

# Memorandum

## City of Lawrence/Douglas County

### Planning and Development Services

**TO:** Horizon 2020 Steering Committee

**FROM:** Planning Staff

**Date:** For August 25, 2014 meeting

**RE:** Public Forum Proposal

Many topics/issues were identified from the ETC Survey and the Open House Survey. In staff's opinion, 8 of those deserve more study to determine more about what the community feels on those issues. Therefore, staff is proposing to hold two forums this fall. The forums will follow a model that allows for community members to attend the session and have focused discussions about the topics in small group "table" sessions with Steering Committee members. Steering Committee members will sit at tables with community members and discuss the issues following a script of questions provided as a jumping off point for the discussion which is designed to provide more feedback on the issues. Steering Committee members and staff will then be responsible for organizing their findings and presenting them back to the Steering Committee as a whole for discussion. Staff has identified 8 issues from the Public Input Analysis Report, which would allow four topics to be discussed at each forum. Community members would be able to rotate through the tables (and their corresponding issues) throughout each forum every half hour.

Staff developed the following list of the topics for Steering Committee review:

1. Creation of Employment Opportunities
2. Downtown Lawrence Issues (stability, expansion)
3. Growth Management (including increasing height/density of developments)
4. Retail Issues (In-Fill, small neighborhood)
5. Parks, Recreation & Open Space (including sidewalks/trails/walking paths)
6. Maintaining Agricultural Uses in Douglas County
7. Quality Housing for All Incomes
8. Arts & Cultural Amenities

If acceptable, staff will work on scheduling these two forums for October and November and developing a list of corresponding questions for each topic in order to help facilitate discussions.