

LAGRANGE COUNTY TOGETHER

THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR OUR COMMUNITIES
OUR VOICE.
OUR VISION.
OUR FUTURE!

LISTEN, LEARN, & LAUNCH

Engagement Round One Summary Memo | Comprehensive Plan
for the Communities of LaGrange County

DRAFT | NOVEMBER 2021



LISTEN, LEARN, LAUNCH

ENGAGEMENT ROUND ONE MEMO | COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF LAGRANGE COUNTY

NOVEMBER 2021

The following report provides a summary of the input received through the first round of public engagement from the Listen, Learn, and Launch community open houses. The Listen, Learn, and Launch events were an opportunity for the planning team to gain a fuller understanding of residents’ perspective in support of the Comprehensive Plan update. This was the public kickoff to the planning process and the first of two rounds of engagement for defining a pathway forward for the communities of LaGrange County. For questions on this report, please contact the project manager for LaGrange County Together, Logan Stang, planner with planning NEXT, at logan@planning-next.com.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This section introduces the purpose and background for the initial round of community engagement as part of the LaGrange County Together planning process.

1.1 Purpose

The LaGrange County Together Steering Committee hosted the Listen, Learn, and Launch open house events to kick off the first round of engagement for the planning process. These events gathered feedback from more than 250 people through both in-person discussions and online activities. The responses shared by participants provided the Planning Team with a fuller understanding of residents' thoughts, ideas, and concerns for the County's future. These responses identified several major takeaways, outlined in this memo, that will guide the development of the comprehensive plan and next round of public engagement.

The initial round of community and stakeholder engagement was designed to recognize the qualities of life and qualities of place that should be preserved, as well as identify any issues or challenges that should be reviewed. Key conditions and trends from the technical analysis was shared with participants as they completed various activities seeking to understand what is important to each community. The input shared through round one will help shape the structure for the plan including the county's vision, goals, and overall direction. These elements will be tested with the public during the next round of engagement.

This report provides an overview of the activities, key takeaways, and conclusions from the Listen, Learn, and Launch events along with insight shared by community stakeholders.



1.2 Overview

The team hosted a series of community open houses across the county over the course of two weeks. This round of engagement was conducted in mid-September 2021 and involved orienting the public to

the planning process, sharing key background information, and shared “big picture” questions about the future. These sessions built on the findings of the *Community Conversations* that took place in the Fall of 2019, with an emphasis on advancing the work that has already been done and focusing on the topics specifically addressed in the comprehensive plan. Community members also had the opportunity to generate new ideas to include.

The open houses took place in six locations across the county, and each offered a three-hour drop-in window. The open house style allowed community members to attend and participate at their convenience, coming and going as they pleased. Participants spoke with members of the planning team, leadership team, and steering committee, and completed the activities at their own pace.

Meetings throughout the process were also conducted virtually and through a “meeting-in-a-box” technique where neighborhood groups could gather input during existing meetings or through small scale in-home neighborhood meet-ups. An online version of the Listen, Learn, and Launch session was also developed by the Team for people who might not have been comfortable or able to attend a face-to-face meeting. These findings will be combined with information gathered from the Community Conversations and carried into the next round of community engagement.

DATES & LOCATIONS

9/14 - HOWE Howe Community Building 205 Defiance St., Howe, IN 46746	9/15 - WOLCOTTVILLE Wolcott Mills Elementary School 108 E Myers St, Wolcottville, IN 46795	9/16 - LAGRANGE Fairgrounds Community Building 1030 E 075 N, LaGrange, IN 46761
9/20 - TOPEKA Fire Department 180 Crossfire Dr, Topeka, IN 46571	9/21 - SHIPSHEWANA Wolfe Community Building 345 Morton St, Shipshewana, IN 46565	9/22 – STROH / MONGO Prairie Heights High School 305 S 1150 E, LaGrange, IN 46761

1.3 Activities & Sources of Input

Each open house consisted of the same major components: process orientation and engagement activities. Most of the time was spent on the engagement activities and gathering information from participants. Although the activities were largely self-guided, the goal for these meetings was to facilitate interaction among Leadership Team, Steering Committee, and community members as they completed the activities.

ORIENTATION

As community members arrived, the meeting facilitator helped orient them to the space and the process. The facilitator then shared materials and instructed participants on how to get started with the self-guided activities, directing them to display boards or tables for questions. Participants began by reading about the motivation, approach, and importance of the comprehensive plan, including how it

will be used, where it fits in with other community plans, and what it can mean for the communities of LaGrange County. Participants then continued to the instructions for the activities and on to the activities themselves.

The orientation began by introducing LaGrange County Together, a community-driven process to prepare a comprehensive plan for the county and its communities. This 16-month effort being led by a partnership between the LaGrange County Plan Commission and LaGrange County Community Foundation along with a 20 member steering committee representing stakeholder groups across the county. Participants were also able to review some key findings from the technical analysis research into important topics including housing, development, education, services, and others. The *Ten Things to Know* shared a few points to inspire comments, thoughts, and ideas for the future of the communities of LaGrange County. For more information on the technical analysis research, please visit the process website at www.LaGrangeCountyTogether.org.

SELF-GUIDED ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Tables and display boards were set up around the room, and participants were invited to complete the engagement activities independently and at their own pace. Several activities directed participants to add their written input to large, collective boards where the ideas accumulated over the course of the open house events. Participants were able to see other written comments and dialogue about them with event captains and other meeting hosts.

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE

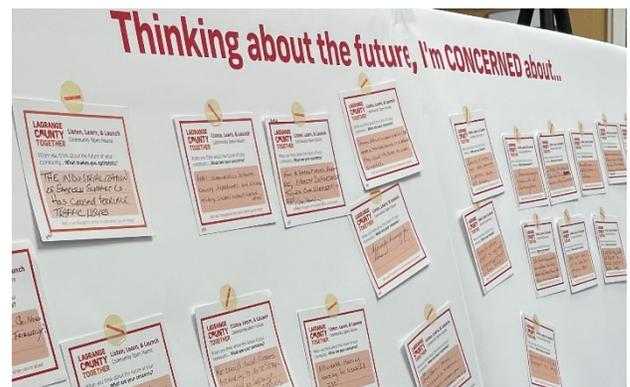
The first activity was a set of open ended questions to ask the community about their thoughts on the future. Participants were asked to answer the following two-part question:

When you think about the future of your community...

What makes you optimistic?

What are your concerns?

Participants were encouraged to share as many ideas as they were comfortable with, responding to their experience in the community, other comments shared by the public, or the key findings from the planning team. The responses were written on individual cards provided and added to a large banner documenting all participants' thoughts about the future. This banner travelled to each of the six open house events, collecting new comments from the community and highlighting what other residents shared about the future of LaGrange County.



Example of Activity A. Participants add their thoughts to a banner collecting input from participants at each open house event.

ACTIVITY B: STRONG AND OPPORTUNITY PLACES MAP

The second activity focused more closely on distinct places within the communities. Each participant was asked to think about their community, using a large map of the county for reference, to identify specific places that they consider strong places or areas of opportunity. These two categories were defined as:

Strong places are places that:

- have a high quality of place,
- are desirable to visit, or
- represent what you'd like to see more of in your community).

Opportunity areas are:

- places that can be better,
- places that you'd like to see stay the same, or
- places from outside your community or the county that you'd like to see in your community.

As participants thought of these places around the county, they were asked to identify them on a large map using green and red dots. Green dots represented strong places while red dots identified areas of opportunity. This county map, similar to Activity A, travelled between all open house events revealing the areas community members identified during their discussion.

ACTIVITY C: TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES

The third activity was intended to build upon the findings and priorities identified through the previous Community Conversations. Participants were asked a specific question:

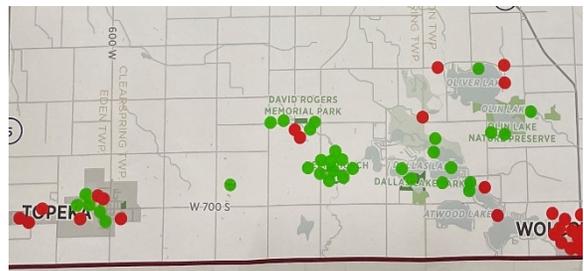
Which of the following outcomes will have a transformative impact on your community?

During the Community Conversations, nine outcomes were revealed that would have significant impact on the future of the county. Participants were asked to review the nine outcomes and select the three that they believe would have a transformative impact on their community. An additional option was available to add outcomes to the list that weren't included but were important to them. Outlined below are the nine potential outcomes:

1. A variety of housing types and options;
2. A drug addiction free community;
3. A robust program for workforce and skill development;



Example of Activity B. Participants marking strong and opportunity places across LaGrange County.



Places where dots are most concentrated indicate potential areas of focus.

4. A revitalized and vibrant downtown;
5. A safe and efficient roadway system;
6. A strong and supported entrepreneurial environment;
7. A network of biking/hiking trails;
8. A united “LaGrange County Brand”;
9. A leadership development program; and,
10. Something else?

ACTIVITY D: EXIT QUESTIONNAIRE

The final activity was an optional series of demographic questions to gather insight on who attended the events. Results from the exit questionnaire were used by the planning team to understand who was represented or underrepresented at these events to guide future outreach efforts. This allowed the Leadership Team and Steering Committee to pursue focused engagement with groups following the open house events.

ADDITIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Following the open house events, smaller engagement events and formats were conducted to collect insight from community members who were unable to attend an event. These additional formats included identical activities as the open house events, allowing for the public to share their thoughts on the future of the county. Meetings-in-a-box were held with small groups, organizations, or neighborhoods in group dos 10-12 people. A Community Survey was also placed on the process website allowing for the public to submit their responses virtually. The results from these focused engagements were combined with the open house responses.



Meetings-in-a-box provide a toolkit of all the materials necessary to complete the same open house activities

2. MAJOR THEMES FROM ACTIVITIES

The Listen, Learn, and Launch open houses gathered more than 900 unique comments and ideas for the future of LaGrange County and its communities. These responses will serve as the foundation for developing the comprehensive plan to ensure that the recommendations reflect the opportunities and challenges shared by the community. This section provides an overview of the major takeaways for the three main activities offered during the first round of engagement. A full list of comments is provided in the appendix at the end of this document.

2.1 Thinking About the Future

Participants were asked to share their hopes and concerns for the future of their community. This was an open-ended question allowing participants to share as many thoughts, comments, and ideas as they were willing. The results identify particular areas of interest from the community that can be incorporated into the comprehensive plan recommendations. Provided below is a summary of the top recurring themes for hopes and concerns, revealed by the more than **400 unique responses**.

WHAT ARE YOUR CONCERNS?

The following provides a summary of concerns shared by the community through the first round of engagement. This list provides the top ten recurring or emerging themes for the responses. This does not include all responses and is intended as an example of responses shared by participants. These are not presented in rank order i.e., the first theme was the most common concern shared.

Concerns identified include:

- **Lack of Housing**
 - *Housing is a big concerns and industry/jobs. There is not places for families to rent other than small 2 bedroom apartments. Many families need 3 bedroom or larger. There is not many housing additions either, nothing new in a long time. A lot of overpriced housing as well.*
 - *We have a housing crisis; therefore we do not get new or returning graduates back to the area.*
 - *No housing for a working class that is needed to fill many open positions.*
- **Road Safety, Quality, and Traffic**
 - *Roads are in poor condition without a financially viable plan for maintenance. There seem to be 2 main issues: semi and transport traffic especially on US 20 instead of the Toll Rd where it would be better suited; horseshoes.*
 - *Roads - falling apart faster than can be repaired, increased traffic on narrow roads for all types of traffic and pedestrians.*
 - *The side roads in LaGrange are all so bad. Down on Townline by the light it is horrible. All the roads need to be fixed and not just patched. I feel our taxes are not being used as they should be to fix the roads.*
- **Sustainability and Conservation of Lakes**

- *Protection of water quality (both lake & ground water). Our lakes are important for tax revenue (property taxes) and tourism. We need to protect our watersheds from farm runoff and protect our lakes from excessive erosion.*
- *The increasing population putting a strain on the environment with many small farms. The lakes having drainage issues and being shut down due to high water. The lakeshores being eroded from large wake boats doing surfing and wakeboarding. The lakes becoming more crowded as more people use them.*
- *The use of and treatment of land around the lakes. Too much fertilizer, herbicide, animal waste and erosion!*
- **Challenges to Building and Permitting**
 - *The bad feelings that are created when someone tries to get a permit to build. Suggestion: call a meeting with some construction crew owners and some English and some Amish Bishops to explain why it is so difficult to get a permit in LaGrange and so easy in Noble County. Then out of that meeting, put the results or conclusion in the Goshen News and the Amish church paper so we all understand why it is so.*
 - *They make you feel like crap when you try to get a variance or anything that has to do w/business in LaGrange co. they always want you to do something major b-4 they will allow you to do anything. I'm tired of it. I wish they'd be black and white there are too many gray areas.*
 - *Building permits - no clear concise plan.*
- **Retention of Youth / Talent**
 - *We are losing a lot of our young people due to indecent housing, unreliable internet service, lack of shopping, activities*
 - *There are not enough of the younger generation to advance the county and achieve the necessary goals.*
 - *A high percentage of the younger generation is working in Elkhart County. We need new business startups or our county's future is not good.*
- **Safety, Crime, and Drug Use**
 - *Speed around lakes. Never in the 6 years I have lived here have I seen a police par "cruise the area." We have kids riding non-road use vehicles all of the time and under age people on golf carts.*
 - *Rampant drug use throughout part of the county. No/limited new housing opportunities for families. There needs to be more developments on the west side of the county.*
 - *Would like to see more collaborative effort in addressing the county's top community health needs: 1. Mental Health / Substance Use Disorder; 2. Obesity; 3. Child Health - childcare - child abuse and neglect*
- **Lack of Amenities, Restaurants, and Activities**
 - *I would love to see a beautiful downtown with shops, etc. Maybe first Fridays like they do in Goshen. I don't know what Goshen did but it was dying and is beautiful and busy now.*
 - *Things to do for both young and old. Movie theater, bowling, places to eat breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Ice cream shop for year round, such as DQ.*
 - *Lack of everyday entertainment options (Shipshewana is geared more toward special events, ie MEC) the county has no movie theater, bowling alley or bars with live bands.*

- **Blighted or Vacant Buildings**
 - *The condition of some of our downtown areas has me concerned. I would like to see more preservation work and upkeep of our beautiful buildings in Wolcottville, LaGrange and Mongo. My favorite building is the one at Detroit and Spring in LaGrange that has the large painting on it. Now that's an example we should follow. We need our buildings to be maintained like that one.*
 - *Rundown/slummy homes in town in Wolcottville and other areas. Affordable housing and housing additions for middle-class earners.*
 - *Downtown need improvement in looks. Health issues. Lack of work force. Restaurants not able to be open.*
- **Education and Enrollment**
 - *It seems our schools are falling behind others. However, I do believe our school board is trying to make our education stronger and better*
 - *Education is a low priority for LaGrange. Example is that you don't need a High School Diploma for most jobs in the county, so it effects the county schools.*
 - *The average educational level is low.*
- **Childcare Access and Cost**
 - *Lack of childcare. I seem to hear about people looking for early childhood care every week.*
 - *Childcare, housing and the lack of major retail. We have to travel outside of the county for any major retail shopping.*
 - *Children having nothing to do after school. Have knowledge many are going hungry. Grandparents raising them. Parents on drugs, in jail, etc.*

WHAT MAKES YOU OPTIMISTIC (HOPEFUL)?

The following provides a summary of things the community was hopeful for shared by participants through the first round of engagement. This list provides the top ten recurring or emerging themes for the responses. This does not include all responses and is intended as an example of responses shared by participants. These are not presented in rank order i.e., the first theme was the most common concern shared.

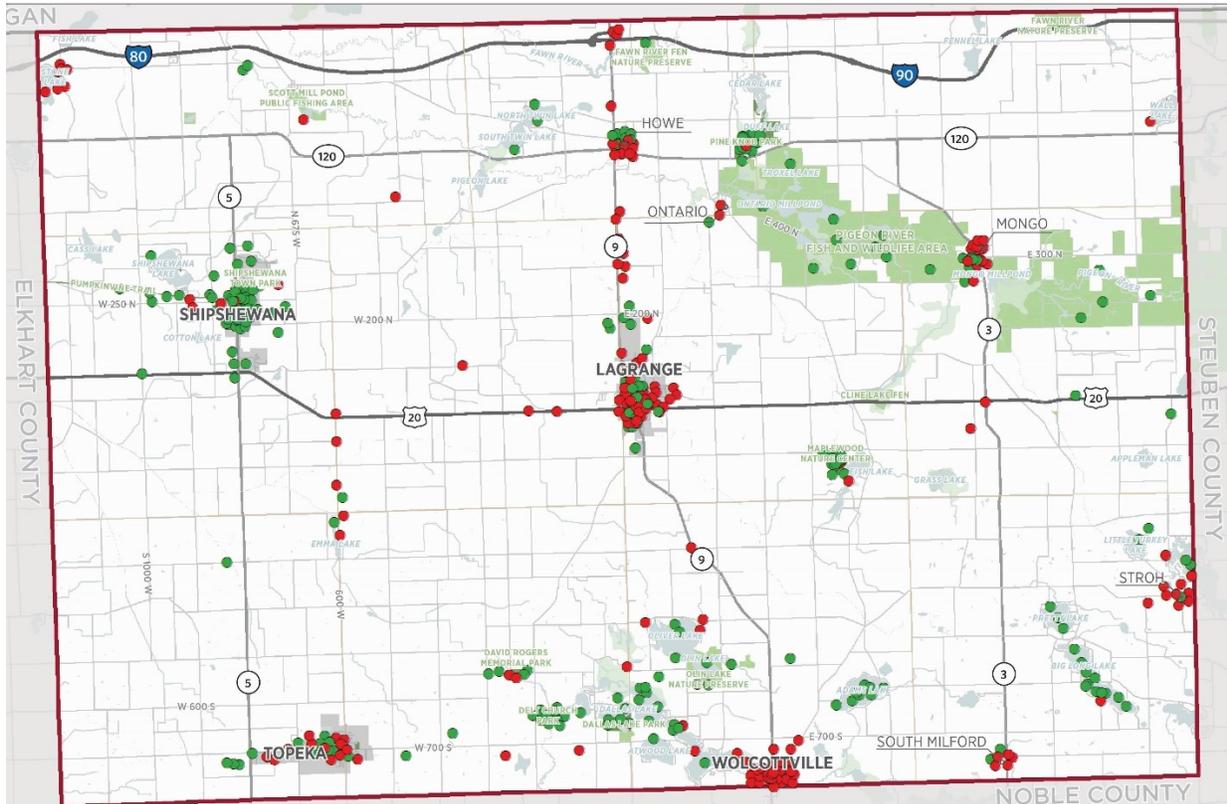
Hopes identified include:

- **Business, Industry, and Job Growth**
 - *We have a thriving small business sector that employs a lot of people in the county, creation opportunities for employment other than in the RV factories.*
 - *There is so much potential for successful businesses in LaGrange County, it's scary.*
 - *Topeka has a great industrial base. Shipshewana still draws money in for the community. Our churches are active. The farm seems like it might be a good thing.*
- **Maintaining a Sense of Community**
 - *Belonging to a small community helps you know your neighbors; form caring groups and get involved.*
 - *I am seeing young / middle-age adults taking a real interest in the community, volunteering and getting involved.*
 - *People are coming here to live and thrive. They are coming here to raise their families.*
- **Natural Amenities (Parks, Lakes, Trails)**

- *The county has some unique characteristics (rivers/lakes/natural areas).*
- *We still have natural places here with wildlife and conservation.*
- *We have GREAT parks.*
- **Expanding Broadband**
 - *Better and farther reaching internet is being installed through fiber optics.*
 - *Glad to see increase in broadband availability.*
 - *With public sewers and broadband, the lakes will be cleaner, communications will improve. Both the above have held up progress.*
- **Housing Growth**
 - *More family housing is being built which will help the community.*
 - *Seeing housing come into the area.*
 - *Housing is slowly increasing.*
- **Tourism**
 - *Lots of people visiting the lakes, Shipshewana and its tourist attractions. People who care and community leaders asking questions (such as this survey) to get feedback from the ones who live/work here.*
 - *We need businesses in county to bring people from other areas. We need tourist like our flea market, MEC, Shipshewana.*
 - *Tourism, I'm in the hospitality business and it's a great place for tourism.*
- **Agriculture**
 - *Land values for agriculture is higher here because the Amish. Equally productive land 20% higher here than other land elsewhere in Indiana / Michigan / Ohio.*
 - *Agriculture is vital - it is strong in our county!*
 - *We are a rural county with strong, traditional values, a strong work ethic, stable family ties, and a "can do" attitude.*
- **Potential for Growth**
 - *There is a good change for growth for LaGrange Co. I think the county should take the lead.*
 - *We are growing in numbers.*
 - *We have a young and growing population.*
- **Entrepreneurship / Work Ethic**
 - *LaGrange County is a comfortable area, with opportunity for growth in small industries and a good work ethic population.*
 - *Very enterprising people in county.*
 - *All the Amish entrepreneurs offering goods and services.*
- **Communication / Engagement**
 - *There is some formality to gaining community perspective on the needs of the community.*
 - *Community involvement seems to be growing (BLL area).*
 - *There are a lot of invested people who want to make the county better.*

2.2 Strong and Opportunity Places

Participants were asked to identify places around the county that they considered Strong Places or Opportunity Areas, see descriptions in previous section. They could mark these locations on a map (either on paper or online), sharing why they selected these locations around the county. The results reveal both general qualities of strong and opportunity places and specific locations to highlight or review. Clusters of dots indicates areas of interest that represent the best characteristics of the community or have significant potential when planning for the future. Provided below is the summary map identifying all **456 unique dots** placed and why these places were selected.



STRONG PLACES

The following provides a summary of responses shared for strong places and the reason participants identified these locations. This does not include all responses and is intended as an example of responses shared by participants.

Strong places identified include:

- **Shipshewana**
 - Nice places to shop
 - Draws in tourist dollars, more areas should create points of interest to extend the stay of visitors
 - Pleasant to drive through
 - Strong marketing and events

- **County Parks**
 - *All of them are strong places*
 - *Pine Knob, David Rogers, Delt Church*
 - *Our parks are awesome – well developed and cared for*
 - *Beautiful green spaces*
 - *Dallas Lake Park has enjoyable trails, playground, pavilion, and beach*
- **Lakes**
 - *Adams Lake is a great quality place*
 - *Big Long Lake is a great area!*
 - *5 lakes and Oliver area has good recreation opportunities and strong housing values*
 - *Nice places to live and play on the water*
 - *Indiana Lake Chain - lots of people live here year round*
- **LaGrange (City)**
 - *Good fair*
 - *Economic growth and industry*
 - *LaGrange County Public Library*
 - *Huckleberries and more small businesses*
 - *Improving, is a stronger place today*
- **Pigeon River**
 - *I enjoy kayaking with my family*
 - *Trading Post is an amazing place in our county, brings in a lot of outside people and great for locals as well*
 - *Love the wetlands and enjoy the county parks*

OPPORTUNITY PLACES

The following provides a summary of responses shared for opportunity places and the reason participants identified these locations. This does not include all responses and is intended as an example of responses shared by participants.

Opportunity places identified include:

- **Wolcottville**
 - *Need more businesses*
 - *Downtown opportunity needed*
 - *If we can cleanup the Little Elkhart River in town, make it look like it did 30 years ago*
 - *Need action to improve the look, businesses are there*
 - *Underappreciated by the community*
- **LaGrange**
 - *LaGrange and Wolcottville are both places we drive through to get somewhere else*
 - *There are new businesses which is nice to see but looking run down*
 - *Business opportunity – many places are for sale and empty*
 - *LaGrange can rebuild into a better, much more desirable community with youth and new blood leadership*
 - *Since Shipshewana is a dry town, it could be marketed to tourists as a town with restaurants open u till a decent time*
- **Howe**
 - *No economic or industrial growth*
 - *There is potential in Howe, both on SR-9 and downtown. Lots of store fronts*

- Land available to purchase that can be used for affordable middle-income housing
- The downtown square is great but way underutilized
- I believe downtown Howe would be a great tourist stop with traffic that flows through 120
- **Mongo**
 - Needs updated, promote the river and businesses
 - Mongo, Stroh, Ontario, South Milford, and Howe are small towns that are not incorporated. They have a lot of potential to be improved but lack funding options
 - Mongo has a lot of tourism and its attractive for weekend visitors
- **South Milford**
 - South Milford doesn't really have anything except a gas station
 - They are somewhat small to be incorporated but still need sizeable amount of money to maintain and improve the community

2.3 Transformative Outcomes

Participants were given 10 options and asked to select their top three. Responses were not identified in a ranked order i.e., the first selection is the participants top priority. Nine options were identified from the previous Community Conversations with a tenth option available for anything missing from the list.

OUTCOME RANKING

The following table includes the number of votes for each outcome, percentage of all votes, and overall ranking for the 10 outcomes.

RANK	TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOME	# OF VOTES	PERCENT
1	A. A variety of housing types and options	84	16.6%
2	D. A revitalized and vibrant downtown	76	15.0%
3	E. A safe and efficient roadway system	68	13.4%
4	B. A drug addiction free community	65	12.8%
5	G. A network of biking/hiking trails	50	9.9%
6	C. A robust program for workforce and skill development	49	9.7%
7	F. A strong and supported entrepreneurial environment	46	9.1%
8	I. A leadership development program	24	4.7%
9	J. Something else	23	4.5%
10	H. A united "LaGrange County Brand"	22	4.3%
TOTAL RESPONSES		507	100%

SUPPORT FOR OUTCOMES

Each participant was asked a follow-up question based on their responses; "Why did you select these three outcomes?" The following provides a summary of responses shared for each individual outcome. This does not include all responses and is intended as an example of responses shared by participants.

A. A variety of housing types and options

Example responses include:

- *Rental housing, senior housing are very limited*
- *Housing is important for those workers we pull to relocate*
- *Where are the subdivisions, starter homes, affordable housing, subdivisions with mix residents*
- *If we don't have housing options, we can't retain folks or attract more*
- *There is a shortage of housing available*

B. A drug addiction free community

Example responses include:

- *Drugs are coming into the area more and more*
- *Wolcottville has a negative reputation for the addiction problem*
- *Huge problem but more support for programs like Drug Court and JDA1 would help*
- *Drug free speaks for itself*
- *Drug addiction is a major cause of theft and lack of security*

C. A robust program for workforce and skill development

Example responses include:

- *It's important to grow when labor is hard to find so programs for training are important*
- *Having a program for workforce and skill development will be appreciated*
- *Need to help develop more skills for younger members of the workforce*
- *I want my children to have options other than college after school if they so desire*
- *Skilled training programs (apprenticeships for plumbing, electrical, mechanics, etc.)*

D. A revitalized and vibrant downtown

Example responses include:

- *Vacant buildings, underserved to not employ the workforce*
- *Downtown needs some attention, we want to be proud of our town*
- *Having a vibrant downtown makes outsiders feel welcomed*
- *Would like to see better shopping, encourage small businesses*
- *"Shop local" could really help downtown businesses*

E. A safe and efficient roadway system

Example responses include:

- *Safety is a huge concern, most roads need to be widened*
- *We need better quality asphalt on our roads*
- *Roads in LaGrange County leave a lot to be desired, lots of potholes*
- *As Amish, we feel humbled and grateful for what the county does to make our roadways buggy friendly*
- *Roads have become a recreational area in rural areas*

F. A strong and supported entrepreneurial environment

Example responses include:

- *Need an environment that attracts motivated people*
- *Small businesses are crucial for job opportunities and supporting them is important*
- *I think in order to grow a small community we have to be able to support young leaders of business*

- *We seem to have a lot of talent in our community, let's continue to support that!*
- *A vibrant community must support its entrepreneurs*

G. A network of biking/hiking trails

Example responses include:

- *Pumpkinvine trail from Sturgis to Shipshewana*
- *Provide more recreational opportunities for residents as well as visitors*
- *A lot of people in LaGrange are active so trails would be a great addition*
- *Surrounding counties are working together to connect their trails, why shouldn't LaGrange?*
- *Biking trails because of our Amish community and keeping them safe on their bikes or walking*

H. A united "LaGrange County Brand"

Example responses include:

- *Right now we are west and east side, east needs to promote themselves*
- *It would be nice to promote places in the county other than Shipshewana*
- *A consistent branding that doesn't focus on the past*
- *A cohesive approach county wide would yield better results*
- *More cooperation between communities*

I. A leadership development program

Example responses include:

- *A leadership development program will ensure better leaders tomorrow*
- *Leadership development would focus on non-entrepreneurs to get them to think outside the box*
- *We need a way to recruit younger people to county and town leadership*
- *Start leadership programs in the schools, give kids a reason to stay here*
- *I feel the most qualified leadership does not receive a fair opportunity*

J. Something else

Example responses include:

- *Enhanced quality of life*
- *Education*
- *Activities with others*
- *High speed internet*
- *Keep agriculture strong, important part of the county*
- *Protection of lakes*
- *Support for early learning*
- *Sustainable balance of agriculture*
- *A simplified land use program*
- *Help and support law officers*

3. STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

The planning team facilitated a series of stakeholder interviews alongside the open house events. Stakeholders represented business groups, educators, health care professionals, members of the Amish community, and many others from a variety of locations and backgrounds across the county. These responses are organized into specific stakeholder groups for the purposes of this summary. Many of the stakeholders interviewed are involved in a variety of organizations, the responses shared in each group reflect this and may overlap between groups.

3.1 Overview

Each interview lasted between 45 minutes and an hour to gather insight on the opportunities and challenges for the county. These were facilitated during the open house events either in-person, by phone, or virtually with one or more stakeholders. The team conducted 20 interviews total during the first round of engagement. The following section provides a summary of responses shared from the interviews organized by:

- Local Residents
- Amish Community
- Community Organizations
- School Corporations
- Local Businesses
- Community Services
- Administration

3.2 Stakeholder Group Responses

The following provides a full list of responses for each of the stakeholder groups.

LOCAL RESIDENTS

Long-term residents of the county who may be currently involved in other organizations or are recently retired from various roles.

Responses shared during the interviews include:

- *Zoning code regulations are restrictive for new buildings and business growth*
- *Variations are required for the vast majority of new development*
- *Approval process is unavailable on website and unclear*
 - *Noble County certificate process is a good example to follow*
- *Communities need better representation (lake residents, Amish community, etc.)*
- *Main street should identify each community providing a destination*
- *Comprehensive plan is a living document, being monitored and updated regularly*
- *Dog breeder regulations should align with USDA requirements*
- *Lake development is not supported, these are assets for attracting residents*

- *Road maintenance is problematic throughout the county*
- *Zoning regulations are not consistent, some requirements are unclear*
- *Wayfinding is essential for tourism, highlight the county's attractions*
- *Broadband expansion (REMC) is a huge benefit to the county*
- *Opportunity to build on local experiences supporting business growth*
- *East versus west county attitude, encourage collaboration between all communities*

AMISH COMMUNITY

Residents and local business owners who support and represent the Amish community.

Responses shared during the interviews include:

- *Zoning code and approval process is outdated*
 - *Any amendments need input from the public*
- *Out of town ownership, specifically around the lakes, is a concern*
- *Support should be given to local businesses, encourage growth in the county*
- *Roadway maintenance with business growth, is there an opportunity to pay for roads?*
- *Streamline the review process, getting permits and going before county committees*
 - *Elkhart County is a good example for approval process*
- *Potential meeting with county staff early on, help clarify zoning code and overall process*
- *Challenges with DNR updating flood data, causes problems with permits*
- *Additional support for Home Base Businesses (HBB)*
- *Dog breeders face challenges starting businesses, county doesn't align with USDA*
 - *Commercial licensing and septic requirements make it even more challenging*
 - *Local dog breeders have a list of proposed changes to improve the zoning code*
- *Amish community needs representation on county boards or committees*
- *"Is LaGrange County business friendly or not?"*
- *Amish are willing to comply to grow their business but its currently difficult*

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Representatives of neighborhoods, local groups, or organizations supporting areas or attractions in the county.

Responses shared during the interviews include:

- *Parks are nationally recognized, opportunity to expand park spaces*
- *Funding to support trail and park development is challenging*
- *Trails, like Pumpkinvine and Hawpatch, are great benefits for the community*
- *Need better coordination and collaboration across the county*
- *When people work together things get done, REMC as an example*
- *A centralized vision will support the county going forward*
- *Housing is critical for the county, apartments, new homes, senior living, etc.*
- *Leadership has to reflect all the communities, towns, lakes, and rural areas*
- *Childcare affordability is a growing concern, access is equally important*

SCHOOL CORPORATIONS

Representatives of the county's school corporations.

Responses shared during the interviews include:

- *Housing is a challenge, specifically multi-family*
- *Missing home prices in the county, some areas becoming more expensive*
- *Enrollment has remained steady, some variation from COVID*
- *Daycare and preschool access is a concern for parents*
- *Early education is critical for students success*
- *Strong local partnerships with businesses and vocational training*
- *Parkview LaGrange Hospital offers health initiatives to support students*
- *Connection to jobs and careers in the region is strong, RV industry and others*
- *Revitalize smaller communities, invest in main streets to attract families*
- *School corporations collaborate with one another, all are successful*
- *"How do we keep people here in LaGrange County?"*
- *Grow trust between communities and institutions*
- *Roadway safety is essential for students*
- *Opportunity to define advance planning for infrastructure while also protecting rural areas*

LOCAL BUSINESSES

Local business owners from the county's communities.

Responses shared during the interviews include:

- *Zoning review and building permit process should be streamlined*
- *Many residents have trouble finding housing, both rentals and for-sale*
- *Great ideas but have a history of not implementing, previous comprehensive plan*
- *Building partnerships will help improve the county and its communities*
- *Many requirements are unclear or vary depending on who reviews*
- *Variances are becoming more frequent for dog breeders*
- *West county has less park spaces, opportunity to expand*
- *Balance for home based businesses, allow for growth but with limitations*
- *Shift in agricultural land, subdividing into smaller lots and selling for new homes*
- *Issues between building code and zoning regulations, need to update the zoning code*
- *West county and east county separation, different views on LaGrange County*
- *Balance between local business and outside business growth, economic development direction*
- *Childcare staffing is an issue for all residents*
- *Resources should support local businesses, develop more partnerships*

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Professionals involved in or supporting services across the county such as healthcare, utilities, tourism, and other similar services.

Responses shared during the interviews include:

- *How to best support new housing for the county?*

- *Downtown revitalization is critical, support business and keep residents*
- *Need to diversify industries, can't rely solely on RV industry*
- *Leadership is a struggle for the county, in government and organizations*
- *No designated commercial or industrial land, opportunity to establish industrial parks*
- *Balance between Amish and Non-Amish business growth*
- *Childcare affordability and accessibility is a growing concern*
- *Find ways to encourage collaboration between communities*
- *Shipshewana is an anchor for tourism, other communities offer different attractions*
- *Money is available, need a vision to focus investments*
- *Trail development is a benefit for the community overall*

ADMINISTRATION

Professionals working in a local government position, either for a specific town or the county.

Responses shared during the interviews include:

- *Groups across the county need to work together, combine ideas and ways to get things done*
- *Preserving agricultural land is important, how does this relate to growing businesses?*
- *County roads don't always support business growth*
- *Housing is underway in some communities but still need more options*
- *Variiances are required for most lake development, need to update the zoning code*
- *Collaboration among communities is improving but still room for growth*
- *Water drainage and quality is a growing concern for lakes*
- *Road maintenance is an ongoing problem, some areas contain dirt roads with businesses*
- *Towns could support more growth, reducing impact to rural areas*
- *Not all roadways are up-to-date*
- *Infrastructure investment is critical for current residents (water, sewer, etc.)*
- *Funding is available for some investments but need a plan to execute*
- *Younger leaders are stepping up but some areas are still not represented*
- *Need to bring new industry to the county*
- *Toll road provides an opportunity for industry growth*

4. APPENDIX

The following pages list all comments received during the first round of engagement and are organized by activity. Most of the comments were submitted and documented directly by community members and may be presented without edits to spelling, punctuation, grammar, or content.

Activity A: Thinking about the Future of my Community Responses

Activity B: Strong and Opportunity Places Responses

Activity C: Transformative Outcomes Responses

Exit Questionnaire Summary

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
1	Howe	Starting bike trails can evolve to provide safe travel for school children on bikes. Also be a visitors draw.	I am concerned that the roads need more designated horse and buggy lanes and bicycle lanes. It's a safety issue.	
1	Howe	The beautiful lakes are a strong pull to our county for retirement living.	I am concerned with manure run-off from farms with livestock. The e-coli pollution is a health problem.	
1	Howe	Amazing economic growth up 80% in LaGrange County with Indiana's economic growth 14%.	I am concerned that the young people need positive recreation activities.	
1	Howe		I would like to see abandoned buildings or upstairs apartments being used as studio space for artists and crafts people. It would brighten and enliven the downtowns while encouraging the arts	
2	Howe	Work ethic of the people.	The progressive population is outnumbered by folks fighting change	Need to promote the lakes when trying to get professional people to move here. Important to protect the quality of the water in our lakes by yearly testing now provided by the Lakes Council.
2	Howe	The positivity of high school students.	Lack of bike trails. I'm sure the percentage of bike riders in our county is greater than any other Indiana county, yet just 5 miles of trails. Need to continue Pumpkinvine trail to North and South Twin Lakes	
2	Howe	Need to promote our parks and lakes. We have amazing natural resources that folks aren't aware of.	Lack of affordable housing.	
2	Howe		Need to balance manufacturing and country life.	
3	Howe		Zoning. Have many small country businesses that grow affecting the quality of life for neighbors, increasing large trucks on small country roads.	
3	Howe			Increased land prices driven by Amish.
4	Howe		Housing for potential workers	
5	Howe	We are growing in numbers.		

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
5	Howe	We have land that is available for new stores and restaurants.		
6	Howe	The opportunities are within reach - we need leadership to facilitate progress.	There is no affordable housing for seniors.	
6	Howe		No housing for a working class that is needed to fill many open positions.	
6	Howe		No location or opportunities/programs for young people.	
7	Howe	At least someone is asking our opinion.	Flood and pollution - farms with tiles dumping into Westler Lake.	Elevate the bridge between Witmer Lake and Westler Lake as when water is high can't get through.
7	Howe	Enjoy the new stores and progress with LaGrange.	Area around lake has no drainage when it rains - water accumulates. Need sewers.	
7	Howe	Enjoy Dallas Park for hikes as well as Delt Park.	Children having nothing to do after school. Have knowledge many are going hungry. Grandparents raising them. Parents on drugs, in jail. etc.	
7	Howe	This group of people staying motivated and asking for help on projects (Communication).	Senior housing and services. Sharing what is available is lacking.	
7	Howe	Library system is awesome.	Absentee landlords that only care about getting the rent and don't care about property upkeep.	
7	Howe	Have opportunity for growth if people get together and work for the community.	Downtown Wolcottville needs to be cleaned up and attract small businesses.	
8	Howe	Lots of great natural resources and potential, if planned properly.	There seems to be little coordination with Elkhart County. Industrial Activity on CR2 and CR4 in Elkhart County is having a negative effect on the Stone and Mud Lake Community. Traffic amount, speed, and noise are significant. A report has been written that details many of the issues with respect to traffic. [name and phone redacted]	
8	Howe		In addition, operations of Entech frequently generate intolerable smell, burning the eyes, particularly on East County Line Rd.	

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
9	Howe	LaGrange County is a comfortable area, with opportunity for growth in small industries and a good work ethic population.	The average educational level is low.	
9	Howe	Land values for agriculture is higher here because the Amish. Equally productive land 20% higher here than other land elsewhere in Indiana / Michigan / Ohio.	Fragmentation of farmland will prevent agricultural growth.	
9	Howe	With public sewers and broadband, the lakes will be cleaner, communications will improve. Both the above have held up progress.		
10	Howe	I am glad that the county is taking action and planning for the future.	Neighboring Elkhart County is pushing industrialization to the eastern border with LaGrange County causing unsafe conditions in our community due to speeding cars and trucks. There is also an unsafe noise level from the traffic	
11	Howe		I see schools being closed	
11	Howe		Business in LaGrange appears stagnant.	
12	Howe	The lakes	Lack of tradespeople - to fix / repair buildings or build new.	
12	Howe	Parks	There are horrible junkyards such as on Rt. 9.	
12	Howe	Climate	Schools have been closed. Where are the children?	
12	Howe	Low Taxes	No senior housing lack of rental properties.	
12	Howe	Agricultural products	Too many guns and nasty politics.	
12	Howe		No public transportation.	
13	Wolcottville	People are stepping up to make a difference!		
13	Wolcottville	People wanting to see a positive change!		

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
14	Wolcottville	There is some formality to gaining community perspective on the needs of the community.	Would like to see more collaborative effort in addressing the county's top community health needs: 1. Mental Health / Substance Use Disorder; 2. Obesity; 3. Child Health - childcare - child abuse and neglect	
14	Wolcottville	That LCCF is working towards a collaborative effort in putting together a comprehensive plan for LaGrange County.		
15	Wolcottville	Belonging to a small community helps you know your neighbors, form caring groups and get involved.	Driving thru Wolcottville is so disheartening. Junk houses, junk cars, junk in yards! Bad 1st impression of our town. It wasn't always like this. We used to have a library when I was young	
15	Wolcottville	I am seeing young / middle-age adults taking a real interest in the community, volunteering and getting involved.	Some of our "Civil Servants" act as though they own our county and seem to want to make things difficult because they can.	
15	Wolcottville		There seems to be a growing group that don't like the Amish. The areas that are doing the best are the ones that work with our Amish the best.	
16	Wolcottville	The lakes offer great quality of life.	The City of Wolcottville has died. We should revive it or bury it.	
16	Wolcottville	I love living in a farm community.	LaGrange requires soil borings (at a cost of thousands) for any building, pole barn in a L-1 zoning. This makes NO sense. How did this get adopted.	
16	Wolcottville	Our county has a wonderful "small town" feel. Let's stay small.	Plan and building departments operate like a large bureaucracy. So many hoops / obstacles to pull a permit to do anything on your property.	
16	Wolcottville		Farm fields drain into our lakes and cause real damage and costly to home owners. The state has a program that addresses the issue. Maybe we could encourage signups by farmers.	

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
17	Wolcottville	A younger group of leaders seem to be rising up.	There seems to be a lot of good organizations working in the same direction but not necessarily unified - a unified platform would be helpful	I am very aware of LaGrange Childcare Coalition but the need for childcare is essential to the growth of LaGrange County.
17	Wolcottville	There have been small and big steps to improve the quality of life for families - trails, splash pad, ball diamond expansion.	Lack of childcare. I seem to hear about people looking for early childhood care every week.	
17	Wolcottville	We have a strong supportive community. I feel we do well with community collaboration - it seems to be moving in that direction.		
17	Wolcottville	It is a desirable place to raise a family - agriculture, schools, parks, lakes, etc.		
18	Wolcottville			Price of land?
18	Wolcottville			Amish can do anything they want to and no recourse!
18	Wolcottville			There is other places besides LaGrange and Shipshewana!
18	Wolcottville			If you want to be County include everyone in the County!
19	Wolcottville	Very enterprising people in county.	Education is a low priority for LaGrange. Example is that you don't need a High School Diploma for most jobs in the county, so it effects the countv schools.	
19	Wolcottville		Regulations, too many from all sources of government.	
19	Wolcottville		County too focused on the Western side of the county and forgets about the eastern side.	
19	Wolcottville		Amish are not under-privileged but the county still acts as if they are.	
19	Wolcottville		Too reliant on the trailer/RV industry.	
20	Wolcottville	Some areas are going strong		
20	Wolcottville	The parks are great		
20	Wolcottville	Manufacturing in some areas		

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
21	Wolcottville	There is factories that want to build new plants		
22	Topeka	There are a lot of good people with traditional values.	There is no open dialogue about proposed plans. Town meetings do not discuss until it has been decided.	I feel that ideas will be selected to meet the agenda of the few who make decisions.
22	Topeka		There is more than economic profit to be considered for a viable community.	
23	Topeka	Numerous industry - through time could be more, growth is noticed.	I am trying to start my own business. Turned to Economic Development. Helpful and gave me into to business admin out of Fort Wayne. Then after I started this process I contacted Sherri and no places loaning. Now where do I get help. I often hear Lagrange is difficult to get a business (Small) started. Why? Maybe there is more help but where do you start? What are my resources / options. I feel like I don't know where to turn.	Children services - limited. Many of our children need mentors. There needs to be a community center. If they don't belong to a church what is there for our youth.
23	Topeka	EDC - Sherri helpful in helping me find business association but what do we have to help our own build new business		
23	Topeka	Children's programs: excited about splash pad. Hopeful there will be more programs for youth in general without having to go church.		
23	Topeka	Still has small town feel - needs to be that way. Still has farms.		
24	Topeka	Community leaders care about the people and look out for people's best interests.		
24	Topeka	More family housing is being built which will help the community.		
24	Topeka	Solid school options for the kids growing up and hopefully sticking around.		
25	Topeka	Parks, we have amazing parks.	Lack of downtown revitalization. How do you encourage businesses to come into LaGrange and Wolcottville and take care of the buildings.	We have great public school systems, however, once my children are gone (off to college) not sure I would retire here - there's a lack of elderly senior programs.

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
25	Topeka	Community - we have a great community, a great sense of pride here.	Old school mentality of it it's not broke - why fix it. Not being able to change or not willing to change.	
25	Topeka	Trails - it's coming, love to see more bike/walk trails connecting all of our communities.	Division of towns; east and west.	
25	Topeka	The growth of towns like Shipshewana and Topeka.	Roads - safety, there's an increase of non-motorized transportation on county roads with no shoulders. County roads that funnel into state roads, intersections of 850 and SR20 and 250 and SR20, 1000W and SR20.	
25	Topeka		Lack of communication - providing the why on the "No's." How government works, the process of things, how city and county government works. Government transparency.	
25	Topeka		Lack of elderly communities with programs and services.	

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
26	Shipshewana		It seems we have a lack of communication.	I'd like to see you change your rules to USDA regulations on number of females before you have to get a permit. Thanks A Dog Breeder. And about the commercial septic I would think a conventional septic would be sufficient if you have less than 20 females! We would like to see 11 inside/outside runs that isn't dry picking is when it would be required to go with a commercial septic tank. What we're thinking is, if you don't have dry picking on inside/outside runs, you would at the most use 10 gal of water per dog or 20 gallons of water per inside/outside run per day. That would be 300 gal. of water per day, with ten runs. What we would like to see is if you use over 300 gallons of water per day would be a good place for a commercial septic tank. We also would like to require dog kennels to have a privacy fence trees shrubs planted in between neighbors where homes are 50 feet from property line and where exercise yard or runs are facing roads. We thinking buildings could be 100' from property in a agricultural district, and the privacy fence or exercise yard could be up to 25' away from property. Signed affidavit from neighboring land owner located 500' should be from facility and not from the property line.
26	Shipshewana		Some of our roads.	
27	Shipshewana			Land use development for home and a business in county 5 on 10 acre track.
27	Shipshewana			LaGrange County use the USDA guidelines for Dog Breeders
27	Shipshewana			On a small 2 acre tract of land have 2 homes and a septic system.
27	Shipshewana			Signed affidavit from neighbor within 500 feet of facility.

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
28	Shipshewana	We have a thriving small business sector that employs a lot of people in the county, creation opportunities for employment other than in the RV factories.	Seemingly we have a county government that is becoming more authoritative and obstructionist. The building department planning and zoning seem to have a punitive attitude.	Would it be possible to have a system set up to increase the "user satisfaction" in the county? Maybe have a report card include with the tax papers where people could express issues they deal with. Have this info go to a different group to compile and present to the county. The county could then come up with action plans to address the concerns and communicate that plan to the taxpayers.
28	Shipshewana	Most of the small businesses are located at home which gives parents the opportunity to work with their children and teach them business and life skills.	Remark from one of our biggest contractors "I can walk into the office in Noble county, pay \$300 and in 1/2 hour walk out with a permit. In LaGrange County I pay twice that and almost never get a permit on the first try."	
28	Shipshewana	The county is a quiet, peaceful place to live with a low crime rate	Seemingly the people in the office would like to see all businesses moved to industrial parks. If this were the case, the majority of our small businesses would not be in operation.	
29	Shipshewana	Entrepreneurial spirit	government regulations	
29	Shipshewana	Young and growing population	partisan, politics	
29	Shipshewana	Good blue collar workforce	"Compliance" minded government poking their nose into private business and individual ventures	
29	Shipshewana	Out of the box thinking by a non-standard educated population		
29	Shipshewana	Great jobs - lots of opportunity		
30	Shipshewana	Because of the diversity of industry and culture		
31	Shipshewana	The attention to the parks and lakes that are available to the public.	Closing of school buildings.	
31	Shipshewana	Condition of remaining schools.	Variety of housing options needs to grow.	
31	Shipshewana	Buggy lanes being added to some roads.	West side of county almost uninvolved - leaves more to Elkhart area and has little information about county.	Better publicity about events and concerns - the local paper not reaching people.

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
31	Shipshewana	The interest of citizens, especially the Amish, in the future of the area.		
31	Shipshewana	The hard work of the ARK rescue organization.		
32	Shipshewana	Strong community, good opportunity for growth		
33	Shipshewana	Business minded attitude	Housing - average housing is hard to find	It is important that we review ordinance and rules that impact the potential expansion of our local small businesses. We should consider removing unnecessary barriers to business expansion. Other communities would love to capture what our county has achieved through entrepreneurship.
33	Shipshewana	Our people work hard	Rules that limit business growth could be a detriment to our success. We can't take our recent success for granted.	
33	Shipshewana	Great location near highways		
33	Shipshewana	The county has experienced tremendous financial success, so there are tremendous resources in our county		
34	Shipshewana	There is a good change for growth for LaGrange Co. I think the county should take the lead.	I have no concerns about the future of Lagrange Co.	
35	Shipshewana	We have a lot of good people among us that are good leaders and mentors.	The population keeps increasing and more people on the road can cause more accidents, therefore we need more patrol in the area.	
36	Shipshewana	Economic and or business development along with preserving agricultural, parks etc.	Resistance to new entrepreneurial ideas.	
36	Shipshewana	The great law enforcement we have. Along with fire, EMS, etc. (Thank you)		

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
37	Shipshewana			Need to work with business. I had a very bad experience with the variance board. Wanted them to come out before meeting and look at my business and concerns but they won't come out. I have a storage barn business, so is not like a wood shop. I spend \$4,000 to come to the meeting. When I left I felt like pebble thrown in the water. When I was refused everybody in meeting was upset! Help Wanted! (name redacted)
38	Shipshewana	Owner operated businesses and farms as these people are very involved and care about the community	Drugs and alcohol	
38	Shipshewana	Strong faith based community	I am concerned about county leaders trying to increase low cost housing in the county. As I believe it will attract people with low ethics/morals	
38	Shipshewana	County leaders trying to be fair and treat everyone equally		
38	Shipshewana	A lot of homeschool families and private/parochial schools with parents that are very involved		
38	Shipshewana	Law enforcement involvement in drug and alcohol awareness meetings		
39	Shipshewana	County parks	Lack of comprehensive plan (which this should address)	
39	Shipshewana	Lakes	Leadership in county is not as progressive as it should be	
39	Shipshewana	Economic Growth	Our infrastructure needs lots of improvement - county roads are deplorable; need bike/pedestrian trails; need to get horse "poop" off the roads	
39	Shipshewana	People care about our county	Lake issues need to be raised to a level of county concern - wetlands should not be drained for development; high water issues; water quality.	
39	Shipshewana		Zoning needs to be enforced by all residents.	

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
40	Shipshewana	We have great parks	We do not have enough recreation opportunities	
40	Shipshewana	We have a caring community	We don't have enough bike trails	
40	Shipshewana	We have lakes	Our roads are dangerous	
40	Shipshewana	We have a thriving economy	Traffic is a problem	
40	Shipshewana		Our roads are covered with horse feces	
41	Shipshewana		This county needs to work like LaGrange County is. We are not Lake or Marion County, so we do not need all their rules. Common sense will work better here. Building department.	
41	Shipshewana		Shipshewana pays more sales tax to the state but has the worst roads. 250 North east of Ship. Is a hiller, there is no other township that pays more sales tax than Newbury.	
42	Shipshewana		Need better roads. Couldn't we use tax money more on bigger business to help fix roads.	
42	Shipshewana		Think LaGrange County officials should read mission statement every day.	
43	Shipshewana	Low un-employment	The county makes it really hard to have home based business.	
43	Shipshewana	Bike trails, nice parks	If they have home based businesses, the county tries really hard to keep them from growing. Building new buildings.	
43	Shipshewana	The community as a whole is very close. Everybody helps each other.	Farms are being sold, so the Amish way of life (Farming) is transitioning into home based businesses but the county doesn't support it, like I would like to see.	
44	Lakeland HS Students	The education is expanding		
44	Lakeland HS Students	The community is tight.		
45	Stroh / Mongo	Lake life is the best!	Drug use.	
45	Stroh / Mongo	Low taxes.	Overdevelopment.	
45	Stroh / Mongo	Great schools and youth.		
45	Stroh / Mongo	Beautiful, productive countryside.		

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
45	Stroh / Mongo	Charming Americana.		
46	Stroh / Mongo	It is rural - don't have the traffic and crime of very urban areas. Can enjoy clean air.	Drug usage.	
46	Stroh / Mongo	Good schools.	Lack of job opportunities that keep young people in the county.	
46	Stroh / Mongo	Great place to raise kids.		
46	Stroh / Mongo	Well-maintained parks.		
47	Stroh / Mongo	County parks.	Limited housing opportunities.	
47	Stroh / Mongo	Bike trails.		
47	Stroh / Mongo	Good schools.		
47	Stroh / Mongo	Low unemployment.		
48	Stroh / Mongo	There are lots of jobs available for those willing to work.	Drug issues.	
48	Stroh / Mongo		Amish (mostly) on roadways. As Amish continue to move to the east side of the county, I fear that there will be more accidents. SR3 is not a road that should be used by buggies or bikes.	
48	Stroh / Mongo		Listen to any teacher and they will tell you so many children are neglected and have a horrible home life.	
49	Stroh / Mongo		"Good ole boy" approach to BZA issues.	
50	Stroh / Mongo	64 beautiful lakes in area	Lack of willingness of BZA to consider needs of lake owners.	
50	Stroh / Mongo	Accessibility to Fort Wayne and South Bend		
50	Stroh / Mongo	More professionals (retirees) moving here to lake homes.		
51	Stroh / Mongo	Lake	Internet - lack of service speed opportunity.	
51	Stroh / Mongo	Small Town	Bike trails, hiking, outdoor activities for families.	
51	Stroh / Mongo	Living in community	Stores / grocery / lumber / Menards / Meijer / Lowes / Target	
51	Stroh / Mongo		Distance to travel for gas	

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
51	Stroh / Mongo		Renters against the ordinance.	
51	Stroh / Mongo		DNR piers	
51	Stroh / Mongo		Lake front v. those that live behind	
51	Stroh / Mongo		Week to week renters. Publicize this information.	
52	Stroh / Mongo	I look forward to the opportunities for better restaurants, shopping, etc. Would like to see county roads get the attention they need.	Living on the lake I am concerned about week to week rentals on our lake. I have witnessed multiple guests in homes designed for 1 family, not 3 families. Renters aren't familiar with the lake and boating rules; so concerned for safety on the lakes. This may not be the appropriate place for this topic, but had an opportunity to voice opinion.	
52	Stroh / Mongo		Better educated boaters around the lake and encourage boating classes and fishing rules (DNR problems).	
52	Stroh / Mongo		Skilled workers for jobs.	
52	Stroh / Mongo		School system.	
52	Stroh / Mongo		Drug use seems high.	
52	Stroh / Mongo		Speed around lakes. Never in the 6 years I have lived here have I seen a police patrol "cruise the area." We have kids riding non-road use vehicles all of the time and under age people on golf carts	
53	Stroh / Mongo	There are people here who are ready for change.		
53	Stroh / Mongo	A lot of our concerns and challenges are similar... they just look a little different from area to area.		
53	Stroh / Mongo	We are a very unique county.		
53	Stroh / Mongo	We have a lot to offer.		
54	Stroh / Mongo	There are a lot of invested people who want to make the county better	There is a lot to accomplish.	
54	Stroh / Mongo	Grant money is being sought after and received by the county.	Many people seem not to care about the future or to help.	

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
54	Stroh / Mongo		There are a lot of groups involved in doing the same things. I'm not sure how to unite those groups to make them stronger for the common goal.	
54	Stroh / Mongo		There are not enough of the younger generation to advance the county and achieve the necessary goals.	
55	Stroh / Mongo	Strong environmental resources and beautiful scenery.	Conflicting visions of the future from each community (Amish, lake residents, farmers, etc.)	
55	Stroh / Mongo		Livestock allowed in waterways	
55	Stroh / Mongo		It seems that the smartest students leave for college and few return.	
55	Stroh / Mongo		Roads are in poor condition without a financially viable plan for maintenance. There seem to be 2 main issues: semi and transport traffic especially on US20 instead of the Toll Rd where it would be better suited; horseshoes.	
56	Stroh / Mongo	Agriculture is vital - it is strong in our county!	I would like the Amish to be more involved in/on Boards.	
56	Stroh / Mongo	We have a wide range of other resources as well - lakes, etc. Important they interact well together.	I would not like to see too much more industrial growth - keep the ag ground and open areas.	
57	Stroh / Mongo	New internet options.	The number of puppy mills is disgusting. I believe Wolcottville is #1 in the country?!	
57	Stroh / Mongo	Community involvement seems to be growing (BLL area)	Farm runoff polluting the lakes	
57	Stroh / Mongo		Shared land and lake use disagreements (environmental effects of surfing on lakes and/or using lily pad island as sand bar on BLL).	
57	Stroh / Mongo		Rentals on lakes! Safety is a huge concern. Are renters vetted by home owners and are neighbors notified? Lake rentals often include a boat, renters can be clueless on rules and operation of boats	

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
58	Stroh / Mongo	The overall conservative people.	The changing demographics. The county is still rural overall, but with the increased number of people, it's becoming less so. The increased traffic is a huge safety concern also.	
58	Stroh / Mongo	The diversity of the county is great. Businesses, tourism, lakes, Amish area, Pigeon River, hunting area.	Too many people do not understand the importance of farming/agriculture to the county. Farmers and agribusiness pay a lot of property taxes.	
58	Stroh / Mongo	Pretty good work ethic of the workforce.	Splitting up larger tracts of farmland into housing and smaller farms makes modern farming more difficult.	
58	Stroh / Mongo	Good income for the people willing to work.	Road safety - especially at state road 3 and 700 S and 750 S. Poor visibility at the intersection.	
58	Stroh / Mongo	Natural beauty of this area.		
59	Stroh / Mongo	The people of this county. They are hard working and generous. Great work ethic.	The people who would rather not work together tend to "squeak" louder! And the squeaky wheel gets the grease.	Do not reinvent the wheel. Embrace what is good in the county and build on that. Do not try to turn LaGrange County into something that it isn't. The majority of the people who live in this county live here because they want (love) to. Don't need to change to try to attract some others. Use common sense. Avoid emotions in your decision making.
59	Stroh / Mongo	The physical assets of this county. The lakes, the good farmland, the industry of the county.	Seems to be a tendency to try and solve everything with some kind of ordinance.	
59	Stroh / Mongo	I think there are more people willing to work together than there are people who won't.	A use against them attitude.	
59	Stroh / Mongo		Over-regulation of some people and/or businesses.	

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
60	Stroh / Mongo	LaGrange assets - lakes, state DNR hunting area, great farm ground.	Non-incorporated towns need a better way to fund expenses eg. Park maintenance, street lights, etc. Township trustees boards refuse to fund these activities so Strog, South Milford, Howe, Mongo cannot pay for these activities. Maybe the County needs to appropriate \$10,000 per year to cover expenses.	
60	Stroh / Mongo		<p>Other issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Density limites for animal operations. 2. No animals in public waterways. 3. New definition for cottage business - this is abused by the amish! Limit total sq. ft, of buildings. 4. New definition for farm based business. 5. Industry only in designated areas. 6. Amish buggy plate prices need increased to cover damage to the roads and lack of gas tax from buying fuel. 7. 3 to 1 rule for lot size - lots can be no longer than 3 times the width. This is heavily abused by the Amish. 8. L1 zoning need restrtion on hard surfance % of total lot = houses are being over-built by lake people. 9. Better roads - our roads are the worst in the 	
61	Stroh / Mongo	We are mostly a rural population... good work ethic, problem solvers and doers. We can accomplish much if we all work together... we usually do.	Worried about the influx of solar farms. County is large ag producer, covering farms with solar panels could injure commerce. Need to limit.	Generally, LaGrange County is a good place to live, work, and raise a family.
61	Stroh / Mongo	Conservative leadership for the most part at County Government. We/they spend tax dollars like I would for the most part.	Trailer factories have monoplized the workforce.. Coul dpu t the county into financial problems if the economy falters.	

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
62	Stroh / Mongo	It's great that they are giving meetings and getting input from the community. It makes me very optimistic about the future of our county.	I would love to see a beautiful downtown with shops, etc. Maybe first Fridays like they do in Goshen. I don't know what Goshen did but it was dying and is beautiful and busy now.	
63	Stroh / Mongo	Tourism, I'm in the hospitality business and it's a great place for tourism.		
64	Stroh / Mongo	Continued small business growth.	There are some questionable leadership roles.	I hope the new ordinance will relieve some of the pressure placed on the BZA board members.
65	Stroh / Mongo	Generally good work ethic	Roads - falling apart faster than can be repaired, increased traffic on narrow roads for all types of traffic and pedestrians.	
65	Stroh / Mongo	Agricultural future	Solar panels - negative impact on other businesses in the county.	
65	Stroh / Mongo	Good location for manufacturing and transporting goods to other markets	East side of county sometimes seems forgotten.	
66	LaGrange	Needs more growth!	No one has really added any true plans for any type of growth	
67	LaGrange	us + our family lived here all our life. The next gen will <pay> live here		
68	LaGrange		Seemingly every new business or even existing businesses have to jump through so many hoops to obtain permits, with so many hoops to obtain permits, with so many restraints, instead of looking at the new businesses as great opportunities, that will bring income into the county tax base, in the form of property values, income taxes, personal property taxes employees, sales taxes, their property taxes, and the list goes on and on how a business is a great opportunity instead of a problem that we don't want.	A new zoning ordinance is needed if the zoning boards do not even go by their own rule book, as permitted in A1 zones, all the businesses that permitted yet are restricted by robbie and her interpretation about manufacturing and retail sales, those should all be permitted if the shops and stores are permitted in A1 zones.

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
69	LaGrange	Not letting Amish businesses get bigger is a big mistake they will not move to the town if that is your plan please change it!	Be more friendly to businesses that are not in town=Amish. I also bought land on town line being a 21 year old and not being able to start my family on that land due to the culture it picked to be a part of it is wrong to discriminate on Amish for driving a horse and buggy or have a horse on his land that's like his car!!!	
70	LaGrange	Freeman is on planning comission and will support business in their hard work- need more Amish to keep fair balance.	We also need amish to be equally involved in county seats. It is challenging to get a business through cunty- even though it is great looking. Some people that hold county seats.	Support local businesses- with small changes- that makes them successful- if we stay the same it will degrade
71	LaGrange	Robust economy, good paying jobs	Difficult to start home based businesses.	
72	LaGrange	There are a lot of home based businesses	We are going to lose a lot of business if we have to go through such stuff as BZA's etc. Most of the guys are not comfortable going in front of the board so they put up a building for a buggy shed then when it's done they move a business into it	
73	LaGrange	Me + our family have lived here all our life next generation will <pay> too		
74	LaGrange	Of the encouragement of small business	The challenges of the building permit processes + zoning	

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
75	LaGrange	Let's be careful that our leaders don't become our controllers	As a business owner's wife, I appreciate having my husband coming home for meals, having devotions as a family before children leave for school. Our business is close to our school + if the school/teachers need something I'm glad my husband can go help. We have 35 employees + their wives appreciate that they can call in + their husband come home in minutes if...the calvas get out. Waterpipes burst, they ran out of gas + the house is cold, their wife is in labor + they can bike home to make sure she's okay. We try to have our business for the employees + their families, not just for our benefit.	
76	LaGrange		They make you feel like crap when you try to get a variance or anything that has to do w/business in LaGrange co. they always want you to do something major b-4 they will allow you to do anything. I'm tired of it. I wish they'd be black and white there are too many gray areas.	I would like to ask everyone in the county why they don't want business we need industry small business provide jobs for families. Taxes keeps money in the county. I do love LaGrange county, however if it doesn't change I can't see a future in growing my business- Michingan appears to be more attractive to us. Please feel free to call or visit us. Valley Line Wood Product. 260-768-7807.
77	LaGrange	Strong, concerned, driven community members. Natural resources, Many opportunities to become involved in a variety of leadership roles. Parks are strong, vibrant places.	Abuse of natural resources- from certain farming practices, citizen apathy, use of too many chemicals in unsafe manner, pollution, etc. Those in charge- government + other leadership need to take their responsibilities seriously- to educate themselves, to act in the county's best interest. Government is slow to react. Citizens are slow to embrace new ways. "we've always done it like this".	Several towns do not have "curb appeal" - Wolcottville, LaGrange, same with the uniincorporated towns- Stroh, S. Milford, Mongo.
78	LaGrange			This is where we live. Let's make it better. How can we improve the roads in LaGrange County.

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
79	LaGrange	I believe LaGrange County has a strong workforce of people and planners. If we take the time to listen to our people. Planning Next is here to help bring some weak areas to the table to work on.		
80	LaGrange	Lakes, nice hospital, library, improvements made to draw others here.	Lack of interest in events planned by local citizens.	
81	LaGrange	New planning for future improvements.	Lack of housing	Many issues that LaGrange Co. face is the result of the lack of housing.
81	LaGrange	Large economic opportunities	Unwilling municipalities to aid in the growth of LaGrange	
81	LaGrange	New, younger leadership in the towns		
82	LaGrange		CFO - chicken, duck, calves, hogs. If unstoppable growth LaGrange Co will smell like Iowa.	
82	LaGrange		Increased tourist growth.	
82	LaGrange		Traffic on US 20 is worse than Fort Wayne.	
83	LaGrange	REMC bringing high-speed internet to more people.	Price of land / housing.	
83	LaGrange	Great parks.		
83	LaGrange	Increase in businesses.		
84	LaGrange	It's still a small community, leave homes unlocked - safe.	We're very heavy in RV business. It's great now - but it could turn around.	
84	LaGrange	The Amish home-based businesses	Unfortunately the price of land is very high, makes it hard to develop or get started - but that's capitalism.	
84	LaGrange	Pumpkinvine trail is awesome.		
84	LaGrange	Pine Knob park is awesome.		
85	LaGrange	Housing development.	Lake people building on every square inch - along with Amish. No more bare land.	
86	LaGrange	Economic growth factor is great - need to continue that.	Lack of affordable housing.	
86	LaGrange	Park department and county parks in general are great and the continuing expansion and improvements are commendable and need to continue.	Education seems to be lacking in general knowledge	

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
86	LaGrange	Glad to see increase in broadband availability.	Downton county seat - main street - has to be filled and prosperous.	
87	LaGrange	We have agriculture		We need more Amish involved on boards.
87	LaGrange	We have tourism		
87	LaGrange	We still have a small town feeling		
88	LaGrange	We have clean lakes.	Multitude of home-based businesses opening on small tracts of land - this brings semis down small roads- dangerous!	
88	LaGrange	We have GREAT parks	Not enough affordable senior housing.	
88	LaGrange	We have a strong chamber to promote businesses		
88	LaGrange	We have a strong community foundation		
89	LaGrange	Economic stability	Lack of economic diversification	
89	LaGrange	Conservation / lakes / park system	Pressure from AFO, CFO, CAFO and agriculture in general affecting our wild areas.	
89	LaGrange	Strong ag community as an economic driver	Ag land splitting up into mini farms for the Amish	
89	LaGrange	Ongoing housing initiatives taking place	Lack of rental / apartment housing being considered in the housing initiative.	
90	LaGrange	The RV business are growing, will continue. Most manufacturing of parts is local too.	We need to come up with more land to build new homes and business.	Try to find out what our area needs the most to grow our country.
91	LaGrange	Room for improvement	The lack of businesses in area, such as grocery, could use WalMart, Menards, etc. in town.	Beach on Oliver Lake, Dallas ia hard to walk through woods to.
91	LaGrange		Horse poop on roads, eats up the roads, damages cars and unsafe for motorcycles and bikes. Also bad for water supply.	We have enough chicken farms in county, what if there is an outbreak of bird flu.
91	LaGrange		Amish need to learn rules of road. Share road and be coureous, use street signs as the law requires.	Think for ourselves, don't allow Amish to rule the county. English should have some say.
91	LaGrange		Better COA in county, think of seniors. Sturgis offer discounts for seniors.	

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
91	LaGrange		Things to do for both young and old. Movie theater, bowling, places to eat breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Ice cream shop for year round, such as DO.	
91	LaGrange		Semis using backroads. Large trucks should use main roads not backroads.	
92	LaGrange	Faith that is in practice.	Mistrust - misinformation or not enough clear communication between English/Amish worlds. How can we do better?	
92	LaGrange	Strong parks and lakes.	Building permits - no clear concise plan.	
93	LaGrange		A high percentage of the younger generation is working in Elkhart County. We need new business start ups or our county's future is not good.	
93	LaGrange		Our zoning board is not consistent.	
93	LaGrange		If we are concerned about too much land being developed to business. Let them put more sq. ft. per acre.	
94	LaGrange	Seeing housing come into the area.	We need diversified industry	
94	LaGrange	The REMC internet move.		
95	LaGrange	The county tries to make this a safe place to live	Of all the drug problems	
95	LaGrange	They are asking for others ideas by planning this open house		
96	Online	Job opportunities	Lack of housing for single families and retired individuals	
96	Online	Diversity in industry... e.g. Farming, Tourism, Manufacturing,	Lack of housing and infrastructure (like fiber) County road maintenance. No lines on 600 W which has become a highway.	
96	Online		Road sides and intersection safety, grass and weeds growing tall. Speed limit patrols	

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
97	Online	That there has been a small amount of progress in our county with allowing businesses to come into the town of Lagrange.	<p>My concerns are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much control the Amish have in the county. They are only servicing the Amish, not the entire county yet they have so much control and say. They are not employing English and their businesses do not benefit the English. 2. what little progress has been made in repairing down town LaGrange, our county seat 3. Poor housing, run down rentals, few land purchase opportunities for those who want to move into the county 4. continual increase in land taxes with little to no progress on the infrastructure of the county 	
97	Online	It's strongly conservative, mostly adhering to Biblical values and morals.	Too much government spending, at all levels.	
98	Online	I am part of a conservative community	immorality and unwholesomeness creeping into our community	
98	Online	Its a very close knit community. Everyone is family and people step up when someone is in need.	We are a bit relaxed at times and may not take things seriously at times.	
99	Online	Our crime rate is still low and employment is high.	The economy and the counties reliance on the RV industry	
99	Online	County continues to provide strong economic opportunities.	Lack of housing (short term & long term) and land prices skyrocketing.	
100	Online	because I have lived in Lagrange county most of my life, so I know it can be a great place to call home.	The side roads in LaGrange are all so bad. Down on townline by the light it is horrible. All the roads need to be fixed and not just patched. I feel our taxes are not being used as they should be to fix the roads.	

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
100	Online	<p>SMALL TOWN ATMOSPHERE. PEOPLE SHOW CARE, LOVE, CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY. DEMAND FOR HOUSING IN THE AREA. DEMAND FOR QUALITY EDUCATION. LAKE LIFE. TOURIST ATTRACTIONS.</p>	<p>A REAL DOWNFALL OF THIS COMMUNITY IS THE FACT THAT WE ARE EXTREMELY "NOT GREEN" AS WE ALLOW HORSE MANURE TO POLLUTE THE ROADWAYS AND STREETS WHICH LEADS TO OTHER PROBLEMS. I THINK IT IS A MAJOR CONCERN AND PROBABLY ONE THAT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED BEFORE THE "HIGHER UPS" FIND OUT AND START BASHING THIS COMMUNITY FOR BEING UNWILLING TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP ... IT IS THE YEAR 2021, WE CANNOT LIVE IN PAST DECADES WITH THIS ISSUE.</p> <p>RURAL AREAS NEED BETTER SNOW REMOVAL.</p>	
101	Online	<p>I appreciate very much raising my kids in a community who is still "family minded" and that our schools are a safe place for them to be.</p>	<p>My concern is with the growth of our community and how most of the land/houses that is up for sale or sold is owned by Amish people who normally don't send their kids to school past 8th grade. We will never be able to grow our schools if this is the case. No one can move into our community because there is no land or houses available.</p>	

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
101	Online	Not much. I LOVE LaGrange and am happy to have been raised here, but there isn't anything keeping my children here in the county.	The Amish population. I have lived here my entire life and the disregard for laws and rules by the Amish is increasingly troublesome. Building houses and other structures without permits. Country roads being damaged by semi trucks that supply the Amish businesses. Are they charged to help fix the roads? The damage to roads that are caused by the horses. The amount of manure on the roads. The smell of chickens due to the increasing chicken raising buildings. At what point is LaGrange county going to become the stinky county of Indiana? The bobcats being driven down roads like they are passenger vehicles. The hypocrisy.	
102	Online	growth in the community	respect and appreciation	
102	Online	We have strong leaders and friendly people who already are progressing with the times.	Cohesiveness and respect between cultures could improve. Safety of our Amish Community. Still think that we could help them be safer on the roads. Require turn signals. Require Biking rules in our county for English and Amish. Require tall flags on small horse driven vehicles ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY ARE DRIVEN BY AND FILLED WITH KIDS! We need to help keep our community safe by having CONSISTENT expectations and Logical expectations for the roadways. There have been way too many deaths!	

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
103	Online	When thinking about the future of my community I am optimistic about the traditional way we do things. I love that our community hasn't fallen prey to the cancel culture garbage that is everywhere. I think faith and family are a huge driving force in our community and it keeps me optimistic.	I am concerned about the lack of opportunities for children and youth in the area. I think we need to diversify our options for students and children seeking outside school activities.	
103	Online	Faith and family	Lack of commitment	
104	Online	Strong job growth continually provides for our families. People have an opportunity to have a high wages with minimal post-secondary training.	Rampant drug use throughout part of the county. No/limited new housing opportunities for families. There needs to be more developments on the west side of the county.	
104	Online		This is a stagnant community. Little industrial or economic growth occurring.	
105	Online	I feel we have the potential to make our area great if we could bring in the right businesses and people who are determined to make things work.	The lack of businesses in Our county...we have to go out of our area to other towns to shop etc.	
105	Online	LaGrange county seems to be financially sound, and local businesses seem to be doing well.	The price of land and housing in LaGrange county have made it difficult for the average person to move here. It has created a housing shortage, which means that people from outside of this area looking for employment will choose not to move here.	
106	Online	The whole community comes together when asked.	There is not enough resources & activities for students in our area. These kids need outlets.	

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
106	Online		<p>push a dangerous narrative for this county . Bulling and threatening businesses to comply is nit the way to go about anything and expecting people to just bow down , very bad move and that area needs cleaned out something fierce . The commissioners office " which some of those money grabbing over spending idiots need cleaned out also . They don't care to listen to THE PEOPLE and their concerns when they're hell bent in their own self serving pockets , been to meetings before, all county officials work for us and need to remember that and start listening to the people and where we should think money she be put on not just strictly their ideas all the time .</p> <p>I'm sure the community would like to know that this county took " BRIBE MONEY " to be used toward Covid BS and instead a lot of that money went to " REPAIRING " fairly new county buildings (which aren't that old to need remodeled) and giving money to local schools for god knows what (more hush /bribe money) which I done gave my 2 cents to the one school for their role . These schools already get money from us taxpayers to fund them , giving them extra money that they don't need to so us taxpayers have to pay more to make up for that money being spent on BS or put into their own pockets I'm very sure of .</p>	

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
107	Online	LaGrange is a safe place to work and live.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of nice housing which is keeping good families out of our county and schools. 2. Drugs! How many meth offenses can one commit before getting locked away? 3. County roads are AWFUL! They are full of ruts and the Amish tear them up very badly. 4. Downtown LaGrange looks like a run-down town that is well past its prime. Perhaps we can learn from Kendallville and start revamping our downtown. It's embarrassing! 5. Please get rid of drug dens (old houses split into numerous apartments where drug activity and child abuse is rampant). 	
107	Online	There's potential in LaGrange.	Nothing new being built. Buildings are becoming ran down. Restaurants are few and far between. Everyone will leave.	
108	Online	I see that there has been some new things opening up throughout the years and wonder what it can hold for the future of lagrange. i.e: splash pad, a "current" fashion boutique.	<p>My concerns within this community is that there is a lot of "toxicity" in human kind that makes me personally not want to live here. With that attitude in the community it could hinder efforts put in by those trying bring the community back to a lively community.</p> <p>Lack of AFFORDABLE housing. Homes are going up, condos, duplex's etc but nothing that's truly affordable for the average person/family. Low quality schooling in parts of the county, lack of jobs to entice college students to come back home.</p>	
108	Online	The amount of new homes being built, new businesses popping up here and there, house sells sky rocketing, more traffic around town	Lack of AFFORDABLE housing. Homes are going up, condos, duplex's etc but nothing that's truly affordable for the average person/family. Low quality schooling in parts of the county, lack of jobs to entice college students to come back home.	
109	Online	Knowing there are people and places trying to continuously make our community better and seeing that change happen	Working in the field I do, I see a lot of unsettling and unfortunately common things from unsafe road ways and addiction to worse crimes.	

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
109	Online		<p>We are not pro-growth, we don't seem to have a plan to entice more diverse jobs into LaGrange County. The Amish population is destroying the ability to purchase homes at reasonable prices. Anything with some acreage is being purchased at over inflated rates, making it difficult to buy property and live in LaGrange County.</p>	
		<p>I feel we have a lot we could be doing to generate new and stable jobs. We have some real resources here in LaGrange County, just no vision to get things done.</p>	<p>The county has nothing to offer younger skilled workers and therefore we keep exporting our educated youth to larger communities that offer entertainment, fitness, enriched community resources and adequate daycare. Nothing for children of any age to do. The water park was placed next to a toddler park so not appropriate for all ages</p>	
110	Online	Small town		
110	Online	Parks system, Road department and law enforcement.	Horse poop and lake people	
111	Online	Community that cares for each other, works on collaborating to better our community, programs, parks, cleanliness of our area, history of our community, strong family ties and our fairly conservative values.	<p>Drug, alcohol, domestic abuse, people who don't work but live off the system, kids and adults so consumed with anxiety and depression that they cannot function. We need more housing and apartments for families to live in. If there is no housing in our area, how can we have business growth? Where will the workers live?</p>	

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
111	Online	<p>Good employment opportunities</p> <p>Great county park system</p>	<p>Protection of water quality (both lake & ground water). Our lakes are important for tax revenue (property taxes) and tourism. We need to protect our watersheds from farm runoff and protect our lakes from excessive erosion.</p> <p>Lack of adequate cell phone coverage throughout the county.</p> <p>Lack of bike lanes especially along heavily traveled roads. Bike lanes will be safer for everyone and will promote bike tourism.</p> <p>Require & enforce higher taxes on buggies to compensate for road damage caused by horseshoes. Also, we need a requirement for buggies to catch horse manure so it is not all over our roads & vehicles.</p> <p>Address the decline of our towns.</p>	
112	Online	<p>We are a community that comes together well for a need or a cause. Overall, people generally care about each other.</p>	<p>There can be topics that create division and can harbor what makes our community great.</p>	
112	Online	<p>Building a healthier and safer community.</p>	<p>Damage to lake shorelines.</p>	

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
113	Online	<p>LaGrange County has some real strengths that other communities don't enjoy. We are a rural county with strong, traditional values, a strong work ethic, stable family ties, and a "can do" attitude. Although our demographic makeup is diverse, with people from urban and suburban backgrounds, rural roots, farm connections, industry, and lake lifestyles, Amish, "English", Christian, Muslim, Black, White, Oriental, Hispanic, I believe despite our many differences, we all pitch in and work towards common goals very well. We have relatively low crime rates and a caring attitude towards our neighbors. We have a lot that much of the rest of America used to have!</p>	<p>Our population seems to be aging. I am in my mid 50's. I was very concerned when Lakeland School Corporation closed Wolcottville and Lima Schools. Both these communities actually had high schools in them in the last 50 years, and now do not even have enough young people in them to host their own elementary schools. Most of the people I graduated with in 1983 have migrated to other parts of the country to live their lives. We are experiencing a tremendous "brain drain" and loss of young potential and talent. Business opportunities have diminished over the last few decades to the point where one cannot buy a new car in LaGrange County! Industry is way too reliant on the RV and boat industries exclusively. RV's and boats are fine when the national economy is good, but we can see how disastrous that sole reliance is by looking at our community experience in the economic reversal of 2008; 25 % unemployment!</p>	
113	Online	<p>People who initiated this program.</p>	<p>Business Friendly Environment Climate Change and protecting our forests, lakes and, streams. Raising our educational standards Infrastructure</p>	

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
114	Online		<p>Very concerned that petitioners can use agricultural zoning to place commercial types of businesses such a winery, that is really more of an event center next to our residential areas like adams lake. Agi needs to be true agi. Zoning Notification of items that affect our many lake need to be emailed to our lake presidents</p> <p>City downtown improvements.</p>	
114	Online	<p>The strong economy that Lagrange County will not surrender to big city ideas and keep the small home town community that people live here for and move here to be a part of. The school system will continue to provide the best educational opportunities for students now and in the future.</p>	<p>The loss of the peaceful serene small town, country, and lake communities that we all enjoy with too much expansion of these areas with commercial business. Putting the wants of one over the needs of many.</p>	
115	Online	<p>The organizations that are doing good in our community and focused on giving back like Shine Lagrange and REMC to name a few. Local businesses who donate to get things done like the splash pad in the park and the baseball/softball complex. Having plentiful opportunities to buy fresh produce, eggs, and meat from local houses and shops - low prices, great quality, and good the for environment. The parks adding new trails like in the Mike Metz Fen. People working on extending the Pumpkinvine bike trail in Shipshe and creating the Hawpatch bike trail. Shipshewana continuing to grow and flourish. All the Amish entrepreneurs offering goods and services.</p>	<p>The increasing population putting a strain on the environment with many small farms. The lakes having drainage issues and being shut down due to high water. The lakeshores being eroded from large wake boats doing surfing and wakeboarding. The lakes becoming more crowded as more people use them. All the downtowns except Shipshewana struggling, some more than others. Lakeland, our biggest school corporation, struggling. The roads are dangerous to drive, walk, and bike on.</p>	

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
115	Online	We are a small knit community.	We don't have enough housing or industry for our area.	
116	Online	My children and grandchildren	Pollution, disregard and neglect of our lakes and rural farm land.	
116	Online	More folks are living at Adams Lake which makes our community stronger.	Commercializing our community . We have an issue with traffic around Adams Lake, too much traffic and tp many speeders. There is no reason add more cars in the area.	
117	Online	People are coming here to live and thrive. They are coming here to raise their families.	County residents who have chosen to live in this county and want to build nice homes on their properties are constantly hit with obstacles. Especially lake residents. Why does the BZA rule so unfairly against lake residents who just want to to build a beautiful life in this county? Why such strict standards for them while run-down almost (or should be) condemned properties in our towns be allowed to create hazards and eye sores for all that want to live in the community? Why not put attention towards this issue instead of those hoping to beautify our surroundings?	
117	Online	It is great that our county is trying to make a bike trail. I love and appreciate our parks department. We have some of the best!	I am concerned about the wave action on the shore of the lakes. Could these over sized wakeboard boats be causing this? What is happening to our wetlands?	
118	Online	Our community is still functioning. The improvements in our town is slowly but, getting much needed sidewalks updated.	I don't see police patrol. My grandson's new bike was stole from his yard last month. I don't feel the children safe to play outside. Field workers shipped in from ? Throughout town. Trucks and cars trolling the alleys looking for car parts to steal. I've lived here 35 years and never saw patrol.	

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
118	Online	That community values can win over private domination.	A winery, farmers market and storage facilities are all proposed within shouting distance to Adam's Lake	
119	Online	We have a pretty low crime rate, most people are very good neighbors and I love the area especially the lakes.	I am concerned with opioids and meth.	
119	Online	I think about the people iâ€™ve grown up with and their families.	People will leave Lagrange, including me	
120	Online		There are too many CFO â€™s . The stench from improperly applied hog waste is unhealthy. although is does disappate after a few days. The chicken barn by my residence smells so bad it makes it difficult to breathe any time the breeze is from the wrong direction.. Weekly or daily garbage fires impact air quality. There are too many households to continue that practice. Does the waste from the dog kennels impact water quality? I am a farmer who no longer has animals and I respect the right to farm with the associated odors, but current regulations allow for too many CFOâ€™s densely spaced.. Farm taxes have doubled in the last 10 years. Elementary schools closing in small towns take the heart out of the community and create untenable bus rides for small children.â€™	
120	Online	We have high employment and have resources.	Everything in this county is very political and is based on who you know. Because there are never choices other than Republicans for elected offices, nothing truly ever changes.	

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
121	Online	There are still people who have a passion and focus in seeing the town grow. There are still people wanting to bring their talents into LaGrange.	There is so little bwyomd the factories. The children have so little to do. There are sports but not every child is a sports enthusiast or even has the capacity. There are groups that are trying to being more but the town is apprehensive. We have a lot of nonprofits but at the same time that's a lot of groups putting pressure on local businesses. Can they work together more? The lack of housing is a huge concern. We love our Amish community but English buyers can't compete. There is always an option of building but there are not any builders trying to come here, why?	
121	Online		High used dirt roads need hard surface.	
122	Online		High used dirt roads need hard surface. Calcium chloride needs to be put on earlier.	
122	Online	The green space available. More and more research is proving the benefits of being outside for whole body wellbeing. LaGrange County should embrace and care for all of its green spaces.	The use of and treatment of land around the lakes. Too much fertilizer, herbicide, animal waste and erosion!	
123	Online	Our road 300 S. between State Route five and 900 W. was horrible this year dusty and a lot of pot holes.Would like to see a hard surface road. Thank you		
123	Online	Im optimistic that we will return to a fairly normal life on the other side of covid. Im concerned that graffiti is still on buildings and has not been painted over.	We need more things for youth to do. Have classes for addiction education since it is so rampant.	

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
124	Online	Young families and jobs makes me optimistic.	The condition of some of our downtown areas has me concerned. I would like to see more preservation work and upkeep of our beautiful buildings in Wolcottville, LaGrange and Mongo. My favorite building is the one at Detroit and Spring in LaGrange that has the large painting on it. Now that's an example we should follow. We need our buildings to be maintained like that one.	
124	Online	There are people who want the community to succeed, people want to live here and raise their kids here.	Housing, housing, housing....People want to live here but there is not affordable, middle-income housing. We are becoming a great retirement community where you either live at an expensive lake home or must live at a higher-than-market price home that many middle-income families can't afford. Surrounding counties and communities offer a much better bang for your buck when it comes to the quality of housing available for middle-income families. The county needs to subsidize some land/housing so that it isn't gobbled up by the Amish who often don't support many of the goals/future outcomes of our community.	
125	Online	All town, city's and people need to grow, I am optimistic that LaGrange County will do the same.		
125	Online		Meth and crack people in our communities! With the amount of semi traffic, we NEED 300S between 600W and 1200W hard surface. And to my knowledge it's the only east to west through road in our township that is not hard surface.	
126	Online			

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
126	Online		<p>Drugs and drug enforcement</p> <p>Education</p> <p>Employment with good wages</p>	
127	Online	<p>Strong, smart, resilient and kind people live here.</p>	<p>The environment and how we manage our resources are major concerns.</p> <p>Helping our people to stay healthy and provide a living wage for local families is obviously important.</p> <p>Continuing to revitalize our downtown and help small local businesses grow needs to be a priority. Encouraging our young people to care about the land and preserve as much of it as possible in parks and woods has to be at the top of the list. You really can't eat money.</p> <p>Farming is important and farmers who care about the land need to be encouraged.</p>	
127	Online	<p>Having families not just serving but thriving.</p>	<p>The cost and lack of support for early learning. Yes it may cost a lot, but quality learning environments need quality workers, that deserve quality compensation. Right now a majority of these works don't even get benefits that many take for granted. The programs can't sustain that type of expense.</p>	
128	Online	<p>We live in a community minded area with a lot of common senced people</p>	<p>That our community often doesnt listen to our own and we get outside big city people in to give us ideas when our own people have better ideas.</p>	
128	Online	<p>Lots of people visiting the lakes, Shipshewana and its tourist attractions. People who care and community leaders asking questions (such as this survey) to get feedback from the ones who live/work here.</p>	<p>Rundown/slummy homes in town in Wolcottville and other areas. Affordable housing and housing additions for middle-class earners.</p>	

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
129	Online		We need 300 south hard surfaced from state road 5 to 1000 west. 300 south is the only east-west through road in eden township that's not hard surface. We have lots of dust with all our truck traffic. Tourist dont like dusty roads.	
129	Online	The potential for growth: broadband access, school pride.	Lack of housing. Downtown areas are not being maintained (like the empty hole in LaGrange that is just allowed to sit fenced in)	
130	Online	I think the schools do a great job. I have students who have graduated and are in all schools and they have great teachers and principals. I think the athletics have been lacking a good AD and coaching. I hope that improves with the new AD coming in.	Housing is a big concerns and industry/jobs. There is not places for families to rent other then small 2 bedroom apartments. Many families need 3 bedroom or larger. There is not many housing additions either, nothing new in a long time. A lot of over priced housing as well. To have a good paying job you have to drive over 45 minutes, to shop anywhere decent you have to drive over 45 minutes. It wouldnâ€™t hurt to have a nicer restaurant close by ad well. LaGrange county is afraid of growth and always has been. I really donâ€™t see that changing. Small towns minds will not keep people here. Downtown need improvement in looks. Health issues. Lack of work force. Restaurants not able to be open	
130	Online	Growth of some business. More community events planned.		

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
131	Online		<p>That the Amish & Conservatives have too great an influence on both businesses and public health policy; especially with the recent & continued push back against mask mandates in a PANDEMIC!</p> <p>That the County Street Department budget or management is no where near what we actually need to repair more rural roads so it doesn't feel like you're almost off-roading trying to get home.</p> <p>The growing Amish population not wanting to follow basic health and sanitation measures. I shouldn't have to just get my car washed and then have to drive through 5 miles of horse shit on the way home.</p>	
131	Online	That we still have Natural places here with wildlife and Conservation.	The rural roots and unique heritage and cultures of the county	Balance of rural and urban
132	Online	I lived in downtown Houston Tx for many years before returning to my hometown to care for my now deceased parents, i love that I have reconnected with old friends.		The town is not inviting to outsiders at all. As a traveller once said to me it is an "otherwise unremarkable town,"
132	Online	N/A		If you don't have the right name you will never succeed in Lagrange County. We need to start looking at what is the best for everyone not just certain people.
133	Online			<p>Lack of "elder" housing</p> <p>Employment opportunities in the county that don't revolve around the RV industry</p> <p>Future plans for sewer systems, i.e. aging septic tanks and new regulations</p> <p>Skyrocketing prices for land</p> <p>Decent sit down restaurants</p>

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
133	Online	That there's a strong Christian base in the community.	The good ole boy syndrome, and corruption in the sheriffs department and legal system. Lack of higher education for a big percentage of the population. Lack of programs for the homeless, drug addiction and our youth. Lack of affordable housing. Overreach of county ordinances, conflicting with our civil rights. With a large portion of the land in the eastern quadrant being owned by the State, there is a disproportion to our tax base.	
134	Online	LaGrange county has wonderful parks with trails. I am excited for the new trail from Wolcottville to Topeka.	The town of Wolcottville has such wasted potential. I'm concerned that the majority of industry is RV related.	
134	Online	Topeka has a great industrial base. Shipshewana Still draws money in for the community. Our churches are active. The farm seems like it might be a good thing.	The downtown area of LaGrange is so very sad. There is no growth or stores and it seems so broken down. Very few factories with job opportunities. Corn school is not what it used to be. Better rides would make it more exciting. Lakeland school needs to do some revamping of curriculum. Losing so many students to other schools.	
135	Online	The amish seem to be doing well with all the small businesses they have started. Shipshewana seems to be chugging along ok. Doing a decent job with the parks.	Lack of everyday entertainment options (shipshewana is geared more toward special events, ie MEC) the county has no movie theater, bowling alley or bars with live bands. Childcare, housing and the lack of major retail.	
135	Online	Hoping we will be able to get some help with housing and childcare through the READI grant. Seeing the way the latinx community is thriving in LaGrange- observed this during corn school.	We have to travel outside of the county for any major retail shopping.	
136	Online	Was nice to have cultures coming together in our small community.	Overbreeding of dogs- every time you turn around there's a puppies for sale sign or dog breeding operation!	

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
136	Online	That I see some people trying their best to fight the pandemic, teach people about it, and continue to keep up the good work by caring about the safety of our community. Thank all who are being vaccinated!	I am concerned that the county public school superintendent thinks "the science is out on masks" and that our Congressman Jim Banks spreads misinformation and conspiracy theories about the 2020 presidential election and the January 6 Insurrection rather than try to actually get to the bottom of the events leading up to the domestic terrorist attack.	
137	Online	That I see some people trying their best to fight the pandemic, teach people about it, and continue to keep up the good work by caring about the safety of our community. Thank all who are being vaccinated!	I am concerned that the county public school superintendent thinks "the science is out on masks" and that our Congressman Jim Banks spreads misinformation and conspiracy theories about the 2020 presidential election and the January 6 Insurrection rather than try to actually get to the bottom of the events leading up to the domestic terrorist attack.	
137	Online	We need a community swimming pool for our kids We also need a gym and a movie theater	There's not much to do in our town	
138	Online	I think that our parks have improved.	1. That we still have a giant hole downtown. 2. That we do not get more businesses in the downtown area 3. That we have a housing crisis, therefore we do not get new or returning graduates back in the area	
138	Online	State level leadership and ease of availability to tourists(toll road).	local leadership and equal priorities throught out entire county.	
139	Online	People are our best resource.	Housing.	
140	Individual	Younger people are getting involved in politics. God is moving and he has a plan for us.	We are losing a lot of our young people due to indecent housing, unreliable interent service, lack of shopping, activities	Thank you for doing this for our community.

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
140	Individual	Housing is slowly increasing	I feel like our social services are lacking	
140	Individual	Better and farther reaching internet is being installed through fiber optics	It seems our schools are falling behind others. However, I do believe our school board is trying to make our education stronger and better	
140	Individual		I'd like to see "Corn School" become bigger, better, and more community enticing	
140	Individual		Need more diverse industry, nothing to hold people here.	
141	Individual	We need housing	We need housing	Need to move business and industry out of the back door of LaGrange town. This would increase places for housing / apartments. By increasing housing our schools would fill, our stores would have shoppers.
141	Individual	Is this a smoke screen and nothing will be done	Schools are dying	
141	Individual	Do we have the people to truly want and push change	Store fronts are being filled with law office, etc.	
141	Individual		Our main streets are not inviting	
142	Individual	Because of the many individuals with a servant attitude. Each for the other and all for god. I am concerned we maintain this.		
142	Individual	Because we are community, we share our ideas, we share our knowledge, we share toys, we share sorrows, we share the wealth, we have compassion, we hurt when somebody hurts		
143	Individual	We want a community that wants to work together, build up the county		
143	Individual	What can we all do to help in the community? Let's work together!		
143	Individual	We need people to live around the lake, they buy groceries from local stores, eat at our restaurant		
143	Individual	We need Amish and Non-Amish to build a better county		

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
143	Individual	We need businesses in county to bring people from other areas. We need tourist like our flea market, MEC, Shipshewana		
144	Individual	All the places where someone can find work and a decent paycheck	The bad feelings that are created when someone tries to get a permit to build. Suggestion: call a meeting with some construction crew owners and some english and some Amish Bishops to explain why it is so difficult to get a permit in LaGrange and so easy in Noble County. Then out of that meeting, put the results or conclusion in the Goshen News and the Amish church paper so we all understand why it is so.	
144	Individual	Freedom of religioon	Why are some of our leaders in LaGrange pessimistic about all the shops in the county. Why not be grateful? This is a very prosperous county. Why not think about how can the county road department help them instead of being so negative. All these work places bring a lot of money into the county.	
144	Individual	Freedom of lifestyle		
145	Individual	Because this is the best county in the world and state to live! I would like to keep it that way, good paying jobs / very good high schools / affordable groceries / conservative churches / everybody for the most part helps each other	About 40k+ population, approximately 52% Amish! The way it's been going, the English will be crowding out the Amish! It seems that is Robbie Miller's goal, she is just jealous. She has one rule if she likes you, different rule if she doesn't care for you. Most of the government leaders (LaGrange County) are just plain jealous.	LaGrange County is a very good county! Why - anybody no matter what age, you have all kinds of opportunities! Young, old, whatever age - you can achieve anything you want to!
145	Individual	Also the best county to raise a family		
145	Individual	We need to figure our how to get the English people to get over it, the Amish are here to stay. Maybe try to figure out how to help them. You would be surprised how you would start thinking and feeling		

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
145	Individual	We can still operate with common sense, let's get over this thing trying to be political correctness. Be what you are! See how that works! It's a small community		
146	Individual		My concerns have to do with the price of land and property and the limited properties for sale. The Amish are driving the housing market too high.	
146	Individual		Also in the Town of LaGrange there is not enough food restaurants	
147	Individual	There are generations of families that have stayed in the area and maintained businesses	The unfairness of money funding for the Amish community that is beyond their means that English would not be allowed	Clear zone needs to be a priority on road, activities for mid-age population (softball leagues, volleyball, etc. - like Michigan)
147	Individual	Lakes with association activities for the public during busy season	The lack of drive or quality of life understanding from the younger population	Set up the 4-H fair to bring in sales with local companies funding the gate and helping more like before
147	Individual	There are state routes that connect us to the surrounding areas accessible	Business (new) popping up on the east side of the county	Towns should annex what they service
147	Individual	My family is here. Since both (1960s and 1900s), if my family wasn't here I don't know if I would stay	Allowing and promoting the mid-age population to be involved in the community	Promote business growth and development
147	Individual	Quiet/close community away from city crowds	The trailer factories employing and overpaying their business is not recession resistant	Need new ideas from the younger/mid-age population
147	Individual		Tourism and/or community involvement on the east side of the county	Taxing of businesses for damage to roads
147	Individual			Increased buggy plate prices
147	Individual			Increased police patrol for speeding and vandalism, with additional officers
148	Individual	I believe the county has real potential to improve on many different levels	There is a backward thinking approach by much of the older population who seem to be the ones to make the decisions	The community of LaGrange County is made up of a majority of people who I feel are uncomfortable with change of any sort. There is a real reluctance to try anything new or something they are not comfortable with

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
148	Individual	The county does have a hardworking citizen base overall	The lack of funds for local unincorporated towns and communities to improve infrastructure (sidewalks, parks, drainage, landscaping)	
148	Individual	The county has some unique characteristics (rivers/lakes/natural areas)	Poor leadership and lack of vision at the higher levels of county government	
148	Individual		The lack of long term vision and the carrying out of said vision by elected officials	
148	Individual		The lack of opportunity for young educated individuals who wish to move back to the area	
148	Individual		LaGrange is the 6th least educated county in the country in the United States. Poorly educated population	
149	Individual	Community festivals, closeness, local businesses, scenery, Amish Culture, food	Schools, population decline, Needs employees, infrastructure, lack of employees, corn school	
149	Individual	Each community has their thing		
150	Individual	There is so much potential for successful businesses in LaGrange County, its scary	I do not understand forcing somebody to hookup with the sewer, if he has any amount of land. To me, there is no common sense if a guy lives in the county and wants to build any distance away from a body of water but his property line is within 500 feet of a connection, then he has to connect. I thought we live in a free country, now it seems to me that the county even wants to tell us where to take our shit.	To the building inspectors, this happened a while back. Mark S. was out to do a framing inspection and was trying to tell us we have to add x bracing in the trusses and all the bracing was to the truss prints. Next he was fusing about top mount hangers, even got his code book out but missed that the girder trusses has no studs underneath. Lets be realistic and use common sense, just because you can't find anything wrong doesn't say your not doing your job. Somebody else might be doing their job right, lets all work together and make it easy on everyone.

ACTIVITY A: THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY...

ID	Source	I'm OPTIMISTIC about...	I'm CONCERNED about...	Additional Comments
150	Individual		<p>Why is there a building department, if I'm thinking right it was established for tax reasons more than anything. Now it seems that they want to make it hard on some people with no reason except to show their power that they really don't have. I am going to tell you the harder you make it the more people are going to do things behind your back. I'm not saying this to offend anyone but to tell you communication is big, if they come to pull a permit, tell them what all the requirements are at once. Not in three or four different shifts.</p>	

ACTIVITY B: STRONG AND OPPORTUNITY PLACES

ID	Source	Place	S / O	Comments
1	Howe	Shipshewana	s	Clean lakes draw quality residence. Shipshewana draws tourist dollars. More areas in LaGrange County should create more points of interest to extend the stay of visitors. We need better lodging and better restaurants. Topeka is doing great in industry growth. Give horse and buggy and bicycle lanes to improve safety of locals and visitors.
2	Howe	Shipshewana	s	Our lakes and parks.
2	Howe		o	Opportunity to promote parks and lakes to county residents and tourists.
3	Howe	Howe	o	Housing? High-end condos?
4	Howe	Parks	s	The parks are desirable to visit.
4	Howe	Downtown Shipshe and LaGrange	s	Nice places to shop
4	Howe		o	Internet improvement both speed and price
4	Howe	Witmer Lake	o	drainage from farms into lakes (BAD). Need bridge elevated. Need drainage sewers.
4	Howe	Wolcottville	o	Need more businesses. Always a messy sight. Slum lords.
5	Howe	Rt. 9 Corridor	o	Growth potential
6	Howe	Rt. 9 Corridor	o	Junkyards! Weak
7	Wolcottville	Shipshewana	s	A strong place
7	Wolcottville	LaGrange	s	Improving... a stronger place
7	Wolcottville	Topeka Downtown	s	
7	Wolcottville	Wolcottville	o	Downtown opportunity needed
11	Wolcottville	LaGrange and Wolcottville	o	LaGrange and Wolcottville are both places we drive through to get somewhere else. They are rarely destinations.
11	Wolcottville	Wolcottville	o	Wolcottville should consider unincorporating as a town; dropping its high property taxes and encouraging more new housing.
11	Wolcottville	LaGrange	o	The town of LaGrange government and people do not regard themselves as the county seat for ALL county residents to enjoy. If they did they would make investments in their downtown area. Again their high property taxes are an obstacle.
12	Wolcottville	Shipshewana	s	Shipshewana is desirable to visit.
12	Wolcottville	Topeka	s	Topeka is also (desirable to visit).

ACTIVITY B: STRONG AND OPPORTUNITY PLACES

ID	Source	Place	S / O	Comments
12	Wolcottville	Wolcottville	o	In my community we need help to clean it up. We make one stew forward and 10 back. We have 3 or 4 from our community on the council and commssion. All want to school in one of the schools now closed. No help from them except when they're up for election. Yes, I'm very mad!! I love to see the county making improvements. But very sad it's not my community. So it's hard to many any comments on the good when you wish it was ours.
13	Wolcottville	Wolcottville	o	The county starts in Wolcottville. If we can clean up the Little Elkhart River in town make it look like it did 30 years ago.
14	Topeka	Shipshewana		Pleasant to drive through. Nothing on Sundays but has a lot of small business and thriving.
14	Topeka	Topeka		Topeka has more industry than I was aware. Many small businesses. Clean.
14	Topeka	LaGrange		This is the hub of the county but much of the money put into Shipshewana. There all new business which is nice to see. Looking run down. Courthouse area only nice location.
14	Topeka	Splash Park		
14	Topeka	LaGrange Downtown	o	Many buildings appear ran down. (west side)
14	Topeka	LaGrange Downtown		New business (east side).
14	Topeka	LaGrange	o	Business opportunity - many places for sale. Empty (south east)
14	Topeka	Wolcottville	o	Run down. Not clean. Needs updated.
15	Topeka	Wolcottville	o	Not sure. Close to lakes but an eye sore. Do people even care here?
16	Shipshewana	Shipshewana	s	We have been retailers in Shipshe for 15 years. The tourist industry is gaining momentum. With the Blue Gate Theater and the MEC. We need to build on this to keep the momentum going.
18	Shipshewana	Shipshewana	s	Shipshewana is very clean overall along with staying a dry town. (thank you)
19	Shipshewana	West side of county	s	Family operated businesses, specialty / organic farms
20	Shipshewana	County park	s	
20	Shipshewana	Lakes	s	
20	Shipshewana	Shipshewana	s	
20	Shipshewana	Topeka	s	
20	Shipshewana	Pigeon River	s	
20	Shipshewana	Wolcottville	o	
20	Shipshewana	Hawpath Trail	o	
20	Shipshewana	Main Street of LaGrange (SR9)	o	
21	Shipshewana	Pumpkinvine Bike trail	s	shopping

ACTIVITY B: STRONG AND OPPORTUNITY PLACES

ID	Source	Place	S / O	Comments
21	Shipshewana	Topeka	o	could be better - needs a bike trail
21	Shipshewana	Parks	s	Parks are strong place - all of them
21	Shipshewana	Wolcottville	o	Wolcottville could be much improved
21	Shipshewana	LaGrange	o	LaGrange is an opportunity place
21	Shipshewana			Like to see more parks, bike trails.
22	Lakeland HS Students	SR 9	o	When leaving not much to do
22	Lakeland HS Students	South Milford	o	Only a gas station
23	Lakeland HS Students	South Milford	o	South Milford doesn't really have anything except a has station as well as Mong they don't relaly have much.
24	Lakeland HS Students	Shipshewana		Food, jobs
25	Lakeland HS Students	LaGrange	s	Factory booming
25	Lakeland HS Students	Shipshewana	o	Could use some more businesses. Pumpkin Trail - bicycle shop.
25	Lakeland HS Students	Wolcottville	o	Needs a huge upgrade.
26	Lakeland HS Students	LaGrange		Big empty space of land
27	Stroh / Mongo			Most of the towns and hamlets need revitalized and that can only come throguh economic development. Non-polluting industry needs to be encouraged but not placed near lakes or lake runoff areas.
27	Stroh / Mongo	Wolcottville	o	Area drains into lakes. No polluting industry development.
27	Stroh / Mongo	Big Long Lake	s	Great area! No polluting industry please!
28	Stroh / Mongo	Shipshewana	s	Shipshewana is a draw for me because of the Pumpkinvine Trail.
28	Stroh / Mongo		o	Other communities need more safe biking thru trails, specifically for me. Wolcottville, South Milford, Stroh areas. I would like to see strong economical support for this.
29	Stroh / Mongo	Pumpkinvine Bike trail	s	Great
29	Stroh / Mongo	Future Hawpatch Trail	s	Super
29	Stroh / Mongo	Delt Church Park	s	Fun
30	Stroh / Mongo	Mongo		
30	Stroh / Mongo	Big Long Lake		
30	Stroh / Mongo	Pigeon River		
31	Stroh / Mongo			Love the wetlands and enjoy the county parks
32	Stroh / Mongo			Shipshewana needs less focus.
32	Stroh / Mongo			Mongo, Stroh, Topeka have growth potential. (Mongo specifically is a hidden gem of the county and state)

ACTIVITY B: STRONG AND OPPORTUNITY PLACES

ID	Source	Place	S / O	Comments
32	Stroh / Mongo			The Lakes and parks are a strong asset to the county.
32	Stroh / Mongo	Wolcottville	o	Housing / Low Income
33	Stroh / Mongo			Shipshewana is already very strong. LaGrange is getting stronger but still has plenty of opportunity. Mongo has lots of opportunity!
36	Stroh / Mongo			Do not forget about the east side of the county?!
36	Stroh / Mongo	Gropp's Fish	s	
36	Stroh / Mongo	PHHS	s	
37	LaGrange	Shipshewana	s	Shipshewana has more of a capitalistic attitude, not so much a restrictive don't want business, welfare, drugs and etc. that you see in LaGrange.
37	LaGrange	LaGrange	o	Not great area, especially downtown
38	LaGrange	Parks	s	Pine Knob, David Rogers, Delt
38	LaGrange	Town of Shipshewana	s	strong marketing / events
38	LaGrange	Wolcottville and LaGrange	o	Need action to improve the look, the businesses there
39	LaGrange	East LaGrange	o	East of Detroit Street is becoming run down and lacks appeal
40	LaGrange	Wolcottville	o	Wolcottville could use some attention. Could be better.
41	LaGrange		s	The well maintained homesites around our county have a great eye appeal for residents and tourists! I would love the towns to have good downtown businesses and restaurants to frequent.
42	LaGrange	Parks	s	Our parks are awesome - well developed and cared for.
42	LaGrange		o	Roads around the lakes need attention!
44	LaGrange	LaGrange		Available housing appropriate for medium income families is essential. LaGrange can rebuild into a better, much more desirable community with youth involvement and new blood leadership.
44	LaGrange			Hiking and biking trails.
45	LaGrange	LaGrange		Wish the businesses in LaGrange were more closer together.
45	LaGrange			
46	LaGrange			
47	LaGrange			
48	LaGrange			
49	LaGrange			
49	LaGrange			
50	LaGrange			
51	LaGrange			

ACTIVITY B: STRONG AND OPPORTUNITY PLACES

ID	Source	Place	S / O	Comments
52	LaGrange			
53	LaGrange			
53	LaGrange			
54	LaGrange			
55	Shipshewana		s	Shipshewana is a tourist town 3/4's of the year
56	Topeka		o	Topeka has potential to bring attractions (have the auction in town)
57	LaGrange		o	LaGrange has infrastructure to use to attract locals and tourists that are currently not used to full potential (courthouse lawn/ 4H fairgrounds/parks)
57	Wolcottville		o	Wolcottville needs cleaned up in several areas
58	Howe		o	Howe is updating and has places to ear. It would be nice to dee downtown filled and developed
59	Mongo		o	Mongo needs updated and promote river and businesses
60	Mongo		o	Mongo, Stroh, Ontario, South Milford, and Howe are small towns that are not incorporated. They have a lot of potential to be improved but lack a measurable funding option that the incorporated towns have.
61	South Milford		o	They are somewhat small to be incorporated but still need sizeable amount of money to maintain and improve the community.
62	Shipshewana		s	
63	Wolcottville		o	Underappreciated, lakes, rich people
64	Online	Shipshewana	s	Has good industry & influx of tourists
65	Online	Lakes	s	Nice houses
66	Online	Wolcottville	o	Used to be a wonderful community with a school, hardware, grocery. Already has an amazing auto repair/tire facility, and a great discount grocery. Needs to re-expand the business base.
67	Online	Town of LaGrange	o	Repressive and negative attitudes and decline of the town.
68	Online	Howe	o	Land available to purchase that can be used for affordable middle-income housing
69	Online	Wolcottville	o	The downtown is struggling
70	Online	LaGrange	o	It needs to bring in more stores and fix up the roads
71	Online	Mongo/Ontario	s	The Pigeon and Fawn Rivers are wonderful recreational resources, expecially with the presence of the 13,500 acre Fish and Game area. Canoe/kayak liveries and associated businesses need to work cooperatively to promote this wonderful natural resource.
72	Online	Intersection of 9 and 20	o	It's ugly and uninviting

ACTIVITY B: STRONG AND OPPORTUNITY PLACES

ID	Source	Place	S / O	Comments
73	Online	600 West between US 20 and Emma	o	Why has this never been widened and given buggy lanes? It is the most heavily traveled county road. The safety of staff, students, and Amish families would be greatly improved if this road section was wider and in better condition.
74	Online	The Town of Shippshewana	s	Because they allow businesses to thrive in the town. It is continually growing and being taken care of
75	Online	LaGrange County Public Library	s	Place for continued learning and many opportunities to get information that can help improve local lives and brains
76	Online	delt church park	s	love the parks
77	Online	Shippshewana..	s	Good jobs, good place to live. Strong community minded and very giving. And everyone is welcome. Good Christian base
78	Online	LaGrange	o	Since Shippshewana is both a dry town and closes up so early, LaGrange could be marketed to tourists as a town with beer & wine and restaurants that are open until decent hours and on weekends. With the gazebo at the courthouse there is opportunity for a
79	Online	Shippshewana	s	Lots of opportunity for small businesses, as well as large. Seems to be a destination point for many in the midwest.
80	Online	Downtown lagrange	o	Some businesses have come in, but more development and renovation is necessary.
81	Online	Huckleberries	s	Great coffee and hospitable service!
82	Online	attwood	s	need to slow people down
83	Online	Shippshewana area	o	Lack of housing for families & retired people.
84	Online	Indian Lake Chain	s	Lots of local people leave here year round. Also bring in summer folks for added income to our surrounding areas in the summer time. Missed business opportunities.
85	Online	600 West from US 20 to Emma	o	600 West is a nightmare before and after school with buses, new teen drivers, Amish walking and riding bikes, farm equipment etc. The road needs to be widened significantly with a buggy lane or else someone is going to get killed.
86	Online	LaGrange	o	Better sidewalks. Biking trails. More help with getting businesses into downtown.
87	Online	Western Lagrange County	o	They need some type of economic growth and housing development. Land is cheap. It would help the school to have student growth. This part of the county needs some type of area to take pride in as a community.
88	Online	Topeka	o	Great little town with a strong sense of community
89	Online	LaGrange County Public Library	s	Well appointed, up to date facility.
90	Online	Westview Schools	s	The academics and athletics are top-notch. Westview holds the bar very high and has high standards for its students and staff.
91	Online	pine knob	s	awesome place to walk
92	Online	LakeLand Jr/Sr High School	o	Needs more individual-centered education and needs to be less cliquy.

ACTIVITY B: STRONG AND OPPORTUNITY PLACES

ID	Source	Place	S / O	Comments
93	Online	Wolcottville	s	Empty buildings...Poverty area
94	Online	Topeka Branch Library	s	Again, nice, modern facility. With a well developed collection and a nice community room, this is a asset.
95	Online	Kayaking	s	I enjoy Kayaking with family.
96	Online	Town of LaGrange	o	Has opportunity to make its citizens' lives better if more than Conservatives could run it amicably together. Needs to get over its divisiveness both in Politics and Businesses. Businesses need to follow better Health & Infection Control practices!
97	Online	Scott	o	Has opportunity to alleviate housing shortage while being close to everything, but still out of the way. Could stand to be built up more.
98	Online	Topeka	o	We need more restaurants there, we have lots of factories but not a lot more. A day care would be an awesome thing to start there for not only factory workers but residents.
99	Online	Fish/Royer Lakes	o	My Home
100	Online	Lagrange	o	This place is about 10-15 years behind and has lots of upside...transportation, commerce areas, location, etc. These can be used to promote and build this area in the future
101	Online	Trading Post	s	Amazing Place in our county. Brings in a lot of outside people and great for locals as well
102	Online	Downtown LaGrange	o	Looks awful...not appealing or attractive at all! Businesses and storefronts look run down.
103	Online	Delt Church Park	s	Love the trails, the playground, the wide open spaces and the picnic areas.
104	Online	Town of Wolcottville	o	Decline of the town & lack of businesses
105	Online	Shipshewana	o	Tourist industry needs some good long term planning to keep developing from happening in a "helter-skelter" fashion, causing zoning and traffic woes.
106	Online	Mongo	o	Mongo has a lot of tourism and it's attractive for weekend visitors. We need to look at little towns like this. Mongo also needs a stoplight or a 4 way stop at 300 N and SR 3. Mongo also needs a public parking lot in town. Traffic flow is dangerous
107	Online	Shipshewana	s	Tourism, pride in community
108	Online	Howe Park-center	o	Has a great look and could offer a nice walking area for shops and community events
109	Online	LaGrange	o	I believe we need more restaurants. More choices. A rare restaurant that brings in people from all around to help support our community.
110	Online	Stroh-Elmira	o	Garman Hardware, Dollar General, Stroh Farm Supply all good community resources. Stroh/Elmira still needs an expanded business base to serve the east part of the county, which is greatly underserved. Stroh should have a library, auto parts store and a

ACTIVITY B: STRONG AND OPPORTUNITY PLACES

ID	Source	Place	S / O	Comments
111	Online	Pine Knob Park, Duff, Lake Fen	s	beautiful green space, wetland restoration, a real gem
112	Online	In town wolcottville	o	Some of the homes and businesses are so run down or unkempt it's stomach turning to even look at. This could be a beautiful lake village with thriving businesses if the people of the town had to follow some rules like their neighbors on the lakes.
113	Online	Howe	o	I believe Downtown Howe would be a great tourist stop with traffic that flows through 120. I believe the buildings need updated and some shops added for attractions. I would also like to see more vendors and craft events in the center park where they ha
114	Online	Wolcottville and surrounding lake area	o	not enough money being put in to this area, could be very good tourist attraction
115	Online	All of the county	o	Besides adding a few factories, there is minimal growth to towns. Where is the new construction? Everything seems old and run down. Investing in local infrastructure would do wonders for overall growth in each town. Dollar General is the only group that
116	Online	soon to be new restaurant	s	Cant wait for tony and sheri to open a new place
117	Online	Howe	o	There is potential in Howe, both on SR 9 and in downtown. Lots of store fronts, some empty, some not. Great park just needs activities going on
118	Online	topeka	o	Large Amish community, Auctions, restaurants
119	Online	Shipshewana	s	New stores, flea market, always changing and developing
120	Online	Topeka	o	Seems to be in the mix of strong & opportunity. A little further than the tourist trade, but has many things to offer its people. Has more infrastructure in place to grow quickly and provide housing.
121	Online	Wolcottville	o	This place has kind of been run down and I think that it could use some revamping- update playground- clean up buildings that have been not been used in a while (IGA, and some other places on main street)
122	Online	Shishewana	s	People want to work hard and be successful. They take pride in the town and surrounding area.
123	Online	Shipshawana	s	Lots of fun things to do
124	Online	Wolcottville	o	The town has so much potential but is poorly run.
125	Online	The motel	o	This place is a dump and needs to be taken care of. Makes the town look bad
126	Online	Lagrange	o	The culture of the town and the community members need to improve to one of trust of the schools. Drug issues are a problem. Do people here really want to be better and improve the town/schools?
127	Online	LaGrange	s	economic growth and industry
128	Online	maplewood	s	syrup days!!!!
129	Online	Town of LaGrange	o	The town has been stuck in yesterday for 30 years. Anything would be an improvement.

ACTIVITY B: STRONG AND OPPORTUNITY PLACES

ID	Source	Place	S / O	Comments
130	Online	Ashley	s	Lots of business
131	Online	Pine knob	o	Great park
132	Online	Howe	o	sleeper community. No economic or industrial growth

ACTIVITY C: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY?

ID	Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	Something else	Something else?	Why did you select these three outcomes?
1	Howe	A	C	D	E	G				Sorry I picked more than 3. We have a lot of needs and an amazing potential. LaGrange County could blossom into the future.
2	Howe	A	F	G						A - Have more jobs than housing for employees. F - Work ethic and entrepreneurial spirit. G - Need more safe public trails. Making it safer for bike riders.
3	Howe	A	F	I						
4	Howe	A	F	G	I	J				G - Pumpkinvine from Sturgis to Shipshewana
5	Howe	B	C	D	G	H				G - Pumpkinvine trail from Sturgis to Shipshewana
6	Howe	A	C	E	G					G - Provide more recreational opportunities for residents as well as visitors. E - safety is a huge concern - most roads need to be widened to safely accommodate buggy and bicycle traffic. C - the workforce is here - need educational and medical rehab programs to get more employed.
7	Howe	A	E	I						1. Housing for seniors - No condos on the lakes. If people had different options for housing our slum lord would perhaps be more accountable. 2. Efficient roadway to get thru at lakes. Also, safe for buggies, bikes, and people walking on the side of the roads. 3. Leadership program to aid others to volunteer and make each community better as we each have our own issues. Children need a program to aid with their growth and development and aid with hunger.
8	Howe	D	E	F	J	K		Enhanced quality of life	Protect rural life while allowing for growth	A strong growing community needs a skilled workforce (F). And environment that attracts the most motivated people (J, D). Ease of movement is essential to maximize these very energetic individuals. Think young people who want to change the world.
9	Howe	C	D	F	I					I. Leadership development is always needed. C. Workforce development is also needed. D. Vacant buildings - underserved buildings to not employ workforce. F. That is an end product of I. C.
10	Howe	A	D	F	G					

ACTIVITY C: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY?

ID	Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	Something else	Something else?	Why did you select these three outcomes?
11	Howe	A	G	J						A. Rental housing, senior housing are very limited. G. A strength of our county is the beautiful lakes and natural resources. J. A sad lack is excellent mental health and addiction treatment programs. More needs to be invested here
12	Howe	A	C	I						A. Housing is important for those workers we pull from other areas to relocate. C. It's important to grow within when labor is hard to find so programs for training are important. I. Same as above. We need youth to move and stay in Lagrange. There's not much here to get youth to LaGrange Co. More activities. I LOVE LaGrange Co and want others to have the same feelings :) We want youth to go to college and return to LaGrange Co.
13	Howe	A	C	I						a. Housing is a huge concern. We have employees driving over 1 hour to our plant and want to move but cant find housing. C. Skill trades are missing from our schools. CNC, maintenance, programming, design. We need to teach our kids that productions isn't a dirty job and the wages are high. I. Leadership training is very important
14	Wolcottville	A	B	D						Lake residents want a town to be proud of! Downtown would be a place to start!!! Housing needs help! Many people are low-income families and they need more options. Drugs are coming into the area more and more. We need to help them get clean!
15	Wolcottville	C	D	G						While I believe strongly that each of the above items are important - especially housing and an addiction free community - I selected the 3 areas marked because I believe they contribute to attracting people to relocate into our community (D and G) and because if we do a good job of equipping our citizens (C) it will lead to a reduction in addiction (B) and connects with F and I as well.

ACTIVITY C: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY?

ID	Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	Something else	Something else?	Why did you select these three outcomes?
16	Wolcottville	A	C	F						A. It has been 20 years since new neighborhoods have been developed. C. We need the trades! Not everyone can afford or wants to go to college. My generation has retired, and there is a big age gap of electricians, plumbers and carpenters. F. If you throw too many "roadblocks" to businesses they (we) will establish themselves elsewhere that is more business friendly.
17	Wolcottville	B	C	D						B. Wolcottville has a negative reputation for the addiction problem. It is known for meth downtown. D. The downtown needs some attention. We want to be proud of our town and want businesses to come to Wolcottville but that is not the case. C. Budding skills for our community members will hopefully give them hope to improve their life and help them improve their life.
18	Wolcottville	B	D	J				Streamline permit process for building business and homes		B. We have a major drug issue in LaGrange County. D. Wolcottville is a dead city. Long ago the city was vibrant, alive and well used. J. The permit (zoning, plan and building) process is so riddled with regulation and very expensive requirements. A real nightmare. I am a developer.
19	Wolcottville	C	F	I	J			Improved skill levels of planners/ building officials		Support plan for the future of Wolcottville. Continued for cement of drug laws. Lake drives (Subdivisions) need safe roadways improved for two lane travel. Security lighting for safety of residents. Storm drainage plan and enforcement. Planning must include provisions to allow "narrow lot" construction of housing. Too many restrictions (setbacks) are not meant for lake style narrow lots (more like zero lot line style). Promote rebuilding / retrofitting to eliminate it. Building requirements must focus on safety / security of the public - not to restrict public development. [name and contact info redacted]

ACTIVITY C: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY?

ID	Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	Something else	Something else?	Why did you select these three outcomes?
20	Wolcottville	E	G	J				C and merge Lakeland and Prairie Heights districts to achieve scale and build a new high school serving all needs		I selected outcomes (2 of 3 anyway) that will be supported by the Amish community, which will achieve majority status in the county soon and super-majority in 20 years. It is not obvious that they will continue to defer local governance to the non-Amish forever. Investing in workforce skills development for the young people of the county is the only hope for a future. Sooner or later, the RV industry will be forced to automate and rely far less on cheap local labor.
21	Wolcottville	F	H	I						I think in order to transform and have a lasting impact you have to be unified, develop good leaders and have a strong entrepreneurial spirit. These core principles will build a foundation for change and innovation to attract new people. Through being unified, having good leaders, and being open to starting new things it will inspire outcomes such as a revitalized downtown, trails, and leading others to find purpose!
22	Wolcottville	B	D	H						Every town needs to be treated the same! Get the prosecutor to do his job!
23	Wolcottville	C	F							C and F too reliant on the trailer / RV industry.
24	Wolcottville	B	D	F						We're in between 2 counties that don't care about us. A fact!!
25	Wolcottville	B	D	H						
26	Wolcottville	A	B	D						A. A variety of housing - People are driving to work in LaGrange County, but live elsewhere. B. Huge problem - but more programs / or more support for programs like Drug Court and JDA1 would help. Both programs have seen success but need funding. D. Revitalizing LaGrange and Wolcottville would create an inviting place that people would like to visit and live.

ACTIVITY C: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY?

ID	Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	Something else	Something else?	Why did you select these three outcomes?
27	Topeka	E	J	K				Dog kennels and overdevelopment	Education. Isolated learning communities create a "tribal" feel.	
28	Topeka	C	D	F	H					1. If I call a department in the county - if it is wrong then give me other options/contacts. A resource center. 2. When youth programs are not available - less families want to move here. This has impact on every aspect (workforce, schools, housing). 3. Unity community for development of new business. Support each other instead of competing.
29	Topeka	A	B	F						Keeping housing options available and growing is important to grow the community and keep generations here in the community. Communities that see high drug activity typically continue to get worse and are very difficult to turn it around. Entrepreneurs are the heart and soul of our economic community. Small businesses are crucial for job opportunities and supporting that is very important.
30	Topeka	A	E	H						Housing: so people want to come to LaGrange County to work and spend money (revenue). Roads: we need better quality asphalt on our roads (less maintenance). United: communicated with the working class people, find out what is needed to keep their businesses going (less government)

ACTIVITY C: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY?

ID	Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	Something else	Something else?	Why did you select these three outcomes?
31	Topeka	A	D	E						A. Where are the subdivisions, starter homes, affordable housing, housing subdivisions with mix, elderly, young families with sidewalks and pop up parks. E. Imagine a place where the county roads have bike/walk trails along every back road. People are able to travel safely and connect with other towns. This connectivity would bridge our divisions and create a rich community - dollars (spending) should stay local. D. Revitalization will be forced to evolve if trails were coming into town. All 3 of these things go together.
32	Shipshewana	A	D	G						G. Bike trails gets bikes off our roads make safe place. A - need to have more houses for people to live need more people in workplace.
33	Shipshewana	B	E	F						B. Concern for our youth and future generations. E. Roads in LaGrange County leave a lot to be desired. Lots of potholes and washboards. Consider adding bike and buggy lanes. F. Our small businesses are one of the strengths of our county.
34	Shipshewana	B	F	I						
35	Shipshewana	D	F	H						D. Specifically Shipshewana downtown needs to be vibrant it wants to continue to be a destination. H. Important on all fronts to attract new industry and tourism. F. It is the future of this county.
36	Shipshewana	A	C	I						A - Housing needs to be available so that workers will be interested in living here which helps to develop interest in community. E. Some roads are care and buggy friendly but not all. C. Young people leave for skilled work

ACTIVITY C: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY?

ID	Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	Something else	Something else?	Why did you select these three outcomes?
37	Shipshewana	B	F	I						A drug free community will save a lot of costs to the community. A strong and supported entrepreneurial environment will enhance everyone's life with better jobs and more tax revenue. A leadership development program will ensure better leaders tomorrow.
38	Shipshewana	A	D	F						A - population growth is very important. Hard to grow population without anywhere to live. D - people are drawn to interesting downtowns. F - keep doing more of what is working.
39	Shipshewana	A	B	E						
40	Shipshewana	B	F	I						B. A drug free community will effect everybody for better. F. If we encourage young entrepreneurs to expand their limits, our county's economy will be stabilized. Along with looking into history, who founded and built our county? (Entrepreneurs?!) I. Leadership development would focus on non-entrepreneurs to get them to think outside the box and give them accountability and responsibility.
41	Shipshewana	D	D	E	F					If we get everything else right we won't need C. a workforce and skill training program as we will attract/retain self-motivated and positive people who will take initiative and learn thru existing job opportunities.
42	Shipshewana	E	G	H						G - Need more recreational activities that are safe and family-friendly; leads to economic development. E - our roads are not safe - no shoulders, rough pavement, not-lined (passing on hills, etc.), "poop" dodging. H - we need to promote good economic development all over the county - use assets in each area for their betterment.
43	Shipshewana	E	G	H						G. We need safe transportation / recreational opportunities. E. Roads are in poor condition and populated with many semi-trucks. H. More cooperation between communities.

ACTIVITY C: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY?

ID	Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	Something else	Something else?	Why did you select these three outcomes?
44	Shipshewana	B	E	G						G. Biking is a wonderful family activity. Gives kids things to do instead of electronics, Facebook, etc. B. Drugs are way too readily available. We need to free the county of drugs. Build more youth centers! E. Roads in Shipshe area are bad with chuckholes. Not safe to bike after dark
45	Shipshewana	E	H	I	J			Dog kennels in Lagrange County		
46	Lakeland HS Student	F	G	J				Activities to do with others		A lot of people in LaGrange are active so trails would be a great addition. The support for entrepreneurs would increase the want to be in Lagrange and increase the starts of businesses. Then adding more activities to Lagrange would draw more people to the town and draw more to stay.
47	Lakeland HS Student	A	B	J				Restaurants		We need more housing if we want our population to continue to increase. LaGrange County has struggled with meth addiction for far too long. Everyone eats and having more restaurants would draw people in.
48	Lakeland HS Student	A	E	F						I would say most of the roads here are really tore up and a lot of the problem is horses. For housing I feel like there isn't enough because some people like this area but can't find a house here. For a strong entrepreneurial environment if more people would pitch in with ideas or things that would support each other I feel LaGrange would thrive.
49	Lakeland HS Student	A	D	I						I feel in this town we need to get it more vibrant in order to bring more people, but with that more housing. Also a leadership program would also be good for the young minds in the community.

ACTIVITY C: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY?

ID	Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	Something else	Something else?	Why did you select these three outcomes?
50	Lakeland HS Student	B	D	F						I chose D because having a vibrant downtown makes outsiders feel welcome and not scared to set out of their car. I chose B because if we had a drug free community, you might be able to trust more people. And we would have a well knit community, making everyone feel safer. I chose F because I think in order to grow a small community we have to be able to support young leaders of business.
51	Lakeland HS Student	A	E	F						I selected letter A because my dad tried looking for a house in LaGrange but the houses were too close to other houses or the houses were too old. For letter E, the backroads have a lot of potholes or it's uneven. Letter F, there needs to be more hangout spots, for example a bowling alley or a movie theater because at night everything is closed and I have to go to bigger cities to do something.
52	Lakeland HS Student	A	C	D						having a revitalized and vibrant town will draw more people to it, and have the community more interested. Having a program for workforce and skill development will be appreciated by those in the community that need guidance in the direction they want to go in in the future. Having a variety of housing types and options will expand buyers because they have different options.
53	Shipshewana	B	E	G						G. We need a safe area for biking and running instead of always being on the road. B. Drug addiction will always raise crime and violence. E. Bad roads play a factor in accidents.
54	Stroh / Mongo	B	C	F						(B.) A drug free population that is (C.) educated and encouraged to (F.) invest in the community will benefit economic activity, leadership, and so many other benefits.

ACTIVITY C: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY?

ID	Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	Something else	Something else?	Why did you select these three outcomes?
55	Stroh / Mongo	A	G	E						A. Mongo needs rentals and homes fixed up to sale. With state ground mongo is very limited. E. our roads flood and are dangerous for cars as well as loading + unloading students from bus. G. We have beautiful state ground that could be used for biking + hiking. It's there just not used because of state
56	Stroh / Mongo	G	B	E						Safety, health + quality of life is affected by all 3 of my choices
57	Stroh / Mongo	A								
58	Stroh / Mongo	A	D	G						Inadequate housing availability in the county. Love pumpkine & hopeul for LaGrange trails. Most of the towns need revitalized
59	Stroh / Mongo	B	E	C						Drug problems create crime. Also people who use drug usually don't hold jobs and often don't take care of property or children. I think we should have training for jobs such as plumbing + electrical. There is a shortage of properly trained people in these fields.
60	Stroh / Mongo	A	G	E						A. We need affordable housing throughout the county. E. Roads are narrow and people are driving faster and faster on the county roads. G. I enjoy hiking and feel we have several places within the county that could be made into trails
61	Stroh / Mongo	A	G	I						

ACTIVITY C: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY?

ID	Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	Something else	Something else?	Why did you select these three outcomes?
62	Stroh / Mongo	A	E	C	F					A. It seems we are having problems with a shortage in labor. Maybe this would help bring people to the community and fill jobs. E. As a local trucking company we are dealing with local furniture builders spread all over the community on rural roads and are always dealing with trees hanging down and hitting our roofs of the trailers as well as bumpy intersections and grooves in the pavement from horses traveling on them. Also, plenty of potholes. F. We seem to have a lot of talent in our community, let's continue to support that! C. It would be nice to make a push for having our youth pursue trade schools!
								Cellular services		Improvements in the community internet/cellular will attract businesses; enable neighbors to work from home. Children to attend school despite pandemics, illness, weather, etc.
63	Stroh / Mongo	D	G	J	B	K				D. Would like to see better shopping encourage small business + clean up downtown. E. Bike path connected to Kendallville trail w/access to restaurants along trail.
64	Stroh / Mongo	D	G	E	B					
65	Stroh / Mongo	A	D	B						A. If we don't have housing options we cant retain folks or attract more. B. Drug free speaks for itself. If we aren't healthy, we can't grow. D. The downtown is our showcase + attractor to all who travel througj. It's our first impression
								High speed internet		A. We can't attract people if there are no good housing options. F. We need to support entrepreneurs, so our community + attraction to it can grow. J. We need a better high-speed internet infrastructure to attract businesses + residents
66	Stroh / Mongo	A	J	F						
67	Stroh / Mongo	G								

ACTIVITY C: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY?

ID	Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	Something else	Something else?	Why did you select these three outcomes?
68	Stroh / Mongo	D	J	E	F			We need to keep Ag strong. Very important for our county		I think local business is important to support, more businesses also draws in locals + tourists to spend \$. Safe, efficient + well maintained roads are necessary w/ bikes, buggies, cars, trucks! Encourage/allow residents to utilize their talents + skills- be it in home business or professional settings.
69	Stroh / Mongo	D	G	H						D. "Shop local" could really help downtown businesses. Strong local businesses = strong communities. G: The more time spent outdoors means less video games, obesity, depression, etc... H. A cohesive approach county wide would yield better results.
70	Stroh / Mongo	A	J					Commons sense zoning + regulations.		A. there is a shortage of housing available. J. Some of the regulations are too restrictive
71	Stroh / Mongo	A	E	C						A. Wide need in Co. for this. C. We need more people who earn their living working with their hands (plumbers, welders, electricians, etc) College is not for everyone. Older workforce may desire more training. E. Good infrastructure is important to everyone!
72	Stroh / Mongo	A	E							Our roads suck! Housing is difficult to develop in this county. LaGrange town is very difficult to deal with. LaGrange manager and board are very conservative and do not want to help developers.
73	Stroh / Mongo	E	C							C. Need to help develop more skills for younger members of the workforce... College is not the answer for everyone. E. Competitive commerce requires good access to roads and all forms of transportation.
74	Stroh / Mongo	A	D	G	B					

ACTIVITY C: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY?

ID	Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	Something else	Something else?	Why did you select these three outcomes?
75	Stroh / Mongo	A	D	G	H	F	B			Being in the hospitality industry it's important to have businesses that stay open longer than 5pm. This has been a real issue with tourists. I understand the Amish will never have business open on Sunday but wish they could stay open longer during the week! Also would like to see LaGrange town people and Shipshewana town people come together mre.
76	Stroh / Mongo	E	C	F						Roads are important for economic activity. Teaching trades. Less regulation for starting business and a tax rate that doesn't deter starting a business.
77	LaGrange	D	B	H						D. LaG is kinda a "dead" town + does not promote growth in business or bigger stores + chain restuarants. H. If LaG co board is focused on progress and business (friendly atmosphere), LaG co has one of the biggest workforces that stay put in the whole state. B. Drugs + progress don't mix
78	LaGrange	A	B	E	C	F				
79	LaGrange	D	B	E						B. Drugs- for safer roads + less accidents. D. Fastfood- Besides McDonald's. E. Think for putting bigger lane- on US 20 by ditch.
80	LaGrange	A	E	I						A. This county needs more housing in the future. E. Better roads needed for our small home based business. I. More united county leadership.
81	LaGrange	B	E	I						
82	LaGrange	D	B	H						D- It's hard to get permission- for growth in successful businesses- Missing Larry Miller
83	LaGrange	B	E	F	I					B. We need to stay on top of it. E. Would be nice to have shoulder lane along St. Rd. 9. F. Small business is what will keep us strong + versatile
84	LaGrange	B	E	I						
85	LaGrange	B	E	F						As Amish we feel humbled + deeply grateful for what the county does to make our roadways safe for buggy travel
86	LaGrange	E	H	I						

ACTIVITY C: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY?

ID	Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	Something else	Something else?	Why did you select these three outcomes?
87	LaGrange	A	D	B						B. A lot of resources are spent on drug related- service, count system, juveniles, recovery, incarceration- resources could be spent on improvements to community. A. Housing has become very expensive. D. Need business, activities, restaurants to support the county residents so they don't have to travel to use, enjoy, shop.
88	LaGrange	E	F	G						
89	LaGrange	F	H	I						H and F. Let's do our best in the county office of Planning and Zoning when clients come in to pick up a permit. Are we customer friendly? Why would we need 3 days to get a permit when every thing was approved at the meetings?
90	LaGrange	A	C	G						Reflects what I am interested in
91	LaGrange	A	I							Housing shortage effects all of LaGrange. We need a new way to recruit younger people to county and town leadership. It is the only way to see real growth and forward movement.
92	LaGrange	B	E	G						B - Drug addiction is a major cause of theft and lack of security. E - roads have become a recreation area in rural areas. Walkers, bukes, runners and 4-wheelers are a true hazard. G - Trails would / could become a major safety issue in remote areas. Crossing private property would be a major issue.
93	LaGrange	A	F	G						A. We need affordable housing to handle new workers coming in to work at expanding businesses. G. Biking trails make the roads safer and bring in people from outside LaGrange County. F. Business owners and people wanting to start a new business need support.
94	LaGrange	D	F	H						As a LaGrange Town Resident I'm always impressed with Shipshe, they seem to work together, have activities, nice streets flowers. Wish that LaGrange Town could model some of what goes on there and is proactive.

ACTIVITY C: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY?

ID	Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	Something else	Something else?	Why did you select these three outcomes?
95	LaGrange	A	D	G						LaGrange needs housing. Our Downtown is looking down. Something our community can use.
96	LaGrange	A	B	E						A. Some people have a problem getting permits to build. B. To make this a safe community. E. With all the Amish with horses and buggies we need safe roads.
97	LaGrange	D	H	J	Community center					D. Makes the town more appealing. H. A consistent branding that doesn't focus on the past, like the Amish. J. Development of a community center with amenities like pools, banquet halls, and youth programs.
98	LaGrange	A	B	E						A. There is a definite need for both affordable and higher-income housing - especially for senior citizens. B. There needs to be more involvement in rehab and Drug Court activity and less in punishing a mainly victimless crime. E. Amish travel is killing our country roads - need to take care of them.
99	LaGrange	D	E	F						F. We have many talented Amish families that would like to pursue entrepreneurial opportunities that are often block by county boards opinions. E. Sharing the roads with Ag vehicles, Amish buggies, tourists, semis/delivery vehicles! Also road maintenance. A. I do as much business with local stores in Lagrange that I can - would like to do more!
100	LaGrange	A	D	E	G	H				Oops - selected too many. A. There is great need for affordable housing. D. It is always nice to drive through a town where all the buildings are occupied. E. Our roads are in need of repair - better roads will make it safer for travelers - buggly lanes on major roads would be GREAT! G. Trails bring in tourists. H. It would be nice to promote places in the county other than Shipshewana.

ACTIVITY C: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY?

ID	Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	Something else	Something else?	Why did you select these three outcomes?
101	LaGrange	C	D	E	F					E. We do not have the appropriate infrastrucutre in place to support the development on the West side of the county. C. Too much concentration in the RV manufacturing need to diversify. F. Incubators established to support entrepreneurial individuals. D. All goes back to housing.
102	LaGrange	D	E	G						
103	LaGrange	D	F	G						D. Look at Kendalville / Shipshewana. G. Bui;d community. F. Supports our families.
104	LaGrange	B	C	F	G	H	I			
105	LaGrange	A	D	F						Invest in the "now"
106	Online	A	C	G						Housing is so important to keep people in our communities. Jobs & training are also important to our communities. Activities keep people wanting to come.
107	Online	A	B	C						
108	Online	A	B	D						our community will not grow if there is not good, safe housing. It also will not grow if our county is known for drug use. It also needs to be appealing. We need to bring businesses into the community to grow. We struggle to have teachers that live in our community of LaGrange because there is no housing. We need to start developing additions that are not trailer parks, but reasonably priced homes, like the ones out on the corner of Hawpatch and Townline. We need to stop selling every single inch of land to the Amish, where they are going to using up 10 plus acres to build a hog barn or duck barn.
109	Online	A	C	E						With the Amish & non Amish blending, I feel safer roads, housing, and workforce skills are the best fit for us moving forward
110	Online	D	E	G						THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES NEED BUSINESSES AND ATTRACTIONS TO BE AVAILABLE AND WELCOMING IN ORDER TO SUSTAIN THE COMFORTABLE, SMALL TOWN ATMOSPHERES.
111	Online	B	E	G						

ACTIVITY C: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY?

ID	Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	Something else	Something else?	Why did you select these three outcomes?
112	Online	B	C	I						<p>These three provide a safe and productive environment to raise my family.</p> <p>As I travel around I see areas where housing is being built and it is being connected to other places by biking and walking trails. In our county roads would be safer if we could get the bikes off the road.</p> <p>Get businesses downtown. Most people wanted to keep the library downtown, now provide some other opportunities for the visiting downtown area.</p> <p>Tell Zynda to clean up his property. The fence has been there too long!! Make the lot appealing. He owns it ... He makes it a useful area. Shovel ready.</p>
113	Online	A	C	D						<p>We need more housing options for people who would like to move into our community. It is very hard to find rental houses or houses to buy.</p>
114	Online	A	B	D						<p>I feel the drug crowd brings a bad taste to our area. It makes living in Lagrange dangerous at times with the rampant drug use. It is one of the reasons I would potentially move away.</p> <p>I want my children to have options other than college after school if they so desire. College and student debt can be a detrimental way to start your life as an adult.</p> <p>The roads are dangerous with all the Amish on the main roads. More than once I have had a horse jolt right out in front of me while driving down 20.</p>
115	Online	B	C	E						

ACTIVITY C: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY?

ID	Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	Something else	Something else?	Why did you select these three outcomes?
116	Online	A	B	D						Those three mirrored my previous thoughts. If I could have picked a 4th it would be the safer roads option. Getting new houses, getting rid of drugs, and revitalizing the towns are the most important things. Revitalizing does not just include paint. Build something new. Tear down the old. Modernize the towns. Build businesses that will draw people to them. Have houses and jobs that attract higher wage earners.
117	Online	A	E							No one wants to live in LaGrange county because of the lack of economic growth. More than half the staff at Parkview LaGrange reside outside of the county. Make living in this county attractive. Affordable housing, safe roads to travel on.
118	Online	A	B	E						Housing is a tremendous issue right now. It is difficult for the average person to build or buy a house in LaGrange county. Also, LaGrange county has an extremely high rate of drug abuse. Finally, there are many types of transportation using the county roads, and it's important for the infrastructure of this transportation system to be maintained and kept safe.

ACTIVITY C: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY?

ID	Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	Something else	Something else?	Why did you select these three outcomes?
119	Online	B	E							<p>Because there are a lot of county roads that need fixed and what I mean by fix is actually done right not just throw chewed up tar and gravel in the holes and walk away I've seen it for several years now and I'm tired of paying taxes to lazy asses that want to say no it's the highways problem no it's the county roads problem , I don't give a shit who's problem it is I pay taxes to this damn county and state and nothing gets done and as far as the drug free addiction around here nothing gets done about that , cops galore fly by , ambulances Fly by every week and it's usually the same places so that tells me nothing gets done in the system whatsoever just catch and release , just a big money flow for the courts and lawyers pockets and us taxpayers usually get stuck with bills , if you're not going to clean up the mess then get out of the way and let somebody who will and can .</p> <p>And in my opinion I do believe the cops need to be cleaned out as well we might have some good ones but I sure in the hell no there's some bad ones.</p>
120	Online	A	D	E						<p>Because without them, LaGrange county continues it's downward spiral! It's time to act now!</p>
121	Online	A	D							<p>It's very hard to find housing in LaGrange. And downtown LaGrange is nearly a ghost town.</p>

ACTIVITY C: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY?

ID	Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	Something else	Something else?	Why did you select these three outcomes?
122	Online	B	D	G						<p>I think that we can continue to help to drug addicted community with community resources- The Alano Club in Angola has made an impact on so many lives- I think we should reach out to them to see if they are interested in expanding and or helping lagrange to create one themselves. I feel that we also need to figure out what those who want help need to help them.</p> <p>option D- think that we need to help revitalize the downtown of Wolcottville, and maybe some of Howe and Lagrange but also the small communities within each subgroup of Howe, LaGrange, and Wolcottville. It would be nice if we had riding trails that were easily accessible and in the open. I would enjoy bringing a bike to work and riding on my lunch.</p>
123	Online	A	D	H						<p>We need housing (houses, apartments, condos but affordable to everyone), we need a brand and someone smart enough and equipped and capable of marketing the entire county, not just one area, and market it in a way that is relevant to 2021 and beyond. With revitalized downtowns (in several, if not all towns) the brand and marketing will be better/easier and will be more attractive to tourism, graduated students to return home and entrepreneurs.</p> <p>Addiction is a constant concern</p>
124	Online	B	D	G						<p>A vibrant downtown will bring a lot of benefit to the community. A positive place for people of all walks to come together</p> <p>Biking and hiking trails are a perfect way to keep our community active and healthy. Surrounding counties are working together to connect their trails, why shouldn't LaGrange jump on board?</p>
125	Online	B	C	D						
126	Online	A	B	C						

ACTIVITY C: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY?

ID	Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	Something else	Something else?	Why did you select these three outcomes?
127	Online	E	G	J				Protection of the water quality of our lakes from farm runoff.		Critical to the health and safety of LaGrange County residents.
128	Online	D	E	G						biking trails because of our Amish community and keeping them safe on their bikes or walking on the roads. Hiking trails to improve the health of our community. Need better roads and road upkeep, especially in the winter. The buggies need to catch the horse manure so it is not all over the road. A nice downtown might attract people to our area and bring more business into our community.
129	Online	B	D	E						The foundation for a strong community.
130	Online	A	D	F						Housing shortage and exploding land values are a real problem for county residents trying to find affordable living arrangements. LaGrange County desperately needs to develop job opportunities separate from the RV and boat industries to provide good income potential for county residents. This will help stem the "brain drain" that we experience as a community.
131	Online	C	D	G						Best chance for successful outcomes
132	Online	B	E							Most important for all in the community

ACTIVITY C: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY?

ID	Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	Something else	Something else?	Why did you select these three outcomes?
133	Online	E	G	H						E - poor roads are unsafe for drivers and pedestrians. In winter it can be difficult to get places with snow pack, unplowed roads, and icy intersections. G - connecting to nature through trails makes people healthier and happier. More trails will provide more of this. Also, it will bring in non-Lagrange county residents visiting our trails and spending money in our county. H - our county has equally bright and dark areas. Our three school systems feel divided as do our towns; left to rise or fall on their own. The rivalries between schools further divides our community. Each school running their own youth sports leagues does not help. Places like West End soccer bring the whole community together. More of a 'working together to uplift us all' mentality and less of an 'us vs. them' one is needed.
134	Online	A	B	C						
135	Online	B	D	G						we like to get out and enjoy the outdoors so a biking/hiking trail would another source for us. Drug free environment should explain itself. Downtown LaGrange with a variety of restaurants or shops would be another place people can meet and enjoy what the area has to offer.
136	Online	A	D	G						
137	Online	C	F					Not just a plan, brand or revitalization but a combination of all the above		The town is losing its citizens. Not enough jobs for students, entertainment for families, conveniences of modern living. Somewhere to buy new clothes other than dollar store. It's minimal living features. When I was growing up in this area we had a theater, bowling alley, 2 laundry mats with hot water, 3-hotels, multiple car dealers, book stores, restaurants and more. The list goes on...

ACTIVITY C: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY?

ID	Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	Something else	Something else?	Why did you select these three outcomes?
138	Online	E	G	J				A peaceful quite place that is safe		Because this is what I have enjoyed for 69years of being at and now living on Adam's Lake
139	Online	B	C	D						All three with give the most contribution to the improvement of our county.
140	Online	B	D	H						I believe that these are all important aspects of a quality living place
141	Online	A	G	J				Focus on prevention with drug/alcohol/tobacco use with youth and focus on mental health (teaching coping) with youth		According to Parkview community assessment, obesity is a huge problem- I travel to other counties to ride my bike. Also, according to parkview, mental health is a concern. Not only do we need more resources, but we need to be talking to kids and teaching coping skills at a young age.
142	Online	C	E	G						Because they're needed.
143	Online	D	G	J				Environmentally conscious		LaGrange County should embrace what makes it special and different - the outdoor opportunities and the "mom and pop" local businesses. A vibrant downtown full of small local businesses will further set us apart as a community that embraces small town living and small businesses. A network of trails could connect people to these small business hotspots and continue to build a healthy, green, outdoor community. We need to fully embrace alternative energies, the businesses that manufacture them as well as healthy lands and waters. We want people to visit this county and say "Oh you are so lucky to live here" instead of "It looks like everywhere else, but with horse crap on the road."

ACTIVITY C: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY?

ID	Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	Something else	Something else?	Why did you select these three outcomes?
144	Online	B	C	J				I think the empty lot should be turned into an outside sitting area. Especially since we have so many restaurants in town.		Job skills is important to curb the use of drugs. Addiction at times comes from boredom.
145	Online	C	D	G						Jobs are always viral, but so is appearances. As someone who likes biking and trails, I think we could be more recreational across the entire county. Really, housing would be my 3 choices if I could pick it for each. We are missing out on bringing in young families to our communities because of our limited housing market. These young families would bolster our public schools which would then strengthen our community and workforce.
146	Online	A	C	E						
147	Online	B	D	E						
148	Online	J						Hard surface 300S west of St. Rd. 5		Tremendous amount of semi traffic.
149	Online	B	C	F						

ACTIVITY C: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY?

ID	Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	Something else	Something else?	Why did you select these three outcomes?
150	Online	J						We need all of these things and more, but we need to start with an eye on the future of the planet. Global warming or no, we must do more to change how we manage our resources and find new ways to reduce energy use.		We need to begin with a commitment to our priorities for the future. If we begin by agreeing that we are going to save some trees and wild spaces and farm responsibly, maintain healthy lakes and clean safe drinking water, continue to grow our recycling and mulching programs, eliminate or be creative with (plastic) waste and teach our young people to care for the planet, educate and encourage people to both raise and eat locally produced foods and find ways to limit energy use and develop new sources of energy, then we can form a plan to move forward. Of course we need an attractive, revitalized downtown where even more trees, plants, flowers and green spaces encourage people to come and visit local shops. Parks and recreation with bike trails and hiking will bring people to visit who may decide to stay because of how beautiful it is here. We have great programs going already, but more people could learn to raise their own gardens or prepare healthy meals with items purchased from local farmers. Of course we need safe efficient roads and decent housing, good jobs and new attitudes towards people with ideas for businesses or problems with addictions. We just should not start until everything we do lines up under the umbrella of being responsible citizens of the only planet we have.
151	Online	A	C	J				Support for early learning		Family, work and starting young children out right sets a course for success.
152	Online	A	B	D						I think they will make the most difference and the quickest difference.
153	Online	B	E	G						
154	Online	A	D	F						
155	Online	B	E	G						
156	Online	A	C	F						We need better housing, rental option. Working conditions and job skills.

ACTIVITY C: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY?

ID	Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	Something else	Something else?	Why did you select these three outcomes?
										<p>Without "Buggy Lanes" on more roads, especially main roads between towns, you put more citizens at risk, both in trying to commute and to deliver goods. Buggy lanes would also offer more opportunities to bike and walk more safely.</p> <p>Without a vast majority of homes to choose from within the county, the housing shortage will continue & work shortages will continue. You can't draw anyone here without somewhere for them to stay. Homes also need to be more affordable. \$100,000-\$200,000 regular homes are ridiculous when they're no different than a decent sized home from the past.</p> <p>We need to be trained in WAY more than factory work around here. And it's pretty damned sad that's about the best paying people can find here. We shouldn't have to ruin our bodies to afford to live here.</p> <p>An affordable cost of living also Needs to be considered and maintained.</p>
157	Online	A	C	E						<p>Agriculture is the root of the county and we need to treat it as a valuable resource not ground to be developed</p>
158	Online	F	J					Sustainable balance of agriculture		<p>There are far too many drug problems. Retirees like myself need alternative housing (its not that I can't afford it, it doesn't exist.) I try to shop locally. I'd like to see more options.</p>
159	Online	A	B	D						<p>All good ideas. I don't bike, but bike trails would be nice. Our roads are too narrow (no berms). Start leadership programs in the schools. Give the kids a reason to stay here. There has to be more than RV work Skilled training programs (apprenticeships for plumbing, electrical, mechanics, etc.)</p>
160	Online	A	C	I						

ACTIVITY C: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY?

ID	Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	Something else	Something else?	Why did you select these three outcomes?
161	Online	A	F	G						<p>Healthy people tend to be happier and more intentional, nice safe parks and trails encourage exercise and time spent outside.</p> <p>Drugs destroy too many lives and communities.</p> <p>A vibrant community must support its entrepreneurs.</p>
162	Online	A	D	F						<p>The county makes housing development too complicated.</p> <p>More entertainment options, remember single adults live here too, not everything has to be family friendly.</p> <p>Make starting businesses easy.</p>
163	Online	A	C	D						
164	Online	B	G	H						<p>Free bike trails will improve road safety and add to tourism draw. If we pull together to brand the county it will show people the beauty and activities outside Shipshewana.</p> <p>I believe we already have hardworking talented people to teach and others to learn skills. But if we continue to ignore the drug problem we will not harness those skilled laborers. Our youth will not learn to work as they deepen into addiction.</p>
165	Online	A	C	D						<p>Plenty of jobs in the area but have a labor shortage. Ppl can't even move to the area because there is a housing shortage. So just those two are a lose, lose situation. And then most of our jobs are factory related. There is no where for ppl to be trained except for on the job which isn't easy to do when you already have a labor shortage!..</p>
166	Online	A	B	D						
167	Online	J						redistrict county townships		unfair tax dollars being used by other townships

ACTIVITY C: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY?

ID	Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	Something else	Something else?	Why did you select these three outcomes?
168	Individual	A	B	C	D	E	F			People have jobs but not housing; Giving people daily living skills, i.e., running a house, parenting, financial handling, etc.; Downtown is practically dead. We have a beautiful gazebo area at the courthouse being rarely used. We have to drive to a big town, city to do any shopping. We need another fast food restaurant.; Safe roads are always needed. people are bad about walking/running the wrong direction, not wearing proper visual clothing, need education on safety; Some of this is happening, however I hear that the "red tape" to getting a new business is a little much and time consuming, lighten up a little; Intentional leadership programs for youth, but also for anyone interested to provide info and where to get involved.
169	Individual	A	D	F						Housing is where it is at, need good affordable housing. Housing will fill schools, bring entrepreneurial business; drive through LaGrange, what attracts you?
170	Individual	A	E	J				A land use program simplified		If I only have 1/2 acre or 1 acre which is not the case, I would still like to be able to build a doddy house without getting a variance; Vehicles getting people to industrial parks are kicking up dust to the point that it is dangerous for bikers on the road. At time, the dust doesn't settle enough to get a breath of fresh air. No open windows for people living close to the road. Should we have a better dust control system. If funding is the issue, I think we should come up with a plan. I am willing to compensate.
171	Individual	C	E	I						Review what county needs
172	Individual	E								

ACTIVITY C: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY?

ID	Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	Something else	Something else?	Why did you select these three outcomes?
173	Individual	G	H	I	J	K	L	Bigger and better housing	Help and support the law officers	I think the quality of town employees (Topeka) is very bad! They need to go! Town of Topeka is a great place, our chamber consists of about 3 people, always the same three. Topeka would be dead if it would have no Amish! Nobody cares for the Amish, don't know why. They are a big asset for the town. We need to put together a steering committee to figure out how to come up with money for the budget to work on or fix county roads. They are deteriorating everyday as businesses grow, they need good roads. Help is needed for the schools - pay teachers more, pay law enforcement better, keep our young people here!
174	Individual	A	B	C						We have little to no housing within the county; the drug problem within the county is out of control; besides trailer factories, LaGrange County has little to no industries left
175	Individual	A	D	H						Housing needs to be deflated from Amish overpricing; Downtowns need to be revitalized in many of the small towns with attractions for the community to promote and frequent; right now we are west and east side, east needs to promote themselves; I also believe local schools need to promote self-sufficiency in the younger generations (finances, home ownership, loans, etc.) and entrepreneurship. Every kid will succeed differently in this community.
176	Individual	C	E	I						The roads in the county are terrible and they have a lot of traffic. This makes for unsafe travel that is not efficient; The majority of jobs that pay well are in the Recreational Vehicle sector. The LaGrange community lives and dies at the mercy of the RV market which is somewhat volatile and unpredictable; The leadership in this county is lacking and I feel that our most qualified leadership does not receive a fair opportunity due to an existing

ACTIVITY C: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY?

ID	Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	Something else	Something else?	Why did you select these three outcomes?
177	Individual	D								Need things to do
178	Individual	F	H	I	J			Common sense		Common sense, common sense, common sense, it goes a long way

LaGrange County Together - Listen, Learn, & Launch Open House

Summary Statistics



1	How did you hear about the Listen, Learn, and Launch Open Houses?	Total responses	Percent
	Word of Mouth	78	37%
	The People's Exchange	9	4%
	The Hometown Treasure	0	0%
	Newspaper Article / Ad	21	10%
	Poster / Flyer	25	12%
	Radio / TV	3	1%
	LaGrange County Together Website	4	2%
	Other Website	1	0%
	Facebook / Twitter / Instagram	33	16%
	Email	25	12%
	Organization	12	6%
	Other	0	0%
	Total	211	100%

2 **Why did you choose to attend the Listen, Learn, and Launch Open House?**
See detailed responses in Expository Answers section.

3	Were you comfortable working in today's small group? If not, explain why.	Total responses	Percent
	Yes	128	98%
	No	2	2%
	Total	130	100%

See detailed responses in Expository Answers section.

4	Did you feel your input was heard and recorded accurately? If not, explain why.	Total responses	Percent
	Yes	95	97%
	No	3	3%
	Total	98	100%

See detailed responses in Expository Answers section.

5	Will you continue to participate in the planning process? If not, explain why.	Total responses	Percent
	Yes	122	95%
	No	6	5%
	Total	128	100%

See detailed responses in Expository Answers section.

6	Are there any specific topics you hope this process addresses? If yes, please explain.	Total responses	Percent
	Yes	55	77%
	No	16	23%
Total		71	100%

See detailed responses in Expository Answers section.

7	Gender	Total responses	Percent
	Female	80	47%
	Male	85	50%
	Prefer not to answer	6	4%
Total		171	100%

8	Which racial group do you most closely identify with?	Total responses	Percent
	Asian	0	0%
	Black/ African- American	0	0%
	Native American	1	1%
	White / Caucasian	153	97%
	Two or more races	1	1%
	Other	2	1%
Total		157	100%

9	Are you Hispanic or Latinx?	Total responses	Percent
	Yes	4	3%
	No	151	97%
Total		155	100%

10	What is your age?	Total responses	Percent
	Under 15	1	1%
	15-24	11	6%
	25-34	11	6%
	35-44	35	20%
	45-54	35	20%
	55-64	38	22%
	65 or over	41	24%
Total		172	100%

* percentages represent the population over 15

11	What is your highest level of education?	Total responses	Percent
	Less than a high school diploma	44	26%

	High school diploma	19	11%
	Some college	23	13%
	Associate's degree	13	8%
	Bachelor's Degree	44	26%
	Masters Degree / Ph.D.	28	16%
	Total	171	100%

* percentages represent the population over 25

12	Where do you live?	Total responses	Percent	
	Town of LaGrange	33	19%	
	Shipshewana	22	13%	
	Topeka	11	6%	
	Wolcottville	32	18%	
	Howe	16	9%	
	Stroh	5	3%	
	Mongo	7	4%	
	Outside of LaGrange Co.	5	3%	
	Other	42	24%	
		Total	173	100%

13	If you live in LaGrange County, how long have you lived here?	Total responses	Percent
	0-4 years	7	4%
	5-9 years	12	7%
	10-19 years	26	16%
	20-29 years	26	16%
	30-39 years	24	15%
	40-49 years	22	13%
	50+ years	34	21%
	Live outside the city	13	8%
		Total	164

14	Do you own a business within LaGrange County?	Total responses	Percent
	Yes	66	39%
	No	104	61%
	Total	170	100%

15	Do you own property within LaGrange County?	Total responses	Percent
	Yes	155	90%
	No	17	10%

16	Total	172	100%
	Please tell us about your annual household income:	Total responses	Percent
	Less than \$10,000	0	0%
	\$10,000-\$14,999	2	1%
	\$15,000-\$24,999	0	0%
	\$25,000-\$34,999	6	4%
	\$35,000-\$49,999	9	6%
	\$50,000-\$74,999	25	17%
	\$75,000-\$99,999	32	21%
	\$100,000+	77	51%
	Total	151	100%

17

Additional Comments (Optional):
See responses in Expository Answers section.

LaGrange County Together - Listen, Learn, & Launch Open House
Exit Questionnaires - Expository Answers



2. Why did you choose to attend the Listen, Learn, and Launch Open House?

Id	Comment
1	Too important. We want our company to stay in LaGrange Co.
2	To look for ways to grow our labor work force
3	I care about our county
5	Due to concerns about traffic patterns in the stone lake, mud lake, fish lake communities
6	That is my <profession>
8	I often have complaints and it isn't brought forward when people area asking. Shame on me.
9	To have a voice, express it and to learn what is important to others!
10	Concerned about downtown Howe
11	To hear what is in the pipeline!
12	Concerned about community
13	Conerned about the future of LaGrange county
14	Wanted to contribute to planning the future
15	To voice my concerns/input of what I think could be an improvement.
16	Any time you can help to build
17	It's important for our county officials to hear what the community is saying. How can they make informed decisions + necessary changes unless they know the community concerns
18	Trying to impriove community
19	I'm interested
21	Town representation. LaGrange Co. and Noble need to work together for W'ville.
22	I think its important to be involved in learning about our community and being a part of making a positive difference
23	I live here and pay local taxes and vote here
24	Support, Concern, Relationship
25	I want to help make LaGrange a great place to live & work
26	We are concerned about decisions and plans being made for us that may not be in our best interest, without our input
27	I live + work in this community. I want to be part of the solution
28	To be more aware and informed on the direction of LaGrange ctly.
29	I was part of the planning process early on when we met at the old LCCF offices and would like to see what we started continue to be developed.
30	I want to make LaGrange Co. better for our future (My grandchildren)
31	I live, Work here. -It's important to see + encourage change. There's potential here
32	Curious
33	As a young-ish member of the community that grew up here + moved back, the future of this community is very important to me
34	I am trying to open my own business. Have found it difficult to know where to turn. What I am finding is I have to contact many different offices. To many obstacles.
35	People who have chosen to live here or stay here like the small community environment. Keep it local. Chain stores area available a short distance away.

36	Having concerns about the county
37	I have a big concern for our future in the county for our businesses and also about dog breeders in our county. We need to do things right so we have good breeders in our county. (A big concern) - We don't need bad dog breeders in our county.
39	Want to see our community grow and improve
40	It's important that all residents of the county give their opinion
41	I live in the county + care about its future
42	To continue to promote positive input from community members
43	Curiosity
44	Wanting to know what the community had to say about the county.
45	Community Involvement
46	Concern for the community
47	Feel the <west quarter> of LaGrange city is underrepresented / informed
48	Curious to see what is consists of
49	I was concerned that the people who need to speak up are too busy- and the lazy "give me a hand-out" people will show up.
50	To learn more about co.
51	Concern for the future of our county
52	Let's get involved in communities. Let's work together to have a better community
54	To find ways we can make our community better.
56	Because I think it is a great way to think and prepare for the future
57	A class im taking they came in and spoke to us
58	I have not attended one because I've been really busy lately
59	Class visitor
60	It allows my voice to be heard and really considered. It also helps me see others view or matters
61	It is important for people to be involved
62	I work with the county regularly with site planning
63	To be a part of the community involvement and express my opinion
64	I think it's great that they are asking for input. I would love to see a beautiful downtown
65	Concerned about future direction of county
66	Try to help change the county in a better way
67	I care about the future of this county. I want to see this plan be fair, balanced, treat all people & businesses equally as possible.
68	Concerned about the future of LaGrange County.
69	Quality of life is super important to me + being aware + involved is a way to be in charge of my version of a "quality life"
70	to have a voice in mny community- can not complain if you do not participate
72	I want to contribute + like that my voice matters
73	I want to be a part of growth + change
74	To find out more abuot the growth of LaGrange County
76	I want to be involved in the community and make a difference as well
77	Decide to participate in the community
78	I'm interested in what happens in our county
79	to see what it was about
80	To have a voice
81	I have been attending the mtgs. From the start
82	Because I love the town of Mongo and feel it could be safer and used better.

83	Know whats going on + add own opinion
84	Interested
85	Lag. Co. Needs to move forward
86	I feel like there needs to be a change in the zoning and permitting areas of the building dept.
87	Because some of the people on the board are not big fans of the Amish like (Lynn-Bowen)
88	concerned for growth in business- that things are getting denied-that prosper isntead of figuring way out to help pepole prosper
89	To gain information about the future of our county
90	Freeman Miller invited me, so with the problems I had in 2020 I decided to attend. Permit process, BZA's etc.
91	LaGrange county needs to move ahead
92	out of concern for our community both English and Amish
94	A concern about difficulty obtaining permits.
95	I have concerns about the LaGrange County, they seem to be inconsistant with zoning- they have a list of permitted businesed in A-1 zoning however its getting very hard to get permission, it appears to be me they don't want business
96	This is my community
97	Curious
98	We are interested in the future of our county
99	I love my community & would love to see it rebuild into the center for our county (LaGrange)
100	I feel like people need to show up and express their concerns
101	We are in the process of adding to our existing businesses
102	We need to have a say in our community
103	Express my opinion. Support community
104	Interested in the improvement of our community.
105	We need to participate in our community - I would want to know what is happening and to help plan.
106	Lifetime concerned resident of county
107	I wanted to see what I could help with
108	I was born and raised here, and will raise my kids here, I want to see it succeed
109	I'm concerned about out county
111	To put in my input. Some ideas are not realistic
112	Chance to share my thoughts on the future of LaGrange
113	To show community support
114	Let's improve the system of LaGrange county planning for the future of amish businesses
115	What is this about
	I want to improve my community for ALL, not just a select few.
	Voice heard
	Because I don't think our leaders listen or learn.
	Because Lagrange needs to grow and it needs the voice of people other than Amish
	I did not attend.
	I didn't...sent a survey as a Westview School Corporation employee.
	because I live in LaGrange and want to see it improve/
	did not attend. received an email after the fact.
	I didn't attend the Open House.
	didn't attend
	NA

	N/A
	Someone bugged me to do it
	I did not attend due to concerns about the poor covid19 vaccination rates.
	I was not able to attend because of an illness in my family which resulted in death.
	I tried to attend the session in person held at Prairie Heights High School. When I got to the school, a janitor told me the event had been postponed till the next day. When I got to the school the next day, I was told by a different person that the event was held on schedule, and that I had missed it. PLEASE COORDINATE YOUR PROGRAM!
	This is our home. Need to be involved.
	To see what it was about and contribute
	I thinks it's important to let people express their views and desires
	I'm afraid this county has nothing to offer my grandchildren
	I didn't attend. I was informed about the survey and wanted to share my feedback.
	Lake residents are largely against a development proposal
	This is where my children will grow up and I work for LaGrange County. I am invested in its future.
	I care about the county.
	To give info
	I care about the county
	I would like to see the community improve
	Lagrange needs to broaden our horizons and be better for our future
174	Because we need change, I love this county and want to see it survive
175	Because of my love for current and future generations in LaGrange County - some things have become outdated
176	Want to help in the county
178	Because common sense was not being used. Finally have a chance to voice an opinion
179	No
180	Robbie asked both the plat committee board to attend and brought it up at staff meetings
181	I am a young individual who moved back into the community post college and want to make improvements to a county in which I was raised. I plan on being here and raising my own family so I want to be involved with the process

3. Were you comfortable completing today's activities? If not, explain why.

Id	Comment
1	Wish it was more of a round table. Maybe something like this for companies.
9	yes- but would have preferred an interactive session
11	Open + friendly
17	Yes- very relaxed setting
24	Yes
26	It was ok
28	O.K.- Would have liked to hear from others attending- i.e. Round table discussions.
30	Yes!
35	Not enough places to sit.

1	Yes! I just need to be told about events
10	I think it's great
16	Oh yes.
18	When I can
23	I'm honestly not all that positive about the county's future. I think it will become more rural and filled with cottage industry employing the amish
30	Absolutely!
34	I strongly believe in community. Without community input, only a few are making the decisions for many.
48	Maybe
54	Yes, to make our town better
56	Because I need to start my own business
57	Yes I will if I can
58	Yes if input is needed
65	If asked
70	Please!
79	Yes.
80	We all need to work on making things better
81	When I am able
97	Have too much other things going on
101	Somebody needs to
105	Definitely!!
109	Can't complain if you don't voice your concern
110	I will be meeting someone for an interview next week
113	Civic duty responsibility
	I work 8 hours a day and I have a busy life
	depends on what happens next
	Maybe- I feel like I could bring some relative information from my current position in the community but also what I have learned and experienced while in college.
	Maybe
	sure
	possibly, depends on if citizen concerns are taken seriously
	1, as much as I am welcome and able.
	I'll try
	I would love to see our county's historical value be offered to avoid future problems and mistakes from previous planning. Glad to offer a voice.
	2, I do 2t have the time
	2, I feel it will continue to be political.
	Possibly. I like having the opportunity to share my thoughts online.
	If more surveys for input are posted and we are kept up to date via social media then 1. 2t in person.
	I'll try, as
	maybe
	Maybe
	Depends on what that looks like
174	I would love to be a part of it
178	Where ever I can

181	Yes

6. Are there any specific topics you hope this process addresses? If yes, please explain.

Id	Comment
1	Housing. Labor-lack of and lack of skilled trades
2	activities in this area/growth plans/ skilled trades program
3	More contractors, tradespeople. More senior housing & rentals. Better mental health care (+addictions). Support our beautiful natural resources.
6	See item #1-
8	strong community
9	Helping leadership understand that "change" is not necessarily bad. We must change to grow & we must grow to survive
10	Repair the country roads.
12	Housing. Community Involvement
13	Lakes. Our county has 473 lakes. Parks. Bike Trails
14	Housing, Bike trail, horse & buggy lanes, innovating use of empty stores, encouraging young people to stay + grow in LaGrange County.
15	An improvement in the ability to have and operate a home base business in the acquiring of permit. Extremely difficult to get permit, where homeowner wishes to operate out of a shop @ home with his family + a couple of outside employees
16	There's a lot to better ourselves, LaGrange Co. is a special Co. (The best)
17	housing needs, revitalization of/clean-up of the county seat- LaGrange, IN
19	town clean ups. And drug problem
21	Help from the county officials to clean up the town!
25	The permit process
26	Less regulations, help us be proud of our small towns again
27	Finding skilled professionals. We have a lot of employemny in our county but it is difficult finding staff w/ degrees for skilled positions because they don't "move" to LaGrange county or can't find or afford to move to LaGrange
28	Housing for low income + homelessness
29	Health needs of our community
30	Just as many as possible!
31	Road safety= put shoulders or bike/walk trails all over! Our communitiy is 50% non motorized transportation. Let's keep bikes off the road!
32	Remove current office holders that refuse to listen + work with the public
34	Where our future is going. How will we improve all of our communities and not just one town.
35	Protection of ground water resources. When its gone it cant be replaced. Excessive use of water for development and confinement agriculture. Can it be continued?
36	The county board of zoning
37	(business) and (dog breeding) and (land use)
39	Transportation/recreation/bike trails
40	Zoning. County improvements (roads, trails, etc)

41	increase/continued opportunities for home businesses
43	Road improvement
45	Supporting housing needs. Supporting expansion of small businesses
51	More accountability in local government
54	Creating more activities for teens and young adults
58	I hope LaGrange county does change
59	How the farm industry will be effected in this revitalization
60	Helping the community grow together and not individually
62	Road development; clearer definitinos of "home based"; "woodworkinh" etc. Businesses; Acreage/animal unit afo definitinon change
63	Downtown LaGrange Development
65	Land use. Roadway Maintenance
66	Roads- get fixed
67	I am pro agriculture. But I understand the importance of our lakes, our recreational areas, and our industry.
69	Hope this is the beginning of a larger project or smaller projects to make a bigger impact, lake by lake or town by town?
72	Entrepreneurs/new businesses. High speed internet infrastructure. Housing
76	To get our citizens involved
81	There are many things. I don't want this to be all about one person's pet project. If you get the basic things right, many of the other things will happen.
83	No polluting industry near lakes or runoff
84	Housing, Employment. Etc.
85	"High-end" housing developments. Rural paved roads + rural family farm + businesses
86	the zoning dept., all the wasted tax money, like poor road conditions, the expensive county budgets that don't contribute to the projects that create income
88	add buildings- will get easier to process
89	pass land use variance in an equal and fair manner
90	To be able to go to the building department and getting honest answers and being willing to help out in getting a permit
93	Business
94	Let's hope our leaders listen to the community + think things through B-4 acting. (try to understand + not abuse our authority)
98	Housing (lack of), outside big businesses detrimentally affecting our way of life
99	Moving forwad with positivity for the community
100	Why don't we want business in LaGrange county. Lost tax \$
101	Clear direction on building dept. needs
102	Everything on form
104	Roads- again- they need to be improved
106	Housing
107	A revitalized downtown and community amenities
108	Spaces like lakes, need to make changes now
112	Housing, New Leadership
113	Not really
114	Planning for the <future>
	Nothing specific

	Improving county officials and roads , criminal activity in the whole county not just targeting the same old area , definitely start treating people equally in this county not picking the rich out from the poor and thinking that the rich are better than everybody else because that reflects on a community and we see it in the schools and always have so that reflects on the parents and the community as a whole
	Bringing resources to the community that brings people together
	Housing
	Community trails and bettering our youth
	Watershed protection
	Lake and small farm preservation
	No - Whatever common themes come out of these open houses.
	We have someone wanting to commercialize our area by putting up a storage unit(not needed as we have 4 or 5 of them within 5 miles) plus a winery, with no grape vines, how is that a winery plus a produce stand.
	Downtown Wolcottville cleanup
	Safety, community, education/learning/envolvement
	overall improvement of lagrange county
	Hope that our concerns are listened to
	Some day northern Indiana will be a place of refuge for climate refugees, if we like our quiet way of life with lots of space, we need to protect it now. Don't make the mistake of thinking we need more and bigger business. Keep us special and small and green.
	The county is divided. Most of the money and people with influence live in Shipshewana. People who live in Stroh, Mongo and Wolcottville will have different opinions. Please do something that benefits everyone. Shipshewana isn't everything, there is good all over the county.
	HOUSING
	yes early learning
	Downtown revitalization
	Housing and jobs.
	Protection of agriculture
	All of my concerns are things that I believe need addressed
	cover entire county, just not town areas
174	Housing, Beautiful LaGrange and Wolcottville main streets, increasing commerce
175	Dust control on gravel roads, multiple residents on less than 10 acres, a simplified process for business permits in rural areas.
176	Lets follow the plan of the county; how can we blacktop Co.Rd 400 S from 300 W to 500 W?; how can we blacktop Co.Rd. 500 S from 300 W to 600 W?; 200 N extend to St.Rd. 5 to 850 W
177	Better relationship between the county building department and the public
178	That they will take a good look and see if Robbie is the right person for this job, that the county can get together and continue to grow!
180	FSB and Tri-County Land trustee are slowly but surely running the English out of the County
181	Infrastructure vision for the future, carrying out said vision, preserving LaGrange's great features while improving on the not so great features. Help to create an environment with more opportunities for young motivated and enthusiastic individuals who want to live and reside here. Land preservation along with development that is well thought out and improves the community itself.

17. Additional Comments:

Id	Comment
16	Let's not forget the small guy, Too many like to wine + dine the BIG GUY. The county is the BEST PLACE in the world to raise a family! (LaGrange Co.)
17	I wish this group the best of luck
21	Most people don't realize the south part of town is in Noble Co. LaGrange Co. don't care about Welcottville. And Noble Co. doesn't either!
30	Thank you for your help!
32	Have welding, fabricating business + would like to expand
34	Hopefully I do not have to go outside my county to start a small business. I believe in contributing to my own community.
35	Taxes keep going up. Land prices are high and taxes continue to increase. Taxes have doubled in the last 10-15 years. Farmers only have one household in need of services. Tax abatements bring in jobs and additional needs that require expenditure of tax dollars.
37	We need to use common sense and use our mission statements every single day. And go by the rules that are in place in our county and not by what our feelings
42	Does education define your capabilities?
53	A dog breeder LaGrange Co.
66	I hope the county can get a clearer view of where it is going
73	I'm also on the steering committee
81	Housing brings people, people bring skills. As I see it right now, basic housing needs to be a priority. Especially entry level housing. RV is very important to our county but much of our skilled workers are going to the RV industry because "that is where the money is". As a business owner it is next to impossible to draw the better laborers with the wage that I am able to afford
86	Please do something about these problems
87	if you don't like the Amish get off the boards please!! (Lynn-Bowen let him go!!)
88	thank you for doing this. We need teamwork in this
103	Retired!!!
105	Unsure
	Asking these questions above this box should be none of your business and you should not even think to ask them because it has nothing to do with the input of improving the county . These types of questions are racially profiling and age discrimination so on that note maybe you should get a different person on this position and the types of questions you are asking people.
	On the whole am happy in the county. I do believe there is a seperate standard for amish ie having multiple residences on one property, generally getting by with things that english dont.
	Good luck with this project and thanks for requesting input
	Please use my comments to really consider not opening up the flood gates to allow business within the boundries of lake settings.
	Thank you for listening
	Thank you for doing this! Having a plan is the first step to a brighter future.

	Bringing a storage unit, winery ad produce stand is just going to add traffic. There a lot of young kids, especially in the summer playing outside and folks not from around here and probably some form the area abuse the speed limit on 550, which we have documented.
	We are strongly opposed to commercializing this beautiful pristine community that we would like to pass on for future generations to appreciate.
	In my job I am repeatedly around tourists from other places in Indiana and out of state. I am constantly told how lucky I am to live here. Tourists love how rural, green, open, friendly, and small and old fashioned this place is. If we are wise, we will embrace this and market it. Don't try to make us like everyone else around us. We need to take action to take care of what people say we are lucky to have - our small businesses and our public lands and lakes.
	This has been tried before. I attended a CoC meeting a long time and the speaker that day was not interested in being more than a sleepy county. Until you move past "the good old boy" network, this will not succeed. Good luck.
175	Let us all strive to achieve and keep a servant attitude. Each for the other and all for god.
178	As a business owner in Topeka, my biggest fear is when we have unexperienced leaders in town (Council and manager) enforcing the rules and regulations, They have no idea or experience regulating the success of everybody in town. Every business in City limits should have a voice on town council.
180	Don't directly own a business, but family business of nearly 100 years in my immediate relation

