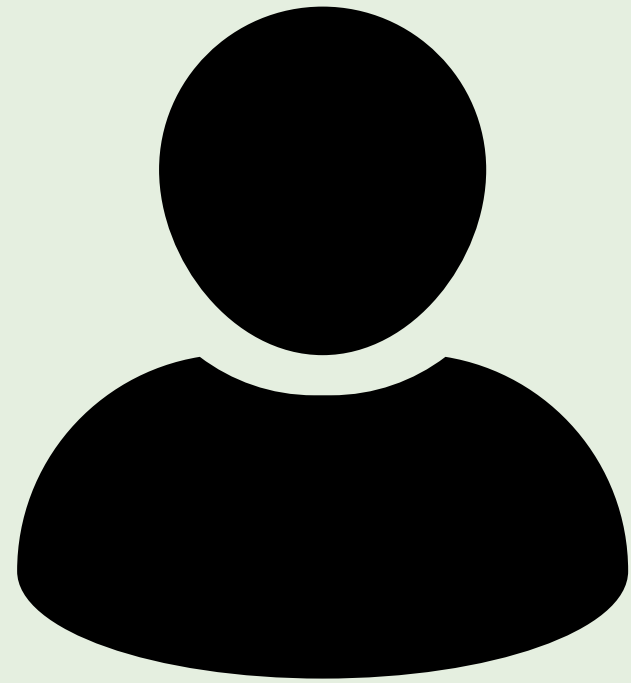


Strategic Plan Member Feedback Survey

Results Overview



Overarching Themes



**Respondent
Background**



**Planning Issues
Facing the
Community**



**Value of
SMPDC
Services**



**Big Picture
SMPDC Vision**

Process

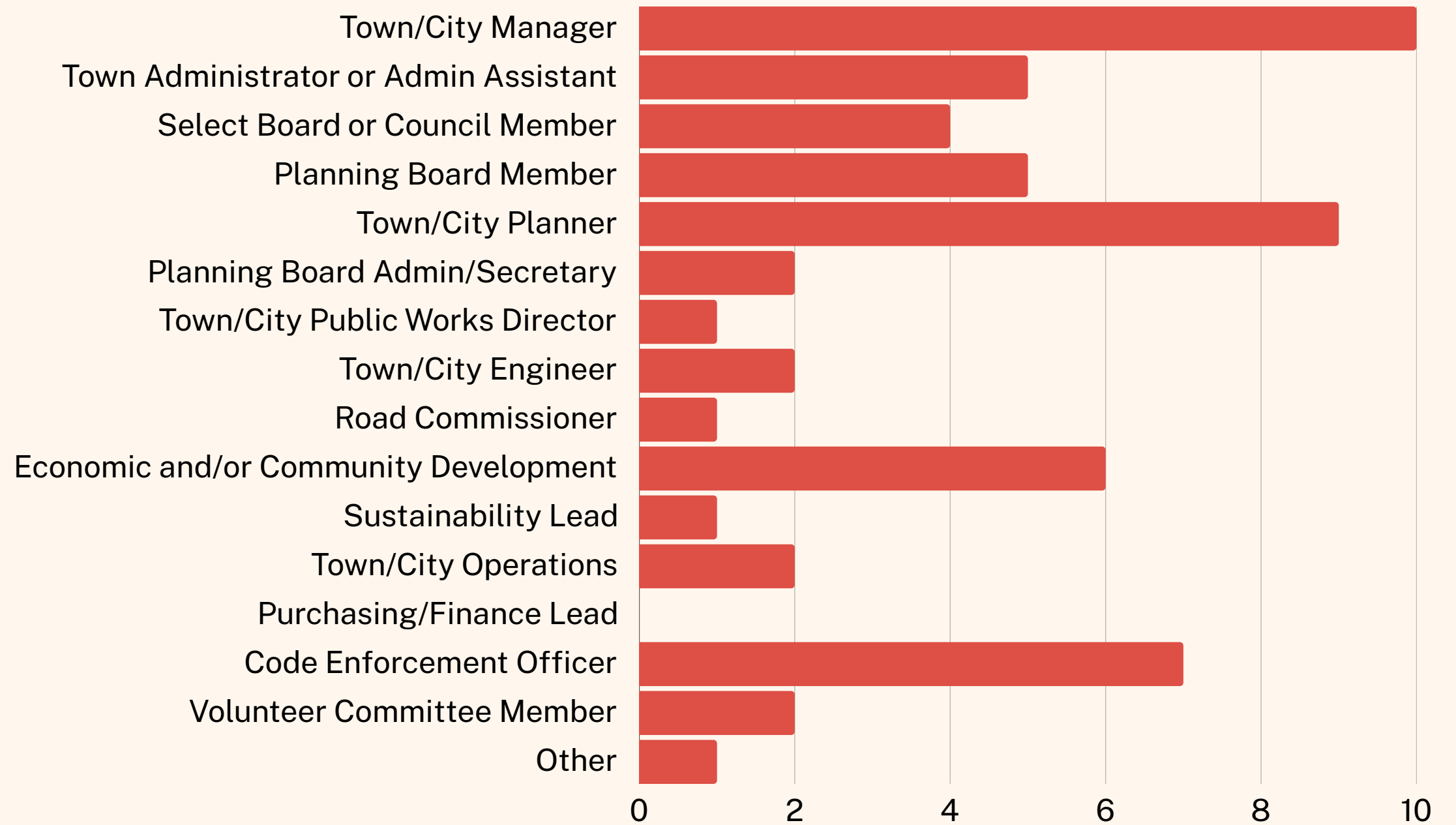
- **Sent Feb 4th** - initially to main points of contact, expanded outreach to other municipal staff after a week
- Other staff also sent personal emails or made calls
- Results are as of **March 13th**
- Goal was at least 1 response from every community. **49 responses, 41 completed. Feels low, but not unexpected.**

*These are the straight forward “raw” responses. We plan to spend more time before finalizing the plan **comparing responses to position, geography, or other factors to look for trends.***

Respondent Background

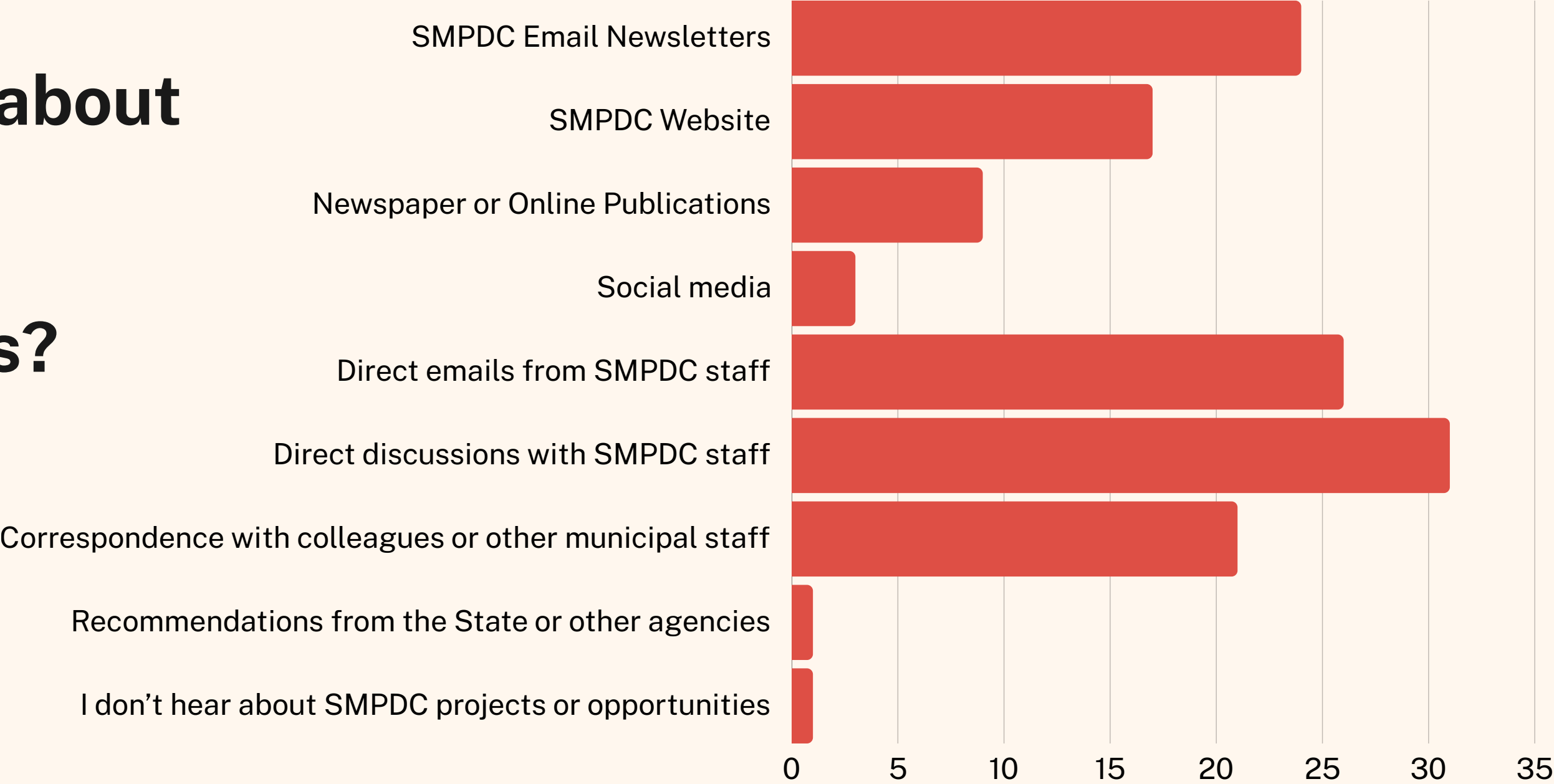
What role do you play in your community? (Check all that apply)

Elected or Volunteer	22%	10
Staff	85%	39



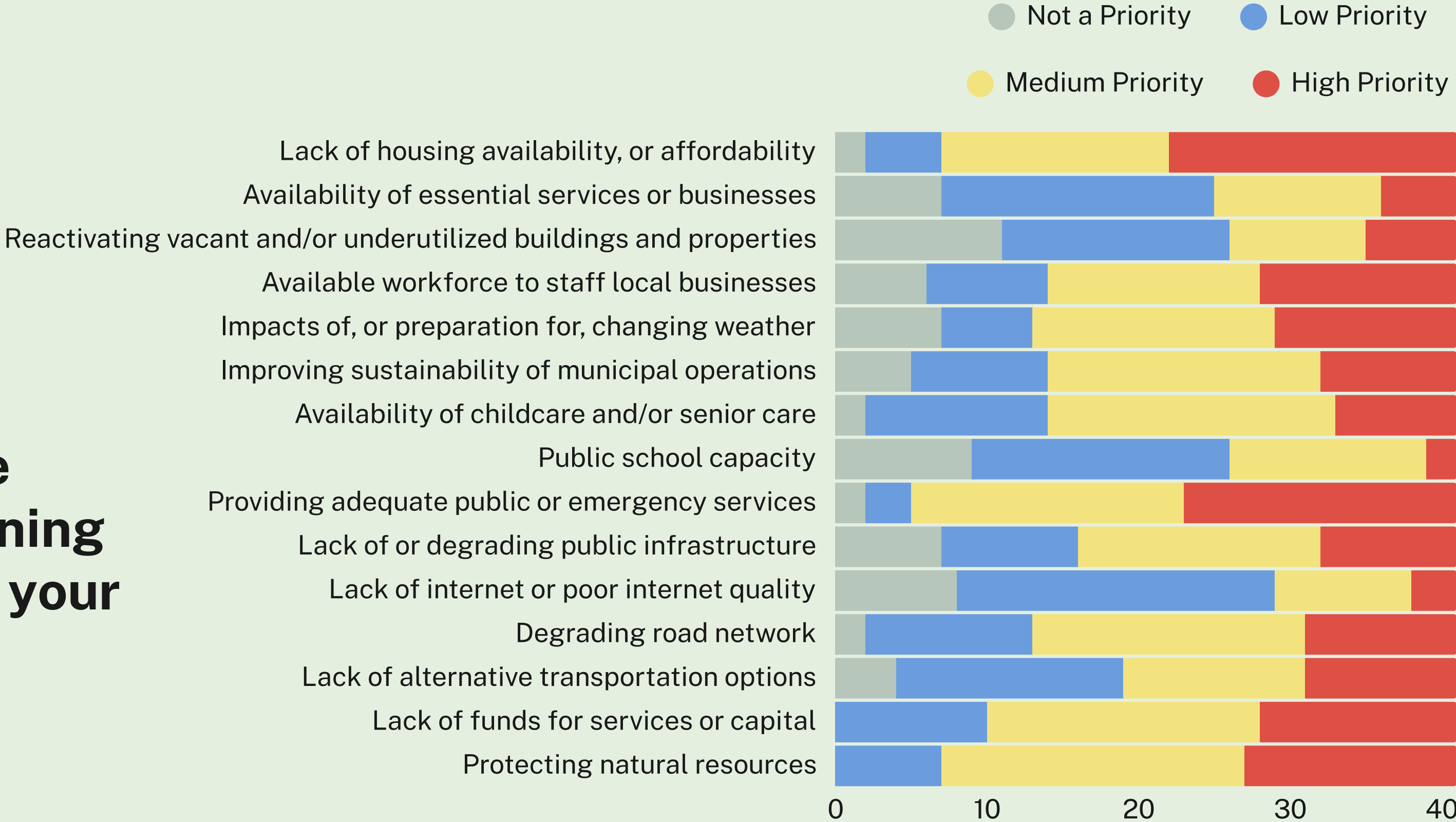
- Majority of answers from municipal staff, variety of positions
- Approx. 22% elected or volunteer positions
- Most respondents were “familiar with the agency” and either “worked with SMPDC a little” or “regularly”.

How do you hear about SMPDC projects, opportunities or accomplishments?



- All but one respondent reported receiving communications from SMPDC
- Direct emails and discussions with SMPDC staff stand out - validating for staff to hear!

How much of a priority are the following planning challenges for your community?



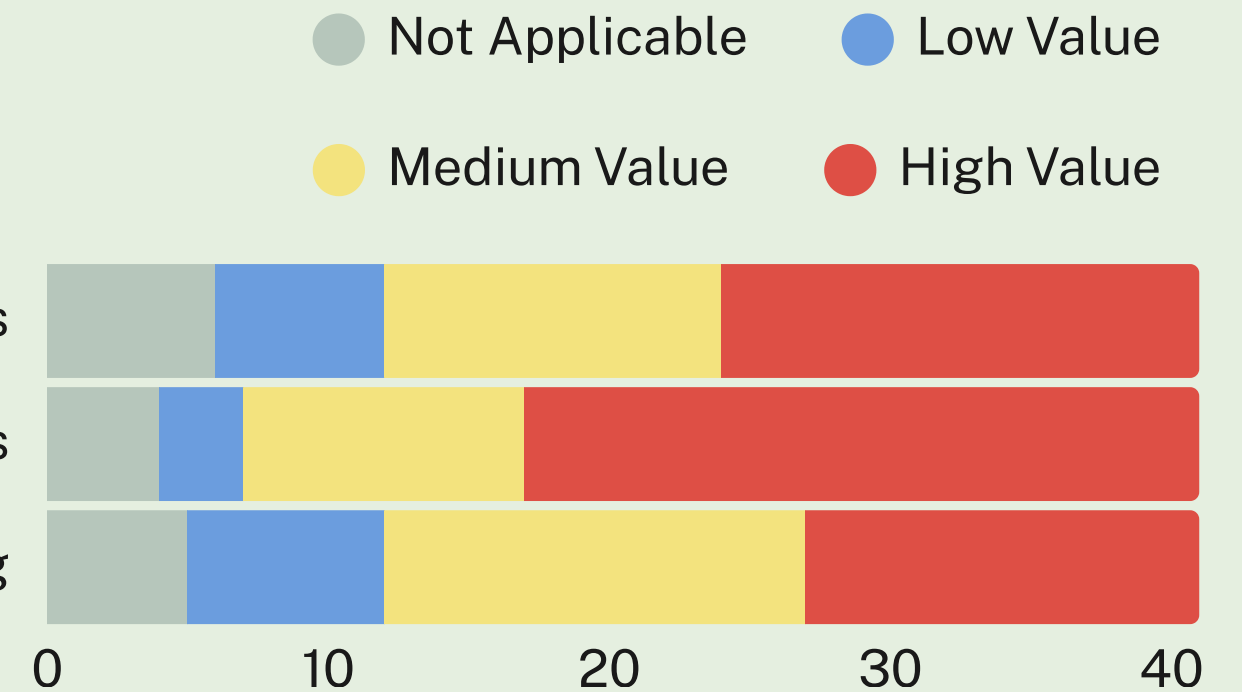
- Housing & Municipal service provisions stand out as highest priorities
- Road maintenance/improvement, lack of funding, and protecting natural resources all had very little or no “Not a Priority” votes

Land Use Planning

Supporting local planning boards with development proposals, ordinances or zoning regulations

Developing Comprehensive Plans, or other long-range plans

Regional and local housing



How valuable are these services to your community?

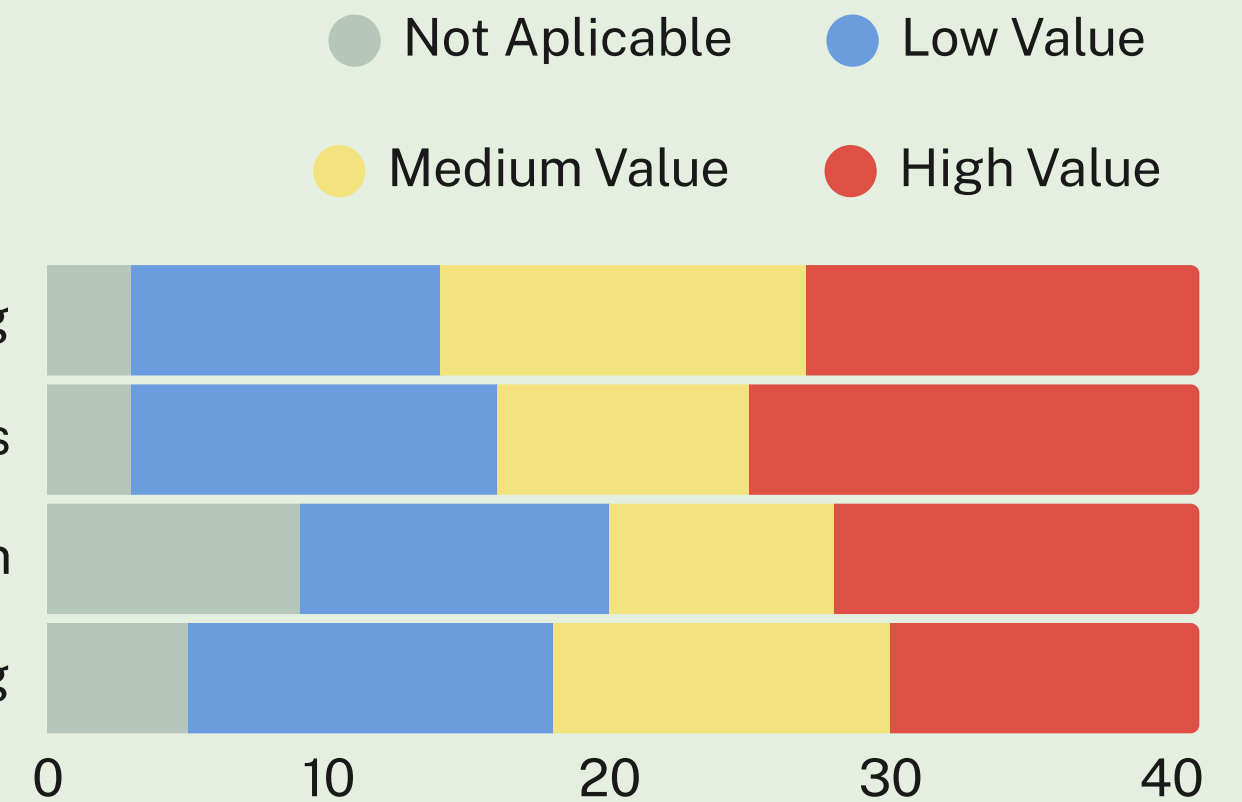
Transportation

Data collection, analyses, and mapping

Local transportation planning efforts

Transit planning and coordination

Local or regional trail planning

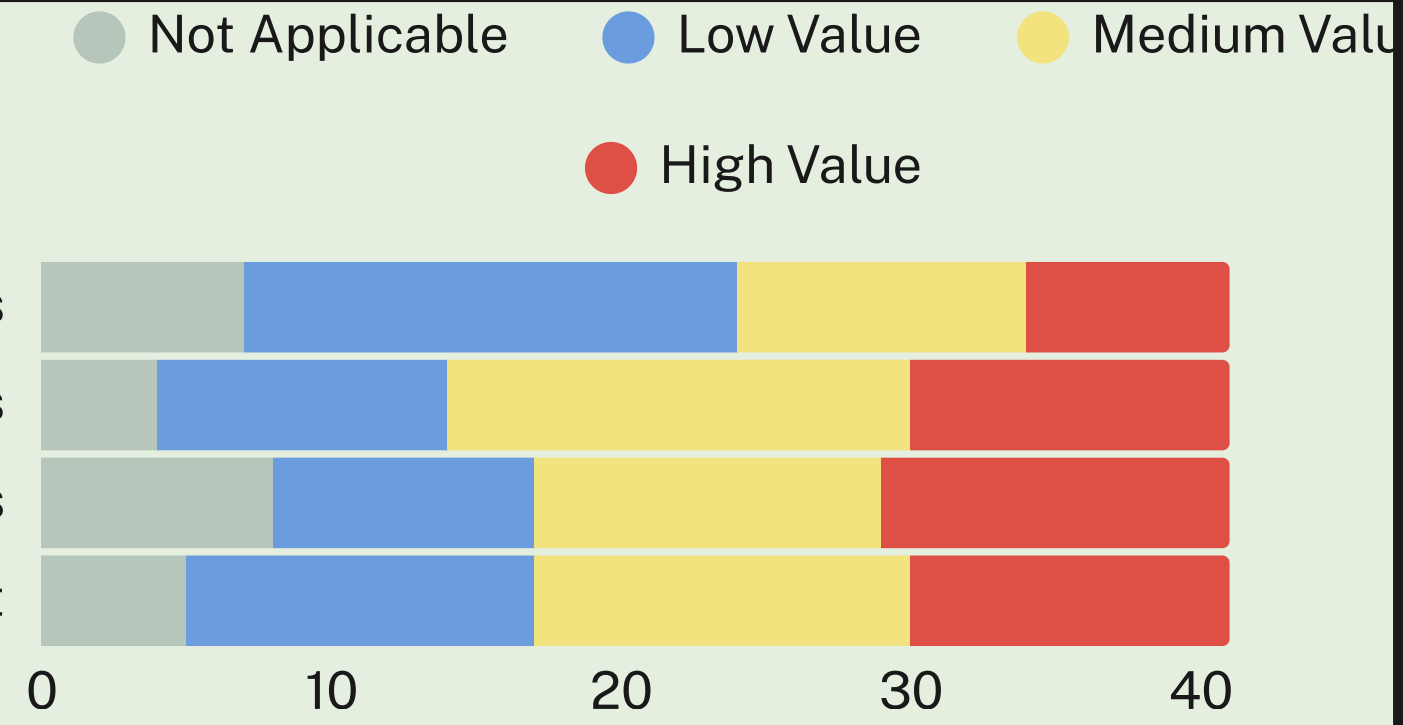


- Comprehensive Plans ranked highly across all services (~83% medium or high), with other land use planning services being ranked highly overall as well
- Data collection, analysis and mapping was the highest rated transportation service, with many (20%) saying transit coordination was not relevant to them.

How valuable are these services to your community?

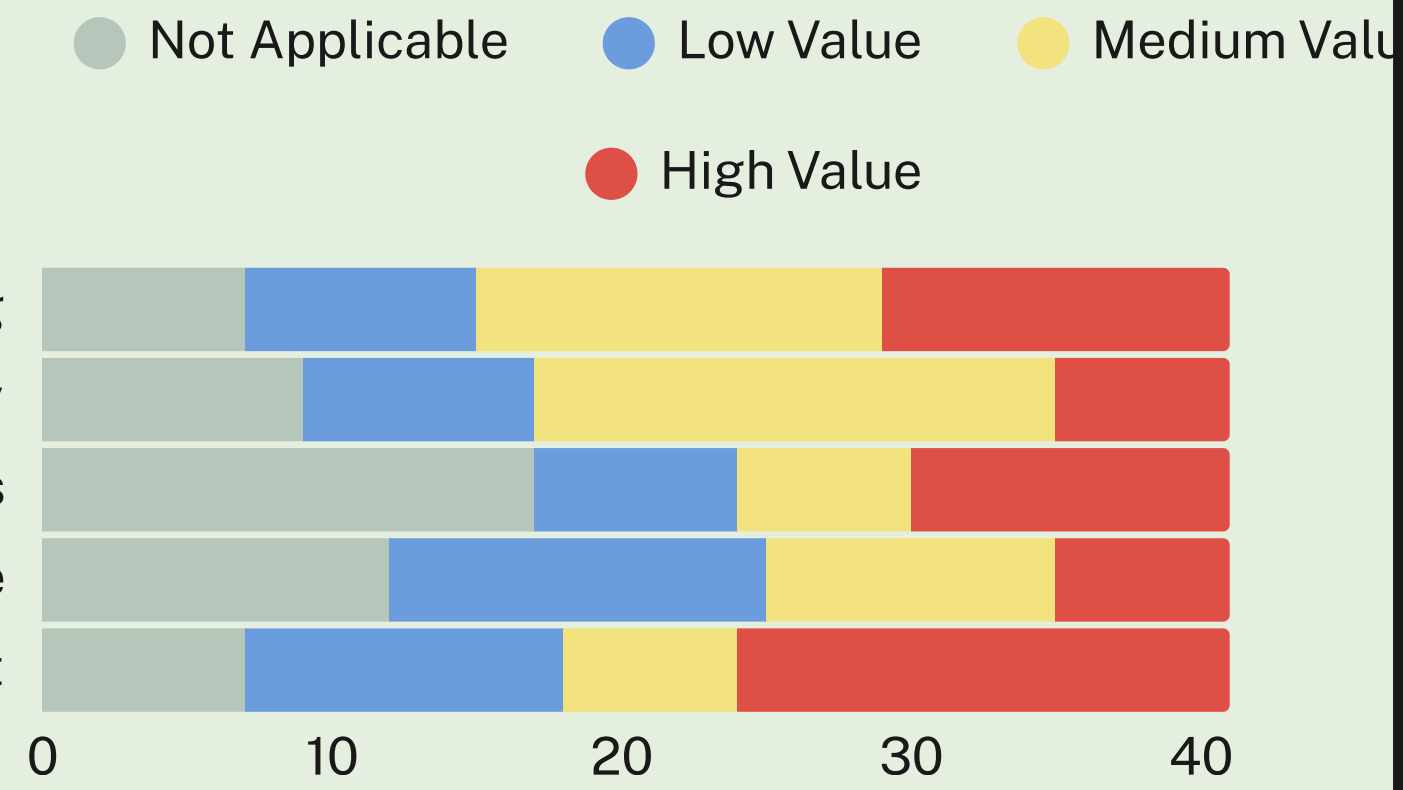
Economic Development

- Regional broadband planning efforts
- Local business and non-profit assistance, grants and loans
- Brownfields grants and loans
- Technical assistance with project development



Sustainability & Resilience

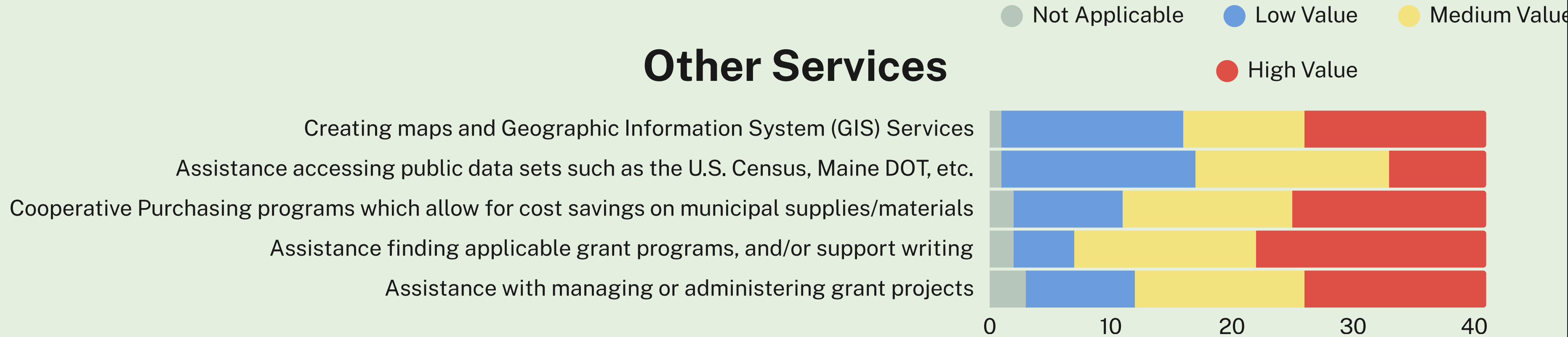
- Climate Action Planning
- Assessments for Greenhouse Gas emissions and municipal energy efficiency
- Coastal resilience support including assessments and policy recommendations
- Sustainable transportation projects including EV adoption and transportation resilience
- Assisting with the State of Maine's Community Resilience Partnership enrollment



- Municipalities value the **support we provide to area businesses**, including CDBG, grants and loans, or workshops. Brownfields and Broadband work is seen as a lower priority, or not applicable.
- Work on the State of Maine CRP program is of high value (~40%) to communities, likely because of its wider spread compared to other S&R work. Climate Action Planning is seen as overall most valued (~63% medium & high)

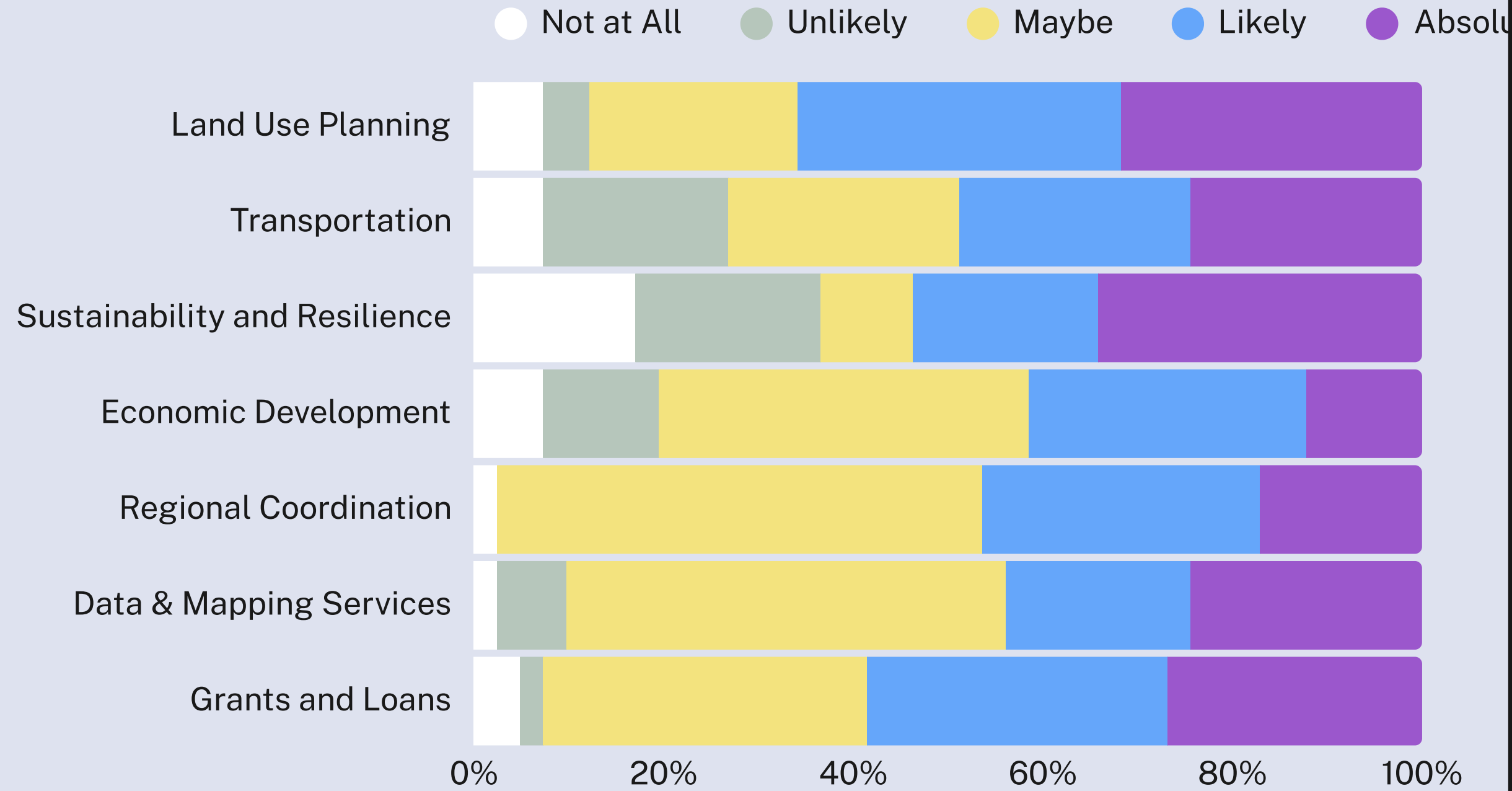
How valuable are these services to your community?

Other Services



- Finding applicable grants and support writing stands out as highly valued across all services (~83% medium & high), matches need for funding as a priority in earlier questions.
- Cooperative Purchasing remains popular!

How likely are you to use SMPDC to access these services in the future?



- Land Use Planning and Grants & Loans were most likely to be accessed in the future - matching valued services.
- Large “Maybe” responses could speak to a willingness, if they had a better understanding of what is available, or if more opportunities arise.

Do you have any ideas for an initiative or project that could reduce costs or improve efficiency by collaborating with other municipalities in our region?

Develop more regional policy tools/boiler plates for municipal adoption

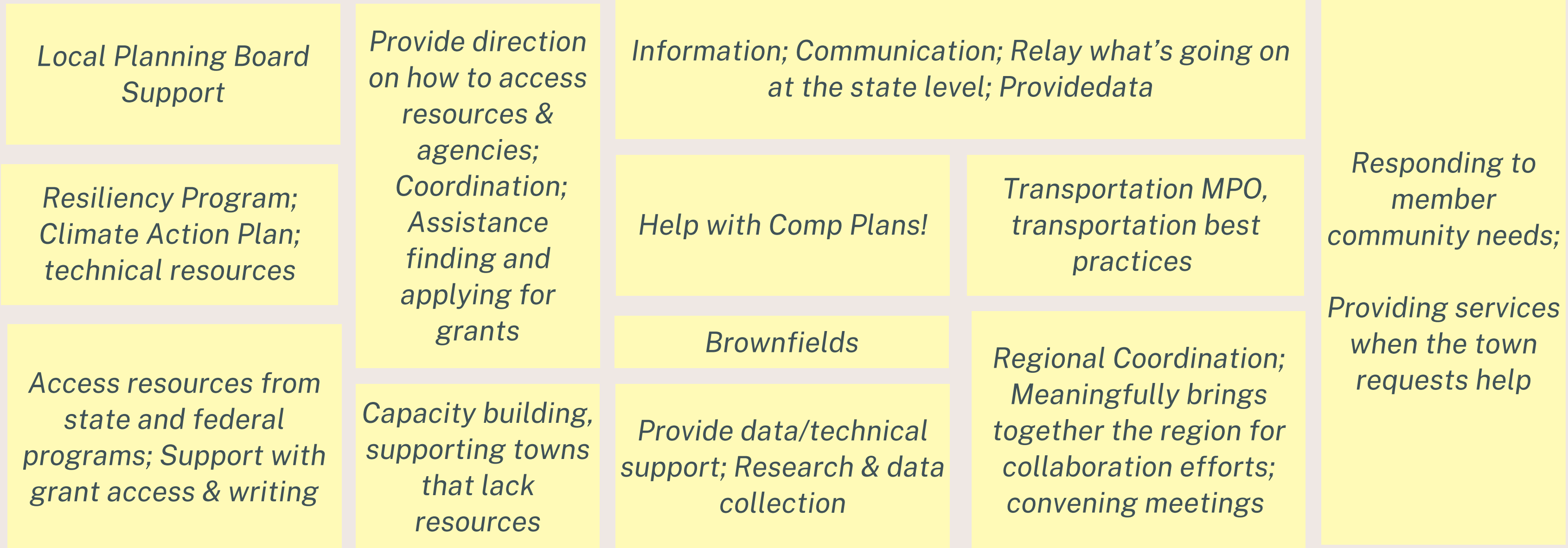
Facilitating inter-municipal agreements for services beyond public safety - Code enforcement, ACO, Training, Special Projects

Information and capacity about replacing shifting federal funding

Regional Housing Data Dashboard

Facilitate conversations around other municipal challenges, i.e. public safety staffing shortage

What does SMPDC do best?



- Outside of program specific feedback, there were a few themes:
 - Regional Coordination
 - Capacity Building
 - Grants/Grants Management
 - Information Sharing

What would you like to see SMPDC do more of?

Continue sharing grants and regional opportunities

More Technical Assistance with Comp Plans, re: new laws

More Technical Assistance & public education about Housing

More model policy/ordinance documents - share examples from other towns

Code Enforcement assistance; More direct support with shared positions

Receive better and more sustainable funding

Coordinate Countywide efforts around legislative advocacy

Promote services we offer

Is there anything you think SMPDC should not do?

Treat the rural 75% of the state the same as areas needing urban design

Mission-creep, or taking on too much beyond core services

Depends on federal funding availability

No, or Nothing

Express political leaning in any one direction

Don't lose hope! Don't stop trying!

Overarching Takeaways

1. Overall, member priorities differ greatly, and it's tied to geography, town size, and other factors.
2. Towns will always have individual needs, but seem to share a desire for regional coordination.
3. A high majority of respondents think our services are valuable.
4. Our membership has a generally positive perception of us.
5. There are some member towns who we are still not able to reach.