City of Lancaster, PA
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

The City of Lancaster has held several community engagement sessions with the public, both in-person and virtually, since summer 2021. The purpose of this engagement was to understand the community's perspectives regarding what they love about the community, what they would like to improve about the community, and how they would like to see their community change over the next 10 years.

Public Input
summary of key themes extracted from the received input on the comprehensive plan thus far is provided below.

1. **Question: What do you love about the City of Lancaster?**

The following table summarizes the most common key themes provided by participants.

Key Theme	Responses	Notes
Walkability and Accessibility	45	Including the existing pedestrian network, compactness of the City, and accessibility to services and entertainment options.
People and Culture	32	Including neighbors, residents, family-friendly atmosphere of the City and the sense of the community.
Small Businesses and Restaurants	27	Including the variety of small business and food options within the City.
Community Character	18	Including the historic architecture and feel of the downtown and surrounding neighborhoods.
Diversity	17	Including the diversity of residents and City offerings.
Parks and Open Spaces	14	Including recreational opportunities and greenspaces throughout the City.
Public Art / Art Community	13	Including the existing public art around the City and the presence of the arts/music community.

Additional input provided by respondents included:

- The downtown environment
- Environmental sustainability and landscaping
- Public safety
- Community gardens
- City's commitment to progressive policies
- Familiarity of the City
- Unique neighborhoods
- Central Market

2. Question: What would you like to improve about the City of Lancaster?

The following table summarizes the most common key themes provided by participants.

Key Theme	Responses	Notes
Housing Affordability	28	Includes providing a range of housing options throughout the City and ensuring there are housing types at a lower rate for residents
Multi-modal Enhancements	22	Includes expansion and improvement of on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities
Infrastructure Improvements	16	Includes improving road infrastructure, traffic calming, utility infrastructure improvements (such as gas, sewer, internet)
Safety	16	Includes resident safety from violence
Quality of Life / Services	15	Includes improved access to community services / healthcare, accessibility to businesses and resources, improvements to educational services
Environmental Sustainability	10	Includes expansion of greenspace, tree planting, stormwater management, curbside composting, urban agriculture

Additional input provided by respondents included:

- Recreation Opportunities and Parks/Open Space Improvements
- Economic Development
- Historic Preservation
- Parking Improvements
- Nuisances (Noise due to traffic)
- Outreach and Communication
- Public Art
- Land Use Regulations

3. **Question: Picture your future Lancaster over the next 10 years. What is Lancaster like and what opportunities does it offer?**

The following table summarizes the most common key themes provided by participants.

Key Theme	Responses	Notes
Affordability / Housing	26	Includes providing a range of housing options and price points for residents throughout the City.
Economic Development	24	Includes small business development, job growth and employment opportunities, strong and diverse economy, vibrant neighborhoods
Multi-Modal Enhancements	22	Includes improvements to and expansion of pedestrian and bicycle routes, whether on-road or off-road, as well as public transportation improvements
Quality of Life / Safety	16	Includes access to services, events and opportunities that support culture and gathering, resident safety
Public Realm Enhancements	8	Includes streetscape improvements, an attractive built environment, and public art opportunities
Environment / Greening / Sustainability	6	Includes stormwater management, planting of street trees, and greenspace enhancements
Transportation / Infrastructure Improvements	6	Includes traffic calming and safety improvements for motorists/pedestrians, and improvement of roadways
Recreation / Parks and Open Space	4	Includes improvements to park spaces, expansion of recreational activities and entertainment options.
Tourism	4	Includes improvements to lodging and hospitality, expansion of attractions and entertainment options
Historic Preservation	4	Includes the preservation and celebration of local history and architecture

4. Question: What community values or core believes should guide our planning process?

The following provides the most common values provided by participants.

Values/Beliefs	Responses
Inclusion / Equity / Equality / Diversity	55
Honesty/Dependability/Accountability/Openness/Integrity	34
Transparency	22
Kindness / Common Good / Fairness / Peace / Justice / Appropriateness	10
Environment/Eco/Sustainability/Smart Growth/Shared Resources	10
Collaboration / Communication / Connection / Teamwork	10

Additional values provided by participants included:

- Quality
- Community / Local
- Respect / Compassion
- Fun / Vibrant
- Preservation / History / Historic
- Innovation / Creativity
- Authentic / Realism / Bluntness / Genuine
- Accessibility
- Safety / Well-Being
- Empowering / Democracy / Engagement
- Consistency
- Love / Care
- Acceptance / Tolerance
- Prosperity
- Bold / Strength
- Expertise
- Forward Thinking / Think Big
- Cleanliness
- Hope
- Balanced
- Freedom
- Urgency
- Prudence
- Discipline
- Judgement
- Legacy
- Humanity
- Humility

5. **Question: Whose voices do we need to hear in this planning process?**

Respondents provided the following information:
- Everyone
- City Residents
- Old Generation
- Young Generation
- Underrepresented Groups
- Property and Business Owners
- Visitors
- Vulnerable Population
- Low Income Residents
- Persons of Color
- Renters and Home Owners
- Students
- Parents
- Minority Population
- Social Service Organizations
- Environmental Leaders
- City Staff

6. **Question: How do you find out what's going on in your neighborhood?**

Most respondents find out what's going in in their neighborhood via social media and word of mouth. Other means of communication include newspapers, emails, flyers, and text messages.

Answer	Responses
Social Media	64
Word of Mouth	52
Newspapers	24
Emails	22
Flyers	19
Text Messages	6

7. Question: Where do people gather to meet up in your neighborhood?

Most respondents gather in backyards and parks within their neighborhoods. Some respondents also meet in neighborhood cafes and restaurants.

Answer	Responses
Backyards	55
Parks	48
Café/Restaurant	34

8. Question: Are you interested in volunteer opportunities.

Most respondents indicated they are interested in volunteer opportunities.

Answer	Responses
Yes	31
Maybe	25
No	18