

Venango County Comprehensive Plan 2024: Planning Tomorrow Together

VOLUME 2

Community Survey and Engagement Session Summaries

Adopted: October 2024



VENANGO COUNTY
• PENNSYLVANIA •

Prepared by the Venango County Regional Planning Commission with
assistance from:



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Venango County

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RESOLUTION 2024 - 10

ADOPTION OF THE 2024 VENANGO COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

A resolution adopting the Venango County Comprehensive Plan Update, dated October 2024, as prepared by the Venango County Planning Commission and facilitated by The EADS Group, Inc.

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) requires that County comprehensive plans be updated every ten (10) years; and

WHEREAS, the MPC outlines content and procedural requirements associated with the preparation, review and approval of County comprehensive plans that have been followed in this County Plan Update process; and

WHEREAS, the Venango County Regional Planning Commission coordinated the preparation of the Venango County Comprehensive Plan Update that has been published in two (2) documents, entitled Volume 1: Topics – Priorities – Goals – Actions and Volume 2: Community Survey and Engagement Session Summaries, both dated October 2024 and comprised of maps, charts, textual matter and narratives, and other matters that form the whole of the County Plan Update; and

WHEREAS, the Venango County Regional Planning Commission conducted a robust and inclusive public participation and engagement process, and

WHEREAS, the proposed Venango County Comprehensive Plan Update was submitted to school districts within and contiguous to Venango County, and contiguous counties and was otherwise made publicly available for municipal and citizen review and comment; and

WHEREAS, the Venango County Regional Planning Commission adhered to the Public Meeting and Public Hearing requirements of the MPC in finalizing the County Plan Update; and

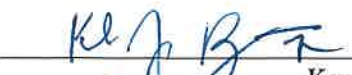
WHEREAS, the Venango County Regional Planning Commission duly noted and considered all public comments received in finalizing the County Plan Update; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Commissioners of Venango County hereby adopt the Venango County Comprehensive Plan Update that has been published in two (2) documents, entitled Volume 1: Topics – Priorities – Goals – Actions and Volume 2: Community Survey and Engagement Session Summaries, both dated October 2024 and comprised of maps, charts, textual matter and narratives, and other matters that form the whole of the County Plan Update and fulfills County responsibilities under the MPC.



BOARD OF VENANGO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Samuel H. Breene


Kenneth J. Bryan


Albert "Chip" Abramovic

ATTEST:


Bridey G. Shawgo, Chief Clerk

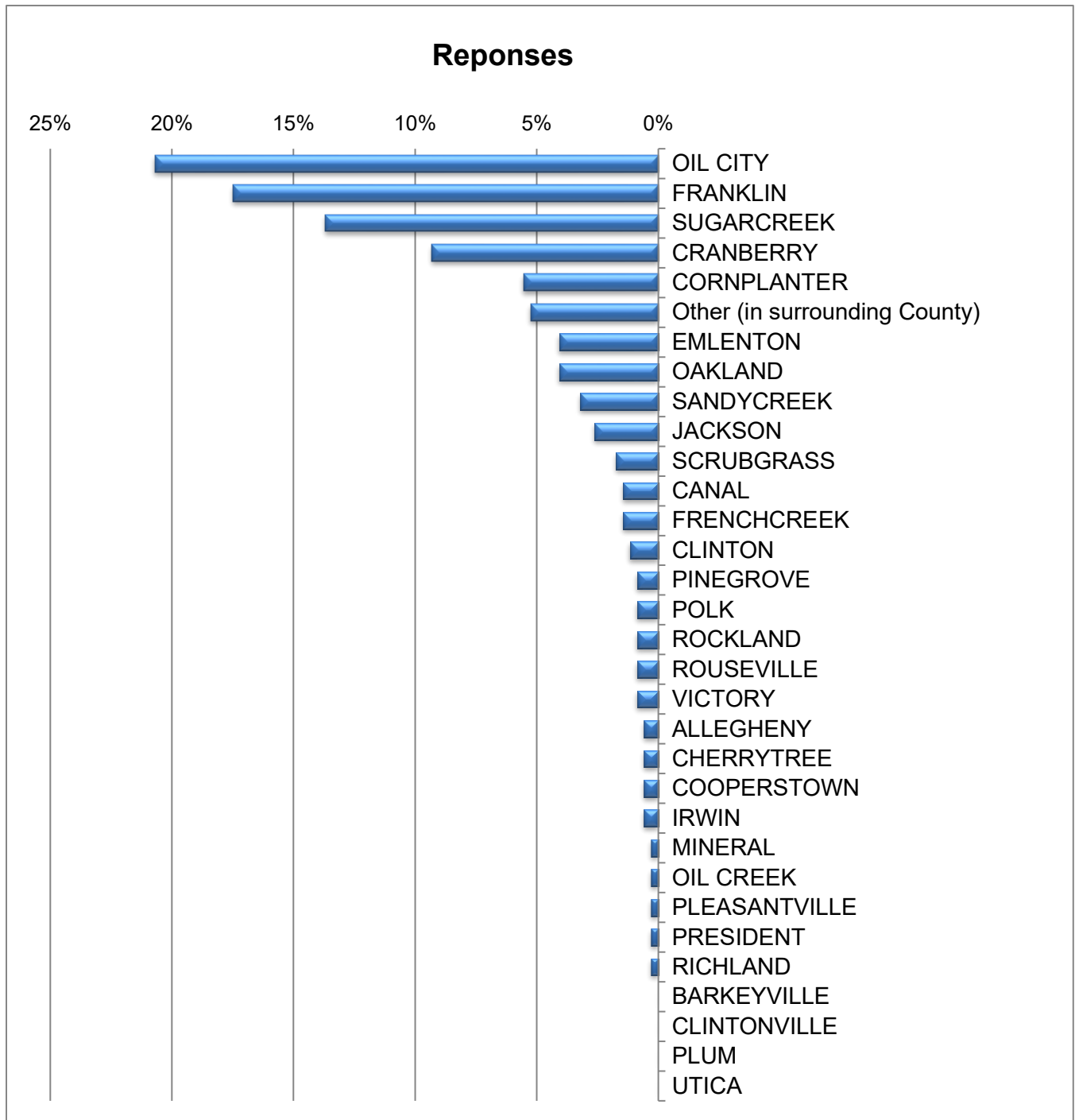
TABLE OF CONTENTS

COMMUNITY SURVEY SUMMARY – pgs 1-13

COMMUNITY MEETINGS SUMMARY – pgs 14-19

COMMUNITY SURVEY SUMMARY

The Community Survey was open from February to April 2023. There were 343 responses to the Comprehensive Plan Survey. Nearly 95% of responders live in Venango County. Approximately 20% of the responses were from residents in Oil City and 17% were from the City of Franklin. At least one (1) response was received from all but four (4) County municipalities. More than five (5) responses were received from 13 County municipalities.



Approximately 75% of the responders were in the Adult (30-64) age group; 16% were older than 65 years of age; and 9% were in the Young Adult (18-29) age group. Only one (1) response came from a person under 17 years of age. These numbers demonstrate that the input gathered addresses the needs, wants and priorities for different age group segments in the County.

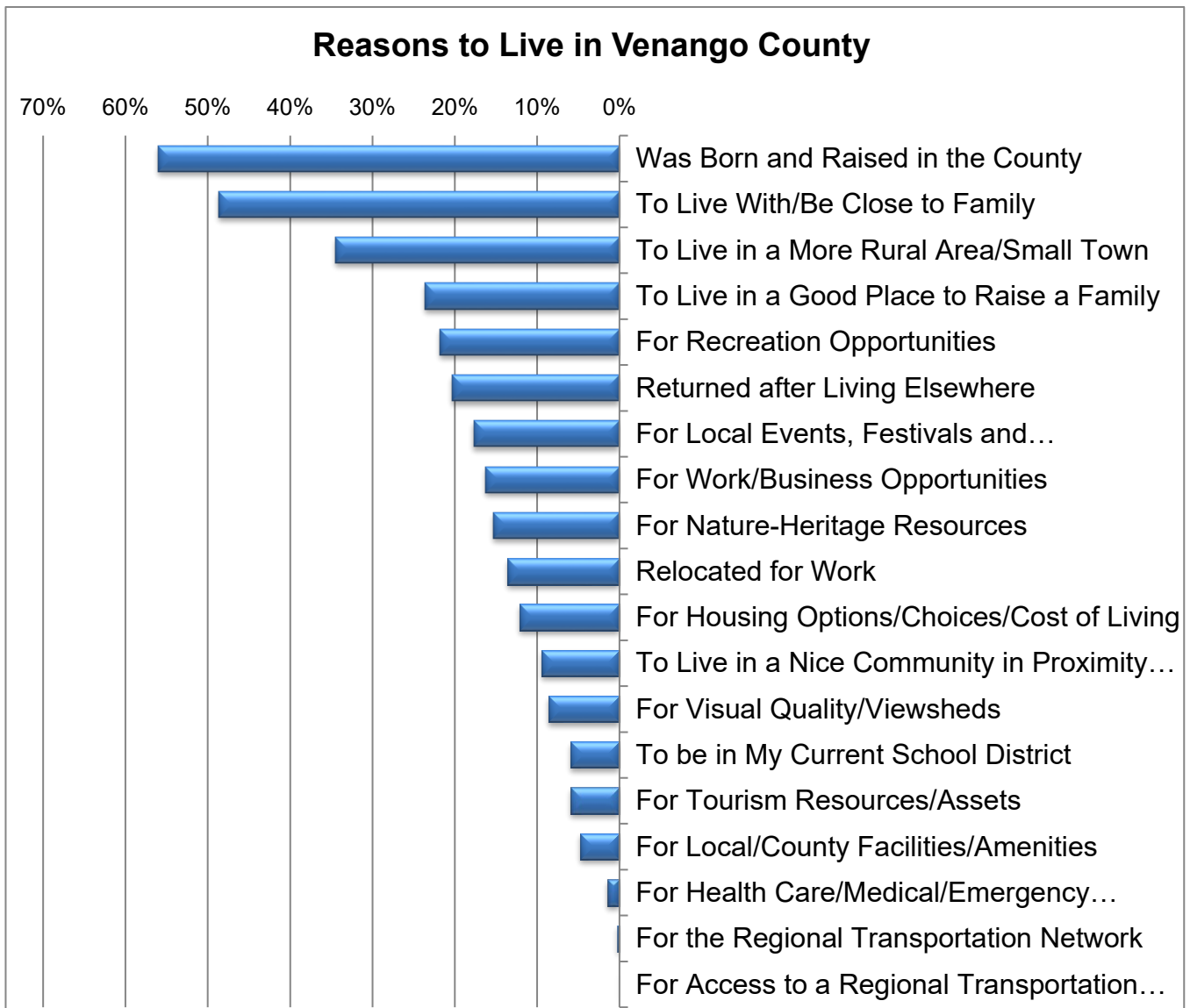
The range of responders also balanced out the types of responses received. Responses from County residents likely reflected direct quality of life issues and opportunities. Those coming from residents outside of the County more likely reflect a visitor's experience in the County. Responses from younger residents likely are oriented towards more active types of community facilities, programming, and other improvements. Those representing older residents likely suggested more passive leisure types of facilities and improvements. While those middle-aged residents likely have an orientation focused on spending time with family and friends, leisure time activities, enjoying open spaces, and existing County amenities and assets. Together, the responses provide a good representation of resident's thoughts and feelings about Venango County. The following highlights the top County priorities identified in the Survey:

- Jobs - business/industrial/commercial/manufacturing opportunities development
- Economic Development – workforce development, training, work at home amenities
- Tourism - promote and build off of existing natural and recreation resources
- Broadband/Internet – better availability, reliable service, more choices,
- Community Health – connections, connectivity, safe routes, healthy classes/opportunities, active transportation focus, municipal cooperation, access to health foods.
- Beautification – blight removal, sidewalk repairs, more attractive communities

Why Do You Live in or Visit Venango County

The Survey provided a glimpse into why residents live in or visit Venango County. The following lists the top five (5) responses. The graphic below provides the complete results. These results point to the strong connection residents and their families have with this area. There is high level of caring and passion toward the County that can be expected from residents. Perhaps most importantly, this gives County officials and other stakeholder's encouragement that future projects and positive actions taken to improve the County will have lasting value and will be serving loyal and dedicated residents.

- | | | |
|--|---|-----|
| 1. Was Born and Raised in the County | — | 56% |
| 2. To Be with or Close to Family | — | 49% |
| 3. To Live in a More Rural Area/Small Town | — | 35% |
| 4. Good Place to Raise a Family | — | 24% |
| 5. For Recreation Opportunities | — | 22% |



What Should Leaders Address -

Respondents were asked to identify what they thought County leaders should address in the next 2-5 years. The following lists the top five (5) responses. The graphic below provides the complete results. A high number of responses focused on addressing Business/Commercial/Industrial Opportunities and Broadband/Internet Availability and Service.

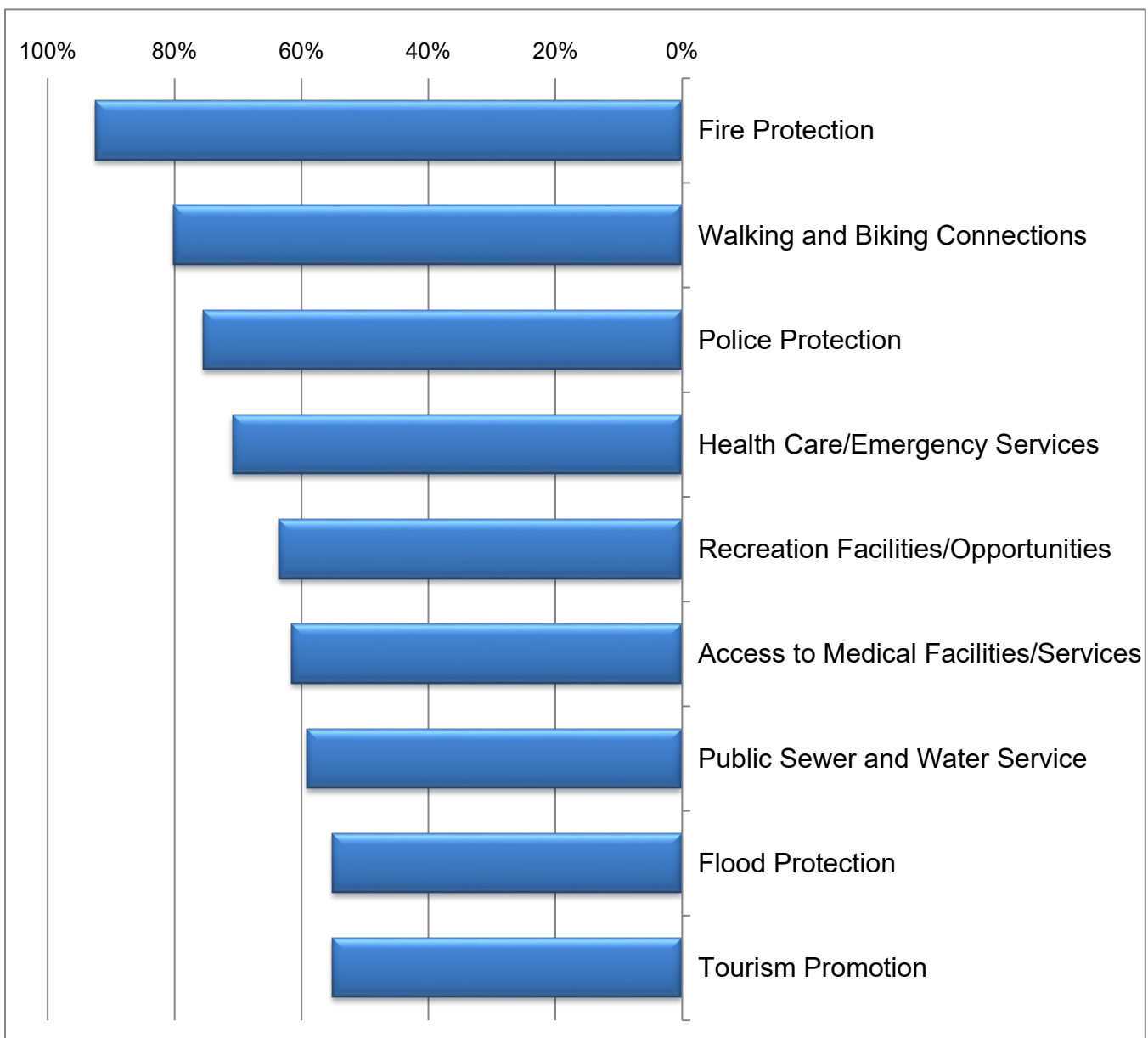
1. Increase Business/Commercial/Industrial Opportunities – 45%
2. Broadband/Internet availability and service – 45%
3. Affordable Housing Choices – 26%
4. Recreation Facilities/Opportunities – 22%
5. Community Development/Small Town Atmosphere – 31%



Services and Facilities - Liked the Most -

Respondents were asked to choose what services and facilities they liked most in Venango County from an array of choices. The following lists the top five (5) responses. The graphic below provides the complete results. These results identify characteristics that should be valued and promoted to retain and attract new residents and visitors.

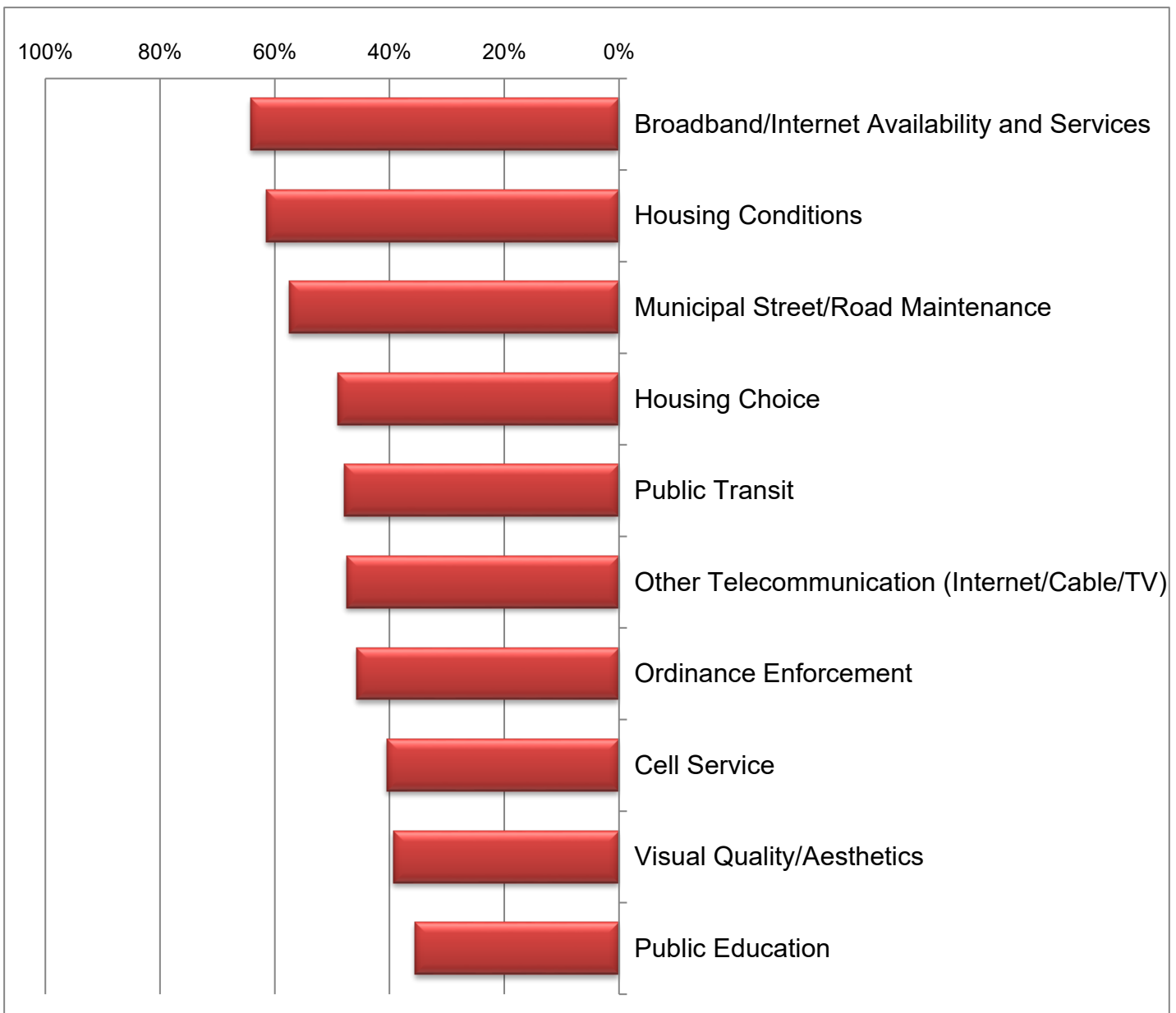
1. Fire Protection — 92%
2. Walking/Biking Connections — 80%
3. Police Protection — 76%
4. Health Care/Services — 71%
5. Recreation Opportunities — 64%



Services and Facilities – Improvements Needed -

Respondents were asked to choose what services and facilities needed to be improved in Venango County from an array of choices. The following lists the top five (5) responses. The graphic below provides the complete results. These results identify characteristics that should be improved to attract new residents and visitors.

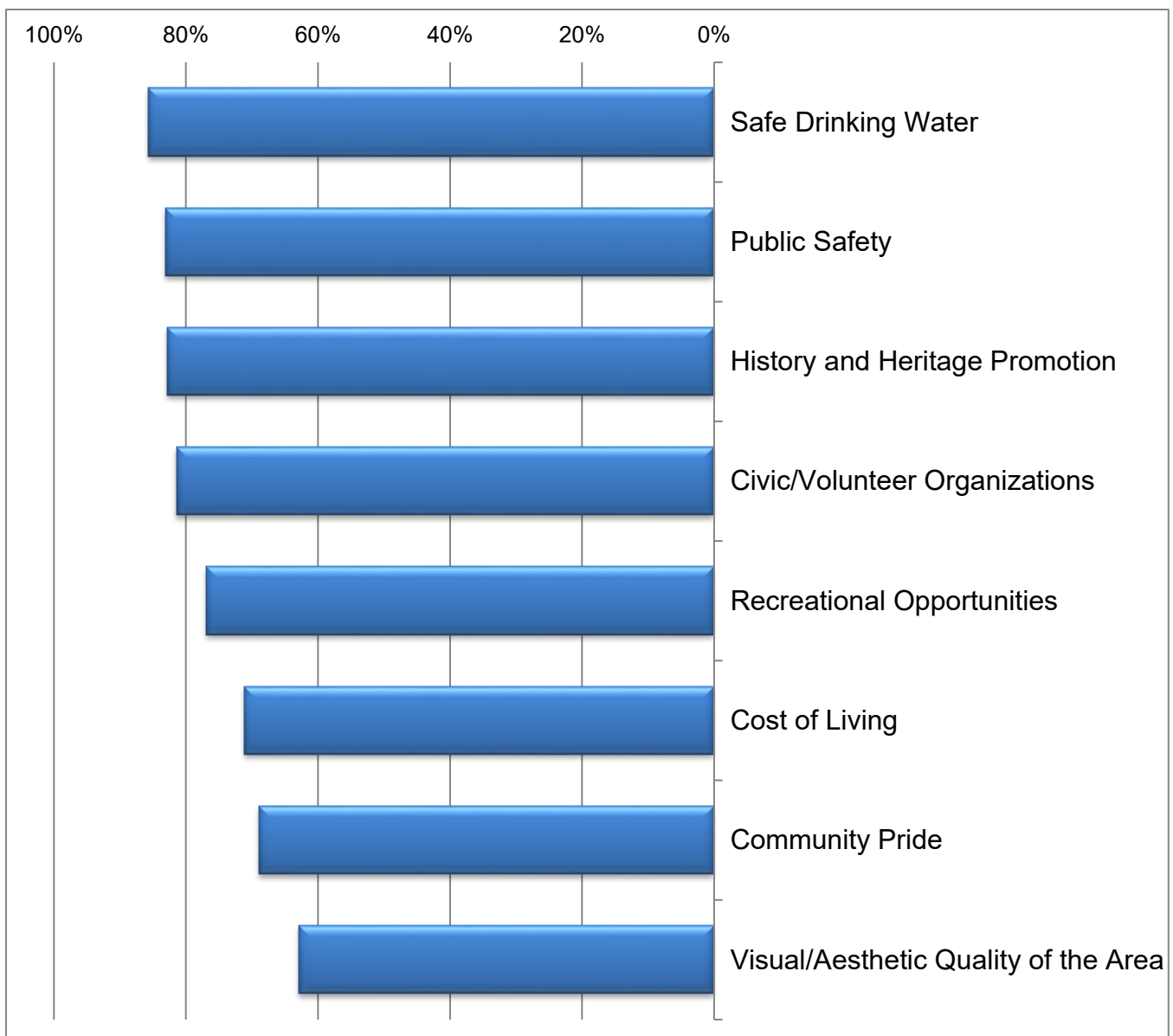
- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----|
| 1. Broadband/Internet | – | 64% |
| 2. Housing Conditions | – | 62% |
| 3. Street/Road Maintenance | – | 57% |
| 4. Housing Choice | – | 49% |
| 5. Public Transit/Telecommunications | – | 48% |



Quality of Life – Liked the Most

Respondents were asked to choose what Quality of Life factors they liked most in Venango County from an array of choices. The following lists the top five (5) responses. The graphic below provides the complete results. These results identify characteristics that should be valued and promoted to retain and attract new residents and visitors.

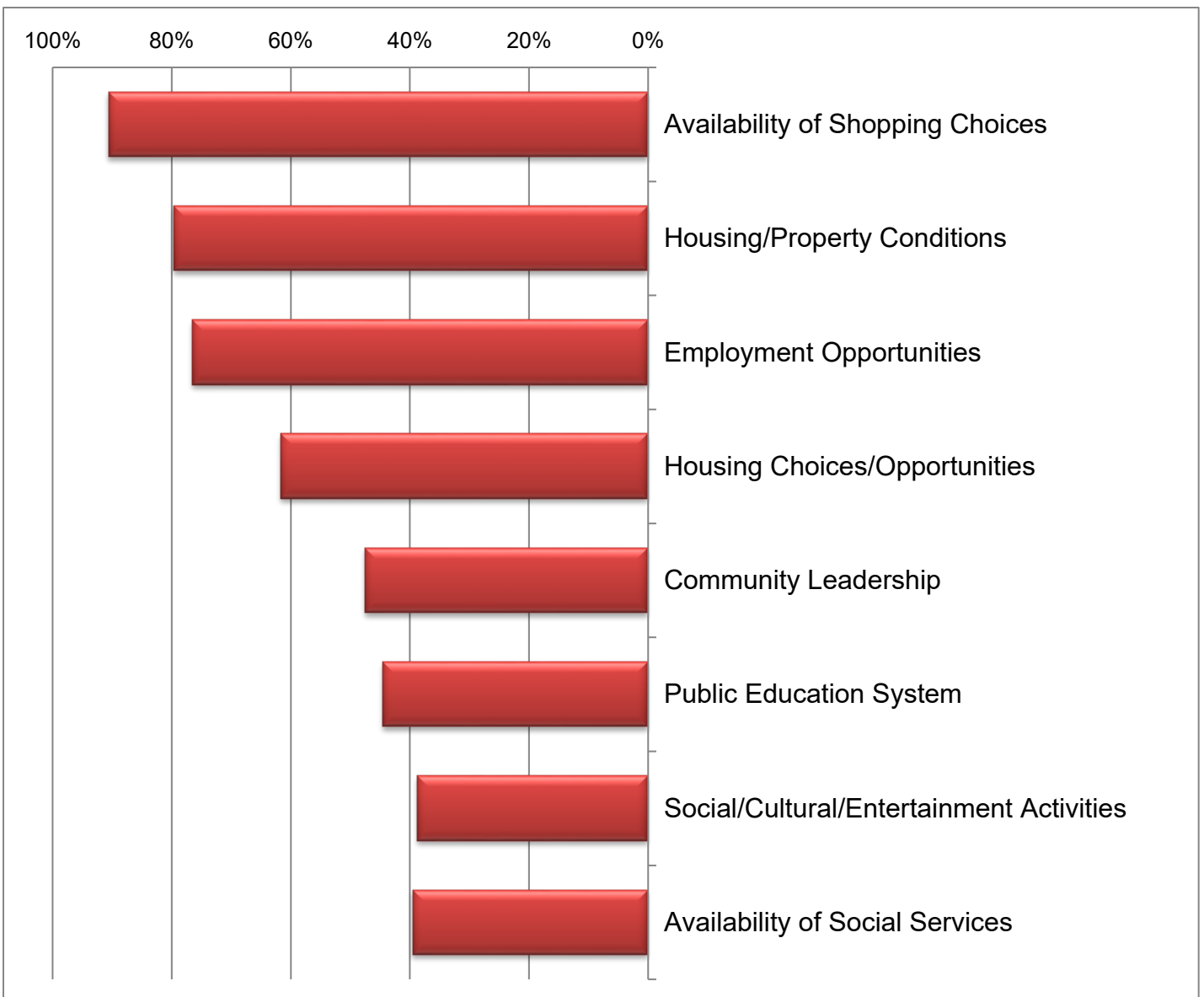
- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----|
| 1. Safe Drinking Water | – | 85% |
| 2. Public Safety | – | 83% |
| 3. History and Heritage Promotion | – | 83% |
| 4. Civic/Volunteer Organizations | – | 81% |
| 5. Recreation Opportunities | – | 77% |



Quality of Life – Improvements Needed

Respondents were asked to choose what services and facilities needed to be improved in Venango County from an array of choices. The following lists the top five (5) responses. The graphic below provides the complete results. These results identify characteristics that should be improved to attract new residents and visitors.

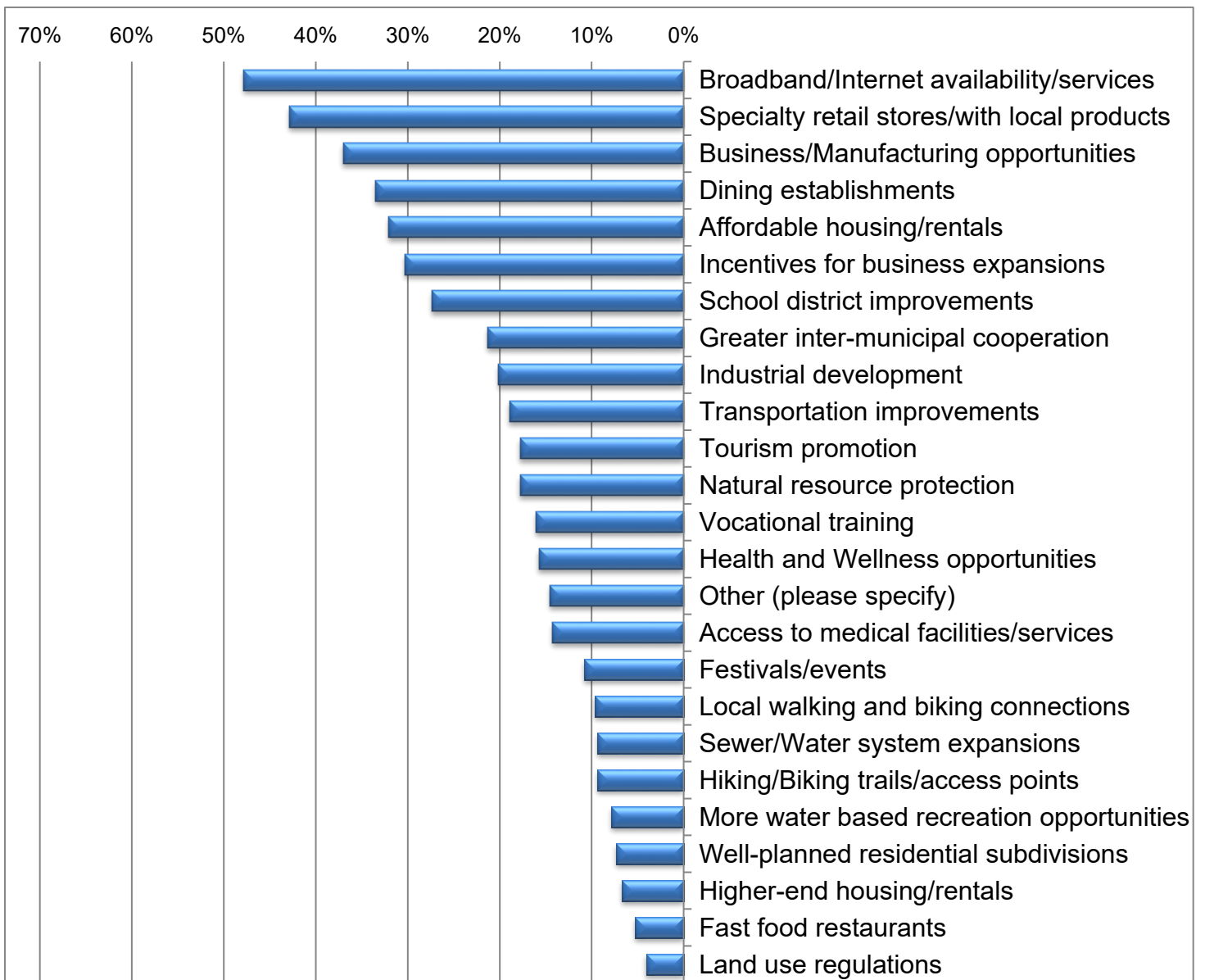
- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|-----|
| 1. Shopping Choices | – | 91% |
| 2. Housing/Property Conditions | – | 80% |
| 3. Employment Opportunities | – | 76% |
| 4. Housing Choices/Opportunities | – | 62% |
| 5. Community Leadership | – | 47% |



We Want More Of -

Respondents were also asked to identify what they would like to have more of in the County. The following lists the top five (5) responses. The graphic below provides the complete results. There is an emphasis on having more Broadband/Internet service availability and choices and have more specialty retail stores that offer local products. The results also indicate residents want more places to work, eat and live.

1. Broadband/Internet Availability/Service – 48%
2. Specialty Retail Stores with Local Products – 43%
3. Business/Manufacturing Opportunities – 37%
4. Dining Establishments – 34%
5. Affordable Housing/Rentals – 32%



Broadband/Internet -

Respondents were asked a series of questions focused on broadband/internet service and use. Input was received on Internet Service, Type of Service, Service Satisfaction, Service Impediments, and Service Impacts

- **Internet Service** – Nearly 93% of responders said that they have Internet Service.
- **Type of Service** – Approximately half of the respondents said they have High Speed/Broadband Service. Approximately 31% said they have Cable based service and approximately 9% have DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) service. Less than 5% said they have Satellite, Dial Up or ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) service. These numbers no doubt reflect the fact that the majority of responses came from residents who live in the larger communities in the County, or areas with better internet service.
- **Service Satisfaction** – Just over half of respondents said they were satisfied with their level of service. Approximately 39% said they were not satisfied. Other comments suggested that service dissatisfaction stems from lack of choice and the cost of service.
- **Service Impediments** – Just under 60% said availability was an impediment to service (or better service). Fees and costs also received a high number of responses.
- **Service Impacts** – The top response focused on how service limitations impact jobs and the ability for the those in the County to work at home and/or to have remote work opportunities. Other top responses focused on Business, Education and Social impacts.

Transportation Limitations -

Respondents were asked to describe how transportation limitations/inefficiencies (public transportation, community connections (walking and biking pathways), ride-share programs, e-bikes, etc.) impact you and/or your family. By far, the top response (68%) was that residents are not impacted by transportation limitations. There was approximately an equal level of response (12%-16%) noting that transportation limitations do impact their ability to access recreation/natural resources; health and wellness opportunities; grocery stores, retailers, churches, goods and services; work/job opportunities; public facilities/services and to medical facilities/resources/services.

Housing -

Respondents were asked to identify the types of Housing they thought were most needed in the County. Single family residential (60%) was the top response. The following provides the other top responses.

- | | | |
|--|---|-----|
| 1. Senior Housing (downsizing opportunities) | – | 48% |
| 2. Public/Affordable Housing | – | 41% |
| 3. Renovated Historic/Older Homes | – | 33% |
| 4. Assisted Living Facilities | – | 30% |
| 5. Apartments | – | 29% |

Economic Development -

Respondents were asked to identify the types of Economic Development Improvements they thought are most needed in the County. Small Business Development (48%), Reliable/Faster Internet Services (44%), and New Industrial Opportunities (40%) were the top responses. The following provides the other top responses.

- | | | |
|--|---|-----|
| 1. Job Training Programs | – | 29% |
| 2. Promoting Community/County Assets | – | 29% |
| 3. Existing Business Expansions/Improvements | – | 27% |
| 4. Infrastructure Expansions/Improvements | – | 27% |
| 5. Work at Home/Remote Work Opportunities | – | 25% |

Community Health and Wellness -

Respondents were asked to identify the types of Community Health and Wellness Improvements they thought are most needed in the County. Sidewalk Improvements (58%) and Access to Health Food Sources (47%) were the top response. The following provides the other top responses.

- | | | |
|--|---|-----|
| 1. Connections to Important Community Destinations | – | 34% |
| 2. Community Trail/Walking and Biking Pathways | – | 33% |
| 3. Safe Routes to Schools | – | 30% |
| 4. Exercise Classes/Opportunities | – | 29% |
| 5. Active Transportation Improvements | – | 25% |

Growth and Development -

Nearly 88% of the respondents support encouraging more growth and development in the County. Over half are in favor of having controlled development in and around existing utility and road infrastructure. Only 5% indicated they feel the County has an adequate amount of development.

Answer Options	Response Percent
I favor encouraging growth and development in and around areas that presently have adequate utilities and/or road access.	52%
I favor encouraging development in those areas where development has not yet occurred even if it requires constructing, improving or extending utilities and highways.	35%
I feel the County has adequate development, therefore, I do not favor encouraging any new growth or development.	5%

Land Use Regulations -

There is a strong directive that development regulations are needed to guide growth and development in Venango County. Approximately half of the respondents feel that existing regulations are adequate for guiding development. And approximately 34% suggested that additional requirements could be enacted.

Answer Options	Response Percent
I feel that development regulations are needed to assure well-planned and orderly development and to avoid future problems and conflicts.	50%
I feel that the County needs to enact additional requirements to assure well-planned and orderly development and to avoid future problems and conflicts.	34%
I feel that the development regulations are not needed to assure well-planned and orderly development and to avoid future problems and conflicts.	7%

If One (1) Thing Good Be Done -

Respondents were asked if only one (1) thing good be done to improve Venango County, what would that be. As would be expected, these responses were quite diverse. A general textual analysis revealed several common and/or repeated words and phrases. The responses were compiled and categorized into the following categories. These results provide guidance on the types of facilities, amenities and other improvements that are most wanted and needed in the County.

- Access To – affordable housing, employment opportunities, high speed/broadband
- Bring In – higher paying jobs, jobs, business opportunities, small businesses
- Improve – internet service/choice, access to French Creek, cell service, blighted properties,
- More – business/industry, cooperation amongst municipalities, retail/shopping/dining options, jobs
- Promote – ‘we are the gateway to the forests’, outdoor recreation opportunities, tourism
- Need – assisted/affordable housing; attract younger facilities/individuals, more pride in our natural resources, to work together

Other Comments -

Space was provided to allow respondents to provide any other comments they felt relevant to the future of Venango County. The following provides an unedited summary of some of the more inspiring and positive responses.

- I think Venango County needs to focus on attracting new manufacturing, technology, retail, and dining businesses to the area.
- Jobs and recreational opportunities will keep and attract working families.
- Beautification-too many eye sores condemned homes/buildings, the sidewalks and streets need re-done. Local parks need updated
- French Creek is an official Pennsylvania water trail and we would like to improve public access to the creek. Connect Venango County portion to the rest of the French Creek watershed.
- Our bike trails and river opportunities should continue to be promoted- it's the best thing about the county.
- I love this County. I love being someone who someday has the power and resiliency to make positive change.
- Venango County has pieces of everything that make communities truly great. Venango and surrounding counties need to think more regionally, as together there really is something for everyone.
- Venango county rural areas are in need of reliable internet and road improvements and have been for many years. we need to keep up with the times if we want people to want to move here or start a business here.
- We need to take advantage of what we have, our water ways and our woods and rural areas and our heritage. Promote these and incorporate them in the overall plan.
- Embrace what we were as well as what we are trying to become.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS SUMMARY

The following summarizes results of four (4) Community Open House Education/Engagement sessions. The meetings were held in different geographic areas in the County.

Western Venango County Meeting

February 8, 2023 - City of Franklin

Northern Venango County Meeting

February 22, 2023 - Titusville

Eastern Venango County Meeting

February 15, 2023 - City of Oil City

Southern Venango County Meeting

March 1, 2023 - Clintonville

Guidance and Other Comments:

- Consider having focus groups with elected officials and others for each of the Priorities.
- Look at existing resources as a way to draw people to the County.
- Communities need to work together – there is still a rivalry mentality (competition) – collaboration amongst communities is needed for implementation.
- Look at the current Comprehensive Plan and Greenways Plan to see what was done and what needs to be completed.
- Have an inventory of existing municipal and other relevant plans - Oil City Marina Plan, Cranberry Comprehensive Plan, Sugar Creek, Oil City and Franklin plans.
- How does the Plan support municipalities - Municipal grant applications should be consistent with the County Plan. County Plan needs to at least reference local opportunities/projects so it (County Plan) can support local efforts.
- People are the greatest resource in the County – identify and engage local organizations, groups and non-profits who currently help or want to help.
- Keep the Plan simple - a successful Plan will have three (3) sections:
 - County Priorities – identify the top 3-5 priorities - identify what can be accomplish in 2-5 years.
 - Action Strategies – what we want to do; who will help us do it
 - Implementation - align funding opportunities with projects –
- Planning with a purpose – goal is not to finish the plan then begin to seek funding for the next plan. We want to do things.
- The Plan should be periodically updated - It is possible to update Plan sections even a short time after adoption - County Plan could be reviewed and updated annually.
- The Plan needs to identify low hanging fruit (Early Action Items and actions with a high probability of being completed).
- Let's create an atmosphere that attracts residents, visitors and opportunities.
- Identify a Plan brand/title – easier to promote a catchy name (Erie Refocused).

Topics Discussed – categorized into themes.

- **Broadband / Internet**
 - We are aware of the need for broadband connectivity
 - Broadband internet access, or the lack thereof, continues to be a very key issue or concern.
 - Broadband is a big issue in the County, it is important to have reliable service.
 - Improve broadband/cell coverage even in recreation areas.
 - There is a direct connection between broadband access and the capacity to promote the County as a great place to work remotely.
- **Housing (conditions / types)**
 - Housing study (burki study) – identifies lots of issues
 - Senior living facilities are needed.
 - Would like more mixed use opportunities – commercial on first floor with residential on upper floors – Franklin and Oil City
 - Need short term rentals to attract recreation tourism – three (3) tiers:
 - Home stays - room to rent in an occupied house
 - B&B/short term rentals owned by residents living in Venango County
 - Investors in Emlenton.
 - Policies to regulate home stays (rentals), Air BnBs, short-term rentals – County provides guidance to municipalities on suggested ways to control or promote.
- **Blight Removal**
 - There is a strong need to remediate blight throughout the County– how?
 - Route 8 – Franklin County to Oil City – remove river view blight – priority area
 - Blight entering communities is a discouragement – community gateways are blight removal priority areas.
 - Housing condition and the need for building inspections, demolition & rehab are needed. Smaller Townships & Boroughs are unable to enforce building code. Perhaps the county could take the lead? A COG, maybe?
- **Community Health & Wellness**
 - How do we improve community and residents' health - Department of Health cut back services, public health is low
 - Access to health and wellness is limited - closest hospital is Clintonville
 - Develop ways to make walking, biking and other modes of active transportation safer, easier and more accessible for everyone.
 - Develop ways to create healthier communities and healthier residents.
 - Improve Connectivity – within and to the Trail network.
 - With an aging population in the County – a focus needs to be on organized activities for this age group:
 - Increased hours and activities at Senior Centers
 - Increased advertising that facilities exist
 - Better transportation access to Senior Centers
 - Programs, activities, events to keep seniors physically active

- Programs, activities, events to keep seniors mentally engaged with school aged students – work to close the generation gap
- Beautify/Green our communities and County:
 - Tree Replacement Programs
 - Install rain gardens – training and funding
 - Pet friendly parks, exercise areas, facilities and amenities
 - Cost sharing/funding opportunities for residential/commercial energy
- **Recreation / Tourism**
 - Venango County has incredible resources – River, Hike/Bike Trails, Open Spaces.
 - Outfitters, Bed & Breakfast lodging, other short-term rentals and service providers are needed - especially along the River & Rail Trail.
 - Venango County is the most connected County between Erie and Pittsburgh.
 - Equestrian sports bring in baby boomers which boosts tourism/economic development - Avid horse riders (National Horse Lovers Group) have few places to ride (only Two Mile Park) - having horse trails in Oil Creek Park would be great
 - Trail goes directly through Oil City, and is on the edge in Franklin – connectivity between communities and the Trail network is needed.
 - Great hiking in regional parks (Two Mile Park - fishing and hunting)
 - River access on the “lower” stretches of the Allegheny River from Kennerdale to Emlenton was encouraged.
 - A resident of Emlenton and member of the AVTA (Allegheny Valley Trails Association) noted that repairs to the Rockland tunnel are needed. The AVTA is going to install doors to close the tunnel in winter, as it is during the freeze/thaw cycle in winter when bricks or stones break free from the ceiling.
 - A 1.38 mile stretch of rail trail from Foxburg north towards Emlenton is under development. Same with a trailhead in Foxburg in Clarion County.
 - Need to take more advantage of the River.
 - Emlenton – there is a resolution for an Eco Corridor.
 - Emlenton is ½ way between Michigan and New Jersey – add signs on Rt 80 to draw folks to the recreation and tourism in the area.
 - Trail to Foxburg is incomplete
 - Need more access to the River - need more intake/out take access points for canoes/kayaks – Kennerdale would be great to have location for a public kayak launch. Potential “public” boat launches could be on private property (Charlie Myers) in Kennerdale, and at the village of Goshen and/or a Greek Orthodox church camp.
 - Need access to the Rapids for recreation use
 - Do we have RV camping opportunities – are we promoting this enough?
 - We need improved Trail infrastructure system and support services - short term rentals, outfitters, food/beverage (example - GAP trail / community connections)
 - The amount of tourism in the County is underestimated.
 - How do we address: lack of public restrooms on the River or Rail Trails?
 - County should purchase Freedom Falls – currently on private land
 - Encourage and support County wide directional and interpretive signage program
 - Support local recreation and grassroot efforts aimed at developing recreation based community events

- Improve facilities and amenities, such as more comfort stations along existing trails and at trailheads, in existing parks and other recreation points of interest
- Provide different types of trails at Two Mile Run County Park – example: provide a handicap accessible trail.
- Two Mile Run County Park improvements:
 - Dredge the Lake
 - Add more camping/lodging opportunities
 - Add event space and indoor gathering space
- Better connect our communities to outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Do municipalities permit ATV use on Township Roads? Can the County provide a unified vision for this and example regulations to promote or discourage.
- Electric Vehicle Charging Stations – increase the County’s capacity to attract tourists and visitors and to increase the County’s brand as destination.
- **Emergency services (Fire/Police/Ambulance)**
 - Consolidation of EMS must be considered – beginning to share resources
 - Consolidation of services to make tax dollars go further, save funds
 - Need communication improvements – broadband/cellular services
 - Difficulty recruiting new Fire Department volunteers – some departments are offering tax and other incentives – need to identify more incentives:
 - Cornplanter Twp – must apply for the break.
 - Butler Twp – free rent for VFD active members
 - Centre Co – PSU students who volunteer for EMS & VFD get credits or decreased housing costs
 - Penn West – could be an opportunity to attract with those students?
- **Business / Industry Development**
 - Work Force Development – encourage entrepreneurs – support by providing incubator and shared work spaces – rehabilitate/replace commercial spaces/buildings
 - Work Force Development – are we training students for job opportunities the County needs? - target training opportunities for students entering the workforce
 - Human Services
 - Trades
 - Government
 - Emergency Services
 - Work Force Development – are we providing career and technical training to school aged students – that are connected to available job opportunities in the County?
 - There is room for development along Route 8 South – development corridor.
 - Development could also occur along the River on Route 8.
 - Much of Cornplanter Township is zoned as conservation area – timbering, residential or recreation is permitted - not industrial development.
 - We need good paying manufacturing jobs - so we can raise a family -
 - Public Land Ownership - too much private land is now in public ownership in northern portion of County. Many acres of State Game Lands and State Forest Land in southern portion of the County.

- Western PA Conservancy office in Franklin but virtually no presence in Venango County.
- There are three interchanges or exits on I-80 in Venango County: Barkeyville, Clintonville & Emlenton – key development areas.
- Promote efficiency and cooperative functioning all across County economic/business development departments, agencies and other efforts
- Sandy Creek Industrial Park has property available.
- Concerted effort needed for the County to reach out and collaborate with State Agencies that may impact the County:
 - PennDOT District 1
 - PA Game Commission
 - DCNR Bureau of Forestry
 - County Conservation District
 - PA DEP - Meadville
 - Penn State Extension
- **Public Transportation**
 - Hubs are Cranberry, Oil City and Franklin – but there is limited service after 5pm
 - Few taxis in the county – even less Ubers
 - Expanded transportation opportunities for youth employment is needed
- **Sewer and Water Infrastructure**
 - A private sewage system at the Barkeyville interchange was identified as an impediment to growth. There is a public drinking water system in Barkeyville, but sewage is private.
 - There are three (3) interchanges on I-80 in Venango County: Barkeyville, Clintonville & Emlenton. The lack of sewer service, particularly at the Emlenton exit, was mentioned and a major impediment to development.
 - A Scrubgrass Township supervisor expressed concern over the potential expansion north of a sewer system from a business park in nearby Butler County (Venango Township) at the Emlenton exit to include the interchange area. The township would have to do a 537 Plan before public sewers could be extended into their township, unless the sewer extension is done as a private service connection that does not serve multiple customers.

County Priorities – Important Themes - The following are important themes that were emphasized during the Community Meetings. These are issues and opportunities that were repeatedly mentioned and discussed in multiple ways during the meetings.

- Broadband/Internet – address from multiple sides/perspectives.
- Commercial/Building Blight Removal and Residential Rehabilitation
- Medical / Emergency Services – shared services and incentives
- Tourism - highlight our resources, walking and bike trails, the River, open spaces, natural environment
- I-80 Interchange development – target areas, sewer and water impediments
- Land Use – private land vs public land
- Business/Economic – Jobs and work force development

Top 3 County Priorities – A thorough review of the suggestions, input and guidance received from participants at the four (4) Open House Community Meetings reveals three (3) main Priority areas:

1. Business and Jobs – core and direct actions to provide jobs. Broadband and WorkForce Development improvements
2. Community Health and Wellness – housing, blight, recreation, connectivity, EMS, sewer and water
3. Branding Venango County as an Outdoor Recreation Destination - recreation improvements, tourism, trails, local and regional connections, preserving open spaces

Overall what was found is that most of the Topics discussed and the Important Themes are not standalone items. There is overlap and connections amongst many areas. For instance, Tourism and Recreation directly influences Community Health and Business/Economic Growth and Job Development. Broadband/Internet influences Community Health, Emergency Services, Tourism and Recreation and Business/Economic factors.