

CONCERNS

**What concerns do we have now
and for the future?****Economy**

- Year-round economic viability in general (20)
- Lack of jobs; need for diversity of year-round jobs (17)
- Lack of promotion of town for special festivals and events; need event coordinator (4)
- Over-dependence on tourism; need for balancing tourism with growth and long-term opportunities for locals (4)
- Lack of openness toward new economic options (3)
- High cost of living; low wages (2)
- Lack of support for working class, working families (2)
- Loss of mining claims to residential development (2)
- Mining-claim development
- Fear of promoting our outdoor recreation
- Employers not paying on time
- Tax structure is slanted against businesses
- Inequitable real-estate tax base

Community Character

- That Silverton will become a Telluride "wannabe"; that Silverton will grow too much and lose small-town character (7)
- Keeping younger people in town to avoid becoming a retirement community (4)
- Lack of year-round residents (2)
- Turning into just another tourist town, losing character (2)
- Divisions in community (young vs. old, English vs. Spanish speakers, etc.) (2)

- Unwillingness to face/shape the future of the community
- Silverton a pawn in larger world
- Lack of amenities of most small towns

Land Use

- Need to preserve historic character of Silverton (7); preservation of historic structures; maintenance of Silverton's historical setting with minimum intrusion from inappropriate new structures or remodels
- Need for county to limit growth to sustainable areas served by existing infrastructure; backcountry sprawl and development; subdivisions up in the mountains where roads are bad and it is hard to provide services (5)
- Need for town to allow more infill through denser zoning to avoid sprawl (4)
- Loss of open space (3)
- Protect town entryways from hodgepodge of businesses or scattered residential development (3)
- Development of hillsides around town (2)
- Lack of planning and implementation of focused plans; out-of-date zoning (2)
- Fear of large developer coming to Silverton or San Juan County
- Cabin-building
- Loss of small homes ("scrapers")
- Building in hazard zones
- Allow a mix of residential and businesses in south area of town
- Parks/open space in town

Housing

- Need for affordable housing for young families, locals, middle class, employees (22)

CONCERNS

- Condition of existing housing for four seasons; many homes are energy-inefficient; need for energy-efficient building (4)
- Too many second homes (4)
- Overbuilding without financially secure buyers
- Tourist/resort atmosphere results in high housing and land prices

Education

- Declining school population may harm quality of education (12)
- Continued ability to offer K-12 at all (5)

Health care

- Lack of medical practitioners and health care (4)

Government/Leadership

- Inability to sustain civil dialogue
- Next generation of leadership
- Not enough effective and stable town leadership
- Cost of town and county being separate is too high
- Not enough population to support a county government
- Consistency of partnerships with neighboring county's agencies and resources
- Chamber promotion of town
- A number of town officials not at planning meeting
- Too much bureaucracy regarding simple projects (e.g., a community garden)
- Lack of community involvement
- Fear of change
- Under-educated/traveled politicians

Infrastructure/Transportation

- Lack of fiber-optics/high-speed Internet; lagging communication infrastructure
- (5)
- Whether tax base can support needed infrastructure maintenance over long term (3); county road maintenance
- Cost of utilities makes it hard to keep businesses open in the winter (2)
- In-town support from electric company
- Not independent of outside sources for electrical needs
- Plan to put train tracks down Cement St. to Eureka - horrible for nearby residents
- Over-dependence on grants for financing projects
- Dangerous, poorly marked intersection coming into town from north

Arts and culture

- Loss of cultural opportunities. We can't just be an "extreme sports" town.
- Lack of a daily newspaper
- Loss of arts and crafts festival

Indoor recreation

- Lack of youth activities and services (5Y)
- Lack of recreational opportunities in general (2)

Outdoor recreation

- Increasing influx of ATVs; snowmobiles; motorized vs. non-motorized (6)
- Preservation of trails; not enough trails (4)
- Loss of access to public lands (4)
- Abuse of public lands by visitors; too many people loving the same areas; need to balance use of natural resources with preserving them (3)

TREASURES

- Loss of peace and quiet
- Shortage of summer campsites and housing facilities
- Tennis court never fixed
- Silverton Mountain School
- MSI
- Education as community driver; MSI; college/university; public school/magnet school

Environment

- Air quality (2)
- Enough snow in future years?
- Global warming will cause everyone to want to move here and the town will become unlivable
- Light pollution

Energy efficiency

- A community should give energy, not take energy; need for sustainable style for Silverton (2Y)
- Energy costs will drive us out of town
- Need for cleaner energy, cleaner heat source

What do you treasure and want to preserve about Silverton and San Juan County?

Economy

- Small locally owned businesses/cottage industries; lack of chain stores (5)
- Mining opportunities (2)
- No chain stores
- Satisfying to be a small business owner and not have to be corporate
- Year-round businesses
- Bars

Education

- Schools in general (6)
- Small class size; hands-on learning (2)
- Silverton Family Learning Center

Community Character

- General small-town feeling (18)
- Community involvement and volunteerism; sense of closeness; being able to count on neighbors (14)
- Diversity of population (5)
- Sense of safety, little crime (5)
- Sense of freedom; lack of red tape; individualism (3)
- Uniqueness; isolation from the Average American Life
- So many educated and talented people
- Kids in town
- Change is slow

Land Use

- Diversity of land use/planning; mixed uses
- No backcountry sprawl at this point
- Little sprawl in town
- Lack of zoning

Aesthetics

- Small-town "look"; no giant buildings

Historic preservation

- General historic values of town and county (20)
- Historic mining structures (9)
- Beautifully restored public buildings (3)
- Railroad/train (3)
- San Juan County Historical Society
- Hillside cemetery
- Shrine

CHANGE

- Landmarks

Transportation/Infrastructure

- Easy to live a car-free life (4)
- No OHVs allowed in Silverton
- No traffic lights

Arts and culture

- Brass Band (4)
- Community theater (4)
- Diversity in arts (3)
- Silverton Standard (3)
- Live music (2)
- Fireworks on Fourth of July

Outdoor recreation

- Access to mountains and wilderness, particularly hiking trails (26)
- Motorized access; multiple use (8)
- Diversity of outstanding recreational opportunities (4)
- Backcountry skiing (4)
- Silverton and Kendall Mountain Ski Areas (3)
- The river corridor (2)
- Molas Campground (2)
- Fishing
- Eureka kept from development
- Lack of winter crowds

Environment

- Scenery, views, skylines (13)
- Wild landscape, wilderness, roadlessness (11)
- Dark starry skies (9)
- Peace and quiet (7)
- Water quality (6)
- Open spaces (5); open hillside below the Shrine and Elephant Hills
- Clean air (4)

- Wildlife (4)
- Lots of snow; climate, cold (3)
- Remote location with challenging access (2)
- Flowers
- Plentiful firewood
- Waterfalls

What would you like to see different or change in Silverton and San Juan County?**Economy**

- Better job opportunities; more year-round jobs; less reliance on summer tourism and train (13)
- Ecotourism and educational tourism; heritage tourism; outdoor education; winter tourism (7)
- More hotels/chain motels; more places like the Benson Hotel (5)
- More support for new business/small business (4)
- More winter business (3)
- An events coordinator; more festivals/activities to retain tourists (3)
- More promotion of Silverton and festivities in ways other than the train (3)
- Sustainable industry (3)
- More light industry
- Year-round business on Blair St.; winter businesses (2)
- More support for newcomers moving to town
- A place to buy basics like underwear and shoes
- More tourist-friendly town, with ATVs and horses
- Work with DSNGRR to get more overnight tourism
- Economic corridors to create more jobs

CHANGE

- Originate train in Silverton
- Less dependence on train for tourists
- Sell Silverton's assets; stand-alone town
- Promote track to U.S. Olympic Committee
- More support for nonprofits like Brass Band Festival and Jubilee who put on big events and need a large venue to hold them
- Equalize property taxes for business vs. residential
- More "shop local" efforts; more goods and services; a good Mexican food restaurant
- Reopen Sunnyside mine
- World-class educational research facility
- Ecumenism in the church community
- Zone light industry to power house areas
- Zone to protect historic areas
- Zone to protect natural assets, skyline, trails
- Reach consensus about type/amount of future development
- Improve Blair St. for business and quality of life
- County should prepare for growth that is not attached to the town
- No trailers in county
- Residential areas should be more insulated from noise

Education

- More students in schools (4)
- Less education money spent on county roads
- Education as community driver; MSI; college/university; public school/magnet school

Community Character

- Population growth (4)
- Fewer part-time residents, more year-round residents (4); more retired year-round residents who bring in outside money
- More young families (2Y)

Land Use

- Preserve entrances to town; make them welcoming/beautiful (3)
- Keep sprawl minimal; encourage density within the town (3)
- Less development in the county and backcountry (2)
- Existing codes should be more strictly enforced; consistency and follow-through (2)

Aesthetics

- Trees/flowers in key areas of town (2)
- Annual town clean-up day

Health care

- Better medical care (4)
- A doctor and pharmacy in town

Government/Leadership

- County and city should integrate as many functions as possible, consider combining (5)
- Diversity on town and county boards (2)
- More younger people involved in government, boards, volunteer work, etc. (2)
- Coordination among government entities and local organizations on projects (2)
- Focus on positive problem-solving; compromise and respect (2)
- More open political process
- A more helpful attitude in town hall as a whole
- A more visionary town council
- One elected joint board so that there would be pay and people could really work

CHANGE

for citizens

- Government should tighten belts like taxpayers do

Housing

- More affordable housing (6); incorporate affordable-housing schemes into existing housing stock, maintaining design-appearance-style integrity. Suggestion: affordable housing built at smelter site
- Change building code to allow accessory dwelling units
- Heavy tax/penalty on vacant houses
- Taxing district for home improvements; would increase energy savings, create jobs
- Allow taller residences

Historic preservation

- More rehabilitation and preservation of existing structures (2Y)
- Regulations that promote historic architecture; Silverton Historic District protected and improved (2)
- A model for historic preservation

Transportation/Infrastructure

- Public transit system to Durango or Montrose (5). Suggestions: diesel train down morning, up evening, with baggage; fast Euro-style train/year-round train
- Paved streets and gutters (3)
- More people walking instead of driving in town; more town trails (2)
- Less use of mag chloride
- Put clean gravel on streets
- Dirt roads in town
- Public shuttle
- Stop signs at corner of 12th and Blair
- Blair St. as a walking mall, no traffic
- Close part of Blair and 12th St. between

Blair and Green at train time

- Roundabout/turnabout on Green and 12th
- Parallel parking on Green with bike lanes
- Town needs a drainage system
- Street signs in town
- Brighter street lights
- Public bathrooms open after 4 p.m.

Arts and culture

- More cultural events (movies, music, dances, picnics, theatre/opera, art exhibits) (6)
- Permanent arts center (3)
- Community garden/greenhouse (3)
- Encourage artist community (2)
- Live programs on community radio station; return of Colorado Public Radio classical station (2)
- Town parks and recreation department (2)
- Help with infrastructure for a theater group at the "Y"
- Fine-arts festival one week a year
- Public art
- Events master plan
- Encourage academic and research possibilities

Indoor recreation

- Swimming pool (6)
- More activities for youth (e.g., a skate park) (3)
- Recreation master plan (2); hire a recreation director
- Bowling alley
- Indoor gym
- Better upkeep of recreational facilities
- Develop community center with a pool and greenhouse
- Movie theatre
- Fix the tennis courts

VISION HEADLINES 2029

Silverton off the grid

Outdoor recreation

- More hiking/biking trails; create/support the town hiking trail and river corridor; link trails (7)
- Limit motorized recreation (4)
- More family skiing ; more intermediate skiing ; additional levels of ski runs; develop winter recreation for all (4)
- Greater cooperation between motorized and non-motorized recreationists (2)
- Golf course/driving range (2)
- One motorized road in the Upper Animas Howardsville to Eureka
- "Grandfather in" trails and road access
- Allow insured off-road of-age drivers to come into town for gas, shopping
- Allow trained individuals under 16 to ride ATVs on backcountry roads
- Vehicle to shuttle ATV riders into town from staging areas
- County bike path
- Use of tailings pile near Mayflower Mill for town park, golf course, etc.
- Better use of Kendall Recreation Area
- Clean up Eureka and create a town or county or Forest Service campground
- Camper spaces
- More effort to preserve natural resources
- More wilderness, less development outside Silverton
- Purchase Shrine Hill as a park or open space

Energy

- Greener/renewable heating and electricity (4)
- Focus on energy efficiency/water conservation
- Achieve energy self-sufficiency; take

Environment

- Less wood-burning to reduce winter smog (2)
- Implement night-sky preservation (2)
- More trees in town
- Too much dust in winter; bad for snow; where does it come from?
- More protection of nature

Envisioning Headlines for 2029

Economy

- U.S. Olympic Committee opens winter center
- High-altitude training facility developed for year-round Olympic training
- Brewery employs 40
- Silverton makes it!
- CU-Boulder builds observatory in county with darkest skies in Colorado
- Mining resurgence creates jobs
- ISSW holds workshop in snowy Silverton
- Clothing manufacturer has record year
- Bicycle factory expands
- Rocky Mountain Funnelcake sells 1 trillionth funnelcake

Education

- Five more teachers hired
- School population exceeds 2,000
- More kids than dogs in Silverton
- High-school orchestra wins at Tanglewood

Community Character

- Population reaches 1,200 for first time in 50 years

VISION HEADLINES 2029

Land Use

- Silverton remains the last American community free of strip malls, stop lights, franchises, and laziness in general
- Eureka reincorporates

Aesthetics

- Town cleaned up
- Town free of strip malls, franchises
- ATVs still not in town

Health care

- Doctor moves to town
- Hospital specializes in high-altitude health
- Medical clinic wins award
- Medical-marijuana provider in town
- Pharmacy comes to town

Government/Leadership

- Town and county to combine vision

Partnerships

- Motorized and non-motorized shaking hands in newfound accord

Historic preservation

- Silverton named No. 1 national role model for historic preservation
- Blair St. historic district thriving because of upgrades, beautification and Old West look
- Silverton still looks like Silverton (not Telluride)
- Alliance forms for backcountry preservation

Transportation/Infrastructure

- Still no traffic lights
- After 25-year epic legal battle, Qwest

provides fiber-optic service to Silverton

- New rail line to Durango
- Train service to Eureka
- Four-lane highway project abandoned by CDOT

Arts and culture

- Art on every block
- Theater group a success
- Blair St. offers sushi bar
- Brass Band Festival celebrates 48th year with concerts in performing-arts center
- Performing-arts center celebrates 15th anniversary
- Silverton Standard buys New York Times

Outdoor recreation

- Expanded Kendall Mountain Ski Area attracts more visitors, but not too many
- Trail/river park established
- Recreation economy stronger than ever
- Trail system completed

Environment

- Water-quality goals achieved

Energy

- Town to extend geothermal access from community pool//bathhouse to heat KMRC, town hall and courthouse
- Silverton first U.S. town to be energy self-sufficient
- Town solar array turns 15 years old
- Silverton goes off the grid
- Hydroelectric generation eliminates need for power lines
- Renewable energy co-op formed