



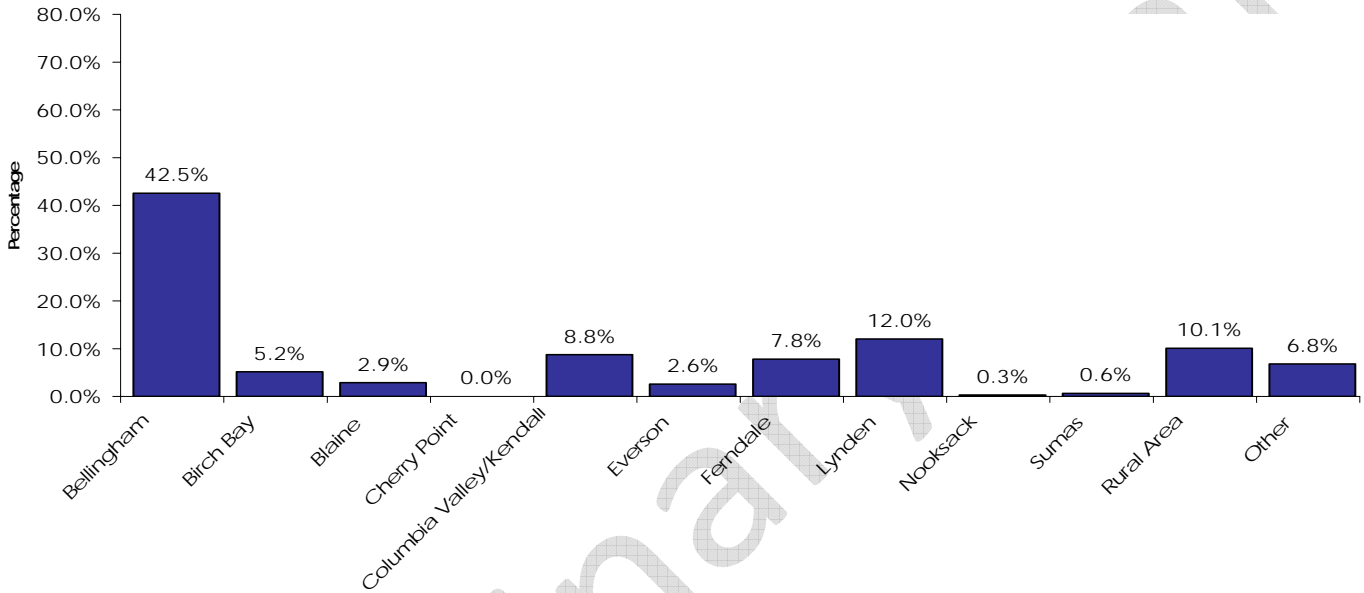
Preliminary Questionnaire Summary

WHATCOM 2031 ▪ Comprehensive Plan Update ▪ November 2008

Demographics

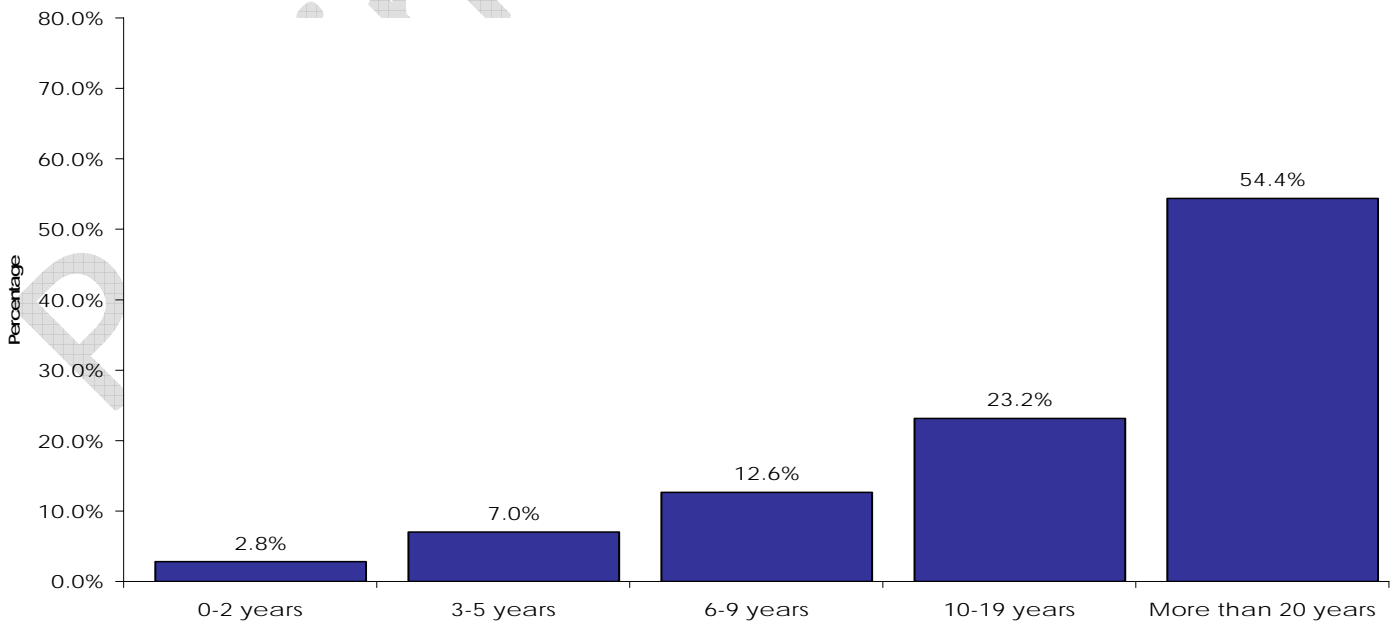
Which area do you live in or are you closest to (please check one)?

Percentage of Responses by Area
both "live in" and "live near" responses



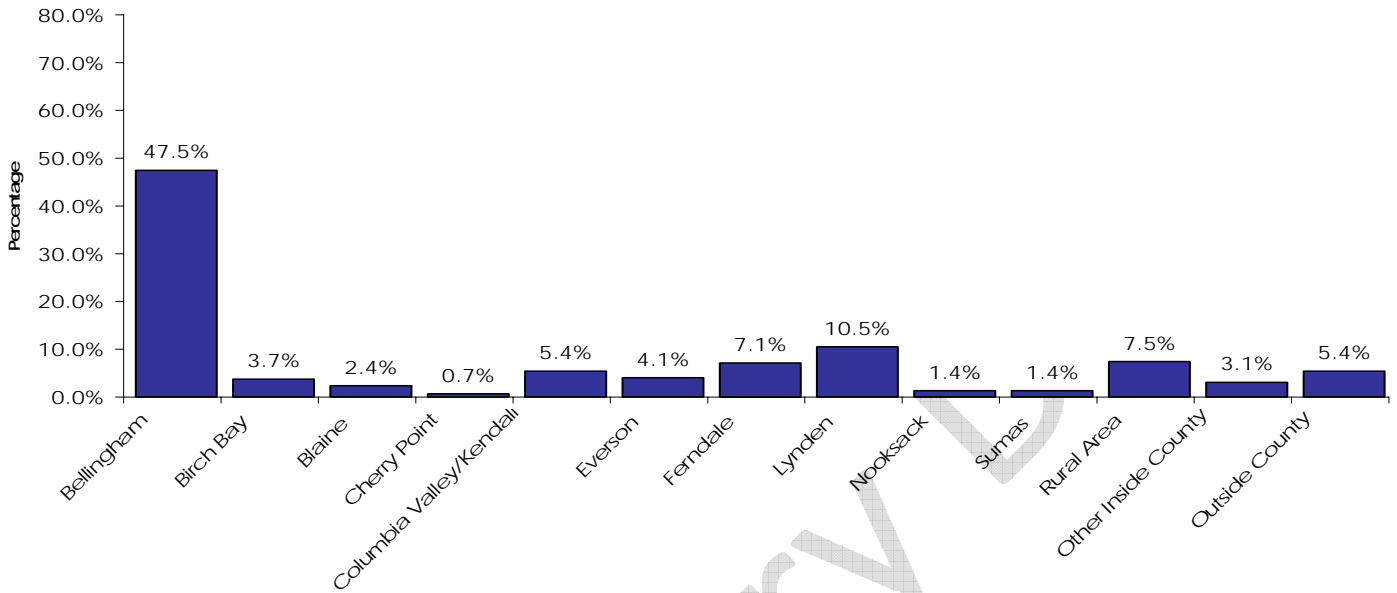
How long have you lived in Whatcom County (please check one)?

Years lived in Whatcom County

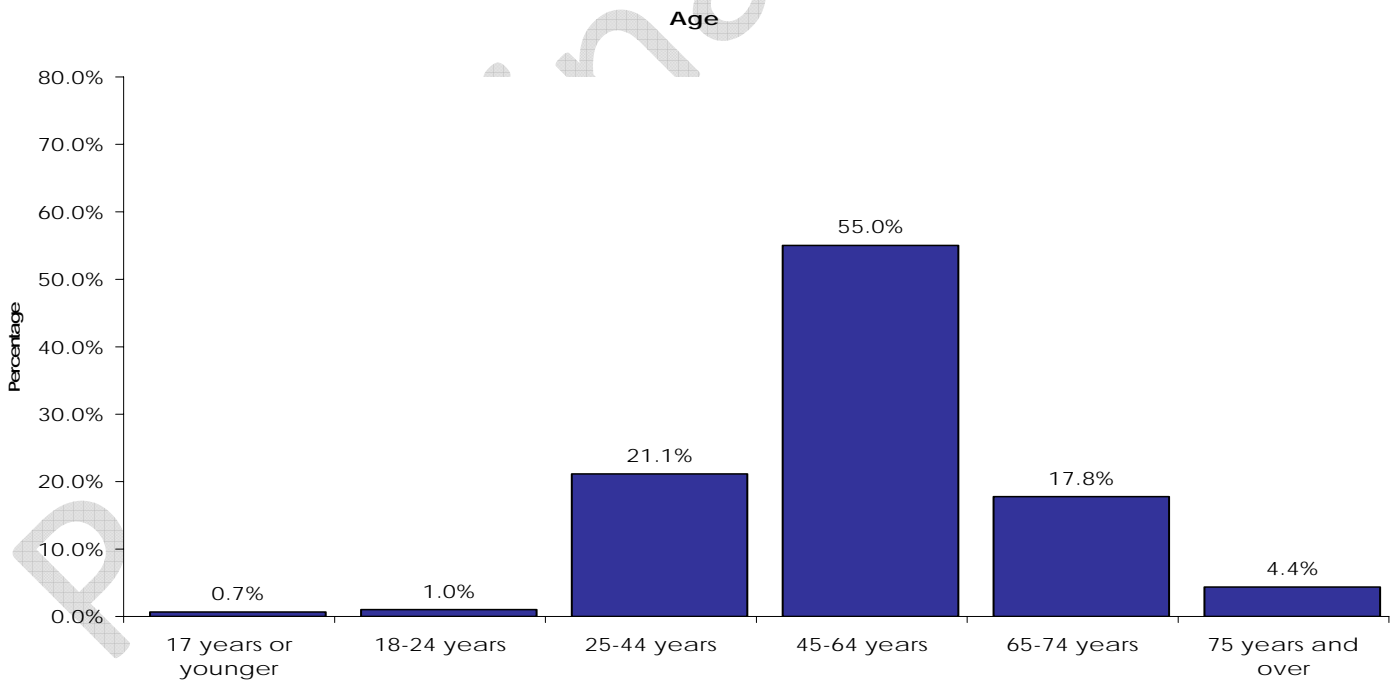


**Which area do you work in or are you closest to
(please check one)?**

Percentage of Responses by Area
both "work in" and "work near" responses



How old are you (please check one)?



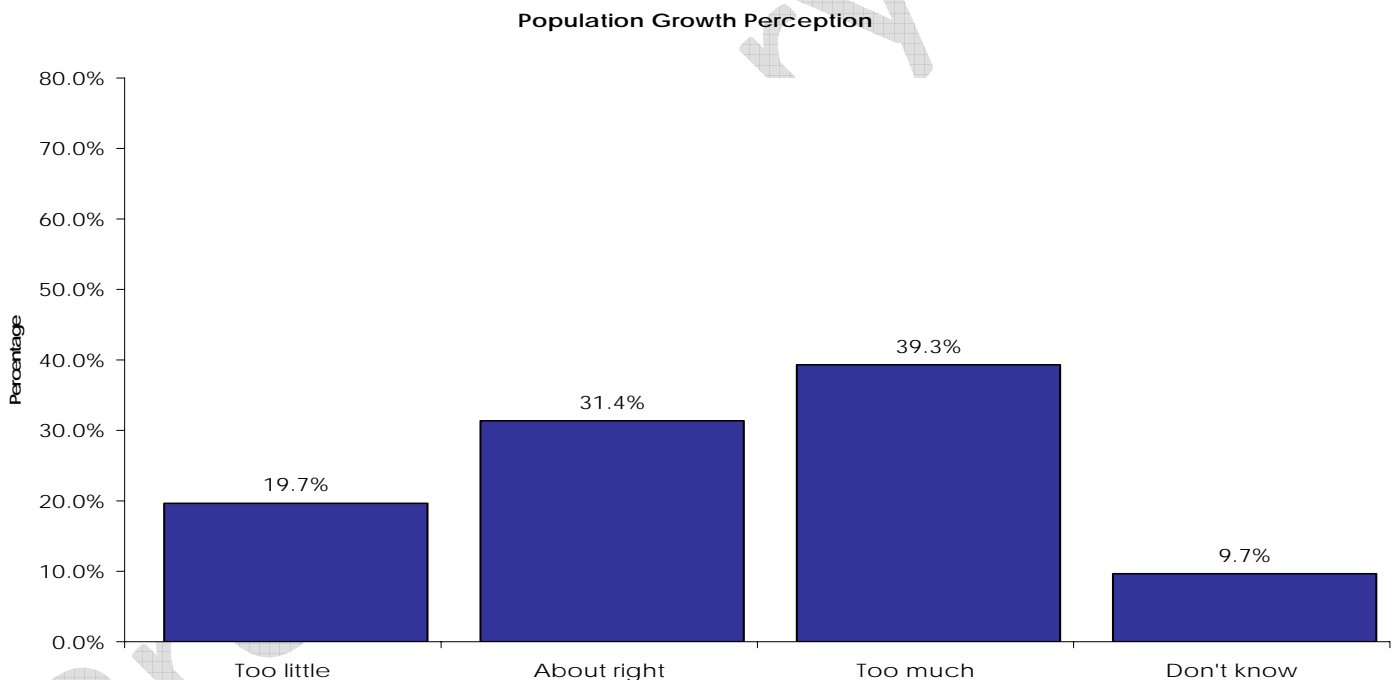
Community Values

What do you value most about Whatcom County? Please check the five most important features to you.

1. Natural environment features (209)
2. Clean water and air (194)
2. Parks, trails, open spaces, and recreational opportunities (194)
4. Community character (157)
5. Rural character (133)
6. Forest lands (88)
7. Agricultural activities (76)
8. Educational opportunities (71)
9. A variety of housing choices and prices (62)
10. Availability of jobs (60)
11. Transportation system (47)
12. Healthcare services (46)
13. Cultural activities (43)
14. Commercial/shopping opportunities (38)
15. Public safety services (30)
16. Other (18)

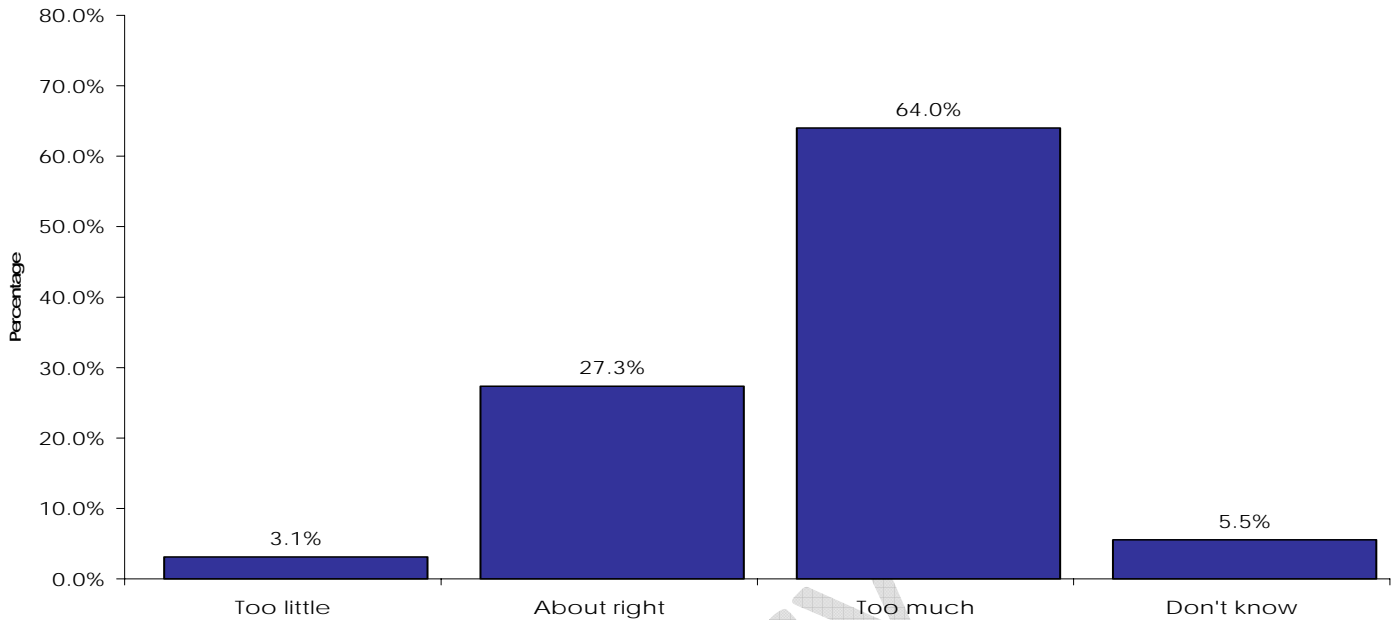
Population Growth

County and city representatives have preliminarily identified a Whatcom County forecast of 251,490 for the year 2031. This would be 60,490 more people than today, representing a growth rate of 1.2% per year. Do you think this level of growth is (please check one):



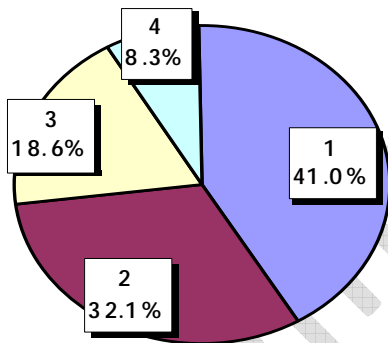
In rural areas would you say that population growth in the last 10 years has been (please check one):

Rural Population Growth Perception



Which urban growth scenario do you prefer (please check one)?

Urban growth scenarios



1. Small cities and small urban areas in Whatcom County become their own economic centers so there would be less of a need to go to Bellingham. More population growth can locate in these small cities and small urban areas to be near jobs.	41.0%
2. Bellingham continues to be the primary job and population center in the County, and Bellingham's population grows at a faster rate than the rest of the county.	32.1%
3. Each community takes a share of future population growth that is similar to their share of existing population.	18.6%
4. Other.	8.3%

Where are the best places for population growth (please check all that apply)?

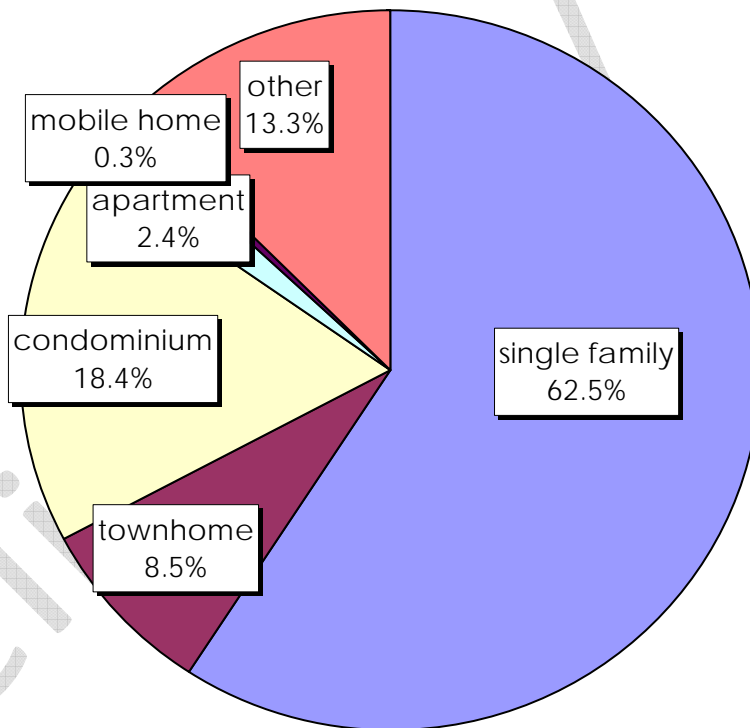
- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Bellingham (224) | 7. Everson (76) |
| 2. Ferndale (186) | 8. Nooksack (50) |
| 3. Blaine (149) | 9. Columbia Valley/Kendall (33) |
| 4. Lynden (133) | 10. Other (23) |
| 5. Birch Bay (82) | 11. Rural Areas (19) |
| 6. Sumas (80) | |

Where are the worst places for population growth (please check all that apply)?

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Rural Areas (202) | 7. Bellingham (46) |
| 2. Columbia Valley/Kendall (142) | 8. Lynden (44) |
| 3. Birch Bay (77) | 9. Other (31) |
| 4. Nooksack (74) | 10. Blaine (25) |
| 5. Everson (65) | 11. Ferndale (19) |
| 6. Sumas (64) | |

In 20 years, in what type of housing do you see yourself living (please check one)?

Housing Type in 20 Years



Economy

The Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Update will need to be consistent with GMA goals to promote economic opportunity for all citizens. Most employment growth is likely to occur in cities and urban areas where services are available, but some employment growth is also expected in rural areas consistent with rural character and setting.

What type of job growth is needed in Whatcom County? (please check three that are most important to you)

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. High Technology/Research and Development (199) | 6. Heavy Manufacturing (56) |
| 2. Light Manufacturing (184) | 7. Office (44) |
| 3. Farming (126) | 8. Forestry (41) |
| 4. Cottage/Home-Based Business (120) | 9. Other (25) |
| 5. Tourism (90) | 10. Mining (4) |

Where are the best places for job growth (please check all that apply)?

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Bellingham (232) | 7. Everson (64) |
| 2. Ferndale (195) | 8. Birch Bay (54) |
| 3. Lynden (140) | 9. Nooksack (41) |
| 4. Blaine (132) | 10. Columbia Valley/Kendall (28) |
| 5. Cherry Point (96) | 11. Other (20) |
| 6. Sumas (81) | 12. Rural Areas (17) |

Where are the worst places for job growth (please check all that apply)?

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Rural Areas (179) | 7. Other (37) |
| 2. Columbia Valley/Kendall (135) | 8. Cherry Point (34) |
| 3. Nooksack (75) | 9. Lynden (27) |
| 4. Sumas (70) | 10. Bellingham (26) |
| 5. Everson (69) | 11. Ferndale (15) |
| 6. Birch Bay (64) | 12. Blaine (14) |

Natural Environment

Whatcom County offers a beautiful and ecologically diverse natural environment that is to be protected in both urban and rural areas of the county.

What aspects of our County's natural environment are you most concerned about? Please pick the five most important features to you.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Rivers, streams, lakes (177) | 8. Rural landscapes (98) |
| 2. Water quality (173) | 9. Fish habitat (83) |
| 3. Air quality (162) | 10. Wetlands (66) |
| 4. Wildlife habitat (149) | 11. Scenic vistas (60) |
| 5. Marine waters and bays (137) | 12. Flood hazard areas (47) |
| 6. Ground water/ aquifers (121) | 13. Landslide hazard areas (24) |
| 7. Forest lands (111) | 14. Other: (22) |

Transportation

Please prioritize the following elements of the transportation system based on what you think needs the most improvement within your community and between communities.

Transportation System Feature	Within my community			Between communities		
	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority
a. Bicycle Paths or Routes	57.7%	26.0%	16.4%	39.0%	32.0%	29.0%
b. Pedestrian Paths, Trails, or Sidewalks	59.9%	23.7%	16.5%	30.7%	25.9%	43.4%
c. Public Transit	54.5%	31.4%	14.1%	73.3%	20.5%	6.2%
d. Roadway Connections (New)	17.7%	26.0%	56.3%	24.0%	33.1%	42.9%
e. Increased Roadway Capacity	20.3%	23.4%	56.3%	24.2%	34.1%	41.7%
f. Roadway Maintenance	43.2%	45.8%	11.0%	41.1%	49.8%	9.1%
g. Freight Movement	18.8%	36.3%	44.9%	29.8%	46.5%	23.6%
h. Commuter Trains	19.8%	18.7%	61.5%	37.9%	24.1%	37.9%
i. Other:	85.7%	7.1%	7.1%	80.0%	10.0%	10.0%