

Town & Village of Delhi Comprehensive Plan Survey Summary January 31, 2011

In order to create a vision for the future of Delhi a community survey was conducted over the Fall of 2010. A paper survey was mailed to every household and property owner and others were available for pick up at Town Hall. Residents were informed that they could make photocopies for other household members who wanted to complete a paper survey. The survey was also available on the internet. As of January 21, 2011 a total of 684 surveys were completed (a response rate of 21%). The response rate is considered very good for this type of survey.

What are the top five reasons you live in Delhi? Rural atmosphere, scenic beauty, having a job in Delhi, safe community and that close family lives in Delhi are the five top reasons for survey respondents to live in Delhi.

In the time that you have lived here has the quality of life in Delhi? Approximately 48.3% of respondents feel that the quality of life in Delhi has remained the same, while 35.1% believe it has become less desirable.

Focus areas for the next decade. Respondents were asked to rate a variety of ideas in each of eleven categories by indicating how strongly they agree or disagree with statements listed. Categories addressed: Economic Development, Businesses and Services, Housing, Community Facilities and Recreation, Agriculture, Transportation, New Technology, Town and Village Regulations, Consolidation, Town and Village Services, and Public Investment.

Overall, respondents *strongly agreed* on the following:

- Work to market local farm products (65.3%)
- Retain existing businesses (64.7%)
- Protect agriculture from the impacts of development (60.5%)
- Encourage new retail businesses (large size) (59.1%)
- Encourage community-supported agriculture (55.9%)
- Protection of active farmland (55.8%)
- Support agricultural based businesses (55.6%)
- Improve the environment for small business (55.0%)
- Promote alternate energy: solar (50.9%)
- Encourage niche or specialty farming (50.8%)

Town and Village Services: In rating the quality and performance of Town and Village services, 37.9% of respondents thought that fire protection service was excellent and another 45.0% thought it was good. Utility services (24.2% excellent and 53.2% good), ambulance services (28.6% excellent and 44.8% good), and health care services (21.4% excellent and 47.7% good) are also viewed favorably by respondents.

Public Investment: The next question asked respondents to indicate the level of increased taxes they would support in order to provide a service. For each service listed, the majority of respondents stated 0% (not willing to provide any tax increase). This ranged from 24.6% responding 0% tax increase for maintaining and improving roads to 53.9% no tax increase for expanding water and sewer to areas outside the village.

Survey Respondents: Most survey respondents:

- Are over the age of 40
- Are white
- Lived in the Town outside the Village of Delhi
- Have lived in Delhi over 20 years
- Own their home
- Use their property as their main residence
- Live in Delhi year round
- Work in the Village of Delhi