Cedar Lake Vision 2040 Comprehensive Plan

Public Workshop #1

April 1, 2026

Meeting Summary

The project team facilitated the first public workshop for the Cedar Lake Vision 2040 Comprehensive Plan on April 1, 2025. The meeting was held in two sessions, the first from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM and the second from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM, at the Cedar Lake Municipal Complex located at the intersection of Morse Street and Constitution Avenue. The purpose of the workshop was to introduce the Cedar Lake Vision 2040 Comprehensive Plan to the community and gather public comment and input on the topics the plan will address. Over 40 community members attended the workshop to share their thoughts and comments for the future of Cedar Lake. The following summary outlines the workshop activities and the public input received.

Overview and Discussion

The project team prepared materials for the workshop to present Cedar Lake's existing conditions and provide four activities for attendees. The activities included feedback frames, future transportation mapping, and future land use mapping. Workshop attendees also had the opportunity to share additional input by indicating what they believe should be preserved or changed in the town. The feedback received from each of these exercises is outlined below.

Feedback Frames

The feedback frames, the first activity at the workshop, provided statements for community members to react to. Workshop participants used tokens to anonymously share how they

felt about each statement. The following outline lists each statement and how the participant's voted.

1. Statement: The Town of Cedar Lake should build a complete sidewalk network throughout town.
    a. Strong Agreement: 11
    b. Agreement: 10
    c. Neutral: 5
    d. Disagreement: 3
    e. Strong Disagreement: 1
    f. Not Sure: 1
2. Statement: The Town of Cedar Lake needs more recreational amenities such as playgrounds, trails, and programmable space.
    a. Strong Agreement: 16
    b. Agreement: 7
    c. Neutral: 6
    d. Disagreement: 0
    e. Strong Disagreement: 1
    f. Not Sure: 0
3. Statement: Cedar Lake needs more single family neighborhoods and homes.
    a. Strong Agreement: 6
    b. Agreement: 6
    c. Neutral: 6
    d. Disagreement: 8
    e. Strong Disagreement: 6
    f. Not Sure: 0
4. Statement: The Town of Cedar Lake needs more commercial development in the form of business parks, and employment centers.
    a. Strong Agreement: 9
    b. Agreement: 5
    c. Neutral: 10
    d. Disagreement: 6
    e. Strong Disagreement: 3
    f. Not Sure: 0
5. Statement: The Town of Cedar Lake needs more restaurants, retail shops and businesses geared towards residential needs/services.
    a. Strong Agreement: 10
    b. Agreement: 12

    c. Neutral: 6
    d. Disagreement: 2
    e. Strong Disagreement: 1
    f. Not Sure: 0
6. Statement: The Town of Cedar Lake should embrace growth.
    a. Strong Agreement: 8
    b. Agreement: 6
    c. Neutral: 6
    d. Disagreement: 7
    e. Strong Disagreement: 5
    f. Not Sure: 0
7. Statement: The Town of Cedar Lake should prioritize utility upgrades and expansions.
    a. Strong Agreement: 18
    b. Agreement: 11
    c. Neutral: 3
    d. Disagreement: 2
    e. Strong Disagreement: 0
    f. Not Sure: 0
8. Statement: The Town of Cedar Lake needs more entertainment options including activity experiences, libraries, and museums.
    a. Strong Agreement: 9
    b. Agreement: 7
    c. Neutral: 8
    d. Disagreement: 2
    e. Strong Disagreement: 4
    f. Not Sure: 2
9. Statement: The Town of Cedar Lake should prioritize redevelopment and infill over new development.
    a. Strong Agreement: 5
    b. Agreement: 10
    c. Neutral: 7
    d. Disagreement: 5
    e. Strong Disagreement: 3
    f. Not Sure: 2
10. Statement: The Town of Cedar Lake needs more multi-family housing options which include apartments, or condominiums.
    a. Strong Agreement: 5

b. Agreement: 6
c. Neutral: 4
d. Disagreement: 1
e. Strong Disagreement: 15
f. Not Sure: 0

Preserve versus Change Feedback

The Preserve versus Change board provided a space for the public to share more general comments that did not specifically relate to any of the other activities. The board asked participants to identify important assets that should be preserved and items they believe should change. The "Change" part of the board where participants identified items to be changed helped residents share their big ideas for the future of Cedar Lake.

- Preserve
  - Keep the town a resort tourism town
  - Open space
  - Red Cedars Museum
  - Slow growth
  - Preserve historical areas and keep as resort tourism
  - Preserve and return to resort
- Change
  - More retail/restaurants
    - Increase commercial and downtown area
    - Increase single family and mixed-use development
  - Bike paths around lake
  - Need bike paths
  - More fishing areas
  - Annex more areas
  - Controlled growth
  - Reduce light pollution at parks for those of us with telescopes
  - Sidewalks around lake and new subdivisions
  - Need sidewalks and bike paths around lake!
  - Cedar Lake needs a community center
    - Another similar to Monastery Clubhouse
  - Larger park with pickleball courts
  - More ways to get around bus or van
  - We need more retail/restaurants and small businesses. Not big like targets or walmarts

    - One school district not 3
    - Have our own sewer treatment plant
    - Upgrade infrastructure
    - Hire more public safety at competitive rates

Comment Card Feedback

At the workshop, comment cards were made available for participants to share other, more general input. This activity provided an opportunity for residents to provide feedback that was not related to any of the other exercises at the workshop. This activity was optional and received two comment cards.

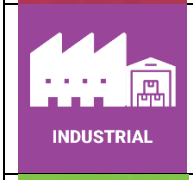
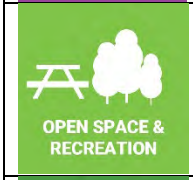
- Residents since January 2019. Relocated from Hillsdale, Michigan (formerly small resort lake town). Bike trails, garden club beautification, beaches, concession stand, college, dial-a-ride (small bus) public transportation. Keep it small!
    - Thank you for your efforts. Alesia Aumock
- Controlled growth, very slow and steady. Lake, current road system and proximity to houses prevents 3 lane road system around the lake. Traffic on the weekends during the summer is already heavy. Smart people on the Plan Commission making smart decisions about controlled growth and following a good plan to get us there is essential.

Future Land Use and Transportation Mapping

Two floor maps that displayed the Town of Cedar Lake and its surroundings were presented at the workshop. Participants were encouraged to mark their input directly on the maps.

Future Land Use Mapping

The first map was focused on land use. Meeting participants were encouraged to place stickers on the map to indicate where they would like to see certain types of new development. Participants could also leave comments on sticky notes to explain more complex thoughts.

Land Use Category	Land Use Description
	Rural Residential: Single family detached residential uses suited for rural areas with little nearby development.
	Single Family Residential: Single family detached residential uses. These areas would be developed as subdivisions or neighborhoods.
	Multi-Family Residential: Multiple separate units for residential use within a single building or complex of buildings.
	Mixed Use: Mix of housing and neighborhood-oriented businesses.
	Commercial & Business: Mix of shops, restaurants, and entertainment offerings.
	**Industrial:** Industrial uses, such as warehousing, manufacturing, and processing.
	**Open Space & Recreation:** Uses related to active and passive recreation or environmental protection.
	Agriculture: Uses related to the production and processing of food, animals, or livestock.

Future Transportation Mapping

The second map was focused on transportation. Meeting participants were encouraged to place stickers on the map to indicate where they would like to see certain types of roadway improvements. Participants could also draw new sidewalks, bicycle routes, or roadways and leave comments on sticky notes to explain more complex thoughts.

Transportation Improvement	Transportation Improvement Description
	Safety Improvements: i.e. traffic signals, stop signs, etc.
	Condition Improvements: i.e. potholes, pavement cracking, etc.
	Beautification Improvements: i.e. street trees, planters, banners, etc.
	New roadway routes and connections
	New trails/greenways
	New sidewalk connections

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT EXERCISE

Cedar Lake Comprehensive Plan

STATION

Where do you want to see change?

Using the stickers provided, show us where future development should go throughout the Town.

LAND USE CATEGORIES

- **RURAL RESIDENTIAL** — Single family detached residential uses suited for rural areas with little nearby development.
- **SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL** — Single family detached residential uses. These areas would be developed as subdivisions or neighborhoods.
- **MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL** — Multiple separate units for residential use within a single building or complex of buildings.
- **MIXED USE** — Mix of housing and neighborhood-oriented businesses.
- **COMMERCIAL & BUSINESSES** — Mix of shops, restaurants, and entertainment offerings.
- **INDUSTRIAL** — Industrial uses, such as warehousing, manufacturing, and processing.
- **OPEN SPACE & RECREATION** — Uses related to active and passive recreation or environmental protection.
- **AGRICULTURE** — Uses related to the production and processing of food, animals or livestock.

TRANSPORTATION EXERCISE

Cedar Lake Comprehensive Plan

STATION 4

Where do you want to connect to?

Using the stickers provided, show us where new connections should go throughout the Town.

WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS?

- Safety improvements (i.e. traffic signals, stop signs etc.)
- Condition improvements (i.e. potholes, pavement cracking etc.)
- Beautification improvements (i.e. street trees, planters, banners etc.)
- New roadway routes and connections
- New trails/greenways
- New sidewalk connections