



Town of
Matthews[™]
North Carolina

Our Town, Our Vision

January 2019

Matthews Board of Commissioners

Mayor Paul Bailey

Mayor Pro-Tem John Higdon

Commissioner Barbara Dement

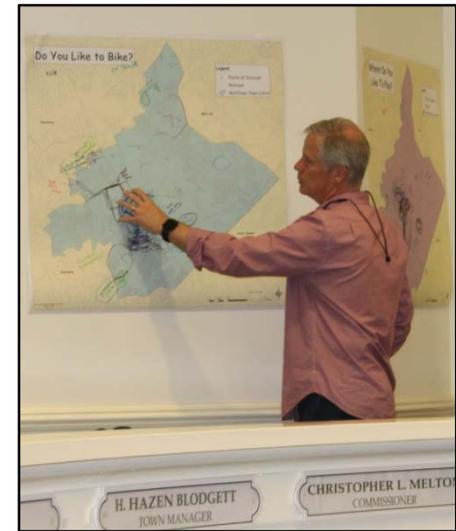
Commissioner Chris Melton

Commissioner Jeff Miller

Commissioner John Urban

Commissioner Kress Query

The following Vision Statements are based on public input received at a special Town Meeting held on April 28, 2018. In answering the question "What is your vision for Matthews?" over 500 ideas, concerns, and issues were identified and ranked by some 100 citizens in attendance. After the meeting, all the ideas were reviewed for common themes. These Vision Statements are written as if it is 10 to 15 years from now and the results of the 2018 Matthews Vision have been achieved.



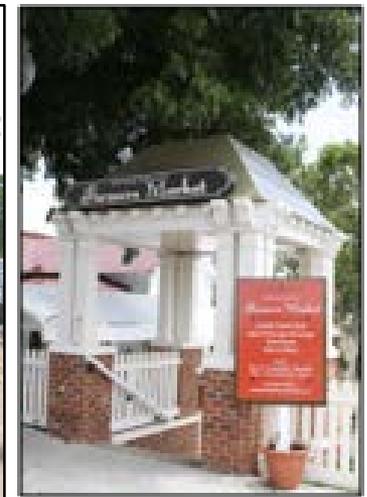
Vision 1. Well-Planned, Multi-Modal Transportation System

A system of improved arterial roads help divert non-local, commuter traffic away from downtown Matthews. Street improvements accommodate cars, pedestrians, bicyclists and transit services. The Silver Line extension of the light rail provides many benefits to the community and is a welcomed alternative for commuters.



Vision 2. Vibrant, Pedestrian-Friendly Downtown

Downtown Matthews is a true destination in the region, with a reputation for a variety of dining, entertainment options, and thriving local businesses. Pedestrian-friendly streetscapes create a safe and inviting environment. New mixed-use development in the downtown support merchants and add vibrancy to the community.



Vision 3. Walkable and Bikeable Community

Matthews is a true walkable and bikeable community. There is improved connectivity between neighborhoods and developments with a well-integrated network of streets, sidewalks, bikeways, walking trails, and greenway trails. This continuous system provides a multitude of transportation choices for residents.



Vision 4. Small Town Feeling and Identity

Matthews has kept its small-town identity and welcoming charm. Attractive landscaping, understated signage, and wide, shaded sidewalks create an inviting community. Many parks and open spaces are accessible within walking and biking distance from most parts of town. Town residents put a high value on the town's heritage and the preservation of historic buildings and landmarks throughout the community.



Vision 5. Expanded Park and Open Space System

Matthews has steadily added to its parks and open spaces with an extensive system of greenway trails and multi-use paths connecting residents to schools, parks, and neighborhoods.



Vision 6. Destination for Arts and Culture

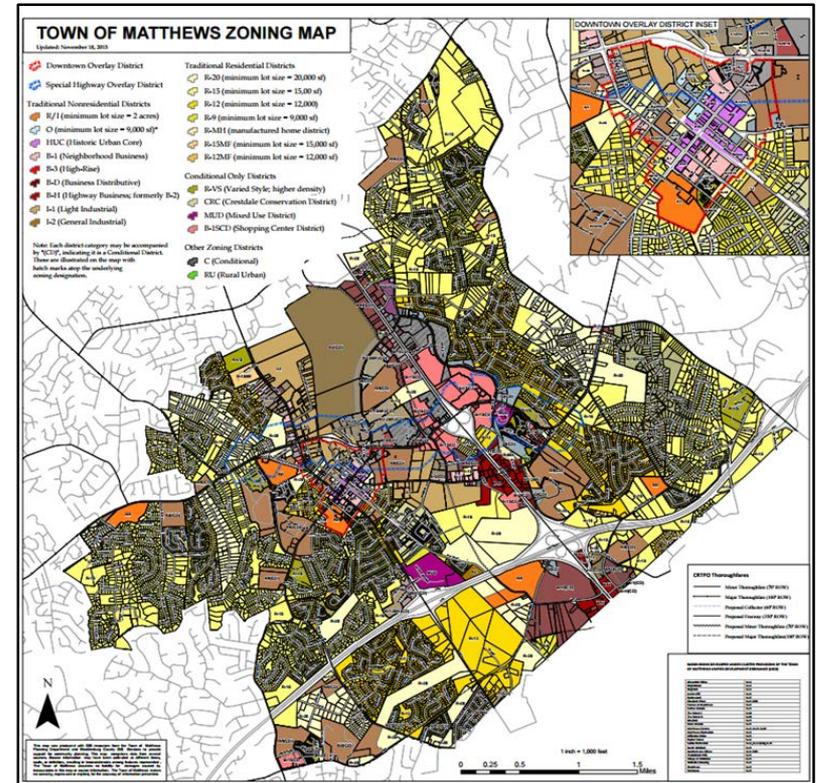
Matthews is full of historic character, and an impressive offering of arts and entertainment options including festivals, art shows, concerts, and plays.

It is this great variety of offerings that has given Matthews an outstanding reputation in the cultural and social landscape of the region.



Vision 8. Properly Managed Growth and Development

The Town of Matthews offers a wide variety of housing types and values, with walkable, distinctive and attractive neighborhoods to help meet the housing needs of all residents. Town leaders have balanced the need for sustained economic development with concerns about over-development.



Vision 9. A Diverse Community

Matthews is a place where people of various racial, ethnic, cultural and economic backgrounds are equally accepted. This diversity is reflected in membership in town boards and committees.



Vision 10. Community Dedicated to Public Safety

Matthews is a community of neighbors, business owners, police officers, firefighters, and other public safety personnel committed to working together for a safe and secure town.



Vision 11. Transparent Governance and Engagement

The Town Board and various town committees have no shortage of interested, qualified people willing to serve. Town Commissioners operate in the spirit of transparency and routinely seek the views of their constituents on important decisions. The informed citizenry keeps up with timely and effective communication from the Town.



Vision 12. Healthy, Sustainable Environment

Matthews continues to lead the way in environmental best practices for the region. Tree preservation and a focus on native plant species throughout town have been beneficial to the environment in Matthews. Matthews' walkable neighborhoods and an emphasis on connectivity have reduced dependency on cars.



