



ENGAGEWINONA

Comprehensive Plan Update

Interim Report

Community Engagement Summary



Presented February 2023



Introduction

From December 2022-January 2023, all who live, work, and play in Winona were invited to give input on the Interim Report of the City of Winona Comprehensive Plan Update. The purpose of the Interim Report was to provide community members with an update on the progress of the Comprehensive Plan Update, and offer another opportunity for input prior to the creation of the draft plan.

In this engagement report, you'll find a summary of the input received. A complete set of raw data is also available with the release of this report, and the Interim Report itself is available to read as well.

Project background

The Comprehensive Plan Update is an overarching plan that sets specific, achievable goals that the city and community can work toward over the next 20 years. The plan covers 12 topics, including land use, housing, economic development, transportation, downtown, and more. The Interim Report contained goals, objectives, and strategies for each of the 12 topics. It also contained the plan's draft vision and core values, and the future land use map.

The Comprehensive Plan Update project began in fall 2021 and will be completed in 2023. The project is led by a steering committee of 12 Winona residents appointed by Mayor Scott Sherman, along with city staff and consultants from HKGi and Engage Winona. In 2022, more than 100 city residents participated in Comprehensive Plan subcommittees to write the goals, objectives, and strategies in the Interim Report.

Engage Winona has conducted three phases of community engagement for the project so far, with engagement tools designed to meet people where they're at and provide multiple avenues for involvement. In fall-winter 2021-2022, more than 2,000 people engaged around big questions that helped set the direction, vision, and core values for the plan. In winter 2022, over 200 weighed in on the draft vision and values. Over summer 2022, nearly 300 people helped paint community murals highlighting the vision and values. And in December 2022 - January 2023, 280 people gave input on the draft goals, objectives, and strategies.

Summary of input

In the engagement, people enthusiastically shared their ideas, critiques, and visions for the draft goals, objectives, and strategies. Folks also shared areas where definitions, clarification, or additional context would be helpful as the project moves forward from Interim Report to draft Comprehensive Plan Update.

Comments and input from this phase of engagement help the project team as they prepare to write the draft Comprehensive Plan Update. City of Winona planning staff and technical consultants from HKGi will review all the comments and make revisions to the goals, objectives, and strategies based on the feedback received. The project team will then bring proposed changes to the steering committee for their input as well. The project team also uses input to determine where more information, context, and definitions need to be added in the draft plan to make it easier to understand, and to make the final version



more explicitly reflective of the vision and values and overarching themes - equity, technology, and sustainability.

There are some themes that were consistent throughout the comments: people want a greater focus on equity, especially in terms of race and socio-economic class; they are deeply concerned about preserving and highlighting Winona's nature and natural resources; they need more housing options, especially in terms of affordable housing and the end to housing segregation; they need thriving neighborhoods with parks and green spaces, walkable sidewalks, and viable small businesses; they need a stronger public transportation system, and an economic climate and a quality of life that attracts newcomers to move to Winona, work here and raise their families here.

The topics which received the most amount of comments in the engagement were: Land Use and Development (99 comments), Housing and Neighborhoods (85 comments), Transportation (76 comments), Downtown and Riverfront (67 comments), and Parks and Recreation (62 comments). When asked to rate their level of support for the goals in each topic, most participants expressed 'Strong Support' for eleven out of twelve topics. For Heritage Preservation more respondents chose 'Some Support.'

Below, we'll unpack the activities and approach to Interim Report engagement, followed by a section for input on each topic area.

Activities and Approach

The Interim Report was an 80-page document containing technical information, so engagement in this phase looked different than previous phases. Engagement was designed to accomplish two goals: to share the work done so far on the plan, and to offer opportunities for input at a range of accessibility levels. The report was open for input from December 1 - January 25, 2023.

Full Interim Report document

For folks who were interested, the full Interim Report document with **goals, objectives, and strategies** was available for comment online from December 1 - January 25, 2023. The webpage allowed people to read the Interim Report and provide comments on any of the draft goals, objectives, and strategies. A total of 248 comments were submitted from 26 people. For those who preferred, printed copies of the report were available at City Hall in the Community Development department.

Open houses

In partnership with the City of Winona and other community partners, Engage Winona hosted a series of drop-in community open houses in December and January. These events presented summaries of the **goals and objectives** for the 12 topics in the Interim Report. The information was posted on display boards, and community members could read the summaries, leave comments, and indicate their general



key highlights summary of goals for each of the 12 topics in the Interim Report, and referred participants to the full document for a complete text of all **goals, objectives** and **strategies**.

Engage Winona and the project team attempted to make the survey length as accessible as possible by asking for people to respond to key highlights for each of the 12 topics, rather than on each individual goal. Participants were invited to indicate their support for and comment on the set of key highlights for each topic. Participants were also asked to share if they felt anything was missing or needed to be changed, and what stood out overall. 141 people answered at least one survey question, and 52 people completed the survey. Average completion time was 8 minutes.

Information about the Interim Report and engagement opportunities was shared via print media, social media, city news alert, and Comprehensive Plan Update newsletter. In addition, all community members who participated in the first two phases of engagement and asked to be kept updated were contacted via email about the interim report and invited to participate.

Input summaries by page number

- 6 - Land Use
- 8 - Housing & Neighborhoods
- 11 - Economic Development
- 13 - Heritage Preservation
- 15 - Downtown & Riverfront
- 18 - Parks & Recreation
- 21 - Transportation
- 24 - Arts & Culture
- 25 - Environment & Sustainability
- 27 - Community Services & Institutions
- 29 - Accessible Government
- 31 - Transformative Projects
- 33 - Other comments received



Land Use

Land Use key highlights

The Comprehensive Plan Update recommends the following goals for land use:

- More options for how to use your property.
- Residential uses added to commercial and limited industrial areas.
- Allowing for change while maintaining neighborhood character.

Input received

At the open houses, we asked folks to use a sticker dot to indicate their level of support for each topic's goals. In the survey, we asked folks to "rate how much you support the goal." They could choose between: strong support, some support, little support, or no support. At open houses and in the survey, we also asked folks to comment and elaborate on their thoughts about the goals. In the online Interim Report document, participants could comment on specific goals, objectives, and strategies. The online report document also included a draft Future Land Use map; comments on the map are also included in the summary below.

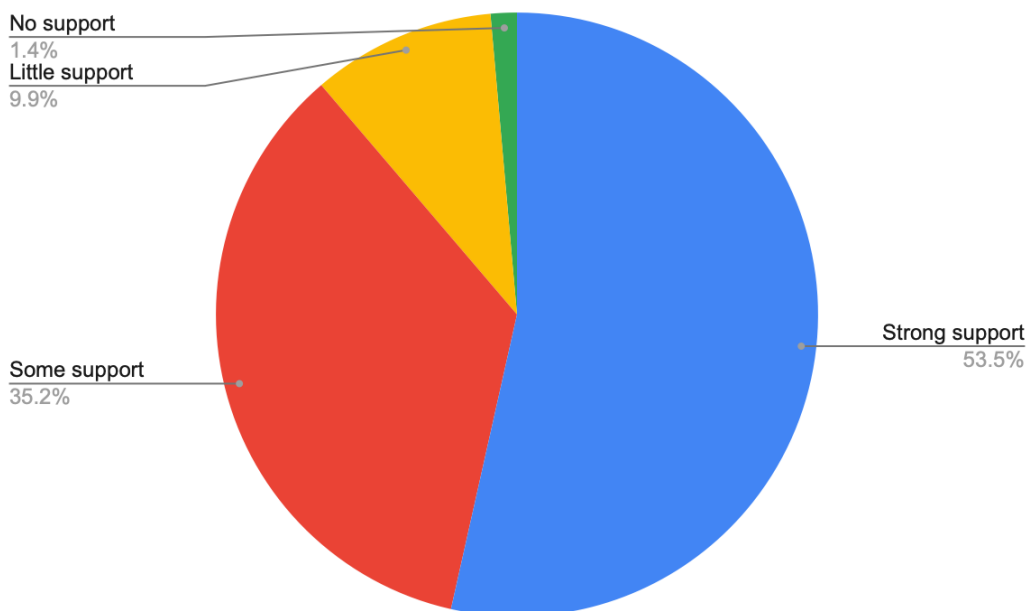
Support for goals

Strong support: 14 (open houses) & 24 (surveys) = 38

Some support: 7 (open houses) & 18 (surveys) = 25

Little support: 1 (open houses) & 6 (surveys) = 7

No support: 0 (open houses) & 1 (surveys) = 1



Summary of comments



We received a total of 99 comments about land use across engagement methods. All the comments are available as part of the release of this report, and we have summarized the major themes below. Note that some comments touched on more than one theme or topic.

Comments about Land Use included supporting increased flexibility for neighborhood stores and housing, with questions about maintaining access to green spaces and amenities. Comments also noted concerns about relaxing bluffland protection regulations and a desire to ensure natural resources protection with new development. Folks also pointed out opportunities for reducing zoning jargon; and asked for a more explicit commitment to equity and inclusion in land use and zoning decision-making. On the Future Land Use map, comments focused on the blocks surrounding WSU.

Increasing flexibility for neighborhood stores and housing

- more neighborhood stores! groceries balanced around town
- more neighborhood stores so kids can walk and parents don't have to drive
- food options! (higher diversity to support diverse restaurant options!)
- Yes! Please! We should all be within walking distance of small neighborhood stores, places to buy nutritious, affordable and fresh food, cafes and bars and other services. Think of the creative businesses that might pop up as residents realize entrepreneurial dreams and meet neighborhood needs... was this a transformative project idea??
- There are more blocks that should be considered for multi-family housing close to WSU. If you want more housing this would be a solution!
- It would be cool to have a cafe near the Amtrak station - but what kind of regulatory barriers are we talking about?
- 3.5. Study the impacts to the needs and wellbeing of potential residents of proposed developments - is it walkable? Bikeable? Would residents with low mobility have access to food? Schools? Child care and work? Parks? Social networks? Health care? Public transit?
- Consider renaming this as just "Flexible Development". Many of these objectives and strategies apply to Commercial and Industrial development as well as Residential.
- It would be nice if the traditional neighborhoods in the core of Winona could stay that way instead of being turned into rentals. Please do not ruin our neighborhoods with such density.
- More of this. Owner-occupied multi-family housing is a great goal.

Preserving Winona's natural resources

- Please don't turn Winona's bluffs and important trees into a developed wasteland of concrete and pollution
- The nature surrounding Winona is more important than growth!
- more green spaces!
- Support in-fill development over greenfield
- Regarding bluffland protection zoning: To see what the bluffs look like with weak zoning, look at the free-for-all of the greater La Crosse / Onalaska area, and Highway 61/I-90 from La Crosse to Winona. You also need to consider the impact of housing access roads and driveways.
- I don't support loosening regs for blufftop development at all! How is small scale commercial use defined--does it include franchises such as Kwik Trip Kentucky Fried Chicken etc?



- It is well researched and very appropriate for our city blufflands. Current climate change problems, especially slopes/bluffs are in need of a high level of protection
- I support development in the city limits, but am adamantly against continued building on the bluff tops, and the carving up of our surrounding valleys. I lived in Colorado for 20 years and watched more and more of the foothills and mountains being eaten up by luxury developments.
- The bluffs and the river define Winona, and make it a desired place to live, work, play, go to school, and visit. The bluffs should be preserved as a scenic and accessible community resource, benefitting everyone instead of individual homeowners who want to build in a scenic location and own the view. This is the guiding principle of the bluffland protections. Having said that, there is nothing wrong with reviewing regulations to make sure they both accomplish their goal and allow for reasonable development.

Equity and inclusion in decision-making

- Something should be added to this line about ensuring the inclusivity of those needs and desires. I work in outdoor recreation, specifically in inclusion and accessibility, and we often find that it's hard to engage the voices of the most underrepresented in our community because they're focuses are on so many other survival-based needs. Inclusion and equity needs to be at the forefront of anything that centers around community needs and desires, and I believe that needs to be directly written into the comp plan as an intent to ensure that focus is there.
- "What exactly does this mean? Many of our recreational facilities are locked in due to natural features or space needs. Many neighborhoods in the core of the city have lost outdoor spaces to recreate especially for kids due to City removing playground equipment or school closures. If this means putting resources into neighborhood parks located in valley's and subdivisions only used by a select few and reducing the number of playgrounds or opportunities in the core neighborhoods in the City then I have concerns. Equity across the community and focusing on opportunities for under served populations would be a better goal. Add clarity to this goal.

Housing & Neighborhoods

Housing & neighborhoods key highlights

The Comprehensive Plan Update recommends the following goals for housing & neighborhoods:

- More housing options for Winona neighborhoods
- Incentives and support for new home construction
- A broad mix of housing options attainable for all income levels

Input received

At the open houses, we asked folks to use a sticker dot to indicate their level of support for each topic's goals. In the survey, we asked folks to "rate how much you support the goal." They could choose between: strong support, some support, little support, or no support. At open houses and in the survey, we



also asked folks to comment and elaborate on their thoughts about the goals. In the online Interim Report document, participants could comment on specific goals, objectives, and strategies.

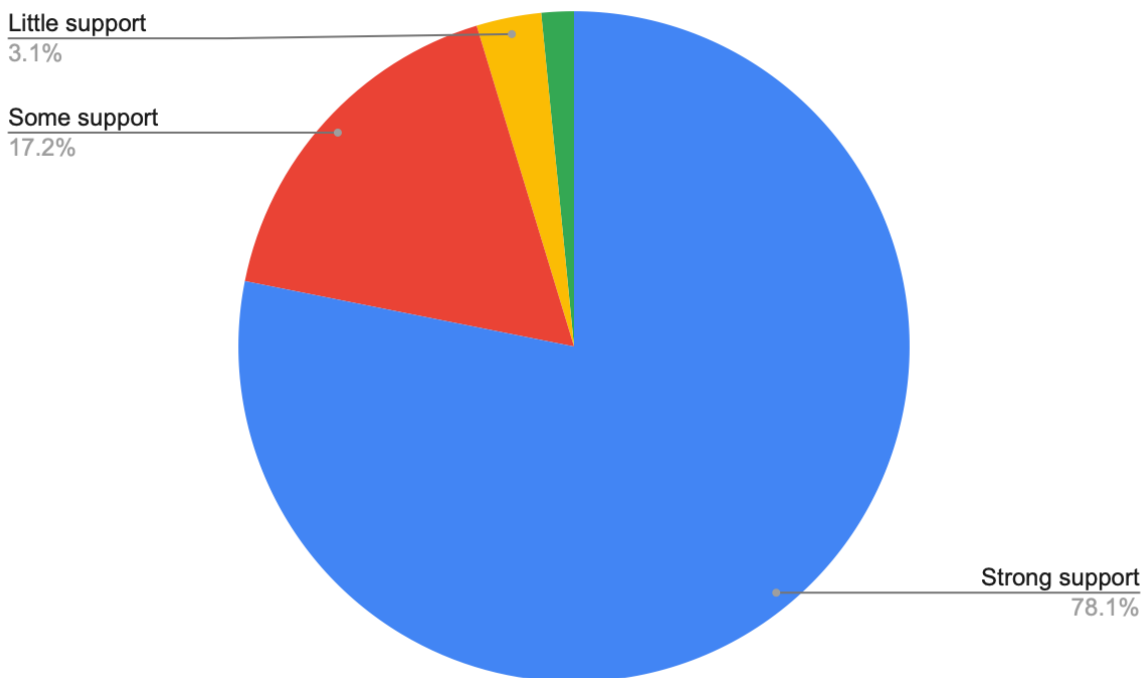
Support for goals

Strong support: 68 (open houses) & 32 (surveys) = 100

Some support: 7 (open houses) & 15 (surveys) = 22

Little support: 1 (open houses) & 3 (surveys) = 4

No support: 0 (open houses) & 2 (surveys) = 2



Summary of comments

We received a total of 85 comments about housing & neighborhoods across engagement methods. All the comments are available as part of the release of this report, and we have summarized the major themes below. Note that some comments touched on more than one theme or topic.

Comments about housing and neighborhoods covered the need for affordable housing, more rental units, rehabilitation of current housing, and street lighting in residential areas. Comments also noted concerns about allowing more rental housing; improving understanding/communication between property owners/managers, renters, and home-owning residents; clarifying the use of land trusts; ensuring natural resources protection with new housing development; need for understanding and including likely residents in the planning and designing of affordable and new housing types.

Need for affordable housing

- Affordable housing for ALL--throughout the community
- Appreciate expanded housing options for all income levels (including apt. space)
- end segregation against renters, POCs, and poor people by design!



- I feel that this is a great idea but you should more be focusing on housing for people who have criminal background and bad rental history or credit history as well as the homeless population in this area too.
- Strong support for that third bullet point: A broad mix of housing options attainable for all income levels. It feels like there is a lack of "mid-tier" housing options - nice enough, but affordable.
- I know there's a strong need for more housing options for Winona. I'm just not clear how they should look
- More low income housing is important to have
- Again, you cannot ask one questions about three options; these recommendations are also vague, making it even harder to offer support; most importantly, this subcommittee needed to offer more substantive affordable housing initiatives
- The KMART & Shopko buildings could have been converted into senior or affordable housing. Is there a future for this kind of thinking?
- Please include somewhere in the Comp Plan intro or intro to this section that in order to serve community needs, Winona acknowledges that they need to commit to making community contributions Step 1 of any planning effort. You can't design for needs if you're just assuming you know what they are.
- Since this is a 20 year long plan, I think more can be done than simply considering this in the next 20 years. Suggested language change: "Develop an Affordable Housing Plan..."
- Low income housing options, affordable family housing options, creating unity between the town and college

Discussion of rental units

- more rental housing in the center of town and east end
- don't put renters in "select" areas away from the better parts of town. no slums!
- almost impossible for families to find rental housing
- Just because some neighborhoods are over-run with rental housing is no reason to "throw them to the wolves". We have fought for years to save our neighborhood near WSU. The 30% rule is the greatest thing that ever happened for us. I can't imagine anyone seeing anything positive about letting more rental units in.
- When a person feels valued and cared for by their neighborhood, they then care for and value their neighborhood (i.e. have a vested interest in their neighborhood). This view of renters is again a MAJOR issue in Winona that needs to be given time and attention IMMEDIATELY.
- Interested in the expansion of the 30% rental ordinance

Need to rehabilitate current housing

- Incentivize green development and rehab for current housing
- Rehab and support the old neighborhood corner stores and theaters
- I'd especially support efforts to help rehab rundown properties and increase housing for families in the core of Winona instead of sprawling.

Need for street lighting in residential areas

- More lighting in residential areas



- Consider adding human-scale lighting in residential neighborhoods

Economic Development

Economic Development key highlights

The Comprehensive Plan Update recommends the following:

- Marketing Winona through a singular, unified voice.
- Reducing barriers and enhancing opportunities for entrepreneurs and businesses.
- Continued support for tourism and outdoor recreation initiatives.
- Investment in technology that supports economic development.

Input received

At the open houses, we asked folks to use a sticker dot to indicate their level of support for each topic's goals. In the survey, we asked folks to "rate how much you support the goal." They could choose between: strong support, some support, little support, or no support. At open houses and in the survey, we also asked folks to comment and elaborate on their thoughts about the goals. In the online Interim Report document, participants could comment on specific goals, objectives, and strategies.

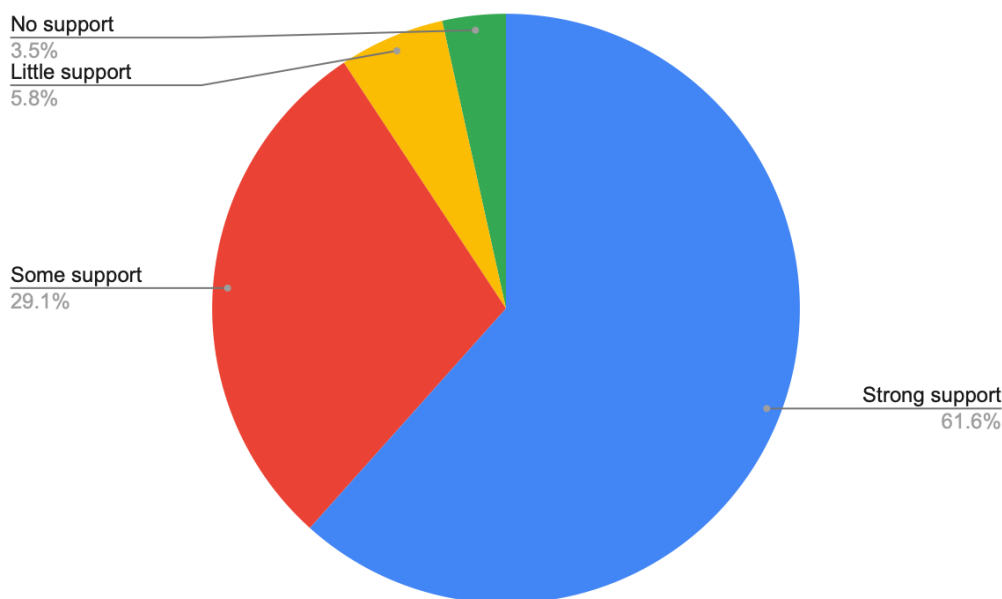
Support for goals

Strong support: 41 (open houses) & 32 (surveys) = 53

Some support: 10 (open houses) & 15 (surveys) = 25

Little support: 3 (open houses) & 2 (surveys) = 5

No support: 0 (open houses) & 3 (surveys) = 3





Summary of comments

We received a total of 54 comments about Economic Development across engagement methods. All the comments are available as part of the release of this report, and we have summarized the major themes below.

Comments about Economic Development covered the need for supporting small businesses, celebrating natural amenities, appealing to workers to move to Winona, and the importance of housing to appeal to new workers moving to Winona. There was also some disagreement with the phrasing of ‘unified voice’ in the key highlights. Comments also noted the importance of future working groups being diverse and including those who are typically underrepresented and the importance of including local expertise.

Support for small business and entrepreneurship

- create business mentorships for new start ups
- beauty supply--all ethnicities!
- ethnic groceries
- Reduce barriers for small biz & local entrepreneur efforts. No more "incentives" for big companies that never ROI
- Support local businesses outside of downtown
- Where is social entrepreneurship supported in here?
- Yes to new businesses, but not to new unnecessary construction. We have plenty of empty and underused spaces in downtown Winona to support new businesses. As a Winona native I am still brokenhearted by the mega-car sales complexes at the foot of the bluffs, the glaring lights that are never turned off. That used to be our sledding hill, and that strip of wooded land separated the highway from the cemetery road and the hiking trails.
- Having smaller businesses is important to have and giving more opportunities for that is important
- What efforts will be made to ensure this working group is diverse and includes those not typically "at the table"? So often I see boards and working groups in town run by the same faces. I believe any efforts like these need to continue to emphasize diverse perspectives and opinions so the same folks aren't continually shaping the future of the town without considering the ideas of other equally important business owners/non profit leaders/community members/etc. etc.

Keep green spaces

- Keep green spaces and expand them whenever possible
- View tourism as an economic driver--leverage assets of scenic beauty, outdoor rec, arts
- This (#5) needs expansion & emphasis--it's our only unique asset (could be its own topic?)
- please put docks back at the Levee

Workforce considerations

- Give more people with bad backgrounds a fair chance for employment
- create a family friendly environment by making ALL residents/new residents feel welcomed /comfortable in Winona
- Lack of childcare a barrier to attracting new community members and keeping women in the workforce



- Young professional retention
- To sell itself as a commodity is not necessary. As an Island City with Rich history Winona speaks for itself. What is needed more so is the upscaling of student housing and making sure that housing in general in the entire County of Winona is not falling to a shambles. If you drive around you will see very low standards for both single-family homes and apartment dwellings and it is very discouraging to see how shabby the city and county are treating their properties. To fund owners and occupants improve property so they can stay standing over the decades should be a high priority as versus country styled poverty looking property
- Business needs support from the community, but until there is growth to support businesses, you will continue to see businesses struggle. Also every manufacturer is looking for workers. Again, need to grow with new construction of housing.
- Add equity & housing to workforce needs

Promoting Winona

- Who controls this "unified voice" for us all?
- Two (above) will help make Winona worse. "Unified voice"? Whose? Money talks loudest. I prefer quiet
- This question has four distinct bullet points. I do not think marketing through a singular voice is appropriate. I believe it should come for a diverse representation of people sharing the same message; also, as a point of note one could be strongly supportive of investing in technology and completely not supportive of tourism.
- Why don't we try to seek local expertise? Outside PR comes off as so fake and inauthentic. If we don't have the local expertise, let's do something to acquire it. This strikes me as a great opportunity to collaborate with universities

Heritage Preservation

Heritage preservation key highlights

The Comprehensive Plan Update recommends the following goals for heritage preservation:

- Utilizing heritage preservation to spur economic development.
- Enhancing clarity for heritage preservation rules and regulations.
- Enhanced communication about the importance of historic preservation.

Input received

At the open houses, we asked folks to use a sticker dot to indicate their level of support for each topic's goals. In the survey, we asked folks to "rate how much you support the goal." They could choose between: strong support, some support, little support, or no support. At open houses and in the survey, we also asked folks to comment and elaborate on their thoughts about the goals. In the online Interim Report document, participants could comment on specific goals, objectives, and strategies.



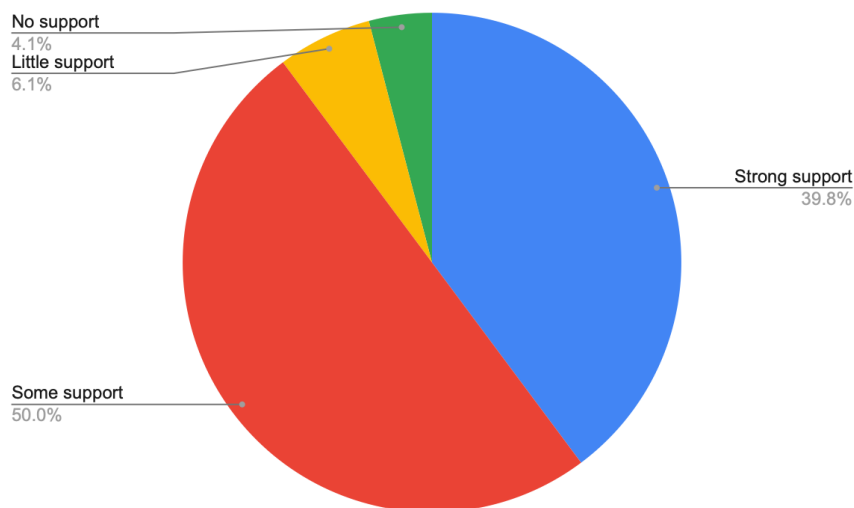
Support for goals

Strong support: 12 (open houses) & 28 (surveys) = 39

Some support: 35 (open houses) & 14 (surveys) = 49

Little support: 0 (open houses) & 6 (surveys) = 6

No support: 0 (open houses) & 4 (surveys) = 4



Summary of comments

We received a total of 39 comments about Heritage Preservation across engagement methods. All of the comments are available as part of the release of this report, and we have summarized the major themes below. Comments are shown to illustrate range, not necessarily prevalence, of input received.

Comments about Heritage Preservation covered the need to center Indigenous voices and include Polish heritage, and that preserving heritage makes good business sense. Folks also commented on historic signage content, and overlap of goals across multiple topic areas.

Need to include Indigenous voices

- it is clear that the subcommittee did not consider indigenous communities as part of Winona's heritage or history; the group seemed solely focused on property and not on peoples or cultures
- I would add to the first point that we as a community need to understand and involve the indigenous voices of this area before we can use heritage preservation to spur economic development
- Could include: 1. natural bluffland in heritage preservation, COAs required for development there? 2. Related to yellow sticky note (<<<previous comment), include indigenous heritage--especially with regard to goal #1
- Winona's history begins with the Dakota people and they have been entirely neglected in this section. Another goal should be included that addresses the true history of the city's inhabitants and recognition of their sacred places, archeologically and geologically.



Need to increase attention to Polish heritage and other immigrant heritages

- Increased attention & tourism to the Polish Cultural Institute & Museum, & Watkins Museum would help bring in more people to Winona from around the country & even overseas
- More outreach/events for local museums to increase awareness of history of Winona (example: Applefest at Polish museum)

Need to balance heritage preservation and economic development

- heritage is fine for the downtown area, but let's not get too carried away when it comes to the areas that could be used to entice industries to Winona
- It also has to make good business sense. I have seen so many projects wasting money and it has not helped to attract growth. If you force so many restrictions on preservation, the town will continue to die.
- Heritage and historic are two different things. But I do support historic preservation when it is done proactively. My observation is too often it comes in as an end run delaying projects and causing them to be abandoned or cost prohibitive yet left with the same problem of how to use a building that no one wants or does not have the money to keep
- Good working happening in the Twin Cities on building material reuse.

Downtown and Riverfront

Downtown and Riverfront key highlights

The Comprehensive Plan Update recommends the following goals for Downtown and Riverfront:

- Continued public and private investments in the Downtown and Riverfront areas because of the significant economic and cultural benefits they provide to the entire city.
- Continued recognition of downtown as heart of our community.
- Continued emphasis on the recreational and economic importance of the Mississippi River.

Input received

At the open houses, we asked folks to use a sticker dot to indicate their level of support for each topic's goals. In the survey, we asked folks to "rate how much you support the goal." They could choose between: strong support, some support, little support, or no support. At open houses and in the survey, we also asked folks to comment and elaborate on their thoughts about the goals. In the online Interim Report document, participants could comment on specific goals, objectives, and strategies.

Support for goals

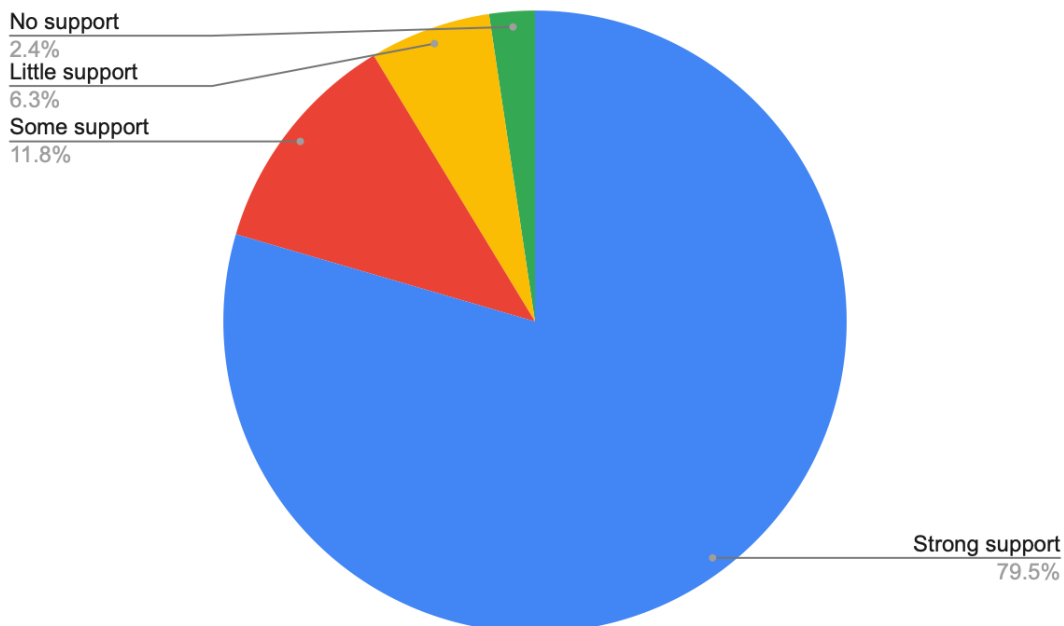
Strong support: 65 (open houses) & 36 (surveys) = 101

Some support: 7 (open houses) & 8 (surveys) = 15

Little support: 4 (open houses) & 4 (surveys) = 8



No support: 0 (open houses) & 3 (surveys) = 3



Summary of comments

We received a total of 67 comments about Downtown and Riverfront across engagement methods. All the comments are available as part of the release of this report, and we have summarized the major themes below.

Comments about Downtown and Riverfront noted making the riverfront more accessible to citizens, increasing parking availability, prioritizing outdoor lighting, and concerns about police presence downtown. Comments also noted concerns about the maintenance of historic character and signage, and suggested use of native plantings for landscaping.

Accessing the riverfront

- One of Winona's greatest weaknesses is the extent to which it still turns its back on the riverfront and the degree to which the riverfront is not easily accessible. Downtown is seemingly lacking a vision/clear purpose/point of differentiation.
- Another key to Winona's future. We should not 'turn our back' on the Mississippi. Phase I of Levee Park shows what's possible.
- I am all for enhancing the Riverfront, but against selling portions to developers not interested in building shared spaces for all of us. As we continue to block the view of the river with apartment complexes, private companies and "proposed" hotels, we take the Riverfront away from the citizens of this town.
- I wish we capitalized more on our identity as a river city & improve access (like other river towns)
- Looking forward to seeing more about how Winona remains a vibrant community. Also, trail and park development along the river is critical



Police/safety

- "Community policing" in downtown is essentially a dog-whistle way of saying that state violence should be used to remove unhoused peoples, in order to maintain comfort for the white middle class and for tourists. Rather than spending more time and resources on policing, the city should prioritize affordable housing in the downtown area and should work with the county to provide more social support and health services for less advantaged members of the community.
- Increased "community policing" via foot or bike patrol is not wanted or considered welcoming or safe by all members of the community.
- A couple of homeless men I know have been robbed at the Levy. Maybe think about creative & positive ways to increase safety. Not sure if others have had this experience
- Lighting should be a priority for accessibility and atmosphere :)
- Lighting needs improvement! Dark and unsafe especially by the alleyways.
- Safe bicycle routes should be addressed throughout the city, not just in downtown.
- In community input sessions paid for by the city and facilitated and gathered by Engage Winona, no one asked for more police. Again, not all Winonans consider police safe or helpful. Perhaps reinstating and funding the Alternative Response Team could be an appropriate path to more downtown safety.
- Are public safety officers from the Winona PD/are police officers? If so, 10.5.4 makes me a bit nervous because of the mixed reception in town of the WPD. I see the value in having more foot patrol downtown to increase visibility and cohesion among the community and WPD, however I hope more efforts will also be made to ensure positive relationships between our police force and community - especially for those historically marginalized on a national scale by police officers who might be more wary of seeing an increased presence of officers in spaces we're attempting to make "more inclusive". That could potentially impact some people's comfort level in occupying certain spaces in Winona and move us further away from being an inclusive and welcoming community for all.

Parking

- Places for students to park & workers longer than 2 hours
- Increase parking availability for full day parking when I worked downtown it was mostly 2 hour parking and the day lots filled early on. Consider a parking ramp? If we want to increase downtown traffic, parking needs to increase.
- Let people buy parking permits for lots & on street

Streetscape improvements

- Wayfinding should be designed to fit with the historic character and specific design elements of downtown. This sounds like it would contradict that by making it "seamless" with adjacent areas outside of downtown. The item could use some better language to clarify what is intended.
- Need to consider adding more recycling and garbage receptacles. One per intersection that alternate sides of the street to make it easier for people to dispose of waste. Need to meet design standards for downtown.
- Design and type of lighting should be included somewhere. It does so much more than provide a safe well lit environment. We certainly need that but we need to be more specific as to how we



accomplish that downtown. Lighting should be pedestrian oriented and fit with historic character of the area. Overhead "cobra" style lighting may be appropriate for a highway but not for downtown Winona. This is a huge place making design element for downtown. This seems to be the only place that lighting is referenced. Perhaps add a goal on lighting design to goal #3 or some other place in this Chapter.

Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation key highlights

The Comprehensive Plan Update reiterates and reinforces past park plans, and incorporates them via reference. Key recommendations from this section include:

- Providing a connected, accessible, and recognizable network of park and recreation facilities that welcome all ages and abilities.
- Targeted investments in facilities to improve the quality of user experiences.
- Collecting data about the park and recreation system to help inform decision making.

Input received

At the open houses, we asked folks to use a sticker dot to indicate their level of support for each topic's goals. In the survey, we asked folks to "rate how much you support the goal." They could choose between: strong support, some support, little support, or no support. At open houses and in the survey, we also asked folks to comment and elaborate on their thoughts about the goals. In the online Interim Report document, participants could comment on specific goals, objectives, and strategies.

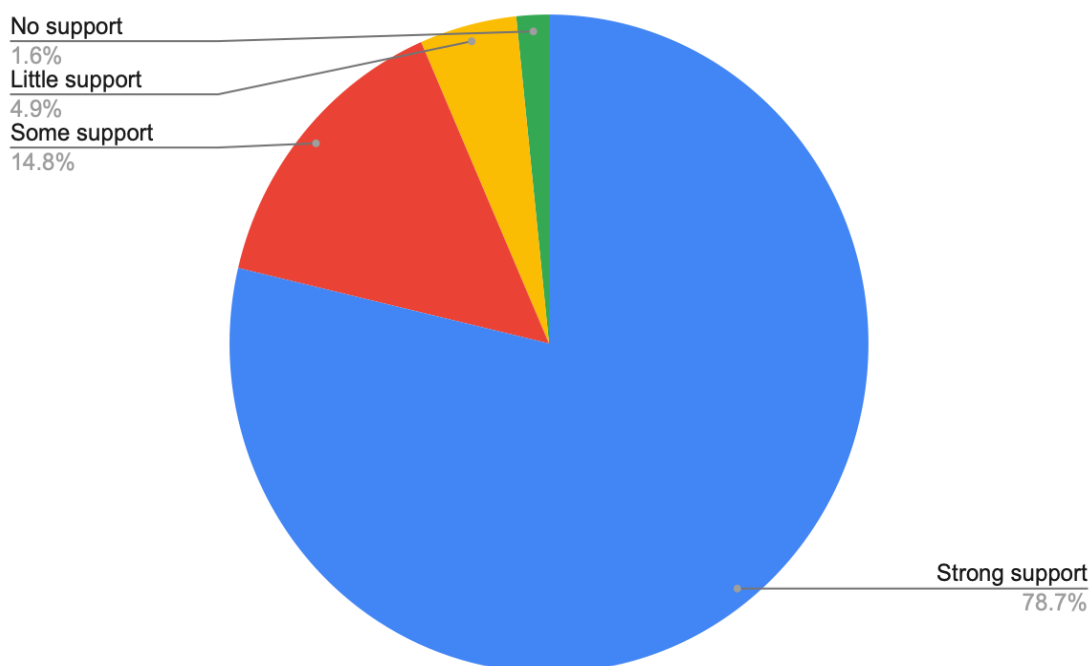
Support for goals

Strong support: 9 (open houses) & 39 (surveys) = 48

Some support: 0 (open houses) & 9 (surveys) = 9

Little support: 0 (open houses) & 3 (surveys) = 3

No support: 0 (open houses) & 1 (surveys) = 1



Summary of comments

We received a total of 62 comments about Parks and Recreation across engagement methods. All the comments are available as part of the release of this report, and we have summarized the major themes below.

Comments about Parks and Recreation noted increasing recreation center access, adding playgrounds and parks on the West End, and making sure that there is accessible programming and services for older adults. Comments also noted a desire for the inclusion of historically underrepresented people and organizations in planning and programming efforts, as well as a need for easier wayfinding for the trail system.

Need for parks on the West End

- recreation & engagement opportunities at Maplewood
- more waterpark space with free or subsidized access (Maplewood)
- more parks like the lake park playground (accessible!) (Maplewood)
- Prioritize park deserts--ensure accessibility
- What abt West end rec complex? expansion of skate park and integration w pool
- Balance park/rec/community center options. The West side of town needs these resources!
- Develop West end. Too congested in East business district
- Adding a playground on the West end. No playground w/out the w lake and Madison being pulled out!
- We need parks in neighborhoods, especially since schools are centralized
- The parks should also be city-wide and not just centered toward the more white and affluent areas



Equity and inclusion in park spaces and programming

- Would this include trail signage systems that could eventually be implemented on all Winona trails? The trail signage is definitely a weak point in Winona and impacts accessibility for some folks who are less familiar with the area or feel confident in their abilities outdoors. Increasing our signage on all Winona trails seems like a good way to enhance accessibility and improve safety for recreationalists.
- Can this include "for historically underrepresented populations of people"? So often, outdoor recreation is white, able bodied and male centered, and we need to make efforts to ensure those perspectives aren't continually being centered in shaping our parks and recreation systems. Direct language about the populations we're seeking to support through equity and inclusion efforts will help keep the goal centered and focused.
- Friendship Center & senior support services???
- get going on the new senior center--NOW
- As the older population is growing we need to make sure that all nature's paths in the Parks and by the waterways are accessible to walkers and wheelchairs, not just bicyclists. People with strollers or physical impairments need benches and washrooms and often you do not see that consideration given for people with special needs to join with people having regular needs. Our public spaces look like if you are fit and fine you are welcome but if you need more room to move around or resting spots along the way or bus shelters or anything of that nature you're clogging up the system of the well folks. Not everyone is able to enjoy full wellness but that doesn't mean that we don't seek the outdoors and want to be mobile and participate in full society and that includes parks.
- Goal 8 could benefit from more specific language about the "how" and "who". I feel that this goal doesn't outline enough to convey the message that the City is hoping to ensure quality programming and accessibility of those programs for all. Instead, it touches more on budget related topics like pricing structures and scholarships. HOW does the City intent to ensure quality programming, and WHO is missing from that picture currently? I think this comprehensive plan would benefit from adding additional language into Goal 8 that touches on evaluation systems of programs, outreach efforts to marginalized communities, and a definition around what "quality" means and who currently lacks access in order to better achieve this goal.

Partnerships with local groups

- Should CoW focus on programming if there are organizations already providing that programming? I believe this effort is better spent creating spaces and infrastructure (administrative and physical) to support existing programming focused organizations. This goes for 1.2.2 as well
- This is awesome (point 1.4). There are already a lot of great efforts being made by local groups - Winona Outdoor Collaborative, Recreation Alliance of Winona, The Joy Labs, Front Porch Management/Prairie Island Campground. I hope these groups and others will engaged in this work so the City has support in making these project happen.
- Awesome - love 2.5. Just a suggestion to engage the Prairie Enthusiasts in this type of work. They've done a lot of incredible work throughout the region to promote and increase native landscapes for pollinators. Would be great to see more native landscapes across town!
- A community garden space, maybe out of a park would be very nice



Transportation

Transportation key highlights

The Comprehensive Plan Update recommends the following goals for Transportation:

- Continued focus on multi-modal connectivity between destinations throughout the city.
- Emphasizing safety and accessibility in Transportation Planning.

Input received

At the open houses, we asked folks to use a sticker dot to indicate their level of support for each topic's goals. In the survey, we asked folks to "rate how much you support the goal." They could choose between: strong support, some support, little support, or no support. At open houses and in the survey, we also asked folks to comment and elaborate on their thoughts about the goals. In the online Interim Report document, participants could comment on specific goals, objectives, and strategies.

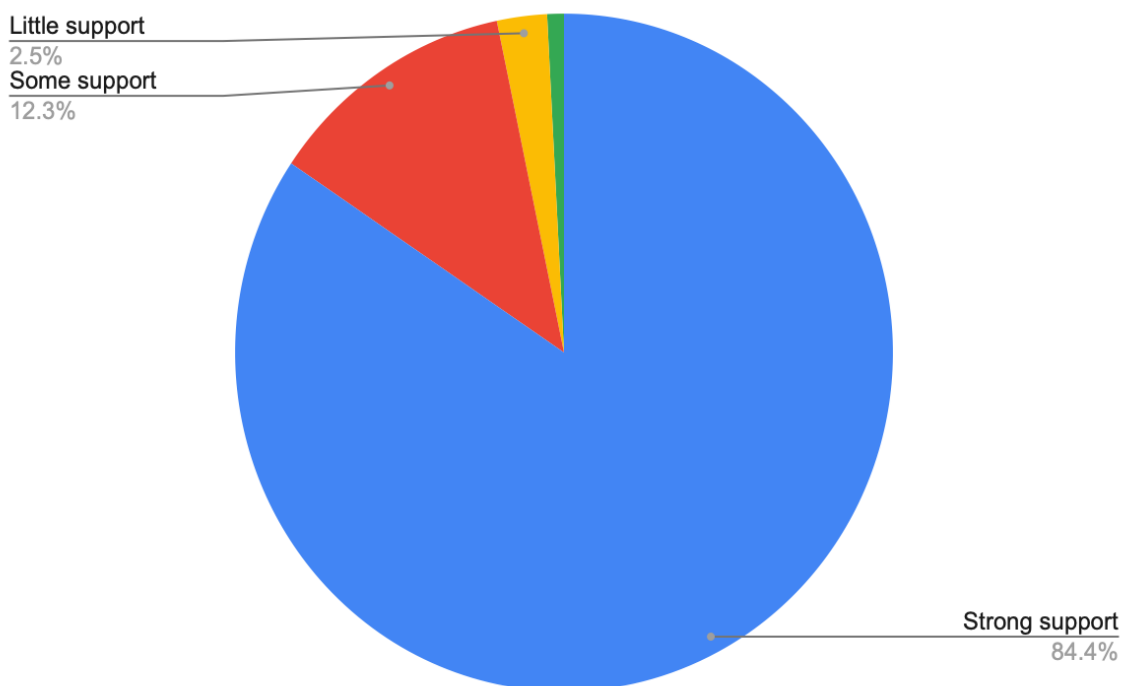
Support for goals

Strong support: 69 (open houses) & 34 (surveys) = 103

Some support: 2 (open houses) & 13 (surveys) = 15

Little support: 0 (open houses) & 3 (surveys) = 3

No support: 0 (open houses) & 1 (surveys) = 1





Summary of comments

We received a total of 76 comments about Transportation across engagement methods. All the comments are available as part of the release of this report, and we have summarized the major themes below.

Comments about Transportation covered the need for more public transportation options, the need for more sidewalks and creating more walkable neighborhoods, the need for the city of Winona to be more accommodating to bicyclists, more mobility options, revisiting the plans for Broadway and for roundabouts. Comments also noted designing streets to accommodate electric vehicles (e-bikes, e-scooters); providing education for safe biking practices, and questioning the need for and implementation practice of one-way streets.

Public transportation improvements

- car-sharing program & healthy focused transportation design
- Free bus transportation. Work with large employees to organize "out parking" and use shuttle buses to work sites.
- Keep public transportation accessible-increase accessibility
- Trash current public transit -needs to be expanded -needs to be more safe & accessible>Hiawatha Valley MH is a death trap & has been reported multiple times -electrify it! street cars! -transit needs to include more frequent pick ups @ each stop
- Bus services should run more efficiently than they do now on a 15 minute or every 20 minutes and run 7 days a week and run till 10pm and start at 5am
- In the city public transportation is a misery and from small town to small town is non-existent. This paralyzes those who could be active members of society but do not have the financial wherewithal to own a car or to upkeep a car or to repair a car. To ignore connectivity through media and to not provide public transportation is one of the most crippling problems in all of rural America. Start with carpooling for heaven's sake to get things rolling and that would prove that the traveler's actually need the support for their traveling. Local and regional mobility would help Winona and Winona area to grow greatly.
- mobility options (subscription services?)
- Connect to institutions and be mindful of handicap access
- Who currently manages our transportation? A close friend told me they have called multiple times about the hazards and inaccessibility of a stop near their workplace where they have seen bus users almost hit by cars on more than one occasion, and have had no response.

More sidewalks/walkability

- more sidewalks and connecting built for children to access places
- I would like to see streets downtown turn back to non-driving streets like they use to be
- Support safer street design & pedestrian focus for more walkability
- Human-scale lighting needed on residential streets for pedestrians/cyclists at night
- Huff Street should be designed to make it easy for children to cross independently
- Where would sidewalks go that we don't already have them? I think neighborhoods should suggest new sidewalks.



Need for better bike infrastructure

- Improve bike infrastructure and revisit road diet?
- Expanded bike routes serving both locals and visitors
- Connecting the flyway trail with the marshland access will make downtown Winona the trailhead for 100+ miles of bike trails
- Prioritize non-motor transportation. It shouldn't make more sense for me to drive 1-3 miles w/in town than to walk, bike, ride
- An interconnected bike path through the city would be wonderful, or even just more bike lanes
- Goals for transportation should include designated safe routes for cyclists. Brightly painted lanes and safe zones at intersections should be the bare minimum. Winona should take a cue from Minneapolis
- Consider renaming this to something like the "Well Connected Low Speed Vehicle Network". With the introduction of scooters and other types of low speed electric powered vehicles, these lanes and paths will need to be used by people other than those who ride human powered bicycles. Users should be classified by how fast they can travel, not by what they are riding. E.g., the speed limit of low speed lanes should be something like 15 mph as opposed to the 30 mph or more speed limit of automobile lanes.

Road design including roundabouts and Broadway

- Roundabout driving class at Friendship Center
- Complete streets won't work if city council doesn't support projects that fit in the complete streets model aka Broadway
- Broadway project - revisit plans to make Broadway safer, and ways to slow down traffic and prevent serious injury and fatalities to pedestrians. My friend was badly injured due to someone speeding and poor visibility of crossings. How many people have to die or be seriously injured before the city takes action? This is not safe and harms human health and safety
- Not if it is going to include continued projects that narrow Broadway or put more round-a-bouts in. I have talked with several people in outlying towns that have started to go to La Crosse or Rochester rather than coming to Winona because of the round-a-bouts. This is real, not just resisting change
- Make Broadway Street safer for motorists and pedestrians alike. Why throw away the previous planning to make Broadway safer? How many more individuals have to either lose their life or be severely injured due to poor road infrastructure that allows for reckless driving?
- The safety aspect is particularly critical, with fatal/severe injury accidents far too common. Winona seems to be particularly challenged in this regard. High number of uncontrolled intersections makes no sense. Having Broadway be so fast/wide makes no sense. Having 61 speed through town makes no sense. Poorly designed access points into areas like Culvers/Hy-Vee make no sense.
- Proposed item 9.4. With the successful completion of the Mankato roundabouts which are quieter, faster and safer, consider reevaluating all intersections with traffic lights and converting them to either roundabouts or, if not possible, 4 way stop signs.



Arts and Culture

Arts and Culture key highlights

The Comprehensive Plan Update reinforces the recently completed City of Winona Arts and Culture Plan, and incorporates it via reference. Key recommendations from this section include:

- The City of Winona acting as a facilitator for arts and culture programming.
- Promoting and growing Winona’s creative economy in an inclusive manner.
- Facilitating investments in creative sector facilities and spaces.

Input received

At the open houses, we asked folks to use a sticker dot to indicate their level of support for each topic’s goals. In the survey, we asked folks to “rate how much you support the goal.” They could choose between: strong support, some support, little support, or no support. At open houses and in the survey, we also asked folks to comment and elaborate on their thoughts about the goals. In the online Interim Report document, participants could comment on specific goals, objectives, and strategies.

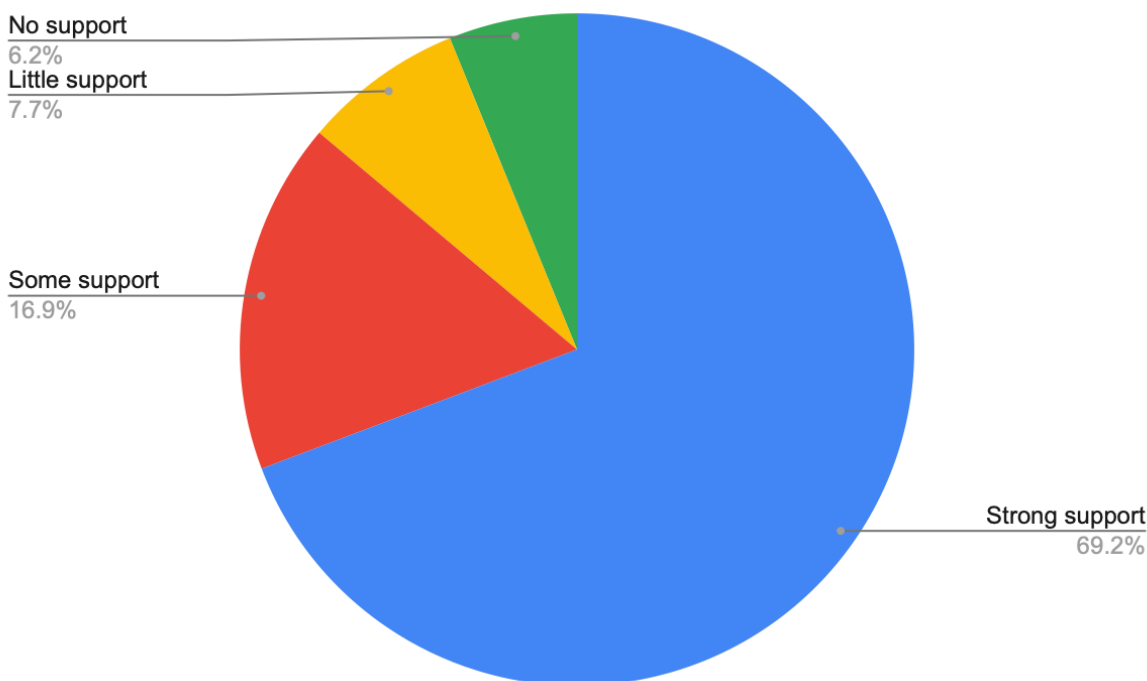
Support for goals

Strong support: 13 (open houses) & 32 (surveys) = 45

Some support: 0 (open houses) & 11 (surveys) = 11

Little support: 0 (open houses) & 5 (surveys) = 5

No support: 0 (open houses) & 4 (surveys) = 4



Summary of comments



We received a total of 32 comments about Arts and Culture across engagement methods. All the comments are available as part of the release of this report, and we have summarized the major themes below.

Comments about Arts and Culture included prioritizing arts and culture, increasing public art, and skepticism about the city government's involvement with arts. Comments also noted the importance of ensuring diversity, inclusion, and transparency.

Prioritize arts and culture

- Please prioritize this part of the plan
- I thought there was a new version of this section that acknowledged arts as a big local economic driver?
- Weren't the terms "arts" and "culture" going to be defined somewhere...where is that?

Skepticism of city involvement with arts

- If anything the city should be a pass through for grants to artists and other projects. If any City appears to own the art it would have too much influence over the content and there needs to be freedoms in the art world.
- Definitely support investment in facilities/spaces -- do not believe the City should be a facilitator for arts and culture programming
- This starts to come across as one of those "paint by numbers" characteristics every city feels like it has to have. And cynically like this is included mainly for marketing value. Not sure the city is the best entity to facilitate/promote this, leave that to private individuals and organizations.
- The city has already dumped millions into the arts. Including the Masonic temple which we will never get a return on investment. If the program can't pay for itself, it shouldn't exist. Our property taxes cannot continue to pay for out of town visitors and residents' pleasures.

More public art

- more public art!
- colorful street murals in the arts district to draw people > make the district identifiable
- keep promoting/supporting public art projects
- have more entertainment for teens around the city

Environment and Sustainability

Environment and Sustainability key highlights

The Comprehensive Plan Update incorporates recent work on the City's Natural Resources and Sustainability Plan that is currently being developed. Key recommendations from this section include:

- Promoting the use of resources such as energy, water, and food in a renewable and sustainable manner.



- Enhancing public education of City efforts and individual actions that will help achieve environmental goals.
- Working across city boundaries to address complex environmental issues.

Input received

At the open houses, we asked folks to use a sticker dot to indicate their level of support for each topic’s goals. In the survey, we asked folks to “rate how much you support the goal.” They could choose between: strong support, some support, little support, or no support. At open houses and in the survey, we also asked folks to comment and elaborate on their thoughts about the goals. In the online Interim Report document, participants could comment on specific goals, objectives, and strategies.

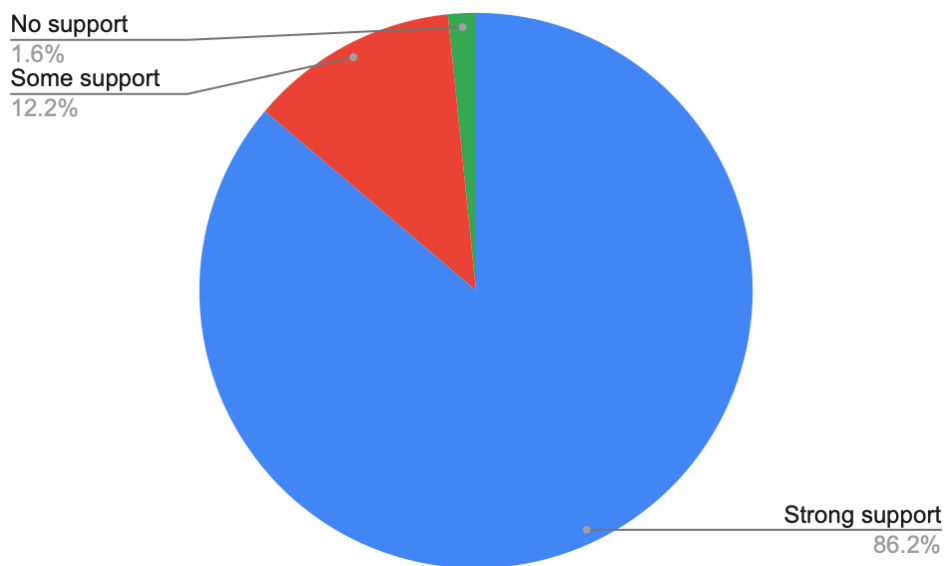
Support for goals

Strong support: 70 (open houses) & 36 (surveys) = 106

Some support: 1 (open houses) & 14 (surveys) = 15

Little support: 0 (open houses) & 0 (surveys) = 0

No support: 0 (open houses) & 2 (surveys) = 2



Summary of comments

We received a total of 37 comments about Environment and Sustainability across engagement methods. All the comments are available as part of the release of this report, and we have summarized the major themes below.

Comments about Environment and Sustainability covered food waste and compost, rain gardens and rainwater collection, increasing access to recycling, and the importance of native and pollinator-friendly landscaping. Comments also noted confusion about the structure of this section as compared to other topics, and pointed out connections with the Transportation section.



Need for considering food waste and having a compost program

- City wide compost program? I know the cities have this but other smaller towns can too--I believe Ames IA is an example
- Food waste considerations? how to mitigate?

Need for rain gardens and rainwater collection

- Require rain gardens at commercial developments to limit runoff
- The city should model behaviors we would like to see property owners incorporate. ie permeable surfaces, rain gardens, no salt de-icers (sand only is good) etc. parking lots which take care of stormwater on site.
- Allowing rainwater collection, the establishment of a city food scraps compost site, or one out of a community garden
- Promote existing programs that provide homeowners with resources and funding to convert their turf grass to beneficial habitat and consider development of a local City-run program as well.

Increasing recycling availability

- increase available recycling receptacles on public downtown space w/ signage
- Free electronics recycling drop off everyday of the year! If the county can't support these things, then city needs to

Community Services & Institutions

Community Services key highlights

The Comprehensive Plan Update recommends the following goals for Community Services and Institutions:

- Enhanced communication of available resources to city residents
- Facilitation of connections and communication between service providers and community institutions

Input received

At the open houses, we asked folks to use a sticker dot to indicate their level of support for each topic's goals. In the survey, we asked folks to "rate how much you support the goal." They could choose between: strong support, some support, little support, or no support. At open houses and in the survey, we also asked folks to comment and elaborate on their thoughts about the goals. In the online Interim Report document, participants could comment on specific goals, objectives, and strategies.

Support for goals

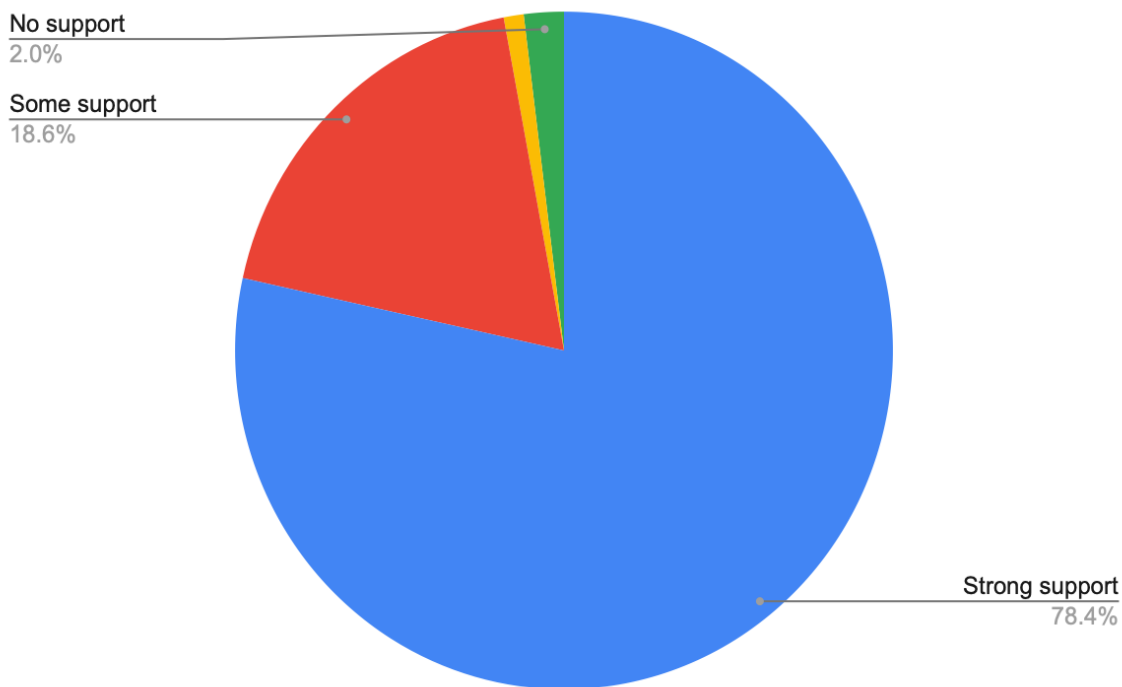
Strong support: 45 (open houses) & 35 (surveys) = 80

Some support: 6 (open houses) & 13 (surveys) = 19

Little support: 0 (open houses) & 1 (surveys) = 1



No support: 0 (open houses) & 2 (surveys) = 2



Summary of comments

We received a total of 48 comments about Community Services & Institutions across engagement methods. All the comments are available as part of the release of this report, and we have summarized the major themes below.

Comments about Community Services included prioritizing mental health, improving city services, establishing an alternative response team, and prioritizing underserved people. Folks also noted a need for increased funding for friendship and recreation centers, and support for youth after school.

Prioritize mental health

- mental health and crisis services need to be enhanced
- Work with organizations to develop/coordinate medical assistance treatment for substance abuse
- Recruit MH professionals and increase funding to increase their pay
- this summary should have mentioned mental health services, since it is the most important part of the subcommittee's work
- I would advise that we build towards a community care model with a learning cohort rather than invest in a one-time training that focuses on pathology rather than building healthy behaviors and environments.
- I am concerned there is no call out for how we support our youth outside of the school system and how we address the rising addiction problems in our community



Alternative Response Team and improvement of city services

- pay more attention to crisis services (alternative response team)
- crisis response team w/health professionals that work alongside police to de-escalate situations.
- There's a missed opportunity here to address public concerns about limited hours for library and recreation facilities, and lack of youth programming such as boys and girls clubs. Folks are also curious about how the city can provide better community service through alternative police response, but police and other specific departments aren't mentioned here. I'd like to see more than just communication about existing resources.
- mental health top priority. How can we insert into law enf? revisit ART?
- Increased funding for the friendship center and recreation center.

Accessible Government

Accessible government key highlights

The Comprehensive Plan Update recommends the following goals for accessible government:

- Improved user-friendly communication between the City and residents.
- Building residents' individual capacity to participate in City government.

Input received

At the open houses, we asked folks to use a sticker dot to indicate their level of support for each topic's goals. In the survey, we asked folks to "rate how much you support the goal." They could choose between: strong support, some support, little support, or no support. At open houses and in the survey, we also asked folks to comment and elaborate on their thoughts about the goals. In the online Interim Report document, participants could comment on specific goals, objectives, and strategies.

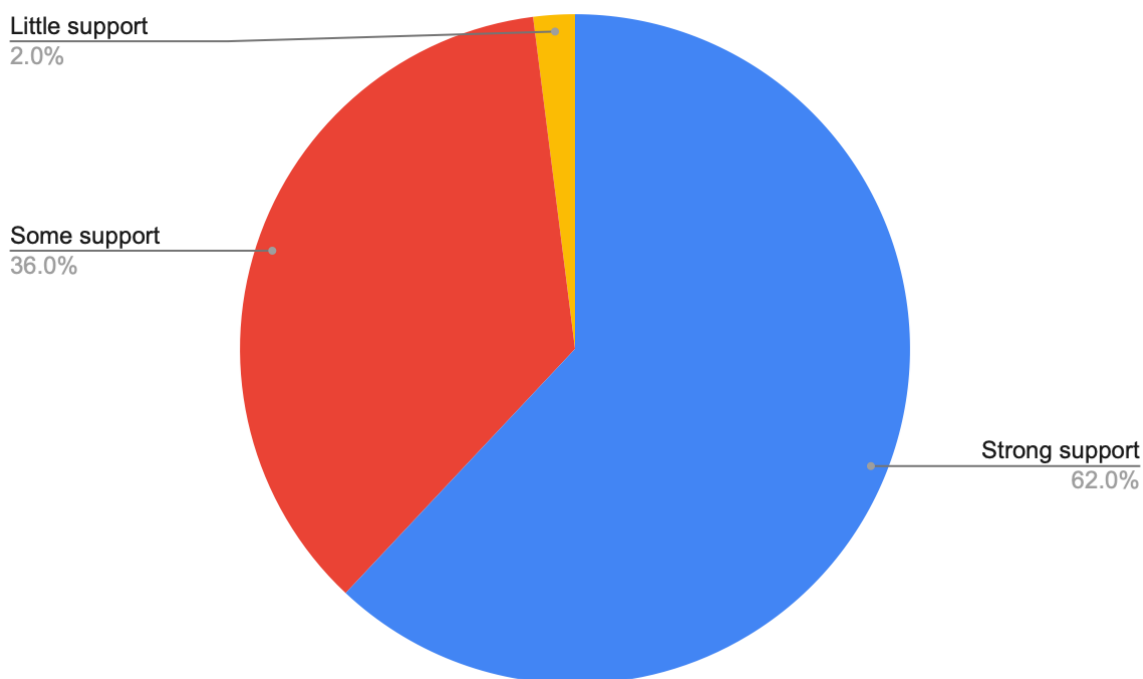
Support for goals

Strong support: 23 (open houses) & 39 (surveys) = 62

Some support: 26 (open houses) & 10 (surveys) = 36

Little support: 0 (open houses) & 2 (surveys) = 2

No support: 0 (open houses) & 0 (surveys) = 0



Summary of comments

We received a total of 49 comments about Accessible Government across engagement methods. All the comments are available as part of the release of this report, and we have summarized the major themes below.

Comments about Accessible Government included prioritizing the city of Winona's relationship with lower-income citizens and the desire for a public communication staff member and/or department. Comments also noted increasing accessibility to city information (e.g. languages including sign language, physical/vision/hearing impaired); use of technology to increase people's ability to view public meetings; and increasing engagement with students including college students.

Accessibility of meetings and government processes

- government is NOT just for the rich!!
- more inclusion and communication with individuals of low socioeconomic status. this includes the homeless
- city council should meet in community locations like Maplewood and ERC
- communication with individuals of low socio-economic prior, before any "committee" meetings "board" meetings
- City Council meeting at community sites like ERC, Maplewood
- Adding language and other accessibility access options!
- I am looking forward to seeing something like City council work plans and some kind of implementation/accountability piece so we can feel confident the goals are being worked on. I'd



love to see continuing work groups as well, because these goals really belong to the whole community.

- Just making sure things are easy to access and anyone can do it or participate

Public communication official/department

- City website is not user friendly and should be totally/partially updated so info can be reached without jumping through 10 rabbit holes
- Why are city announcements so random & unreliable? Who does them? They need help
- Communications department would be nice
- This is very needed - I'd like to see a full time community engagement position. I would also like to see this section address public communication and relationship building goals for specific city departments like the police, park and rec, etc
- The need for a City communication professional cannot be understated
- Trying to find information on a council topic or look at past minutes is a slog. The system doesn't work well. Also when I email any city council members, I had to ask for a copy of my own email so I can show it was sent

Need for public comments

- Public comments should allowed to be spontaneous
- Well, they finally allowed for public comments.
- This would be great. It sometimes feels like the city doesn't really care what residents think. A public comment or suggestion box would also be good

Transformative Projects

Transformative Projects key highlights

This chapter focuses on three significant projects for Winona's future:

- The Riverfront Trail along the Mississippi River
- Incubator space for new businesses
- Increased housing options for those who want to live in Winona

Input received

At the open houses, we asked folks to use a sticker dot to indicate their level of support for each topic's goals. In the survey, we asked folks to "rate how much you support the goal." They could choose between: strong support, some support, little support, or no support. At open houses and in the survey, we also asked folks to comment and elaborate on their thoughts about the goals. In the online Interim Report document, participants could comment on specific goals, objectives, and strategies.

Support for goals

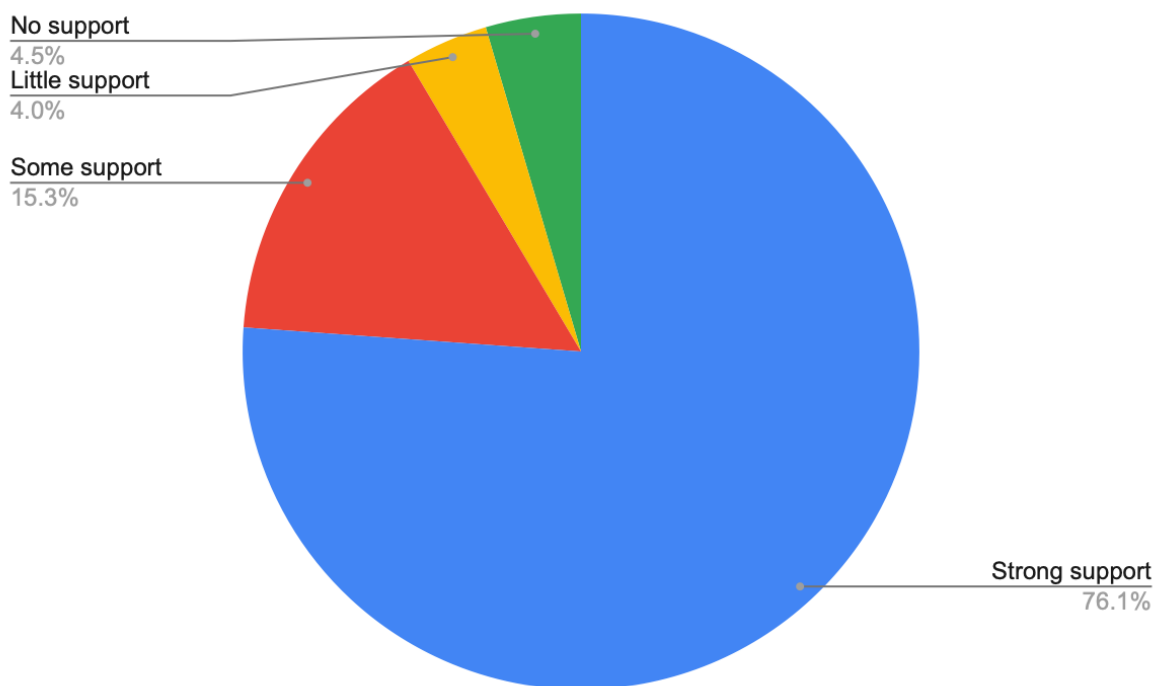
Strong support: 30 (open houses) & 37 (surveys) = 67



Some support: 3.5 (open houses) & 10 (surveys) = 13.5

Little support: 2.5 (open houses) & 1 (surveys) = 3.5

No support: 0 (open houses) & 4 (surveys) = 4



Summary of comments

We received a total of 35 comments about Transformative Projects across engagement methods. All the comments are available as part of the release of this report, and we have summarized the major themes below.

Comments about Transformative Projects covered affordable housing, concern about the building of a new police station, and a recommendation for the city of Winona to carefully evaluate feasibility and impact of potential projects. Comments also noted a concern about a riverfront trail by industrial areas, and questions about the consideration of a WSU fieldhouse given other needs in the community.

Need for affordable housing and housing options

- I agree! What can zoning changes do to accommodate new types of trans. housing like tiny homes
- Emphasis on housing options
- As a member of this subcommittee, the process was deeply flawed, and the basic idea of "transformative" was unclear; the Update recommendations for housing is NOT A TRANSFORMATIVE PROJECT! It lacked any ambition to actually provide affordable or accessible housing to residents
- Housing and environment prioritized. Not sure what an incubator space is



- as long as it is done with EVERY income level considered. there are many people in this town that are in the lower income levels (less than \$30,000 a yr.)

Concerns about building a police station

- Do not build new facilities for police/fire/sr. center in existing parks land.
- Why don't police & sheriffs get a mediator to work out their personal & petty issues. County has a shooting range & space for training center @ Stone Point Park
- Winona has * more important issues before we think about a new police station

Evaluate feasibility and impact of projects

- We will never make sustainable & efficient progress if we don't use formal impact & program evaluation -hire a policy analyst as a staff member. THAT'S TRANSFORMATIVE
- Consult actual experts next time. incubator The garage failed for many preventable reasons --irresponsible
- The large number of industrial polluters right on the river is a big part of this. I think this part has been glazed over. The river is great, but the in land side of the trail will be ugly. Who wants to see a commercial port, or a plastic factory or bunch of power lines? Those aren't things tourists will come to see, and not things Winona should want to show off. Levee park and under the bridge are now nice. Accept that as a victory and don't try to "put lipstick on a pig" and waste time and \$\$ with a trail that won't be nice.

Other comments received

In the survey and at open houses, we asked folks to share with us any additional comments, things they felt should be included, and what stood out to them overall. In the online report document, folks could also leave comments on the introduction and vision and values sections. Where these comments referred to a plan topic, they have been included in the corresponding section above.

Other comments not referring to a specific plan topic suggested improvements to the engagement and subcommittee process; expressed concern about the financial impact of the plan goals; and noted a desire to see the plan actually carried out. Comments also asked for specific focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion; and expressed a mix of optimism and pessimism regarding Winona's future growth and vibrancy.