

NEIGHBORHOOD PRIORITY LIST 2026

1. Repair Roadways and Sidewalks
2. Address Crime and Prostitution
3. Provide new affordable housing
4. Eliminate blighted or slum housing
5. Provide more youth/adult activities in the neighborhood
6. Address lack of lighting especially on back alleys
7. Make the neighborhood look nicer
8. Reduce drug use in the neighborhood

Many of these priorities are interconnected. Speeding and safer ways to walk go hand in hand. Addressing crime and prostitution and a lack of street lighting impact each other. Providing better affordable housing opportunities also puts pressure on slum landlords and moves people into more sustainable long-term housing options. The quality-of-life factors that determine how well we live overlap immensely. Below we broke these issues down into action steps to guide our and the community's work in the year ahead.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Roadways and Sidewalks

The roadways and sidewalks in Shorb are in desperate need of repair. Whether you are traveling in the Newton area, Brown Ave., Shorb Ave, McGregor; these areas are unsuitable and dangerous. Neighbors have identified a vast swath of the neighborhood where roadways and sidewalks are in desperate need of repair. Our neighbors want to be able to safely walk in the neighborhood, whether this is parents and children walking to school, neighbors walking to local stores, or a resident simply enjoying a walk through our community. There are many issues which impact the safety of the neighborhood's walkability, but the largest is a lack of safe and clear sidewalks.

Action Step: Establish a new neighborhood association to cover the boundaries of the Greater Shorb Neighborhood.

Responsible: Canton for All People, West Park Neighborhood Association, Greater Shorb Neighborhood Association, and Community Building Partnership.

- A neighborhood resident has volunteered to head up this effort and is beginning the required courses at Community Building Partnership in November 2025.

Action Step: Work with the Public Service Director, the Engineering Office, and the neighborhood to identify priority areas for repair.

Responsible: West Park Neighborhood Association, Greater Shorb Neighborhood Association, Canton for All People, The City of Canton.

- Resident input was gathered in 2025 and a street/sidewalk map was delivered to the City. Mayor Sherer has committed to paving streets and alleys in the Greater Shorb area beginning in the Spring of 2026.
- Refine input during the winter of 2025/26 and submit finalized street/sidewalk priorities to the City no later than February 1st, 2026.

Action Step: Identify additional funding sources for sidewalk repair for the neighborhood.

Responsible: Canton for All People

- City resources are not sufficient enough to cover the repair/replacement of sidewalks throughout the neighborhood. Portions of development revenues should be used to supplement city repairs and programs need researched that would help repair existing sidewalks where possible to make the best use of resources.

Crime and Prostitution

Crime and prostitution is a serious issue in our neighborhood. This volume of criminal activity directly and indirectly impacts the quality of life for Shorb Neighborhood families and neighbors. Many of these incidents go unreported out of fear. Some incidents are reported, but don't lead to arrests. Neighbors have identified a vast swath of the neighborhood where crime and prostitution issues need to be addressed.

Action Step: Increase neighborhood reports to the Police Captain and start a Neighborhood Watch

Responsible: Greater Shorb Neighborhood Association

Action Step: Develop new methods for non-English speaking residents to communicate with the Police Department without fear of reprisal or deportation.

Responsible: Canton Police Department and Greater Shorb Neighborhood Association

Action Step: Activate Narcotics and Vice Unit in specific locations of the neighborhood

Responsible: Canton Police Department

Street Lighting

The street lighting in Shorb is inconsistent and leaves gaps especially on back alleys. For safety and to mitigate crime, those gaps in lighting need to be resolved. Many children walk on their way to and from school down that street. Neighbors have identified where better street lighting is desired.

Action: Conduct a Neighborhood Walk to identify alley lighting gaps

Responsible: Greater Shorb Neighborhood Association

Action: Replace broken streetlights and install new lights in gaps

Responsible: City Engineering and Canton for All People

HOUSING

Housing remains a top priority for the whole country and the Shorb Neighborhood has experienced the acute effects of the affordable housing shortage. Plans in the coming years will focus on the development of scattered site single family homes and new affordable rental opportunities on underutilized sections of the community.

Action: Continue the development and rehabilitation of affordable single-family homes for home ownership. (See neighborhood map for proposed housing sites by year.)

- We expect to add 15 single family homes in 2026, complete Newton Family Apartments, and begin The Station Project (a 38 units housing project on the site of the West Tusc. Train Station) with an estimated completion in the fall of 2027.

Responsible: Canton for All People and Build Ohio

HEALTH & EDUCATION

Education doesn't end outside the school doors. We have a sizable population of neighbors who want to better themselves. This can mean adult education around language, finance, job skills or basic home improvement. Neighbors have identified these four topics, believing they could improve their quality of life.

Action: Complete the Gibbs Ave. Center and connect neighborhood families to childcare, preschool, and afterschool services.

Responsible: Canton for All People, the YMCA of Stark County, and Community Partners.

Action: Develop Youth and Adult programming at the Shorb Market, Newton Family Apartments, and the Gibbs Center that promote improved health and educational outcomes for students and families.

Responsible: Canton for All People, the YMCA of Stark County, and Community Partners

Action: Identify a transportation plan for Shorb area kids to attend day-care, preschool, and programs at the Gibbs Center.

Responsible: Canton for All People

Action: Expand the Shorb hot meal program by adding a neighborhood food truck to supplement meals and community events.

Responsible: Canton for All People – Shorb Market Team

NEIGHBORHOOD REPAIR AND BEAUTIFICATION

The beauty and upkeep of the neighborhood are important for neighborhood pride. The housing stock in the Shorb area is in need of some love. In addition, our neighborhood has several gateways and through streets that need tending.

Action: Re-start the Homeowner Improvement Program to help existing homeowners make needed repairs to their homes

Responsible: Canton for All People

Action Step: Curb-appeal projects along gateway streets such as Shorb, Fulton, Tusc, Newton, and 12th St.

Responsible: Canton for All People and the West Park and Shorb Neighborhood Associations.

Action: Build a passive park in Newton Area

Responsible: Canton for All People and Neighborhood Association

Action Step: Create a Neighborhood Logo and banners for the Fulton & Shorb Corridors

Responsible: Canton for All People and the West Park and Shorb Neighborhood Associations.