



Fall 2020 Bicycle Friendly Community Survey



Whether you bike in Muncie or don't, fill [this survey](#) out! It'll help with our scorecard, and report to public officials how to make our community safer, healthier, and more equitable!

A New Plan for Delaware County and the City of Muncie



By Heather Williams, MAP Board of Directors

The last [comprehensive plan](#) for Delaware County was completed in 2000. Much has changed over the last twenty years within the city of Muncie and the many towns and unincorporated areas of our county. The comprehensive plan presents a vision for the future of land use and development within Delaware County and provides specific goals related to transportation, infrastructure, parks and open space, among others.

The Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Plan Commission has partnered with the Muncie Action Plan board of directors and NEXT Muncie to combine their comprehensive plan update with an update to the city of Muncie's strategic investment plan, which is commonly known as MAP. The last large-scale [MAP](#) planning process took place in 2009 and although two updates have been completed since, it is time to re-visit the document with another large-scale engagement effort whereby residents help create a new vision for Muncie's growth and investment.

The Plan Commission, NEXT Muncie, and MAP's board of directors worked to develop a request for proposals and a process to hire a consultant to guide our communities through this process. Federal funds and private dollars will cover all costs. Sixteen firms responded to the request for proposals to complete both the comprehensive plan and strategic investment plan and from these responses, three firms have been selected to participate in in-person interviews. These interviews will be **live-streamed on the City of Muncie's Facebook page** and the community is invited to both view and interact with the process via the online platform. **The meeting dates and times for these presentations are Friday, November 6th 10:00-11:30 am, Tuesday, November 10th 9:00-10:30 am, and 10:30-noon.**

Once a firm is selected and a contract signed, the consultant will work with the Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Plan Commission, NEXT Muncie, and MAP's board of director's to develop a plan to engage residents during this uncertain time when gathering in large numbers is discouraged. We will work to find creative ways to ensure that everyone's voice is heard, because our future should not be determined for us, but by us.

The process is expected to continue throughout next year, with the presentation of final plans in late 2021 – early 2022. More information about future meetings and opportunities to get involved will be shared as they become available. For questions about this process, please contact the MAP Coordinator at mapcoordinator@muncieactionplan.net.

Ball State's Urban Planning Program Now Has Storefront at Muncie Mall



By Nick Werner

Students in Ball State University's Urban Planning program have set up shop in the Muncie Mall to help community leaders develop a Comprehensive Plan for Delaware County.

A former storefront now serves as a community design center where students can host meetings, conduct research and interact with residents as they help build a framework for the community's future.

Financial support for leasing the 8,900 square-foot space came from the City of Muncie, the Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Plan Commission, the Ball Brothers Foundation and Ball State's own R. Wayne Estopinal College of Architecture and Planning. The Muncie Mall is currently owned by The Woodmont Company and is under new management.

Mayor Dan Ridenour, who linked Scott Truex, chair of Ball State's Urban Planning Department, to Chataun Porch, General Manager of the Muncie Mall, called the community design center innovative.

"The retail world is changing, and we are excited to finally see innovative thinking in the Muncie Mall thanks to The Woodmont Company. When you're willing to think outside the box and work with non-retail space, collaboration like this can happen," Ridenour said.

Other partners in the project include the Muncie Action Plan, Next Muncie, and the Muncie-Delaware County Chamber of Commerce.

About 30 students, a mix of undergraduates and graduates, will work with a professional planning consultant to develop the plan, according to Truex, who is an associate professor of Urban Planning.

“This plan projects where Delaware County and Muncie wants to be in 20 years,” Truex said. “We are talking about future land use, transportation, housing, employment. Anything that has to do with economic development.”

Truex said the mall is the perfect location because it’s “out in the community” and offers plenty of space to safely host meetings and allow for physical distancing.

The comprehensive plan could even include recommendations on how to revive the Muncie Mall. Changing consumer habits have resulted in storefront vacancies at the facility and at malls throughout the U.S.

Truex said he is excited that his students will have a real-world experience that both prepares them for their careers and benefits the Delaware County community.

“They’ll get an inside look at how a consultant works and be able to observe them right in their backyard,” he said.



MEET OUR WEB OF SUPPORT
AMBASSADOR,

Alicia!

"The concept of Web of Support is simple and easy to understand why it works. So for it to be a community-wide initiative, I think it could really help a place like Muncie. For years, we have been a community that works to better itself and the Web of Support is a perfect way to really make an impact."

-Alicia VanDuy, Muncie Central High School student



Web of Support
Everybody Succeeds



What does the Web of Support mean to you?

"I think the idea of people coming from all across the community, including businesses, organizations, schools and young people coming together is really great way to get people involved and better the community."

-Alicia VanDuyn, Muncie Central High School student



Web of Support
Everybody Succeeds

[Click here for more information about the Web of Support.](#)

Neighborhood Highlight - Whitely



The Whitley Community Council is involved in many community projects, but one they didn't do, is install the solar lights on Centennial. A gentleman named Johnny Strong, took it upon himself to add the lights.

Johnny feels, yes, the lights are helpful for cars heading around the curve, being a light in all this darkness is the most important. He shares a story about a neighbor letting him know someone had taken a few of the lights. Johnny discovered that person lost power to his house and he needed light. That wasn't how Johnny meant for the solar lights to be used but if you need a light, find a light.

"Anyone can be a light. Giving someone a smile can be a light!" - Johnny Strong

Coming Up In 2020

The Bob Ross Experience officially opens Saturday 10/31/20 at [Minnetrista](#). Looking for tickets to the Bob Ross Experience and Special Hotel Rates? Visit this link for more information: <https://mailchi.mp/eed15bade6ad/bob-ross>

Join us for the final interviews to choose a firm to lead the next comprehensive plan for Delaware County. The meeting dates and times for these presentations are Friday, November 6th 10:00-11:30 am, Tuesday, November 10th 9:00-10:30 am, and 10:30-noon. Interviews will be live-streamed on the City of Muncie's Facebook page.

For things to do around town, check out the Muncie Visitors Bureau [calendar](#) for open venues as well as virtual exploring and entertainment. Or check out their Facebook page: [Muncie Visitors Bureau](#).

Be sure to check your neighborhoods Facebook page for updates about this months meeting.

MAP Neighborhood Meetings:

Remaining Meetings in 2020

MAP Neighborhood Presidents' Council:

6 pm, 3rd Tuesday,

Anthony-Northside: 6:30pm, 4th Thursday of odd-numbered months, Community Fellowship Church

Blaine/Southeast: November 11th 6p, via conference call

Cowing Park: 6pm, 3rd Thursday, Garden of Gethsemane Methodist Church

Forest Park: 6:30pm, 3rd Friday, Delaware County Senior Center

Gilbert: Not meeting in 2020

Haltzman Village (representing Haltzman, Norwood, and Vienna Woods):
tbd

Industry: November 19th, 6pm, Price Hall, 704 S. Madison Street

Ludingwood: 2pm, 3rd Saturday, Woodlands Nursing Home, 3820 W. Jackson St.

McKinley: 6pm, 4th Thursday, Muncie Central High School

2020 MAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Gretchen Cheesman, City of Muncie Community Development

Cornelius Dollison, Whitely Community Council

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Wayne Johnson, Ivy Tech Community College

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Alison Robbins, Aspect 6 Creative

Kelly Shrock, President, Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County (**Vice President**)

Minnetrista/Central: Next meeting January 14th, 2021

Northview: 6pm, 3rd Monday, Northview Elementary, 807 W. Yale Avenue

Old West End: Not meeting, updates can be found on Facebook at [OldWestEndNeighborhoodAssociation](#)

Riverside/Normal City: 7pm, 4th Wednesday, Hazelwood Christian Church Fellowship House, 1400 W. University Ave.

South Central: 6pm, 4th Monday, Bridges Community Services, 318 W. 8th Street

Southside: 5:30pm, 4th Tuesday, Gibson's Skate Areana

Thomas Park/Avondale Gathering: Nov 18th 6pm, Dec 16th 6pm, in person Ross Community Center, 1110 W. 10th Street

University Heights: 6:30pm, 2nd Thursday in March, June, September and December, Riverside Baptist Church

Western Woods: 6pm, 1st Wednesday, Westview Elementary

Whitely: Facebook Live, at [whitelycc](#)



Task Force 1: Linking Learning, Health, and Prosperity

MAP TF1/BY5 has increased resources and program to underserved families by over 60% and has increased access to high quality child care in Muncie/Delaware County by 22% since 2013.



Task Force 2: Fostering Collaboration

MAP TF2's efforts have created and sustained over 27 active neighborhood associations in the community of Muncie.



Task Force 3: Strengthening Pride and Image

MAP TF3 has worked together with communications partners to create Mymuncie.org, signage and delivering the good news of the opportunities Muncie has to offer.



Task Force 4: Creating Attractive and Desirable Places

MAP TF4 has strengthened Muncie's resiliency and code enforcement, helped to create the Muncie Cultural Train, Canan Commons and continues to work with Downtown Development to attract new business.



Task Force 5: Managing Community Resources

MAP TF5 has worked with Delaware County GIS department and helped to create Bike Muncie, Scout Muncie, has overseen Tuhey Pool Watterpark's transformation, reservoir projects, among other land resource improvements.



12/2/2020

MAP3 Reading October 2020

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