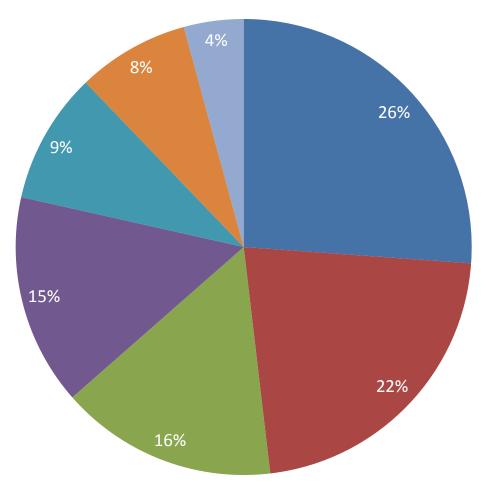
MPG &
COMMUNITY
PLANNING
SURVEY
RESULTS

Spring 2013



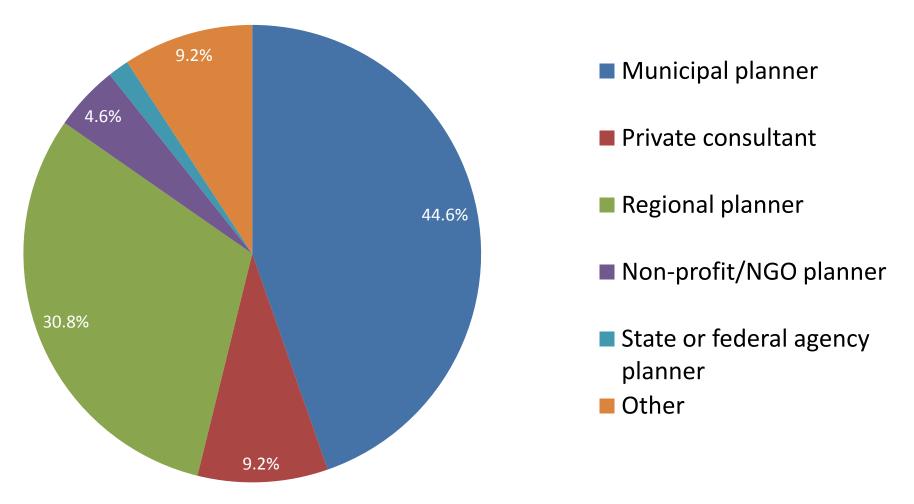
AGENCY OF COMMERCE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Q1. Please identify yourself. (n=181)



- A professional planner
- Local planning commissioner
- Zoning administrator
- Other
- Selectboard member
- Zoning or development review board member
- Other local committee member

Q2. If you are a professional planner what is your role? (n=65)



Q3. Which of the 13 statewide goals are priorities for the municipality/municipalities that your serve? (n=180)

■ High Priority ■ Priority ■ Low Priority ■ Not a Priority

Plan development to maintain the historic settlement of compact village and urban centers surrounded by open countryside

Identify, protect and preserve important natural and historic features of the Vermont landscape

Maintain and improve the quality of air, water, wildlife and land resources

Provide a strong and diverse economy with satisfying and rewarding job opportunities

Provide for safe, convenient, economic and energy efficient transportation systems including transit and bike/pedestrian options

Plan for, finance and provide for an efficient system of public facilities and services (emergency services, schools, water supply and waste disposal)

Encourage and strengthen agricultural and forest industries

Encourage efficient use of energy and the development of renewable energy resources

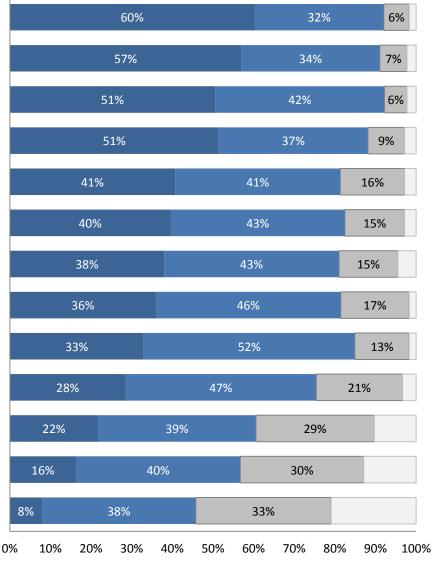
Maintain and enhance recreational opportunities for Vermont residents and visitors

Ensure the availability of safe and affordable housing for all

Encourage the wise and efficient use of Vermont's natural resources, facilitating the extraction of earth resources and the proper restoration...

Broaden access to educational and vocational training opportunities

Ensure safe and affordable child care



Q3. Which of the 13 statewide goals are priorities for the municipality/municipalities that your serve? (n=180)

•Small Communities (pop <2000) vs. Larger Communities (5000+)

Provide a strong and diverse economy with satisfying and rewarding job opportunities (% responding goal as 'High Priority')

- Small Communities 39%
- Large Communities 85%

Provide for safe, convenient, economic and energy efficient transportation systems including transit and bike/pedestrian options (% responding goal as 'High Priority')

- Small Communities 24.1%
- Large Communities 64.7%

Q3. Which of the 13 statewide goals are priorities for the municipality/municipalities that your serve? (n=180)

•Small Communities (pop <2000) vs. Larger Communities (5000+)

Encourage and strengthen agricultural and forest industries (% responding goal as 'High Priority')

- Small Communities 44.6%
- Large Communities 26.5%

 Plan for, finance and provide for an efficient system of public facilities and services (% responding goal as 'High Priority')

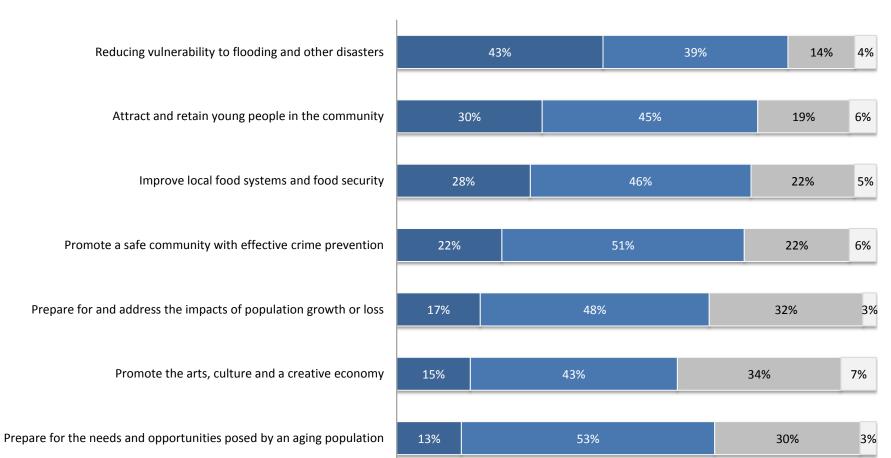
- Small Communities 23.6%
- Large Communities 57.1%

• Selectboard Members (n=20)

Plan development to maintain the historic settlement of compact village and urban centers surrounded by open countryside

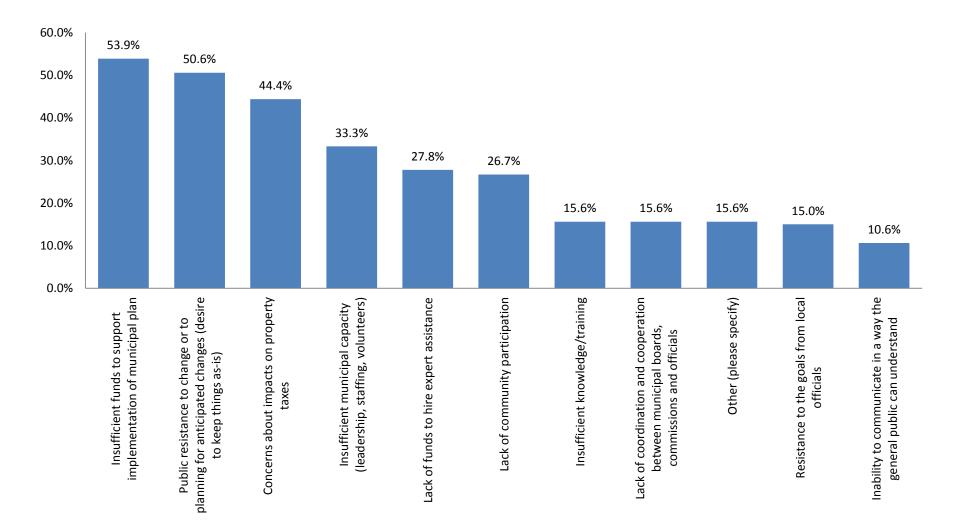
•Much lower priority for selectboard members (30%) than other groups (60%.)

Q4. What additional goals are priorities for the municipality/municipalities that you serve? (n=179)



■ High priority ■ Priority ■ Low Priority ■ Not a Priority

Q5. What are the top three obstacles to achieving the municipal goals that you identified as priorities? (n=180)



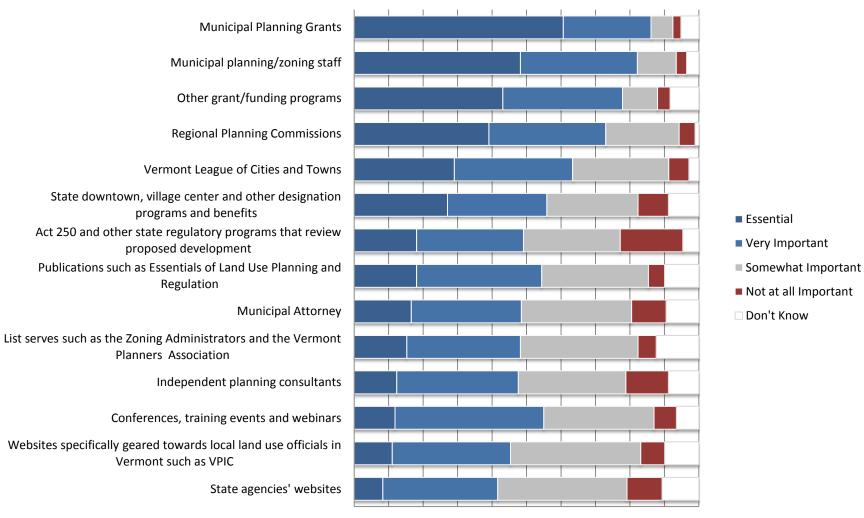
Q5. What are the top three obstacles to achieving the municipal goals that you identified as priorities?

• "Lack of coordination and cooperation between municipal boards, commissions and officials" was identified as a major obstacle by respondents from Rutland County.

• "Concerns about impacts on property taxes" was the biggest obstacle identified by Selectboard members.

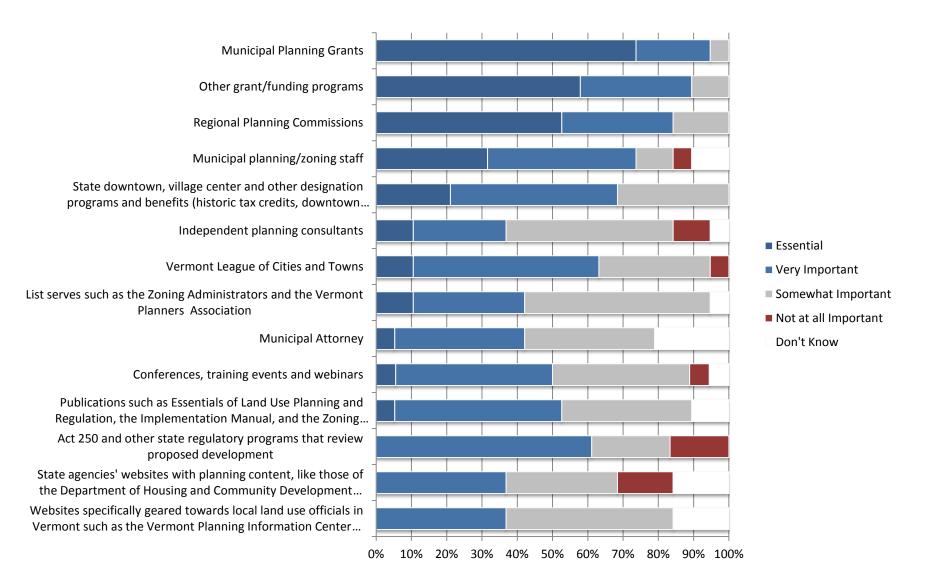
• "Insufficient municipal capacity (leadership, staffing, volunteers)" was identified as a much bigger issue for small communities.

Q6. What existing resources help your municipality meet its planning goals?



0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

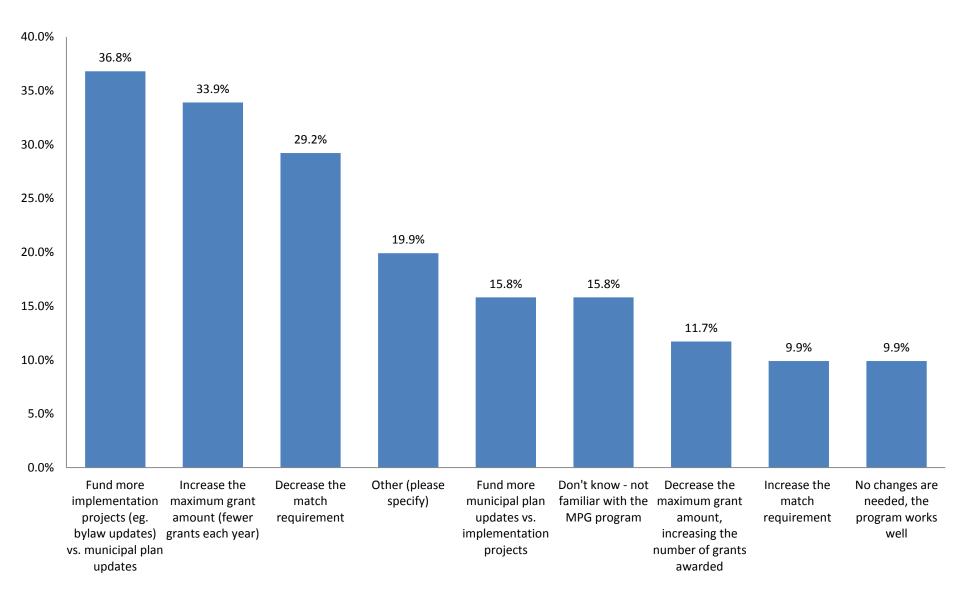
Q6. What existing resources help your municipality meet its planning goals? (RPCs)



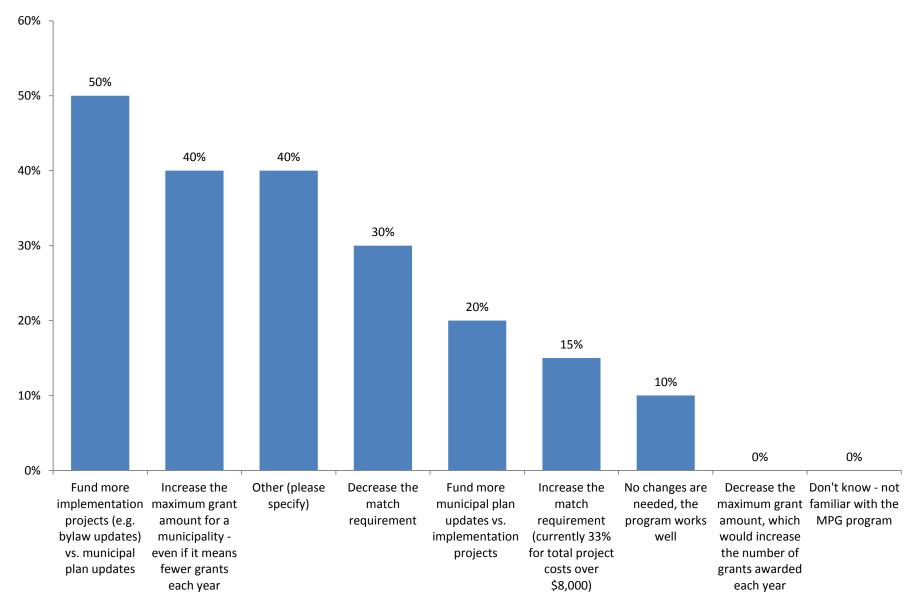
Q6. What existing resources help your municipality meet its planning goals?

		Pop <2000	Pop 2000- 5000	Pop > 5000
Municipal	Essential	34.0%	49.1%	75.8%
planning/zoning staff		(17)	(28)	(25)
State downtown, village center and other designation programs and benefits	Essential	20.8% (11)	20.7% (12)	45.5% (15)
Vermont League of	Essential	38.9%	28.1%	18.2%
Cities and Towns		(21)	(16)	(6)

Q7. For Municipal Planning Grants, which of the following possible changes to the program do you support? (n=180)



Q7. For Municipal Planning Grants, which of the following possible changes to the program do you support? (RPCs)



Q7. For Municipal Planning Grants, which of the following possible changes to the program do you support?

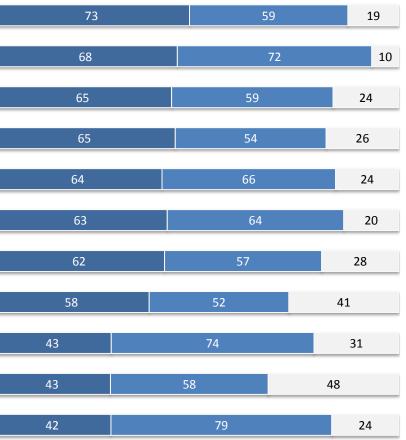
	Pop <2000	Pop 2000- 5000	Pop > 5000
Increase the maximum grant amount for a municipality (currently \$15,000) even if it means fewer grants each year	25.0%	27.1%	48.6%
No changes are needed, the program works well	14.3%	10.2%	2.9%
Fund more implementation projects (e.g. bylaw updates and capital improvement plans) vs. municipal plan updates	30.4%	35.6%	48.6%

• 57% of Professional Planners supported increasing the grant amounts.

Q8. What types of projects should be priorities for MPG funding?

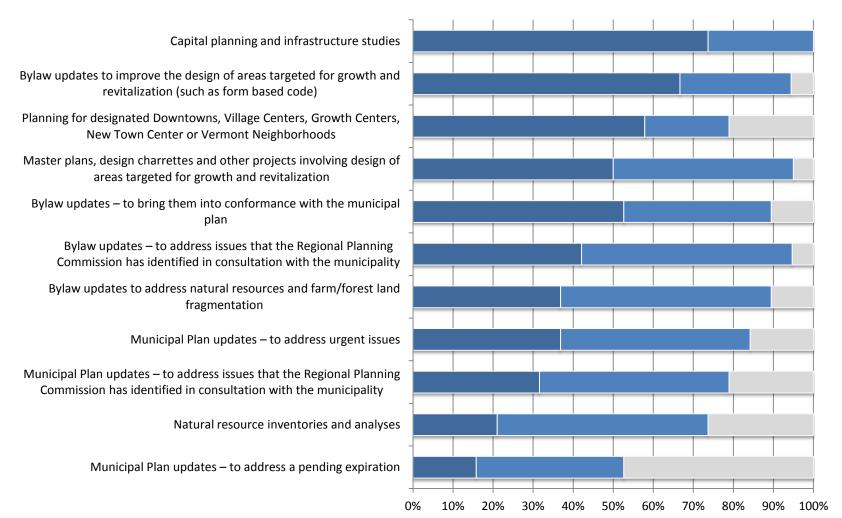
High Priority Priority Low Priority



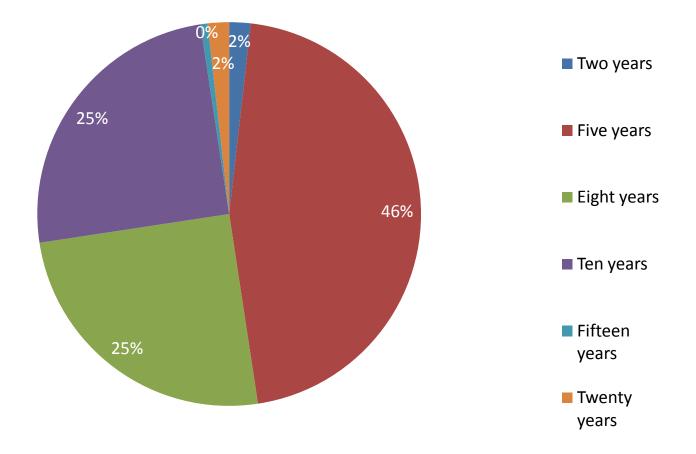


Q8. What types of projects should be priorities for MPG funding? (RPCs)

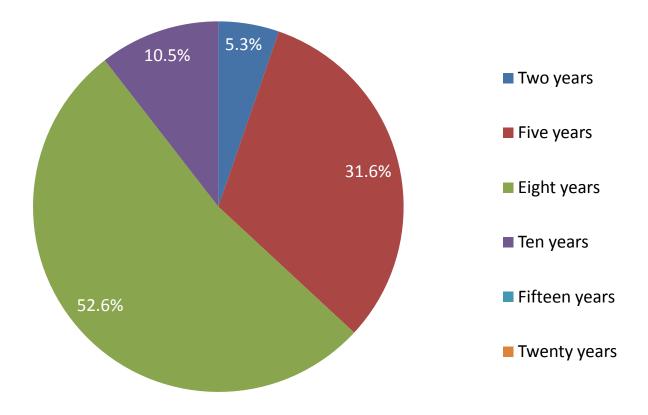
High Priority Priority Low Priority



Q9. How often do you think a municipal plan should expire and why? (n=168)



Q9. How often do you think a municipal plan should expire and why? (RPCs)



Q9. How often do you think a municipal plan should expire and why?

• 5 years

➤ A lot can change in 5 years

• 8 years

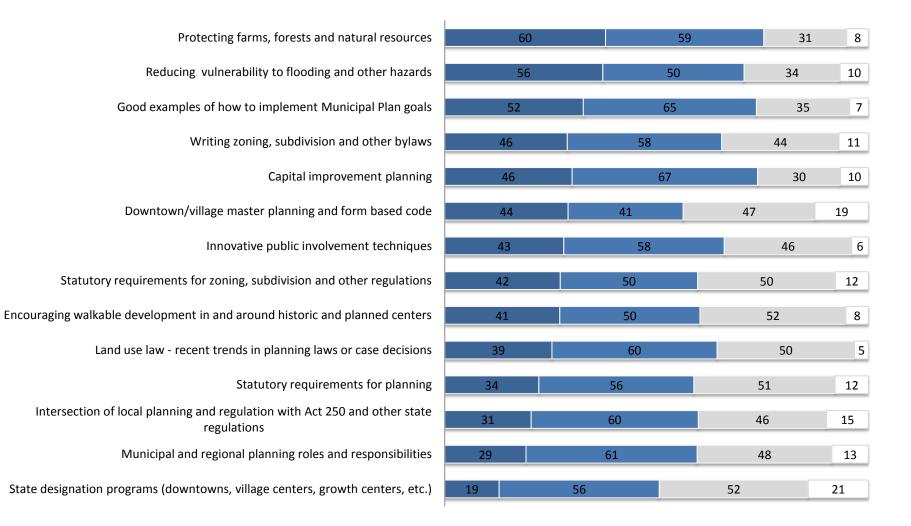
Gives enough time for implementation

• 10 years

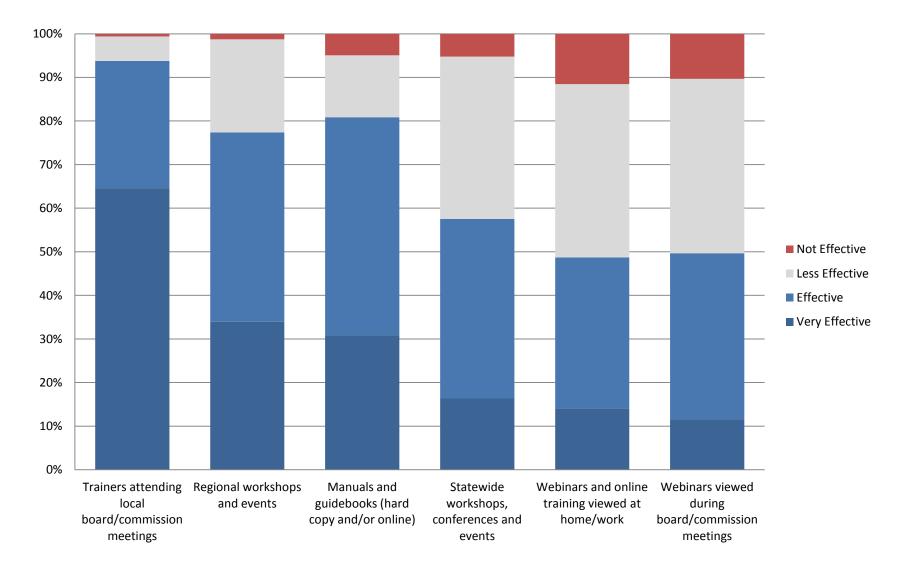
- Gives enough time for implementation
- ➤ Works with 10 census data
- 5 year plans lead to cycle of re-adoptions
- Professional Planners 2x as likely to support 10 year expiration.

Q10. What training topics would make you more effective in furthering the planning goals in your community or region? (n=160)

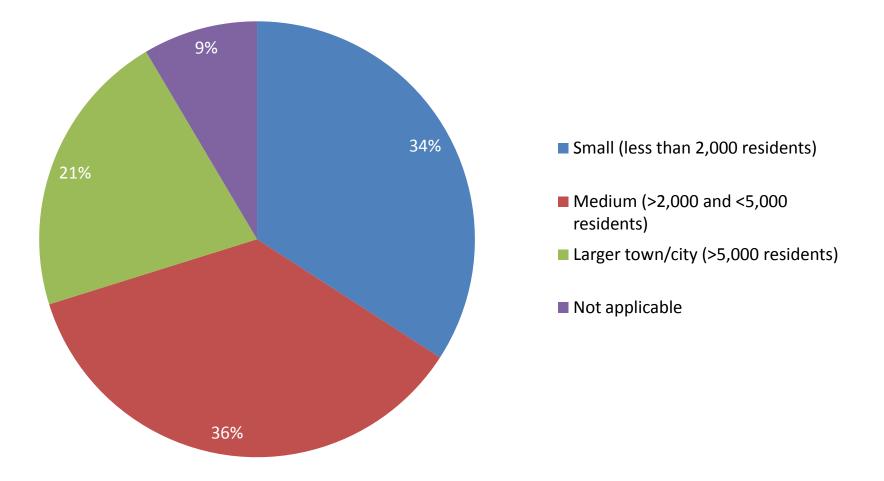
■ Essential ■ Very important ■ Somewhat important □ Not at all important



Q11. What training formats would be most effective in your community? (n=162)



Q12. If you work for or serve in a municipality, what is its size?



Q13. What county are you in?

