



Agenda

Committee of the Whole Meeting

City of Kalamazoo

Monday, April 21, 2025

5:00 PM

City Commission Chambers – 241 West South Street

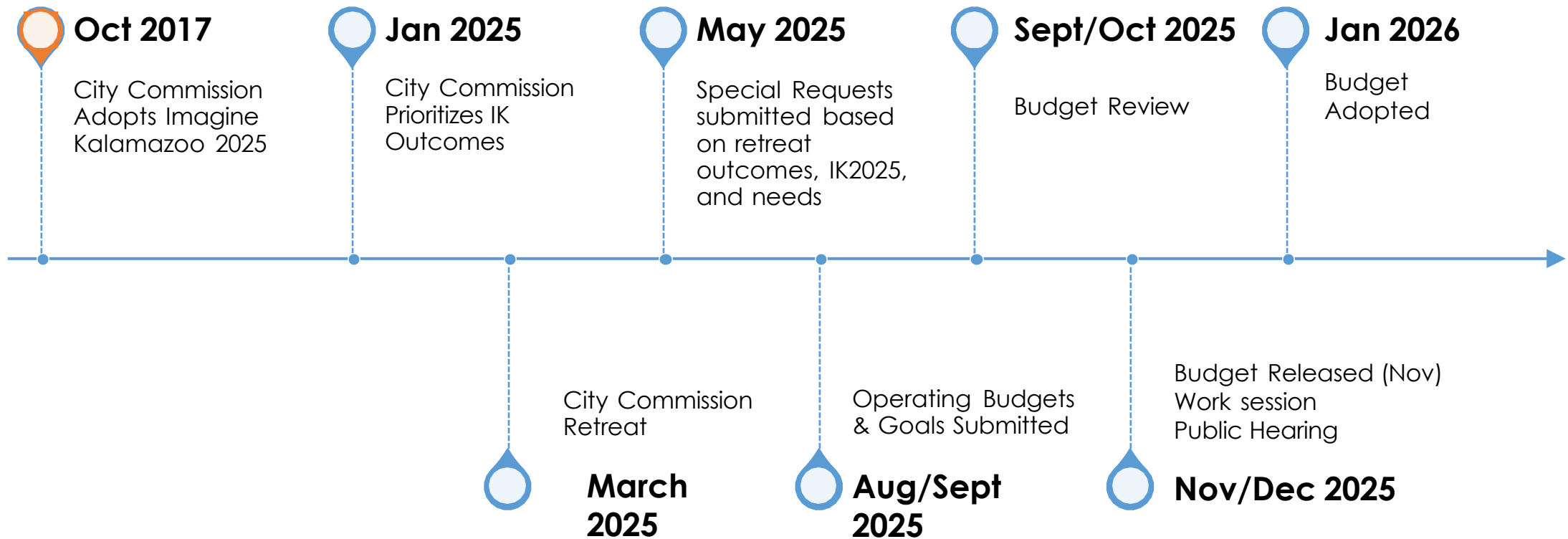
- A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**
- B. COMMUNICATIONS**
- C. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- D. SPECIAL AGENDA ITEMS**
- E. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**
- F. WORK SESSION**
 - 1. City Commission Retreat Report Out
- G. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**
- H. ADJOURNMENT**

2026 Priorities

April 21, 2025



Developing 2026 Focus



Retreat Prep

GOSM model introduced to
define specific outcomes for
2026

IK & City plans populated Goals
and Outcomes

Commissioners prioritized their
top 5 outcomes



**Increase
Affordable Housing
Opportunities**



**Improve
Community
Prosperity**



**Decrease Violent
Crimes, especially
among Youth**



**Economic
Development
Support**



**Increase Support
for our Unhoused
Community**

Retreat Results



Staff identified potential strategies to achieve priority outcomes

Commissioners and staff evaluated strategies based on impact and difficulty

Commissioners prioritized their top strategies to pursue in 2026

- Engage at-risk youth with mentoring, interventions, city programming
- Critical Code Repair program
- Invest in emergency shelter for extreme weather
- Launch HomeShare model
- Support Bridges to Career Opportunities program
- Install overt pole mounted cameras in downtown and Northside Cultural Business District
- Kalamazoo Entrepreneurial Networks Capital Consortium program

Safe Community

Decrease violent crimes, especially among youth



Contact 50 at-risk youth and their families to offer mentoring, interventions, mediations, and city programming

15% reduction in repeat juvenile contacts



Install 10 overt pole mounted camera systems in the downtown and Northside Cultural Business District areas

Increase FUSUS camera streams by 15%

Shared Prosperity

Increase Affordable Housing Opportunities



HomeShare provides a service that matches a person with extra housing with a seeker who needs a place to live.

Launch HomeShare model in 2026 (pending results of 2025 feasibility study)

Increase coordination/support for our unhoused community



Invest in emergency shelter for extreme weather

Maintain investment of \$500,000

Shared Prosperity

Reduce the number of households in poverty / ALICE



Preservation of housing stock & neighborhood market values through Critical Code Repair

Assist 20

very low-income households with critical repairs



Bridges to Career Opportunities provides workforce development training, financial coaching, and other supports for residents

50 residents receiving bundled services

Economic Vitality

Economic Development supports community needs



Invest in Kalamazoo Entrepreneurial Networks (KZEN) Capital Consortium program
Increased funding and program development aimed at filling gaps in existing network; increased number of businesses supported

Plan It! Public Meetings

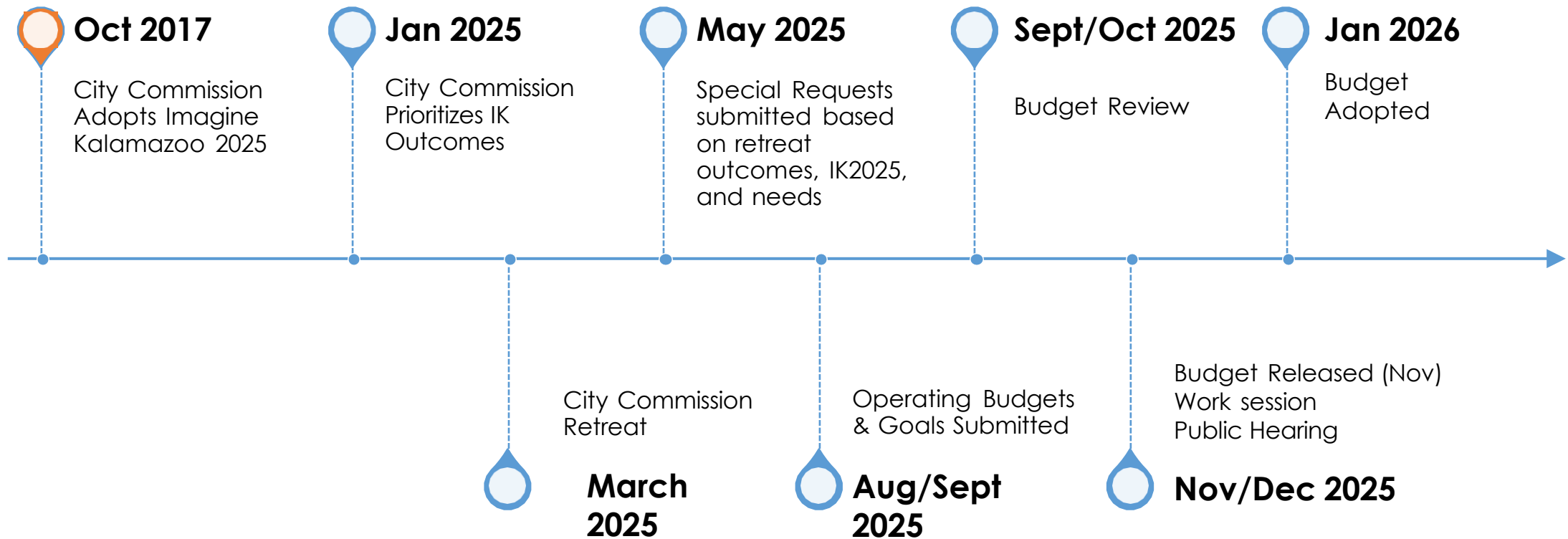
Imagine Kalamazoo



imagine
kalamazoo
2035



Next Steps in 2026 Budget Process





Imagine It

Review of SV **Goals**
Happy City

What were biggest successes of IK2025? What didn't work? Where do we go from here? Do we need to redefine the goals? Define a happy & healthy city?

Small group & pop-up conversations, surveys



Plan It

What are the **outcomes** of the community's **goals**?

What is prioritized? What barriers exist to achieve these outcomes?

Large format meetings across the City, focus groups



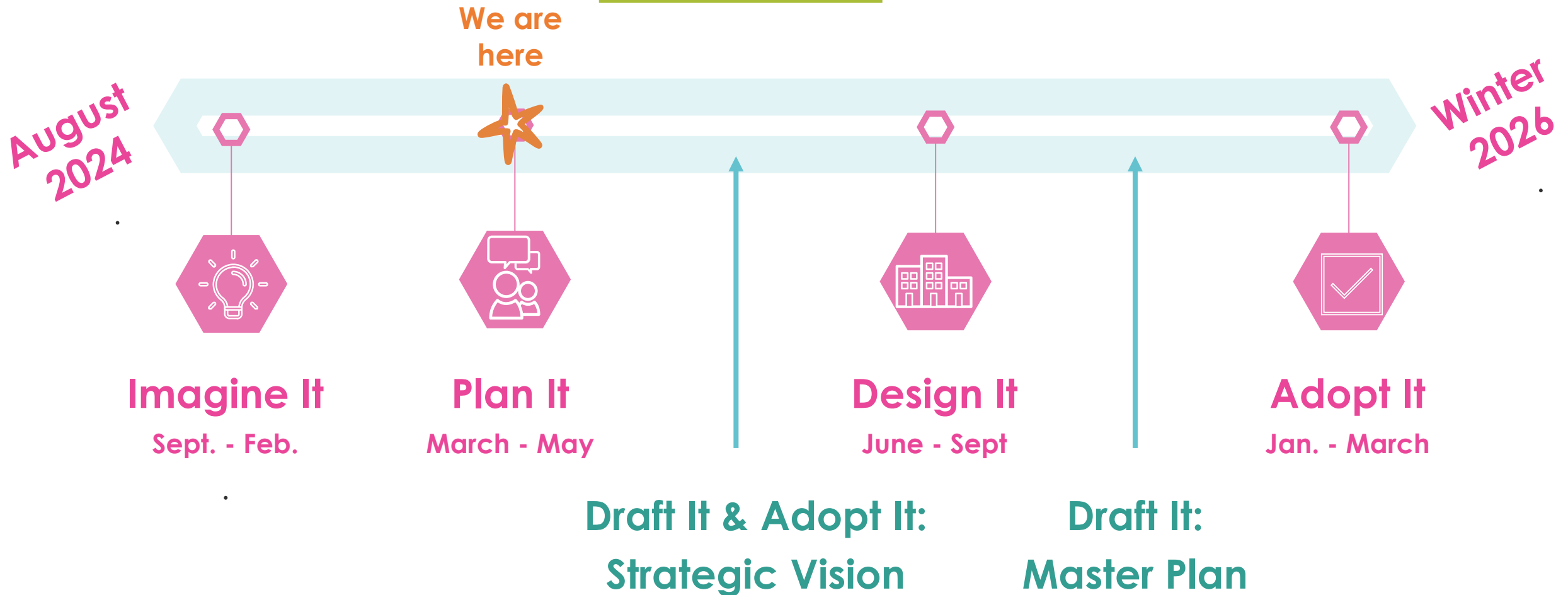
Design It

What does this mean at the neighborhood level?

Development of **strategies** (projects & programs) and **metrics**.

Neighborhood meetings

Imagine Kalamazoo



Report Out:



“Imagine It”



Phase is Complete!

The “Imagine It” Phase is the first phase of the planning process. The purpose of this phase is to **capture the broadest principles of the strategic vision.**



690

Meeting on the
Go Participants



113

Pop Up Engagement
Participants



199

Presentation
Attendees



125

Public Meeting
Attendees



301

Surveys
Completed



50

Partner Meeting
Attendees



942

Happy City Book
Read Participants



72

Youth Art
Projects

=

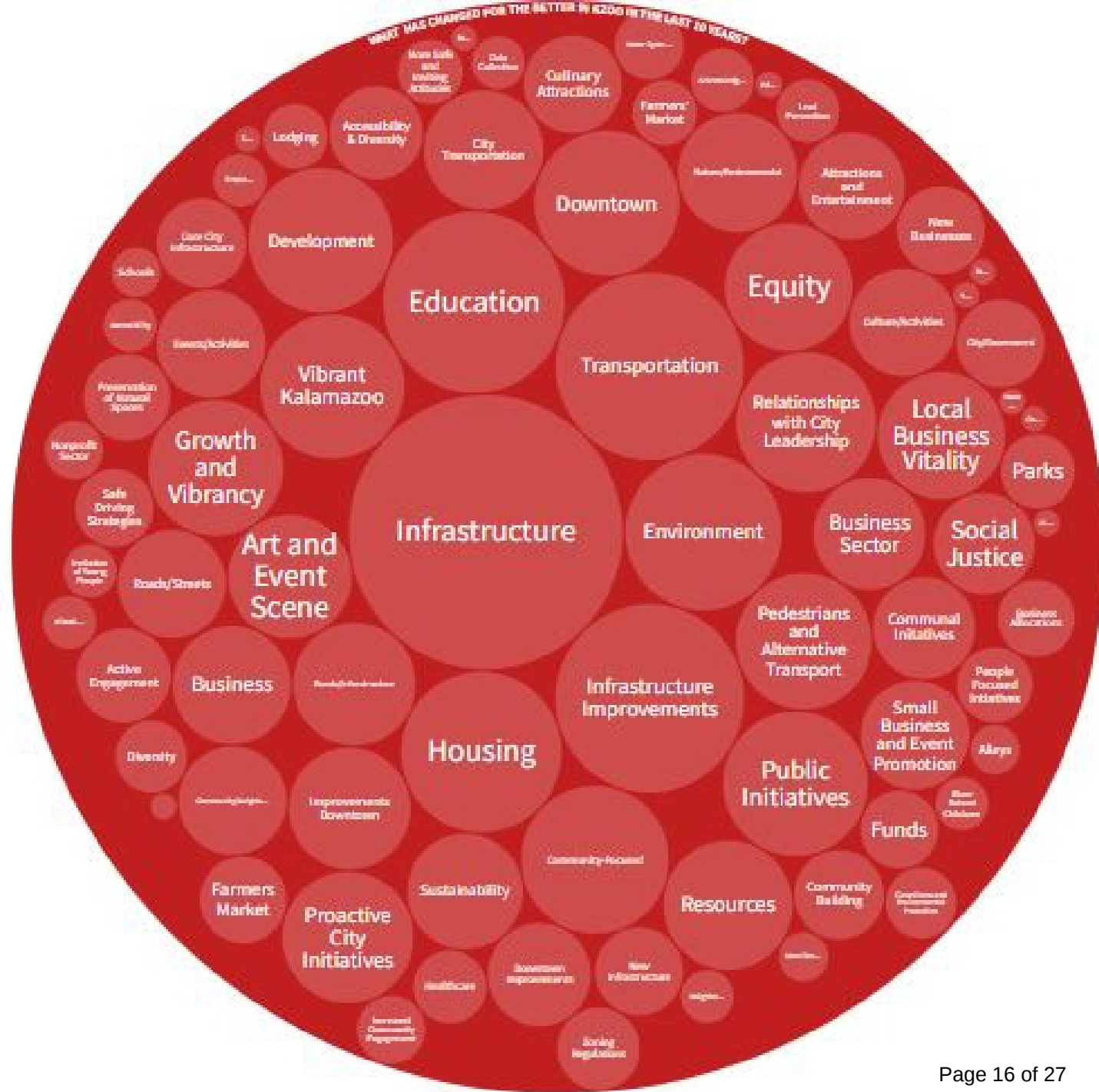
2492

Points of Contact



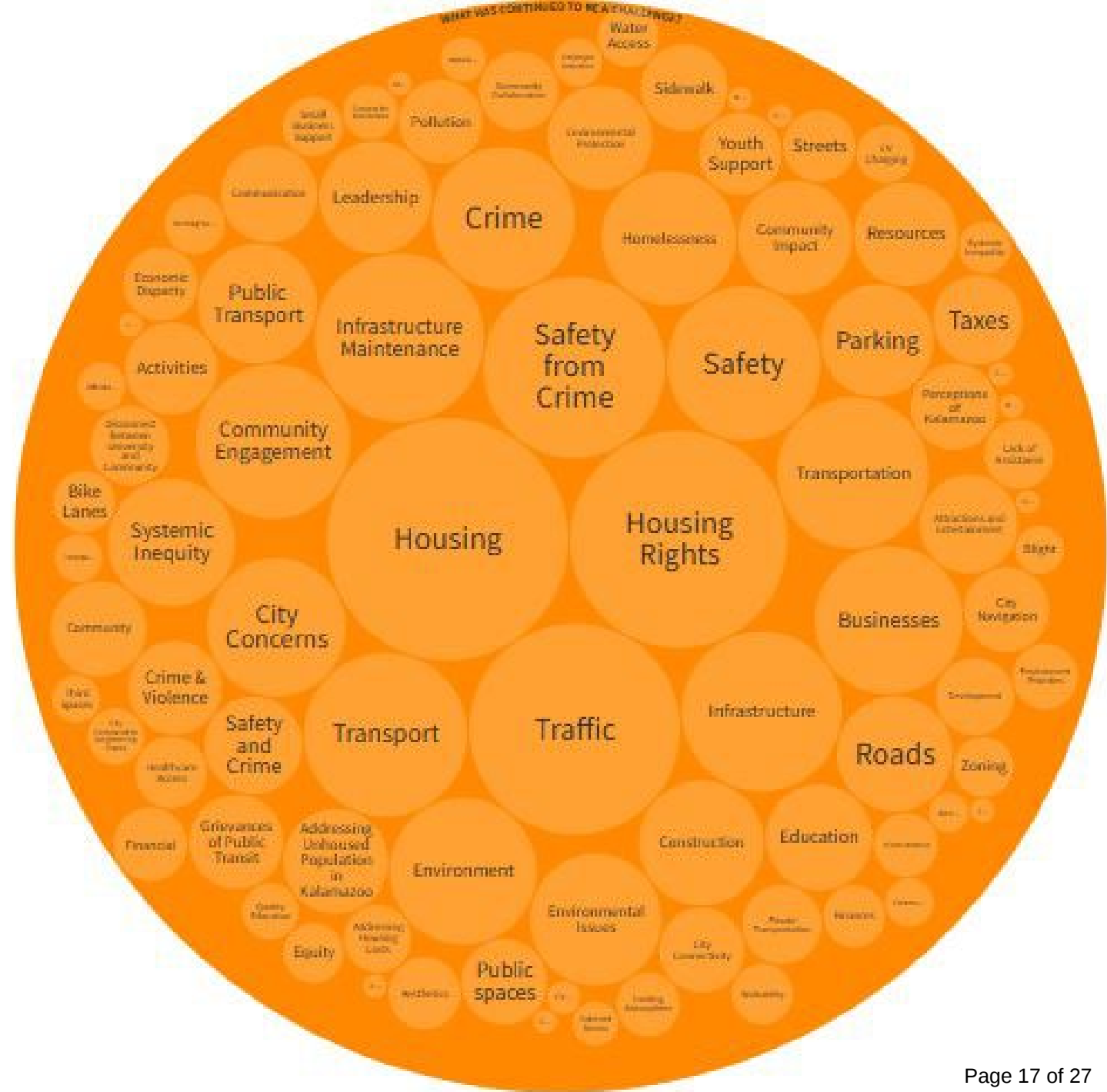
What has changed for the better?

1. Infrastructure (improvements)
2. Education
3. Transportation
4. Housing
5. Environment



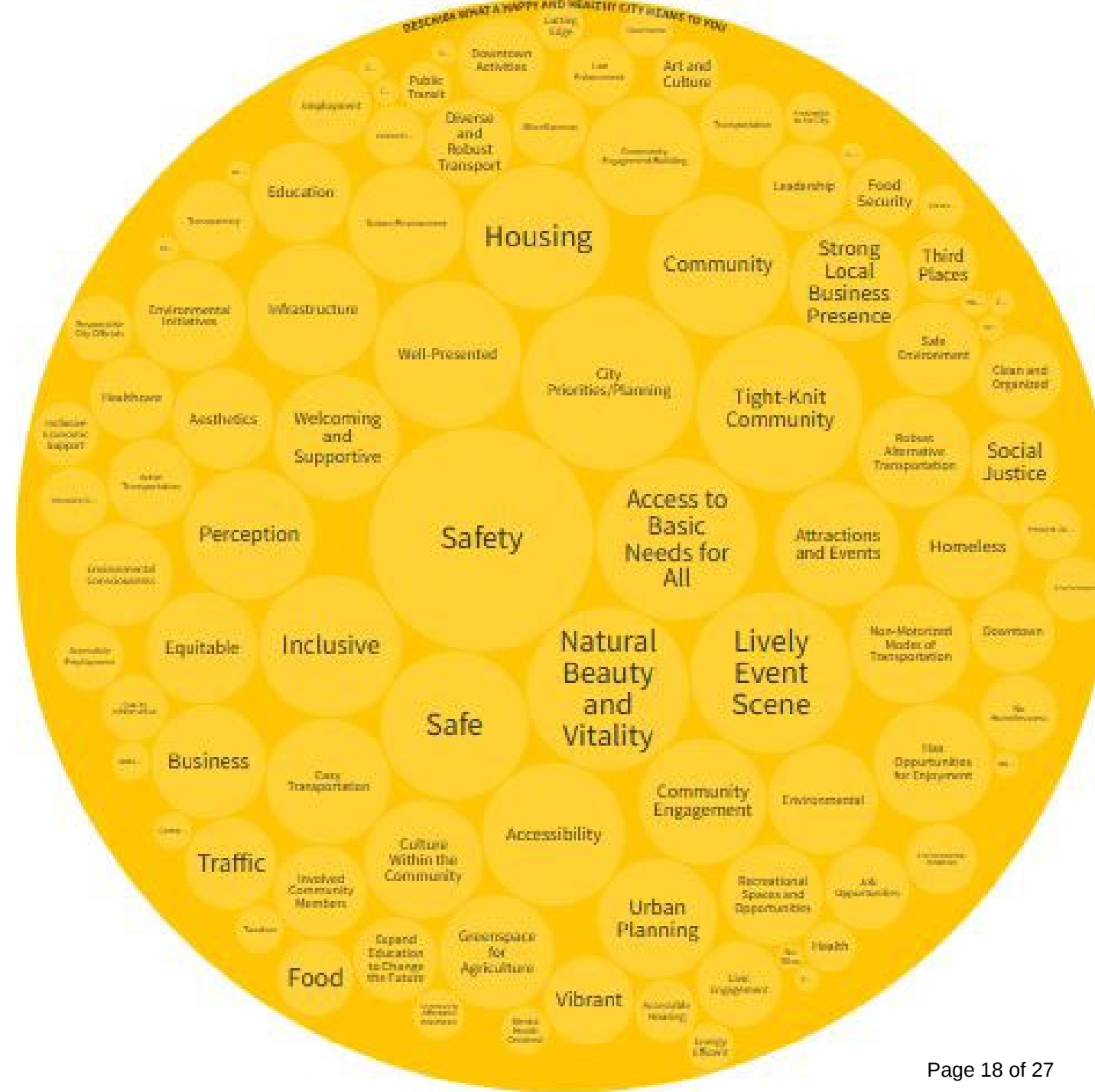
What remains a challenge?

1. Housing
2. Housing Rights
3. Traffic
4. Safety from Crime
5. Infrastructure Maintenance



Happy & Healthy City?

1. Safety
2. Natural Beauty & Vitality
3. Access to Basic Needs for all
4. Tight-Knit Community
5. City Priorities/Planning



Role of Community?

1. Holding Leaders Accountable
2. Engaging with Community
3. Small Scale Changes
4. Participation and Engagement
5. Ensuring a Safe Environment



What we've heard: Goal Themes:

Transportation. Traffic. Non-motorized travel. Accessible for all. Options.

Housing. Affordable & accessible for all. Unhoused support. More housing units.

Infrastructure. Maintenance. Public Spaces. Transportation choices. Safe.

Environment. Protect. Restore. Individual Stewardship. More green spaces.

Economy. Support small business. Attract businesses. Thriving downtown. Nodes.

Community. Equity. Safety. Connectedness. Communication. Neighborhoods.

3rd Spaces. Free. Accessible. Year-round. Public spaces. Spaces for all ages.

Activities/Events. Free. Accessible. Year-round. Welcoming. Community calendar.

IK2035: Building on what we heard:

Plan It!



The “Plan It” Phase is the second phase of the planning process. The purpose of this phase is to use the Imagine It input to **create the goals and outcomes for the Strategic Vision.**

Strategic Vision Goal Survey



Survey. Review IK2025 goals. What needs to change to carry Kalamazoo to 2035?

1

Shared Prosperity

2

Connected City

3

Inviting Public Places

4

Environmental
Responsibility

5

Safe Community

6

Youth
Development

7

Complete
Neighborhoods

8

Strength Through
Diversity

9

Economic Vitality

10

Good Governance

Strategic Vision Goal Themes

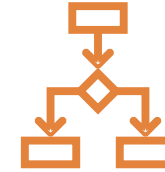


Goal Outcomes



Goals

What we're striving for



Outcomes

Impacts or results of achieving a goal. Can be short or long term & build on each other.

Strategies Measures



Strategies

Projects, Programs, Plans, & Policies used to achieve Goals & Outcomes



Measures

How we measure impact

Strategic Vision

Master Plan

Public Meetings



- 5 Public Meetings in March & April (1 more left! April 29th)
- All are welcome!
- Presentation: IK 2035 What we heard?
- Small group exercises focusing on the goals & outcomes

Focus Groups



- 9 topic-specific focus groups
- Subject matter experts
- Received background information (What we heard)
- Peer-facilitated exercises focusing on goals & outcomes

Strategic
Vision

Meeting Activities



City Vision Statement

Complete this sentence:

In 2035 all residents ...

Accessible Forward-thinking Community
Livable Adaptive Creative Youth Clean
Work Welcoming Core services
Inclusive Live Future Generations
Healthy Vibrant Connected Equitable
Diverse Future Happy Engaged Opportunity
SAFE Prosperous Transparent Empowered
Future-Focused Outcomes Responsive
Informed Service-oriented
Collaborative Belonging Resilient

Get involved



- Plan It Meeting & Event Info
Crawlspace Comedy Theatre
April 29th - 6:30 – 8 pm
- Strategic Vision Goals & Outcomes
 - Vision Statement Exercise

**Participate Online @
imaginekalamazoo.com**