

Questionnaire Results Summary

Homestead, West Homestead, Munhall Borough Implementable Comprehensive Plan

Background

At the first meeting of the Steel Valley Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, the group provided direction to plan consultant Pashek + MTR on potential key issues and questions that should be asked of the community to help inform direction for the Steel Valley's future.

Pashek + MTR then developed a draft questionnaire available online and in hard copy. The Steering Committee and staff reviewed the draft and provided feedback that is reflected in the final version. The questionnaire initially opened in early 2021 and was extended through July 2021 to maximize feedback through a variety of efforts intended to cast a wide net across all three communities. Promotion included paid geofenced advertising on social media, information shared on borough platforms, flyers posted at area businesses and around the communities, outreach to area churches, paper copy distribution at senior high-rises and via Rainbow Kitchen and translation of a paper copy into Russian for the identified limited-English population. The questionnaire was also available via a link on the project website, *SteelValleyPlan.com*.

Response rate

The questionnaire received a total of 340 responses. In validating the data, we flagged any IP address (the address of an individual device) associated with four or more responses, acknowledging that multiple members of a single household could respond using the same computer. However, a detailed review of the responses seems to indicate that all are unique and unlikely to be the result of any effort to unduly influence results. A breakdown of responses by residents and non-residents can be completed by request on any question.

This questionnaire was not intended to achieve statistically valid results. We find value in qualitative information generated by the questionnaire, especially the responses to open-ended questions, and typically use this data to identify trends. The outreach efforts of the Steering Committee and other volunteers helped deliver a large pool of responses that provides valuable insight on the questions asked.

Findings

Pashek+MTR summarized the most important responses to the questionnaire. For additional tabulations and much more detail in qualitative comments, see the full questionnaire printout.

Q1 Which best describes you? (330 responses)

Age range	Respondents as %
I live in Homestead Borough	13.64%
I live in Munhall Borough	68.18%
I live in West Homestead Borough	13.64%
I work or have a business in one of these communities but live elsewhere.	4.55%

Q2 How important are each of these aspects your community to you today? (339 responses)

1. Safe, healthy community to live in
2. Cost of housing/rent
3. Sense of community, people taking care of each other
4. Shopping/services I need are local/convenient
5. Schools

Individual responses include: Restaurants, walkability, maintenance of trees/roads/sidewalks, activities for youth/families, public safety, low taxes

Q3 Please select two places or things you particularly value in Homestead, Munhall and/or West Homestead. (336 responses)

1. Local businesses (48.21%)
2. Restaurants (30.95%)
3. Neighborhoods (27.98%)
4. Library (25.30%)
5. Local parks and trails (23.81%)

Individual responses include: Location, programs, access to the Waterfront, neighborliness

Q4 How important to you are improvements in the following issues in the Steel Valley communities as we move forward? (306 responses)

1. Attracting and retaining local businesses
2. Emergency services
3. Dilapidated buildings, blight
4. Developing/redeveloping targeted areas
5. Streets and roads, traffic

Individual responses include: walkability, accessibility, sidewalk/road maintenance/clean-up, safety, blight, public transportation, historic preservation

Q5 What is your view on the quality of these services in the community where you live, work or own a business? (306 responses)

Most Popular

1. Snow plowing
2. Fire
3. Trash collection
4. Police
5. EMS

Least Popular

1. Recreation programs and opportunities
2. Code enforcement
3. Borough government
4. Street maintenance
5. Utilities (water, sewer, and stormwater)

Individual responses include: sewage/stormwater management, deteriorated West Street, dilapidated buildings, street maintenance

Q6 What do you like most about living here? In other words, if your community ought to be known and appreciated for something, what would that be? (184 individual responses)

- Shopping/Waterfront
- Quiet Area
- Nice People/area
- Transportation
- Housing
- Churches
- Location/Proximity to everything
- Main street/businesses
- Walkability
- Park access/trails
- Restaurants
- Small-town feel
- Community days
- Safety
- History
- Sense of community
- Diversity

- Affordability

Q7 If you would like to add comments that would help us better understand issues, or suggest ways of improving the three communities, please add them below. (110 individual responses)

- Public safety
 - Better traffic control
 - Drug activity
 - Gun violence
- Improved sidewalks/handicap ramps
- Property maintenance
- Need for affordable new businesses
- Improvement of East 8th Avenue
- West St improvements
- Need for a regional identity/activities that build this identity/community spirit
- More community events
- Community clean-up/get rid of litter
- Blight remediation
- Activities for youth/kids/families
- Road maintenance
- More local businesses
- Consolidation of three boroughs
- Promote community's diversity and sense of community
- School district improvements
- Redevelopment
- Public transportation
- Code enforcement

Q8 In what age range do you fall? (300 responses)

	Respondents as %
Younger than 18	0%
19 to 30	11.67%
31 to 50	30.33%
51 to 64	32.67%
65 or older	25.33%

Q9 How long have you lived in, worked in or had a business in the Steel Valley? (298 responses)

	Less than 5 Years	6-15 Years	More than 15 Years
Lived Here	13.45%	15.86%	70.69%
Worked Here	37.04%	23.46%	39.51%
Owned a business here	75.36%	2.90%	21.74%

Q10 What is one thing YOU would be willing to do to improve one or all of the communities? (259 responses)

	Respondents as %
Improve the appearance of my property	15.06%
Help to promote my community	12.74%
Serve on a committee or board	10.42%
Attend council meetings	10.04%
Other	10.04%
Volunteer with the schools or a non-profit organization	9.65%
Work at clean-up day	9.65%
Help to implement some specific elements of the comprehensive plan, once it is completed	8.11%
Maintain a flower garden in a public space	5.02%
Plant a tree	4.63%
Run for elected office	4.63%

Individual responses include: would do multiple of these activities, some already do these things.

Community Trends

Responses were cross-tabulated to examine responses to select questions by community. Themes for each were as follows.

Homestead

- Safe, healthy community to live in was most important followed by shopping services being local/convenient
- Local businesses and restaurants were the most valued places
- Strengthening 8th Avenue business district was the most important improvement followed by emergency services

- Open ended responses: more affordable businesses, housing affordability, community clean-ups, property maintenance, blight

West Homestead

- Safe, healthy community to live in was most important followed by convenience of location and cost of housing/rent
- Local businesses and neighborhoods were the most valued places
- Attracting and retaining local businesses was the most important improvement followed by strengthening 8th Avenue businesses
- Open-ended responses: nice neighborhood, need more community activities

Munhall

- Safe, healthy community to live in was most important followed by sense of community
- Local businesses and neighborhoods were the most valued places
- Attracting and retaining local businesses was the most important improvement followed by dilapidated buildings, blight
- Open-ended responses: nice neighborhood, convenient location, more businesses, road fixes, boroughs should consolidate, blight, more community events, increase in crime

Finally, 63 people provided a contact email address for further information regarding the plan.