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## Bike paths, development focus of plan

By KEN de la BASTIDE

As promised, the administration of Anderson Mayor Kevin Smith unveiled the city's first new comprehensive plan since the 1960s to the public.

Ratio Architects of Indianapolis was hired by the city last year to complete the comprehensive plan. The cost is not to exceed \$80,000.

Smith made creation of a new comprehensive plan one of the main points of his 2003 campaign.

About 25 local residents attended the first of three public meetings on Monday to get a glimpse of the plan and to provide planners with input on an action plan for implementation.

One of the proposed action plans getting a lot of support was for more bicycle paths in Anderson.

"There needs to be more bicycle paths and pedestrian walking areas," resident Sandra Nardoni, 31, Anderson, said. "We need to do a better job of explaining the attractions of Anderson and the quality of life here that will attract potential employers."

Nardoni moved to Anderson 13 years ago from a rural area in northern Indiana.

"I'm here because I care about the city," she said. "We like Anderson and have made a lot of friends. Mostly we like the people."

Infrastructure was another concern of Nardoni's.

"We plan to raise our family here," she said. "We need to promote a better community."

More bicycle paths, as well as making it safer for riders, was a concern of

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Karen Nelson.

"We should be encouraging people to ride more," she said.

Cleanup of former industrial sites was another priority for Nelson.

"There are eyesores that need to be eliminated," she said.

Pendleton resident Pat Plummer was pleased that city officials sought input from the public.

"I'm more interested in economic development," she said. "We need jobs back in Anderson."

Downtown resident Karma Hack, 22, said the plan is important to have guidelines for the whole city.

"We need more businesses downtown," she said. "From what I've seen this is a good plan."

The city should update the comprehensive plan every five years, Hack said.

Terry Richie said he attended the meeting to learn what the city's planned land use for the west side entailed.

"We own 13 lots on the west side and want to open a storage facility," he said. "Right now it is zoned for residential use in the plan, but I don't see any big changes taking place."

City officials didn't know what was going to happen with the closing of the General Motors plants, Richie said.

"It would be a good idea to redevelop the former industrial sites," he said.

Pete Fritz of Ratio said there were four main maps at the meeting dealing with economic development, public services, land use and transportation.

"People are always interested in land use and transportation," he said. "Whenever you upgrade or create new road segments, people want to know about them."

Another key area is growth along Interstate 69 and the planned frontage road, Fritz said.

"We also want to redevelop former industrial sites for the location of new industries or another use," he said.

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## Reader Comments

**Harry Levinson** (8/30/2005)

AAARRGGHHHHH....AAARRGGHHHH.....with \$5 dollar a gallon gasoline...u don't need BIKE PATHS...the roads will be empty soon enough...SHALOM, Harry

**Citizen** (8/30/2005)

Oh Yes, lets cut the funding for Alternatives so that people can ride bikes on busy streets like Scatterfield Road. That's not an important issue to me. Also, what is going on with the dash lines on the Veterans Bridge on Raible. No one knows where to drive. All the lines have changed. If you want to add bike paths be smart enough to mark them before we have wrecks.

**HUH?** (8/30/2005)

I'm a republican fiscal conservative and I think the bike paths are a terrific idea. What? You think we all live in cement block houses without windows to keep the cost down?

**Good for community** (8/30/2005)

Great idea to add bike paths. Believe it or not cities all over the country are building bike paths. Those cities know business' look for quality of life for their workers as a reason to locate in that city. Cycling has been proven to lower blood pressure, lower "bad" cholesterol improve "good" cholesterol, remove fat. It's an all around good thing. Congratulations Mr. Mayor. Fine job.

**camper/fisherman** (8/30/2005)

Don't forget the camp ground around the lake on rangeline. Grow some money from the money you spend.Church of God Convention needs that support also.

**Bob Thompson** (8/30/2005)

As a point of clarification Landscape Architects not Architects will design the Bike Trail system. Ratio Architects has a staff of Registered Landscape Architects that can do a good job for the City of Anderson

**Anderson resident** (8/30/2005)

Interesting that the mayor is getting the blame for the jobs leaving Anderson. I have only lived here for 4 years, and this process started long before the mayor came into office.

**No Bashing** (8/30/2005)

It is a good vision and potential reality. I, too, am glad to see he hired a local Architect. However, he continues to overlook Anderson's major consulting company. The owners has class and will never complain. But I often have lunch with their president, and he remains positive, but very disapointed.

**JW** (8/30/2005)

This sounds really great. Start the work now paint bike paths on Scatterfield. They are painting the road now it needs the paths. Mounds road need one too out to mounds park. Look into Rail to Trails paths where you connect to other local towns and the Cardinal path in Muncie. Make Anderson more than a bedroom community make it an action community where you can enjoy yourself in the outdoors.

**citizen** (8/30/2005)

Perhaps we can use all the empty factories and businesses and their parking

lots and have indoor and outdoor bike paths. Nice to see that a local architect was given the job also.

**Anon** (8/30/2005)

A welcome development from Mayor Smith but not enough...and too little too late !!! Your demise from office Mr Mayor is still sealed,your fate set in stone. If the bike path is your legacy then enjoy it but it will be overshadowed by everything you have done prior. TIME TO GO MR MAYOR !!!

(8/30/2005)

The republican fiscal conservatives will howl over the bike paths.

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