

Hwy 7 study ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

Hopkins, Minnetonka, Deephaven, Greenwood, Excelsior, Shorewood, Chanhassen, Victoria, Minnetrista, St. Bonifacius

The Hwy 7 study aims to improve travel experiences on Hwy 7 from Hopkins Crossroad in Hopkins to the western Hennepin County line in St. Bonifacius. This study will focus on safety and improvement recommendations throughout this 18 mile stretch of road. This study is an opportunity to work together to understand how Hwy 7 can be a safer and more pleasant roadway for all.

Throughout this phase of engagement, an online survey and comment map collected feedback within the study area. By engaging residents and frequent travelers, these feedback methods aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the corridor's challenges and opportunities for improvement.

This summary will present detailed insights from public feedback and key findings.



FEEDBACK METHODS:

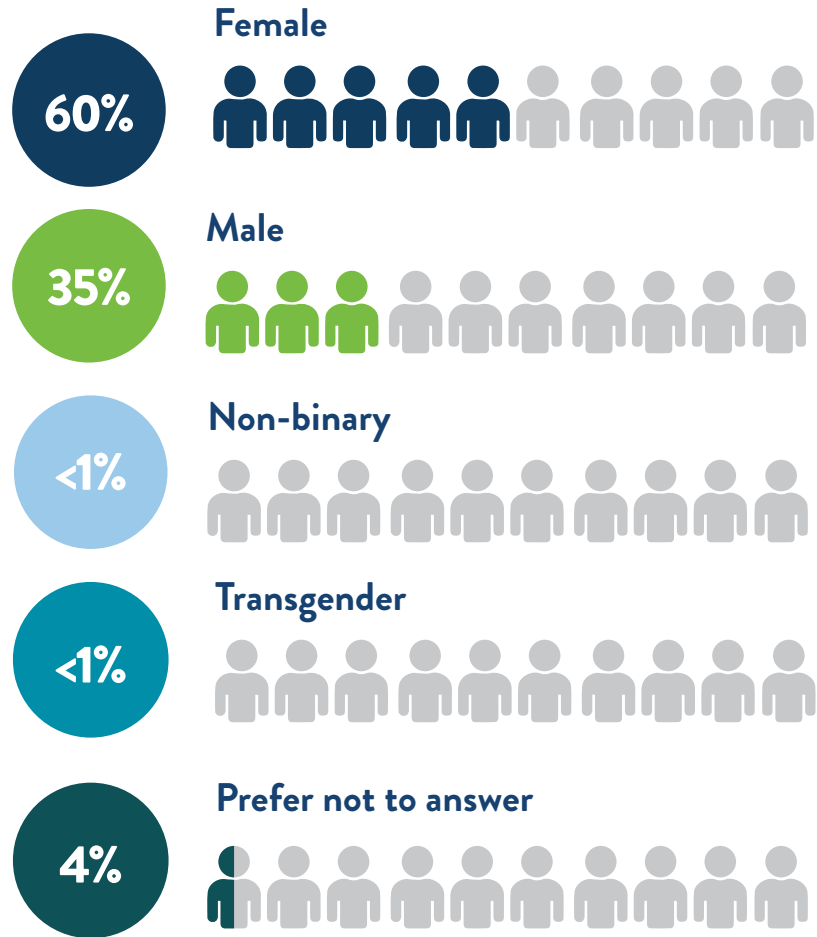


COMMUNICATION METHODS:

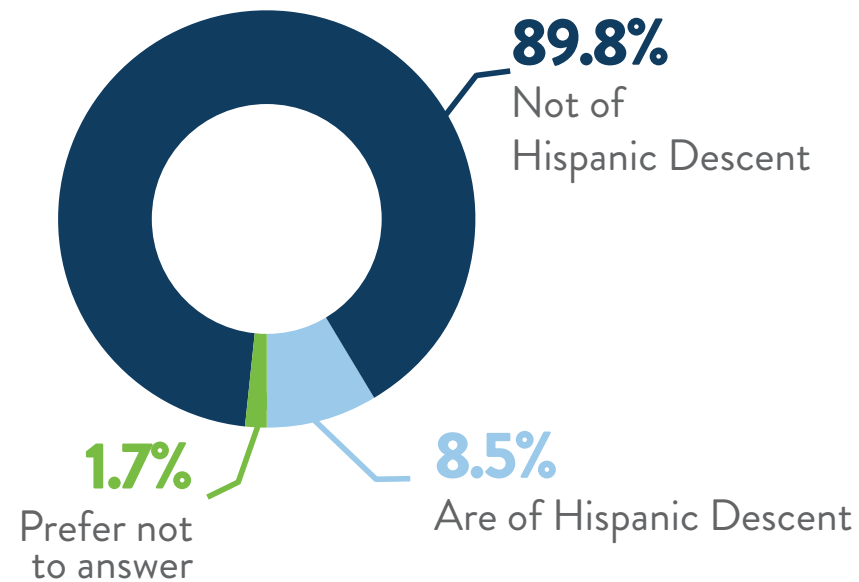


SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

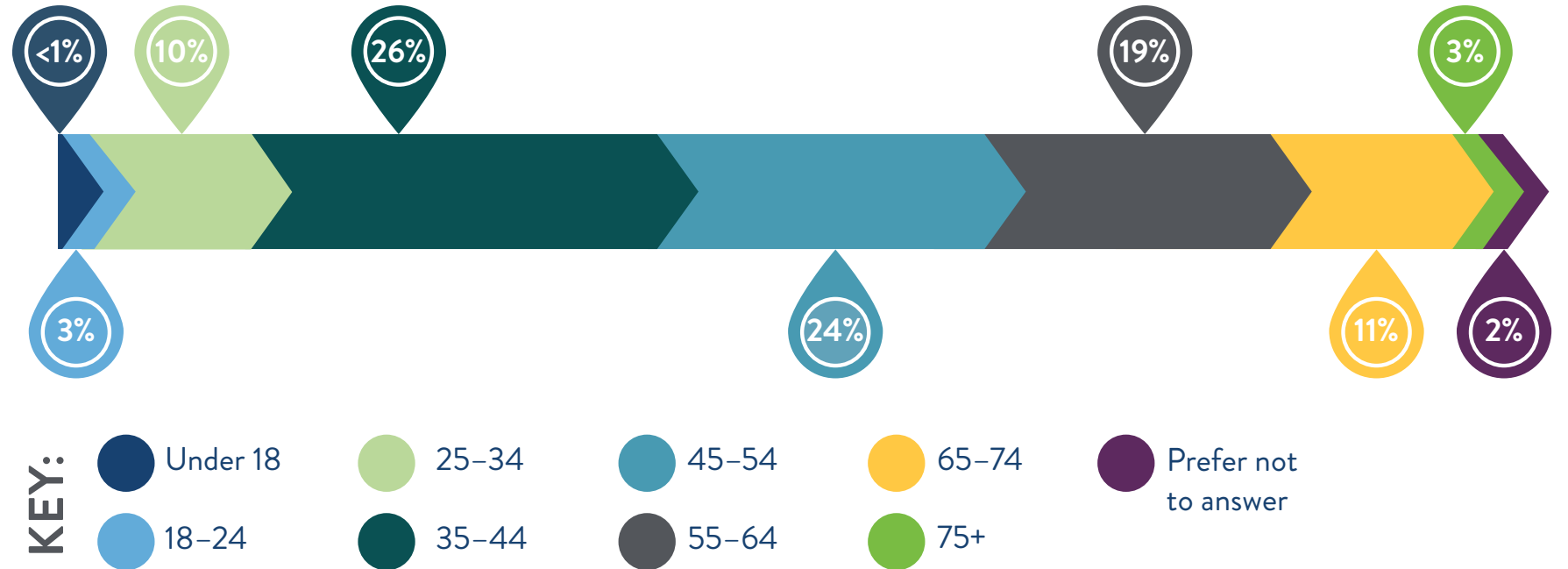
GENDER: 5,015 RESPONSES



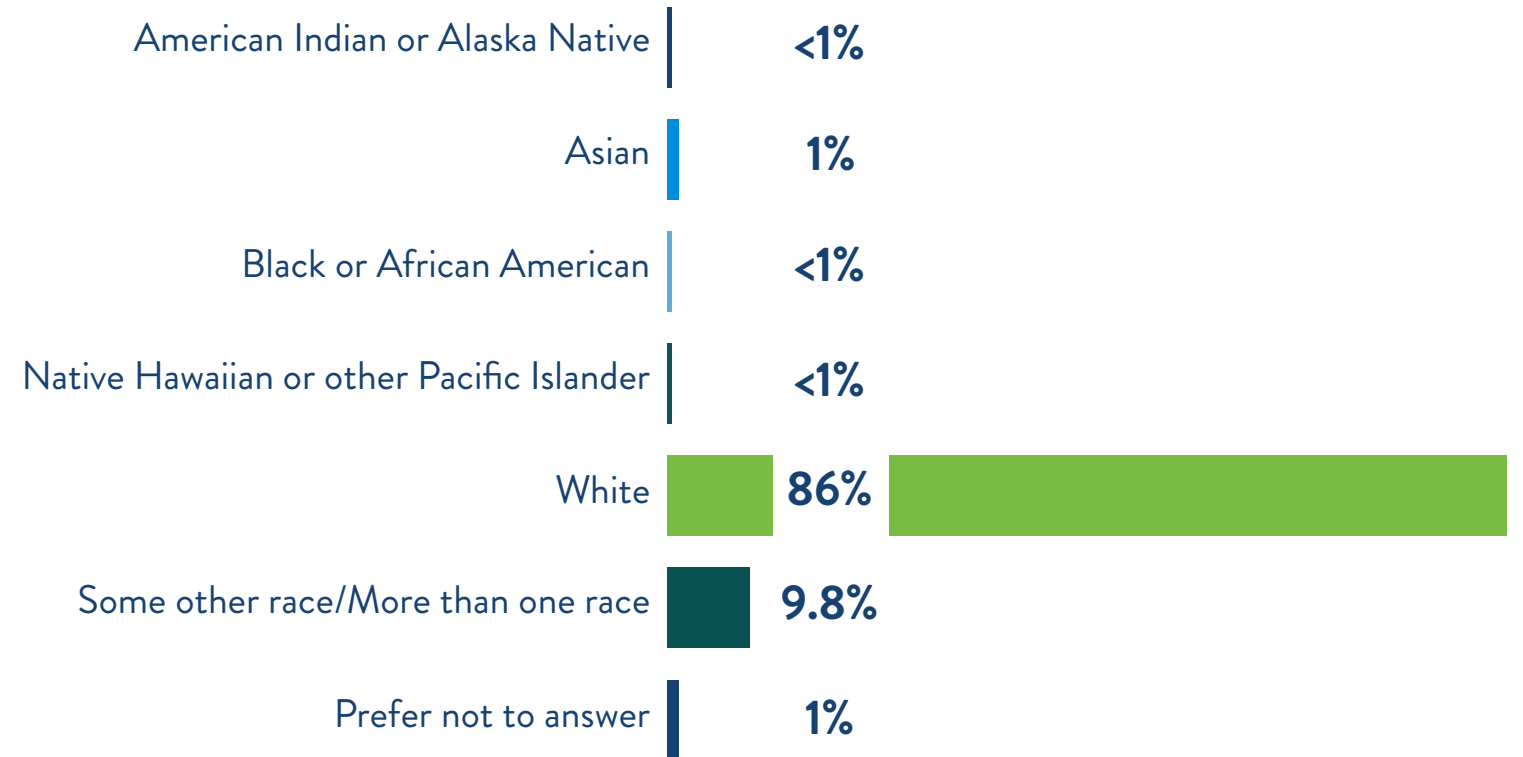
HISPANIC DESCENT: 4,916 RESPONSES



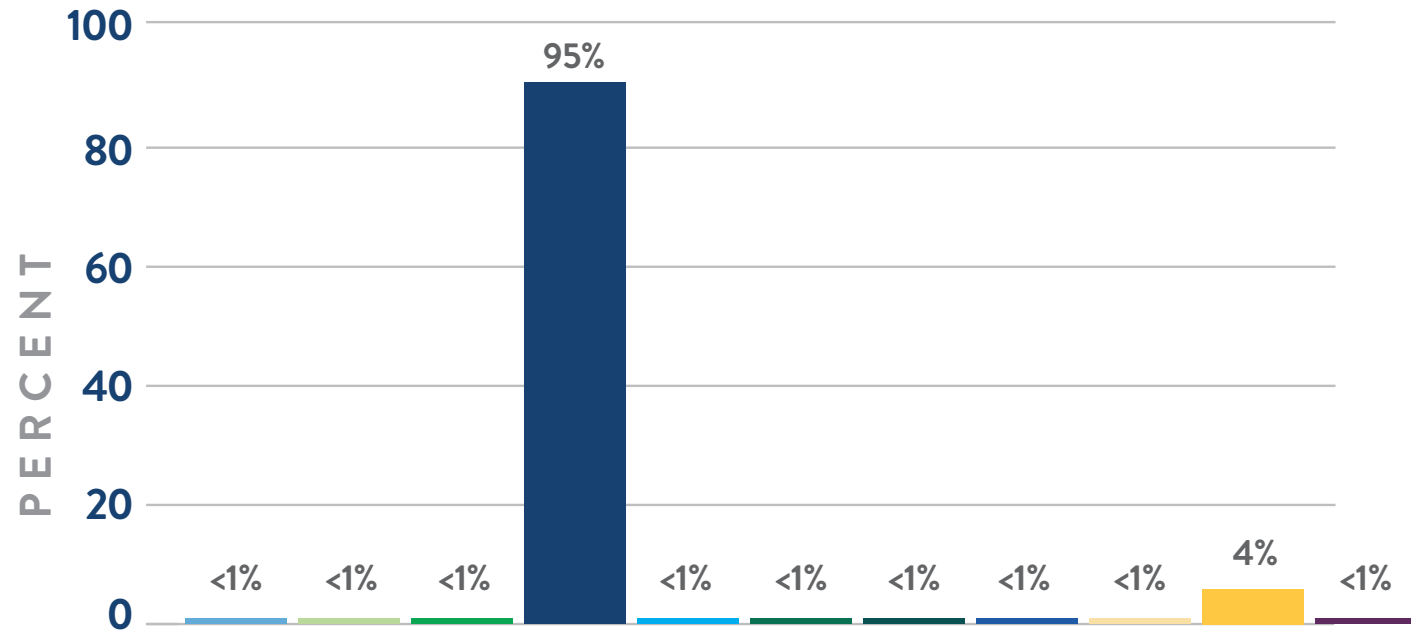
AGE: 4,998 RESPONSES



RACIAL BACKGROUND: 4,977 RESPONSES



PRIMARY LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME: 4,979 RESPONSES

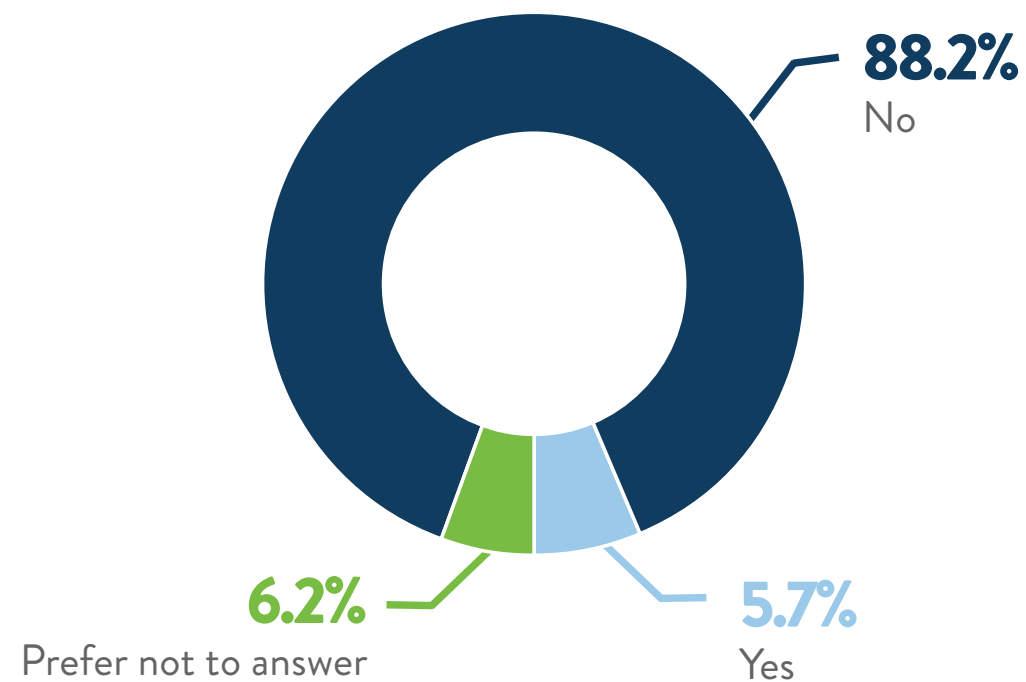


KEY:

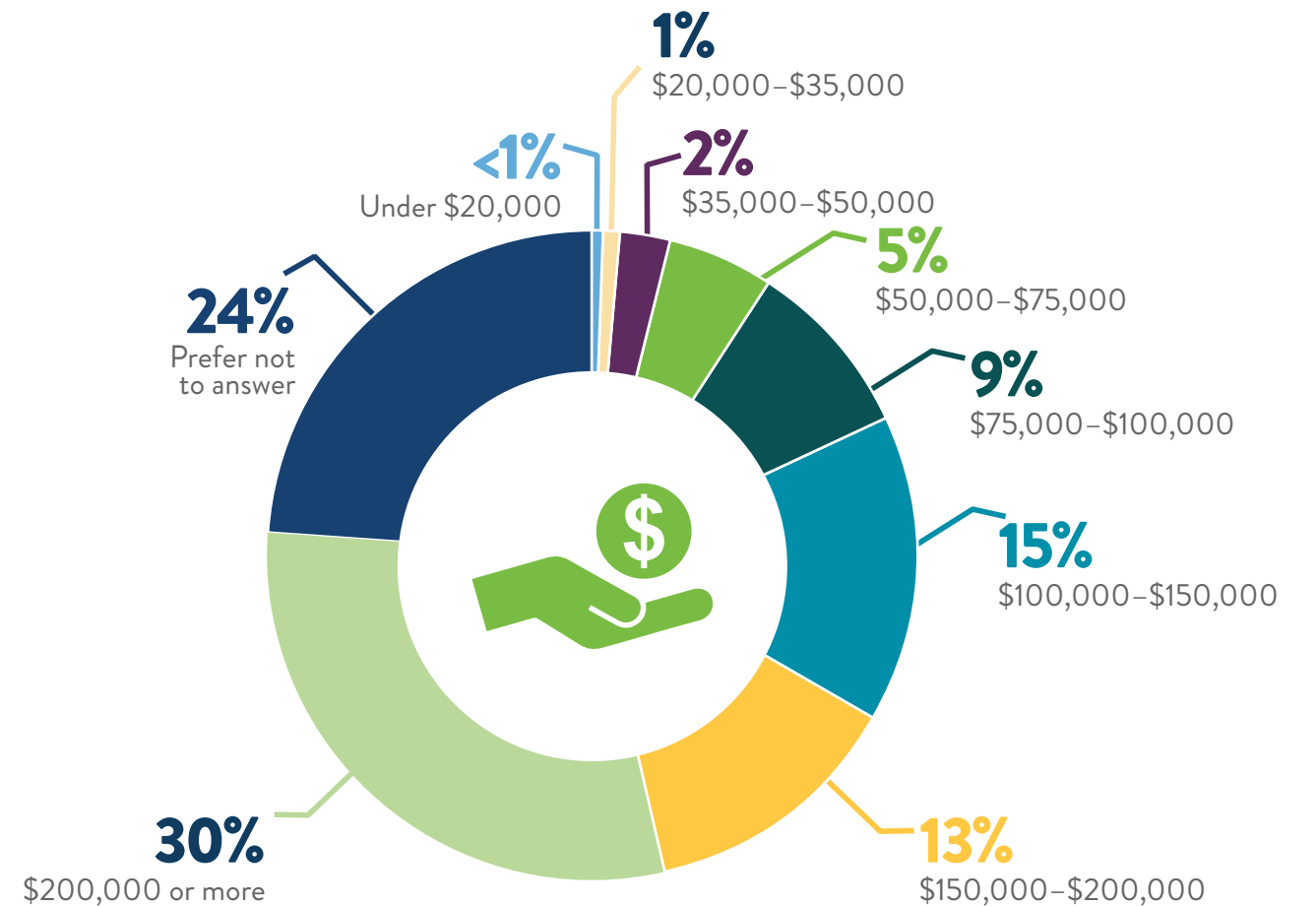


DISABILITY STATUS: 5,023 RESPONSES

Question: Do you have a long-lasting or chronic condition (physical, visual, auditory, cognitive or mental, emotional, or other) that substantially limits one or more of your major life activities (your ability to see, hear, or speak; to learn, remember, or concentrate)?



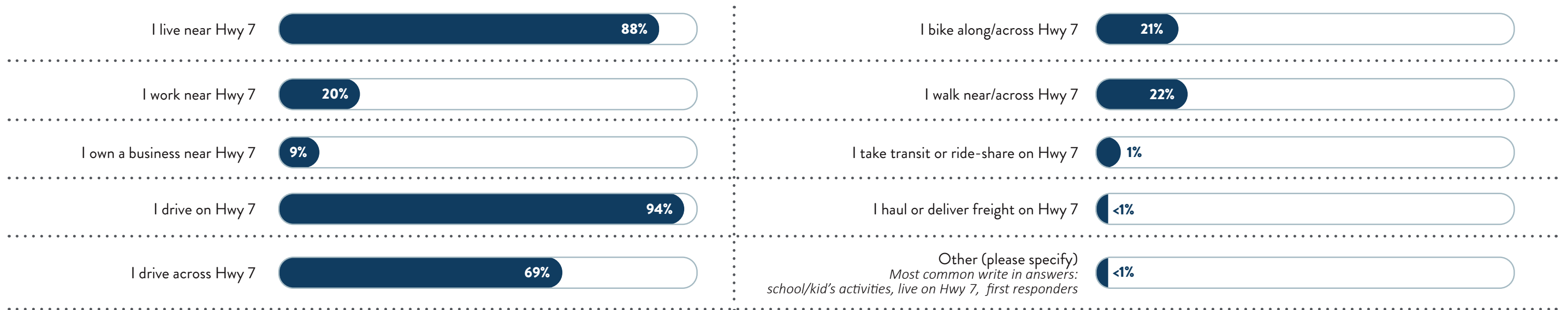
HOUSEHOLD INCOME: 4,964 RESPONSES



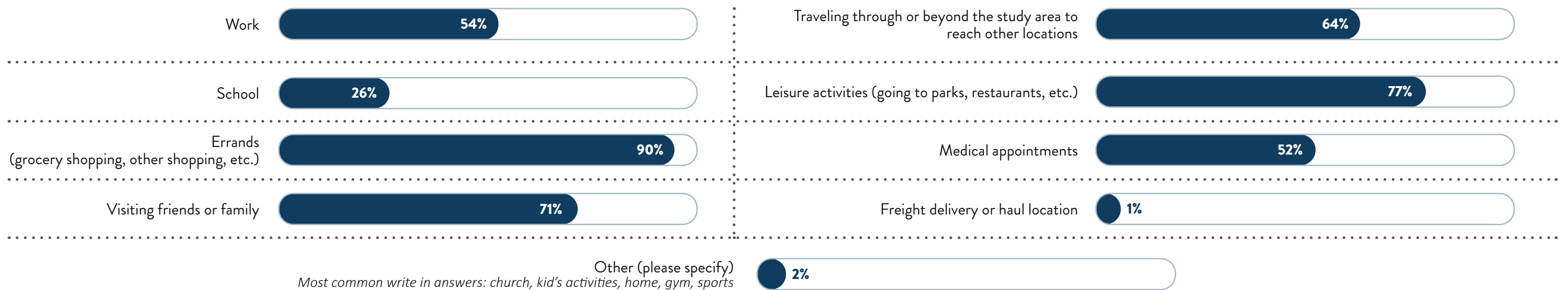
SURVEY RESULTS

HOPKINS TO ST. BONIFACIUS

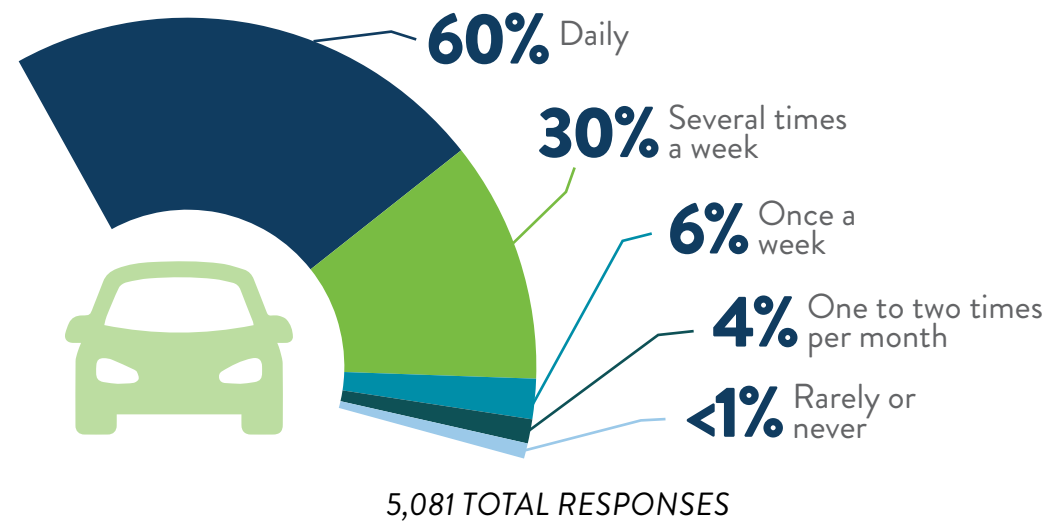
TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY): 16,077 RESPONSES



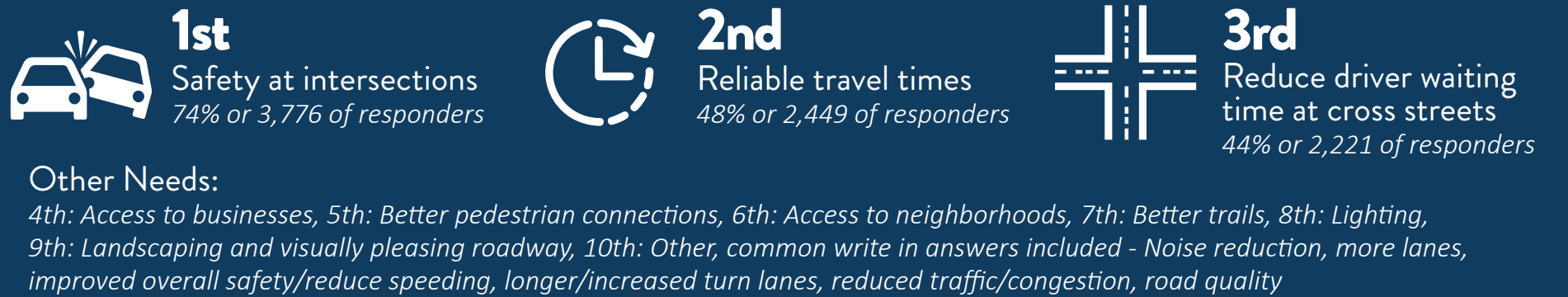
MAIN DESTINATIONS TRAVELED TO USING HWY 7 (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY): 22,186 RESPONSES



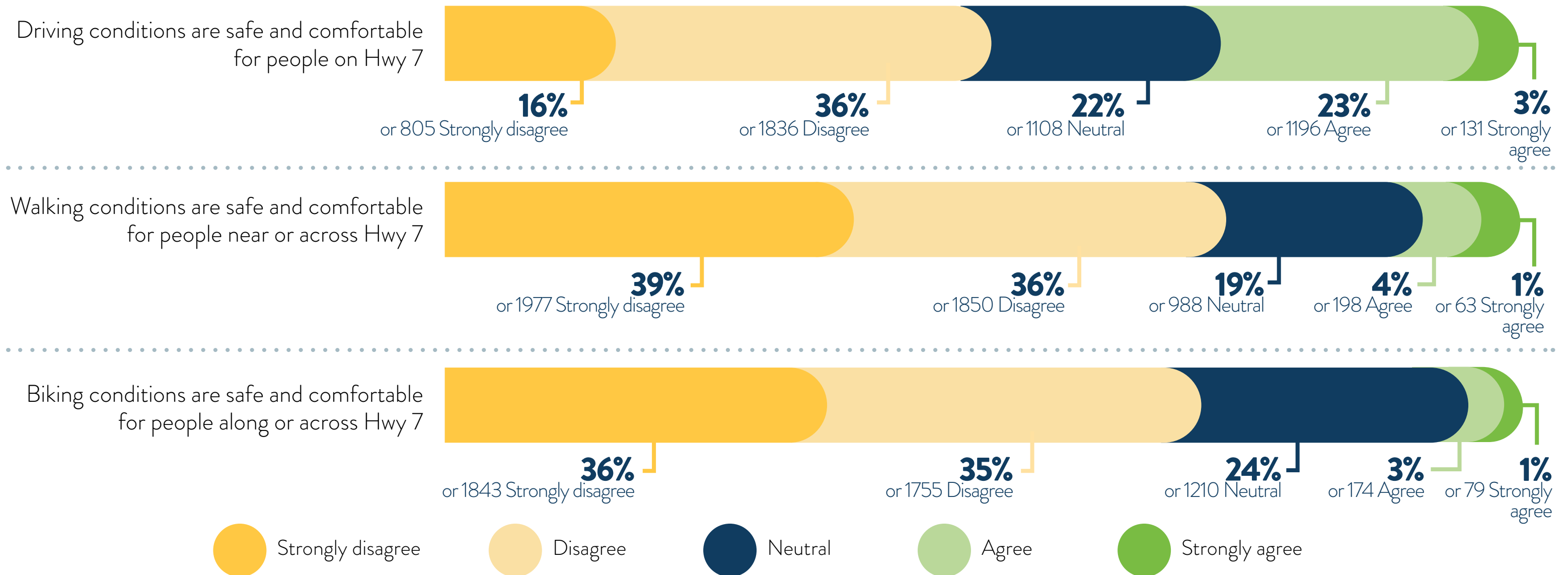
HOW OFTEN RESPONDENTS TRAVEL ON HWY 7:



TOP THREE NEEDS OF PEOPLE TRAVELING TODAY ALONG OR ACROSS HWY 7:

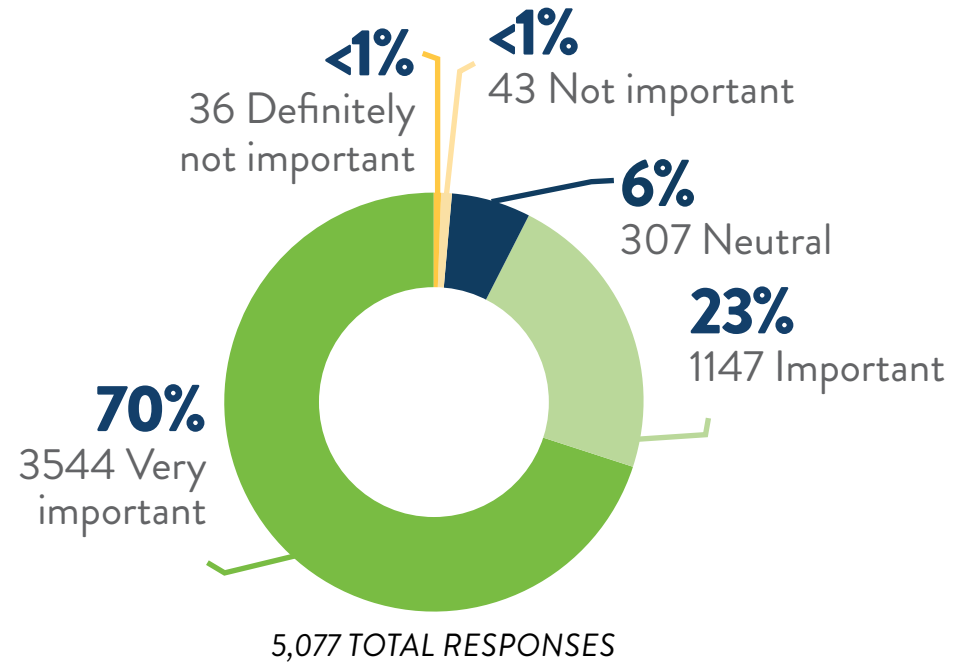


HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS ON HWY 7?

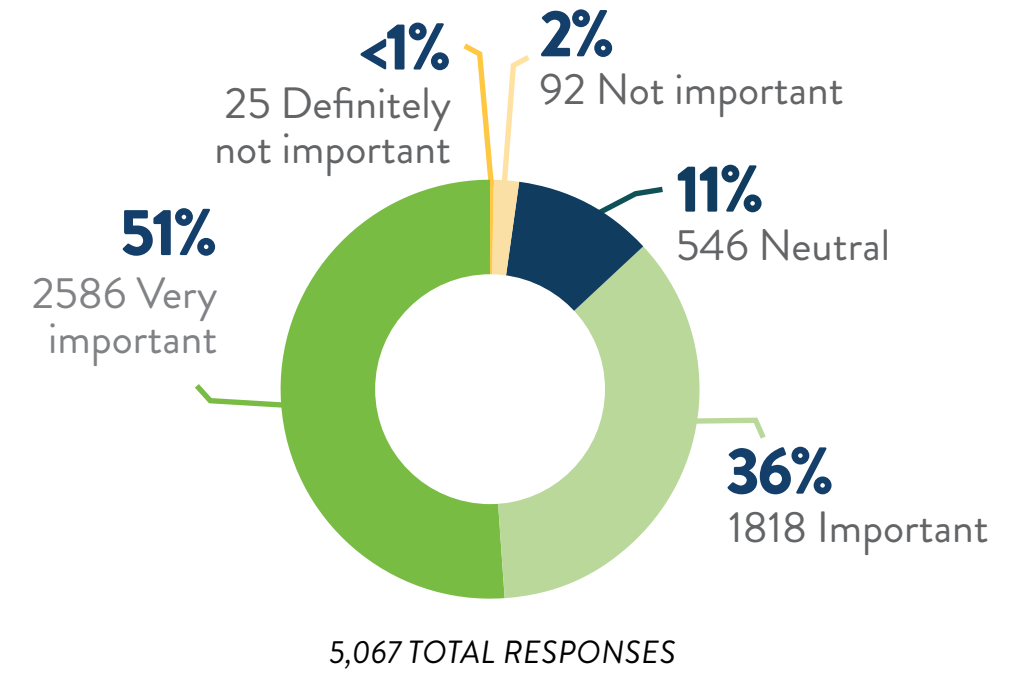


THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF HWY 7, HOW IMPORTANT ARE EACH OF THE FOLLOWING?

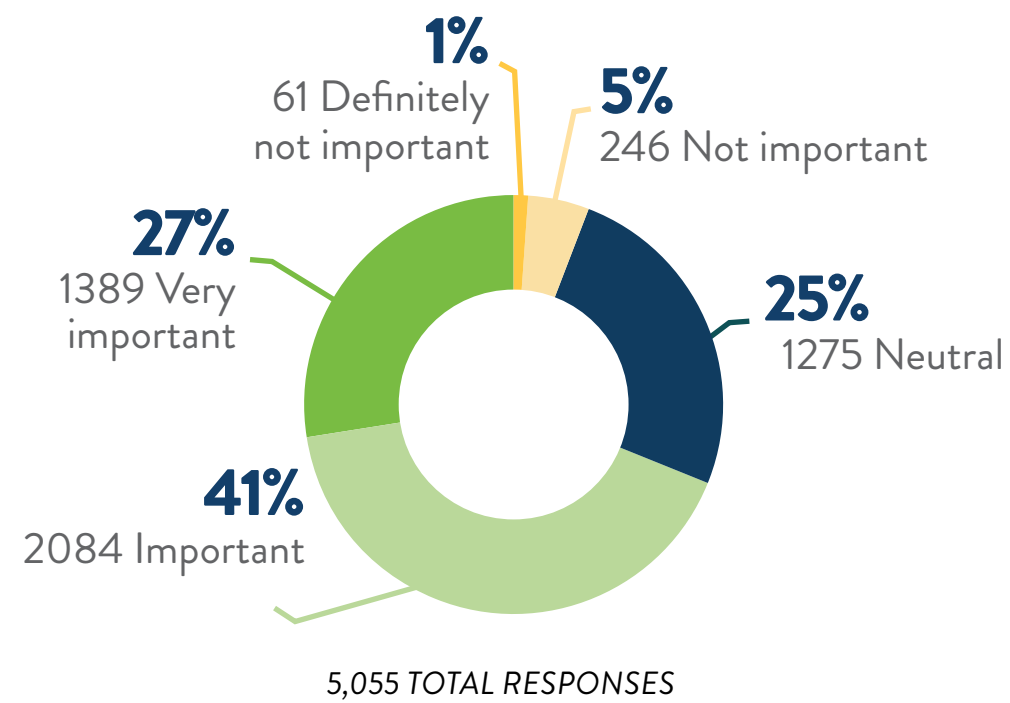
SAFER INTERSECTIONS



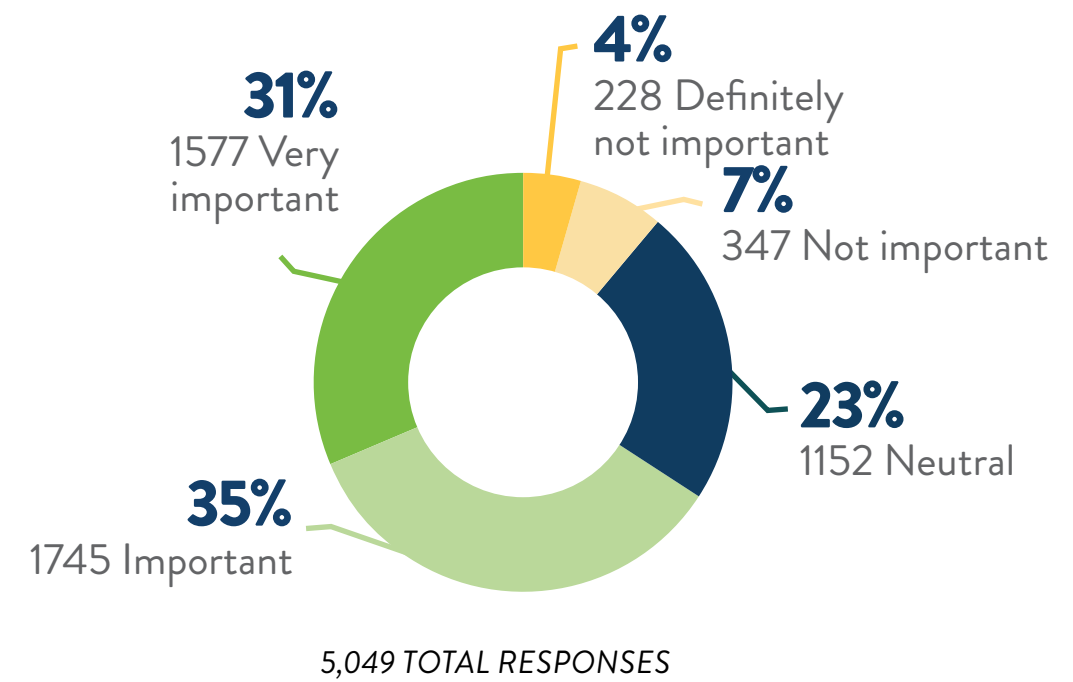
REDUCED CONGESTION



FEWER CONFLICTS AT DRIVEWAYS AND OTHER ACCESS POINTS

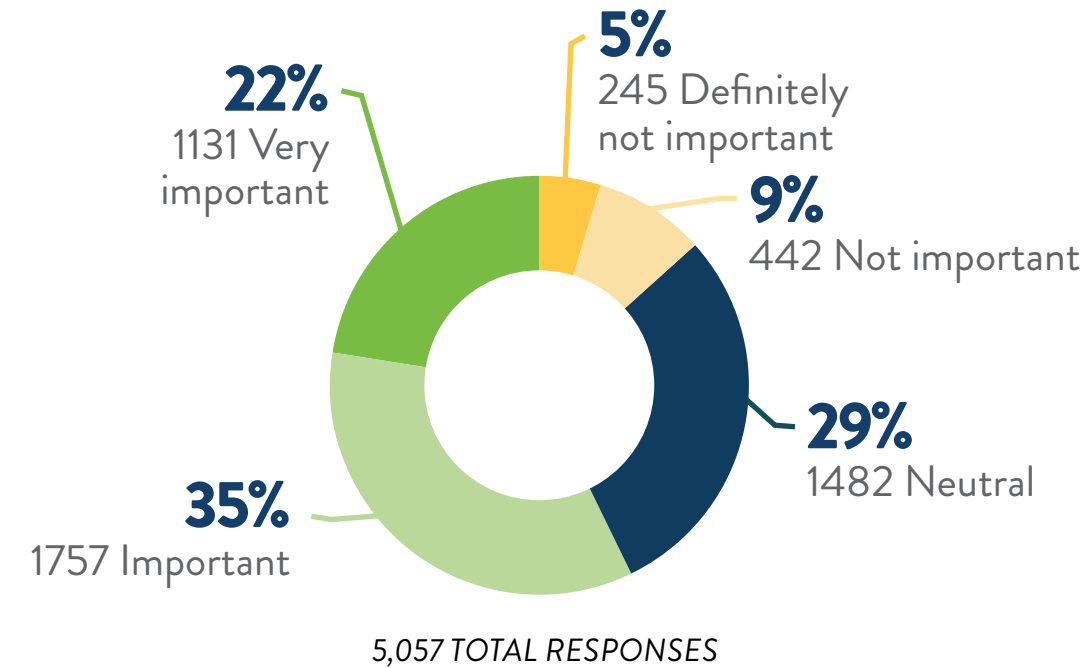


BETTER PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES (SIDEWALKS, CROSSWALKS, ETC.)

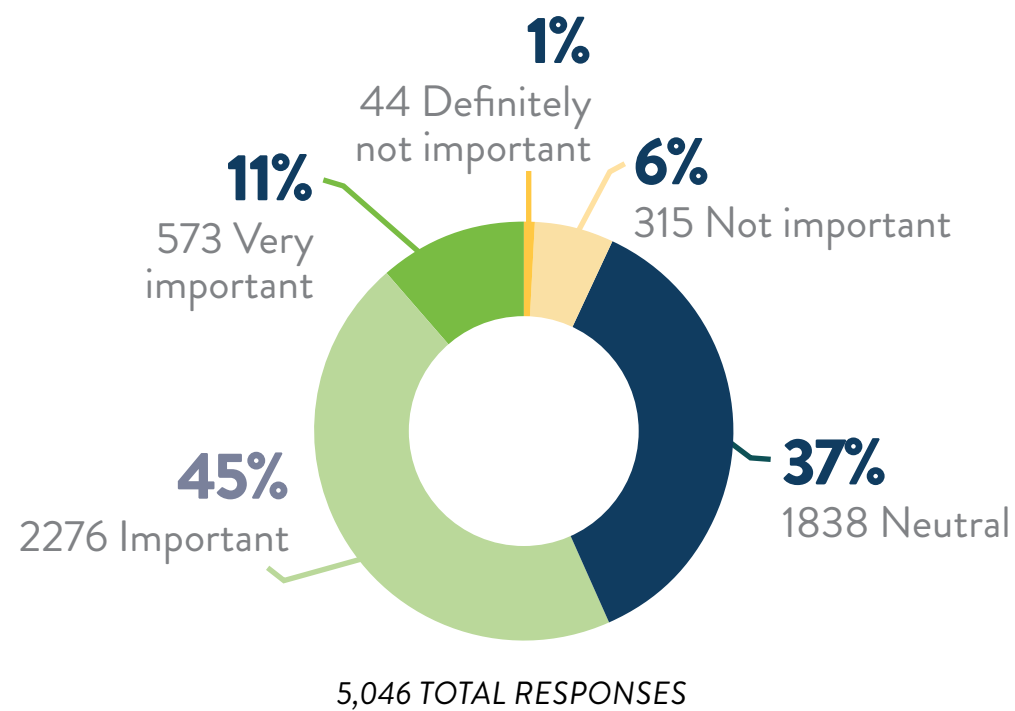


THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF HWY 7, HOW IMPORTANT ARE EACH OF THE FOLLOWING?

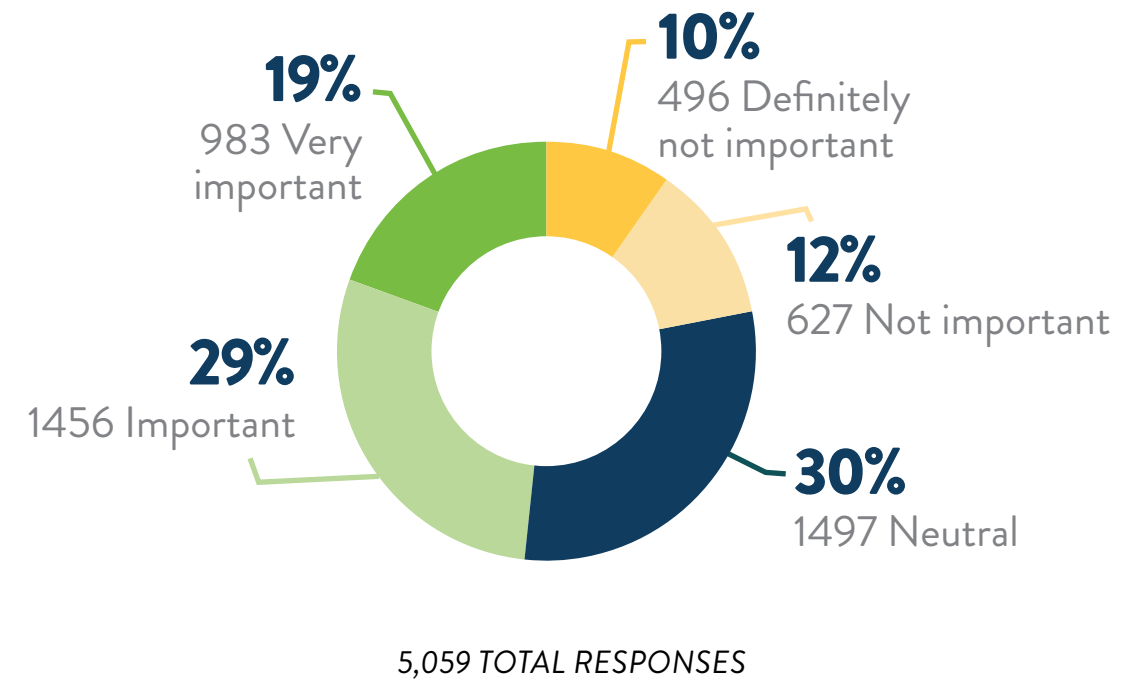
MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY ROADWAY (REDUCE IMPACTS TO WILDLIFE AND NOISE/AIR/WATER POLLUTION, LANDSCAPING, ETC.)



BETTER ACCESS TO BUSINESSES



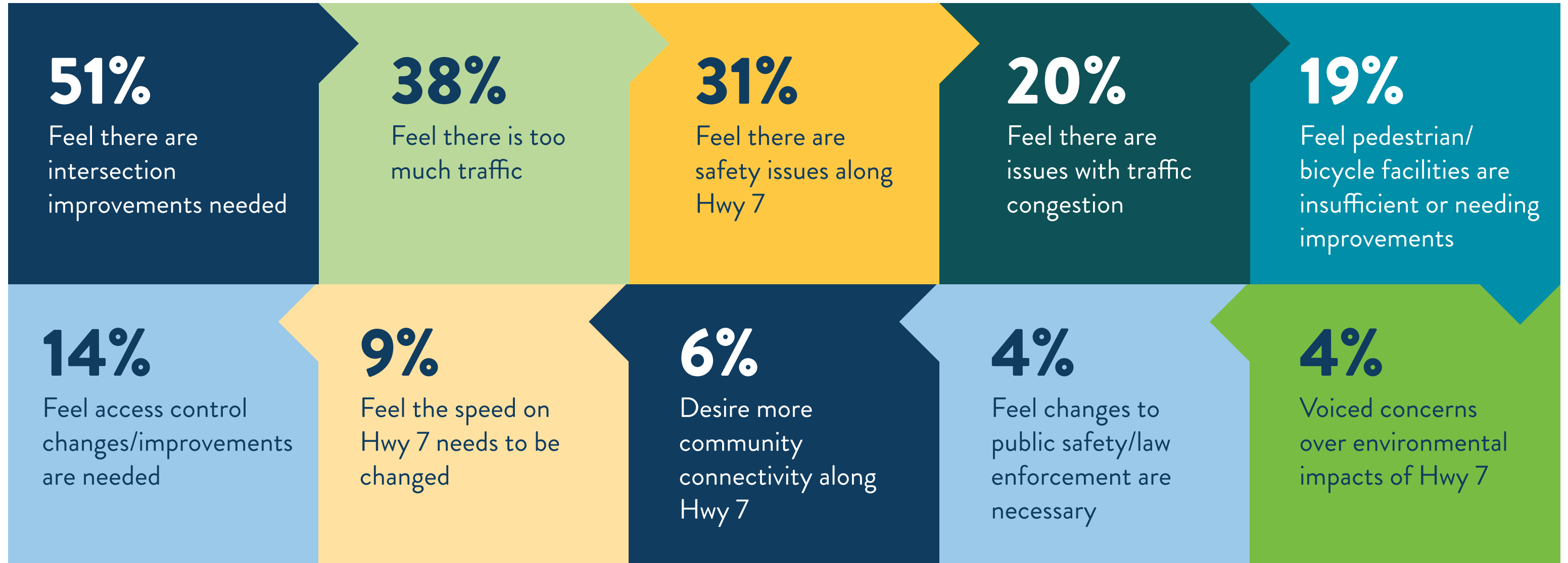
BETTER BIKE FACILITIES (TRAILS, ETC.)



OPEN ENDED QUESTION HIGHLIGHTS

IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT THE HIGHWAY 7 CORRIDOR IN THE AREA YOU USE MOST, WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

MANY RESPONSES INCLUDED MULTIPLE THEMES AND WERE ASSIGNED TO MULTIPLE CATEGORIES



DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR CONCERNS ABOUT HWY 7?

MANY RESPONSES INCLUDED MULTIPLE THEMES AND WERE ASSIGNED TO MULTIPLE CATEGORIES

30%

Had comments about safety concerns

28%

Had comments about intersection improvements

18%

Had comments related to pedestrians and bicyclists

14%

Had comments about traffic

11%

Had comments about speeding

9%

Had comments about congestion on Hwy 7

6%

Had comments about access control

6%

Had comments about lighting

4%

Had comments about road maintenance

2%

Had comments about public safety and law enforcement

2%

Had comments related to environmental issues

1%

Had comments about community connectivity

1%

Had comments about wildlife

1%

Had comments about construction timing

1%

Had comments about noise

TOP 10 THEMES

CHECK OUT THE MOST MENTIONED THEMES IN THE SURVEY



Traffic: Concerns about traffic flow and congestion, with suggestions for additional lanes and roundabouts to improve transitions onto the highway. Safety at intersections and the need for better signage and traffic lights are highlighted.

“Adding a center divider between the two directions or traffic flow, adding multiple lanes to reduce traffic, educating the public on how roundabouts work and how to safely use them.”



Congestion: Issues related to high traffic volume and road capacity, with suggestions for road construction and maintenance to improve flow.

“Much fewer stoplights and shorter waiting times. The congestion is almost unbearable due to the slowdowns and backups from the excessive lights.”



Speed and traffic violations: Calls for stricter enforcement of speed limits and measures to address traffic violations.

“Issue tickets for running red lights and enforce posted speed limits.”



Infrastructure improvements: Suggestions for better lighting, clearer lane markings, and road surface maintenance to enhance visibility and safety.

“Better lighting and highway line markings.”



Public transit: A desire for improved public transit options and non-vehicle access to reduce reliance on cars and alleviate congestion.

“There is no reliable transit from the west suburbs to Minneapolis. Given the extant infrastructure and transit routes from the extensive streetcar network which was decommissioned in the last hundred years, there ought to be a way to re-introduce reliable public transit lines from the west suburbs to Minneapolis, especially given the current progress on the Southwest light rail extension.”

TOP 10 THEMES

CHECK OUT THE MOST MENTIONED THEMES IN THE SURVEY



Environmental preservation: A strong desire to protect natural habitats and animals along the corridor, with suggestions for planting trees and protecting animals when crossing the road.

“Concrete barricades trap wildlife. This is very disturbing.”



Community connectivity: Comments reflect a desire for better connections between neighborhoods and regional trails, promoting a more active and interconnected community.

“I would change that Hwy 7 almost completely splits the communities of Shorewood & Excelsior as well as Minnetonka (from itself) and Hopkins (from itself), both physically and through noise pollution.”



Safety: Significant concerns about dangerous intersections and access points, with suggestions for roundabouts, traffic lights, and better signage to improve visibility and reduce crashes.

“Safer intersections, safer road way. I have seen numerous accidents, near accidents, and people driving down the wrong side of the highway.”



Pedestrian and bicyclist safety: Proposals for safer crossing options, such as pedestrian bridges or overpasses, especially near schools and parks.

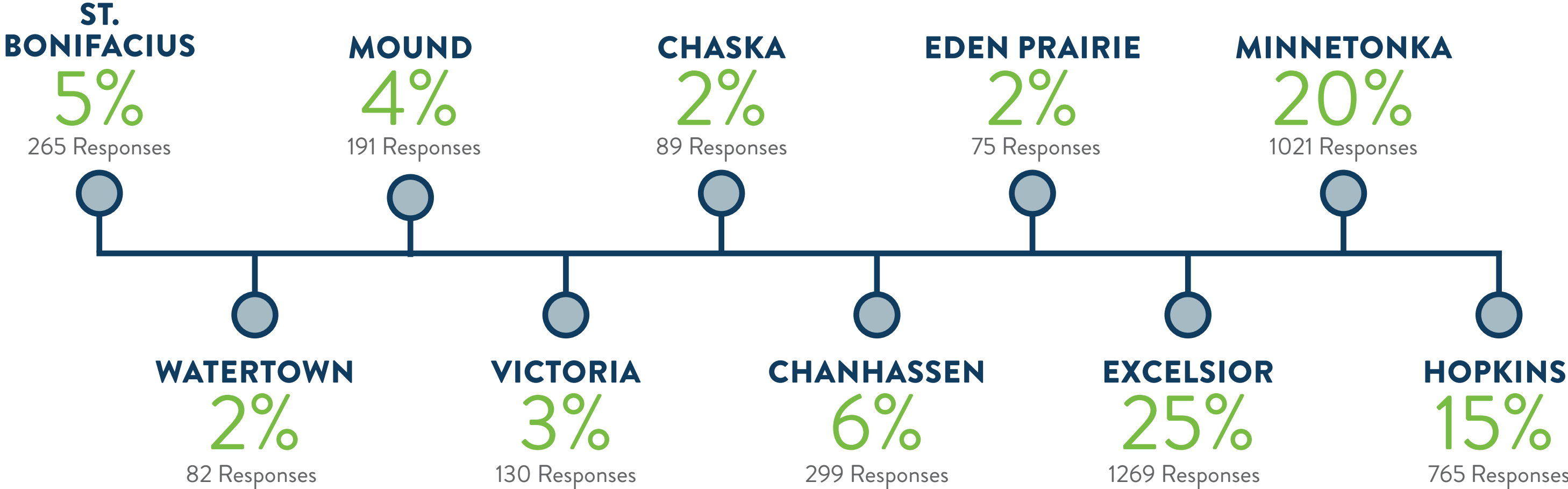
“A safer way for bikers and pedestrians to cross Hwy 7. 7 splits the community and there has to be better ways for kids especially to cross.”



Noise: Concerns about vehicle noise and requests for sound barriers or fences to mitigate the impact on local communities.

“Noise reduction; it runs alongside neighborhoods, and the noise from heavy traffic levels make it uncomfortable for many.”

SURVEY RESPONSES PER CITY ALONG HWY 7



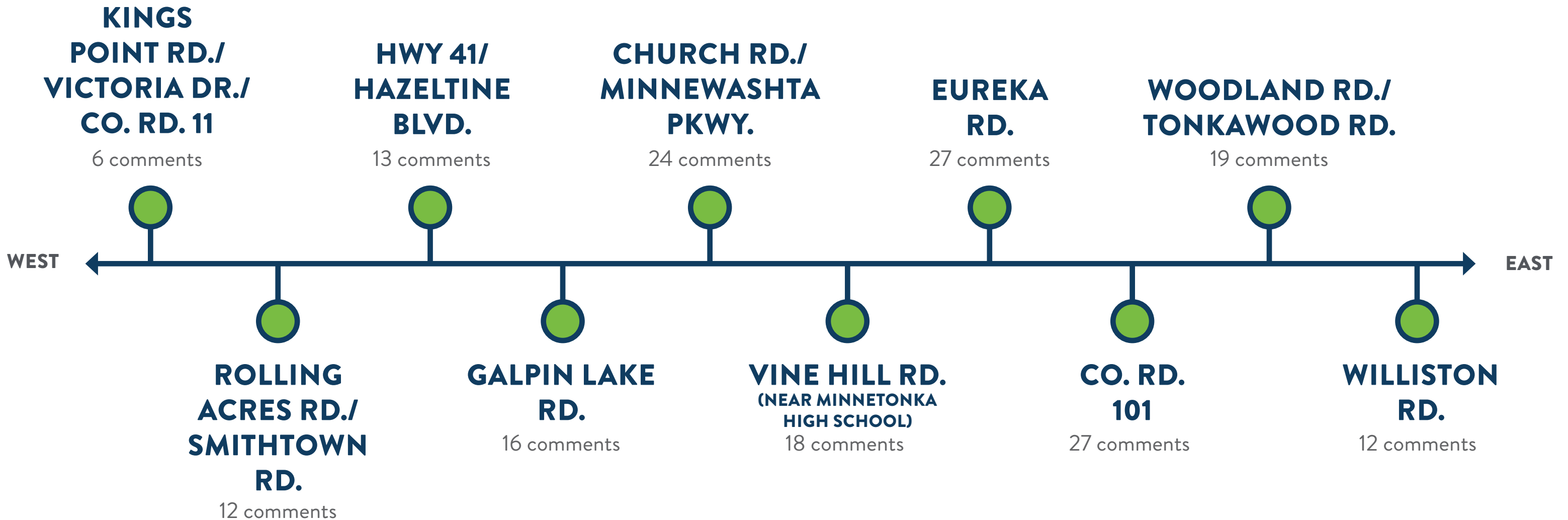
COMMENT MAP

362 COMMENTS

COMMENT THEMES



COMMENTS PER INTERSECTION



EMAILED COMMENTS

41 COMMENTS

Members of the public also shared feedback through the online engagement platform Let's Talk Transportation, Formstack (MnDOT's online form), or emails. Key themes included:

