

Kickoff Meeting Notes
Smith Reynolds Airport/Whitaker Park Strategic Area Plan
Carver High School Auditorium
10-17-2019

What business or industry would be **desirable or undesirable** in the area?

Desired Businesses:

- Aviation-related
- Cook Medical
- Businesses that will employ current residents
- Healthy foods—fresh vegetables
- Full service grocery store
- Gym-fitness center
- Upgrade Northside Shopping Center to look similar to Friendly Center
- Want the retail proposed for Whitaker Park come to the east side of the planning area
- Hotel/convention space; Event space
- Businesses that can pay a living wage

Undesired Businesses:

- Loud businesses
- T-Shirt manufacturing
- Convenience stores/gas stations—perception they give easy access to unhealthy lifestyles
- Car dealerships

How can we help **attract jobs** to the area? How can we help **existing businesses** grow here?

- Educate workers through school system and Forsyth Tech
- Provide business assistance
- Increase security
- Improve homeless, dilapidated properties
- Need jobs that require high school degrees or 2 year associate degrees that can pay more than minimum wage
- Need live/work spaces
- Assist T-shirt business on Indiana Avenue

What appearance improvements are **desired** by the community?

- Street trees
- Street lights with cameras
- Fill in gaps in street lighting on Glenn Avenue and Akron Drive
- Expand and upgrade parks

- Sidewalks linking Akron Drive to Northside Shopping Center
- Glenn Avenue needs sidewalks
- Need ample sight distances between street trees on Akron Drive to prevent crime
- Repurpose older underutilized warehouses
- Remove or improve dilapidated buildings at former animal shelter site and along Old Walkertown Road
- Need tree buffer between Theresa Avenue and airport property
- Sidewalks on Lansing Drive from Carver School Road to Liberty Street
- Sidewalks and lighting on Atkins Drive, Akron Drive and Liberty Street
- Improve curb appeal and safety on Akron Drive
- Remove overgrown vegetation at corner of Ogburn Avenue/Glenn Avenue and at Lansing Drive/Liberty Street
- Sidewalks and crosswalks at Akron Drive/Ogburn Avenue

What improvements would help **vehicular or pedestrian** connections from the area to Downtown and the Innovation Quarter?

- Mass transit infrastructure
- Increased bus service
- Bike lanes throughout area
- Extend Long Branch Trail to 25th Street
- More, upgraded bus shelters
- Bike lanes on Carver School Road, North Glenn Avenue, and Akron Drive