



Lewis County 2045

Shaping the Future of Lewis County

Public Engagement Results

Updated June 2025

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Lewis County 2045 Engagement Overview

The Lewis County 2045 Engagement Summary Report serves as a means of reporting back to the community and stakeholders regarding the outcomes of the engagement efforts initiated as part of the County's Comprehensive Engagement Plan, which was adopted in Spring 2024.

The primary purpose of this report is to:

- **Provide Results:** It summarizes the findings from the public and stakeholder engagement activities conducted throughout the planning process, including surveys, workshops, meetings, and other outreach efforts. These results reflect community input and feedback on key issues, priorities, and concerns related to the county's future.
- **Foster Transparency:** The report ensures transparency by communicating how the engagement activities were carried out and what was learned from the community's involvement. This fosters trust and accountability by showing that the public's voice is being heard and considered in shaping the county's long-term planning efforts.
- **Guide Decision-Making:** By sharing the results of the engagement, the report informs the decision-making process as the county moves forward with the development of the 2045 planning framework. The engagement insights help shape policies, strategies, and actions that will guide the county's development, growth, and future planning.

The community engagement goals are to:

- Engage with stakeholders early in the planning process.
- Understand community character, what makes Lewis County special.
- Build long-term, collaborative working relationships with community partners and stakeholders.
- Capture community vision.
- Balance state law and with community vision.
- Clearly communicate how feedback is used.
- Engage with the community in its full diversity to promote inclusivity.

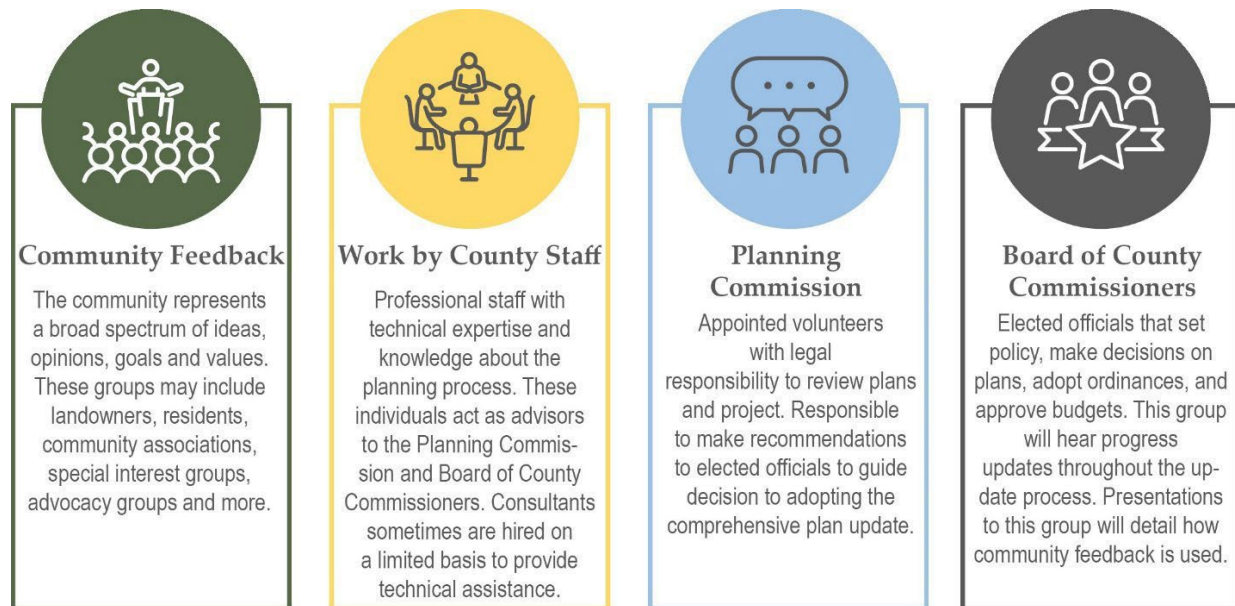
Lewis County 2045 General Engagement Schedule

The following schedule was adopted as part of the County's Community Engagement Plan.

	Building Community Vision and Develop Draft Plan				Review the Draft Plan			Incorporate Comments into Plans			Public Hearings and Adoption Process						
TASK	2024											2025					
	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	
Survey																	
Webpage																	
Social Media																	
Engagement Summaries																	
Education Materials																	
Pop-Ups																	
Community Events																	
Community Meetings																	
Presentations at Public Meeting																	
Translation																	

Lewis County 2045 Roles and Responsibilities

The following roles and responsibilities were identified in the County's Community Engagement Plan.



Community Meetings June 2025

On June 23rd and 26th, 2025, community meetings were held – one in Packwood and one in Onalaska. These meetings were in addition to the Planning Commission workshops on the draft development regulations, which are also open to the public. The purpose of these meetings was to present the draft development regulations, but more importantly, to allow time for the public to ask questions of staff. A total of 187 people attended the meetings.



Packwood Community Meeting June 23, 2025

Community Survey October 2024

Between October 11th, 2024, to October 31st, 2024, a community survey was distributed to the community. This survey presented high level summaries of key policies directions proposed in the draft comprehensive plan and asked respondents to share whether they agreed or disagreed with the proposed policies. This survey was accompanied by three in-person open house events. The goal for Lewis County was to provide in-person opportunities to come and ask questions about policies and then complete the survey to share additional thoughts.

Survey Goals

- Inform about the changes to policies from the last periodic update.
- Be transparent with the community.
- Educate people on all topics of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Provide a way to share feedback on specific policy issues and not overarching thoughts.

Results Summarized

- 50 Responses collected.
- 80 Written comments submitted.

Top Three Most Supported Policies By Element

Land Use		
<i>Preserve (no change to) existing rural character, uses, and densities</i>	<i>Support and grow local farming opportunities in agricultural resource lands</i>	<i>Create policies to protect communities from natural hazards in urban growth areas</i>
Housing		
<i>Improve permit processes and establish clear regulations for housing development</i>	<i>Increase middle housing, manufactured housing, and ADUs</i>	<i>Create policies to protect Provide housing types in Lewis County for all incomes, as required by the state.</i>
Transportation		
<i>In small towns and LAMIRDs, increase opportunities for transportation for low-income, disabled, or other disadvantaged populations.</i>	<i>In small towns and LAMIRDs, combine walking, biking, transit, roads and ADA facilities and create a multi-modal transportation network</i>	<i>Prioritize improvements to transportation networks vulnerable to natural hazards and disasters</i>

Most supported is defined by the policies with the most “strongly agreed” and then the most “agreed” responses in descending order.

Top Three Most Supported Policies By Element

Capital Facilities and Utilities		
<i>Coordinate for new projects and improvements to broadband and other telecommunications</i>	<i>Protect facilities and services from natural hazards</i>	<i>Expand park networks, explore options for connections between communities</i>
Economic Development		
<i>Expand telecommunications</i>	<i>Integrated economic development policies into the land use, transportation, and climate and resiliency elements to promote economic growth and economic resilience</i>	<i>Support transition of IPAT/TransAlta from mining to other industrial uses and explore options for new industrial</i>
Climate and Resiliency		
<i>Ensure wildfire planning is continued</i>	<i>Provide education on wildfire preparedness and property maintenance</i>	<i>Enhance protection of areas vulnerable to wildfires</i>

Most supported is defined by the policies with the most “strongly agreed” and then the most “agreed” responses in descending order.

Summary of written responses:

- Strong support for rural preservation and focusing growth and development in the appropriate areas.
- Controlling and/or limiting VRBOs and Short-term rentals.
- Mixed feelings or negative feelings towards alternative electric vehicles.
- Support for broadband.
- Request for diverse industries that provide living wage jobs that keep people living in Lewis County and able to afford housing.
- Consider that as industrial or economic opportunities grow what might impacts to tourism and recreation and Lewis County’s scenic beauty.
- Comment expresses the concern that new policies will implement new regulations and other impacts to taxpayers.

Demographics

Further details about demographics for this survey can be found in the appendix.

What best describes you?

Select all that apply.

90.48%

I live in Lewis County.

50.00%

I work in Lewis County

76.19%

I own property in Lewis County

28.57%

I own or operate a business in Lewis County.

2.38%

I am a visitor of Lewis County.

If you live in Lewis County, based on the map below, what District do you live in?



A

14.63%

B

19.51%

C

65.85%

Three Open Houses October 2024

Early October 2024 Lewis County hosted three open houses in three separate locations across the County. The open houses were hosted in multiple locations and times to provide more opportunities for residents to have the opportunity to attend.

The Open House was a self-guided format, attendees could walk around and read the posters at their own pace. Staff were available to answer any questions. There was no formal presentation at these open houses.

Attendees could provide comments via verbal with staff or submitted written comments. Paper surveys, pens, tables and chairs were provided for attendees to write down their thoughts on proposed policy changes.

Open House Goals:

- Inform about the changes to policies from the last periodic update.
- Be transparent with the community.
- Educate people on all topics of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Provide a way to share feedback on specific policy issues and not overarching thoughts.

Results:

The open house had approximately 5 attendees that discussed policy changes with staff. The following comments were collected:

- Multiple comments mentioned the need for increased transit in rural areas to assist with Lewis County rural and low-income populations.
- Multiple comments expressed the need for new job creation to keep younger populations living in rural communities with their families.
- Multiple comments mentioned the support for hazard mitigation and natural hazard preparedness policies.
- Multiple comments mentioned that need for stronger regional coordination between cities and small communities. The cities, Centralia and Chehalis, produced the better jobs while the rural communities are where residents would like to continue living. There was a strong desire to be able to live and work in the same place.

Open Houses for Comprehensive Plan Update

What's the plan for housing?

What's the plan for transportation?

What's the plan for addressing floods & wildfires?

Come to an open house to learn more and
share your thoughts and ideas!

Chehalis Open House

October 10, 2024

3:00PM - 5:00PM

Location: Adna Grange,
123 Diekman Rd,
Chehalis

Mineral Open House

October 11, 2024

3:00PM - 5:00PM

Location: Mineral Lions
Club, 108 E Front St,
Mineral

Randle Open House

October 12, 2024

12:00PM - 2:00PM

Location: Randle Fire
Station, 9978 US
Highway 12, Randle

Visit lewiscountywa.gov to learn more.
Survey will be available online after
October 10th!



Lewis County 2045

Shaping the Future of Lewis County



Climate Engagement Event April 2024

Introduction

This event was hosted by Centralia College as part of their “Climate Connections Film and Speakers Series”. Mindy Brooks was requested to speak about Lewis’s County’s Comprehensive Plan and the new start requirements regarding Climate Resiliency. The event was hybrid with in person and Zoom options.

Event Summary

The engagement event covered the following topics:

1. What is a comprehensive plan?
2. What is climate and resiliency planning?
3. How does climate change impact Lewis County?
4. Have you been impacted by natural disasters?

Engagement Outcomes

Key comments from the in-person discussion included the following:

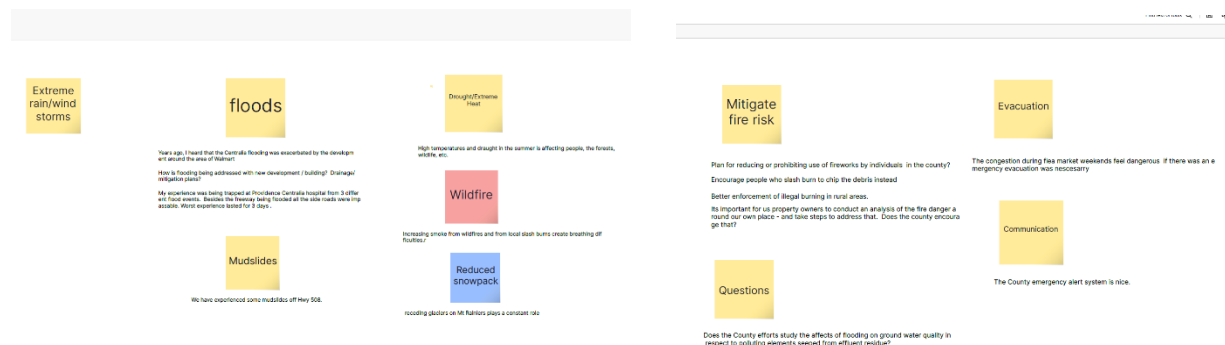
- Flooding risks and river bank erosion
- Concerns about the response time to wildfires
- Logging impacts related to landslide hazards
- Evacuation routes and education
- Invasive plant species controls

Zoom comments are captured in the figures below:

Key Results



30
Attendees

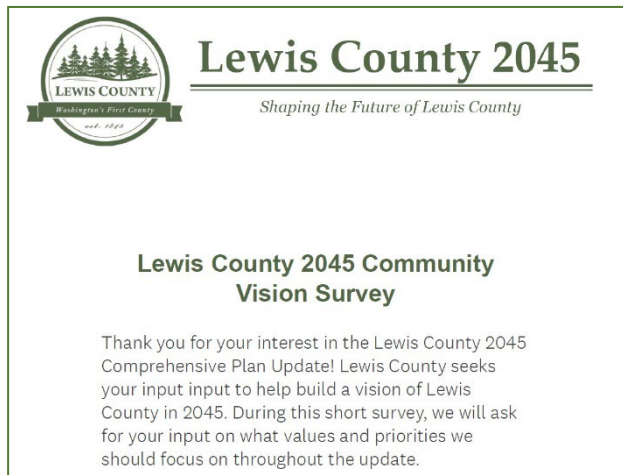


Community Survey March to May 2024

On March 28, 2024, Lewis County launched the Community Vision Survey on its website. This survey remained open through May 10, 2024. The survey was publicized through the Board of County Commissioner Facebook Page and through the Lewis County 2045 email list, as well as at local meetings including the Realtor's Lunch & Learn and Fire Chiefs monthly meeting.

Survey Goals

- Build awareness about the Comprehensive Update.
- Understand community priorities and values.
- Understand the community vision for Lewis County.
- Understand the overall satisfaction with the quality of life in Lewis County.

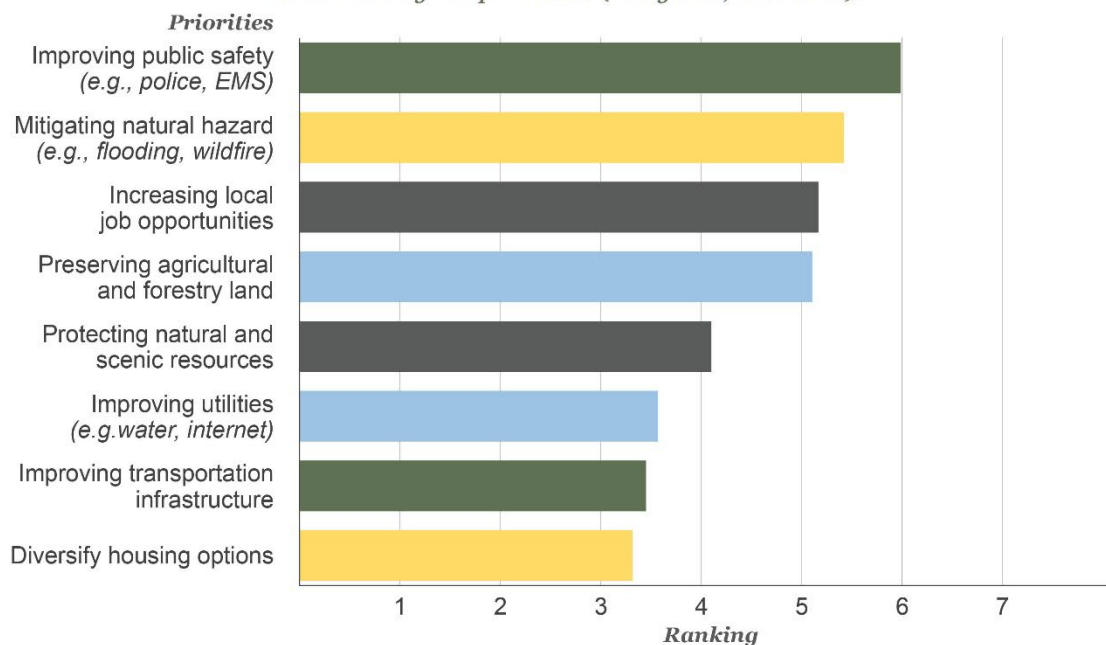


Survey Results

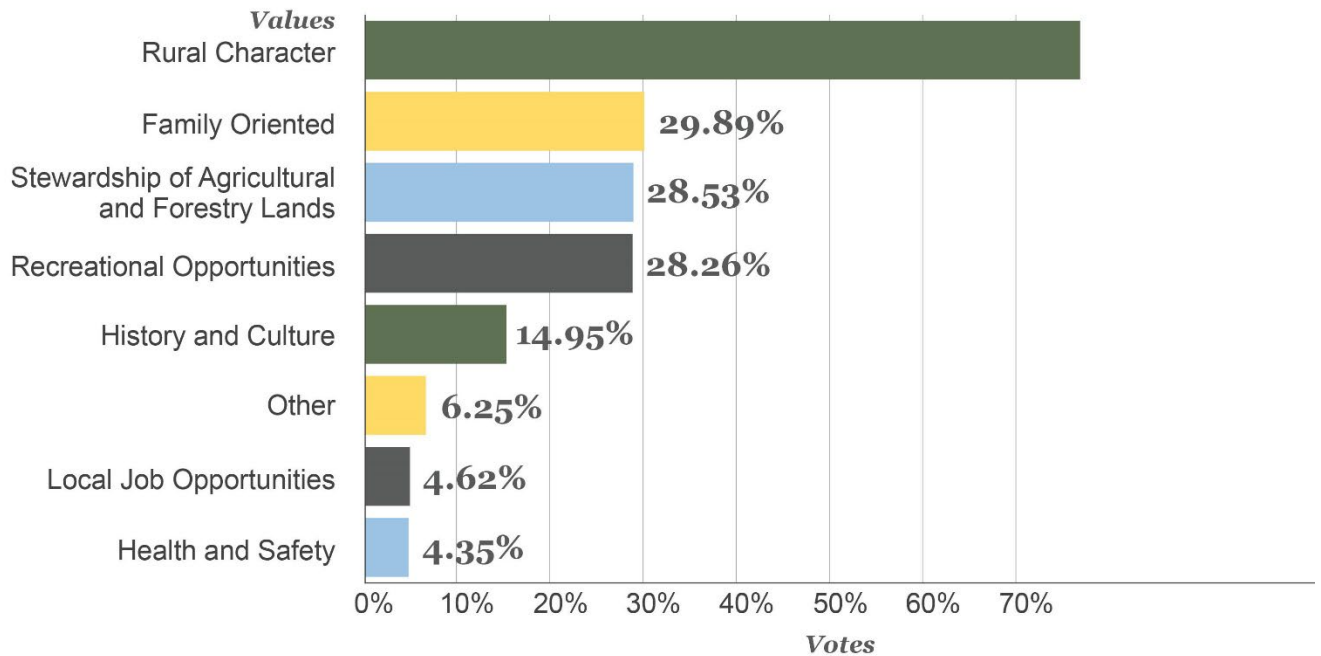
- 736 Responses
- 236 Signed up for Project Updates
- 566 Report feeling very satisfied or satisfied with the quality of life in Lewis County

What should Lewis County focus on over the next 20 years?

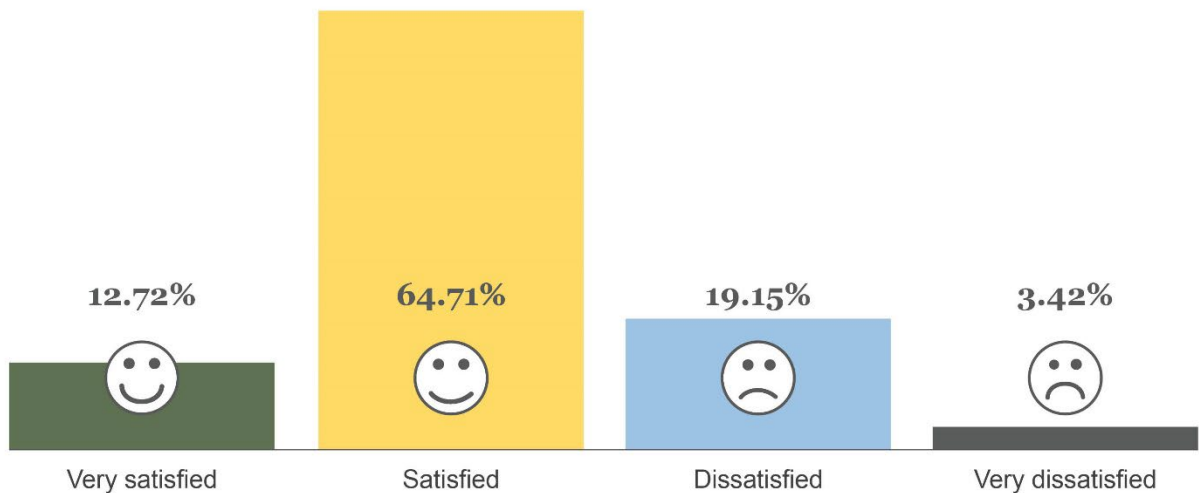
Please rank your priorities (1-highest; 8-lowest).



Pick two values that best describe Lewis County:



Are you satisfied with the quality of life in Lewis County?

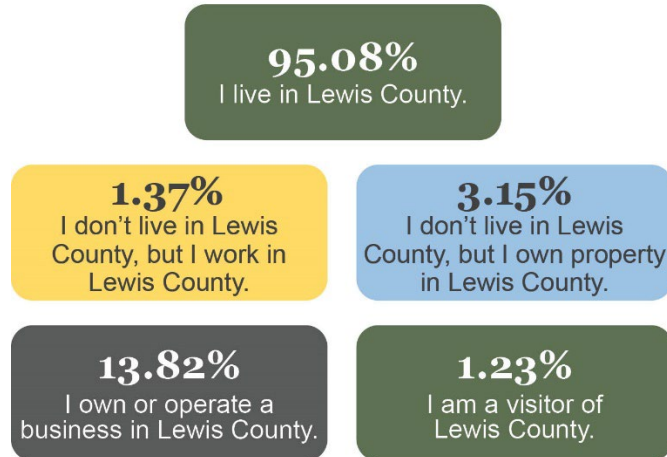


Demographics

Further details about demographics can be found in the appendix.

What best describes you?

Select all that apply.



If you live in Lewis County, based on the map below, what District do you live in?



Community Meetings October 2023 to January 2024

Introduction

October 2023 through January 2024, the County hosted four (4) community meetings to ask the public to help scope the highest priorities over the next 20 years. The meetings were held in South County near Toledo, Salkum, Mineral and Randle. A total of 86 people attended the meetings.

Event Summary

Each meeting began with an overview of the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update (see handout) and questions from the attendees. Then there was a facilitated workshop with the prompting question “What is your vision for Lewis County in 20-years?” Participants were asked to write 5-10 statements about what they hope Lewis County will be like in 2045, covering topics such as transportation, housing, land use, recreation, jobs, etc. Next, participants were asked to star the top 3 priorities. The participants paired up and shared their top 3 priorities. Together, each team was asked to agree on a combined 3 and write each priority on a notecard. These were shared with the whole group and organized, by the group, into topics. The results of the workshop are provided below. Finally, staff shared the next steps which are to produce notes from this meeting and each of the upcoming community meetings throughout the county and post them on the webpage.

Engagement Outcomes

The comments from the meetings are summarized below. The top themes were:

1. Protect the rural character of the County by maintaining farms and forests and keeping dense development and big commercial near Interstate 5.
2. Make sure infrastructure and services (e.g., roads, EMS, police, schools, internet, etc.) keeps pace with development.

Land Use

- Maintain rural character.
- Preserve small family farms.
- Make sure small, unincorporated communities (LAMIRDS) that have existing neighborhoods and services like schools are sustainable long term.
- Ensure that high density housing is provided in cities and urban growth areas, protecting rural areas for lower density housing that matches rural character.
- Ensure that tiny home parks are located in appropriate areas where there are adequate facilities and services.
- Growth locally owned, small businesses and prevent larger corporations from overtaking the unique character of Lewis County.

Key Results



86
Attendees

Economic Development

- Maintain and grow the timber industry.
- Remove barriers to keeping small farms in agricultural production.
- Provide excellent broadband everywhere in Lewis County to support new jobs, particularly in East Lewis County.
- Enhance Highway 12 as a Scenic Byway by encouraging protection of farms and forests, and encourage development that creates a visually appealing drive and supports tourism.
- Balance new jobs with rural character by ensuring that new employment centers are based on rural economies (e.g., farms, tourism) and scaled appropriately.
- Zone more properties that front I-5 for commercial and industrial development and encourage new businesses along the I-5 corridor and at on/off ramps.
- Ensure that new green energy facilities provide economic benefit to Lewis County residents.

Housing

- Provide housing that meets the needs of the community.
- Increase the amount and diversity of affordable housing options.
- Provide senior housing options in East Lewis County.
- Encourage new housing developments to be located away from major transportation corridors or screened/buffered from transportation corridors using trees and shrubs.
- Consider capping property value/property tax for residents.

Infrastructure

- Ensure that public facilities and services (e.g. fire districts, EMS, school districts, etc.) plan for and can support new rural development.
- Support and grow rural schools and educational opportunities.
- Improve cell services and broadband.
- Increase policing services in East Lewis County.
- Expand recycling services throughout East Lewis County and add plastic recycling.
- Provide more trash removal on county roads.

Recreation and Environment

- Preserve Lewis County's history and support tourism related to history
- Maintain and improve recreational facilities, particularly facilities like Riffe Lake that are critical to tourism and the local economy.
- Protect rivers, streams and lakes, such as Mineral Lake, to maintain water quality and preserve the "natural state" of the shorelines.
- Create more public parks/open spaces with connected regional trail system.
- Provide more access to federal and state public lands.
- Support and increase local events and festivals.
- Protect natural resources and maintain habitat for wildlife.
- Work with the state and federal governments to properly manage forests for timber production and as wildlife habitat.

Natural Hazards

- Complete flood control measures that have been under discussion for many years.
- Increase flood protection and mitigation throughout the County.
- Have a coordinated response to wildfires; increase the level of service of fire districts.
- Propose Firewise or other fire-ready programs in East County.
- Provide more education about evacuation routes.

Transportation

- Provide transportation options for seniors, people with disabilities and others.
- Improve traffic flow and safety throughout Lewis County.
- Add center turn lanes to State Routes and County arterials as those roads pass through more densely developed areas.
- Increase public transit services, more frequent service and extended serve to South and East Lewis County.
- Work with the Federal Department of Transportation to add a third land to Interstate 5.

Other ideas

- Less “red tape” across the board so it is easier for people to do the development and land use they want to do.
- Move Fair Grounds to SE corner of Exit 63 and add Equestrian Center
- Provide an all-encompassing housing and treatment facility for homeless residents.



November 30, 2023 Community Meeting at Mineral American Legion Building

Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners

Overview

Lewis County staff attend monthly meetings with local commissioners to provide updates on the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update. All meetings are open to the public and include opportunities for the public to provide comments. Materials from the meetings are posted online on the respective commission webpages.

Staff attended the following meetings:

- January 17, 2024 – Planned Growth Committee – City Coordination
- February 13, 2024 – Lewis County Planning Commission – Overview
- February 21, 2024 – Planned Growth Committee – City Coordination
- March 12, 2024 – Lewis County Planning Commission – Community Engagement Plan
- March 20, 2024 – Planned Growth Committee – City Coordination
- March 26, 2024 – Lewis County Planning Commission – Community Engagement Plan
- April 4, 2024 – Planned Growth Committee – City Coordination
- April 23, 2024 – Lewis County Planning Commission – Land Capacity Analysis
- May 15, 2024 – Planned Growth Committee – City Coordination
- May 28, 2024 – Lewis County Planning Commission – Land Capacity Analysis
- June 25, 2024 – Lewis County Planning Commission – Housing Needs Assessment
- July 17, 2024 – Planned Growth Committee – City Coordination
- July 23, 2024 – Lewis County Planning Commission – Climate Risk Assessment
- August 13, 2024 - Lewis County Planning Commission – Population and Housing Allocations
- August 21, 2024 – Planned Growth Committee – City Coordination
- August 27, 2024 – Joint Lewis County Planning Commission & Board of County Commissioners Session – Priorities
- September 10, 2024 – Lewis County Planning Commission – Update
- September 18, 2024 – Planned Growth Committee – City Coordination
- September 24, 2024 – Lewis County Planning Commission – Population and Housing Allocations
- October 16, 2024 – Planned Growth Committee – City Coordination
- October 16, 2024 - Board of County Commissioners – Population and Housing Allocations
- October 22, 2024 – Lewis County Planning Commission – Update
- November 12, 2024 - Board of County Commissioners – Population and Housing Allocations
- December 10, 2024 – Lewis County Planning Commission – 2025 Adoption Schedule
- January 14, 2025 – Lewis County Planning Commission – Climate Update
- January 28, 2025 – Lewis County Planning Commission – Comprehensive Plan Update
- February 11, 2025 – Lewis County Planning Commission – Comprehensive Plan Update
- March 11, 2025 – Lewis County Planning Commission – Comprehensive Plan Update
- April 8, 2025 – Lewis County Planning Commission – Public Hearing on Lewis County Comprehensive Plan, continued to April 22, May 7, and May 13, 2025
- May 13, 2025 – Lewis County Planning Commission – Deliberation and Vote on Lewis County Comprehensive Plan
- May 27, 2025 – Lewis County Planning Commission – Development Regulations Update

- June 10, 2025 – Lewis County Planning Commission – Development Regulations Update
- June 18, 2025 – Planned Growth Committee – Critical Areas Ordinance
- June 24, 2025 – Lewis County Planning Commission – Development Regulations Update

UPCOMING

- July 8, 2025 – Lewis County Planning Commission – Public Hearing on Development Regulations
- July 16, 2025 – Planned Growth Committee – Interlocal Agreements
- July 22, 2025 – Lewis County Planning Commission – Critical Areas Ordinance
- August 12, 2025 – Lewis County Planning Commission – Public Hearing on Critical Areas Ordinance
- August 20, 2025 – Board of County Commissioners – Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Designations Update
- August 20, 2025 – Planned Growth Committee – Periodic Update
- August 27, 2025 – Board of County Commissioners – Development Regulations Update
- September 3, 2025 – Board of County Commissioners – Critical Areas Ordinance Update
- September 16, 2025 – Board of County Commissioners – (*tentative*) Public Hearing Lewis County 2045

Appendices

Appendix A. Public Notifications

LEWIS COUNTY
WASHINGTON

HOME OFFICES ▾ DEPARTMENTS ▾ VISITORS ▾

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Search

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

REZONES

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATION AMENDMENTS

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PERIODIC UPDATE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

SERVICES

Permit Apps And Handouts

Current Planning Applications

✓ Rezones

Comp Plan & Development Regulation Amendments

Codes And Flood Regulations

Maps And Data

Adopted Plans

Boards & Commissions

Staff Directory

CONTACT US

Community Development

125 NW Chehalis Ave

Chehalis, WA, 98532

General Line / Inspections: (360) 740-1133

Permit Center: 360-740-1146

Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update

LEWIS COUNTY
Washington's First County
est. 1893

Lewis County 2045
Shaping the Future of Lewis County

Take the survey to share your priorities for the next 20 years!

Beginning July 2023, Lewis County and all cities in the county are required by the Washington State Growth Management Act to update their comprehensive plans. Lewis County is coordinating this effort through the Planned Growth Committee. Updates will include changes to the zoning map and development regulations. The Comprehensive Plan sets goals and policies that impact all of Lewis County. The plan includes goals for housing, transportation, economic development, services (e.g., fire districts), land use and zoning, agriculture and forestry, recreation and the environment. The updates must be completed by June 2025.

Posters – Proposed Policy Changes

Lewis County 2045 1-page Handout

Lewis County 2024 1-page Handout (Espanol)

Lewis County 2045 Frequently Asked Questions

Lewis County 2045 Community Engagement Results

2017 Comprehensive Plan

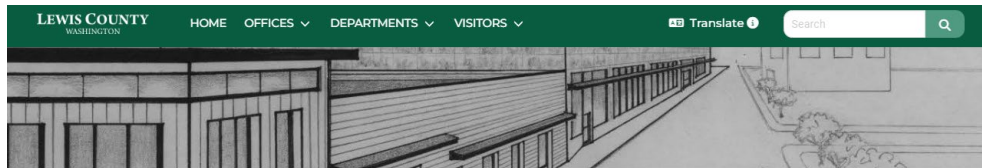
Second community wide survey was posted on the [Lewis County 2045 Comprehensive Plan project webpage](#).

Community Development

Posted: Friday, August 23, 2024 - 10:41 a.m.

Community Development

Posted: Friday, August 23, 2024 - 10:44 a.m.



HOME / COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT / EVENTS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

SERVICES

- Permit Apps And Handouts
- Current Planning Applications
- Rezones
- Comp Plan & Development Regulation Amendments
- Codes And Flood Regulations
- Maps And Data
- Adopted Plans
- Boards & Commissions
- Staff Directory

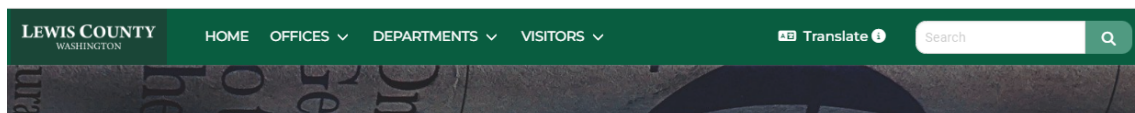
CONTACT US

Events

October 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Planning Commission	9	10 Comp. Plan Open House - Adna Grange	11 Comp. Plan Open House - Mineral Lions Club	12 Comp. Plan Open House - Randle Fire Station
13	14	15	16	17	18	19

Open houses were posted on the [Lewis County Community Development Events page](#).



HOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS / PROVIDE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT THE FUTURE ...

NEWS ROOM

PAGES

- News Room Home
- Press Releases
- Announcements
- County Events

Provide Your Thoughts about the Future of Lewis County



CHEHALIS - You're invited to provide your ideas for the future of Lewis County. A public meeting will be held at the Adna Grange, 123 Dieckman Rd. in Chehalis. There will more meetings in November and January throughout the county. Check the [Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update webpage](#) for additional meeting dates, times and locations. For more information, please contact Mindy Brooks at mindy.brooks@lewiscountywa.gov or sign up to receive [email notifications](#).

Posted: October 05, 2023

Share This



Online Announcement for the Adna Grange Open House

5-6pm Tuesday, April 2 Centralia College East & Online via Zoom	<p><i>Learn how carbon farming, regenerative agriculture, and climate smart practices all describe methods of farm management that sequester carbon and mitigate climate change, which has led to new policies, programs, and funding for farmers.</i></p> <p>Presenter: Dani Gelardi, Senior Soil Scientist and Climate Coordinator, Washington State Department of Agriculture</p>
6-7pm Tuesday, April 2 Centralia College East & Online via Zoom	<p>Carbon in Your Field</p> <p><i>This presentation will explain the benefits of reduced tillage or no-till farming, including growing cover crops, planting perennial crops, good livestock rotation practices and agroforestry.</i></p> <p>Presenter: Kenna Fosnacht, Education and Outreach Coordinator (Lewis County Conservation District)</p>
2:30-3:30pm Thursday, April 4 Centralia College East & Zoom	<p>Implementing Climate Resiliency Locally</p> <p><i>Washington state now requires local governments to implement new rules to address climate change. This workshop begins with an explanation of the new requirements followed by a discussion of local priorities as they relate to climate change.</i></p> <p>Presenter: Mindy Brooks, Long Range Planner (Lewis County)</p>
5pm Sunday, April 7	<p>Film: Kiss the Ground</p>

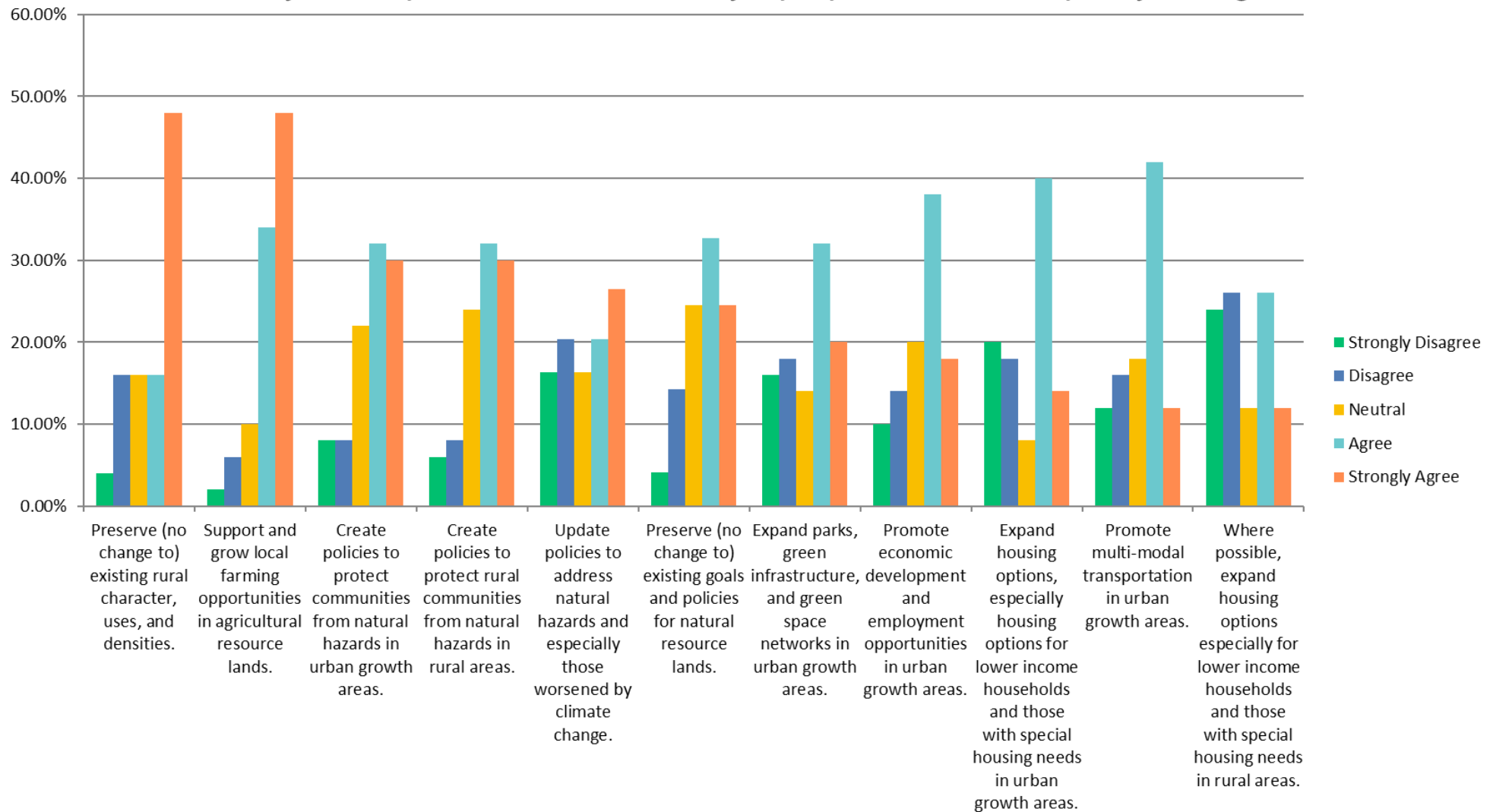
The Climate Engagement Event was advertised on the Centralia College website as part of the Climate Connections Film and Speaker Series.

Appendix B. October Survey Results

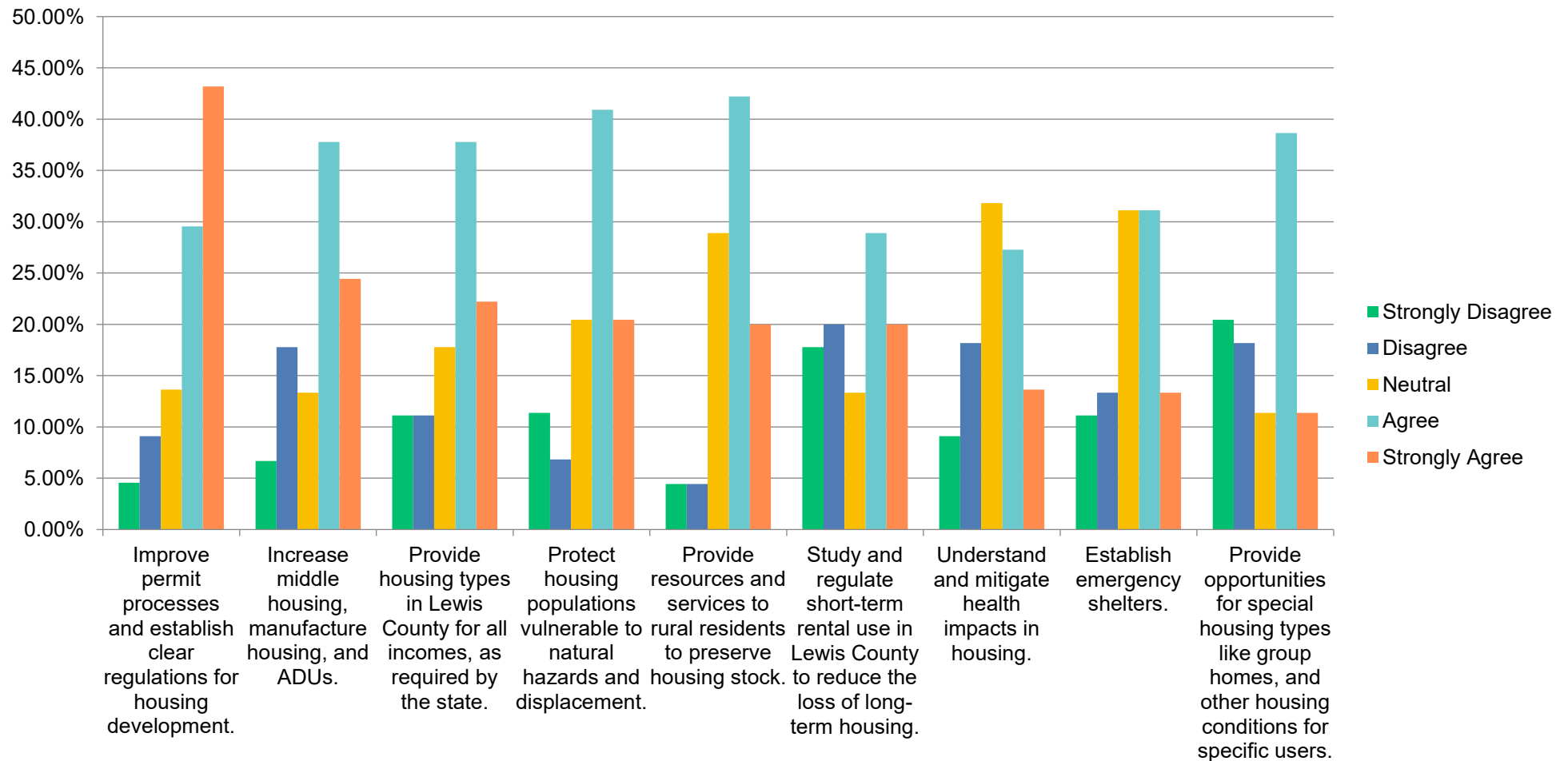
October Survey results start on the next page. Some survey results were combined on to one page to see overall trends.

Survey results were exported from SurveyMonkey.

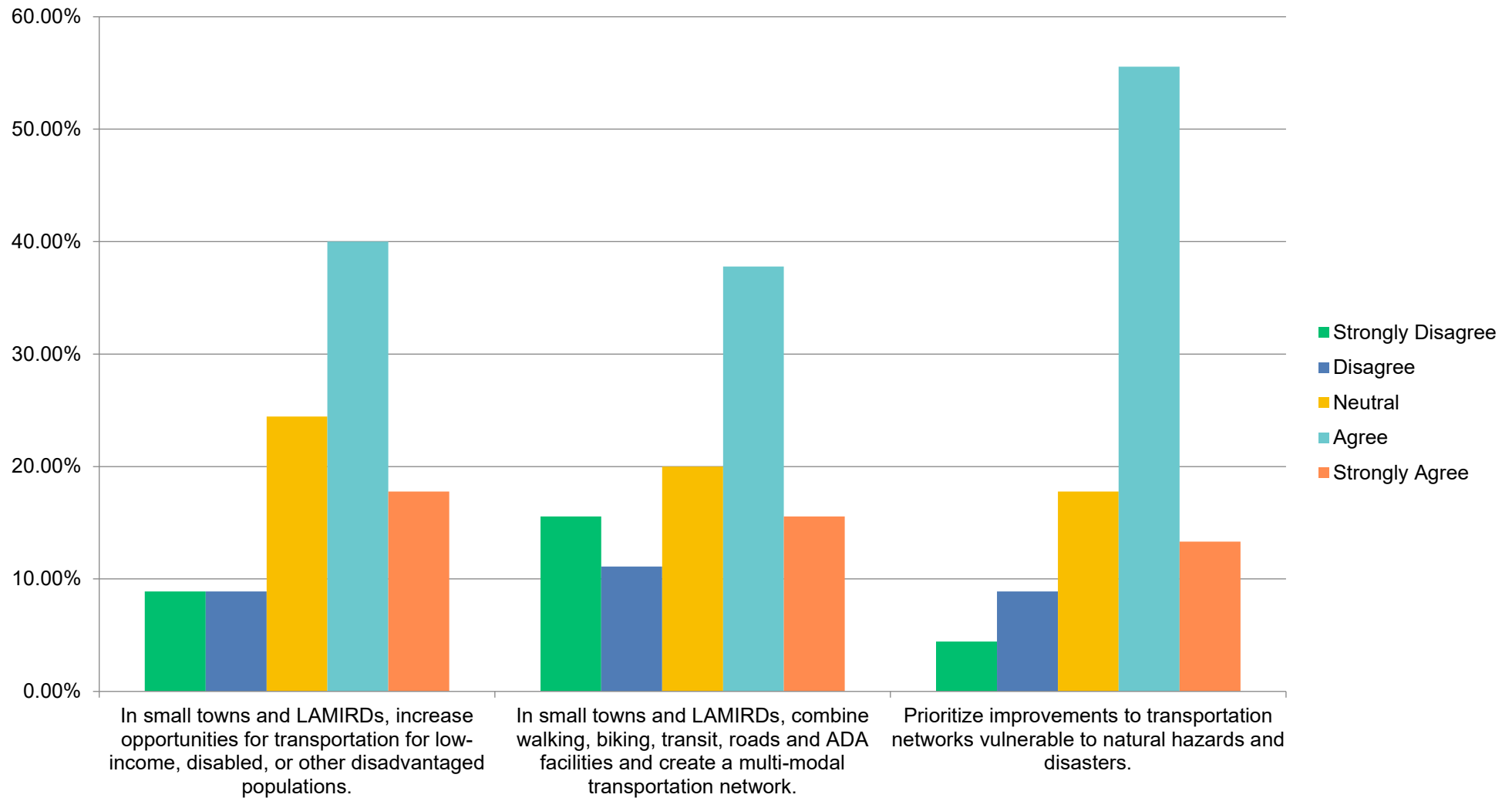
What is your response to Lewis County's proposed land use policy changes?



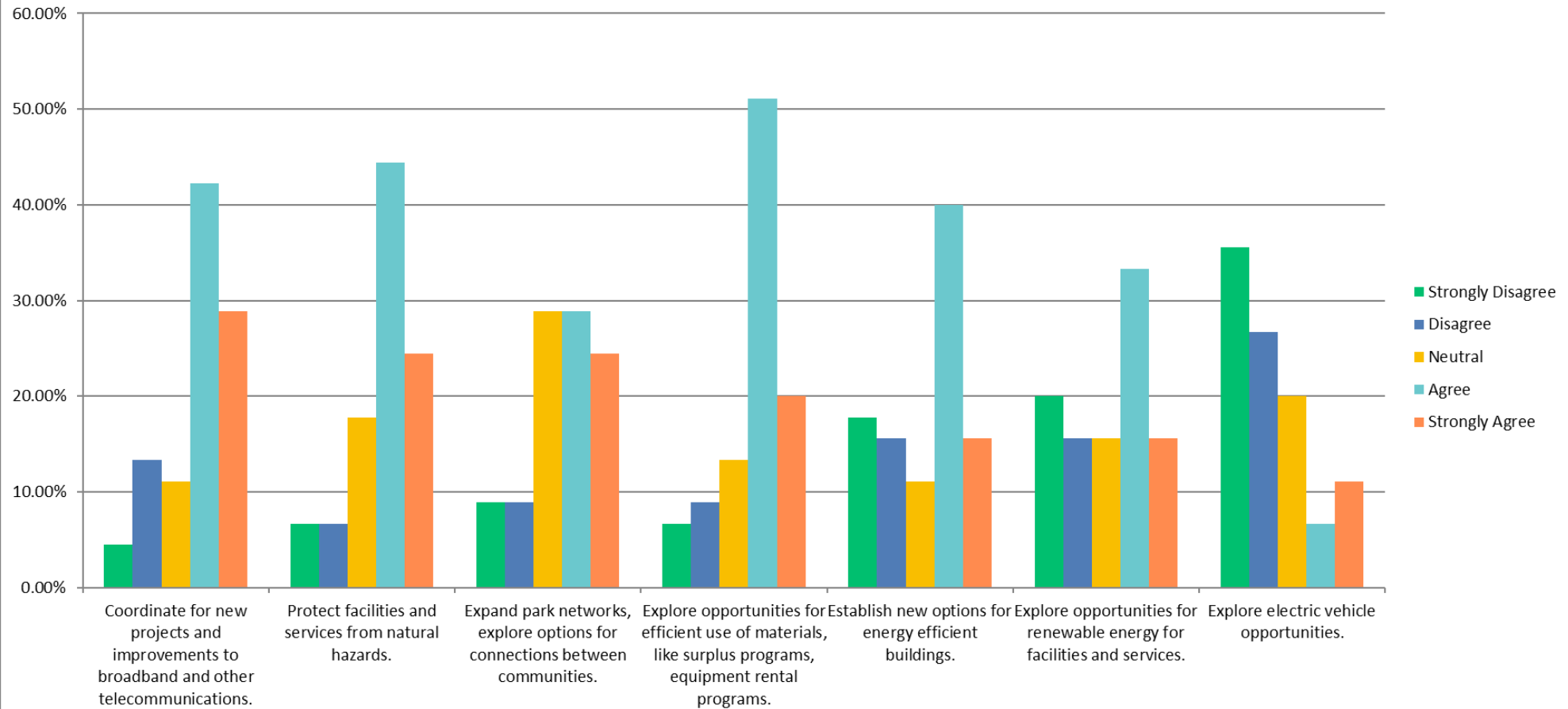
What is your response to Lewis County's proposed housing policy changes?



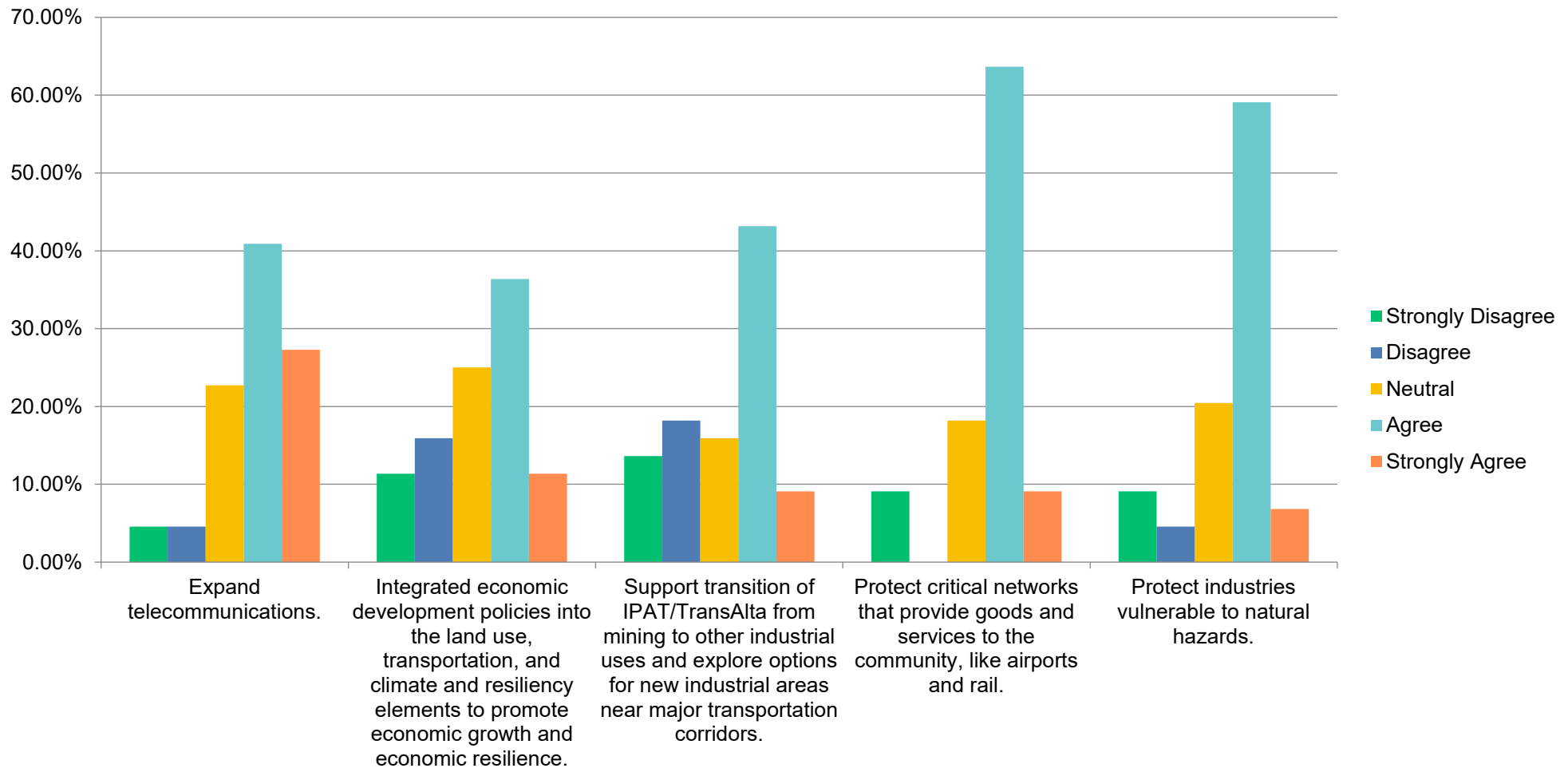
What is your response to Lewis County's proposed transportation policy changes?



What is your response to Lewis County's proposed infrastructure and services policy changes?



What is your response to Lewis County's proposed economic development policy changes?



Appendix B. Open House Public Comments & Questions

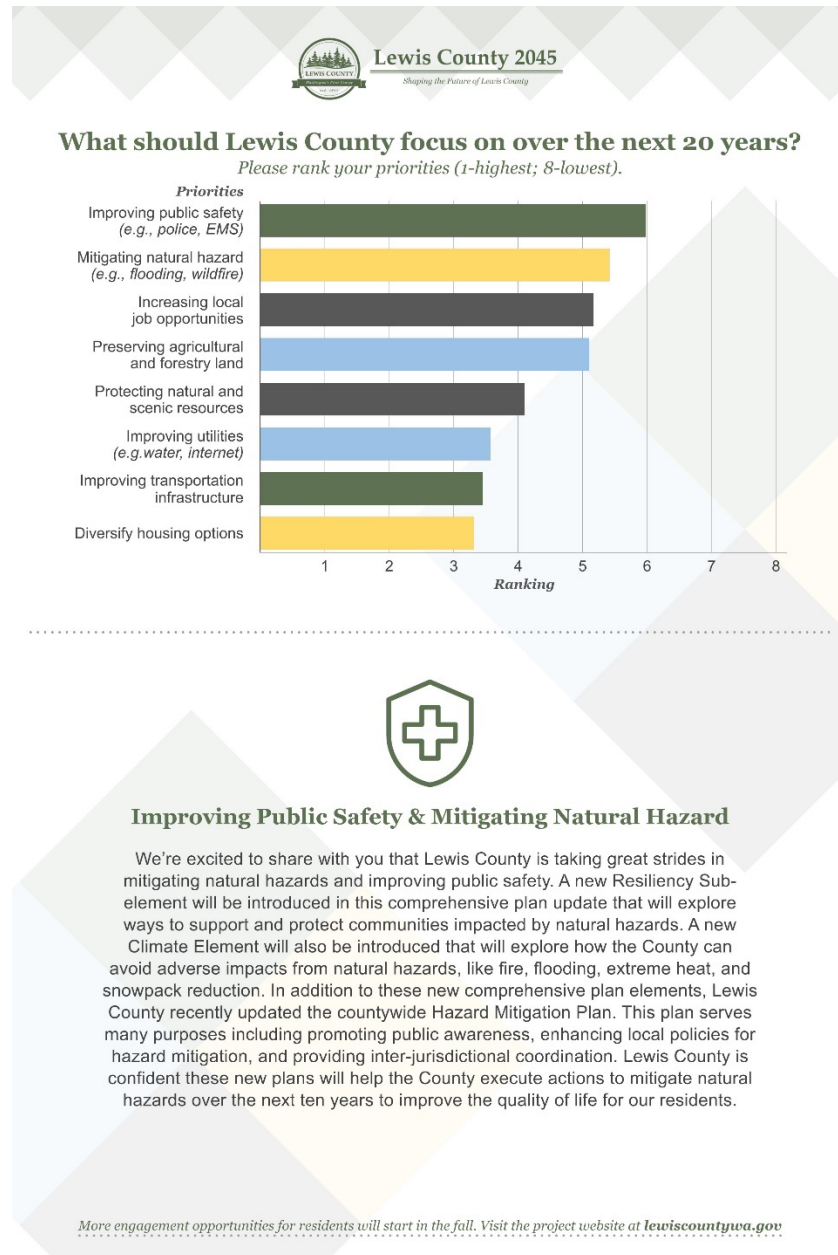
Appendix B. October Open House Posters

Open house posters start on the next page. Open house posters were created in adobe InDesign and exported to PDF.



Appendix C. Pop-Up Events Posters

Staff presented the following information at pop-up community events to report to the community on engagement collected.



Survey Results Poster 1 – Used for Community Pop-up Events

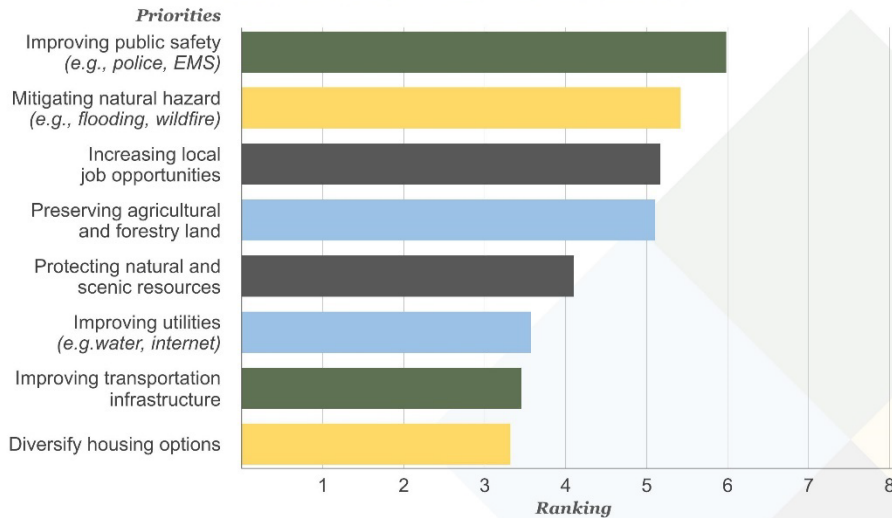


Lewis County 2045

Shaping the Future of Lewis County

What should Lewis County focus on over the next 20 years?

Please rank your priorities (1-highest; 8-lowest).



Please read the paragraphs below to learn how Lewis County is responding to residents' top priorities for the next ten years. Changes to the Comprehensive Plan, described below, will be presented to the community this fall. Please sign up for the project newsletter or visit the project website at lewiscountywa.gov. You can read the current Comprehensive Plan online at: lewiscountywa.gov, and search for "comprehensive plan".



Improving Public Safety & Mitigating Natural Hazard

We're excited to share with you that Lewis County is taking great strides in mitigating natural hazards and improving public safety. A new Resiliency Sub-element will be introduced in this comprehensive plan update that will explore ways to support and protect communities impacted by natural hazards. A new Climate Element will also be introduced that will explore how the County can avoid adverse impacts from natural hazards, like fire, flooding, extreme heat, and snowpack reduction. In addition to these new comprehensive plan elements, Lewis County recently updated the countywide Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan serves many purposes including promoting public awareness, enhancing local policies for hazard mitigation, and providing inter-jurisdictional coordination. Lewis County is confident these new plans will help the County execute actions to mitigate natural hazards over the next ten years to improve the quality of life for our residents.



Preserving Agricultural and Forestry Land

Lewis County preserves agricultural and forestry lands through goals and policies in the comprehensive plan. There are a series of existing goals and policies intent on preserving agricultural and forestry lands. These goals and policies can be found in the Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan under the "Rural Goals and Policies" and the "Resource Land Goals and Policies". You can review the rural and resource land policies to see how these lands are currently being preserved. Lewis County will review these policies to find ways to strengthen these preservation efforts.



Improving Transportation Infrastructure

Through the Transportation Element and Capital Facilities and Utilities Element in the Comprehensive Plan, Lewis County will review policies related to improving transportation infrastructure. Lewis County is focused on expanding options for transportation to all residents; this includes transportation beyond single-occupancy vehicles. Expanding options like walking, biking, and transit can reduce daily costs of living for residents, increase job opportunities for populations, and improve quality of life for senior citizens and other populations that can't drive.



Increasing Local Job Opportunities

Lewis County will be reviewing the economic development goals and policies in the comprehensive plan to see where opportunities could be provided to increase local job opportunities. This may include a wide range of strategies by sector or locality. This will also be supported by new goals and policies that provide new opportunities for housing, transportation, and services as these are vital components of our residents' daily lives.



Protecting Natural and Scenic Resources

Lewis County protects natural and scenic resources through goals and policies in the comprehensive plan. There are a series of existing goals and policies intent on protecting natural resources. These goals and policies can be found in the Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan under the "Natural Environment Goals and Policies". You can review these policies to see how these lands are currently being protected. Lewis County will review these policies to find ways to strengthen these efforts to protect natural and scenic resources.



Improving Utilities

Through the Capital Facilities and Utilities Element in the Comprehensive Plan, Lewis County will continue to expand on ways to improve utilities. Improving utilities can happen in many ways like increased coordination and communication between providers, construction of utilities in the community, programs to help residents access utilities, and identifying gaps in utility services in the community. Lewis County will explore all options to improve these conditions.



Diversify Housing Options

Through the Housing Element in the Comprehensive Plan, Lewis County will be proposing new policies to expand housing options. The County is focused on providing housing options for all income levels to avoid residents having to pay more than 30% of their income to afford housing. This is a critical part of residents' quality of life and will ensure that our residents can live in Lewis County for future generations.

More engagement opportunities for residents will start in the fall. Visit the project website at lewiscountywa.gov

Survey Results Poster 2 – Used for Community Pop-up Events

