

Key Person Small Group Interview Format and Schedule

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DRAFT FOR REVIEW

April 22, 2025

The Key Person Small Group Interviews aim to gather input from a diverse mix of residents, stakeholders, and community leaders on key topic areas aligned with the Existing Conditions Report. Each 45-minute session will focus on a specific key topic area, with 8-10 participants representing a range of roles and backgrounds. The goal is to balance professional insight and technical expertise with lived experiences and everyday knowledge within each session.

All sessions will be conducted over a single day at Joliet's Municipal Building (City Hall). This location was selected due to its central location near the Joliet Gateway Center. The day will include scheduled 20-minute breaks in between sessions and an hour lunch block.

Time	Session Name
9:00 – 9:45 am	Economic Development
	20-minute Break
10:05 – 10:50 am	Environment
	20-minute Break
11:10 – 11:55 am	Mobility and Transportation
	20-minute Break
12:15 – 1:00 pm	Housing and Neighborhoods
	20-minute Break
1:00 – 2:00 pm	1-hour Lunch Break
2:00 – 2:45 pm	Quality of Life
	20-minute Break
3:05 – 3:50 pm	Infrastructure
	20-minute Break
4:10 – 4:55 pm	Land Use and Future Development

Session 1 – Economic Development [9:00-9:45 am]

TOPICS COVERED:

- Workforce opportunities and barriers
- Industrial opportunities and barriers
- Commercial opportunities and barriers
- Small business climate

POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS:

- Representative from the workforce training field (ex. adult education coordinator from Joliet Junior College) (1 person)
- Hiring manager from a larger employer (ex. Amazon Fulfillment Center, Whirlpool, Home Mars) (1 person)
- Small business owner (ex. restaurant, hair salon, retail boutique) (1-2 people)
- Representative from the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce (1 person)
- Union/labor representatives (ex. Ironworkers Local 44, I.B.E.W Local 176, Will & Grundy Counties Building Trades Council) (1 person)
- Representative from an industrial complex company (ex. RoadOne Intermodal Logistics) (1 person)
- City Staffer from Economic Development Department (Paulina Martinez, or her designee) (1 person)
- Representative from the Joliet Latino Economic Development Association (1 person)
- Representative from the African American Business Association of Will County (1 person)

20-minute break

Session 2 – Environment [10:05-10:50 am]

TOPICS COVERED:

- Open space access
- Park and recreational programming
- Natural resources and habitat protection
- Climate and environmental education

POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS:

- Joliet Park District staffer (ex. Brad Staab, Jim Baranak, or one of their designees) (1 person)

- Representative from an environmental non-profit (ex. The Conservation Foundation) (1 person)
- Public Works staffer (ex. someone from the forestry division) (1 person)
- Resident park users (2 people)
- Young person involved in environmental an organization (ex. Job Corps or high school environmental club) (1 person)
- Representative from the educational field (Joliet Junior College Sustainability Coordinator Maria Anna Rafac) (1 person)
- Representative from the Nature Foundation (Tara Neff) (1 person)
- Representative from the Forest Preserve District of Will County (1 person)

20-minute break

Session 3 – Mobility and Transportation [11:10-11:55 am]

TOPICS COVERED:

- Public transit access and reliability
- Transportation equity
- Transit safety and connectivity
- Sidewalk, trail, and bike infrastructure

POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS:

- Public Transit representatives (ex. Pace or Metra staff members) (2 people)
- People who rely on transit (ex. service industry workers, early-career workers) (2 people)
- Young people (ex. Joliet Junior College students, High School Students) (2 people)
- Delivery/logistics worker (ex. Amazon/FedEx) (1 person)
- Public Works Staffer from the Roadway Division (ex. Greg Ruddy, Director of Public Works) (1 person)
- Bike/ped local advocate or cycling group member (ex. Joliet Bicycle Club) (2 people)
- Staffer from Will County DOT (ex. Jeff Ronaldson, Director of Transportation) (1 person)

20-minute break

Session 4 – Housing and Neighborhoods [12:15-1:00 pm]

TOPICS COVERED:

- Housing quality and affordability
- Tenant and homeowner experiences
- Neighborhood strengths and needs
- Displacement and reinvestment

POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS:

- Faith leader (ex. Pastor Dwayne Barefield, All Nations Church of God, Pastor Eric Posteluk from Mosaic Community Church) (1 person)
- Renters, one from the East Side, West Side, and Central area of the city (3 people)
- Housing advocate representative (ex. Joliet Housing Authority, Hope Manor Joliet) (1 person)
- Young professional (ex. Joliet Area Young Professionals) (1 person)
- Senior resident (1 person)
- City staffer from the Neighborhood Services Division (ex. Joe Fleischauer, Director) (1 person)
- Rental housing property manager (ex. Rep from Pro-Town Properties, Celtic Property Managers) (1 person)
- Housing developer (ex. Hope Bound Development Corporation, Holsten Development Corporation) (1 person)

Lunch Break [1:00-2:00 pm]

Session 5: Quality of Life [2:00-2:45 pm]

TOPICS COVERED:

- Access to amenities and services
- Health, wellness, and safety
- Cultural and creative assets
- Intergenerational and neighborhood dynamics

POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS:

- Senior residents (ex. Joliet Township Senior Services, Senior Services Center of Will County) (2 people)
- Young professionals (2 people)
- People with young children at home (2 people)

- Human services or public health staffer (ex. Will County Health Department & Community Center, Guardian Angel Community Services) (1 person)
- Representative from a neighborhood association (ex. Bicentennial Bluffs Neighborhood Association, St Pat’s Neighborhood Association) (2 people)
- Representative from the Joliet Public Library (1 person)
- Representative active in the arts (ex. Waywards Art Haus) (1 person)

20-minute break

Session 6: Infrastructure [3:05-3:50 pm]

Topics Covered:

- Road, sidewalk, and utility conditions
- Flooding and stormwater
- Infrastructure gaps in older neighborhoods
- Utilities and coordinating with providers

POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS:

- City Staffer from Public Utilities (ex. Allison Swisher, Public Utilities Director) (1 person)
- City Staffer focused on water conservation (1 person)
- City Staffer from Public Works (ex. Jim Trizna, Public Works Director) (1 person)
- _____

20-minute break

Session 7: Land Use and Future Development [4:10-4:55 pm]

TOPICS COVERED:

- Existing land use patterns
- Redevelopment and repurposing opportunities
- Neighborhood change and community input
- Vision for downtown and key corridors

POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS:

- City Staffer from Planning and Zoning (Jayne Bernhard, City Planner) (1 person)
- Representative from Joliet City Center Partnership (Vicki Sanchez, Events & Marketing Director) (1 person)
- Engaged residents (connect with City staff to identify potential residents from the East Side, West Side, and Central area of the city) (3 people)
- Developers (connect with City staff to identify potential developers with focus on commercial, industrial, mixed use) (3 people)

Conclude sessions by 5:00 pm