



Strategic and Collaborative Governance Comment Summary

Introduction

In the spring of 2018, the City of Sherwood launched the Sherwood 2040 Comprehensive Plan Vision, a city-wide community engagement process that outlines a desired future for the Sherwood community in the year 2040. As part of the community-wide 2040 Comprehensive Plan Vision, the Sherwood community developed vision and goal statements for the creation of a strategic and collaborative government in Sherwood's future. In 2019, the City launched the Comprehensive Planning Process to develop draft goals for the Comprehensive Plan. The City conducted outreach at local events and community committees to help develop policies and objectives to reach these goals. On March 30, the City of Sherwood launched a community-wide survey to gather residents' feedback on these policies and objectives.

Key Takeaways

The following key takeaways were observed from the survey results:

Governance and Growth Management

- The majority of respondents think that all the policies within all four goals were Somewhat or Very Important
- Respondents considered policies within Goal 3 and Goal 4 to be the most important overall
- Respondents considered policies within Goal 1 and Goal 2 to be important, but had less consensus overall
- While most respondents supported these policies, the main reasons commenters opposed these policies were:
 - Opposition to increased taxes
 - Concern with regional government agencies having priorities that differ from local values
 - Concern that Sherwood should not grow and instead should preserve rural and suburban lands
 - Lack of trust in government to represent the interests of citizens
 - Concern that growth will lead to traffic congestion
- Commenters also shared these main themes:
 - Transparency and clear communication from city government are essential
 - Accessible public engagement and decision-making are important

Community Health and Safety

- The majority of respondents think that all policies within all four goals were Somewhat or Very Important
- Respondents considered policies within Goal 1, 2 and 4 to be the most important overall
- Respondents considered policies within Goal 3 to be important, but had less consensus overall
- Commenters shared these main themes:
 - Public services are necessary and lead to a robust community
 - Public services need development as the City grows
 - Preserving and maintaining natural areas is important

Survey Summary

The Strategic and Collaborative Governance Survey presented four goals related to governance and growth management and four related to community health and safety to be included in the Sherwood 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update. Each goal had multiple policies within it. Respondents were asked to rate the importance of the policy and share their general feedback on each goal and its policies. The City will use this input to guide its goals and policies for the strategic and collaborative governance theme.

The survey was available between **March 30 and May 13**. In this timeframe, the survey received **61 responses**. The results of this survey are not statistically representative, meaning the respondent sample is not predictive of the opinions of the Sherwood community. This report summarizes the comments collected from community members using the survey.

Summary of Responses

Governance and Growth Management

Goal 1 - Coordinate with adjacent jurisdictions, local service providers and regional and state governmental agencies to manage growth and development in Sherwood.

Question: The following policies relate to Goal 1. Please share how important you think each policy is for the City of Sherwood's future.

Table 1: Survey results for policies within Goal 1 for Governance and Growth Management

| | Don't know / prefer not to respond | Very unimportant | Somewhat unimportant | Neutral | Somewhat important | Very important | Responses |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------|--------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Policy 1.1 | 6.9% | 6.9% | 15.5% | 10.3% | 27.6% | 32.8% | 58 |
| Policy 1.2 | 5.2% | 8.6% | 12.1% | 10.3% | 29.3% | 34.5% | 58 |
| Policy 1.3 | 3.5% | 24.6% | 10.5% | 8.8% | 19.3% | 33.3% | 57 |
| Policy 1.4 | 1.8% | 10.5% | 14.0% | 17.5% | 26.3% | 29.8% | 57 |

Themes of Open-Ended Question: Why do you feel this way? Would you suggest any changes to policies within Goal 1 and why? (n=36)

- About a quarter of commenters think it is important for the City to preserve suburban and rural land by limiting urbanization
- Some commenters were concerned about regional government agencies setting policies that do not align with local priorities while some respondents wanted better collaboration with regional government
- A few commenters were concerned about losing local character and becoming like other nearby urban centers
- A few commenters were concerned that politicians and developers are benefitting most from increased growth

Goal 2 – Provide timely, efficient and fiscally responsible delivery of public facilities and services to balance the development of complete neighborhoods, employment areas, schools and public spaces.

Question: The following policies relate to Goal 2. Please share how important you think each policy is for the City of Sherwood's future.

Table 2: Survey results for policies within Goal 2 for Governance and Growth Management

| | Don't know / prefer not to respond | Very unimportant | Somewhat unimportant | Neutral | Somewhat important | Very important | Responses |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------|--------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Policy 2.1 | 0.0% | 5.3% | 7.0% | 15.8% | 31.6% | 40.4% | 57 |
| Policy 2.2 | 1.8% | 5.3% | 3.5% | 19.3% | 35.1% | 35.1% | 57 |

Themes of Open-Ended Question: Why do you feel this way? Would you suggest any changes to policies within Goal 2 and why? (n = 14)

- Some commenters think it is important for the City to coordinate with other jurisdictions. Several of them noted that while coordinating, the City should make sure not compromise its own interests in favor of other jurisdictions' competing interests
- A few commenters noted that they think the City should be fiscally responsible so that it does not need to increase taxes

Goal 3 – Ensure that the rate, amount, type, location and cost of new development will preserve and enhance Sherwood's quality of life.

Question: The following policies relate to Goal 3. Please share how important you think each policy is for the City of Sherwood's future.

Table 3: Survey results for policies within Goal 3 for Governance and Growth Management

| | Don't know / prefer not to respond | Very unimportant | Somewhat unimportant | Neutral | Somewhat important | Very important | Responses |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------|--------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Policy 3.1 | 3.5% | 8.8% | 5.3% | 12.3% | 19.3% | 50.9% | 57 |
| Policy 3.2 | 3.4% | 13.8% | 1.7% | 1.7% | 27.6% | 51.7% | 58 |
| Policy 3.3 | 3.4% | 15.5% | 8.6% | 3.4% | 24.1% | 44.8% | 58 |
| Policy 3.4 | 6.9% | 13.8% | 5.2% | 10.3% | 13.8% | 50.0% | 58 |
| Policy 3.5 | 8.5% | 18.6% | 1.7% | 11.9% | 27.1% | 32.2% | 59 |

Themes of Open-Ended Question: Why do you feel this way? Would you suggest any changes to policies within Goal 3 and why? (n=27)

- About a third of commenters think it is important to preserve livability and quality of life for Sherwood residents
- About a quarter of commenters wanted to limit growth to preserve rural and suburban lands
- Some commenters wanted to ensure that the City developed a plan to manage traffic congestion
- Some commenters lacked trust in government decision making
- A few commenters were concerned that politicians and developers are benefitting most from increased growth

Goal 4 - Provide open and transparent governance by assuring information is available and disseminated through a variety of methods that is accessible to people of diverse ages, abilities and backgrounds.

Question: The following policies relate to Goal 4. Please share how important you think each policy is for the City of Sherwood's future.

Table 4: Survey results for policies within Goal 4 for Governance and Growth Management

| | Don't know / prefer not to respond | Very unimportant | Somewhat unimportant | Neutral | Somewhat important | Very important | Responses |
|------------|------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------|--------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Policy 4.1 | 1.7% | 3.4% | 3.4% | 6.9% | 17.2% | 67.2% | 58 |
| Policy 4.2 | 1.8% | 5.3% | 7.0% | 8.8% | 26.3% | 50.9% | 57 |
| Policy 4.3 | 1.7% | 8.5% | 1.7% | 10.2% | 13.6% | 64.4% | 59 |
| Policy 4.4 | 3.6% | 5.4% | 3.6% | 16.1% | 19.6% | 51.8% | 56 |
| Policy 4.5 | 3.6% | 3.6% | 1.8% | 12.5% | 19.6% | 58.9% | 56 |

Themes of Open-Ended Question: Why do you feel this way? Would you suggest any changes to policies within Goal 4 and why? (n = 17)

- About half of commenters think that transparency and clear communication from city government are essential to effective governance
- About half of commenters also think that the City government needs to undertake accessible public engagement and let the results of this engagement drive decision-making

Community Health and Safety

Goal 1 - Ensure a high level of public safety by providing well-funded and well-planned police and fire protection, and emergency services and preparedness to existing and new development in Sherwood.

Question: The following policies relate to Goal 1. Please share how important you think each policy is for the City of Sherwood's future.

Table 5: Survey results for policies within Goal 1 for Community Health and Safety

| Goal 1 | Don't know / prefer not to respond | Very unimportant | Somewhat unimportant | Neutral | Somewhat important | Very important | Responses |
|------------|------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------|--------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Policy 1.1 | 1.7% | 1.7% | 5.1% | 10.2% | 13.6% | 67.8% | 59 |
| Policy 1.2 | 1.7% | 5.2% | 0.0% | 5.2% | 10.3% | 77.6% | 58 |
| Policy 1.3 | 0.0% | 3.4% | 3.4% | 6.9% | 24.1% | 62.1% | 58 |
| Policy 1.4 | 3.4% | 3.4% | 1.7% | 11.9% | 28.8% | 50.8% | 59 |

Themes of Open-Ended Question: Why do you feel this way? Would you suggest any changes to policies within Goal 1 and why? (n = 18)

- About a third of commenters think that these public services are necessary and lead to a robust community. They also think that it is important to continue to develop them to accommodate growth
- Commenters noted the following about funding for these services:
 - New developments should pay for services when they need to be expanded
 - The City should discourage population growth, so residents do not have to pay for expanded services
 - A few commenters think the City should coordinate these services with other jurisdictions for cost efficiency, while others think the City should not coordinate with other jurisdictions

Goal 2 - Maintain and improve the quality of the air, water and land resources.

Question: The following policies relate to Goal 2. Please share how important you think each policy is for the City of Sherwood's future.

Table 6: Survey results for policies within Goal 2 for Community Health and Safety

| | Don't know / prefer not to respond | Very unimportant | Somewhat unimportant | Neutral | Somewhat important | Very important | Responses |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------|--------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Policy 2.1 | 1.7% | 3.4% | 3.4% | 12.1% | 19.0% | 60.3% | 58 |

Themes of Open-Ended Question: Why do you feel this way? Would you suggest any changes to policies within Goal 2 and why? (n = 14)

- A majority of commenters think that it is very important to preserve and maintain natural areas. These commenters also noted:
 - The City should regulate developments to avoid impacts on natural areas
 - The City should make sure that preserved natural areas are accessible to the general public
 - Reducing pesticides and air pollutants is important
- A few commenters think that while it is important to preserve natural areas, the City must balance the needs of preservation with those of development

Goal 3 - Encourage land use patterns that locate land use activities in close proximity, reduce or shorten vehicle trips and encourage energy conservation through sustainable site planning, landscaping and construction practices.

Question: The following policies relate to Goal 3. Please share how important you think each policy is for the City of Sherwood's future.

Table 7: Survey results for policies within Goal 3 for Community Health and Safety

| | Don't know / prefer not to respond | Very unimportant | Somewhat unimportant | Neutral | Somewhat important | Very important | Responses |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------|--------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Policy 3.1 | 1.7% | 5.1% | 1.7% | 15.3% | 27.1% | 49.2% | 59 |
| Policy 3.2 | 5.1% | 1.7% | 6.8% | 20.3% | 28.8% | 37.3% | 59 |
| Policy 3.3 | 1.7% | 3.4% | 5.1% | 13.6% | 28.8% | 47.5% | 59 |
| Policy 3.4 | 5.0% | 11.7% | 11.7% | 16.7% | 30.0% | 25.0% | 60 |
| Policy 3.5 | 3.4% | 5.1% | 1.7% | 33.9% | 20.3% | 35.6% | 59 |
| Policy 3.6 | 1.7% | 5.2% | 6.9% | 25.9% | 27.6% | 32.8% | 58 |

Themes of Open-Ended Question: Why do you feel this way? Would you suggest any changes to policies within Goal 3 and why? (n = 10)

- There weren't strong trends in the answers to this question. Commenters noted the following related to Goal 3 and its policies:
 - The City should limit the construction of new housing and buildings
 - The City should approach development patterns from a holistic viewpoint, considering the need to preserve natural resources
 - The City should create safe biking and walking paths to achieve these goals
 - These policies are good as long as they do not lead to tax increases
 - The City should coordinate these policies (specifically Policy 3.5) with State and Federal programs

Goal 4 - Minimize impacts and risk to life and property from natural hazards and disasters

Question: The following policies relate to Goal 4. Please share how important you think each policy is for the City of Sherwood's future.

Table 8: Survey results for policies within Goal 4 for Community Health and Safety

| | Don't know / prefer not to respond | Very unimportant | Somewhat unimportant | Neutral | Somewhat important | Very important | Responses |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------|--------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Policy 4.1 | 3.4% | 8.5% | 0.0% | 27.1% | 30.5% | 30.5% | 59 |
| Policy 4.2 | 3.3% | 3.3% | 0.0% | 8.3% | 16.7% | 68.3% | 60 |
| Policy 4.3 | 1.7% | 5.2% | 0.0% | 10.3% | 20.7% | 62.1% | 58 |

Themes of Open-Ended Question: Why do you feel this way? Would you suggest any changes to policies within Goal 4 and why? (n = 10)

- A few commenters think that:
 - These policies are common sense and the City should prioritize them

- These policies are redundant with the existing work the City is doing
- The City should create natural spaces that provide flood management services and wildlife habitat
- Commenters said the following related to commercial development and natural hazards:
 - Some commenters think that the City should hold commercial enterprises to high standards related to developments in flood-prone areas
 - Others think that if landowners are willing to accept risk and responsibility for flooding, then they should be allowed to build in areas with rare flooding

Additional Comments

Themes of Open-Ended Question: Do you have any additional questions or comments related to Comprehensive Plan updates for Strategic and Collaborative Governance? (n = 12)

- There were not strong themes in the answers to this question. Commenters noted the following:
 - The City should provide more open green space and should not let all open space be developed
 - The survey was overly complex or hard to understand
 - Despite the survey and other public engagement methods commenters do not think their opinions will be factored into decisions
 - The City should avoid tax increases and keep population growth to a minimum
 - The City should work to improve schools, services and the economy
 - The City should improve the management of the urban forest, prioritizing the planting of more conifer trees and the pruning of deciduous trees
 - Participants are grateful for the opportunity to provide input on the comprehensive plan