

North Lawrence Corridor Study Community Visioning Workshop Recap

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Community Visioning Workshop. Below is a recap of what we heard and how your feedback will guide next steps.

What Occurred

The City of Lawrence hosted a community visioning workshop on November 17, 2025 to gather input from residents about the future of the North Lawrence corridor. The event drew a strong turnout, with well over 150 community members participating. Attendees were invited to “dream big” about what they want this area to become and to share their ideas, concerns, and priorities with the project team.

City staff, consultants, and residents worked through activities designed to surface how people use the corridor today and what they hope to see improved in the future.

Conversations covered a wide range of topics from infrastructure and safety to recreation, quality of life, and the long-term character of North Lawrence.

The strong turnout and level of participation demonstrated how deeply the community cares about North Lawrence’s future.

What We Learned

Residents expressed a strong desire to protect and enhance the qualities that make North Lawrence unique. Community members shared aspirations, ideas, and concerns, reflecting a deep commitment to maintaining the neighborhood’s identity while also addressing long-standing challenges.

Themes raised in conversations and reported by attendees included:

- **A clear sense of place** – People value North Lawrence’s character and want future improvements to reflect it.
- **Quality-of-life priorities** – Residents shared hopes for improvements that make the area safer, more accessible, and more resilient.
- **Future-focused thinking** – Participants were eager to talk about long-term planning, future growth, and how the corridor should evolve.

We will compile and summarize all of the input gathered at this workshop and share it with the [NLCS Task Force](#) appointed by the City Commission at their next business meeting.

This feedback will help the Task Force define the scope, purpose, and goals of the North Lawrence Corridor Study and will guide the decisions made as the project moves forward.

All materials provided to the NLCS Task Force are included on the agenda in [icompass](#).

What We Can Improve on Next Time

We are grateful for the high turnout and the level of engagement, and we recognize that large community events always provide opportunities to improve. Based on both staff observations and attendee feedback, we plan to strengthen the next workshop by:

- **Providing clearer upfront expectations** about what the study covers and what decisions are or are not being made at this stage.
- **Ensuring more structured time for questions and dialogue**, especially for residents who arrive with specific concerns.



- **Selecting a larger, more comfortable venue** to better match the level of interest in this project. We heard clearly that the room was too full and too loud for many people to participate the way they wanted. In future workshops, we will do our best to secure a space that can comfortably accommodate everyone and all the big ideas they bring. We will also explore adding a virtual participation option if that would help more residents engage meaningfully.
- **Continuing to refine our communication materials** to ensure the rationale for the study area is easy to understand. We heard that an agenda or fact sheet would have been helpful, and we will ensure future meetings include a clear handout outlining what participants can expect.

Our Promise to the Community Moving Forward

As we continue this study, the City of Lawrence is committed to a process grounded in:

Transparency: We will clearly communicate what we hear from the community, how that feedback shapes next steps, and what decisions are forthcoming. Materials, summaries, and updates will be shared publicly on the project website: <https://lawrenceks.gov/NLCS>

Accountability: We will document community input and show how it influences recommendations. If constraints or feasibility issues arise, we will explain them honestly rather than letting them emerge as surprises later in the process.

Respect: We value the lived experience, insight, and history North Lawrence residents bring to this conversation. Every comment, whether supportive, critical, or challenging, will be treated seriously and respectfully.

Ongoing Engagement: This workshop is one step in a multi-stage process. There will be more opportunities to participate, review concepts, and shape ideas before any recommendations are finalized.

What's next?

The next engagement opportunity will be an **Open House on December 10, 2025** at Venue 1235 from 4-7PM. This come-and-go event will feature boards summarizing what we heard during the workshop and listening sessions, giving residents a chance to review the findings at their own pace and share any additional thoughts. We hope you'll join us to learn more about the project's direction and continue shaping its future.

Alongside the Open House, a citywide survey will be available from early-December to mid-January. The survey will gather broader input about what makes North Lawrence special, the needs of people who live, work, play, and travel through the area, and the community's long-term vision for the next 10-20 years.

Thank you for showing up, sharing openly, and helping us imagine what North Lawrence can become. By building connections and growing together, we're shaping a future rooted in the values of this community.

Questions? Comments? Email NLCS@lawrenceks.gov or visit lawrenceks.gov/NLCS to learn



more.

