



TO: Gahanna City Council
Jeremy VanMeter, Clerk of Council

FROM: Miranda Vollmer, Sr. Director of Administrative Services
Mayor Laurie A. Jadwin

Cc: Priya Tamilarasan, Esq., City Attorney
Joann Bury, Director of Finance

DATE: October 9, 2025

SUBJECT: Dept. of Administrative Services - Request for Council Action (October 13, 2025, COTW Meeting)

ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEM #1: RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE "OUR GAHANNA" STRATEGIC PLAN

Upon review and consideration of the City of Gahanna's long-term planning and economic development needs, the Administration recommends that Council adopt the Gahanna Strategic Plan and Economic Development Strategy. This initiative reflects a comprehensive and inclusive planning process designed to guide the City's future growth, development, and priorities.

The Strategic Plan and Economic Development Strategy were developed in response to transformative regional changes, including the expansion of the Columbus Airport and the LinkUS regional transportation initiative. These developments present unprecedented opportunities for Gahanna to strengthen its economic base and enhance its unique character.

Background

In August 2024, the City launched Our Gahanna, a citywide planning initiative designed to define a thoughtful course for the future. Community engagement was central to the development of the Our Gahanna Strategic Plan and Economic Development Strategy, with three rounds of outreach designed to ensure broad and inclusive participation.

The process began with Table Talks in late 2024 and early 2025, where residents and City staff shared ideas through small group workshops and an online survey. In May 2025, the Our Gahanna Vision Fest offered a week of themed events, including a family gathering, business networking, and targeted focused sessions for youth, young adult, and senior populations, to allow community members to share their ideas. Pop-up sessions and a second online survey expanded access and captured additional input. The final round of engagement, the Sweet Celebration, took place in late summer 2025 and introduced the draft plan to the public through a kickoff event and a citywide roadshow. A third online survey ensured continued accessibility.

A 25-member Steering Committee guided the process, representing diverse community voices and serving as key ambassadors. City staff and elected officials were actively involved throughout, contributing insights via workshops, interviews, and surveys to help shape the plan's direction and recommendations.

Plan Framework

The Strategic Plan is not a day-to-day operational guide, but a high-level framework that outlines long-term goals, values, and priorities. It builds on Gahanna's strong operational foundation and positions the City to respond proactively to future challenges and opportunities. Our Gahanna is organized around a vision statement and values that reflect what the community believes, a mission statement that guides our employees in implementing the plan, and four goals that contain 65 strategies to achieve those goals.

Vision Statement:

Gahanna aspires to ...

Cultivate a community where people, neighborhoods, and opportunities connect and thrive.

Mission Statement:

Serving our community with pride and purpose.

The City of Gahanna works together to enrich Gahanna's future, enhance our neighborhoods, and ensure the government serves our community with excellence.

Values:

1. Vibrancy. Robust amenities, programs, and services that engage and enrich residents' lives.
2. Connections. A conveniently located community that provides ease of living for all with excellent connectivity to local and regional services and amenities.
3. Stewardship. Intentionally balancing the development of the built environment and necessary infrastructure with the conservation and preservation of green space.
4. Community. A welcoming, supportive, and safe community that builds lasting connections and fosters mutual respect, understanding, and belonging.

Goals:

1. Elevate our Unique Places. Vibrant, inclusive, and connected places that reflect community identity, support livability, and foster pride.
2. Serve our Community. High-quality municipal services that are effective, collaborative, and responsive.
3. Connect our Community. A welcoming and accessible community that fosters a sense of belonging, promotes active living, and celebrates shared experiences.
4. Celebrate our Identity. Distinctive and vibrant places that elevate community pride and strengthen regional recognition.

The Economic Development Strategy complements the Strategic Plan by identifying key areas for investment, business attraction, and workforce development. It aligns with regional initiatives and leverages Gahanna's strategic location to support growth.

The Economic Development Strategy is organized around three goals and contains 35 recommendations to achieve those goals. The goals are:

1. Strengthen existing industry sectors to ensure a robust ecosystem.
2. Use regional and local market conditions and trends to identify opportunities to nurture new and emerging economic sectors.
3. Work with local stakeholders to deepen an employee-first workforce development model that focuses on existing and emerging economic drivers.

The adoption of Our Gahanna will provide a clear and unified direction for the City's future. It ensures that growth is managed responsibly, resources are allocated strategically, and the community's values are reflected in decision-making. The plan is projected to enhance Gahanna's economic competitiveness and improve quality of life.

Based on the foregoing, the Administration respectfully requests a Resolution to adopt the Gahanna Strategic Plan and Economic Development Strategy.

Requested Legislation and Funding:

Legislation Needed:	Resolution
Vendor Name:	N/A
Vendor Address:	N/A
Already Appropriated:	N/A
Supplemental/Transfer:	N/A

Attachments:

DAS-ATT City of Gahanna Strategic Plan and Economic Development Strategy