

Thrive **ABI**

Abilene Community
Visioning

January 2020





Table of Contents

Letter from the Steering Committee

Steering Committee Background and Roster

Vision Statement

Approach

Cause Area #1: Education

Cause Area #2: Essential Needs – Housing, Food, Clothing

Cause Area #3: Health and Wellness

Cause Area #4: Workforce and Economic Development

Cause Area #5: Family Well-being and Neighborhoods

Cause Area #6: Arts and Culture

Cause Area #7: Transportation

Appendices

Appendix A: Community Ideas and Concepts

Cause Area #1: Education

Cause Area #2: Essential Needs – Housing, Food, Clothing

Cause Area #3: Health and Wellness

Cause Area #4: Workforce and Economic Development

Cause Area #5: Family Well-being and Neighborhoods

Cause Area #6: Arts and Culture

Cause Area #7: Transportation

Appendix B: Survey Tables

Research and report completed by:



Dear Abilene,

The concept for ThriveABI began with the idea that we can more effectively and efficiently tackle challenges and improve quality of life in our community when we work together.

Around 2,000 Abilenians took part in the process to obtain our Community Vision, either by taking a survey or participating in an open forum or focus group. It is important that this vision be derived from people of many different backgrounds who live and work here, not just from a small group of people. We realize that communities may undergo vision-casting processes, only for the strategies to end up sitting in a folder on a shelf. We don't intend for this to be the case with this program.

Thanks to participants' input, we have identified a range of cause areas that matter to our community. You'll see these seven cause areas outlined in this report. Our next steps involve collecting data to find out how Abilene is performing within each of those cause areas. Once we have this baseline data, we can set goals for improvement in those areas and begin collaborating and identifying ways to drive progress towards the goals.

The work of enhancing our community doesn't happen overnight. Aesop was onto something when he wrote the Tortoise and the Hare fable. This is not to say work will be postponed, only that progress will take time. And it will take a community.

What we ask of you is for your support, your patience, your encouragement and your energy. When the time comes for work to be done on an issue that matters to you, we welcome you to lend your time and ideas to the initiative. Working in silos won't get the job done; working together will.

We are truly grateful to serve a community that is already the greatest city in Texas (and in all the nation, if you ask us). Thank you for believing in Abilene's future. Together, we can make sure everyone in Abilene has the opportunity to thrive.

With optimism for the future,

ThriveABI Steering Committee



Steering Committee Background & Roster

The steering committee is comprised of a group of invested citizens from diverse sectors and backgrounds. The value of having people with different experiences and perspectives guide the process has been paramount. This committee has been dedicated to defining an effective way for Abilene to move towards the community's ideals for a thriving future.

We know that accomplishing big goals requires a dedicated effort to keep Abilene working towards its vision. That's what this initiative is all about – establishing that mechanism to drive progress towards a vibrant Abilene, a future in which everyone has the opportunity the thrive.

Name	Organization
Nathan Adams	Pioneer Drive Baptist Church
Katie Alford	Community Foundation of Abilene
Cathy Ashby	United Way of Abilene
Leigh Black	Hendrick Medical Center
Gray Bridwell	Abilene Chamber of Commerce (Military Affairs)
Kristina Campos-Davis	Hardin-Simmons University
Mary Cooksey	2-1-1
Darrin Cox	Abilene ISD
Megan Dobbs	Community Foundation of Abilene
Billy Enriquez	Abilene ISD School Board Member
Chuck Farina	New Hope Church / 1 Kingdom
JoAnne Fluke	Disability in Action
Jenny Goode	Betty Hardwick
Sandra Harper	McMurry University
Seaton Higginbotham	Arrow Ford
Tremayne Hubbard	Texas Veterans Commission
Joey Light	Wylie ISD
Brandon Osborne	Abilene Youth Sports Authority
Doug Peters	Abilene Chamber of Commerce
Mary Ross	Texas Workforce Solutions
Julie St. John	TTU School of Public Health
Stan Stanridge	Abilene Police Department
Jose Valenzuela	Uniqu3 Solutions
David Young	Abilene ISD



Vision Statement

Abilene is a dynamic, compassionate, and welcoming community centered on helping one another. We have access to options for quality education, affordable health and child care, efficient transportation, and resources to meet essential needs. We offer seamless pathways for educational and professional growth, entrepreneurship, and careers that provide competitive wages. We cherish our rich history, strong spiritual foundation, and cultural landscape.

We celebrate our nationally-recognized arts, flourishing downtown and innovative approaches to enhance our quality of life. As a community, we hold ourselves accountable to work together to ensure that Abilene is a place where *everyone* has the opportunity to *thrive*.



ThriveABI conducted a highly inclusive approach for the Community Visioning process. In total, the approach involved over 2,000 Abilene residents. A special goal was to explicitly engage typically hard-to-reach audiences such as those with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and those facing economic challenges. The multi-pronged research approach included the following:

- **Data analysis** – The analysis established an empirical basis for understanding Abilene and its composite communities.
- **Interviews** – Interviews were conducted with community leaders, representatives from higher-need groups, healthcare service providers, providers of various community services, and others.
- **Community group discussions** – Four specially designed community discussion groups were held with hard-to-reach communities – the community of people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, seniors, and people experiencing homelessness and others facing economic challenges.
- **Community survey** – ThriveABI and its community partners disseminated the online survey. The response rate was extraordinary, as over 1,500 Abilene residents responded to the survey!
- **Open Forums** – Three two-hour Community Visioning forums were conducted in November / December 2019. During the forums, a total of approximately 400 to 500 Abilene residents shared their perspectives about Abilene’s strengths and challenges. More importantly, they shared their strategies and ideas for improving Abilene in each of the seven “Cause Areas.” For each, they also identified possible community partners, measures of success, and prospective vision statements.

As noted, the Community Visioning process was inclusive and generated highly specific strategies and supporting ideas needed to pursue the Community Vision. The process identified seven “Cause Areas.” “Cause Areas” are important categories or ways to think about the community. In Abilene, the cause areas included in the Community Visioning process include the following:

- Education
- Essential Needs – Housing, Food, Clothing
- Health & Wellness
- Workforce and Economic Development
- Family Well-being and Neighborhoods
- Arts & Culture
- Transportation



Description

More than 2,000 Abilene residents shared their hopes, ideas, and aspirations for Abilene during the Community Visioning process. They clearly voiced that education is a significant priority. Education provides the basis for individual growth and personal development, a mechanism by which to break the cycle of poverty, “raw ingredients” and a skilled workforce to meet well-paying workforce needs, an employment opportunity for insightful educators, and a gateway to connect community members and education systems.

Children growing up in poverty are highly likely to fall into a cycle of poverty themselves. In addition, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are much more common among people facing economic challenges. Therefore, enhancing the education of children, especially those who may be socioeconomically disadvantaged, and other community members not only has positive economic advantages, but it impacts the likelihood that the children will go on to have a better quality of life. A quality, highly accessible education system allows all people to receive an education that helps them pursue their aspirational career and provides a better life for their families and community.

Abilene has a breadth of strong educational opportunities – early childhood learning centers, a strong public school system, post-secondary schools (colleges and universities), continuing education resources, and others. There are opportunities to enhance educational resources, and Abilene residents consistently indicate that they are fully supportive of efforts to work together to achieve common goals – providing better opportunities for today and a brighter future.



Vision Statement Options

- Abilene: Excellence and opportunity for all students in comprehensive education from Pre-k through Ph.D.
- To provide every person with the education and training they need to succeed in their chosen field.

Strategies

- Break the cycle of poverty by strengthening primary education and children's exposure to cultural activities and career choices.
- Enhance the workforce to improve people's career options and supply needed workers to local employers.
- Provide education and career training to individuals facing personal challenges based on language barriers, disabilities (e.g., physical, learning, unseen, or other), cultural issues, financial status, or others.
- Engage life-long learners as a way to enhance academic interests and contribute to a higher quality of life for Abilene residents of all ages.





Key Indicators

- Continued improvement in “Reading by Third Grade” rates for elementary school students
- Continued improvement to the High School graduation rates
- Number of college students participating in career/apprenticeship programs
- Number of students enrolled in vocational programs and graduation rates
- Number of students in Head Start/Pre-School programs

Supporting Indicators

- AISD and WISD school ratings
- Job/college placement rates
- Math literacy rates in elementary school students
- Measure of employability of high school students
- Number of apprenticeship programs for children
- Number of certificate programs offered in school
- Number of dual credit/AP credit
- Number of families or individuals that are trained to mentor kids
- Number of High School or college students in Abilene
- Number of library books checked out annually
- Number of people unemployed
- Number of research publications across universities
- Number of students in elementary school with mentors
- Number of university students enrolled in higher education programs
- School attendance and behavior of children in grades K-12



Potential Partners

- Abilene Chambers of Commerce (including Black)
- Abilene Education Foundation
- Abilene Hope Haven
- Abilene Independent School District (AISD) and Wylie Independent School District (WISD)
- Alliance for Women and Children
- Arrow Ford
- ATCPHD
- Big Brother Big Sisters
- Big Country Area Health Education (AHEC)
- Boys/Girls Club
- Big Country CASA
- Childcare Providers and Educators
- Christian Women's Job Corps
- Churches and Faith-based Community
- City of Abilene Government
- Colleges, Universities & Technical Schools
- Community Foundation / ThriveABI
- Development Corporation of Abilene
- Disability in Action
- Dyess Air Force Base
- Early Childhood/Head Start/Daycares
- Faithworks
- Goodwill West Texas (job training)
- Homeschool Community
- International Rescue Committee
- Junior Achievement
- Kenley School
- Local Citizens and Parents
- Love & Care Ministries
- Partner Resource Network (PEN)
- Private Educational Institutions
- Rotary Club
- Texas Workforce Commission
- VISTAs/AmeriCorps
- Workforce Solutions
- Wylie Education Foundation





Description

Abilene was a stock shipping point on the Texas and Pacific Railway in 1881 – bypassing the 1881 County Seat of Buffalo Gap. Abilene’s rich, nearly 140-year history reflects care for its citizens and a deep sense of community. In any community, including Abilene, people face challenges in meeting their essential needs – shelter, food, and clothing. During the Community Visioning process, over 2,000 residents indicated that meeting the essential needs of “their neighbors” was a high priority.

Abilene is comprised of friendly, caring, philanthropic residents who genuinely care for (as they often say) “their neighbors.” More importantly, though, many actively demonstrate that they are willing to not only “care” but “do!” During Open Forums (which included a total of approximately 400 people), nearly 100% of residents indicated that they would take action to help other community members in need. The area has a strong faith-based community, highly engaged and generous healthcare systems, an active group of citizens within the disabled community, for-profit and non-profit businesses that selflessly reach out to disadvantaged communities, and others.

As we enter a new decade, the face of Abilene is changing, too. Basic needs of those facing economic challenges, people experiencing homelessness, and other groups clearly resonate with Abilene residents’ inclination to “help their neighbors.” For example, increased ethnic diversity and immigrants bring new opportunities for cultural and economic vibrancy, as well as, in some cases, greater need for basic services. Through the Community Visioning process, community members shared ideas and insights regarding ways to meet core needs and inclusively embrace all Abilene communities.

Downtown revitalization, expanded outreach to ethnic communities, enhanced services for people with disabilities and those facing economic challenges, programs for new immigrants, and other activities provide a renewed purpose and a growing sense of unity.



Vision Statement Options

- To be a “front porch” community that prioritizes resources to meet essential needs -- housing, food, clothing, etc. -- through innovative, intentional, community-based resources.
- To be a beautiful and economically forward-thinking community dedicated to providing opportunity for prosperity for ALL.

Strategies

- Create a central location for food and clothing - food co-op/better communication between different resources in Abilene
- Enact local regulations that support home ownership, provide advocacy services for renters, and provide shelter for people experiencing homelessness.
- Work with churches, the Department of Social Services, schools, large healthcare providers, and others to identify individuals or families facing housing, food, clothing, or other basic needs. Create a database of potential resources and personnel who can help guide or liaise between those in need and potential resource providers.





Key Indicators

- Percent of families spending over 30% of their income on housing
- Number of free/reduced lunch students in K-12 schools
- Number of 211 calls related to resources from local agencies
- Number of homeless individuals (Point-In-Time count)
- Number of affordable homes developed

Supporting Indicators

- Local eviction rate
- Poverty rates
- Section 8 waitlist
- Crime rates
- Number of backpack feeding programs
- Number of homeowners in low-income neighborhoods and in all Abilene
- Number of individuals and families receiving TANF & SNAP benefits
- Number of people applying for housing assistance
- Number of people receiving food and clothing assistance
- Percent of students on free or reduced lunch



Potential Partners

- Association of Realtors and Real Estate Agents
- Big Country Homebuilders Association
- Businesses/Employers (Private Sector)
- Churches and Faith-based Organizations
- City Link
- Farmers Markets
- Food Banks
- Habitat for Humanity
- Homebuilders, Landlords, Housing Complexes
- Housing Authority/HUD
- Hug-a-Root Family Farm and Other Local Farms
- International Rescue Committee
- Meals on Wheels
- Non-profit Organizations
- ONS
- Prison Units
- Schools
- Social and Government Programs and Services
- Uber/Lyft
- West Texas Homelessness Network



Description

Health challenges – chronic illnesses, obesity, mental health issues, and general fitness (all ages) – impact every community. Abilene has a strong list of organizations actively working to maintain community health, encourage an active lifestyle, and treat when needed, health needs. The opportunity for organizations to work together is a mainstay of activities designed to achieve Abilene’s community vision.

To enhance the health of youth, high-need communities, and others, the City of Abilene works actively with groups such as the Texas Recreation & Park Society, Texas Amateur Athletic Federation, Texas Public Pool Council, National Recreation and Park Association, the Neighborhood Fishing Program, and others. When healthcare services are needed, the community offers award-winning health services. For example, Abilene Hendrick Health System and Abilene Regional Medical Center provide an extensive array of inpatient, outpatient, and other community-based services. Each also actively promotes community fitness and offers resources for general use.

Healthcare performance, community wellness, youth activities, senior services, and other activities designed to strengthen families and neighborhoods are priorities for Abilene – ones critical to achieving the Community Vision.



Vision Statement Options

- To build a community in which ALL members feel supported and are empowered to live healthy lives.
- To create and sustain vibrant recreational activities that enrich our community members and are accessible to ALL.

Strategies

- Increase affordability and accessibility to clinics – dental, mental health, and medical
- Increase community awareness of chronic disease treatment services and ways to access them (financial literacy, transportation, insurance sign-ups, location of providers and available hours of operation, and others)
- Offer more family health and wellness activities
- Provide more resources, awareness, and incentives for people to take advantage of screening and other preventive health services.





Key Indicators

- Percentage of children participating in organized physical activities
- Number of oral health visits
- Rate of suicides annually
- Obesity rates in adults and youth
- Percent of inappropriate emergency room use

Supporting Indicators

- Chronic disease rates
- Depression rates in children and adults
- Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) rates
- Infant mortality rates and drug syndrome births
- Life expectancy rate
- Maternal mortality rate for all demographics
- Number of completed school health screenings
- Number of hospital ER or urgent care visits
- Number of individuals using recreational centers
- Number of intake/admissions at mental health agencies
- Number of service providers – medical, psychological, dental, others
- Number of workplace wellness policies
- Sidewalks – total and disability accessible miles

Potential Partners

- Abilene Recovery Council
- Abilene Youth Sports Authority
- ATCPHD
- Betty Hardwick
- Churches
- City Parks/Recreation
- Government and Health Departments
- Hospitals and Health Clinics
- Presbyterian Medical Care Mission
- Medical Providers
- NAMI Abilene
- Non-profit Organizations
- Phoenix House
- Private Sector and Employers
- Taylor Co. Indigent Healthcare
- Universities, Colleges, and School Systems





Description

Abilene is experiencing an economic renaissance in the Downtown and South of Downtown Abilene (SoDA) district. The area's robust and diversified economy offers a broad range of opportunities, and the economy continues to be expanding and taking steps to enhance opportunities for all residents further.

As Mayor Anthony Williams said at the Mayor's Community Conversation in 2018, his top priority is economic development. Abilene is not only well-poised to "make good" on Mayor Williams' comment, but they have also already begun the journey! Between the healthcare sector that employs over 5,000 individuals, tourism that has an annual impact of \$418.6 million and creates more than 4,000 jobs, revitalization in the SoDA District, expansion of the Air Force Base, and several organizations with successful histories of helping to support entrepreneurs, the area has a strong economic base, as well as a positive future.

- Dyess Air Force Base, Hendrick Medical Center, and Abilene Independent School District are the largest employers, and there are many other employers with over 400 employees – mostly in the public sector or healthcare industries. However, Abilene's diverse economy includes over 1,000 small businesses and extensive support for new businesses.
- The Development Corporation of Abilene (DCOA), the Abilene Industrial Foundation, the Chamber of Commerce, and many others provide incentives, training, support, and other resources to private sector enterprises, entrepreneurs, and others to create jobs and support community investment.

The cultural aspects of Abilene, educational opportunities, an active faith-based community, and the low cost of living (5% below the national average), contribute to Abilene being one of the Forbes Top 100 Best Places for Small Business. Abilene's strong economic base and resident resources position it to successfully achieve its workforce and economic development goals.



Vision Statement Options

- To be a dynamic city where opportunities are reflected in a culturally diverse workforce.
- To create ongoing opportunities for both employers and employees to thrive in Abilene.
- Abilene's Heritage: A foundation for your future and a place to launch your dreams!
- Big city feel with small-town heart and values.

Strategies

- Attract a few large, well-paying, new employers to Abilene who will be good community citizens.
- Develop a mechanism to connect employers and the workforce
- Expand and strengthen the local workforce
- Incentivize and educate youth and young adults to explore rewarding, well-paying careers
- Provide job retraining for workforce preparing for advancement opportunities





Key Indicators

- Average annual business revenue and per capita income
- Number of entrepreneurship opportunities (including minority / disadvantaged numbers)
- Employment rates of vulnerable populations
- Number of trade school, technical school, and university graduates
- Percent of graduates living in Abilene two years after graduation
- Total employment and average wage -- Abilene data and variance to state and US averages

Supporting Indicators

- Average starting salary
- Cost of living (per capita)
- Diversity of economic development
- Livable family wages
- Number of college and tech school graduates
- Number of Dyess AFB military - number of spouses working, number remaining in Abilene after discharge
- Number of entrepreneurship opportunities
- Number of families who were counseled on career opportunities
- Number of minority entrepreneurship ventures - new and cumulative
- Number of new businesses open in a year and their success - how many new positions have they added since they opened.
- Number of training certificates, trade school graduates, and internships
- Public assistance dollars allocation



Potential Partners

- Abilene Independent School District
- Abilene Industrial Foundation
- Abilene Works Website - Abilene Chamber of Commerce
- Abilene Zoo
- ACU Springboard
- Chamber of Commerce
- Churches
- City of Abilene
- Development Corporation of Abilene (DCOA)
- Disability in Action (DIA)
- Disability Resources
- Dyess AFB
- Entrepreneur Support and Guidance
- Faith Works
- Farm Bureau
- Gulf Coast Workforce Board
- Hendrick Medical Center
- Local Businesses
- Local Colleges and Universities
- Small Business Development Center
- State of Texas
- Texas Workforce Solutions



Description

Families and a sense of community drive the needs required to achieve the Community Vision. The families are the substance of the community; the community is strong only when families are strong.

Families are the backbone of the educational system, the economic engine, and the arts and cultural hub of Abilene. Neighborhoods are where we live, where we reach out to our neighbors in need and celebrate life's accomplishments. Abilene is not perfect, yet strengthening families is one of the highest priorities; caring for each other and the ability to positively impact others' lives are among the greatest strengths. Aligning intrinsic strengths with the high priority needs will help Abilene provide an enhanced quality of life for its residents and achieve its Community Vision.



Vision Statement Options

- Abilene: A community where everyone is heard, valued, cared for, and given the opportunity to give back to their community.
- Abilene's neighbors caring for each other; caring to make their community thrive.

Strategies

- Increase access to affordable childcare options
- Enhance childhood activities such as daycare/afterschool recreation programs
- Establish a schedule of regular "Citywide endorsed" block parties
- Institute a program to recruit volunteers to help neighbors who can't take care of the property (e.g., Dyess families, church groups, or other volunteers)
- Leverage the opportunity of sharing messages about family violence and substance abuse available through church/faith communities
- Institute / enforce "First do no harm" in neighborhood/housing development policy



Key Indicators

- Number of children on daycare waiting lists
- Number of neighborhood associations (and participating members)
- Number of new/renovated affordable units
- Number of organizations for teenagers to go after school

Supporting Indicators

- Crime statistics
- Number of available affordable housing units
- Number of child abuse victims/domestic violence
- Number of community associations (and participating members)
- Number of community engagement activities at major healthcare service providers
- Number of neighborhood events - i.e. trick or treat in neighborhood, churches, national night out
- Number of neighborhood open forums





Potential Partners

- Abilene Chamber of Commerce
- Abilene Housing Authority
- BCFS - Our House
- Ben Richey Boys Ranch (Temporary Housing)
- Big Brother Big Sisters
- Bike Police
- Builders/Developers
- Childcare Providers
- Churches
- City of Abilene
- Connecting Caring Communities (CCC)
- Dyess Air Force Base (and Military Families)
- First Responders
- Friendship House
- Hendrick Medical Center
- I-CAN, Sears Neighborhood
- Neighborhood Association(s)
- Non-profits
- Parent Teacher Associations
- Teachers and Counselors



Description

Abilene is a well-recognized hub of arts and culture. Its rich history of storybook illustration, the Abilene Cultural District (one of the first five cultural districts in Texas), and the emerging renaissance of the SoDA District provides a strong platform for an ongoing arts & culture environment.

The innovation and creativity of people in Abilene reflect the strength and richness of its cultural heritage. Abilene's diversity of individuals and cultures enriches the lives and livelihoods of residents. Longstanding organizations such as the Grace Museum, the Center for Contemporary Arts, the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature, the Paramount Theatre, and others provide a backbone of activity and creativity in the area. Abilene residents are bound together by a shared heritage and a desire to expand arts & cultural offerings as a way to inclusively bring diverse people together.

Arts & culture influence all phases of life in Abilene – adding color and enhancing the quality of life. Looking ahead, enhanced opportunities will help to develop the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for future arts leaders – as well as providing additional, inclusive opportunities for all Abilene residents to enjoy and contribute to life in Abilene!

Vision Statement Options

- To be a nationally recognized destination for the arts and culture that capitalizes on this recognition to improve the overall quality of life.
- To be the city where people actively engage in the arts and cultural offerings regardless of disabilities, socio-economic class, or cultural background.

Strategies

- Increase community and neighborhood exposure to arts programs – increase all residents’ ability to enjoy and/or participate in the arts or cultural activities
- Provide focused initiatives (e.g., transportation, awareness building, education, and others) to help people challenged to take advantage of cultural events due to disability, lack of exposure, or other issue
- Expand Abilene’s reputation as a cultural and art “destination”
- Create an ongoing, city-wide array of arts and cultural activities that can engage residents regardless of age. Enhance arts and cultural appreciation as early as age five



Key Indicators

- Cultural events - number, attendance, support
- Number of arts programs in schools
- Number of low-income children participating in arts and education and programs
- Tax dollars and other funding for arts education in school

Supporting Indicators

- Diversity of attendees (measures TBD)
- Dollar value of private funding for the arts
- Number of attendees from out of town
- Number of channels (or “exposures”) that communicate events and ways to access them
- Number of events related to heritage (Abilene’s heritage or culturally diverse heritages)
- Number of public school and university events
- Number of new attendees at cultural / arts events
- Survey of student satisfaction of arts / cultural performances

Potential Partners

- Abilene Community Health Center
- Abilene Community Theater Groups
- Abilene Cultural Affairs Council
- Abilene Independent School District (and Individual Schools)
- Abilene Philharmonic Orchestra
- Abilene University Partners - Institutions and Students
- Abilene Visitors and Convention Center
- Arts and Culture Non-profits
- Churches
- City of Abilene
- Connecting Caring Communities
- Friendship House
- Grace Museum and Other Abilene Museums
- Hendrick Medical Center
- International Rescue Committee
- Legal, Financial, Retail, and Other Larger Service Providers Who Could Sponsor Events of Awareness / Access Building Activities
- Local Print, Television, and Other Media
- Non-profit Foundations
- Paramount Theatre
- Volunteer Service Organizations





Description

Abilene has an extensive and growing number of community resources, economic opportunities, arts and cultural offerings, and educational opportunities. While expanding its ability to achieve its community vision, Abilene will work diligently to fully include all citizens regardless of where they live, disabilities or economic challenges they may face, or other issues. To do so, a robust and accessible transportation system is crucial.

The transportation system and the infrastructure serve as the backbone for the economy, as well as the avenue by which all citizens can enjoy the vibrancy of Abilene.

Abilene's roadway system with relatively light traffic and CitiLink bus system provide a foundation from which Abilene's transportation-related goals can be achieved. Challenges exist, and there are opportunities to improve the transportation system. However, Abilene residents clearly state that the transportation system is a core requirement needed to fulfill Abilene's vision.

Maintenance and upgrading the road system is already underway! In January 2019, the City of Abilene began collecting fees to support a Street Maintenance Fund dedicated to the management and care of City streets. The first project began in Fall 2019. The City of Abilene expects to invest over \$20 million in road maintenance projects in 2020 using the new Street Maintenance Fee, the Development Corporation of Abilene (DCOA), and the 2015 bond program.

Additionally, Abilene residents clearly voice their support for additional efforts to increase accessibility to CitiLink and other transportation resources. Residents see transportation as a way to increase accessibility but also as a means for availing all residents of economic and cultural activities that will continue to strengthen the sense of community in Abilene as well as the quality of life (which, in turn, provides additional benefits)!



Vision Statement Options

- A commuter-friendly community that offers alternative, reliable transportation opportunities for all.
- To be a community that provides easy access for all residents - regardless of abilities - to get to and enjoy all local events, resources, and services.

Strategies

- Improve accessibility on buses for all riders regardless of disability, hours of travel, or point-of-origin and destination within Abilene.
- Increase the number of bicycle paths, walking trails, and other resources available to enhance non-conventional (non-automotive) transportation.
- Expand air and rail travel options in Abilene.
- Improve the quality of existing roadways, sidewalks, and other travel routes.





Key Indicators

- Hours per week of public transportation operation
- Number of people using public transit
- Number of public transportation routes
- Number of road improvement projects
- Percent of the downtown area with full handicap accessibility

Supporting Indicators

- Capacity on buses - Number riding each route
- Diverse audiences at events - number of discounted tickets
- First-class public transportation system to include routes, ramps, covers, good lighting, affordable
- Linear mileage of sidewalks and bike paths
- Number of bike lanes
- Number of covered bus stops
- Number of event days
- Number of passengers using airlines to/from ABI
- Number of people unemployed due to transportation
- Number of people using bike lanes
- Number of people using public transit
- Number of smaller, efficient buses
- Public funding dollars
- Public speaking on issues
- Road improvement projects completed



Potential Partners

- 211 - Regional Transportation
- Bonds: Sources of Financing (e.g., Bonds) for Improving Sidewalks
- Bus Station
- Businesses
- Churches
- Citi-Link
- City of Abilene
- Disability in Action
- Jenn Rogers (Bikes)
- Non-profits
- Texas Department of Transportation
- Texas Workforce Solutions
- Uber and Lyft





Appendix A: Community Ideas and Concepts

Through the Community Visioning process, Abilene residents shared their insights, passions, strategies, ideas, and hopes for Abilene's future. The breadth of their comments from the Open Forums and interviews is shown below.

Cause Area #1: Education

- Provide (re)education opportunities for older citizens
- Add more social workers in the schools
- Allocate resources to areas of greatest need (i.e., teachers, technology, equipment)
- Offer high-quality childcare programs to help ensure kindergarten readiness
- Provide better pay for teachers
- Create community engagement initiatives with public school campuses
- Connect workforce and education
- Coordinate educational options to suit everyone's needs, STEM, technology, synergy among all institutions.
- Create a homeschooling network support system
- Create resources / navigators to help students and families address stigma and other barriers
- Decrease dropout rate by focusing on early education reading rates
- Provide more dual credit for high school students to integrate with local higher ed programs
- Educate small businesses about being more inclusive
- Enrich educational experiences for students with special needs
- Provide more ESL education
- Provide free educational opportunities (or at least less expensive)
- Help kids get more involved with extracurricular activities
- Increasing masters and Ph.D. programs at the local colleges and universities
- Increase the number of counselors for post-graduation opportunities
- Increase access to early education
- Increase tech school programs
- Offer more internships and mentorships
- Invest in buildings is important because many students thrive in a transformative environment
- Invite the business community into the classroom to encourage tech programs
- Offer more accredited programs
- Offer transition skills for all students (i.e., budgeting, homemaking, etc.)
- Provide parental education classes to new parents
- Create one high school with two campuses: 1) grades 9-10 and 2) grades 11-12
- Provide programs for under-educated adults to increase appreciation of education - college is attainable and realistic increasing comfort, community outreach
- Offer re-entry (jail/prison) education - life skills, job, etc.



Cause Area #2: Essential Needs – Housing, Food, Clothing

- Change mindsets from “Hand-up vs. hand out”
- Create a “Homeless to ‘home-yes’” program
- Create a Community land trust
- Create a standard Tenant Bill of Rights - protection for renters, education for renters
- Create better definitions for homelessness and food insecurity
- Create homeowner/neighborhood associations in areas needing revitalization
- Create landlord organizations with incentives to revitalize
- Create more emerging shelter options for longer-term transitional homeless individuals
- Create or increase first-time homebuyer incentives
- Decrease societal callousness - understanding root causes and increasing compassion for others to overcome
- Develop home ownership and renter courses (i.e., home maintenance, eviction, etc.) and offer them throughout Abilene – especially in ethnic and economically challenged areas
- Develop stiffer sanctions against landlords that won’t comply with regulations
- Educate and converse with landlords to encourage improvement
- Encourage community gardens/local food growth
- Expand backpack programs for the whole family, not just one student
- Improve 2-1-1 communications
- Improve neighborhood safety and appearance
- Increase ownership vs. renting
- Make downtown buildings and housing accessible for all by adding elevators
- Place public transportation routes in more location-strategic places (i.e., food/clothing pantries)
- Promote financial literacy
- Provide incentives for developers to build low/moderate housing within the city
- Provide safe and affordable housing options, especially for the elderly



Cause Area #3: Health and Wellness

- Increase workplace cultures that promote health and wellness within businesses for employees
- Provide more education for harmful behaviors (i.e., disassociating these behaviors from the desired lifestyle)
- Increase competition of health care providers and providers that operate a culture of wellness and holistic care
- Provide education on nutrition - schools and parents
- Increase the number of community health clinics
- Implement peer counselors
- Increase mental health awareness and reduce stigma
- Increase the use of NPs and PAs
- Improve the number of green spaces and walkability
- Increase access to mental health care (i.e., add to school system)
- Provide incentives for mental health workers (college-bound)
- Increase the use of telehealth
- Improve sex education opportunities
- Create mentoring programs/encourage community leaders to engage at-risk youth
- Encourage foster parenting and provide support systems and respite for foster families
- Create more programs for trauma-informed care
- Develop walkable streets and bike paths, including downtown
- Increase mental health screening for teens
- Increase community health workers (i.e., Hendrick Medical Center model)
- Expand capacity and community health services for eldercare
- Increase awareness and expand SUD/addiction recovery supports, programs, communities allowing for choice and diverse ideas and preferences



Cause Area #4: Workforce and Economic Development

- Build an easy mechanism for organizations to collaborate
- Create a river walk with a driving range to offset the cost for vendors
- Create an economic workforce pipeline work with schools and employers
- Design a Human Resources recruiting / job posting board; market to higher-need communities, Department of Human Services, and others
- Develop a series of focused programs for youth by continuing the vision of ThriveABI
- Develop and heavily market a plan to support local businesses and food producers
- Develop transition programs to help people coming out of incarceration
- Encourage / recruit civilian business that supports the Air Force
- Encourage child entrepreneurs
- Encourage universities to host community job training and placement events
- Engage diverse young people in our economic development boards
- Enhance Abilene's reputation as an agricultural center
- Enhance training for persons with disabilities
- Expand Abilene's performing arts center
- Financially support more programs to mentor young women and men in the trades
- Focus on re-entry coalition and best practices for employment
- Help businesses grow their workforce from within through leadership and reinvestment
- Identify and make available useable properties for training or educational uses
- Improve high school graduation rates
- Incentivize companies to be open to hire (or provide job training) to people with disabilities or facing other challenges
- Include career choice -- "careers" vs. "employment" -- in public school education curricula
- Increase access to childcare
- Increase access to jobs for people with disabilities, for example, deaf services, college interpreter program, raising awareness of program(s)
- Increase capacity to train health professionals
- Increase STEM education; recruit companies hiring STEM candidates
- Make / enhance Abilene business-friendly



Cause Area #4: Workforce and Economic Development (Continued)

- Offer a broader spectrum of culinary training
- Offer alternative workweek schedules
- Offer Career and Technical Education (CTE) high school education
- Promote Abilene's relatively low cost of living in order to attract new businesses and skilled workers
- Recruit two to three major employers
- Review / revisit the existing economic development plan
- Revitalize vacant properties/buildings
- Support / create career education and job opportunities for high schoolers; help them explore job openings beyond college
- Update City Codes to be more employer-friendly





Cause Area #5: Family Well-being and Neighborhoods

- Address family violence and substance use issues
- Build awareness of young-adult education/life skills training opportunities
- Create a schedule of amnesty days for a neighborhood cleanup
- Create health clinics in higher-need neighborhoods
- Encourage connections with neighborhood associations
- Encourage neighborhood activity (i.e. trick-or-treat)
- Enhance code enforcement
- Enhance public safety in high traffic areas (for walkability/multimodal)
- Expand access to parks with green grass
- Expand afterschool care
- Expand/increase focus of initiatives like Connecting Caring Communities (CCC)
- Focus on intergenerational community need
- Improve access and affordability of childcare
- Improve street lighting in neighborhoods
- Incentivize home beautification/pride
- Increase access to healthful, affordable food
- Increase accessibility to early childhood development programs
- Increase the number of bike paths, walking trails / sidewalks, and handicapped/disability accessible outdoor resources
- Invest in low to moderate-income neighborhoods
- Make current rec-centers more accessible /available to neighbors - more open time
- Partner with non-profits and the City of Abilene to help with utility bills
- Sponsor entrepreneurial events in neighborhoods (City of Abilene)
- Subsidize developers to donate land or incentivize HOA
- Update community center
- Work to break the cycle of poverty -- teach kids/people they are valued



Cause Area #6: Arts and Culture

- Build on our mural developments to more strategically reflect culture
- Central information and create a mechanism to inform community members
- Continue early and frequent exposure to arts/culture of young children
- Create culture showcases of the immigrant population
- Develop multiple-church Christian gospel groups to perform throughout the city
- Expand and upgrade exhibits about Abilene culture and heritage.
- Expand diversity in music, performing arts, and visual arts by offering an ongoing series of diversity-focused events (not just a special “month”)
- Increase the number of live events by local artists
- Offer art classes in neighborhood Rec Centers and parks
- Offer art therapy in schools and for the elderly
- Produce placemats at restaurants advertising local events and venues for visitors
- Provide free tickets for cultural and arts events to higher-need communities
- Provide University programs for more diverse culture in their exhibits, art, theater
- Reach out to military families to ensure their participation
- Support and develop an “Artisan” or Fairtrade market





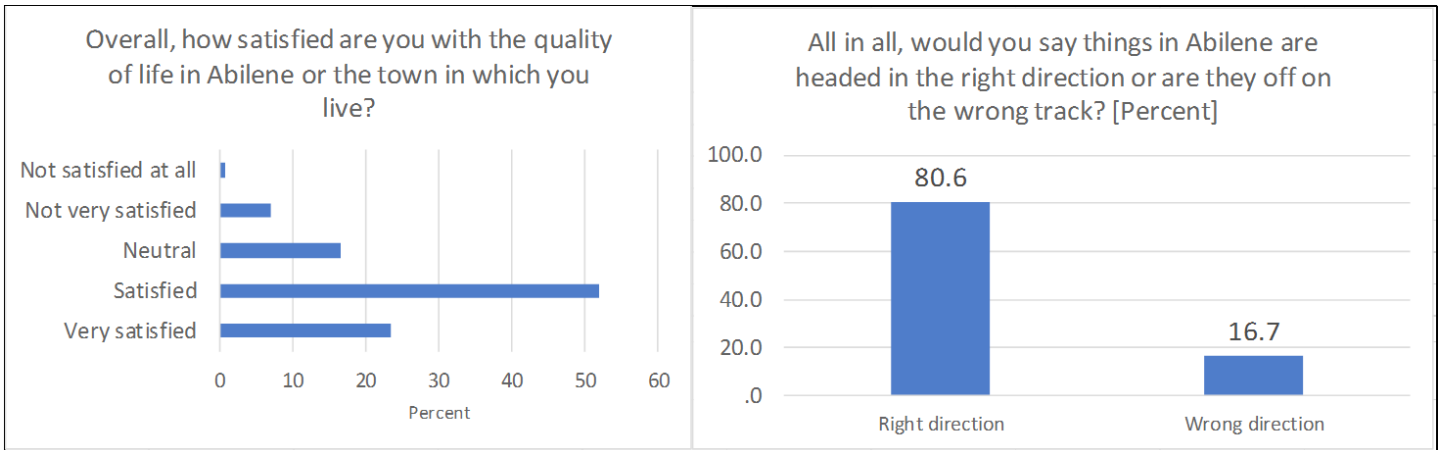
Cause Area #7: Transportation

- Add ABI flights to major destinations besides DFW
- Add bus / Citilink routes; extend operating hours
- Add pedestrian awareness (safety signage) above a street walkway
- Add places to lock and park bikes
- Build a passenger train service to Dallas
- Build additional covered bus stops; for example, have businesses, churches, non-profit, and/or volunteer groups build shelters for bus stops
- Build ramps at bus stops/sidewalks
- Complete road improvements
- Continue preventable road repairs - schedule repair
- Create a hub for bicycle acquisition /repair - for those who can't afford cars
- Create more multi-modal opportunities
- Create new sidewalks in traveled areas
- Develop the Cedar Creek walkway
- Enhance safety - bicycle and walkability - commit to infrastructure
- Expand hours at the same rates for those needing to use public transportation, especially for those disabled or low-income
- Expand trolley service
- Explore ride-sharing options and funding for people who can't afford other transportation
- Grow projects to enhance medical appointment compliance
- Improve sidewalks for disabled
- Improve signage on public transportation for people with disabilities
- Offer a shuttle service to DFW
- Offer bus service to Dallas - Luxury (snacks, bathroom)
- Provide a downtown scooter resource
- Provide a fixed rate for Uber and Lyft
- Provide assistance to maintain sidewalks
- Provide bus passes for people who can't afford them
- Provide room on buses to store bikes
- Recruit additional, competitive airlines
- Start "A Day in My Shoes" event to increase public understanding of the challenges faced by a disabled person using transportation, sidewalks, etc.
- Strengthen and enforce leash laws /fewer loose



Appendix B: Survey Tables

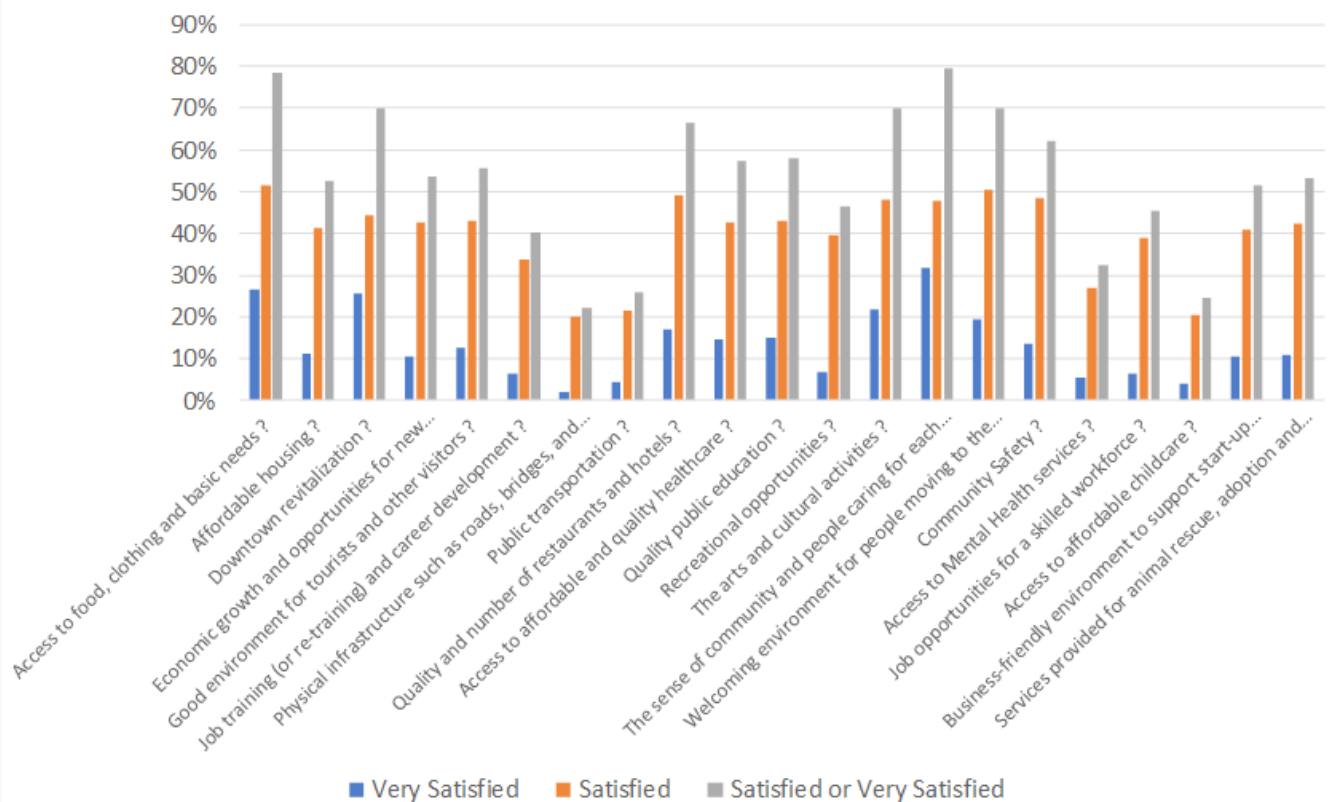
The following pages contain charts and tables from the online community survey, which yielded 1,469 responses from the Abilene community.





Appendix B: Survey Tables

How Satisfied are You with the Following

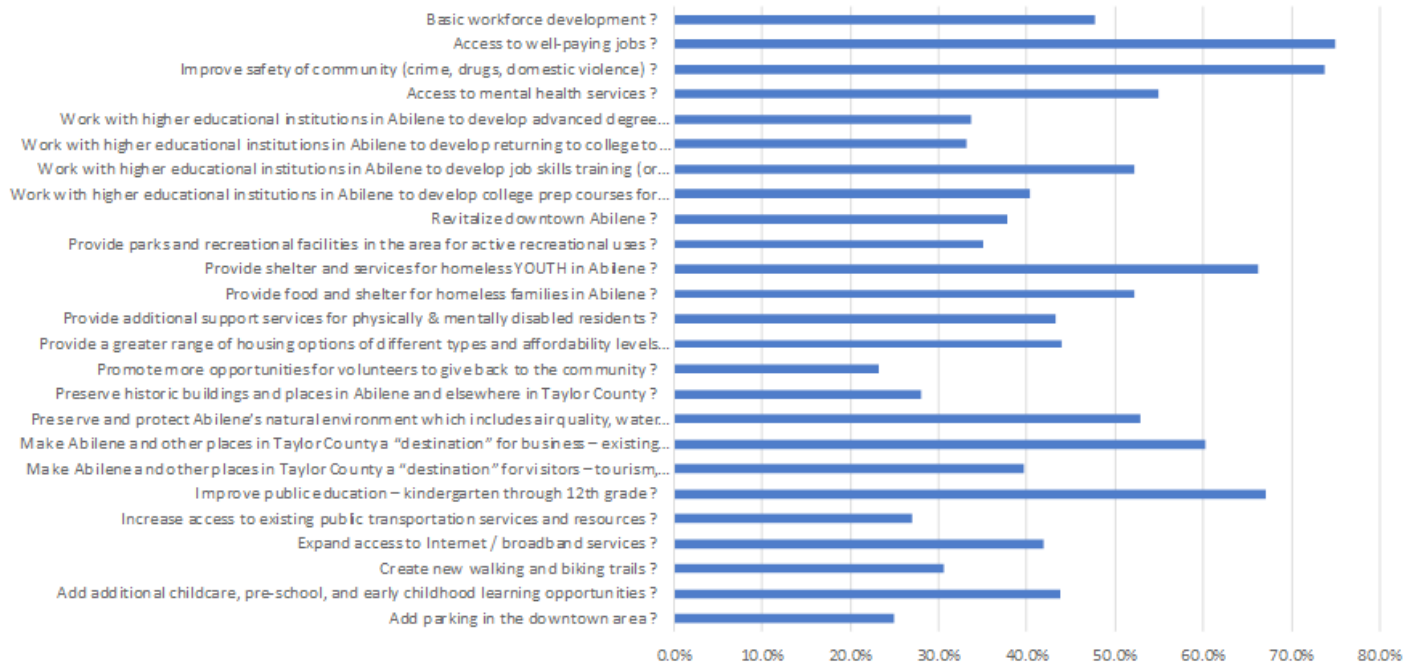


Issue	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Satisfied or Very Satisfied
Access to food, clothing and basic needs ?	26.7%	51.7%	78.4%
Affordable housing ?	11.2%	41.2%	52.5%
Downtown revitalization ?	25.6%	44.3%	69.9%
Economic growth and opportunities for new businesses ?	10.7%	42.7%	53.4%
Good environment for tourists and other visitors ?	12.6%	43.1%	55.7%
Job training (or re-training) and career development ?	6.5%	33.7%	40.2%
Physical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and buildings ?	1.9%	20.1%	22.0%
Public transportation ?	4.3%	21.6%	25.9%
Quality and number of restaurants and hotels ?	17.2%	49.2%	66.4%
Access to affordable and quality healthcare ?	14.6%	42.5%	57.2%
Quality public education ?	15.0%	43.1%	58.1%
Recreational opportunities ?	7.0%	39.5%	46.4%
The arts and cultural activities ?	21.9%	48.1%	70.0%
The sense of community and people caring for each other ?	31.7%	47.9%	79.5%
Welcoming environment for people moving to the area ?	19.3%	50.6%	70.0%
Community Safety ?	13.6%	48.3%	61.9%
Access to Mental Health services ?	5.6%	27.0%	32.5%
Job opportunities for a skilled workforce ?	6.4%	39.0%	45.4%
Access to affordable childcare ?	3.9%	20.5%	24.4%
Business-friendly environment to support start-up and/or growth ?	10.6%	40.9%	51.5%
Services provided for animal rescue, adoption and healthcare ?	10.8%	42.3%	53.1%



Appendix B: Survey Tables

How Would You Rate the Priority of the Following?



Issue	Percent Saying "High Priority"
Add parking in the downtown area ?	24.9%
Add additional childcare, pre-school, and early childhood learning opportunities ?	43.7%
Create new walking and biking trails ?	30.6%
Expand access to Internet / broadband services ?	41.9%
Increase access to existing public transportation services and resources ?	27.1%
Improve public education – kindergarten through 12th grade ?	67.1%
Make Abilene and other places in Taylor County a "destination" for visitors – tourism, dining, entertainment, and cultural events as local art exhibition ?	39.8%
Make Abilene and other places in Taylor County a "destination" for business – existing businesses moving to the area, company expansion, opportunity ?	60.3%
Preserve and protect Abilene's natural environment which includes air quality, water quality, protection and preservation of natural habitats ?	52.8%
Preserve historic buildings and places in Abilene and elsewhere in Taylor County ?	28.0%
Promote more opportunities for volunteers to give back to the community ?	23.3%
Provide a greater range of housing options of different types and affordability levels within Abilene ?	43.9%
Provide additional support services for physically & mentally disabled residents ?	43.2%
Provide food and shelter for homeless families in Abilene ?	52.1%
Provide shelter and services for homeless YOUTH in Abilene ?	66.2%
Provide parks and recreational facilities in the area for active recreational uses ?	35.0%
Revitalize downtown Abilene ?	37.8%
Work with higher educational institutions in Abilene to develop college prep courses for youth ?	40.4%
Work with higher educational institutions in Abilene to develop job skills training (or retraining) ?	52.2%
Work with higher educational institutions in Abilene to develop returning to college to finish a degree for adults later in life ?	33.1%
Work with higher educational institutions in Abilene to develop advanced degree opportunities ?	33.7%
Access to mental health services ?	55.0%
Improve safety of community (crime, drugs, domestic violence) ?	73.7%
Access to well-paying jobs ?	75.0%
Basic workforce development ?	47.6%

ThriveABI

Community Survey

Frequency Tables

Do you live in Abilene? If not, what is your hometown?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	1281	87.2	87.4	87.4
No	184	12.5	12.6	100.0
Total	1465	99.7	100.0	
No response	4	.3		
Total	1469	100.0		

How long have you lived in the Abilene area / Taylor County?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Less than one year	34	2.3	2.3	2.3
1 to 4 years	165	11.2	11.3	13.6
5 to 9 years	157	10.7	10.7	24.3
10 to 14 years	121	8.2	8.3	32.6
15 or more years	932	63.4	63.7	96.3
I do not live in the Abilene area	54	3.7	3.7	100.0
Total	1463	99.6	100.0	
No response	6	.4		
Total	1469	100.0		

Overall, how satisfied are you with the quality of life in Abilene or the town in which you live?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very satisfied	341	23.2	23.4	23.4
Satisfied	756	51.5	51.9	75.3
Neutral	243	16.5	16.7	92.0
Not very satisfied	104	7.1	7.1	99.2
Not satisfied at all	12	.8	.8	100.0
Total	1456	99.1	100.0	
No response	13	.9		
Total	1469	100.0		

All in all, would you say things in Abilene are headed in the right direction or are they off on the wrong track?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Right direction	1184	80.6	82.9	82.9
Wrong direction	245	16.7	17.1	100.0
Total	1429	97.3	100.0	
No response	40	2.7		
Total	1469	100.0		

How satisfied are you with the: Access to food, clothing and basic needs ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very satisfied	385	26.2	26.7	26.7
Satisfied	745	50.7	51.7	78.4
Neutral	208	14.2	14.4	92.8
Not very satisfied	86	5.9	6.0	98.8
Not at all satisfied	18	1.2	1.2	100.0
Total	1442	98.2	100.0	
No response	27	1.8		
Total	1469	100.0		

How satisfied are you with the: Affordable housing ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very satisfied	162	11.0	11.2	11.2
Satisfied	595	40.5	41.2	52.5
Neutral	386	26.3	26.7	79.2
Not very satisfied	213	14.5	14.8	94.0
Not at all satisfied	87	5.9	6.0	100.0
Total	1443	98.2	100.0	
No response	26	1.8		
Total	1469	100.0		

How satisfied are you with the: Downtown revitalization ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very satisfied	368	25.1	25.6	25.6
Satisfied	636	43.3	44.3	69.9
Neutral	286	19.5	19.9	89.8
Not very satisfied	93	6.3	6.5	96.2
Not at all satisfied	54	3.7	3.8	100.0
Total	1437	97.8	100.0	
No response	32	2.2		
Total	1469	100.0		

How satisfied are you with the: Economic growth and opportunities for new businesses ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very satisfied	154	10.5	10.7	10.7
Satisfied	614	41.8	42.7	53.4
Neutral	405	27.6	28.2	81.6
Not very satisfied	198	13.5	13.8	95.3
Not at all satisfied	67	4.6	4.7	100.0
Total	1438	97.9	100.0	
No response	31	2.1		
Total	1469	100.0		

How satisfied are you with the: Good environment for tourists and other visitors ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very satisfied	181	12.3	12.6	12.6
Satisfied	622	42.3	43.1	55.7
Neutral	380	25.9	26.4	82.0
Not very satisfied	212	14.4	14.7	96.7
Not at all satisfied	47	3.2	3.3	100.0
Total	1442	98.2	100.0	
No response	27	1.8		
Total	1469	100.0		

How satisfied are you with the: Job training (or re-training) and career development ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very satisfied	93	6.3	6.5	6.5
Satisfied	482	32.8	33.7	40.2
Neutral	610	41.5	42.7	82.9
Not very satisfied	198	13.5	13.9	96.8
Not at all satisfied	46	3.1	3.2	100.0
Total	1429	97.3	100.0	
No response	40	2.7		
Total	1469	100.0		

How satisfied are you with the: Physical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and buildings ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very satisfied	28	1.9	1.9	1.9
Satisfied	290	19.7	20.1	22.0
Neutral	291	19.8	20.2	42.2
Not very satisfied	570	38.8	39.5	81.7
Not at all satisfied	264	18.0	18.3	100.0
Total	1443	98.2	100.0	
No response	26	1.8		
Total	1469	100.0		

How satisfied are you with the: Public transportation ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very satisfied	62	4.2	4.3	4.3
Satisfied	310	21.1	21.6	25.9
Neutral	713	48.5	49.7	75.7
Not very satisfied	232	15.8	16.2	91.8
Not at all satisfied	117	8.0	8.2	100.0
Total	1434	97.6	100.0	
No response	35	2.4		
Total	1469	100.0		

How satisfied are you with the: Quality and number of restaurants and hotels ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very satisfied	248	16.9	17.2	17.2
Satisfied	710	48.3	49.2	66.4
Neutral	234	15.9	16.2	82.6
Not very satisfied	207	14.1	14.3	97.0
Not at all satisfied	44	3.0	3.0	100.0
Total	1443	98.2	100.0	
No response	26	1.8		
Total	1469	100.0		

How satisfied are you with the: Access to affordable and quality healthcare ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very satisfied	210	14.3	14.6	14.6
Satisfied	611	41.6	42.5	57.2
Neutral	306	20.8	21.3	78.5
Not very satisfied	214	14.6	14.9	93.4
Not at all satisfied	95	6.5	6.6	100.0
Total	1436	97.8	100.0	
No response	33	2.2		
Total	1469	100.0		

How satisfied are you with the: Quality public education ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very satisfied	215	14.6	15.0	15.0
Satisfied	617	42.0	43.1	58.1
Neutral	403	27.4	28.1	86.2
Not very satisfied	149	10.1	10.4	96.6
Not at all satisfied	49	3.3	3.4	100.0
Total	1433	97.5	100.0	
No response	36	2.5		
Total	1469	100.0		

How satisfied are you with the: Recreational opportunities ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very satisfied	100	6.8	7.0	7.0
Satisfied	567	38.6	39.5	46.4
Neutral	373	25.4	26.0	72.4
Not very satisfied	316	21.5	22.0	94.4
Not at all satisfied	81	5.5	5.6	100.0
Total	1437	97.8	100.0	
No response	32	2.2		
Total	1469	100.0		

How satisfied are you with the: The arts and cultural activities ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very satisfied	315	21.4	21.9	21.9
Satisfied	691	47.0	48.1	70.0
Neutral	300	20.4	20.9	90.9
Not very satisfied	106	7.2	7.4	98.3
Not at all satisfied	25	1.7	1.7	100.0
Total	1437	97.8	100.0	
No response	32	2.2		
Total	1469	100.0		

How satisfied are you with the: The sense of community and people caring for each other ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very satisfied	457	31.1	31.7	31.7
Satisfied	690	47.0	47.9	79.5
Neutral	195	13.3	13.5	93.1
Not very satisfied	74	5.0	5.1	98.2
Not at all satisfied	26	1.8	1.8	100.0
Total	1442	98.2	100.0	
No response	27	1.8		
Total	1469	100.0		

How satisfied are you with the: Welcoming environment for people moving to the area ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very satisfied	279	19.0	19.3	19.3
Satisfied	730	49.7	50.6	70.0
Neutral	307	20.9	21.3	91.3
Not very satisfied	92	6.3	6.4	97.6
Not at all satisfied	34	2.3	2.4	100.0
Total	1442	98.2	100.0	
No response	27	1.8		
Total	1469	100.0		

How satisfied are you with the: Community Safety ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very satisfied	196	13.3	13.6	13.6
Satisfied	694	47.2	48.3	61.9
Neutral	304	20.7	21.2	83.1
Not very satisfied	195	13.3	13.6	96.7
Not at all satisfied	48	3.3	3.3	100.0
Total	1437	97.8	100.0	
No response	32	2.2		
Total	1469	100.0		

How satisfied are you with the: Access to Mental Health services ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very satisfied	80	5.4	5.6	5.6
Satisfied	386	26.3	27.0	32.5
Neutral	605	41.2	42.2	74.8
Not very satisfied	254	17.3	17.7	92.5
Not at all satisfied	107	7.3	7.5	100.0
Total	1432	97.5	100.0	
No response	37	2.5		
Total	1469	100.0		

How satisfied are you with the: Job opportunities for a skilled workforce ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very satisfied	91	6.2	6.4	6.4
Satisfied	559	38.1	39.0	45.4
Neutral	423	28.8	29.5	74.9
Not very satisfied	286	19.5	20.0	94.8
Not at all satisfied	74	5.0	5.2	100.0
Total	1433	97.5	100.0	
No response	36	2.5		
Total	1469	100.0		

How satisfied are you with the: Access to affordable childcare ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very satisfied	56	3.8	3.9	3.9
Satisfied	291	19.8	20.5	24.4
Neutral	738	50.2	51.9	76.3
Not very satisfied	248	16.9	17.4	93.7
Not at all satisfied	89	6.1	6.3	100.0
Total	1422	96.8	100.0	
No response	47	3.2		
Total	1469	100.0		

How satisfied are you with the: Business-friendly environment to support start-up and/or growth ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very satisfied	152	10.3	10.6	10.6
Satisfied	588	40.0	40.9	51.5
Neutral	470	32.0	32.7	84.2
Not very satisfied	167	11.4	11.6	95.8
Not at all satisfied	60	4.1	4.2	100.0
Total	1437	97.8	100.0	
No response	32	2.2		
Total	1469	100.0		

How satisfied are you with the: Services provided for animal rescue, adoption and healthcare ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very satisfied	155	10.6	10.8	10.8
Satisfied	606	41.3	42.3	53.1
Neutral	476	32.4	33.2	86.4
Not very satisfied	148	10.1	10.3	96.7
Not at all satisfied	47	3.2	3.3	100.0
Total	1432	97.5	100.0	
No response	37	2.5		
Total	1469	100.0		

How would you rate the priority of the following: Add parking in the downtown area ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Low priority	481	32.7	33.6	33.6
Medium priority	593	40.4	41.5	75.1
High priority	356	24.2	24.9	100.0
Total	1430	97.3	100.0	
No response	39	2.7		
Total	1469	100.0		

How would you rate the priority of the following: Add additional childcare, pre-school, and early childhood learning opportunities ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Low priority	185	12.6	12.9	12.9
Medium priority	622	42.3	43.4	56.3
High priority	627	42.7	43.7	100.0
Total	1434	97.6	100.0	
No response	35	2.4		
Total	1469	100.0		

How would you rate the priority of the following: Create new walking and biking trails ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Low priority	446	30.4	31.1	31.1
Medium priority	549	37.4	38.3	69.4
High priority	439	29.9	30.6	100.0
Total	1434	97.6	100.0	
No response	35	2.4		
Total	1469	100.0		

How would you rate the priority of the following: Expand access to Internet / broadband services ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Low priority	334	22.7	23.4	23.4
Medium priority	496	33.8	34.7	58.1
High priority	599	40.8	41.9	100.0
Total	1429	97.3	100.0	
No response	40	2.7		
Total	1469	100.0		

How would you rate the priority of the following: Increase access to existing public transportation services and resources ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Low priority	297	20.2	20.7	20.7
Medium priority	748	50.9	52.2	72.9
High priority	388	26.4	27.1	100.0
Total	1433	97.5	100.0	
No response	36	2.5		
Total	1469	100.0		

How would you rate the priority of the following: Improve public education – kindergarten through 12th grade ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Low priority	70	4.8	4.9	4.9
Medium priority	403	27.4	28.1	32.9
High priority	963	65.6	67.1	100.0
Total	1436	97.8	100.0	
No response	33	2.2		
Total	1469	100.0		

How would you rate the priority of the following: Make Abilene and other places in Taylor County a “destination” for visitors – tourism, dining, entertainment, and cultural events as local art exhibitions and “CALF Festival” ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Low priority	223	15.2	15.4	15.4
Medium priority	647	44.0	44.8	60.2
High priority	574	39.1	39.8	100.0
Total	1444	98.3	100.0	
No response	25	1.7		
Total	1469	100.0		

How would you rate the priority of the following: Make Abilene and other places in Taylor County a “destination” for business – existing businesses moving to the area, company expansion, opportunities and support for entrepreneurship ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Low priority	100	6.8	7.0	7.0
Medium priority	470	32.0	32.8	39.7
High priority	864	58.8	60.3	100.0
Total	1434	97.6	100.0	
No response	35	2.4		
Total	1469	100.0		

How would you rate the priority of the following: Preserve and protect Abilene’s natural environment which includes air quality, water quality, protection and preservation of natural habitats ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Low priority	133	9.1	9.2	9.2
Medium priority	546	37.2	37.9	47.2
High priority	761	51.8	52.8	100.0
Total	1440	98.0	100.0	
No response	29	2.0		
Total	1469	100.0		

How would you rate the priority of the following: Preserve historic buildings and places in Abilene and elsewhere in Taylor County ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Low priority	386	26.3	26.9	26.9
Medium priority	648	44.1	45.1	72.0
High priority	403	27.4	28.0	100.0
Total	1437	97.8	100.0	
No response	32	2.2		
Total	1469	100.0		

How would you rate the priority of the following: Promote more opportunities for volunteers to give back to the community ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Low priority	389	26.5	27.1	27.1
Medium priority	712	48.5	49.6	76.7
High priority	335	22.8	23.3	100.0
Total	1436	97.8	100.0	
No response	33	2.2		
Total	1469	100.0		

How would you rate the priority of the following: Provide a greater range of housing options of different types and affordability levels within Abilene ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Low priority	208	14.2	14.5	14.5
Medium priority	595	40.5	41.6	56.1
High priority	629	42.8	43.9	100.0
Total	1432	97.5	100.0	
No response	37	2.5		
Total	1469	100.0		

How would you rate the priority of the following: Provide additional support services for physically & mentally disabled residents ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Low priority	143	9.7	10.0	10.0
Medium priority	672	45.7	46.8	56.8
High priority	620	42.2	43.2	100.0
Total	1435	97.7	100.0	
No response	34	2.3		
Total	1469	100.0		

How would you rate the priority of the following: Provide food and shelter for homeless families in Abilene ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Low priority	156	10.6	10.9	10.9
Medium priority	532	36.2	37.0	47.9
High priority	749	51.0	52.1	100.0
Total	1437	97.8	100.0	
No response	32	2.2		
Total	1469	100.0		

How would you rate the priority of the following: Provide shelter and services for homeless YOUTH in Abilene ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Low priority	102	6.9	7.1	7.1
Medium priority	384	26.1	26.7	33.8
High priority	953	64.9	66.2	100.0
Total	1439	98.0	100.0	
No response	30	2.0		
Total	1469	100.0		

How would you rate the priority of the following: Provide parks and recreational facilities in the area for active recreational uses ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Low priority	246	16.7	17.1	17.1
Medium priority	689	46.9	47.9	65.0
High priority	503	34.2	35.0	100.0
Total	1438	97.9	100.0	
No response	31	2.1		
Total	1469	100.0		

How would you rate the priority of the following: Revitalize downtown Abilene ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Low priority	288	19.6	20.1	20.1
Medium priority	604	41.1	42.1	62.2
High priority	542	36.9	37.8	100.0
Total	1434	97.6	100.0	
No response	35	2.4		
Total	1469	100.0		

How would you rate the priority of the following: Work with higher educational institutions in Abilene to develop college prep courses for youth ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Low priority	224	15.2	15.6	15.6
Medium priority	632	43.0	44.0	59.6
High priority	581	39.6	40.4	100.0
Total	1437	97.8	100.0	
No response	32	2.2		
Total	1469	100.0		

How would you rate the priority of the following: Work with higher educational institutions in Abilene to develop job skills training (or retraining) ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Low priority	129	8.8	9.0	9.0
Medium priority	560	38.1	38.9	47.8
High priority	752	51.2	52.2	100.0
Total	1441	98.1	100.0	
No response	28	1.9		
Total	1469	100.0		

How would you rate the priority of the following: Work with higher educational institutions in Abilene to develop returning to college to finish a degree for adults later in life ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Low priority	314	21.4	21.9	21.9
Medium priority	646	44.0	45.0	66.9
High priority	476	32.4	33.1	100.0
Total	1436	97.8	100.0	
No response	33	2.2		
Total	1469	100.0		

How would you rate the priority of the following: Work with higher educational institutions in Abilene to develop advanced degree opportunities ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Low priority	351	23.9	24.5	24.5
Medium priority	600	40.8	41.8	66.3
High priority	483	32.9	33.7	100.0
Total	1434	97.6	100.0	
No response	35	2.4		
Total	1469	100.0		

How would you rate the priority of the following: Access to mental health services ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Low priority	113	7.7	7.9	7.9
Medium priority	530	36.1	37.1	45.0
High priority	786	53.5	55.0	100.0
Total	1429	97.3	100.0	
No response	40	2.7		
Total	1469	100.0		

How would you rate the priority of the following: Improve safety of community (crime, drugs, domestic violence) ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Low priority	53	3.6	3.7	3.7
Medium priority	325	22.1	22.6	26.3
High priority	1061	72.2	73.7	100.0
Total	1439	98.0	100.0	
No response	30	2.0		
Total	1469	100.0		

How would you rate the priority of the following: Access to well-paying jobs ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Low priority	22	1.5	1.5	1.5
Medium priority	335	22.8	23.4	25.0
High priority	1072	73.0	75.0	100.0
Total	1429	97.3	100.0	
No response	40	2.7		
Total	1469	100.0		

How would you rate the priority of the following: Basic workforce development ?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Low priority	103	7.0	7.2	7.2
Medium priority	643	43.8	45.1	52.4
High priority	679	46.2	47.6	100.0
Total	1425	97.0	100.0	
No response	44	3.0		
Total	1469	100.0		

Do you have a current residence – a house or apartment where you live and pay rent or a mortgage (or own outright)?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
I rent an apartment	177	12.0	12.8	12.8
I own a house where I live	1115	75.9	80.5	93.3
I do not currently rent an apartment or own a house where I live	93	6.3	6.7	100.0
Total	1385	94.3	100.0	
No response	84	5.7		
Total	1469	100.0		

Gender

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Male	527	35.9	38.0	38.0
Female	855	58.2	61.7	99.7
Non-binary	4	.3	.3	100.0
Total	1386	94.3	100.0	
No response	83	5.7		
Total	1469	100.0		

Age

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
18 to 24	53	3.6	3.8	3.8
25 to 34	218	14.8	15.7	19.6
35 to 44	293	19.9	21.2	40.7
45 to 54	291	19.8	21.0	61.7
55 to 64	340	23.1	24.5	86.3
65 or older	190	12.9	13.7	100.0
Total	1385	94.3	100.0	
No response	84	5.7		
Total	1469	100.0		

How do you typically communicate with people outside of your household?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Email	123	8.4	8.9	8.9
Cell phone / mobile device call	634	43.2	45.7	54.6
Text messaging	528	35.9	38.1	92.6
Other Internet app (e.g., Facebook, What's App, Skype)	37	2.5	2.7	95.3
Telephone (landline)	16	1.1	1.2	96.5
Traditional mail	1	.1	.1	96.5
Word of mouth	37	2.5	2.7	99.2
Other	11	.7	.8	100.0
Total	1387	94.4	100.0	
No response	82	5.6		
Total	1469	100.0		

Which best describes your total household income over the past 12 months?

	Frequency	Percent	Net Percent	Cumulative Percent
Below \$25,000	55	3.7	4.0	4.0
\$25,000 to \$34,999	92	6.3	6.7	10.7
\$35,000 to \$49,999	135	9.2	9.8	20.5
\$50,000 to \$74,999	241	16.4	17.5	38.0
\$75,000 to \$99,999	229	15.6	16.6	54.6
\$100,000 to \$149,999	279	19.0	20.2	74.8
\$150,000 or more	212	14.4	15.4	90.2
8	135	9.2	9.8	100.0
Total	1378	93.8	100.0	
No response	91	6.2		
Total	1469	100.0		