



12. Citizen Involvement

DRAFT

OVERVIEW:

Throughout the process of updating the 2020 Comprehensive Plan, great efforts were made to reach out to the public for input. This input has helped to guide the directions and focus of the Comprehensive Plan.

12.1 Vision Commission

The Vision Commission was set up to help guide the Hamilton Vision 2020 Planning Project. Their main goal was to design a framework for action that serves as a dynamic and living plan for the City of Hamilton.

- A. Initially, six community volunteer Focus Groups were formed to help formulate community issues seen as important to the City of Hamilton. Each group explored a specific topic area, and then identified goals, objectives and implementation strategies to serve as the primary building blocks of the Vision 2020 plan. The six topic areas were:
 - Community Services
 - Economic Vitality
 - Government Cooperation
 - Image and Environment
 - Life and Lifestyle Choices
 - Lifelong Learning

- B. The Vision Commission is made up of a variety of individuals throughout the community that have worked on and continue to work towards a positive future for the City of Hamilton. These individuals are involved with various committees and working groups that have helped with the development of the Vision 2020 Comprehensive Plan.

12.2 Vision 2020 Update Survey:

The City of Hamilton conducted a household survey to help focus attention, of the comprehensive plan, on the items that the citizens felt were most important. The results from this survey have been vastly important to the direction that the comprehensive plan has taken.

- A. The Vision 2020 Update Survey was a simple random sample (SRS) of Hamilton households. Surveys were distributed through the mail. This method meant that each household in Hamilton had an equal chance of responding.

"Mail surveys are a powerful, effective, and efficient alternative to their more expensive relatives." (American Statistical Association)



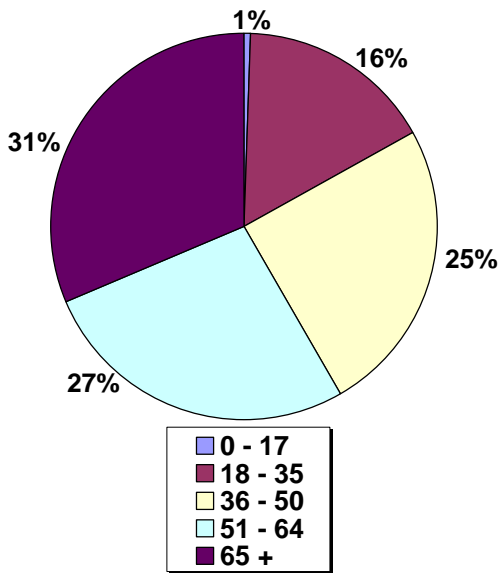
“The public opinion poll provides an opportunity for the voices of the common man and woman to be heard.” (Roper Center)

B. The survey had over 1,700 total responses, with ages ranging from 11 to 95. Here are some quick facts about the survey:

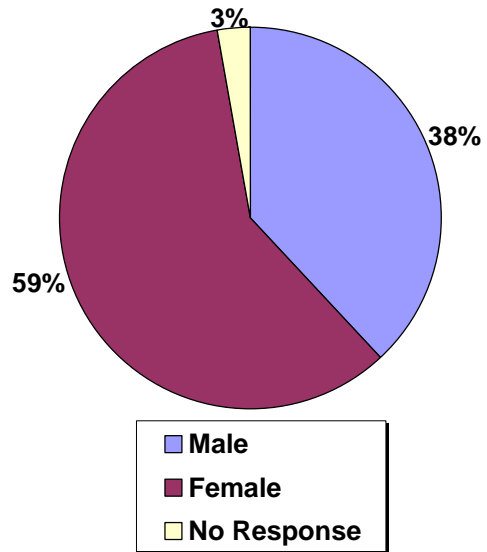
- 1,728 respondents
- Age min/max: 11 yrs. – 95 yrs.
- Average age: 54 years
- Distributed Summer/Fall 2006
- Sample Population: utility customers within the City of Hamilton, respondents from in person interviews from the County Fair Event, River Days and the Business Expo.
- 26,000 surveys were mailed out with utility bills

Age & Gender Breakdown
all respondents

Source: Vision 2020 Update Survey 2006



1,663 total respondents



1,719 total respondents



CITY OF HAMILTON, OHIO

Vision 2020

The City of Hamilton and the Vision Commission are working together on a study during the Summer 2006. The study is investigating the future emphasis of Hamilton's Vision Plan.

Please answer the following questions. They will help guide the study's recommendations for the future of Hamilton. Thank You!

Age: _____ Sex: _____
 Do You Live in the City of Hamilton? Yes No
 Would you support a tax increase for a designated amount of time for specific projects? Yes No

How important is it to have the following items within walking distance?

	<u>Very Important</u>			<u>Not Important</u>	
Workplace	5	4	3	2	1
Store	5	4	3	2	1
Park	5	4	3	2	1
School	5	4	3	2	1
Entertainment	5	4	3	2	1
Other: _____	5	4	3	2	1

Other Comments:

How important are the following forms of transportation?

	<u>Very Important</u>			<u>Not Important</u>	
Bus	5	4	3	2	1
Rail	5	4	3	2	1
Walking	5	4	3	2	1
Bicycle	5	4	3	2	1
Other: _____	5	4	3	2	1

Other Comments:

Which of the following are vital to relieving traffic congestion?

	<u>Very Important</u>			<u>Not Important</u>	
Improved River Crossing(s)	5	4	3	2	1
Intersection Improvements	5	4	3	2	1
Traffic Light Timing	5	4	3	2	1
Traffic Circles/Roundabouts	5	4	3	2	1
Speed Limit Changes	5	4	3	2	1
Public Transportation	5	4	3	2	1
Other: _____	5	4	3	2	1

Other Comments:

How important are the following recreational items?

	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Not Important</u>
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Other Comments:

Splash Parks	5	4	3	2	1
Neighborhood Parks	5	4	3	2	1
Athletic Fields	5	4	3	2	1
Indoor/Outdoor Aquatic Park	5	4	3	2	1
Trails (walking, biking)	5	4	3	2	1
Other: _____	5	4	3	2	1

- OVER -

How important are the following for cultural/entertainment options?

	<u>Very Important</u>			<u>Not Important</u>	
Art Museum	5	4	3	2	1
History Museum	5	4	3	2	1
Outdoor/Public Art	5	4	3	2	1
Baseball Stadium	5	4	3	2	1
Amphitheatre	5	4	3	2	1
Family Fun Center	5	4	3	2	1
Children's Museum	5	4	3	2	1
Stadium Seat Movie Theatre	5	4	3	2	1
Other: _____	5	4	3	2	1

Other Comments:

Which of these high volume areas should the city focus financial resources for improvements?

	<u>Very Important</u>			<u>Not Important</u>	
Eaton Avenue/Ft. Hamilton Hospital	5	4	3	2	1
Route 4/Erie Boulevard	5	4	3	2	1
High Street	5	4	3	2	1
Main Street	5	4	3	2	1
Pleasant Avenue	5	4	3	2	1
Riverfront/Downtown	5	4	3	2	1
Other: _____	5	4	3	2	1

Other Comments:

How important are the following environmental issues?

	<u>Very Important</u>			<u>Not Important</u>	
Air Quality	5	4	3	2	1
Natural Habitat (trees, wildlife, etc.)	5	4	3	2	1
Water Quality	5	4	3	2	1
Energy Efficient Construction Practices	5	4	3	2	1
Improved Utilities	5	4	3	2	1
Other: _____	5	4	3	2	1

Other Comments:

How important are the following types of educational opportunities?

	<u>Very Important</u>			<u>Not Important</u>	
Libraries	5	4	3	2	1
Higher Education Schools	5	4	3	2	1
Trade/Vocational Schools	5	4	3	2	1
Elementary Schools	5	4	3	2	1
High Schools	5	4	3	2	1
Adult Education Programs	5	4	3	2	1
Other: _____	5	4	3	2	1

Other Comments:



Which of the following are most important to improving Hamilton's image?

	<u>Very</u> <u>Important</u>			<u>Not</u> <u>Important</u>	
Tree-lined Streets	5	4	3	2	1
Public Art	5	4	3	2	1
Improved Property Maintenance	5	4	3	2	1
Architectural Improvements	5	4	3	2	1
Improved Roadway Surfaces	5	4	3	2	1
Improved Landscaping	5	4	3	2	1
Eliminating Empty Storefronts	5	4	3	2	1
Improved Signage (businesses)	5	4	3	2	1
Other: _____	5	4	3	2	1

Other Comments:



12.3 Department & Staff Meetings:

Throughout the process of updating the comprehensive plan, the city has continually worked with all departments and staff that are related to the issues involved with the plan. These meetings have been documented and have contributed to the development of the Vision 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update.

- A. There have been over 30 meetings with various departments regarding the comprehensive plan. The departments included through this process include:
- Economic Development
 - Electric Engineering
 - Electric Production
 - Law
 - Neighborhood Development
 - Parks and Recreation
 - Planning
 - Public Works Administration
 - Transportation and Traffic
 - Gas & Water Production

List agencies represented

- B. There have also been meetings with various non-city agencies. Those agencies include Hamilton City Schools, Butler County Planning and Butler County Engineers.

List non-city agencies here

12.4 Public Outreach:

Planning staff in combination with the Vision Commission attended River Days, the Greater Hamilton Business Expo, and the Butler County Fair in order to gain input about the plan. These efforts ranged from conducting the Vision 2020 Update Survey to allowing citizens to comment on likes and dislikes about certain concepts and ideas.

- A. At the River Days event the Vision 2020 Update Survey was passed out in combination with a visual aide to accompany the survey. People were able to see some of the concepts and ideas being brought forth in the survey through this process.
- B. The Business Expo held at Vora Technology Park was once again another means to distribute the Vision 2020 Update Survey. The expo was also a place where people were able to view images and comment on what they liked and disliked in each. This process outlined what features people liked for such areas as business districts, neighborhoods, and other areas.
- C. The Butler County Fair was the first place for the distribution of the Vision 2020 Update Survey. Over 200 resident responses were received through this effort.

“Public participation is inherent to good responsible land use planning.” (Civic Communicator)



- D. Before the approval of the Vision 2020 Comprehensive Plan, there will be public meetings scheduled in four quadrants of the city to discuss the plan. In addition there will continue to be public hearings at the Hamilton Planning Commission and City Council meetings.

12.5 Comprehensive Plan Update Committees:

The development of the Vision 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update was done with the input of select working committees and an executive committee. These committees were put together to help guide planning staff in the development of the comprehensive plan update.

- A. There were working committees set up for most of the chapters in the comprehensive plan. These committees were comprised of individuals, in the community, that have a strong community interest in the committee topic. The committees also consisted of representatives from respective departments for each of the chapters. The committees were broken down as follows:
- Land Use, Transportation and Economic Development Committee
 - Parks Committee
 - Housing and Neighborhoods Committee
 - Riverfront/Downtown Committee
- B. The Executive Committee was the final step for the various chapters, in the Vision 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update, before going for public input. The committee offered final recommendations for the chapters, where planning staff would then apply those recommendations as necessary. The Executive Committee oversaw all chapters of the Vision 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update. Those chapters are as follows:
- Land Use
 - Transportation
 - Neighborhoods
 - Economic Development
 - Environmental
 - Housing
 - Parks
 - Urban Design
 - Utilities
 - Riverfront/Downtown
 - Education
 - Citizen Involvement
 - Regional Cooperation



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