



November 22, 2023

Dear Growth Policy Plan Committee,

The Knoxville-Knox County Food Policy Council (FPC) exists as a forum for local stakeholders to develop and assess public policy strategies and make recommendations that promote a healthy, fair, and sustainable local food system. We are the nation's oldest Food Policy Council, celebrating 41 years of collaboration this year. FPC is tasked by the City and County to "continually monitor Knoxville's food supply system and recommend appropriate actions to improve the system as needed."

The FPC has worked with Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission staff to include input from food system stakeholders throughout the Advance Knox Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Plan, hosting input opportunities for FPC members and participants in Round 1, 2, and 3 of the public input sessions.

Over the past year, the United Way of Greater Knoxville, food systems stakeholders from FPC, community leaders, and policymakers recently completed a Community Food Security Assessment where more than 777 individuals were engaged in priority zip codes across Knox County around food security and overall health and well-being. Survey results show that 97% of those surveyed believe that it's important or very important to conserve or protect local farmland or community gardens. 47% of the sample had grown their own food, and 16% currently compost.

Given our strong history of monitoring Knoxville's food supply, our comprehensive community data, and our strong network of stakeholders, FPC stands ready to advise the County on tools and methods to support the vision of a thriving county that honors its natural beauty and cultural heritage, while supporting diverse people and business. Tools and methods may include but are not limited to: urban agriculture, conservation easements, community land trusts, Certified Wildlife Habitats, community composting, and other tools and processes that might come up as the County experiences more growth and density. We look forward to investing in the assets of our community to build a healthy, fair, and sustainable food system in Knox County.

Thank you,

2023 Knoxville-Knox County Food Policy Council