



plan

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**Vernon
Parish**

Public Meetings – Leesville
October 26, 2010

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Goals of the planning process
3. Description of the planning process
4. Opportunities to participate
5. What makes a great rural community?
6. Visions for Vernon themes + Stakeholder input
7. What is your vision for your community?
8. Questions

A light blue map of Louisiana showing various parishes. The word 'VERNON' is visible in the center of the map.

Introductions

A teal-colored map of Louisiana showing various parishes. The word 'VERNON' is visible in the center of the map.

01

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A light blue map of Sabine and Vernon Parishes, Louisiana. The map shows the Sabine River forming the border with Texas to the west. Major towns like Leesville and Wilcox are visible. The word 'GOALS' is overlaid in a dark red font on the left side of the map.

Goals

A teal-colored map of Vernon Parish, Louisiana, showing its geographical features and boundaries. The number '02' is overlaid in a large white font in the upper right quadrant.

02

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Goals

- Create a process that builds **Your** Plan
- Understand what you think makes your community great and what could make it even better
- Strike a balance between open space + rural heritage and development areas
- Develop different approaches for different communities - **not** a single development approach for the whole parish
- Enhance quality of life and build on key assets
- Attract jobs and economic development
- Produce clear, measurable actions

A light blue map of Vernon Parish, Louisiana, showing its geographical features, including the Red River to the north and the Atchafalaya River to the west. The map includes labels for various locations such as Leesville, Jonesville, and the parish boundaries. The text "Description of the process" is overlaid in a dark red font.

Description of the process

03

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Planning Process

Community Profile

Build on Visions for Vernon
What are the challenges and opportunities in the parish?

Visioning

What do you like about your community?
How would you like your community to look in 20 years?

Planning Scenarios

What are the different ways we can grow?

Plan Elements

Strategies and policy recommendations for each resource area

Implementation

Action steps + partnerships + finding sources + timeframe
What do we do to realize our vision?

Plan Elements



Schedule - 12 months

PROJECT TASKS

MONTHS

2010				2011							
Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug

1. Kick-off + Public Involvement Strategy + Stakeholder Interviews

Kick-off Meeting - Staff and Support Committee #1												
Public Involvement Plan												
Stakeholder Interviews + Summary												

2. Data Review + Analysis + Community Profile

Data Gathering + Review												
Plan Elements + Issues Identification + Analysis												
Community Profile (Existing Conditions Report)												

3. Comprehensive Plan Orientation + Visioning

Introduction to Planning Public Meeting #1												
Preliminary Visioning and Visioning Workshops #2												
Stakeholder Follow Up Meetings												

4. Trend Plan + Planning Scenarios + Smart Growth Framework

Trend Plan + Planning Scenarios												
Support Committee and Public Meetings #3												
Growth Framework Plan												

5. Draft Comprehensive Plan Elements

Draft Policies by Element												
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6. Implementation Strategies

Strategic Implementation Action Plan												
Support Committee Meeting #4												

7. Final Comprehensive Plan

Open House - Public Meeting #4												
Presentation to Planning Commission/Parish Council												
Final Revisions												
Final Comprehensive Plan												

◆ Support Committee Meeting ■ Community/Public Meeting ■ Deliverable Product

A light blue map of Vernon Parish, Louisiana, showing its geographical features, roads, and neighboring parishes. The map is overlaid with a grid. The text "Opportunities to participate" is written in a dark brown, serif font on the left side of the map.

Opportunities to participate

A teal-colored map of Vernon Parish, Louisiana, showing its geographical features, roads, and neighboring parishes. The map is overlaid with a grid. The number "04" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font in the upper right quadrant of the map.

04

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Public Meetings

Round 1

- What is the plan about?

Round 2

- Visioning exercises
- Dec 7 and 9

Round 3

- Alternative ways we can grow

Round 4

- Draft Plan

Other Ways to Stay Involved

- Web Site – ***planvernonparish.org***
- Facebook
- Booth and project information at community events
- Outreach through churches, organizations, clubs and schools

Committees and Stakeholders

- **Support Committee** - community and organizational representatives that help the plan to reflect a diversity of ideas and strategies
- **Outreach Committee** – open to any interested citizen who is willing to help get out the word about the plan and upcoming events
- **Stakeholders** – one-on-one interviews or small groups meetings to help us understand more detailed issues in specific resource or geographic areas

Key Upcoming Dates

- **Public Meeting #1 - Thursday, October 28**
 - Anacoco High School
 - Rosepine High School
 - Pitkin High School
- **Public Meeting #2 - Tuesday, December 7th**
 - Leesville High School cafeteria
 - Hicks High School cafeteria
 - Pitkin High School cafeteria
- **Public Meeting #2 - Thursday, December 9th**
 - Hornbeck High School cafeteria
 - Evans High School cafeteria

A light blue map of Vernon Parish, Louisiana, showing its geographical features, including the Red River to the north and the Atchafalaya River to the west. The map includes labels for various towns and parishes.

What makes a rural
community great?

05

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What makes a great community?

- All communities are different but great places to live have some things in common
- Protecting these qualities and building on them is an important way to improve quality of life and attract growth

What makes a great rural community?

- **Social**

- Sense of neighborliness and opportunities for social interaction
- Local sports
- Churches and community organizations
- Feels comfortable and safe

- **Physical**

- Has places to gather and meet
- Easy to get around
- Choices in housing types and neighborhoods
- Has areas for growth and development and areas for nature and parks

What makes a great rural community?

- Economic

- Access to jobs
- Access to important services – education, health care
- Choices in entertainment, shopping, retail
- Adequate infrastructure to support growth
- Affordable living

- Identity

- You can name the individual spots and neighborhoods that make up the whole community
- You can name the qualities that make the community special and different from surrounding areas

Quality of Life in Rural Communities

The USDA says the measures for quality rural communities are:

- The availability of good-paying jobs
- Access to critical services, such as education and health care
- Strong communities
- A healthy natural environment

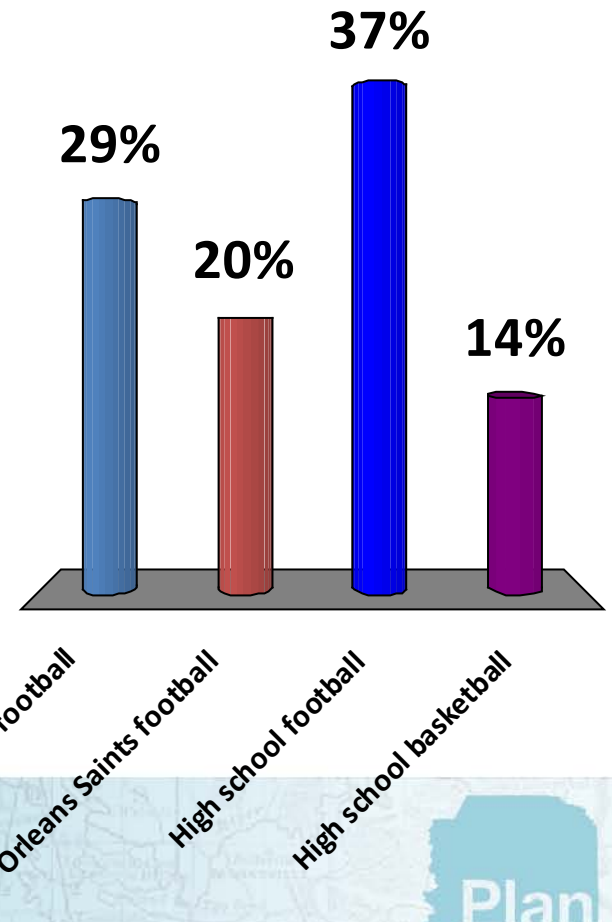
Visioning Exercise

- Use your response card to answer the questions that follow
- Press the button with the same number as your answer
- A green light indicates that we received your response
- You cannot vote more than once



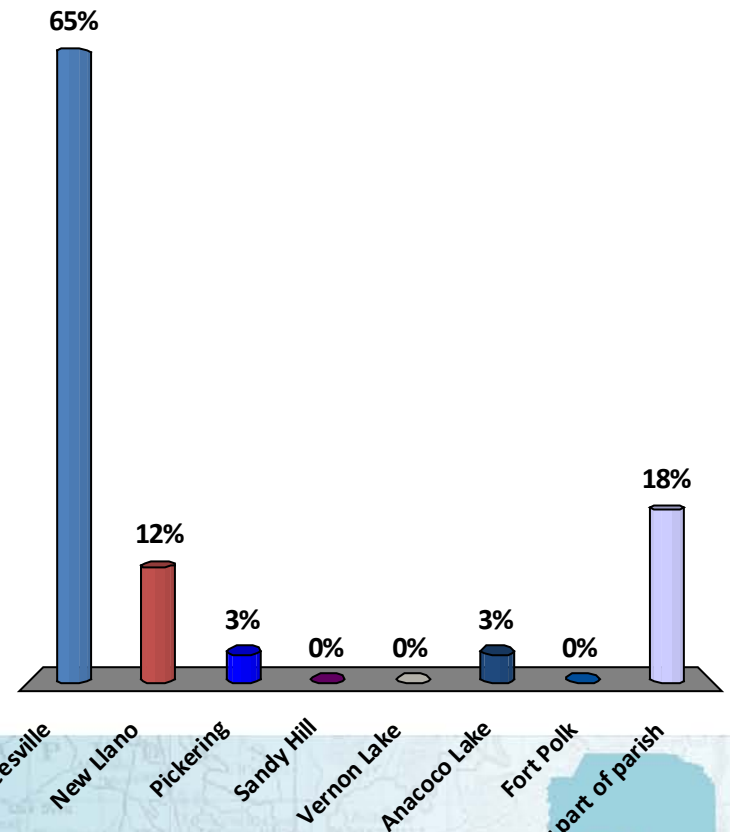
What sports team are you following most closely this fall?

1. LSU Tigers football
2. New Orleans Saints football
3. High school football
4. High school basketball



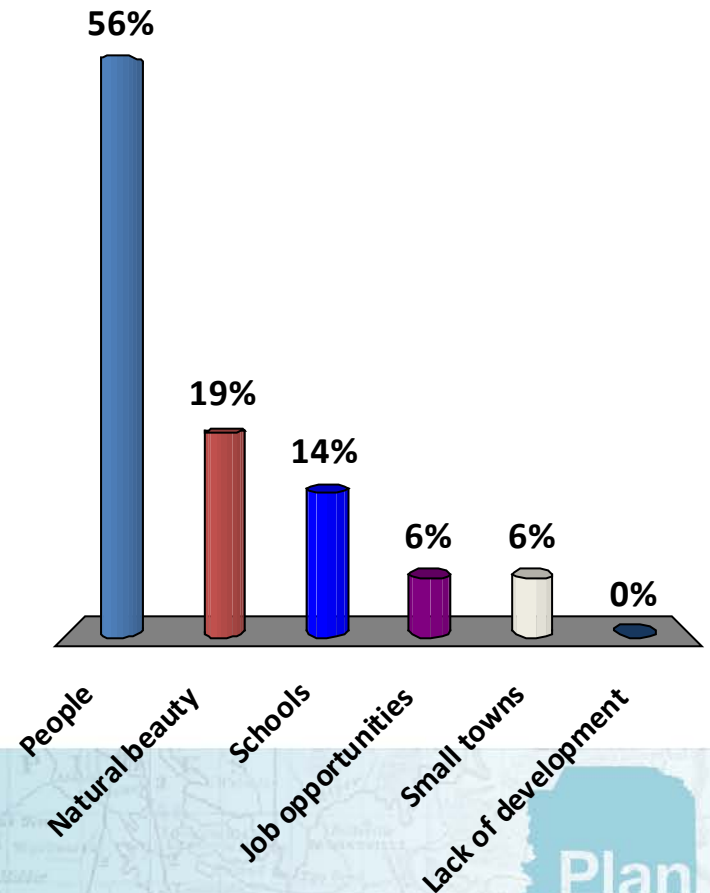
What community do you live in?

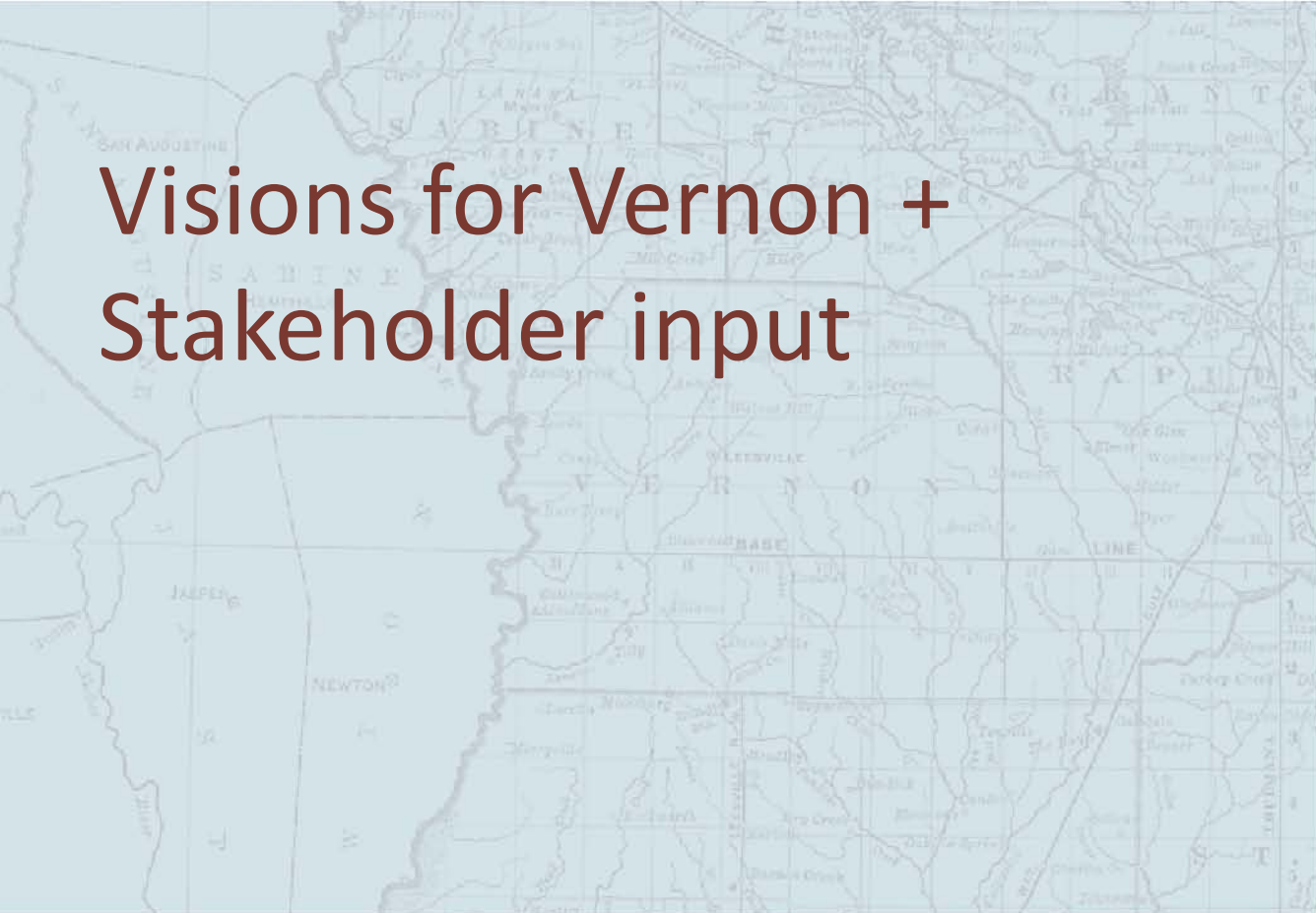
1. Leesville
2. New Llano
3. Pickering
4. Sandy Hill
5. Vernon Lake
6. Anacoco Lake
7. Fort Polk
8. Other part of parish



What do you think makes your community great?

1. People
2. Natural beauty
3. Schools
4. Job opportunities
5. Small towns
6. Lack of development



A light blue map of Vernon Parish, Louisiana, showing its geographical features, including the Red River to the west and the Rapides Parish line to the east. The map is overlaid with a grid and various place names.

Visions for Vernon + Stakeholder input

06

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Visions for Vernon

- Formed in 2007 to foster community dialogue and plan for the future of the parish
- Major areas of focus:
 - Education
 - Economic development
 - Infrastructure
 - Marketing
 - Quality of life

"A great place to raise a family, a great place to retire"

Themes

- The people of Vernon Parish are its greatest asset
 - Strong sense of community
 - Small town and rural atmosphere
 - Safe places to live
- Diversify the economic base and create jobs
 - Fort Polk and the timber industry are important economic drivers, but add jobs in other industries
 - NSU, industrial park, medical facilities

Themes

- Build on recreation and quality of life assets of the parish
 - Lakes
 - Kitsatchie National Forest
 - Rural, natural beauty
 - Hunting, fishing
 - Sports leagues
 - Arts, culture, and history programming, library
 - Appeal to retiree community
- Add new retail and services
 - Create more options for restaurants, shopping, and entertainment
 - Add more convenient shopping choices in rural parts of the parish

Themes

- Address infrastructure needs
 - Improve roadways in rural parts of the parish
 - Ease traffic congestion on Highway 171
 - Increase access to centralized wastewater in key growth areas
- Do not focus just on one area or one approach
 - Consider the needs of small towns and rural areas
 - Different solutions in different areas

Themes

- Expand housing options
 - Increase number of high quality townhouse/multi-family units
 - Add more single-family housing choices that appeal to existing residents and military families
- Strengthen education
 - K-12 educational quality is good, but need to improve school facilities
 - Increase workforce development opportunities

A light blue map of Vernon Parish, Louisiana, showing its geographical features, including the Red River to the west and the Atchafalaya River to the east. The map includes labels for various towns and locations such as Leesville, Broussard, and Lake Charles. The text "What is your vision for your community?" is overlaid in a dark brown font.

What is your vision for your community?

A teal-colored map of Vernon Parish, Louisiana, showing its geographical features and boundaries. The map is overlaid with a grid and contains various place names and geographical markers.

07

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Visioning Exercise

- Help us to rank the themes we discussed earlier
- How important are each of the following strategies in your community?

1 = Very important

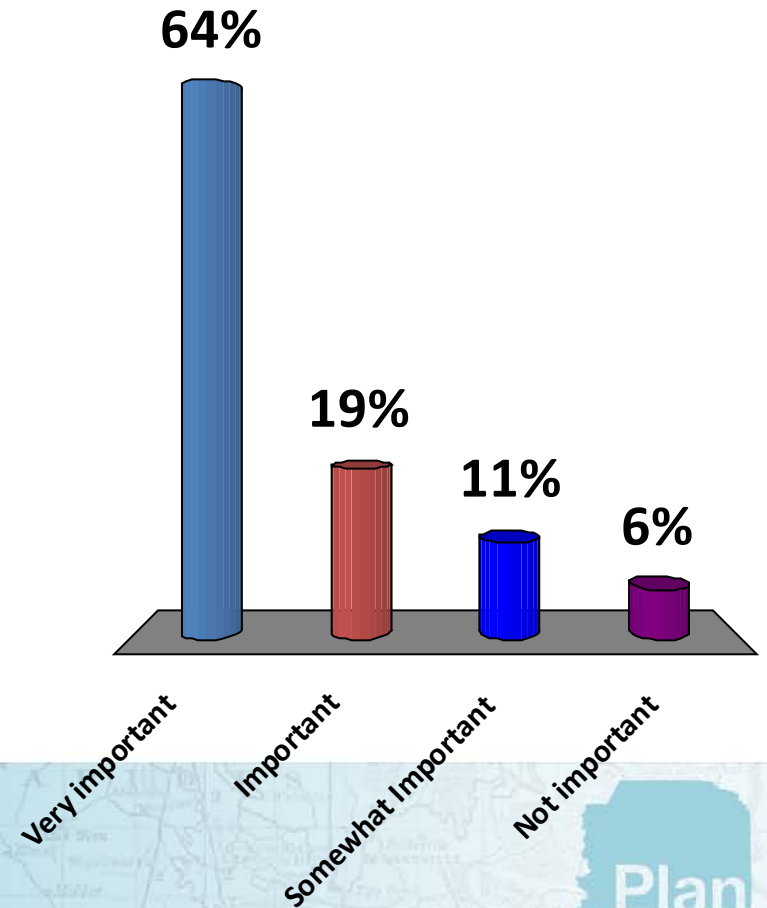
2 = Important

3 = Somewhat Important

4 = Not important

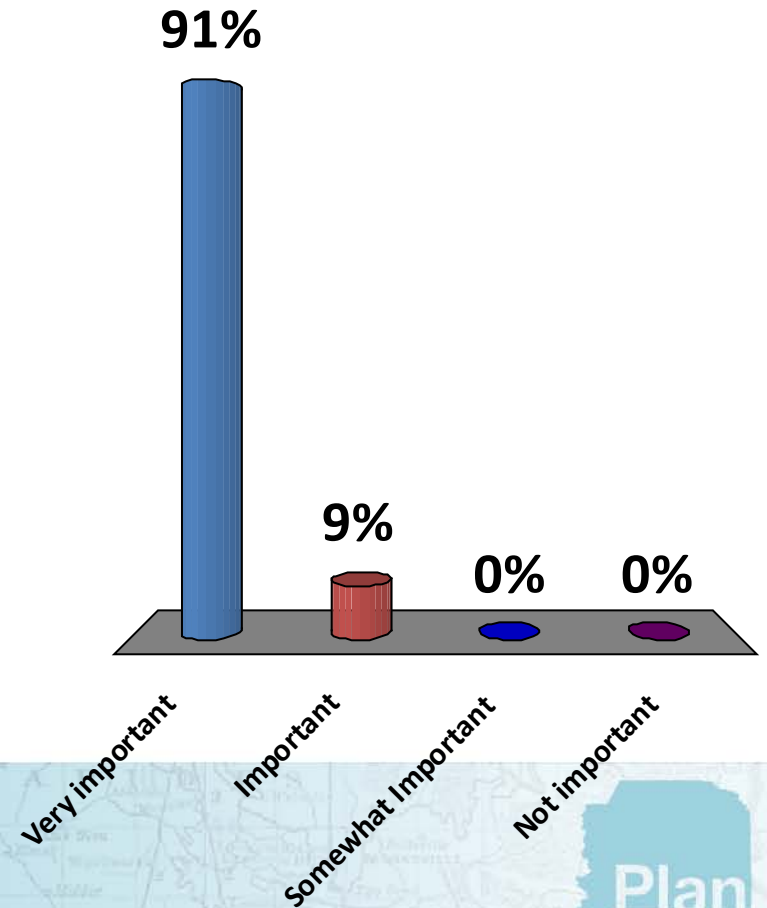
Protect the strong sense of community and small town atmosphere

1. Very important
2. Important
3. Somewhat Important
4. Not important



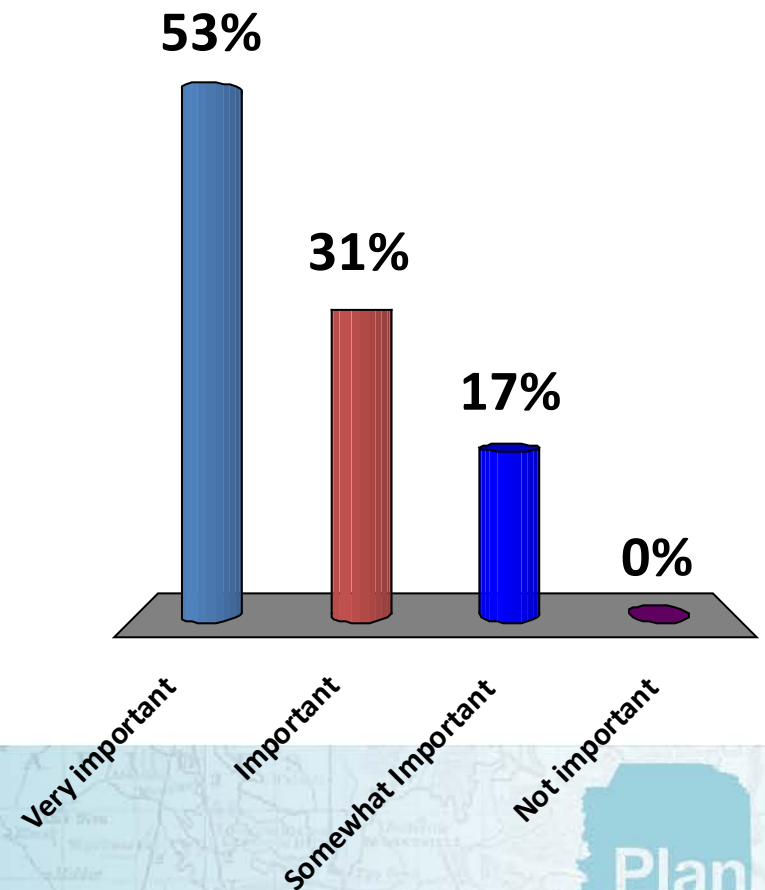
Diversify the economy and create jobs

1. Very important
2. Important
3. Somewhat Important
4. Not important



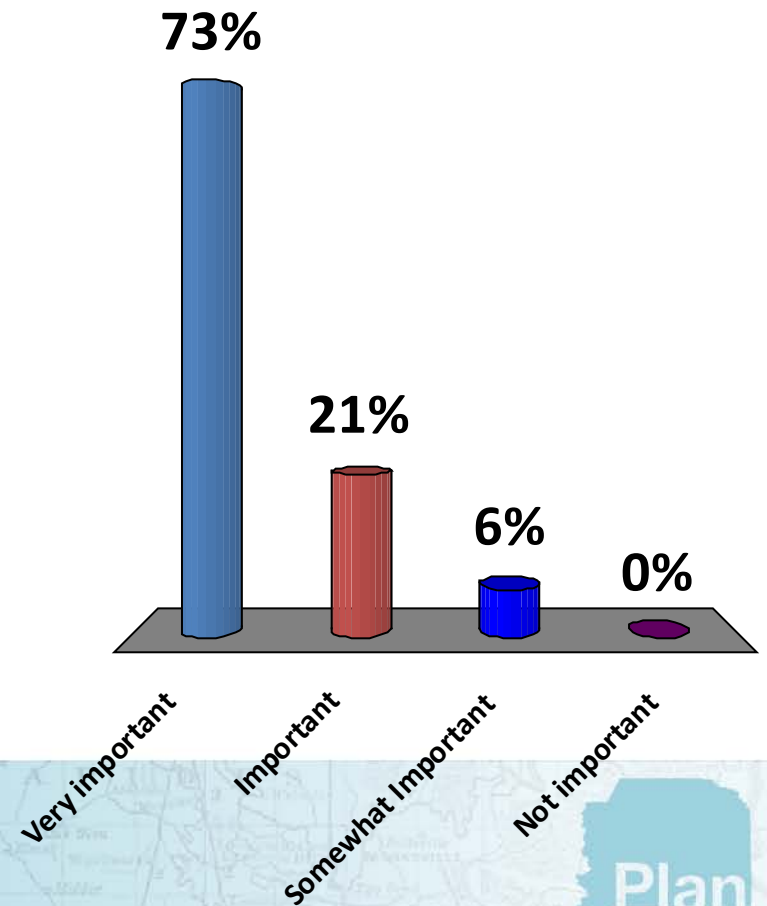
Build on the recreation and quality of life

1. Very important
2. Important
3. Somewhat Important
4. Not important



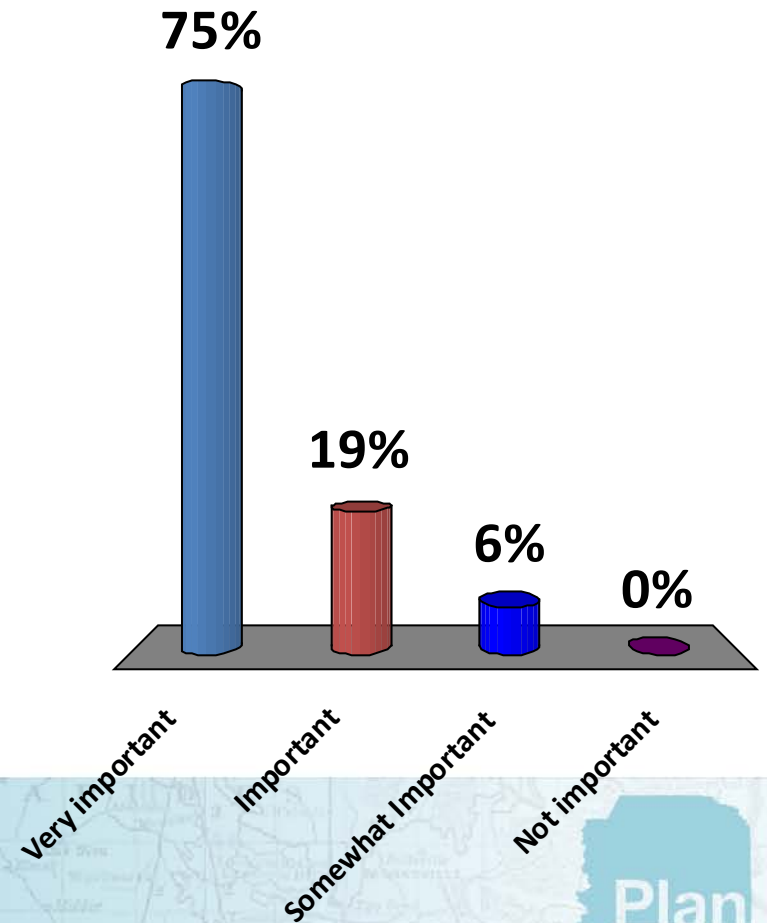
Add new retail and services

1. Very important
2. Important
3. Somewhat Important
4. Not important



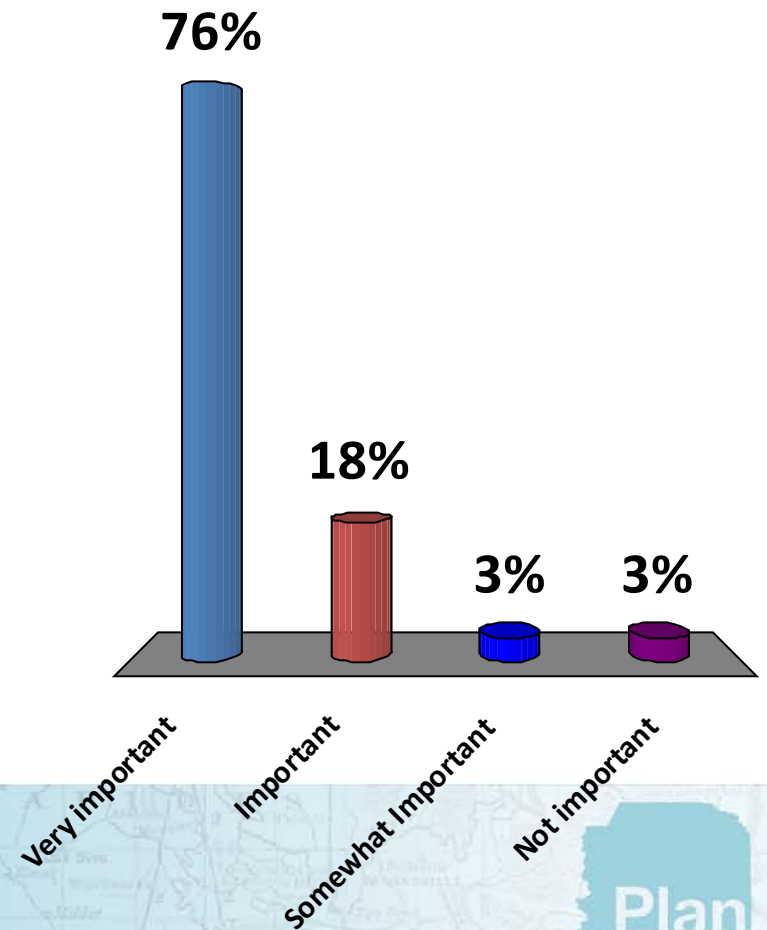
Address transportation infrastructure needs

1. Very important
2. Important
3. Somewhat Important
4. Not important



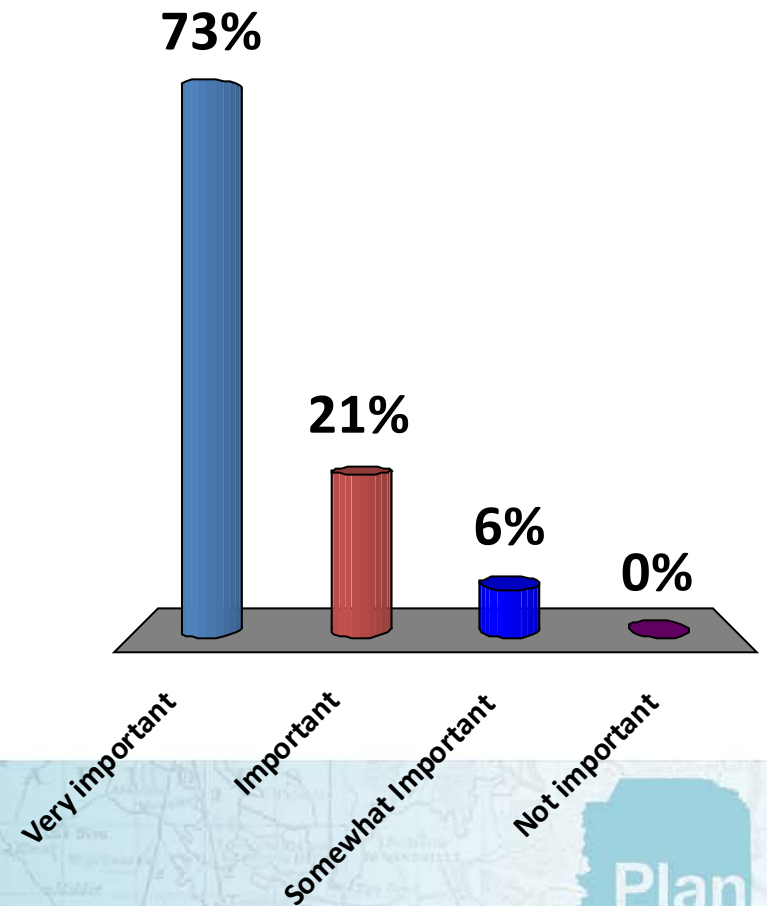
Address wastewater infrastructure needs

1. Very important
2. Important
3. Somewhat Important
4. Not important



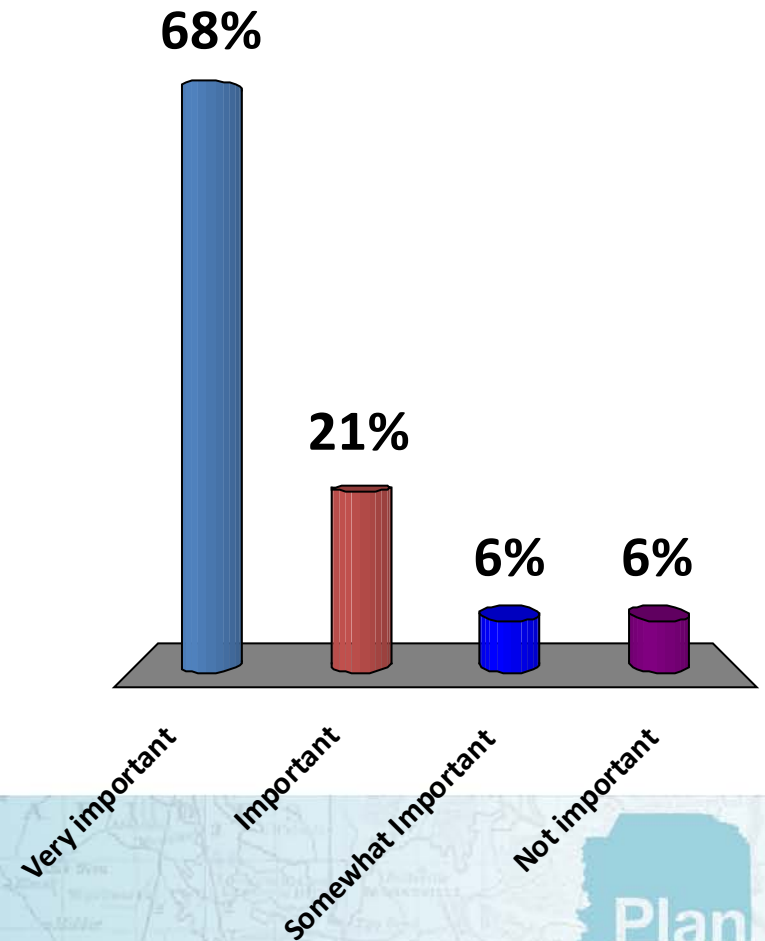
Focus on all areas and different approaches

1. Very important
2. Important
3. Somewhat Important
4. Not important



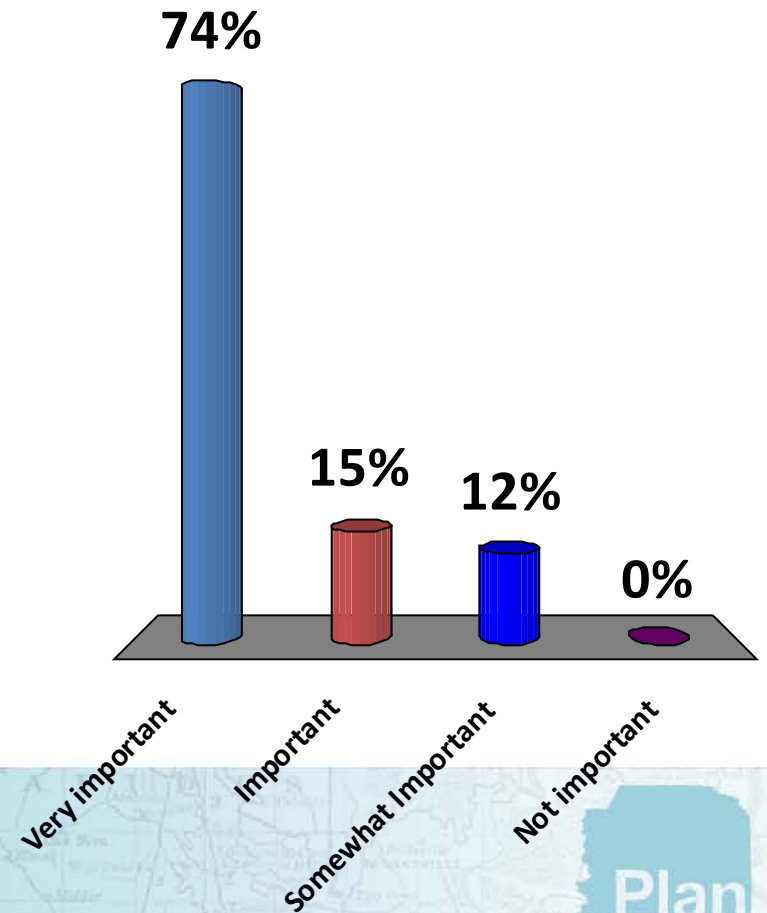
Expand housing options

1. Very important
2. Important
3. Somewhat Important
4. Not important



Strengthen education

1. Very important
2. Important
3. Somewhat Important
4. Not important



A detailed map of Vernon Parish, Louisiana, showing its geographical features, roads, and neighboring parishes. The map is rendered in a light blue and grey color scheme. The text 'Post card exercise' is overlaid on the left side of the map.

Post card exercise

A detailed map of Vernon Parish, Louisiana, showing its geographical features, roads, and neighboring parishes. The map is rendered in a light blue and grey color scheme. The number '08' is overlaid on the right side of the map.

08

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Post cards

- Pretend that you are filling out a post card from Vernon Parish and sending it to a friend
- It is **2030**
- What would you say about your community?
- How would you want it to look?

A detailed map of Vernon Parish, Louisiana, showing its geographical features, roads, and neighboring parishes. The map is rendered in a light blue and grey color scheme. The word "Vernon" is printed across the center of the parish. The word "Questions" is overlaid on the left side of the map in a dark red, serif font.

Questions

A detailed map of Vernon Parish, Louisiana, showing its geographical features, roads, and neighboring parishes. The map is rendered in a light blue and grey color scheme. The number "09" is overlaid on the right side of the map in a large, white, sans-serif font.

09

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