# ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES ELEMENT

# Appendix A-2

## City of Dodgeville Village of Ridgeway Town of Dodgeville Town of Ridgeway

Community Vision Plan

Iowa County

### A Summary of Public Input December 2002

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**Prepared by:** 

Paul Ohlrogge Community Resource Agent UW - Extension Iowa County On Wednesday December 11 the City of Dodgeville, Village of Ridgeway and the Towns of Dodgeville and Ridgeway participated in a community-visioning program called: *"Community Vision: Looking to the Future."* This visioning exercise took place at the Stonefield Apartment meeting room in Dodgeville, Wisconsin. Paul Ohlrogge of the UW-Extension Office, Amy Knox of Regional Planning and Mary Jenkins of Regional Planning facilitated this program.

Community's today face any number of pressing concerns, including requests for rezoning, demands for affordable housing or the loss of a major employer. Unfortunately, decisions about these issues are frequently made in the absence of a real vision of how the residents want their communities to look in the future.

Planning for a community's future can be a difficult, time consuming and costly job. Residents are often more concerned about daily tasks rather than think about a vision. Residents want good schools, decent jobs, safe and clean environments and safe neighborhoods in which to live. Without a vision, however, communities limit their ability to make decisions about these issues – somewhat like driving across the country without a roadmap.

Who should determine a community's future, other than its residents? Should it be a consultant hired to develop a plan, a state or federal agency making decisions on highways or wetlands preservation, or a private developer constructing a shopping mall or a residential subdivision? All these could have a large impact on a community without input from a broad range of residents. Residents need to participate in and actively envision the future of their communities – or other groups and individuals will determine it for them.

The community-visioning program lasted approximately three hours with good healthy discussions on what folks of these four municipalities envisioned their future to be. The program was broken down into three sections. The first section concentrating on: "Our Current Condition". The second portion focused on: "Challenges and Opportunities." The third portion focused on: "The Future."

What follows is a summary of information gathered during the visioning session on a series of questions posed to the group of citizens in attendance. This information, along with other information gathered from a recent written countywide survey, will be used to assist the Regional Planning Commission in drafting a comprehensive plan for the participating jurisdictions. This visioning session will help guide the future of the participating towns and villages Plan Commissions in their efforts to work towards comprehensive planning.

#### Section 1: Our Current Condition

The following four questions were asked to the group regarding our current condition:

- 1. What do you like about living in this area of Iowa County?
- 2. What are some of the community values?
- 3. What is unique about your community that is not found anywhere else?

#### What do you like about living in this area of Iowa County?

• The rural character	Limited traffic
Privacy	Variable scenery
Caring elected officials	People are caring
Life supporting services	Opportunity to be involved
• American Players Theatre is close by	Good schools
Active Chamber of Commerce	Lands' End
Churches	• Community is receptive to new ideas
Folklore Village	Cheese and wine makers
• Clean air	Agriculture
• Reasonable taxes	• Diversity
Good health care	Employment opportunities
• Lesser degree of noise as compared to	Your voice counts
other places	
Reasonable distance to major cities	Natural resources and wildlife
Safe communities	• Down-to-earth
Opportunity for growth	Viable downtown
Strong community of artists	Good snowplow services
• History	Governor Dodge State park
Library	Community Service Organizations
• Local media (Television, Paper and	Local Parks
Radio)	
Bike Trail	Golf Courses
Micro Brew Pub	Quality of roads and highways
Low Crime rate	Major tourism area near by
Festival and parades	Blues Festival
• Sunsets	Global Views store

#### What are some of the community values?

- Good work ethic
- History and preservation
- Natural resources
- Helping those in need
- Work, family and community a balance
- ♦ Heritage
- Progressive education
- ♦ Honest people
- Agriculture and land stewardship
- Respectful people
- Pride in the community
- Involvement in the community
- Willingness to contribute to charity
- Good neighbors
- Appreciation for wild spaces/wildlife
- Opportunities for our children
- Care for the elderly
- Education
- Families
- Open and responsive government

#### What is unique about your community that is not found anywhere else?

- Lands' End
- Historic Courthouse in Dodgeville
- Well marked rural roads
- Unglaciated topography
- Pleasant ridge store and restaurant
- Military ridge
- Non-polluting businesses
- Folklore Village
- Governor Dodge History is here
- American Players Theater in the area
- House on the Rock
- Taliesen and Frank Lloyd Wright History
- The Ridgeway Ghost
- Good water
- Trees and prairies
- Windmills and the Montfort wind-farm
- Slag furnace in city of Dodgeville
- Natural springs
- Amazing vistas
- Abundant wildlife
- Limited traffic
- Blue Mounds State park
- 1964 State Champion Basket-Ball Team
- Good hunting and Fishing areas
- Gov. Dodge State Park
- Family Farms
- Trout streams
- Oak savanna's
- CWD
- Mine shafts under the city
- New four lane highway
- A lot of smoke free restaurants

#### Section 2. Challenges and Opportunities:

The second portion of the Visioning Program focused on the Challenges and Opportunities facing the City of Dodgeville, Village of Ridgeway and the Towns of Dodgeville and Ridgeway. The following questions were used to facilitate discussion on the upcoming challenges:

- 1. What are some of the challenges and concerns facing your community?
- 2. What some opportunities for your communities in the future?
- 3. What type of development or redevelopment should occur in this area?
- 4. What type of development should not occur?

### What are some of the challenges or concerns facing your community?

•	Smart growth and the work to go into it	•	Urban development – sprawl like Mt. Horeb and Verona is scary
•	Siting of houses in rural areas	•	CWD
•	Lack of high paying jobs	•	Sate and local budget deficits
•	Maintaining quality of schools	•	Maintaining quality of our drinking water
•	Recreation opportunities for all ages	•	Terrorism
•	Keeping drugs out	•	Use of alcohol is high
•	Keeping talented people here in our communities (Brain Drain)	•	Maintaining family farms
•	Balancing private property rights with public views	•	Housing for all income levels
•	Unplanned growth	•	Youth activities or the lack of them
٠	Maintaining high quality health care	٠	Planning for an aging population
•	Keeping local services in supply for the	•	A challenge to find a way to be
	demand		more welcoming to minorities
•	Cost of government services	٠	New grocery store
•	Attracting retail businesses	•	Balancing living in the country with urban sprawl
•	Tax base to support services	•	Getting communities to work together
•	Financial institutions lose local decision making ability	•	Positive youth development opportunities
•	Agriculture economy	•	Pedestrian safety
•	Too much reliance on one major employer	•	Economic development for the area
•	Polarization with folks who have moved here verses those who were raised here	•	Service group membership
•	Police and Fire protection as community grows	•	Education and acceptance of smart growth
•	Current financial state of the school district	•	High number of senior citizens living in poverty
•	Providing water at a low cost	•	Hard to get younger and talented people involved in local decision making and broader community involvement
•	Understanding the difficulty of maintaining a good healthy forest land	•	Zoning and Planning complimentary towns and county
•	Providing for the performing arts	•	An auditorium
•	Maintaining strong E.M.T. services and membership in them	•	Annexation to certain towns

### What are some opportunities for your communities in the future?

Inter – Community collaboration	Develop more of Eco-Tourism
Sell and promote the many wonders of this	Control urban development and sprawl
area to those who are not from here	
Provide means of affordable housing to keep	Increase public participation
people here	
Opportunity to learn from other groups,	One time opportunity to preserve rural
municipalities that have done comprehensive	character
planning already	
Opportunity to learn that growth can be	Capitalize on geographic location in a
positive when done "smart"	managed way
Opportunity to minimize land use conflicts in	Get young people involved in the
the future	planning process
Preserve the Unglaciated area	Opportunity to be easier to understand
	zoning etc

What type of development or redevelopment should occur in this area?	What type of development should not occur?	
<ol> <li>Development that takes conservation and agriculture in mind</li> <li>Design review criteria to keep community character</li> <li>More restaurants</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Corporate farms – mega farms</li> <li>Casinos</li> <li>Prisons</li> <li>Heavy industry or smokestacks</li> <li>Strip malls</li> </ol>	
<ol> <li>Transition (a new way) from agriculture conservation to rural residential</li> <li>Look at 15 acre minimum rural lot size</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Strip- malls</li> <li>Big electrical transmission lines</li> <li>No mega slaughter houses</li> </ol>	
<ol> <li>Look at clustering for rural housing explore the idea</li> <li>Siting of rural housing to preserve the landscape</li> </ol>		
<ol> <li>Bevelopment should be close to the city for businesses and housing</li> <li>Industrial, commercial, and retail</li> </ol>		
<ul><li>development</li><li>10. Low impact industry (type we have now)</li><li>11. Infrastructure in place for the development close to town</li></ul>		
<ul> <li>12. Some size limitations on mega-farms (needs to be thought about)</li> <li>13. Consideration for larger farms and their impact on the local area</li> </ul>		

#### Section 3. <u>The Future</u>

The final segment of the visioning process was to look ahead at a preferred vision of the future. Visioning is *a process* by which a community envisions the future it wants, and plans how to achieve it. Through public involvement, communities identify their purpose, core values and vision of the future. The following questions were asked to encourage discussion on the community's vision for the future.

- 1. What words do you want your grandchildren to use to describe your community?
- 2. What do you want to preserve?
- 3. What do you want your community to look like in 2022?

# <u>What words do you want your grandchildren to use to describe your community?</u>

• Cool	• Neat	Progressive
• Safe	• Tolerant	• Fun
Comfortable	• Retreat like	• Beautiful
• Clean	• Quiet	• Home
Open-minded	• Friendly	• Healthy
Smoke free	Prosperous	• Environmentally conscious
• Interesting	• Well thought out	Good planning
Opportunistic	Collaboration	• Resourceful
• Opportunity for them to make decisions here	• Quaint	• Scenic
Close knit	• Smoke free indoor air	• A place I want to live in

#### What do you want to preserve?

- Historic courthouse
- Darkness
- Quietness
- Vibrant schools
- Parks
- Hospitals
- Safe communities
- Downtown
- Agriculture land
- Natural resources
- Talking about conservation

## What do you want your community to look like in 2022?

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Clean	Diversified human resources
Downtown vibrant	No need for a humane society
Have an auditorium in Dodgeville	Wide open spaces
Well kept farms	Mass transit system
Indoor pool and Ice Arena	Smoke free work place ordinance
Appreciation for the site scapes	Unpolluted environment
Ice cream dipper gone	Have community get togethers to share ideas
Park district	Leashless Dog Park
Communication system in step with the times and technology available	No CWD
Inter-fill development – use what is available first	Regional sewer system
More Bike lanes	Affordable access to health care
Farms with traditional Barns preserved	Regional higher educational facility in the area
Controlled traffic	Theatre Arts Center
Growth of housing, business, commercial so our children have a place to come back to after college	Future opportunities for our children are here
Would like retail development, a strip mall or a Wal-Mart	Preserve the Downtown
Book Store	Ethnic restaurants
No super Wal-Marts	Technology for the internet - broadband
Technology so we do not use as much salt on the roads	Mexican restaurant