

DRAFT Public Survey for the Borough of Hillsdale Reexamination of the Master Plan and Development Ordinances

Please only complete this survey if you are 18 years or older.

This survey is intended to gather the community's input regarding key land use issues facing the Borough and inform the future vision of Hillsdale, its Master Plan and development ordinances. The Master Plan sets forth the long-term vision of the community by establishing land use planning goals, objectives and policies intended to guide future growth and development in the community. The development ordinances are the body of local laws that regulate how land can be developed and used which are designed to achieve the Master Plan goals, objectives and policies and ultimately, the future vision of the community.

All individual responses will remain confidential to be assessed and shared in summary form only. There are a total of 24 questions. The survey should take approximately 5 to 10 minutes to complete.

1. If you live in Hillsdale, how long have you lived in town?
 - A. 1 year or less
 - B. 2-4 years
 - C. 5-9 years
 - D. 10-19 years
 - E. 20 years or more
 - F. I do not live in Hillsdale

2. If you live in Hillsdale, are there any children (under age 18) that currently live in your home?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No
 - C. I do not live in Hillsdale

3. If you are employed, how do you typically get to work?
 - A. Drive alone
 - B. Carpool
 - C. Pascack Valley train from Hillsdale Station
 - D. Public bus service
 - E. Walk
 - F. Bike
 - G. I mostly work from home and don't commute
 - H. N/A (unemployed, student, retired, etc.)
 - I. Other (please specify) _____

4. What is most important to you in terms of preserving and improving the quality of life in Hillsdale? Choose your top three priorities from the list below.
 - A. Quality of schools
 - B. Public safety and community health
 - C. Diversity among residents and religious institutions
 - D. Quality and diversity of Downtown businesses and amenities
 - E. Community events and programs
 - F. Open space and recreational facilities
 - G. Transportation improvements (reduce traffic, enhance walking/biking experience and promote the use of public transportation)

- H. Preserve natural resources and promote green building and renewable energy sources
- I. Strengthen local tax base
- J. Public services (police, fire, ambulance, library, etc.)

5. What is most important to you to create and enhance a strong sense of community in Hillsdale?

- A. Community programs and events
- B. Diversity among residents and neighborhoods
- C. Public participation/engagement
- D. Communications, information and media from the Borough
- E. Focus on the Downtown as a central meeting and gathering place
- F. Volunteer and charity organizations
- G. Coordination and communication between community groups

6. What type of businesses would you like to see in Hillsdale that aren't there now or would like to see more of? Please list or describe below.

7. What are your priorities for economic development in Hillsdale? (rank with 1 being the most important and 9 being the least important)

- 1. Job creation
- 2. Promote a range of uses (residential, office, retail, industrial, etc.)
- 3. Strengthen local tax base to support community services and facilities
- 4. Support small businesses, start-ups, and artists industries
- 5. Emphasize environmentally-friendly and "green" building in future development
- 6. Improve resilience to flooding and flood impacts and other natural hazards
- 7. Encourage more shopping and dining opportunities
- 8. Other (please specify) _____

8. What are your top 3 priorities for Hillsdale's Downtown?

- A. Maintain and upgrade the existing Downtown (signage, landscaping, lighting, streetscape, etc.)
- B. Promote larger scale development
- C. Promote redevelopment of vacant, underutilized or obsolete properties
- D. Incorporate a mix of residential and non-residential uses
- E. Improve/provide additional parking
- F. Improve pedestrian and bike mobility
- G. Enhance and create public spaces
- H. Increase opportunities for outdoor dining
- I. Increase community events and programming in the Downtown

9. What would make the Downtown more attractive for shopping and dining? Choose your top 3 priorities from the list below.

- A. Greater diversity of businesses
- B. Expand outdoor dining opportunities
- C. Create a better environment for walking and biking
- D. Increase and improve parking
- E. Beautification improvements
- F. Regular events and programs in the Downtown

- G. Improve branding and marketing
- H. Property maintenance and code enforcement
- I. Enhance public safety

10. What is your top priority for redevelopment in and around Hillsdale's Downtown area?

- A. Maintain the Downtown as it currently exists
- B. Promote larger scale development than currently exists
- C. Enhance and modernize the Downtown but keep the character and scale the same
- D. Incorporate a mix of residential and non-residential uses
- E. Increase residential density
- F. Expand the non-residential tax base
- G. Create and improve public spaces in and around the Downtown area
- H. Promote environmentally-friendly and "green" development

11. What are your priorities for transportation (circulation) in Hillsdale? Rank with 1 being your highest priority and 7 being your lowest priority.

- 1. Maintain the existing Borough, County and State roadways as they currently exist.
- 2. Make it easier/safer to walk
- 3. Make it easier/safer to bike
- 4. Convenient public transportation (train and bus)
- 5. Increase access and availability of parking in the Downtown
- 6. Reduce traffic congestion
- 7. Other (please specify)

12. Are there any streets, intersections or other areas of Hillsdale where transportation improvements including new sidewalks, bike lines, crosswalks, traffic signals, traffic calming devices, etc. are needed? If so, please identify the location(s) and improvements needed below.

13. What is your top priority for community facilities in Hillsdale?

- A. Improve/develop community amenities including a new community center
- B. Modernize existing municipal facilities (i.e. police, fire, emergency, municipal building, library)
- C. Reduce waste and promote recycling
- D. Improve public school facilities
- E. Improve facilities and programming for senior citizens
- F. Expand use of "smart" technology
- G. Protect and conserve natural resources
- H. Promote environmentally-friendly and "green" development
- I. Other (please specify)

14. Should Hillsdale develop a community center?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. No preference

15. If Hillsdale were to develop a community center, what type of programming or uses should it include? Check all that apply.

- A. Facilities and activities for senior citizens
- B. Youth center with games, lounge and media equipment (tv, computers, etc.)

- C. Multi-purpose space/room for community meetings, events and activities
- D. Recreational facilities including sport courts, table tennis, etc.
- E. Health/fitness gym equipment
- F. Theater space and/or stage for performances

16. Which parks and fields in Hillsdale need the most attention in terms of maintenance, upgrades or new programming? Please be specific in identifying the parks and/or fields and describing the improvement(s) needed below.

17. Rank your highest priorities for housing in Hillsdale with 1 being the highest priority and 10 being the lowest priority.

- 1. Maintain the existing size or scale of homes
- 2. Need more townhouses (condos)
- 3. Need more multifamily (apartment) rental units
- 4. Promote mixed use development (commercial and residential) in the Downtown
- 5. Need more senior or age-restricted housing
- 6. Improve housing code enforcement
- 7. Promote environmentally-friendly and “green” design
- 8. More affordable housing for and low and moderate-income households
- 9. More market-rate housing
- 10. Promote retention/preservation of older buildings when possible
- 11. Other (please specify) _____

18. Which of the following environmental actions or policies should Hillsdale consider implementing in the near future? Check all that apply.

- A. Climate change hazard mitigation plan
- B. Development ordinance that encourages and regulates solar panels
- C. Development incentives for green building such as tax credits or increased building height, floor area ratio or residential density
- D. Preservation of wildlife habitats and natural resources
- E. Promote renewable energy sources
- F. Provide education to residents and businesses regarding green building, energy and water conservation and funding programs

19. What are the top 3 priorities the Hillsdale Master Plan should focus on improving or preserving? Choose 3 of the following:

- A. Housing
- B. Downtown area improvements
- C. Redevelopment of vacant or underutilized land or obsolete development
- D. Community facilities
- E. Open space and recreation facilities
- F. Schools
- G. Transportation improvements which include walking, biking and public transportation
- H. Historic preservation
- I. Public safety and emergency services
- J. Municipal government and services
- K. Preservation of the natural environment and green building

20. What are Hillsdale’s best assets?

21. What are Hillsdale's biggest challenges for the next 5 years?
22. What would you like Hillsdale to have or become in the next 5 or 10 years?
23. Are there any issues specific to your neighborhood that you think should be addressed in the Hillsdale Master Plan? If so, please describe below.
24. Do you have any additional comments regarding Hillsdale' master plan or development in the community that you would like to share?

SURVEY IS COMPLETE! THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND PARTICIPATION!