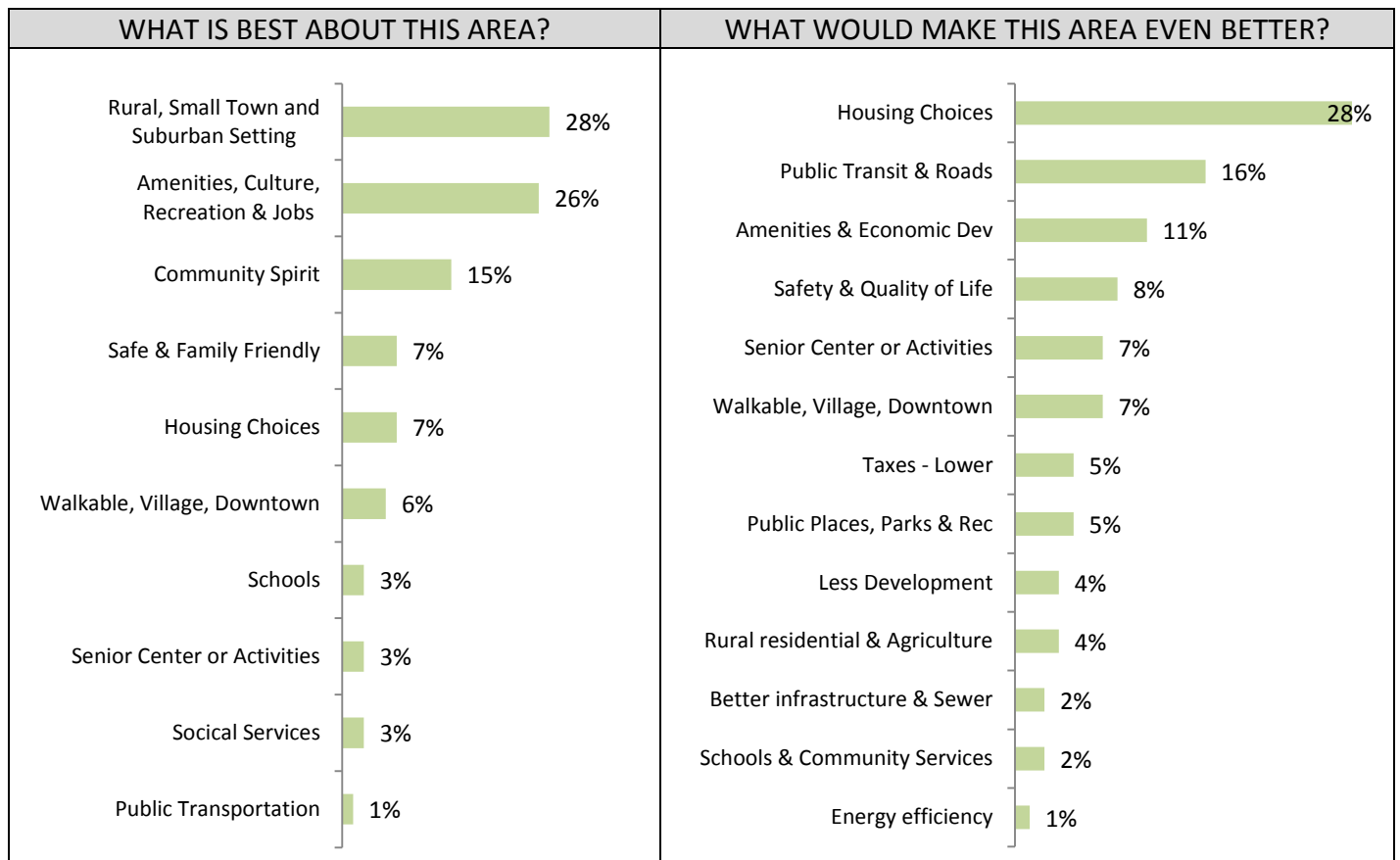


What We Heard About Housing

Of the 771 respondents to the opinion survey, 38 comments related specifically to the housing chapter. Three main themes were: (1) supply (stock), demand and conditions, (2) affordability and, (3) equity and access to opportunity. Responses to “What is best about this area?” described what people presently like about housing within the region. The region’s rural, small town and suburban setting was the most frequently mentioned asset (28%). Access to amenities and conveniences were the region’s second most talked about asset (26%), followed by the region’s general sense community spirit, support, and safe family friendly environment (22%).

There was a wide variety of opinions to the question “What would make this area even better?” Housing choice was the most frequently offered response to the question (28%) although there were also respondents that preferred less development, including fewer senior or multi-family developments. Some suggested that senior areas be turned into apartments for the younger generation. Sixteen percent of the comments that discussed housing also were looking for transportation improvements – either to existing roadways or public transit options. Many comments pertained to their access to amenities, conveniences; and economic development these comments comprised of 11 percent of the suggestions.

The majority of the comments on housing were for providing a greater variety of housing choices. Many would like to see housing that provides easy access to amenities and jobs. Housing is imperative to the quality of life in the region. It is important to continue to improve quality and access to housing and provide a variety of housing choices to keep the region thriving for years to come.



Below are sample quotes of the many suggestions that we received about housing. They are categorized by Supply, Demand & Existing Conditions; Affordability; and Access to Opportunity. The Regional Plan's Housing Chapter will combine the statutorily required Housing Needs Assessment with a Fair Housing Equity Assessment. Responses related to conditions will be considered in the Housing Needs Assessment. Access to Opportunity comments will be used in the Fair Housing Equity Assessment. Affordability related suggestions will be included both components of the Housing Chapter.

WHAT IS BEST ABOUT THIS AREA?	WHAT WOULD MAKE THIS AREA EVEN BETTER?
SUPPLY, DEMAND & EXISTING CONDITIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiet area, good house lots – Mason • Small town feel with one acres minimum lot sizes – Litchfield • A lot for seniors – housing, transportation, downtown shops – Milford • Plenty of school choices – Nashua 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer 55 plus communities – Litchfield • Adult living community – Not assisted living – more than one – Merrimack • Better clustered, energy efficient housing – Mont Vernon • Retain housing and offer farmers reduction on their land – Litchfield • Clean up homeless, drugs, crime – Nashua
AFFORDABILITY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable housing – Brookline • Affordable housing and close proximity to other attractions – Hudson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheaper apartments – Milford • More affordable housing for seniors; commuter train service would be nice. It would be nice to ride the train to Boston – Amherst • Better consistent state funding of services to reflect the reality of needs for affordable housing, needs of elders. Affordable, higher education, rail transportation, affordable healthcare, appreciation of diversity. Not to be so dependent on property taxes – Nashua
ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small town but City amenities – Nashua • The quality of life - good access to healthcare, entertainment, strong communities, good schools – Merrimack • Safe community, good shopping and restaurants. – Hudson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More amenities (shopping), more services (trash pickup, etc.), more use of land – too much empty land = too much taxes! Don't put it all in conservation!!! – Mason • Having more available resources, such as restaurants and gas stations – Litchfield • Better more inter-connected transportation, between towns. Create more mixed-income housing options -Nashua