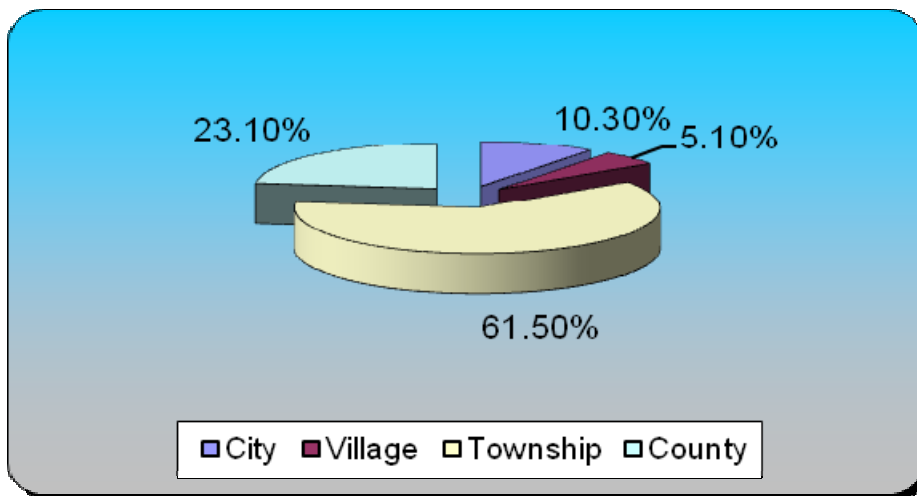


Annual Planning Workshop
November 29, 2007

Final Report Highlights

- There were 57 attendees at the workshop, which includes Planning Advisory Board Members, staff, local representatives and other guests.
- Of the local representatives, 61.5 percent indicated that they were there representing a Township.



- Of the 39 respondents to the above question, only four (4) respondents were from a city and two (2) from a village.
- In addition, 50 percent of the respondents rated their community as either rural or suburban/rural.
- When asked to rank the top three focus areas of the comprehensive plan:

Economic Development	21	19.27%
Transportation	19	17.43%
Agriculture	17	15.60%
Landscapes (land use and development)	13	11.93%
Housing	13	11.93%
Natural Resources	11	10.09%
Sewer and Water Services	8	7.34%
Parks and Recreation	6	5.50%
Solid Waste	1	0.92%
Historic Preservation	0	0%
Totals	109	100%

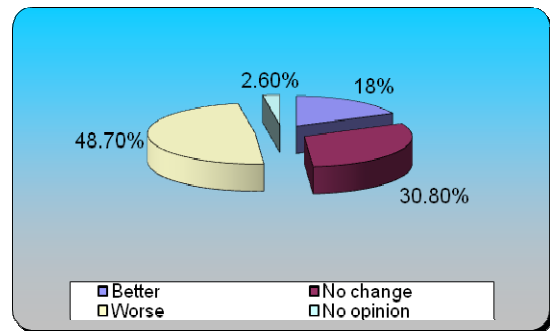
- From the above totals, the rank for each community:

Rank the top three issues		
<i>Twp</i>	Agriculture	23%
	Economic Development	17%
	Transportation	15%
<i>County</i>	Economic Development	30%
	Transportation	26%
	Housing	17%
<i>Village</i>	Housing	33%
	Natural Resources	17%
	Economic Development	17%
	Transportation	17%
	Parks and Recreation	17%
<i>City</i>	Natural Resources	22%
	Housing	22%
	Transportation	22%
	Landscapes	11%
	Agriculture	11%
	Sewer and Water Services	11%

Discussion Sessions:

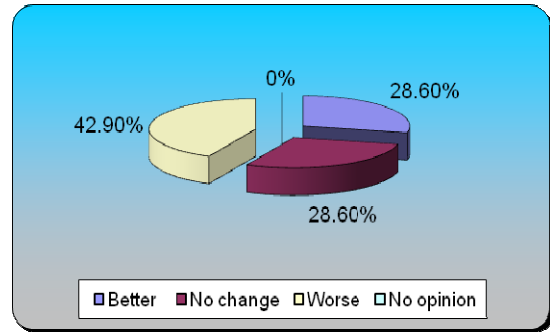
Economic Development

- SPARK is doing its job, but we need to recognize the work of local government.
 - Two tables discussed the need for SPARK to attract "high tech" jobs and manufacturing jobs.
 - We are in a global economy; it is difficult to affect the economic climate.
- Need to build communities that retain young people.
 - Transportation policy was mentioned at two tables as being a critical factor in creating attractive communities.
 - Attracting the "creative class" was mentioned by multiple tables.
- Tax policy was a discussion topic at multiple tables, though the consensus was that it was primarily a state issue.



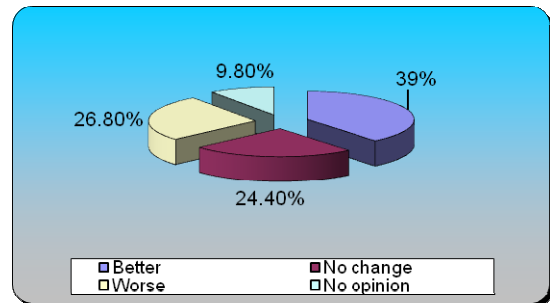
Transportation

- Non-motorized transportation was mentioned as a critical issue by most of the discussion tables.
- Transit, including light rail, was discussed at multiple tables though no clear consensus emerged.
- The need for more regional transportation planning was an issue; funding was as well.
- The need for better communication with the County Road Commission was discussed at two tables.
- A number of different concerns emerged with regard to road conditions and funding, from the need to pave gravel roads, explore HOV lanes, or to review travel times to manage congestion.



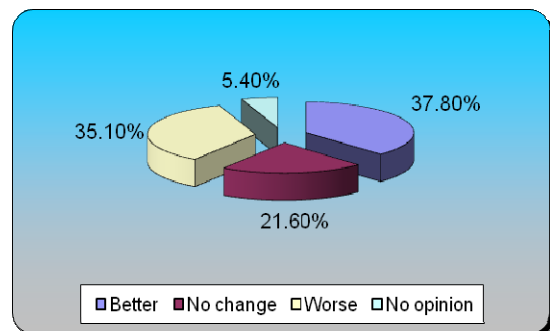
Agriculture

- Overall most tables agreed that there were some positive steps with regard to the Agriculture goal.
- Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) and the Food Systems Partnership (FSEP) were viewed as positive in the community.
- There is a need to continue to promote local growers and capitalize on the growth of organics.
- A few tables discussed the need for greater urban density to slow the growth in rural areas.



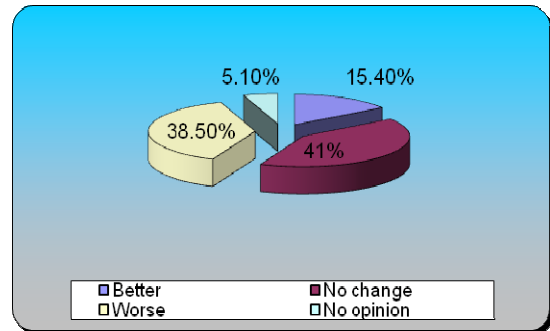
Landscapes

- Most of the tables felt that positive steps had been made for this goal, though in part because the economy has eased development pressure.
- There was discussion regarding the need for greater cooperation.
- Two tables discussed the need to improve the education around land use.
- We should focus development into existing cities and villages and need communities to have "open space" plans.
- Two tables mentioned the need for shared legal support in defense of developer lawsuits.



Housing

- The economy was seen as having a negative affect on housing in the County.
- Affordable housing was discussed at multiple tables including the need to define affordability, the rationale, and the impact of the economy on affordability.
- Mortgage and tax foreclosures were discussed at two of the tables.
- There was also discussion on exploring zoning and regulatory options to address the housing situation.



Session Feedback:

33 participants completed the session evaluation, below are the composite scores for each question asked. (1 = Strongly Disagree – 5 = Strongly Agree)

1. "Michigan's Planning Future" presented by Andrea Brown, Executive Director, Michigan Association of Planning was provided useful information for the workshop discussion.

Composite Score 3.6

2. Receiving the status update to the Comprehensive Plan for Washtenaw County prior to tonight's workshop informed your table's discussion.

Composite Score 3.1

3. The presentation on Areas of Progress and Areas to be addressed was a helpful primer for the polling and table discussion.

Composite Score 3.8

4. The Audience Polling System was a useful tool for getting input in tonight's discussion.

Composite Score 4.3

5. The table discussions provided opportunity to give more detailed feedback on the selected focus areas.

Composite Score 4.1

6. Overall, this workshop was a valuable feedback opportunity

Composite Score 3.9