

The background of the slide is a map of Vernon Parish, Louisiana, showing various geographical features like rivers, roads, and townships. The map is rendered in a light blue and white color scheme.

*plan*

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**Vernon  
Parish**

Public Meetings - Simpson  
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 text 'Goals' is overlaid in a dark red font on the left side.

# Goals

A teal-colored map of Vernon Parish, Louisiana, showing its geographical features and surrounding areas. 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 parish name 'VERNON' is prominently displayed in the center. Surrounding parishes like Sabine, Rapides, and Iberville are also visible.

# 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, including the Red River to the north and the Atchafalaya River to the west. The map includes labels for various towns and locations such as Leesville, Lake Charles, and Lake De Cade. The text 'Opportunities to participate' is overlaid on the left side of the map.

# Opportunities to participate

A teal-colored map of Vernon Parish, Louisiana, showing its geographical features and boundaries. The number '04' is overlaid 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 7<sup>th</sup>**
  - Leesville High School cafeteria
  - Hicks High School cafeteria
  - Pitkin High School cafeteria
- **Public Meeting #2 - Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**
  - 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

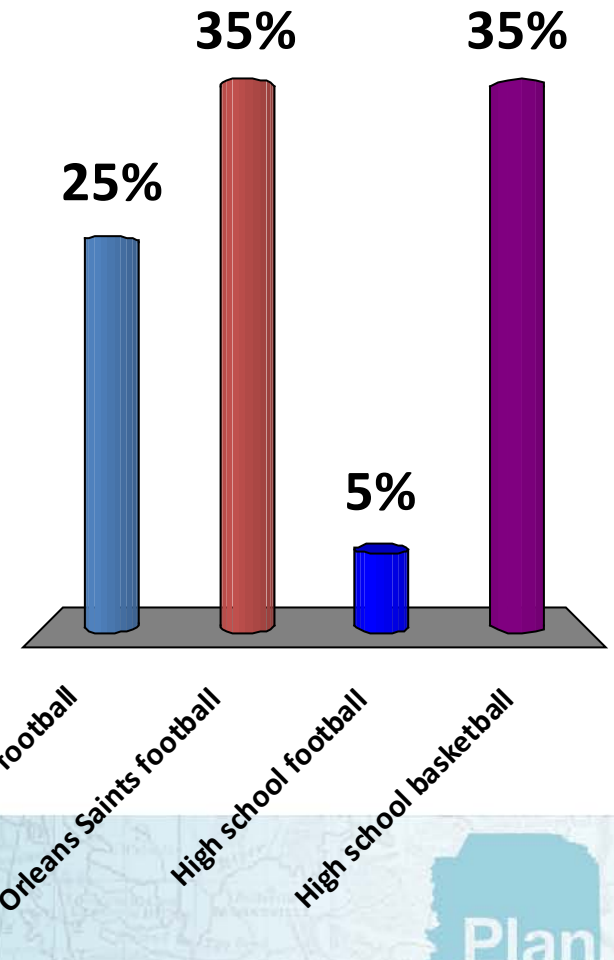
# Visioning Exercise

- 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



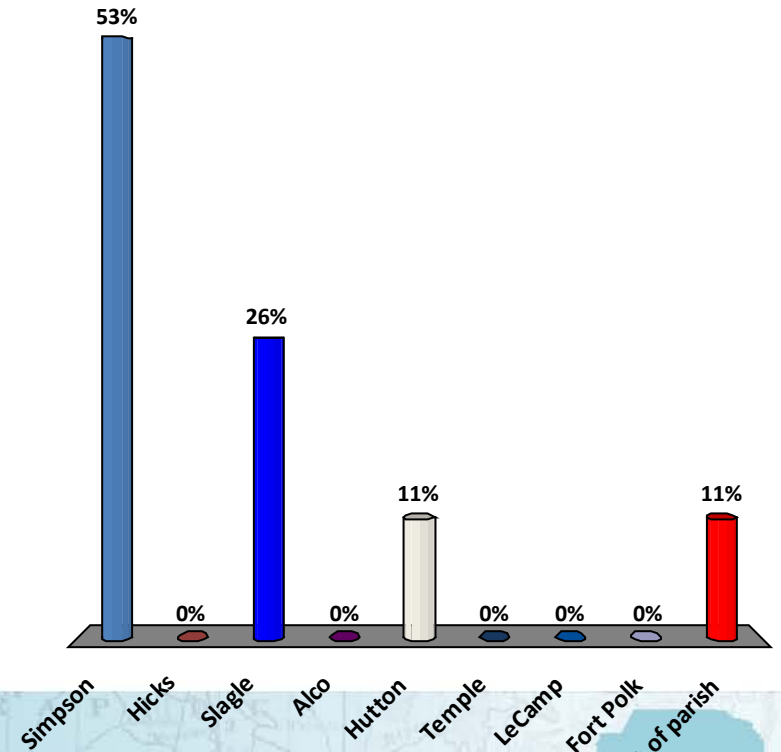
# What sports team are you following most closely this fall?

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



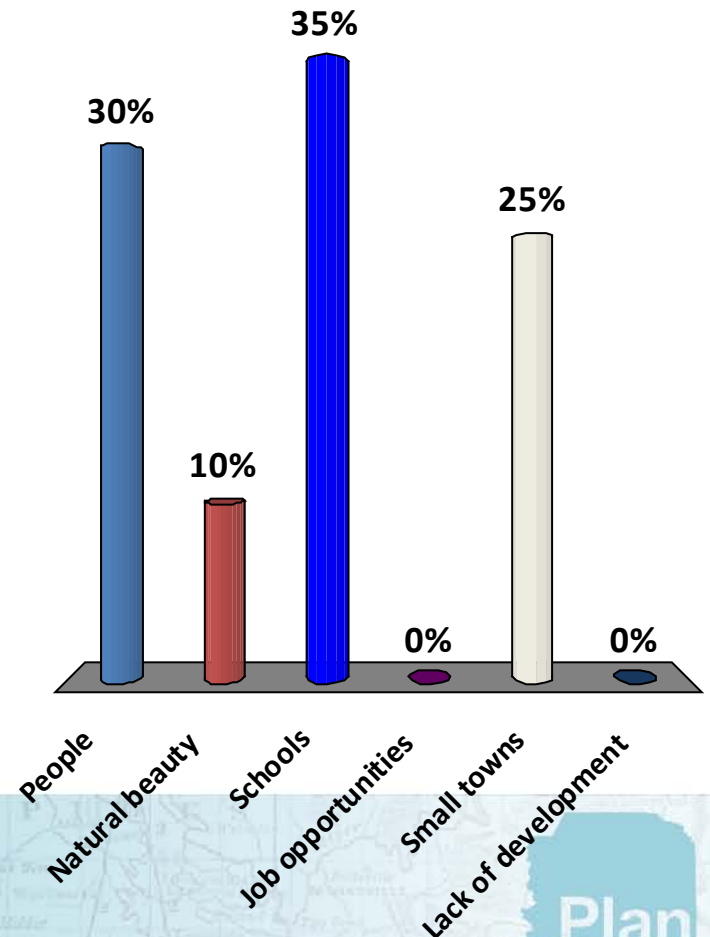
# What community do you live in?

1. Simpson
2. Hicks
3. Slagle
4. Alco
5. Hutton
6. Temple
7. LeCamp
8. Fort Polk
9. Other part of parish

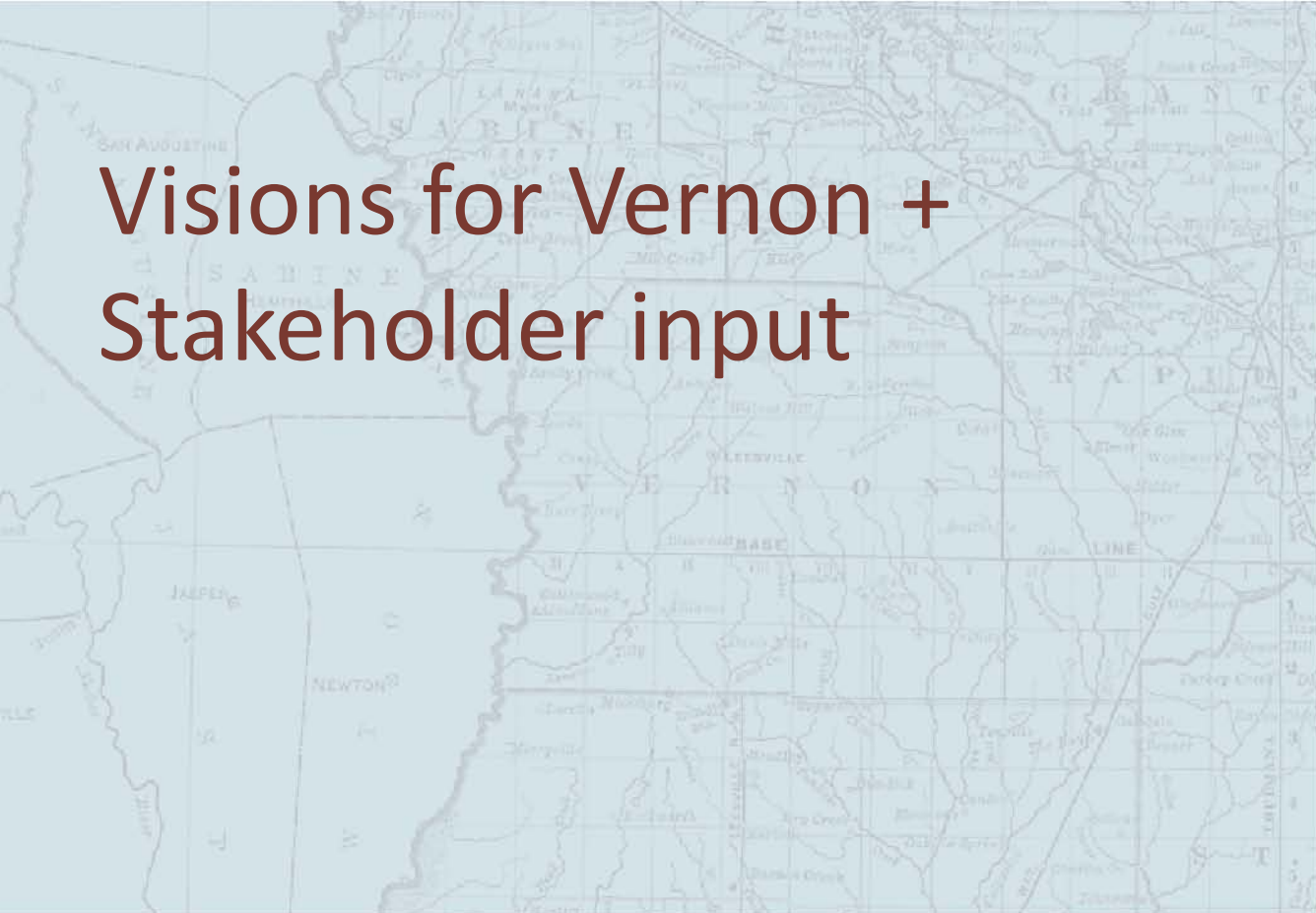


# What do you think makes your community great?

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 north and the Atchafalaya River to the west. The map includes labels for various towns and locations within the parish, such as Leesville, Lake Charles, and Lake Arthur. The text "Vernon Parish" is faintly visible across the map.

# 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 Gulf of Mexico to the south. The map includes labels for various towns and locations within the parish.

What is your vision for your community?

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

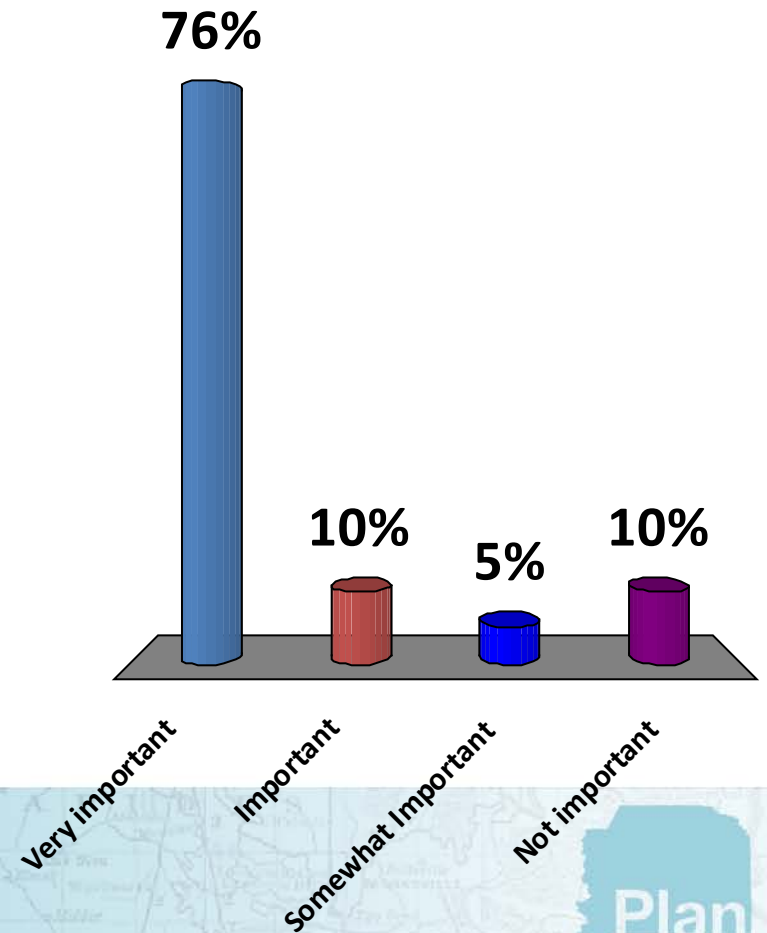
2 = Important

3 = Somewhat Important

4 = Not important

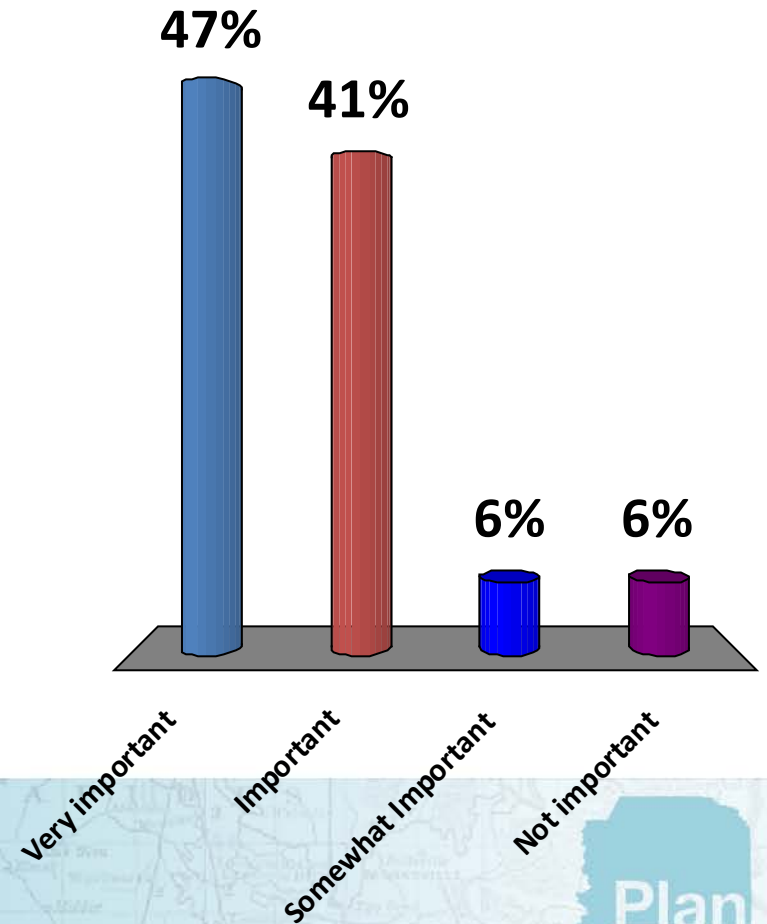
# Protect the strong sense of community and small town atmosphere

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



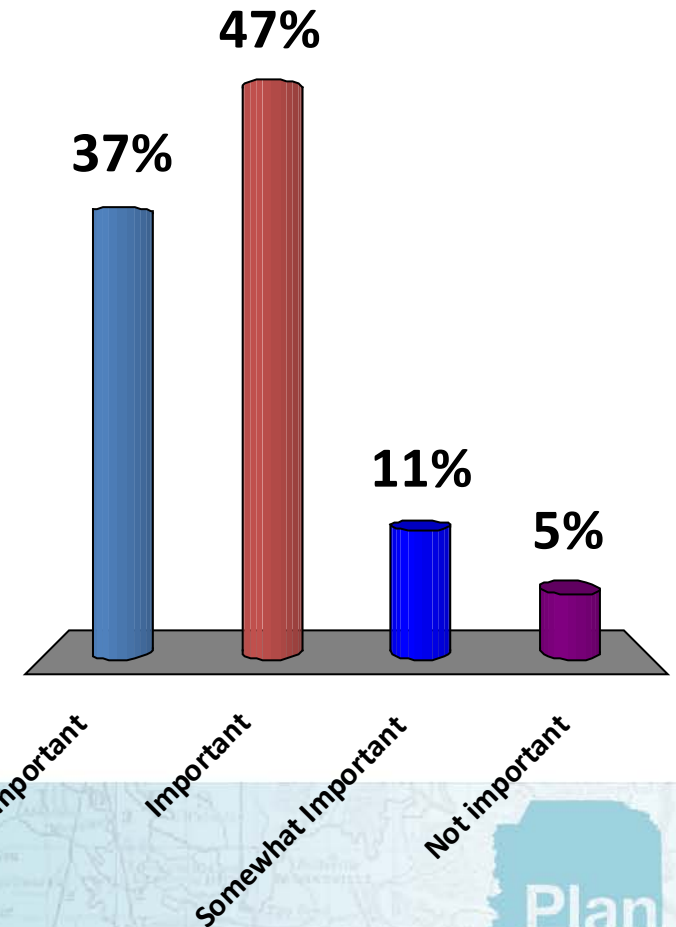
# Diversify the economy and create jobs

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



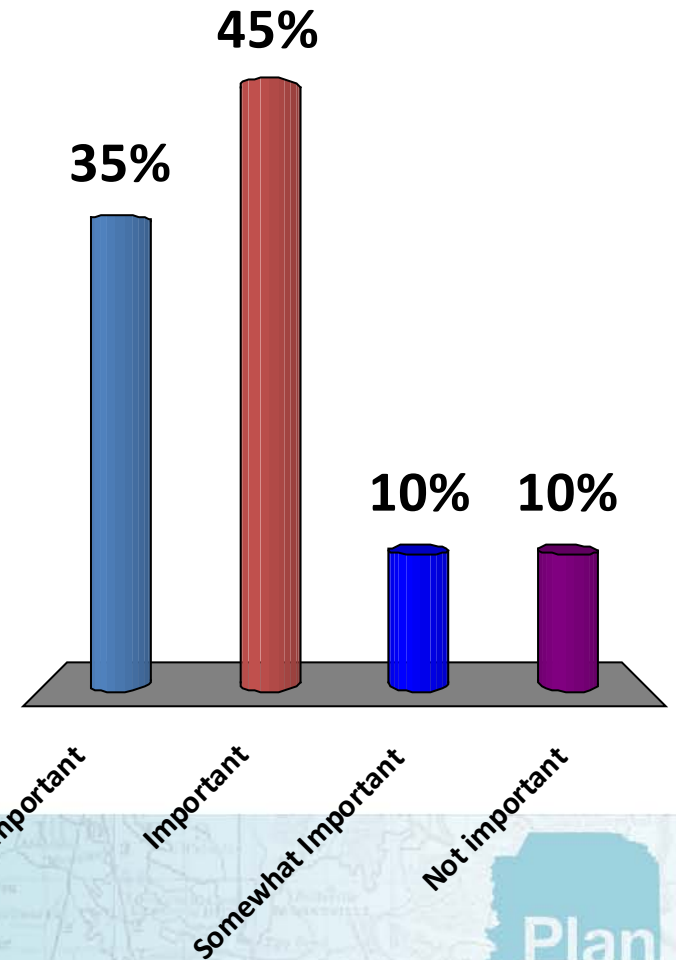
# Build on the recreation and quality of life

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



# Add new retail and services

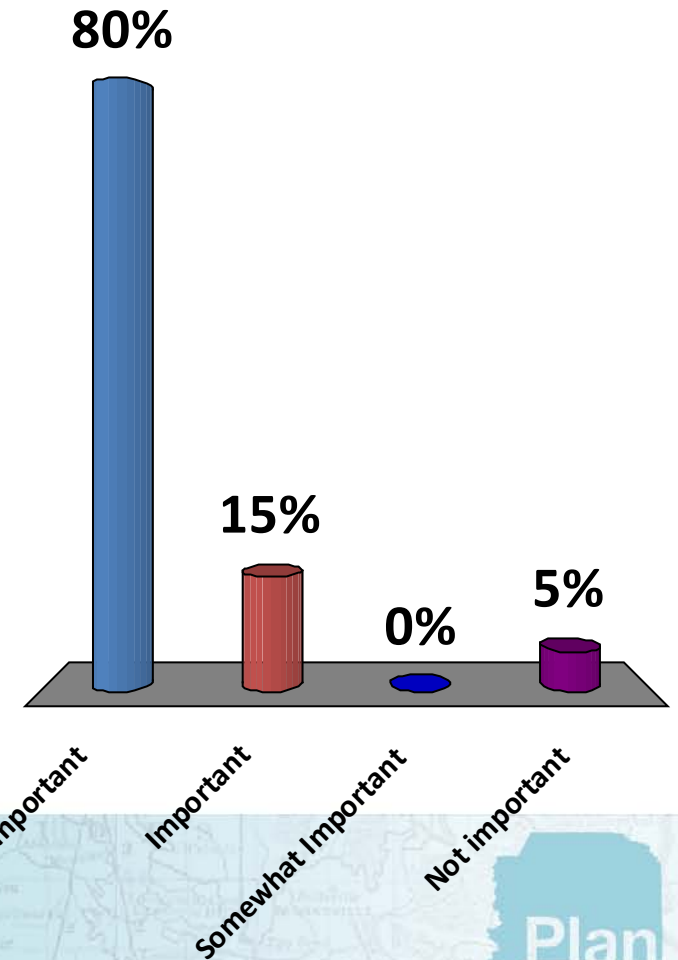
1. Very important
2. Important
3. Somewhat Important
4. Not important





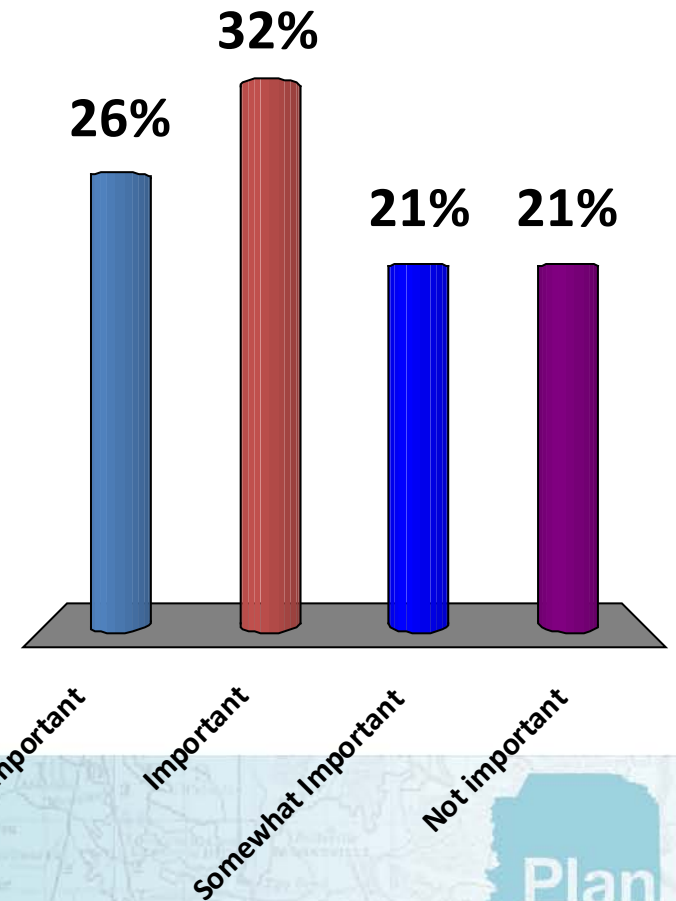
# Address transportation infrastructure needs

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



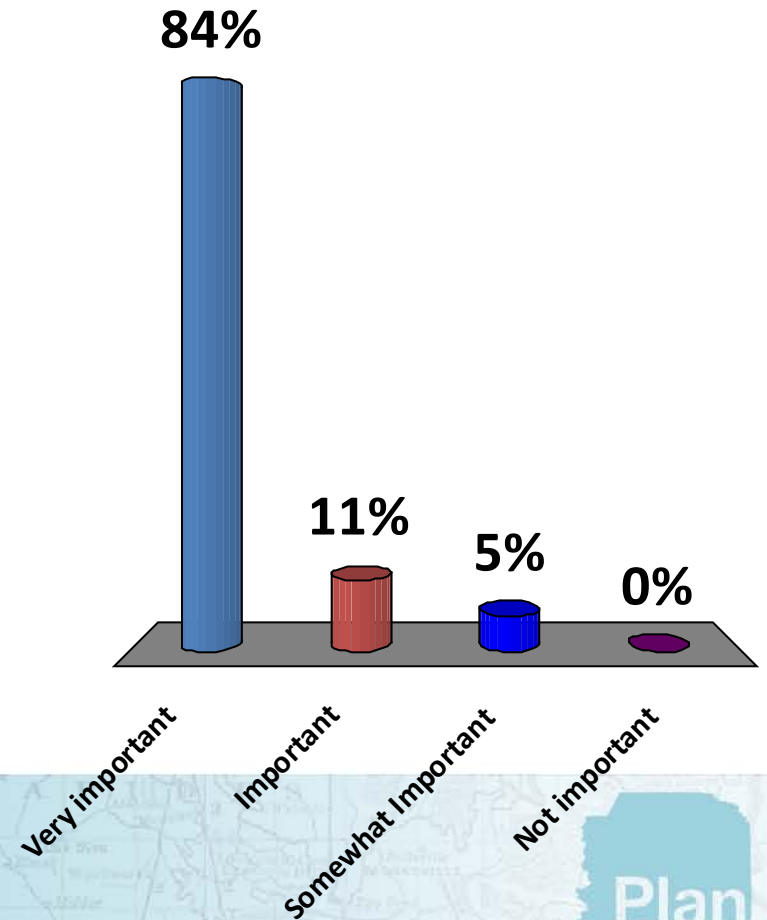
# Address wastewater infrastructure needs

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



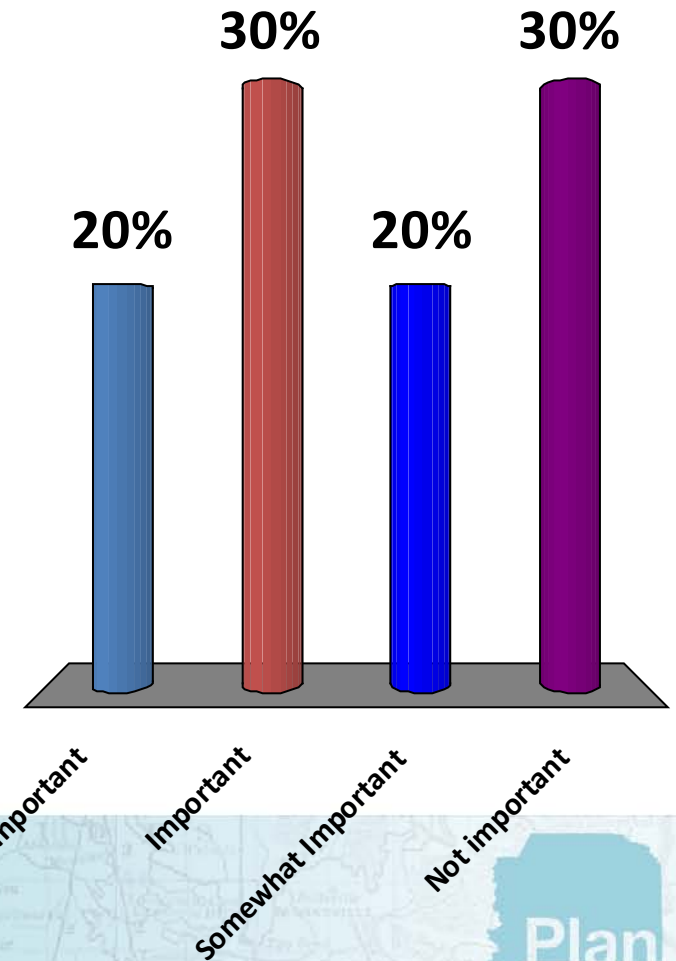
# Focus on all areas and different approaches

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



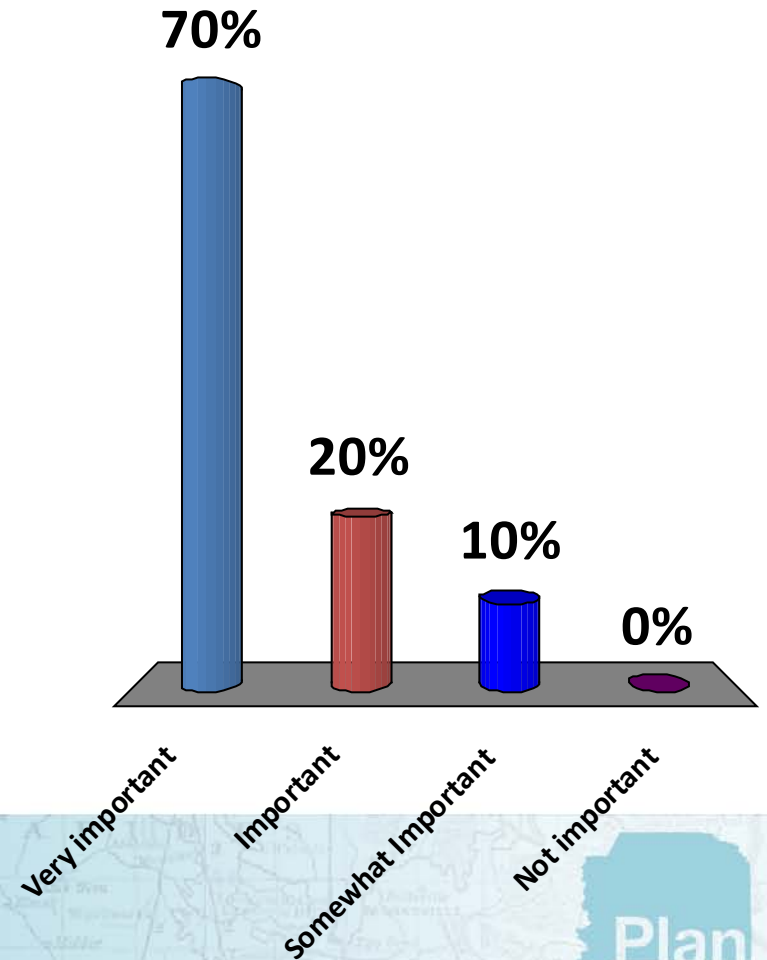
# Expand housing options

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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