# Local Area Workshop Summary

Monday, May 13, 2019

On May 15, 2019, the County of El Paso hosted a Black Forest Local Area Workshop at Black Forest Community Club. The workshop was part of the public outreach process for the creation of the new Master Plan, *Your El Paso Master Plan*. Attended by 45 individuals, this workshop was an opportunity for residents and community stakeholders to offer their input and feedback regarding Black Forest, El Paso County, and the plan. The workshop included a review of the planning process to be undertaken as well as a group exercise designed to gather input regarding issues, opportunities, potential projects, and key strengths and assets of Black Forest. Input from this and other workshops and focus groups will help to guide the planning process and will be directly reflected in the vision, goals, recommendations, and policies of the final *Your El Paso Master Plan.*

The top issue identified at both County and local levels was water supply and the need for a sustainable management plan of water resources moving forward. Participants noted the lack of regional water availability as well as the depletion of local aquifers as major concerns. Another top issue discussed was the growth of the area which has led to concerns of overdevelopment and exacerbated water supply.

When asked to identify the assets and strengths of Black Forest, residents listed a variety of features characteristics that should be preserved and promoted. Parks and open space, wildlife, and rural character were among the top strengths ranked by participants.

***Note on Summary Context***

*The following is a summary of the thoughts, comments, and opinions received in the workshop. Some comments were shared with the entire group, while others were recorded privately on worksheets. The items identified in this summary are not recommendations or observations of the consultant, but rather represent feedback and comments received from those who participated in the workshop. Numbers in parentheses indicate the quantity of individual responses received on the item.* ***The first number in parenthesis counts as a County-wide issue, and the second number counts as a Black Forest-specific issue.***

## Issues & Concerns

At the beginning of the workshop, participants were asked to individually identify the issues and concerns confronting El Paso County and the Black Forest community. Next, in breakout table groups, participants worked to generate a single, cumulative list, with each table identifying important issues to present to the larger group. The result was a list of the 36 top issues and concerns facing the community.

The breakout table groups were asked to rank the top three of the 36 issues and concerns. Below are the highest ranked County and Black Forest issues as determined by those this method, as well as all other issues identified through the workshop.

## Highest Group-Ranked Issues: (County, Black Forest)

- Water supply (32, 40)
- Unchecked growth (29, 22)
- Inadequate roads (16, 15)
- Compliance with existing zoning (8, 17)

## Other Issues by Category (County, Black Forest)

### *Transportation*

- Traffic congestion (10, 7)
- Traffic enforcement (2, 3)
- Road quality (2, 2)
- Lack of east/west corridor (2, 2)
- Traffic coordination (0, 3)
- Public transit (1, 2)

### *Natural Resources and Open Space*

- Neglect of the Black Forest Preservation Plan (6, 11)
- Wildlife preservation (2, 5)
- Need for open space corridors (1, 5)
- Need for climate change plan (3, 2)
- Regional water contamination (3, 2)
- Reliance on coal (1, 0)

### *Housing*

- Too much high-density housing (5, 2)
- Affordable housing (0, 1)

### *Land Use and Development*

- Overdevelopment (10, 0)
- Preservation of rural areas (4, 4)
- Influence of home builders (1, 4)
- Plan for commercial areas (0, 4)

### *Quality of Life*

- Drug problems (3, 1)
- Homelessness (0, 2)
- Healthcare (0, 2)

### *Government and Services*

- Increased taxes (5, 5)
- Schools (4, 4)
- Public input procedures (5, 0)

- Fire safety (1, 4)
- Lack of coordination with Colorado Springs (1, 2)
- Hold Commissioners accountable (1, 1)
- Increase Sherriff presence (1, 1)

### *Other Topics*

- Utility provider options (0, 3)
- Fire mitigation (0, 3)

## Priority Actions & Projects

In response to the list of issues, participants were asked to name specific projects or actions that would provide solutions to those issues identified in the first part of the exercise. Recommended projects and actions are categorized below.

### *Natural Resources and Open Space*

- Water plan (13)
    - Protecting water shed
    - No watering of lawns/golf courses
    - Recharge aquifers with treated wastewater
    - Sustainable management
- Preservation of open space (4)
- Black Forest Preservation Plan compliance (3)
- Planting native prairie
- Tree planting in fire areas

### *Transportation*

- Road infrastructure (9)
    - Repairs and maintenance
    - Widen Highway 83
    - More timed traffic lights
    - Improve road capacity
    - Complete Highway 21
    - Expand I-25 to Denver
    - North/south corridor (not in Black Forest)
- Traffic study
- Public Transit

### *Quality of Life*

- Limit growth (7)
- Improve schools
- Broadband services for rural areas

### *Taxes and Funding*

- New housing tax to support Fire and Police (6)
- New housing required to cover costs of new growth and 100-year plan for water (2)

- Impact of taxation study
- Shift tax burden to future developments rather than existing homes
- Revenue percentage of homes sold or built to be given back to Black Forest via public services
- Development impact fees to fund Fire services and schools

### *Marijuana*

- Determine impact of legalized marijuana on crime, health, drugs
- Make marijuana illegal again

### *Government*

- Do not allow city dwellers vote on county issues
- City and County Planning Commission meet regularly
- Have citizen comments part of all meetings
- Consider making Black Forest a historic area

## Strengths & Assets

As *Your El Paso Master Plan* is developed, the key strengths and assets of Black Forest should be regarded as areas to maintain and build upon. For the final part of the exercise, community members were asked to list strengths and advantages of Falcon that should be preserved. The following were identified:

### *Natural Resources and Open Space*

- Parks and open space (9)
- Wildlife (7)
- Biodiversity (2)
- Mountains (2)
- Aquifers

### *Character*

- Rural (7)
- People (2)
- Sense of community (2)

### *Economy*

- Tourism (2)
- Growing economy
- Housing economy

### *Fiscal*

- Low taxes
- Cheap land
- Area does a lot despite limited funding

### *Quality of Life*

- Beauty (8)
- Climate (2)

- Healthcare
- Schools
- Arts

*Growth*

- Population density
- Opportunity to manage growth

YOUR EL PASO
MASTER PLAN

# Community Workshop Summary

Monday, May 13, 2019

On May 13, 2019, the County of El Paso hosted a Community Workshop at Bear Creek Elementary School in Monument. The workshop was part of the public outreach process for the creation of the new Master Plan, *Your El Paso Master Plan*. Attended by 30 individuals, this workshop was an opportunity for residents and community stakeholders to offer their input and feedback regarding the County and the plan. The workshop included a review of the planning process to be undertaken as well as a group exercise designed to gather input regarding issues, opportunities, potential projects, and key strengths and assets of the County. Input from this and other workshops and focus groups will help to guide the planning process and will be directly reflected in the vision, goals, recommendations, and policies of the final *Your El Paso Master Plan.*

The top issues identified at the workshop were the lack of public input in the development process and the concern of failure to preserve the rural character in El Paso. Residents did not want to see large lots in rural areas (RR-5 zoning) become subdivided for higher density housing and had additional concerns about increased commercial development. Residents also ranked water supply concerns and traffic safety near schools as important issues.

When asked to identify the assets and strengths of El Paso, residents listed a variety of features and amenities that should be preserved and promoted. Wildlife, recreational open spaces, and rural character were the top identified assets and strengths of the County.

*Note on Summary Context*

*The following is a summary of the thoughts, comments, and opinions received in the workshop. Some comments were shared with the entire group, while others were recorded privately on worksheets. The items identified in this summary are not recommendations or observations of the consultant, but rather represent feedback and comments received from those who participated in the workshop. Numbers in parentheses indicate the quantity of individual responses received on the item.*

## Issues & Concerns

At the beginning of the workshop, participants were asked to individually identify the issues and concerns confronting the El Paso community. Next, in breakout table groups, participants worked to generate a single, cumulative list, with each table identifying important issues to present to the larger group. The result was a list of the 30 top issues and concerns facing the community.

The breakout table groups were asked to rank the top three of the 30 issues and concerns. Below are the highest ranked issues as determined by those this method, as well as all other issues identified through the workshop.

## Highest Group-Ranked Issues

- Public input for development process (20)
- Protect RR-5 zoning (19)
- Preserve rural character (18)
- No commercial development (18)
- Wildfires (18)
- Development impacts on water (16)
- School traffic at Highway 83 and Route 105 (14)
- Traffic Safety near schools (14)
- Infrastructure keeping up with growth (14)
- Evaluate school impact fees (10)
- Zoning accountability (10)
- Night sky preservation (10)
- Complying with water regulations (9)
- Local wells (9)

## Other Issues by Category

*Transportation*

- Roadway capacity (6)
- Safety on 105 (6)
- Lack of East/West transportation options (2)
- Bike safety
- Lack of highway access
- Lack of light rail

*Housing and Growth*

- Population growth (6)
- Overdevelopment (6)
- Lack of quality affordable housing (3)
- Higher density in targeted areas (2)
- Local issues will be overlooked in densely populated areas and new developments
- Balance growth

*Natural Resources and Open Space*

- Wildlife and open space preservation (8)
- Need more greenspace (3)
- Maintain biodiversity (3)
- Gaps in the trail system (3)
- Eco-structure
- Non-adherence to the Black Forest Preservation Plan

### *Land Use*

- Reevaluate planning process
- Reevaluate impact fees
- Lack of space for social gathering (3)
- No more golf courses (3)
- Land suitability

### *Other Topics*

- Fiscal resources (6)
- Homelessness (4)
- Lack of law enforcement (3)
- Lack of low emission/clean energy (3)
- Gunfire in RR-5 zone (2)
- Fire and emergency services
- Inadequate storm drainage systems

## Priority Actions & Projects

In response to the list of issues, participants were asked to name specific projects or actions that would provide solutions to those issues identified in the first part of the exercise. Recommended projects and actions are categorized below.

### *Natural Resources and Open Space*

- Regional water plan (6)
- Preservation of night sky (3)
- More trails and open spaces (2)
- Preservation of open space
- Build water infrastructure

### *Transportation*

- Traffic plan (8)
    - Coordination between planning and transportation departments
    - Safety
    - Growth
    - Widening of highways
    - Turn lanes

### *Land Use*

- Reevaluate developer impact fees (2)
- Match development to physical resources
- Commissioners/planners held to established standards
- Strengthen requirements for development
- Consider selling Forest Lakes Phase II to preserve as conservation easement

### *Identity*

- Rural preservation (9)

- Neighborhood preservation

## Strengths & Assets

As *Your El Paso Master Plan* is developed, the key strengths and assets of El Paso should be regarded as areas to maintain and build upon. For the final part of the exercise, community members were asked to list strengths and advantages of El Paso that should be preserved. The following were identified:

### *Character*

- Diversity of workforce (3)
- RR-5 zoning (2)
- Great place for families
- People
- Good size
- Neighborhoods
- Culture

### *Natural Resources and Open Space*

- Trails and open space (6)
- Wildlife (3)
- Location – proximity to nature (3)
- Night sky (2)
- Rocky Mountains

### *Livability*

- Restaurants, music, events
- Great development
- Schools
- Weather

YOUR EL PASO
MASTER PLAN

# Business Workshop Summary

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

On May 14, 2019, the County of El Paso hosted a Business Workshop at the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce in Monument. The workshop was part of the public outreach process for the creation of the new Master Plan, *Your El Paso Master Plan.* Attended by 13 individuals, this workshop was an opportunity for business owners and community stakeholders to offer their input and feedback regarding the County and the plan. The workshop included a review of the planning process to be undertaken as well as a group exercise designed to gather input regarding issues, opportunities, potential projects, and key strengths and assets of the County. Input from this and other workshops and focus groups will help to guide the planning process and will be directly reflected in the vision, goals, recommendations, and policies of the final *Your El Paso Master Plan.*

The top issues identified at the workshop were the County's inadequate infrastructure to accommodate current growth and the lack of workforce development to provide local businesses with potential employees. Business owners would like to see more partnerships with local schools that include internships and training to address these issues. Another top issue among the participants was the lack of a diversified employment base.

When asked to identify the assets and strengths of El Paso County, residents listed a variety of features and amenities that should be preserved and promoted. Natural beauty, clean environment, and quality lifestyle were the top identified assets and strengths of the area.

***Note on Summary Context***

*The following is a summary of the thoughts, comments, and opinions received in the workshop. Some comments were shared with the entire group, while others were recorded privately on worksheets. The items identified in this summary are not recommendations or observations of the consultant, but rather represent feedback and comments received from those who participated in the workshop. Numbers in parentheses indicate the quantity of individual responses received on the item.*

## Issues & Concerns

At the beginning of the workshop, participants were asked to individually identify the issues and concerns confronting the El Paso County community. Next, in breakout table groups, participants worked to generate a single, cumulative list, with each table identifying important issues to present to the larger group. The result was a list of the 15 top issues and concerns facing the community.

The breakout table groups were asked to rank the top three of the 15 issues and concerns. Below are the highest ranked issues as determined by those this method, as well as all other issues identified through the workshop.

## Highest Group-Ranked Issues

- Growth outpacing infrastructure (8)
- Lack of diversified employment base (5)
- Lack of road maintenance (5)

## Other Issues by Category

### *Transportation*

- Lack of new infrastructure projects (3)
- Bike lanes (2)
- Congestion in the gap (2)
- Public transportation

### *Jobs and Economy*

- Lack of workforce development (4)
- Marijuana drug tests for potential employees (4)
- Lack of new business opportunities
- Retaining business
- Jobs for young workers
- Funding for business

### *Housing*

- Attainable housing for workforce (4)
- Housing diversity (2)
- Rents

### *Natural Resources and Open Space*

- Parks and trails (4)
- Water (4)
- Lack of recreation opportunities (3)

### *Infrastructure and Development*

- Smart growth (2)
- Commercial development as needed

### *Technology*

- Lack of IT options (4)
- Small cell regulation

### *Other Topics*

- Fire protection (2)
- Homelessness (2)
- Schools (2)

## Priority Actions & Projects

In response to the list of issues, participants were asked to name specific projects or actions that would provide solutions to those issues identified in the first part of the exercise. Recommended projects and actions are categorized below.

### *Infrastructure and Development*

- Affordable/workforce housing (2)
- Develop opportunity zones
- Manufacturing uses by recreation industry
- Balance density of development

### *Transportation*

- Road infrastructure (4)
    - Alleviate traffic
    - Pave roads
    - Plan for major arteries
    - Alternatives to I-25

### *Recreation*

- Sports complex (2)
- Nature center in northern El Paso County
- Trail connectivity
- Parks

### *Technology*

- Broadband service
- Small cell regulation

### *Partnerships*

- Partnerships with schools (2)
    - Training
    - Internships

## Strengths & Assets

As *Your El Paso Master Plan* is developed, the key strengths and assets of El Paso County should be regarded as areas to maintain and build upon. For the final part of the exercise, community members were asked to list strengths and advantages that should be preserved. The following were identified:

### *Potential*

- Schools (2)
- Business opportunity
- Outreach
- Partnerships
- Space for housing

*Character*

- People (3)
- Sense of community

*Quality of Life*

- Beauty (4)
- Clean air (2)
- Lifestyle (2)
- Open space
- Nature
- Low density

YOUR EL PASO
MASTER PLAN

# Local Area Workshop Summary

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

On May 14, 2019, the County of El Paso hosted a Tri-Lakes Local Area Workshop at Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce in Monument. The workshop was part of the public outreach process for the creation of the new Master Plan, *Your El Paso Master Plan.* Attended by 20 individuals, this workshop was an opportunity for residents and community stakeholders to offer their input and feedback regarding Tri-Lakes, the County, and the plan. The workshop included a review of the planning process to be undertaken as well as a group exercise designed to gather input regarding issues, opportunities, potential projects, and key strengths and assets of Tri-Lakes. Input from this and other workshops and focus groups will help to guide the planning process and will be directly reflected in the vision, goals, recommendations, and policies of the final *Your El Paso Master Plan.*

The top issue identified at the workshop was water supply and the importance of a solution to ensure Tri-Lakes will have access to water in the future without limitations. Deep aquifer mining and over-reliance of wells and groundwater were discussed. Another top issue was the impact of new developments on the environment and natural resources. Participants specifically noted the school development on Highway 83, the Highway 105 development, and the perception of "rubber-stamping" of projects in El Paso County as concerns.

When asked to identify the assets and strengths of Tri-Lakes, residents listed a variety of features and amenities that should be preserved and promoted. Wildlife, recreational open spaces, and small-town character were the top identified assets and strengths of the area.

***Note on Summary Context***

*The following is a summary of the thoughts, comments, and opinions received in the workshop. Some comments were shared with the entire group, while others were recorded privately on worksheets. The items identified in this summary are not recommendations or observations of the consultant, but rather represent feedback and comments received from those who participated in the workshop. Numbers in parentheses indicate the quantity of individual responses received on the item.*

## Issues & Concerns

At the beginning of the workshop, participants were asked to individually identify the issues and concerns confronting the Tri-Lakes community. Next, in breakout table groups, participants worked to generate a single, cumulative list, with each table identifying important issues to present to the larger group. The result was a list of the 29 top issues and concerns facing the community.

The breakout table groups were asked to rank the top three of the 29 issues and concerns. Below are the highest ranked issues as determined by those this method, as well as all other issues identified through the workshop.

## Highest Group-Ranked Issues

- Water supply (12)
- Development impact on environment (8)
- Growth outpacing infrastructure (6)
- Wildfire planning (6)
- Open space preservation (5)

## Other Issues by Category

### *Transportation*

- Road conditions and infrastructure (5)
    - Alternative routes for I-25
- Traffic congestion (4)
- Bike connectivity and safety (3)

### *Growth*

- Uncontrolled growth (5)
- Overdevelopment (3)
- Sprawl
- Urbanization

### *Housing*

- Lack of affordable housing
- Lack of senior housing

### *Natural Resources and Open Space*

- Preservation of trails and open space (4)
- More park development (3)
- Underfunded parks and trails (2)
- Better trail connectivity
- Habitat development

### *Infrastructure and Development*

- Improved input in the development process (2)
- Context sensitive development
- Schools
    - Reevaluate developer impact fees
    - Taxes too high
- Lack of flexibility and creativity

### *Local Government*

- Lack of local government coordination (2)
- Lack of adequate representation

### *Other Topics*

- Aging population (2)
- Gunfire in RR-5 zones (2)
- Limited fiscal capacity (2)
- Expand high-speed internet (2)

## Priority Actions & Projects

In response to the list of issues, participants were asked to name specific projects or actions that would provide solutions to those issues identified in the first part of the exercise. Recommended projects and actions are categorized below.

### *Natural Resources and Open Space*

- Water plan (3)
- Wildfire protection
- Do a program like TOPS to fund and maintain open space
- More trails and open space
- Provide wildlife habitat

### *Transportation*

- Road maintenance (2)
- Move railroad east and reuse corridor for trails/alternative transportation
- Funding for infrastructure
- Widen Highway 83 to County line
- Convert road shoulders to bike lanes

### *Local Government*

- Combine Tri-Lakes communities into one incorporated area
- Creation of Tri-Lakes task force to address community issues and functions
- More input from long-term residents

### *Other Topics*

- Too many big box stores
- Eliminate gunfire in properties zoned RR-5

## Strengths & Assets

As *Your El Paso Master Plan* is developed, the key strengths and assets of Tri-Lakes should be regarded as areas to maintain and build upon. For the final part of the exercise, community members were asked to list strengths and advantages of Tri-Lakes that should be preserved. The following were identified:

### *Natural Resources and Open Space*

- Trails and open space (3)
- Natural beauty (3)
- Mountains (2)
- Recreational opportunities

*Character*

- Conservative (2)
- Small town atmosphere (2)
- Cultural history

*Local Government*

- Efficient government
- Government honors property rights
- County Sherriff
- Government controlled by voters and not committees

YOUR EL PASO
MASTER PLAN

# Local Area Workshop Summary

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

On May 15, 2019, the County of El Paso hosted a Highway 115 Local Area Workshop at the Southwest Highway 115 Fire Protection Station in Colorado Springs. The workshop was part of the public outreach process for the creation of the new Master Plan, *Your El Paso Master Plan.* Attended by 14 individuals, this workshop was an opportunity for residents and community stakeholders to offer their input and feedback regarding the Highway 115 area, El Paso County, and the plan. The workshop included a review of the planning process to be undertaken as well as a group exercise designed to gather input regarding issues, opportunities, potential projects, and key strengths and assets of the Highway 115 area. Input from this and other workshops and focus groups will help to guide the planning process and will be directly reflected in the vision, goals, recommendations, and policies of the final *Your El Paso Master Plan.*

The top issue identified at the workshop was water supply and the need to preserve and protect local water sources. Participants also expressed their desire to preserve wildlife habitats and mitigate the damage done to the local quarry. Another top issue at the workshop was the Small Area Plan – participants would like to see it preserved and referred to in future decision making.

When asked to identify the assets and strengths of the Highway 115 area, residents listed a variety of features characteristics that should be preserved and promoted. Parks and open space, wildlife, and sense of community were among the top strengths ranked by participants.

***Note on Summary Context***

*The following is a summary of the thoughts, comments, and opinions received in the workshop. Some comments were shared with the entire group, while others were recorded privately on worksheets. The items identified in this summary are not recommendations or observations of the consultant, but rather represent feedback and comments received from those who participated in the workshop. Numbers in parentheses indicate the quantity of individual responses received on the item.*

## Issues & Concerns

At the beginning of the workshop, participants were asked to individually identify the issues and concerns confronting the Highway 115 community. Next, in breakout table groups, participants worked to generate a single, cumulative list, with each table identifying important issues to present to the larger group. The result was a list of the 19 top issues and concerns facing the community.

The breakout table groups were asked to rank the top three of the 19 issues and concerns. Below are the highest ranked issues as determined by those this method, as well as all other issues identified through the workshop.

## Highest Group-Ranked Issues:

- Water source preservation and protection (13)
- Preservation of the Small Area Plan (13)
- Road conditions (8)
- Wildlife preservation (8)
- Preservation of rural areas (7)
- Fire safety (7)
- Transparency in development process (7)

## Other Issues by Category

### *Transportation*

- Hwy 115 truck traffic (6)
- Bike and trail connectivity (3)
- Rock Creek bridge (2)
- Public transportation

### *Natural Resources and Open Space*

- Wildfire mitigation (6)
- Preservation of open space (5)

### *Development*

- Limit commercial development (4)
- Affordable housing (4)
- Impact of leapfrog development
- Land use compatibility
- More commercial development

### *Government Planning*

- Make Master Plan legally binding (6)
- Consistent decision making

### *Other*

- Crime (4)
- Utility provider availability (2)
- Renovate existing housing (2)
- Homelessness
- Eroding hillside/rock fall on Hwy 115 and Turkey Creek Rd

## Priority Actions & Projects

In response to the list of issues, participants were asked to name specific projects or actions that would provide solutions to those issues identified in the first part of the exercise. Recommended projects and actions are categorized below.

### *Natural Resources and Open Space*

- Trail connectivity (4)
  - More trails
  - Connect southern El Paso County trails
- Wildfire mitigation (3)
- Water Plan (3)
  - Allow water imports from Colorado Springs
  - Protect resources
- More parks (3)

### *Transportation*

- Road infrastructure (6)
  - Maintenance
  - Widen Hwy 115
  - Rock Creek bridge renovation
  - Widen Marksheffel Rd
- Less reckless spending on roads and bike lanes
- Fund access routes through rugged terrain for Fire Dept.

### *Growth*

- Reduce/manage growth (2)
- Maintain rural character

### *Government Planning*

- Make Master Plan a legal binding document (2)
- Need a financial strategic master plan (2)
- Preserve Small Area Plan

### *Maintenance*

- Retain rock wall at Hwy 115 and Turkey Creek Rd
- Renovate existing housing
- Renovate vacant buildings

### *Other*

- Government transparency
- Homelessness
- Diversified economy
- Increase law enforcement

## Strengths & Assets

As *Your El Paso Master Plan* is developed, the key strengths and assets of the Highway 115 area should be regarded as areas to maintain and build upon. For the final part of the exercise, community members were asked to list strengths and advantages that should be preserved. The following were identified:

*Natural Resources and Open Space*

- Parks and open space (6)
- Wildlife (3)
- Wildfire mitigation
- Natural resources

*Character*

- Strong sense of community (3)
- People (2)
- Conservative

*Other*

- Beauty (3)
- Rural (2)
- Sherriff and Fire Dept. (2)

YOUR EL PASO
MASTER PLAN

# Community Workshop Summary

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

On May 14, 2019, the County of El Paso hosted a Community Workshop at Fountain Valley Senior Center in Fountain. The workshop was part of the public outreach process for the creation of the new Master Plan, *Your El Paso Master Plan.* Attended by four individuals, this workshop was an opportunity for residents and community stakeholders to offer their input and feedback regarding the County and the plan. The attendance level for this workshop allowed for a more informal discussion between workshop conductors and participants. This included a review of the planning process to be undertaken as well as a group exercise designed to gather input regarding issues, opportunities, potential projects, and key strengths and assets of the County. Input from this and other workshops and focus groups will help to guide the planning process and will be directly reflected in the vision, goals, recommendations, and policies of the final *Your El Paso Master Plan.*

***Note on Summary Context***

*The following is a summary of the thoughts, comments, and opinions received in the workshop. Some comments were shared with the entire group, while others were recorded privately on worksheets. The items identified in this summary are not recommendations or observations of the consultant, but rather represent feedback and comments received from those who participated in the workshop. Numbers in parentheses indicate the quantity of individual responses received on the item.*

## Issues & Concerns

At the beginning of the workshop, participants were asked to individually identify the issues and concerns confronting the El Paso community. The top issues identified at the workshop were the lack of biking and walking infrastructure, including sidewalks throughout the Count as well as concerns related to environmental/open space conservation and sustainability. A lack of east-west road connections and poor maintenance of County roads were also noted issues.

## Projects & Actions

Participants identified two key projects for the Master Plan to address moving forward. The first is a continuation of a desired action from the Parks and Recreation Master Plan which is to connect gaps in the County's trail system. The second action was to improve homelessness. Residents had questions about how the El Paso County Master Plan would address the issue and how it related to housing options and concerns.

## Strengths & Assets

As *Your El Paso Master Plan* is developed, the key strengths and assets of El Paso should be regarded as areas to maintain and build upon. For the final part of the exercise, community members were asked to list strengths and advantages of El Paso that should be preserved. The following were identified:

- Annexing Banning Lewis Ranch
- County residents (people who care)
- Parks and open space
- Nature/natural views

YOUR EL PASO
MASTER PLAN

# Business Workshop Summary

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

On May 15, 2019, the County of El Paso hosted a Business Workshop at Liberty Tax Service in Falcon. The workshop was part of the public outreach process for the creation of the new Master Plan, *Your El Paso Master Plan.* Attended by 4 individuals, this workshop was an opportunity for business owners and community stakeholders to offer their input and feedback regarding the County and the plan. The workshop included a review of the planning process to be undertaken as well as a group exercise designed to gather input regarding issues, opportunities, potential projects, and key strengths and assets of the County. Input from this and other workshops and focus groups will help to guide the planning process and will be directly reflected in the vision, goals, recommendations, and policies of the final *Your El Paso Master Plan.*

The top issues identified at the workshop concerned transportation and commercial development. Participants noted the lack of public transportation as well as a lack of adequate road infrastructure to accommodate growth and connect consumers to businesses. Another top issue for participants was the lack of available commercial space.

When asked to identify the assets and strengths of El Paso County, residents listed a variety of features and amenities that should be preserved and promoted. Outdoor space, including the parks and surrounding mountains, were some of the top strengths ranked by the participants.

***Note on Summary Context***

*The following is a summary of the thoughts, comments, and opinions received in the workshop. Some comments were shared with the entire group, while others were recorded privately on worksheets. The items identified in this summary are not recommendations or observations of the consultant, but rather represent feedback and comments received from those who participated in the workshop. Numbers in parentheses indicate the quantity of individual responses received on the item.*

## Issues & Concerns

At the beginning of the workshop, participants were asked to individually identify the issues and concerns confronting the El Paso County community. Next, the participants were asked to rank the top issues discussed thus far. The result was a list of the top issues and concerns facing the community.

### Highest Ranked Issues

- Road infrastructure (4)
- Public transportation (4)
- Growth (3)

### Other Issues by Category

*Commercial Development*

- Lack of available commercial space (2)
- Lack of business variety
- High rents

*Other Topics*

- Public safety (2)
- Water (2)
- Marijuana

## Priority Actions & Projects

In response to the list of issues, participants were asked to name specific projects or actions that would provide solutions to those issues identified in the first part of the exercise. Recommended projects and actions are categorized below.

*Commercial Development*

- Create a Downtown Falcon (2)
- Woodmen/Meridian development
- More retail and entertainment

*Transportation*

- Road infrastructure (2)
    - Widen Hwy 24 through Falcon

*Recreation*

- Parks
- Community gathering spaces

*Other Topics*

- Increase law enforcement
- Plan for growth

## Strengths & Assets

As *Your El Paso Master Plan* is developed, the key strengths and assets of El Paso County should be regarded as areas to maintain and build upon. For the final part of the exercise, community members were asked to list strengths and advantages that should be preserved. The following were identified:

- Parks and outdoor space (3)
- Diversity in living options
- Affordability
- Growth

YOUR EL PASO
MASTER PLAN

# Local Area Workshop Summary

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

On May 15, 2019, the County of El Paso hosted a Falcon/Peyton Local Area Workshop at Meridian Ranch Recreation Center in Peyton. The workshop was part of the public outreach process for the creation of the new Master Plan, *Your El Paso Master Plan.* Attended by 11 individuals, this workshop was an opportunity for residents and community stakeholders to offer their input and feedback regarding Falcon, Peyton, the County, and the plan. The workshop included a review of the planning process to be undertaken as well as a group exercise designed to gather input regarding issues, opportunities, potential projects, and key strengths and assets of the area. Input from this and other workshops and focus groups will help to guide the planning process and will be directly reflected in the vision, goals, recommendations, and policies of the final *Your El Paso Master Plan.*

The top issues identified at the workshop were traffic congestion and current road capacities. Participants expressed concern over increased commute times due to congestion and the poor conditions of roads due to high-volume traffic. Another top issue discussed was water availability and the need for sustainable management of local water sources.

When asked to identify the assets and strengths of Falcon/Peyton, residents listed a variety of features characteristics that should be preserved and promoted. The area's rural character and natural open spaces were among the top strengths ranked by participants.

***Note on Summary Context***

*The following is a summary of the thoughts, comments, and opinions received in the workshop. Some comments were shared with the entire group, while others were recorded privately on worksheets. The items identified in this summary are not recommendations or observations of the consultant, but rather represent feedback and comments received from those who participated in the workshop. Numbers in parentheses indicate the quantity of individual responses received on the item.*

## Issues & Concerns

At the beginning of the workshop, participants were asked to individually identify the issues and concerns confronting the Falcon/Peyton community. Next, in breakout table groups, participants worked to generate a single, cumulative list, with each table identifying important issues to present to the larger group. The result was a list of the 21 top issues and concerns facing the community.

The breakout table groups were asked to rank the top three of the 21 issues and concerns. Below are the highest ranked issues as determined by those this method, as well as all other issues identified through the workshop.

## Highest Group-Ranked Issues

- Road capacity (8)
- Traffic (7)
- Water security (5)
- Residential density (5)
- Road construction and maintenance (4)
- Telecom infrastructure (4)

## Other Issues by Category

### *Transportation*

- Limited east/west connections (2)
- Lack of public transportation
- Lack of routes to Colorado Springs
- Traffic safety
- Autonomous vehicles

### *Growth and Development*

- Population growth (2)
- Development density too high

### *Housing*

- Lack of housing balance
- Lack of senior housing
- Covenants, conditions, and restrictions

### *Natural Resources and Open Space*

- Flood control (2)
- Wildlife management
- Wildfires

### *Zoning*

- Lack of buffer zones (4)
- Preserving rural areas (3)
- Lack of upholding existing zoning (3)
- Lack of land use compatibility
- Lack of impact fees for fire

### *Local Government*

- Over-regulation
- Lack of coordination among governments
- Lack of citizen involvement
- Emergency response

### *Other Topics*

- Drones
- Utilities

- Drugs
- Air noise in rural areas
- Misaligning with military values

## Priority Actions & Projects

In response to the list of issues, participants were asked to name specific projects or actions that would provide solutions to those issues identified in the first part of the exercise. Recommended projects and actions are categorized below.

### *Transportation*

- Road infrastructure (9)
    - Maintenance
    - New roads
    - Road widening
    - E/W corridor
    - 3 turn lanes on Old Meridian
    - Connect Stapleton Dr and Briargate Blvd
    - Improve Highway 24 to Peyton
    - Expand roadway between Fallon and Colorado Springs
    - Limit to 3 lanes
    - Roundabouts

### *Water Management*

- Water plan
- Require new developments to acquire water from CSU instead of aquifers

### *Land Use and Development*

- Catch up with housing demand
- New zoning ordinance – buffer zones
- Stop rezoning for higher density

### *Other Topics*

- Expand broadband availability

## Strengths & Assets

As *Your El Paso Master Plan* is developed, the key strengths and assets of Falcon/Peyton should be regarded as areas to maintain and build upon. For the final part of the exercise, community members were asked to list strengths and advantages of the area that should be preserved. The following were identified:

### *Character*

- Rural (5)
- Peace and quiet (2)
- Neighbors
- Diversity

*Other Topics*

- Education
- Intellectual capacity
- Outdoors
- Low tax burden

YOUR EL PASO
MASTER PLAN

# Community Workshop Summary

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

On May 15, 2019, the County of El Paso hosted a Community Workshop at Grace Community Church in Falcon. The workshop was part of the public outreach process for the creation of the new Master Plan, *Your El Paso Master Plan.* Attended by 25 individuals, this workshop was an opportunity for residents and community stakeholders to offer their input and feedback regarding the County and the plan. The workshop included a review of the planning process to be undertaken as well as a group exercise designed to gather input regarding issues, opportunities, potential projects, and key strengths and assets of the County. Input from this and other workshops and focus groups will help to guide the planning process and will be directly reflected in the vision, goals, recommendations, and policies of the final *Your El Paso Master Plan.*

The top issue identified at the workshop was water supply and the importance of a regional solution to ensure the region will have access to water in the future without limitations. This issue rose to the top on individual lists as well as during group breakout sessions. Residents also ranked rapid growth and development as important issues, noting the overbuilding of residential and the loss of rural communities.

When asked to identify the assets and strengths of El Paso, residents listed a variety of features and amenities that should be preserved and promoted. Wildlife, recreational open spaces, and rural character were the top identified assets and strengths of the County.

*Note on Summary Context*

*The following is a summary of the thoughts, comments, and opinions received in the workshop. Some comments were shared with the entire group, while others were recorded privately on worksheets. The items identified in this summary are not recommendations or observations of the consultant, but rather represent feedback and comments received from those who participated in the workshop. Numbers in parentheses indicate the quantity of individual responses received on the item.*

## Issues & Concerns

At the beginning of the workshop, participants were asked to individually identify the issues and concerns confronting the El Paso community. Next, in breakout table groups, participants worked to generate a single, cumulative list, with each table identifying important issues to present to the larger group. The result was a list of the 28 top issues and concerns facing the community.

The breakout table groups were asked to rank the top three of the 28 issues and concerns. Below are the highest ranked issues as determined by those this method, as well as all other issues identified through the workshop.

### Highest Group-Ranked Issues

- Water supply (18)
- Rapid growth (12)
- Loss of rural character (10)
- Traffic congestion (8)
- Well protection (6)
- Infrastructure (5)
- Sherriff response time (5)
- Wildlife preservation (3)
- Developer accountability (3)

### Other Issues by Category

*Transportation*

- Turn lanes (2)
- Lack of E/W roads (2)
- Air traffic noise
- Lack of consistent roadway design standards

*Housing and Growth*

- Zoning and respect for current residents (2)
- High-density developments (1)

*Quality of Life*

- Crime
- Construction noise

*Other Topics*

- Fire protection
- Drainage/stormwater
- Lack of commercial options/groceries
- Interconnected trails and open space
- Remain unincorporated

## Priority Actions & Projects

In response to the list of issues, participants were asked to name specific projects or actions that would provide solutions to those issues identified in the first part of the exercise. Recommended projects and actions are categorized below.

*Natural Resources and Open Space*

- Regional water solution (4)
- Wildlife protection (3)

- More parks, prairies, trails (2)
- Add reservoirs

*Transportation*

- Expand public transportation (5)
- Implement regional rail transportation (5)
- Improve roads (2)
- Increase freeway access (2)
    - North/South corridor to Denver, east of Falcon
    - Expand I-25
    - Briargate-Stapleton from I-25 to US 24
- Provide free school buses for students

*County Government*

- Improve fire and police protection (4)
- Create airport advisory board
- Protect Meadow Lake Airport
- Adhere to country zoning regulations
- Create a growth master plan

*Identity*

- Maintain rural character (2)

## Strengths & Assets

As *Your El Paso Master Plan* is developed, the key strengths and assets of El Paso should be regarded as areas to maintain and build upon. For the final part of the exercise, community members were asked to list strengths and advantages of El Paso that should be preserved. The following were identified:

*Character*

- Rural character (13)
- Support for military (2)
- Self-reliant culture
- Conservative/family-friendly environment

*Nature*

- Wildlife (10)
- Trails, parks, open space (6)
- View of Pikes Peak

*Other Topics*

- Low taxes
- Large lots
- Urban, suburban, rural mix

YOUR EL PASO
MASTER PLAN

# Business Workshop Summary

Thursday, May 16, 2019

On May 16, 2019, the County of El Paso hosted a Business Workshop at the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce. The workshop was part of the public outreach process for the creation of the new Master Plan, *Your El Paso Master Plan.* Attended by 8 individuals, this workshop was an opportunity for business owners and community stakeholders to offer their input and feedback regarding the County and the plan. The workshop included a review of the planning process to be undertaken as well as a group exercise designed to gather input regarding issues, opportunities, potential projects, and key strengths and assets of the County. Input from this and other workshops and focus groups will help to guide the planning process and will be directly reflected in the vision, goals, recommendations, and policies of the final *Your El Paso Master Plan.*

The top issues identified at the workshop included the lack of infrastructure and funding to accommodate growth, water resources, and land use compatibility. Participants noted that new growth in the County is creating a housing shortage and that new development is creating a discord in land use in and between jurisdictions. Additionally, this growth has generated traffic congestion and left roads in need of maintenance.

*Note on Summary Context*

*The following is a summary of the thoughts, comments, and opinions received in the workshop. Some comments were shared with the entire group, while others were recorded privately on worksheets. The items identified in this summary are not recommendations or observations of the consultant, but rather represent feedback and comments received from those who participated in the workshop. Numbers in parentheses indicate the quantity of individual responses received on the item.*

## Issues & Concerns

At the beginning of the workshop, participants were asked to individually identify the issues and concerns confronting the El Paso community. Next, in breakout table groups, participants worked to generate a single, cumulative list, with each table identifying important issues to present to the larger group. The result was a list of the 27 top issues and concerns facing the community.

The breakout table groups were asked to rank the top three of the 27 issues and concerns. Below are the highest ranked issues as determined by those this method, as well as all other issues identified through the workshop.

### Highest Group-Ranked Issues

- Infrastructure (7)
- Land use compatibility (7)
- Road conditions (7)
- Water (7)
- Coordination between jurisdictions (7)
- Better air service to COS (7)
- Growth must pay its own way (6)
- Traffic congestion (6)
- Military compatibility (6)

### Other Issues by Category

*Development*

- Commercial/employment areas (4)
- Housing shortages (2)
- Banning Lewis Ranch
- Airport encroachment
- Areas in need of commercial services

*Services*

- Telecommunications improvements (4)
- Public safety and emergency response (3)
- Mental health
- Utilities access outside city
- Healthcare

*Transportation*

- Road connectivity (4)
- Traffic signal technology
- Impact of autonomous vehicles

*Other Topics*

- Coordination with the City (3)
- Marijuana industry
- Investment cohesion of public space

## Priority Actions & Projects

In response to the list of issues, participants were asked to name specific projects or actions that would provide solutions to those issues identified in the first part of the exercise. Recommended projects and actions are listed below.

- Implement fiber with all new projects
- Use our own energy
- End subsidization of tax payers

- Better air service to COS
- An informed populace
- Onus on government for knowledge about developer actions