



PHASE 1 OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY

DRAFT 5/20/2025

The first phase of engagement for the Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update kicked off in May 2025 with a community open house and online survey. Engagement activities in this first phase of work focused on informing the public about the Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update process and gaining broad insights about the vision for the future of Mentor.

There were several ways for the public to get involved with the process including a community open house, online material, and associated surveys both in-person and online. For each engagement method, there were key questions asked of the public. These questions were designed to solicit answers that will inform the next phase of work. Key questions included:

- What is your Six-Word Story for the future of Mentor?
- What do you love about Mentor?
- What do you want more in Mentor?
- What do you want less in Mentor?
- What areas of Mentor need more investment?

The following document summarizes engagement activities, and the general feedback received through each method of engagement.

Community Open House

The consultant team and City staff held a community-wide meeting on May 14th from 5:30-7:00pm at the Springbrook Garden house. The event was open-house style and was attended by an estimated 50 participants. In addition, an online survey was launched and continues to receive responses, allowing for ongoing community input.

The City and consultant team engaged residents on the purpose of a Comprehensive Land Use Plan and gathered input through a variety of



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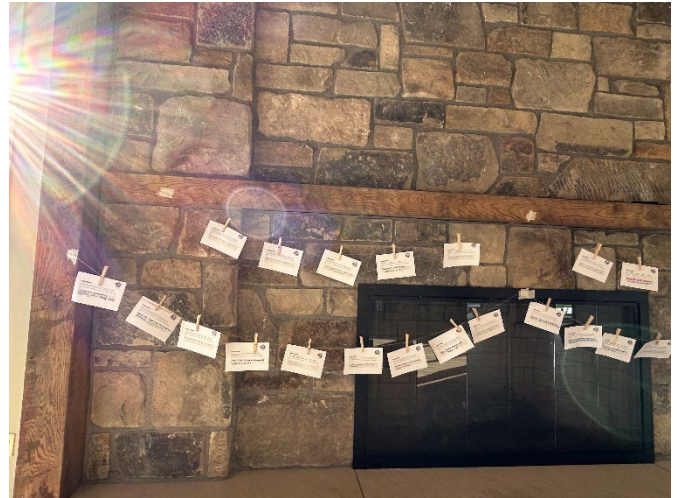
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visioning exercises for the future of the city. There were three activities for participants to engage with at the open house which are described in more detail below. High-level summaries of what we heard are included in this summary, and the full documentation of comments received are included in the appendix.

Station 1: Six-Word Story

Description: As an activity in the planning process, the Six-Word Story encourages participants to be creative while providing telling information about the core sentiment of their experience of a place. The Six-Word Story attempts to distill a person's experience or narrative into a short, evocative story.

What we heard: The six-word stories shared by Mentor residents reflect a strong appreciation for the city's abundant green spaces and sense of community. Residents picture a city's future that is diverse, vibrant, and family-friendly, and embraces nature and outdoor living. Common themes in their stories include a desire for safety, a blend of old and new, and access to quality education. Additionally, there is a clear interest in creating a more walkable retail district and expanding housing options to accommodate both seniors and young adults.



Station 2: Love, More, Less

Description: This station included three boards with broad questions with respondents using sticky notes.

- In Mentor I love . . .
- In Mentor I want more of . . .
- In Mentor I want less of . . .

What we heard: Mentor residents value the city's natural beauty, especially its parks, trails, and recreational facilities. They also appreciate the city's strong infrastructure, including well-managed services, quality schools, and reliable public transportation. Residents appreciate the amenities such as libraries, low taxes, and effective road maintenance. Additionally, there is a strong sense of pride in Mentor's small businesses, community, and welcoming neighborhoods.

Residents of Mentor want more restaurant options, more walkable retail districts, and more destinations to hang out. These residents would also love more wildlife and outdoor space. Many residents would like some beautification projects such as trees, flowers, and buried power lines. They would also like more of a focus on safety, such as adding more streetlights, improving the condition of bike lanes and sidewalks, and improving traffic conditions. In terms of housing, people expressed their interests for more affordable housing developments for both senior and young adults.



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Mentor residents expressed a desire for less traffic, reduced congestion, and slower vehicle speeds to improve safety and livability. There is also concern about run-down and vacant commercial properties. They have a desire for retail revitalization in the area. People want to see more unique local shops and restaurants, rather than big-box stores and national chains. Additionally, residents want to continue preserving the city's green spaces, with many emphasizing the importance of protecting trees and wildlife from unnecessary business or housing development.



Station 3: Bucket Exercise – Implementation Trade-Offs

Description: Each participant pretended they were a decision-maker with limited resources to implement the Mentor Comprehensive Land Use Plan. How would they prioritize implementation? Each person received five Mentor Moolah. They then decided how they want to spend them. Participants could customize a ticket if they didn't see all their priorities represented.



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Bucket topics: Expand biking and walking trails, support workforce housing, support small businesses and entrepreneurs, expand entertainment options, increase job opportunities, expand housing options, increase retail options.

What we heard: Mentor residents identified the expansion of biking and walking trails as their top priority. This is closely followed by strong support for small businesses and local entrepreneurs. The “Other” category also ranked high, with a desire for a ‘destination’, revitalized retail areas, and the activation of vacant storefronts. Residents are also interested in improving Mentor Avenue and developing a downtown area similar to Willoughby’s. Additional high-ranking priorities include increasing workforce housing and expanding both housing and retail options to better serve the community’s needs.

