



Franklin St. Design Options

Council Presentation – October 12, 2022

WELCOME
Downtown
CHAPEL
HILL

Agenda



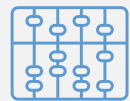
Timeline and current maintenance



Design options



Survey results



Feasibility of transferring maintenance

Recent Franklin St. Decisions and Actions

October 2019

Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership petitions Town to consider bike lanes on W. Franklin St.

April 2020

Bike lane design approved by NCDOT but resurfacing is delayed to 2021. Project is delayed again in 2021 due to OWASA project

August 2020

A temporary walkway is installed on Franklin St. in response to Feet on Franklin, which later receives multiple ADA compliance complaints

Fall 2021

Town petitioned by CHDP to explore maintenance transfer, staff conducts an initial feasibility and budget analysis

Summer 2022

Town staff is directed to continue exploring challenges and opportunities. Franklin St. is resurfaced by NCDOT, curb running bike lanes are installed.





Current Maintenance

- NCDOT currently maintains curb to curb
- Town maintains and replaces sidewalk and curb

Responsibility Changes

- **What we already pay for:**
 - Sidewalk and brick
 - Street sweeping, trash and recycling, pressure washing
 - Parking space, loading zone and other painting
 - CHDP pays for planter upkeep
 - Tree maintenance
- **What we would add:**
 - Stormwater infrastructure
 - Signal adjustments
 - Crosswalk paint maintenance
 - General maintenance of the street (ie ongoing resurfacing, snow removal) including bike lanes





Current Challenges

- Town and NCDOT have **different philosophies** for Franklin St. (destination versus throughway)
- **NCDOT must approve** all right of way projects, including Transit stops
- **Aging** stormwater infrastructure
- **Innovative concepts** require NCDOT approval and are **not easily achieved**
- NCDOT's funding sources **do not allow** use of the street itself for **commerce**

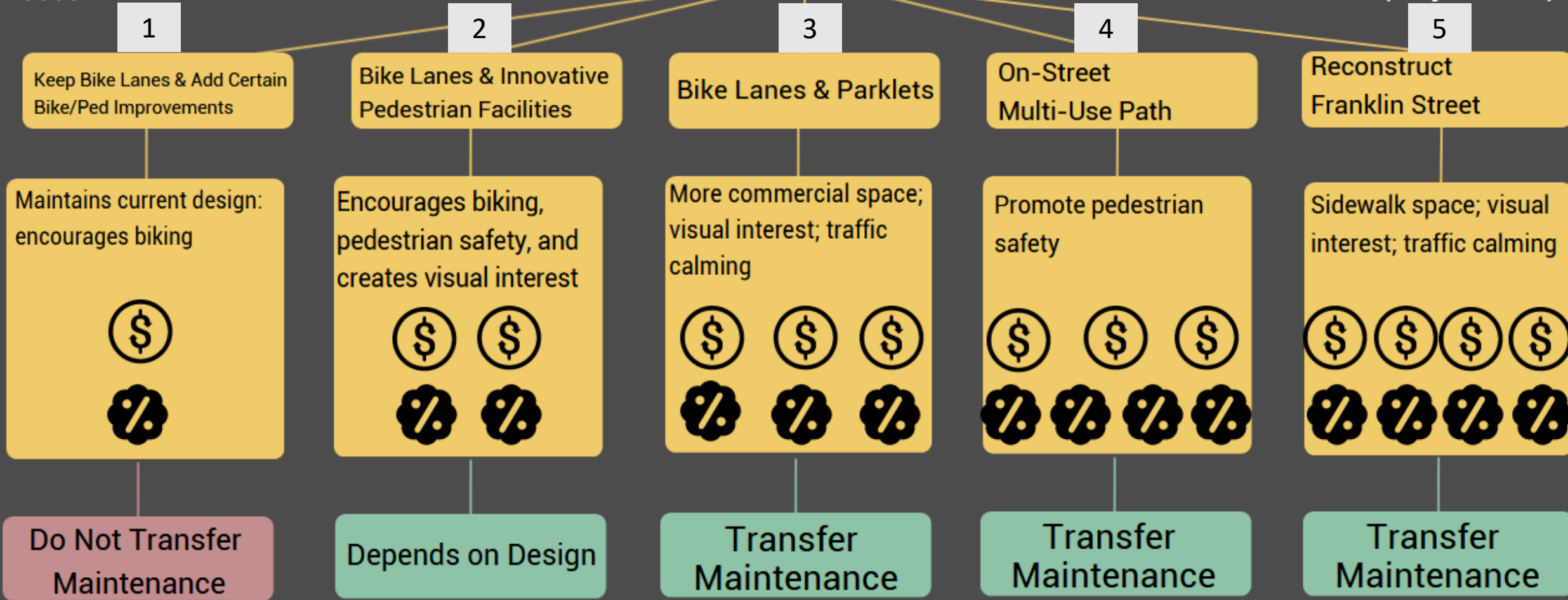
Potential Cost:

\$
\$\$
\$\$\$
\$\$\$\$

Technical Difficulty:

% (Not Difficult)
%% (Slightly Difficult)
%%% (Difficult)
%%%% (Very Difficult)

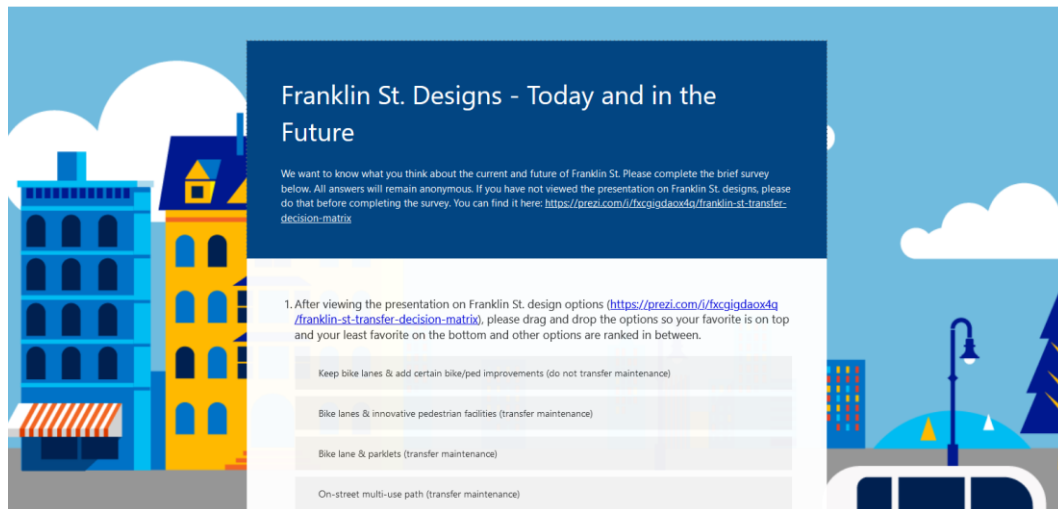
Franklin Street Options



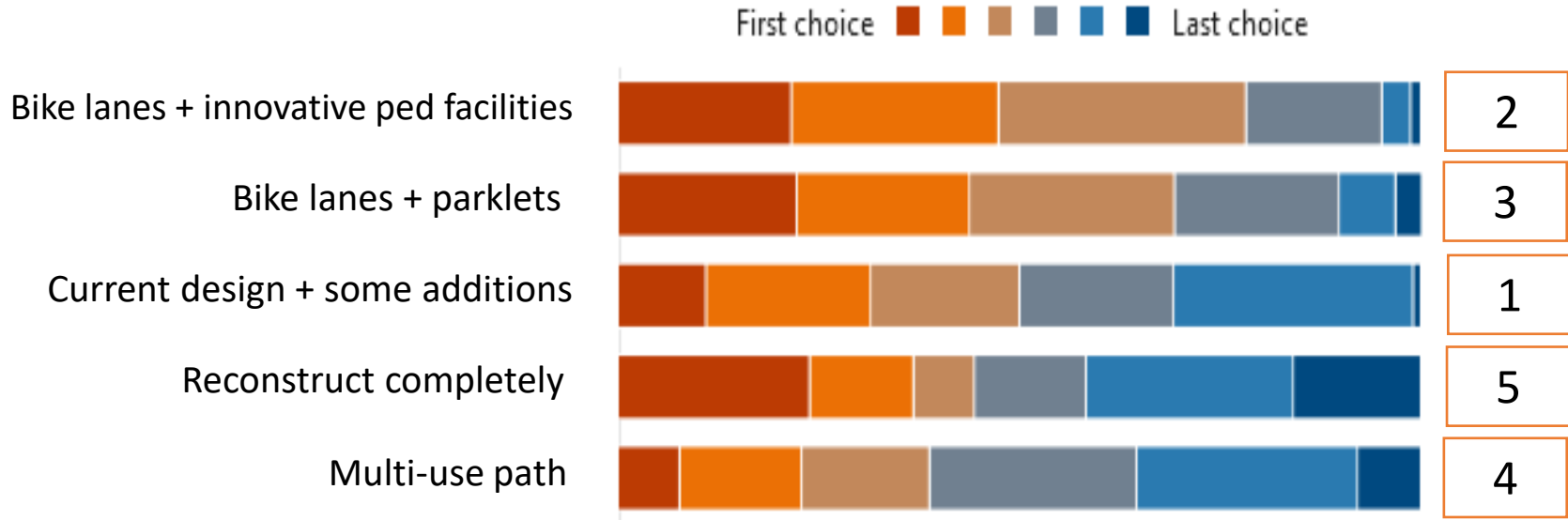
All potential changes to Franklin Street must be ADA compliant and may incur unintended consequences.

Some Community Input

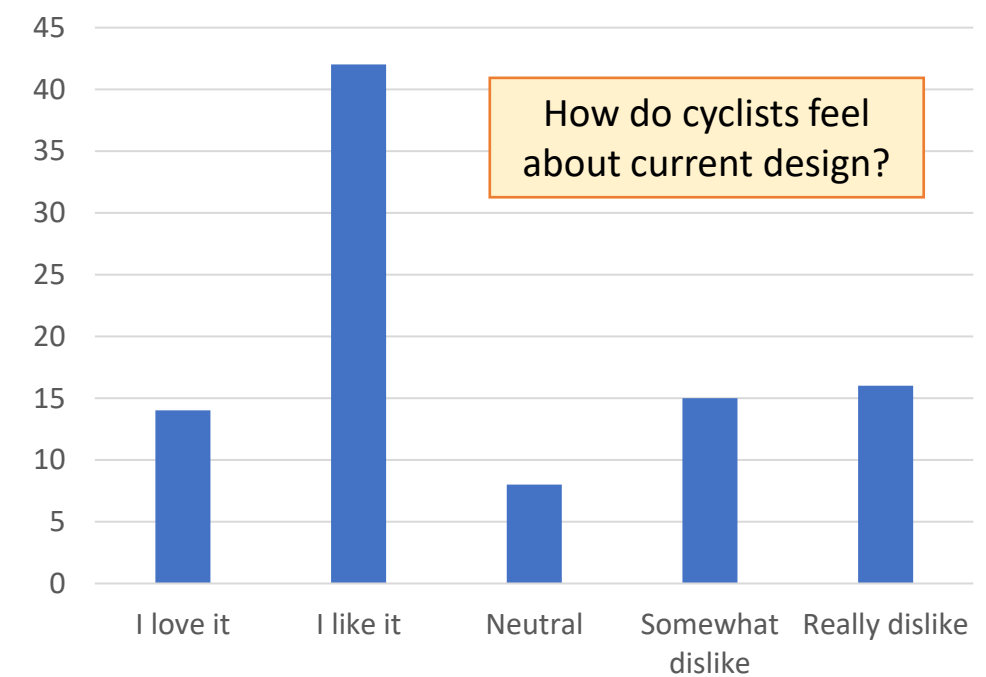
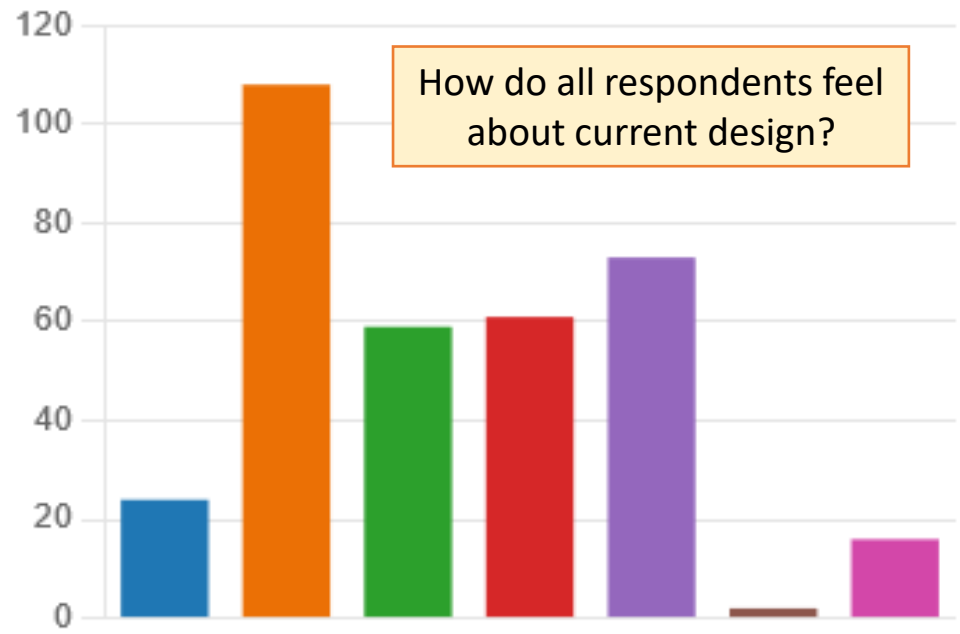
- Publicized brief survey starting September 23 with design options
- 348 responded by October 7
- Respondents predominantly white and over 35 years old
- Utilized FlashVote for 48 hours to ask basic design opinions
- Demographically balanced 362 responses



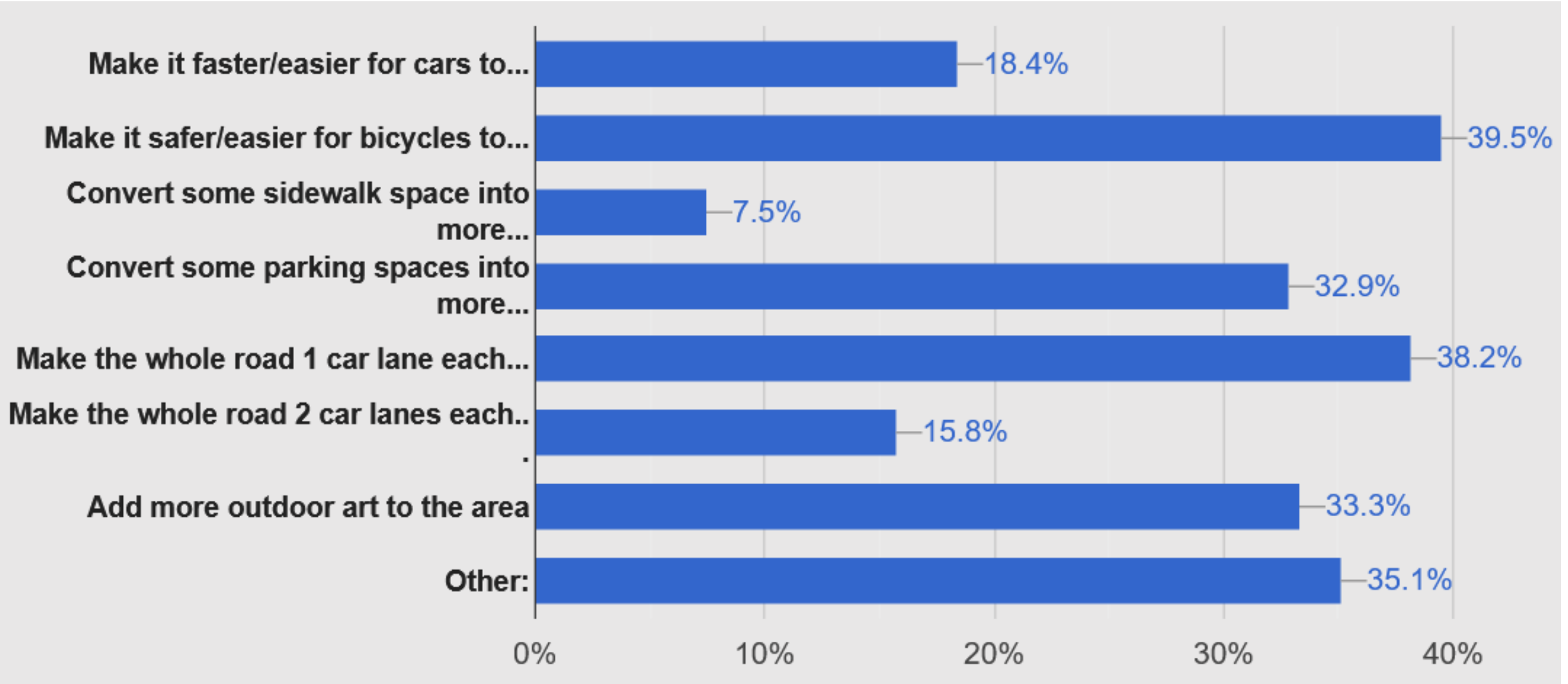
Survey Results



- I love it
- I like it
- I am neutral about it
- I somewhat dislike it
- I really dislike it
- I have not seen it yet
- Other



FlashVote Results



Cost Estimates for Basic Maintenance of Franklin St. (2021)

One-time upgrades

- Resurfacing to reduce crown: \$825,000
- Geo-technical analysis: \$12,000
- Drainage system analysis: \$32,000
- Critical stormwater system replacement: \$1,830,000

Total: \$2,700,000

Annual costs

- General street maintenance: \$75,000
- Traffic signal maintenance: \$27,000
- Pavement marking maintenance: \$6,000
- Stormwater maintenance and crew member: \$83,000

Total: \$191,000

Total 2022
Resurfacing Cost for
W. Franklin St:
\$450,000

**Funding source has not been identified*

How do we transfer maintenance?

- Identify funding
- Council must approve a resolution
- NCDOT seeks approval from Board of Transportation



Discussion

- Downtown vision
 - Consider cost ranges for different options
 - Help guide community engagement
- Timing for funding
 - Things we can do today
 - When or if to transfer maintenance