



APPENDIX

A-1

VISIONING SESSION NOTES

GROUP I

Neighborhoods

- Agreed that we need to expand neighborhoods, adding the Bowling Addition, adding upper and lower Raleigh Heights community, Red Brush off Fayette Street.
- Harper Hill – hard to walk around – need safe crosswalks.
- The doughnut holes are problems. It is very hard to tell when you are in town and out. This is a problem for emergency vehicles as well.
- New River Park is a great park – but across the street is an eye sore. Getting to New River Park is hard due to narrow roads. The subsidized apartments nearby present problems.
- East Park is a challenge in terms of crime. Lots of good families there and lots of spirit.
- Maxwell Hill- sidewalks make good neighborhoods and are needed. Good Schools. Older neighborhood.
- Woodcrest is the newest neighborhood. Sidewalks are needed and traffic accessibility is a problem.
- Bowling Addition is a middle class neighborhood that is starting to show its age. Small lots. Traffic is a problem in and out
- Redbrush is a crime area that needs help
- Upper and Lower Raleigh heights. Good Neighborhood – but it would be nice to see more sidewalks

- Woodlawn – the first really nice neighborhood in Beckley – but starting to show its age. Close to downtown and accessible

Corridors

- Harper Road is a health care corridor with hotels and restaurants. It brings great revenue into the city with easy access to the interstate. We need to make areas look nicer. Weeds have taken over in places. Drainage can be a problem. Cross walks at Eisenhower Drive – Walking trail is great – but the heavy traffic is a problem.
- Robert C. Byrd – very accessible – but the fact that it goes in and out of the City is a problem.
- Pedestrian crosswalks are needed. People who stay at hotels can't walk to restaurants.
- East Beckley Bypass has helped to alleviate some pressure on Eisenhower Drive. Need this "Z Way" to be completed in our lifetime. Keep pushing.
- Fayette Street – good access – but after dark some citizens are reluctant to drive on it.
- Harper Road is limited in width and there is no property to develop there. New River Drive might be the key. There is land there for development and it may be the way to get better access to Beckley in the future – especially to downtown.

Special Districts

- Downtown needs more commercial development. Need an Art Center. “Clean up some of the folks” who frequent the courthouse square and other areas of downtown. Appreciate efforts from Dan Bickey.
- East Beckley Employment Center. The soccer complex is a huge asset to the city, and state. Lots of property to develop here. There may be a lack of identity to this area however and it may be a challenge.
- Regional Commercial Shopping District. Drainage is still a problem. The maintenance of Cranberry Creek is an issue. Some beautification could happen in parking areas in Shopping Centers.

GROUP 2

Corridors

- East Beckley Bypass is good – but needs to be completed – so it can be used to get to Fayetteville. Use exit 42 more often and have more signage.
- Signage is missing all over town. Hard to give directions to folks from out of town.
- Once in town it can be hard to get back to the Interstate 64 – especially from downtown.
- Need more signage and better access to the Youth Museum (in New River Park)
- Eisenhower Drive needs to be widened.
- Consider widening Harper Road to reduce congestion.
- Beautification of areas where you enter the City – particularly abandoned houses.
- Vacant gas station at the top of Harper Road near Westwood – could be turned into a park.

Neighborhoods

- Zoning is a challenge in the neighborhoods and the donut holes make it hard to plan.
- Need to include Ward 5 (east Beckley between Johnstown, Eisenhower, N. Kanawha)
- More sidewalks and repair of existing sidewalks
- Do something about the weeds

- New River Park--Tennis courts at New River Park are not utilized and may be area to be put to another use. More lighted areas near Youth Museum. Improve access to New River Park and better utilize Robert C. Byrd Drive.

Downtown

- Develop alley behind McBees and landscape
- Include more public art. Utilize artists who live in Beckley. The Ambrosia Bed and Breakfast is an asset.
- More public art
- More safety patrols to make people feel safe in downtown Beckley.
- Move little league field to where soccer fields are.
- Investigate the status of the new Sheetz
- Relocate the halfway house in downtown Beckley
- Downtown hotel
- Create a venue for concerts and regional theater for entertainment.
- Need community center near S. Kanawha and Johnstown Road so kids do not have to travel so far to get to similar facilities
- Create access to old Beckley Mill headed up by Piney Creek Watershed
- Find a way to restore and utilize soldiers memorial theater

GROUP 3

- Churches, schools and parks are neighborhood assets.
- Need transit to get to malls & to work, and to reduce congestion & traffic jams.
- Multi-cultural aspects of Beckley are a strength.
- Gallery on Marshall Street is a strength.
- Need more bike trails to reduce traffic congestion.
- Seniors want to walk – but we need more sidewalks and crosswalks.
- Family Dollar is an asset.
- Need shoe repair shops.
- Young people need things to do, especially teens (teen town).

- Need more shows and ways to get kids involved in the arts.
- Need more directional signs to show visitors where to go (New River Park, Mall)
- Color Code signs – maybe even color code streets.
- Improve New River Drive (3 lane) and make it the way to downtown/New River Park.
- Outreach organizations are a local strength.
- Beautification needed.
- Harper Road sidewalks are needed.

GROUP 4

- Don't need more, more, more – take care of what we have.
- Annexation is needed. Need an aggressive plan to annex all donut holes at one time.
- Offer incentives for annexation – but do not neglect city residents who have been paying taxes all along.
- Bypass is important.
- Consider a way to more directly connect Harper Road with New River Drive (new road near fire station toward the northeast).
- Fix intersection at New River Drive and Robert C. Byrd Drive
- Signage system relies too much on Harper Road – consider other ways to downtown/ attractions.
- Take better care of existing sidewalks and pedestrian areas. Prisoners from the jail could help maintain sidewalks.
- The City should create a line item in the budget for sidewalk installation and do a little each year.
- Visitors staying in Harper Road area hotels can't really jog anywhere (maybe the cemetery).
- Rails Trail bike path – safety is an issue/ concern. Some people do not feel safe. Maybe a police patrol.
- Need a crosswalk across Eisenhower Drive near City National Bank and across from Ryans. Maybe a push button activated signal.
- No ramps from trail to the street
- Depilated structures are a big issue. The City can only do so much and maybe we need to engage the private sector and/or foundations

- to help. Get more houses torn down on an annual basis. Create incentives.
- Safety in all neighborhoods is a problem. Drugs are a problem.
- Fellowship Home downtown maybe should be moved. They are in the wrong place.
- 28 churches in East Beckley. Maybe engage with clergy more to encourage people to help each other. Cut grass, pull weeds
- New River Park should be considered a neighborhood.
- Woodcrest is the nicest neighborhood.
- Take care of what we have.

GROUP 5

- Downtown – the BIG Project is a challenge and an asset
- Dan Bickey / UC Beckley are assets
- Inactivity and safety in the evening are concerns downtown
- Need attention on Prince Street
- New River Park is a real asset. Sometimes safety is an issue.
- Harper Road is a medical district. Private signage needs to be controlled more
- Better signal timing is needed – but that is controlled by the State of WV.
- Congestion on Harper is an obvious issue.
- The East Beckley Employment Center is being enhanced. The Pinecrest Development Park (behind Convention Center) is spending \$1.2 million to upgrade the park and extend the road to the East Beckley Bypass and will add another 30 acres of available sites.
- Would like to move the little league to the soccer complex and turn it into a larger sports complex.
- The rail trail is a big asset. Lucky to have this. Need to continue to work on this and extend the loop.
- Maxwell Hill /Woodcrest are most affluent.
- Bowling Addition, East Beckley, VA Hospital needs to be added.
- Robert C. Byrd Drive is a 5-lane corridor and that works well – but traffic can get heavy at time.
- Northbound traffic on Eisenhower Drive can't

directly access Robert C Byrd –without going through a private shopping center parking lot.

- East Beckley bypass should be completed in 2014 – finally.
- Harper Road is gateway to Beckley
- New River Drive / Robert C Byrd Drive intersection is a major issue – especially for left turns.
- Johnstown Road speed limit is too low

GROUP 6

- Restructure B& O Tax - base it on net revenue – not gross revenue
- Pool is an asset at New River Park
- Restore pools at East Park & Maxwell Hill
- Add Bowling Addition, McClain Addition, Downtown, East Beckley to neighborhoods
- Need gathering places
- Donuts need to be removed
- What happened to western part of Z way? What happens when East Beckley Bypass dumps traffic onto Robert C. Byrd?
- Must solve traffic flow problem
- Need to work on public transit system
- Teel and Pikeview Ewert are heavily traveled and should be considered important roads – even though they are largely residential areas.
- Better signage all over town. Especially at Pikeview.
- Need a Dog Park. The pool was open for dogs on the last day of the season and it was very successful.
- All parks need to be maintained better
- There is a homeless problem. Hobo camp behind Lowes.
- Need an outdoor amphitheater.
- Need to find out why there is low attendance at local cultural events.
- Upgrade City of Beckley Web Site to be more tailored to events and happenings

GROUP 7

- Bypass will exit on to Eisenhower Drive where the Sonic is. All traffic will funnel up Pinewood Drive and Holiday Drive to get to Harper Road. This will be a problem and needs to be addressed.

- Need to make improvements to allow northbound Eisenhower traffic to access Robert C Byrd without going on private property.
- Woodcrest only has one in and one out. Consider new alternate route for emergency
- Bike lanes on East Beckley bypass are an asset.
- Many complaints about roads maintained by State of WV.
- Sidewalks proposal from November 7, 2011. Beckley residents walk a lot. There should be safer ways to walk.
- Tour busses come to town with skiers and or other tourists and they can't walk around town much – especially at Harper Road. Can't safely get from hotels to restaurants.
- The signs we need are also to get people out of town. People get uncomfortable when they cannot see a clear way back to the interstate.
- The Beckley Mill is a new park under consideration. It needs to be mentioned in the Comp Plan and it has lots of potential to be a major community asset. Grants will be needed to make improvements.
- Need bus station / service to support the BIG project.
- New River Park needs better signage and maybe Ewart needs to be improved for better access. RV's that go to New River Park are challenged to get to sites.
- Sidewalks and vacant property are key issues in neighborhoods

GROUP 8

1. New River Drive and Robert C. Byrd Intersection needs improvement / upgrade to allow for a safer turning movements.
2. Future traffic coming off the new Bypass on to Eisenhower (near the Sonic restaurant) needs to be addressed.
3. Lots of concerns about bypass traffic coming off the Z way and then going up to Pinewood Drive / Maxwell Hill – neighborhood impacts.
4. Concern over future traffic flow going next to Housing Authority property and the potential need for a pedestrian overpass to keep kids off the roads.

- Need crosswalks at McDonalds on Robert C. Byrd Drive and at Neville.
- Repair / replace sidewalks
- Traffic problem at 9th Street and Sheridan Ave in East Park Neighborhood
- Traffic problems at 5 corners.
- East Park Cultural Center
- East Beckley problems can be addressed with beautification.
- Events downtown are a big asset
- The big problem with New River Park is accessibility.
- Harper Road is not walkable
- Public Transportation is needed.
- Need more manufacturing jobs

GROUP 9

- Downtown needs places for people to live. It needs to be a “hip” place to go. Need nightlife to attract young professionals.
- Downtown needs to be walkable, pedestrian friendly and beautiful.
- Increase number and type of shops. Beckley downtown needs to be like Lewisburg.
- Want people to be proud of living in Beckley and living downtown.
- Develop amenities for downtown. It needs to have a close by grocery store to support people who choose to live downtown.
- More crosswalks, bike lanes, trails, intermodal transportation in general.
- Connect future students to downtown Beckley. Students are naturally drawn to downtown.
- Create Beckley with an identity / destination.
- Dangerous left hand turns need to be eliminated.
- Need Commercial Access Roads
- Congestion in general
- Consider Roundabouts
- Remove dilapidated homes
- Fix the city limits (eliminate donut holes).

GROUP 10

- Robert C. Byrd – concentrated businesses – but need sprucing up. New codes require some landscaping – but some older ones are problematic.

- Signage clutter
- Dangerous Intersection at New River Drive / Robert C. Byrd
- Freedom Park and the Cinemas are assets. King Tut Drive Inn
- Good industrial park development potential along East Beckley Bypass
- East Beckley Bypass provides better access to soccer fields
- Future Beckley Mill and future Park.
- Fayette Street – Stratton Elementary is an asset and a future memorial is planned. The entrance to the County Club needs attention. Drainage issues at old gas station near Booker Street.
- Harper Road Access is a problem
- Downtown is a national historic district.
- New River Park has many assets – including the new Rocket Boys Festival. Need to try to acquire more land for expansion and eliminate blight.
- Traffic goes too fast in some residential neighborhoods
- Need better trail access. Access exists at either end – but not in the middle.
- Red Brush does not have that much crime.
- Downtown housing

GROUPS 11 & 12

- Signal timing is an issue.
- Neighborhood watch
- Improve brick streets or get rid of them.
- Housing is very important downtown. Lots of buildings could be remodeled for housing. Need to get people living downtown and going into business.
- New River Park – need security along walking trails and improvements to entrances and exits.
- New Bypass Road that comes out to Stanford Road – need traffic light as traffic volumes are high.
- East Beckley – don’t like the depleted stone walls.