

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #1

SEPTEMBER 7, 2022

SUMMARY



MEETING OVERVIEW

The project team led the first steering committee meeting to kick-off the creation of the Hardin County Comprehensive Development Guide on September 7, 2022 at the Hardin County Government Offices. Approximately 21 people were in attendance that included members of the planning commission, county staff, regional organizations and employers, county utilities, Hardin County Schools, local business leaders, and other key stakeholders within the community. The meeting provided an overview of the planning process that will occur over the next year and presented a brief overview of the county's existing conditions. The group was asked to provide feedback on what they wanted the new plan to achieve, what they thought were the largest challenges facing the county, and their big ideas for the future. The group then discussed the next steps for public engagement and were given a homework assignment to review the past Comprehensive Development Guide's plan goals.

WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Several trends for both the needs within the county and challenges for the future were discussed during the meeting and multiple committee members voiced similar concerns for the county's future. Committee members wrote down their responses on sticky notes and posted them to a board at the front of the room as each was discussed with the larger group. Nine separate themes emerged from the steering committee's comments about the future. These included:

- Protecting the rural integrity and prime farmland within the county.
- Bolstering the county's transportation network and available transportation options.
- Expanding the county's utilities and community services (fire, police, EMS).
- Supporting Hardin County Schools.
- Planning for smart growth and limiting sprawl.
- Expanding housing options and increasing affordable options.
- Working alongside Fort Knox and other key economic drivers and employers within the community.
- Enhancing quality of life in the community through programs and developments that attract and support Hardin County residents.
- Identifying ways to attract and retain recent high school and college graduates.

Similarly, five separate themes were identified from the steering committee's comments about the largest challenges the county should address in the future as it relates to this plan. These included:

- Over-expanding infrastructure due to fast development and limiting land use conflicts.
- Addressing the demand for new types of housing as the Ford Battery Plant is constructed and employees begin work.
- Finding funding for the various programming and infrastructure expansions needed to support a growing population.
- Identifying how to meet future workforce needs.
- Identifying what is needed to improve quality of place and sense of community.