

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 1, 2024

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES

Comprehensive Plan Update

*Somerset County,
Maryland*

READY ^{SOMER} SET PLAN

Plan Update Timeline



June 2023- July 2024

Planning Commission public meetings will be held periodically throughout the plan update process.



June 2023

Public Survey launched. Survey will be open June 2023-March 2024.



August 2023

Draft community profile will be available on the project website.



September 2023-April 2024

Draft plan chapter development and upload to project website for review and comment.



May-July 2024

Draft plan, review, comments, and final plan.



Technical Committee Meeting #4: Transportation & Community Facilities



Where we are...

- Launched project website & public survey- August
- Technical Committee Meetings- Ongoing
- Chapter 2: Community Profile, Chapter 3: County & Municipal Plan Integration, Chapter 4: Economic Vitality, Chapter 5: Affordable Housing
- Princess Anne September 18th & City of Crisfield October 11th
- **Regional Coordination Meeting held on January 23, 2024.**
- **Visioning Workshop - January 31, 2024**
- **Technical Committee Meeting #4**
 - Draft Chapters 6 & 7- Community Facilities & Transportation
- **February 1st Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting, 5:00 PM**

Project Website

Visits to Project Website: 469



Somerset County, MD
Comprehensive Plan Update

[Home](#) [About](#) [Project Timeline](#) [Draft Plan Chapters](#) [Public Involvement](#) [Resources](#)

CONTACT

Do you have a **question** about the comprehensive planning process?

Please fill out the form below with your question or comment and a project team member will get back to you.

Name *

First and Last

Email *

e.g., email@example.com

Your message *

Enter text here

Send

<https://www.plansomersetmd.org/>



Public Survey

Surveys Collected: Digital 164

Somerset County Comprehensive Plan Update

Public Opinion Survey

Thank you for your interest in the Somerset County MD Comprehensive Plan. This survey is part of our public engagement process. The results of this survey will be documented for use in preparing the comprehensive plan update. Your participation and input will be a valuable resource for our community.

Through the comprehensive planning process, County residents, business owners and community organizations help shape the future of Somerset County. County-wide planning leads to compatible land uses, as well as transportation networks, public facilities and parks. In addition, comprehensive planning protects the County's environmental and cultural resources. Planning helps to ensure that Somerset County continues to be attractive, safe, and prosperous.

This survey typically takes less than 15 minutes to complete. Thank you for your participation!

OK

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

PUBLIC SURVEY

This survey is being used to collect your insight and perspective on various topics that comprise the Comprehensive Plan Update. The survey consists of 25 questions and will take an average of 15 minutes or less to complete.

Click the button below to complete the survey.

Complete Public Survey!

<https://www.plansomersetmd.org/>





Regional Meeting & Visioning Workshop

- **Regional Meeting (Jan 23)**
 - Held in Princess Anne, with Somerset, Worcester, and Wicomico in attendance
 - Provided a regional perspective to this planning process
- **Visioning Workshop (Jan 31)**
 - Targeted multi-week Facebook advertising the workshop
 - Stats: 4,000 person reach, and ~200 new visits to the project website
 - Provided the public the opportunity to help craft the comprehensive plan's "vision statement"
 - 8 members of the public in attendance



Technical Committee

Focus: Discussion Questions, Goals & Recommendations

- ✓ Chapter 6: Community Facilities

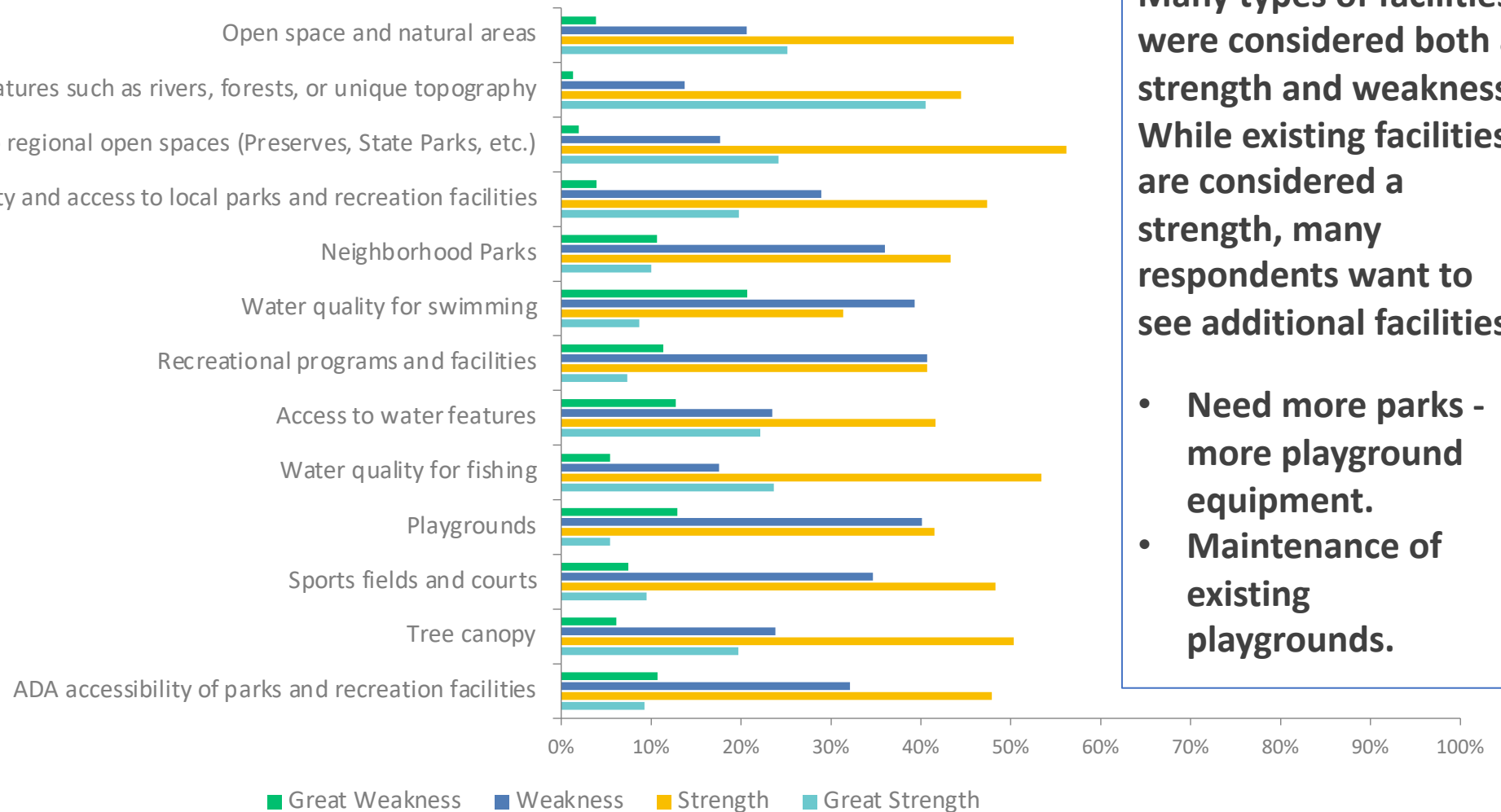


Public Survey – Preliminary

When considering Somerset County's existing parks and recreation, identify if each of the following is a strength or weakness for the community today.

Streams & Rivers

- Lack of Public Access

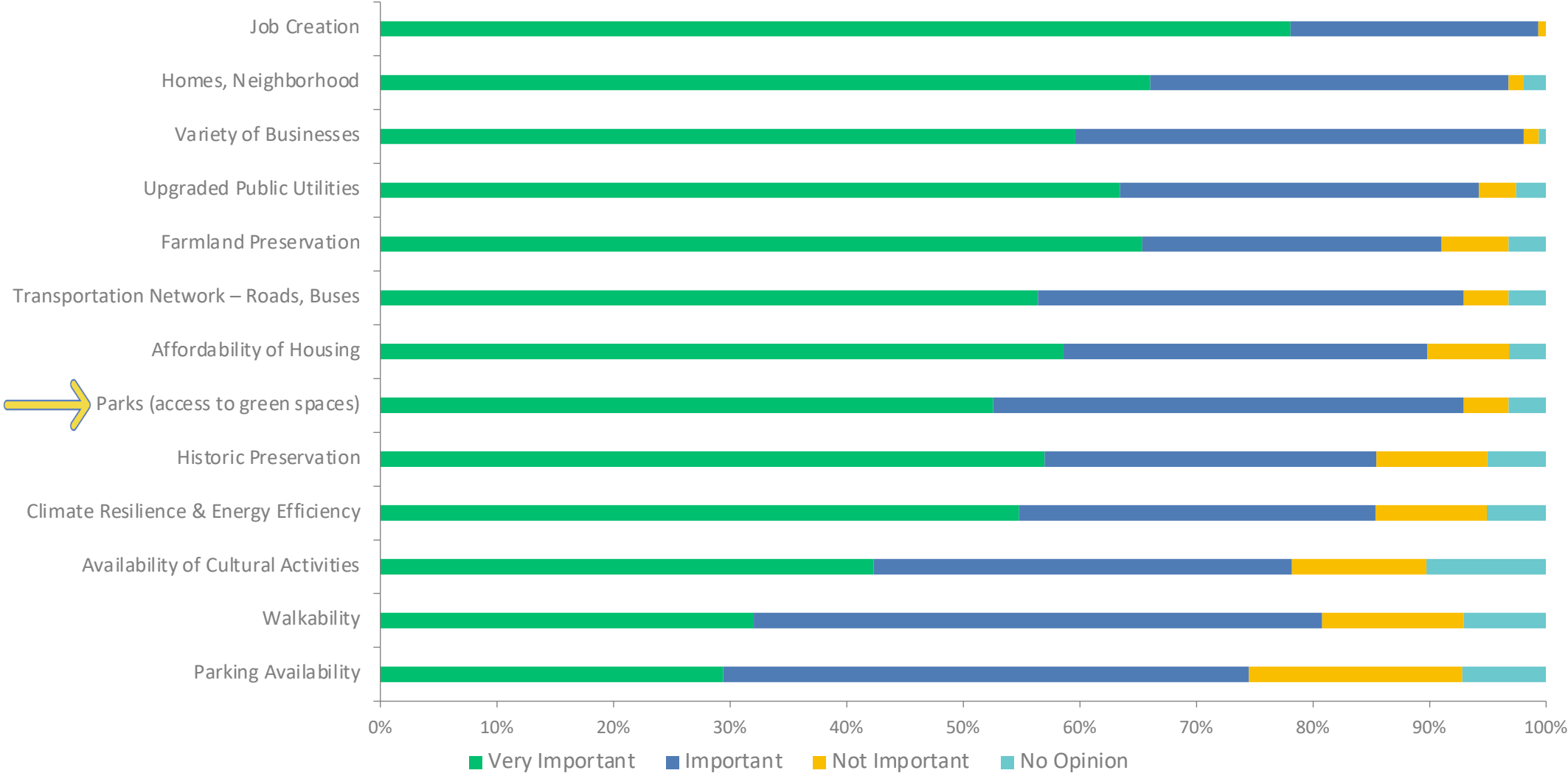


Many types of facilities were considered both a strength and weakness. While existing facilities are considered a strength, many respondents want to see additional facilities.

- **Need more parks - more playground equipment.**
- **Maintenance of existing playgrounds.**

Public Survey – Preliminary

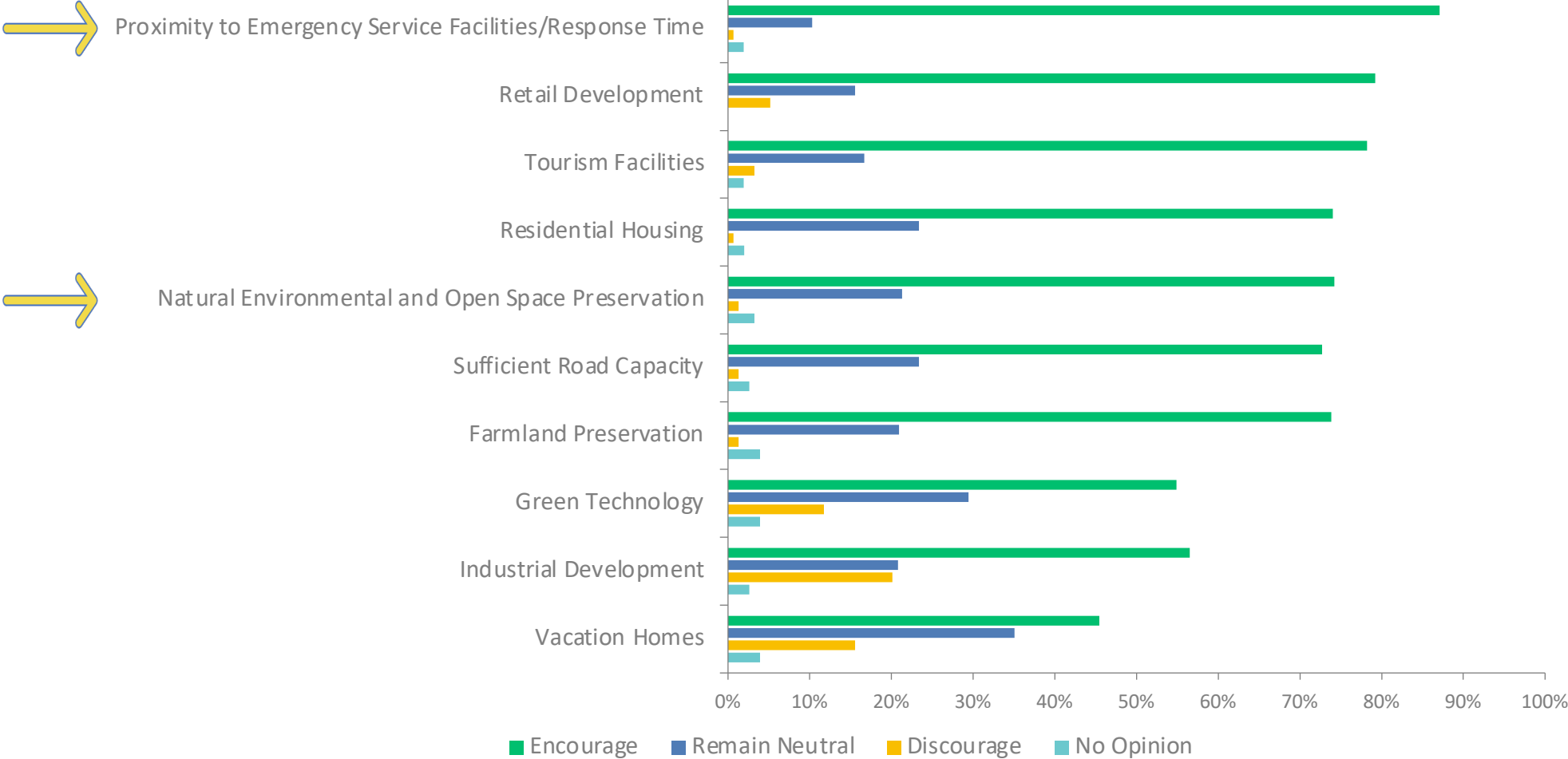
How important are the following items in terms of future development?



More than 90% indicated very important or important

Public Survey – Preliminary

As Somerset County plans for the future, should local officials encourage, remain neutral, or discourage each of the following?



Community Facilities

Somerset County supports a broad range of community facilities, including **schools, parks and recreation, public safety, libraries, health services, solid waste collection and disposal sites.**

The majority of these facilities are managed by the County as public amenities. A few, such as the hospital and museums, are private. Schools and Parks comprise a major portion of the County's budget, and the principal facilities were included in Chapter 6.



Goals & Recommendations



HIGHLIGHTS FROM SESSION WITH TC MEMBERS COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- Focus on reusing/repurposing and upgrade existing facilities
- Most community facilities have existing future goals
- Need for new convention/meeting facility in the County
- Promote the County's existing 13 waterway facilities
- Addition of fishing pier in Rumbley next to existing boat ramp.
- Interest in County Green Infrastructure Plan
- Need for additional fire and EMS stations



Technical Committee

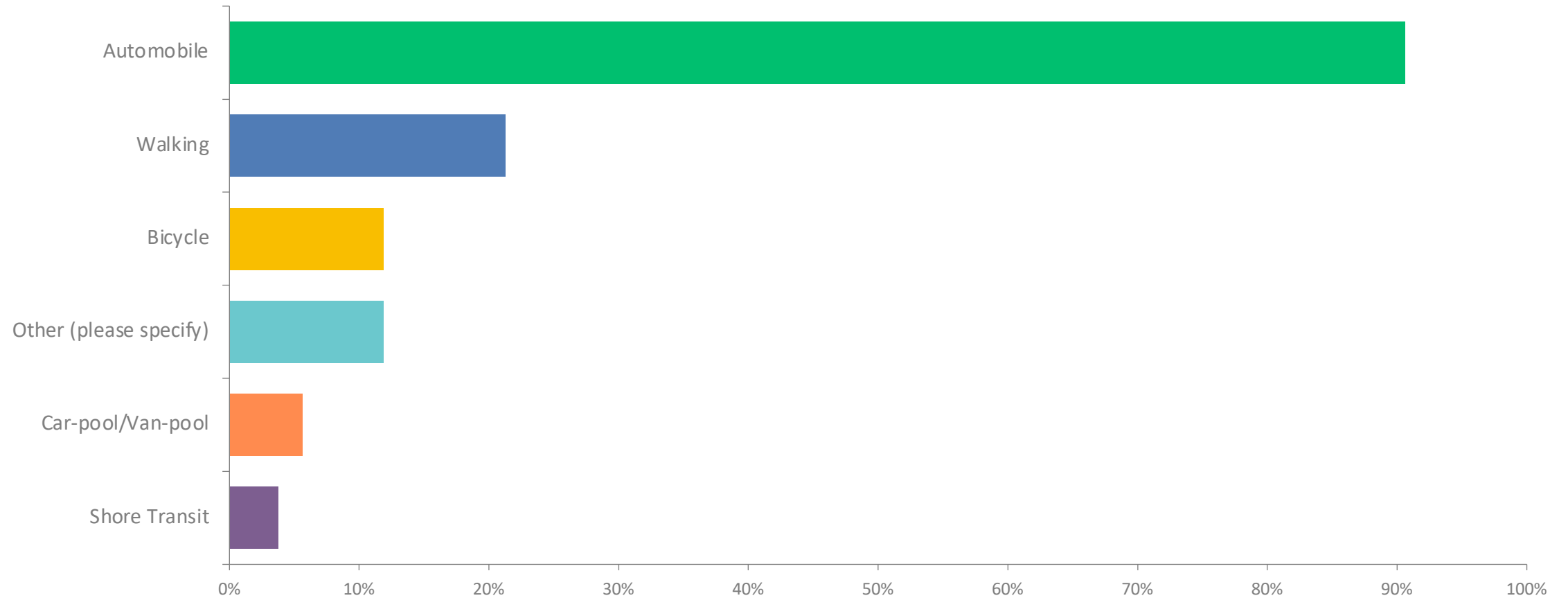
Focus: Discussion Questions, Goals & Recommendations

✓ Chapter 7: Transportation



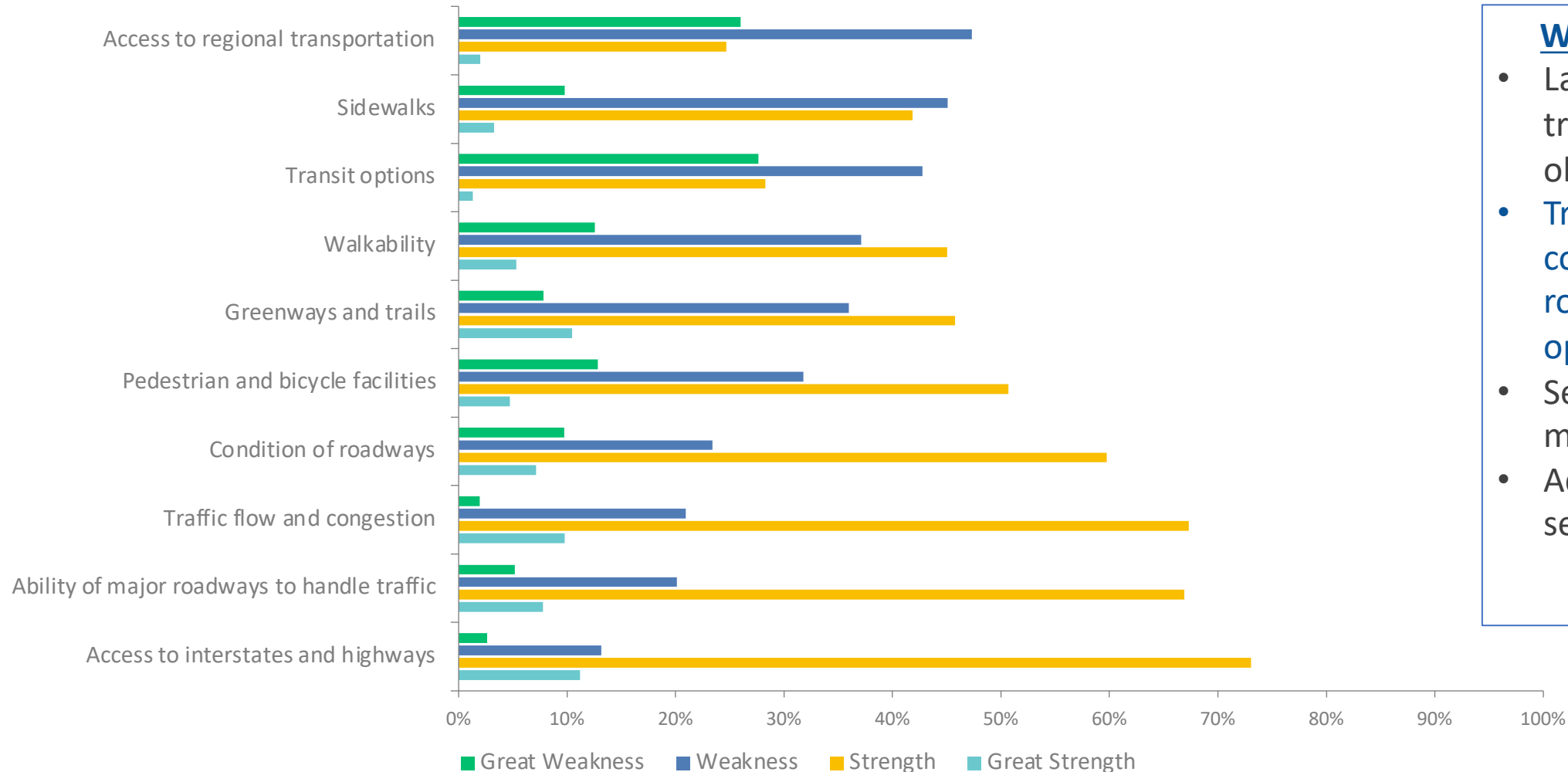
Public Survey – Preliminary

What are your primary modes of transportation? (Mark all those you use on a regular basis)



Public Survey – Preliminary

When considering Somerset County's existing transportation networks, identify if each of the following is a strength or weakness for the community today.

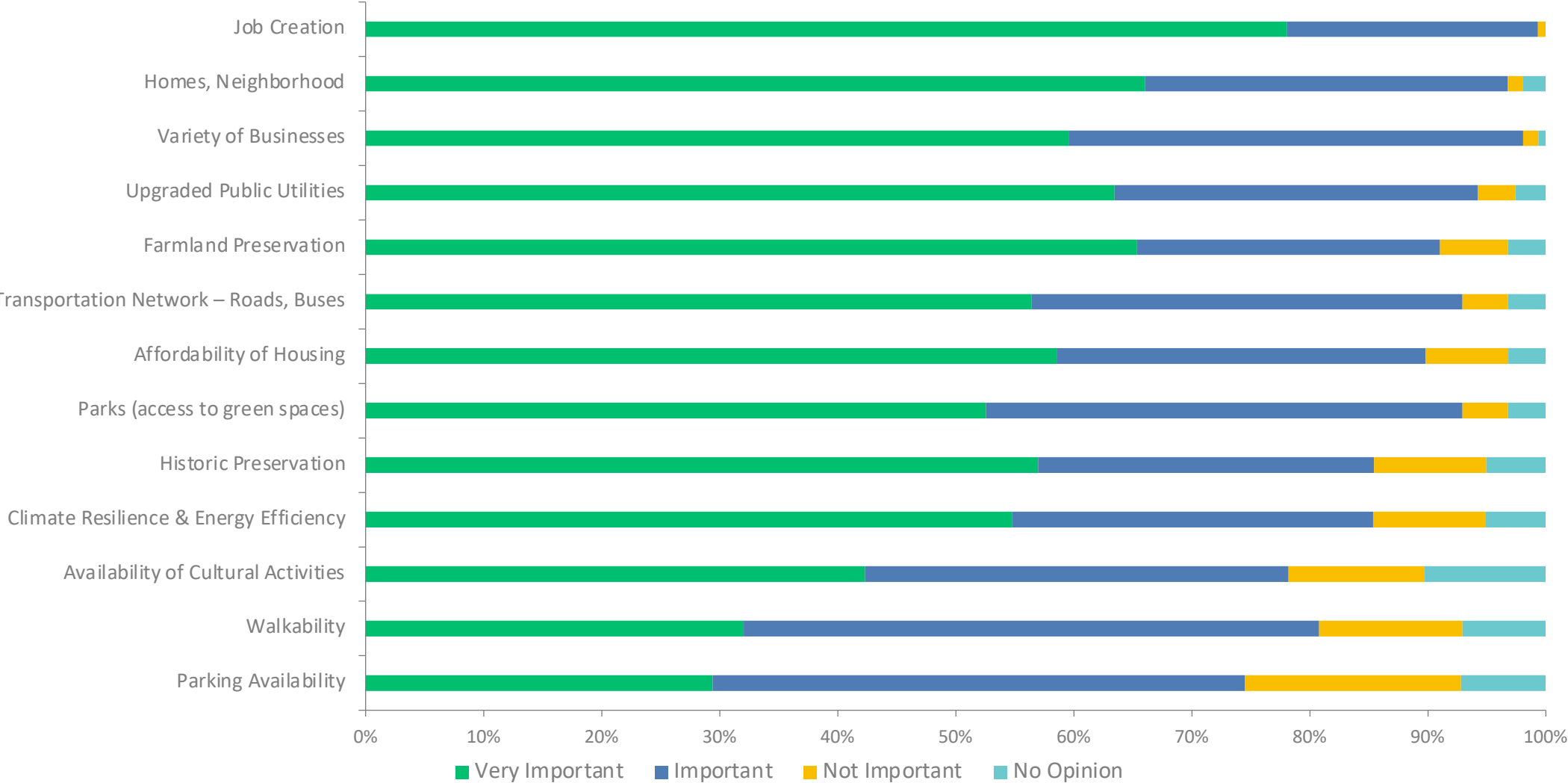


Write-in Comments

- Lack of available transportation for older adults.
- Transit-Bus issues cost, number of routes, and hours of operation.
- Secondary roadway maintenance.
- Adequate ferry service and cost.

Public Survey – Preliminary

How important are the following items in terms of future development?



More than 90% indicated very important or important



Goals & Recommendations



HIGHLIGHTS FROM SESSION WITH TC MEMBERS TRANSPORTATION

- In the works – study of on-demand transportation service in the County
- Partnering possibilities with Shore Transit to meet additional/future County needs
- Electric vehicle charging station at trail heads
- Ensure waterways stay open and navigable and dredge materials are used beneficially.
 - Dredging promotes economic development as well as meeting community facility and transportation needs
- Need to site locations for bus stations, charging facilities, with pedestrian access



Next Steps

- Review & Comment
 - Draft Chapter 6: Community Facilities
 - Draft Chapter 7: Transportation
- Upload content to project website
- Finalization of Vision Statement
- Chapter Development
 - Critical & Sensitive Areas
 - Water Resources – Draft Water & Sewer Plan Needed
 - Land Use – Draft Existing Land Use/Cover Received