2020 Envision the Isle Implementation Benchmark Report as of September 3, 2025

Successful ongoing implementation

Action initiated/in progress

Action not started

Chapter	Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Timeline
PRESERVE	**Isle of Wight County will simultaneously protect its sensitive natural resources and property values by pursuing best development practices that respect soil capacity and protect water features, tidal and nontidal wetlands, floodplains, and coastal areas.**	Expand public sewer service in the County's three designated growth districts to minimize installation of on-site septic systems in the County to reduce potential groundwater and surface water pollution.	**Public Utilities**	→
		Develop a policy requiring homeowners to connect to public sewer systems when such services become available in their neighborhoods.	**Public Utilities** **Board of Supervisors**	✗
		Identify ways to connect areas with failing septic within DSDs to public services.	**Public Utilities**	✗
		Review existing environmental ordinances, such as the CBPA, Floodplain and Stormwater Management Ordinances, to ensure they include the best practicable protection measures.	**Planning & Zoning** **Stormwater**	→
		Develop a riparian buffer protection strategy for those areas in the Blackwater River Watershed.	**Planning & Zoning** **Stormwater**	✗
		Protect water quality from sedimentation and pollutants carried by runoff through the continued enforcement of the local stormwater management program.	**Stormwater**	→
		Work with the Virginia Department of Transportation to identify roadside ditches in need of maintenance to prevent flooding of adjacent property.	**Stormwater**	→
		Join the voluntary federal Community Rating System (CRS) program to improve local floodplain management and help reduce the homeowner cost of flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program.	**Planning & Zoning** **Board of Supervisors**	→
		Protect shorelines by promoting the use of living shorelines wherever practicable as the preferred method of shoreline stabilization.	**Planning & Zoning**	→

		Develop a green infrastructure plan.	**Planning & Zoning Stormwater**	
		Use information developed for the County by VIMS found in the online CCRMP tool for shoreline best management practice recommendations for individual projects.	**Planning & Zoning**	
		Track reports and research to assess potential impacts to coastal areas due to sea level rise.	**Planning & Zoning**	
	The County shall maintain agriculture and rural character while enhancing its distinctive community character.	Identify a permanent funding source for the County's existing PACE program to retain a critical base of active farmland and to further the costs of future development.	**Planning & Zoning Board of Supervisors**	
		Develop an educational program to encourage the expansion of the County's Agricultural and Forestal Districts program to areas of prime soils.	**Planning & Zoning**	
		Review and update the County's zoning and subdivision ordinances to ensure the protection of farmland by minimizing land use conflicts by separating agricultural lands from non-agricultural activities, and retaining a critical mass of agricultural land that promotes effective operations and the overall strength of the agricultural community.	**Planning & Zoning**	
		Discourage expansion of public utilities and other growth-inducing public facilities into agricultural areas to minimize development pressures on those areas.	**Planning & Zoning Public Utilities Planning Commission Board of Supervisors**	
		Expand economic development efforts to raise awareness of the economic impact of the local farming industry.	**Economic Development**	
		Develop an expanded technical and business assistance program for County farm businesses.	**Economic Development**	

The County shall enhance its efforts to protect and preserve the significant historic and archaeological resources and cultural heritage of the County essential to its identity by utilizing effective land use techniques, increasing public awareness of the historic character of the County, and promoting the economic benefits of heritage tourism.	Create an architectural and historical inventory for the County to be located and maintained by the Isle of Wight County Museum.	**Isle of Wight County Museum**	
	Share development plans and reports with potential impact to historic resources with the Isle of Wight County Museum.	**Planning & Zoning** **Isle of Wight County Museum**	
	Update the County's Archeological Assessment.	**Isle of Wight County Museum**	
	Update and maintain the County's GIS database of archaeological resources, historic properties, roads, and landscapes for use in the development review process.	**Isle of Wight County Museum** **Information Technology**	
	Monitor inventories and studies conducted by other agencies and preservation organizations which identify new or recently discovered historic or cultural resources, including those associated with the historic settlement of African American and Native American communities.	**Isle of Wight County Museum** **Planning & Zoning**	
	Protect rural historic landscapes by ensuring development is consistent with existing community character through performance criteria for new development.	**Planning & Zoning**	
	Review and update where needed the development standards in the County's overlay districts that preserve scenic and historic roadways and vistas.	**Planning & Zoning**	
	Develop small area plans to protect historic communities and neighborhoods and other areas of cultural significance, such as the County's village centers.	**Planning & Zoning** **Planning Commission** **Board of Supervisors**	
	Research and consider additional local tax relief initiatives to owners who rehabilitate historically significant residential and commercial property.	**Planning & Zoning** **Commissioner of Revenue** **Board of Supervisors**	
	Encourage adaptive reuse and rehabilitation of older buildings that complement historic development patterns.	**Planning & Zoning**	

SHAPE	**The County shall preserve and enhance its special rural character and small town atmosphere with its blending of new development with its traditional architecture, historic landmarks, and natural landscapes.**	Develop a pattern book based on the unique, recognizable features found in the County's historical community development pattern, such as building architecture, colors, signage, and accessory structures.	**Planning & Zoning** **Planning Commission** **Board of Supervisors**	
		Review and update existing standards to ensure the most effective protection of locally important viewsheds, landscapes, historic and culturally significant sites.	**Planning & Zoning** **Planning Commission** **Board of Supervisors**	
		Develop new zoning, design standards, and design guidelines to ensure the quality and attractiveness of future development respects community character.	**Planning & Zoning** **Planning Commission** **Board of Supervisors**	
	The County shall proactively address the location, amount, and timing of growth in order to preserve its distinctive character, protect sensitive environmental and cultural resources, and control costs associated with growth.	Continue to utilize the area within the County's DSD boundaries for future growth.	**Planning & Zoning** **Planning Commission** **Board of Supervisors**	
		Develop a system of transferable density credits that will allow owners of sensitive lands to transfer the development potential of their property to other, preferred locations.	**Planning & Zoning** **Planning Commission** **Board of Supervisors**	
		Develop an emergency utility extension policy where the County shall only approve the extension of services in circumstances where applicable state and County health agencies have declared a potential or imminent health hazard or as outlined in an intergovernmental agreement regarding water or sewer provision.	**Planning & Zoning** **Public Utilities** **Planning Commission** **Board of Supervisors**	
		Work with the County School System to ensure that adequate school facilities are in place for school-age residents and ensure that new schools are supported by adequate infrastructure.	**Planning & Zoning** **County Schools**	
		Utilize the County's long range plans, such as *Envisioning the Isle* and the Master Water and Sewer Plan, to assess future public infrastructure requests in the County's Capital Improvements Plan to ensure adequate service provision within the DSDs.	**County Administration** **Planning Commission** **Board of Supervisors**	

	The County shall maintain financial stability and sufficient financial capacity for present and future needs.	Develop a more formal monitoring system to ensure that the County's public investment decisions are consistent with adopted plans.	**Planning & Zoning County Administration**	
		Utilize a capital impact analysis model for new development, so that the County may adequately assess the costs that new development will impose on public facilities.	**Planning & Zoning**	
		Develop a system to monitor the balance of residential and nonresidential development for tax base purposes.	**Planning & Zoning Commissioner of Revenue**	
		Regularly review and renegotiate intergovernmental agreements where advisable to ensure adequate provisions are in place to safeguard the financial well-being of the County, such as utility agreements or revenue sharing agreements.	**County Administration County Attorney**	
	Strategically expand public transit options in the more heavily populated areas of the County such as the DSDs and the Towns.	Study of the locations and demands of the elderly and low income populations of the County to inform transit decisions.	**Planning & Zoning County Transportation**	
		Investigate expanding service with HRT or developing new services in partnership with Suffolk Transit to connect residents with key services provided elsewhere in the region.	**Planning & Zoning County Transportation**	
		Investigate partnering with Social Services to enhance I-Ride options in order to better serve elderly citizens transportation needs.	**County Transportation**	
		Investigate partnering with Isle of Wight Schools on an after school activities bus, creating transportation options and community opportunities for young individuals after school without significant demand for new equipment and service expansion.	**County Transportation Isle of Wight County Public Schools**	
	Increase the opportunity for safe and efficient pedestrian access within the County.	Review of the zoning ordinance and policy requirements for bike and pedestrian facilities and consideration of increased requirements to implement facilities.	**Planning & Zoning County Transportation Planning Commission Board of Supervisors**	
		Periodic review and update of the Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan to ensure proposed facilities align with constructed facilities and development trends.	**Planning & Zoning County Transportation Parks & Recreation Planning Commission Board of Supervisors**	

CONNECT	**Identify and advance transportation projects in a manner which makes them competitive regionally and provides flexibility in advancement based on changing funding conditions.**	Bring the projects identified within *ETI* to the HRTPO for inclusion in the appropriate regional transportation plans in order to pursue future funding opportunities.	**County Transportation**	
		Develop detailed project scopes with cost estimates in order to advance projects quickly when funding sources fluctuate or extra funding becomes available.	**County Transportation**	
		Identify a sequence of construction for all projects in *ETI to* ensure that projects are constructed in a manner which allows connectivity to be maintained and enhanced effectively, preventing project delays and ensuring maximum cost/benefit.	**County Transportation**	
		Acquire Right of Way (ROW) and shared easements which allow for roadways, bike and pedestrian facilities, and utilities during the development process to reduce the time and cost needed to implement transportation projects	**Planning & Zoning** **Public Utilities** **County Transportation**	
		Use transportation studies to clearly understand the benefits of projects and prioritize transportation projects based on their costs and benefits to the transportation network and not on public and political opinion by developing a prioritization tool which focuses on cost/benefit and removes opinion and subjectivity from the process.	**County Transportation** **Planning & Zoning** **Board of Supervisors**	
		Coordinate construction and maintenance projects across County departments, such as transportation and utilities, to ensure projects in the same area can be aligned for schedule and impacts coordinated, ensuring effective use of time and funds.	**Public Utilities** **County Transportation** **Planning & Zoning**	
		Require consideration of alternative intersection options during zoning application processes and study alternatives in locations with moderate or severe levels of congestion.	**Planning & Zoning** **County Transportation**	

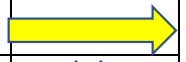
	Monitor and respond to changing conditions and advancing technologies to ensure the transportation plan remains current.	Monitor and update sea level rise impacts as identified by the HRTPO and include sea level rise mitigation measures in the design of projects within those impacted areas.	**County Transportation Planning & Zoning**	
		Continue monitoring AV technology and regularly update County transportation plans to address the changing technology and ensure a smooth adoption of the technology.	**County Transportation Planning & Zoning**	
	Update existing policies and discussions based on *EtI* and the associated transportation analysis.	Reinvigorate discussions to prevent JRB openings during peak hours to help prevent recurrent congestion situations on Route 17.	**County Transportation County Administration**	
		Perform updates of the unpaved roadways assessment on a recurrent basis, such as every 5 years or in conjunction with the Countywide Transportation Plan.	**County Transportation**	
	The Isle of Wight County Sheriff's Office will continue its high quality public safety initiatives to maintain the County's low crime rate and exceptional level of community safety.	Annually evaluate population growth and demographic changes to effectively maintain services at the highest level.	**Planning & Zoning Sheriff's Office**	
		Develop level of service standards and criteria for initiating new capital improvement planning.	**Planning & Zoning Sheriff's Office**	
		Meet the appropriate response times for emergency calls.	**Sheriff's Office**	
		Evaluate new technological advances and programs to modernize public safety efforts and provide efficient and effective services in the most cost-effective manner.	**Sheriff's Office**	
		Direct resources to education and prevention programs, such as Neighborhood Crime Watches, that encourage residents to be proactive regarding personal property and share responsibility for community safety.	**Sheriff's Office**	

The County's EMS and Fire Protection network will continue its high level of service to ensure the health and safety of the County's residents and property.	Annually evaluate population growth and demographic changes to effectively maintain services at an appropriate level.	**Planning & Zoning** **Emergency Services**	
	Develop level of service standards and criteria for initiating planning efforts for new capital improvements.	**Planning & Zoning** **Emergency Services**	
	Respond to and prepare for continued increases in emergency and non-emergency medical responses, with consideration to the aging population, new senior living facilities, and the evolving socio-economics of the County.	**Emergency Services**	
	Increase the use of joint or shared facilities between public safety and other county service providers, when possible, to provide residents with efficient services, reduce costs, and maintain public safety infrastructure.	**County Administration** **Emergency Services** **Sheriff's Office** **Board of Supervisors**	
The County will contribute to its high quality of life by ensuring an environmentally and financially sustainable source of clean drinking water and potential fire suppression to its citizens.	Continue to meet all drinking water quality standards per Virginia Department of Health regulations.	**Utilities**	
	Implement the goals in the County's Master Water and Sewer Plan and update every five years or as needed to prioritize and schedule projects for the Capital Improvement Plan according to future growth needs.	**Public Utilities**	
	Assess the County's existing and new water supply systems to determine fire suppression capability and develop recommendations for needed improvements.	**Public Utilities**	
	Develop a formal asset management program.	**Public Utilities**	
	Work with the Towns of Smithfield and Windsor to develop fully compatible facility specifications and water supply standards.	**Public Utilities** **Town of Smithfield** **Town of Windsor** **Board of Supervisors**	
	Work with the Towns of Smithfield and Windsor to provide a stable source of potable water as the needs of the Towns increase as their population grows and the reliability of groundwater supplies diminish.	**Public Utilities** **Town of Smithfield** **Town of Windsor** **Board of Supervisors**	
	Develop a policy that requires new development in the DSDs to connect to a public water system.	**Public Utilities** **Board of Supervisors**	

	Develop a small area plan for the Smith's Neck Road corridor to assess the future viability of private water systems.	**Public Utilities** **Planning & Zoning**	
	Develop an emergency water line extension policy for areas outside of the DSD which experience documented water system failure.	**Public Utilities** **Planning & Zoning** **Planning Commission** **Board of Supervisors**	
The County will contribute to its high quality of life by ensuring public and environmental health and encouraging economic development with adequate sewage disposal.	Refer to the goals in the County's Master Water and Sewer Plan during development plan review and the County's own long range and capital planning efforts.	**Public Utilities** **Planning & Zoning** **County Administration** **Board of Supervisors**	
	Continue efforts to reduce sanitary sewer overflows in accordance with Special Order by Consent.	**Public Utilities**	
	Provide public sewer service to new residential and commercial development in the DSDs.	**Public Utilities**	
	Encourage collaboration with the private sector to provide integrated infrastructure in the most efficient way possible.	**Public Utilities** **Planning & Zoning**	
	Develop a formal asset management program.	**Public Utilities**	
	Assess areas with known and documented failing onsite wastewater systems within the DSDs and develop a plan to extend public wastewater service to these areas.	**Public Utilities**	
	Develop a small area plan for the Smith's Neck Road corridor to assess the future viability of private wastewater systems.	**Public Utilities** **Planning & Zoning**	
	Develop a policy that requires new development in the DSDs to connect to a public sewer system.	**Public Utilities** **Board of Supervisors**	
	Develop an emergency sewer line extension policy for areas outside of the DSD which experience documented septic system failure.	**Public Utilities** **Planning & Zoning** **Planning Commission** **Board of Supervisors**	

SERVE	**The County will continue to provide solid waste management to local residents and businesses in a reliable and cost-effective manner while being protective of both public health and the environment.**	Continue to provide an integrated, cost-effective, and environmentally sound solid waste disposal system for the residents of the County.	**Solid Waste** **County Administration**	
		Increase recycling participation through education of citizens and encouragement from our convenience center attendants.	**Solid Waste**	
		Identify waste reduction initiatives that could be implemented with the greatest potential for increasing waste stream diversion.	**Solid Waste**	
		Develop a social media presence and print media distribution with the focus of informing citizens and volunteers of pollution prevention and green initiative achievements within the Division.	**Solid Waste** **County Administration**	
	The County will maintain its above average level of service to meet the needs of existing residents and future growth by assessing future needs and planning public facilities to control costs and preserve community character.	Commission a capital impact study and space needs assessment based on the community's desired level of service in order to plan for future public building space needs in a cost-efficient manner.	**Planning & Zoning** **County Administration**	
		Encourage adaptive reuse and shared use of community facilities by two or more departments or agencies.	**County Administration** **Board of Supervisors**	
		Coordinate expansion of facilities with the County's Comprehensive Plan to ensure they are strategically located to satisfy the demand prompted by future growth.	**County Administration** **Planning & Zoning** **Planning Commission** **Board of Supervisors**	
		Relocate County's Public Utilities Department's offices, vehicles, and equipment to a centralized utility yard on County-owned land near the center of the County or private property acquired in the future to fulfill unmet space needs and to maintain a satisfactory level of service.	**Public Utilities** **County Administration** **Board of Supervisors**	
		Track the total number of volunteer hours contributed to the County and their overall fiscal benefit to County operations.	**County Administration**	
		Design and develop public facilities, wherever possible, that take advantage of alternative energy sources and conserve energy in operations by incorporating LEED-STAR principles and practices.	**County Administration** **Public Works** **Board of Supervisors**	
		Perform a corridor study of Rt. 10 between Surry County and the Town of Smithfield, in conjunction with a possible Hampton Roads Sanitation District sewer line, to determine potential service impacts and land use opportunities.	**County Administration** **Planning & Zoning** **Public Works** **Board of Supervisors**	

Encourage progressive, alternative, and environmentally compatible energy production and conservation practices that support the local economy and support the foundation of a rural and scenic atmosphere that contributes to the desirable quality of life in Isle of Wight County.	Ensure all major utility service use types mitigate any potential negative impacts to the character and future viability of surrounding land uses.	**Planning & Zoning** **Planning Commission** **Board of Supervisors**	
	Design and develop public facilities, wherever possible, that take advantage of alternative energy sources and conserve energy in operations.	**County Administration** **Public Works** **Board of Supervisors**	
	Encourage the design of the built environment through County plans and ordinances that incorporate Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) or other accepted standards or achieve a minimum certification.	**Planning & Zoning** **County Administration** **Public Works** **Board of Supervisors**	
	Continue the expansion of the County's existing bicycle and trail network in accordance with the County's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan to provide recreational opportunities, lessen reliance on the automobile and associated fuel costs, reduce pollution, and conserve energy.	**Parks & Recreation** **County Transportation** **Planning & Zoning** **Planning Commission** **Board of Supervisors**	
	Review and revise regulations to encourage mixed-use zones to encourage working, living, and shopping in the same neighborhood that can result in energy conservation and local cost savings.	**Planning & Zoning** **Planning Commission** **Board of Supervisors**	
	Include a provision in the County's transportation plan to provide future public transit to the County's major employment and population centers in the DSDs to reduce energy consumption and expand transportation alternatives.	**County Transportation** **Planning & Zoning** **Planning Commission** **Board of Supervisors**	

	The County will develop and maintain a comprehensive system of park, trail, recreational, fitness, and sports facilities and programs that keeps pace with the its changing demographics, creates multiuse destinations, and improves the health, wellness, and morale of the citizens.	Prepare a County-wide Parks and Recreation Master Plan and update it every five years.	**Parks & Recreation**	
		Develop and maintain a comprehensive program of parks and recreation facilities based on the park classification system and master plan that includes current facilities and approximate locations for future facilities.	**Parks & Recreation**	
		Improve efficiency and cost effectiveness of providing certain programs and facilities through public/private partnerships and joint operations with other public entities, such as the two towns and Paul D. Camp Community College.	**Parks & Recreation** **County Administration** **Town of Smithfield** **Town of Windsor**	
		Promote the shared use of community facilities by two or more departments or agencies in order to expand recreational opportunities.	**County Administration** **Parks & Recreation** **Town of Smithfield** **Town of Windsor**	
		Continue to implement the County's Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan to enhance the trail network and create interconnectivity of neighborhoods, commercial areas and other places of interest where feasible.	**Parks & Recreation** **County Transportation** **Planning & Zoning**	
		Identify and prioritize projects required to complete the park system for inclusion in the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) fiscal year budget.	**Parks & Recreation** **County Administration**	
		Examine the impact of changing demographics and recreational needs on parks, facilities and programming through research of trends and gathering public feedback on an annual basis.	**Parks & Recreation** **Planning & Zoning**	
		Complete the renovation of Tyler's Beach Marina and develop a master plan for the facility.	**Parks & Recreation**	
		Plan and install an equestrian trail system for the County.	**Parks & Recreation**	
		Develop the Henry H. Bradby Park in accordance with the Master Plan.	**Parks & Recreation**	
		Implement initial programs for the Blackwater Forest Preserve in accordance with the Blackwater Task Force recommendations.	**Parks & Recreation**	
		Identify, solicit, and acquire grant funding to enhance the County's adult and youth recreational programs and facilities.	**Parks & Recreation**	
		Continue to improve access to parks, trails, and other facilities in order to serve all citizens, regardless of ability.	**Parks & Recreation**	

EDUCATE	**Support early childhood education and life-long learning through schools, libraries, continuing and higher education programs, community-based education programs, and recreation programs for people of all ages.**	Partner with Isle of Wight County Schools to develop level of service standards and criteria for initiating planning efforts for new capital improvements.	**County Administration County Schools**	
		Improve community access to books (in paper and electronic format), computers and the internet, and spaces for programming and civic engagement.	**County Administration Blackwater Regional Library System County Schools**	
		Develop strategies to increase the locations and availability of childcare.	**Economic Development**	
	Enhance Isle of Wight's quality of life to retain and recruit a highly skilled workforce for the community.	Continue to grow programs that enhance job skills of County residents needed by employers.	**Economic Development County Schools**	
		Support efforts by area schools, colleges, and businesses to integrate recent graduates into the local workforce.	**Economic Development County Schools**	
		Create public-private partnerships to expand housing choice and availability in key areas.	**Economic Development Planning & Zoning**	
	Improve public access to high-speed internet networks.	Develop a County broadband access plan to promote commerce, educational opportunities, and social engagement.	**Information Technology County Administration**	
		Identify partnership opportunities to expand broadband coverage throughout the County.	**Information Technology County Administration**	
	Continue to facilitate nonresidential development to grow and diversify our economy.	Update the economic development strategic plan to reflect current conditions and identify actions to support existing businesses and attract target industries.	**Economic Development**	
	Promote environmental, cultural, and agricultural tourism which takes advantage of the rural, scenic, and historic qualities of Isle of Wight.	Complete a Tourism Strategic Study to determine the value of tourism to the County and identify opportunities for expansion.	**Tourism Planning & Zoning**	
		Create a way-finding program to help visitors find Isle of Wight's cultural and historic sites and commercial districts.	**Tourism Planning & Zoning Economic Development**	

ENHANCE	**Improve public access to high-speed internet networks.**	Develop a County broadband access plan to promote commerce, educational opportunities, and social engagement.	**Information Technology** **County Administration**	
		Identify partnership opportunities to expand broadband coverage throughout the County.	**Information Technology** **County Administration**	
	Explore potential policies and use regulations for advances in telecom, drones and autonomous vehicle technologies.	Create a working group to identify potential issues with emerging technological trends and identify potential policies to address potential barriers or negative impacts.	**Information Technology** **Planning & Zoning**	
	Provide opportunities for a variety of housing types that meet the needs, preferences, and financial capabilities of present and future residents.	Update the 2008 Workforce Housing Study to include current County demographic trends, housing inventory, and affordable and workforce housing policies with implementation recommendations.	**Planning & Zoning** **Economic Development**	
		Identify regulatory changes that provide opportunities for housing for persons with special needs in proximity to supporting community services and activities.	**Planning & Zoning**	
		Review and revise regulations to support housing types that allow the elderly to remain in their community as their needs change.	**Planning & Zoning**	
		Increase opportunities within DSDs for residences to be in close proximity to retail, employment, and public facilities, such as schools and parks.	**Planning & Zoning** **Planning Commission** **Board of Supervisors**	
		Identify possible incentives to encourage the development of a range of housing choices near major activity centers such as employment, commercial areas, schools, and recreation areas.	**Planning & Zoning** **Planning Commission** **Board of Supervisors**	
		Develop a program to promote the availability of local, state, and federal affordable housing incentives and subsidies to those involved in the housing industry.	Planning & Zoning	
		Monitor regional and local housing trends on an annual basis to assess the County's status on meeting the community's housing needs.	**Planning & Zoning**	
		Increase code enforcement efforts to reduce blight and promote the habitability of existing housing stock.	**Building Inspections** **Planning & Zoning**	
ENVISION	**Implement the land use visions established by *Envisioning the Isle (ETI)* .**	The Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors should adhere to *ETI* land use recommendations to the greatest extent possible.	**Planning Commission** **Board of Supervisors**	
		Staff should provide guidance to prospective development to encourage conformity to *ETI* .	**Planning & Zoning**	