

GUIDING OUR GROWTH

A STATEWIDE CONVERSATION ABOUT GROWTH 2022-2023 AND BEYOND

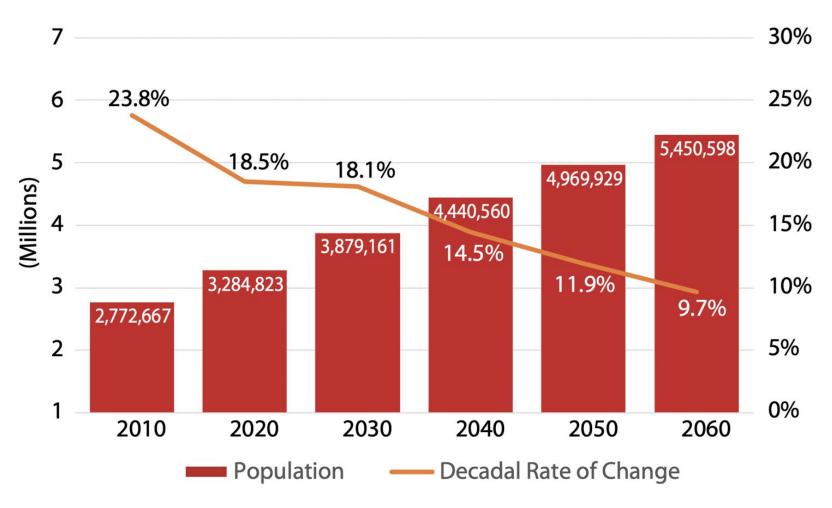


THERE'S SO MUCH TO CELEBRATE ABOUT UTAH

What makes Utah great also

MAKES UTAH GROW



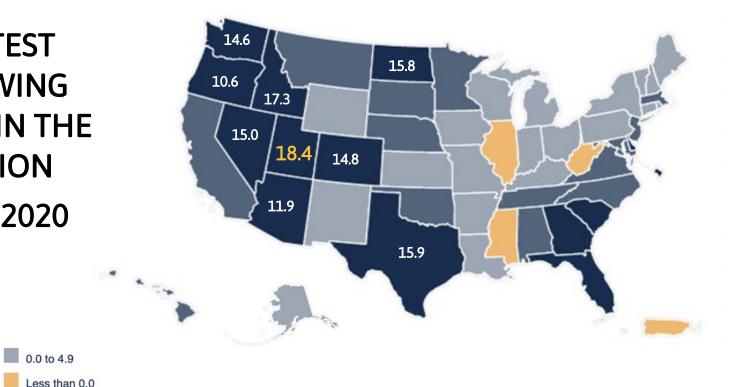




MANY UTAH FAMILIES STAY FOR GENERATIONS

Others recognize all that Utah has to offer and move here

FASTEST GROWING STATE IN THE **NATION** 2010-2020



Source: US Census Bureau

10.0 or more

5.0 to 9.9

Percent increase in population, 2010-2020

0.0 to 4.9





It's not so much IF
Utah will continue
to grow, but HOW
Utah will continue
to grow.





GOALS OF THE EFFORT

- Educate Utahns on the effects of growth decisions
- Solicit input on Utahns' growth preferences
- Generate a list of Big Ideas and guidance for decision makers
- Encourage Utahns to support quality growth principles
- Support existing local and regional planning efforts



THE TIMELINE

GUIDING OUR GROWTH - Public Engagement Timeline

PHASE I:

Fall 2022 to Spring 2023

Educate and Invite

PHASE II:

May 11 to August 2023

Invite and Inspire

PHASE III:

Fall 2023

Inspire and Act

Promote Survey & Opportunity to Guide Our Growth

Review Preliminary Responses & Explore Big Moves Finalize list of Big Moves & Budget Devel

2024 General Legislative Session

GUIDING OUR GROWTH - Decision-making Timeline

PHASE I ACTIVITIES

- 15 Workshops
- Many interactive presentations
- Phase I survey about values and key issues

4 Key Issues:

- Housing
- Water
- Transportation
- Open Space





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GUIDING OUR GROWTH - Decision-making Timeline





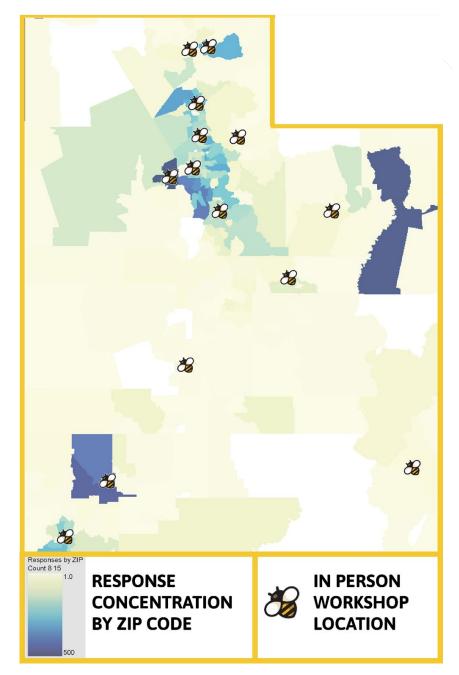
GUIDING OUR GROWTH: PHASE 2 SURVEY

ADMINISTERED BY: Envision Utah

FOR: Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget

DATES OPEN: May 11th – August 31st 2023

guidingourgrowth.utah.gov/beheard/





29/29 Counties Represented

Community Presentations

15 In-person Workshops

1.7 M Online Engagements

68 K Ad Campaign Clicks

19 K Survey Responses (28K engagements)







Minority and "Hard-to-Reach" Population Outreach Efforts

- In-person outreach at community and cultural events
- Spanish language promotional and educational videos
- Spanish language paid advertising
- Interview with Telemundo
- Stipends to community oriented nonprofits for survey promotion
- Engagement with Ethnic Chambers of Commerce
- Alternative news outlets: SLUG, Utah Stories, Catalyst



SURVEY OVERVIEW

GUIDING OUR GROWTH 2023

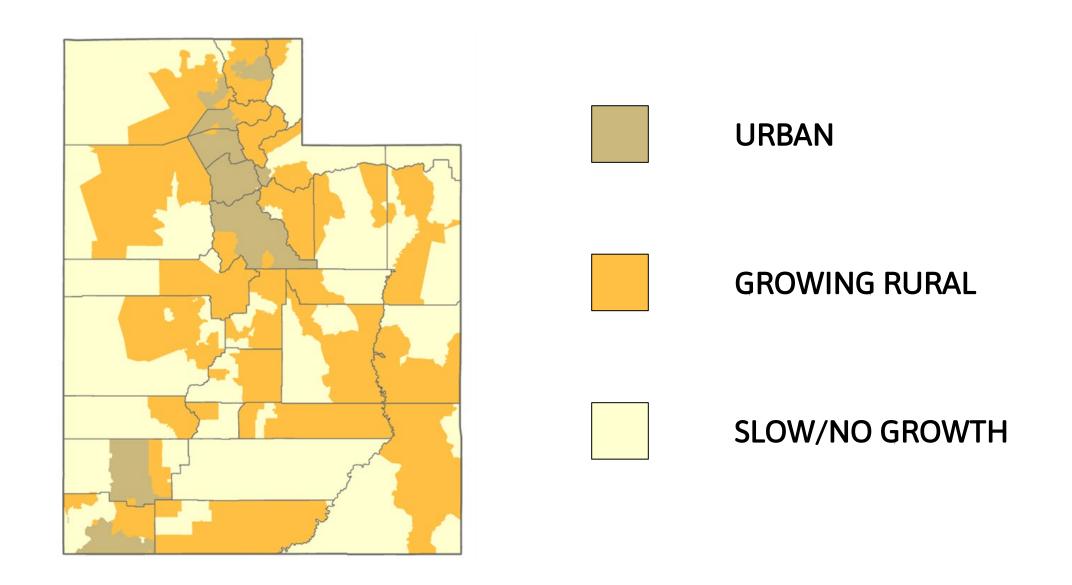
3 Distinct Surveys





3 Distinct Surveys





What was the survey like?



Utahns shared four topics as top priorities for managing growth; we want your opinion on them







Water

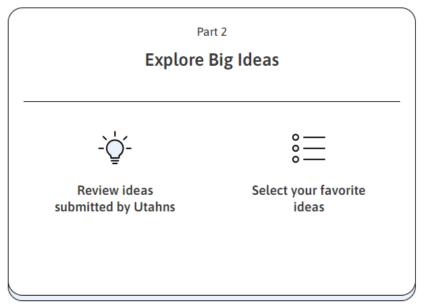


Transportation



Open Space & Recreation





What was the survey like?

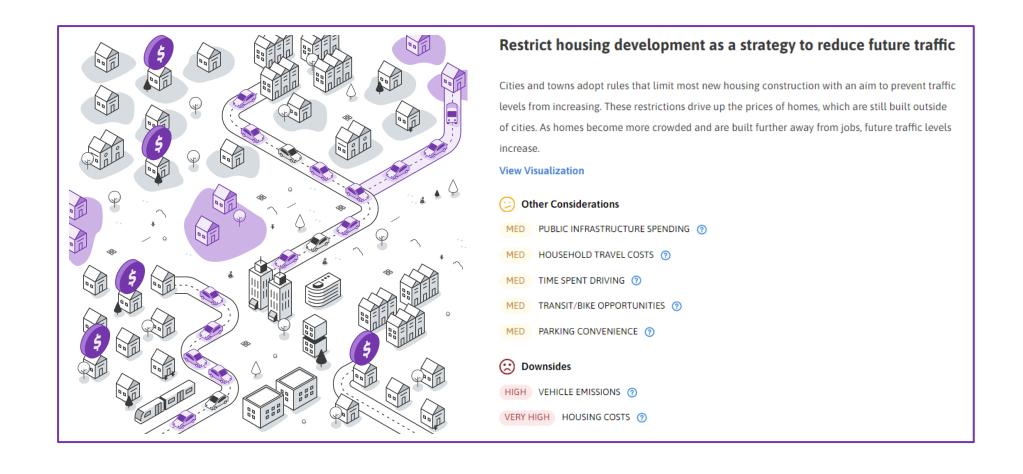


- 4 options of growth were presented for each of the 4 topics
 - Tradeoffs were listed for each of the options
 - Local experts weighed in to help explain costs and benefits, which were represented in text and images





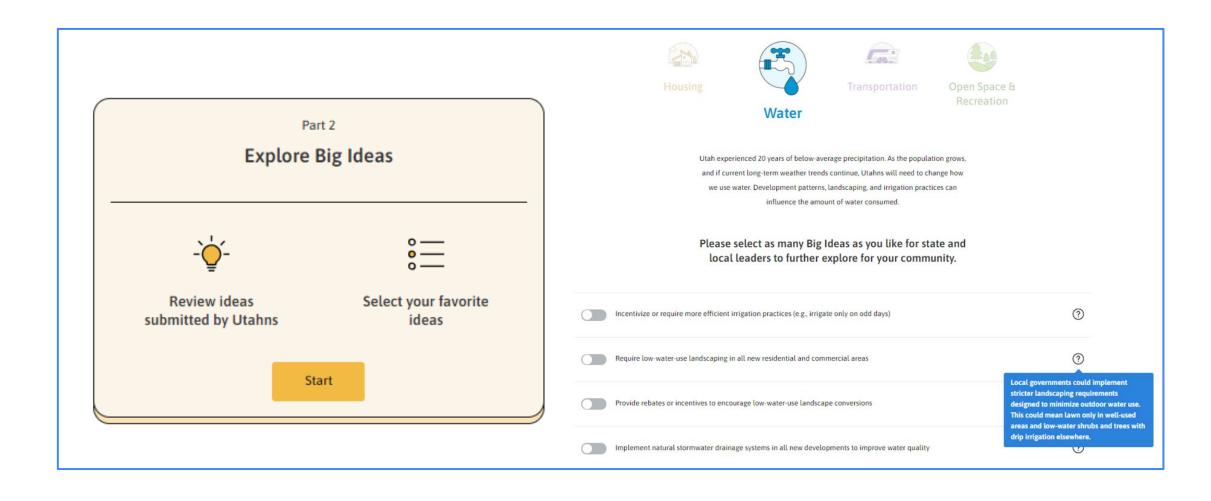
- A "Stop Growth" option included for each topic
 - realistic concerns about stopping growth with that topic were explained



What was the survey like?



- "Big Ideas" were refined from ideas received during the Phase 1 Tour
 - Participants were asked to select Big Ideas they would support in their community





UTAHNS ARE FEELING THE PRESSURES OF GROWTH, BUT MOST DON'T THINK WE SHOULD TRY TO STOP IT

...BUT <u>HOW</u>WE GROW MATTERS



UTAHNS WANT A
VARIETY OF
HOUSING
PRODUCTS AND
PRICE POINTS



HOUSING SUMMARY



Urban Utahns want to allow more housing, and a greater variety of housing types, throughout urban areas.

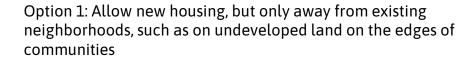
- 60% choose the housing option that allows the most new housing: in centers and TODs, existing neighborhoods, and new greenfield development.
 - Younger Utahns and renters are particularly likely to choose this option.
- 58–59% want to allow more small lots, townhomes, duplexes, and accessory dwelling units.
 - They also want to allow more strip malls, big box stores, and parking lots to be redeveloped into housing.

Rural Utahns want much of the state's rural growth to focus around existing town centers and main streets.

- A majority support focusing new development along main streets to create a lively town center and maintain country roads outside of town.
- 63% disagree with building new housing on large, spread-out lots.

URBAN HOUSING OPTIONS (STATEWIDE)

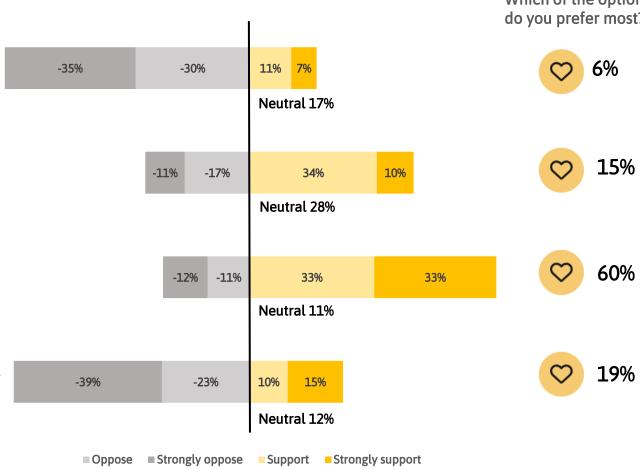


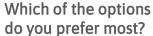


Option 2: Allow new housing mostly away from existing neighborhoods, but also include development near public transit stations and town centers

Option 3: Allow new housing in currently undeveloped areas, near transit stations and town centers, and in appropriate areas within existing neighborhoods

Option 4: Restrict housing development in existing and new areas as a strategy to slow growth





RESULTS MAY VARY BY REGION AND DEMOGRAPHICS



Which of the options do you prefer most?

Option 1: Allow new housing, but only away from existing neighborhoods, such as on undeveloped land on the edges of communities



Option 2: Allow new housing mostly away from existing neighborhoods, but also include development near public transit stations and town centers



Option 3: Allow new housing in currently undeveloped areas, near transit stations and town centers, and in appropriate areas within existing neighborhoods



Age 13-34 (68-77%), Renters (78%), and Income \$75,000 or less (66-74%) are more likely to select options that promote housing options throughout the survey (urban and rural)

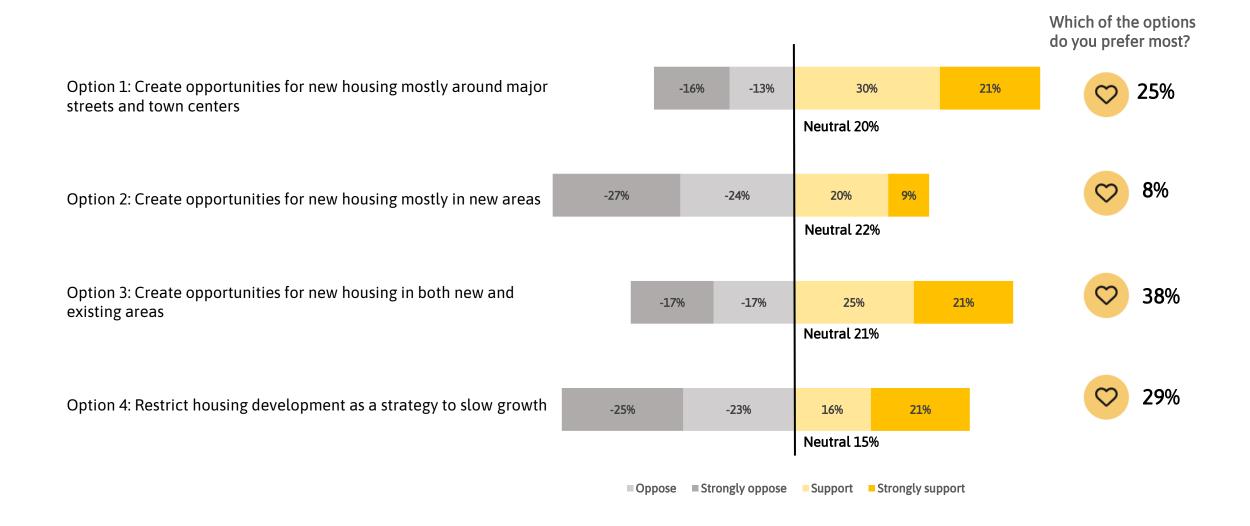
Option 4: Restrict housing development in existing and new areas as a strategy to slow growth



Southwest Utah (34%), Age 55 or older (24-30%), and homeowners (21%) are more likely to select options that restrict housing development throughout the survey (urban and rural)

RURAL HOUSING OPTIONS (STATEWIDE)





HOUSING COMMENTS



URBAN

The overarching theme from these comments is the urgent need for housing solutions.

"Fighting growth is a sure way of turning us into highcost, poorly planned markets. Let's be intentional about how we grow and take charge of that growth before it overwhelms us."

"...Housing affordability is critical as the cost of living has increased dramatically."

RURAL

Commenters acknowledge the need for additional housing due to a growing population, but they also want to take steps to prevent uncontrolled and unsustainable growth

"Many of us have lived in Utah for a long time and hate the growth. I choose to live rural so that my kids have more opportunities and don't get lost in the crowds. Low crime rates, knowing our neighbors, walking distance to so many things (schools, stores, work). Growth changes all of this. Our quality of life suffers with too much growth too fast."

URBAN HOUSING BIG IDEAS



TOP 5

- 59% Allow more strip malls, big box stores, and parking lots to be redeveloped into housing
- 59% Allow more townhomes, duplexes, and accessory dwelling units (e.g., basement or mother-in-law apartments)
- 58% Allow more new houses to be built on smaller lots and incentivize the construction of smaller homes
- 56% Increase the number of housing units with the potential for owner occupancy (single family house, condos, townhomes)
- 52% Be more selective about the types of new businesses or development we seek to attract to Utah

OTHER IDEAS

- 45% Limit short-term rentals in neighborhoods through regulation
- 36% Facilitate the construction of new communities beyond the edge of our metropolitan areas to increase housing supply
- 31% Facilitate more prefabricated, modular, or manufactured homes
- 27% Implement strict local restrictions to try to limit new housing development
- 23% Allow home builders to construct less parking for both multiple-family and single-family homes

RURAL HOUSING BIG IDEAS



TOP 5

- 54% Allow new houses to be built on smaller lots
- 52% Proactively invest in or establish frameworks for financing new infrastructure (roads, utilities) to support the construction of new housing
- 46% Limit short-term rentals through regulation
- 44% Expand sweat equity home-building programs
- 41% Invest in local government- or nonprofit-owned subsidized housing for workers and full time residents

OTHER IDEAS

- 40% Facilitate more prefabricated, modular, or manufactured homes
- 34% Incentivize the construction of townhomes, duplexes, and accessory dwelling units (e.g., basement or mother-in-law apartments)
- 32% Implement strict local restrictions to try to limit new housing development
- 31% Incentivize employer-provided housing or down payment assistance
- 22% Create and expand community land trusts and housing co-ops

UTAHNS WANT
AGGRESSIVE
WATER
CONSERVATION
EFFORTS



WATER SUMMARY



Urban Utahns support aggressive water conservation efforts.

- 61% choose the most aggressive conservation option, with waterwise landscaping and more compact development, along with conversion of existing landscaping.
- More than two-thirds support rebates/incentives for landscape conversions, requiring lowwater landscaping in all new development, and incentivizing/requiring more efficient irrigation practices.

Rural Utahns support residential and commercial water conservation efforts as well as agricultural irrigation optimization.

- 57% support investing in optimized agricultural irrigation as well as residential and commercial water conservation.
- 70% support rebates/incentives for landscape conversions.
- 55% support requiring low-water landscaping in all new development.

URBAN WATER OPTIONS (STATEWIDE)

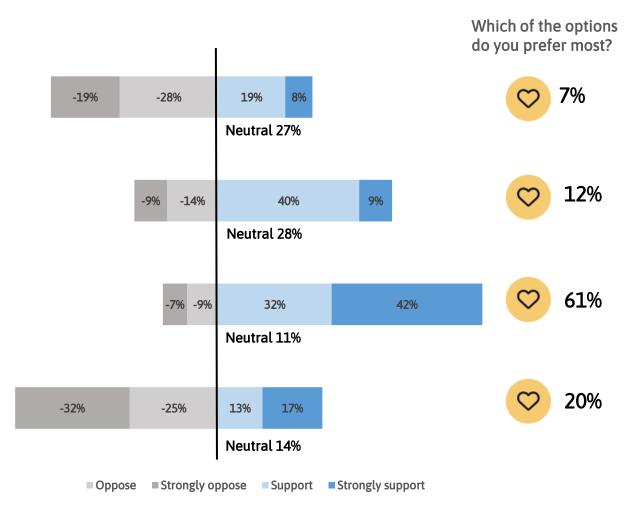


Option 1: Conserve water in new development by building on large lots with water-wise landscaping

Option 2: Conserve water in new development by building on small or shared lots with water-wise landscaping

Option 3: Conserve water in both new development and existing communities with water-wise landscaping

Option 4: Restrict housing development as a strategy to reduce future water demand



RURAL WATER OPTIONS (STATEWIDE)

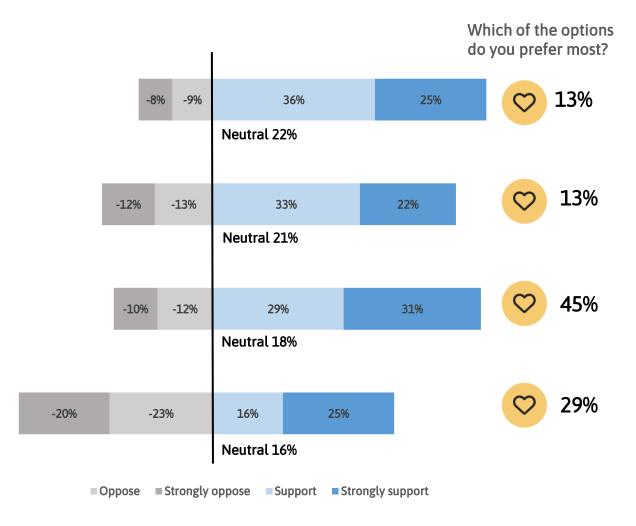




Option 2: Invest in residential and commercial water conservation

Option 3: Invest in optimized agricultural irrigation as well as residential and commercial water conservation

Option 4: Restrict housing development as a strategy to reduce future water demand



WATER COMMENTS



URBAN

Discussions typically revolve around the critical importance of water conservation in Utah, such as:

- Portion of the water supply is used for agricultural irrigation
- Environmental impact of technology production
- Need to reconsider landscaping choices: commenters suggest transitioning from grass lawns to alternatives

"We've given up our privilege to waste water. If we want to continue to live and thrive here in Utah, we need to do our part to conserve."

"I'm between Option 3 and Option 4. I like the idea of restricting housing when we don't have enough water but fear that it will harm low-income people the most."

RURAL

Many comments focus on the agricultural sector's water needs, suggesting that optimizing water usage in farming practices is essential. Key ideas include:

- Call for more efficient irrigation and water capture
- Essential need for water in agriculture and cattle
- Concerns about desert regions and lawns or golf courses

"I think it's ridiculous to only conserve water with new developments; that's not a strong water conservation tactic at all."

"...Water for food production must be re-prioritized about all other "beneficial" uses of water, because it produces essential food... "

URBAN WATER BIG IDEAS



TOP 5

- 80% Provide rebates or incentives to encourage lowwater-use landscape conversions
- 73% Implement natural stormwater drainage systems in all new developments to improve water quality
- 71% Require low-water-use landscaping in all new residential and commercial areas
- 71% Invest in municipal-scale water recycling and reuse systems
- 67% Incentivize or require more efficient irrigation practices (e.g., irrigate only on odd days)

OTHER IDEAS

- 67% Increase investments in agricultural wateroptimization projects
- 57% Invest in new water infrastructure projects (reservoirs, wells, pipelines)
- 54% Use tiered water rates and transparent billing practices to reduce demand
- 53% Allow the housing market to shift to smaller lots, townhomes, and apartments so there is less irrigated landscaping per person
- 28% Invest in agricultural fallowing (paying farmers to not plant or water crops)

RURAL WATER BIG IDEAS



TOP 5

- 70% Provide rebates or incentives to encourage lowwater-use landscape conversions
- 64% Invest in new water infrastructure projects (reservoirs, wells, pipelines, aquifer storage)
- 57% Increase investments in agricultural wateroptimization projects
- 55% Invest in municipal-scale water recycling and reuse systems
- 55% Require low-water-use landscaping in all new residential and commercial areas

OTHER IDEAS

- 48% Use tiered water rates and transparent billing practices to encourage water conservation
- 44% Expand participation in voluntary rural water quality programs
- 39% Allow the housing market to shift to smaller lots, townhomes, and apartments so there is less irrigated landscaping per person
- 32% Invest in regionalization of local water treatment facilities
- **18**% Invest in agricultural fallowing (paying farmers to not plant or water crops)



UTAHNS WANT TO USE PUBLIC TRANSIT, TRAILS, BICYCLES, AND CARS TO GET AROUND.





Urban Utahns want significant investments in public and active transportation.

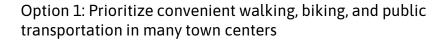
- 75% support a transportation option that focuses new development in town centers, with convenient walking, biking, and public transportation.
- 65% support more funding for public transportation and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, as well as zero-fare public transportation.

Rural Utahns want better transportation connections.

- 58% want public transportation service connecting smaller towns to larger cities.
- 53% support statewide passenger rail.
- 53% want to invest in improving high-use state highways and main streets.
- 51% support public transit for peak usage of tourism areas.

URBAN TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS (STATEWIDE)

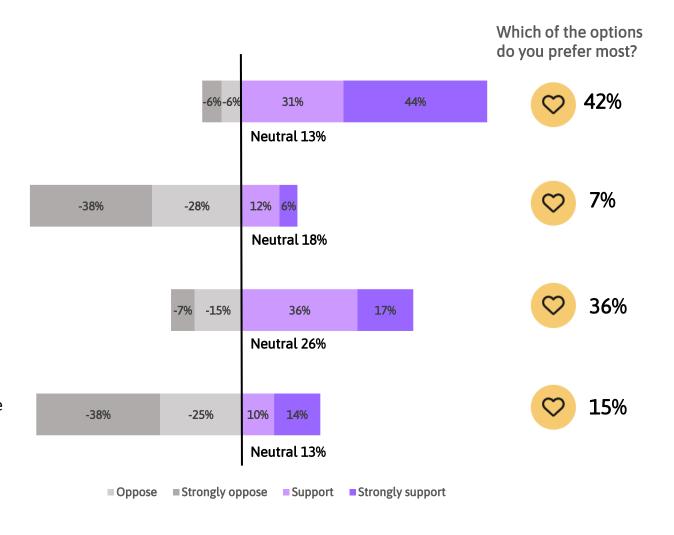




Option 2: Prioritize new and expanded highways and roads in new suburbs

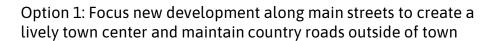
Option 3: Balance investments in walking, biking, and transit in existing cities with additional roads and highways to serve new suburbs

Option 4: Restrict housing development as a strategy to reduce future traffic



RURAL TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS (STATEWIDE)

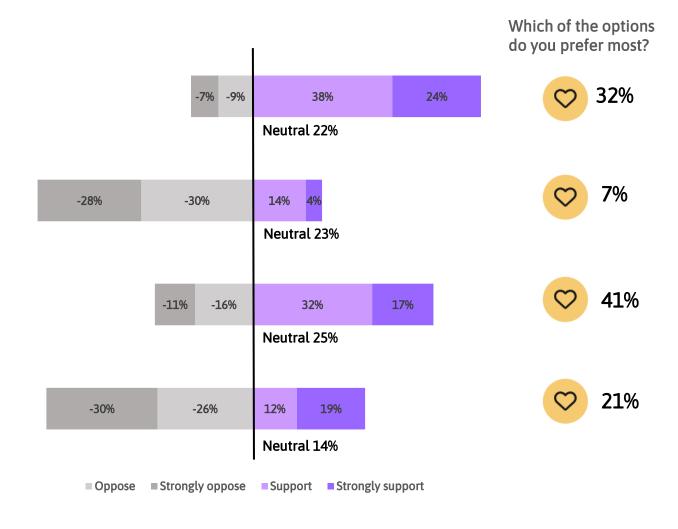




Option 2: Spread development and new streets out on the edge of town

Option 3: Balance new development and road upgrades between a lively main street and country roads on the edge of town

Option 4: Restrict housing development as a strategy to reduce transportation infrastructure costs



TRANSPORTATION COMMENTS



URBAN

The overarching focus is on creating walkable and bikeable cities, along with improving urban transit systems. There is a desire for creating bike- and walk-friendly environments, with calls to encourage exercise and reduce car dependency. There's a consensus that public transit should be a viable alternative, and its expansion is encouraged.

"Urban sprawl makes traffic and mobility issues worse. Walkability, bikeability, and urban transit are the way to go."

"Public transportation needs to be more convenient than driving and parking. We've prioritized freeways for long enough.

Now we need to prioritize public transportation."

RURAL

Maintaining roads in rural areas and concern over addition housing are frequent themes. There is support bike trails, improved sidewalks, impact fees, financial tools access, and conservation requirements.

"We need more bike and walking routes."

"...Encourage affordable housing to counter high housing costs. Enact conservation requirements to fend off the day we run out of water. And don't build too many roads. I favor mixed, in-town and out-of-town solutions, so people have choices based on personal preference and what they can afford."

URBAN TRANSPORTATION BIG IDEAS



TOP 5

- 67% Invest in more bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure
- 66% Provide zero-fare public transportation
- 66% Allow more apartments, condos, and townhomes
 near transit stations and downtowns
- 65% Invest more funding in public transportation to serve urban areas
- 64% Invest in public transportation for peak usage of tourism areas

OTHER IDEAS

- 42% Improve roadway connectivity through grid street patterns
- 40% Invest in charging infrastructure and incentives for conversion to electric vehicles
- 33% Reduce required parking in commercial or town centers
- 33% Invest in improvement or expansion of high-use state highways and add new highways in high-demand areas
- 19% Reduce congestion by pricing freeway use during peak hours

RURAL TRANSPORTATION BIG IDEAS



TOP 5

- 58% Implement public transportation service to connect smaller towns to larger cities
- 53% Invest in statewide passenger rail
- 53% Invest in improvement or expansion of high-use state highways and main streets (e.g. Highways 6, 189, 191)
- 51% Implement a statewide trails network to connect communities across Utah
- 51% Invest in public transit for peak usage of tourism areas

OTHER IDEAS

- 40% Build new highways in high-demand areas to connect communities
- 38% Proactively invest in new infrastructure (roads, utilities) to support the construction of new communities
- 33% Reduce required parking in commercial or town centers
- 25% Invest in charging infrastructure and incentives for conversion to electric vehicles
- 19% Implement tolling on key roadways in highvisitation areas (e.g. Mirror Lake Highway)

UTAHNS WANT
OPEN SPACES
PRESERVED
WITHIN AND ON
THE EDGES OF
THEIR
COMMUNITIES





OPEN SPACE SUMMARY

Urban Utahns want new development on "the edge" to focus on master-planned communities with extensive open space and a variety of housing types.

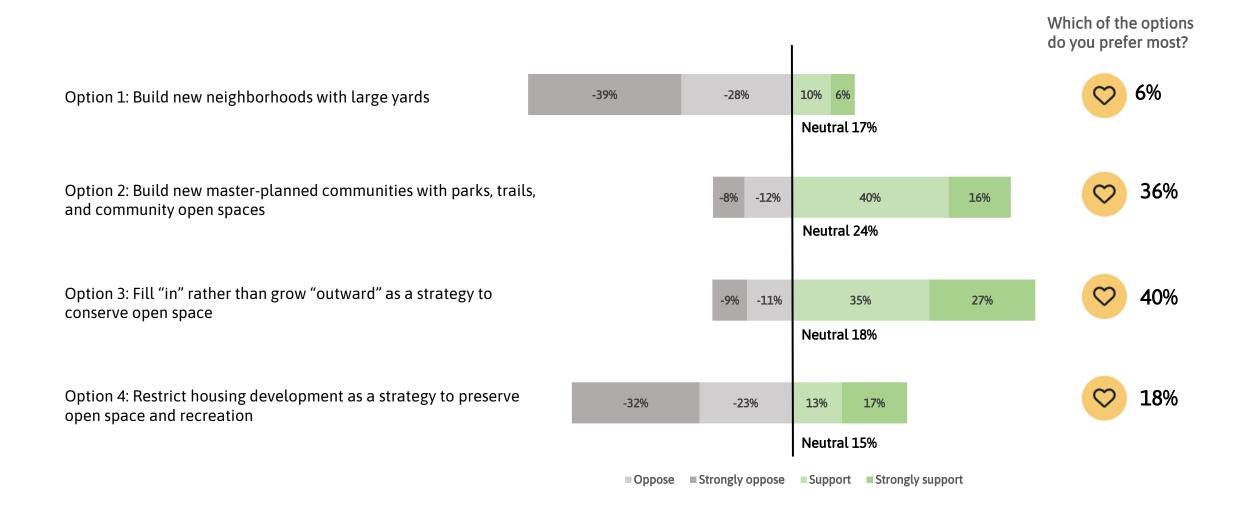
- 56% support building new master-planned communities with parks, trails, and community open spaces.
- Nearly 75% want to invest in recreational amenities in both natural areas (trailheads, campgrounds, etc.) and in urban areas (parkways, river trails, etc.).

Rural Utahns want to preserve open space by focusing growth in master-planned communities or growing on smaller lots close to town.

- 37% prefer new development to be in master-planned communities with community open space, parks, and trails, more than any other open space option.
- 58% support prioritizing prime farmlands in long-range planning efforts.

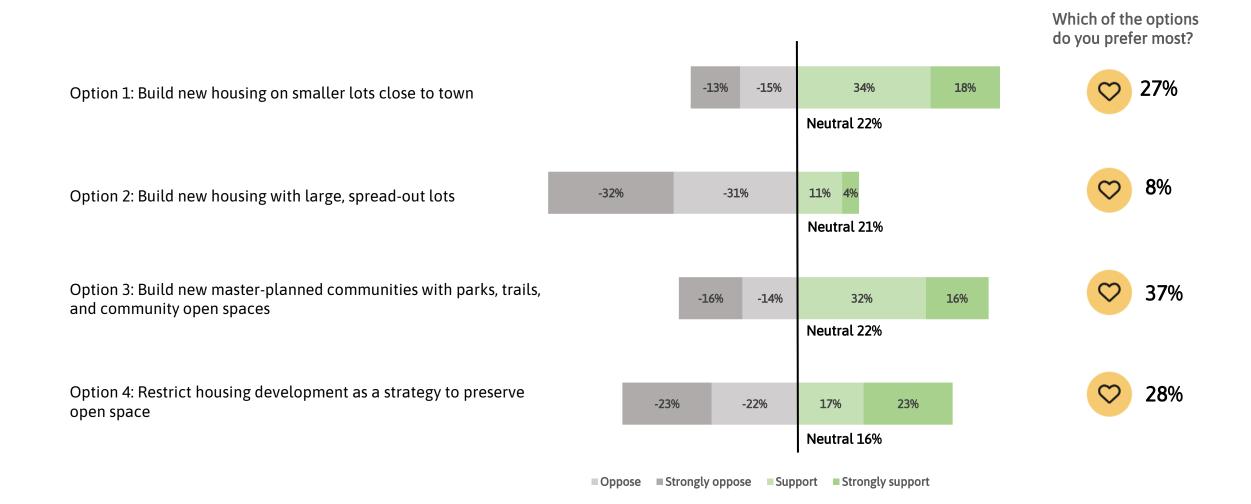
URBAN OPEN SPACE OPTIONS (STATEWIDE)





RURAL OPEN SPACE OPTIONS (STATEWIDE)





OPEN SPACE COMMENTS



URBAN

Option 3, which involves responsible housing and water conservation while preserving open spaces, resonates with most commenters as the path forward for Utah. Comments suggest there should be a focus on using existing spaces and limiting new construction. They emphasize the importance of adding more recreational opportunities within both new and existing communities.

"I live in a development in Taylorsville where HOA manages three parks, a great trail system, tennis court and pool. They are great!"

"Let's be good stewards of our land by taking up less of it."

RURAL

While commenters recognize that in larger cities, there's a desire for a denser population with smaller lots, rural residents advocate for slow and controlled growth while keeping lots large to preserve the open, country feel.

"I'd love to find a way to merge options 2 and 3. See, the plan needs to be for the communities to fill in, not the government. Allow the market to determine what's desirable."

"option #3. but just require an open space park in every community. And NOT under power lines."

URBAN OPEN SPACE BIG IDEAS



TOP 5

- 73% Invest more in natural-area recreational amenities (trailheads, campgrounds, mountain bike/hiking/equestrian/OHV trails, parking, restrooms) on state or county lands
- 72% Invest more in urban trails and trailheads (e.g.,
 Jordan River Parkway, Virgin River Trail, Murdock Canal)
- 64% Design new libraries, recreation centers, or senior centers to also provide multipurpose outdoor recreation space
- 63% Partner with schools and churches to provide recreation space and allow community access
- 63% Construct more public park spaces, plazas, and community-gathering places as communities grow

OTHER IDEAS

- 63% Invest in the preservation of open space through conservation easements or purchases
- 57% Allow for clustering homes on smaller lots to preserve areas for open space
- 51% Invest in micro open spaces (e.g., low-water-use gardens with street furniture) on small publicly owned properties
- 50% Facilitate the construction of more masterplanned developments with ample parks and trails
- 36% Create markets for landowners to sell their development rights to other landowners, local governments, and nonprofits

RURAL OPEN SPACE BIG IDEAS



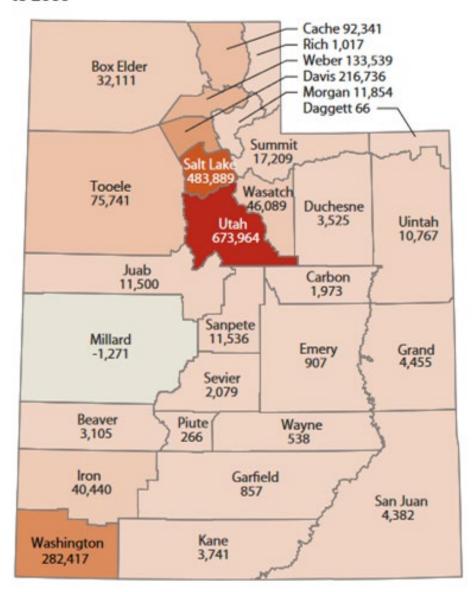
TOP 5

- 67% Invest more in natural-area recreational amenities (trailheads, campgrounds, mountain bike/hiking/equestrian/OHV trails, parking, restrooms) on state or county lands
- 58% Encourage ongoing agricultural uses by prioritizing prime farmlands in long-range planning efforts
- 54% Utilize agricultural zoning in areas desired for agricultural preservation
- 53% Invest in the preservation of open space through conservation easements or purchases
- 45% Allow for clustering homes on smaller lots to set aside areas for open space

OTHER IDEAS

- 43% Invest more in paved trails and trailheads (e.g., Price River Trail, Historic Union Pacific Rail Trail, Moab Canyon Pathway)
- 43% Explore ways to capture and retain more tourism spending in rural communities
- 40% Allow and encourage new development to use less land
- 34% Create flexibility in how transient room taxes
 (TRT) collected at hotels can be used
- 29% Create markets for landowners to sell their development rights to other landowners, local governments, and nonprofits

Figure 8: Utah Projected County Population Change, 2020 to 2060





WHILE GROWTH IS PROJECTED STATEWIDE, EXPECTATIONS VARY BY COUNTY

SLOW/NO GROWTH SUMMARY



Utahns living in rural areas that are not experiencing growth do not support significant growth and change.

- 52% prefer to add some job opportunities.
- 35% want their community to stay the same, even though this might mean jobs for current and future generations are hard to come by.
- Only 13% want to add a lot of job opportunities.
- Improving agricultural prosperity and supporting/expanding existing local businesses are the economic development strategies that generate the most support.
 - Attracting new businesses is not as popular, but 65% support attracting remote workers and almost 60% support promoting local entrepreneurship.



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&
Budget Devel

2024 General Legislative Session

GUIDING OUR GROWTH - Decision-making Timeline

WE HAVE TO TAKE ACTION TO MAINTAIN OUR QUALITY OF LIFE

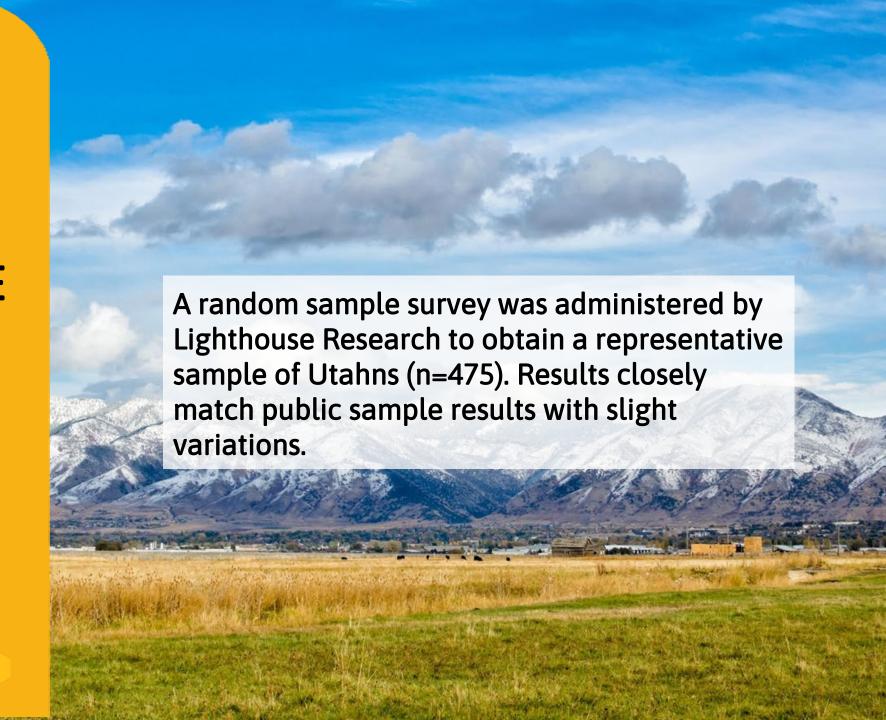
- 1. Share the survey results widely!
- 2. Facilitate a series of solution-development workshops
- 3. Explore how well the survey results match our existing plans
- 4. Deliver a list of recommendations to policy makers
- 5. Develop a set of performance metrics to evaluate our progress



APPENDIX A

RANDOM SAMPLE SURVEY RESULTS

RANDOM SAMPLE SURVEY



URBAN HOUSING OPTIONS (RANDOM SAMPLE)

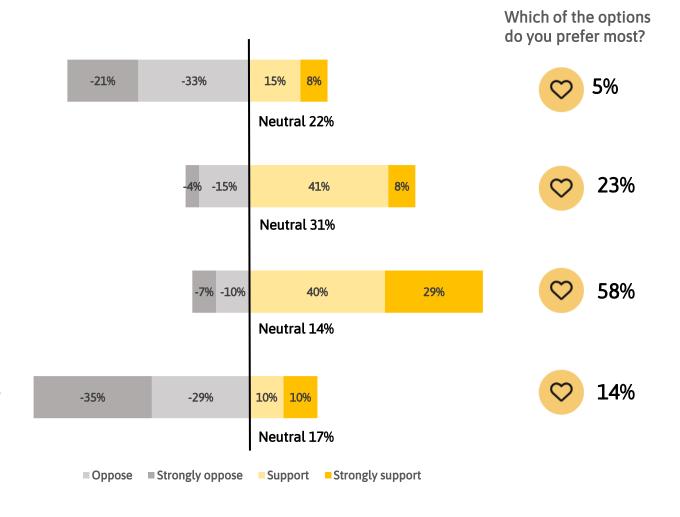


Option 1: Allow new housing, but only away from existing neighborhoods, such as on undeveloped land on the edges of communities

Option 2: Allow new housing mostly away from existing neighborhoods, but also include development near public transit stations and town centers

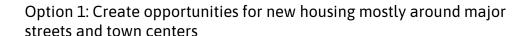
Option 3: Allow new housing in currently undeveloped areas, near transit stations and town centers, and in appropriate areas within existing neighborhoods

Option 4: Restrict housing development in existing and new areas as a strategy to slow growth



RURAL HOUSING OPTIONS (RANDOM SAMPLE)

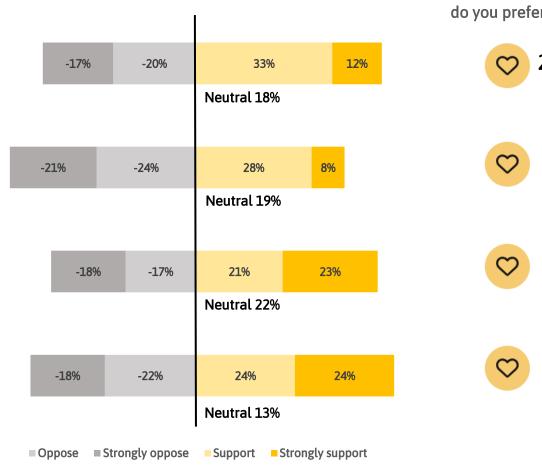




Option 2: Create opportunities for new housing mostly in new areas

Option 3: Create opportunities for new housing in both new and existing areas

Option 4: Restrict housing development as a strategy to slow growth



Which of the options do you prefer most?



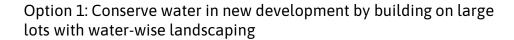






URBAN WATER OPTIONS (RANDOM SAMPLE)

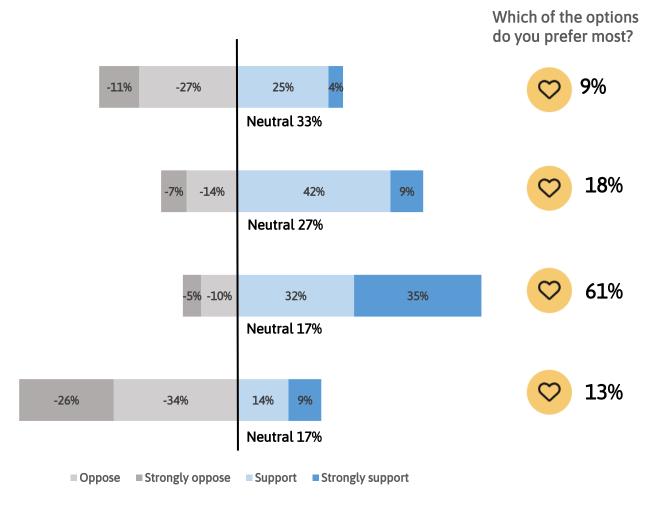




Option 2: Conserve water in new development by building on small or shared lots with water-wise landscaping

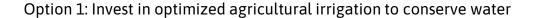
Option 3: Conserve water in both new development and existing communities with water-wise landscaping

Option 4: Restrict housing development as a strategy to reduce future water demand



RURAL WATER OPTIONS (RANDOM SAMPLE)

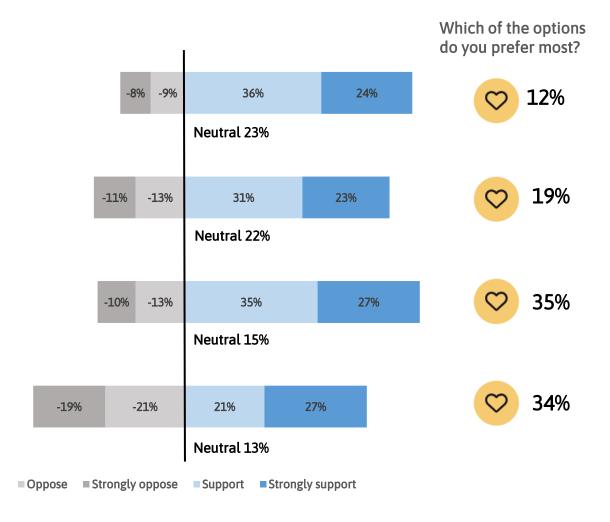




Option 2: Invest in residential and commercial water conservation

Option 3: Invest in optimized agricultural irrigation as well as residential and commercial water conservation

Option 4: Restrict housing development as a strategy to reduce future water demand



URBAN TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS (RANDOM SAMPLE)

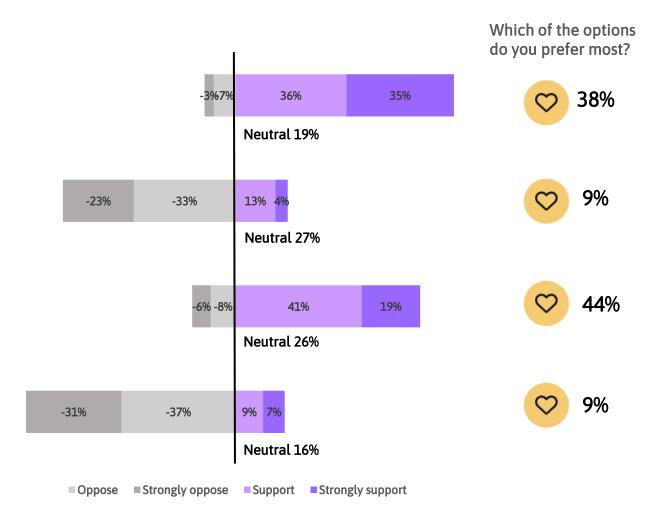


Option 1: Prioritize convenient walking, biking, and public transportation in many town centers

Option 2: Prioritize new and expanded highways and roads in new suburbs

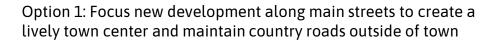
Option 3: Balance investments in walking, biking, and transit in existing cities with additional roads and highways to serve new suburbs

Option 4: Restrict housing development as a strategy to reduce future traffic



RURAL TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS (RANDOM SAMPLE)

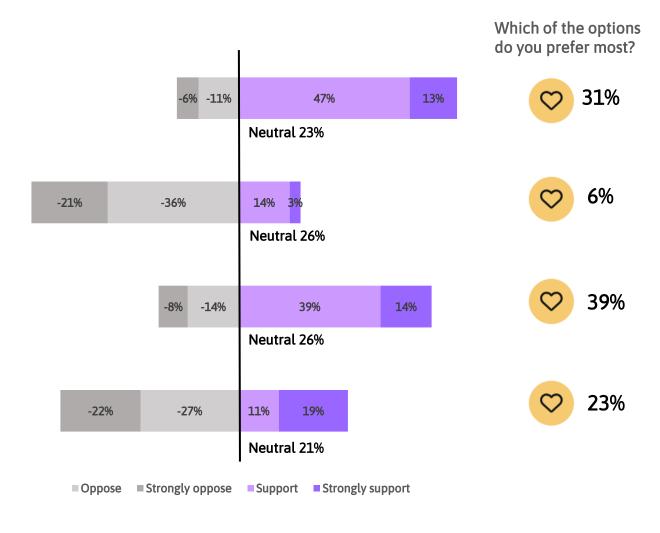




Option 2: Spread development and new streets out on the edge of town

Option 3: Balance new development and road upgrades between a lively main street and country roads on the edge of town

Option 4: Restrict housing development as a strategy to reduce transportation infrastructure costs



URBAN OPEN SPACE OPTIONS (RANDOM SAMPLE)

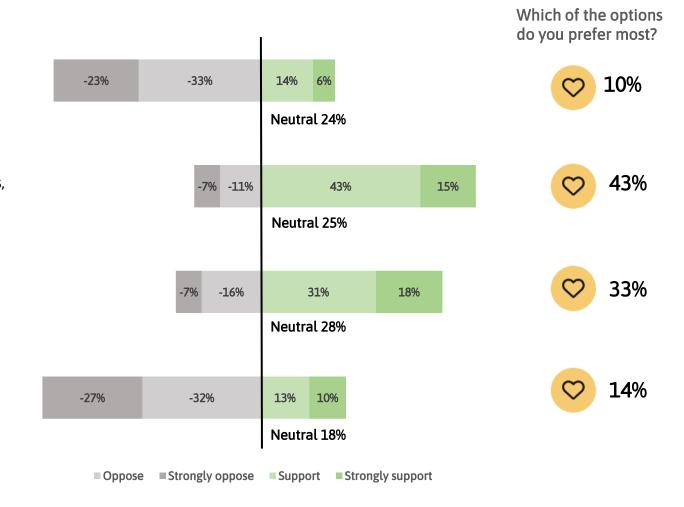




Option 2: Build new master-planned communities with parks, trails, and community open spaces

Option 3: Fill "in" rather than grow "outward" as a strategy to conserve open space

Option 4: Restrict housing development as a strategy to preserve open space and recreation



RURAL OPEN SPACE OPTIONS (RANDOM SAMPLE)



