

APPENDIX A: Kickoff Survey

The Tompkins County Planning Advisory Board and the Tompkins County Planning Department initially identified two new elements to include in the 2014 version of the Comprehensive Plan: Community Sustainability, which considers social equity, economic vitality, and ecological stewardship in making decisions; and Climate Change Adaptation to help the community prepare for climate change impacts including increased flooding and droughts, changes to ecosystems, and impacts on agricultural crops.

In order to determine whether additional topics should be considered in the update, a community survey was developed. The survey was conducted in September and October of 2013 and asked respondents about a number of potential new elements to address in the Plan.

The survey was offered in both an online format and in a written format. A total of 915 responses were received, 710 of these via the online survey and 205 via the written survey. The vast majority of the written survey responses were received from students enrolled in Participation in Government classes at Ithaca High School, Lansing High School, Newfield High School, and New Roots Charter School.

The Planning Department examined the unweighted survey results and also weighted the results to reflect place of residence (urban/rural), age, and income. The elements selected as most important to include in the Comprehensive Plan were remarkably similar whether weighted or unweighted. These lists are shown in order below, with the highest vote recipients listed first.

Unweighted Results

- Affordable Living
- Public Safety
- Traditional Infrastructure
- Green Infrastructure

Weighted to reflect Urban/Rural Residence

- Affordable Living
- Traditional Infrastructure
- Public Safety
- Green Infrastructure

Weighted to reflect Age Distribution

- Affordable Living
- Healthy Communities
- Traditional Infrastructure
- Public Safety

Weighted to Reflect Income Distribution

- Affordable Living
- Public Safety
- Green Infrastructure
- Traditional Infrastructure

Raw Survey Results

Health and Safety: Potential Elements

Healthy Communities would explore how the community can reduce the incidence of chronic disease and medical conditions through making physical activity easier, improving access to healthy food choices, and addressing the health and safety of an aging population.

Important to include in the plan	452
Somewhat important to include in the plan	320
Not important to include in the plan	119
No opinion	21

Food Security would consider the availability of healthy food choices in isolated rural communities and in low-income neighborhoods. It would also evaluate potential strategies to increase food security, such as increased use of locally-produced food, farmers markets, community gardens, and community-based food processing.

Important to include in the plan	469
Somewhat important to include in the plan	295
Not important to include in the plan	124
No opinion	24

Public Safety would examine the current system of providing police, fire and emergency medical services. It would investigate issues related to sustaining volunteer fire departments, opportunities for shared services and facilities, and impacts of development decisions on service providers and public safety.

Important to include in the plan	634
Somewhat important to include in the plan	195
Not important to include in the plan	60
No opinion	19

The Economy: Potential Elements

Education Economy would evaluate potential local impacts that may result from changes in higher education due to a population with fewer young people, more online educational resources, and other changes.

Important to include in the plan	299
Somewhat important to include in the plan	338
Not important to include in the plan	196
No opinion	57

Creative Economy would consider the significance to the local economy of a wide range of activities, including the arts (e.g., performing, visual, and publishing), cultural industries and institutions (e.g., heritage tourism, museums, libraries), and research and development (e.g., software development).

Important to include in the plan	355
Somewhat important to include in the plan	346
Not important to include in the plan	158
No opinion	32

Localization would consider the benefits and any drawbacks of buy local and invest local campaigns and policies that may support local businesses and jobs and keep dollars circulating in the local economy but also could result in higher prices and risk.

Important to include in the plan	401
Somewhat important to include in the plan	317
Not important to include in the plan	131
No opinion	41

Affordable Living would consider a variety of costs faced by households that affect the affordability of living in Tompkins County and determine whether all of these costs should be considered collectively in making policy decisions. These costs include housing, transportation, utilities, and food.

Important to include in the plan	594
Somewhat important to include in the plan	196
Not important to include in the plan	71
No opinion	28

Neighborhoods and Communities: Potential Elements

Community Character would consider the physical components of the built and natural environment that define the character of rural areas, suburban areas, and urban neighborhoods. This element would also consider the role historic buildings, landscapes, and neighborhoods have in making the county a special place.

Important to include in the plan	390
Somewhat important to include in the plan	319
Not important to include in the plan	135
No opinion	43

Planning for an Aging Population would consider how the community needs to prepare for the natural aging of Tompkins County. This element could consider development and re-development issues, accessibility, and the provision of public services and facilities.

Important to include in the plan	444
Somewhat important to include in the plan	317
Not important to include in the plan	85
No opinion	44

The Environment: Potential Elements

Green Infrastructure would explore natural systems that are important to the human environment, support stormwater management, provide adequate shade and shelter, and provide natural landscaping in developed areas.

Important to include in the plan	525
Somewhat important to include in the plan	245
Not important to include in the plan	91
No opinion	24

Air Quality would consider the threats to air quality from various activities and sources, including transportation, some businesses and industries, heating, open burning, and dust.

Important to include in the plan	491
Somewhat important to include in the plan	244
Not important to include in the plan	126
No opinion	24

Infrastructure and Services: Potential Elements

Traditional Infrastructure would consider the community's plans to maintain, upgrade, and modernize existing drinking water distribution and treatment systems, wastewater collection and treatment systems, and roads and bridges. This element could also address the adequacy of existing energy infrastructure (such as natural gas service and power lines).

Important to include in the plan	627
Somewhat important to include in the plan	192
Not important to include in the plan	37
No opinion	25

Recreation would explore how well parks, trails, and other recreational facilities meet community needs. This element would also investigate the County's role in meeting community recreation needs.

Important to include in the plan	359
Somewhat important to include in the plan	373
Not important to include in the plan	124
No opinion	25

Communications Technology would consider the advances being made in communications, including the issue of access for all residents, and the impact this technology may have on the economy, education, and social life in the county.

Important to include in the plan	383
Somewhat important to include in the plan	315
Not important to include in the plan	141
No opinion	41

Now that you've had a chance to consider the potential new elements to the comprehensive plan one at a time, we'd like you to identify your top priorities. Please identify the three elements that you think should be included in the update of the Comprehensive Plan.

Health and Safety

Healthy Communities	193
Food Security	145
Public Safety	230

The Economy

Education Economy	105
Creative Economy	81
Localization	128
Affordable Living	300

Neighborhoods and Communities

Community Character	110
Planning for an Aging Population	115

The Environment

Green Infrastructure	215
Air Quality	89

Infrastructure and Services

Traditional Infrastructure	216
Communications Technology	87
Recreation	65

Other

- require that before any new development (residential or Commercial) mandatory requirement that developer hire local workers of all racial & gender backgrounds and local unions where skilled workers are needed. THIS will really show our commitment to low and moderate income persons. - any large scale developer shall also be required to make payments to the Town for additional burdens put on roads that require traffic calming, widening, as well as stressors on water & sewer, as well as Public Safety, We don't need to fight the same battles that we have CU & IC again especially with out of town developers taking their profits out of Ithaca ..it's probably figured in but- green affordable transportation services can't be overlooked.

1. Cut back...cut back...reduce taxes...school taxes and property taxes are killing those of us retired folks on fixed incomes. We want to be able to maintain our homes but taxes are making it very difficult. Quit wasting monies.

1. Transportation and greenhouse gas emissions, public transit and finding ways to increase frequency in less dense areas.
2. Public transit connections to Amtrak train stations and regional airports (Syracuse, Binghamton, Elmira and Ithaca).

1. Good paying jobs that are not service industry, tourism, or education related. Something like small to medium scale factory/commercial. I feel that workers here are really under-employed and could contribute more to the economy if they had better job options.
2. Merge at least some functions of City & Town of Ithaca to enable better land-use planning in the greater "metro" area. Or perhaps the County could assume a stronger role here.

1. More mixed use buildings in residential neighborhoods on a limited scale.
2. Somehow levy property taxes on properties that are currently exempt.
3. Keep commercial buildings to the scale of the community and not make them too large where they don't belong.
4. Pleasing to look at architecture and landscaping should be as important as environmental impact and usage.
5. Flow at all times should be considered: cars and traffic patterns, pedestrians, bicyclists, etc.

A serious evaluation of our carbon footprint, and how every part of Tompkins County -- existing and proposed -- affects it for better or worse.

Accessibility in Ithaca is shameful. SAFE handicapped downtown parking is almost non-existent, and in the winter is often badly, or even not cleared at all, certainly not maintained during the day. Accessibility is an afterthought and the disabled are the silent minority in Ithaca, a city that is considered enlightened, and that caters to more visible minorities. With so much senior housing already, and much more planned, such as at Longview, the population is changing, and the city, and the county should be giving consideration to the needs of an aging population. Also overlooked are the many group homes for the disabled in Tompkins County, whose residents are not able to enjoy many of the wonderful things our county has to offer.

Address the drug and alcohol abuse in the community and the drug related crime for illegal drugs.

Addressing issues related to poverty, family support and preventative services, as well as strengthening access to programs related to Alternatives to Incarceration and crime, substance abuse and mental health services. I believe that affordable housing is gravely underrepresented in our community.

Affordable child care and after-school opportunities for working parents

Affordable housing

Affordable housing and how best to work with some of the major employers (e.g. Cornell University and Ithaca College) to sustain affordable housing for their population is incredibly important.

Ag district protection from development pressure and right to farming as a basis for all zoning and tax decisions.

All of the issues tie into transportation issues, ie not continuing to build sprawl and to plan for walkable, bikeable and public transit options.

All of these categories sound important but the problem is how you go about addressing them, not the categories per se. I support Wetmore's Minority Report and think the current approach by the County and the Town, particularly regarding West Hill, is destructive and short-sighted. And the main thing you need is more public hearings on issues related to development instead of fairly generic and worthless surveys such as this.

Allowing towns and villages to make choices about their own communities and how residents of those communities want to live.

alternative transportation policies to cars

Any plans for new trails should require approval first from adjacent property owners before proceeding with any planning, design, and construction. Privacy and private property need to be respected in order to keep people living and working in this community.

Any plans that can reduce obesity

As mentioned briefly before, the Ithaca student housing market is absolutely ridiculous. Landlords aren't held accountable for the condition of their properties, nor are they reprimanded in instances of injustice towards students. Housing costs are unreasonable and foreseeably on the rise. A decrepit Collegetown "home" is roughly the same price as the most expensive, luxurious real estate in the western portion of the state. Whether it be by the city itself or by the universities, something needs to be done.

Ask the medical facilities and physician groups what you think might be needed. We are among the healthiest communities in NY State. We can aim to be the healthiest in the US.

Better local business environment. We have very strict regulations that may be discouraging business from moving into our area. Promote light manufacturing and industry to diversify our economy.

Bikes in Ithaca! We need safer bike lanes. Other places do much better. Community gardens! One of the few cities that had the foresight to put aside community gardening space, and now they want to take it away. Bad idea.

Black Diamond trail and Waterfront trail need faster development; connect the Bridge to Nowhere and promote pedestrian & bicycle commuting

Building height should be maintained at a shorter measure in the city.

Bus/train travel to Syracuse/regional transportation hubs. Please bring back passenger rail

Can someone look into the number of people given one-way bus passes to Ithaca from NYC, Binghamton, and elsewhere, and told to go to social services for vouchers to live here without earning a legal living?

Cayuga Lake is a wonderful feature of this county yet the view is increasingly limited by trees. Please cut the trees to maintain this view. This also applies for some of the gorges. Several roads have turns obscured by over grown plants and shrubs, etc., please get these cut.

changing landscape in economic development

Citizens do not have input into what type of development is allowed in their neighborhoods. An example is the Biggs development, which has been hotly contested, but is a done deal anyway. People in our communities are not being adequately represented. I live 500 yards from this, and the idea of paving over the forest to build the development, makes no sense from a global, climate perspective.

Civil discourse in the forum of Board meetings and town government properties.

climate change, emergency preparedness

Combining services with other municipalities such as highway & public works. But there may be many services being provided now that could be done cooperatively to save all of us more.

Community aesthetics - murals and sculptures - these make Ithaca so special!

Community meetings on Sunday afternoons that are well publicized, and seek to utilize community input on questions and problems not able to be answered during weekly City, Town or County meetings.

Comp Plan should coordinate with ITCTC's transportation plans, public health & social services plans.

Crime, safety and addressing drug/substance use problems in community

Cut every government expenditure by 10%. Put that in the first line of your comprehensive plan!

Cuts -- we want them. Please lower the property and school tax burden. Less government is good. Respect property rights. Let people do what they want on their own land. Make it easier for people to grow their own food in an urban environment. Allow chickens without the need for a variance. Let people burn their brush twice a year in their back yards. Housing: If you want housing to be more affordable, then you need to increase the supply. One simple way to do that is to allow home owners to rent out more space in their homes. Allow more unrelated people to live in a single dwelling.

Decentralize the energy grid (District Energy)

diversity and inclusion

Diversity and inclusion should be imbedded throughout this plan

Diversity and inclusion.

Do not install parking meters in residential section of N. Tioga St. please. Light up Ithaca Falls at night with LED lighting. Increase its beauty, and makes it safer for people walking there in evening..

Do something about the way the college students treat the town and its people. it's disgraceful. They really get away with way too much. everyone seems to be falling all over themselves for the students - but the townspeople don't get the same considerations from the students. It seems to me both colleges could contribute way more than they do since the student impact on our environment is so great. I would bet that they use up the majority of our resources and aren't made to really give back. It seems there should be some way to equalize that

Don't outlaw or discourage hunting and fracking

Early education - including Head Start - as a way to grow a new generation of strong citizens for Tompkins County

Easier access to Rt 81. Railroad transportation.

Economic development of high paying full time jobs for the underemployed, including jobs in energy and research but in new fields outside education to vary our base. Reducing taxes and regulations. Leaving residents to make their own land use and personal life style choices.

Economics of education. Economic freedom for choosing the type of education that is preferred for children without financial ties to public education. Include private schools in different activities that only public schools can participate.

Emergency planning takes up too much of our resources. This money can be better spent on peoples needs not the security industry's profits.

Emergency services.

Ending eco-sprawl-- calling something sustainable even though it's far from any services.

ensure safe drinking water reduce use of cars via incentives to use bikes and buses build community via community gathering places and involving community in all aspects of the planning and implementation

Environmental Protection Sustainability

Every time govt is expanded, it is more costly. It usually makes changes that are not really fair to the people. Zoning development for housing project - a successful person may have a \$300,000 or more house and this development requires the developer to provide housing for the less successful. I am against anything that reduces our freedom.

Expanded connectivity to transportation options on a regional basis & contiguous counties.

Figure out how to reduce taxes for us.

Focus on sustainable taxes for allowing existing population to stay in the county as they age and retire.

Decrease social justice programs. Decrease the obsession with unsustainable high cost green initiatives.

Food Policy Council; Tompkins County Transition Initiative <http://transitionnetwork.org/>; Sustainability Council / Policy making

forgive me if i missed this on the lists...but the rapidly increasing property taxes and the danger of them forcing longtime residents out of the city if they can't afford the taxes.

fracking and other high-impact industrial activites arew not mentioned. they should be, and they should be discouraged.

Fracking. Increase in crime in South Hill Terrace and Hudson Street areas.

Fracking. Just say NO

Future cost of taxes, what the average citizen can afford to pay in taxes to stay in there home. How taxes are effecting the elderly and single homeowner. Tax abatement and land that is off tax rolls.

Genetic Testing

getting elected officals to stop spending money foolishly

Government addresses way more than it should. You all need to stop trying to control others, instead work at making yourselves perfect first.

High end housing that would meet the needs of baby boomers looking to downsize from their homes and need one floor living with easy maintenance that is NOT typical. Example is a housing community with lake views, beautiful landscaping, close to amenities, character and community but NOT a senior housing facility. Price range \$300,000 to \$800,000. We desperately need this.

High Speed Internet

Housing in collegetown

How do we attract jobs for the traditional blue collar employees, and allow them a lifestyle of their choosing. Economic development seems to get very little attention in your survey, rather your questions are all about how to mold residents top-down to what planners have been taught people should want to be, because it is good for them. The fallacy lies in the fact that people are individuals and are entitled to a wide variety of choices, not just what planners believe is best for them.

How to limit government's impact on our personal lives.

How to provide public utilities to areas outside the "urban core" gas, water, sewer, cable, internet, etc.

Human needs: caring for vulnerable individuals (homeless, esp. given the Red Cross' suspension of a shelter, disabilities, unemployed). Also, as mentioned earlier, the needs of youth. They are our future, we need to invest in them now.

I beleive that we should explore fracking in this county. The possibilities are endless on what this industry brings to the region in the area of economy, tourism, jobs, etc.

I believe that I have and my neighbors, have had to "tighten my belt" due to the recent economic times. I think that each county department should be fiscally responsible enough to look at and reduce costs and stay at budget. As a property owner and tax payer I resent the waste and lack of regard this burden incurs for long term residents who pay these bills.

I believe the issue of land use and environmental quality are important, especially as we weigh resource extraction and economic development and clean energy. The role of the county's three higher education institutions is also very important to include as they do and can continue to contribute to the quality of development and life in the county. Restating the premise of "Education Economy" to a more positive collaborative approach would actually help outline ways to engage institutions rather than plan for their being a more online presence, something that has a pretty slender chance of happening. This whole section can be taken out and included in the "Creative Economy" section.

I don't like the sprawl-ish suburban development like eco-village or the development near the hospital. A building can be sustainable, but if you have to drive 10-15 minutes for any service, you lose any gains made from LEED/solar panels/etc

I don't understand why the County is trying to get involved in areas that they don't have any authority to make decisions in. Don't waste taxpayers money!

I see no question that address the needs of youth. Please consider a comprehensive look at young people in Tompkins County, their needs, and incorporate that into this plan.

I think parking should be emphasized somehow. Of course, it is a part of transportation, but I think that because of the enormous impact policy on parking can have on transportation and other planning (land use, energy efficiency, climate change adaptation, etc.) that it needs to be brought to the forefront as a topic of higher order.

I want to see the County address the structures that maintain poverty in our region. How can the County go beyond attending to the daily needs of poor people and work to actually get families out of poverty? This is essential if we are to have a sustainable and livable community. I also want to see our community address the racism that still plagues our communities and schools.

I would like the city to have a more cooperative relationship with the board of ed. Do not like that the board of ed, which is answerable to the state education department has eminent domain, is allowed to be unresponsive to the legal wishes of the community.

If my taxes continue to rise I will leave Tompkins County. As I see it, the proper role of government is to protect my rights to life, liberty and property; anything beyond that is a waste of resources and an infringement on my rights.

I'm not sure where it could fit in, but there is a great need for more affordable community day care centers in the County.

Imagine if Ithaca was covered in moderately-low-cost gigabit internet. It would greatly spur businesses and put Ithaca in the news (only a few cities have Gigabit internet, and none have it city-wide) impact of CU and IC on this plan, and conversations with them, what are their plans? and how will it affect the county

Impact of housing development on traffic congestion

Improving airport performance. Ithaca Airport is notorious for delays & canceled flights. Ideally, it should be improved as an affordable, efficient means to connect the community with NYC.

Improving Quality of Living by reducing Government Intervention.

Indicated several times in the survey, but not under a separate and specific title of Consolidation of Services infrastructure update

Issue of access to jobs, resources, etc. as it relates to the perpetuation of poverty in certain communities in Tompkins County.

It is important to consider what role personal accountability plays in any initiative (safety, health, environment, etc.) that is considered, and to what extent new/existing initiatives might add to the "entitlement" cost of living in this county. Emphasis on living a lifestyle that is healthy, responsible toward the environment and other citizens is where the focus of this plan should be- not dumping more money into handing out services that we can't afford. We can afford "enforcement" that leads to creating an expectation of personal responsibility in our citizens (e.g., enforcing traffic violations-the drivers in Ithaca are horrible, littering, drug activity, etc.).

Ithaca is sometimes unsafe at night. More police force is deployed but they merely act to scare people off. Sometimes they don't do their jobs and pick on students for j-walking, skate boarding, etc. I was once yelled at for no reason (as I am unloading food for the restaurant boss, I told the officer I cannot move the car parked on the side of the street because I don't have the key, then he accused me of lying and threatened me). This made me uncomfortable. This NEEDS to change.

Job training and affordable child care

JOBS and economic development. The current economic development plan of TC has always been to look for federal and state grants. STOP that practice and start getting serious about attracting real jobs and not welfare recipients.

K-12 Education, schools as health and community centers, especially in rural areas.

Keep polluting industries out of the county.

Keeping fossil fuel fracking and related heavy industries out. Bringing low-environmental impact entrepreneurs in. Adapting to climate change, which is inevitable. More emphasis on highly efficient and user friendly transportation options for those in outlying areas.

Keeping Tompkins County frack free, protecting the residents from dangerous energy extraction.

Larger scale energy conservation issues, and land conservation planning, and how to position Tompkins County as a model. "The Environment" should be broader than air quality and green infrastructure.

Law Enforcement needs to get a handle on the drug trafficking because with the drug activity eating away at EVERY aspect of our community, Ithaca will become an Elmira if we don't do something .

living wage. public transportation improvements for highly dispersed, and often isolated, rural homes.

localized housing around transportation nodes. Where transportation is great, build lots of housing. That makes sense.

more and more bikes are using the sidewalks, even when the roads are empty

More support for small business owners

Natural gas exploration and mining should be prevented

Need more outdoor and indoor recreational facilities in other areas of county outside of Ithaca. Roller/Ice rink in Dryden, NY

Need to include policies to encourage woodland ownership, not policies that cause the woodland parcel to become smaller with each succeeding generation.

Negative challenges of population growth from influx of new residents, and how to support the long-time residents who already have a stake in Tompkins County.

Never again allow a major medical facility to be built with one road access, and that road is one lane in each direction and crosses the lake inlet and a railroad line!

no mention of recommended acres of working forest has been made working forest provide all the other amenities AND wood products - lumber , firewood, biofuel

NO The county is trying to control too much of our lives and over spending itself.

no to ban on plastic bags; paper bags have glue cockroaches love to eat; again a matter of personal choice; govt should NOT be involved

Not sure if the problem of homelessness was mentioned. Also would like to see us aim for some sort of energy independence.

Nothing is mentioned about the youth's needs in the next decade.

once a facet of free enterprise becomes regulated then it is controlled by persons who do not have a financial risk in the business. This jeopardizes the economy and discourages business from relocating to Ithaca and Tompkins county

Open spaces - encouraging rural municipalities to preserve open spaces.

parking requirements-no parking requirements for new construction will reduce use of cars

People in the communities need to be listened to; The County needs to follow the rules and file the proper documents, do the required studies before allowing any more development.

Pets have become a huge part of our every day life. I wouldn't even know where to begin including them or how, but something to think about as you move forward in creating a comprehensive plan.

plans for further West Hill development ignore infrastructure limitations (no means to accommodate increased traffic demand as a result of development)

Please facilitate additional bridges across the inlet / west end of Ithaca. Major commuter artery, the Town insists on pursuing development over west-ender objections. Get new means of city entrance inplace, and then the County can grow our the Northwest / west without crisis. I would support a Town bond issue to pay for part of it. Growth will require development of emergency services. How will this be planned for? Desperately need mid-level priced assisted living for elderly.

Please work on ways to address traffic problems.

Police and law agencies and their ability to respond to ALL citizens and follow through with the safety needs...less leniency to offenders and more protection to the victims.

Preparation for possible unprecedented disastrous weather events Preparation for a possible influx of immigrants and refugees Youth development, e.g. pragmatic job training and jobs Accommodating an increasingly multi-cultural population Water quality

Properties have been removed from the tax rolls, by tax exempt organizations, without good justification. Can any codes be clarified to prevent, or even undo, such unjustified removals?

protecting neighborhoods from overdevelopment. Attracting manufacturing businesses that pay good wages.

Public Education - evaluate efficacy and benefits of cosolidating budgets, infrastructure/transport, & shift pub edu planning to County level planning- in light pop change; govt funding fluctuation; and tax implications

Public Transportation

Public Transportation, higher parking fees, tax large parking lots, encourage home energy audits and work with Cornell and IC to develop programs so that students can help perform them,

Quality mental health services, including improved mentoring and assistance for students with disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders.

Quality of Education

Rails to trails

Recreation besides parks and trails ...

recycling

reducing personal automobile use

Reduction of government oversight

Rental situation in collegetown.

Reshaping regional population distribution to better fit sustainable models. The established centrifugal policies are blasting population out of the city to the hills of Lansing, Ulysses, etc.

Resiliency of building and infrastructure Limits to growth/Smart growth

SAFE Bike Trails! Edible Landscape - within various "parks" within all communities. Cooperative Greenhouses, Rain Catchment, Wind and Solar energy, More assistance helping families and communities create and maintain gardens to provide healthy food.

Shared distribution of affordable housing; shared costs for services between urban and rural communities;

Shrinking the size and scope of local government. Eliminate overlapping and redundant programs. Keeping local government local, reject UN programs

Sounty must provide guidance, not rules, for appropriate utilization of natural gas resources which underlie the County, particularly ways and means for poor rural areas of the County to capitalize on job opportunities and ad valorem and property tax benefits of natgas development.

Sprawl: Tompkins County is a special, progressive place. Our development should look different than Georgia's! Keep the rural places rural, keep farming alive. We have plenty of space to grow in Ithaca.

strengthening environmental/economic/social justice aspects of any area of the plan, or analyzed for any area of the plan, as a key factor and not an add-on

Support of and encouragement of inclusive communities Improved night life for professionals 25 and older

Supporting local businesses. Controlling rent on the Commons so local businesses can't sustain.

Supporting small entrepreneurs

Sustainable Enterprise: Less focus on retail and more focus on production. Community: Focus on increasing taxpayer-occupied, affordable housing. The political landscape of Tompkins County and Ithaca in particular shouldn't be dominated by landlords.

tax exempt properties paying for services

Taxes of all forms are crushing home owners and family budgets

The effect that higher taxes has on the lower income. Should government be the answer to providing the individual's needs or should each person be responsible. How can Government be more efficient by doing more with less regulation. The effect of regulation on land owners and those with a fixed income.

The equitable and comprehensive enforcement of existing laws. e.g code and zoning

The exploitation of students by landlords in colleegetown is ridiculous. An apartment with a rent of over 700 is still not up to code. There needs to be greater accountability among landlords. Colleegetown is a slum.

The extent to which County government planning, programming, and service delivery is "culturally responsive" to all segments of our community.

The failure of the County Legislature to demand that Frank Kruppa and the TCHD take actions to enforce the Sanitary Code section prohibiting wood smoke which causes health problems for neighbors, is a problem which must be addressed SOON.

The impact of not having affordable housing for lower income families. Also issue of drugs and the impact that drug abuse is having on the community. There are increased costs in foster care, community services, higher crime rates. Also seeing more violent crime, murders, shooting, stabbings, increase in prostitution and dealing. There is a huge increase in IV-drug users and another community health problem as TB, HIV and hepatitis increase with this increase in IV-drug users. It really will impact the quality of life for lots of people. Sad to drive by the creek in Ithaca next to the commons, and see people shooting up, sitting on the rocks in the creek.

the inequitable tax structure, with City residents bearing a disproportionate part of the local tax burden.

Considering the amount of tax-exempt property in the City whose owners (local government, non-profits, religious institutions, and of course Cornell) serve the entire county, we city dwellers are being asked to subsidize County residents who live outside the City through our huge property taxes.

The most important issue that the plan can address is focusing development in and around Ithaca's existing urban area.

the need for more off-leash dog parks in Ithaca

The question of charter schools; the high cost of taxes (which price residents out of their homes); effects of the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (work with libraries and journalists on helping the public understand this major implementation).

the restricted state speed limits in and out of the county. the commercial growth and consequential vast amounts of black top. Look at all the flooding over the last decade and look up stream to the commercial parking lots that are paved. We need bigger catch basins, or less commercial growth.

The rights of individual property owners to decide whether or not natural gas drilling is allowed on the property that they own and pay taxes for.

The so called Comprehensive Plan, if approved, will pretty much destroy West Hill as we know it. It is based on the outdated and by now a completely inaccurate study and indefensible assumptions (the housing needs and growth projections were based on economic and demographic indices from before the real estate bubble had popped and the US economy had collapsed). The so called comprehensive plan mandates over a thousand of additional housing units on West Hill alone with no plans to upgrade the infrastructure. This violates basic architectural and planning principles. And quite frankly is a crime against the community. We need accountability standards for the decision makers and we need to learn from the past mistake. I personally think we need a new leadership at the planning department. Someone with a vision, someone who can see the big picture, someone who goes beyond cutting trees and in their place building cluster buildings.

Theme Attractions

There needs to be more collaboration between the town and city regarding development.

This is a great overview, you have the key components in place. Down to basics: food, shelter, health, good work. I think a lot more of us will have to start farming

We need to work with the state on the topic of speed limit changes, particularly regarding giving the power back to local legislature and boards the ability to change speed limits as they deem fit. We know what the benefits are of lower speed limits and now, with the growth and development in the city and town it's more important than ever. The people should have the power to do this. An example would be how long it took to get the speed limit lowered on West Haven Road. We found this could be done but it wasn't without a lot of work, phone calls, letters, petitions and research. Please consider adding TCat service to West Haven Road, Coy Glen. We need to expand this and it's not going to come about until the entire TCat service is reevaluated for cost efficiency. For instance, if the bus can service Conifer Park on Rt. 79 why can't it include West Haven Road? At least consider a temporary trial. Safety issues and solutions should be examined and systems implemented especially pertaining to the West Hill area. Why can't the Town and/or City pass ordinances/laws requiring certain apartment complexes to add security guards and/or real time web cams? Also: doesn't it make sense landlords who own apartment complexes where a higher incident of crimes occur have to pay a tax penalty?? This is 2013 and yes, there are many affordable and reasonable deterrents available to install to monitor for illegal activities and keep our neighborhoods safe.

We should have a wind farm

WEST HILL CANNOT SUSTAIN ANY MORE LARGE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. IF THE COUNTY DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THIS IT IS BURYING ITS HEAD IN THE SAND!

Wood smoke air pollution in City of Ithaca

Yes, at the top of the list should be building a supporting environment for businesses, investing in job growth, and studying existing employers to see what the county can do to keep them in the area or to enhance their ability to stay in business

Your survey is the least objective survey I have ever seen. You have phrased many items in a very biased manner. See specific comments throughout for more detail.

your survey makes no mention of making an effort to attract new business to this area. Since the county board is Democrat dominated, that isn't shocking

Youth issues do not seem to be included. We need to continue to look at changing needs of our youth and how to address them, including positive youth development opportunities, transportation and youth employment. We know from the TC Youth Needs Assessment and the 2012 Youth Survey that there are more youth who are sad or depressed, substance use is a concern and opportunities for healthy out-of-school time activities are shrinking. We cannot ignore our youth!

Youth population, services,

Youth services

YOUTH! Nothing was mentioned about YOUTH specific programming

Zoning to help plan development on a county-wide scale

About Yourself

We would like to know a little bit more about you to help us ensure that we have reached a cross-section of the county's population. Please take a minute or two to answer the following questions by checking the appropriate box:

Where do you live?

City of Ithaca	263
Village of Cayuga Heights	27
Village of Dryden	12
Village of Freeville	7
Village of Groton	10
Village of Lansing	35

Village of Trumansburg	7
Town of Caroline	30
Town of Danby	27
Town of Dryden	66
Town of Enfield	23
Town of Groton	20
Town of Ithaca	137
Town of Lansing	51
Town of Newfield	27
Town of Ulysses	28
I live in a different County, but I regularly work, attend school, or conduct business in Tompkins County	38
Other Area/Don't Know	5

Are you a college student in Tompkins County?

Yes, full time	83
Yes, part-time	10
No	731

Which of the following ranges includes your current age?

Younger than 15	0
15-21	209
22-34	118
35-44	97
45-54	129
55-64	181
65-74	73
75+	11

Which of the following ranges includes your annual household income?

Less than \$25,000	81
\$25,000 - \$39,999	111
\$40,000 - \$49,999	57
\$50,000 - \$59,999	81
\$60,000 - \$99,999	188
\$100,000 or more	195

What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

Less than high school	97
High School	135
2-year college/technical/associates degree	67
4-year college degree	221
Master's degree	228
Doctoral degree	57