

Questions and Results from the Municipality Input Survey on the 248a Process:

Question 1: Are you familiar with 248a and it's purpose?

Yes: 50%

No: 50%

Question 2: Have you participated in a 248a proceeding before?

Yes: 40%

No: 60%

Question 3: What factors have prevented you from participating in a 248a proceeding in the past?

Difficulty Understand the 248a Process: 83%

Time Constraints: 17%

Lack of information: 0%

Language Barriers 0%

Other: 0%

Question 4: What changes to 248a would encourage you to participate in the proceedings?

Increased Public Education & Outreach: 21%

Simplified Language and Process: 32%

More opportunities for public input and feedback: 21%

Online participation option: 21%

Other: 5%

Question 5: What suggestions do you have for improving public education and outreach about 248a?

Provide Education and Assistance to the Municipalities and Town officials: 30%

Notification to Nonresidents/Municipalities: 50%

Increased Accessibility of Resources: 20%

Question 6: Would you be more likely to participate in 248a proceedings if they were held in the evenings or on weekends?

No: 60%

Yes: 20%

Maybe 20%

Question 7: Do you feel that the current 248a process is fair and impartial? If not, what improvements would you suggest?

No: 100%

Comments:

“No, Town Plans and municipal comments are not provided due consideration.”

“Appears to be heavily weighted to participants with resources and legal counsel.”

“I don't think so, it seems to require lawyers, feels adversarial, and the process is too technical for the lay volunteer board or municipal clerk to enter into.”

“Accessibility language glossary education material documentation.”

Question 8: What other suggestions do you have for improving the accessibility of 248a proceedings?

Comments:

“Make the 248 and 248a process the same (i.e. why does 248a allow for consideration of zoning bylaws - for screening- and the 248 doesn't take zoning into account, only muni plan.) make less steps in the process, specify who to provide comments to - they should all just go to PUC clerk. run process more like municipal quasi-judicial process (i.e. DRB proceedings, that way municipality understands the process).”

“Virtual hybrid interactive discussion and conversation for public Outreach members and public individuals especially those with disabilities Outreach to.”

Question 9: Are there any aspects of the 248a process that are particularly confusing or difficult to understand?

Commentary without Intervention: 34%

Town Role: 33%

Not easy to understand: 33%

Comments:

“How to provide municipal comments without intervening.”

"Be clearer about the actual role of the municipality, and what policy documents they should be using to present their position and how the PUC will actually use their policy in their review and approval."

"Yes, curriculum traditional has always geared toward college education individuals but not the math public individuals of demographics of senior citizens veterans and individuals with learning disabilities."

Question 10: What role do you believe municipalities should play in promoting 248a and encouraging community participation in the process?

Increased Localized Outreach: 25%

State should be promoting it: 25%

RPC Should do the outreach: 25%

Hybrid options for hearings: 25%

Comments:

"Maybe the RPC's could provide outreach to their municipalities."

"Hosting public hearings for projects in the municipality. Helping provide public notice within local communication channels - e.g., Front Porch Forum."

"I don't think municipalities should be promoting Act 248a as it's clearly a state process. Municipalities need to understand that they shouldn't just side with an unhappy neighbor(s) but that the process is about the service which will present a public good to Vermonters (not to the people in the neighborhood or even the town.)"

"Hybrid virtual and in person interaction and interactive events across municipalities throughout Vermont Statewide everyone should participate and promoting Act 248a and encouraging other communities Rural to help out individuals and a constituents to best understand what does information about."