COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

8.1 Overview

Over the course of two and a half years following a global pandemic, nearly one-thousand residents and visitors attended approximately thirty meetings to discuss the future of Roanoke County. The process began with various stakeholder discussions and open-house style meetings in the fall of 2021 which equated to 500 attendees at twelve (12) total meetings and resulted in 289 survey respondents. The next phase of community engagement continued discussions of the vision of the county in the spring of 2022 which equated to 147 attendees at seven (7) total meetings and resulted in 428 survey respondents. The engagement process in the winter of 2023 presented draft recommendations for Roanoke County as a whole as well as each of the eleven (11) unique planning areas with nearly 300 attendees at six (6) different meetings over a three week period. The following chapter details the quantitative and qualitative information that was the result of countless hours of effort from Roanoke County citizens, visitors, leaders, and staff alike.

8.2 Stakeholder Interviews

Since the Roanoke County 200 Plan informs decision makers regarding long-term consequences and helps the County direct its planning efforts, it was essential to gather stakeholder input to help identify regulatory, development, and environmental needs for citizens, property owners and businesses.

Roanoke County Planning staff met with the following stakeholders in 2021 and 2022:

- Roanoke County Planning Commission
- Roanoke County Board of Supervisors
- Roanoke County Economic Development Authority and Department
- Roanoke County Department Leadership
- Roanoke County Parks, Recreation and Tourism
- Roanoke County Libraries
- Roanoke County Public Schools
- Roanoke County Fire & Rescue Department
- Roanoke County Police Department
- Roanoke County Sheriff's Office
- Roanoke County Communication & Information Technology
- Town of Vinton
- Botetourt, Franklin, & Montgomery Counties
- City of Roanoke
- City of Salem
- Community Accessibility & Inclusion Organizations
- ELEVATE Roanoke County Plan Stakeholders
- Roanoke Regional Partnership
- Regional Housing Experts
- Blue Ridge Workforce Development Board
- The Advancement Foundation
- Roanoke Valley Broadband Authority
- Virginia Department of Transportation
- Valley Metro

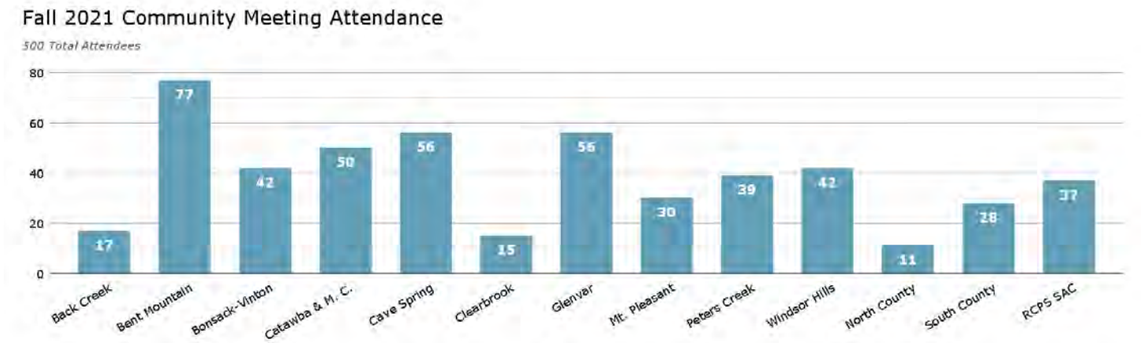
In discussions with Roanoke County Planning staff, stakeholders were asked what they perceived as the needs, issues, opportunities, and trends in Roanoke County. The issue of lacking high quality, affordable housing throughout the region was the most common theme. Many stakeholders felt this issue might be one of the largest factors limiting the region's economic potential. Another common issue mentioned was the need for better access to broadband throughout the county. Many felt that abundant, high quality broadband was a strong attractor of economic development in the region. Outdoor recreation, particularly greenways, was a topic often discussed as a big opportunity for the county. Several stakeholders expressed a desire for better transit services in the County.

8.3 Fall 2021 Community Meetings & Survey

Twelve (12) community meetings were held around Roanoke County in fall 2021 to collect preliminary feedback about community issues, needs, and existing conditions. Meetings were open house format and were held from 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM. at the following locations on the following dates:

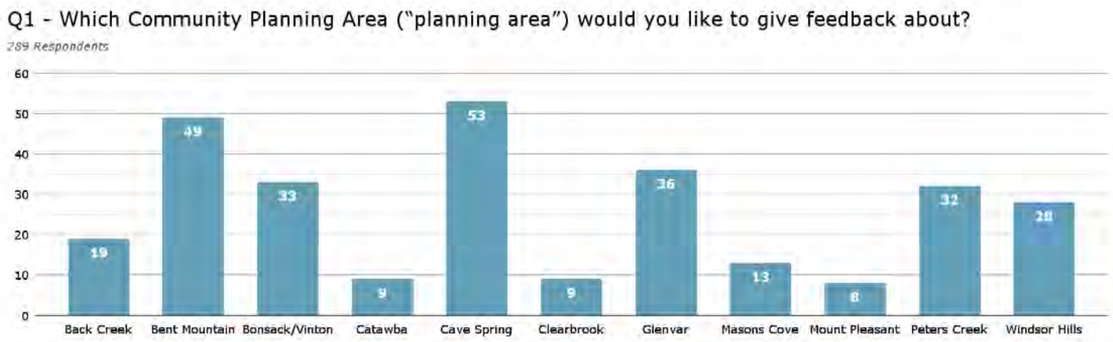
1. **Catawba and Masons Cove**: Masons Cove Elementary School - Thursday, September 9, 2021. 50 attendees.
2. **Peters Creek**: Green Ridge Recreation Center - Thursday, September 16, 2021. 39 attendees.
3. **Mount Pleasant**: Mount Pleasant Elementary School - Thursday, September 23, 2021. 30 attendees.
4. **Bonsack/Vinton:** Charles R. Hill Community Center (Vinton) - Thursday, September 30, 2021. 42 attendees.
5. **Clearbrook**: Clearbrook Elementary School - Thursday, October 7, 2021. 15 attendees.
6. **Windsor Hills**: Brambleton Center - Monday, October 11, 2021. 42 attendees.
7. **Cave Spring**: South County Library - Monday, October 18, 2021. 56 attendees.
8. **Back Creek**: Back Creek Elementary School - Thursday, October 28, 2021. 17 attendees.
9. **Bent Mountain**: Bent Mountain Center - Thursday, November 4, 2021. 77 attendees.
10. **Glenvar**: Fort Lewis Elementary School - Monday, November 8, 2021. 56 attendees.
11. **South County**: South County Library - Wednesday, November 17, 2021. 28 attendees.
12. **North County**: Green Ridge Recreation Center - Thursday, November 18, 2021. 11 attendees.
13. **Other**: Roanoke County Public Schools Student Advisory Council (RCPS SAC) - Wednesday, November 3, 2021. 37 students.

There were **500** total attendees across all meetings combined. Additionally, a general survey was disseminated and **289** people responded to it.



Back Creek Fall 2021 Community Meeting

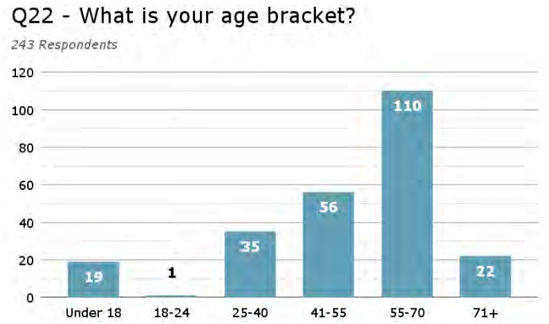
County-Wide Fall 2021 Community Meeting



Citizens were invited to comment on Land Use, Community Facilities, Transportation, and Protection and Preservation. Comments and suggestions from citizens were collected and assembled by staff into "Post Meeting Summary" documents for each Community Planning Area. A digital copy of each document can be found on the County's 200 Plan webpage.

There were two (2) surveys sent out for public feedback in phase two and phase three of the planning process. The first was sent out during Fall 2021 in conjunction with the first round of Community Planning Area (CPA) meetings. The purpose of this survey was to find out from residents what the issues were and which were most important that the 200 Plan needed to address. The second was sent out during the spring of 2022 in conjunction with the second round of CPA meetings. The purpose of this survey was for staff to receive feedback regarding draft goals for the 200 Plan.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



The fall survey was distributed at twelve (12) public open house CPA meetings, at all Roanoke County libraries, and was available online. **289** responses were received. The survey had 22 questions. The first 18 were intended to gather information and feedback regarding issues in residents' respective CPA. The final four (4) were intended to gather similar data regarding County-wide issues. The specific responses to questions highlighted below were selected because they speak to County-wide issues.

Potential Bias

Question 1 (Which Community Planning Area would you like to give feedback about?) and Question 22 (What is your age bracket?) of this survey demonstrate potential bias in the responses to the fall survey. Because response rates vary across CPAs, the results will favor those areas that had the highest number of responses, such as Cave Spring and Bent Mountain. Similarly, because response rates also vary across age, the results will favor those age brackets that had the highest response rate.

Features of Success & Issues to Face

Questions 4, 5, and 6 (listed below and on the following page) regard features that are important to the success of residents' local area. Their responses reveal what they think the top issues are facing their respective CPAs. While these questions and their answers are intended to focus at a neighborhood scale, when considered at a County-wide scale they reveal the issues held in common by all neighborhoods in the County.

Question 4 reveals that residents across the County felt that the three (3) most important features for both present and future success for their CPA were:

1. Public services provided.
2. Aesthetics and character of the community.
3. Public outdoor recreation spaces.

Question 4

What features are important for the present and future success of the community? (Choose all that apply)

Question 5

Please identify up to three (3) most important issues facing the planning area today.

Question 6

Please identify up to three (3) most important issues facing the planning area in the next 15 years.

Walkability, bikeability, and daily services were also well rated. Residents felt that the least important features from the provided question were:

1. Transportation connectivity.
2. Housing.
3. Public outdoor event spaces.

Residents were asked to describe the top issues facing their neighborhood (CPA) today and in the future in questions 5 and 6. Word clouds of their responses are provided to the right. In a word cloud, the larger the size of the word, the more frequently it appeared in the data. Residents felt that traffic was the most important issue facing each CPA at the present and the future. A lack of various services and infrastructure was a close second as a present issue. Growth was the second issue in the future. Housing, business, and development were felt to be bigger issues in the future than the present. Sidewalks, internet, and roads were felt to be bigger issues at the present. Residents felt that safety and schools were both issues in the present and the future.

Future Land Use & Housing

Questions 9 and 10 asked residents which types of future development they would like to see in their respective CPAs. The most desired businesses in the various CPAs were:

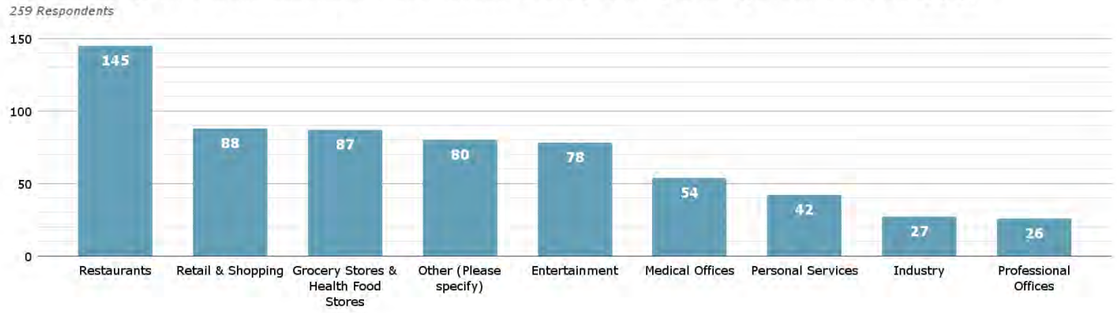
1. Restaurants.
2. Retail and shopping.
3. Grocery stores and health food stores.

The least desired from the provided list were:

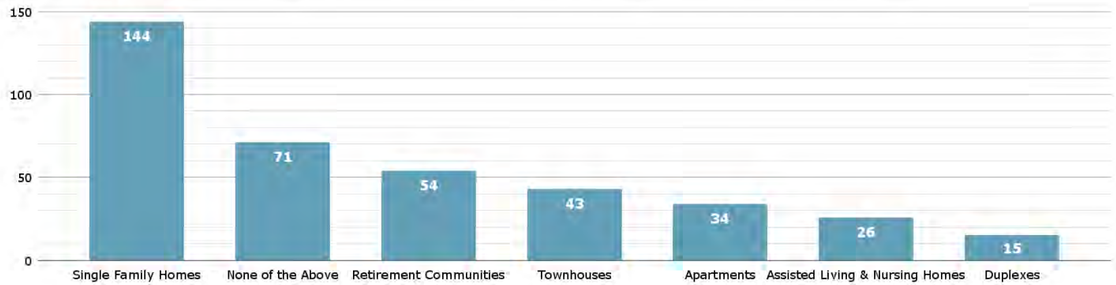
1. Professional offices.
2. Industrial.
3. Personal services.

30.9% of residents answered "other" when asked this question. The most common response in the other category was "none." Outdoor recreation was the second most common response.

Q9 - What types of businesses are most needed in the planning area? (Choose all that apply)



Q10 - What types of housing are most needed in the planning area?(Choose all that apply)



Residents felt that these types of housing were most needed in their CPAs:

1. Single family homes.
2. None.
3. Retirement communities.

Residents felt that the least needed types of housing from the provided list were:

1. Duplexes.
2. Assisted living and nursing homes.
3. Apartments.

Mt. Pleasant Fall 2021 Community Meeting

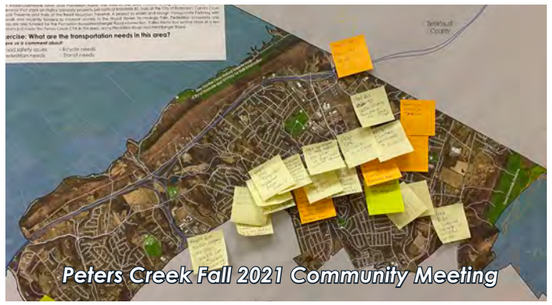
Cave Spring Fall 2021 Community Meeting

North County Fall 2021 Community Meeting

Windsor Hills Fall 2021 Community Meeting

Bonsack-Vinton Fall 2021 Community Meeting

Clearbrook Fall 2021 Community Meeting


Peters Creek Fall 2021 Community Meeting

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

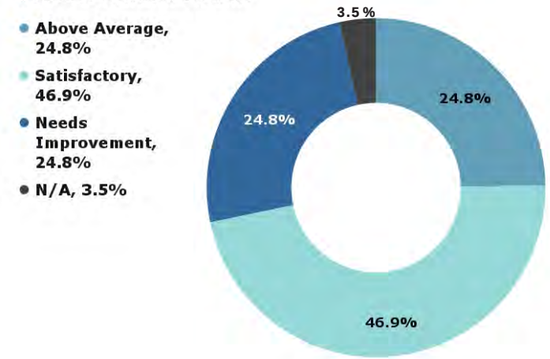
Natural & Cultural Resources

Residents were asked to rate how satisfied they were with the management of several natural resources within their respective CPAs in question 11. Of all the natural resources in the County, residents felt most satisfied with the air quality in their CPA, with 92.5% of respondents rating it above average or satisfactory. Residents were also satisfied with forest conservation and amount of outdoor recreation lands with 71.7% and 63.5% rating them above average or satisfactory. Of the options presented in the question, residents were least satisfied with water management. Surface water protection was rated the least with 45.7% giving it a 'needs improvement' rating. Ground water protection and stormwater management also received poor ratings with 44.7% and 40.9% 'needs improvement' scores.

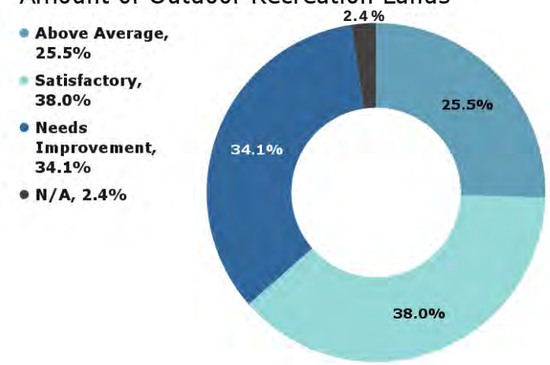
Question 11

Please rate your satisfaction with each of the following in your community.

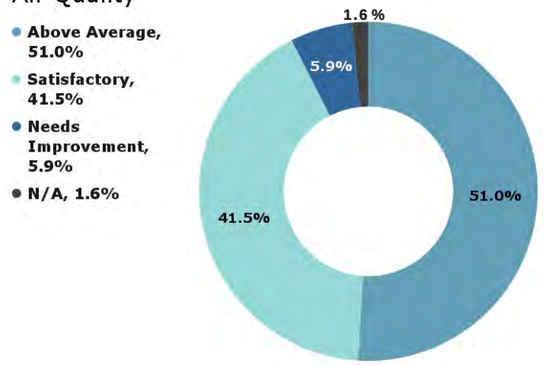
Forest Conservation



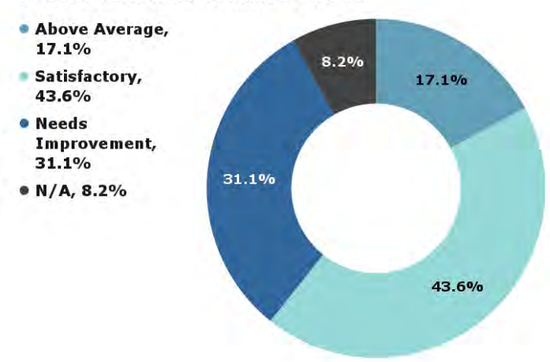
Amount of Outdoor Recreation Lands



Air Quality

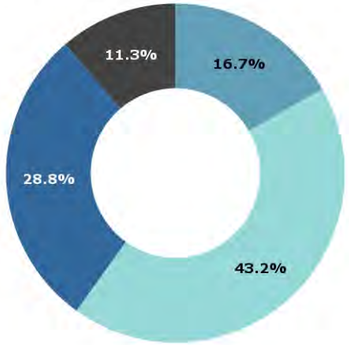


Preservation of Wildlife Areas



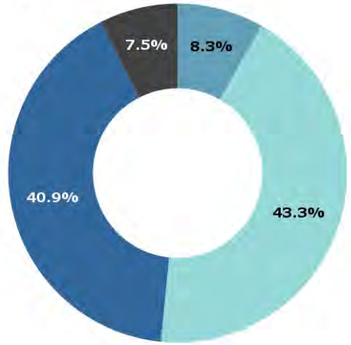
Access to Rivers & Streams

- Above Average, 16.7%
- Satisfactory, 43.2%
- Needs Improvement, 28.8%
- N/A, 11.3%



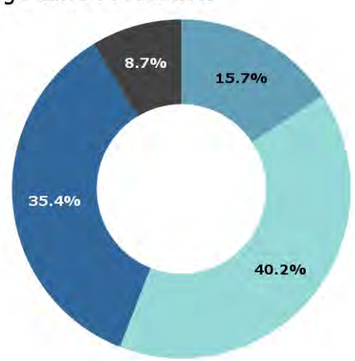
Stormwater Management

- Above Average, 8.3%
- Satisfactory, 43.3%
- Needs Improvement, 40.9%
- N/A, 7.5%



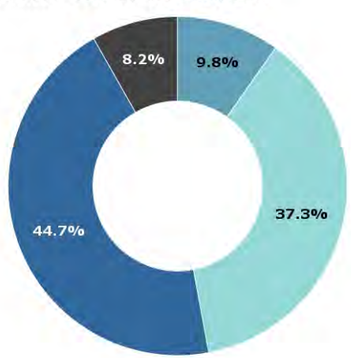
Mountain & Ridge-Line Protection

- Above Average, 15.7%
- Satisfactory, 40.2%
- Needs Improvement, 35.4%
- N/A, 8.7%



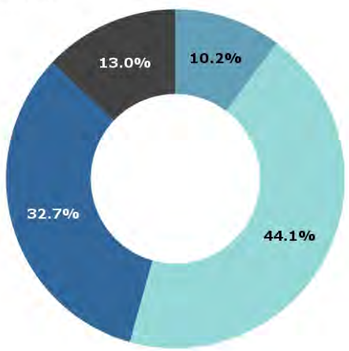
Protection of Ground Water Resources

- Above Average, 9.8%
- Satisfactory, 37.3%
- Needs Improvement, 44.7%
- N/A, 8.2%



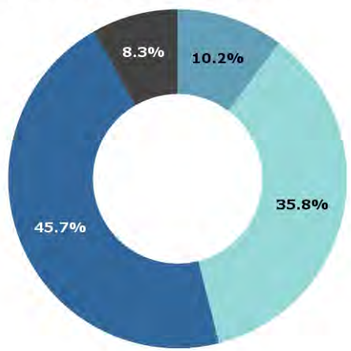
Viewshed Protection

- Above Average, 10.2%
- Satisfactory, 44.1%
- Needs Improvement, 32.7%
- N/A, 13.0%



Protection of Surface Water Resources

- Above Average, 10.2%
- Satisfactory, 35.8%
- Needs Improvement, 45.7%
- N/A, 8.3%



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Back Creek Fall 2021 Community Meeting

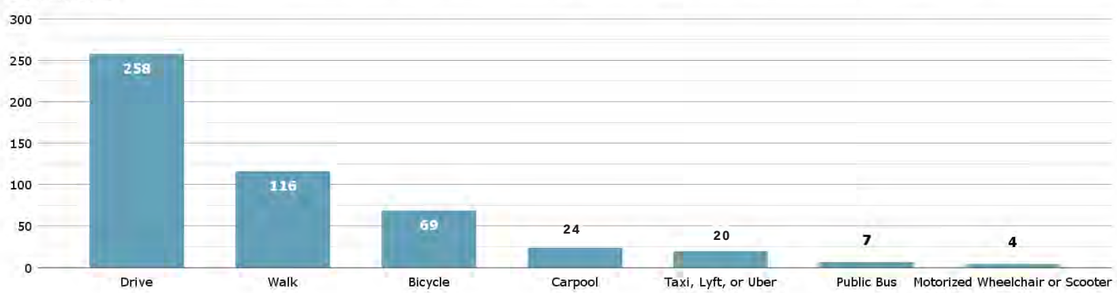
Bent Mountain Fall 2021 Community Meeting

Glenvar Fall 2021 Community Meeting

Peters Creek Fall 2021 Community Meeting

Q12 - What forms of transportation do you use in the planning area? (Choose all that apply)

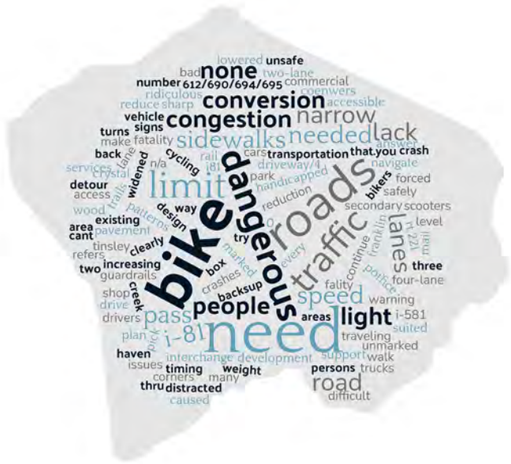
259 Respondents



Q13 - What are the most important transportation issues in the planning area? (Choose only three)

259 Respondents

Question 13 - *"Other"*



Q14 - Which of these streetscape improvements would you most like to have in this area? (Choose only two)

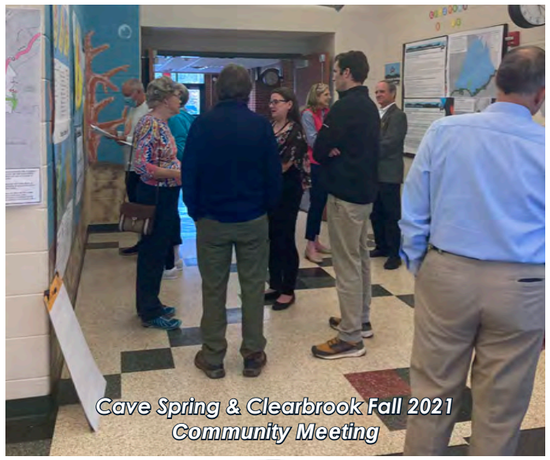
259 Respondents

Question 14 - *"Other"*

Q15 - Which of these transportation improvements would you most like to have in this area? (Choose only two)

259 Respondents

Question 15 - *"Other"*



Transportation

Questions 12, 13, 14, and 15 regarded transportation issues within the various CPAs. 99.6% of respondents drive within their CPAs. It should be noted that 44.8% of respondents reported that they walk, which was the second highest reported mode of transportation. Question 13 highlighted the top three (3) most important issues across all eleven (11) CPAs, which were:

1. Unsafe to walk (56.0%).
2. Speeding vehicles (55.6%).
3. It is unsafe to ride a bicycle (47.9%).

14.5% answered "other" when asked question 13, which was the least selected option for this question. When asked to specify, no clear pattern emerged from their responses.

When asked, in question 14, which kinds of streetscape improvements residents would like to have in their CPA, lighting for pedestrians surfaced as the top answer with 38.2% of respondents favoring it. "Other" was a close second with 34.4% selecting it. When asked to specify, sidewalks, and bike lanes were all highly asked for. The most requested "other" streetscape improvement was "none"; there were 8.5% asking for none or no streetscape improvements. Street Trees were also desired, with 32.8% favoring it.

When asked, in question 15, which kinds of transportation improvements residents would like to have in their CPA, these were the top three (3):

1. Road safety improvements (49.8%).
2. Off-road paved paths for pedestrians, cyclists, wheelchairs, and scooters (46.3%)
3. Sidewalks and crosswalks (31.3%)

11.2% of respondents answered, "other." When asked to specify, only lowering vehicle speed emerged as a common issue.

Community Facilities

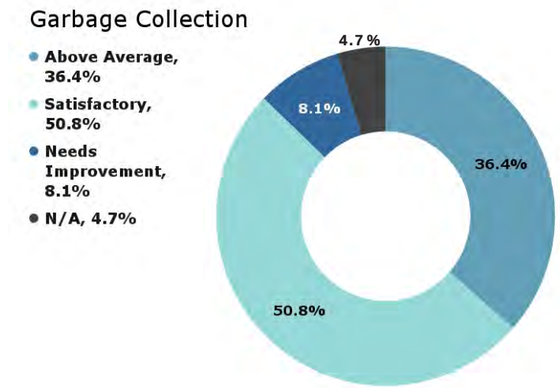
Questions 16 and 17 attempted to gauge residents' thoughts on community facilities. Of all the County facilities services listed in question 16, residents felt most satisfied with garbage collection with 87.2% of respondents either ranking it as above average or satisfactory. In fascinating contrast, the service they were least satisfied with was recycling with an overwhelming 65.1% of respondents ranking it as, "needs improvement." Other well ranked services include libraries (81.6% 'above average' and 'satisfied') and fire and rescue (77.5% 'above average' and 'satisfied'). Storm water drainage was also ranked poorly (34.2% 'needs improvement').

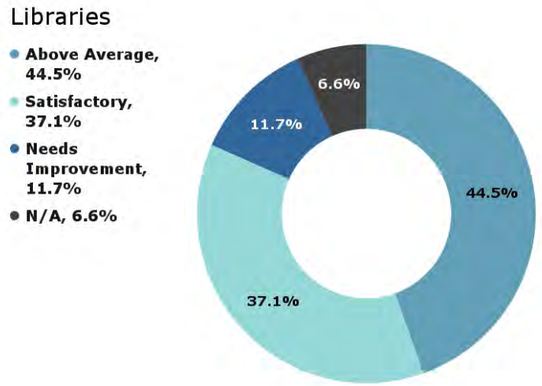
Residents were asked to respond freely regarding community facilities. Their responses are represented in the word cloud on page 8-16. In a word cloud, the larger the size of the word, the more frequently it appeared in the data. Residents spoke highly of their local libraries. Many asked for improvements and expansions to their libraries. Since the survey was distributed during the COVID-19 pandemic, many residents asked for their local community centers to reopen. Others asked for certain classes offered at those centers to return. Residents in Bent Mountain in particular asked for more support at the Bent Mountain Center. Residents also spoke highly of public parks and asked for more of them, expansion of existing ones, and a greater variety of amenities within the existing ones. Many residents provided high-quality comments to improve existing community facilities.

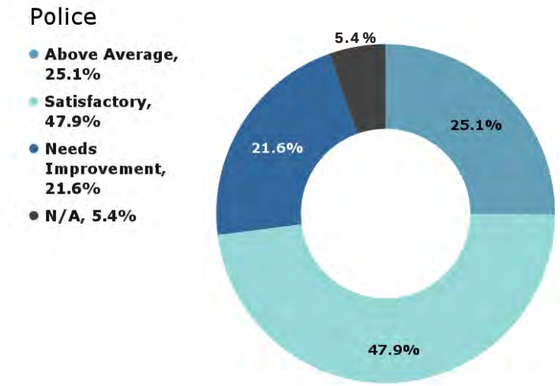
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

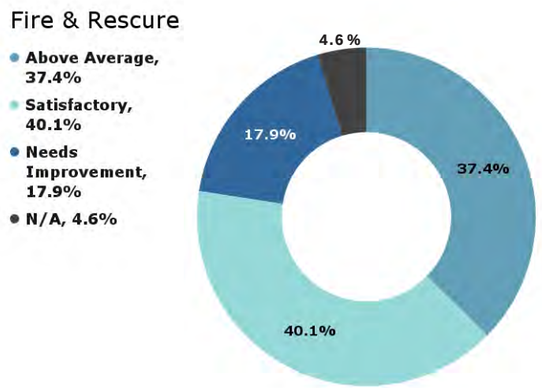
Question 16

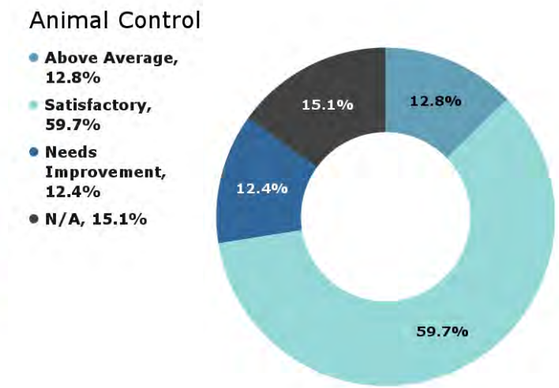
Please rate your satisfaction with each of the following in your community.





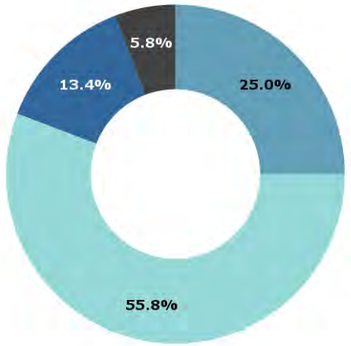






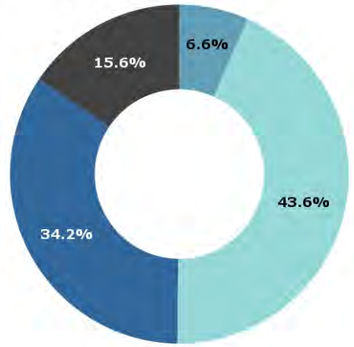
Parks

- Above Average, 25.0%
- Satisfactory, 55.8%
- Needs Improvement, 13.4%
- N/A, 5.8%



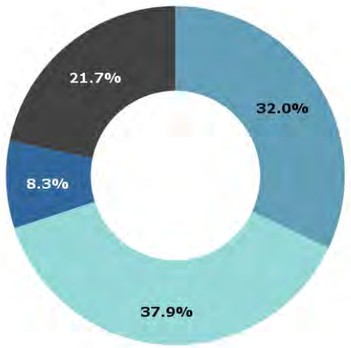
Storm Water Drainage

- Above Average, 6.6%
- Satisfactory, 43.6%
- Needs Improvement, 34.2%
- N/A, 15.6%



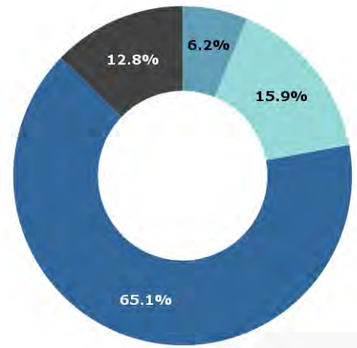
Schools

- Above Average, 32.0%
- Satisfactory, 37.9%
- Needs Improvement, 8.3%
- N/A, 21.7%



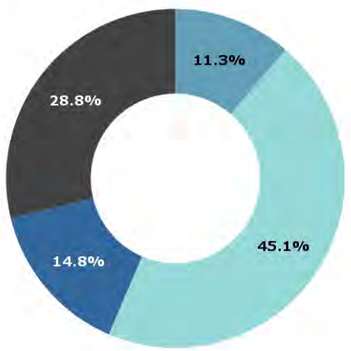
Recycling

- Above Average, 6.2%
- Satisfactory, 15.9%
- Needs Improvement, 65.1%
- N/A, 12.8%



Public Water & Sewer

- Above Average, 11.3%
- Satisfactory, 45.1%
- Needs Improvement, 14.8%
- N/A, 28.8%



Question 17 *- "Other"*

County-Wide

Residents were asked what they felt the county-wide issues were in questions 19, 20, and 21. When asked why they moved to Roanoke County,

Question 20

Please identify up to three (3) most important issues facing Roanoke County today.

Question 21

Please identify up to three (3) most important issues facing Roanoke County in the next 15 years.

a little more than a fourth (27%) of the survey respondents indicated that they were born or raised in the area. Residents selected the other options provided relatively equally. 11.5% of the respondents indicated, "other." The majority of those respondents indicated that they moved for family reasons.

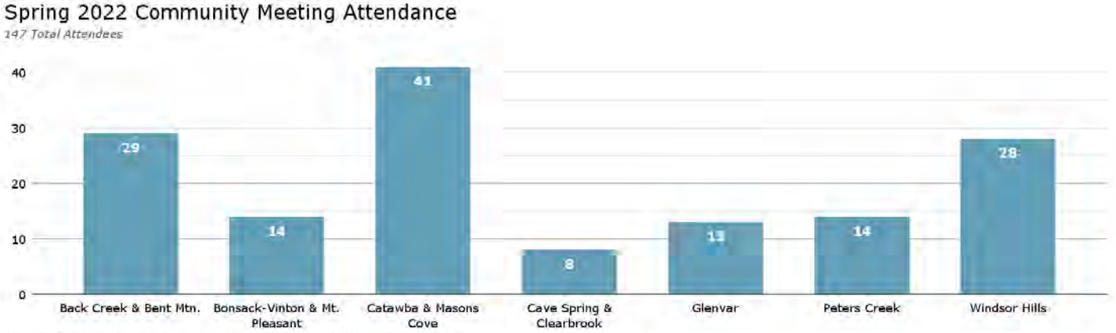
Similar to questions 5 and 6 mentioned on page 8-6, residents were asked to describe the top issues facing the County today and in the future in questions 20 and 21. Word clouds of their responses are provided on this page. In a word cloud, the larger the size of the word, the more frequently it appeared in the data. Just as in question five, residents felt that traffic was the most important issue facing the County at the present. However, growth was considered the top issue for the County in the future and traffic was second. Other issues that were considered high priority in the present were growth, safety, development, and housing. Other issues that were considered high priority in the future were safety, crime, and schools.

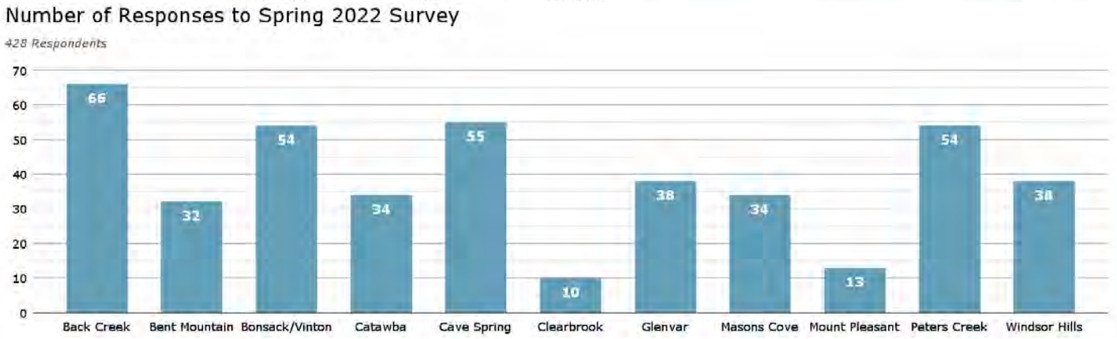
8.4 Spring 2022 Community Meetings & Survey

Seven (7) Roanoke County 200 Plan open house planning meetings were held around Roanoke County in Spring 2022 for citizens to review draft goals and recommendation options based on the feedback received throughout the Fall 2021 community engagement. Draft goals were developed based on input that was received at the community meetings and online surveys in Fall 2021. Citizens reviewed and provided comments on the new draft goals and recommendations that will shape the draft Roanoke County 200 Plan document. The draft goals and recommendations displayed included natural and cultural resources, land use, community facilities and infrastructure, and transportation.

Meetings were open house format at the following locations and dates:

1. **Catawba and Masons Cove**: Masons Cove Elementary School - Monday, April 4, 2022. 41 attendees.





2. **Glenvar**: Fort Lewis Elementary School - Thursday, April 7, 2022. 13 attendees.
3. **Peters Creek**: Green Ridge Recreation Center - Monday, April 11, 2022. 14 attendees.
4. **Bonsack/Vinton and Mount Pleasant**: Charles R. Hill Community Center (Vinton) - Thursday, April 14, 2022. 14 attendees.
5. **Back Creek and Bent Mountain**: Bent Mountain Center - Monday, April 18, 2022. 29 attendees.
6. **Windsor Hills**: Oak Grove Elementary School - Tuesday, April 19, 2022. 28 attendees.
7. **Cave Spring and Clearbrook**: Cave Spring Elementary School - Thursday, April 21, 2022. 8 attendees.

There were **147** total attendees across all meetings.

As mentioned previously, there were two (2) surveys sent out for public feedback in phase two and phase three of the planning process. The first was sent out during the fall of 2021 in conjunction with the first round of Community Planning Area (CPA) meetings. The second was sent out during the spring of 2022 with the second round of CPA meetings. The purpose of the spring 2022 survey was for staff to receive feedback regarding draft goals and initiatives for the 200 Plan.

The spring survey was distributed at seven (7) public open house CPA meetings, at all Roanoke County libraries, and was available online. Approximately **428** responses were received. The survey had 50 questions that pertained to County-wide interests and initiatives. Each survey also had additional questions that were specific to each CPA.

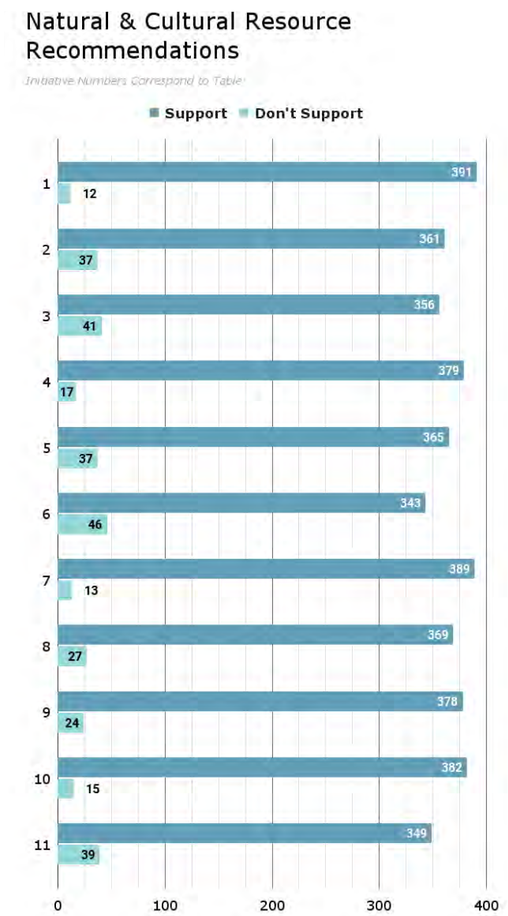
The CPA specific questions will not be discussed here, but they are discussed in each CPA summary document, the Appendices of this document, and the 200 Plan webpage. The responses to questions highlighted on the following pages will primarily be shown as County-wide results only.

Potential Bias

Compared to the fall 2021 survey, there was a much better representation from most CPAs. However, there was a low response rate from the Clearbrook and Mount Pleasant CPAs. Because response rates vary across CPAs, the results will favor those areas that had the highest number of responses, such as Back Creek.

Natural & Cultural Resources

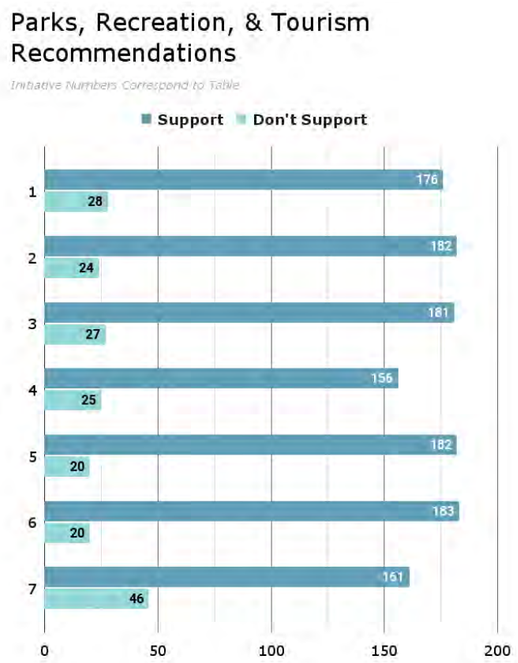
The survey respondents supported all natural and cultural resources recommendations as shown in the following charts:



Natural & Cultural Resources Recommendations	
1	Protect and improve the quality of water in our streams, creeks and rivers.
2	Coordinate with State agencies regarding floodplain risks and prevention.
3	Reduce quantity and improve quality of stormwater.
4	Protect and prevent risks to surface waterways, reservoirs, underground aquifers and drinking water wells.
5	Beautify County roadways and public areas.
6	Protect viewsheds from the ridges and from the valleys.
7	Clean up and prevent litter and illegal dumping.
8	Protect steep slope areas.
9	Protect trees and forests and increase tree canopy.
10	Protect natural areas and wildlife habitats.
11	Coordinate with State agencies regarding historic and cultural resources, including cemeteries and archaeological sites.

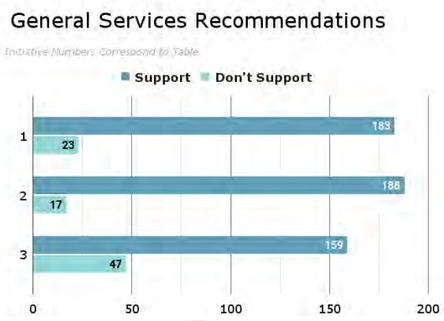
Community Facilities

The survey respondents supported all community facility recommendations as shown in the following tables and charts:



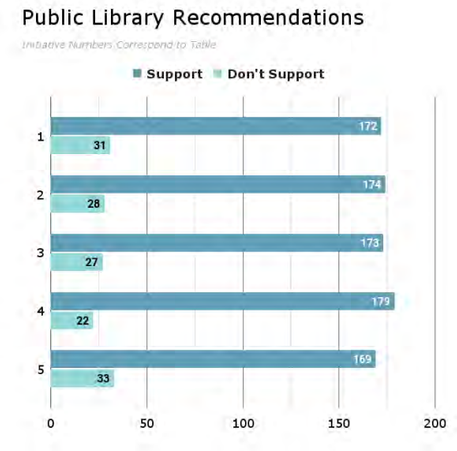
General Services Recommendations	
1	Evaluate recycling program options.
2	Complete planned Roanoke County Fire Department Facilities Assessment.
3	Complete planned Roanoke County Administration Center Assessment.

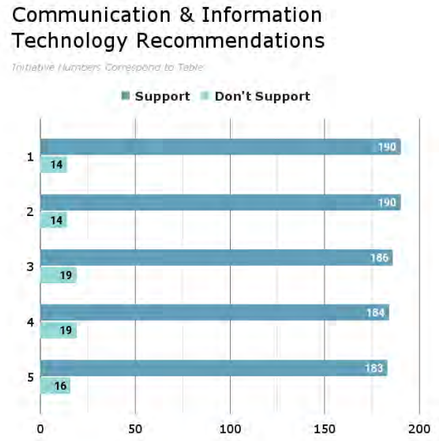
Parks, Recreation, & Tourism Recommendations	
1	Evaluate new park, greenway, and blueway opportunities.
2	Evaluate on- and off- road connectivity options between parks, neighborhoods, and community facilities.
3	Continue coordination on regional efforts to enhance and develop outdoor recreation opportunities in our communities.
4	Update the Parks, Recreation & Tourism Master Plan.
5	Continue promotion of the Park Partners Program to encourage citizens and businesses, and organizations to adopt a park, greenway, or trail.
6	Educate citizens on park ordinance updates (i.e. park sign updates, dog-friendly parks/special events and leash laws, drones, etc.).
7	Continue developing programs that allow for safer post-COVID plans that balance community needs with available staffing resources.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

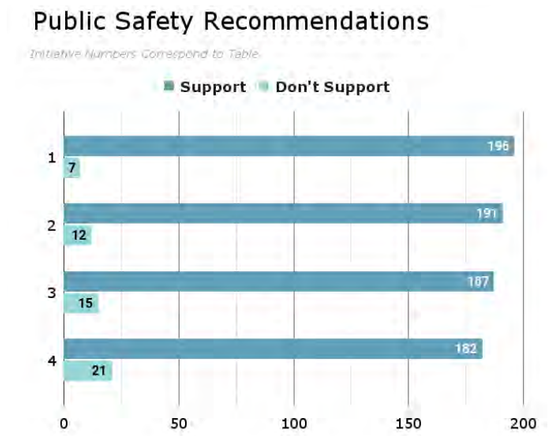
Public Libraries Recommendations	
1	Improve services and continue enhancing facilities.
2	Evaluate programming needs and wants based on a variety of data and customer feedback.
3	Implement responsive, community focused program that serves people of all ages and backgrounds.
4	Ensure timely delivery of all circulating materials.
5	Raise level of engagement with the community and increase awareness about library services and programs.





Communication & Information Technology Recommendations	
1	Explore opportunities to extend broadband service with universal availability and access to high-speed Internet in unserved and under-served areas.
2	Explore alternative broadband and cell phone providers for choice and competition.
3	Explore more public-private partnerships to implement more stages of Roanoke County's Rural Broadband Initiative to bring high-speed Internet to homes without broadband access.
4	Explore providing improved cell phone service in unserved and under-served areas.
5	Consider submitting applications for the Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) grant and other grants.

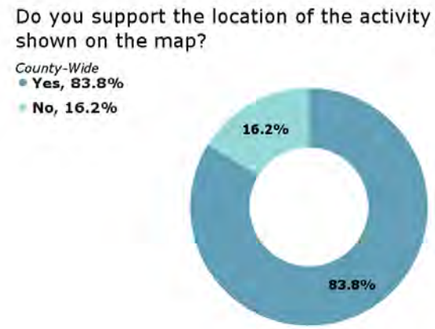
Public Safety Recommendations	
1	Provide the efficient delivery of public safety services with minimal response times.
2	Enhance and maintain public safety staffing.
3	Enhance and maintain facilities and equipment.
4	Provide a high-level of citizen engagement and educational opportunities.

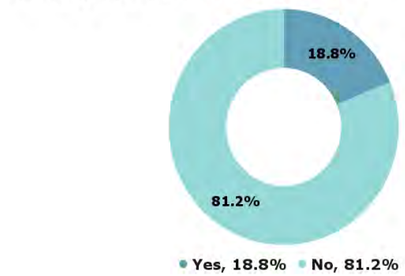


Future Land Use & Housing

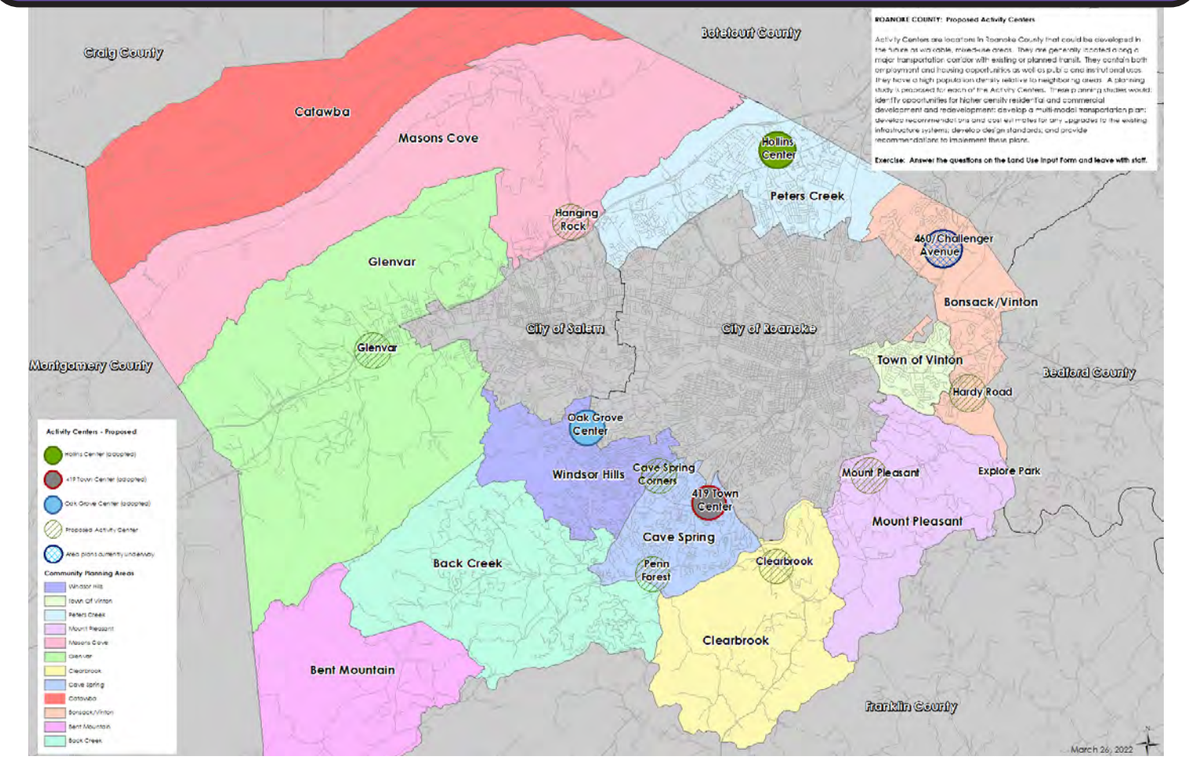
Survey respondents were asked if they supported the existing activity centers on the map and if there should be more areas designated. If any responded whether in favor of more, they were invited to suggest areas within the County that they thought should become an activity center. 83.8% supported the existing activity centers as shown on the map to the right. Only 16.5% felt that there should be other areas designated as activity centers. Of these 50 responses, 48% provided suggestions for areas that should be designated as activity centers. Bent Mountain, Back Creek, and West Main Street were suggested multiple times.

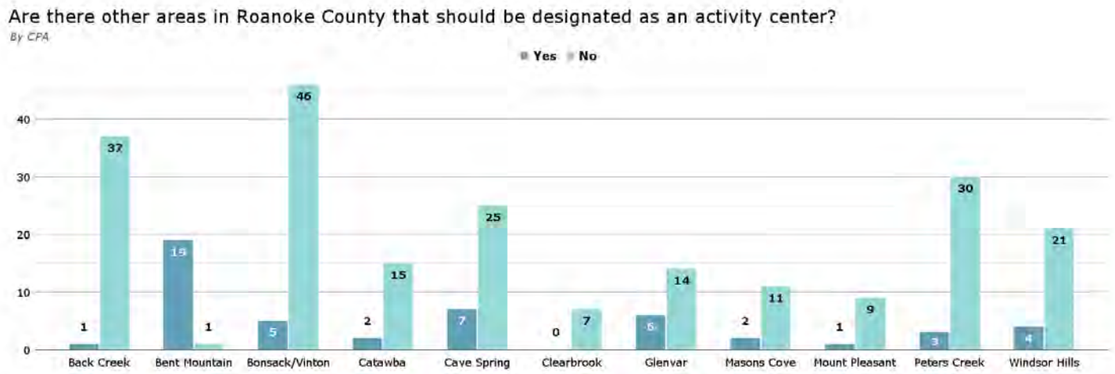
Given the existing rural character of Bent Mountain and Back Creek, staff does not think it prudent that these areas become future activity centers. Perhaps a future rural center designation could be created to accommodate these residents' desires.





Proposed Activity Centers Map from Survey



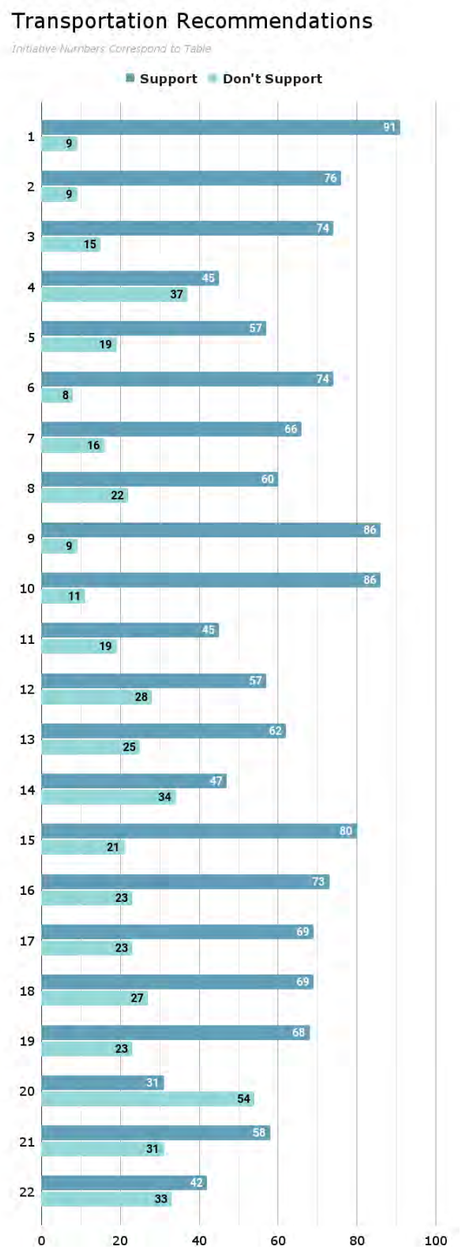


Transportation

The survey respondents supported all transportation recommendations as shown in the table to the right except for recommendation 20.

In addition to these County-wide recommendations, a few regional recommendations should also be discussed. Several of the CPAs were asked whether they would support the creation of a County perimeter greenway trail. Generally, survey respondents did not support the proposed locations for such a greenway. A few major corridor studies that the County could conduct were floated, and generally received support. Among these was the U.S. Route 460 Land Use and Connectivity Study. Shortly after this survey was conducted, and a positive response was recognized, the County moved forward and began that study. The study was completed and the plan was adopted in March of 2023.

Electric Road/Route 419 in the Cave Spring CPA



Transportation Recommendations

1	Support widening of Interstate 81 to three lanes in each direction between Exit 118 in Montgomery County to Exit 150 in Botetourt County.	12	Beautify County gateways and major corridors with welcome signage and landscaping.
2	Widen the currently unfunded segment of southbound I-81 between Exit 137 at Wildwood Road and Exit 128 at Ironto.	13	Install wayfinding signage throughout the County to direct visitors to locations of interest.
3	Improve the existing interchange at Interstate 581 at Exit 2/Peters Creek Road to improve traffic flow and safety on both roadways.	14	Study locations for and work with others to construct electric vehicle charging stations.
4	Support construction of Interstate 73 through the Roanoke Valley.	15	Encourage sidewalk construction along public roads in conjunction with new and redevelopment activities in the urban/suburban area.
5	Improve access to Explore Park from the Blue Ridge Parkway and from Bedford County.	16	Improve pedestrian and/or bicycle connectivity to County schools, parks and other facilities.
6	Continue to study and improve Route 419/Electric Road between Route 311/ Catawba Valley Drive and the City of Roanoke at Franklin Road for all users.	17	Improve pedestrian and/or bicycle connectivity to regional recreational resources such as Carvins Cove, the Blue Ridge Parkway, U.S. Bicycle Route 76, and National Forest lands.
7	Complete the Roanoke River Greenway in Roanoke County between Montgomery County and Franklin County.	18	Collaborate with VDOT prior to roadway repaving on opportunities to stripe bicycle lanes and/or expand paved shoulders for cyclists.
8	Support the construction of the Valley to Valley Trail to connect the Roanoke Valley to the New River Valley.	19	Work with regional groups to provide education for drivers and bicyclists regarding laws and etiquette.
9	Support the expansion of the Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport to include infrastructure and service improvements.	20	Consider partnering with companies to provide last-mile transportation options in the form of scooters or bicycles.
10	Support the expansion of Amtrak service to and beyond Christiansburg.	21	Collaborate with Valley Metro on opportunities to expand bus service into the County.
11	Evaluate the need for additional Park and Ride locations near Interstate 81 in Roanoke County.	22	Tractor trailer parking.

CORTRAN Vans

CORTRAN

Residents were asked in the spring survey to prioritize proposed initiatives of the CORTRAN program as shown in the table to the right. The initiative that was prioritized the highest was to offer weekend hours for the service.

CORTRAN is a ride share program with a limited amount of rides available Monday through Friday. It is administered by the County of Roanoke partnered with Via. It is available to preapproved, eligible County of Roanoke residents who are either at least 65 years old, or who have a disability, and need transportation to and from destinations within the County of Roanoke, Town of Vinton, City of Salem, and City of Roanoke.

CORTRAN Recommendations	
1	Offer weekend hours.
2	Extend evening hours.
3	Lower age requirement.
4	Expand service area

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

8.5 Winter 2023 Draft Roanoke County 200 Plan Reveal Community Meetings

Six (6) planning meetings were held around Roanoke County in Winter 2023 for citizens to review the draft of the 200 Plan, including goals and recommendations that were made based on the feedback received throughout previous phases of the community engagement.

1. **Catawba, Glenvar & Masons Cove**: Glenvar Middle School Forum - Monday, February 27. 37 attendees.
2. **Peters Creek**: Green Ridge Recreation Center Meeting Room - Wednesday, March 1. 29 attendees.
3. **Bonsack/Vinton & Mount Pleasant**: Vinton War Memorial Ballroom - Monday, March 6. 59 attendees.
4. **Windsor Hills**: Hidden Valley High School Auditorium - Wednesday, March 8. 27 attendees.
5. **Back Creek & Bent Mountain**: Bent Mountain Center Gymnasium - Monday, March 13. 91 attendees.
6. **Cave Spring & Clearbrook**: South County Library Auditorium - Wednesday, March 15. 44 attendees.

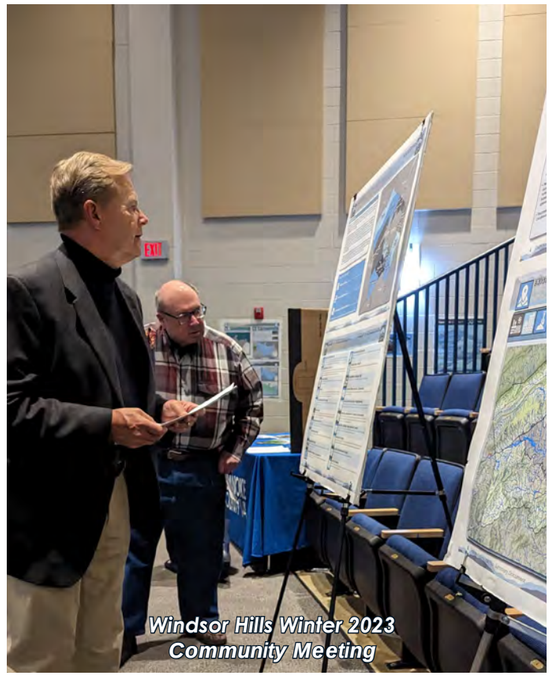
There were **287** total attendees across all meetings combined.

There were **40** comments submitted by citizens in the open response feedback forms that were available online and in-person as well as comments at the first round of public hearings. Individual comments for each Community Planning Area can be found in their respective CPA Summary Documents. Of the comments submitted, 27 were specific to individual CPAs with 13 of the total responses specific to the County as a whole. These comments varied across different planning issues such as growth management, transportation improvements, natural and cultural resource protection, and more.

The following is a summary of the Winter 2023 feedback received:

- The importance of citizen buy-in for developing land into residential or commercial areas.
- Need for discussion of the importance of historic resources, improved recycling options, and definitions of the future land use categories.
- Need more recycling pick-up or drop-off options throughout the county.
- More resources needed in the protection of natural and cultural resources including working with state and federal agencies.
- The need for more pedestrian and bicycle safety accommodations which can include signaled pedestrian crosswalks, sidewalks, bike lanes, greenways, etc. Other transportation needs include better street lighting (particularly along Route 221), expanded bus service routes, and picking up litter along major roads.
- Greater cell phone and broadband options in the more rural areas of Roanoke County is needed.
- Expanding on programs and activities at the recreation centers.
- Affordable housing options are needed as well as places to shop and eat.

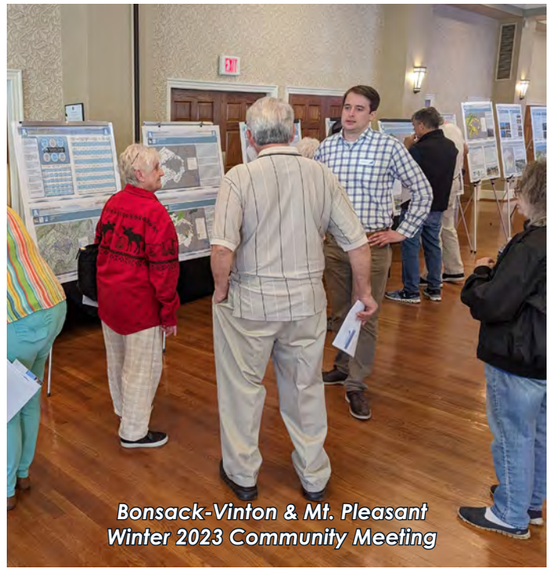
Bonsack-Vinton & Mt. Pleasant Winter 2023 Community Meeting



Windsor Hills Winter 2023
Community Meeting

Peters Creek Winter 2023
Community Meeting

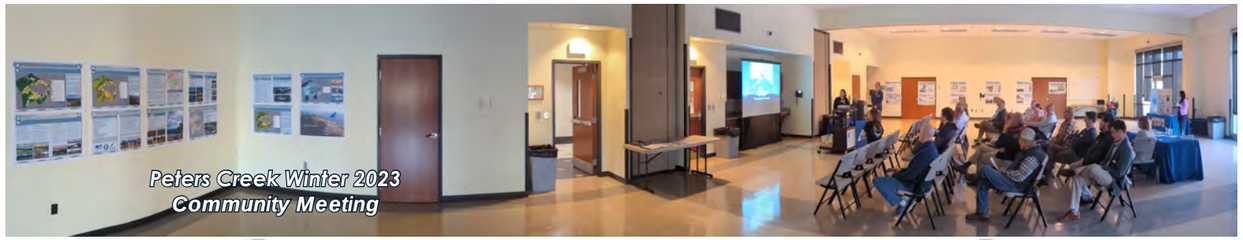
Cave Spring & Clearbrook Winter
2023 Community Meeting



Bonsack-Vinton & Mt. Pleasant
Winter 2023 Community Meeting

Back Creek & Bent Mountain
Winter 2023 Community Meeting

Windsor Hills Winter 2023
Community Meeting



Peters Creek Winter 2023
Community Meeting

Bonsack-Vinton & Mt. Pleasant
Winter 2023 Community Meeting

8.6 Planning Commission Work Sessions

Work sessions were held periodically on a bi-monthly schedule throughout the fall and winter of 2023 leading into mid-2024 with members of the planning commission on a chapter-by-chapter basis of the main document. These work sessions allowed for planning commission members to provide feedback on specific chapters by taking the time to review text, maps, charts, and other information in great detail.

8.7 Planning Commission & Board of Supervisors Public Hearings

Following shortly after the Winter 2023 community meetings ended, the Planning Commission held two (2) public hearings in the spring to give residents an opportunity to provide feedback on the drafts of the individual CPA Summary Documents and the County-Wide Summary Document of the Roanoke County 200 Plan.

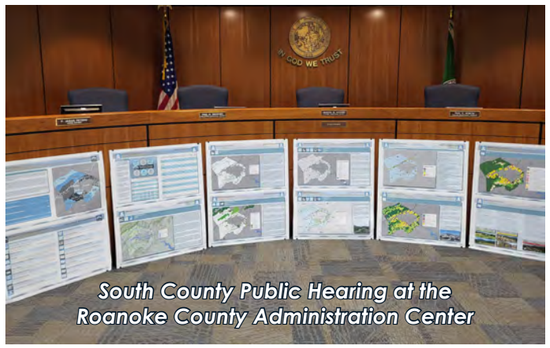
The first public hearing was held on March 23, 2023, at the Green Ridge Recreation Center. Five (5) residents attended and two (2) residents provided comments. The second public hearing was held on April 3, 2023, at the Roanoke County Administration Building. Twelve (12) residents attended and six (6) residents provided comments.

The following is a summary of the feedback received at the public hearings:

- Support for the 200 Plan and CPA Summary Documents by highlighting the attention to detail regarding a balance between growth and natural resource protection.
- Improving bicycle and pedestrian safety accommodations, particularly along major routes in the County, is needed.
- Access to expanded broadband services, particularly in rural areas such as Catawba and Bent Mountain, is important and needed.
- Protection of agricultural land in the County for the future by stating the importance of locating areas of agricultural importance and discouraging increased density in these areas.
- Concern that the 200 Plan allows for too much development, particularly in areas surrounding suburban neighborhoods.

North County Public Hearing at the Green Ridge Recreation Center

Citizen Discussing 200 Plan with Planning Commission Member, Jim Woltz



South County Public Hearing at the Roanoke County Administration Center

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Roanoke County Administration Center