



City of Fort Meade

Summary of Major Issues

The following is a summary of the issues that were expressed by Fort Meade residents at the EAR Public Workshop on February 19th. Some of these issues will be considered when preparing the City's Evaluation and Appraisal Report. Many of the issues presented may not be considered as major growth related issues but are of equal importance to share with the City.

Transportation

Do you have any concerns with the highways, streets, sidewalks, trails or streetlights in the City?

- ✓ The sidewalks in the City are in disrepair and should be improved. The City needs to allocate more resources to repave the sidewalks. Add sidewalks on both the north and south sides of South 4th street.
- ✓ There is a need for new modern streetlights on the south side of South 4th Street.
- ✓ The City streets should be repaved and resurfaced in some areas.
- ✓ There should be more landscaping if the City is able to maintain the vegetation.
- ✓ Replace Peace River Bridge on RT. 98. It's very dangerous.

Are you satisfied with the public transportation in your City?

- ✓ There should be more than one bus line/route for the City. The City should add more bus routes and locations. There is a need for a transportation from the to and from the airport.

Housing

Are there any housing issues in the City that are a concern to you?

- ✓ The City's Code Enforcement Office should inform all owners of code violations before permitting a house to be torn down and addresses should be double checked.
- ✓ The City should not allow homeowners to store junk or debris around their homes.

What other types of housing would you like to see in your City?

- ✓ There is a need for affordable multi-family rental housing for low income people on French Avenue. New housing developments should be made affordable for young families, and disabled and elderly residents.

- ✓ Quality gated communities which would attract middle income young families.
- ✓ There is a need for a motel.

Infrastructure

Do you have any concerns with the City's water system and or the sewer system? Do you have any issues with stormwater drainage or flooding?

- ✓ Many areas in the City have drainage problems, which includes French Ave and Sherwood Drive, near the baseball fields.
- ✓ The City should upgrade or replace old existing lines and budget for a new sewer plant.

Conservation

What concerns do you have with the protection of natural resources? (Including: lakes, rivers, wildlife, habitat, and wetlands)

- ✓ Specifically, one lake has had an overabundance of silt washed into it during rainfalls.

Recreation and Open Space

Are the parks and recreation facilities adequate?

- ✓ Fort Meade needs more recreation facilities and/or activities for children.
- ✓ The City needs another community center to accommodate community meetings. The current community center has limited space.
- ✓ Need to develop Peace River Park for RVs and build a Golf Course & add a bridge across river.

Future Land Use

Do you have any concerns about the future land uses planned for your City? Do you have any issues with the City's zoning and development regulations? If so, please explain.

- ✓ The City needs to inform the public about what type of development could be built on Southwest 4th Street.
- ✓ The City needs to add a High Density Residential Future Land Use Category to encourage low-income multi-family affordable housing.
- ✓ The City should not change land uses without consulting with the property owners.
- ✓ There is a concern with the designated zoning on the west side of Highway 17.
- ✓ Encourage expansion of Patterson park for RV's. Expand current RV area near Patterson.
- ✓ Zoning & regulations need to be reasonable & focus on safety and beautification.

Additional Comments

Are there any historic or cultural resources in the City you would like to see preserved? Please identify and list the location of these resources.

- ✓ The City should preserve all the historic buildings and the 2 houses on Rainbow Street (which are now vacant).

- ✓ Fort Meade's Downtown District and the Peace River Bridge should be preserved.
- ✓ Develop a Flea Market at the edge of town like Auburndale or Webster which brings hundreds of people each week. Add more murals on walls like lake Placid.

What do you like best about your community?

- ✓ Fort Meade is a quiet, small, friendly place that offers a safe and comfortable environment.

What would you like your City to look like 10 years from now?

- ✓ A City that can attract visitors to enjoy our diverse culture, businesses and restaurants.
- ✓ There should be oaks lining U.S. Highway 17 to replace the palms that are not kept trimmed.
- ✓ There should be a small commercial strip north of town.
- ✓ There should be a face lift on all existing commercial buildings on U.S. Highway 17, and new facades on downtown store fronts.
- ✓ A destination location for antique and specialty shopping.
- ✓ The downtown district should be for businesses, not solely for churches.
- ✓ An area which attracts tourists and snowbirds. Need to develop markets & Attractions to draw people to the City.

What do you want to change about your community?

- ✓ Increase the tax base by attracting clean industry and businesses that will provide employment opportunities.
- ✓ The City needs more businesses, housing, motels and warehouses that will add jobs for City residents.
- ✓ The City needs more super markets, swimming pools, model and fast food restaurants.

Additional Issues:

- ✓ The City should start an annual community event that will bring the residents together. This could be a Farmers Market or a community festival.
- ✓ The Morrison Cemetery needs more space to expand.
- ✓ The residents would like the City to have someone explain the entitlement fund for demolition.
- ✓ The City needs to establish new revenue sources so it does not have to rely on the electric utility so greatly for operation of services.

State Issues/Requirements

- ✓ Water Supply Facilities Plan and Water, Wastewater Element
- ✓ Public School Coordination (Interlocal Agreement and Public School Facilities Element)