



GUIDING GROWTH FOR A VIBRANT AND THRIVING
LENEXA
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Student Workshop Summary

November 10, 2021 | 8:00-9:30 a.m.

On Wednesday November 10, 2021, the City of Lenexa and Houseal Lavigne’s project consultant team hosted a Student Workshop at St. James Academy High School. The students, including freshmen, juniors, and seniors, were given worksheets prompting them to identify top five issues or concerns confronting the Lenexa community. Next, all their responses were written on the classroom whiteboard and attendees were asked to select their top three most important issues discussed so far. The group was also asked to identify three specific projects or actions they would like to see undertaken in Lenexa, as well as the City’s primary strengths and assets. A total of nine responses were collected.

Note: The items identified in this summary are not recommendations or observations of the consultant, but rather represent feedback and comments received from those who participated in the workshop.

Most Important Issues and Concerns

The workshop attendees highlighted several issues and concerns facing the City, ranging from transportation and businesses to recreation options and sustainability. There was a general theme of improving accessibility among in the students’ responses. The top-voted issues and concerns were:

- Need for safer travel routes for cyclists and pedestrians (3)
- More stores needed in western areas of the community (3)
- Need to promote locally owned stores (3)
- Lack of public transportation (3)

Other Issues and Concerns

- Difficulty finding employees (2)
- Need to promote sustainable development (2)
- Need for retail closer to residential areas (2)
- Insufficient access to medical care
- Lack of recreation opportunities
- Lack of public art/beautification

Most Desired Actions or Projects

The actions or projects the students would like to see undertaken in Lenexa directly address the top issues and concerns identified. This includes ideas like improving non-automobile access to destinations, focusing on sustainability, and adding public art.

- Create programs for small businesses and entrepreneurs (2)
- Commission public art (2)
- Add stores and supermarkets closer to residential areas
- Improve sidewalks and bike lanes, adding drinking fountains along routes
- Promote clean energy projects
- Create community focus groups
- Raise the City's minimum wage
- Invest in a public transit system

Top Strengths and Assets

Responses to the City's top strengths and assets covered a wide range of tangible and intangible aspects, including the built environment, the City's safe and family-friendly feeling, and local leadership.

- Lenexa's City Center (3)
- Quality schools (2)
- Family-friendly environment (2)
- Good neighbors/residents
- Quality of commercial areas
- The City's current balance of natural vs. developed areas
- Public safety
- City leadership