



NEWS RELEASE

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ORANGE COUNTY ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS REGARDING THE ROUTE 3 VISIONING INITIATIVE

Orange County, VA – Following a joint meeting on May 9, 2013, between the Orange County Board of Supervisors, Economic Development Authority, and Planning Commission, a consensus was reached that expansion of the County's economy must be a priority. Specifically, work on the Route 3 Strategic Visioning Initiative has been an important effort of the County since this consensus was reached. Community meetings and several joint meetings of the aforementioned bodies have been held.

At the November 7, 2013, Joint Meeting, the bodies discussed next steps for the Initiative, including the continued need for public input. Also discussed was the need to conduct a Visioning Charette, which is a collaborative planning process that utilizes the talents and expertise of all interested parties to create and support a vision or direction that represents significant community change. The Charette would engage the assistance of objective subject matter experts and is tentatively planned for February, 2014.

Subsequently, at the November 13, 2013, Board of Supervisors meeting, the Board voted to proceed with the Charette and to schedule additional public comment periods to provide an opportunity for the public to comment specifically on the Route 3 Strategic Visioning Initiative.

Three dates were established for this purpose: Tuesday, December 3, 2013; Tuesday, January 28, 2014; and Tuesday, February 25, 2014. These public comment periods will be held during the Board's regularly scheduled meeting. The public is encouraged to view the Board's published agenda for definitive times.

While general comments about the Initiative are welcomed, the Board requests input on specific topics of interest related to the Initiative as follows:

- December 3, 2013 – Parks and Recreational Opportunities to Consider in the Route 3 Area
- January 28, 2014 – Specific Input Relating to the Charette to be conducted in February, 2014
- February 25, 2014 – Feedback regarding the Charette conducted in February, 2014

The County values all comments on these efforts to diversify and expand the local tax base. It is the desire of all three bodies that this economic development visioning initiative benefit all Orange County residents and businesses.

For more information on the County's joint visioning efforts, please contact Julie G. Summs, County Administrator, at (540) 672-3313.

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