

Choosing Priority Growth Issues

Wake Growth Issues Task Force

Results from the First Task Force Meeting held Thursday June 19, 2008

During the meeting, some 30 elected officials representing Wake County and its twelve municipalities, plus the School Board^{*}, were asked the following question:

“What will be some of the most important growth and development issues facing Wake County and its municipalities over the next ten years? Please be specific.”

The table beginning on the next page present a list of growth issues identified by the elected officials at the meeting. After some 125 issues had been voiced and charted, the elected officials were given the opportunity to rank their priority growth issues from among all those identified. Two rounds of voting were conducted, the first to narrow the number of issues down to a more manageable number, and the second to choose the top three. As a result of this process, the top 3 issues selected for further discussion and action, in the order of second round votes received, were:

- 1. A High Quality Educational System**
- 2. Increased Mass Transit Opportunities**
- 3. Local Government Joint Planning and Cooperation**

The complete list of all issues identified and the number of votes received during the first and second rounds, begins on the following page.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn R. Harbeck, AICP
Wake Growth Issues Task Force Facilitator

^{*} Elected officials representing the Wake County School Board are also invited members of the Growth Issues Task Force but were unable to attend this meeting.

Issues Identified and Ranked

Note: All issues have been typed up exactly as recorded on flip chart sheets and then sorted by various topics. The assignment of any one issue to a particular category is a judgment call and subject to other equally valid viewpoints. The first and second round rankings are noted in the column on the right. Only issues receiving 5 or more votes during the first round were eligible to receive votes during the second round, so not all issues will show a slash and second round vote..

Issue Identified	# of votes
A High Quality Educational System	44/28
How do we have a world class educational system-competing in global economy/workforce education for employers.	7/13
Centrally located community schools to re-new pride and for energy savings.	6/6
Maintain strong support for County Public Schools- e.g. concern over reassignment.	9/5
New education paradigm to improve quality of education and remain competitive.	8/3
Reducing the percentage of students in mobile units from 25% to 8%.	6/1
Assuring the quality of the school system as a basis for a sound economy.	3
Eliminate cap on charter schools.	3
Providing schools for growth.	1
Looking for new and different ways to fund schools.	1
Re-segregation (demographics) of public school system.	0
Having adequate number of classrooms for school children.	0
Increased Mass Transit Opportunities	18/14
Increase mass transit opportunities.	6/14
Adequately maintaining roadways and planning for additional capacity-adequate public transportation (park-n-ride).	4
Mass transit alternatives (Rail).	2
Public buy-in for mass transit.	2
Transit- bus only or something more.	2
With increased population create a public transportation system.	2
Local Government Joint Planning and Cooperation	19/10
Create and maintain joint planning mechanisms between Wake County municipalities.	8/10
Cross-jurisdictional cooperation- especially land use and transportation.	4
Municipal coordination/cooperation regarding infrastructure and land use.	3
Inconsistency in land use among jurisdictions.	2
Create a regional form based zoning code.	1
Develop growth management strategy that includes all 12 municipalities.	1
Develop a one-team mentality throughout Wake County.	0

Lack of standardized land use planning practice among municipalities.	0
Preservation of Community Identity and Character	13/10
How do we maintain the identity and unique characteristics of each municipality as we grow.	6/7
Prevent Wake County from becoming “Anywhere USA”- 21 st century community focused on environmental, economic, and cultural sustainability.	5/3
Preserving and enhancing community identity.	2
Preservation of individual jurisdictions identity and history (character).	0
Increase public relations and municipal identity.	0
Community branding (What do we want to be known as?)	0
Keeping rural character.	0
Preventing Crime and Gangs	18/8
Public safety, especially gang-related activity.	8/8
Develop a countywide gang prevention policy.	3
How do we mitigate against the increased need for jails and crowding of the court system.	3
Reduce crime rate and numbers by increasing human development programs.	3
Increase in criminal activity and safety concerning- more urban means more crime.	1
Strategies to deal with increased criminal activity and costs.	0
How do we prevent the rise in gangs/urban crime as we grow.	0
Increase in crime with increasing population.	0
Promoting Sustainable Development	13/7
Promoting sustainable design and green construction practices.	7/6
Regulating reform at state level to allow sustainable developments and communities (i.e. gray water- re-use treatment)	5/1
Energy and resource conservation- e.g. green building and carbon reduction.	1
Consistent environmental standards throughout the county- buffers (riparian)	0
Water and Sewer System Collaboration	10/7
Regional collaboration instead of competition (e.g. water, wastewater).	8/7
Potential need to convert from septic to countywide sewer system.	1
Address concerns with septic systems by countywide water and sewer.	1
Water and sewer infrastructure to support growth.	0

Economic Gains	15/6
How do we make it affordable for the people who work here to live here.	8/6
Housing affordable to people who do service jobs, especially as travel becomes more costly.	2
Attracting more industry to expand tax base.	3
Completing Wake Tech campus infrastructure (work force re-tooling).	1
Identification of future industrial sites (healthy communities).	1
Growing cost of living in Wake County.	0
Addressing Overpopulation of Domesticated Animals	6/4
Reducing kill rate in county animal shelters from 10k/year by 90%.	5/4
Overpopulation of domesticated animals-inadequate facilities/public health.	1
Improving Transportation Generally	12/1
Need to complete I540 on the south side.	4/1
State shifting state responsibilities to local governments (e.g. transportation).	3
Adequate money to construct and maintain surface transportation.	2
Coordinate road infrastructure across municipal lines to increase effectiveness.	2
Coordinating various transportation systems.	1
Addressing transportation issues that go beyond Wake County.	0
Roadway and bridge deterioration.	0
Improving Public Safety Services	12
Increase and maintain fire and EMS services in unincorporated areas.	4
Adequate/increased response time first response law enforcement.	3
Ensuring adequate public safety resources and personnel to handle the growth.	2
Capitalize on economies of scale by taking a regional approach to EMS, fire, and police.	2
Coordination of police and fire across municipal borders.	1
Adequate Funding of Infrastructure	10
Money for infrastructure- roads, schools, parks, transit, etc.	4
Adequate money to construct and maintain surface transportation.	2
Looking for new and different ways to fund schools.	1
Reliable and sustainable funding mechanism for infrastructure needs.	1
How do we finance the acquisition of open space.	1
Reliable and sustainable funding mechanism for infrastructure needs.	1

Addressing Human Service Needs	9
Addressing homelessness as county grows.	4
Impact of changing demographic on human services.	2
Caring for the needs of the growing over 50 population.	2
Address transportation issues for growing senior population.	1
The browning, less affluent, and aging impact on Wake County Services.	0
Planning for Sustainable Water Supplies	8
Water supply for sustaining growth including sewer capacity, water quality, recycling gray water.	3
Create a Wake County water management plan.	2
Finding additional water supplies in and outside of Wake County and managing water use.	1
Protecting water supply corridors.	1
Maintaining quality and quantity of water supply.	1
Better Land Use Planning Generally	8
Too much sprawl and lack of compact development across the county.	3
How to use land use planning to encourage density. Educate public that 1-acre is not viable.	3
Creation of mixed-use mixed-income village centers throughout region.	1
Stricter land use regulations to better manage growth and development.	1
Making sure we don't lose control of zoning in growth areas.	0
Conservation of land related to build-out.s	0
Improved Fiscal Health	5
Wake County take money going to other areas in the state.	2
Potential need for revenue sources aside from property taxes.	1
Revalue property on a shorter cycle.	1
Want legislative authority for funding sources/options.	1
Substantial tax increases that lead to citizen led ballot initiatives that limit revenue growth.	0
Implement a "pay as you go" strategy.	0
Alternative funding sources for Wake County (sales tax).	0
Reduce tax evaluation process from 8 years to 4 years.	0
Developer's responsibility/contributions to education.	0
Property taxes paid by newcomers does not cover expenses paid for services.	0

Planning for Redevelopment	5
Planning for redevelopment as communities approach build-out.	5/0
Coordination of the redevelopment of outdated uses.	0
Adequate Parks and Open Space Preservation	4
P&R- How do we provide enough space and facilities to meet increasing demand.	2
How do we finance the acquisition of open space.	1
Adequate recreation needs to meet demands of growth.	1
Greenway protection.	0
Improving Environmental Quality, Especially Air Quality	2
Conservation of natural resources (i.e. air, water, land).	2
How do we maintain or improve the quality of the air we breathe.	0
Use university resources to help us figure out how to clean up air.	0
Concern about increasing air pollution with increased population/cars.	0
Long Term Solid Waste Management	2
Trash capacity- landfill space- where do we send it/what do we do with it.	1
Unified garbage disposal policy.	1
Longer-term waste management- 30+ years.	0
Affordable, Accessible Health Care	2
Educate community about health care that impacts communities.	1
Health lifestyles for all citizens to decrease costs of obesity on health systems.	1
Providing affordable health to all citizens.	0
Increase in population needs help with self-sufficiency- health care/mental health.	0
Coordinated Storm Water Management	2
Jurisdiction coordination of storm water management.	2
Merging Local Government Services	1
Merging services of municipalities (sheriff/police departments, etc.)	1
Merging of activities from local, regional, and state levels to eliminate poverty.	0
Miscellaneous Issues	5
Establish and maintain the public trust to provide county services.	0
Assimilation of new residents.	0
Getting teachers/state employee salaries to the national average.	1