

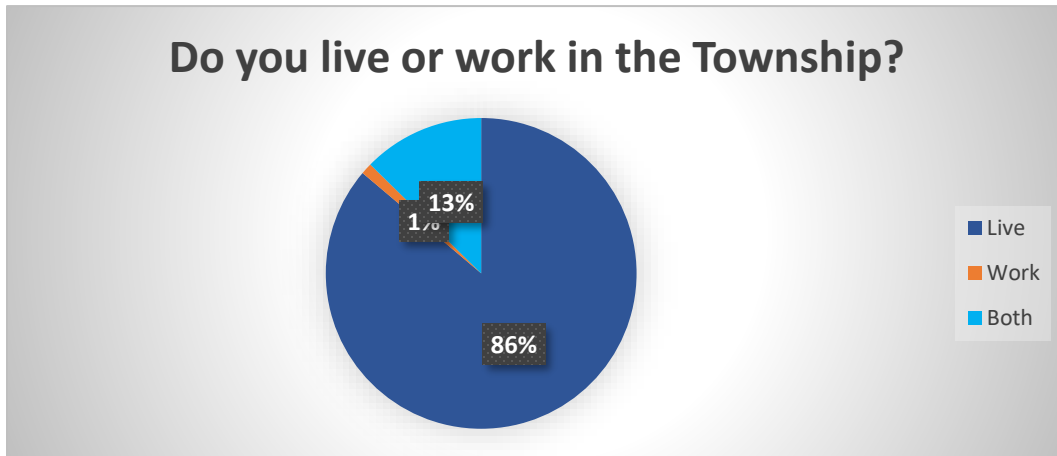
“SWATARA RISING”

TOWNSHIP COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

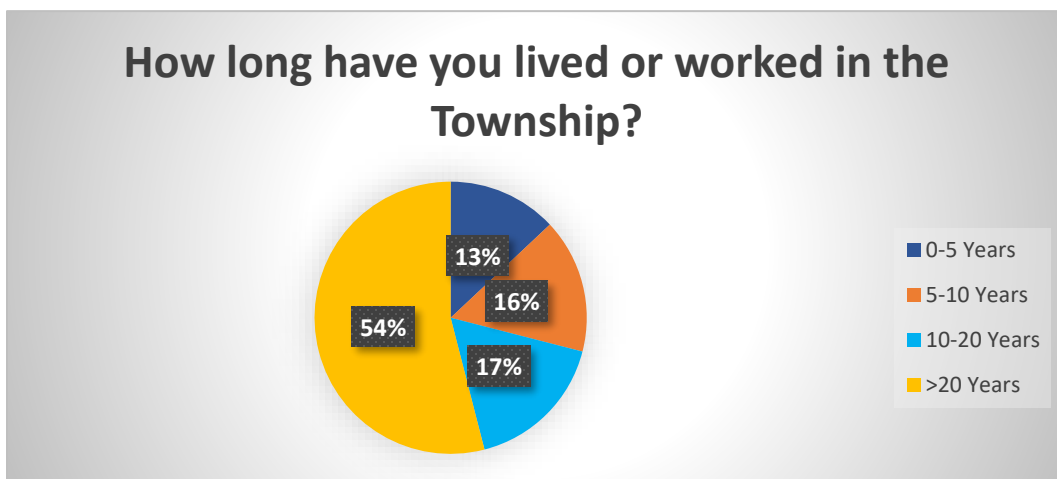
Following are the results of responses to the survey that was attached to the Summer 2018 Township Newsletter and the electronic survey that was posted on line for several months. Approximately 12,300 newsletters were mailed to business and residents. A total of 301 paper responses were received, and 41 people responded to the online survey. Not all respondents answered all the questions.

DEMOGRAPHICS

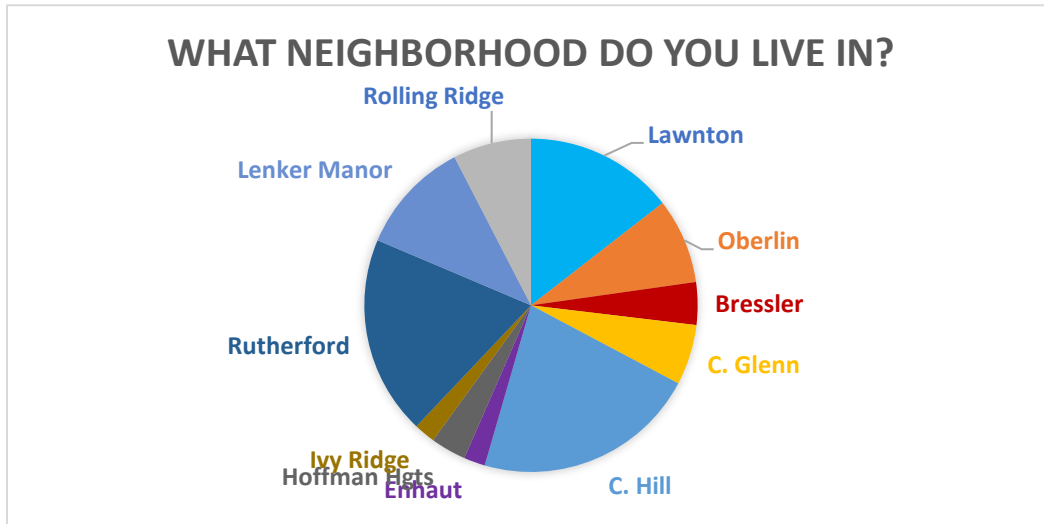
1. Of the 342 people who responded, 96% indicated they lived in the Township. Of that number, 13% indicated they live and work in the Township.



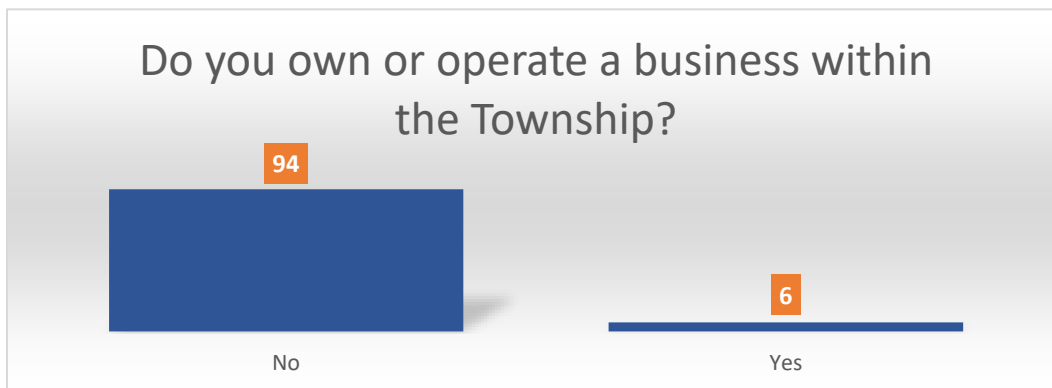
2. A majority of the people who responded stated that they have lived in the Township for more than 20 years.



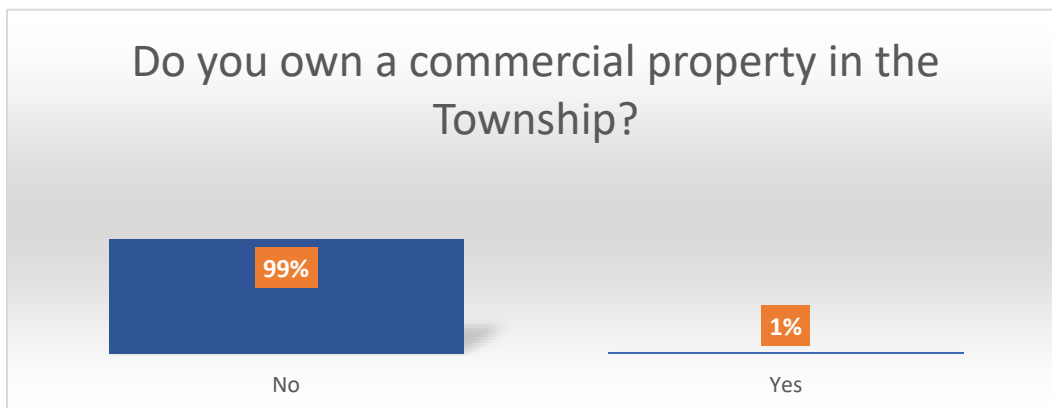
3. Survey respondents represented the four primary geographic quadrants of the Township.



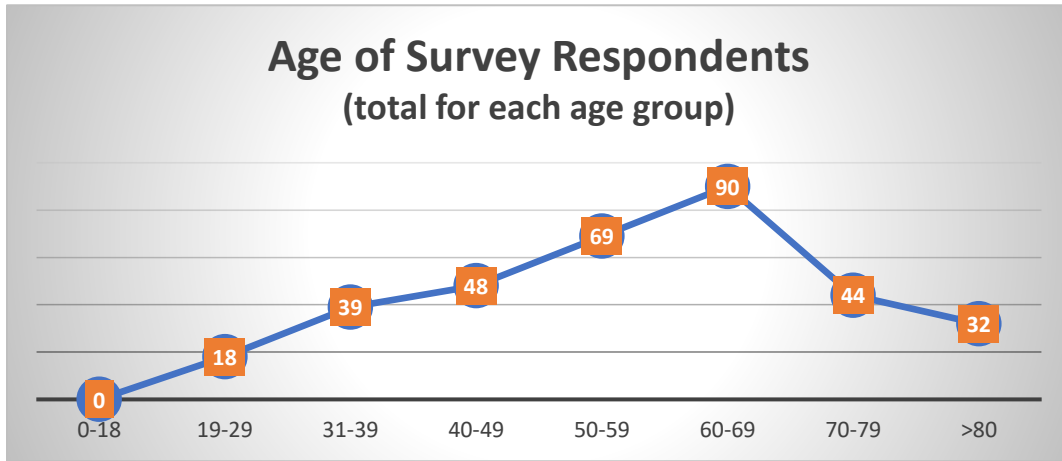
4. A small percentage of respondents stated they owned or operated a business in the Township.



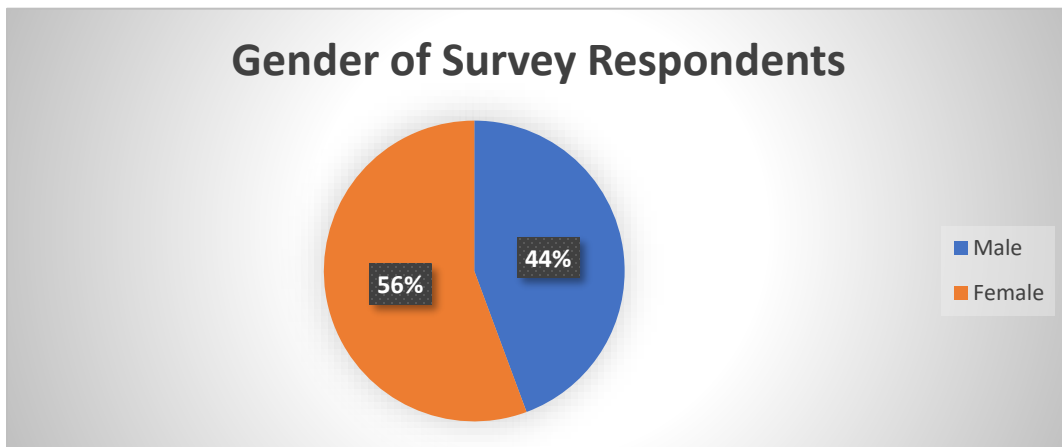
5. Very few of the respondents reported they owned a commercial property in the Township.



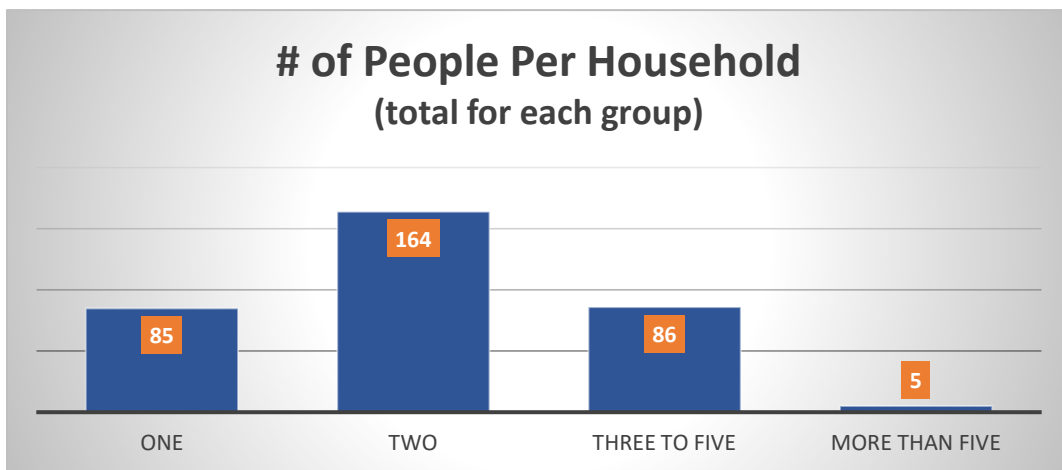
6. About half of the respondents reported they were over the age of 60.



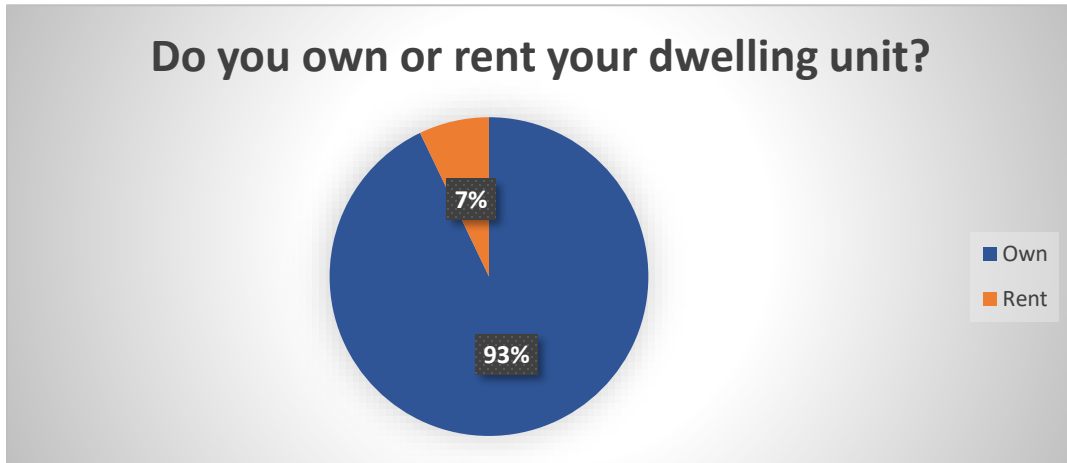
7. Slightly more females responded to the survey than males.



8. Almost half of the respondents reported two people live in their household.



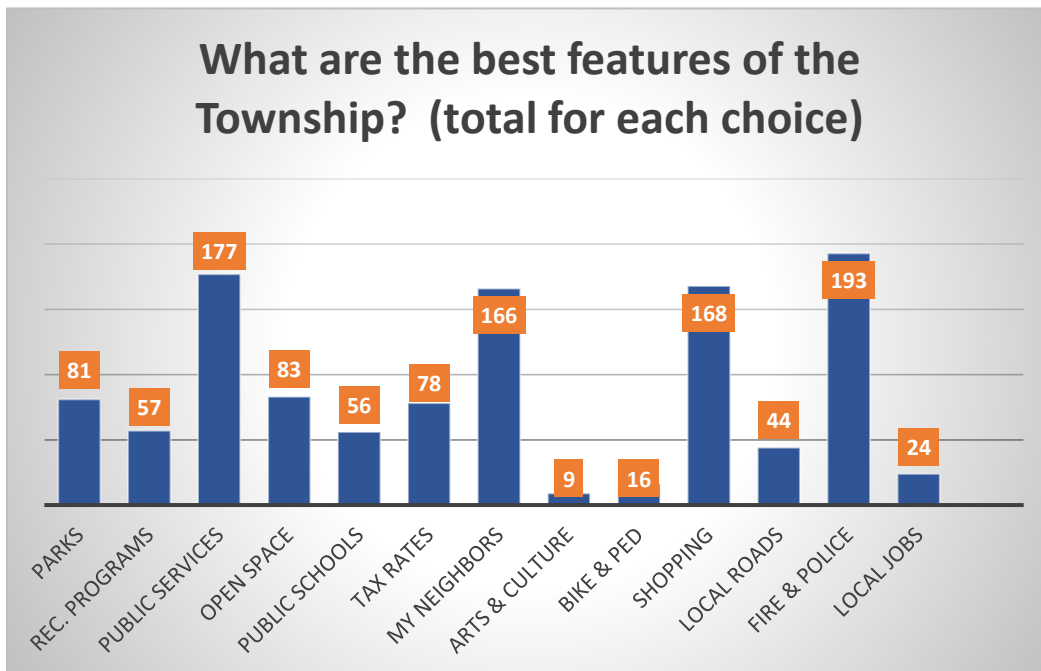
9. Most of the respondents stated that they owned the dwelling unit they are living in.



OPINIONS

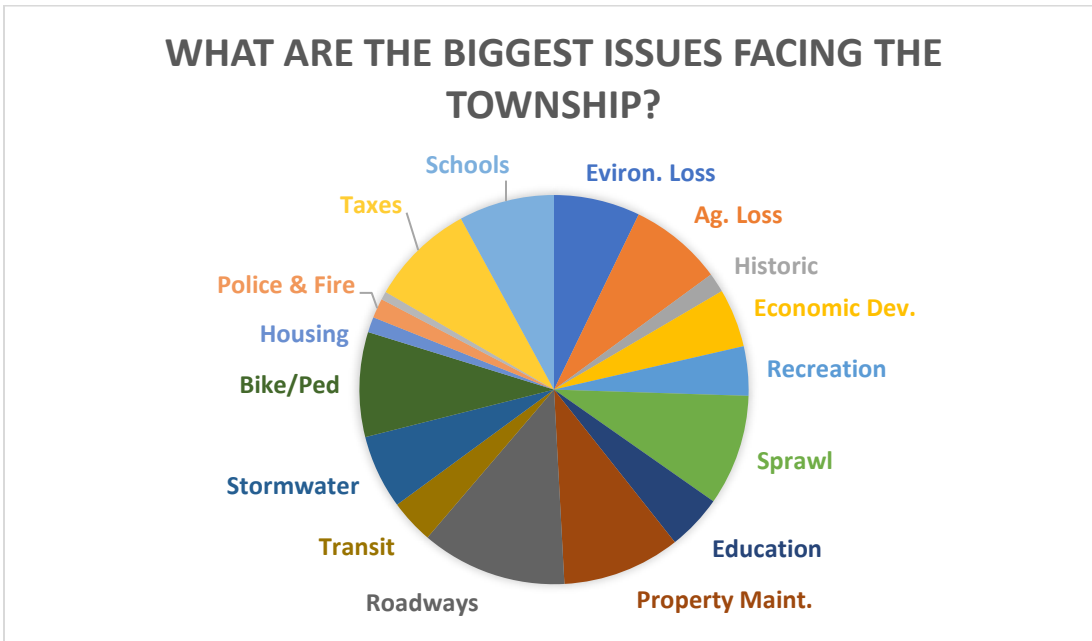
10. Select up to five best features of the Township: (other responses not shown)

Many of the respondents felt that Public Services (building codes, sewer, trash & recycling collection) and Fire & Police Services are some of the best features of the Township.



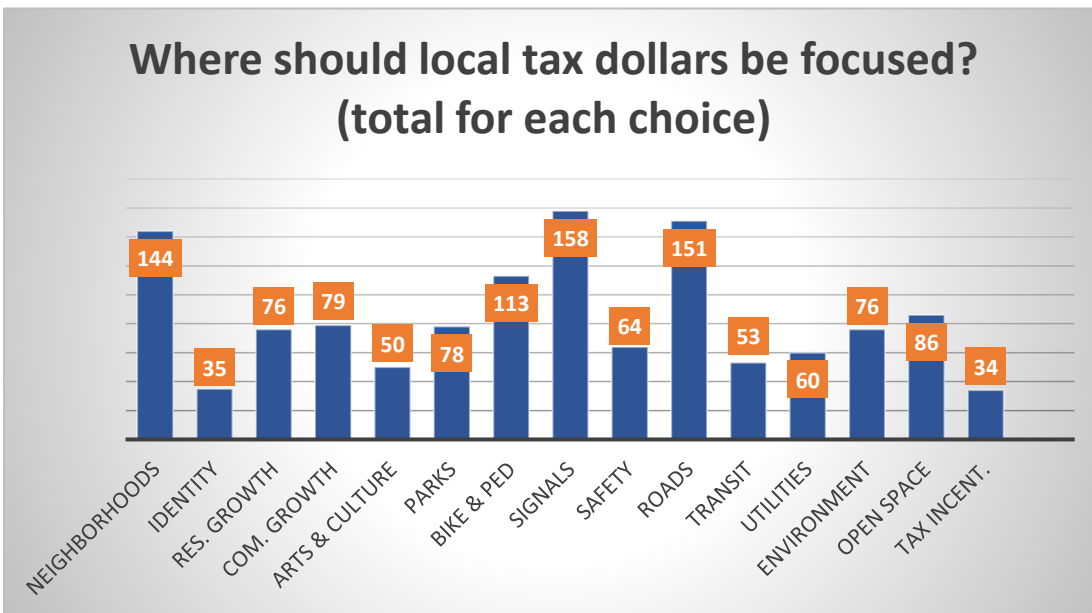
11. What are the biggest issues facing the Township? (other responses not shown)

Of those that responded to this question, 142 people felt that Unsafe or Congested Roadways is the biggest issue and 115 felt that Residential Property Maintenance is a big issue.



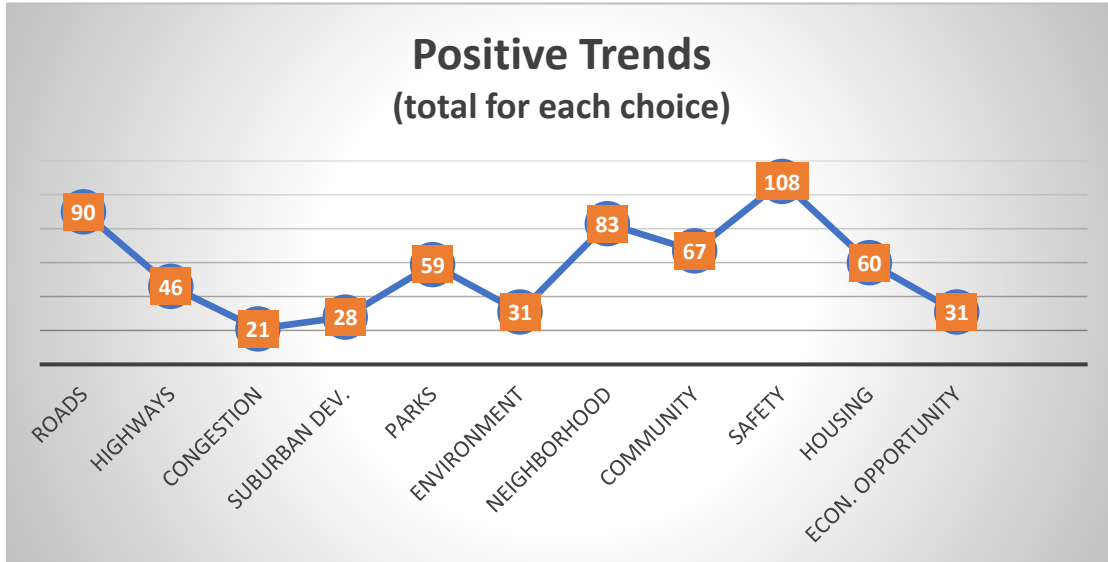
12. Identify up to five areas where you feel the Township should focus its resources with local tax dollars: (other responses not shown)

The most popular response to this question was Improving Traffic Signals at Intersections. Improving Local Roadway Maintenance was the second most common response, and Improving Neighborhood Character (sidewalks, street lights, signage, street trees, etc.) was the third.



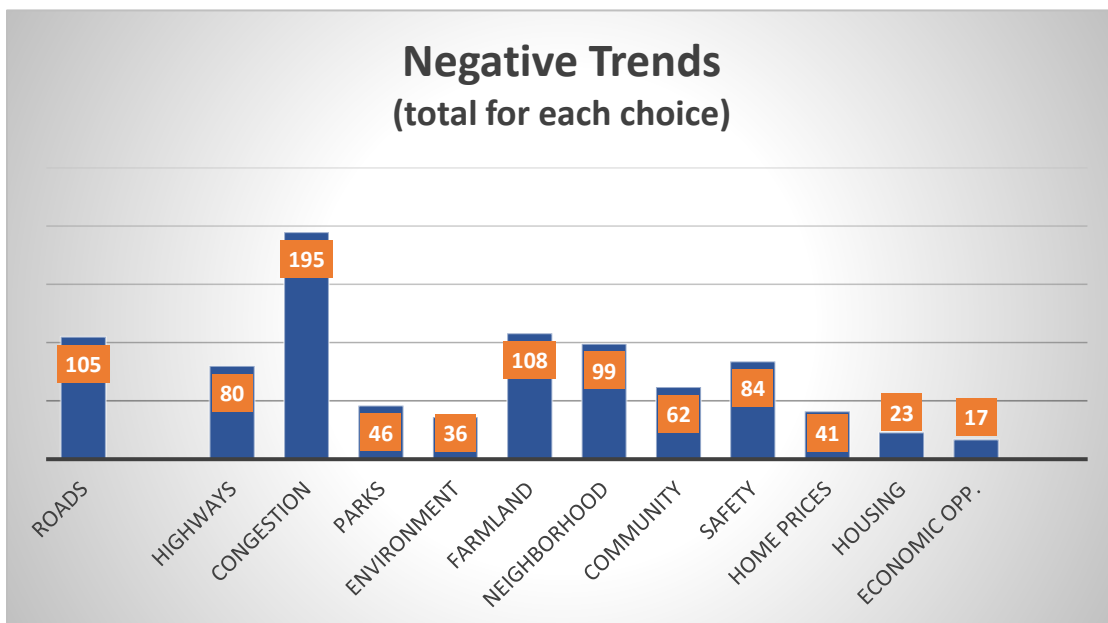
13. Identify up to five positive trends you have recently experienced in the Township: (other responses not shown)

Over 100 of the respondents indicated they felt that Safety and Reduced Crime was a positive trend in the Township.

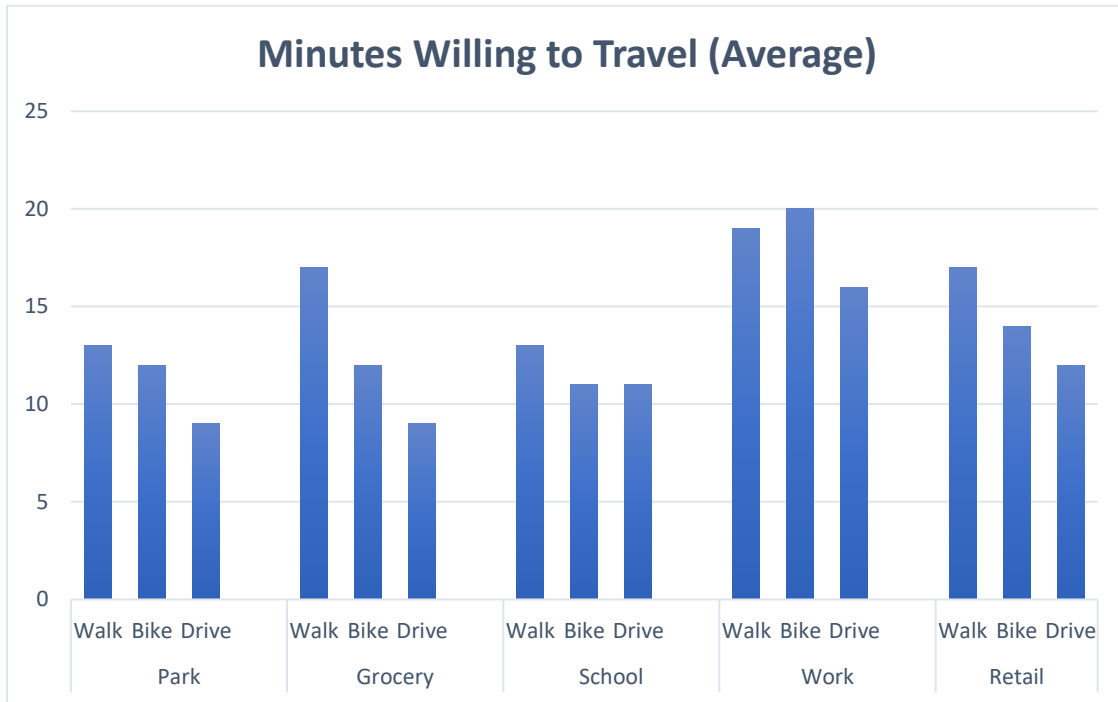


14. Identify up to five negative trends that you have experienced in the Township: (other responses not shown)

A large number of respondents reported that Increasing Road Congestion was a negative trend. Some identified local roads where they thought there were problems. The intersection of Route 322 – Chambers Hill Road was the one spot most frequently mentioned. The Loss of Farmers and Farmland was also reported by many to be a negative trend.



15. Indicate how long you ideally would want to travel (in minutes) by walking or by bicycling to a Park, Grocery store, School, Work, and a Retail store. Many respondents did not answer this question, and some indicated they could not walk or bicycle very far, or at all. A number of respondents reported it was not safe to ride a bicycle on most streets in the Township.



16. The last question of the Survey was open-ended so that respondents could state any other issues, concerns, or opportunities they would like to see addressed in the Township. Many respondents did not respond to this question. For those that did, there was a wide range of answers and statements. A list of those responses is attached as an appendix.

SUMMARY

The results of this Survey provide a small window into the opinions of a small percentage of the approximately 25,000 residents of the Township. The responses may not represent a statistically significant sampling of the total population. However, the comments that were written by the respondents in the opinion section of the Survey will be distributed to the Swatara Township Board of Commissioners and their staff. There are several themes which this Survey has been able to highlight, and those themes will become the topics of focus group discussions as part of the Comprehensive Plan process. It is this process that will hopefully lead to the identification of specific problems, and possible solutions to those problems that will create a better future for all that live and work in the Township.

Thank you to all that took the time to share their information and opinions.