



Town of North Haven POCD 2015 Update

Town Plan of Conservation & Development (TPOCD)

Sustainability & Survey Results
July 2016



Purpose of Today's Meeting

- Presentation of sustainability and energy progress
 - Energy efficiency and renewables
 - Conservation Commission activities
 - Green tech investments
 - Low impact development toolkit
- Executive Summary of Community Survey Results
- Updating the Action Agenda: Take-Home Exercise



Clean Energy Task Force

- Formed in 2007
- Successes:
 - Obtained free solar array for NHHS through with Project Green high school student group
 - Sponsored four forums on climate change, energy efficiency, solar power, and available resources from the state
 - Promoted HES energy audit program, with over 500 participating households and over \$12,000 raised for SARAH Inc.
 - Earned three Bright Idea Grants
 - Wrote Energy Management Plan

Town of North Haven Energy Management Plan





Recent Progress

- Powering WPCA facility with solar installation
 - Currently ~1/3 MW
 - Goal of powering WPCA facility to 100% and expanding to 1MW+
- Solarize CT
 - Through CT Green Bank, Sunlight Solar, Dividend Solar
 - Provide opportunity for homeowners to get solar assessment and financing for solar power installations at favorable group rate





Recent Progress

- Energy benchmarking of town buildings
- Performance contract with Johnson Controls to upgrade schools—costs paid from energy savings
- Working with UI on moving towards 100% LED streetlights to cut energy costs
- Recent decision to use Bright Idea Grant money to sponsor 300 Home Energy Solutions Assessments for North Haven residents
 - Provides ~\$1,000 of services; average of \$200 in annual savings
- Installing electric vehicle charging stations



Conservation Commission

- Outreach activities
 - Annual Earth Day Fair
 - Educational seminars and panel discussions
- Integrated Pest Management Policy
 - Minimize use of pesticides, avoid at elementary/ middle school properties



North Haven Conservation Commission added 4 new photos — at **North Haven High School**.

April 9 · North Haven, CT · 🌐

The Earth Day Fair in North Haven drew an incredibly diverse crowd. It was great to see little ones walking away solemnly holding the tiny seedlings they had transferred to clay pots!



North Haven Conservation Commission

February 10 · 🌐

A program on heirloom tomatoes will be held at the North Haven Library on Monday, February 22 at 7pm. To reserve a seat, call 203-239-5803 or visit their website at www.northhavenlibrary.net

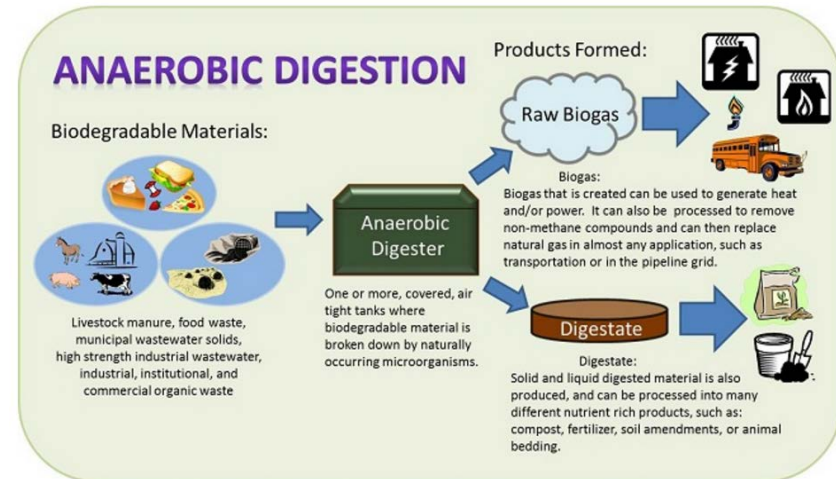


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Green Tech & Development

- Anaerobic digester project in permitting for Cedar Hills area – converting food waste to biogas energy source
- One of five in DEEP permitting/construction process in the state – decision expected Q4 2016
- Provides alternative pathways for organic solid waste





Waste Reduction/Management

- Successful town single-stream recycling program
 - >50% of MSW recycled, well above state 40% goal
- Emerging area: diversion of organics from waste stream
 - Food & yard scraps, other organics make up 1/3rd of CT's waste, or about 750,000 tons per year
 - North Haven's ongoing leaf collection and composting program provides free compost to residents
 - Digester project as well as composting, donation, use as animal feed are options for commercial food waste
 - Small-scale composting promoted by Cons. Comm.



Low-Impact Development

- Designing towards maintaining hydrologic conditions during and after construction that mimic pre-development conditions
- Reduce demands on conventional stormwater management systems through management and treatment of stormwater as close as possible to source
 - Potentially significant cost savings
- Improves quality of runoff and lessens impacts on receiving water bodies
- Promoted through subdivision regulations



Low-Impact Development

- LID techniques include:
 - Minimizing cut/fill, limiting site disturbances
 - Post-construction soil restoration
 - Reducing impervious surfaces (street design standards, parking requirements, pervious pavement)
 - Design standards for curbs, road pavement
 - Bio-retention ponds, rain gardens, vegetated swales, and rainwater harvesting
- Can be incentivized through lot coverage bonuses, decreased parking requirements



Photo: CT DEP



Photo: CT DEP

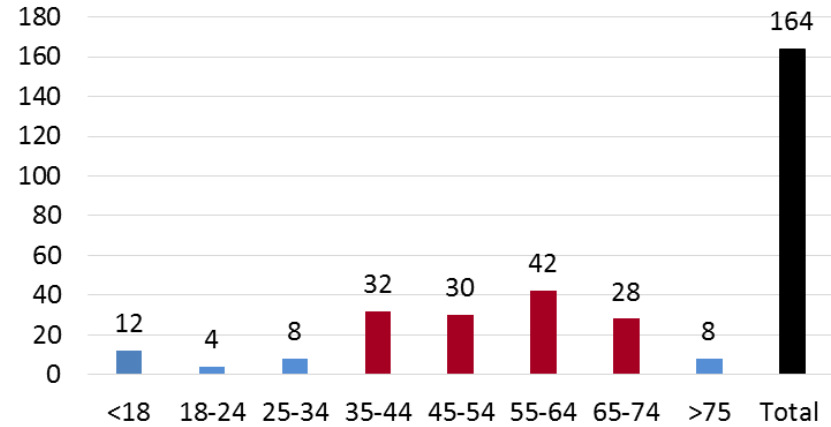




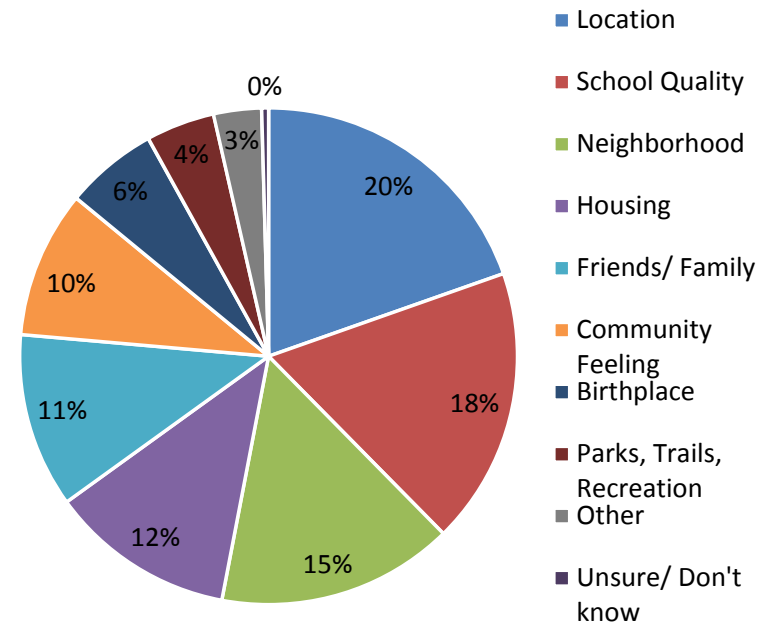
Survey: Executive Summary

- 164 participants took the online survey
- Sample leans older than North Haven's population: almost half (46%) of adult respondents are between the ages of 55 and 74
- Proximity to work or transportation, school quality and neighborhood character are the most common reasons for choosing North Haven

Participant's Age



Reasons for choosing North Haven

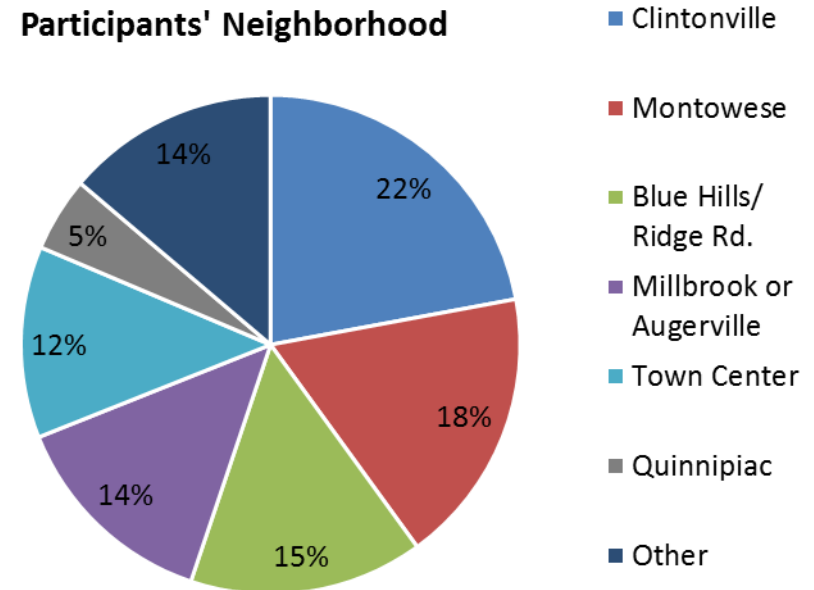




Neighborhoods

➤ Clintonville and Montowese neighborhoods most strongly represented among respondents

Participants' Neighborhood



➤ 88% of respondents are satisfied with their neighborhoods

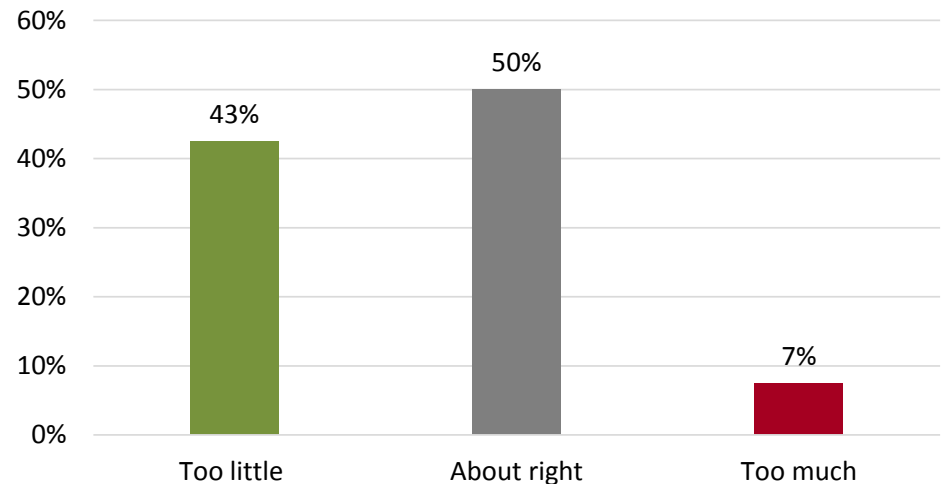
- High satisfaction with environment, safety, amenities and schools
- Common areas of concern: traffic noise, lack of sidewalks, road conditions, perceived increase in crime



Housing

- Mixed-use developments, cluster housing units with affordable residential components and accessory apartments are most accepted forms of affordable housing
- 43% see a need for additional affordable housing in North Haven
- 51% indicated that North Haven should designate specific locations in Town for affordable housing
- 62% encouraged the development of more affordable housing options for multi-generational families

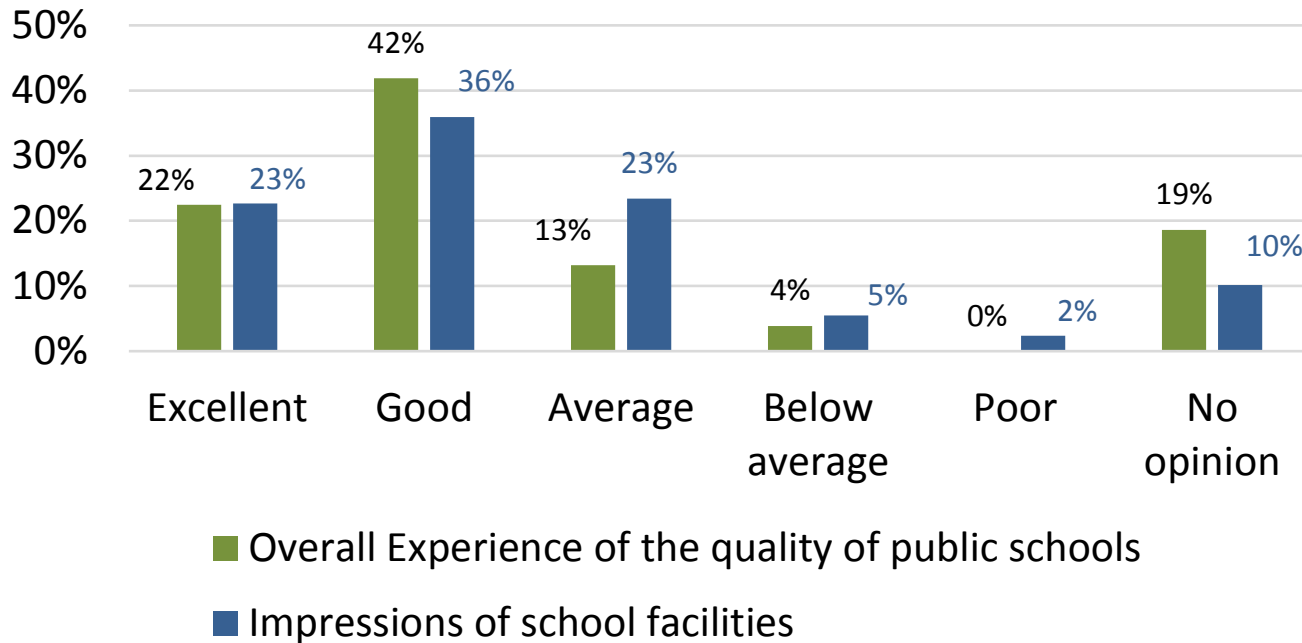
Opinions of Current Affordable Housing Amount





Public Schools

Public School Experiences



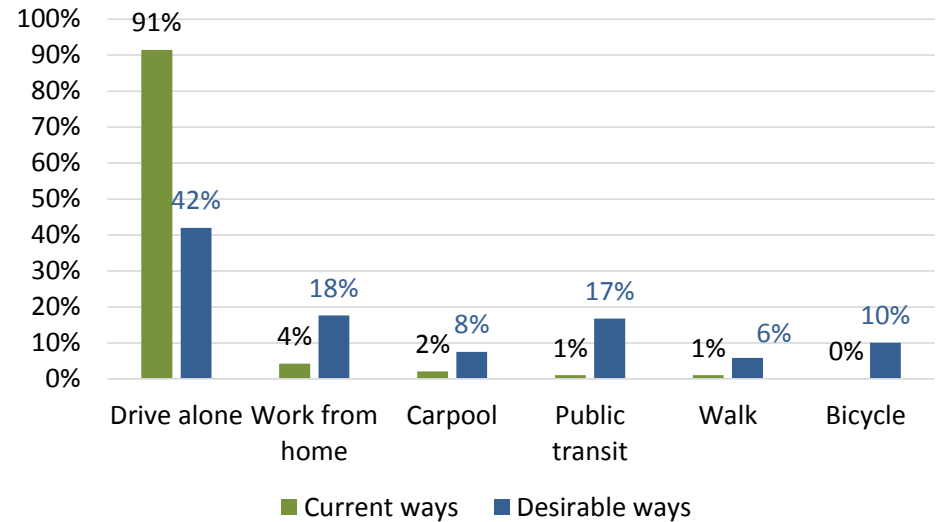
- 64% of participants had good or excellent experiences with North Haven’s public schools; while 58% had positive evaluations of the quality of school facilities



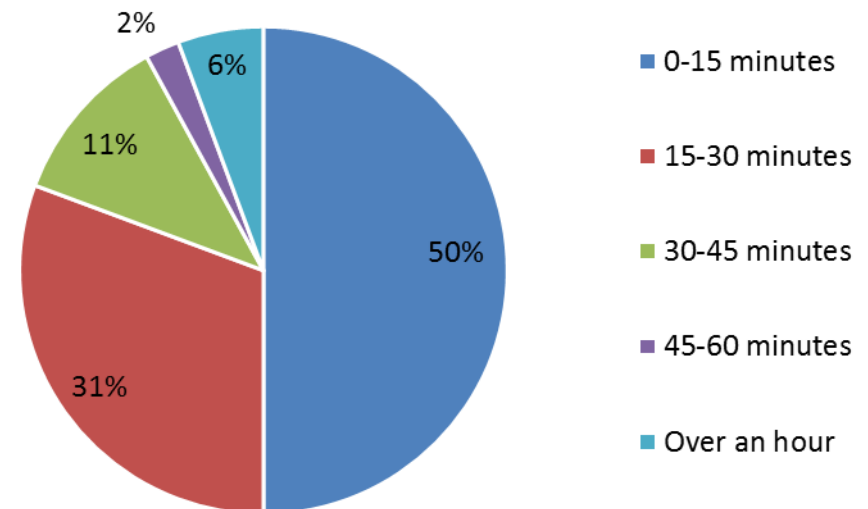
Commute to Work

- Of participants who currently work, 92% are driving alone for their commute
- However, survey shows a strong preference for broader options for the journey to work—about 6 in 10 would prefer alternatives to driving alone

Journey to Work



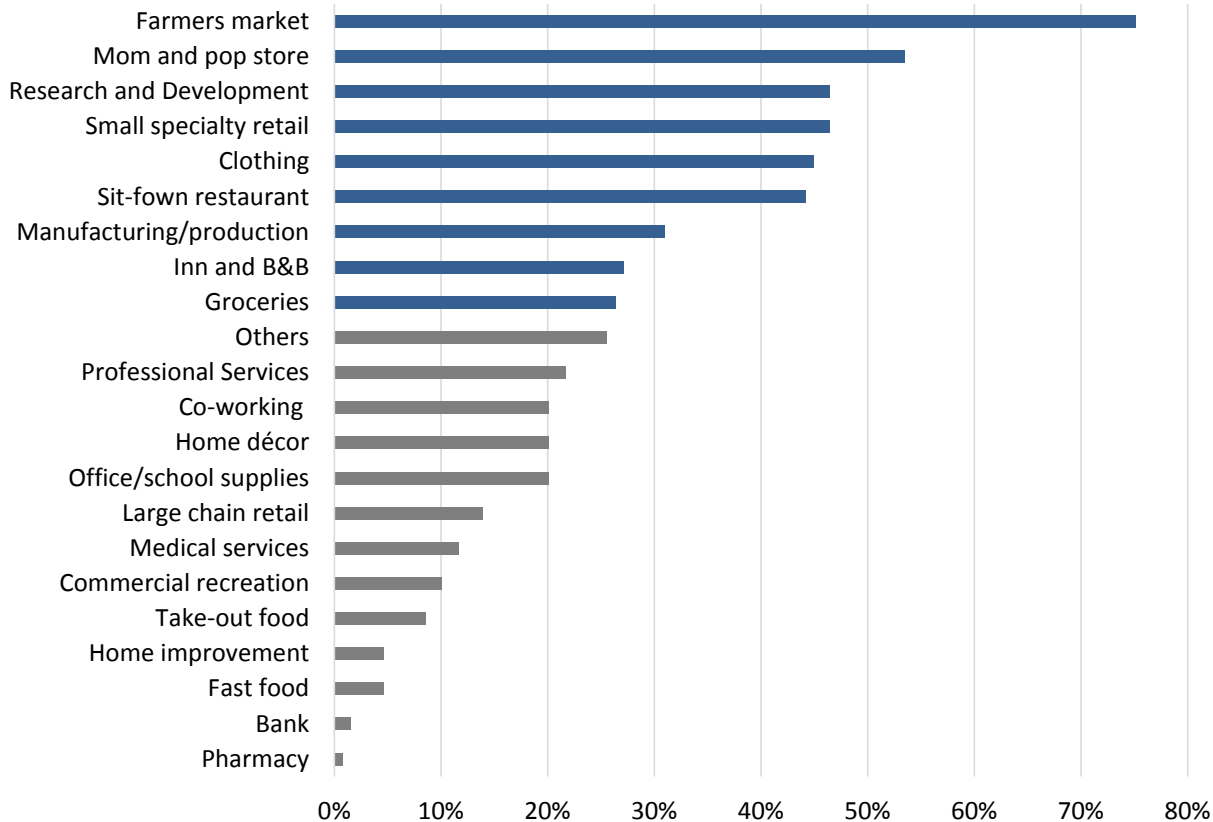
Commute Time





Business

Desirable Businesses

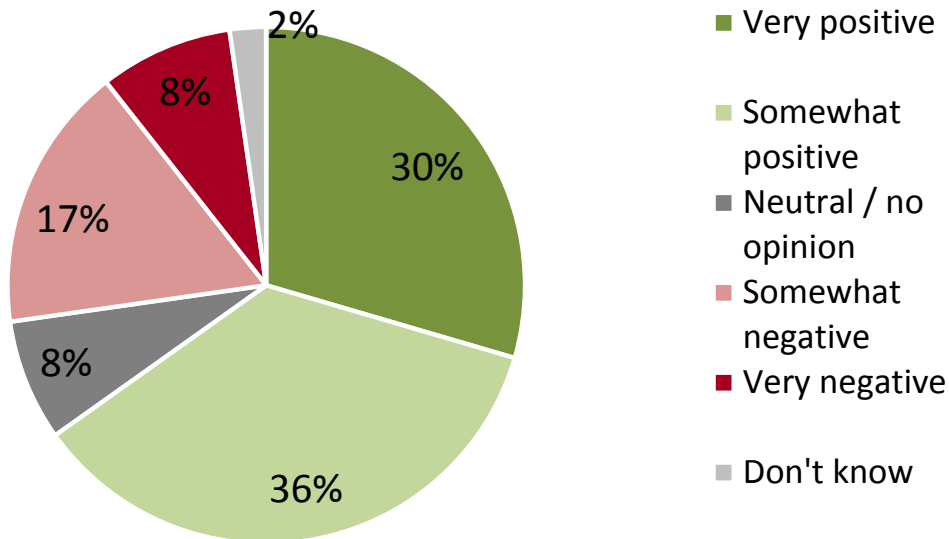


- Small/high-end retail (farmer’s market, mom & pop, specialty shopping), R&D, restaurants seen as most desirable additions to North Haven
- Little demand for additional chain retail, services, and dining
- “Diversify businesses [...] encouraging businesses that might provide more in-town working and living will improve community identity.”



Possibility of Quinnipiac Growing

Opinions of Quinnipiac Growing



“An educational institution provides supportive staff jobs, encourages new eating establishments, needs supplies, [and] brings young people to town.”

vs.

“I do not believe North Haven is a large enough town to support a large university nor should it try to be...”

- 65% of respondents believe Quinnipiac will have net positive impacts on the community, while 25% believe impacts will be a net negative
- Concerns: “Student behavior has been troubling as of late due to parties and public disturbances at rental properties.”



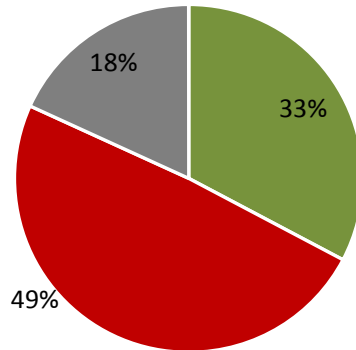
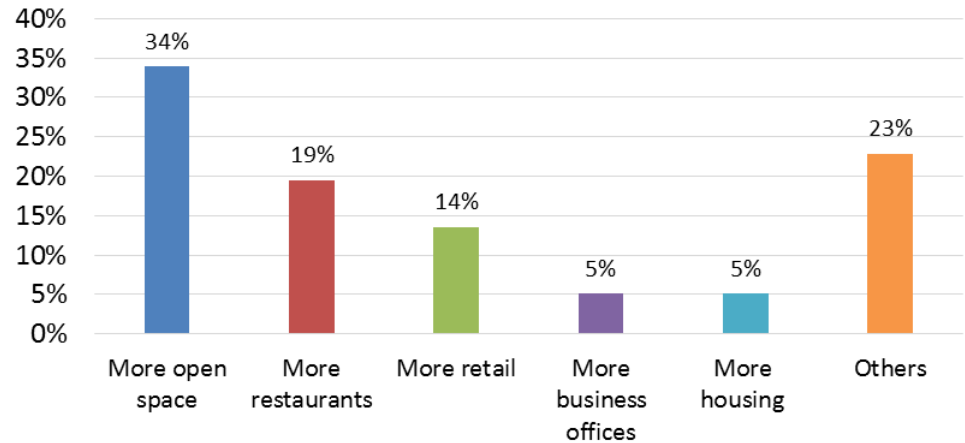
Town Center Development

➤ Open space is a popular priority:

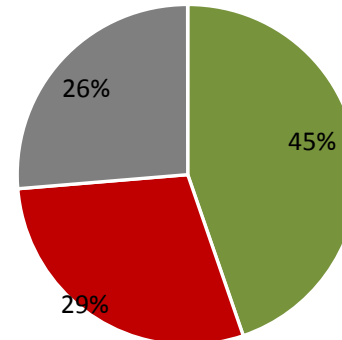
“Public plazas, green spaces, and community space as well as local, small businesses would improve North Haven.”

- 87% see a need for improved sidewalks in Town Center
- Preference for encouraging new development along Broadway and leaving Town departments in place

Desirable Developments at Town Center



Relocate some Town departments to a non-central location, and integrate more commercial uses and housing into the Town Center



Leave Town departments where they are and encourage denser commercial and residential development along Broadway

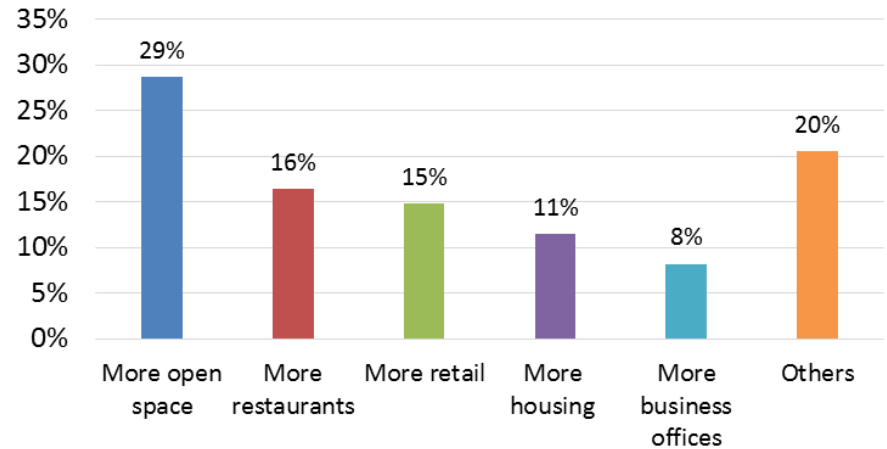
- Interested
- Not interested
- Need more info.



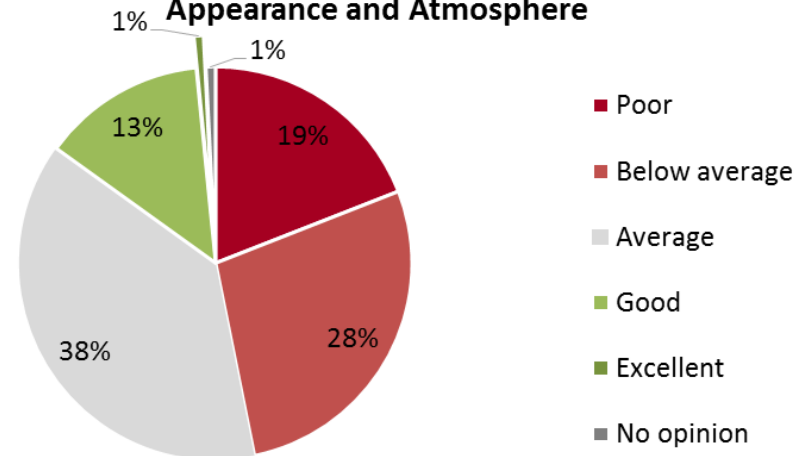
Washington Avenue Development

- Open space again also seen as desirable along this corridor
- Demand for higher-end retail establishments; farmer's market; more integrated mixed-use development including housing and space for community use as well as commercial
- 47% of responses were unfavorable towards Washington Avenue's appearance vs. only 14% favorable:
 - "More trees or, at least, flowers would definitely help."
 - "... several areas have empty stores. Business should be encouraged to locate in these spaces."

Desirable Developments at Washington Ave



Opinions of Washington Ave's Appearance and Atmosphere





Analysis by Age Groups

- Respondents under age 55 are more likely to...
 - Get news from social media (59% vs. 39% of 55+ respondents)
 - See safety/crime and a lack of parks & rec. space as issues (20% vs. 3%/20% vs. 10%)
 - Support provisions for accessory housing (35% vs. 21%)
 - Rate schools as Excellent (35% vs. 20%)—but also more likely to see condition of school facilities as average or below average (42% vs. 24%)
 - Work *and* live in North Haven (29% vs. 19%)
 - View Quinnipiac University as having a positive or neutral impact (79% vs. 66%)
 - Say more restaurants are the top development priority for the Town Center (28% vs. 12%) and Washington Avenue (22% vs. 12%)
 - Rate parks, playgrounds, and sports fields as key recreation/open space priorities



Analysis by Age Groups

- Respondents over age 55 are more likely to...
 - Support conservation subdivisions (37% vs. 19%) as a housing strategy
 - Be involved with arts and religious groups on a regular basis (but less likely to be involved with sports, youth, and schools groups)
 - View transportation options (bike/ped/transit) as sustainability priorities and say their ideal journey to work is by a mode other than driving alone (65% vs. 51%)
 - Support improving trails for hiking and biking (74% vs. 60% across 5 questions)
 - Rate hiking trails and preserving natural open space areas as key recreation/open space priorities



Quotes: Sense of Community

- **“North Haven is a solid place to raise a family. However, our children often leave. Many cite both the cost and the boredom of living in a community with little open space and recreation, retail that meets their needs, and not a wide variety of quality dining options. Arts, culture, sports, recreation, and other amenities offer residents a chance to meet and get to know each other apart from raising children and engaging only in school-related activities.”**
- **“My children are grown, and when they were younger and living at home, I felt more of a sense of community, through their elementary school and activities they participated in in middle and high school. Now that they are no longer in school in North Haven, I do not feel a sense of connection with the town.”**
- **“North Haven has strong roots & many older residents grew up here. But now it's time to bring in more unique stores, restaurants and coffee shops which would bring in a more ‘center of town’ feel so people can get out, connect and socialize.”**



Quotes: Recreation Facilities

- “[We need a] skate park! **We have places for younger kids like parks but nothing for middle school/high school age besides sports** [...] let's make it happen so these kids/teens have somewhere to go and stay out of trouble around town.”
- “**Every sport in this town should have its own fields to be played on.** There also should be an indoor facility that is open to the public especially during the winter that runs programs to train for sports like baseball, softball, lacrosse, etc.”
- “**We need open space in attractive areas and interconnected walking trails** that are very well-maintained. Safe access to the Quinnipiac River and marshland is a must. Engaging the New Haven Bird Club and the Connecticut Audubon Society to place bird watching platforms along the river would be a good step.”



Action Agenda: Take-Home

- Following major planning elements, next step is developing the POCD's Action Agenda
- The Action Agenda provides a roadmap for the next decade through a set of **goals** (where we want to go) and **strategies** (how we'll get there) that reflect the community's priorities
- Previous POCD provides a starting point—many goals and strategies are still relevant today
- Meetings and public outreach efforts provide other potential strategies for addressing new conditions
- **Your input** will help us narrow down important and relevant strategies and identify areas where new solutions are needed