Los Alamos County Comprehensive Plan March - April 2016 Web Site Survey Results

The Los Alamos County Comprehensive Plan web site featured a survey for web site users to fill out during March and early April, 2016, the first several weeks after the web site became active. This survey was intended to solicit early information about the community and ideas in the planning process. It was not a statistically valid survey, as were the two random sample surveys administered later in the process.

As of April 7th, 100 web site users had responded. Following is a summary of the survey results.

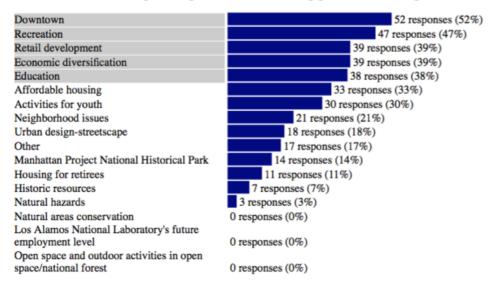
Results from 100 survey responses. 45 surveys provided name and/or contact information.

Question 1: Where do you live?

Los Alamos Townsite White Rock Outside Los Alamos County



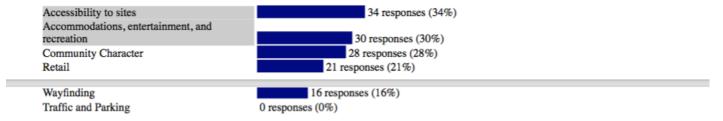
Question 2: What are the top five topics when considering growth and change in Los Alamos County?



"Other" Responses

- 1. Housing for middle class
- Housing for middle class
- Marketing LA
- 4. making downtown walkable (pleasantly walkable)
- 5. Take care of the vacant/abandoned buildings
- 6. Engagement with local neighborhood, by CDD to avoid them pushing an agenda without consulting neighbors. This happened previously when CDD tried to rezone the UNM housing on 9th street.. A bigger effort is needed, like letters to inform neighbors. My e
- 7. Permit Office
- 8. Be sensitive to homeowners are in
- 9. Be sensitive to homeowners in existing neighborhoods. Preserve their property values and quality of life.
- 10. Making our carbon footprint lower; energy and water conservation
- 11. dog parks
- 12. White Rock focused retail development
- 13. A-19
- 14. A-19
- 15. Reducing/revising outdated code and making it more conducive to develop residential and commercial housing within existing developments.
- 16. completing the infrastructure projects for water and streets and County facilities
- 17. affordable retail space to support local business

Question 3: Regarding the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, what are the top two impacts on the community that should be addressed in the comprehensive plan?



Question 4: What are your "big ideas" for improving Los Alamos County? (23 responses)

- 1. Los Alamos County is a great place to live for people who value certain things: 1. live close to work; 2. live close to outdoor recreation; 3. safe place to raise a family; 4. good schools; 5. small town atmosphere; 6. environmental sustainability is valued; 7. good place to retire. It is not such a good place for people who value other things: 1. lots of big box shopping at your fingertips; 2. nightlife; 3. easy access to travel; 4. infinite chain restaurant choices; 5. "new" housing choices. Let's build on our existing community "character" to keep the current residents happy, and attract likeminded people of all income levels and ethnicities who appreciate Los Alamos for what it is. Let's encourage small businesses that can take advantage of LA's proximity to LANL and the National Parks. Let's not try to become like everywhere else...If you don't like Los Alamos for what it is then you are welcome to live in Santa Fe.
- 2. If you make the County a place that tourists want to visit, more people will want to live here too.
- 3. Tourism is the best way to diversify our economy and provide additional services and amenities to existing citizens. Tourism development needs to be facilitated through a proactive comprehensive plan.
- 4. Infill all parking lot frontage located on Central Avenue should all be service oriented business like restaurants, cafes, shops, boutique/unique retail (not able to buy online) --- first floor levels should be storefront and connected to walkable street. 2nd floor should be office suites/ small business.
- 5. I think Los Alamos is full of skilled interesting people who could make great businesses if they had the opportunity. It would be great to let them try their hand at small businesses. We could get a variety of skills, restaurants, and accommodations if businesses were able to operate at low or reasonable startup costs. It is sad to me to see so much expensive empty retail space.
- 6. Make this a cool, fun town that people WANT to visit aesthetically pleasing, historically rich, with a broad range of independent small businesses that are supported by the community. Make it a place with lots of stuff to do, both for all the different kinds of people who live here and for people who visit. Build and maintain great affordable housing, both to enrich the economic diversity of the community and to help businesses

have better access to labor. Let the weird and funky side of the town flourish.

- 7. Hiking trail from Cuba to Camp May or to Bandalier with campsites every 3-5 miles and a trail from Jemez springs to Abiqu Lake Perhaps a perimeter ring trail around the Valle Grande. Envision something similar to the Appalachian trail.
- 8. For residents of White Rock, bike lanes along state rd 4 or a trail connector to LA proper to avoid having to drive uptown just to stay safe. LA could also use some marketing to convince northern NM to come up a play for the day. People I talk to have heard about the great trails in Los Alamos, but for whatever reason haven't been up to check out the area for themselves.
- 9. Lower Property Taxes! Quit wasting money on unnecessary projects (C.I.P.) that only punish property owners by raising taxes with no return on the investment. If you want to attract more people to Los Alamos you need to make it more affordable to live here. Los Alamos is a small town and needs to stay that way! All of the proposed C.I.P.'s will do nothing to attract more people to live here and with the future of the Lab in question more may move out. This county also has a serious reputation of arrogance and wealth and that reputation is promoted by the County Government. We need to fix what we have, fix the roads, make the buildings and properties more attractive, clean up the entire townsite, and quit wasting money on things this town doesn't need.
- 10. I would like to see the county become a premier location for R&D and high-tech industrial businesses, as well as a welcoming gateway to the National Parks and other recreational activities in the Jemez Mountains.
- 11. We have a great community let's maintain our infrastructure and build new facilities carefully. Support the best school system in the state!
- 12. be an encouragement, not a hinderance.
- 13.I would like to see our education overhauled to break out of the 124 year old industrial model, and create more learning opportunities for nontraditional learners. This might include maker-spaces, LAPS collaboration with businesses and the lab, and community service opportunities. I envision a progressive educational model that prepares students with the skills they need to work in 21st century jobs. This model

- could be the hallmark of our community to attract the "best and the brightest" lab employees.
- 14. First, use our "cachet" to our advantage. Significantly expand the science museum to complement the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. Develop a convention center to bring in groups interested in not just our history but our scientific and technological innovations. Secondly, we have beautiful vistas but nowhere do we take advantage of these. The De Colores restaurant almost did but Smith's patio is the only place where you can sit, eat and talk and enjoy the vistas. Why don't we do more of this? It is something we have that very few other places in the state could take advantage of. We are missing out in both cases.
- 15. The reason Los Alamos is special is the extraordinary natural setting. I don't think there's anywhere else in the world that has what we have. Our competitive advantage is our open space. It's not the new Smith's, it's not more retail, it's not the other random crap that any suburban community could do. We must invest not only to maintain this advantage but to enhance it. This includes protecting the open space, working with surrounding communities and institutions, and avoiding silly mistakes like sprawl.
- 16. Don't worry about keeping taxes high to support the amazing infrastructure and building projects in town. The Nature Center, the libraries, the Aquatic Center are all reasons that folks stay here instead of leaving for SF.
- 17. The vast majority of young people I meet don't want to stay here because it's perceived that there isn't very much to do and because if one doesn't work at the lab it's difficult to make a career. Focusing on economic development will, I think, keep making this town a more desirable place to be.
- 18. A concerted effort to revitalize the downtown area of Los Alamos, to facilitate business growth there and ultimately produce a vibrant place to be. At the same time, continue to promote and preserve our natural beauty here in the county, including trails and open spaces.
- 19. I regard the open space Los Alamos provides essential to our family and makes living in Los Alamos a great place and the conservation of our natural areas. But also, I would love a downtown where all of our great shops that exit now can congregate in the same area.

- 20. Make it a recreation destination (mountain biking, hiking, adult "playgrounds", road biking, camping, skiing, fishing, rock climbing, etc). Also make the skate park actually rideable.
- 21. Connect the Rim trail to Central avenue by crossing at 15th street and continue as an Urban bike, wheelchair and walker paved path. (Bikers on right, walkers on left) Have it pass by as an Urban bike path the retail and restaurants in Central Avenue and the historical site and the connect to PEEC, the Aquatic Center, and future Rec Center by the aquatic Center. This Urban bike path would connect all the site down town, and then go out in the canyon Rim. From this one trail, tourist could access all the major sites and shopping downtown from one path as well as see stunning views. It would be attractive to new families with strollers and bikes, as well as the retirement community by being handicap accessible. It could be the vein of our community, and model after other active, outdoor towns.
- 22. I advocate more support for local businesses to ensure they remain successful in our community, so that we don't need to leave our town to shop.
- 23. Splash pad or some kind of adult sports facility (the schools are generous, but often we get bumped anyway for school events).