

Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan Kickoff Survey

A Comprehensive Plan guides public policy and decision-making on a variety of issues regarding topics such as transportation, land use, and housing. The County's plan is based on the understanding that certain issues are regional in nature; cannot be fully addressed solely at the city, town, and village level; and require proactive cooperation among all levels of government.

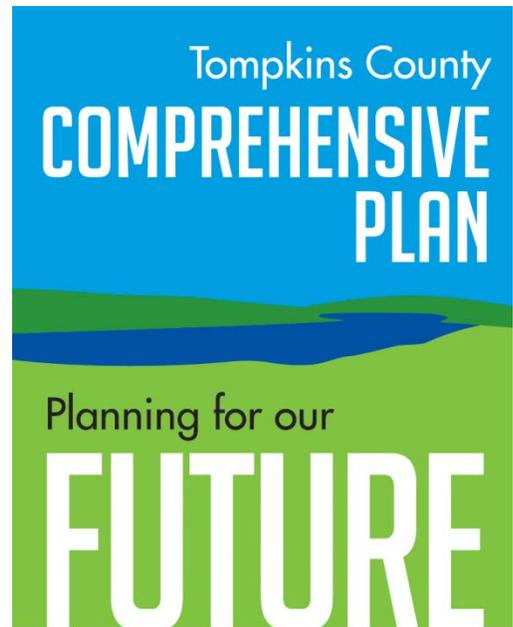
The ten elements already included in the Comprehensive Plan (and a few of the key topics addressed in each) are:

- Housing Choices (homeownership rates and housing affordability)
- Transportation Choices (in-commuting patterns and alternatives to driving)
- Jobs and Business (how to build on the county's economic strengths)
- Rural Resources (the importance of agriculture and the need to protect farmland)
- Water Resources (threats to the quality of the County's aquifers, lakes, streams, and wetlands)
- Natural Features (protecting valued natural areas)
- Strong Communities (the importance of walkable communities)
- Centers of Development (promoting development in the city, villages and designated nodes)
- Efficient Use of Public Funds (promoting efficient use of our existing public infrastructure)
- Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions (reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving energy efficiency, and transitioning to renewable sources of energy)

The Plan is nearly 10 years old and the Tompkins County Planning Department will be updating the existing elements and incorporating additional elements. Two have already been identified: Community Sustainability (considering social equity, economic vitality, and ecological stewardship in making decisions) and Climate Change Adaptation (preparing for climate change related impacts including increased flooding and droughts, changes to ecosystems, and impacts on agricultural crops).

Several other new elements have been proposed. We have the resources to address just a few more topics. Your response to this survey will help us identify which new elements to include in the County's updated Comprehensive Plan. You can share the link to this survey (tompkinscountyny.gov/compplan) with others in the community so they can share their thoughts, as well!

SURVEY STARTS ON NEXT PAGE



Health and Safety: Potential Elements

Healthy Communities would explore how the community can reduce the incidence of chronic disease and medical conditions through making physical activity easier, improving access to healthy food choices, and addressing the health and safety of an aging population.

- Important to include in the plan
- Somewhat important to include in the plan
- Not important to include in the plan
- No opinion

Food Security would consider the availability of healthy food choices in isolated rural communities and in low-income neighborhoods. It would also evaluate potential strategies to increase food security, such as increased use of locally-produced food, farmers markets, community gardens, and community-based food processing.

- Important to include in the plan
- Somewhat important to include in the plan
- Not important to include in the plan
- No opinion

Public Safety would examine the current system of providing police, fire and emergency medical services. It would investigate issues related to sustaining volunteer fire departments, opportunities for shared services and facilities, and impacts of development decisions on service providers and public safety.

- Important to include in the plan
- Somewhat important to include in the plan
- Not important to include in the plan
- No opinion

The Economy: Potential Elements

Education Economy would evaluate potential local impacts that may result from changes in higher education due to a population with fewer young people, more online educational resources, and other changes.

- Important to include in the plan
- Somewhat important to include in the plan
- Not important to include in the plan
- No opinion

The Economy: Potential Elements, continued

Creative Economy would consider the significance to the local economy of a wide range of activities, including the arts (e.g., performing, visual, and publishing), cultural industries and institutions (e.g., heritage tourism, museums, libraries), and research and development (e.g., software development).

- Important to include in the plan
- Somewhat important to include in the plan
- Not important to include in the plan
- No opinion

Localization would consider the benefits and any drawbacks of buy local and invest local campaigns and policies that may support local businesses and jobs and keep dollars circulating in the local economy but also could result in higher prices and risk.

- Important to include in the plan
- Somewhat important to include in the plan
- Not important to include in the plan
- No opinion

Affordable Living would consider a variety of costs faced by households that affect the affordability of living in Tompkins County and determine whether all of these costs should be considered collectively in making policy decisions. These costs include housing, transportation, utilities, and food.

- Important to include in the plan
- Somewhat important to include in the plan
- Not important to include in the plan
- No opinion

Neighborhoods and Communities: Potential Elements

Community Character would consider the physical components of the built and natural environment that define the character of rural areas, suburban areas, and urban neighborhoods. This element would also consider the role historic buildings, landscapes, and neighborhoods have in making the county a special place.

- Important to include in the plan
- Somewhat important to include in the plan
- Not important to include in the plan
- No opinion

Neighborhoods and Communities: Potential Elements, continued

Planning for an Aging Population would consider how the community needs to prepare for the natural aging of Tompkins County. This element could consider development and re-development issues, accessibility, and the provision of public services and facilities.

- Important to include in the plan
- Somewhat important to include in the plan
- Not important to include in the plan
- No opinion

The Environment: Potential Elements

Green Infrastructure would explore natural systems that are important to the human environment, support stormwater management, provide adequate shade and shelter, and provide natural landscaping in developed areas.

- Important to include in the plan
- Somewhat important to include in the plan
- Not important to include in the plan
- No opinion

Air Quality would consider the threats to air quality from various activities and sources, including transportation, some businesses and industries, heating, open burning, and dust.

- Important to include in the plan
- Somewhat important to include in the plan
- Not important to include in the plan
- No opinion

Infrastructure and Services: Potential Elements

Traditional Infrastructure would consider the community's plans to maintain, upgrade, and modernize existing drinking water distribution and treatment systems, wastewater collection and treatment systems, and roads and bridges. This element could also address the adequacy of existing energy infrastructure (such as natural gas service and power lines).

- Important to include in the plan
- Somewhat important to include in the plan
- Not important to include in the plan
- No opinion

Infrastructure and Services: Potential Elements, continued

Recreation would explore how well parks, trails, and other recreational facilities meet community needs. This element would also investigate the County's role in meeting community recreation needs.

- Important to include in the plan
- Somewhat important to include in the plan
- Not important to include in the plan
- No opinion

Communications Technology would consider the advances being made in communications, including the issue of access for all residents, and the impact this technology may have on the economy, education, and social life in the county.

- Important to include in the plan
- Somewhat important to include in the plan
- Not important to include in the plan
- No opinion

Now that you've had a chance to consider the potential new elements to the comprehensive plan one at a time, we'd like you to identify your top priorities. Please identify the three elements that you think should be included in the update of the Comprehensive Plan.

Health and Safety

- Healthy Communities
- Food Security
- Public Safety

The Economy

- Education Economy
- Creative Economy
- Localization
- Affordable Living

Neighborhoods and Communities

- Community Character
- Planning for an Aging Population

The Environment

- Green Infrastructure
- Air Quality

Infrastructure and Services

- Traditional Infrastructure
- Recreation
- Communications Technology

Other

- _____
- _____
- _____

Other Ideas

Is there anything else you'd like to share?

Future Involvement

There will be several opportunities to be involved during the preparation of the plan. We will maintain a website (<http://tompkinscountyny.gov/compplan>) dedicated to the plan, hold public meetings, conduct focus group discussions, etc.

If you would like to receive information via email about opportunities to participate in the update of the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan, ***please provide your email address below***. You may unsubscribe at any time. If you would prefer to receive information via traditional mail, ***please provide your mailing address below***.

About Yourself

We would like to know a little bit more about you to help us ensure that we have reached a cross-section of the county's population. Please take a minute or two to answer the following questions by checking the appropriate box:

- Where do you live?
 - City of Ithaca
 - Village of Cayuga Heights
 - Village of Dryden
 - Village of Freeville
 - Village of Groton
 - Village of Lansing
 - Village of Trumansburg
 - Town of Caroline
 - Town of Danby
 - Town of Dryden
 - Town of Enfield
 - Town of Groton
 - Town of Ithaca
 - Town of Lansing
 - Town of Newfield
 - Town of Ulysses
 - I live in a different County, but I regularly work, attend school, or conduct business in Tompkins County
 - Other Area
 - Don't know

- Are you a college student in Tompkins County?
 - Yes, full time
 - Yes, part-time
 - No

- Which of the following ranges includes your current age?
 - Younger than 15
 - 15-21
 - 22-34
 - 35-44
 - 45-54
 - 55-64
 - 65-74
 - 75+

- Which of the following ranges includes your annual household income?
 - Less than \$25,000
 - \$25,000 - \$39,999
 - \$40,000 - \$49,999
 - \$50,000 – \$59,999
 - \$60,000 - \$99,999
 - \$100,000 or more

- What is the highest level of education that you have completed?
 - Less than high school
 - High School
 - 2-year college/technical/associates degree
 - 4-year college degree
 - Master’s degree
 - Doctoral degree

Thank You!

Thank you for participating in our survey. For additional information about the Comprehensive Plan and the update process, you can visit our website: <http://tompkinscountyny.gov/compplan>

You may leave this survey in the envelope near where you picked up the blank survey. Or you may mail it to or drop it off at Tompkins County Planning Department, 121 East Court Street, Ithaca NY 14850.