

Longest Table Feedback Points:

Table Top Notes:

- More clothing stores for men and women , Showmars, Macy's, bring JCPenny's back
- More high end retail stores
- Improve/Develop East Broad (people and businesses)
- Like the hometown feel of SVL downtown
- Don't fight growth
- Can't afford rent downtown
- Offer tax write-offs for small businesses
- Restaurants are full, why do we have to drive to Hickory to eat out
- Why isn't money used for restaurants instead of hotels
- Create an action plan and work it!
- We need more street lighting at night near East End between Kmart and Hwy70
- More light downtown
- Need more stores in town
- We need more retail stores
- I love how people work together in projects like the Veteran Transition Housing, Habitat, Etc. Would love to see more places to shop
- SVL is my home town and I love the friendliness of the people; need more retail!!
- Love the sense of community in SVL, would love to see more retail and more events like this!
- A better shelter, build more homes, higher teacher pay (from a high schooler)
- I'd love to see the Southside of town built up to the same capacity as other parts of town.
- I love how we have so many people willing to work for Cheney in the community to make it better!
- like Walmart
- need more for teens to do besides movies and skating (from 8th graders)
- I wish for Statesville to continue to grow. I do hope it can get back to a small town feel though. It's nice to know people in your community.
- I would like everyone to get along
- "communities in action"- Cleaning up the neighborhood you live in
- THE MALL!
- Do better with the child support system
- What I like about SVL is the education
- More activities involve, I would love for everybody to come together as one accord
- What I like about SVL are the friendly people
- Schools, people, beautiful area, more opportunity
- Come on SVL get it together, after all SVL is the city "where it all comes together"
- Need more emphasis put on cleaning up south SVL; City needs to stop raising utility bills, more activities for our youths
- Better shopping you have to go to Mooresville to shop, have a good meal and for cultural entertainment
- Great time so nice to visit and share a meal with people "No cell phones" YEAH!

Longest Table Feedback Points:

- Wonderful time!! Loved the people, had conversations- great and awesome foods!
- More activity for our youth
- Love the Greenway! Thanks for the food!
- Hopefully next year the tables will cover the entire track ☺
- Grow culture
 - Arts
 - Music venue
 - Places for youth
 - Indoor spaces during winter months
- Nice event! Let's do it again! Thankful for everything!
- Favorite thing: Home town feel and the people, it's just home
- What to change- violence and drug problem, shooting – more longest table type of stuff
- I think we need to maintain the roads better. We are getting a lot done, but we can't continue to neglect the other roads
- Like: people in the community
- I would love to see the community come together and put all differences aside to make SVL and the surrounding areas united.
- This event needs to be annual
- Need more jobs in SVL, money, house
- What I love about SVL is that I have family here. One of the things that I would like to see changed is more unity among all of the diverse population and social economic groups – I would like to see use become more of a melting pot honoring and appreciating each other
- More transportation for seniors
- Nicer parks for families and children
- Change for the youth to have more to do
- Love downtown, don't like resistance to change
- Be nice
- Love downtown SVL, don't like lack of target, traffic
- Iredell City Ag. Center, Iredell Museums, Events that bring us together, let's do this again! YMCA, library, hospice, MCC, Downtown SVL, Live After Five, Friendly, Iredell Historical Museum, Mental Health facilities are few, Drugs? Opioids problem, More shopping, More jobs with better pay, Places for young people
- More events downtown, great way to meet others and promote small businesses
- Thank you for this wonderful day. This is such a great idea to know people. Wish we will have more gatherings/festival in SVL. Thank you all!! God Bless you all!
- Change: respond to needs- SVL owls; get ready for growth, prepare, do something with signal hill mall, upgrade renovate bldgs. Downtown, streetscape is good work now with buildings
- Favorite: small community, downtown, live/work/raise family, diversity, not as prejudiced as other areas, Longest Table- GREAT IDEA Do it again, 115 school systems in NC SVL funded at 114 Mooresville gets \$1,000 more per students (school tax)
- Need to provide adequate emergency services
- Provide family oriented events such as SVL owls

Longest Table Feedback Points:

- Focus on development to continue city progress
- Focus on community “need” instead of wants
- Eating and playing that appeals to young families
- Serious drug issues- gangs
- Not capitalized on what it has to offer- intersection reasonable amount of time to mountains + coast, Young people need jobs smaller business-encourage Entice more people to move here especially young people need living and social options more loft living, Community compassion, people make SVL rather welcoming, no real racial divide, need for diverse workforce, no public transportation development (not everything is about numbers), need more open air venues and breweries, must have jobs professional be competitive in pay, providing a good stable place is hard to find, Security and consistency shouldn't be hard to maintain, not much socially – need more festivals music festivals or ones which address racial divide
- Enjoy- more events/focus downtown, “real community”, Alive @ 5 Changes—Perception (more diverse), need more youth, support local shops
- More things to do for kids
- Bring caring and love back to our community- especially for our children
- Like: sense of community
- Change: social divide-how?
- No one of us is as wise as all of us
- You can learn something from each person you meet
- This is an awesome event! Nice way to integrate in the community
- SVL needs more events like todays to continue and add more unity. Thanks to all that made this evening possible!
- Thank you for dinner. YUM!
- Thank you for the food and the chance to meet everyone!
- The food and the company were wonderful! Thank you!
- Dinner was GREAT! Thank you!
- Topics: family-visiting other countries, Talked about everyday life. Great conversation, loved talking about old memories, school, poetry, vacations, turn over elected officials after 8 years, talked about the Royal Wedding, would like to see the government more open, do things for the good of the community
- More entertainment, cultural centers should be added to SVL, community too many talented individuals are not able to be showcased and go unnoticed
- I enjoyed meeting Jada, Sissy, Dawn, William Jones, Dorothy and I am April Donald's Table host McNeely Thank you Great Idea

Longest Table Feedback Points:

What is your favorite thing about Statesville?

- Small community, welcoming. Care about community (supporting of this event, Quality of life, low cost of living
- Lots offered for a small town – art, music
- Supportive of causes in community
- Wife/kids
- People
- Community
- Diversity within 1 mile radius
- History
- Resurgence
- People rally around non-profits
- This has been one of the best events SVL has ever hosted
- You always see someone you know – hometown feeling
- The downtown area has been kept alive, pleasant place to be
- Great little city, passionate about future
- Family feeling, drew me back, looking toward the future
- Easy place to get around convenient
- Getting to know new people
- Family/people
- Family, community, feels like a small town, home, downtown
- People say they don't want to live anywhere else
- Special events theater
- Farmers market
- Greenway
- People
- Variety of businesses
- Small town
- Mitchell students
- Traffic
- People
- Weather
- Diversity
- Southern culture
- Nice and quiet
- Location
- Community activities and people
- Quiet enough to raise a child/family oriented
- Love the music and festivals which are offered
- Sense of community

Longest Table Feedback Points:

- Friday after Five
- Homey feel
- Easy going
- Not congested or crowded
- Mitchell is a big asset
- The street scape
- Live at 5 on Friday
- Culture and friendliness
- Library
- School system
- Downtown and the new sidewalks
- Community events – 5ks, Balloonfest, pumpkinfest
- Fairgrounds
- Duke power/state park/beach
- Different area that each are unique with their own culture, people and styles: north Iredell, south SVL, west Iredell,
- Friday after 5
- Different schools
- School offerings
- Downtown city events
- Friendly
- Helpful
- Community
- Great library
- Hospice and support of Gordon Family
- People
- Food
- Downtown
- Diverse neighborhoods
- Small town feel
- Very relaxed community
- Love the beauty of downtown
- People are friendlier in Statesville than Mooresville
- Georgies Stores
- Lots of nice people and neighbors
- My friends and neighbors are good to me
- Love the weather
- I like everything
- I like the restaurants here
- Constantly growing
- Small Quaintness of the community is wonderful
- History and ghost stories should continue to be shared

Longest Table Feedback Points:

- Community events
- Good school system
- Downtown area
- Small town atmosphere
- Lots of restaurants for the size of town
- Friends and family are near so people stay connected
- Community College
- Welcoming place
- We all love SVL: it is a tight knit community that is there for one another
- MCC – Go 4 years! Make the focus on youth and growth along with trade skills
- Art class/card making class at senior center
- Friendly atmosphere
- Small town feel
- Mom lives here
- People I've met
- Downtown
- Pro local support, very responsive
- Community very supportive
- People
- Thanks to school system and glad they serve lunch every day to the kids
- Like the community/feeling connected
- Like that SVL Free News advertises events
- The rec/splash pad
- People family
- Downtown SVL
- Downtown events
- Slow Pace
- Sorrento's
- Extraordinary Hospice
- People – diversity is growing
- Traffic is better than Mooresville
- People advocating for the city to do well and change
- Like our downtown and outdoor seating
- Brady Johnson rocks. AP Academy is great. Early college is affordable= Caring teachers in our area
- Friends and coming to school
- The community
- The people
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Longest Table Feedback Points:

What do you want changed about Statesville?

- Having everyone feel included- division that happened during election, less segregation of thought- more conversation to have inclusion happen naturally, conservative politics change, resources not being utilized fully, cross roads of I40 and I77, improved education system – more efficient more equitable major decline in students in public schools, Appearance- signal Hill mall restricted improvements due to buildings being privately owned
- Lawn behind civic center turn into spot for community theater
- Vance hotel- what to do with it? Would be a shame to tear down a historic building
- How do we promote long-term business to keep business owners here – could there be a mentor/partnership to help new business owners
- Wish SVL had a draw or attraction to bring people in
- Transportation- public and medical transportation is a problem
- Government- moves slowly on everything
- Find ways to bring recent college grads back to area- internships?
- Crime
- Need more activities for children
- A better mall in SVL
- Theater productions with adults/children
- City transportation
- SVL needs an identity
- More career opportunities
- Continue social growth
- Downtown needs to relax rules
- Destination place needs to be added: amphitheater?
- More for schools/teachers
- Do more things to include young people: skate park, big kids playground
- Place for children to play in town
- Dorm for low-income students or stipend
- Finish the greenway
- Need better shopping as it is you have to go to Mooresville to shop, to have good dining, to have cultural diversity
- Need more entertainment and cultural outlets for kids and youths in South SVL. Black kids are left behind
- City need to continue to clean up south SVL. There are good hardworking people willing to assist city officials and police
- Crime stuff
- See more community focused events, this was a great event, start
- Keep money in SVL (major projects, give local businesses first right of refusal (construction projects) find something to go in empty building
- People try to get along with community, need prayer
- Continue to improve greenways

Longest Table Feedback Points:

- Old mall to be mixed use, torn down and replaced with shops/apartments
- How can we take these items and make a plan to make changes in our community?
- Get younger folks more involved in the community and involved in activities
- More businesses, things come in and leave right away
- More retail options
- Want to see growth (small is the charm but want others to move here to experience it)
- Something for the younger generation (22+) to do
- Employment opportunities for millennials
- Expand downtown footprint to help people realize they are in SVL before downtown
- Affordable, positive entertainment options for youth
- Refurbish old empty buildings/repurpose
- Increase cultural opportunities (art, music, etc.)
- City dies in the winter
- More activities for older generations (conversations)
- Safer sidewalks/public pool
- 3 way stop at 1st pres.
- Senior center-senior friendly
- Mall
- Public transportation
- Student community at Mitchell
- Benches on greenway
- Change notion SVL isn't safe
- Local food more visible, hard to know about farmers market, put food on reserve delivery/inventory list, available more often, no one tells students about it
- Moving too slow
- More SVL people owning businesses
- The mall
- All the sirens
- Business downtown area need to stay open longer
- The mall area
- Allow it to continue to grow
- Potential for opportunity room for growth that is coming our way
- Having more activities for the youth
- Downtown area needs better parks for youth
- Need a target
- Industry increase and jobs
- Technology
- More stuff for kids and teens
- Winter activities
- More entertainment and arts more parades
- Bicycle trails in downtown or greenway access from downtown
- Better promote what we have

Longest Table Feedback Points:

- Spots for young people
- More social events
- More shopping opportunities-bring back a real mall
- Better industries/better paying jobs
- Treatment options to address drug problems/mental health
- Community needs more Longest Table events
- More jobs for economic growth
- Young adult entertainment instead of going to Charlotte, Winston, Etc.
- Diverse minorities in leadership positions, especially schools
- Redevelop the mall
- Featured industries/businesses/organizations
- Free events on education, health, politics, economics, etc.
- Develop self-owned business, push money to south SVL to help citizens instead of pushing them out.
- More jobs in SVL
- More things for teens to do
- Redevelop mall
- Places teens can hang out (staging rink, Funstation)
- Need a clothes closet for those in need
- Knock down the mall
- Olive Garden
- Wages for city employees
- Trash pick-up – vested interest in community
- Utilities fluctuation – reading meters instead of estimating
- Better growth of local businesses
- Boring, nothing to do
- Bring jobs back
- Want change in government official
- Things good for the whole community
- Need more cultural things to participate in
- The mall
- The skating rink – terrible
- Need activities -- Bumper cars, book store
- City council can let businesses come into the town – a lot of opportunities have already been turned away
- More activities for all ages
- More integration
- Better opportunities
- Reduced crime
- More mental health programs
- Need more respect for others – parents aren't giving so the children won't be as well, since children area a reflection of their parents

Longest Table Feedback Points:

- Often growth resistant
- Youth need more engagement, bunch of McDonalds and only 1 fitness center, youth need guidance on what is best in life
- Youth are also a reflection of their parents, so we need to make sure parents know how to raise kids
- More effort to keep older generation healthy
- Transportation is horrible – no bus stops
- Civic center events are too expensive
- Clean up old houses and yards
- Clean up and rebuild lower economic areas
- I don't like the way Housing Authority treats senior citizens at all. They need to respect us a lot more than they do
- People need to stop drinking, and smoking and killing people
- Not enough free transportation for seniors
- Need more eye care for seniors
- Too many sirens
- Need more books at the library (better, newer)
- Crime is a serious problem
- New mall/old mall development, new stores
- Need more culture, more festivals more diversity in rest
- Need more youth playgrounds, skate parks, racquet ball areas
- Information center for those new to town
- Encourage Solar use and selling the power back to the power companies/neighbors
- Manage the traffic growth better
- Shopping in Statesville needs improved
- Performing arts center
- Nothing open at 3 am for food
- Fix up the old theater- show classic movies there
- More support for public education
- Some of the old building to be utilized for something productive for our community for our youth
- Young folks don't know what else is out there- not able to suggest
- Statesville needs more of an identity! – Use Balloonfest to build this?
- College dormitory for MCC students
- Public transportation
- Cultural events need to be increased
- Community college should keep/expand the trades portion of their curriculum – everyone needs to qualify for work that allows them to live and raise a family, pay their bills, and enjoy life
- More activities for young adults (20s and 30s) --Jazz club/restaurant or something similar
- More activities for all cultures
- More places for seniors to live
- Bring stores to Statesville (bigger stores)
- Educational system needs improvement

Longest Table Feedback Points:

- More investment from businesses
- School and poverty – lots of gangs
- Schools should have a closer partnership with boys and girls clubs (and other agencies like it)
- Printing downtown- need more
- Want a mall/target
- Southside needs street scrape, build up recreation in bad side of town
- Communicate/advertise functions more
- Skate park/ young people engagement to figure out what else is needed
- Taxes: Priority vs Savings
- More meeting places are needed
- More faith partners to engage with their feet and mouth
- Territorialism between well-meaning agencies and entities needs to stop
- Public transportation
- Spending time to adjust to “unjust”
- Take guns away
- How do we reach the people who aren’t here at the Longest Table?
- People should be educated and medicated
- Whites refuse to give up everything, better if playing field was level – address poverty
- Teach race relations to the community
- Judicial system- criminals are more of a criminal when they get out of jail
- More recreational activities for high schoolers – drive in movies, more restaurants, new mall, new skating rink, new after school programs * be creative*
- The violence and we need more teen activities that will get us active instead of violence
- School lunch menu
- Most definitely need a mall
- Need more food options
- More things to do for youth
- More things for young people – trampoline parks, go kart racing, restaurants new mall, night club, water parks, amusement parks, mini golf
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Longest Table Feedback Points:

Longest Table Discussion

Table 8 – Nelson Granada Host

Favorite Thing About Statesville

All of the participants said similar things that boil down to community. Here is the list:

- Events like today
- Small town feel / Know people when out / Sense of community
- You're a part of the community / People are accepting
- The people are phenomenal and many have been here a long time
- Everything / It's my home for 78 years
- Small town feel / Get to know people / Can talk to leaders face to face

What I Would Change (I said Improve)

These grouped around breaking down social divides, safety and growth. Here is the list

- More events like this that bring people closer
- Social divide between North & South Statesville
- Have more serious conversations with each other that lead to action (Hard Conversations)
- Lighting in East End is bad / Unsafe / People might get hit by car
- Give away reflectors for bikes
- Lighting on Southside of Statesville need improvement
- Increase frequency of Downtown Shuttle / Too many older adults having to walk
- Have a "citizen's patrol" for downtown. Similar to ones on college campuses that walk people to dorms at night.
- Do more stuff to bring people to town / Need something to see & do / Like Live after Five
- Open more stores downtown / Grocery store for downtown residents
- Keep stores open later. If someone gets off at 5 pm, can't shop downtown. Maybe just one night a week – Tuesday or Wednesday.
- Market Statesville proximity to Lake Norman more

General Demographics of Table

- 3 male / 5 female
- 2 new to community / 2 transplanted over 10 years ago / 4 native Statevillians
- 5 Caucasians / 3 African-Americans
- 2 retired persons / 1 pastor / 1 nurse / 1 photographer / 1 business owner (bakery) / 1 electrician / 1 unknown
- Age Range ~ 30 - 80

Longest Table Feedback Points:

From: Jerry Campbell II [<mailto:JCampbellIII@partnersbhm.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2018 8:35 AM

To: Brett Eckerman <beckerman@uwiredell.org>

Subject: Notes (Unencrypt)

Brett,

I wanted to follow up on my notes from table, as they may very well have been scattered, and my handwriting isn't that great.

My table included 5 persons and myself, and I think 1 was "supposed to be" at table 24, but sat with us at table 20.

- this is Jeff with PHS's wife. She lives on St. Andrews in Statesville Country Club area.
 - Pastor of Cornerstone Church, and Headmaster of their school. I think his daughter is Lead or at least with Grill for God, as he noted this.
 - works for Hospice of Iredell, lives in N. Iredell
 - associates's degree, works at Wal Mart

 - went to South Iredell, currently at Mitchell, heading to Air Force in a month
- We had 1 Philly transplant, 1 NY transplant, 1 Elk Park, NC transplant, and 3 Natives of Statesville/Iredell (including me). We had 2 middle aged ladies and 2 20 somethings, 1 elderly (not too elderly) and I. I recall all names but 1, but he was supposed to be on table 24 by badge, but I didn't figure that mattered too much. Just couldn't grab his name because he was to my immediate right.

What do you like best about Statesville: The overall feeling here was that Statesville is a "Community" and that people are welcomed here.

- That there is more to do in community than in other places, and that this type of event wouldn't be accepted in large city. 1 noted it'd be shut down in NY, they wouldn't allow.
- People noted that diversity seemed welcomed in Statesville vs. other areas.
- Statesville was attempting to engage community from all levels better than other places, contrasts were given to NYC, Mooresville and Elk Park. 1 transplant noted that when they moved here, they were told to live on "Lake" but they went and spent time down there and didn't feel "home" or welcomed, but came to Statesville, went uptown/downtown and loved the vibe, loved how they were treated by others walking and immediately decided to live in Statesville (this was Jeff Smith with PHS's wife, currently lives on St Andrews).
- 1 noted there was lots to do, but information about events wasn't dispersed well.
- Events were shared, as some weren't aware of Friday events downtown.
- Several noted Mitchell CC is a GEM.

What would you like to see changed about Statesville: Overall there were multiple views, no one was negative at all, and/or bashing other than simply noting things. I'm not sure there was more here than the positives, as the group really was more positive than negative in any way.

Longest Table Feedback Points:

- Youth – this was likely biggest area of discussion. Several varied things here. Noted that there's only 1 Rec Center that's "Affordable" as YMCA isn't, so you have to go to Fitness Center. Comment was made, how can you have a McDonalds on so many corners, but only 1 place for youth to play ball, workout, etc. Again noted most at table felt YMCA was overpriced/overvalued
- Youth – more to do. No one could name anything directed at youth/young adults, all efforts seemed to be aimed at the very young/elementary level, and nothing for teens to do or go in Statesville. Suggestions of parks that serve them better, skate park, Wi-Fi- gaming area to safely gather, and other things, as the notation was that "we either stay home, go to movies, or leave Statesville, as there's nothing to do, and bowling gets old, and the place isn't good."
- Feeling that "Old MONEY" dictates and directs what happens in Statesville, and that those with new ideas and views are shunned or pushed away as not knowing what's "good" for community. It was very interesting, as there was consensus feeling of this from the 3 newcomers, as well as the other 2 persons at table. I stayed out of this one, but it's visible in many ways.
- Several voiced frustrations with buildings that were in horrible shape, from businesses to homes. I can't say where all lived, but appears only all engage Statesville. Notation of how embarrassing it is to see buildings like the grocery store at Mall, and Mall itself, as well as several buildings downtown. Notations were made that some communities had horrible landscaping, and no one seemed to care about the appearance of homes, and nothing was being done. I didn't ask "where" these homes were.
- Comments were made about how it doesn't make sense that we can afford all of these new Gov't buildings that are so pretty, but can't invest in youth at all, with something for them to do. 1 person commented, that "maybe if they'd have something for young people to do, there's not be a need for that big old jail they are building." Several other relatively new public buildings were noted in this, as why did we do that vs. something for young adults/youth first.
- Transportation was noted as a massive issue, and linked to most of the negatives that came out. All commented on how they didn't understand how Statesville had no means of transportation that made it possible for maintaining employment unless you had a car. 1 participant, who works at Wal Mart noted that he is "stuck in job" because his vision doesn't allow him to drive, and he's been passed over for a significantly better position because he can't get home from work due to no way to get home, as it'd conflict with his wife's job. Others noted the system we do have is excessively limited and only a few can use it.

Suggestions made:

- Do something to address transportation
- Do something to address youth having so little to do
- Do something to allow more input, to take away feeling that "Old money" (1 person said this and 3 others chimed in agreement) dictated what happens in Statesville. Another noted that you can't keep telling people to get involved, as not all can afford to run for office, or be at every meeting.

Anyway, that's a brief, or not so brief summary of my table. I'm not sure what "next step" is, but I'd love to see a meeting, where the Elected Leaders, in particular those that came and served or assisted, or were present, along with Business leaders (Like Paul C and others) and Community Partners (You and I and others) along with table facilitators actually sat down and discussed it, assuming others got what I

Longest Table Feedback Points:

got.

I personally think, if we are going to ask the questions and leaders are present, we need to respond. I talked briefly to Will, who also facilitated a table and he noted his table discussions were eerily similar to what ours was...So I think the questions were awesome and open ended.

Overall, GREAT JOB on putting this together, I realize it took tons of work, and the weather was great.