

# **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

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## **Scenarios**

To select a preferred scenario for the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) to be included in and inform the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for the Tulare County region, TCAG began by reviewing the three scenarios from the 2014 RTP/SCS to determine if the assumptions in the scenarios would be adequate starting points for the 2018 RTP/SCS discussion. Each of the 2014 RTP/SCS scenarios exhibited a different model of regional growth and travel preferences, and its effects on specific environmental topics. TCAG reasoned that by beginning the 2018 RTP/SCS update with the same or similar scenarios as the 2014 RTP/SCS, this might help to highlight changes to the region's transportation and land use priorities over time. The three scenarios eventually presented to the public for the 2018 RTP/SCS were: Trend, Blueprint, and Blueprint Plus. All three scenarios were displayed and discussed at each outreach event as well as on certain websites.

## **Outreach Presentations**

During each outreach event, community members were presented with three display boards, each board demonstrating how TCAG's modeling programs had forecasted certain metrics to change based upon the specific regional growth and travel assumptions contained in that scenario. The display boards included maps demonstrating potential land use and development patterns, as well as the forecasted data regarding the following metrics: estimated: Greenhouse Gas reductions per capita, urban residential density, acres of land consumed in new development, prime agriculture land consumed, critical habitat land consumed, vehicle miles traveled per household, emissions, water consumption, energy use, and transit ridership. Through the display boards (and their identical electronic images posted on online websites), participants were informed of the forecasted impacts of each scenario before being asked to complete the survey. In many instances, however, there was also an accompanying public presentation of the scenarios and the differences between the scenarios. In such instances, distribution of surveys at every location, and online, followed the presentation, and community members had the opportunity to ask questions (in both English and Spanish) about the scenarios before completing the survey.

As a general rule, TCAG went to any organization that was willing to have a presentation. In addition to attending City Council meetings, noticed through the city efforts, public notice was posted on social media so individual members of the public could attend. Recognizing that not all members of the public could attend, TCAG solicited assistance from Community Services Employment Training (CSET) to extend outreach efforts to popular local gathering locations and events. Some locations were suggested by the Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability. Both organizations serve traditionally underrepresented and underserved communities. The following is a list of all 71 outreach events that occurred during the RTP update process:

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>
9/13-16/17	Tulare County Fair	10/17/17	Visalia Locations
9/18/17	TCAG Board Meeting	10/17/17	Visalia Salon
9/28/17	Tulare County Health Fair	10/18/17	Dinuba Emperors Senior
10/2/17	Visalia City Council Meeting	10/19/17	Dinuba Emperors Senior
10/3/17	Tulare City Council Meeting	10/20/17	La Mexicana Restaurant – Orosi
10/3/17	Tulare County Board of Supervisors Meeting	10/20/17	El Progreso Tortilleria – Orosi
10/3/17	Porterville City Council	10/20/17	Cutler Fire Department

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10/9/17	Meeting Woodlake City Council	10/20/17	Lindsay Farmer's Market
10/9/17	Meeting Farmersville City Council	10/21/17	Tulare Locations
10/10/17	Meeting Dinuba City Council Meeting	10/21/17	Dinuba Locations
10/10/17	Lindsay City Council Meeting	10/22/17	Orosi Swap Meet – Remate
10/10/17	Exeter City Council Meeting	10/23/17	Lindsay Senior Center
10/10/17	Cutler Orosi Diabetes Class	10/23/17	Sand Creek Apartments – Orosi
10/10/17	TCAT Bus Stops	10/23/17	Dinuba Ball Park
10/11/17	Palo Verde School	10/23/17	Farmersville Sports Park
10/11/17	TCOE Child Care Providers	10/23/17	Pixley Town Council Meeting
10/11/17	Cutler Senior Center	10/24/17	Visalia Family Healthcare Network
10/11/17	Liberty Park Farmersville	10/24/17	Farmersville Locations
10/11/17	Woodlake Senior Center	10/24/17	Building Community Wealth Workshop
10/11/17	Valencia House	10/24/17	Exeter Locations
10/11/17	Downtown Woodlake	10/25/17	Alta Vista Senior - Orosi
10/11/17	Farmersville Senior Center/Boy & Girl Scouts	10/25/17	Visalia Locations
10/11/17	City of Exeter	10/26/17	Farmersville Millennium B&Salon
10/12/17	Farmersville City FHCN/Liquor Store	10/26/17	Grace and Laughter – Dinuba
10/12/17	Goshen Senior Center	10/26/17	Visalia Locations
10/12/17	Goshen Chevron Station	10/26/17	Lindsay Locations
10/12/17	Lindsay Senior Center	10/27/17	Lindsay Locations
10/12/17	Dinuba Transit	10/27/17	Villa de Guadalupe – Cutler
10/12/17	Riverway Sports Park Visalia	10/27/17	Rosewood Apartments – Cutler
10/13/17	Kaweah Delta Woodlake Health Clinic	10/27/17	Pixley Family Healthcare Network Health Fair
10/13/17	City of Exeter	10/27/17	Farmersville City Phat Cuts
10/13/17	Shannon Ranch School	10/27/17	City of Woodlake
10/14/17	Exeter Harvest Festival	10/28/17	Visalia Apartments
10/15/17	Visalia Church	10/30/17	Lindsay Locations
10/15/17	Visalia Apartments	11/14/17	Tule River Tribal Council Meeting
10/16/17	Ledbetter Park		

In addition to the listed outreach events, an online ad was placed through the Facebook platform to further expand the outreach efforts. The Facebook ad was placed in both English and Spanish and provided a direct link to the online survey that community members were able to complete. This ad was specific to people within Tulare County.

### **Resource and Other Public Agencies**

The development of the RTP/SCS, FTIP and Air Quality Conformity has been done in coordination with the San Joaquin Valley Policy Council (SJVPC). The SJVPC is comprised of the eight San Joaquin Valley Councils of Governments, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit

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Administration (FTA), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), California Air Resources Board (ARB), San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD), and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

TCAG RTP/SCS Roundtable to provide a formal mechanism for obtaining input on the RTP/SCS development from various stakeholders in the community. The 2018 RTP/SCS Roundtable provided input at various critical stages during the RTP/SCS development Process. The 2018 RTP/SCS Roundtable included representatives from the eight incorporated cities in Tulare County; Tulare County, through its Resource Management Agency; Tulare County Local Agency Formation Commission; and Caltrans. It also included stakeholder representatives for the following community and interest groups: Public Transportation, Agriculture, Environmental Justice Community, Bicyclist/Pedestrian Advocate, Environmental Advocate, Health Advocate, Affordable Housing advocate, Building and Development, and two at large members. Representatives for additional stakeholder interest groups were invited to participate, but decline to attend. Notably, this includes several invitations extended to the Tule River Indian Tribe in particular.

The Notice of Preparation (NOP) and Notice of Availability (NOA) for the 2018 RTP's Environmental Impact Report (EIR) were distributed to numerous resource agencies, other public agencies, and private companies and groups. Copies of the draft RTP (and the website location where such documents can be downloaded) were also widely distributed. Listed below are many of the agencies, organizations and companies that were sent notices regarding the EIR and RTP/SCS:

### Federal

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Federal Railroad Administration, Fish & Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Army Corps of Engineers, Dept. of Energy, National Park Service, Dept. of Health & Human Services, Dept. of Agriculture, Centers for Disease Control, Naval Weapons Center (China Lake)

### State

Caltrans [Programming, Aeronautics, Scenic Highway Program, District 6], California Transportation Commission (CTC), Dept. of Fish & Game, California Highway Patrol, Dept. of Water Resources, Public Utilities Commission (PUC), Energy Commission, Native American Heritage Commission, ARB, Integrated Waste Management Board, Dept. of Education, Dept. of Health Care Services, Dept. of General Services, Dept. of Business, Transportation & Housing, Dept. of Parks & Recreation, Dept. of Conservation, California Archaeological Inventory

### Regional

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD), Kern COG<sup>1</sup>, Kings COG, Fresno COG, San Joaquin COG, StanCOG, Merced COG, San Luis Obispo COG, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, Madera County Transportation Commission, Inyo Transportation Commission

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<sup>1</sup> COG is an acronym for Council of Governments

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### Local

Tule River Indian Tribe, LAFCO, Tulare County [Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC), Resource Management Agency (RMA), Sheriff, Library, Clerk], Fresno County, Kings County, Kern County, [move highlighted portion here, then insert] ", and the" Cities of Visalia, Tulare, Porterville, Dinuba, Farmersville, Lindsay, Exeter, Woodlake, Kingsburg, Reedley, Orange Cove, Corcoran and Delano. Tulare Irrigation District, College of the Sequoias, Kaweah Delta District Hospital, Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District

### Organizations

Homebuilders Association (HBA) of Tulare-Kings Counties, Visalia Association of Realtors, Visalia Chamber of Commerce, Farm Bureau, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Citizens for a Healthy Environment, California Trucking Association, Tulare County Association of Realtors, Tulare County Citizens for Responsible Growth

### Companies

Union Pacific Railroad, Genesee and Wyoming, BNSF, San Joaquin Valley Railroad, AT&T, So California Edison, Southern California Gas, PG&E

## **Public Notice**

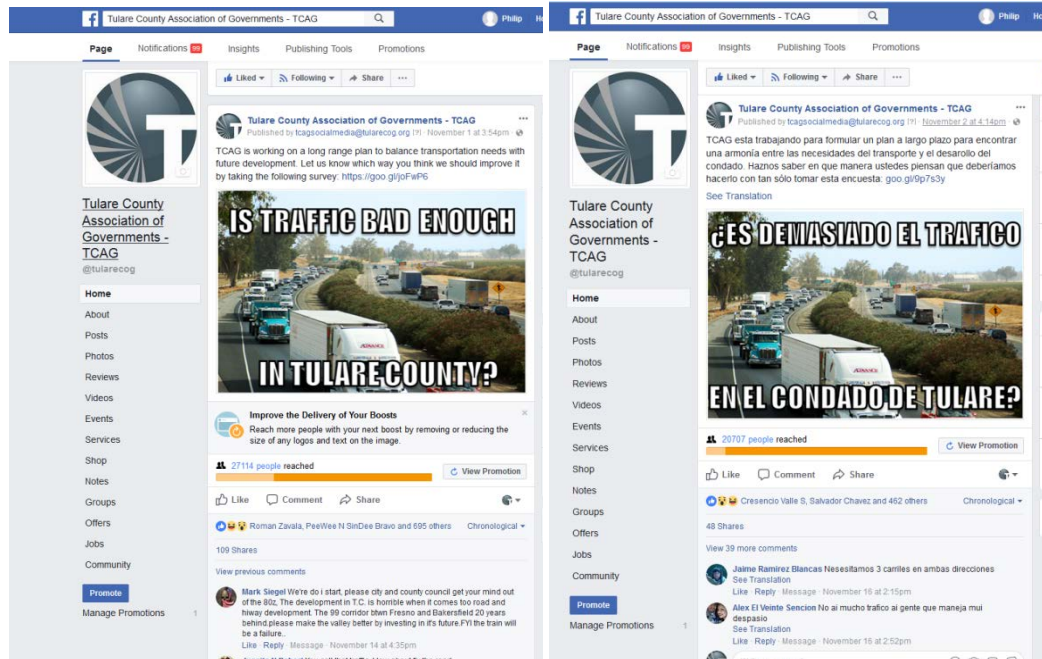
The public comment period for the 2018 RTP/SCS , and the EIR for the 2018 RTP/SCS, will begin in May 2018. In May 2018, TCAG will also release its 2019 Federal Transportation Improvement Plan (FTIP) and Air Quality Conformity document, which will be reviewed and adopted by the TCAG Board of Governors at the same meeting as the 2018 RTP/SCS. Public comment on all four of these documents (RTP/SCS, EIR to the RTP/SCS, FTIP, and Air Quality Conformity is expected to end on June 27, 2018. Notice for each of these documents will be posted in four major newspapers in Tulare County: the Visalia Times-Delta, Tulare Advance Register, Dinuba Sentinel, and Porterville Recorder. A press release will also be circulated to all other known media contacts in Tulare County. All documents will be posted on TCAG's website: <http://www.tularecog.org>. All public noticing and outreach will be conducted in compliance with federal and state regulations and TCAG's adopted Public Participation Plan.

## **Survey Results**

The RTP/SCS survey was available in a hard copy form as well as on the internet in both English and Spanish. Both were accessible on our website and social media platforms. The Facebook ad was boosted for 14 days in Spanish and English. The English ad (attached below) received a total of 109 shares and reached 27,114 users; and the Spanish ad received a total of 48 shares and reached 20,725 users.

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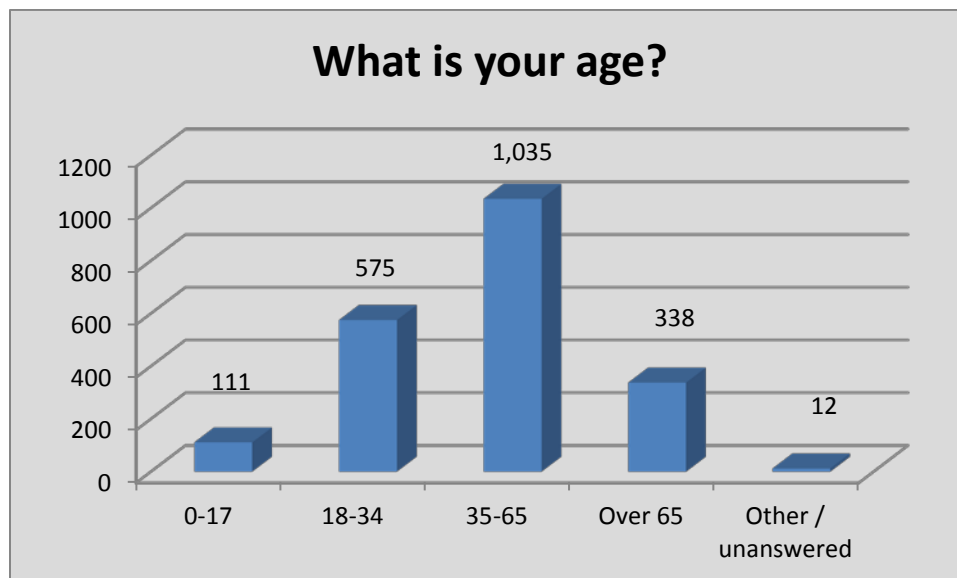
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As a result of TCAG's extensive outreach efforts, 2,237 completed surveys were received. Some participants gave multiple answers on single questions. In those instances, all answers were included in the data. A summary of the survey results and questions are listed below.

1) What is your age?

Of the people surveyed, 50% were between the ages of 35 and 65, 28% were between 18 and 24, and 16% were over 65 years.

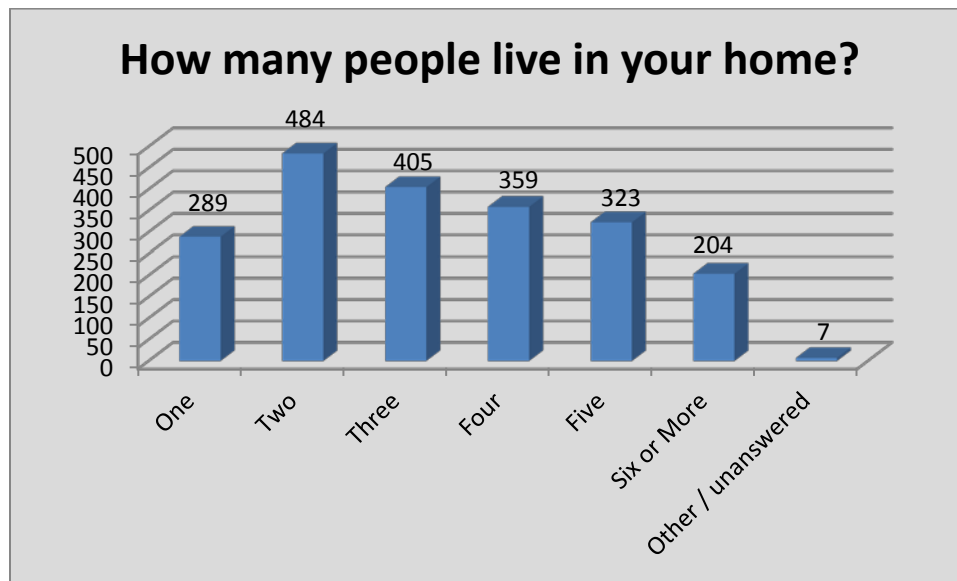


2) How many people live in your home?

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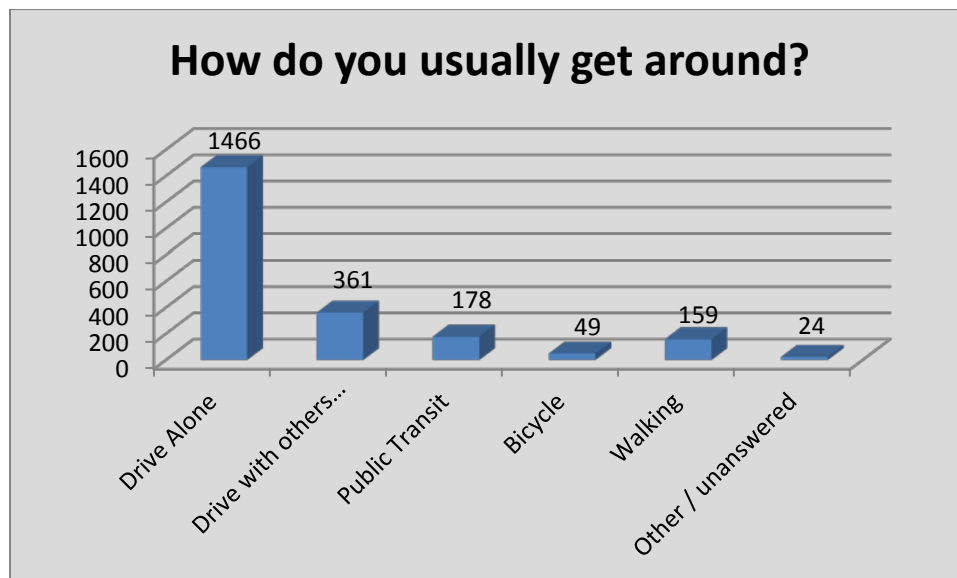
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While the responses in household sizes varied, the majority of participants lived in two person households. It is notable that there is not a dramatic contrast among participants' responses for two, three, four and five people households.



### 3) How do you usually get around?

The majority of people that were surveyed expressed they typically drive alone.



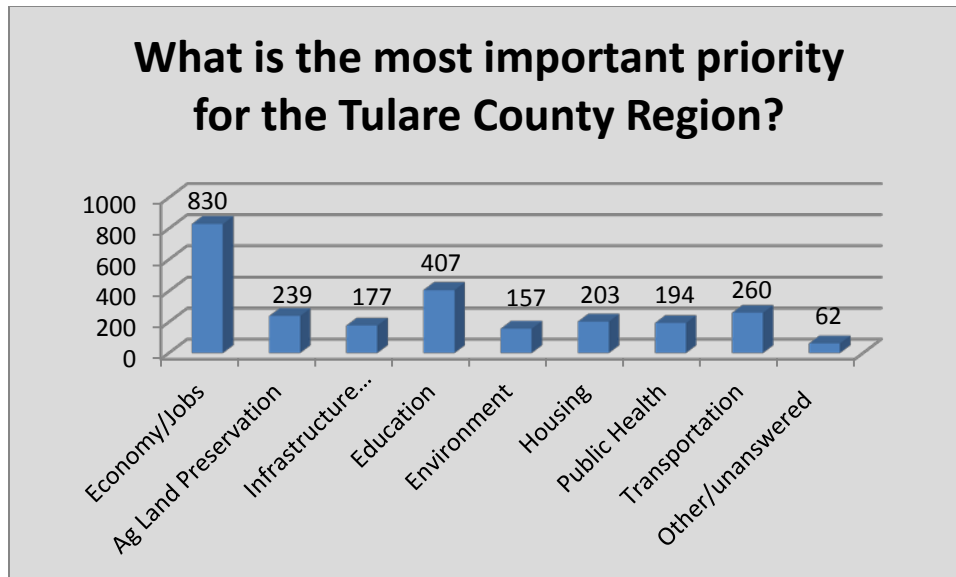
### 4) What is the most important priority for the Tulare County region?

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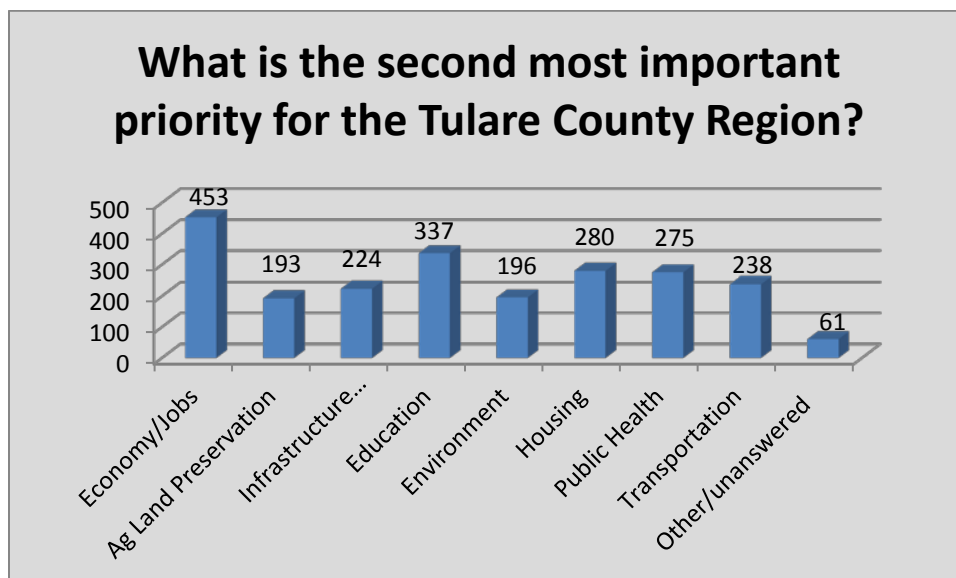
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Economy was the most important priority for those surveyed.



5) What is the second most important priority for the Tulare County region?

As in the previous question, the majority of Tulare County residents felt that economy was the second most important priority in the region.



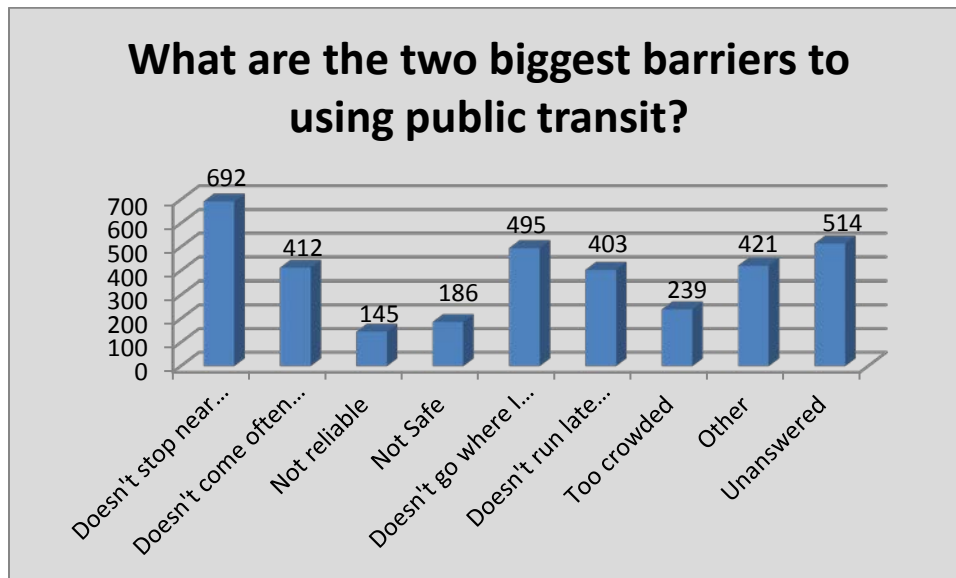
6) What are the two biggest barriers to using public transit?

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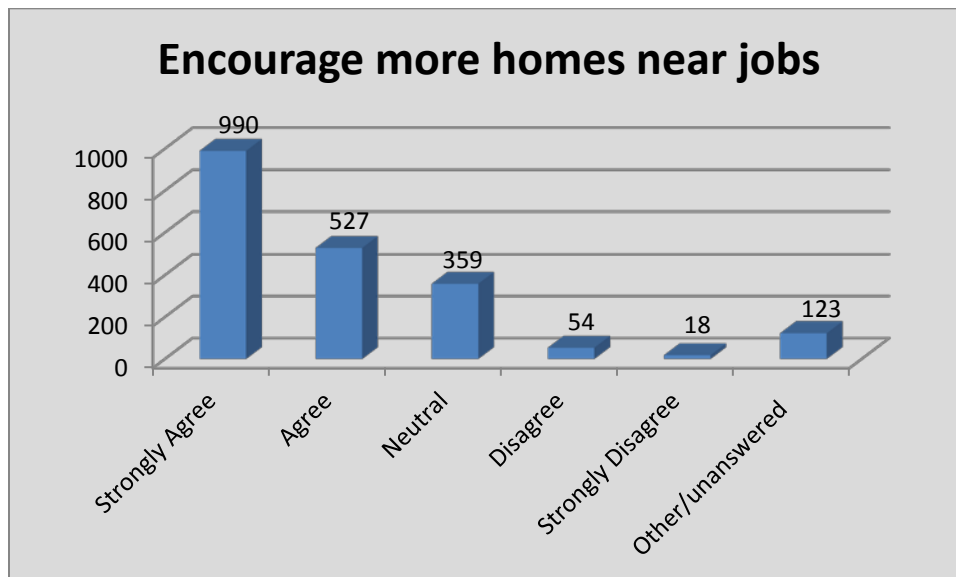
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The two major challenges when using public transit, as reported by participants were that it does not stop near their homes and it does not stop where they need to go.



- 7) The RTP should encourage more homes near jobs.

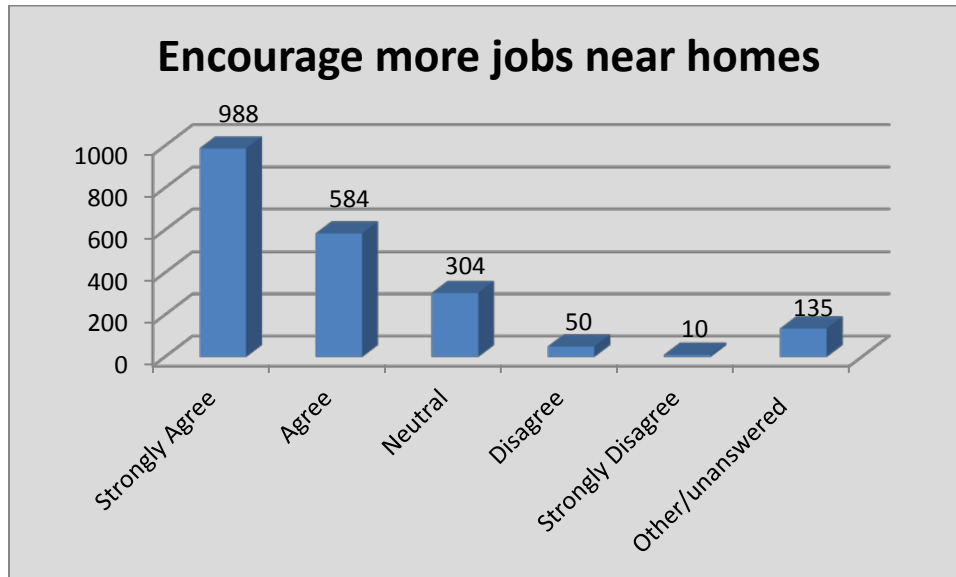


- 8) The RTP should encourage more jobs near homes.
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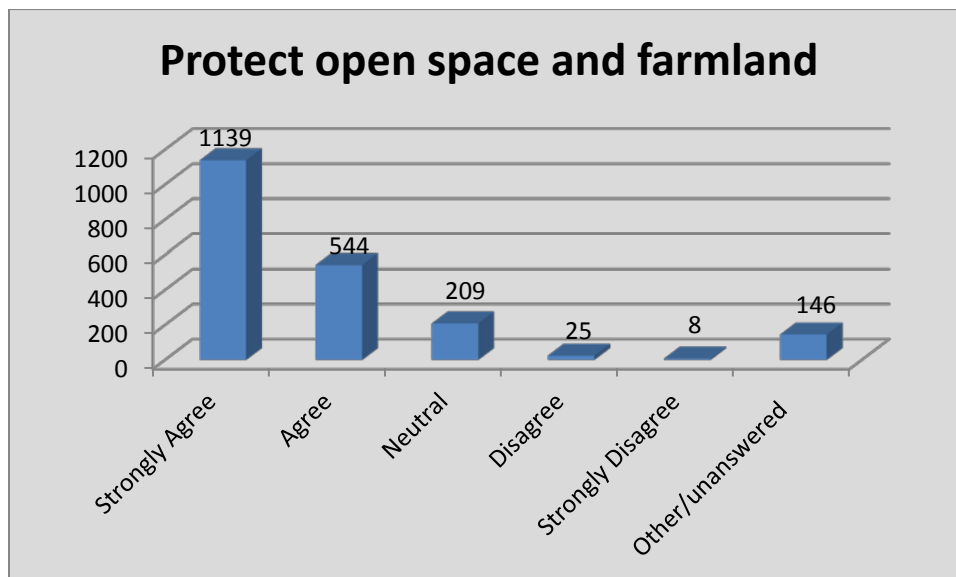


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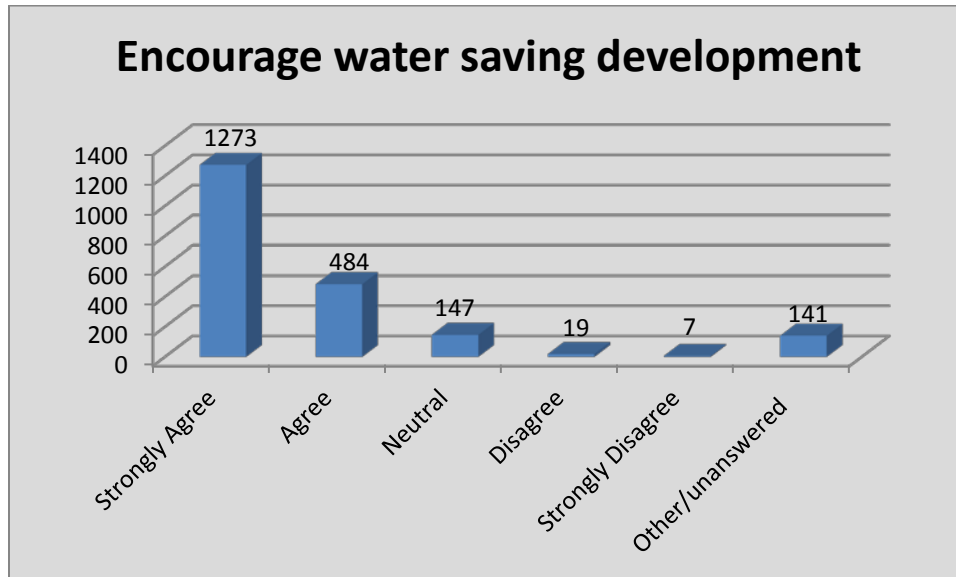
- 9) The RTP should protect open space and farmland.



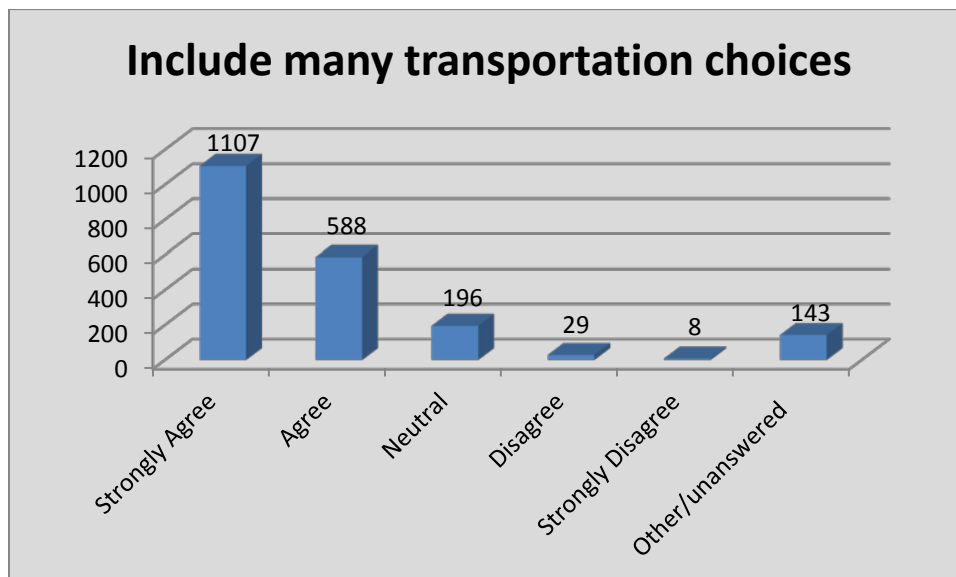
- 10) The RTP should encourage water saving development.
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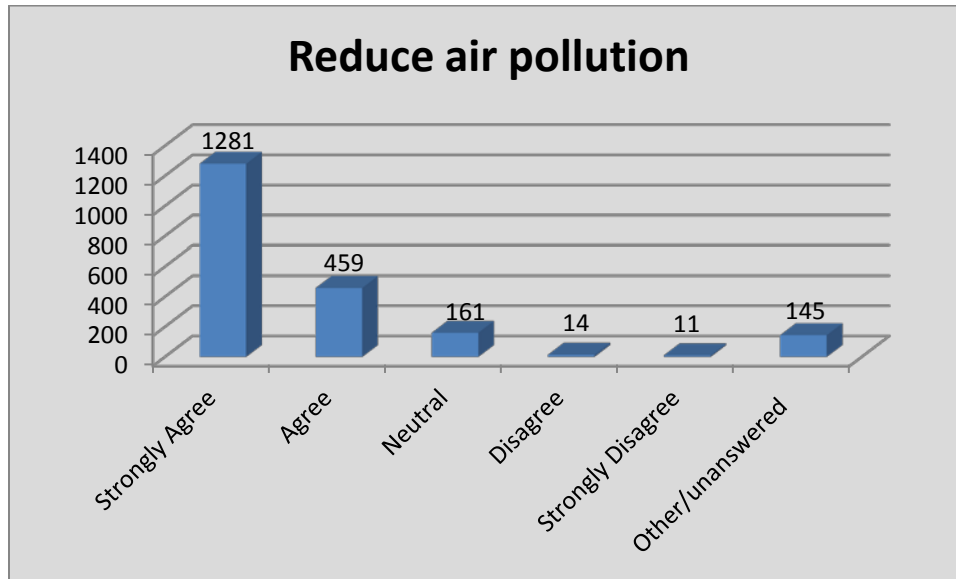
- 11) The RTP should include many transportation choices.



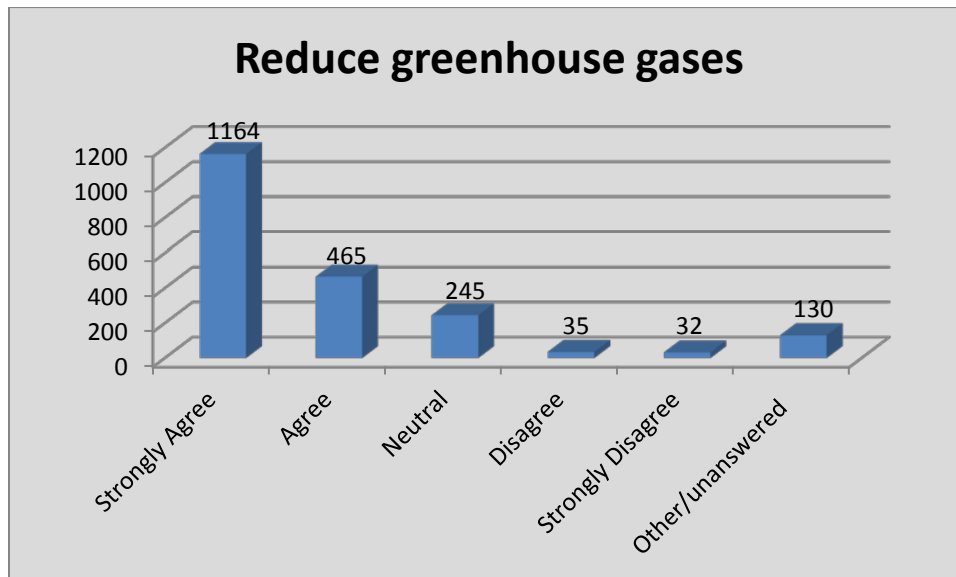
- 12) The RTP should reduce air pollution.
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13) The RTP should reduce greenhouse gases.



14) Which RTP/SCS Development Scenario do you prefer?

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After being given information on all three scenarios, the majority of participants preferred the Blueprint scenario.

