

Kristin Alexander

From: terraf [terraf@compuserve.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 5:53 PM
To: Daphne Politis
Cc: terraf; Xuan Kong; Kathryn Acerbo-Bachmann; Jim Purdy; Roland Bartl; Kristin Alexander
Subject: Revised Summary Sheet

Comments:

1. when I opened the file, the block for, "What would you like to see less of in Acton?" was in the middle of the table to the left. That's fine for me, because I just moved it over so I could see the table. But for some people that may not know to do that, they may have the table obscured by that "object block".

2. i think that the count for "affordable housing" should have an asterisk that explains that this could mean many things, including:

- lower rent
- lower taxes
- lower cost of living in total

If you could figure out a way to explain what a "regular person" might think of as "affordable housing" that would be great. The issue is that I do not think that the interviewee intended to support a program called 40B when they stated that they wanted more affordable housing, especially since so many people responded that they'd like to see less development and/or more open space. But maybe they did. But there's enough doubt as to what people meant that I think that a qualifier should be added as a warning to the reader.

40B only applies to a small segment of the population, those that qualify.

The rules for 40B are very strict. As a result, if a large group of the 37.5% wanted more 40B, they'd want more "affordable housing" for "other" people than themselves.

Based on my experience with interviewing the general public, the vast majority of people answer for what "they" (the interviewee) wants for themselves, not what for "other people"...not what they want in some kind of altruistic perspective.

That all being said, I think that we need to make sure that the reader knows that we did not define what "affordable housing" meant, and that it can mean many things to many people.

3. "*** Open-ended questions number indicates frequency of mentions. The total number of responses received is 1,479."

The number of people that responded to the open ended questions should be noted. So not only put the 1,479 as the total number of respondents in the entire study, but put that...x# of people responded to the open ended question, of which y# of people said these responses.

4. "In addition to sidewalks and bike paths, a Town shuttle connects people and places, providing alternatives to automobile travel."

Please show me where a majority of people indicated that a "Town shuttle" is needed/wanted, or otherwise desired. If you can not, please take out this reference. It was my understanding that we agreed to only include things in the "vision" that were supported by the majority.

Terra

Message text written by Daphne Politis

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Please find attached a revised summary sheet. It includes the changes that we came up with at our last meeting (of the written survey "sub- committee"), including using percent of respondents (instead of number of options) to calculate answers to all the survey questions. Please note that "n" is slightly higher than the total number of respondents used by Xuan in his original calculations because the final number of surveys received was 1,479. This accounts for the slightly different percentages in the table.

Please let me know if you have any comments so that we may be sure to incorporate these before we present this to the rest of the Committee.

Thank you for your time and contributions, Daphne <