

2008 EDC Questionnaire

Presentation Prepared
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Seymour Economic
Development Secretary

Introduction/Outline

- Interesting Facts
- Results from the 2008 EDC Questionnaire
- List of most popular written comments
- Conclusion/Suggestions
- Questions/Answers

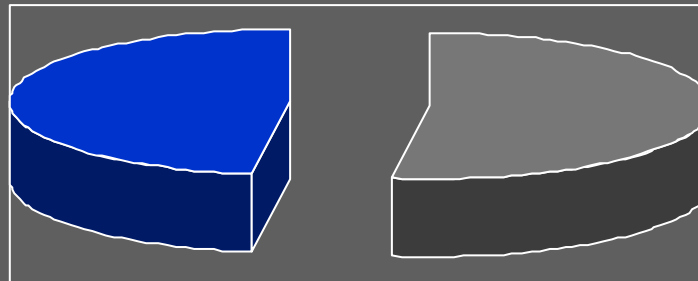
Interesting Facts about the Questionnaire

- 1940 questionnaires were returned
- Approximately a 26% return rate (7351 were mailed)
- 50% of responses were positive (that means 50% were negative)
- The volume of work was much greater than expected
- Many questionnaires were not completed in their entirety

Question # 1

What do you think of the availability of the Public
Transportation in Seymour?

(total:1643 - a.858-52%, b.785-48%)

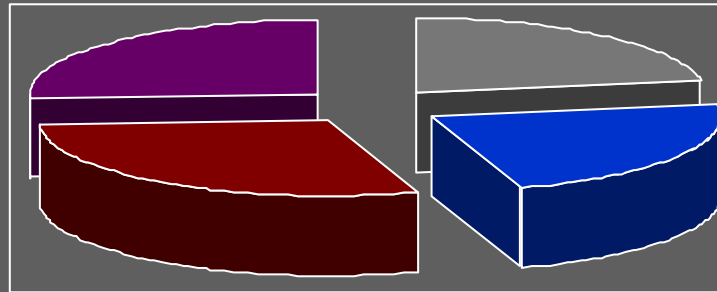


- a. Not Enough
- b. Just about right

Question # 2

Regarding the above question, which of the following services do you think needs improvement ?

(*total:2400 - a.535, b.545, c.704, d.616) *percentage calculated on total number of answers and not on total number of questionnaires

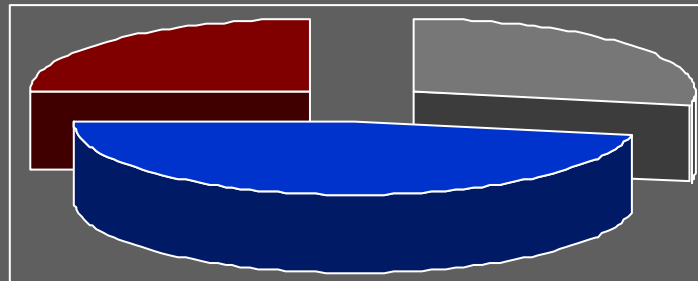


- a. Valley Transit
- b. CT Transit Bus
- c. Metro North Train Schedule
- d. Commuter Parking

Question # 3

What do you think of the Town of Seymour's present recreational facilities?

(*total:1780 – a.496, b.840, c.444) *percentage based on total number of answers and not total number of questionnaires

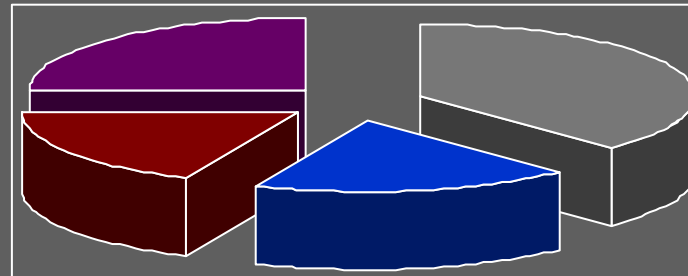


- a. Not enough
- b. Just about right
- c. Need more

Question # 4

In regard to question # 3 what town owned and operated facilities would you like to have?

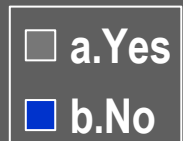
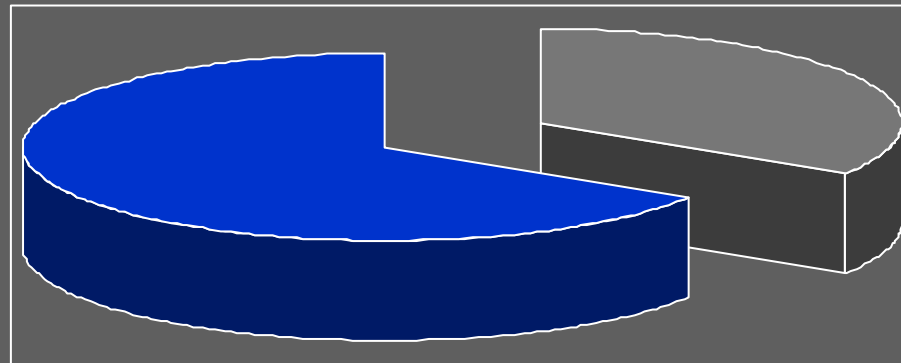
(*total:1994 – a.755, b.373, c.367, d.499)*percentage based on total number of answers not total number of questionnaires



- a. Public swimming pool
- b. Public tennis courts
- c. Public basketball
- d. Public dog park

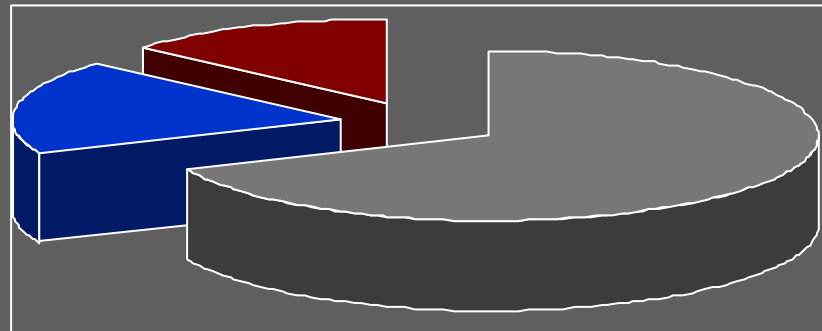
Question # 5

In regards to question # 4 would you support an increase in taxes to pay for additional recreational services?
(total:1940 – a.663-34%, b.1277-66%)



Question # 6

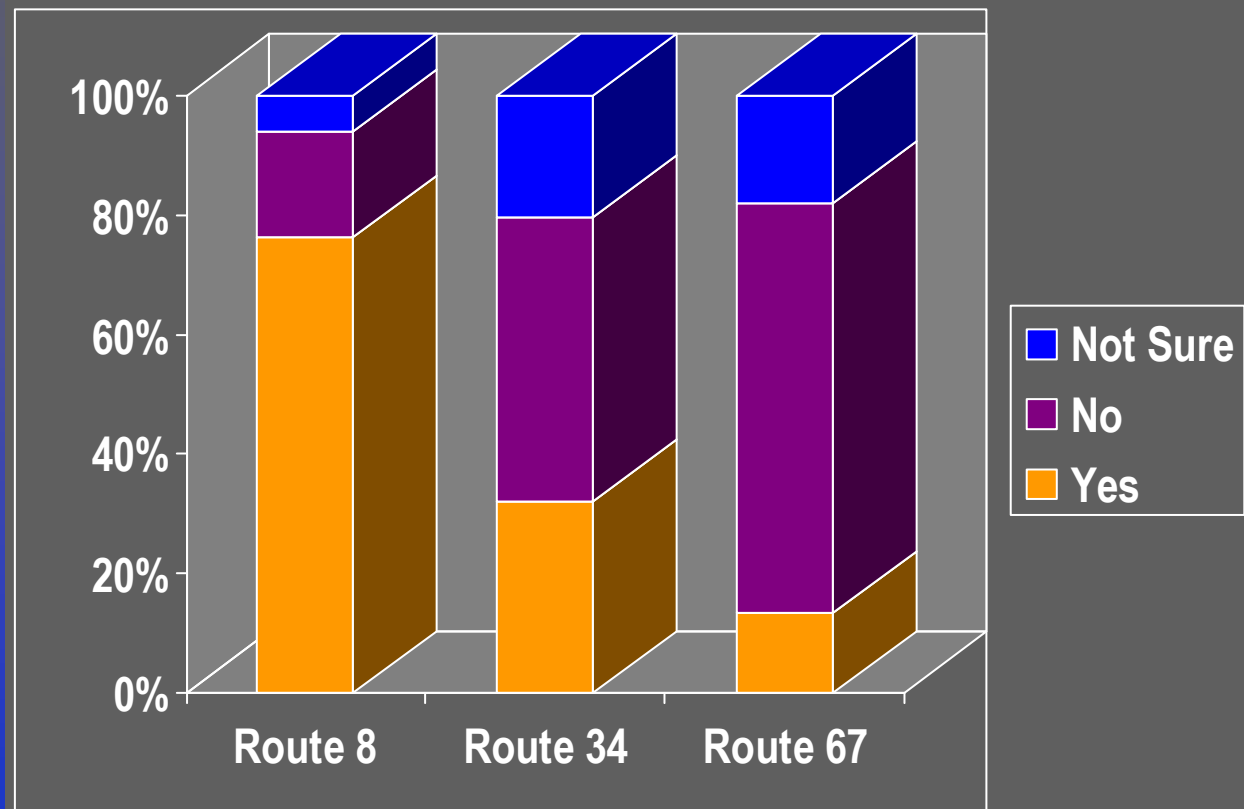
Should Seymour develop more Commercial and Retail Zones? (*total:1831 – a.1256, b.332, c.243) *percentage based on total number of answers and not total number of questionnaires



- a.Yes
- b.No
- c.Not Sure

Question # 7

Are you in favor of more Commercial and Retail development along Route 8, 34, and 67?

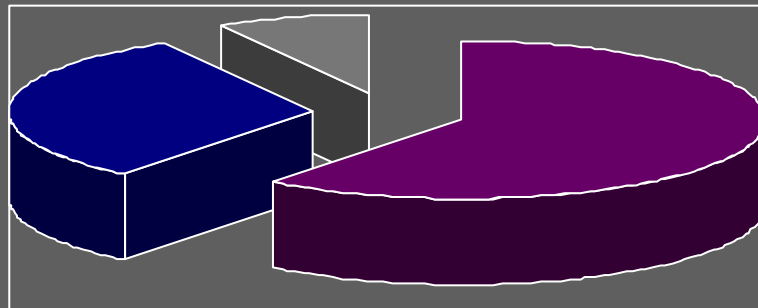


Question # 8

Which distance do you feel most comfortable in traveling from

your home for services in each direction?

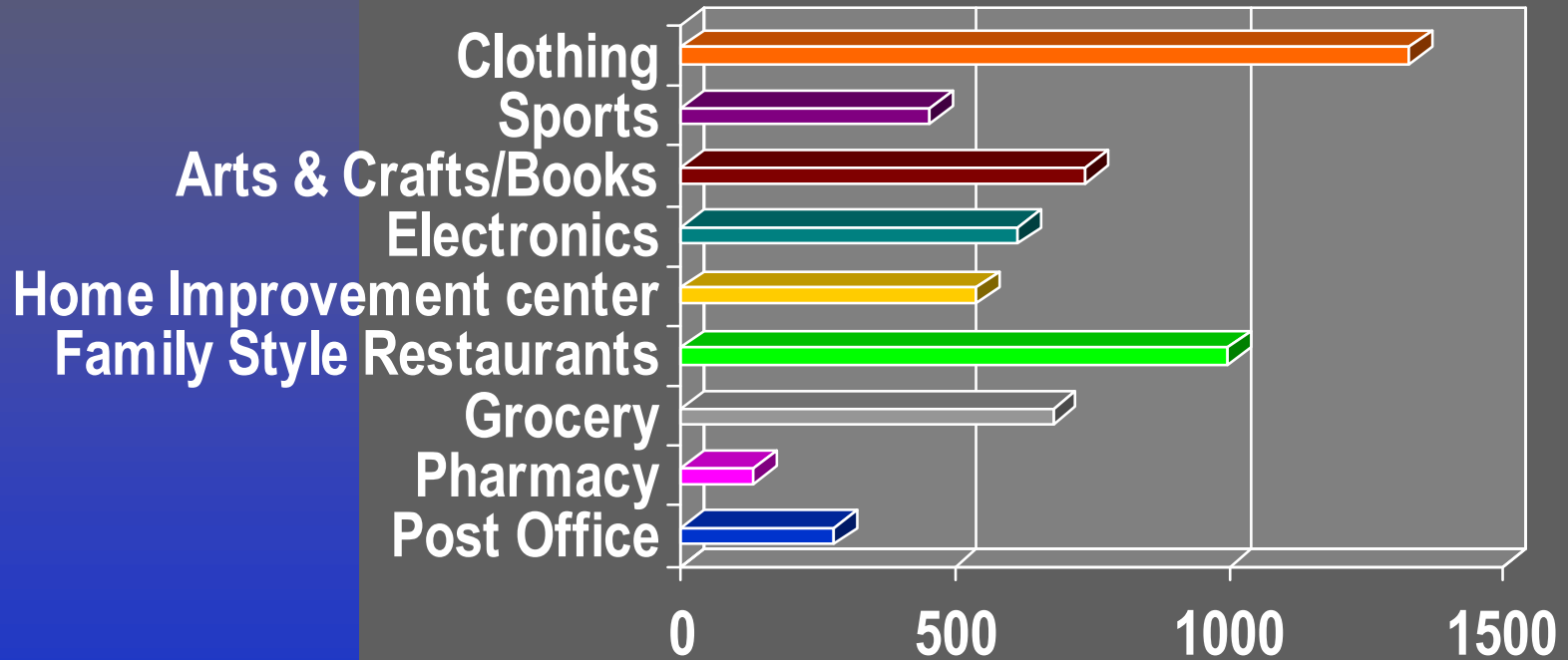
(*total: 1828 – a. 1106, b. 576, c. 146) *percentage based on total number of answers and not on total number of questionnaires



- a. 4-8 miles
- b. 9-16 miles
- c. 17 miles and beyond

Question # 9

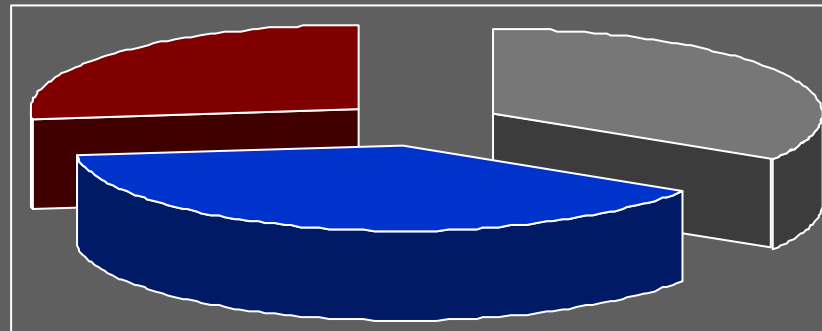
What types of retail stores would you like to see locate to Seymour?



Question # 10

Do you think that downtown Seymour requires Aesthetic Codes for a more uniformed theme?

(*total:1676 – a.566-34%, b. 659-39%, c.451-27%) *percentage based on total number of answers and not total number of questionnaires

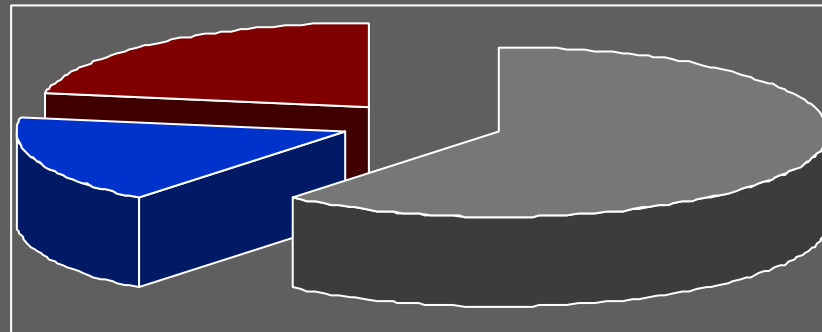


- a.Yes
- b.No
- c.Not Sure

Question # 11

Are you concerned about Seymour's long term ability to financially fund itself and remain solvent?

(*total:1814 – a.1106-61%, b.305-17%, c.403-22%) *percentage based on total number of answers and not total number of questionnaires



- a.Yes
- b.No
- c.Not Sure

Question # 12

Please state briefly your thoughts and comments about Seymour.

The next few slides will list comments that were encountered more frequently during the tabulation of the questionnaire:

- Thanks for the Questionnaire+
- Questionnaires returned: 50% positive, 50% negative
- Lots of residents love the small town charm
- Not in favor of more recreational facilities in town because of economic times
- Would love a walking trail
- Would love a large public green
- Would love a dog park
- Want more access to High School swimming pool
- Extended library hours
- Have a Seymour Day, like Derby
- Would like the post office to be handicap accessible
- Love Seymour, want more shops to create jobs
- Tri-Town Plaza: please fill the plaza
- Bring more restaurants in Town, no more pizza places
- Bring more clothing businesses to Town

Question # 12 (continued)

- Grocery Store: 12% of the questionnaire respondents express the desire for an additional grocery store to provide competition for the existing grocery store.
- Many respondents expressed the desire of having a whole food store located in town, such as Trader Joe's and Whole Foods
- A few mentioned the need for a motel
- NO MORE BANKS PLEASE
- Keep the open space
- Would like more control for the BOE
- More realistic assessments of properties
- Better maintain the parks
- Make recreational facilities more accessible
- Need more businesses in Town
- Don't want more businesses in Town
- Bring more manufacturing businesses
- Some suggested community newsletter
- Increase activities for teenagers

Question # 12 (continued)

- Would love to have a Walmart or Kohl's in town
- Improve Town roads
- No more development, business or otherwise, along Rt. 8, 34, 67
- Restrict spendings
- A few in favor of aesthetic code
- Love antique downtown and First Saturdays
- Many support the Rt. 42-67 project
- Keep taxes low, too high right now
- No chains, keep the town's unique charm
- Need specialty stores/shops
- Fill all empty plazas
- Use some of BOE funds to promote businesses
- Recycle pick up every week
- Love this town and the people who reside in it!!!!
- Sports programs are good in Town
- Fill up Silvermine Industrial Park

Question # 12 (continued)

- Maximize use of existing building, no new construction
- I love the Town of Seymour
- Reduce budget for BOE
- No more residential growth
- Few not in favor of the Chatfield/LoPresti Project
- Increase elderly services
- Improve parking conditions in the downtown area
- Revitalize the downtown
- Many would love to do more shopping in town, to keep their tax dollars going to the local businesses, would like a variety of shops
- Improve and expand the skate park and add bike park
- Improve sidewalks
- Increase bus and train schedules
- What happened to the fish ladder?
- Improve infrastructures
- Need more entertainment

Question # 12 (continued)

- Bike Path with racks to lock up bikes
- Willing to travel depending on the service
- Make use of vacant buildings/plazas instead of putting up new ones
- Preserve natural environment/forests
- Maintain and update parks to encourage use
- Upgrade retail zones
- Fill vacancies before developing new areas
- Provide competition for the grocery store in Town
- Love 1st Saturday nights
- I love the downtown/anti que shops
- Would like a public walkway
- Rt. 67, no more development, al ready over congested
- Use Westport as model to develop our downtown
- IDEA: attract a small university branch, students spend money, stimulate local economy!!!!

Conclusion/Suggestions

- Continue to invest resources in the questionnaire
- Include demographics data
- Online access for future questionnaires
- Continue to pursue grocery store in town
- Continue to pursue filling Tri-Town Plaza
- Continue development along Rt. 8, 34, & 67
- Better promote current recreational facilities
- Develop Economic Development Website to address most/all the issues uncovered by the questionnaire

End of Presentation

Thank You

The Economic Development Department