

APPENDIX 2: DOCUMENTATION

RESULTS OF VISIONING SESSIONS

Focus2030 Comprehensive Plan
Community Forums - February 2008
Summary

Strengths	Votes	Percent*
Community Character: small town atmosphere and feel; "hometown feel"; "small big town;" something for everyone (e.g. living, entertainment); self-sufficient (can get all needs covered within the community); local "mom 'n pops;" scale and size of community, moderate size, balance of activities; room to grow; friendly atmosphere; citizen retention; retain WKU grads quality of life; great people, heritage, "home;" close-knit community/compactness; family roots; family-oriented community, community in which people want to raise a family; community pride; social networking opportunities; spiritual values; strong religious community; option for isolation from neighbors, private areas (rural lifestyles); parks and recreation, low crime, feeling of safety, healthcare, cultural opportunities, historic preservation, large city amenities with small town feel; the arts opportunities - music, theater, accessible fine arts; strong visual and performing arts; cultural diversity; strong cultural base - good farmland; restaurants; "mini version of Nashville;" less traffic than larger cities; highways and city kept clean; beautification, aesthetics; beautiful landscape; rural and urban proximity; historical areas; historic properties; historical buildings, architectural heritage; Smith's Grove historic district, homes and cemetery; preservation of historic farms; low density neighborhoods; small community identities; strong and unique neighborhoods; support structure for neighborhood associations (e.g. Bowling Green coalition of neighborhoods); strong community organizations to assist in various demographics; University town; diversity and affordability of housing; rural-green space; preservation of green space, less urban sprawl; quality of life (e.g. churches); unique downtown; access to public officials because small town; relatively low cost of living	239	28%
Education: City and County public and private school systems; "University town" – WKU, BGTC vocational school; libraries; youth programs; strong relationship between University and public school system; good teachers and test scores	142	16%
Economy: diverse industrial base; comparatively low unemployment, job opportunities; wide variety of business services; strong agribusiness; locally owned businesses; business climate, Chamber of Commerce; tourism; low regulatory environment; Transpark; self-sufficient-can get needs covered within the community; lots of stores and shopping centers; good housing market - get good value for money	137	16%
Parks and Recreation: recreational activities - greenway system, City and County parks systems, access to state parks	62	7%
Public Health and Safety: outstanding City police; medical facilities, availability of health care; fire protection from County volunteers and BGFDD	54	6%
Location: proximity to Louisville and Nashville; climate; room to grow; rural and urban proximity; regional hub; regional market; proximity to hospitals, shopping, accessible goods and services	51	6%
Infrastructure and Public Facilities: water, sewer, stormwater systems; roads - 4 laning of Scottsville Road, highways and facilities kept clean, good rural roads, I-66, if handled well; railroad; Smiths Grove Community Center	47	5%
People: community involvement, work ethic, "can do" attitude; multi-cultural community, diverse population, international diversity; community volunteerism (e.g. VFD); citizenry's cooperative attitude; rural/community spirit and pride; Christian religious base; wide diversity of faiths; good moral base, demonstrate love for each other ; good people, strong values, friendly	41	5%
Government: planning and zoning; City/County development attitude; governments' (Cities and County) cooperation; "minimum planning/maximum liberty;" progressive city programs and delivery of services; leadership listens to the community; good comprehensive plan upon which to build; maintain independent cities rather than metro government; responsible pet ownership ordinance	36	4%

Agriculture: local farmer's market; beautiful farms; farming industry, strong cultural base	27	3%
Natural Features and Open Space: river and creek system, lakes; karst – unique geological make-up; efforts to protect groundwater	21	2%
Green Movement: recycling program; green power program; progressive stormwater management; green infrastructure	5	1%
Downtown: downtown revitalization activities; City gateways; DRA	3	0%

Weaknesses	Votes	Percent*
Government: lack of good communication by and among elected officials; too many taxes; poor fiscal management (budget cuts, misuse of public funds for private developments e.g. Ballpark, lack of funding for community organizations, not getting greater share of state tax money); poor government follow through and oversight; unfunded mandates; pervasive "good ol' boy network;" top down attitude by leadership; leadership doesn't have clear priorities; "metro government;" part time mayor to handle a full time City; building regulations too lax; too little planning for aging population; low voter participation, perception that "our voice is not heard"	175	20%
Transportation Network: poor flow on major roads such as US 231 and KY 234; lack of mass transit; transportation for elderly and children; parking downtown and near WKU needs better management; incomplete pedestrian facilities; uncertainty regarding future of airport when Transpark is complete; same roads have different names; in poor condition; too narrow; secondary road connectivity; control of roads around University; airport has outgrown location and restricts growth	171	20%
Infrastructure and Public Services: spotty broadband coverage, lack of competition between cable providers; spotty recycling services; ugly TVA poles; County EMS - lack of financial support for services (e.g. volunteer fire departments); inadequate water supply for firefighting; limited sewer service coverage in County; lack of air service; regional waste management; duplication of services; excessive tree trimming by utilities; uncooperative/unresponsive utilities; too few emergency centers; ISO ratings system impractical	146	17%
Growth/Development/Lack of Planning: planning and zoning's lack of foresight; too many or too few regulations, inconsistent application and enforcement of development regulations; karst's constraints; city's unwillingness to use eminent domain for projects; reactive versus proactive mentality; lack of preservation-development out of context, inadequate neighborhood protection; lack of review board training; lack of redevelopment in older areas; poor government control over new development (make-up of boards too developer-heavy); NIMBYism; sprawl; approved developments are too dense; need more development where infrastructure exists; too little planning for aging population	145	17%
Environmental Problems: water contamination related to karst geology; loss of farmland and open space; pollution from industry waste; radon; air quality; dirtiness of Barren River; illegal dumping; litter; light and noise pollution; lack of recycling in County for business and industry	61	7%
Housing: too many apartments and rental properties; inflated property values; poor property maintenance enforcement; WKU students living in single family neighborhoods; lack of tenant/landlord ordinance, lack of tenant rights, excessive regulation for affordable housing	40	5%
Economy: lack of high paying jobs; lack of knowledge-based jobs; lack of quality labor force; industrial employers lack diversity; lack of respect for agricultural community; need more consumer financial education; loss of active farmland	35	4%
Social Fabric: crime; illicit drugs; social issues; lack of awareness of problems in ethnic communities; cultural differences; apathy within community	31	4%
General Appearance: visual clutter - overhead utilities, poor upkeep, too many billboards; inadequate sign ordinance; conflict between aesthetics and utilities; loss of historic buildings; inadequate architectural standards; WKU expansion – tearing down historic older properties; downtown conditions	28	3%
Lack of Amenities/Facilities/Services: lack of cultural opportunities, lack of animal control; no public smoking policy; lack of restaurants outside Bowling Green; weak media outlets; poor access to organic foods or co-op; need more activities – at night, non-alcoholic; not enough public golf courses; lack of amenities in rural areas; County package alcohol sales (optional for each store)	22	3%
Youth and Education: high student to teacher ratio; not enough youth activities; excessive University growth; changing school district boundaries too frequently; WKU is a "suitcase college"; difference in education between schools	17	2%

Opportunities	Votes	Percent*
Economy: develop and grow existing business, industries, and educational institutions; tourism; agribusiness; continue to make attractive to new industry-Transpark; seek higher paying jobs, knowledge based economy, invest in human capital; get casino; foster local entrepreneurship; embrace globalization; draw larger corporate headquarters/technology; plan to retain agriculture; encourage corporate responsibility	143	20%
Transportation network: widening of I-65; fix road network; expand public transportation - mass transit system, complete streets (sidewalks, bike paths); relocate/improve air transportation; create major transportation loop; add traffic arteries; improve gateways; 626 Interchange on Parkway	112	15%
Natural Resources, Environment, and Outdoor Recreation: promote more "green"/alternative resources - create incentives; sustainability; offer incentives to conserve and preserve farmland and natural beauty; increase recreational opportunities (e.g. more trails at Mammoth Cave, river recreation, expand greenways and parks); offer County-wide recycling programs; expand river access (e.g. improve Mitch McConnell Park)	95	13%
Growth-related opportunities: managed and self sustaining development; differentiate rural and urban growth patterns; guide growth to areas with infrastructure, centralized location (e.g. I-65); use zoning to protect certain areas and uses; offer incentives to keep youth in area; learn from other communities experiencing growth; larger local grocery (Hadley) ; allow redevelopment of non-conforming lots; allow selective growth of commercial and residential	93	13%
Youth and Education: combine City and County schools systems; involve youth in decision process; activities for youth and elderly via better use of school facilities; reestablish family-oriented community organizations such as the YMCA; plan/build schools in anticipation of growth; continue integration of WKU and community – ideas and resources; offer music programs in schools; organized youth athletics; Build school in Hadley	91	13%
Culture and Social Fabric: maximize WKU cultural benefits; restaurants; expand arts community, museum; preserve heritage; become a destination for retirees; build more retirement communities; retain youth and young adult populations; preservation of local community	71	10%
Government: continuing citizen involvement and transparency in government; improve communication through web technology; privatize services; utilize regional financial resources; combine services to eliminate unnecessary redundancies; initiate training for review boards; improve code enforcement; metro government; put in place protections from eminent domain/encroachments	54	7%
Infrastructure and Public Services: expansion of public/private utilities-cable, internet, etc; increased financial support for volunteer fire departments, rebuild dams; upgrade water lines	31	4%
Downtown development: downtown TIF project; infill development to encourage better land utilization (compact development); better utilization of existing structures (vacant buildings); preserving downtown architecture; incentive programs for historic preservation	19	3%
Housing: increase affordable housing; continue to offer diverse types of housing	19	3%

Threats	Votes	Percent*
Government: high taxation; City/County budgetary mismanagement - massive debt, lack of revenue to afford improvements, financial burden of downtown redevelopment, loss of public program funding; lack of responsive leadership; good ol' boy system; statewide overregulation; loss of influence in congressional and state politics; lack of full time government leadership; lack of cooperation; losing 5th and 6th class cities (threat of metro government); use of eminent domain; not implementing the comprehensive plan; lack of thorough research on major expenditures (e.g. Transpark)	157	21%
Climate for Development and Planning for Growth: inconsistent application of zoning regulations from project to project; making zoning regulations more restrictive; big city ideas and expectations; resistance to change; not promoting redevelopment of property in City limits; mandatory green building; commercial sprawl limiting official travel time; cost of inefficient patterns of development; lack of population retention; poorly planned future annexations; "amoeba growth" (i.e. sprawl)	134	18%
Infrastructure and Public Facilities: limited ability to finance schools and infrastructure; only one water source; inadequate roadways, influx of visitors on weekends creates traffic problems; lack of stormwater management; destruction of trees by utilities; energy: quantity, type and cost; solid waste management; reactive versus proactive infrastructure planning; uncertainty regarding future of airport	102	14%
Public Safety: crime, especially related to drugs and gangs; inadequate community warning systems; inadequate EMS, cost of health care; lack of good fire service protection; understaffed County Sheriff's Department; hazardous materials; bad drivers; underpaying emergency service providers	88	12%
Natural Resources and Environment: global warming; depletion of natural resources; loss of farmland and public green space; litter; loss of public green space; pollution, including sound and light; located in "natural disaster corridor"	72	10%
Loss of Community: lack of volunteer support; lack of community involvement in the political process; poverty; drop out rates; unwholesome entertainment; every person for him or herself attitude; not blending cultural diversity, ethnic segregation; loss of community; loss of small town feeling	49	7%
Economy: attracting low-end employment; attracting a casino; being unprepared for globalization, burden from multi-nationals; too dependent on manufacturing jobs; growing segment of workforce underskilled and undereducated; inflationary pressures (e.g. gas money); increased unemployment, outsourcing; excessive incentives for corporations	43	6%
Education: loss of state funding to WKU; lack of improvement to education system; lack of youth involvement; wasted human resources; undereducated population; excessive University growth; limited library resources - inequitable distribution throughout County; overcrowding of schools; underpaying teachers	34	5%
Immigration: Illegal immigrants; language barriers; not planning for cultural diversity	33	4%
Housing: lack of adequate building codes; subdivision of houses into apartments; student housing posing safety and aesthetic problems; lack of affordable housing for young professionals and low income households; decline of older neighborhoods and lack of incentives to do so; oversized houses	27	4%