Summary

1. What Qualities do you like best about Lutsen’s physical environment?
   - Lake Superior and Sawtooth views
   - Small town atmosphere—village
     - Small businesses
   - Neighborhood feeling
   - Easy access to walking year-round
     - Unpaved path from Clearview to Hansen’s
   - Unpopulated
   - Quiet
   - Wildlife corridor, frequent wildlife sightings
   - No billboards—quiet signage
   - No streetlights—dark at night
   - No cement sidewalks, curbs, etc.
   - Tourism separate from downtown area
     - Tourists kept in river valley (golf course, ski hill)
   - Proximity to woods, rivers, big lake
   - Remoteness
   - Fresh air and cleanliness

2. What amenities do you think are needed in Lutsen?
   - Walking paths to connect Lutsen in more formal/informal way
   - Greenspace with native plantings
   - More trees and benches in our park
   - Improve ball field
   - Commercial amenities are adequate
   - Northside trail, where neighbors meet, kids use is ESSENTIAL to Lutsen’s identity—must not be included in Gitchi Gami trail or the community use and feeling with be destroyed.
   - Welcoming signs—big and attractive—both ends of town
   - Enforced speed laws
   - Slower traffic
   - No passing zones through lessened speed zone
   - History plaque—maybe at park?
   - Public boat access to Lake Superior
     - Tofte’s boat access is good example
   - No more than we have, no less
   - Deli or restaurant
   - Bike trail
   - Sidewalks
   - Better parking
     - At post office
   - Town center meeting spot at post office?
   - Connection between business
   - Credit union

3. What Qualities you would like to see change in Lutsen’s physical environment?
   - More appealing—slow down and enjoy the local beauty and flavor
4. What are the most important issues facing the community today? In the future?
   - High property values, affordable housing
   - Increasingly older population
     - Keeping young population
     - Attracting new young population
   - City people retiring in area who don’t have rural values
   - Decision should be made by year-round residents, registered voters
   - Accommodating everyone will lose the essence of what makes Lutsen unique
   - Differences in opinion regarding trails, service roads, development
   - Lost of night sky with lighting at ski hill development
   - Reliance of tourism for major income base is unreliable
   - Development
     - how it looks,
     - more stipulations,
     - more thought and planning
   - Destruction of natural landscape for commercial development
   - Widening of highway—don’t want it to look like Schroeder (naturalness replaced by open space, pavement and walls)
   - High amount of traffic—Lower speed limit
     - Safety and walkability
   - Trail on south side of highway 61
   - Curb and gutter
   - Street lights

5. Where would you like to see the community in 5, 10, 25 years in the face of the development pressure that the North Shore is experiencing now and which will probably continue?
   - Retain rural, small town values
     - Place for families to make a decent living
     - People can retire in peace
   - Not allow big-box chains and big developers to make decisions for everyone
   - Slow down development
   - Development to take place somewhere off-highway to keep road from being inundated with signs and properties and commercial endeavors of modern proportions
   - Preserve wildlife corridors, native vegetation
   - Preserve safe walking, trail and biking on North side of town
   - Unique Northwoods development—not “fakey” stuff
   - Does not want a place where businesses are owned by someone who lives someplace else
   - Preserve current condition
   - Increased commercial property for shops

6. What are the key opportunities with the Gitchi Gami State Trail in Lutsen?
• Keep trail away from highway
• Keep motorized vehicles off the trail
• Keep noisy traffic and snowmobiles together
• Safe place for families
• Opportunities are for small portion of people with the Gitchi Gami. To continue to permanently change the privacy of homes, landscape and kill thousands of trees to put in a paved path for so few people is just wrong.
• Already have Superior hiking trail and mountain bike trails
• Maybe a few more heads on beds in local resorts during an already busy season
• Maybe a bike repair and rental
• Maybe sell a few more energy bars, designer waters, and $4 coffees
• A major race or walk for life is not an opportunity.

7. What types of recreation would you like to see promoted in Lutsen?
• All types, including snowmobile and ATV’s
• Quiet activities, slower pace of life
• Just silent sports
• Hiking, bicycling, skiing cross country, fishing (ATV’s and snowmobiles are here – arrest them for traveling on Hwy 61 as well as well as on the Caribou trail – it is very dangerous to mix trucks and cars with ATVs and snowmobiles on highways)
• Hiking, skiing, bicycling, fishing
• Hiking, bicycling, fishing, cross country skiing
• Anything that keeps tourists busy all day and sucks money out of their pocket, the golf course and ski hill are good at that. The free stuff – state parks, BWCA, etc. are about as busy as they can be without destroying them
• All of the area opportunities that already exist
• Snowshoeing, hiking, biking - quiet activities. Our changing seasons, wildlife opportunities could be played up much more. Keep the noise at the ski hill where it already exists. Lutsen town center can’t compete with that type of atmosphere and I don’t think many residents want that at the town center.

8. What should a future town center provide to the community?
• Provide a place for locals and tourists alike to get away from the crowds. Little shops, some interesting activities all in walking distance. Connect to the poplar river and out to the town park w/ plantings and park benches – a reason to relax, linger, maybe have information on plants, birds, etc. that are native to area.
• The same picture it provides today
• Convenience; necessary shopping – gas, grocery, banking, hardware, drugstore, post office, Laundromat, café (not tourist food or prices), dime store, etc.
• Gift shops go where tourists are.
• Parking, ease in walking around
• What we currently have
• A gathering place for events, visitors to meet, etc.
• Just what we have – gas station, small grocery store, small Laundromat, coffee shop – possibly a small restaurant and possibly a town center hall. New businesses should be located in the town center area.
• Green space – a sense of community

9. What are the key opportunities with a new Highway 61 through Lutsen? Concerns?
• Clean up the looks of the town. It looks worn out. We need turn out lanes by the post office.
• Keep the trees, don’t do large set back
• Slower traffic; concern: Lighting
• A concern to address: emergency vehicles (fire trucks, first responders) entering highway 61 from the Caribou trail. Make traffic stop and allow those vehicles to enter highway 61 – better signage, flashing red Hwy. light or something else. Concern – speed limit; getting people to slow down.
• Opportunity to slow traffic down and make them realize they are passing through Lutsen
• Curb and gutter and streetlights. Slower speed limit.
• Concern: removal of trees and resulting openness. Don’t want it to look like Schroeder with all naturalness replaced by open spaces and pavement.
• Opportunity: replanting of trees in front of commercial area that were removed previously. Keep speed down, keep width of area destroyed about roadway to a minimum, preserve walkway and bikeway.
• Opportunities – safer road; concerns – increased speeds
• The opportunity to make safe left hand turns on or off the road even on busy weekends. Lets start building the freeway that’s needed
• An opportunity to slow down traffic. I am concerned about encroaching on and exposing the privacy of residential homes along the highway, especially the
upper side. The addition of 2 trails and wider shoulders, maybe a service road, could forever change the value of these longtime residences.

- Opportunity to slow down traffic and make it interesting and inviting for people to stop without becoming a “Vail, Colorado.” I am concerned about the look of curb and gutter (citified). Any other possibilities? Concern about too much pavement with highway/frontage road/Gitchi Gami Trail together. I personally don’t like the Beaver Bay look or the fake stone look in Schroeder.

10. Does the community have a need for gathering spaces for festivals, events, farmers’ markets, art fairs, athletic celebrations, etc.?
   - We need a town hall that is real – not just a meeting room attached to the fire hall. I miss the old school building that sat where the firehall is today. Some thought needs to be put into this – either at the park or maybe if a larger downtown is created – within that area.
   - We have a park, ball field, and town hall site to improve, as needed.
   - No, we’ve got the park and a small ball field that should suffice. Anything bigger could be done by a private enterprise for profit.
   - No, we have room at fire/city hall plus our park
   - No, the fire barn seems sufficient for most activities
   - We have places for this – town park, town hall
   - Yes, a gathering place for events, visitors to meet, etc.
   - Yes, in the town center area
   - Just for casual visiting
   - Maybe – see our developing sculpture garden at Last Chance (east of the Electric co.)
   - We have the town park and the town hall area for these purposes

Additional Comments:
“Does this process really mean anything?”
“As I understand it, your group has no engineer and can’t tell us how trails, highway changes, etc. will effect individual properties. So are we not going to be ‘voting’ on ideas and pictures that, until MNDOT comes through, we will not know the true ramifications of? I think both ‘outside’ and ‘inside’ developers are pushing this process, in hopes of MNDOT working it out – without regard for individual long time residences.”