



## NEWS RELEASE

### **Town of Herndon Awarded RAISE Grant to Fund Development of *Herndon 2050* Comprehensive Plan**

Herndon, VA (June 27, 2023) – The Town of Herndon will receive \$720,000 from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for the development of the Town’s Comprehensive Plan, *Herndon 2050*. In an announcement on June 26, U.S. Senators Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine listed the Town of Herndon as one of five Virginia localities to receive funding through the RAISE grant program, which will provide over \$38 million in federal infrastructure investment within the Commonwealth.

“The town’s receipt of this RAISE grant is a testament to our staff’s expertise and ability to successfully compete and prevail in highly competitive grant environments,” said Town Manager William H. Ashton II. “This award will provide significant financial assistance in achieving the town’s goals.”

The RAISE grant will provide the majority of the funding needed for the town to develop its new Comprehensive Plan, *Herndon 2050*. The Code of Virginia requires that all jurisdictions within the Commonwealth adopt a comprehensive plan, with the local Planning Commission taking the leadership role in its creation and update. The comprehensive plan is a long-term planning tool that establishes the policies that will guide the town’s transportation, land use, environmental, housing, economic development, and capital improvement decisions over a 25-year period.

“The Comprehensive Plan is an important planning tool for our community,” said Community Development Director Lisa Gilleran. “One of our goals will be to develop this plan through the lens of equity to ensure that all residents, visitors, employers, and employees in the town live, work, and recreate in an environment that is conducive to their safety, success, and well-being. This grant funding will significantly help the town in achieving this goal for our *Herndon 2050* plan.”

The funding received through the RAISE grant will aid in obtaining the assistance of a team of qualified consultants to work with the town in developing the new plan, which is anticipated to include new elements such as parity among transportation modes to provide safer and more convenient access for all modes of transportation; sustainability and climate adaptation, particularly regarding energy policy; and future land use and development. The plan’s development process will also incorporate extensive community outreach and engagement opportunities to garner meaningful input from all members of the Herndon community. In addition, this will be the town’s first comprehensive plan to include an economic development plan and comprehensive plan implementation guide.

Once commenced, the town’s comprehensive plan development process is expected to take approximately 24 to 36 months to complete.

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