



JOHNSON COUNTY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

**FRANKLIN BRANCH PROJECT  
PUBLIC COMMENTS  
WEBSITE, COMMENT CARDS**

**Through July 22, 2011**

*The Johnson County Public Library Board has asked the community to comment on proposed sites for a new Franklin Branch. This is part of the overall public input program set up by the library staff. Below are comments submitted through the website [myfranklinlibrary.com](http://myfranklinlibrary.com) and those shared at the On Site Studio at the current branch.*

*The names of the public have been omitted for confidentiality purposes.*

*You are encouraged to share your thoughts by clicking here: [myfranklinlibrary@jcplin.org](mailto:myfranklinlibrary@jcplin.org).*

\* \* \*

Dear Board Members,

I know several of you and I am confident that you already know the esteem I have for you. This email is intended to be frank as to my opinions, not to be offensive. But I think this is an important issue and I have been silent way too long.

In short, I agree with some of the recent letters to the editor urging a downtown location. I believe that a library out on US 31 would be a terrible error in every conceivable way. I believe there is a considerable question as to why any increase in the size of the library is required. See Dr. Bridges comments in the Journal recently. Moreover, as a regular visitor of the library I can see how crowded it is and isn't irrespective of the "statistics". I have NEVER felt crowded or hemmed in and never have I seen the parking lot even close to full. And I go there at all times of the day.

Then I wonder why an addition to the existing building on land already owned or acquirable is not a possibility. I assume there are reasons but I fear it might be due to "suggestions" from "experts" that might benefit from less computer technology and an expanded imagination. Regardless, a move to the highway should be off the table. It should NOT even be considered because (among other reasons):

1. It is another property taken off the tax rolls. The cost projections which omit the lost taxes are vaporous nonsense.
2. It is prime commercial property for which taxes could be paid from now till eternity.
3. The present location or a downtown location is safely accessible to children on bikes and on foot. That, in my view, is the core customer. If you are in a car you can get to ANY location. The US 31 location is what the law terms an "attractive nuisance". It will attract children, but they will be unsafe in getting there. Which is better? Running across US 31 dodging Mack trucks OR walking the greenway trail or the

nice sidewalks of old Franklin? How could we consider the highway for that reason alone. The highway limits access. The other locations do not.

4. The present or downtown location is accessible to all manner of folks; walkers, bikers, drivers.....everyone, young and old. The present branch is near the park, the trail, the community center, the college, the Masonic Home residents, AND it is just off Old 31. Yet it is easily accessible to anyone that intends to get there by car via Jefferson or South St., or Old 31 from the south. And accessible from the east as well. The existing location is also not far by foot from the Girls Club, the Boys/Girls Club, the old HS on Jefferson, etc. And kids from nearly every elementary school and middle school can get there by foot safely, using the trails and sidewalks, with minimal exceptions.

5. It should be an absolute “no go” to any location not reasonably accessible to the greenway trail. Period. This is a MUST.

6. I believe that we do not challenge architects to think outside the box of their computer programs enough. The answer is always build new and do so where there is so much space that the thought is to make up reasons for it rather than innovatively maximize the space available. We are at the tip of an likely explosion into ebooks; I do not see the need to take off the tax rolls significant private property or to build a single purpose structure that is inaccessible. A downtown location would have the advantage of having a multi-use parking garage, which would help the City and the library.

Summary----this is just a short blurb of thoughts. It should be evident that the highway location has NO REDEEMING QUALITIES, NONE. Andrew Carnegie is wondering what has happened to his vision of having books accessible to kids in particular, and everyone for that matter.

My first suggestion is to explore fully what other alternatives can be done in the present facility/location, or somewhere close. Second, if not then consider doing nothing. Third, a downtown location. You can reverse 2 and 3. But for goodness sake throw out the US 31 location, for the kids sake, the taxpayers sake, and for those that actually use their legs on foot or bike. Let’s not turn the trip to the library into a game of “Frogger”, where the goal is to get frogs thru the traffic of a 4 lane highway to the other side. These are children and this isn’t a game.

\* \* \*

I vote for downtown Franklin!

\* \* \*

I favor the downtown site but not a 3 layer parking lot. Smaller is better. Will there be a meeting room for public use? Omit high ceilings and wasting energy/we need Green Technology.

\* \* \*

The library should be built at 31 & Commerce. The library has never been on that side of town & the Franklin population has increased on the north end.

\* \* \*

Putting the library where Oren Wright building is doesn’t make sense. Also, it does not guarantee that it will revitalize downtown. Building up that land costs too much \$. Also, traffic would increase!

\* \* \*

Please, please keep library here, or at least walking distance. Not out on the Highway.

\* \* \*

I have always had a pleasurable time at the Franklin Branch. I wouldn't change a thing!

\* \* \*

Would like to see the library locate to Simon Farm – more space – would fit in well with the High School.

\* \* \*

More shelves for more books if there are tall shelves with the use of a sliding ladder.

\* \* \*

I don't like the downtown site for the new library because it will flood. I have lived here since 1952 and that area always floods. They should put the swimming pool there [J]. The site at Commerce and 31 would be easier to get to. If people need a ride there they could take a bus. I wanted it at the 31 and Earlywood site because it was close to fire station and my house.

\* \* \*

We favor a downtown site for the new library because it would be a huge boost to the downtown economy. The site by the high school is too far away!

\* \* \*

If you go to one of the non-downtown sites, please include a design for bike trails to the library. Preferably off the main road so my kids can safely ride to the library.

\* \* \*

I very much would like to see the new library DOWNTOWN! I feel it is an important element in improving the vibrancy of our downtown area. I would hate to see it on N-31.

\* \* \*

I would like the library to be on US 31.

I do not want it downtown, as I don't want to have to deal with a parking garage because of security concerns and distance to be walked. It would also be hard for mothers with small children to navigate.

\* \* \*

I don't like the downtown site for the new library because it will flood. I have lived here since 1952 and that area always floods. They should put the swimming pool there [J]. The site at Commerce and 31 would be easier to get to. If people need a ride there they could take a bus. I wanted it at the 31 and Earlywood site because it was close to fire station and my house.

\* \* \*

Keep it downtown! That's where it belongs!

\* \* \*

I'd love to see the library at the Oren Wright. I have worked in libraries all over the Ohio-Indiana-Illinois area, and communities with a vibrant downtown library also tend to have more vibrant and active downtown districts. The Wright location will also add value to the west end of the downtown area which has lagged the east end.

\* \* \*

I would like to see the new library to be located at the Oren Wright or library services site. I feel that it would be a big mistake to build it in a location that people cannot walk to. The library is an anchor of any community; therefore, it should be in the heart of Franklin.

\* \* \*

I support and appreciate the efforts to keep the library within walking/bike riding in town/off trails. This keeps the accessibility to young enthusiasts and also gives great availability for summer worthwhile activities/refuge. (Not to mention Character to Franklin City Culture, etc.)

Good Luck!

\* \* \*

Wal-Mart has long been criticized for selecting sites outside city/town limits to build stores. They then draw all the business out of town and kill the downtown business district. This is exactly what happened in Franklin but the citizens fought back to revitalize the downtown. Let the library be downtown, central access to all.

\* \* \*

NOT the Oren Wright site. It floods.

\* \* \*

Dear Library Board,

I've been following the site selection process with great interest and would like to offer some comments for your consideration. I am a strong supporter of the process of improving the Franklin Branch of JCPL and intend to be a supporter of the referendum, however, I have to admit that my support is very likely conditional.

We are strong supporters of the downtown locations, but would probably work against either of the other two remaining sites, hoping instead that delay would result in future support for downtown development. Our reasons are many:

- Especially in difficult economic times, the use of public funds must support multiple goals. First, of course, is the mission of the organization that is using the public funds. But it is also important that there be an integrated approach with other public agencies that ensures synergy and fosters other "big picture" goals. We believe that Franklin as a community needs to develop the downtown area as a central meeting space that makes our town unique. Our beautiful Courthouse, the amazing Park System that we have which would be "linked" wonderfully from the 49 E Monroe St location, and Franklin College are wonderful foundations to work from. A downtown location for our library that would enhance the downtown as a place to "meet" for festivals and other community meetings would be a strong positive step and good use of public funds. Either of the other locations would be isolated and not at all integrated to other public spaces, and non-synergistic.

- Both of the "outlying" locations, especially the one on US 31 are far better used for taxable commercial development. The movement of the Police station to prime US 31 real estate was a huge mistake, and to take another prime property off the tax roles would be poor stewardship, especially when the downtown locations would in fact be very likely to improve City/County tax revenues over the long term as other downtown development would be more likely to be pursued faster in cooperation with the Franklin Development Corporation, and the work of other Franklin groups such as Discover Downtown Franklin and the Johnson County Heritage/Artcraft groups which are actively working to encourage retail, restaurant and entertainment development downtown. Even the location owned by

the school system is less favorable from a tax perspective because that ground could be “saved” for the schools long term, potentially developed for residential (adding to the tax rolls).

- The role of public libraries is changing. More and more people are consuming media via direct download, and “bricks and mortar” libraries aren’t as much about book drops as they are about being a community resource for people to meet and discuss books, or engage with media directly. We don’t need “drive thru” service that is built for cars, but human scaled facilities that are built for pedestrians. Either of the outlying locations would be essentially made for cars, especially the one on US 31, where there are no safe pedestrian or bicycle friendly amenities. The downtown locations, of course, are very pedestrian friendly, and especially the 49 E Monroe location with its easy accessibility to the Province Park trail system would be accessible by bicycle and walking from the vast majority of the Franklin population. Even the East Side location with its potential to connect to the Province Park Trail would be at the far end, making bikes/walking to be a far less likely to be used option. A new Franklin Branch that is a “destination” for humans rather than a big parking lot would be a far better use of public funds.

- Downtown redevelopment is far more “green” and sustainable than either of the outlying options. Any time we can avoid creating more impermeable surfaces and improve on the “brown” sites already needing re-development, we take positive steps toward sustainability. When we squander our opportunities in favor of more “sprawl,” we are at cross purposes to environmentally friendly goals.

I want to add that my family has “put our money where our mouth is.” When we moved to Franklin in 2003, we purchased a 130 year old house near downtown and spend \$60K renovating it. When we decided to locate our business here, we deliberately chose to invest in downtown. We could have continued to focus on our wholesale business (80% of our revenue) and rented an industrial park warehouse.

We could have opened a retail storefront on 31 or in the Greenwood Mall. But we decided to join the other handful of pioneers who dream of a downtown full of pedestrians enjoying our festivals, our Parks and trails, and yes, our beautiful new library branch. We don’t want you locate the branch downtown to help our business. Our business is downtown to help our community, and we want public funds spent in a synergistic, sustainable way that enhances our community as a destination for people.

Please do let me know how we can support you as you continue your deliberation.

\* \* \*

Downtown, downtown.

\* \* \*

“Keep current building and modify your wants to fit what you have. I’m here 2-3/week and have never seen it overcrowded. We do not need class/meeting rooms when the community center across the street supplies theirs.”

\* \* \*

Is there a reason why the current library can't be built up? If you build a second level, add an elevator, rearrange things.... would this be feasible?

\* \* \*

I believe either the East side or Simon Farm sites would be best due to room to expand in the future. Also sounds like there is less money involved, e.g. demolition of current buildings, unknown extent of

ground contamination, etc., to develop each property. I feel public access would not be a problem for either site.

\* \* \*

East side. Eastview Drive. Please.

\* \* \*

What is wrong with what we have!!!

\* \* \*

I do not feel that we need a new library. We have other community spaces to put computer labs. Our government is spending too much, let's stop with over inflating our building projects. E-books will be the future, and the need for so much shelf space will be in the past.

\* \* \*

More "Tech". Computers. AV room for patron's to work on videos. Teen & children's area separate.

\* \* \*

The eastside site at Eastview Drive and Upper Shelbyville road offers the best location in terms of future expansion and accessibility. The downtown options, while convenient for those who live near the downtown area would be limited as far as future expansion and parking spaces.

It makes sense that future growth for the city of Franklin will be on the eastside. Particularly east of the I-65 exit.

Our hope is that the decision makers will look forward more than the next 20 years and select a site that will accommodate a growing city and county with room for on-site expansion. A branch downtown would have limitations, while an eastside site would not.

\* \* \*

I believe the site of the Eastside school property would be the best location for the library. There is plenty of room for the building and parking lot, easy access, convenient location and it would be a nice enhancement for that particular area.

\* \* \*

Regardless of the final decision/site selected, you are commended for your

- tireless efforts;
- attention to detail;
- methodical approach;
- actively seeking citizen input on a continual basis;
- issuing frequent updates on the project; and
- considering new contingency sites such as the ones just announced in today's e-mail.

Keep up the fine work.

\* \* \*

I strongly favor a downtown location so that we may not only have the benefits of a new Library Center but expand and improve the center of our city.

\* \* \*

I feel that we don't need a new library. You already have the library and this is the second time and plus you have not been in the same location very long. I think it's a waste of money. What is wrong with where you are now? And what is the reason for a new location? You have plenty of room and have a good parking lot. Sorry.

\* \* \*

Public facilities, due to their funding source, should be located & built with the common good of taxpayers in mind. Therefore as a local community asset the location decision should take into account public access, community benefits & job creation. It is my opinion that based upon these factors, only downtown (DT) sites should be considered, namely 6 & 7.

Public Access & Community Benefits: DT sites are conveniently located & library visitors to DT have easy access to DT merchants – a win-win. (a vibrant DT benefits the entire community & helps attract new business & jobs). Site 6 is the preferred DT site with ample room to partner with the city to build a parking garage that can meet library needs but also county employee needs, let alone shoppers & diners & movie buffs. The current greenway & planned greenways provide bike & foot traffic access that the other sites cannot match. This will further promote healthy living, improved quality of life & community building.

Job Creation: The DT sites paired with a parking garage will be a catalyst project that will precipitate additional redevelopment & new jobs in construction and at new businesses that open in, or relocate to; the Redevelopment District Southwest of Courthouse Square.

\* \* \*

WHEN OUR ECONOMY IS IN TROUBLE AND HOMES ARE GOING INTO FORECLOSURES ,NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO SPEND OUR TAX DOLLARS FOR THIS PROJECT. RETURN TAX DOLLARS AND REDUCE OUR TAXES.

\* \* \*

1st choice would be:

We would like for the library to stay in this Current Branch location. That might mean buying additional property nearby.

2nd choice would be:

On 31, the Tractor Supply building or the old Wal-mart location.

3rd choice would be:

The Gateway Services Property on Hwy 31.

We do not want to see the library downtown where there would be no parking. We do not agree with the mayor that we need a parking garage.”

\* \* \*

Why move service centers, didn't we just spend over \$300,000 on that property plus a lot for parking?

\* \* \*

Why can't we build on the current site? The map in the On Site Studio is deceiving. It doesn't show all the property JCPL owns on South Street. 2008 studies are too old. Are quiet study areas really used? Group study areas are old design. What about information commons?

\* \* \*

Best location for new library is downtown – for many reasons.

\* \* \*

Please choose a downtown site. Franklin is such a lovely small town and we need to preserve the downtown. A library is vital to a community and downtown would best serve walking users.

P.S. the Franklin staff is wonderful!

\* \* \*

I'm confused by the info as presented. I very much want the library to stay downtown.

\* \* \*

I hope you choose downtown site. This could be the beginning of downtown development – to make Franklin, once again, a city of activities.

\* \* \*

While I can appreciate the desire to keep growing, the project needs to be economical. Also, the idea that the current computer stations are always full may be, but if you limit game playing and social networking on them there may be a lot more open.

\* \* \*

You got to be kidding. Have you looked at how many houses in Johnson County are foreclosed on each month? I know I do not want higher property taxes with the economy in such a mess. Please reconsider and put this on the back burner and re-look at it in a couple years.

\* \* \*

My vote: East Franklin School Property

\* \* \*

As a library patron I want easy access to the library. Downtown Franklin is not easy access. I want to be able to get in and get out. Downtown does not fill that requirement. As far as bringing more business downtown, there has to be something to go downtown to and if I want to go downtown I will get into my car and drive there at another time. We in Franklin are not the only ones who use the library. A site on US 31 would be the most convenient and would have the best access for everyone in the area to get to. I would vote against the library if it was going to be in the downtown area of Franklin.

\* \* \*

To whom it may concern:

I was born and raised in the city of Franklin in 1937. I have watched the evolution of the downtown of its ups and downs over the years. When the old library was moved from Madison Street, I was very disappointed at the location away from the near downtown. And now we have a chance to redeem our location and I would truly support a near downtown site.

I would vote for the site that was earlier considered just across from the current city building. That whole block could be turned into a very nice showplace along with retail establishments and parking. Even though some tenants are not willing to sell at a reasonable price, an architect could work around those people and with some land trading, over 3/4th of the block could be turned into a nice library site.

I am very interested in the future of downtown Franklin and would like to get involved in such a move if asked.

\* \* \*

I like the library just the way it is. If it has to move, the Simon Farms property makes the most sense.

\* \* \*

I would like the new library to be anywhere but downtown. I do not want to park in a parking garage.

I like the US 31 sites.

\* \* \*

I do like the idea of the library being downtown. This property allows easy access too. Could flood mitigation be obtained by locating parking below the library? Secondly my choice would be the Simon Farms area. Once again easy access. Thirdly is the Old Wal-mart Building. Easy access but the age of the building would probably require tear down. After paying for "land improvement", I think this would be a waste of money. Also the flood potential may be troublesome.

\* \* \*

I like the downtown sites but I'm worried about parking and traffic.

\* \* \*

I strongly support a site that is downtown, in or near the CBD; it is important that the site is accessible to pedestrians/bicycles. Therefore, I would strongly object to a site located along US 31 (Morton St.)

\* \* \*

I'm intrigued by the downtown location, but have serious reservations.

1. No public building should be built on a 250 or less year floodplain. (added area development can quickly made a 250 year to something much less.) if the library itself is elevated, parking could go underneath...

2. City Council needs a more unified vision. (i.e. if it want to 'reserve' Old City Hall for a non-profit entity [no taxes, few people attracted to downtown, etc.] I question how committed it will be to assisting this project – parking, sidewalk or other infrastructure upgrades, etc.) as a show of good faith, it should clean up the Courthouse square (old fabric store, cleaners).

\* \* \*

I would prefer to see the library take over the old Wal-Mart site rather than develop undeveloped land by the schools. Should the library move to the old Wal-Mart location, a pedestrian walkway over 31 would be a great addition.

\* \* \*

I'm hearing comments that preference are for a downtown or close to Franklin for a new library. High ceilings are not a necessity unless books are shelved with use of a ladder. Lots of ideas. Good luck! Just NO wasted space, please!

\* \* \*

I think the Downtown area, especially area #6, is a great choice, but since that area has flooded I am assuming the area would have to be built up.

\* \* \*

Put new Library by the new Fire House north.

\* \* \*

I would prefer the new library to stay Downtown – even though the site near Wal-mart would be closer to me. Don't like the site to be up north.

\* \* \*

Any one of the downtown sites would be my choice. I like the idea of the library being a center of destination, a meeting place, a place that everyone is familiar with, and downtown would accomplish those things.

\* \* \*

Don't need another Taj Mahal in Franklin like the high school. Franklin NEEDS meeting room for 40 with food service.

\* \* \*

Former Wal-Mart site – centrally located!

\* \* \*

How about SR44 West of McDonald's – an entrance to the city

\* \* \*

I would not choose a downtown site, or any with flooding potential. I like the McCallum site best, but the Simon Farm site would be okay, or the one out by the elementary schools. Make sure there's room for growth in the future.

\* \* \*

I would say NO to a downtown site – too confining – no room to expand. Gateway or Simon Farms sites OK, even though further from my home. Also, neither of these sites are near a flood plain!

\* \* \*

I am in favor of the Oren Wright site. I want the library to be in the downtown of Franklin close to neighborhoods, businesses and three of Franklin Schools. A link to the Greenway Trail could be easily be made.

I favor this location because it could be built of property that the city already owns. It could sit atop the parking garage that the city could build, thereby eliminating some expense of building the library, such as foundation, and no need for flood insurance.

The library can be linked by elevator to the garage. a berm could be built on one side of the garage with a winding sidewalk through a green space including gardens, tables, benches for sitting outside making the library accessible in one more way.

\* \* \*

Of the remaining sites ,after it has been narrowed down-the flea market/tractor supply location, which was the old Wal-mart building before they build a new Wal-mart north of there, I think is a no-brainer as to being the best location. A nice open area that weather -wise in spring, summer and fall would have plenty of fresh air and sunshine. It ,of course already has the building for the library and a big parking lot that could be expanded even more towards the road.

If after renovations for the library are completed, if further expansion in coming years is needed, there is plenty of land to the west and Southside of the building. An elementary school is just across the street from the new location -- and next door to the elementary school is a middle school. The new high school would be half the distance instead of twice that far to the current location on the southeast side of town.

\* \* \*

In today's voicemail (left Saturday, April 9, around 6 p.m.) there was a short message from a person who left no name or other identifying information. She said that she saw an available lot on Hwy. 44 next to the Fire Department, and she feels that would be a good place to build a library in Franklin.

\* \* \*

I have lived in Franklin almost all my life and take a lot of pride in my home town. I would love to be more involved in all the volunteer opportunities, but my health prevents this. I do try to give my opinions when possible. I have been very interested in the Library Project, I used the library a lot when I was young and could walk to it on the corner of Home Avenue and Madison. There are still many seniors, kids and young people that do not have transportation and like to use the library for entertainment. But there are also many that need it for school work.

The Library should be centrally located with easy and safe access for our residents. Reading is very important, especially for our younger generation, it can even help them stay out of trouble. If you can't read you will have a tough time succeeding in life. But what if you couldn't even get to the library?

I was appalled at the survey that listed properties north because they would be accessible for White River Township. Don't they have their own library?. At least Greenwood is closer for them. Do you really think a large population of people from White River Township would come to the Johnson County Library?

On your web site you list accessibility as number one. I suggest you take a mechanical compass and draw a circle around each proposed library site, the circle at the most, would be no more than two miles from the library site at the outermost edge of the circle. Study this for accessibility of the most people. Keep in mind the safety of the trip. I think this will give you a good idea of where the new library should be located.

I'm glad the McCallum property is no longer an option. I lived out that way for 30 years and worked on that corner at Cinderella Florist for many years. It is a very busy intersection. There were many wrecks, speeding, people not stopping, even though there is a stoplight there.

Simon Farms and Gateway are very far from the general population.

The old Wal-mart site isn't too bad of an option, but it poses a danger in accessibility.

My choice is the Oren Wright area, even though it isn't as large as the others. I have written to you before about my thoughts on this site. You want to revive the downtown area and what better way to get people to downtown than the library. You could build a parking garage with the library on top. That would be a safety feature in case of another flood and provide much needed safe parking.

Visualize people going to the library and then strolling along and into the many small shops that would line the walks. In the summer a mother could take her kids to the library and then have lunch or an ice cream treat. Imagination Station is already just around the corner and my grandkids always beg to go there. Others could visit these many shops to purchase things for themselves or for gifts. I have seen brochures where you want to revitalize that area and what better way than to start then with a library that is guaranteed to bring people to the area.

Hope you give what I have written some thought and make a good decision soon.

\* \* \*

Please, please, please, do NOT put the library downtown. I'm 60 and as I get older, I do not want to have to navigate from a parking garage to the new library. I visit the library now once or twice a week.

I would like any of the suggested other locations along US 31 or out by Needham school.

\* \* \*

Dear JCPL Board:

After giving this project much thought, I applaud you for including the present library in you final selection process. I agree that the property has some restrictions. I see no problem in considering a 2 story addition with an elevator to access the second floor, since the building cannot support a second story.

I. also question the large number of parking spaces said to be required. I would imagine that an exception could be granted for fewer spaces. I wonder if the property to the south of the Library might not be available at a lower cost than property in the downtown area or on U.S. 31.

At this present time, I am not in favor of additional debt and also removing prime property from the tax rolls,. which only increases our individual tax assessments to fund all of our budgets.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to express my thoughts.

\* \* \*

Where do I prefer the new library site - East Franklin Schools Property.

Hopefully, whatever location is chosen... adequate parking will be provided. That is currently the only problem I have with the existing library.

Thanks for letting me share my input.

\* \* \*

I go to the Franklin Branch from time to time, but from where I live, it is hidden....and hard to get to.

Get it out in sight.....The old Wal-Mart Location would be good..

When I go to Franklin, I go to Wal-Mart, Lowes, TSC, Kroger's, Chase Bank that is where the action is, so put your branch there.

Remember, location, location, location.....the old site is hidden, I bet Franklin College could use it..

\* \* \*

Joanne Spears says she is not in favor of moving the library downtown, or anywhere else. She says that the library has bought quite a bit of property over the years near our current location and we should stay there – either expand or build a second story. She says she comes to the library at least once per week and never has a problem parking.

I did tell her that building on the current site had been studied extensively but was found not to be able to be carried out because of land issues, etc. I also mentioned that some of our regular patrons haven't encountered parking problems because they visit the library at times of relatively low-use, but that at certain times the parking lot does fill up.

She was very nice and seemed to accept what I said, but I told her that I would pass all her concerns on to those making the decisions.

\* \* \*

I think it should stay right where it is.

\* \* \*

I personally do not think we should build a new library. There is a beautiful library in Trafalgar and it is not even open on Sunday.

Until we 100% utilize what we have every day of the week I do not think we should build any more. Also with books going electronic will this have any effect on the libraries?

If you do decide to build I would prefer it to be where the Oren Wright building had been.

\* \* \*

Well, since I live on the north side of town I would of course love to see it built on the north edge. But, to consider all aspects of the convenience I would think along the Hwy 31/Morton Street corridor would be the most convenient for the most people. Thanks for asking for input!!

\* \* \*

Keeping the library near downtown is important to me. Foot-traffic must remain. My choice: Former Oren Wright Building Area.

\* \* \*

The former Wal-mart location would be an excellent location

\* \* \*

My name is Scott Graham, I am a lifelong Franklin resident. I live outside of the city limits, but have a vested interest in our Downtown. My wife and I own Generations Collision on Monroe Street.

We are the 4th Generation of our Family business. I am active with Discover Downtown Franklin, and am very passionate about the health of our Community. I feel that the library has its roots in the Downtown, and should remain a vital part of the "core" of our town.

A library is an "anchor" and I highly encourage you to choose a downtown local. I feel that as we improve and revitalize our downtown, that we can benefit the Library as much as it can help us! Thanks, Scott.

\* \* \*

I would like to see the Library locate to the downtown area, either the Monroe St site or the old Oren Wright area. But, I must be honest, if you cannot keep the cost under the \$12 million building cap, then expand the current site because I will not vote for a referendum and will actively lobby against one.

In today's digital world with I-pads, Kindles and the internet you cannot convince me you need a 70-90,000 square foot building.

And, if you have not noticed, our economy is just beginning to make a comeback. The last thing struggling citizens need is another property tax increase.

Finally, if you did not notice, the taxpayers of Johnson County have already turned down a referendum for a new jail and several school referendums. Quit wasting our money on consultants and surveys. Go to the coffee shops, bars and churches in the community and listen to the conversations. We all want a library we can be all proud of, but \$12 million is enough to provide that!

\* \* \*

A patron called and said she would like the new library to be located east of Franklin, on the high school property, or on US 31. She definitely does not want it downtown.

\* \* \*

Had you considered the land just west of McDonald's on SR 44 and it is just too expensive? That would make a nice entrance to Franklin.

I question whether folks want to mess with a parking garage and extra hassles when coming to a library in Franklin-maybe in Downtown Indy, but not here. I would hate that personally and I really think folks don't want to deal with the dangers of a parking garage at night. That is just a deal breaker to me in any discussion of locating downtown. You should be where there is plenty of surface parking. Several of those other sites have it.

Have you ever seen the library at Noblesville (you can see it from I-69) it is an "entrance" to the city effect.

Any site where you can leave the entrance and parking on the same level for easy access (especially when carrying loads of books) would be good.

Also, since more and more library space seems to be devoted to media use (computers)-isn't it kind of silly and wasteful to have a 20 foot ceiling over a line of computer cubicles? Why not save the energy, and space and consider less "soaring" areas for the computers.

I like the Trafalgar branch but in eras when energy is getting more and more expensive, it makes no sense to create such huge halls-especially when you could line up rows and rows of computers in that same space....

Since the future seems to be more e-books, etc., and less real books, any future library should be geared towards that reality. A real shame in my opinion, but probably realistic....who knows-a future library may only be virtual anyways?

Please be thinking for long term use and cost.

\* \* \*

To Whom It May Concern,

I saw an ad in today's Daily Journal for the myfranklinlibrary website. I appreciate such an easy method to provide feedback!

I would like to see the new library located downtown. I believe this would provide a great collaboration opportunity for the various partners involved in downtown revitalization efforts and would be beneficial for all involved.

In terms of exterior design, I support something that would fit with the historical architecture design of other downtown buildings. Of the examples listed on the website, I favor the design of the Chelsea Library.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

\* \* \*

There is actually only one site for the location of the new library branch and that would be the site known as the "Former Oren Wright Building Site." Of course the main question is what is this new building and what does it do? What is its significance? What place does it play in "Franklin?" Is it the Johnson County Library, serving not only Franklin but the greater Johnson County area? Is it a Book Store much like the "Strip Mall versions we see today?" Is it a function in and of itself, not needing or adding to any other function within the city of Franklin? Is it an "Institutional" type building that is significant and adds synergy to other activities? Or is it a temporary, functional only building, that should be designed for intentional obsolescence in about 20 to 30 years? Are books the only thing it's intended to offer to the general public? Should it be designed for intentional re-usability as well as the ability to adapt to changing technology and expansion without requiring a new building or the demolition of the original structure? How does a building interact with the city and community at large? What is urban design, even if it is on a somewhat small scale? Are buildings simply unconnected, self serving, contrivances scattered about the landscape having only the most meager association with anything other than their stated purpose?

This is a key question. Deciding sites for buildings in this community is a very sensitive subject. Trying to decide where the Franklin High School would go only took seven years and political fights the like we had never seen around this town. Making a mistake, even a well intentioned one results in a building being placed on a site that will either guarantee its success or utter failure. Again, the question is what is this building and what will it do? The city of Franklin, and indeed most of Johnson County doesn't know what it is what it wants to look like.

One portion, and not an insignificant portion of people see the world in terms of transportation and convenience moving from one place to another without regard to what place has, as far as relevance, to any other activity or function. The roads and highways are the daily connection to most people of this mentality. It is only natural too. If you have grown up in the last 50 years, cars and shopping malls and strip malls and throw away buildings are the norm not the exception. The process and circumstance that caused towns and cities to be built and the shape of those towns and cities has changed immensely. Economies drive the placement and even the shape of buildings. Look at the design, shape, placement and even the materials that buildings have been constructed out of the last 45 or 50 years and anyone can see that what exists in all the outlying counties around Indianapolis reflect that.

I said one portion of people see the built world one particular way mostly due to the way they grew up in a society that has been a fast paced without a real plan and maybe that is the way it should be.

Another portion of the people in and around Johnson County are beginning to ask questions about how things should be... possibly. Having a large metropolitan area, like Indianapolis, can be a cause for concern but it can also be something to watch in terms of economy and construction and how people live and how society functions. When Indianapolis diversified and crushed its own downtown in favor of chasing the population as it fled the inner city and they began to build away from the city. Small towns and cities did the same thing. They began their own deconstruction.

The way real estate works is that land and property is valued by how much you can get for it or if you want to build in a particular place, how much you will have to "pay" for it. Obviously when it became just as easy to build a business outside the traditional downtown or corporate city as it was previously known, there became less and less reason to build in the old traditional places and indeed it became tenuous at best to even maintain a presence in a place that people would have more trouble visiting and would cost more to maintain. Indianapolis, in the sixties and into the seventies, became known as "Naptown" because they literally did close down the city after about 5:30 or 6:00 pm every day. Only those activities that supported city and state government stayed open to any great degree. The old traditional restaurants and stores held on for as long as they could but most were on their last legs or out of business by the mid seventies. What would become the "saviors" in a way, sports were already located away from downtown. There was no real history of having large sporting events downtown. Indianapolis was not a "major league" town. Bush stadium was out one West 16th street, Butler (Hinkle) Fieldhouse was way up past 46th street and the Fairgrounds Coliseum was out on 38th street and the Indianapolis Speedway was way out on West 16th street next to another town. Nothing was happening. It was the same in many small cities and towns like Greenfield, Plainfield, Noblesville and yes Franklin. They all had thriving downtown areas up until the 1960s but when Indianapolis deconstructed, so did these up and coming small cities. The government offices and the accompanying businesses that could rely on them survived and almost everything else fled or died. The functions were haphazardly scattered all over the nearby community. Some located close together as part of a shopping mall or strip mall which were cheap but quickly constructed buildings designed to maximize return on the investment. They were not expected to last more than 15 or 20 years. They were designed to be completely overhauled or replaced in that amount of time. The Greenwood Shopping Center is the perfect example. It has undergone more remodels, expansions and facelifts than Joan Rivers. It has to in order to survive. Such places are little imitations of what was once the small city. Indeed the very reason that drove businesses away from the high priced downtown areas of the traditional town are now present here. The property is THE most expensive to rent or build on and businesses move in and out at very quick pace. The biggest difference in the mall or one of the strip malls nearby is parking. There are acres of it.

It is into this situation that the decision to build a Franklin Library Branch is thrust. As I said before having Indianapolis nearby can be cause for concern but it also acts as a laboratory for watching how an "urb" can change too. In the late seventies and early eighties a number of "concerned" people in Indianapolis had another vision of what Indianapolis should be or ought to be. They looked at the decaying cities of the northeast and Midwest and tried to come up with something different. Now over 30 years later that vision has resulted in a quite different "downtown Indianapolis." The best malls moved all the way out of Marion county getting closer to the people that had either moved away from downtown or they settled there to begin with. However Sports and everything that they bring are now downtown and now large corporations as well as a large mall have moved back downtown and now housing is experiencing an enormous "boom" in an economy that has shut down the large housing surge that created so many suburbs in the outlying counties around Marion county.

So while many businesses are not going to ever move back downtown, any downtown, a great many now see a reason to do exactly that. Special events and services that feed off of one another are being

located downtown. With the cost of housing going up, as well as cars, fuel and transportation as well, being located closer to a downtown has its benefits. Government and Institutional service such as a Library tend to thrive in a downtown situation. While the mall or the remotely located site just off the highway may offer unlimited parking they can't offer as much of one thing that a downtown situation can. That "something" is security and the ability to move around, on foot going to multiple locations. When Jane Jacobs wrote her seminal book called "The Life and Death of Great American Cities" in 1959 she showed quite decisively that having people around and present is the best security anyone can have. Large expanses of paved parking and remote locations, reinforce the sense of isolation and vulnerability. "Well designed", high quality buildings, placed close to each other and having a time frame corridor promotes usage and security and encourages the public to feel "at home" there.

If you take a look at cities that have grown up due to large concentrations of suburban growth like Carmel and Fishers and even Greenwood or the White River area you see these places now trying to "create" downtowns where none really existed before. All these "places" had their small buildings gathered together, sort of, as a place to place on a map and so they could call it a town but now these areas are trying to replace these old remnants with something more substantial. Carmel is probably closest to realizing those dreams but small cities like Franklin already have the framework in place without having to spend hundreds of millions of dollars to construct them from scratch.

While I can't argue, in the short term that a quick flashy building just off of 31 or even the interstate might seem like the "rational" or "economically" best choice, it won't be the right one in the end. The "Library" is a place that is a keystone and a DESTINATION place. When you think of a town or city, even one that is relatively small like Franklin, you think of the LANDMARK type of building. For those in Franklin, it is the Courthouse or "Old Main" at Franklin College. If you think these are not important think about a place like Anderson Indiana which had one of the most beautiful old courthouses anywhere in Indiana but tore it down to stay current with the times. Like Anderson itself, which is a shadow of its former glory, the destruction of such a landmark and replacing it with the anonymous contraption they have now epitomizes this collapse. If a landmark building is not important one would wonder why Franklin College so quickly poured millions of dollars into the rebuilding and reconstruction of "Old Main" after the horrible fire back in the eighties. Benchmark, identifiable, buildings are, for better or worse the image of a community.

Franklin is at a point where they gather their essential activities that make sense being grouped together, or they don't. Whether we like it or not, and most of us don't, travel, in the foreseeable future is going to become more and more prohibitive. We, as members of this community, will have to keep using our cars and driving to get places but having those activities scattered far and wide will make them ever more expensive and less desirable. The clumping or centralizing of destinations will begin to make greater and greater sense. In the past it was recognized that parking was an enormous dilemma for downtown locations but in today's economy and as more and more destinations are beginning to be located adjacent to or as part of building complexes, the normally prohibitive costs of building parking facilities are beginning to be more affordable. Small towns and Universities that used to pass on the idea of building parking facilities are now building them. Keeping their communities pedestrian based and "walkable" has become more desirable.

In one unusual "experiment", the Artcraft Theater, in downtown Franklin has been a resounding success due to these forces now at work. It is a destination place. An ever growing number of restaurants of ever growing sophistication are now dotting the downtown of Franklin. While the downtown has a long way to go and is still essentially a "daytime" focused, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm type of town, things are changing.

While as a designer, I can't vouch for the type or quality of the facility that is being planned, I can absolutely say that one special, precisely and cleverly designed Franklin Library Branch can play an

enormous part in not only bringing the downtown of Franklin back, it also will play a part in "RE-ESTABLISHING" the library as the informational center of Franklin as a community.

This Library branch is not a Borders or Video rental or Office Max. It is a public education center and every bit as important as any building in a community. This building has the potential to become the most important building built in Franklin or even Johnson County as a whole, in the last 60 years. Nothing short of a new courthouse or high school has this kind of impact. Indeed even a high school, which has a rather narrow slice of the community involved, is as impactful. In terms of importance a courthouse might match this importance but think for a minute. How often do you actually go into the courthouse? Now think for a minute how much more likely you or one of your family is likely to enter a library.

I am against the downtown site. If it is going to be argued that locating libraries downtown is in the best interest of the public, why wasn't the Trafalgar branch, the Clark Pleasant branch, or the White River branch located in those communities' downtowns?

The Franklin Redevelopment Commission has offered city tax dollars to build a parking garage downtown, and this is essentially a bribe. The location of the library is for sale to whoever can offer the best money incentive.

If this is the way it is set up, eliminate the word "public" from the proceedings, since special interest groups will be the ones to decide on the library's location. Lots of people are very disgusted, including many of my neighbors in the Paris Estates area, people I golf with, etc. The library board should use common sense when choosing a site.

My preference would have been for the east side, but I also understand people who feel the Hwy. 31 site would work well. The downtown site, however, is just being put forward by people whose interest is revenue and property values in that area, not by people who care about the convenience of the public.

Essentially, the choice of the new library's site is for sale to the highest bidder. Even the person who conducted the poll admitted that it was "skewed" because White River Township residents voted in it – but shouldn't all JC residents have a say in the library's location? Basically the lobbying for this project is being led by the usual "good old boy" network.

\* \* \*

Simon Property, US 31 is the best. Not Downtown. It's in the floodplain. You would have to pay parking meters. Congestion. No space for parking garage. Keep it and enlarge only to extent of present tax rate. No more elimination of our tax base.

\* \* \*

Please keep the library close to the College and downtown Franklin.

\* \* \*

Questions from patron at Franklin Branch: What is all the stuff in the lobby with the maps? What's wrong with this building? Why can't you just add to this building? [Can't you build up? How old is this building? That's not very old. That's the problem with government,. They tear things down after 25 years. They build cheap to start with and things don't last. All they want to do is raise my taxes.

\* \* \*

I read with interest the various releases that came out yesterday. Having had a little time to consider the “town hall” meeting last week and the new information, I’d like to offer a few reactions:

My number one concern remains feasibility of this project and the costs (never communicated to the public) of the work that has been done so far and is ongoing. Although the poll is somewhat encouraging, it still seems to be precarious at best whether this project has enough support to pass referendum.

I’m also concerned about the floating of the \$30 million total. Having managed a 60,000 square foot building/renovation project myself in 2005-06, (Vineyard Community Church of Greenwood), I’m very surprised at that figure. I would be deeply disappointed if a complete renovation of the current site into admin offices couldn’t be accomplished for \$75-\$100/square foot, so see perhaps \$2 million as a generous figure for that work.

Even at \$200/sf for a new 70,000 sf library, which would be expensive construction to say the least, the total for that would be \$14MM. Adding \$1MM for planning/site work...maybe another \$2-3MM for equipment, etc. I just can’t imagine a project that exceeds \$20 Million, and frankly, that seems exaggerated. I am concerned that the lack of vision/leadership on this project – coming out with strong advocacy for site/design, etc., and better early costing, is hurting the project.

The general polling has quite different results than the town hall feedback. My “gut” indicates that you need to pay attention to that gap. Your “advocates,” people likely to motivate and mobilize their circles of influence, some down far more strongly on a downtown location, and show more concern about funding.

That should give you pause.

The dramatic overlap switch in the coverage maps between the two remaining locations is significant. Your polling shows that the 31 location is more favorable county-wide, and more even if you exclude White River Township, but what if you looked only at the four townships (Franklin, Needham, Nineveh and Blue River) that are most likely to actually use a new Franklin branch?

Your town hall participants were 78% from 46131 (same as the new branch) and in aggregate 69% of the town hall participants said that incorporating downtown revitalization was important, and 62% chose downtown as the best choice outright. It is likely then, that well over 80% of the 46131 town hall attendees hold that position.

Clearly, while countywide voters must approve the funding for a new library, stronger consideration as to location should be given to those constituents who would actually use the new facility.

Question 12 in the town hall poll was very unfortunate. 31% of participants chose ease of “driving/walking” but those two are worlds apart. You have no way of knowing whether voters were talking about car or pedestrian access. Thankfully, Q20 gives you important guidance. 93% of people think that walking/cycling access is important, and 71% thought it crucial (strongly agree). There is no question in your entire polling with such strength of unanimity.

The summary statistics (star ratings) really misstated the importance of “green” concepts. As I mentioned to Bev in the post-meeting, “paving paradise to put up a parking lot” is not a 3-star green solution. Redevelopment of “brown” sites is probably at least a 4-star if not 5-star solution. Since you use arithmetic averaging with no weighting, that overstates the benefits of the 31 site, especially when the lack of safe or convenient pedestrian/cyclist access is considered. It’s not hard – the overwhelming “green” choice is downtown redevelopment.

I was disappointed to see the Monroe Street site dropped in favor of the Oren Wright location. The potential for collaboration with Province Park is a huge potential benefit to Monroe St, especially as it dramatically mitigates the lack of acreage for outdoor activities. We also lose some of the potential for expanding our relationship with Franklin College which a new facility with expanded meeting rooms could definitely support.

Finally, the Courthouse Annex being unfortunately placed to “lose” a fourth of our potential for supporting the central “square” as an activity hub that would continue to attract restaurants/retail is exacerbated by placement West, landlocking pedestrians away from the synergies of near North Main, East Jefferson and Court Street. It’s simply poor urban planning by comparison.

With reference to the above bullet, I was handed a drawing of a “citizen proposal” that showed a mixed use development of the Monroe St. block that seemed quite interesting. I don’t know the exact source (I got it from my neighbor), but I’m wondering if that was an official presentation to the board that was being considered, or not. The potential for a public/private partnership that would have “condo-like” out-spaces at street front on Monroe (possibly relocation of Richard’s Kitchen in the drawing I saw, seems to be something with a bit of genius in it. I have no dog in that particular hunt, but am quite curious.

Finally, I must renew my question about funding some of the expansion through “fee for service.” Expanded meeting rooms don’t need to be free, just inexpensive. The Park District has proven well that public services can be financed through public capital but supported considerably through fees. (City Pool, Kickapoo Day Care, etc.) If you want to expand from 16 to 100 computer stations, why not make 25 of them “shoulder to shoulder” and free for up to an hour if people are waiting, then have 75 of them in larger “study carrel” type of settings (perhaps 4-5’ wide like a standard office desk) that can be used for a modest fee?

Broadband and hardware are expensive. Even “cheap” \$20/month DSL plus a \$500 computer that has a 4 year life represents \$1/day over those four years to own your own PC that you fund up front. Surely \$1/hour could be charged for such premium services. If you believe each station would be used even 6 hours a day, that would generate \$450/day or over \$150K/year in computer access fees, which could service \$3 Million of your bond. Similarly, you don’t communicate the number of meeting rooms in your 70,000 sf plan, but even at very modest usage fees, it is likely that this could be a source of substantial revenue. I’d like these things to be considered and communicated so that as support is requested from the community, taxpayers can be shown that this resource will benefit us all, and thus we all pay a little (very little if we do a more reasonable \$20MM project with \$5MM or more funded through use fees) - \$1/month for the average homeowner, and those who use it most will have great services available at modest but appropriate cost.

Finally, I believe that my original feedback was in fact received, but the system probably should be configured to provide an auto-response with, “Thank you for your feedback,” and communicating what, if any response the submitter can expect. When I hit “send” I have no way that my comments have been received. I think that is very dangerous when you’re trying to develop funding support. Ask for feedback, great, but prove you use it, or you can get a serious backfire.

If invited to the community advisory group, I would gladly participate.

Thank you.

\* \* \*

I like the idea of a downtown library to help keep downtown revitalized. I DO NOT like the idea of the location off of N. 31 across from Wal-Mart.

\* \* \*

(Regarding the Town Hall Meetings) There should have been time for open comments and opinions. Also, it took un-necessary time for the presents to read all the info on the screen. We are capable of reading. We do not want a new branch because we do not want our property taxes to increase!

\* \* \*

Just a reminder---the property across from the city building can be purchased for about \$700,000 for the 5 pieces not including Newkirks or the real estate company -- and these can be Project # 2 of the future plans -- all the property owners of the 5 pieces are willing sellers -- and the location is the best for Franklin and its future to revitalize downtown.

\* \* \*

I'm aware that all of you live in a bubble apparently brought on by the fictional works that you work with every day, but as a taxpayer in Johnson County, perhaps you should get a dose of reality. In case you haven't noticed, our county is experiencing a severe cash shortage, to the tune of \$2.3 million dollars. I'm appalled that at a time when Johnson County is facing budget cuts, possible reduction in staff and services, the Library Board moves forward with a plan for an unnecessary building that will raise property taxes.

Have you checked with Johnson County to see how many homes have been foreclosed on and are sitting empty? For the past three years there have been at least 1,200 foreclosures each year in our county - there are literally hundreds of empty houses sitting around.

Who do you think is going to pay for this library? I understand that all of you are anxiously awaiting the plaque on the cornerstone that emblazons all of your names for time and all eternity as the architects of this new building, but please be aware that this is taxation without representation and this is the ultimate in arrogance.

I think your plans are a slap in the face to the tax payers of our county. I fervently OPPOSE your library and will do all in my power to convince the citizens of our county, which shouldn't be too hard, that your plans are frivolous and that not only do we not need a new library, but we need to remove this current library board, yourself included.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meetings and expressing the opinion of myself and other county residents with some common sense.

\* \* \*

Let's keep the library as close to downtown as possible. It could help bring more commerce to downtown.

\* \* \*

Too bad we couldn't have thought of outgrowing a one-story building without adequate parking BEFORE we built this library??

Why didn't we build a two-story to begin with??

\* \* \*

Dear Site Selection Team for the new Franklin Branch of the Johnson County Public Library:

Thank you for soliciting community input on the site for the new Franklin Branch. I appreciate the openness of the process and am pleased to have the opportunity to share my thoughts.

I am a 20-year resident of Franklin, and as the subject line of my e-mail indicates, I am a strong supporter of locating the new Franklin Branch in downtown Franklin at either the current JCPL Services Center area or the former Oren Wright Building area. My reasons are the following:

1. The mixed-use nature of the downtown area with its combination of businesses, apartments, and houses is well-suited for the new Franklin Branch. As noted in the National Association of Realtors' 2011 Community Preference Survey, mixed-use areas are increasingly attracting residents because "most Americans would like to live in walkable communities where shops, restaurants, and local business are within an easy walk from their homes, as long as those communities can provide detached single-family homes"—which certainly describes downtown Franklin and makes a case for placing the new Franklin Branch there.
2. Both of the downtown sites are walkable and safe for pedestrians, unlike the other sites which will require most users to access them via car. If library patrons—and particularly children and teens who cannot yet drive—can access the library on foot or by bicycle, that makes the library more accessible to a wider range of individuals in addition to contributing to a healthier and more active lifestyle in our community.
3. Putting the new Franklin Branch in downtown Franklin provides the downtown with another "anchor store" that will encourage patrons to visit the library and then linger in the downtown area for lunch, coffee, or shopping, thus contributing to a more vibrant and economically robust downtown.
4. The proximity of the proposed downtown locations to Province Park and the Greenway Trail creates a "critical mass" of recreational amenities that will encourage patrons of one to stay and enjoy the others.
5. The library is a hub for community interaction and activities, so it is important that the new Franklin Branch be placed in the downtown in the heart of the community.

Thanks again for soliciting community input on this important matter.

\* \* \*

My husband and I carefully chose Franklin when moving into the Indianapolis Area over 7 years ago. We'd lived in Greenwood for 3 years previously then had moved to the Chicago area for 6 years. We were looking for a place where we could really set down roots in a town that was not part of the suburban sprawl around Indianapolis. When we decided to take our hobby business full time 18 months ago, we chose to locate it in downtown Franklin as a way to improve and support the sense of "community".

I feel strongly that locating the library in one of the two downtown locations would also add to that feeling of community. Yes, increased traffic might help my business if it also attracted other businesses to the downtown area thus making Franklin a destination in itself. Locating on 31

or out by Needham Elementary would not create the synergy needed to make Franklin a standout community.

Also, I have three daughters who are avid library users, as am I. All of us frequently walk to the library. Putting it in one of the two downtown locations would allow that to continue since there are safe sidewalks to use. The Route 31 location is too busy for walking and the Needham location is also not ideal for pedestrians. If you want your building to have a more solid community use, put it in a place where teens can meet each other to work on homework together or mothers can walk to bringing their children in strollers or people doing business in downtown Franklin aren't required to get into their cars just to drive to the next parking lot because there are no facilities for pedestrians.

If you want Franklin to feel like a town and not another series of "drive-thrus"; where people get to know each other and build a true community rather than just pass each other on the highway, choose a site in downtown please.

\* \* \*

While the Simon Farm location is within walking distance of my home, I think re-using an existing site would be best. The old Wal-Mart site would not displace people from their homes, and its located on the main commercial/retail corridor of Franklin.

The 2 downtown sites would be my next choices, to keep people coming to downtown. What will be done with the current building?

\* \* \*

Downtown too congested. Don't want to pay downtown parking garage.

\* \* \*

I have to say that I'm disappointed that #6 (Oren Wright Building site) in downtown is still in the running. Why? It will flood and even if there's parking under so the building doesn't get it, the library will be closed for days in the case of flooding. Remember all the people that needed the library in 2008? How would they get there if the way in was under water? Not to mention structural damage to the whole place from flooding. And flood insurance is stupidly pricey. If it must be downtown, please go with #7!

\* \* \*

Stop thinking new development around a new library and start thinking about long time downtown businesses and residents who have given their faith and commitment to Franklin.

\* \* \*

I prefer one of the downtown sites. It would add to the beauty and usefulness of our downtown area and encourage business in our restaurants and shops.