

Forward

In the spring of 2007 Mayor Norm Durflinger asked volunteers throughout Morton to commit their time and talents to develop a Comprehensive Plan for the Village of Morton. This document represents the hours of meetings and the outcome of the discussions from those meetings.

The citizens of Morton also met twice during this process, in the fall of 2007 and again in early 2008, to ask questions and give feedback to the committees. This report contains ideas, hopes, dreams and visions from this process. Some of them will rise to the surface and become reality while others may be more difficult to attain. However, the pages of this report are what will make Morton a place that will continue to be a quality, Midwestern community. The plan has been established. The work is ahead.

**Morton Comprehensive Plan
Village of Morton, Illinois
www.morton-il.gov**

Board of Trustees

Norman Durflinger, President

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Morton Comprehensive Plan Committee

Project Sponsor: Norman Durflinger

Project Leaders: Mark Johnson and Craig Barley

Recorder: Joe Nohl

Team Members: Jim Benckendorf, Jeff Boss, Deb Braker, Dave Brown, Andy Chiou, Angie Hanson, Stacy Litersky, Susan Pyles, Darrell Vierling, Mike Witzig and Scott Witzig

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Note: The following three pages contain the overall Project Charter for the comprehensive plan. The project charter is a roadmap for the project. It identifies where we are, where we want to go, what we expect to get out of the project, any limitations, and the team members. Each team also created project charters for their specific topic.

Village of Morton Comprehensive Plan 2007

Project Name: Morton Comprehensive Plan Update

Description: Update the Comprehensive Plan of 1999 to provide a “vision” for Morton for the next 20 years. A plan that touches on multiple aspects of life in the community will chart the course for orderly development and progress as Morton moves forward into its future.

Start Date: March 13, 2007

End Date: May 31, 2008

Roles and Responsibilities:

Project Sponsor: Norm Durflinger

Project Leaders: Mark Johnson & Craig Barley

Recorder: Joe Nohl

Project Team Members: Jim Benckendorf

Jeff Boss

Deb Braker

Dave Brown

Andy Chiou

Angie Hanson

Stacy Litersky

Susan Pyles

Darrell Vierling

Mike Witzig

Scott Witzig

Project Details: The most recent Comprehensive Plan for Morton was approved by the Village Board of Trustees on February 1, 1999. That Plan included segments on Public Buildings and Facilities; Streets and Highways/Bikeways; Schools and Education; Parks and Recreation; Utilities/Solid Wastes and Recycling; and Land Uses and Primary Development Areas. Nearly a decade has passed since that Plan was completed. Some of the goals laid out in that Plan have been achieved, while others are perhaps no closer to completion. It is time to update that plan to account for recent development and to plan farther into the future. This project provides the structure upon which subsequent sub-projects will be chartered; it serves as an “umbrella” under which those sub-projects will be gathered. Sub-projects will be dedicated to studying and planning specific aspects of life in the community, e.g., Schools and Education. Each sub-project team will be led by someone with specific knowledge, skills and experience in that area, e.g., the Superintendent of Schools. At least one member of the “umbrella project team” will be assigned to each sub-project, to assure progress is being made in line with the umbrella project timeline and to facilitate communications between the umbrella project team and the sub-project team. Other sub-project team members will include Subject

Matter Experts and at-large members of the community who have specific interest in that subject area. Sub-project teams may draw on whatever resources are available to them (subject to spending approval by the Project Sponsor) to complete their section of the Comprehensive Plan.

Each sub-project team will identify a group of stakeholders to whom it will report periodically. These stakeholders will include the umbrella project team, its leaders and sponsor, and also those who will be responsible for approving and eventually executing the specific recommendations included in that section of the Plan. (In the case of the section on Schools and Education, for example, the stakeholder group would include current members of the Board of Education). These “gate reviews” will be scheduled at key milestones of each project. Approval from stakeholders is expected at these reviews to permit the team to proceed to the next phase of the task.

Key phases of each sub-team’s activity will include:

Define and Measure: During this phase, the team discusses the project charter; assembles team members to work on the project; lays out a plan of work, with particular attention to the *scope* of the effort (what will be included and what will be excluded); sets the project timeline; and collects data necessary to allow for analysis and recommendations. The expectation is that sub-teams should complete this phase of the project by the end of May, with gate reviews to be conducted by Sept. 30, 2007.

Analyze: This is the phase where the real work occurs. Given the input they have collected, teams now must work to create a “solution”, in this case, a vision of what their topic area will look like in 20 years, and steps that need to be taken along the way to achieve that vision two decades from now. Most solutions probably can not be implemented completely and entirely in a single step, so teams should think in terms of “multi-generational project plans (MGPPs)”. For example, “Here’s where we want to be in 2028, so here are the steps we should be taking between now and 2013; here’s what we should focus on during the five years following that”, and so on. This phase of the project could take up to six months. Sub-project teams should complete this phase by the end of November, with gate reviews to be conducted by year-end. By the end of this phase, stakeholders should be in general agreement with directions and recommendations so that they can support implementation of recommendations starting in 2008. Target date: January 31, 2008

Improve: Usually this is the phase during which recommendations actually are implemented. In the case of this project, the goal is to *develop* the plans (with implementation left to subsequent projects), so the “Implement” phase of our project will be to **document** the findings and recommendations from each sub-project and to present the total Comprehensive Plan to the Plan Commission and the Morton Village Board of Trustees for adoption and approval. The document should also contain a *control* plan describing what steps will be taken to monitor progress toward achieving various aspects of the total plan. The control plan should also specify when various aspects of the plan should be reviewed and updated (believing that we shouldn’t wait another 8 or 9 years before updating at least some portions of this plan) The Improve phase is targeted for completion by the end of March, 2008.

Control: The “process owner” – in this case, the President and Board of Trustees of the Village – is usually charged with assuring the process stays “in control”. In this instance, they will be charged with implementing the control plan, monitoring and reporting progress toward implementing the various recommendations included in the plan. This would be a good topic of discussion at the periodic Joint Board meetings that are held among the various elected boards in Morton. Complete by the end of May, 2008.

The overall goal of this project is to **document and approve a Comprehensive Plan for Morton through the year 2030**. To accomplish this, ten separate teams will be commissioned to evaluate the following topics which will be so important to Morton's future:

TEAM 1: Land Use, Public Buildings and Village infrastructure

TEAM 2: Economic Development

TEAM 3 = Schools and Education

TEAM 4 = Parks and Recreation

TEAM 5 = Library Services

TEAM 6 = Streets, Highways and Bikeways

TEAM 7 = Technology

TEAM 8 = Emergency Response Planning

TEAM 9 = Morton's Role in the Region, State, Nation

TEAM 10 = Health, Wellness and Senior Services

Other Goals:

- Promote and facilitate conversation among various agencies and groups to develop a common sense of "community", mutual goals and aspirations
- Provide opportunities for "the leaders of tomorrow" to participate with "the leaders of today" to shape Morton's future

In Scope:

Out of Scope:

- Whether Morton should be a Home Rule community

Note: The Comprehensive Plan Committee prepared a set of "assumptions" to be used by the individual teams. This set of assumptions was developed so each of the ten teams would use the same foundation before beginning their work. The set of assumptions is listed below.

Village of Morton Comprehensive Plan

Planning Assumptions for Year 2030

- Population: between 20,000 - 22,000
Rationale:
 - 16,700 population today
 - ~ 2.4 persons per household
 - Building permits for new houses average 30 in a slow year, 100 to 120 in boom years
 - figuring 1% growth in population annually
 - 18,000 in 2015
 - 19,000 in 2020
 - 20,000 in 2025
 - 21,000 in 2030
- Demographics:

- Average age is somewhat lower than today (40.29 years), but still higher than most other communities in Tri-County area
- Education level in Morton is higher than most other communities
- Income level in Morton is higher than in most other communities
- Nothing has happened to jeopardize Morton's reputation as being "clean, safe, a great place to raise a family"; Morton "still works" – that is, streets are in good repair, sound infrastructure in terms of water, sewer, storm sewers, utilities. When people say, "I like Morton the way it is", these are among the things they refer to.
- The village has grown as new development is annexed (Constrained to the north by Washington; constrained NW and W by East Peoria; some room to grow W toward Groveland; little constraint S and E)
- Major development is possible/expected around the I-155 / Broadway intersection
- A Ring Road is *possible* toward the end of this planning horizon; if it happens, it will likely attach to I-74 east of town around the Washington blacktop
- The Village continues to own and operate the water and gas public utilities; these have not been "privatized"
 - Rationale:
 - Easy to coordinate improvements; do street work, water, sewer, storm water and gas work all at the same time;
 - Very competitive/favorable rates compared with Ameren/CILCO gas;
 - utility rates in Morton are in the median range for all communities in the area; Morton residents are getting "a bargain".
- Alternative fuel vehicles/transport are more prevalent than today
- District 709 has experienced organic growth, but there are no mergers or consolidations with other Districts (Tremont, Dee-Mac, etc); District 709 remains independent
- If the population reaches 25,000, then Morton will automatically become a "Home Rule" community; otherwise, skepticism over 'runaway taxes" would probably defeat any referendum to become "Home Rule" – so assume Morton is NOT Home Rule
- In order to finance major projects and/or services, multiple taxing bodies will have to have passed referenda to raise funds; (e.g., to finance a new pool or new schools)
- When advantageous, the Village may have incurred some debt to finance specific capital projects

Note to all teams: As part of the vision for Morton in 2030, we believe that something will have to happen in order to:

- revitalize downtown retail;
- attract economic development;
- make Morton "a destination";
- reduce the average age of the population (that is, retain and attract young families and singles to live in Morton);

Please think about things that your sub-team can recommend that will make one or more of those visions become a reality.

Note: The following five pages contain the preliminary findings from each of the ten teams. The preliminary findings were compiled and presented at a public meeting in February of 2008 at the Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center at Morton High School. The public also had the opportunity to meet with individual teams to ask questions about their work.

Village of Morton Comprehensive Plan 2008 Public Meeting – 19 February 2008 Preliminary Findings and Recommendations

TEAM 1 = Land Use, Public Buildings and Village Infrastructure

- Land Use Key Finding:
 - Land use map recently updated – only a few changes are required.
- Preliminary Recommendations:
 - Change zoning of some land between Detroit and I-155 from Industrial to Commercial and encourage industrial development west of I-155.
 - Consider annexing property on Route 150 east to Washington Blacktop in anticipation of an eventual interchange with I-74. Designate area around the interchange as Commercial.
 - Facilitate a “walk-able community” – plan for small-to-medium Commercial development within walking distance of Residential areas.
 - Green space, walking/bike trails should be part of or associated with all new development.
 - Explore “screening” for “back-side” appearance of structures backing up to I-74 and I-155.
 - Develop concept of “Entrances” to Morton (150, S Main, Birchwood, Queenwood, etc.
 - Explore a “Ring Road” for Morton, ways for traffic to go east/west or north/south through town without having to go through Main and Jackson.
 - Promote/enhance growth of Downtown Business District.
 - Coordinate location of new schools with District 709 to promote “smart growth” in the Village.
- Public Buildings Key Findings:
 - Village Hall is at capacity, more capacity is needed.
 - Fire Station at Adams and Plum insufficient to meet future needs.
 - The new Police Station on Detroit is adequate to meet needs.
- Public Buildings Short-term Recommendations:
 - Village Hall: evaluate new building, preferably on a “campus” of public buildings to include, Tourism, Park District, Economic Development, Chamber of Commerce, Community Foundation, etc.
 - Plan for construction of new fire station and headquarters.
- Public Buildings Longer-term Recommendations:
 - Construct at least one satellite fire station to meet needs of growing community.
 - Cooperate with other taxing bodies to evaluate the need for a Morton Community Center.
 - Coordinate long-term planning for Pumpkin Festival grounds.
- Infrastructure Key Findings:
 - Infrastructure is in excellent condition.
- Infrastructure Short-term Recommendations:
 - General: Continue existing infrastructure programs and improve them to assure infrastructure condition does not decline.

- Implement short-term recommendation from recent Traffic Study.
- Extend West Courtland to Veterans Road; Courtland east to Harding.
- Develop/implement schedule for timely replacement of streets.
- Upgrade connector streets for Village “ring road”.
- Infrastructure Longer-term Recommendations:
 - Implement long-term recommendations from recent Traffic Study.
 - Plan and lobby for new interchange with I-74 east of Morton and for Eastern Bypass/Ring Road for Central Illinois.
 - Implement current plans to update, upgrade and expand water and sewer systems.
 - Maintain ownership and efficient operation of the village owned Gas Utility.
- Contact:
 - Steve Newhouse snewhouse@morton-il.gov
 - Roger Spangler rspangl@morton-il.gov

TEAM 2 = Economic Development

- Key Findings:
 - Preliminary report includes five pages of recommendations, too many to cover here.

Project Goals and key recommends include:

- Create a diverse, stable, sustainable and thriving economy which is compatible with and enhances Morton.
 - Use communications and publicity to enhance image and encourage tourism.
- Retain and expand existing businesses in Morton.
 - Hire EDC Director; work with businesses to identify and solve challenges; promote Enterprise Zone; create 2nd “entry point” of commercial and retail at Birchwood and Detroit.
- Attract appropriate new businesses to Morton in a manner that provides for manageable, smart and sustainable growth and also maintains a sense of community identity.
 - “Business development kit”; data base of available sites; Economic Development section on Village website; “industrial park”; etc.
- Have the downtown area serve as a vibrant community and economic center.
 - Incentives to refurbish reinvest. Review zoning ordinances; explore creation of Downtown Business Zoning District.
- Provide a business-friendly environment and positive business climate.
 - Benchmark other communities; review ordinances; regular surveys and interviews; “brand image” and logo for Morton.
- Contact:
 - Jim Benckendorf jbenckendorf@benckendorf.com

TEAM 3 = Schools and Education

- No update available at press time
- Contact:
 - Dr. Roger Kilpatrick roger.kilpatrick@morton709.org

TEAM 4 = Parks and Recreation

- Key Findings:
 - Current Parks and Recreations facilities and programs meet national standards and the needs of Morton’s citizens.
 - Some enhancements needed as the Village grows.

- Best way to increase recreational facilities in Morton is to incorporate them with a new High School Campus.
- Recommendations:
 - Better access to parks and schools by way of bike paths and sidewalks.
 - Extensive recommendations are made for specific routes
 - Work with Village to develop “green space” in future developments, both residential and commercial.
 - Work with schools to develop additional facilities (e.g., indoor and outdoor pools, tennis courts, band shell, basketball courts, walking paths, an indoor activity center, etc.).
 - Enhance publicity and promotion of current programs.
 - Modify programs based on demographic and seasonal needs.
 - Consider creative funding sources other than direct tax revenue.
- Contact:
 - Gary Watson 263-7429

TEAM 5 = Library Services

- Key Findings:
 - High level of satisfaction with building, collection, services and especially the library staff.
 - Current building meets standards for population of 20,000.
 - Tax base provides sufficient resources to maintain services.
 - Technology is a strength when delivering library services.
- Short-term Recommendations:
 - Consider installing drive-up return/drive-through window.
 - Allow on-line reservation of materials.
 - Allow self check-out.
 - Communications via e-mail.
 - Consider additional service hours, e.g., Sunday afternoons.
- Longer-term Recommendations:
 - Continue hiring and training strategies to support staff excellence.
 - Develop Succession Plan for library staff and administration.
 - Maintain leadership in terms of use of technology.
 - Maintain physical plant and furnishings.
 - Consider expanding the Library District to include all areas served by Morton Unit School District 709.
- Contact:
 - Janice Sherman mortonlibrary@hotmail.com

TEAM 6 = Streets, Highways and Bikeways

- Key Findings:
 - Recommendations on Streets and Highways are incorporated in those of Team #1, “Land Use, Public Buildings and Infrastructure”.
 - Recommendations related to Bikeways are incorporated with those of Team #1 and also Team #4, “Parks and Recreation”.

TEAM 7 = Technology

- Recommendations:

- Morton needs a “Home Page”, and the Village should take the lead to sponsor and coordinate among businesses, civic groups, other taxing bodies and not-for-profit organizations.
- Develop and implement a system strategy for GIS (Geographic Information System) for mapping, public information, and emergency plan.
- Village should **not** create a Wi-Fi utility, due to rapidly changing technology; needs will be met by cable/telephone/cellular companies.
- Village needs to upgrade its own computer installation, service, maintenance and in-house capabilities.
- Contact:
 - Darrell Vierling dvierling@morton-il.gov
 - Steve Leitch sleitch@morton-il.gov

TEAM 8 = Emergency Response Planning

- Key Findings:
 - Police, Fire, Paramedic and Public Works departments are well suited and trained to address routine tactical issues.
 - Resources to develop and exercise plans for extended or high-impact emergencies are *not* available on current staff.
 - Community resources and training to assist in these emergencies have not been defined or performed.
- Short-term Recommendations:
 - Comply with the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
 - Implement improved warning sirens, with solar backup and voice.
 - Investigate technology to send emergency messages to citizens.
 - Develop plan for high probability/high impact emergencies.
 - Develop list of resources needed to support such a plan.
 - Identify at-risk groups; review their internal plans and train.
 - Analyze Incident Command Structure; staff to meet needs.
- Longer-term Recommendations:
 - Establish schedule to exercise High Impact Event plans.
 - Review and update all plans at least every two years.
- Contact:
 - Nick Graff ngraff@morton-il.gov
 - Joe Kelly jkelly@morton-il.gov

TEAM 9 = Morton’s Role in the Region, State & Nation

- Key Findings:
 - Morton is already involved in a number of regional associations, studies and initiatives; while not widely publicized, Morton **is** being represented and participating.
- Short-term Recommendations:
 - **Transportation:**
 - Conduct Morton survey to assess interest in participating in regional transportation study.
 - **“Triangle of Opportunity”:**
 - Initiative underway for smaller communities to participate/cooperate on a number of regional issues.
 - **Much more work to do:**
 - This team has only recently started its deliberations; these are still “early days” for this team.

- **Contact:**
 - Susan Pyles spyles@morton-il.gov

TEAM 10 = Health, Wellness and Senior Services

- Key Findings:
 - Needs of elderly should be addressed by **all** teams.
- Recommendations:
 - **Housing:**
 - There is a growing need for senior-oriented housing/condominiums.
 - Investigate incentives to encourage developers to meet this goal.
 - Planned activities to be included as part of development.
 - **Senior Services:**
 - Improve awareness of services so more people can use them.
 - Coordinate opportunities for seniors to volunteer their services.
 - **Health and Wellness:**
 - With the Morton Ministerial Association, explore “parish nurse” concepts to promote senior wellness.
- Contact:
 - Mark Johnson mjohnson@mtco.com

General:

- Copies of team reports and presentation materials will be available at **www.morton-il.gov**
- Paper copies of all team reports may also be obtained during regular library hours at:
Morton Public Library
315 W Pershing Street
Morton, IL 61550

Note: The following are the individual charters for each team. Each team used a project charter, which is really a road map of work to be accomplished. After developing a Project Charter, each team developed a final report. In the final report, each team documented their findings and provided conclusions and recommendations.

Village of Morton Comprehensive Plan

TEAM 1 – Land Use, Public Buildings

Village Infrastructure

Project Name: Land Use, Public Buildings, Village Infrastructure

CHARTER:

Description: This project will review, evaluate and outline the land use for the Village to meet the vision for 2030. It will identify existing land uses and zoning maps, and make recommendations for changes to accommodate the vision. The project will also include a review and analysis of public buildings, and evaluate the need for improvements, additions or alterations of existing buildings and/or new buildings to accommodate the vision for 2030. Finally, the project will review and evaluate the Village infrastructure and make recommendations for accommodating future growth and needs to meet the vision for 2030.

Start Date: May, 2007

End Date: May 30, 2008

Roles and Responsibilities:

Project Sponsor: Norm Durflinger

Project Leaders: Dave Brown

Project Team Members:

- Dave Brown
- Eric Schwefel
- Scott Patton
- Steve Newhouse
- Roger Spangler
- Tim Neuhauser
- Joe Knepp

Project Details: This will be the first strategic plan for land use, public buildings and Village infrastructure through 2030. This project will require input from all of the other teams regarding their projected needs for land use and infrastructure in meeting their vision. This project will rely upon the existing land uses and zoning maps, and existing buildings and infrastructure as a starting point. The project will include projections of future growth for the Village, both geographically and numerically (i.e., population), over the next twenty (20) years. The projected growth information will be shared with other teams for use in their projections and estimates of need to ensure consistency between teams. Land Use recommendations will be made with regard to whether present land use and zoning is adequate, where changes may be necessary, and where future growth should be encourage and/or discouraged. Public buildings will be reviewed to determine whether the present buildings adequately meet the existing and projected needs of the community. If either present or projected needs are not expected to be met, recommendations for new public buildings will be made. Village infrastructure will be evaluated to determine whether the infrastructure present meets demand, and to make projections as to whether it will meet future demands over the next 20 years. If there is present or projected needs not being met, recommendations for increasing or improving infrastructure will be made.

Planning shall be coordinated with the Streets, Highways and Bikeways team.

In Scope:

- Present and projected land uses.
- Present and projected zoning.
- Present and projected need/demand for public buildings.
- Present and projected need for Village infrastructure

Out of Scope:

- Public buildings related to Parks and Recreation
- Schools, and Libraries
- Infrastructure related to Emergency Response Planning
- Technology

Village of Morton Comprehensive Plan

TEAM 1 – Land Use, Public Buildings and Public Infrastructure

Project Name: Land Use, Public Buildings and Public Infrastructure

CONCLUSIONS:

It is the conclusion of the team that the current land use map and plan for the Village has been recently updated, and the team recommends the Village consider only a few changes to the map. It is the conclusion of the team that the Village will be in need of numerous public building initiatives during the 20 year planning horizon, including, but not limited to, new office building or space for Village employees and new fire stations. The team recommends the Village consider a “campus” type concept when developing offices and buildings (except for the fire stations). The team concludes the Village’s infrastructure programs (water, gas, sewer, and streets) are present in excellent condition, and recommends the Village make it a priority to not only continue the existing programs but improve them to make sure the condition of the infrastructure does not decline.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

I. Land Use

A. Present Land Use Map

The Village should consider whether it is appropriate to re-designate the land, or a portion of the land, between Detroit Street and I-155 from Industrial to Commercial. The Land Use team feels that commercial development of that land would be more consistent with the general trend in that area, and would facilitate economic development efforts to increase retail and other commercial development in the Village. If possible, industrial development should be encouraged on the west side of I-155. This should be done within the first five (5) years of the Plan.

B. Rt. 150 out to Washington/Morton Blacktop

The Village should explore the possibility of annexing property along Rout 150 East of the Village limits out to, or close to the Washington/Morton Blacktop. A new interchange on I-74 is perhaps most likely somewhere East of the Rout 150 and Blacktop intersection. Extending Morton’s limits and planning jurisdiction East would facilitate smart growth and development when/if such an interchange is created. This should be done within the first five (5) years of the Plan.

C. Intersection of Rt. 150 and Blacktop

The Village should consider designating the land around the intersection of Route 150 and the Blacktop as Commercial. As the Village grows to the East, the use of the Blacktop would be anticipated to increase, and the location of businesses at that intersection would be preferable to locating additional industrial uses in that locate. This should be done within the first five (5) years of the Plan.

D. Commercial Development in Residential Areas

The Village should consider measures that would facilitate the concept of a “walkable community.” A “walkable community” is one in which small to medium sized commercial development is located in close proximity to residential development so that individuals may walk to stores, instead of driving, for day-to-day needs. Examples could be neighborhood grocery stores, pharmacies, etc. A walkable community could help reduce gas consumption, reduce road congestion, and improve exercise and health. The evaluation of the concept of a walkable community and how to implement such a concept should be done within the first five (5) years of the plan.

E. Green Space Requirements for Development

The Village should explore various alternatives for providing green space as part of, or associated with, development of property in the Village. Green space and walking and biking paths should be a standard consideration for all development in the Village. Any type of program should be closely

coordinated with the Park District to make sure the type of green space created is usable, maintainable, and compliments the Village's parks. The evaluation of the feasibility of imposing green space requirements should be done within the first five years of the plan.

F. I-155 and I-74 corridors

The Village should consider exploring methods of improving or screening the "back side" appearances of existing business along the highways so as to improve the general appearance of Morton to travelers and visitors.

G. A Morton "Ring Road"

Within the next 20 years, the use and congestion at the I-74/Morton Avenue exchange is anticipated to increase. As a result, the Village should consider other means of routing traffic through and around Morton, and to the interstate highways. The Village is presently working on extending Courtland West to Veterans Road, and Courtland East to Harding, to alleviate some of the traffic pressure. Those measures should be continued and brought to fruition as soon as possible. In addition, Morton should develop a plan for routing traffic on the East and South sides of town to the I-155 interchanges, by utilizing Broadway Road and either Tennessee Avenue or the Washington/Morton Blacktop. Those roads should be targeted for upgrades to facilitate higher volumes of traffic, and to encourage their use. Furthermore, Morton needs to address the developing issues relating to the intersections of Detroit, Jefferson and Jackson, to facilitate the efficient movement of traffic on the West side of town. Planning for upgrades should be done within the next five (5) years, and implementation of the plan within the planning horizon of this Update.

H. Concept of "Entrances" to Morton

At the present time, the primary "Entrance" to Morton is the I-74 exit onto Morton Avenue. The land use in the proximity of that "entrance" is largely developed, and perhaps does not present the best appearance for Morton. However, the other "entrances" to Morton, including I-155 exits at Birchwood, Queenwood and Main Street, and Route 150 on both the East and West ends of town, still have considerable land for development. The Village should consider measures which would promote development which presents an appearance consistent with Morton's values. This should be considered throughout the planning horizon.

I. Downtown Business District

The Village recently created a Committee to explore possibilities of promoting and enhancing the business climate in "Downtown" Morton. Evaluating and implementing recommendations from the Committee should be a priority for the Village in the next five (5) years.

J. Coordinate Location of New Schools

It is anticipated that new schools will be needed and built during the planning horizon for this Plan update. Often, the building of new schools drives development in and around the school location. The Village needs to work closely with the School District regarding site selection for any new schools to make sure expected residential growth in the area is taken into consideration from a "smart growth" perspective.

II. Public Buildings

A. Village Offices

The Village Hall is located at 120 N. Main Street. The building is an attractive one story building with 3600 square feet of space. The building is at capacity, and additional capacity is needed. Various alternatives exist for the Village office space needs, including expanding at the present location, relocation of the offices to the Village building located at 131 S. Plum (which would require major renovations, or constructing a new office building. All three (3) alternatives have pros and cons which the Village needs to consider. When considering construction of a new office building alternative, the Village should consider locating such a building in close proximity to the new Police Station at Birchwood and Detroit. Creation of a "campus" of Village, other governmental offices (possibly

tourism, Park District, and others), and other civic offices (economic development, Chamber of Commerce, community foundation, etc.) at one location would facilitate a “one stop” type of service to the existing citizens and prospective residents and businesses. Location of a “campus” at the Birchwood and Detroit area could also facilitate the “entrance” to Morton concept at that location. Cooperation and coordination with the other taxing bodies in town will be necessary.

B. Fire Stations

In 2007, FGM Architects and Planners presented a report to the Village relating to the future needs for the Village and its Fire Protection District. The report concludes that the existing Fire Station at Adams and Plum is insufficient for future fire fighting apparatus equipment and vehicles. Furthermore, the growth of the Village is creating increased response times to calls. As a result, the study recommends the Village needs a new fire station, and should also consider satellite stations. The study identified three locations to be considered for such stations – West Courtland Avenue, Queenwood Road, and Tennessee Avenue. The Village needs to implement the recommendations of the study within the planning horizon of this Plan Update. Planning should start immediately for the construction of a new first station and headquarters at one of the locations suggested in the study. The development of the new station and headquarters should be performed within the first five (5) years of the Plan Update. At least one (1) satellite station should be developed during the remainder of the Plan Update planning horizon. During that time period, the Public Works Building on Detroit should continue to be utilized as part of the fire protection system. The existing station located at Adams and Plum should be evaluated for possible conversion to Village offices, or if it is not economically feasible, for possible sale and conversion to commercial development.

C. Police Station

The Village recently built a new Police Station at Birchwood and Detroit, and that station is projected to be sufficient, in terms of space and capability, through the planning horizon for this Plan Update.

D. Community Center

A number of public comments suggested the Village consider developing a community center. Other community centers typically combine such functions as a library, auditorium, taxing body board rooms, indoor pools and exercise facilities, and senior citizen activities. Morton has recently developed or updated an auditorium and its library facilities. Existing privately owned and operated businesses provide exercise facilities. The Park District has an indoor soccer facility and is seeking to develop a new outdoor pool facility. In addition, many of the churches in town have developed activity centers in recent years. While many of the functions filled by other community centers appear to already be met in Morton, it is suggested that during the planning horizon for the Plan Update, the Village and other taxing bodies in the Village consider evaluating the need for some type of community center.

E. Pumpkin Festival Fairgrounds

The Village, in cooperation with the Morton Chamber of Commerce, the School District, the Park District, and the Downtown business interests, should evaluate the present and future needs for the continued operation of the Pumpkin Festival with regard to its location. A long range plan should be developed so that when, or if, the School District decommissions the Jefferson Grade School, appropriate planning is already in place.

III. Public Infrastructure

A. Roads and Streets

1. Implement Traffic Study Recommendations

In 2007, Hanson Professional Services, Inc. prepared and presented a Village of Morton Traffic Study to the Village. The “short-term recommendations” identified in the plan should be implemented within the first five (5) years of the Plan Update. The “long-term recommendations” should be implemented during the Plan Update period, with particular emphasis on the Detroit/Jefferson/Jackson area, and the Jackson/Main intersection.

2. New roads planned

As mentioned previously the extension of West Courtland to Veterans Road, and the extension of Courtland East to Harding should be immediate priorities for the Village to help alleviate present and anticipated traffic in and around the North Morton Avenue/Courtland proximity.

3. Replacement/overlay program

A consistent message received was the public appreciates the present excellent condition of the roads and streets in the Village, and the public desires to maintain that level of excellence into the future. At the present time, the road replacement cycle is greater than the life expectancy for the road surfaces. In other words, the Village is not on pace to replace all of the roads prior to the expiration of the expected life of the blacktop surface. While this may be acceptable for a short period of time, it cannot be allowed to persist. The Village needs to implement a plan within the first five (5) years of the Plan Update whereby it will shorten the replacement cycle to be within the life expectancy of the road surfaces. During the remainder of the Plan Update period, the Village should implement that plan accordingly.

4. Upgrading “Connector” Streets

As mentioned previously, the Village should consider upgrading certain streets and/or roads to facilitate the concept of a “ring road” for Morton so as to facilitate the efficient movement of traffic around the Village instead of through many of the busiest intersections. Streets and roads to consider include, but should not be limited to, Tennessee, Broadway, Queenwood, Lakeland, Main, and Veterans.

5. Future Initiatives

- **New interchange with I-74 East of town**

The Village needs to be actively engaged in the planning and lobbying for a new interchange with I-74 East of Morton. As Morton grows over the next 20 years, the traffic on the present I-74 interchange at Morton Avenue is expected to increase. Furthermore, as residential growth moves East and North, an alternative entrance onto I-74 will become increasingly important. While an interchange at the Washington/Morton Blacktop may be most advantageous to Morton, the Village needs to recognize the needs of the surrounding communities, and the need for an effective, cooperative lobbying effort to obtain a new access point.

- **Eastern By-Pass/Ring Road**

The Village also needs to be actively engaged in the planning and lobbying for the Eastern By-Pass/Ring Road concept for Central Illinois. However, while an Eastern By-Pass would perhaps solve the need for a new access point to I-74 East of town, the Village should not wait for the development of the Eastern By-Pass, as that may be well beyond the Plan Update planning horizon, and the anticipated need for additional access will likely precede the development of any Eastern By-Pass.

B. Water & Sewer

The Village presently has plans for the updating, upgrading and expansion of the water and sewer systems for the Village. The plan needs to be pursued and implemented within the Plan Update planning period. Included in those plans are a new water tower, new ground level water storage facilities, sewer plant upgrades and expansions, extensive lining of existing sanitary sewers to preserve their structural integrity and improvement of the control of the combined sewers in the downtown area. The water and sewer departments are presently running effectively and efficiently. However, with continued growth and expansion, those departments will be stretched, and there will be the need to add personnel and technological advancements throughout the Plan Update period. The Village should continue to pursue its plans relating to the replacement and upgrading of water and sewer infrastructure during road and street replacements. The water and sewer services presently provided to the Village are of high quality, and are an asset to the citizens and existing businesses, and are a positive for future development. Throughout the planning period, the Village

must dedicate sufficient resources to maintain the present level of infrastructure and service, and prevent any backsliding.

C. Gas

At the present time, the Village owns and operates its own gas utility. The gas utility is effectively and efficiently run so as to provide good, reliable service to the residents of Morton at a competitive price, and at the same time generate income to help fund the Village's operations. As long as the Village can continue to provide good, reliable service at a competitive price and generate positive revenues, the Village should retain ownership of the gas utility. During the Plan Update planning period, it is expected the Village will retain the gas utility.

**Village of Morton Comprehensive Plan
TEAM 2 – Economic Development
Project Name: Economic Development**

CHARTER:

Description: This project will outline the Economic Development strategies needed to be considered to keep Morton a viable attraction community for both residential and more importantly, commercial growth, allowing for a continuation of a superior quality of life and business environment.

Start Date: May, 2007

End Date: April, 2008

Roles and Responsibilities:

Project Sponsor: Norm Durflinger

Project Leaders: Jim Benckendorf; Michael Witzig

Recorder: Dave Strohl

Project Team Members:

- Deb Braker
- Andy Chiou
- Larry Dicks
- Joanie Ellis
- Jenna Grimm
- Doug Kruse
- Jason Scarfe
- Vicki Taufer
- Scott Witzig
- David Zimmerman

Project Details:

The project team conducted numerous meetings discussing strategic issues of economic development which originated from both team members as well as public input obtained from open forums and surveys. An overall assessment of Morton's current residential and commercial environment was made followed by the creation of major strategic initiatives which the team concluded were vital to allow Morton to be both progressive in its economic development planning as to keep its competitive edge as being a desirable place to live and conduct business.

**Village of Morton Comprehensive Plan
TEAM 2 – Economic Development
Project Name: Economic Development**

CONCLUSIONS:

Morton has a diverse, stable, sustainable, and thriving economy and business community that ensures the economic vitality of the community through the creation of a strong and diverse tax base, the provision of high-quality employment opportunities, and the provision of a variety of shopping and dining opportunities that contribute to the quality of life of residents and attract non-resident visitors.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Introduction: Well-planned and responsible economic development and redevelopment are essential to ensure a strong economic base and continued economic growth.

Goals:

1. To have a diverse, stable, sustainable, and thriving economy, which is compatible with and enhances the community: A diverse, stable, sustainable, and thriving economy is essential to every community. A strong economy provides the Village with the financial resources necessary to provide services, provides residents and non-residents alike with jobs, and provides shopping, dining, and other opportunities that contribute to the quality of life.

Short-Term (Five Years or Less) Strategies:

- Communicate with Morton businesses and residents appropriate information which demonstrates the need for economic development due to current and potential financial constraints on the Village; to make every effort to use the newly established Morton Economic Development Council and to coordinate economic development planning efforts.
- Start and continue to use Hotel/Tourism money for ad campaign on current quality of life and reasons to visit Morton
- Present a positive image of our community by developing quality, attractive entrance ways and to focus development of a second entry point at I-55 and Queenwood/Birchwood exits.
- Consider land use and traffic alternatives to remove congestion at the current Caterpillar truck entrance on North Morton Avenue and Jackson Street.
- Use zoning codes and/or provide incentives to business located in the Morton Plaza and Field Shopping Centers allowing for upgrades, expansion and attraction of new business.

Long-Term (More Than Five Years or Continuous) Strategies:

- Develop economic development plans and strategies to ensure that appropriate, coherent, and sustainable growth occurs in Morton without adversely impacting on the unique character of the community.
- Maintain an appropriate balance between business attraction and business retention and expansion.
- Encourage the development of tourism activities and events as an important component of Morton's economy that also contributes to the quality of life of the residents of Morton.

2. To retain and expand existing businesses in Morton: An important, but sometimes overlooked, component of economic development is that of business retention and expansion.

Short-Term (Five Years Or Less) Strategies:

- Work with the Morton Economic Development Council to ensure that Morton's EDC Director coordinates with the Village regular scheduled visits with existing businesses to inquire of any ways the Village could help the business to succeed and grow in our community and/or to explore any possible hindrances to that success and growth.
- Develop planning strategies for creating viable sites for retail and commercial located at the I-155 and Birchwood intersecting points creating a second "entry point" for Morton.
- Village needs to be creative in offering economic incentives to assist existing businesses in their development and growth

Long-Term (More Than Five Years or Continuous) Strategies:

- Explore opportunities to enhance the economic viability and vitality of Morton and to facilitate the growth of existing businesses.
 - Promote the Morton Enterprise Zone, when and where appropriate.
 - Work with existing businesses to find markets for their products and services.
 - Create relationships with and work with area educational and vocational institutions to provide educational and training programs needed by community businesses.
 - Begin a focused effort to establish relationships with existing landowners who own property that may be needed for Village business and residential growth.
- 3. To attract appropriate new businesses to Morton in a manner that provides for manageable, smart, and sustainable growth and that maintains a sense of community identity:** Business attraction is the primary component of any economic development plan. Growth is essential to any economy; however, it is important to grow in a responsible manner while maintaining the community character and identity of Morton.

Short-Term (Five Years or Less) Strategies:

- Develop informational brochures and marketing packets. Develop a Business Development "Kit" which tells a developer all the steps required to establish/develop a business in Morton.
- Develop and maintain a database of sites available for development.
- Develop an economic development section on the Village's World Wide Web site. Make sure that the website allows download of the Business Developers' Kit contents and the database of sites available for development.

Long-Term (More Than Five Years or Continuous) Strategies:

- Develop and implement a strong, consistent marketing campaign/plan/program to market Morton to prospective and targeted businesses.
- Seek to attract businesses that compliment existing businesses, that contribute to stable, long-

term growth, and that serve the divergent needs of Morton residents.

- Create a “industrial park” with certified sites for business locations
- Create a “Village Campus” located adjacent to where the Police Department is located that includes the Park District, Village Offices, Chamber offices, Foundation Offices and Morton Economic Development Council office so access to these important organizations are “tied together” and exhibit a unified image.
- Promote the Morton Enterprise Zone, when and where appropriate.
- Examine the establishment and development of business, industrial, office, and/or technological parks for commercial development.
- Create relationships with and work with area educational and vocational institutions to provide educational and training programs needed by community businesses.

4. To have the downtown area serve as a vibrant community and economic center: The downtown area is an important part of every community. Morton's downtown area is no different. Morton's downtown area, centered around the intersection of Main Street and Jefferson Street, is home to government facilities, small retail shops, and various professional offices. However, the past several years have seen a general decline in retail activity and other foot traffic in the downtown area. This has led to the decline of the downtown area as a cultural hub and economic corridor for the community. Accordingly, the rejuvenation of Morton's downtown area is important to the economy of Morton, as well as to the community identity of Morton.

Short-Term (Five Years Or Less) Strategies:

- Explore incentives for downtown area property owners and tenants that will encourage refurbishing of and reinvestment in downtown area properties so as to make the downtown area an aesthetically and economically attractive area.
- Review provisions of the Morton Zoning Ordinance to identify regulations that may hinder redevelopment of properties within the downtown area.
- Develop a long-term strategy to acquire properties that could be used more appropriately and efficiently in enhancing the downtown area
- Study possibility of creating nose-in parking on Main St, vs. parallel parking.

Long-Term (More Than Five Years or Continuous) Strategies:

- Explore the possibility of creating a Downtown Business Zoning District to provide zoning regulations appropriate for the uniqueness of the downtown area properties and encourage the redevelopment of such properties.

5. To provide a business-friendly environment and a positive business climate: An important factor in the decision to locate or expand a business in a particular community is often the business climate of the community. A community's business climate has many components, including the

regulations imposed by the local community, the cost and ease of doing business within the community, and the amenities that the community offers.

Short-Term (Five Years or Less) Strategies:

- Review Village ordinances, policies, and procedures to simplify processes and avoid unnecessary regulations while maintaining community standards. Establish a customer service mentality in the Village office so developers will feel welcome in our community.
- Communicate and coordinate with business groups to encourage business-friendly Village policies and procedures.
- Identify and evaluate economic development strategies that have been successful in other locations that could be applied to Morton and implement these strategies as appropriate.
- Identify Brand Image and logo for Morton.
- New signs at entrances to Morton.

Long-Term (More Than Five Years or Continuous) Strategies:

- Conduct regular surveys and interviews with existing businesses.
- Create an annual budget line in the Village's planning specifically listing Economic Development projects as they are presented, considered and approved.
- Build strong relationships between the public and private sectors by fostering clear communication and promoting a culture of cooperation.
- Identify incentives to attract new businesses and expand existing businesses, making certain that incentives given to new businesses do not harm existing businesses.
- Identify and develop appropriate infrastructure required to support development in targeted areas and for targeted businesses, i.e., real estate tax abatement for new construction or rehabilitation of old buildings short term.

6. To pursue economic development efforts as part of a regional approach: To borrow from a famous line, "No community is an island." Morton does not exist in a vacuum, but, rather, is part of the greater Tri-County Area. As such, what is good for the area is often good for Morton, and vice versa. Accordingly, it is important for Morton to have a relationship with and work with other units of government, as well as other economic development entities, to build on each others strengths and put forth a common front.

Short-Term (Five Years or Less) Strategies:

- Communicate and coordinate with the various economic development entities in the Tri-County Area and identify the role of each entity to reduce or eliminate duplication of efforts. Establish and develop a cooperative relationship with the various economic development entities in the Tri-

County Area.

- Encourage a culture of cooperation among units of government within the Tri-County area regarding economic development and other issues - Heartland Partnership, Peoria and Bloomington Economic Development Council.
- Promote the uniqueness of Morton's location along the "I-74 Corridor" and "I-155 Corridor"
- Work closely with Peoria Next as to potential relocation sites in Morton

Long-Term (More Than Five Years or Continuous) Strategies:

- Work with surrounding communities to encourage State and Federal officials to provide an Exit off of I-74 to the East side of Morton.

**Village of Morton Comprehensive Plan
TEAM 3 - Schools and Education
Project Name: Schools and Education**

CHARTER:

Description: Update the Schools section of the Morton Comprehensive Plan of 1999 to provide a “vision” of the scope of services, facilities and programs the school system needs to provide over the next 20 years.

Start Date: June 21, 2007

End Date: April 2008

Roles and Responsibilities:

Project Sponsor: Norm Durflinger

Project Leaders: Dr. Roger Kilpatrick

Liaisons to Comp Plan:

- Deb Braker
- Stacy Litersky

Project Facilitator: Bret Shorter

Project Team Members:

- Linda Menold
- Larry Rossi, MD
- Keith Schick
- Dennis Johnson
- Greg Crider
- Carol Jankowski
- Henry Vicary
- Wendy Vastine
- Howard Getz

Project Details: It has been 10 years since the construction of the Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center and 30 years since the construction of the last elementary school. It has also been 10 years since the Comprehensive Plan for the village was updated. It is important to plan now for the continued maintenance of the proud tradition of high quality academic and extra-curricular programs that places Morton Community School District 709 as one of the top performing school districts in the State of Illinois. The focus on high expectations, now and in the future, for students is a community priority and the support of the community is vital for future success. Further, the plans for the school district need to be coordinated and integrated with the other subcommittees’ topics included in the Comprehensive Plan.

Goal: The outcome is a function of the inputs

OUTCOME: Document a strategic plan for the Morton School District 709 through the year 2030, coordinating with other elements of the Morton Comprehensive Plan the goal of maintaining a proud tradition of world class education in both, high quality academics and extra-curricular programs as

well as a focus on improving the school districts' facilities to support our world class education. This will need to be done by engaging the whole community in the schools, not just those families with children currently enrolled.

INPUT = In pursuing academic excellence, school facilities must be located, designed, and maintained to support faculty and students in a superior learning and aesthetic environment, and provide flexibility to accommodate future academic changes.

INPUT = In designing any changes in facilities or new facilities we should consider multiple community and educational uses that would assist in fulfilling possible mutual needs of the Village, Park District, Library, and other collaborative organizations.

INPUT = In developing future plans for facilities the goal is to provide a coordinated design for sufficient space for athletic facilities, performing arts, and other extra-curricular opportunities that would support the needs of both the schools and the community. The Morton CUSD 709 Long-Range Facilities Plan Master Plan Process & Timeline follows.

INPUT = When creating the long range plan, we will engage the whole community with the schools, not just those families with children currently enrolled.

In Scope:

- Current state education requirements
- Possible options for additional extracurricular activities
- Possible options for use of existing facilities and potential need for new facilities
- Possible options to involve community in schools
- Possible options to collaborate with other village entities, community groups

Out of Scope:

- Specific academic topics that will change from year to year
- Specific new school sites
- Future state education requirement changes
- Finances are not the charge of this committee and will not hamper creativity and the exploration of ideas

**Village of Morton Comprehensive Plan
TEAM 3 - Schools and Education
Project Name: Schools and Education**

CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS:

**Morton CUSD 709
Long-Range Facilities Plan
Master Plan Process and Timeline**

As we look at the news 12-18 months and begin to establish our long-range facilities plan, it is important to define an orderly process that will lead to the ultimate formulation that has considered and analyzed data and alternatives in order to arrive at the best plan given the information that we have.

The Council of Educational Facility Planners defines this process in several steps that we believe are valuable for us to consider as part of our process. The process is broken down into 9 steps:

1. Establish the process, people, and timeline, and specify the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved.
2. Collect data about enrollment, current facility use, current programs, possible future programs, community information, and any other future trends.
3. Analyze the data that was collected in order to define directions and goals based upon those trends.
4. Develop a set of alternative solutions that could meet the goals that were defined.
5. Assess the feasibility of each of these alternatives from a financial, resource, need and commitment perspective.
6. Select the preferred alternatives given the resources and flexibility required.
7. Develop a plan to implement the chosen alternative from an immediate, intermediate, and long-range implementation strategy.
8. Implement the plan.
9. Evaluate the results and determine if future changes to the plan are required.

DATA NEEDS

Enrollment Analysis – In order to determine the extent of the needs of the school district due to enrollment increases or decreases, a school enrollment study needs to be conducted. The District has already completed a projection for the next 5 years based upon current birth rate information as well as past information and current housing trends. To go along with this information the District will need to work with the Village to obtain estimates of housing growth for the next several years including projected types of housing. Apartment complexes, single family homes, and retirement

housing can all have a different type of impact on the school system. Future enrollments can also change dramatically depending on what the Village has planned for land-use changes and economic development.

Community Analysis – The school district in many ways will need to react to changes within our community. As part of the data gathering the District will need to work with the other community bodies to get a perspective of those global items that will directly affect the schools. Some of those pieces of data will include:

- Population estimates and patterns which would include the population mix in terms of average age currently and in the future
- Populations changes due to economic and social changes
- Changes in land usage and available community resources such as water, sewer, etc.
- Changes in anticipated highways interstate exits and street changes
- Availability of other community services such as parks, libraries, recreational services, etc.
- Parental expectations of the schools
- General citizen expectations and involvement with the schools
- Changes in housing patterns and location of housing
- Community needs for facilities beyond the actual school setting such as community activity and recreational facilities.

As mentioned, the District is going to need to rely on the input and data gathering of other community organizations in addition to its own information.

Evaluation of Existing Facilities – One of the key components at looking at our facilities for the future is to determine whether the buildings currently and in the future will effectively accommodate our staff and students in delivering the programs that we have indentified in a manner that is safe and conducive to teaching and learning. This objective raises a number of questions that the Council of Educational Facility Planners identified and which are very appropriate for us when we look to evaluate our buildings.

- Is the facility structurally sound?
- Is it healthful and safe?
- Is it efficient to operate?
- Does it support the program?
- Is it attractive and comfortable?
- Is its location convenient?
- Is its space optimally used?
- Is it the right size?
- Can it be modified?
- To what extent can required activities be accommodated?

The Council recommends ding an evaluation of the existing facilities that concentrates on spaces for teaching/learning, administration, and support services. The analysis would be broken into 5 areas:

Physical appraisal – This analysis would be necessary to look at the compliance with health and safety standards as well as building codes, handicap accessibility, structural soundness , other major physical factors including heating, air conditioning, lighting , electrical, and any necessary repairs. In addition the aesthetic quality of the school building and site needs to be considered.

Program support appraisal – This analysis is intended to define how well the building supports the educational program now and in the future. This data includes not only the instructional areas, but support areas such as storage, halls, administrative areas, and support service areas.

Site appraisal – The building location needs to be evaluated in terms of proximity to students, convenience and safety.

Utilization – The utilization analysis focuses on how well we make the best use of the building so that the use of the space is optimized. We have often heard that we have fewer students now than 20 years ago, but we have no extra space. The utilization analysis addresses how that space is not being used so that the differences can be seen.

School size – The part of the study reflects on the proper size of a school. During some of the public meetings we heard that neighborhood schools were important as well as schools that were not overly large. Also, this analysis looks at the programs that are desired, and the proper school size to offer those programs.

Other Data Needs – In addition to the above information there are other pieces of data that are important to assemble before developing or assessing alternative solutions and before finally developing the master plan. This data can include:

Financial resources – What funds are available to make improvements, modifications, or construct facilities?

Repair of construction costs – What are current construction estimates for school construction, as well as the estimate for future increases?

Funding sources – An analysis of funding sources and potential repayment costs is needed to provide a sense of the capacity of the school district to undertake significant projects. In our District under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law known as “tax caps”, long-term projects of a major nature require voter approval. This analysis provides the potential impact to the community of different funding sources and amounts.

Once all of this data is collected and analyzed, we will begin to develop alternative solutions to address our needs over the next several years. At that point the discussion of alternative selection becomes a balance of needs, desires and resources. Through our approach we would assess the feasibility and appropriateness of each solution. Once the best alternative is selected, the process of implementing the plan becomes important. In most scenarios the community will need to “buy in” to the plan. Under most options it may require their financial support at some point in time. Therefore, the initial part of the implementation would require involving the community in the plan as alternatives are developed. This process will be made easier with the involvement of the community through surveys, forums, public discussions, and collaboration with other community organizations.

TIMETABLE

All of these steps will require a considerable amount of time. Many of these steps overlap and data collected in one area may affect another. As an example, if we projected that the population was going to double in the next few years, that information affects the enrollment data, the financial resource data, and the school utilization information. For purposes of developing this plan over the next 12 to 18 months the timeframe is as follows:

February 2008 – Develop a draft of the facilities Master Planning Process and Timeline overview for Board discussion and input

March – April 2008 – Develop a list of data collection tasks to be studied

June 2008 – Assign data collection tasks with specific roles and responsibilities to individuals and groups

July – September 2008 – Data Collection is conducted and analyzed

October – November 2008 – Results of data collection and analysis is reported in summary form to the Board of Education in each of the data collection areas

February 2009 – Potential alternatives are presented to the Board of Education for discussion

February 2009 – Community is surveyed on the potential alternatives that have been presented and reviewed

March 2009 – The alternative that best meets the long-range needs of the District for all facilities is presented to the Board of Education

April 2009 – The Master Facilities Plan is developed

May-June 2009 – Develop the process for plan implementation including community involvement and support with an implementation timeframe

Throughout this process we will need to take steps to involve various aspects of the community whether it is in data collection, or in assistance is designing options. The Education Sub-Committee of the Village Comprehensive Planning Committee is charged with assisting in developing different options for consideration. As we gather data, the Education Su-Committee will assist in reviewing information, developing potential alternatives, and assisting in communication to the community.

**Village of Morton Comprehensive Plan
TEAM 4 – Parks and Recreation
Project Name: Parks and Recreation Plan**

CHARTER:

Description: This project will outline the Parks and Recreation plans to meet the vision for 2030. The plan will identify and facilitate the placement and type of recreation needed and required by our citizens. The plan will build upon existing structure and provide for future growth based upon population and economic growth.

Start Date: May, 2007 **End Date:** April 30, 2008

Roles and Responsibilities:

Project Sponsor: Norm Durflinger

Project Liaison: Jeff Boss

Project Leaders: Gary Watson

Recorder:

Project Team Members:

- Jeff Boss
- Kara Knepp
- Betsy Yarcho
- Gary Watson
- Mike Murphy
- Ron Thompson
- Angie Hanson
- Joan Sauder
- Michelle Brunier
- Todd Grimm

Project Details: This will be a strategic plan for Parks and Recreation in the Village of Morton through 2030.

This project will require input from all of the other teams regarding their projected needs for Parks and Recreation in meeting their vision.

This project will start by reviewing the existing Parks and Recreation system based on our current situation and enhance, add, subtract, or change these areas as needed. We will look at future population growth cells, infrastructure for new roads and highways, possible new educational and/or community facilities, and changes in economic or political climate to determine new space and facilities.

This project will use information from other teams in planning future green sites and recreational facilities.

We want the Parks and Recreation in the Village of Morton to enhance the quality of life for all citizens and help attract new families and businesses.

Village of Morton Comprehensive Plan

TEAM 4 – Parks and Recreation

Project Name: Parks and Recreation Plan

CONCLUSION:

After much research and many meetings, we determined that the current Parks and Recreation in the Village of Morton meets the needs of its citizenry. We have an excellent Park District that manages a wide range of green spaces situated very nicely within the boundaries of Morton. The Park District offers a wide range of programs and cooperates with the schools and the Village in providing as many facilities as possible. A new bike trail connects Morton to East Peoria which gives our citizens an opportunity to access other recreation in areas outside the Village boundaries. The committee did discover that the Parks and Recreation in the Village of Morton is still in need of several enhancements, especially as the Village grows.

Current Situation:

The Park District has over 300 acres of property located at 11 locations within the Park District. This makes the Park District the largest unit of government by covering over 65 square miles of area in five townships. The Park District is supported through property taxes and user fees. The current tax rate is .25 cents per \$100.00 of assessed valuation on individual real estate. The Park District manages all of its owned properties and works with the school district and village to provide some of the activity sites.

Current Parks:

- Birchwood Park – softball, fishing, Freedom Hall, Administrative Offices
- Horseshoe Park – horseshoe courts, benches and picnic tables
- Idlewood Park – swimming pool, picnic tables, soccer field, sand volleyball, playground
- McClellan Park – Soccer fields, playground, concessions
- Northwood Park – picnic tables & pavilions, playground, disk golf, hiking trails, sledding hill, restrooms
- Oakwood Park – picnic tables & pavilions, dog park, playground
- Southwood Park – playground, football field, tennis courts
- Westwood Park – baseball fields, indoor/outdoor batting facility, playground
- Morton Community Bikeway – Two and one half (2 ½) miles of paved trails for public use
- Recreational Center – Indoor soccer facility, playground, meeting rooms, other activities and concessions
- Ulrich Wildlife Preserve – undeveloped park currently owned by the Village of Morton

Schools Grounds:

- Jefferson – playground, basketball courts, ball field
- Morton Jr. High – Softball field, cinder track, basketball court (indoor)
- Morton High – football field & track, tennis courts, baseball and softball field, 2 indoor basketball/volleyball courts, wrestling area
- Grundy – playground, ball field
- Lincoln – playground, ball field
- Lettie Brown – playground, ball field
- Blessed Sacrament - playground, ball field
- Bethel Lutheran – playground, ball field

Other recreation in Morton:

- Safari Lanes – bowling
- Morton Roller Rink – roller and in-line skating
- Village Courts – health club with pool, racquet ball courts, weights
- Gold's Gym – health club with weights, exercise classes, training
- Nautilus – health club with weight machines
- Pine Lakes Golf Course – public 18 hole golf course
- Kennel Lake – private club with fishing, swimming, boating, picnic area, and club house.
- Elite School of Wrestling – Wrestling education and training
- Golf Driving Range – golf training facility
- Hyde Park Neighborhood Association – Outdoor pool, tennis courts, and lake
- Country-Aire Swim Club – Private outdoor pool, playground, and shelter
- Gymnasium – various church facilities
- Morton Public Library - passive recreation, programmed activities, community room, computer room with internet access
- Ackerman Farms – Seasonal outdoor activities

There are many other recreational activities within a short drive of Morton. In the Peoria metro area you can find indoor ice rinks, a public zoo, several health clubs or complexes, indoor tennis courts, indoor swimming facilities, putt-putt golf, and a river that provides many water related activities. Several golf courses are within an hour driving time of Morton.

Recreation Standards:

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has suggested standards for Park Districts to follow in relation to acreage under management and population in their district. These standards look at location and spacing of green space, and facilities/programs per population size.

Morton and similar communities usually have two kinds of parks.

Community Parks serve the recreational needs of the whole community and preserve natural resource areas. These parks usually have unique landscapes and serve a 2 mile service area. These are usually “drive to” parks that contain programmed activities that attract visitors from throughout the community. The standard is 7 acres of community parkland for every 1000 residents.

Neighborhood Parks should be centrally located within the center of a subdivision/development. The park site should be accessible through greenways and other pedestrian connections. These parks will have active and passive recreation. The active recreation will be for limited use and not intended to draw visitors from other neighborhoods. Some of these parks can be attached or combined with school properties. The service area for a neighborhood park is ½ mile radius and the standard is 4 acres of neighborhood parkland for every 1000 residents.

Our research included benchmarking our current Park District to other districts in Illinois and/or common Districts outside of Illinois. This benchmarking also used information provided by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). The compilation of our data is provided on the following page. Our benchmarking concluded that our Park District, with the help of our school facilities and private facilities provides equate green space, appropriate facilities and programs for a town with our population and area.

Town Name	Morton - Parks & Schools only	Morton - including private clubs, etc	Recommendation
Population		16700	16700
Total acres parks			310
Total # parks			10
# of mini parks		1	serves 1/4 mile area
# of neighborhood park		4	serves 5000, 1/2 mile radius
# of community park		5	serves 1-2 mile radius
# of outdoor pool	1	3	1 per 20000
# of indoor pool		0	1
# of basketball courts	2	12	1 per 5000
# of soccer fields	9	12	1 per 10000
# of handball courts	0	0	1 per 20,000
# of volleyball courts	1	4	1 per 5000
# of baseball diamonds - official size	1	2	1 per 5000
# of baseball diamonds - little league size	6	8	combined with above
# of football fields	4	5	1 per 20000
# of field hockey	0	0	1 per 20000
# of tennis courts	2	8	1 per 2000
# of Frisbee golf		1	1
# of golf driving ranges	0	1	1 per 50000
# of mini golf courses		0	0
# of golf courses	0	1	1 per 25-50,000
# of indoor soccer		1	1
# of 1/4 mile running track	1	1	1 per 20000
# of ice rink	0	0	1 per 100,000
# of community center		3	9
# of dog park		1	1
miles paved bike trails			2.5
miles unpaved bike trails			
lake for fishing, etc		1	5
lake for small boats		0	0

Village of Morton Comprehensive Plan
TEAM 5- Library Services
Project name: Library Services

CHARTER:

Description: Update the Library Services section of the Morton Comprehensive Plan of 1999 to provide a “vision” of the services the Library needs to provide over the next 20 years.

Start Date: May 2007

End Date: May 30, 2008

Roles and Responsibilities:

Project Sponsor: Norm Durflinger

Project Leader: Janice Sherman

Liaison to Comp Plan: Craig Barley

Project Facilitator: Bret Shorter

Project Team Members:

- David Day
- Jim Gettys
- Brandon Hovey
- Chris Jones
- Julie LaMere
- Ann McGrew
- Matt Nance
- Alissa Williams

Project Details:

It has been more than 10 years since the “new addition” to the Morton Public Library was dedicated, and almost a decade since the Comprehensive Plan for the village was updated. Assuming that Morton will grow to a population of 20,000 in 2030, it is important to plan now for the library services that will contribute to making Morton the “community of choice” in Central Illinois. Further, the plans for Library Services need to be coordinated and integrated with the other topics included in the Comprehensive Plan.

A Library Survey was distributed at a public meeting, handed out at the library and mailed to a random sampling of Morton Utility customers. Over 250 survey responses from both library users and nonusers were analyzed by age group and usage levels.

Village of Morton Comprehensive Plan
TEAM 5- Library Services
Project name: Library Services

CONCLUSIONS:

The results indicate high levels of satisfaction with current library building, collection, services, and most particularly, the staff. The Library Board and administration need to continue the pattern of excellence established in staff, collection, building and services.

Approximately one third of the respondents asked specifically for additional open hours on weekends to provide opportunity for family outings. Approximately one third of the respondents also expressed willingness to participate in focus groups, advisory boards and volunteer activities.

The top programs respondents marked likely to attend are:

Speakers on special topics, computer workshops, author programs.

The current library building meets standards for a population of 20,000. Future building plans will be determined by the need for areas serving specific functions as well as population growth. Economic resources depend on the assessed valuation of the community. Current growth in the community is providing sufficient economic resources to provide services.

Library Board and administration should continue partnerships with the School and Park Districts. Technology is a strong component in delivery of library services.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The Morton Public Library District meets standards established by the State of Illinois and the Alliance Library System.
- The Morton Library is respected and valued in the community and library services are heavily used.
- The Library Team recommends that the Library Board of Trustees continue the current excellence in services and consider adding specific services that ranked as top priorities in the Library Services Survey.

Short Term (within 5 years):

The top current services in usage and awareness are books, movies, magazines, computer and Internet, audio books followed by library website and meeting rooms.

The top future services are:

- install a drive up return
- online book reservation
- self check out
- followed closely by email communications and a coffee area.

Long Term (over 5 years):

Staff: Continue hiring and training strategies supporting staff excellence

Engage in succession planning for staff and administration

Technology: maintaining current technology as well as awareness of and adoption of new technologies. Link the library website to community websites.

Building: Respondents requested drive through window service for pickup of items.

Maintain building and grounds. Plan to replace carpet, lights and furniture as needed. Consider remodeling and/or addition if needed to respond to a demand for new or expanded services (ie. drive through window).

Consider expanding services to the surrounding areas that are included in the Morton School District. Even though this was not a specific question on the survey, several written comments and phone calls were received regarding this topic.

This report has been prepared specifically for inclusion in the Village of Morton Comprehensive Plan. A Morton Public Library Long Range Plan prepared for library staff, board and the public is available at the library.

Village of Morton Comprehensive Plan
TEAM 6 – Streets, Highways, and Bikeways
Project Name: Streets, Highways, and Bikeways

CHARTER:

Description: This project will review, evaluate and outline the streets, highways, and bikeways necessary for the Village to meet the vision for 2030. It will identify existing streets, highways and bikeways and make recommendations for changes needed to accommodate the vision. The project may also include suggestions on coordination with surrounding communities and/or governmental entities regarding area wide transportation issues which may impact the Village's ability to accomplish the vision for 2030.

Start Date: May, 2007

End Date: May 30, 2008

Roles and Responsibilities:

Project Sponsor: Norm Durflinger

Project Liaison: Dave Brown

Project Leaders:

Recorder:

Project Team Members:

Project Details: This will be the first strategic plan for streets, highways, and bikeways which may or will affect the Village through 2030.

This project will require input from all of the other teams regarding their projected needs and uses of streets, highways and bikeways to accomplish their respective and collective visions. This project will rely upon the existing street, highway, and bikeway resources and information as a starting point. The project will also rely upon projections of future growth for the Village, both geographically and numerically (i.e., population), over the next twenty (20) years, which will be obtained from the Land Use, Public Buildings and Village Infrastructure team. Based upon those projections, the existing streets, highways, and bikeways will be evaluated to determine whether they are meeting present needs and demands, and whether they will meet future projected needs and demands. If either present or future needs or demands are being met or will not be met, recommendations for addressing needs will be made. Planning shall be coordinated with the Land Use, Public Buildings, and Village Infrastructure team.

In Scope:

- Evaluation of present streets and highways, and access to highways.
- Projections of needs for future streets and highways.
- Evaluation of present bikeways, and projections for future expansions of bikeways.
- Recommendations regarding area-wide transportation needs, resources, and growth (such as Ring Road/Eastern By-Pass)

Out of Scope:

- Air transportation issues.
- Public Transportation and Transportation Districts.
- Commuter Rail Service.

Village of Morton Comprehensive Plan
TEAM 6 – Streets, Highways, and Bikeways
Project Name: Streets, Highways, and Bikeways

CONCLUSIONS:

This team met several times and discovered that their Charter and their work plan overlapped considerably with the work proposed by TEAM 1 – Land Use, Public Buildings and Village Infrastructure. Rather than duplicate efforts, this project was cancelled. The Streets, Highways, and Bikeways topics are addressed in the report by TEAM 1 and several other sections of the Comprehensive Plan.

**Village of Morton Comprehensive Plan
TEAM 7 – Technology Plan
Project Name: Technology Plan**

CHARTER:

Description: The Technology Plan will outline technological capabilities available and in use in the community which will facilitate the effective operation of governmental units, businesses and citizens activities in the year 2030. The plan will identify logical stepping stones to reach the 2030 vision, and where possible identify startup and operational costs.

Start Date: May, 2007

End Date: May 31, 2008

Roles and Responsibilities:

Project Sponsor: Norm Durflinger

Project Liaison: Darrell Vierling

Project Leaders:

Recorder:

Project Team Members:

- Andy Chiou
- Mike Nauman
- Steve Leitch
- Ron Scott

Project Details: This will be the first strategic plan for Technology.

This project will require input from all of the other teams regarding technology's role in meeting their vision.

This project will be a key element in the Emergency Response Planning project.

This team will feed ideas to other teams, such as a "Morton Repository" on the Web containing what is happening in Morton: socially, real estate offerings, infrastructure upgrades, Chamber of Commerce, Township, schools, library, park district, churches, charities, etc. etc. Some information will reside in the repository and be maintained by a responsible group and other information may just be a link to a particular organizations web site.

In Scope: Known and emerging technologies.

Out of Scope: Wishful technologies.

Village of Morton Comprehensive Plan
TEAM 7 – Technology Plan
Project Name: Technology Plan

CONCLUSION / RECOMMENDATIONS:

Technology Plan

- **The Village should take the lead & sponsor the “home page”**
 - It would be for the whole community
 - Businesses
 - Civic Groups
 - Other Governmental organizations
 - Non-profits
 - It would be for the Village of Morton
 - Filing of forms
 - Reviewing ordinances
 - Submission of general information
 - E-mailing village officials & employees
 - Village Board, Plan Commission & ZBA videos
 - Responsibilities of the “home page”
 - Village maintains the website and links
 - Village maintains the village calendar page
 - Each organization maintains its link site
 - Each organization maintains its calendar activities on the village calendar
 - Fee Structure
- **GIS (Geographic Information System)**
 - Additional equipment
 - Ease of data gathering
 - Ease of data updating
 - Improved accuracy
 - Complete GIS system strategy
 - Equipment Wish list
 - Create a timeline for equipment acquisitions
 - Create a complete list of additional data to be acquired
 - Create a timeline for total data acquisition of existing infrastructures
 - GIS for the village web site
 - Plan for maps on the web
 - Zoning Map
 - Available real estate
 - Annual street repairs & capital projects listing
 - Privacy issues must be addressed
 - Public safety issues must be addressed
 - Plan for GIS in the field
 - JULIE locates?
 - Computers in village vehicles
 - Emergency planning
- **The village should not create a Wi-Fi utility**

- Technology Issues
 - Which Wi-Fi system to install
 - Quick obsolescence of newly installed equipment
 - Other alternatives available
 - Existing telephone & cable infrastructure
 - Cellular telephone networks
- Futility of a village Wi-Fi utility
 - Competition from cable & telephone companies
 - Competition from cellular phone companies
 - Next generation PDAs (3G & 4G)
 - Next generation cell phone infrastructure requirements
- **Other Technology Issues**
 - Computer Installation & Repairs
 - Existing repair service is inadequate
 - Additional technology will only exacerbate the problem
 - Hire full time technology employee
 - Contract with a more reliable computer service company
 - Issues with no recommendations
 - Acting as a electric power broker for the whole village
 - Technology Incubator
 - Satellite conference center
 - The village needs to consistently review its technology needs

**Village of Morton Comprehensive Plan
TEAM 8 – Emergency Response Planning
Project Name: Emergency Response Planning**

CHARTER:

Description: This project will outline the Emergency Response capabilities and plans to meet the vision for 2030. It will identify existing capabilities and a phased expansion of current capabilities to meet the vision.

Start Date: May, 2007

End Date: April 30, 2008

Roles and Responsibilities:

Project Sponsor: Norm Durlinger

Project Liaison: Darrell Vierling

Project Leaders: Mark Johnson

Recorder: Darrell Vierling

Project Team Members:

- Nick Graff
- Mike Nauman
- Mark Johnson
- Dr. Ric Miller
- Joe Kelley
- Bob Wraight
- Ginger Hermann
- Billy Woodward

Project Details: This is the first strategic plan for Emergency Response Planning. The project team met numerous times exploring existing capabilities and performed exercises to identify shortcomings and areas of future focus.

In Scope:

- Location of Facilities providing emergency responses.
- Staffing levels, staffing source and functions
- Response times
- Communications
- Medical
 - Small scale
 - Large scale
 - Disease epidemic
- Act of Nature
 - Tornado
 - Flood
 - Snow Storm
 - Earthquake
 - Other
- Police Emergency
 - Terrorism Attack
 - School Invasion

- Multi car Interstate Accident
 - Gang/Mob Action
- Fire Emergency
 - Single residence
 - Large Business
 - Block Fire
 - Rural wildfire
 - Chemical Spill
 - Multi car Interstate Accident
- Gas Leak/Explosion
- Water Quality Failure
- Electrical Failure
- Sewer Plant/Trunk Line Failure

Out of Scope: None at this time.

**Village of Morton Comprehensive Plan
TEAM 8 – Emergency Response Planning
Project Name: Emergency Response Planning**

CONCLUSIONS:

It is the conclusion of the team that the current Village Departments (Police, Fire, Paramedic, and Public Works) responsible for addressing Emergency Response are well suited and trained to address routine tactical issues. Further, that the necessary resources to develop and exercise plans for extended emergencies or high impact emergencies are not currently available on staff. In addition, community resources and sufficient community training for assistance in these cases has not been defined or performed. Correction of these deficiencies requires the establishment of a group focused on defining the needs and outlining a plan of execution.

Definitions:

- High Impact Event – an event which affects a broad section of the Village of Morton citizens and carries a high probability for the loss of life or property. The two identified high probability/high impact events for Morton are a tornado and an ice storm.
- Long Term Event – an event which exhausts the available local and mutual aid resources, and subsequently requires external resources to address the impact of the event. Typically 24 hours (when those participating locally require a rest period).
- Declaration of a long term event – A point in time when it is apparent that this event will not be addressed before local resources (including mutual aid) are exhausted.
- Table Top Exercise – A process where an emergency plan is exercised in a conference room setting to simulate the actions, decisions and results of an actual emergency. It is used to correct planned actions prior to a real emergency. This is the first step to verify a plan's validity.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) has been established as a Presidential Directive to prepare for natural and man made disasters. The overall goal of Morton Emergency Response is to become NIMS compliant and then to maintain compliance.

Short Term (Within 5 years):

- Complete the implementation of new warning sirens, with solar backup and voice capability. 5 additional at @\$25,000 each (\$125,000).
- Investigate technology options for sending emergency messages to all citizens or select groups of citizens at risk. Could include phone, internet, cable TV, etc.
- Provide a resource at least ½ time to lead the process of developing a plan for the high probability, high impact emergencies. Establish a volunteer group to assist in the development of the plan and to exercise the plan as a Tabletop exercise and then as an “on the ground” actual simulation. The Village Board should use the structure of Village Ordinance Title 2, Chapter 6, Emergency Services Disaster Agency, as a basis for establishing this group.

- Develop a list of the resources (people and facilities), both public and private, needed to support the plan. Reach informal or formal agreements with the owners of the resources for support in the case an event occurs.
- Identify groups at risk (nursing homes, Handicap Home, disabled individuals, schools, major employers, etc.) and develop a plan for reviewing internal plans and/or training of these groups.
- Analyze the Incident Command Structure (ICS) and determine the elements that are currently missing for a long term event (see def.). Recommend assignment of responsibilities and determine training to meet these responsibilities. (Example – Financial Officer – responsible for collecting cost information to determine the financial impact of the event and, as appropriate, lead the process of governmental recovery of costs.).

Long Term (over 5 years)

- Establish a schedule for exercising High Impact event plans.
- Review and update plans at least every 2 years to maintain National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance.

**Village of Morton Comprehensive Plan
TEAM 9 – Morton’s Role in the Region, State and Nation
Project Name: Regional Involvement**

CHARTER:

Description: This project will outline the role of the Village of Morton in area, state and national interests to meet the vision for 2030.

Start Date: December, 2007

End Date: May 30, 2008

Roles and Responsibilities:

Project Sponsor: Norm Durflinger

Project Leader: Susan Pyles

Recorder: Susan Pyles

Project Team Members:

- Nicole Nutter
- Chris Oswald
- Cathy Diefenbach

Project Details: This is the first strategic plan for Regionalization.

The project team met exploring existing organizations and the Village of Morton’s involvement. It was determined that Morton is well represented in local and state government in all known areas.

Village of Morton Comprehensive Plan
TEAM 9 – Morton’s Role in the Region, State and Nation
Project Name: Regional Involvement

CONCLUSIONS:

It is the conclusion of the team that the current Village Department Heads and Board of Directors are very aware and participate in the existing associations and organizations that help educate and make decisions affecting the Village in local, state and national agencies.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The Tri-County Planning commission is ready to conduct a study on the need for mass Transportation system; we recommend that we conduct a survey of Morton citizens on their interest in such a system.
- The Triangle of Opportunity is a group of Tazewell County communities who have joined together for economic, educational, and leadership growth within our region. We recommend that we join and send a representative to the Triangle of Opportunity group to partner with our neighboring communities on growth and economic opportunities.

Long Term (over 5 years) - encourage the Village Board and department heads to continue to keep informed of any new direction the local, state and national associations may deem important to our community.

**Village of Morton Comprehensive Plan
TEAM 10 – Health, Wellness and Senior Services
Project Name: Health and Wellness**

CHARTER:

Description: This project will outline the needs in health, wellness and senior services

Start Date: December, 2007

End Date: May 30, 2008

Roles and Responsibilities:

Project Sponsor: Mark Johnson

**Village of Morton Comprehensive Plan
TEAM 10 – Health, Wellness and Senior Services
Project Name: Health and Wellness**

CONCLUSIONS:

The subcommittee focused its efforts and resources to better define the recommendations listed. Also, the needs of the elderly should be addressed by all teams in the comprehensive plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Housing**
 - There is a growing need for senior-oriented housing/condominiums.
 - Investigate incentives to encourage developers to meet this goal.
 - Planned activities to be included as part of development.
- **Senior Services**
 - Improve awareness of services so more people can use them.
 - Coordinate opportunities for seniors to volunteer their services.
- **Health and Wellness**
 - With the Morton Ministerial Association, explore “parish nurse” concepts to promote senior wellness.