

WESTMINSTER *FORWARD*

one community. one vision. one future.

Stakeholder Interview Summary

04 February 2020, V4

Interviewees

Mayor and City Council

Herb Atchison, Mayor [1/7]
Anita Seitz, Mayor Pro Tem [1/14]
David DeMott, City Council [2/4]
Rich Seymour, City Council [2/3]
Kathryn Skulley, City Council [2/4]
Lindsey Smith, City Council [2/3/20]
John Voelz, City Council [5/3]
Michelle Haney, Former City Council [4/24]
Sheela Mahnke, Former City Council [1/14]

John Hall, ED [5/31]
Jacob Kasza, CD [7/26]
Kristin May, PRL [7/26]
Greg Moser, Fire [6/28]
Sarah Nurmela, ED [7/26]
Barbara Opie, Deputy City Manager [9/10]
Paul Schmiechen, CMO [7/26]
Kate Skarbek, PRL [7/10]
Don Tripp, City Manager [11/28]
Patti Wright, PRL [7/26]

Planning Commission

Donald Anderson, Planning Commission [6/28]

City Staff

Nicole Ankeny, PRL [7/26]
Sarah Borgers, PWU [5/31]
Dave Downing, CD [5/31]
Jenni Grafton, ED [6/28]
Stephen Grooters, PWU [6/28]

Other Stakeholders

Wendi Birchler [6/28]
Rich Chamberlain [6/28]
Bill Kearney, Property Owner [10/2]
Charlie McKay, Property Owner [1/14]
Erin Mooney, Cultivando [6/28]
Susan Stanton [7/26]
Dino Valente [7/26]

Logistics

Interviews were conducted between May 2018 and February 2020, and included City leaders, City staff from seven different departments, property owners, agencies, and other interest groups. Generally, interviews were held in one-on-one conversations at City Hall.

Summarized Findings by Topic

Stakeholder comments and concerns have been organized below by fifteen key issues, identified by City Staff early in the process:

1. Address Impacts and Effects of an Aging Population

- Consider the preferences and lifestyles of the future population of Westminster (i.e. Boomer and Millennial preferences and Generation Z emerging preferences)

2. Promote Diversity and Inclusive Cultures
 - Improve accessibility through multimodal transportation
 - Incorporate Westminster's diverse population into future plans
 - Address housing diversity and affordability through ADUs
 - Address mental health issues and provide access to opportunities to support citizens in need (e.g. coordinate with other regional entities to provide services; ensure transit service reaches these services; set aside land in key areas that don't currently provide services)
3. Ensure Resiliency
 - Promote economic and environmental resiliency
 - Identify options to adjust for declining sales tax revenue
4. Address Feasibility of Infrastructure and Service Costs
 - Reduce (or Recognize) financial impact of improvements on low-income residents
 - Set expectations for level of services
 - Improve the condition of our infrastructure
5. Take a Closer Look at Sewer Capacity
 - Address water and sewer service availability along with rates for usage
6. Address Water Availability and Cost
 - Educate the public on the reasons behind water rate increases and the benefits of conservation
 - Develop a realistic comprehensive plan that takes water limitations into account
7. Be a Regional Leader for Affordable Housing
 - Encourage density where appropriate
 - Consider Big Dry Creek as a high-density area
 - Investigate rent control for Orchard Crossing
 - Look into the development of a new urbanist community
8. Identify Distinct Neighborhood Pride
 - Create sub-neighborhoods
 - Contemplate the annexation of enclaves
 - Encourage diverse residential development
 - Support HOAs

- Promote a variety of housing options
- Promote and strengthen aging neighborhoods; revitalize; and emphasize code enforcement in key areas; increase connectivity and wayfinding; improve amenities
- Through signage, wayfinding, and walkability visually attract people off arterials and into key areas

9. Ensure Multimodal Connectivity and Safety

- Improve pedestrian safety at crossings and on sidewalks; implement safe crossings at arterials (e.g. under/ overpasses)
- Identify trail connections north of 92nd
- Increase access to transit options
- Ensure first and last mile connections to transit
- Increase connectivity where possible, especially within redevelopment options, and to commercial centers adjacent to neighborhoods
- Enhance walkability and bikability without lessening traffic capacity

10. Create a Resilient Local Economy (Commercial/ Industrial/ Flex Land Uses/Redevelopment)

- Determine the best use for the Orchard
- Consider adding an additional focus area south of 88th
- Develop special area plans for Harris Park, Orchard, and the TOD area
- Identify potential areas of change within the City
- Investigate the feasibility of TIF districts
- Encourage greater use of flex office spaces
- Focus on redevelopment and development equally
- Improve the jobs/housing balance
- Evaluate the cost to the City of R-5 zoning and lower
- Promote horizontal mixed-use developments
- Review subdivision standards
- Repurpose strip malls
- Ensure appropriate intensity transitions when infilling
- Ensure appropriate signage standards to assist in success of business

11. Enhance/ Streamline the Development Process

- Create a consistent and predictable development process
- Consider alternatives to PUD
- Produce an actionable plan

12. Be Bold, Innovative, and Different.

- The Comprehensive Plan should be reflective of the City's vision
- Develop an all-encompassing plan
- Address resource limitations and risks
- Ensure high quality of design
- Educate and engage the community
- Focus on regional collaboration, especially in regard to transportation and key issues such as homelessness
- Truly enact an interdepartmental team to tackle city issues
- Identify benchmarks within the strategic action plan, along with responsibilities
- Initiate a feedback loop with the public to give a sense of transparency that the city has heard issues and comments; this is what has been done; this is what can't be done and why
- Ensure that the document reflects the residents' desires and needs
- Incorporate S-P-I-R-I-T (Service, Pride, Integrity, Responsibility, Innovation, Teamwork)
- Include goals and policies regarding enhanced communication with residents
- Integrate the plan digitally (i.e. within the City's website as an interactive document, and through a video executive summary that highlights the process, outreach, and key plan highlights)

13. Be One of the Most Sustainable Cities

- Promote sustainable practices within local government
- Become a leader in sustainability
- Incorporate sustainability into new developments
- Incentivize alternative energy sources
- Promote resource conservation
- Study property tax and special tax increases to improve financial sustainability
- Implement an economic and environmental sustainability program for businesses
- Create a City-run health and human services department
- Ensure clear and clean air (expand mobility options with bikes and transit)
- Research and test new, different materials to respond to climate change (e.g. new roadway materials to respond to increasing temperatures)
- Investigate shared city/ county services (i.e. can we afford to maintain all-inclusive city services?)

- Incorporate sustainability, but be mindful of unexpected results and costs

14. Expand Culture and the Arts

- Expand the local arts program and preserve the culture of the historic areas of Westminster, as well as the Latino and Hmong communities
- Promote the development of a performing arts complex
- Investigate tools such as public art dedication or fee-in lieu
- Create special districts in which murals and art are integrated with signage

15. Embrace the Outdoors

- Develop recreational opportunities (e.g. parks, recreation center, and library) north of 120th
- Consider property-tax rate increases that are commensurate with similar communities to mitigate lessening sales tax
- Look into developing a regional recreation program
- Prioritize the maintenance of existing land over purchase of new land

16. Expand the Level of Educational Opportunity

- Ensure equal access to good schools
- Ensure a trained workforce and options for livability within the city (e.g. attainable housing)