Dear Sue,

I had just a few comments to share regarding the comprehensive plan:

1) I agree with much of the public comment regarding our Historic Kingston resources. I think it is clear that we all value our heritage and if there are ways to emphasize the importance of recognizing our historic assets in this plan, we should do that.

2) I believe justification also does exist to maintain both the Heritage Area Commission and a Historic Landmarks Commission. I think an approach to look at would be a coordinated review process which may include one application which would be reviewed by both Commissions collaboratively.

3) I would also like for more information to be presented on Form Based Codes and particularly their use in Historic Neighborhoods so that their use can be done in a way that meets our needs in Kingston. Form Based Codes may work in some areas but not all, and this plan should outline a tailored strategy for this.

4) It would benefit the final Comprehensive Plan to be more illustrative by including more pictures, drawings and illustrations to demonstrate to the community the strategies and recommendations that are being made. This will provide a visual understanding of the suggested new visions for our city. Additionally, the plan should be available in Spanish, to accommodate Kingston's growing Spanish speaking population.

5) Though a living document, the principles and strategies of this plan should be timeless. The use of time sensitive or currently relevant references to initiatives can be dating. The overall feel of the plan should maintain consistency with the scale of each strategy and goal. For example, where there are references to specific changes for particular intersections, instead, the more broad design guidelines, replicable throughout the city, should be cited.

6) In the Midtown Section of the Plan, there should be stronger language about how public facilities can act as an anchor to the revitalization of the area. For example, the Plan seems not to reference several keystone public facilities in Midtown, including the Everette Hodge Community Center, the Kingston Library, Caring Hands Soup Kitchen, the Boys and Girls Club, GW Elementary School. The role for these locations should be more explicit.

7) The Public Facilities section could be more robust, with a strategy for how to best utilize the existing public buildings and spaces as part of a revitalization plan for the city, while also addressing their maintenance and sustainability through identifying the needs of the city's public buildings.

8) In the transportation section of the plan, there needs to be more explicit language about how to expand the capacity and ridership of the Citibus system, as identified in previous transportation studies to better connect the city. The plan discusses the use of new and existing rail trails but could improve on recommendations for other ways to move around the city, including the addition of support mechanisms that would be needed to make that happen.

I want to thank the Planning Office, the consultants and the steering/advisory committee for all the work that went into the draft plan. -Steve Noble