

Economic Development Opportunities for Buchanan Focus of February Meeting

February 20, 2006. At this meeting, the focus was on the DRAFT Economic Development Element of the Town of Buchanan Comprehensive Plan. This element:

- Describes existing business environments within Buchanan;
- Assesses the town's strengths and weaknesses for attracting business development;
- Summarizes resident opinions with respect to business development;
- Identifies some issues and concerns related to local businesses; and
- Provides a series of goals, objectives and policies to address economic development in Buchanan through 2025.

Amy Emery of OMNNI Associates facilitated the discussion of this DRAFT element during the meeting. To begin, she highlighted some of the preliminary results from the community-wide survey distributed this past fall as well as the results from the SWOT and Value exercises as they relate to Economic Development. This information was presented as a means to understand resident desires for business development in the community.

At this point, attention was turned to the draft vision statement. The Plan Commission offered some suggestions to clarify where mixed-use pedestrian-oriented uses were most likely to occur. This vision statement, along with all others drafted up to this point, will be available at the Mid-Course Mapping Meeting for resident review and feedback.

Next, Ms. Emery overviewed the remaining portions of the draft. During this presentation, she spent some time discussing opportunities to improve local sign guidelines, promote community identity through the use of signage, logos, landscaping, etc., and discussed the impact business uses have on the town's tax rate.

A DAFT of the revised chapter (with changes made as suggested by the Plan Commission) is available on this web site in the Draft Plan Chapters Section. Interested residents are encouraged to review the information and offer comments. The Plan Commission will continue to review the chapter over the next month.

The next meeting with OMNNI will be on March 13, 2006 in the Kimberly High School Commons. At this meeting, OMNNI will facilitate a series of mapping activities to get resident input in the preparation of the Future Land Use Maps.