

General Plan Update Steering Committee Meeting #4

September 9, 2020
6:30 PM

Steering Committee #4 for the Geauga County General Plan update was held at 6:30 PM on September 9th, 2020, via Zoom.

This document summarizes discussion highlights from the meeting regarding four themes that emerged from the Community Survey and warrant further public input:

- Preserve Rural Character
- Economic Development
- Housing Needs
- Connections

It was agreed that each of the four themes will represent a public open house “station” which will contain additional questions on this topic. The in-person open house activities will also be replicated online in a virtual workshop to maximize public participation.

Please note: This document reflects a summary of the discussion that took place at this meeting. Additional stakeholder input (e.g. community surveys, forums, etc.), quantitative analysis, and Planning Commission guidance will be incorporated in developing the General Plan.

Theme 1: Preserve Rural Character

Over 60% of survey respondents were worried or somewhat concerned over the loss of farmland and natural areas. Over 90% of survey respondents support the use of conservation easements. Additional question topics for Public Open House / Virtual Workshop:

- Agricultural Preservation - which geographic areas should be prioritized?
- Conservation Easements - are residents comfortable with property rights being sacrificed for future generations?

Theme 2: Economic Development

Three in five survey respondents felt the County should take an active role in attracting office/commercial and light industrial businesses? Additional question topics for the Public Open House / Virtual Workshop include:

- What types of design considerations (aesthetics, setbacks, buffering, etc.) are most desired for Office/Commercial uses?
- What types of design considerations (aesthetics, setbacks, buffering, etc.) are most desired for Light Industrial uses?

Theme 3: Housing Needs

A majority of survey respondents did not want to see any additional housing in the County. For those desiring new housing, single-family was the most requested housing type. Additional question topics for Public Open House / Virtual Workshop:

- Would you be comfortable with any of the following housing types: Conservation Development, Mixed-Use, Senior Housing and Workforce (Market Rate) Apartments?

Visual examples of each housing will be needed to clearly articulate each concept and how it can potentially be applied in a context-sensitive manner in a rural setting.

Theme 4: Connections

Half of survey respondents felt broadband service was fair or poor. 70% of respondents supported Amish buggy safety improvements. Over 60% of survey respondents were against providing transit service in the County. Trails and paths were the most requested park amenity. Additional question topics for Public Open House / Virtual Workshop:

- Should the County pursue expanding broadband service?
- Would you support workforce “last-mile” transit connections from another County transit system directly to a Geauga County industrial park?
- What identified Amish safety needs should be prioritized?
- What type of trail/path (multi-use, bridle, hiking, etc.) do you desire? Where should it connect to?