

## Workshop Summary Bergen County Discovery Workshop Bergen County Community College – Paramus Campus, Paramus, NJ Wednesday, April 24, 2013

### BACKGROUND

During the months of February through May 2013, **Together North Jersey (TNJ)** and the **North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA)** jointly convened a series of 14 public outreach workshops. The purpose of the workshops was to gather input from local officials, residents and businesses about what it is like to live, work, and get around northern New Jersey and how we can work together to ensure a prosperous future for the northern part of the state. The workshops were convened in support of two concurrent planning processes that are described in more detail below.

### About Together North Jersey

Together North Jersey is a voluntary partnership of jurisdictions, organizations, businesses, educational institutions, and agencies in the 13-county NJTPA planning region (See Figure 1) that have agreed to work together to develop a long-range action plan to address the challenges facing the region. In November 2011, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded **Together North**

**Jersey a \$5 million Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant.** The grant is matched with an additional \$5 million in leveraged funds from project partners. Grant funds will be used to: 1) develop a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (RPSD) for the 13-county planning region; 2) implement up to 18 local demonstration projects; and 3) provide technical assistance and offer capacity-building opportunities that include: a program of educational conference, workshops and webinars as well as to two capacity-building grant programs – one for counties and cities participating on the steering committee and a second for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to become involved in the regional planning process.

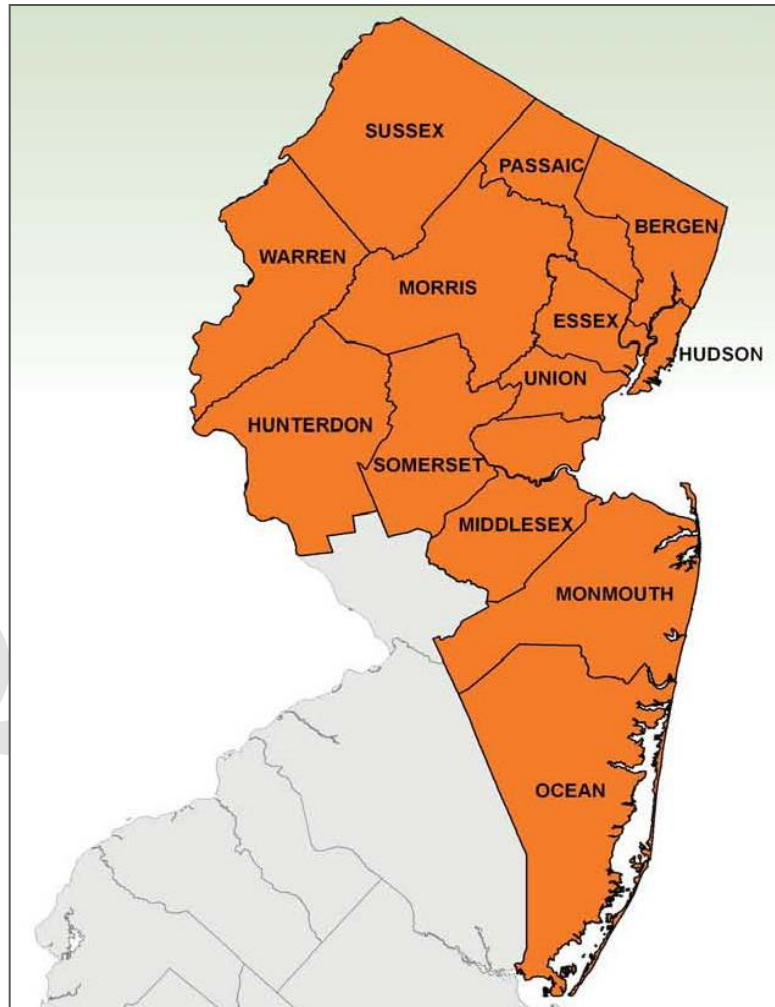
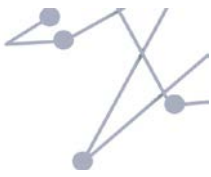


Figure 1: The NJTPA and Together North Jersey Planning Region



### **The Together North Jersey RPSD Planning Process**

The **Together North Jersey** RPSD planning process will engage officials at multiple levels of government, businesses, non-governmental organizations, other stakeholders and the general public in a strategic planning process designed to address the challenges facing the region. The planning process is divided into three phases designed to explore existing conditions and trends, consider different scenarios for future growth and development, and develop a detailed action plan for achieving the region’s vision and goals (See Figure 2).

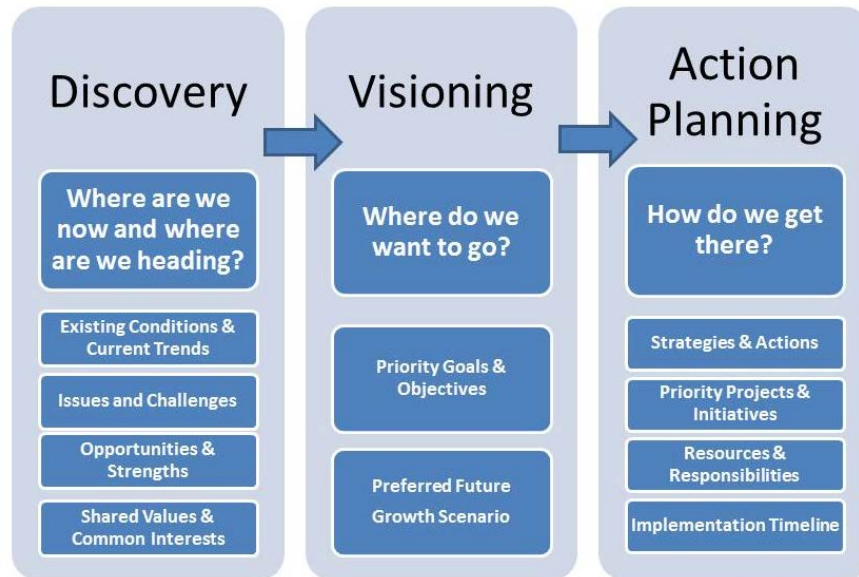


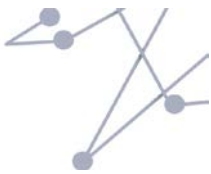
Figure 2: Together North Jersey RPSD Planning Process

### **About the NJTPA**

The NJTPA is the federally authorized Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for 6.6 million people in the 13-county northern New Jersey region. Each year, the NJTPA oversees more than \$2 billion in transportation improvement projects and provides a forum for interagency cooperation and public input into funding decisions. It also sponsors and conducts studies, assists county planning agencies, and monitors compliance with national air quality goals.

### **NJTPA’s Regional Transportation Plan**

NJTPA’s current Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), **Plan 2035**, was adopted in 2009. Under federal law, MPOs like the NJTPA are required to update their long range plans every four years as a condition for the receipt of federal transportation funding. NJTPA is currently in the process of updating **Plan 2035**. The updated plan (**Plan 2040**) is scheduled for adoption by fall 2013. It will lay out the vision for development of the transportation system through 2040 and serve as a transportation investment guide for the region. Preparation of **Plan 2040** is being closely coordinated with the Together North Jersey RPSD planning process.



## “DISCOVERY” WORKSHOP PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES AND AGENDA

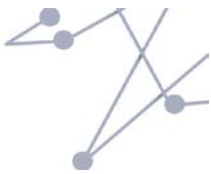
As stated above, the purpose of the Discovery workshops was to gather input from local officials, residents and businesses about what it is like to live, work and get around northern New Jersey and how we can work together to ensure prosperous future for the northern part of the state. The more specific objectives of the workshops were to:

1. Introduce Together North Jersey to local government (county and municipal) officials, stakeholders and the general public throughout the region.
2. Provide meeting participants with information about the RPSD and RTP planning processes.
3. Provide meeting participants with information about current conditions and trends related to the topic areas to be addressed in the planning process.
4. Solicit and obtain input related to the following:
  - What do people like most about their communities/region?
  - What might people like to change if they could?
  - What aspects of personal growth and well-being, family, community, nature, education, safety and security are most important to people in the region?
  - Which community planning goals and objectives are most important?
  - What are the region’s biggest strengths?
  - What are the biggest challenges facing the region?
  - What transportation challenges and priorities are most important?
  - How should we prioritize transportation investments?

The following brief agenda outlines how the workshops were organized and conducted:

- I. Self-Discovery Open House**
  - a. Sign-in and Refreshments
  - b. Where are you from? Where do you work? Map
  - c. Engage North Jersey website demonstrations
- II. Welcoming Remarks**
  - a. Local elected official
- III. Agenda Overview and Ground Rules**
- IV. Introducing Together North Jersey Presentation**
- V. “Listen & Learn” Activity Stations**
  - a. Together North Jersey Q&A (optional)
  - b. NJTPA Regional Transportation Plan
  - c. Live
  - d. Work
  - e. Getting Around
- VI. What’s Important to You Polling Exercise**
- VII. Wrap Up, Report Back and Closing Remarks**

The sections that follow summarize the input received at the workshop.



## OVERVIEW

The meeting hosted jointly by Together North Jersey (TNJ) and the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) scheduled for approximately two-and-a-half hours began at 6:00 PM with participants arriving to explore the Open House portion of the workshop. A total of 35 participants attended the meeting, which included a program of the following:

1. Welcoming remarks given by Director of Planning and Economic Development Rob Garrison;
2. Overviews of the Together North Jersey (TNJ) effort and the NJTPA's Regional Transportation Plan update were presented by Jon Carnegie, Project Director of TNJ and Executive Director of the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center at the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University, in plenary;
3. Break-out sessions, rotating through five stations (LIVE, WORK, GETTING AROUND, Together North Jersey and NJTPA/RTP) led by two facilitators from the TNJ project team per station, at the stations participants prioritized goals/objectives and provided input on investment;
4. A regrouped plenary with an interactive polling exercise focusing on important challenges and opportunities facing the region,
5. A wrap-up/report out, given by Jon Carnegie and the station facilitators.

## OPEN HOUSE

### Self-Discovery

As attendees arrived at the workshop, they were asked to sign-in to receive notification of follow-up events. Attendees were also given a program folder, which contained a workshop agenda, copies of all of the presentations, TNJ and NJTPA publications, a passbook to record stamps denoting visits to each of the stations in order to encourage participation, and a comment form. Until approximately 6:30 PM, at their leisure, participants had the option of enjoying a light meal provided by TNJ, visiting the various stations, and/or becoming acquainted with the "EngageNorthJersey.com" site that replicated most of the in-person activities online.

### Map Exercise: "Where are you from?"

After receiving their program folders, attendees were asked to place dots on a map indicating where they lived and where they worked in Bergen County. To view the map, see **Appendix A**.

## WORKSHOP INTRODUCTION

### Welcoming Remarks

An elected official or director of planning of the host jurisdiction of the workshop is invited to provide welcoming remarks. The remarks usually include connection between the Together North Jersey effort and/or the NJTPA work and initiatives of the host jurisdiction. In this workshop, Director of Planning and Economic Development Rob Garrison prepared brief welcoming remarks, thanking residents for coming to the workshop and emphasized the importance of the public's input in regional planning efforts and securing a prosperous future for the county.



## **Introducing Together North Jersey Presentation**

Together North Jersey Project Director, Jon Carnegie, provided an overview presentation on Together North Jersey that included the following information:

- ***What is Together North Jersey?*** – Together North Jersey is a voluntary partnership of cities, towns, counties, agencies, non-profit organizations and others in northern New Jersey that have agreed to work together with the public to plan for the region’s future. Together North Jersey is funded by a Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant from United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- ***Why Together North Jersey?*** – Together North Jersey was created to provide a way for local officials, businesses, state and regional agencies, non-profit organizations, other stakeholders and the public to work together to develop a regional action plan to address the many challenges facing the region. These challenges include:
  - Declining prosperity
    - Stagnant/uneven job growth
    - High unemployment
    - Increasing debt delinquencies
    - Declining home values & ownership rates
  - High cost of living
    - Housing affordability
    - Transportation costs
  - Fiscal uncertainty
    - High property taxes
    - Government debt burden
    - Looming service cuts
    - Unfunded maintenance
  - Underperforming Cities
    - Concentration of poverty
    - Public safety issues
    - School quality
  - Long commutes & traffic congestion
  - Environmental & public health concerns
    - Increase in chronic disease
    - Air & water pollution
  - Recovering from recent disasters
  - Changing demographics
  - Shifting real estate market demand



- **What will Together North Jersey do?** – Together North Jersey will: 1) undertake an extensive outreach process to figure out what we can do together to address regional challenges; 2) implement up to 40 local planning projects to address local priorities and inform the regional plan; and 3) provide technical assistance and training
- **Public and Stakeholder Engagement** – The purpose of Together North Jersey’s public and stakeholder engagement activities is to listen and learn from local officials, residents, business owners and other stakeholders from around the region. Activities will include: interviews and small group meetings; three Together North Jersey Standing Committees that will meet 3-6 times per year; up to 50 public workshops and meetings over 18 months, and the Engage North Jersey website which will collect input from people on-line. The planning process will include three phases that seek to answer the following three questions: Where are we now and where are we heading? Where do we want to go? and, How do we get there?

### LISTEN & LEARN ACTIVITY

During the Listen & Learn Activity there were five stations (NJTPA/RTP, LIVE, WORK, GETTING AROUND and TNJ) to rotate through.

- At the **NJTPA/RTP Station**, participants were asked “How do you want to INVEST?” in terms of transportation funding. This was done by dropping investment beads into jars correlated with particular capital investment categories (i.e. transit expansion, bike/ped, etc.)
- While rotating through the three **Topical Stations (LIVE, WORK, GETTING AROUND)**, participants shared ideas about “What you LIKE or would CHANGE about your community?” Then prioritized goals and objectives through a “Dotmocracy” exercise.
- At the **TNJ Station**, regional coordination goals were discussed and prioritized.



### NJTPA/Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Station: Transportation Investment

At this station, participants heard from NJTPA staff about the current Regional Transportation Plan update, as well as a presentation of the demographic trends by Zenobia Fields of NJTPA.

Current Federal transportation investments are represented by percent in pie chart Figure 3-A. Participants at the Bergen workshop were asked to select three top priorities within the current investment categories. A total of 24 people participated in the RTP exercise. Their desired investments are displayed in the pie chart Figure 3-B.

Figure 3-A: Current Federal Transportation Investments

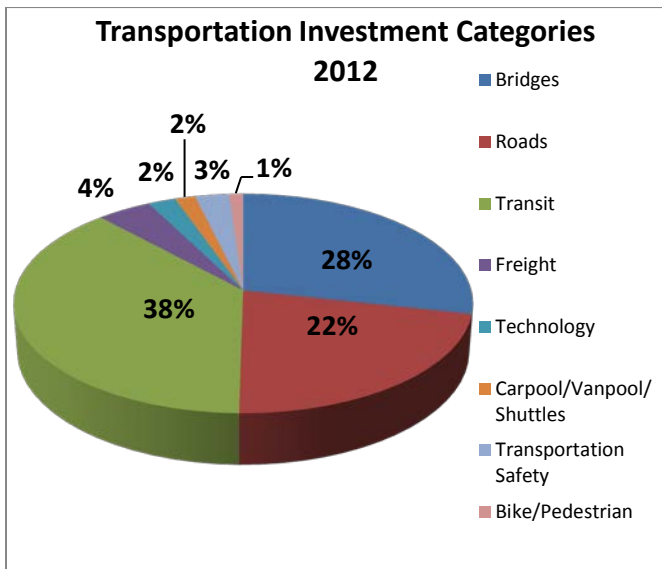
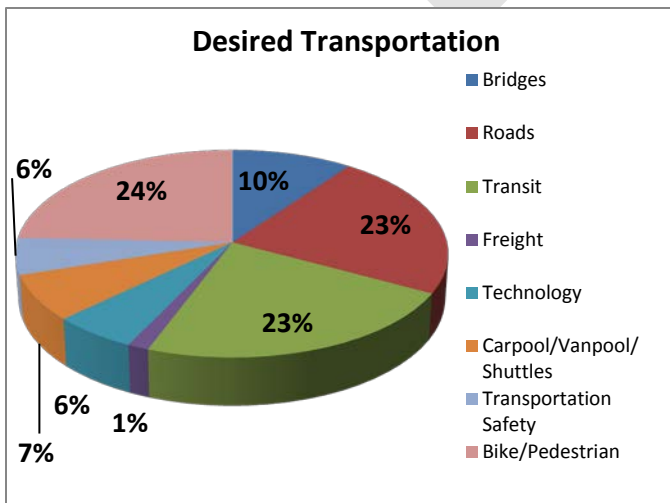


Figure 3-B: Desired Transportation Investments





### **Topical Station: Summary of Public Input**

At the LIVE, WORK and GETTING AROUND station rotations, participants were asked two questions: “What do you like about where you live/work/or about how you get around your community?” And, “What would you like to change about where you live/work/or about how you get around your community?” Participants were asked to share the answers to these questions with someone sitting next to them. Answers were recorded on post-it notes.

At the three stations, after participants shared their “like” and “change,” several attendees reported aloud the responses they heard and discussed. The post-it notes were collected and each response was recorded. Below is a summary of the top ideas that emerged. (See **Appendix B** for a complete list of participants’ answers.)

In the **LIVE** Station, participants stated they like the livability of their community and the good housing options. They also enjoy walkable areas, especially to downtown shopping areas, and the availability of mass transit. Common “Like” statements included:

- Walkable to downtown
- Convenient to NYC transit
- Combined country feel with convenience to suburbia
- Safe, clean, livable communities to be maintained as-is

In the **WORK** Station, participants shared that well-paying jobs, access and location of work, and the availability of workforce training all contribute to what they like about the work perspective.

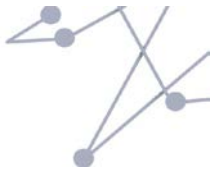
Common “Like” statements included:

- Convenient access and many well-paying jobs in NYC
- Workforce training
- Location of work is close to where people live
- Attract new businesses

In the **GETTING AROUND** Station, participants liked the availability of public transit and the ease of getting into NYC. They also find driving easy, many things are local, and enjoy the walkability and bikeability of some areas. Common “Like” statements included:

- Public transportation options
- Easy to drive around area
- Walkability of town
- Senior bus options





In the **LIVE** Station, many participants wanted to see lower taxes, better housing options and prices, improved infrastructure, and more walkable areas. Common “Change” statements included:

- More affordable housing and housing type options
- Infrastructure improvements
- More light rail
- Not walkable or bikeable in Paramus

In the **WORK** Station, participants shared a variety of changes in the work perspective, such as the need for better transit and shorter and lower priced commutes, the need to attract more business and keep taxes and insurance reasonable to do so, provide more jobs in the downtown and create a more recognizable downtown, as well as a need to provide jobs for the youth and new workers.

Common “Change” statements included:

- Cost and time needed to commute to NYC
- Create more jobs
- More workforce training
- More work opportunities for youth

In the **GETTING AROUND** Station, participants expressed a need for more public transportation and better connectivity. They also wanted to see better bike and pedestrian friendly conditions, less traffic congestion, and more East/West routes within the county. Common “Change” statements included:

- Reduce traffic congestion
- Better parking
- Would like more bike friendly roads and bike lanes
- Would like light rail option

### **Priority Objectives**

At the LIVE, WORK and GETTING AROUND stations, participants were asked to review the draft Goals and Objectives for the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development. After reviewing these, participants were asked to identify any missing objectives by writing them on a post-it and adding them to the listed objectives. A list of the missing objectives that participants identified is cataloged in **Appendix C**.

Next, participants were asked to rank the objectives within the goals, including any added objectives from the attendees. Each participant was able to vote for a total of three objectives, prioritizing them as “Most Important,” “Very Important,” and “Important.” The votes were weighted according to priority, and a point system tracked the prioritized objectives accordingly. **Table - 1** displays the Goals and Objectives with the station totals and overall totals. For a complete list of the responses, see **Appendix D**.



**Table-1: Priority Goals and Objectives Summary – Bergen County\***

Goals and Objectives	LIVE Points	WORK Points	GETTING AROUND Points	Overall Points
<b>Goal 1 - Strengthen the region's economy</b>	0	0	1	1
Keep & create well-paying jobs	5	31	0	36
Ensure infrastructure (transportation, utilities & communications) is in good repair & can support economic development	24	22	14	60
Increase the economy's ability to adapt to change	6	2	6	14
Increase regional self-sufficiency	3	1	0	4
<b>Goal 2 - Ensure communities are safe, healthy &amp; great places to live</b>	0	0	0	0
Create safe, stable neighborhoods with high-quality housing	1	10	0	11
Improve public health	3	0	0	3
Improve access to local parks & recreation	10	5	1	16
Improve access to community resources such as libraries, senior centers, youth activities	8	1	1	10
Preserve & enhance the character of existing downtowns & neighborhoods	5	0	12	17
Improve access to arts & cultural resources	10	1	4	15
<b>Goal 3 - Improve everyone's access to opportunity</b>	0	0	3	3
Connect where people live with where they need to go	6	11	19	36
Maintain & improve the quality of schools	4	8	9	21
Create inclusive, mixed-income neighborhoods	6	11	4	21
Reduce combined transportation & housing costs	4	3	2	9
<b>Goal 4 - Enhance efficiency &amp; conserve land</b>	0	0	0	0
Increase investment near existing housing, jobs & transportation	5	3	9	17
Maintain & expand vibrant downtowns & "main streets"	8	10	8	26
Encourage development of compact neighborhoods with a mix of housing, shopping & services	0	5	8	13
<b>Goal 5 - Protect &amp; enhance environment</b>	0	0	2	2
Preserve open space & natural areas	8	5	5	18
Improve air quality	3	6	4	13
Reduce potential impacts of climate change	0	1	10	11
Increase ability to respond to and recover from extreme weather events	5	4	0	9
Ensure adequate water supply	0	2	10	12
Improve water quality	7	6	0	13
Direct development away from environmentally sensitive areas	0	2	0	2
Preserve wildlife habitat	1	0	5	6

#'s = Indicates top five Objectives selected by participants.

\*See Appendix D for missing Objectives that received points.



At the **LIVE** Station, the objective, “Ensure infrastructure (transportation, utilities and communications) is in good repair and can support economic development” was a top priority (receiving 24 points). The second objective ranked was “Maintain as-is” (with 11 points). The third objective was a tie between two objectives: “Improve access to local parks and recreation” and “Improve access to arts and cultural resources” (each receiving 10 points).

At the **WORK** Station, the objective, “Keep and create well-paying jobs” was a top priority (receiving 31 points). The second objective ranked was “Ensure infrastructure (transportation, utilities and communications) is in good repair and can support economic development” (with 22 points). The third objective was a tie between two objectives: “Connect where people live with where they need to go” and “Create inclusive, mixed-income neighborhoods” (each receiving 11 points).

At the **GETTING AROUND** Station, the top priority was “Connect where people live with where they need to go” (receiving 19 points), followed by “Ensure infrastructure (transportation, utilities and communications) is in good repair and can support economic development” (with 14 points). The third priority was “Preserve and enhance the character of existing downtowns and neighborhoods” (with a total of 12 points).

#### **TNJ Station: Regional Coordination**

At the Together North Jersey Station, 23 attendees participated in a “Dotmocracy” exercise to identify a top regional objective. The Objective with the majority of votes was “Foster collaboration between federal, state, county, and local governments to address regional growth issues”. For a list of all the regional objectives and results, see **Appendix E**. Participants were also asked if they had any questions or comments about Together North Jersey, which were recorded at the station. A list of the questions and comments suggested by the public can be found in **Appendix F**.

#### **INTERACTIVE POLLING EXERCISE**

##### **“Tell us what is important to you.”**

Jon Carnegie led the participants in an interactive polling exercise. Each participant held a remote voting pad and was able to register their votes anonymously. A variety of multiple choice polling questions asked participants to consider what aspects of living in their community and the region they found most important. The top answers can be found in Table-2. For a complete listing of the results, as well as additional questions relating to participant demographics, see **Appendix G**.



**Table-2: Interactive Polling Top Answers**

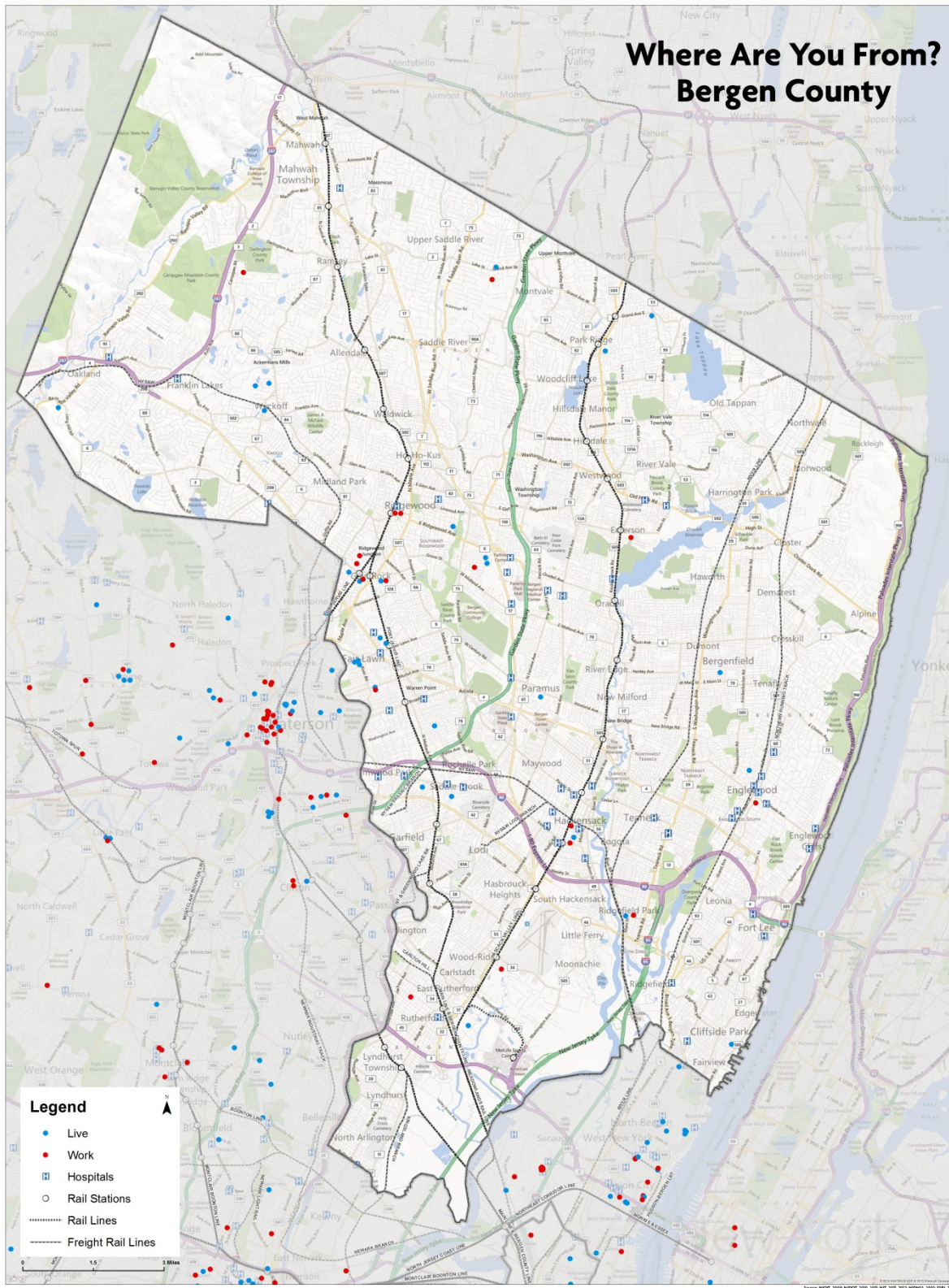
Question	Top Answer	Percent
<b>What aspect of Personal Growth and Well-being is most important to you?</b>	Being healthy and taking care of yourself	64%
<b>What aspect of Family is most important to you?</b>	Having time to spend together	61%
<b>What aspect of Community is most important to you?</b>	Having good neighbors and being a good neighbor	57%
<b>What aspect of Education is most important to you?</b>	Having opportunities to keep learning all through life	67%
<b>What aspect of Nature is most important to you?</b>	Taking good care of our air, water, and natural lands	62%
<b>What aspect of Safety and Security is most important to you?</b>	Peace of mind about the future	39%
<b>How should the region spend transportation dollars? (Participants were asked to select 3)</b>	Expanding transit service	22%
	Making existing highways work better	20%
	Fixing unsafe bridges	15%
<b>What sources of funds should be used to support transportation?</b>	Gas taxes	36%

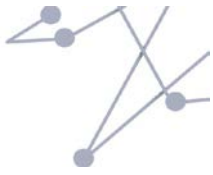
**WRAP UP, REPORT BACK & CLOSING REMARKS**

The meeting concluded with a wrap-up given by Jon Carnegie and a report back from each of the station facilitators. Participants were encouraged to continue contributing to the regional discussion by visiting the “EngageNorthJersey.com” website.



## Appendix A: Map





## Appendix B: Summary of Public Input – LIVE\*

What I <u>like</u> about my community from the LIVE perspective...		What I would <u>change</u> about my community from the LIVE perspective...	
1	Walk to downtown. Not citified.	1	More light rail.
2	Likes where she lives.	2	Intersections. Congestion.
3	Proximity to mass transportation and shopping malls.	3	Not walkable or bikeable in Paramus. No downtown shopping area.
4	The forest behind my house.	4	Walking area. Shopping district. Better quality businesses.
5	Convenient to NY transport. Good driving. Good community center. Close to Overpeck Park.	5	Existing infrastructure. Housing options.
6	I live near a park and it's a residential area and I enjoy having my own personal property.	6	Property tax. Mixed use housing choices.
7	Small town. Walkable. Downtown. Educated community. Public transit access.	7	Existing infrastructure. Want more access to recreation and open space.
8	It's quiet, peaceful, but also it combines country-feel with the convenience of suburbia. (Wyckoff) I am comfortable here. Maintain as is.	8	Lower property taxes. Enforce idling law.
9	Housing options. Apartment buildings. SL houses.	9	Taxes too high. Improve downtown.
10	Safe, clean, great super market. Walkable to a lot of little businesses. Short car rides. Maintain as is.	10	Reducing crime. Safety.
11	Walkable town.	11	Improve air quality. Plant more trees.
12	Livable community. Close to mass trans. Good schools/open space. Downtown shopping area. Convenience to work - highways.	12	More affordable housing.
13	Small community. Volunteer-oriented. Look out for each other. Get to public transportation. Safe.	13	Housing prices. Property tax. Bills, fees, tax, maintenance.
		14	Taxes too high. Improve downtown. Would like Hudson-Bergen Light Rail.
		15	Sunday shopping. Close to Riverside, bus not.

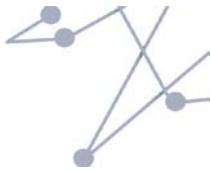
*\*An effort was made to record participants responses verbatim. Some notes were unreadable, and a scanned copy can be found in **Appendix H**.*



## Appendix B: Summary of Public Input – WORK\*

What I <u>like</u> about my community from the WORK perspective...		What I would <u>change</u> about my community from the WORK perspective...	
1	Convenient access and many well-paying good jobs and clients in NYC.	1	Cost and time needed to commute to NYC.
2	Hubs of business. Walk about town.	2	Too much traffic.
3	Easy access to many jobs and clients in NYC.	3	Economy stinks.
4	Nature. The town has great natural items.	4	Create more jobs.
5	Well-paying jobs. Workforce training.	5	More frequent trains to/from NYC. Better schedules.
6	Well-paying jobs. Workforce training. Attracting new businesses.	6	Mass transportation to jobs, not having to change buses every couple of miles (ex. Dumont to Hack, Hack to Newark). More jobs in the downtown areas not on the highways.
7	Community has lots to do for seniors.	7	Staggered houses. Better transit.
8	Workforce training.	8	Workforce housing to attract local employees. Due to high costs, need to make changes to attract new businesses.
9	The county has well-paying jobs.	9	Stop outflow of jobs because of high taxes in NJ.
10	Locations of work. Close to where you live.	10	I like to separate my work from my living area. Psychological relief. I believe in separating work from home.
11	Work from home. Infrequent city meetings, share overhead. Office - Bulgaria and NJ.	11	More workforce training: private investment in young/new workers.
12	Bergen County has some well-paying jobs. Attract new businesses.	12	Lower tolls. Roads-upkeep. Rt. 4 traffic.
13	Mod blogs.	13	Harder to get clients in NJ (insurance). NJ - too much nepotism. Hard to build relationships.
14	Well paying jobs!	14	More opportunities for youth employment.
		15	More buildings that create a recognizable downtown.
		16	Attract new businesses. Arts and culture.
		17	Too much people out of work. High unemployment. High taxes

\*An effort was made to record participants responses verbatim. Some notes were unreadable, and a scanned copy can be found in **Appendix H**.



**Appendix B: Summary of Public Input – GETTING AROUND\***

What I like about my community from the perspective of GETTING AROUND....		What I would <u>change</u> about my community from the perspective of GETTING AROUND...	
1	Having public transportation options to get into city.	1	Access to public. Reducing traffic congestion.
2	Free local transportation (like trolley).	2	Neighbors helping each other or using my personal car. Fix pot holes.
3	Walkability of town.	3	Reduce traffic congestion. Better parking.
4	Senior bus options.	4	Neighbors helping each other and being independent. Fix pot holes.
5	Easy access to trains and buses as well as safe walking and biking.	5	Traffic - especially Rt. 17. [Profanity removed] public transportation especially to airport. No connectivity.
6	Nothing. Bike path (Saddle River path).	6	Change - American dream. Traffic - Rt. 17 horrible road conditions. Public transport - [profanity removed] transport - can't link towns.
7	Like driving my car. Easy to get around - everything you need is local.	7	Local traffic during rush hour, schools, weekend shopping. Too many drivers - make biking safer and walking easier. Better schedule of trains - Bergen and Main Line.
8	Train. Bike/Ped facilities.	8	Uses a car. Bergen County usually easy. Bergen County could use more public transportation.
9	I manage. I drive. Don't need public transportation anymore. Of course, I don't like traffic jams, but not sure how to get rid of them.	9	Add lanes at intersections. Smart street lights. Light rail need to come up to Bergen Co. Train line should have more sidings or 2 line. (passengers lines). Too much traffic.
10	Easy drive to work.	10	Mass transportation that helps residents get around county and not just NYC. Congestion due to lack of E/W through routes in county. Grade separated RR and roadways (frequent freight and passenger rail.) Synchronized traffic signals.
11	Glen Rock has two train lines into NYC.	11	Would like more bike friendly roads and bike lanes.
12	Both rail and bus to NY. Easy highway access.	12	More frequency of buses.
13	Very good access to NYC.	13	Better East/West Roads. More intra-county buses. More inter-modalism. More two-way rail (N+S).
14	Busing to NY. Availability of roads.	14	Biking/Pedestrian access. Vulnerable road user legislation. George Washington Bridge - Pedestrian/bicycle access -- Priority.
15	Public transit to Port Authority.	15	Would like light rail option.
16	Driving - usually easy. Close to train station. Like options.	16	Public transportation. More East/West Roads. More inter-county buses. Feeder.
		17	Could be a better bus system for transportation within Bergen Co. (other than commuting to NYC)
		18	Make it easier to use a bike to get around.
		19	Bus access/price/convenience. Trains to Hoboken - path to NY. More tunnels. Traffic congestion. Clear bike lanes. Bike rules - knowledge for everyone.

*\*An effort was made to record participants responses verbatim. Some notes were unreadable, and a scanned copy can be found in **Appendix H**.*



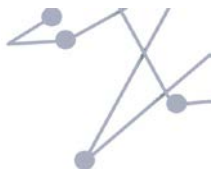


### Appendix C: Priority Objectives – Missing

The following table is a list of ideas that participants felt were missing from the Goals and Objectives presented at the workshop.

LIVE		WORK		GETTING AROUND	
1	Encourage and support small businesses. Offer incentives!	1	Work force training - private and public.	1	Enforce existing bike helmet laws!
2	Maintain as is.	2	Educate businesses about financial resources.	2	Incentivize: Biking, Walking, Safety.
3	Promote Transit Oriented Development.	3	Extend the Hudson light rail; opens up jobs in the Hoboken area.	3	Lack of intro-county transportation.
4	Remove carbon footprint from planning.	4	Improve existing housing.		
		5	Work environment close to Transit Oriented Development.		
		6	Small businesses! Resources to help local government reach interested businesses!		
		7	Electric and water infrastructure! Flooding and blackouts!		
		8	Walkable education locations.		

DRAFT

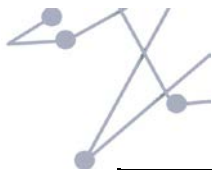


## Appendix D: Priority Objectives

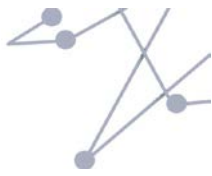
At each station, participants were asked to rank the Objectives within the Goals, including any added Objectives from the attendees. Each participant was able to vote for a total of three objectives, prioritizing them as “Most Important” (represented with a green dot), “Very Important” (blue dot), and “Important” (yellow dot). The votes were weighted according to the following system: Most Important received 3 points, Very Important 2 points, Important 1 point. Then, each Objective received a total score. Total = (Most Important x3) + (Very Important x 2) + (Important)

### Appendix D: Priority Objectives – LIVE

LIVE				
Goals	Most Important by weight	Very Important by weight	Important by weight	Total
<b>Goal 1 - Strengthen the region's economy</b>	0	0	0	0
Keep and create well-paying jobs	3	2	0	5
Ensure infrastructure (transportation, utilities and communications) is in good repair and can support economic development	12	10	2	24
Increase the economy's ability to adapt to change	6	0	0	6
Increase regional self-sufficiency	3	0	0	3
<b>Goal 2 - Ensure communities are safe, healthy &amp; great places to live</b>	0	0	0	0
Create safe, stable neighborhoods with high-quality housing	0	0	1	1
Improve public health	0	2	1	3
Improve access to local parks and recreation	3	6	1	10
Improve access to community resources such as libraries, senior centers, youth activities	0	0	8	8
Preserve and enhance the character of existing downtowns and neighborhoods	0	4	1	5
Improve access to arts and cultural resources	3	6	1	10
<b>Goal 3 - Improve everyone's access to opportunity</b>	0	0	0	0
Connect where people live with where they need to go	3	2	1	6
Maintain and improve the quality of schools	0	0	4	4
Create inclusive, mixed-income neighborhoods	6	0	0	6
Reduce combined transportation and housing costs	0	2	2	4

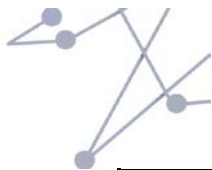


LIVE				
Goals	Most Important by weight	Very Important by weight	Important by weight	Total
<b>Goal 4 - Enhance efficiency &amp; conserve land</b>	0	0	0	0
Increase investment near existing housing, jobs & transportation	3	2	0	5
Maintain & expand vibrant downtowns and "main streets"	0	6	2	8
Encourage development of compact neighborhoods with a mix of housing, shopping and services	0	0	0	0
<b>Goal 5 - Protect &amp; enhance environment</b>	0	0	0	0
Preserve open space and natural areas	6	2	0	8
Improve air quality	3	0	0	3
Reduce potential impacts of climate change	0	0	0	0
Increase ability to respond to and recover from extreme weather events	3	2	0	5
Ensure adequate water supply	0	0	0	0
Improve water quality	6	0	1	7
Direct development away from environmentally sensitive areas	0	0	0	0
Preserve wildlife habitat	0	0	1	1
<b>OTHER</b>				
Encourage and support small businesses. Offer incentives!	3	0	0	3
Maintain as is.	9	2	0	11
Remove carbon footprint from planning.	3	0	0	3



## Appendix D: Priority Objectives – WORK

WORK				
Goals	Most Important by weight	Very Important by weight	Important by weight	Total
<b>Goal 1 - Strengthen the region's economy</b>	0	0	0	0
Keep and create well-paying jobs	21	6	4	31
Ensure infrastructure (transportation, utilities and communications) is in good repair and can support economic development	12	10	0	22
Increase the economy's ability to adapt to change	0	0	2	2
Increase regional self-sufficiency	0	0	1	1
<b>Goal 2 - Ensure communities are safe, healthy &amp; great places to live</b>	0	0	0	0
Create safe, stable neighborhoods with high-quality housing	0	10	0	10
Improve public health	0	0	0	0
Improve access to local parks and recreation	0	4	1	5
Improve access to community resources such as libraries, senior centers, youth activities	0	0	1	1
Preserve and enhance the character of existing downtowns and neighborhoods	0	0	0	0
Improve access to arts and cultural resources	0	0	1	1
<b>Goal 3 - Improve everyone's access to opportunity</b>	0	0	0	0
Connect where people live with where they need to go	9	0	2	11
Maintain and improve the quality of schools	3	2	3	8
Create inclusive, mixed-income neighborhoods	6	4	1	11
Reduce combined transportation and housing costs	3	0	0	3
<b>Goal 4 - Enhance efficiency &amp; conserve land</b>	0	0	0	0
Increase investment near existing housing, jobs & transportation	3	0	0	3
Maintain & expand vibrant downtowns and "main streets"	3	4	3	10
Encourage development of compact neighborhoods with a mix of housing, shopping and services	0	4	1	5



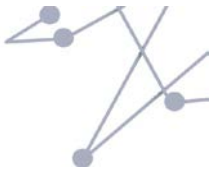
WORK				
Goals	Most Important by weight	Very Important by weight	Important by weight	Total
<b>Goal 5 - Protect &amp; enhance environment</b>	0	0	0	0
Preserve open space and natural areas	0	4	1	5
Improve air quality	6	0	0	6
Reduce potential impacts of climate change	0	0	1	1
Increase ability to respond to and recover from extreme weather events	0	0	4	4
Ensure adequate water supply	0	2	0	2
Improve water quality	3	2	1	6
Direct development away from environmentally sensitive areas	0	2	0	2
Preserve wildlife habitat	0	0	0	0
<b>OTHER</b>				
Don't downgrade suburbia. If it ain't broke don't fix it.	0	0	0	0
Work force training - private and public.	3	0	0	3

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## Appendix D: Priority Objectives – GETTING AROUND

GETTING AROUND				
Goals	Most Important by weight	Very Important by weight	Important by weight	Total
<b>Goal 1 - Strengthen the region's economy</b>	0	0	1	1
Keep and create well-paying jobs	0	0	0	0
Ensure infrastructure (transportation, utilities and communications) is in good repair and can support economic development	6	8	0	14
Increase the economy's ability to adapt to change	3	0	3	6
Increase regional self-sufficiency	0	0	0	0
<b>Goal 2 - Ensure communities are safe, healthy &amp; great places to live</b>	0	0	0	0
Create safe, stable neighborhoods with high-quality housing	0	0	0	0
Improve public health	0	0	0	0
Improve access to local parks and recreation	0	0	1	1
Improve access to community resources such as libraries, senior centers, youth activities	0	0	1	1
Preserve and enhance the character of existing downtowns and neighborhoods	6	4	2	12
Improve access to arts and cultural resources	3	0	1	4
<b>Goal 3 - Improve everyone's access to opportunity</b>	3	0	0	3
Connect where people live with where they need to go	18	0	1	19
Maintain and improve the quality of schools	3	4	2	9
Create inclusive, mixed-income neighborhoods	3	0	1	4
Reduce combined transportation and housing costs	0	2	0	2
<b>Goal 4 - Enhance efficiency &amp; conserve land</b>	0	0	0	0
Increase investment near existing housing, jobs & transportation	6	2	1	9
Maintain & expand vibrant downtowns and "main streets"	0	8	0	8
Encourage development of compact neighborhoods with a mix of housing, shopping and services	3	4	1	8



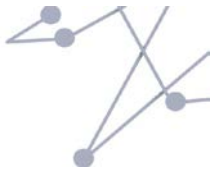
GETTING AROUND				
Goals	Most Important by weight	Very Important by weight	Important by weight	Total
<b>Goal 5 - Protect &amp; enhance environment</b>	0	2	0	2
Preserve open space and natural areas	0	4	1	5
Improve air quality	3	0	1	4
Reduce potential impacts of climate change	3	2	5	10
Increase ability to respond to and recover from extreme weather events	0	0	0	0
Ensure adequate water supply	6	4	0	10
Improve water quality	0	0	0	0
Direct development away from environmentally sensitive areas	0	0	0	0
Preserve wildlife habitat	0	4	1	5
<b>OTHER</b>				
Access to public transit	6	0	0	0
Connecting transportation, housing and jobs	6	2	0	0
Transportation alternatives to driving alone.	3	2	0	5
Reducing traffic congestion	0	2	5	7



## Appendix E: Together North Jersey Station

COORDINATE	
Goal 6 - Address regional growth issues	Totals
Align existing plans, programs and regulations at all levels of government	4
Foster collaboration between federal, state, county and local governments to address regional growth issues	7
Maintain up-to-date, coordinated local, regional and State functional plans that reflect these goals	1
Provide a regional framework for making decisions about capital investments, programs, regulations and major development applications	2
Ensure a broad cross-section of residents, businesses and government are engaged in planning efforts, including those traditionally under-represented in regional planning processes	5
Respect property rights during planning and implementation	0
<b>Missing</b>	
Effective property tax reform	4
<b>Total:</b>	<b>23</b>





## Appendix F: Together North Jersey Station – Suggestions from the Public

What's Missing
<b>Issues and Challenges:</b>
1. Too much government sitting on everybody.
2. Shared services - all talk, no action!
3. Public Schools funded by 70% property taxes.
<b>Opportunities &amp; Suggestions:</b>
1. Example of NJ not capitalizing on Super Bowl. NY - marketing team of 20. NJ - marketing team of NJ tourism is just not the shore and AC!
2. Add corporate.
3. Effective property tax reform.
4. Get State of NJ to better fund municipalities.
5. Accountability of NJ Transit to protect assets during natural disasters!
6. Engagenorthjersey.com - should have a municipal government member only access with password. Quick links to all grant opportunities.
<b>Questions*:</b>

\* Together North Jersey will post responses to the questions raised on the Together North Jersey website.



## Appendix G: Interactive Polling

**Session Name:** Bergen Session 4-24-2013 8:47 PM

**Date Created:** 4/24/2013 5:45:57 PM

**Average Score:** 0.00%

**Active Participants:** 23 of 23

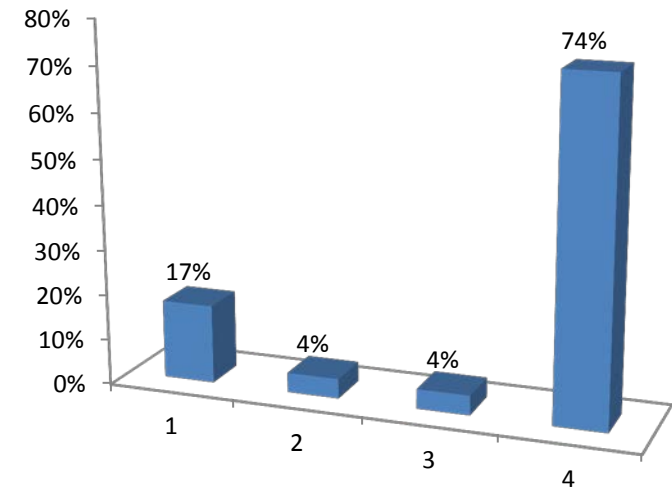
**Questions:** 22

### Results By Question

#### **PRACTICE QUESTION**

1.) "Jersey Shore" is must-see TV. (Multiple Choice)

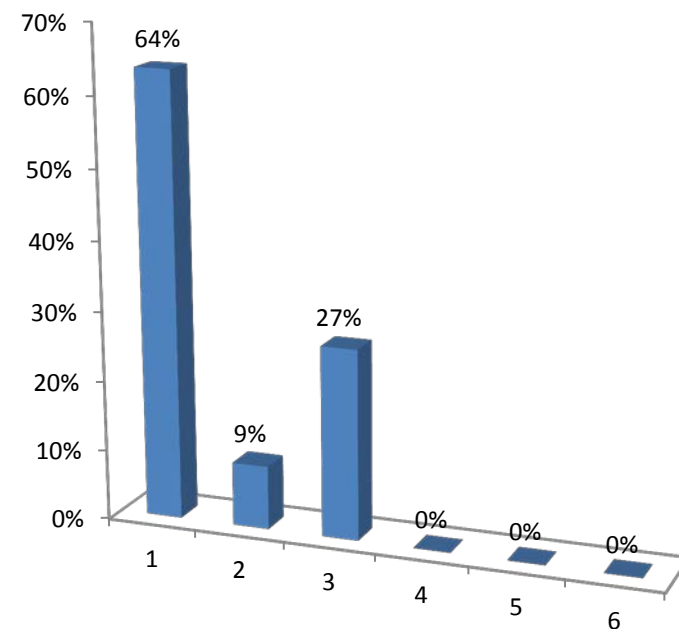
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Strongly Agree	17%	4
Somewhat Agree	4%	1
Somewhat Disagree	4%	1
Strongly Disagree	74%	17
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>23</b>





**2.) What aspect of Personal Growth and Well-Being is most important to you? (Multiple Choice)**

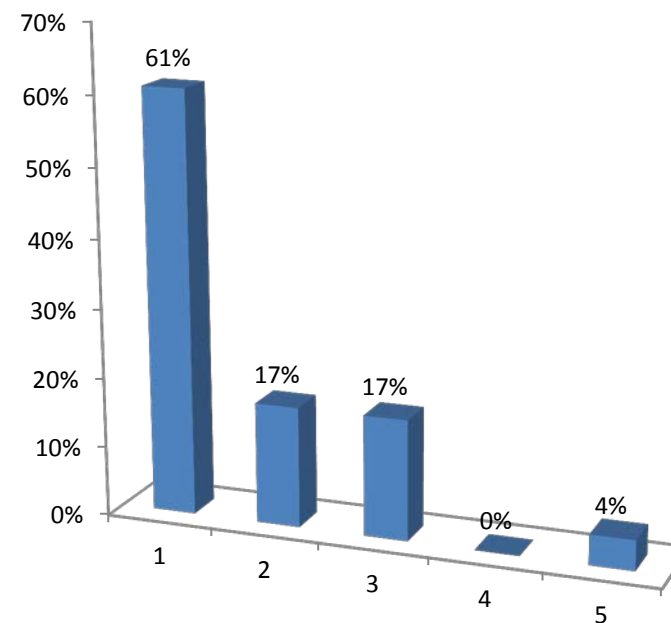
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Being healthy and taking care of yourself	64%	14
Being close to nature	9%	2
Volunteering and giving back to your community	27%	6
Spirituality and religion	0%	0
None of the above	0%	0
Prefer not to answer	0%	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>22</b>

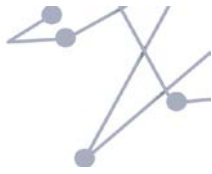




### 3.) What aspect of Family is most important to you? (Multiple Choice)

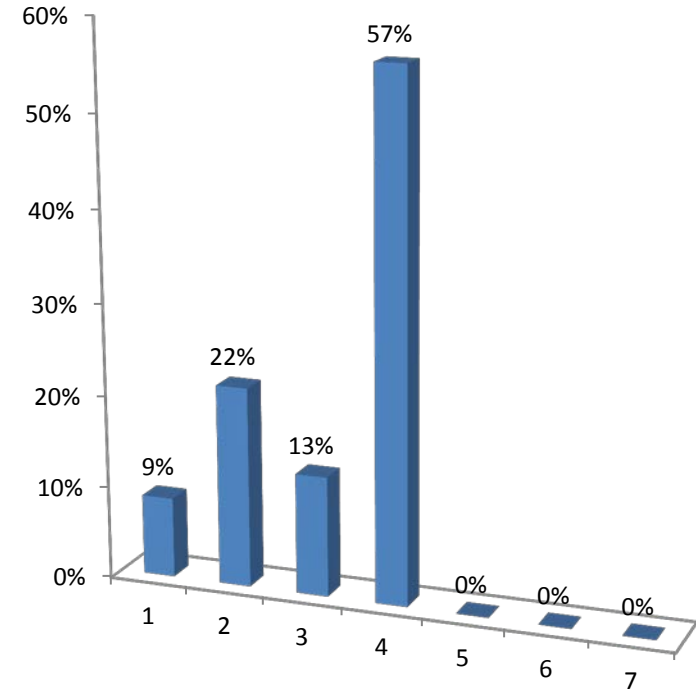
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Having time to spend together	61%	14
Having extended family nearby	17%	4
Making time for recreational and cultural activities together	17%	4
None of the above	0%	0
Prefer not to answer	4%	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>23</b>





**4.) What aspect of Community is most important to you? (Multiple Choice)**

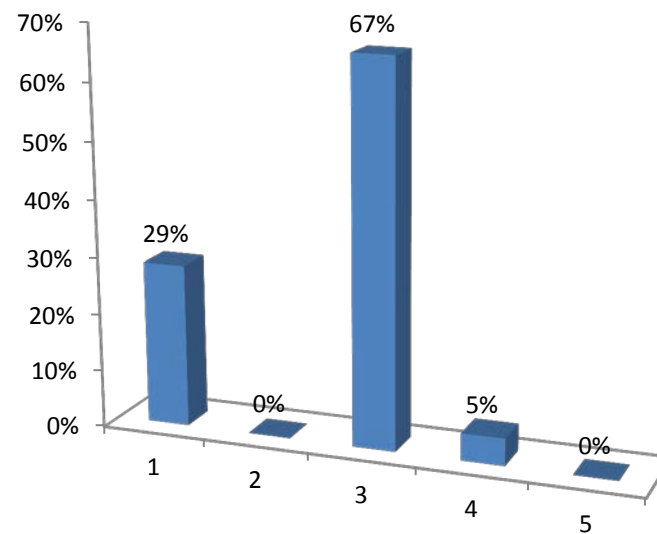
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Feeling a sense of community	9%	2
Having community-sponsored activities to go to	22%	5
Living in a diverse community	13%	3
Having good neighbors and being a good neighbor	57%	13
Being self-reliant and left alone	0%	0
None of the above	0%	0
Prefer not to answer	0%	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>23</b>

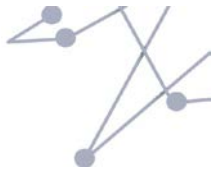




### 5.) What aspect of Education is most important to you? (Multiple Choice)

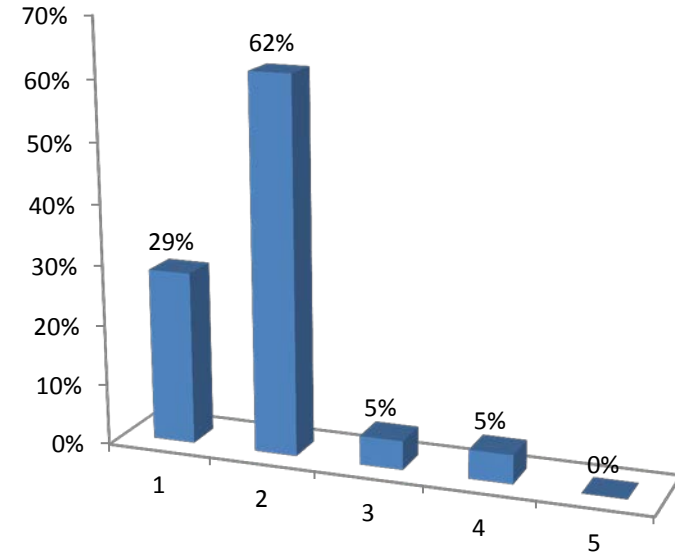
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Having quality neighborhood schools	29%	6
Being able to go to college or a trade school	0%	0
Having opportunities to keep learning all through life	67%	14
None of the above	5%	1
Prefer not to answer	0%	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>21</b>

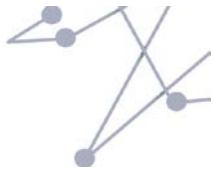




**6.) What aspect of Nature is most important to you? (Multiple Choice)**

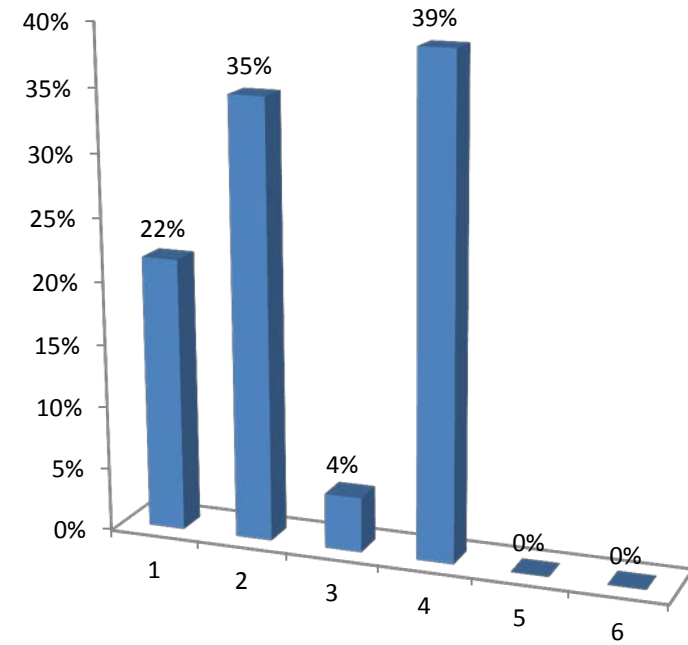
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Having green space nearby	29%	6
Taking good care of our air, water and natural lands	62%	13
Protecting wildlife habitat	5%	1
None of the above	5%	1
Prefer not to answer	0%	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>21</b>





**7.) What aspect of Safety and Security is most important to you? (Multiple Choice)**

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Having a good paying job	22%	5
Having Safe neighborhoods	35%	8
Fewer traffic-related accidents	4%	1
Peace of mind about the future	39%	9
None of the above	0%	0
Prefer not to answer	0%	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>23</b>

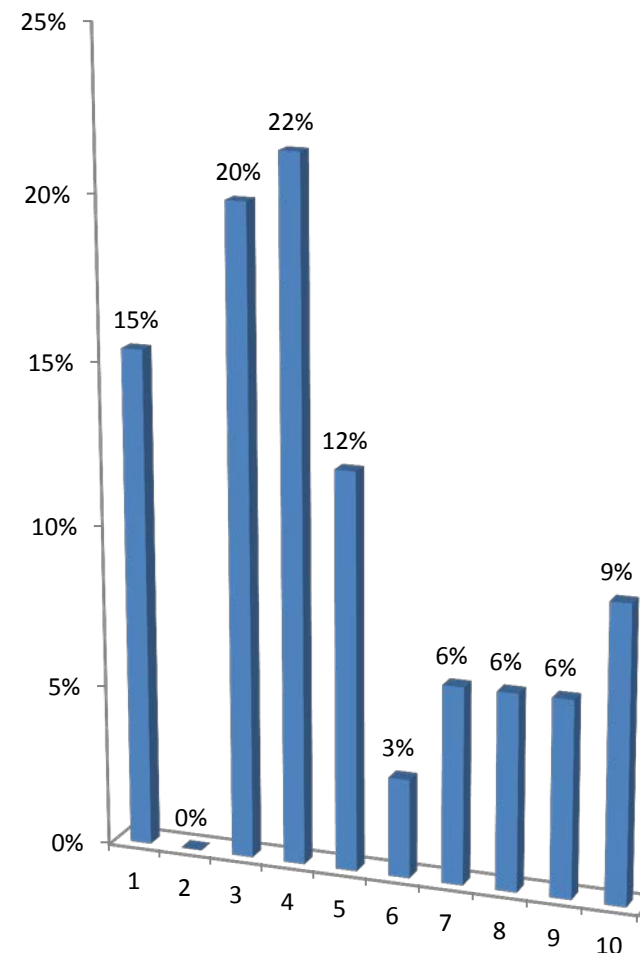


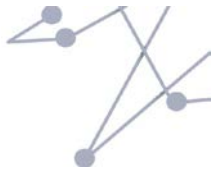




**8.) How should the region spend transportation dollars? (select three) (Multiple Choice - Multiple Response)**

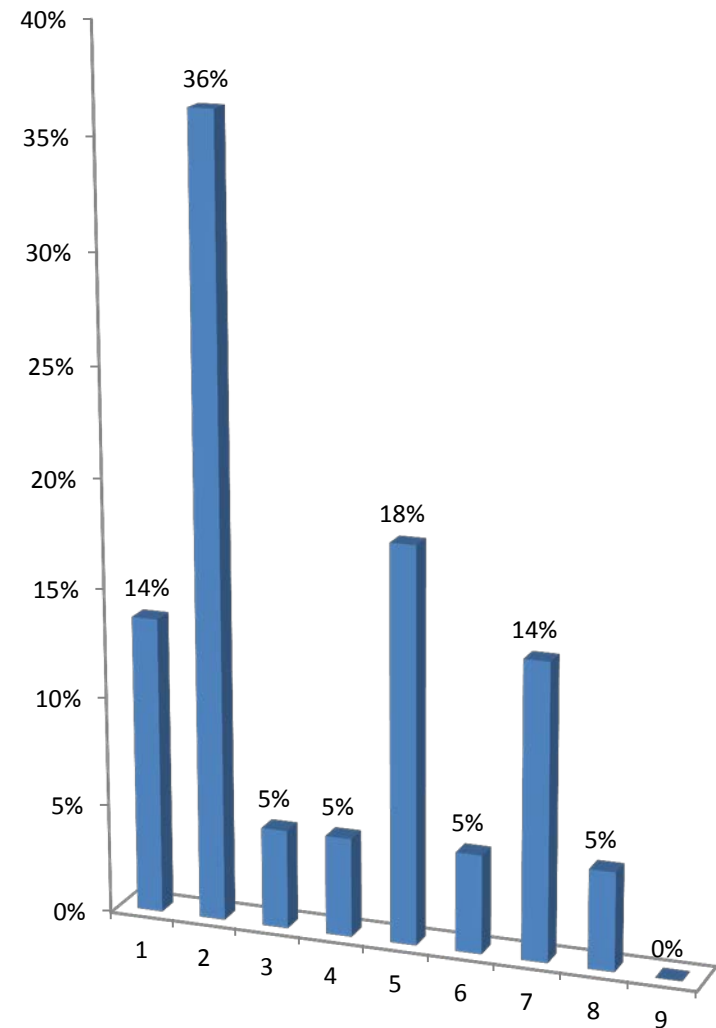
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Fixing unsafe bridges	15%	10
Building more highways	0%	0
Making existing highways work better	20%	13
Expanding transit service	22%	14
Making existing transit work better	12%	8
Making it easier to transport goods and materials around the region	3%	2
Using technology to improve transportation	6%	4
Supporting more carpooling and shuttles	6%	4
Making our roads safer	6%	4
Making it easier to walk and bike where we need to go	9%	6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>65</b>

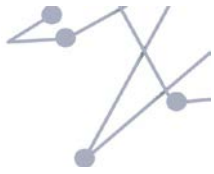




**9.) What sources of funds should be used to support transportation? (Multiple Choice)**

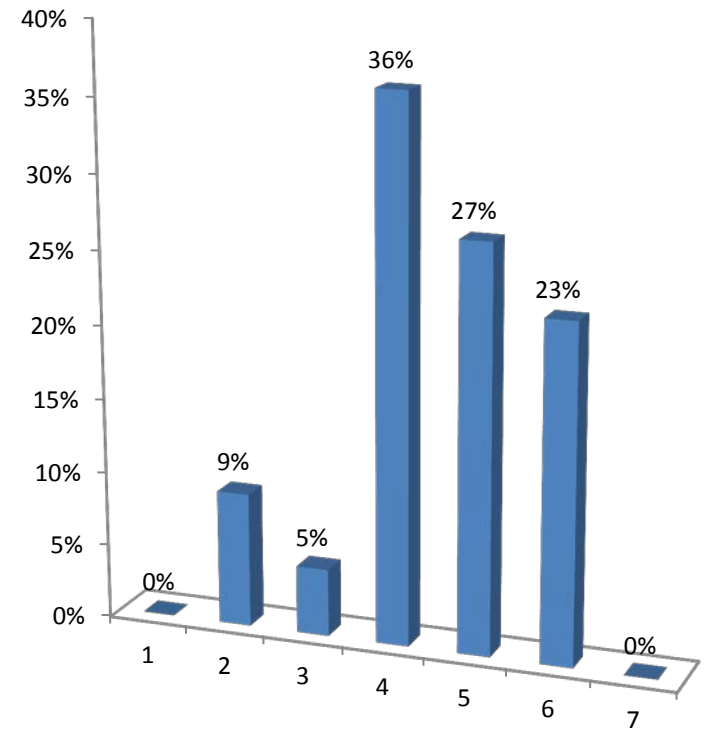
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Transit fares and tolls	14%	3
Gas taxes	36%	8
General taxes like income tax or sales tax	5%	1
Borrowing more money and paying it off over time	5%	1
Selling "naming" rights to bridges, highways and train stations like we do with stadiums and arenas	18%	4
Working with banks and businesses to share costs and revenue from tolls and fares	5%	1
All of the above	14%	3
None of the above	5%	1
Prefer not to answer	0%	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>22</b>

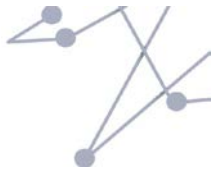




**10.) Which group best describes your age? (Multiple Choice)**

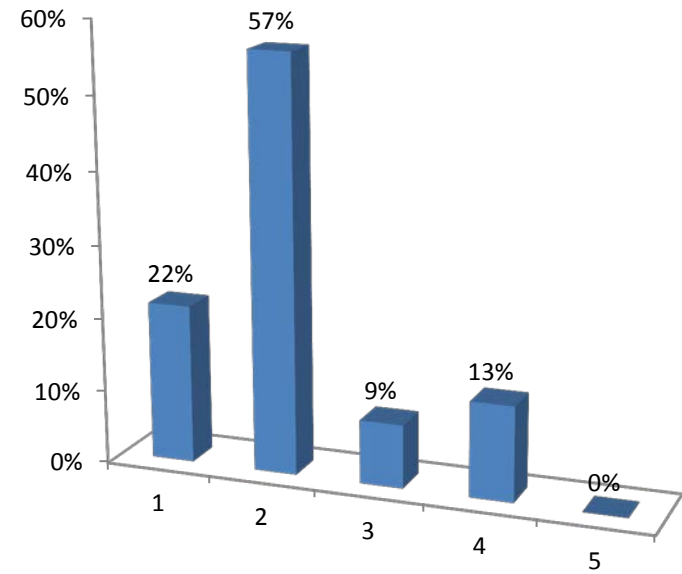
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Under 25	0%	0
25-34	9%	2
35-44	5%	1
45-64	36%	8
65-74	27%	6
75 years and older	23%	5
Prefer not to answer	0%	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>22</b>





**11.) What is your household size? (include yourself) (Multiple Choice)**

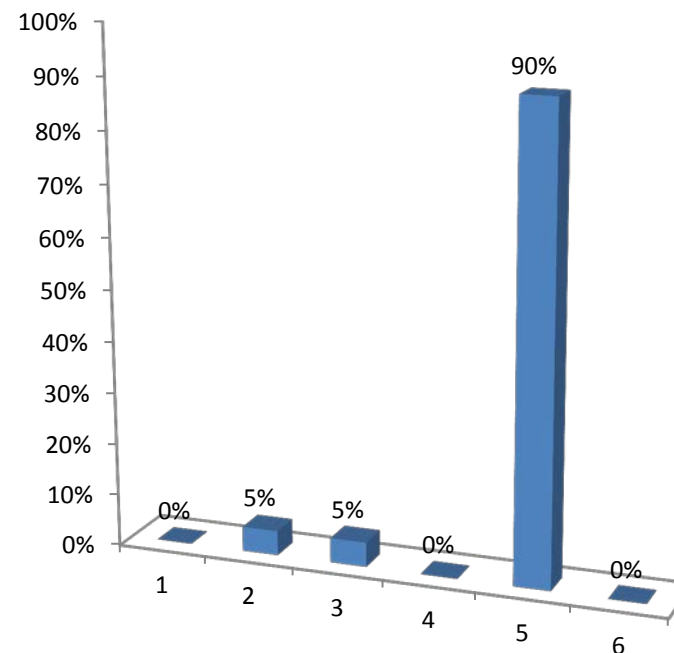
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
1 person household	22%	5
2 person household	57%	13
3 person household	9%	2
4 or more person households	13%	3
Prefer not to answer	0%	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>23</b>

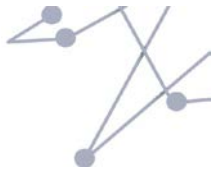




**12.) How many persons in your household are under the age of 18? (Multiple Choice)**

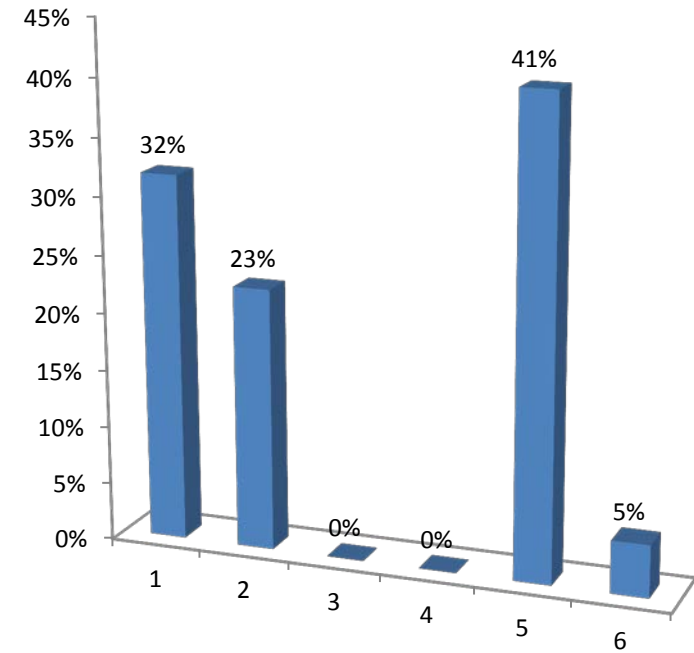
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
One (1)	0%	0
Two (2)	5%	1
Three (3)	5%	1
Four or more (4+)	0%	0
None	90%	19
Prefer not to answer	0%	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>21</b>

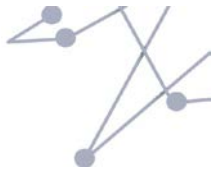




**13.) How many persons in your household are over the age of 65? (Multiple Choice)**

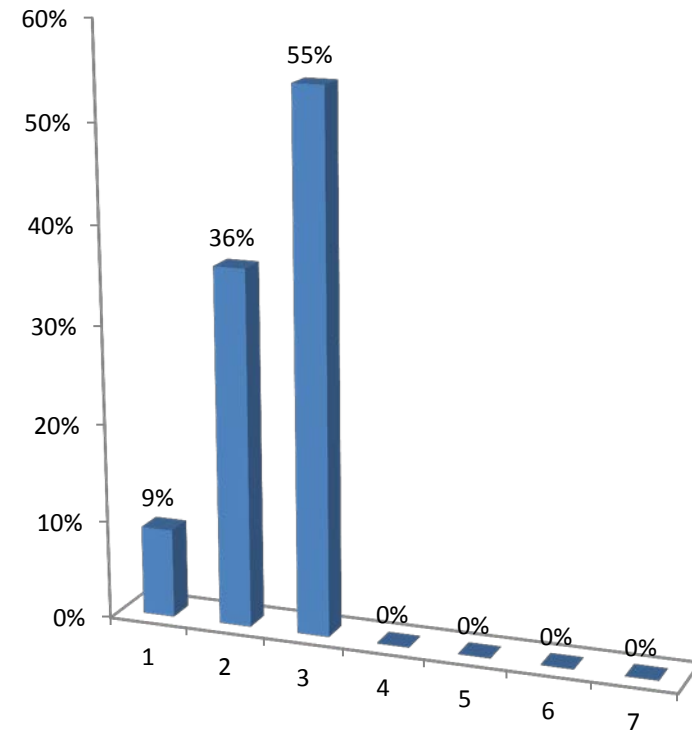
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
One (1)	32%	7
Two (2)	23%	5
Three (3)	0%	0
Four or more (4+)	0%	0
None	41%	9
Prefer not to answer	5%	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>22</b>

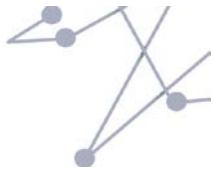




**14.) How would you describe the community in which you live? (Multiple Choice)**

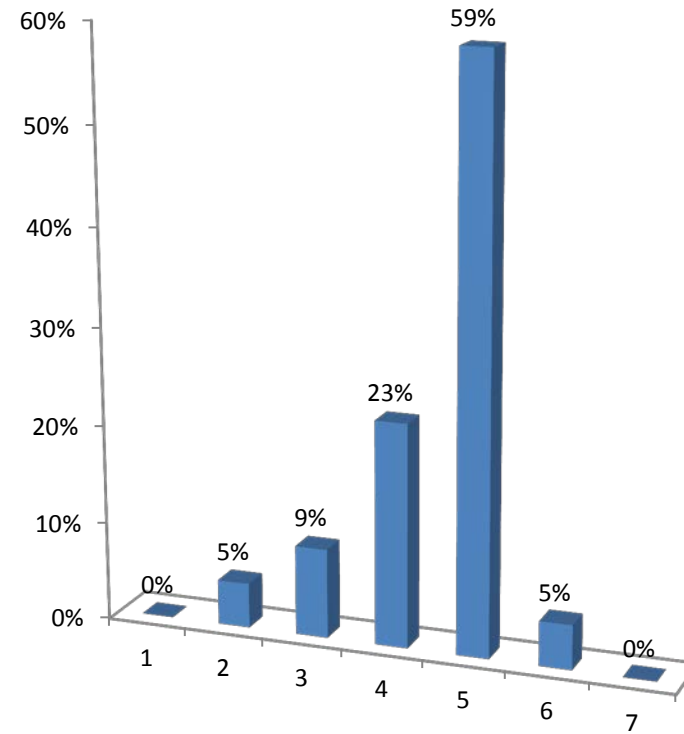
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
City	9%	2
Small town	36%	8
Suburban township	55%	12
Rural township	0%	0
Vacation/Resort community	0%	0
None of the above	0%	0
Prefer not to answer	0%	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>22</b>



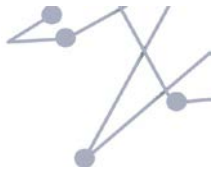


**15.) How long have you lived in your current neighborhood? (Multiple Choice)**

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Less than a year	0%	0
1-3 years	5%	1
4-10 years	9%	2
11-20 years	23%	5
20+ years	59%	13
I do not live in Northern NJ	5%	1
Prefer not to answer	0%	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>22</b>

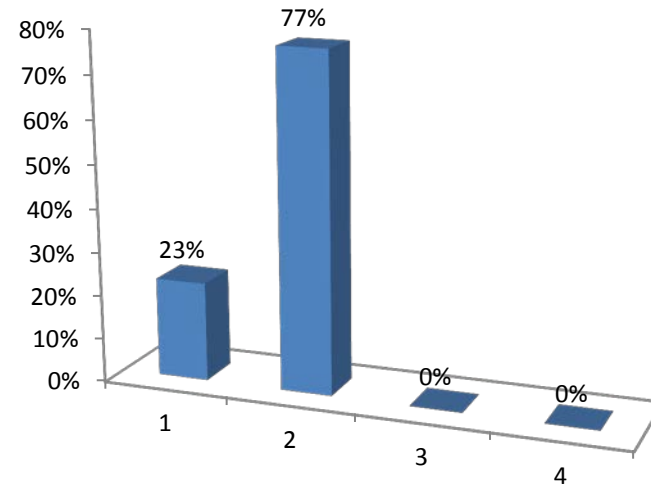




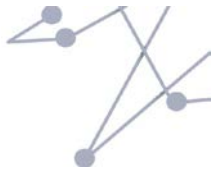


**16.) Do you rent or own your home? (Multiple Choice)**

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Rent	23%	5
Own	77%	17
Residence is provided by others	0%	0
Prefer not to answer	0%	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>22</b>

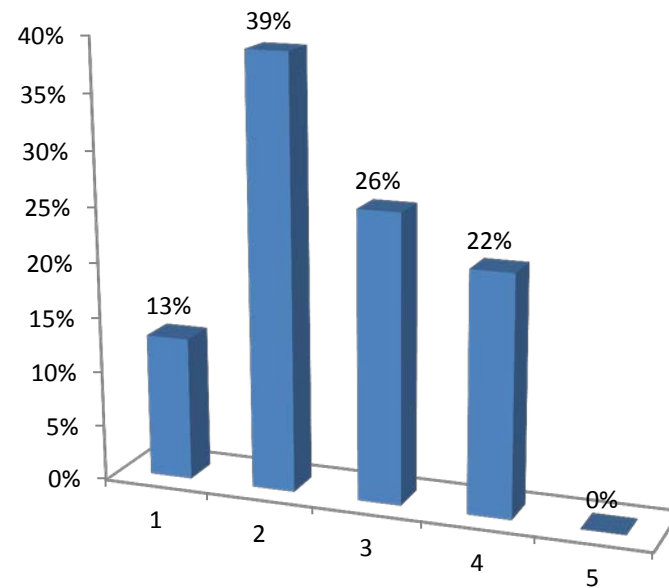


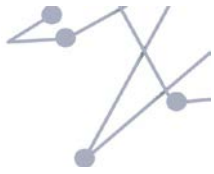
DRY



**17.) How many vehicles are kept at your home for your household's use? (Multiple Choice)**

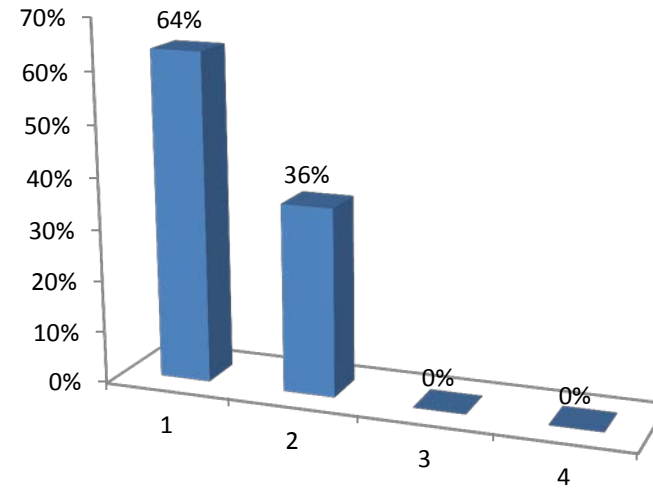
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
No vehicles	13%	3
1 vehicle	39%	9
2 vehicles	26%	6
3+ vehicles	22%	5
Prefer not to answer	0%	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>23</b>



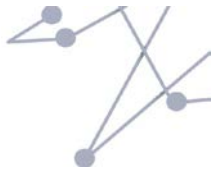


18.) Are you....? (Multiple Choice)

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Male	64%	14
Female	36%	8
Other	0%	0
Prefer not to answer	0%	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>22</b>

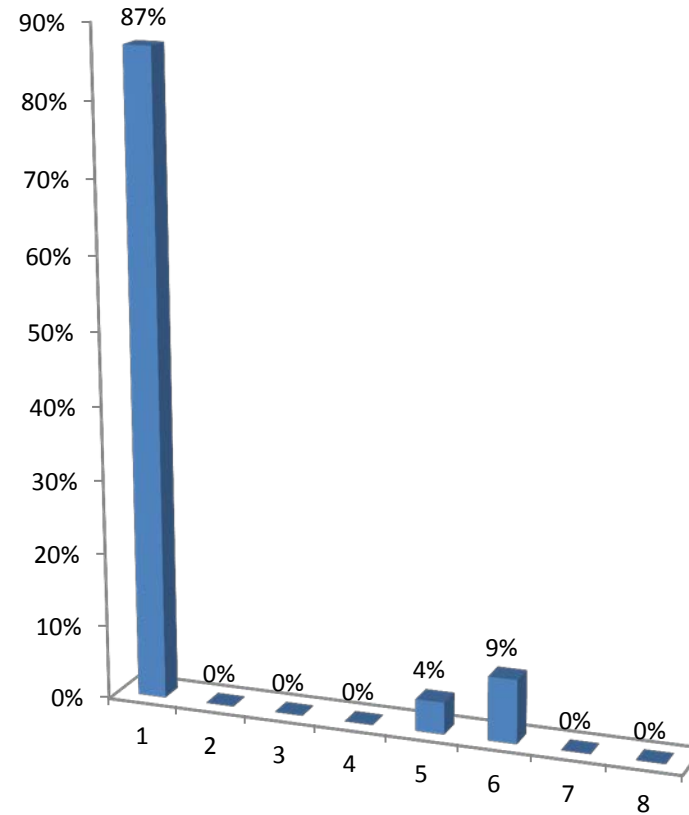


DRY



**19.) What race or ethnicity best describes you? (Multiple Choice)**

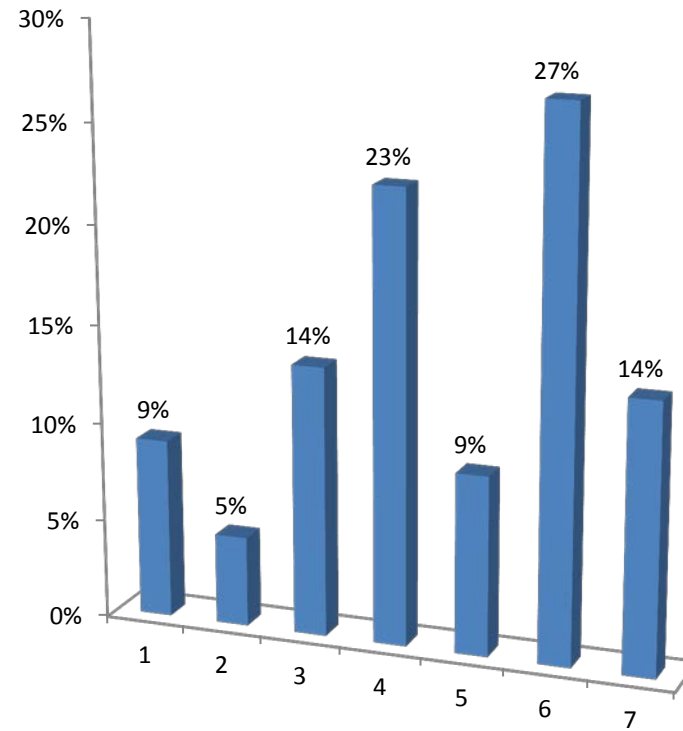
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
White, Not Hispanic	87%	20
Black, Not Hispanic	0%	0
White, Hispanic	0%	0
Black, Hispanic	0%	0
Asian American	4%	1
Native American	9%	2
More than One Race	0%	0
Prefer not to answer	0%	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>23</b>





20.) What is your household income? (Multiple Choice)

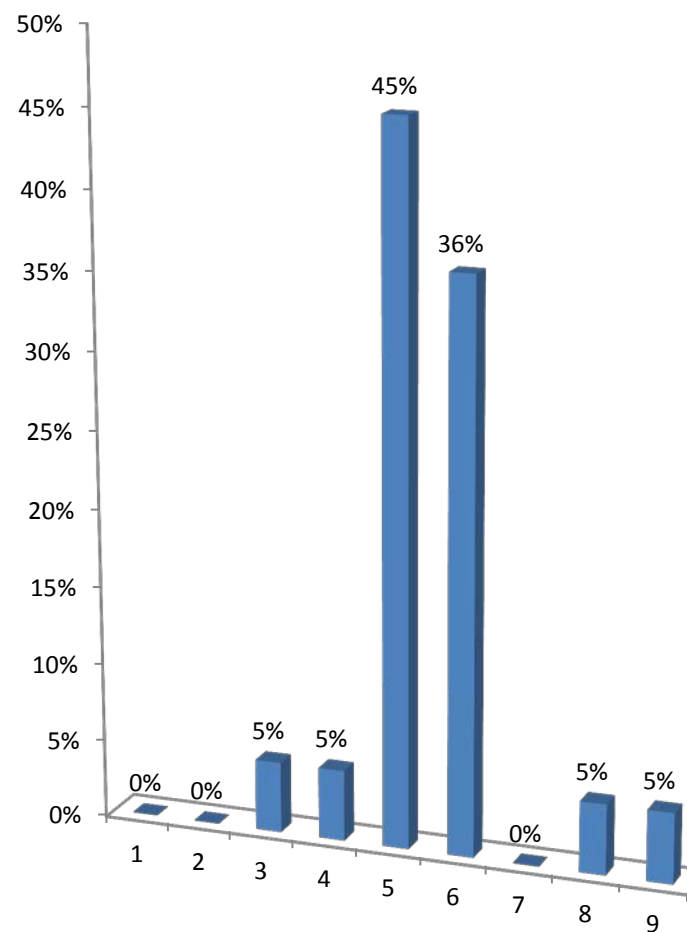
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
\$0 - \$24,999	9%	2
\$25,000 - \$49,999	5%	1
\$50,000 - \$74,999	14%	3
\$75,000 - \$100,000	23%	5
\$101,000 - \$150,000	9%	2
More than \$150,000	27%	6
Prefer not to answer	14%	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>22</b>

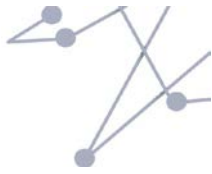




**21.) What is the highest degree or level of school completed? (Multiple Choice)**

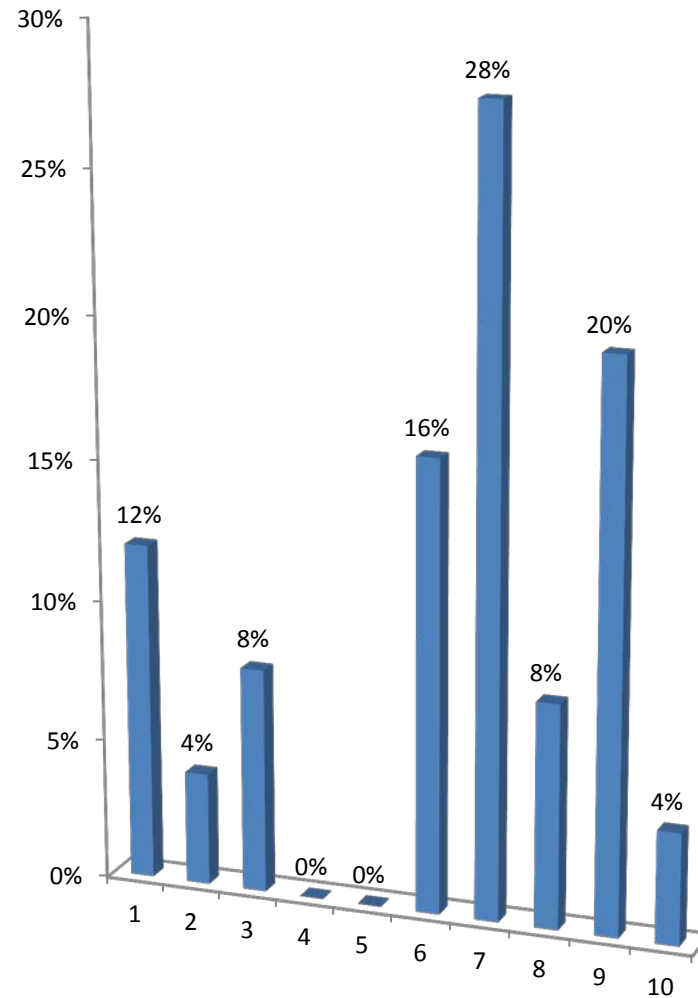
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Less than High School Diploma or GED	0%	0
High School Graduate	0%	0
Some College	5%	1
Associate's Degree (AA, AS)	5%	1
Bachelor's Degree (BA, BS)	45%	10
Master's Degree	36%	8
Professional Degree beyond Bachelor's Degree (MD, DDS, DVM, LLB, JD)	0%	0
Doctorate Degree (PhD or EdD)	5%	1
Prefer not to answer	5%	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>22</b>





**22.) How did you hear about tonight's meeting? (Multiple Choice - Multiple Response)**

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Together North Jersey email/website	12%	3
NJTPA email/website	4%	1
County/city email/website	8%	2
Print newspaper	0%	0
Online newspaper	0%	0
Community group or organization	16%	4
Family, friend, or associate	28%	7
Flyer posted at library, senior center or government building	8%	2
Other	20%	5
Prefer not to answer	4%	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>25</b>

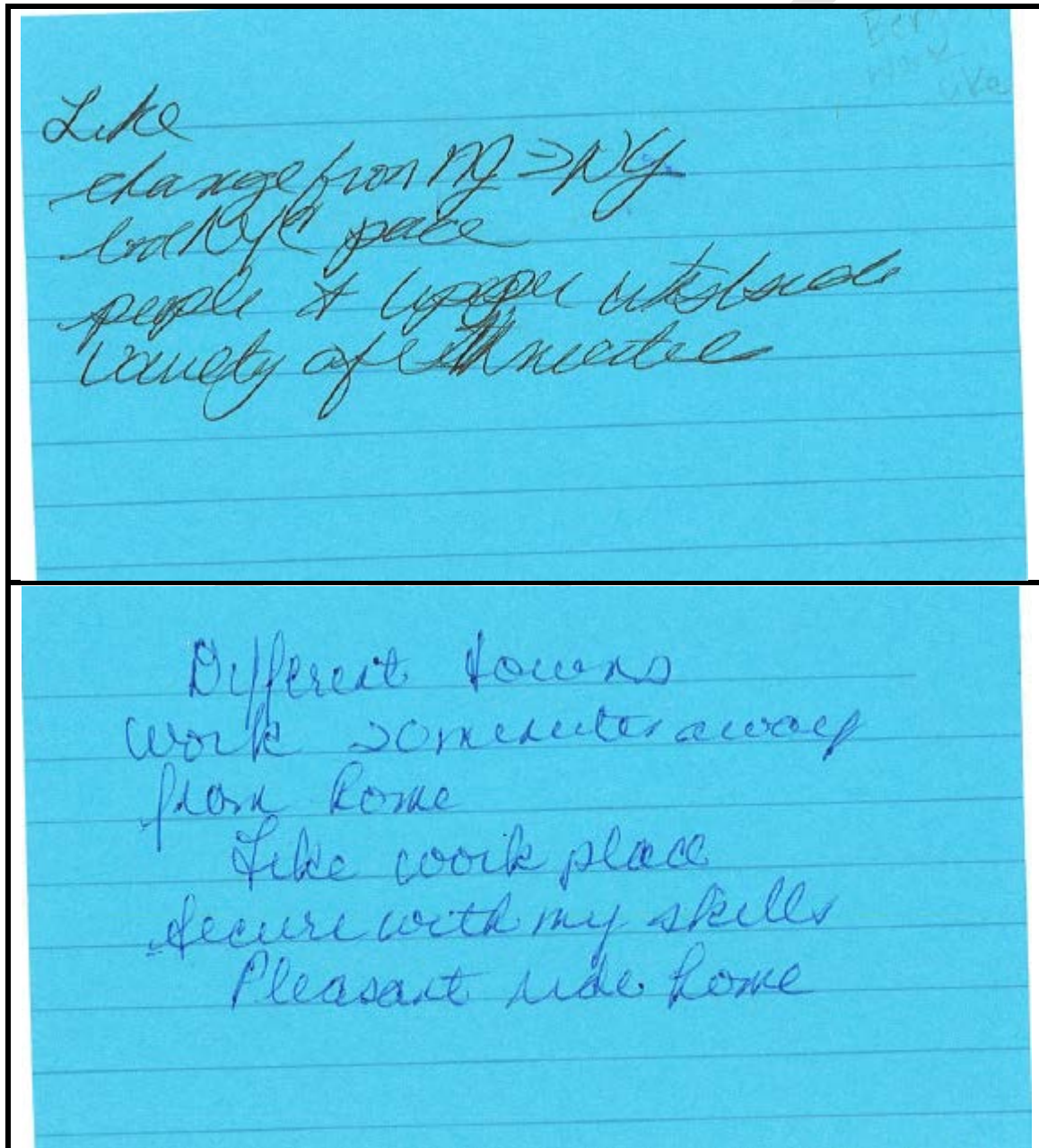




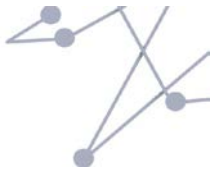
## Appendix H: Unreadable Public Input Responses

Session Name: Bergen County, 4/24/13

**WORK: Like**







## Appendix H: Unreadable Public Input Responses

Session Name: Bergen County, 4/24/13

### GETTING AROUND: Like

