

Kaufman Forward Open House Recap

The First Open House for the Kaufman Forward Comprehensive Plan was held on Thursday, November 20, 2025 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Kaufman Civic Center. The event served as an interactive forum where community members could exchange ideas, express concerns, and envision the long-term future of Kaufman. This document provides a detailed account of the primary themes that emerged and the shared community vision that is beginning to form.



What is a Comprehensive Plan?

A Comprehensive Plan is a blueprint for local governments used to guide future development. Comprehensive Plans cover various topics but emphasize how land in the city will be used. While a Comprehensive Plan states the community's vision for the future, **it does not constitute zoning regulations or establish zoning district boundaries.**

Why is the City updating its Comprehensive Plan?

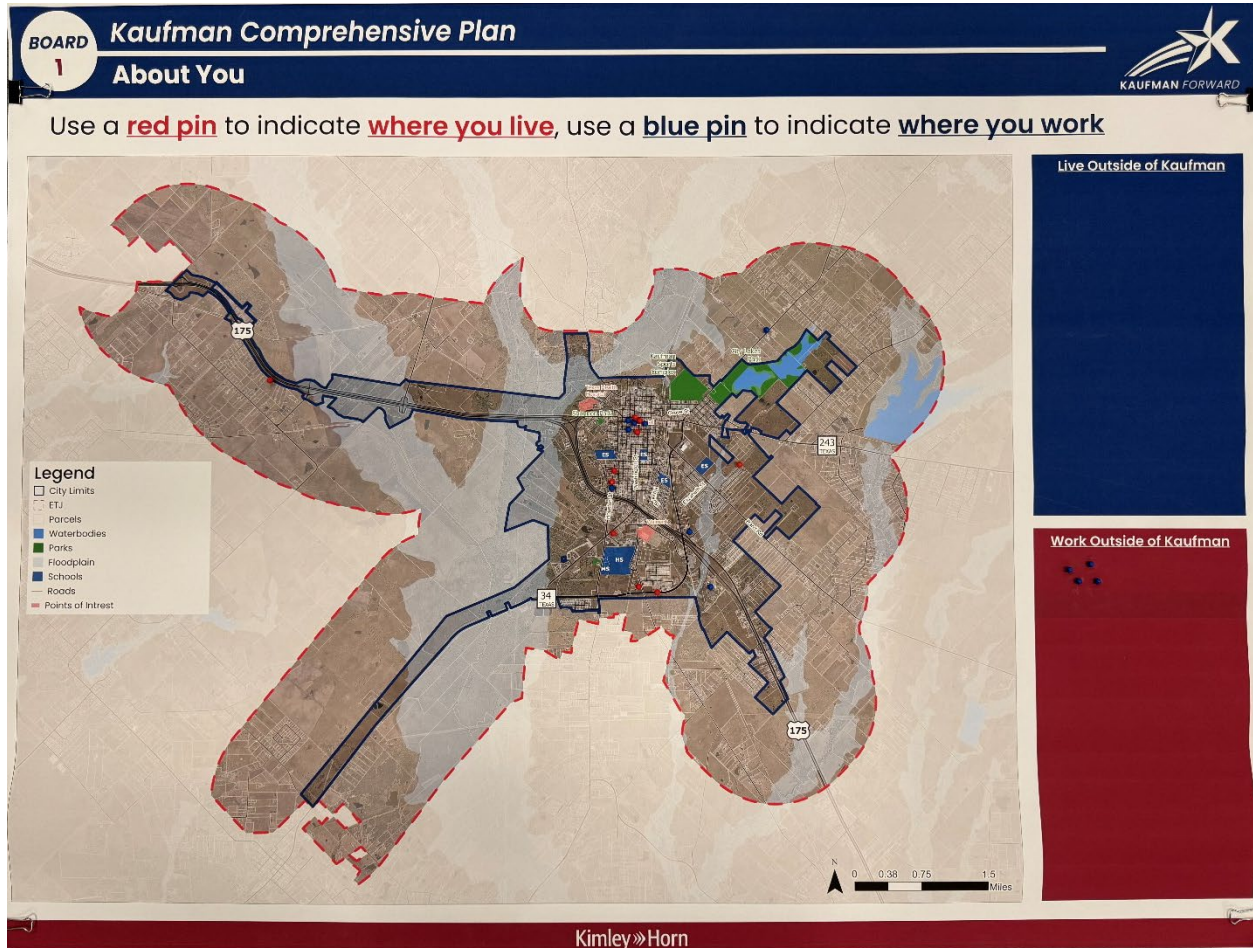
Cities periodically update their Comprehensive Plans to ensure they remain aligned with current needs and future goals. As conditions change over time, such as population growth, transportation demands, housing needs, and economic trends, the plan must be adjusted to reflect these shifts. By incorporating up-to-date data and community input, Kaufman can thoughtfully guide where growth should occur, support responsible development, protect important community assets, and enhance quality of life. Updating the plan helps ensure Kaufman continues to grow in a balanced, sustainable, and well-planned way.

Open House Format and Participation

The Open House took place at the City of Kaufman's Civic Center and was attended by residents and city staff. The event was organized to promote both open dialogue and structured input. A series of interactive stations, large-format display boards, and mapping exercises were arranged throughout the venue to guide discussions and collect focused feedback on key planning topics.

Board 1: About You!

Board 1 invited participants to indicate where they live and work by placing pins on a map, with red pins representing where they live and blue pins representing their places of employment. The results showed that ten participants reside within the City of Kaufman, seven are employed within the city limits, one in the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ), and four reported working outside the city limits.



Board 3: Visioning Station

Board three served as a visioning station designed to gather community perspectives on Kaufman's current identity, its desired future, and expectations for what the comprehensive plan should achieve. This exercise represents an early and essential step in developing a formal vision statement, providing foundational insight into the values and priorities that will guide the planning process.


**BOARD
3**

Kaufman Comprehensive Plan
Visioning Station



In five words or less, how would you describe Kaufman today?

*Easy going, but growing, rustic town
 Some areas need to be cleaned up
 Keep Kaufman quirky!
 Small-ish, Quiet, Calm, Visionless
 Open, welcoming, green, full of potential
 - Shows improvement in quality of life
 - Lose the "Country Feel" with all the new houses!
 - A town I grew up in, born in, it's become a much faster place.
 - Its losing its country feel and looking like Dallas not forming community*

In five words or less, how would you describe your vision of Kaufman in 2050?

*small town that maintains charming character and offers the great amenities of a growing town
 A LOT of great possibilities
 Keep great use of green space + country
 Not ~~small~~ growing but small-town feel
 Lush, community-oriented, Diverse, not fancy!
 High quality of ~~life~~ ^{living} for all seasons of life.
 Stay true to your roots*

If nothing else, the Comprehensive Plan should accomplish _____

*make sure infrastructure keeps up w/ population growth
 Infrastructure + roads BY tons of homes.
 Check out pretty Swanville.
 New builds - not so close together
 Good parking + creative solutions for the square
 Recreational areas
 MORE SIDEWALKS, PARKS
 Better Parks, sidewalks, safer walkways*

Kimley»Horn

In five words or less, how would you describe Kaufman today?

- Easy going, but growing, rustic town
- Some areas need to be cleaned up
- Keep Kaufman quirky!
- Small-ish, Quiet, Calm, Visionless
- Open, welcoming, green, full of potential
- Shows Improvement in quality of life

- Losing the “country feel” with all the new builds
- A town I grew up in, born in, it’s become a much faster place
- It’s losing its country feel and looking like Dallas not a farming community

In five words or less, how would you describe your vision of Kaufman in 2050?

- Small town that maintains charming character, but offers more services & options for shopping & dining to residents
- A lot of great possibilities
- Growing, but small-town feel
- Lush, community-oriented, diverse, not Forney!
- High quality of living for all seasons of life
- Stay true to your roots.

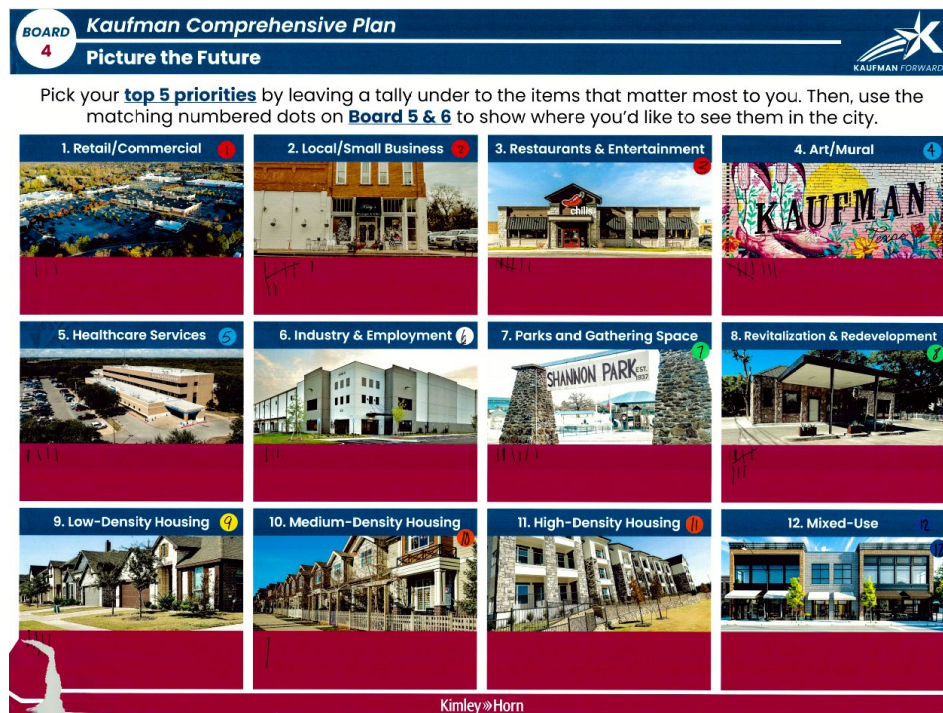
If nothing else, the Comprehensive Plan should accomplish _____

- Make sure infrastructure keeps up with population growth
- Infrastructure & roads before tons of homes
- Check out pretty Sunnyvale
- New builds – not so close together
- Need parking & garbage solutions for the square
- Recreational areas
- More sidewalks, parks
- Better Parks, sidewalks, and safer walkways

Board 4: Picture the Future

Boards four, five, and six functioned as a combined activity that asked participants to envision the future of Kaufman by identifying which land use items were most important to them. Participants used tally marks to indicate their priorities on Board four and then placed those dots on the map to show where they believed each item should be located.

The results showed strong interest in several key themes. Local and small businesses, public art and murals, and revitalization and redevelopment each received eight votes, making them the highest-ranked priorities. Restaurants and entertainment received seven votes, while parks and community gathering spaces received six votes.



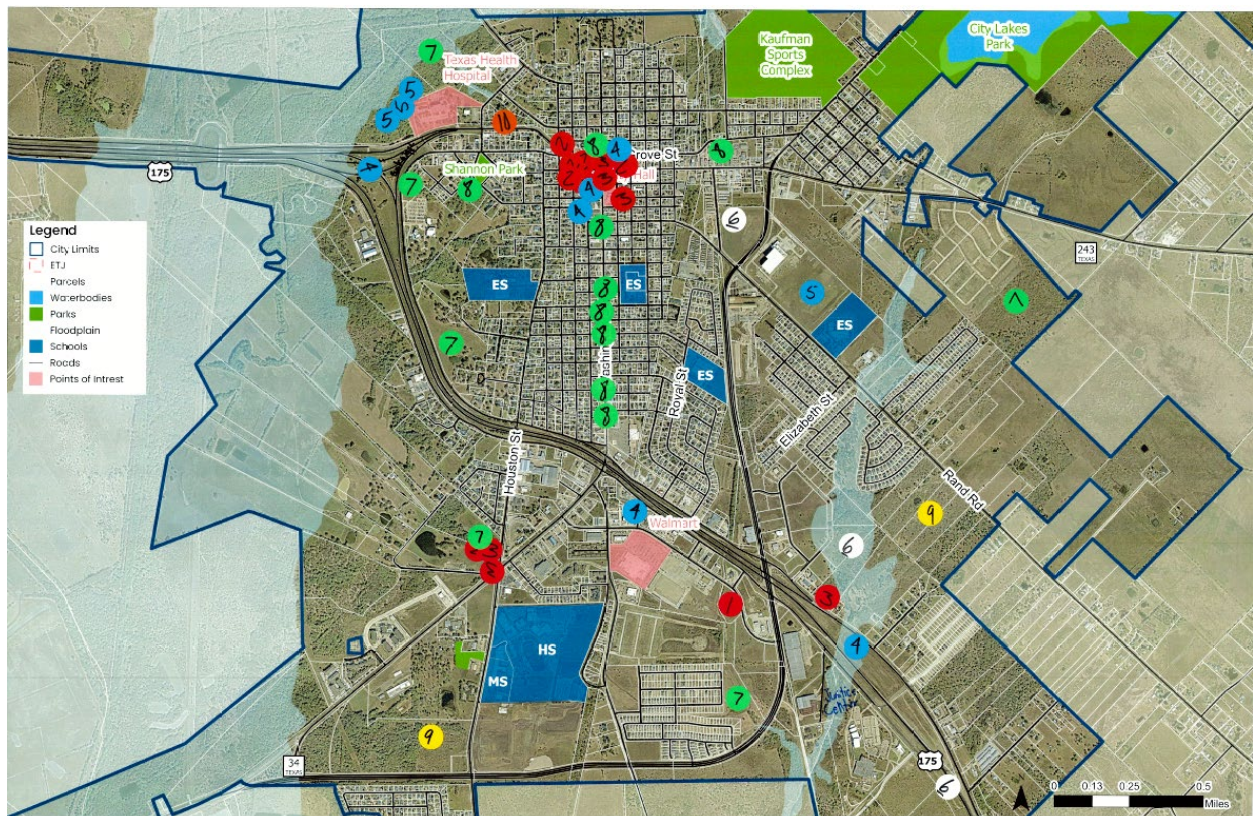
- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Retail/Commercial: 3 Votes | 7. Parks and Gathering Space: 6 Votes |
| 2. Local/Small Business: 8 Votes | 8. Revitalization & Redevelopment: 8 Votes |
| 3. Restaurants & Entertainment: 7 Votes | 9. Low-Density Housing: 4 Votes |
| 4. Art/Mural: 8 Votes | 10. Medium-Density Housing: 1 Votes |
| 5. Healthcare Services: 4 Votes | 11. High-Density Housing: 0 Votes |
| 6. Industry & Employment: 3 Votes | 12. Mixed Use: 0 Votes |

Board 5: Mapping the Future

Board five asked participants to identify preferred locations for various land use topics by placing numbered dots directly on the map. The results revealed several consistent patterns. Revitalization and redevelopment emerged as the most prominent theme, with seven dots concentrated along Washington Street, indicating strong community support for reinvestment in this corridor.

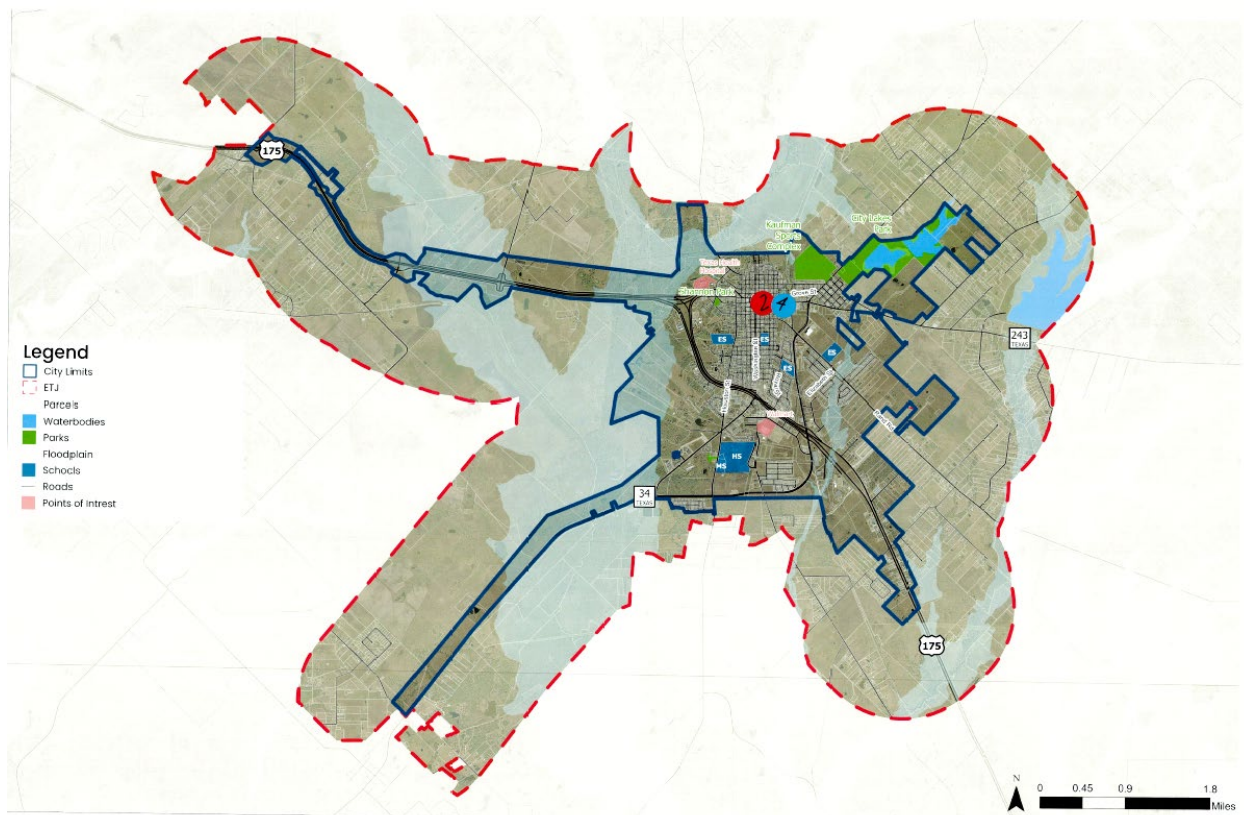
Downtown Kaufman also appeared as a key focus area. Participants placed five dots for local and small businesses, three dots for restaurants and entertainment, and three dots to highlight their interest in public art and murals. Parks and community gathering spaces were distributed across the City, reflected by six dots placed in multiple locations rather than in a single cluster.

Participants also identified needs related to community services and employment. A small grouping of two dots representing health services and one dot representing industry & employment suggests community interest in expanding facilities near the Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital.



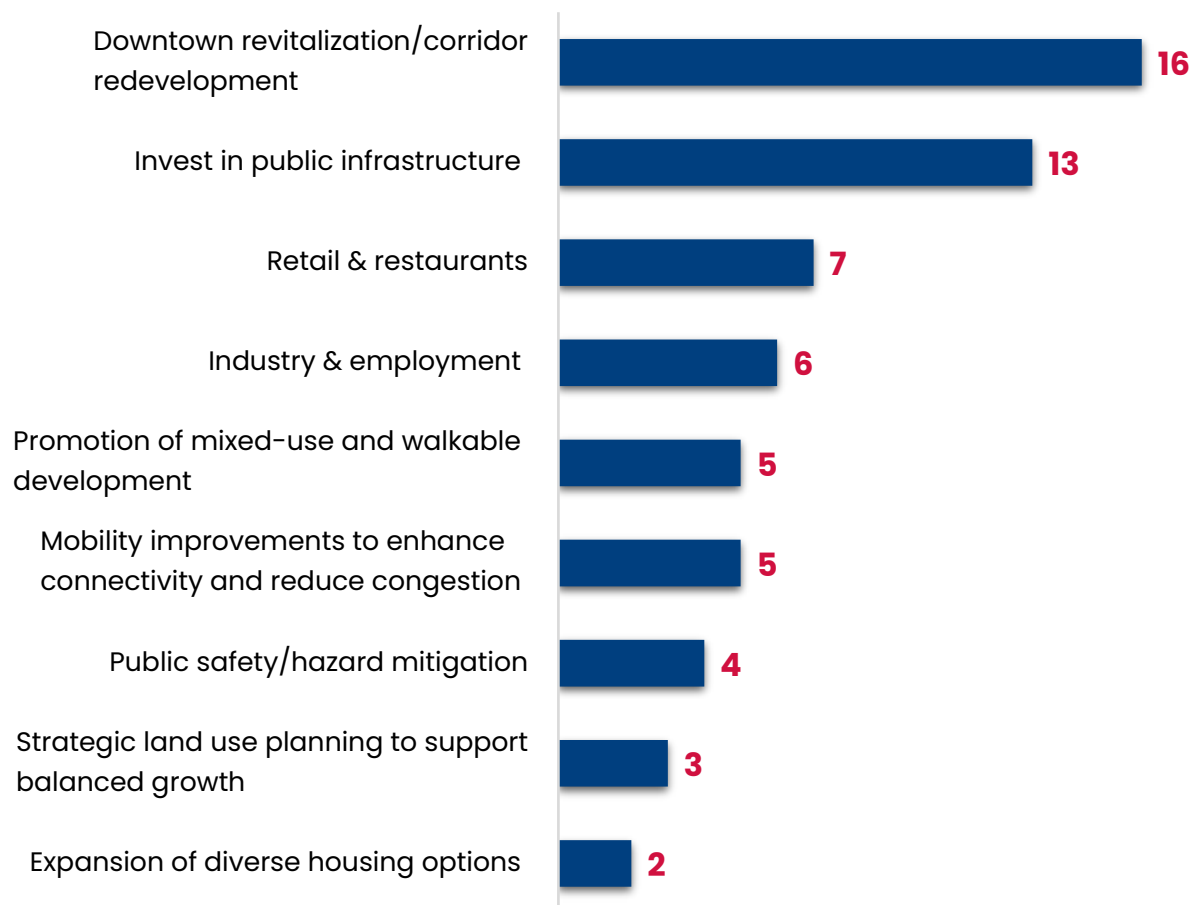
Board 6: Mapping the Future

Board six used the same activity format as Board five but presented a wider, community-scale map that included both the city limits and the extraterritorial jurisdiction. Two participants identified a continued need for local and small businesses within the downtown core, along with interest in incorporating public art or a mural in the same area. These inputs reinforce the community's desire to strengthen the downtown district as a central hub.



Board 7: Kaufman Priorities

Board 7 featured a jar activity where participants were given five pom-poms to allocate across nine identified priorities. They could choose to distribute their pom-poms among several categories or place all of them in a single priority. The results revealed the community's top four priorities: Downtown revitalization/corridor redevelopment, invest in public infrastructure, retail & restaurants, and industry & employment. Other priorities that were written by the public were expanding family recreation options and improving walkability along Washington Street.



Other

- Family Recreation ✓
- More outdoor parks, places for families to hang out
- Make Washington St square to 175 treelined, walkable – will bring restaurant & retail back

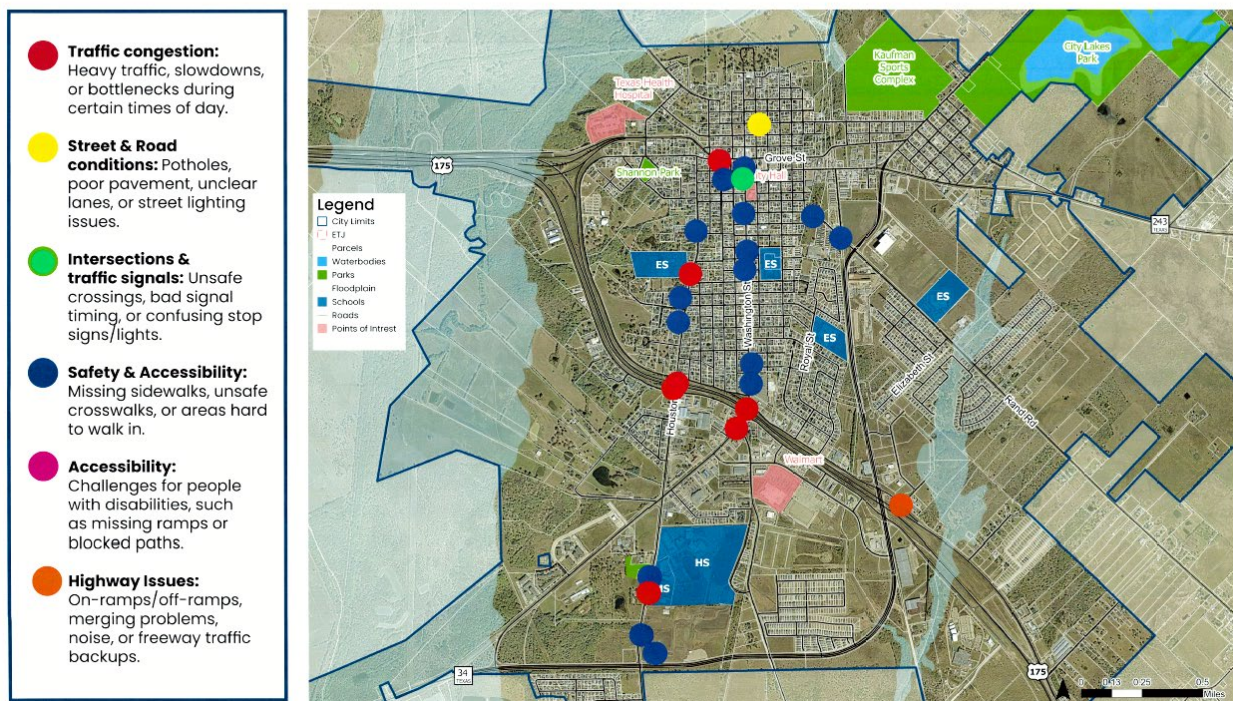
Board 8: Transportation Concerns

Board eight asked participants to place color-coded dots on a map to identify transportation-related concerns throughout the community. Each color represented a different issue. The majority of the dots were blue, indicating concerns related to safety and accessibility, such as missing sidewalks, unsafe or unclear crosswalks, and areas that are difficult or uncomfortable to walk in. Six blue dots were placed along Washington Street, three on Houston Street near Highway 175, and three on Houston Street near Kaufman High School. Two additional blue dots were placed on Rand Road, all of which are major streets within Kaufman.

Red dots were used to identify areas experiencing traffic congestion, particularly at intersections along US Highway 175 and sections of Houston Street. A single yellow dot highlighted concerns about poor pavement conditions in the neighborhood north of Downtown. Lastly, one green dot was placed on Washington Street to note issues related to signal timing or confusing traffic at stop signs or signalized intersections.

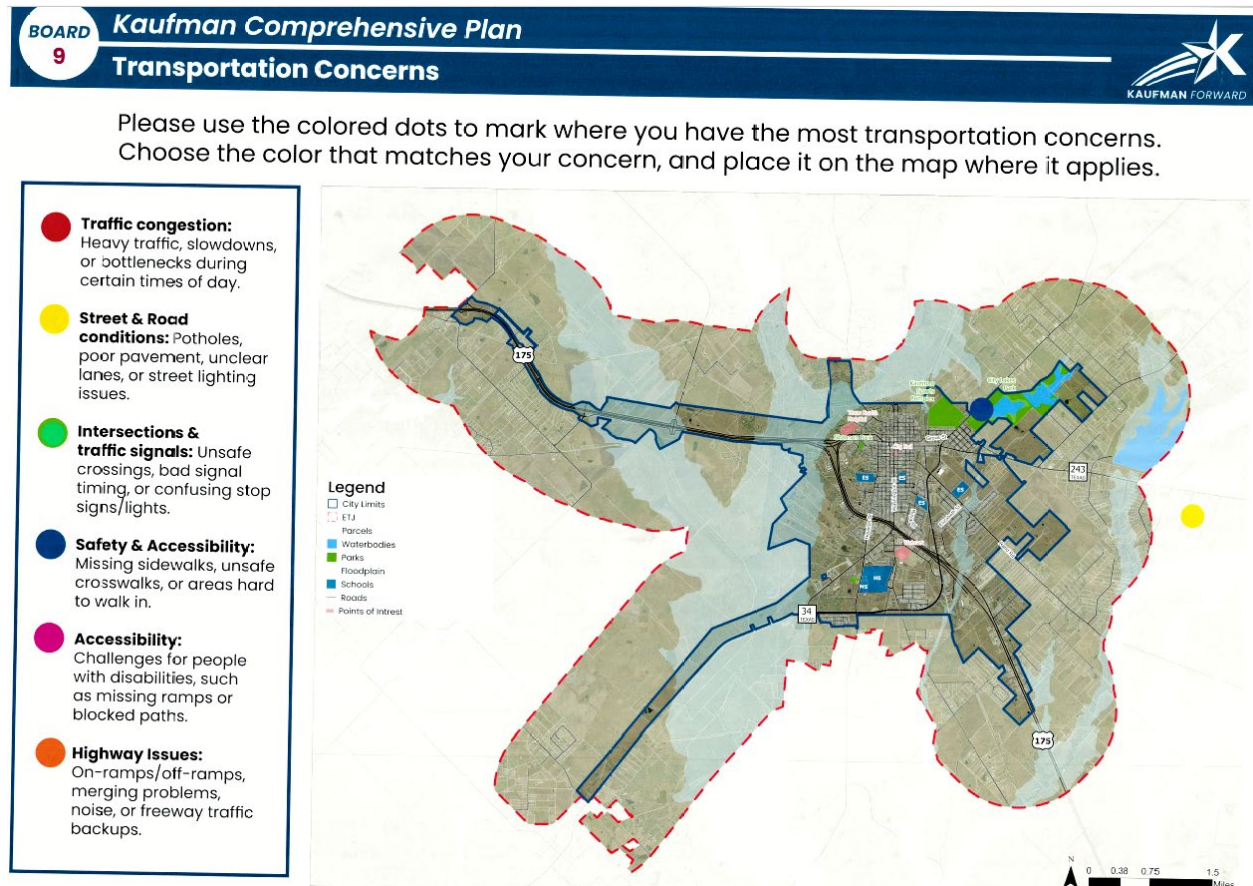


Please use the colored dots to mark where you have the most transportation concerns. Choose the color that matches your concern, and place it on the map where it applies.



Board 9: Transportation Concerns

Board nine followed the same format as Board eight but applied the activity at a broader scale, incorporating both the city limits and the extraterritorial jurisdiction. This larger map enabled participants to identify transportation concerns across the entire community. Only two dots were placed on this map. One yellow dot, which represents poor street or roadway conditions, was located outside the ETJ. A single blue dot indicating safety and accessibility concerns was placed near City Lakes Park.



Board 10: Community Infrastructure

Board ten focused on community infrastructure and asked participants to evaluate several infrastructure categories, including roadway, water and wastewater services, storm drainage, and city facilities. Participants placed dots along a rating scale to indicate whether they considered each category to be very important, neutral, or not important.

Responses showed the highest level of importance for investment in core infrastructure. Roadway improvements, water and wastewater services, as well as storm drainage, were all rated very important, with no dots placed in the neutral or “not important” categories. City facilities generated more varied responses compared to the other three categories. One dot was placed in the neutral position, while two additional dots fell between neutral and very important. Although viewpoints differed slightly, the overall distribution suggests that all four infrastructure categories are regarded as essential, with three clearly identified as very important and one positioned between neutral and very important.



As Kaufman prepares for additional population growth, the City must proactively plan for infrastructure expansion across various, critical infrastructure categories.

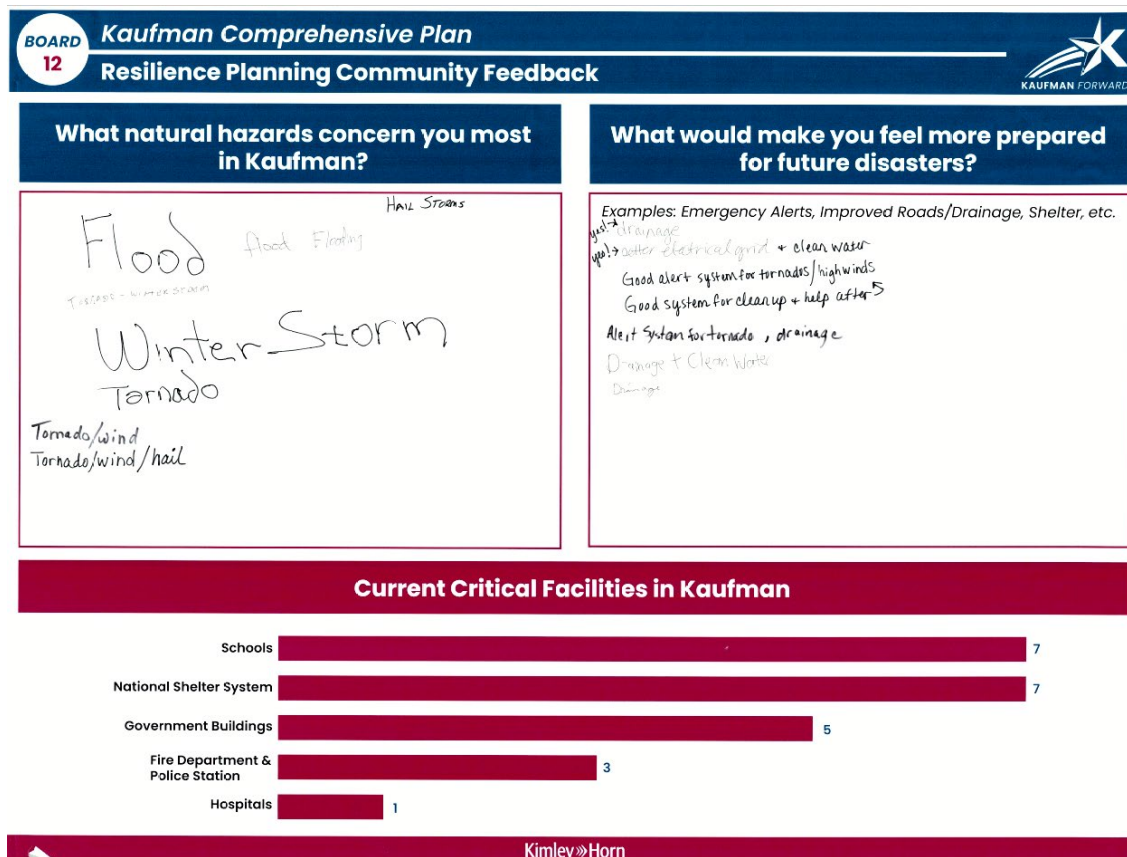
To ensure that the City's infrastructure and services are meticulously planned and managed to support sustainable development and enhance residents' quality of life, let us know how you prioritize each category.



Board 12: Resilience Planning Community Feedback

Board 12 focused on community resilience and asked participants to identify the natural hazards that concerned them the most. Tornadoes were the most frequently mentioned hazard, appearing four times. Flooding followed with three mentions, while wind and hailstorms were each mentioned twice. Winter storms were noted once, indicating a lower but still present level of concern.

The second question asked participants what actions or improvements would help them feel more prepared for future disasters. The most common responses emphasized the need for improved drainage systems and reliable access to clean water. Additional priorities included enhancements to the community's alert and communication systems as well as strengthening the electrical grid. These insights highlight the community's interest in both hazard mitigation and infrastructure reliability as key components of long-term resilience planning.



What natural hazards concern you most in Kaufman?

- Flood
- Flood Flooding

- Hail Storms
- Tornado – Winter Storm
- Winter Storm
- Tornado
- Tornado/wind
- Tornado/Wind/Hail

What would make you feel more prepared for future disasters?

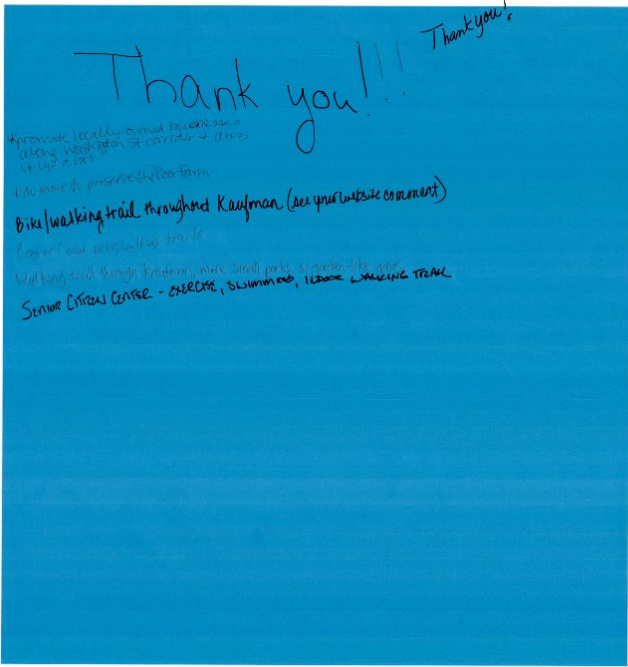
- Drainage ✓
- Better electrical grid & clean water ✓
- Good alert system for tornados/high winds
- Good system for clean up & help after
- Alert system for tornado, drainage
- Drainage & clean water
- Drainage

Board 13: Additional Comments

The final board included a QR code linking to the project website and provided space for participants to write additional comments directly on the board. These comments are listed below.

BOARD
13
Kaufman Comprehensive Plan
Thank You!


Let us know what we missed! Please leave any additional comments you have below!





THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!
Scan the QR code to get more information on the Comprehensive Plan

Kimley»Horn

Additional Comments

- Thank you!!!
- Thank you!
- Promote locally owned businesses along Washington St Corridor
- Do more to preserve the poor farm
- Bike/walking trail throughout Kaufman (see your website comment)
 - Agree! Need bike/walking trails
- Walking trail through Kaufman, more small parks, and garden like areas
- Senior Citizen Center – Exercise, swimming, and indoor walking trail

Key Feedback Collection Methods

The Open House featured eight stations designed to guide participants through key components of the Kaufman Comprehensive Plan. These stations included:

- Background information on the Comprehensive Plan
- Visioning
- Picture and Mapping the Future
- Kaufman Priorities
- Transportation Concerns
- Community Infrastructure
- Resilience Planning
- Additional Comments

Throughout the Open House, attendees were encouraged to provide input using a variety of methods:

- Sticky notes or writing on the boards for sharing quick ideas, comments, and concerns
- A jar activity used to rank overall community priorities
- Dot exercises to identify the importance of specific topics and preferred locations

Summary of Community Feedback

The First Kaufman Forward Comprehensive Plan Open House produced a set of insights that reveal an interconnected vision for the community's future. Each board works together to identify current conditions and imagine future possibilities.

Board three provided insight into how residents want Kaufman to grow. Participants emphasized a desire to maintain the City's small-town character while improving overall quality of life and remaining true to its identity. They noted that the comprehensive plan should prioritize infrastructure and roadway improvements ahead of expansion, strengthen connectivity through enhanced sidewalk networks, and expand recreational opportunities.

Board four highlighted specific community values that will shape Kaufman's future. Participants expressed strong support for local businesses, downtown enhancement,

public art, and revitalization and redevelopment efforts. These visioning themes established a clear direction that guided responses on subsequent boards. Boards Five and Six demonstrated how community values translate into geographic preferences.

- Revitalization and redevelopment were strongly concentrated along Washington Street, aligning with the prioritizing of the jar activity of strengthening key corridors.
- Downtown Kaufman consistently emerged as the preferred location for local businesses, restaurants, entertainment, and public art, directly supporting the results of the jar activity as well.
- Parks and gathering spaces were placed across the City, reinforcing the desire for a connected and accessible system of public spaces.

Boards eight and nine expanded the community's vision into the transportation network. The emphasis on safety, walkability, and accessibility complemented the earlier focus on enhancing downtown and revitalizing corridors.

- Washington and Houston Streets were noted for having sidewalk gaps, unsafe crossings, and congestion issues.
- Concerns near schools, major roadways, and neighborhood connectors align with the desire for a more accessible and connected community.

Board ten provided insight into how residents view foundational infrastructure. Participants overwhelmingly rated roadway improvements, water and wastewater systems, and storm drainage as very important. This focus reflects the outcomes from the jar activity, which revealed that infrastructure is the community's second-highest priority, along with insights from the visioning station about future growth preferences.

Board twelve added another layer by addressing natural hazards and disaster preparedness. Participants identified tornadoes, flooding, and major storms as primary concerns and emphasized preparedness through improved drainage, reliable access to clean water, and effective alert systems. These concerns show that resilience is viewed not as a separate issue but as a component of safe and sustainable growth.

Conclusion

Taken together, the boards formed a cohesive narrative about community priorities. Each activity built upon the next, progressing from broad visioning to specific locations, followed by infrastructure and transportation needs, and culminating in long-term resilience. The consistent themes across boards demonstrate a unified community direction: strengthening downtown, improving key corridors, expanding connectivity, enhancing safety and accessibility, investing in essential infrastructure, and preparing Kaufman for long-term growth and resilience while preserving its small-town identity and character.