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For Immediate Release

Birmingham Residents Encouraged to Participate in Citywide Master Plan Public Engagement Opportunities

BIRMINGHAM, MI, January 12, 2021 – Birmingham residents are invited to join the Birmingham Planning Board as they continue discussions regarding the Citywide Master Plan for 2040. The first quarter’s virtual meetings are scheduled for Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. on January 13, February 10 and March 10.

On **Wednesday, January 13** at 7:30 p.m., the community is encouraged to share feedback in the discussion on future direction for housing policy, demand and attainable housing. During the meeting, the board will review future housing needs and how the City will accommodate those needs to ensure a strong community. Resident input is critical to the discussion about overarching housing policies for all neighborhoods.

On **Wednesday, February 10** at 7:30 p.m., the Planning Board will review public feedback regarding proposed neighborhood plans. The board will consider this feedback as they work with the planning team to develop the second draft of the Citywide Master Plan for 2040. Specific neighborhood plans will be discussed, including topics about potential neighborhood loops to connect many different neighborhoods and other neighborhood elements such as parks, churches, and schools. In addition, bike and pedestrian access through individual neighborhoods and connecting to other neighborhoods will be reviewed.

Neighborhood Packets, which convey the first draft Master Plan’s proposals relating to Birmingham’s neighborhoods, are available to view at www.thebirminghamplan.com. Visit the site to access the full neighborhood plan packet, plus a version with relevant maps in a “full spread” format. The community was encouraged to submit comments regarding the packets from late-September through Nov. 20th. The Board will again welcome public comments regarding Neighborhood Packets during their meeting on February 10.

On **Wednesday, March 10** at 7:30 p.m., the Planning Board will review public input and proposed summary recommendations for the second draft. Learn how to participate in all upcoming meetings at www.bhamgov.org/participate.

“Birmingham has a rich history of preparing and implementing community-wide plans. Public feedback is a key component to the development of the Citywide Master Plan,” said Birmingham Planning Director Jana Ecker. “We’ve had great participation to date and encourage more people to share their unique thoughts and ideas.”

Throughout the entire process to develop the Citywide Master Plan for 2040, extensive ongoing public engagement has included community surveys, round-table discussions, a drop-in clinic, expert speakers, and charrettes. In a COVID-19 environment, the community has been encouraged to participate in virtual meetings and submit feedback on the project webpage. Birmingham residents may easily submit feedback on the first draft of the Master Plan at www.thebirminghamplan.com.

City of Birmingham – A Walkable Community. Visit the city’s web site at www.bhamgov.org.

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