

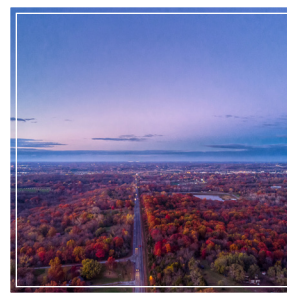
**PLAN  
KCK**

UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF WYANDOTTE  
COUNTY-KANSAS CITY, KANSAS  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN

# VISION SUMMIT REPORT

KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, USA

MAY 2023







## VISION SUMMIT REPORT KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, USA MAY 2023

This report summarizes the outcomes of the PlanKCK Vision Summit that was held on May 16, 2023. Approximately 120 Kansas City, Kansas (KCK) stakeholders participated in the workshop and developed the scenarios presented in this report. This report was produced as part of the PlanKCK Comprehensive Plan update for KCK. The process includes comprehensive and economic development planning initiatives that aim to provide future direction that will guide decision-making for KCK leadership over the next 25 years.

This report and the associated data analysis are available at:  
[www.wycokck.org/PlanKCK](http://www.wycokck.org/PlanKCK)

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future→iQ®  
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# »»»»» SNAPSHOT | REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

This report lays out the findings from the future-oriented scenario planning work for KCK in May 2023. This work has identified a preferred future and highlighted potential future challenges and opportunities facing the City over the next 25 years. This understanding helps lay the groundwork for figuring out 'how we get there' and informs the concurrent comprehensive planning work.

## KEY INSIGHTS FROM THIS PLANNING WORK TO DATE

- **STRONG DESIRE TO INCORPORATE INTENTIONAL EQUITY AND INCLUSION INTO PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORK**

Throughout the visioning process, stakeholders consistently expressed a desire to see amenities and services distributed more equitably across KCK. Intentional actions and investment that build more equity within the community and especially in the downtown urban core needs to be part of how KCK reaches the preferred future.

- **LEVERAGE KCK'S STRENGTH IN ITS DIVERSITY**

KCK's diversity has been cited as one of the City's greatest strengths. There is strong will to invest in neighborhoods and communities to highlight the diversity of cultures that exist in KCK. Additional attractions like the KCK Taco Trail, mobile vending / food trucks, and the Quindaro Townsite should be pursued.

- **USE EAST-WEST CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT TO EFFECT SOCIAL CHANGE**

Currently, the eastern and western parts of WYCO operate like two ends of a barbell. The western suburbia maintains a much higher standard of living and amenities compared to the eastern downtown area. Intentional development of the transportation corridor between the two areas is seen as imperative to distributing wealth and bridging the socio economic divide.

- **LOCATION - LOCATION - LOCATION**

The location of KCK in the United States makes it a natural hub for transportation (air, water, train, roads) and logistics. Leveraging and building on this central location is a logical economic development opportunity without attracting distribution centers to the area that have very low jobs per square feet.

- **HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE ARE KEY**

Throughout the visioning process, stakeholders consistently pointed to the basic support systems – housing and infrastructure – as key to creating a vibrant KCK with a strong economy. Addressing blight, poverty, homelessness, and aging infrastructure in the urban core must be incorporated into any plan for KCK.



# 1.0 | HOW TO READ THIS REPORT

This report lays out the findings from the Vision Summit and each key step in the process. More details about the overall planning process may be viewed on the Unified Government's website at [www.wycokck.org/PlanKCK](http://www.wycokck.org/PlanKCK).

The Vision Summit process built a range of potential directions for KCK. This work represents robust 'future gazing' where stakeholders considered possible directions and the impacts and consequences of those directions. The process, and the report, then drill down deeper into what people saw as the optimal or preferred future. This understanding helps lay the groundwork for figuring out what next steps to take. The draft vision and economic development plan for KCK will be delivered at the Community Prosperity Summit on August 14, 2023, after a series of in-depth focus groups and business stakeholder surveys. This is occurring in collaboration with the broader PlanKCK Comprehensive Plan update process.

The importance of collaboration, equity, trust, and planning for the future has been highlighted as critically important to building resiliency and sustainability for KCK as stakeholders look to the grand challenges ahead.

## UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF WYANDOTTE COUNTY-KANSAS CITY, KANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN

### Steps in the process

Information gathered from the Vision Summit Stakeholder Survey and interviews.

Introduce the Vision Summit process and the goals for the process.

Identify macro trends shaping the future of KCK.

Create plausible future scenarios for KCK.

Identify Expected, Least Desired, and Preferred Futures for KCK.

Identification of the next steps in the strategic planning process.

### Sections of the report

Brief analysis of the Stakeholder Survey (Chapter 3)

Vision Summit Workshop (Chapter 4)

Forces Shaping the Future - Macro Trends (Chapter 5)

Creating the Scenario Framework (Chapter 6)

Expected, Least Desired, and Preferred Futures (Chapter 7)

Next Steps (Chapter 8)





The PlanKCK Vision Summit workshop allowed stakeholders to take a 'deep-dive' into strategic visioning and future-thinking through a scenario-planning process.

## 2.0 | INTRODUCTION

This scenario-based Vision Summit report summarizes the visioning and planning workshop that took place on May 16, 2023. The Vision Summit was conducted as an initial step in the project to develop an executable plan that will guide KCK for the next 25 years. The components of the planning work to date have been comprised of:



### STATE OF THE ECONOMY BENCHMARK REPORT

The State of the Economy Snapshot for Kansas City, Kansas, is the benchmark report for reference throughout the Unified Government's economic development strategic planning process. This snapshot highlights a broad overview of the existing economic conditions encompassing KCK.



### KEY STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Interviews were held with key stakeholders to gather input and to further understand diverse perspectives on current and future economic development in KCK.



### PLANKCK VISION SUMMIT STAKEHOLDER SURVEY

An extensive survey was completed by 52 Vision Summit participant stakeholders. The survey aimed to understand stakeholder perspectives on current conditions in the City, as well as their aspirations for the future.



### VISION SUMMIT WORKSHOP

The PlanKCK Vision Summit was held on May 16, 2023, for about 120 community members and stakeholders. At this visioning workshop, participants learned about current conditions and macro trends impacting KCK, and participants produced four (4) plausible potential futures for the City.



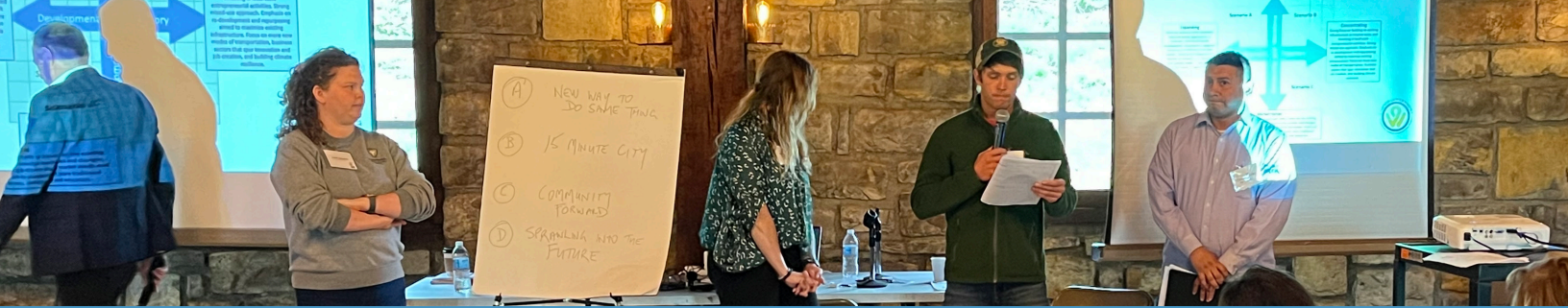
### VISION SUMMIT PARTICIPANT HEATMAPS

Vision Summit participants completed heatmaps at the end of the Vision Summit to express their Least Desired, Expected, and Preferred future scenarios for KCK, looking out over the next 25 years. The results are examined in this report.



*"Where do I start? So much I want to say, but first and most important is our community is diverse and resilient. Our historic community has everything to offer from recreation, shopping, careers, and neighborhoods with large lots with newer homes, to smaller lots with historic homes. Most importantly, we have pride!"*  
-Plan KCK Vision Summit Stakeholder Survey Respondent





## 3.0 | SURVEY RESULTS

### 3.1 | HIGHLIGHTS AND INSIGHTS

Prior to the Vision Summit workshop, a survey was distributed to registered attendees to gather insight into the perceptions of the future of KCK. At the time of the Vision Summit, approximately 52 people responded to the survey. The survey numbers were relatively low, and therefore not a truly representative sample of the community. It was, however, a good sample of the Vision Summit participants. Most survey respondents lived in Wyandotte County (85%) with the remaining of the respondents (15%) working, but not living in the community. The stakeholder survey results can be viewed at the project portal: [www.wycokck.org/PlanKCK](http://www.wycokck.org/PlanKCK).

While the sample size of the survey was small, the respondents were well informed stakeholders and had a solid understanding of the community and its challenges.

#### STRONG SUPPORT FOR A SHARED VISION AND A SHARED PLAN

Survey respondents showed a very high level of interest and support for developing a shared plan, which provided excellent validation of the overall PlanKCK process.

#### DESIRE TO GROW THE ECONOMY AND DISTRIBUTE ECONOMIC BENEFIT

Responses show a desire to both grow the overall size of the Wyandotte County economy and focus on equitably distributing benefit across the community. Addressing historic economic inequity is a key underlying theme across community discussions.

#### HOUSING REDEVELOPMENT AND URBAN REGENERATION IS A PRIORITY

People have placed a high importance on housing development. This issue is important, especially in the urban core, where there is a priority need to stimulate urban regeneration and infill development.

#### NUTURING THE HOME-GROWN WORKFORCE IS A PRIMARY INTEREST

There is a particular interest in nurturing and expanding the home-grown workforce. Currently there are significant commuter patterns of people leaving for work each day.

#### MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE IS KEY FOCUS

From a planning perspective, there was a high importance placed on improving the movement of people within the city and connections to important outside areas.

#### MIXED VIEWS ABOUT ABILITY AND APPETITE FOR CHANGE

There were views about the ability and appetite to implement real change. While there was interest, there was an underlying concern about the scale of the challenge and the ability for the UG's institutions and people to 'move the needle' in a significant manner.



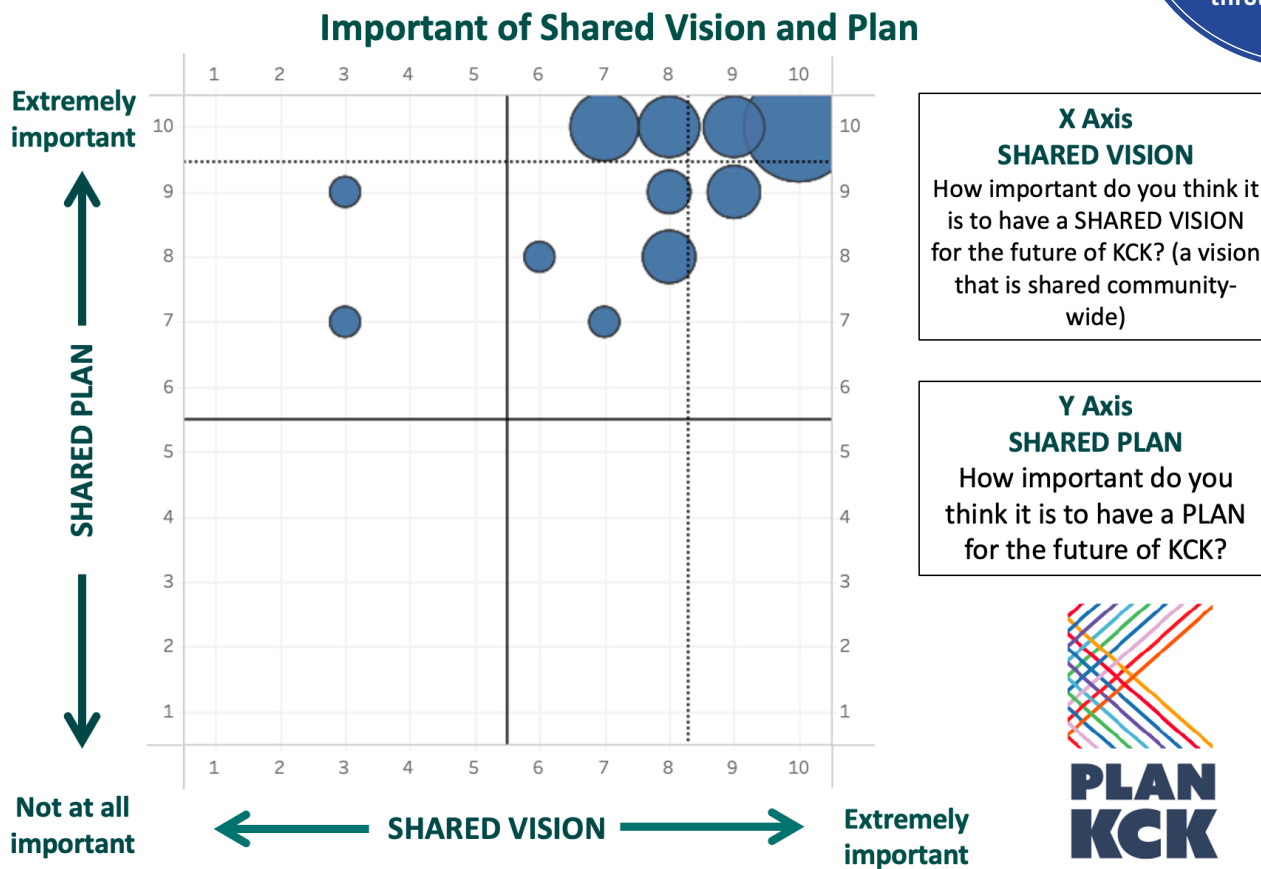




## 3.2 | IMPORTANCE OF A SHARED VISION AND PLAN

Survey respondents were asked how important it is to have a shared vision and shared plan for the future of KCK. Respondents were asked the two (2) questions below, which were then combined to produce the following pivot chart.

The data on this page provides strong validation of the comprehensive and multifaceted planning work that is underway in Kansas City throughout 2023.



DataInsight

- The size of the circle denotes the popularity of the response. This chart shows that respondents felt that having a shared vision and a shared plan were important to the future of KCK.
- The dashed line plots the average of responses. On average, it was viewed as extremely important to have a shared plan.







## 4.0 | SCENARIO-BASED VISION SUMMIT WORKSHOP

The PlanKCK Vision Summit Workshop was conducted at Wyandotte County Lake Park in the James P. Davis Hall. The workshop explored how KCK could evolve over the next 25 years and consisted of:

- A review of global trends and the impact of these trends on KCK
- Assessment of Wyandotte County's strengths and weaknesses
- Formulation of the different plausible scenario 'spaces' and development of detailed narratives and descriptions of each scenario
- Examination of the impact and consequences of each scenario on various aspects of community and economic development in KCK
- Identification of the preferred future and potential critical action steps to achieve the preferred future

Scenario planning provides a way to explore various plausible futures. This adds a richness and depth to the discussions about a preferred future, and a consideration of the intended and unintended consequences.

The Vision Summit began with presentations on the recently adopted goDotte Countywide Strategic Mobility Plan, which serves as PlanKCK's transportation chapter, a Snapshot of current economic conditions in KCK, and an examination of housing in Wyandotte County. This was followed by an in-depth presentation on future trends and global conditions before moving on to conduct scenario planning for KCK. Future iQ's scenario planning process provides a methodology from which to explore plausible futures and takes into consideration the implications of various forward-looking scenarios. The process aimed to:

- Deepen the understanding of how external events and local conditions could shape decision-making
- Identify and understand the key influences, trends, and dynamics that will shape KCK looking out over the next 25 years
- Create and describe four (4) plausible long-term scenarios for KCK
- Begin exploring alignment around a shared vision for KCK's future



The scenarios developed during this Vision Summit workshop and outlined in this report are important to provide a framework to discuss possible outcomes and implications for the future. Workshop deliberations assisted in identifying strategic actions for the UG and how various groups might best contribute to future developments.





## 5.0 | FORCES SHAPING THE FUTURE – MACRO TRENDS

Vision Summit participants explored the forces of change shaping the future of KCK, including three (3) key areas of emerging macro trends and forces of change. Perceptions around the nature of impact of these trends, both in terms of size and timing of impact, were explored to gauge how important participants consider the trends. Participants discussed the emerging trends on global, regional and local scales, and related them directly to KCK in terms of how well prepared they considered the City.

Specifically, the key trend areas included:

- Demographics, population and mass urbanization
- Energy, food, water and climate change
- Technology and the speed of change

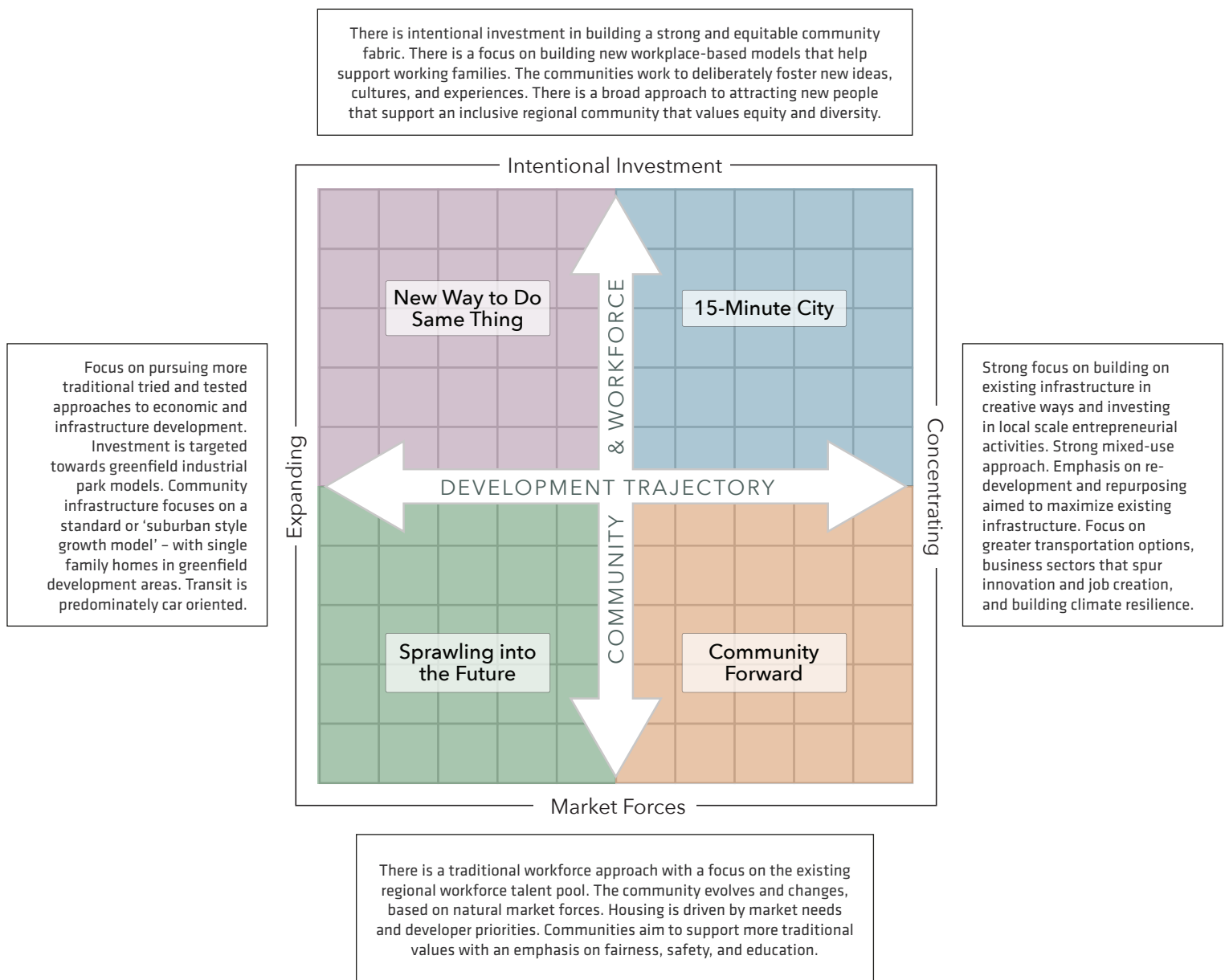
Of relevance to the discussion on trends is the speed and scale of change occurring. Newly developed innovations are being implemented globally and locally at all scales, thereby changing the face of industries and society in a rapid and profound way. A concern expressed at the Vision Summit was the perceived ability of the Unified Government to adapt and respond to these changes. Velocity and trajectory are key elements that often create resistance to change and require clear communication and outreach to promote trust around the purpose of change. Vision Summit participants emphasized the need for increased intentional investment in people and infrastructure as well as consistent communication and messaging as the City pursues its preferred future.

In the face of accelerating speed of change, the key to long-term resiliency for KCK is the ability to anticipate change, adapt, and remain agile in response to emerging trends. This includes collaboration and a city-wide approach to change.



## 6.0 | CREATING THE SCENARIO FRAMEWORK

Workshop participants were presented with the scenario matrix, defined by the two (2) major axes, 'Development Trajectory' and 'Community & Workforce'. Brief descriptions were also attached to the end points of each driver axes. Participants were randomly divided into four (4) groups to develop a narrative for each scenario. Each group was asked to describe the characteristics of KCK in 25 years under the conditions of the scenario quadrant that they had been given. After the characteristics were established, Vision Summit participants were asked to devise major events or headlines of how the scenario occurred using the years 2025, 2030 and 2040, then give their scenario a descriptive name. The name is intended to represent the characteristics of the scenario in the form of a short title. Narratives, descriptions, and names of each scenario as developed by the workshop participants are included in the following sections.







The 'New Way to Do Same Thing' scenario paints a future where intentional efforts to support working families and community support systems are strengthened in the County, yet KCK does not see much change in development patterns and poverty persists.

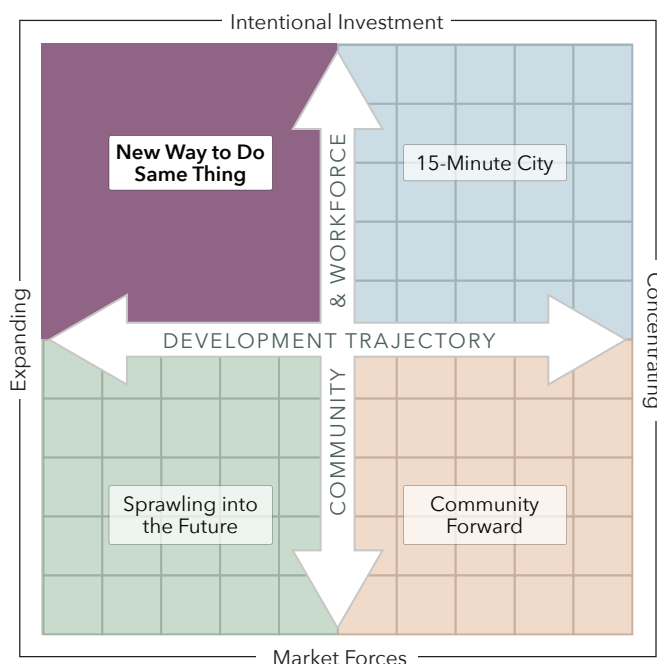
## 6.1 | SCENARIO A: NEW WAY TO DO SAME THING

This scenario forecasts a future where economic and infrastructure development continues to expand and attract people to the western area of Wyandotte County (WYCO).

There is also intentional investment in supporting working families more equitably throughout KCK and the County. Educational options are expanded to accommodate increased workforce needs as industries grow. Efforts are made to build housing closer to work environments to mitigate the impacts of car traffic on transportation infrastructure. Transit remains primarily car oriented, and this places a burden on low-income workers who must commute. The importance of childcare is recognized and provided by most companies to help working families. The surge in population growth causes housing costs to soar with the increased demand, and many workers are forced out of KCK and the County to live.

### SCENARIO SNAPSHOT

- Community grows and attracts new people
- Industry booms on the western side
- Downtown begins to revitalize
- Sprawl continues westward
- Car culture lives on



# SCENARIO A CHARACTERISTICS: 'NEW WAY TO DO SAME THING' - 25 YEARS FROM NOW



## SOCIAL FABRIC AND COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

**The community is growing quickly and attracting new people to WYCO.**

- Intentional investment in the downtown and Northeast KCK begins to revitalize the urban core.
- Educational options are reimagined with new pathways and more technical schools.
- The western part of Wyandotte County continues to develop farmland and open space for single-family subdivisions.
- AI investment provides language translation for workforce and education as well as increased skill in arts and workmanship.



## LOCAL ECONOMY AND INDUSTRY CHARACTERISTICS

**Industrial growth booms in western part of the County, especially with E-commerce.**

- Growing demographics are more culturally competent and welcoming to new people in the work environment.
- Community infrastructure is challenged by growing population demands and sprawling suburbs.
- Agriculture intensifies and competes for space in western areas of the County.
- Incentives for building are provided to support population growth, and transportation remains primarily car oriented.



## BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

**Available land is eaten up by development and stormwater management is prioritized.**

- Population growth requires expanded housing options and subsidies for single-family housing to provide for affordability.
- Less land available for parking necessitates a transition to EV infrastructure and autonomous driving.
- Zoning is amended to allow for denser and more affordable single-family housing and mixed land use to allow for agriculture with residential.

2025  
Headline News  
"KANSAS CITY  
LEGALIZES MARIJUANA."



2030  
Headline News  
"ARROWHEAD MOVES  
TO KCK."



In the 'New Way to do Same Thing' scenario, young families are drawn to Wyandotte County and its suburban-style growth. Lack of creative economic development in KCK, however, allows disparities to persist.

2035  
Headline News  
"3D HOUSING  
DEVELOPMENT BOOMS."







## 6.2 | SCENARIO B: 15-MINUTE CITY

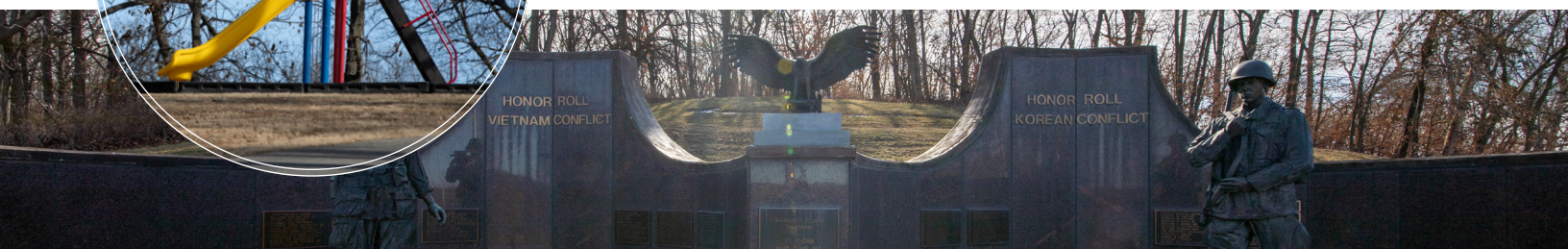
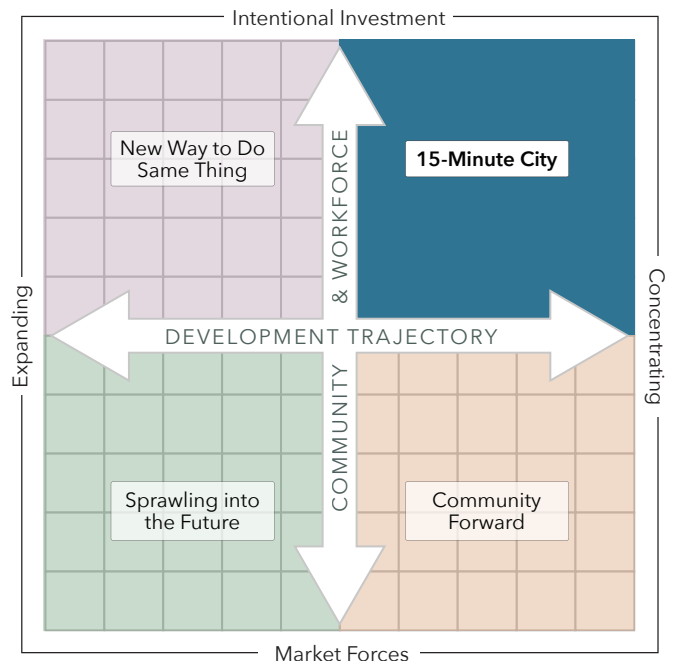
The '15-Minute City' scenario paints a future where KCK becomes self-sustaining and severe poverty and neglect are purposefully eliminated. Diversity is nurtured and creative economic development is applied equitably throughout the City.

This scenario forecasts a future where there is purposeful investment in building a strong and equitable community fabric for those who live and work in KCK.

The downtown core area is revitalized by building on existing infrastructure in creative ways, and zoning and building codes are amended to allow more intergenerational housing and increased density. There is a focus on investment in what is already there; in the people and buildings that create the City's multi-cultural and diverse character. Diversity is celebrated and welcomed, and more languages are spoken in schools. Self-contained neighborhoods are created, and emphasis is placed on creating a '15-minute city' that provides needed quality of life amenities within 15 minutes of residents' homes. Past generations are attracted back to KCK and reinvestment becomes the norm. New economic development tools such as heritage tourism, water resource trade, and 'building our own' modular housing on existing WYCO land provides connectivity and synergy with the rest of the County. Small businesses flourish with new support systems, and workforce development is about upskilling current residents as AI and automation replace workers.

### SCENARIO SNAPSHOT

- Downtown urban core is revitalized
- Focus on historic preservation
- '15-minute city' is a reality
- WYCO is leader in modular housing
- Small businesses flourish in KCK



# SCENARIO B CHARACTERISTICS: '15-MINUTE CITY' - 25 YEARS FROM NOW

In the '15-Minute City' scenario, leadership seeks to address the inequities that have built up over time. The community confronts its challenges and invests the time and money required to attain equitable solutions for KCK.

The characteristics of this scenario convey a future that doubles down on improving the lives of residents and workers in KCK. There is a focus on economic development measures that provide affordable housing and increase median incomes in an equitable manner. Quality of life amenities are accessible within a 15-minute walking radius, and expanded educational opportunities are available to local residents.



## SOCIAL FABRIC AND COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

**Focus is on supporting the diverse, multi-cultural population who live and work in KCK.**

- Deep investment in future-proofing education starting very young.
- All families have access to broadband, healthy foods, and healthcare.
- Hubs of learning, arts, and culture are created to celebrate the community's diversity and inclusion.
- Upskilling is in place to support more movement to higher paying jobs as AI and automation impact the manual labor force.
- Displacement from reinvestment is curtailed by new programs and expanded services



## LOCAL ECONOMY AND INDUSTRY CHARACTERISTICS

**Strong economic development approach invests in innovation, mixed-use, redevelopment and repurposing.**

- Area Plans are updated to create self-contained 15-minute neighborhoods.
- Businesses stay in KCK and develop strong networks of support.
- Heritage tourism expands, especially in the Quindaro Ruins and Northeast KCK area.
- Existing infrastructure is strengthened, and new transportation modes increase access to opportunity.



## BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

**Development concentrates on updating and reimagining existing areas and neighborhoods of KCK.**

- Housing typology expands and zoning changes to include more multi-generational, prefab housing and Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU).
- Urban farming expands to provide locally grown healthy foods.
- Social infrastructure - parks, green space and recreational areas are restored; access is expanded.
- Gentrification occurs as more people move back into the inner core neighborhoods of KCK.
- Microgrids are created to build climate resiliency.

### 2025 Headline News

"'WELCOME BACK HOME PROGRAM' LAUNCHES TO INCENTIVIZE MULTIGENERATIONAL HOUSING & ENTREPRENEURSHIP."



### 2030 Headline News

"RIBBON CUTTING FOR MULTICULTURAL CENTER CELEBRATES 72+ CULTURES IN OUR COMMUNITY."



### 2035 Headline News

"KCK EARNs GOLD STANDARD FOR EQUITABLE URBAN REGENERATION."







The 'Community Forward' scenario paints a future where there is tremendous investment in the hard infrastructure of KCK and people return to the City to live and work. Market forces increase the cost of living and without more affordable housing, most low-income wage earners are displaced.

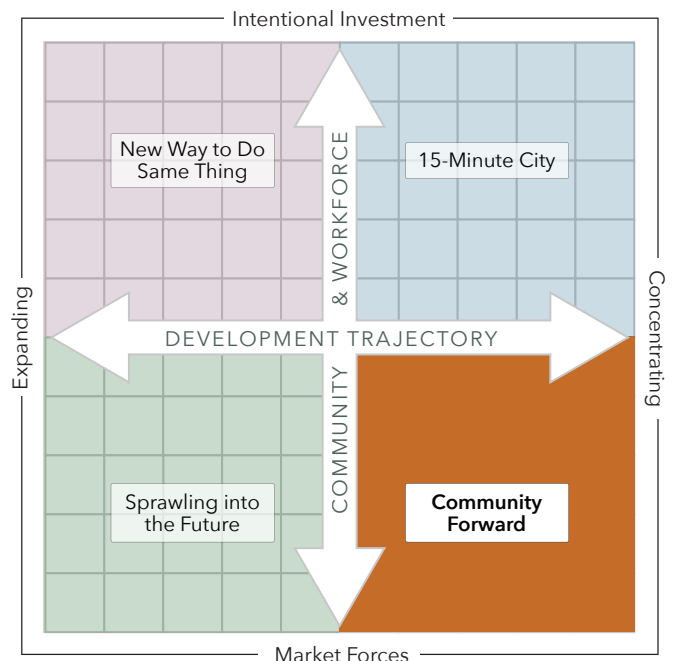
## 6.3 | SCENARIO C: COMMUNITY FORWARD

This scenario forecasts a future where local government is intentional about concentrating development in KCK and incentivizes re-development and repurposing of existing buildings and infrastructure.

High density and mixed-use buildings are prioritized. Pride runs high in KCK and historic preservation of existing buildings is also encouraged and sought after. Market forces are allowed to dictate this development and housing costs rise precipitously as developers do not incorporate low-income or affordable housing options and amenities. New modes of transportation are introduced, and businesses continue to source workers from both inside and outside the County. A regional mass-transit system moves people easily to and from communities outside WYCO. The community evolves and changes based on natural market forces and KCK begins to lose its cultural diversity as people are displaced out of an urban core that becomes too expensive for many to afford.

### SCENARIO SNAPSHOT

- New transportation modes emerge
- KCK buildings are redeveloped and repurposed
- Housing prices soar in KCK
- Developers compete for space in KCK
- Workforce shortages continue



# SCENARIO C CHARACTERISTICS: 'COMMUNITY FORWARD' – 25 YEARS FROM NOW

In the 'Community Forward' scenario, the community moves forward for some, but not for all. Low-income wage earners are left behind and the City loses its unique multi-cultural strength.

The characteristics of this scenario convey a future where pride runs deep in KCK and there is a concerted effort to preserve, re-develop and repurpose existing infrastructure and areas of the City. Incentives attract developers to the area and their priorities lead development. Green space is preserved. Housing costs rise and density increases as people move back into the City.



## SOCIAL FABRIC AND COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

**Job creation provides more employment opportunities but poverty in KCK persists.**

- Houses are sold to the highest bidder and extreme displacement of low-income wage earners takes place.
- There is continued support from nonprofits and community resources.
- There is pride in the community and grassroots investment increases.
- Government focuses on historic preservation and rehabilitation of existing neighborhoods.



## LOCAL ECONOMY AND INDUSTRY CHARACTERISTICS

**Strong focus on creating density and investing in local scale development.**

- Business sectors spur innovation and job creation and build climate resilience in KCK.
- Current infrastructure is improved and repurposed; tax revenue increases.
- Regional commuter rail is installed.
- Education for upskilling is provided, but jobs continue to be outsourced to those living outside of Wyandotte County.



## BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

**Incentivized re-development and repurposing of existing spaces is encouraged in KCK.**

- Form-based code to preserve and enhance historic character and mixed-use building is promoted in KCK.
- Housing is driven by market needs and developer priorities and gentrification occurs.
- Green space in neighborhoods is preserved.
- Neighborhoods are tailored to design criteria with unique zoning.

### 2025 Headline News

"CELEBRATING AWARD-WINNING ROCK ISLAND BRIDGE."



### 2030 Headline News

"LEEVE FEST FEATURES ONLY LOCALLY SOURCED FOODS AND PRODUCTS."



### 2035 Headline News

"KCK'S UNIQUE ZONING ATTRACTS A HUB OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPERS."







## 6.4 | SCENARIO D: SPRAWLING INTO THE FUTURE

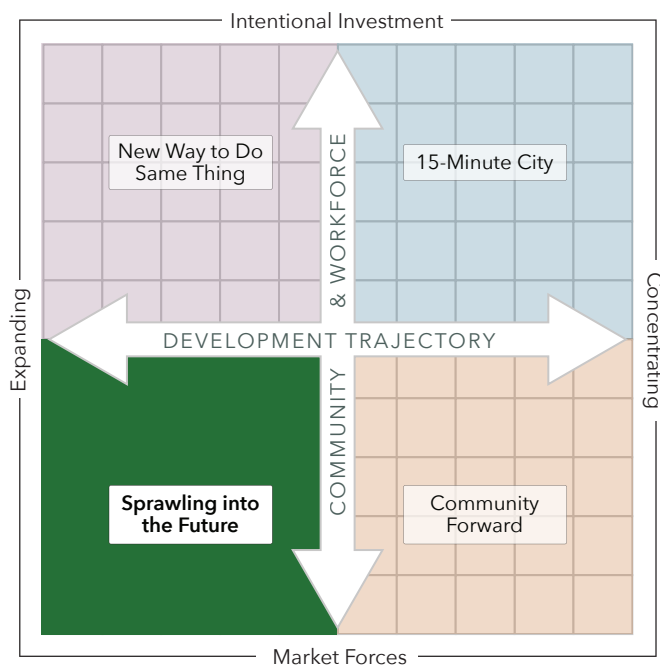
This scenario forecasts a future where nothing much changes in the development trajectory of KCK.

Focus is on pursuing traditional approaches to economic, infrastructure and workforce development. Market forces are allowed to play out and there are definite winners and losers in WYCO. The western area of the County continues to thrive and sprawl with single-family home and large industrial development as the mainstay for investment. Additional developments similar to the Legends are built. Competition for housing is fierce as land is developed and affordability concerns rise for both middle and low-income wage earners. Little change in urban core KCK housing development continues to displace people due to safety and affordability issues. Extreme poverty persists and KCK struggles to maintain financial and social stability.

The 'Sprawling into the Future' scenario paints a future where economic development continues as suburban sprawl in the western part of the County, and KCK struggles to compete for resources and support.

### SCENARIO SNAPSHOT

- Population growth in western part of WYCO
- Market forces spur suburban sprawl
- KCK struggles for investment
- East-West WYCO disparities increase
- Legends II and III are built



# SCENARIO D CHARACTERISTICS: 'SPRAWLING INTO THE FUTURE' - 25 YEARS FROM NOW

The characteristics of this scenario convey a future that highlights the disparities of East-West WYCO. Lack of connection and the infrastructure debt cycle persist. New industry is drawn to the West with its potential for growth and land, and small businesses and residents struggle for resources and support in the historic core.

In the 'Sprawling into the Future' scenario, there is a serious danger that East-West WYCO disparities will exacerbate and KCK will see increased poverty and urban decay.



## SOCIAL FABRIC AND COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

**Suburban lifestyle thrives and attracts young families.**

- School-age family population increases in the western portion of the County.
- There is less focus on existing neighborhoods and the history of KCK, and community vitality is lost.
- More investment in suburban amenities; less in the urban core.
- There is less of an inclusive attitude in the County and poverty increases.



## LOCAL ECONOMY AND INDUSTRY CHARACTERISTICS

**Development expansion is focused on the western area of Wyandotte County.**

- Western development exacerbates the East-West disparities in the County.
- Additional resources for the inner-city come from the expansion of the tax base in the western area of the County.
- Expansion occurs in the healthcare industry.
- Taxes and fees are lower because of planned expansion of industry.



## BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

**Resources are devoted to single-family home suburban development.**

- Subdivision development with single-family homes and large lots; more Legends inspired retail occurs.
- The County becomes more car-centric and more, larger roads are needed to connect areas.
- Housing affordability decreases significantly.
- Regional parks are developed instead of smaller neighborhood parks.

### 2025 Headline News

"SAVE WYCO - BUY BONDS."



### 2030 Headline News

"WELCOME TO MIDDLE CLASS AMERICA."



### 2035 Headline News

"HINDSIGHT 2020 - DO NOT TRY THIS AT HOME."





# 7.0 | LEAST DESIRED, EXPECTED, AND PREFERRED FUTURES

## 7.1 | LEAST DESIRED FUTURE

The Least Desired Future is defined as ‘the future that is considered to be the most undesirable (or least optimal or least desired) for the future of KCK.’ Vision Summit participants most definitely considered Scenario D, ‘Sprawling into the Future’ to be the Least Desired scenario for KCK.

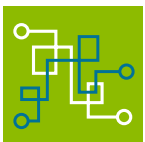
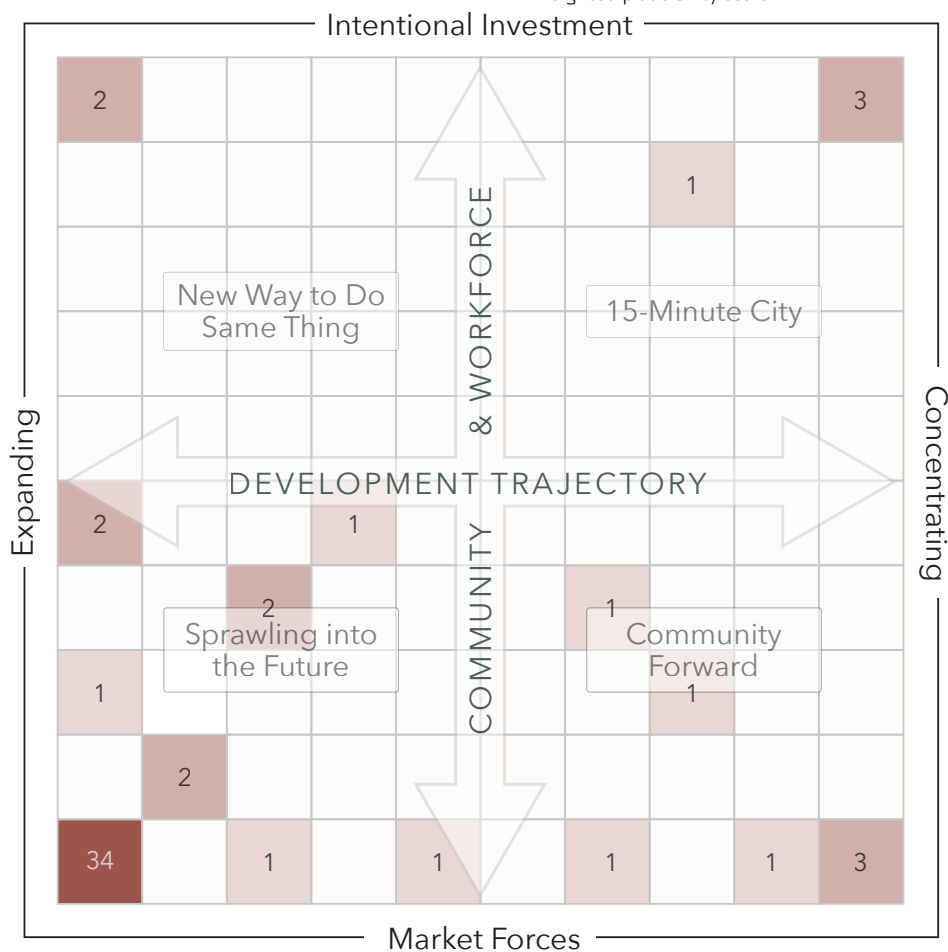
The least desired future is one where stakeholders have said, ‘We don’t want that.’ This provides leadership a mandate to change the trajectory of the City to avoid this scenario.



### Least Desirable Future

PlanKCK Vision Summit

This grid displays the plausibility level assigned by the workshop participants. The darker the color, the greater the aggregate weighted plausibility score.



FutureInsight

- The data of the least desired future shows a strong concentration in the bottom corner of the quadrant in Scenario D, ‘Sprawling into the Future.’ This indicates a strong desire not to head in that direction.
- The least desired future provides a clear sense that Vision Summit participants do not want market forces to prevail, nor do they want uncontrolled sprawl within the County.

## 7.2 | EXPECTED FUTURE

The expected future is one deemed most likely to happen if there is no change in the current trajectory of KCK. The majority of Vision Summit participants indicated that scenario D, “Sprawling into the Future”, is the scenario they believed most represented the expected future of KCK looking ahead 25 years.

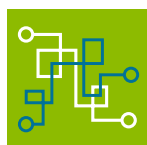
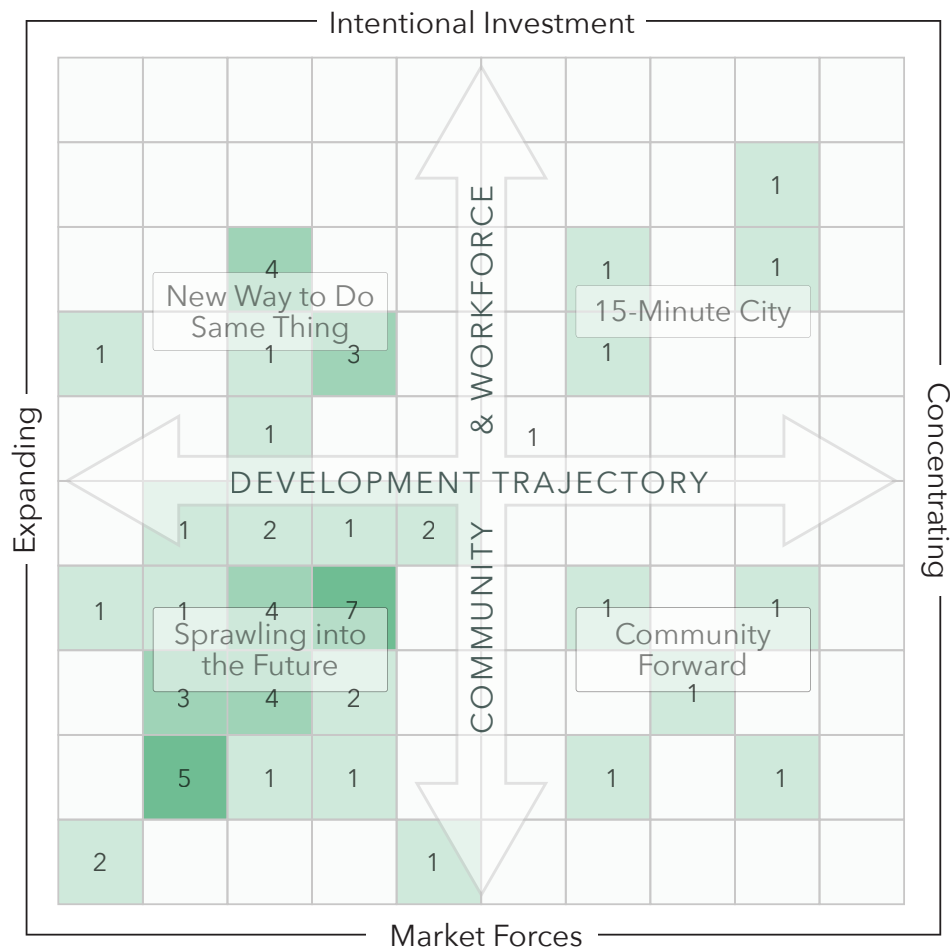
The Expected Future represents the future that is most likely to happen if KCK does nothing to change economic development direction or trajectory.



### Expected Future

PlanKCK Vision Summit

This grid displays the plausibility level assigned by the workshop participants. The darker the color, the greater the aggregate weighted plausibility score.



FutureInsight

- The expected future may seem familiar, but Vision Summit participants have shown a clear desire to move away from the status quo to the preferred future.
- The expected future as seen by Vision Summit participants indicates the need to move along both the Community & Workforce and the Development Trajectory axes if KCK is to get to the preferred future.



## 7.3 | PREFERRED FUTURE

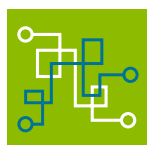
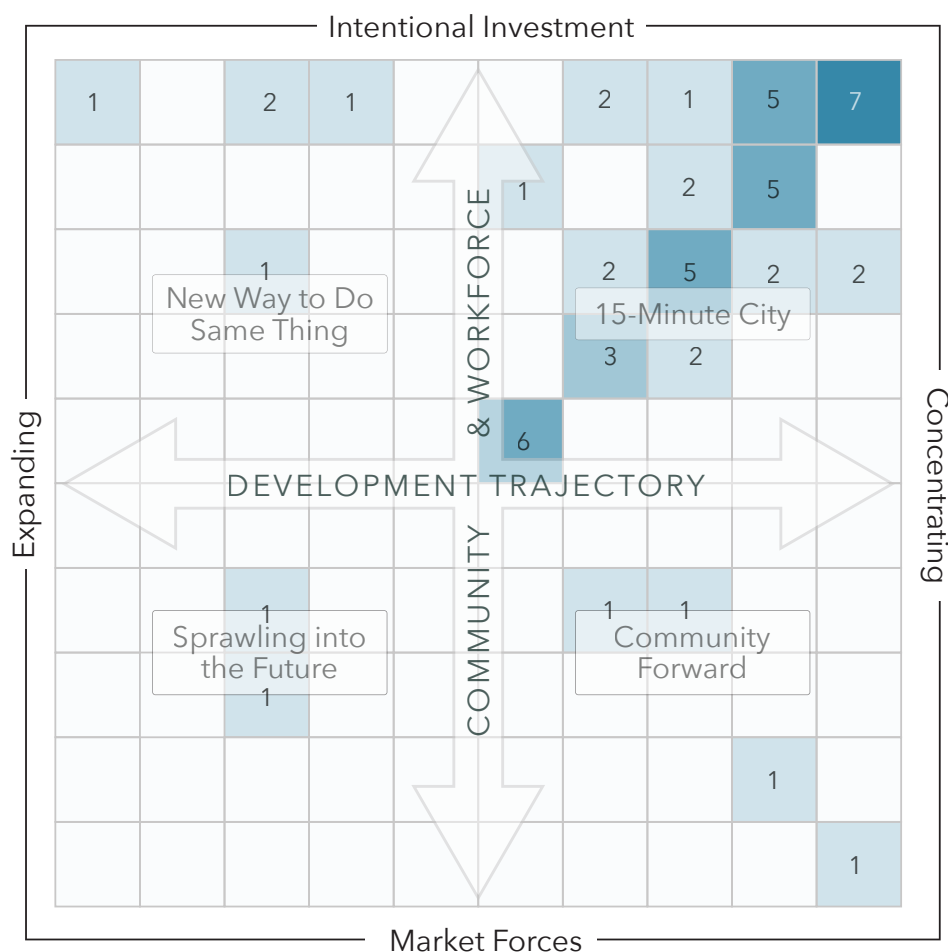
Vision Summit participants expressed an overwhelming preference for Scenario B, '15-Minute City' as the Preferred Future for KCK in 25 years. Vision Summit participants discussed the consequences of inaction and the need to take decisive action now to redirect the City's trajectory over the next 25 years. This future combines significant intentional investment in community and workforce as well as concentrating economic development in KCK to build on existing infrastructure by re-development, repurposing and increasing density within the City.

Strong leadership, trust and committed stakeholders will be needed to enable the preferred future trajectory to be pursued.



### Preferred Future PlanKCK Vision Summit

This grid displays the plausibility level assigned by the workshop participants. The darker the color, the greater the aggregate weighted plausibility score.



FutureInsight

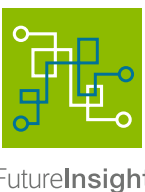
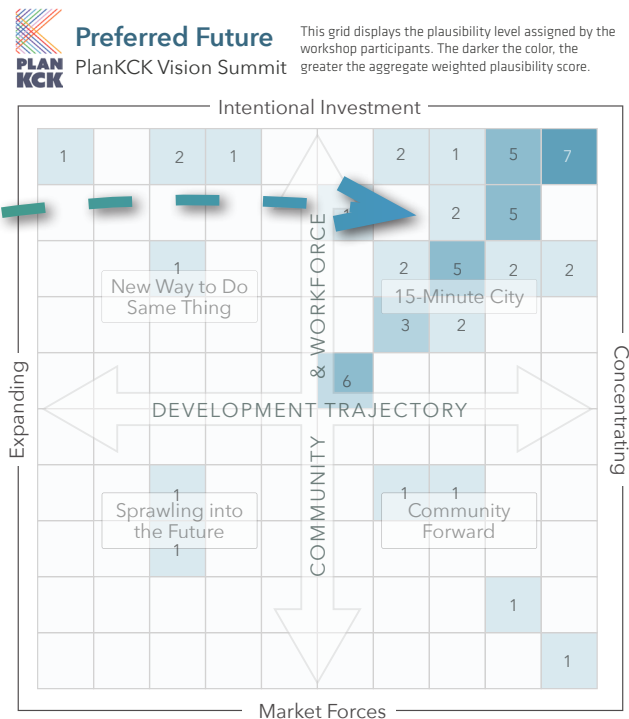
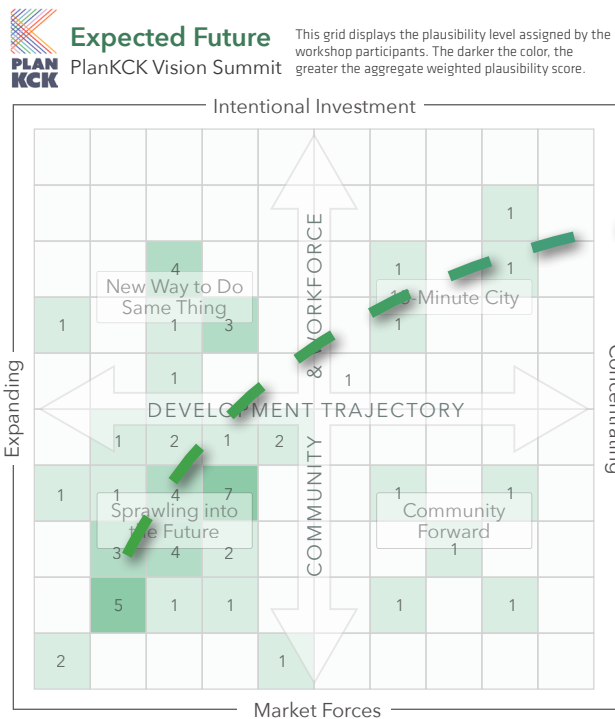
- The concentration of color, particularly in the far upper right corner in Scenario B, '15-Minute City,' indicates a close alignment of thinking among Vision Summit participants and a clear desire for change.
- The Vision Summit's scenario-planning is a significant step in visioning process to define collectively how KCK will strategically plan to steer away from the least desirable and expected futures towards the preferred future.



Because of the long-term nature of the Scenario Planning methodology, stakeholders often see the 'distant future vision' as unattainable and unrealistic. However, this underestimates the progress that can be made during the intervening years, and the cumulative positive impacts of change.

## 7.4 | GETTING TO THE PREFERRED FUTURE

Vision Summit participants discussed the ramifications and implications of failing to achieve the preferred future. While there was strong alignment among Vision Summit participants that Scenario B, '15-Minute City,' represented the preferred scenario, it was also recognized that changing current trajectory will require a good hard look at the challenges and realities of why KCK is in its current position. Strong leadership, trust building, collaboration, investment, and clear communications will be required to support the current momentum and desire for change in the City.



- Arriving at a point of consensus among stakeholders about the preferred future is very important to the visioning process as it provides a sense of cohesion, agreement, and balanced solutions going forward.
- KCK is well-positioned geographically to move towards the preferred future by leveraging its location and water resources to expand regional connectivity in pursuit of new economic development opportunities for the City.



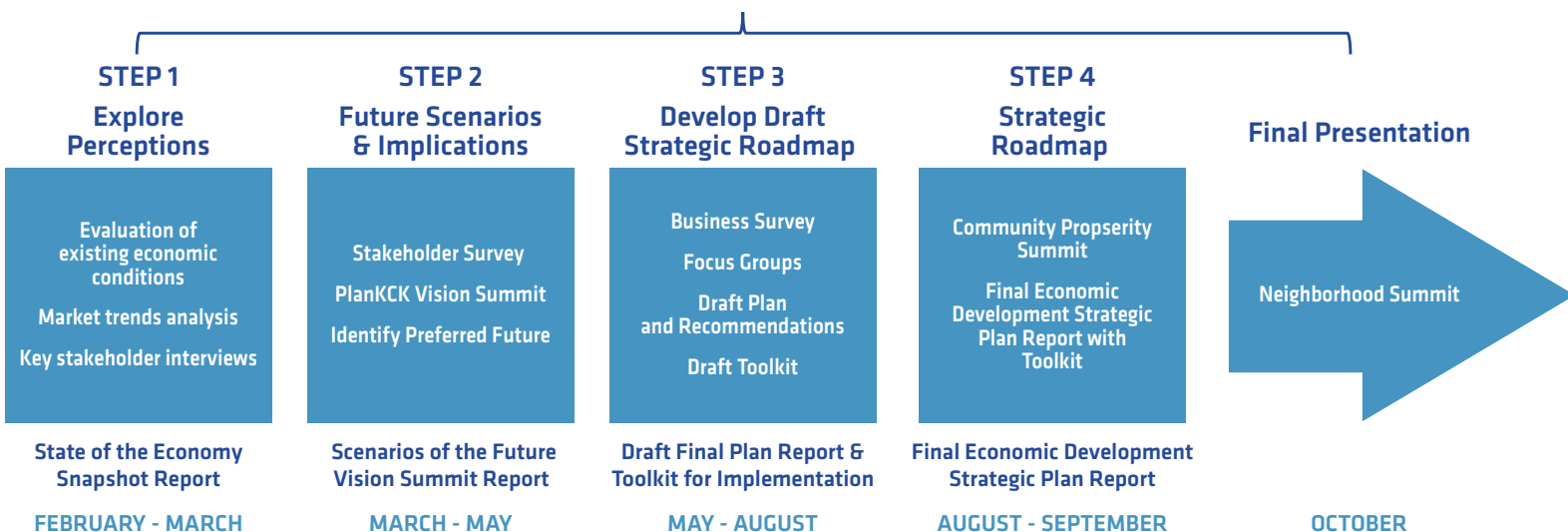


## 8.0 | NEXT STEPS – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN

Following the Vision Summit, the Economic Development planning portion of this work moves into the ‘Develop Draft Strategic Plan’ phase of the economic development strategic planning process. It should be noted that this planning process is being aligned with PlanKCK, the comprehensive plan that will cover many subjects, including Historic Preservation, Housing, and more.

Please stay connected to the economic development strategic planning project at [wycokck.org/PlanKCK](http://wycokck.org/PlanKCK).

### UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF WYANDOTTE COUNTY-KANSAS CITY, KANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS FOR KCK



### TIMELINE – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN

- June – July 2023 – The Business Survey will be developed and launched to gather input on support gaps and opportunities for businesses in KCK. The survey will run from mid-June through the end of July.
- July 2023 – Draft economic development strategic pillars will be crafted in July.
- July - August 2023 – The economic development strategic pillars will be validated with targeted Focus Groups centered around the strategic pillars.
- August 14, 2023 – The strategic plan framework will be presented and validated with KCK stakeholders at the Community Prosperity Summit.
- September 2023 – Final draft of the Economic Strategic Plan with Toolkit
- October 2023 – The Economic Development Strategic Plan will be presented along with the Comprehensive Plan and the Historic Preservation Plan at a joint Neighborhood Summit in October.



## 9.0 | ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

UG Staff, County Commissioners, the Mayor, CAO, community members and stakeholders have engaged in this economic development strategic planning process with great enthusiasm. Their passion and interest have ensured discussions are open, thoughtful, and reflective of the myriad of perspectives that exist within Wyandotte County. This dedication is also reflective of the deep commitment participants have to the future of KCK.

The Future iQ project team would like to thank the individuals that took the PlanKCK Vision Summit Stakeholder Survey, as well as the approximately 120 Vision Summit participants. We recognize that taking part in the half-day Vision Summit was a significant commitment. Additionally, we would like to thank Gunnar Hand, Alyssa Marcy, and DeWayne Bright Sr., who meet regularly with the project team to provide the local expertise that helps guide this project. Your time and dedication are greatly appreciated.

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### MAYOR / CEO

**Tyrone Garner**

## 10.0 | CONTACT DETAILS

For more information on the PlanKCK Economic Development Strategic Plan project, please contact:

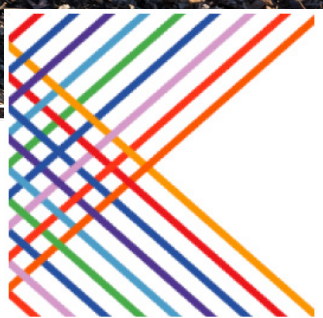
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Please stay connected to the economic development strategic planning project at  
[www.wycokck.org/PlanKCK](http://www.wycokck.org/PlanKCK)





**PLAN  
KCK**

UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF WYANDOTTE  
COUNTY-KANSAS CITY, KANSAS  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN

# VISION SUMMIT REPORT

KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, USA

MAY 2023