



FIRST IMPRESSIONS [TEAM REPORT FORM]

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Observations About:

Visit Date:

Presentation Date:

Team Members:

*How easy was it to get information on the community that you were visiting?
Did it accurately reflect what you saw? Did you have difficulties obtaining information on the community through a Web search?*

1. The “Five-Minute” Impression

After taking a five-minute drive through the community without stopping, the following reactions were noted.

The following observations were noted when entering the community from major entrances (signs, streetscapes, buildings, etc.)

2. Downtown Business Area

Describe the buildings, signage, infrastructure, etc.

Explain what type of businesses you observed and give a description of the variety and quality of merchandise displayed.

Describe the customer service received when you entered those retail businesses. (Were you greeted? Did you have to ask for assistance?)

What public amenities were available? (drinking fountains, benches, public restrooms, etc.)

Comment on appealing landscaping and the streetscapes.

Did you have any difficulty finding parking? Could you access multiple services from where you parked?

3. Other Retail Shopping Areas

Describe other retail shopping areas. Were the areas attractive and easy to access?

4. Industrial Parks/Commercial Areas

Is there a defined area where manufacturing industries could easily locate/expand? If so, describe.

5. Health Care Services

Comment on the availability and apparent quality of hospitals and emergency medical services.

Comment on the availability and condition of facilities for physicians, dentists, optometrists, and other healthcare providers.

What long-term care services, assisted living or nursing facilities exist in the community?

6. Housing

Give a brief description of the existing mix of housing stock. Does the local market have housing that would appeal to all income ranges? What challenges do you see in regards to finding acceptable housing? (neighborhoods, size, properties for sale, etc.)

What kinds of rental properties did you observe for persons interested in building or simply living in the community prior to buying housing?

7. Schools

Do the following schools appear to be adequate in size or do you see the use of temporary classrooms? Are the buildings and grounds well-maintained?

Pre-school/kindergarten/Head Start/daycare facilities

Elementary/secondary schools

Were you able to find print information in the community that helped assess the quality of the educational system?

8. Faith/Religion

Comment on the number of denominations and the physical appearances of the churches represented in the community. Did you observe any evidence of church-sponsored community services?

Are there any facilities or statements that some would view as intrusive or that would make someone feel uncomfortable if they were not of a particular faith?

9. Civic

Tell about the variety of nonprofit organizations and clubs within the community.

Did you observe any evidence of civic organization activity?

10. Public Infrastructure

Comment in general on the streets, street signage, sidewalks, parking, lighting, restrooms, landscaping, and streetscapes in areas other than downtown.

Did you observe land-use planning?

Comment on city/town hall (How were you received? Was there information about the town available?)

Police/fire protection:

Library:

City parks (walking tracks, ballparks, playgrounds, sportsplex)

11. Recreation/Tourism

Is the community well-known for any particular attraction or event? Do they have a community slogan that capitalizes on that asset?

Did you see any indication of significant events taking place in the community that would be of interest to both visitors and residents?

Elaborate on any significant natural or manmade features that have the potential of drawing people to the community?

Is there an obvious visitor's center, chamber of commerce office, main street office, or other facility that serves the needs of visitors? Comment on the staff, facilities, signage, visibility, etc.

Are there any restaurants, specialty shops or attractions that would bring you back to this community in the near future?

12. Wrap-up

What are the most positive things that you observed about the community?

What are the biggest obstacles/challenges facing this community?

What will you remember most about this community six months from now (positive or negative)?

Thank you for participating as a member of the First Impressions visitation team for this community! Once your team has compiled one set of comments, please return them via e-mail to the Stennis staff member who coordinated this visit. You may also mail or fax them to:

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