

Meeting Summary

Community Committee Meeting 7

January 14, 2026

The following is a summary of the fourth meeting of the community committee for Worthington's comprehensive planning process. Attached to this summary are the agenda and presentation slides.

Process updates

The consultant team provided an update on the current progress in the planning process and the direction it is headed in the coming months, as we draft recommendations and the plan document.

Share outcomes of round 2 (key takeaways)

The consultant team shared key takeaways from the second round of community input on the guiding principles, community preferences, areas with opportunity, and the central focus area.

Introduce citywide land use and character types

The consultant team introduced the draft citywide future land use and character map and types, sharing the draft character type definitions for the mixed-use areas. The committee gave some initial thoughts on these areas, with most discussion focusing on the Corridor Mixed Use area along High Street. Below is a summary of their discussion:

Corridor Mixed Use

- What is the function of High Street in the future?
 - How does the Worthington Mile concept play into the land uses along High Street in this area?
 - Should High Street shift from being auto-oriented to pedestrian and cyclist-oriented? What is the right balance for supporting different transportation modes?
 - Could a boulevard design like Monument Avenue in Richmond, VA, be appropriate?
 - Do office businesses desire walkability?
 - Businesses have expressed a desire to have more supporting land uses (like restaurants) within walking distance.

- More imagery to reflect public realm improvements and transitions to nearby neighborhoods would be helpful

Set path forward on the Central Focus Area

The consultant team shared additional reflections on the public input received on the central focus area concepts and presented an illustrative diagram of the site for discussion purposes, including examples of building scaling and a fiscal illustration based on the Fiscal Analysis of Land Use completed by Tischler Bise. The committee shared some thoughts on what the final direction of this site should look like in the plan. Below is a summary of their discussion:

Format of recommendations in the plan

- The final recommendations for this site should not be a specific site plan, since it is unlikely that a site plan drawn in this process would be built.
- Final diagrams should be vignettes that express concepts like what mixed-use development on High Street or a community park COULD look like in this area.
- Placemaking should also be reflected distinctly in the final recommendations.

Parks/Green Space

- This area should include community-oriented park space that is active and encourages the whole community to utilize it. This space should be noted separately from natural preserve areas or trails and should be accessible directly from roads, like Selby Park.

Housing

- A mix of housing should exist here, but what is the right mix and amount? We need to understand what kind of units should be encouraged here to create more age-friendly, affordable housing options.
 - Age-friendly means everybody-friendly. The type of units that meet the needs of empty nesters also meet the needs of young professionals. This is an opportunity to create community inter-generationally.

Fiscal Analysis and Feasibility

- The number of residential units and the square footage of mixed-use buildings should be given as a range estimate. These estimates need to balance community desires with what is financially feasible given current market conditions.

Road connections

- While the number of new road connections to existing neighborhoods should be sensitive, there is an importance to having redundancies in road networks to reduce the amount of traffic that depends on one route and have capacity for emergencies like water main breaks.

One-word check in

To close the meeting, the consultant team asked each committee member to respond to the following question: “Given where we are in the process—and all that you have learned and experienced—in one word, how would you describe how you are feeling about the process tonight?” The committee gave the following words in response:

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|----------------|----------------|------------|
| - Hopeful | - Encouraged | - Better |
| - Comfortable | - Optimistic | - Thankful |
| - Anticipation | - Conflicted | - Excited |
| - Satisfied | - Wary | - Engaged |
| - Curious | - Anticipatory | - Educated |

Next Meetings

The committee was given a preview of what to expect over the coming months:

- Feb 9: City Council Update 2
- March: Community Committee Meeting 8 (recommendations)
- April: Community Committee Meeting 9 (recommendations continued) and City Council Update 3
- April/May: Public Input Round 3
- June: Community Committee Meeting 10 (draft plan review and implementation strategy) and 11 (if needed, continued draft plan review)
- June/July: City Council Update 4 (pre-adoption)

Attachments

Agenda

Presentation Slides