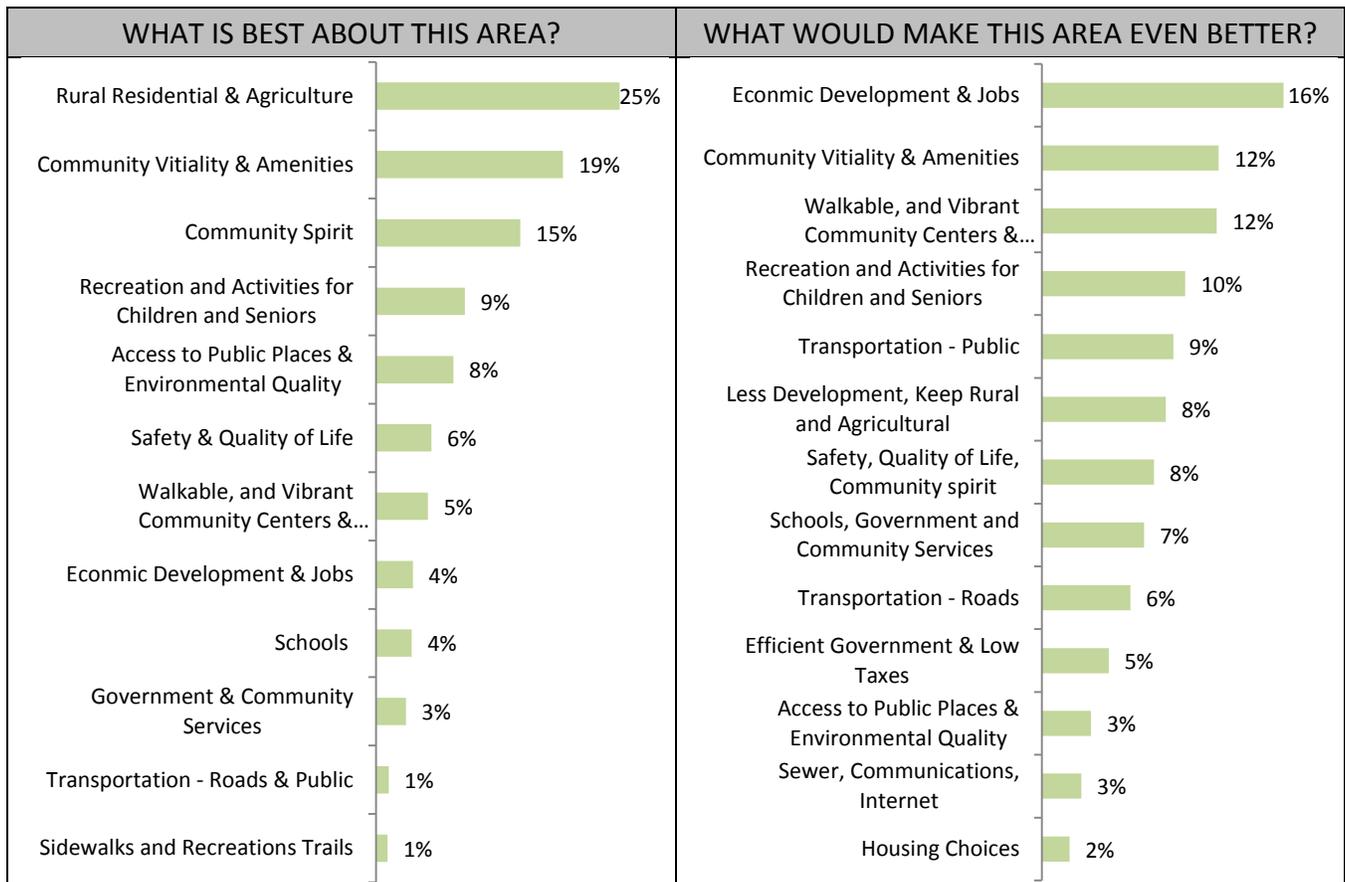


What We Heard About Economic Development

From the opinion survey, 465 of the 771 responses were related to the economic development chapter. Respondents consistently cited the rural, small town and suburban characteristics of the region as key features in response to “What is best about this area?” Access to amenities, culture, recreation and jobs were the region’s most discussed assets and comprised the majority of the comments. Responses about downtown feel, access to public places, walkability and safety also appeared regularly.

Of the suggested improvements offered to answer the second question of the survey, “What would make this area even better?” better overall economic development and access to jobs (16%) was the top concern. Many people want better access to their jobs, many of which are in the New Hampshire’s larger cities (Nashua, Manchester or Concord) or in the Boston-metro area. A recurring suggestion was for more public transportation. It was often recommended that with improved public transportation, more job opportunities for the region would be available and also that the quality of life would improve, especially for the seniors. Another common suggestion was the need for more small businesses downtown to help create more jobs and offer amenities closer to home.

Overall, economic development was a common theme found throughout the opinion surveys. Suggestions such as more public transportation, job opportunities and access to amenities are all vital parts of developing an economically stable community where people want to live, work and play.



Many of the comments received related directly to Live, Work, and Play. Live consists of accessibility to amenities, and the need for vibrant downtown areas and public transportation. Responses that related to Work are linked through the convenience to a person’s job or the need for more employment opportunities within the community. The final group of Play focused on the feel within a community, specifically with recreational areas and open space. The following quotes are examples of the many comments received.

WHAT IS BEST ABOUT THIS AREA?	WHAT WOULD MAKE THIS AREA EVEN BETTER?
LIVE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools, rural character – Amherst • The rural feel but close to shopping when you want – Hollis • Oval is great. Community works together, has a good mix of restaurants. Place to see, live entertainment, farms, family area – Milford • Access to amenities, community, culture & service. – Nashua 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce development – Hollis • Affordable transportation, especially for seniors – Merrimack • Traffic congestion on 101A – Amherst • A larger downtown area to visit – Mason • It needs a specific area for a “downtown-type_ area with shops, restaurants, offices – Litchfield • Train to Boston – Milford
WORK	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business, commerce – Amherst • We are within 20 minutes of Manchester, Nashua, Londonderry and Merrimack with access to all of the bigger city attractions and employment opportunities. We still embrace farming and produce truly locally grown food. We have relatively low crime. Our library staff provides a tremendous service for the community and I consider it a bargain. – Litchfield • Diverse business community - Nashua • Being so close to work/hospital – Nashua • Community, local businesses, farm produce year-round – Milford 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less big business – more small ones – Amherst • Jobs for young well educated persons. Extend passenger train – Nashua • Add commercial/industrial for jobs and tax advantages – Litchfield • Job opportunities. More business in the Oval – Milford • Business – need more of them in Town – Litchfield • Lower Taxes – Merrimack • Bring back a manufacturing base of business - Milford
PLAY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility to all locations – beach, mountains, Lakes, Boston. – Hollis • Central location – shopping – small business – Pelham • Schools, River, Parks – Merrimack • I enjoy the fact that we have farms, lakes, rivers & mountains within walking, biking and short driving range – Nashua 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More town centers. More public transportation – Milford • More parks and recreation - Nashua • A town center, a gas station, more annual events for townspeople to take part in (young and old). – Litchfield • Better public spaces. Bike Paths! - Pelham