

Public Engagement Plan

Public Engagement Spectrum of Participation

The following public engagement plan is based on the Spectrum of Participation model initially developed by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2).



For this project, public participation is proposed at the inform, consult, and involve level. Final decision-making authority on adoption of the plan is the responsibility of the Planning Commission and Selectboard.

Level of Participation	Description	Project Activities	Additional Details
Inform	Provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities, and/or solutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Website • Social media campaign materials • Press release • Flyers • Postcard mailer 	The project website will be regularly updated each month with deliverables/drafts. NRPC will provide social media materials & flyers to the Planning Commission to post prior to key outreach activities. Postcard mailer will be sent prior to primary outreach event.
Consult	Obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives, and/or decisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posters and informational flyers for use at public events • Final presentation on draft plan • Public hearings 	NRPC will provide posters and materials to the Planning Commission to share and get feedback on the plan at other community events. Final presentation and the public hearing process will provide an opportunity to comment on the draft plan.
Involve	Work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community visioning event 	Public visioning session will focus on developing a shared community vision for the next 20 years. Summaries of the community visioning session will be posted to the project website and social media to ensure residents are aware of how their feedback is used in the planning process.

Public Engagement Schedule

Events	Date
Review of Public Engagement Plan & Project Website	Tuesday October 7, 2025
Project Website Published	Monday October 20, 2025
Review of Public Participation Deliverables	Tuesday January 6, 2026
Informational Postcard Mailed	Monday January 12, 2026
Community Visioning Session	TBD- January 2025
Summary of Community Visioning Session	Tuesday February 3, 2026
<i>Plan Drafting Sessions</i>	<i>February 2026 – June 2026</i>
Final Presentation on Draft Plan	Tuesday July 7, 2026
Planning Commission Hearing	Tuesday August 18, 2026
Selectboard Hearing	Monday October 19, 2026

Public Engagement Focus Areas

The public engagement will focus on developing a shared vision and goals for the future of Fairfax, incorporating recent planning efforts such as the official map and bylaw modernization efforts. Key themes identified in the Municipal Planning Grant include addressing smart growth, housing, economic development, natural resource protection and energy efficiency and sustainability.