



**Planning Commission**

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September 20, 2019

**TO:** Planning Commission

**FROM:** Stephen L. Donohoe, AICP  
Planning Office

**RE:** Comprehensive Plan Amendment #CPA2018-00015, Technology and Connectivity  
**Countywide**

**I. Background** – is as follows:

- A. Initiation of the Comprehensive Plan Update - Under § 15.2-2229 of the Code of Virginia, the Board of County Supervisors may consider amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. On August 3, 2016 the Board approved the proposed scope of work for comprehensive plan amendments. The Technology and Connectivity chapter was added to review the existing Telecommunications Chapter policies and address new technology and associated infrastructure needs.
- B. Purpose of Comprehensive Plan Chapter – The chapter is organized to explore how technology and connectivity helps to achieve the goals of the Strategic Plan. The chapter addresses policy guidance for telecommunications infrastructure and guidance for development of new emerging technologies including, but not limited to, Broadband, 5G Wireless Infrastructure, Smart Regions.
- C. Comprehensive Plan Update Community Feedback – The Planning Office held a series of Community Conversations public meetings on the Comprehensive Plan Update. The meetings were held on October 30, 2018, November 13, 2018, and November 14, 2018. Opportunities for feedback on the development of the Technology and Connectivity amendment, along with other elements of the Comprehensive Plan update, were made available through direct feedback to staff members and through use of a mobile application designed specifically for public engagement related to the Comprehensive Plan update. Additional meetings were held; one on May 1, 2019 to gain perspectives from various County agencies during a internal stakeholder meeting, and again May 7, 2019 with an external stakeholder meeting designed to include the feedback from technology industry professionals.
- D. Planning Commission Public Meeting/Work Session – The Planning Commission held a joint public meeting and work session on August 7, 2019 to review draft language

of the proposed amendment. Comments provided during the public meeting and work session have been incorporated into the proposed language.

**II. Current Situation** – is as follows:

- A. Amendment Review Included – This amendment will revise and replace the Telecommunications chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. The new chapter will be referred to as the Technology and Connectivity Chapter.
- B. Planning Office Recommendation – The Planning Office recommends adoption of Comprehensive Plan Amendment #CPA2018-00015, Technology and Connectivity into the Comprehensive Plan. The proposed amendment is supported by staff for the following reasons:
- The proposed plan is intended to address the desire to proactively plan for changes in technology and the ways in which technology can affect our lives, local economy, and the services the County provides. The policies are drafted to provide the necessary flexibility to accomplish these goals.
  - The chapter addresses how Information Communication Technology (ICT) can benefit each strategic goal area including, Robust Economy, Mobility, Wellbeing, Safe and Secure Communities, and Quality Education and Workforce Development.
  - The proposed plan revises and updates the Telecommunications policies to align with applicable legislation.
- C. Planning Commission Public Hearing – A public hearing before the Planning Commission has been advertised for October 2, 2019, and eNotifications were sent to all who subscribe to PWC Alerts at [www.pwcgov.org/pwcan](http://www.pwcgov.org/pwcan). The text and maps are also available on the Planning web site at [www.pwcgov.org/PlanUpdate](http://www.pwcgov.org/PlanUpdate) and on the Planning Office mobile App offered through Guidebook.

**III. Issues** in the order of importance are:

- A. Policy – What are the policy implications of amending the Comprehensive Plan to incorporate the proposed amendment?
- B. Community Input – What community input will be required and what opportunities for community input have already been provided?
- C. Legal – What are the pertinent legal issues associated with this proposal?
- D. Other Jurisdictional Comments – Have other jurisdictions raised any issues?
- E. Timing – When would the Planning Commission need to take action?

**IV. Alternatives** beginning with the staff recommendation are as follows:

A. Recommend Adoption of Comprehensive Plan Amendment #CPA2018-00015, Technology and Connectivity, into the Comprehensive Plan.

1. Policy – The amendment incorporates recommendations for including supportive policy for Information Communication Technology (ICT) into the Comprehensive Plan. ICT will help to accelerate enhancements in quality of life as envisioned within the Strategic Plan which aims at creating *a community of choice with a strong, diverse economic base, where individuals and families choose to live and businesses choose to locate*. The chapter addresses how ICT can benefit each strategic goal area including, Robust Economy, Mobility, Wellbeing, Safe and Secure Communities, and Quality Education and Workforce Development.
2. Community Input – As required by § 15.2-2204, Code of Virginia, notice of the Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) has been advertised and the proposed amendment has been published on the Prince William County government web site and has been available in the Planning Office. The Planning Office also received feedback during the Comprehensive Plan Update Community Conversations meetings, held on October 30, 2018, November 13, 2018, November 14, 2018 and February 6, 2019, and a public meeting and work session was held on August 7, 2019.

Stakeholders internal and external to the County government consistently described the need to strengthen the reliability and coverage of existing ICT infrastructure systems while creating and maintaining the capacity to adapt to new technologies. Stakeholders also stressed the importance of the County 'keeping-up' with changing technologies, from 5G to Autonomous Vehicles (AV), to make informed decisions. Discussion topics also included alternative power technologies, collaboration with jurisdictions on infrastructure, and the desire to keeping the County's workforce up-to-date on new technologies and investing in new technologies in schools.

Comments provided at the public meetings and work sessions have been considered in the proposed amendment. Additionally, eNotifications were sent to all who subscribe to PWC Alerts at [www.pwcgov.org/pwcan](http://www.pwcgov.org/pwcan).

3. Legal – The Board is authorized to amend the Comprehensive Plan under § 15.2-2229 of the Code of Virginia. Legal issues resulting from Planning Commission action would be addressed by the County Attorney's Office.
4. Other Jurisdictional Comments – Adjacent jurisdictions were invited to take part in the meetings held regarding the development of this chapter as well as to review and comment on the text. Their comments have been incorporated into the Plan.

5. Timing – The Board did not specify a timeframe for the Planning Commission to take action on the CPA.

B. Do Not Recommend Adoption of Comprehensive Plan Amendment #CPA2018-00015, Technology and Connectivity.

1. Policy – The 2008 Comprehensive Plan will not be modified to incorporate the recommended changes to the Telecommunications Chapter. Additionally, the existing Telecommunications chapter will still utilize the 2008 facility projections out to 2030.
2. Community Input – As required by § 15.2-2204, Code of Virginia, notice of the Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) has been advertised and the proposed amendment has been published on the Prince William County government web site and has been available in the Planning Office. The Planning Office also received feedback during the Comprehensive Plan Update Community Conversations meetings, held on October 30, 2018, November 13, 2018, November 14, 2018 and February 6, 2019, and a public meeting and work session was held on March 13, 2019.

Stakeholders internal and external to the County government consistently described the need to strengthen the reliability and coverage of existing ICT infrastructure systems while creating and maintaining the capacity to adapt to new technologies. Stakeholders also stressed the importance of the County 'keeping-up' with changing technologies, from 5G to Autonomous Vehicles (AV), to make informed decisions. Discussion topics also included alternative power technologies, collaboration with jurisdictions on infrastructure, and the desire to keeping the County's workforce up-to-date on new technologies and investing in new technologies in schools.

Comments provided at the public meetings and work sessions have been considered in the proposed amendment. Additionally, eNotifications were sent to all who subscribe to PWC Alerts at [www.pwcgov.org/pwcan](http://www.pwcgov.org/pwcan).

3. Legal – Legal issues resulting from Planning Commission action would be addressed by the County Attorney's Office.
4. Other Jurisdictional Comments – Adjacent jurisdictions were invited to take part in the meetings held regarding the development of this chapter as well as to review and comment on the text. Their comments have been incorporated into the Plan.
5. Timing – The Board did not specify a timeframe for the Planning Commission to take action on the CPA.

**V.**     **Recommendation** is that the Planning Commission concurs with Alternative A and recommends adoption of Comprehensive Plan Amendment #CPA2018-00015, Technology and Connectivity, into the Comprehensive Plan.

**Staff:** Stephen L. Donohoe, AICP, x5282

**Attachments:**

Proposed Technology and Connectivity Text  
BOCS Initiating Resolution

Technology and Connectivity Draft available online at

[https://www.pwcgov.org/government/dept/planning/Documents/MasterDocument\\_TechConn.pdf](https://www.pwcgov.org/government/dept/planning/Documents/MasterDocument_TechConn.pdf)

**MOTION: NOHE**

**August 3, 2016  
Regular Meeting  
Res. No. 16-647**

**SECOND: PRINCIPI**

**RE: ACCEPT THE PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE  
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE**

**ACTION: APPROVED**

**WHEREAS**, under Section 15.2-2229 of the Virginia Code, the Board of County Supervisors may consider amendments to the Comprehensive Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the availability of updated demographic projections extending to 2040, policies adopted and amended by the Prince William Board of County Supervisors, Board directives, changes in State law and completion of numerous public infrastructure projects, there is a need to update the Comprehensive Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors has initiated a number of Comprehensive Plan amendments including:

- Thoroughfare Plan Update
- Technical Review to Update Population and Employment Forecasts
- Economic Development Plan Update
- Urban Development Areas
- Levels of Service Standards; and

**WHEREAS**, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors has authorized various planning studies to provide analysis and recommendations regarding planning and land use issues including:

- COG Regional Activity Centers Study
- Potomac Communities Design Guidelines
- MCB Quantico Joint Land Use Study
- Rural Preservation Study
- Cockpit Point Battlefield Study
- Dale City Design Guidelines
- VRE Studies
- Bristoe Station and the Kettle Run Battlefields Preservation Study; and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Office has recommended that the following areas be re-planned or have their existing plans revisited:

- North Woodbridge
- Parkway Employment Center
- Innovation
- Fairgrounds/New Dominion Area
- Independent Hill
- Triangle
- Yorkshire; and

August 3, 2016  
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**WHEREAS**, the proposed scope of work to update the Comprehensive Plan includes the above referenced comprehensive plan amendments, planning studies and areas recommended for additional planning;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors does hereby accept the proposed scope of work for the Comprehensive Plan update.

**Votes:**

**Ayes:** Anderson, Caddigan, Candland, Jenkins, Lawson, Nohe, Principi, Stewart

**Nays:** None

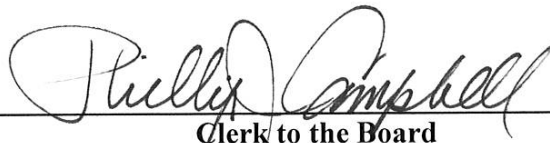
**Absent from Vote:** None

**Absent from Meeting:** None

**For Information:**

Planning Director

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Clerk to the Board