



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

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Public involvement is the backbone of the JLUS, without which, the study would be unsuccessful. The community engagement process for the Flint Hills / Fort Riley JLUS is focused on the following goals:

- Develop a strategy that will allow all of the individuals and groups interested in the future of Fort Riley and the process to help by:
 - Providing initial input on the issues and concerns of the study that will need to be addressed.
 - Offering frequent, timely and meaningful input throughout the study in ways that will help the analysis.
 - Staying informed about, and having multiple opportunities to provide comment on, the study findings.
 - Offer an easy-to-access and attractive multi-level approach tailored to the needs of the entire community, ranging from the FHRC, the military, and officials to stakeholders and other members of the public.
- Provide a variety of engagement venues that range from hands-on meetings and workshops to interactive online tools in order to provide options for learning about and having input into the study process.

There are four components to the public involvement process including committee collaboration, stakeholder and public outreach, public information tools, and InReach Plan.

2.1 COMMITTEE COLLABORATION

The Policy Committee and Technical Working Group have been identified to help facilitate the JLUS. Each will participate directly with the project team to provide feedback and decision-making throughout the planning process. Each committee met multiple times, both as a joint group and individually, throughout the study process. They served as the liaison between their organization and members of the JLUS Team. It was through their relationships that ideas,



Figure 4 Policy Committee workshop held at the CL Hoover Opera House in Junction City.



opportunities, strengths, and strategies were compiled to form the JLUS.

Policy Committee (PC)

The Policy Committee provides policy direction, study oversight, and ultimately will adopt the final report. The PC consists of decision-makers, executive directors, and elected officials.

Policy Committee participants include representatives of the following:

- Clay County
- City of Junction City
- City of Manhattan
- City of Milford
- City of Ogden
- City of Riley
- City of Wakefield
- Geary County
- Grandview Plaza
- Governor’s Military Council
- Flint Hills Regional Council
- Fort Riley
- Pottawatomie County
- Riley County

Technical Working Group (TWG)

The Technical Working Group provides technical expertise through identification of issues and provides feedback to the JLUS team. The TWG includes subject experts from surrounding jurisdictions, military planners, business and development representatives, and special organizations.

Technical Working Group participants include representatives of the following:

- City of Junction City
- City of Manhattan
- City of Milford
- City of Ogden
- Geary County
- Grandview Plaza
- Governor’s Military Council
- Junction City Area Chamber of Commerce



Figure 5 Technical Working Group meeting held at the Manhattan City Hall.



- City of Riley
- City of Wakefield
- Clay County
- Flint Hills Regional Council
- Fort Riley
- Manhattan Area Chamber
- Morris County
- Pottawatomie County
- Pottawatomie County Economic Development Corporation
- Riley County

2.2 GENERAL PUBLIC OUTREACH

A series of public and stakeholder meetings were hosted to obtain feedback and inform the public. Three rounds of public workshops and forums were held throughout the study area. The meetings were scheduled to afford the community information at integral parts along the study process. Stakeholder meetings were also held throughout the planning process to obtain individualized information from the community.

2.2.1 Kick-Off Workshops

The meeting served as a project kick-off and introduced the general public to the purpose of the JLUS. In order to offer convenience to the community and provide the study with the most amount of participation, two meetings were held – one in Junction City and one in Manhattan.

- January 31, 2017 Manhattan City Hall City Commission Chambers, City of Manhattan
- February 1, 2017 CL Hoover Opera House, Junction City



Figure 6 The Kick-Off workshop at Manhattan City Hall.



Flint Hills / Fort Riley Joint Land Use Study Update

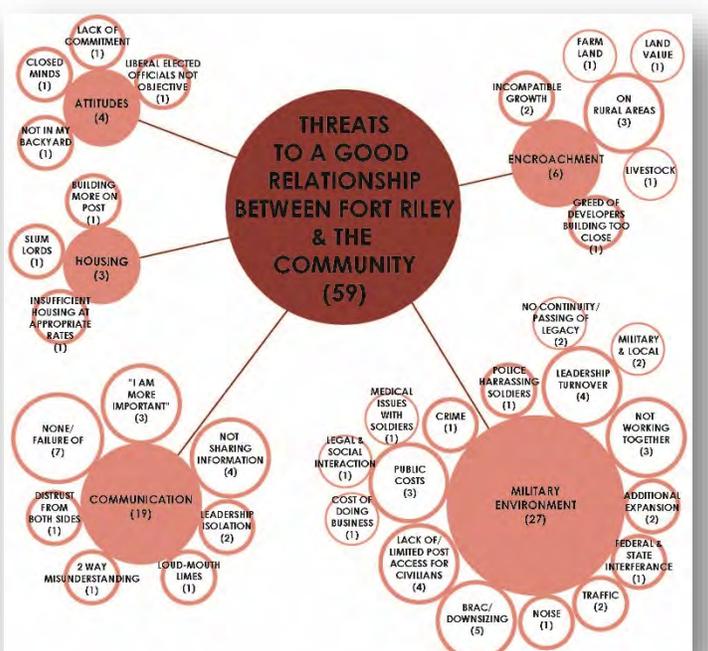
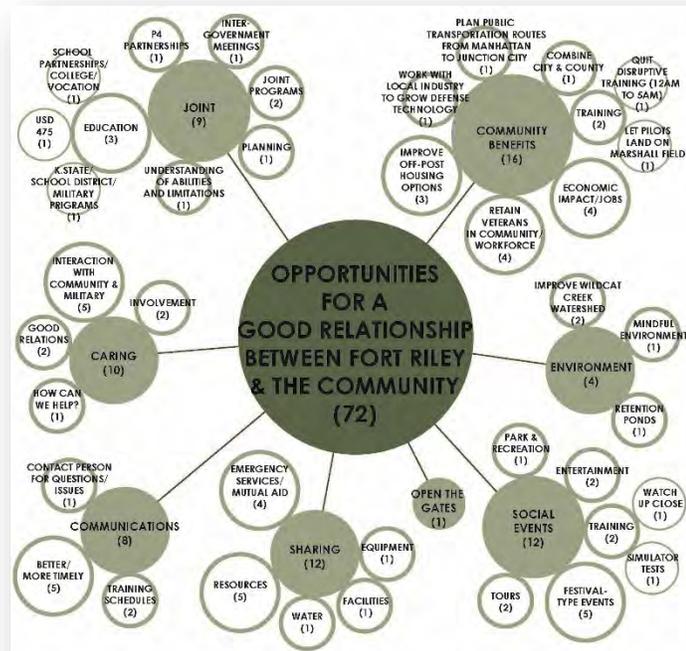
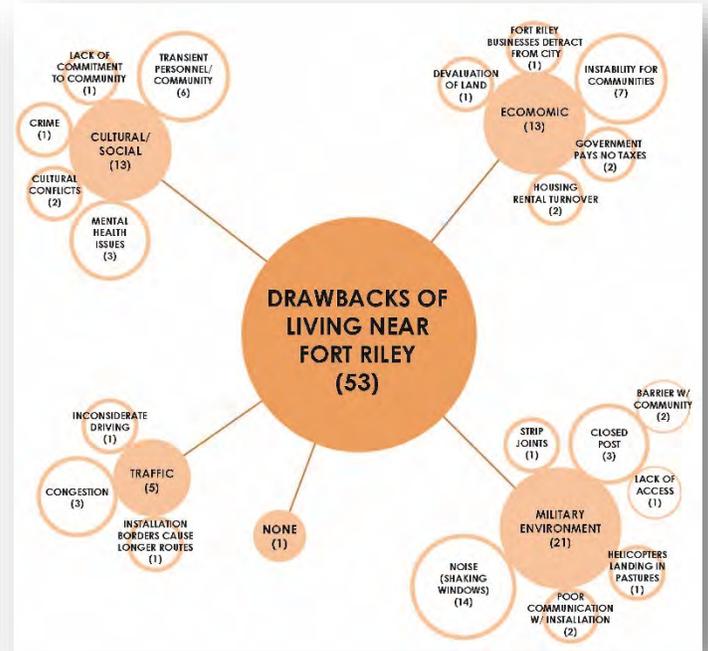
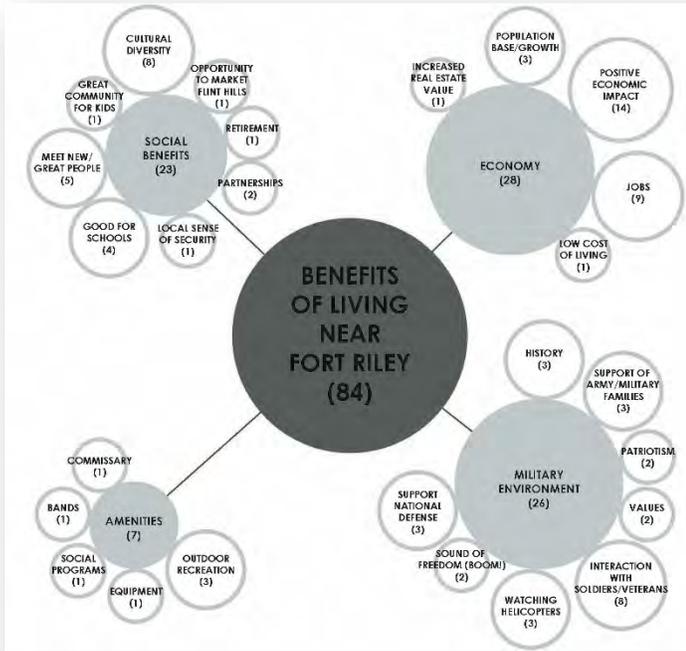


Figure 7 Results from the exercise conducted at the Kick-Off community workshop.



The meetings had a great turnout with over 45 participants. A short presentation was given followed by questions and discussions with attendees. The attendees were interested and engaged in the process offering suggestions, clarifying issues, and posing concerns.

As part of the workshops, participants were asked a series of questions about living near Fort Riley. Each person used slips of paper to record specific thoughts on the question—one idea per slip of paper. The results of the questions are represented on these diagrams. The large circle in the center of the diagram indicates the question asked, and the number of answers to the question. The smaller circles show the general categories of the answers, and the number of responses in each category. Overall, these diagrams show us how stakeholders feel about living near Fort Riley, and the relationship between the installation and the surrounding communities.

2.2.2 Mid-Term Workshops

The mid-term workshops provided an opportunity to receive feedback on the compatibility analysis and offered an overview of the results. The meeting was held at the Grandview Plaza City Hall on May 4th at 7:00 p.m. A presentation was given followed by a discussion with the community. The presentation covered the results of the community survey, the compatibility analysis discussion that took place with the TWG and PC, and the next steps of the process.

2.2.3 Final Workshops

The final workshops provided an opportunity to wrap-up the study and offer an overview of the results. These meetings were held on July 19th and 20th, 2017 in Manhattan and Junction City, respectively. The workshop provided a final overview of the study and future steps for implementation.



Figure 8 Above: The second community workshop was held at the Grandview Plaza City Hall and was well attended. Below: Herb Abel from Fort Riley provided clarification on the noise contour discussion



2.3 STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

Stakeholder interviews occurred throughout the data and analysis portion of the study. Recommendations were made from the PC and TWG to ensure that as many stakeholders as necessary were contacted to fully understand the opportunities available to the community and Fort Riley. Stakeholders offered data, forecasts, and opinions to solidify the Study. Stakeholders included representatives of the following:

- Action Pact Design
- Back 9 Development
- Bartlett & West
- BBN Architects
- Ben Moore Studio, LLC
- Benesch
- BG Consultants
- City of Milford
- City of Ogden
- City of Riley
- City of Wakefield
- Clay County
- ERA High Point Realty and Carson Agency
- Farmers
- Flint Hills MPO
- Fort Riley
- Geary Co
- Governor's Military Council
- Junction City
- Kansas State University
- Kansas State Bank
- Large Land Owners
- Manhattan
- Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce
- Manhattan Association of Realtors
- McMillan Architects
- Michael Carson & Assoc.
- Olsson Associates
- Pottawatomie County
- Pottawatomie County Economic Development Commission
- Riley County
- Riley County Conservation District
- Riley County Livestock Association
- Riley State Bank
- Schultz Construction
- Schwab-Eaton
- SMH Engineers Surveyors
- Sunflower Bank
- The Ebert Mayo Design Group
- Timber & Stone Architecture & Design LLC
- Visser Farms
- Wakefield City



2.4 PUBLIC INFORMATION TOOLS

Reiterated throughout the process, the study could not be successful without the public – the individuals who are affected daily. In an effort to stay in contact with the community and provide information to those that may not have been able to attend meetings, an interactive website, and Facebook page were created.

The website and Facebook page were utilized for sharing information with the general public as well as receiving important feedback on the findings and results of the overall plan recommendations. The webpage included maps, a survey, draft reports, handout materials, photos, and contact information. The webpage was created at the inception of the project and will be utilized through the implementation.

2.5 SURVEY RESULTS

As part of the public outreach effort for the Flint Hills / Fort Riley JLUS, an eleven-question survey was distributed to the Flint Hills community. The intent of the survey was to provide information to the JLUS including a demographic overview, insight into the public's opinion of Fort Riley and their existing relationship.

A total of 155 surveys were completed through the project website or direct email. The survey questions can be divided into the following categories:

- Demographics
- Perception of Fort Riley in the Community
- Relationship with Fort Riley
- Communication Between Fort Riley and the Community
- Impacts of Fort Riley in the Community

Additionally, survey participants were given the opportunity to provide specific comments suggesting what issues should be included within the JLUS.



Figure 9 Fort Riley Facebook page (@fortrileyjlus) and website (www.fortrileyjlus.com).



2.5.1 Demographics

The majority of the survey respondents were from the City of Manhattan (69%) and Junction City (18%). The remaining 13% of respondents were from Fort Riley, Clay Center, Milford, Riley, Ogden, and the counties of Clay, Geary, and Riley. The majority of the respondents lived within Clay, Geary, or Riley counties for 10-years or less (43%) and were 46 years old or older (69%). However, a large percentage of residents (40%) have lived within the three counties for 20 years or more.

2.5.2 Perception of Fort Riley in the Community

The community overall believes Fort Riley provides multiple benefits to the community. The respondents found the following to be the most beneficial aspects of living near or at Fort Riley:

86% of the respondents agree on the importance of the Fort for the economy

- Positive economic impact (22%)
- Supporting the Army and military families (20%)
- Interaction with soldiers / veterans (18%)
- Cultural diversity (16%)

The biggest worry of respondents was their concern for instability due to possible military downsizing. Ranking second, third, and fourth, respectively, were the concern over

transient personnel in the community, lack of communication with the surrounding communities, and noise from training.

The community as a whole believes strongly in the economic reliance on Fort Riley with approximately 86% of respondents stating that they strongly agree or agree on the importance of the Fort for the economy.

2.5.3 Relationship with Fort Riley

Respondents are supportive of the Army and the role they play in the community but there are opportunities for improvement. The community was fairly evenly distributed looking for improvement in the following areas:

- Joint programs such as school partnerships, emergency assistance and community programs (30%)
- Community events including entertainment, festivals, and tours (25%)
- Intergovernmental meetings between Fort Riley and community governments (23%)
- Provide more information to the community such as training schedules (19%)

59% of respondents think surrounding communities should be **better neighbors** to the Fort



Respondents agree or strongly agree that the surrounding communities should be better neighbors to the Fort (59%). There are a significant number of respondents (34%) who are neutral on the topic. However, 86% of respondents believe Fort Riley is a good neighbor to the surrounding communities.

Respondents are interested in participating in more activities at Fort Riley (52%). A large portion (39%) are neutral on the subject.

2.5.4 Communication Between Fort Riley and the Community

The community received the majority of their information regarding the Fort via newspaper, radio, and / or television. Following closely behind, communication methods include sources directly from people who work or train there or from social media. Only 5% of respondents use local government websites as a source of information for Fort Riley.

2.5.5 Impacts of Fort Riley in the Community

Noise is a concern that is heard frequently from community discussions; however, the survey resulted in only 14% of respondents feeling that noise from training greatly impacts their family. In fact, 71% of the responses strongly agree or agree that noise does not greatly impact their family. Respondents noted that they wanted to be informed of the Fort's training schedule (34%). Although, 39% remained neutral on the topic.

14% of respondents feel that **noise** from training greatly impacts their family

2.5.6 Critical Issues or Concerns

At the end of the survey, respondents were given the opportunity to provide information regarding the critical issues or concerns that should be reviewed for the study. Of the 155 respondents, 65 provided a response. The graph below divides the comments into subject categories. They include:

- Noise
- Economic Concerns
- Events and Access to Post
- Community Coordination (including shared emergency services, relationships between municipalities and the Fort, community collaboration, etc.)
- Development
- Military and Civilian Cooperation (including shared use of training facilities, support for transitioning from military to civilian, shared resources, etc.)
- Housing
- Post Closure



2.6 INREACH PLAN

An InReach Plan consists of a tailored local government engagement plan created specifically for the municipalities surrounding Fort Riley. Each municipality is impacted by Fort Riley in a different way and it is important that each municipality is able to share equally in the formulation of the Study. The Plan was put together based on recommendations from the Policy Committee. The Policy Committee was tasked with designating a representative that would be responsible for sharing information with their elected officials and would be the voice for the Joint Land Use Study.

The JLUS team moved forward with individual or small group meetings with each designated representative. The meetings provided the JLUS team and the local government representative an opportunity to discuss strengths, opportunities, and concerns relating to Fort Riley and the community growing around it. Additionally, briefings to the City Councils and County Commissioners were provided at regular intervals to keep the communities abreast of the study. Through these conversations each municipality was offered an equal partnership leading to a vested interest in the implementation of the plan.

Participating Communities

- Clay County
- Geary County
- Pottawatomie County
- Riley County
- Grandview Plaza
- Junction City
- Manhattan
- Milford
- Ogden
- Riley
- Wakefield

