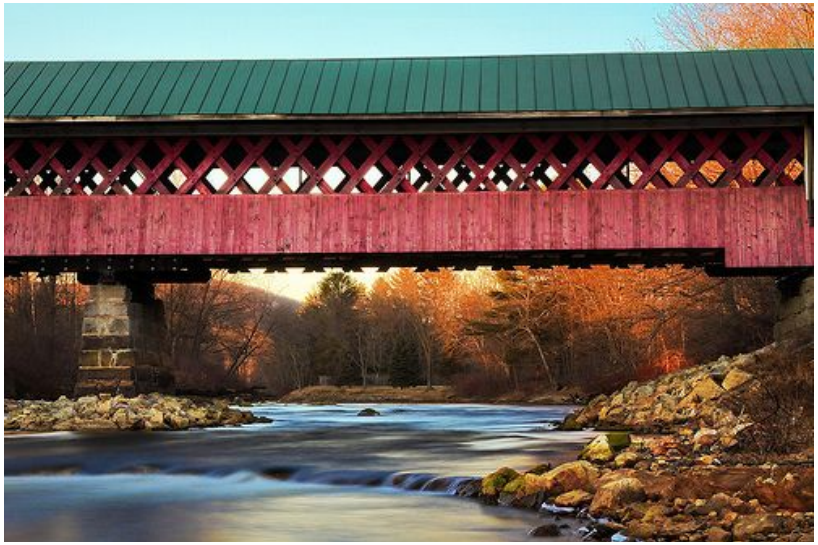
Swanzey Master Plan Update

Community Meeting



November 12, 2019

Agenda

- Overview of Community Planning Process
- Current Demographic Data
- Results of Community Survey
- Next Steps and How to Get Involved

What is Community Planning?

- Process by which a community decides the future it wants and then plans how to achieve it
  1) Where are we now?
  2) Where are we going?
  3) Where do we want to be?
  4) How do we get there?

Planning in New Hampshire

- State has a long history of planning at the state, regional, and local levels
- Planning Board is required to prepare and amend the Master Plan under State law
- Master Plan is required to establish Zoning Map
- Required sections: Vision, Land Use
- Optional sections: Transportation, Community Facilities, Economic Development, Natural Resources, Natural Hazards, Recreation, Utilities, Cultural & Historical Resources, Housing, Energy, Regional Concerns, Neighborhood Plans, Community Design, Implementation

Master Planning in Swanzey

- First Master Plan was adopted in 1979
- Current Master Plan was approved in 2003
  - *A Plan for the Protection of Open Space* (2004)
  - *Ashuelot River Corridor Management Plan* (2006)
  - *Source Water Protection Plan for Swanzey* (2018)
- State recommendation is to update Master Plan every 5-10 years

What is a Master Plan?

- Guides overall character, physical form, growth, and development of a community
- Recommendations that guide the planning process for the Planning Board
- Used to develop ordinances, policies, and regulations
- Assists with developing Capital Improvement Plan
- Reference document
- Summary of local actions

What a Master Plan is Not…

- A Master Plan is not a land use regulatory document
- A Master Plan does not commit the Town to spend funds
- A Master Plan does not have the force of law

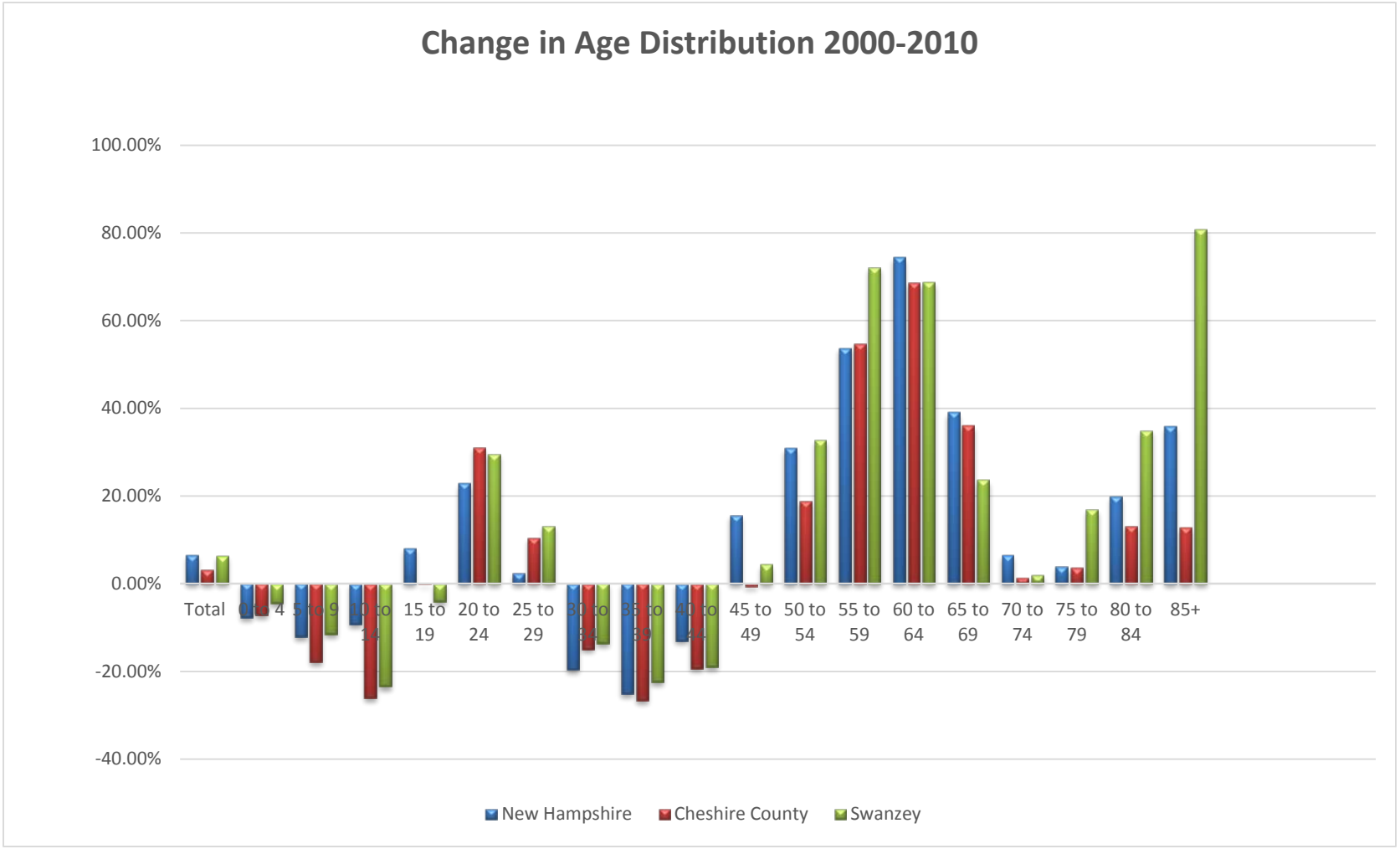
What Makes a "Good" Plan?

- Addresses the unique attributes of a community
- Tells a story
- Realistic
- Comprehensive
- Fair and equitable balance of competing interests
- What is best for the community as a whole
- Good design

Where Are We Now?

	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2010-2040
New Hampshire	1,316,470	1,330,501	1,349,908	1,374,702	1,402,878	1,422,503	1,432,730	9%
Cheshire County	77,117	77,342	77,653	78,002	78,315	78,543	78,695	2%
Swanzey	**7,230**	**7,339**	**7,445**	**7,554**	**7,585**	**7,607**	**7,622**	**5%**

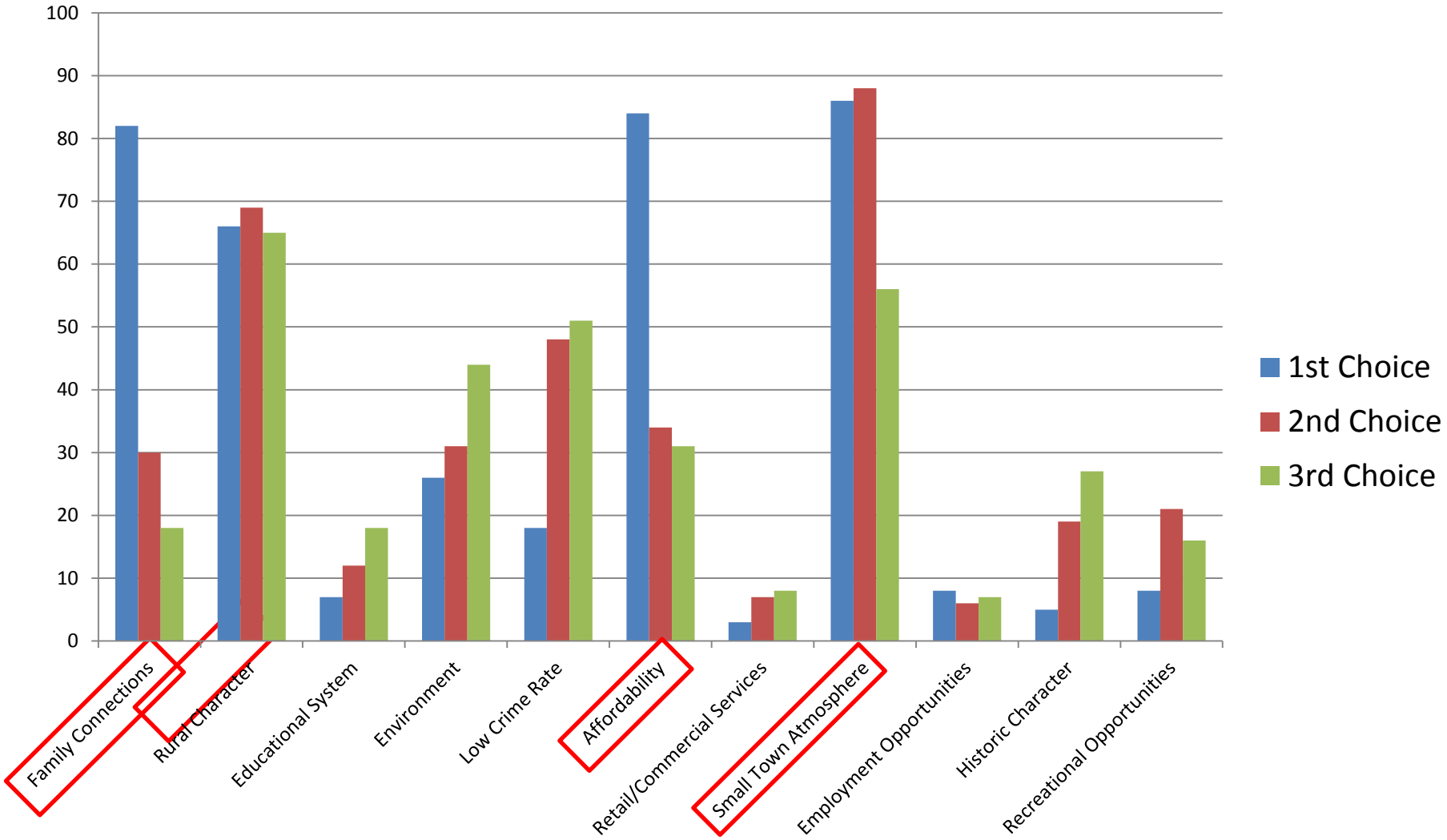
Where Are We Now?



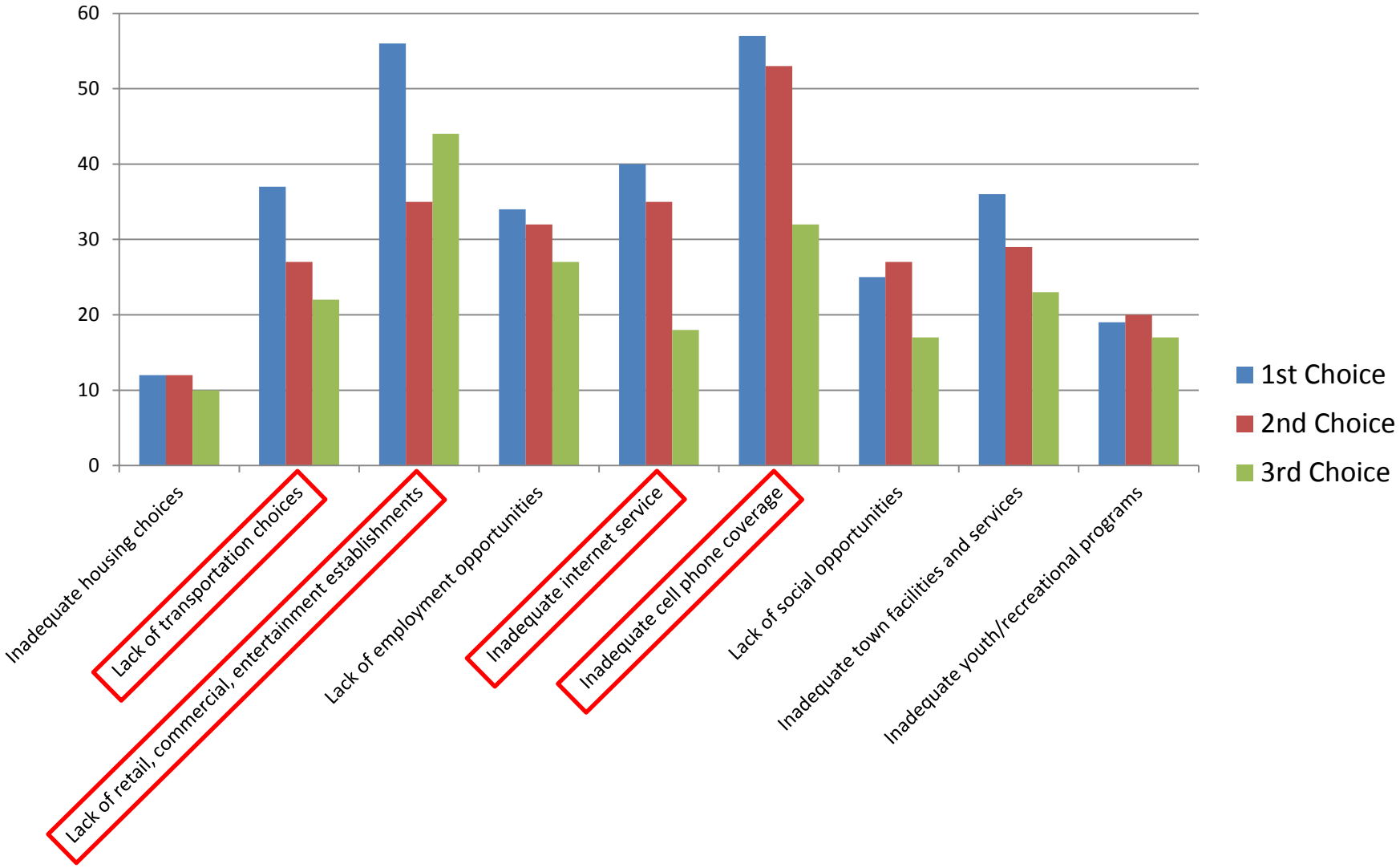
Where Do We Want to Be?

- Planning Board developed a community survey to assist with the Master Plan update
- Survey was made available online using Survey Monkey from July – September 2019
- Total of 416 responses to the survey
- Results of the survey will be used to help develop an overall community Vision statement and the goals and objectives for each individual section of the Master Plan

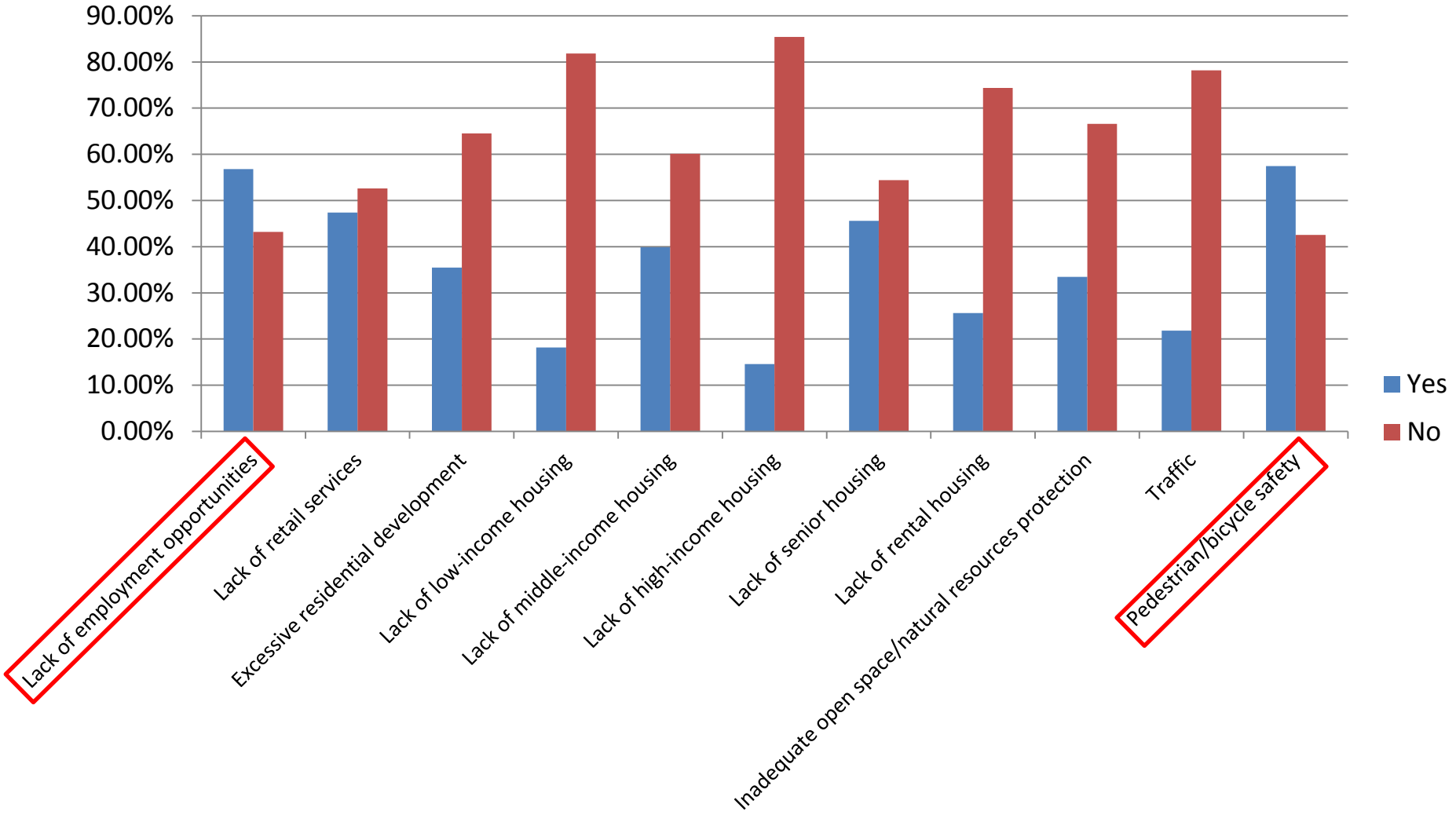
Rank the following reasons why you live in Swanzey



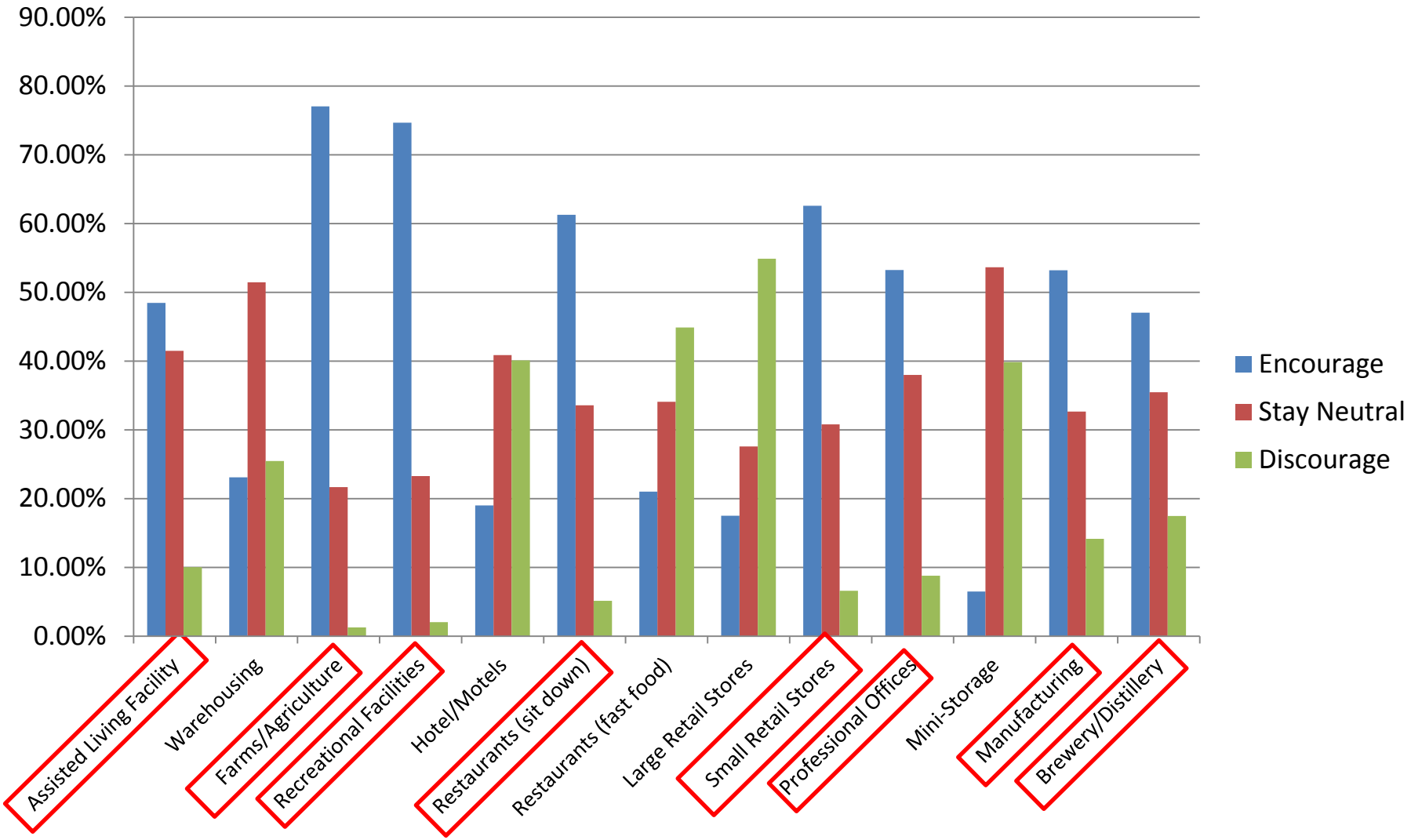
Rank what you like least about our town and want to see changed



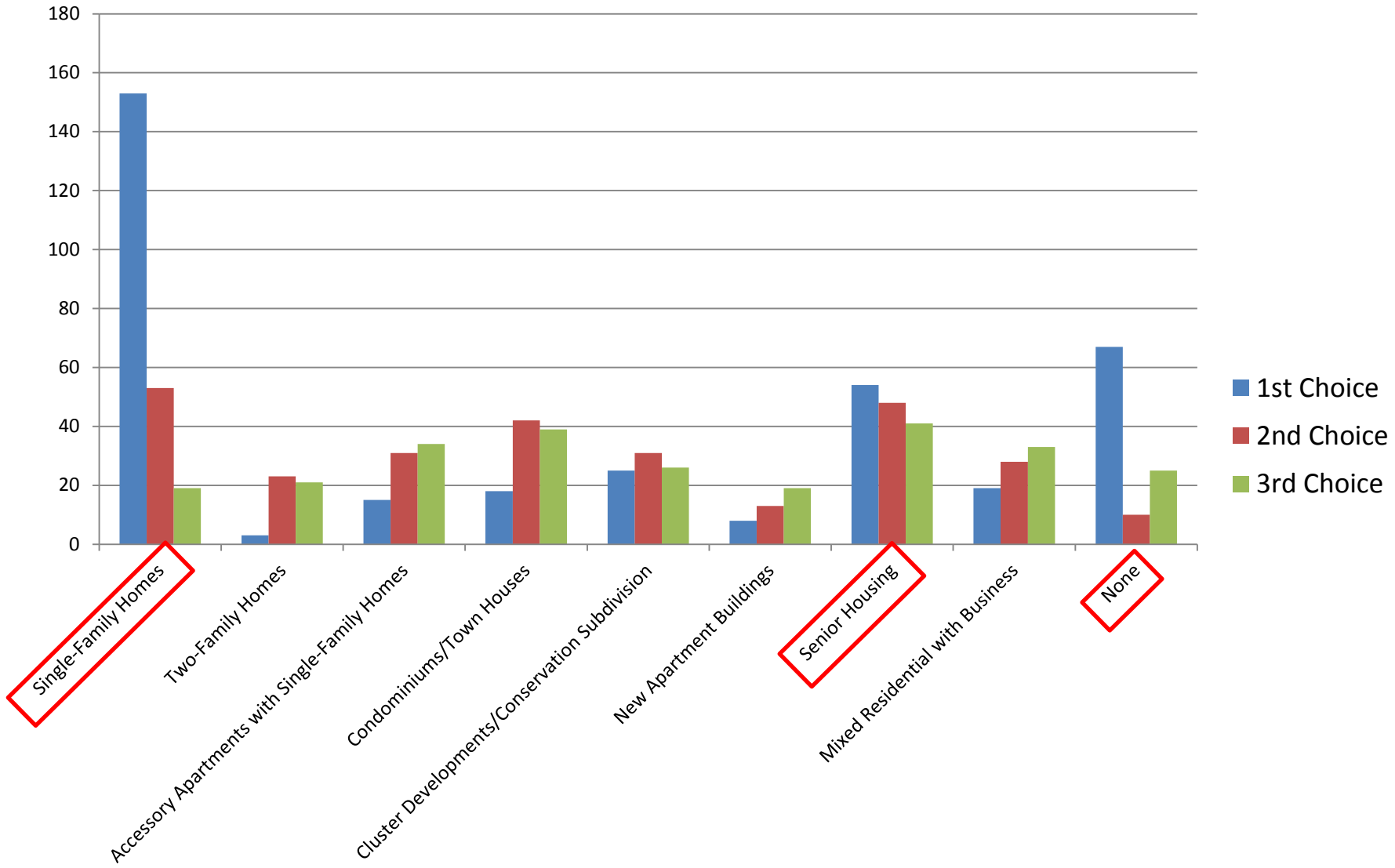
Do you believe the following issues face our town?



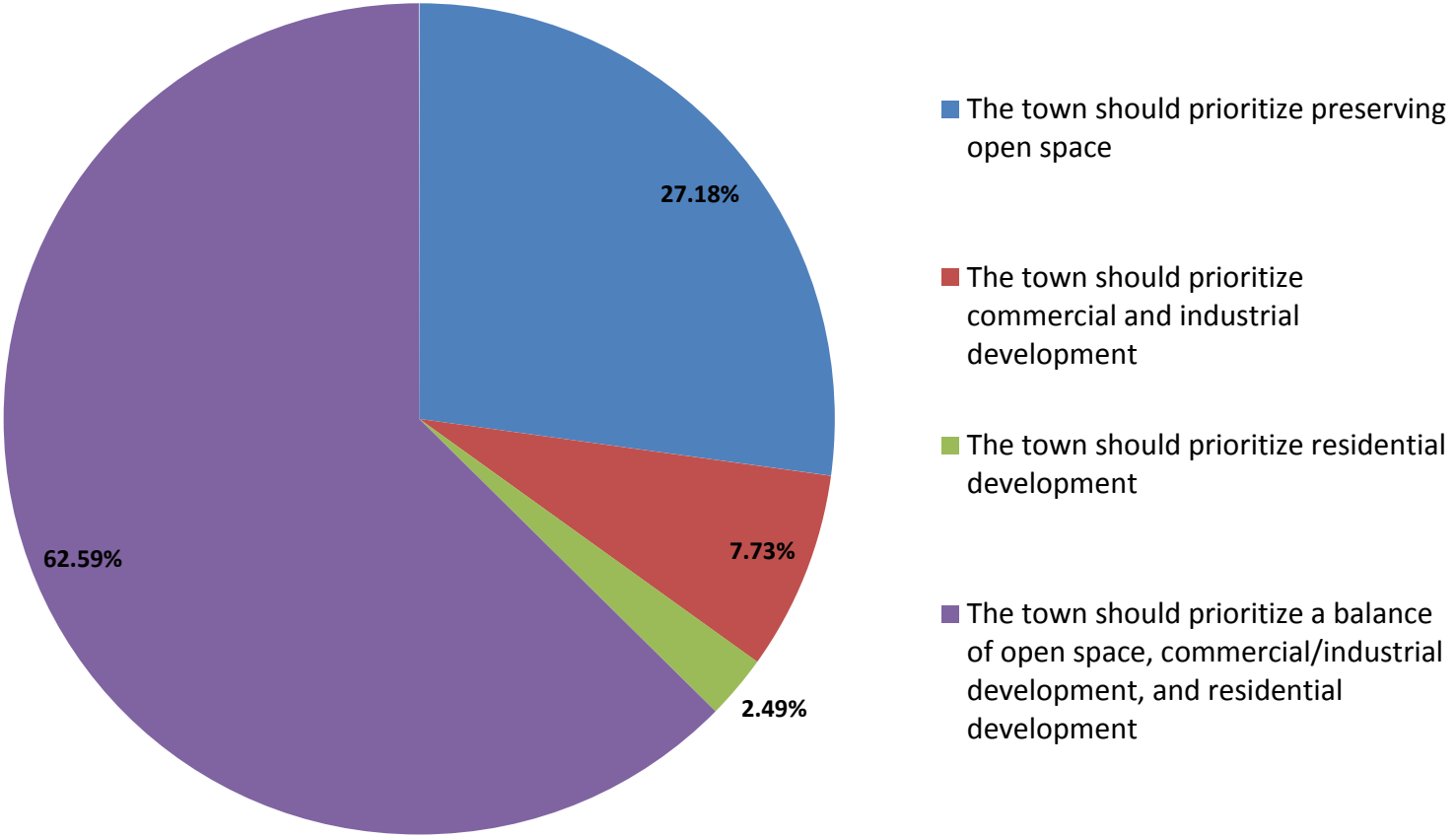
What types of growth should we encourage?



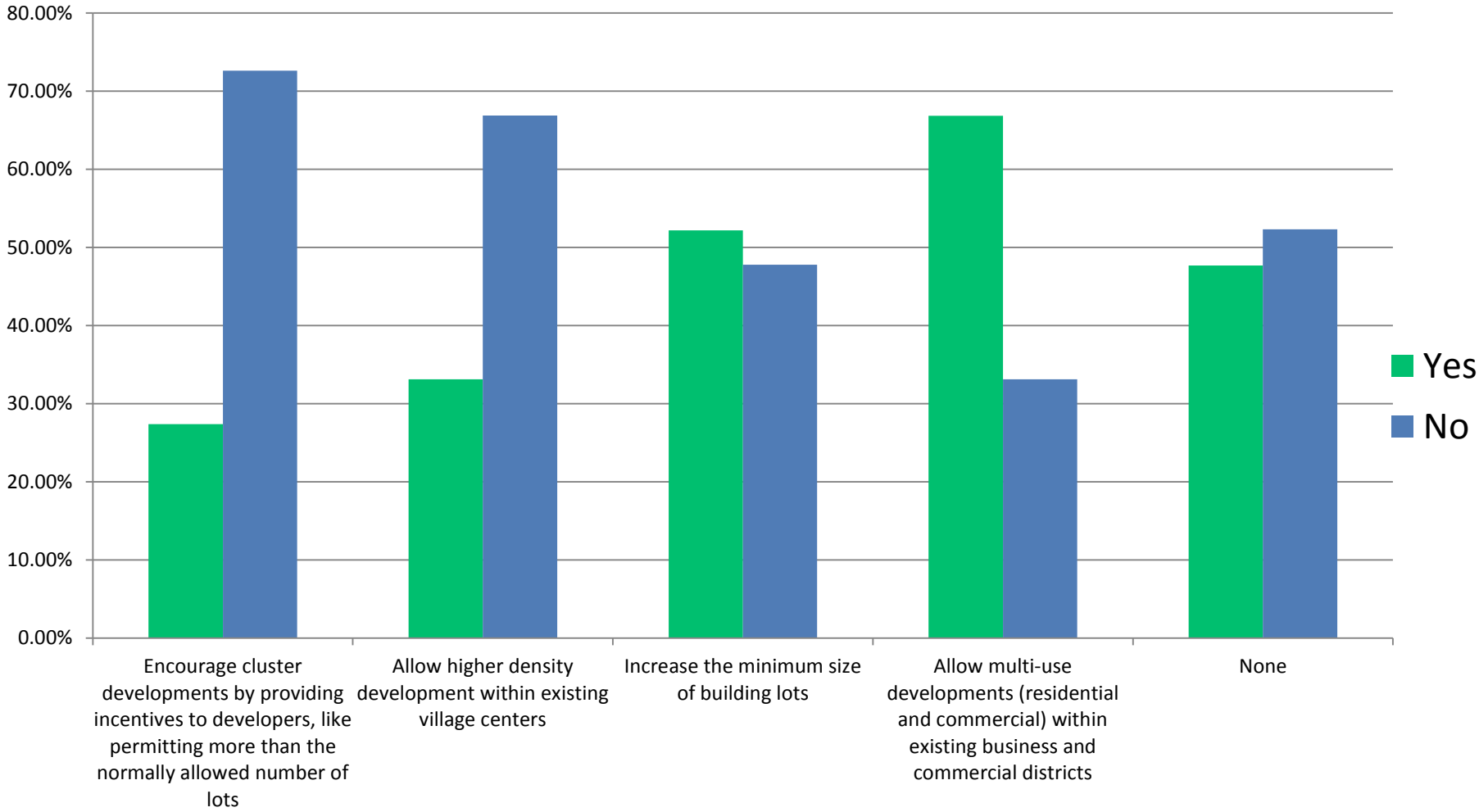
What types of housing should the town encourage more of?



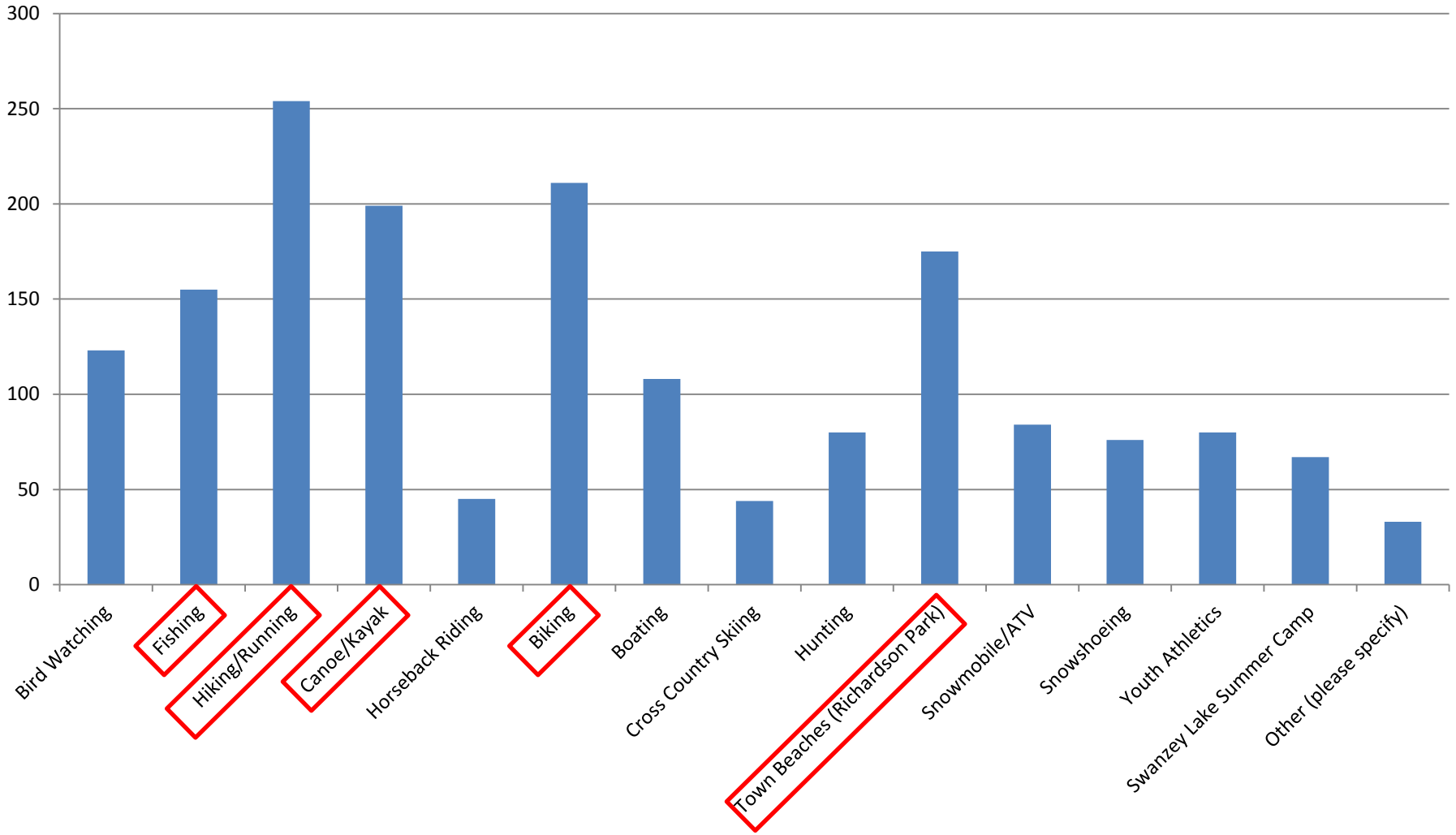
Which of the following best expresses your view on future land use in town?



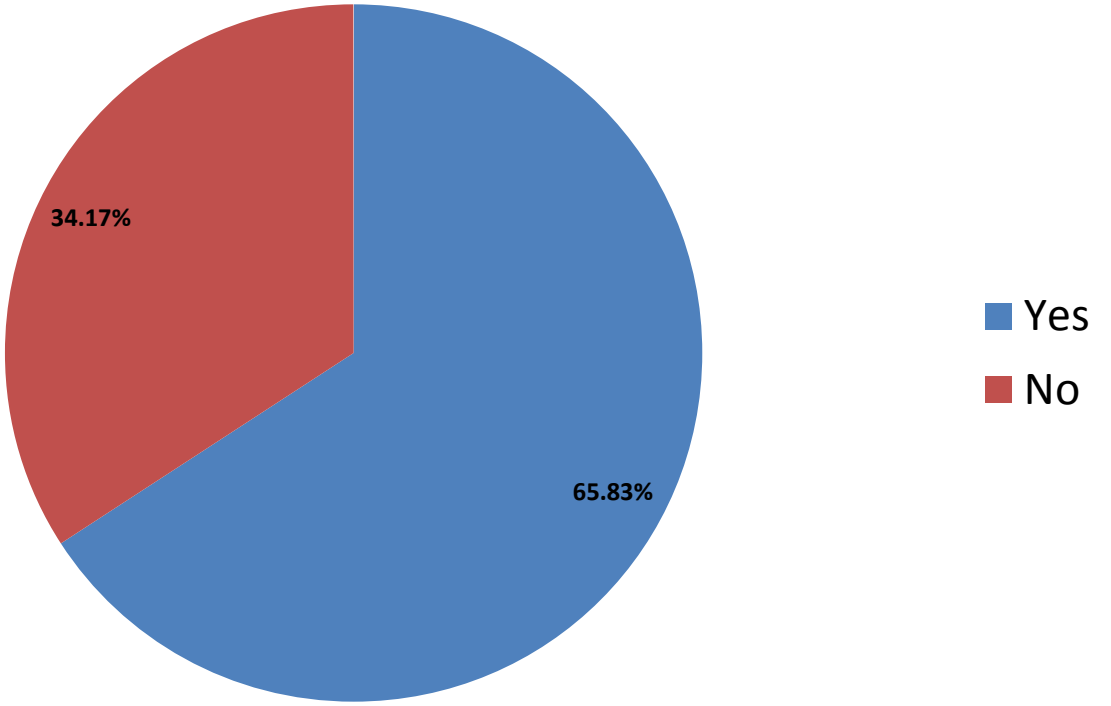
Which of the following methods for protecting open space would you support?



In what ways do you enjoy the town's recreational opportunities?



Would you support the creation of a Heritage Commission with educational, advisory, and technical responsibilities for the town's man-made cultural and historical resources?



Land Use & Housing

- Prioritize a balance of residential development, commercial/industrial development, and open space protection
- Support and celebrate small town atmosphere & rural character
- Maintain housing affordability
- Encourage variety of housing choices, including single-family, senior housing/assisted living, condos/townhomes, and accessory dwelling units
- Encourage more retail, restaurant, and entertainment uses that compliment the town's existing character

Transportation

- Focus on increasing transportation options
- Improve pedestrian and bicyclist
- Maintain existing Town road network and work with NH DOT on traffic and safety issues along State-maintained roads

Economic Development

- Increase employment opportunities
- Support the development of small-scale retail and sit-down restaurant uses in existing village centers
- Encourage the development of manufacturing, professional office, brewery/distillery, and agricultural businesses
- Improve internet service and cell phone coverage

Natural Resources

- Maintain the high quality of the town's natural environment and its rural character
- Explore methods for supporting growth in appropriate areas while protecting natural resources
- Continue to encourage recreational activities, such as hiking, boating, fishing, that…

Community Facilities & Recreation

- Explore options for increasing recreational and youth programming
- Support existing and plan for future recreational facilities
- Continue to work to protect the Town's man-made cultural and historical resources

Next Steps

- Focus Groups (1-2 meetings)
  1. Land Use and Housing
  2. Transportation
  3. Natural Resources
  4. Economic Development
  5. Community Facilities and Recreation

- Anticipated Schedule: January – March 2020

- Role of Focus Groups
  - Review existing Master Plan, current data, survey results
  - Develop Vision, Goals, and Action Steps

Next Steps

- Implementation Chapter: Spring/Summer 2020
- Planning Board Consideration: Summer 2020
- Annual Review of Implementation Plan

Thank You!

For more information, questions, or comments:

Matthew Bachler

603-352-7411, ext. 108

mbachler@town.swanzey.nh.us

www.town.swanzey.nh.us