

# HUDSON

*Comprehensive Plan*

## Community Workshop Summary September 11, 2014

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, a Community Workshop was held at Hudson High School to allow residents to communicate their issues, aspirations, and priorities for the future of Hudson. The workshop centered around three key questions:

- What are five issues or concerns facing the City of Hudson?
- What are three specific projects or actions you would like to see undertaken in Hudson?
- What are the primary strengths and assets of Hudson?

The following is a summary of the thoughts, comments, and opinions highlighted in the workshop in response to the above questions. It is important to note that the items identified in this workshop summary are not consultant recommendations, but rather feedback and comments received from those who attended the workshop.

### Top Issues

The discussion began by asking those in attendance to identify five issues or concerns facing the City of Hudson. A wide variety of topics were discussed in response to the question; however, many of these issues were interrelated and in alignment with other responses and opinions. Accordingly, the responses are grouped below into several common themes.

#### *Preserve Hudson's Small-Town Character*

Workshop attendees overwhelmingly believe in preserving Hudson's existing character and identity. Some community members expressed concern that increased development could threaten Hudson's small-town charm and unique identity.

#### *Attract Young Residents and Families*

Participants noted the need for Hudson to attract new residents, with an emphasis on bringing in younger families.. A younger population base was seen as adding vibrancy, diversity, and more tax revenue.

#### *Diversify the Housing Stock*

Participants stated that although Hudson's housing stock is of a high-quality and attractive in appearance, the City lacks smaller, more affordable housing units that may be better suited for work-force housing, seniors and young professionals. Specific options proposed included multi-family housing and single-story housing, near commercial corridors and the Downtown area.

### *Increase Non-Motorized Connectivity*

Participants emphasized the need to “better connect” neighborhoods with the Downtown, commercial areas, and institutional assets. More sidewalks, trails, bike paths, and bike lanes were all listed as examples of ways to better knit-together the community and increase connectivity between different areas.

### *Support Local Schools*

Noting the high quality of Hudson’s public school system, residents discussed the need to maintain local support. Maintaining the quality of Hudson schools was viewed as a key factor in attracting new families and maintaining the City’s reputation as a well-educated community.

### *Additional Issues*

The following are other issues and concerns raised by event participants that do not fit within the identified themes:

- Redeveloping the YDC property
- Need for a community center
- Ensure zoning and land use are properly aligned
- Minimize traffic and congestion
- Need for road infrastructure improvements
- Need to preserve parks and open spaces
- Need to be proactive in maintaining neighborhood quality

## Top Project or Actions

Residents and community stakeholders suggested a wide range of steps to improve Hudson. Some of the more popular responses included: improving transportation infrastructure to facilitate greater connectivity, constructing a community center, redeveloping the YDC property, and introducing a city-wide high-speed internet system.

Specific projects and actions provided by committee members are listed below:

- Improve sidewalk infrastructure
- Improve streets
- Add new bike paths and trails
- Add new parks
- Construct a community center
- Construct a civic campus that can house various City facilities and functions
- Redevelop the YDC property
- Introduce a high-speed internet system
- Enforce City codes and ordinances
- Create a plan for the Hines Hill property
- Encourage commercial and industrial growth
- Encourage affordable and diverse housing options
- Repair and maintenance of existing properties
- Expand educational services for residents of all ages

- Limit density

## Primary Strengths & Assets

Lastly, community members were asked to identify Hudson's major strengths and assets. Popular responses focused on public safety, Hudson's unique and attractive character, educated and engaged residents, and the high quality public schools.

A full list of responses is provided below:

- Safety/low crime
- Friendly community
- Centrally located
- Rural character but close to Cleveland and Akron
- Unique character
- Beautiful homes
- Attractive built environment
- Historic character
- Aesthetically pleasing image
- Small town charm
- Parks and open space
- Cuyahoga Valley National Park
- Library
- Walkable
- Easy access to transportation
- Educated and engaged residents
- Community determined to improve
- Volunteerism
- Consistent property values
- Strong government