

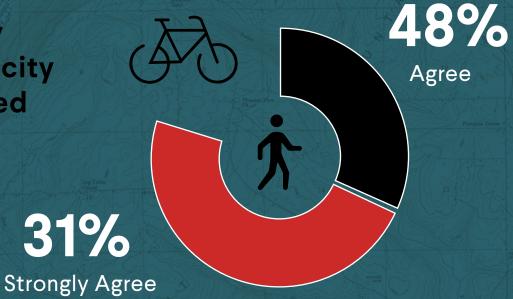
## Summary of Community Engagement Activities



## **Community Survey Results & Trends**

## 1,000 responses

85% of survey takers say the city needs improved pedestrian and cycling infrastructure

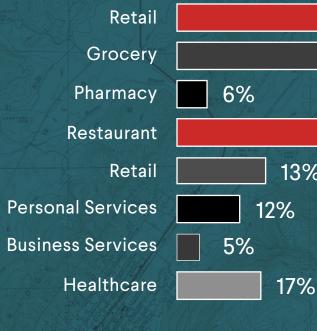




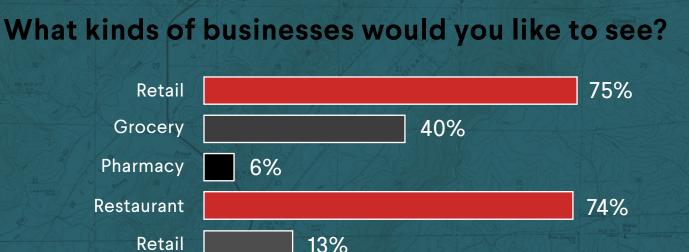
Think there is a market to cater to the **Tech industry** 



of respondents want new housing to support continued population growth



1. Movie theater 2. Bowling alley 3. Walking/ biking/ hiking trails **4. Skating rink/ skate park** 5. Trampoline park 6. Mini-golf 7. Public sports fields/ courts 8. Arcade 9. Amphitheater/ concerts 10. Rock climbing gym



The number reflects the percentage of total survey takers that selected that option

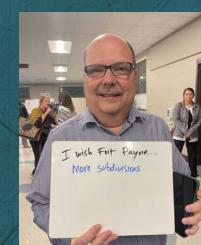


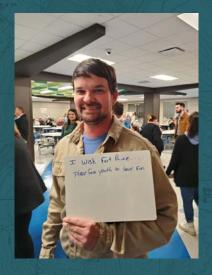
High demand for rentals More lofts / apartments Balance market-rate with affordable development Streamline regulations

options & opportunities

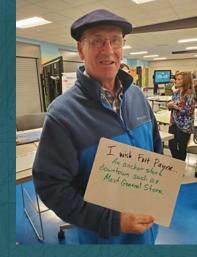
Housing

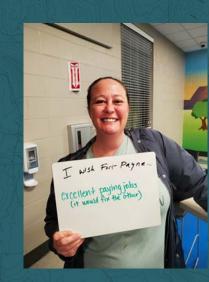


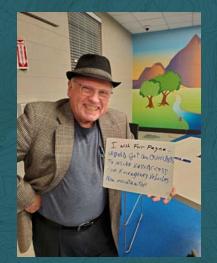


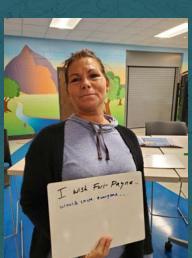


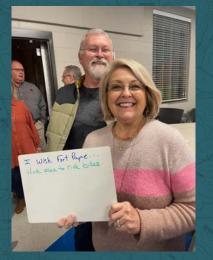












## Welcome Exercise

Welcome!

Thanks for joining us. Please take a minute to participate in the welcome activity

Write your vision for Fort Payne

FORWARD

We invited attendees to the public meeting to participate in a welcome exercise that gave them an opportunity to share their dream for Fort Payne. The activity was well recieved and we had a substantial number of people interested in sharing their ideas. Here are a few of the wishes from the citizens:

> Cooperation Places for Youth More housing **General Store**

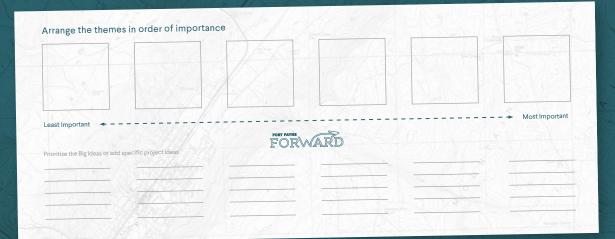






Better jobs Overpass Bike lanes

# Theme Ranking Exercise



### **Ranking Board**

The theme ranking exercise was a group activity that concluded the first public meeting in the city. The exercise invited small groups gathered around tables in the Intermediate School cafeteria to rank the emerging themes.

The groups were challenged to engage in conversations that would stimulate healthy debate of how to rank the themes by priority. This not only surfaced many perspectives among the attendees at the meeting, but it also resulted in consensus around each table as to how the themes should be ranked.



### Transportation What are our priorities?

#### **Theme Cards**

The cards represented the planning themes that were beginning to emerge through previous meetings with the steering committee, department heads, and city administration.



## Theme Ranking Exercise Results

Parks &

Recreation Access and distribution

Lowest Ranked







After compiling the results from the table exercises, the highest ranked priority from the public meeting attendees was Houing. Parks and Recreation ranked last on this list of priorities for the ciy. Fort Payne currently has a generous number of parks in its downtown and surrounding area, and because of the geography of the city, there is a lack of housing.

The results from this activity do not provide an exclusive direction for the next phases of the process, they must be balenced with the extenisve input from the community survey, as well as direction from the Steering Committee and city leaders. For example, we know from the community survey there is a large number of supporters for improving the parks networking and individual park programming.

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**Highest Ranked** 

## Housing

#### More diverse mix of housing

**Rental units** 

Lofts





Condos

**Multifamily** 

New single-family Retirement

Homeless shelters Safe house



Affordable housing

Mixed use development New housing (infill) downtown

### Land use

- Zoning More flexibility in the code
- Signage
- Store fronts
- Sidewalks
- Parking garages close to business districts
- Need more mixed-use
- Restrictions on new industrial & big box stores
- Repurpose unused industrial . buildings
- Group industrial uses

- Contain urban footprint to protect natural land
- Entertainment district (open container)
- Food truck venues
- More commercial on Gault
- Hotel development
- Rooftop restaurants
  - **Develop** around existing parks in town

## Transportation

#### Infrastructure: improving roads repairing sidewalks





#### PROVIDE public transportation

Improving Joe's Truck Stop, better access to DeKalb Plaza shopping center, and improving the Airport Rd intersection.

#### **Safety and Lighting**

Installing LED street lights to improve visibility and safety.

#### **Airport Area Development**

## Infrastructure & Utilities

#### Infrastructure

- Electricity
- Water
- Sewer
- Train overpass
- Expand sewer system to support new housing development
- Bury lines where possible
- Repair roads and bridges
- Northern substation

#### **Community development**

- More transparency and oversight on utility board appointments so there are fewer conflicts of interest
- Sidewalk conditions need improvement
- Reclaim vacated alleys for new homes
- Better internet needed

## Parks

Maintainance of existing parks

#### **Planned trail system**

- Connection to Little River Canyon
- Rails to trails
- Highlight Trail of Tears

#### **Lookout Mountain**

- Chairlift up Lookout Mountain
- Overlook park on Lookout Mountain
- Citadel Overlook

#### **Recreational Facilities**

- Sports complex
- Amphitheater
- Better event venues needed
- Improved ball fields
- Dog park
- ADA/autism park
- Youth activities

#### Historical/Cultural

Cherokee history museum

### Write-in

#### **Economic Development**

- Recruit new Industry • Retail and restaurant develop
  - ment
- Breweries Small business incentives
- Entrepreneurial center .
- Better paying jobs

#### Infrastructure

- Sidewalks w/ landscape buffers
- Broadband access
- Improved entry signage to city
  - ADA compliant sidewalks
- More davcares
- Movie theater



the public During meeting participants were also asked to list individual projects related to the theme after they ranked them, or during the ranking discussion. This compiled data is more granular and provides a greater level of detail and insight into the thought behind some of the priority rankings from the citizens.

#### These were specific project ideas from each category

 Luxurv RV Park • Expand police services • Further develop exits

- **Community Services** 
  - Healthy food choices
  - Affordable grocery (ALDI)
  - Improved healthcare services
  - Support for educational system
  - Better support for low income

**Collaboration and Diversity** 

- Improved collaboration/ shared vision in the city
- Solicit minority voices
- Collaborate with Cherokee Nation

## **High School Student Online Survey**

As part of the community engagement process we also distributed a survey to high school students. The survey was unique to the students, it was shorter and asked targeted questions on specific areas of town.



**Bowling** 

Do you plan on living in FP when you are older? The recurring themes in the responses are that many of the students do not plan on living in Fort Payne when they are older because of the **lack of job opportunities** and the town's **limited activities**.

Some students mentioned wanting to explore new places and travel, while others expressed a desire to live in bigger cities with more opportunities.

A few mentioned that they would consider living in Fort Payne depending on their career field or if the town developed more job opportunities and activities.

## Likes 🛛

Community feel and friendliness of people

Natural beauty and scenery (e.g., Little River Canyon, mountains)

Opportunities (e.g., career pathways, outdoor activities)

Small town feel (e.g., calm, peaceful, not too crowded)

Downtown area (e.g., historic buildings, places to eat, walking areas)

Schools and educational opportunities

## Dislikes 🖓

Lack of activities/ entertainment

Traffic and transportation issues

Size of the town (not much to do)

Lack of diversity

## **Community Visioning Activity**





### Vision Exercise Results

Composite statements based on feedback

"Our vision is to create an inclusive, safe, and memorable community, where history, culture, and nature are preserved and celebrated, while promoting sustainable growth that benefits all citizens."

"Our aim is to foster a thriving mountain town that is environmentally conscious and provides equal opportunities for employment and education, creating a beautiful place for families and visitors to live and visit."

#### Write a "vision statement" for the city.

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