

| Question 2. What are your concerns (if any) regarding the quality of life issues in Helena? | | |
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| Topic | Comments | Commentator Reference # |
| Traffic | <p>“short cuts” through residential streets - especially in the S. Hills area; Traffic not obeying stop signs (4-way intersections); Traffic flow - e.g. Fee onto Colonial is too short for rush hour, Prospect onto Fee - can’t always pull completing onto Fee, rush hour on 11th or Prospect is a nightmare; Capital City Exit is dangerous; yield signs could alleviate issues until new interchange is put in? Train traffic, esp. during busy hours of the day; another bridge over tracks? Increased traffic has made bike community more dangerous, unpleasant; volume - potential bypass of highway 12? Eliminate cell phone use in cars; enforce regulations & laws; speeding; better traffic law compliance, esp. on busier streets; poor traffic control; increased volume; once quiet streets are now funnels for increasing traffic, much of it fast; congestion; too much poorly regulated traffic; “big city rush hour”; disrespectful, rude motorists; design roads to accommodate traffic; traffic density in last 5-6 years is alarming; poor traffic regulation; roads inadequate for traffic; traffic control; police only monitoring main roads; lacking left hand turning on major streets; lacking street services & repair; lack of law enforcement (e.g. speeding); people drive too fast in residential areas & don’t adhere to stop signs; need to be proactive w/ traffic flows; need to enforce laws</p> | <p>1, 3, 5, 10, 11, 14, 15, 24, 34, 35, 38, 39, 43, 44, 50, 54, 65, 67, 82, 83, 93, 100, 105, 112, 115, 117, 123, 124, 129, 135, 141, 145, 148, 153, 154, 157, 158, 166, 176, 177, 197, 198, 200, 205, 206, 207, 209, 210, 211, 212</p> |
| Entertainment & shopping | <p>More live music, restaurants, shops - particularly downtown; shops & restaurants should have later hours, at least until 7 PM & Sundays, so working people can have the opportunity; only places to dance are smoky bars - reinstate the smoking ban; need coffee shops that aren’t afraid to serve good, strong coffee & more “quality” breakfast & dinner places (No Sweat is the sole good breakfast joint); need more dancing</p> | <p>(2), (9), 47, 59, 62</p> |
| Business | <p>Concerned that box stores will shut out downtown business; Excessive, “unneeded” businesses coming in; box stores & “gentrified”, like “anywhere USA”; the gulch needs to be revitalized; not moving all retail north of town, the mall needs to stay; Walking Mall should be developed/kept up better & made more attractive and w/ a “mall” feel, by filling with art galleries, restaurants, and retail; business licenses for street carts (ice cream trucks) is too high to make a profit; don’t open walking mall to cars; compelling access to/from business Great Northern & Last Chance Gulch; closer & more obvious cooperation between business community & government; keep the walking mall; keep downtown the heart of Helena; negative community outlook re: commercial development (vocal minority); downtown has not place except for business people; viable downtown; small downtown grocery store; revitalize downtown, maybe through reduced rents; bring back a neighborhood store, i.e. Osco; Business killing downtown; need more restaurants (ethnic); would like more “natural” but inexpensive (not WalMart) shopping; need to develop residential/commercial downtown, not restrict biking & skateboarding</p> | <p>3, 4, 19, 30, 42, 51, 58, 80, 89, 102, 134, 144, 160, 168, 183, 184, 194, 203, 207</p> |
| Growth Plan | <p>Smart development & good houses; rapid, unplanned development which results in more traffic; planning for long-term growth. “Regular Montanans” are priced out of the housing market;</p> | <p>(4), (7), (8), (9), (10), (16), 19, 29, 32, 34, 35, 36, 38, 39, 45, 49, 55,</p> |

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| | <p>“Californiaized” like Bozeman & Kalispel; more open space; fast growth; unplanned development; unconsidered growth - impacts on water quality, drive times, flight out of core of town; city commission should insist that developers “create” a sense of community by providing “walkable”, people friend designs including common areas & open, green spaces; more pressure should be placed on developers to make affordable housing available; the city needs to adhere to current zoning rules & not readily/willing grant requests for variances; county & city need to work closer together; development should include bike/pedestrian paths; stores should be built to encourage walking between them; need strong tax and other incentives to utilize downtown space (e.g. use empty office space for the college of Technology); create disincentives to discourage development outside the community boundary; zoning that encourages rentals instead of single family housing; protect our “small town way” by controlling growth to protect open spaces & local business, and ensure the city infrastructure keeps pace w/ growth; expected growth in 25 years? No foresight for the future - growing faster than the city can keep up & selling out to developers for \$\$\$ - developers should have to make wide streets & install lighting; growth surpassing infrastructure; “growth with humanity”; “Vast” growth - seems a bit willy-nilly; continue to expand city limits as city services are needed outside limits; growth not planned well; design of subdivisions; need more affordable housing; money talks & has no regard for future; we must look forward & plan growth for future generations; City/County codes are not constantly obeyed/followed by all; transportation/roads need to plan for growth; Growth & sprawl w/out control & zoning; rural-urban interface w/out adequate infrastructure coverage; increased population & development is/will cause infrastructure problems; unregulated growth; urban sprawl filling up w/ strip malls & junky “anywhere” USA housing; Use up what’s available, keep town small, stop building all houses & businesses; more infill - fill in empty lots & buildings before building new; shear number of new housing developments; no long term plans - need regulations for sidewalks, lighting, landscaping, bike routes; planned growth that combines outdoor ambiance; development controlling decisions; learn from other city’s failures/accomplishments (Boz, Msla) & don’t let developers determine fate of city;</p> | <p>63, 66, 67, 68, 76, 77, 78, 82, 84, 85, 86, 91, 93, 94, 97, 99, 100, 106, 112, 117, 121, 137, 139, 143, 146, 147, 153, 159, 162, 169, 173, 175, 176, 179, 186, 190, 197, 201, 202, 204, 212, 213, 214, 215</p> |
| Noise | Noise pollution increasing, especially from private vehicles; boom cars; loud car stereos | 5, 44, 176, 196, 205 |
| Education | Good teachers who care | 124, |
| Crime/drugs | Increasing vandalism; drugs & abuse; increasing meth use; misappropriated funds for drug education; increased graffiti | 5, 117, 124, 126, 153, 154, 192, 205, 212 |
| Domestic Animal Laws | Cat owners not being held accountable like dog owners (e.g. ruined flower beds!); Barking dogs & unresponsive owners; Increased animal control & cop enforcement of animal laws; barking dogs & cats wonder into yard, use it as a litter box, spray back porch; dog catcher needs support to enforce laws, including tax dollars; dogs should not be allowed at Farmer’s Market (public health issue?); more support for well trained dogs (e.g. “to be off the leash”), and stiffer penalties for aggressive dogs &/or owners who don’t clean up after their dogs (e.g. on public space) - dogs/animals enhance quality | (5), (6), 40, 60, 93, 128, 148, 158, 175, 176, 196, 200, 210, 211 |

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| | of life; irresponsible pet owners - waste, barking, running loose; dog poop; people not maintaining control of dogs when out walking; the town needs more than one animal control officer; leave the dogs at home - Live@5 & farmer's market are not places for dogs! | |
| Deer | Deer running amuck; deer numbers - excessive toll on flora, do we have to wait for an emergency (e.g. law suite from deer attack) before something is done? Deer ruin gardens, trees & scare children - they have become urban rats; they devour yard plants, even "deer resistant" or treated (sprayed) plants; bad for city; concerned with balance of wildlife nature & residential areas; should be eliminated from city - they destroy everything, like a "barn yard" around here, overgrazing; their safety & children around them; population is out of hand! | (5), 33, 34, 37, 60, 67, 93, 164, 167, 170, 185, 188, 196, 209 |
| Pedestrian & Bike | Sidewalks, particularly in neighborhoods without them; designated bike routes that link all parts of town; streets with shoulders wide enough to ride on; Sidewalks are needed along busy routes; Nighttime safety = more lighting in some areas for pedestrians; alternative lighting could be used to cut down on light pollution; Increased bike paths, especially along the busy routes; bike lanes & more courteous (aware) drivers; fragmentation of neighborhoods with lack of alternative transportation easy (walking, biking, etc); need bike paths on streets; need bike paths and lanes; education & a bike/pedestrian traffic coordinator; not the most bicycle friendly town; too many thoroughfares cut-up the city & are not fun to ride one, especially MT avenue and one-way parts of 11 th and Prospect; not safe to shop if one is on bike/foot; not enough bicycle & walking opportunity/path locations; need more bike roads & promote cycling over cars; lacking centrally located bike/walk paths that can actually be utilized to transport all over town - existing paths are inadequate & obvious "after thoughts"; all neighborhoods need adequate sidewalks for exercise & safe ped. Transportation; dead end bike paths; more access for bikes/peds; need more pedestrian friendly areas; sidewalk maintenance & bike trails; need more roadways that accommodate bikes, esp. on bridges; people drive like jerks & don't stop for pedestrians; lacking adequate bicycle & pedestrian facilities - most businesses don't even offer bike racks for parking & many neighborhoods lack sidewalks; very poor pedestrian & bicycle access; lacking bike paths; unmaintained, missing, &/or covered sidewalks; lack of sufficient bike/ped routes/paths; no bike paths; lack of pedestrian walkways through busy new areas (e.g. N. MT); we need bike lanes! Need regulations for sidewalks & bike routes; more ped/bike amenities/options; lacking side walks; lack of safe roads to ride a bicycle; need bike paths - corridors; City needs to employ & stand behind a bike/ped coordinator; decrease in walkable communities; need more bike paths (incl. Access along the walking mall); need education for bikers & drivers; more connected bike routes | 2, 5, 10, 17, 21, 35, 36, 38, 43, 53, 59; 60, 66, 67, 73, 77, 79, 104, 110, 115; 116, 121, 123, 135, 138, 147, 148, 163, 171, 175, 176, 181, 189, 204, 207, 210 |
| Public transportation | Empty trolley; town needs a public bus system that elderly & disabled can rely on ; lack of public transportation has alienated a part of society (mainly the disadvantaged); public transportation needs to be on the forefront of the City's issues - looking at how other small cities are dealing with it; the under privileged are limited to amount of grocery bags allowed on HATS buses; the hours of HATS | 18, 32, 35, 42, 50, 60, 75, 144, 147, 160, 164, 204 |

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| | does not allow shuttle to town events, such as the fair; need convenient public transportation; transit bus system would be good; better transportation besides cars; need it! | |
| Parks/Open space | open space maintenance; preservation; create/keep more; loss of open space; we need more parks/open space to meet & enjoy! "Stop development & start preserving!"; not enough parks & trailways w/ all the building; need more/improved parks; "too much open space to manage"; unplanned sprawl & loss of open space; community gardens & pesticide-free parks; loss of open space (too much development in hills surrounding city); maintenance (& ethical value) of roadless landscapes surrounding town; lacking maintenance of green spaces | 20, 54, 58, 66, 68, 71, 91, 97, 103, 107, 138, 150, 172, 180 |
| Health care | lacking psychiatric unit at hospital & lack of certified psychiatrists in Helena; inadequate health care & personal support systems for elderly & youth; hospital concerned with "bottom line" to the detriment of some services which impact the less wealthy; Helena has "trouble" keeping doctors & for many health care issues, one has to travel to larger medical communities (Missoula, G. Falls, Billings); why is adult making \$7/hr not eligible for Medicaid? Providing for poor or mentally ill? Mental health care | 22, 31, 90, 131, 204 |
| Youth | disaffected bored youth; kids need "fun" stuff to do; teenagers need to have something safe they can do at their age & not try to act like adults; drug use in youth; kids should be able enjoy the walking mall (including biking, skateboarding, rollerblading; need more activities for young people; safe schools & safe play areas; not enough free or w/in walking distance for kids | 23, 25, 26, 27, 52, 56, 142 |
| Cost of Living | Rising cost of living, reflected in housing & fuel prices, increased daycare expenses; lack of affordable housing; sky rocketing housing prices; more high paying jobs; pay not equal to cost of living; affordable housing for young family (220K is NOT & mean annual income is 26K, in state); can't raise a family on <40K (town too elitist); need affordable housing; better paying jobs; unequal distribution of income, more affordable housing | 26, 28, 102, 115, 130, 131, 133, 151, 176, 188, 204, 212 |
| Beautification | Curse Ave is a blight; west entrance to town on Hwy 12 is dump; Rodney between 6 th & Broadway is dump; litter appears to be increasing; boulevard maintenance needs to be mandatory & enforced OR taxes raised for city to care for it; box stores should be forced to landscape parking lots (cuts back on use of concrete, too); too bad the City let the flower beds on the walking mall go (to weeds & unsightliness); vandalism appears rampant; too little landscaping around parking lots & land architecture of new buildings; get rid of ugly signs (billboards) & ugly street lights; blight & decay; junky unmaintained properties & abandoned buildings; no enforcement of community decay/public nuisance laws; poor landscaping citywide; garbage & boulevard maintenance - tree maintenance, lacking weed/snow removal from boulevards & sidewalks; littering; home & business owners need to be good stewards & monitor - weeds out of control in areas, junk vehicles, garbage; increased litter | 36, 39, 40, 41, 50, 70, 74, 86, 97, 141, 158, 200, 206, 211 |
| Landowners/rentals | irresponsible property managers who do not maintain properties or meet regulations and who don't respond to requests re: violent, rowdy renters; we need to set up better monitoring of property managers & hold them accountable; make property owners of rentals responsible for their property & | 113, 176 |

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| | condition | |
| City Ordinances | need to be changed from complaint driven to actual laws | 176 |
| Cell phone use | too many cell phones deployed in cars; rules for keeping people off phone while driving | 155 (?); 176 |
| Higher Education | better higher ed opportunities for a capital city | 123 |
| Smoking Ban | Reinstate it | 47 |
| Environmental - Water use/conservation, air pollution, recycling | water quality & availability - we live in a high desert & our water supply is not infinite; increased development is putting great pressure on our water quality & availability; Past & current practices in agriculture, mining, lead smelting, and disposal have put pressure on water treatment facilities & our ecosystems. We need to invest in good water treatment & create policies in Helena & the County to protect our water for everything that uses it; water table pollution; air pollution & energy consumption; minimal recycling; water quality, pollution from chemicals - agriculture, mining; clean air; address global warming causes in our community; not enough recycling; could Live @ 5 look into reusable cups (excessive waste); ASARCO pollution - contaminated soil, water air; need curbside recycling; growth overstresses already polluted water supply | 61, 94, 107, 124, 125, 164, 168, 182, 189, 199 |
| General | Weeds, education regarding noxious species; Junk vehicles in yards, not only looks bad but promotes weed growth; People need to be more considerate of neighbors (e.g. allowing dog to run loose & go after pedestrians); Everyone is in a hurry; increased suspicion & intolerance appears to be “on the rise”; loss of intimacy - knowing your neighbor; too many rentals w/ transient population; parking; natural vegetation for landscaping (help to alleviate deer & water issues); Walking mall - make it more inviting, open it to all - bikes, skateboards, restaurants; overcrowding & new residents are bring their poor manners with them; loss of mutual respect & civility, especially in times of war & in issue concerning religion - first step toward losing democracy is demonizing dissenters; preserving unique aspects should be a priority; worry that Helena will become a huge spread out sub-division with no “heart” (literally & figuratively); deteriorating water quality in the valley; “high” drug use & lack of consequences; lacking grocery stores w/in walking distance of poorer neighborhoods leads to food stamps used on expense, poor quality food (e.g. not fruit, vegetables, meat); central neighborhoods are deteriorating - city needs to maintain infrastructure better; increased growth may eventually lead to a deteriorated quality of life; recycling program; sprawl & ugly development; waste management; clean water; weed control; better access to valley; denser development; Need more handicap accessibility - can’t get into stores, accessibility to sidewalks; too much expansion into the hillsides & natural areas & the resulting impact on wildlife; education & opportunities to help in the community; increased cost on public services; basic needs of many people are not being met (e.g. hunger, poverty, homelessness); large, loose sprawl around the city reduces public space & public access to land; subdivisions are terrible; increased littering (by tourists?); disrespectful people, behavior, pet owners, meth; lack of car pooling; ridiculously large house & yards; not enough people vote; beer is served at | 2, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15, 23, 24, 31, 32, 37, 38, 41, 42, 46, 51, 54, 56, 58, 75, 80, 83, 84, 87, 95, 96, 98, 100, 101, 106, 107, 114, 122, 123, 126, 127, 134, 136, 138, 140, 149, 152, 153, 154, 165, 168, 174, 184, 191, 196, 205, 210 |

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| | <p>most events - message to kids? Local politics (too much) & divisive city commission/political ideology split in community; # of parents who condone underage drinking; city commissions who do not address the needs & desires of residents, rather a commission who is bought & paid for by contractors & developers; little civic pride; society becoming “too liberal” & family values cannot be taught; publicly owned power company; better dependable affordable transportation; having outsiders tell one how to live; local gov’t uses people’s opinion on when “convenient”; lacking funds for infrastructure & erosion; loss of convenience & friendliness; support social programs for under privileged; “Ethical Dilemma” - what is best for individual vs. The community; growth & too many outside values; need support for city services (i.e. HPD & HFD); lacking of tolerance; lacking preparedness for an emergency/disaster, especially for special needs; no one acting on Helena’s ideas; inadequate snow removal on streets</p> | |
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*** Topics that could have been delineated: City services, Infrastructure

Question 3: Is Helena meeting those concerns (Yes/No)? Explain

| | RESPONDENT # |
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| Yes | 9, 12, 15, 16, 23, 30, 32, 37, 46, 54, 66, 69, 77, 85, 87, 89, 94, 108, 113, 124, 138, 164, 168, 172, 179, 182, 183, 188, 189, 191, 192, 200 |
| No | 3, 5, 6, 13, 14, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34, 36, 38, 40, 43, 44, 45, 50, 52, 53, 57, 60, 62, 63, 67, 68, 70, 74, 75, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 90, 91, 92, 93, 96, 97, 98, 99, 101, 102, 103, 104, 107, 110, 111, 112, 114, 115, 116, 119, 121, 122, 123, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 139, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 149, 150, 152, 154, 157, 158, 159, 165, 167, 169, 170, 171, 174, 175, 177, 180, 181, 184, 186, 187, 193, 196, 198, 199, 208, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 216 |
| Not Sure | 1, 4, 28, 35, 65, 79, 83, 147, 151, 154, 173, 206 |
| Other | 11, 19, 148 |

*** Notes: **Yes** tallies include responses such as “Helena is trying”, “seems to be” meeting concerns, “somewhat”, “gradually”. **No** tallies include responses such as “not really”, “doubtful”

Some respondents did not respond with a yes/no type answer but provided some comments to how they saw Helena meeting/failing. As a result, the respondent numbers in the table may not match up with the respondent numbers in the comments list.

The number of “no” responses may, at first glance, be discouraging. However, note that this question is not independent and is directly tied to Question #2 - “What are your concerns (if any) regarding the quality of life issues in Helena?”. The yes/no responses and comments directly relate, for many respondents, to the answers they had supplied in Question #2. Therefore, the number of “no” responses (in the table) may seem that many Helena citizens are unhappy in how Helena is meeting their concerns, but the concerns may be limited to only a select number of topics.

Comments, questions, concerns:

- Are there ways to reduce congestion? Bus service(s) or more trolleys? (3)
- sense of smart growth w/ concerns for wildlife & open space (4)
- Need a vehicle inspection program. Police need to issue more tickets for stop sign negligence (5)
- Need to adopt a “good” planning document & stick w/ it (8)
- Need to think & protect the future (9)
- Arts, libraries, parks - YES! Helenans are accepting of a broad range of tastes, religious practices, political views - continue inculcating a value of respect for others, especially those who are “different”. (12)
- cost of living forcing change (national issue) - rich getting richer, poor getting poorer (13)
- People are running through stop signs, traffic signals, blocking intersections (14)
- Areas w/out sidewalks & unsafe for non-motorized transportation (17)
- Bike coordinator should be funded, grant money obtained for bike paths; trolley is a waste of tax payer dollars (18)
- Development on hills/mountains spoils views for all (19)
- Can’t afford all the feel good stuff like open space maintenance, bike stuff, etc. (20)
- Law enforcement should focus on bad drivers. Further development should be limited; unscrupulous development should be prohibited (24)
- Kids love to dance & socialize & party - they need to invent a cool place (25)
- Folks are discouraged from enjoying the walking mall (27)
- Community leaders know growth is a concern, but seem paralyzed or incapable of dealing with it (29)
- The walking mall should lean towards a food court concept (30)

- disappointed in direction hospital is headed - notes alternative facilities & services are efforts to meet health needs (31)
- Money is the bottom line - w/out funding, it is very difficult to build bike paths & public transportation systems. Most citizens don't understand or realize the costs associated w/ maintaining & developing affordable housing, providing public transportation systems, or maintaining our quality of life. I don't believe "the city" can ever meet the needs of all those concerns. As a community, we need to have serious dialog, discussion and debate on what it is we want as a community and what we can afford. People need to understand that Tim and the Commissioners are not "the city", we are the "entire city" and all responsible for making it a quality community. (32)
- need to be aggressive about deer. We & the commission should stick to issues we can impact - how we grow, weather the trash is picked up, whether or community is safe, etc. We need to give the local police the support they need so they can aggressively enforce the law (33)
- Impeding Issues: Traffic, development, bike paths, public transportation, deer problem (34)
- Helena residents & civic leaders are at least discussing and dealing w/ some issues - pedestrian quality of life (walking mall), sprawl, supporting opens space concepts, potential annexation of subdivisions. Status quo interests prevail at times, and I suspect that bike lanes & traffic "clamers" in neighborhoods are simply too far out there to merit real consideration (although e will get the usual poppy-cock about lack of money, etc). Helena is becoming "Anywhere USA" with is proliferation of mall culture, box stores & chain eateries, fast traffic, etc. (35)
- It appears that the current leadership is still too enamored w/ turning the walking mall into a street. A comprehensive plan for being a bicycle-friendly city appears to have died (36)
- Helena is somewhat meeting concerns in terms of land use, planning issues. Feel that the city (elected officials & staff) are at times too concerned with offending someone than providing leadership for our community. (37)
- the pressure to capitalize on real-estate is negatively affecting the qual. of life (38)
- City/county need to look for more substantial development practices. Mass-transit needs to be promoted & encouraged; Subdivisions need to promote more community walking and biking to local services such as stores, restaurants, etc. (39)
- Leash laws are weak w/ little to no enforcement (40)
- Because sidewalk maintenance is left up to the land owners, sidewalks continue to "rot away". Weed laws are too lax and seldom enforced (45)
- City needs to be more aggressive w/ growth - Growth can happen to a community before it can adequately prepared for it (46)
- City streets and traffic signals are not keeping pace w/ growth. We need to expand traffic lanes and change signals so that gridlock is avoided instead of reacting to it after. Support zoning changes for the growing number of subdivisions outside the city limits (49)

- Need to plan a Highway 12 bypass; need to establish several bus routes that operate evenings & weekends, as well as during the work week (50)
- Great Northern area is great - need more like that but geared towards youth & college students (52)
- Jobs are not competitive, but political (53)
- As well as we can w/out having any “teeth” in our development vetos - developers eventually always get to go ahead w/ plans. What say do residents really have over developers? (54)
- traffic flow needs to be addressed (55)
- Someone needs to be responsible for the public pests (deer) (60)
- Many policies or initiatives that could address some issues are voted down or are slow in coming. Zoning regs may begin to address some growth issues. New policies that help address water, but we need great culture change in how we view water (it extends beyond property lines - we’re all peeing in the same pool). It would be great if the HCC became more issue oriented & took stronger, more publicized stands on some issues. We need the walkable community position, and it needs to be a position w/ authority to actually do some stuff (61)
- Roads, schools, green spaces, parks, street lights, bike paths (63)
- Not as proactive or thoughtful as I’d like; need green, open space (67)
- We need parks! Open land, places to meet & enjoy (68)
- Helena has high morals (69)
- Blight & decay - there are areas that continue to decline
- Bridge crossing for non-motorized is perilous (79)
- Need more accessibility for the disabled (80)
- Problem - car-first urban planning; bigger roads are not the answer (84)
- High schools are over-populated, kids feel alienated, frustrated by lack of input. Helena needs more middle & low income housing, not upper income (85)
- Blight, need to enforce laws, especially decay & public nuisance (86)
- Lack of planning (90)
- Lacking long-term plans. Traffic on Custer Ave (91)
- No long-range plan is followed (92)
- Planned growth? Some subdivisions make me wonder “who approved this?”. Issues w/ traffic, deer, dogs have to be addressed (93)

- Helena allows & encourages large houses w/ low density to proliferate (96)
- Transportation projects aren't providing for increased traffic. City seems to block new industries (jobs). Need to support new business & entertainment (97)
- City not doing enough to regulate or slow subdivision development (98)
- People resist zoning until it's too late. Developers have huge power due to political & economic clout. (99)
- Decision makers need to listen to the silent majority (102)
- Sell off open space & generate income & tax base (103)
- The traffic density increase in the last 5-6 years is alarming (105)
- Development needs more foresight & vision for future (106)
- City commission failed to support the hiring of a pedestrian/bicycle coordinator (110)
- Areas are developed willy-nilly w/out regard to impact, traffic (112)
- No bike coordinator. Rich out-of-staters edging locals out of real-estate market. Lacking posted speed limits signs and enforcement (115)
- Helena seems unable or unwilling to cope with reasonable traffic issues such as street cleaning & snow removal. Getting sidewalks near a school is a struggle (116)
- We're always playing catch-up with traffic problems. We've done a good job accommodating growth so far (117)
- Need to preserve public open space & access (121)
- Meth campaign has caught people's attention. Underage drinking seems just winked at. (126)
- Gov't has no control over housing prices (133)
- new homes being built w/out upgrading roads & traffic or providing pedestrian/bike paths (134)
- Bad planning & zoning (137)
- allowing too many new business (139)
- People here are too dependent on their cars. Few safe walking/bike paths. People have lacking pride in their neighborhoods. Garbage is strewn around. Encourage city-wide clean-up days. Use trash pick-up for community service. Enforce construction workers to keep areas picked up &/or covered so wind does not blow their garbage into ditches or wherever. Blvd weeds & snow removal. (141)
- Need free after school programs for kids (142)
- Too many parking garages downtown & lacking businesses. What public transportation? (144)
- Traffic is worse. No planning around increased commercial areas (145)

- growth is making it harder for city institutions to take care of smaller tasks (148)
- too much development of vanity homes (150)
- too much concern for making money & no regard for effect on community (152)
- need more law enforcement to enforce current regulations for traffic, noise, animal control (153)
- Police should try to drive the speed limit themselves. Perhaps a “be friendly on the street” campaign (157)
- Littering & lacking enforcement (158)
- Helena is a bit naïve concerning issues bigger than itself & a little too willing to think that certain elements arriving here won’t be challenged (161)
- Sprawl is concerning (162)
- I see no change in sight for biking, walking, traffic situation (163)
- Increased begging on the streets - Is the City even looking into this issue/problem? (165)
- I love the downtown cafes that have opened (168)
- I appreciate the efforts the City has made to secure open space surrounding the city & create a green belt around the city. This should be expanded with a joint effort by the county to protect the areas outside the city by close enough for all to appreciate & enjoy (172)
- I feel the City is concentrating on the huge growth spurt & has ignored qual. of life issues (e.g. they have taken a back seat to growth). I lament the passing of the Helena I knew even just 4/5 years ago. I believe our qual. of life has diminished recently & I am not optimistic that the qual of life committee concerns will be addressed by the city (176)
- More consideration for pedestrians is needed. Speeders talking on cell phones who run red lights/ stop signs don’t seem to notice people who are walking (179)
- sidewalks are not being constructed between old & new neighborhoods (181)
- Need to address zoning in the valley. Need to keep Last Chance Gulch as a thriving core area (182)
- Giving in to too many box stores (190)
- We all live in our own little separate unconnected worlds, and care nothing for community-as-a-whole issues. Gov’t is reactive to problems, when too often it should be proactive (deer & traffic are two examples) (196)
- Not enough traffic control (198)
- Improvements to Custer Ave need to be made. Two schools, fairgrounds, new subdivisions, new construction call for more attention. (200)
- It is ridiculous that a city the size of Helena has the traffic congestion, due to poor planning (201).

- Helena needs leaders w/ experience in fast growing western towns. Home grown gov't is not always the most proactive. (203)
- The HCC is a great start (205)
- The Helena Symphony is no longer a community orchestra. The little tyrant from Penn has the rich people fooled & is making the long-time musicians go away ,or if they stay, there is no joy left (208).
- No observable traffic enforcement or ticketing for speeding; we've become a community of scofflaws. Animal control officer has no authority; he should be able to write tickets & remove animals. Zoning needs to be enforced. No observable snow removal. (210)
- Our city services are very good (211)
- Too much NIMBAs, esp. in regards to the VA home. Too many box stores. We need more trees, landscaping at the exits, flowers should be everywhere. The downtown area should host an event every week so it is full of people (212)
- Helena should be working w/ Lewis & Clark County to manage growth & development before we become a paved area like L.A. (216)

| Question 4. What do you see changing in our community that could jeopardize the quality of life in Helena? | | |
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| Topic | Comments | Commentator Reference # |
| Planning | Poor planning (think Reserve St in Missoula &/or N. MT in Helena); Land cost & rules promote sprawl, not in town development; development too fast; need long-term planning; Sprawl & impacts to water quality & sources, wildland/urban interface issues; expansion of suburbia - leads to auto dependency; sprawl with no plan of connection to other parts of town via green spaces, paths, etc; development in areas that are unsuitable (e.g. earthquake zone); unplanned growth, increased utilities & housing costs; rapid growth; overcrowded school; lower water table; preservation of open & green spaces; "How big will we grow & where are the limits?"; Lack of zone and regulation & sheer number of people moving to the Helena area; unplanned or poorly planned growth (should utilize "creative problem solving from many different parts of the community"); uncontrolled growth; lack of zoning & landscaping; developer greed; too much development/too fast - schools & infrastructure lagging; unplanned growth & sprawl; unplanned growth and the unwillingness of annexation where necessary & appropriate; inconsistent zoning enforcement (subdivisions); uncontrolled growth - subdivision sprawl; commitment to city-county plan; possible failure to handle growth; poorly thought through expansion; unplanned sprawl; "leap frogging" development; uncontrolled development - outlying areas are being invaded instead of correctly growing our city areas; out of control sprawl - infrastructure problems are cause city officials to "scramble" to catch up; new development should be required to pay for quality infrastructure - paved roads, bike paths, sidewalks, off road travel, etc; Avoiding/not addressing gap between rich & poor - can't stop growth but | 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 13, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 26, 27, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 43, 46, 58, 67, 75, 78, 82, 92, 94, 97, 98, 107, 108, 112, 114, 121, 122, 123, 129, 134, 135, 127, 138, 143, 145, 159, 162, 163, 168, 172, 177, 181, 182, 189, 195, 205, 201, 213 |

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| | can plan & accommodate; unchecked urban sprawl; developers running amuck; new subdivisions w/out infrastructure & schools; bad planning & bad zoning; fast development; uncontrolled growth; developers who won't take "no" for an answer; favor zoning, planning - planned communities w/ denser population are positive; well thought out growth w/ open space ("green belt" around Helena); lack of interest in historic preservation; not enough balance | |
| Traffic | Increased traffic & hostile drivers are making biking or walking increasingly dangerous; lack of courtesy to walkers, especially at crosswalks; unrestricted traffic flow - eventually the "community" gets lost if automotive flow becomes a priority; too much traffic! Traffic bottlenecks; needs planning; not enough Interstate interchanges (Custer is Terrible!); no east to west thoroughfare, bottleneck in traffic from new south end development; congestion; "police should drive the speed limit themselves" & a "be friendly on the street" campaign; congestion (e.g. impossible to make a left turn) | 34, 35, 51, 54, 56, 57, 58, 70, 90, 91, 92, 108, 113, 124, 146, 147, 148, 151, 154, 157, 165, 170, 173, 175, 177, 179, 184, 185, 186, 188, 197, 198, 207 |
| Bike/ped | Bikers need to learn the rules of traffic & adhere to them; unsafe for walkers/bikers; walkable communities aren't being planned | 34, 179, 181 |
| Cost of Living | Cost of living (houses) - what about state employees' limited means; cost of housing exceeds State employee raises; investment housing driving up rental rates & housing costs - leads to transient communities & landowners that don't care for the properties; rising housing costs are driving out Montanans, plus where will the community people live (e.g. teachers, cops, firefighters); fewer good jobs, lack of livable incomes; overpriced housing; homes for young people just beginning their careers or older individuals are not affordable; we have to do more for the lower income families; we need middle & low income housing, less upper income housing; influx of cost of living pressuring locals - increased housing costs, building non-durable houses; need to have affordable housing for young people & medium sized homes; rising cost of living; cost of housing! New development w/ housing costing ¼ million or more; better pay; hi cost of living, low pay; Californians driving up costs; increasing utilities impact lower income people | 3, 5, 6, 7, 19, 27, 39, 85, 96, 100, 119, 120, 133, 140, 151, 155, 159, 164 |
| Employment | good jobs available after housing boom is over | 28 |
| Arts & Culture | Precarious scene - civic center largely unused, need to attract more live performance art | 96 |
| Rentals | Increasing number of rental properties and disconnected landlords | 101 |
| Transportation | Transportation (roads) - increased traffic, noise, speed; traffic issues in residential area with addition of new I-15 interchange; must have truck restriction on Broadway to protect quality of life; increased sprawl making it necessary to drive instead of promoting walking; need to have a car (not good!); no road construction to handle growth; increasing car-centric infrastructure, lacking bike lanes, no sidewalks in new housing areas; increased need to commute to work; need more sidewalks; failure to provide transportation other than individuals' cars | 12, 15, 72, 75; 77, 96, 106, 197, 210 |
| Business District/Downtown | Walking mall threats; lack of support for arts, culture, public ed, open space; change to downtown Helena would be bad; box stores and abandonment of downtown; hate to see N. Montana & Airport area "taking over"; hope chain stores & restaurants don't overrun; need to support & protect small locally owned businesses; rampant growth of box stores is making Helena look like every other city - one big shopping mall; box stores; more local | 2, 12, 25, 35, 36, 39, 41, 46, 49, 59, 70, 79, 96, 100, 122, 130, 142, 143, 150, 182, 190, 201, 206, |

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| | less box stores; removal of walking mall; “let us have no more box stores”; empty downtown store fronts; reduction in local business - goodbye Reynolds Drug, County Market, Coast-to-Coast, Flickers, Hello Starbucks, Wal-Mart, Applebee’s, Home Depot –good bye downtown, Hello N. MT St; we need to support & protect locally owned businesses; revitalize downtown w/ a hip chain store (GAP or Old Navy?); downtown closing; refurbish the old, Great Northern pulling from walking mall; more neighborhood groceries; survival of walking mall & viability of downtown district; loss of commerce downtown; chain stores/restaurants dominating; need quality stores, not box stores; loss of downtown business & the California mall mentality (N. MT) | 207, 210, 212 |
| Open Space | Open space = good, trails blocked by McMansion = Bad; privatization of public lands; need more community gardens, more parks w/ subdivisions; lacking green space | 128, 138; 147 (?), 181, 194, 205 |
| Youth Activities | difficult for children & teens to integrate into community; underage drinking | 35, 52 |
| Education | “No Child Left Behind”; impacts on schools | 138, 147 |
| Environment | overuse of chemical lawn/field treatment - water pollution; winter air quality; deteriorating water/air quality w/ increased subdivisions - more cars, short sighted water solutions; aquifer & soil contamination; pollution; development strains water & resources; beautification, more plants/flowers | 113, 123, 155, 169, 177, 186, 199, 210, 212 |
| Drugs/Crime | drugs & crime | 132, 192, 198 |
| Urban Deer | too many deer running around takes its toll on yards; city dwelling deer; overreaction to deer; deer do not belong in town | 16, 58, 182, 200 |
| Solid waste/Recycling/Reuse | lacking quality reuse & recycling infrastructure & program (why is the transfer station reuse closed?) | 96 |
| General | Traffic and rude drivers, Generica, increased population; Spread of rigid intolerant unexamined viewpoints; water usage, more business in north valley; people think “big” is better - bigger houses, bigger stores; too many people, too many cars; drug use increasing; people from out of state that want what they left; locked/gated areas; historic older homes converted into rentals; meth use; too much growth & development; loss of open space; chain stores spreading into Valley; too many cars & people w/ high ideals that aren’t living what they idealized; pre-release center located here; lacking civil help programs; vandalism & drugs; retrograde republican politics; increased air pollution w/ increased population; increased casinos; lessening of culture in the community w/ development; overbearing cops w/ opportunity to harass; big box retail; too much encroachment in wild areas; growth; loss of small town feel - “My daughter locks everything - I never used to”; big chain stores are replacing the little ones (Gibson’s, Circus Theater, Pets Are #1); tendency for city officials to build their empires by annexation rather than cutting their losses; crowding; city lots are small & often little consideration for neighbors; cars parked on street leave oil spots that wash into drain systems & pollute state water; outlying growth, not in-fill; security changes; lack of funding for basic government services; increased drug use, meth is scary; negative dissension from a minority of people - over any little issue; increased regulation and fees; influence of non-native MTs, esp. in land values; get a sales tax for education & to alleviate property tax burden; CHANGE is GOOD, provided public safety & welfare are maintained/considered; wealth out-of-states moving here, not to enjoy the lifestyle we | 3, 4, 11, 12, 21, 26, 29, 35, 41, 44, 45, 47, 50, 51, 53, 55, 56, 57, 58, 62, 64, 65, 71, 73, 76, 80, 83, 84, 86, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 96, 99, 102, 103, 106, 110, 115, 116, 118, 120, 124, 125, 126, 127, 136, 139, 141, 144, 148, 149, 150, 152, 153, 156, 158, 161, 174, 176, 180, 191, 193, 200, 203 |

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| | <p>have, but to change it to how it was from where they came; rapid growth & commissioners over loaded & poorly informed; increased building; growth & development; cutthroat competition from box stores; attitudes - hate of different groups & homophobia; increased box stores are destroying locally owned businesses; expansion will transform Helena into another smog-plex (e.g. Phoenix, LA, Vegas); Apathy - not standing up from beliefs - family values; growing too big - don't want to be a "city"; growth not bad - brings in eateries, shops, medical - but one must have rules; box store development w/out planning or restraints; diminishing civil civic dialogue & participation; "outsiders"; "vanity" homes; \$ driving force rather than community & neighbors, more hustle-bustle; too many outside rich people that want to change Helena; fulfillment of desire from the loss of others; lacking law enforcement; outside \$ & influence; too many "liberals" moving in; lost sense of community; higher taxes w/ lower services; apathy; dogs do not belong at Live @5, Farmer's market, etc; disrespectful & uncontrolled teens</p> | |
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