development & Design:**

- Innovative Communication
- All Inclusive
- Enrichment Activities- Presentations about different topics. Have experts/people with different interests.
- Opportunities for all
- Improvement needed: Voter registration sites for residents

#### **Transportation:**

- Commuter-Friendly
- Short commute
- Pedestrian/Bike Friendly- better sidewalks and paths. Have been frowned upon in the past.
- Connectivity across travel modes
- Park & Ride at Rec Center- Better road conditions and better understanding about parking in the parking ride off hours or weekends.
- Sidewalks on Greencastle end at Rt. 29 and there isn't an official sidewalk that connects to Old Columbia Pike/Banneker
- Can Bus 39 run on the weekends.
- The extension of availability re: Z6, is going well
- Build interchanges at Fairland and Rt. 29.

#### **Housing:**

- Affordable housing
- Affordable living
- Home ownership vs. rental (Upneet)

#### **Schools & Education:**

#### **Parks & Recreation:**

- More activities
- More programs for children at Community Center
- Arts Theater

#### **Environment:**

**Food Access:**

- Better retail- Quality clothing stores, grocery stores, restaurants and a Chuck E Cheese
- Works: Restaurant diversity
- Better retail and healthy fast food and sit-down dining options
- Safeway was open but they closed down due to high theft rates and lack of support from the community.

**Public Health & Safety:**

- Less crime
- Accessible
- Lighting along Castle Blvd.
- Safety in the neighborhoods- Crime
- Intersection of crime, accessible resources/amenities, and economic opportunity for residents of all ages (Upneet)

**Community / Arts / Culture:**

- Diverse
- Lively
- Vibrant
- Family Friendly Dynamic
- More programs for children at Community Center

**Which ideas from other groups stood out the most?****Do you want to revisit your initial thoughts and expand upon other ideas?**

- Mixed used development of apartment bldgs., grocery, restaurants. In-building parking garages for accessibility. (See Rockville, Bethesda, Pike & Rose)
- Higher density for housing.

**What steps can be taken to implement your vision for the community?**

- Make trips to Baltimore more accessible
- Bus from Briggs Chaney to Greenbelt or New Carrollton.
- Building interchanges with the community's input. Area near Fairland and Old Columbia is owned by the SHA and could be useful for development like a retail center.
- Greater connectivity to other areas and town centers throughout the region.
- Home ownership for young folks to keep them in the area. More economic opportunity for high-paying jobs to help climb the eco. Ladder.

**What are your favorite places to visit in the county or beyond? What makes them so great?**

- Brookside Gardens- nice and pretty and peaceful

- Rocky Creek Park trails, nature, biking
- Visit Columbia often and love the cohesive, planned community feel. Also have wonderful landscaping.

**NOTE:**

- Chat: Steps to implement vision: creation of more sidewalks and bike paths, greater connectivity across BRT in the county and to PG, home ownership opportunity for younger people to stay in the area, economic opportunity for higher paying jobs to help people climb economic ladder, youth programming that is in addition to sports and rec, community building across neighborhoods.

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**Yellow Breakout Group Notes**

**Activity 1**

- Desire for safe community, better for walking
- Better lighting
- Crime – Briggs Chaney shopping center area, castle Blvd. area
- Lot of potential, access to jobs
- Regular maintenance appears lacking in relation to other parts of county
- Concerns on availability of fresh produce

**Activity 2**

- Need for more affordable housing
- Transportation features are a barrier
- Desire for more employment options
- Concerns over traffic
- Concern over walking across Fairland rd.

**Activity 3**

- Walkway needed over us 29
- Dangerous to walk on Fairland Rd. / Briggs Chaney
- Lot of employment in Seventh Day Church + Verizon
- Potential to improve BRT
- ICC is a community benefit
- Access to FDA is a plus, shuttle needed