

Citizen Summit *2019*

Mayor and Town Council



Normal, Illinois
October 2019



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SECTION 1

COMMUNITY SUMMIT 2020: AGENDA AND OVERVIEW

Citizen Summit 2020 Town of Normal Agenda December 5, 2019

PURPOSES

The Mayor and Town Council are seeking input from the community on your ideas for Normal's future as they update the Town's Strategic Plan – a 15-year Vision – the preferred future; a 5-year Plan with outcome-based goals – map to the future; and a 1-year Action Plan – a "to do list" with deliverable products and results.

FIVE BASIC RULES

- (1) Everyone's ideas and comments are important.**
- (2) Treat everyone with respect even if you disagree with their comment.**
- (3) Record everyone's ideas on the large sheets of paper.**
- (4) Star (*) the "most important" for your table as determined by a majority vote.**
- (5) Relax, enjoy yourself and make new friends.**

AGENDA

1. WELCOME/OPENING REMARKS

**Mayor and Town Council
City Manager**

2. STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR NORMAL: OVERVIEW

**Working Model
Connecting the "Dots"**

3. *ROUND 1: NORMAL TODAY*

Question 1: During the last years 2018-2019, what are the successes/achievements of the Town Government?

Question 2: What are the reasons that you make the choice to live in Normal?

4. ROUND 2: NORMAL'S FUTURE 2025-2035

Question 3: If you leave Normal today and returned in 15 years, what would you like to see in Normal?

Question 4: In five years 2025, a Successful Normal Town Government means...?

Question 5: During the next five years, what actions can be taken by the Normal Town Government to enhance community livability that you are willing to increase your taxes – willing to pay for them

4. ROUND 3: NORMAL – THE NEXT YEARS

Question 6: During the next 12 months, the “To Do” list for the Mayor and Town Council needs to include what actions, ideas, issues or projects?

Question 7: What is the best way for the Town of Normal to communicate with you?

5. MESSAGE TO THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL

Pick up a 3x5 card found on your table, write an open message to the Mayor and Town Council.

"To the Mayor and Town Council: ..."

6. FINAL COMMENT

Mayor and Council Members
City Manager

and THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN AND THE FUTURE OF NORMAL!

City of Normal Citizen Summit 2018 Discussion Teams

► **Team 1:**

1. Arbogast, Kathy [C]
2. Calhoun, Conan [S]
3. Hile-Broad, Rachel [K]

► **Team 2:**

1. Aper, Floyd [N]
2. Appel, Jeff [L]
3. McHugh, Don [P]
4. Nielsen, Adam [K]

► **Team 3:**

1. Cline, Pat [S]
2. Lindberg, Terry [K]
3. Sender, Alan [M]

► **Team 4:**

1. Blumenshine, David [N]
2. Cook, Karen [S]
3. Jani, Tejas [K]
4. Mucciolo, Lou [L]

► **Team 5:**

1. **Crampton, Vaneetha [L]**
2. **Dullard, Patrick [M]**
3. **McBride, R. C. [K]**
4. **Tarkowski, Shannon [S]**
5. **Ulmer, Ron [P]**

► **Team 6:**

1. **Cristy, Diana [L]**
2. **Gilmore, Mike [N]**
3. **Johnston, Elizabeth [M]**
4. **Kiesewetter, Jennifer [S]**
5. **Pettorini, Mike [C]**
6. **Seidel, Jonathan [K]**

► **Team 7:**

1. **Hile, Julie [K]**
2. **Shields, Dave**
3. **Sila, Kari**
4. **Stimpert, Craig**
5. **Bush, Erik**
6. **Glandon, Kyle**

► **Team 10:**

1. **Riker, James**
2. **Wezwer, John**
3. **Bagnell, David**
4. **Smith, Logan**
5. **Lord, Jeff**
6. **Weaver, James (Bucky)**
7. **Woodard, Kevin**

***NOTE: There are no Teams 8 or 9

► **Team 11:**

1. **Mucciolo, Lindsey**
2. **Rackauskas, Greg**
3. **Cox, Douglas**
4. **Craig, Shirley**
5. **Petri, Kevin**
6. **Carlisle, Mary**

► **Team 12:**

1. **Schaefer, Rebecca**
2. **Bush, Arlene**
3. **Arbogast, Tom**
4. **Tiritilli, Tracy**
5. **Crampton, Bill**
6. **McHugh, Mary-Margaret**

► **Team 13:**

1. **Schaefer, Steve**
2. **Whitlow, John**
3. **Sauer, Doug**
4. **Levine, Robin**
5. **Gaines, Cheryl**
6. **Derry, Robert**
7. **Nord, Tim**

SECTION 2

FRAMEWORK FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING

Governance vs. Politics: A Simple View

By Lyle J. Sumek

Governance is serving the community;

Politics is getting elected or re-elected.

Governance is being guided by vision, goals and value to the community;

Politics is being guided by ideology, a cause or philosophical principle.

Governance is shaping the community's future for the long term;

Politics is responding to the moment and current "crisis".

Governance is taking responsibility;

Politics is making promises.

Governance is exercising an ability to influence others;

Politics is the use of power.

Governance is finding pragmatic solutions to problems through collaboration;

Politics is starting with solutions in mind.

Governance is being data driven;

Politics is playing to people's emotions.

Governance is negotiating by trading off to find a workable compromise;

Politics is demanding and advocacy to win.

Governance is educating and mobilizing support;

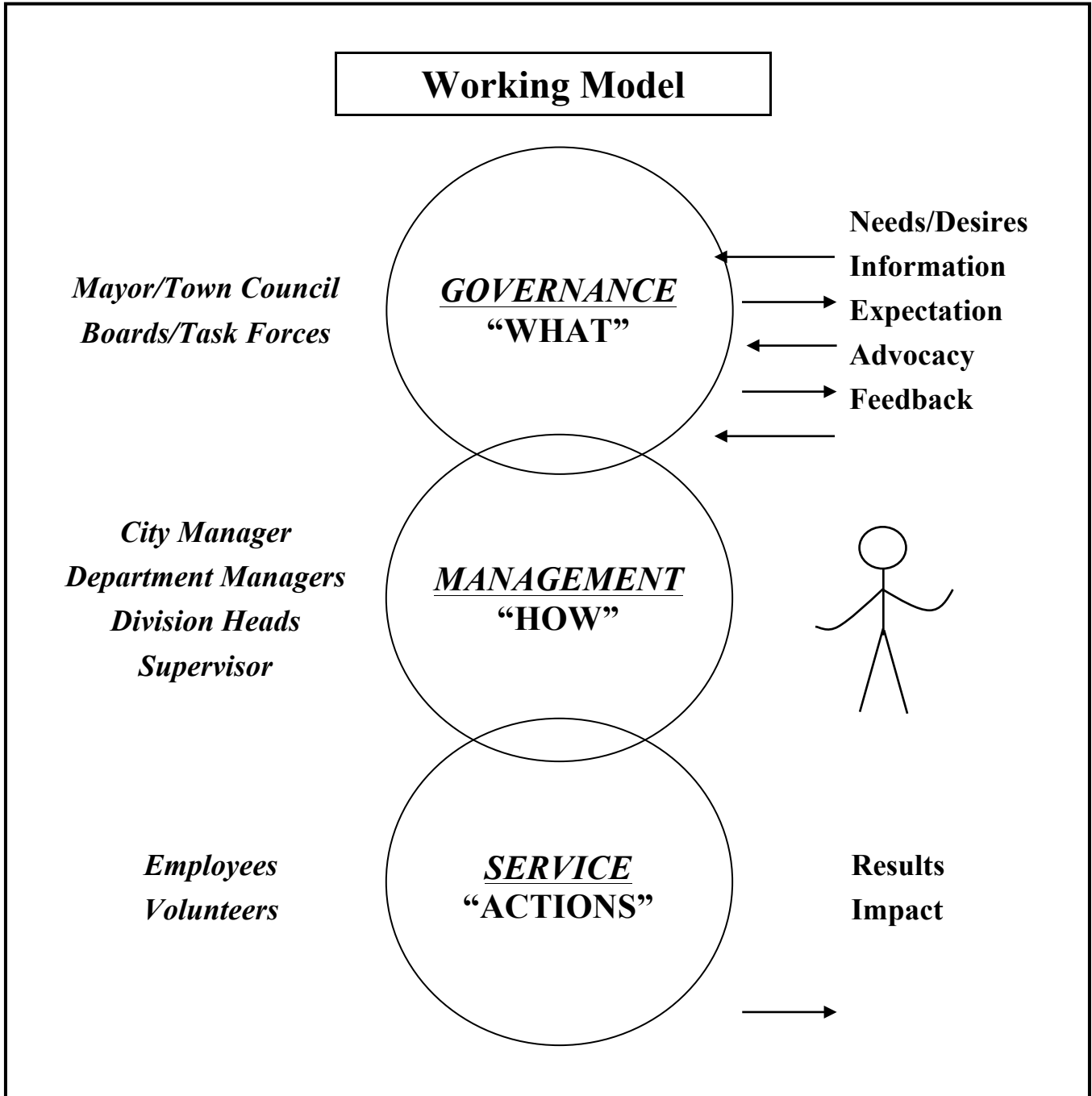
Politics is rallying supporters and creating zealots.

Governance is creating community benefits and value;

Politics is taking personal credit and receiving personal recognition.

TODAY'S CRISIS: Politics trumping Governance

Council – Manager Model



Effective Teams Model

Effective TEAMS Are:

Goals

“Unifying Purpose and Goals”

- Goals – Outcomes
- Work Programs – Game Plan
- Strategy – Action Steps

Roles

“Individual Contribution”

- Valuing Individuality
- Responsibilities Defined
- Practicing Teamwork

Execute

“Produce Results through Actions”

- Analyze —————> Decide
- Act —————> Impact
- Evaluate —————> Adjust

Attitude

“Willingness to Work Together”

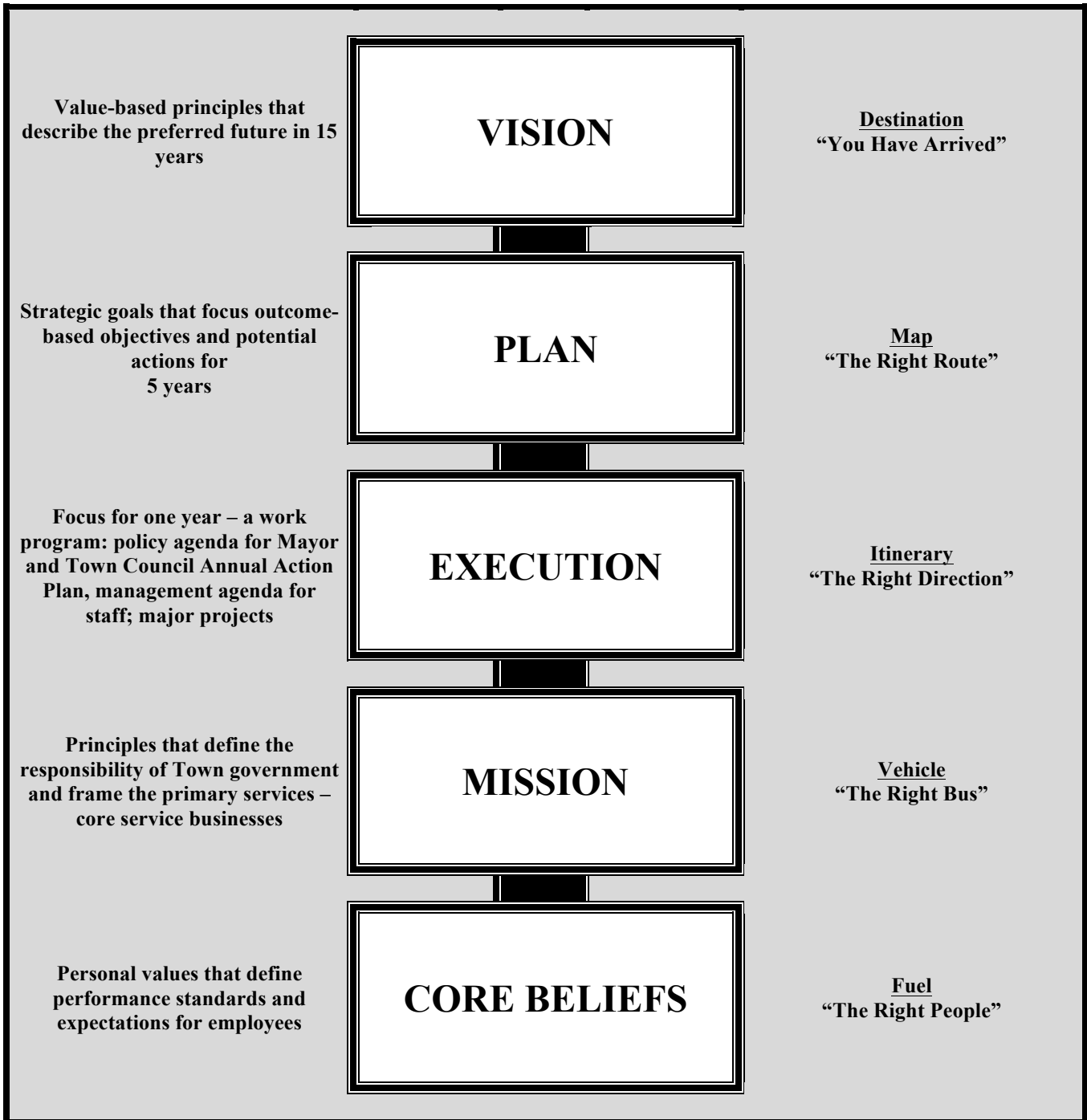
- Respect for Each Other
- Cooperation and Openness
- Celebrating Success: Momentum

Trust

“Commitments Becomes Reality”

- Learning from Setbacks
- Guidelines
- Support Each Other

STRATEGIC PLANNING MODEL



SECTION 3

ROUND 1: NORMAL TODAY

A

**Question 1: Town and Community Successes
2018 – 2019**

Normal Successes 2018 – 2019: Common Themes

► Common Themes

1. Rivian
2. Town/Gown Relations: Good College Student Vibe
3. Solid Waste Collection Services, Value, Consistent
4. BUILD Grant (\$13 million) – Underpass
5. Positive Results: Audit and AAA Bond Rating
6. Parks and Recreation: Dog Park
7. Safe Community
8. No more Train Whistles
9. Fire Service Improvements
10. High Quality Government Services
11. Open Conversations on Fiscal Responsibility
12. Brand and Enhanced Involvement
13. Uptown Events
14. Investment in Mental Health – Jail Expansion
15. Streets and Sidewalks Repair and Maintenance
16. Normal Maintaining a Remarkable Level of Stability – Financial and Services
17. Attracting New Big and Expanding Existing Businesses – Fiala Bros, Anything Bundt Cake
18. Police – Fire Work Better, More Communications
19. Better Preventative Maintenance – Roads

Normal Successes 2018 – 2019: Discussion Teams

► Team 1:

1. Rivian
2. Parks and Recreation; want more free range dog parks
3. Family
4. Safety
5. Receptiveness of different communication methods and changes
6. Uptown station
7. Uptown development/restaurant
8. Music on the circle
9. Veterans Parkway progress
10. Ft. Jesse Café and new restaurant, small
11. Day-of-Play and exposure to new things
12. Opportunities for children
13. Constitution Trail; more expansion and connectivity
14. New EDC initiatives and new director
15. Growth in youth activities
16. Great schools
17. Public engagement
18. Walkability to Uptown and around Normal in general
19. Ability to explore
20. Nice parks
21. Approachable

► **Team 2:**

1. No more train whistles through the Town
2. Improved fire services (even though there is some disagreement on locations, general direction is good)
3. Rivian being here (especially an industry representing the future)
4. Continued service from public works (bulk waste, garbage, good customer service) Normal vs. Bloomington, Normal wins)
5. Uptown 2.0 grant (\$13 million for the connector)
6. Town and the university working closely (ongoing)

Note: #3 – It has always been good, which is why it is not identified as one of the top 3

► **Team 3:**

1. Visual appearance of the Town, how good it looks. City staff being attentive, high quality government services
2. Great garbage collection
3. Rivian
4. Roadway maintenance
5. Trail crossing signs at busy intersections, traffic awareness
6. Continuity/Longevity of Town management

► **Team 4:**

1. More open conversations about fiscal responsibility
2. Rivian's arrival to Normal
3. Brandt enhanced involvement
4. Moving forward w/the under pass project
5. Uptick in employment
6. Increase in volunteerism generosity

► **Team 5:**

1. Rivian Uptown event and continued move forward of company
2. Investment in mental health issues (jail expansion, other connected initiatives)
3. Street, sidewalk repair and maintenance
4. Securing federal funding for underpass project
5. Combining of the Circus with Sweet Corn Festival
6. Keeping constant programming in Uptown w/events
7. Good planning
8. Day of Play (Confined to Uptown!)
9. Solar flashing stop signs
10. Quiet zones for trains
11. Maintaining strong financial positions – bond rating
12. Regular maintenance of parks
13. Good 5 year capital improvement plan

► **Team 6:**

1. BUILD grant (\$13 million) – underpass
2. Normal maintaining a remarkable level of stability (financial/services) not withstanding significant instability in many other places, huge positive results from audit and AAA bond rating
3. Rivian opening and succeeding/thriving (amazon order; Ford/Amazon/Cox investments), attracting new, big and expanding existing businesses – Fiala Brothers, Anything Bundt Cake
4. Use of Town “school land dedication” money for unit 5/house addition
5. Economic Development is improving in re-cooperation among partners – excitement regarding Hoban
6. Recent connect transit grant for bus stops and Town cooperation
7. Road maintenance seems to be improving
8. Constitution Trail – repaving sections; Underwood package area, creek bank at Towanda Ave.
9. 25th Anniversary of Normal Theater

► **Team 7:**

1. Recent grant for underpass project
2. Maintained AAA Bond rating
3. Rivian's choice to locate to Normal
4. Town/Gown relations – good college student vibe
5. Council voted not to raise property taxes
6. New pavement on school, college, etc.
7. Record enrollment at ISU
8. Welcoming City – not sanctuary City (reasonable middle ground w/good process and citizen input)
9. Park improvements (Underwood)
10. CDM 1,000,000 visitors
11. Completion of grade crossing
12. Quiet zone
13. Transition on to new City Manager
14. Addressing zoning issues for legal cannabis
15. Lively debate on new fire station
16. New fire station opened (HQ)
17. Successfully ignored citizen comments and petition to remove Downtown landmark

► **Team 10:**

1. The police and fire work better and have more communication
2. To bring Rivian to Town
3. Normal/Bloomington, County and ISU working better together for goals
4. New fire station on main street, stop bitching about sirens at new station on Hershey Road
5. Goals
6. Two people no positive movement working with the state and county

► **Team 11:**

1. Better preventive maintenance (roads)
2. Continued bulk waste pick-up
3. Filling potholes
4. New voices to Council “I am being heard” more IDEAS
5. Bringing businesses

► **Team 12:**

1. Town/Gown relationship
2. Rivian evolvement/progression
3. Uptown landscaping (other spots)
4. Costs/financially associated with development
5. Tough based on timeline 18/19

► **Team 13:**

1. Garbage service/value/consistency
2. Supportive of Rivian
3. Relationship between ISU and Town
4. Smooth transition of Town Managers
5. Transportation infrastructure – Amtrak and bus service/station
6. Put money into street each year
7. Town parks
8. Constitution Trail
9. Managed to spend the budget – fiscally use budget
10. Town uses strategic plan – plan doesn't sit on shelf

B

**Question 2:
Reasons to Live in Normal: Common Themes**

Reasons to Live in Normal: Common Themes

► Common Themes

1. Schools
2. Cost of Living – Affordability
3. University and Student Life
4. Small Town
5. Transition Generation
6. Safe Community for Families
7. Low Unemployment
8. Quality of Life Amenities: Safe, Short Commutes, Location
9. High Quality of Life: Programming, Library, Safety
10. How Town Government Runs – Availability of Town Staff
11. Family Friendly
12. Different Areas: Uptown, Historic District
13. Opportunity: Employment, University, Quality of Life
14. Community Vibe: Progressive and Positive
15. Constitutional Trail
16. Jobs
17. Multiple Industries
18. Family
19. Diversity of People
20. Great Town Services
21. Economy and Standard of Living
22. Water
23. Condensed: Able to Walk/Bike with Ease
24. Convenient Shopping
25. Children/Grand Children
26. Reasonable Home Values

Reasons to Live in Normal: Discussion Teams

► Team 1:

1. Safety within the community for families
2. Cost of living (affordable)
3. Transition generation
4. Food and Drink
5. Work/employment
6. Recreation opportunities
7. Volunteering
8. Community size
9. Family

► Team 2:

1. Affordability and low unemployment
2. Amenities (schools, higher education (public and private), airport, healthcare,
3. Quality of life (short commute, low crime, location of the community)
4. Low crime
5. Easy commute
6. Top location for restaurants

► Team 3:

1. High quality of life!
 - Programming
 - Library
 - Public Safety
2. Availability of Town staff, how local government is ran
3. University
4. School district

► **Team 4:**

1. Family friendly
2. Lots of different areas, Uptown, historic district, rural area
3. Education, IEP options
4. Simple living, enjoying og
5. Work and workforce
6. Prosperous area
7. Location
8. Lack of traffic
9. Local breweries

► **Team 5:**

1. Opportunity (employment, education, quality of life)
2. Vibe and feel of community, positive, progressive
3. ISU campus – student life – engagement
4. Less traffic
5. Constitutional Trail
6. Amtrak
7. Pace of life – big enough without being too big
8. Good place to own/run business
9. Safe place to raise a family
10. Proximity to daily needs as well as other focus of culture (St. Louis/Chicago)
11. Very welcoming community
12. Vibrancy

► **Team 6:**

1. Schools
2. Jobs
3. Vibrancy (Uptown, activities)
4. College town
5. Multiple industries
6. Convenient commuting
7. Housing costs/overall cost of living
8. Services provided for taxes paid
9. Parks and recreation
10. Livability
11. Good size
12. Water
13. Safe
14. Amtrak access
15. Married a person who lives here (or partner is here)
16. Business opportunity
17. Walkability
18. Airport

► **Team 7:**

1. Family
2. Diverse mix of people
3. Hire municipal government and staff that listens to citizens and follow through w/plans
4. Good schools
5. Outstanding services
6. Parks and bike trails
7. Good library
8. High taxes
9. Events like this, where citizen input is taken seriously
10. Take public art seriously
11. Established neighborhoods

► **Team 10:**

1. The economy/standard of living
2. Transportation airport/ISS/74/39 location
3. Liked it better when the Town had low debt
4. High level of education (people)
5. School/Unit #5

► **Team 11:**

1. Water quality
2. ISU/Heart Land
3. Name – Normal
4. Condensed – able to
5. College brings vibrancy
6. Town had no debt at this time
7. Uptown Normal
8. Unit 5 schools
9. More vibrant

► **Team 12:**

1. University/Academic/Culture (Asset)
2. Has small town – convenience travel shop
3. Constitutional Trail/HCC
4. K-12 school system – University lab schools
5. ISU student experience – moved to Philly and returned back to Normal
6. 89' Mitsubishi (anywhere in 15 minutes)
7. 50+ year old residents
8. Mayberry 2020
9. ISU Hart Center/Program
10. Youth sports programs
11. Geography – trans. center

► **Team 13:**

1. Small town feel
2. Children/grandchildren
3. Reasonable home values
4. Collegiate sports – entertaining
5. Town services
6. Support for disabled residents
7. Corporate community support
8. Arts
9. Work
10. Taxes lower than other communities
11. Go to school at ISU
12. School district – unit 5

SECTION 4

ROUND 2: LOOKING TO NORMAL'S FUTURE

A

Question 3: Normal Vision 2035

Normal Vision 2035: Common Themes

► Common Themes

1. Affordable Housing: Uptown or Surrounding Area
2. Debt Overshadowing the Good Things – Debt Free
3. Combined School Districts
4. ADA Plans and Accessibility
5. Green Space and Water Areas
6. Centralized Affordable Housing
7. Mixing of Generations
8. Re-Branded without State Farm, with Soccer Complex
9. Bloomington – Normal Seamless
10. Major Employers/Small Employers Thriving
11. Lower Debt
12. Vibrant Industry – Westside
13. Underpass or At Grade Crossing
14. More Housing for All
15. Development for Strip Malls, More Amenities
16. Fix Roads
17. Uptown 2 – Library
18. Combined Library with City of Bloomington
19. Better Collaboration between Taxing Bodies
20. Rivian: Up and Running
21. Uptown: North and South Completed
22. Collaboration: Town and Community Leaders
23. Clean and Safe Community
24. Fully Funded Pensions
25. Vibrant and Diverse Business Community
26. Transit System that Works for Everyone
27. Accessible, Varied Recreation Options
28. One Combined Agency: Police, Fire, Sheriff
29. No Sports Complex
30. Improved Roads

► **Common Themes** *(Continued)*

31. Lower Tax Percentage/Rate
32. 80% Debt Reduction
33. Library Same of Combined

Normal Vision 2035: Discussion Teams

► Team 1:

1. ADA plans in place and Town is fully accessible, transit too!
2. Creating more green space and water areas
3. More centralized, integrated, affordable housing and less income gap
4. More mixing of generations
5. Keep on with plan
6. More community gathering spaces
7. Accessible parks
8. Lit Constitutional Trail
9. Rivian thriving and growing
10. Expanded public transit, more options for all age groups
11. More integrated veterans within community/give back

► Team 2:

1. Re-brand – re-assess what Normal can be without State Farm. Focus on positives
– Ex: soccer complex
2. Bloomington and Normal working seamlessly (one community)
3. Major employer – or a collection of smaller employers – thriving; good jobs
(manufacturing, diversified economy)
4. Lower debt, balanced budget, growth not on tax payers back (lower taxes)
5. Trade schools

► **Team 3:**

1. Vibrant industry on West side
2. At grade crossing at Uptown station, if not that then an underpass
3. More diverse housing inventory, affordable housing for all, young, aging
4. No more roadway bumps out, like what's on Bryan Street
5. Less regulation for building, which will reduce overall costs
6. Overpass instead of an underpass at Uptown station
7. White collar jobs in the Uptown area

► **Team 4:**

1. More affordable housing in Uptown of surrounding areas
2. Fix road architecture, improve infrastructure, more signals on Constitution Trail (flashing lights), improvements in pedestrian/driver safety
3. Debt free
4. Development of strip malls, more amenities
5. Wi-Fi for the whole Town
6. Less public/private partnerships

► **Team 5:**

1. Uptown – library Wow!
2. Combined library w/Bloomington (1 large building with smaller outlets)
3. Better collaboration between taxing bodies
4. Affordable housing and diversity of housing stock
5. Rivian – up and running
6. Expanded Constitution Trail
7. More medium to high density housing – growth w/less sprawl
8. Eastland mall converted to urban entertainment/business center
9. High speed rail complete and operating
10. More diversity – including age
11. Recruit medical school to community
12. Additional “Hub” in addition to uptown
13. More large corporate offices (similar to State Farm)
14. Something done w/Shelbourn apartment buildings
15. Increased vocational and trade schools – certificate programming
16. Diversified dining options
17. Better universal design (complete street)

► **Team 6:**

1. Uptown North and South – complete
2. Great collaboration with governmental bodies and other community leaders
3. Fully funded pensions (local government)
4. Safe, clean community
5. More affordable housing
6. Greater turnout for elections and overall civic engagement
7. More local biz featured in community events (like art festival)
8. Closer to carbon neutral
9. Weekend “no vehicle” arrangement for part of Uptown (ex: temp. bollards Fri pm – Sun pm to block off North Street)
10. More connections to Trail, especially from West and NE
11. Improved sidewalks/curbs/lighting especially in distressed areas (overall infrastructure)
12. Better/safer non-vehicular crossings on veterans
13. Upgraded intersection design/complete streets, including bikes, etc.
14. More public transportation
15. Diverse/ talented elected officials who collaborate and cooperate to reach common goals

► **Team 7:**

1. Vibrant and diverse biz community (less emphasis on right fit – fewer regulations)
2. A transit system that everybody rides and supports
3. Accessible and varied recreational options for all generations
4. Higher % of ISU/Heartland students staying in the community
5. National reputation for quality arts and artists
6. Coordinated engagement over climate change
7. Affordable housing for all – w/fewer taxes and regulations
8. Solvent/non-corrupt state government
9. Continued success at ISU (adoption w/online and distance learning)
10. Transit system that needs \$1,000,000/month in taxpayer \$\$
11. More non-lap dog media
12. Fewer commercial vacancies
13. Double population
14. Automated cars
15. Greater housing diversity
16. Continued opportunity for face-to-face community interactions (gathering places)
17. Complete ecological restoration of waterworks
18. No food banks
19. Decreasing average age of residents
20. Self-sufficient multi-sport complex

► **Team 10:**

1. Council in wards
2. Combine police, fire and sheriffs office into one agency
3. Do the same with schools
4. The dept. is overshadowing the good thins. Be debt free again or more manageable
5. Cornfield at Shelbourn/Beach
6. Rabb Road by Rosa Parks needs to be widened
7. Less focus on Uptown
8. Town should not borrow money for anything other than an emergency
9. Pension funded at 100% no spiking
10. Rabb Road needs to go over Veterans
11. Main Street needs to be improved at the campus area

► **Team 11:**

1. Debt free
2. No sports complex
3. Overpass gets built – not added debt
4. Eliminate large buses
5. Clothing stores in Uptown
6. Property taxes lower
7. Senior living with 1 level and land
8. Private bus service
9. Grocery in or around Uptown
10. Good school system including universities
11. More services for taxes we pay
12. More green space
13. Private trash service
14. Less/no homeless
15. Sports complex
16. Underpass

► **Team 12:**

1. Safer community (crime down!)
2. Road improvements
3. Debt free w/o raising taxes
4. Lower tax percentage/rate
5. Living within means
6. Continue to progress like 2000-20
7. Expand Constitution Trail System
8. Attract all inclusive residential community (Delweb)
9. Transportation improvements
10. Community consolidation (government)
11. Roadway (Veterans) Crossing Safety
12. Repurpose empty storefronts
13. Golf cart community
14. Quality medical opportunities (Doctors!) services

► **Team 13:**

1. Debt 80% paid off
2. Combination of school districts
3. Keep library the same or combine w/ISU if need be
4. No construction in Uptown 2.0
5. Increased road maintenance
6. Find alternate funding – declining sales tax
7. Economic diversification
8. Same way it is today
9. Some combination of Town services with Bloomington
10. Crime rates 0
11. More funding for mental health in Normal
12. Known for good value of taxed paid

B

**Question 4:
Normal Success in 2025 means...**

Normal Success in 2025: Common Themes

► Common Themes

1. Underpass Completed
2. Financial Stability (AAA Bond Rating)
3. Solid Waste, Sewer and Water Rate Reduction
4. Open Avenues
5. “Foot Print” Reduced
6. Basic Government Priorities – Police, Fire, Infrastructure
7. Attractive for New Employers
8. Model for other Cities
9. Continue as a “Community of Choice”
10. Council: Long View, Collaboration, Focus on Broad Community
11. Disadvantaged Funding: Mental Health
12. Economic Growth
13. Non-Student Apartments for Young Families
14. Library Revamped
15. Stable or Lower Property Taxes
16. Better Collaboration: Town and Community Leaders
17. Forward Thinking
18. Highly Transparent – Real Estate Transactions
19. Allowing Society to Solve Problems
20. Ward System
21. Unit 5 and Unit 87 Combined
22. Police and Fire Pensions: Maintain Funding Levels
23. Debt Reduction
24. Focus on Needs over Wants
25. Spend within Means, Budget
26. Transparency
27. Retain College Graduates

Normal Success in 2025: Discussion Teams

► Team 1:

1. Reduction in trash, sewer and water rates
2. Analytic and data science; returns on investment
3. Continued opening arenas for public input
4. Reduced footprint
5. Fiscal responsibility; spending control
6. Underpass completion
7. Continued economic development

► Team 2:

1. Going back to basic government priorities – police, fire, public works, infrastructure
2. Normal – Bloomington becomes attractive for employers to locate here. (look for different types of employers) Continue to look to the future opportunities – how do we survive State Farm downsizing? (realize the changing demographics of the community)
3. Balance between debt and growth
4. Being able to provide excellent services

► Team 3:

1. Like Normal to continue to be a model for other cities across the county to follow
2. Council Members have long view, collaborative style, avoid parochialism (broad community needs)
3. Continue to be a community of choice
4. Correct size buses for public transit
5. Continue to be innovative, creative and take calculated risks
6. Accommodate diverse views

► **Team 4:**

1. Prioritize the disadvantaged in funds allocation, i.e. mental health services
2. Economic growth, motivate national brands to come to Town
3. Debt free
4. Invest in youth, construct youth centers w/mentors
5. Don't overbuild in Uptown Normal postpone Trail West project
6. Improved communications between government and citizens
7. Leverage pot legalization to generate income

► **Team 5:**

1. Non-student apartments to draw younger families to Normal
2. Completed underpass
3. Plan to revamp current library structure (combing districts)
4. Continued financial stability (AAA Bond rating)
5. Increased civic engagement (esp. youth)
6. Better pedestrian and bikeway access
7. Sold start on Uptown 2.0
8. Better intergovernmental collaboration in McLean Co.
9. Improved accessibility to transit – improved infrastructure
10. ADA coordinator position for Town

► **Team 6:**

1. AAA bond rating
2. Stable or lower property taxes, expanded tax base, increase tax revenue stream by increasing local sales, increasing local housing stock.
3. Better collaboration between Town leaders and other government and community leaders
4. Trail East is complete; Trail West is underway
5. Increased social media use/better Town communications
6. Increased participation of citizens and Town boards and committees
7. Better collaboration among Town elected officials
8. Better town website – organization and functionality
9. Rivian taxes used for infrastructure
10. Voter turnout is up
11. Gregory St. improvements for vehicles and nonvehicle traffic (street/trail)

► **Team 7:**

1. Nonpartisan government based on data-driven staff research
2. Highly transparent of data used to make decisions (real estate transactions and complex transactions)
3. Encouraging citizen involvement
4. Creatively addressing how to weather the upcoming storm in Illinois – attract businesses to the community, deal w/pensions
5. A collaboration team of servant leaders focused on leading Normal to a thriving future – not pondering to perceived supporters
6. No need for a propaganda minister
7. Town that allows society and the market to solve issues instead of imposing Councils will on residents
8. Thinking forward
9. Dealing w/difficult questions/issues w/trust, intelligence and willingness to address difficult issues

► **Team 10:**

1. Ward system
2. Unit 5 and unit 87 combine
3. Maintain funding levels for pensions for police and fire to be funded by 2040
4. Fire station to cover West area of Normal and Bloomington
5. End Uptown at the RR
6. Reduce dept. 67 % 35

► **Team 11:**

1. Debt paid down
2. Council that treats money like their own
3. Property taxes down 5 consecutive years
4. More frequent community interaction w/Council
5. Should be able to speak on items off of the agenda at Council meetings
6. Voices that are diverse on the Council
7. Model Bloomington's Friday Night Council Interaction
8. Focus on needs over wants

► **Team 12:**

1. Spend within means (budget for it)
2. Advocacy of smart/wise investment
3. Listen to citizens true representation do what we ask
4. Prioritize the infrastructure
5. Balance of return based/tied to risk of dollars
6. Efficiency/productively consolidation (employers)
7. Eliminate pension – move to 401K (where possible State!)

► **Team 13:**

1. Transparency (more of it)
2. Council find a way to keep college graduates in community
3. Council focus on staff accountability
4. No in-fighting (bi-partisan) get along well with each other
5. Council recognize we are not in a booming economy
6. More citizen services for less taxes/fees
7. Easier for businesses to relocate
8. Have quarterly/monthly Town Hall meetings

C

**Question 5:
Actions to Enhance Your Livability
in Normal**

Actions to Enhance Your Livability in Normal: Common Themes

► Common Themes

1. Communication: Council and Town
2. Underpass
3. Bike/Pedestrian Plan Implementation
4. Nothing
5. One Stop Shop for All Needs
6. Job Training and Education
7. Public-Private Partnerships (Sports Complex)
8. Subsidies and Expenses Review
9. Lobbying State
10. Potholes/Road Maintenance
11. No Tax Increase, Reduce Spending
12. Core Services: Maintained and Enhanced (Police, Fire, Parks, Solid Waste, Infrastructure)
13. Open Streets on Weekends – Uptown
14. Cultural Programming and Events
15. No Service Reduction
16. No New Taxes
17. Crime Reduction
18. Combine City Services: City of Bloomington

Actions to Enhance Your Livability in Normal: Discussion Teams

► Team 1:

1. Creation of a “one-stop-shop” for all needs
2. Job training and education
3. Consolidating schools/school districts
4. Capturing more federal money
5. Finding measures for affordable daycare; expansion of parks programs
6. Better funding for the library; expansion; more resources
7. Creation of a centralized food bank
8. Finding better funding options for schools

► Team 2:

1. Public-private partnerships ex: sports complex (Bloomington/Normal and private sector should all be involved)
2. Review subsidies (not willing to pay for unless) and expenses
3. More communication by the Council Members as opposed to a centralized communications person
4. Council should think outside the box (raising taxes is the easy way out, how else can we achieve item #1)
5. Willing to pay for low crime (low member vote)

► Team 3:

1. Aggressively lobby state government to fix pension problems
2. Face-to-face communication by staff and Council with residents
3. Underpass
4. Don't increase taxes
5. Enhance public transit
6. Investment in new library facilities making it a community gathering space

► **Team 4:**

1. No Increase in taxes – cut spending
2. Potholes filled
3. Sports/community center
4. Snow removal

► **Team 5:**

1. Implement bike/ped. Plan and add capital plan
2. Maintain and enhance core services (water, police, fire, were, parks waste, trash, infrastructure)
3. More frequent leaf collection
4. Curb cuts at all sidewalks and streets
5. Improved recycling at apartments and businesses
6. Plant more trees on public land (diverse planting)
7. More time outside for kids during the school day

► **Team 6:**

1. Enhanced cultural programming/events and better promotions
2. “Open streets – no vehicles” on weekends in Uptown
3. Not reduce services
4. More “citizen summits” – like events to improve civic engagement input
5. Improve emphasis on Town priorities and strategic planning w/focus on needs over wants
6. Proactively approach IDOT regarding safer non-vehicular accommodations
7. Making progress forward on carbon neutrality
8. Improved free Wi-Fi
9. Completion of underpass
10. Ensuring successful multifamily recycle program

► **Team 7:**

1. Underpass
2. Several things on bike/pedestrian plan (eg. Vernon Island better crossings)
3. Absolutely nothing – prioritize current incomes
4. Audit of Town owned properties where rent is paying bills and taxes
5. Pay off debt
6. Lower taxes
7. Improve public transit (set state finding)
8. Soccer fields (dedicated)
9. Climate change improvements
10. Effective communications
11. Take advantage of economic opportunities as they arise (economic incentives)
12. Arts and recreation
13. Best practices and investments in public safety

► **Team 10:**

1. NO New Taxes

► **Team 11:**

1. Nothing

► **Team 12: (Bad Question)**

1. Reduce/lower crime
2. Enhance public transportation w/Bloomington
3. Eliminate bike share
4. Reduce programs/amenities – then consider – we don't want taxes increasing

► **Team 13:**

1. Combine city services w/Bloomington
2. None
3. Roads maintenance
4. Provide (police) safety/opportunities for seniors
5. Affordable senior housing
6. Golf carts use on streets
7. Investment in electric vehicle infrastructure
8. More trees/median in streets
9. More cooperation between mass transit – connect, taxis, Amtrak, Uber
10. Solar energy

SECTION 5

ROUND 3: ACTIONS FOR 2020

A

**Question 6:
Work Program Ideas for 2020**

Work Program Ideas for 2020: Common Themes

► Common Themes

1. Sports Complex Decision
2. More Citizen Summits
3. Transparency and communications: Budget Understandable Language
4. Measureable Outcomes from Citizen Summits
5. More Community Engagement with Police
6. Re-Brand beyond State Farm
7. State Advocacy
8. Underpass or At Grade
9. Collaboration with Funding Partners
10. Fix Fairness Problem
11. More Lead Time on Major Issues – Communications
12. High School Students Involved
13. Rivian: Big Celebration
14. New Apartments: Bloomington and County to Offer Same Incentives
15. Kid Focused Events
16. Fill Transit Connect Board
17. Experiment with Small Scale Solutions
18. Stop Uptown Normal
19. Combine Fire/Police – Bloomington and Normal
20. Vote: Uptown Next Phase – Trail West
21. One Uptown Rent!
22. Re-Evaluate Strategic Plan with State Farm Downsizing

Work Program Ideas for 2020: Discussion Teams

► Team 1:

1. More citizens summits throughout the year; quarterly
2. Measurable outcomes from citizen summit
3. More community engagement with public
4. Change public comment rules; not germane to agenda and eliminate 5 min prior rule
5. Engage youth; student demographics
6. More approachable Council
7. Having more dialogue with social groups with economic development
8. Council out and about more
9. More Council association with social groups
10. See more action from Council on connect-transit intergovernmental agreement

► Team 2:

1. Make a decision on the sports complex (yay or nay) (communicate with the school districts and current soccer field)
2. Transparency and communication (social media, twitter, text msg, next door, email)
3. Rebrand ourselves beyond State Farm (find out what young people want) tunnel does not mean anything unless we zoom out and rebrand
4. In the next budget Council should look at cutting subsidies and stick to basics
5. Council should be civil towards one another

► **Team 3:**

1. Make noise with state and trades over pension reform, local government start pressing state more
2. Underpass (prefer at grade)
3. Continue to be a partner with Rivian to be successful
4. Collaboration between funding partners to find out what public transit should cost, what level of services will be needed etc.
5. New Uptown development, trail East
6. More visibility and focus on airport issues, improvement and support other air service (important economic issue)

► **Team 4:**

1. More citizen summits, citizens want to be heard
2. Make language more understandable
3. Fix the fairness problem
4. Be allowed to speak at Council meetings whether the subject is on the agenda or not
5. Admit past mistakes

► **Team 5:**

1. Big celebration when 1st Rivian truck rolls out
2. Longer lead time in communicating major issues coming before Council
3. High school involvement in proposing ideas for the Town (youth visioning)
4. Fund and build trail connection
5. Identify underpass funding and secure
6. Emphasis on how citizens communicate w/Council
7. Open conversations to begin collaboration w/Bloomington/County
8. Want to see more diverse opinions of Council members (open to more diverse view points)
9. Decision on direction of sports complex

► **Team 6:**

1. New government w/Bloomington and County to offer same incentives (not competing w/each other)
2. Kid-focused events offered at same time as adult events (ex: program at CDM during Small Big Sat) – remember to include programs for variety of disabilities
3. “Live within means” – don’t spend more than we currently take in in tax revenue
4. Specific infrastructure improvements
5. Assess effectiveness of all Town digital platforms and create improvement plan
6. 100% eligible voter registration
7. Increased police attention on red light compliance
8. Add 4-way stop at Broadway and Beaufort
9. Increased transparency of Council business – difficult to find info online
10. Complete trail East
11. New big (or not big) biz comes here w/o incentives
12. Make budget more digestible to regular people – “popular annual financial report” – example from County

► **Team 7:**

1. Fill vacant connect transit board seat
2. Experiment w/small scale solutions
3. Comprehensive audit of Town owned properties to get exempt properties on tax rolls and collect rents
4. Fund and proceed w/underpass
5. Fill 1st floor at 1 Uptown (w/something groovy)
6. Develop plan for pensions
7. Kill Trial East (if possible)
8. Adopt a legal public comment policy for Council meetings
9. Trust professional staff judgment
10. Stay the course
11. More advanced notice of Council agenda topics
12. Joint Council meeting Bloomington/Normal to bring state officials to address pension issue
13. Start thinking seriously about Uptown 2.0
14. Clarity on local intention about definition of unisex
15. Council ask questions to learn – not to attack or advance agenda
16. Continue to optimize Rivian as a partner
17. Treat an omnibus agenda as a omnibus agenda

► **Team 10:**

1. Stop Uptown Normal
2. Put someone on the connect board
3. Form a working group to work on combing NFD and BFD to better serve the two communities
4. Get it on the ballot for ward systems

► **Team 11:**

1. Let citizens vote on next phase of Uptown Tail West
2. Find a way to drop off people south of roundabout (engineer) for trains/buses
3. Vote 'No' on sports complex
4. Look for areas to cut in the budget an cut where able
5. Less frequent bulk waste pickup (monthly?)
6. Find a way to reduce property taxes
7. Mandate sidewalks be installed after building renovations/construction
8. Put in an area to take bulk waste and see if people utilize
9. Let citizens vote on cannabis

► **Team 12:**

1. Forget sports complex
2. Scrap underpass!
3. One Uptown rent!
4. Don't buy properties – sell at loss
5. N. Main entry's to community (veterans too) all
6. Fix W. College Ave.
7. Bike share done 80K
8. Town owned building rent
9. Beaufort demos (no!)
10. Zoning setback consideration (Main St)
11. ISU – Shelbourn properties

► **Team 13:**

1. Re-evaluate strategic plan 2/State Farm downsizing
2. Do not fund sport complex
3. Stop overpass/underpass plan
4. Real effect of State Farm reorganization
5. Sop Uptown 2.0
6. Add someone to connect transit board
7. Reconsider overpass/underpass
8. Decrease budget
9. Bring corvette show back/start electric car show/air show
10. Build technology infrastructure for “research triangle”
11. Better at transparency/open discussions

B

**Question 7:
Best Methods for Communication to You**

Best Methods for Communication: Common Themes

► Common Themes

1. Email Communications/Specific Email Alert System
2. Face-to-Face Communication: Council and Staff
3. User Friendly Websites
4. Messages via Water Bill
5. Ask Every Resident: How they want to be Contacted
6. Save \$96 thousand on Communications Expert – Council Should Communicate
7. Citizens Summits – Semi Annually
8. Topic Communications by Town Staff
9. Citizen Engagement Events
10. Tax Rebate for Citizen Engagement Dollars off Water Bill
11. Social Media: Next Door, Twitter, Facebook – More Intentional and Strategic
12. Earlier Communications rather than After Decision
13. Promote Greater Awareness of Existing Communications Channel
14. Contact Media
15. Agendas One Week before Council Meeting
16. Unlimited Public Comment
17. Normal Life: Get it Ahead of Time
18. Next Door
19. Town of Normal Facebook Site

Best Methods for Communication: Discussion Teams

► Team 1:

1. Messages/notices via the water bill
2. Emails; monthly newsletter and calendar
3. Less repeat notice on lights/door locking on Next Door focus on important events
4. Emails to/from social agendas
5. Communications via ISU social media

► Team 2:

1. Ask how every resident how they want to be contracted (email, text, personalized)
2. Save the \$96K on communications expert and Council should communicate
3. Conduct citizen summits semi-annually
4. Respond to emails
5. Invite people to respond

► Team 3:

1. Face-to-face communications, staff and Council in neighborhoods to hear what the community has to say
2. Challenge Town staff to find most efficient ways to communicate on each topic
3. Email
4. Newspaper
5. Website, interactive maps

► **Team 4:**

1. Face-to-face interaction
2. Citizen engagement – events
3. Local radio
4. Website
5. Push text
6. Facebook
7. Email
8. Website alerts
9. Insta

► **Team 5:**

1. Email communication
2. Tax rebate for civic engagement – \$ off water bill (incentives to participate)
3. Define the role of the communications director
- C Hold an open house at the Town – face-to-face w/Council and staff
5. Traditional media (radio/newspaper/TV)
6. Increased communication on website (events, etc.)
7. Newsletter to teachers, comm. news, campus, etc. one monthly
8. Continued efforts to engage citizens
9. Text communications

► **Team 6:**

1. Social Media: Next Door, Twitter, Facebook (needs to be more intentional and strategic)
2. Specific email listserv
3. Open data portal
4. Better website – more imitative, better searching, better organized
5. Text alerts
6. Council office hours
7. Public events like citizen summit (but w/Council participation)
8. Events calendar (one specific to Town) that can sync w/people's calendars or have push options
9. Snail mail
10. Pantograph – free paper on Wed.

► **Team 7:**

1. Promote greater awareness of existing communication channels
2. Earlier rather than after decision has been made
3. WGLT interviews of Council Members
4. Text (will read texts before other sources) (w/discretion as to content)
5. BLN news.com
6. Converse over a glass of wine
7. Everything currently doing works

► **Team 10:**

1. Allow unlimited public comments
2. Contact media with more stories
3. Agenda 1 week out before the meeting
4. Community calendar/timely
5. Facebook, email
6. Sign up for news releases by email

► **Team 11:**

1. Email – setting up alerts
2. NormalLite – get it ahead of time
3. Website
4. Cities 92.9
5. BLN News – Diane Benjamin
6. Text
7. Facebook – Town Council page
8. WJBC – radio – weekly

► **Team 12:**

1. Next Door
2. User friendly website (struggle to use it currently)
3. Facebook
4. Billboards
5. Utility bill
6. Church bulletin concepts
7. Social media twitter
8. Direct mail
9. Email

► **Team 13:**

1. User friendly website
2. Town of Normal facebook site
3. Existing website – place info there early (at least week early)
4. Text blasts
5. Not through new communications position
6. Radios/newspaper ad – week in advance

SECTION 6

MESSAGES TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Messages to Mayor and City Council

I appreciate each of you putting yourselves in the “line of fire” for Normal’s future. I hope you return to a collaborative, respectful government. Stan this is not your personal realty show. You may have good ideas, but you need to humble up, shut up, listen, learn, and then respectfully engage. You have long term visions and plans created by a great amount of public input/work those plans

Thank you for yet another opportunity to participate in the “governing” process. Please stay the course in Uptown and get us the underpass asap. My greatest interests lie in improving livability. We’re an increasingly mobile and will need reasons to choose to LIVE HERE IN THE FUTURE!

Thank you for having this summit. Have more of these as we move to 2020. Thanks for your service. Also, please let us know what’s next from here?

This event was good; do more of and add Q &A w/Council and Mayor. Two new Council Members should be less adversarial with other members/Mayor and especially with staff. Thanks

Stop spending money, find ways to save and realize the effects of downsizing of business in the community. Try to work with the City of Bloomington to see what services can be combined. Stop the Uptown Development. Stop the sports complex. Start listening to the Citizens. Give more transparency by posting more info. Allow citizens to speak at Council meetings about any topics not just what is on the agenda

Don’t be scared to have dissenting voices! Elect/select someone to the transit board (non-low income and/or with a disability. Could you – Would you: Live without a car for a week – walk or use public transit as you know what your constituents are going through. Make getting caught up with ADA requirements a priority – only 27 years ago. Transparency is a benefit – connection and “being human” is good – there are opinions in the community that many on Council/Mayor are out of touch – maybe you’re not – but you appear to be at times. Tonight was a good first step. Thank you for being on our Council!

Shannon

We can advertise Town of Normal (TON) as THE BEST place to live by humorously talking about “Normal”. Need for Koos to smile more

Ensure Council meetings comply with open meetings act. Collaborate among government entities to better use expensive capital to other resources

Keep forward momentum and emphasis on planning. Remember professionalism and decorum matters. Know there are not perfect decisions, and not one speaks for everyone

RC McBride

Fund and build the Rt. 66 trail connection. Let Pam Reece and the highly capable Town of Normal do their job.

Patrick Dullard

Take the long view – collaborate and don't allow the Council to devolve into the divisive and parochial backbiting we see in Bloomington. Don't be afraid to spend money on important projects. Rivian, the underpass. Normal has become an envied community in all of down State Illinois. Don't allow this to fall by the wayside. Council Member should be talking to the community instead of just listening to their supporters. We have a great staff, very responsive, kudos to them.

You have top-notch staff. Start from the perspective that they are honest and competent. Learn to use them in a constructive manner.

Patrick Dullard

THANK YOU for all you do for our community. Thank you for taking the long view, for waiting out the day's "crisis", for thinking of the environment, the next generation, those whose voices are less than often heard. Thank you for *listening* to your constituents, however stark the difference of opinion. Thank you for the example you set of public service, civic engagement, creativity, dedication. Thank you for the seemingly endless energy you bring – especially because I know it is *not* endless. Thank you for never being satisfied and for keeping your eyes on the horizon. Gratefully

Rachel Hile-Broad

Thank you for all the hard work you do; it is very much appreciated. I would like to see better involvement with the ISU student community, helping them see Normal as their home. I would also like to see the Normal police doing more in the community instead of just handing out tickets. I know they do so much more, but people don't see it. Let's get them more visible for good reasons

Kathy Arbogast

1. Be more civil to each other when you disagree
2. Find a way to work w/Bloomington
3. Focus on less taxes
4. Re brand our Town to attract younger residents and family

Jeff Appel

Thank you for your commitment to the citizen summit

Mike Pettorini

This was a great event, great discussion tonight. I look forward to continued growth in Normal as it was the community vibrancy that brought me here.

Thank you for inviting me, this is probably going to encourage my future involvement and attention to town business and government actions. I really like my town.

Thank you for hosting and sponsoring this citizen summit. Thank you, too, to Mayor Koos for inviting me. Promoting public process with structured conversation like this is exactly the kind of investment I want my government to make. I look forward to hearing the follow-up.

Jonathan Seiden

1. Listen to voter/TAX PAYER don't just ignore us
2. Distrust of Mayor and some Council Members
3. Live within your budget
4. Prioritize wants vs. needs – we can't take care of our existing community
5. Govern not politic
6. Stable taxes

Your are all doing great work, but I worry that in our fast paced world and short attention spans that people don't know what you do – and appreciate the challenges. Your investment in communications specialist should help you – please take the opportunity to increase your visibility.

Please stop spending money you don't have, quality of life means nothing with debt weight you have incurred.

Steven Schaefer

1. Appoint Normal person to Connect Transit Board immediately
2. Explore and take action for better cooperation between Bloomington and Normal Fire and Police. Even consider combining of administrative personnel and possibly joint use of various police and fire facilities.

John Whitlow

I think that the Council does a nice job, but their needs to stop the incessant suggestions that the staff and other Council Member don't know what they are doing. Thanks for all you do!!

Thank you for serving our community. It's a difficult job and I appreciate what you do. Please make fiscally responsible decisions, hold the line on taxes and show respect for your fellow citizens.

'Plan your work and work your plan' is great for a dinner party or a house renovation. A multi-decade destroy and rebuild plan for the town center needs to adopt to economic changes and citizen input. Authoritarian central planning is a recipe for failure

Do "this" more often, once every quarter? What is next?

David Paul Blumenshine

Please make sure we are not kept out out of the loop, half truths do not go well with your citizens

Thank you for the opportunity to join this evening's dialogue. I have greatly enjoyed connecting with all of my neighbors – those w/whom I agree as well as those with whom I differ. It's been fascinating. I love Normal, and I appreciate all of the service you offer us. The best solutions coming from combing diverse pts. Of view – indeed this is much needed the county over

Julie Hile

1. Thanks for the long hours and hard work.
2. Look for ways to reduce expenditures rather than increase taxes.
3. Reduce debt and have a balanced budget.

Priority of every budget is basic services – earmark \$ for road, fire, police, sewer, water – then balance. Stop the 96K communications director and that falls to Mayor and Council. Respond to citizen emails – I have never received a response. Connect Transit need smaller bus – can’t subsidize forever.

Now that you have all this information... Do something with it. Something has got to change... it’s time or you will be replaced.

- I really don’t care if you don’t like each other; but chk your crap at the Council door
- Don’ go back on votes (96K) w/o citizen input
- Underpass/overpass should be reconsidered
- Become more visible in the community
- Stop spending \$ like it’s boom times, State Farm will have an impact
- Consider all input to this summit not just the invited ones
- Give back to the community my volunteering, which will make y’all more visible

Robin Levine

Reduce the focus on Uptown and focus more on the rest of the city. Look at projects like improvements on business 51 through campus. Do a much better job of advising the community of what is going on. Prepare the Council agenda a week before Council meetings so Council and public can discuss before the meeting.

People are leaving IL because of high taxes and fees. All Normal does is continue to raise, raise, and raise taxes and fees. STOP – need to cut, cut, cut.

Jeff Lord

- * Cut Spending
- * Implement Ward System
- * Stop Uptown Spending
- * Join Blm/Normal Public safety (Police/Fire)
- * Join School 87/Unit 5
- * Fill Connect Seats
- * Don’t Raise TAXES

Shut up and Govern, stop bickering and just do the job. Normal has done a great job in the past; just keep doing good for Normal. Chief Mick needs a raise

Logan Smith

Balance the budget. Spending should be restricted to necessary governmental functions. Departments should have to justify spending, cost cutting should be rewarded. Statement printing on both sides Reduce paper 50%.

I would like to see “Uptown Normal Project” stop “as is” and not expand to the south. The underpass does not need to be a project needing to be done. We need to hold the line on spending, stop subsidizing RE. Takes off rent to “Uptown Businesses”

Jim Riker

Stop increasing our property taxes. Fund pensions whenever you find a new revenue source. Reduce debt – or at least don't increase new debt.

Shirley Craig

It would mean a great deal to me, my family and other homeowners of Normal if you would find a way to reduce our property taxes. We need the relief. Respectfully submitted a long time resident

Thank you for having an open forum such as the one tonight 12/5. Very good to talk/debate with other citizens and meet people who work for the town! Ps. Tyler rocks!

Lindsey Mucciolo

Pay down the debt before moving on to anymore; Uptown Development

Fun evening: we od care about out Town. A moment in silent prayer before all Council meetings would be nice. We are all part of Gods plan. God Bless America

Greg Rackawskas

1. Reduce taxes by cutting "fluff". Do not "revote" previous votes.
2. Eliminate underpass
3. Eliminate sports complex – negotiate park/school cooperative facilities.
4. Develop fiscally balanced budget – necessary items
5. Why was the proposal for "cuts" ignored?
6. Consider the majority, do not pander to "political correctness"

The challenge is continue the overall development and progress Normal has made while not overextending the City's fiscal resources. Please consider educated opinions from all and make the most prudent decisions. Some decisions at first glance may not seem complementary (reserved vs. progressive) but done well they work out the best.

T.M. Arbogast

I'm requesting creative thinking about how you meet the financial needs. Choosing a tax increase in order to hire a staff member was not creative thinking. To pay for what you wish to do, do not default to tax increases. Think outside the box. Really scrutinize for waste.

Don't spend money you don't have. Put needs before wants. Run the town the same way you run your house budget.

1. I would suggest a total review of all major expenses/projects, new projects and prioritize.
2. Fix the roads!

Bill Crampton