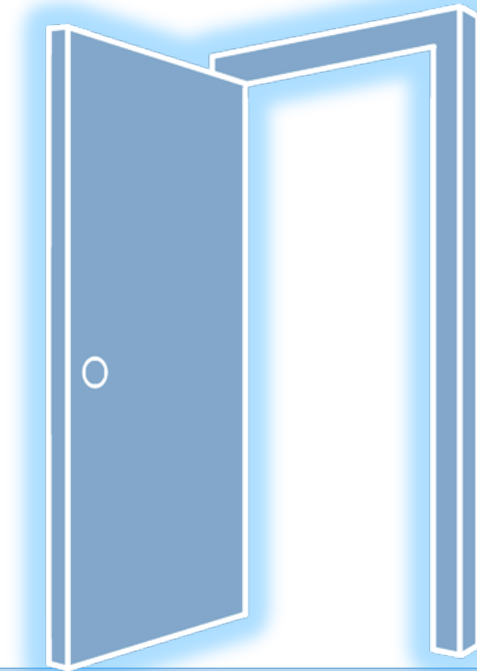


DISCUSSION REPORT

North Liberty for All



How can we meet everyone's housing and transportation needs to make an inclusive community?

**Monday Nov 16th , 5:30-7:00pm
North Liberty Rec Center**

Sponsored by the Iowa Program for Public Life,
Johnson County Affordable Homes Coalition, and PATV
Channel 18

Prepared by Student Associate Interns with the Iowa Program for Public Life

For more information, please visit: <http://www.uiowa.edu/cpl/>

The goal of this forum was to listen and learn from each other, and second, to allow North Liberty's voice to help frame future discussions about affordable housing and transportation. The forum event was a part of a yearlong series of discussions throughout Johnson County that will culminate in a half-day countywide summit in April, 2016.

This event was organized about three questions: What do we know about the current situation, What is the ideal community we want, and How can we get to that ideal? Below are main takeaways from the conversation participants. What follows are general thoughts garnered from small table discussions by participants, and may not reflect the ideas of sponsoring groups.

What do we Know?

44550

Total Renters

52715

Total Households

\$833

Median Rent

\$81742

Median Income

14.7%

Renters with No Vehicle

5.6%

Renters Below Poverty Level

52.3%

Renters Overburdened-
pay more than 30% of
Income on Rent

- “Affordable” Housing is mostly rental properties
- What could be properties to buy is turned into rentals at high rates for students
- Lack of single-family homes
- Lack of public transportation- affects employees, students, and parents
- Bus system that goes to IC/Coralville only stops twice per day
- Developers aren’t including affordable housing in their business plans

Major Concerns:

- Inefficient transportation
- High cost of renting
- Losing low income housing because cost to own is too high
- High occupancy rates keep housing prices high

Looking Towards the Future

Employment

- Bring more employment to North Liberty- majority of residents work in Cedar Rapids or Iowa City areas
- North Liberty is the 2nd fastest growing city in Iowa- needs more resources and accommodations
- More growth in city to sustain small businesses
- Business properties also have inflated rent
- More industrialization and more commercial property
- Continue growth and expansion to include more families, businesses, and employment in North Liberty

Transportation

- Get some form of public transportation in North Liberty, both within and between the surrounding community
- People will be able to live, work, and play in the same area
- More frequent bus stops from North Liberty to and from surrounding areas
- Telecommuting
- Transportation all night long
- Biking and walking options (free bikes)
- Car sharing

Housing

- No more restrictions on multi-family homes
- Smaller homes and lots with yards- “Family homes”
- Reduce the “sticker shock” on price of homes/land
- 10 years ago, North Liberty was a “bedroom town”
- Develop more “affordable” housing options for residents to buy, not just rent
- Increase affordable single-family homes

Steps to Consider

- **Adjust zoning to encourage smaller homes and lower prices**
- **Petition elected officials – make aware of housing and transportation needs**
- **Inclusionary zoning?**



