February 23rd, 2012

Get Learning And Start Succeeding Group (GLASS)

Location: City Heights, Covington

Primary Concerns:

The primary concerns expressed at the City Heights GLASS meeting were transportation and employment. Nearly 70% of participants noted that their primary form of transportation for both work and non-work related travel was the bus. This response groups noted that enhancing the bus system to make it more convenient for travelers would make it more attractive and 88% of respondents agreed that improvements to alternate modes of transportation are needed. Comments on transportation issues were very plentiful among the table discussion. High gas prices, too many bus transfers, buses not running on time, changes in routes, and better connections to jobs where all concern factors expressed by respondents.

Employment and job concerns were concerns expressed during the table discussions. All respondents to this question indicated that they were currently unemployed and education level appears to be a significant factor in this discussion. Two of 15 respondents indicated that they hold an undergraduate degree, while seven indicated that they do not have a high school diploma or GED. Employment/jobs garnered 76% of responses for number one topic that needed improvement in the county.

Other Topics

Respondents indicated that education is very important to them and when asked to rate the importance of a good school system and good post-secondary education opportunities, 14 out of 15 responded with important or very important.

Safety for children was also expressed as an important concern for the respondents at this meeting and when asked if they had concerns about their child or grandchild walking to school 12 out of 14 said yes. The two others who responded to this question indicated that they did not have children. When asked what should be done to improve the walk to school the results were mixed with six indicating the travel needed to be made safer and three respondents indicated that living closer to school would improve the circumstances. The final three respondents indicated that others measures would improve the walk to school for their children.

Housing was not a subject discussed often at the table discussions; however, it was mentioned that owning a house was a goal. Respondents indicated that the majority rented (12 of 15) and the remaining respondents lived with someone else. Nine out of the 15 respondents indicated that they think communities do have a responsibility to plan for housing affordable to most people, while four respondents were unsure and two indicated that they do not think communities have a responsibility to plan for affordable housing.
Another topic that did not come up much during table discussions was the environment/parks; though this topic did get a strong response in during the keypad survey. Ten out of 15 respondents indicated that they were dissatisfied or somewhat dissatisfied with current recreational activities and 13 out of 15 want improvement in all categories. Eleven of 15 respondents indicated that environmental issues are important.