
Town of Smelser

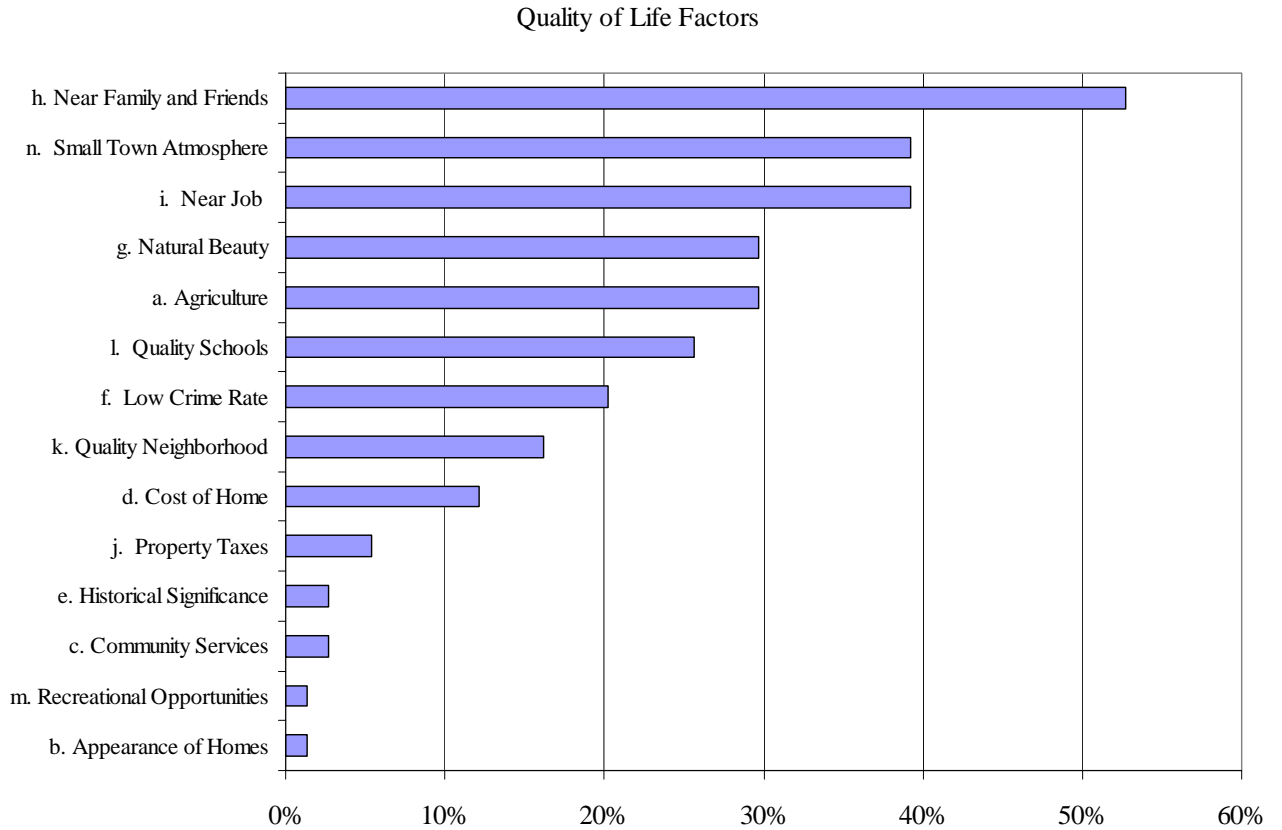
During September and October of 2007 a total of 366 questionnaires were sent to households in the Town of Smelser. A total of 74 questionnaires were returned for a return rate of 20 percent. This number of returned surveys will provide estimates that expected to be accurate to within plus or minus 10 percent. Respondents from Smelser have a substantially different demographic profile than the overall County. Town respondents were more likely to be male, aged 45-54, have only one child, and are more likely to be self employed and less likely to be retired than is true of the County.

Key results of this survey include:

- Residents of Smelser reported a variety of reasons for choosing to live in the town including closeness to family, friends, and job, small town atmosphere, natural beauty, and agricultural purposes. Compared to the County, Town residents' choice of Grant County as a place to live was more influenced by agricultural opportunities and less by the small town atmosphere.
- Smelser residents are satisfied with most community facilities and services, public libraries and schools, emergency services, and recycling programs. A substantial minority is not satisfied with road maintenance and they appear to be less satisfied with snow removal than the County average.
- Large majorities of residents are concerned about environmental issues such as groundwater, rivers and streams, and air quality preservation. Compared to the County, Smelser residents appear to place greater importance on preservation of natural and cultural resources. This is evident in the statistical portion of the summary and the comments section.
- Slight majorities of Smelser residents agree that the additional housing units (single family, affordable housing, starter homes) are needed in the Town, but feel that elderly housing is the most important type needed.
- Consistent with their high level of interest in environmental issues, Smelser residents are much more likely to prefer a cluster designed housing development rather than traditional development designs.
- Four out of five residents do not feel that land owners should be able to develop their land any way they wish and feel that agricultural land should be used for agricultural purposes.
- Smelser residents feel that large scale farms should develop outside a 2 mile radius of incorporated areas, but disagree that such farms should be allowed anywhere or in a city. They also unanimously endorsed the idea that productive farm land should be used in agriculture and not for any other purpose.
- Smelser residents are more likely to believe their land will be actively farmed in the future than the average Grant County resident.
- Smelser residents expressed a strong preference for receiving information about comprehensive planning via direct mailings and newsletters.
- The majority of Smelser residents support developing all forms of alternative energy. While more than 50 percent of respondents supported ethanol plants, it received the least amount of support for development.
- Respondents strongly believe in developing commercial and industrial businesses. To do this, they support a county-wide coordination of effort to recruit new businesses, require the use of municipal water and sewer, and requiring jurisdictions to provide land and infrastructural improvements. Residents also feel that such development should occur in or near an existing city or village.
- Agriculturally related business development was the most heavily supported form of business development in Smelser followed by commercial and retail establishments.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – QUALITY OF LIFE

- The primary reason residents of Smelser reported for choosing to live in Grant County is to be near family and friends (53%). Other key reasons include the small town atmosphere (39%), location in regards to a job (39%), for its natural beauty (30%) and for agricultural purposes (30%).



SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – QUALITY OF LIFE (COUNTY COMPARISON)

- Compared to Grant County as a whole, residents of Smelser are much more likely to say that agriculture influenced their decision to live in their current location.
- Smelser residents are less likely to be influenced in their choice of residence by Smelser’s small town atmosphere than the average Grant County citizen.

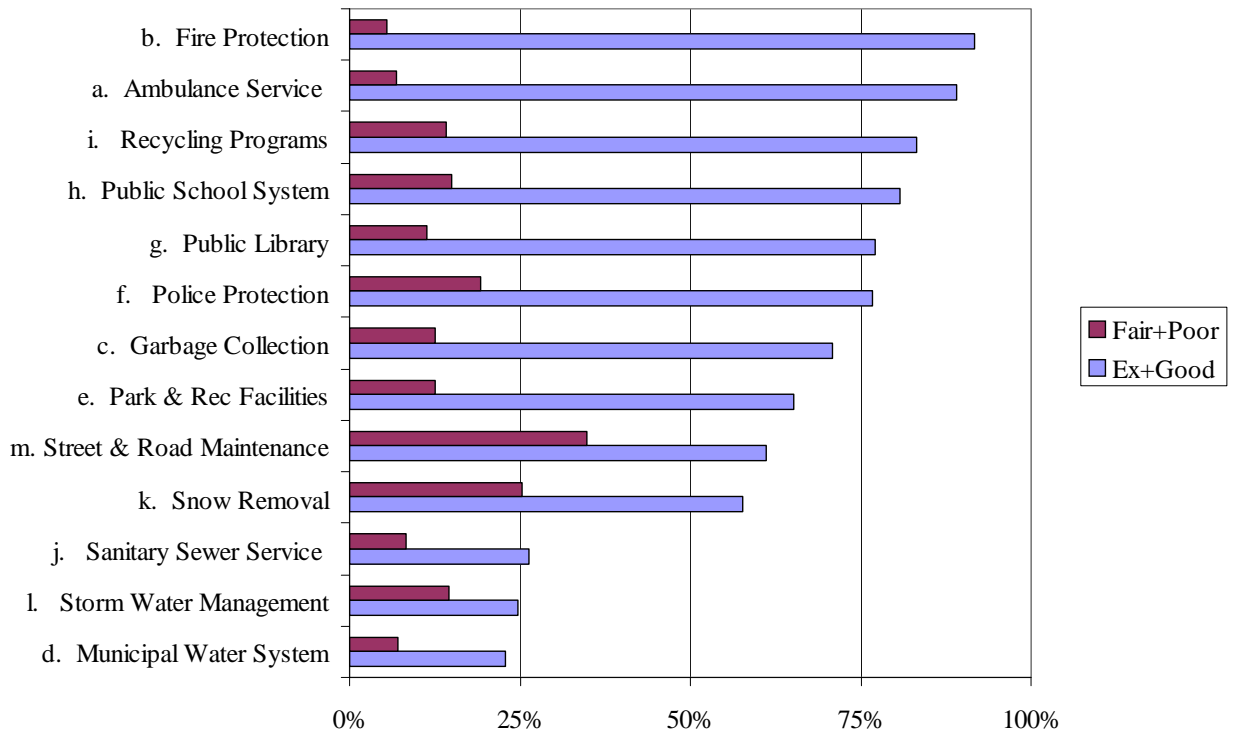
1. What are the three most important reasons you and your family choose to live in Grant County?

	Smelser	County		Smelser	County
a. Agriculture	30%	17%	i. Near Job	39%	40%
b. Appearance of Homes	1%	2%	j. Property Taxes	5%	6%
c. Community Services	3%	3%	k. Quality Neighborhood	16%	10%
d. Cost of Home	12%	17%	l. Quality Schools	26%	18%
e. Historical Significance	3%	2%	m. Recreational Opportunities	1%	9%
f. Low Crime Rate	20%	20%	n. Small Town Atmosphere	39%	58%
g. Natural Beauty	30%	24%	o. Other	7%	5%
h. Near Family and Friends	53%	56%			

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

- Overall, the majority of Smelser residents are satisfied with the community facilities and services of relevance to them.
- Residents are very satisfied with emergency services (fire protection, ambulance service, and police protection), recycling programs, and the public library and school system.
- More than a third indicated some dissatisfaction with street and road maintenance.

Rating Community Facilities and Services



SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES (COUNTY COMPARISON)

- When compared to the overall County, Smelser residents held very similar views about community facilities and services. However, residents of Smelser are much less satisfied with snow removal than the average Grant County resident.

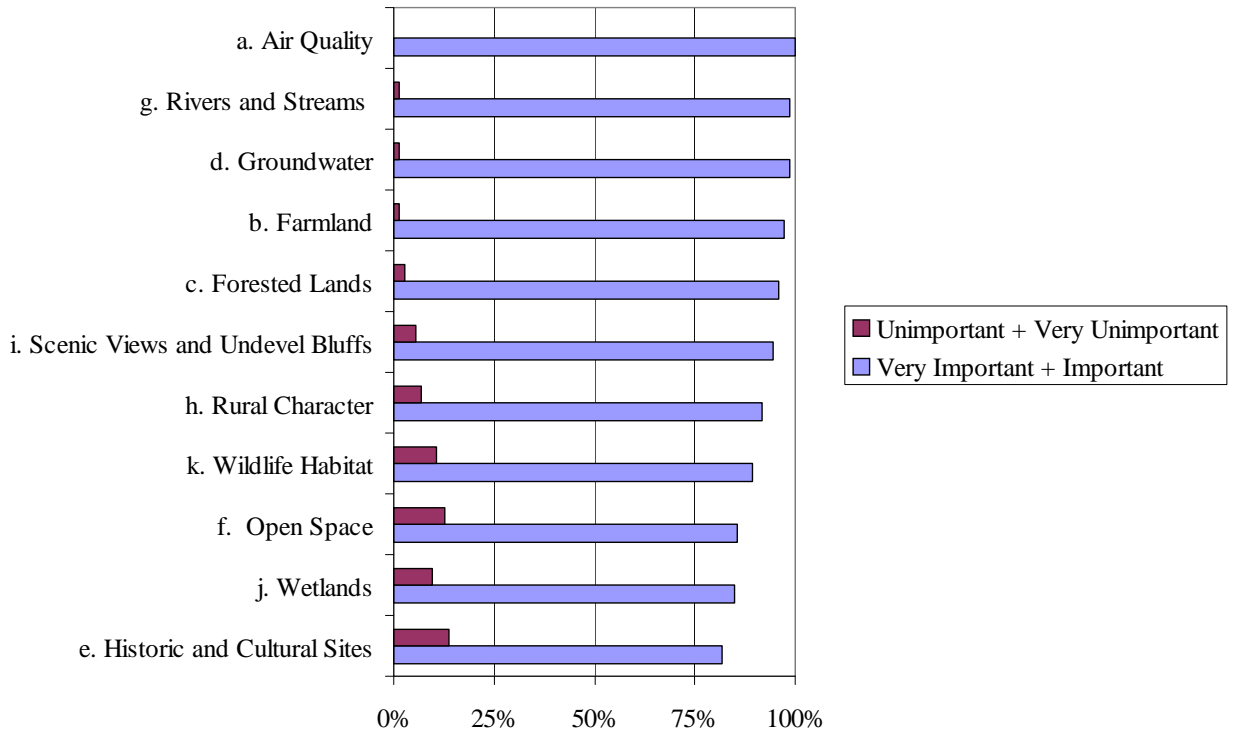
2. Rate the following local services

	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Not Applicable	
	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty
a. Ambulance Service	55%	54%	34%	35%	5%	6%	1%	0%	4%	5%
b. Fire Protection	51%	54%	41%	39%	5%	4%	0%	0%	3%	3%
c. Garbage Collection	38%	39%	33%	39%	8%	9%	4%	2%	17%	11%
d. Municipal Water System	9%	23%	14%	38%	6%	10%	1%	2%	70%	26%
e. Park & Rec Facilities	17%	30%	49%	47%	8%	13%	4%	2%	22%	7%
f. Police Protection	22%	27%	55%	45%	15%	20%	4%	4%	4%	4%
g. Public Library	27%	33%	50%	46%	10%	11%	1%	2%	11%	8%
h. Public School System	29%	30%	52%	49%	14%	13%	1%	2%	4%	6%
i. Recycling Programs	37%	31%	46%	51%	13%	12%	1%	2%	3%	3%
j. Sanitary Sewer Service	13%	25%	14%	42%	7%	8%	1%	1%	65%	24%
k. Snow Removal	17%	27%	41%	47%	18%	17%	7%	2%	17%	7%
l. Storm Water Management	7%	16%	17%	43%	9%	16%	6%	3%	61%	22%
m. Street & Road Maintenance	13%	16%	49%	46%	29%	28%	6%	8%	4%	2%

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

- Protecting natural and cultural resources is highly important to Smelser residents. Protecting air quality was rated important or very important by all of the respondents. Even historical and cultural sites, the lowest rated resource, had over 80 percent of respondents say it was important or very important to preserve them.
- The importance of preserving air quality, ground water, and rivers and streams is also evident in the written comments; residents felt concern about runoff and odors.

Importance of Protecting Natural & Cultural Resources



SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES (COUNTY COMPARISON)

- The overall percentage of Smelser residents rating preservation of each of the natural and cultural resources about which they were asked as “important” or “very important” is fairly similar to the County. However, higher percentages of Smelser residents said such protection was “very important” in all but two instances. Therefore, Smelser residents appear to be more ardent in their concern for the environment than the average person in Grant County.

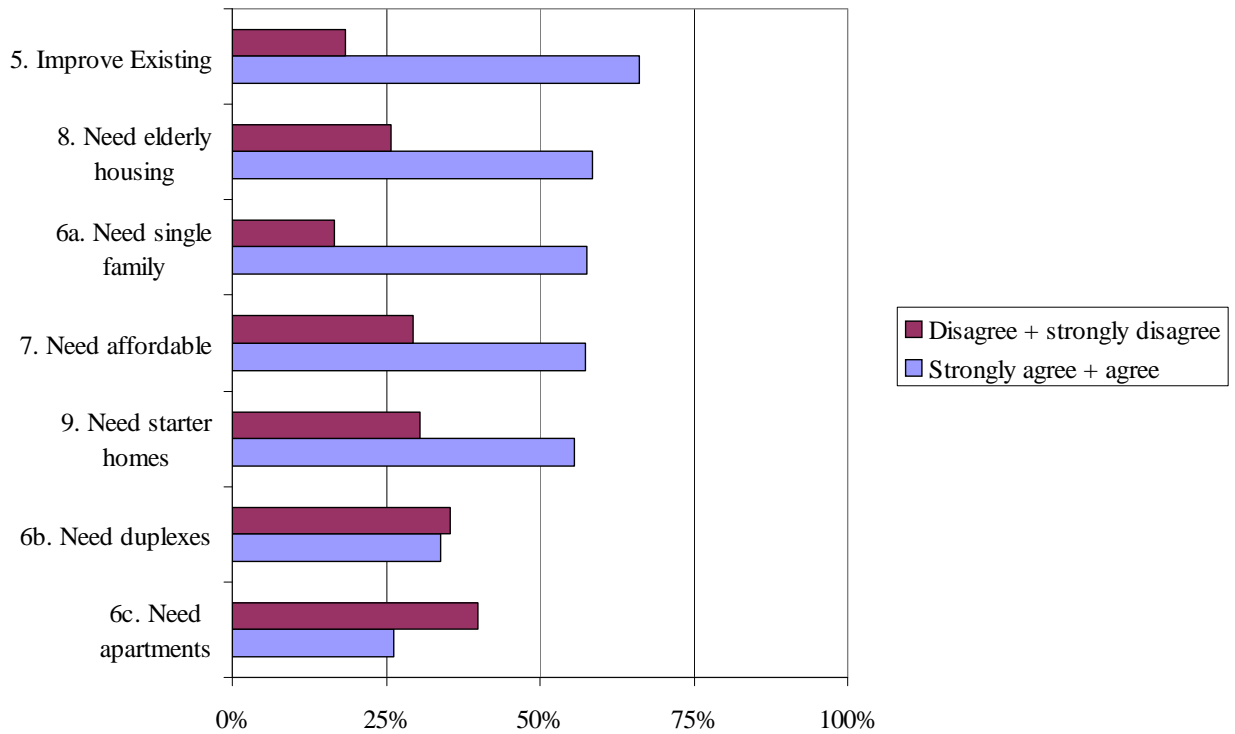
4. It is important to protect the following:

	Very Important		Important		Unimportant		Very Unimportant		Not Applicable	
	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty
a. Air Quality	75%	68%	25%	29%	0%	2%	0%	1%	0%	1%
b. Farmland	75%	59%	22%	37%	1%	3%	0%	1%	1%	1%
c. Forested Lands	65%	54%	31%	40%	3%	3%	0%	1%	1%	2%
d. Groundwater	85%	73%	14%	25%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
e. Historic and Cultural Sites	31%	27%	51%	57%	11%	13%	3%	1%	4%	2%
f. Open Space	47%	34%	39%	53%	13%	10%	0%	1%	1%	2%
g. Rivers and Streams	75%	64%	23%	34%	1%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
h. Rural Character	64%	39%	28%	47%	7%	12%	0%	1%	1%	2%
i. Scenic Views & Undevel Bluffs	63%	46%	32%	42%	4%	9%	1%	2%	0%	1%
j. Wetlands	55%	40%	30%	41%	8%	12%	1%	2%	5%	4%
k. Wildlife Habitat	61%	47%	28%	43%	8%	7%	3%	1%	0%	2%

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – HOUSING

- The majority of Smelser residents appear to agree that the additional units of starter homes, affordable homes, and single family homes are needed in the town. In addition, residents agree that increased elderly housing is needed and that the improvement of existing housing is top priority.
- Residents are relatively split on the need of apartments and duplexes.
- Ambivalence toward additional housing units in the Town is apparent given the substantial percentages that disagree that any additional units of any type of housing is needed.

Housing Needs



SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – HOUSING (COUNTY COMPARISON)

- When comparing the responses of Smelser residents to the County average, there is only one housing issue that differs. Residents of Smelser are less likely to agree with the need of affordable housing than the average Grant County resident.

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		No Opinion	
	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty
5. Improve existing housing quality.	13%	24%	54%	44%	14%	16%	4%	3%	15%	13%
6. Need following housing types:										
a. Single Family Housing	9%	19%	48%	40%	12%	15%	5%	5%	26%	21%
b. Duplexes (2 units)	6%	8%	27%	33%	21%	25%	15%	9%	31%	25%
c. Apartments (3 or more units)	8%	7%	18%	24%	18%	31%	22%	12%	34%	26%
7. Need affordable housing	26%	31%	31%	36%	24%	14%	6%	6%	13%	13%
8. Need elderly housing	21%	20%	37%	43%	17%	19%	9%	4%	16%	14%
9. Need starter homes	19%	19%	36%	37%	24%	23%	7%	4%	14%	16%

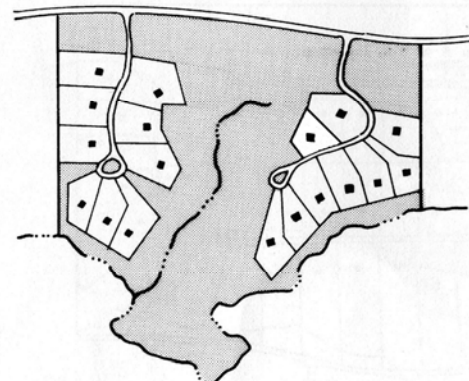
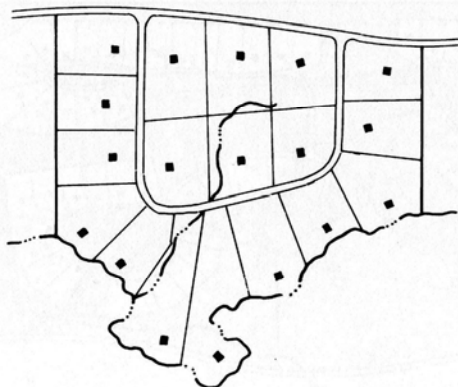
- Like the County, residents of Smelser are much more likely to prefer a cluster design (smaller lots and larger amount of commonly-owned open space) over traditional development designs (larger individual lots with no commonly-owned open space). This preference is consistent with Smelser residents' high level of interest in environmental issues.

10. Would you prefer housing built in a traditional design (Option A) or a cluster design (Option B)?

OPTION A

OPTION B

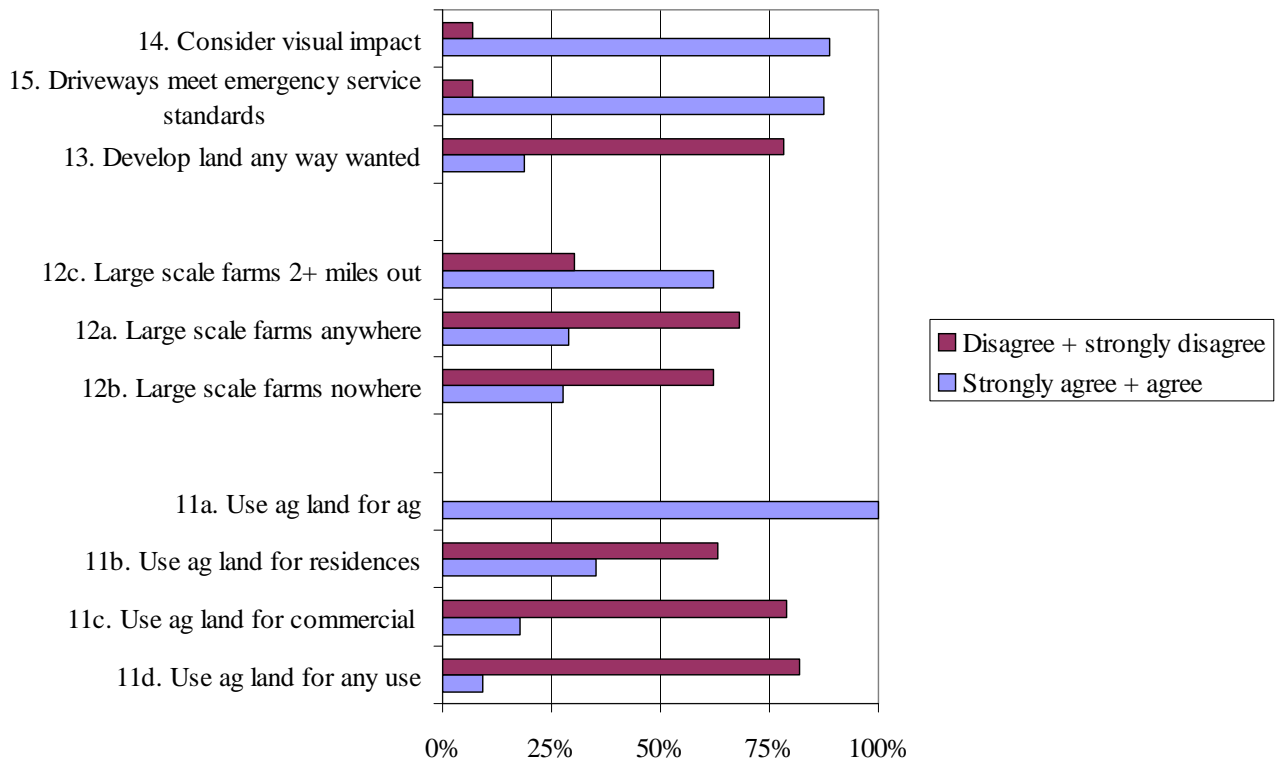
Traditional Design		Cluster Design	
Smelser	County	Smelser	County
36%	39%	64%	61%



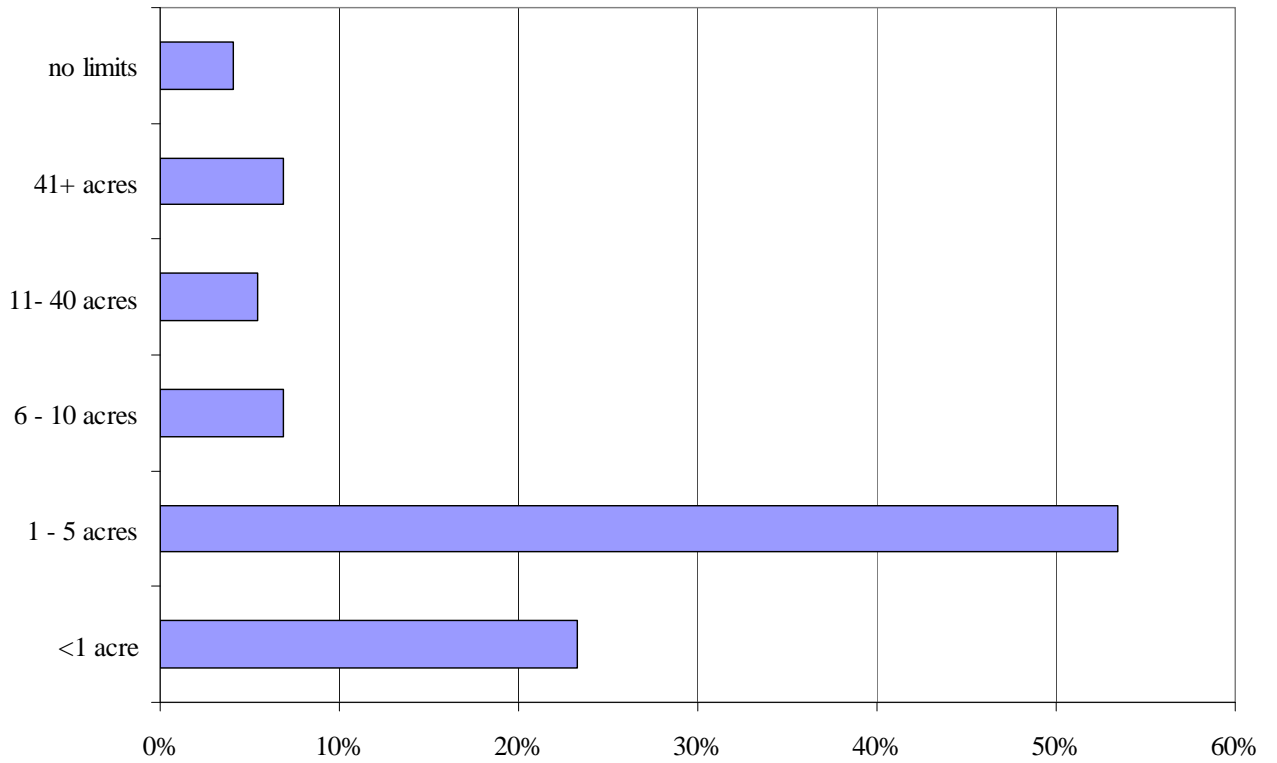
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – AGRICULTURE AND LAND USE

- Residents of Smelser, again consistent with their high level of concern about preserving natural and cultural resources, are strongly in favor of considering the visual impacts when evaluating development proposals.
- A large majority of residents also agree that driveways should meet emergency service standards.
- By a 4 to 1 margin, residents of Smelser do not agree that land owners should be able to develop their land any way they want.
- Smelser residents strongly agree that large scale farms (those with more than 500 animal units) should be allowed outside a 2 mile radius of incorporated areas. By a similar margin, they disagree that such farms should be able to develop anywhere in Grant County or not be allowed to develop anywhere in the County.
- Respondents unanimously agreed that agricultural land should be used for agricultural purposes. Strong majorities disagreed with allowing agricultural land to be used for residential, commercial, or any other use. Again, this shows a strong concern for preserving natural resources.
- 80 percent of Smelser residents feel that the minimum lot size for rural residential developments should be less than 5 acres, while the average resident owns between 1 and 10 acres.

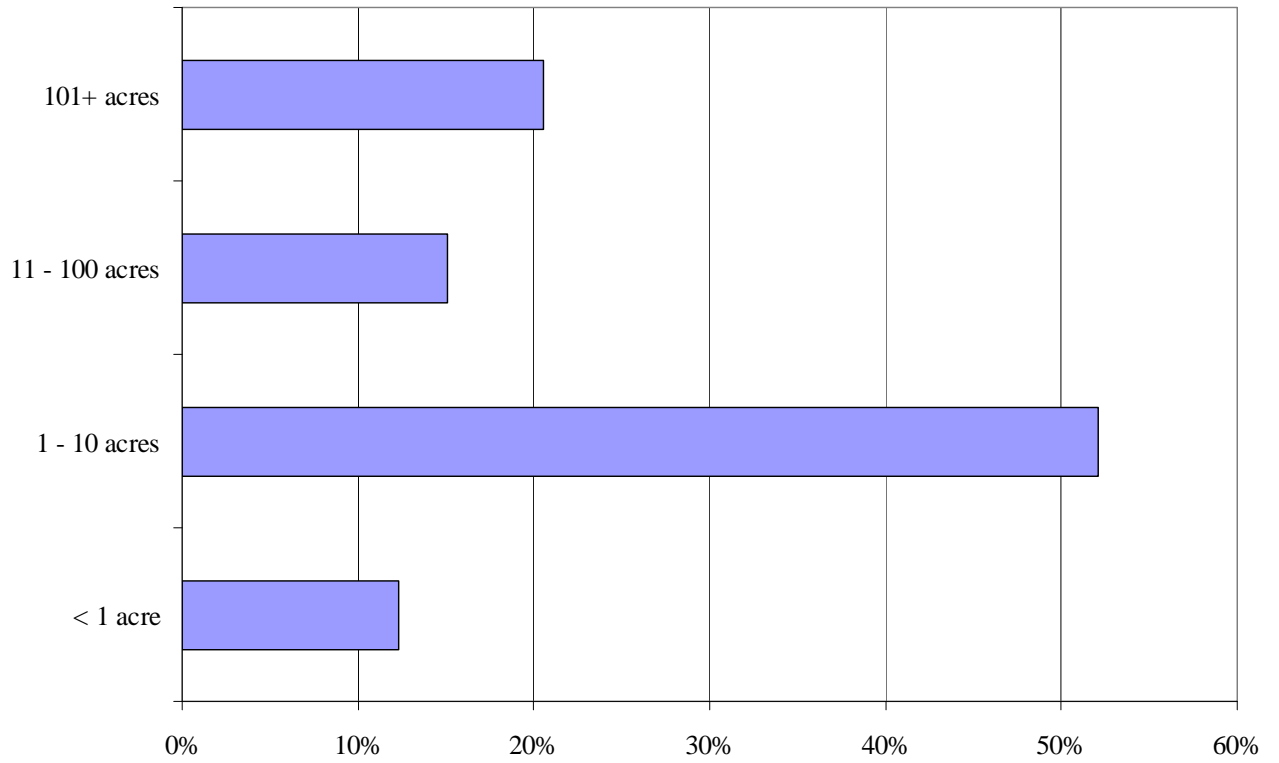
Land Use Opinions



Preferred Minimum Lot Size



Acres Owned in Grant County



SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – AGRICULTURE AND LAND USE (COUNTY COMPARISON)

- Overall, the responses of Smelser residents and County residents are quite similar in respect to land use and rural development. Smelser residents are slightly less likely to agree on only one area of land use; the ability for landowners to develop land any way they want.
- Smelser residents are much less likely to own less than 1 acre of land, but more likely to own 1 to 10 acres than other Grant County residents. Residents are also more likely to actively farm their land and are more likely to believe that it will be actively farmed in 16-20 years.

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		No Opinion	
	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty
11a. Use ag land for ag	88%	76%	13%	21%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%
11b. Use ag land for residences	4%	4%	31%	28%	32%	44%	31%	17%	1%	7%
11c. Use ag land for commercial	3%	3%	15%	19%	45%	45%	34%	26%	3%	7%
11d. Use ag land for any use	5%	4%	5%	8%	36%	40%	45%	36%	9%	12%
12. Expand lg farms (500+ an. units):										
a. Anywhere in Grant County	12%	9%	17%	17%	43%	42%	25%	23%	3%	8%
b. Nowhere in Grant County	17%	12%	10%	14%	48%	44%	14%	19%	10%	12%
c. 2 miles outside inc areas	15%	23%	47%	39%	21%	17%	9%	9%	8%	12%
13. Develop land any way wanted	7%	11%	12%	17%	51%	52%	28%	18%	3%	2%
14. Consider visual impacts of devel	44%	28%	45%	57%	6%	9%	1%	2%	4%	5%
15. Driveways meet EMS standards	44%	38%	43%	52%	4%	6%	3%	0%	6%	4%

16. There should be a minimum lot size on residential development in rural areas.

Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		No Opinion	
Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty
38%	24%	33%	48%	14%	16%	7%	5%	7%	8%

17. In your opinion, what should the minimum lot size be for rural residential development?

Less than 1 acre		1 to 5 acres		6 to 10 acres		11 to 40 acres		41 or more acres		No Limitation	
Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty
23%	19%	53%	49%	7%	13%	5%	5%	7%	4%	4%	11%

18. How many acres of land do you own in Grant County?

Less Than 1 acre		1-10 acres		11-100 acres		101 acres or more	
Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty
12%	60%	52%	17%	15%	10%	21%	13%

19. Do you actively farm the land you own?

Yes		No		Not Applicable	
Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty
31%	14%	58%	55%	11%	31%

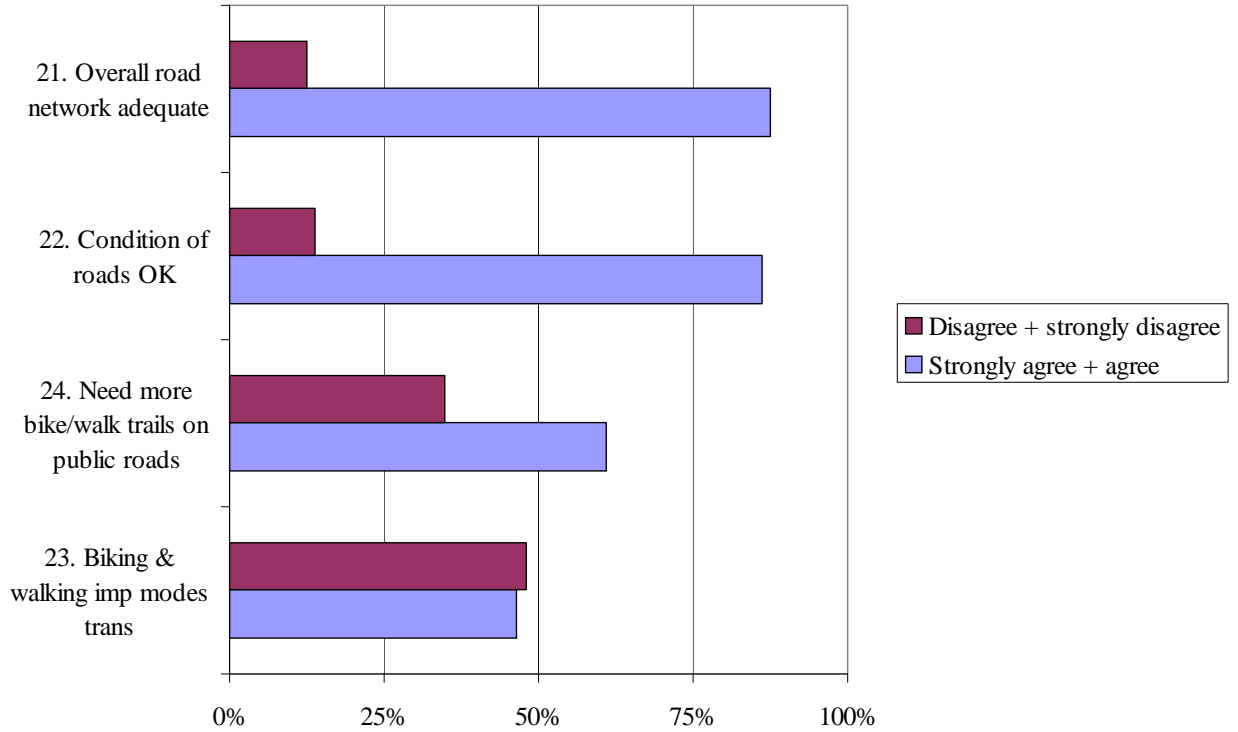
20. Do you think your land will be actively farmed (by you or someone else) in the next:

0-5 years		6-10 years		11-15 years		16-20 years		Not Applicable	
Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty
12%	10%	14%	6%	15%	6%	27%	13%	62%	74%

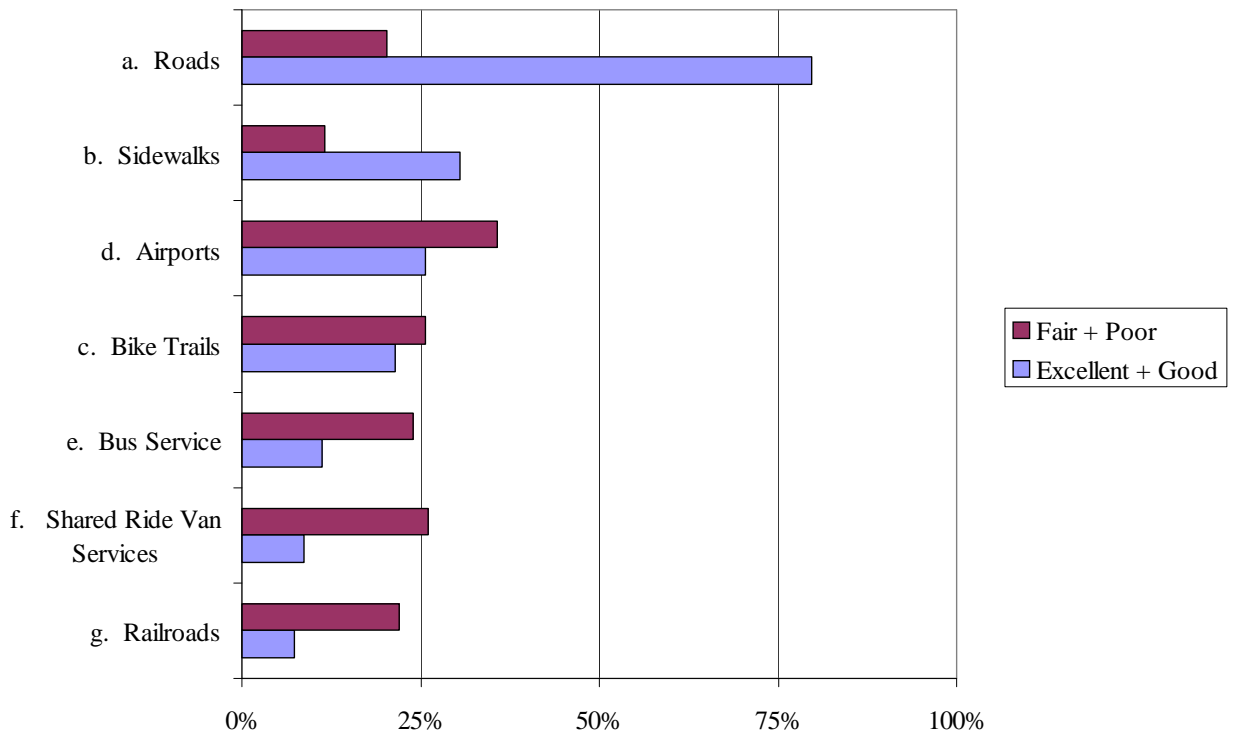
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – TRANSPORTATION

- A strong majority of Town residents agree that the overall County road network meets the needs of the people and that the condition of roads in Smelser is adequate for their intended use.
- A smaller majority feels that there is a need for more biking or walking trails on public roads, but residents are split on the importance of biking and walking as modes of transportation.
- Residents strongly agree that the quality of roads in Smelser is good or excellent. None of the other modes of transportation, however, received high marks.

Transportation Opinions



Transportation Quality in Local Jurisdiction



SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – TRANSPORTATION (COUNTY COMPARISON)

- When compared to the County average, residents of Smelser are more likely to agree that the condition of roads in the Town is adequate for their intended uses but less likely to agree that biking and walking are important modes of transportation.
- Airports are more likely to receive an unsatisfactory quality rating from Smelser residents than other residents of Grant County.

21-24. Transportation issues

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		No Opinion	
	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty
21. Road network meets needs	22%	14%	65%	74%	13%	9%	0%	2%	0%	1%
22. Condition of roads adequate	18%	11%	68%	64%	13%	20%	1%	3%	0%	1%
23. Biking & walking imp modes trans	14%	18%	32%	44%	37%	22%	11%	5%	6%	11%
24. Need more bike & walk lanes on pub roads	26%	24%	35%	34%	25%	23%	10%	9%	4%	10%

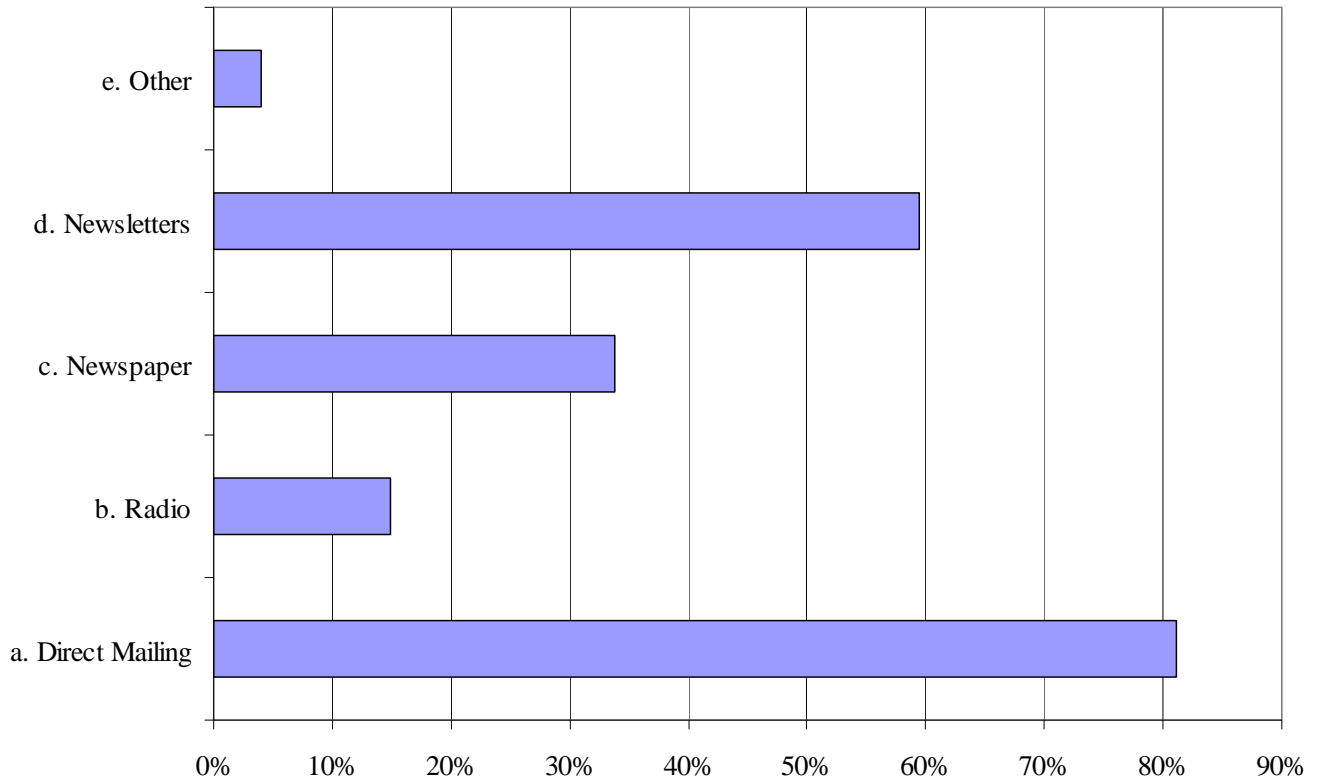
25. Rate the following for your local jurisdiction

	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Not Applicable	
	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty
a. Roads	16%	12%	64%	59%	16%	22%	4%	6%	0%	0%
b. Sidewalks	6%	6%	25%	39%	7%	28%	4%	6%	58%	22%
c. Bike Trails	6%	3%	16%	17%	9%	19%	17%	16%	53%	44%
d. Airports	7%	6%	19%	30%	24%	16%	11%	4%	39%	43%
e. Bus Service	1%	1%	10%	4%	6%	3%	18%	20%	65%	72%
f. Shared Ride Van Services	1%	0%	7%	9%	6%	11%	20%	16%	65%	64%
g. Railroads	1%	2%	6%	11%	1%	10%	21%	13%	71%	64%
h. Other	7%	3%	7%	9%	7%	1%	7%	12%	73%	75%

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS - COMMUNICATION

- Smelser residents expressed a strong preference for receiving information about comprehensive planning via direct mailings. A smaller majority said that newsletters were also an acceptable means of receiving such information.

Communication Preferences for Comp Plan Info



SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – COMMUNICATIONS (COUNTY COMPARISON)

- Compared to Grant County, Smelser residents have a stronger preference for direct mail as a means of receiving information about comprehensive planning and are substantially less interested in newspaper articles.

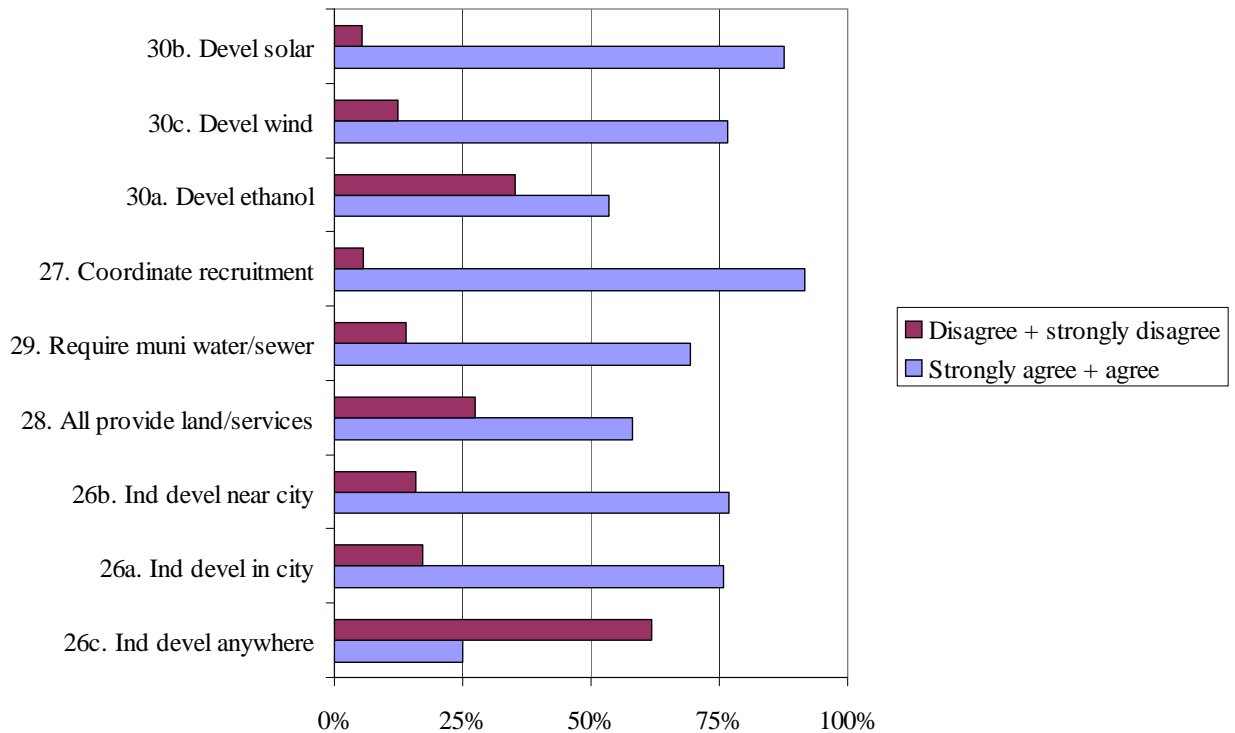
3. What are 2 most effective ways your jurisdiction could provide Comprehensive Planning information to landowners and residents?

	Smelser	Cnty
a. Direct Mailing	81%	70%
b. Radio	15%	21%
c. Newspaper	34%	44%
d. Newsletters	59%	56%
e. Other	4%	4%

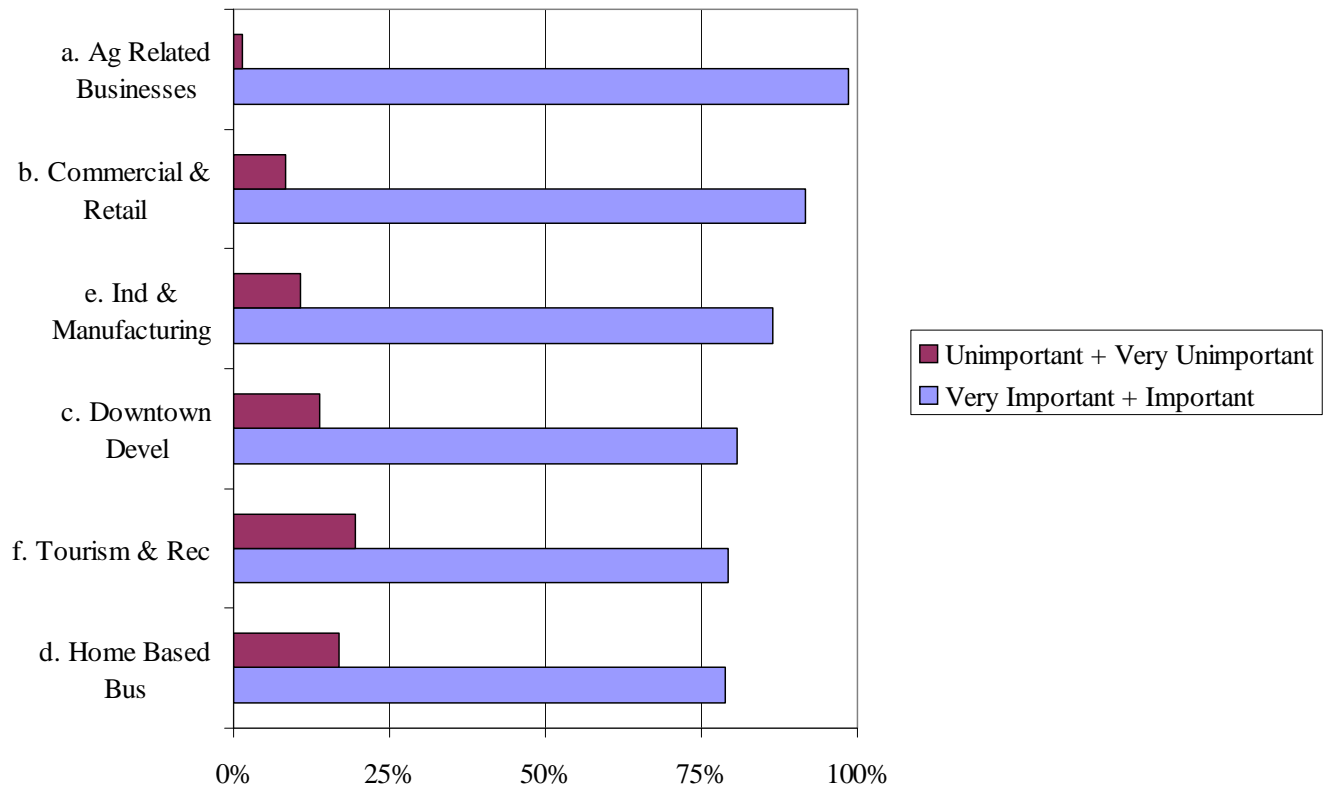
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- A large majority of Smelser residents support developing solar and wind energy, while only a slight majority support developing ethanol.
- Respondents from the Town strongly agree that there should be a County-wide coordination of efforts to recruit new businesses and that business on the edges of incorporated areas should be required to use municipal water and sewer. A slight majority also supports requiring all jurisdictions to provide land and some infrastructural improvements for business developments.
- Smelser residents feel that industrial and commercial development should occur in or near an existing city or village, but strongly feel that industrial and commercial development should not be allowed anywhere in the county.
- Residents of Smelser strongly believe all forms of business development are important or very important. Agriculturally related business (99%) and commercial and retail establishments (92%) are considered the most important forms of business development.

Economic Development Opinions



Importance of Business Development



SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (COUNTY COMPARISON)

- When compared to the County average, support for wind energy is somewhat weaker in Smelser (though still a very solid majority). Town residents held similar views on the development of ethanol plants and solar energy.
- Residents of Smelser also hold similar views on commercial and industrial development as the County as a whole. However, Smelser residents are more likely to agree that development should be located in an existing city or village than other county residents.
- While Smelser residents are more likely to view tourism and recreation business development more important than the county average, all other forms of business development received similar ratings.
- Like the county, agriculturally-related business development is rated most important by residents of Smelser.

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		No Opinion	
	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty
26. Commercial or industrial buildings and activities involving truck traffic and manufacturing should be located:										
a. In an existing city or a village	27%	14%	49%	39%	14%	28%	3%	7%	7%	12%
b. Near a city or village	16%	16%	61%	63%	12%	8%	4%	3%	7%	10%
c. Anywhere in Grant County	6%	7%	19%	19%	37%	38%	25%	20%	13%	16%
27. Coordinate business recruitment	52%	53%	39%	40%	4%	2%	1%	2%	3%	3%
28. Provide land & infrastructure for industry/commerce	19%	16%	39%	43%	25%	19%	3%	7%	14%	15%
29. Required muni water & sewer	31%	26%	39%	45%	10%	11%	4%	4%	17%	14%

30. Grant County jurisdictions should pursue the following energy alternatives as a form of economic development:

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		No Opinion	
	SMel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty
a. Ethanol Plants	24%	22%	30%	33%	23%	23%	13%	9%	11%	13%
b. Solar Energy	42%	39%	45%	45%	4%	5%	1%	1%	7%	10%
c. Wind Energy	41%	48%	36%	43%	7%	2%	5%	2%	11%	6%
d. Other	26%	28%	21%	8%	5%	0%	0%	0%	47%	63%

31. Rate the importance of the following:

	Very Important		Important		Unimportant		Very Unimportant		Not Applicable	
	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty
a. Ag Related Business	72%	59%	27%	38%	1%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%
b. Commercial & Retail	35%	33%	57%	59%	8%	7%	0%	1%	0%	1%
c. Downtown Devel	29%	31%	52%	52%	14%	11%	0%	2%	5%	4%
d. Home-Based Bus	23%	17%	56%	54%	15%	22%	1%	3%	4%	4%
e. Ind & Manufacturing	34%	40%	53%	50%	9%	8%	1%	1%	3%	1%
f. Tourism & Rec	32%	36%	47%	55%	15%	7%	4%	1%	1%	1%

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS – DEMOGRAPHICS

- Respondents from Smelser have a substantially different demographic profile than the overall County. Town respondents were more likely to be male, aged 45-54, have only one child, and are more likely to be self employed and less likely to be retired than is true of the County.
- Like the County average, a large majority of Smelser residents have lived in the Town for a substantial amount of time (25 or more years).

35. Gender

Male		Female	
Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty
63%	53%	37%	47%

36. Age

18-24		25-34		35-44	
Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty
0%	0%	8%	7%	14%	13%

45-54		55-64		65 and older	
Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty
37%	23%	15%	22%	26%	35%

37. Employment Status

Emp Full Time		Emp Part Time		Self Employed	
44%	44%	11%	6%	21%	10%

Unemployed		Retired		Other	
0%	1%	24%	37%	0%	1%

38. Place of Residence

Own		Rent		Other	
Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty
100%	99%	0%	1%	0%	0%

39. Number of Adults (18+) in Household

0		1		2	
Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty
		14%	20%	69%	71%

3		4		5+	
Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty
11%	7%	4%	2%	1%	1%

40. Number of Children (under 18) in Household

0		1		2	
Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty
66%	67%	24%	14%	9%	11%

3		4		5+	
Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty
0%	7%	1%	1%	0%	0%

41. Household Income

Under \$15,000		\$15K - \$24,999		\$25K - \$49,999	
Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty
6%	7%	14%	14%	26%	33%

\$50K - \$74,999		\$75K - \$99,999		\$100,000+	
Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty
29%	25%	14%	15%	10%	6%

42. Years Lived in Grant County

Less than 1		1-4		5-9	
Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty
1%	1%	1%	5%	4%	9%

10-24		25+	
Smel	Cnty	Smel	Cnty
19%	14%	74%	71%

Comments (70 Total Comments)**Q32. Is there anything about living in Grant County that you don't like? (30 comments)****Transportation (5 comments)**

- Gravel Roads
- The road conditions
- Should have wider roads for farm equipment
- Concern: Amish buggies on state highways where the roads are hilly and car traveling at 55 mph over a knoll - to have a buggy appear unexpectedly is dangerous. State highways should have a minimum mph.
- We have very poor infrastructure for alternative transportation like bicycling. Bicycling should be promoted for commuters and for its health benefits. Bicycling also offers tremendous tourism and recreational value.

Governance (3 comments)

- The congressional limitation for local government to operate financially and restriction placed on school funding
- The large number of Grant county board members. We do not need this horse and buggy style anymore.
- Getting more regulations and permit fees all the time

Taxes (8 comments)

- Property taxes
- High taxes
- Taxes on small farm operations are too high.
- It is in the state of Wisconsin. Income tax is too high for a Midwestern state!
- High taxes
- Rising taxes.
- School tax too high
- Higher property taxes

Environmental/Cultural/Recreational Issues (2 comments)

- Clean air - keep it that way!
- Litter - do they ever enforce fines for littering?

Social Issues (1 comment)

- There is very little to do here. Too many drugs available to kids. Neighbors can be very discriminatory and harassing. Neighbors complain about farm noise.

Police/Safety (1 comment)

- Too many police for size of Platteville

Land Use (6 comments)

- NO EXPANSION IN ALL AREAS!
- Only the smell of the local farm's cow manure
- Farmland used for excessive old farm machinery in long term parking!
- Trying to buy farmland - only small farmettes- cost of \$250K+, no farmland w/ buildings. Have son (age 30) looking to farm - 18yr old daughter looking to buy dairy farm. Hard for beginning farmers. Too much land siphoned off.
- Urban sprawl is creeping throughout the country, decreasing useable farm/ag land!
- The lack of a long range land use plan-this process is long overdue.

Miscellaneous (4 comments)

- Sometimes it's too cold, hot, wet, or dry. Most of the time it's the best place in the world to live.
- Smelser Township/ 1 1/4 miles from Cuba City. No place to take fall leaves or grass clippings.
- Travel distances to services like license, social services, court house, employment services
- The fact that almost all small towns are dying - nothing on Main Street.

Q33. If you could change one thing about your local jurisdiction, what would it be? (30 Comments)**Transportation (8 comments)**

- Make Rock Rd. black top not gravel
- The road upkeep
- Take more attention to lanes and small roads off the main highways up keep
- More road aid

- Get a road put in by Smelser Township. There's 5 homes on the road and they will not take the responsibility
- Make county and city/villages equally responsible for airports/transportation. If transportation/airports are important in economic development then county/city/federal should all be sources of funding.
- Stop 4-wheelers from driving on township roads especially on Timber Lane and Airport Rd
- Keep recreational users of ATVs off public roads. Farm use is acceptable. I believe there are laws that keep kids and ATVs off public roads, but they are not enforced.

Governance (2 comments)

- Better information on what's going on and better cooperation of the people both elected and not elected.
- Better weed control, better advertising for town meetings, and better control of noise at town meetings. The noise is embarrassing when we have visitors and others can not hear proceedings.

Economic Development (2 comments)

- Encourage business for local growth
- I would provide more support for start-up businesses

Taxes (4 comments)

- Keep more of the tax in the local community that we can use for improved roads
- The way we are taxed
- High taxes
- Lower property taxes

Environmental/Cultural/Recreational Issues (1 comment)

- Require rural developments to address run-off impact. Mandate run off control for rural home construction. This should apply to all rural home construction.

Lack Job Opportunities (1 comment)

- Create better paying jobs for the people so that there was not the need for income assistance along with more jobs so we did not have as much unemployment

Police/Safety (1 comment)

- More Grant County police officers. They are stretched too thin. As an example, my daughter was in a car accident and it took 30 minutes for an officer to arrive at the scene. That response time is too long.

Lack Shopping (1 comment)

- Having a place to buy organic, locally grown food and homeopathic medicines

School Issues (1 comment)

- More money to Elementary and high schools, and less to Colleges. Look at money spent on UWP and the college farm compared to our local high schools.

Land Issues (9 comments)

- Limit housing developments enact minimum acreage to limit urban sprawl
- DECREASE new housing developments. It is using up PRIME farmland. Protect this prime farmland - it is some of the best in the US!
- No housing development in rural settings! Only build next to towns already established.
- Zoning in prime agricultural land - needs to remain ag related.
- Less housing communities starting on ag land!
- Get more development going
- Residential development regulations - people live in the "country" for a reason. NOT for it to be developed into housing or subdivisions, or for other people to make a profit!
- Reign in urban sprawl and uncontrolled development of rural areas.
- Need to have zoning requirements in township to restrict new/additional rural subdivisions to allow local landowners to have input on decision, location, and layout of the development.

Miscellaneous (1 comment)

- Gas prices

Q34. Other Comments (10 Comments)**Governance (1 comment)**

- Would like to see more assistance for new dairy goat farmers from extension of DATCP.

Taxes (1 comment)

- Increase retail taxes if needed to supplement revenues

Environmental/Cultural/Recreational Issues (3 comments)

- I am for alternate energy sources, but live in a rural setting for the quiet and the views; I wouldn't want that to change.
- Better land controls - manure runoff, better managing around steep of hills for farming, and waterways.
- Recycling centers need to be available.

Social Issues (1 comment)

- High School kids working for me say 90% of freshman class has experimented with drugs and alcohol. I found this alarming!

Land Use (2 comments)

- Where are our children going to get the food, etc. they will all need of the good farm ground is all developed for other uses? We have in Grant County great scenic views and Cinderella like hills/bluffs/streams/rivers. Let's keep it that way for the future.
- We need to protect rural landscapes. Create incentives for sharing access for hunting, fishing, recreation access. Establish incentives for responsible agricultural practices. create incentives for organic agriculture. Establish grants for restoration and protection of barns, old school houses and other historic structures.

Miscellaneous (2 comments)

- Co-marts
- Snow removal could be more prompt.