

Public Open House #1A and #1B
February 12, 2026

Meeting Summary

The project team held the first public open house for the Horizon 2035 Miami County Comprehensive Plan on February 12, 2026 at the Miami County 4-H Fair Grounds. The open house was held in two parts, morning and evening. The morning open house was held from 11am to 1pm. The evening open house was held from 5pm to 7pm. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the Miami County Comprehensive Plan to the public and gather input on items that will be addressed, or that residents think should be addressed, in the plan.

Attendees –

- Roughly 37 people attended the public open house to provide input for the Horizon 2035 Miami County Comprehensive Plan. 18 attended the morning open house and the other 19 attended the evening open house.

Overview and Discussion

The project team prepared 19 presentation boards, an online survey, and comment cards for the public open house. They were set up in the form of four stations. The first two stations were informative. The last two stations were interactive activities. The are outlines below:

- Station 1 – Check-in
- Station 2 – Setting the Stage
- Station 3 – Act One – Which Items belong in your daily community?
- Station 4 – Act Two – Where do you want to see change?

Station 1 – Check-in

The project team greeted community members and encouraged them to sign in. They were also given a room map that outlined where each board / activity was. There were also comment cards given to fill out and turn in before leaving.

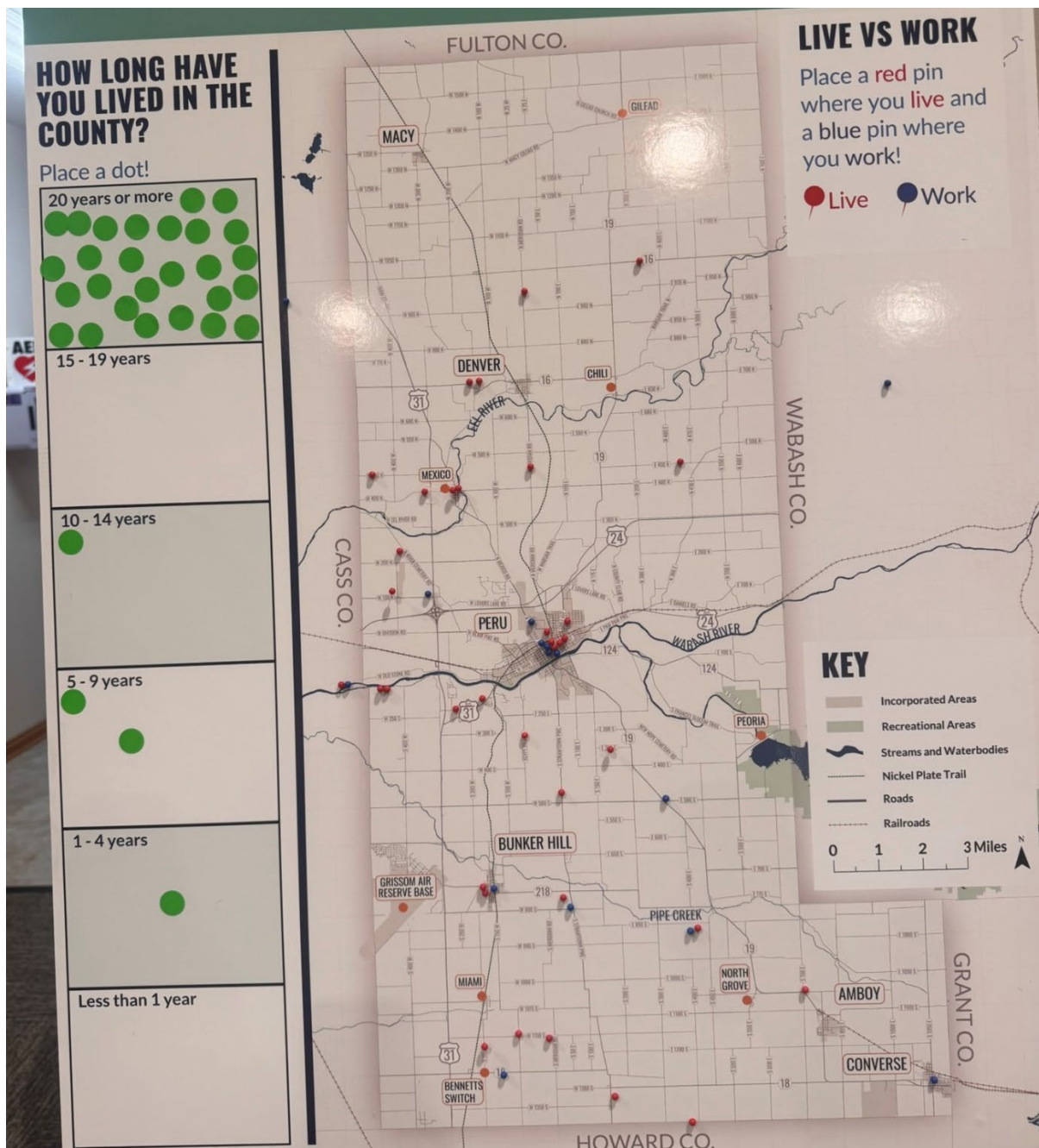
Comment Cards:

- We desperately need a Meijer Store because we don't have anything in the county. We also need restaurants to sit down. We drive 25 miles or less to buy most of stuff at Kokomo or online if I don't want to drive. We also need to look ahead for jobs then people will come to Peru. Tax Abatements should be used for more jobs not housing. I just recently got internet which was a blessing.



- 1.) Many people will say we need better paying jobs. Often this is linked to declining manufacturing jobs. We need to recognize the changing nature of jobs and work and train our students to be able to access those jobs. 2.) A SWAT analysis should be conducted by various demographics. If we keep asking the same people we will get the same answers. 3.) Expand the group of influencers on the Steering Committee. 4.) Set up access for students, and people with limited mobility to participate.
- Bunker Hill – Maker space / artist space. Opportunities for a local artist focus to encourage economic development / image development.
- Large industry / enterprises are not very popular but they are the key to bringing growth and improving quality of life – transportation, recreation, etc. Manage large projects ie. Possible but don't shut it out! Farmland preservation is important.
- This was well done. I'd suggest water & coffee for the next one. I love the idea of letting Miami county grow while keeping the natural beauty in the forefront of planning. Like riverwalk, a beautiful space that is easily accessible and perfectly showcases the Wabash River. I'd love to see longer hours w/ more community events at the library. Space for community gardens. Peru would thrive with more "third spaces" that promote community and celebrating what we have in common as opposed to what divides us. Third spaces that don't demand shopping or forced spending.





Where do you live vs work:

Visitors were also asked to place a pin on a map of the county where they live vs where they work. Residents from all around the county attended and participated. Most of the visitors that came to the open houses have lived in Miami County for 20 years or more.



Station 2 – Setting the Stage

This station outlined the existing conditions of the community. Topics such as demographics and physical mapping of the community were shared along with key takeaways. This station gave visitors the opportunity to see where the county currently is.

Station 3 – Act One – Which Items belong in your daily community?

The first activity, Act One, asked residents to select which items belong in their daily community. There were four topics. They were Community Resources, Economic Development, Housing, and Transportation.

- Topic #1: Community Resources (Pt. 1)

Topic	In my daily community	Not in my daily community, but elsewhere in the county	Not in my daily community or in the county
Parks and Green Space			
Medium-sized community parks with high-quality Facilities for sports	2	3	3
Small neighborhood parks with plenty of space and facilities for gathering outdoors	7	4	3
Pocket parks within walking distance of other activities	7	1	2
Community gardens	5	1	8
Environmental / natural open space	12	1	1
Programming			
Places to partner with the county to volunteer in my community	5	1	2
Ability to use school facilities outside of when school is in session	3	2	4
Food distribution centers	6	1	2
Structured activities along sidewalks	1	1	4
Structured activities along trails	4		4

- Topic #1: Community Resources (Pt. 2)

Topic	In my daily community	Not in my daily community, but elsewhere in the county	Not in my daily community or in the county
Arts and Culture			
Indoor entertainment establishments (concert halls, theaters, game venues)	4	2	2
Outdoor entertainment establishments (amphitheaters, plazas)	2	4	2
Expanding access to historic areas	0	3	2
Decorative public art (murals, sculptures)	6	2	1
Functional public art (painted crosswalks, wayfinding signage)	4	0	2
Events marking special occasions, like art fairs or concerts	6	1	2
Regular events like pop-up markets, busking, or food truck festivals	2	3	3
Educational establishments (libraries, museums)	5	3	1
Health Safety			
Street Lights	6	2	0
Benches and street furniture	4	1	1
Weather-related installations (shelters)	4	2	1
Public Restrooms	8	3	1
Senior centers	3	4	1

- Topic #2: Economic Development (Pt.1)

Topic	In my daily community	Not in my daily community, but elsewhere in the county	Not in my daily community or in the county
Tourism			
Public art (murals, statues, etc.)	7	4	0
Aesthetic Improvements to streetscapes & landscapes	8	1	1
Festivals & events	7	4	1
Innovative Business			
Start-ups and incubator spaces	2	3	2
Food truck festivals	4	1	3
Workshops for clean industry	3	1	3
Studio spaces for rent	1	2	3
Entertainment Options			
Concert venues & theaters	5	1	3
Sit-down restaurants	6	1	2
Casual restaurants	3	2	3
Fast food	3	1	4
Pubs & bars	4	1	2
Children's recreation (ex. splash pads, playgrounds, etc)	7	0	3
Outdoor recreation (urban trails, biking, etc.) pads, playgrounds, etc)	6	0	4



- Topic #2: Economic Development (Pt.2)

Topic	In my daily community	Not in my daily community, but elsewhere in the county	Not in my daily community or in the county
Retail Destinations			
Walkable, mixed-use districts with a mix of businesses and housing	4	3	3
Small “main streets” with niche stores	2	4	2
Large outdoor malls	0	1	9
Traditional shopping centers with ample parking	0	0	8
Office Types			
Offices above commercial and/or residential uses	2	2	2
Converted single-family homes	0	2	1
Stand-alone office buildings	2	0	0
Co-working spaces	3	3	1
Industry			
Jobs in the warehousing & logistics sectors	3	4	2
Jobs in technology sectors	1	4	3
Jobs in arts & media	3	2	3
Jobs in retail & customer service	2	4	4
Technology			
Access to high-speed broadband internet	9	0	3
Access to online city resources	8	0	2
Access to online emergency services	6	0	2

- Topic #3: Housing

Topic	In my daily community	Not in my daily community, but elsewhere in the county	Not in my daily community or in the county
Types			
New single-family subdivisions	4	2	1
Mixed housing neighborhoods with townhomes, condos, and clustered single-family homes	5	2	0
Duplexes, triplexes, quadplexes	2	1	0
Mixed use buildings with a mix of housing, retail, and office	4	1	1
Size			
Studio/1-bedroom units	2	1	0
2-bedroom units	5	1	0
3+ bedroom units	4	2	0
Attainability / Accessibility			
Starter homes for new homeowners	6	2	0
High-quality short-term rentals	0	1	2
High-quality long-term rentals	2	2	0
Shared living options	0	4	0
Subsidized housing for low-income families	5	2	1
Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)	3	0	0
Senior Living	4	3	0

- Topi #4: Transportation

Topic	In my daily community	Not in my daily community, but elsewhere in the county	Not in my daily community or in the county
Transit			
Bus routes with service between Miami County communities	2	0	6
Bus routes with commuter service outside Miami County	4	0	4
Shuttles to popular destinations	0	0	6
On-demand rides accessible through an easy-to-use app	1	2	2
Active Transportation			
Walking/biking trails surrounded by nature	7	1	2
Walking/biking trails surrounded by housing and businesses	3	2	2
Protected bike lanes along existing streets	4	4	0
Sidewalks connecting businesses	5	2	0
Sidewalks connecting neighborhoods	1	3	0
Vehicular Traffic			
Wider roads to increase traffic flow	5	0	1
Speed reduction measures (like speed humps and bollards)	0	1	2
“Complete Streets” with space for vehicles, transit, walking, and greenery	4	1	3
On-street parking	3	0	0
Large parking decks/lots	1	0	4

Station 4 – Act Two – Where do you want to see change?

The second activity, Act Two, asked residents to map where they want to see change. There were three maps for each section of the county. Community members placed dots with numbers on them in specific locations and made comments on a card associated with the number and location. The results are following:

- North Miami County
 - 126 – Intersection 400 N and US 31 need a cross over to get to Mexico to Peru. Don't have access to go south because there is a bridge one lane wood sloop not in good condition. Low weight limit too. Would have to go 10 to 16 miles to the south if they close 400 N. If they close 400 N, we all would be without the ambulance, bus and 7 arm.
 - 62 – Agree on Intersection 400N
 - 122 – If a decision is made to shut the roadway off to 21 it will cause there to be delays in emergencies due to the fact that the emergency personnel will have to go way out of their way to get to emergencies along 31 corridor
 - 100 – No data centers, No solar, No windmills
 - 121 – Macy – need railway to get agriculture commodities / goods / aggregates in and out Miami County if heavy agriculture.
- Central Miami County
 - 105 - Peru needs more factories and industry for jobs.
 - 59 - Nice Restaurants
 - 34 - Change in county leadership. Some people have been in their jobs for decades.
 - 52 - More Doctors. At least 2 are nearing retirement.
 - 116 - Re-store / habitat type store
 - 55 - Affordable high – quality childcare. Alternative use for abandoned building properties. Better career planning, mentoring, skill development for students.
 - 63 - Subdivision for single families. One acre lots. Healthy eating / shopping (whole foods). A place to shop besides Dollar General / Dollar Tree.
 - 42 - Affordable childcare. The Town of Mexico should be promoted.
 - 33 - Bring in decent paying jobs to Miami County.
 - 60 - Combine helping hands and C'C's causes in over building.
 - 90 - Small business incubator for people to start their business. Access to funding and people to guide them step by step.
 - 43 - More affordable housing in city limits for single-income residents.

- 47 - Trade school and education that is job specific.
- A Josiah White's type place for troubled youth in the system until they are able to return to their families.
- 56 - Low-income housing
- South Miami County
 - Roads need repaired 1075 and Meridian Rd.
 - No Solar
 - 54 – Distribution center for goods and to bring jobs.
 - 88 – County roadways maintain better during winter / summer time. Repaving.
 - 87 – Vote NO!! to data centers, solar, windmill in southern Miami County
 - 31 – Allow Miami County to be a safe haven from data centers. They've invaded the state and we need a protected zone.
 - 108 – Garbage services for county residents. (+1)
 - 82 – Bunker Hill – would love a place like Tamarack Marketplace where artist could come and teach the public crafts and the arts. Products could then be sold for revenue.
 - 58 – Bunker Hill – Need a place like the village of the arts in Florida
 - 44 – Bunker Hill – Need or want to see more food trucks. Would like a food truck festival. Food court (outdoor). Add more restaurants or places to eat.
 - 107 – Solar energy production including infrastructure for new developments of affordable housing.
 - 118 – Clean up the town of Miami, Easy access to Kokomo but won't live in that area, No Data Centers.
- General Comments
 - No data centers, solar, or wind turbines in Miami County.
 - Vote No on variance #131-25! KEEP DATA CENTERS OUT OF MIAMI CO!
 - Keep Miami County safe from large, damaging enterprises that kill off our lands and waters.
 - Vote NO on Data Centers. Say no – Var 131-25
 - VOTE NO on variance 131-25 in Miami CO or Cass CO
 - Vote No 131-25 Data Center in Miami County
 - VOTE!! NO. NO Data Centers, NO Solar , NO Windmill in Miami County
 - No Data Center
 - No to wind, solar, data centers, BESS, ect. Make our county a place where people want to live and make a decent salary.
 - No data centers would like to see a community / county news letter about events, news, ect. Do like to use facebook for information.
 - Some sort of transit program



- Affordable housing. Good new jobs
- Countywide needs quality housing. Parks – activate passive places to people watch. You have to drive everywhere. Increase of homelessness (Peru).
- Future investment in the hospital / healthcare that we have in Miami County.
- Further development of industry at Grissom AFB
- Other than food, other purchases all happen in Kokomo (clothing, etc.). Taxes on forms increased. 400 Dollar General is closed. Will it open? Being built
- Enrollment of Nort Miami HS / Middle School has all enrollment changed?
- How do businesses survive? Peru Public Library – city library needs support. Bus – united hwy rein network.
- 400 – closed for building plan. Bridge unsafe. Have been repaired multiple times

