

**Appendix A- Public Involvement Community Survey**

## **Citizens' Survey**

The Comprehensive Plan Update of 2017 – 2018 was well overdue. Initiated by Lynn Behrns in 2014, the document serves a legal purpose as described before, but for the document to be truly useful it requires the guidance and input of the citizens of Centralia. The primary way the citizens affected the Plan was through the four subcommittees whose reports are included in the earlier chapters. But it was also necessary to give all other citizens a chance to impact the survey through a survey.

During the last Comprehensive Plan update in 1987 a survey was administered and 1,143 responses were received. Some of the same questions were used directly or modified, but many of the questions were specific to this Plan and came out of the discussions of the Subcommittees. Moreover in order to keep the survey shorter demographic data and specific questions about what kind of shops people used in town or out of town people used were deleted. . In addition the survey was conducted both by handwritten surveys distributed with the city Newsletter in April and was available online with the use of the Survey Monkey application. A total of 454 responses were submitted; 171 handwritten and 283 entered online.

This summary of the data follows the outline of the Survey which in turn was divided up largely along the lines of the four subcommittees: Land Use & Multi-modal Transportation; Utilities, Public Works, & the Environment; Community Facilities & Emergency Management; and Economic Development & Financial Resources. However for expediency some questions had overlapping questions, especially where there is competition for resources between different options.

In this section there are summarized questions with some aggregation of answers analysis of the raw data. Some attempts to draw obvious conclusions are made and some comparisons to the 1987 Survey is included as well. Appendix A at the back contains all of the raw data and the written comments.

In the end, all decisions that follow along the guidelines of this plan must be supported by the citizens of Centralia and their elected officials with the best information made available by staff and other sources. Therefore the citizens' survey and the work of the Subcommittees is the backbone of the future of the City of Centralia's growth, development and response the challenges it will face.

The surveys were completed between March 22 and June 11, 2017.

## TRANSPORTATION

Question 1. Please indicate whether you consider each of the following transportation needs to be a high, medium or low priority. Also, please rank the needs from 1 to 7, with 1 representing the most important priority.

Transportation Needs	Priority Level		
	High	Medium	Low
Widening of Highway 124 between Centralia and Hallsville.	<b>226</b>	121	91
Improvements to the intersection of Highway 22 and Jefferson Street to improve safety and congestion issues.	222	159	57
Improvements to the intersection of Highway 124 and Lakeview Avenue, including a deceleration lane on Highway 124 and a turn lane on Lakeview Avenue to turn onto Highway 124.	157	<b>189</b>	92
Improvements to the student drop-off/pick-up area in front of Chester Boren Middle School on Jefferson Street.	173	172	87
Widening of Jefferson Street near the high school (from Cox St. to Gano Chance Dr.) to three lanes with a turn lane as the middle lane.	70	179	<b>186</b>
Overlays to all downtown streets.	111	181	141
Better public transportation to the region (Columbia, Mexico, Hallsville) for elderly or others without access to a car	95	180	164

Transportation Needs	Weighted Average Rank*	Weighted Average Priority <sup>†</sup>	Times listed as priority #1	% listing as priority #1 - #3
Widening of Highway 124 between Centralia and Hallsville.	<b>1.62</b>	3.00	176	63.33%
Improvements to the intersection of Highway 22 and Jefferson Street to improve safety and congestion issues.	1.69	3.01	74	67.23%
Improvements to the intersection of Highway 124 and Lakeview Avenue, including a deceleration lane on Highway 124 and a turn lane on Lakeview Avenue to turn onto Highway 124.	1.80	3.50	39	54.81%
Improvements to the student drop-off/pick-up area in front of Chester Boren Middle School on Jefferson Street.	1.85	3.57	61	49.13%
Widening of Jefferson Street near the high school (from Cox St. to Gano Chance Dr.) to three lanes with a turn lane as the middle lane.	2.07	4.77	13	22.72%
Overlays to all downtown streets.	2.16	4.53	48	32.10%
Better public transportation to the region (Columbia, Mexico, Hallsville) for elderly or others without access to a car	2.27	4.98	25	26.05%
<p><b>Weighted Average Rank*</b> High = 1.0, Medium = 2.0, Low = 3.0. Scores are added for each question and averaged. The lowest score is the highest aggregate priority.</p> <p><b>Weighted Average Priority<sup>†</sup></b> Averages the priority given to each option.</p>				

One of the difficulties we faced was that not all respondents who filled our handwritten surveys were willing to cooperate with the attempt to force choices for priorities. We received several surveys where people were unable or unwilling to assign a first priority to only one choice or assigned the same level priority to multiple choices. A full explanation of how those responses were handled is found in Appendix A.

With that caveat in mind, it seems clear that the projects that involve State owned streets are the ones that are the top priorities for Centralia respondents. This does *not* mean that the responses are not useful to directing City efforts. The Missouri Department of Transportation (MODOT) relies heavily on the input from local authorities to set priorities. Between the time the surveys were completed and the writing of this report, MODOT has met with the City concerning the intersection of MO HWY 22, MO HWY 124 and MO HWY 151, which meet at the intersection where Dollar General and Forrest Chevrolet are located. The data collected in the Comprehensive Plan process, including the survey, was important information in the discussion.

While there was not question asked about this particular intersection (MO HWY 22, MO HWY 124 and MO HWY 151) widening of MO 124 was listed as the #1 priority the most and was both the lowest (most important) Weighted Average Rank and the highest (most important) Weighted Average Priority.

Among the projects that are completely within City control, traffic control at Chester Boren Middle School is the highest priority, with overlaying downtown streets behind. The lowest priority was one that the Land Use & Multimodal Transportation Subcommittee felt was a very important.

These data indicate that continued work with MODOT on 124 should be pursued and the City may wish to look into submitting a proposal for a TEAP (Traffic Engineering Assistance Program) grant at the next funding cycle.

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND HOUSING

Question 2. How do you feel about the following statements about future community facilities for Centralia? Please mark strongly agree, agree, neutral/no opinion, disagree, or strongly disagree. Also please rank which facility you think is most important, with 1 representing the most important priority and 5 the least important priority.

Park & Recreation Priorities	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral or No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Centralia should expand the Recreational Center.	116	138	139	29	20
Centralia should build an indoor aquatic center.	154	125	86	45	33
Centralia (the school system or the City) should build a Fine and Performing Arts Facility.	71	94	178	65	34
Centralia should develop a walking trail system across the City (using some existing sidewalks)	133	165	85	39	22
The City needs to add additional park land/playing fields	30	69	181	117	44

Park & Recreation Priorities	% Who Agree or Strongly Agree	Times listed as priority #1	Weighted Average Rank*	Weighted Average Priority <sup>‡</sup>	% listing as priority #1 or #2
Centralia should develop a walking trail system across the City (using some existing sidewalks)	67.12%	96	2.21	2.78	44.78%
Centralia should build an indoor aquatic center.	62.98%	123	2.26	2.61	56.31%
Centralia should expand the Recreational Center.	57.47%	77	2.31	2.73	47.31%
Centralia (the school system or the City) should build a Fine and Performing Arts Facility.	37.33%	45	2.76	3.54	24.68%
The City needs to add additional park land/playing fields	22.45%	21	3.17	3.94	13.66%
<b>Weighted Average Rank*</b> Strongly Agree = 1.0, Agree = 2.0, Neutral or No Opinion = 3.0. Scores are added for each question and averaged. The lowest score is the highest aggregate priority. <b>Weighted Average Priority<sup>‡</sup></b> Averages the priority given to each option. .					

In this case, the highest priority depends greatly on which analysis you believe gives the best answer to policy makers but developing a waking trail system or building an aquatic center are arguably the top two priorities with expanding the Recreation Center close behind. In fact expanding the Recreation Center is listed as the #1 or #2 priority more often than the walking trail system. What is also clear is that obtaining additional park land is currently the lowest priority by far among respondents.

Question 3. How do you feel about the following statements about Centralia's housing policy?  
Please mark strongly agree, agree, neutral/no opinion, disagree, or strongly disagree.

Housing & Code Enforcement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral or No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	% Who Agree or Strongly Agree
Centralia would benefit from adopting inspections and minimum standards for rental properties.	186	146	84	20	9	74.61%
The City should make demolishing derelict houses a higher priority.	226	147	57	10	5	83.82%

Improving code enforcement has been noted as a high priority, or at least an area where citizens have graded the City down in previous surveys. In addition to the high percentage of respondents who agree or strongly agree with the idea of more emphasis being put on demolition of buildings and instituting minimum standards for rental properties, there were twelve surveys that included additional comments with language about building code and health code enforcement needing to be improved. There was also one that wanted some legal non-conforming manufactured homes to be removed.

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Question 4. How do you feel about the following statements about Centralia's emergency preparedness? Please mark strongly agree, agree, neutral/no opinion, disagree, or strongly disagree.

Emergency preparedness	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral or No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	% Who Agree or Strongly Agree
Centralia should increase efforts to bury power lines in order to help prevent power outages during severe weather.	147	178	83	25	0	75.06%
Centralia is sufficiently equipped with shelters for severe storms and emergencies, such as a tornado.	30	161	133	93	16	44.11%
Centralia's outdoor warning siren system adequately warns of impending storms.	74	241	61	49	7	72.92%
Centralia is prepared to respond to a major storm/disaster.	35	148	154	69	21	42.86%

## Utilities, Public Works and the Environment

In this section we include the survey of city services that includes service in the utilities and other activities of the City.

Utility policies & fees	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral or No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	% Who Agree or Strongly Agree
The City should make it a priority to purchase electricity that comes from renewable sources such as wind and solar, even if it means slight rate increases.	55	112	129	87	47	38.84%
I would be willing to pay a few dollars per month for a storm water utility if it would improve storm drainage in town	62	141	123	67	35	47.43%
I would be willing to pay an additional \$2.50 per month on my monthly trash bill, and buy leaf bags for a curbside yard waste collection system	25	51	104	125	126	17.63%

Question 6. How well do you think the City provides basic services. Please mark Excellent, good, neutral/no opinion, Fair, or Poor.

Please rate city services	Excellent	Good	Neutral or No Opinion	Fair	Poor	% with Favorable Opinion*
Centralia Public Library	194	161	66	5	4	<b>82.56%</b>
Electric Utility	125	225	46	24	9	<b>81.59%</b>
Fire Services (includes EMS service by the City volunteer fire department)	160	188	64	13	5	<b>80.93%</b>
Park Maintenance	117	221	58	25	6	<b>79.16%</b>
Water Utility	100	238	59	20	11	<b>78.97%</b>
Centralia Recreation Center	150	171	97	10	2	<b>74.65%</b>
Sanitary Sewer Utility	74	235	82	25	13	<b>72.03%</b>
Police Services	106	197	65	30	25	<b>71.63%</b>
Trash Collection	66	193	61	65	43	<b>60.51%</b>
Recycling Collection	31	117	156	56	70	<b>34.42%</b>
Stormwater/ Storm Drainage	14	127	107	105	75	<b>32.94%</b>
Street Maintenance	10	109	35	163	113	<b>27.67%</b>
Sidewalk Maintenance	4	67	52	147	162	<b>16.44%</b>

It is notable that the trash service, while still receiving a majority of favorable opinions, it is significantly lower than when the City had the service in house. There were many people who were upset over the early hours of the service and some who felt that the City should not be getting rid of jobs. However

Scores track very closely with previous surveys, other than the Trash Collection and are generally favorable.



## Economic Development & Financial Resources

### **BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Question 7. What percentage of your shopping do you do in Centralia?

Less than 25%	92	21.55%
25% to 50%	171	40.05%
51% to 75%	121	28.34%
76% to 100%	43	10.07%

Question 8. Over the past five years, have you increased or decreased the percentage of your shopping that you do in Centralia?

Increased	182	42.62%
Decreased	61	14.29%
Stayed about the same	184	43.09%

Question 9. How often do you purchase items online?

At least once per week	65	15.08%	3-4 times per year	43	9.98%
At least once per month	153	35.50%	1-2 times per year	38	8.82%
5-7 times per year	81	18.79%	Do not make any purchases online	51	11.83%

Question 10. Please rank from 1 to 7 the importance of attracting the following types of businesses or industries to Centralia with 1 being the most important. If you wish to add one "other" type of business or industry then please rank from 1 to 8.

Business/Industry	Priority 1	Priority 1 - 3	Priority 1 - 3	Weighted Average
More or Better Restaurants	100	68.77%	68.77%	2.94
Manufacturing Companies	118	58.21%	58.21%	3.23
Shopping/Retail	47	58.11%	58.11%	3.32
Day care	81	47.92%	47.92%	3.86
Hotel/Motel	65	46.49%	46.49%	4.09
Service Industries	26	38.61%	38.61%	4.24
Grocery Store	33	21.38%	21.38%	5.34
Other (respondents were asked to fill in the blank for their preference. 192 responses were received)	11	23.44%	23.44%	5.77

Other” Responses from Question 10

Bowling Alley, Bar/night life, Bar, Rental property, Taxi, Redbox, Bring back Dairy Queen, Pharmacy, Fine arts/entertainment industry/concerts, Entertainment (2), Need a lumber yard that stays open on Sunday, Steak and Seafood Restaurants, Outdoor bow shooting range, Bowling Alley, Medical Services, Family Physician, Doctor, Department Store, Infrastructure, Movie Theater, Comics/ Gaming/Hobby Store, Preschool, Full-time Preschool, Job generating/keep people employed. Similar answers were grouped but two answers were identical. Unfortunately the online survey did not allow for a fill-in-the-blank answer.

Question 11. How do you feel about the following statements about Centralia’s existing or possible economic development programs? Please mark strongly agree, agree, neutral/no opinion, disagree, or strongly disagree.

<b>Economic development programs</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral or No Opinion</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>% Who Agree or Strongly Agree</b>
The Purchase with a Purpose campaign has been helpful in promoting local shopping.	32	126	209	45	17	36.83%
The development of the Enhanced Enterprise Zone (EEZ) with tax abatement opportunities was valuable.	11	57	310	32	13	16.08%
Downtown Centralia needs more events to bring in shoppers.	83	207	105	27	7	67.60%
Centralia should invest money in improving the appearance of downtown buildings because it would increase business.	102	143	119	55	10	57.11%

Two clear messages can be found in the data for economic development programs in Centralia. The first is that the existing programs are not well understood or known. The second is that people are interested in seeing more downtown events.

## SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

Question 12. How do you feel about the following statements about Centralia’s schools and other educational opportunities? Please mark strongly agree, agree, neutral/no opinion, disagree, or strongly disagree.

Schools & community education	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral or No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	% Who Agree or Strongly Agree	% With of favorable opinions
I am satisfied with Chance Elementary School	116	147	129	15	2	64.30%	93.93%
Centralia Intermediate School	128	138	135	7	1	65.04%	97.08%
Chester Boren Middle School	97	135	154	18	5	56.72%	90.98%
Centralia High School	95	145	144	20	4	58.82%	90.91%
Champion Academy	76	83	234	8	6	39.07%	91.91%
The Centralia R-VI School District Administration	86	149	133	20	21	57.46%	85.14%
The Centralia R-VI School District communicates well with parents and community members.	98	137	141	24	10	57.32%	87.36%
The Centralia R-VI School District should consider opening a daycare.	82	89	126	62	54	41.40%	59.58%
The Centralia R-VI School District facilities and grounds are well kept.	109	220	63	18	4	79.47%	93.73%
Students in grades 6-12 should have a personal electronic device (tablet) provided by the School District.	57	90	137	81	51	35.34%	52.69%
Students at Centralia R-VI schools are prepared for college.	56	171	154	23	7	55.23%	88.33%
Students at Centralia R-VI schools are prepared for careers.	43	156	166	38	10	48.18%	80.57%
Centralia R-VI schools are an asset to the Centralia Community.	187	159	61	5	2	83.57%	98.02%
There is a need for adult education in the Centralia area.	75	164	151	19	7	57.45%	90.19%
There is a need for more fine and performing arts opportunities for adults and children outside of school activities.	72	127	151	47	17	48.07%	75.67%
The public school system and the City have a mutually beneficial and cooperative relationship.	75	175	151	10	3	60.39%	95.06%

Because of the large number of people who expressed no opinion or a neutral opinion a separate column was added to find the percentage of those with a favorable opinion of those who expressed a definite opinion. It is possible that those members of the community that do not

have children in school, or do not kids in a particular school, are reluctant to express an opinion. A particularly clear example of this is Champion Academy where 57.5% of all responses were neutral or no opinion. Champion Academy is the alternative school set up by the district to keep kids in school who have had problems in the standard school setting. Of those who has a definite opinion 91.9% were favorable but only 39.1% of the total responses replied that agreed or strongly agreed that there were satisfied with Champion Academy.

## GENERAL CITY OPINIONS

Question 13. How do you feel about the following statements about Centralia’s customer service and communication with citizens? Please mark strongly agree, agree, neutral/no opinion, disagree, or strongly disagree.

<b>Customer service</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral or No Opinion</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>% Who Agree or Strongly Agree</b>
I know how to find information about City services and operations.	68	234	65	38	11	72.60%
I find it easy to use the City web site to find information.	50	160	129	61	16	50.48%
City employees are generally polite and professional.	99	205	64	35	15	72.73%
I make sure that I vote in municipal elections.	136	166	93	17	4	72.60%
Overall I feel safe in Centralia	176	216	18	4	1	94.46%
Centralia is a good place to raise a family	226	165	23	3	0	93.76%

## Comments

8 – Get rid of this new trash company. You have continued to lie about that cost of this company. Now our rates are rising yet again. Saying you are still looking for money from storm damage. Easy fix. Have a fund on our electric bill for damages \$2-5 per customer. Let us know the running balance and when funds are removed. Look the budget is fixed. We as a community are prepared to vote everyone out. Start listening to us and stop listening to pencil pushers.

9 – Highway 22 and 124 is also a dangerous intersection. A stop light would be fantastic!

12 – I think the 2nd Saturday at the library is an EXCELLENT program and should be expanded so that other places (ex. Rec Center) could provide activities for our kids as well. Having an event each weekend at some location would be a great contribution to the youth of Centralia.

29 – We need a 24hr hospital/clinic in Centralia.

31 – Need a push to cleanup/demolish non useable buildings. Also like to see rental housing have some codes. To many houses in Centralia need to be tore down or remodeled. Ruined down buildings and houses don't help the future growth and economy of Centralia.

46 – The new trash company is ridiculous and I very much hate it that Centralia no longer has it's own trash service. Not only is the recycling schedule inconvenient but the amount of things they DON'T pick up is ridiculous. I would rather pay a little more and have the city's trash service again than deal with these guys. Buying trash bags to bag EVERYTHING in the can is ridiculous and only adds to the trash problem. Also I think that it should be looked into for the schools to have city bus routes for some of these kids. Some kids have no choice but to walk to and from the CIS and that's quite a distance from the other schools. Small towns like Paris have in town bus routes that are just added onto the regular bus routes and that helps tremendously.

47 – Over the phone/ online payments for utilities needed.

48 - Update in technical infrastructure would allow for further development, leading to more potential than what was listed (internet providers and coverage). Having a master plan of the city and outlying areas beyond the Economic Development plan, specific zoning areas for development. Development of the south side of the town should be addressed outside of widening the intersection at Lakeview, residential is increasing there more rapidly and seems to be under served with utilities and street repair.

75 – Tear down old run down empty house I would rather see empty lots that could be old then old ugly empty run down homes.

76 – How about turning the Chance mansion on the corner of Jefferson Lakeview into a beautiful bed and breakfast? I would like to see the tennis courts redone people who play more tennis if it was a nice Court.

77 – I believe the top priority should be to pave the 3 gravel roads inside city limits, especially Columbia Street. It is ludicrous that there are gravel roads inside city limits let alone one that has high traffic.

84 – You need to offer the option of paying city utility bills online

88 – On the streets. I think that the city needs to worry about some of the streets in residential neighborhoods that have been neglected for the past 25-30 years than to worry about what the downtown has, which for the greater part fine. All I hear is downtown, downtown, downtown - please worry about the residents more. I would love to see a Walmart or similar store so that we don't have to go out of town for the most part to shop. Quit worrying about the schools, these kids may be prepared for college, but they aren't prepared to take care of themselves because no one wants parents to be responsible adults, unless it's convenient. For that matter, the school doesn't want to be responsible either. I feel like the wrong questions were asked about the school. Are they responsible to the community? Heck no and that should really be a stronger word. I have neighbors moving because of the school and their will to alienate others - alienation on purpose it seems. Do I think the school is respectful to the community?

Heck no, again a stronger word should be used. As far as the parks? Is there something wrong with the rec center? Many times I've been in there and I see nothing wrong with it, so why does it need improving. So no, I don't agree with rec center improvements. Again, I also do not agree with it being used for after school day care, once again, parents aren't responsible for their children, dump them different places, just like this. This is a bad, very bad, message to this generation of parenting. Pop those kids out and make sure everyone else is raising your kid and not you. Do I agree with a walking path be built either around town or at the city park. You freaking betcha!!!! These folks in this town it seems would rather be hit by a car walking down the street obliviously instead of using existing sidewalks, most of which are in good repair. I could use stronger words here too, since those folks don't seem to care. The sidewalks that are in disrepair, REPAIR them, use some of the street money like you did for Lakeview and Jefferson (which didn't need all the excess lighting or widened streets). There's nothing wrong with trash collection, except for when it doesn't get picked up, which is half the time. Dayne's or whom ever you are using was the worst choice I've seen yet. The street in front of the intermediate school is fine, it's the ridiculous parents that still have to hand hold their kids which is the problem. Though I never could figure out why parking wasn't put on the OTHER side (south side) of the street instead of to the North. That didn't seem to have a lot of thought put into it when it was designed. No one uses it for that very reason, it's on the wrong side of the street. Just redesign the parking and I think you'd see a huge change in societal behavior there, which would help everyone. Not only that it would straighten out the road going to Hwy 124. Not totally sure I understand why people think 124 needs to be widened. You can't control people on their cell phones, that's a law that should be on the books probably more so than seat belts. You can't make people pay attention by changing the road and the problem is not a road problem, it's a people problem.

89 – You need to do something about all the houses that have junk just laying around. It looks awful especially all the houses on Allen Street.

120 – It would be beneficial for the economic growth and beautification of the city to demolish non inhabitable houses and buildings.

161 – The new trash service has been very good. I would love to see a walking trail in Centralia to promote health and local shopping. I would love to see more park lands in Centralia, for health benefit and local promotion. I prefer the idea of a local boutique inn as opposed to a chain hotel with a pool, it doesn't seem to promote the 'shop local' community endeavour...why is nothing being done with the buildings already standing in Centralia? I strongly agree with an alternative student entrance for CBMS..the congestion there is terrible. I asks strongly agree with widening hwy 124..it is apparently unsafe. Thank you for your time.

168 – Streets need repaired citywide not just downtown. Also enforce building codes. Way to many delapetated buildings left to rot. Looks bad and very dangerous

250 – Schools are good from an educational standpoint. The facilities are in desperate need of updates. No hot water in the high school bathrooms? Come on! Parks are good. Do not add until we can take care of what we have better. Drainage is an issue in Centralia. You have ordinances on barking dogs and parked cars but people keep building houses at street or ditch level. Force builders to learn how water flows and hold them accountable for poor building plans. This goes for public buildings too. CIS was almost built right.

272 - Downtown Centralia will never be the retail/shopping district it once was. The 1950's/1960's are long gone and not coming back. Get over it. Shopping habits, behavior, and expectations have changed. Hwy 22 has emerged as Centralia's retail /shopping corridor in large part. Note that several local businesses formerly in or near downtown have relocated to Hwy 22 in recent years. What does that tell you? Hwy 124 from, say, Lakeview to Hwy 22 may hold possibilities for additional retail/shopping/services investment. With the burgeoning interest in "local food" and organic or near-organic products, and with local producers already active on a small scale, perhaps a single consolidated "farmers market" on Hwy 22 would be a draw. Columbia has had success building one complete with a website. Centralia has a good quality of life. Strong contributors to this perception include excellent public schools, excellent parks, pool, and rec center, and a great public library. Nice neighborhoods with affordable housing and decent in-town shopping and services (2 good grocery stores, etc.) are draws as is proximity to Columbia with a reasonable drive on reasonably good roads. I'm impressed at the amount of "urban renewal" I

see around town with housing. Newer houses mixed in as older ones are demolished. Kudos to those responsible for this. The city needs to do a much better job with derelict houses and standards/inspections for rental properties. Great idea to build a city-wide walking/running/biking trail or network. Obviously a potentially big project that would take time but the vision to plan for it is important. Connect the city parks, run a trail alongside the railroad tracks to Columbia, etc. I see the strip of land between S. Columbia St and the railroad tracks with potential for a small city park connected to a trail network. Centralia has a very strong link with Columbia, and that should be leveraged. Long term regional planning should look at exploiting the existing railroad between the two cities. Development of light-rail commuter transit between the cities, and including Hallsville, could be a boon to the region in many ways given that many residents in that corridor work in Columbia or travel there for shopping and services. Scarce tax dollars spent on ever-increasing expansion and maintenance of highways might be better spent developing efficient and affordable public transportation. Such a commuter link would go a long way toward addressing the need for improved public transportation to Columbia in northern Boone County and the surrounding area. Fantasy? It doesn't have to be with vision, advocacy, and sufficient public support. At the very least, the notion should be raised with regional planners.

326 – We need to get some business to downtown. The downtown is looking pretty bad. The downtown area needs the roads repaired. Also, the city needs to fix the street down Jefferson. I am really glad they put new sidewalks on Jefferson by the high school. It's good to be able to walk on them. City needs to get rid of the old house falling down and update the law about vehicles that are sitting around (that are not licensed with the current tax (specifically on Denton St.). Centralia is a pretty town, we just need to improve on tall grass, old trash house and vehicles sitting in the yards that don't run. Thank you for the survey.

332 – Some intersections (for example Jefferson and Lakeview) are very bumpy. Hoarder houses need something done - fencing them is not enough (house on Kellogg Dr. and Allen St) They bring value down on homes and neighbors are frustrated. Cat has no leash law - several cats that are in our neighborhood that have tags and owner doesn't even live with them so they roam free.

353 – A city's responsibilities are to streets, code enforcement, emergency, utility services, business and development, schools and education. It is not a city's responsibility to provide entertainment in arts and recreation that is for the private sector to step in. Is it the city's responsibility to enforce sidewalk improvements and enforce the appearance of buildings. Those are the owner's responsibility. You need to enforce.

416 – Are there codes for maintenance of homes? There are homes that are clearly not maintained, houses with significant vehicles/stuff in yards (heavy equipment/RV/dumpsters) but nothing seems to be done about it – corner Lakeview/Green? Trailers on Lakeview? Brings all property values down...looks like we have no pride in our community. Would like to see codes if they are present enforced, or codes established.

422 – Streets are badly needing repaved. Needs to be an ordinance prohibiting houses from letting trash and etc. from running from the front door clear out in yard. Clean up or be prosecuted

436 – Cleaning the leaves out of city runoff water drains before spring would help. I'm not talking about people's culverts, I mean the steel grates. Get rid of Narragansett building!

454 – Centralia needs to be aware of what is being taught in our schools. We do not want common core ideas and sexual ideas put into our children's heads. Make sure each child knows the constitution before graduation. The downfall of our country depends on it

In addition one citizen submitted two pages of comments with their name on them.