

**Appendix II Public Participation / Public
Planning Forums**

Bureau County, IL Comprehensive Plan Public Planning Forums

Public planning forums, hosted by the Bureau County Regional Planning Commission, were held at 7:00 P.M. on the following dates and at the following locations:

Monday, March 24, 2014

Bureau Valley School District Administrative Building, Manlius, IL

Attendance: Sixteen (16) citizens

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Buda Community Hall, Buda, IL

Attendance: Twenty (20) citizens

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

LaMoille Lion's Club, LaMoille, IL

Attendance: Eight (8) citizens

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Bureau County Courthouse, Princeton, IL

Attendance: Forty-five (45) citizens

The total attendance at all four public planning forums was 89.

The Bureau County Regional Planning Commission hosted the public planning forums to:

- Engage the Bureau County community in public dialogue;
- Identify values of the Bureau County community;
- Identify and create a vision of the future for Bureau County;
- Identify County-wide issues and opportunities.

The Bureau County Regional Planning Commission recognizes that public participation is the backbone of any planning process. Without public involvement, the plan might not include a “road map” for the entire County-wide community, but only for the few that were involved. This can result in a lack of public support, and difficulties in implementing the plan.

The following is a compilation of the input provided by the citizens of Bureau County that attended the public planning forums to various topics.

Values and Vision

In the future of Bureau County we envision...

(From the Manlius meeting)

Continued agriculture and more planned industrial jobs...

(From the LaMoille meeting) An agricultural way of life...

(From the Buda meeting)

Jobs and employment...

More industry...

Well-planned communities...

Cooperation between governmental jurisdictions...

Maintaining a strong agricultural base...

Keeping local talent in Bureau County...

Specialized and diversified farming...

More local farmers' markets...

Freedom...

(From the Princeton meeting)

More jobs for young people...

More small business...

Manufacturing/industry...

North Euclid fixed...

Less flooded basements...

Better transportation facilities...

A junior college satellite facility...

Higher education / trade school...

Commuter rail transportation to Chicago...

Entertainment for people between the ages of 25-35...

Family entertainment...

Rising population trend...

Preservation of historical, cultural and natural resources...

Development of tourism-type activities...

Recreational activities...

Better internet service...

Continuing education and technical education...

Attracting and maintaining younger people...

A variety of housing styles...

Good schools...

A positive attitude...

Preservation of our agricultural way of life...

Preservation of peace and quiet...

Filling existing empty business buildings...

Hiring a County economic development specialist...

A director for Bureau County as a whole...

In Bureau County we value...

(From the Manlius meeting)

Education...

Convenience of everything...

Pristine countryside of rolling hills...

History and Historical Society...

Agriculture...

Rural morals and values... Small-town atmosphere...

(From the LaMoille meeting)

Families and family activities...

(From the Buda meeting)

Family...

Sense of community...

Keeping family farms and businesses in the family...

Bureau County as home... Happiness and attitude...

Close-knit communities...

Trust and security...

Local EMS, Fire and First-Responders...

(From the Princeton meeting)

Our way of life...

Our quality of life...

Religious freedom...

Friendliness...

Public health and safety...

Low crime rate...

Historical structures (like the Red Covered Bridge and the Captain Swift Bridge)...

Clean air...

Friends and neighbors...

Bureau County Metro Center...

Views, vistas, natural landscapes...

Dialogue

What do you want to preserve about Bureau County?

Manlius Responses

Quality of life
Property values
Communities
Low crime rate
Existing manufacturing
Hospitals and access to local medical care
Hunting

LaMoille Responses

History
Heritage
Quality of life
Small towns

Buda Responses

All of the values identified
Hennepin Canal
Tourism
Farmland and agriculture
Existing industry
Quaintness

History and local heritage

Princeton Responses

All of the values identified
Wildlife
Safety
Classic downtown buildings
Local control of agricultural land
Small and light manufacturing

Clean air and water

Dialogue

What do you want to create in Bureau County?

Manlius Responses

Jobs

Opportunities for kids to stay in the area

Services and opportunities for the aging population

Identify and develop outdoor recreational opportunities

Opportunities for youth hunting education

LaMoille Responses

Well paying jobs

Reasons for people to come back to Bureau County

Buda Responses

More people involved

More small business

Community pride (individual and entire communities)

Entertainment opportunities

Additional tourism opportunities

Additional public transportation

Princeton Responses

Expanded use of State parks

More continuing education

Year-around access to State parks

Marketing identity

More and better paying jobs

Revitalized downtowns

Dialogue

What do you want to change in Bureau County?

Manlius Responses

Declining population

Tax structure

LaMoille Responses

Better roads

Buda Responses

Declining population

Prevailing wages

School district boundary lines

Support for local EMS/Fire/First
Responders

Princeton Responses

(No responses)

Dialogue

What are Bureau County's overall strengths?

Manlius Responses

Friendly people
Strong work ethic

Good soil
Value of education (good schools)
Trustworthy communities

Good fishing and hunting

Parks and recreation

Cultural facilities

Agricultural industry/business

Agribusiness opportunities

Transportation facilities

Medical facilities

Reaching outside our borders

Manlius Responses (continued)

Emergency services
Easy access to post-high school education

Diverse physiography

Social programs (helping the poor, food, clothing)

Volunteerism

LaMoille Responses

Volunteerism

Community pride

Good work ethic

Lifestyle

Location

Buda Responses

People
Agricultural base

Good work ethic

Public schools

I-80 and highway system

Rail system

Princeton Responses

People
Schools

Values

Churches

Cleanliness

BPART

Amtrak station

Farmland

Water resources

Proximity to I-80

Dialogue

What are Bureau County's overall weaknesses?

Manlius Responses

Lack of high-speed
communications

Lack of cultural diversity
Drug abuse

Lack of road maintenance

Lack of higher paying jobs

Declining road maintenance

LaMoille Responses

Location

Buda Responses

Industry concentrated in small
areas of the County

Lack of public transportation

Princeton Responses

(No responses)

Dialogue

What are the greatest threats outside and affecting Bureau County?

Manlius Responses

State debt

Loss of religion and moral values

LaMoille Responses

Shopping opportunities outside the county

Commodity markets

Buda Responses

Drug trafficking

State mandates

Federal and State EPA

Loss of business to areas outside Bureau County

Princeton Responses

Chicagoland

Springfield politics

Shopping opportunities outside Bureau County

Federal policies

Unfunded mandates

Dialogue

What are the greatest opportunities outside and affecting Bureau County?

Manlius Responses

College/university opportunities
High-speed rail

Access to transportation in urban
areas

Growth in urban areas

LaMoille Responses

Commodity markets
I-80 corridor

Buda Responses

Amtrak
Employment opportunities

Colleges

Community colleges

Princeton Responses

Community colleges

Wide variety of resources
within one hour travel time

Housing

What types of housing do you want to preserve in Bureau County?

Manlius Responses

Single family homes

Senior communities

Improved and preserved
small towns

LaMoille Responses

Historical homes

Old farmsteads

Owner-occupied homes

Buda Responses

Well-maintained older, historic
homes

Princeton Responses

Existing historic homes

Historic neighborhood
districts

What types of housing and neighborhoods do you want in Bureau County?

Manlius Responses

Affordable homes

LaMoille Responses

Improved maintenance of small
town housing

Buda Responses

Pride of ownership

Occupied homes in neighborhood

Close-knit neighborhoods

Princeton Responses

Wide variety of housing
types

Housing

What types of neighborhoods or areas could be improved?

Manlius Responses

(No responses)

LaMoille Responses

(No responses)

Buda Responses

Subsidized housing

Neighborhood parks/playgrounds

Princeton Responses

Abandoned homes
Dilapidated homes and
buildings

In the next 10, 20 or 30 years, what do you want your residential County to look like?

Manlius Responses

More people and more homes

LaMoille Responses

(No responses)

Buda Responses

Improved and attractive

Princeton Responses

Neighborhoods with preserved
historical quality
Residential housing
developments contiguous with
municipalities
Sensitive to natural
environment

Economic Development

What do you want to preserve in your local economy?

Manlius Responses

Existing economic base

Local post offices

LaMoille Responses

Family farms

Agriculture

Small businesses

Locally grown produce

Buda Responses

Everything

Service business and industry

Existing businesses

Good work force

Emergency services

Princeton Responses

Small and large businesses

Family farms

Health care resources

Hospitals

Natural resources

Schools

Access to capital

Economic Development

What do you want to change in your local economy?

Manlius Responses

More jobs

LaMoille Responses

(No response)

Buda Responses

More quality jobs

Higher paying jobs

More locally owned businesses

Regional collaboration

Princeton Responses

More jobs

Diversification of employment

More choices in grocery stores and shopping

What do you want to create in your local economy?

Manlius Responses

Local service businesses

Revitalized small town businesses

LaMoille Responses

More businesses and opportunities

Tourism

Industrial development

Outdoor recreational opportunities

High-speed communications

Buda Responses

More entertainment opportunities

More tourism

Local support of E911 system

Princeton Responses

Skilled workers

Economic Development

What categories of new business and/or industries are desired?

Manlius Responses

Manufacturing facilities

Technology industry

Distribution centers

Agri-business

LaMoille Responses

Variety of restaurants

Better paying jobs

Hotels within walking distance of
the Amtrak station

Buda Responses

Agriculturally-related businesses

Complementary businesses

Farmers' markets

More entertainment

More local restaurants

Princeton Responses

Restaurants

Cracker Barrel

Aldi / HyVee

Manufacturing

Logistics

Lowe's/lumber/hardware stores

Arts and craft supply stores

Economic Development

What are Bureau County's strengths for attracting/retaining new business and/or industry?

Manlius Responses

I-80
Enterprise zone
Schools
Low cost of open land

LaMoille Responses

Transportation
Recreational activities
Proximity to population centers
Economic incentives

Buda Responses

Transportation
Local work force
Local churches

Princeton Responses

Transportation infrastructure
Housing affordability

What are Bureau County's weaknesses for attracting/retaining new business and/or industry?

Manlius Responses

(No responses)

LaMoille Responses

Declining population
Proximity to population centers
Economic incentives

Buda Responses

Lack of regional collaboration
Lack of high-speed communications network

Princeton Responses

High taxes
Small labor force

Transportation

What parts of the current Bureau County transportation system are most important?

Manlius Responses

I-80 and other major highways

Rail system

Illinois River

LaMoille Responses

BPART

Amtrak

Public road system

Illinois River

Buda Responses

Roads and highways

Rail system

Illinois River

Princeton Responses

I-80

Amtrak

Rail freight

Illinois River

BPART

What current transportation arrangements, modes or facilities do you want to change, expand or improve?

Manlius Responses

Additional I-80 interchanges

Amtrak station parking

Public transportation

LaMoille Responses

Road maintenance

High-speed rail

Better parking lot for Amtrak station

Buda Responses

Illinois River lock system

High-speed rail system

Public transportation

Greater public presence from BPART

Princeton Responses

Taxi service

Bicycling

Commuter rail service

Local Amtrak ticket agent

Transportation

Of the various trends related to transportation in Bureau County and the region, which should be encouraged and which should be altered?

Manlius Responses

Transportation for senior citizens and disabled (BPART)

LaMoille Responses

Telecommuting

Buda Responses

(No response)

Princeton Responses

(No response)

What kinds of transportation arrangement promote a high quality of life?

Manlius Responses

Personal vehicles

Public roads

LaMoille Responses

Personal vehicles

Walkable and bike friendly communities

Public transportation accessible

Buda Responses

BPART

Railroad/Amtrak

Maintain roads to keep flow of business and agriculture going

Princeton Responses

All of the previously mentioned under “Transportation”

Pedestrian sidewalks

BPART

Accessible transportation

County Facilities

What County facilities are most important?

Manlius Responses

County and Township Highway
Departments
Courthouse

LaMoille Responses

(No Response)

Buda Responses

Zoning Office/Courthouse

Legal system

Emergency services
Senior services (Bureau County
Senior Center)

Schools

Princeton Responses

Greenways and open space

All County facilities

Parks

What County facilities would you change, expand or improve?

Manlius Responses

County jail

LaMoille Responses

County jail

Buda Responses

Update/expand Courthouse/jail
according to budget and needs
Awareness of County
facilities/services

Improved communication

Bureau County web site (all
departments)

Hennepin Canal

Princeton Responses

Jail

Hennepin Canal Parkway

Open Dialogue

Any other issues and/or opportunities that we should be aware of relative to the development of the Bureau County Comprehensive Plan?

Infrastructure maintenance and improvement of small towns to support infrastructure in Bureau County (jobs to provide money).