

**TOWNSHIP OF SCIO
MASTER LAND USE PLAN
APPENDIX C:
Public Input Executive Summary**

JUNE 1, 2021

Scio Master Plan Public Input Executive Summary

The public input undertaken for the update of the Scio Township Master Plan encompassed three (3) separate efforts – on-line survey, visioning session, and public comment period/public hearing. This report summarizes the complete public input process and provides raw data compiled through these efforts as an appendix to the 2020 Scio Township Master Plan.

The public input conducted as part of the Master Plan was significantly altered by COVID-19. Instead of providing in-person opportunities to receive public input, public outreach was reorganized and redirected to digital platforms. Every effort was made to provide access to the Master Plan visioning process including two (2) articles in the Township Newsletter (Spring 2020 and Summer 2020). Information for all upcoming public participation opportunities were publicized on the main page of the Township website, and on the Scio Township Master Plan webpage. Additional outreach was conducted via Facebook and Next-Door social media platforms.

Each public input component is listed below with a description of how each was conducted and a summary of each component's results.

On-Line Survey

The on-line survey was provided in the digital format SoGo and advertised to residents, business owners, and community stakeholders via the Township Newsletter and website. Hard-copy surveys were also available upon request. During the active survey period of January 21 through July 31, 2020, 316 respondents participated in the survey which contained 35 multiple-part questions.

Topics within the survey included:

- Quality of Life
- Housing
- Natural Resources/Land Preservation
- Pathways/Parks/Nature Preserves/Recreation Activities
- Roads/Public Transportation
- Jackson Road Development

Quality of Life: Respondents rate their overall quality of life as excellent (66%) or adequate (31%). They also indicated the level of police and fire protection provided by the Township is “about right”.

Housing: Over half of the respondents feel the Township should set a more explicit goal of adding more housing that is affordable for families.

Natural Resources/Land Preservation: Forty percent (40%) of respondents are very satisfied with the Township's efforts to protect natural resources, open space, wetlands and trees. However, nearly one-third of respondents are dissatisfied with the Township's efforts to protect water resources. Fifty percent (50%) of respondents feel the Township should develop a policy on climate change.

Pathways/Parks/Nature Preserves/Recreation Activities: Over half of respondents support a tax increase to provide access to parks and nature preserves. More respondents are interested in nature preserves and parks that provide relaxed outdoor activities (76%), than those interested in organized recreation (43%). Nearly 50% of respondents feel their area of the Township needs more accessibility to parks and nature preserves. While biking throughout neighborhoods may be viewed as safe, most respondents are not comfortable walking or biking outside of their neighborhood on moderately busy and busy streets. Respondents are dissatisfied with the ease of walking or biking in the Township and the County. Over 50% say they would support a tax increase to pay for the non-motorized network, and 75% of respondents feel the Township should work to improve pedestrian access and safety in the Jackson Road corridor.

Roads/Public Transportation: Most respondents have never used public transportation, and while almost half say they support additional services, over half of the respondents say they will use it once a year or less.

Jackson Road Development: Nearly half of respondents (45%) are satisfied with the variety of shopping opportunities and restaurants available in the Township. Less were satisfied with the amount of office and light industrial space, variety of housing types, and access to entertainment venues. Mixed-use and office, light industrial and research business uses are preferred over large-scale retail uses. Respondents feel the Township should actively pursue economic development and job creation opportunities on Jackson Road and throughout the Township.

On-line survey results are provided after this narrative.

Visioning Session

A visioning session was planned to receive additional input from Township residents (in addition to the on-line survey) to help formulate a vision for the community's future growth and development and to help establish the goals of the Township's Master Plan. Since an in-person visioning session was not able to be conducted due to COVID-19, CWA developed a 3 Steps to Participation process that started with a Live Master Plan Visioning Session Webinar, followed by an opportunity to provide input via open-ended questions, and finally the ability to prioritize the comments received to form consensus among participants.

3 Steps to Participation

STEP 1



Tune into the Live Master Plan Visioning Webinar on July 15th at 6:30 PM. After the 15th, watch on-demand until July 31st. The link to the webinar can be found on the Township Master Plan Website.

www.sciotownship-masterplan.com

Tune - In

The following discussion topics were outlined during Step 1 (webinar):

- Population
- Residential Growth
- Land Use (Jackson Road and Utility Corridor)
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Parks, Preserves & Open Spaces
- Non-Motorized Pathways and Roads

Approximately 60 people (devices) viewed the webinar during the live stream, and the webinar was available for viewing for an additional two weeks after the live broadcast. After viewing the webinar, participants were asked to respond to the open-ended questions posed during the webinar. There were questions for each of the topics listed above.

STEP 2



Provide your input. Click on the Step 2 button on the Township Master Plan Website to be directed to the input form. You may provide input on some or all the questions. Input can be given from July 15th until July 31st.

Be Heard

The questionnaire for Step 2 included the following questions (listed by topic):

Residential Growth:

- *What should the Township's priorities in housing types be?*
- *Are there areas of the Township that would be more appropriate or less appropriate for residential development?*
- *Are there specific Areas of the Township that are of particular concern?*
- *Is more housing needed that meets a range of family incomes?*
- *Should there be more senior housing?*

Commercial Growth:

- *What types of development would you like to see more of – retail, office, residential, industrial, mixed-use, hotels?*
- *Outside of the Jackson Road corridor, are there other areas that should be considered for commercial growth and development?*

Environment & Natural Resources:

- *Do you consider the environment and natural resources a priority for the Township?*
- *What actions should the Township take to reduce carbon emissions (mitigation)?*
- *What actions should the Township take to cope with the effects of climate change (adaption)?*

Parks, Preserves & Open Space

- *What park facilities would you like to see in the Township?*
- *What other areas should the Township prioritize in their preservation efforts?*
- *How do you feel about current initiatives for land preservation?*

Non-Motorized Pathways:

- *Which of the existing Township non-motorized pathways do you use?*
- *Where would you like to see pathways?*
- *Is biking to Ann Arbor a priority?*

Roads:

- *As a driver, what roads and other transportation issues should be prioritized?*
- *As a pedestrian, what roads and other transportation issues should be prioritized?*
- *As a bicyclist, what roads and other transportation issues should be prioritized?*

Roads – Township-Wide Special Assessment:

- *Are you aware of / satisfied with the Township-Wide Special Assessment for local road improvements?*

Twenty-five (25) participants provided open-ended answers to these questions posed during the visioning webinar. Each response is provided in an Excel spreadsheet following this summary (Visioning Webinar – Step 2).

STEP 3

Respond



Click on the Step 3 button on the Township Master Plan website to be directed to a form that allows you to rank each of the comments received in Step 2. This allows us to form a consensus of the comments received. Voting will begin August 5th and run until the 19th.

Each response received from Step 2 was provided for participants to determine whether they strongly agree, agree, strongly disagree, disagree or have no opinion in Step 3. Twelve (12) participants ranked the 132 comments. From the respondent's rankings, there is agreement in the following statements as represented under each topic below. The full results of the survey are found following this narrative in the section entitled Visioning Webinar – Step 3.

Residential Growth: Over half of the respondents felt housing density should be targeted along Jackson Road, and that both affordable and senior housing are both primary concerns. Almost all respondents (91%) agreed/strongly agreed that a diverse range of housing opportunities should be available and concentrated along or just off major roadways. Seventy-five percent (75%) of respondents agreed/strongly agreed there should be more multiple and senior housing. Over half of respondents also feel that homes should be clustered – less emphasis on single-family homes. Eighty-three (83%) agreed/strongly agreed that housing is too expensive, and higher density residential (apartments/condos) with easy walkability to Jackson Road should be considered.

Commercial Growth: Over half of the respondents (63%) agree/strongly agreed that hotels are not a use that are needed in Scio. Small businesses, retail and office uses should be prioritized. However, 55% agree/strongly agree that a single hotel/motel would be welcomed to accommodate Township guests. Sixty percent (60%) agree/strongly agree that retail and industrial uses should remain along the Jackson Road corridor. Nearly all respondents agreed/strongly agreed that mixed-use should be a priority, as should retail, office and industrial.

Environment & Natural Resources: Fifty-four percent (54%) of participants agree/strongly agree that the Gelman dioxane site is an impediment to development of that area and to the Honey Creek and its tributaries. Nearly all respondents (91%) agree/disagree that a primary concern when addressing carbon emissions is to focus on density. Improving public transit, retail density of Jackson and safe walking/biking infrastructure are paramount. Sixty-three percent (63%) of participants agreed/strongly agreed they would like to see the Township directly address carbon emissions and to adopt an educational program geared toward adaption (e.g. less grass, more trees, improving home/commercial energy efficiency). Nearly three quarters of participants (72%) agree/strongly agree the water quality and habitat of the Huron River should be prioritized.

Parks, Preserves & Open Space: Over half of the respondents (63%) agree/strongly agree that parks in Scio Township should be for passive recreation only. Protecting the Township natural features – farmland along the Township's eastern and western borders and open space along the northern and southern borders should remain a priority. Nearly all respondents (82%) would like to see more nature parks with paths. Seventy-three percent (73%) of participants agreed/strongly agreed that a park near Staebler Road for the new residential developments is needed and that additional pavilions and picnic areas in the Township Parks should be considered. Over half of the participants also agreed/strongly agreed that more frequent small parks in neighborhoods should be considered.

Non-Motorized Pathways: Seventy-three percent (73%) of respondents agreed/strongly agreed that more parking to access the trail near Zeeb is important. Over half of the participants agreed/strongly agreed that a safe biking corridor to Ann Arbor is a priority but would also like to see improved/wider bike lanes to Jackson Road. A majority of participants agreed/strongly agreed that bike lanes should be installed wherever possible to encourage safe cycling and want to be able to cycle from Dexter and/or Ann Arbor.

Roads: Nearly all respondents (91%) agree/strongly agree to fix roads so they last longer (spend more on road repairs) and provide pathways for bikes and pedestrians. Safe infrastructure for cyclists should be a priority. Sixty-four percent (64%) of participants agreed/strongly agreed the Zeeb/I-94 intersection needs improvement.

Roads – Township-Wide Special Assessment: Sixty-three percent (62%) of participants are satisfied with the Township-Wide Special Assessment for road improvements.

Public Comment Period / Public Hearing

As part of the Master Plan update process regulated by Public Act 33 of 2008, as amended (MCL 125.3833) a 63-day public comment period is required as is a public hearing prior to adoption of the Master Plan. The public comment period was conducted between INSERT DATE to INSERT DATE. Comments received included...INSERT PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED.

On INSERT DATE, the Planning Commission held a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed Master Plan. During the hearing, the following comments were made: INSERT COMMENTS



ON-LINE SURVEY RESULTS





VISIONING WEBINAR – STEP 2





VISIONING WEBINAR – STEP 3

