



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2025.** Please include this submission form as the first page of your electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: Hanover County
Program Title: Envision Hanover Implementation
Program Category: Community Development, Economic Development, & Land Use

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Todd Kilduff, P.E.
Title: Deputy County Administrator
Signature: Kilduff, Todd E.

Digitally signed by Kilduff, Todd E.
Date: 2025.06.11 08:06:56 -04'00'

***Nomination: Virginia Association of Counties
2025 Achievement Awards***



Executive Summary: Envision Hanover Implementation Program

The **Envision Hanover Comprehensive Plan Update**, a multi-year planning effort completed in September 2023, was based upon more than 4,000 stakeholder comments, with unprecedented levels of public engagement aimed at ensuring the plan’s vision and goals truly reflected the community’s vision for the future. Since the plan’s adoption, staff has worked collaboratively with the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, and community members to **implement the plan’s recommendations** and **continue public engagement**, ensuring the plan’s vision comes to fruition. This plan is not just “sitting on a shelf,” but being actively implemented.

Program Overview

As Envision Hanover (2023 Comprehensive Plan) was developed, there was significant public feedback and engagement, with stakeholders providing more than 4,000 comments through virtual and in-person events.

Through the implementation process, Hanover County is **continuing to engage its residents** in a dialogue regarding the future of their community, furthering relationships developed during the planning process while bringing the plan's vision to reality. It is not a plan that just "sits on a shelf," but one that is actively referenced and implemented.

What is being implemented?

Throughout the plan, there are different recommendations that can be implemented by Hanover County and other stakeholders to help realize the vision set forth in Envision Hanover. In particular, Chapter 12: Implementation highlights **game changers**, which are priority strategies and initiatives that directly support major issues identified through the community engagement process. The following initiatives have been launched or completed to implement Envision Hanover:

- **Revised Staff Reports**

Staff reports analyzing zoning requests have been revamped to provide an in-depth review of how each request relates to the Comprehensive Plan, with detailed tables describing how each proposal aligns with design-based

recommendations (Land Use Game Changer #1). Photos and diagrams are incorporated into the reports to illustrate key concepts.

- **Conducting Small Area Plans**

With the 2023 Comprehensive Plan, Economic Development Zones (EDZs) were refined and categorized into different types, depending on their development potential and existing business conditions. A small area plan will be prepared for each EDZ, based upon a prioritized list developed by the Board of Supervisors. The first small area plan is currently underway with scheduled adoption in Late Summer 2025, and a request for proposals (RFP) has been issued for a second study. Two small area plans will be completed annually (Land Use Game Changer #2). As part of the first study, there were 170 attendees at interactive workshops, while 251 people participated in an online survey, providing 580 comments. More than 4,000 people visited the project website, continuing robust public involvement that began with the Envision Hanover planning process. Similar colors and designs were used in the small area plans to tie them to the larger Envision Hanover planning process.

- **Rezoned a Culturally-Sensitive Community**

A historically African-American community (Cobbs Road) was zoned industrial in the 1970s with limited community feedback. As part of the Envision Hanover planning process, the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors became aware of how industrial zoning applied to the area in

the 1970s impacted existing residential properties. In 2024, in conjunction with a zoning ordinance amendment, that community was zoned back to a residential zoning district with property owners' consent, implementing Land Use Game Changer #3.

- **Worked with a Culturally-Sensitive Community to Implement Plan Recommendations**

During the planning process, public meetings were held in Brown Grove, and there have been significant outreach efforts in that community as part of planned transportation improvements.

- **Launched Educational Programs on Community Planning Processes**

The Engage Hanover Citizens Academy launched in Fall 2024, with participating residents learning about County processes and functions. One session focused specifically on community planning. Similar presentations have been provided to other community groups to educate stakeholders about zoning and long-range planning efforts (Land Use Game Changer #4).

- **Created a Rural Village Zoning District**

The Comprehensive Plan: General Land Use Plan identifies three *rural villages*. Each of these villages has a unique development pattern, including a mix of uses and buildings situated close to the road. There was not a specific zoning district that accommodated existing or recommended

development in these areas, so a new *Historic Village* zoning district was created (Land Use Game Changer #5).

- **Supported Development of Trails and Sidewalks**

The Department of Public Works is developing a pedestrian/bicycle prioritization scoring tool, which will prioritize projects based on guidance provided in Envision Hanover's Chapter 7: Active Living. To help develop the tool, an app was created for users to identify goat trails (informal dirt pedestrian paths) where funding for pedestrian/bicycle projects could be prioritized.

The Department of Public Works has been developing (and pursuing funding for) transportation improvements aimed at improving pedestrian mobility within pedestrian/bicycle capital investment focus areas identified in Envision Hanover, including new sidewalks and pedestrian crossings at Hanover Courthouse (Active Living Game Changer #2).

- **Implemented Strategies of the Blueprint to Broadband**

Hanover County Board of Supervisors and Administration recognized the needs from its citizens for high-speed internet in rural areas. After significant planning efforts, Hanover was awarded a VATI grant to serve almost 7,000 homes and businesses that are unserved and underserved. The project is well underway with about 50% of the backbone fiber installed and home connections started in April 2025. Receiving the VATI funding for this project was a huge success for the County and we are

eager to complete all home connections by the end of 2026 (Community Facilities Game Changer #1).

- **Updating Related Plans**

The County is updating the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Utilities Master Plan, and Airport Master Plan to align with Envision Hanover, with these planning processes expanding upon the public engagement techniques used as part of the Comprehensive Plan Update (Community Facilities Game Changer #2).

- **Created Interactive General Land Use Plan Map**

For the first time, an online, interactive General Land Use Plan Map was created, allowing users to search their address to determine the land use designations applied to their property. When a user clicks on the land use designation, there is description of that designation and recommended uses, improving transparency and access to information.

Project Leads

This project was led by staff in the Planning Department, with other departments regularly referencing and implementing recommendations in Envision Hanover as local programs and policies are developed and implemented.

Responsible Department

Hanover County Planning Department

Staff Leads

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Hanover County
Deputy Director of Planning

The full plan and supporting documents are available online at www.envisionhanover.com under the *Project Resources* tab.

