

*Wishek, North Dakota*

# 2005 Leadership and Business Survey



*Perceptions among  
key leaders  
regarding the  
community's  
development  
situation*



**Prepared by**

North Dakota State Data Center at North Dakota State  
University, an Equal Opportunity Institution

**Contributors**

Kay Schwarzwalter  
Jordyn Nikle  
Ramona Danielson  
Dr. Richard Rathge, Director

**Issued**

October 2005



Available online at <http://www.ndsu.edu/sdc/publications.htm>

## INTRODUCTION

The Leadership and Business Survey instrument was distributed to key leaders and business people in the community of Wishek, North Dakota in July 2005. A total of 126 surveys were distributed by the Wishek Job Development Authority. The survey presented various items relating to the following themes: Quality of Life, Local Education, Local Government, Local Leadership, Labor, Transportation, Utilities, Real Estate, Capital, and the Market. Respondents were asked to indicate whether each item listed on the survey was a “strength” of the community, a “weakness,” or an “average or normal situation.” Respondents were also asked to list the five most important problems facing Wishek now and into the future, as well as what they considered to be the five most positive aspects of the Wishek community. A total of 31 respondents completed the survey; the vast majority of respondents lived in the town of Wishek, North Dakota (Table A). Staff at the North Dakota State Data Center conducted the analysis.

This report, *The 2005 Leadership and Business Survey – Perceptions Among Key Leaders Regarding the Community’s Development Situation*, includes a summary of key findings, a summary by theme, detailed survey results which include analyses and data tables, comments regarding “what the community of Wishek should be in 10 years,” and the survey instrument used to collect the data.

Table A. Area of residence

Residence	Percentage of respondents
Town/city	83.3
Rural non-farm	3.3
Rural farm	13.3
Total	99.9

N=31

## SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

Table B presents a list of items a majority of respondents considered to be areas of strength in the community of Wishek.

Table B. Items considered to be community strengths by the majority of respondents

Theme	Areas of strength in the community	Percentage of respondents
Quality of life - health and programs/services issues	Availability of adequate healthcare facilities	71.0
Quality of life - general community issues	Level of crime	70.0
Utility situation	Local telephone company’s quality of service	56.7
Quality of life - general community issues	General appearance of the community	54.8

N=31

Table C presents a list of items a majority of respondents considered to be areas of weakness in the community of Wishek.

Table C. Items considered to be community weaknesses by the majority of respondents

Theme	Areas of weakness in the community	Percentage of respondents
Quality of life - general community issues	The rate of population growth in the community	71.0
Real estate situation	Availability of suitable industrial building space	71.0
Real estate situation	Availability of suitable commercial/retail space	67.7
Market situation - general market issues	Appearance of downtown for attracting business activity	67.7
Labor situation	Availability of technicians and professionals	64.5
Local leadership situation	Level of awareness of community regarding the local development programs	61.3
Labor situation	Availability of skilled industrial workers	61.3
Labor situation	Level of wages and salaries paid locally	61.3
Real estate situation	Availability of subdivided sites for new homes	61.3
Real estate situation	Availability of fully served and attractive industrial sites	61.3
Market situation - availability issues	Availability of a range of retail stores and goods in the community	61.3
Market situation - adequacy issues	Adequacy of local newspaper for promotion of local business activity	58.1
Market situation - general market issues	The range of attractions for expanded tourism	56.7
Labor situation	Availability of quality jobs for the workforce residing in the community	54.8
Real estate situation	Availability of fully served and attractive office sites	54.8
Market situation - general market issues	Location of the community for serving foreign markets	54.8
Quality of life - general community issues	Level of cultural activity and facilities	51.7
Quality of life - housing issues	Availability of executive-level housing	51.6
Quality of life - housing issues	Availability of rental units	51.6
Local leadership situation	Level of funding for local development programs	51.6
Real estate situation	Availability of suitable office space	51.6
Market situation - general market issues	Location of the community for serving the national market	51.6

N=31

## SUMMARY BY THEME

Quality of Life - Housing Issues: A majority of respondents said the availability of executive-level housing and the availability of rental units were weaknesses within the community. Most respondents said the availability of accessible housing, the quality of housing, the availability of housing for low-income families, the availability of moderate cost housing, and the cost of housing overall were all normal situations within the community. Respondents had mixed views with respect to whether the availability of elderly housing was a normal situation within the community, a community weakness, or a community strength.

Quality of Life - Health and Programs/Services Issues: A majority of respondents said the availability of adequate healthcare facilities was a community strength. A majority of respondents said the services and programs for senior citizens and the cost of health care relative to other areas were normal situations within the community. Respondents had mixed views with respect to whether adequate social services was a normal situation within the community, a community strength, or a community weakness.

Quality of Life - General Community Issues: A majority of respondents said the general appearance of the community and the level of crime were community strengths. In contrast, the majority of respondents said the rate of population growth in the community, and the level of cultural activity and facilities were community weaknesses. The remaining general community issues, i.e., the availability of recreational opportunities, the quality of the climate, and the attractiveness of the physical environment were viewed by the majority of respondents as normal situations within the community.

Local Education Situation: Most respondents said the local education situation was a normal situation within the community. A large proportion of respondents also viewed the quality of local elementary and secondary education as community strengths.

Local Government Situation - Adequacy Issues: A majority of respondents said the local government adequacy issues, i.e., the adequacy of local tax base to cover the cost of local government, the adequacy of local building codes, the adequacy of local planning and zoning, the adequacy of local police protection and public safety, the adequacy of trash pickup and waste disposal, and the adequacy of local fire protection were normal situations within the community. A large proportion of respondents also viewed adequacy of trash pickup and waste disposal and adequacy of local fire protection as community strengths.

Local Government Situation - General Government Issues: Most respondents said the general local government issues, i.e., the cooperation of local government entities with each other, the cooperation of local government with business, the level of local property taxes, the state and local permitting and regulation process for business, and the level of local sales taxes were normal situations within the community. However, a large proportion of respondents viewed long-range planning for municipal improvements and capital budgeting as a community weakness. Respondents had mixed views with respect to whether the annexation policy of the town/city was a community weakness, a normal situation within the community, or they had no opinion.

Local Leadership Situation: A majority of respondents said the level of awareness of the community regarding the local development programs and the level of funding for local development programs were community weaknesses. Respondents had mixed views with respect to whether the level of communications and cooperation between various organizations involved in the development programs of the community was a normal situation within the community or a community weakness. The remaining local leadership issues, i.e., the adequate level of professional staff in government offices and development organizations, the level of leadership commitment to advancing the growth and development of the community, the involvement of both public and private sectors in development programs of the community, the level of leadership support of economic development programs, and the level of cooperation with other development organizations serving the Wishek area of North Dakota were viewed by a majority of respondents as normal situations within the community.

Labor Situation: A majority of respondents said the availability of technicians and professionals, the availability of skilled industrial workers, the level of wages and salaries paid locally, and the availability of quality jobs for the workforce residing in the community were all community weaknesses. A majority of respondents said the availability of unskilled and semi-skilled workers, the availability of clerical workers, and the quality of labor-management relations were normal situations within the community. Respondents had mixed views with respect to whether the availability of managerial personnel, availability of apprenticeship programs, and the availability of upgrade training for existing employees were normal situations or weaknesses within the community.

Transportation Situation: A majority of respondents said the transportation issues, i.e., adequate local major highways, the condition and maintenance of local streets and roads, the availability of public parking in the local commercial areas, the level of traffic-carrying capacity of local streets, and the movement of traffic in the community were normal situations within the community. Respondents had mixed views with respect to whether the availability of intermodal shipping was a normal situation within the community or a community weakness.

Utility Situation: A majority of respondents said the local telephone company's quality of service was a strength in the community. A majority of respondents said the cost of water and sewer services, the cost of electricity, the availability of high quality electric service, the availability of cable TV, Internet access, and the availability of adequate wastewater treatment capacity were all normal situations within the community. Respondents had mixed views with respect to whether the connection of the local telephone company to a national long distance network and the availability of potable water were normal situations within the community or community strengths. Respondents had mixed views with regard to whether the availability of adequate water and sewer lines to industrial and commercial sites was a normal situation within the community or a community weakness.

Real Estate Situation: A majority of respondents said the real estate issues, i.e., the availability of suitable industrial building space, the availability of suitable commercial/retail space, the availability of subdivided sites for new homes, the availability of fully served and attractive industrial sites, the availability of fully served and attractive office sites, and the availability of suitable office space were community weaknesses. Respondents had mixed views with respect to whether the availability of attractive and well located commercial and retail sites was a normal situation within the community or a community weakness.

Capital Situation: A majority of respondents indicated the availability of home mortgage financing was a normal situation within the community. Respondents had mixed views regarding whether the investment in the community by local financial institutions was a normal situation within the community or a community weakness. Respondents had mixed views with respect to whether the remaining capital issues, i.e., the availability of venture capital from local sources for business startups, the availability of low interest loans for small businesses, the availability of low interest or tax-exempting financing for new industrial facilities, and the availability of equity were normal situations within the community, community weaknesses, or they had no opinion.

Market Situation - Availability Issues: A majority of respondents said the availability of a range of retail stores and goods in the community was a community weakness. A majority of respondents said the availability of adequate conference and meeting facilities, the availability of a range of quality restaurants in the community, the availability of business services and professional services that support business and industry, the availability of a range of personal services, and the availability of adequate hotels and motels were normal situations within the community. Respondents had mixed views regarding whether the availability of funding to support tourism development was a community strength, a community weakness, or they had no opinion.

Market Situation - Adequacy Issues: Most respondents indicated the adequacy of the local newspaper for promotion of local business activity was a weakness in the community. Respondents had mixed views with respect to whether the adequacy of local programs to attract new retail and commercial business to the community and the adequacy of the marketing program to attract new tourists were normal situations within the community or community weaknesses. Respondents also

had mixed views with respect to whether the adequacy of local industrial marketing programs was a normal situation within the community, a community weakness, or they had no opinion.

Market Situation - General Market Issues: A majority of respondents said the appearance of the downtown for attracting business activity, the range of attractions for expanded tourism, the location of the community for serving foreign markets, and the location of the community for serving the national market were all community weaknesses. A majority of respondents said the appearance of the highway-oriented retail and commercial areas for attracting business activity was a normal situation within the community. Respondents had mixed views with respect to whether the proximity to other major markets in North Dakota was a normal situation or a community weakness and whether the impact of the tourism industry on the community was a community strength, a normal situation within the community or a community weakness.

## SURVEY RESULTS

### *Quality of Life*

---

Reference Table 1.

- One in two respondents (51.6 percent) said that availability of executive-level housing was a community weakness; nearly one in two respondents said it was a normal situation (45.2 percent).
- One in two respondents (51.6 percent) said that availability of rental units was a community weakness; more than one in three said it was a normal situation (35.5 percent).
- Two in five respondents (41.9 percent) indicated the availability of elderly housing was a normal situation within the community; one in three respondents said it was a community weakness (32.3 percent). Nearly one in four respondents said it was a strength of the community (22.6 percent).
- Nearly two in three respondents (63.3 percent) said availability of accessible housing was a normal situation within the community; more than one in four said it was a community weakness (26.7 percent).
- A large majority of respondents (71.0 percent) said the availability of housing for low-income families was a normal situation within the community. The perceptions of other respondents were mixed with respect to whether the availability of housing for low-income families was a weakness (16.1 percent) or a strength of the community (12.9 percent).
- A large majority of respondents (71.0 percent) said the availability of moderate cost housing was a normal situation within the community. Nearly one in five respondents (16.1 percent) said it was a community strength, however, one in 10 respondents said it was a community weakness (9.7 percent).
- Three in four respondents (74.2 percent) said the cost of housing overall was a normal situation within the community; one in five respondents said it was a community strength (19.4 percent).

Table 1. Quality of life - housing issues

Housing issues	Percentage of respondents				Total
	Strength	Normal	Weakness	No opinion	
Availability of executive-level housing	0.0	45.2	51.6	3.2	100.0
Availability of rental units	9.7	35.5	51.6	3.2	100.0
Availability of elderly housing	22.6	41.9	32.3	3.2	100.0
Availability of accessible housing	3.3	63.3	26.7	6.7	100.0
Quality of housing	6.5	61.3	25.8	6.5	100.1
Availability of housing for low-income families	12.9	71.0	16.1	0.0	100.0
Availability of moderate cost housing	16.1	71.0	9.7	3.2	100.0
Cost of housing overall	19.4	74.2	3.2	3.2	100.0

N=31

Reference Table 2.

- Nearly one in two respondents (48.4 percent) said that adequate social service programs were a normal situation within the community. Other respondents were nearly evenly divided (approximately one in four) with respect to whether adequate social services were community strengths or community weaknesses (25.8 percent and 22.6 percent, respectively).
- One in two respondents (51.6 percent) indicated that services and programs for senior citizens were a normal situation within the community; more than one in three respondents said they were a community strength (35.5 percent).
- Three in five respondents (61.3 percent) said the cost of health care relative to other areas was a normal situation within the community; one in three said it was a community strength (32.3 percent).
- A large majority of respondents (71.0 percent) said the availability of adequate healthcare facilities was a strength of the community; three in 10 said it was a normal situation within the community (29.0 percent).

Table 2. Quality of life - health and programs/services issues

Health and programs/services issues	Percentage of respondents				
	Strength	Normal	Weakness	No opinion	Total
Adequate social services (day care, counseling, poverty assistance)	25.8	48.4	22.6	3.2	100.0
Services and programs for senior citizens	35.5	51.6	6.5	6.5	100.1
Cost of health care relative to other areas	32.3	61.3	3.2	3.2	100.0
Availability of adequate healthcare facilities	71.0	29.0	0.0	0.0	100.0

N=31

Reference Table 3.

- A large majority of respondents (71.0 percent) said the rate of population growth in the community was a community weakness; three in 10 said it was a normal situation within the community (29.0 percent).
- One in two respondents (51.7 percent) said the level of cultural activity and facilities was a community weakness; two in five said it was a normal situation within the community (41.4 percent).
- More than one in two respondents (54.8 percent) indicated the availability of recreational opportunities was a normal situation within the community; three in 10 said it was a community strength (29.0 percent). Nearly one in five respondents (16.1 percent) said the availability of recreational opportunities was a community weakness.
- Three in four respondents (74.2 percent) said the quality of the climate was a normal situation within the community; less than one in five respondents said it was a community strength (16.1 percent). One in 10 respondents said the quality of climate was a community weakness (9.7 percent).
- Nearly three in five respondents (58.1 percent) said the attractiveness of the physical environment was a normal situation within the community; more than one in three respondents said it was a community strength (35.5 percent).



- More than one in two respondents (54.8 percent) indicated the general appearance of the community was a community strength; two in five respondents said it was a normal situation within the community (38.7 percent).
- A large majority of respondents (70.0 percent) said the level of crime is a strength of the community; more than one in four respondents said it was a normal situation within the community (26.7 percent).

Table 3. Quality of life - general community issues

General community issues	Percentage of respondents				
	Strength	Normal	Weakness	No opinion	Total
The rate of population growth in the community	0.0	29.0	71.0	0.0	100.0
Level of cultural activity and facilities	6.9	41.4	51.7	0.0	100.0
Availability of recreational opportunities	29.0	54.8	16.1	0.0	99.9
Quality of the climate	16.1	74.2	9.7	0.0	100.0
Attractiveness of the physical environment	35.5	58.1	6.5	0.0	100.1
General appearance of the community	54.8	38.7	6.5	0.0	100.0
Level of crime	70.0	26.7	3.3	0.0	100.0

N=31

### ***Local Education Situation***

---

Reference Table 4.

- A large majority of respondents (71.0 percent) said the involvement of local residents and parents in the school districts was a normal situation within the community; more than one in 10 said it was a community strength (12.9 percent). One in 10 respondents said it was a community weakness (9.7 percent).
- One in two respondents said the quality of local elementary education was a community strength (48.4 percent). An additional 48.4 percent of respondents said this issue was a normal situation within the community.
- More than one in two respondents (54.8 percent) said the quality of secondary education was a normal situation within the community; nearly one in two respondents said it was a community strength (45.2 percent).

Table 4. Local education situation

Local education issues	Percentage of respondents				
	Strength	Normal	Weakness	No opinion	Total
Involvement of local residents and parents in the school districts	12.9	71.0	9.7	6.5	100.1
Quality of local elementary education	48.4	48.4	0.0	3.2	100.0
Quality of local secondary education	45.2	54.8	0.0	0.0	100.0

N=31

## Local Government Situation

Reference Table 5.

- Three in four respondents (74.2 percent) said the adequacy of the local tax base to cover the cost of local government was a normal situation; more than one in 10 said it was a community weakness (12.9 percent).
- Two in three respondents (64.5 percent) said the adequacy of local building codes was a normal situation within the community; nearly one in four had no opinion (22.6 percent). More than one in 10 said the adequacy of local building codes was a community weakness (12.9 percent).
- Two in three respondents (64.5 percent) said the adequacy of local planning and zoning was a normal situation within their community. Respondents had mixed views regarding whether or not the issue was a community strength (12.9 percent), a community weakness (9.7 percent), or they had no opinion (12.9 percent).
- Three in four respondents (74.2 percent) indicated the adequacy of local police protection and public safety was a normal situation within the community; nearly one in four said it was a community strength (22.6 percent).
- More than one in two respondents (54.8 percent) said the adequacy of trash pickup and waste disposal was a normal situation within the community; two in five said it was a community strength (41.9 percent).
- One in two respondents (51.6 percent) said the adequacy of local fire protection was a normal situation within the community. An additional 48.4 percent of respondents said this issue was a community strength.

Table 5. Local government situation - adequacy issues

Adequacy issues	Percentage of respondents				Total
	Strength	Normal	Weakness	No opinion	
Adequacy of local tax base to cover cost of local government	6.5	74.2	12.9	6.5	100.1
Adequacy of local building codes	0.0	64.5	12.9	22.6	100.0
Adequacy of local planning and zoning	12.9	64.5	9.7	12.9	100.0
Adequacy of local police protection and public safety	22.6	74.2	3.2	0.0	100.0
Adequacy of trash pickup and waste disposal	41.9	54.8	3.2	0.0	99.9
Adequacy of local fire protection	48.4	51.6	0.0	0.0	100.0

N=31

Reference Table 6.

- Two in five respondents (41.9 percent) said that long-range planning for municipal improvements and capital budgeting was a community weakness. An additional 38.7 percent said the issue was a normal situation within the community.
- Two in five respondents (38.7 percent) said the annexation policy of the town/city was a normal situation within the community; more than one in three respondents had no opinion (35.5 percent). One in four respondents indicated the annexation policy was a community weakness (25.8 percent).

- Three in five respondents (61.3 percent) said the cooperation of local government entities with each other was a normal situation within the community; nearly one in four said it was a community weakness (22.6 percent).
- Two in three respondents (64.5 percent) said the cooperation of local government with business was a normal situation within the community; one in five respondents said it was a community weakness (19.4 percent).
- The vast majority of respondents (80.6 percent) indicated the level of local property taxes was a normal situation within the community; one in 10 said it was a weakness (9.7 percent).
- A large majority of respondents (71.0 percent) said the state and local permitting and regulation process for business was a normal situation within the community; nearly one in four had no opinion (22.6 percent).
- An overwhelming majority of respondents (96.8 percent) said the level of local sales taxes was a normal situation within the community.

Table 6. Local government situation - general government issues

General government issues	Percentage of respondents				
	Strength	Normal	Weakness	No opinion	Total
Long-range planning for municipal improvements and capital budgeting	3.2	38.7	41.9	16.1	99.9
Annexation policy of the town/city	0.0	38.7	25.8	35.5	100.0
Cooperation of local government entities with each other	6.5	61.3	22.6	9.7	100.1
Cooperation of local government with business	6.5	64.5	19.4	9.7	100.1
Level of local property taxes	6.5	80.6	9.7	3.2	100.0
State and local permitting and regulation process for business	3.2	71.0	3.2	22.6	100.0
Level of local sales taxes	3.2	96.8	0.0	0.0	100.0

N=31

### ***Local Leadership Situation***

---

Reference Table 7.

- Three in five respondents (61.3 percent) indicated the level of awareness of the community regarding the local development programs was a weakness of the community; two in five respondents said it was a normal situation within the community (38.7 percent).
- One in two respondents (51.6 percent) said the level of funding for local development programs was a community weakness; more than one in three respondents indicated the issue was a normal situation within the community (35.5 percent). One in 10 respondents had no opinion (9.7 percent).
- Nearly one in two respondents (45.2 percent) said the level of communications and cooperation between various organizations involved in the development programs of the community was a normal situation within the community. An additional 45.2 percent said this issue was a community weakness.

- More than one in two respondents (54.8 percent) said the adequate level of professional staff in government offices and development organizations was a normal situation within the community; two in five respondents said the issue was a community weakness (38.7 percent).
- One in two respondents (51.6 percent) said the level of leadership commitment to advancing the growth and development of the community was a normal situation within the community; two in five respondents said the issue was a community weakness (38.7 percent).
- Nearly three in five respondents (58.1 percent) said the involvement of both public and private sectors in development programs of the community was a normal situation within the community; more than one in three respondents said the issue was a community weakness (35.5 percent).
- Nearly three in five respondents (58.1 percent) said the level of leadership support of economic development programs of the community was a normal situation within the community; more than one in three respondents said the issue was a community weakness (35.5 percent).
- More than one in two respondents (54.8 percent) indicated the level of cooperation with other development organizations serving the Wishek area of North Dakota was a normal situation within the community; nearly one in four had no opinion (22.6 percent). One in five respondents said the issue was a community weakness (19.4 percent).

Table 7. Local leadership situation

Local leadership issues	Percentage of respondents				
	Strength	Normal	Weakness	No opinion	Total
Level of awareness of community regarding the local development programs	0.0	38.7	61.3	0.0	100.0
Level of funding for local development programs	3.2	35.5	51.6	9.7	100.0
Level of communications and cooperation between various organizations involved in the development programs of the community	3.2	45.2	45.2	6.5	100.1
Adequate level of professional staff in government offices and development organizations	0.0	54.8	38.7	6.5	100.0
Level of leadership commitment to advancing the growth and development of the community	3.2	51.6	38.7	6.5	100.0
Involvement of both public and private sectors in development programs of the community	3.2	58.1	35.5	3.2	100.0
Level of leadership support of economic development programs	6.5	58.1	35.5	0.0	100.1
Level of cooperation with other development organizations serving this area of the State [North Dakota]	3.2	54.8	19.4	22.6	100.0

N=31

## ***Labor Situation***

---

### Reference Table 8.

- Nearly two in three respondents (64.5 percent) said the availability of technicians and professionals was a community weakness; more than one in three respondents indicated the issue was a normal situation within the community (35.5 percent).
- Three in five respondents (61.3 percent) said the availability of skilled industrial workers was a community weakness; one in three respondents said it was a normal situation within the community (32.3 percent).
- Three in five respondents (61.3 percent) said the level of wages and salaries paid locally was a community weakness; one in three respondents said it was a normal situation within the community (32.3 percent).
- More than one in two respondents (54.8 percent) said the availability of quality jobs for the workforce residing in the community was a weakness of the community; one in three respondents said the issue was a normal situation within the community (32.3 percent).
- One in two respondents (48.4 percent) said the availability of managerial personnel was a community weakness. An additional 48.4 percent said this issue was a normal situation within the community.
- Nearly one in two respondents (48.4 percent) indicated that availability of apprenticeship programs was a community weakness; one in three respondents said it was a normal situation within the community (32.3 percent). One in five respondents had no opinion on the issue (19.4 percent).
- Nearly one in two respondents (45.2 percent) said the availability of upgrade training for existing employees was a community weakness; two in five said the issue was a normal situation within the community (38.7 percent). More than one in 10 respondents had no opinion (12.9 percent).
- Two in five respondents (41.9 percent) said the availability of unskilled and semi-skilled workers was a community weakness; more than one in two respondents said the issue was a normal situation within the community (54.8 percent).
- Three in five respondents (61.3 percent) said the availability of clerical workers was a normal situation within the community; three in 10 respondents said the issue was a community weakness (29.0 percent).
- Three in five respondents (61.3 percent) said the quality of labor-management relations was a normal situation within the community; three in 10 respondents had no opinion (29.0 percent).

Table 8. Labor situation

Labor issues	Percentage of respondents				
	Strength	Normal	Weakness	No opinion	Total
Availability of technicians and professionals	0.0	35.5	64.5	0.0	100.0
Availability of skilled industrial workers	0.0	32.3	61.3	6.5	100.1
Level of wages and salaries paid locally	3.2	32.3	61.3	3.2	100.0
Availability of quality jobs for the workforce residing in the community	9.7	32.3	54.8	3.2	100.0
Availability of managerial personnel	0.0	48.4	48.4	3.2	100.0
Availability of apprenticeship programs	0.0	32.3	48.4	19.4	100.1
Availability of upgrade training for existing employees	3.2	38.7	45.2	12.9	100.0
Availability of unskilled and semi-skilled workers	3.2	54.8	41.9	0.0	99.9
Availability of clerical (retail and office) workers	3.2	61.3	29.0	6.5	100.0
Quality of labor-management relations	0.0	61.3	9.7	29.0	100.0

N=31

### ***Transportation Situation***

---

Reference Table 9.

- Two in five respondents (41.9 percent) said the availability of intermodal shipping was a normal situation within the community; three in 10 respondents said the issue was a community weakness (29.0 percent). One in five respondents had no opinion regarding the issue (19.4 percent).
- Nearly three in five respondents (58.1 percent) said adequate local major highways was a normal situation within the community; nearly one in four indicated the issue was a community strength (22.6 percent). Nearly one in five said the issue was a community weakness (16.1 percent).
- Two in three respondents (67.7 percent) said the condition and maintenance of local streets and roads was a normal situation within the community; one in five said it was a community strength (19.4 percent). More than one in 10 indicated the issue was a community weakness (12.9 percent).
- Three in four respondents (74.2 percent) said the availability of public parking in the local commercial areas was a normal situation for the community; one in five respondents said the issue was a strength of the community (19.4 percent).
- The vast majority of respondents (87.1 percent) said the level of traffic-carrying capacity of local streets was a normal situation within the community; more than one in 10 respondents said the issue was a community strength (12.9 percent).
- A large majority of respondents (71.0 percent) indicated the movement of traffic in the community was a normal situation within the community; one in four respondents said the issue was a community strength (25.8 percent).

Table 9. Transportation situation

Transportation issues	Percentage of respondents				
	Strength	Normal	Weakness	No opinion	Total
Availability of intermodal (truck to train) shipping	9.7	41.9	29.0	19.4	100.0
Adequate local major highways	22.6	58.1	16.1	3.2	100.0
Condition and maintenance of local streets and roads	19.4	67.7	12.9	0.0	100.0
Availability of public parking in the local commercial areas	19.4	74.2	6.5	0.0	100.1
Level of traffic-carrying capacity of local streets	12.9	87.1	0.0	0.0	100.0
Movement of traffic in the community	25.8	71.0	0.0	3.2	100.0

N=31

### **Utility Situation**

---

Reference Table 10.

- Nearly one in two respondents (45.2 percent) said the availability of adequate water and sewer lines to industrial and commercial sites was a normal situation within the community; one in three respondents said the issue was a community weakness (32.3 percent). Nearly one in five respondents said it was a community strength (16.1 percent).
- Three in four respondents (74.2 percent) said the cost of water and sewer services was a normal situation within the community; nearly one in five respondents said the issue was a community strength (16.1 percent).
- Nearly three in five respondents (56.7 percent) said the local telephone company's quality of service was a community strength; two in five respondents indicated the issue was a normal situation within the community.
- The vast majority of respondents (80.6 percent) indicated the cost of electricity was a normal situation within the community; nearly one in five said the issue was a community strength (16.1 percent).
- The vast majority of respondents (80.6 percent) said the availability of high quality electric service was a normal situation within the community; more than one in 10 said the issue was a community strength (12.9 percent).
- Nearly two in three respondents (64.5 percent) indicated the availability of cable TV was a normal situation within the community; one in three respondents said the issue was a community strength (32.3 percent).
- Nearly three in five respondents (58.1 percent) said that Internet access was a normal situation within the community; two in five said the issue was a strength of the community (38.7 percent).
- One in two respondents (51.6 percent) indicated the availability of adequate wastewater treatment capacity was a normal situation within the community; one in three respondents said the issue was a strength of the community (32.3 percent). More than one in 10 respondents had no opinion (12.9 percent).

- One in two respondents (48.4 percent) said the connection of the local telephone company to a national long distance network was a community strength. An additional 48.4 percent of respondents said the issue was a normal situation within the community.
- One in two respondents (48.4 percent) said the availability of potable water was a community strength. An additional 48.4 percent of respondents said the issue was a normal situation within the community.

Table 10. Utility situation

Utility issues	Percentage of respondents				
	Strength	Normal	Weakness	No opinion	Total
Availability of adequate water and sewer lines to industrial/commercial sites	16.1	45.2	32.3	6.5	100.1
Cost of water and sewer services	16.1	74.2	6.5	3.2	100.0
Local telephone company's quality of service	56.7	40.0	3.3	0.0	100.0
Cost of electricity	16.1	80.6	3.2	0.0	99.9
Availability of high quality electric service	12.9	80.6	3.2	3.2	99.9
Availability of cable TV	32.3	64.5	3.2	0.0	100.0
Internet access	38.7	58.1	3.2	0.0	100.0
Availability of adequate wastewater treatment capacity	32.3	51.6	3.2	12.9	100.0
Connection of local telephone company to national long distance network	48.4	48.4	3.2	0.0	100.0
Availability of potable (drinking quality) water	48.4	48.4	0.0	3.2	100.0

N=31

### ***Real Estate Situation***

---

Reference Table 11.

- A large majority of respondents (71.0 percent) said the availability of suitable industrial building space was a weakness of the community; nearly one in four respondents said the issue was a normal situation within the community (22.6 percent).
- Two in three respondents (67.7 percent) indicated the availability of suitable commercial and retail space was a community weakness; one in three respondents said the issue was a normal situation within the community (32.3 percent).
- Three in five respondents (61.3 percent) said the availability of subdivided sites for new homes was a weakness of the community; one in three respondents said the issue was a normal situation within the community (32.3 percent).
- Three in five respondents (61.3 percent) said the availability of fully served and attractive industrial sites was a community weakness; one in four respondents said it was a normal situation within the community (25.8 percent).
- More than one in two respondents (54.8 percent) said the availability of fully served and attractive office sites was a weakness of the community; two in five said the issue was a normal situation within the community (38.7 percent).



- One in two respondents (51.6 percent) said the availability of suitable office space was a community weakness. An additional 48.4 percent of respondents said the issue was a normal situation within the community.
- One in two respondents (48.4 percent) said the availability of attractive and well located commercial and retail sites was a normal situation within the community; two in five respondents indicated the issue was a community weakness (41.9 percent).

Table 11. Real estate situation

Real estate issues	Percentage of respondents				
	Strength	Normal	Weakness	No opinion	Total
Availability of suitable industrial building space	3.2	22.6	71.0	3.2	100.0
Availability of suitable commercial/retail space	0.0	32.3	67.7	0.0	100.0
Availability of subdivided sites for new homes	6.5	32.3	61.3	0.0	100.1
Availability of fully served and attractive industrial sites	6.5	25.8	61.3	6.5	100.1
Availability of fully served and attractive office sites	3.2	38.7	54.8	3.2	99.9
Availability of suitable office space	0.0	48.4	51.6	0.0	100.0
Availability of attractive and well located commercial/retail sites	9.7	48.4	41.9	0.0	100.0

N=31

### ***Capital Situation***

---

Reference Table 12.

- More than two in five respondents (43.3 percent) said the availability of venture capital from local sources for business startups was a community weakness; nearly one in four said the issue was a normal situation within the community (23.3 percent). Three in 10 respondents had no opinion.
- One in two respondents said the investment in the community by local financial institutions was a normal situation within the community; two in five respondents said the issue was a community weakness. One in 10 respondents had no opinion.
- Nearly two in five respondents (36.7 percent) said the availability of low interest loans for small business was a community weakness; one in three respondents said the issue was a normal situation within the community. Nearly one in four respondents had no opinion (23.3 percent).
- Two in five respondents said the availability of low interest or tax-exempting financing for new industrial facilities was a normal situation within the community; three in 10 respondents said the issue was a community weakness. Three in 10 respondents had no opinion.
- Nearly one in two respondents (46.7 percent) said the availability of equity was a normal situation within the community; nearly one in four respondents indicated the issue was a community weakness (23.3 percent). Three in 10 respondents had no opinion.

- Nearly two in three respondents (63.3 percent) indicated the availability of home mortgage financing was a normal situation within the community. Other respondents were mixed with respect to whether they thought the issue was a community strength, (10.0 percent), a community weakness (13.3 percent), or they had no opinion (13.3 percent).

Table 12. Capital situation

Capital issues	Percentage of respondents				
	Strength	Normal	Weakness	No opinion	Total
Availability of venture capital from local sources for business startups	3.3	23.3	43.3	30.0	99.9
Investment in the community by local financial institutions	0.0	50.0	40.0	10.0	100.0
Availability of low interest loans for small business	6.7	33.3	36.7	23.3	100.0
Availability of low interest or tax-exempting financing for new industrial facilities	0.0	40.0	30.0	30.0	100.0
Availability of equity	0.0	46.7	23.3	30.0	100.0
Availability of home mortgage financing	10.0	63.3	13.3	13.3	99.9

N=31

### **Market Situation**

---

Reference Table 13

- Three in five respondents (61.3 percent) said the availability of a range of retail stores and goods in the community was a community weakness; two in five said it was a normal situation within the community (38.7 percent).
- One in two respondents (51.6 percent) said the availability of adequate conference and meeting facilities was a normal situation within the community. Nearly one in two respondents said the issue was a community weakness (45.2 percent).
- More than one in two respondents (54.8 percent) said the availability of a range of quality restaurants in the community was a normal situation within the city; two in five respondents said the issue was a community weakness (41.9 percent).
- More than one in two respondents (53.3 percent) indicated the availability of business services and professional services that support business and industry was a normal situation within the community; two in five respondents said the issue was a community weakness.
- Two in five respondents said the availability of funding to support tourism development was a community weakness; three in 10 respondents said the issue was a normal situation within the community. Three in 10 respondents had no opinion.
- Three in four respondents (74.2 percent) said the availability of a range of personal services was a normal situation within the community; nearly one in four said the issue was a community weakness (22.6 percent).
- The vast majority of respondents (80.6 percent) said the availability of adequate hotels and motels was a normal situation within the community; nearly one in five respondents said it was a community weakness (16.1 percent).

Table 13. Market situation - availability issues

Availability issues	Percentage of respondents				
	Strength	Normal	Weakness	No opinion	Total
Availability of a range of retail stores and goods in the community	0.0	38.7	61.3	0.0	100.0
Availability of adequate conference and meeting facilities	3.2	51.6	45.2	0.0	100.0
Availability of a range of quality restaurants in the community	3.2	54.8	41.9	0.0	99.9
Availability of business services and professional services that support business and industry	0.0	53.3	40.0	6.7	100.0
Availability of funding to support tourism development	0.0	30.0	40.0	30.0	100.0
Availability of a range of personal services (legal, professional, dry cleaning, repairs, etc.)	3.2	74.2	22.6	0.0	100.0
Availability of adequate hotels and motels	3.2	80.6	16.1	0.0	99.9

N=31

Reference Table 14.

- Nearly three in five respondents (58.1 percent) said the adequacy of the local newspaper for promotion of local business activity was a community weakness; two in five indicated it was a normal situation within the community (38.7 percent).
- One in two respondents said the adequacy of local programs to attract new retail and commercial business to the community was a community weakness; nearly two in five respondents indicated the issue was a normal situation within the community (36.7 percent). More than one in 10 respondents had no opinion (13.3 percent).
- Nearly one in two respondents (46.7 percent) said the adequacy of local industrial marketing programs was a community weakness; more than one in four respondents said the issue was a normal situation within the community (26.7 percent). More than one in four respondents had no opinion (26.7 percent).
- More than two in five respondents (43.3 percent) said the adequacy of the marketing program to attract tourists was a community weakness. An additional 43.3 percent of respondents said the issue was a normal situation within the community. One in 10 respondents had no opinion.

Table 14. Market situation - adequacy issues

Adequacy issues	Percentage of respondents				
	Strength	Normal	Weakness	No opinion	Total
Adequacy of local newspaper for promotion of local business activity	3.2	38.7	58.1	0.0	100.0
Adequacy of local programs to attract new retail and commercial business to the community	0.0	36.7	50.0	13.3	100.0
Adequacy of local industrial marketing programs	0.0	26.7	46.7	26.7	99.9
Adequacy of the marketing program to attract tourists	3.3	43.3	43.3	10.0	100.0

N=31

Reference Table 15.

- Two in three respondents (67.7 percent) said the appearance of the downtown for attracting business activity was a community weakness; one in four said it was a normal situation within the community (25.8 percent).
- Nearly three in five respondents (56.7 percent) said the range of attractions for expanded tourism was a community weakness; nearly one in four indicated the issue was a normal situation within the community (23.3 percent). More than one in 10 respondents had no opinion (13.3 percent).
- More than one in two respondents (54.8 percent) indicated the location of the community for serving foreign markets was a community weakness; one in four respondents said the issue was a normal situation within the community (25.8 percent). Nearly one in five respondents had no opinion (16.1 percent).
- One in two respondents (51.6 percent) said the location of the community for serving the national market was a community weakness; three in 10 respondents said the issue was a normal situation within the community (29.0 percent). One in 10 respondents said the issue was a community strength (9.7 percent). An additional 9.7 percent of respondents had no opinion.
- One in two respondents (48.4 percent) indicated the proximity to other major markets in North Dakota was a normal situation within the community; one in three respondents said the issue was a community weakness (32.3 percent). One in 10 respondents said the issue was a community strength (9.7 percent). An additional 9.7 percent of respondents had no opinion.
- Nearly one in two respondents (46.7 percent) said the impact of the tourism industry on the community was a normal situation within the community; more than one in four respondents indicated the issue was a community weakness (26.7 percent). One in five respondents said the issue was a community strength.
- Nearly three in five respondents (58.1 percent) indicated the appearance of the highway-oriented retail and commercial areas for attracting business activity was a normal situation within the community; one in four respondents said the issue was a community weakness (25.8 percent). Nearly one in five respondents said the issue was a community strength (16.1 percent).

Table 15. Market situation - general market issues

General market issues	Percentage of respondents				
	Strength	Normal	Weakness	No opinion	Total
Appearance of the downtown for attracting business activity	3.2	25.8	67.7	3.2	99.9
The range of attractions for expanded tourism	6.7	23.3	56.7	13.3	100.0
Location of the community for serving foreign markets	3.2	25.8	54.8	16.1	99.9
Location of the community for serving the national market	9.7	29.0	51.6	9.7	100.0
Proximity to other major markets in the State [North Dakota]	9.7	48.4	32.3	9.7	100.1
Impact of the tourism industry on the community	20.0	46.7	26.7	6.7	100.1
Appearance of the highway-oriented retail/commercial areas for attracting business activity	16.1	58.1	25.8	0.0	100.0

N=31

### ***Problems Facing Wishek***

---

Reference Table 16.

- Respondents were asked what they considered to be the five most important problems Wishek is facing now and into the future. Rather than presenting the responses according to their rank, they are presented according to how many times the problem was mentioned. Responses were then grouped together based on theme.
- The top five problems listed were: out-migration and declining population; lack of good, quality jobs and skilled labor force; economic development, attracting new businesses, and lack of downtown businesses; housing issues such as limited options and lack of decent rental housing; and aging citizens.

Table 16. What respondents consider to be the most important problems facing the Wishek community

Problems	Number of responses
Out-migration/declining population	21
Lack of good, quality jobs/skilled labor force	16
Economic development/attracting new businesses/lack of downtown businesses	14
Housing issues, i.e., limited options/lack of decent rental housing	12
Aging citizens	10
City leadership issues, i.e., lack of trust and respect toward city leadership and leadership has lack of vision	6
Drugs	5
Infrastructure, i.e., water and sewer lines/limited possibilities to expand and grow/general upkeep of town	5
Business owners' negative attitude of economic development/lack of time and organization among business owners to take charge and improve town; appearance of main street - no downtown; limited funds for community promotion	5
People need to support businesses already here, local events, e.g., summer fun days, tri-county fair, races; also need to be willing to accept diversity of other cultures – [instead of] only looking out for themselves	4
Financial institutions need to be more proactive and show support for new businesses	2
Future farm economy/rising costs	3
Lack of well-traveled highway route for business, local roads, rail service	2
Low commitment level and people not wanting to get involved/reactive instead of proactive	2
Lack of indoor winter activities/opportunities for young people to stay in community	2
Continued strong educational program	1
Continued quality health care	1
Proximity of other small communities dividing trade area – can't all survive	1
Too much politics	1
Lack of government facilities, e.g., court house, FSA office, etc.	1
Maintaining tax base as businesses close if new business owners are not available	1
Modest level of incomes	1
People willing to take the risk of business ownership	1
Total responses	117

N=31

### ***Positive Aspects of the Community***

- Respondents were asked what they considered to be the five most positive aspects of the community. Rather than presenting the responses according to their rank, they are presented according to how many times the positive aspect was mentioned. Responses were then grouped together based on theme.
- The top five positive aspects were: quality of life (e.g., hardworking and friendly people, recreational opportunities, willingness of people to invest in the community, young coming back, and low crime); health care (e.g., services, medical facilities, care for the elderly, and emergency medical system); strong and aggressive business community and satellite business that expands to other communities; educational system; and cleanliness of the city, community pride, and tourism development.

Table 17. What respondents think are the most positive aspects of the Wishek community

Positive aspects	Number of responses
Quality of life (e.g., hardworking and friendly people/recreational opportunities/willingness of people to invest in the community/young coming back/low crime)	29
Health care (e.g., services/medical facilities/care for the elderly/emergency medical system)	28
Strong, aggressive business community/satellite business that expands to other communities	17
Educational system	16
Cleanliness of the city/community pride/tourism development	15
Location, i.e., 90 miles from major city makes it a regional retail center	6
Availability of goods and services (e.g., telephone, TV, Internet, UPS, etc.,)	1
Available housing	2
Reasonable taxes	1
Quality and quantity of water for homes and businesses	1
If you want to work, there is a job	1
Total responses	117

N=31

### ***What the Community of Wishek Should be in 10 Years***

---

- Respondents were asked to write a brief description of what the community of Wishek should be in 10 years. Responses to this question are listed below.
1. "Twenty percent increase in population, new, YOUNGER families to move into the area; expanded tourism industry and elderly care; both housing and medical facilities; development of smaller mom and pop type of industrial manufacturing that employ 5-10 people; new housing development and industrial park."
  2. "A strong, regional business center with strong services like educational, healthcare, and medical; clean appearance, progressive attitude to maintain itself. Not unlike how it is today, but with a stronger desire by leadership to be progressive instead of staying in 'maintenance mode'."
  3. "An industrial hub that employs enough people so approximately 2,000-2,500 people live and work here with housing available for those people. A place where our young people want to return to after college. A destination community for relaxation and recreation. A place that values all who work, live, or venture here and assumes they have valuable input instead of automatic distrust of outsiders."
  4. "Clean and productive community that is lively and looked up to by other communities."
  5. "Hope to see growth in population and new businesses and maybe Main Street be torn down and build a strip mall."
  6. "Hopefully in 10 years Wishek can show an increase of population by graduates returning home and by others. There should be a good reason for them returning - decent job growth with decent pay. Wishek should maintain all of its current aspects - school, medical, etc. - and hopefully show growth. Wishek needs more young people, more young families, and they in turn will require more services."

7. "Hoping to see Wishek maintain a stable community with tax paying younger families moving in to make this their home. The community can't survive on retirees moving back and not buying services or products. The business owners in the community are getting older and will be looking to younger owners so there is opportunity here for a nice lifestyle if someone cares to work for it."
8. "I believe Wishek will go through some struggles in the next 10 years. I think our population will continue to decline even with a mild influx of people coming back to this area. I don't expect a steep decline though. I feel our business group is strong but we will have a few less businesses. This may seem dismal but I feel it is part of a trend. Overall I feel our quality of life and the business opportunities we will have will remain good. I think we will still be able to maintain a good place to live, work, and play."
9. "I hope Wishek will be at least the same in 10 years as it is now. I really think we need to pool our resources to keep what we already have intact (i.e., school, hospital, nursing home). Attracting new industry is going to be tough, but if we keep slugging away, eventually we will land something."
10. "I would hope it could continue to be a progressive clean community. Our crime is basically nonexistent, which is a plus for any of our communities. I would hope we could attract a couple of new businesses for the community and the surrounding areas. I would hope our health care facility can remain a top rated facility and maybe even expand into other areas, and would hope to continue our school system with a strengthening of programs and students."
11. "I would like to see Wishek increase its private sector jobs, if this is possible more retail and services will follow. I believe this is necessary for Wishek to be a viable community."
12. "It would be great to see the downtown area become a thriving business area again. I would like to see a wide range for skilled and unskilled workers and a growth in our population."
13. "It would be nice to fill up the "downtown" business district with businesses - gift shop, hardware store, offices to do processing for larger industries (for example); clean up vacant lots, tear down older, non-functional dwellings; annex out-skirting land near Wishek for future development whether for housing, such as a retirement area, or industry. Bring young people back here to live and work, make it worth their while - wages need to be competitive so people want to live here and work here."
14. "Our community does a good job at the basic services and necessary facilities for living here. People leave for the extras in life (bigger houses, more entertainment/recreation, better jobs) that will always be true. To grow we need to have a level of production that supports those extras. An ag processing facility would be good (Enderlin, Velva, Richardton, Wahpeton, Spiritwood) these bring traffic to town and jobs. Government dollars would bring office jobs, manufacturing could be done here, growth is hard but it is income/profits, wages that ultimately grow a community."
15. "Supporting all local businesses and keeping our infrastructure intact. Helping areas like Wishek Steel and the nursing home go to the "next level" with jobs and wages could boost our population 10-20% (100-200 people). Bringing in one more industry with primary sector jobs would also help. Maintaining the school, health care, and recreational areas of the community is a must."
16. "Wishek has a lot of good things going for it. The economy has a lot to do with how the future will be. Cost of living keeps rising. Wishek and the people in it need to work together, to help each other to survive in the next 10 years."



17. "Wishek needs to grow in population at all ages. It needs to work to retain the business it currently has and attract more small businesses. We should have a community center with an indoor pool. There should be a hardware/furniture store, another cafe, and a mini mall downtown in place of some of the old buildings."
18. "Wishek SHOULD be a community that has been able to keep all of its businesses intact and add 10-15% population growth. However, I think it is more probable that Wishek COULD keep the greater majority of its businesses active while adding one to two new ones. I also feel that instead of a 10-15% population growth figure we will be looking at 3-5% population decline."
19. "Wishek Steel should have a new building and work force doubled - should be marketed worldwide. Wishek should be 25% larger if we address existing businesses that have huge potential to grow."
20. "Wishek will need to work to give people reasons to come to the community rather than going to neighboring towns. Revitalizing Main Street - more retail businesses - service industry - a museum - anything to draw people to the area even for a short time will help expose Wishek's positive aspects. To do nothing will cause a decline in the ability of the community to grow or even maintain its current status. People must have more reasons to turn off Highway 13 and spend time in town."
21. "When you look at other towns that are advancing, they are the ones that have reinvested money into their community and have expanded by offering new sites for people to build. Without reinvestment there will be no substantial forward steps taken. Getting a new housing development would be a huge step in the right direction. I know the city doesn't want to spend the money but it would pay back in the long run. Giving a facelift to downtown would help too. I would like a better office but there is just non available. There needs to be development sites for both residential and industrial sites."

**LEADERSHIP / BUSINESS SURVEY**  
**PERCEPTION OF THE COMMUNITY'S DEVELOPMENT SITUATION**

Place a checkmark (3) in the column that best reflects your opinion. Is each item listed on this survey a *strength* of the community, a *weakness*, or is it an *average* or *normal* situation? Please answer every item, even if you are not very familiar with it, responding based on your **perception** of it.

**NOTE:** You will likely also receive a Community survey as a resident. Please complete each survey from the perspective it requests (you may have differing viewpoints as a business owner vs. a resident...or have a spouse or adult child living with you complete the Community survey delivered to your home.)

<b>QUALITY OF LIFE</b>	<b>Strength</b>	<b>Normal</b>	<b>Weakness</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>
1. Availability of executive-level housing	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Availability of moderate cost housing	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Availability of housing for low-income families	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Availability of rental units	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. Cost of housing overall	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. Level of crime	_____	_____	_____	_____
7. Level of cultural activity and facilities	_____	_____	_____	_____
8. Availability of recreational opportunities	_____	_____	_____	_____
9. Quality of the climate	_____	_____	_____	_____
10. Attractiveness of the physical environment	_____	_____	_____	_____
11. General appearance of the community	_____	_____	_____	_____
12. Availability of adequate healthcare facilities	_____	_____	_____	_____
13. Cost of health care relative to other areas	_____	_____	_____	_____
14. Adequate social services (day care, counseling, poverty assistance)	_____	_____	_____	_____
15. Services and programs for senior citizens	_____	_____	_____	_____
16. The rate of population growth in the community	_____	_____	_____	_____
17. Availability of elderly housing	_____	_____	_____	_____
18. Availability of accessible housing	_____	_____	_____	_____
19. Quality of housing	_____	_____	_____	_____

<b>LOCAL EDUCATION SITUATION</b>	<b>Strength</b>	<b>Normal</b>	<b>Weakness</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>
1. Quality of local elementary education	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Quality of local secondary education	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Involvement of local residents and parents in the school districts	_____	_____	_____	_____

<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT SITUATION</b>	<b>Strength</b>	<b>Normal</b>	<b>Weakness</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>
1. Adequacy of local police protection and public safety	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Adequacy of local fire protection	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Adequacy of trash pickup and waste disposal	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Adequacy of local planning and zoning	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. State and local permitting and regulation process for business	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. Annexation policy of the town/city	_____	_____	_____	_____
7. Adequacy of local building codes	_____	_____	_____	_____
8. Level of local property taxes	_____	_____	_____	_____
9. Level of local sales taxes	_____	_____	_____	_____

	<b>Strength</b>	<b>Normal</b>	<b>Weakness</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>
10. Adequacy of local tax base to cover cost of local government	_____	_____	_____	_____
11. Cooperation of local government with business	_____	_____	_____	_____
12. Cooperation of local government entities with each other	_____	_____	_____	_____
13. Long-range planning for municipal improvements and capital budgeting	_____	_____	_____	_____

**LOCAL LEADERSHIP SITUATION**

	<b>Strength</b>	<b>Normal</b>	<b>Weakness</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>
1. Adequate level of professional staff in government offices and development organizations	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Involvement of both public and private sectors in development programs of community	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Level of leadership support of economic development programs	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Level of communication and cooperation between various organizations involved in the development programs of the community	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. Level of awareness of community regarding the local development programs	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. Level of leadership commitment to advancing the growth and development of the community	_____	_____	_____	_____
7. Level of funding for local development programs	_____	_____	_____	_____
8. Level of cooperation with other development organizations serving this area of the State	_____	_____	_____	_____

**LABOR SITUATION**

	<b>Strength</b>	<b>Normal</b>	<b>Weakness</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>
1. Availability of unskilled and semi-skilled workers	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Availability of skilled industrial workers	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Availability of clerical (retail and office) workers	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Availability of technicians and professionals	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. Availability of managerial personnel	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. Availability of quality jobs for the workforce residing in the community	_____	_____	_____	_____
7. Level of wages and salaries paid locally	_____	_____	_____	_____
8. Quality of labor-management relations	_____	_____	_____	_____
9. Availability of upgrade training for existing employees	_____	_____	_____	_____
10. Availability of apprenticeship programs	_____	_____	_____	_____

**TRANSPORTATION SITUATION**

	<b>Strength</b>	<b>Normal</b>	<b>Weakness</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>
1. Adequate local major highways	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Movement of traffic in the community	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Condition and maintenance of local streets and roads	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Level of traffic-carrying capacity of local streets	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. Availability of public parking in the local commercial areas	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. Availability of intermodal (truck to train) shipping	_____	_____	_____	_____

**UTILITY SITUATION**

	<b>Strength</b>	<b>Normal</b>	<b>Weakness</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>
1. Local telephone company's quality of service	_____	_____	_____	_____

	Strength	Normal	Weakness	No Opinion
2. Connection of local telephone company to national long distance network	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Cost of electricity	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Availability of high quality electric service	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. Availability of potable (drinking quality) water	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. Availability of adequate wastewater treatment capacity	_____	_____	_____	_____
7. Availability of adequate water and sewer lines to industrial/commercial sites	_____	_____	_____	_____
8. Cost of water and sewer services	_____	_____	_____	_____
9. Availability of cable TV	_____	_____	_____	_____
10. Internet access	_____	_____	_____	_____

**REAL ESTATE SITUATION**

	Strength	Normal	Weakness	No Opinion
1. Availability of fully served and attractive industrial sites	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Availability of fully served and attractive office sites	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Availability of attractive and well located commercial/retail sites	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Availability of suitable industrial building space	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. Availability of suitable office space	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. Availability of suitable commercial/retail space	_____	_____	_____	_____
7. Availability of subdivided sites for new homes	_____	_____	_____	_____

**CAPITAL SITUATION**

	Strength	Normal	Weakness	No Opinion
1. Availability of low interest or tax-exempt financing for new industrial facilities	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Availability of low interest loans for small business	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Availability of venture capital from local sources for business startups	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Availability of home mortgage financing	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. Investment in the community by local financial institutions	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. Availability of equity	_____	_____	_____	_____

**MARKET SITUATION**

	Strength	Normal	Weakness	No Opinion
1. Location of the community for serving the national market	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Location of the community for serving foreign markets	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Proximity to other major markets in the State	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Appearance of the downtown for attracting business activity	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. Appearance of the highway-oriented retail/commercial areas for attracting business activity	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. Availability of a range of retail stores and goods in the community	_____	_____	_____	_____
7. Availability of a range of quality restaurants in the community	_____	_____	_____	_____
8. Availability of a range of personal services (legal, professional, dry cleaning, repairs, etc.)	_____	_____	_____	_____
9. Availability of business services and professional services that support business and industry	_____	_____	_____	_____
10. Availability of adequate hotels and motels	_____	_____	_____	_____
11. Availability of adequate conference and meeting facilities	_____	_____	_____	_____

	Strength	Normal	Weakness	No Opinion
12. Adequacy of local newspaper for promotion of local business activity	_____	_____	_____	_____
13. Adequacy of local industrial marketing programs	_____	_____	_____	_____
14. Adequacy of local programs to attract new retail and commercial business to the community	_____	_____	_____	_____
15. Adequacy of the marketing program to attract tourists	_____	_____	_____	_____
16. Impact of the tourism industry on the community	_____	_____	_____	_____
17. The range of attractions for expanded tourism	_____	_____	_____	_____
18. Availability of funding to support tourism development	_____	_____	_____	_____

What do you consider to be the five most important problems Wishek is facing now and into the future?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

What do you consider to be the five most positive aspects of our community?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Finally, please write a brief description of the community Wishek should be in 10 years: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Is your residence? (Please check one only)

TOWN/CITY     RURAL NON-FARM     RURAL FARM

The questionnaire should be completed and returned in one of two ways:

1. by mail to the address below within seven (7) days.

Return to:    Wishek JDA  
 PO Box 466  
 Wishek, ND 58495-0466

2. Hand deliver it drop-off boxes at Stan's Super Valu, Security State Bank or First Community Credit Union

***Thank you for your participation and commitment to Wishek's future.***