

Bakersfield Town Plan Community Survey

Bakersfield needs your input as the Town works to update the Bakersfield Town Plan. The Town Plan describes the community's vision for the future of the Town. It guides the Town's actions around zoning, the development of public infrastructure, and other regulatory and non-regulatory actions. The Selectboard and Planning Commission will use the survey results to identify high priority goals and actions for the Town over the next eight years.

Please take about 5 minutes to answer the following questions. Select the response that best corresponds to your answer for each question. All residents, seasonal residents and property owners 18 years and older are encouraged to complete a survey; your response will be kept strictly confidential.

The survey will be open from October 14th to November 24th. Please return your completed survey to the Bakersfield Town Office or Library by November 24th. **You can also complete this survey online at bit.ly/BakersfieldPlanSurvey,**

or scan below:



1. *How long have you lived in Bakersfield?*

- ☐ Less than 5 years ☐ 5-15 years ☐ Over 15 years

2. *What do you like most about living in Bakersfield?*

3. *What do you like least about living in Bakersfield?*

4. *If you could change one thing in Bakersfield, what would it be?*

5. *In your view, what are the **top three most important priorities** for Bakersfield to consider over the next eight years? (Please check only 3)*

- ☐ Preserving important natural areas and scenic resources.
- ☐ Preserving historic structures.
- ☐ Supporting existing farms and forests, and the preservation of farm and forest land.
- ☐ Expanding the amount of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure (e.g. sidewalks, bike paths, bike lanes, trails).
- ☐ Regulating where growth occurs in Town.
- ☐ Encouraging small-scale businesses in Bakersfield.
- ☐ Supporting housing options that are affordable to residents.
- ☐ Expanding childcare options.
- ☐ Improving access to broadband and cellular service.

6. *Are there any other **key priorities** not mentioned above that the plan should address? Please provide any additional comments on the future vision for Bakersfield here:*

Bakersfield Town Plan Community Survey

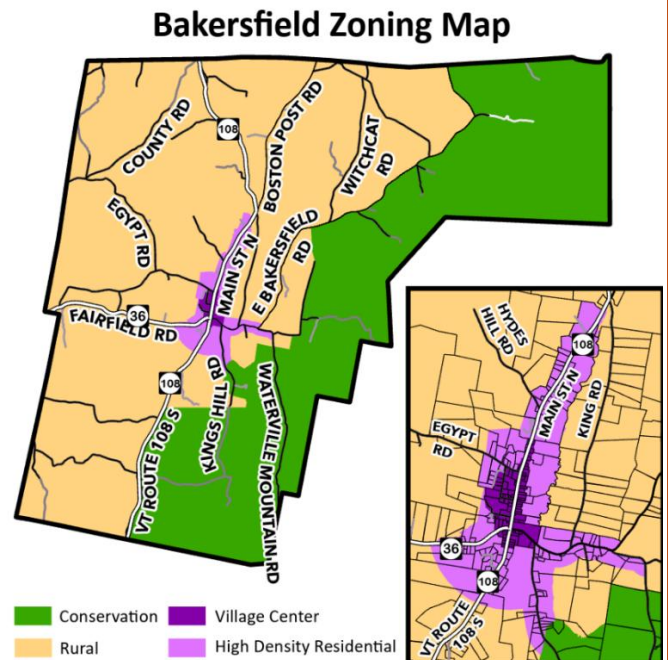
7. Please rate the following town facilities and services:

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Not Applicable
Roads & Streets	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sidewalks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Parks & Recreational Opportunities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community Events	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Education & Childcare	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Fire & Emergency Services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cell Service	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Internet	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

8. Which zoning district do you live or own property in? (check all that apply)

- ☐ **Conservation:** mainly forested lands with scenic and natural resource value that lack direct access to public roads and are poorly suited for development.
- ☐ **Rural:** mostly farmland with rural residential and other compatible uses.
- ☐ **Village Center:** the historic center of Bakersfield, with mixed residential, commercial and public uses in a traditional village setting.
- ☐ **High-Density Residential:** a transition between the compact village center and the rural areas of Bakersfield.

9. What do you think about these areas and descriptions?



10. Do they make sense as a direction for the town's future?

If you would like to learn more about these districts, read the current Town Plan at bit.ly/BakersfieldPlan2018



11. How familiar are you with the current Bakersfield Town Plan?

- ☐ Very familiar ☐ Somewhat familiar ☐ Not familiar

Demographic Information - The purpose of asking for your demographic information is to ensure that the survey is representative of Bakersfield residents.

12. How old are you?

- ☐ 18-34 years ☐ 35-64 years
☐ 65+ years

13. Are you a full-time or seasonal Bakersfield resident?

- ☐ Full-time ☐ Seasonal

Thanks for completing the Bakersfield Town Plan Community Survey! Please return your completed survey to the Town Office (Mon-Thurs 8am-noon) or Library. For more information see bit.ly/BakersfieldTownPlan.

Attend the community dinner and workshop:

Thursday November 6th, 6:00 pm

Bakersfield Town Hall

South Hero Town Plan 2022

Community Vision and Planning Survey

Introduction

South Hero is working on a major update to its Town Plan. Check out the project website for more information: www.nrpcvt.com/south-hero-town-plan-2023. This survey is one way the Planning Commission is doing outreach - it will be used to develop a vision statement and assess community priorities. The more survey responses we get, the more useful the results will be. Your participation is important!

What do you think about South Hero?

1. What do you like most about living in South Hero?

2. What do you like least about living in South Hero?

3. If you could change one thing in South Hero, what would it be?

Questions Specific to Town Plan Guiding Themes

While the plan update will address all the elements of the town plan, the Planning Commission has identified several guiding themes on which to focus. The following survey questions are related to these themes:

 Housing and Transportation  Climate Change and Resilience  Equity and Inclusion  Recreation and Recreation Economy  Vibrant Villages

Housing

It is a state goal that Vermonters are able to afford a home that meets their needs. Generally, a home is considered affordable when not more than 30% of income is spent on housing.

4. Median primary home sale prices in South Hero have increased by 74% since 2015. In your opinion, how does this impact the community?

5. Which of the following best describes the housing you currently live in?

- ☐ Single household home
- ☐ Accessory dwelling unit
- ☐ Apartment in 2–4-unit building.
- ☐ Apartment in 5+ unit building.

6. How satisfied are you with the housing options currently available in South Hero?

- ☐ Very satisfied
- ☐ Somewhat satisfied
- ☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- ☐ Somewhat dissatisfied
- ☐ Very dissatisfied

Please explain:

7. Short-term rentals (30 consecutive days or less) are regulated as a single-family use of property in South Hero. Do you think the Town should adopt more restrictions on short-term rentals?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Why or why not? _____

Public Transit

8. Would you use public transportation if it was available? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

If so, how would you use it?

- ☐ Commuting to work
Where? [St. Albans, Milton/Georgia, Burlington area, Montpelier area, Other]
- ☐ Appointments/Personal Business
- ☐ Transit Connections (Airport, Train, Bus)
- ☐ Other _____

How often would you use it?

- ☐ Every day
- ☐ On a weekly basis
- ☐ Occasionally
- ☐ Never

What time of day would you use it (Leaving South Hero)?

- ☐ Morning (5-9AM)
- ☐ Mid-Day (9AM-1PM)
- ☐ Afternoon (1PM – 4PM)
- ☐ Evening (4PM – 9PM)

What time of day would you use it (Returning to South Hero)?

- ☐ Morning (5-9AM)
- ☐ Mid-Day (9AM-1PM)
- ☐ Afternoon (1PM – 4PM)
- ☐ Evening (4PM – 9PM)

Water Quality, Water Supply and Wastewater Management

South Hero does not currently have any municipal wastewater management; wastewater is managed by private septic systems. The Town of South Hero is currently conducting a feasibility study to evaluate potential community wastewater management solutions in the village areas. More information on this project is available here: <https://southherovt.org/departments/wastewater-committee/>

10. South Hero Fire District #4 provides potable drinking water to 320 households & businesses in and around South Hero Village and Keeler Bay Village. Do you support efforts to expand Fire District #4?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

11. Should the Town of South Hero support efforts to improve the water quality of Lake Champlain?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

12. Do you support the following efforts toward this end?

- Designating a representative to serve on the Friends of Northern Lake Champlain.
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure
- Developing a stormwater master plan for the village zoning districts and surrounding areas.
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure
- Exploring municipal wastewater management in the village zoning districts and surrounding areas.
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Other ideas or comments?

Recreation

Year-round and seasonal residents make use of South Hero roads to bike for recreation and to get to local schools, shops, parks and other destinations. The Town has also become a destination for visitors who want to ride bikes on our roads, including those that drive to Town and those that use the Bike Ferry. The increase in biking in recent years has resulted in benefits, challenges, and new opportunities for the community.

Please provide comments, questions, and/or suggestions related to the following questions:

13. What would help people on bikes be safer and more comfortable on South Hero roads?

14. What should the role of bike-centric tourism be in South Hero?

15. Would you or your family use a multi-use recreation path that was designed for walking/running, biking, etc.?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

What points of interest in the community would you like to be connected by a recreation path?

Equity and Inclusion

16. How can South Hero be welcoming to all people regardless of age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability?

Villages

One of the statewide planning goals is “to plan development so as to maintain the historic settlement pattern of compact village and urban centers separated by rural countryside.” Another is that “Development should be undertaken in accordance with smart growth principles as defined in Vermont Statute (24 VSA §2791(13)). For these reasons, South Hero has adopted zoning standards that allow for concentrated mixed-use development and residential neighborhoods in the South Hero Village Zoning District and Keeler Bay Village Zoning District with less concentrated rural residences and working landscapes allowed outside the village zoning districts.

SECTION 203 of the Town Development Regulations describes Village Zoning District Purposes as follows:

Village Districts

The Village Districts, consisting of South Hero Village and Keeler Bay Village, encompass the traditional village centers in South Hero consisting of a concentration of residential, commercial and public land uses at higher densities than other parts of town. Commercial and mixed use development is encouraged to be located in the Village Districts and be encouraged to be designed and sited to further traditional village center characteristics such as walkable, pedestrian friendly streets, sidewalks and walkways; human-scale buildings with architectural details, landscaping and lighting; an integrated street network; shops and services intermixed with homes; a variety of commercial establishments from retail shops to home businesses, professional offices, and tourist services; places for the community to gather for social and cultural events; small, low impact industry; and government services. Historic buildings are a

significant contributor to village character and should be preserved when possible. New development shall be consistent in siting and scale with the surrounding historic structures in the villages.

Please reference the village zoning district purpose statements and map, which are adopted in the South Hero Zoning Regulations on the project website here: www.nrpcvt.com/south-hero-project-documents.

17. What elements of the vision for the village zoning districts do you support?

Check and rate all that apply:

	Support	Neutral/No Opinion	Do Not Support
Walkable with connected, and well-maintained, safe sidewalks			
Pedestrian furniture (benches, trash cans, bike racks, etc.)			
Trees to provide shade			
Safe pedestrian crossings			
Traffic light(s)			
Pedestrian-scale street lighting			
Traffic calming devices, such as rapid flashing beacons			
Curb bump-outs (shorten crossing distance and slow traffic)			
A variety of businesses and commercial establishments with a variety of residential units mixed in			
Small, low impact industries if approved as conditional use with appropriate conditions on hours of operation, lighting, noise etc.			
Mixed use core surrounded by walkable residential neighborhoods			
Maintain historic character			
Concentrated development			
Municipal wastewater treatment			
Other:			

Other

18. Do you have any other comments or concerns you would like to share with the Planning Commission?

Information about Survey Respondents

19. What zoning district do you reside in? Please reference the South Hero Zoning Map found on the project website here: www.nrpcvt.com/south-hero-project-documents.

- ☐ Village District
- ☐ Rural/Residential District
- ☐ Shoreland District
- ☐ Not Sure/Multiple Districts

20. Are you a seasonal or year-round resident?

- ☐ Seasonal Resident
- ☐ Year-round Resident

21. Do you rent or own your home?

- ☐ Rent Home
- ☐ Own Home

22. How old are you?

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18-34
- ☐ 35-54
- ☐ 55-75
- ☐ 76+

23. What is the location of your employment?

- ☐ At home, self employed
- ☐ At home, work remotely
- ☐ Hybrid, work from home on some days each week
- ☐ In South Hero
- ☐ In Chittenden County
- ☐ In Franklin County
- ☐ I am not currently employed
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ Other _____

Richford Town Plan Survey

How would you like to improve Richford? The Richford Town Planning Commission needs your ideas for updating our Town Plan. The plan guides decisions about zoning rules, community buildings and services. The survey is quick and will take less than 10 minutes to complete. Your response is appreciated!

1. What do you like most about living in Richford?

2. If you could change one thing about Richford, what would it be?

3. Please rate the following Town facilities.

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Not Applicable
Town Hall					
Library Building					
Parks					
Roads & Streets					
Sidewalks					

4. Please rate the following Town services.

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Not Applicable
Library Services					
Police Services					
Fire & Ambulance Services					
Community Events					

Streets & Sidewalks

1. How safe do you feel walking in Richford?
 - a. Very Safe
 - b. Safe
 - c. Somewhat Safe
 - d. Somewhat Unsafe
 - e. Not Safe
 - f. I don't walk in Richford

2. If you do not feel safe walking, why (check all that apply)?
 - ☐ Lack of sidewalks
 - ☐ Poor sidewalk condition
 - ☐ High vehicle speeds
 - ☐ Lack of safe locations to cross the street
 - ☐ Not applicable
 - ☐ Other: _____

3. Would you walk more or feel safer walking if better pedestrian infrastructure was in place?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not applicable

Housing

1. Please rate how concerned you are about the following in Richford.

	Not Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Concerned	Very Concerned
Vacant houses and apartments in Town				
Poorly maintained houses & apartments in Town				
Being able to find an affordable house or apartment in Town				
Property values not increasing over time in Town				

2. Please check which of the following actions to address vacant and poorly maintained houses and apartments in Richford you would support.

☐ Stricter rental housing code (locally enforced health & safety standards for rental units)
☐ Municipal loan fund to assist with improvements to houses/apartments
☐ Stricter ordinance on trash & junk
☐ None of these
☐ Don't know/Need more information
☐ Other:

3. Please check which of the following actions to support the development of new houses and apartments in Richford you would support.

☐ Changes to zoning regulations that make it easier to develop housing
☐ Sell municipally-owned land to housing developers
☐ Applying for grants to support housing development
☐ None of these
☐ Don't know/Need more information
☐ Other:

Local Businesses

1. Where do you work?

a) At home, self-employed
b) At-home, remote worker
c) In Richford
d) In Franklin County (excluding Richford)
e) Other location outside of Franklin County
f) I am not currently employed
g) Retired
h) Other:_____

2. How often do you visit Richford businesses for reasons other than going to work?

a) Daily
b) Weekly
c) Monthly
d) Less than Monthly

3. What businesses or locations would you like to see in Richford?

Demographics

1. How old are you?
 - a) Under 18
 - b) 18-34
 - c) 35-64
 - d) 65+

2. How long have you lived in Richford?
 - a) 0-5 years
 - b) 6-9 years
 - c) 10-19 years
 - d) 20+ years

3. Do you rent or own your home?
 - a) Rent
 - b) Own
 - c) Other: _____

Other Comments

1. Are there any other comments or concerns you would like to share with the Planning Commission?