Comprehensive Plan

Minneapolis 2040 Civic Engagement

What We Heard:

Overview of Phase 2 Engagement Topics

Updated March 2017

Phase 2 began during the summer months as we raised awareness of Minneapolis 2040 at street festivals and other cultural events throughout the city by asking participants about their big ideas for the future of Minneapolis.

Phase 2 culminated in an engagement push in October and November that included online engagement material and questions, Tweet with a Planner, an updated Meeting-in-a-Box, eight Community Dialogue listening sessions with key audiences, and two identical open houses in the north and south sides of the city.

We used the same questions in all methods of engagement deployed during this period.

- *Transportation: How do you get around the city today? How do you think your transportation needs will change by 2040?*

- *Jobs: What opportunities do you need to help you feel financially stable and secure? How will your employment needs change between now and 2040?*

- *Housing: Are you satisfied with the housing options available to you right now? If not, what's missing? How will your housing needs change between now and 2040?*

- *Environment: Are we, the people of Minneapolis, doing enough to improve the environment? If not, what's missing? How do you think your life will be different in 2040 as a result of climate change?*

- *Vision/Tying it Together: What does your ideal Minneapolis look like in 2040? What makes you feel connected to your neighborhood? Your city? What do you love about your neighborhood? What would you change?*

Staff and consultants documented verbatim responses to the engagement questions from every engagement method during Phase 2 of the process. Staff read every line of the raw data, and with help from qualitative analysis software, sorted the input according to 20 topics that are representative of every comment:

- Arts
- Buildings
- Community and People
- Comp Plan
- Economic Development
- Education
- Equity
- Gentrification/Displacement
- Governance
- Growth
- Health
- Heritage Preservation
- Housing
- Land Use
- Parks and Open Space
- Public Safety
- Streets
- Sustainability
- Transit
- Transportation

Several of these documented engagement topics match the comprehensive plan policy topics and comprehensive plan values established by the City Council. Staff did not try to force all of the comments into those categories, however. As a result, not all of the comprehensive plan topics and values are listed as documented engagement topics. Similarly, some of the topics in the raw data are not pre-determined comprehensive plan topics and values.

The table below documents every idea we heard under each of the 20 topics, whether we heard it several times or just once. The intent of the table is to communicate to policymakers, City staff, and the public the range of perspectives offered by engagement participants without the need to read all 317 pages of raw data. However, the raw data is available on minneapolis2040.com for anyone who would like to access it.

It is important to note that the information in this table is not proposed or adopted City policy. It is simply a reflection of the range of input received.

TOPIC	WHAT WE HEARD
Art	- Artists should have more opportunities to sell their art in the public realm. For example, there should be peddlers permits and more access to space in Farmers Markets. - The City should create temporary job programs focused on using artists for civic engagement. An outcome could be more revenue for people of color who are experiencing spiking rents and lack of specialized job opportunities.
Buildings	- Design walkable, people-centered neighborhoods with a traditional neighborhood form. - We should design and maintain buildings to be more energy-efficient with the use of district heating and cooling, green roofs, PV electric generation, anaerobic digestion, and no magic packs. - Housing should be built where amenities exist, such as within walking distance of local business and parks, lakes, and the river. - Most of the new buildings being built are large – create opportunities to fill the "missing middle" gap.
Community and People	- We need to maintain affordability and the high quality of life in Minneapolis, especially for people of color so they are not driven out like they have been in other cities. - How can we prioritize community wealth over corporate wealth in land use, housing, clean energy ownership, the minimum wage, etc.? - Large housing developments don't produce a feeling of community among the residents and their neighborhoods. There should be more engagement with tenants about how to be involved in the community. - There is a need for culturally-specific programming. Examples cited include language and youth enrichment programs that preserve Native culture and a community center for members of the Southeast Asian community. - Many people are cognizant of the fact that we will all be older in

	2040. We need to design our city with aging in mind.
Comp Plan	• Thinking about 2040 is difficult – "for people in crisis, a year is a lifetime". • The perspective from some is that priorities are mostly set already. • This process should be a way for communities that traditionally feel disempowered to find a voice through trust-building and transparency. • The process should allow for the community to come up with solutions for themselves.
Economic Development	• City resources and regulations for small businesses need to be more transparent and user-friendly, including financing programs and licensing. • Youth need more opportunities for life skills training, access to entry-level positions, apprenticeships, and accredited programs. For example, more job training opportunities are needed like STEP-UP, but STEP-UP's income requirements are too limiting. • Paid family leave and livable wages are needed in order to provide equal opportunities in the workplace – "without an equal shot to care for my family with a full time job, it is difficult to be secure in the city". • People want transit connections between job centers and where people live. • The City needs to address educational disparities by supporting unique programs that provide skills training for people at all ages to prepare them for high-demand jobs. • There should be more pathways to high-demand jobs and the removal of barriers to entry, such as criminal background disqualifiers and degree requirements that aren't necessary. • There needs to be more options of spaces for small businesses that are affordable.
Education	• There needs to be more education for industries of the future.. • Youth need more opportunities for life skills training, access to entry-level positions, apprenticeships, and accredited programs.

	For example, more job training opportunities are needed like STEP-UP but STEP-UP's income requirements are too limiting.
	• We need to seriously address educational disparities at all ages.
	• Minneapolis schools need more funding, quality of education, and safer neighborhoods in order to close the achievement gap.
Equity	• Participants identified many areas of inequity and disparity in the city, including air quality, access to jobs, housing, education, income, and access to City resources.
	• Invest more in areas with the most inequities. For example, complete the bicycle infrastructure, spur development, improve air and water quality, maintain affordable housing, and expand number of high-frequency bus routes. How do we invest in communities while not displacing families of color and small businesses?
	• City government needs to be representative of the people in the community.
	• We have shared resources that everyone should benefit from so everyone is at the same baseline.
	• Diversity only exists in pockets of the city where there are affordable housing choices.
	• The city needs more economic investment zones to help build development in historically abandoned and underinvested neighborhoods.
	• We have to change structures of power and privilege relative to policing and repair the community's trust in these systems.
	• Students need to be better prepared for the workforce with fewer requirements.
Gentrification and Displacement	• Cultural communities fear the loss of housing, economic status, and cultural identity.
	• How can the City protect cultural pockets, such as along commercial corridors?
	• The city should not grow so fast as to lose cultural identity.
	• Renters are worried about rising rents that will displace them from their communities.
	• How can we be honest with ourselves about gentrification and

Minneapolis 2040 Phase 2 Overview of Engagement Topics
Note: This information is not proposed or adopted City policy, but an overview of the variety of input throughout the Phase 2 engagement process.

	the racialized harm it entails?
Governance	- The City needs to distribute services equitably throughout the city. - City government should have better checks and balances and implement fair hiring practices. - Abolish recognition of neighborhood organizations. - Neighborhood groups are a great connection to City departments.
Growth	- The city shouldn't grow so fast that we lose our identity. - We need housing options for families of all sizes and incomes. - Neighborhoods are changing because of density, making it hard to get around and changing the character. - Every new building should have green space, clean air, patios, solar arrays, etc. - We need more flexibility in housing types, including rooming houses, middle-density development, and small-unit housing. - Growth needs to benefit all members of the community with goods and services that can be accessed by everyone.
Health	- More affordable fitness and exercise options are needed throughout the city, particularly for youth and seniors. - We can live healthier lives by having places to walk to near where we live. - The level of quality around food in North Minneapolis is unacceptable, especially the proliferation of fast food. - Family stability and a healthy home can help youth with school attendance by improving physical, spiritual, and mental well-being. - The food movement should include food sovereignty and integrating native and indigenous values.
Heritage Preservation	- How is the comprehensive plan process handling historic preservation? - The City needs to be more proactive in its preservation work. - Cultural communities fear the loss of housing, economic status, and cultural identity.

Minneapolis 2040 Phase 2 Overview of Engagement Topics
Note: This information is not proposed or adopted City policy, but an overview of the variety of input throughout the Phase 2 engagement process.

	• How can the City protect cultural pockets, such as along commercial corridors? • The city should not grow so fast as to lose cultural identity.
Housing	• Housing programs on infill and vacant lots should think about empowering growth versus bringing growth to the community. Help with lending, underwriting, and skills training. This is particularly needed on the Northside with the supply of vacant homes and lots. • There is a need for housing for large families that is within a household's budget – sometimes families have to ignore their lease requirements so they can have more family members live with them. This includes multi-generational families. • Landlord issues are a problem. Tenants are uncertain what it means for them when their landlord's rental license gets revoked and landlords are taking advantage of tenants with charging for repairs, cleaning on top of damage deposit, and unloading of taxes. • There needs to be more education about renter rights and the resources they can access. • Homelessness remains a significant issue, particularly in the American Indian community. • Preference for affordable housing should be given to those most in need. • There are not enough affordable housing options in Minneapolis. Families eventually move out into the suburbs because housing in the city is too expensive. • Most new housing is being built for young people, not for seniors where there is a significant need. • Rental requirements can be discriminatory, for example for people with criminal backgrounds and those without social security numbers. • People want different housing options and affordability levels in all areas, including more co-ops, tiny houses, duplexes, and "missing middle" housing.
Land Use	• Lack of access to goods and groceries in some areas of the city

	require residents to shop elsewhere.
	• We need land access for urban farmers, community gardens, food production, and planting habitat.
	• We need transit connections between job centers and where people live, including to industrial/manufacturing/business park jobs.
	• We need to reform our regulations to allow for more density, particularly along transit corridors and where there are amenities within walking distance.
	• Reduce the concentration of affordable housing and increase market rate in certain neighborhoods.
	• Preserve and create more green spaces and tree-lined streets.
Parks and Open Space	• Disparities exist between park facilities in different parts of the city. For example, park facilities on the north side don't have concession areas or permanent bathrooms and this sends a message to people about the place.
	• Park facilities should have affordable fitness and exercise options, particularly tailored to specific cultural communities and seniors.
	• The perceived and real safety and quality of the park system needs to be improved so it is seen as an appropriate place for children, families, and seniors.
	• More parks and trees, including in Downtown.
Public Safety	• The police force should look like the community.
	• Train police to better interact with people of color and eliminate racial profiling.
	• Police need to be held accountable. No police brutality.
	• Too many conflicts exist in the roadway between pedestrians, cars, and bicyclists – "include bike safety and pedestrian safety in drivers' ed courses".
	• Youth raised concerns about getting harassed at bus stops and on buses.
	• Minneapolis should be peaceful and safer for youth to access parts of the city unsupervised.
	• Stop the violence. Less crime in the future.
	• The perceived and real safety and quality of the park system

	needs to be improved so it is seen as an appropriate place for children, families, and seniors.
Streets	• "Right size" streets to become narrower for cars and more pedestrian-friendly with wider sidewalks. • Fewer one-way streets. • More protected bike infrastructure. • The City should activate public alleys in commercial districts to promote safe and clean public spaces.
Sustainability	• Waste management improvements need to be made - make it easier for community members to dispose of hazardous material, increase the number of trash cans where people walk, and educate about the urgency of recycling. • Future climate change issues could be more complicated weather, rising water levels, polluted land, poor air quality, overpopulation, overflowing landfills. • The community needs options for clean local and renewable energy options that are decentralized. • Regulations for solar panels and tall buildings need to be considered together. • Better education on planting food, reducing waste, and renewal energy. • There needs to be more investments in clean energy and energy efficiency that makes it more accessible to various communities. • Clean lakes and more greenscape – trees, parks, urban gardens, rain gardens, and animal habitat. • More education is needed on renewable energy, urban farming, and other sustainability options.
Transit	• Bus riding can be difficult during the winter – stops aren't cleared of snow, shelters aren't heated, and often the bus is off-schedule or won't come. • Put density near transit and bicycle infrastructure to promote equity and livability. • Prioritize transit investments for people who need them the most.

	• Transit system needs enhanced bus stops, more affordable fares (e.g. design fares on a sliding scale based on income), tickets that last longer, more express routes, and less of a hub and spoke model. • Expand LRT and BRT options, including better access to the suburbs.
Transportation	• Intersection issues exist for pedestrians, including signals changing too quickly to get across the street and cars creeping into the crosswalk. • Skyways can be a good place for seniors to walk and get exercise, but they can be difficult to navigate and feel less safe than walking outside. • More high-frequency bus routes in more parts of the city. • Walkable, people-centered neighborhoods are sustainable and livable. • Transportation investments can reduce disparities by connecting people to amenities like parks, schools, businesses, and people. • Bike infrastructure needs to accommodate users of various levels of experience that makes it safe and accessible for all to use.

Minneapolis 2040 Phase 2 Overview of Engagement Topics
Note: This information is not proposed or adopted City policy, but an overview of the variety of input throughout the Phase 2 engagement process.