



Summaries from the Concentric Circle Exercises

10 Neighborhood Forums held in April and May 2018

Various locations around Town

A Concentric Circle exercise was conducted at all 10 neighborhood meetings. It consisted of breaking up participants into various tables/groups of about 6-10 people in order to discuss their neighborhood in the past, current conditions and likes, and what they would like to see in the future. Input received from each of the tables was combined and resulted in common themes from each of the 10 neighborhood meetings – these results can be seen in the majority of this summary document. Once the information from each of the 10 neighborhoods was summarized, the following list was compiled to show common themes brought up at many or all of the meetings.

Total Number of Participants: 438

COMMON THEMES FROM ALL CONCENTRIC CIRCLE EXERCISES

- Better Pedestrian Safety / Sidewalk Improvements (12)
- More Bike Paths / Bike Lanes / Connections (8)
- Less Traffic Congestion / Better Traffic Control / Speed Reductions (7)
- Infrastructure Improvements - Sewer, Stormwater, Drainage, Roads (6)
- Growth Management / Less Development (6)
- Utilize Infill Development / Address Vacant Buildings (5)
- Keep Community Character (5)
- Install Street Lights (4)
- Improve Walkability / Bikeability (4)
- Utilize Traffic Calming Measures (4)
- Preserve Greenspace (4)
- Need More Parks and Recreation Options & Improvements to These (3)
- Address Absentee Landlords / Property Maintenance (3)
- Discuss Thruway Access to Youngs Road (2)



AUDUBON Neighborhood Forum

Date: May 22, 2018

Location: Getzville Fire Hall

Total Number of Attendees: 21

Total Visual Preference Survey Participation: 13

Total Neighborhood Surveys Submitted: 12

Total Comment Sheets Submitted: 4

COMMON THEMES FROM THE AUDUBON CONCENTRIC CIRCLE EXERCISE

Two (2) breakout tables

“One thing that could be changed, improved, implemented or created”:

- Need drainage improvements
- Need pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements on JJ Audubon, Campbell Blvd. and Millersport Hwy.
- Reduction of speed limits

Historic

- Save historic features / buildings
- Convenient access/proximity to stores and services
- Had more greenspace/open space

Current

- Like that services and amenities are close by
- Area has a mix of land uses
- There is a diversity of housing types

Future

- Desire more public transit access
- Desire area to be more pedestrian friendly



EAST AMHERST Neighborhood Forum

Date: May 10, 2018

Location: Transit Middle School

Total Number of Attendees: 28

Total Visual Preference Survey Participation: 25

Total Neighborhood Surveys Submitted: 11

Total Comment Sheets Submitted: 6

COMMON THEMES FROM THE EAST AMHERST CONCENTRIC CIRCLE EXERCISE

Four (4) breakout tables

"One thing that could be changed, improved, implemented or created":

- Need sidewalks on Casey and Paradise Roads
- Desire bike lanes/paths and a connection to the Clarence Peanut Line bike path
- More public transportation options and access
- Extend Youngs Road from Casey to Dodge
- Reduce traffic congestion
- Keep traffic on secondary road moving

Historic

- Good schools
- There was more open space and trees
- Lots were larger

Current

- Like the close proximity to stores and services
- Good parks and recreational amenities
- Traffic has increased

Future

- Desire pedestrian and bicycle improvements and connections
- Need more north/south roadway connections



EGGERTSVILLE Neighborhood Forum

Date: April 24, 2018

Location: Windemere Elementary School

Total Number of Attendees: 50

Total Visual Preference Survey Participation: 42

Total Neighborhood Surveys Submitted: 25

Total Comment Sheets Submitted: 6

COMMON THEMES FROM THE EGGERTSVILLE CONCENTRIC CIRCLE EXERCISE

Six (6) breakout tables

“One thing that could be changed, improved, implemented or created”

- Need for more and better street lights
- Address property maintenance / absentee landlord issues / need better Code enforcement
- Infrastructure improvements (storm sewers, sanitary sewers, roads)
- Desire mixed use and infill development to revitalize commercial areas
- Desire sidewalk and curb improvements
- There is a need for increased police enforcement and patrols
- Desire roadway improvements for better walkability and biking / traffic calming

Historic

- There was less traffic / lower speeds of travel
- Had a more residential character
- Friendly, safe, family-oriented neighborhood
- Like the convenience / easy access to public transit, highways and the City of Buffalo

Current

- Access/proximity/convenience to services, amenities and resources
- Good schools, services and parks
- Friendly neighbors / sense of community
- Increased crime / less safe
- More business closures and vacancies

Future

- Desire sidewalks and pedestrian improvements



ELLICOTT CREEK Neighborhood Forum

Date: May 14, 2018

Location: Ellicott Creek Fire Hall

Total Number of Attendees: 45

Total Visual Preference Survey Participation: 36

Total Neighborhood Surveys Submitted: 30

Total Comment Sheets Submitted: 7

COMMON THEMES FROM THE ELLICOTT CREEK CONCENTRIC CIRCLE EXERCISE

Five (5) breakout tables

"One thing that could be changed, improved, implemented or created":

- Restrictions on mini-cell tower facilities
- Desire sidewalk improvements
- Desire less commercial development
- Address student housing issues / desire less student housing
- Better traffic controls and reduced speed limits (e.g., Niagara Falls Blvd)
- Improved safety for pedestrians and bicycles
- Get rid of the adult store
- Fill vacant buildings / address zombie properties
- Need better upkeep of rental properties
- More bike path connections

Historic

- Neighborhood was quieter
- Had more open space
- There was less traffic / no 990
- Neighborly / family-oriented / community feel
- Community services and activities / Civic Association

Current

- Need reduced speed limits and traffic
- Development is denser / there are more apartments and student housing
- Good neighborhood / family-oriented
- Good housing stock

Future

- Desire more bike trails and connections
- Address zombie properties and vacancies
- Need better property management
- Infrastructure improvements (better road and sidewalk maintenance)



GETZVILLE Neighborhood Forum

Date: May 21, 2018

Location: Getzville Fire Hall

Total Number of Attendees: 45

Total Visual Preference Survey Participation: 43

Total Neighborhood Surveys Submitted: 29

Total Comment Sheets Submitted: 10

COMMON THEMES FROM THE GETZVILLE CONCENTRIC CIRCLE EXERCISE

Six (6) breakout tables

“One thing that could be changed, improved, implemented or created”:

- More sidewalks and connectivity
- Desire bike path connections to UB, local services and the Peanut Line
- More greenspace preservation
- Upgrades to Getzville Plaza
- Traffic and pedestrian safety improvements – especially at Dodge and Campbell Blvd. (lower speed limits, traffic signal improvements with turn arrows)
- Limit development
- Protect community character

Historic

- Area had more rural / agricultural character
- Had more open space and trees
- There was less traffic
- Safe and quiet neighborhood
- Residential lots were larger
- Good schools
- Neighborly / feeling of community

Current

- Good schools and services
- Traffic issues on Dodge Road and Campbell Blvd.
- Area has a safe, small-town feel
- Good access to goods and services

Future

- Desire sidewalks/more walkability
- Desire more bike paths and connections
- Desire less development or smaller-scale development
- Desire better traffic controls / reduced speed limits



MAIN-TRANSIT Neighborhood Forum

Date: May 8, 2018

Location: Main-Transit Fire Hall

Total Number of Attendees: 21

Total Visual Preference Survey Participation: 15

Total Neighborhood Surveys Submitted: 9

Total Comment Sheets Submitted: 5

COMMON THEMES FROM THE MAIN-TRANSIT CONCENTRIC CIRCLE EXERCISE

Three (3) breakout tables

“One thing that could be changed, improved, implemented or created”:

- Desire for more parks and trails
- Desire bicycle amenities (bike lanes, wider shoulders, bike racks, etc.)
- Traffic calming and improved pedestrian safety improvements on Main Street
- Better and safe connections to commercial uses on Transit Road (pedestrian paths)
- Need stormwater drainage improvements
- Maintain community character / have development that is scaled in context with surrounding uses
- Create access to the Thruway at Youngs Road
- Desire more sidewalks and sidewalk improvements
- Need street lighting everywhere

Historic

- Residential lots were larger
- Had more trees and open space
- Good schools

Current

- Good schools
- Good fire and police services
- More wildlife

Future

- Desire improved traffic control / address roadway congestion
- Desire more neighborhood parks
- Create access to the Thruway at Youngs Road
- Need pedestrian and bicycle improvements / connections



NORTH AMHERST Neighborhood Forum

Date: May 29, 2018

Location: North Amherst Fire Hall

Total Number of Attendees: 78

Total Visual Preference Survey Participation: 62

Total Neighborhood Surveys Submitted: 46

Total Comment Sheets Submitted: 11

COMMON THEMES FROM THE NORTH AMHERST CONCENTRIC CIRCLE EXERCISE

Nine (9) breakout tables

“One thing that could be changed, improved, implemented or created”:

- Make Fire District taxes equitable (everyone should pay the same rate)
- Control / reduce office and residential development
- Address traffic impacts from Crosspointe office park
- Desire less traffic and lower speed limits / better traffic controls on Campbell, Hopkins, Tonawanda Creek, New and Sweet Home Roads
- Need provisions for pedestrian and bicycle safety (wider road shoulders, paths and trails)
- Need improvements to existing bike paths and more bike path connectivity
- Preserve open space and community character
- Address sewage treatment plant capacity issues
- Continue agricultural preservation
- Help with mosquito control
- Better Wi-Fi access / service

Historic

- Area was quiet / rural / agricultural in nature
- There was less traffic
- There was more open space / wildlife
- Had more open ditches / had no shoulders or sidewalks

Current

- Rural character
- There are bike paths and parks nearby
- Good services
- General increase in roadway traffic
- Have seen impacts from development that is occurring to the north and south

Future

- Desire Fire District tax equity
- Desire more traffic controls / reduced traffic / slower speeds of travel
- Desire bike path improvements / connections
- Desire growth management



SNYDER Neighborhood Forum

Date: May 1, 2018

Location: Park School Cafeteria

Total Number of Attendees: 83

Total Visual Preference Survey Participation: 68

Total Neighborhood Surveys Submitted: 47

Total Comment Sheets Submitted: 15

COMMON THEMES FROM THE SNYDER CONCENTRIC CIRCLE EXERCISE

Ten (10) breakout tables

“One thing that could be changed, improved, implemented or created”:

- Retain and improve tree-lined streets
- Need traffic calming to lessen congestion on Main and Harlem
- Fill vacant buildings and revitalize existing plazas (Sheridan, Harlem, Kensington)
- Maintain community character and context
- Need infrastructure improvements (stormwater and sanitary sewers)
- Provide sidewalks and street lights everywhere
- Improved walkability and pedestrian safety (cross walk improvements)
- Address issues with student housing and absentee landlords
- Better government transparency – better zoning regulations and fewer variances
- More greenspace and historic preservation
- More bike lanes and connections to bike paths

Historic

- Streets were tree-lined
- There was less traffic and congestion
- Community character / neighborhood was family-oriented and safe
- Walkability has always been good
- Good schools

Current

- Good access and convenience to shops and services
- Community character is still good
- Good schools
- Area is still walkable

Future

- Need better zoning / design standards to protect community character
- Improve and maintain walkability



SWORMVILLE Neighborhood Forum

Date: May 31, 2018

Location: North Amherst Fire Hall

Total Number of Attendees: 29

Total Visual Preference Survey Participation: 17

Total Neighborhood Surveys Submitted: 14

Total Comment Sheets Submitted: 2

COMMON THEMES FROM THE SWORMVILLE CONCENTRIC CIRCLE EXERCISE

Four (4) breakout tables

“One thing that could be changed, improved, implemented or created”:

- More parks and trails – connection to Peanut Line in Clarence
- Improve walkability / bikeability (sidewalks, bike lanes, wider shoulders, trails)
- Slow growth – manage it better and help reduce current / future traffic volumes
- Preserve community character and rural feel of area
- New development should be to neighborhood scale
- Fill vacant buildings first, before new greenfield development – infill desired
- Fix insufficient infrastructure (sewer, drainage, roads, water)
- Better manage flood mitigation
- Better traffic controls and signal timing to manage increasing traffic
- More senior housing options

Historic

- Used to have more greenspace
- There was less traffic
- Area had a rural/small-town feel

Current

- Good schools
- Good services
- Sense of community

Future

- Slow growth / manage development better
- Better traffic controls and less traffic (through reduced development and traffic / roadway improvements)



WILLIAMSVILLE Neighborhood Forum

Date: April 26, 2018

Location: Hutchinson Hose Fire Hall

Total Number of Attendees: 38

Total Visual Preference Survey Participation: 38

Total Neighborhood Surveys Submitted: 24

Total Comment Sheets Submitted: 10

COMMON THEMES FROM THE WILLIAMSVILLE CONCENTRIC CIRCLE EXERCISE

Five (5) breakout tables

“One thing that could be changed, improved, implemented or created”

- Less traffic congestion / more traffic calming on Main Street
- Pedestrian safety improvements
- Provide Thruway access at Youngs Road / removal of Williamsville toll barrier
- Desire complete streets with bike lanes
- Need sidewalk and street lighting improvements
- Reduce building heights
- Need more and interconnected parks

Historic

- Sense of neighborhood/community character
- Good schools
- More large, mature trees
- Safe community
- Small, locally-owned businesses

Current

- Availability / access to parks
- Strong / safe neighborhood

Future

- Desire for more / improved walkability
- Desire more bike paths and pedestrian connections
- Desire less traffic
- Desire infrastructure improvements (roads, sewers)