

Date: December 2021

Town of Orangetown Comprehensive Plan

Community Outreach Findings and Survey Results

[Sept. to Nov. 2021]



Prepared for
Town of Orangetown Comprehensive Planning Committee

Prepared by

**METROPOLITAN
URBAN
DESIGN
WORKSHOP**

With assistance from
AKRF Inc.



Image Courtesy of: MUD Workshop

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

As part of the Comprehensive Plan Update for the Town of Orangetown, the Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC) has been conducting outreach with the Town of Orangetown community. The goal of this outreach is to identify key issues that the residents feel should be addressed in the ongoing Comprehensive Plan Update. These findings will be used to develop a *People-Centric* Vision for the future of Orangetown.

Engagement Channels

The first part of the community engagement process extended from 29 September - 03 November 2021. It employed several channels including meetings, surveys and other digital engagement platforms described below.

1. **Community Survey:** A digital community survey including multiple choice queries and short descriptive inputs regarding Comprehensive Plan elements such as Land Use, Transportation, Parks, and Sustainability. The survey was hosted from 29 September - 03 November 2021.
2. **Tag-a-Photo:** A place-based mapping tool allowing users to zoom into specific locations within Orangetown and tag these locations with photos and comments regarding best practices, key issues and priorities for improvement. The Tag-a-Photo platform was open for comments from 18 October 2021 - 03 November 2021.
3. **Vision Wall:** A digital ideas wall allowing users to provide descriptive comments and vote on comments provided by others. The input was gathered in six categories: Community Facilities, Sustainability, Land Use, Housing, Transportation and Mobility, and 'Others'. The Vision Wall actively received feedback from

users from 18 October 2021 - 03 November 2021.

4. **Public Workshop 1 / Plan Vision and Goal Setting:** The first public workshop held virtually on 18 October 2021 gathered information on resident's Visions and Goals for Orangetown's future. The workshop introduced the Comprehensive Planning process, summarized key findings from the Community Survey and launched the engagement platforms Vision Wall and Tag-a-Photo to gather initial feedback.

This report summarizes findings from the Community Survey, Tag-a-Photo and Vision Wall engagement channels.

Outreach Efforts

The aforementioned engagement channels were promoted throughout the Town of Orangetown, using digital broadcasting on the Town's website and social media, and individual outreach through an email list compiled for the project. The Town sent out periodic "email blasts" with flyers and links, reminding the community to participate using a channel of their preference. In addition to the Town's website, a dedicated digital engagement webpage was developed to direct users to the engagement channels.

All engagement channels were promoted at a "pop-up" booth at the Pearl River Day Festival. The booth featured a poster highlighting engagement opportunities including the Public Workshops and QR codes directing the community to the digital engagement platforms.

Lastly, these events were also promoted by members of the CPC through word of mouth and by reaching out to community leaders and groups known to the members.

Promotion Materials and Channels



The Town of Orangetown is embarking on a process of updating its Comprehensive Plan for the first time since 2003. This plan will establish a guiding framework for future sustainable development, economic growth, and natural resource preservation in the Town.

WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

A Comprehensive Plan is a long-term planning document that establishes a community's goals and aspirations for the future, while providing a roadmap for how to achieve them.

Over the next several months, the Town will hold a series of public workshops and provide other opportunities for public engagement. Through input from local residents, workers, and business owners, the Comprehensive Plan Update will reflect the goals and recommendations of the Orangetown community, and will serve as a guiding framework for the Town's growth and development in the coming years.

SHARE YOUR VISION FOR ORANGETOWN WITH US!

COMMUNITY SURVEY

Participate in an online survey and inform us about your desires and concerns. The survey will be available from **September 29 to November 03, 2021**.

Use QR code at table.

PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

Public Workshop 1
Join us on **October 18, 2021 @ 7pm**. Use QR code at table to register.

Public Workshop 2
Save the dates **December 06 and 07, 2021** and stay tuned for more.

CPC MEETINGS

Listen in on working meetings of the Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC). More information on Town's Website.

PUBLIC HEARING
Stay tuned for the Final Plan & Public Hearing in 2022.

Outreach and announcements at Pearl River Day "pop-up" booth.
Image Courtesy of: MUD Workshop

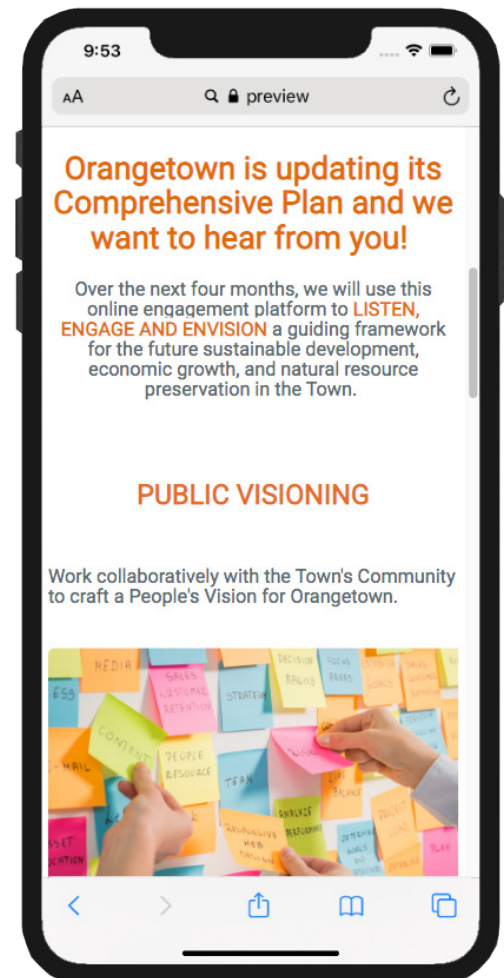
Report Organization

This report is organized into three sections including the key findings from the Community Survey, Vision Wall and Tag-a-Photo engagement channels.

A complete summary of the data is included as an appendix (Appendix A) to this report.



Public Workshop-1 digital and print flyer
Image Courtesy of: MUD Workshop



Comprehensive Plan Engagement webpage
Image Courtesy of: MUD Workshop

KEY FINDINGS

Community Survey

The Town hosted a survey of 24 questions including multiple choice and descriptive inputs from 28 September to 03 November 2021. During this period, **1,097 responses were received**. While respondents did not represent a random sample the high response rate indicates considerable community interest and can therefore be assumed to reflect key Community Priorities.

Each participant spent an average of 15 minutes and 35 seconds taking the survey. The completion rate for the survey was 67 percent. Questions with the highest skip rates were those that requested personal information, and interest in follow up emails.

This section summarizes the findings grouped as follows:

- A. Respondent Information:** Eight questions including information about the respondent's age, place of residence and work, and relationship with Orangetown.
- B. Community Character and Quality of Life:** Two detailed questions requiring both multiple choice and descriptive input on factors that contribute to high Quality of Life in Orangetown.
- C. Land Use and Zoning:** Seven questions that were focused on the type of residential and commercial uses the community would like to see in the Town, the expected outcomes from new development that might take place in the future, and general satisfaction with the Town's regulatory and approvals processes.
- D. Traffic and Transportation:** Three questions regarding preferred modes of transportation, non-motorized transportation infrastructure and general views on truck traffic, private motorized mobility, transit and non-motorized mobility.
- E. Community Service:** One question regarding the respondent's general opinion on level of satisfaction with Community Services that are operated and maintained by various agencies of the Town (e.g. open spaces, libraries etc.).
- F. Communication:** Three questions requesting participants' preferred method of ongoing interaction regarding community news and the Comprehensive Plan, participants' email for Comprehensive Plan Updates and an open text box for additional feedback.

Question 1 / Within the Town of Orangetown, I am a resident of:

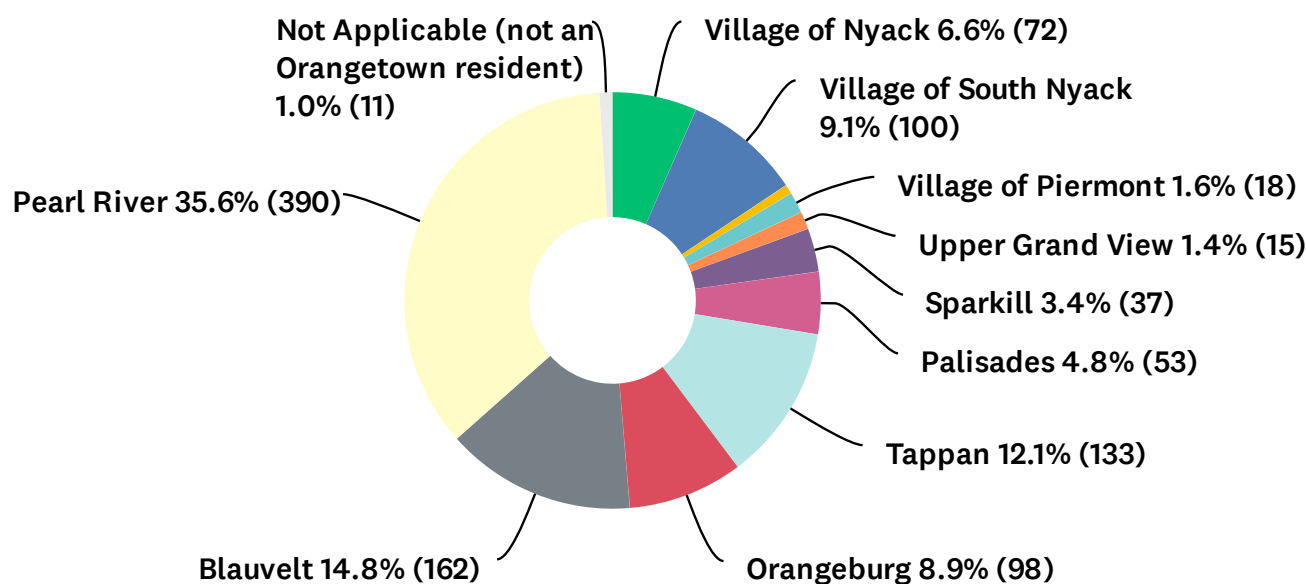
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Village of Nyack	6.6%	72
Village of South Nyack	9.1%	100
Village of Grand View-On-Hudson	0.7%	8
Village of Piermont	1.6%	18
Upper Grand View	1.4%	15
Sparkill	3.4%	37
Palisades	4.8%	53
Tappan	12.1%	133
Orangeburg	8.9%	98
Blauvelt	14.8%	162
Pearl River	35.6%	390
Not Applicable (not an Orangetown resident)	1.0%	11
TOTAL		1,097

Responses received: 1,097

Response rate: 100 percent

Key Findings:

- More than one-third (35.6 percent) of survey respondents reside in Pearl River, followed by 12.1 percent of survey respondents who reside in Tappan and 14.8 percent of survey respondents who reside in Blauvelt.



Question 2 / What school district is your home within?

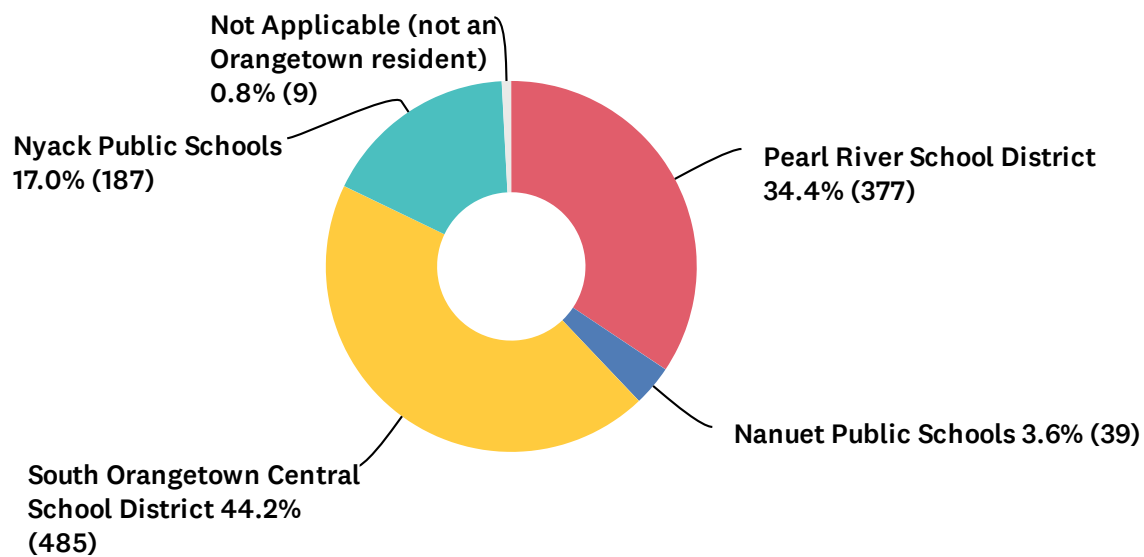
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Pearl River School District	34.4%	377
Nanuet Public Schools	3.6%	39
South Orangetown Central School District	44.2%	485
Nyack Public Schools	17.0%	187
Not Applicable (not an Orangetown resident)	0.8%	9
TOTAL		1,097

Responses received: 1,097

Response rate: 100 percent

Key Findings:

- More than one-third (34.4 percent) of the survey respondents reside in the Pearl River School District.



Question 3 / Do you own a business or commercial property in the Town of Orangetown?

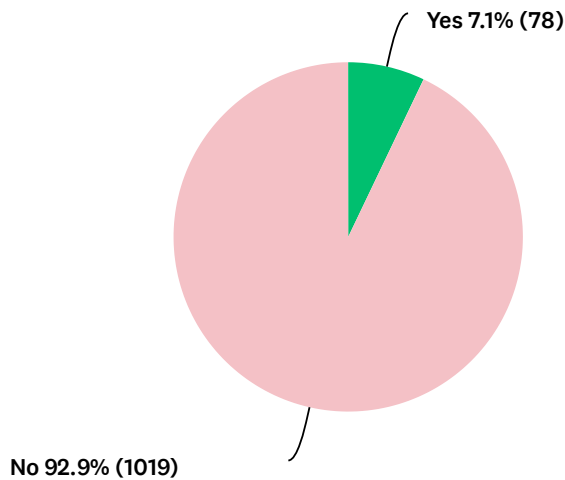
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	7.1%	78
No	92.9%	1,019
TOTAL		1,097

Responses received: 1,097

Response rate: 100 percent

Key Findings:

- Approximately seven percent of survey respondents own a business or commercial property in Orangetown.



Question 4 / Do you own or rent your home?

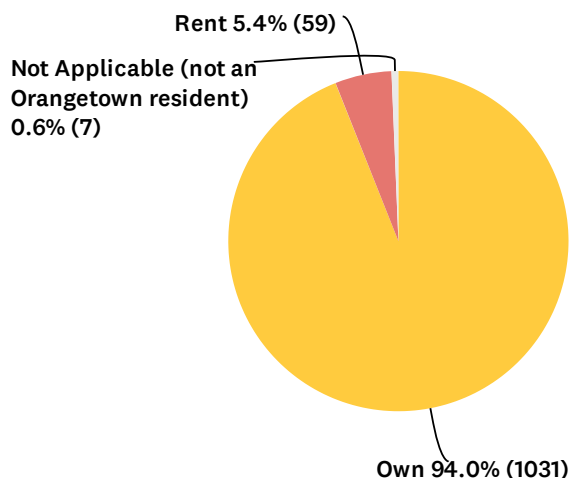
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Own	94.0%	1,031
Rent	5.4%	59
Not Applicable (not an Orangetown resident)	0.6%	7
TOTAL		1,097

Responses received: 1,097

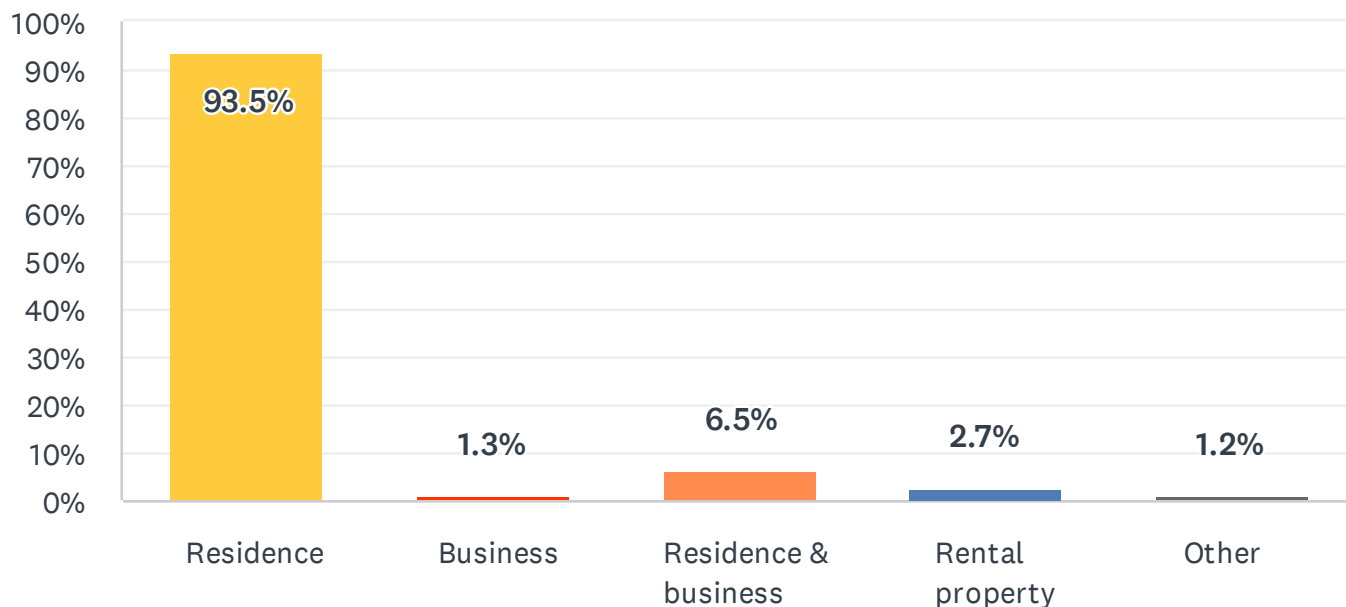
Response rate: 100 percent

Key Findings:

- 94 percent of the survey respondents own a home in Orangetown.



Question 5 / How do you use your Orangetown home or property?



Responses received: 1,097

Response rate: 100 percent

Key Findings:

- More than 95 percent of the respondents use their property only for residential purposes.
- Approximately 6.5 percent of the survey respondents use their property as a residence and business venue.
- Approximately 2.7 percent of the survey respondents rent their home or property to others.

Question 6 / How long have you lived in the Town of Orangetown?

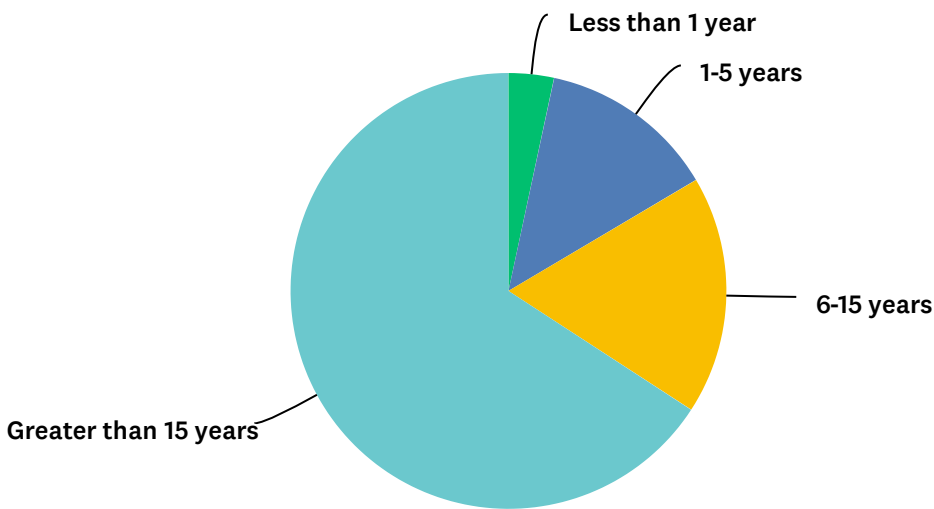
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 1 year	3.4%	37
1-5 years	13.1%	144
6-15 years	17.7%	194
Greater than 15 years	65.8%	722
TOTAL		1,097

Responses received: 1,097

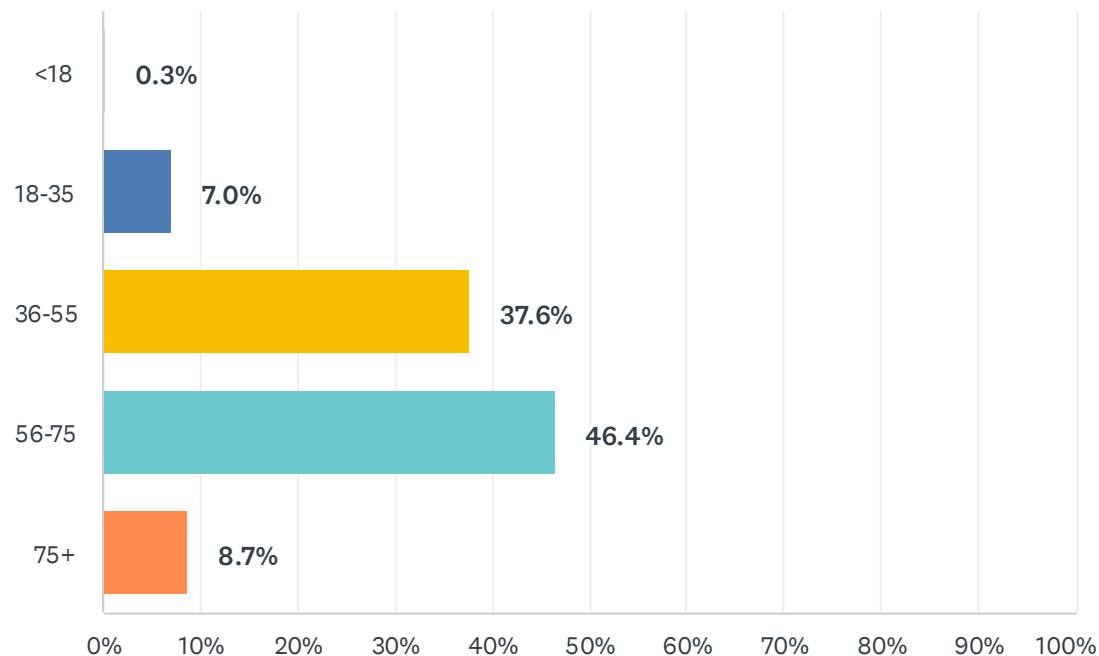
Response rate: 100 percent

Key Findings:

- Approximately 66 percent of survey respondents have lived in the Town for more than 15 years.
- Approximately 17.7 percent of survey respondents have lived in the Orangetown for more than five years.
- 16.5 percent of survey respondents have lived in Orangetown for 5 years or less.



Question 7 / How old are you?



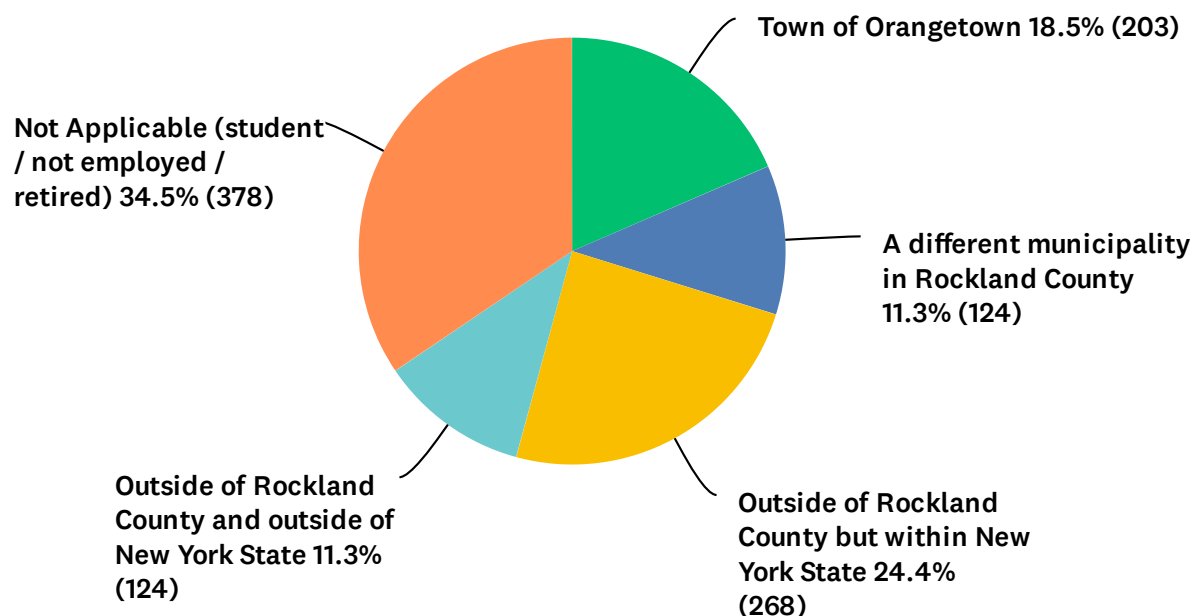
Responses received: 1,097

Response rate: 100 percent

Key Findings:

- More than one-third of the survey respondents (37.6 percent) are in the 36-55 age category.
- 46.4 percent of the survey respondents are in the 56-75 age category.
- 8.7 percent of the survey respondents belong to the 75+ age category.
- 7 percent belong to the 18-35 age category.
- A very small percentage (0.3 percent) of the survey respondents are under 18 years of age.

Question 8 / Where do you work?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Town of Orangetown	18.5%	203
A different municipality in Rockland County	11.3%	124
Outside of Rockland County but within New York State	24.4%	268
Outside of Rockland County and outside of New York State	11.3%	124
Not Applicable (student / not employed / retired)	34.5%	378
TOTAL		1,097

Responses received: 1,097

Response rate: 100 percent

Key Findings:

- More than one-third of the survey respondents (34.5 percent) do not participate in the workforce and are either retired, not employed or a student.
- Approximately 25 percent of the survey respondents work outside of Rockland County but within New York State.
- 18.5 percent of the survey respondents work within the Town of Orangetown.
- 11.3 percent of the survey respondents work outside of Orangetown but within Rockland County.
- 11.3 percent of survey respondents work outside of Rockland County and outside of New York State.
- The work commute may be affected (reduced) by the new work-from-home landscape generated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

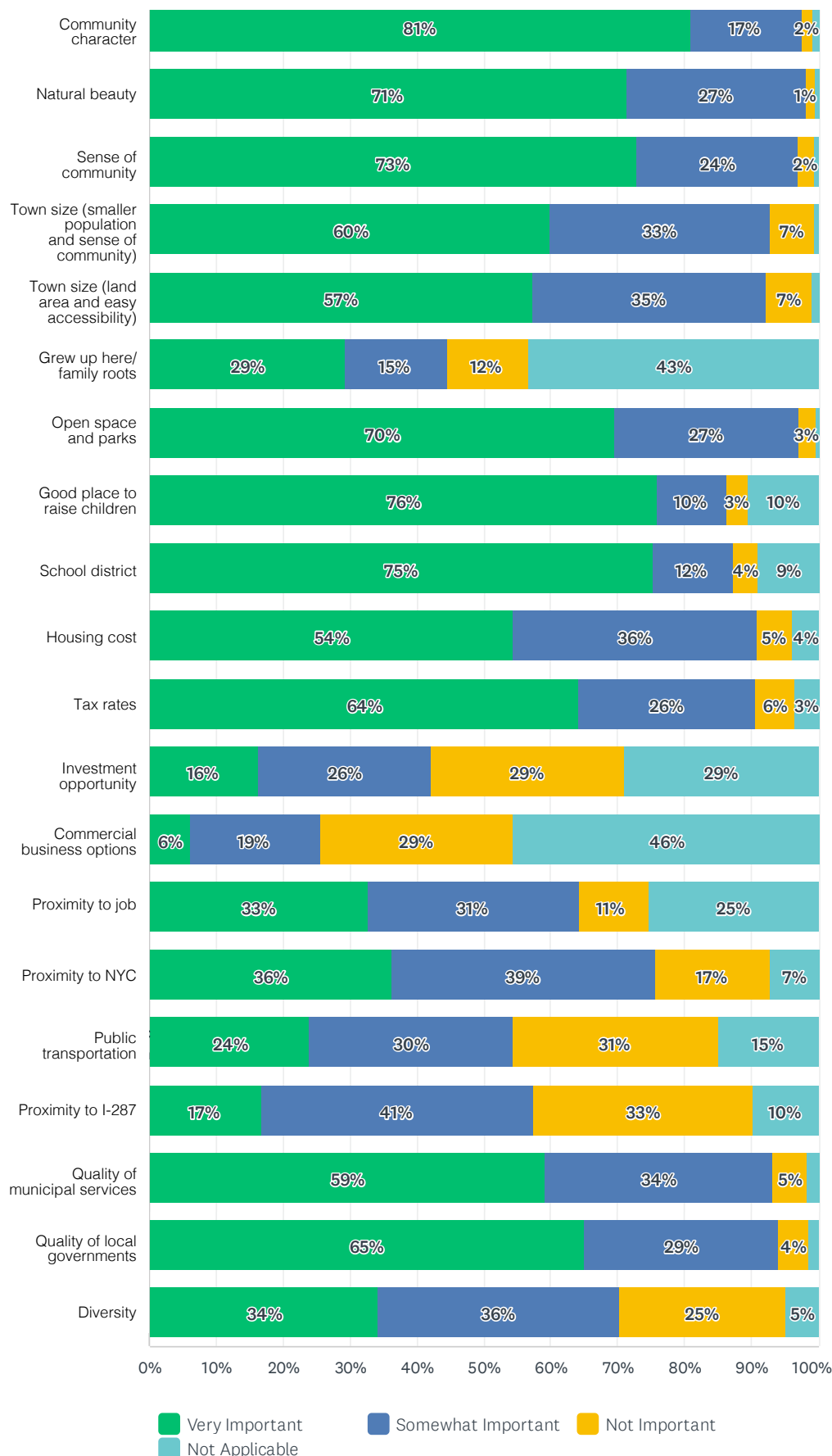
Question 9 / Why do you choose to live or own a business in the Town of Orangetown?

Responses received: 937

Response rate: 85.4 percent

Key Findings:

- The three most important factors contributing to survey respondents' choice to live or own a business in Orangetown are: (1) Community Character (81 percent), (2) School District (75 percent) or Good Place to Raise Children (76 percent), and (3) A sense of Community in the Town (73 percent).
- The three least important factors contributing to survey respondents' choice to live or own a business in Orangetown are: (1) Commercial and business options (6 percent), (2) Investment opportunity (16 percent) and Proximity to I-287 (17 percent), and (3) Public Transportation (24 percent).



Question 10 / Over the past five years, do you believe the quality of life in the Town of Orangetown has:

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Improved	18.04%	169
Declined	55.07%	516
Remained the same	36.39%	341

Responses received: 937

Response rate: 85.4 percent

- 516 or 55.1 percent of survey respondents hold the opinion that the quality of life in Orangetown has declined. The top reasons that respondents provided for a decline in quality of life are: (1) Over-development and / or the nature of development that has brought greater traffic, noise, higher taxation, density that does not respect the existing urban fabric and scale and uses that do not always align with the needs of the existing residents, (2) taxes that keep increasing each year with no measures being taken by the Town to offset high property taxes, (3) issues of equity and access to affordable housing for all residents, and, (4) an increase in through traffic, and especially truck traffic.
- 169 or 18 percent of survey respondents hold the opinion that the quality of life in Orangetown has improved. The top reasons that respondents provided for improvement in quality of life are: (1) community facility and entertainment offerings in the Town including parks, trails, recreation spaces and a greater number of a greater number of businesses/ restaurants and shopping within and near the Town, (2) sense of community, neighbors and a great school district, and, (3) town leadership that has been doing a great job of keeping the taxes low and maintaining community facilities and infrastructure.
- 341 or 36.4 percent of survey respondents hold the opinion that the quality of life in Orangetown has remained the same noting few changes to Town offerings and infrastructure.
- Some open ended comments noted that the Town has become more crowded and action should be taken to diversify and expand the Town's offerings so as to address and accommodate the increase in population prevent a decline in the quality of life in coming years.
- Some survey respondents indicated in the open ended comments that the quality of schools continued to be great.
- In terms of transportation, open ended comments indicated that the maintenance of roads has been done very well however, public transportation needs to be improved.

Question 11 / Do you have any concerns about recent development patterns in the Town?

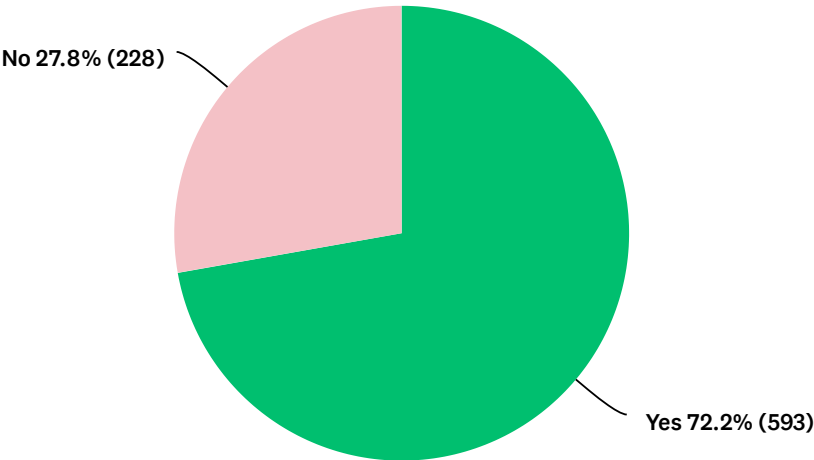
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	72.2%	593
No	27.8%	228
TOTAL		821

Responses received: 821

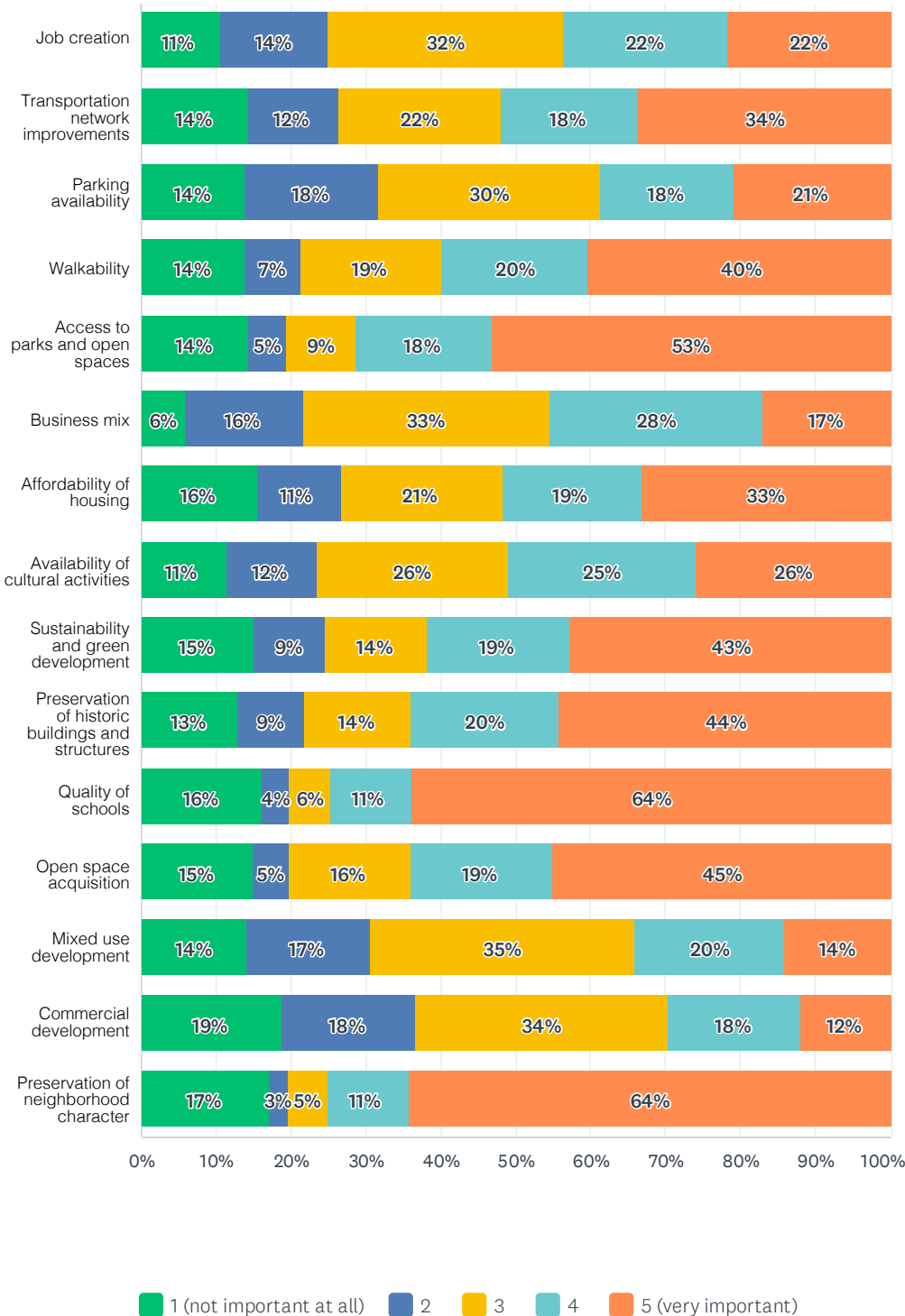
Response rate: 75 percent

Key Findings:

- More than 72 percent of the respondents expressed concerns about recent development patterns in the Town. These concerns noted in the open ended comments included:
(1) Over-development and nature of development,
(2) increased traffic and noise,
(3) higher taxation,
(4) development densities that do not respect the existing urban fabric and scale, and
(5) uses that do not always align with the needs of existing residents.



Question 12 / Please rate how important the following factors are to you in terms of future development in the Town of Orangetown from 1 (not important at all) to 5 (very important):



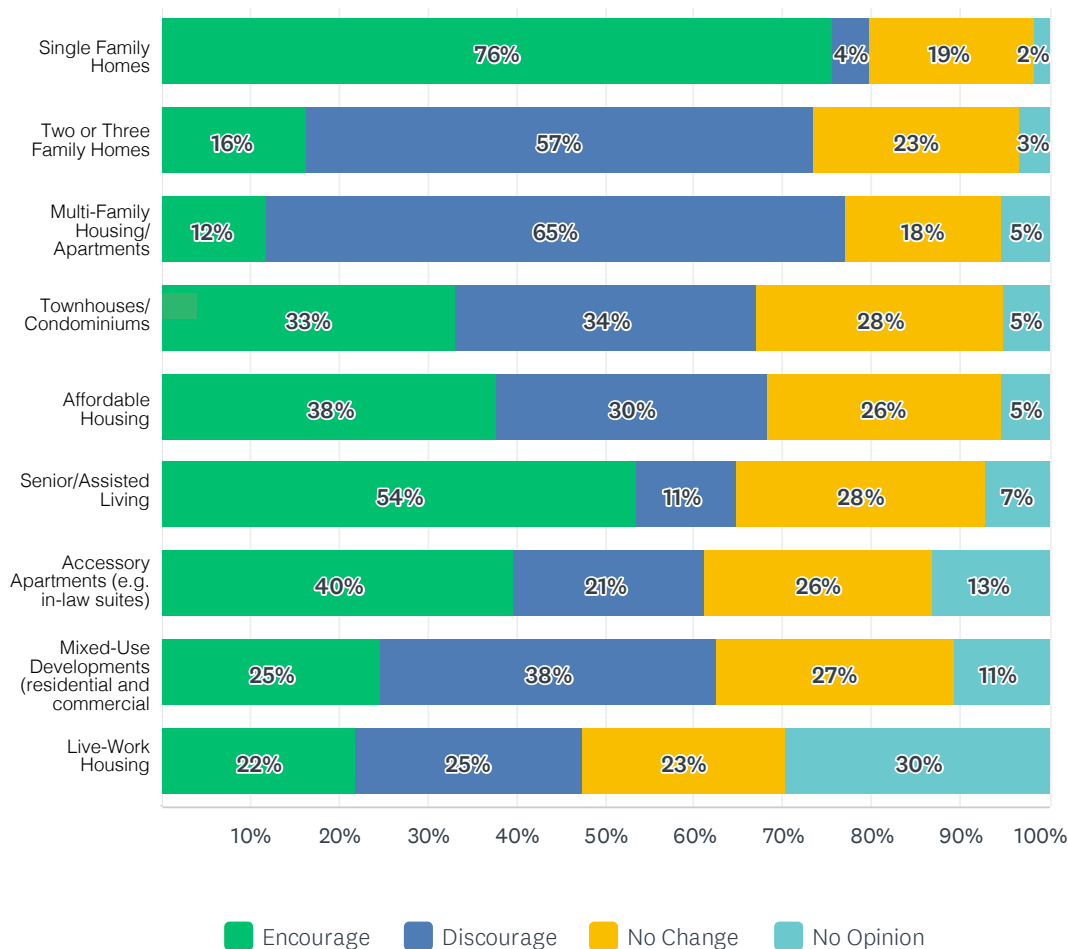
Responses received: 821

Response rate: 75 percent

Key Findings:

- Survey respondents indicated that the top three factors for consideration in future development in the Town are: (1) Neighborhood Preservation and Quality of Schools (both at 64 percent), (2) Access to parks and open spaces (53 percent), and (3) Prioritizing open space acquisition (45 percent).
- Commercial development, mixed use development and business mix are seen as the least important criteria for consideration in future development.

Question 13 / Thinking about the Town as a whole, for each of the residential land uses listed below, please indicate whether you think the use should be encouraged, discouraged, no change, or no opinion.



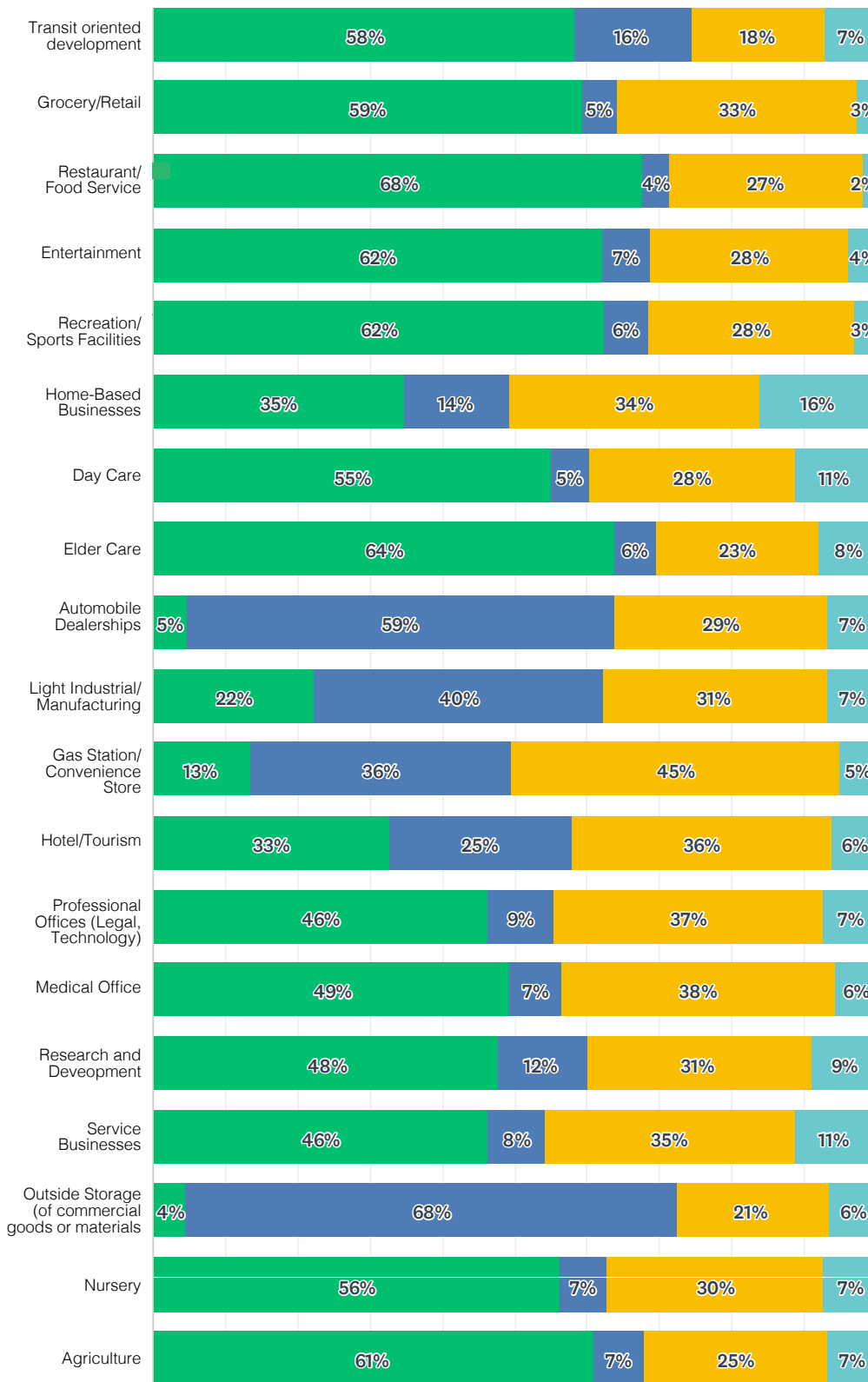
Responses received: 821

Response rate: 75 percent

Key Findings:

- The top three residential typologies encouraged by survey respondents are:
 - (1) Single family homes (76 percent),
 - (2) Senior / assisted living, (54 percent), and
 - (3) Accessory dwelling units (40 percent).
- Most discouraged residential typologies are:
 - (1) Multi-family housing,
 - (2) apartments, and
 - (3) two-, three- family units.

Question 14 / Thinking about the Town as a whole, for each of the commercial land uses and public amenities listed below, please indicate whether you think the use should be encouraged, discouraged, no change, or no opinion.

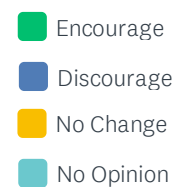


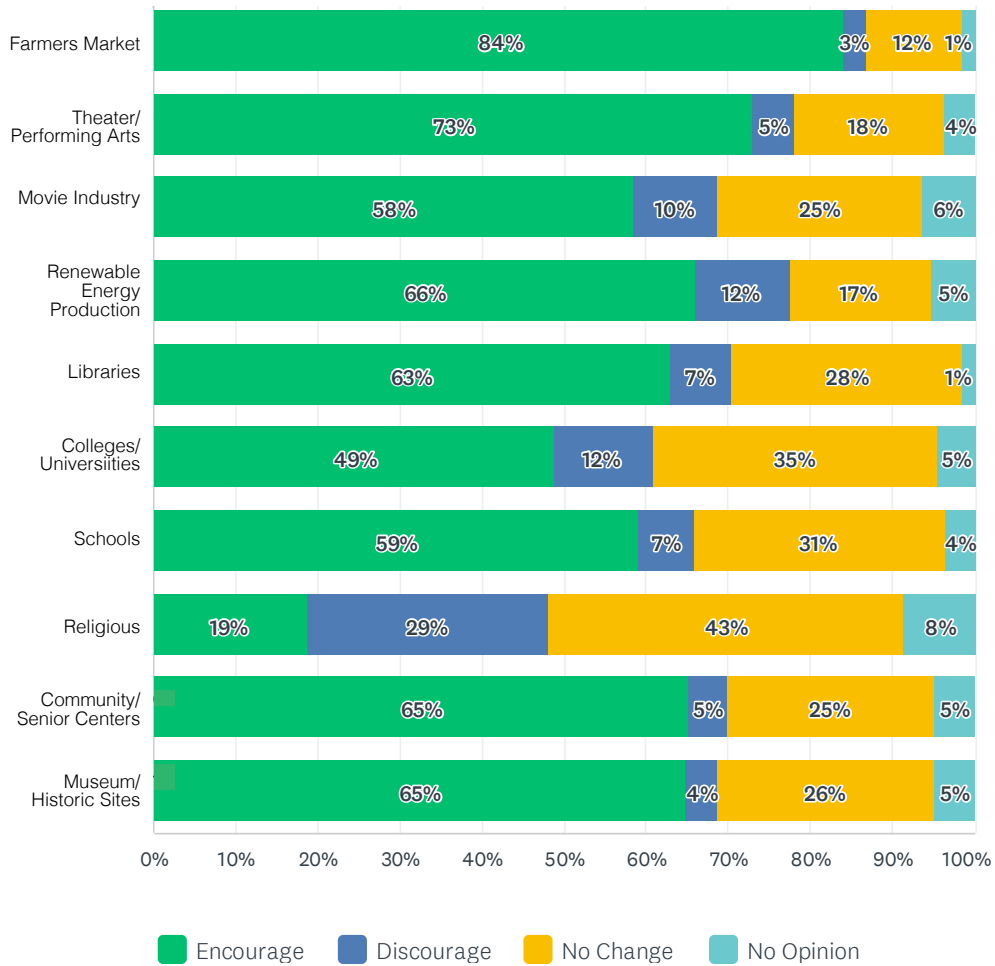
Responses received: 821

Response rate: 75 percent

Key Findings:

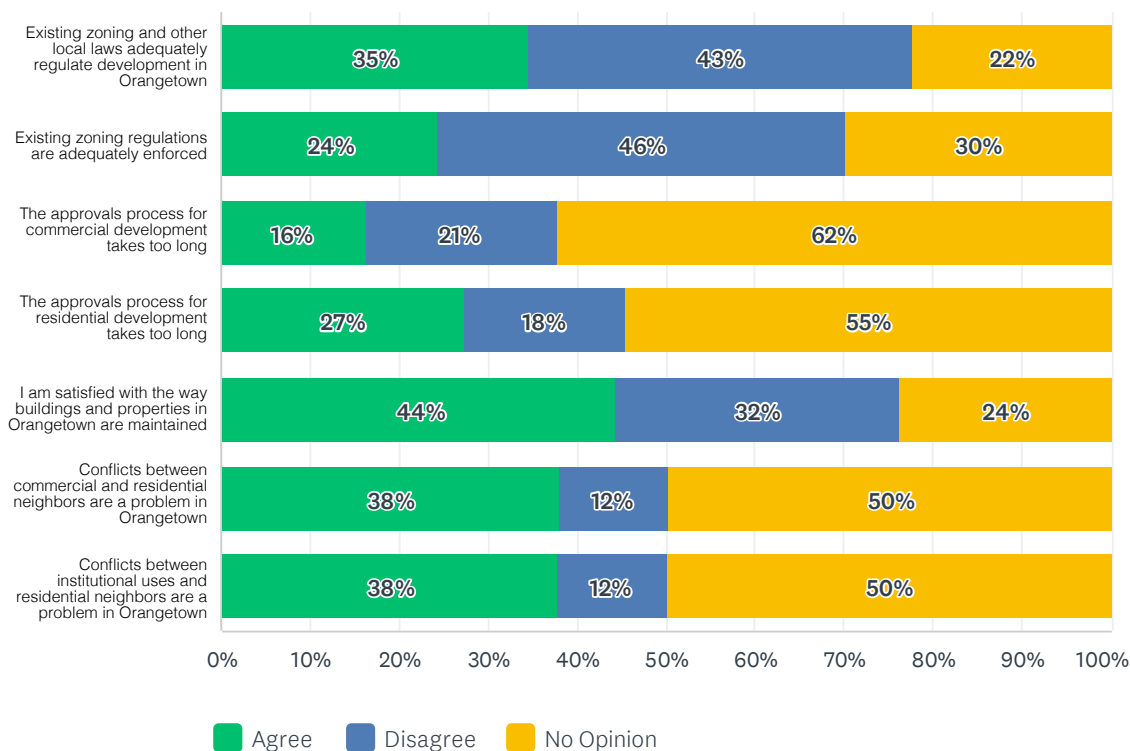
- In the commercial and community uses category, survey respondents mostly encouraged uses that can enhance the quality of life, entertainment options and cultural amenities. These include, (a) Farmers Market (84 percent), (b) Theater and Performing Arts venues (73 percent), (c) Restaurant and food services (68 percent), and (d) Renewable Energy (66 percent).





- Uses that survey respondents most discourage included outside storage, automobile dealerships, and light industrial and manufacturing uses.

Question 15 / For the following statements, please indicate whether you agree, disagree, or have no opinion.



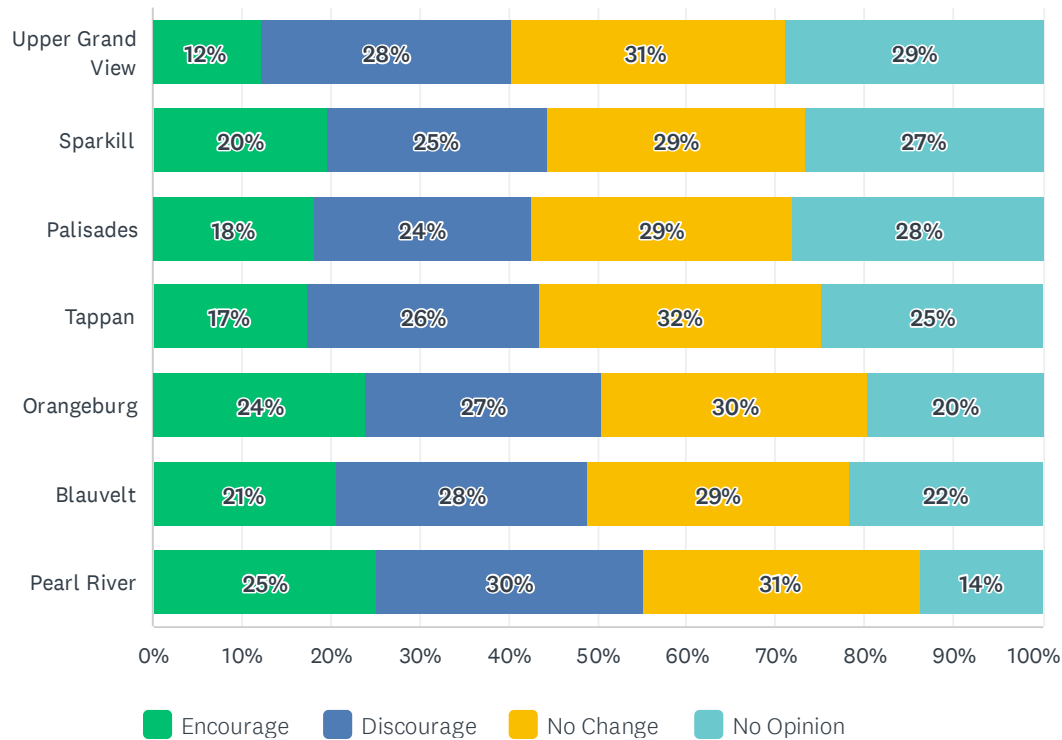
Responses received: 821

Response rate: 75 percent

Key Findings:

- 44 percent of survey respondents are satisfied with the way buildings and properties in Orangetown are maintained.
- 38 percent of survey respondents hold the opinion that conflicts between institutional and residential neighbors, and commercial and residential neighbors are a problem.
- 35 percent of survey respondents hold the opinion that the existing zoning and other local laws adequately regulated development in Orangetown.

Question 16 / Thinking about each of the following hamlet areas, please indicate whether you think residential development should be encouraged, discouraged, no change, or no opinion.



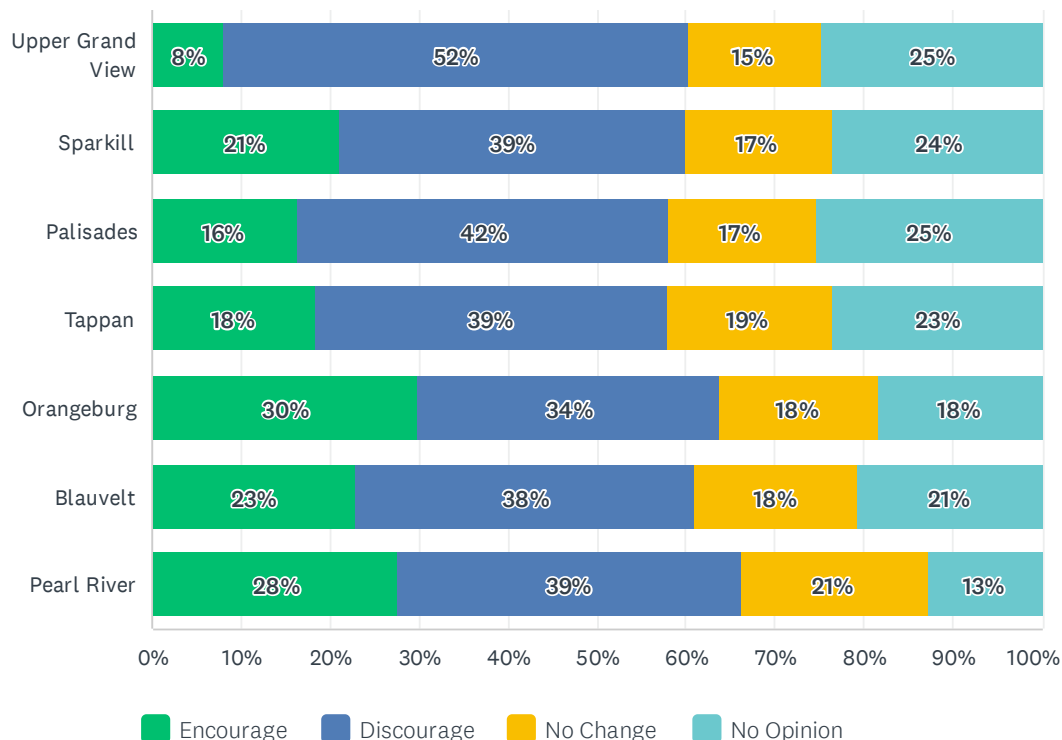
Responses received: 821

Response rate: 75 percent

Key Findings:

- For each hamlet, more than 50 percent of survey respondents indicated that residential development should either be discouraged or should be not be changed.
- 24 percent of survey respondents encourage residential development in Orangeburg and 25 percent of survey respondents encourage residential development in Pearl River.

Question 17 / Thinking about each of the following hamlet areas, please indicate whether you think commercial development should be encouraged, discouraged, no change, or no opinion.



Responses received: 821

Response rate: 75 percent

Key Findings:

- For each hamlet, more than 50 percent of the survey respondents indicated that commercial development should either be discouraged or should not be changed.
- 30 percent of survey respondents encourage commercial development in Orangeburg and 28 percent of survey respondents encourage commercial development in Pearl River.

Question 18 / What mode of transportation do you most often use to get to work / school?

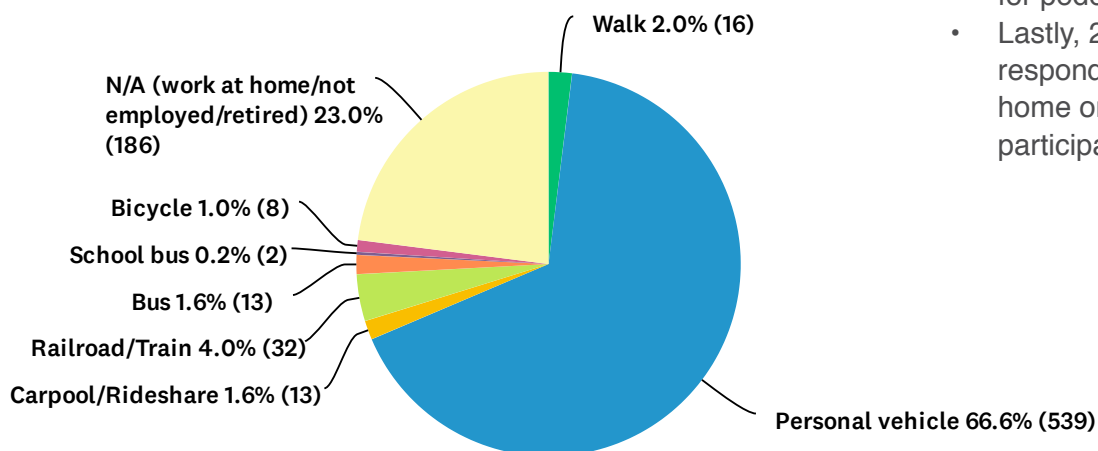
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walk	2.0%	16
Personal vehicle	66.6%	539
Carpool/Rideshare	1.6%	13
Railroad/Train	4.0%	32
Bus	1.6%	13
School bus	0.2%	2
Bicycle	1.0%	8
N/A (work at home/not employed/retired)	23.0%	186
TOTAL		809

Responses received: 809

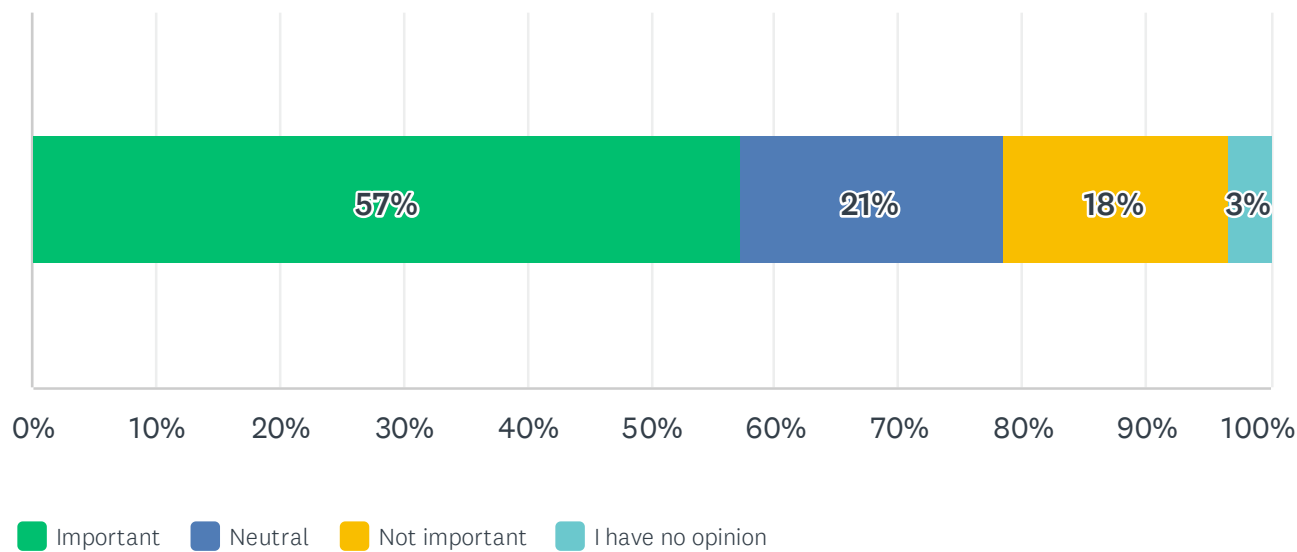
Response rate: 74 percent

Key Findings:

- More than two-thirds of survey respondents commute to school or work by personal vehicle.
- During the first Public Workshop, community members expressed the need to improve transportation infrastructure.
- A very small percentage of survey respondents walk (2 percent) or bike (1 percent) to work / school and the feedback provided during the first Public Workshop indicates that more people would walk / bike if the Town had adequate infrastructure for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Lastly, 23 percent of survey respondents either work from home or are retired and don't participate in the workforce.



Question 19 / In your opinion, how important is increasing alternative modes of transportation (such as bicycle sharing, bus routes, devoted bicycle and walking paths, ride sharing) to the future of the Town of Orangetown?



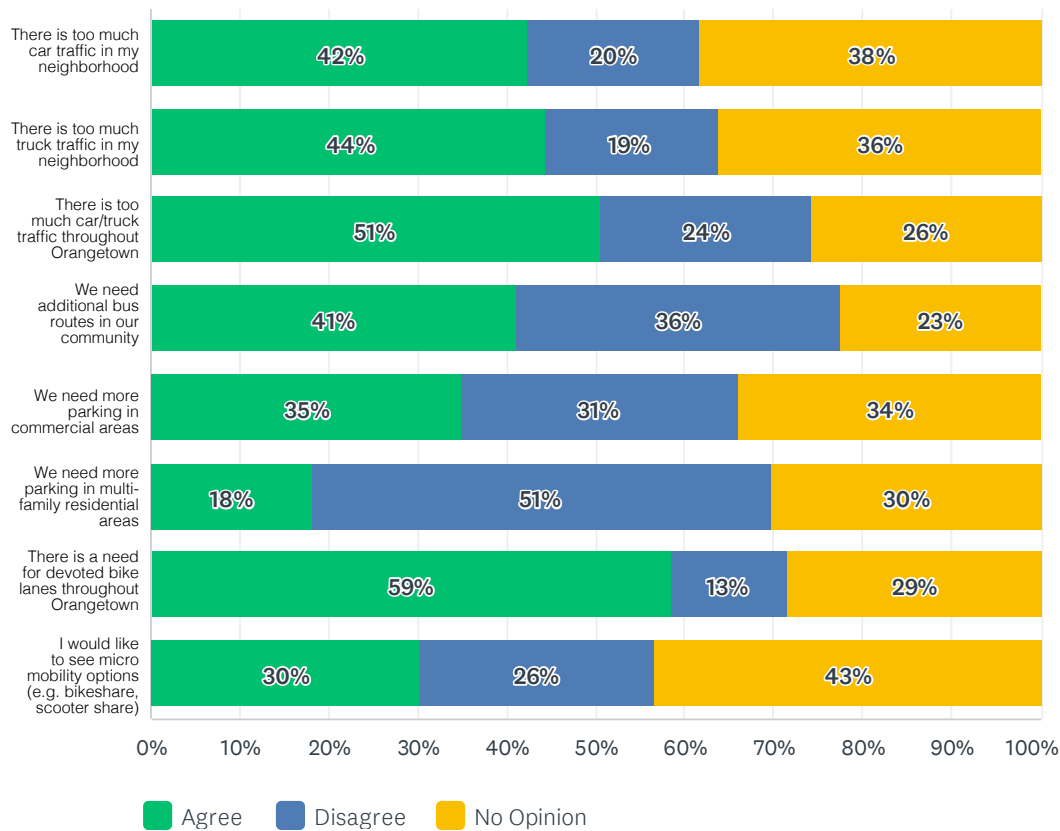
Responses received: 809

Response rate: 74 percent

Key Findings:

- 57 percent of the survey respondents indicated increasing alternative transportation modes as “important”.

Question 20 / Please respond to the following statements regarding transportation and mobility in the Town of Orangetown:



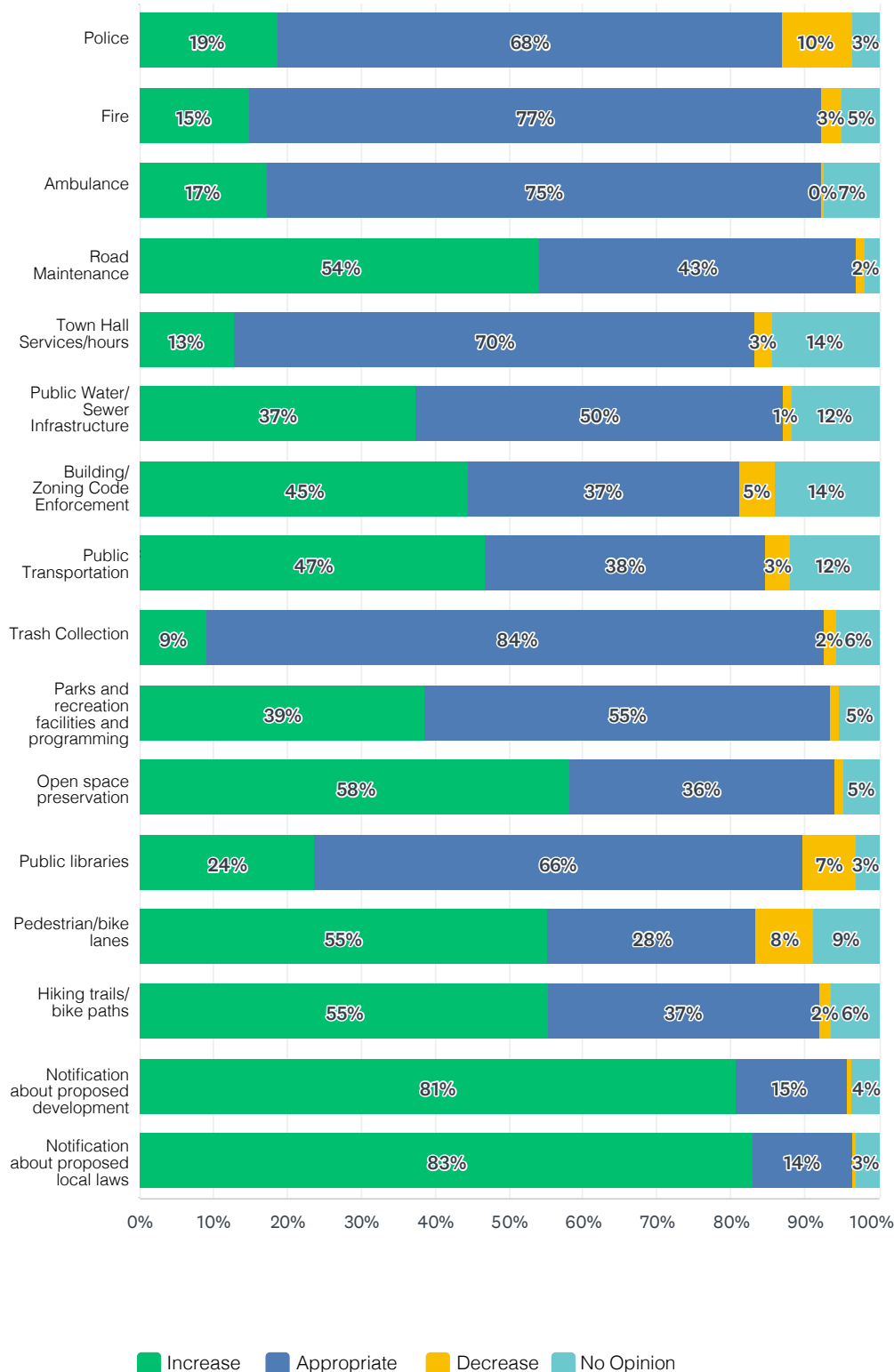
Responses received: 809

Response rate: 74 percent

Key Findings:

- Approximately 60 percent of the survey respondents support dedicated bike lanes throughout Orangetown.
- More than 50 percent of the respondents hold the opinion that there is too much car/truck traffic throughout the Town of Orangetown and 44 percent feel that there is too much truck traffic in their neighborhood.
- 35 percent of the survey respondents support more parking in commercial areas.

Question 21 / For each of the services below, please indicate whether you think the level of service is appropriate, should be increased, or should be decreased.



Responses received: 802

Response rate: 73 percent

Key Findings:

- Most survey respondents (83 percent and 81 percent respectively) hold the opinion that they need a better system for notifications about proposed local laws like zoning changes and about proposed development.
- The areas of greatest satisfaction regarding level of service are: (1) Trash collection (84 percent), (2) Fire department and ambulance (77 percent and 75 percent respectively), (3) and Town Hall services and hours (70 percent).

Question 22 / How do you prefer to receive information about community news, events, and board meetings?

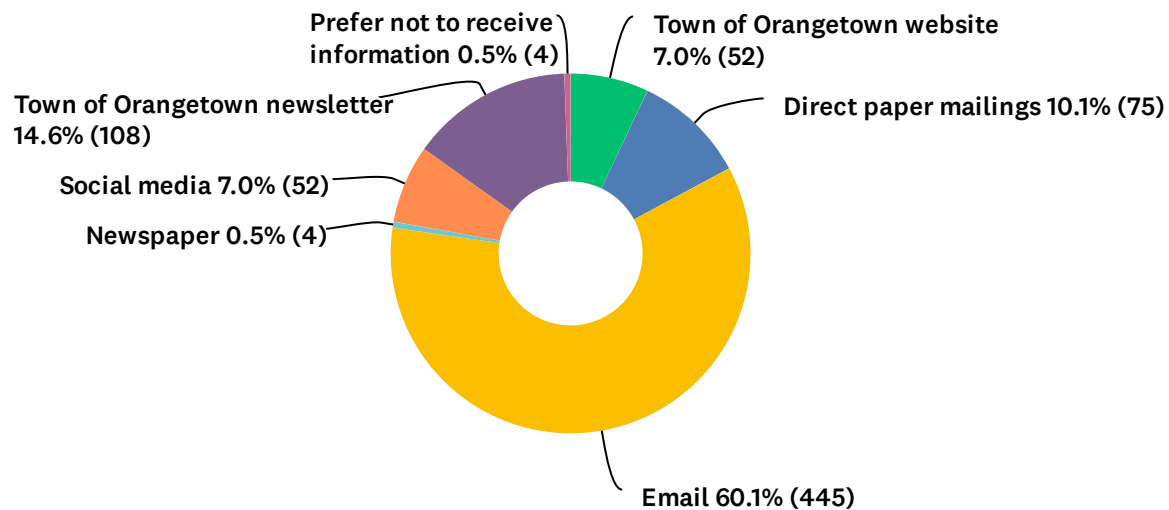
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Town of Orangetown website	7.0%	52
Direct paper mailings	10.1%	75
Email	60.1%	445
Newspaper	0.5%	4
Social media	7.0%	52
Town of Orangetown newsletter	14.6%	108
Prefer not to receive information	0.5%	4
TOTAL		740

Responses received: 740

Response rate: 67.5 percent

Key Findings:

- 60 percent of the survey respondents prefer receiving Town updates by email.
- An equal number of survey respondents (7 percent each) prefer to receive notification of Town events via social media and the Town's website.
- 10 percent prefer direct mailings and 14.6 percent prefer the Orangetown newsletter.



Question 23 / Please provide your email

The Town compiled respondent's email addresses for a Comprehensive Plan mailing list.

Question 24 / Please share any additional thoughts.

Question 24 required an open text box response. Excerpts from responses are summarized herein:

- "I feel South Orangetown has been plenty developed over the years. The problem with encouraging new development is that too often open spaces are reduced or compromised while investment goes into new hideous-looking buildings while older structures deteriorate without similar investment. I'd rather us try to reinvigorate the places and people we have. Also, it is proven that where the arts and schools are strong, economic prosperity, high real estate values and community engagement follow. These things should be paramount in your planning. Boost the arts, improve, liberalize the schools, and pave the roads and you will have a flourishing community."
- "I believe that public parks are for the tax payers, and recently it has come to light that neither dogs... nor art.... Nor private gatherings... nor permits to have any sort of gatherings are being provided to ANY private companies or individuals... which sort of goes completely against the parks being "for the people". Orangetown is evolving, there are hundreds of children in the neighborhoods and it could be a beautiful way to help fund the town if there was a way for private businesses AND FUND THE TOWN, to ALLOW individuals or private companies to host events and occupy OUR outdoor spaces. Companies Throwing public events for the town, for the people... will fund the town by just through permits alone. It's a ridiculous rule, it's a ridiculous amount of money to lose out on as a whole. RETHINK THE POLICY. LET THE LOCAL BUSINESSES/ individuals FUND THE TOWN... the school district rents theirs.. IT IS CONSTANT, CONTINUOUS REVENUE."
- "Orangetown Garden waste pick up should be increased especially in south Nyack where the plots are smaller and there is no place on properties to dispose."
- "Environmental impact should be central to the comprehensive plan. Issues of drainage, permeability and pollution need to be taken very seriously for both residential and commercial development. I encourage designation of environmentally sensitive areas especially in South Nyack. The view shed of the Hudson River is also a valuable asset. Implementing bulk requirements could be very helpful. Diversity is an important quality of our community, and it requires multi-family housing and rentals, for which development is possible in environmentally and architecturally sensitive ways."
- "Preserving the history and rural nature is important. Commercial Development like in Nanuet would destroy the atmosphere and make our area just like the rest of commercial America. Please preserve our community and provide more areas for community gardens and parks "
- "Need to get the buses running on a regular basis to NYC. Cut down on traffic to City. Also ever thought about doing parking for bus commuters on the Route 9W and Oak Tree Road Bus Stop?"
- I want to thank Theresa Kenny and her co-workers for the forward way of communicating and keeping Orangetown a good and safe neighborhood.

Tag-a-Photo

Tag-a-Photo was designed as a digital place-based mapping tool that allowed users to zoom into specific locations within Orangetown and tag these locations with photos and comments.

The Tag-a-Photo exercise was open for input from 18 October 2021 - 03 November 2021 and had the following response statistics:

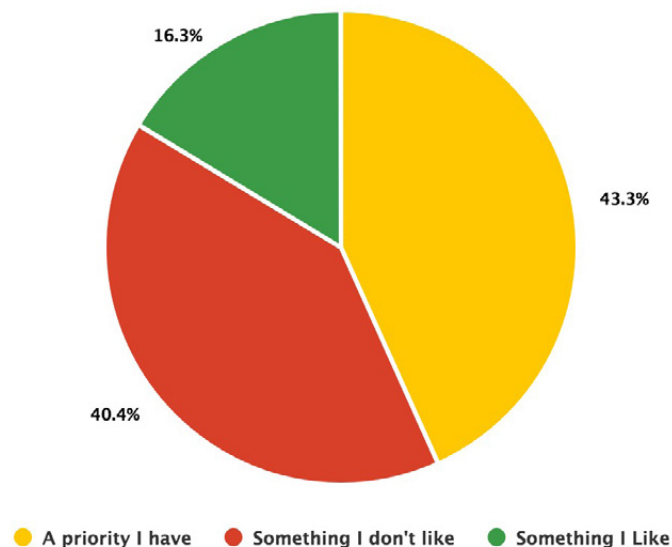
- Total number of visits: 461
- Total unique users: 146
- Total comments received: 125



Respondents marked preferences on a map using three indicators: “A priority I have”; “Something I don’t like”; and “Something I like”. Respondents could also attach and geolocate photos to elaborate their preferences.

More than 80 percent of the comments and tagged photos indicated priorities and concerns and a little more than 16 percent called out good practices in the Town. The distribution of responses is as follows:

- A priority I have: 43.3 percent
- Something I don’t like: 40.4 percent
- Something I like: 16.3 percent



Individual responses are summarized on the maps that follow, and are included in Appendix A of this report.

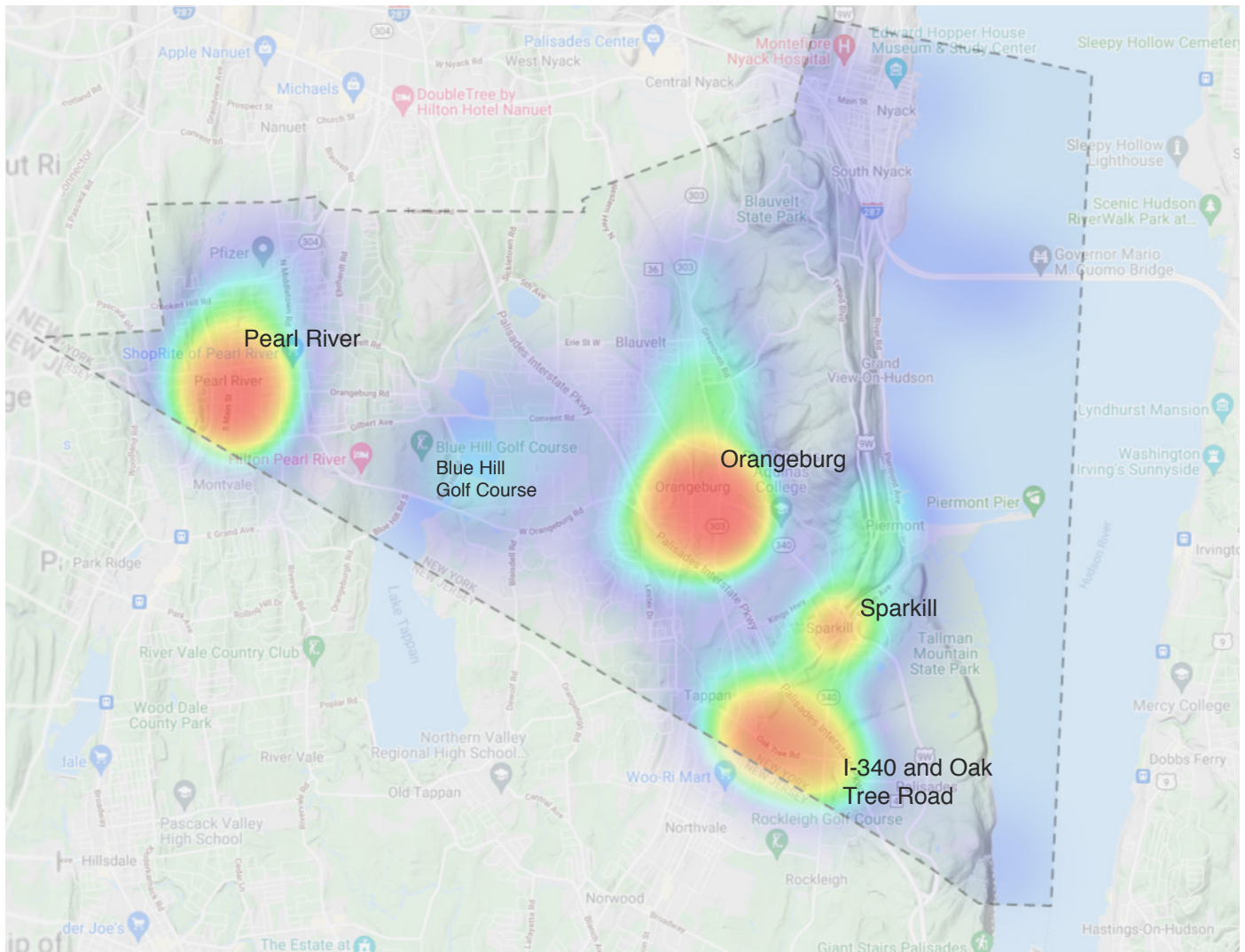


Image Courtesy of: MUD Workshop

The heat map above shows the geographic areas that received the most comments and feedback.

1. Pearl River Neighborhood: Placed-based comments for the Pearl River neighborhood prioritized improving circulation around the train station, enhancing the visual environment via streetscape design and providing better connectivity with sidewalks and pedestrian infrastructure. The neighborhood's walkability and diverse business offerings were seen as a positive and respondents indicated that they would like to enhance this experience through improvements to the visual character, streetscaping, maintaining the scale of the built environment, and connecting to nearby facilities such as the ball field which is currently underutilized. A few comments are as follows:

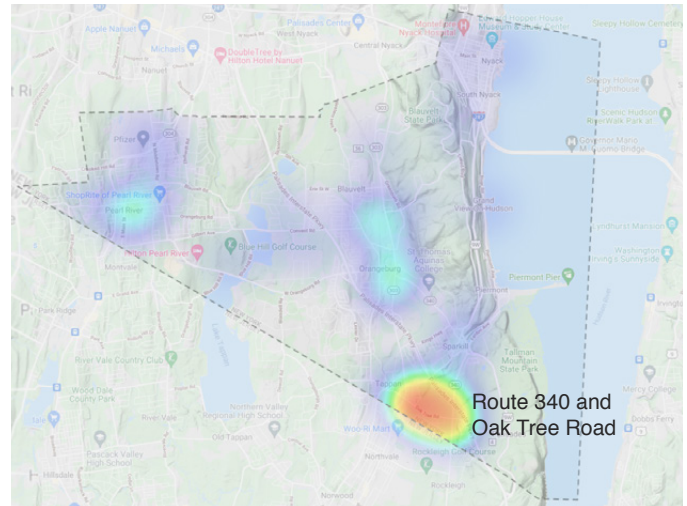
- “This section of South Main Street lacks character and doesn’t mesh with the rest of the town.”
- “The sidewalk here is falling apart and I have tripped multiple times on loose pieces of concrete and uneven surfaces created by poor temporary patch work done by the Orangetown highway department. It is very dangerous and looks horrible, it really needs to be fixed the right way, no more poor and ineffective temporary patch work please. The sidewalk also needs to be extended further down Main Street for ease of access to the town for children and families.”
- “Area could benefit from beautification of auto repair shops/ lots putting fencing around the businesses. This is sometimes one of the first intersections people encounter when coming to this side of town and it is visually unappealing.”

2. Orangeburg: Feedback in the Orangeburg area was focused on traffic and storage facilities. Respondents expressed concern over the development of warehouses and indicated that in addition to increasing truck traffic, new storage facilities disrupt the historic fabric in this area. A few comments are as follows:

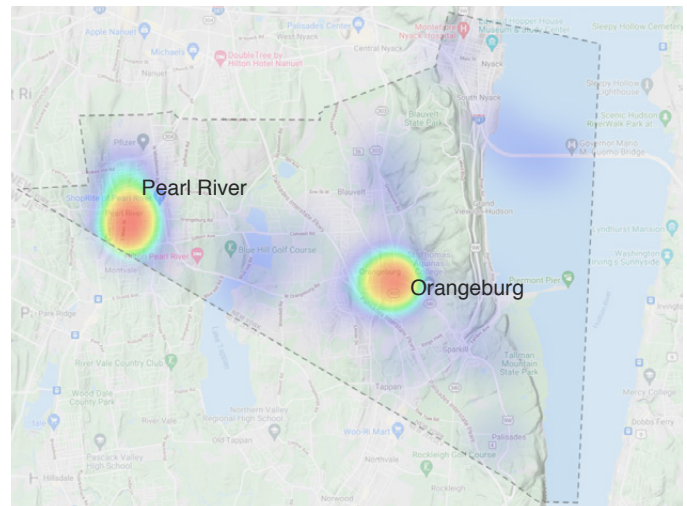
- “Mega warehouses proposed on the 303 corridor are detrimental to all of the reasons we live here in Orangetown”
- “Volume of proposed warehouses are inconsistent with the wishes of the residents and will change the character of Orangetown forever.”
- “Historical Buildings And other historical sites We have some protection in our historical districts but there is absolutely no protection or even consideration for history outside of these districts. A demolition permit was issued without question for the Lent house even though there were preservationists willing to save it. Solutions can be found to satisfy owners while still preserving history”

3. Area around Route 340 and Oak Tree Road: Almost all the comments for Route 340 and Oak Tree Road prioritized streetscape design, better connections and traffic improvements for safer, more efficient auto, bicycle and pedestrian circulation.

- “9W-Rt. 303 walkway needs to be completed The sections of the walkway connecting 9W with 303 need completion to make it a usable path for exercise and a walkable connection to the Clarke Rail Trail as well the stores, restaurants and other commercial establishments on Rt. 303”
- “Speeding and Noise by modified cars and motorbikes The increasing number of joyrides of cars and motorbikes with altered exhaust systems - frequently using route 340, Oak Tree Road, and 303 is changing the peaceful life quality of this section of our town. Local ordinances, municipal codes and coordination with surrounding municipalities should be enhanced to mitigate these problems.”



Heat map showing top geographic areas tagged with the marker “A priority I have”



Heat map showing top geographic areas tagged with the marker “Something I don’t like”

Image Courtesy of: MUD Workshop

Image Courtesy of: MUD Workshop

Vision Wall

The Vision Wall was designed as a digital ideas board that allowed users to provide descriptive comments and vote on comments provided by others. The input was gathered in six broad categories: Community Facilities, Sustainability, Land Use, Housing, Transportation and Mobility, and 'Others'.

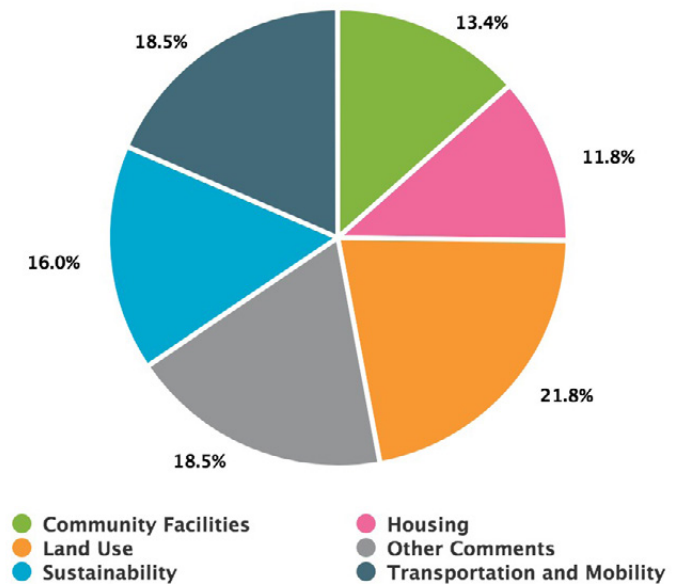
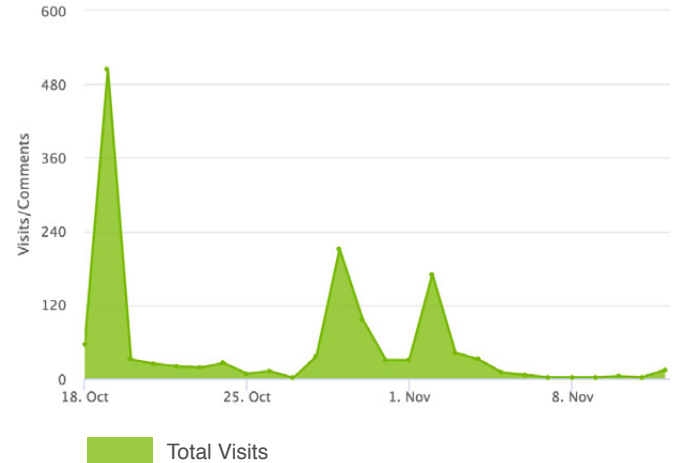
The Vision Wall actively received feedback from users from 18 October 2021 - 03 November 2021 and had the following response statistics -

- Total number of visits: 1,387
- Total unique users: 318
- Total comments received: 185

Respondents were asked to provide feedback on their priorities in the six aforementioned categories and the distribution of responses received in each category is as below:

- Community Facilities: 13.4 percent
- Housing: 11.8 percent
- Land Use: 21.8 percent
- Sustainability: 16.0 percent
- Transportation and Mobility: 18.5 percent
- Other Comments: 18.5 percent

Respondents had the option of uploading photographs to provide more detail along with their comments. The following pages summarize the most popular comments and individual detailed responses have been included in the appendix (Appendix A).





Composite of comments in all categories on the Vision Wall exercise.

Word Cloud highlighting the key words that were used in the descriptive feedback.



The comments that received the highest supporting votes on the Vision Wall are as follows:

1. **Sustainability:** “We need a significant tree planting program to improve air quality and mitigate some of the drainage/run off issues. Also, we need to stop cutting down large trees that are sometimes hundreds of years old. The old trees are part of the heritage of Orangetown.”

- Votes agreeing with comment: 24
- Votes disagreeing with comment: 00

2. **Land Use:** “I am concerned for the direction our town is going with the plans for all the big box warehouses. 303 is increasingly becoming more congested with large 18 wheeler trucks trying to make turns onto streets not designed to handle this type of traffic. The surrounding neighborhoods will suffer and lose value. The noise, pollution and congestion will increase and will be allowed 24/7. Variances are given even when the property is bought knowing its limitations. It is not a hardship when you know.”

- Votes agreeing with comment: 19
- Votes disagreeing with comment: 01

3. **Transportation and Mobility:** “We need better more reliable rail transportation. All of our express trains from Pearl River have been taken away and never came back. More express trains.”

- Votes agreeing with comment: 18
- Votes disagreeing with comment: 01

4. **Transportation and Mobility:** “There is not enough safe access to our downtowns. We need more sidewalks. In Pearl River, on South Main Street, there are no sidewalks from Madison Ave heading towards Gilbert Ave. The sidewalks currently ends on at Madison Ave on South Main Street. This needs to be extended. There are young families with kids that dangerously walk in the middle of the roads walking towards downtown. If we want young professionals with families to move into Pearl River, we need more sidewalks and safer access.”

- Votes agreeing with comment: 15
- Votes disagreeing with comment: 00

5. **Other Comments:** “Please save Orangetown from the further growth and development that will transform its character and desirability for the residents who have chosen to move and remain here, as it is now.”

- Votes agreeing with comment: 15
- Votes disagreeing with comment: 00

6. **Land Use:** “Land use should be closely monitored - as over-development can cause irreversible damage in all areas of civic life - schools, infrastructure, strain on public services, etc.”

- Votes agreeing with comment: 15
- Votes disagreeing with comment: 00

7. **Land Use:** Currently there is a push for large-scale warehouses, this use should be discouraged. There is no comprehensive view as to how much is too much when it comes to traffic, pollution, proximity to schools and residential areas. Creating a corridor of warehouses will be detrimental to quality of life and provide few jobs and few benefits to the community. An increase in hardscape is not environmentally sustainable.

- Votes agreeing with comment: 14
- Votes disagreeing with comment: 00

8. **Housing:** “The homeowners who live in Orangetown do so for a reason. We do not want high density areas of multiple housing units or low income housing to be built here in our community so don’t try to push them on us. We vote for politicians who will keep Orangetown as it is, quiet and safe”.

- Votes agreeing with comment: 14
- Votes disagreeing with comment: 01

9. **Sustainability:** “Sustainable infrastructure is key to maintaining our town. Many experienced disastrous impacts from Ida with more on the horizon. Reducing hardscape, respecting the watershed and adding stormwater management volume control to the regulatory requirements (aside for just treatment) are critical for economic and environmental sustainability.”

- Votes agreeing with comment: 14
- Votes disagreeing with comment: 01

10. Other Comments: “There is no mention of Historical Building and Area preservation. This is deficient for such a historical area as ours. It fits with the protection of hamlets which is vague so far”

- Votes agreeing with comment: 14
- Votes disagreeing with comment: 01

11. Housing: “There seems to be adequate housing but even our quiet neighborhood is often disrupted by new homes being built on existing lots or plots of land being divided and mowed down into multiple sub plots for closely spaced homes. This disrupts the nature of the town.”

- Votes agreeing with comment: 13
- Votes disagreeing with comment: 00

12. Housing: “Single family homes are the backbone of Orangetown. The town needs to continue to protect these areas and discourage any nearby commercial development that would have a negative effect on these areas. Code enforcement should be continued to ensure illegal apartments are not allowed in these areas.”

- Votes agreeing with comment: 15
- Votes disagreeing with comment: 02

13. Land Use: “The town needs to be vigilant in terms of the businesses that are allowed in the 303 corridor. The amount of truck traffic has significantly increased in the past 3 years or so. That increase is damaging our roads, reducing the quality of the air we breathe and dangerous to all who drive on 303.”

- Votes agreeing with comment: 13
- Votes disagreeing with comment: 00

14. Transportation and Mobility: “Commuting to NYC is limited to bus or driving, unless one wants to cross the Hudson to Tarrytown. A ferry to Tarrytown would help.”

- Votes agreeing with comment: 13
- Votes disagreeing with comment: 01

15. Transportation and Mobility: “More sidewalks would be a great way to improve the walkability of our neighborhoods. For example, it is

virtually impossible to cross route 303 safely and it prevents pedestrians from traveling from Sparkill to Tappan.”

- Votes agreeing with comment: 12
- Votes disagreeing with comment: 00

16. Housing: “Sparkill and Piermont already have many apartments and town house options. Multiple housing options should not be further developed. Keep the single family residences at the present ratio.”

- Votes agreeing with comment: 15
- Votes disagreeing with comment: 03

17. Land Use: “The Town should continue to preserve open land and look for opportunities to purchase parcels of land that could be in danger of over-development. The Town should consider a water front park/walking trail in the former RCP. Strengthen the Route 303 Overlay to protect that area from proliferation of warehouses and distribution centers. Truck traffic is becoming a nightmare.”


- Votes agreeing with comment: 12
- Votes disagreeing with comment: 00

18. Land Use: “Residents could use more education on town-wide sustainability options.”

- Votes agreeing with comment: 12
- Votes disagreeing with comment: 01

19. Land Use: “We should proactively build infrastructure related to increasing impacts of climate change- specifically continuing to bolster storm water/drainage, power grid (especially around C.land mountain area and where trees may often fall on lines).”

- Votes agreeing with comment: 12
- Votes disagreeing with comment: 01



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Date: December 2021

Town of Orangetown Comprehensive Plan

Community Outreach Findings and Survey Results [Sept. to Nov. 2021]



Prepared for
Town of Orangetown Comprehensive Planning Committee

Prepared by

**METROPOLITAN
URBAN
DESIGN
WORKSHOP**

With assistance from
AKRF Inc.