



Doddridge County Comprehensive Plan

January 2018

WVULAW

LAND USE & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT LAW CLINIC

Chapter 1: Introduction

Why develop a Comprehensive Plan?Page 1-2

What are the legal requirements?Page 1-3

How was the plan developed?Page 1-4

How is the plan organized?Page 1-7

What is included in the plan?Page 1-7

Chapter 2: Vision and Goals

Vision Page 2-2

Goals Page 2-2

Goal 1: Improve Community services to meet the needs of residents & business owners ... Page 2-3

Goal 2: Strengthen housing opportunities to attract and retain residentsPage 2-10

Goal 3: Identify and foster appropriate economic development opportunitiesPage 2-14

Goal 4: Address infrastructure needs to support existing and new development.....Page 2-18

Goal 5: Encourage and promote local leadership and community engagement.....Page 2-20

Chapter 3: Land Use

Existing Land Use..... Page 3-2

Development Constraints..... Page 3-4

Environmental Concerns Page 3-6

Historic Resources..... Page 3-8

Population Page 3-9

Future Land Use Page 3-12

Chapter 4: Action Plan

Goal 1: Improve community services to meet the needs of residents & business owners.....	Page 4-3
Goal 2: Strengthen housing opportunities to attract and retain residents.....	Page 4-12
Goal 3: Identify and foster appropriate economic development opportunities	Page 4-14
Goal 4: Address infrastructure needs to support existing and new development	Page 4-15
Goal 5: Encourage and promote local leadership and community engagement	Page 4-18
Implementation Matrix.....	Page 4-19

Appendix 1: Public Input Procedures

Appendix 2: Online Survey Results

Appendix 3: Open House Results

Appendix 4: Sources

Appendix 5: Funding Opportunities

Appendix 6: Adoption Materials

Appendix 7: Public Hearing Comments



Doddridge County Comprehensive Plan

Chapter 1: Introduction

Doddridge County was settled in the late 1700s, and the county was officially formed in 1845. The county was named after Phillip Doddridge, a politician in western Virginia. West Union, the county seat, was incorporated in 1850. West Union was destroyed by a fire in 1858 and was rebuilt.

Several historic factors contributed to economic development in the county. The Northwest Turnpike was finished in 1838 and connected Winchester and Parkersburg. The Northwestern Virginia Railroad was also built from Grafton to Parkersburg in the 1850's. Both the turnpike and railroad ran through the county helped spur economic development in the county. Lumber was one of the first sectors of the economy, and Doddridge County supplied crossties to railroad companies.

During the Civil War, most residents in the county sided with the North. Additionally, there have been rumors that the Underground Railroad was located within areas of the county.

The county continued to grow due to the oil and gas industry. The first oil field was discovered in the late 1800s in Center Point. Gas wells were also drilled throughout the county, which drew businesses who wanted to take advantage of these resources to the county. Carbon manufacturing and glass making were two major industries at the time. Two glass plants and a garment factory were located in the county.

Oil and gas production dropped off and population losses occurred throughout the county. However, in the past ten years, production has picked up again, as well as population. The county and West Union are currently going through another transformation due to the presence of the oil and gas industry.



West Union in the 1930's (Source: Doddridge County Historical Society)

Why develop a Comprehensive Plan?

Doddridge County has seen an increase in property tax revenue over the past several years, due to increased natural gas drilling. Property that is producing natural gas is assessed and taxed based on the gas' value. Drilling equipment, trucks, and other industrial property are taxed as personal property (West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy Blog, 2013). In 2014, gas severance taxes paid to Doddridge County were \$1,255,323.42, the second highest in the state (Energize WV, 2015).

The increase of revenue to the county's budget has brought many opportunities. The county can now invest in specific projects that they were previously unrealistic due to budget constraints. Currently there is no type of plan that directs local elected officials to residents' priorities. The county commission initiated the comprehensive planning process so that they could determine what the priority projects are in the county and which ones are supported by the public. The comprehensive plan will help the county make investments in places that enjoy public support.



Gas Drilling Rig (Source: Doddridge County Watershed Association)

There are several opportunities for the use of the comprehensive plan by county officials. Any time a decision needs to be made concerning a development proposal, capital improvement project, or policy change, the plan should be reviewed, and actions should be consistent with the vision and goals identified in the comprehensive plan.

The action plan and corresponding implementation matrix should be used by the Doddridge County Commission to begin implementation of high priority projects. The comprehensive plan should be used as a catalyst for change within the county. Therefore, the recommendations that are deemed as high priority should be completed by the county as soon as possible.

What are the legal requirements?

The West Virginia Code, Chapter 8A: Land Use Planning sets the rules and regulations that local governments must follow when participating in land use planning efforts. Chapter 8A authorizes local governments to create a planning commission and board of zoning appeals, develop a comprehensive plan, adopt subdivision and land development ordinances, adopt zoning ordinances, and enact a voluntary farmland protection program. In addition, local governments are authorized to set procedures for methods of securities, appeals, and enforcement of ordinances. Chapter 8A, Article 3 also details required elements of a comprehensive plan. The tables at the end of this chapter direct readers to resources that list the mandatory elements of a comprehensive plan.

In order to develop a comprehensive plan, a planning commission is formed to lead the planning efforts. Chapter 8A, Article 3, also permits county comprehensive plans to include the planning of municipalities. The county comprehensive plan may be considered the comprehensive plan of included municipalities, but only with consent of the planning commission and/or the governing body of the municipality. The Town of West Union has indicated an interest in consenting to the adoption of the Doddridge County Comprehensive Plan as the comprehensive plan for the municipality. To that end, the mayor of West Union sits on the Planning Commission to provide input on behalf of the town. Upon adoption of the comprehensive plan by Doddridge County, the Town of West Union will hold one public hearing, and the governing body will determine whether to consent to adopting the comprehensive plan as their own.

West Virginia Code §8A-3-1-(b) (2015)

A comprehensive plan is a process through which citizen participation and thorough analysis are used to develop a set of strategies that establish as clearly and practically as possible the best and most appropriate future development of the area under the jurisdiction of the planning commission

How was the plan developed?

A comprehensive plan should center around public input. Critical issues and concerns can only be identified when the public is asked for their input. The Doddridge County Planning Commission first completed a visioning exercise to determine initial issues and concerns. An open house was then held in November 2015 to hear from the public. Input received both from the Planning Commission and public revealed consistent perceptions of needs. Both the Planning Commission and the public completed a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) exercise. The results from the exercise were combined and are shown below.

STRENGTHS

- County Park
- Library
- West Union Streetscape Project
- North Bend Rail Trail
- New businesses
- US Route 50
- Property tax– oil/gas revenue
- WVU Extension
- New schools
- Natural gas industry
- Small town character
- People help each other out
- Sense of community
- Rural
- History
- 5 Volunteer Fire Departments
- Local police in West Union
- Deputies in school
- Architecture in West Union
- Two community banks
- Emergency Shelter
- Doctors
- Dentist
- Ambulance service

WEAKNESSES

- Getting people to engage
- Lack of infrastructure
- Media negativity
- Resistance to change
- Limited tax base
- Few businesses
- Small population
- Limited housing
- Lack of a land use plan
- Lack of zoning
- Drugs
- Limited workforce
- Abandoned and dilapidated buildings
- Limited internet
- Road maintenance
- No public transportation
- Lack of public parking
- No hotel/motel
- No golf course/driving range
- Substandard healthcare
- No dentist
- Limited recreation for youth
- Low income
- Low education
- No land to build homes
- Rural
- Funding for West Union
- Vacancies on Main Street
- Communication between residents and town government
- No rental housing
- Lack of prepared and ready workforce
- No fast food restaurants

OPPORTUNITIES

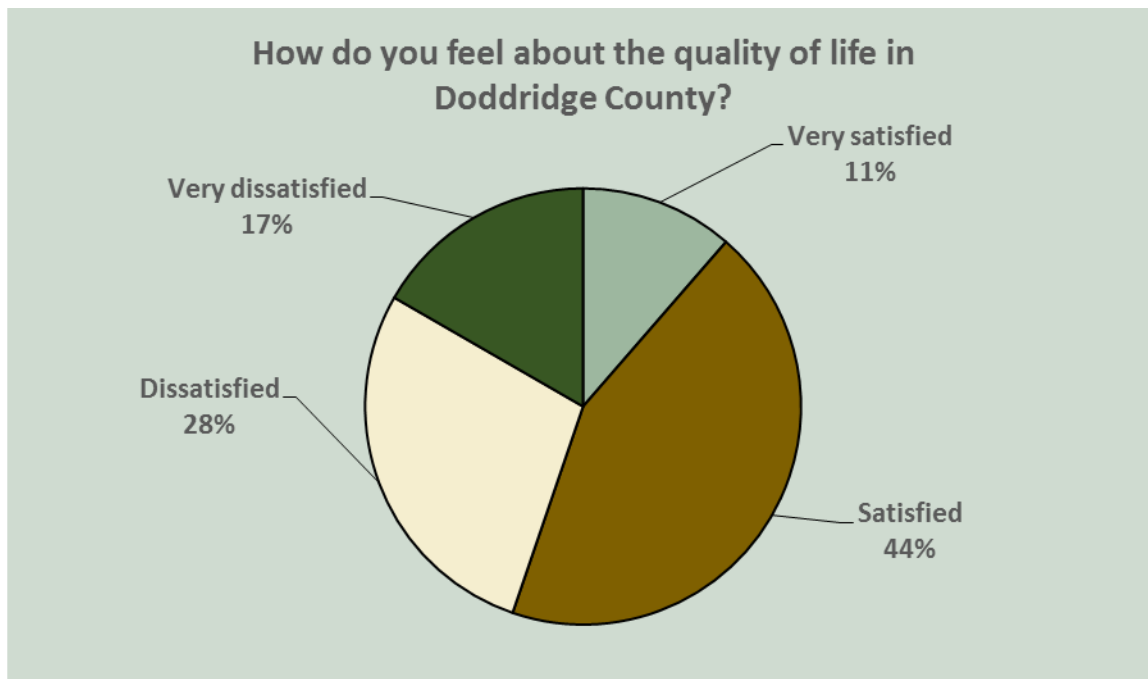
- Expansion of county park
- New residents bringing new ideas
- Tourism
- Heritage assets
- Opportunities for entrepreneurs
- Small scale agriculture
- Developable land
- School system
- Oil and gas industry
- Increased county revenue
- Library
- North Bend Rail Trail
- Severance tax
- History
- Cell phone tower
- Small scale agriculture
- Local food market
- Timber
- Residential subdivision

THREATS

- Topography
- Lack of local leadership
- Younger generation leaving
- Drugs
- Negativity

An online survey was also developed to try to solicit as much input as possible. A total of 121 residents completed the survey. Results from the survey can be found in Appendix 2. The survey was also available in a hard copy format for those that did not have internet access. The results from the hard copy surveys were tabulated together with results of the online survey. Over 50 percent of respondents are very satisfied or satisfied with the quality of life in the county. Approximately 45 percent are either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the quality of life. Major concerns listed in the survey include:

- Lack of job opportunities
- Infrastructure
- Road/Street condition
- Overall effectiveness of county government



The Planning Commission also identified key stakeholders to provide valuable input on the future direction of the county. Stakeholders were identified in the following categories: economic development, public safety, infrastructure, housing, education, agriculture, parks and recreation, history, transportation, natural resources, social/cultural, and healthcare.

A youth focus group was also conducted at the Doddridge County High School to gain a better understanding of the issues and concerns of a young generation. The students were asked to identify areas on the map that need to be improved and areas where they would like to see new development. Students identified the following as high priority needs:

- Shopping center
- Restaurant chain
- Increased tourism
- Med Express
- Better roads
- Cell phone towers
- Better internet
- Improvement of football and baseball field
- Hotel
- Demolish/Fix abandoned and dilapidated buildings
- Improved park and recreation facilities
- Offer recreational programs

A final open house was conducted in April of 2017 to present the recommendations and future land use plan to the public. The public was asked to help prioritize the recommendations to assist the Doddridge County Planning Commission in determining priorities in the final implementation matrix. Results from the open house can be found in Appendix 3. As turnout was low at the final open house, the Doddridge County Planning Commission also developed an online survey. A total of 74 people took the online survey. Results from this survey can be found in Appendix 2.



Final Open House (April 2017)

How is the plan organized?

Early in the process, the Doddridge County Planning Commission requested that the comprehensive plan be a user-friendly document that would not sit on the shelf and collect dust. Therefore, the plan was developed so that it revolves around the identified key issues and concerns, as well as what the county can do to realize its vision for the future. The plan consists of four chapters:

- Chapter 1– Introduction: Describes the brief history of the county and land use planning and provides public input received during the planning process
- Chapter 2– Community Overview: Details trends that have shaped the county and town, provides background information, and details issues and concerns discovered during the planning process
- Chapter 3– Land Use: Details the future vision for development in the county and town
- Chapter 4– Action Plan and Implementation Matrix: Recommends specific action items and steps for the county and town to achieve future vision

What is included in the plan?

Even though the plan is only four chapters, all of the required elements of a comprehensive plan per Chapter 8A of the West Virginia Code can be found throughout this plan. The following tables detail where specific required code sections can be located in the plan.

<i>Required Objectives for a Comprehensive Plan</i>	
Code Provision	Chapter
Statement of goals and objectives	Chapters 2, 3, and 4
Timeline on how to meet short and long-term goals and objectives	Chapter 4
Action plan with implementation strategies	Chapter 4
Recommendations of a financial program for necessary public funding	Chapter 4
Statement of recommendations concerning future land use	Chapter 3
A program to encourage regional planning, coordination, and cooperation	Chapter 4
Maps, plats, and/or charts that present basic information on the land, including present and future uses	Chapters 2, 3

Required Components for a Comprehensive Plan

W. VA. Code §8A-3-4(c)

Code Provision	Page #
<i>Land Use</i>	
Different land uses (including, for example, residential, agricultural, historic, conservation)	3-2, 3-3, 3-12, 3-13
Population density and building intensity standards	3-9
Growth or decline management	3-12, 3-13
Projected population growth or decline	3-9, 3-10
Constraints on development (including identifying flood-prone and subsidence areas)	3-4, 3-5
<i>Housing</i>	
Analyze projected housing needs and different types of housing needed (including affordable housing and accessible housing for persons with disabilities)	2-10, 2-12
Identify the number of projected housing units and land needed	2-11
Address substandard housing	2-12, 4-12, 4-13
Rehabilitate and improve existing	4-12, 4-13
Adaptive reuse of buildings into housing	2-10
<i>Transportation</i>	
Vehicular, transit, air, port, railroad, river, and any other mode	2-17
Movement of traffic and parking	2-17, 4-17
Pedestrian and bicycle systems	2-7, 4-9, 4-16
Intermodal transportation	2-17
<i>Economic Development</i>	
Analyze opportunities, strengths and weaknesses	2-14, 2-15, 2-16, 2-17
Identify and designate economic development sites and/or sectors	2-17, 4-14
Identify types of economic development sought	2-17
<i>Miscellaneous Components</i>	
Infrastructure	2-18, 2-19, 4-15, 4-17
Public Services	2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-8, 2-9, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5, 4-6, 4-7, 4-10, 4-11
Rural	3-13
Recreation	2-6, 2-7, 4-7, 4-8, 4-9, 4-10
Community Design	3-12, 3-13, 4-12
Preferred Development Areas	3-12, 3-13, 4-12
Renewal and/or redevelopment	3-12, 3-13, 4-12
Financing	4-2
Historic Preservation	3-8



Doddridge County Comprehensive Plan

Chapter 2: Vision and Goals

Vision



A vision statement was created to guide the overall development of the comprehensive plan. The vision statement, which guides future development, captures the values and hopes of Doddridge County. The vision statement provides clarity for the future and will help inspire residents to realize change. The Doddridge County Planning Commission developed the vision statement, using the public input that was received from residents throughout the planning process.

Doddridge County will continue to celebrate our history and use our vast resources and manpower to create opportunities for growth in search of a bright future.

The county will strive to improve infrastructure and invest in our communities while also fostering our family values.

Goals



After the creation of the vision statement, goals were developed to identify the steps that the County must take to achieve their overall vision for the future. The goals address the key issues that were identified during the planning process:

- Need for improved community services
- Abandoned and dilapidated housing
- Lack of job opportunities
- Infrastructure (water/sewer)
- Lack of leadership

Goal 1: Improve community services to meet the needs of residents and business owners

Community services emerged as a major concern during the comprehensive plan process. Goal 1 addresses this issue.

One of the main functions of local government is to provide community services to its residents. The type and level of community services offered vary by local government, but can include public safety, recreation, planning, emergency management, recycling, and public works.

Doddridge County is governed by a county commission that consists of three members. Other departments within the county include the county clerk, county assessor, sheriff, magistrates, circuit clerk, and prosecuting attorney. West Union is governed by a mayor and five council members.

Public Safety

Emergency Management

The Doddridge County Office of Emergency Management's (OEM) mission is to prepare the county in the event of an emergency or incident, mitigate measures to reduce loss of life and property and respond to and recover from emergencies or incidents. OEM supports the county in developing emergency and continuity plans; help in coordinating and providing training; developing, implementing and evaluating exercises; and conducting community outreach.

Goals of the Office of Emergency Management include:

1. Maintaining essential functions during and after an emergency or incident and supporting the county's first responders
2. Help equip the community with the skills and resources needed to effectively respond and make critical decisions in an emergency or incident
3. Promote a culture of resiliency through emergency preparedness, self-sufficiency, shared responsibility, and development of strong structures across the county

Currently, OEM is working on several projects, which include:

- Updating the Doddridge County Emergency Operations Plan, along with the LEPC
- Review of the county's hazard mitigation plan
- Completion of the State Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA)
- Establishing a new outreach program
- Establishing a new emergency notification system
- Writing grants for laptop computers for the Health Department, mobile IRP radios for the fire departments, and mobile terminals for law enforcement
- Working with the Board of Education to have generators installed in the schools that are designated as emergency shelters

Current issues and concerns include:

- Need for two communications towers in the county (one in the north and one in south) to increase first responders communications' capability
- Need for State Interoperable Radio Network equipment to better communicate
- Lack of members of the volunteer fire departments
- Lack of training, equipment, and communications' capability of volunteer fire departments
- Lack of community involvement and shortage of volunteers
- Lack of debris removal plans
- Need for more emergency shelters in less populated areas of the county

County 911 services is a combined effort with Ritchie County. The Ritchie/Doddridge E911 center opened in 2002 and employees 13 people:

- 9 telecommunicators
- Mapping and Addressing Staff Member
- Operations Manager
- Deputy Director
- Executive Director

The new center is located in Pennsboro, WV. The center also includes a back up center, which is the original building in which the center was housed.

A concern of the 911 center is the lack of volunteers in the volunteer fire departments and the need for an additional communications tower in the southern portion of the county.

Police Protection

The Doddridge County Sherriff's Office consists of 13 full-time staff, with a budget of approximately \$500,000. There is a mandatory training program for officers, as well as a residency requirement. Issues and concerns of the Sheriff's Office include the need for mobile computers for cruisers.

In September 2016, the West Union Town Council temporarily suspended their police department. Before the suspension occurred, there was one paid police officer, who was also the chief. In 2015, the department responded to over 300 calls. Issues and concerns of the department include the need for additional staff and a radar-gun.

Fire Protection

Doddridge County Fire Departments

There are five volunteer fire departments within Doddridge County. The Smithburg Volunteer Fire Department serves 100 square miles with 14 total volunteer firemen. In 2015, the department responded to 264 calls. A concern of the department is the lack of fire hydrants and the need for more volunteers. There will



also be a future need to replace fire engines. The West Union Fire Department consists of 20 active volunteers that responded to 200 emergency calls in 2015. Priorities of the department include replacing the 1986 pumper truck, recruiting additional members, need for more training, and the need for additional fire hydrants.

Emergency Services

Doddridge County Ambulance Authority

The Doddridge County Ambulance Authority (DCAA) offers the county full 911 coverage, both ALS and BLS 24/7. The DCAA also offers non-emergent ambulance transports to the citizens of Doddridge and surrounding counties. The Doddridge County Ambulance Authority consists of 40 total employees, 19 of which are full-time, 16 part-time, and 5 administrative positions. The DCAA is funded the County Commission and through revenue brought in by the 911 and Non-Emergent services. In 2015, the DCAA responded to 990 911 emergency calls and 1,255 non-emergency transports.



Needs of the DCAA include the following:

1. Bigger station with more room for employees and apparatus
2. Improve response time by considering an additional location, closer to outlying areas
3. Exploring the option of an EMS rescue service
4. Working with the state and state agency officials to develop and institute a community paramedicine program/role

Doddridge County EMS

The Doddridge County EMS has one ambulance that provides private transports only a few days a week. The Doddridge County EMS is not part of the 911 system at this time.

Health

Health Facilities

There is no hospital located in Doddridge County. Depending on a resident's location within the county, the nearest hospital is in either Parkersburg, Weston, or Bridgeport. There are two medical centers, the Doddridge County Medical Center and the Ritchie Regional Health Center. These two centers provide health services by appointment. The Ritchie Regional Health Center also provides dental services and school based services, such as physicals and vaccinations.

There is no urgent care facility in the county, which is a service that many feel is needed.

Parks and Recreation

Doddridge County Park

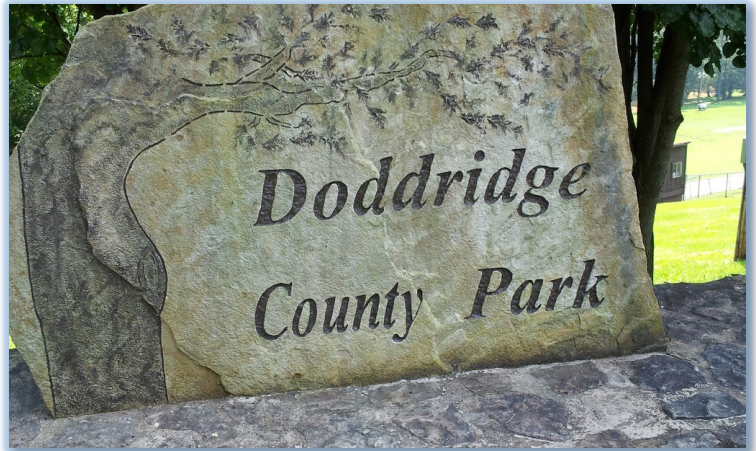
The Doddridge County Park consists of 300 acres of park land with one baseball field, one tennis court, three basketball courts, meeting rooms, group sleeping rooms (sleep 100), seven shelters, large pavilion (seats 150), large barn facility for social events and animal based events, a pool, an outdoor stage, two playgrounds, 250-seat circular council area with bonfire, hiking trails, tent camping areas and the Heritage Building.

The Doddridge County Parks and Recreation Commission received a gift of land totaling 260 acres. Therefore, the commission is in the process of a major expansion and improvement plan, which calls for an “adventure park” concept. Ideas include the following:

- Cabins
- RV Parking
- Primitive campsites
- Zip line
- Hiking
- Mountain biking
- Paintball
- Event center for weddings and meetings

The Doddridge County Parks and Recreation Commission listed the following issues and concerns with the county park:

- Basketball / Tennis Courts – poor surface areas
- Playground needs replaced
- Need for shelters for summer
- Improve overall park with lighting
- Need for walkways
- Plantings and seating areas
- Pool – aged and needing extensive upgrade in few years
- Hiking is unmarked and needing defined / surfaced and trail markers
- Sleeping Quarters – poor condition, needs upgraded
- Stage – needs upgraded to handle electrical needs of groups
- Lodge Kitchen – needs expanded for growing number of larger groups
- Lodge Furnaces (5) – will need replaced in coming years— ranges from 10 to 13 years of age



Spencer Park

Spencer Park is located adjacent to the North Bend Rails to Trails. The parcel is approximately two acres and includes a shelter and basketball court, which are in disrepair. According to the Doddridge County Parks and Recreation Commission, the park offers great potential with its location near the rail trail and river frontage to Middle Island Creek. Potential future uses could include camping facilities for bicyclists and launch points for canoe and kayak excursions. The playground also needs replaced, and shelters, lighting, walks, plantings, and seating areas are all needed.

North Bend Rail Trail

The North Bend Rail Trail is a recreational trail operated by West Virginia State Parks. The trail travels 72 miles from Parkersburg to Wolf Summit in Harrison County. The trail parallels US Route 50 east and west on an abandoned CSX spur. The trail is part of the 5,500 mile coast-to-coast American Discovery Trail.

The trail is maintained by the state park, which includes a trail crew with one full-time supervisor and three 10-month employees that are off in January and February. The North Bend Rails to Trails Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit that supports the trail with grants and equipment purchases. The foundation and the state park received a grant of one million dollars to begin resurfacing the trail in Doddridge and Harrison Counties. Other projects include repairing the rest area near West Union by replacing the shelter roof and cement under the shelter and installation of an ADA ramp to the restroom. Picnic tables and horse hitching rails will also be added. There is also potential for installation of directional signage from Route 50 to trail heads.

The North Bend Rails to Trails Foundation has partnered with the Rails to Trails Conservancy to join 1,600 miles of trails in five states. This would connect the North Bend Rail Trail to Morgantown, Pittsburgh, Akron, Cleveland, and Erie.

Issues and concerns include:

- Additional parking and trail heads
- Vandalism (specifically in Doddridge County)
- Littering

West Union City Park

The West Union City Park consists of a slide, basketball court, and teeter tot. The farmer's market is also held in the city park. The town is in the process of repainting all of the equipment in the park. Recently a committee was formed to spearhead improvements to the park and develop a fundraising campaign.



Education

Doddridge County Board of Education

The Doddridge County school system includes a high school, middle school, elementary school, and pre-school program. Over the past ten years, enrollment has slowly declined. Enrollment in 2013-2014 was as follows:

- Preschool Center– 69 students
- Elementary School– 405 students
- Middle School– 334 students
- High School– 351 students

The elementary and middle schools are located right next to each other off Route 50 near West Union. The high school is a few miles down the road on the other side of West Union and is undergoing the construction of a new gym and three classrooms. The Board of Education offices are located in West Union.

Residents of the county heavily support the school district, and all school bonds and levies for construction of the new schools were passed. The school system employs 216 full-time employees, one part-time employee and 57 substitute teachers.

Concerns of school system include transient students due to the gas industry, lack of parental support, and academic performance.

The Doddridge County Board of Education is in the process of developing a new athletic complex adjacent to the high school. The complex will include a turf football field, 8 lane tracks, bleachers, field lighting, multi-use fieldhouse and concession, storage buildings, new baseball fields and field lighting, press box, concession stand, and parking lot (2017, April 25 Exponent Telegram).

Doddridge County Library

The Doddridge County Library recently moved to a new location in West Union. The library staffs three full-time and four part-time employees at the West Union location and one full-time employee and one substitute at the Center Point Outpost Library in Salem. Funding sources include a local levy, state grants, and a contribution from the Board of Education. The library offers reading services, in-house equipment, application forms, audio/visual services, copying services, and a notary. Events held at the



library include story hour, a summer reading program, an adult book club, movie night, a computer class, an E-reader class, school visits, book signings, and special events.

Project ISAAC

The elementary school participates in the Project ISAAC, which provides a variety of activities for students.

Opportunity Council Inc.

Opportunity Council Inc. mission is to provide education and job training. Adult education, early childhood education, and parenting education is all offered. The council offers several educational programs:

- School Day Plus After School Program— accepts children from ages 4th through 8th grade. Students have opportunity to work with staff on homework, eat a healthy snack, and play activities and games.
- Project SIFF (Safety in Families is First) — program to educate youth and couples on how to recognize violence in relationships and how to safely get out of the situation.
- YouthReady Program- works with out-of-school youth, ages 14-21, with Adult Mentoring, Tutoring, Adult Basic Education, GED Preparation, and Job Readiness Training.
- YouthWorks Program— offers 4 components of a Family Literacy Program.

Cultural and Social Opportunities

The cultural and social needs of residents are well represented in various events that are held throughout the year, such as the 1950 flood presentation, mystery dinner, and arts council production.

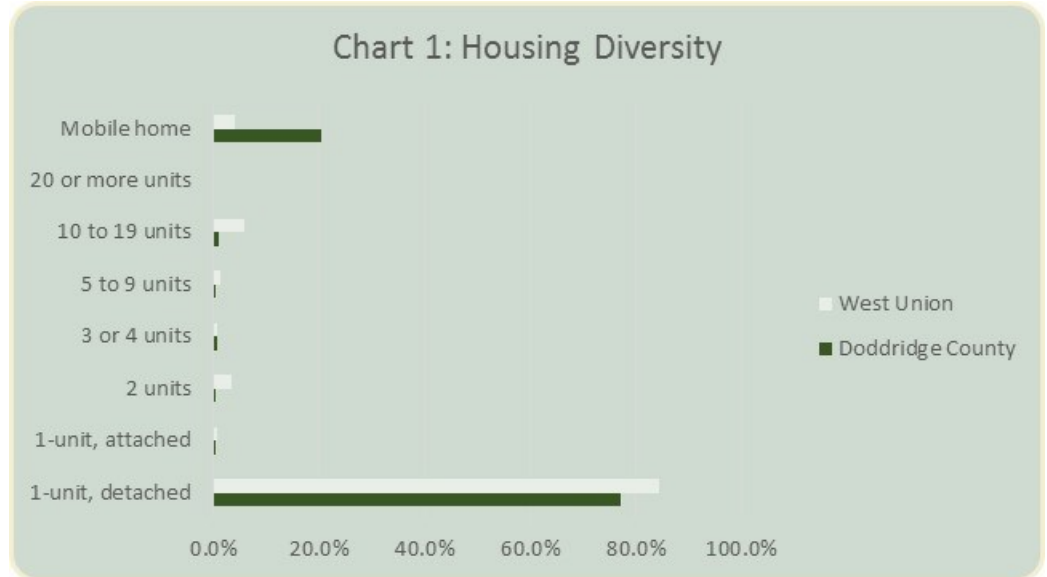
Doddridge County Seniors Center

The Doddridge County Senior Citizen Center provides traditional social activities for senior citizens. The center also provides assistance in obtaining adult day care and assisted living for elders. A fitness center is also available for all ages.

Goal 2: Strengthen housing opportunities to attract and retain residents

Housing, including abandoned and dilapidated housing, causes concerns within the county. Goal 2 addresses these concerns.

Housing can directly affect the quality of life in communities. Quality housing is essential to meet the basic needs of residents. Housing quality includes the physical condition of housing, age of housing, diversity of housing stock in a community, and affordability. Information was gathered from the 2010 US Census and 2014 Community Survey to better understand housing data trends in Doddridge County.



Most of Doddridge County's housing is located in West Union and the numerous small villages scattered throughout the county. As shown on [Chart 1: Housing Diversity](#), the county has a lack of housing diversity. Almost 80 percent of the homes in the county are single family detached units. West Union has more multi-family units than the county on average. Mobile homes, often more affordable than a single-family home, are also a popular housing choice in the county. Block House Manor and Childers Manor offer both affordable and handicapped accessible housing. Some storefronts in West Union have been converted into apartments. There are additional opportunities for adaptive reuse of older retail buildings into housing.

Approximately 21.5 percent of housing units are considered vacant in Doddridge County. In West Union, approximately 20 percent are considered vacant. This is a very high vacancy rate compared to the state.

The majority of vacant homes (50%) in Doddridge County are considered "for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use." This is most likely due to the many hunting camps and vacation homes scattered throughout the county. The next highest category of vacant homes is "all other vacants (40%)." According to the US Census bureau the term "all other vacants" refers to units held vacant for personal reasons by the owner. Common reasons include:

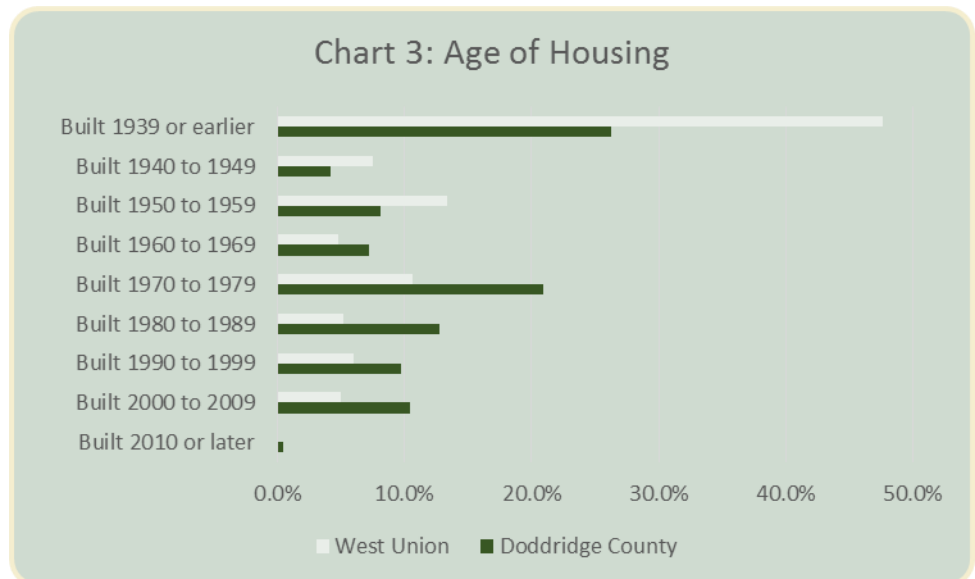
- No one lives in the unit and the owner is making repairs
- Owner does not want to rent or sale
- Owner using the home for storage
- Owner is elderly and living in a nursing home or elsewhere

The majority of vacant homes in West Union (59%) fall into the category of "all other vacants."

In order to gauge the overall health of the housing market, housing value data was examined. The median housing value in Doddridge County is \$89,000 according to the 2014 American Community Survey. This value is slightly lower than the \$96,500 median value for West Virginia. The majority of homes are valued between \$50,000-\$99,999, as shown on *Chart 2: Housing Value*. Almost a quarter of the homes are also valued at less than \$50,000.



The median housing value in West Union is \$63,100. This value is troublesome as it is considerably lower than the state and county average. There are no homes in West Union that are valued higher than \$200,000. Over 40 percent are valued between \$50,000-\$99,999.



The age of housing stock could contribute to the lower housing values in both Doddridge County and West Union. Almost 50 percent of the homes were built before 1939 in West Union, as shown on *Chart 3: Age of Housing*. Almost 26 percent were built before 1939 in Doddridge County.

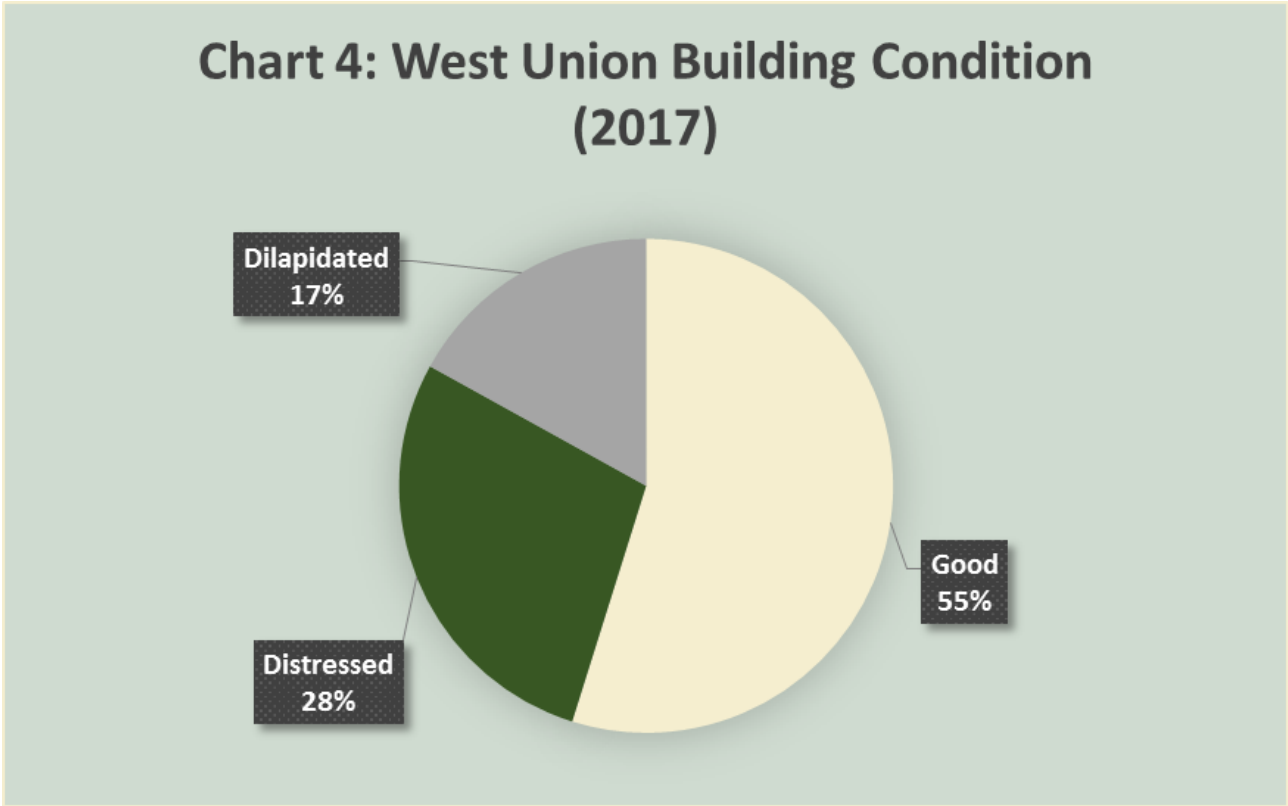
According to the US Census and displayed on *Table 1: Housing Units*, there has been housing growth from 2000-2010. As population has increased over the past several years, the county may need additional housing units to support a growing population. The county could potentially add approximately 712 residents in the next 15 years, which would generate the need for 249 new housing units.

Table 1: Housing Units			
	2000 Total Housing Units	2010 Total Housing Units	Number of New Housing from 2000-2010
Doddridge County	3661	3946	285
West Union	420	452	32

According to a local realtor in the county, the lack of rental housing is a big issue. The lack of quality housing and housing with utilities is also a problem. There is a real need for starter homes, as well as lots for people wishing to build new construction. The town and county both have issues with abandoned and dilapidated buildings. To date, neither entity has enacted regulations to address the issue.

A structural condition map was developed for the Doddridge County Comprehensive Plan in 1974. Structural conditions of the housing stock was examined and rated into 3 categories: sound, deteriorating, or dilapidated. The map of West Union shows that approximately 84 percent of the housing in West Union was considered sound, 14 percent was considered deteriorating, and 2 percent was considered dilapidated.

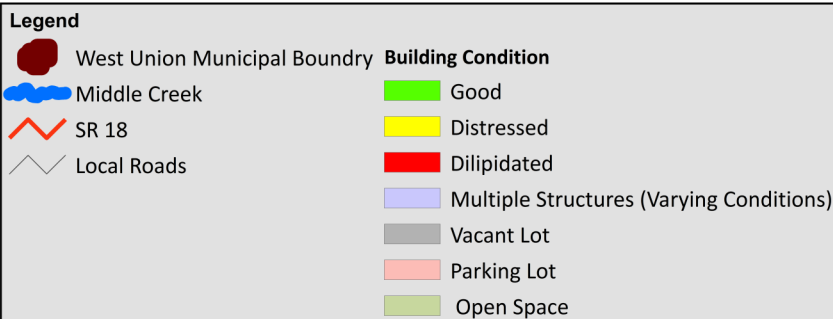
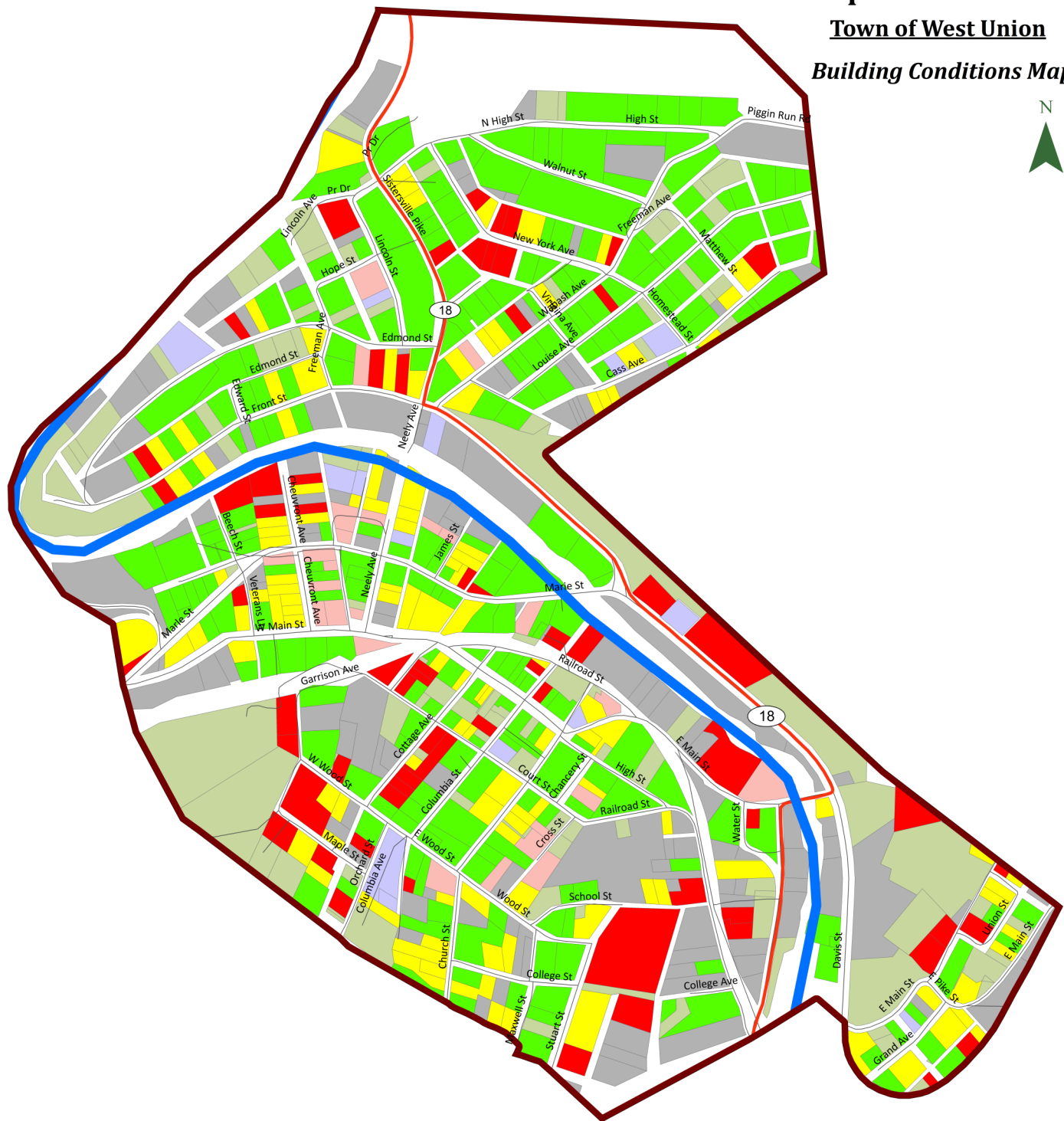
During the comprehensive plan process, the planning commission updated the map that was created in 1974 to gain a better understanding of the amount of dilapidated buildings in the town and how it has changed over the years. As shown on *Chart 4: West Union Building Condition*, more buildings have become dilapidated and distressed over the past forty years. In 1974, only 2 percent of buildings were considered dilapidated, compared to 17 percent in 2017. The building condition in West Union is illustrated on the *Building Condition Map*.



Doddridge County Comprehensive Plan

Town of West Union

Building Conditions Map



Source Data: Doddridge County, West Virginia GIS Technical Center, WVDOT

0 0.03 0.06 0.12 Miles

Goal 3: Identify and foster appropriate economic development opportunities

Strengths

Goal 3 focuses on economic development and was developed from the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis conducted by the county during the comprehensive plan process. The West Virginia Code requires that the comprehensive plan review strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities in regards to economic development.

The West Virginia Code, Chapter 8A calls for a comprehensive plan to analyze strengths, opportunities, and weaknesses of the local economy. This section examines the economy in both the county and town using US Census data and public input received throughout the planning process.

Doddridge County has a good school system with new facilities, an economic development agency, two community banks, and accessibility to US Route 50. The rural character of the county is one of the main attractions for new residents.

In February of 2016, the unemployment rate (released by Workforce West Virginia) of Doddridge County was 7.2 percent. This is lower than the state average of 7.8 percent and lower than all of the surrounding counties. The top employers in the county, which include government and drilling companies, contribute to this rate.

Marcellus Shale drilling has had a huge impact on the county. Three of the top ten employers in the county are connected to the oil/gas industry. Increased drilling has lead to additional funding for the county and has caused new businesses to locate in the county. In 2014, Doddridge County received \$7.9 million in property taxes from oil and gas operations and \$1.2 million in severance taxes. Antero Resources is building a wastewater treatment plan that will employ over 20 people and will increase tax revenue to the county. The Mark West Sherwood Forest plant is also located in Doddridge County and provides residents with jobs and an increased tax base.

Increased investment in the community has also led to new business development. A recent streetscape project in West Union improved the downtown business district. The project included replacement of sidewalks, addition of new street lighting, and repaving around the courthouse. The North Bend Rail trail travels through West Union and recently was an awarded a \$1 million grant towards improvements and repairs to the trail. Improvements to the county park are also in the works, not only to benefit residents, but to hopefully bring more visitors into the county.

Top Ten Employers (2015)

Doddridge County Board of Education

West Virginia Regional Jail & Correctional Facility

Antero Resources Corporation

Doddridge County Senior Citizens, Inc.

Doddridge County Commission

Blue Flame Pipeline, LLC

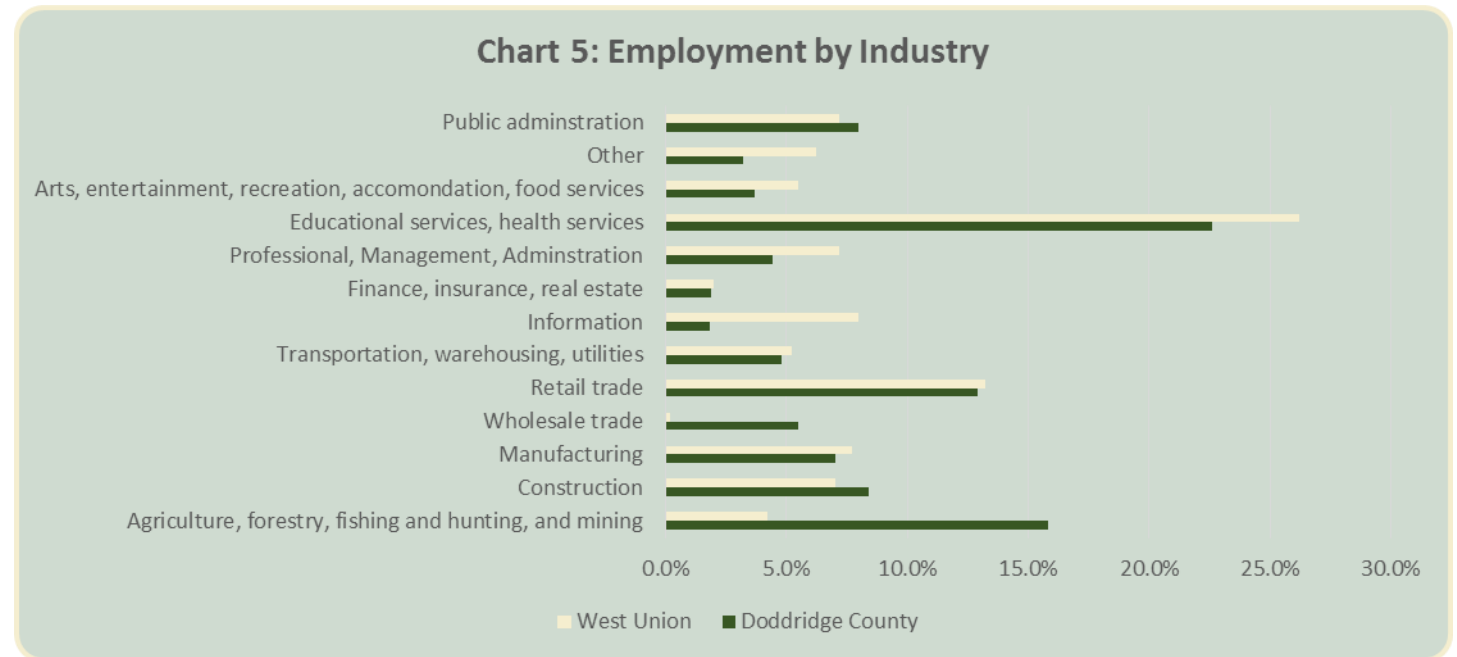
Mark West Hydrocarbon, Inc.

Fairview of West Union, LLC

West Union Bank

Doddridge County EMS, Inc.

As shown on *Chart 4: Employment by Industry*, over 20 percent of residents in the county are employed in educational and health services. The percentage is even larger for residents of West Union. There are also many county residents employed in agriculture, forestry, mining, and retail trade. The median household income in 2014 was \$40,329, which is significantly higher than the median household income in 2000 of \$26,744. The median household income in 2014 was \$33,214 in West Union, which is also significantly higher than the median household income in 2000 of \$18,300. This may be contributed to the increase of oil/gas drilling in the past 14 years.



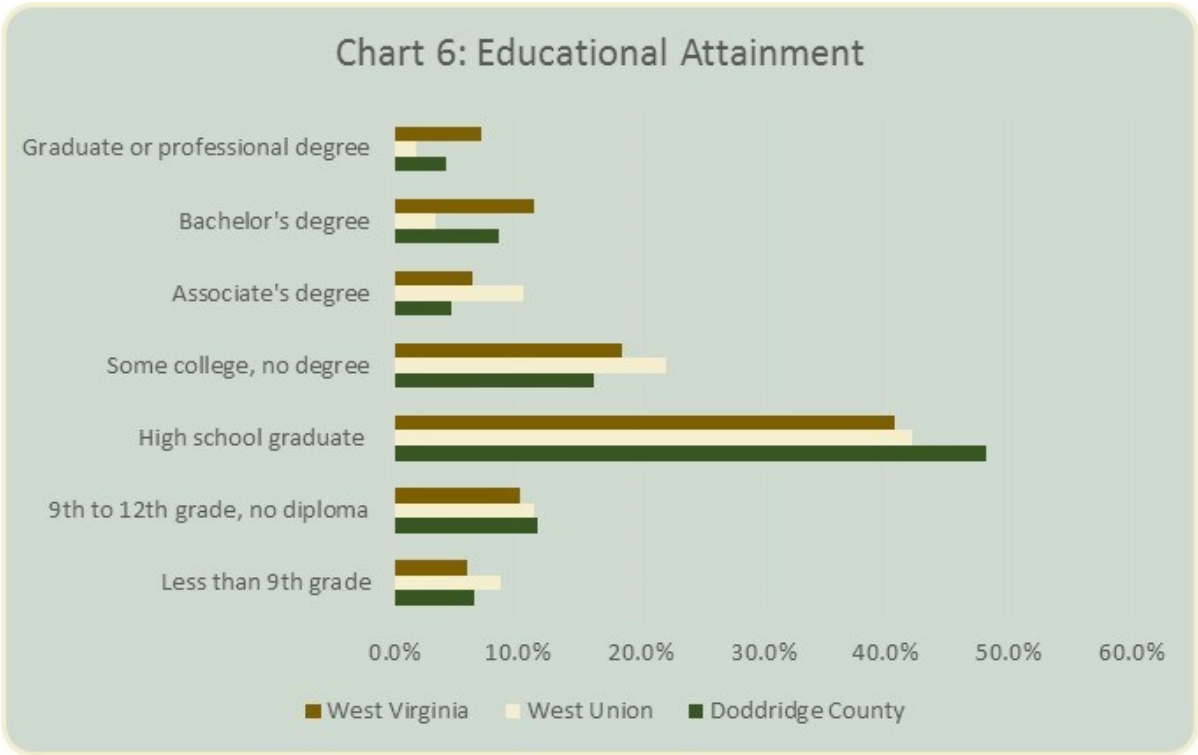
Weaknesses

Even though the unemployment rate is lower than the state and surrounding counties, the rate has increased over the past several months. This could be due to the decline in oil/gas drilling throughout the county. While the household median income in both the county and West Union has increased over the years, it is still lower than the state average of \$41,576. With a decline in the oil/gas industry, the average may level out in the future. One of the biggest weaknesses in the county is the lack of a diverse economy. The county can not rely on only the oil/gas industry to provide good paying jobs and the tax base to provide services. The lack of job opportunities is also weakness for the local economy. This is evidenced by the fact that the mean travel time to work is over 35 minutes. This illustrates that many residents are leaving the county to find employment.

One of the biggest hindrances to development is the lack of infrastructure. Without water and sewer, many industries and business can not locate in Doddridge County. There is also a lack of 3 phase power on Route 50, and internet and cell phone coverage are limited. The topography and location of the floodplain also severely limits new development. There are very few commercial sites available for development.

Educational levels are a good indicator of how well a community can meet the demands of employers who need skilled labor or an educated workforce. Almost 50 percent of residents in the county have a high school degree and approximately 9 percent have a bachelor's degree or higher as shown on *Chart 5: Educational Attainment*. While the number of students graduating high school is higher than the state average, the number of residents who then went on to receive a bachelor's degree is lower than the state average. The

number of residents in West Union who graduated high school and received a bachelor’s degree is even lower than the county. The educational levels of residents are a concern in attracting new businesses to the area who rely on a specific skill set.



The number of people in the workforce is a concern as well. Only 61 percent of county residents received income from earnings, which is lower than the state average of 68 percent. Approximately 47 percent of residents rely on social security as illustrated in *Table 2: Salary/Wage*. West Union residents do not rely as much on social security as Doddridge County residents. However, more West Union residents use food stamps than the county and state. This could be contributed to the fact that almost 20 percent of residents in West Union live in poverty, compared to 18 percent in West Virginia and 15 percent in Doddridge County.

Anther weakness is that there is also no daycare located in Doddridge County, which is a huge obstacle for working parents. There is one program, School Day Plus After School Program, that provides an educational environment for children in pre-school to 8th grade to go to after school and during summer months. A lack of public transportation is also a challenge to those that want to work but do not have the money to afford a vehicle. Currently, promotion of the county and its assets is limited. There is no

Table 2: Salary/Wage			
	Doddridge	West	West Virginia
Earnings	61.5%	66.7%	68.2%
Social Security	47.7%	35.5%	38.8%
Retirement	29.3%	20.5%	23.5%
Supplemental	8.1%	1.5%	7.9%
Cash/Public Assistance	0.9%	0.8%	2.3%
Food Stamps/ Snap Benefits	14.7%	28.1%	15.8%

convention and visitors bureau and no county or town website. This is a great obstacle, as many people, visitors and potential business owners alike, receive their information on the internet. The lack of land use regulations could also be considered a weakness, as many business and industries feel that regulations protect their investment in a community.

The location of Route 50 is a tremendous asset to the county. Average Daily Travel (ADT) on Route 50 is as follows:

- Doddridge/Harrison Counties boundary– 16,195 cars (2014)
- Route 50 and Route 18 intersection-11,251 cars (2012)
- Doddridge/Ritchie County boundary-10,539 cars (2014)

The location of the county along a major roadway could spur development for industries that heavily rely on access to major markets, such as a distribution center.

Opportunities

The county has opportunity in the tourism industry with the recent improvements to the county park and the presence of the North Bend Rail Trail. The trail travels 72 miles from Parkersburg, WV to Wolf Summit, WV and was recently awarded funding to improve the trail section that travels through Doddridge County. There are also plans to work toward joining 1,600 miles of rail trail in five states. The North Bend Rails to Trails Foundation has partnered with the Rail Trails Conservancy. The goal is to create the largest trail network in the United States. The North Bend Rail Trail would be the southern most anchor of the trail network.

Future plans for the Doddridge County Park include a Adventure Park concept. Ideas include cabins, RV Parking, campsites, a zip line, hiking, mountain biking, and paintball. The goal is to transition the small county park to a regional tourist destination that then propels residents to open or expand businesses that cater to guests. There is also a an opportunity for Spencer Park due to its close proximity near the North Bend Rail Trail and river frontage to Middle Island Creek. Camping sites, river access for canoe and kayaks could all be possibilities.

A farmers market is located in West Union in the Farmers Market Pavilion on Route 18. From May to September, the market is open on Wednesdays from 3-6PM. This is another opportunity to draw people towards downtown West Union. While agriculture is not a prominent industry in the county, there is a niche market for agriculture. A buy local campaign would help in promoting local agricultural products to residents and visitors.

Another opportunity for the county is value added timber. Various industries rely on timber for materials related to flooring and paneling, finished furniture, mulch, and fuel pellets.

Goal 4: Address infrastructure needs to support existing and new development

The provision of infrastructure is a key community service that affects the quality of life of residents. Goal four was developed because a top priority of the county is to develop infrastructure, including water, sewer, broadband, 3 phase electric, and cell phone service.

The Town of West Union is the only municipal water provider in the county. The service area includes residents within West Union, outside the boundary along US Route 40 westward, terminating just beyond Greenwood, and eastward along US Route 50 toward Smithburg. The town also provides water to the county middle and high school. The town provides approximately 22 percent of county residents with water. The remaining residents rely upon alternative water sources such as wells, springs, and off-site water hauling. Many residents rely on alternative water sources and are concerned with the ways in which natural gas drilling could affect their water supply.

In 2011, the county commission petitioned the Public Service Commission (PSC) for approval of the creation of the Doddridge County Public Service District (PSD). The goal of the PSD is to provide water service throughout the service area. In 2015, the Doddridge County Water Study was completed. The study looked at the feasibility and cost of providing public water to 28 specific project areas in the county. Three high priority areas were identified for public water service:

- Route 23 Waterline Extension— make service available to 129 residential and small commercial customers in Morgansville, US Route 50, Wiseman Run, WV Route 23, Lynn Camp Road, Big Run, and surrounding areas.
- Oxford Extension— make service available to approximately 44 residential and small commercial customers in Cabin Run, Gray Hollow, Clevenger Hollow, Oxford, South Fork, Sugar Run, and surrounding areas.
- Snowbird Road/Rt.18— make service available to approximately 115 residential and small commercial customers in communities of Blandville, SugarCamp, Toms Fork, Bluestone Creek, Meathouse Fork, and surround areas

Applications for funding have been submitted for the Route 23 and Snowbird Road project areas.

All of the water would be provided from entities in adjacent counties that have excess water producing capacity available.

Public sewer is only available in West Union, Smithburg, and at the North Central Regional Jail. The lack of sewer service is not only an economic development concern, but a health concern due to failing septic systems.

In regards to transportation, the county is fortunate to have access to a major US Highway; US Route 50. However, the majority of the county is served with rural roads. There is no public transportation. There is no also port, airport, river, or active railroad within county limits. Intermodal transportation is non-existent.

Sidewalks are a concern of residents in West Union. The town has recently applied for grant funding to fix and replace sidewalks throughout town.

Lack of 3 phase electric is also a concern. High priority areas for 3 phase is the US Route 50 Corridor.



Goal 5: Encourage and promote local leadership and community engagement

A real concern of Planning Commission members is the lack of civic engagement, which led to the development of goal five. Members would like to encourage residents to become more involved in local government and work in the collective best interest of all county residents. There is a concern that many residents are resistant to change and are against new ideas or plans in the county. There is a need to build leadership skills and encourage interaction between all residents to install civic pride and cooperation.

Currently there is no county website or Facebook page that disseminates information on county matters. There is no online presence for the town either. An online presence would be beneficial to stop the spread of untruths and rumors. Another idea is to hold forums with all community groups. This will allow all groups to share ideas and partner together on projects.

It would also be beneficial to have the youth more involved in local government functions. A youth commission could be formed that advises the county commission, town council, and planning commission on matters that are of interest to youth throughout the county.

The county also has a difficult time finding people to volunteer to serve leadership roles in various boards and committees. The same people are usually involved throughout the county. The county would like to provide leadership training to those that wish to volunteer but are not sure how they can get involved.



Doddridge County Comprehensive Plan

Chapter 3: Land Use

Existing Land Use

As shown on the *Existing Land Use Map*, most of Doddridge County is classified as either rural or agriculture. Rural lands are those lands that are either open space or wooded areas. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, in 2012 there were 352 farms in Doddridge County comprising a total of 65,364 acres. The market value of agricultural products sold is low, and many farms are operating at a loss. Over half of the farmers have a second job. Over 75 percent of farms grow hay, and 50 percent have beef cattle.

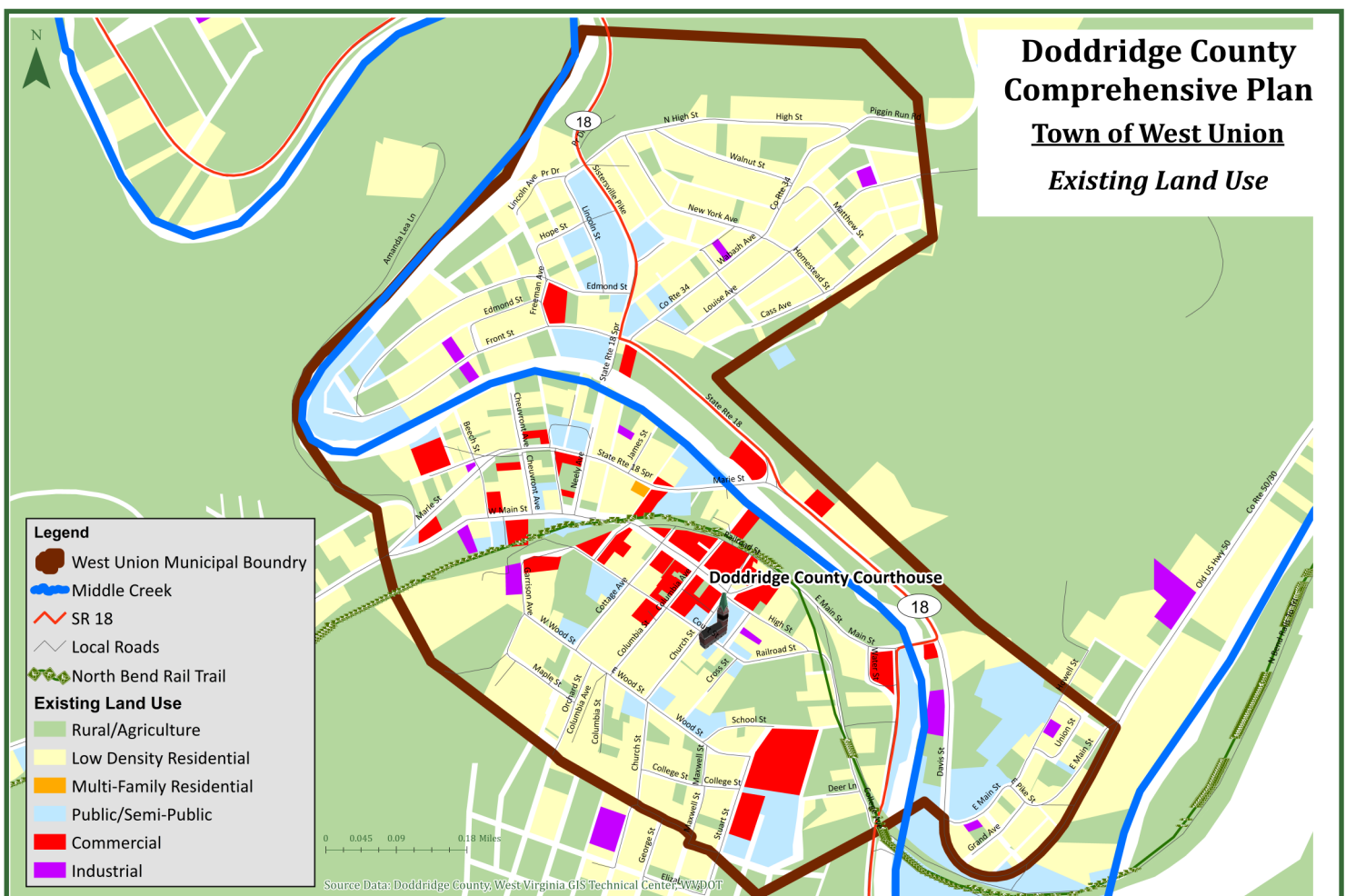
The majority of residential development is located in West Union and the small unincorporated villages in the county. Villages in the county include Center Point, New Milton, Smithburg, and Ashely.

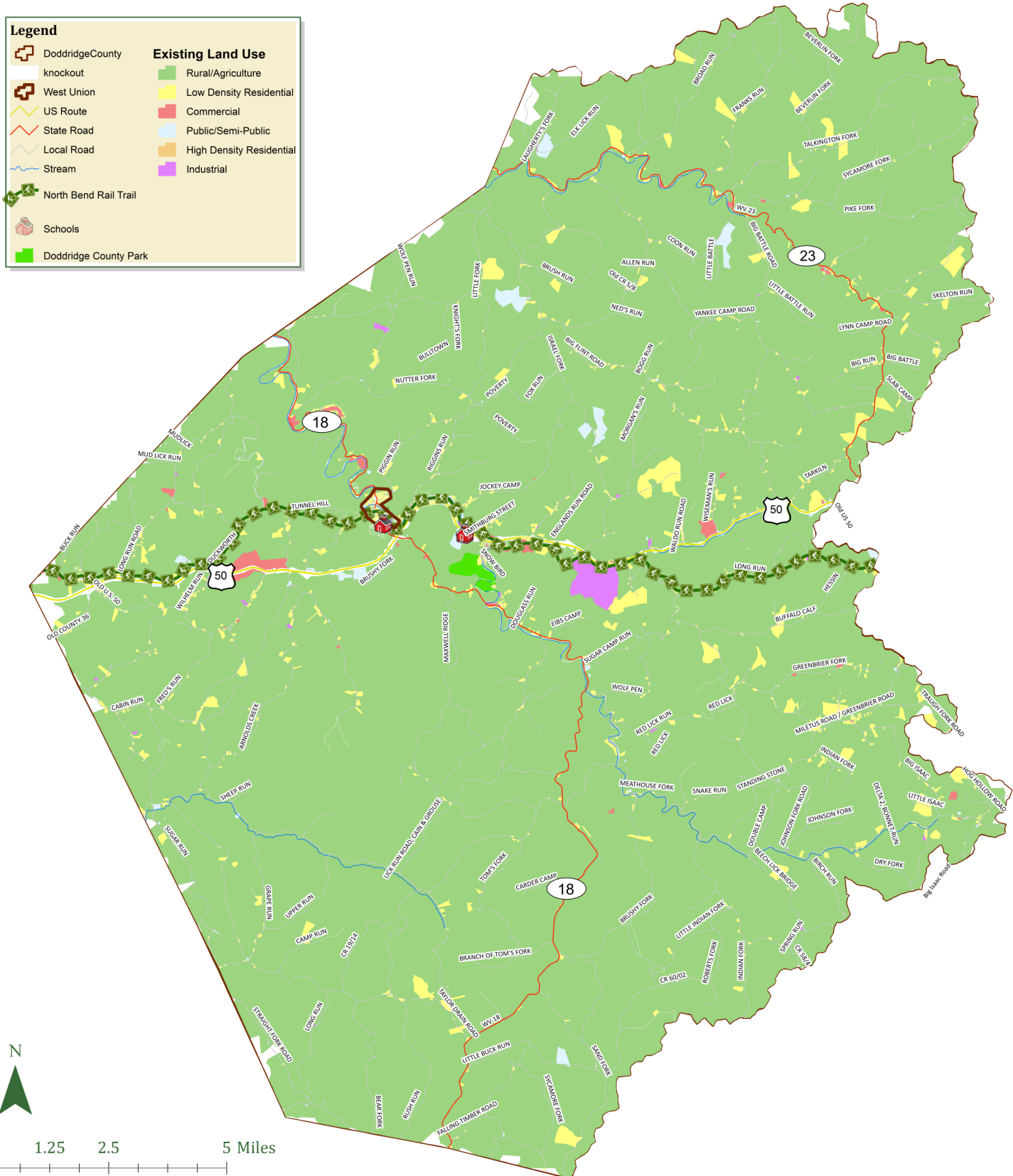
Industrial uses include the Mark West Natural Gas Processing Plant, located on US Route 50.

Commercial uses include a pipe yard and small businesses.

Public uses include all county and municipal buildings, churches, cemeteries, and schools.

As shown on the *West Union Existing Land Use Map* below, West Union is the most urbanized area in the county. Main Street has several small commercial businesses. As West Union is the county seat there are several government buildings as well.





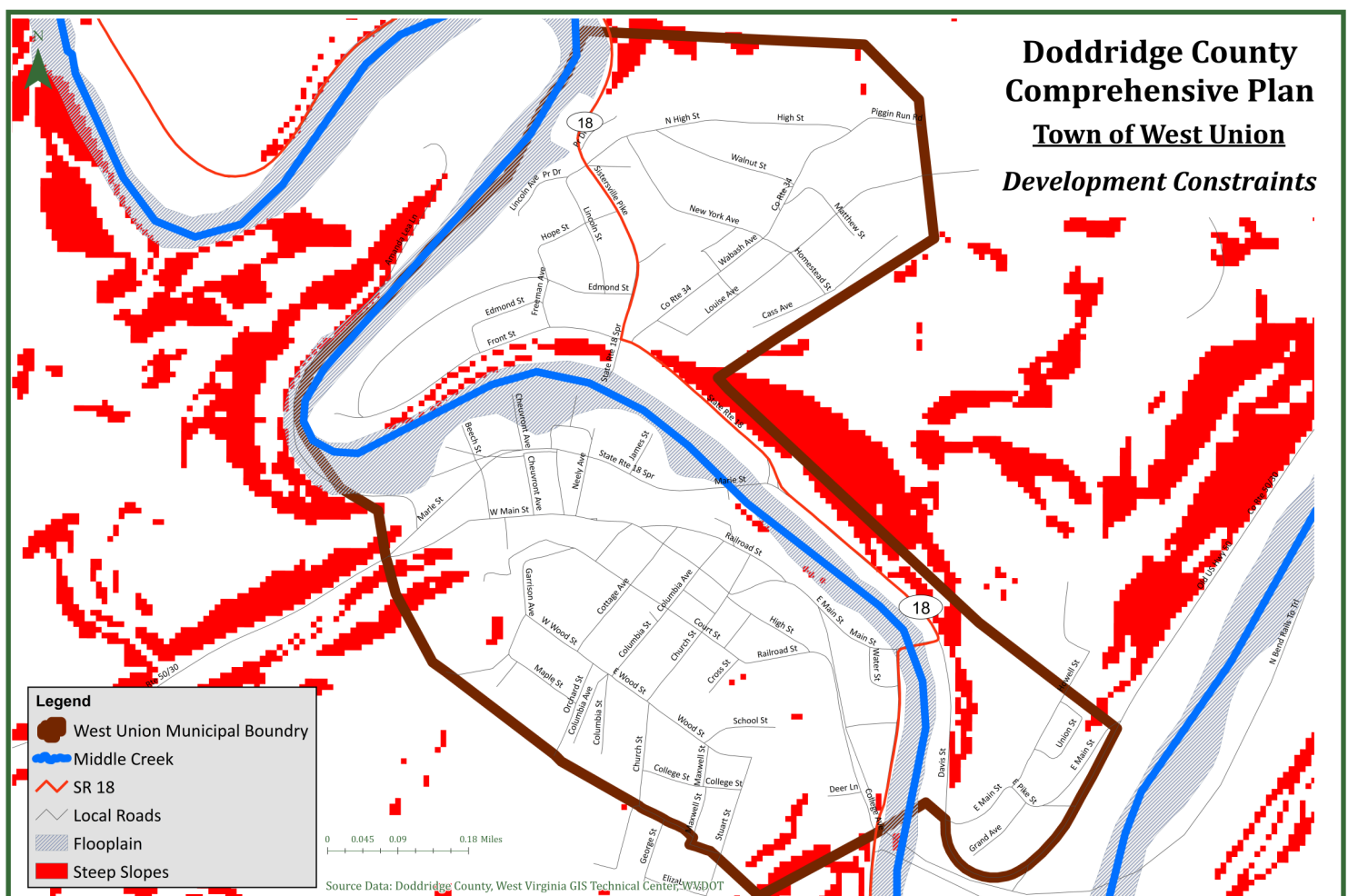
Source Data: Doddridge County, West Virginia GIS Technical Center, WVDOT

Development Constraints

Development constraints in Doddridge County consist of steep slopes and floodplains. As shown on the *Development Constraints Map*, a good portion of the county has steep slopes that make development difficult. The presence of floodplains is also a concern. In 2011, the county enacted a floodplain ordinance that is enforced by the Office of Emergency Management. The county also enforces the ordinance for the Town of West Union.

West Union also has steep slopes as the town was built on a hill. Middle Creek flows right through the center of the town; therefore, many structures are located in the floodplain.










The county and West Union have flooded throughout the years. Route 18 near US Route 50 in West Union routinely shuts down due to flooding. The worst flood occurred in 1950 when 22 people in Smithburg died, and 350 residents of the county lost their homes. The storm dropped 7.5 inches of rain in a matter of hours. A concern of residents is the need to clean the banks of all major streams to help with flood prevention.

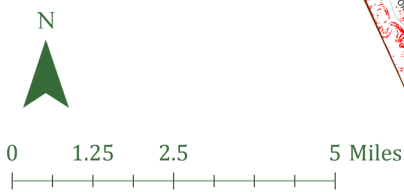
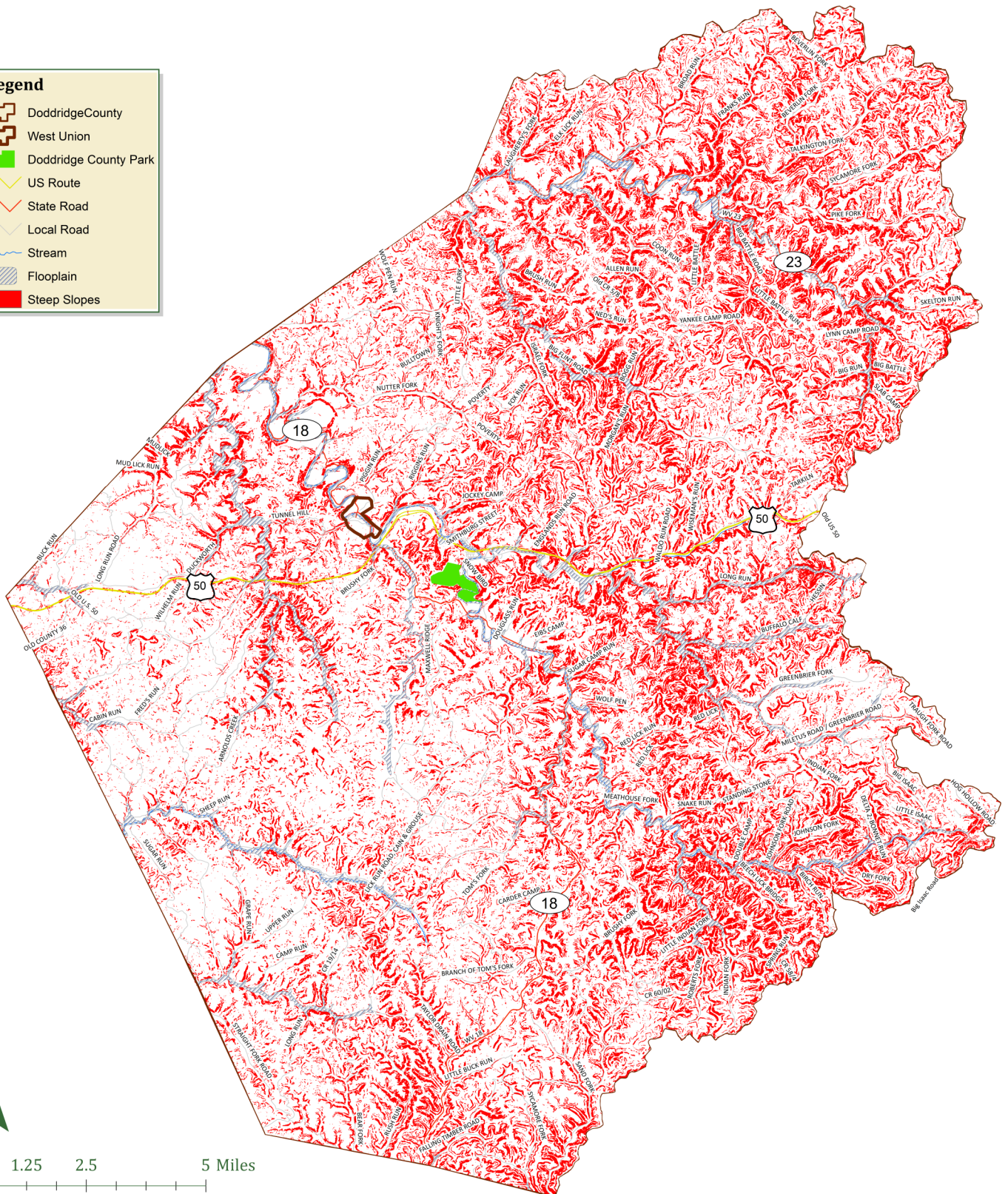


Doddridge County Comprehensive Plan

Development Constraints Map

Legend

-  Doddridge County
-  West Union
-  Doddridge County Park
-  US Route
-  State Road
-  Local Road
-  Stream
-  Floodplain
-  Steep Slopes



Source Data: Doddridge County, West Virginia GIS Technical Center, WVDOT

Environmental Concerns



One of the biggest assets of the county is its natural beauty. Doddridge County is known for its forests and agricultural land, as well as its natural resources. According to the 2017 Gas Facts publication, produced annually by West Virginia Oil and Natural Gas Association Doddridge County was the number one producer of gas in 2015 in West Virginia. The county was also number six in oil production in the state in 2015. The county was number one in severance tax in 2015 with over 2 million dollars collected and second in property tax revenue with over 20 million collected.

Many residents are worried about gas and oil drilling causing pollution, leaks, and accidents. Other impacts of drilling that are a concern to residents are increased truck traffic, which impacts local roads, high rents, and increased number of RV camps. There are several compressor stations and gas transmission pipelines located within the county that are also a concern. The *Oil and Gas Wells Map* shows active horizontal gas wells.

Two interstate pipeline projects are also in the works:

- Mountain Valley Pipeline Project– will travel through a small portion of eastern Doddridge County south of Route 50 near Meathouse Fork Road. Pipeline construction is estimated to begin in the forth quarter of 2017.
- Rover Pipeline Project– begins in Doddridge County near Big Flint Hill and travels north. Pipeline construction is expected to begin in 2017.

The Doddridge County Watershed Association is working to educate on and protect the surface and groundwater resources in the county. The Association has hosted speakers and held public meetings, trained volunteers to monitor stream water quality, and held annual creek cleanups. They also report gas industry violations to DEP and assist other residents in doing the same.

Another concern is the lack of septic systems. Sewage is being dumped straight into the creeks.

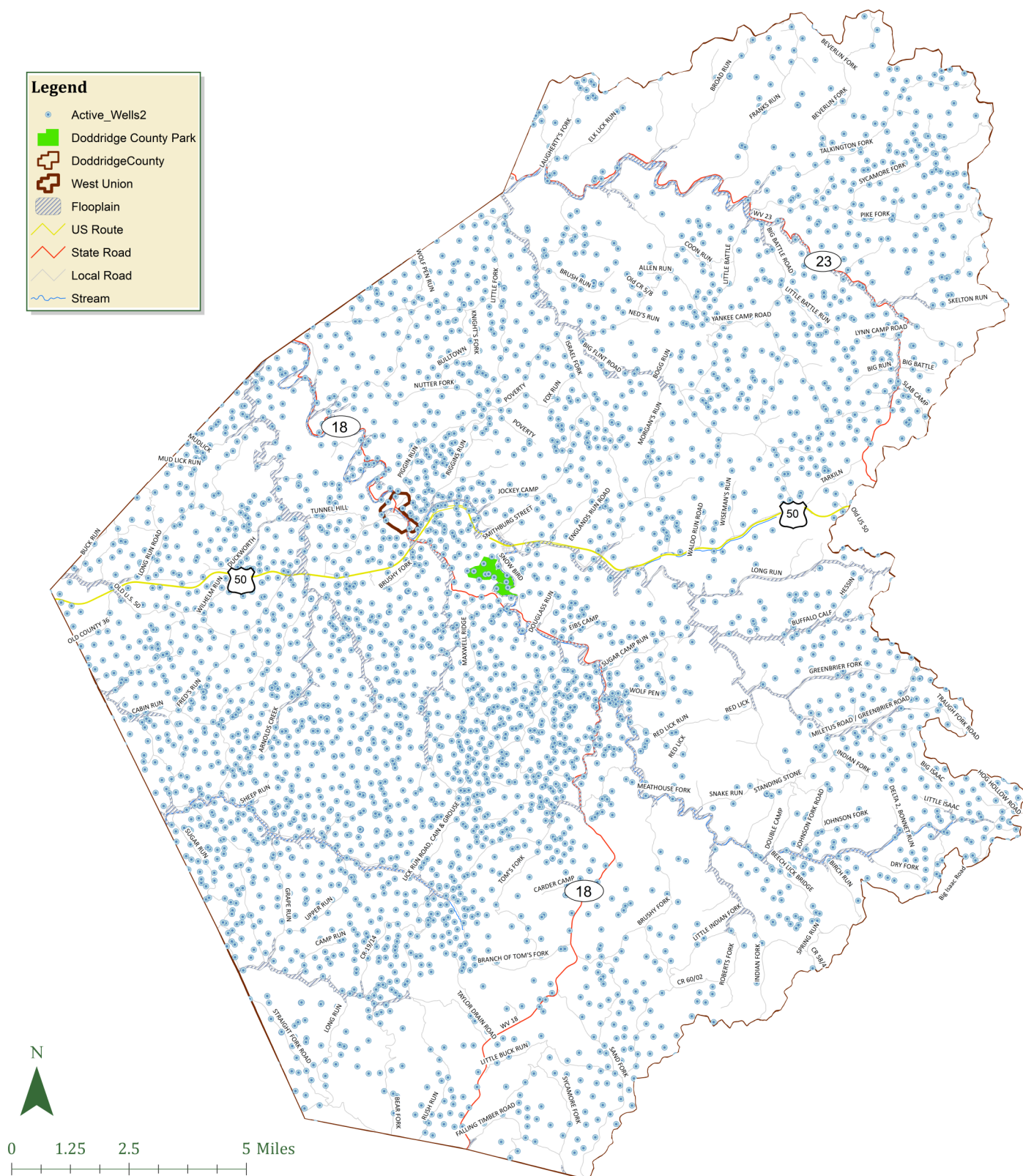
There is also a lack of recycling in the county.

Doddridge County Comprehensive Plan

Oil and Gas Wells Map

Legend

- Active_Wells2
- Doddridge County Park
- DoddridgeCounty
- West Union
- ▨ Flooplain
- US Route
- State Road
- Local Road
- Stream



Source Data: WV DEP, Doddridge County, West Virginia GIS Technical Center, WVDOT

Historic Resources



Doddridge County is home to many historic resources. There are seven resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places:

- Center Point Covered Bridge
- Krenn School
- Gamsjager-Wysong Farm
- Doddridge County Courthouse (West Union)
- Lathrop Russell Charter House (West Union)
- Silas P. Smith Opera House (West Union)
- W. Scott Stuart House (West Union)

The Town of West Union is also listed as a downtown historic district.

The Doddridge County Historical Society locates, preserves, protects, and promotes the history of the county. The society owns and operates the following historic resources:

- Smithton Depot
- Center Point Covered Bridge
- Krenn School
- Hickory Ridge Log School
- Doddridge County Museum
- Columbian Hotel

The historical society is working on several projects throughout the county. The society would like to preserve West Union Town Hall, the Old West Union Bank, and the Silas P Smith Opera.

The underutilization of the rich heritage in the county, as well as the lack of preservation and protection for the County's assets, is a concern of the society's.

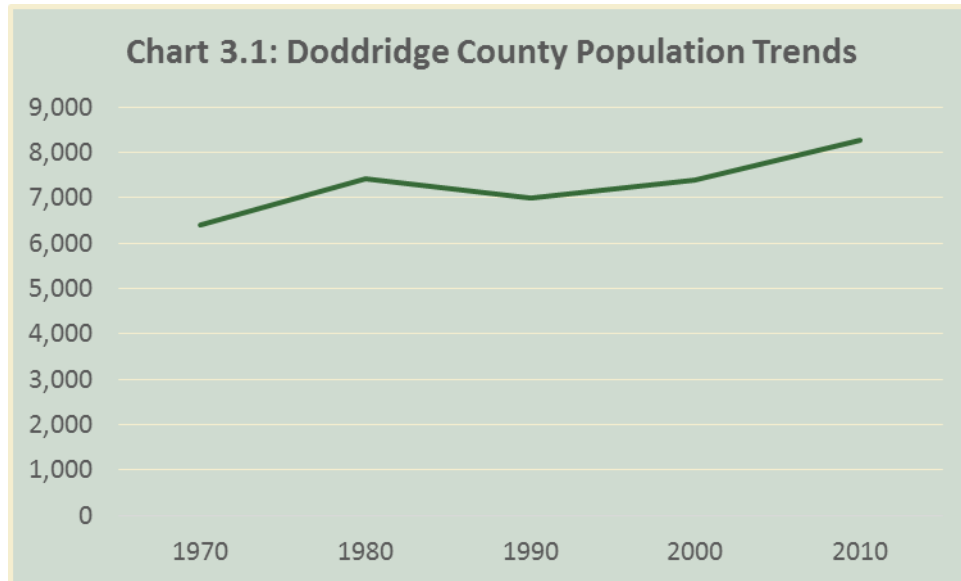


Smithton Depot (Source: Doddridge County Historical Society)

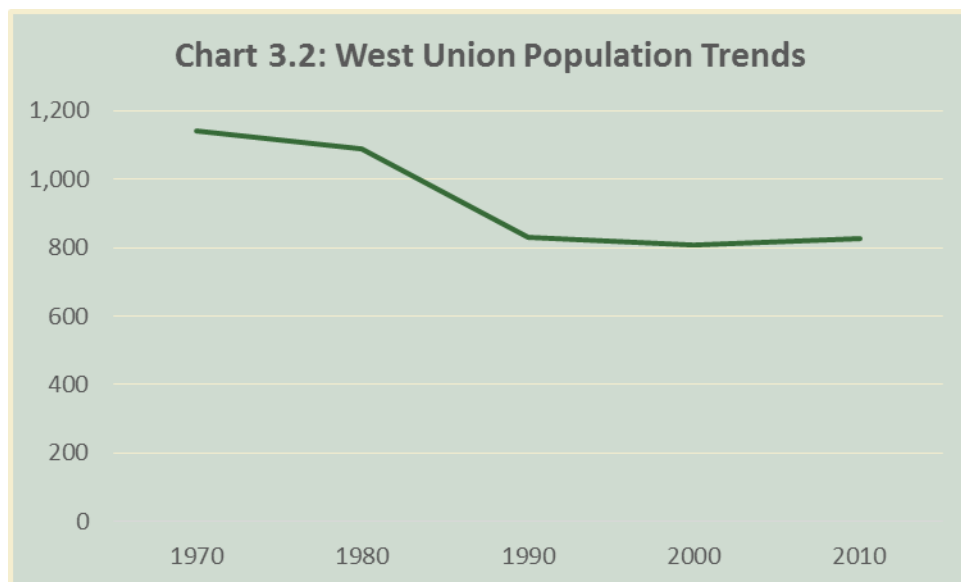
Population



Doddridge County is one of the most sparsely populated counties in West Virginia. As such, population density and building intensity is quite low. However, there has been an increase in population in the past 20 years as shown on *Chart 3.1: Doddridge County Population Trends*.



The opposite is true for West Union, as illustrated on *Chart 3.2 West Union Population Trends*. West Union's population dropped dramatically from 1970 to 1990 and has since leveled out.



The median age is 43.4 years in Doddridge County and is 32.3 in West Union.

The West Virginia Code, Chapter 8A, requires that population projections be included in comprehensive plans. However, population projections are difficult to estimate, as models do not take into account economic circumstances. In 2011, the WVU College of Business and Economics completed county population projections. It is projected that Doddridge County will experience a loss of population of approximately 17 percent by 2030. There are no projections for West Union. Past population numbers illustrate the following population growth rates for Doddridge County over the past 40 years:

- 1970-1980-14% gain in population
- 1980-1990- 6% loss in population
- 1990-2000- 5.5% gain in population
- 2000-2010- 11.9% gain in population

Total population growth from 1970-2010- 22.9%

Average population gain per year- 0.6%

Over the years, Doddridge County has continued to attract residents, excluding the period from 1980 to 1990. Therefore, considering the average population gain per year, Doddridge County is likely to continue experiencing growth. In the next 15 years, the population of the county could be approximately 8,994 people, which would be an increase of 712 people from 2010.

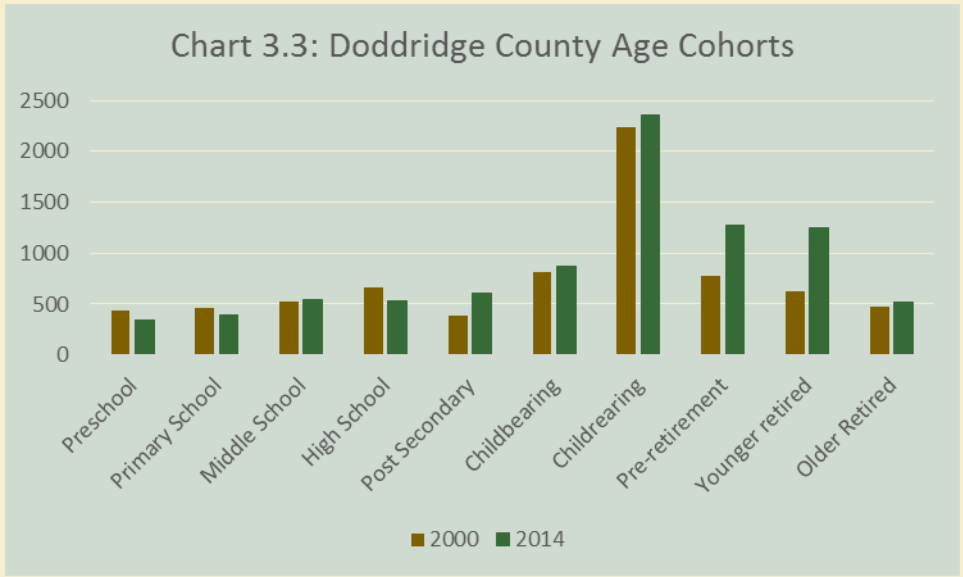
West Union has lost population over the past 40 years, with the biggest loss occurring from 1980-1990. There was a slight gain in population from 2000 to 2010. However, taking into account the average population loss per year of 1 percent, West Union will most likely continue to lose residents. In the next 15 years, the population of the town could be approximately 709 residents, a loss of 116 people from 2010.

- 1970-1980-5% loss in population
- 1980-1990- 31% loss in population
- 1990-2000- 3% loss in population
- 2000-2010- 2% gain in population

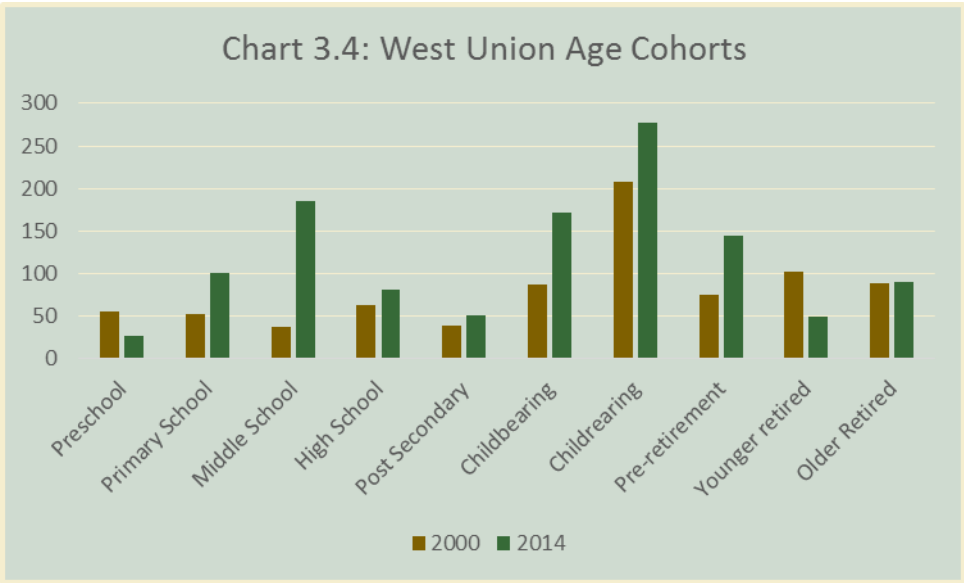
Total population loss from 1970-2010- 38%

Average population loss per year- 1.0%

The age composition of residents in the county is also important to examine, as different age cohorts require different types of services. School age residents will require school facilities, recreation facilities, and youth activities. An older population may need access to health care facilities and public transportation. The type of housing that different age cohorts desire also varies. Younger people with families may want larger single family homes, whereas older residents may wish to downsize to a smaller home or a multi-family unit without maintenance. Age cohorts from 2000 to 2014 were examined to determine trends in the county. *Chart 3.3: Doddridge County Age Cohorts* illustrates that Doddridge County’s population is getting older, with an increase in the pre-retirement, younger retired, and older retired age cohorts from 2000 to 2014. There has also been an increase in the post secondary, childbearing, and childrearing age cohorts. These age cohorts typically comprise the workforce of a community and therefore tend to spend more money than those in the older age cohorts. Population losses in the preschool, primary school, and high school cohorts are a concern, as young children are an integral part of any community. There have also been big changes in pre-retirement and younger retired age cohorts.



West Union gained population from 2000 to 2010, illustrated on *Chart 3.4: West Union Age Cohorts*. It appears that all age cohorts, excluding preschool and younger retired, experienced population gain. This is encouraging, as it appears that the town is attracting younger residents with families.

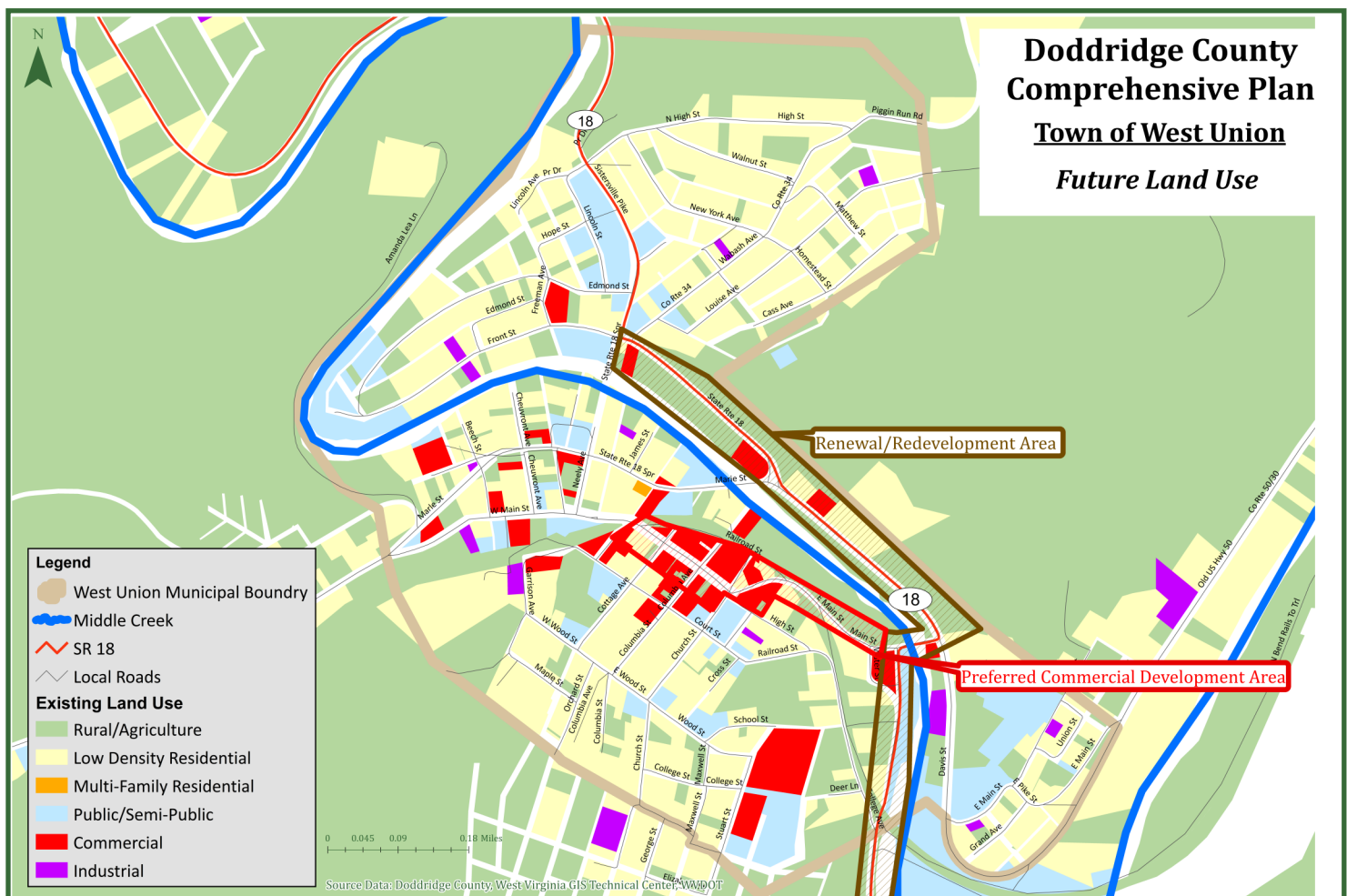


Future Land Use

Doddridge County is not expected to experience large population growth. Therefore, much of the county will stay the same over the next 15-20 years. However, the county desires additional growth to support the tax base as shown on the *Future Land Use Map*. The county would like to see this growth directed to the US Route 50 and State Route 18 South corridors. Renewal and/or redevelopment areas include Central Station, Smithburg, and Greenwood. There is also a potential development opportunity where the existing high school stadium is located. The Doddridge County Board of Education is in the process of building an athletic complex adjacent to the current high school. Once that is completed, the land where the current stadium sits could also be available for development.

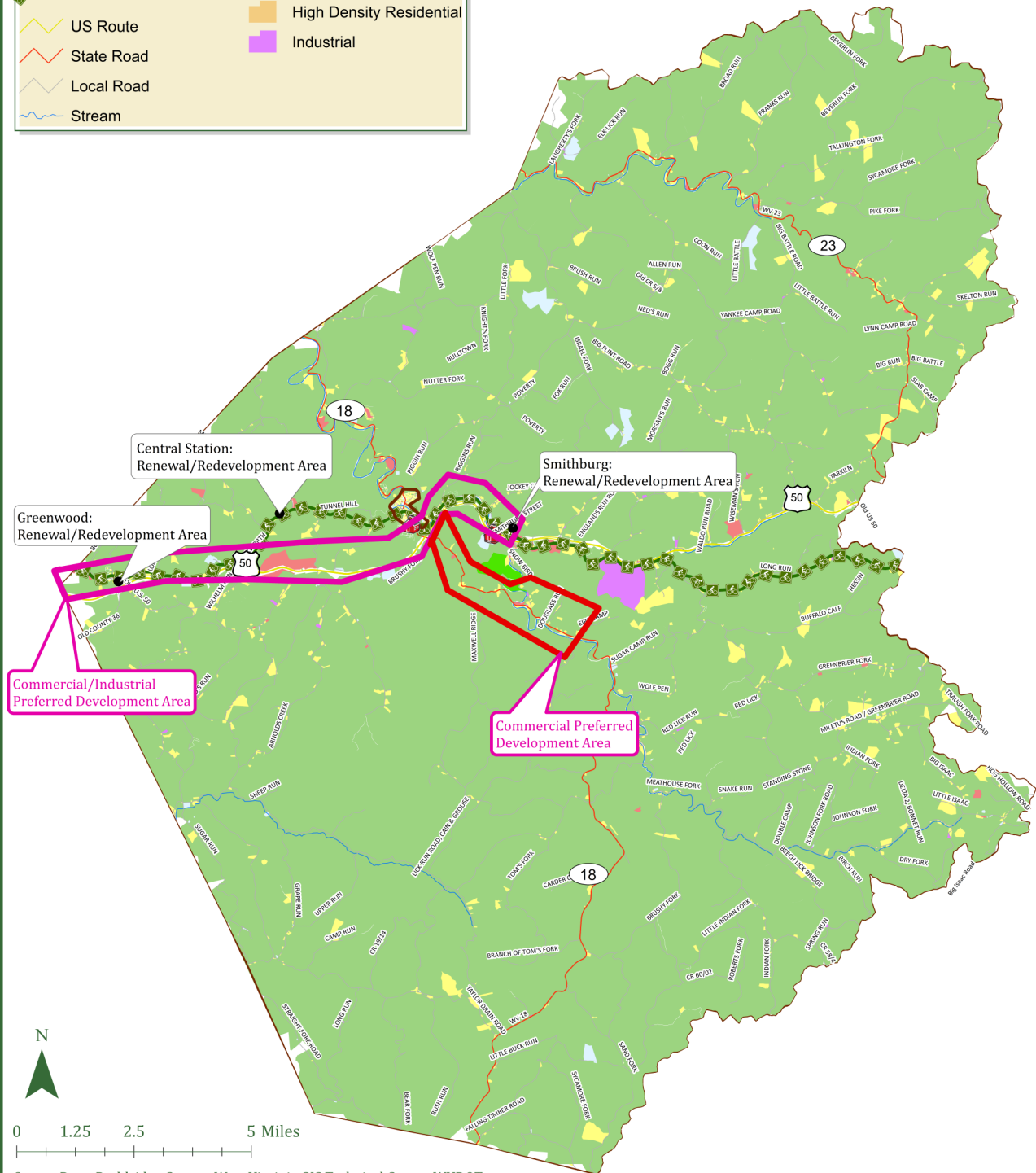
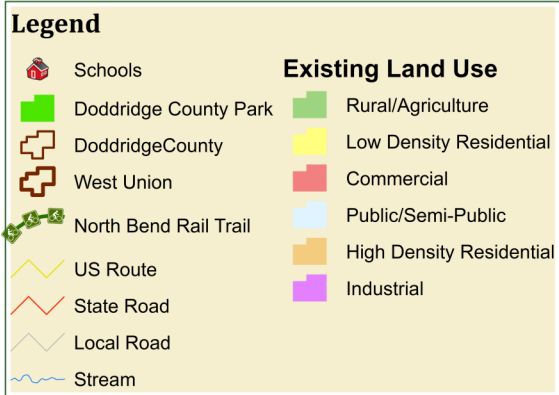
The *Town of West Union Future Land Use Map* illustrates how the town wants to develop in the future. The town wishes to see new businesses in vacant buildings on Main Street. Main Street and State Route 18 were identified as renewal and redevelopment areas due to vacant or dilapidated and abandoned buildings.

There is a need for new residential development in the county. Areas along Route 23 could potentially support new housing.



Doddridge County Comprehensive Plan

Future Land Use Map



Source Data: Doddridge County, West Virginia GIS Technical Center, WVDOT



Doddridge County Comprehensive Plan

Chapter 4: Action Plan

Doddridge County should use this comprehensive plan when preparing budgets and planning for future projects. Community groups and other non-profit organizations should use the plan to develop projects identified as priorities by the community. The plan reflects issues and concerns in the county; it truly is a “wish list” of the community. This plan should not sit on a shelf and collect dust but should be used by the county to implement projects. Any time the county or town submits a grant application, the comprehensive plan should be referenced. Government agencies and other grant managers like to receive grant applications from communities that have participated in a planning process and have identified high priority projects. Grant managers are less likely to award grants to communities that have not participated in a planning process.

It is also important for the county and town to consider intergovernmental cooperation while implementing the comprehensive plan. The county and town already have a good working relationship and have partnered to develop this plan. Communities do not exist in a vacuum, and, as such, they should engage in planning with surrounding jurisdictions as much as possible. The county and town should continue their working relationship and establish or continue relationships with other local governments, state agencies, and organizations. Other communities can provide key insight on how they have implemented their planning projects. The county and town should work with Region VI Planning and Development Council to implement and fund projects detailed in the plan.

Many of the projects listed in the implementation matrix will be too costly for the county and town to achieve with their budgets. Therefore, other funding sources should be considered when budgeting for implementation. A list of funding opportunities is included in Appendix 4.

The implementation matrix is part of the Action Plan and details the priorities, potential partners, estimate of probable costs, and potential funding sources. The implementation matrix was developed for the Planning Commission so that they can begin implementation of the plan immediately after adoption. The Planning Commission must review the plan annually to determine the status of each project and discuss any obstacles they are encountering.

Priorities must be established due to funding restraints. While communities would like to implement as many projects as possible, typically only a few projects can be implemented at one time due to funding and staff capacity. Therefore, action steps are identified as either immediate, moderate or long term. Immediate priorities are those that were identified by the public and local elected officials as most important.

Potential partners are those that can assist with the plan’s implementation. In order to determine project status, the planning commission should hold a meeting with all community groups, as well as all local elected officials, to kick-start implementation of the plan and get everyone on the same page. Probable costs, as well as funding sources, are also listed in the implementation matrix. This is not a complete list of funding sources but does list common grant sources for communities to consider. Probable costs are only estimates, as project expenses vary in relationship to a community’s needs.

Goal 1: Improve community services to meet the needs of residents and business owners

Action Step 1: Ensure that communication networks meet the needs of emergency service providers

The Doddridge County Office of Emergency Management (DCOEM) recently added an additional communication tower in the northern portion of the county to improve communications capability. Another tower is now needed in the southern portion of the county.

The DCOEM would also like to purchase the State Interoperable Radio Network equipment to improve communication, not only in the county but throughout the state. However, the equipment is very expensive and, at this time, the county can not afford the additional expense.

The West Virginia Statewide Interoperable Radio Network (SIRN) is a collaborative effort by state, county, and municipal public safety entities to establish and maintain a state-wide interoperable radio network. (West Virginia Statewide Interoperable Radio Network, 2016).

Objectives:

- Provide for the safety of all residents, business owners, and travelers
- Encourage educational opportunities
- Provide high quality health care services
- Maintain existing parks and recreational facilities
- Develop new parks and recreational facilities

Action Step 2: Develop debris removal plans in the event of a natural disaster

Debris removal plans are important after a flooding event or natural disaster. In the case of flooding, streams and creeks can be filled with hazardous debris. The debris can cause issues with erosion of stream banks, additional flooding, and harm to roadways. The safe removal of this debris puts huge demands on the government and necessitates an effective, coordinated effort (PEMA, 2016). Plans should include the following information:

- Events or assumptions
- Debris collection and removal
- Temporary Debris Management Sites and Disposal Locations
- Debris Removal on Private Property
- Use and Procurement of Contracted Services
- Use of Force Account Labor
- Monitoring of Debris Operations
- Health and Safety Requirements
- Environmental Considerations and Other Regulatory Requirements
- Public Information
- Identification of Debris Removal Contractors

The Doddridge County Office of Emergency Management recognizes that debris removal plans are lacking but will be addressing this topic with community leaders due to recent flooding in the state.

Action Step 3: Determine locations for emergency shelters in less populated areas of the county

There are currently 18 shelters in the county. However, there is still a need for additional shelters in the following areas:

- Route 23 area
- St Clara area
- Eastern portion of the county
- Meathouse Fork Area

Action Step 4: Continue to support local volunteer fire departments

The Smithburg Volunteer Fire Department serves 100 square miles with 14 total volunteer fireman. In 2015, the department responded to 264 calls. Two concerns of the department are the lack of fire hydrants and the need for additional volunteers. There will also be a future need to replace fire engines. The West Union Fire Department consists of 20 active volunteers that responded to 200 emergency calls in 2015. Priorities of the department include replacing the 1986 pumper truck, recruiting additional members, offering additional training, and installing additional fire hydrants.

There is also a need for a county-wide fire training academy held in the county. Many of the volunteer fire departments in Doddridge County would like to have additional training. The county commissioners should consider funding and/or supporting a training weekend for all departments in the county. By combining trainings, cost savings should be realized.

Mineral County Emergency Services Weekend

- The Mineral County Firefighter Association, Mineral County Ambulance Authority, and Mineral County Sheriff Department partnered together to provide emergency service training.
- The training was provided by Capitol Fire Training, LLC, RESA 8, and WVU Fire Service Extension.
- The training consisted of classes on advanced structural firefighting, aircraft rescue firefighting, functions in the incident command system, management and administration for company officers, engine company operations, EVOC, truck company operations, tactical emergency casualty care, WV mass casualty incident, death in the field scene management, and hazardous materials awareness.

Action Step 5: Determine the feasibility of a new upgraded fire station

The Smithburg Volunteer Fire Department is in need of a new fire station to meet the needs of the growing oil and gas industry in the county. The Smithburg VFD serves 100 square miles of the county and also responds to the majority of emergency calls due to a shortage of responders in other areas of the county. The current fire station does not adequately house the equipment needed. The hazmat supply trailer is kept outside due to a lack of room. The station lacks a training facility and meeting rooms. Classes are currently held in the engine bay and trucks have to be moved outside to accommodate classes. The fire station is currently utilized as an emergency shelter, however the station lacks adequate cooking, bathroom and shower facilities.

One of the biggest concerns of the current facility is that the station is built on an area that was used as fill. Due to excessive amounts of rainfall it has been noted that the station is slowly separating where an addition was built and may be in danger of falling over the hill.

Constructing a new fire station will meet the needs of the county for many years in the future. The new facility would have a kitchen and eating area and house fire crews 24 hours, 365 days a year if there is ever a need for a full time paid fire department. The new station could also be used by the Doddridge County Ambulance Authority (DCAA), which is also in need of a new facility. A meeting room/emergency operations center would also be incorporated into the design of a new station. The station could also be used as Public Safety Office Complex housing the DCAA administration and Emergency Management office freeing up much need space in the current court house.

Action Step 6: Purchase property for a fire department maintenance facility or training center

The Doddridge County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has been working with the West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (WVDHSEM) as well as the West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) and the Greenwood VFD of Doddridge County to try and secure an old State Road property located next to the Greenwood VFD. The purpose would be two fold, one to use the property as a maintenance facility for the fire departments and two as a training center for not only the first responders in Doddridge but Ritchie County and any others who may need it. The Doddridge County OEM would benefit greatly from some help and support from the county commission and state representatives in securing the property.

Action Step 7: Encourage maintenance of existing water hydrants and installation of new water hydrants in high need areas

The County Fireman's Association should work with all fire departments to determine the areas that are in high need for installation of water hydrants. These areas should be mapped and shared with the County Commission and public water suppliers. The use of dry hydrants should also be explored.

Ongoing maintenance of existing water hydrants is also important. The Town of West Union keeps in stock at least one new hydrant for emergency repairs. During the summer of 2016 all fire hydrants within city limits were tested for pressure and flow. The hydrants were also painted and hydrant caps had anti-size applied to assist in ease of removal by the Fire Department. There is one section of town that has low flow issues and the town is in the early stages of working on a complete water line replacement.



*Rockville Volunteer Fire Department Association
(<http://rockvillefireassoc.blogspot.com/2012/08/dry-hydrant-testing.html>)*

In order to continue the maintenance of fire hydrants the town has undertaken, a schedule should be developed by the Town of West Union Water Department to ensure that maintenance is occurring annually in the future. The fire department should also be included in inspections to determine if there are any obstructions to the hydrants that would affect the ability to respond to an emergency.

Action Step 8: Determine the feasibility of purchasing and/or building a new station for the Doddridge County Ambulance Authority

The current station for the Doddridge County Ambulance Authority is small and may become insufficient if the authority continues to grow. There is a need for a bigger facility for employees and equipment. Therefore, it would be prudent of the authority to begin planning for the expansion of the current facility or finding a location within the county to build a bigger facility.

Action Step 9: Consider the development of a substation for the Doddridge County Ambulance Authority to improve response time in rural areas of the county

As there is only one station in the county, calls in the outlying areas of the county have a longer response time. There is a need for a substation to improve response time. The location of the substation would depend on the percentage of calls in the county. There has been some discussion of leaving an ambulance in one of the volunteer fire stations; however, there are certain criteria that have to be met in order for that to occur. Currently none of the volunteer fire stations meet that criteria.

Action Step 10: Explore the option of an EMS rescue service

The rural nature of Doddridge County makes it difficult to fully staff local fire departments. The fire departments in the county are volunteer based, and many of the volunteers work full-time jobs during the day. Additionally, many firemen don't work in the county, making it difficult to respond to incidents while they are at work. This often leaves some departments without members to respond to calls.

An EMS rescue service would allow paramedics to use equipment that firefighters normally use, such as vehicle extraction devices. Paramedics would have to be trained in vehicle and technical rescues.

Action Step 11: Work with the state and other officials to develop and institute a community paramedicine program/role

Doddridge County is interested in developing a community paramedicine program, which would allow paramedics to provide primary care services to residents. This is important, as the county is rural in nature; depending on where a resident lives, the distance to a local doctor or hospital can be far to travel, especially for the elderly.

Action Step 12: Investigate the feasibility of attracting an urgent care facility

The Ritchie Regional Health Center has recently opened a new facility in Doddridge County. The facility is open Monday-Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM for medical appointments. For dental appointments, the facility is open on Mondays from 1 PM to 3 PM and Thursday from 8 PM to 7 PM. Ritchie Regional Health Center also continues to operate a facility for Doddridge County school students and school district employees, located near the high school. That facility is open Monday, Tuesday, and Friday from 7:30 PM to 4 PM.

Doddridge Family Medicine is open Monday-Friday. Hours of operation are as follows:

- Monday– 7:30AM to 5:00PM
- Tuesday and Thursday– 8:00AM to 5:00PM
- Wednesday– 7:30AM to 3:00PM
- Friday– 8:00AM to 12:00PM

While two different health care facilities provide primary care to residents of the county, the county lacks an urgent care facility. An urgent care facility is defined as a facility that does not require appointments and is open in the evening and on weekends. These types of facilities can typically treat illness and injuries, such as colds, flu, and fractures. The facilities also offer typical wellness and preventive care.

The county commission should initiate conversations with Ritchie Regional Health Center and Doddridge Family Medicine to explore the possibility of offering evening and weekend hours at existing facilities. Expanding hours of operation would provide a much needed service to residents of the county.

Action Step 13: Replace and/or repair recreation facilities at the Doddridge County Park

Several needs have been identified at the Doddridge County Park. The County Park Commission should continue to work with the County Commission to budget improvements to the park and apply for grant funding to address the following needs:

- Basketball/Tennis Courts— poor surface areas
- Pool— aged and needs extensive upgrades
- Hiking is unmarked and trails need defined/surfaced
- Sleeping Quarters— needs upgrading
- Stage—needs upgraded to handle group electrical needs
- Lodge Kitchen— needs expanded for growing number of large groups
- Lodge Furnaces (5)—will need replaced in coming years; these range from 10 to 13 years old
- Sewer installation—existing septic tanks are insufficient for needs— unable to expand from current facilities to handle any expansion plans



Doddridge County Park

The Park Commission would also like to improve services offered at the county park by:

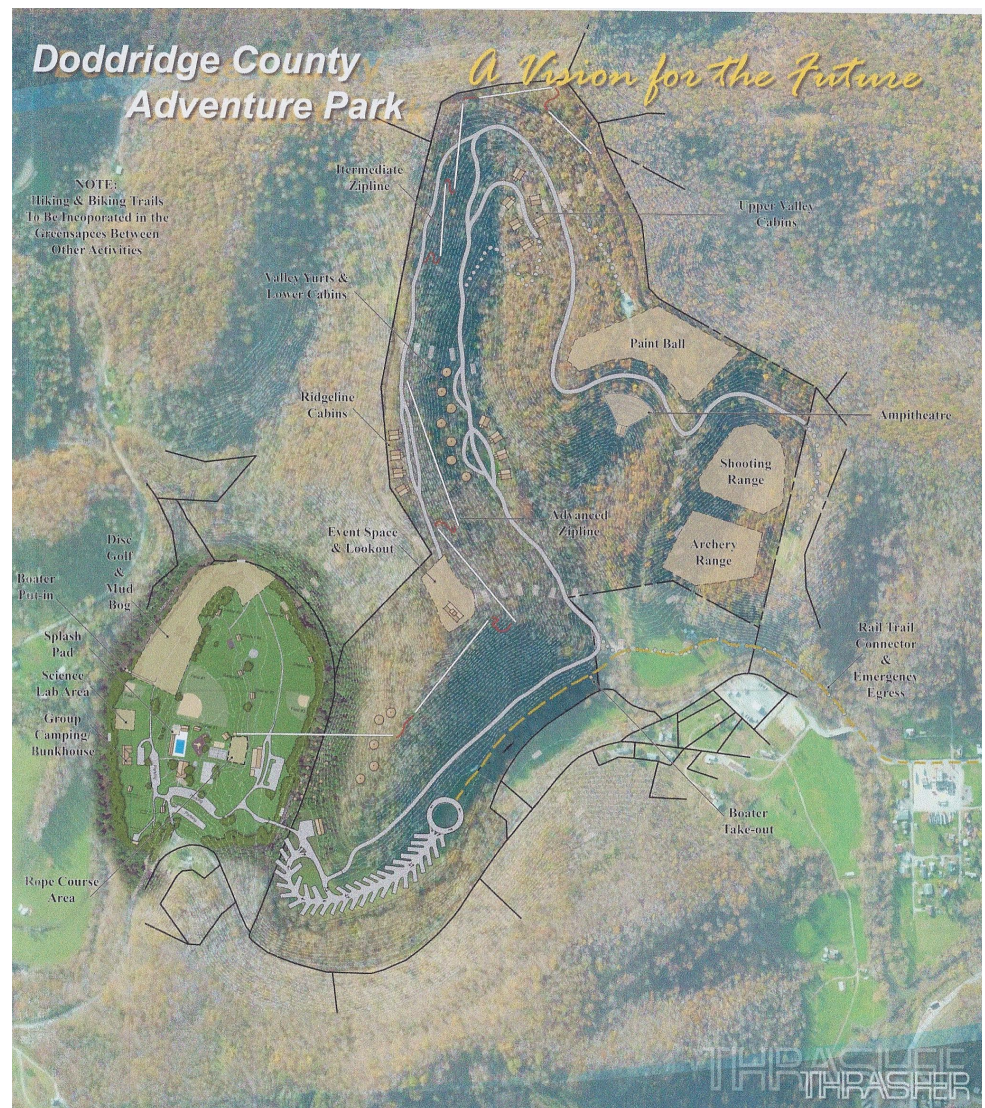
- Expanding food preparation for meetings/dinners and should be handled by Park Staff
- Creation of additional hiking and mountain biking trails
- Improved and increased sleeping quarters
- Splash park at pool
- Kitchen area in pavilion for use by guests
- Improved parking/roads to improve traffic flow
- Improved lighting throughout park
- Replace playground
- Install walks, plantings, and seating areas



Doddridge County Park

Action Step 14: Develop Doddridge County Park as an adventure park

The Doddridge County Parks and Recreation Commission has embarked on a major expansion and improvement plan after receiving a gift of land totaling 180 acres. A four-phase plan has been developed. The plan calls for an “Adventure Park” concept. Expansion ideas include cabins, RV Parking, primitive campsites, zip line, hiking, mountain biking, paintball, and an event center for weddings and meetings.



Master Site Plan for Doddridge County Park

Action Step 15: Improve Spencer Park

The County Park Commission should continue to work with the County Commission to budget improvements to the park, as well as apply for grant funding to make improvements to the shelter and basketball courts.

The county should also consider completing a master site plan to determine the best way to utilize the site, in regards to the proximity of the North Bend Rail Trail, development of camping sites, and river access.

Action Step 16: Work with the North Bend Rail Trail Foundation to determine locations in the county for directional signage and trailheads

There is a need for directional signage to the trail in Doddridge County. Signs are needed along Route 50 to direct users to parking and trailheads. More trailheads are also needed along the trail.



North Bend Rail Trail

Action Step 17: Improve the condition of the North Bend Rail Trail and picnic shelters

The North Bend Rail Foundation last year built 9 picnic tables along the trail in Doddridge County. However, the planning commission is concerned about the condition of existing picnic shelters. The county and foundation should work together to improve the shelters.

A million dollar grant was awarded to improve the condition of the trail in 2015. To date, the project has not started to improve the trail in Doddridge County. In 2016, the foundation was awarded another \$200,000 to repair gaps between improved areas after the million grant is used. The foundation also received another grant for two comfort stations in the county.

The County Commission should work with the Foundation to ensure the grant is used quickly and improvements are started in 2017 so that the full economic potential of the trail can be realized.



North Bend Rail Trail in West Union

Action Step 18: Improve West Union Park

The Town of West Union is in the early stages of working with a corporate partner for updates at the city park. The town itself, has earmarked approximately \$14,000 for this project. The timeline for completion is two to three years.

Plans for the park include improving the basketball courts, installing playground equipment, and improved access to the creek and the bike trail.

The town should continue to work with corporate partners, as well as apply for grant funding to improve the park.



Concept drawings for West Union Park

Action Step 19: Educate school-aged children on options in professional and technical fields after graduation

The Doddridge County Schools currently have two career days. Career days should continue and be improved in future years. This would help students become aware of the jobs and what is available in the immediate area. A job shadowing program would also be beneficial to students. The program would provide students with the opportunity to visit a business, non-profit, or government agency to learn first hand what employees experience day-to-day in their careers. Students will observe activities, ask prepared questions, and gain a better understanding of the tasks that employees and employers perform on a daily basis.

Action Step 20: Begin a drug prevention program in the county school district

The Doddridge County School District and the county and/or state police should partner to provide programs in the local high school for both students and parents affected by drugs. Similar programs are being held throughout the United States to help combat the increasing drug problem. These types of programs can include an educational component in which recovering drug addicts educate students on the dangers of drug use.

Westmoreland County Drug Prevention Program

- Several schools in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania participate in the Realty Tour
- The program uses scenes, testimonials, and education for both students and parents

For more information, please visit the following websites:

<http://www.co.westmoreland.pa.us/index.aspx?NID=1593>

<http://www.candleinc.org/index.php/reality-tour>

Goal 2: Strengthen housing conditions to attract and retain residents

Action Step 1: Attract new residential development into Doddridge County

In **Chapter 3: Land Use**, the county specifically identified areas along State Route 18 South and State Route 23 for residential development. The town identified several renewal/redevelopment areas in the downtown area that could potentially support new housing. The issue with the identified areas in the county is the lack of infrastructure to support new development. The challenge with the identified areas in West Union is the presence of abandoned and dilapidated buildings on lots that could support new development if the buildings were rehabilitated or torn down.

The county needs to prioritize infrastructure in preferred development areas. Without infrastructure, it will be hard to attract developers to the county to build new development. The town should focus its resources on the identified renewal/redevelopment areas.

Objectives

- Devise strategies to provide for new housing in the county
- Enact specific housing regulations to protect the character of the county and town

Action Step 2: Identify, research, and prioritize dilapidated buildings to be demolished

The county should develop a county-wide inventory of abandoned and dilapidated buildings in order to determine priority areas for demolition. Properties should be rated on their present condition, using a scale of A to F. Information should also be gathered on ownership, code violations, fire history, police calls, and tax status. This will give the county a better understanding of the vacancy problem and will help identify where resources are needed.

Action Step 3: Review ordinances related to dilapidated buildings

There are different options the county and town can take regarding abandoned and dilapidated buildings. The West Virginia Code Section 7-1-3ff allows counties to regulate unsafe and unsanitary structures. The West Virginia Code Section 8-12-16 allows municipalities to regulate the repair, closing or demolition of dwellings or buildings unfit for human habitation.

In order to enact these ordinances, municipalities must designate an enforcement agency. The county enforcement agency must include the county engineer, county health official (or designee), fire chief, county litter control officer, and two members elected by the county commission. The sheriff must also serve on the agency as an ex officio member. The municipal enforcement agency must consist of the mayor, municipal engineer or building inspector, and one at large member. The county health officer and fire chief must serve as ex officio members on a municipal enforcement agency.

If the county and/or town were to adopt the types of ordinances described, they may then place liens on the property to recoup any costs or to institute a civil action.

Action Step 4: Apply for funding to demolish dilapidated buildings

The West Virginia Property Rescue Initiative (PRI) is a program that provides loans to demolish and/or acquire residential structures that are a health and safety hazard. The county and town should consider an application to the program to help demolish abandoned and dilapidated buildings that have been identified as a priority for removal.

Action Step 5: Enact a vacant property registry ordinance in West Union

The town should try to prevent vacancies before they occur. One prevention method is the enactment of a vacant property registration ordinance that requires property owners to pay a yearly fee for their vacant property. The enactment of this ordinance may incentivize residents to either sell properties or tear them down, if needed, so that they don't have to pay the annual registration fee. Applying public pressure may also help with maintenance and upkeep of buildings throughout town.

Action Step 6: Consider the feasibility of adopting the International Property Maintenance Code in West Union

The Town of West Union is considering the adoption of the International Property Maintenance Code to establish minimum property maintenance standards.

Action Step 7: Discuss the feasibility of building low/moderate income housing with local developers or non-profit organizations

The county should continue to work with local developers and contractors to build low/moderate income housing, especially for senior citizens.

Goal 3: Identify and foster appropriate economic development opportunities

Action Step 1: Develop a website to market Doddridge County

The county has an outdated website that should either be updated or redone. The website should include all documents, ordinances, agendas, meeting minutes, and other important information to promote transparency in county government, as well as market the county to potential business and residents. Another option is the creation of a Facebook page. A Facebook page is a good tool to alert residents of emergencies and events, in addition to the posting of stories and photos.

The Doddridge County Economic Development Agency (EDA) has a website; however, when searching for Doddridge County in online search engines, the website is not the first displayed. The EDA needs to try to improve site placement on search engine results.

Objectives

- Increase marketing of the county to attract new residents and businesses

City of Elkins Facebook Page

- The City of Elkins has an official Facebook page to help inform residents of current events and issues within the City. The page is maintained by the clerk's office. Currently the page has over 2,600 likes.

Action Step 2: Market opportunities in Doddridge County

There are many opportunities for new industry in Doddridge County. Tourism could be a potential new market with the expansion of the Doddridge County Park. The history of the county and the North Bend Rail Trail are also opportunities to market to visitors. There is a need of an organization in the County to market all of the tourism opportunities and help with tourism development. The lack of a Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) hinders marketing in the county. However, there is no lodging to fund a CVB. The county should consider an organization to fill the role of a CVB.

The Northwestern West Virginia Heritage Byways is a four county initiative to increase tourism in Doddridge, Gilmer, Ritchie, and Tyler Counties. The information gathered from this initiative should be used in any marketing efforts in the county.

Industrial opportunities include timber and plastic manufacturing. The Doddridge County EDA should continue to explore these opportunities.

Goal 4: Address infrastructure needs to support existing and new development

Action Step 1: Extend water to identified high need areas

The county and town should work together to implement the 2015 Doddridge County Water Study. Grant funding applications should be submitted for the three identified high priority areas:

- Route 23 Waterline Extension
- Oxford Extension
- Snowbird Road/Route 18

The Town of West Union is also in need of upgrades to their water system. There are plans to do a water line replacement in the Blockhouse neighborhood. Future plans include maintenance to several water tanks and possibly replacing one tank, which will better supply the eastern portion of our system with water. The existing water treatment plan is also in need of updates.

Objectives

- Ensure infrastructure can meet the needs of current and future residents
- Improve the existing transportation system
- Promote a pedestrian network

Action Step 2: Partner with the County Health Department to improve rural infrastructure

The County Commission should partner with the County Health Department to determine if the enactment of procedures regarding maintenance and regular inspection of individual, onsite septic systems is feasible.

The county should also support the health department in the education of residents, regarding well and septic maintenance and best use practices.

Action Step 3: Request that the West Virginia Department of Transportation program lengthen delays on the traffic light at the intersection of US Route 50 and State Route 18

The Planning Commission is concerned with the traffic light signal and timing at the US Route 50 and State Route 18 intersection. The Planning Commission feels that the delays between light cycles are too short. This is a concern, as vehicles traveling US Route 50 East are traveling down a large hill. There has also been an increase in trucks traveling US Route 50 due to the oil and gas industry. Large trucks take longer to stop, especially when traveling downhill. The County Commission should request a meeting with the West Virginia Department of Transportation to determine if the timing of the signal still meets the current traffic needs.

Action Step 4: Develop a sidewalk upgrade plan in West Union

The Town of West Union is undertaking sidewalk upgrades throughout town. Recent repairs to sidewalks were made in the downtown area. The town has applied for grant funding for other projects. The town has received a Department of Transportation Grant of \$32,000 for engineering of new sidewalks along Cottage, Columbia and Court Street. After engineering is complete, the town will apply for funding for the construction phase.

The Town should develop a sidewalk upgrade plan to help in prioritization of maintenance of existing sidewalks, as well as construction of new sidewalks. The plan would prioritize which sidewalks should be repaired and/or constructed, based on a point system. The point system should take into account the following factors:

- Street's proximity to parks, local government facilities, schools, businesses, etc.
- Topography of the street
- Connectivity with other sidewalks
- Average Daily Traffic (ADT)
- Street Width
- Conflicts with other utilities
- Available right-of-way

Each sidewalk project would then be awarded points based on the factors, and West Union would then repair and/or construct sidewalks on the streets that received the highest amount of points.

A map should accompany the matrix. The map should show the existing sidewalks, sidewalks in need of repair, and potential areas for new sidewalks.



New sidewalk in West Union

City of Marysville Sidewalk Improvement Program

- The City of Marysville in Ohio has adopted a sidewalk improvement program that provides matching funds for property owners to repair or install new sidewalks. The program bases repairs of sidewalks on the severity of the damage. For new sidewalks, the program rates installation based on three factors; Neighborhood Coordination, Connectivity, and Proximity to Schools. For more information visit the following website:
- <http://www.marysvilleohio.org/DocumentCenter/Home/View/274>

Action Step 5: Continue to maintain local roads in West Union

Many roads are in need of repair in West Union. The Public Works Department should complete an assessment of each road within town limits and generate a list of needed repairs. This assessment will help the town prioritize roadways in immediate need of repair. A schedule should be created for major and minor repairs. The replacement of water and sewer lines should be considered, as roads could be repaired at the same time that lines are being replaced.

Action Step 6: Encourage expansion of internet and cell phone service

The importance of the availability of high-speed internet and cellular telephone service cannot be underestimated. The availability of high-speed internet is important for businesses to operate effectively, for residents to be able to telecommute and access information, and for students to access digital learning tools.

Recent legislative efforts to expand internet in rural areas of West Virginia have stalled. The County Commission should support efforts to expand internet throughout rural areas and voice their support to local legislators.

The County Commission should also work with Regional VI Planning and Development Council to implement the Broadband Strategic Plan completed in 2013.

Lack of cellular service in the western portion of the county is a concern for residents. The county should work with local carriers to identify areas lacking service and work together to make service available to residents.

Goal 5: Encourage and promote local leadership and community engagement

Action Step 1: Encourage participation in the community leadership academy

The West Virginia University Extension Service Community Resources and Economic Development (CRED) unit hosts an annual conference to engage local leaders and help them develop their leadership skills. The conference theme is different each year but includes current topics that correspond to community issues.

Over the years, Doddridge County has sent various community leaders to the leadership academy. The county should continue to encourage participation of interested residents. The Town of West Union should also send representatives to the academy annually.

Action Step 2: Hold semi-annual meetings of all non-profit and/or community groups

There are several different community groups that work on different projects to improve the overall quality of life in the county. Active citizen groups help build strong communities; however, it is important that all the different groups and local elected officials are on the same page and not duplicating efforts. All citizen groups should meet semi-annually with the county and town to discuss projects and share ideas. This forum will open up the lines of communication and may lead to even more collaboration and partnership. The comprehensive plan should also be discussed at these meetings, as well as the ways in which different community groups can assist in implementation.

Action Step 3: Promote civic engagement at local schools

During the planning process, the youth were asked for input on the future of Doddridge County and West Union. The high school students had many great ideas. Developing a youth board in the county ensures that the youth have the opportunity to present their ideas and discuss problems and needs. A youth board promotes involvement in the community, as well.

Recommendation	Priority	Reference page #	Responsible Party	Recommended Partners	Estimated Costs	Funding Sources
Goal: Improve community services to meet the needs of residents and business owners						
Ensure communication networks meet the needs of emergency service providers	Moderate	4-3	Doddridge County Office of Emergency Management	911 Center	Dependent on scope of project	Grant sources
Develop debris removal plans in the event of a natural disaster	Moderate	4-3	Doddridge County Office of Emergency Management	WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management	Dependent on scope of project	General fund, grant sources
Determine locations for emergency shelters in less populated areas of the county	Long-term	4-4	Doddridge County Office of Emergency Management	WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management	Dependent on scope of project	General fund, grant sources
Continue to support local volunteer fire departments	Long-term	4-4	Doddridge County Commission	Doddridge County Fireman's Association	Dependent on scope of project	General fund, grant sources
Determine the feasibility of a new upgraded fire station	Moderate	4-4	Smithburg VFD	Doddridge County Ambulance Authority, Doddridge Office of Emergency Management	Dependent on scope of project	Grant sources
Purchase property for a fire department maintenance facility or training center	Long-term	4-5	Doddridge County Commission	WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management	Dependent on scope of project	General fund, grant sources
Encourage maintenance of existing water hydrants and installation of new water hydrants in high need areas	Immediate	4-5	West Union Water Department; West Union Council	Doddridge County Fireman's Association	Dependent on scope of project	General fund, grant sources
Determine the feasibility of purchasing and/or building a new station for the Doddridge County Ambulance Authority	Long-term	4-6	Doddridge County Ambulance Authority (DCAA)	Doddridge County Commission	Dependent on scope of project	DCAA, grant sources

Recommendation	Priority	Reference page #	Responsible Party	Recommended Partners	Estimated Costs	Funding Sources
Goal: Improve community services to meet the needs of residents and business owners						
Consider the development of a substation for the Doddridge County Ambulance Authority to help with response time in rural areas of the county	Immediate	4-6	Doddridge County Ambulance Authority	Doddridge County Commission	Dependent on scope of project	DCAA, grant sources
Explore the option of an EMS rescue service	Long-term	4-6	Doddridge County Office of Emergency Management	Local fire VFDs, Doddridge County Ambulance Authority	Dependent on scope of project	General fund, grant sources
Work with the state and other officials to develop and institute a community paramedicine program/role	Long-term	4-6	Doddridge County Office of Emergency Management; Doddridge County Ambulance Authority	WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management	Dependent on scope of project	General fund, grant sources
Investigate the feasibility of attracting an urgent care facility	Long-term	4-7	Doddridge County Commission	Ritchie Regional Health Center, Doddridge Family Medicine	N/A	N/A
Replace and/or repair recreation facilities at the Doddridge County Park	Immediate	4-7	Doddridge County Parks Commission	Doddridge County Commission, WV Department of Natural Resources, local businesses	Dependent on scope of project	General fund, grant sources
Develop Doddridge County Park as an adventure park	Long-term	4-8	Doddridge County Parks Commission	Doddridge County Commission, WV Department of Natural Resources, local businesses	\$6,400,000 (Estimate varies depending on items constructed)	General fund, grant sources
Improve Spencer Park	Moderate	4-9	Doddridge County Parks Commission	Doddridge County Commission, WV Department of Natural Resources, local businesses	Dependent on scope of project	General fund, grant sources
Work with the North Bend Rail Trail Foundation to determine locations in the county for directional signage and trailheads	Long-term	4-9	North Bend Rail Trail Foundation	WV Department of Natural Resources, Doddridge County Commission, West Union Council	Trailhead sign-\$2,000 Directional signage-\$800-\$1,000 Trailhead/Parking-\$50,000 depending on size and grading & surface type	North Bend Rail Trail Foundation, grant sources
Improve the condition of the North Bend Rail Trail and picnic shelters	Immediate	4-9	North Bend Rail Trail Foundation	WV Department of Natural Resources, Doddridge County Commission, West Union Council	Dependent on scope of project	Grant sources

Recommendation	Priority	Reference page #	Responsible Party	Recommended Partners	Estimated Costs	Funding Sources
Goal: Improve community services to meet the needs of residents and business owners						
Improve West Union City Park	Immediate	4-10	West Union Council	Doddridge County Parks Commission	Dependent on scope of project	General fund, grant sources
Educate school-aged children on options in professional and technical fields after graduation	Immediate	4-10	Doddridge County Board of Education	Local business owners	N/A	N/A
Begin a drug presentation program in the local school district	Moderate	4-11	Doddridge County Board of Education (DCBOE)	Doddridge County Sheriff's Department; WV State Police	Dependent on scope of project	DCBOE budget, grant sources
Goal: Strengthen housing opportunities to attract and retain residents						
Attract new residential development into Doddridge County	Immediate	4-12	Doddridge County Commission; West Union Council	Local developers	N/A	N/A
Identify, research, and prioritize dilapidated buildings to be demolished	Immediate	4-12	Doddridge County Commission; West Union Council	WV Bad Buildings Program	Staff time	WV Bad Buildings Program
Review ordinances related to dilapidated buildings	Immediate	4-12	Doddridge County Commission; West Union Council	WVU Land Use and Sustainable Development Ordinance	Staff time	N/A
Apply for funding to demolish dilapidated buildings	Moderate	4-13	Doddridge County Commission; West Union Council	Property Rescue Initiative	N/A	Property Rescue Initiative, grant sources
Enact a vacant property registry ordinance in West Union	Immediate	4-13	West Union Council	WVU Land Use and Sustainable Development Law Clinic	Staff time	N/A
Consider the feasibility of adopting the International Property Maintenance Code in West Union	Immediate	4-13	West Union Council	WVU Land Use and Sustainable Development Law Clinic	Staff time	General fund
Discuss the feasibility of building low/moderate income housing with local developers or non-profit organizations	Immediate	4-13	Doddridge County Economic Development Agency	Non-profit groups	N/A	Grant sources; private investment

Recommendation	Priority	Reference page #	Responsible Party	Recommended Partners	Estimated Costs	Funding Sources
Goal: Identify and foster appropriate economic development opportunities						
Develop a website to market Doddridge County	Moderate	4-14	Doddridge County Commission; Doddridge County Economic Development Agency	Doddridge County Board of Education-student project	Staff time; local students	General fund
Market opportunities in Doddridge County	Immediate	4-14	Doddridge County Commission; Doddridge County Economic Development Agency	Town of West Union; Northwestern West Virginia Heritage Byways	Dependent on scope of project	General fund
Goal: Address infrastructure needs to support existing and new development						
Extend water to identified high need areas	Immediate	4-15	Doddridge County Commission; Doddridge County Public Service District; West Union Council	Doddridge County EDA, Region VI PDC	Dependent on scope of project	Grant sources
Partner with the County Health Department to improve rural infrastructure	Long-term	4-15	Doddridge County Commission	Doddridge County Health Department	Dependent on scope of project	General fund
Request that the West Virginia Department of Transportation program longer delays on the traffic light at the intersection of US Route 50 and State Route 18	Moderate	4-15	Doddridge County Commission	WV Department of Transportation	Staff time	N/A
Develop a sidewalk upgrade plan in West Union	Immediate	4-16	Town of West Union	Doddridge County Commission	Dependent on scope of project	Grant sources
Continue to maintain local roads in West Union	Immediate	4-17	Town of West Union	Doddridge County Commission	Dependent on scope of project	Grant sources
Encourage expansion of internet and cell phone services	Immediate	4-17	Doddridge County Commission, Town of West Union Council	Doddridge County EDA, Region VI PDC	Staff time	N/A
Goal: Encourage and promote local leadership and community engagement						
Encourage participation in the community leadership academy	Moderate	4-18	Doddridge County Commission, Town of West Union Council	WVU Extension	Staff time	Cost of academy
Hold semi-annual meetings of all non-profit and/or community groups	Moderate	4-18	Doddridge County Commission, Town of West Union Council	Non-profit groups and community groups	Staff time	N/A
Promote civic engagement at local schools	Immediate	4-18	Doddridge County Board of Education	Doddridge County Commission, West Union Council	Staff time	N/A

APPENDIX 1: PUBLIC INPUT PROCEDURES

County of Doddridge West Virginia
Planning Commission
Comprehensive Plan Public Input Procedures

Pursuant to the requirements of W. Va. Code § 8A-3-6(c), the Planning Commission of the County of Doddridge, West Virginia (hereinafter "County") hereby adopts the following procedures to encourage and promote public participation in the drafting of the County's comprehensive plan. The comprehensive plan is being drafted pursuant to W. Va. Code § 8A.

- (1) Prior to recommending a new or amended comprehensive plan, the Planning Commission shall give notice and hold a public meeting on the new or amended comprehensive plan. The purpose of a public meeting is to gather input from the general public as to the County's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats as they pertain to matters in the comprehensive plan.
- (2) The Planning Commission will request input from other affected governing bodies and units of governments that may be affected by the adoption of the comprehensive plan.
- (3) Under W. Va. Code § 8A-3-6(b), once the Planning Commission has completed a draft of the comprehensive plan, and before submitting a plan to the County Commission for adoption, the Planning Commission must give proper notice and hold a public hearing on the draft of the comprehensive plan.
 - a. More particularly, under W. Va. Code § 8A-3-6(b), at least thirty(30) days prior to the date set for the public hearing, the Planning Commission will publish a notice of the date, time and place of the public hearing as a Class I legal advertisement in compliance with the provisions of article three, chapter fifty-nine of the West Virginia Code. The notice shall run in a general circulating publication, the publication area will be the area that will be covered by the comprehensive plan.
 - b. In addition to the requirements at W. Va. Code § 8A-3-6(b), above, the Planning Commission will publish its draft of the comprehensive plan at least thirty (30) days prior to the public hearing. Specifically, the Planning Commission will post hardcopies for public review at the Doddridge County Commission Office.
- (4) For purposes of this comprehensive planning process, the Planning Commission considers the "community" of the County of Doddridge to be broader than just full-time residents within the county borders. For input into the comprehensive planning process, the Planning Commission may look to business owners who live outside the county borders, part-time residents, those who are employed in the county but live outside the county, visitors, and others.
- (5) Public notice of Planning Commission meetings will be given pursuant to the West Virginia Open Governmental Proceedings Act, where applicable.
- (6) No provision herein shall be construed as limiting the Planning Commission's ability to engage in additional public participation efforts as the Planning Commission deems appropriate. No provision herein shall prohibit the Planning Commission from amending these procedures.

Adopted this 13th day of May, 2015.

Heck Conner

Chairperson

David Huts

Vice-Chairperson

Thomas S. Freese

Member

Ronald B. Spencer

Member

Joe E. Criss

Member

Samuel

Member

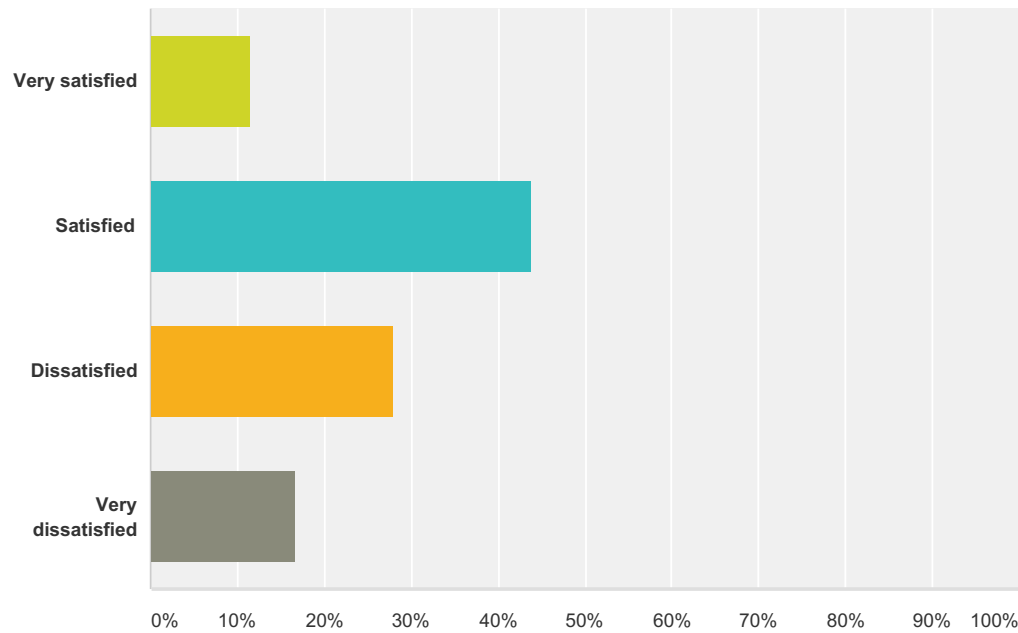
Member

Ronald L. Travis comm

APPENDIX 2: ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

Q1 How do you feel about the quality of life in Doddridge County?

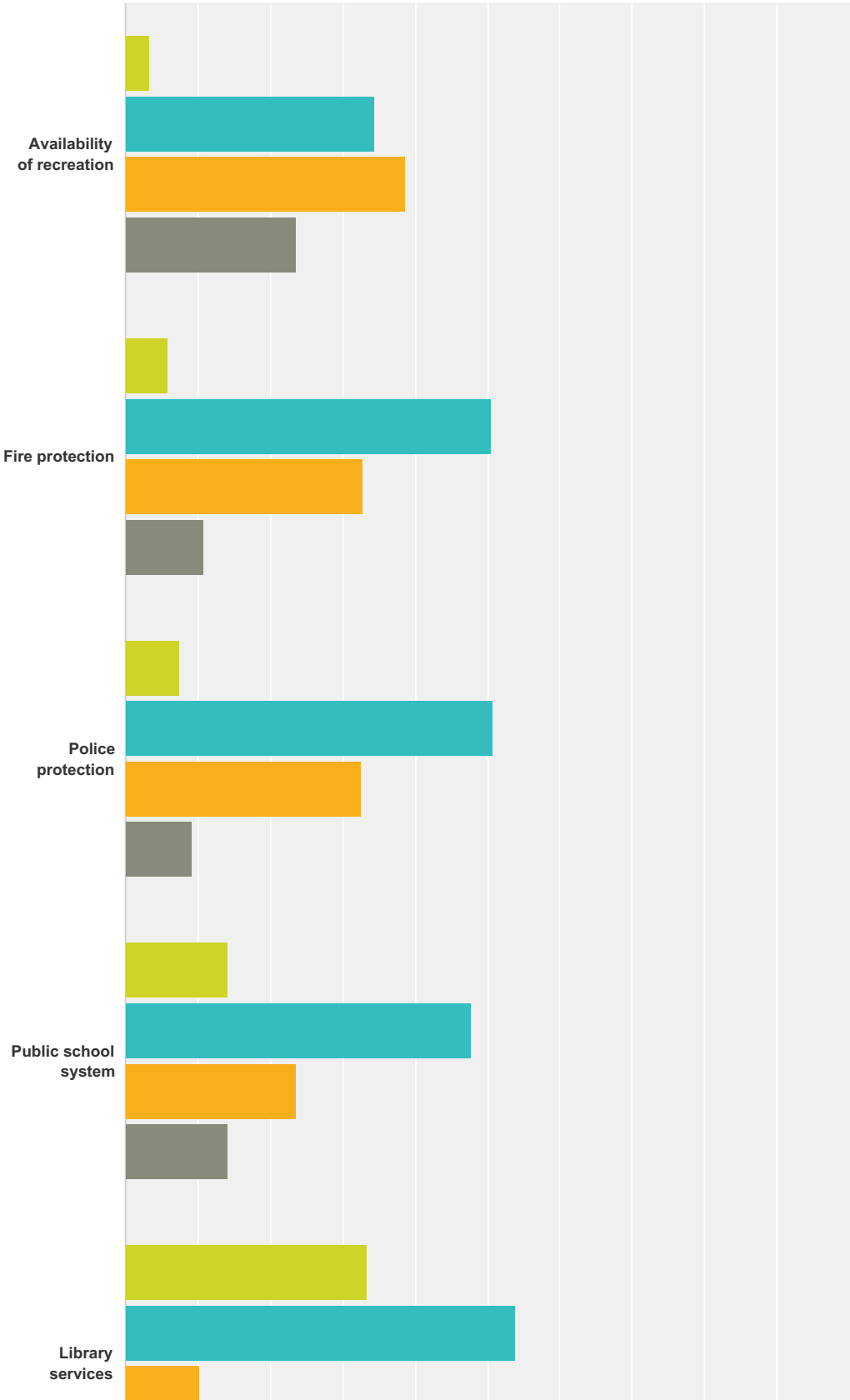
Answered: 114 Skipped: 7

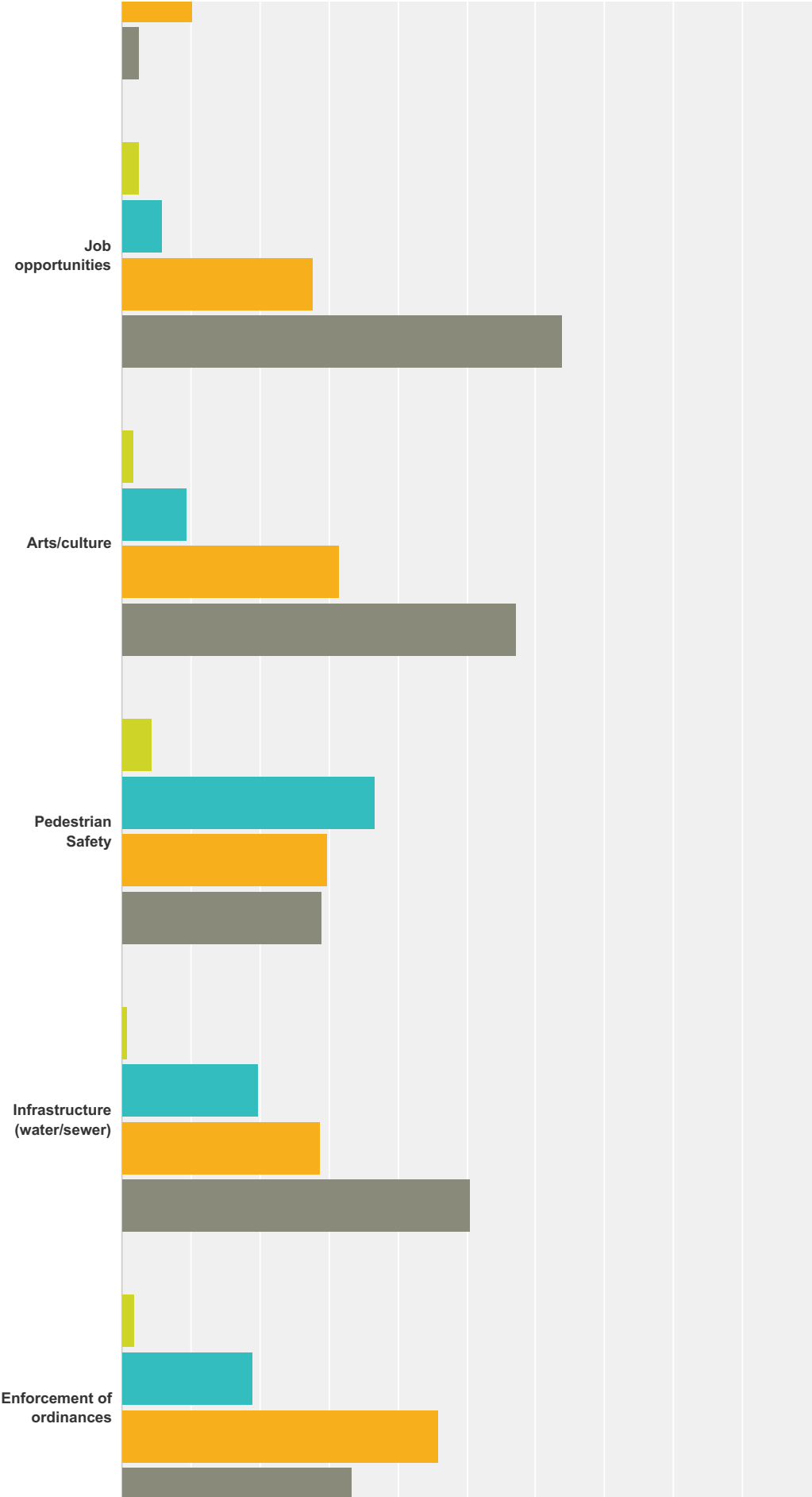


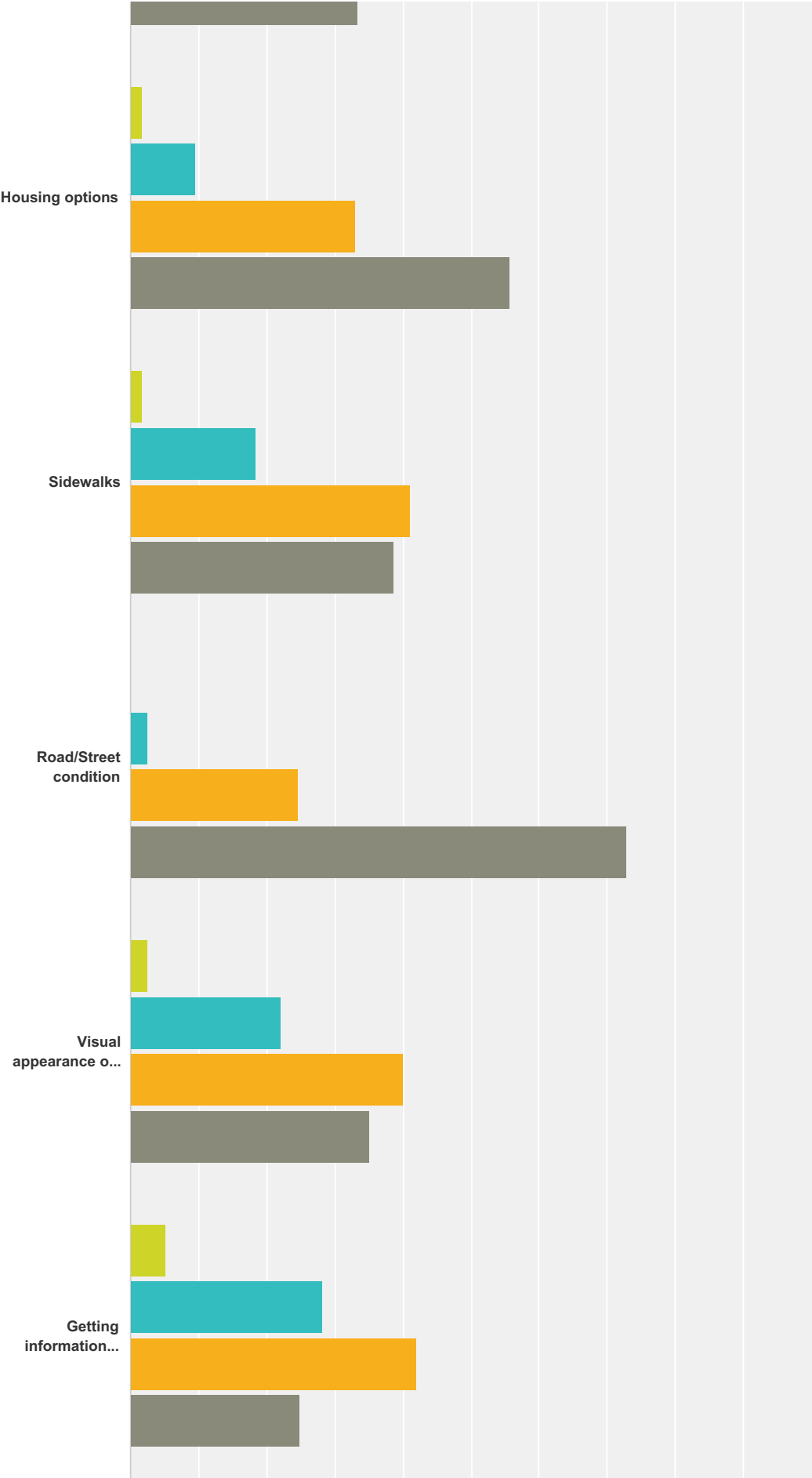
Answer Choices	Responses	
Very satisfied	11.40%	13
Satisfied	43.86%	50
Dissatisfied	28.07%	32
Very dissatisfied	16.67%	19
Total		114

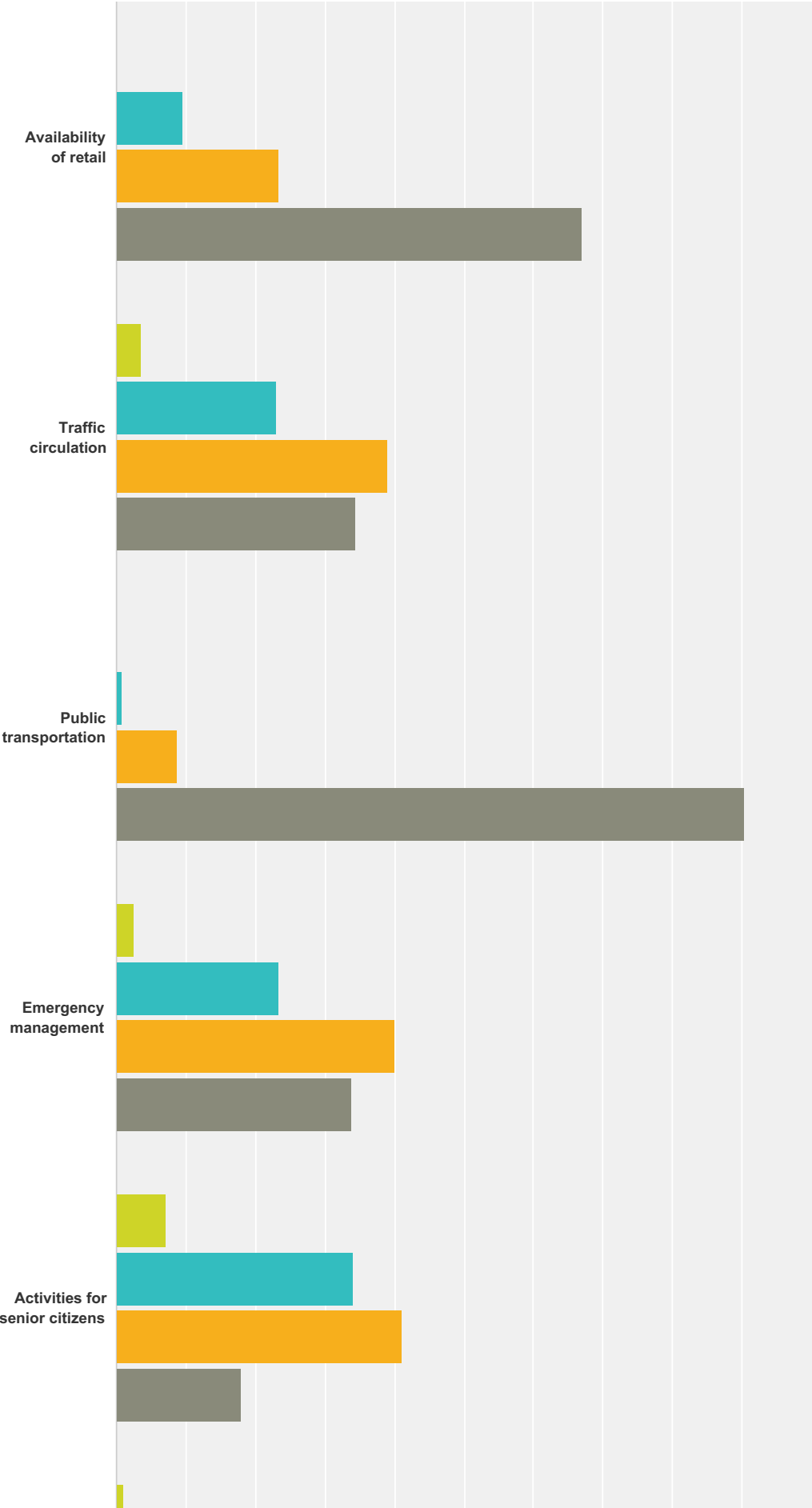
Q2 Please rate your level of satisfaction for each of the following:

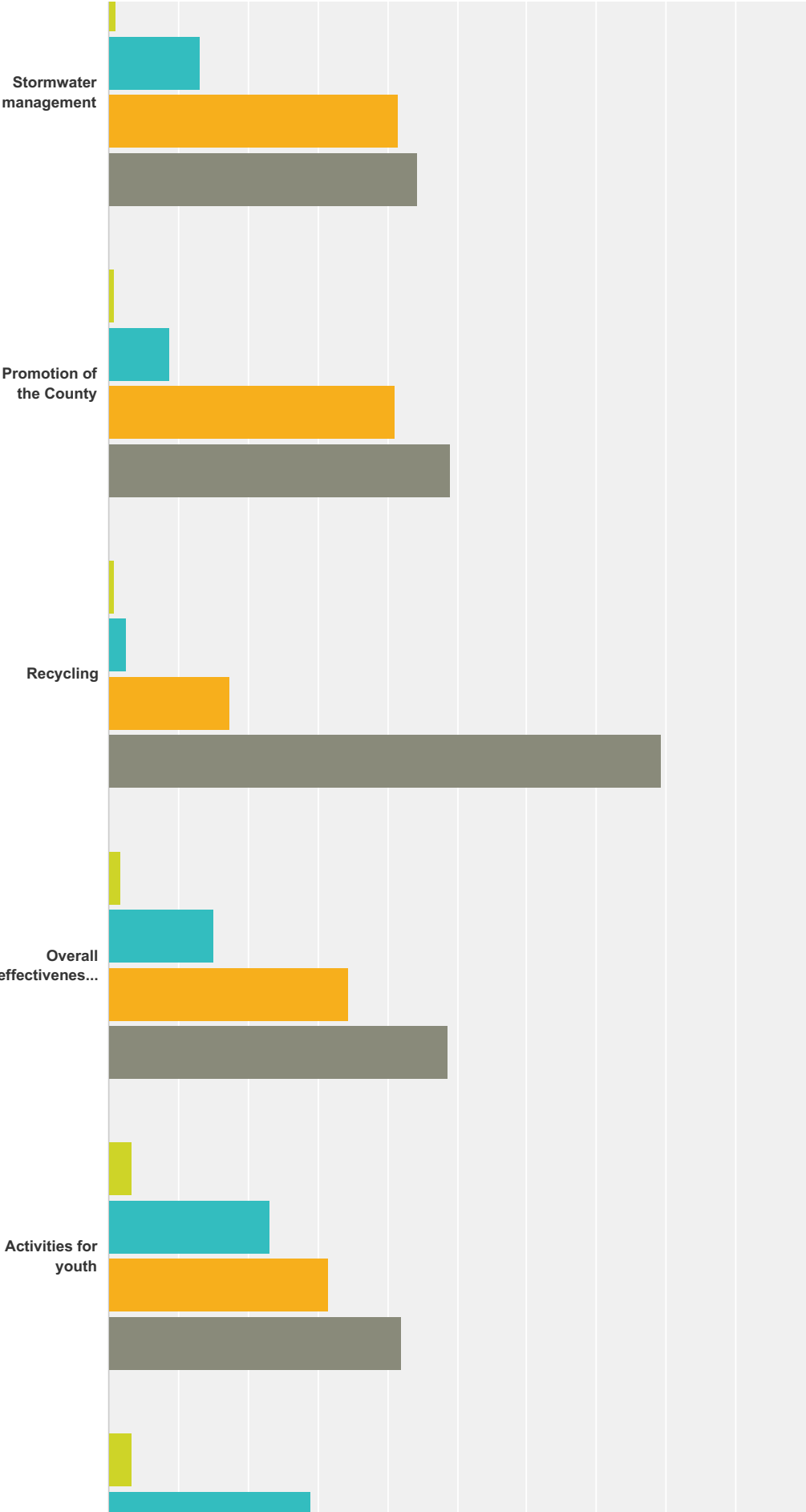
Answered: 121 Skipped: 0

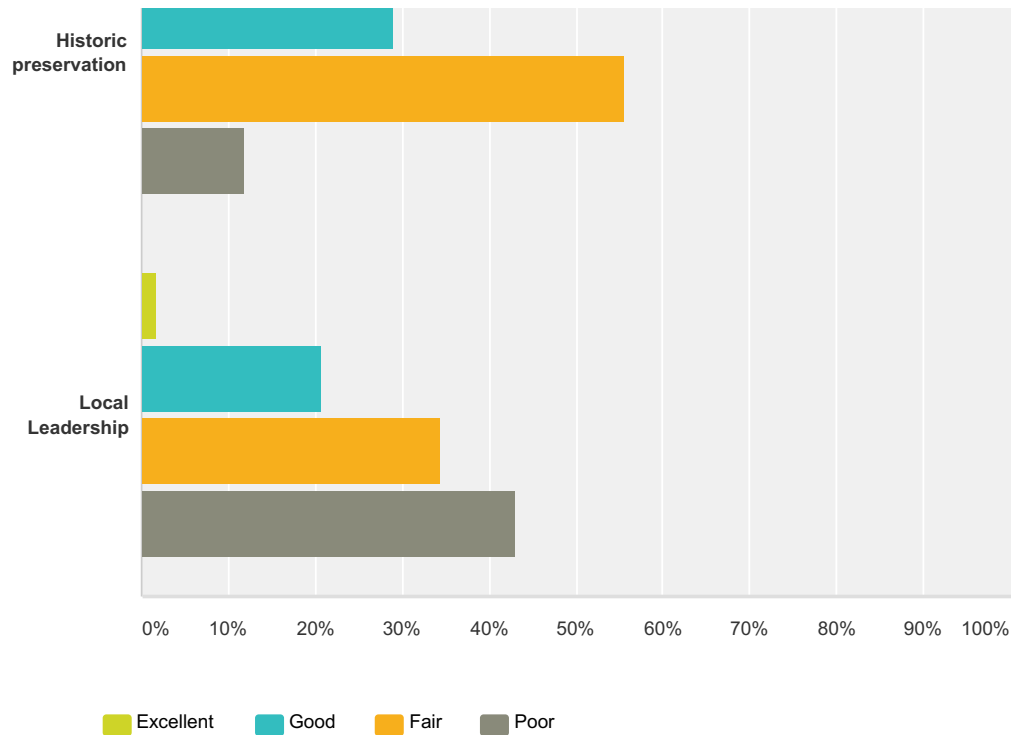










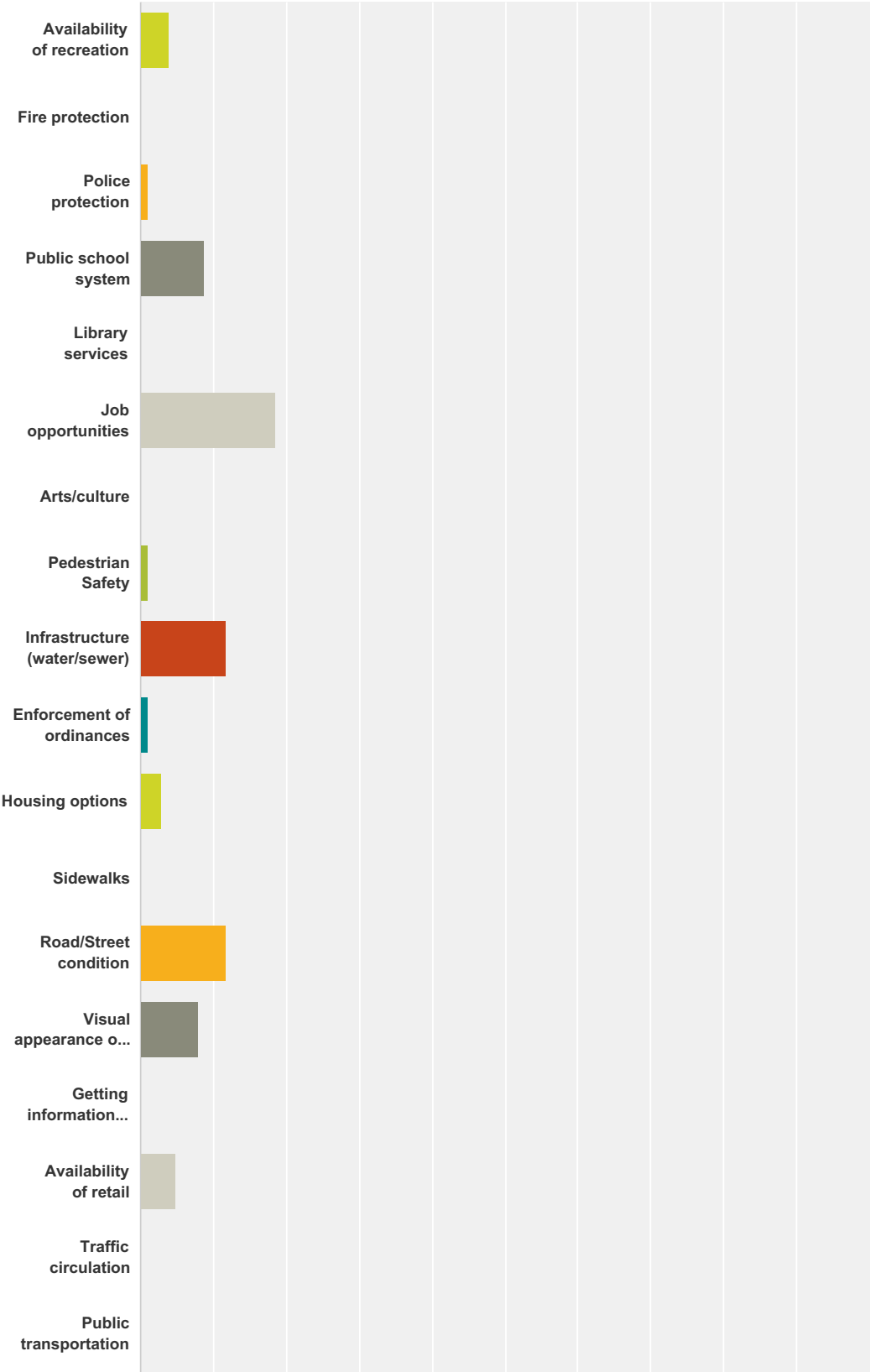


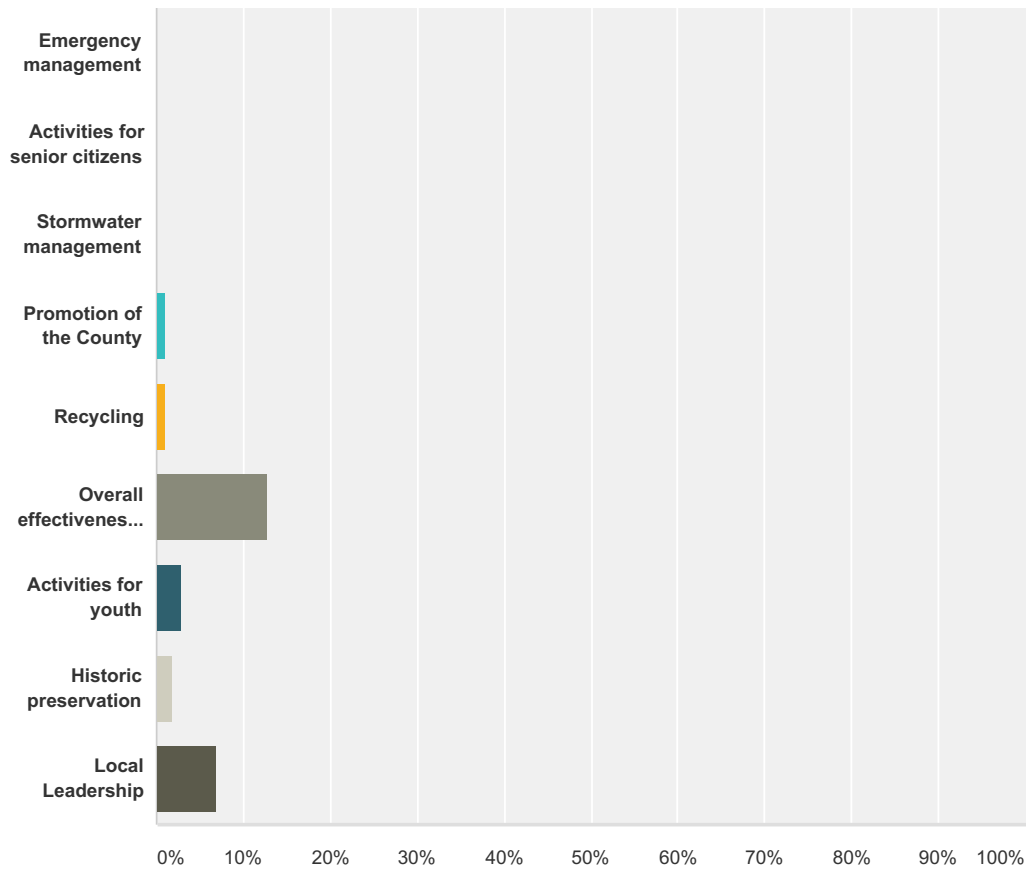
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
Availability of recreation	3.36% 4	34.45% 41	38.66% 46	23.53% 28	119
Fire protection	5.88% 7	50.42% 60	32.77% 39	10.92% 13	119
Police protection	7.50% 9	50.83% 61	32.50% 39	9.17% 11	120
Public school system	14.29% 17	47.90% 57	23.53% 28	14.29% 17	119
Library services	33.33% 39	53.85% 63	10.26% 12	2.56% 3	117
Job opportunities	2.52% 3	5.88% 7	27.73% 33	63.87% 76	119
Arts/culture	1.71% 2	9.40% 11	31.62% 37	57.26% 67	117
Pedestrian Safety	4.39% 5	36.84% 42	29.82% 34	28.95% 33	114
Infrastructure (water/sewer)	0.90% 1	19.82% 22	28.83% 32	50.45% 56	111
Enforcement of ordinances	1.80% 2	18.92% 21	45.95% 51	33.33% 37	111
Housing options	1.74% 2	9.57% 11	33.04% 38	55.65% 64	115
Sidewalks	1.75% 2	18.42% 21	41.23% 47	38.60% 44	114
Road/Street condition	0.00% 0	2.54% 3	24.58% 29	72.88% 86	118

Visual appearance of Doddridge County	2.56% 3	22.22% 26	40.17% 47	35.04% 41	117
Getting information about County events and matters	5.13% 6	28.21% 33	41.88% 49	24.79% 29	117
Availability of retail	0.00% 0	9.57% 11	23.48% 27	66.96% 77	115
Traffic circulation	3.54% 4	23.01% 26	38.94% 44	34.51% 39	113
Public transportation	0.00% 0	0.87% 1	8.70% 10	90.43% 104	115
Emergency management	2.61% 3	23.48% 27	40.00% 46	33.91% 39	115
Activities for senior citizens	7.14% 8	33.93% 38	41.07% 46	17.86% 20	112
Stormwater management	0.94% 1	13.21% 14	41.51% 44	44.34% 47	106
Promotion of the County	0.88% 1	8.77% 10	41.23% 47	49.12% 56	114
Recycling	0.86% 1	2.59% 3	17.24% 20	79.31% 92	116
Overall effectiveness of county government	1.77% 2	15.04% 17	34.51% 39	48.67% 55	113
Activities for youth	3.42% 4	23.08% 27	31.62% 37	41.88% 49	117
Historic preservation	3.42% 4	29.06% 34	55.56% 65	11.97% 14	117
Local Leadership	1.72% 2	20.69% 24	34.48% 40	43.10% 50	116

Q3 Of the things listed above, what is the one that you feel is MOST important for Doddridge County to improve?

Answered: 102 Skipped: 19



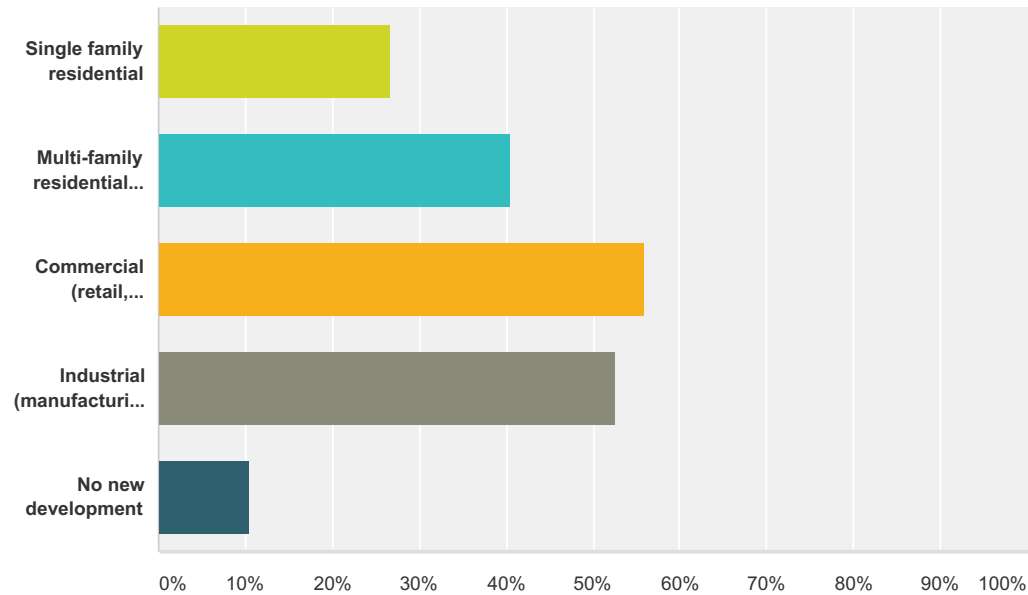


Answer Choices	Responses
Availability of recreation	3.92% 4
Fire protection	0.00% 0
Police protection	0.98% 1
Public school system	8.82% 9
Library services	0.00% 0
Job opportunities	18.63% 19
Arts/culture	0.00% 0
Pedestrian Safety	0.98% 1
Infrastructure (water/sewer)	11.76% 12
Enforcement of ordinances	0.98% 1
Housing options	2.94% 3
Sidewalks	0.00% 0
Road/Street condition	11.76% 12
Visual appearance of Doddridge County	7.84% 8
Getting information about County events and matters	0.00% 0
Availability of retail	4.90% 5

Traffic circulation	0.00%	0
Public transportation	0.00%	0
Emergency management	0.00%	0
Activities for senior citizens	0.00%	0
Stormwater management	0.00%	0
Promotion of the County	0.98%	1
Recycling	0.98%	1
Overall effectiveness of county government	12.75%	13
Activities for youth	2.94%	3
Historic preservation	1.96%	2
Local Leadership	6.86%	7
Total		102

Q4 What type of new development would you like to see in Doddridge County?
Please check all that apply.

Answered: 116 Skipped: 5



Answer Choices	Responses	
Single family residential	26.72%	31
Multi-family residential (includes townhouses, condos, and apartments)	40.52%	47
Commercial (retail, restaurants, offices, banks, etc.)	56.03%	65
Industrial (manufacturing, processing, warehouses, factories, etc.)	52.59%	61
No new development	10.34%	12
Total Respondents: 116		

Q5 Where should new development occur?

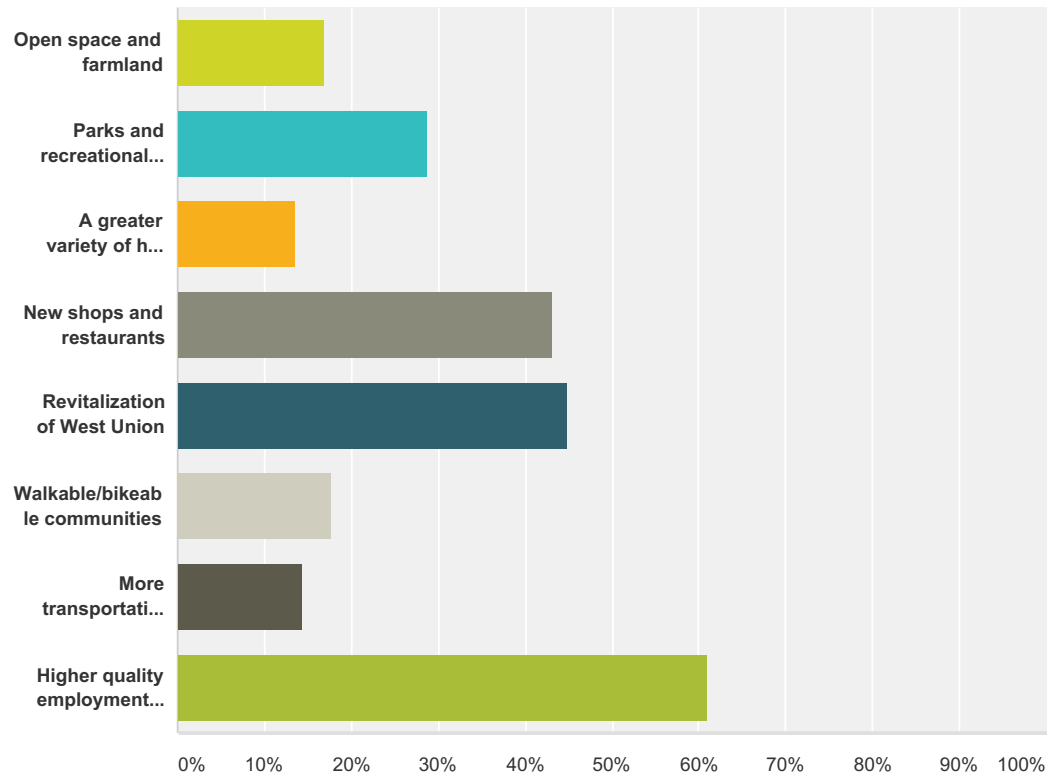
Answered: 65 Skipped: 56

#	Responses	Date
1	Use the abandoned buildings in the town to affordable apartments for small families.I see the opprutuity for many apts,above the shops and storefront in the town of West Union	1/16/2016 10:35 AM
2	In West Union, within walking distance to Shop N Save, Dollar Store, banks, pharmacy, etc	1/15/2016 9:32 AM
3	Have no opinion because if a corporation comes in to Doddridge County to develop is the county going to pull imminent domain an take peoples property against their will in order develop the land. Or will the county allow the landowners to negotiate in good faith with the developer?	1/14/2016 8:44 PM
4	Housing outside of town so the kids can have room to play ride bikes etc... As for factory jobs put it anywhere .	1/13/2016 8:46 PM
5	Near county seat but I think county government needs to stay out of business. Make opportunities available by promoting county to businesses but stay uninvolved and let businesses run businesses and government run government. Less government involvement is better for business	1/12/2016 8:21 PM
6	along rt. 50 and old 50 from Smithburg to morgans run	1/12/2016 3:48 PM
7	Along Rt #50. Develop the already developed areas. Keep the farmland + rural areas as they are.	1/4/2016 3:53 PM
8	Wherever possible.	1/4/2016 3:52 PM
9	Outside of city limits	1/4/2016 3:49 PM
10	Close to downtown area for easy transportation.	1/4/2016 3:47 PM
11	Demolish the many old houses + buildings that are rat-traps + dangerous. This will allow for housing development - single + multi. Require these homeowners to take responsibility for them or acquire a grant to do so.	1/4/2016 3:43 PM
12	Hand in hand with expansion of sewer (sanitary) areas close to Town of West Union and areas that have city water service.	1/4/2016 3:40 PM
13	In town	1/4/2016 1:43 PM
14	Along Rt. 50	1/4/2016 1:41 PM
15	Any open land that they don't have to pay millions for!!	1/4/2016 1:37 PM
16	?	1/4/2016 1:36 PM
17	As soon as possible	1/4/2016 1:28 PM
18	in our county	1/4/2016 1:01 PM
19	New shops so we don't always have to travel OUT of our county!	1/4/2016 12:59 PM
20	Education Businesses in downtown	1/4/2016 12:57 PM
21	Central to county for a hospital or stabilization and transport facility	1/4/2016 12:51 PM
22	Recycle old sites	12/19/2015 1:34 PM
23	In the town of West Union itself - since buckets of money have been spent on the streetscape.	12/13/2015 11:17 AM
24	Industrial development only if zoning is first accomplished.	12/10/2015 5:47 PM
25	Near Rt 50 for ease of transportation.	11/25/2015 4:40 PM
26	west union	11/24/2015 5:25 PM
27	Near town	11/22/2015 6:07 PM
28	ANYWHERE!!	11/22/2015 9:03 AM
29	Throughout the county!	11/21/2015 8:42 AM
30	Harrison County	11/21/2015 8:38 AM
31	Near west union. 50, 18	11/20/2015 9:18 PM

32	Closer to Salem or Center Point area.	11/20/2015 5:57 PM
33	outside of city limits	11/20/2015 2:04 PM
34	Along US50	11/20/2015 11:41 AM
35	county wide	11/20/2015 11:27 AM
36	In West Union	11/20/2015 11:24 AM
37	Along Rt 50 where access is easy.	11/20/2015 10:49 AM
38	In the country -- behind the hills -- and on the borders of the county	11/20/2015 10:44 AM
39	Residential - throughout county Commercial - in West Union and along Rt 50	11/20/2015 10:31 AM
40	In restricted zoned areas	11/20/2015 9:52 AM
41	Along Rt 50	11/12/2015 10:36 AM
42	Along RT 50	11/10/2015 1:43 PM
43	Rt 50 corridor	11/10/2015 1:43 PM
44	Along the US 50 corridor	11/6/2015 8:51 PM
45	Throughout the county.	11/5/2015 3:35 PM
46	I think it should be in areas that are not taking all the farm land and only take the land from those who are tree hangers and people who move here and try to Change our county to what they want it to be .	11/3/2015 9:09 PM
47	Off hwy 50	11/3/2015 5:56 AM
48	Along Rt 50	11/2/2015 9:08 PM
49	Need some sort of factory in a central location of route 50 to provide new jobs for men and women of droddridge county and not hire people from other states	11/2/2015 9:03 PM
50	Between West Union and Smithburg	11/2/2015 7:13 PM
51	downtown in the vacant buildings	11/2/2015 5:46 PM
52	Near West Union	11/2/2015 4:27 PM
53	In town there should be a fast-food restaurant..... McDonald's, Wendy's, Taco Bell..... Something!	11/2/2015 2:37 PM
54	Everywhere possible.	11/2/2015 1:47 PM
55	Close to route 50	11/2/2015 1:32 PM
56	Close to the interstate	11/2/2015 12:03 PM
57	Anywhere where there is easy access to Rt. 50.	11/2/2015 11:51 AM
58	West Union, Center Point	10/29/2015 12:58 AM
59	Remove old houses and other buildings that are in bad shape. Intersection of 50 and 18 would be good for some businesses. It would be nice to have more development and improvement in West Union residential areas.	10/28/2015 11:06 PM
60	Good paying job opportunities. Industry like manufacturing, not oil and gas.	10/28/2015 8:36 PM
61	Areas surrounding West Union.	10/28/2015 8:25 PM
62	Comprehensive plan should determine where appropriate development should occur	10/28/2015 5:16 PM
63	In the West Union and Snowbird areas.....we must capitalize on this oil & gas boom -- we need to provide the restaurants, businesses, entertainment here and get this revenue instead of having everyone drive to surrounding areas.....we have the people, we need leadership that will capitalize on it	10/28/2015 4:08 PM
64	Commercial: In areas of West Union where buildings are unoccupied or dilapidated. Multi-family units could occur near schools.	10/28/2015 3:43 PM
65	Near the town center.	10/26/2015 2:52 PM

**Q6 What would you like to see more of in Doddridge County in the next 20 years?
Please pick your top two choices.**

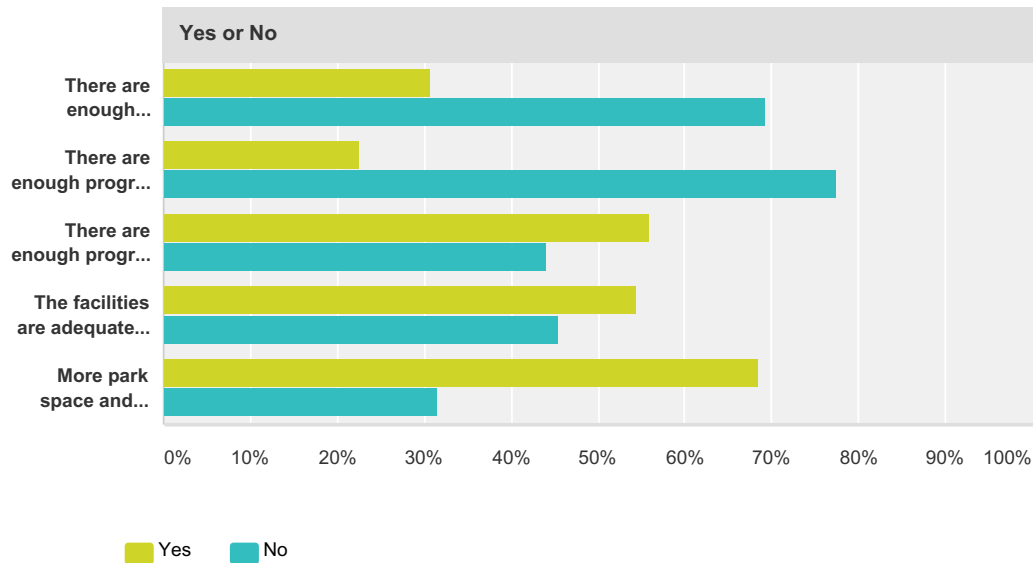
Answered: 118 Skipped: 3



Answer Choices	Responses
Open space and farmland	16.95% 20
Parks and recreational facilities	28.81% 34
A greater variety of home choices	13.56% 16
New shops and restaurants	43.22% 51
Revitalization of West Union	44.92% 53
Walkable/bikeable communities	17.80% 21
More transportation options	14.41% 17
Higher quality employment opportunities	61.02% 72
Total Respondents: 118	

Q7 What is your opinion about the recreation provided in Doddridge County?
Please answer yes or no.

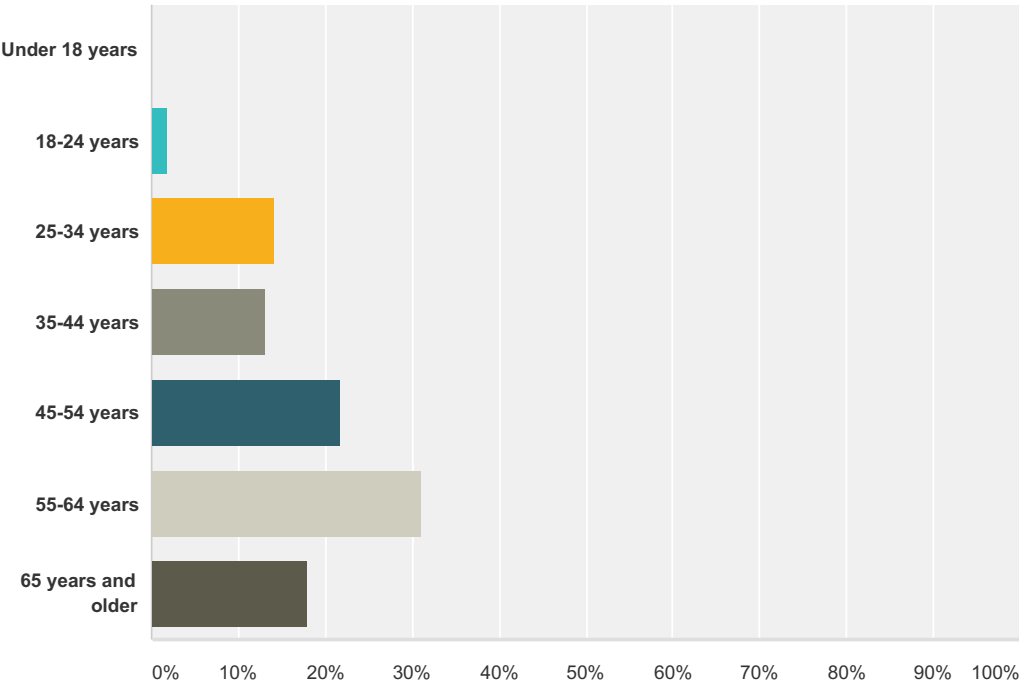
Answered: 112 Skipped: 9



Yes or No			
	Yes	No	Total
There are enough recreational facilities for families	30.69% 31	69.31% 70	101
There are enough programs and facilities for teens and children	22.55% 23	77.45% 79	102
There are enough programs and facilities for senior citizens	55.88% 57	44.12% 45	102
The facilities are adequately maintained	54.55% 54	45.45% 45	99
More park space and facilities are needed	68.57% 72	31.43% 33	105

Q8 How old are you?

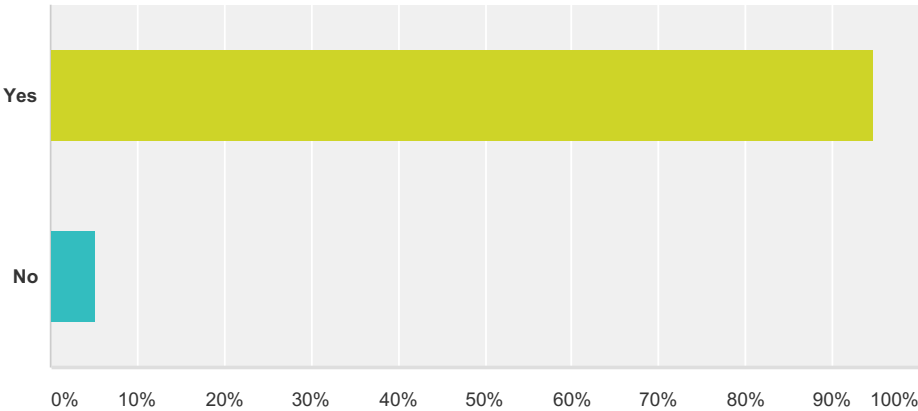
Answered: 106 Skipped: 15



Answer Choices	Responses	
Under 18 years	0.00%	0
18-24 years	1.89%	2
25-34 years	14.15%	15
35-44 years	13.21%	14
45-54 years	21.70%	23
55-64 years	31.13%	33
65 years and older	17.92%	19
Total		106

Q9 Do you live in Doddridge County?

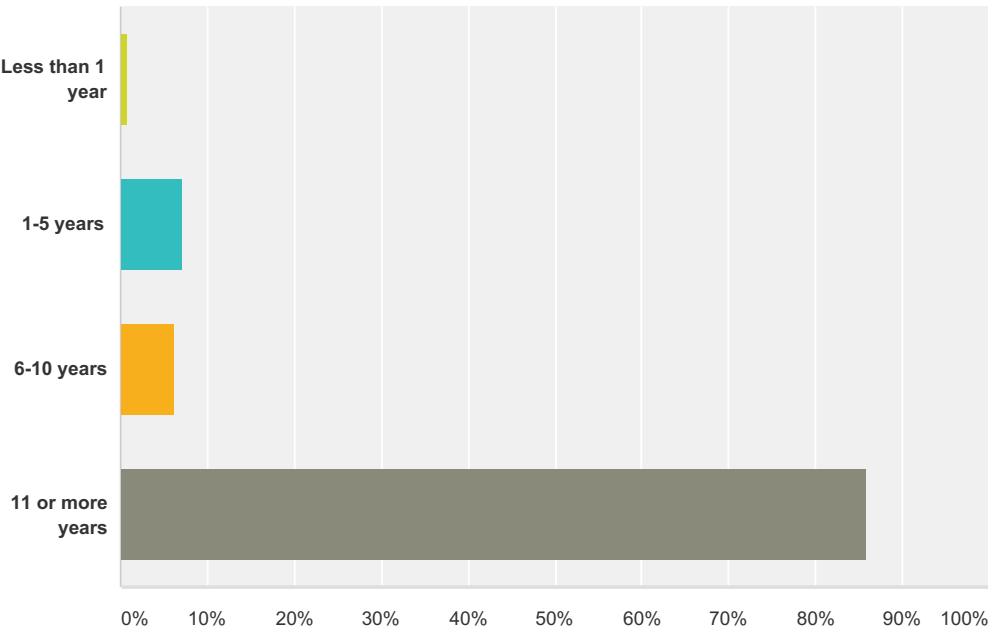
Answered: 117 Skipped: 4



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	94.87%	111
No	5.13%	6
Total		117

Q11 How long have you been a resident of Doddridge County?

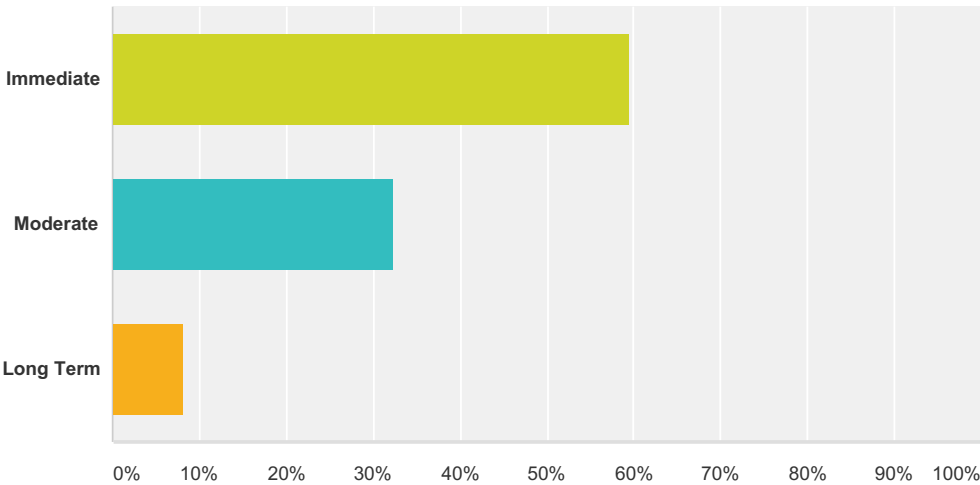
Answered: 112 Skipped: 9



Answer Choices	Responses
Less than 1 year	0.89%1
1-5 years	7.14%8
6-10 years	6.25%7
11 or more years	85.71%96
Total	112

Q1 Ensure communication networks meet the needs of emergency service providers

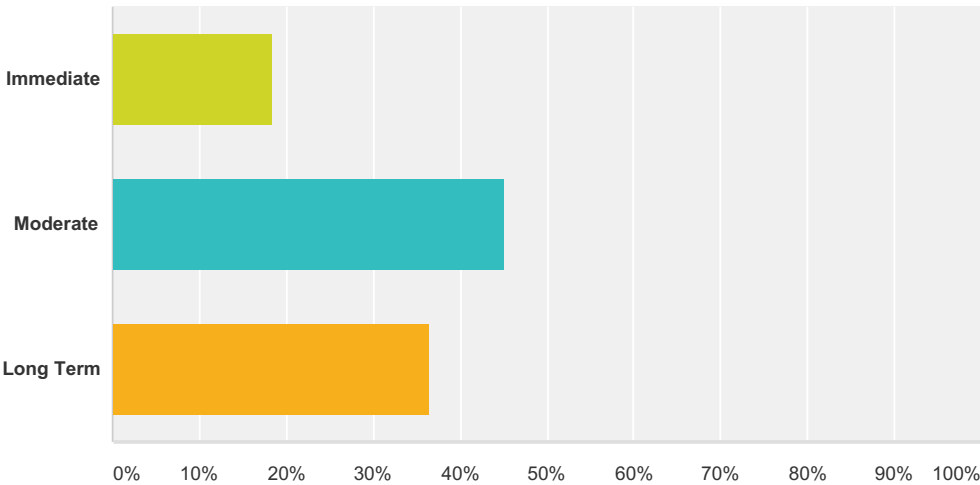
Answered: 74 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	59.46%	44
Moderate	32.43%	24
Long Term	8.11%	6
Total		74

Q2 Develop debris removal plans in the event of a natural disaster

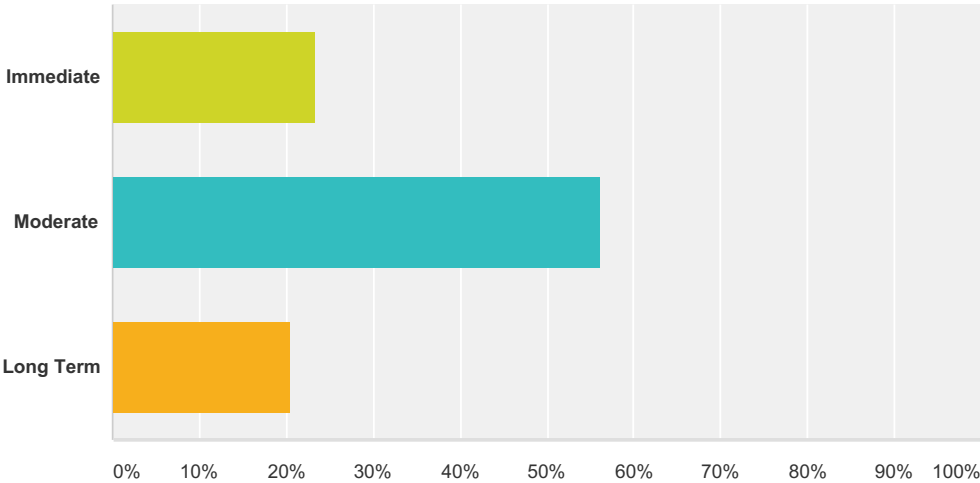
Answered: 71 Skipped: 3



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	18.31%	13
Moderate	45.07%	32
Long Term	36.62%	26
Total		71

Q3 Determine locations for emergency shelters in less populated areas of the county

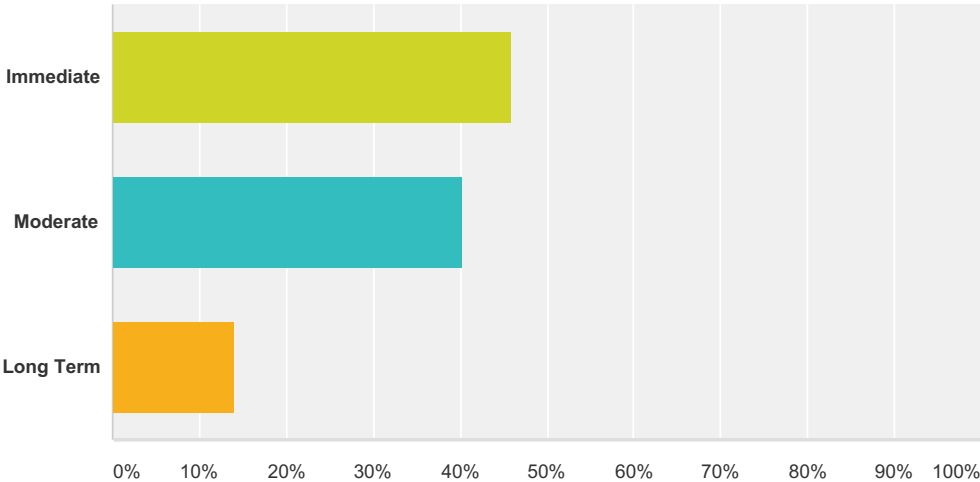
Answered: 73 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	23.29%	17
Moderate	56.16%	41
Long Term	20.55%	15
Total		73

Q4 Continue to support local fire departments (additional fire hydrants, volunteers, training opportunities, and replacement of fire engines)

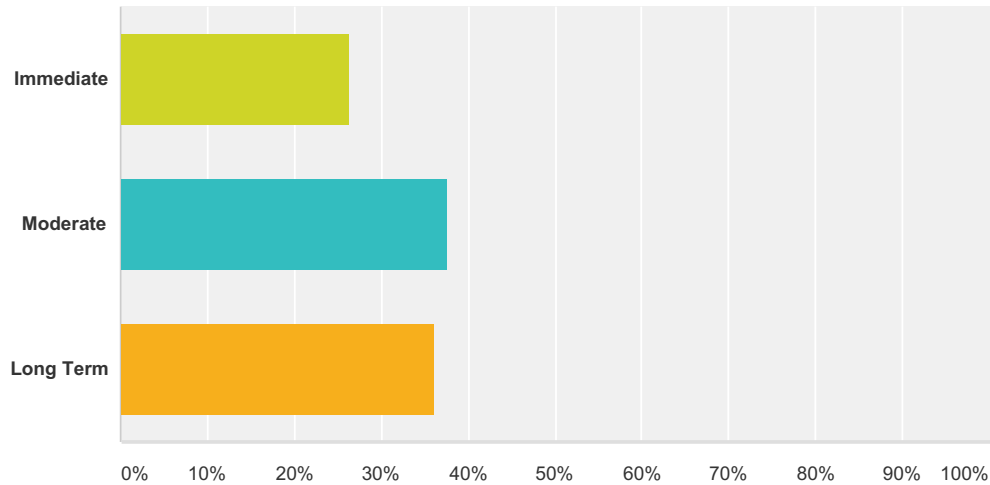
Answered: 72 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	45.83%	33
Moderate	40.28%	29
Long Term	13.89%	10
Total		72

Q5 Determine the feasibility of a new upgraded fire station

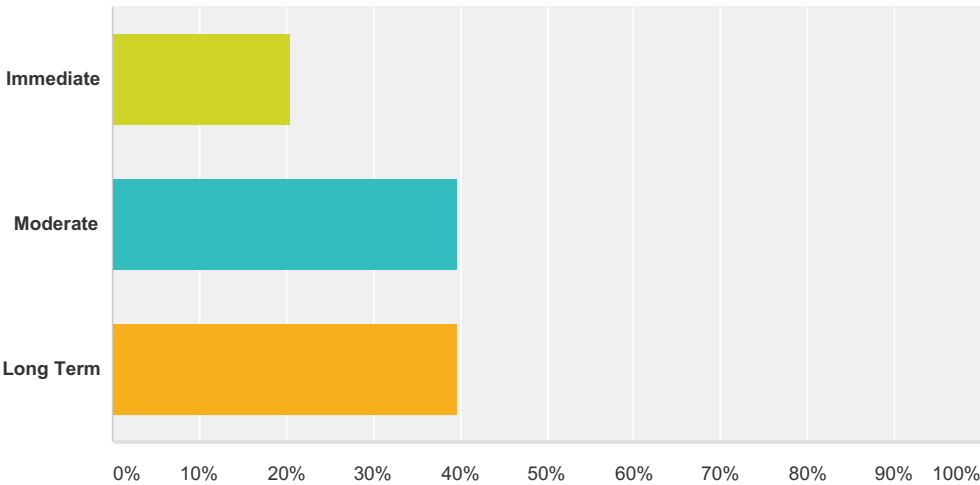
Answered: 72 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	26.39%	19
Moderate	37.50%	27
Long Term	36.11%	26
Total		72

Q6 Purchase property for a fire department maintenance facility and training center

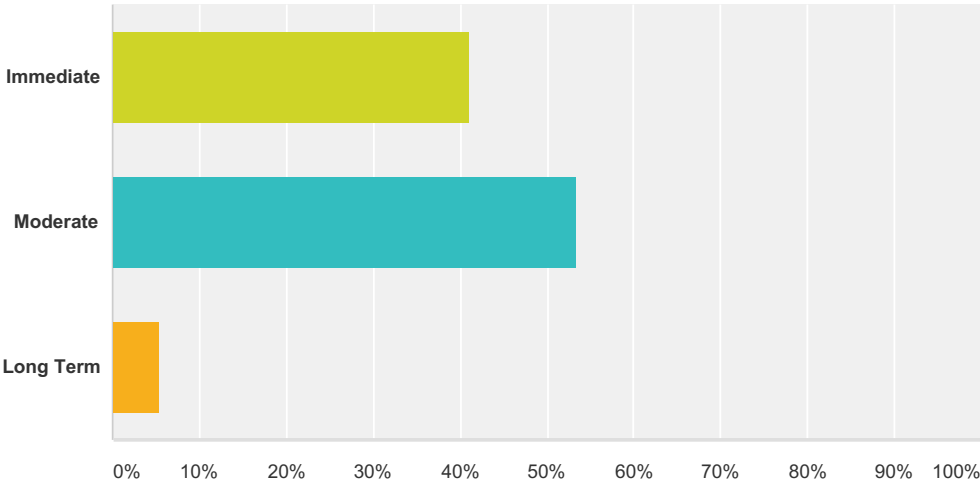
Answered: 73 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	20.55%	15
Moderate	39.73%	29
Long Term	39.73%	29
Total		73

Q7 Encourage maintenance of existing water hydrants and installation of new water hydrants in high need areas

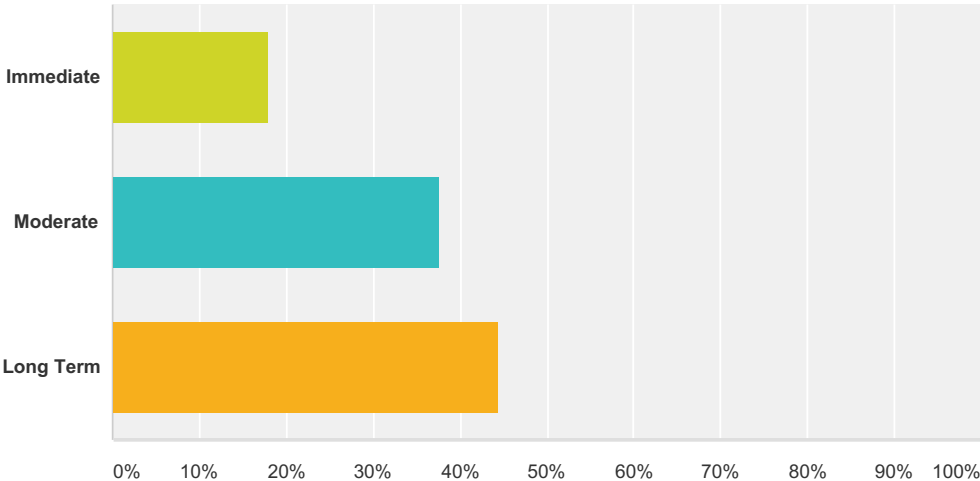
Answered: 73 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	41.10%	30
Moderate	53.42%	39
Long Term	5.48%	4
Total		73

Q8 Determine the feasibility of purchasing and/or building a new station for the Doddridge County Ambulance Authority

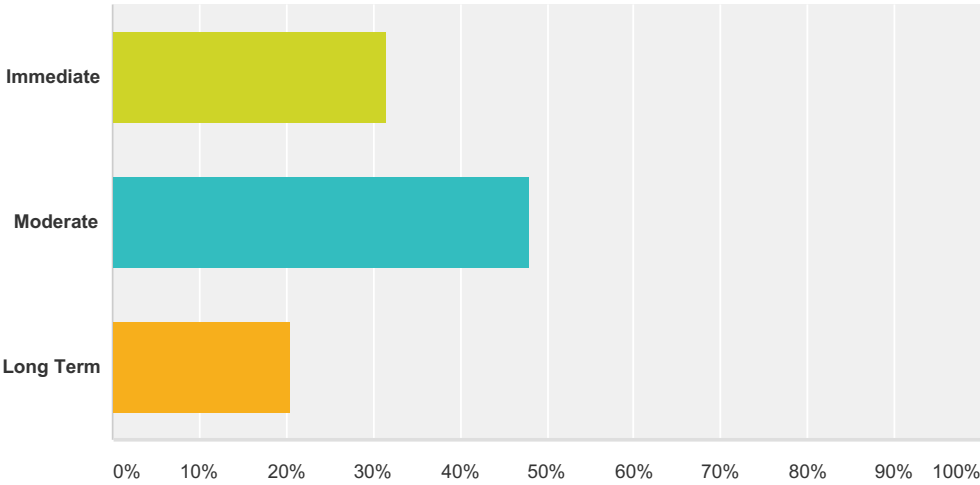
Answered: 72 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	18.06%	13
Moderate	37.50%	27
Long Term	44.44%	32
Total		72

Q9 Consider the development of a substation for the Doddridge County Ambulance Authority to help with response time in rural areas of the county

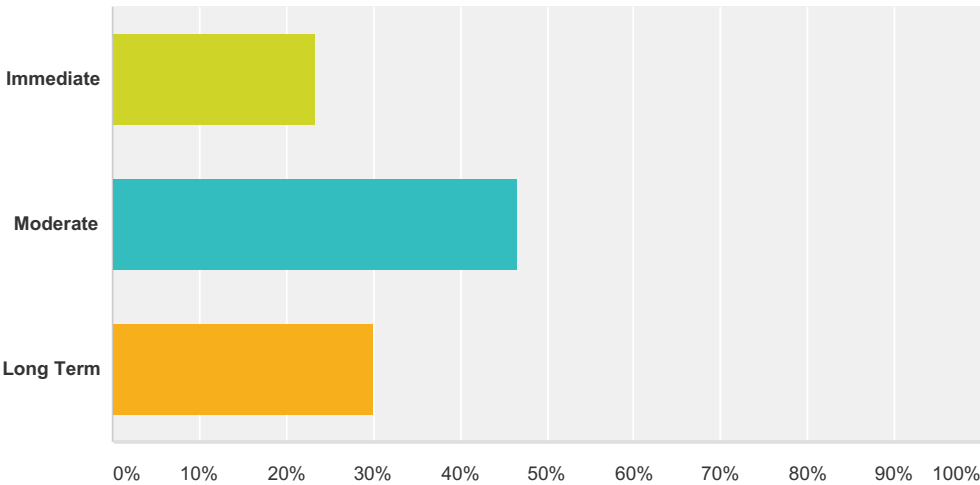
Answered: 73 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	31.51%	23
Moderate	47.95%	35
Long Term	20.55%	15
Total		73

Q10 Explore the option of an EMS rescue service

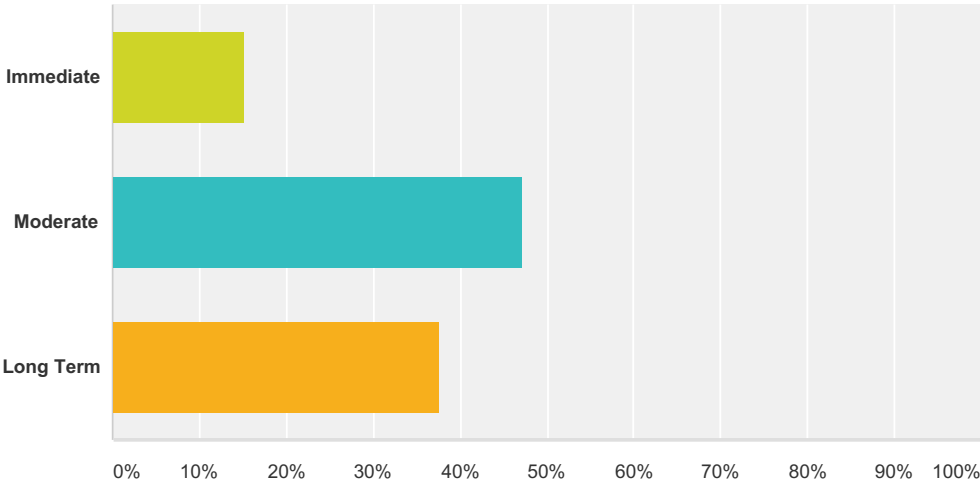
Answered: 73 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	23.29%	17
Moderate	46.58%	34
Long Term	30.14%	22
Total		73

Q11 Work with state and other officials to develop and institute a community paramedicine program/role

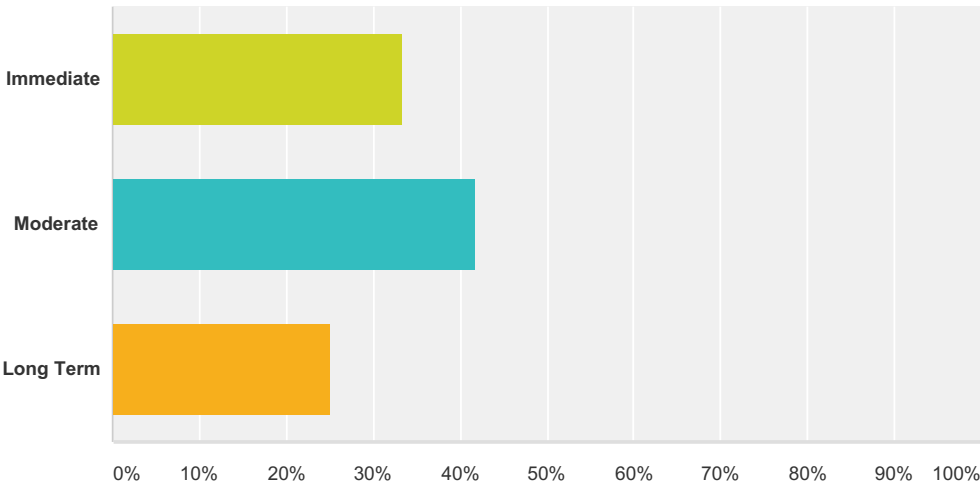
Answered: 72 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	15.28%	11
Moderate	47.22%	34
Long Term	37.50%	27
Total		72

Q12 Investigate the feasibility of attracting an urgent care facility

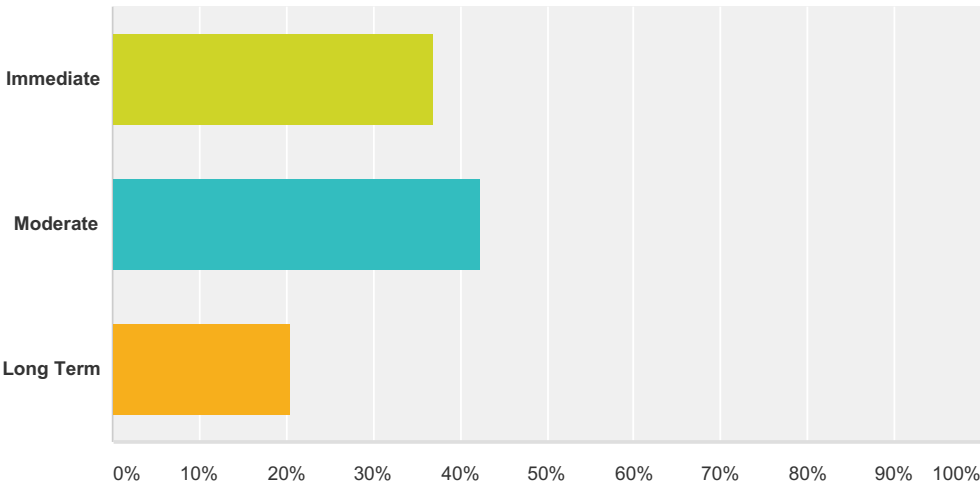
Answered: 72 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	33.33%	24
Moderate	41.67%	30
Long Term	25.00%	18
Total		72

Q13 Replace and/or repair recreation facilities at the Doddridge County Park

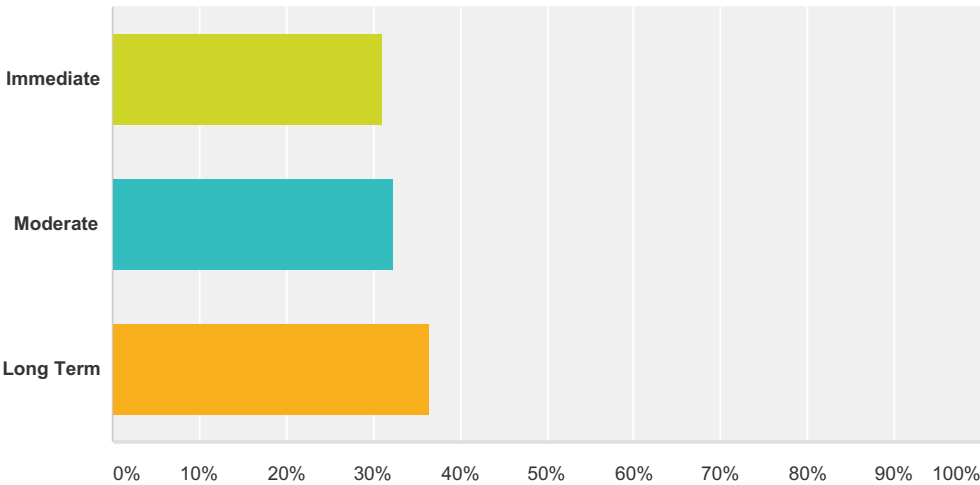
Answered: 73 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	36.99%	27
Moderate	42.47%	31
Long Term	20.55%	15
Total		73

Q14 Develop Doddridge County Park as an adventure park

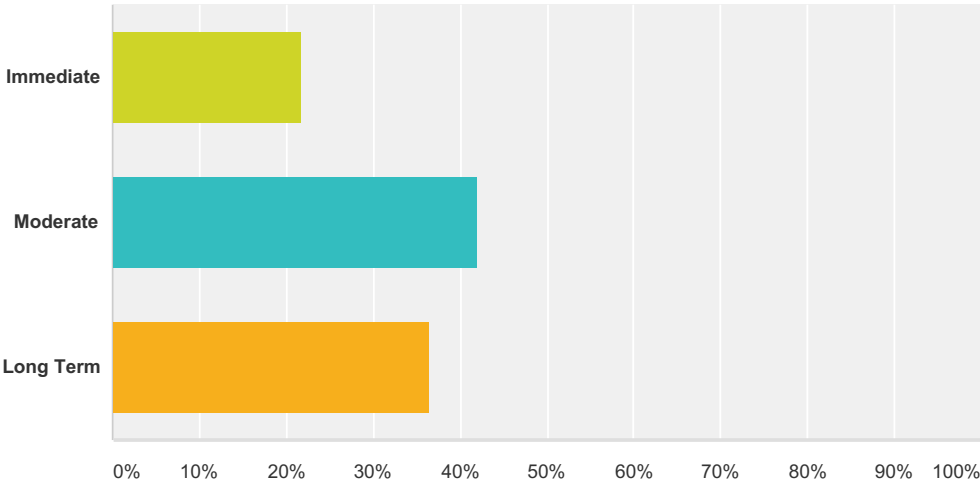
Answered: 74 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	31.08%	23
Moderate	32.43%	24
Long Term	36.49%	27
Total		74

Q15 Improve Spencer Park

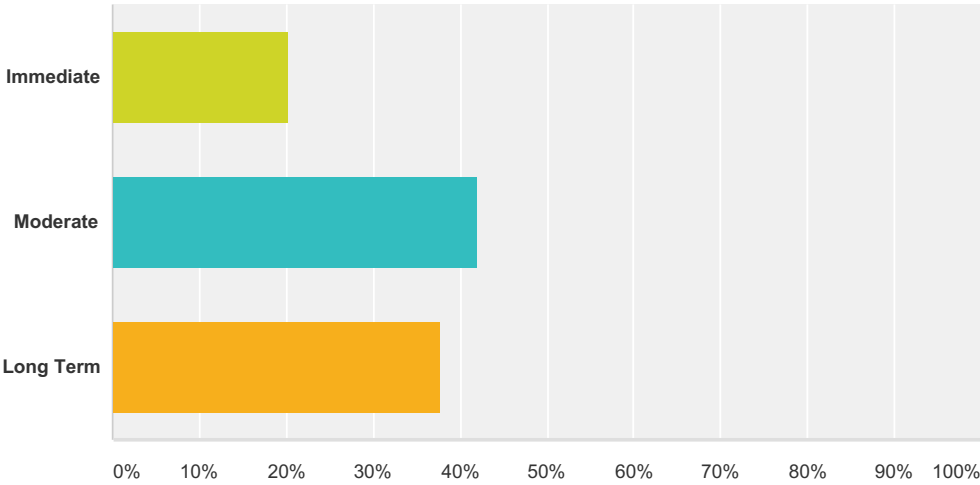
Answered: 74 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	21.62%	16
Moderate	41.89%	31
Long Term	36.49%	27
Total		74

Q16 Work with the North Bend Rail Trail Foundation to determine locations in the county for directional signage and trailheads

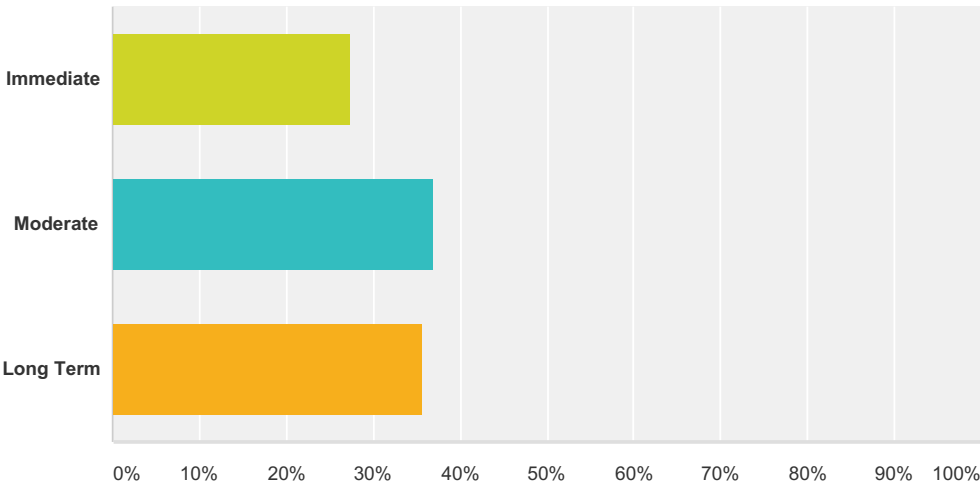
Answered: 74 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	20.27%	15
Moderate	41.89%	31
Long Term	37.84%	28
Total		74

Q17 Improve the condition of the North Bend Rail Trail and picnic shelters

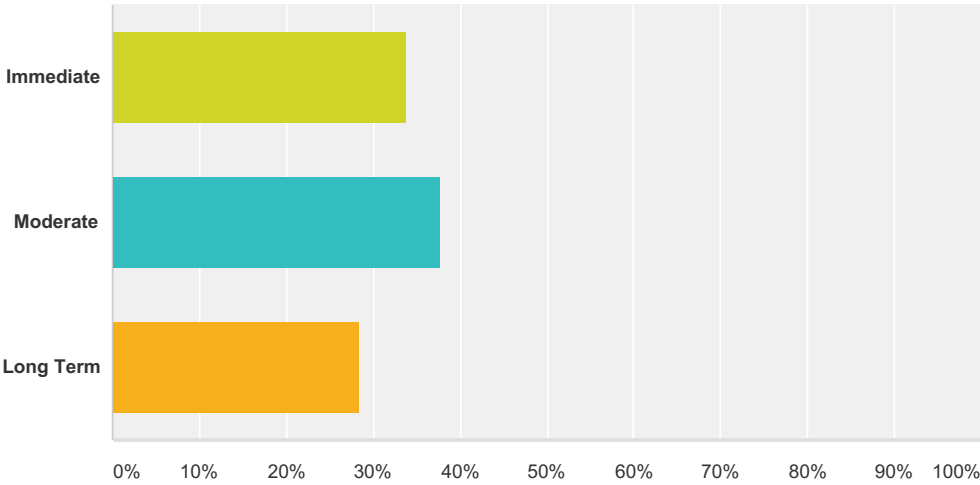
Answered: 73 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	27.40%	20
Moderate	36.99%	27
Long Term	35.62%	26
Total		73

Q18 Improve West Union City Park

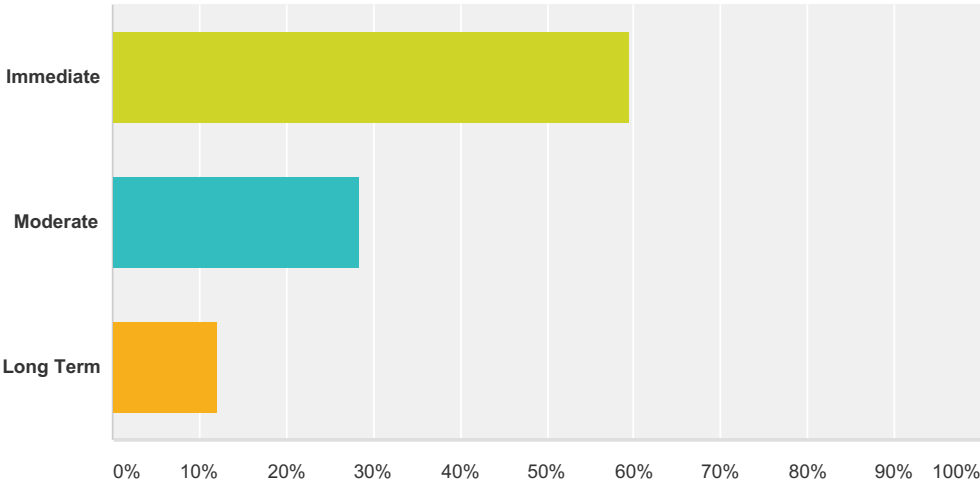
Answered: 74 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	33.78%	25
Moderate	37.84%	28
Long Term	28.38%	21
Total		74

Q19 Educate school-aged children on options in professional and technical fields after graduation

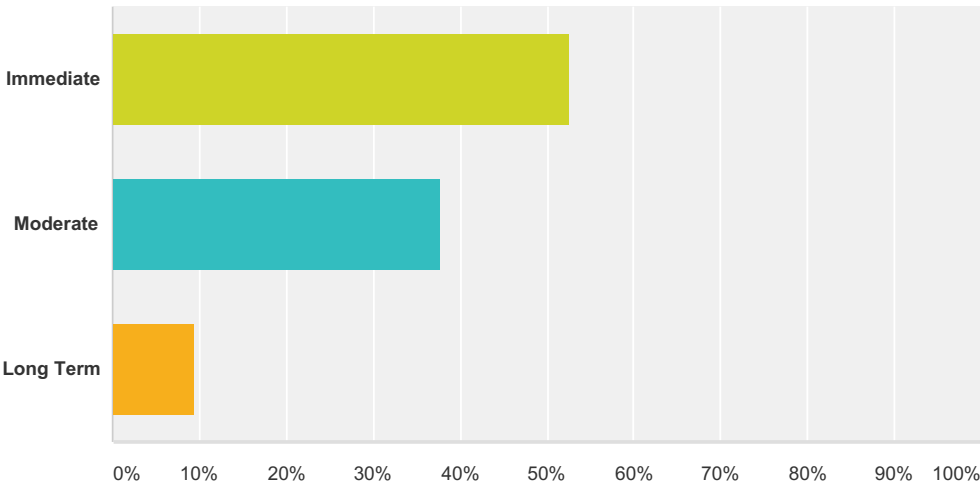
Answered: 74 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	59.46%	44
Moderate	28.38%	21
Long Term	12.16%	9
Total		74

Q20 Begin a drug presentation program in the local school district

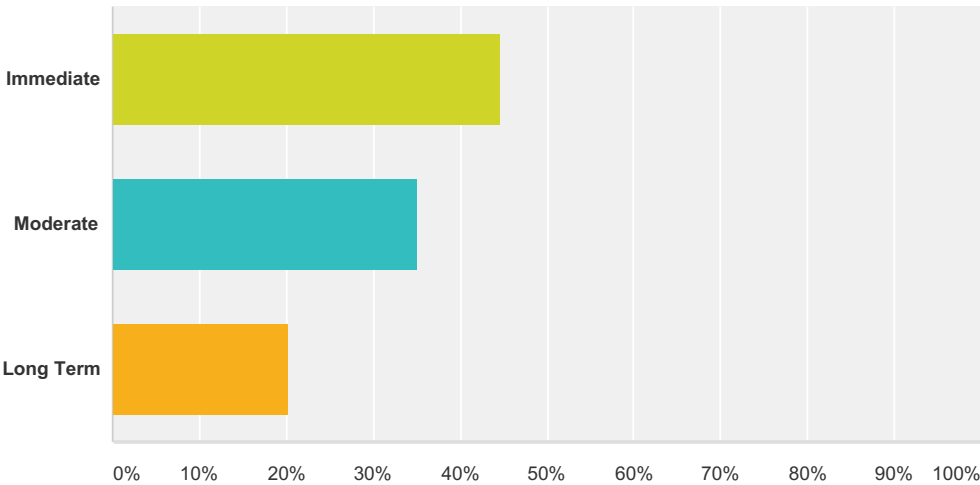
Answered: 74 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	52.70%	39
Moderate	37.84%	28
Long Term	9.46%	7
Total		74

Q21 Attract new residential development into Doddridge County

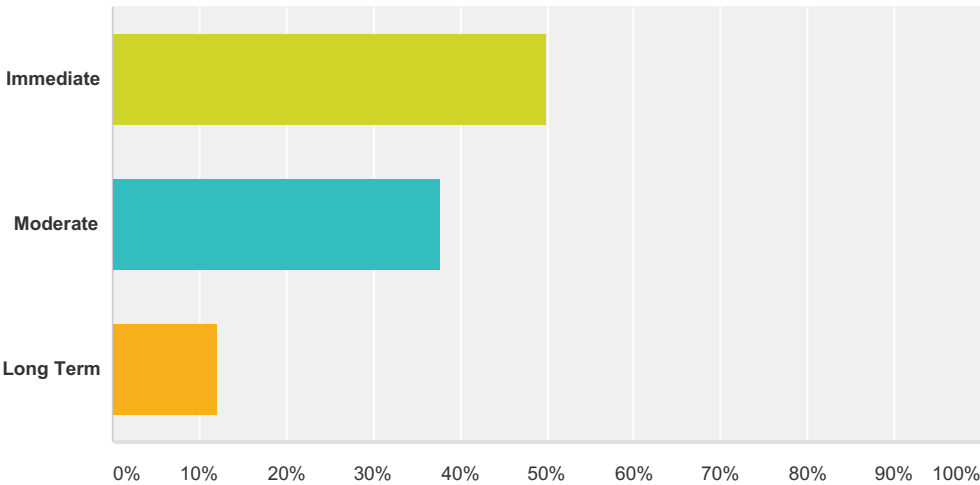
Answered: 74 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	44.59%	33
Moderate	35.14%	26
Long Term	20.27%	15
Total		74

Q22 Identify, research, and prioritize dilapidated buildings to be demolished

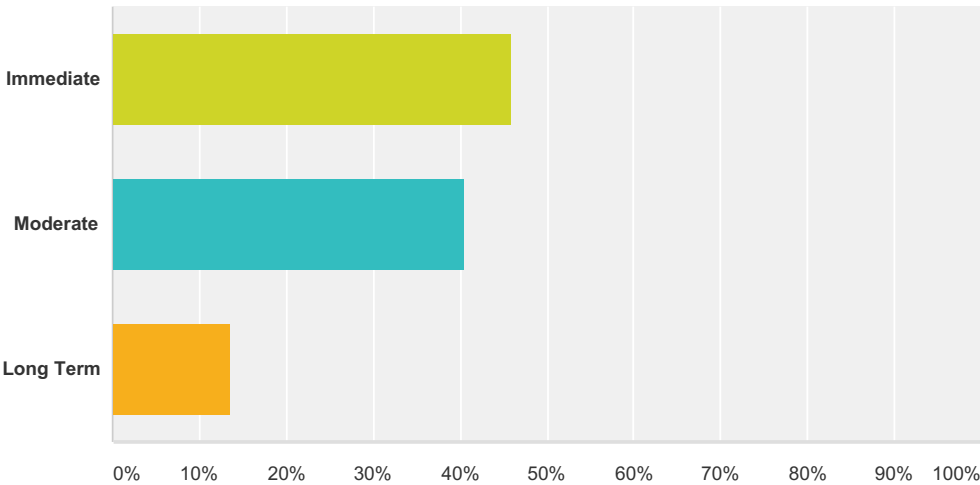
Answered: 74 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	50.00%	37
Moderate	37.84%	28
Long Term	12.16%	9
Total		74

Q23 Review ordinances related to dilapidated buildings

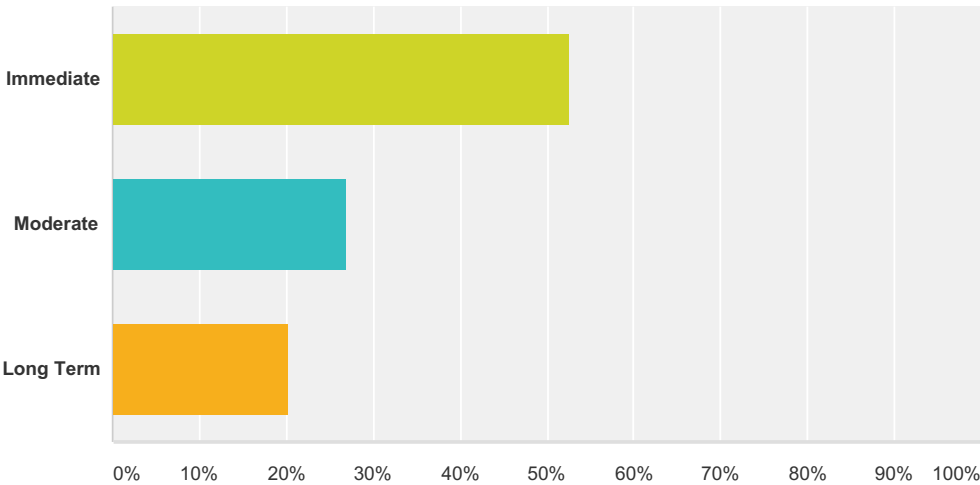
Answered: 74 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	45.95%	34
Moderate	40.54%	30
Long Term	13.51%	10
Total		74

Q24 Apply for funding to demolish dilapidated buildings

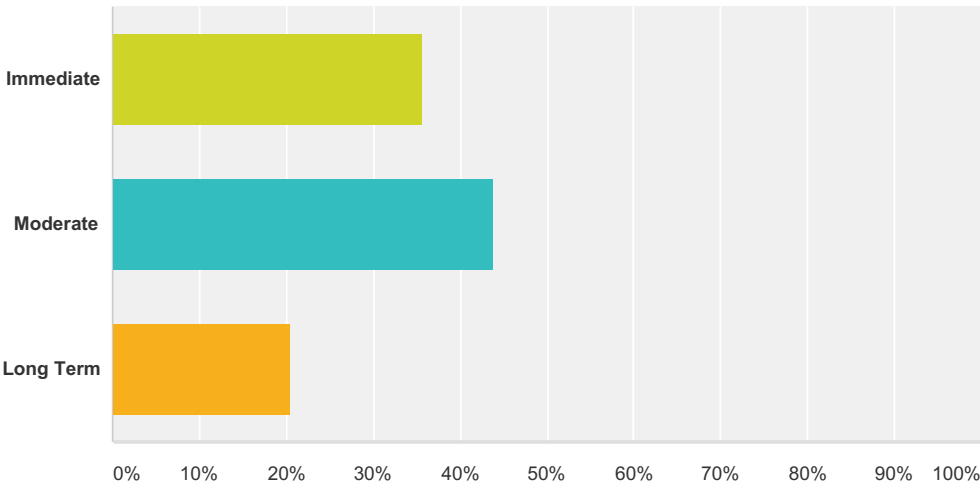
Answered: 74 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	52.70%	39
Moderate	27.03%	20
Long Term	20.27%	15
Total		74

Q25 Enact a vacant property registry ordinance in West Union

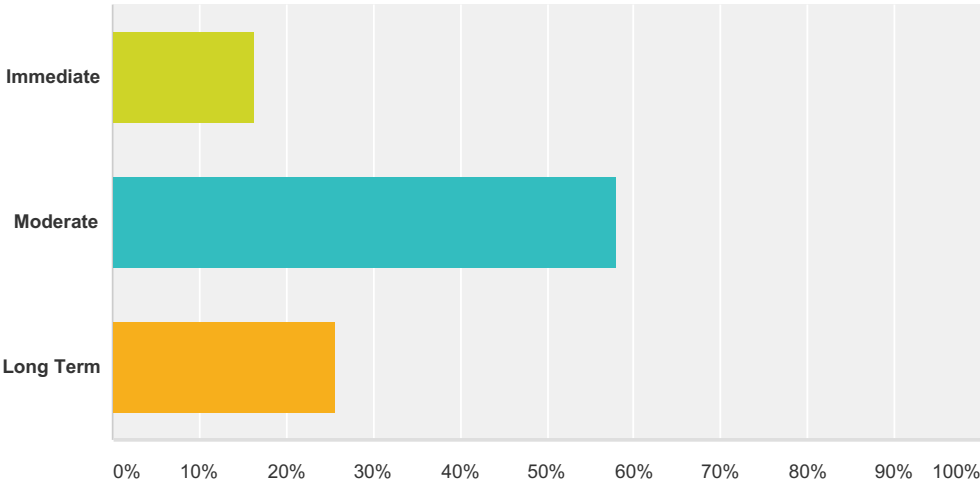
Answered: 73 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	35.62%	26
Moderate	43.84%	32
Long Term	20.55%	15
Total		73

Q26 Consider the feasibility of adopting the International Property Maintenance Code in West Union

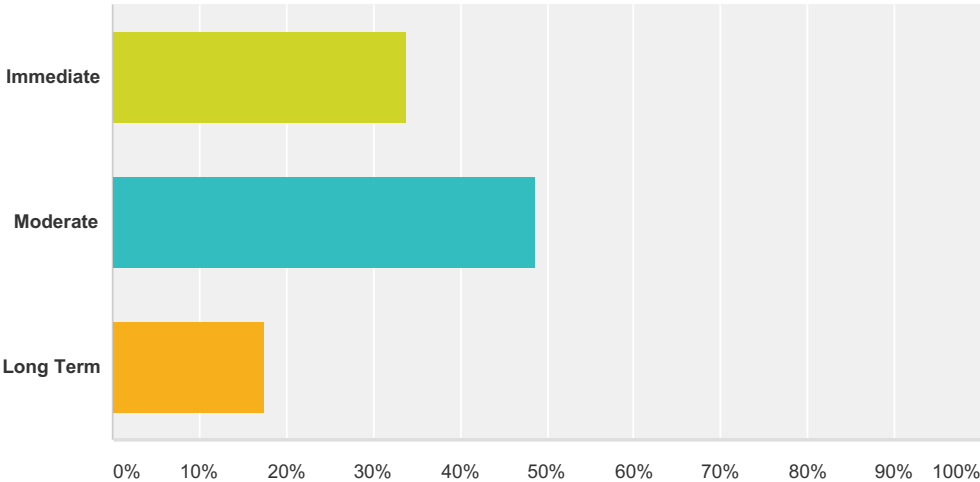
Answered: 74 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	16.22%	12
Moderate	58.11%	43
Long Term	25.68%	19
Total		74

Q27 Discuss the feasibility of building low/moderate income housing and/or housing for seniors with local developers or non-profit organizations

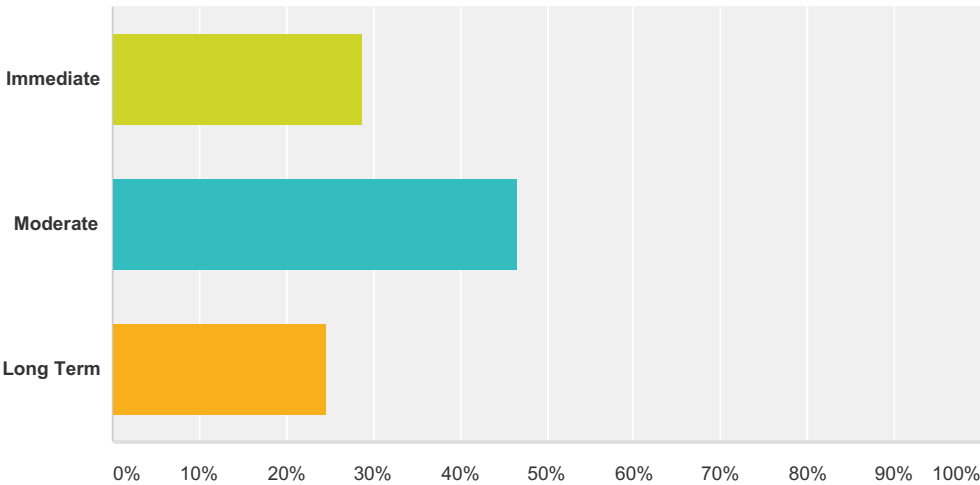
Answered: 74 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	33.78%	25
Moderate	48.65%	36
Long Term	17.57%	13
Total		74

Q28 Develop a website to market Doddridge County

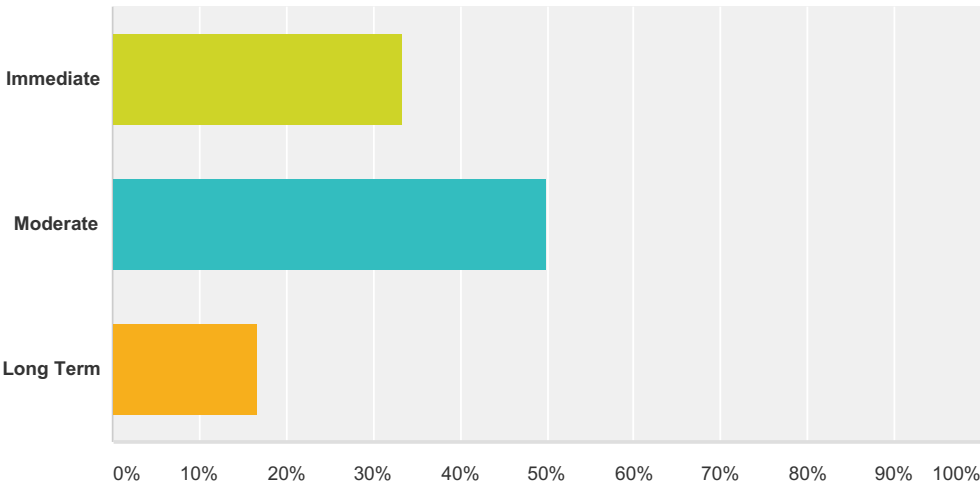
Answered: 73 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	28.77%	21
Moderate	46.58%	34
Long Term	24.66%	18
Total		73

Q29 Market opportunities in Doddridge County

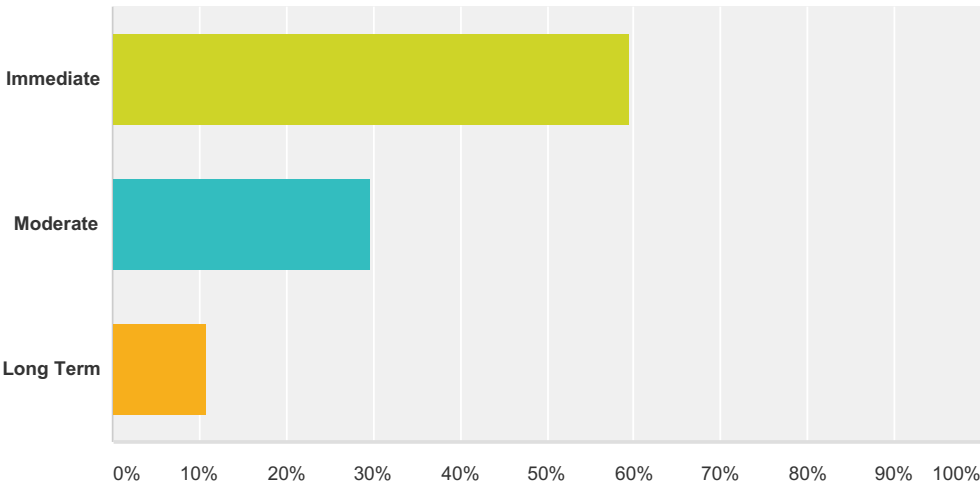
Answered: 72 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	33.33%	24
Moderate	50.00%	36
Long Term	16.67%	12
Total		72

Q30 Extend water to identified high need areas

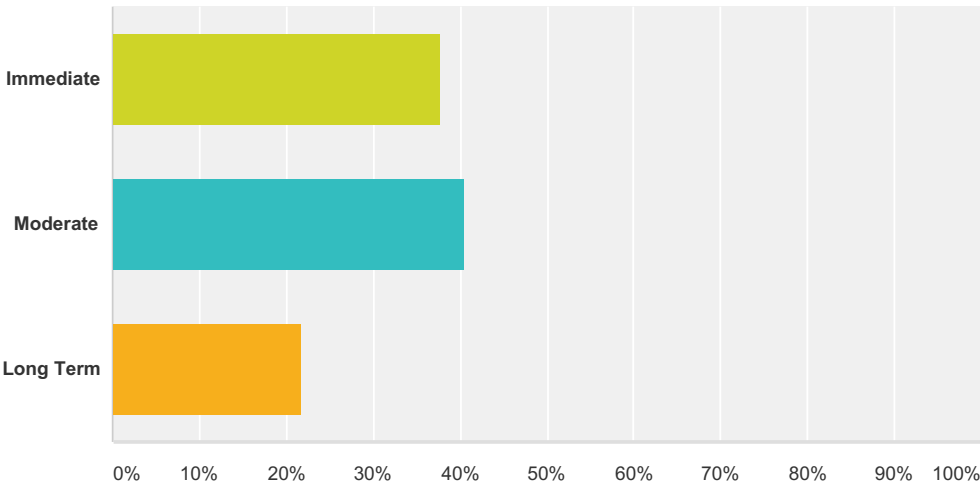
Answered: 74 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	59.46%	44
Moderate	29.73%	22
Long Term	10.81%	8
Total		74

Q31 Partner with the County Health Department to improve rural infrastructure

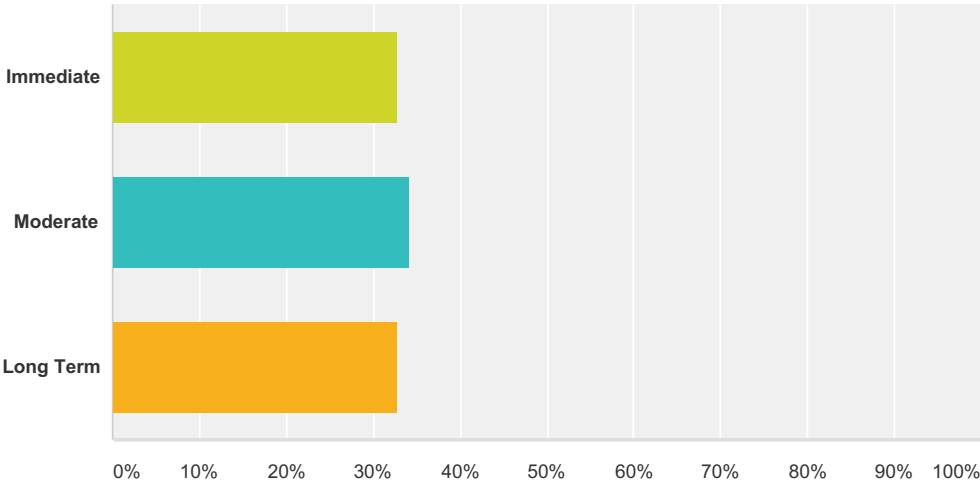
Answered: 74 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	37.84%	28
Moderate	40.54%	30
Long Term	21.62%	16
Total		74

Q32 Work with the Department of Transportation to program longer delays on the traffic light at intersection of US Route 50 and State Route 18

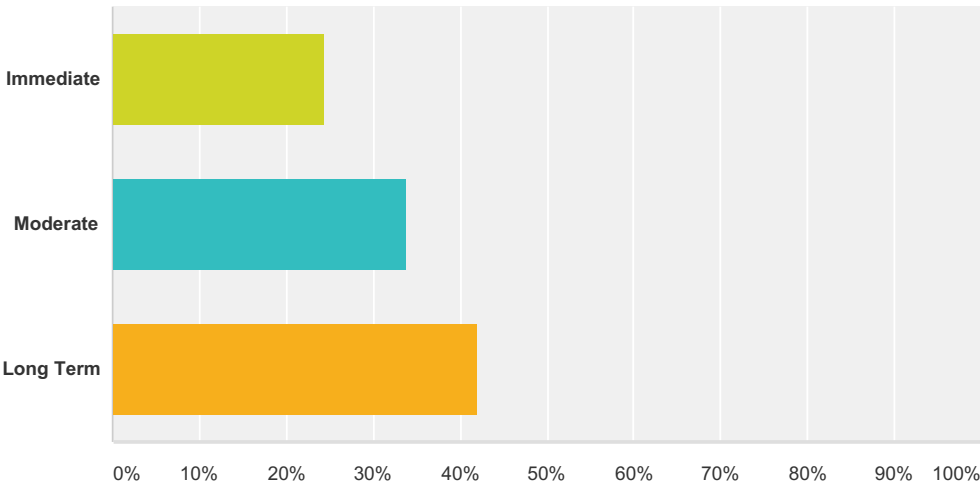
Answered: 73 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	32.88%	24
Moderate	34.25%	25
Long Term	32.88%	24
Total		73

Q33 Develop a sidewalk upgrade plan in West Union

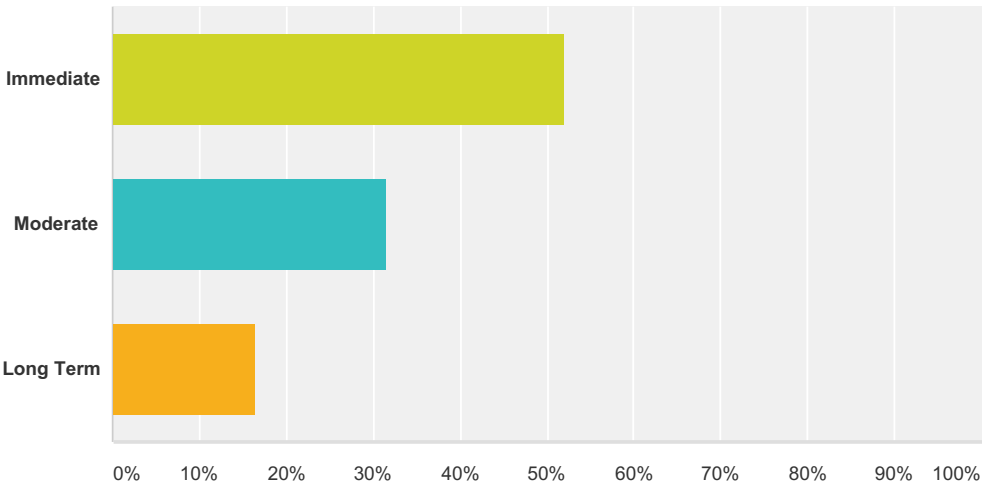
Answered: 74 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	24.32%	18
Moderate	33.78%	25
Long Term	41.89%	31
Total		74

Q34 Continue to maintain local roads in West Union

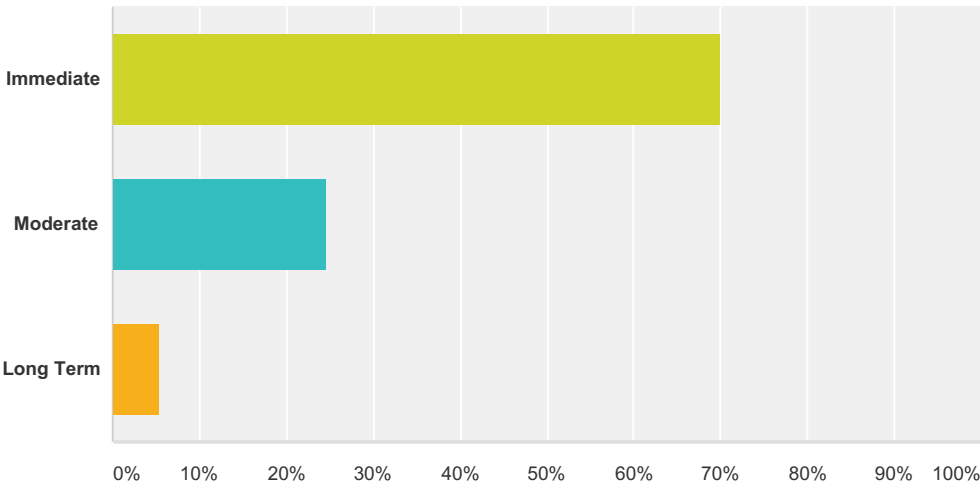
Answered: 73 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	52.05%	38
Moderate	31.51%	23
Long Term	16.44%	12
Total		73

Q35 Encourage expansion of internet and cell phone services

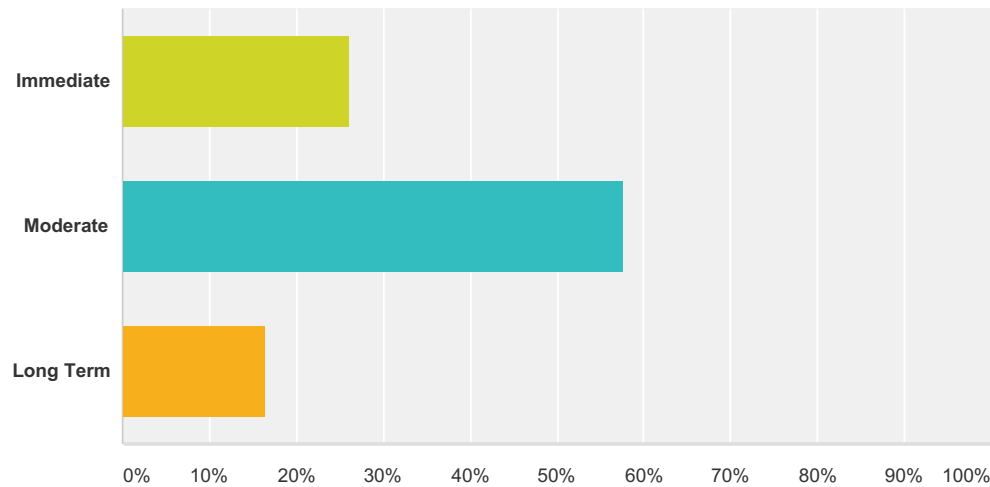
Answered: 73 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	69.86%	51
Moderate	24.66%	18
Long Term	5.48%	4
Total		73

Q36 Encourage participation in the community leadership academy

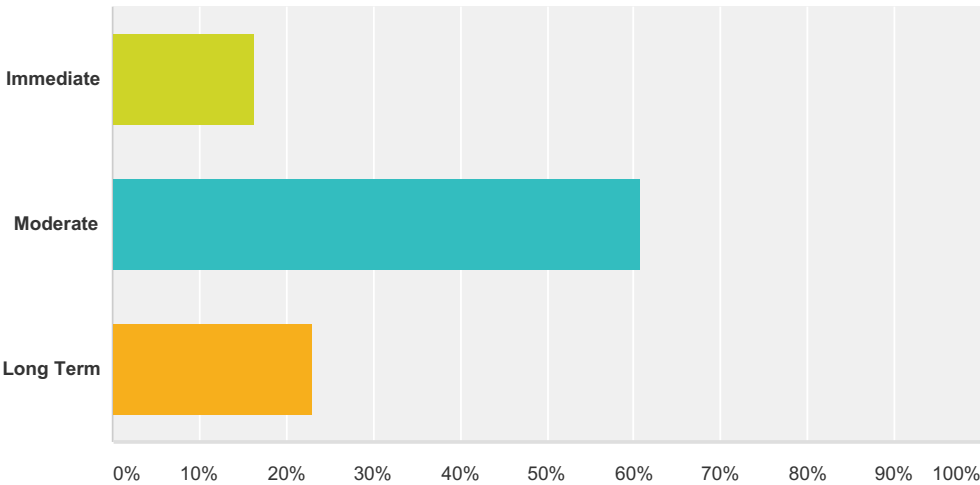
Answered: 73 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	26.03%	19
Moderate	57.53%	42
Long Term	16.44%	12
Total		73

Q37 Hold semi-annual meetings of all non-profit and/or community groups

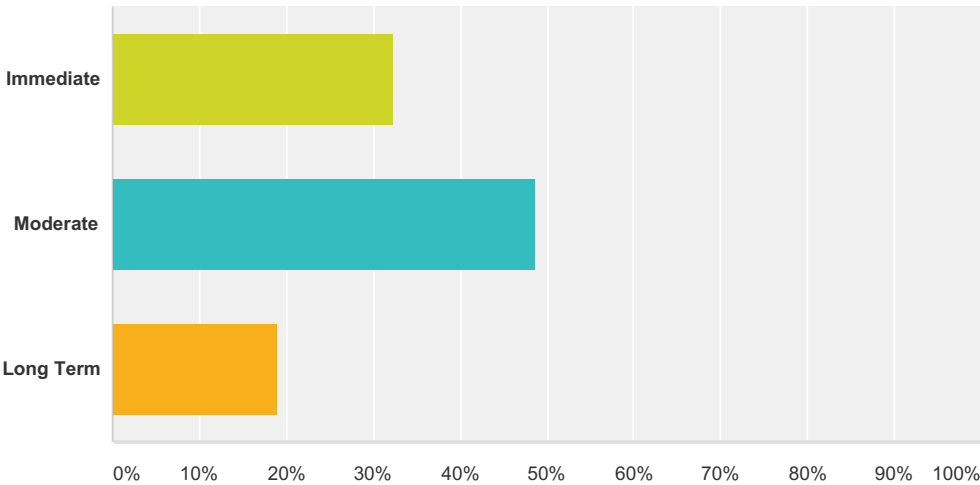
Answered: 74 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	16.22%	12
Moderate	60.81%	45
Long Term	22.97%	17
Total		74

Q38 Promote civic engagement at local schools

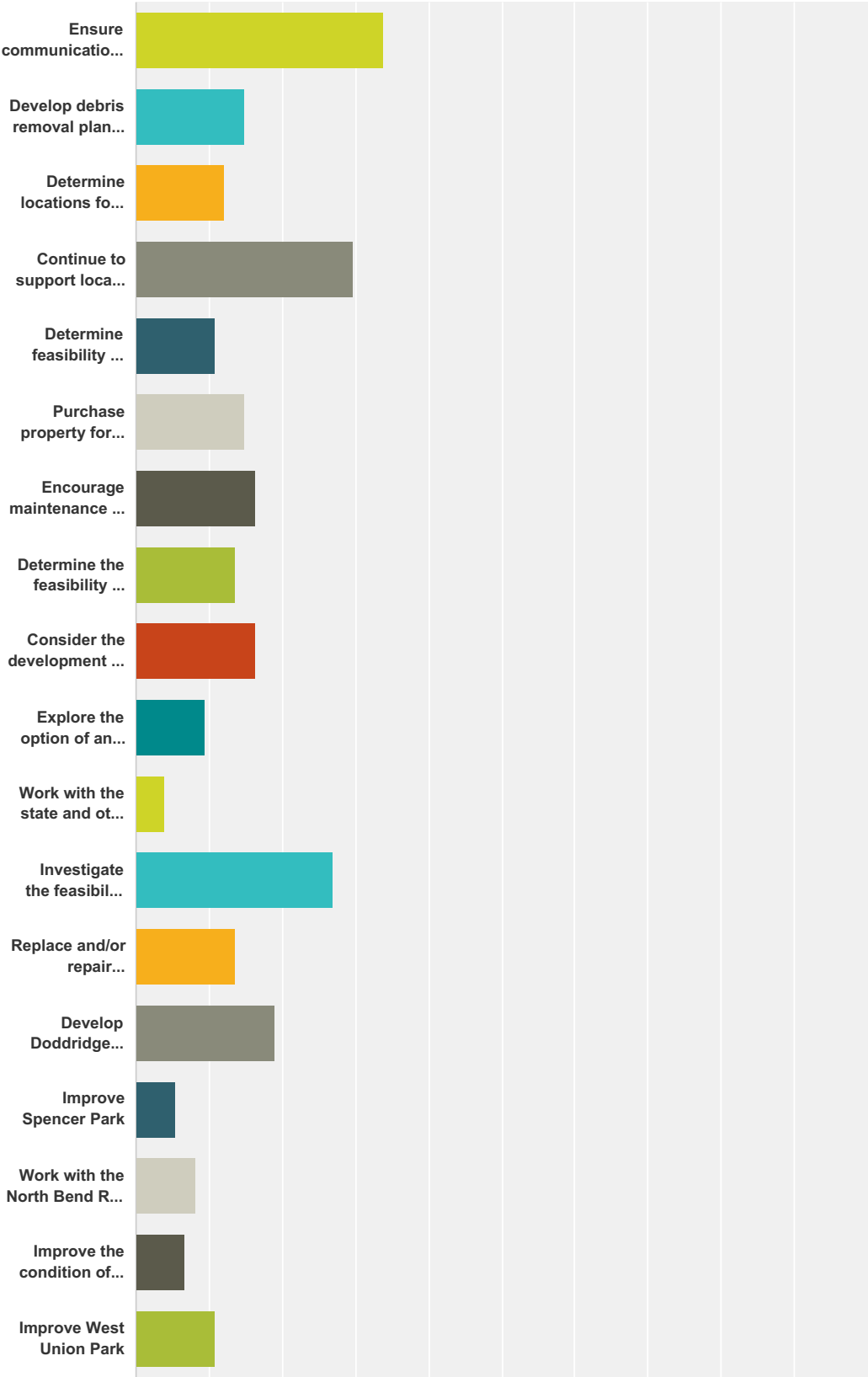
Answered: 74 Skipped: 0

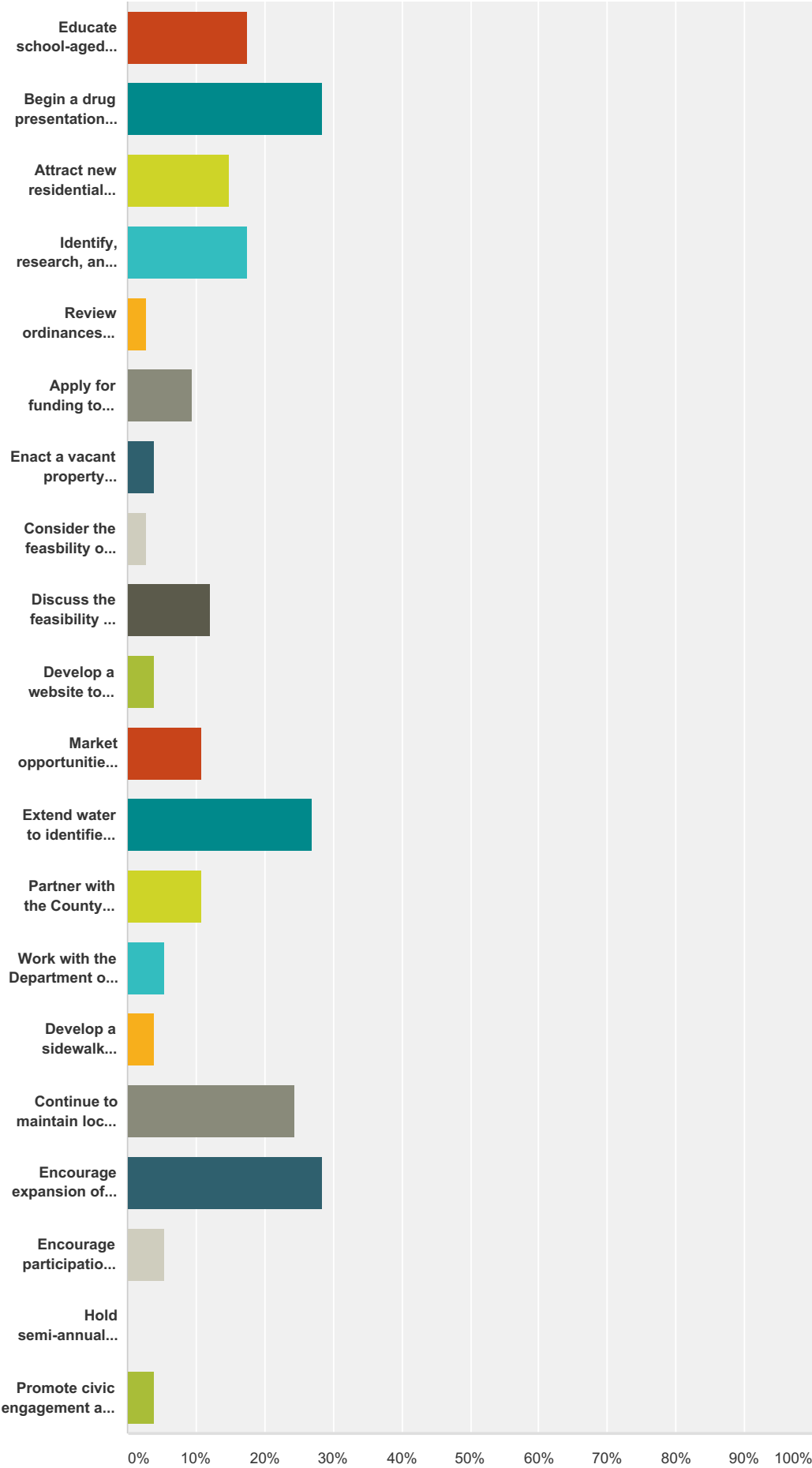


Answer Choices	Responses	
Immediate	32.43%	24
Moderate	48.65%	36
Long Term	18.92%	14
Total		74

Q39 Please pick the top 5 action items that you feel the county and/or town should focus on implementing first.

Answered: 74 Skipped: 0





Answer Choices	Responses
Ensure communication networks meet the needs of emergency service providers	33.78% 25
Develop debris removal plans in the event of a natural disaster	14.86% 11
Determine locations for emergency shelters in less populated areas of the county	12.16% 9
Continue to support local fire departments (additional fire hydrants, volunteers, training opportunities, and replacement of fire engines)	29.73% 22
Determine feasibility of a new updated fire station	10.81% 8
Purchase property for a fire department maintenance facility and training center	14.86% 11
Encourage maintenance of existing water hydrants and installation of new water hydrants in high need areas	16.22% 12
Determine the feasibility of purchasing and/or building a new station for the Doddridge County Ambulance Authority	13.51% 10
Consider the development of a substation for the Doddridge County Ambulance Authority to help with response time in rural areas of the county	16.22% 12
Explore the option of an EMS rescue service	9.46% 7
Work with the state and other officials to develop and institute a community paramedicine program/role	4.05% 3
Investigate the feasibility of attracting an urgent care facility	27.03% 20
Replace and/or repair recreation facilities at the Doddridge County Park	13.51% 10
Develop Doddridge County Park as an adventure park	18.92% 14
Improve Spencer Park	5.41% 4
Work with the North Bend Rail Trail Foundation to determine locations in the county for directional signage and trailheads	8.11% 6
Improve the condition of the North Bend Rail Trail and picnic shelters	6.76% 5
Improve West Union Park	10.81% 8
Educate school-aged children on options in professional and technical fields after graduation	17.57% 13
Begin a drug presentation program in the local school district	28.38% 21
Attract new residential development into Doddridge County	14.86% 11
Identify, research, and prioritize dilapidated buildings to be demolished	17.57% 13
Review ordinances related to dilapidated buildings	2.70% 2
Apply for funding to demolish dilapidated buildings	9.46% 7
Enact a vacant property registry ordinance in West Union	4.05% 3
Consider the feasibility of adopting the International Property Maintenance Code in West Union	2.70% 2
Discuss the feasibility of building low/moderate income housing and/or housing for seniors with local developers or non-profit organizations	12.16% 9
Develop a website to market Doddridge County	4.05% 3
Market opportunities in Doddridge County	10.81% 8
Extend water to identified high need areas	27.03% 20
Partner with the County Health Department to improve rural infrastructure	10.81% 8
Work with the Department of Transportation to program longer delays on the traffic light at intersection of US Route 50 and State Route 18	5.41% 4
Develop a sidewalk upgrade plan in West Union	4.05% 3

Continue to maintain local roads in West Union	24.32%	18
Encourage expansion of internet and cell phone services	28.38%	21
Encourage participation in the community leadership academy	5.41%	4
Hold semi-annual meetings of all non-profit and/or community groups	0.00%	0
Promote civic engagement at local schools	4.05%	3
Total Respondents: 74		

APPENDIX 3: OPEN HOUSE RESULTS

Doddridge County Comprehensive Plan

Open House Meeting Results-November 2015

Strengths

- County Park
- Library
- Streetscape Project
- Northbend Railroad Trail
- New business
- Route 50
- Class 3 property tax- oil/gas revenue

Opportunities

- Expand county park
- New residents bringing new ideas
- Tourism
- Heritage assets
- Opportunities for entrepreneurs
- Small scale agriculture
- Developable land
- Strengthen school system
- Oil and gas industry

Weaknesses

- Getting people to engage
- Lack of infrastructure
- Media negativity
- Resistance to change
- Limited tax base
- Few businesses
- Small population
- Limited housing (multi-family)
- Sustained growth-long term benefit of gas boom
- Lack of land use plan
- Lack of zoning
- Drugs/employability
- Limited workforce
- Slum and blighted properties
- Frontier sucks
- Limited internet
- Older generation holds on to control
- Changing mindset of folks
- Attracting potential businesses
- Bad roads
- Lack of public transportation (bus service, taxi)

Doddridge County Comprehensive Plan
Open House Meeting Results-November 2015

- Lack of public parking
- No hotel/motel
- No golf course/driving range
- Substandard healthcare
- Most doctors are part-time
- No dentist
- Limited recreation opportunities for youth
- Low income
- Low education
- Low expectations

Bubble (What do you want your tax dollars spent on?)

- Water (3)
- Sewage (3)
- PSD
- Education
- Infrastructure
- Pave streets in West Union
- Economic Development (Industrial Park)
- Housing Options (Housing developments, multi-family housing)
- Population growth
- Small business development
- Recreation opportunities

Recommendation	Priority
Public Safety Recommendations	
Ensure communication networks meet the needs of emergency service providers	0
Develop debris removal plans in the event of a natural disaster	0
Determine locations for emergency shelters in less populated areas of the county	3
Continue to support local volunteer fire departments	7
Determine the feasibility of a new upgraded fire station	0
Purchase property for a fire department maintenance facility or training center	0
Encourage maintenance of existing water hydrants and installation of new water hydrants in high need areas	0
Determine the feasibility of purchasing and/or building a new station for the Doddridge County Ambulance Authority	0
Consider the development of a substation for the Doddridge County Ambulance Authority to help with response time in rural areas of the county	0
Explore the option of an EMS rescue service	1
Work with the state and other officials to develop and institute a community paramedicine program/role	1
Investigate the feasibility of attracting an urgent care facility	3
Recreation Recommendations	
Replace and/or repair recreation facilities at the Doddridge County Park	6
Develop Doddridge County Park as an adventure park	10
Improve Spencer Park	1
Work with the North Bend Rail Trail Foundation to determine locations in the county for directional signage and trailheads	1
Improve the condition of the North Bend Rail Trail and picnic shelters	0
Education Recommendations	
Educate school-aged children on options in professional and technical fields after graduation	8
Begin a drug presentation program in the local school district	7
Housing Recommendations	
Attract new residential development into Doddridge County	3
Identify, research, and prioritize dilapidated buildings to be demolished	6
Review ordinances related to dilapidated buildings	1
Apply for funding to demolish dilapidated buildings	7
Discuss the feasibility of building low/moderate income housing with local developers or non-profit organizations	8
Economic Development Recommendations	
Develop a website to market Doddridge County	6
Market opportunities in Doddridge County	9

Recommendation		Priority
Infrastructure Recommendations		
Extend water to identified high need areas		9
Partner with the County Health Department to improve rural infrastructure		2
Request that the West Virginia Department of Transportation program longer delays on the traffic light at the intersection of US Route 50 and State Route 18		0
Encourage expansion of internet and cell phone services		8
Local Leadership Recommendations		
Encourage participation in the community leadership academy		4
Hold semi-annual meetings of all non-profit and/or community groups		0
Promote civic engagement at local schools		12

Highest priority should be:

1. Clean air, clean unpolluted water
2. Rehab for Opioid Use (5)
3. Orderly and controlled industrial development (4)
4. Leadership development
5. Leadership and community capacity

Recommendation	Priority
Improve West Union City Park	3
Identify, research, and prioritize dilapidated buildings to be demolished	9
Apply for funding to demolish dilapidated buildings	11
Enact a vacant property registry ordinance in West Union	0
Consider the feasibility of adopting the International Property Maintenance Code in West Union	2
Develop a sidewalk upgrade plan in West Union	3
Continue to maintain local roads in West Union	5

Highest priority should be:

1. Improve infrastructure (sewers, sidewalks, pot holes) (2)
2. Dilapidated buildings (2)
3. Removal of campers on West End of town

APPENDIX 4:

SOURCES

Sources

Appalachian Regional Commission website, <http://www.arc.gov/> Accessed September 2013.

Benedum Foundation website, www.benedum.org Accessed September 2013.

Central Communications, Inc website, <http://www.centrale911.com/> Accessed April 2016.

Doddridge County Historical Society Facebook Page,
<https://www.facebook.com/doddridgecountyhistorical/> Accessed April 2016.

Doddridge County Library website, <http://dodd.clark.lib.wv.us/> Accessed April 2016.

Doddridge County Park website, <http://doddridgecountypark.com/index.html> Accessed March 2016.

Doddridge County Public Service District. (2011). Doddridge County Water Study Report. E.L. Robinson Engineering.

Doddridge County Schools website, <http://www.dcschools.us/> Accessed March 2016.

Doddridge County Watershed Association Facebook Page, <https://www.facebook.com/Doddridge-County-Watershed-Association-204833832885008/> Accessed March 2016.

Energize WV website,
http://www.energizewv.com/north_central_wv_county_and_city_governments_receive_over_4_million Accessed April 2016.

Mountain Valley Pipeline website, <https://www.mountainvalleypipeline.info/> Accessed April 2017.

North Bend Rail Trail website, <http://www.northbendrailtrailstatepark.com/> Accessed March 2016.

North Bend Rail Trail Foundation website, <http://www.northbendrailtrail.net/> Accessed March 2016.

Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency website,
<http://www.pema.pa.gov/about/publicinformation/Documents/Other%20Public%20Assistance%20Forms/Public%20Assistance%20Pilot%20Program%20Debris%20Management%20Plan%20Outline.pdf> Accessed February 2017.

Project Isaac website, <https://sites.google.com/site/projectisaacwebsite/home/doddridge-elementary-school> Accessed March 2016.

Region VI Planning and Development Council. (2013). Region VI Broadband Strategic Plan. Region VI Broadband Planning Team.

Ritchie Regional Health Center website, <http://ritchieregional.org/> Accessed March 2017.

Rover Pipeline Project website, <http://www.roverpipelinefacts.com/> Accessed April 2017.

Smart Growth Implementation Assistance website, <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/sgia.htm>
Accessed September 2013.

United States Department of Agriculture Census website, <https://www.agcensus.usda.gov/>
Accessed March 2016.

United States Department of Transportation- Federal Highway Administration, Transportation Alternatives Program website, <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/guidance/guidetap.cfm>
Accessed September 2013.

West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy Blog website, <http://www.wvpolicy.org/> Accessed March 2013.

West Virginia Code, Chapter 8A: Land Use Planning website, <http://www.legis.state.wv.us> Accessed September 2013.

West Virginia Department of Commerce, Community Resources website,
<http://www.wvcommerce.org/people/communityresources/default.aspx>
Accessed October 2013.

West Virginia Department of Transportation website,
<http://www.transportation.wv.gov/Pages/default.aspx> Accessed March 2016.

West Virginia Encyclopedia website, <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1936> Accessed March 2016.

Workforce West Virginia website, <http://www.workforcewv.org/lmi/> Accessed March 2017.

APPENDIX 5:

FUNDING

OPPORTUNITIES

Funding Sources

Appalachian Regional Commission

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) provides federal grant funds for the support of economic and community development in West Virginia. The goal of ARC is to create opportunities for self-sustaining economic development and improved quality of life.

Projects approved for ARC assistance must support one of the four general goals:

- Strengthen the capacity of the people of Appalachia to compete in the global economy.
- Increase job opportunities and per capita income in Appalachia to reach parity with the nation.
- Develop and improve Appalachia's infrastructure to make the Region economically competitive.
- Build the Appalachian Development Highway System to reduce Appalachia's isolation.

Activities generally eligible for funding include, but are not limited to, projects that:

- Improve infrastructure for community and economic development.
- Improve educational opportunities and workforce skills.
- Increase civic and leadership capacity.
- Increase entrepreneurial opportunities.
- Improve health care resources.

Benedum Foundation

The mission of the Benedum Foundation is to encourage human development in West Virginia and Southwestern Pennsylvania through strategically placed charitable resources. The foundation gives two types of grants; education and economic development.

Governors Community Participation Grant Program

The Governor's Community Partnership Grant program provides state grant funds for community and economic development projects throughout West Virginia. The program enables communities to expand, build and improve a variety of public facilities and services.

Eligible activities include but are not limited to permanent public improvements related to the following:

- City hall and courthouse facilities
- Community centers
- Construction and renovation of public facilities
- Demolition
- Economic development
- Flood and storm drainage
- Business and industrial parks
- Land and property acquisition

- Libraries
- Parks and recreation
- Parking facilities
- Preservation and beautification
- Street and sidewalk repair
- Technology
- Water and wastewater facilities and services

KaBOOM

KaBoom is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to creating play spaces for children throughout the United States. KaBoom offers three types of grants:

- Build it with KaBOOM!- work with KaBOOM! and their corporate partners. This grant provides coaching and facilitation of an experienced Project Manager to help design and build a permanent play structure
- Build it Yourself- grant (\$15,000) to be used toward the purchase of playground equipment
- Creative Play Grants- used to design play equipment that encourages creativity, communication, and collaboration in play

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund program (LWCF) provides supplemental federal funding for the acquisition and/or development of high-quality, public outdoor recreational areas throughout West Virginia. Proposed projects must be consistent with the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Park renovations, expansions to promote active lifestyles, innovation in community cores, attracting or retain visitors to an area, development of trailheads or preservation of other natural areas to impact community health objectives and brownfields renewal efforts will receive funding priority.

Eligible activities include but are not limited to the development of outdoor recreation resources related to the following:

- “ Land acquisition for parklands
- “ Development or renovation of the following types of outdoor recreational facilities:
 - “ Campgrounds
 - “ Picnic areas
 - “ Sports and playfields
 - “ Golf courses
 - “ Swimming facilities
 - “ Boating facilities
 - “ Fishing facilities
 - “ Hunting areas
 - “ Trails
 - “ Winter sport facilities
 - “ Support facilities (walks, utilities, bathrooms, etc.)
 - “ Amphitheaters
 - “ Lake impoundments

- Visitor information centers
- Interpretive centers

Neighborhood Investment Program

The Neighborhood Investment Program (NIP) increases charitable giving to local nonprofit organizations. The program allows 501(c)3 designated charitable organizations to apply for tax credit vouchers. These organizations distribute the vouchers to contributing businesses and individuals. By donating to approved NIP organizations, contributors can support their communities and earn credits to reduce certain West Virginia taxes.

The West Virginia Legislature sets aside \$2.5 million annually in state tax credits for the NIP. To participate, a 501(c)3 charitable organization must apply to the West Virginia Development Office. Upon meeting program requirements and obtaining approval from the NIP Advisory Board, organizations are awarded tax credit vouchers. Businesses and individuals that contribute to NIP-approved organizations are eligible to receive up to 50 percent of the contributed amount in the form of state tax credits. Donors may use the credits to reduce liability for the Corporate Net Income Tax, the Business Franchise tax or the Personal Income Tax.

Projects generally eligible for program participation include but are not limited to the following:

- Health clinics
- Homeless shelters
- Educational programs
- Housing programs
- Preservation/revitalization activities
- Domestic violence shelters
- Children's shelters
- Meal delivery programs
- Senior citizens' centers
- Community foundations
- Scholarship programs
- Hospice care
- Transportation programs
- Day care centers
- Counseling services
- Services for the disabled

Small Cities Block Grant Fund

The Small Cities Block Grant program (SCBG) provides federal funds for community and economic development projects throughout West Virginia. The program supports job creation and retention efforts, local government efforts to provide affordable infrastructure systems and community efforts to improve the quality of life for low- to moderate-income citizens. Eligible units of local government may receive SCBG funds if they are documented to fulfill one of three national objectives:

- Activities benefiting low- and moderate-income people.

- Activities that aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight.
- Activities designed to meet community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community and where other financial resources are not available to meet such needs.

Activities generally eligible for funding include but are not limited to permanent public improvements related to the following:

- Community centers/senior citizen centers
- Construction and renovation of public facilities
- Demolition
- Economic development
- Flood and storm drainage
- Acquisition
- Parks and recreation
- Preservation and beautification
- Technology
- Water and wastewater facilities and services
- Community facilities renovation/construction

Smart Growth Implementation Assistance

The Smart Growth Implementation Assistance (SGIA) program provides assistance from national experts to help communities explore barriers to smart growth implementation and pilot innovative ideas that create more sustainable communities. EPA will provide technical assistance to successful applicants.

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

TAP provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation; recreational trail program projects; safe routes to school projects; and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways.

The TAP program now funds projects that would have previously been considered under the Transportation Enhancement and Safe Routes to Schools Programs.

APPENDIX 6:

ADOPTION

MATERIALS

The Doddridge Independent

The Doddridge Independent PUBLISHER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Michael D. Zorn, Publisher of The
Doddridge Independent, A newspaper of
general circulation published in the town
of West Union, Doddridge County,
West Virginia, do hereby certify that:

NOTICE that the Doddridge County Planning
Commission will hold a public hearing and meeting on
November 28, 2017 at 6:00 PM at the Doddridge County
Public Library, 170 Marie Street, West Union, West
Virginia 26456. The public is invited to attend and
submit comments on the recently drafted Doddridge
County Comprehensive Plan. Beginning on October 6,
2017, a copy of the comprehensive plan can be reviewed

was published in The Doddridge Independent
1 time commencing on Friday, October 6, 2017 and
Ending on Friday, October 6, 2017 at the request of:

Herk Conner
Doddridge County Planning Commission


Given under my hand this Friday, October 6, 2017

The publisher's fee for said publication is:

\$ 29.04 1st Run/\$ 0 Subsequent Runs
This Legal Ad Total: \$ 29.04

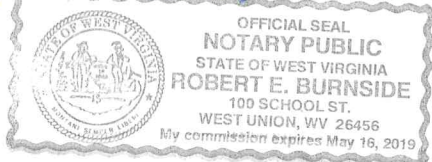

Michael D. Zorn
Publisher of The Doddridge Independent

Subscribed to and sworn to before me on
this date: 10 / 10 / 17


Notary Public in and for Doddridge County

My Commission expires on

The 26 day of NOV 20 19



ociated Press News

Friday
October 6, 2017

B7

Legal Advertisement

NOTICE that the Doddridge County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing and meeting on November 28, 2017 at 6:00 PM at the Doddridge County Public Library, 170 Marie Street, West Union, West Virginia 26456. The public is invited to attend and submit comments on the recently drafted Doddridge County Comprehensive Plan. Beginning on October 6, 2017, a copy of the comprehensive plan can be reviewed at the Doddridge County Courthouse in the County Clerk's Office (8:30 AM to 4:00 PM), 108 East Court Street, West Union, WV 26456 and the Doddridge County Public Library, 170 Marie Street, West Union, West Virginia 26456. The plan can also be viewed online at <https://doddridgeplanning.com/wordpress.com/>. Members of the public can call Herk Conner, Doddridge County Planning Commission President at 304-873-1652 if they are unable to review the plan at the county courthouse or public library. Written comments can be submitted prior to the scheduled hearing at Doddridge County Economic Development Authority, 187 Main Street, PO Box 147, West Union, WV 26456.

C1

**RESOLUTION APPROVING A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PREPARED BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF
DODDRIDGE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA**

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission for Doddridge County, West Virginia, pursuant to Chapter 8A of the West Virginia Code, has prepared a comprehensive plan for the County;

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has adopted procedures for public input throughout the comprehensive plan process;

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has identified and addressed all required objectives and components pursuant to Chapter 8A of the West Virginia Code;

WHEREAS, pursuant to West Virginia Code §8A-3-6, notice was published in the Doddridge Independent on October 6, 2017;

WHEREAS, further pursuant to West Virginia Code §8A-3-6, a public hearing was held before the County of Doddridge's Planning Commission on Tuesday, November 28, 2017;

WHEREAS, all written comments presented to the planning commission pursuant to the notice of public hearing were duly considered; and,

WHEREAS, no oral comments were presented to the planning commission pursuant to the notice of the public hearing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Planning Commission for Doddridge County, West Virginia, that, pursuant to Chapter 8A of the West Virginia Code, the comprehensive plan prepared by the Planning Commission for the Doddridge County, West Virginia, bearing the date of October 2017, is made a part of this resolution by reference and is hereby recommended to the County Commission without any amendments.

PASSED and APPROVED at a regular meeting of the Planning Commission of the Doddridge County, West Virginia, held on November 28, 2017.

ATTEST:



President, Doddridge County Planning Commission

November 29, 2017

Doddridge County Commissioners
118 Court St.
West Union, WV 26456

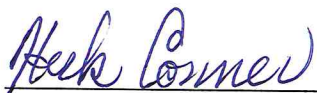
Dear County Commissioners,

On behalf of the Doddridge County Planning Commission I would like to submit the recommended comprehensive plan, which has been prepared by the Commission. The Planning Commission has taken great strides to ensure that this Plan is in conformance with Chapter 8A of the West Virginia Code, which governs land use planning in West Virginia. This includes the adoption of public input procedures, by the Planning Commission, which have been followed throughout the planning process.

After holding a properly advertised public hearing on November 28, 2017, the Planning Commission convened and held a regular meeting where a quorum of the Commission, by way of resolution, recommended the plan and now submits the plan to County Commission for review and possible adoption.

At the next County Commission meeting the Planning Commission will present the comprehensive plan to the Commission where we would be happy to answer any question you or members of the Commission may have. In order to present the comprehensive plan the Planning Commission requests that the matter be placed on the December 5th Commission's meeting's agenda.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hank Cosme". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

President, Doddridge County Planning Commission

The Doddridge Independent

The Doddridge Independent PUBLISHER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Michael D. Zorn, Publisher of The Doddridge Independent, A newspaper of general circulation published in the town of West Union, Doddridge County, West Virginia, do hereby certify that:

NOTICE that the Doddridge County Commission will hold a public hearing and meeting on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 6:00 PM at the Doddridge County Courthouse, 108 Court Street - Suite 1, West Union, West Virginia 26456. The public is invited to attend and submit comments on the recently drafted Doddridge County Comprehensive Plan. The comprehensive plan can be reviewed at the Doddridge County Courthouse in the County Clerk's Office (8:30 AM to 4:00 PM), 118 East Court Street, West Union,

was published in The Doddridge Independent
1 time commencing on Friday, December 8, 2017 and
Ending on Friday, December 15, 2017 at the request of:

Herk Conner
Doddridge County EDA

Given under my hand this Friday, December 15, 2017

The publisher's fee for said publication is:

\$ 29.04 1st Run/\$ 21.78 Subsequent Runs
This Legal Ad Total: \$ 50.82


Michael D. Zorn
Publisher of The Doddridge Independent

Subscribed to and sworn to before me on

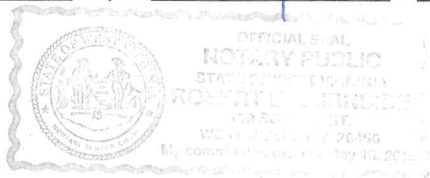
this date: 12 / 15 / 2017



Notary Public in and for Doddridge County

My Commission expires on

The 16 day of May 20 19



LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE that the Doddridge County Commission will hold a public hearing and meeting on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 6:00 PM at the Doddridge County Courthouse, 108 Court Street - Suite 1, West Union, West Virginia 26456. The public is invited to attend and submit comments on the recently drafted Doddridge County Comprehensive Plan. The comprehensive plan can be reviewed at the Doddridge County Courthouse in the County Clerk's Office (8:30 AM to 4:00 PM), 118 East Court Street, West Union, WV 26456 and the Doddridge County Public Library, 170 Marie Street, West Union, West Virginia 26456. The plan can also be viewed online at <https://doddridgeplan.wordpress.com/>. Members of the public can call Herk Conner, Doddridge County Planning Commission President at 304-873-1652 if they are unable to review the plan at the county courthouse or public library. Written comments can be submitted prior to the scheduled hearing at Doddridge County Economic Development Authority, 187 Main Street, PO Box 14 7, West Union, WV 26456.

C2 12/8 - 12/15

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR DODDRIDGE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission for Doddridge County, West Virginia, pursuant to Chapter 8A of the West Virginia Code, has prepared a recommended comprehensive plan for the County;

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has recommended that the County Commission adopt the comprehensive plan;

WHEREAS, pursuant to West Virginia Code §8A-3-7, a public hearing was held before the Doddridge County's Planning Commission on Tuesday, November 28, 2017;

WHEREAS, the planning commission presented the comprehensive plan to the County Commission on Tuesday, December 5, 2017;

WHEREAS, pursuant to §8A-3-7, a public hearing was held before the County Commission on Tuesday, January 16, 2018;


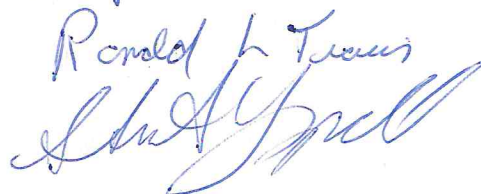
NOW, THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED by the County Commission for Doddridge County, West Virginia, that, pursuant to West Virginia Code §8A-3-8, the comprehensive plan prepared by the Planning Commission for the Doddridge County, West Virginia, bearing the date of October 2017, and with the public comments received appended thereto, is made a part of this resolution by reference and is hereby adopted without amendments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this adopted comprehensive plan shall, pursuant to West Virginia Code §8A-3-9, be filed in the office of the clerk of the county commission for Doddridge County, West Virginia.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the County Commission of Doddridge County, West Virginia, held on Tuesday, January 16, 2018.

ATTEST:


County Clerk


Ronald L. Travis


**APPENDIX 7:
PUBLIC
HEARING
COMMENTS**

PUBLIC HEARING
FOR CONSIDERING THE
DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
FOR DODDRIDGE COUNTY

Gregory Robinson, President of the Doddridge County Commission opened the public hearing to consider the draft comprehensive plan for Doddridge County on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 6:01 p.m. in the Doddridge County Commission Courtroom.

Emailed comments were read first by Commissioner Robinson.

1) The first was sent by Susan Cleaver:

Thank you for receiving these email comments in lieu of my not being able to make it out to the meeting this evening, due to the bad condition of my road.

***Chapter 3, Land Use/Environmental Concerns: I read that the community responded with concerns from fracking, including pollution, leaks, accidents, truck traffic, roads, compressor stations, pipelines. Nowhere in the rest of the document are these important concerns addresses—actually, in this COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (?) for Doddridge County's future, **gas drilling is not addressed at all**, save to mention we were #1 gas producer, #1 severance tax, and #2 property tax (2015) in the state! What about the hillsides denuded? Water polluted? Radioactive wastes collected? Land values plummeting, and folks plain LEAVING...? THIS IS A MAJOR CHANGE TO OUR COUNTY, and needs to be addresses instead of ignored.

***This note goes along with the first: we can also say **good-bye to tourism** if this dirty/unhealthy gas industry keeps growing.

***Please note: the map entitled "Active Horizontal Wells" is neither active nor horizontal...(?)

***Does Central Station as “Renewal/Redevelopment” area mean it will again be a healthy place again for the people who live there?

***Chapter 4, Goal 3, Economic Development Opportunities: I guess gas drilling is NOT an opportunity, since the **only** industries listed here are tourism, “timer (sic) (timber?) and plastic manufacturing.” (?)

I thank you for taking my comments.

Sincerely, Susan Cleaver

2) A second email was submitted by Linda Ireland:

I hoped to comment in person, but it starting to look like that won’t be possible due to snow. I am a bit rushed in putting my comments in writing. I hope you will consider tabling the plan approval so that people are able to come in and discuss it.

Comments on Doddridge County Comprehensive Plan

I’d like to thank everyone who worked on the plan. It is an important effort to envision a direction for the county and to establish goals that provide direction for growth and collective effort. I know some effort was made to involve the community, and I’m sure you experienced some frustration as few or no people showed up to your meetings and presentations. This minimal level of participation indicates a breakdown in communication and community involvement that will take concerted effort to address. Our people are our most precious resource, and we need to support and develop their involvement so that everyone can make a meaningful contribution to our community life.

I appreciate that the plan addresses this, but I think it will take much more than a county website and sending people to a leadership academy, although those are both good. A vibrant community life will be well worth the effort as people come together to create a thriving community. I do not think we can go ahead with major plans without significant community involvement. Maybe we need a task force of volunteers and county employees dedicated to finding ways to reach out and involve our citizens. I would happily serve with such a group.

Our next most precious resources are our water, air and land. They are the very basis of life and also provide beauty and enjoyment for residents. We can't take it for granted; we must actively protect them and develop ways of making a living that are not damaging to them. I went for a walk this morning—there is nothing like the peace of a snowy woods—but I was disturbed by the smell of diesel fumes, a known carcinogen. We can't take clean air for granted—we must make sure our plan for our county's future includes protection of these essential elements. I do not think a plan that neglects this essential element is ready for final approval.

The plan lists environmental concerns from gas industry pollution, septic/sewage, and recycling. These concerns are not addressed in the goals or action steps, except for providing water service to outlying areas. These environmental concerns affect our life support systems and should be a priority. I request a task force of volunteers, including members of the Doddridge County Watershed Association who, as the plan notes, have a history of investigating and addressing environmental concerns. This task force should investigate these environmental concerns and report to the citizens, and develop an action plan.

The economic development plan should capitalize on our assets of beauty, agricultural land and woodlands, and the wisdom, talents, and skills of local residents, in order to generate economic development that respects and enhances those assets. I see nothing in the plan that attempts to do

that. An appendix notes that assistance may be available in generating ideas and plans from the Smart growth Implementation Assistance. I believe there are also state initiatives such as What's Next West Virginia. Jobs are definitely a priority, but we can be wise and creative in developing jobs that enhance our quality of life. Again, a task force could be charged with developing proposals for public input.

As an example of what might be desirable. I've seen old buildings converted into art centers in which artists and craftspeople have studios and workshops that are also open to the public for making purchases, learning an art or craft, or simply enjoying the products of local citizens. Such a center would help the artisans, be enjoyable for residents, and attract visitors. Similar hubs for other types of small businesses are also possible.

"Rehab for opioid addiction" is another major concern, expressed in the citizen open house, but not addressed in the plan. As a former teacher, I know this problem causes great suffering among students' families, and we should do all we can to help people recover, support them in recovery, and help affected families.

Emergency management/services talks about supporting fire departments and expanding ambulance authority with possible outpost station, I did not see anything about notifying or evacuating residents in the event of a gas industry emergency, which is a serious concern.

I do not mean to disparage the work of those who developed the plan, but for the reasons stated above, I do not think it is ready for approval. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

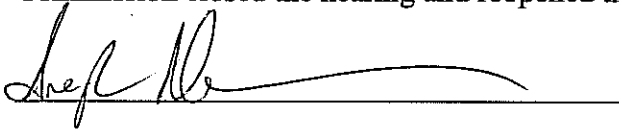
Linda Ireland

Commissioner Robinson opened the floor to public comments for those in attendance. John Droppleman of Cottage Avenue, West Union, came forward and asked for a copy of the plan from Herk Conner to review the section on Marcellus drilling. Mr. Conner explained that the plan does not have a map dedicated to that, but shows all service wells in the county from the EPA website. Mr. Droppleman had no comments for the Commission.

Tammy Beamer was next to the podium. She expressed concern that the condemned properties section of the plan did not offer assistance for the elderly and low income residents who cannot afford to repair their properties. She also thought it would be more cost effective if a company could be found that could raze several properties at one time.

Tony Hayhurst of West Union came to the podium and commented on the lack of ordinances regarding condemned and dilapidated buildings in the county and the town. He wanted the Commission to look into state and federal funding for the removal of these buildings, put businesses back in town and support the people of the community especially the town of West Union.

The Commission asked for any other comments, but no one else came forward. The Commission closed the hearing and reopened the County Commission Meeting at 6:16 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jeff B.', is written over a horizontal line.

President, Doddridge County Commission

108 Court Street, Suite 1
West Union, West Virginia 26456-1297

Public Sign In

[illegible]