



FIGURE 7.1

# Community Priorities

At the conclusion of the comprehensive planning process, community stakeholders ranked proposed recommendations based on different criteria. This exercise was conducted in the following settings:

- **Community Workshop** (Ranked Top Priorities)
- **Online Discussion Forum** (Ranked Top Priorities)
- **Joint Workshop** with City Council, Planning Commission, and Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee Members (Ranked Most Beneficial, Relatively Minimal Cost, and Potential Partnerships)

The top three recommendations are highlighted for each category; in some cases, four are highlighted if there was a tie. These findings were then translated to **Figure 7.2, Comprehensive Plan Priority Actions** based on the ranking exercises, natural progression of implementation steps, and relative cost, among other considerations.

- A Create community focal points and destinations**
  - ★ **Top Priority - Community Workshop**
  - ★ **Top Priority - Online Discussion Forum**
  - ★ **Potential Partnerships - Elected and Appointed Officials Workshop**
  - Commercial and employment centers
  - Mixed-use and transit-oriented development
  - Parks, recreation, and hike-bike system
  - Business and industrial parks
  - Downtown parking
- B Develop a systematic street repair and improvements strategy**
  - ★ **Most Beneficial - Elected and Appointed Officials Workshop**
  - ★ **Top Priority - Online Discussion Forum**
  - Residential street revitalization program
  - Prioritization of improvements close to employment, services, parks, and schools
  - Joint-funded project initiatives
  - Capital Improvements Program (CIP)
- C Prioritize, fund, and implement essential housing projects and programs**
  - ★ **Top Priority - Community Workshop**
  - ★ **Top Priority - Online Discussion Forum**
  - Infill programs
  - Safety and code enforcement programs
  - Education and outreach
  - Homebuyer/developer financing
  - Beautification and community gardens
  - Capital improvements
  - Homeowner rehabilitation

- D Improve the appearance, quality, and compatibility of development**
  - ★ **Most Beneficial - Elected and Appointed Officials Workshop**
  - ★ **Top Priority - Online Discussion Forum**
  - Updates to regulations and guidelines
  - Requirements of development and redevelopment agreements
  - Historic preservation policies
  - Mitigation of traffic impacts
- E Strengthen Belleville’s sense of community and neighborhood identity**
  - ★ **Most Beneficial - Elected and Appointed Officials Workshop**
  - Gateway enhancements
  - Gateway and corridor overlay districts
  - Neighborhood and street design standards
  - Neighborhood planning and sub-area plans
- F Increase Belleville’s public service capacity to accommodate desired growth**
  - ★ **Most Beneficial - Elected and Appointed Officials Workshop**
  - Predictable increases in public safety staffing
  - Vehicle, equipment, and technology upgrades
  - Regionalized storm water management
  - Up-to-date master plans
  - Fire training emphasis
- G Prepare to absorb some amount of growth within the city or adjacent to existing development**
  - ★ **Top Priority - Community Workshop**
  - Neighborhood planning and improvements
  - More residential near strategic community destinations
  - Assistance for existing and new emerging small businesses
  - Street and trail enhancements and connectivity
  - Fire prevention
- H Help local organizations build capacity to lead housing and neighborhood initiatives**
  - ★ **Relatively Minimal Cost - Elected and Appointed Officials Workshop**
  - Neighborhood planning and sub-area plans
  - Private and non-profit collaboration through the Belleville Neighborhood Partnership
  - Leadership training, technical assistance, and data collection
- I Optimize Belleville’s financial and regulatory tools**
  - ★ **Relatively Minimal Cost - Elected and Appointed Officials Workshop**
  - Capital Improvements Program (CIP)
  - Regional, state, and federal grants
  - Volunteerism (“sweat equity”)
  - Updates to regulations and guidelines

- J Promote Belleville’s existing or potential economic development assets**
  - ★ **Potential Partnerships - Elected and Appointed Officials Workshop**
  - Hotel and convention center
  - Transit-oriented development
  - Aquatic center
  - Dedicated PR staff and collaborative marketing initiatives
  - Scott Air Force Base / MidAmerica Airport
- K Focus on growing, diversifying, and retaining small and local businesses**
  - ★ **Potential Partnerships - Elected and Appointed Officials Workshop**
  - Linkages between industry and education
  - Online library of business resources
  - Small business financing
  - Incubator and live-work accommodations
- L Improve Belleville’s regional connectivity**
  - ★ **Relatively Minimal Cost - Elected and Appointed Officials Workshop**
  - Intergovernmental cooperation
  - High-speed rail between Chicago and St. Louis
  - Scott Air Force Base connectivity and proposed “Gateway Connector” to IL 158
  - Direct and efficient access to St. Louis
- M Cultivate a “business friendly” environment to retain and attract businesses**
  - Business assistance programs
  - Availability of commercial and industrial sites
  - Updates to regulations and guidelines
  - Content-rich economic development marketing website
- N Enhance the appearance and functionality of Belleville’s major roadway corridors**
  - Streetscape design, landscaping, and pedestrian-scale lighting
  - Road design parameters and guidelines
  - Access management policies
  - Master Thoroughfare Plan
- O Strengthen transportation connections and increase choices between ways to travel**
  - Greenways linkages and system development (hike/bike trails)
  - Convenient travel accommodation for all lifestyles
  - Traffic management and traffic calming strategies
  - Transit linkages and alternatives (Park-and-Ride, MetroLink Rail, carpooling)
  - “Complete Streets” policy
- P Continue to expand Belleville’s city limits through strategic annexations**
  - Compatible development patterns
  - Fiscal benefits and constraints
  - Non-fiscal benefits such as protection of gateways into city
  - Utility infrastructure provision and extension policies
  - Annexation agreements