



Community Outreach and Revisions Summary

NOVEMBER 17, 2011

Background

This document summarizes the results of the various community outreach activities conducted by the Citizens Visioning Committee (CVC) during August and September 2011 to seek input on the committee's draft recommendations—as contained in the Johnson County 2030: Living Our Vision report (Review Draft: July 2011). This document also provides an overview of substantive revisions reflected in the final Johnson County 2030: Living Our Vision report (November 2011).

Key components of the outreach process included:

- **Speakers Bureau Forums**—CVC members presented the draft recommendations to and sought input from numerous community members and stakeholders representing a broad range of interest groups. Forums or small group meetings were conducted as follows:
 - Northeast Johnson County Chamber, August 16
 - Lenexa Rotary, August 19
 - Johnson County Planning and Zoning Commission, August 23
 - Human Services Agencies, August 24
 - Chamber President's Council, August 25
 - Overland Park Rotary, August 29
 - Western Johnson County Rotary, August 31
 - Johnson County Rotary, September 1
 - Johnson/Wyandotte County Council of Mayors, September 7
 - League of Women Voters, September 10
 - El Centro, September 12
 - Overland Park Chamber, September 13
 - Cosmopolitan International of Johnson County, September 15
 - Young Rotarians of Overland Park, September 7
 - Overland Park South Rotary, September 21
 - NAACP, October 1
 - DeSoto Rotary, October 7

Attendance at the forums ranged in number from a handful to more than fifty, for an estimated total of well over 100 combined participants (not all participants signed in).

- **Online Community Workshop**— an Online Community Workshop was hosted on the project website (www.johnsoncountyvision2030.com) for the duration of the outreach period to provide additional opportunities for input on the committee's draft recommendations.

- **Community Forums (2)**—two Community Forums were held in early September to provide an opportunity for citizens to learn about the committee’s draft recommendations, ask questions of committee members, and to provide their input.

Participants in the above activities were asked to provide input on two key questions: 1) What are your priorities in each area? and 2) Is there something you think is missing from the draft recommendations? Feedback on these questions was recorded using a 2-page comment form along with a parallel online survey (non-scientific) that was included as part of the Online Community Workshop. Additionally, verbal feedback and questions from participants was recorded during the Community Forums and the Speakers Bureau forums. Over 300 formal responses were recorded through the Online Community Workshop and the comment forms collected during or after the Speakers Bureau Forums. All feedback was made available on the project website along with a redlined draft of the vision report following the September CVC meeting.

Summary of Feedback and Revisions

Common themes that emerged from open-ended comments provided during the Speakers Bureau Forums, Community Forums, and Online Community Workshop are summarized below:

- Poverty is not really addressed – or separation of class—more focus on changing demographics
- Concerns for the aging – needed amenities, transportation, affordable housing
- More emphasis on reinvestment in aging infrastructure, sustainable development, waste reduction
- Need for a new courthouse has been previously studied and should be addressed
- Define “evidence-based” outcomes, plans, programs
- Need to improve communication about county services and what the county actually does
- Opportunities for consolidation of functions and services should be emphasized (government, schools, etc.)
- Not clear why health and human services was combined with law enforcement? Both are major issues on their own.
- Not clear why libraries are included with ‘A Culturally Rich and Active Community’ when they also serve an important role in education and workforce development
- Transportation should be more strongly addressed
- Report is not consistent in its recommendations for continued funding of different activities—lack of specificity in a particular area may be interpreted as lack of support (e.g., libraries).
- Reinforce challenges we will face in achieving the vision

The following is a section-by-section summary of common themes that emerged from the input received and substantive revisions reflected in the final report (November 2011) as a result of committee discussions on this input.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Revisions:

- Numerous adjustments to reflect edits to other sections listed below.

PREFACE

Revisions:

- No change.
- Modified map and added caption to more clearly reflect Johnson County’s regional context.

INTRODUCTION

Revisions:

- Updated community outreach opportunities to reflect completion of recent activities
- Added explanation of relationship between individual topics and themes in the 'How is this Document Structured?' section to address confusion about where specific topics (e.g., libraries, housing) are addressed in the report.
- Removed references to 'Priority Recommendations'
- Added new explanation for 'Next Steps'

CONTEXT

Revisions:

- No change.

VISION AND THEMES

Revisions:

- Revised theme #4 to read “A Sustainable Pattern of *Development and Redevelopment*” to reflect emphasis on both new growth (outward) and reinvestment in established areas of the County.

ECONOMIC VITALITY

Common Themes:

- Importance of education and training for quality jobs offering livable incomes
- Importance of having quality jobs available in Johnson County
- Team with existing schools (Johnson County Community College, KU) and businesses for job training
- Play a leading role in areas economic development efforts, not just supportive
- Concern about being able to support an additional organization – could the county support other organizations that already do this?
- Clarify definition of workforce diversity

Revisions:

- Removed placeholder for 'Possible Indicators to Track Our Progress'

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Common Themes:

- Importance of great public education – it attracts and retains quality residents, creates a strong workforce thus creating a stronger economy, encourages businesses to invest here, etc.
- Quality education is not just a result of proper funding, quality teachers, curriculum, etc. is also vital
- Provide education for specific trades (mechanic, plumbing, masonry, etc.) and for specific needs like special education and early education
- Not only is it important to have funding but it is also imperative that the funding is used efficiently and appropriately
- Involve businesses in educational funding and partnerships – field trips, etc.

- Is this a county role?

Revisions:

- Added brief explanation in challenges and opportunities section re: higher education and added minor edits to guiding principles and recommended actions to reinforce importance of education at all levels (Pre-K-12, collegiate, university, continuing education).
- Removed placeholder for 'Possible Indicators to Track Our Progress'

A SAFE, HEALTHY, AND CARING COMMUNITY

Common Themes:

- Emphasis on the importance of public safety
- Avoid duplication of services, consolidate services where possible and work with the cities
- Affordable housing helps with diversity and inclusiveness
- Clarify recommended action #4

Revisions:

- Clarification to Public Safety bullet under 'Challenges and Opportunities' (Increasing Demand for Services and Changing Trends)
- Clarification to HS-A3
- Clarification to HS-A4 and explanation of evidence-based programs
- Clarification to HS-A6
- Removed HS-A7 to mirror changes in other sections intended to remove specific funding references
- Removed placeholder for 'Possible Indicators to Track Our Progress'
- Added multiple references to 'wellness' within the context of prevention and early intervention.

A SUSTAINABLE PATTERN OF DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT

Common Themes:

- Housing diversity is not emphasized enough (aging population, workforce housing)
- More emphasis on better transit options for all ages – including bike paths, light rail, and other creative options that fit Johnson County's needs (like door to door transport for the elderly)
- More emphasis on reinvestment in established areas – utilize vacant buildings and already developed lands
- Coordinated growth should be emphasized

Revisions:

- Revised theme #4 to read "A Sustainable Pattern of *Development and Redevelopment*" to reflect emphasis on both new growth (outward) and reinvestment in established areas of the County.
- Added new recommended action SG-A2 to address reinvestment in established areas of the community
- Added clarification to SG-A7 to address the need to balance costs and benefits with regard to sustainability initiatives.
- Removed placeholder for 'Possible Indicators to Track Our Progress'

A CULTURALLY RICH AND ACTIVE COMMUNITY

Common Themes:

- Libraries also relate to other themes – they support education for all ages, need stronger language to support the libraries financially
- Support new museum
- While nice to have, the topics addressed as part of this theme overall should have a lower priority compared to the others – people are more concerned with basic needs, employment, homelessness, etc.

Revisions:

- Clarification to ‘Challenges and Opportunities’ to remove specific reference to MAP2020 for consistency with other sections of the report.
- Clarification to COM-A1 to remove funding references for consistency with other sections of the report.
- Clarification to COM-A2 to remove funding references for consistency with other sections of the report.
- Clarification to COM-A3.
- Removed placeholder for ‘Possible Indicators to Track Our Progress’

EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT

Common Themes:

- Should we guarantee an open and transparent process or just promote it?
- Not only create the process to meet about consolidating services but actually make it a recommended action

Revisions:

- Removed placeholder for ‘Possible Indicators to Track Our Progress’

PRIORITY ACTIONS (NEXT STEPS)

Revisions:

- Re-framed Priority Actions section to address ‘Next Steps’ as opposed to Priority Actions
- Incorporated recommendations related to monitoring the implementation of the plan from the ‘Tracking our Progress’ section and revised.

TRACKING OUR PROGRESS

Revisions:

- Removed.

APPENDIX: BACKGROUND AND TRENDS

Revisions:

- Added reference to role of Johnson County government in each topic area in introductory section.
- Expanded explanation of Johnson County Transit in Transportation section.
- Expanded explanation of Johnson County Museum activities.