

Priority Area I:

CREATE A PLEASANT, EVENT-FILLED DOWNTOWN

VISION: DOWNTOWN WILL BE THE FOCUS OF INTERACTION BETWEEN THE RESIDENTS OF LONGMONT.

VISION: CLOSE MAIN STREET TO CREATE "DOWNTOWN PLAZA"; KIMBARK ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND; COFFMAN ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND.

VISION: INCREASE VISIBILITY OF "BACK DOORS" TO BUSINESSES.

Comments (4/24):

Design alternative routes to US 287, such as County Road 1 to reduce need for thru traffic on Main.

Alternative to US 287 closure--Make plaza type areas on some of the east-west streets. Example: brick over 4th from Kimbark to Main.

Why event-filled? Didn't we have a number of parades last year? Why not one good one?

Extend streetscaping.

Why backdoors when you have Main Street?

One-way Coffman and Kimbark was previously considered.

Diverting traffic to Coffman and Kimbark impacts neighborhoods.

Consider creating plaza areas.

Get rid of the pawn shops; encourage specialty shops.

Downtown cannot move east or west due to neighborhoods.

Downtown and neighborhoods must work together cooperatively.

Consider overhead rails over Main Street.

There need to be more people living downtown.

Make downtown pedestrian friendly.

Comments (4/17):

Consider a skating rink.

Consider a band shell.

There is a need for a thorough traffic study.

Missing stakeholder: Downtown business persons.

US 287 is U.S. Highway - would need to work with State.

Neighborhoods do not want more traffic.

Some business owners may not want Main Street designated as US 287.

Priority II:

PROMOTE CULTURE AND THE ARTS

VISION: LONGMONT WILL HAVE A NEW CULTURAL AND ARTS CENTER - LOCATED AS NEAR THE CITY CENTER AS POSSIBLE; EXPANDABLE; MULTI-PURPOSE SPACE FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL PURPOSES.

VISION: PORTABLE BAND SHELL FOR USE AT ANY LOCATION.

VISION: COORDINATE AND PROMOTE CULTURAL ARTS (MUSIC, VISUAL, PERFORMING ARTS) BOTH IN THE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY.

VISION: WELCOME ALL CULTURES TO ARTS COMMUNITY.

VISION: MORE ART IN PUBLIC PLACES. ART THAT REFLECTS OUR "SISTER CITY" RELATIONSHIP, SUCH AS ALONG ST. VRAIN GREENWAY.

Benchmarks:

Financing acquired.
Doors open.

Comments (4/24):

Work with museum planning process to coordinate efforts.
Increase use of existing facilities such as Vance Brand Auditorium.
A portable band shell would contribute to hometown atmosphere.
Identify talent.
Newspaper publicity for "arts" achievements.
All cultures need to be welcomed to perform and attend the arts.

Comments (4/17):

How will these be financed?

Priority Area III:

PROMOTE SOCIAL AND ETHNIC RESPECT

VISION: THE WORD DISCRIMINATION IN THE CONTEXT OF, CULTURAL, ETHNICITY, SOCIAL, RELIGIOUS, LIFESTYLE, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, AGE, SEX, ECONOMIC, OR OTHER DIFFERENCES WILL NO LONGER HAVE MEANING IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Benchmarks:

Equitable Investment in north/south and east/west Longmont.

Comments (4/24):

Eliminate discrimination block-by-block; area-by-area.

How many block parties are there?

Who is responsible for them?

Education.

Have youth and elders working together.

Define "lifestyle".

The Longmont Sister Cities Association is a great program for educating about cultural diversity, and promoting international friendships. It changed my life and can do the same for others. Longmont needs to get involved.

Encourage diversity in government, schools, and police.

Create a combined youth/senior center.

Add sexual orientation to definition.

Education on diversity earlier on; in other words early education.

Identify issues to get people involved in their neighborhood with their neighbors.

Comments (4/17):

Goal has a lot to do with how our community is educated.

What does "lifestyle" mean?

People over 65 "chronologically gifted"

Reverse statement to use, "respect will have meaning ... in our community."

Unless more defined, unclear condition already exists, although not to the degree we desired.

Discrimination may be necessary for menaces to society.

How will we benchmark this victory?

School district divided on north-south, rather than east-west axis.

"Love thy neighbor as thyself."

Priority Area IV:

ADDRESS RECREATIONAL NEEDS

VISION: PROVIDE SUFFICIENT ACTIVE AND PASSIVE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND FACILITIES.

Benchmarks:

Parks
Greenbelts
Structured activities
Coordinated private and public actions

VISION: CONTINUING COORDINATION BY ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RECREATION PROVIDERS.

Benchmarks:

Continue private/public actions

VISION: CREATE DIVERSE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

Benchmarks:

Educational activities
Compare to national standards
Funding

VISION: ESTABLISH AN ONGOING PROCESS OF PLANNING AND EVALUATING RECREATION.

Benchmarks:

Ongoing evaluation-survey
Survey addressing national standards

VISION: INSURE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL LIMITED POPULATIONS (YOUTH, ELDERLY, PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY LIMITED).

Benchmarks:

Accessibility
Affordability
All ages

Comments (4/24):

Affordable.

Use buffer (open space) for some activities, like soccer, etc.

Define what constitutes recreation.

Put fieldhouses in the parks. Have recreation for kids who can't afford it.

An ice rink.

Encourage walking.

Maintain existing bikeways, ie. Boston Avenue connecting Greenway is often covered with dirt and gravel and rocks. Please plan in safe access routes to and from Greenway.

Examine Sunset-Bowen-Hover-Pratt and the lack of bike lanes and sidewalks.

We need another outdoor pool like the one on Sunset. The town has grown.

Greenbelts are a must! We need to develop and maintain a large system of interconnecting bike paths and walking trails in an around Longmont.

They need to be wild areas though. Traditional grass-lined parks are nice, but we need many more areas that are a refuge for wildlife and a quiet, relaxing area for humans. My goal: a path system from Hygiene to Jim Hamm. From Left-Hand Creek to the Ute Highway.

More than surveys are needed--consider community forums.

Greenways provide the community recreation, beauty, and alternative transportation.

Comments (4/17):

Appoint a Recreation Advisory Board.

Missing stakeholders: Police Department.

Priority Area V:

CREATE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

VISION: THE COMMUNITY WILL CREATE AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR LOW AND MODERATE INCOME RANGES WHICH IS DISPERSED THROUGHOUT NEIGHBORHOODS AND PROVIDE RENTAL AND OWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.

Benchmarks:

City government will provide incentives to encourage development of housing that is affordable to low and moderate income citizens. (4-24)

Support City of Longmont's proposal to require all future annexations to include 10% of the units to be "affordable".

Zoning will encourage diversity in income levels and income types.

Create permanently affordable units specifically through the creation of a Housing Trust.

Comments (4/24):

What happened to lower income ranges?

I grew up in a four bedroom house costing around \$35,000; Affordable housing to me is not \$80,000-\$110,000.

Affordable rentals

Starter homes should be affordable for people who is in the low incomes.

Affordable x people who make \$30,000/year not the ones who make over \$300,000

We need even cheaper housing than \$80,000-\$100,000.

Make City codes realistic so cost of rentals don't increase so drastically. Safety yes, but let's not go overboard.

Poorer people have go to live too.

Does this include covenant controlled neighborhoods?

Increase the supply of affordable housing for low and moderate income households.

Include collaborative efforts at encouraging creation of affordable housing-- specifically helping to implement the Boulder County Housing.

Create enough good paying jobs so more housing is affordable.

Allow part of apartment/house rental to be tax deductible.

Try to provide affordable housing appropriate for the people who are employed in Longmont.

We need realistic affordable homes. Everybody does not make \$20,000-\$40,000 a year.

Keep governments from being involved in actual building of affordable housing--too much graft!

Government should not subsidize housing. Where will money come from? One of the great options are pre-fab homes or mobile homes where owners own the land.

Need public and private sector cooperation.

Change "family" to citizen on first benchmarks because individuals are affected.

Put cap on affordable housing.

Look at rent control.

Rent control is the least desirable of options.

What is the definition of affordable housing?

Many people cannot afford an \$80,000 house.

Draft Benchmarks (4/17):

Mechanism to insure permanent funding available

Disperse affordable housing

Create land bank to insure land available in the future

Plan from City to lower costs associated with building new housing

Density study

Comments (4/17):

Median determination to measure benchmarks

Starter homes - prices have skyrocketed- average house Very high - need college education or higher to afford

Any funding mechanism?

Perhaps dedicated sales tax like county is doing.

Need more statistics on how many working in families to achieve income to buy a home.

Number of units this is per year, goal is missing-what didn't do last year must do this year.

Mechanism for dealing with fees.

Was density discussed?

Traffic and school issues.

Missing stakeholders: Low and moderate income individuals.

Priority Area VI:

DIVERSIFY TRANSPORTATION MODES

VISION: IDENTIFY CORRIDORS AND RESERVE RIGHTS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND VEHICULAR ARTERIAL WITHIN LONGMONT AND TO NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES.

Benchmarks:

A cost/benefits impact study related to reserving rights is completed within 3 years.
Coordinate with other commuting on development of public transit.

VISION: PEOPLE ARE DEPENDING ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION RATHER THAN AUTOS. NEW DEVELOPMENT DESIGNED AROUND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.

Benchmark:

Encourage and educate use of bicycles, RTD, special transit, and walking.

VISION: PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE ROUTES TO LIMIT DOWNTOWN TRAFFIC ON US 287 TO TRAFFIC WITH DOWNTOWN INTERESTS. DIVERT THROUGH TRAFFIC WITHOUT IMPACTING NEIGHBORHOODS.

Benchmarks:

Identify corridors of traffic around Longmont
Construct tunnel under Main Street from 2nd to 9th.

Comments (4/24):

Can the existing train tracks be used for commuter trains?
Eliminate "off-street bikeways" that are just sidewalks from the City Bikeway
Map--then evaluate how accessible parts of town are.
Need safe bike path for Main Street
Cut and fill and build tunnel for 287 under Main Street
There should be more access to public transportation for young teens. This way parents have a good excuse to say take a bus, instead of worrying about if your young teens may be drinking and driving.
Encourage shopping within neighborhoods.
Recognize connectedness to Front Range Corridor
Consider establishing a transportation district to serve Northern Colorado.

Comments (4/17):

Bicycles?

People depending upon public transportation makes one think of New York City

Change to people having access to public transportation.

Coordination of public and private transportation - look at all types of public transportation.

Longmont is already traffic congested to point where it takes 20 minutes to get from hospital to McLane Western - hopefully won't have to force people into public transportation

Alternative transportation for baby-boomers - who will be driving them?

Bicycles now looked upon as recreational, not as transportation- more bike paths

High density areas with businesses in each of those areas

DRCOG study - children use bikes most - safe bike path alternative - regional bike path planning

Smaller vehicles in town for distribution - don't need so many big trucks

Priority VII:

ENHANCE HOMETOWN ATMOSPHERE

Benchmarks:

Establish an architectural review board.
Establish height limits.

VISION: ARCHITECTURAL STYLE IN KEEPING WITH OLD-TOWN LONGMONT.

VISION: ATTRACTIVE WELCOME SIGNS AT THE SIX MAJOR ENTRANCES TO CITY.

VISION: ESTABLISH A LONGMONT SLOGAN.

Benchmark:

Slogan placed on welcome signs,

ANIMAL CONTROL

Benchmarks:

Stronger laws regarding number and type of animals; Dog runs;
Mandatory scoopers.
More animal control officers.
Reminders in billings regarding guidelines; no dogs allowed in parks.

VISION: INNER-CITY OPEN SPACE

Benchmark:

Provide for in budget

VISION: CODES TO CONTROL SONIC DISSONANCE.

VISION: CREATE NEIGHBORHOOD CAMPUSES.

Comments (4/24):

Great job keep it up.

New neighborhoods need to be designed to create a feeling of belonging and worthy of respect and pride for its members and rest of town.

Keeps such things as the pet and doll parade.

Develop city agri-zones as buffer between Longmont and other communities.

Provide open space in city planning for: 1) transition zones for commerce and industry; 2) buffers; and 3) public safety (power lines and canals).

Longmont has had slogans. May we review them?

Don't spend money on slogans or signs, please.

Dogs are nice.

Friendly caring people.

Volunteers continued to honored and valued.

Animal control is short term goal--should not be part of long-term vision.

The problem is not how many animals a person has its how responsible they, ie, spay and neutering, allowing barking, etc. More animal control!

I love animals. More control or fines for not picking up after your animals in public parks. I'm tired of cleaning my children's shoes and clothes. Now I'm learning to proceed with caution, but you don't always see it in the sand.

Animal control needs to be able to enforce the laws easier. Dogs should not be able to bark all day and night.

No dogs allowed in parks?! No! We should crack down on irresponsible dog owners and dogs, but reward the responsible dog owners and dogs.

Those owners who can control and will clean up after dogs should by all means be allowed to enjoy the parks.

Animal control should be addressed under public safety.

Enforce leash laws, make mandatory obedience school mandatory for infractions.

Neighborhood schools are a key to the sense of neighborhood.

Comments (4/17):

We have more important things to discuss than dog poop.

How will we know when hometown atmosphere is gone? Look at what we don't want to lose.

Development of Neighborhoods

Emphasize what Longmont has to offer

Emphasize agriculture

Priority VIII:

PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING

VISION: ENCOURAGE DIALOGUE BETWEEN TAXPAYERS, SCHOOL BOARD, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO CLARIFY EXPECTATIONS.

VISION: CONTINUE EMPHASIS ON MULTI-CULTURAL EDUCATION.

VISION: CREATE K-14 EXPECTATION FOR ALL STUDENTS AS PREPARATION FOR THE WORKFORCE AND OR COMPLETING A COLLEGE DEGREE.

VISION: EXPAND LIFELONG OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL ADULTS RECOGNIZING PEOPLE OF ALL AGES, NEED AND WANT TO LEARN.

VISION: IMPROVE ACCESS TO MATERIAL WITH ACADEMIC DEPTH THROUGH THE PUBLIC LIBRARY TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR GRADES 8-12 AND HIGHER EDUCATION.

VISION: EXPAND ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES TO ADDRESS DROP-OUTS, GANGS, TEEN PARENTS, AND EXPELLED STUDENTS.

VISION: MAKE OVERCROWDING IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS A COMMUNITY ISSUE, NOT JUST A NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL ISSUE.

Comments (4/24):

Schools should give foundation, knowledge based education.

Too much business training.

Not everyone needs a college degree; only if trying for a particular job.

Continue to build depth in the public library.

Have classes in parenting, literacy, GED, English as a second language widely available, maybe at the workplace.

Provide adequate resources to accommodate all school needs.

Find a different environment to hold expelled students and make parents more responsible.

Higher education leading to a degree.

Bi-lingual education on English, but English as first language.

Tap retired human resources for use in education.

Require learning channel on cable system.

Create a technology center to train us in use of technology.

Require all high school students to pass a computer efficiency test.

What is academic depth?

Encourage adult learning for personal growth, not just career growth.

Move away from property tax funding of schools.

Libraries need to work cooperatively.

To address overcrowding in Longmont High School, consider redirecting students to Skyline H.S.

Comments (4/17):

Add business to taxpayer - school board meeting.

Confused by multi-cultural education; need basics, not too much emphasis on culture.

Bilingual material in public library.

Talk to business/industry/sister cities to identify what skills are needed by students.

Public school role to educate, not train for business - students should leave school system easily trainable.

Schools should give foundation training that is too specific limits student freedom.

If adults need and want to learn can accomplish themselves.

Priority Area IX:

ENCOURAGE ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

VISION: CREATE HIGH QUALITY PRIMARY JOBS

Benchmarks:

Primary job growth is maintained at least the population growth rate.
Grow salaries at a greater rate than inflation.
Increase the percentage of people who can afford to live and work here.

VISION: USE ZONING TO STIMULATE USE OF: RETAIL, TOURISM, AIRPORT.

VISION: IDENTIFY LONGMONT'S UNIQUE ADVANTAGES (IE. HIGHER LEARNING INSTITUTIONS, GEOGRAPHY, SMALL TOWN ATMOSPHERE) TO CULTIVATE HIGH QUALITY PRIMARY JOB GROWTH.

VISION: ENCOURAGE EDAL AND SIMILAR ASSOCIATIONS TO CONTINUE TO PROMOTE PRIMARY JOB GROWTH.

VISION: TWIN PEAKS MALL IS REVITALIZED AS A FLOURISHING RETAIL/ENTERTAINMENT/ COMMUNITY CENTER.

~~**VISION: A SECTION OF LONGMONT IS DESIGNATED AS A TOURISM DISTRICT WITH INCENTIVES TO RECRUIT TOURISM RELATED BUSINESSES.**~~

VISION: VANCE BRAND AIRPORT REALIZES ITS BUSINESS POTENTIAL AS AN ALL-WEATHER FACILITY.

[Moved to Diversify Transportation Modes PA]

~~**VISION: A NEW TOURNAMENT CENTER BECOMES A FOCAL POINT FOR ATHLETIC AND OTHER TYPES OF COMPETITION, ATTRACTING PARTICIPANTS FROM ACROSS COLORADO.**~~ [Deleted 4/24]

Comments (4/24):

Quality job=One which raises the average wage in Longmont.
Encourage farming and historic businesses.
Not a new tournament center, but an existing facility like County Fairgrounds.
Why are Longmont businesses going to Del Camino?
Businesses create jobs.
Growth rate tied to job rate, too much regulation.
What does the operator of Twin Peaks Mall have to say about "revitalization".
Area around airport is commercial/industrial. Should be taken care of by this group so industries which use airport can be attracted.
Sister City Program should be extended

Comments (4/17):

Could a Boulder City facility be used for tournaments.

Allow a could of small businesses in each neighborhood - more independent business owners.

How to keep Twin Peaks going, revitalize downtown, and have pocket business sectors?

PRIORITY AREA X:

ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY

VISION: PEOPLE ARE AND FEEL SAFE IN LONGMONT.

Benchmarks:

Educate neighborhoods regarding safety.
Educate 100% of neighborhoods on strategies to increase resiliency.
Measure crime rates.
100% of community knows their neighborhood beat police officer.
Decrease family violence.
Decrease chemical dependency.
Decrease youth violence.

Comments (4/17):

Is 5:59 an adequate response time to an emergency call?
Visible home numbers.
Availability of animal control officers, including nights.

Priority XI:

PLAN COMMUNITY GROWTH

VISION: LONGMONT IS A COMMUNITY WHICH ACCOMMODATES A BROAD RANGE OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS.

VISION: PLAN FOR COMMUNITY CENTERS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

VISION: LONGMONT WILL MAINTAIN ITS UNIQUE, SEPARATE PHYSICAL IDENTITY.

VISION: DEVELOPMENT WILL NOT OUT-PACE THE ABILITY TO PROVIDE SERVICES.

VISION: LONGMONT WILL BALANCE ITS RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL GROWTH.

VISION: THE COMMUNITY RESPECTS THE CARRYING CAPACITY OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

Benchmarks:

Intergovernmental Agreements with neighboring counties.

Conduct origin/destination traffic studies; transportation impact studies for each new proposed annexation.

Adopt City ordinance to create transitional zones between residential and non-residential areas

Adopt a City ordinance to promote the preservation of existing historical districts.

Longmont is a major player in regional planning.

City open space tax to purchase land for open space buffer

Comments (4/24):

We need to save natural habitat through good planning now, not just as a "buffer" or "open space".

Save airport from residential encroachment.

Preservation of historic structures and neighborhoods

Over what period of time does commercial and residential balance?

City must option land such as Main Street Athletic Field to keep strip joints out.

Revamp the comprehensive planning process--make it more user friendly--more participation by the community.

Need neighborhood community centers in all neighborhoods.

Don't forget that centers can be dual purpose, ie. National Guard Armory
How about planned community non-growth?

STASIS STASIS STASIS

The priority issue-important to the survival of Longmont as such Longmont will maintain its unique separate physical identity by providing spacious buffers.

Open space may be obtained free. How? Corporate campuses.

In order to have a separate physical identity we need to be surrounded by buffer zones which will limit geographic growth.

Sales tax not only for open space, but to acquire land for things like recreation center, amphitheater, etc.

Buy open space around exterior of the City.

Plan for community centers in our neighborhoods.

Define open space.

Can gain open space by selective zoning--corporations would have to allot part of their plots for public open space.

Comments (4/17):

Admission that Longmont will become a large city-can control growth.

As long as we subsidize something, we'll get more out of it - subsidizing low-income housing will mean growth.

In future, Longmont may need to adjust codes so low-income housing can be built by developers - have open mind when hear a about a new development.

Now matter where development is, it will have an impact upon every existing neighborhood.

Community centers vs. neighborhood centers vs. regional centers ... all three are important.

Lack of knowledge about comp-plan, zoning laws, and other things City has in place to limit growth - only so much can be built at once.