

Twin Falls County Comprehensive Plan and Code Update – Public Open House Summary
December 5, 2019 – 4:30 to 6:30 PM

On Thursday afternoon, December 5th, 2019, Twin Falls County held a public open house to formally kick-off the comprehensive plan and zoning code update. The open house was held in the lobby of the Twin Falls County West Building at 630 Addison Avenue. Over the course of two hours, County staff and members of the Orion Planning + Design consultant team talked with residents of the County about their ideas for the County’s future. Participants were invited to share what they love most about living in Twin Falls County and their concerns for the future of the County on maps and posters located throughout the lobby. Feedback received has been summarized in the following pages and will serve to guide future conversations with key stakeholders and the public during the next round of public outreach, tentatively planned for late January 2020.

Loves/Cautions Exercise

Open house participants were asked to identify places throughout Twin Falls County that they loved or had concerns about; these were marked on maps using green dots for “loves” and red dots for “cautions”. A list of the loves/cautions reported is summarized below:

Loves

- Balanced Rock
- Snake River
- Centennial Park (x2)
- Skate park
- Library
- Rim trail
- Airport/airport expansion (x2)
- Murtaugh Lake (protected)
- Rock Creek Canyon (x2)

- Sawtooth National Forest (x2)
- Rogerson school house

Cautions

- Salmon Dam
- Murtaugh Dam/dam leaks
- Airport overlay
- Wellheads near Buhl
- Wellheads near Hansen
- Buhl airport
- Need places to go with good kids (?)

WHAT I LOVE MOST ABOUT TWIN FALLS COUNTY TODAY..

- Fishing, hunting, camping
- Good mix of farm life and City life
- Small town feel with just the right amount of conveniences
- The parks
- Dog park
- Agricultural base, but with great opportunity for growth in other areas
- The people are friendly and always willing to help; they are humble and hardworking; they want to protect the integrity of the area

IF I COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT TWIN FALLS COUNTY, IT WOULD BE...

- We could use an institution of higher education to complement CSI (College of Southern Idaho)
- Population (x2)
- Build up, not out, to preserve landscape and nature of land
- Only having one bridge; when there is an accident on Perine, Twin (Falls) is gridlocked
- Blue Lakes
- More food options
- Cities having a centralized area to go for business

IN 20 YEARS TWIN FALLS COUNTY WILL BE...

- Farm
- Balance between City and County growth
- Slow growth to avoid bone fractures and stretch marks from growing too fast
- Still a great farming community but with additional resources and businesses
- It will have more parks but still be a farming community

TWIN FALLS COUNTY - ISSUES + OPPORTUNITIES

WHAT SHOULD WE KNOW ABOUT TWIN FALLS COUNTY AS WE START THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE?

LAND USE AND ZONING	TRANSPORTATION	COMMUNITY CHARACTER	HISTORY AND CULTURE	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	NATURAL RESOURCES	HOUSING	PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES	PARKS AND RECREATION	SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION	ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area of impact has traditionally stressed residents who may or may not have a say about what happens around them No more building commercial along canyon There are vast differences of what “agricultural” and “agricultural support” (i.e. Ag vs. industrial) means to people with competing interest and whether it actually preserves the character of the area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MPO should provide cohesion if there is buy in from all stakeholders Second bridge There are a lot of people, not too many main roads Airport only flies to Salt Lake Transportation Plan for County Roads and Development Maintenance of roads We don’t have a lot of direct routes due to canyons throughout the area; but its one of the best parts of this place. Expansion of current bridge or additional one 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It’s an expanding yet sleepy area Consistently wants to set itself apart from growth like Ada County or Canyon County To be Twin not Boise, not Idaho Falls, not Coeur d’Alene 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic preservation should be a priority and can work hand-in-hand with economic development We came from ag roots; a lot of historic sites and buildings have been removed; towns all shut down by 9:00 PM Look to the future bringing the past with us. Appeal to the younger while respecting our elders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic development should be more diverse Stop giving tax breaks to large companies; make it the same across the board, large or small The area has a difficult time retaining business that may be out of the economic means of the population but we are in need of business so we don’t have to go to Boise for some items 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water in limited quantities and lava rock There’s a lot of potatos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No “pack ‘em and stack ‘em” housing along Canyon You could build up instead of out for housing More apartments that aren’t that expensive Area pricing is increasing at an exponential rate; some are on par with Boise trends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When is public transportation anticipated? Most are related to ag/parks and rec/land (weeds/invasive species), and resource related; others may be associated with cities. We do a good job of trying to fill gaps for needs of community. They do a good job of providing statutory items in local government and judiciary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect parks and recreation More places for dogs to run without a leash The ones we have are great. I would encourage expansion to protect/preserve areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage higher education Greater education opportunities We have good support for technical and apprenticeship opportunities. They are vital to the economy and needed skills in the area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public discussion and awareness about respecting irrigation waterways and not dumping in them Factories not complying with EPA regulating for outputs into the air and streams. Dairy output of nutrients and compliance [with regulations]. Run-off into Snake