



Growth Summit

Round Two Community Engagement Summary |
Wabash County Comprehensive Plan

September 2021
IMAGINEONE85.ORG



Growth Summit

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September 2021

The following report provides an overview of the Growth Summit, the second round of public engagement in support of the Wabash County Comprehensive Plan. For questions on this report please contact the project manager for Imagine One 85, Logan Stang, planner with planning NEXT, at logan@planning-next.com.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This section introduces the purpose and overview for the second round of community engagement as part of the Imagine One 85 comprehensive planning effort for the communities of Wabash County.

1.1 Purpose

The Imagine One 85 Steering Committee hosted a single, in-person event called the Imagine One 85 Growth Summit in July 2021. More than 200 people gathered at the Honeywell Center Plaza to celebrate the communities' strengths and progress, and to provide feedback on the development of the comprehensive plan. The Summit was intended to:

- **Convene** - Gather community members from across the county to safely participate in a large-scale community event;
- **Celebrate** - Provide an “exhale” opportunity and showcase all the great things about the communities of Wabash County;
- **Share** - Present key takeaways from the Focus on the Future and the technical research and analysis; and
- **Build** – Collect ideas from community members about the actions we can take to ensure strong and regular growth in the county.

The second round of community and stakeholder engagement sought to encourage residents about the strengths and values of the county through three testimonials. Dave Haist shared a message called “Coming Home” about his journey back to Wabash County after years away; Shane Waters described his journey to Wabash and his experience as a preeminent podcast host; and Kelsey-Jo (KJ) Kessie shared about her decision to move into the county, including both the joys and the challenges. These inspirational stories highlighted the potential of the communities within Wabash County.

Participants were invited to imagine a future where the goals established through this process have been realized. The first prompt focused on outcomes: “What will the headlines say?” Based on the understanding that the county would need to grow by 85 households each year to achieve its previous population high in the next 25 years, residents were then asked to share their “BIG Ideas” that would ensure this kind of growth. Finally, working in groups, participants decided on their “MIGHTY Ideas,” the actions that would have the greatest impact on population growth in the county. Major themes from the public input include green energy, infrastructure (cell phone and internet), housing / retail / mixed-use development, and outdoor recreation. These themes have informed the development of the action agenda of the final comprehensive plan.

This report provides an overview of the activities, themes, and conclusions from this second round of community and stakeholder engagement.

1.2 Overview

Imagine One 85 is a process to develop a comprehensive plan for the communities of Wabash County led by a coalition of leaders from all sectors, including the Community Foundation of Wabash County and Grow Wabash County.

A comprehensive plan is a broad, multi-topic policy statement that includes goals, strategies, and action recommendations (future policies, projects, or programs). These recommendations support the long-term, community-derived vision statement (where we – as a collection of communities – want to be in 20 years). While Northeast Indiana’s 11-county region has consistently grown for four decades, Wabash County has not. A bold, comprehensive plan for the future is the best possible way to arrest—and reverse—our population decline.

Imagine One 85 is an open and inclusive process. While ultimately adopted by town councils and county government, the plan is created by the communities of Wabash County. For more information regarding the process, please visit www.imagineone85.org.



Figure 1: The Imagine One 85 Planning Process will take place over a 14-month period with the summit representing the second round of engagement.

2. ACTIVITIES & RESULTS

The Growth Summit was hosted on July 14, 2021, at the Hopewell Center Plaza in Wabash. Participants were seated at tables of eight to listen to a presentation from the planning team and testimonials of exemplary residents. The Summit also included individual and group activities which are summarized below. Each section includes a description of the activity, total number of responses, major themes, and example responses. A complete list of all responses is included in the appendix.

2.1 Write the Headline!

Participants were given a variety of cards with the names and logos of national or local newspapers. They were asked to fill in a blank space with a headline based on the prompt:

When we reflect on the work of this process in 25 years, what will the headline say? What does success look like? Write the headline below.



TOTAL RESPONSES: 77

KEY THEMES: Economic growth, population growth, quality of life

EXAMPLES:

- Wabash County – The place for family and growth
- Wabash County, Indiana ranks top community to live for young families throughout the Midwest
- Small Town Hits the Big Time! Increases Population

2.2 BIG Ideas and MIGHTY Ideas

Participants were seated in groups that had one large group recording form, many individual “BIG Idea” cards, and several “MIGHTY Idea” cards. The BIG Idea activity was for individuals, whereas the MIGHTY Idea activity was for the group; these activities were interrelated. Participants were given the following background and instructions to complete these activities.

2.2.1 BIG Ideas

What’s the BIG Idea?

To regain our population and continue to grow as communities, we’ll need to add 85 households each year. What action can we take to make our communities magnets for people and investment? Try to think of specific projects, policies, or programs. We call those “actions” and our final plan will include dozens of them. But we need your help and your ideas!



- Idea Name** (Try to lead with a verb, “Build a trail...”)
- Description** (Tell us a little about your idea. Why this, why now, who’s involved, how does it help us grow, etc.)
- Topic** (Does your idea respond to a specific chapter? If so, which? (Great Places, Prosperity, Neighborhoods and Community, Foundations, Something Else).

TOTAL RESPONSES: 291

TOPICS:

- Great Places – 73
- Prosperity – 105
- Neighborhoods and Community – 29
- Foundations – 24

KEY THEMES:

- Building diverse housing (senior, multigenerational, etc.)
- Infrastructure: high speed/fiber internet
- Rivers for recreational activities, more green space and trails

EXAMPLES:

Idea Name	Tell Us More
Highlight natural amenities (rivers, reservoirs) with development, trails, etc.	People want to live close to natural spaces with multiple activity options.
Acquire land on outskirts of town for future housing.	Work with landowners to acquire properties conducive to future housing additions.
Improve transportation through public transit.	Offer a better transportation system so parents can send their kids to pool, parks, or any recreation location.

2.2.2 MIGHTY Ideas

What is the formula for growth?

To regain our population and continue to grow as communities, we'll need to add 85 households each year. What action can we take to make our communities magnets for people and investment? Try to think of specific projects, policies, or programs. We call those "actions." Our final plan will include dozens of them, but we need your help and your ideas!

1. **Brainstorm ideas individually.** Write your ideas on the BIG Idea cards. Don't forget to explain why that idea is so important. [See above]
2. **Share and collect ideas as a group.** Go around the table and share your ideas one-at-a-time please). Arrange BIG Idea cards in the space provided below.
3. **Discuss the mix of ideas and identify missing pieces.** As a group consider any missing pieces and identify new ideas together.
4. **Identify your group's MIGHTY Ideas!** What ideas on your group's board will have the biggest impact on our challenge?

Once each small group had written down several MIGHTY Ideas, they were invited to attach them to the MIGHTY Ideas Wall and share with the large group.

MAKE WABASH COUNTY MIGHTY!

OUR MIGHTY IDEA:

WILL LEAD TO A FUTURE WITH:

Imagining a bold, comprehensive plan for the future of the communities of Wabash County.

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TOTAL RESPONSES: 40

KEY THEMES:

- Green energy
- Infrastructure: cell phone and internet service
- Housing / retail / mixed-use development

EXAMPLES:

Our Mighty Idea	Will Lead to a Future With
Develop new apartments/condos/townhouses.	More young people drawn to the county and possibly for increasing population.
Improve existing housing with high speed internet, grants to renovate historic homes, green energy.	Attractive homes for new residents and improve neighborhoods and communities.
Build out rivers as easy-to-find destinations!	More outdoor recreation and healthy, adventurous citizens.

3. APPENDICES

The following pages list all comments given during the second round of engagement and are organized by question. The comments are recorded as written by participants and presented without edits to spelling, punctuation, grammar, or content.

Contents:

1. Appendix A: Write the Headline (Pages 9-10)
2. Appendix B: BIG Ideas (Pages 11-26)
3. Appendix C: MIGHTY Ideas (Pages 27-28)
4. Exit Questionnaire Results (Pages 29-34)



**When we reflect on the work of this process in 25 years, what will the headline say?
What does success look like?**

ID	Write the Headline!
1	Check out this great historic place called Wabash County!
2	Wabash, Indiana named first most wholesome city to raise a family in U.S.
3	Wabash County - The place for family and growth.
4	Wabash: Welcoming Heart of Indiana
5	Wabash County leading Midwest in diversity initiatives for population growth.
6	Small Midwestern town breaks the Rust Belt.
7	The people of Wabash are still working together to make it an amazing place.
8	Record number of new kids enrolled in Wabash County Schools, New School on the ballot
9	County continues to set records: Wabash to break ground on tech start-up.
10	Wabash County...The Fastest Growing Indiana Community
11	Wabash, IN a model for small town growth
12	Our Vibrant Community!
13	The best River City in Indiana
14	We DID IT! ...what's next?
15	There are no houseless people in Wabash County
16	Wabash - Unified Community - Working Together
17	Wabash, the new staycation
18	Wabash ...
19	Happy, Healthy Families Low Crime
20	Wabash County Now #1 in the State of Indiana with Growth
21	Local community Leads Nation in Green Energy initiatives
22	Congratulations to Wabash County for continuing to grow and prosperity in all areas..
23	Small town in Indiana is a big destination for its variety of festivals
24	Most desirable community to live in U.S. (Population Less than ___)
25	2,000 persons expected of the annual Liberty Mills - Manchester Eel river race. MU students tie to hold 1st place Championship.
26	Wabash - still thriving, still growing!
27	Wabash hosts river regatta
28	Small Rural Town Explodes in Population, Recreational Opportunities and Life Satisfaction
29	Wabash County Turns it Around!
30	The gem of Northeast Indiana
31	Outstanding Place to Visit.
32	Wabash Rocks...and More!
33	Hidden treasure has been discovered!
34	Investment in small town community pays off. Residents benefit in business prosperity and improved quality of living
35	Schools Finally Consolidated
36	Wabash County, Indiana ranks top community to live for young families throughout the Midwest.
37	Sammy Hagan Played Here!!
38	25 Years of Increasing Quality Early Learning Seats!

Appendix A: Round Two Community Engagement

Wabash County Comprehensive Plan



ID	Write the Headline!
39	Looking for quality childcare? Visit Wabash County!
40	Wabash the place in the Midwest where life is good. Where raising your family and living a good life is possible.
41	Wabash County Exceeds Employment Goal.
42	Community a ... higher than life goals.
43	New School under Construction Due to Population Explosion!
44	3rd New Industry Locates in Wabash County
45	Fastest growing city in the Midwest
46	Wabash Indiana Shines Brighter than Ever!!! First Electricity ... City Grow Exponentially!!!
47	Wabash High School is expanding again to meet tremendous growth
48	We made it! Population increased for the 12th year in a row!
49	One school corporation in the county, a new large industry coming to Wabash Co. County continues to grow 2% per year
50	Wabash County, Wabash City Schools sees Record enrollment and Student Success
51	Wabash CO Hits a Sustainable Stride
52	1st city w/ no crime!
53	New housing development in N. Manchester, Indiana
54	Area welcomes Latinx community w/ new Bilingual classes!
55	Keith Gillenwater becomes Principal owner of Washington Nationals and...moves the team to Wabash, Indiana!
56	Wabash. Awesome!
57	County population tops 50,000! We are running out of room!
58	Small town: Big dreams
59	For 25 years, Wabash Co. Indiana has shown growth in population
60	Everyone wants to move to Wabash County!
61	Wabash county growth leads state.
62	The place to live in Indiana
63	Wabash County Leads the State
64	A city in decline resurrects itself.
65	Wabash wins again! Enrollment in County Schools highest in the State!
66	WABASH GETS BACK TO POPULATION LEVEL OF 1975! 7 elementary schools providing Pre-K to 6th education.
67	Love, Hope, Success! Building Wabash County!
68	Wabash has reached even higher heights!
69	Wabash Co. continues to be example for communities looking to grow!
70	Wabash is voted outstanding small town destination for the arts.
71	Wabash County, IN. The Hidden Gem!
72	Wabash, IN ~ Premium Smalltown Living
73	Small Town hits the big time! Increases population
74	Better than ever.
75	North Manchester continues growth trends of last 25 years.
76	Wabash County, IN's Home of Excellence
77	ILEARN banned! Children Liberated!



Topics Key	
1	Great Places
2	Prosperity
3	Neighborhoods and Community
4	Foundations

What action can we take to make our communities magnets for people and investment?

ID	BIG Idea Name	Description	Topic(s)			
			1	2	3	4
1	Open land for building home		1			
2	Build more senior housing close to extended services.	Villa 2 bedroom with garage are in short supply and with an aging population this is needed. Contact Bob Lundquist + Tom Grizzle	3			
3	Build a permanent Farmers Market that could be open mid-week as well as on Saturday.		2			
4	Build a trail to a healthier environment by protecting our children + families from the dangers of secondhand smoke. Being smoke free is a step towards better health	Need policy change. Leadership in Wabash County need to lead. People need to not only be aware of the danger that comes from secondhand smoke but also recognize their responsibility to do something about	2	1		
5	A consolidated school system that will offer a greater opportunity to expand and broaden curriculum		2			
6	Increase minimum wages					
7	Upgrade requirements for landlords!		3			
8	Increased access to college/university classes and degrees which means huge amounts of financial aid. Wabash is a leader in this.		2			
9	Lots of green spaces!		1			
10	Consolidate the 3 schools in Wabash		2			
11	Build new spec homes		3			
12	Great ONE school system - Improve Education		2			
13	Bring in more manufacturing JOBS.		2			
14	Improve the historic home neighborhoods in Wabash	Create small grant programs for homeowners. Volunteer groups to help maintain/teach how to maintain. We need more desirable neighborhoods within walking distance to downtown/other amenities	1	3		

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ID	BIG Idea Name	Description	Topic(s)			
15	"Homesteading" cities empty lots in center of towns	Encourage homebuilders to build new homes on empty lots using *architecturally appropriate* plans. Offer lots for free if builders/owners agree to reside in for 5 years. Lots would have water & sewage in place. *plans oked by historical commission for exterior, but fully modern interiors	3			
16	Work with locals/farmers/ state legislature to consolidate MSD + Wabash County Schools (the foundation) before industry can be attracted		2			
17	City/Co. leaders work to recruit farm related industries to build in Wabash Co.		2			
18	Next, provide upscale housing for single families moving in.		3			
19	Offer power washing to all of the delapidated houses around town and demolish more condemned		3			
20	We need a viable newspaper		3			
21	Cleaning up existing residential properties	Tighten and enforce building codes, building spec housing	3			
22	We need a viable newspaper that covers local news thoroughly					
23	Improve education to the best we can	Consolidate or more cooperation expand Ivy Tech. Career Center expand skills programs. International Baccalaureate	2			
24	Attract small businesses	Build an industrial spec building	2			
25	Using own great green spaces	Help Amy Ford with expanding the trail system. Support the Dam to Dam	1			
26	Using the Wabash & Eel Rivers	Organize ... clubs to explore natural spaces. Keep the River Defenders - their clean up and their wonderful education events	1			
27	Encourage refugees to come to Wabash. Hopefully they will open new restaurants!	Help diversity in the county. Increase new jobs	1	2		
28	Create an artist relocation program so there are places for artists to live and work in one area that can be a distination	Brings in new people and helps encourage the arts	3			
29	Better arts program ... Neighbors	Our Public Schools should have great well-rounded programming	3			
30	What's here--	I want to create a video to let the students know about what is here. I have already spoke to Julie C... about this.	1	2	3	4
31	Big events that are festivals - like Roam Festival	The Roam Festival has brought in more than 15,000 people to one event in a night	2			
32	Build a Splash Park	At Morrett Sports Complex that kids can utilize during events				
33	Business - Manufacturing	Bring more manufacturing here	2			
34	Higher end of jobs available	Create jobs through more manufacturing of long term businesses - not pop up or just a boutique	2			

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ID	BIG Idea Name	Description	Topic(s)		
35	Destination location	Events to bring people here on a continuous basis - not just for an hour	1		
36	Encourage revitalization of homes in our city limits.	Many homes have been turned into apartments and have lost their historical beauty. I don't know how but if these could be restrained to original states, they could be used to attract folks to our community	1	3	
37	Focus on community growth	Continue to grow trail system; develop/update walking area (fix sidewalks), create community health activities	1	3	
38	Create a collaborative working space where people could pay monthly/ yearly to use as an office spae and share resources. This could be good for those who don't need an office building but don't want to work at home.	I visited one of these in Lafayette, IN and it had conference rooms, small offices, and open table and desk spaces where people could come in on their own time to work.	2		
39	Build more housing options that would appeal to a younger population.	There aren't many modern options that many college grads might be looking for when searching for jobs in the area. Nice apartments or townhouses could be a good route.	3		
40	Highlight natural amenities (rivers, reservoirs) with development, trails, etc.	People want to live close to natural spaces with multiple activity options	1		
41	Partner with developers to build housing additions/new communities to live.	Personally new to county and there is a LARGE gap in homes and also land (additions) to build. If there is a place to live, they will come.	3		
42	Rebuild city walkways (sidewalks). This will continue the quality of life by making sidewalks safe to walk.	Crumbling infrastructure of sidewalks make it difficult for some residents to travel.	4		
43	Employer incentives to correct and new employees to live within the county. Will increase population and also increase tax revenue with the new residents	Obtain grants/funds to support county employers to intice employees to live within county	4		
44	Acquire land on outskirts of town for future housing	Work with landowners to acquire properties conducive to future housing additions	3		
45	Combine efforts of local schools to expand educational opportunities for students	Have schools work together to come up with joint effort to improve educational options that are attractive to incoming families.	2		
46	Community cross promotion	We have some great examples in town already. But I believe Wabash WILL be a one stop shop fo ranything you could need!	4		
47	Nightlife	Strength Wabash bars? Late movie nights?	2		
48	Promote outdoor lakes and sporting events	We have access to the lakes, but where are the lake shops?	1		
49	Develop a state-wide/national marketing campaign to "sell" Wabash	Devote "serves" money	2		
50	Develop a cleaning house for volunteers to work for Wabash	Many would help, but no never asked. We seem to recycle the same volunteers over and over again.	3		
51	Make government more efficient.	Combine city and county and townships into one unit.			

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ID	BIG Idea Name	Description	Topic(s)		
52	More restaurant choices - family friendly, Italian, open for lunch and dinner	Downtown needs more lunch spots that are open 7 days per week for both workers and visitors. And open late like after the Honeywell shows	2		
53	Generate county-wide awareness of exactly what is offered in Wabash, downtown Wabash, and all other communities of Wabash County	-city leaders, - main streets orgs, -Downtown businesses, - thought leaders. So many people don't know what's in downtown Wabash because of th negative population and history associated	2		
54	Create a safe sapce for obvious minorities who have never visited because of that lack of safe space	City leaders, the whole community (w/ changed mindsets of total acceptance), This is so important + relevant.	3		
55	Communicate to younger populations (aka, fresh out of college/high school) about moving beyond their hometowns to Wabash (W,W,W,W,W, +H)	Young professionals, Downtown orgs (b/c being downtown is actually attractive to people in college), starts conversations early for people just beignning their live(s) on their own. Make a career here	1	2	3
56	Improve transportation through public transit.	Aoffer a better transportation system so parents can send their kids to pool, parks, or any recreation location	4		
57	Build, incentives for families to move to Wabash	-Scholarships for college bound students. - Offer free transportaton for students going to north Manchester University. -offer dual language classes in all schools	3		
58	Develop partnerships (like internships) w/ Biz's	Give kids the opportunity to follow their dreams as they pursue college, what do they want to do? Lawyers,video, technology, teachers, business ownership	2		
59	Business's and activities that are open late.	This will drive a younger crowd downtown and also make living in Wabash more inticing	1		
60	Create the environment for young people to enjoy - entertainment, environment, housing, education	Build smart homes, Bike Trails, Better internet, Night life	2	1	
61	Build flexible housing centers	Colorful, unique, beautiful housing area with duplexes, townhouse, and/or historic-syled housing that contains a variety of large family homes, low cost/subsidized homes, and all in-between but colorful and beautiful	3		
62	Build small technical college	The old GDx site that connects to the city park would be a great place for a small college, which is a great way to bring a steady supply of new people and money to Wabash	2		
63	Build a trail that connects to Peru	The River Trail Is amazing so lets extend it the other direction	1		
64	Build a community space on Miami St. between Market and Canal	This could be a space for Farmers Market, small venue concerts, events, outdoor seating, and community gathering	2	3	
65	Build "safe" RR crossing	The train blows their horn 24/7. It's offputting, especially at night. I'm guessing it hurts property values too	3		

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ID	BIG Idea Name	Description	Topic(s)		
66	Skateboarding is growing and will continue	Our skate park has been great addition but recently has been a target for both safety and for harassment. Kids aren't safe and skaters are harassed	3		
67	Create affordable, dependable childcare	Before school, after school, weekends, nights	2		
68	Tenille Zartman for Mayor	obvious reasons...	2		
69	Reduce local income tax				
70	Downtown Parking		4		
71	Reservoir housing!	uge draw, make it happen	1	2	3
72	Build childcare facility		2		
73	Use the Salamonie & Missisnwa areas to connect & establish a state park	We don't realize what a commodity we have in our county. I think we take it for granted, but sooo many outside of our county come to us for its enjoyment.	1		
74	Develop more around the river banks		1		
75	Expand green space/trails	Quality of life	1		
76	Build and clean the rivers for recreation or activities.		1		
77	Build better access to the river.		1		
78	Invest in our schools.	The first thing a young family will look at in a community will be the school system	2		
79	Downtown parking	With more apts. Being converted, parking for shoppers or visiting businesses is hard to come by	1		
80	Wabash specific: Housing in "brownfields" such as old hospital, old automotive/factory site. Maybe demolish maybe two "marginal" houses and build one new one on that property	I have been visiting Wabash for 5-6 years and have seen remarkable house by house improvement bu there is only so much one can do with poorly constructed houses on small lots. Downtown accessible housing is my hot button	3		
81	Wabash specific: more "downtown" housing options. Really liked the idea of developing the east end of Market Street. Housing is the major problem. I am not familiar with most of the county, but I assume it's the same throughout the county.	Really against sprawl because of the need to extend infrastructure.	3		
82	Build a welcome center (very large) to impress new families with all the details of the services Wabash County offers.	Shows all means of organizations that provide for the community	2		
83	Regional HCL/Vocational Training		2		
84	Better support for new small businesses		2		
85	Tell us how to use philanthropy to bild houses, rennovate old buildings		1	3	
86	Expose the Eel River Create access	Attracts those who want outdoor recreation in their communities	1		
87	Promote more - lots of places to be that are too unknown.		2		

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ID	BIG Idea Name	Description	Topic(s)		
88	Promote the county - remove financial barriers to earn mention in visit wabash county		2		
89	Build out (more) HWY 24 as a commercial corridor, similar to the HWY 30 corridor in Kosciusko County	Incentivize politicians to court and attract new business as ambassadors. Incentivize administrators to facilitate new business additions.	4	2	
90	Promote and support small business		2		
91	Reduce county income tax rate	Having the highest tax rate in the state is a "disincentive" to prospective new citizens. We don't need to be the lowest, but we sure don't want to be the highest!	4		
92	Build a biking/walking trail along abandon railways between vities (Lagro to Wabash or Lagro to Andrews (Huntington Co)) maybe between the reserviors	Recently biked an abandon railway in Idaho. It was an interesting and beautiful ride	1		
93	Expand tourism along the canal - trails, boat rides, hiking	Expand the historical area	1		
94	Build a food destination	We have a lot of good local farms. Farm to table is huge right now. We need to promote what we have and increase what we have	1	2	
95	Brewery!		2		
96	Encourage craft brewing	The craft brewing market is exploding. There is no brewery in the county. Chapman's has a taphouse but they don't brew	1	2	
97	Build a distillery	We drink.	2		
98	Bring a brewery with great food atmosphere to downtown North Manchester	bring people into town to discover North Manchester	2		
99	Legalize cannabis	People from Wabash County drive to Michigan and Illinois to buy it. People are using it. Let's profit from it.	1	2	
100	Investment in country living	to build/buy land	3		
101	Develop a tiny house community	for housing	3		
102	Invest in stopping points around co.	Landmarks, mural, state parks, parks, trails	1		
103	Build a trail	We need to connect the towns with a trail network, using railtrails	1		
104	More green space in all towns		1		
105	Get rid of Silver Maple trees that lie in sidewalks	Tree commission needs more \$ for removing old trees/bad trees and helping homeowners choose new trees	3		
106	New residents receive free tree	N. Man tree commission delivers and plants a tree for any house purchase or build	1	3	
107	Plant more trees	Every new homeowner gets a new tree	3		
108	Better bike/walk path- not roads		1		
109	Turn N. Manchester businesses to the River	Improve River access thru North Manchester - businesses in downtown are faced away from River	1	2	

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ID	BIG Idea Name	Description	Topic(s)			
110	Forgive student loans	Provide a loan forgiveness program for each year you live and work in the county. We need to attract young adult professionals				
111	Improve section 8 housing options in all communities					
112	Build railroad under/over passes	I get stuck by trains all too much.				
113	Build public transit	Our county is segregated. There's still talk about North of 16 and south of 16. Even at this event speakers slipped up and said Wabash, not Wabash County	3			
114	New & Renewed housing	There are great houses sitting empty because owners are lethargic about selling. (town) public & private partnership to get homes from empty to filled				
115	Low interest loans & forgivable down payment \$ to first time homebuyers	Prices going up; rates low but 1st time young buyers may need \$ to get persons in houses sooner & long term				
116	Figure out our public school system situation	What schools stay, who consolidates				
117	Wabash gets highway 24, but rest of county doesn't pull businesses, ppl to Wabash City	HW 13, 14, 15, wtc wait expand like HW 24				
118	Lighting! Street	safety				
119	Alternative energy for school	Create a bond that will solarize cell school buildings as an investment & utility savings as an educational point				
120	Adult education w/ MU - affordable childcare					
121	Create high speed internet	Low cost, municipal run high speed internet available throughout the county. S WFH becomes normal, people can't live here without internet	4			
122	Salamonie State Park with Lodge	Build a lodge on Salamonie or Missosinawa to attract visitors				
123	Create a S.P. out of a reservoir	Local gov't lobby state agencies to move forward	1			
124	Welcome center in N. Manchester w/ translations in Spanish	The welcome center would contain information for new families w/info about -affordable housing - doctors/healthcare - schools, in both English and Spanish	3			
125	Fund more outdoor dining					
126	Creating a welcome environment for the Latinx Community	If Wabash County was able to create a welcoming environment for the Latinx community they could grow significantly and rapidly. Part of creating a welcoming environment involves bilingual education, and affordable quality housing.	3			
127	Affordable housing		3			
128	Bilingual education (K-12)		3			

Appendix B: Round Two Community Engagement

Wabash County Comprehensive Plan



ID	BIG Idea Name	Description	Topic(s)		
129	Fiber optic internet - deployed at large scale	This is a utility - made ever more important since COVID. It ensures access to benefits of resources, educational, social, etc.			
130	Create synergy b/w NM university, daycares, and Timbercrest around farm to table food, stewarded by students	Bringing one really unique, healthy investment - farm to table food for our daycares and our seniors, and for our students - has multiple beneficiaries and long-term net benefits. Just one thing we do really well will attract families			
131	Multigenerational housing	Multi gen housing - wave of the future- see book, "Brave new Home"			
132	Build more rails to trails (easier, less expensive, healthier commute)	Create a county-wide event for a river raft race. South Whitley hosts a bed-race event- Wabash could do something simila for a showdown w/ Whitley Co. (or a river race showdown)			
133	Develop strong internship network to educate HS and university students about professional type opportunities that exist in Wabash County	Kids & students mostly assume those are only job prospects in cities			
134	Provide free Pre-K to all families	Strengthens kids' ability to learn. Enables parents to be at work	3	4	
135	Make river a gathering place in N. Manchester	Main St. is becoming a good place to be, river is so close by but not taken advantage of.	1		
136	Build public transportation				
137	Build more housing areas (new builds)				
138	Build retail (food, shopping, grocery)				
139	Make the parks and street dept more accountable for bridges and pavillions	I live by a bridge that goes over the city park and it has been neglected in terms of weeds.	3		
140	Golf Carts in Wabash	Quality of life			
141	Build new schools	Attract families from outside and retain young families			
142	Affiliate all of the different school systems to leverage finances and educational opportunities	Continue discussion with those that would benefit with this change. County Commissioners, City of Wabash	1		
143	Build an outdoor entertainment revenue	Would bring people to Wabash County for entertainment	2		
144	Affordable rental housing		3		
145	Have more residential housing developments for middle income people to choose to build in.		3		
146	Attract a competing cell phone network to have towers in Wabash County		4		
147	Walking and biking trails	Getting more people outdoors & moving, places for families to bring children and not worry about traffic	1		
148	Expand educational + training opportunities	Day care. Master's Degree availability at Manchester University in N. Manchester. Adult education and training for stem skills. Help adults get training for skills need to obtain good employment.	2		

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Wabash County Comprehensive Plan



ID	BIG Idea Name	Description	Topic(s)		
149	Advertise the benefits of living in the county	Advertise the benefits of living in our county. Centrally located to larger cities. Great place to raise children.	2		
150	Purposely embrace diverse populations	Creating a reputation as a safe and welcoming community for diverse population will provide a workforce that will counteract the current reality of an aging population and will attract new jobs and the expansion of current businesses	2		
151	Technology center for an emerging technology!	It seems, as I view life, most towns/cities stated with a product meeting a need. Look how Warsaw has grown with the joint business. We need to hook into an emerging technology, invest in it as a community and run with it.	2		
152	Insect farming		2		
153	Hypophonic food production		2		
154	Tenderloin Festival (everybody does chili) local restaurants compete for Best Indiana Tenderloin		2		
155	Abatements for home buyers to rehab our older homes	Our homes often need so much renovation to be attractive to buyers. If purchased & not renovated, they continue to decline	3	4	
156	Identify and protect areas for livestock production		1		
157	Create business grants for young entrepreneurs	Purdue has a startup/entrepreneurs program. It is filled with thousands of educated young people looking to get their start. These grants could be the push necessary to choose Wabash			
158	Provide subsidies to expand infrastructure (preferably fiber) for internet access outside of immediate cities	It is not profitable to service rural houses between our communities, but there is plenty of room to expand outward for housing developments. Internet access is critical for new residents	4		
159	A credit union that makes banking easier for undocumented immigrants	Community members without SSNs can't get bank accounts at most banks. Some credit unions will provide accounts to people using ITIN numbers which would make banking easier, which makes buying a home or car easier	2	3	
160	County ID program for community members who can't get a state driver's license.	Residents without an SSN can't get a state DL or ID. A county ID wouldn't be a driver's license, but it could diffuse tension in a traffic stop and make life easier in schools, hospitals, banks	2	3	
161	Bring tourists to kayak the Eel	The addition of easy-to-use put-ins of takeouts and accessible outfitters that rent kayaks and provide transportation could bring in a lot of visitors	1		

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Wabash County Comprehensive Plan



ID	BIG Idea Name	Description	Topic(s)		
162	Maintain great school systems	Elect school boards that attract good administrators and good educators	2		
163	Build a race course a place to really burn some rubber	A magnet for high end ac to unleashing the inner mojo! They must sign a waiver			
164	Create cool places to build a house	I can commute to work but I want a wonderful place to live. Esthetics, recreation, education, the housing possible comes before the Industry. Get those farmers to support this.	3		
165	Build Manchester an outdoor pool - water slide (hope) etc well just maybe the water slide dropping into a pool we already have. Disney style				
166	Build a white water rafting course on the Eel River and a Zip line down to the water	DXIR must buy in. soo cool!			
167	We build a zoo! Wait - no - an aquarium	Especially - green			
168	Build that bike trail along the river	It is self evident	1		
169	Invest in innovations for manufacturing	With pop decline, local factorie will hunt for workers. Investing in technology will require more skill to work while not losing production/income	2		
170	Healthy Child Program	Children that see a Dr 20 times before age 3 are more likely to find long term health concerns. Healthier people are happier and earn more! Also, nurses will be needed - market stimulation for high income and skill jobs. Partner with parkview?	2	3	
171	Full County Fiber	If people can work from home, Wabash would be a great home for remote workers, if internet is good	4		
172	Local schools need more educational variety. Schools need robotics, shop class, business courses and internships	IN is a no tuition state, families will take their kids to the best schools	3		
173	Education diversity		3		
174	Income based housing	Housing options based on income not HUD, but a variety of homes for all levels of income	3		
175	Entertain Wabash	Invest in Hangout places that young people like. Axe throwing, fowling, arcades	2		
176	Fund events that unite different segments of the population, intentionally	Community sources of income (foundation, towns, etc). Helps keep people engaged in the community and with each other			
177	Build shaded walking areas or trails	Town involvement, citizen input, provides more exercise/community opportunities	1		
178	Build fountains in community parks	They're kid/family magnets	1		
179	Become a leader in recycling and taking acre of our natural resources	Minimize and shrink our dump fooprint and something other communities want to replicate. Build jobs on new recycling programs. Educate and create incentive programs. Showcase how we've turned trash into community art	1		

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Wabash County Comprehensive Plan



ID	BIG Idea Name	Description	Topic(s)		
180	Housing developments, be it specs homes, or custom homes, we desperately need housing in our communities	It is challenging for those who get jobs in Wabash to live here and become a part of our community, to become invested as one can only become by living here.	3		
181	More tasing rooms & breweries that allow families	Places for young families (under 5 year olds) to connect	1		
182	Splash Pad	Attract young families	1	3	
183	Tiny homes - Big Heart	Put tiny homes on available lots and in place of those homes that have deteriorated beyond repair	3		
184	Cheap homes - great community!	Like Italy - Housing for \$1 for homes that need rehabbed for young people under 40, must live here for 10 years!	3		
185	Grocery, Retail, Sit-down restaurants		2		
186	Winter Recreation	Skating Rink, more things to do between Jan - April	1	3	
187	Build a state of the art sports complex	Turf w/ public access, multi basketball courts, weights facility -> maybe invest in a semi-pro athletics team	2		
188	More parks in small town	The state give more money to small town	1		
189	More house	More land for sell	3		
190	Affordable, safe, childcare, flexible for working, especially single parents.		2		
191	School consolidation + reorganization	Teachers can provide insight into how better to organize	2		
192	Consolidate the schools	We can attract more educated families with higher ranking sports and academics. We have good teachers/coaches but missed opportunities	4		
193	Invest in a wider variety of restaurants	Family/locally owned. Italian (Mike's is missed), Thai, People are adventuous eaters..cater to it	1	2	
194	Invest in green energy	Show that we care about our environment by increasing energy independence of our businesses, housing, schools. Makes housing more attractive	4		
195	Help potential buyers access grants to update historic homes	So many of the historic homes along the railroad are falling into disrepair. Establish a historic district! Or silk stocking neighborhood	3		
196	Renovate housing	Having home that a family friendly	3		
197	Have more teen friendly activities	We need to ground the teens and make this place that they love and want to come back to after Higher Education	1		
198	Build parks and playgrounds	We need places for younger children to draw more familiar	1		

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Wabash County Comprehensive Plan



ID	BIG Idea Name	Description	Topic(s)		
199	Create incentives to move into the future by supporting movement to green energy initiatives	Local business - tax breaks for moving to alternatives. Homeowners - property tax breaks. Schools - budgets to move to green energy. Renters + newcomers to the area - grants to buy into houses w/ green energy. Job creation: new business for creation + support the improvements	4		
200	Free early education for every child under 5 - we are a community that cares and it becomes our competitive advantage	Community foundation, grow Wabash County, local government, churches, FMB foundation corporate sponsors	2		
201	A true adult education center - workforce dev., Honeywell Arts ID, Manchester U, Ivy Tech, Learn More center. and Early ED		2		
202	Start afterschool program(s)	Include schools, churches, businesses to provide safe, educational, fun, affordable afterschool care for area employees. Perhaps industrial/churches can contribute to help fund	2		
203	Remodel the City Park	We have the all inclusive park, now lets remodel & expand the city park as well!	1		
204	River Development + Recreation		1		
205	Expand Wabash River Wild + Eel River Wild	Raft, canoe & kayak adventures on the Wabash River. Educational trips/team building opportunities	1		
206	Eel + Wabash River Development- Activate the trail + development along it. Grow Lagro to Wabash + through Downtown North Manchester	Wabash Marketplace, Manchester Alive, own of Lagro, Town of NM, City of Wabash, Wabash County, Foundations	1		
207	Invest in new housing areas/revitalizing current home curbside appeal	Curbside appeal is HUGE for younger generations. Invest in that.	3		
208	We need spec homes in a new development or ten. Larger rural lots and the new Parkview Legacy side. New urban development, GDX site, E Market St. et al.	Grow Wabash County, local governments, Mayor Scott Long	3		
209	Housing solutions	Develop lower cost housing (quality) that allows more disposable funds available for families to invest in quality of life activities	2	3	
210	Build homes!	Encourage home renovation, new home construction	3		
211	Increase artistic opportunities	Involve local artists in beautifying community spaces through sculpture, murals, etc. Bring back art festivals. Create a community band shell along the river for band concerts, live music, live theatre	2		
212	Bring back a county arts fest!	Create more opportunity for the artists so they can stay/move here!	2		
213	Fill store fronts that are empty	Get a panera bead in one of the empty storefronts	2		
214	Build a spec building @ Wabash Business Complex	Grow Wabash County; Wabash County Commissioners; City of Wabash; City Redevelopment Commission	2		

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Wabash County Comprehensive Plan



ID	BIG Idea Name	Description	Topic(s)		
215	Collaborate!	Find ways to draw the separate communities within the county together to share resources			
216	Internship opportunities	Develop more relationships between youth + businesses			
217	Supply jobs!	Bring in more employers. Support those already here.			
218	Invest in curbside recycling	Partner with the Wabash solid waste district. Call Jen Rankin and break down the numbers & statistics. Make Wabash Green!	1		
219	Build up community safety nets	Support struggling families (food, shelter, education) to help them be productive members of the community. Build a "Pay It back" community service program to help with area maintenance - lawn mowing, house painting, etc.	2		
220	Improve school test scores	Business owners want their children in the best schools that produce good test scores and great children programs			
221	Build a nice retail area w/ retail, clothes, restaurant	Because I travel to Fort Wayne to Jefferson Pointe	2		
222	Build a family area - Splash Park @ Honeywell Pool. Update & Renovate Parks	Would like one in Lafontaine (Splash Pad)	1		
223	Promote recreational areas	They exist - sort of - but where are the parks, river access sites, bike paths, etc.?	1		
224	Integrate K-12 more fully with 2-yr, 4-yr and trades credentials	Easier, more affordable, and cleaner paths to access means of talent development will meet - at least approach - the employment needs of local + regional industries	2	4	
225	Find building locations & start subdivisions	I am a contractor and have customers wanting to build but they cannot find a building site.			
226	Develop county wide public school district	I envision 2 high schools: 1 north and 1 south & middle schools + elementaries to go along with. More ed choices! Economies of scale!			
227	Bring in a high-tech enterprise (start up??)	1. Require High Speed Internet 2. Local "techies" involved 3. Need more housing prior	4		
228	Create better internet access	REMC has been starting - people need/want to be connected	4		
229	Combining school services to improve all for the all students and staff	Share not compete	2		
230	Expand Heartland Career Center - offer more certificated options	Do a great P.R. program for certificated options for H.S. kids. Encourage tracks other than college. Heartland is growing- should continue	2		
231	Start a program to transition those coming out of incarceration successfully into the community	Stops recidivism/reduces taxes and man power needed to stop/fight crime/rebuild stable, health families. Involves: prison/jail system; churches; social & community programs	2		
232	Promote & grow a tourist attraction that highlights our historical and natural resources	Will grow community strength; highlight already existing resources. Increase visitor traffic & the potential for move-ins. Involves: N. Man., Wabash, Legro, LeFontaine, Roann and surrounding counties	2	1	

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Wabash County Comprehensive Plan



ID	BIG Idea Name	Description	Topic(s)
233	Clean up our river so if people fish they can feel free to eat the catch	Reduce pollution dumped in river. Continue trash clean up projects	1
234	Build homeless shelters 1. with training associated for tenants to become productive citizens 2. employees associated - shelter to guarantee jobs for tenants	Most lower class Wabash citizens are one pay check from homeless. It can happen to anyone and Wabash should be more compassionate to this population	3
235	Develop public Transportation to all parts of the county. Having a car is a luxury. Hard to schedule a ride.	People need to get to work, appointments, and to businesses to be productive citizens. Would involve all branches of leadership as well as public	4
236	Host a realtor/builder symposium	Realtor to tell us what we need, builders tell us what they can do!	3
237	Host a job fair here at Honeywell with tables hosted by Local industries, business	I know of at least 1 large industry in need or at least 25 new employees	2
238	Develop the banks of the River	Build mixed use housing, retail, office, and restaurants to take advantage of natural resources	1
239	Build houses of all styles and tastes	Reuse existing lands of dilapidated houses, factories, or former building sites	2
240	Renovate existing buildings for retail space + housing	Take vacant buildings in our smaller communities and renovate/redevelop them	3
241	Build a trusting educational system	Get our citizens to buy in to combining our school districts in some fashion	4
242	Build trails between Wabash County Communities	Connect all communities via trails	3
243	Build a multi-use entertainment space	Purchase + renovate old industrial building to be used for restaurant, bar, + entertainment space (axe throwing, fowling, etc.) by the river	2
244	Invest resources (time, energy, money) from both public + private stakeholders throughout Wabash Co. in local HS + College graduates to encourage innovative, sustainable businesses	Heartland, Area HS, MU, Ivy Tech. Focusing efforts on retaining young talent and allowing opportunity to start businesses that attract more people to the county. This can only happen w/ buy-in from community partners + stakeholders (public +private)	2
245	Renovate historical "downtown" buildings	Repurpose them for sustainable and innovative businesses	1
246	developing a housing creation program	Assistance to build, renovation assistance, farming - development partnership	3
247	Transform Gencorp Property	Housing	3
248	proselytize people from areas where people want to move from	California seems to be an area where people are dissatisfied. Advertise housing, tax breaks for folks to relocate here. Emphasize - lower housing cost, lower taxes. lower cost of living	3
249	Emphasize the Arts that are offered here. Continue to grow over arts emphasis	Expand Honeywell Arts Academy	2
250	Bring together the three public school corporations	Not only will consolidate drive down costs, but by creatively combining resources, we will become more attractive to families looking for specific learning experience	2

Appendix B: Round Two Community Engagement
Wabash County Comprehensive Plan



ID	BIG Idea Name	Description	Topic(s)			
251	Bring together the three school corporations		2			
252	Residential housing developments for middle income people		3			
253	Offer bonus or housing incentive for higher demand occupations (teachers, nurses, manufacturer)		3			
254	Create a "community" for veterans or new college grads to live together. There's a similar program in Louisville. Lower cost + age limit		3			
255	Host fishing competitions at reservoirs (more events + programming @ reservoirs)		1			
256	Host job fairs for high demand and do all of the onboarding steps		2			
257	Have more job panels of local industry and opportunities like Columbus, Indiana; job shadows -> kids don't know local opportunities and career		2			
258	Come back home scholarship. Program to entice young people to return to Wabash					
259	Explore a State Park designation within the county		1			
260	gathering places - i.e. coffee shop open on Sundays		2			
261	Develop a housing creation		3			
262	Highlight natural amenities with development, trails, etc.		1			
263	Build a collaborative workspace for individuals to rent office spaces and be able to work with others		1			
264	Build splash park at Morrett Sports Park for those visiting for sporting events		1			
265	Build indoor field sports complex		1			
266	Develop employer incentives to current & new employees to live within the county		2			
267	Continue promoting lifestyles with athletic events/clubs/groups		2			
268	MSD Board read the data!		2			
269	Combine efforts of local schools to expand educational opportunities for students		2			
270	Build a multi-use community anchored by apartments/condos that could include a specialty grocery store, coffee shop, pharmacy, green space. etc.		2			
271	Bring in more manufacturing to create multiple levels of employment		2			
272	More festivals to attract people from out of town		2			

Appendix B: Round Two Community Engagement
Wabash County Comprehensive Plan



ID	BIG Idea Name	Description	Topic(s)
273	Market Honeywell Events with local businesses		2
274	Promote local industry to youth via a video and by visiting & touring		2
275	Partner with developers to create housing additions/new communities		3
276	Encourage revitalization and renovation of existing houses in the country		3
277	Incentives for landlords to help with renovation costs		3
278	Acquire land on outskirts of town to help develop housing		3
279	Build nice apartments & townhouses to attract younger populations		3
280	Rebuild city walkways/sidewalks to make more areas safe to walk		4
281	Improve cell phone coverage and wifi outside of town		4
282	Tenderloin Festival		
283	Walking and biking trails		
284	Advertise the benefits of living in Wabash County		1
285	Identify and protect areas for livestock production - better zoning		1
286	Expand educational and training opportunities		2
287	Technology center for an emerging technology		2
288	Attract a competing cell phone network to have towers in Wabash County		2
289	Insect farming		2
290	Hypophonic farming		2
291	Purposely embrace diverse populations		2



To regain our population and continue to grow as communities, we'll need to add 85 households each year. What action can we take to make our communities magnets for people and investment?

ID	Our MIGHTY Idea:	Will lead to a future with:
1	Full, total, downtown collaboration	A whole destination town in Wabash
2	Improve existing housing with high speed internet, grants to renovate historic homes, green energy	Attractive homes for new residents and improve neighborhoods and communities
3	Invest in our schools (non-traditional included)	Invested families moving to our communities
4	Riverfront development: retail, restaurants, and housing	Big City feel in a small community
5	Shut down Miami Street indefinitely (with seating, much like the landing in Fort Wayne)	Destination downtown and entertainment and group gatherings and nightlife
6	Countywide reliable internet	Allow online business growth, enhance educational opportunities, allow community connectedness
7	Build out rivers as easy-to-find destinations!	More outdoor recreation and healthy, adventurous citizens
8	Improve schools, test scores, integrate K-12 more fully	Attracting families with talent and bring in new industry and growth
9	School consolidation and reorganization	High schools with competitive academics and sports programs that attract professional families looking for more opportunities for our kids
10	State Park	Visitors, environmental friendly ideas, nature appreciation, jobs, out of county revenue, visit places like Honeywell
11	Children friendly areas such as neighborhood parks, teen activities, affordable safe child-care (nights too)	Kids who return to live here as adults
12	Solarize every school building	An energy-wise student body and attract community-minded families while significantly reducing utility cost
13	Countywide school system: HS North and HS South	More educational choices for kids, economies of scale - more clout with vendors
14	Host programming and events at parks / reservoirs	Increase quality of life activities to attract younger generation
15	Talent attraction thru affordable (low-interest loans; forgivable down payments) housing and childcare; Housing Authority Council	Sustainable job environment and a consistent child presence to keep school attendance consistent
16a	Purposely embrace diverse populations	Growth
16b	Better cell phone system / internet system	A basic need in life is met
17	Offer bonus/housing incentives for employees or high demand positions	More young professionals or families
18	Build out Highway 24 (more) as a commercial corridor, similar to the Highway 30 corridor in Kosciusko County	More jobs and more opportunities for current and new citizens
19	Promote and support small business	
20	Add more trails (between communities) and improve river access / face the rivers with businesses	Safer outdoor activities, attract more citizen scientists, increase business attractability, increase hospitality

Appendix C: Round Two Community Engagement

Wabash County Comprehensive Plan



ID	Our MIGHTY Idea:	Will lead to a future with:
21	Invest in entrepreneurship and internship programs	More educated young people who know they have a future in Wabash County
22	Explore use of rivers and reservoirs for housing development and/or state park	More houses plus more people equals more for everyone
23	Host a realtor/builder expo	Realtors to tell us what the need is and where to locate these areas, builders to tell us what they can build
24	Free early education for all children under 5	Educated students and adults who invest in their communities
25	Promote recreational areas. Make Wabash City Park a new subdivision and build a park at Paradise Springs. Add camping sites (who wants to stay in the current sites by the city sewage)	
26	Improve the historic home neighborhoods by encouraging "homestead" infill lots to encourage homebuilders to build "historically appropriate" exterior / modern interiors. Lots be offered at no cost to builders with agreement to live in for five years.	More vibrant city core center with increased tax base
27	Continue to grow in Arts by expanding the Honeywell Arts Academy and create an artist relocation program	Build on what we have to further Arts in Wabash
28	Build public transportation, build more housing areas, build retail (food, shopping, grocery)	
29	Provide more opportunities for students to learn about and connect with local employers (panels, job shadows, internships, project based learning)	
30	Become a food and drink destination	Visitors who become residents and more hospitality jobs
31a	Open gathering places (coffee shop on Sundays)	Community
31b	Develop housing program	Expanding growth
32	Explore school consolidation or better collaboration with well-rounded education for all Wabash County students	A better workforce in the end. A draw for families now
33	Come back home scholarship to entice young people to return to Wabash	More young people coming to Wabash after college
34	Support of local artisans	
35	Expand use of natural resources to create a destination that leads to people choosing to locate here	Active residents
36	Improve local sidewalks	A more walkable city with attractive streets
37	Promote local industry to youth	Keeping high school and college graduates in the community
38	Develop new apartments/condos/townhouses	More young people drawn to the county and possibly for increasing population
39	Indoor sports complex	Healthy community, bring in people from out of town
40	Multi-use community (apartments, grocery, coffee, greenspace, etc.)	Attracting young population and bringing amenities to town

Imagine One85 Growth Summit

Exit Questionnaire - Summary Statistics



1	1. How did you hear about Imagine One 85 Focus on the Future Workshops?	Total Responses	Percent
		Word of Mouth	13
Newspaper Article	7	10%	
Ad	3	4%	
Poster/ /Flyer	6	9%	
Radio / TV	0	0%	
City / County website	4	6%	
Imagine One 85 website	4	6%	
Facebook / Instagram / Twitter	7	10%	
Nextdoor	0	0%	
Community Event	2	3%	
Online News	0	0%	
Email	9	13%	
Organization	12	18%	
Other	1	1%	
	Total	68	100%

2	2. Have you participated in the Imagine One85 planning process before today?	Total Responses	Percent
		Yes	27
No	11	29%	
	Total	38	100%

3	3. Were you comfortable completing today's meeting activities? If not, explain why.	Total Responses	Percent
		Yes	35
No	2	5%	
	Total	37	100%

See detailed responses in Expository Answers section.

4	4. Did you feel your input was heard and recorded accurately? If not, explain why.	Total Responses	Percent
		Yes	34
No	1	3%	
	Total	35	100%

See detailed responses in Expository Answers section.

5	5. Will you continue to participate in the planning process? If not, explain why.	Total Responses	Percent
		Yes	36
	No	2	5%
	Total	38	100%

See detailed responses in Expository Answers section.

6	6. Are there any specific topics you hope this process addresses? If yes, please explain.	Total Responses	Percent
		Yes	20
	No	7	26%
	Total	27	100%

See detailed responses in Expository Answers section.

7	7. Gender	Total Responses	Percent	2019 ACS %
		Female	18	56%
	Male	13	41%	48.9%
	Prefer not to say	1	3%	
	Total	32	100%	100.0%

8	8. Which racial group do you most closely identify with?	Total Responses	Percent	2019 ACS %
		Asian	0	0%
	Black/ African- American	0	0%	1.1%
	Native American	0	0%	0.8%
	White / Caucasian	31	97%	95.6%
	Two or more races	0	0%	1.0%
	Other	1	3%	1.1%
	Total	32	100%	100.0%

9	9. Are you Hispanic or Latino?	Total Responses	Percent	2019 ACS %
		Yes	0	0%
	No	32	100%	97.4%
	Total	32	100%	100%

10	10. What is your age?	Total		
		Responses	Percent	2019 ACS %*
	Under 15	0	0%	16.6%
	15-24	1	3%	14.5%
	25-34	3	9%	10.6%
	35-44	6	19%	11.1%
	45-54	3	9%	12.6%
	55-64	11	34%	14.3%
	65 or over	8	25%	20.3%
	Total	32	100%	100.0%

* percentages represent the population over 15

11	11. What is your highest level of education?	Total		
		Responses	Percent	2019 ACS %*
	Less than a high school diploma	0	0%	11.3%
	High school diploma	1	3%	42.6%
	Some college	1	3%	19.4%
	Associate's degree	2	6%	8.6%
	Bachelor's Degree	10	32%	11%
	Masters Degree / Ph.D.	17	55%	7.5%
	Total	31	100%	100.0%

* percentages represent the population over 25

12	12. What is your occupation?
	See detailed responses in Expository Answers section.

13	13. If you live in Wabash County, how long have you lived here?	Total	
		Responses	Percent
	0-4 years	3	10%
	5-9 years	3	10%
	10-19 years	2	6%
	20-29 years	4	13%
	30-39 years	3	10%
	40-49 years	3	10%
	50+ years	9	29%
	Live outside the County	4	13%
	Total	31	100%

14	14. What is your zip code? (Where do you live?)	Total	
		Responses	Percent
	Wabash	15	48%
	North Manchester	10	32%
	Other	3	10%
	Lagro	1	3%
	Roann	1	3%
	LaFontaine	1	3%
	Total	31	100%

15	15. Please tell us about your annual household income:	Total		
		Responses	Percent	2019 ACS %
	Less than \$35,000	0	0%	30.3%
	\$35,000-\$49,999	3	11%	15.7%
	\$50,000-\$74,999	5	18%	23.3%
	\$75,000-\$99,999	8	29%	15.1%
	\$100,000-\$199,999	11	39%	13.2%
	\$200,000 or more	1	4%	2.3%
	Total	28	100%	100%

16	16. Additional comments, thoughts, or ideas:
	See responses in Expository Answers section.

Imagine One 85 Growth Summit

Exit Questionnaire - Expository Answers

3. Were you comfortable completing today's meeting activities?		
Id	Source	Comment
8	In Person	Somewhat! I understood that we were to have done a phone survey
23	In Person	It's really out of my comfort zone.
25	In Person	Yes, our table had great discussion
32	In Person	Yes, but it felt less like a recap of previous gatherings/workshops and more like the same thing we've done before

4. Did you feel your input was heard and recorded accurately? If not, explain why.		
Id	Source	Comment
6	In Person	We will see
25	In Person	Pleanty of space to write out ideas
31	In Person	Unsure, I feel we continue to state ideas at each event, but not sure where they go
36	In Person	My group was not much interested in manufacturing

5. Will you continue to participate in the planning process? If not, explain why.		
Id	Source	Comment
22	In Person	Yes because I want to be involved in the change
23	In Person	New to county and it's a real push outside of my comfort zone. I am breaking out of my box.
26	In Person	Want to help move forward
29	In Person	Live out of state but hope to move here
32	In Person	Yes, but the advertising for this event was a bit misleading - it wasn't very celebratory

6. Are there any specific topics you hope this process addresses? If yes, please explain.		
Id	Source	Comment
4	In Person	Housing
5	In Person	Gas taxes, land taxes, homeless
6	In Person	Increase in property taxes, salaries of city officials, ability to get more than one pension - these are draining our community financially.
7	In Person	Control taxes School consolidation Public transportation Internet for the whole County Address incarceration and recidivism
8	In Person	Continue to feel we are dodging a huge issue by not going forward with a push toward countywide school district. It could take many forms. Perhaps it will simply happen over time organically and slowly but it needs to happen.
9	In Person	Housing and talent attraction
11	In Person	There are some pretty rough homes and buildings in Wabash. Some renovation would help attract people.

12	In Person	Realtor/builder Expo, to work together to help determine the need, location and priority. Then have builders address these issues, how much can they build locally and how fast.
15	In Person	Current ideas already presented
17	In Person	Education!!! Housing
18	In Person	Specific ideas suggested: arts, education, river development
20	In Person	School consolidation Respecting historical aspects during expansion and improvement of residential and commercial areas
22	In Person	Consolidate schools Offer more housing options
23	In Person	Homes, lack of quality housing
24	In Person	Housing in our city/county
26	In Person	Information to the students in the county
29	In Person	Desirable housing close to downtown Wabash
31	In Person	Hoping to see what moves in action.
35	In Person	Good ideas came from my table - broadband / cell are essential
36	In Person	Industrial enhancement by training and attitude of Wabash County workforce candidates
37	In Person	Let the ideas flow

16. Additional comments, thoughts, or ideas

Id	Source	Comment
16	In Person	Wabash is a beautiful county. We need a united force to invest in education and develop competitive workers. Our location is great with lots of opportunity.
33	In Person	I wonder who will delegate particulars and what authority they will have. Can we set reachable goals in the first 2-4 years as larger/harder ideas are developed.
34	In Person	We're ready for action. Move to implementation of great ideas.