



Visioning Workshop Summary

Wednesday April 24, 2019

The City of Gunnison hosted a Visioning Workshop on Wednesday, April 24, 2019, in the University Center Ballroom at Western Colorado University, as part of the ongoing planning process for the *Gunnison 2030 Comprehensive Plan*. This workshop marked the beginning of the visioning phase of the project, which aims to establish a vision for the future of Gunnison and identify the goals and objectives essential to making that vision a reality. Attended by 61 individuals plus staff, input received will be utilized to form the basis for recommendations and policy within the Comprehensive Plan, ensuring the document is a true reflection of the community. This summary provides a review of the workshop and major takeaways from the input provided.

Workshop Format

Participants were assigned to nine breakout groups and provided with colored markers and a large map of the City of Gunnison. Over the course of an hour and a half, each group was charged to work as a team and draw their vision for the community on the map. Suggested topics included the following:

- Residential Areas
- Commercial Areas
- Industrial Areas
- Transportation
- Parks, Open Space and Recreation, and Natural Areas
- Community Facilities
- Image and Identity
- Other Ideas

An additional section of the handout provided a list of policy and opportunity ideas. This list constituted additional note and discussion topics, each informed directly by input received at the previous Business and Community Workshops. Participants were asked to think about ways that these policy and opportunity ideas incorporate into the vision mapping exercise. The following policy and opportunity ideas were listed to spark discussion:

- Sustainability
- Affordable Housing
- Economic Vitality and Development
- Healthcare
- Education
- Cost of Living
- Other Topics

In addition to marking up the map, each group also recorded their recommendations in an accompanying workbook packet. Two-thirds of the way through the exercise, each group was asked to present one or two 'big ideas' to the workshop at large, allowing other groups to gain insight into their thoughts.

Lastly, each of the nine groups elected a spokesperson to present their completed maps and larger vision at the completion of the exercise. The maps were hung on the wall gallery-style for all participants to view at the end of the evening.

Note on Summary Context

The following is a summary of the thoughts, comments, and opinions as stated by participants during the visioning workshop. It is important to note that the items identified in this summary are not recommendations or observations of the consultant, but rather feedback and comments received from those who participated in the workshop.

Major Themes

Overall, transportation and accessibility throughout Gunnison was a significant focus for participants. Pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure that was safe and connected was emphasized as a critical issue to address, with groups discussing various projects to alleviate potential accidents. Signage that emphasized safe use of pedestrian and bicycle amenities was also emphasized. Additionally, participants hope to see a more robust transportation network that provides accessibility for all modes of transportation. Suggestions shared at the workshop included more RTA stops, senior shuttle services, and public bike stations.

Emphasis was also placed upon affordable housing and the desire to close the gap between incomes and housing costs. Participants heavily favored residential infill development over expanding housing development outwards as well as multi-family housing that addresses various levels of need. Amenities for residential areas was also discussed including sidewalk connectivity, recreational areas, and shopping opportunities.

Access to parks and natural areas was another important topic at the workshop. Participants emphasized the expansion of the trails network as a recreational amenity and to connect parks and open space. Participants indicated the importance of creating additional parks to accommodate new developments. Lack of signage, wayfinding, and lighting at existing trails was also discussed.

Summary of Ideas

The following is a list of the ideas, suggestions, and concepts that were either drawn on the maps or written in the workbook, organized by topic.

Residential Areas

- Improve energy efficiency of housing
- Develop equitable distribution of varied housing types
- Infill development at old City Market lot at Virginia and Spruce
- Enforce codes – trailers on 12th and Georgia
- Develop affordable housing at Antelope Hills

- Develop a free, public outdoor gym/recreation center
- Develop multi-family housing at Lot 22
- Develop senior housing – single-story housing
- Improve walk/bike connectivity
- Annex Wilson property for affordable housing
- Utilize industrial area for mixed use
- Develop a tiny home community
- Implement solar energy
- Develop dog parks
- Develop dedicated local stream of housing funding

Commercial Areas

- Better connections for Main Street, Tomichi Avenue, and Spencer Avenue
- Improve walk/bike connectivity
- Develop housing above commercial uses
- Create a business loop
- Develop rodeo grounds
- Develop conference and event space
- Add family-friendly establishments
- Add fast-comfort food options
- Recognition of all cultures in development
- Revitalize old buildings – old barnyard, Columbine Hotel
- Add food trucks
- Expand commercial to the north
- Create outdoor entertainment opportunities
- Add indoor food growing facility
- Develop cool, walkable, attractive retail areas
- Expand I Bar Ranch services
- Move fairgrounds to Gunnison Rising
- Add a Super Wal-Mart

Industrial Areas

- Create better entrances from airport for visitors
- Incorporate industrial areas into Gunnison Rising
- Hide industrial areas of West US-50 with trees, shrubs, and landscaping
- Convert larger industrial facilities to create smaller facilities where needed
- Add large-scale lumber facility
- Add commercial kitchen facilities
- Add taqueria, tortilleria
- Implement solar energy
- Develop Gold Basin
- Develop a financial method to allow for more redevelopment of industrial space
- Encouragement from City to use the land as more of an asset

- Develop public/private partnerships
- Utilize opportunity zones

Transportation

- Separate bike facilities from traffic
- Decrease speed limit at Tomichi Heights
- Implement safe crossing for pedestrians, including flashing pedestrian crosswalks – especially across major roads and Highway 50.
- Plowing of sidewalks in winter
- Make sidewalks wheelchair accessible
- Implement bike taxis
- Develop relief route for Highway 135 and Highway 50
- Develop free bus circulation across entire city
- Improve Alpine Express shuttle service
- Provide transit to Montrose
- Add bus stops near the airport and in the southwest side of the City where most ridership occurs
- Add parking downtown
- Make Spencer Avenue safe for kids
- Add vehicle charging stations
- Develop transportation to and from the university
- Add more flights at GUC airport
- Expand Highway 50
- Decrease speed limits entering the City

Parks, Open Space and Recreation, Natural Areas

- Add pocket parks
- Add wave parks – river surfing at West Tomichi or Shady Acres
- Improve Gunnison Recreation marketing
- Add teen center with programming
- Add volleyball courts
- Add bilingual signage in recreation areas
- Implement heated sidewalks/trails
- Dark sky lighting downtown to preserve night sky
- Utilize open space at Gunnison Rising
- Create a seven-and-a-half-acre State Park on Tomichi Creek from Gold Basin to Signal Peak Industrial Park
- Create gathering area for young people in Jorgenson Park

Community Facilities

- Add facilities to annexed areas
- Add an outdoor pool
- Add a drive-in
- Add community nature center
- Add rodeo grounds

- Add a daycare
- Add healthcare facilities
- Create an outdoor gym
- Add a movie theater
- Add yoga classes
- Improve boat launch infrastructure
- Improve water tower at Signal Peak trailhead

Image and Identity

- Highlight and protect natural features
- Enhance Main Street (beautification)
- Increase opportunities for businesses that people want to shop at
- Improve signage/identity
- Celebrate diversity (ranching, Western, outdoor enthusiasts)
- Improve West side of town – make travelers want to stop
- Improve access to recreational opportunities to support cross-cultural exchanges
- Add solar array to entrance of town

Other Ideas

- Add solar farm in area south of airport and to Gunnison Rising area; develop incentives for solar
- Develop rooftop city buildings and residences
- Address climate change
- Become a zero-carbon city by 2040
- Become a net-zero homes and businesses city by 2022
- Increase water conservation efforts
- Address front range growth
- Incentivize green building
- Add skills-based classes – cobblers, carpentry, plumbing, budgeting, financial management, etc.
- Lower taxes for business opportunities needed by community
- Implement tax penalties for buildings/lots in need of repair
- Reevaluate power contracts
- Develop greater diversity for the economy
- Develop universal healthcare
- Drive growth and jobs
- Expand city infrastructure to be paired with increased building efficiency
- Combine and improve dump, recycling, single stream recycling

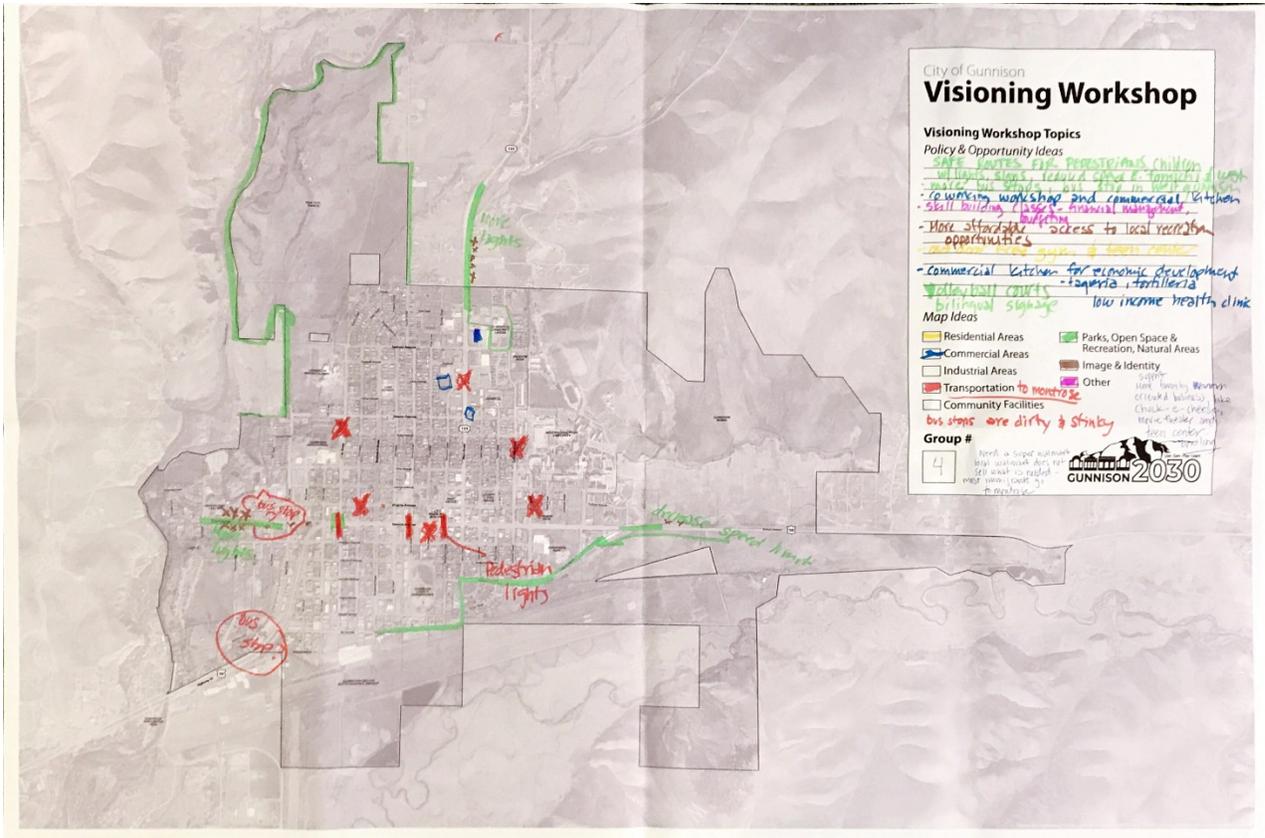
Visioning Workshop Maps

Note on Visioning Workshop Maps

The following images are un-edited scans of the maps created during the Visioning Workshop. The Group 5 map is not included as it was not used.

Visioning Workshop Maps

Group 4



Visioning Workshop Maps

Group 6

