Southeast Area Plan – Phase 2 Community Feedback Summary

January 30, 2026

This feedback summary includes public input from Phase 2 of the Southeast Area Plan process. It includes public feedback provided through a variety of sources, which are listed below. Staff reviewed all public comments and organized them into the most relevant element from the City's Comprehensive Plan. We grouped similar comments together into one row with a tally of how many people commented on that topic in the middle column. A total of 138 public comments were received between June 2025 through January 2026. This summary does not include all comments received – a full list of all comments is available for review in the raw data report. Text in color shows feedback from underrepresent community members. This input was gathered by a third-party organization. Focus Group Summary Report comments were counted as one under the tally column for each comment.

Comment Sources:

- Art Workshop
- Community Action Strategy (CAS) events
- Online commenting tool
- Phone call or emailed feedback
- Public meeting
- Other events, such as Neighborhood Association meetings
- Focus Group Summary Report

Land Use		
Comments	**Tally (#) of Repeated Comments**	**Sources**
Support mixed-use zoning and denser residential options, especially in areas currently zoned as commercial or along major corridors. Examples: Milwaukee Street, Buckeye Road, Cottage Grove Road	4	Online commenting tool, Focus Group Summary Report
Support for more housing choices and options, allowing greater flexibility and density	2	Online commenting tool
Would like "house-scale" neighborhood commercial uses and small gathering spaces within residential areas, especially near school and neighborhood nodes. Examples: Within the Eastmoreland and Lake Edge Neighborhoods	5	Neighborhood Association Meeting, Public meeting, Online commenting tool
Support revitalizing Milwaukee Street with mixed-use destinations, local amenities, dining, entertainment, and small-business clusters. Example: Garver-style destination areas	3	CAS event, Email, Public meeting, Online commenting tool
Oppose more exclusionary zoning and restricting residential development, want to allow for more flexibility	2	Online commenting tool
Support allowing mixed-use development at community nodes and incentivizing affordability through bonus stories or City-owned land	2	Focus Group Summary Report, Online commenting tool
Transportation		
Comments	**Tally (#) of Repeated Comments**	**Sources**
Emphasis on pedestrian and bicycle safety, especially near schools and along Milwaukee Street, Pflaum Road, Buckeye Road, Spaanem Road, Swanton & Thompson, and Stoughton Road/Highway 51	20	Online commenting tool, Focus Group Summary Report, Email

Support for east-west bicycle and pedestrian connections, viewed as more critical than additional north-south routes	2	Online commenting tool
Support for Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB), improved crossings, bike signals, and protected intersections	21	Online commenting tool
Concerns about adding new street connections that will primarily serve as cut-through traffic rather than community needs.	3	Online commenting tool
Support for sidewalk installation where none exist, especially on student walking routes	9	Online commenting tool, Focus Group Summary Report
Support for bike boulevards with speed-reduction measures, not signage alone.	3	Online commenting tool
Concerns that lower speed limits alone are ineffective without design changes and enforcement; support for traffic calming, lane reductions, and boulevard-style redesigns	2	Online commenting tool
Desire for better transit connectivity, including faster north–south routes and improved access to jobs and schools.	2	Online commenting tool
Requests to prioritize bike/ped-only connections over new vehicle streets where possible.	2	Online commenting tool, Public meeting

Neighborhoods and Housing

Comments	Tally (#) of Repeated Comments	Sources
Strong support for walkable access to services, groceries and general food access, schools, community spaces, and transit for families, students, and lower-income households.	8	Public Meeting, CAS event, Focus Group Summary Report
Calls for housing choice and density near service and transit, employments support, youth programming, and gathering space	2	Online commenting tool, Focus Group Summary Report
Need for safe routes to school and housing-adjacent amenities	3	Online commenting tool
Recognition that many neighborhoods are isolated from amenities. Example: Neighborhoods east of Stoughton Road and along Milwaukee Street and south of the Beltline	2	Online commenting tool

Economy and Opportunity

Comments	Tally (#) of Repeated Comments	Sources
Desire to cultivate local and minority-owned entrepreneurship, particularly among residents and recent graduates	1	Online commenting tool
Emphasis on culturally relevant businesses and inclusive economic development reflecting neighborhood demographics	1	Online commenting tool
Concerns about commercial affordability along Stoughton Road, vacancies, and high rents as barriers to revitalization along the corridor	1	Focus Group Summary Report

Culture and Character		
Comments	**Tally (#) of Repeated Comments**	**Sources**
Want more youth-focused spaces and programming, including community centers, pools, and recreation options to support physical and mental health	11	Art Workshop, CAS Event, Focus Group Summary Report
Want more gatherings and activities for the community. Examples: Milwaukee Street, Honeysuckle Park	4	Art Workshop, CAS event
Opportunities to use vacant areas for affordable art spaces, studios, exhibition spaces, and workshops. Example: Round House	7	Art Workshop
Want more outdoor third spaces and art resources that address issues like: isolation, speeding, pedestrian safety, school shooting safety, and how to get kids and families more 'play' opportunities. Example locations: Buckeye Road, N Thompson, Milwaukee Street, Beltline, Hwy 30, Art and Play in parks	7	Art Workshop

Green and Resilient		
Parks		
Comments	**Tally (#) of Repeated Comments**	**Sources**
Appreciation for parks, natural areas, prairie plantings, and conservation parks	5	Online commenting tool
Want to preserve quiet, undisturbed character of greenways	5	Online commenting tool
Support for expanded tree canopy and diverse tree species and prairie plantings, especially replacing storm damaged mature	6	Email, Public Meeting, Online commenting tool, CAS event, Focus Group Summary Report
Interest in mountain biking, foraging activities in the parks, and community food- growing spaces, such as gardens or small urban farms	3	Online commenting tool, Focus Group Summary Report

Health and Safety		
Comments	**Tally (#) of Repeated Comments**	**Sources**
Speeding is a concern. Improvements should focus on safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Especially in areas involving children and students.	5	Online commenting tool
Happy to see safe routes to school improvements	3	Online commenting tool
Happy to see sidewalks, crossings, and protected bike infrastructure additions, especially along school-adjacent routes.	2	Online commenting tool
Want to reduce isolation and improve access to amenities and places for emergencies (heat, natural disasters, etc.)	4	Online commenting tool, Focus Group Summary Report

Community Action Strategy (CAS)		
Comments	**Tally (#) of Repeated Comments**	**Sources**
Want improved lightening, kiosks, and park features that encourage social interaction	3	CAS event, Online comment tool
Support for events Food trucks, small businesses, biergarten enhancements, and cultural amenities.	3	CAS event, Online commenting tool