

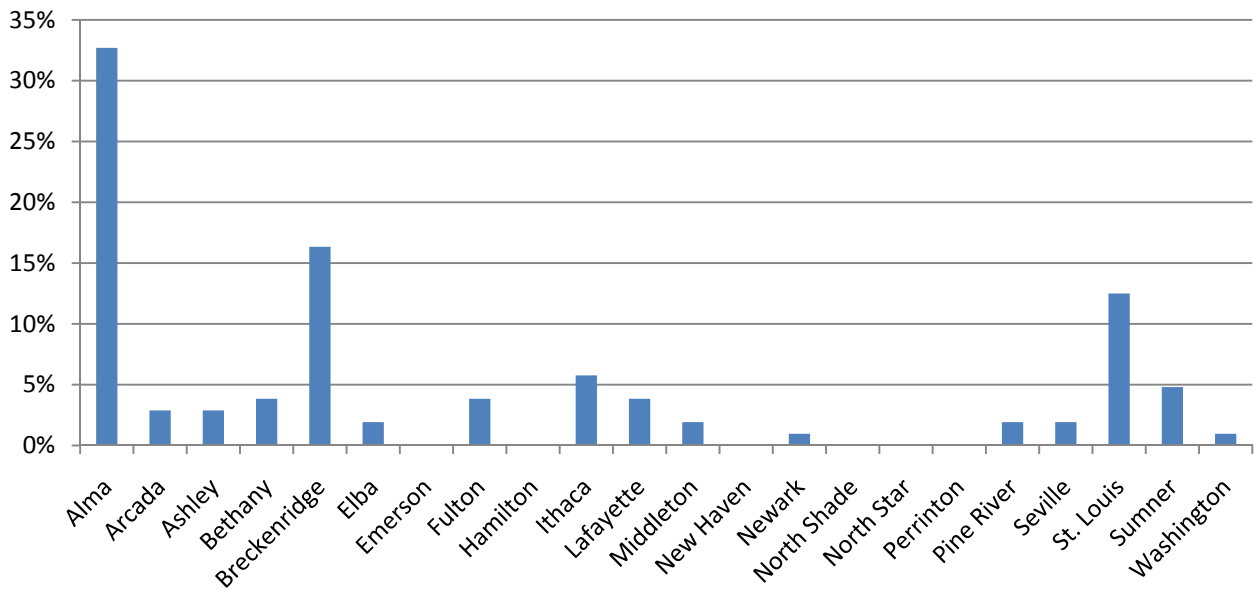
Gratiot County Master Plan December Public Meeting Results

Number of Meetings: 5

Meeting Locations: City of Alma, Sumner Township, Village of Breckenridge, Fulton Township, Ashley Township

Estimated Number of Attendees:¹ Alma Meeting 40, Sumner Meeting 18, Breckenridge Meeting 36, Fulton Meeting 19, Ashley Meeting 17
Total: 130

Representation by Jurisdiction:²



Agencies Represented: Gratiot County Herald, MDOT, MMDHD, MDEQ, USDA-RD

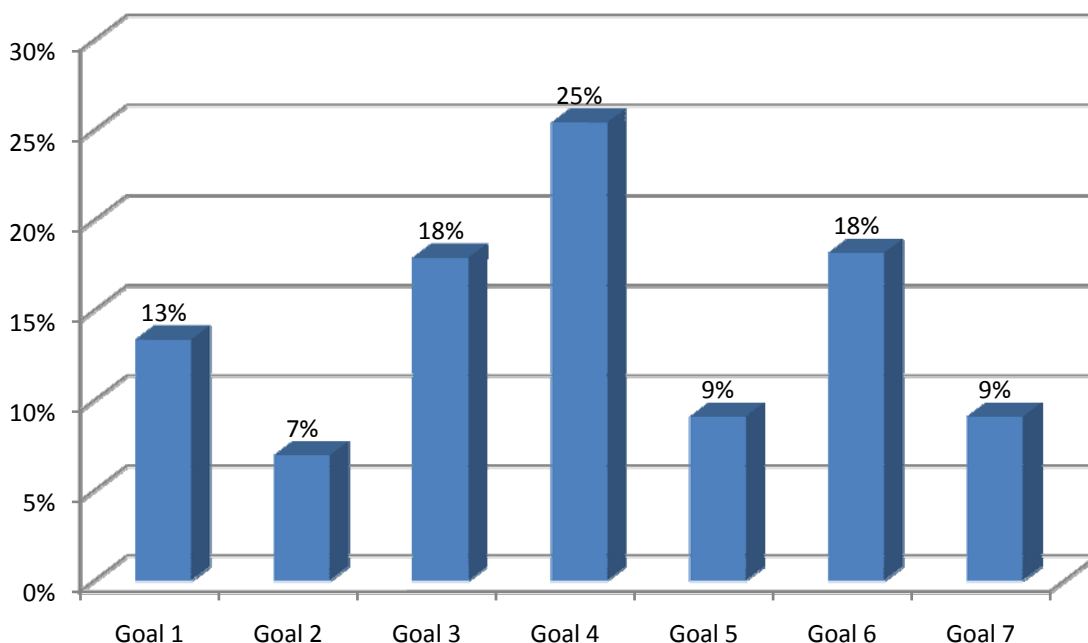
¹ The estimated number of attendees is based on the number of people who signed-in or the number of people who voted (whichever number was greater).

² Representation by Jurisdiction percentages are based on the number of people who signed-in. Please note, several meeting attendees did not sign-in and of those who did sign-in, fourteen people left the "Jurisdiction" category blank or indicated that they represented something other than a local jurisdiction.

Gratiot County Master Plan December Public Meeting Results – Goals

1. Preserve the County’s **quality** rural character, which includes productive farms, healthy natural features, and vibrant downtowns that maintain “small town” charm.
2. Strengthen the existing cities, villages, and hamlets to serve as **quality** community centers for living, working, and recreating.
3. Provide **quality** public services, such as water, sewer, public safety, and the transportation network, in the most cost effective manner.
4. Provide and sustain economic opportunities by retaining, attracting and growing **quality** employers, including those within the agriculture, industrial, and commercial sectors.
5. Provide high **quality** of life opportunities, such as premier cultural and recreational resources, for the enjoyment of people from all generations.
6. Provide **quality** educational opportunities that prepare residents for local jobs and cutting edge industries.
7. Continue and strengthen **quality** community collaboration to promote sustainable planning practices and elevate Gratiot County as a whole.

Goals by Percentage of Total Votes (all meetings)



Gratiot County Master Plan December Public Meeting Results – Goals (Continued)

Alma

Goal	Number of Dots	Percentage
1	11	9%
2	9	8%
3	17	14%
4	31	26%
5	17	14%
6	21	18%
7	13	11%
Total	119	100%

Sumner

Goal	Number of Dots	Percentage
1	8	15%
2	2	4%
3	13	24%
4	15	28%
5	6	11%
6	6	11%
7	4	7%
Total	54	100%

Breckenridge

Goal	Number of Dots	Percentage
1	21	20%
2	10	10%
3	18	17%
4	20	19%
5	6	6%
6	19	18%
7	10	10%
Total	104	100%

Fulton

Goal	Number of Dots	Percentage
1	4	7%
2	5	9%
3	10	18%
4	17	30%
5	4	7%
6	13	23%
7	3	5%
Total	56	100%

Ashley

Goal	Number of Dots	Percentage
1	6	15%
2	0	0%
3	9	22%
4	12	29%
5	1	2%
6	9	22%
7	4	10%
Total	41	100%

Gratiot County Master Plan December Public Meeting Results – Opportunities

Goal 1	
Preserve the County’s quality rural character, which includes productive farms, healthy natural features, and vibrant downtowns that maintain “small town” charm.	
Opportunity	Meeting
1. Become an entrepreneurial community/magnet	Alma
2. Communicate local product offerings through multiple medias (online/broadband)	
3. Engage churches, youth groups in volunteer opportunities	
4. Year-round farmers markets/wares/outlet	
5. Improve river quality/tie into parks/recreation	
6. Market ourselves to outside investment/tourism	
7. Educate community on value of supporting local businesses	
8. Retain current businesses	
1. Expand opportunities for different types of housing	Sumner
2. Promote commercial local opportunities for small farm products	
3. Strategize how to be entrepreneurial within the community	
1. Ability to keep community infrastructure good because there is a desire	Breckenridge
2. Allow for development without messing up agriculture productivity capacity	
3. Recognition that we can plan ahead to keep the attributes we like	
4. River recreation development	
5. Hunting for tourists	
1. Offer entrepreneurial education - start more small businesses	Fulton
2. Outlets for locally grown food	
3. Encourage more businesses related to recreation (rail-trail, river)	
1. Still have open space, not sprawl	Ashley
2. Maintain buildings in downtown	

Yellow = Opportunity received 5-9% of the total opportunity votes from that meeting
 Orange = Opportunity received 10% or more of the total opportunity votes from that meeting

Goal 2	
Strengthen the existing cities, villages, and hamlets to serve as quality community centers for living, working, recreating, and learning.	
Opportunity	Meeting
1. We have many varieties of housing to build upon - to begin to meet needs	Alma
2. The different nature of communities provides choices for people	
3. Market existing recreation opportunities better to us (ourselves)	
4. Open to "new" sustainable concepts	
5. Use our individual "brands" to positively promote a diverse larger community	
6. Create opportunities for local entrepreneurs	
7. Working collaboratively we can afford one top class recreation center	
1. Make river available for recreation paddle and camp	Sumner
2. Start "Friends of the Pine River"	
3. Create a collaborative super public works department with prioritized work and maintenance	
1. Many Brownfield sites available - infrastructure	Breckenridge
2. Youth will change old attitudes	
3. Technical/trade school education	
4. Countywide organized sports/recreation	
5. Better promote activities/festivals statewide - michigan.org	
6. Create high-tech corridor to attract/retain bright minds	
7. Value-added agriculture opportunities	
8. Have more shovel-ready sites or spec. buildings available	
1. Communicate within community about assets already available	Fulton
2. Redevelopment of Brownfield's	
1. Prioritize for different budget categories	Ashley
2. County-wide recreation organization/ not entity can do it alone	
3. Opportunity to more integrate quality schools and municipalities	

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Goal 3	
Provide quality public services, such as water, sewer, public safety, and the transportation network, in the most cost effective manner.	
Opportunity	Meeting
1. More collaboration (from all agencies to have more clout)	Alma
2. Become state-wide model	
3. Streamline services/gain efficiency	
3. Improve quality	
5. Consolidation of public safety (building, police, fire, code enforcement)	
6. Alternative energy	
7. County-wide recycling	
1. More collaboration	Sumner
2. Finish US-127	
3. County-wide Public Transit	
4. More local presence Fire/Police	
5. Broadband internet	
1. Share utilities	Breckenridge
2. Joint purchasing	
3. Recycling Center	
4. Greening communities	
5. More collaboration	
6. County-wide water conservation	
1. Public awareness - millage/fees	Fulton
2. More collaboration - centralized services	
3. Complete US-127	
4. More non-motorized connect communities	
5. Preserve railroads	
1. County-wide purchasing system	Ashley
2. Address completion of 127	
3. More preventative maintenance	
4. Integrate public safety	

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Goal 4	
Provide and sustain economic opportunities by retaining, attracting and growing quality employers, including those within the agriculture, industrial, service , and commercial sectors.	
Opportunity	Meeting
1. Business incubator	Alma
2. Promoting NCRC (National Career Readiness Certificate)	
3. Entice value added agriculture projects	
4. Energy technology enticement	
5. Downtown center	
1. More industrial parks	Summer
2. Local media	
3. Riverfront development	
4. Energy park	
5. Build on medical industry	
6. More agriculture industry (organic, processing)	
7. Better/more use of river	
1. Value added agriculture	Breckenridge
2. Methane digesters	
3. Energy Park	
4. labor force	
5. Education/Community College	
6. Healthcare	
1. Niche businesses in downtown	Fulton
2. New industrial parks	
3. Airport expansion/industrial	
4. Riverfront development - Pine & Maple	
5. Wind power/solar	
6. More vocational training	
1. Attracting large industrial project (i.e. energy-related)	Ashley
2. Entrepreneurial education	
3. Value-added agriculture businesses	

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Goal 5	
Provide high quality of life opportunities, such as premier cultural and recreational resources, for the enjoyment of people from all generations.	
Opportunity	Meeting
1. Use existing facilities better, i.e. college facilities, parks, schools, etc.	Alma
2. Pine River - expanding the use	
3. Rails to Trails - expanding the opportunity	
4. Create/Utilize/Expand community centers	
5. Coordinated recreational activities	
6. Community Calendar	
1. Riverfront development (picnics, open space, boating, canoeing, volleyball)	Sumner
2. Inspire more community involvement (volunteerism)	
3. Community center for learning/diversified activities (classes, crafts, etc.	
4. Trailhead for rail-trail (bathrooms, parking, picnic area)	
5. Promoting what we have to residents (correct negativity)	
6. Better community calendar and promote current one (flyers at banks, stores)	
7. Be more open to change	
1. Get youth interested in the community activities and programs to insure the long-term health of these cultural activities	Breckenridge
2. Create a master community (county) activities calendar in multiple media formats/marketing	
3. Create recreational programs and enrichments classes at county-level. Centralize programming to utilize all county/municipal (i.e. school facilities/marketing)	
4. Recreation opportunities on the rivers/Pine-Maple	
1. Acquire public access to lakes	Fulton
2. Pine River development	
3. Space availability	
4. Agri-entertainment	
5. Them/niche areas	
6. Stronger collaborative marketing	
1. Winter recreation trails (i.e. cross country skiing, snowmobiling, ice skating rink)	Ashley
2. Indoor recreation center	
3. Public transportation between north/south Gratiot for events (i.e. Alma College)	
4. Public transit for employees to commute to other cities/areas	
5. Passenger train to other parts of state	
6. Senior Activities Center in south Gratiot	

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Goal 6	
Provide quality educational opportunities that prepare residents for careers , local jobs and cutting edge industries.	
Opportunity	Meeting
1. Post secondary (better coordination) - GTEC, Alma College, Davenport	Alma
2. Better collaboration with human service agencies	
3. Better communication with business industry leaders	
4. Stronger collaboration between local school districts	
1. Inspire entrepreneurship (new programs in schools)	Sumner
2. Job training/apprentice/internship programs	
3. More life skills in school (balancing checkbook, budgeting, credit, communication, responsibility, etc.)	
4. More parent involvement in students lives (parenting program)	
5. Better trades/Voc. Ed program (not all must be college grads.)	
1. Schools of choice	Breckenridge
2. Vocational courses	
3. Distance learning and technology	
4. Collaboration with ISD	
5. Agriculture classes and programs	
6. Leadership programs	
1. Employment opportunities to meet area demands, i.e. healthcare, agriculture, agri-entertainment, industrial	Fulton
2. Collaboration between business/industry and schools	
3. Alternative energy technology training	
4. Small business training	
5. Expand accessibility to voc. Ed.	
6. Flexibility in curriculum for students	
1. Working together with other schools to create a critical mass of students so certain programs can be offered that one school alone could not	Ashley
2. Jointly owned Vocational Center in Gratiot	
3. A Gratiot Community College	
4. Bring business leaders into the classroom to make kids aware of opportunities locally (mentor program)	
5. Joint sport programs that are not offered in one school or another (i.e. swimming, golf)	

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Goal 7	
Continue and strengthen quality community collaboration to promote sustainable planning practices and elevate Gratiot County as a whole.	
Opportunity	Meeting
1. More broad base for problem solving	Alma
2. More funding resources	
3. Save money	
4. Offer broader range of services and increase efficiency	
5. Compete against larger urban cities/demographic areas	
1. More trust among us	Sumner
2. More service for tax dollars. Better public services	
3. Competitive advantage in business development and retention	
4. Chance to grow, but with control	
5. Collaboration can cause peer-pressure effect across the board. Government, schools, re-training, etc.	
1. No borders in terms of getting something done	Breckenridge
2. Make it easier to attract economic growth	
3. County-wide recycling	
4. Use resources better	
5. Share knowledge/experience among commissions, committees, etc.	
6. Sense of what neighbor is doing	
7. Using each other's strengths to compensate for each other's weaknesses	
8. Getting grants	
1. Get more citizens involved in local government decision-making	Fulton
2. Hold more joint meetings	
1. The buy-in of the county-wide master plan	Ashley
2. Good planning increase operation efficiency in multiple communities, know each other's future projects	
3. Increase the level of service to smaller communities	
4. Increase partnerships - share ideas, equipment, people	

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