These comments were taken verbatem from notes placed on this board and were not edited or paraphrased by staff.

2. Grow, in "Nodes!"

Anticipating growth, concentrating patterns

This scenario accommodates growth, but it suggests policies to distribute it in more **urban clusters**. This involves working closely with Lewis and Clark County to create **robust joint planning** policies to direct growth into areas where utility and transportation **infrastructure already exists**. This will alleviate pressure to accommodate increasing levels of **commuting traffic** to and from the city on main arterials, recommending annexation only in areas where there is now a need for services. **Discouraging conversion** of rural land, **Helena and the County** will reconfigure land use policy to encourage **increased intensity** in multiple neighborhood activity **centers**, blending housing, retail, employment, and open spaces with a more **urban flair**.

Comments:
- Beautify more plants and flowers!
- Expanded public transportation
- Reuse empty buildings e.g. ShopKo. Affordable housing
- Make walkable – to destinations *and bikable*
- Mixed use is good - *agree*
- Sixth Ward would be a great "node" area, but it needs amenities and traffic plan so that businesses are willing to come to this area. ** Seconed*
- Seek transportation funding independent f state/fed'l sources. Need to invest in transportation maintenance.
- Make sure that added infrastructure, like roads, water, and sewer, does not have unsupportable maintenance costs in the future. & *sidewalks*
- Connect Nodes with active transport Increase connectivity/consistency of bike paths. Trailhead→ Town center; Leverage biking tourism
- City-wide sidewalks and streetlights; *streetlights should be dark skies compliant*. Yes! *Agree*
- Set goal of 100% renewable energy for City of Helena
- More covered transit stops
- Initiate plastic recycling city-wide; get rid of plastic straws & bags. *This!*
- Agree with enhancing city center! Make rentals, downtown stores more affordable; How? Improve parking –Better handicap access

- Retain parks/open lands i.e., don't sell parks. Stewardship should be paramount over recreation.
- As the city grows, consider essential services –example fire, police, EMS, these should be treated as critical infrastructure. *Sidewalks*
- Learn from mistakes at the Great Northern. *Agree, but these result from deliberate choices by the developer. Need to anticipate.*
- Neighborhood Nodes naturally divided by major streets and geographic features. Mini-towns with residential, businesses, services, ect.
- Helena has 400+ non-profits they are an important economic contributor. Do the focus group members need to be expanded? Big Sky Institute has monthly meetings with about 30-40 non-profits- they're a resource.
- Seek zoning or subdivision regulations that require new development to truly fund their infrastructure costs e.g. rebuilding valley schools are funded by entire district and they are not paying for the capacity reduction on the public road system.
- Building in the periphery and improve public transportation to downtown; More events in center of town; Mixed use of existing buildings.
- Helena needs programs to alleviate poverty: affordable housing options and transportation access are key. I'd like to see: mall → affordable housing; tiny home communities w/ pathway to ownership; extended times for the bus route – greater reach; more community spaces free & open to public – other than library. *How?*
- CI (City) & CO (County) coordination is excellent goal but CO gov't serves a larger & different body. Continue cooperative but seek CO to designate "Helena Valley" or "City" focus to avoid competing county resources
- Create a tourism triangle, Depot area – Roberts (Street) - Capital - Cathedral- Helena (Avenue) using the trolley car. So much potential in RR depot area. Sixth ward needs your attention to reach their potential