

Morris Master Plan

**Update from the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Kickoff Phase Public Involvement Results**

November 09, 2021

Morris Master Plan

What is a City Master Plan and why is it needed?

COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

FOR THE CITY

OF

MORRIS, ALABAMA

Adopted

May 13, 2002

by the Morris City Council

As developed, prepared and adopted by the
Morris Planning & Zoning Commission,
with the guidance and assistance of the
Jefferson County Department of Land Development,
on April 8, 2002

**19 years have passed
since the 2002
Comprehensive Plan
was adopted**

Plans are generally meant to be
updated every 5-10 years in order to
reflect community changes
and priorities

What is a Master Plan?

Morris' road map for making long- and short-range policy decisions:

- Intended to guide future growth and redevelopment of the city (by guiding zoning decisions and public/private investments)
- Useful for making recommendations regarding community services, infrastructure, community character and economic vitality

The Master Plan process helps to answer:

1

What is the state of the City today?

2

What are the issues today and the vision for the future?

3

How will the City achieve that vision for the future?

4

How will the City know it's achieving that vision ?

Analyzing Existing Conditions

Gaining Public Input

Developing an action-oriented City Master Plan

Using the Plan & Implementing the Recommended Actions



Morris Master Plan

Kickoff Phase Public Outreach Methods and Summary



THE CITY OF MORRIS

Help us plan for the future!

City of Morris Master Plan

Join us for a Community Meeting

AT MORRIS SENIOR CENTER



Presentation @ 5:45pm



Masks are required as recommended by CDC guidelines.

Thursday
September 16

5:30pm to 7pm
at Morris Senior Center
601 Morris Majestic Rd,
Morris, AL 35116

Morris is planning for its future, and you get a say in it! The City is creating its first ever Master Plan that will act as a policy document to guide future land use, infrastructure, and capital improvement decisions for years to come. Drop by any time to the Open House to share your thoughts at interactive table activities! For more information and for other ways to give your input online, please visit www.MorrisMasterPlan.com.

For more information visit: www.MorrisMasterPlan.com

Kickoff Open House

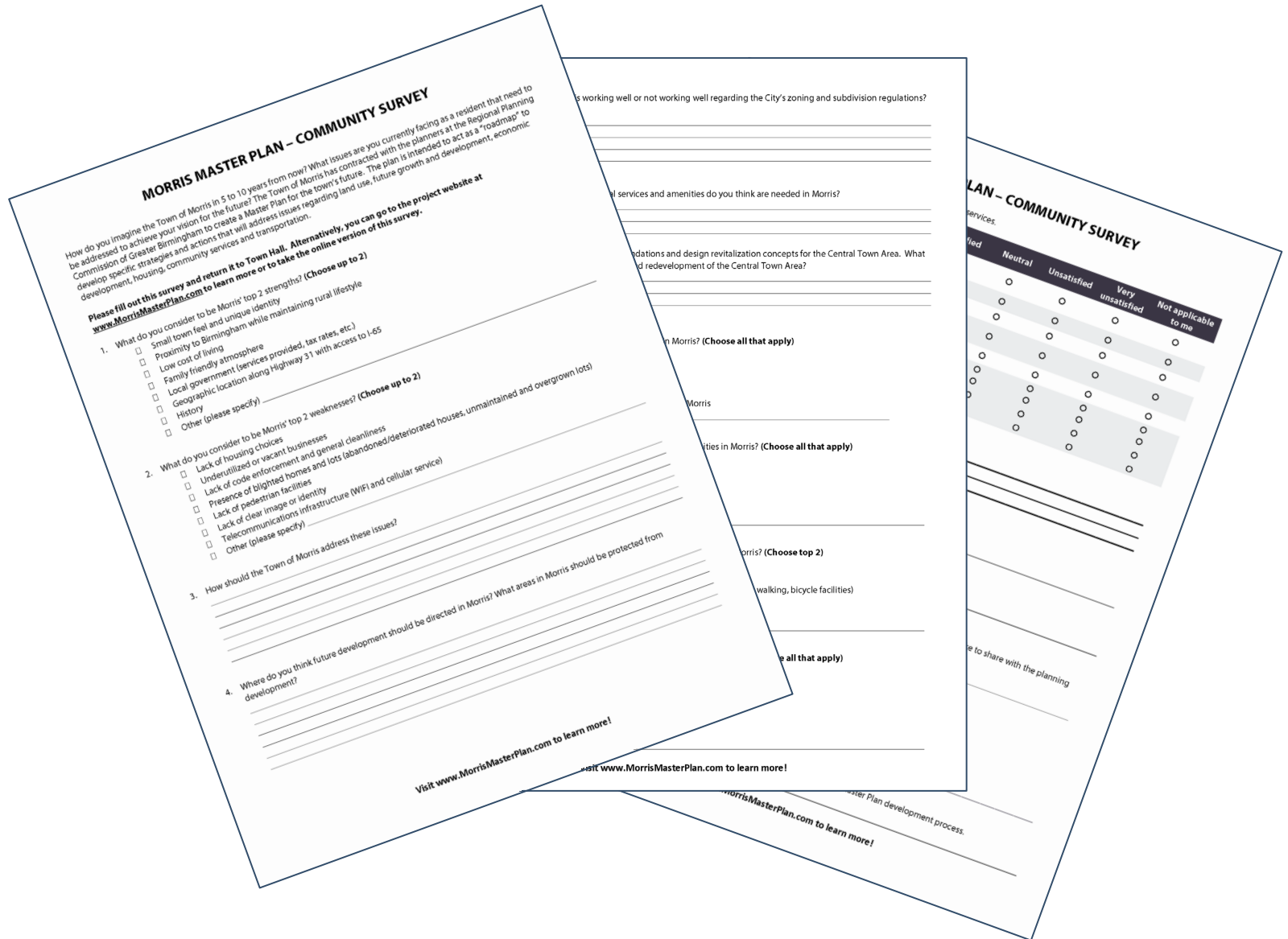
September 16, 2021

18

In-person Attendees

15

Virtual Meeting Attendees



Visioning Survey
 Online and hard copies
228
 Respondents

MORRIS MASTER PLAN

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Draw
your ideas on the map by clicking "add route" or "add point" below

2. Describe
the point or route in the pop-up survey after drawing! The more detail the better!

LEGEND

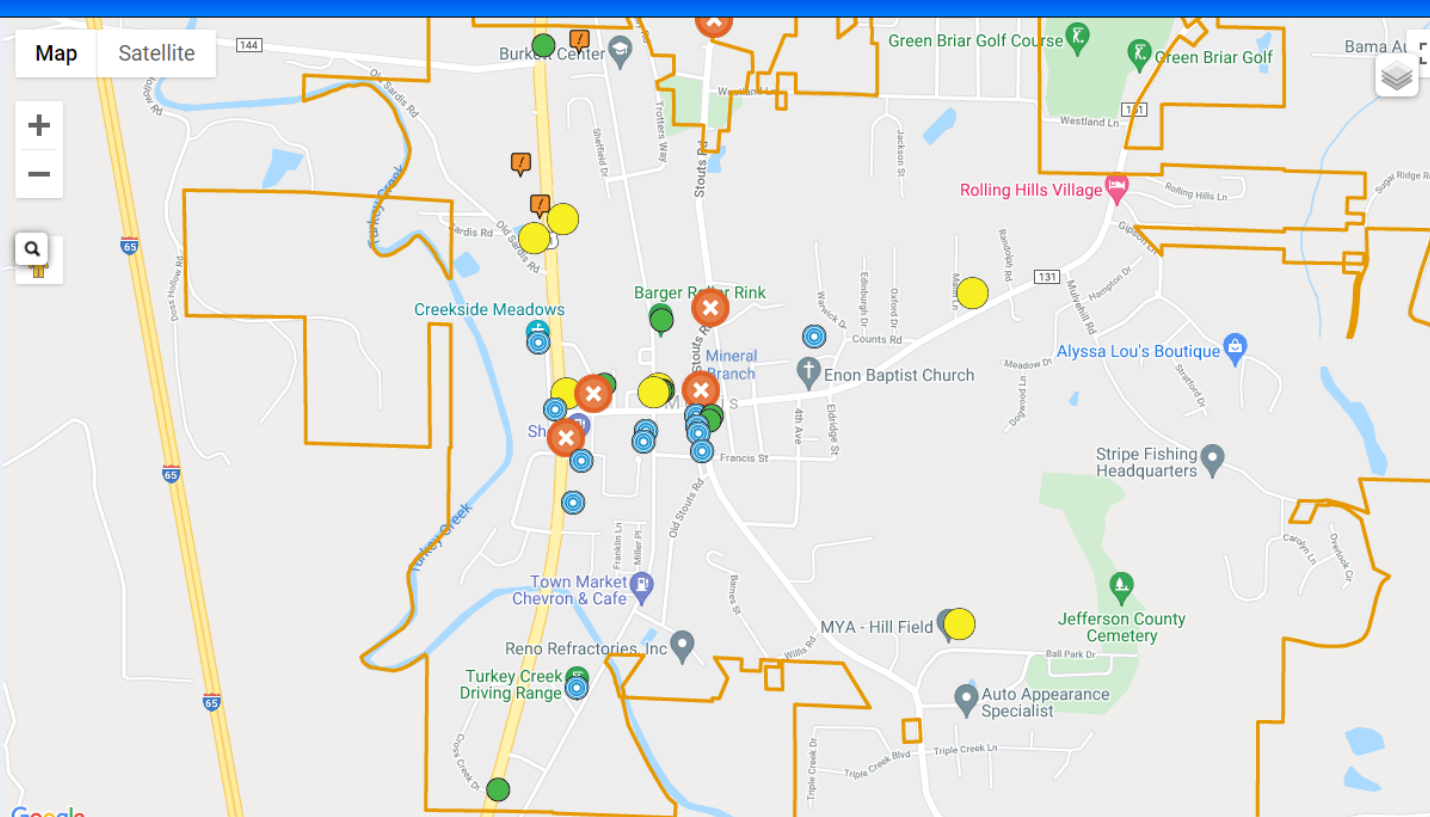
- Desired Sidewalk
- Traffic Issue
- Asset
- Opportunity
- Needs Improvement
- Other Comment

HELP

For detailed instructions, see "About & Help"

For more help, contact: Hgarrison@rpcgb.org

Morris Master Plan About & Help Add Routes Add Points Share 41 Guest



Map Your Ideas Activity

Online Wikimap and Open House activity

37

Comments

QUALITY OF LIFE

ELEMENTS	WHAT'S WORKING	WHAT'S NOT WORKING	WHAT'S NEEDED
Central Town Area of Morris			
Community Facilities (Town Hall, Senior Center, Volunteer Fire Department, etc.)			
Parks & Recreation (Morris Town Park, Morris Memorial Park, many recreational programs)			
Entertainment and Dining Options			
Access to Childcare and Healthcare			
Other (Are there any quality of life issues that don't fit into the other categories?)			

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

ELEMENTS	WHAT'S WORKING	WHAT'S NOT WORKING	WHAT'S NEEDED
Mobility Choices (Where are new sidewalks and bicycle facilities needed?)			
Street Maintenance (Note areas where improvements are needed; bad pavement conditions, etc.)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pothole repair on Old Highway 31
Traffic Issues and Speeding Areas		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speeding on Glennwood Road from Ball Park Drive to Turkey Creed Speeding on Morris Sardis Road Drivers use Morris Sardis Road to bypass the signal at Morris Majestic Road and Highway 31, causing additional congestion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic control throughout the Town, including during commute hours and when schools begin and end Desire for traffic lights at 4-way stop on Morris Majestic Road Desire for right turn lane from Morris Majestic Road to Highway 31 North
Utilities / Internet Access			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved internet service down Glennwood Road to Town limits

Issues and Opportunities Matrix Activity

Open House activity

12

Comments

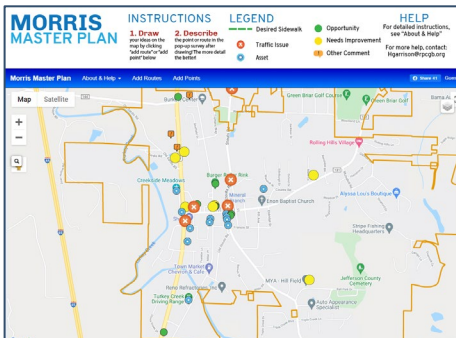
Visioning Survey Results



Issues and Opportunities Matrix Activity

QUALITY OF LIFE			
ELEMENTS	WHAT'S WORKING	WHAT'S NOT WORKING	WHAT'S NEEDED
Central Town Area of Morris			
Community Facilities <small>(Town Hall, Senior Center, Volunteer Fire Department, etc.)</small>			
Parks & Recreation <small>(Morris Town Park, Morris Ball Park, Morris Memorial Park, playgrounds, tennis, recreational programs, etc.)</small>			
Entertainment, Shopping, and Dining Opportunities			
Access to Childcare and Healthcare Services			
Other <small>(Add other items or issues that don't fit into the other categories)</small>			

Map Your Ideas Activity



Stakeholder Questionnaires (Planning Commission, City Council, and Morris Department Heads)



Master Plan recommendations get crafted as a direct result of public input methods

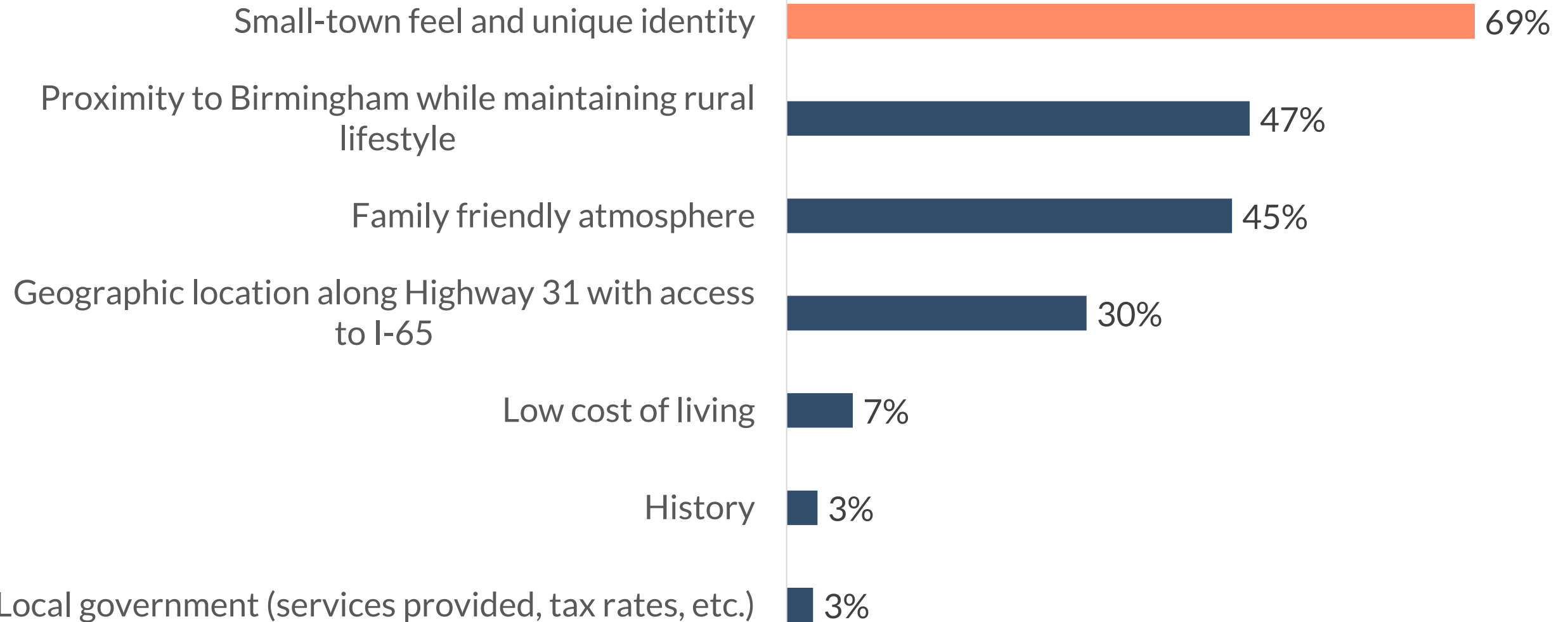


Visioning Survey Results

Survey was open May 11, 2021 – September 24, 2021
228 respondents

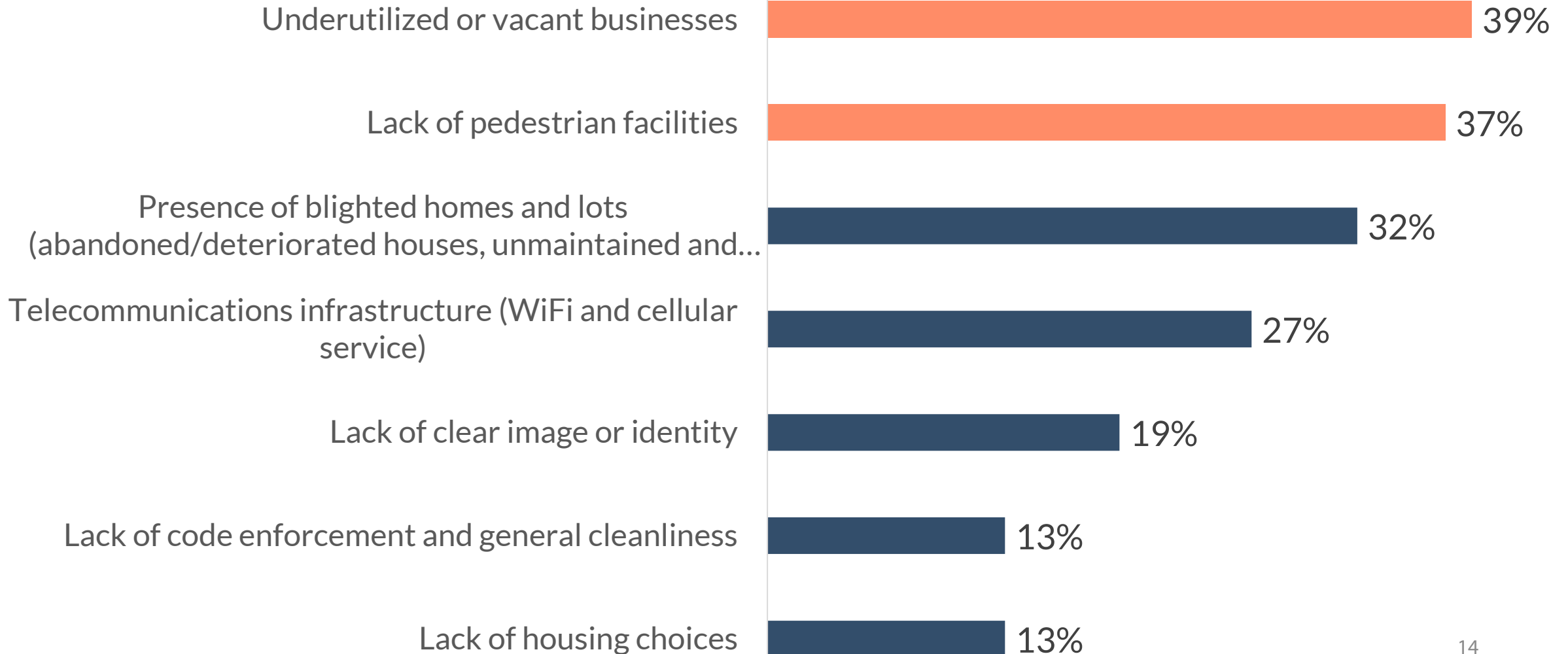
What do you consider to be Morris' top 2 strengths? (Choose up to 2)

Question 1



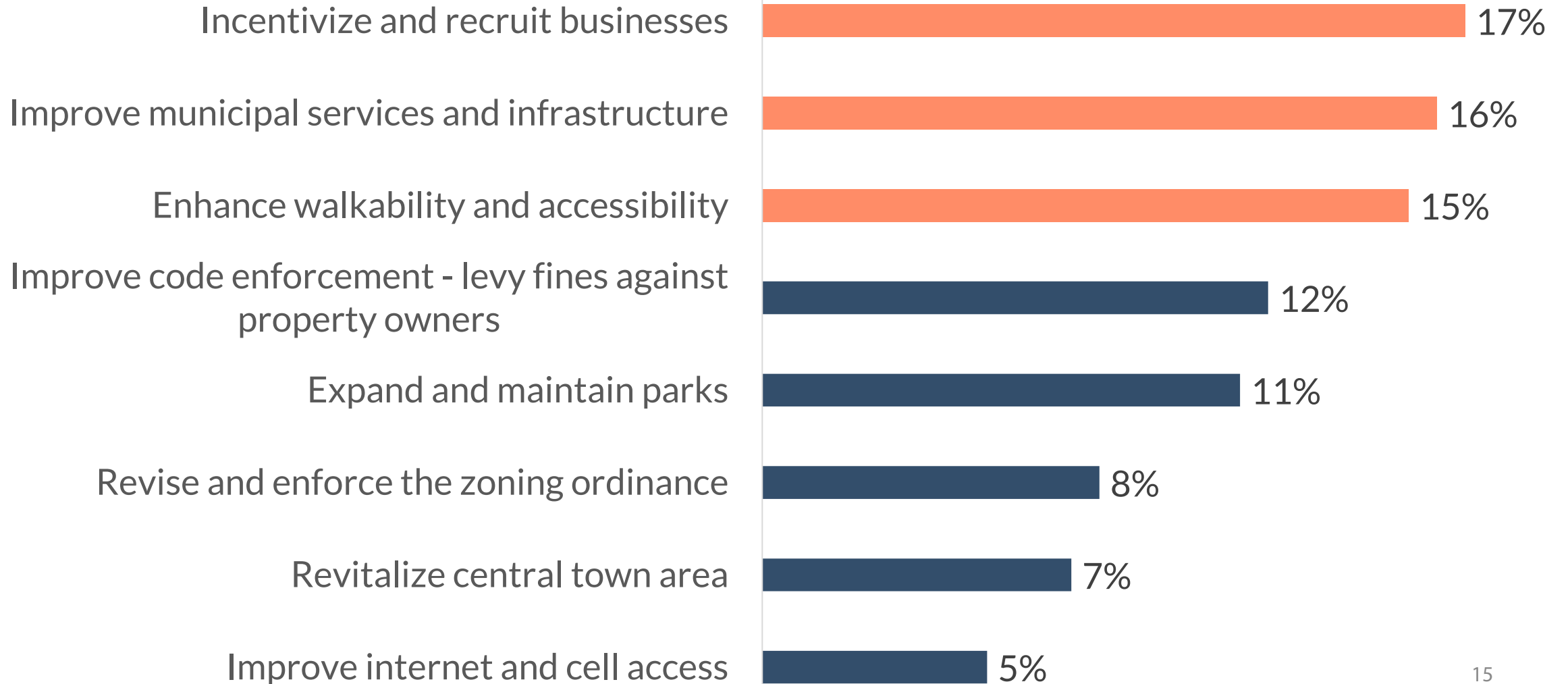
What do you consider to be Morris' top 2 weaknesses? (Choose up to 2)

Question 2



How should the City of Morris address these issues?

Question 3



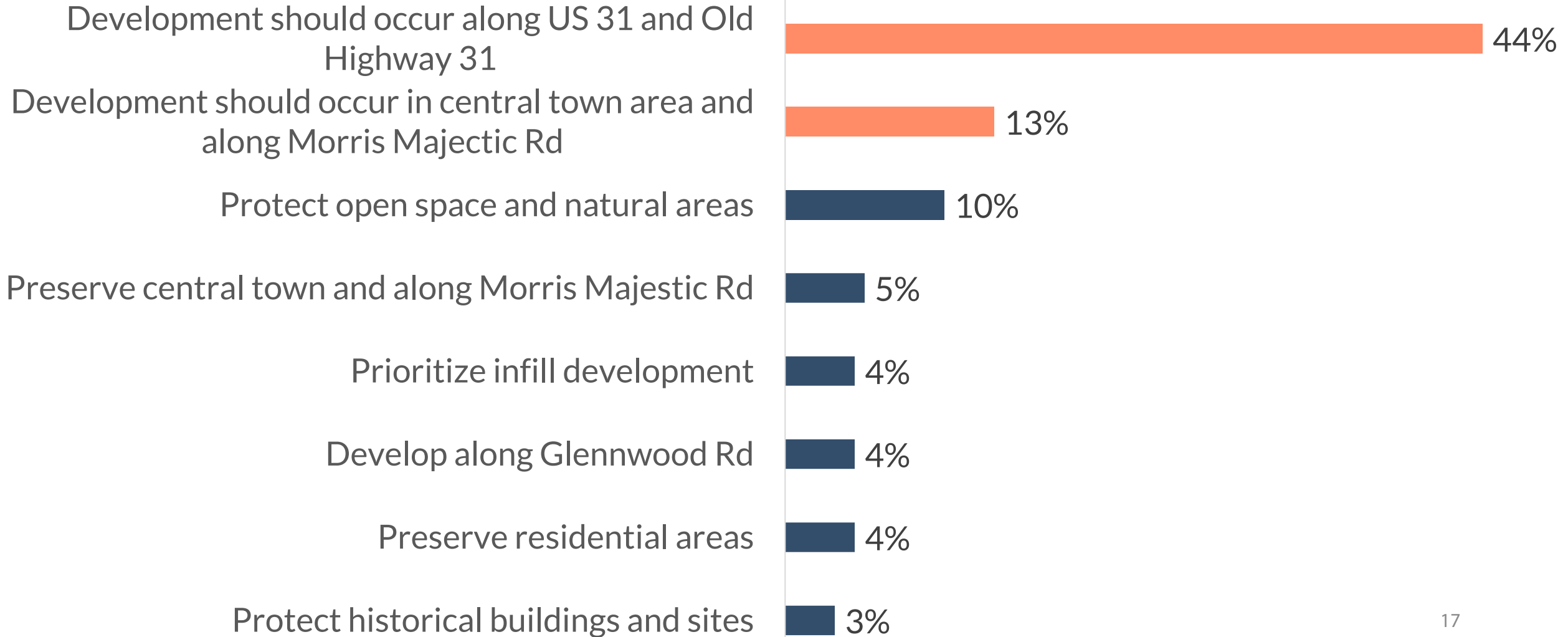
How should the City of Morris address these issues?

Question 3 - Continued

- Apply for grants to pay for needed improvements and services
- Improve communication with residents
- Hold community clean-up days
- Provide additional ways for residents to get involved
- Attract businesses to the US 31 corridor and to vacant buildings and lots within Morris
- Streamline the development process
- Consider expanding sanitary sewer service
- Construct new parks in underserved areas
- Revitalize the central town area
- Partner with Jefferson County to improve roadways
- Improve the US 31 and Morris Majestic Road intersection
- Construct sidewalks and bicycle lanes

Where do you think future development should be directed in Morris? What areas in Morris should be protected from development?

Question 4



Based on your experience, what is working well regarding the City's zoning and subdivision regulations? What needs to change?

Question 5 (continued on next slide)

Consider updating the Morris Zoning Ordinance to:

- Improve the quality of our homes – provide a durable building requirement, window transparency / glazing requirement, façade enhancements.
- Revise lot sizes as needed – preference for larger lot homes with larger front and side setbacks and concern for ‘tract home’ appearance.
- Revise stormwater management standards and consider offering incentives.
- Revise development timing standards – ensure development occurs in a timely manner.
- Require HOAs in new developments and work with neighborhoods to enforce existing HOA covenants.
- Encourage managed growth – create conservation subdivision standards.

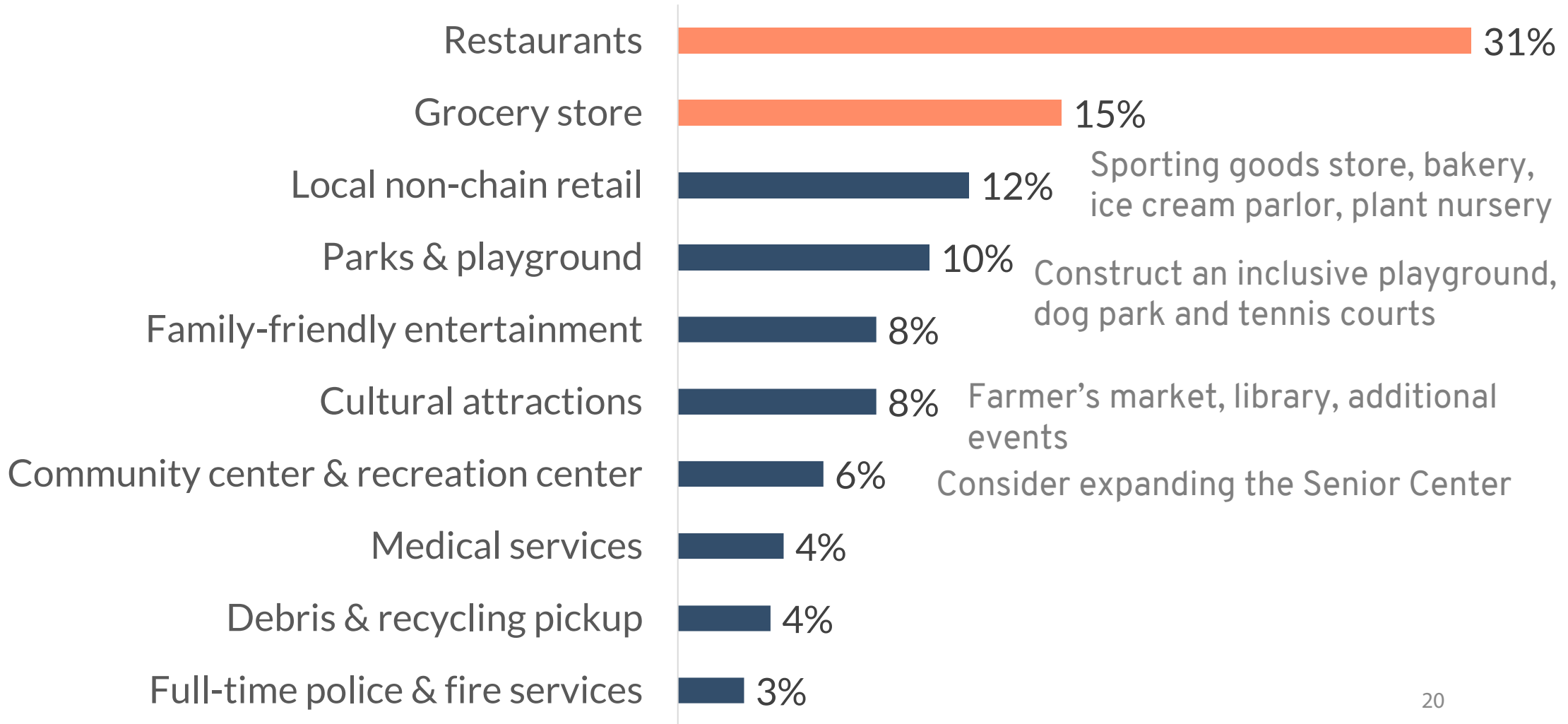
Based on your experience, what is working well regarding the City's zoning and subdivision regulations? What needs to change?

Question 5 (continued from previous slide)

- Require useable open space as a part of new residential developments.
- We need to enforce our existing rules and regulations.
- Ensure that the public is informed about zoning and development changes.
- Ensure the Planning and Zoning Commission gets the training that they need to make good decisions about the city's future.
- Adopt an annexation policy – work with neighboring communities.
- Preserve large trees and scenic open space when new development occurs.
- Enforce the noise ordinance.

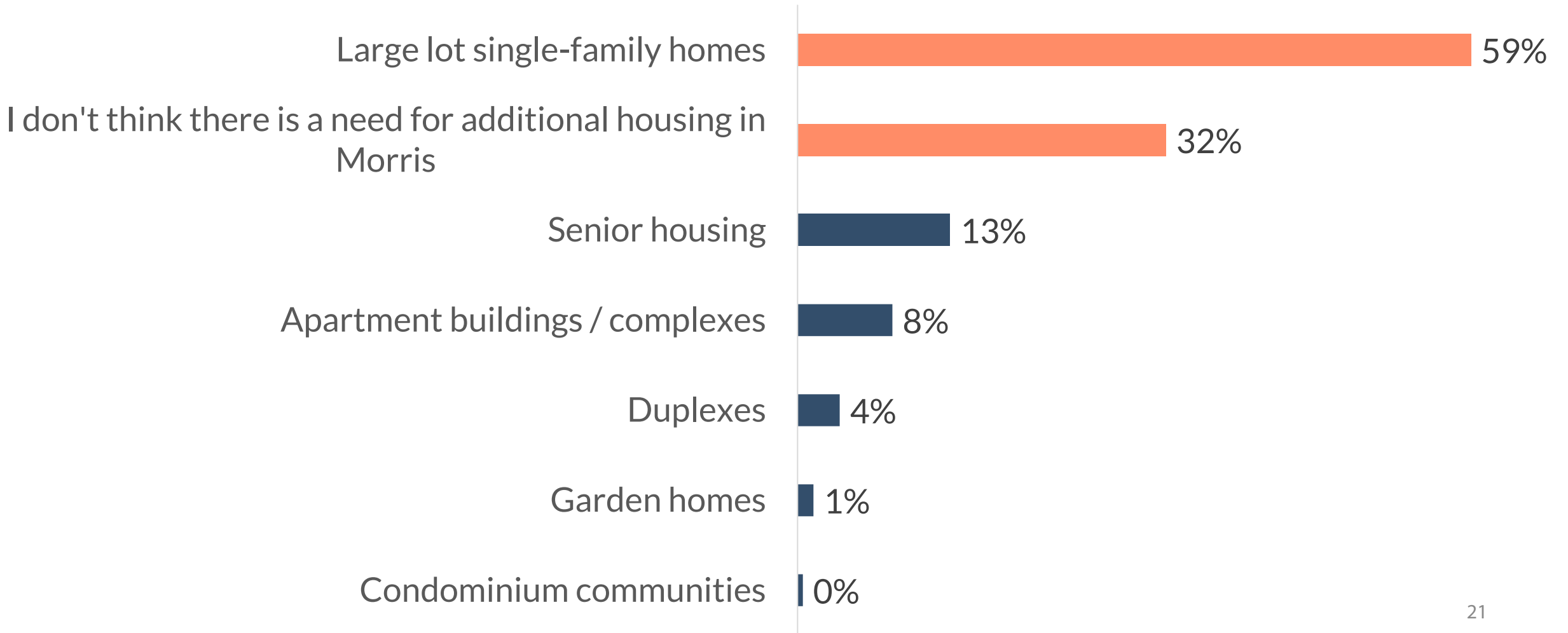
What types of business and/or additional services and amenities do you think are needed in Morris?

Question 6



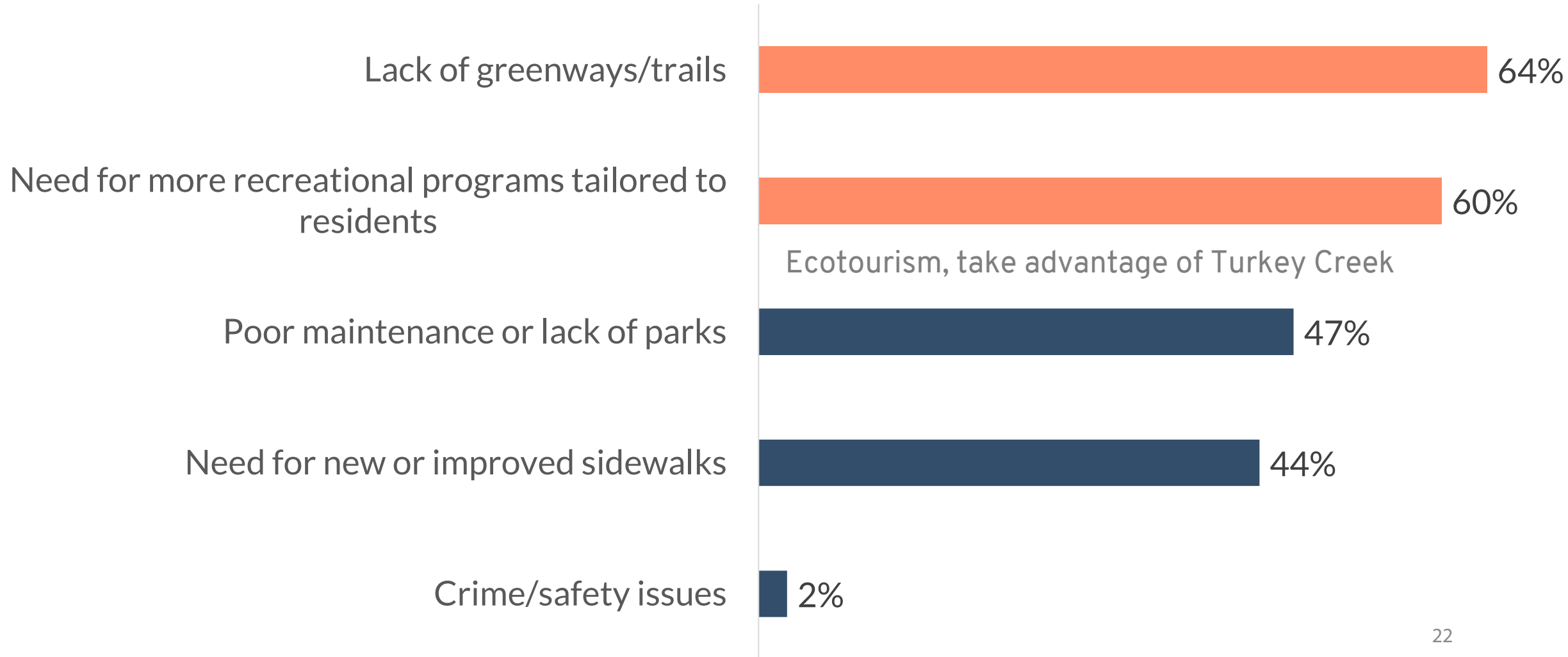
Which of the following housing types are most needed in Morris? (Choose all that apply)

Question 8



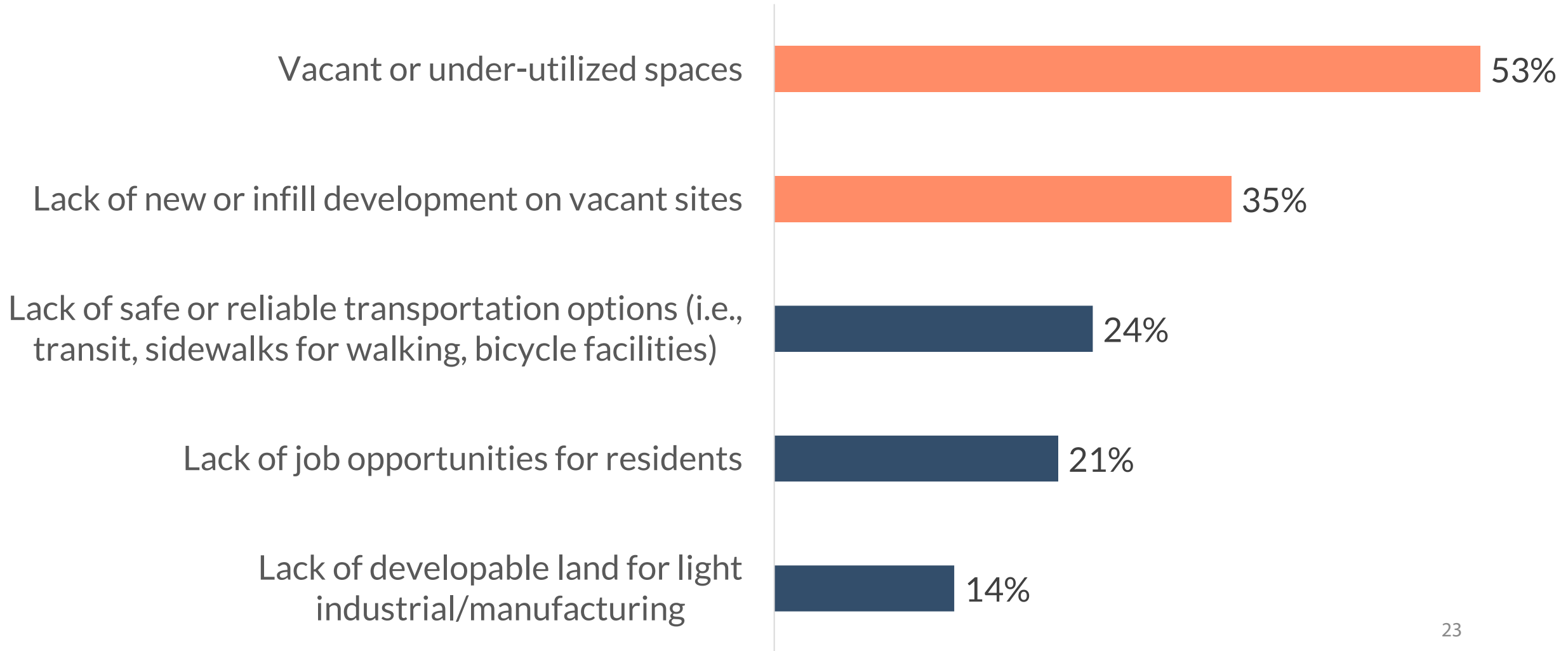
What do you feel are the biggest barriers to recreational opportunities in Morris? (Choose all that apply)

Question 9



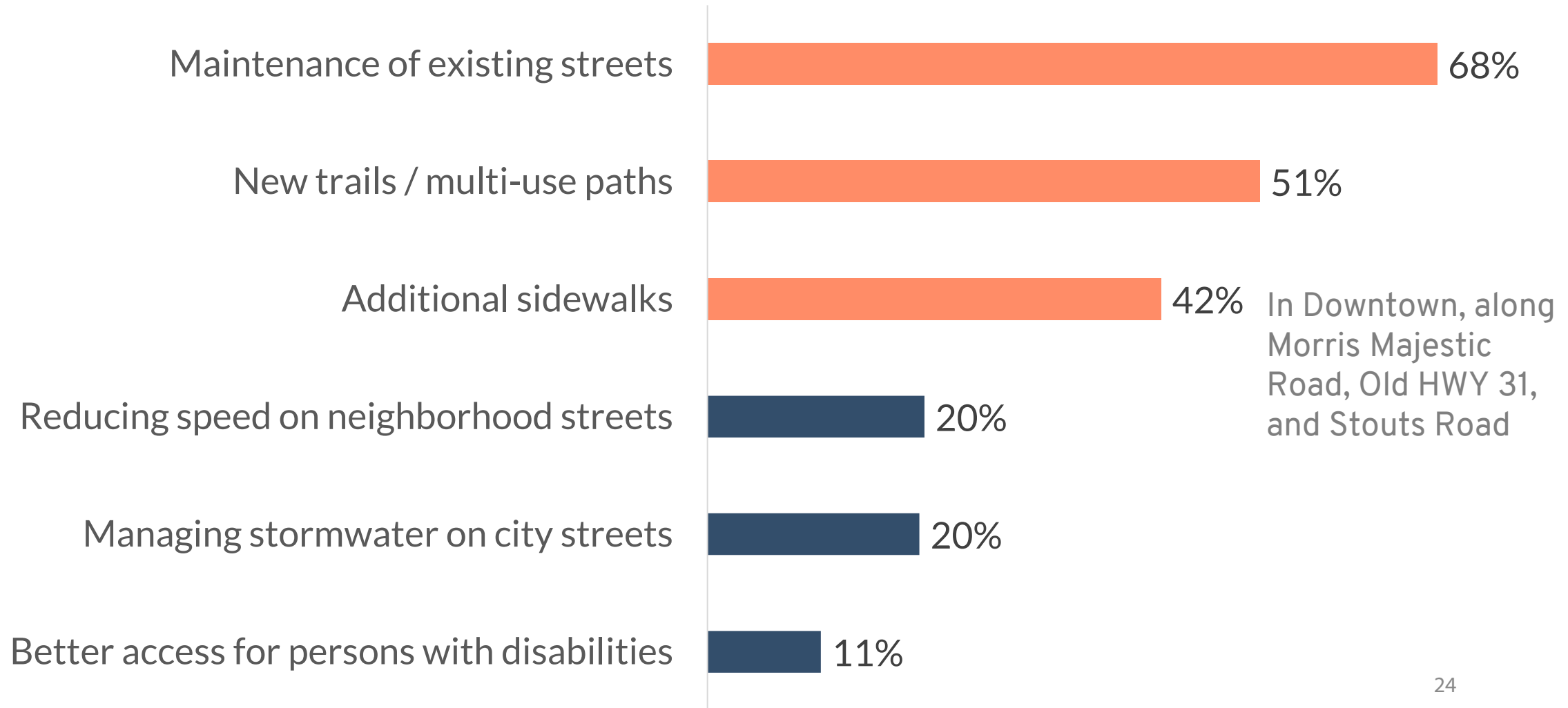
What do you feel are the biggest barriers to economic development in Morris? (Choose all that apply)

Question 10



What should be the community's highest priority transportation investments? (Choose all that apply)

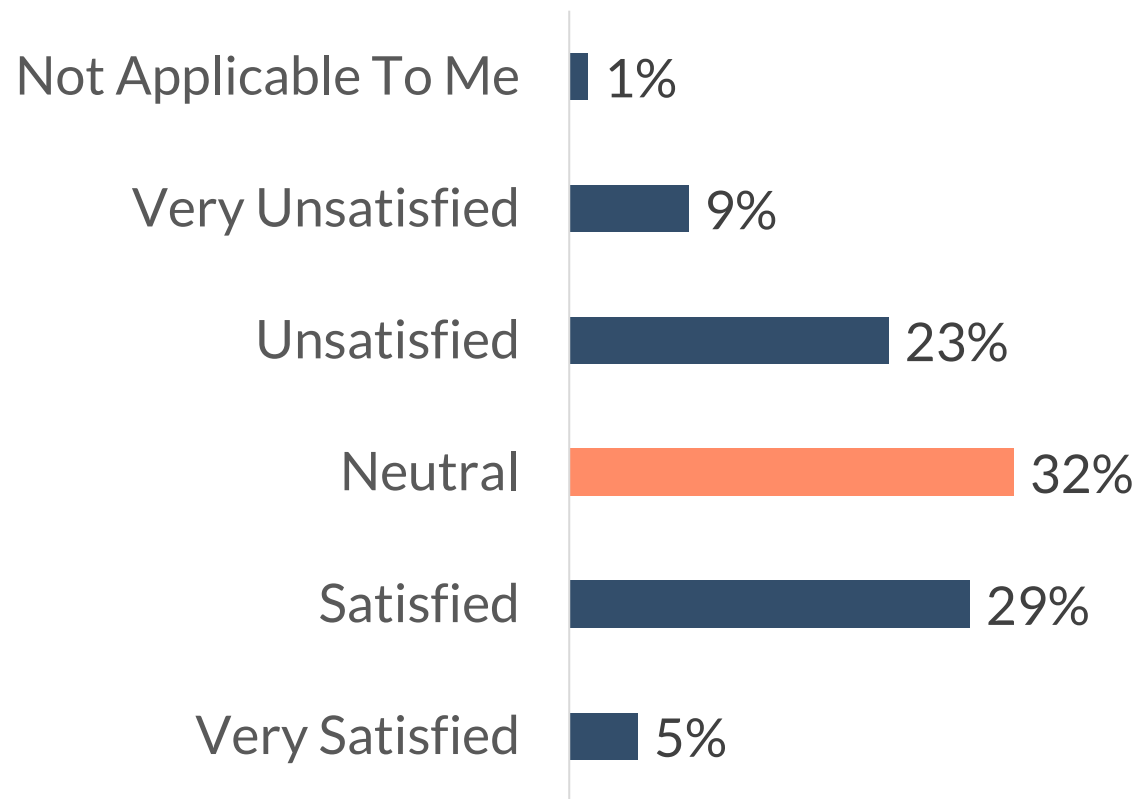
Question 11



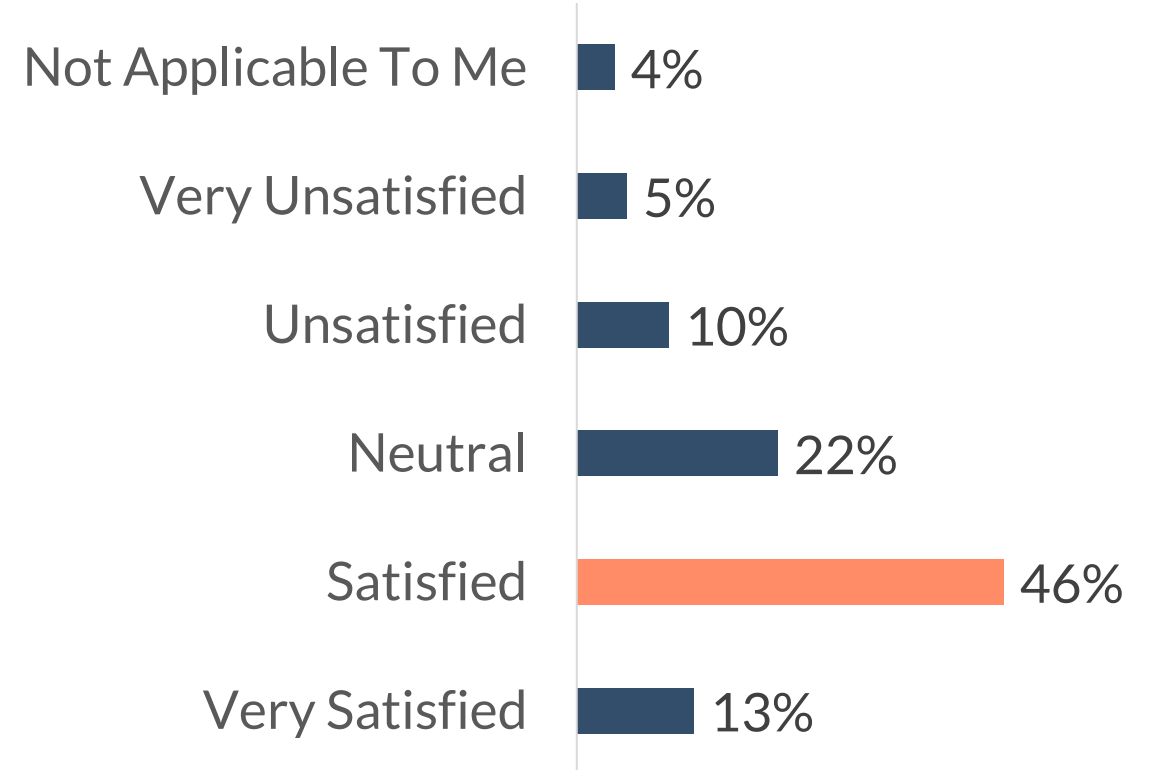
Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services:

Question 12

Maintenance of local roads (potholes, paving, sidewalks)



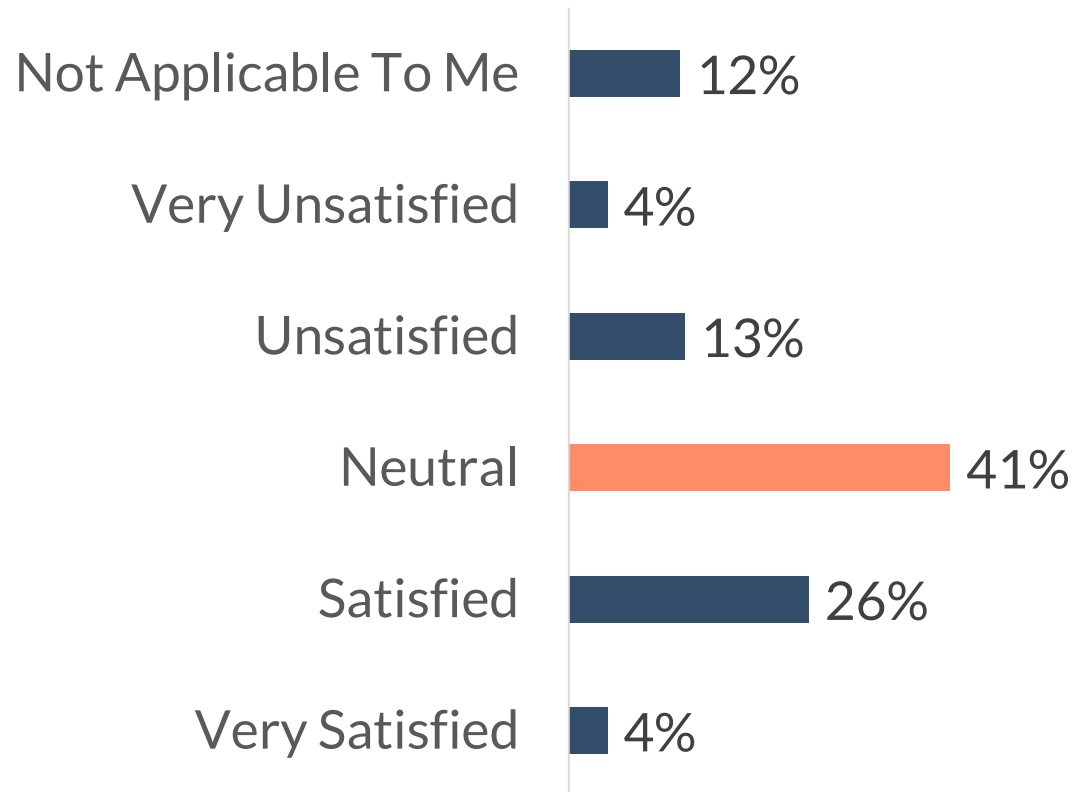
Garbage and debris pickup



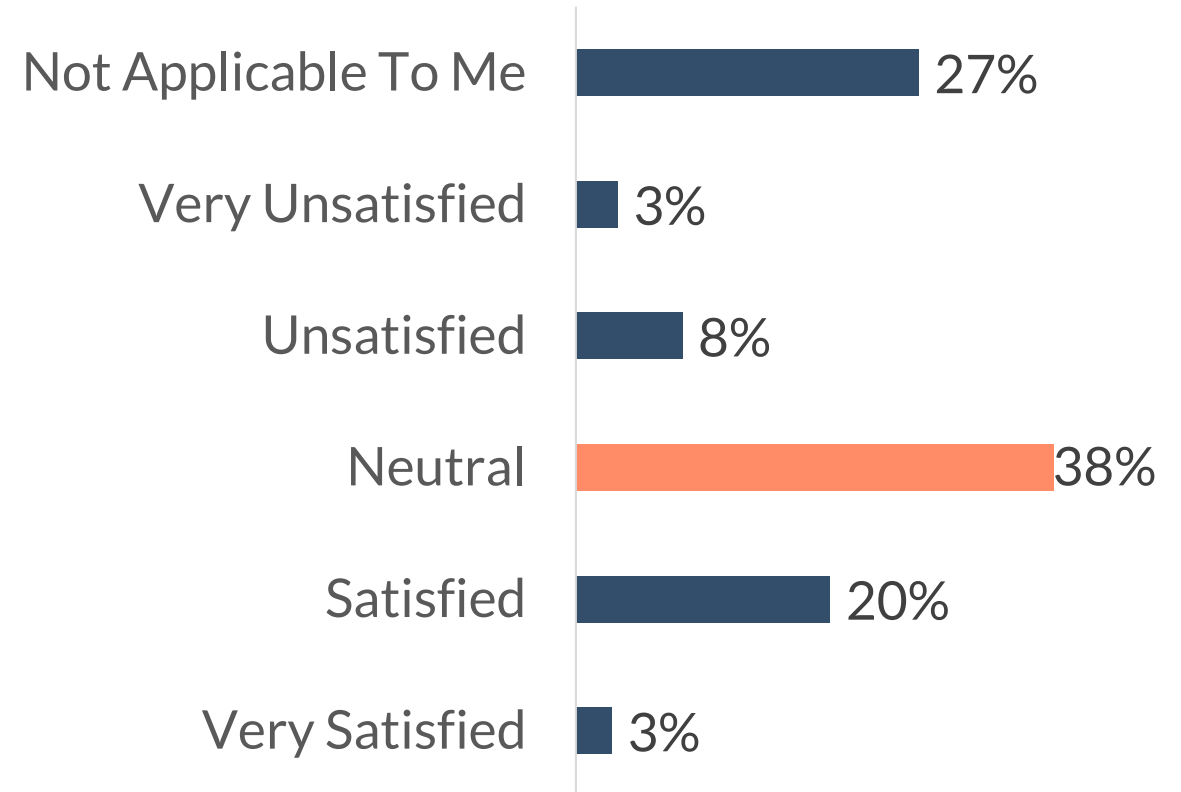
Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services:

Question 12 (Continued)

Property code enforcement



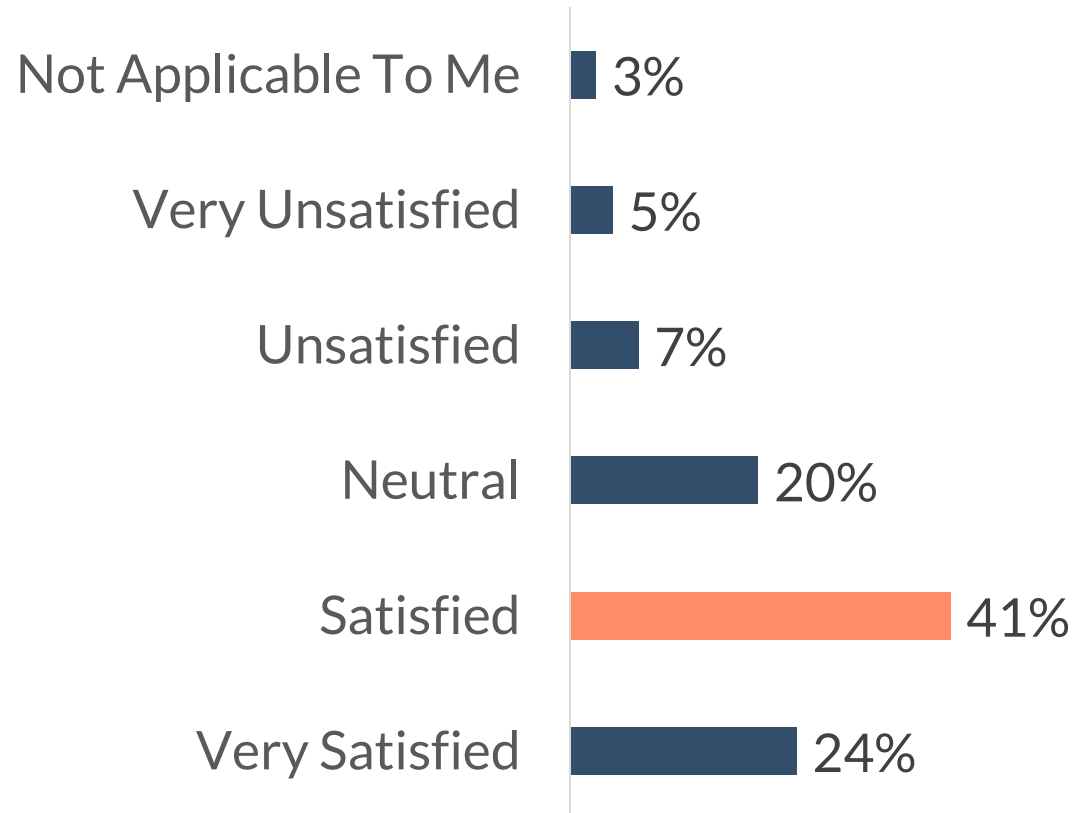
Responsiveness by the Town to formal complaints



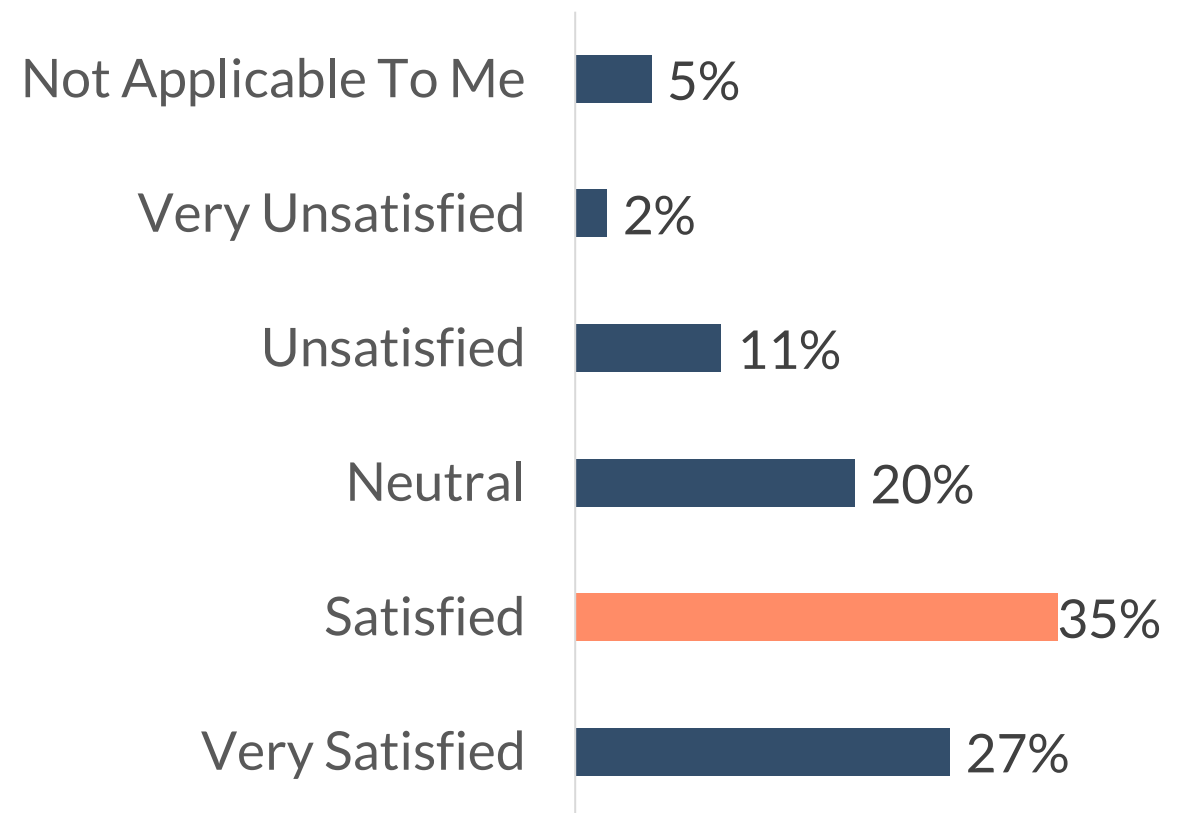
Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services:

Question 12 (Continued)

Police Department

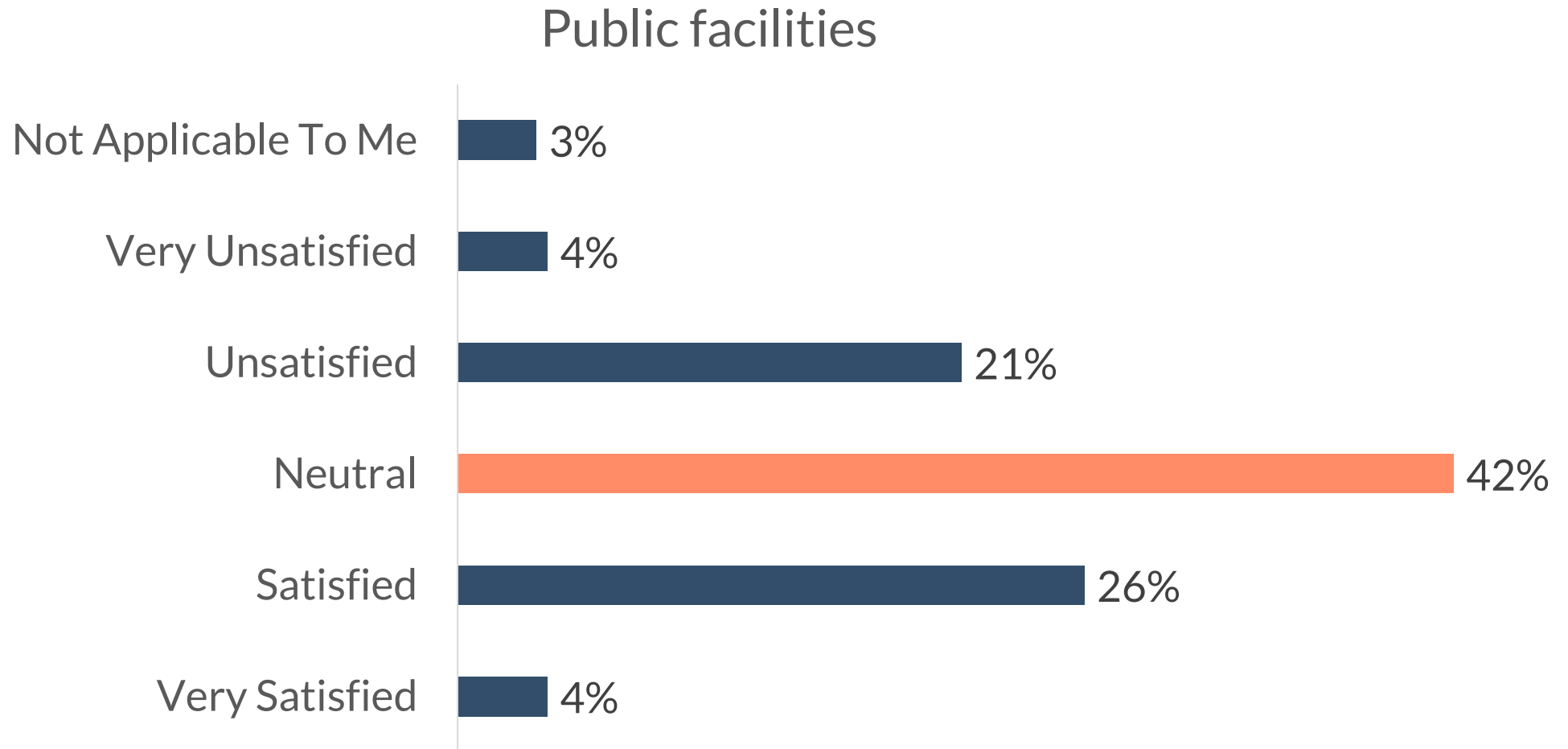


Morris Fire and Rescue Department



Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services:

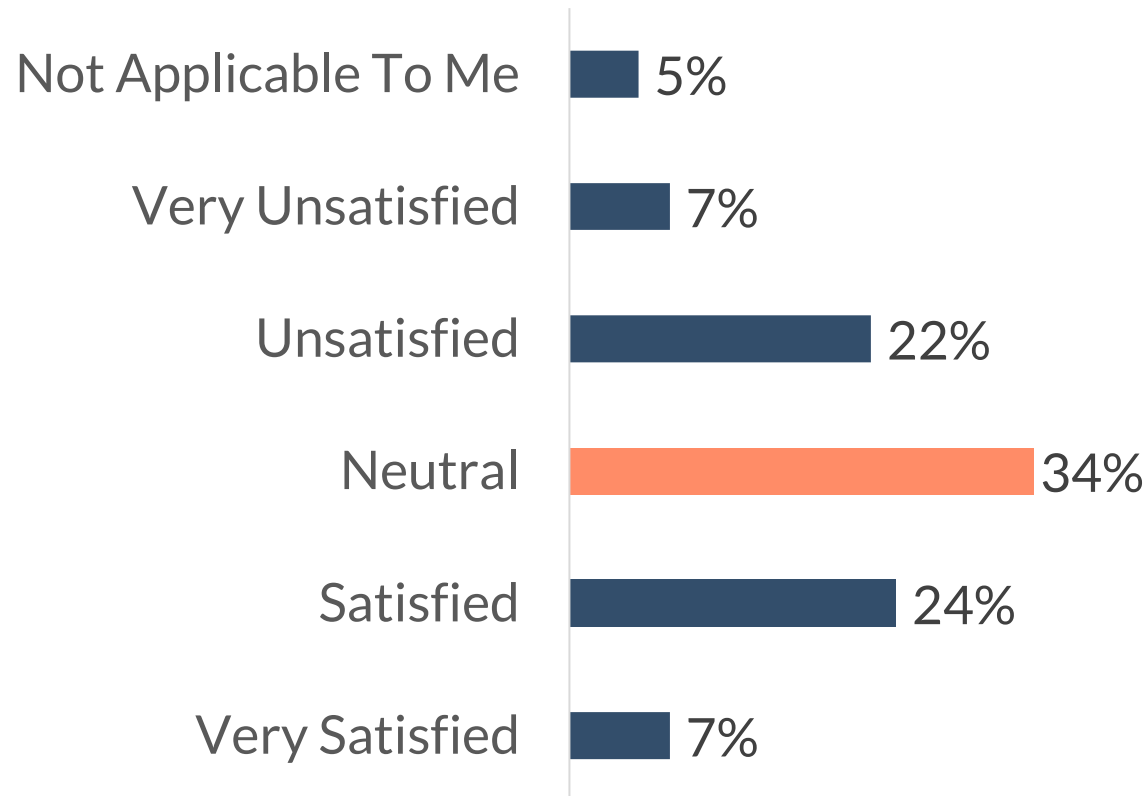
Question 12 (Continued)



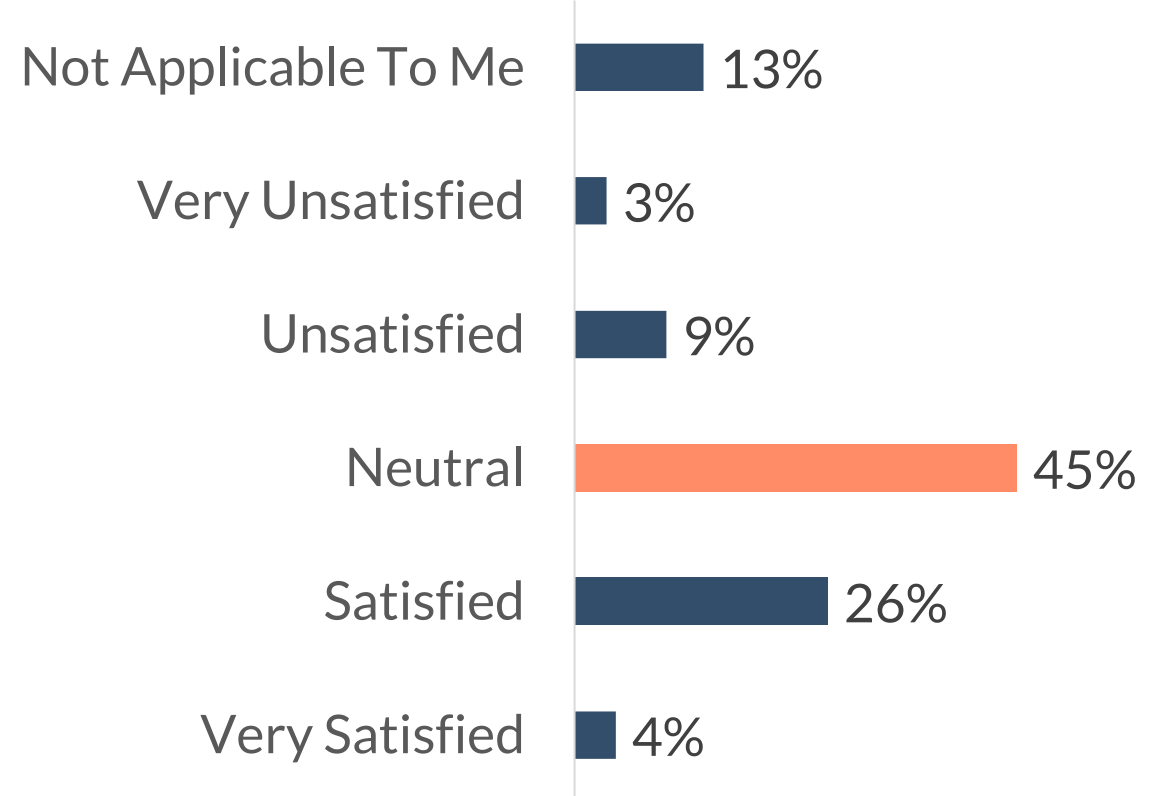
Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services:

Question 12 (Continued)

Parks and Recreation Department

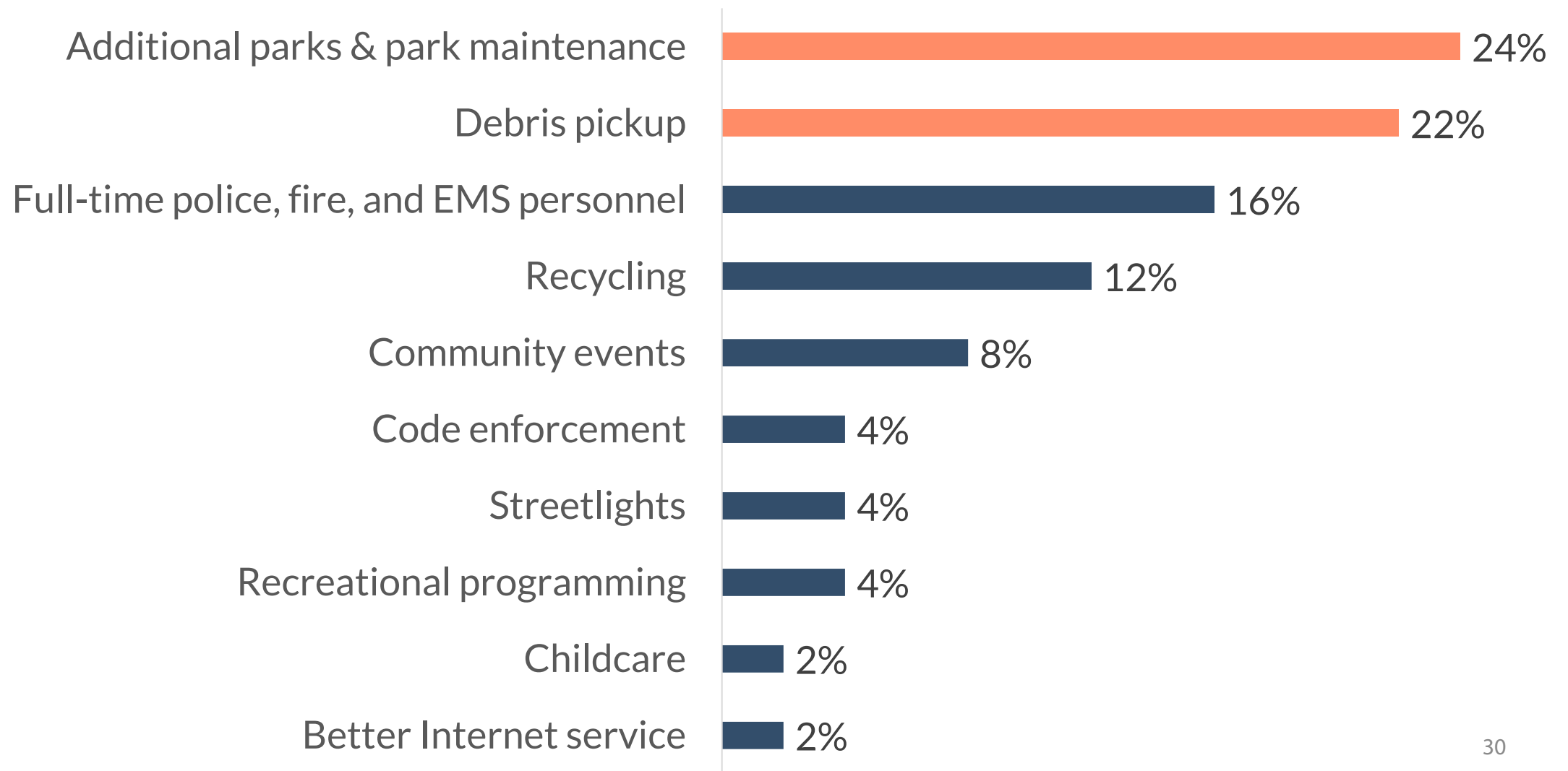


Town website / E-services



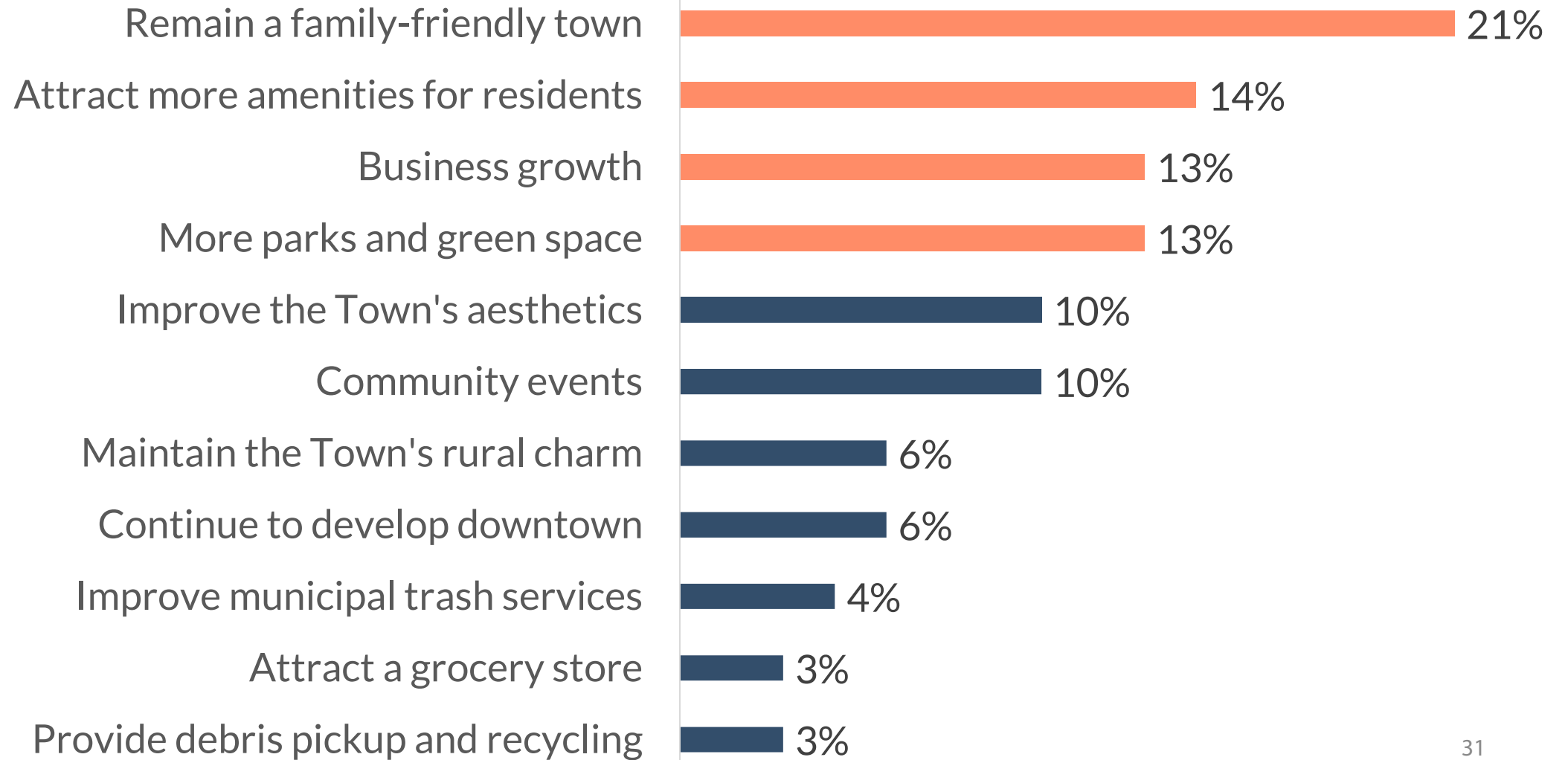
Are there any additional public services you would like to see in Morris?

Question 13



My BIG idea for the future of my community is...

Question 14



My BIG idea for the future of my community is...

Question 14 (Continued)

- Growth while maintaining a small-town feel.
- Acquire land along Turkey Creek to build a greenway.
- Provide additional recreational programs and organized sports.
- Consider constructing a community center for events.
- Build on Food Truck Fridays by planning more community events.
- Attract additional amenities and businesses to make Morris self-sufficient.
- Enforce speeding on residential streets.
- Ensure that storm drains are in a state of good repair and explore expanding them to needed areas.
- More sidewalks so residents can walk to and around the central town area.
- Improve internet availability and reliability.
- Explore debris pickup and recycling pickup or drop-off.

Results from the "Map Your Ideas" Activity

37 comments

MORRIS MASTER PLAN

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Draw** your ideas on the map by clicking "add route" or "add point" below
- 2. Describe** the point or route in the pop-up survey after drawing! The more detail the better!

LEGEND

- Desired Sidewalk (Green dashed line)
- Traffic Issue (Red X)
- Asset (Blue circle)
- Opportunity (Green circle)
- Needs Improvement (Yellow circle)
- Other Comment (Orange pin)

HELP
For detailed instructions, see "About & Help"
For more help, contact: Hgarrison@rpcqb.org

Morris Master Plan About & Help Add Routes Add Points Share 41 Guest

Map Satellite 154

Map features include: +, -, Search, and a Google logo at the bottom left.

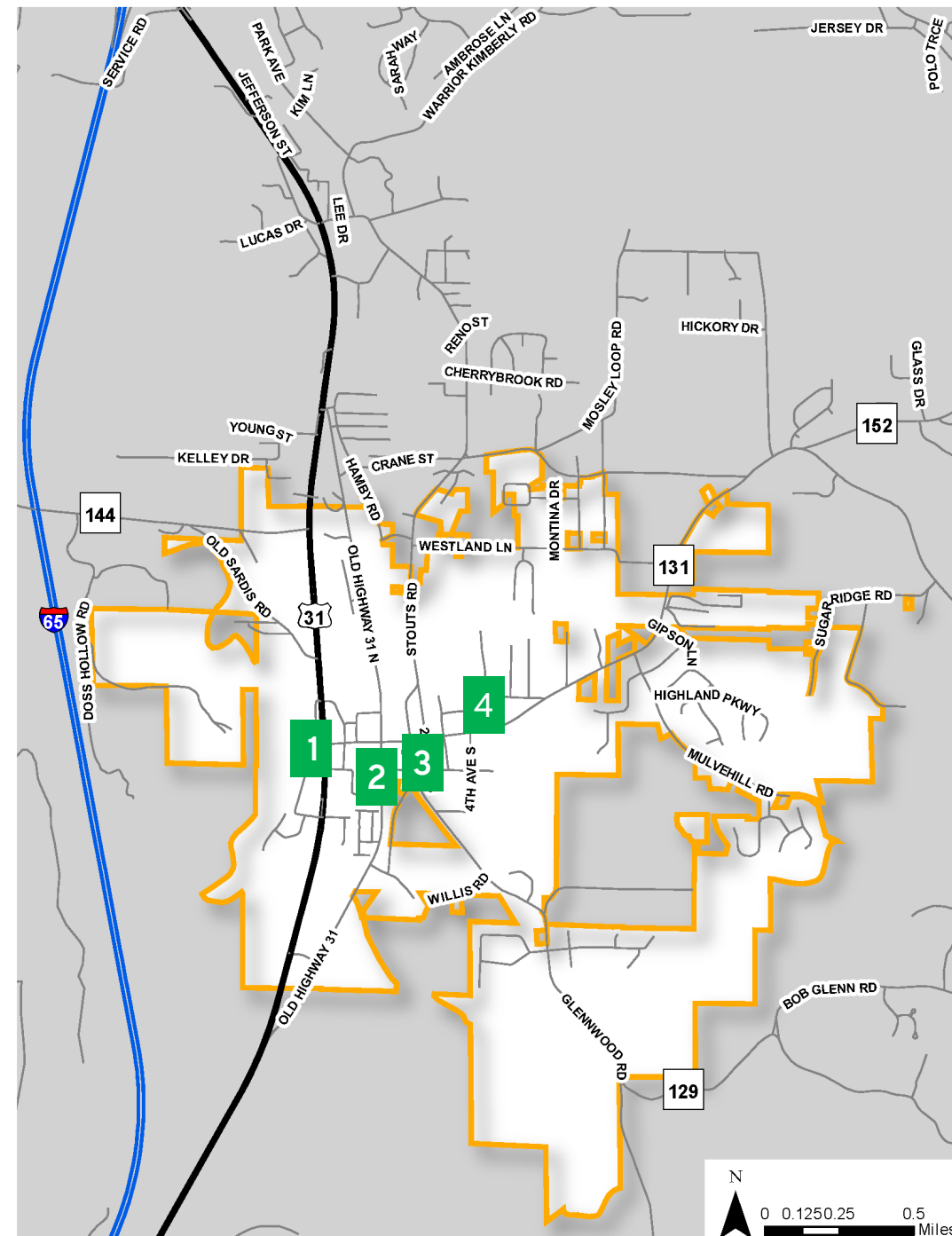
Map labels include: Burke Center, Green Briar Golf Course, Green Briar Golf, Rolling Hills Village, Alyssa Lou's Boutique, Stripe Fishing Headquarters, Jefferson County Cemetery, Auto Appearance Specialist, MYA - Hill Field, Enon Baptist Church, Mineral Branch, Barger Power Rink, Creekside Meadows, Town Market Chevron & Cafe, Reno Refractories Inc, Turkey Creek Driving Range, and various streets like Francis St, Old Spanish Rd, and Westland Ln.

Assets

What assets should be preserved?

Comments:

- 1 This entrance is a beautiful gateway
- 2 This boutique shop attracts visitors (2 mentions)
- 3 Morris Town Park is a great venue for events such as Food Truck Fridays (4 mentions)
- 4 The Snow Rogers House should be preserved

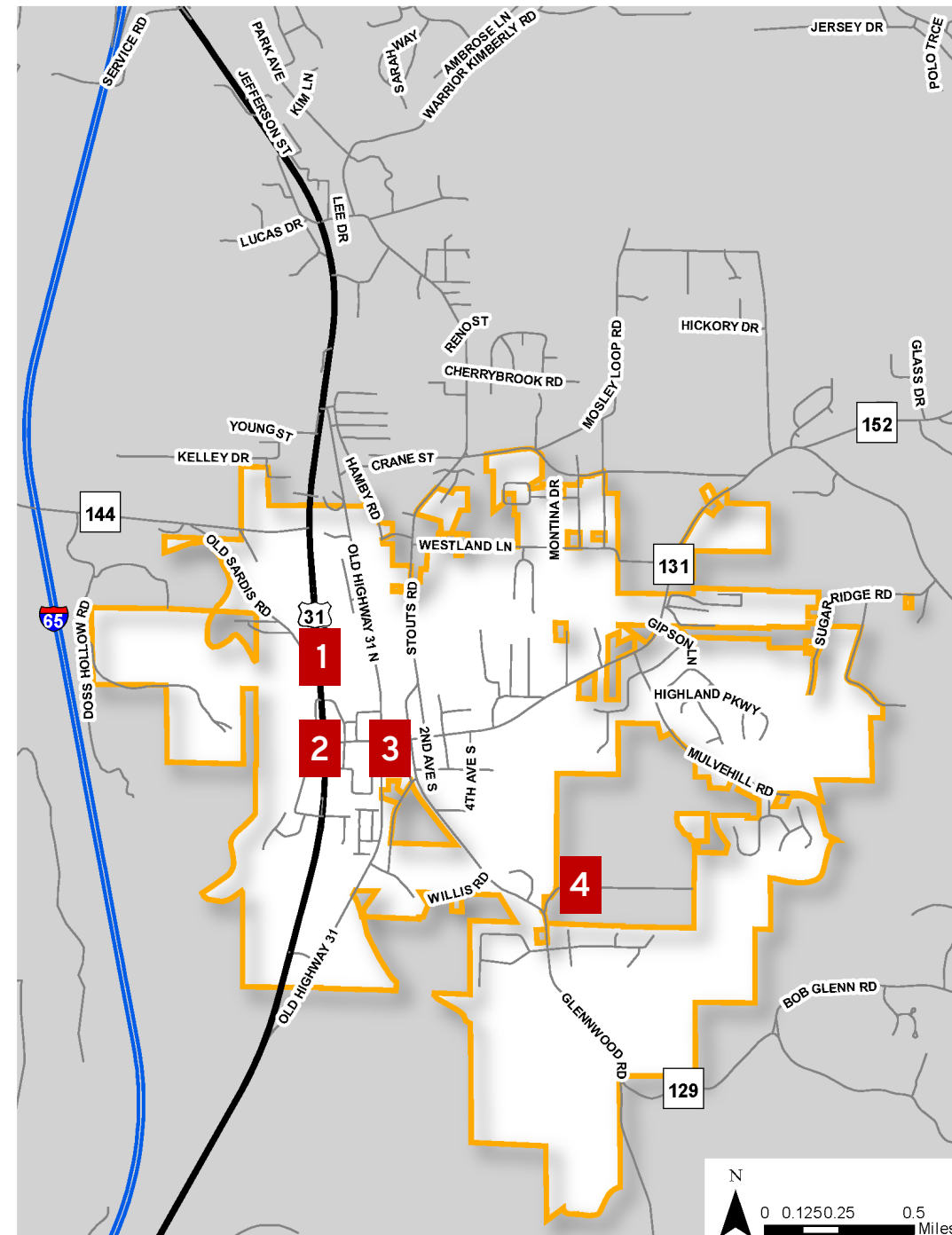


Needs Improvement

What locations in Morris need improvement?

Comments:

- 1** Blighted structure (2 mentions)
- 2** Intersection of US 31 and Morris Majestic Road needs resurfacing
- 3** Flooding along Morris Majestic Road, especially near Banks Street
- 4** Ballpark maintenance needed

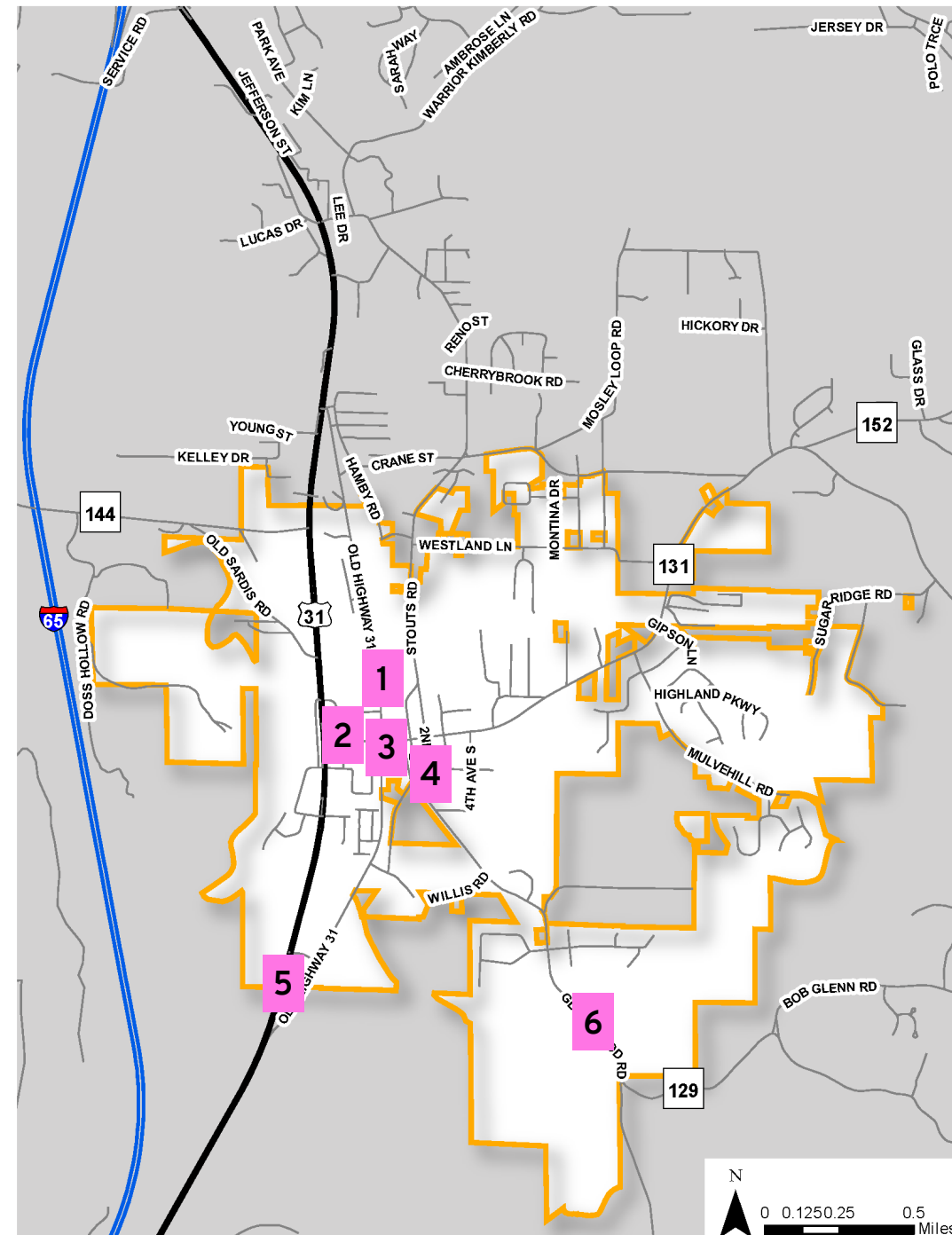


Opportunity

Where do opportunities exist in Morris?

Comments:

- 1 Vacant building on Old Highway 31—potential for community event space
- 2 Potential for gateway on Morris Majestic Road
- 3 Vacant Payless Drugs: prime location for another business (x3)
- 4 Potential to expand Morris Town Park across Glennwood Road or construct a library here
- 5 Potential for gateway along US 31
- 6 Potential to enhance access to Turkey Creek above or below dam

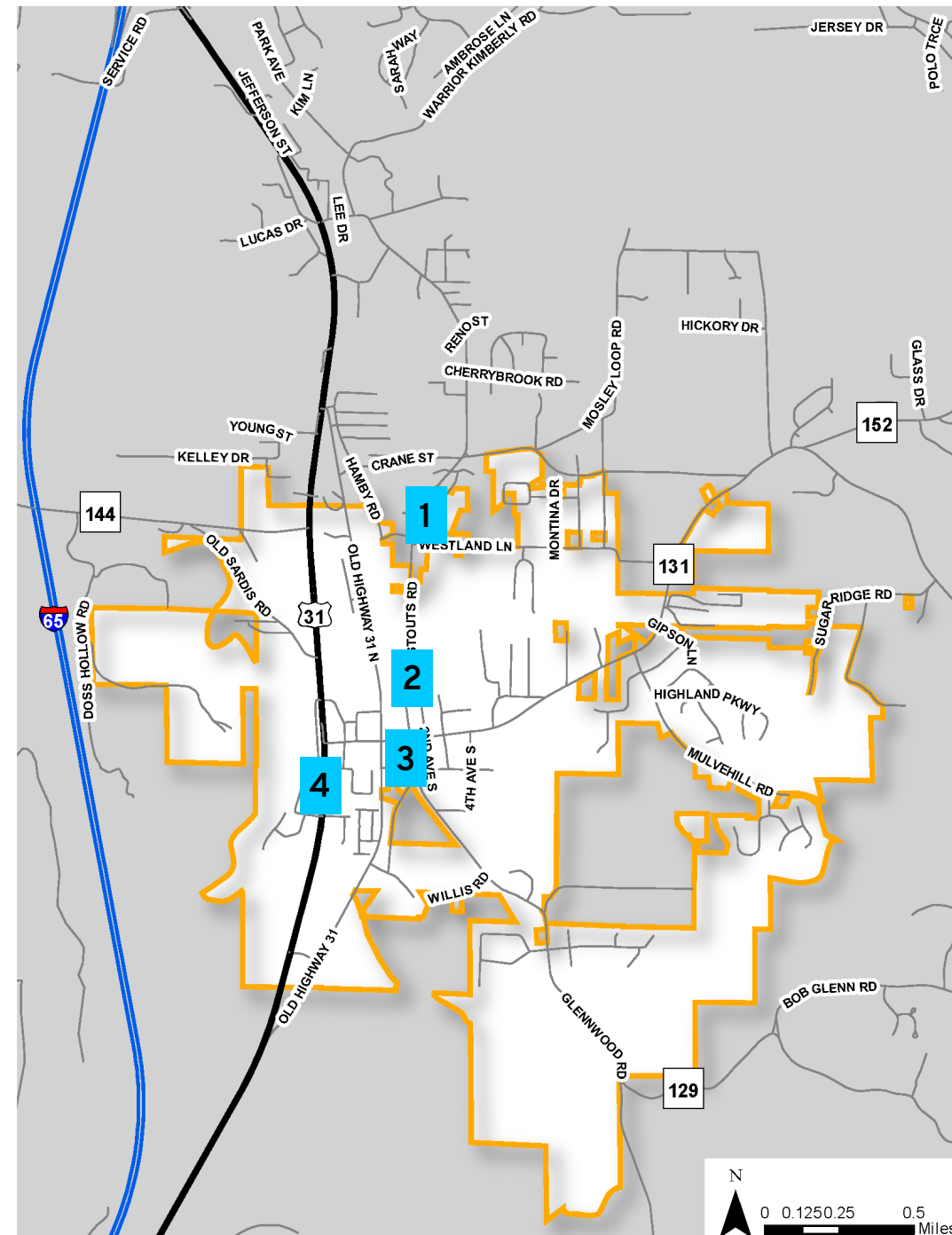


Traffic Issues

Where do significant traffic issues occur?

Comments:

- 1 Speeding at curve on Stouts Road on the way to/from Kimberly
- 2 Lack of stop sign at Stouts Road/ 2nd Ave intersection
- 3 Difficult too cross Morris Majestic Rd to/from Stouts Road and Glennwood Road, especially in the morning
- 4 No left turn onto US 31 South from Charleston Place



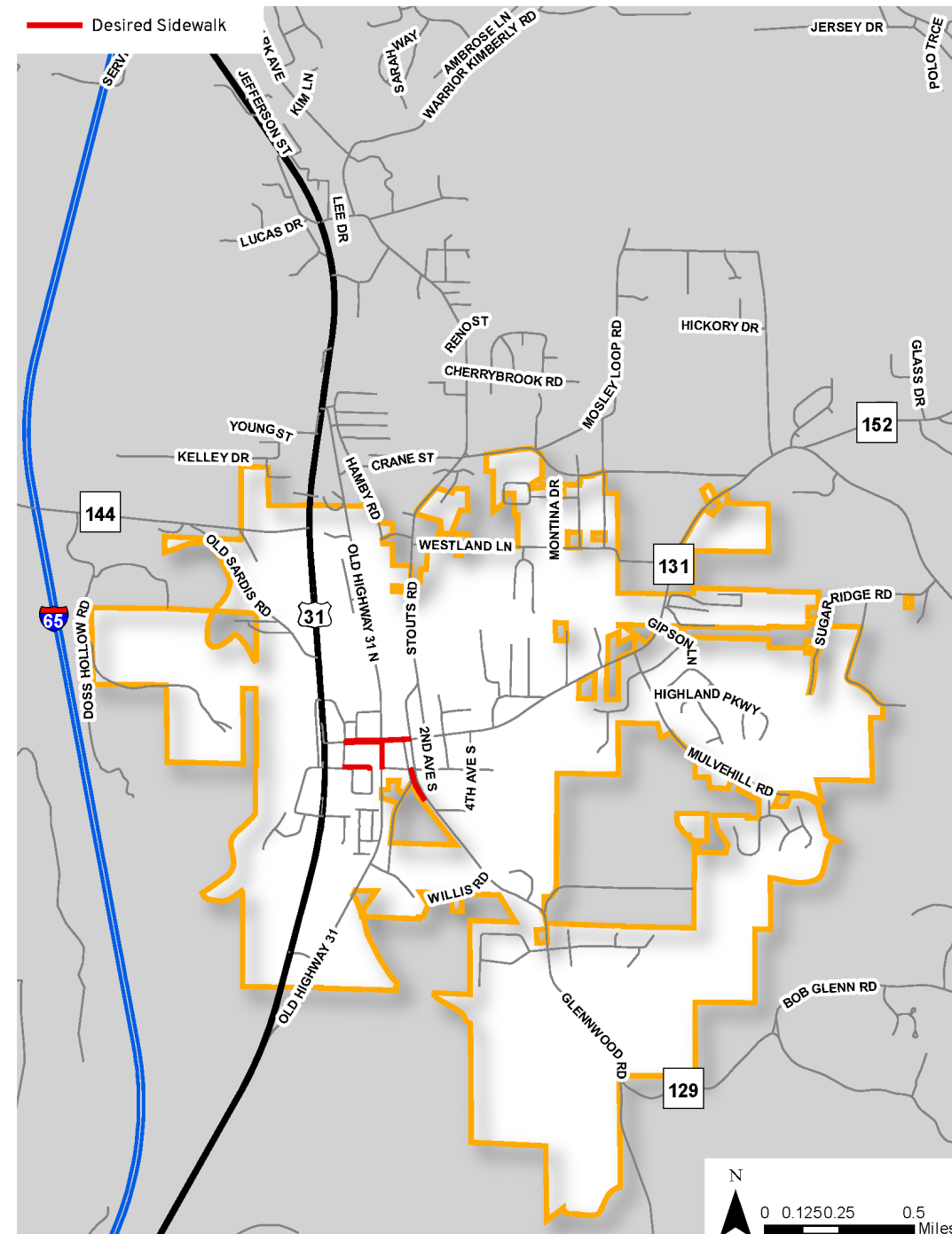
Desired Trails / Sidewalks

Where should Morris invest in new walking and bicycling connections?

Comment:

Desire for sidewalks:

- Along Morris Majestic Road
- Between Jenkins Road and Banks Street (behind Charleston Place cul-de-sac)
- Along Old Highway 31 in central town area
- Along Glennwood Road south of Morris Town Park



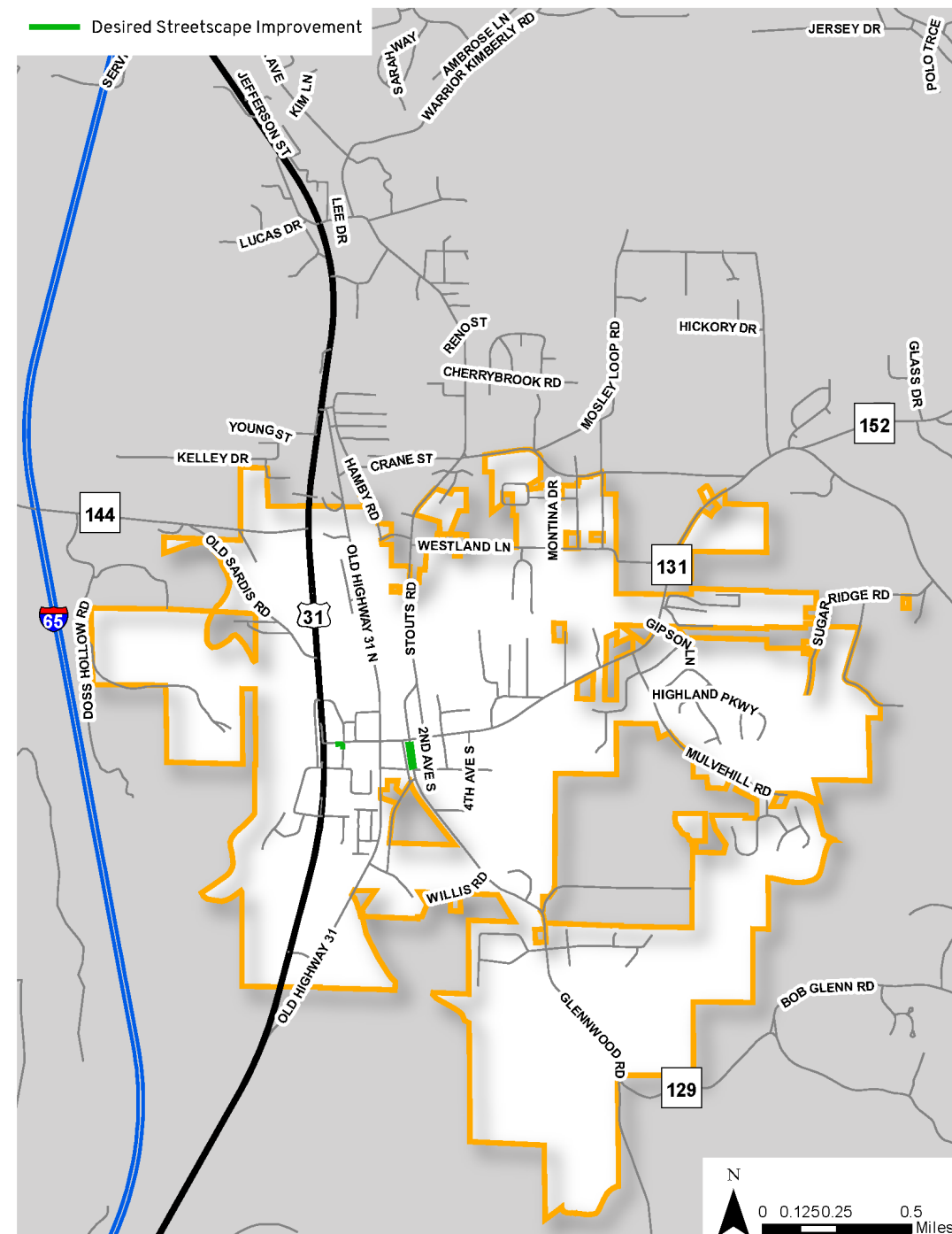
Desired Streetscape Improvement

Where should Morris invest in streetscape improvements?

Comment:

Desire for streetscape improvements:

- Corner of Morris Majestic Road and Morris Sardis Road
- Glennwood Road near Morris Town Park



Results from the “Issues and Opportunities” Matrix Activity

12 comments

QUALITY OF LIFE			
ELEMENTS	WHAT'S WORKING	WHAT'S NOT WORKING	WHAT'S NEEDED
Central Town Area of Morris			
Community Facilities <small>(Town Hall, Senior Center, Volunteer Fire Department, etc.)</small>			
Parks & Recreation <small>(Morris Town Park, Morris Ball Park, Morris Memorial Park, maintenance issues, recreational programs, etc.)</small>			
Entertainment, Shopping, and Dining Opportunities			
Access to Childcare and Healthcare Services			
Other <small>(Are there any quality of life related issues that don't fit into the other categories?)</small>			

Economic Development

Business opportunities, partnerships, recruitment & retention, local government support, workforce development



What's Working

- No responses



What's Not Working

- No responses



What's Needed

- Restaurants
- Shops

Quality of Life

Central City Area of Morris, community facilities, parks and recreation, entertainment, shopping, and dining options, access to childcare and healthcare services, other



What's Working

- No responses



What's Not Working

- No responses



What's Needed

- Restaurants (2 mentions)
- Shopping

Community Development

Housing, senior housing, concentrations of distressed housing and problem areas, code enforcement, wayfinding, city gateways and signage, public safety; fire and EMS



What's Working

- No responses



What's Not Working

- No responses



What's Needed

- Assisted living facility

Transportation and Infrastructure

Mobility choices, street maintenance, traffic issues and speeding areas, utilities and internet access



What's Working

- No responses



What's Not Working

- Speeding on Glennwood Road from Ball Park Drive to Turkey Creek
- Speeding on Morris Sardis Road
- Drivers use Morris Sardis Road to bypass the signal at Morris Majestic Road and Highway 31, causing additional congestion



What's Needed

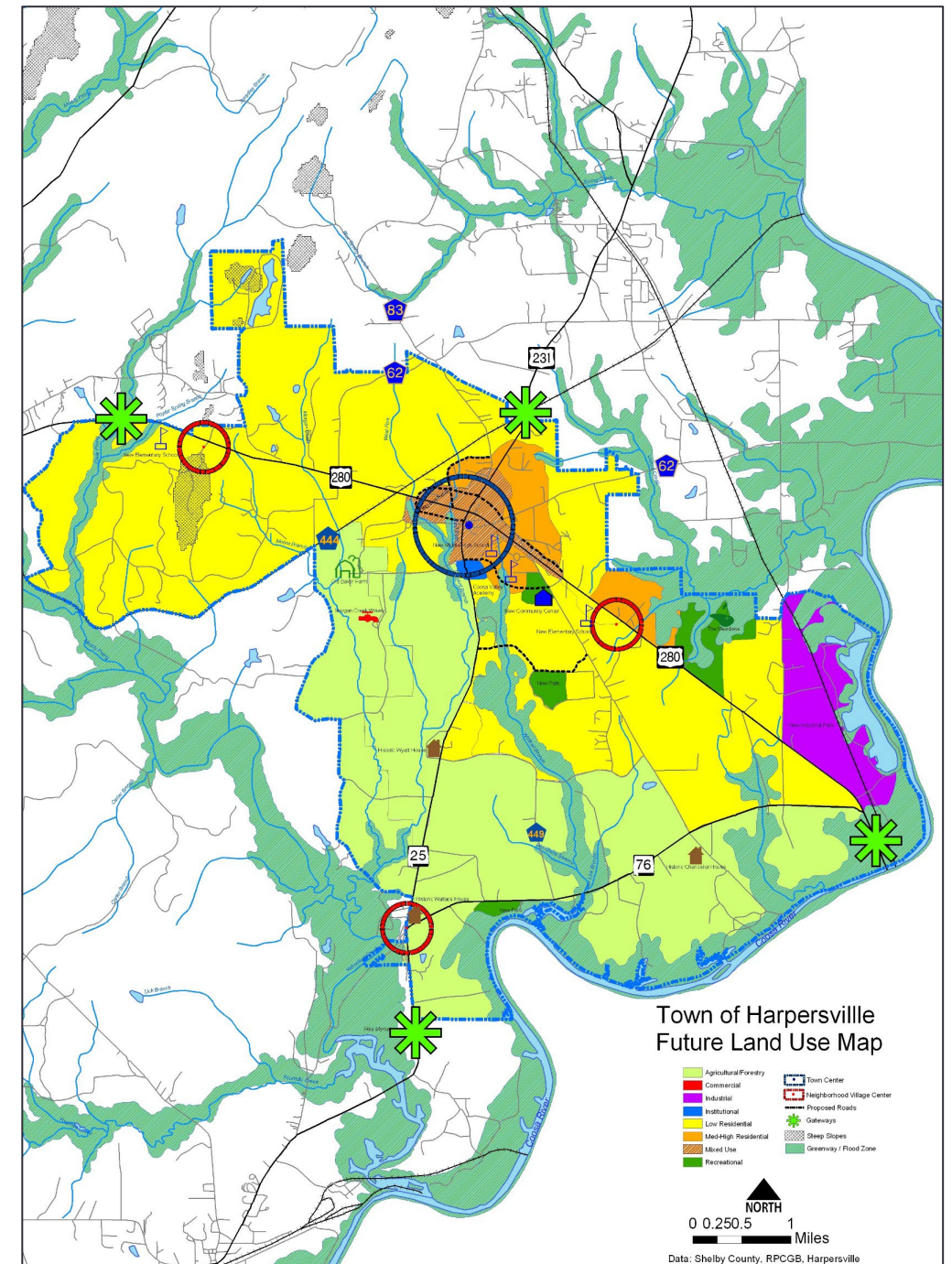
- Pothole repair on Old Highway 31
- Traffic control throughout the City, including during commute hours and when schools begin and end
- Desire for traffic lights at 4-way stop on Morris Majestic Road
- Desire for right turn lane from Morris Majestic Road to Highway 31 North
- Improved internet service down Glennwood Road to City limits

Morris Master Plan

Next Steps

Draft a new Future Land Use Map

- The purpose of the Future Land Use Map is used to guide zoning decisions.
- Update the 2002 Comprehensive Plan map based on public input, Planning and Zoning Commission insight, etc.
- **It needs to better align with your zoning map.**
- **Might require a separate work session within the near future.**





Action 4

Develop initiatives to minimize illegal dumping.

To combat and minimize illegal dumping, the Town should consider the following initiatives and programs:

- Post signs that educate citizens on illegal dumping fines and protected areas
- Install lighting in areas where illegal dumping occurs to deter violators.
- Install monitoring devices, motion sensing beepers, surveillance cameras, and provide additional police to patrol known dump sites.

GOAL #3 ENHANCE AND EXPAND PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE.



Action 1

Conduct a sidewalk and street needs assessment to create a prioritized list of improvements.

According to 81% of the people who took the Visioning Survey associated with this

expected to increase to \$19,484.87 in Fiscal Year 2022.

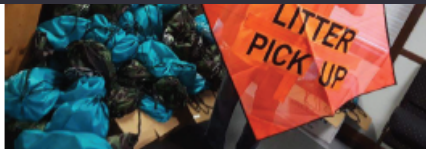
To receive the funds, each municipality must provide a "local transportation plan" that identifies the projects for which the municipality will spend its allocated funding. In 2019, the Town adopted Resolution No. 2019-04 that stated that the Town would use the funds received by the Rebuild Alabama Act to fund any of the following listed projects:

- The maintenance, improvement, replacement, and construction of roads and bridges;
- Matching funds for federal road or bridge

the maintenance of existing internet infrastructure and plan for infrastructure upgrades. A partnership could include an application for funding through the Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund.

GOAL #4 ATTRACT NEW BUSINESSES THAT WILL DIVERSIFY AND COMPLEMENT EXISTING BUSINESSES.

Start drafting the Master Plan with topical goals and recommend actions for implementation



Action 2

Annually adopt a resolution for a Town Transportation Plan to receive Rebuild Alabama Act funds.

In 2019 the State Legislature approved the Rebuild Alabama Act that increased fuel taxes by 6 cents per gallon in 2019, 8 cents in 2020 and 10 cents in 2022. After 2023, increases will be determined every other year based on how much the cost of construction changes. Every municipality in Alabama receives a portion of the proceeds of the new state gas tax, and the portion varies according to the population and the mileage of roads within the municipality. Mulga's share was approximately \$11,690 in Fiscal Year 2020 and \$15,587 in Fiscal Year 2021 and is

improve broadband availability and ensure that high-speed internet is accessible throughout the city.

Mulga citizens, like others that live in rural communities, want faster, cheaper internet just like their suburban and metro-dwelling neighbors so that they can better work remotely, use online services, access shopping, news information, and government data. Primarily, the citizens of Mulga receive internet service through their cable company (AT&T or Charter), or through their land lines via a Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) connection. Although functional, these older internet systems are not upgraded that often, making them slower than those in the metro Birmingham area.

The Town should be pro-active about meeting with local service providers to encourage



Attract new retail development to the community, particularly the following types of businesses: local convenience store, gas station, restaurants, medical services and automotive repair services.



Morris Master Plan

Maria Hines

Project Manager and Senior Planner

(205) 264-8445

mhines@rpcgb.org