

Montpelier Public Meeting 11/2/2015: Comments received on participants' hopes and fears for the Economic Development Strategic Plan

Hopes:

- Montpelier becomes affordable and multi-aged and multi cultural people live and work in town
- Vibrant arts, food and creative economy
- Upper stories of Blanchard Block are occupied by new businesses.
- More childcare options, more affordable for working families
- Modest growth in population, diverse population
- Rental housing with variety of price levels, downtown residential
- New houses and apartment built in Sabin's Pasture and they are fully occupied
- Fewer cars, more bike-able and walk-able downtown
- Thriving downtown, great housing for all, hub for cultural creative and millenials
- Bustling downtown, hub of activity
- Economic development director
- More options for affordable basic needs
- Population increase enough to put existing infrastructure at capacity, schools water filtrations, etc. Grow tax base
- Fast track system for businesses to work with the city
- New hotel
- Fully renovated Central City area
- Schools at full capacity
- Businesses will come to the city without recruiting, they recognize the value of being here
- An economically vibrant and diverse city with a better balance between public and private sectors
- More customers in local retail and restaurants
- Increase in grand list value
- Property owners invest in properties to draw businesses knowing that success is coming
- Active downtown with small independent businesses
- One of my kids moves to Montpelier and gets a job in a new health facility
- More creative work places- flexible work schedules, creative professionals
- A vibrant day and night with people here on evenings and weekends, not just 9-5
- New housing development in Sabin's Pasture
- Population begins to grow, 1,000 new residents in 5 years.
- A vibrant, walk-able community that serves everyone at all income levels
- More full time jobs
- Retention of existing employers
- A growing school population

- Economically sustainable life for all of the city's residents of every ability, income, age- not just professionals and the financially comfortable
- Younger population and new jobs
- Easy place to raise kids
- Lower taxes
- Weekly downtown events
- More skilled and professional jobs, another anchor employer, or several more
- More reasonable long term housing that people can settle into- retired or young family
- Intellectually stimulating population, inventors flock to our creativity
- More subsidized housing

Fears:

- Contradictions- for example, wanting housing but opposing projects
- Status quo, no change, things stay the same, stagnation, gridlock
- Montpelier further gentrifies and the business environment collapses
- National Life Insurance leaves
- Ghost town
- Fast food
- Tattoo parlors
- Loss of historical identity
- No new housing, job growth, or residents
- Becoming a "one company" town
- Shabby down town, vacancies
- More subsidized housing than market rate housing
- Pushing lower income residents out of town
- Stagnant and unaffordable
- Failure- inaction causes city to decay and become unaffordable
- Loss of mix of income and ages
- Loss of tax base
- Abandoned buildings
- Polarization of the population, only the very poor and the very rich
- Increasing taxes
- Major private employers, National Life, Union Mutual, VT Mutual leave town
- City will continue on path of unaffordability
- Continued progressive exclusivity of Montpelier
- Higher cost of goods
- High taxes, limited housing
- Unaffordable to do business or work in town
- Loss of interconnecting green spaces
- Downtown is full of only boutiques
- Stagnation leading to decay while Waterbury and Barre thrive.