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;	407	400/
good housing market - get good value for money	137	16%
Parks and Recreation: recreational activities - greenway system, City and County parks	~~~	70/
systems, access to state parks	62	7%
Public Health and Safety: outstanding City police; medical facilities, availability of health	54	6%
care; fire protection from County volunteers and BGFD	- 54	0 /0
Location: proximity to Louisville and Nashville; climate; room to grow; rural and urban		
proximity; regional hub; regional market; proximity to hospitals, shopping, accessible goods	51	6%
and services	51	0 /0
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		
	47	5%
well; railroad; Smiths Grove Community Center People: community involvement, work ethic, "can do" attitude; multi-cultural community,	47	5%
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		5%
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		10/
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%

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., poor fiscal management (budget cuts, misuse of public funds for private developments e.g., good of boy network, "top down attitude by leadership, leakership, leakership, leakership, leakership, le	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., albipark, lack of funding for community organizations, not getting greater share of state tax money); poor government follow through and oversight; unfunded mandates; pervasive "good of loo puetwork;" top down attitude by leadership; deach have clear priorities; "metro government," part time mayor to handle a full time City, building regulations too lax; too title 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 VKU 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: veotrage in County; lack of air service; regional waste management; tuplication of services; e.g. volunteer fre departmenting by utilities; uncooperative/unresponsive utilities; too few emergency centers; ISO ratings system impractical 176 176 Growth/Development/Lack of Planning; planning and zoning's lack of foresight; too many or to few regulations; inconsistent application and enforcement of development are equilators; karst's constraints; eity's unwillingens to use entinent domain for projects; reactive versus proactive mentality; lack of preservation-development are too dense; need more development there infrastructure exist; tow'd	Weaknesses	Votes	Percent*
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	University growth; changing school district boundaries too frequently; WKU is a "suitcase			070
	college : difference in education between schools	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%