ELEVATE ERIE

Planning Our Future Together

Phase 1 Engagement Summary

Comprehensive Plan & Transportation Mobility Plan

May 24, 2023

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What is Elevate Erie?

Elevate Erie is the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan and the Transportation Mobility Plan (TMP). The updated and integrated plans will provide a foundation for Erie to continue to thrive, while elevating the Town's quality of life into the future. These plans will provide long-term guidance for the community around growth, land use, transportation, housing, design and community character, parks and open spaces, tourism and recreation, sustainability and resilience, and economic development, among other topics.

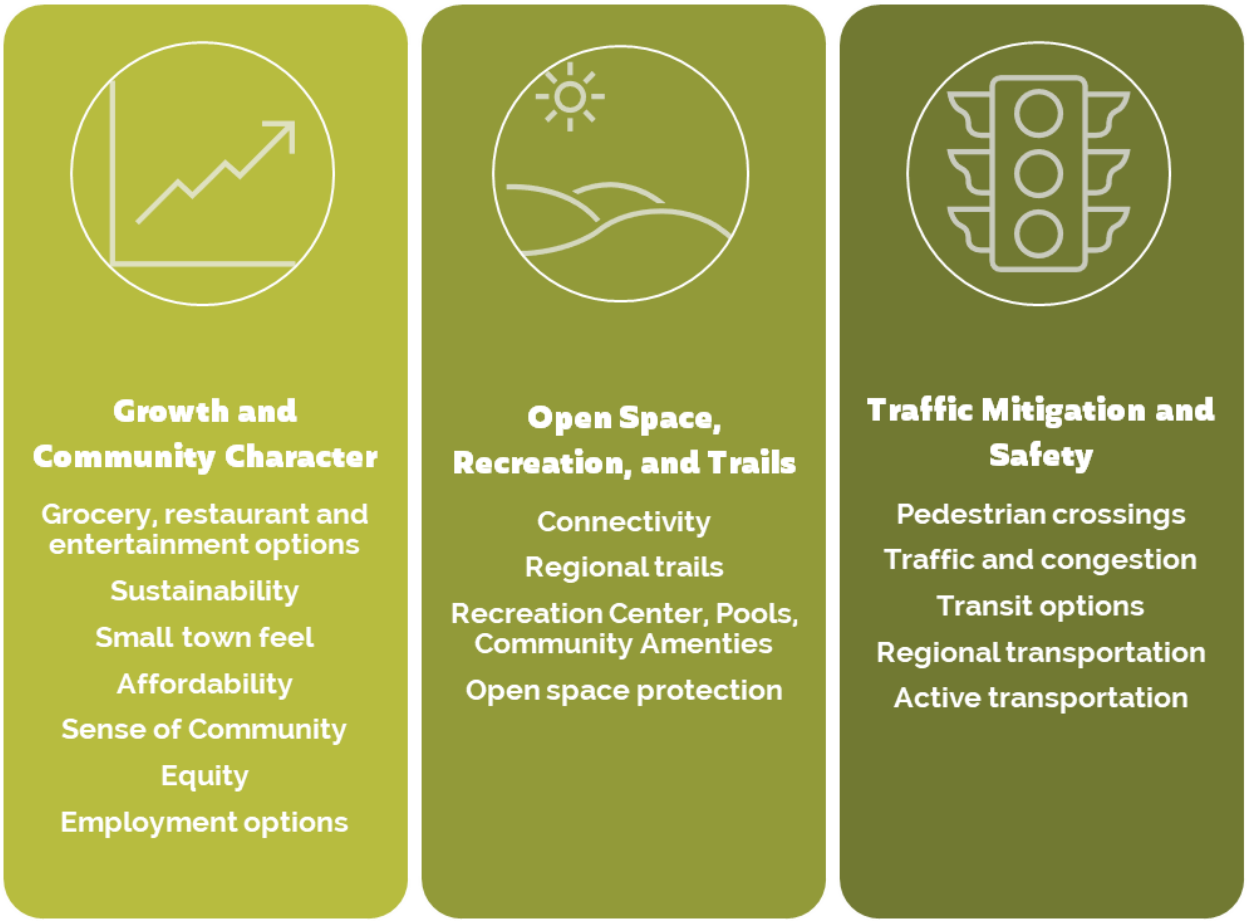
Erie's current Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2005 and updated in 2015. The Transportation Plan was last updated in 2018. Since the previous updates, the Town has continued to change, not only as the result of growth and development, but also due to changing priorities and evolving values of the community. To ensure these high-level planning and policy documents represent an accurate, comprehensive, and inclusive vision for the Town's future, Elevate Erie will focus on key topics such as mobility and enhanced transportation options; sustainability and resilience; affordable housing; and diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Executive Summary

This document summarizes the findings from the engagement activities completed during Phase One of the Elevate Erie Comprehensive Plan and the Transportation Mobility Plan (the Plans). This initial phase of community engagement lays the foundation plan development that reflects the community's needs, values, and strengths.

Between December 2022 and May of 2023, community members and representatives were asked to share their perspectives on the Town of Erie; local leaders kicked off the planning process, two advisory committees were assembled to provide technical expertise and local knowledge, and an online questionnaire was available from the end of December 2022 through January 2023.

Below is a summary of input collected throughout Phase 1. Most of the topics that emerged in Phase 1 can be sorted into the overarching themes of growth and community character; open space, recreation, and trails; and traffic mitigation and safety.



The following graphics summarize the public engagement findings in Phase One by type of engagement: online, advisory meetings, in-person events.

Online Engagement: Vision & Values Survey and Engage Erie Activities

What do you love about Erie?

- Community members love their open space; they want to see open space protected and new parks and recreation resources.
- The small town feel and sense of community is highly valued.

What would you improve?

- Community members want more retail, restaurants, and entertainment. There is a preference for these to be locally owned and located near the heart of town.
- Sustainable growth needs to account for resources and maintenance of community character.
- Community members are interested in seeing better roadways and car access, active transportation, and transit options almost equally.
- Traffic safety is a concern, especially at pedestrian crossings.

Advisory Meetings: PAC, TAC, Leadership and Stakeholder Meetings

What are the biggest issues and opportunities?

- Housing affordability and housing diversity are increasingly important issues to address.
- Employment options don't serve current residents. Most residents commute elsewhere for work.
- Growth
  - transportation connections that mitigate traffic
  - enhance economic sustainability
  - provide transportation options
  - address water and resource availability

What would make this project a success?

- If City departments use the plans often, can implement the plans, and track progress.
- If the Plans and the planning process are inclusive and equitable.
- If the Plans are living documents that address the needs of the community moving forward.

In-Person Events: Pop-Up Events, Arbor Day, Strider Bike Derby, and Town Fair

Describe the best version of Erie.

- Active transportation and transit options are available and safe.
- Erie maintains its small town feel and an enduring sense of community.
- Grocery, restaurants, and retail options are available and convenient across Town.
- Diverse and affordable neighborhoods that fit the community's character.
- A Town that grows sustainably.

Engagement By the Numbers

699
Responses to online Vision & Values Questionnaire
December 20, 2022 to February 2, 2023

330
Participants at the Arbor Day, Strider Bike Derby, and Town Fair
April 29 and May 13, 2023

70
Engagements at **4** Pop-Up Events
April 7, 12, 20, and 27, 2023

70
Online Interactions
February - May 2023

3
Technical Advisory Committee Meetings
December 2, 2022; February 10, 2023; and April 14, 2023

2
Plan Advisory Committee Meetings
February 27 and April 17, 2023

1
Board of Trustees and Planning Commission Joint Meeting
January 17, 2023

Summary of Advisory Meetings

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Input

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) represents the different Town divisions , including but not limited to, transportation, communications, planning, parks and recreation, police, engineering, sustainability, and economic development. These individuals contribute a broad spectrum of experience and technical expertise for which they were chosen to sit on this committee. During Phase 1 the TAC met three times virtually to help guide Phase 1 and address special topics and concerns.

Meeting 1: December 2, 2022

The first meeting provided an opportunity for the TAC members to discuss their expectations for the project and their role. The meeting gave each member a chance to outline the most significant issues for the Town of Erie. The TAC identified several outcomes that if attained would make Elevate Erie a success. Although there were many different answers and concepts, most touched on the following themes:

- Sustainability
- Actionable potential of the Plans
- Community involvement and engagement with the planning process
- Implementation

TAC members identified the following issues and opportunities for this planning effort:.

- Resistance to change, especially within residential neighborhoods and concern for loss of character
- Affordable housing and housing options
- Multi-modal transportation connecting the community and the broader region
- Managing resources and growth/development
- Public education integrated into the planning process and the plan may help reduce tension and increase understanding about issues.

TAC members are working on a variety of projects that relate to the planning effort some of these include park planning and design efforts, flex-ride services, a regional housing partnership, housing assessment, neighborhood speed mitigation program, Downtown streetscape improvements, ADA audit for physical and digital Town spaces, and regional mobility and transportation efforts.

Meeting 2: February 10, 2023

During the second meeting, the TAC identified themes from the Board of Trustees/Planning Commission joint meeting and the Your Vision Your Values Questionnaire (the questionnaire). Community aversion to growth especially housing development and support for certain types of growth like retail and employment were topics of discussion during this meeting.

Community sentiment from the questionnaire regarding growth, housing diversity, and affordability misaligned with priorities and programming in certain departments. Concepts like multimodal transportation, safety, and an interest in restaurants and retail options in town align with current town planning or initiatives. The TAC recommended that in future

phases of engagement consultants, staff, and technical experts discuss and reframe the idea of growth and change in the community and provide relatable examples and education regarding land use regulation and housing affordability.

Meeting 3: April 14, 2023

The third TAC meeting provided members a chance to discuss some overarching themes and concepts that have emerged in community engagement efforts and existing conditions research. Some overarching themes that overlap with TAC priorities are diversification of housing, economic opportunities, and funding for community amenities like parks and trails. TAC aspirations related to transportation include a multi-pronged and multi-modal approach that leverages many different funding options to provide inclusive transportation options that are reliable, safe, and efficient. Other concepts identified by the TAC were regional cooperation and putting more emphasis on the airport and its potential.

Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) Input

The Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) represents different Town boards, commissions, and task forces, including the Town Board, Planning Commission, Sustainability Advisory Board, Historic Preservation Advisory Board, Diversity Equity and Inclusion Task Force, Tree Board, and the Urban Renewal Authority,

Meeting 1: February 27, 2023

When asked what would make this planning process a success, PAC members note the following:

- Representativeness of the community engagement
- Tracking participation throughout the process
- Addresses climate change and adaptation
- Actionable strategies that are practical and usable

The PAC also discussed current action being taken by member's boards. About 1/3 of the projects or actions mentioned were related to diversity and equity, and about 1/2 of the projects or initiatives related to sustainability, conservation, or natural resources. PAC members were asked to recommend people or groups that should be included in the engagement process. Their responses included seniors, families, high school students, people who work in Erie but cannot afford to live in town, conservation groups, and diverse groups (race/ethnicity and socioeconomic status). PAC members had a substantial list of questions that they wanted to ask the community. Many of these questions had to do with affordability, mismatch between local jobs and resident workforce, and community expectations for infrastructure and community goods like parks, trails, and entertainment.

PAC members are hopeful that Elevate Erie will help align different departments of the Town especially as it relates to transportation and open space and trails. Additionally, the PAC members hope to see the plan incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion in a holistic way.

Meeting 2: April 17, 2023

The second PAC meeting focused on two key themes that have emerged throughout the community engagement process, housing and land use. The key components of these themes are given below:

- Perceived “open space” throughout the community may actually be located on county or agricultural lands that may rightfully be sold by farmers to developers. The public may require educational material on the process of acquisition and preservation of open space.
- The Town Center concept allows density and mixed uses with public better perception.
- Education regarding the challenge of encouraging commercial development in neighborhoods and in Old Town should be available to the community so they understand the cost and trade-offs.
- Hwy 287 corridor is a potential growth area for commercial development, but also an asset for open space and community buffers.
- Public private partnerships will likely be the best way to encourage developers to build affordable housing units. Specific Town goals related to housing affordability should be expressed to developers.
- A communication strategy should be developed and used to address community perception of diverse housing.
- Housing that is close to services and doesn’t increase vehicle traffic.

Additionally PAC members discussed roadway design that encourages safety, diversifying transportation options especially viable bike transportation options, open space and natural and historic preservation like Schofield Farms that have been popular and successful. Additional discussion included asks from the community like arts and cultural opportunities and amenities for youth and teens.

Board of Trustees and Planning Commission Input

Joint Worksession

On January 17, 2023, the Town Board of Trustees and the Planning Commission met with Town staff and a group of project consultants to discuss their intentions for the planning effort, their top priorities, and to highlight important topics for the Plan update.

When these leaders were asked what would make this project a success they responded:



Leaders were also asked to discuss:

- Things that they are excited about going into the next 20 years
- Groups that should be involved in the planning process that have not already been reached
- Questions that are important to ask the community
- Long-term issues that residents have been talking about

The leadership group voted on topics that they are most concerned about in Erie. These are safety, employment opportunities, population growth, and town identity. Leaders voted for the most important changes that they would like to see in the next 20 years. The top three changes are:

1. More employment opportunities
2. More ways to get around
3. Greater diversity of shopping and retail stores

Transportation priorities were also ranked during the meeting. The top three priorities are:

1. Increased transit options
2. Safer streets
3. More/better sidewalks and safe street crossings

The leadership group was asked to give additional information to the planning team that was not covered in the meeting. The comments had a wide variety of topics including:

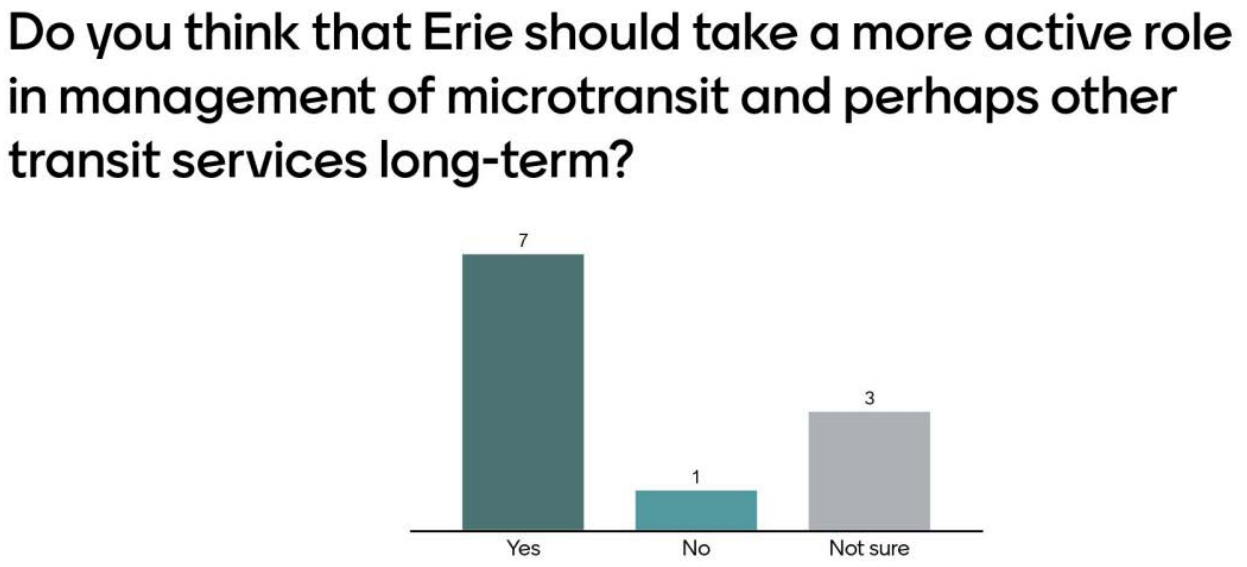
- The project group strive to make the plans living documents
- Regional cooperation to bring the plans together
- Concern for resource management

Transportation Futures Worksession

On May 16, 2023, the Town Board of Trustees and the Planning Commission met for a presentation and discussion on 'Transportation Futures.' This presentation included a conversation led by Jeremy Klop, Director of Strategy at Fehr & Peers, who discussed high level options for the Town of Erie. These included designing for legacy, safety for everyone, and investments that grow. Jason Miller, national transit expert at Fehr & Peers, shared various transit provision models and described more detailed recommendations for microtransit service in Erie. Feedback from this group included:

- A desire to incorporate both proven strategies that have worked in other communities as well as innovative approaches, depending on the place and context within the Town.
- A priority for creating safe roads followed by safe speeds through design treatments, considering the uses of different road types within Town.
- Attendees desired a balance of both internal and external funds to invest in the future of the transportation network.

Polling showed that Board of Trustees and Planning Commission members are supportive of on-demand, microtransit service in Erie in the future. This service type will help serve the younger population and provide a valuable supplement to fixed route transit service.



Summary of Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholders were identified by the planning team and with consideration of TAC, PAC, and the leadership group's input. Stakeholder engagement was conducted through small public meetings, including the Arapahoe Neighborhood meeting and via one-on-one interviews. Twenty-four stakeholders belonging to one of four general groups completed an in-depth online interview independently via Google Forms. Each group was asked specific questions based on their background or expertise. Summaries of this input by group is given below:

Business Community (6 responses):

Business owners were asked to give examples of what they think can improve business development and success in town. Business owners hope the Town can help with parking and infrastructure that will get residents to businesses, financial support for local businesses, and one respondent is concerned about affordable housing for employees and patrons.

Developer Community (4 responses):

Developers believe there is a strong market for non-single family style housing in Erie. The biggest threats to housing development are long construction delays and heavy entitlement fees. A plan that includes affordable housing and gives an avenue for incentivizing it may help developers provide diversified housing options. One participant noted that they would like to see a market analysis, and that flexibility in requirements and process would help developers improve the diversity and affordability of the housing stock.

Residents (7 responses):

Residents would like to see more access to services and amenities. This includes more trails, recreation facilities, and open space. They are also interested in seeing more cooperation between communities, HOAs, and the Town. Residents want continued transportation growth, economic opportunities, affordable housing that is in line with community character, and increased access to outdoors and recreation.

School Community (7 responses):

Pedestrian safety, public transportation coordination, grant options, and parking are areas for the Town to coordinate with schools. Stakeholders note that there is uneven change in enrollment between schools across different cities and funding differences between school districts. Two members of this stakeholder group completed one-on-one interviews. Themes that emerged were very similar to those that came up from the resident stakeholder group, and included responsible growth, protection of community character, and love for community amenities like recreational facilities and trails.

Arapahoe Ridge Neighborhood Meeting:

Stakeholders from the Arapahoe Ridge neighborhood were gathered on March 15, 2023 to discuss their concerns and aspirations for the US 287 to 119th Street Corridor. This group had many of the same concerns regarding transportation as the community at large. The Arapahoe Neighborhood was particularly concerned about mitigating noise and dust from assorted traffic types, especially from through truck traffic. Generally the group is also concerned that future growth is strategic and that as development occurs traffic mitigation and traffic safety measures are implemented.

Summary of In-Person Events

Arbor Day Celebration Event

This event took place April 29th at Erie Community Park. The Town of Erie has hosted the Arbor Day Celebration for the last 25 years. The event is open to the public and includes vendors, an electric car demonstration, a poster competition for 5th grade students, arborist question and answer sessions, and other attractions that brought in a large group of community members.



Consultants and Town staff engaged with approximately 150 people over the course of the three-hour event. They spoke with older residents and seniors, parents and families (approximately 30 children), residents that have lived in Erie from 1 to 10+ years, and people who want to live in Erie but do not currently.



Several overarching themes coalesced over the three hours of the event. People are interested in having access to more grocery stores, creating walkable spaces with connected trails and paths, having more regional transportation options, expanding the recreation center and community pool, and encouraging commercial areas near neighborhoods.



Event attendees were asked several questions that were designed with the help of input from the PAC, TAC, and leadership group. Highlights are below:

What do you love about Erie?

- Small town feel and a sense of community
- Community amenities like the recreation center, parks, and trails
- Open space and views

Describe your best version of Erie.

- Small town and high quality
- A Town with grocery, retail, and service options
- A thriving downtown
- Affordable housing that fits
- A sustainable growth strategy

How do you like to move around Erie?

- Active transportation: walk, bike, e-bike, scooter

- Bus for regional transportation

What transportation connections are missing?

- Efficient and consistent bus throughout the region especially to Denver
- Bike trails that connect neighborhoods to services and retail
- Regional bike trail connections
- Pedestrian safety at street crossings

Strider Derby Event



This event took place April 29th at the Calvary Bible Church. The event is open to the public but with paid participation required for those kids racing. The event included vendors, a pump track, and multiple heats of a Strider "race."

Consultants and Town staff engaged with approximately 30 people over the course of the two-hour event. They spoke with parents and families, grandparents, young children, Erie residents, and visitors to Erie.



There were consistent themes heard from event attendees. People are interested in more transit options in Erie, both fixed route transit and an on-demand service. Strider Derby attendees really like the trail network, and many of them bike to school, the park, and for recreation. However, there are additional destinations they would like to go to that are not accessible by trail. They also feel like crossings and on-street bike facilities are uncomfortable.



Event attendees were asked to engage with several questions that were designed with the help of input from the PAC, TAC, and leadership group. Some highlights are given below:

What do you love about Erie?

- The trails
- The parks
- The Community Center

How do you like to move around Erie?

- Walking
- Bike, walk, electric bike, run
- Driving
- Car seats on microtransit

What transportation connections are missing?

- Trail between Erie and Boulder

- Need more transit connections with higher frequency
- Need a microtransit shuttle similar to what Broomfield has, with consideration to how to move children (i.e. car seats)
- Widen Arapahoe Avenue to accommodate development
- Wider shoulder on Highway 52
- More lanes on highway 52
- Better and safer crossings near schools
- Better connections without a car to get to library, parks and rec center
- Need more transit
- Wider shoulders for arterials
- Regional transit to Denver

Erie Town Fair Event

Information about Elevate Erie was presented at a booth at the annual Town Fair, held in Old Town Erie on May 13, 2023. Approximately 150 kids, teens, young adults, and older residents stopped by the booth. Similar to the Arbor Day and Strider Bike Derby events, community members were asked what they love about Erie, what their best version of Erie looks like, how they like to get around, and what transportation connections are missing.





What do you love about Erie?

- Small-town feel, community events, and friendly people
- Trails, parks, and recreational amenities
- Old town/downtown area

Describe your best version of Erie.

- More grocery store options
- Expanded recreation center, pool, programming, and sports complex
- Affordable housing
- Vibrant Old Town
- More businesses (small-businesses, restaurants, breweries, and services)
- Entertainment, performance space, and youth hangouts

How do you like to move around Erie?

- Biking, walking, and scootering
- Driving

What transportation connections are missing?

- More bike and trail connections
- More bus and transit options

- Safe walking and biking routes to schools and more drop off points
- Pedestrian crossings could be safer and more visible
- Road maintenance and potholes
- Light rail or trolleys
- E-bike and e-scooters

Community Pop-Up Events

Three pop-up events took place in the first phase of community engagement, in total engaging over 70 community members. These are opportunities for the community to engage in spaces that they may already be in throughout their day. These events provide an opportunity for community members to engage in conversations on topics they are concerned about. Common themes that came from each event are summarized below.

Different pop-ups reached different groups. Missing from most of the pop–ups were teenagers. Present at least one of the pop-ups were people who want to live in Erie, veterans, older residents and seniors, people who want to move out of Erie, new residents and long-term residents, parents, and children.

Fox Dog Coffee - April 7, 8:00-9:30 am

- Interest in alternative transportation like biking, walking, and public transit. Connect trails and improve public transit access
- Appreciation for family-oriented community
- Interest in more community amenities and services that keep up with population growth
- Sustainability should be considered especially as it concerns growth and resource restrictions and sustainable solutions like solar and EV charging





Pop-Up Event at Fox Dog Coffee - April 7

Erie Social Club - April 12, 5:00-6:30 pm

- Interest in slowing growth and growing responsibly
- Maintain the character of Erie
- Adjust and reframe growth so that it can continue to fund important services for the existing and future community
- Encourage grocery and restaurants in town





Pop-Up Event at Erie Social Club - April 12

Erie Community Center - April 20, 8:00-9:30 am

- Less housing in Erie and more commercial space
- More diverse and affordable housing
- More outdoor recreation and amenities (like a pool) in town
- Improve roads, trails, and connections between neighborhoods




Pop-up Event at Erie Community Center - April 20

Bring your child to work day - April 27

- Kids want to see more parks and spaces for sports and organized activities
- Move the landfill



Pop-Up Event: Bring your child to work day - April 27

Summary of Engage Erie's Online Engagement

The community has engaged with the planning process online since March 2023 with two activities; the "Mark the Map" tool and the "Idea Wall." The Engage Erie website is also regularly updated with meeting dates, notes, and agendas and upcoming events and engagement opportunities. Engagement summaries are available to the public online as well including the presentation of results from the Vision & Values Questionnaire.

Mark the Map

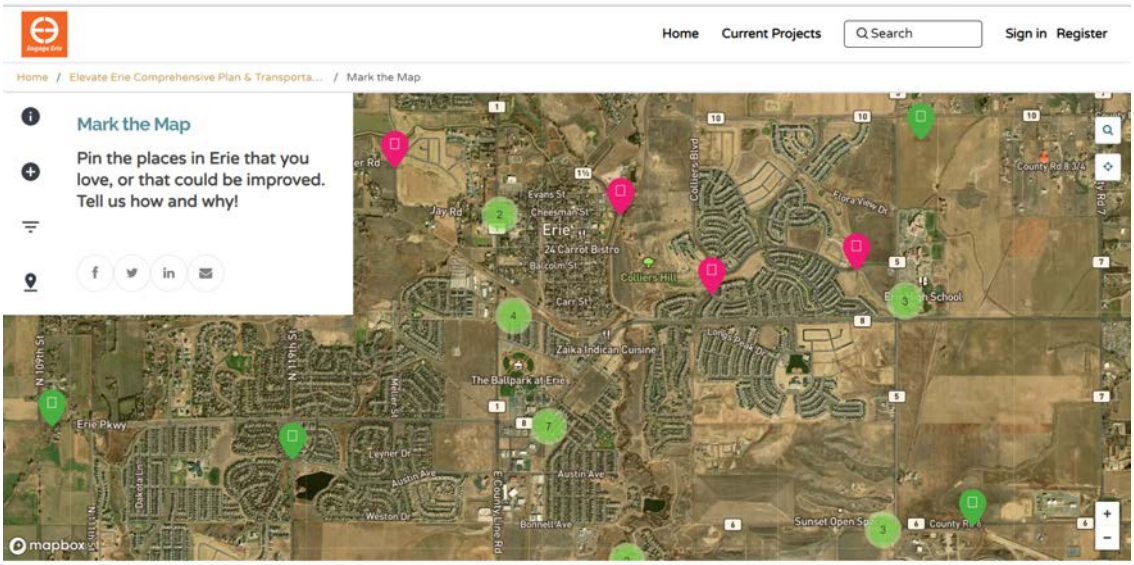
Since April 7th, this tool has allowed community members to place a pin on places in their community that they "Love" or things that "Could be improved." There have been 36 responses placed on the map as of May 24. Eleven of these comments are positive and 25 responses are suggestions of community features that could be improved. This page is still active and available to the community.

The Erie Community Loves:

The airport, Coal Creek Trail, Sunset Singletrack, the Ball Park at Erie, the Erie Community Center, the trail underpass at Colliers Boulevard and Colliers Parkway, pockets of open space, the roundabout on Lombardi Street, and multimodal trails.

The Erie Community Wants to Improve:

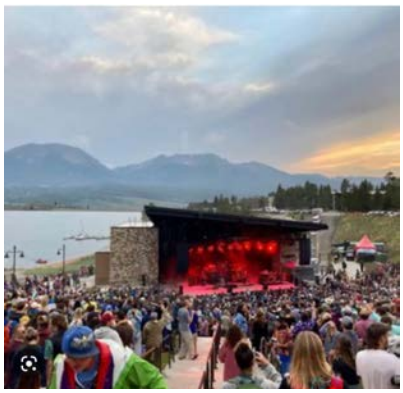
Most areas for improvement have to do with traffic and transportation. Responses note that there could be better access to Coal Creek Trail from Vista Parkway bike lanes and sidewalks. Other suggestions include converting intersections in Town Center to roundabouts, improving and building bike lanes to protect bikers and drivers, and improving safety conditions at specific intersections throughout town. An idea to improve safety included tightening curb radii and eliminating acceleration lanes for right turning vehicles. Community members also expressed disappointment in the changes made to the splash pad at Lehigh Park, and expressed interest in continued maintenance of existing recreation facilities and amenities. Commenters also asked to consider adding trees, increasing safe roadway crossings for trails, and adding wayfinding to the trails and open space network.



Idea Wall

The Idea Wall was made available to the public at the beginning of March. This board is still available on the Engage Erie website and community members are still posting, click here to see the most up to date ideas. As of May 24, 2023, 32 ideas had been posted.

Individuals posted many ideas for community amenities that they would like to see in Erie. Some of these ideas are focused in Town, like convenient stores, restaurants, event venues, recreation facilities (pool), historical museum, grocery stores, and space for local businesses. Another large category of ideas had to do with transportation, particularly regionally and locally connected active transportation, bus and rail transit options, and safety for all forms of transportation. Housing affordability and design standards that help ensure quality buildings also came up on the Idea Wall.





Ideas posted to the Idea Wall by respondents

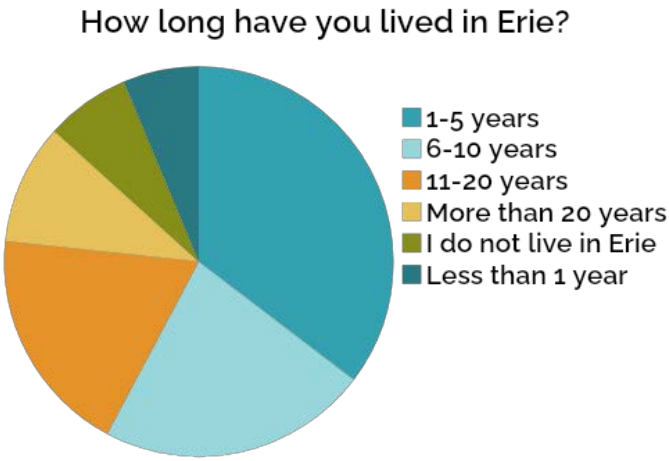
Summary of Envision Erie: Vision and Values Survey

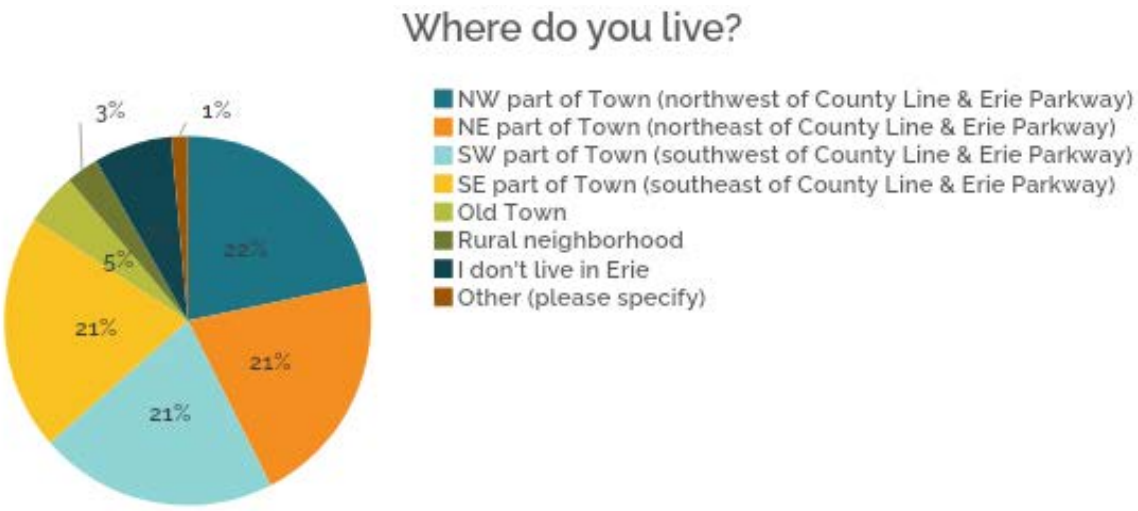
The Vision and Values Survey was available for 6 weeks from December 20, 2022 to February 2, 2023. The questionnaire had 699 responses over the 6-week period. The questionnaire was advertised on the Town of Erie Facebook Page, the Erie Colorado Facebook Group, a Utility Bill article, at TAC, Planning Commission and Board of Trustees meeting, and email newsletters.

Who We Heard From

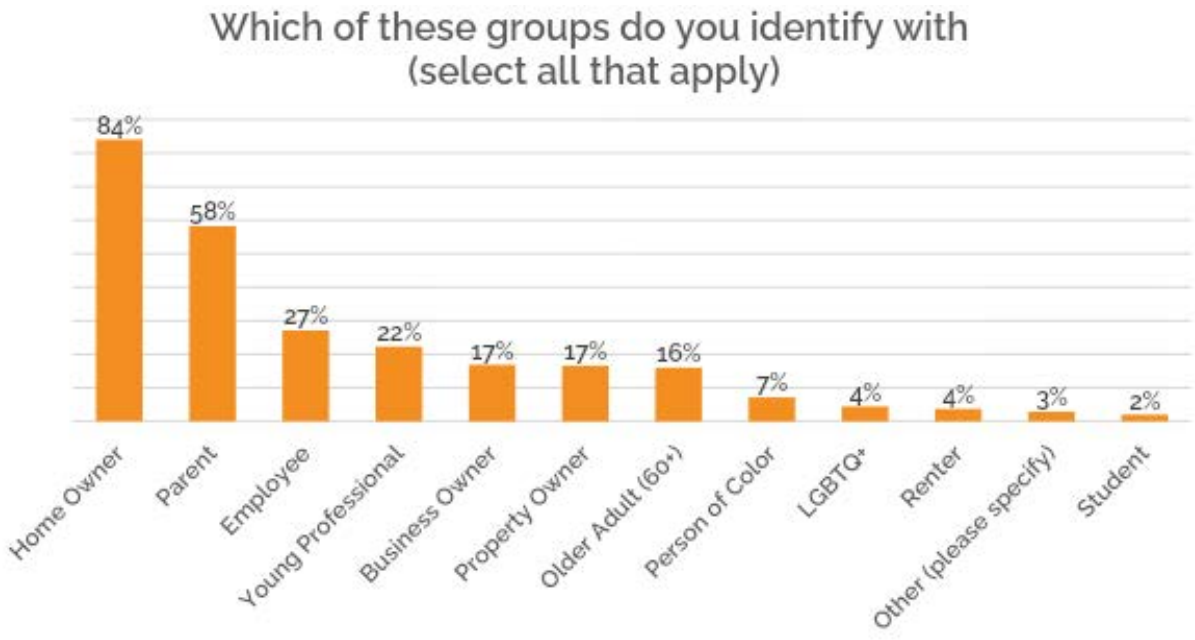
The largest group of respondents have lived in Erie for 1-5 years. In 2016 there were 20,801 households and in 2021 there were 29,367 households which is an increase of nearly 30%.

About 35% of respondents reported that they belong to this recent influx in population.





There were similar proportions of respondents from each of the four quadrants of the Town. A relatively small portion of respondents are from Old Town. Seven percent of respondents do not live in Erie. This was a group that advisory and leadership groups were interested in hearing from to understand the barriers to living or wanting to live in Erie.



Respondents were asked which groups they identify with, as shown in the above graph. These groups are not explicitly defined, and there is the option for respondents to not answer, select multiple groups, or to interpret their group membership in unique ways. It is helpful to compare some of these self-reported groups with the demographic breakdown of the community.

The self-reported data generally aligns with Census Data.

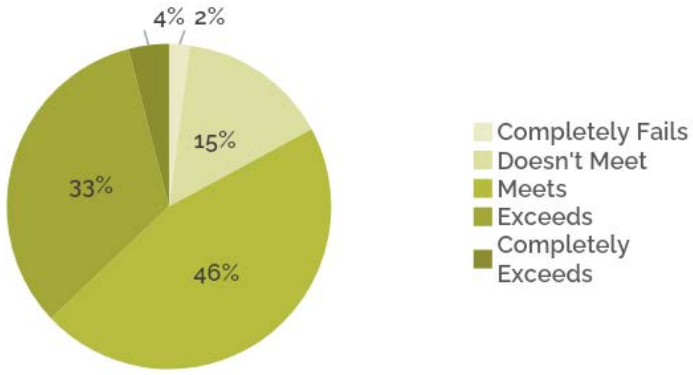
- **90%** of Erie households own their homes
- **10%** of Erie Households rent
- **48.3%** of Erie households have children under the age of 18
- **11.6%** of individuals identify as a race/ethnicity other than white
- **5.5%** of residents are currently enrolled in secondary education
- **14%** of residents are over 60 years of age

US Census Bureau ACS 5-year estimates 2016-2021

What Respondents Had to Say

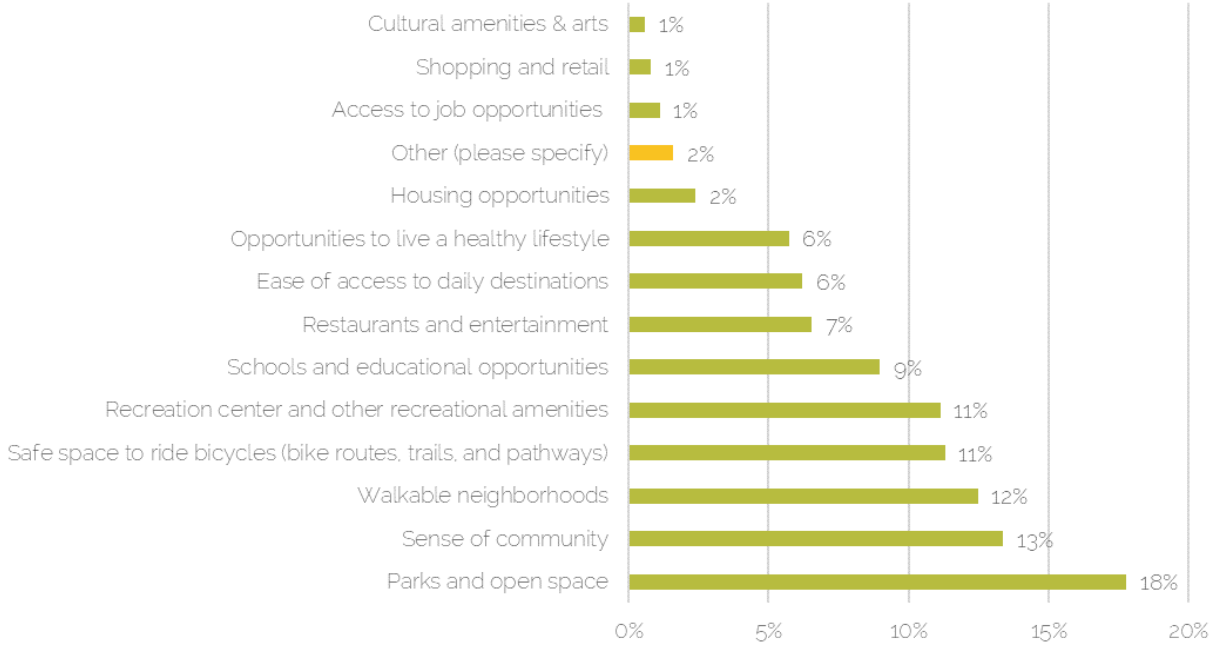
Question 1: How well does Erie meet your expectations of being a great place?

Although few respondents believe that Erie completely exceeds their expectations, many note that the community meets or exceeds their expectations for being a great place. Around **83%** of respondents note that Erie meets or completely exceeds their expectations for being a great place.



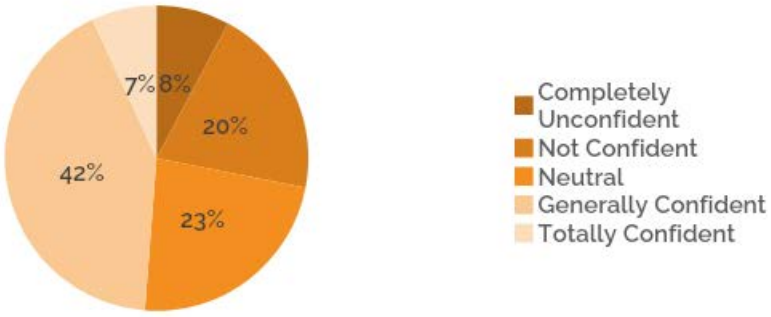
Question 2: What do you like most about Erie?

Respondents were asked to pick up to three elements of what they like most about Erie. Parks and open space, sense of community, and walkable neighborhoods were identified as what they like the most. Respondents that chose "other" noted that the small town feel or character, open space and farmland, mountain views, safety, quiet, and the people were things that they liked most about Erie. Respondents felt least strongly about Erie's cultural amenities and arts, shopping and retail and access to job opportunities. In other questions, and in advisory meetings, the lack of retail, restaurants, and entertainment have been noted.



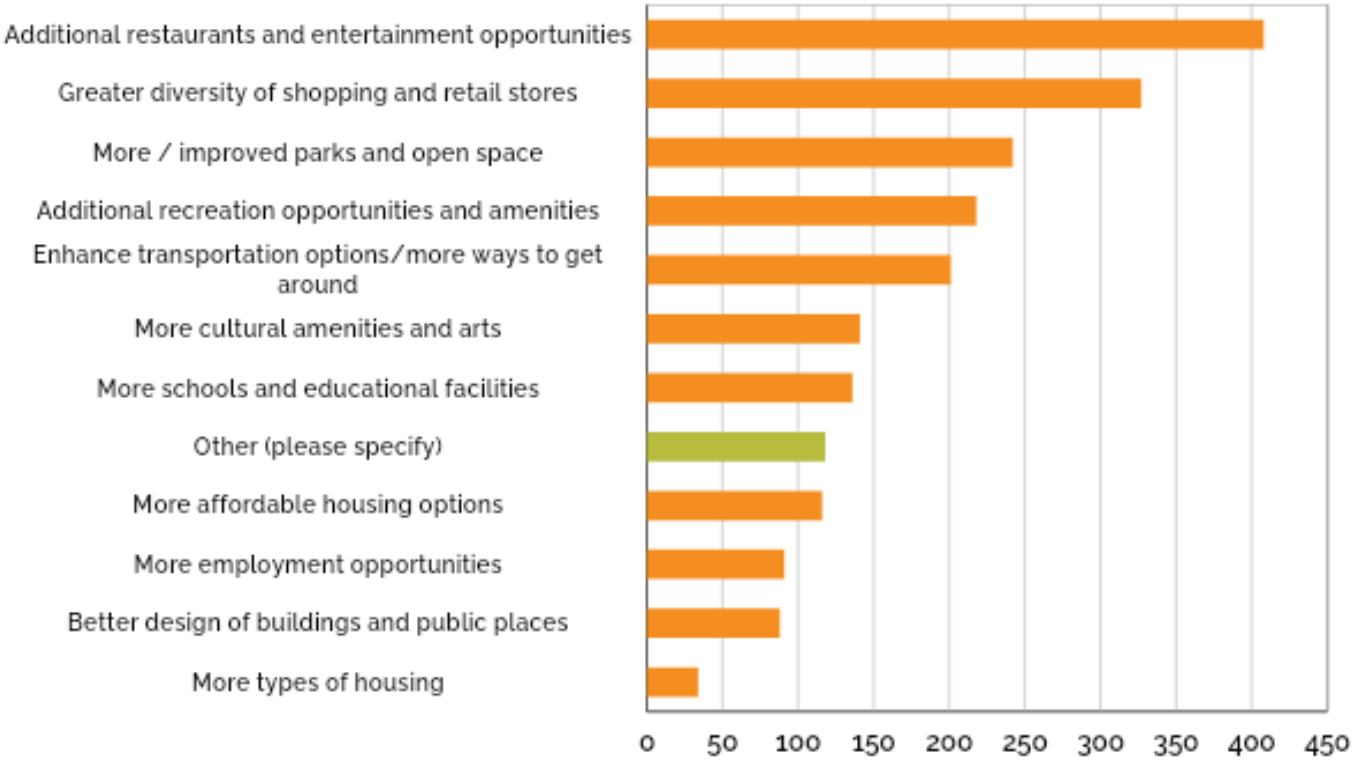
Question 3: How confident are you about Erie's future?

Just under half (49%) of survey respondents are generally confident or totally confident about the future of Erie. Respondents are relatively less confident in the future of Erie than they are in the current status and condition of the community (see Question 1).



Question 4: What are the top three changes would you like to see occur in Erie over the next 20 years?

Respondents were most interested in seeing more restaurants and entertainment opportunities in the future. In other questions this desire is reiterated (See Question 8). There may be a preference for these retail and restaurant options to be located near the center of the community (See Question 7).



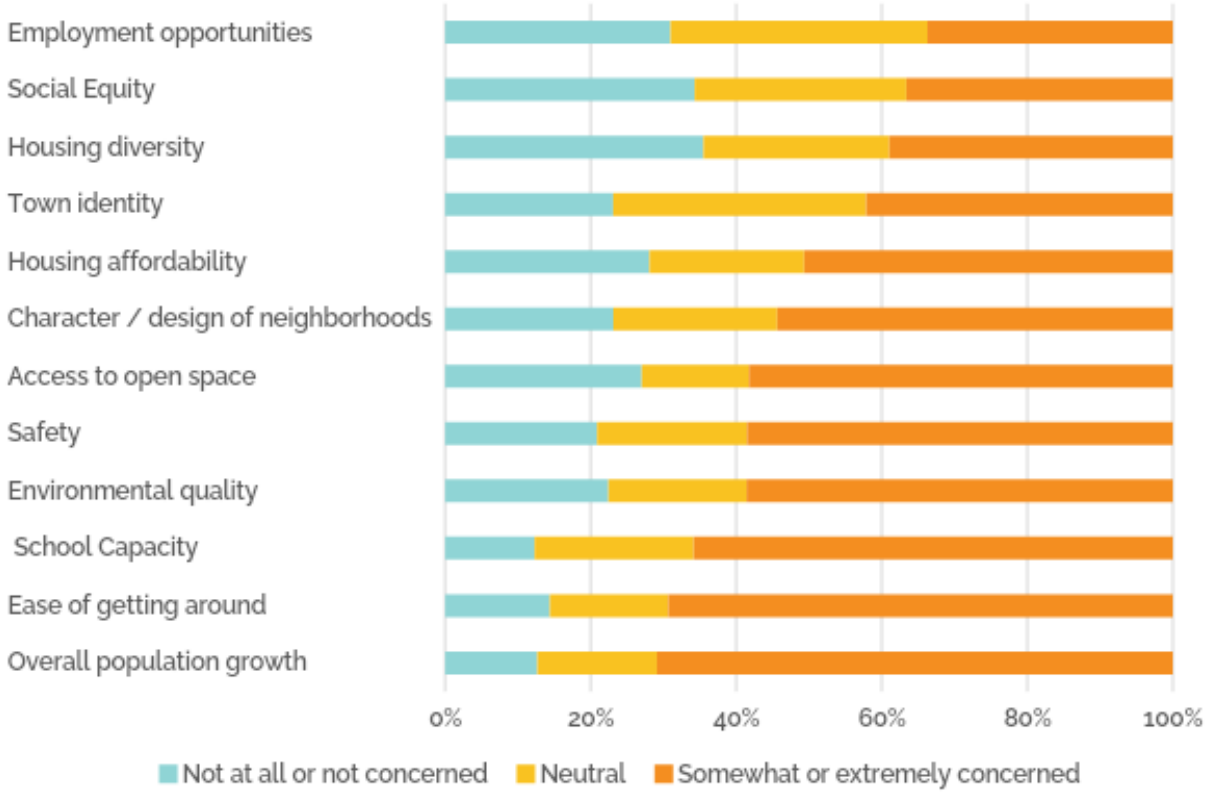
Surprisingly, even though respondents ranked school capacity as one of their greatest concerns in other questions, they are relatively less interested in seeing more schools or educational facilities, ranking this 7th out of 12 options.

Common themes from "other" write in answers:

- Reduce housing development
- Proximity to retail
- Improved infrastructure
- Farmland and open space preservation
- Government
- Regulated development
- Bike and pedestrian facilities
- Control oil and gas
- Employment

Question 5: In thinking about the future growth and change in the Town of Erie, how concerned are you with the following issues?

Respondents are most concerned about overall population growth, the ease of getting around, and school capacity. Respondents are least concerned about employment opportunities, social equity, and housing diversity. It is possible that respondents link housing diversity (and density) and increased employment opportunities with population growth, which is the most prominent concern.



Question 6: What is the single most important change you would like to see around transportation?

The biggest priorities for transportation changes were more/better roads for cars, increased/improved transit options, more/better sidewalks and street crossings, and more/better bike paths and lanes. Because there was a relatively even response across different modes (car, transit, pedestrians, and bikes), these results indicate that a balance of new and improved multimodal facilities would be supported.

Safer streets and trails were relatively low priorities for respondents, however advisory meetings and open-ended responses in this questionnaire indicate that there is concern for traffic safety, and respondents rank safe street crossings and more sidewalks as a top priority. In open-ended comments and advisory meetings, traffic, traffic safety, and congestion have come up consistently, especially connections to regional corridors. Transit options are the second most selected transportation change and would in the long run reduce traffic.

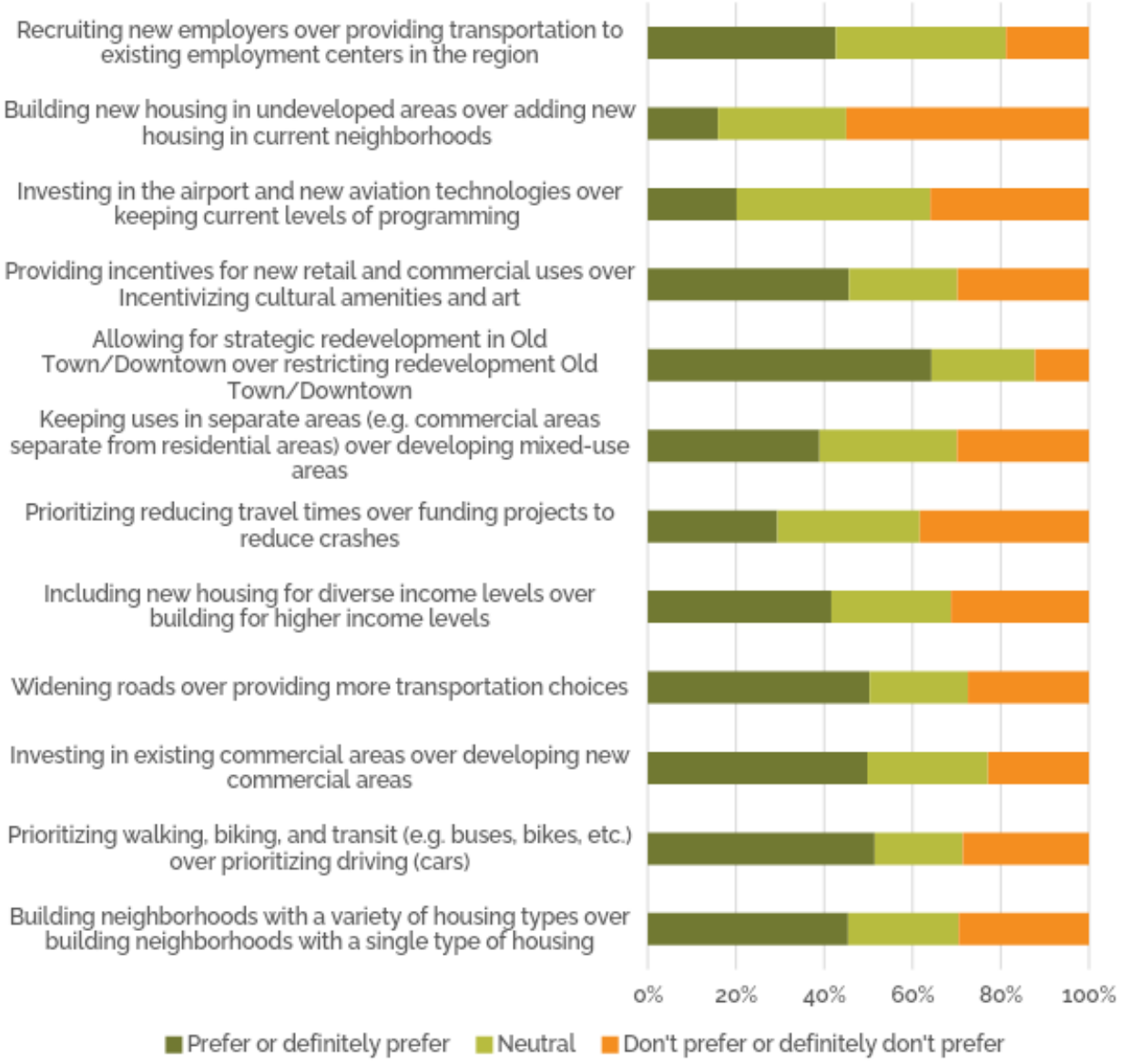


Common themes from "other" write-in answers:

- Efficient traffic mitigation, including more stop lights and less stop signs
- More/better downtown parking
- Better snow removal
- Wider roads
- Better transit
- Reduced speeds
- Complete Streets

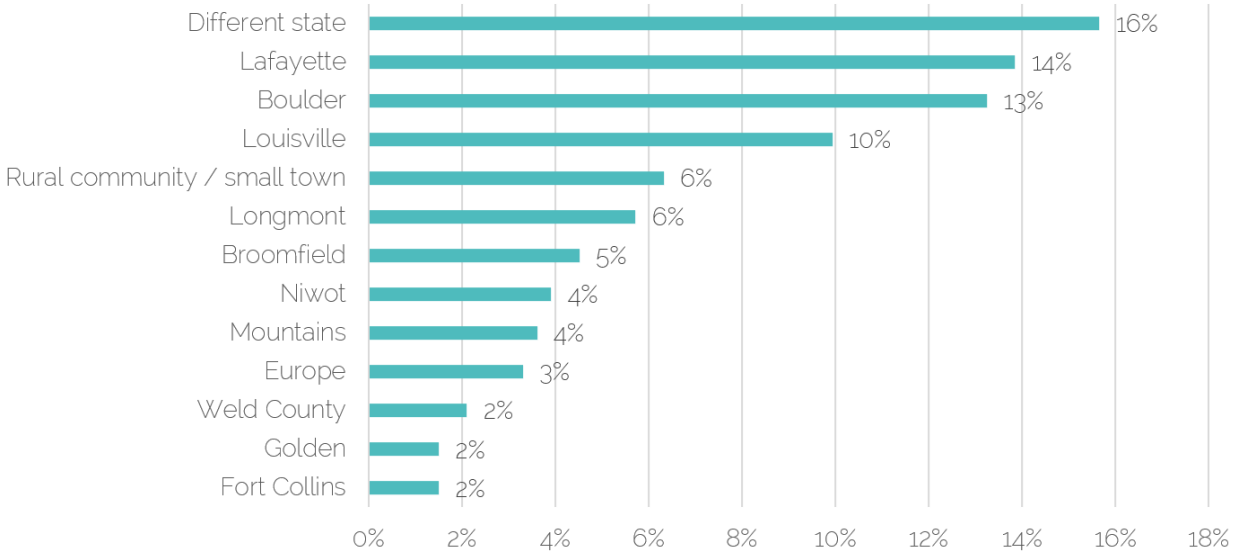
Question 7: We want to better understand what direction the community wants to go in the future and what topics should be a priority. Please provide your preferences between priorities.

Respondents most prefer redevelopment of Old Town over restriction of redevelopment and prefer active and alternative transportation over driving cars. The least popular direction/strategy was building new housing in undeveloped areas over adding new housing in current neighborhoods. This may show that respondents are more interested in protecting open space than maintaining current density. Both housing density and availability of open space are common emerging themes.



Question 8: If you could live in another place besides Erie, where would that be? And why?

Many respondents explained their preference for other places to live. Many of these explanations included topics like affordability of housing, community character, traffic control and congestion, and available community services and amenities. Below is a sample of different responses linked to some of these topics. These and all responses to this question demonstrate some types of spaces and services that people may be missing in Erie and can help form a clearer picture of vision for the future of the community in a positive aspirational way.



- *"Somewhere with a thriving main street with a variety of shops and entertainment"*
- *"Lafayette, they seem to attract businesses while keeping the small-town feel."*
- *"I currently live in Longmont because it's more affordable than Erie. I work in Erie, but cannot afford to live here."*
- *"Denver. Diverse housing, easy transportation, walking accommodations, retail diversity, art, and culture"*
- *"I would live in Fort Collins because of their strong community, a very convenient bussing system that goes from south Ft. C to north Ft. C, and Old Town is a great place to be, no matter the time of day."*
- *"Louisville. It has a wider variety of restaurants, shopping, public functions (parades, fairs, community events) and businesses have much later open hours than Erie. Their utilities are more affordable. The main streets of Louisville are more community friendly with new business, cultural restaurants, and public event access compared to Briggs street."*
- *"Longmont has a strong regard for its aging population and more diversity in its population"*

Question 9: What else would you like us to know?

The final question allowed respondents to write in their final thoughts. There were 216 unique answers submitted, each of which was sorted into categories and summarized in the graph below. Respondents voiced considerable concern for town governance, representation, transparency, and values. They also expressed concern for growth and resistance to change**.** Unlike responses in Question 5 that showed a keen concern for growth, ease of getting around, school capacity, and environmental quality and open space, the breakdown for this question shows education and environmental protection and conservation as being relatively less significant. Both of these questions reflect the community's concern for growth and traffic improvement as top priorities.

