

## Survey comments summary

Comments included on the surveys were compiled verbatim for each township, city, and village, 85 pages in all. Some comments are general, others refer to specific survey statements. Each of the 21 local units of government received a copy of the exact comments from their residents. The comments summary (Volume 2, Appendix A) paraphrases and condenses similar comments, indicates the number of surveys each statement represents, and includes a sampling of comments exactly as expressed. The following list summarizes comments that appear on at least 25 surveys:

- Better jobs are needed for people to live on—not just tourism, retail, and other service jobs. (About 100 surveys express this concern in some form, more than any other comment.)
- Many respondents appreciate the opportunity to express their views or feel that the survey is well done and useful. Less than half as many respondents criticize the survey as biased, shallow, a waste of time, or representative of only one person's opinion within a household.
- Development should not make the area look like Detroit or Traverse City and import big city problems.
- Some new developments (especially chain retailers, Mine Street Station, and the M-26 and Sharon Avenue areas) are unattractive, make the area look like Anywhere USA and/or hurt existing businesses.
- There can and must be a balance between development and protection of the environment, scenic beauty, and the "public good."
- "Tree huggers" and "transplants" shouldn't tell locals what to do; they hurt the local economy and jobs.
- The area needs more business, industry, and jobs—but not at the expense of natural/historic beauty or pollution.
- The quality of life we enjoy here should be retained (small-town feel, uniqueness, natural beauty, etc.).
- Too much land, especially waterfront property, is being developed privately, limiting public access.
- More recreational opportunities are needed for young people.
- People should have the right to use/develop their private property without restriction (a number of respondents added phrases like "as long as they don't impact their neighbors' rights." Some specifically mentioned support for the Delenes in their Baraga County property rights dispute with the DNR.)
- There is too much regulation by bureaucracies like DNR/DEQ.
- More long-range planning is needed.
- Residents need to be informed and have more voice about planning, development, and other decisions.
- Too much development is occurring too fast.
- Better roads, maintenance, snow removal, and dust control are needed.
- Some respondents favor more tourism, but others caution against too much dependence on it.
- Some respondents criticize logging practices, while others encourage logging and value-added processing.
- On the subject of how new buildings should blend with existing ones, some say old and new should have similar appearance or character; others say, "Stop the historical B.S. Tear down the old buildings and get on with the new."
- Wide ranges of views are expressed regarding tax breaks for new and existing businesses and homeowners.