

Summary of Resident Panel Feedback – Phase 1

This summary compiles feedback from many but not all of the Resident Panels for Phase 1 of the Imagine Madison process. Numbers in parenthesis indicate number of Resident Panels making each comment.

Part 1 - Big Questions

1. How do you Imagine Madison in the year 2040?

- Adequate affordable housing stock, including family housing (5)
- Regional transportation (4)
- More manufacturing jobs that pay living wage (3)
- Culturally responsive to the needs of diverse residents (3)
- High speed rail (3)
- Everyone will use bikes or bus (2)
- Professional advancement opportunities for all, and better public sector education (3)
- More conservation efforts and valued natural resources (2)
- Improved access to healthcare (2)

2. What makes you excited about Madison's future?

- Growing cultural diversity, but we need equity, unity, & welcoming atmosphere for ALL people (8) *ALL people = all races/ethnicity, genders, ages, incomes, abilities, religions*
- Excited that City is trying to get input from all segments of population, but will they actually do anything with our input? (6)
- Getting more underrepresented residents in decision-making professional positions, but it must continue to improve (5)
- Many groups mentioned being cautiously optimistic (4)
- People and organizations working together (2)
- Young people are becoming more engaged (2)

3. What makes you concerned about Madison's future?

- Racial bias and discrimination; systemic disparities (7)
- Quality of education and education disparities (5)
- Lack of affordable housing (5)
- Wealth gap – affects middle class/poor and people of color the most (4)
- Concern about police interaction with people of color (4)
- Kids and older adults need more programs/activities (3)
- Policies for ticketing the homeless results with them in jail, hurting their family (3)
- Violence and amount of addiction (3)
- Immigration issues (3)
- Concerned about cuts to assistance for people in poverty (2)
- Lack of communication to the Hmong community from City and elected officials

Part 2 – Issues and Draft Goals

Main themes of the discussion around the thirteen draft goals

Housing

- Need truly affordable housing (7)
- Discrimination based on race/ethnicity, gender, religion, appearance, or ability still highly prevalent (7)
- Too many high-end, expensive rental units (4)
- Hard to overcome barriers to housing/jobs like conviction or credit issues (3)
- Subsidized housing process is full of caveats (e.g. AMI, waitlists, paperwork, etc.) (3)
- Homelessness should NOT be criminalized (3)
- Rising prices are pushing minorities to the suburbs (2)
- Senior housing (e.g. section 42) needs improvement
- Need more assistance to first time home buyers

Transportation

- Need for regional transportation to access jobs in adjacent communities (5)
- Need BRT (3)
- Need inter-city high speed rail (2), one group disagreed with rail
- Bike share stations should be expanded to lower-income areas (2)
- Subsidized rates for bus and bike share to lower income residents (2)
- Sustainable transportation (2)
- Safety is still an issue on busses (drivers and passengers are threatened, transgender and gender-nonconforming passengers especially who often rely on transit)

Land Use

- Need to conserve green spaces, not allow so much residential development (2)
- Many people were unsure about or did not like Goal #5 “downtown as primary activity hub”
- Many neighborhoods with high concentrations of people of color have poor sense of place

Economic development

- Need to focus on ending income disparity (3) *by race, age, gender, ability*
- Need increase in minority owned businesses (5)
- Expand vocational training programs (3)
- Need to focus on seniors in this vision
- Raise minimum wage
- Economic development should address helping people repair credit history & access credit

Cultural and Historical Resources

- Need safe, affirming spaces that are permanent social outlets for LGBT, youth, people of color, people with disabilities, and other multiply marginalized people (6)

- More multicultural events to celebrate and learn about other cultures (5)
- There is no formal celebration of Asian American history month

Park, Open Space, and Recreation

- Equitable parks: access based on location; equitable access in that all parks should be inclusive for all ages, races, genders, economic status, ability; equitable park equipment; equitable park facilities such as equipment and restrooms (4)
- Green spaces are necessary for healthy living
- Park spaces are not set up for Hmong community use

Natural Resources

- Conservation of natural resources is important (3)
- Lake water quality must be improved (2)
- Strengthen municipal laws around air, water, & ground pollution (2)
 - The people most affected by environmental degradation are people of color, homeless, low-income, TGNC, disabled

Agricultural Resources

- Access to healthful foods and food security (5) – more programs like REAP
- Support local foods and small famers (3)
- Everyone needs access to a community garden
- More food pantries with increased accessibility

Utilities and Community Facilities

- Help residents learn about and access low cost clean/green energy (3)
- Better access to mental health services (3)
- Need a community center or city-wide nonprofit that provides services to the Hmong community
- Work needed to alleviate utility costs for families of high need
- Gender inclusive/All gender restrooms throughout Madison buildings

Regional Cooperation

- All areas must work together to create equality (3)
- More collaboration within City departments
- Create City/County ID for people without lawful US documentation
- More effort from City government to engage with Ho-Chunk government

Suggested additional goals and miscellaneous feedback

- Accountability and transparency in this process are needed (5)
- Education –schools need equality in expectations and opportunities to support youth of color and TGNC students (5)
 - funds to assist adults continuing education
- Public safety (5)
 - MPD does not have positive collaboration with many neighborhoods

- Inequities in the criminal justice system
- Policing and use of force (3) Trans and gender-nonconforming people will no longer live their lives in constant fear of violence, harassment, or discrimination
- Something regarding access to affordable health care for all residents (3)
- A goal to get the City to better engage and support the Hmong community – without this goal, Madison will continue to develop housing, parks, transportation, etc that will not meet the needs of the Hmong community
- City advocacy: Sanctuary City; end voter ID Laws; Birth certificate modernization (make it easier for TGNC people to change name and gender)
- Although goals will be looked at through equity lens, there should be more effort to connect communications between cultures, race, language, etc.

Community Partners

Organization	Compiled	# of Panels	Participants
Foundation for Black Women’s Wellness	x	1	14
Rebalanced Life-Wellness Association, Inc / JP Hair Design Barbershop	x	1	17
Young Gifted & Black	x	1	25
Hmong Professional Networking		6	
Hmong Language and Culture Enrichment Program	x	1	10
Madison-Area Urban Ministry, Inc	xx	2	37
Goodman Community Center		1	
West Madison Senior Coalition (WMSC) / Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)	x	1	13
WI Trans Health Coalition	x	1	7
Sustain Dane / Ho-Chunk	x	1	15
Vera Court / Latino Academy of Workforce Development	x	1	15
Centro Hispano	x	1	12
TOTAL =			116