

VIRGINIA BEACH VISION

**Statement of Position
in Support of the adoption of the
Form Based Code for the Resort District
Adopted June 12, 2012**

The Virginia Beach Vision Board of Directors adopted a position in support of the Form Based Code (FBC) for the resort area at its June 12, 2012 meeting with the qualifier that a strategic parking plan must be an integral part of the finalized document.

After having worked closely with the city's Strategic Growth Areas (SGA) office in reviewing and revising the draft FBC, Virginia Beach Vision believes the plan is necessary to stimulate development of a more urban character that can maximize land use and create a pedestrian friendly environment. The FBC provides zoning flexibility, focusing on form not function. Coupled with a public transit system and a strategic parking strategy, common parking in structured facilities will maximize land use, no longer requiring that each project meet parking requirements on site. Allowing property owners to capitalize on their available land will create higher value, hence higher tax revenue for the city.

Adoption of the FBC for the resort district will serve as a model for similar code development in the city's other SGAs. The gradual movement toward a more urban design in the SGAs is a significant step in the evolution of our city from a once agricultural community, to a suburban mecca, to a city that offers both agricultural and suburban living and a new trend toward urban revitalization that leverages the benefits of public transit and pedestrian friendly environments.