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