Grand Mound Community Survey

Survey Analysis

May 2018

Overview

The Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) administered a survey of Ground Mound-area residents on behalf of Thurston County during winter/spring 2018. TRPC mailed the survey to 1,645 addresses in mid-February and elicited survey responses online through March 31. A total of 156 people completed the survey, for a response rate of about 10 percent.

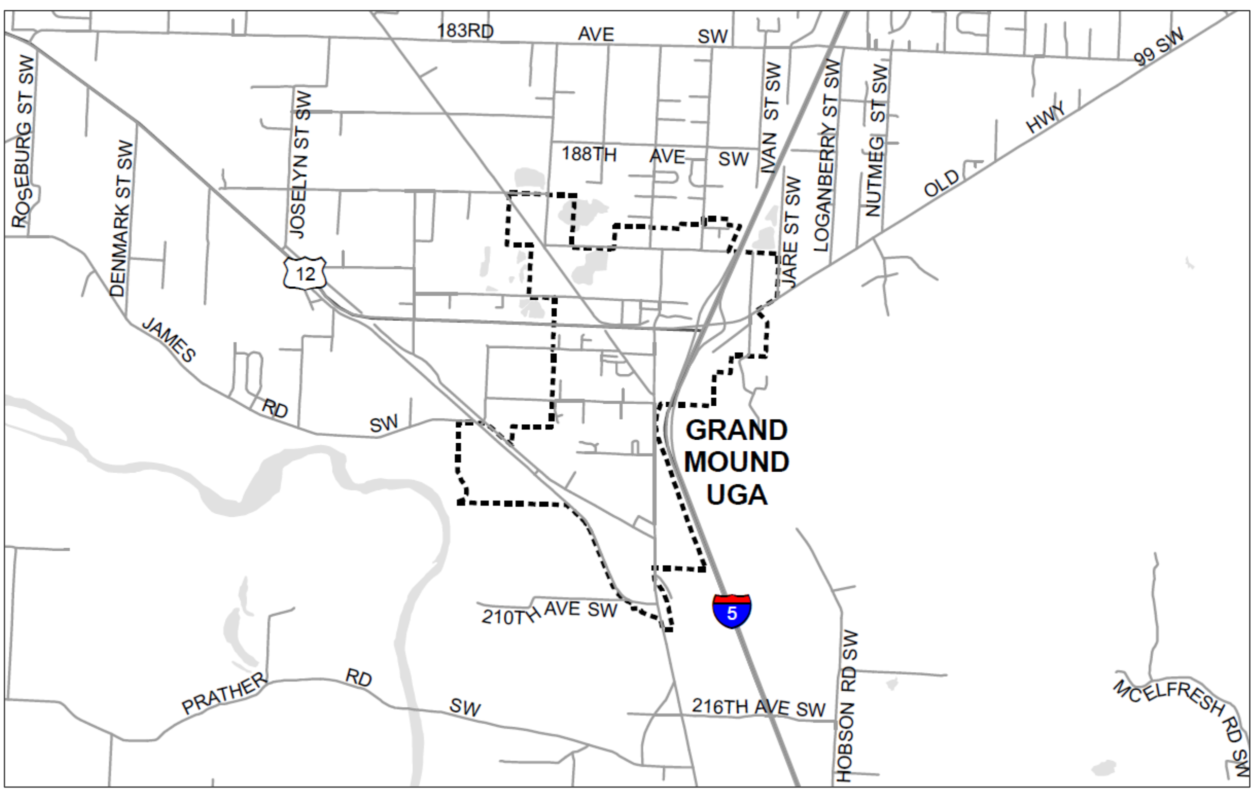
Responses to the community survey's 24 questions will help Thurston County update its Grand Mound Subarea Plan and identify opportunities and ways to:

- maintain and improve the economic vitality and quality of life in Grand Mound; and,
- improve travel for everyone, including people who drive, walk, bike, ride a bus, use wheelchairs or other mobility devices, and people who drive commercial delivery vans and trucks.

Survey Demographics

Questions 17-23 asked respondents for demographical information, including their household location, composition, and income.

Question 17 asked whether the survey respondents live, work, and/or own or operate a business in the Grand Mound urban growth area [*pictured*]. Of the 122 people who answered this question, 107 respondents (88 percent) live in Grand Mound; 18 respondents (15 percent) own or operate a business there; and 12 respondents (10 percent) work in Grand Mound. For this question and others, some respondents chose to not mark an answer or to mark more than one answer, even if instructed otherwise. Thus, the number of responses to a given question does not always total 156 or 100 percent.



Age

Question 18 asked respondents about their age, and Question 22 asked respondents whether there were school-aged children in their household.

Q18: Of the 140 people who answered this question, 82 respondents (58 percent) identified themselves as age 55 or older. Fifty-five respondents (40 percent) were between the ages of 25 and 54. The remaining 3 respondents (2 percent) were younger than 25.

Q18. What is your age?		
Response Option	**Count**	**% of Total Responses**
14 or younger	0	0
15-24	3	2
25-34	15	11
35-44	19	14
45-54	21	15
55-64	38	27
65 or older	44	31
Total Responding to Question	**140**	**100**

Q22: Of the 146 people who indicated whether there were school-aged children in the home, 106 respondents (73 percent) said no; 40 respondents (27 percent) said yes. Responses to Question 22 are perhaps reflective of the largest age demographic (age 55 or older) of the survey respondents.

Q22. Are there school-aged children (5-18) in your household?		
Response Option	**Count**	**% of Total Responses**
No	106	73
Yes	40	27
Total Responding to Question	**146**	**100**

Income and Employment Status

Q21: Question 21 asked about respondents' employment status and allowed them to select more than one response option. For example, a person who works from home might also be a stay-at-home parent. Someone who works outside of the home might also be a student. Someone who is retired might also be able to work.

Of the 147 people who answered the question, 75 respondents (51 percent) indicated that they work outside of the home. Thirteen respondents (9 percent) work from home, and 14 respondents (10 percent) noted they were a stay-at-home parent/spouse. Fifty-three respondents (36 percent) said they were retired. Four people indicated that they were looking for work (3 percent), and 10 people (7 percent) were unable to work. Four people (3 percent) said they were students.

Q.21. What is your employment status? (choose all that apply)		
Response Option	**Count**	**% of Total Responses**
Stay-at-home parent/spouse	14	10
Work from home	13	9
Work from outside of home	75	51
Student	4	3
Retired	53	36
Unable to work	10	7
Looking for work	4	3
Total Responding to Question	**147**	**-**

Q19: Question 19 asked respondents about their annual household income (combined gross wages, investment dividends, retirement payments, and other income of all the home's occupants age 15 or older). Of the 126 people who answered the question, 78 respondents (62 percent) said they had a household income of more than $60,000 annually. Thirty-two respondents (25 percent) had a household income of between $35,000 and $60,000 annually. Sixteen respondents (13 percent) had a household income of less than $35,000 per year.

Q19. What is your annual household income?		
Response Option	**Count**	**% of Total Responses**
Less than $35,000	16	13
$35,000-$59,999	32	25
$60,000-$99,999	47	37
$100,000 or more	31	25
TOTAL	**126**	**100**

Q20: Question 20 asked respondents if their household income was sufficient to meet their basic needs of food, shelter, and transportation.

Of the 143 people who answered this question, 130 respondents (91 percent) contended that their household has enough money to meet basic needs. Of this subtotal, 30 respondents (21 percent) conceded that it is still a struggle to make ends meet. Thirteen respondents (9 percent) contended that their household income was not sufficient to meet their basic needs, with five people (3 percent) indicating that their household frequently must go without meeting basic needs.

Q20. Is your household income sufficient to meet your basic needs (food, housing, transportation)?		
Response Option	**Count**	**% of Total Responses**
Yes, my household always has enough to meet basic needs	100	70
Yes, but it is a struggle to make ends meet	30	21
No, sometimes my household must go without	8	6
No, my household frequently must go without	5	3
Total Responding to Question	**143**	**100**

Q23: Question 23 asked respondents whether they rent a home, own a home, or are homeless. Of the 147 people who answered this question, 129 respondents (88 percent) noted that they owned their home. Eighteen respondents (12 percent) rented their home, and no respondents indicated they were homeless.

Transportation, Safety & Mobility

Questions 1-9 of the survey explored issues concerning transportation, safety, and mobility.

Riding Public Transit

Q1: Question 1 asked respondents what is their *primary* means of transportation. The question enabled respondents to mark several answers, so the responses do not add up to 100 percent.

Of the 146 people who answered the question, 144 noted that they were the driver of and/or the passenger in a private vehicle. One respondent noted that they drove a private vehicle and used a mobility device such as a wheelchair or walker. Another respondent noted that a bus, also referred to public transit, was the primary way they travel.

Q2: Question 2 asked what public transit system respondents rode — even if the bus was not their primary means of transportation. Fourteen people answered this question, which enabled respondents to choose more than one transit system. Olympia-based Intercity Transit was the most common transit service for the respondents.

Q2. If you ride the bus, what transit system do you use? (choose all that apply)		
Response Option	**Count**	**% of Total Responses**
Rural Transit (RT)	3	21
Grays Harbor Transit	1	7
Twin Transit (Lewis County)	2	14
Intercity Transit (IT)	9	64
Total Responding to Question	**14**	**-**

Q3: Question 3 asked survey recipients how frequently they rode the bus. The question enabled respondents to select more than one response option, so figures do not add up to 100 percent.

Of the 147 people who answered this question, 107 respondents (73 percent) said they never rode the bus. However, 32 respondents (22 percent) noted that they rode transit at least once a week.

Q3. How frequently do you ride the bus?		
Response Option	**Count**	**% of Total Responses**
At least once a week	32	22
One or more times a month	1	1
Rarely	9	6
Never	107	73
Total Responding to Question	**147**	**-**

Responses to Questions 1-3 underscore that a private vehicle is the primary means of getting around Grand Mound for most respondents, yet the responses also show that a bus is also an important secondary mode of travel for the more than 20 percent of respondents who ride the bus more than once a week. To further flesh out this issue, Question 4 asked about barriers that prevented respondents from riding a bus more often.

Q4: One hundred and thirty people answered Question 4, which asked respondents to choose all applicable response options from the list below (figures do not add up to 100 percent). Nearly equal numbers of respondents noted that bus frequency and bus stop locations were barriers to them riding the bus more often. Just 13 respondents (10 percent) said bus trip time and distance were barriers. Eighty-nine respondents (68 percent) said they wouldn't ride the bus anyway.

Q4. I would ride the bus more often if: (choose all that apply)		
Response Option	**Count**	**% of Total Responses**
The service had more frequent connections to Olympia/Tumwater/Lacey	27	21
The service had more frequent connections to Centralia/Chehalis	21	16
The bus stop were closer to home or destination	23	18
It took less time to get to my destination	13	10
I wouldn't ride the bus anyway	89	68
Total Responding to Question	**130**	**-**

Getting Around

Questions 5-9 asked questions about transportation maintenance, accessibility, safety, and congestion. Such answers provide Thurston County staff members and policymakers important information about the community members' desired transportation infrastructure improvements.

Q5: Question 5 asked respondents about their level of concern (e.g., low, medium, high) about roadway congestion and a wide range transportation issues. For purposes of analyzing the survey results, level of concern is split into columns.

Q5. How concerned are you about the following transportation issues in Grand Mound?									
Transportation Issue	Level of Concern								Total Responses
	Count				Percent				
	Low	Med.	High	N/A	Low	Med.	High	N/A	
Congestion	25	38	62	6	19	29	47	5	131
Traffic speed	55	38	41	6	39	27	29	4	140
Sufficient bicycle lanes	66	37	19	13	49	27	14	10	135
Sufficient sidewalks	35	46	50	6	26	34	36	4	137
Roadway maintenance	15	48	69	6	11	35	50	4	138
Business access	31	43	58	5	23	31	42	4	137
Roadway or intersection safety	12	33	91	2	9	24	66	1	138

There are several takeaways from Question 5:

- Roadway or intersection safety ranked as the highest relative concern (66 percent) among all transportation issues.
- About 50 percent of respondents ranked roadway maintenance and congestion as issues of high concern, and 42 percent of respondents noted that business access is an issue of high concern.
- About 50 percent respondents noted that having sufficient bicycle lanes is an issue of low concern; just 14 percent of respondents ranked this as an issue of high concern.
- There was no clear consensus on level of concern about traffic speeds and sidewalks, with similar numbers of respondents (26 to 39 percent) indicating "high" and "low" levels of concern.

Q6: Question 6 asked respondents to select places where transportation infrastructure improvements could mitigate congestion. Survey respondents were presented with a list of specific intersections identified by Thurston County Public Works staff members.

Some of the 124 people who answered this question selected more than one response option, so response figures do not add up to 100 percent. Three intersections were favorites, selected by 25 or more respondents. The intersections, in order, were:

- US 12 at Old Highway 99/Elderberry Road SW (42 responses; 34 percent);
- US 12 at Sargent Road SW (35 responses; 28 percent); and,
- Old Highway 99 at 198th Avenue SW (25 responses; 20 percent).

Q6. Congestion in Grand Mound would be reduced most by improving the intersection at: (choose one)		
Response Option	**Count**	**% of Total Responses**
US 12 at Old Highway 99/Elderberry Road SW	42	34
US 12 at Sargent Road SW (new intersection)	35	28
Old Highway 99 at 198th Avenue SW	25	20
Old Highway 99 at Sargent Road SW	10	8
Old Highway 99 at Old Highway 9	16	13
Elderberry Street SW at 196th Avenue SW	4	3
Sargent Road SW at 196th Avenue SW	9	7
Total Responding to Question	**124**	**-**

Q7: Question 7 asked respondents to select an intersection where roadway safety could be improved by changes to transportation infrastructure. Some of the 115 people who responded to this question selected more than one intersection from the list, so response figures do not add up to 100 percent.

Q7. Safety in Grand Mound would be improved most by improving the intersection or roadway at: (choose one)		
Response Option	**Count**	**% of Total Responses**
Old Highway 99 and Ivan Street SW	3	3
US 12 and Pecan Street SW	19	17
Old Highway 99 and 201st. Avenue SW	8	7
US 12 at Old Highway 99/Elderberry Road SW	22	19
US 12 at Sargent Road SW (new intersection)	23	20
Old Highway 99 at 198th Avenue SW	25	22
Old Highway 99 at Sargent Road SW	4	3
Old Highway 99 at Old Highway 9	14	12
Elderberry Street SW at 196th Avenue SW	4	3
Sargent Road SW at 196th Avenue SW	7	6
Total Responding to Question	**115**	**-**

Respondents selected the same top three intersections in both Questions 6 and 7:

- Old Highway 99 at 198th Avenue SW (25 responses; 22 percent);
- US 12 at Sargent Road SW (23 responses; 20 percent); and,
- US 12 at Old Highway 99/Elderberry Road SW (22 responses; 19 percent).

Two other intersections were selected by at least 10 respondents:

- US 12 and Pecan Street SW (19 responses; 17 percent); and,
- Old Highway 99 and Old Highway 9 (14 responses; 12 percent).

Q8: Question 8 asked respondents which two factors are the most important for Thurston County to consider when making transportation investments. One hundred and fifty-one people answered the question; not all of the respondents selected two factors, however.

Consistent with responses to previous questions, safety and congestion investments elicited the most responses in Question 8, while bike and pedestrian investments elicited the fewest responses.

Q8. Which two factors are most important for the County to consider when making transportation investments?		
Response Option	**Count**	**% of Total Responses**
Safety	79	52
Congestion	68	45
Bike & Pedestrian	22	15
Economic Development	44	29
Cost	27	18
Road Maintenance	33	22
Total Responding to Question	**151**	**-**

Q9: Question 9 dug deeper into respondents' views about safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and mobility device users in Grand Mound. Some of the 144 people who answered this question selected more than one response option, so response figures do not add up to 100 percent.

Building more sidewalks elicited the most responses — 61 (42 percent) — by a wide margin. Generating 47 responses each (33 percent) were better street lighting and a separated multimodal trail (for bicyclists and pedestrians).

Q9. To improve the area's safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and mobility device users, Grand Mound would benefit most from: (choose one)		
Response Option	**Count**	**% of Total Responses**
More sidewalks	61	42
Wider sidewalks	5	3
Landscaping or buffer between sidewalk and roadway	18	13
Improved or more lighting	47	33
Improved or more pedestrian crossings	21	15
Walking/biking/mobility device trail separated from the highway and connected to regional trails	47	33
Total Responding to Question	**144**	**-**

Additional Community Feedback: Other public feedback Thurston County elicited during the first half of 2018 complements some of the survey results for questions 5-9. During community meetings in Rochester (Feb. 24) and Grand Mound (March 8), Thurston County and TRPC staff members elicited public comments about transportation safety, congestion and maintenance issues in the area. TRPC posted the collective site-specific comments on an online map (www.trpc.org/grandmoundmap), so community members could see what others have said. Please visit www.grandmoundplanning.org to take a virtual tour of the community meetings and to view other project materials.

Placemaking

Questions 10-16 explored Grand Mound's identity and ways to improve its sense of place — including what people want in terms new housing, businesses, and transportation infrastructure.

Envisioning the Future

Q10: Question 10 asked respondents to select from a list of multiple housing types that could be built in Grand Mound. Respondents could choose all housing types (e.g., duplexes and townhomes) that apply. One hundred and forty-six people answered the question and selected at least one option, so responses do not add up to 100 percent.

Fifty-eight people (40 percent) contended that Grand Mound doesn't need more housing, but slightly more respondents (64, 44 percent) said that Grand Mound needs more single-family homes. Similar numbers of respondents, ranging from 20 to 30, said that Grand Mound needs more duplexes, small apartment buildings, large apartment buildings, and townhomes. Housing types selected the least were accessory dwelling units (7), tiny home communities (10), and mobile home developments (15).

Q10. The Grand Mound area needs more of these types of housing: (choose all that apply)		
Response Option	**Count**	**% of Total Responses**
Single-family homes	64	44
Duplexes	26	18
Small apartment buildings (3-10 units)	27	18
Large apartment buildings (more than 10 units)	24	16
Townhomes	27	18
Mobile home developments	15	10
Accessory dwelling units	7	5
Tiny home communities	10	7
Grand Mound doesn't need more housing	58	40
Total Responding to Question	**146**	**-**

Q11: Question 11 asked respondents to select from a list one thing (e.g., welcome signs or a community center) that would make Grand Mound a more “visible” community. Some of the 143 people who answered this question selected more than one response option, so figures do not add up to 100 percent.

Q11. To become a more visible as a community, Grand Mound would benefit most from: (choose one)		
Response Option	**Count**	**% of Total Responses**
New or improved welcome signs or other ways to 'brand' Grand Mound	19	6
Creating a community or commercial center	23	16
Better parks, playgrounds, or recreation opportunities	50	40
Sidewalks along US 12, Old Highway 99 and other commercial areas	33	23
Improvements in the commercial core (storefronts, street trees and landscaping, plazas, wider sidewalk, etc.)	37	26
Other (please specify)	17	12
Total Responding to Question	**143**	**-**

Fifty respondents (40 percent) selected “better parks, playgrounds, or recreation opportunities. Nearly equal numbers of respondents selected “improvements to the commercial core” (37 respondents; 26 percent) and “sidewalks” along Grand Mound’s commercial core and largest roads (33 respondents; 23 percent).

Seventeen respondents (12 percent) selected “other.” Several written responses to this question called for the addition of new businesses, specifically a grocery store, in Grand Mound. Question 12 echoes such written responses.

Q12: Question 12 asked what types of businesses does Grand Mound need more of for area residents, to attract visitors/tourists, and/or to promote growth.

Respondents said the top two types of businesses they desire most for area residents were a grocery store (118 responses) and health care (96). Three other types of businesses were selected by at least 60 respondents: entertainment (70); food services (66); and, general services such as salons and gyms (60).

Respondents said the top two types of businesses they desire most to attract tourists and other visitors were food services (61 responses) and entertainment (58). Forty-five respondents selected lodging, while 31 respondents selected general retail.

With regard to promoting job growth, respondents said they most desire industrial and manufacturing businesses (74), followed by grocery store (48) and food services (38). Similar numbers of respondents selected the remaining categories.

Fifty-seven respondents said Grand Mound does not need more lodging options. Similar numbers of respondents (between 41 and 45) indicated they don't want more general retail, industrial and manufacturing, and general services.

Q12. What type of businesses does Grand Mound need more of?				
Response Option	**Answer Preference**			
	For area residents	**To attract visitors/tourists**	**To promote job growth**	**Doesn't need more of this type of business**
	Count	**Count**	**Count**	**Count**
General retail (gas stations, clothing stores, etc.)	47	31	34	45
Lodging (hotels, motels, bed-and-breakfasts)	4	45	23	57
Food services (restaurants, coffee shops, bars, etc.)	66	61	38	28
Health care (doctors, dentists, pharmacies, etc.)	96	3	25	26
Industrial and Manufacturing (warehousing)	19	6	74	43
Entertainment	70	58	29	23
Grocery store	118	21	48	10
Services (salons, gyms, etc.)	60	12	30	41
Professional services (banks, accountants, engineers, real estate agents, insurance agents, etc.)	46	5	32	47

Q13: Question 13 asked respondents what additional recreational facilities or gathering places they would like to see in Grand Mound. Respondents had four options or could select "other" and write in their own idea. Some of the one hundred and twenty-nine people who answered the question selected more than one option, so responses do not add up to 100 percent.

Q13. What additional recreational facilities or gathering places would you like to see in Grand Mound?		
Response	**Count**	**% of Total Responses**
Parks	88	68
Open Spaces	16	12
Trails and trail connections	60	47
Playgrounds	46	36
Other (please specify)	21	16
Total Responding to Question	**129**	**-**

Eighty-eight respondents (68 percent) said they would like additional parks in Grand Mound, and 60 respondents (47 percent) said they would like more trails and trail connections. Ranking third was playgrounds, which was selected 46 times (36 percent).

Respondents provided a list of 21 written responses to the "other" category. The responses varied widely and included: a sports complex, swimming pool, splash pad, bowling alley, and ice rink.

Q14: Question 14 asked respondents to select one option from a list of things that would most improve Grand Mound's economic vitality. Some of the 132 people who answered this question selected more than one response option, so figures do not add up to 100 percent.

Seventy-six respondents (58 percent) selected "more businesses," while 46 respondents (35 percent) selected "better infrastructure." Twenty-five respondents (19 percent) selected "welcoming atmosphere," while 11 respondents (8 percent) selected "promoting local history and cultural traditions/heritage."

Q14. To improve the area's economic vitality, Grand Mound would benefit most from: (choose one)		
Response Option	**Count**	**% of Total Responses**
More businesses	76	58
Better infrastructure	46	35
Welcoming atmosphere	25	19
Promoting local history and cultural traditions/heritage	11	8
Total Responding to Question	**132**	**-**

Q15: Question 15 asked respondents what is their biggest concern about operating a business in Grand Mound. Anyone could answer this question, even if they do not operate a business. Some of the 137 people who answered this question selected more than one response option, so figures do not add up to 100 percent.

Eighty-eight respondents (64 percent) selected county regulations/costs as their greatest concern. The second-greatest concern — there are better business options in surrounding areas — drew 33 responses (24 percent). Twenty-four respondents (18 percent) said there are not enough people in the area to support a business.

Q15. What are your biggest concerns about operating a business in Grand Mound? (choose one)		
Response Option	**Count**	**% of Total Responses**
Not enough people in that area to support a business	24	18
County regulations and permitting processes/costs	88	64
Residents in the area don’t have extra money to spend at businesses	7	5
There's no one to talk to about how to start a business	4	3
There are better options in Lewis County/Centralia and Lacey/Olympia/Tumwater	33	24
Total Responding to Question	**137**	**-**

Q16: Question 16 asked whether the survey respondents knew that Thurston County was designing a new intersection at US 12 and Sargent Road and a roundabout at Old Highway 99 and 198th Avenue. The survey explained that the roundabout at Old Highway 99 and 198th is expected to be under construction before the end of 2018. Of the 144 people who answered this question, 38 said “yes,” and 106 said “no.”

Other Thoughts & Comments

Question 24 asked respondents whether there was anything else they would like to tell Thurston County officials as they update the Grand Mound Subarea Plan. Fifty-three people wrote in comments, and answers varied widely.

Consistent with answers to the survey's previous questions, several respondents to Question 24 wrote that they would like to see a grocery store added to Grand Mound. Several others wrote that they would like to see improvements to mobility (including vehicle access to businesses) and safety (for drivers, pedestrians, and other transportation system users). To this end, several respondents called for more sidewalks and trails, as well as better roadway signage, lighting, pavement markings, and pedestrian crossings.