

Community Conversation on Growth
June 28, 2018
Group Notes

Group norms (guidelines were identified to ensure productive conversations)

- Stay on topic
- No assumptions
- Short responses
- Respect all geographies
- Respectful
- No bad ideas
- No interrupting
- Time share
- Assume good intentions
- Respect privacy
- No interruptions
- Polite and respect
- Open mind
- Have fun
- Allow others to speak
- Active listening
- Short responses
- Respect
- Not getting upset
- Active listening
- Reasoned discourse
- One speaker at a time
- No bad ideas
- Speak loud
- Respectful
- Participate
- Phones away
- No interruptions
- Open conversation
 - “feel free”
- No interrupting
- Listen with positive intent
- Don't be a jerk
- No bad ideas
- No cell phones
- Listen
- No bad ideas
- No arguing
- Concerns valid

- Respectful
- Civil discourse
- No big political ideas, national
- No Interrupting
- No Bad ideas
- No insults (Be Boise nice ☺)
- Listen
- Be respectful

What do you love about Boise? What do you like best about living here?

- Safety—can be out at night (walkability, walk)/ low crime
- Easy to talk with people—welcoming city, approachable
 - Refugee inclusive
- Boise public schools
- Open space rules
- Affordability of housing
- Low cost of living—compared to large cities
- Family oriented
- Public art—diverse/fun
- Energy of college town—educated, young
- Diverse economy
- A real person picks up the phone—at city services
- Outdoor
 - Activities/open space
 - Access/proximity
 - Culture
- Culture
- Arts
- Medical services are good
- Airport
 - Accessible
 - Layout
 - Parking/maintained
- Clean—trash/graffiti/vandalism
- Walkability/flowers
- Friendly/safe
- River
- Affordable schools
- Walkable
- Officials are accessible
- Access to outdoors
- People/culture
- Pace of life
- Clean

- Benefit from isolation
 - Didn't grow from industrial base
- Parks
- Politics not informed by money
- Investment in active transportation
- Events and activities
- Revitalized downtown
- Identity of neighborhoods
- NA activity
- Sports (baseball)
- Activities (hiking, biking, etc.)
 - Free and family friendly
- Arts and history
- Pub culture
- Music/Treefort
- Walk/bike access
- Greenbelt, river
- Foothills—beauty and hiking
- Cycling opportunities
- Community events
- Clean air and water
- People—friendly and welcoming
- Diverse landscapes
- Access to outdoors
- Community parks
- Easy to get around
- Restaurants and amenities and breweries and coffee shops
- Safety
- Celebrate diversity
- Higher education
- Airport
- Dog friendly
- Bogus Basin is close
- Public golf courses
- Like the people
- Boise has lots of different people who get along
- Offers something for everyone
- Park system/Greenbelt
- People are passionate about the city
- Proximity to undeveloped outdoors
 - Foothills
 - River
 - Clean air
- Citizen input is valued

- Mayor/Council devoting resources to ending homelessness
 - Looking at best practices and other options
- Weather is nice
- Like our mayor “great mayor”
- Support for Boise State University
- The views
- Ski resort close
- Love raising a family here
- Supportive community
- Pretty much pollution free
- Welcome refugees
- Access to health care
- People here are great
- Something for everyone
- Access to undeveloped open space
- Welcoming city
- City’s commitment to caring about people
- Unique
- Nice and community-oriented
- Clean and well kept
- Great access to open space
- Fun! Lots of events
- Local business
- Bikeable
- Small town feel
- Strong community pride
- Open space
- Bikeable
- Community
- Family friendly
- Senior friendly
- Recreation
- Healthy environment (natural resources)
- Arts and culture
- Medical facilities
- Safe night life—downtown
- Friendly
- Small town feel
- Community events (like Alive After Five)
- Airport service
- Focus on bikeability/walkability
 - Downtown
 - Neighborhoods
- Composting

- Police are community-minded and professional
- Volunteer opportunities
- Parks and Rec—responsive, good spaces
- Library quality
- Participation in government
- Have high expectations for government
- Community groups to get plugged in
- Public art
- Downtown is awesome
- Lots of events
- Community and events
- Friendly/small town
- Protected environment
- Greenbelt, nature
- Clean, fishable river
- Great neighborhood associations
- Police, taken care of, responsive (fire department)
- Recycling/city services
- Friendly
- Vibrant downtown, easy to walk
- Foothills
- Public events that are easy to attend
- Affordable
- Easily own home
- Quick commute
- Beer
- Safe
- No graffiti
- Public art (Freak Alley)
- Dog friendly
- Parks
- Golf
- Public university
- Public school system
- Parks and recreation
- Community education
- Welcoming community
 - Refugees
- Library
- Vibrant literary community
- Arts
- Strong economy/jobs
- Art/library
- Nature/parks

- Safe/clean
- Friendly—neighborhoods, history (identity)
- Clean
- Dry
- Arts community
 - Diversity of events (free events)
- Strong outdoor options
 - Riding the river
 - Seasons (4)
 - Ease of participation
 - Trails, paths
- Centralized, accessible downtown
- Benefits of growth
 - Improved education
 - Influence of higher ed
 - Diversity
 - Race
 - Culture
 - Welcoming
- Communication channels
- North End
 - Walkability
 - Friendly people
- Safety
- Outdoors/open space/Greenbelt/foothills
- Downtown
 - 8th and Main
 - Freak Alley
 - Sidewalk cafes
- Esther Simplot Park
- Economic development on the Greenbelt
- Alternative transportation
 - Bike
 - Bus
- Neighborhood parks
- Community groups are inclusive
- Saturday market
- Food
- Local businesses (not chains)
- Support/grants for neighborhood associations
- Diversity
- Street trees
- Nightlife
- Parks, open space, Greenbelt, street trees

- Friendly, safe, inclusive
- Vibrant downtown with local focus
- Greenbelt
- Neighborhood libraries
- Safe (downtown)
- Boise nice
- Welcoming
- Trail access
- Easy distance travel
- Arts and cultural community
- Something for everyone
 - Accessibility
- Human connectivity/accessibility
 - Small town feel
- Business and politics
 - Dog friendly
- Great schools
- Boise River
- Clean
- Public art
- Walkable in certain neighborhoods
- Access to recreational opportunities
- Public lunches for kids
- University(s)
- Dynamic downtown
- Jobs available
- Economic attraction (new businesses)
- Access to nature
- Greenbelt!
- Foothills preserved
- Better than Meridian (sprawl)
- Moderate Weather
- Good mix – livability/culture/outdoors/convenience
- Quite affordable now
- Can walk, bike-easily
- ACHD! Streets maintained – efficient
- Connected core
- Recreation
- Focus – walking and biking
- Police and Fire cooperation
- Foothills levy
- Foothills/mts/River – Crown jewels
- Country/cosmopolitan
- Active lifestyle – recreation – hike/bike/raft

- Bogus – skiing
- Parks/Ridge to Rivers/Trees
- Events
- Access to Airport
- Schools
- Friendly/safe – Sense of community
- Close proximity to downtown
- Historic areas
- Sustainability – Geothermal/Community involvement
- Weather
- Restaurants
- Greenbelt dev.
- University growth
- House prices rising
 - Growth is better than decline
- Cultural events – Opera Idaho/Shakespeare/Farmers Market – Cultural diversity
- Economic Vibrancy
- Recreation
- Close to everything
- People
 - Schools
 - Community
 - Friendly
- Shopping/restaurants

What concerns you about growth?

- Transportation
 - Traffic
 - Lack of effective public transportation
 - No real plan for light rail
 - Lack of police enforcement for speed/lack of driver attention
 - Roads backed up (not just during commute hours)
 - Surrounding cities each have their own plan for roads vs. coordinating together/Canyon-Ada
 - Planning for roads/transportation with developments
 - Backwards—we should do infrastructure then development
- City planning
 - Lack of responsiveness from city/county for citizens who have lived here for quite awhile
 - Current Blueprint Boise—appears to not be being implemented/not being followed
 - Map does not follow goals
 - CUPs/not a law—it's a “suggestion”

- Goal of sustainability not being followed
 - Not charging enough impact fees
 - Schools/police/roads
 - Not protecting those who already live here
 - Tax rates raise to cover state or non-profit growth/purchase (property tax)
- Housing
 - High density (way too high)
 - Affordable housing
 - Rentals vs affordable purchase
 - Boise growing too fast planning can't keep up
 - Lack of funding options for citizens to be able to purchase homes
 - Long term local financial health versus building out of area investor wealth
- Public funding of private investors/facilities—spaces (excessive vs what would meet needs)
- Traffic and parking available
- Transportation
 - No alternatives to auto
 - No budget
 - Limiting laws (no local tax option)
 - Lack of local control
 - Limited options/infrastructure
 - Valley-wide solution
 - EV policy
 - North-south mobility
- Growth
 - Sprawl pattern
 - Affordability
 - Fixed income
 - Construction
- Back door deals at City
 - Lack of transparency (bike park)
 - Public process
- Need more middle youth activities
- Lack of funding
 - Need more police/prioritize
- Self focus/convenience
- Inadequate infrastructure
 - Sidewalks
- City should own roads
- Education on public process
 - Agency and city
- Unemployment/under-employment

- Low wages
 - Lack of pedestrian facilities
 - Lack of connectivity
 - Access to healthcare
 - Mental health services
 - Enhance neighborhood/vibrancy
 - Outside of downtown
 - Air quality, water quality
 - Water conservation
 - Rethink school siting policies
 - Align vision with policy and regulation
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- Disappearing farmland, open space, and large lots
 - Intensive development without open space
 - Quality of life
 - Concern about density
 - Lack of strategic vision (need for better planning)
 - Lack of safe bike lanes
 - Lack of sidewalks, alternative transportation
 - Affordability
 - We need to preserve what makes Boise valuable
 - Hold developers accountable for maintaining quality of amenities
 - Emphasize high-rise apartments over hotels downtown
 - Too much focus on downtown businesses
 - Traffic, bike, construction, transportation
 - Construction
 - Imbalance of infrastructure priorities downtown and North End
 - Also imbalance of marketing
 - Rent protection, more regulation?
 - Enforcement of regulations
 - Imbalance in education (schools) investment
 - Tax breaks for development when jobs are so low paying you can't afford to live here
 - Developers need to pay their way
 - Provide connectivity and infrastructure first
 - Public and private coordination to maximize opportunity is necessary
 - Need better public transportation
 - Need affordable housing
 - We don't need things thrown at us (ex. stadium)
 - Traffic compliance needed
 - Cars, bikes, people
 - Create connected communities
 - Part + library + ice cream
 - Programs within neighborhoods

- Things for children to do that is uplifting
 - Need things for areas that are not downtown/North End
- Spend resources across the city
 - Cole/Fairview/Emerald/Curtis/Franklin/Orchard
- Get people to know biking rules/traffic laws
 - Better enforcement
- Keep Boise a place where law enforcement is not terrifying
- Need decent transportation
 - Connect people who do not live in downtown/North End
- Buses that run every 10-15 minutes
- Want to live without a car because transit is good
- Reduce air pollution with regional transit
- Bus system to Bogus
- No trolley, need a bus system
- Partnerships for regional transits need to be improved
- Rapid bus system
- Smart connections for transportation
- Sprawl/infill/density and zoning
- Zoning should be set so that when folks sell 5 acre lots higher density development
- Get rid of ACHD
- Requirements for development:
 - With respect to meaningful open space
- Building regulations should require better sound proofing “so that living in multifamily buildings is not so terrible”
- Balance height and density
- Money talks too much
- Transportation
 - Connecting all parts of the city
- Enforcing rules of the road
- Thoughtful zoning
- Congestion
- Lack of transit
- Poor implementation of plans
- Lack of government coordination
 - ACHD/City/state
- Protection of open spaces
- Affordability/homelessness
- Regional growth (lack of coordination)
- Inefficient use of water
- Environmental impacts
- Bike connectivity
- 100% clean power plan?
- City governance structure

- Economic segregation
 - Regional growth and lack of government coordination
 - Transportation
 - Environmental footprint and sustainability impacts
 - Energy
 - Water
 - Solid waste
 - Open space
 - Affordability and economic segregation
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- Traffic congestion
 - Rude drivers
 - Catch-up with bad infrastructure like roads
 - Parking—residential permits, issues expanding from downtown
 - City expanded out because of bad policies
 - School quality, underfunded
 - Underfunded roads/infrastructure
 - Lack of affordable higher ed
 - Lack of jobs for people who are educated—not high paying
 - Loss of open space
 - Mass development—too compact
 - Lack of affordable family housing
 - Lack of livable wages
 - Loss of cultural landmarks like Franklin Elementary
 - CCDC—act like a corporation
 - Not all development is good
 - Not holistic development
 - Good programs (like Alumbaugh) but we can't fund them
 - ACHD doesn't have good feedback process
 - Sewer, other infrastructure
 - 96% of bridges are scour (sp?) critical
 - Need to stick to growth plans we make
 - Businesses getting pushed out, when land in neighborhoods could be developed
 - Get creative with redevelopment
 - Worried we're losing our livability (and affordability)
 - Don't lost what makes Boise great
 - Downtown was small business, getting more corporate—bad for small business and environment
 - How can we encourage small business?
 - Air pollution and inversions
 - Transportation
 - Car-dependent—need better transit options
 - Busses to Meridian?

- Not user-friendly
 - Not enough riders
- Mental health/drug problems
 - Lack of accessible treatment
 - No strategic plan (but like drug courts)
 - Need more programs
- Balancing act—want good services but concerned about rising taxes
- Aquifer health—water quality
- Lack of indoor, family-friendly, wintertime activities
- Better snow plowing
- Transportation
 - Bad transit
 - Bad infrastructure
 - Parking and traffic
 - Air quality
- Livability/affordability
- Social services
 - Mental health
 - Substance abuse
- Lack of government responsiveness
- Environmental justice
 - Trailer park affected by industrial zoning/growth
 - Burden not shared equally among all demographics
 - Lack
 - Sprawl
- Infrastructure
 - Bridges
 - N-S connectivity
 - Traffic
 - Money to pay for it (who?)—businesses
 - Sprawl
 - Maintenance (library)
 - Manage assets
- Public transportation
 - Justice/equity
 - Lack of regional coordination
- Lack of effective regional planning body
 - Competition among municipalities
- Hearing from and feedback to City government/leadership
 - Public involvement of big projects
 - Outreach?
- Protecting and elevating what makes this community great—with so many new people
 - Welcome and education—celebration?

- Whose responsibility?
 - Social engineering?
- Pollution
 - Dog poop and goose poop... all the poop!
 - Smog
- Housing
 - Affordability
 - Availability
 - Appearance
 - Loss of neighborliness
- Bike friendliness
- Pace of growth compared to planning/readiness
- Big enough to support big infrastructure items?
- Lack of effective regional planning and implementation
- Pollution and loss of environmental quality (open space)
- Neighborliness
 - Strong neighborhoods
 - Social connectedness
- Be responsible/access allowed to build so close to river
 - Flooding
 - Hills
 - Go between Boise and Mountain Home
- Affordability—What can the city do? Work with developers
 - Housing
 - Opportunity to buy/supply
 - Density, cater to developers
 - City needs more power
 - Smaller more affordable?
 - Density vs. diversity in type of home and neighborhood identity
- Traffic—needs to be easier not to drive
 - Parking, long lights
 - Crazy freeway
 - Connect surrounding towns/cities
 - Public transportation not keeping up
 - Not enough pick up/drop off spots/times
 - Need more, longer, later working hours
 - Smaller buses, more express?
 - Where's the train/rail? For commuters
- Conserve water (rain)
 - Prevent water issues
- Environmental inversion
- Growth could compromise safety
- Pressure on recreation resources

- More heavily used, erosion, dog poop
- Downtown parking
 - Price going up, pushing downtown workers out into residential areas
 - Where do visitors park?
 - Employee parking, no incentives for employers
- Developers not working with city staff (Nic Miller)
 - Collaborate to plan growth (need to)
- Growth makes community nodes
 - Need strong neighborhood services
- Only talking about concerns (news coverage)
- Need good career opportunities to avoid brain drain
 - Losing 208
- Losing affordability
 - Losing young folks
 - Housing
 - Cost of living
 - Wages
- Traffic/public transit
- Environmental threats
 - Water
 - Trails
 - Inversion
 - Smog
 - Pollution
- Traffic
 - The speed of vehicles in neighborhoods
- Safer bike, pedestrian, transit
- Better relationship with ACHD
- Affordable housing, flipping homes—affordable to expensive
 - Middle income housing
- No cluster of giant complexes
 - Diverse housing
- Better government transparency and access
 - Better public outreach
 - Usability
 - Voice of people not just business
 - Listening to resident
 - Ask public more
- Compact neighborhoods
 - Increase diversity
- Leave ag property/farmland
 - Grow on land that is less desirable
- Focus on ALL of Boise
- Don't turn Boise into Meridian

- Encourage local business everywhere
- Create micro-districts
- Boise not competing well with other cities
- No more foothill development?
- Stop storage unit locations
- Creating a sense of community across the city
- Replace trees that are removed
- Build up in downtown
 - Add more parking
- Disincentivize driving
 - Stop prioritizing cars/trucks
- Light Greenbelt
- Expand bus services
- More public spaces
- Traffic
- Lack of affordable housing at all price points
- Lack of public transit options out of downtown core and reverse
- Regional connectivity (Treasure Valley)
 - Mode of transport
- Infrastructure concerns
- Homelessness increasing
- Equity and inclusivity plans (racial)
- Socio-economic diversity (housing issue)
- Housing diversity
- Segregation of neighborhoods (socio-economic)
- Re-zoning for neighborhoods to have needs met equally (food, sidewalks, resources)
- Decreasing civility
- Neighborhood equal access/walkability/multi-modal encouraged/multi-commerce
- Lack of downtown parking
- Loses its identity (lose what we love)
- Huge projects vs neighborhood scale needs
- More STEM opportunities (jobs)—retain young talent
- Lack of transparency at city
- Need more city outreach to whole community
- More opportunity to participate (city)
- Easier to find information and plug in (city)
- NIMBY (less)
- Disappearing farm land (need re-zoning)
- Use of resources (big projects versus smaller needs)
- Too big (silo neighborhoods)
 - Less one community feel
- More collaborative neighborhood discussions

- Accessibility for disabilities
 - Parks, Greenbelt, etc.
- Congestion of all the outdoor wonders (Greenbelt, foothills, etc.)
- Irresponsible dog owners
- Attracting diversity (racial/religion/ethnicity/backgrounds...)
- More traffic, not enough enforcement – traffic laws
- Unbridled development
- Growth – ~~too fast~~ – Backlash may dominate conversation
- Becoming unaffordable – housing v. expensive
- Not enough input on development – not broad enough
- Main library – size – decision made w/out input
- Lack of transparency – P&Z – not enough notice
- Blueprint Boise lacks teeth
- Not preserving AG/Farmland. Need city & county to plan and facilitate – not just let it happen. Local food depends on this! E.G. Buy development rights (leave on tax rolls)
- Light rail – need (rather than downtown trolley). Boise – Meridian to west & Micron. Union Pacific Line. *So many people commuting to work.
- Other transportation options – lanes, etc. HOV lanes
- Disagree with mayor's statement that we don't live in country. Need local AG
- Control tax burden
- Taxes – increasing too quickly (even compared to assessed value)
- Does city always need 3% max?
- ACHD also – overfunded – efficiency?
- Not enough planning. No comprehensive traffic study since 2001
- Barriers at state level/case law. Hard to control RT. To develop
- Local option tax? But voter approval
- Focus on vehicles
- *Public Infrastructure
- Transportation (transit, lack of planning) – limited access routes and more vehicles/people – increased commute times
 - Multi-agency solution needed for transportation – between valley's/cities
 - *No connected approach to planning
- More transit=less neighborhood feel
- Destruction of our cities values
 - E.G. Harrison & Warm Springs
- Growth outpacing infrastructure
 - **Schools
- *Losing Open Space vs. Dense development – downtown
- Comp plan out of date
- No control on growth – faster=better – developers
- Permitting process – transparency from city

- Bike lanes – lack of planning – part of transit
 - Construction makes biking unsafe
- Housing affordability
- Income vs cost of living
- “Can’t afford to move back”
- Lose some of the natural beauty
- Preservation of environment
- Loss of “nice” – new people don’t have that nice
- Landfill – visibility/location
- Areas of Focus for City
 - Controlled growth
 - Be selective and bold. Don’t be afraid to hit pause
 - River/environmental/air quality – “once it’s gone, it’s gone”
 - Infrastructure
 - Collaborative - multi-city approach
 - Schools/education – planning – capacity