



Jersey Township
Village of Johnstown
City of New Albany

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Q WHAT IS THE PROPOSED WESTERN LICKING COUNTY ACCORD?

A The proposed Western Licking County Accord is a collaborative initiative between Jersey Township, the village of Johnstown and the city of New Albany to proactively plan for and responsibly manage future growth in a way that protects the desirable quality of life residents enjoy while building resilient, sustainable communities and strong local economies. The accord is a non-binding agreement or policy document that, if approved, will guide public investment and public and private development decisions. It takes into consideration future land uses—from agriculture, rural residential and open space to civic, commercial, office and industrial/distribution.

Q WHY DOES JERSEY TOWNSHIP NEED TO PLAN FOR GROWTH WE DON'T EVEN WANT?

A The central Ohio region's population is expected to grow by more than one million people by 2050. Lack of planning leaves communities vulnerable to development that detracts from the character of the community, including traffic congestion and lower quality developments, while straining local government resources. The planning process allows all three communities to pool their knowledge and resources, gives residents a voice in how their community grows and promotes coordination of desirable development in areas that cross jurisdictional lines. The Big Darby Accord and the Rocky Fork-Blacklick Accord are examples of how communities have successfully worked together to preserve natural features and promote responsible land use.

Q WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF BEING PART OF THE ACCORD FOR JERSEY TOWNSHIP?

A Whether we want it or not, growth will affect Jersey Township and will impact everything from land consumption to infrastructure and, ultimately, our residents' quality of life. Landowners can sell their land to whomever they choose. Additionally, Ohio law allows township landowners to petition to be annexed to an adjacent municipality. By working together and coordinating with New Albany and Johnstown, we can create a shared vision that guides development to arrive at the best solutions for our residents.

Q HOW IS THE WESTERN LICKING COUNTY ACCORD BEING DEVELOPED?

A To ensure that the WLC Accord represents the concerns and interests of residents in the three jurisdictions, MKSK, a planning and landscape architecture firm, has been retained to coordinate the process. Working with elected officials and planning staff in each community, MKSK analyzed existing conditions, current plans, future trends and area assets (physical, economic, etc.), held a public workshop, led a focus group and conducted an online survey to gather input from residents on future land uses.

Q WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS AND CAN I STILL GET INVOLVED?

A Yes, we welcome your input. A second public meeting will be held at 7 pm on April 20 at the Jersey Baptist Church, 13260 Morse Road, where MKSK will share findings from the online survey as well as preliminary ideas related to future land uses for community feedback. In June, MKSK will deliver a plan that reflects the input and includes proposed land use policies and development standards. After final review and discussion, each jurisdiction will have the opportunity to formally approve and adopt the plan.

Q WHO WILL MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT FUTURE DEVELOPMENT IN MY COMMUNITY?

A Each jurisdiction will continue to make its own decisions about development within its community. The accord is a non-binding document that gives each community a tool to manage growth in a way that protects the character of the community while accommodating future residential and commercial developments that strengthen the community's tax base.

Q HOW WILL THE WESTERN LICKING COUNTY ACCORD HELP MY COMMUNITY MAINTAIN ITS RURAL CHARACTER?

A Our survey found that 86% of residents want to preserve their community's rural character. Each jurisdiction determines how the rural character will be preserved and incorporates that vision into their own plans as well as the accord. These land use plans designate locations for certain uses, whether that is rural residential, green space or commercial. In conjunction with design standards, the land use plans preserve and protect the desirable character of the community while allowing for growth in designated areas.

Q WILL NEW DEVELOPMENT LEAD TO MORE TRAFFIC?

A It is not necessarily new development in our communities that will lead to more traffic. It's population growth throughout the region that will affect traffic. If we don't adequately plan for that growth, we are likely to experience traffic congestion and other issues. Through the accord, we can avoid many issues by anticipating them and planning in advance. Additionally, together, our communities will have a stronger voice in getting support and funding from the county, state and federal government to make sure that our roadway systems can adequately accommodate that growth.

