

Workshop Summary

Union County Discovery Workshop

Kean University, STEM building, Union Township NJ
Tuesday, March 19, 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.

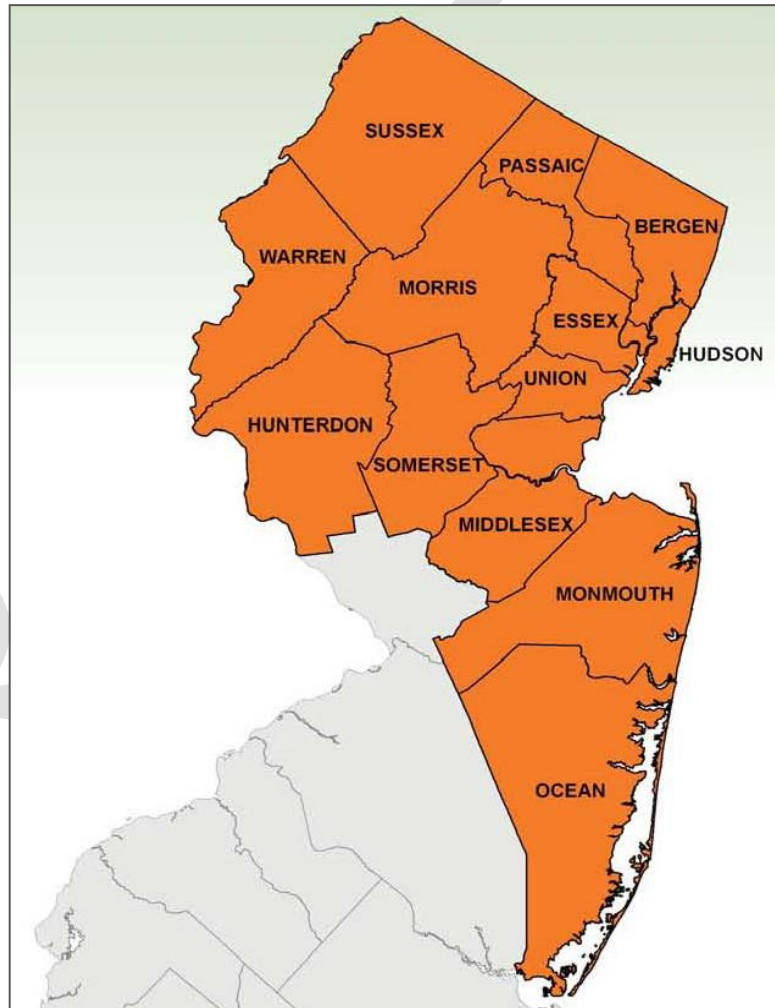
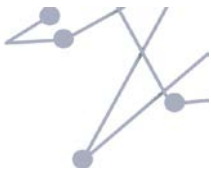


Figure 1: The NJTPA and Together North Jersey Planning Region



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).



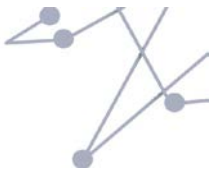
Figure 2: Together North Jersey RPSD Planning Process

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

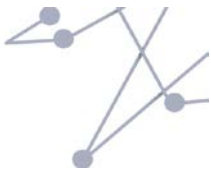
As stated above, the purpose of the Discovery workshops was to gather input from local officials, residents and businesses about what it is like to live, work and get around northern New Jersey and how we can work together to ensure prosperous future for the northern part of the state. The more specific 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 39 participants attended the meeting, which included a program of the following:

1. Welcoming remarks given by Union County Freeholder Angel Estrada.
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?"

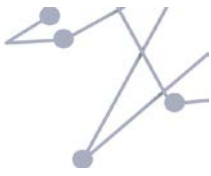
After receiving their program folders, attendees were asked to place dots on a map indicating where they lived and where they worked in Union County and surrounding area. To view the map, see

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, Union County Freeholder Estrada presented general welcoming remarks, thanking residents for attending and acknowledging Together North Jersey's efforts toward developing the RPSD. He also thanked county staff and the NJTPA for their work in planning and coordinating the workshop.



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 workshop were asked to select three top priorities within the current investment categories. A total of 31 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

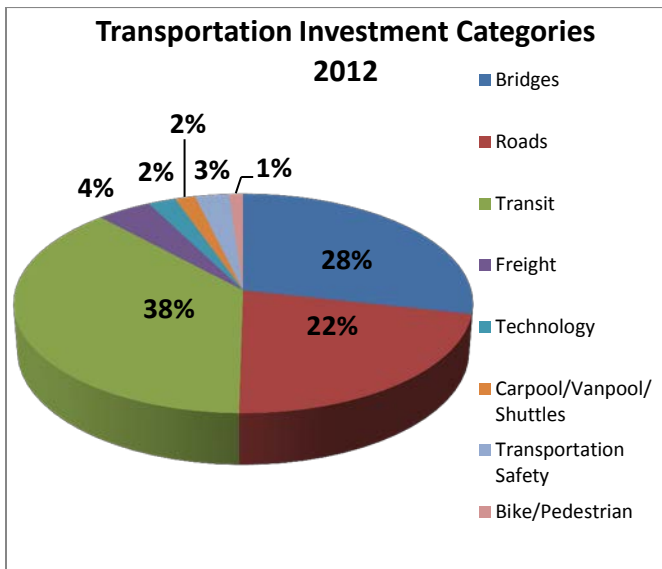
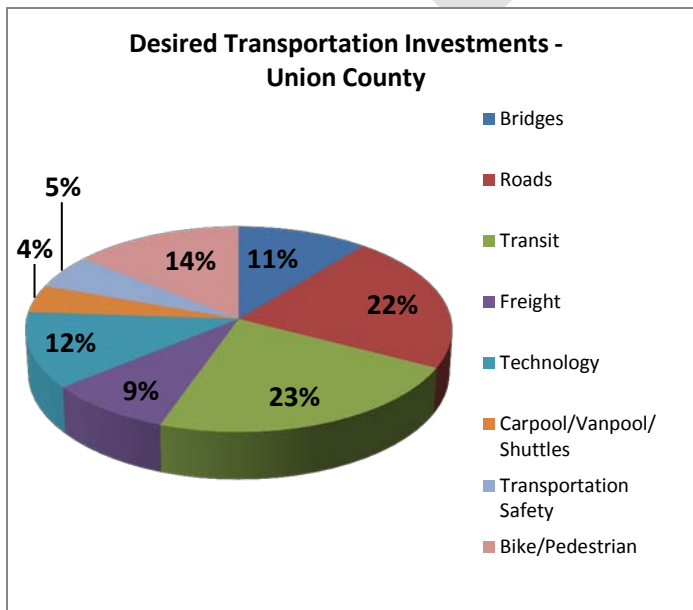
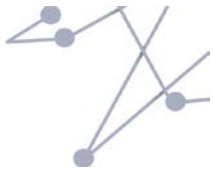


Figure 3-B: Desired Transportation Investments





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 shared their enjoyment of their neighborhoods, especially the quiet, good housing options, and general atmosphere. They also enjoy main street/downtown activities and proximity to work, school, activities, etc. Common “Like” statements included:

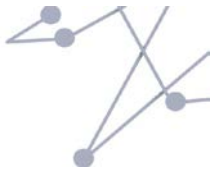
- Diversity of housing
- Walking distance to one vibrant downtown
- Quiet neighborhoods
- Proximity to work, downtown, parks

In the **WORK** Station, many participants agreed that convenience of the location of their jobs was the most attractive aspect of working in the region. Several stated they enjoy working from home, while others said getting to work was easy and convenient. Additional comments were appreciation of the diversity of people and jobs in the region. Common “Like” statements included:

- Diversity of people and businesses
- Easy commute to job location
- Money is okay and convenient to drive or take public transportation
- Flexible working schedule; diversity of coworkers

In the **GETTING AROUND** Station, attendees appreciated the access they have to get around the region, whether that is by car or public transportation. Many stated that things are close and convenient with good regional connections. Common “Like” statements included:

- Plenty of roads and possible routes
- Easy access to roads
- Multiple transportation routes, highway, train, air – long and short distance
- Access to public transportation



In the **LIVE** Station, many participants mentioned that they would like lower taxes, more vibrant downtowns, and safer bicycle and pedestrian access. Common “Change” statements included:

- Taxes
- Downtown not developed enough
- Traffic congestion; concentration of industrialization; lack of communication; taxes; noise pollution
- Change ordinances to improve aesthetics and livability

In the **WORK** Station, while several participants would like better job training, opportunities, and higher paying jobs, the majority of concerns for change related to traffic congestion and a need for more transit and bicycle/pedestrian friendly options for getting to and from work. Common “Change” statements included:

- Mass transit access to work
- More diversity in businesses
- More training
- Reduce travel time to work

In the **GETTING AROUND** Station, participants wanted to reduce congestion and increase transit options and connectivity. Common “Change” statements included:

- Traffic congestion
- Not enough public transportation
- Add shuttle/jitney service in neighborhood to reduce traffic to improve short distance connections where a car is not needed
- Bike lanes needed

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 – Union County*

Goals and Objectives	LIVE Points	WORK Points	GETTING AROUND Points	Overall Points
Goal 1 - Strengthen the region's economy	0	0	0	0
Keep & create well-paying jobs	29	36	10	75
Ensure infrastructure (transportation, utilities & communications) is in good repair & can support economic development	18	26	41	85
Increase the economy's ability to adapt to change	0	3	2	5
Increase regional self-sufficiency	5	0	6	11
Goal 2 - Ensure communities are safe, healthy & great places to live	0	0	0	0
Create safe, stable neighborhoods with high-quality housing	16	0	8	24
Improve public health	4	4	4	12
Improve access to local parks & recreation	0	0	3	3
Improve access to community resources such as libraries, senior centers, youth activities	3	6	3	12
Preserve & enhance the character of existing downtowns & neighborhoods	11	4	3	18
Improve access to arts & cultural resources	0	0	0	0
Goal 3 - Improve everyone's access to opportunity	0	0	0	0
Connect where people live with where they need to go	0	15	21	36
Maintain & improve the quality of schools	25	17	7	49
Create inclusive, mixed-income neighborhoods	8	1	3	12
Reduce combined transportation & housing costs	3	0	4	7
Goal 4 - Enhance efficiency & conserve land	0	0	0	0
Increase investment near existing housing, jobs & transportation	9	8	11	28
Maintain & expand vibrant downtowns & "main streets"	13	4	4	21
Encourage development of compact neighborhoods with a mix of housing, shopping & services	3	7	4	14
Goal 5 - Protect & enhance environment	0	0	0	0
Preserve open space & natural areas	10	6	1	17
Improve air quality	0	2	1	3
Reduce potential impacts of climate change	0	4	0	4
Increase ability to respond to and recover from extreme weather events	7	6	3	16
Ensure adequate water supply	6	3	2	11
Improve water quality	4	0	0	4
Direct development away from environmentally sensitive areas	1	2	0	3
Preserve wildlife habitat	0	0	0	0
OTHER - Objectives added by participants				
Lower property tax	20	0	0	20
Reduce regulation on small businesses	0	15	0	15
Love suburbia atmosphere	0	0	10	10

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

*See Appendix D for missing Objectives that received points.



At the **LIVE** Station, the objective, “Keep and create well-paying jobs” was a top priority (receiving 29 points). The second objective ranked was “Maintain and improve the quality of schools” (with 25 points). The third objective, added by participants, was: “Lower property tax” (receiving 20 points).

At the **WORK** Station, the objective, “Keep and create well-paying jobs” was a top priority (receiving 36 points). The second objective ranked was “Ensure infrastructure (transportation, utilities and communications) is in good repair and can support economic development” (with 26 points). The third objective was: “Maintain and improve the quality of schools” (receiving 17 points).

At the **GETTING AROUND** Station, the top priority was “Ensure infrastructure (transportation, utilities and communications) is in good repair and can support economic development” (receiving 41 points), followed by a second priority of “Connect where people live with where they need to go” (receiving 21 points) and a third priority, “Increase investment near existing housing, jobs & transportation” (receiving 11 points).

TNJ Station: Regional Coordination

At the Together North Jersey Station, 34 attendees participated in a “Dotmocracy” exercise to identify a top regional objective. The Objective with the majority of votes was “Ensure a broad cross-section of residents, businesses and government are engaged in planning efforts, including those traditionally under-represented in regional planning processes”. 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**.

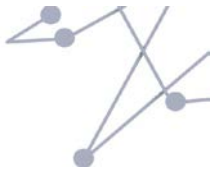


Table-2: Interactive Polling Top Answers

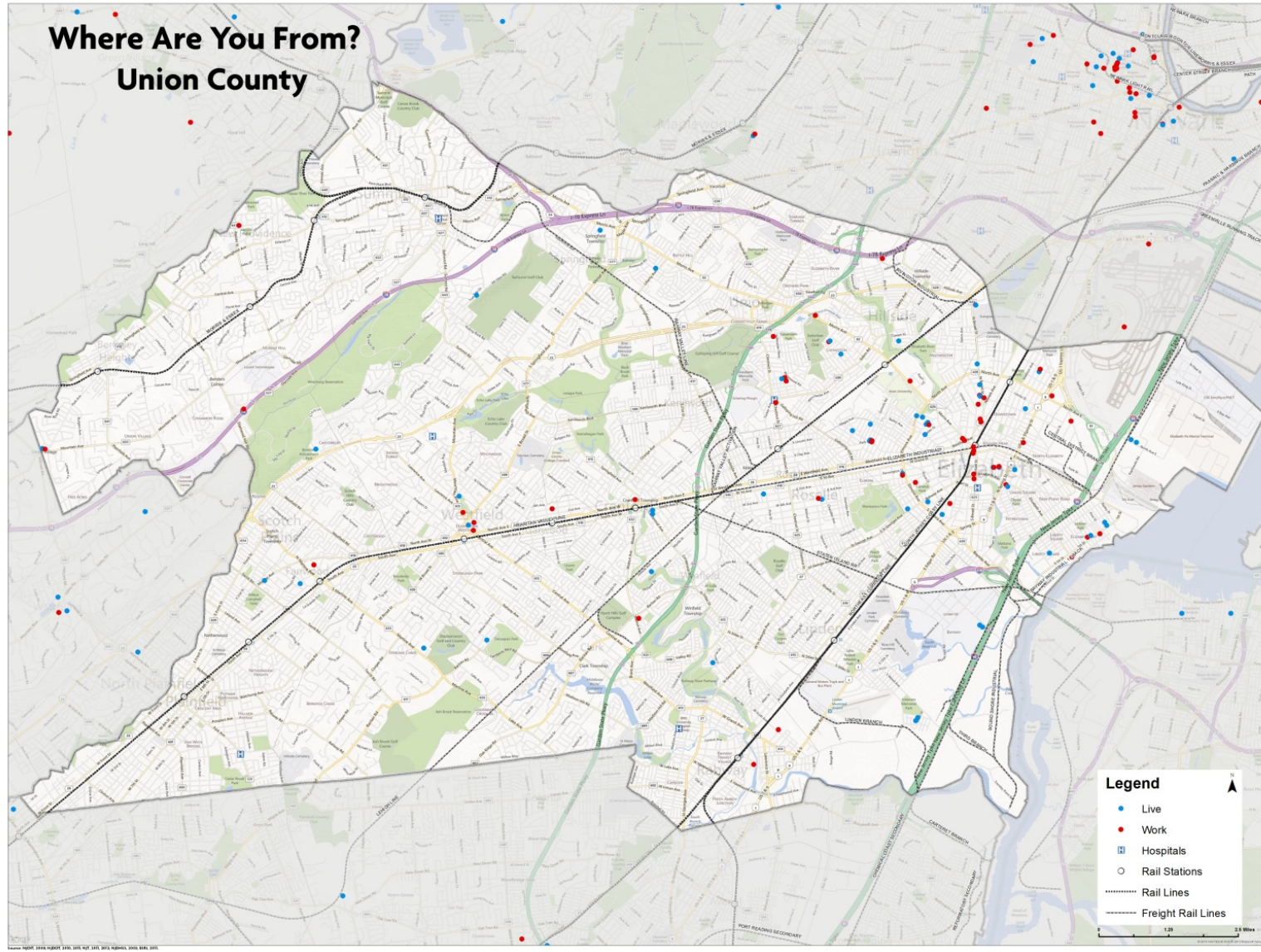
Question	Top Answer	Percent
What aspect of Personal Growth and Well-being is most important to you?	Being healthy and taking care of yourself	47%
What aspect of Family is most important to you?	Having time to spend together	57%
What aspect of Community is most important to you?	Having good neighbors and being a good neighbor	53%
What aspect of Education is most important to you?	Having quality neighborhood schools	44%
What aspect of Nature is most important to you?	Taking good care of our air, water, and natural lands	57%
What aspect of Safety and Security is most important to you?	Having safe neighborhoods	35%
How should the region spend transportation dollars? (Participants were asked to select 3)	Making existing highways work better	18%
	Making it easier to walk and bike where we need to go	14%
	Making existing transit work better	13%
What sources of funds should be used to support transportation?	Gas taxes	26%

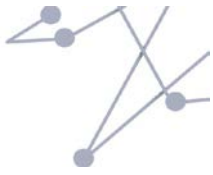
WRAP UP, REPORT BACK & CLOSING REMARKS

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

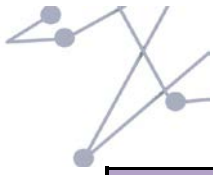




Appendix B: Summary of Public Input – LIVE*

What I <u>like</u> about my community from the LIVE perspective...	
1	Diversity of housing.
2	Love where I live.
3	Main street activities.
4	My house.
5	Friendly.
6	Walking distance to one vibrant downtown.
7	Neighborhood, neighbors
8	Neighborhood - quiet
9	Open space. Rural areas and suburban convenience. Small town feel.
10	Small town atmosphere.
11	Rural. Within close proximity to services and transportation.
12	Near park. Major thoroughfares Train/Bus
13	Park Ave - near schools and parks
14	Isolated. Safety. Know neighbors. Miy -Elhnis
15	Housing options. Springfield- access to open space.
16	Availability to mass transit and nearness of shopping.
17	Proximity to work. Proximity to downtown and parks.
18	Proximity to things.
19	Walkable. Access to market. Close to school. Access to highways.

What I would <u>change</u> about my community from the LIVE perspective...	
1	Traffic congestion. Concentration of industrialization. Lack of communication. Taxes. Noise pollution.
2	Access/location to shopping, work, transportation, amenities, highways, school. People feel safe. Access to parks and open space. The physical environment of their community - quiet, friendly, small town feel.
3	Taxes are too high. Improve downtowns - we heard some issues about downtowns and struggling businesses. Improved public transportation, shuttles for seniors, and walkability/too much congestion busy streets.
4	Taxes.
5	Taxes.
6	Taxes are too high.
7	Ordinances to improve aesthetics and livability.
8	Highway congestion. Good transportation for seniors.
9	Street too busy.
10	Downtown area - empty buildings, etc.
11	Small non-commercial shuttle/bus service. Safe, cheap.
12	Close to high crime area. Taxes - property.
13	Downtown not developed enough. Property taxes.
14	Taxes. (high)
15	Taxes
16	I live on a county road people speed. I can barely get out my driveway. The cost of permits to improve my property value even though the home is not worth what I owe.
17	Daily farmers market.
18	Quieter. Industrial. Old housing.
19	Downtown vibrant. Diverse activities.



What I <u>like</u> about my community from the LIVE perspective...	
20	Safeness.
21	The convenience of my location - near work, school, shopping, travel.
22	Safe.
23	Quiet neighborhood - single family homes.
24	Quiet, small town-feel, community, good schools, transportation easy, good downtown.
25	Ease of transportation. Open space.
26	Quiet/limited traffic. Parks available. Schools close.
27	Schools. Downtown - shopping.
28	Proximity to everything. Isolated.
29	Location - centralized.
30	Safe place to live. Diverse opportunities to eat/play.
31	Quiet neighborhood. Lots of trees. Nice neighbors. Town services.
32	The atmosphere of the streets/pleasant built environment.

What I would <u>change</u> about my community from the LIVE perspective...	
20	Lack of community sense. Lack of communications on all levels. Taxes.
21	Schools need to be better walking - bike riding. More shuttles.
22	Not easy to walk to places I want to go. Property taxes.
23	Too many multiple family units.
24	Respect pedestrians. Diversity of businesses.
25	Vandalism and litter in public places.
26	Affordable housing. Main Street activities.
27	More open space.
28	Traffic. Pedestrian/Bike routes.
29	Litter.
30	More affordable housing.
31	High taxes.
32	Nothing.
33	Greater local autonomy.
34	Better transportation.
35	Reduce crime concerns. More mass transit. More Parks/green space.
36	More transit - current economic development in the business/commercial corridors.

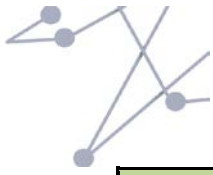
An effort was made to record participants responses verbatim. Some notes were unreadable, and a scanned copy can be found in **Appendix H.*



Appendix B: Summary of Public Input – WORK*

What I <u>like</u> about my community from the WORK perspective...	
1	Retired.
2	Diversification.
3	Entrepreneurship.
4	Home-work position. Home business.
5	Convenience.
6	Entrepreneurship. Vacant spaces.
7	Accessible. Flexible. Walking.
8	Flexible working schedule. Diversity of coworkers.
9	Diversity of people and businesses.
10	Wide variety of jobs.
11	Enough opportunities in region to have more than one job opportunity.
12	Highly qualified people.
13	Access to work within 50 mile radius.
14	Job flexibility.
15	Ability to work independently. (work at home)
16	Minimal cost. Accessible - hours + location. Dedicated organization. Community with goals.
17	Having job that is near home.
18	Modern services in area, e.g. Internet, library, etc.
19	Small businesses.
20	Easy commute to job.
21	Easy commute to job location.
22	To find a job.
23	Diversity.
24	Got everything one would need. Very close to home.
25	So much diversity i.e. skill levels.

What I would <u>change</u> about my community from the WORK perspective...	
1	Quality of schools
2	More training. Medical training - more is needed.
3	Better transit to train station.
4	From part-time to full-time. More bicycle-friendly access.
5	Reducing traffic traveling to work.
6	Well-paying jobs.
7	Not enough jobs (well paying). More talent needed in entrepreneur, favorable government regulation. Better roads - infrastructure.
8	More diversity in businesses.
9	Better Bike and Ped-friendly conditions.
10	High cost of doing business (high taxes).
11	Better access to advise/help with starting businesses.
12	No change.
13	Communication from State.
14	Attract new business.
15	Local opportunity.
16	Mass transit access to work.
17	All is well.
18	Change minimum wage.
19	Parking requirements for transit - @ Grand Ave and West End of Plainfield/Front/Second.
20	Reliability of electrical system (systems down).
21	Increasing higher density for new construction around the train station.
22	Upgrade facilities.
23	Community upgrades.
24	Too much regulation on small.
25	Traffic.



What I <u>like</u> about my community from the WORK perspective...	
26	The money is okay and it's very convenient both if I drive or take public transportation.
27	Short commute.
28	Easy to get to job.
29	Good transportation. Airport close.
30	Close to home.

What I would <u>change</u> about my community from the WORK perspective...	
26	The threat of losing job due to state budget cuts to higher education.
27	Less regulation. Too many rules for what you can and cannot do.
28	Traffic congestion.
29	More opportunities. More green jobs.
30	Too much regulation on small businesses.
31	Commute.
32	Need a shoe store.

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

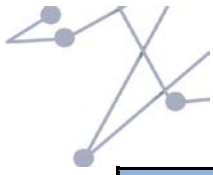
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Appendix B: Summary of Public Input – GETTING AROUND*

What I <u>like</u> about my community from the perspective of GETTING AROUND....	
1	Getting around because it's easier.
2	Can ride in my own car alone.
3	Plenty of roads and possible routes.
4	Lives close to work ease of commute.
5	Plenty of roads (options).
6	Having easy access to stores downtown.
7	Easy access to roads.
8	Mass transit. Access to public transit.
9	Short distances - things are close together.
10	Multiple transportation - highway, train, air - long and short distance
11	Access to public transportation.
12	Ability of mass transit.
13	Accessibility to mass transit.
14	Lots of choices.
15	Driving car.
16	Good transportation access.
17	Good and easy access to mass transit. Walk to downtown.
18	Potential for light rail.
19	Walkable density of downtown.
20	Walkability.
21	Enough places to go.
22	Regional connections
23	Easy to get to work (10 minutes).
24	Familiar with area. Affinity with area.
25	Great hub - easy to get to things. Public transportation - city, etc.
26	Small community. Easy to get around.

What I would <u>change</u> about my community from the perspective of GETTING AROUND...	
1	Reduce congestion. Repair infrastructure.
2	Available transportation options.
3	Traffic.
4	Not enough public transportation.
5	Train station closed. No train.
6	Change tax structures.
7	Shuttle/jitney service in neighborhood. Reduce traffic congestion. Access to train station.
8	Mandate change in commercial vehicles to IUG/LNG or NG/LNG hybrid or electric.
9	Rail seamless ride into NYC. Parking at station. Comfort shopping convenient for commuters. Jitney.
10	The location is entirely commercial. Wish it were more commercial.
11	Reduce cut-through traffic to 287 through Morristown.
12	Traffic congestion.
13	School traffic congestion. RT 22 Congestion by Chestnut.
14	Traffic congestion.
15	Improve short distance connections where car is not needed (maybe a bus/shuttle).
16	Frequency of rail service - Newark and NYC
17	Too much congestion.
18	Reducing traffic congestion.
19	Reducing traffic congestion. Reduce fuel cost.
20	Nothing. Home workplace.
21	More in walking distance. More non-car modes.
22	Reduce traffic congestion. More options to other roads. Cleaner transit and less noise on trains.
23	Bike lanes needed.
24	Traffic congestion.
25	Improve transportation: Highway, bridge, rail.
26	More bike/ped modes. Too car-centric.

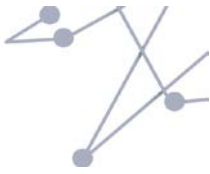


What I <u>like</u> about my community from the perspective of GETTING AROUND....	
27	Access to major transit roads. Train station. Improved home values.
28	Major highways, but isolated.
29	More jitney service.
30	Major transportation - train station.
31	Access to major trains and highways.

What I would <u>change</u> about my community from the perspective of GETTING AROUND...	
27	Congestion.
28	Improve frequency. Enhance transit facilities. Traffic congestion. Improve critical intersection.
29	Camera (picture taking). Parkway backup in Union.

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

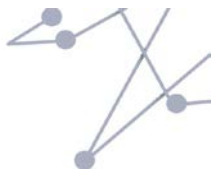
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Appendix C: Priority Objectives – Missing

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	Change the goals 2, 3, 4 & 5. Must be some place you want to live!	1	Improve transportation infrastructure to ease congestion.	1	Mass transit fare structure needs revision to encourage more use (off peak).
2	Lower property tax.	2	Reduce regulation on small businesses.	2	Lower gas prices. Cleaner trains. No cell phones. Less noise.
3	Provide incentive for existing industries to remain/relocate here.	3	Security at a job. Less stress.	3	Seamless transportation. No transit/Amtrak/MTA/Septa through service cross ticketing.
4	Incubator space for food entrepreneurs. Daily farmers market.	4	Less regulations on small business.	4	Lower taxes.
5	More affordable housing.	5	Foster environments for high skilled jobs, education, training.	5	Greater focus and priority on biking and pedestrian infrastructure.
6	Improve Complete Streets concept to transportation.	6	Support education beyond K-12.	6	Reduce regulation on small businesses.
7	Increase funding source for transportation (bridges, roads).	7	Out of school time opportunities for youth - recreation.	7	Inter-government sharing of services.
8	Lower property tax.	8	Community involvement with local gov't.	8	Education gifted programs.
9	Lower taxes.	9	School enrichment programs.	9	Love suburbia atmosphere.
10	Strong, local community involvement.	10	Encourage working in the town you live. Hire local people.	10	Local transport - to hospitals and medical centers. Jitney or rail or bus - direct.
11	Youth voice reflected in recreation design.	11	Develop training to low income/low skilled residents.	11	Bike lanes and related support (rails to trails, lights, etc.).
12	Mass communication.	12	Better communications to involve more citizens in region.		

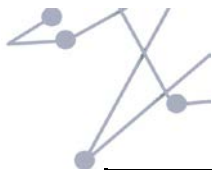


Appendix D: Priority Objectives

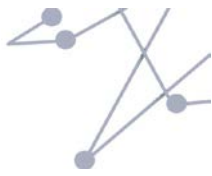
At each station, participants were asked to rank the Objectives within the Goals, including any added Objectives from the attendees. Each participant was able to vote for a total of three objectives, prioritizing them as “Most Important” (represented with a green dot), “Very Important” (blue dot), and “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
Goal 1 - Strengthen the region's economy	0	0	0	0
Keep and create well-paying jobs	18	8	3	29
Ensure infrastructure (transportation, utilities and communications) is in good repair and can support economic development	3	12	3	18
Increase the economy's ability to adapt to change	0	0	0	0
Increase regional self-sufficiency	0	4	1	5
Goal 2 - Ensure communities are safe, healthy & great places to live	0	0	0	0
Create safe, stable neighborhoods with high-quality housing	12	2	2	16
Improve public health	0	2	2	4
Improve access to local parks and recreation	0	0	0	0
Improve access to community resources such as libraries, senior centers, youth activities	0	0	3	3
Preserve and enhance the character of existing downtowns and neighborhoods	6	4	1	11
Improve access to arts and cultural resources	0	0	0	0
Goal 3 - Improve everyone's access to opportunity	0	0	0	0
Connect where people live with where they need to go	0	0	0	0
Maintain and improve the quality of schools	18	6	1	25
Create inclusive, mixed-income neighborhoods	3	4	1	8
Reduce combined transportation and housing costs	0	0	3	3

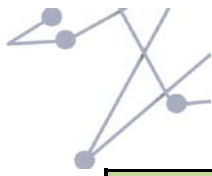


LIVE				
Goals	Most Important by weight	Very Important by weight	Important by weight	Total
Goal 4 - Enhance efficiency & conserve land	0	0	0	0
Increase investment near existing housing, jobs & transportation	6	2	1	9
Maintain & expand vibrant downtowns and "main streets"	0	10	3	13
Encourage development of compact neighborhoods with a mix of housing, shopping and services	0	2	1	3
Goal 5 - Protect & enhance environment	0	0	0	0
Preserve open space and natural areas	9	0	1	10
Improve air quality	0	0	0	0
Reduce potential impacts of climate change	0	0	0	0
Increase ability to respond to and recover from extreme weather events	0	4	3	7
Ensure adequate water supply	6	0	0	6
Improve water quality	0	4	0	4
Direct development away from environmentally sensitive areas	0	0	1	1
Preserve wildlife habitat	0	0	0	0
OTHER				
Lower property tax	15	2	3	20
Access to open space and recreation	3	0	0	3

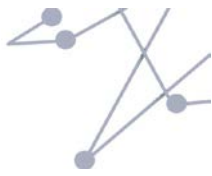


Appendix D: Priority Objectives – WORK

WORK				
Goals	Most Important by weight	Very Important by weight	Important by weight	Total
Goal 1 - Strengthen the region's economy	0	0	0	0
Keep and create well-paying jobs	30	6	0	36
Ensure infrastructure (transportation, utilities and communications) is in good repair and can support economic development	15	8	3	26
Increase the economy's ability to adapt to change	0	0	3	3
Increase regional self-sufficiency	0	0	0	0
Goal 2 - Ensure communities are safe, healthy & great places to live	0	0	0	0
Create safe, stable neighborhoods with high-quality housing	0	0	0	0
Improve public health	0	4	0	4
Improve access to local parks and recreation	0	0	0	0
Improve access to community resources such as libraries, senior centers, youth activities	0	6	0	6
Preserve and enhance the character of existing downtowns and neighborhoods	0	4	0	4
Improve access to arts and cultural resources	0	0	0	0
Goal 3 - Improve everyone's access to opportunity	0	0	0	0
Connect where people live with where they need to go	6	6	3	15
Maintain and improve the quality of schools	9	6	2	17
Create inclusive, mixed-income neighborhoods	0	0	1	1
Reduce combined transportation and housing costs	0	0	0	0
Goal 4 - Enhance efficiency & conserve land	0	0	0	0
Increase investment near existing housing, jobs & transportation	3	2	3	8
Maintain & expand vibrant downtowns and "main streets"	0	2	2	4
Encourage development of compact neighborhoods with a mix of housing, shopping and services	3	2	2	7

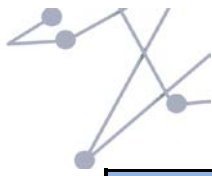


WORK				
Goals	Most Important by weight	Very Important by weight	Important by weight	Total
Goal 5 - Protect & enhance environment	0	0	0	0
Preserve open space and natural areas	3	2	1	6
Improve air quality	0	2	0	2
Reduce potential impacts of climate change	0	2	2	4
Increase ability to respond to and recover from extreme weather events	3	0	3	6
Ensure adequate water supply	3	0	0	3
Improve water quality	0	0	0	0
Direct development away from environmentally sensitive areas	0	0	2	2
Preserve wildlife habitat	0	0	0	0
OTHER				
Improve transportation infrastructure to ease congestion	3	0	0	3
Reduce regulation on small businesses	6	8	1	15
Security at a job. Less stress.	0	0	1	1
Less regulations on small business	9	0	2	11
Support education beyond K-12	3	0	0	3
Out of school time opportunities for youth - recreation	3	4	0	7
Community involvement with local gov't	0	2	0	2



Appendix D: Priority Objectives – GETTING AROUND

GETTING AROUND				
Goals	Most Important by weight	Very Important by weight	Important by weight	Total
Goal 1 - Strengthen the region's economy	0	0	0	0
Keep and create well-paying jobs	3	6	1	10
Ensure infrastructure (transportation, utilities and communications) is in good repair and can support economic development	24	12	5	41
Increase the economy's ability to adapt to change	0	2	0	2
Increase regional self-sufficiency	0	6	0	6
Goal 2 - Ensure communities are safe, healthy & great places to live	0	0	0	0
Create safe, stable neighborhoods with high-quality housing	6	2	0	8
Improve public health	0	2	2	4
Improve access to local parks and recreation	3			3
Improve access to community resources such as libraries, senior centers, youth activities	0	2	1	3
Preserve and enhance the character of existing downtowns and neighborhoods	0	0	3	3
Improve access to arts and cultural resources	0	0	0	0
Goal 3 - Improve everyone's access to opportunity	0	0	0	0
Connect where people live with where they need to go	12	8	1	21
Maintain and improve the quality of schools	3	2	2	7
Create inclusive, mixed-income neighborhoods	0	2	1	3
Reduce combined transportation and housing costs	3	0	1	4
Goal 4 - Enhance efficiency & conserve land	0	0	0	0
Increase investment near existing housing, jobs & transportation	3	6	2	11
Maintain & expand vibrant downtowns and "main streets"	3	0	1	4
Encourage development of compact neighborhoods with a mix of housing, shopping and services	3	0	1	4

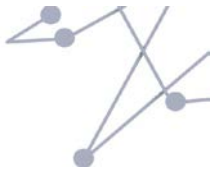


GETTING AROUND				
Goals	Most Important by weight	Very Important by weight	Important by weight	Total
Goal 5 - Protect & enhance environment	0	0	0	0
Preserve open space and natural areas	0	0	1	1
Improve air quality	0	0	1	1
Reduce potential impacts of climate change	0	0	0	0
Increase ability to respond to and recover from extreme weather events	3	0	0	3
Ensure adequate water supply	0	2	0	2
Improve water quality	0	0	0	0
Direct development away from environmentally sensitive areas	0	0	0	0
Preserve wildlife habitat	0	0	0	0
OTHER				
Seamless transportation. No transit/Amtrak/MTA/Septa through service cross ticketing.	3	0	0	3
Lower taxes.	0	2	2	4
Greater focus and priority on biking and pedestrian infrastructure.	3	0	1	4
Reduce regulation on small businesses.	6	0	0	6
Love suburbia atmosphere.	6	2	2	10
Local transport - to hospitals and medical centers. Jitney or rail or bus - direct.	3	2	0	5
Bike lanes and related support (rails to trails, lights, etc.).	3	2	1	6



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	0
Foster collaboration between federal, state, county and local governments to address regional growth issues	4
Maintain up-to-date, coordinated local, regional and State functional plans that reflect these goals	0
Provide a regional framework for making decisions about capital investments, programs, regulations and major development applications	9
Ensure a broad cross-section of residents, businesses and government are engaged in planning efforts, including those traditionally under-represented in regional planning processes	14
Respect property rights during planning and implementation	6
NEW	
How can we vote on sustainable development when we have not yet defined it?	1
Total:	34



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

What's Missing?
Issues and Challenges:
1. Federal funding is not dependable.
Opportunities and Suggestions:
1. Require collaboration or provide incentive for municipalities between federal, state, county and local governments to address regional growth issues.
2. Explore new communications tech to engage broader range of demographics and businesses.
Questions:

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

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Appendix G: Interactive Polling

Session Name: UNION Session 3-19-2013 8:21 PM

Date Created: 3/19/2013 5:28:18 PM Active Participants: 36 of 36

Average Score: 0.00%

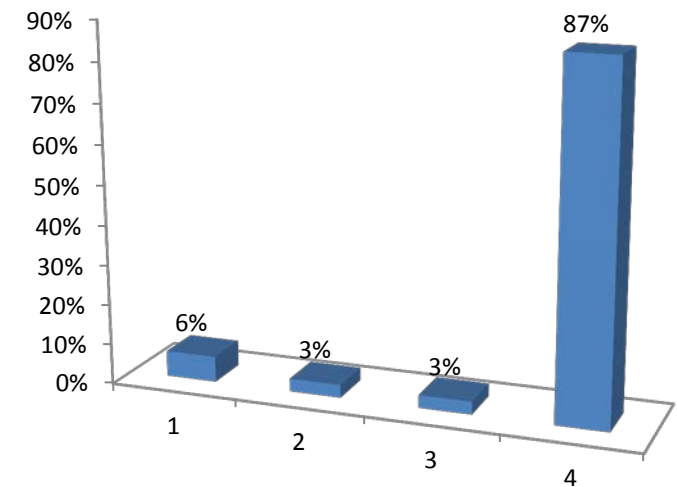
Questions: 24

Results By Question

PRACTICE QUESTION

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

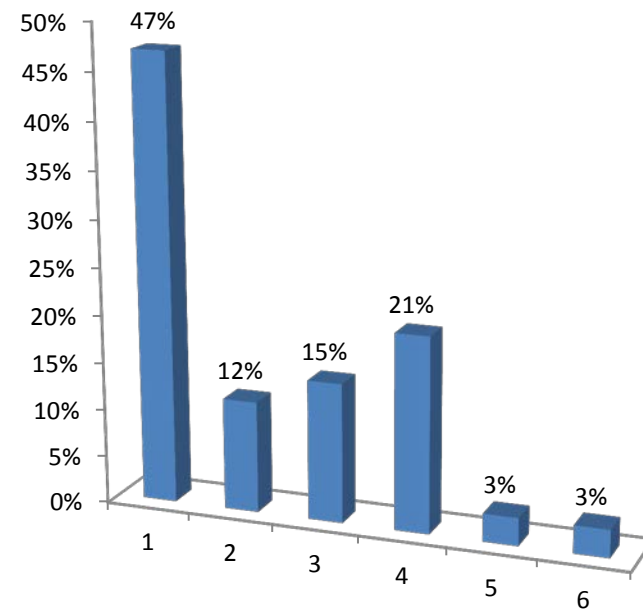
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Strongly Agree	6%	2
Somewhat Agree	3%	1
Somewhat Disagree	3%	1
Strongly Disagree	87%	27
Totals	100%	31





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

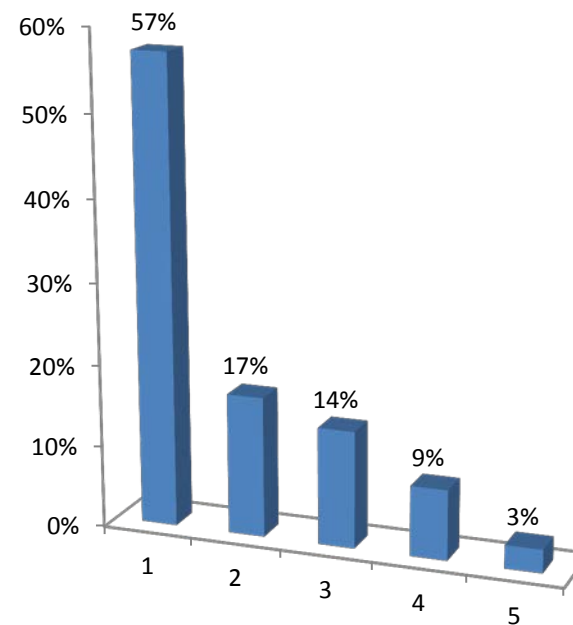
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Being healthy and taking care of yourself	47%	16
Being close to nature	12%	4
Volunteering and giving back to your community	15%	5
Spirituality and religion	21%	7
None of the above	3%	1
Prefer not to answer	3%	1
Totals	100%	34

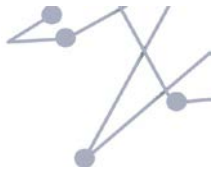




3.) What aspect of Family is most important to you? (Multiple Choice)

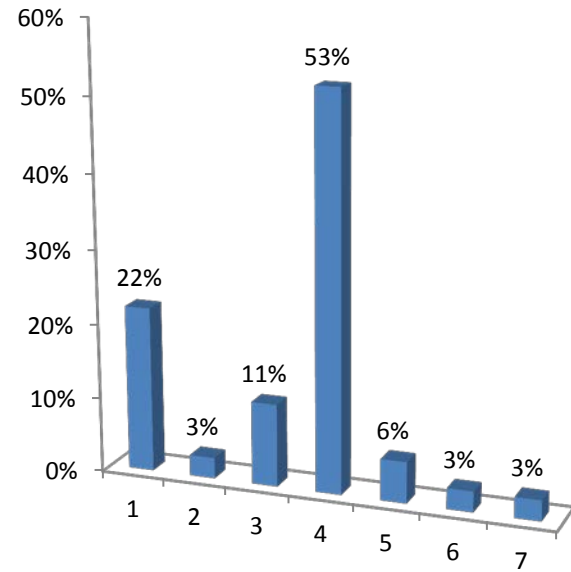
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Having time to spend together	57%	20
Having extended family nearby	17%	6
Making time for recreational and cultural activities together	14%	5
None of the above	9%	3
Prefer not to answer	3%	1
Totals	100%	35





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

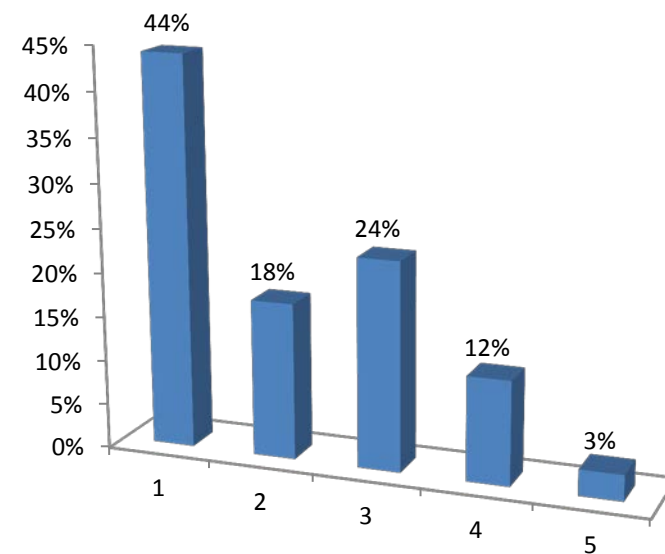
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Feeling a sense of community	22%	8
Having community-sponsored activities to go to	3%	1
Living in a diverse community	11%	4
Having good neighbors and being a good neighbor	53%	19
Being self-reliant and left alone	6%	2
None of the above	3%	1
Prefer not to answer	3%	1
Totals	100%	36

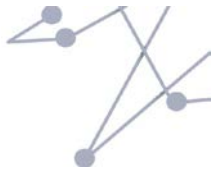




5.) What aspect of Education is most important to you? (Multiple Choice)

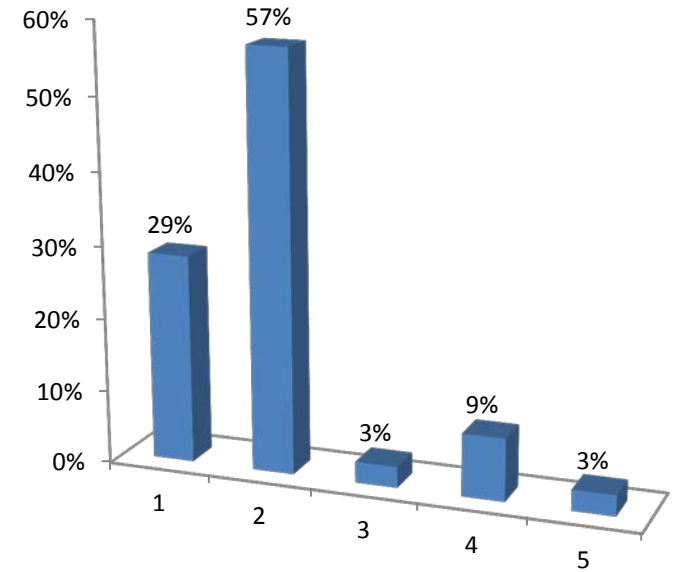
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Having quality neighborhood schools	44%	15
Being able to go to college or a trade school	18%	6
Having opportunities to keep learning all through life	24%	8
None of the above	12%	4
Prefer not to answer	3%	1
Totals	100%	34

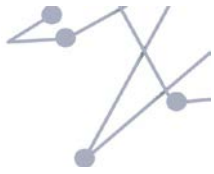




6.) What aspect of Nature is most important to you? (Multiple Choice)

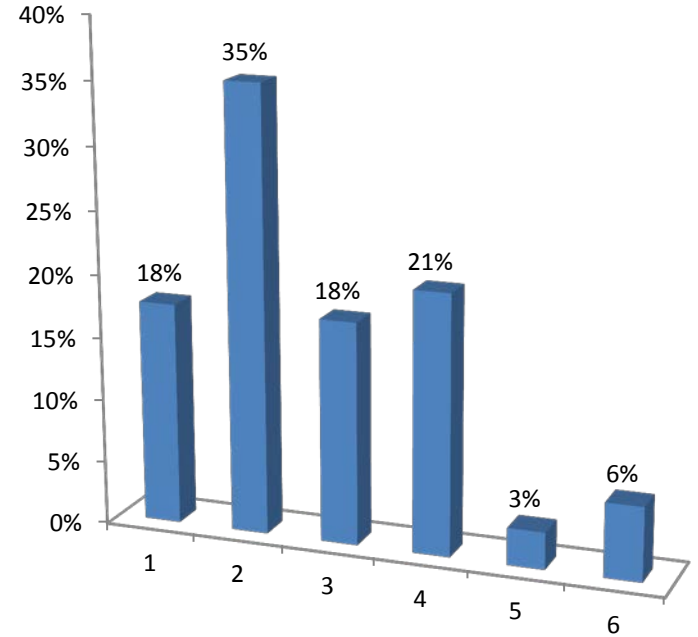
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Having green space nearby	29%	10
Taking good care of our air, water and natural lands	57%	20
Protecting wildlife habitat	3%	1
None of the above	9%	3
Prefer not to answer	3%	1
Totals	100%	35





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

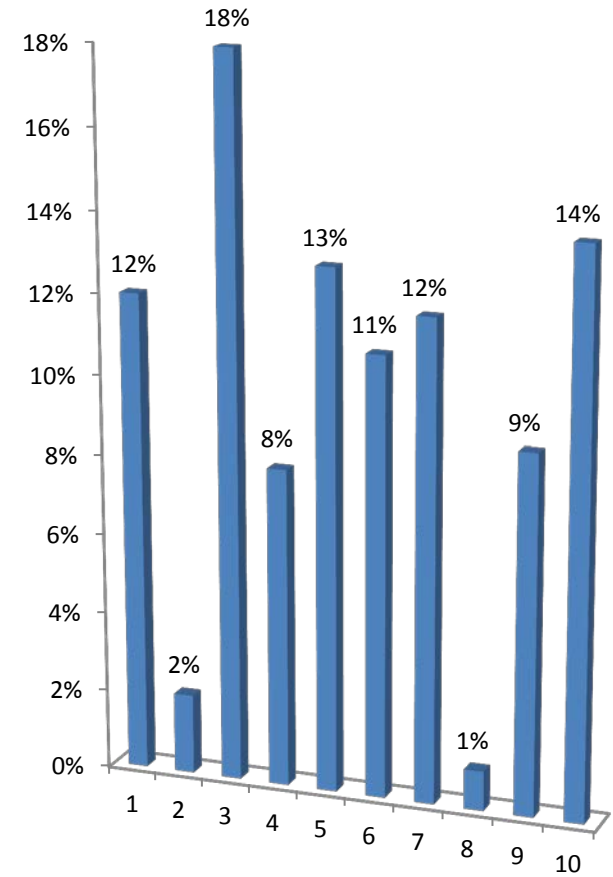
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Having a good paying job	18%	6
Having Safe neighborhoods	35%	12
Fewer traffic-related accidents	18%	6
Peace of mind about the future	21%	7
None of the above	3%	1
Prefer not to answer	6%	2
Totals	100%	34





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

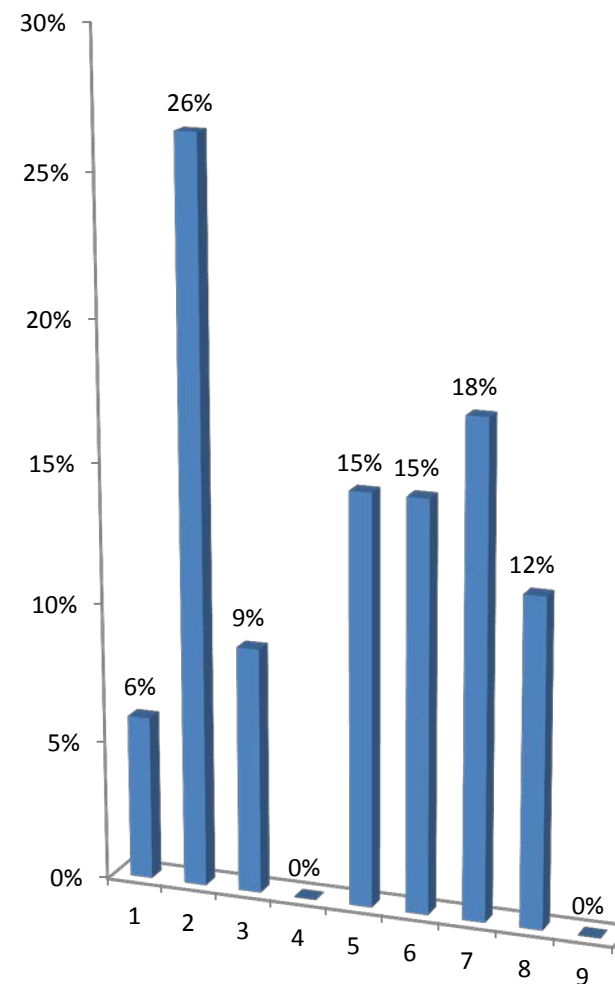
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Fixing unsafe bridges	12%	12
Building more highways	2%	2
Making existing highways work better	18%	18
Expanding transit service	8%	8
Making existing transit work better	13%	13
Making it easier to transport goods and materials around the region	11%	11
Using technology to improve transportation	12%	12
Supporting more carpooling and shuttles	1%	1
Making our roads safer	9%	9
Making it easier to walk and bike where we need to go	14%	14
Totals	100%	100

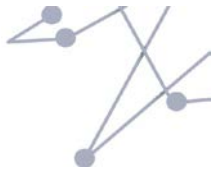




9.) What sources of funds should be used to support transportation? (Multiple Choice)

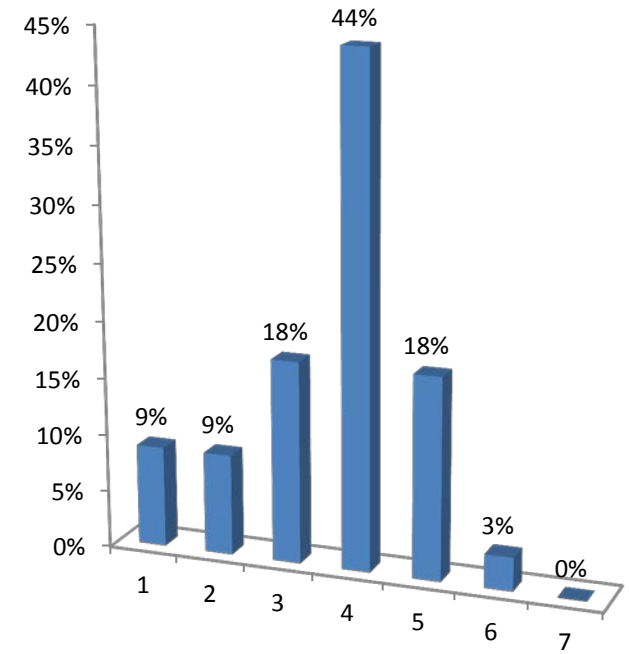
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Transit fares and tolls	6%	2
Gas taxes	26%	9
General taxes like income tax or sales tax	9%	3
Borrowing more money and paying it off over time	0%	0
Selling "naming" rights to bridges, highways and train stations like we do with stadiums and arenas	15%	5
Working with banks and businesses to share costs and revenue from tolls and fares	15%	5
All of the above	18%	6
None of the above	12%	4
Prefer not to answer	0%	0
Totals	100%	34

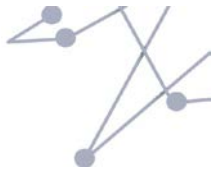




10.) Which group best describes your age? (Multiple Choice)

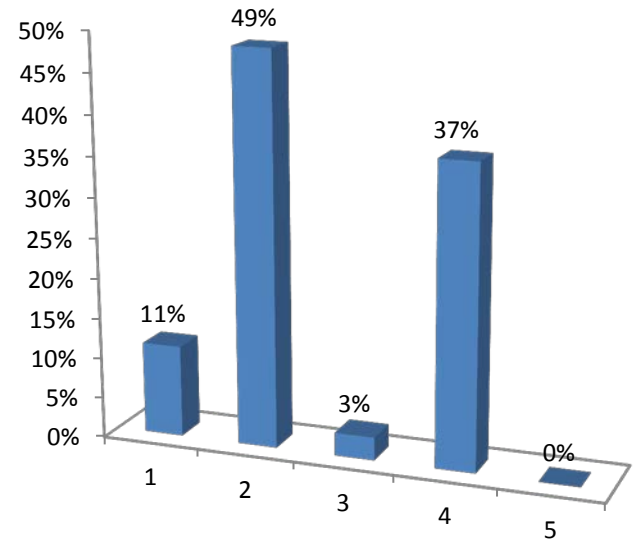
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Under 25	9%	3
25-34	9%	3
35-44	18%	6
45-64	44%	15
65-74	18%	6
75 years and older	3%	1
Prefer not to answer	0%	0
Totals	100%	34

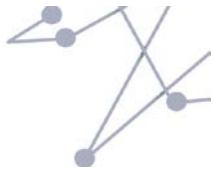




11.) What is your household size? (include yourself) (Multiple Choice)

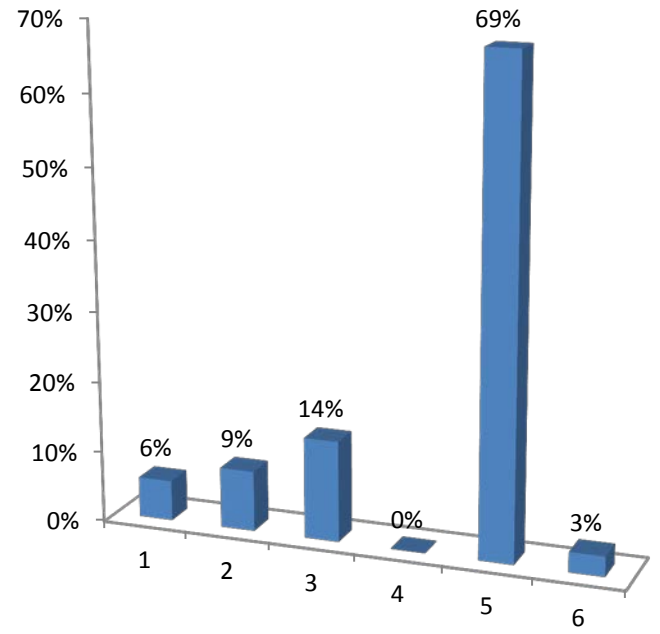
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
1 person household	11%	4
2 person household	49%	17
3 person household	3%	1
4 or more person households	37%	13
Prefer not to answer	0%	0
Totals	100%	35

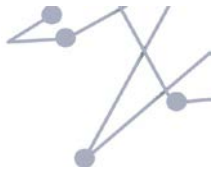




12.) How many persons in your household are under the age of 18? (Multiple Choice)

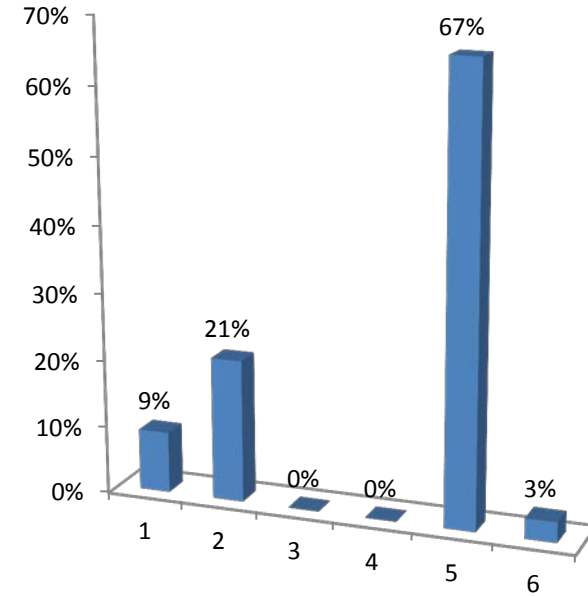
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
One (1)	6%	2
Two (2)	9%	3
Three (3)	14%	5
Four or more (4+)	0%	0
None	69%	24
Prefer not to answer	3%	1
Totals	100%	35

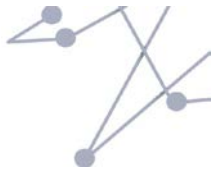




13.) How many persons in your household are over the age of 65? (Multiple Choice)

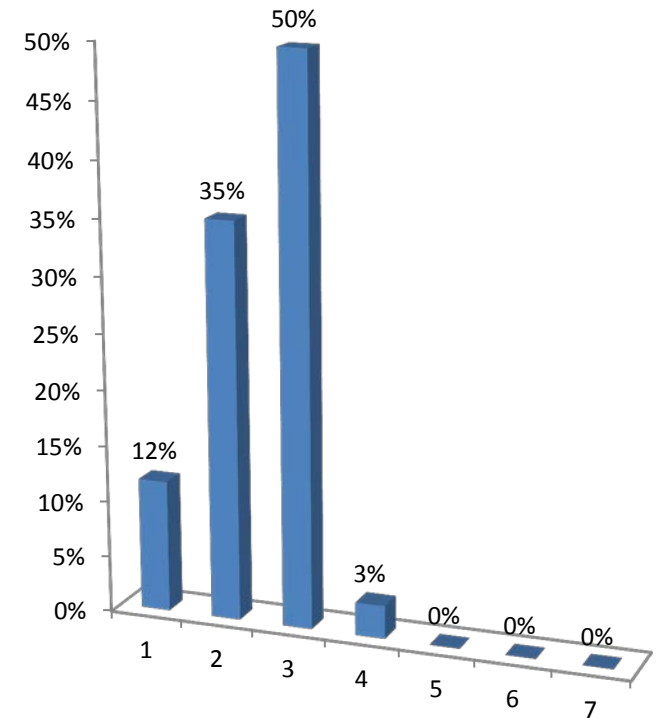
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
One (1)	9%	3
Two (2)	21%	7
Three (3)	0%	0
Four or more (4+)	0%	0
None	67%	22
Prefer not to answer	3%	1
Totals	100%	33

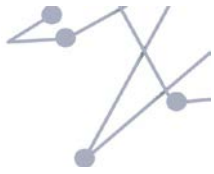




14.) How would you describe the community in which you live? (Multiple Choice)

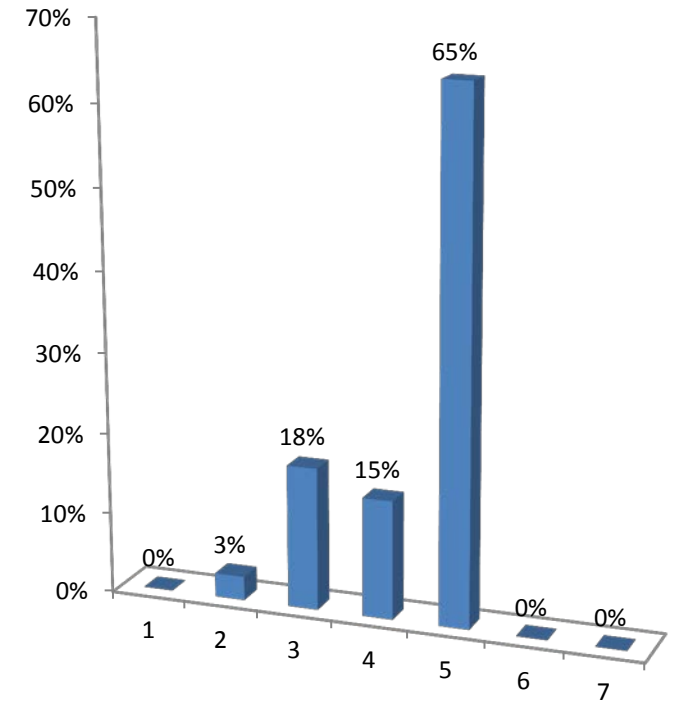
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
City	12%	4
Small town	35%	12
Suburban township	50%	17
Rural township	3%	1
Vacation/Resort community	0%	0
None of the above	0%	0
Prefer not to answer	0%	0
Totals	100%	34

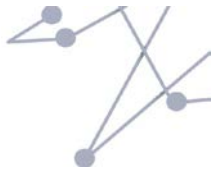




15.) How long have you lived in your current neighborhood? (Multiple Choice)

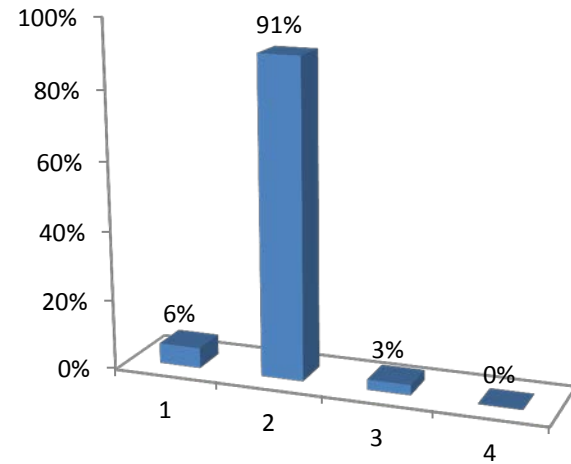
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Less than a year	0%	0
1-3 years	3%	1
4-10 years	18%	6
11-20 years	15%	5
20+ years	65%	22
I do not live in Northern NJ	0%	0
Prefer not to answer	0%	0
Totals	100%	34





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

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Rent	6%	2
Own	91%	31
Residence is provided by others	3%	1
Prefer not to answer	0%	0
Totals	100%	34

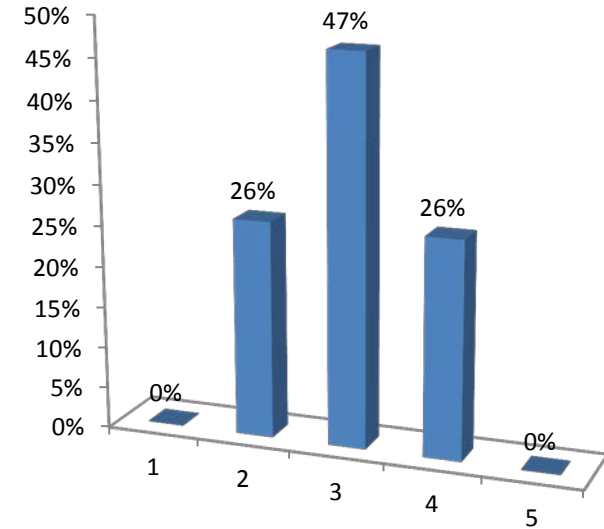


DRY



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

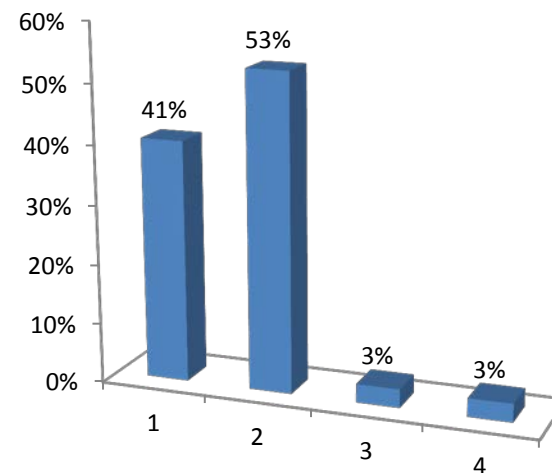
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
No vehicles	0%	0
1 vehicle	26%	9
2 vehicles	47%	16
3+ vehicles	26%	9
Prefer not to answer	0%	0
Totals	100%	34





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

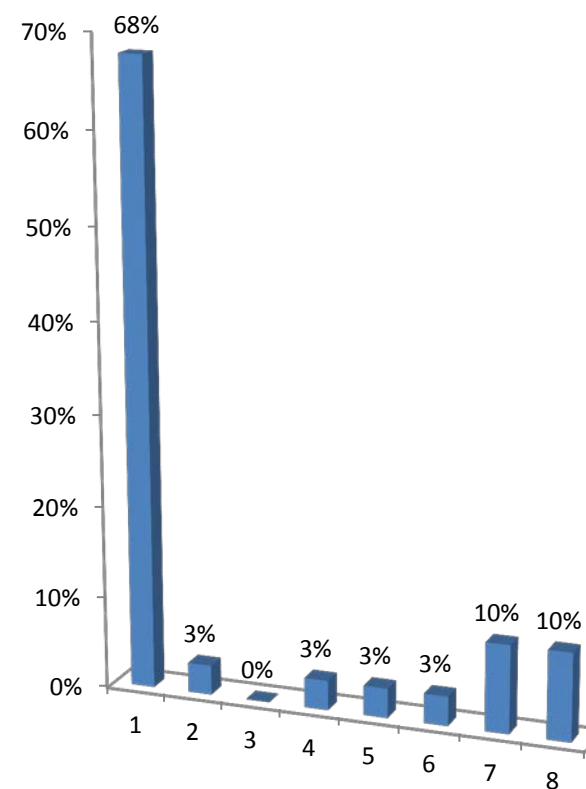
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Male	41%	13
Female	53%	17
Other	3%	1
Prefer not to answer	3%	1
Totals	100%	32

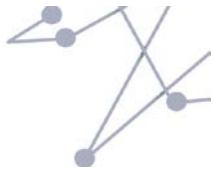




19.) What race or ethnicity best describes you? (Multiple Choice)

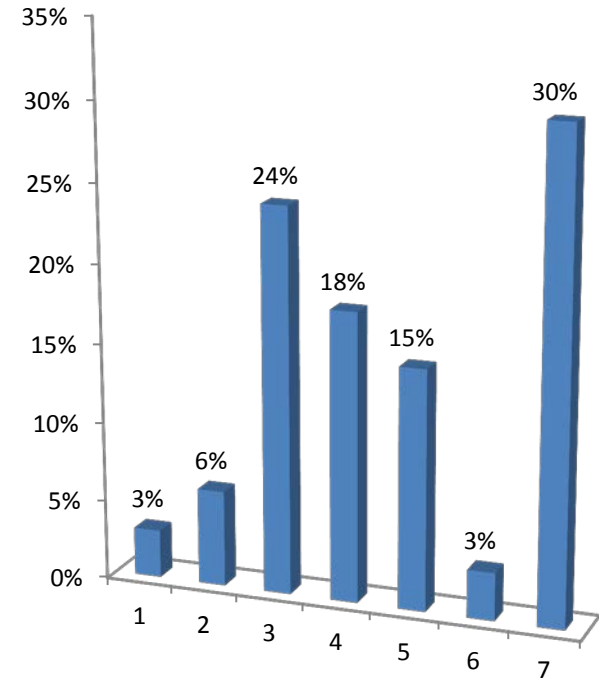
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
White, Not Hispanic	68%	21
Black, Not Hispanic	3%	1
White, Hispanic	0%	0
Black, Hispanic	3%	1
Asian American	3%	1
Native American	3%	1
More than One Race	10%	3
Prefer not to answer	10%	3
Totals	100%	31

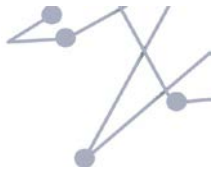




20.) What is your household income? (Multiple Choice)

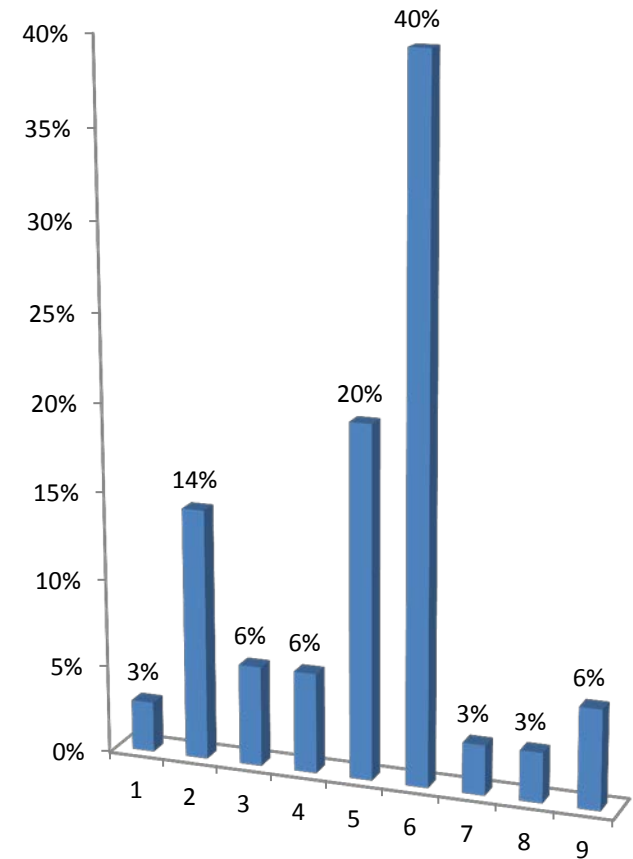
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
\$0 - \$24,999	3%	1
\$25,000 - \$49,999	6%	2
\$50,000 - \$74,999	24%	8
\$75,000 - \$100,000	18%	6
\$101,000 - \$150,000	15%	5
More than \$150,000	3%	1
Prefer not to answer	30%	10
Totals	100%	33





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

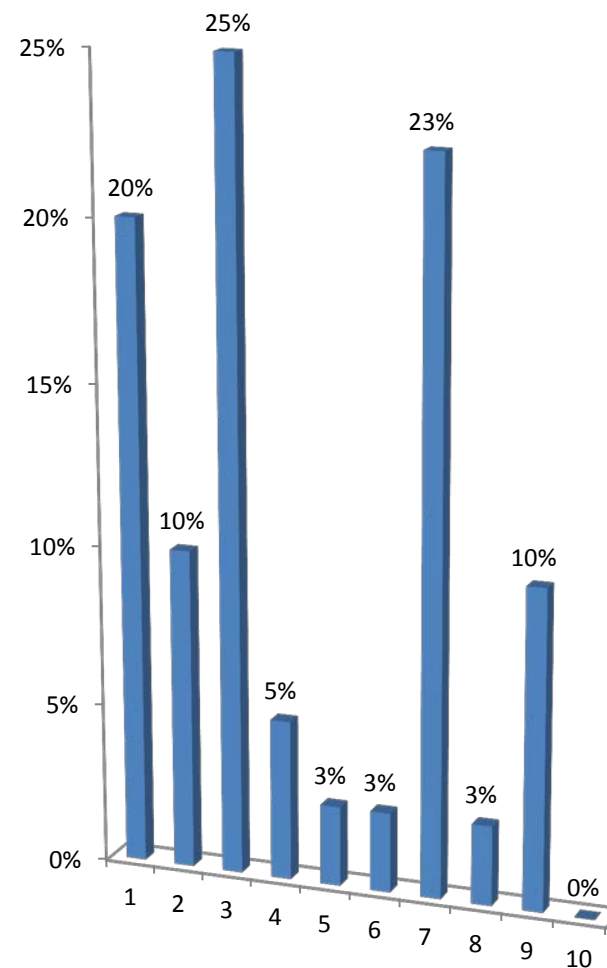
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Less than High School Diploma or GED	3%	1
High School Graduate	14%	5
Some College	6%	2
Associate's Degree (AA, AS)	6%	2
Bachelor's Degree (BA, BS)	20%	7
Master's Degree	40%	14
Professional Degree beyond Bachelor's Degree (MD, DDS, DVM, LLB, JD)	3%	1
Doctorate Degree (PhD or EdD)	3%	1
Prefer not to answer	6%	2
Totals	100%	35





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

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Together North Jersey email/website	20%	8
NJTPA email/website	10%	4
County/city email/website	25%	10
Print newspaper	5%	2
Online newspaper	3%	1
Community group or organization	3%	1
Family, friend, or associate	23%	9
Flyer posted at library, senior center or government building	3%	1
Other	10%	4
Prefer not to answer	0%	0
Totals	100%	40





Appendix H: Unreadable Public Input Responses

Session Name: Union County, 3/19/13

GETTING AROUND: Change

Union city in Westfield to
HR Local Bus Route

Morristown change which traffic
< Dredroce