

Seattle Department of Transportation

# “MISSING LINK” BIKE ROUTE STUDY SURVEY REPORT



**Seattle**  
Department of  
Transportation

## OVERVIEW

### 1,739 Total Responses

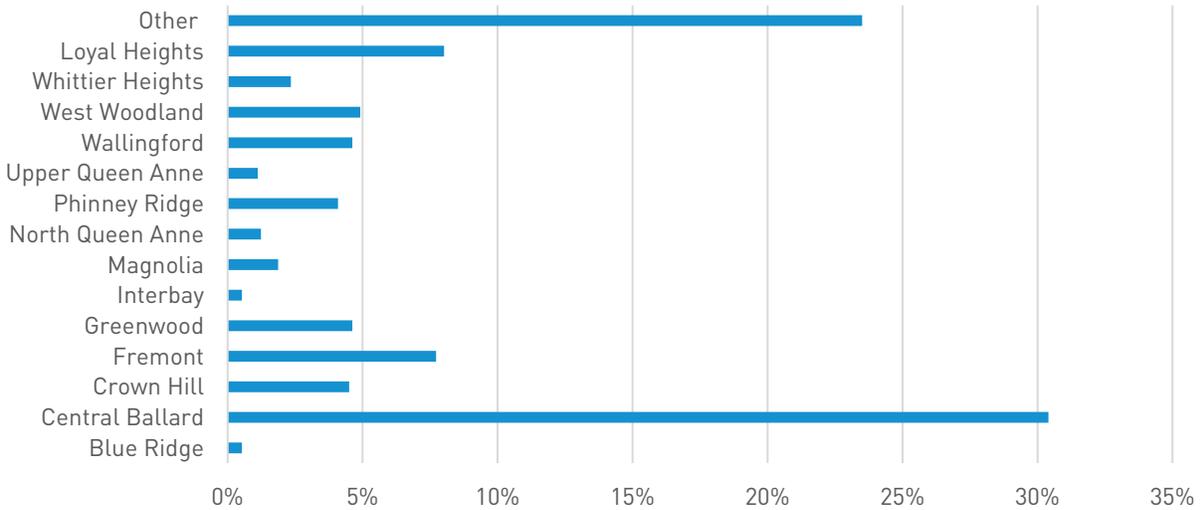
The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) launched an online survey to seek community feedback on what an alternative “Missing Link” connection using 17th Ave NW, Leary Ave NW, and NW Market St would look like and mean for community members and businesses. The “Missing Link” Bike Route Study online survey opened on July 24, 2023, and closed September 8, 2023. The survey was shared via the project listserv, a-frame in the project area, a neighborhood mailer, door-to-door outreach to nearby businesses, tabling, and was posted to the project webpage. We will continue to connect with the community regarding proposed project designs and gather feedback on how to best design this route.

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

Councilmember Dan Strauss and Mayor Bruce Harrell requested that SDOT study this route as an option for connecting the Burke-Gilman Missing Link with an all ages and abilities bicycle facility through Ballard along NW Market St, Leary Ave NW, and 17th Ave NW. The Burke-Gilman Trail Missing Link is the long-planned multi-use trail safety improvements along 1.4 miles of Salmon Bay east of the Ballard Locks connecting the two existing sections of the Burke-Gilman Trail in Ballard. SDOT has a 100% design for a proposed route along Shilshole Ave NW, however construction along this route has been paused due to ongoing litigation for over 25 years. This route remains an option if these legal challenges are resolved. Moving forward with designs for the Market/Leary/17th route will help us understand how this project will improve connectivity in the bike network, as well as potential impacts.

# 1

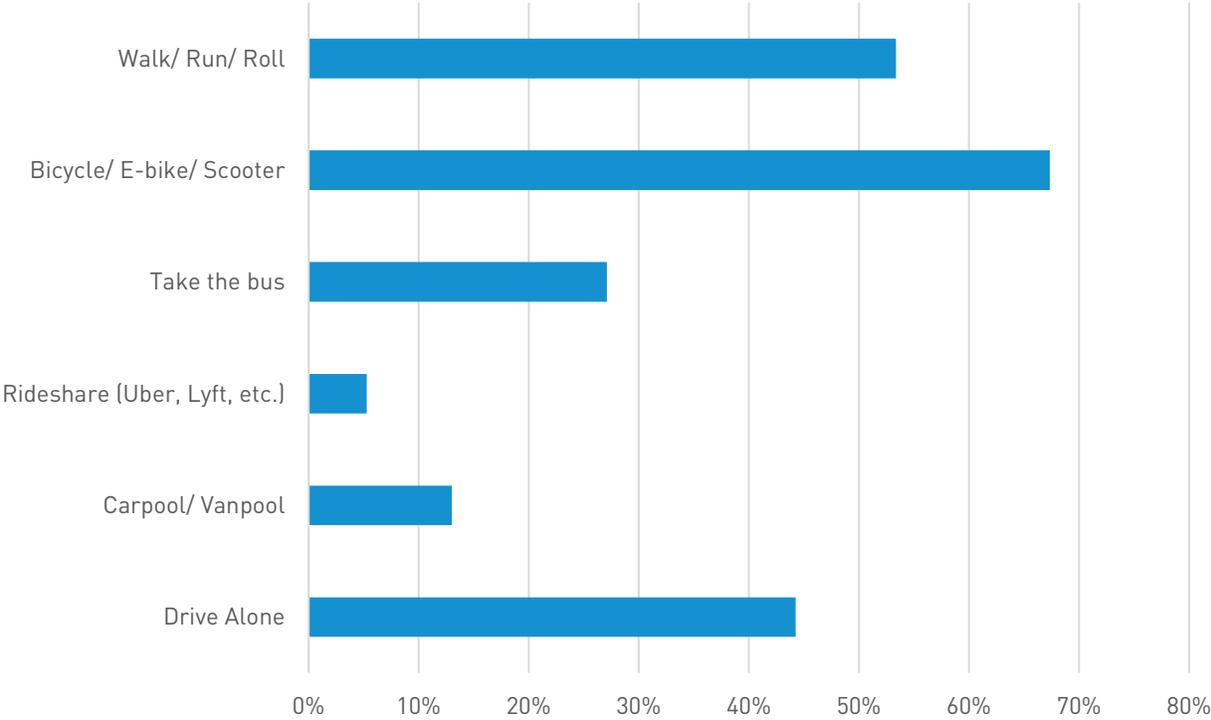
## In which neighborhood is your residence or business?



| ANSWER CHOICES                  | RESPONSES |     |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----|
| Blue Ridge                      | 9         | 1%  |
| Central Ballard                 | 520       | 30% |
| Crown Hill                      | 77        | 5%  |
| Fremont                         | 132       | 8%  |
| Greenwood                       | 79        | 5%  |
| Interbay                        | 9         | 1%  |
| Magnolia                        | 32        | 2%  |
| North Queen Anne                | 21        | 1%  |
| Phinney Ridge                   | 70        | 4%  |
| Upper Queen Anne                | 19        | 1%  |
| Wallingford                     | 79        | 5%  |
| West Woodland                   | 84        | 5%  |
| Whittier Heights                | 40        | 2%  |
| Loyal Heights                   | 137       | 8%  |
| Other (please specify)          | 402       | 24% |
| <b>Total Respondents: 1,710</b> |           |     |

# 2

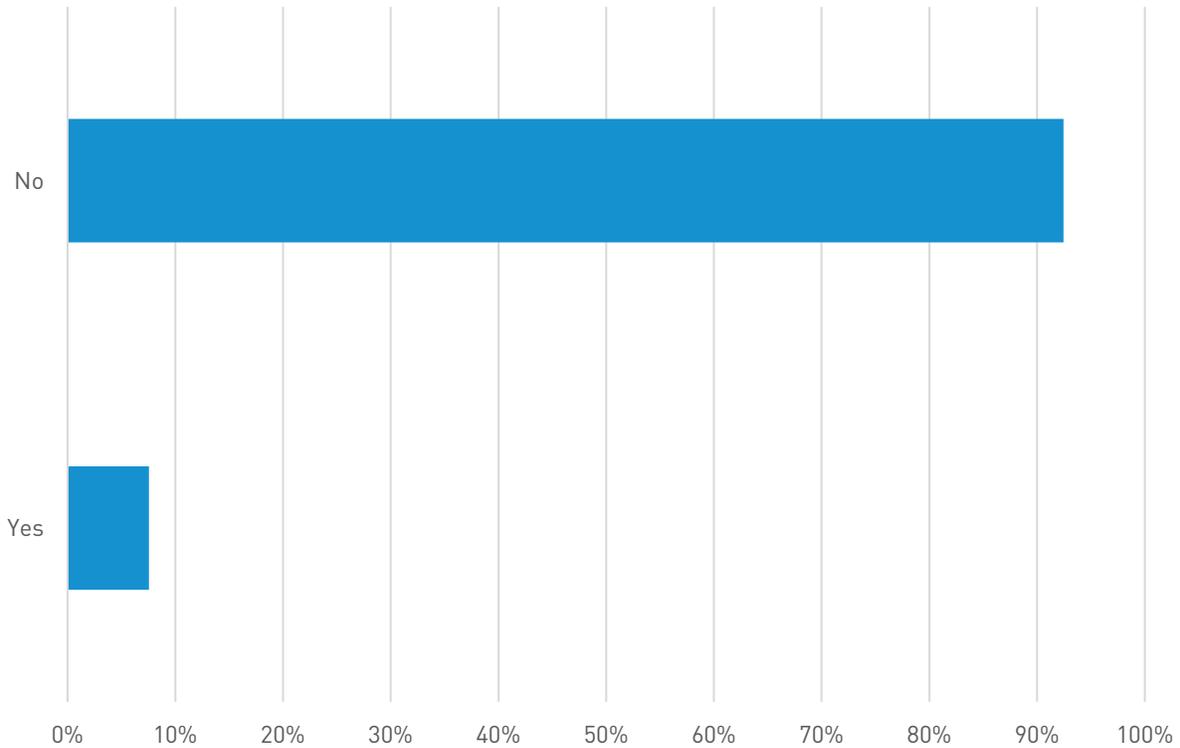
**How do you typically travel and visit businesses along NW Market St/Leary Ave NW/17th Ave NW? Please select all that apply.**



| ANSWER CHOICES                  | RESPONSES |     |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----|
| Drive alone                     | 756       | 44% |
| Carpool / Vanpool               | 222       | 13% |
| Rideshare (Uber, Lyft, etc.)    | 90        | 5%  |
| Take the bus                    | 463       | 27% |
| Bicycle / E-bike / Scooter      | 1151      | 67% |
| Walk / Run / Roll               | 912       | 53% |
| <b>Total Respondents: 1,709</b> |           |     |

# 3

**Do you own or manage an organization or business that requires travel in this area of central Ballard?  
Please refer to the map below.**

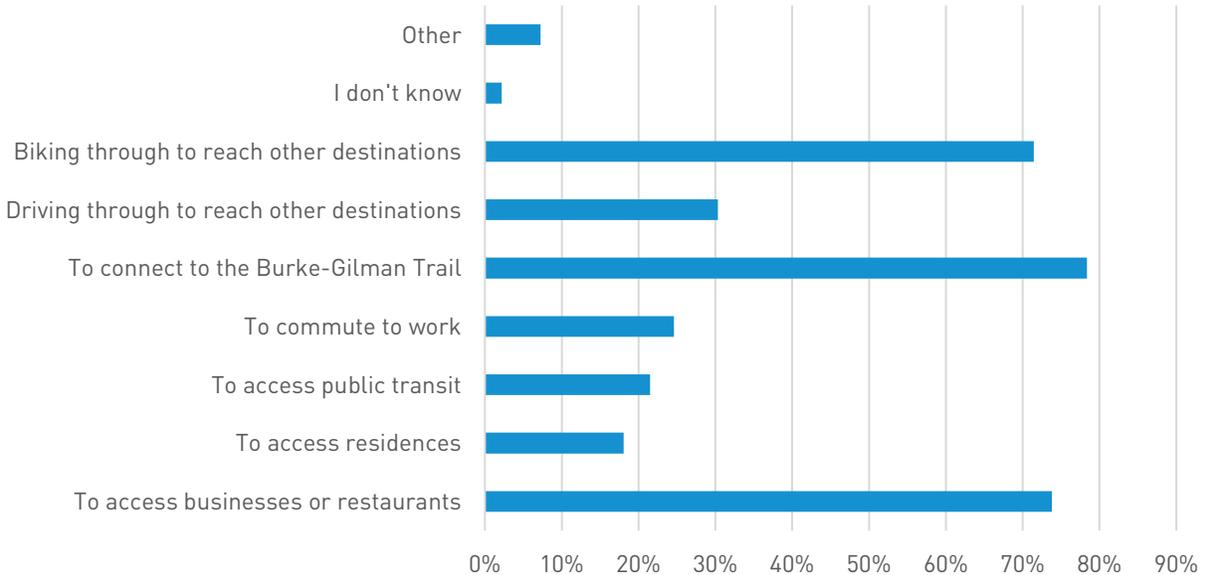


| ANSWER CHOICES                  | RESPONSES |     |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----|
| Yes                             | 129       | 8%  |
| No                              | 1577      | 92% |
| <b>Total Respondents: 1,706</b> |           |     |

\*Respondents who answered “Yes” to this question received questions 15 through 24 regarding their businesses.

# 4

## How would you use the 17th/Leary/Market route? Please select all that apply.



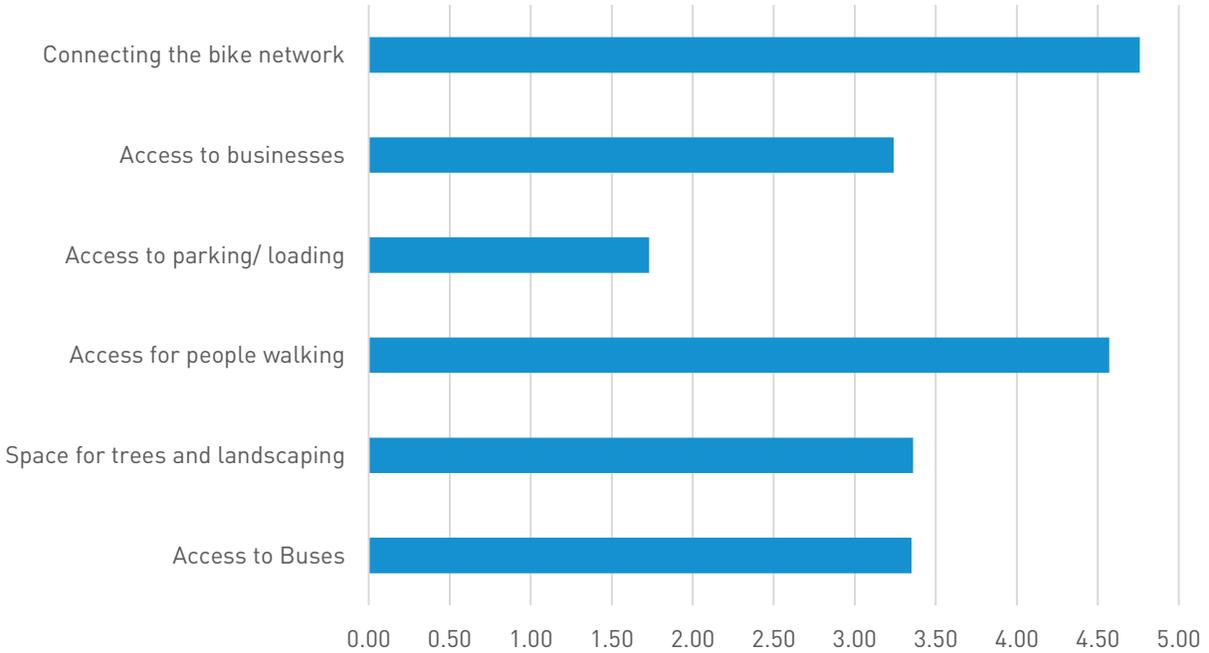
| ANSWER CHOICES                              | RESPONSES |     |
|---|-----------|-----|
| To access businesses or restaurants         | 1119      | 74% |
| To access residences                        | 274       | 18% |
| To access public transit                    | 326       | 22% |
| To commute to work                          | 373       | 25% |
| To connect to the Burke-Gilman Trail        | 1188      | 78% |
| Driving through to reach other destinations | 460       | 30% |
| Biking through to reach other destinations  | 1083      | 71% |
| I don't know                                | 33        | 2%  |
| Other (please specify)                      | 110       | 7%  |
| <b>Total Respondents: 1,516</b>             |           |     |

The top five responses for other, included:

1. For leisure or exercise, 34%
2. To access local amenities, 19%
3. This route isn't safe enough to use, 19%
4. Wouldn't use this route, 19%
5. Prefers another route, 15%

# 5

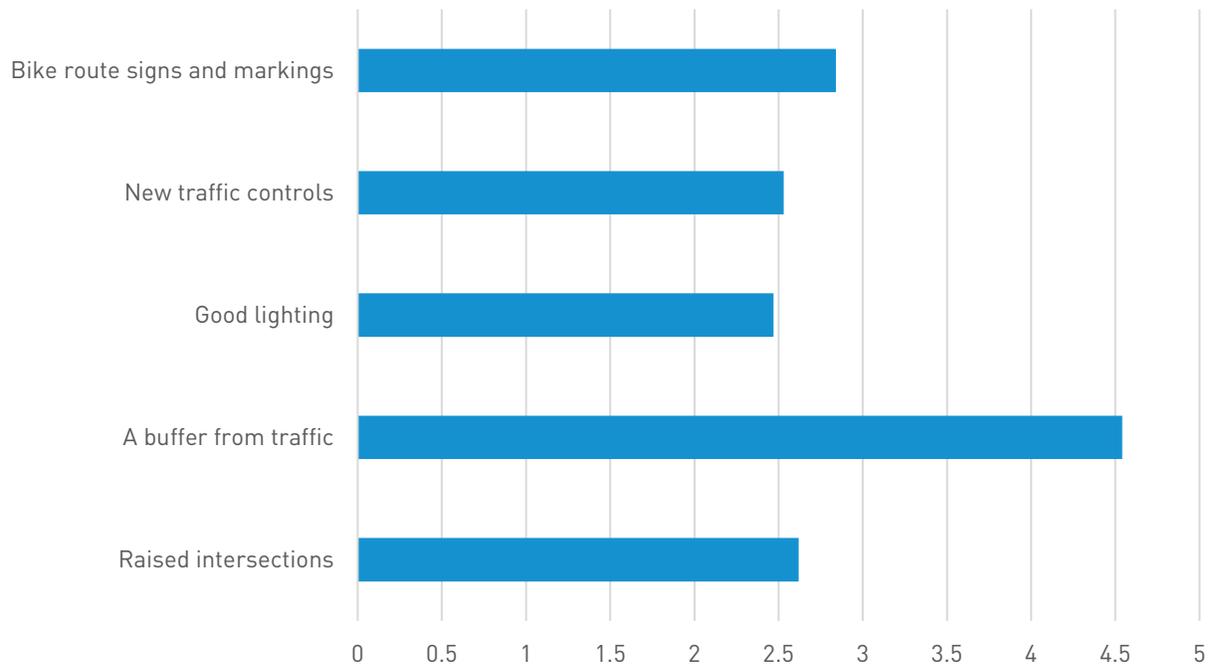
Please rank the following priorities in this corridor:



| ANSWER CHOICES                  | SCORE |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Access to buses                 | 3.35  |
| Space for trees and landscaping | 3.36  |
| Access for people walking       | 4.57  |
| Access for parking / loading    | 1.73  |
| Access to businesses            | 3.24  |
| Connecting the bike network     | 4.76  |
| <b>Total Respondents: 1,512</b> |       |

# 6

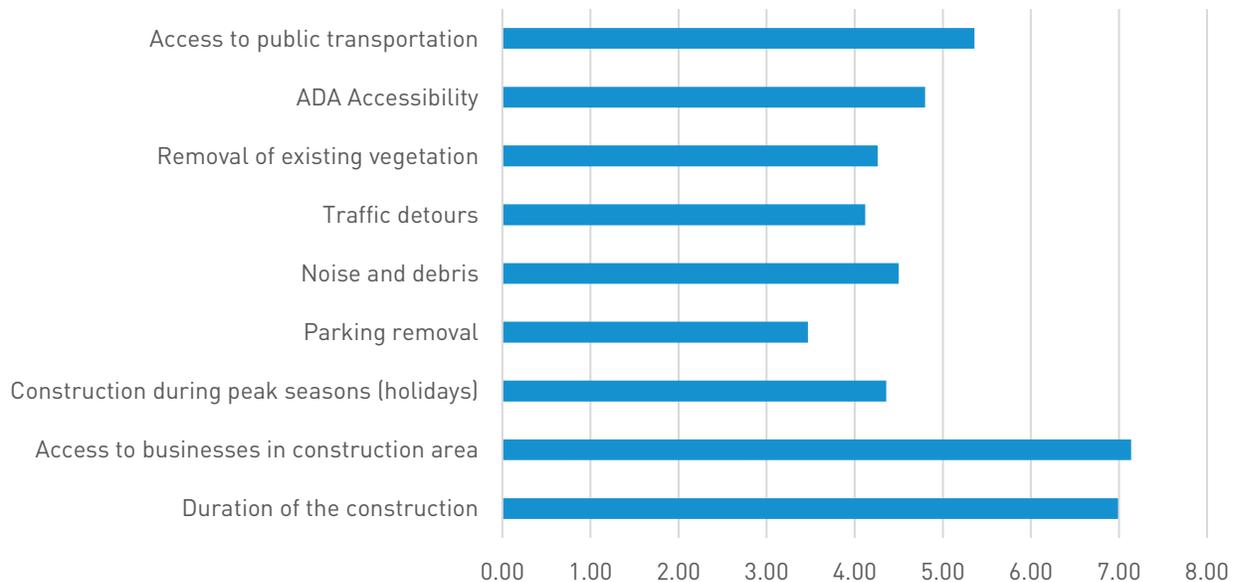
**What design elements would you need to feel comfortable with this Missing Link Connection?  
Please rank the following priorities in this corridor:**



| ANSWER CHOICES                  | SCORE |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Raised intersections            | 2.62  |
| A buffer from traffic           | 4.54  |
| Good lighting                   | 2.47  |
| New traffic controls            | 2.53  |
| Bike route signs and markings   | 2.84  |
| <b>Total Respondents: 1,458</b> |       |

# 7

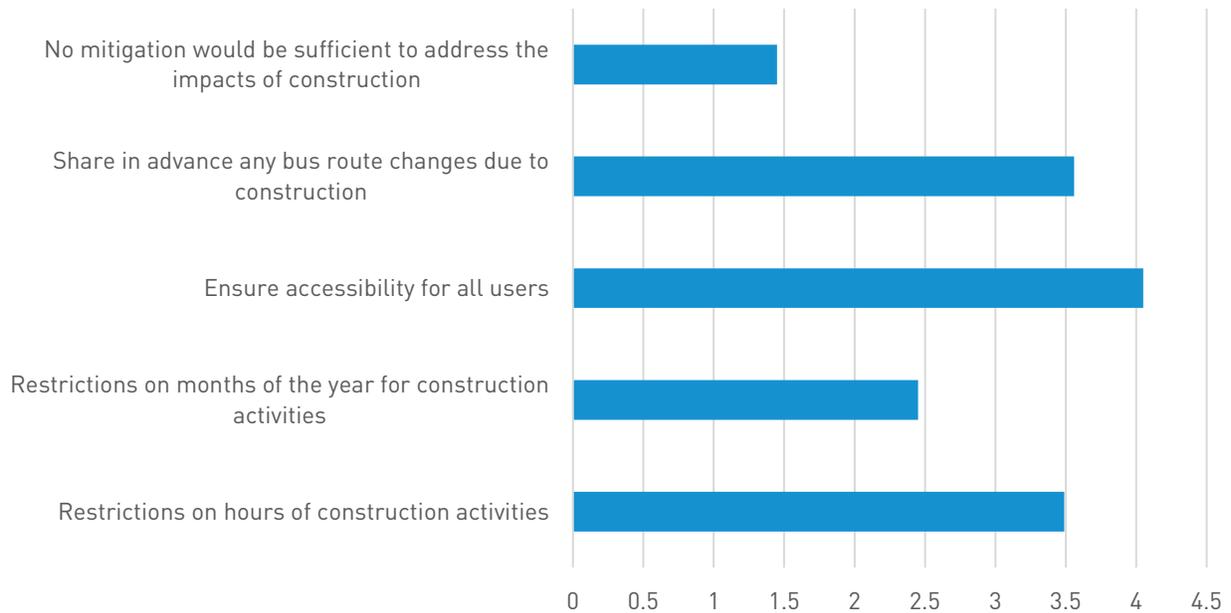
**Please rank the following common construction impacts in order from most concerning impact to least concerning impact:**



| <b>ANSWER CHOICES</b>                       | <b>SCORE</b> |
|---|--------------|
| Duration of the construction                | 6.99         |
| Access to businesses in construction area   | 7.14         |
| Construction during peak seasons (holidays) | 4.36         |
| Parking removal                             | 3.47         |
| Noise and debris                            | 4.5          |
| Traffic detours                             | 4.12         |
| Removal of existing vegetation              | 4.26         |
| ADA accessibility                           | 4.8          |
| Access to public transportation             | 5.36         |
| <b>Total Respondents: 1,444</b>             |              |

# 8

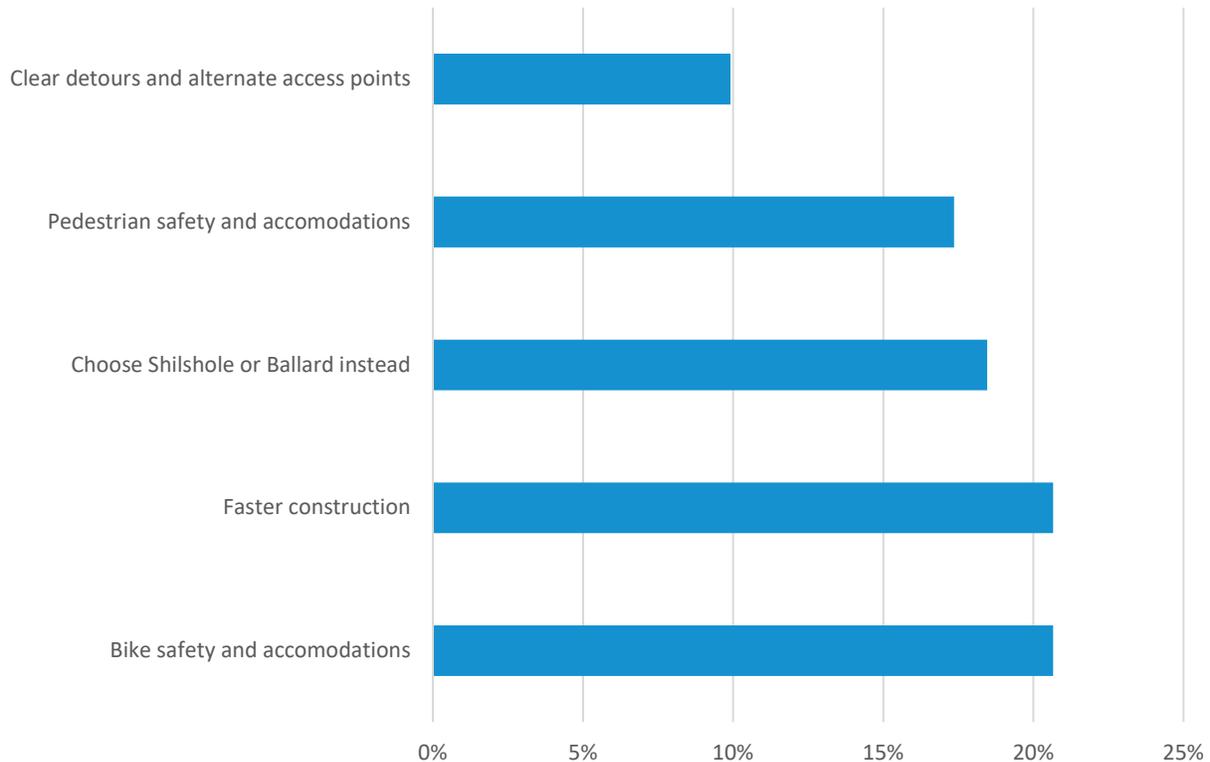
## What mitigations would you like to see to reduce the construction impacts in the project area? Please rank the following:



| ANSWER CHOICES                                      | SCORE |
|---|-------|
| Restrictions on hours of construction activities    | 3.49  |
| Restrictions on months of the year for construction | 2.45  |
| Ensure accessibility for all users                  | 4.05  |
| Share in advance any bus route changes              | 3.56  |
| No mitigation would be sufficient                   | 1.45  |
| <b>Total Respondents: 1,346</b>                     |       |

# 9

## Are there other mitigations you would like to see to reduce the construction impacts in the project area?



### TOP 5 WRITE-IN ANSWERS

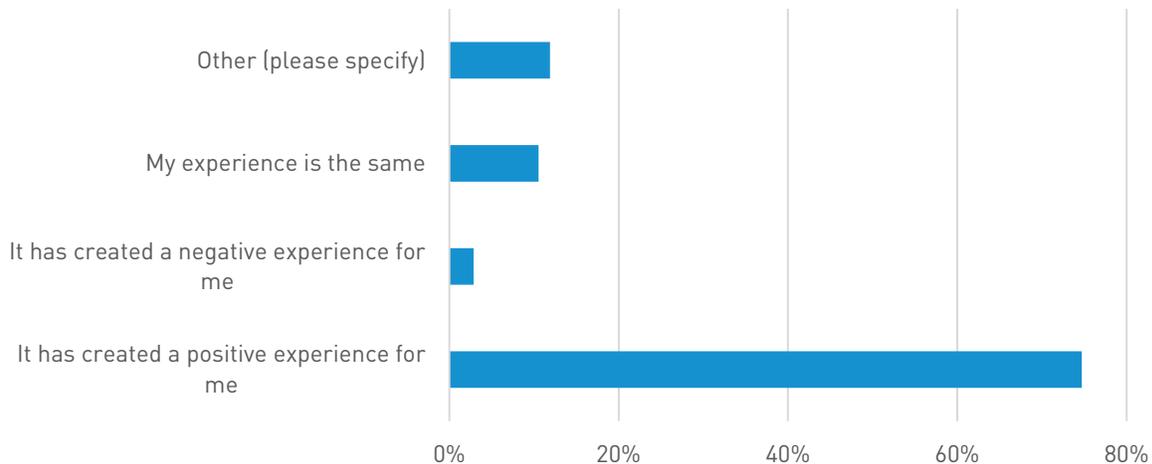
### RESPONSES

|   |    |     |
|---|----|-----|
| Safety and amenities for people biking                        | 75 | 21% |
| Shorter construction timeline                                 | 75 | 21% |
| Choose route on Shilshole or Ballard instead                  | 67 | 18% |
| Safety and amenities for people walking                       | 63 | 17% |
| Clear detours and alternate access points during construction | 36 | 10% |

**Total Respondents: 363**

# 10

## How has the new, wider sidewalk on NW Market St between the Ballard Locks and 24th Ave NW changed your travel experience when walking and biking?



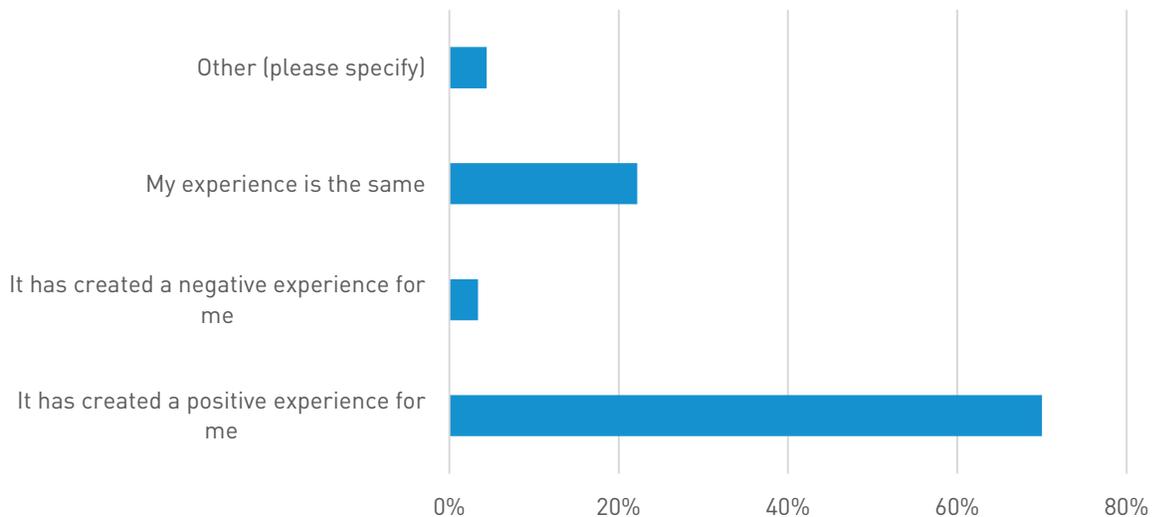
| ANSWER CHOICES                              | RESPONSES |     |
|---|-----------|-----|
| It has created a positive experience for me | 1119      | 75% |
| It has created a negative experience for me | 43        | 3%  |
| My experience is the same                   | 158       | 11% |
| Other (please specify)                      | 178       | 12% |
| <b>Total Respondents: 1,498</b>             |           |     |

The top five responses for other, included:

1. Too much mixing of people walking and people biking, 49%
2. Need for more signage and/or markings for people walking and biking, 30%
3. Too many trees removed along corridor, 13%
4. Unsafe, 13%
5. Creates conflicts between people walking/biking and people driving, especially with driveways, 5%

# 11

## How has the new NW Market St between Ballard Locks and 24th Ave NW pedestrian improvements changed your experience visiting businesses?



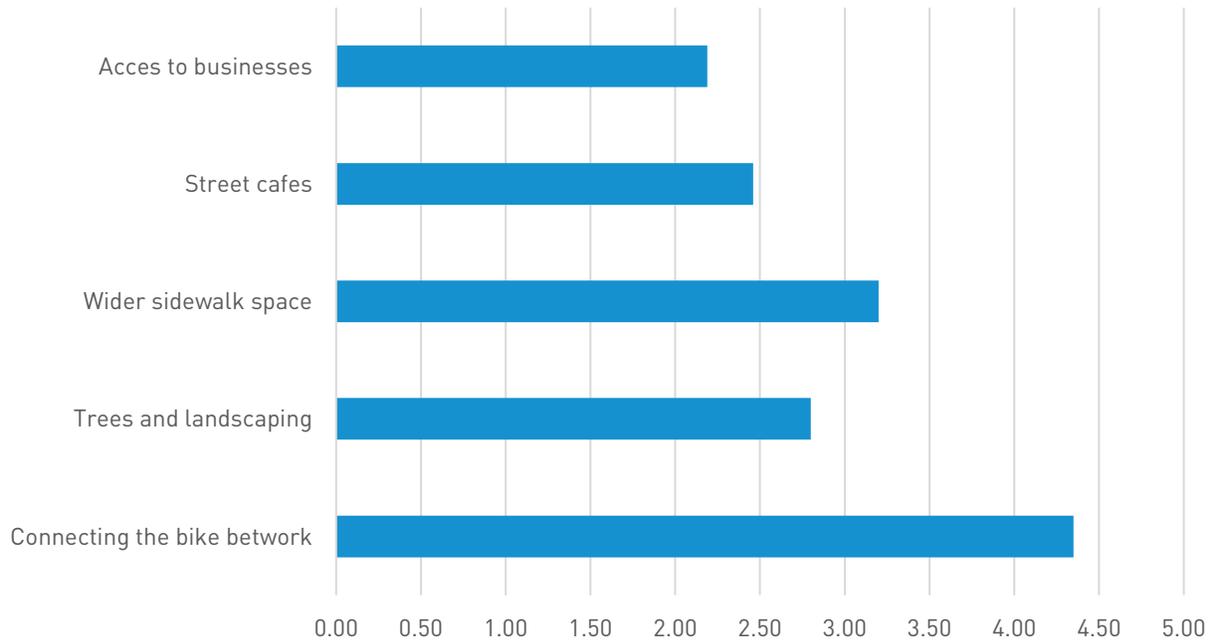
| ANSWER CHOICES                              | RESPONSES |     |
|---|-----------|-----|
| It has created a positive experience for me | 1034      | 70% |
| It has created a negative experience for me | 50        | 3%  |
| My experience is the same                   | 328       | 22% |
| Other (please specify)                      | 65        | 4%  |
| <b>Total Respondents: 1,477</b>             |           |     |

The top five responses for other, included:

1. Concerned about long-term impacts from construction, 40%
2. Improvements are disruptive to traffic and/or parking, 25%
3. Overall approval of the improvements, 18%
4. Concerned about shared use path for people walking and biking, 14%
5. Not applicable or no change, 3%

# 12

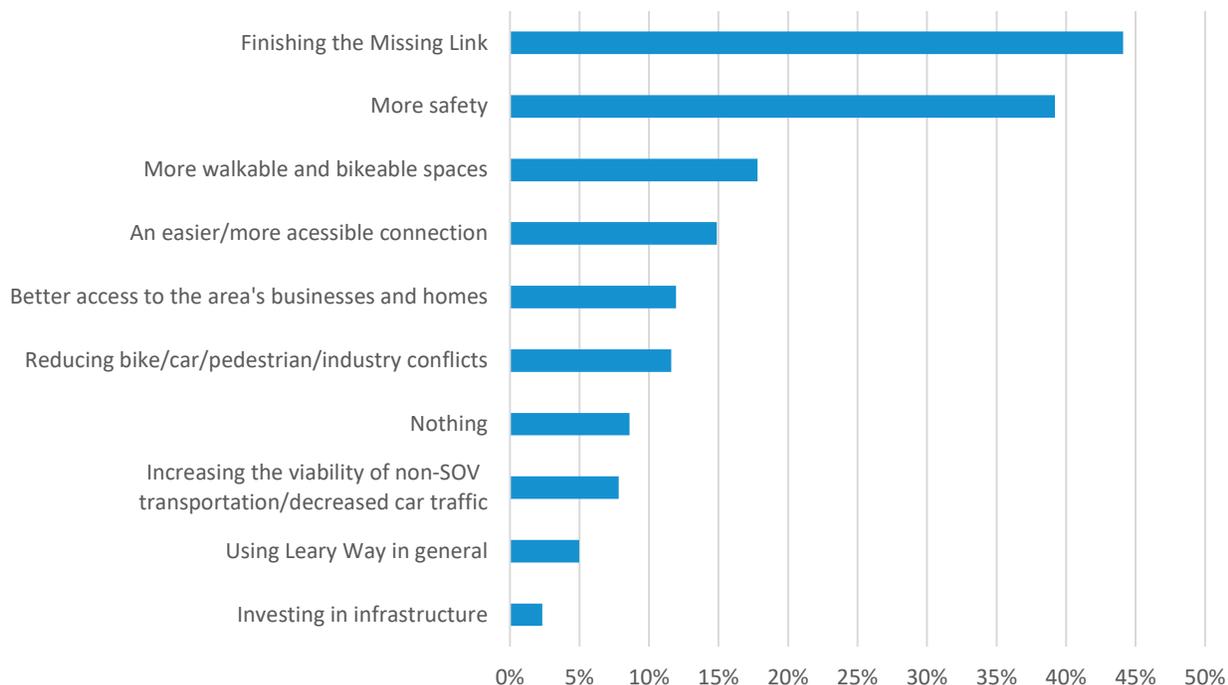
Please rank the following priorities in this corridor:



| ANSWER CHOICES                  | SCORE |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Connecting the bike network     | 4.35  |
| Trees and landscaping           | 2.8   |
| Wider sidewalk space            | 3.2   |
| Street cafes                    | 2.46  |
| Access to businesses            | 2.19  |
| <b>Total Respondents: 1,322</b> |       |

# 13

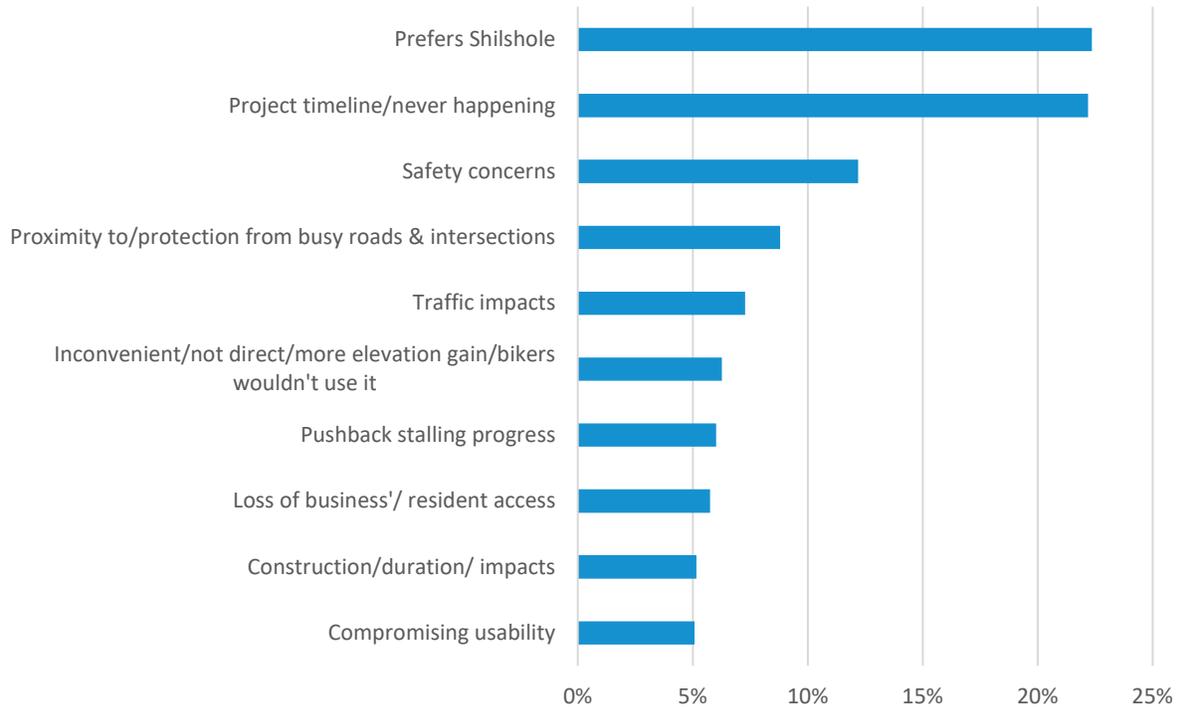
## What is one positive thing you are excited about regarding this proposed project?



| TOP 10 WRITE-IN ANSWERS   | RESPONSES |     |
|---|-----------|-----|
| Finishing the Missing Link  | 513       | 44% |
| Enhancing safety in the area  | 456       | 39% |
| More space for people walking and biking                            | 207       | 18% |
| An easier/more accessible connection for people biking              | 173       | 15% |
| Better access to businesses and homes in the area                   | 139       | 12% |
| Reducing conflicts between people walking/biking and people driving | 135       | 12% |
| Nothing   | 100       | 9%  |
| Increasing the possibility of multimodal transportation systems     | 91        | 8%  |
| Using Leary Way, in general   | 58        | 5%  |
| Investing in infrastructure improvements                            | 27        | 2%  |
| <b>Total Respondents: 1,163</b>                                     |           |     |

# 14

## What is one thing you are concerned about regarding this proposed project?



| TOP 10 WRITE-IN ANSWERS                                       | RESPONSES |     |
|---|-----------|-----|
| Prefers Shilshole route                                       | 264       | 22% |
| Project timeline and project never reaching completion        | 262       | 22% |
| Concerns around safety for people walking and biking          | 144       | 12% |
| Proximity to and protection from busy roads and intersections | 104       | 9%  |
| Impacts to traffic for people driving                         | 86        | 7%  |
| Not a convenient route, so people biking wouldn't use it      | 74        | 6%  |
| Pushback could and will stall progress                        | 71        | 6%  |
| Potential access restrictions for businesses/residences       | 68        | 6%  |
| Construction duration and impacts                             | 61        | 5%  |
| Compromising usability of Leary for all users                 | 60        | 5%  |
| <b>Total Respondents: 1,181</b>                               |           |     |

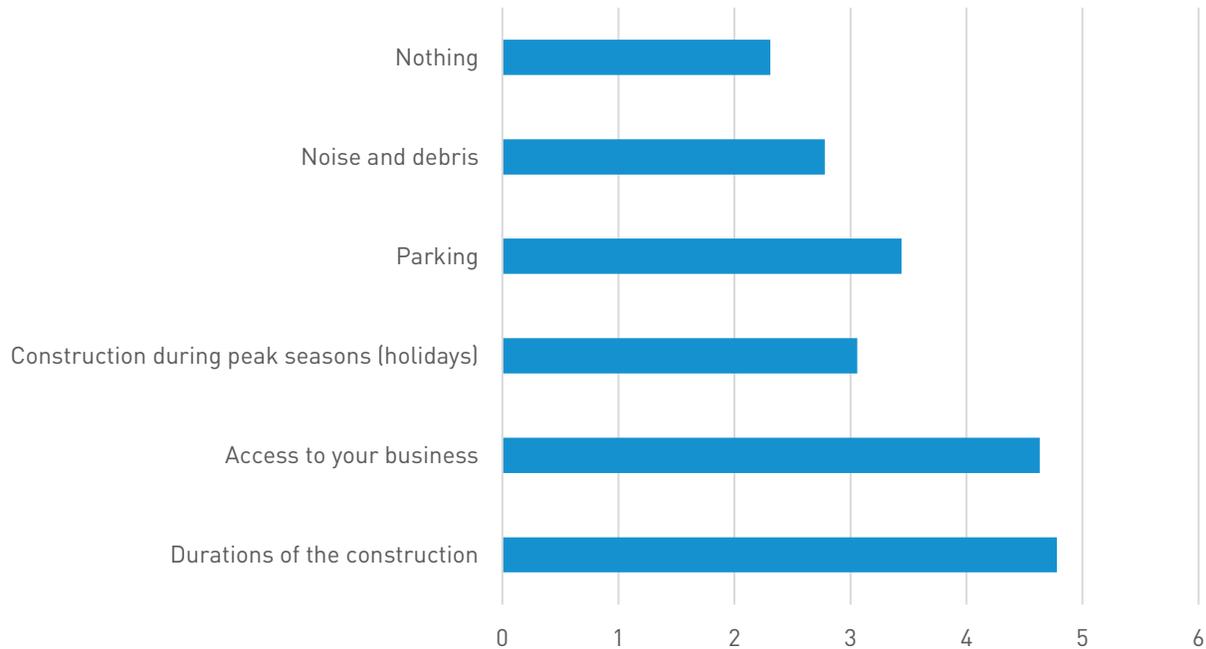
Due to the number of varied concerns brought up, the table on the prior page shows the top 10 common categories of responses, and other categories that were less common are summarized below. While these categories of responses were less common, we acknowledge that doesn't make them any less important, so we're including them below to emphasize the value of community members' unique perspectives. Some responses corresponded to multiple categories, so total percentages may be greater than 100 percent.

Other responses, included:

- Not enough separation between people walking and people biking, causing risks for people biking encountering people walking blocking their path and people walking finding themselves near higher-speed bicycles, 5%
- Overprioritizing businesses, freight, and/or vocal stakeholders, resulting in a design that does not meet the needs of other community members, 5%
- Need for greater bicyclist accommodations to further increase safety, accessibility, and/or usability, 4%
- Cost of the project, and a desire for funds to come from elsewhere, 3%
- Overprioritizing cars in the design, including parking availability, 3%
- Concerns related to the Market St. segment including busy intersections, amount of vehicle traffic, and Farmers' Market complications, 3%
- Tree removal, resulting in a number of impacts including lower carbon capture, decreased corridor beauty, and reduced protection from heat created by sunlight reflecting off concrete, 3%
- A design outcome that is ultimately car-centric in nature, defeating the purpose of investing in bicycle infrastructure, 2%
- Prefers a route along Ballard Ave instead, 2%
- A lack of routes for people walking and biking until the project is complete, 2%
- Causing new lawsuits that further delay the process, 2%
- People ignoring traffic signals and speed limits, making traffic calming features less effective and introducing safety risks not factored into the design, 2%
- A need for clear signage on this new route to ensure it is easy to follow, 2%
- Reducing bus access and reliability, 2%

# 15

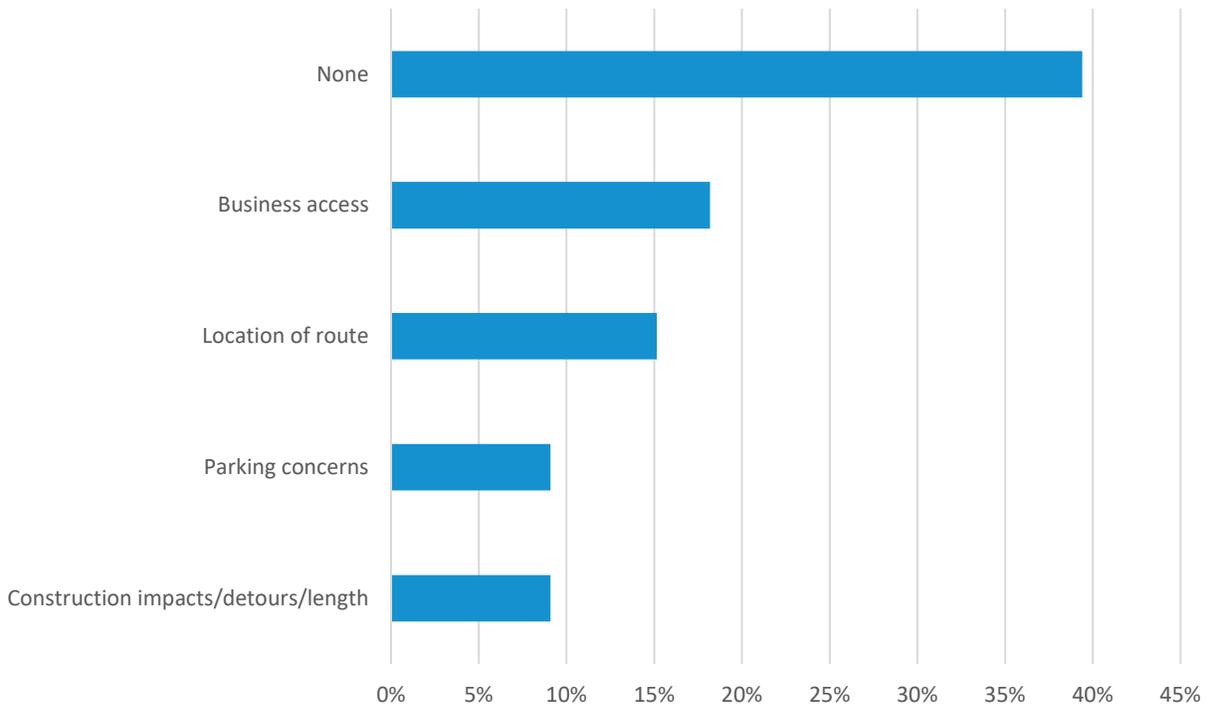
If this project were to be constructed, what would be your main concerns construction would have on your business. Please rank the following:



| ANSWER CHOICES                               | RESPONSES |
|--|-----------|
| Durations of the construction                | 4.78      |
| Access to your business                      | 4.63      |
| Constructions during peak seasons (holidays) | 3.06      |
| Parking                                      | 3.44      |
| Noise and debris                             | 2.78      |
| Nothing                                      | 2.31      |
| <b>Total Respondents: 87</b>                 |           |

# 16

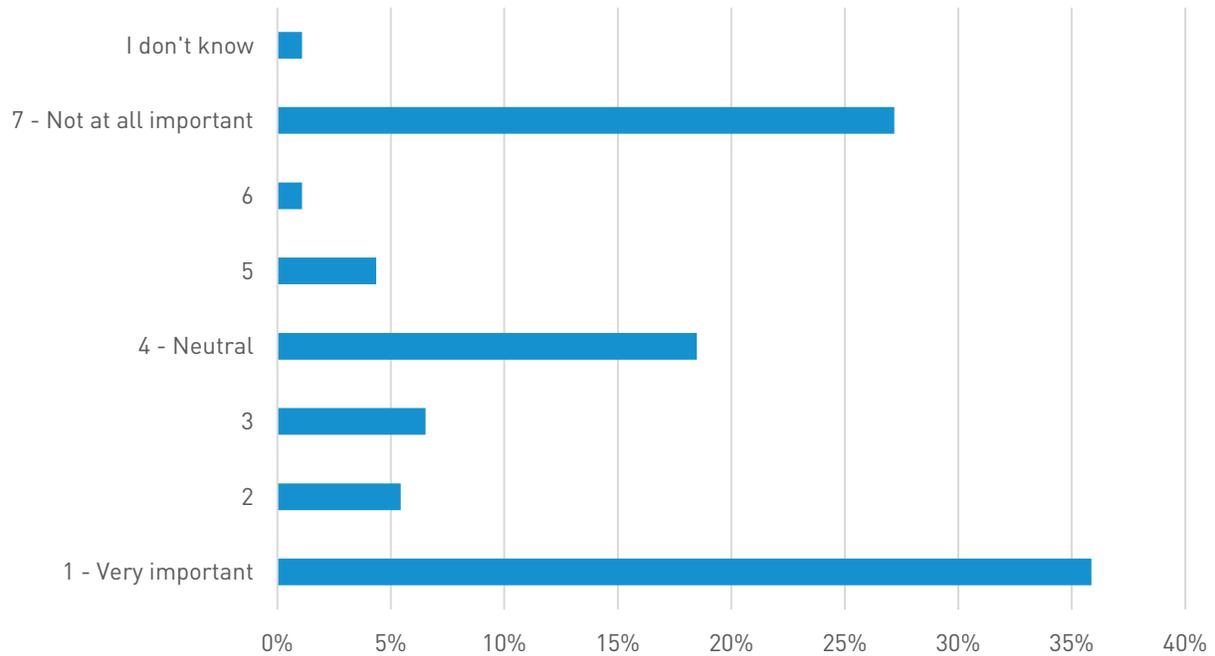
## Do you have any other concerns for your business about construction?



| TOP 5 WRITE-IN ANSWERS   | RESPONSES |     |
|--|-----------|-----|
| None   | 13        | 39% |
| Business access  | 6         | 18% |
| Location of bike route   | 5         | 15% |
| Concerns related to customer and employee parking                | 3         | 9%  |
| Construction impacts including detours and construction duration | 3         | 9%  |
| <b>Total Respondents: 33</b>                                     |           |     |

# 17

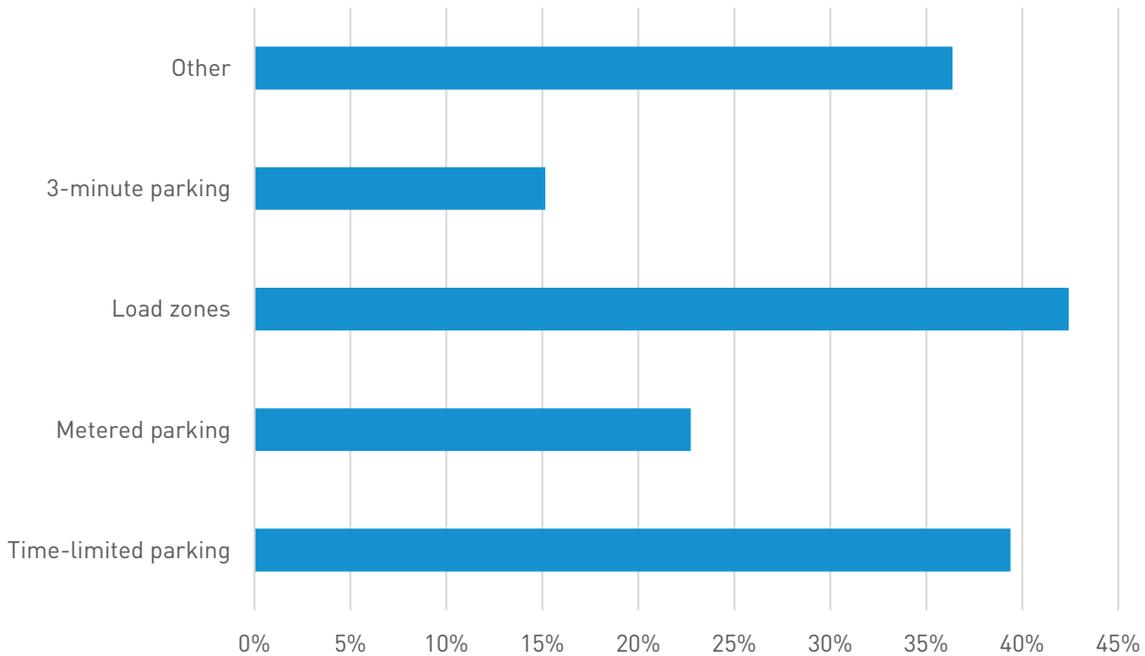
## How important is on-street parking for your employees?



| ANSWER CHOICES               | RESPONSES |     |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----|
| 1 – Very important           | 33        | 36% |
| 2                            | 5         | 5%  |
| 3                            | 6         | 7%  |
| 4 – Neutral                  | 17        | 18% |
| 5                            | 4         | 4%  |
| 6                            | 1         | 1%  |
| 7 – Not at all important     | 25        | 27% |
| I don't know                 | 1         | 1%  |
| <b>Total Respondents: 92</b> |           |     |

# 18

**If there are impacts to parking, what would you/your business need to manage on-street parking or loading needs? Please select all that apply.**



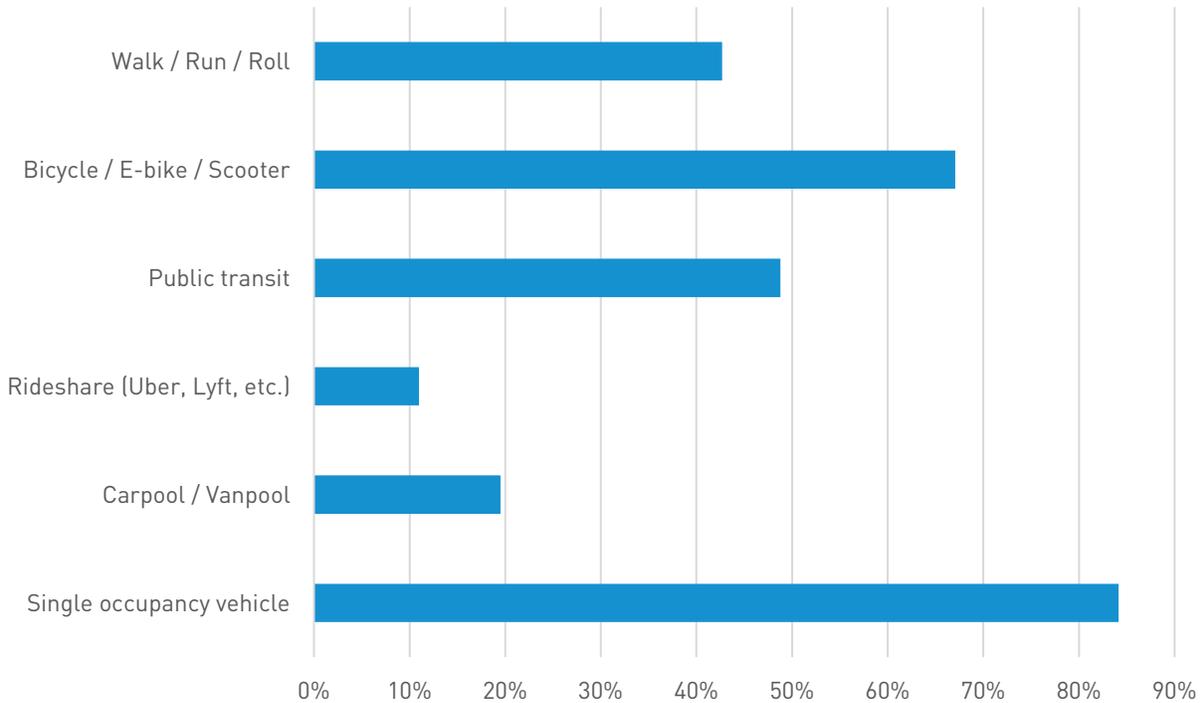
| ANSWER CHOICES               | RESPONSES |     |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----|
| Time-limited parking         | 26        | 39% |
| Metered parking              | 15        | 23% |
| Load zones                   | 28        | 42% |
| 3-minute parking             | 10        | 15% |
| Other (please specify)       | 24        | 36% |
| <b>Total Respondents: 66</b> |           |     |

The top five responses for other, included:

1. Preserving access to parking, 12%
2. None, 11%
3. Further restricting/metering parking spots and increasing enforcement, 6%
4. Retaining load zones, 3%
5. Unrestricting parking along the corridor, 3%

# 19

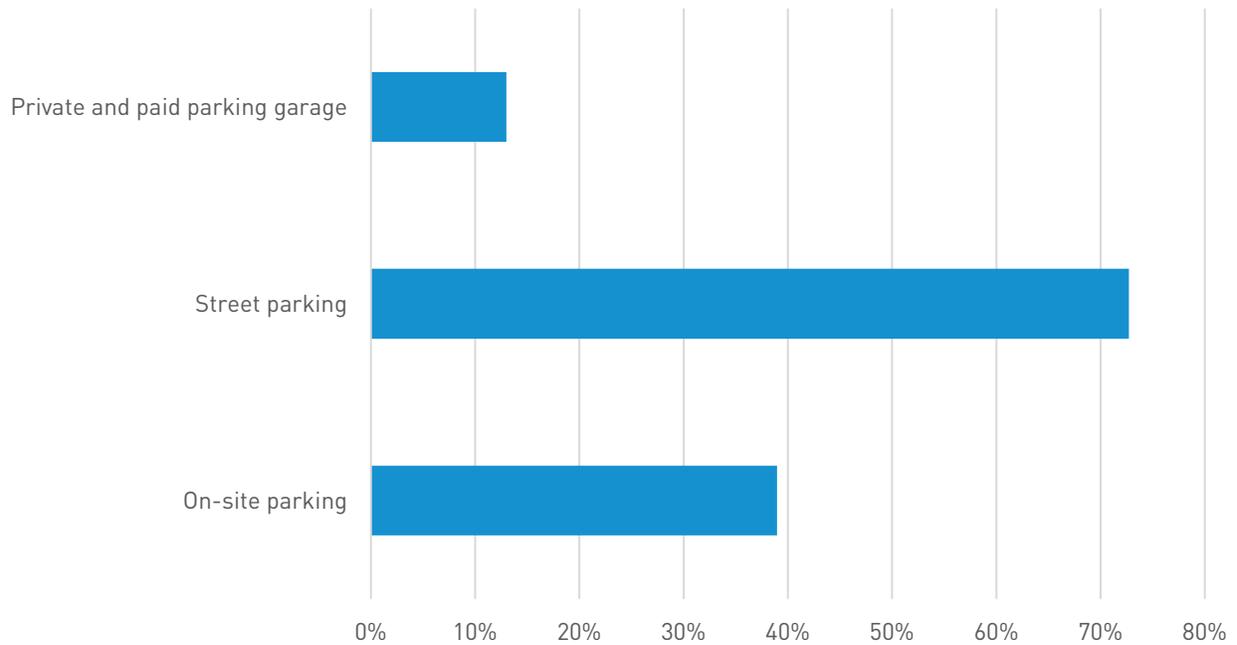
## How do your employees travel to your business or organization? Please select all that apply.



| ANSWER CHOICES               | RESPONSES |     |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----|
| Single occupancy vehicle     | 69        | 84% |
| Carpool / Vanpool            | 16        | 20% |
| Rideshare (Uber, Lyft, etc.) | 9         | 11% |
| Public transit               | 40        | 49% |
| Bicycle / E-bike / Scooter   | 55        | 67% |
| Walk / Run / Roll            | 35        | 43% |
| <b>Total Respondents: 82</b> |           |     |

# 20

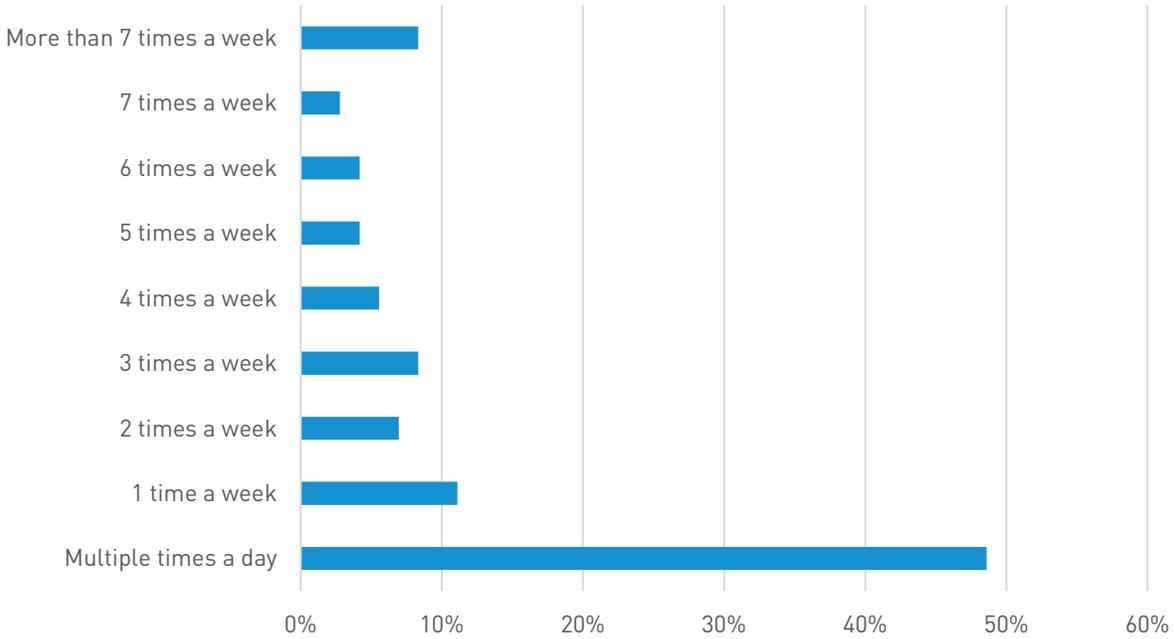
If using a single occupancy vehicle or carpool/vanpool, where do employees park when visiting your business/organization? Please select all that apply.



| ANSWER CHOICES                  | RESPONSES |     |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----|
| On-site parking                 | 30        | 39% |
| Street parking                  | 56        | 73% |
| Private and paid parking garage | 10        | 13% |
| <b>Total Respondents: 77</b>    |           |     |

# 21

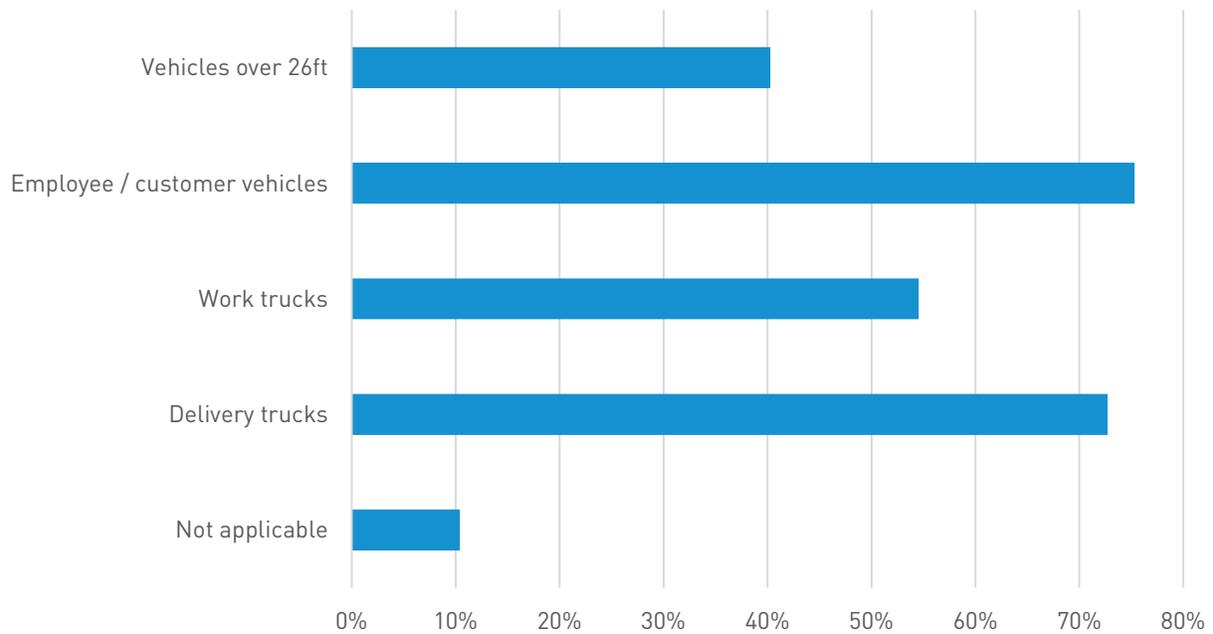
## How often do delivery trucks access your building?



| ANSWER CHOICES               | RESPONSES |     |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----|
| Multiple times a day         | 35        | 49% |
| 1 time a week                | 8         | 11% |
| 2 times a week               | 5         | 7%  |
| 3 times a week               | 6         | 8%  |
| 4 times a week               | 4         | 6%  |
| 5 times a week               | 3         | 4%  |
| 6 times a week               | 3         | 4%  |
| 7 times a week               | 2         | 3%  |
| More than 7 times a week     | 6         | 8%  |
| <b>Total Respondents: 72</b> |           |     |

# 22

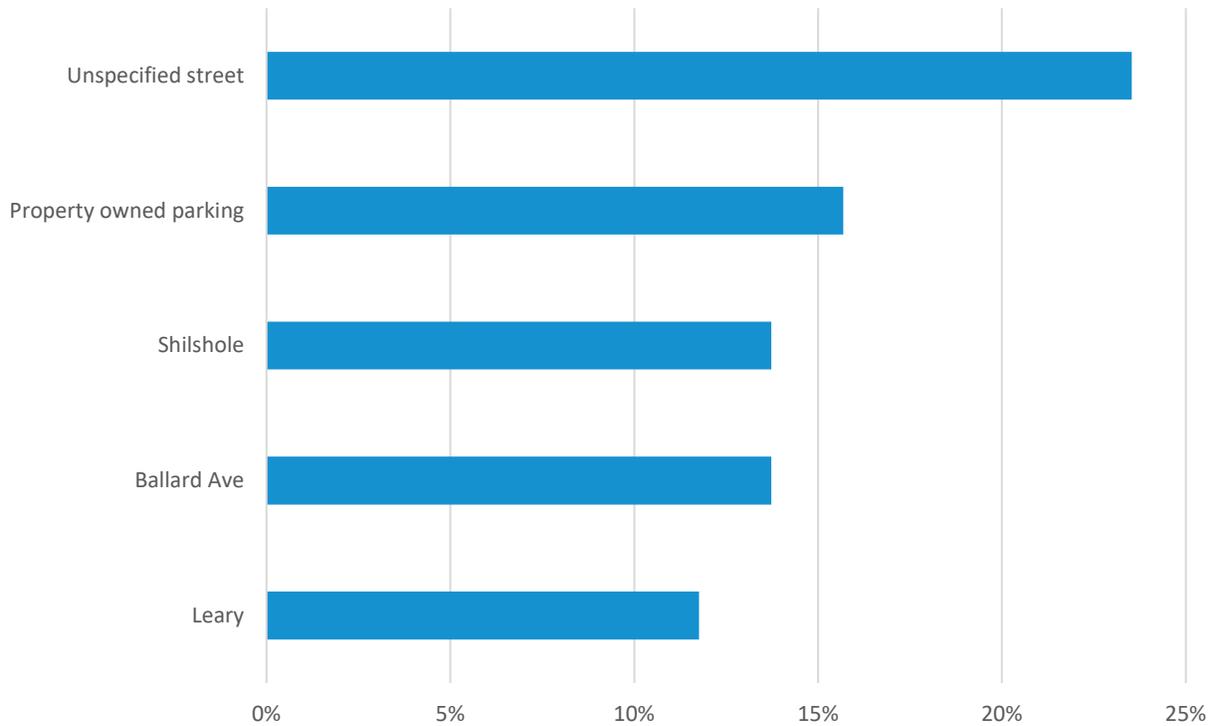
**What kinds of vehicles access your business/organization? Please select all that apply.**



| ANSWER CHOICES               | RESPONSES |     |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----|
| Not applicable               | 8         | 10% |
| Delivery trucks              | 56        | 73% |
| Work trucks                  | 42        | 55% |
| Employee / Customer vehicles | 58        | 75% |
| Vehicles over 26ft           | 31        | 40% |
| <b>Total Respondents: 77</b> |           |     |

# 23

## Where do delivery vehicles access your business/organization?



### TOP 5 WRITE-IN ANSWERS

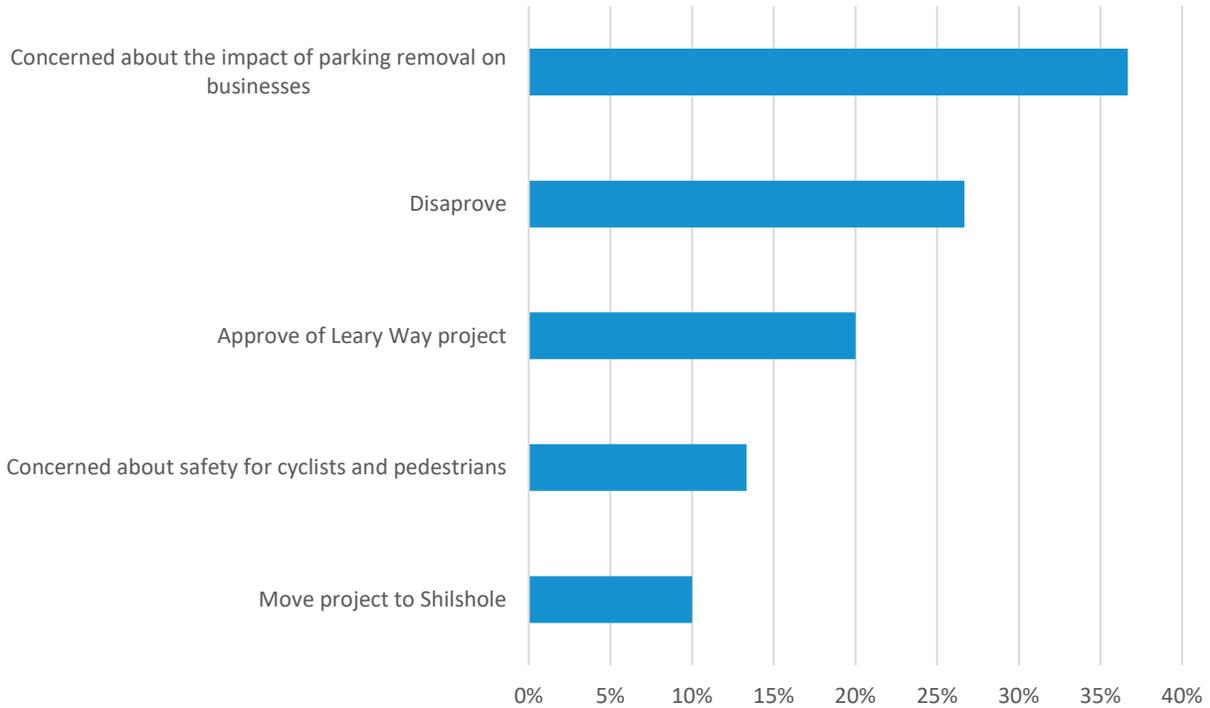
### RESPONSES

|                            |    |     |
|----------------------------|----|-----|
| Unspecified street parking | 12 | 24% |
| Property-owned parking     | 8  | 16% |
| Shilshole Ave NW           | 7  | 14% |
| Ballard Ave NW             | 7  | 14% |
| Leary Ave NW               | 6  | 12% |

**Total Respondents: 51**

# 24

## Anything else you want to share about your operations, or other feedback on the project?



### TOP 5 WRITE-IN ANSWERS

### RESPONSES

|   |    |     |
|---|----|-----|
| Concerns about the impact of parking removal        | 11 | 37% |
| Disapproval of the project                          | 8  | 27% |
| Approval of the project                             | 6  | 20% |
| Concerns about safety for people walking and biking | 4  | 13% |
| Prefers Shilshole route                             | 3  | 10% |

**Total Respondents: 30**