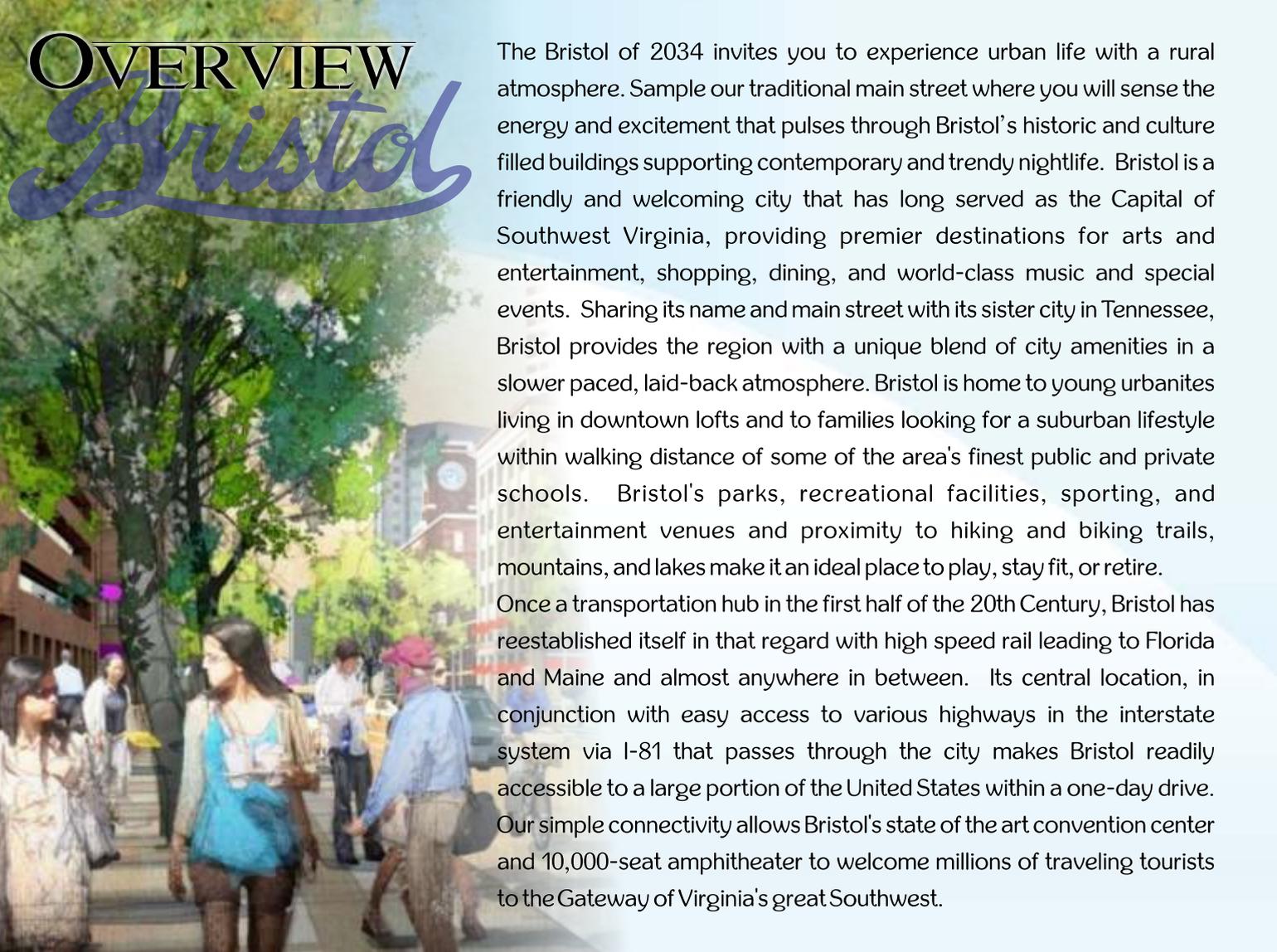




Bristol

OUR VISION OUR FUTURE

The Bristol, Virginia City Council prepared this vision for the City at its 2014 retreat. The vision is written from the perspective of the City Council of 2034 and sets a course of action in several policy areas. The City will strive to meet or exceed the expectations of this 2034 Bristol, Virginia.



OVERVIEW

Bristol

The Bristol of 2034 invites you to experience urban life with a rural atmosphere. Sample our traditional main street where you will sense the energy and excitement that pulses through Bristol's historic and culture filled buildings supporting contemporary and trendy nightlife. Bristol is a friendly and welcoming city that has long served as the Capital of Southwest Virginia, providing premier destinations for arts and entertainment, shopping, dining, and world-class music and special events. Sharing its name and main street with its sister city in Tennessee, Bristol provides the region with a unique blend of city amenities in a slower paced, laid-back atmosphere. Bristol is home to young urbanites living in downtown lofts and to families looking for a suburban lifestyle within walking distance of some of the area's finest public and private schools. Bristol's parks, recreational facilities, sporting, and entertainment venues and proximity to hiking and biking trails, mountains, and lakes make it an ideal place to play, stay fit, or retire.

Once a transportation hub in the first half of the 20th Century, Bristol has reestablished itself in that regard with high speed rail leading to Florida and Maine and almost anywhere in between. Its central location, in conjunction with easy access to various highways in the interstate system via I-81 that passes through the city makes Bristol readily accessible to a large portion of the United States within a one-day drive. Our simple connectivity allows Bristol's state of the art convention center and 10,000-seat amphitheater to welcome millions of traveling tourists to the Gateway of Virginia's great Southwest.

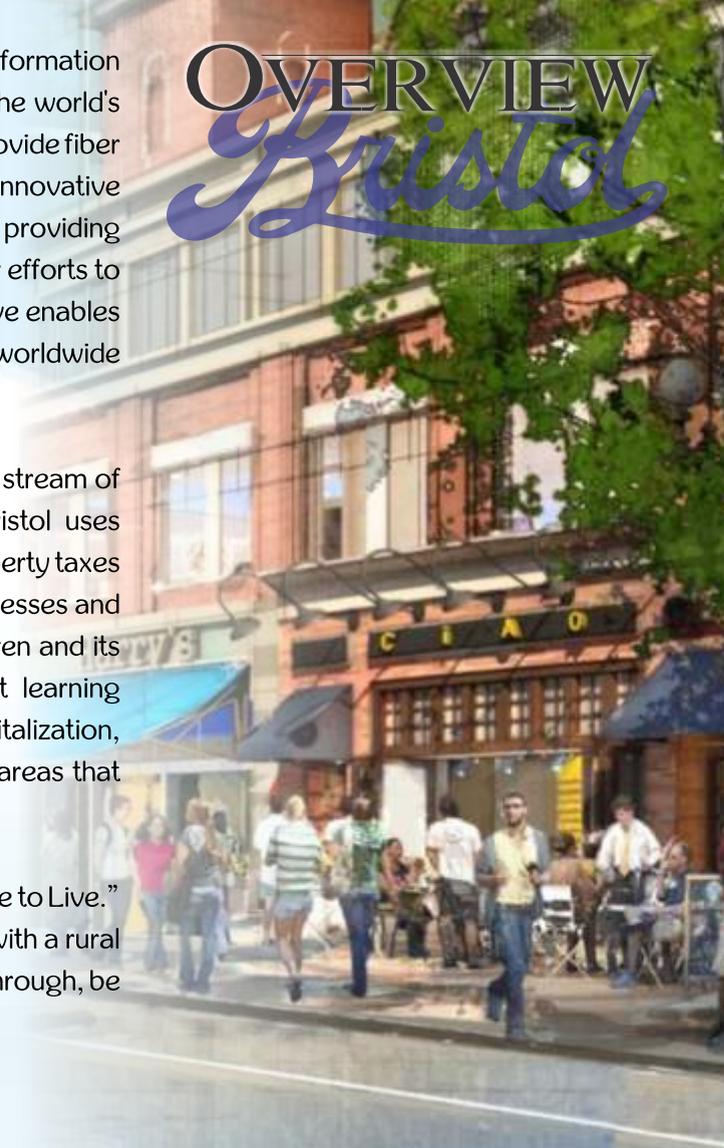
The longstanding regional leader in communications and information systems, Bristol continues to offer cutting edge access to the world's data resources. Bristol's success as one of the first cities to provide fiber optics to its residents and businesses has led to new and innovative technologies that have brought industry to the city, while providing better jobs and brighter futures to its younger residents. Our efforts to keep infrastructure on the forefront of the development curve enables a thriving telework community who digitally commute to worldwide destinations without leaving the genuine comfort of Bristol.

Bristol's economy is diverse and not dependent on any one stream of revenue. As a city that attracts visitors near and far, Bristol uses revenues from meals, lodging, and sales tax to keep real property taxes competitive with other cities of its stature. As Bristol's businesses and industry have grown, Bristol has invested wisely in its children and its neighborhoods. Modern schools provide state of the art learning facilities for its children. By committing to restoration and revitalization, some of Bristol's most unique and inviting housing rests in areas that were once its most troubled.

Bristol's iconic sign has always declared it to be a "Good Place to Live." In 2034, Bristol's ability to provide a city experience tinged with a rural charm make Bristol a great place to shop, dine, work, travel through, be from, return to, and by all means, to live.

OVERVIEW

Bristol



Our vision has been achieved by thoughtful strategic effort on these focus areas:



ECONOMIC HUB



DESTINATION BRISTOL



FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE



VIBRANT NEIGHBORHOODS



OUTSTANDING CITY SERVICES



HEALTHY FINANCIAL ENVIRONMENT



SUPERB FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

ECONOMIC HUB



Bristol's technology infrastructure has enabled the attraction of innovative business providing higher wage salaries, reduced unemployment and better quality of life. Effective promotion of Bristol's numerous assets has lead to the modernization of the available non-residential structures and higher density in our existing industrial areas. Through a heightened level of regionalism the collective Bristol, including Washington County and Bristol, Tennessee, have expanded on the stock of available greenfield development sites increasing the market awareness that Bristol is a hub of commerce. Teleworking is now a key piece of what makes Bristol an attractive place for the World's workforce to live while contributing to the global economy. This ability has enabled Bristol to keep and attract a diverse mix of employment for the youth of our community and beyond. All of these successes, including a robust entrepreneur support structure, have enabled new investment in the funding of our economic development program. The strategic and focused increase of educational funding has seeded, nourished and grown our workforce to be the envy of the nation. Despite the growth of employment opportunities Bristol maintains its hometown and genuine feel through a commitment to the preservation of Bristol as a "Good Place to Live".

Bristol



DESTINATION BRISTOL

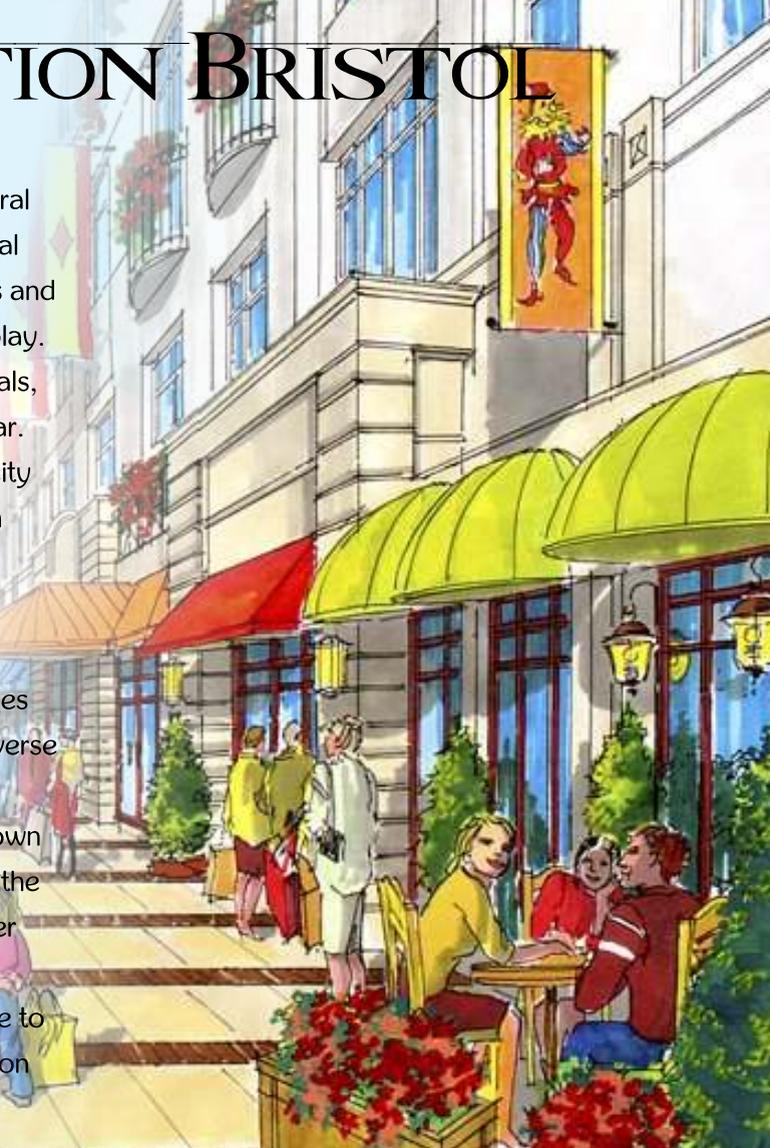
The City of Bristol has built upon its assets of culture, heritage, and natural resources to become an international destination for tourists of all of ages and

interests offering unique opportunities to live, work, and play.

The City celebrates its heritage through a variety of festivals, concerts, and other community events throughout the year.

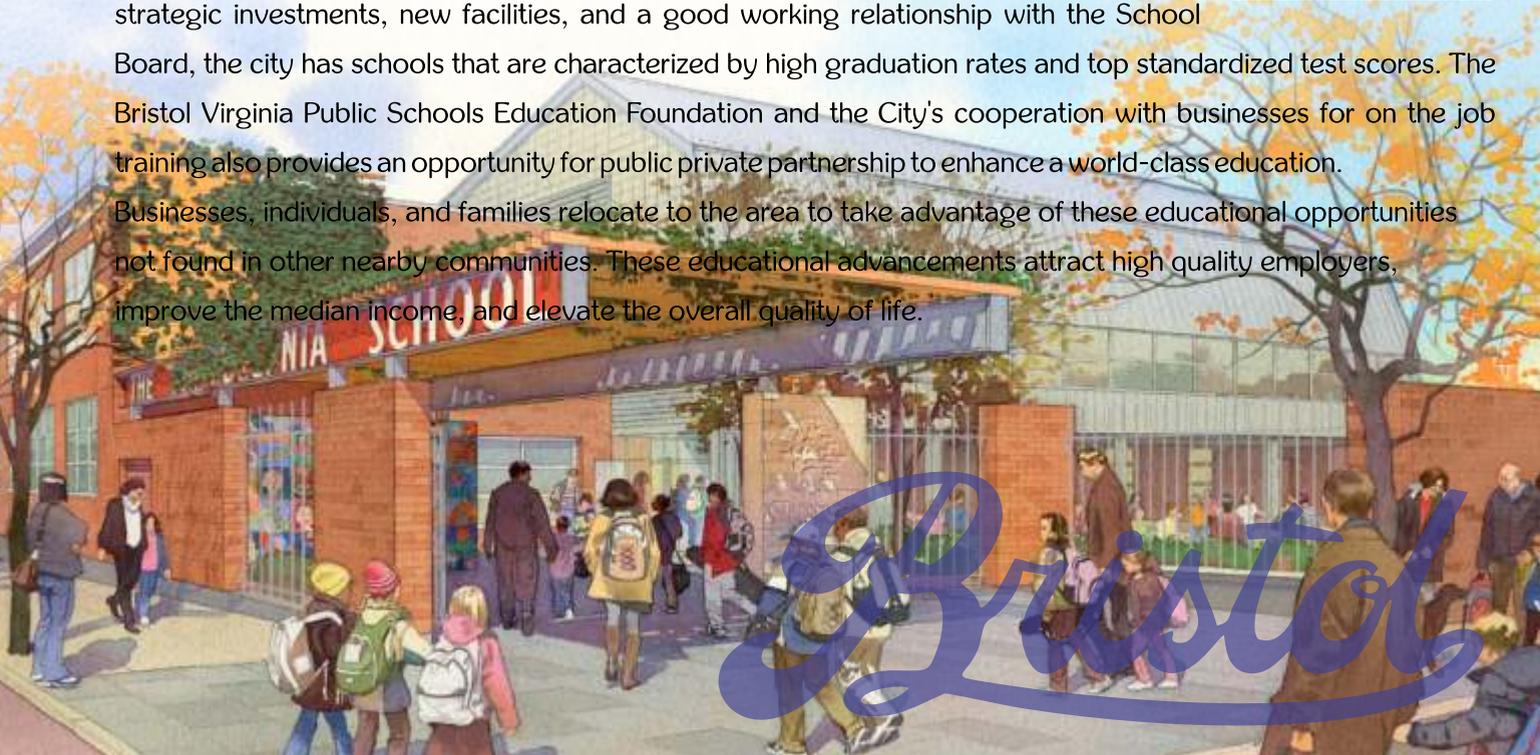
Building upon its unique racing and musical heritage, the city has created a vibrant arts and entertainment district which displays the creativity and culture of the city's residents.

Numerous opportunities to enjoy the natural beauty and diversity of the Appalachian Mountains exist through ATV, hiking, and biking trails. A network of city parks encourages healthy living and activity among all ages through their diverse programs. The city is a destination for nationally known unique opportunities to shop and dine, both in the downtown and along the Interstate corridor. The unique offerings of the community make it a destination for conferences and other events, which are supported by a number of quality and unique hotels. Tourists from throughout the world are able to arrive in Bristol through a variety of modes of transportation including interstate, passenger rail, and airport access.



FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

The City's educational system is a model for localities in the state in producing high quality graduates that are prepared for the workforce and secondary education, despite their economic or social background. The city values and offers a wide range of educational opportunities for all, including universal pre-school education, K-12 public schools, diverse private schools, career/technical job training, and college level education. Through strategic investments, new facilities, and a good working relationship with the School Board, the city has schools that are characterized by high graduation rates and top standardized test scores. The Bristol Virginia Public Schools Education Foundation and the City's cooperation with businesses for on the job training also provides an opportunity for public private partnership to enhance a world-class education. Businesses, individuals, and families relocate to the area to take advantage of these educational opportunities not found in other nearby communities. These educational advancements attract high quality employers, improve the median income, and elevate the overall quality of life.





VIBRANT NEIGHBORHOODS

Bristol's foundation has always been the strength of its neighborhoods. These neighborhoods have grown and housing stock improved through the cooperative efforts of government, industry and residents of Bristol. Livability standards maintained through innovative governmental support, such as a strong rental inspection program, enable the City to maintain high quality residential living for all income levels. The institution of a modern and innovative zoning text has altered the focus on the separation of uses to allow the creation of the mixed-use community that Bristol is today. Blight is no longer the primary threat to the prosperity of our City due to the effective and efficient use of incentives for redevelopment, strategic investment in the beautification of gateways and street scapes and the establishment of clear "place-making" through strong neighborhood identity. Bristol has achieved enviable connectivity through accessibility and sidewalk installation or replacement. These elements combined with improved lighting and a focus on patrol by our Police Department have all contributed to the safety and enjoyment of our neighborhoods by the citizenry. The commitment to current and long range planning have enforced the comprehensive plan's position in Bristol's strategic housing improvement.



Bristol

A watercolor illustration of a row of yellow houses with white porches and columns. A sidewalk runs alongside the houses, with a garden bed of yellow and orange flowers in the foreground. The word "Bristol" is written in a large, blue, cursive font across the bottom right of the image.

OUTSTANDING CITY SERVICES

The City of Bristol provides a level of service that would be comparable to a larger urban area, while still maintaining its small town feel. The City of Bristol offers effective and efficient services to all residents of the city. The services are accessible to all, either in person housed in a central municipal building or through utilization of technology. The city employs a highly qualified and trained workforce, compensating them at a level that makes service with the city an attractive employment option. The city is a leader in utilizing technology to provide effective and efficient services to maintain the health and safety of the entire community.



Bristol



HEALTHY FINANCIAL ENVIRONMENT



The City has created a healthy financial environment that allows it to make decisions that make the most of every economic opportunity. The retail growth and revenues resulting from proactive development of our “destination” identity have provided the city with financial security and the ability to flourish. The City is perceived to be a fiscally responsible city with diverse funding streams that make us resilient in economic downturns. City leaders and city staff use a proactive approach to the budget that incorporates clear priorities, monitoring, adjustments, refinancing, and long range planning and investments that have achieved financial stability.



SUPERB FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Our vision has been achieved by thoughtful and strategic efforts to facilitate the movement of people throughout the city. Careful attention and planning provide bridge replacements and major thoroughfares that connect the city. Sidewalks, once present in older neighborhoods, are now found in all parts of Bristol. Bristol has emphasized the safety of its citizens. Enhanced signalization and lighting have allowed for the safe and efficient flow of vehicles and pedestrians throughout the city. While focusing on safety, we have also created an aesthetically pleasing cityscape free of obtrusive wires and other eye clutter. Although proud of our historic structures, we have added many new and modern facilities throughout the city. Our new amphitheater, conference center, and baseball stadium all provide beautiful and modern facilities that have transformed previously blighted neighborhoods. The consolidation and design of new schools create state of the art learning environments for our students. Our students can access the world through ultra high-speed fiber optics and advanced technology.



Bristol

OUR VISION
OUR FUTURE

