

FAQs

Who served on this committee?

Members from several sectors of private business as well as the educational community and local government. A complete list of participants can be found on the Chamber's website.

How were they chosen?

The Bowling Green/Warren County Strategic Plan is designed to be an engaged plan. It is meant to be a living document that will guide the growth and development of Warren County over the next three to five years. With that in mind, the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce identified six business sectors that currently drive our economy and sought representation from each of those sectors. In addition, the Chamber sought representation from those sectors that support the entire community, including education and government.

Why is the Chamber doing this?

Bowling Green and Warren County have been highly successful in recent years. In 2015 alone, the community celebrated \$943 million in capital investment and the creation of over 1,000 jobs. Bowling Green and Warren County are now competing and succeeding at a new higher level. Thanks to our success, it is time to re-evaluate priorities toward future growth through innovation and diversification as a means to keep our economy strong for years to come. In short, it's time for Bowling Green and Warren County to "take it to the next level."

Who will implement the plan?

The plan is an interdependent, engaged strategic plan. This means that the whole community has a stake in its outcome, and many different entities will be called on to implement parts of the plan. Some examples of entities participating in implementation include: Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce, City of Bowling Green, Bowling Green Independent School District, Bowling Green-Warren County Planning and Zoning Commission, Warren County, Western Kentucky University and Warren County Public Schools.

As the plan continues to evolve, entities will be added, others will see their roles change over time, and others will fulfill their roles as their pieces are successfully completed.

When will the plan start?

The plan is an interdependent plan, which means it's not governed by any one particular group, but is instead a roadmap for the community to use as it contemplates future activities.

While some recommendations in the plan may be implemented immediately, some may be saved for a later date. Similarly, some recommendations were already in process, long before the plan's release.

It should be noted that each of these recommendations are simply that – recommendations. The implementers and the community at large will ultimately decide which recommendations are implemented and when.

How long will the implementation take?

The Bowling Green/Warren County Engaged Strategic Plan was meant to serve the community as a vision for the next three to five years.

Because of the interdependent nature of the plan, each item will work in concert with the others, and timeframes for completion will also be interdependent. Please note, however, that some pieces of the plan are already in process. For example,

- Talent Initiatives – The Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce already has several talent initiatives underway that affect the talent pipeline from the earliest opportunity in elementary school to postsecondary education to initiatives for incumbent workers.
- Healthcare Innovation District – The Medical Center and Western Kentucky University (WKU) have recently made a substantial investment in a Health Sciences Complex on The Medical Center campus, and in February, WKU announced a partnership with the University of Kentucky to build a regional medical school in the same complex.
- Barren Riverfront improvements – The City is seeking a \$750,000 grant for quality of life improvements and connectivity of two parks on either side of Barren River.
- Fiber optic network: Work to expand the fiber optic network in Bowling Green and Warren County is already underway.

How will we know what happened with the plan?

The Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce, as the convener of the project, will provide several means of communication with the public.

Online Dashboard – The Chamber will provide an online dashboard to keep the public informed about the progress of each action item in the plan. The dashboard will be continually updated as information is available.

Quarterly and Annual Reports – The Strategic Council will continue to meet on a quarterly basis to receive progress reports and provide input on next steps. A quarterly report will be posted in the Strategic Plan webpage each quarter so the public can be included in the community's progress. At the end of each year, an annual report that summarizes the year's activities will be produced and made available to the public.

What will happen now that the plan is done?

The Bowling Green/Warren County Engaged Strategic Plan is meant to be a living document, which means that it will evolve over time. As pieces are implemented and give rise to new recommendations, the plan will evolve as the community does. In this sense, the plan may never be considered “done,” but instead will serve as a roadmap to inform the community well into the future.

Is the plan available to the public?

Yes. The plan is available on the Chamber's website at bgchamber.com.