

HOW WAS THE PUBLIC ENGAGED IN YOUR CITY, YOUR VOICE?

The city worked with different forms of outreach to invite residents to participate in the planning process. There was a Public Engagement Plan created by the consultant and implemented by the city and the steering committee (SC).

Activity	Number of Activities	People Engaged
Steering Committee Meetings	7	175+
Visioning	1	50+
Workshops	3	200+
Public Survey	1	1,751
Press Releases	3	75,000 (25k circulation)
Social Media	28	500-3,000 each time
Email Blasts	5	1200
Webpage	1	2000
Mayor's Daily Updates	On website with regular updates	500-3,000 each time
Letter to the Editor (Akron Beacon Journal)	1	21,947-34,841 circulation
Community Events	2	1,000
Speakers Bureau	2	Kiwanis, Farm Bureau Members
SC Text/Email Campaigns	4	100+

“Fast Facts on Your City, Your Voice: New Franklin Comprehensive Plan”

WHAT IS YOUR CITY, YOUR VOICE?

A comprehensive plan completed by the city led by a resident-appointed steering committee and planning consultants. It is a document and process that determines community goals and aspirations in terms of community development. The city utilized a four-phased approach of Discovery, Public Participation/Collaborative Visioning, Plan Development, and Public Review/Final Adoption to determine a vision for the future of New Franklin (“Your Vision, Your Voice”). This document can guide public policy in terms of current/future land use, parks/recreation/open spaces, agriculture, housing, economic development, transportation, infrastructure, and utilities for the next ten



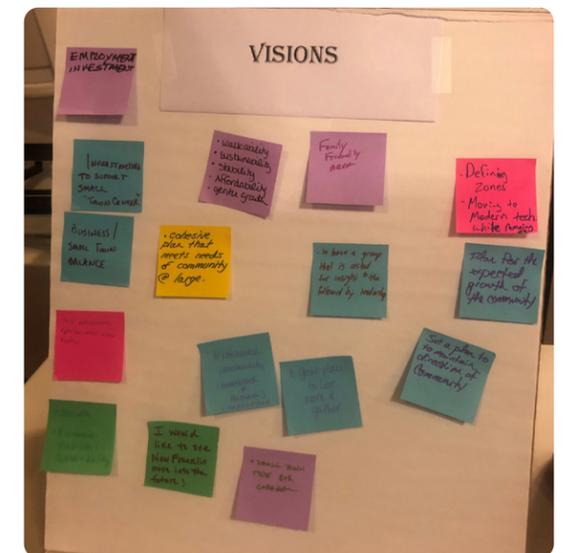
Who was involved in Your City, Your Voice?

The steering committee and the public had the most involvement in the creation on this document. The steering committee included representation from business owners/ employees, educators, non-profit professionals, civil servants, farm-owners, retired military, realtors, engineers/designers, the school board, City Council, Planning and Zoning Commission, Citizens Advisory Panel, retirees, and long-time residents. Various age groups, genders, wards, residency lengths, and skill sets

were also represented. The majority of members are and have been incredibly involved in the community, sitting on boards, volunteering, and coaching, etc. The consultants provided best practices related to planning. The City staff provided administrative support.



First Steering Committee Meeting



Steering Committee Visions

What were the Plan's General Guiding Principles?

1. New Franklin residents **know what they want to be and what they do not want to be**; any future planning should recognize this appreciation for the current quality of life and focus on the potential impact of the financial needs of planning.
2. New Franklin has **two commercial gateways**, Manchester Road (SR 93) and West Turkeyfoot Lake Road (SR 619), into the community, and investment should be targeted here, along with planning tools for a more uniform look and feel.
3. New Franklin residents are engaged about their existing infrastructure; any changes should be further studied, recognizing that changes may need to be made to **attract certain types of development or redevelopment**.
4. New Franklin's existing agriculture is part of the **fabric of the community** and should be preserved as part of the agricultural atmosphere residents' desire.
5. New Franklin residents are interested in **an identity and a central gathering place**, one that will serve to bring all residents together, no matter where they live in the city or what school district they attend.
6. New Franklin's parks, recreation, and open spaces (and unique opportunities with state and county-owned recreational areas) are important to residents and should be **preserved, improved, and expanded** to meet the needs of existing and future residents and visitors.
7. New Franklin residents are interested in some additional commercial development, specifically **more diversity and options in restaurants and other commercial businesses**. These developments should **utilize vacant buildings** first so as not to utilize existing greenspace.
8. New Franklin's housing stock should include more **diversity in price and options** in order to keep existing residents and attract new residents in different stages of their lives, especially those who want to downsize and age in place.
9. New Franklin is interested in **conservation design principles** to protect land and environmentally sensitive areas in development and redevelopment projects.
10. New Franklin is **one strong community, where residents love where they live**, and all planning elements should recognize this.

WHAT WERE THE FINAL VISIONS?

Based on the visioning information provided by the public, the steering committee worked with the consultant to craft the following overall vision statement and vision statements by planning element.



Overall Vision

The City of New Franklin aspires to be a centrally located community providing residents with an excellent quality blend of rural, suburban, and lake lifestyles, a varied housing stock, quality infrastructure and services, access to small local businesses, amenities, community gathering areas, strong schools, and natural open spaces.



Future Land Use

To focus on small, incremental growth to maintain the current character of the community related to all planning elements.



Parks/Recreation/Open Spaces

To have open, natural-feeling, inclusive, and accessible parks that serve multiple purposes, contain many amenities, and continue to serve the community demographics well while respecting residents' privacy and property.



Agriculture

To continue with a rural atmosphere and balance agricultural uses with residential uses and environmental issues related to agriculture.



Housing

To continue to encourage property maintenance and the availability of single-family homes on larger lots, as well as different housing types for an aging population who want to age in place.



Economic Development

To focus on small- to medium-sized locally owned existing and new businesses (retail, commercial, industrial) that service the residents of New Franklin. To prioritize existing vacant or underutilized properties for the best and highest use first, before utilizing green or agricultural spaces.



Transportation

To focus on Manchester Road (SR 93) Corridor and the Turkeyfoot Lake (SR 619) Corridor making it safe and aesthetically pleasing to all modes of transportation.



Infrastructure

To maintain infrastructure for the current and future residents and businesses while being fiscally responsible and balance varying opinions on water/sewer and location of related services, especially as it relates to existing and future development/re-development.



Community Facilities

To ensure adequate community facilities to host events in addition to those held at the Tudor House, such as a Farmer's Market, Community Garden, and other activities to bring people together.



Environmental

To apply conservation design principles to all types of development and redevelopment in the city to preserve environmentally sensitive areas.



Quality of Life

To maintain and cultivate our community by unifying the city residents around a common identity. To foster a distinct character and design potential gathering places that strengthen the environment for a stronger New Franklin identity.

WHAT DID THE PUBLIC HAVE TO SAY ABOUT YOUR CITY, YOUR VOICE?

Visioning Boards

TRANSPORTATION



COMMUNITY FACILITIES



AGRICULTURE



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



CURRENT / FUTURE LAND USE



HOUSING



RECREATION / OPEN SPACE / NATURAL RESOURCES



INFRASTRUCTURE



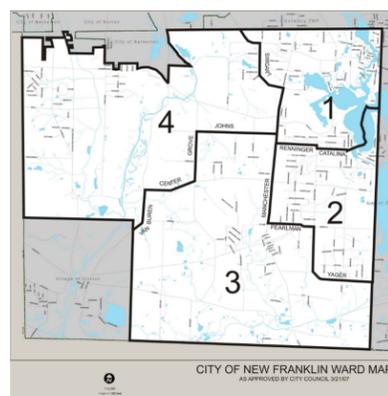
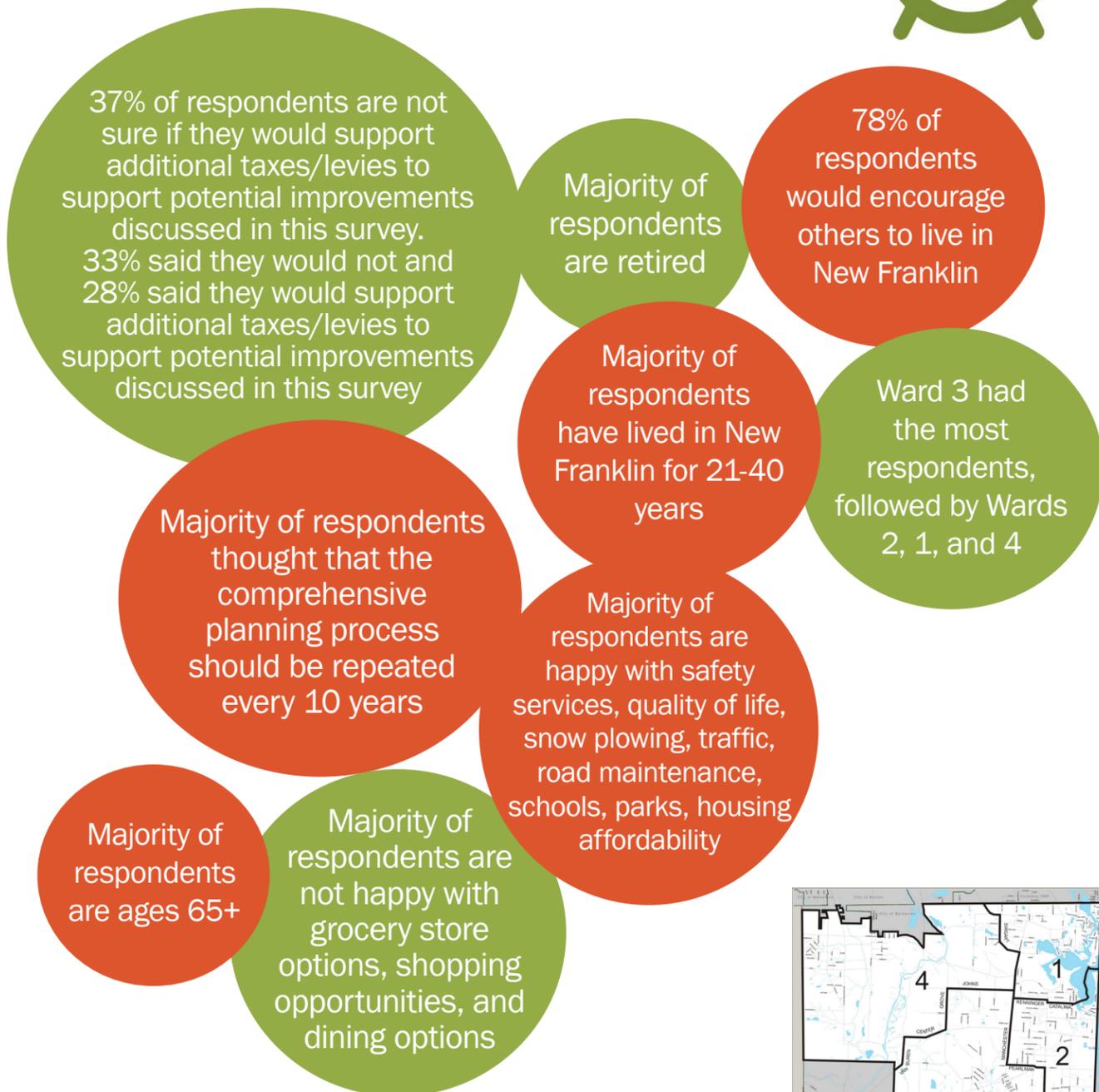
Final Visioning Boards:

- supports residents' visions
- does not support residents' visions

Survey Summary

Survey Fast Facts

Some survey fast facts (additional survey data responses can be found in Chapter 5, Planning Elements) shared with the community during the public workshops.



Workshop Summary

Action Items for Current and Future Land Use include:

- Additions to the zoning code (e.g. windmills, solar farms), modification/review (focusing on pollution and protection)
- Rezoning of land, organized high density 55+ housing with sewer
- Promote owner-occupied residential
- Secure State, Federal grants for sewers, internet expansion
- Creation of a master plan
- Do something with school property on 619
- Save golf course (note: purchased by developer with plans to develop “the water 9” and leave the rest as a public golf course)
- Remove old septic systems/zombie houses
- Protect wetland conservation efforts/ define what property owners can do in conservation district (+1)
- Add paddleboard, kayak launches
- Complete voter’s study
- Support existing businesses
- Active recruitment of small businesses along Manchester Road corridor
- Promote commercial/industrial zones with tax incentives, sewer, and related jobs
- Address school traffic, riding bikes to school may help

Action Items for Parks, Recreation and Greenspace include:

- West side community gardens, farmer’s market in rural settings
- Allocate resources and zone appropriately
- Better maintenance of existing parks, recreation, greenspace
- Handicapped accessible playgrounds
- Keep commercial development limited to one area (e.g. Manchester Road)
- No more car washes
- Dog Park
- Seasonal pavilion/marketplace at former school stadium, community garden
- Form a committee to investigate use of underutilized land

Action Items for Agriculture include:

- Farmer’s market
- Pegasus Farm type, establish to promote/teach farming, work with schools
- Community trip to farms
- Community Ag Bureau
- Winery
- Talk to local businesses about utilizing green space for community garden
- Some means to preserve ag land, tie into farmer’s market and leverage on social media
- Residential lots close to residential housing
- Limit agriculture only to low density residential
- No need to add additional agriculture, does not add significant tax revenue
- Quality enforcement of zoning

Action Items for New Land Use Regulations include:

- Protect historical
- Review/modify current zoning laws by planning commission and city council, zoning controls
- Property maintenance enforcement by council, few houses are big nuisances
- Council to up its game financially with incentives
- Use ring road, not stack all commercial with curb cuts
- Industrial areas, large commercial areas
- Traffic calming devices
- HAWK signals and better crossing for pedestrians
- Light at Main & 619
- Gateways
- Town centers
- Beautification committee, pride in ownership
- Allow secondary garage to increase size
- Increase speed limit on Vanderhoof near PPG
- Inform public of fact finding, take care of issues called to attention

Workshop Summary

Action Items for Residential include:

- Enforcement/fines for neighbors who do not take care of property
- City has power to control trashed properties
- No endless yard sales, fee permits required
- Air B&Bs regs needed with registry, tax rate, no party houses (+1)
- Zoning (+1), zone for desired outcomes
- Development Plan
- Limit/enforce street parking
- Street traffic lights at S. Main & Yager and Florian & Wilmar
- Snow plowing dead end streets
- Tear down old school behind Manchester Admin Building (by football field) (note torn down summer 2023 to be grassy area and remain property of the Manchester School District)
- Locate these types of housing in Ward 1 (Renninger, Pin Oak)
- Locate at old school property behind Manchester Admin Building
- Like well water, but think could get rid of septic to preserve aquifer
- Promote planned communities in zoning code with preferential consideration in process
- Approach developers to negotiate with landowners, recruit developers for desirable deals (+1)
- Identify/brand gateways into New Franklin, beautify
- Enforce current residential codes, no business in residential

Action Items for Commercial/Service/Office Economic Development include:

- Inventory of existing commercial businesses and then attract other businesses that serve demographics
- City to study need for types of businesses
- Low-interest loans
- Government, South Summit Chamber of Commerce
- Consolidate commercial businesses to ensure their survival

Action Items for Industrial Economic Development include:

- Target who has been interested in supply chain expansion
- City to study need (+1)
- Need local realtor aligned with our planning foresight and direction
- Fewer onerous regulations for small businesses/manufacturing
- Does the city have the capital to get infrastructure?
- Decide on types of industrial developments we want and do not want
- City-rezone
- Low-interest loans/city-backed
- Approach business owners/developers, meeting with landowners, city planners to solicit (+2)
- How to advertise New Franklin
- Form “brain trust” to develop ideas, economic development board (+1)

Action Items for Infrastructure/Utilities related to Economic Development include:

- City infrastructure through grants/grants for transportation, funding, planning (+1)
- Partner with surrounding communities
- Better “Welcome to New Franklin” signs
- Center turn lane on SR 93

Action Items for Park Amenities include:

- Flat surface
- Benches
- Adaptive playground, accessible playground (+1)
- ADA accessible, senior accessible park (+1)
- Paved paths, accessible paths (+1)
- Railings
- 4 seasons building/community center
- Gardens
- Bathrooms, ADA accessible
- Like patriotic flags on poles
- Need a community Christmas Tree Lighting at city hall

Action Items for Retail Stores/Restaurants Economic Development include:

- Business owners, realtors, city planners involved
- Need infrastructure
- Levy
- Zoning
- Get involved with Chamber
- Map out underutilized or vacant buildings or lots
- Communicate with school board on upcoming vacant buildings
- Administration involved
- Promote New Franklin’s strengths, resources, character
- Joint administration, citizen, business owner, high school students and younger resident economic development board
- Increased cost of services vs. increased revenue from departments

Action Items for Natural Resources/Public Lands/Environmental Protection include:

- Continue to expand and improve Sisler/Manchester Middle School facility
- Improve Lockhart
- Non-profit/city council to acquire, lease location
- Improve website info on parks, directions, amenities, grills
- Parks Committee should do outreach
- Committee to organize needs

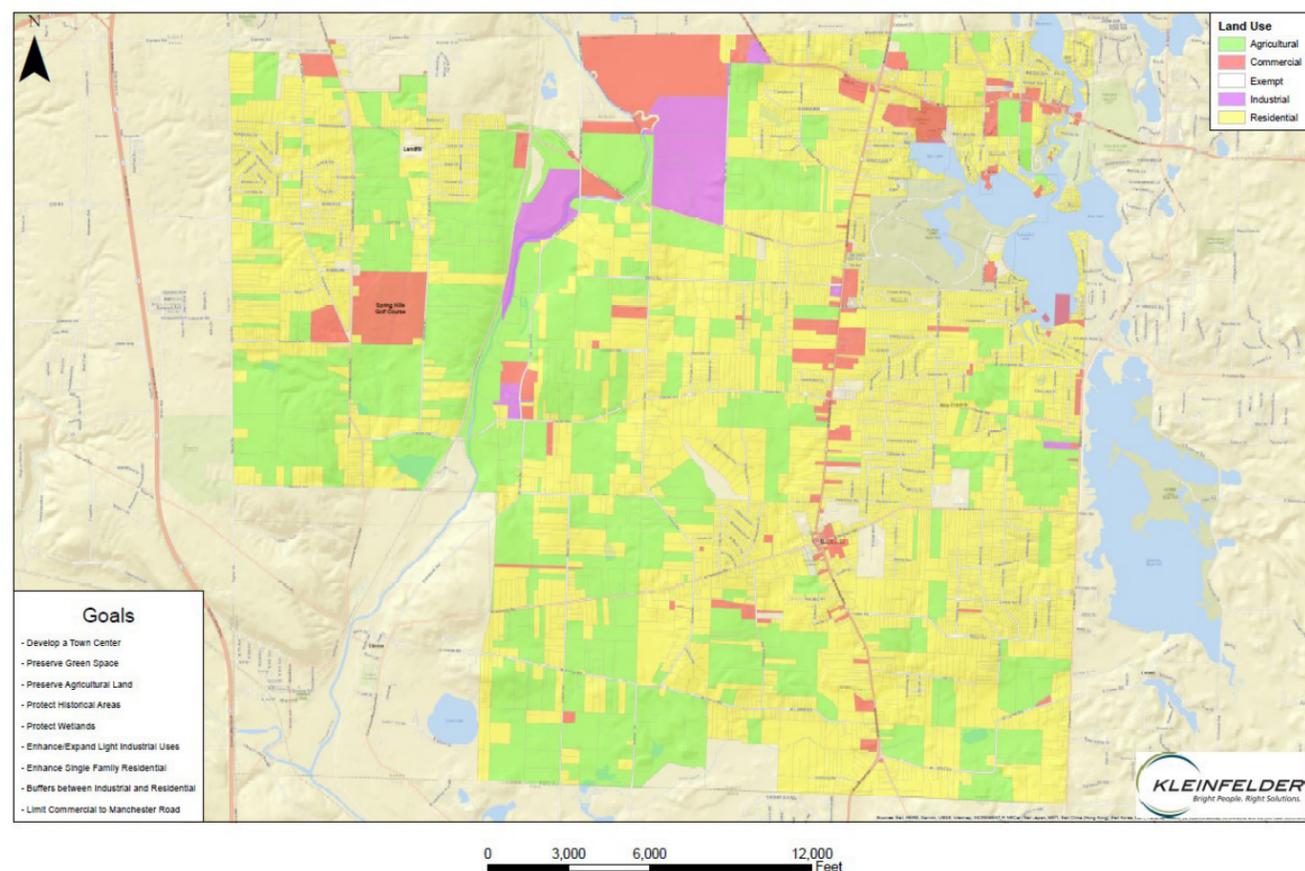
Action Items for Housing/Transportation related to Economic Development include:

- SR 93 Beautification (landscaping, regulate signage, setbacks)
- Prefer asphalt to chip and seal
- City needs relationship with commercial developer to bring in light industrial/service
- Find out what residents want and what they are willing to pay for
- Federal grants, explore grants (+1)
- Chamber, local government
- Development



WHAT WERE THE FUTURE LAND USE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUR CITY, YOUR VOICE?

City of New Franklin | Future Land Use Map



WHAT DOES YOUR CITY, YOUR VOICE IMPLEMENTATION LOOK LIKE?

Chapter 6 of the report contains a full implementation matrix organized by planning element with activities/strategies, possible time frames, responsible parties, where to be located/what implementation looks like, and potential funding sources.

Many voices were heard during this process and many ideas were generated. While some of these ideas will be easily implemented, others will need further study. Additional public input and finalized plans will be necessary. Some drawings were developed for illustrative purposes only. We understand the financial implications of all these recommendations will need further review and final project determinations will be made by City Council.

Economic Development

- Create Business Advisory Council (“brain trust”)/ economic development board
- Improve facades along Manchester Road
- Develop list of all businesses (commercial, office, industrial, retail, restaurant) in the city
- Utilize vacant and existing properties prior to encouraging new buildings for small industrial and commercial businesses
- Ensure protection of environmentally sensitive areas with development and redevelopment
- Examine regulations, incentives, infrastructure/utilities needed for business recruitment
- Retain and attract small businesses (retail, restaurant, commercial, service)
- Some growth is desired, but evaluate repetitive multiple businesses
- Examine recruitment of new industrial businesses
- Work to balance small town feel with business development
- Market New Franklin as great place to live, work, and play

Transportation

- Implement a gateway and wayfinding system, using New Franklin brand
- Address traffic and speeding issues within the city
- Examine intersections for safety improvements
- Examine Manchester Road to Towpath trail spur and other connections needed for better access
- Examine alternative transportation around schools to alleviate congestion
- Plan for expansion of and enhancement to Manchester Road and 619 Corridors as additional commercial growth occurs for increased traffic, additional businesses, zoning.
- Consider overlay zoning to control curb cuts, enhance landscaping, and to restrict land uses
- Examine shared bike lanes
- Ensure existing and future public transportation needs are being and will be met

Infrastructure/Utilities

- Create infrastructure to support small “town center”
- Work for more connected community (broadband, human connections, sidewalks, bike lanes, parks)
- Continue to asphalt roads when possible
- Focus on additional large scale infrastructure, ensuring any environmentally sensitive areas are protected
- Explore infrastructure to make the city pedestrian and bicycle friendly
- Work to remove polarization on water/sewer issue, work for middle ground. Look at alternative funding sources for water/sewer expansions

WHAT DOES YOUR CITY, YOUR VOICE IMPLEMENTATION LOOK LIKE?

Current & Future Land Use
Plan for low maintenance residential units appropriate for aging population
Work towards filling vacant properties (commercial, industrial, residential) or underutilized properties
Plan for the expected future growth of the community
Plan for the location of water/sewer treatment areas once waterline/sewer services are planned
Encourage green space in the city and protect environmentally sensitive areas
Update zoning (districts/classifications), modernizing terms, adding new uses, and retaining key agricultural areas
Work toward a family-friendly community
Examine zoning code to ensure it works for existing and future vision of New Franklin and implementation of Comprehensive Plan
Enforce noise ordinances and property maintenance for residential areas for a clean, quiet, well-maintained community

Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces
Improve information on city website detailing parks, locations, and amenities
Improve outreach, promotion
Use parks and open spaces as teaching places and utilize social media to publicize, advertise
Connecting trail between State Park and the Towpath Trail via Vanderhoof Road
Maintain, upgrade enhance, and install additional facilities at existing parks (prior to creating new parks/recreation/open areas for overall curb appeal and more family centric)
Preserve existing open space, when possible
Create multi-purpose parks with open, natural feel and recreational areas for families
Examine recreational development that supports a more pedestrian-focused access to include walking and biking
Examine stronger relationships with State Park, enforcement of rules for safety, health

Community Facilities/Public Facilities/Services
Promote existing assets, like the Tudor House, Parks, Trail, and Towpath for residents and visitors as well as foster community
Continue communication with residents on taxes collected and taxes spent and utilize this plan for prioritization
Develop a farmers' market and a community garden to foster community in New Franklin and provide goods/services/events for residents and visitors
Fully utilize the Tudor House as a community/civic center, but have plan in place for noise and recognize natural setting
Utilize current infrastructure and natural resources, ensure current infrastructure aligns with zoning
Focus on public services
Work to be sustainable for cost of living, affordable to live in New Franklin
Designate a "town center" and work to improve this area as a place for residents and visitors to gather

Agriculture
Balance agricultural feel with agricultural uses and residential uses
Preserve large lots for hobby farming and continue to preserve large plots of land.
Balance with environmental concerns with fertilizer run off, lakes/ponds
Keep the rural, country feel with farming, greenspace, and township feel, however balance with those who want less farming or no farming
Create Farmers Co-op, compost facility, recycling/chipping/mulching, solar farms, Pegasus Farm Type (educational), aquaponics, organic, horse stables, county-fair type event

Housing
Support development of single-family homes ensuring any development completed takes into account environmentally sensitive areas
Support thoughtfully designed housing
Support the development of senior housing, at least on a smaller scale at first

Quality of Life
Promote many visions, one community instead of four separate school districts
Distribute printed newsletter with community calendar of events
Cultivate small town feel, relationships with neighbors, and inclusion
Continue to focus on safety of community and schools
Maintain what the city has, stay small, quiet
Continue to brand New Franklin as a peaceful, comfortable, thriving, family-oriented, beautiful, spacious, and inviting community

"Plans are only good intentions unless they immediately degenerate into hard work."

- Peter Drucker