



News Release



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Comprehensive Plan Project Plans Community Tour *Visits designed to spotlight diversity of urban, suburban and rural areas*

(March 22, 2004) – The Allen County-Fort Wayne comprehensive plan project will hit the road this week in an effort to better understand the community's diversity.

On Wednesday (March 24, 2004), a bus tour of Allen County will be conducted for members of the Comprehensive Plan Committee, as well as for city and county planners and others involved in crafting the long-term development and land-use plan.

"Many people do not know how diverse our community really is," said Allen County Commissioner Marla Irving. "Allen County covers the broadest possible spectrum of people and lifestyles. For this plan to succeed, that diversity must be taken into account."

Allen County and the City of Fort Wayne are developing the first comprehensive land use and development plan that bridges City and County boundaries. The comprehensive plan is intended to create a unified approach to infrastructure expansion and economic development.

Goals of the comprehensive plan also include preservation of the community's character and assets, improvements in quality of life and the promotion of actions that are in the best long-term interests of the community as a whole.

"This community tour will allow both City and County planners to gain a better understanding of the issues important to growth and development of our whole community," said Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard. "This understanding will shape a comprehensive plan that is good for everyone."

Wednesday's bus tour is designed to show the architects of the plan a diverse cross section of the community. The tour stops will range in variety from the General Motors area and the Amish community of Grabill to the Hanna-Creighton and historic West Central neighborhoods. The tour will visit several outlying towns.

The bus tour will begin at 2:30 p.m. and depart from the Freimann Square parking lot in downtown Fort Wayne. There are several seats available for news media who wish to view the entire tour. The tour is expected to last approximately two hours.

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