

**Table 2: Portage County Comprehensive
Planning Joint Steering Committee
Top Issues by Element
Adopted February 27, 2002**

<i>Issue</i>
NATURAL RESOURCES
How can we identify and protect natural resources (including open-space)? (S/HC)
How can we protect our rivers, lakes, and streams? (S/HC)
How can we protect groundwater quality? (S/HC)
How can we protect groundwater quantity? (S/HC)
How can we protect air quality? (HC)
QUALITY OF LIFE
How can we maintain a high quality of life (quiet, small town atmosphere, safety and security)? (S/HC)
How can population growth rates be maintained or reduced from projections? (S)
How can we identify and protect cultural and historical resources? (S/HC)
How can we create and maintain a strong sense of identity for all communities? (HC)
HOUSING
How can we ensure that diverse housing opportunities exist across the County?
How can we address the need for more moderately priced homes? (S)
How can we address the need for more housing for senior citizens? (S)
How can single-family residences be made the primary emphasis in future residential development? (S)

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LAND USE
How can local governments regulate land use? (S)
How can we define and address sprawl (unplanned/sporadic growth)? (S/HC)
How can we encourage mixed uses in urban neighborhood design? (S/HC)
How can rural single-family residential developments occur without generating concerns about sprawl? (S/HC)
How can we utilize vacant properties in Stevens Point and the villages (infill/redevelopment)? (S/HC)
How can we ensure that residential and commercial development occurs in communities with existing water and sewer service while protecting rural landscapes? (S)
How can we ensure that residential and commercial development occurs next to communities with the potential extension of water and sewer service into the area while protecting rural landscapes? (S)
How can we ensure that future water and sewer service boundaries are established and somewhat flexible? (S)
How can we address the consequences of annexation? (HC)
How can we guarantee individual rights are protected through the Smart Growth process?
How can we fairly compensate individuals if the Smart Growth process takes from them?

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
How can we strengthen and diversify the county's economy?
How can light industry and small businesses be made the primary emphasis in future commercial development? (S/HC)
How can we attract more high paying jobs? (S/HC)
How can we revitalize downtowns? (HC)
How can we provide for desirable heavy industry?
How can we support existing businesses? (HC)
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
How can we create plans that are effective and enforced? (S/HC)
How can we address the public's concern about the level of taxation (tax base growth; levy rates; ability to pay taxes; consolidation of service levels, including housing rehabilitation)? (S/HC)
How can we improve intergovernmental cooperation? (HC)
How can local governments maintain local control? (HC)
How can we get citizens involved in government issues? (HC)
How can we determine which government services citizens feel are priorities given limited budgets?
How do we address budget and shared revenue cuts?

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TRANSPORTATION
How can we improve planning for future road development? (S/HC)
How can we provide more transportation options? (S/HC)
How can we best deal with the effects of the Highway 10 relocation? (HC)
AGRICULTURE
How can we identify and protect productive agricultural regions? (S/HC)
How do we maintain harmony between farms and their neighbors? (S/HC)
How can we promote profitable farms that are considerate of their impacts on the environment? (S/HC)
PUBLIC FACILITIES
How can we provide for public facilities and services, including schools, that meet the demands of all Portage County residents?
How can we support schools to ensure quality education? (HC)
How can we address concerns over the provision of emergency services in rural areas? (HC)
How can we promote uniform medical services? (HC)
How can we ensure that future water and sewer service boundaries are established and somewhat flexible? (S)
How can we provide for more youth oriented facilities and activities?