

Participant Feedback

02/22/2022



**Vision Zero South Side
Neighborhood Action Plans
Washington Park/Grand Boulevard
Roundtable**



Roundtable Overview

Date: 02/22/2022

Facilitated by: Michael Kent, Vision Zero Coordinator
Stacey Meekins, Project Manager
Leslé Honoré, Vision Zero team member

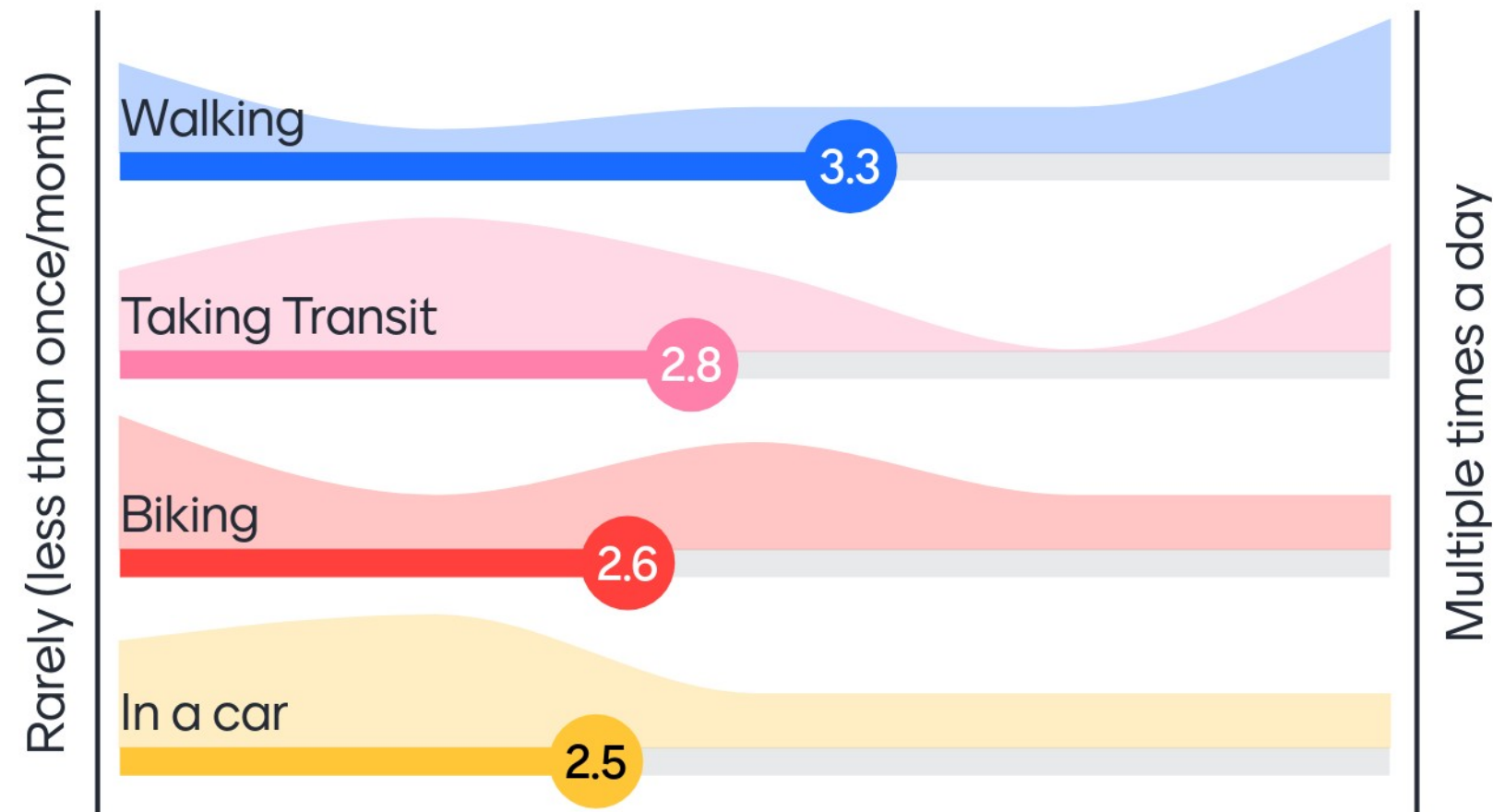
Total number of participants: 22

The following is a summary of participants' feedback collected through Mentimeter, an interactive polling tool, facilitated conversations, and comments added to the chat box. Direct quotes are in this summary report to provide direct contextual examples and supportive ideas to the results of the poll.

The goals of this roundtable were:

- Learn about traffic safety concerns in the Washington Park & Grand Boulevard neighborhoods
- Identify how people travel and what their destinations are within their neighborhoods
- Identify priority strategies to improve traffic safety
- Discuss projects that would have the biggest impact (long and short-term) on traffic safety

How often do you travel by...



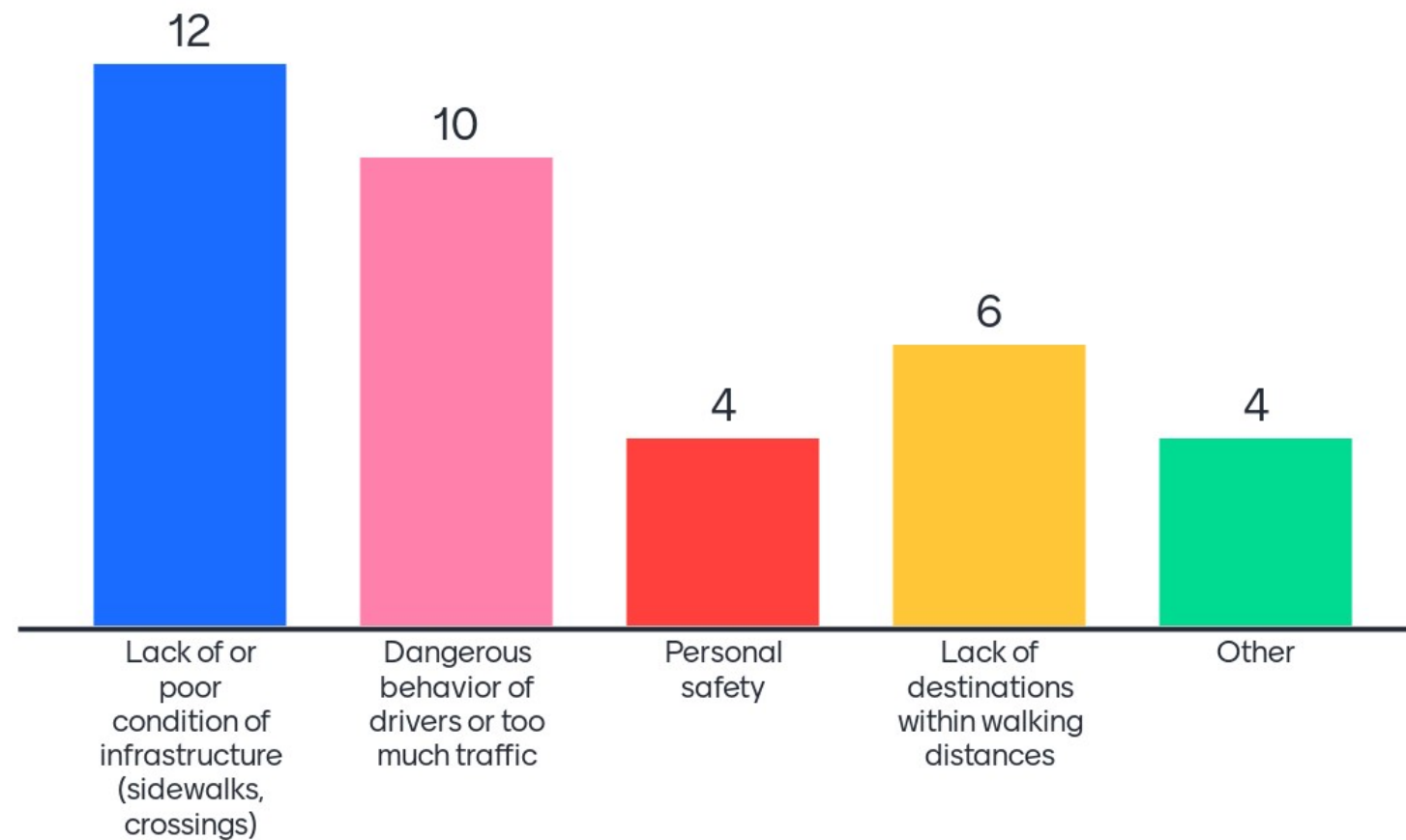
TAKEAWAYS

- From this first poll, participants indicated walking as the most often used mode of transportation.
- A number of participants also indicated biking and taking transit through Washington Park and Grand Boulevard regularly.

WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAID:

- *“Most people [who live] in the community walk, take public transportation or drive.”*

What are your concerns or challenges in walking around your community (top 3)?



TAKEAWAYS

- Low quality or nonexistent pedestrian infrastructure #1 concern
- Dangerous drivers is a second concern among participants

WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAID:

- “We should have better and brighter lighting as well as have clearly marked crosswalks”

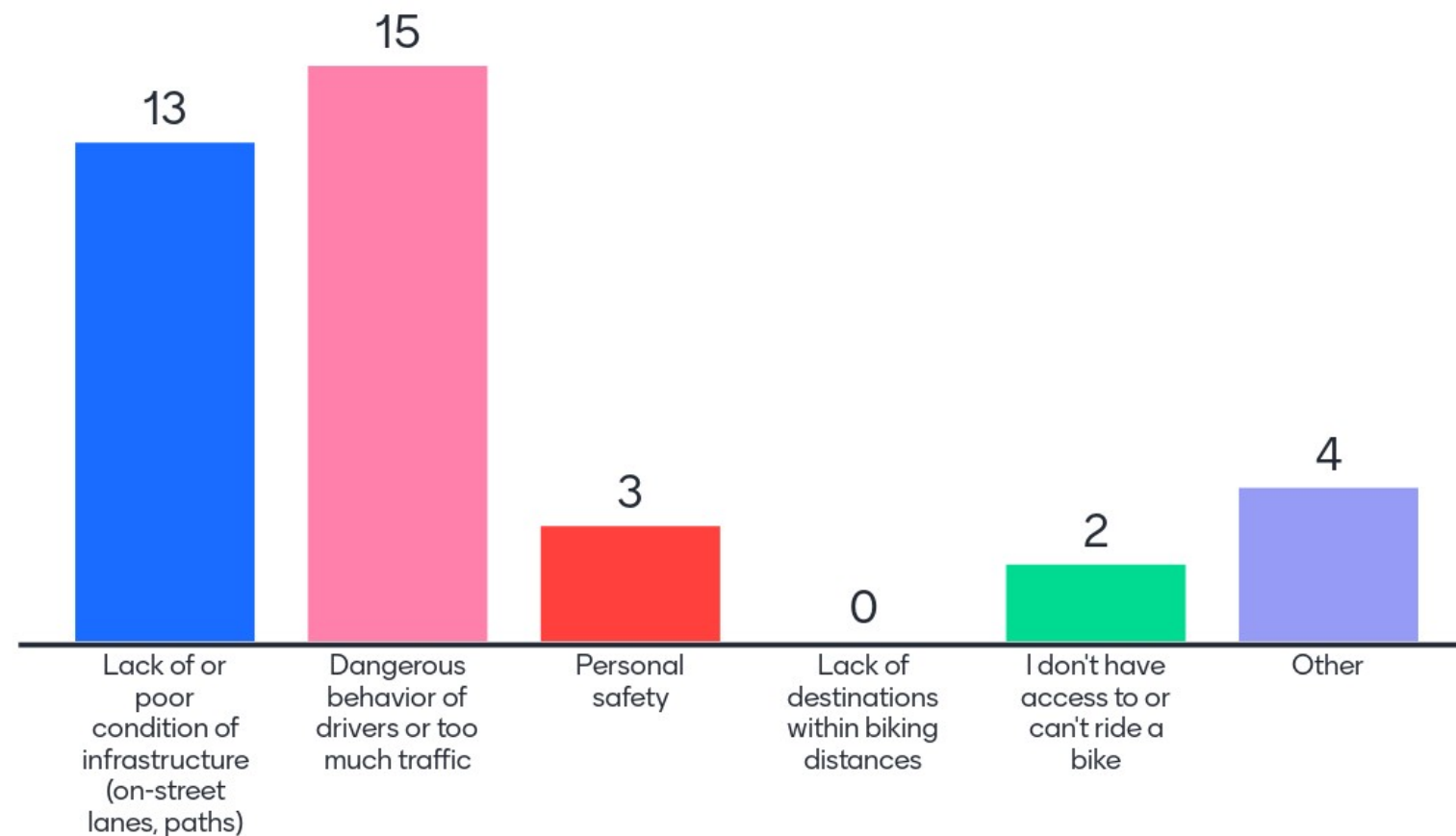
What are the destinations you walk to or would like to walk to (top 3)?



Top destinations to reach by walking:

1. Park
2. Restaurants
3. Grocery stores

What are your concerns or challenges in biking around your community (top 3)?



TAKEAWAYS

- Dangerous drivers and volume of traffic is a top concern when biking in the community
- Low quality or nonexistent bike infrastructure is the second challenge

WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAID

- “I’d love to see more accessibility here for bikes, pedestrians, and those with mobility difficulties”
- “More bike racks are needed”

What are your preferred streets/routes for biking (top 3)?



NOTE: Answers to this question includes streets that people currently bike on or streets they would like to bike on

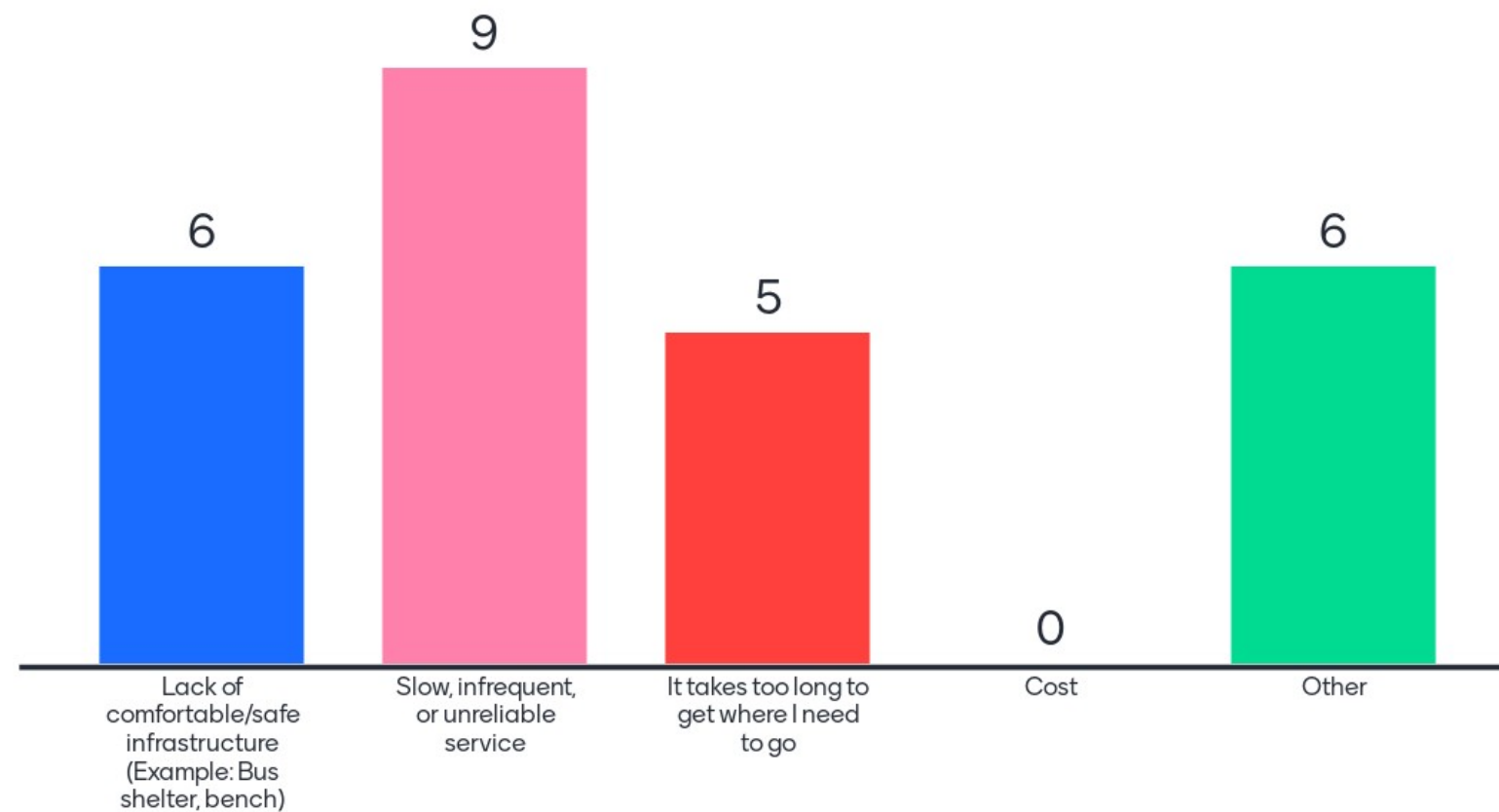
TAKEAWAYS

- Garfield Blvd and King Drive are popular routes, or would be popular routes, for biking
- Other routes mentioned include State St and Michigan Ave

WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAID

- “I’ve seen crashes and evidence of crashes on Garfield. I’ve had plenty of close calls on Garfield and Payne.”
- “Garfield Blvd between the park and the expressway doesn’t make me feel safe... on a bike”

What are your concerns or challenges in taking transit (top 3)?



TAKEAWAYS

- Quality of transit service is a major challenge for participants, with lack of comfortable infrastructure as another main challenge
- Cost of transit was not a major concern among participants

WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAID:

- “Crossing [Garfield Blvd] walking North from the South side of the street on 55th St to take the Green Line Station. Very dangerous – the cars go really fast!”
- *On other challenges taking transit:* “Safety on Public transportation, COVID-19 – people refuse to wear masks!”

Where would you like to take transit but can't or don't?



TAKEAWAYS

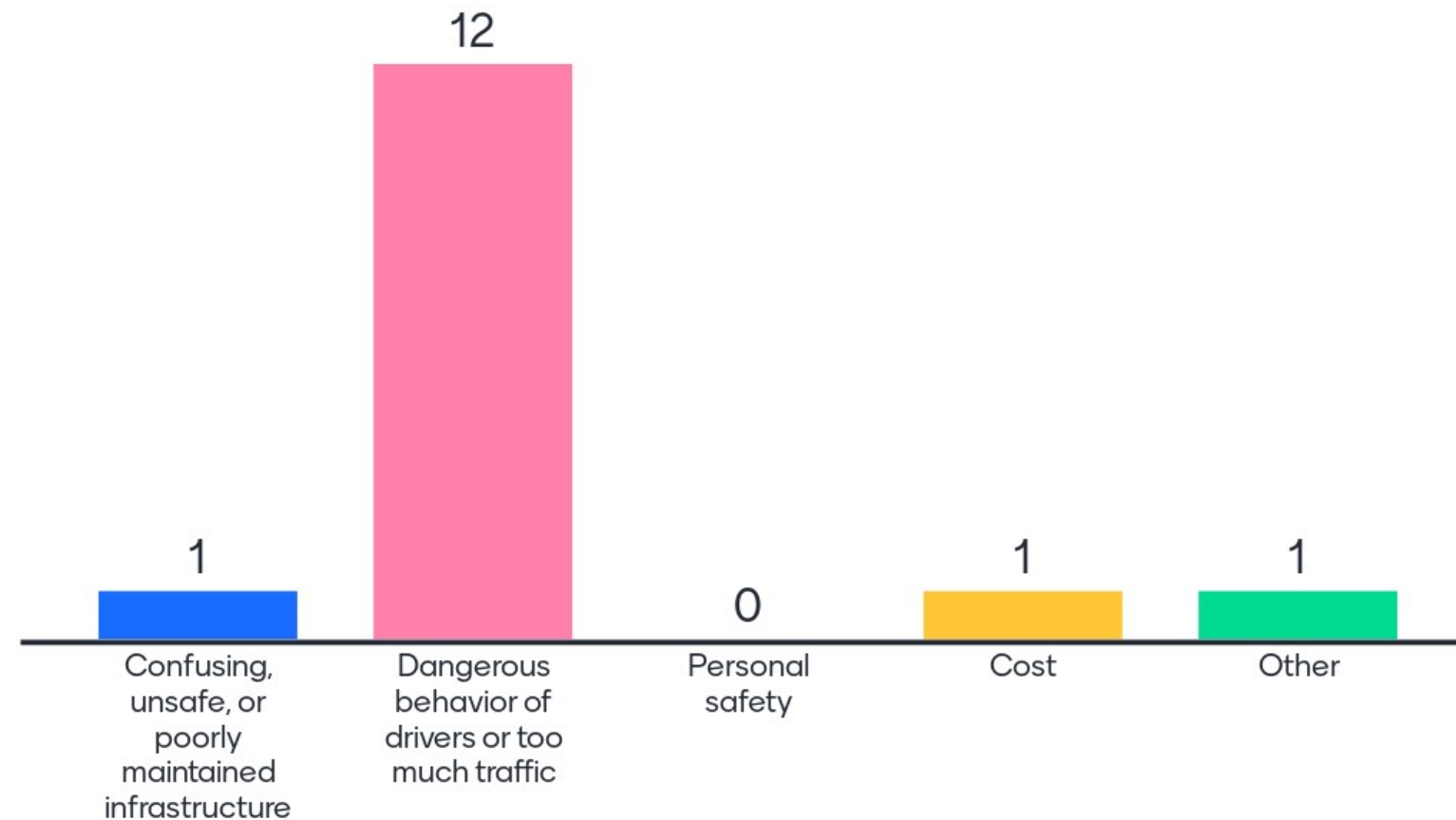
Top destinations to reach via transit:

1. Downtown
2. Hyde Park and other South Side neighborhoods
3. Cultural establishments (museums, aquariums, etc.)

WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAID

- “Beverly to Hyde Park takes a ridiculously long time”
- *In response to slow east-west bus routes:* “Agreed with east-west. That’s every bus in the city”

What are your concerns or challenges in driving?



TAKEAWAYS

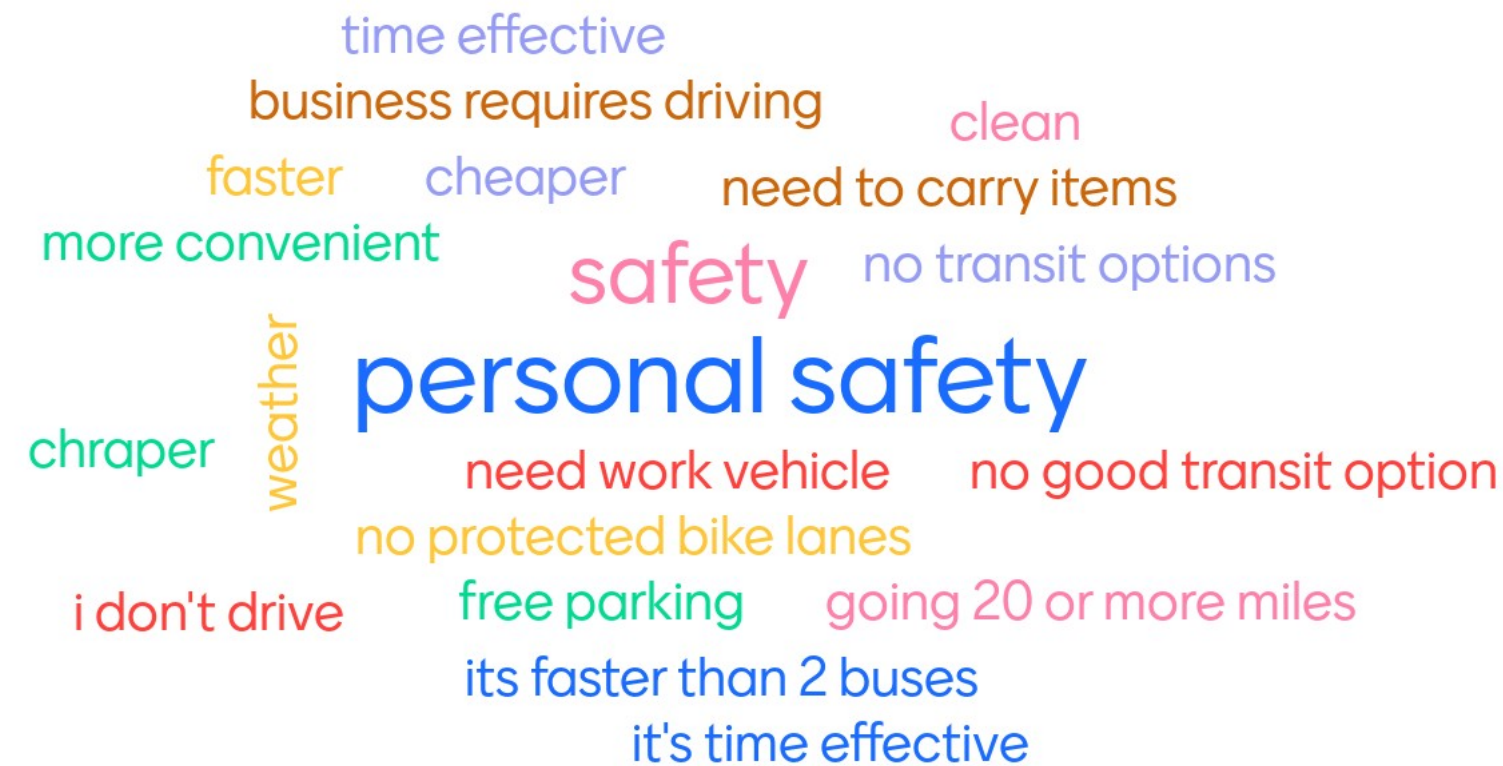
- Like biking and walking, dangerous driving behaviors from others are a major concern for participants when they are behind the wheel
- Participants indicated speeding and distracted driving (texting) as dangerous behaviors

WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAID:

Regarding confusing and unsafe infrastructure

- “Want to make a note about poor signage on Garfield and Michigan (One Way Going South) also Garfield and Indiana (one Way Going North)... We need one way signage. I have witnessed more accidents there over the years.”
- “People are driving more crazy now than ever”

What are the reasons you choose to drive instead of traveling another way?



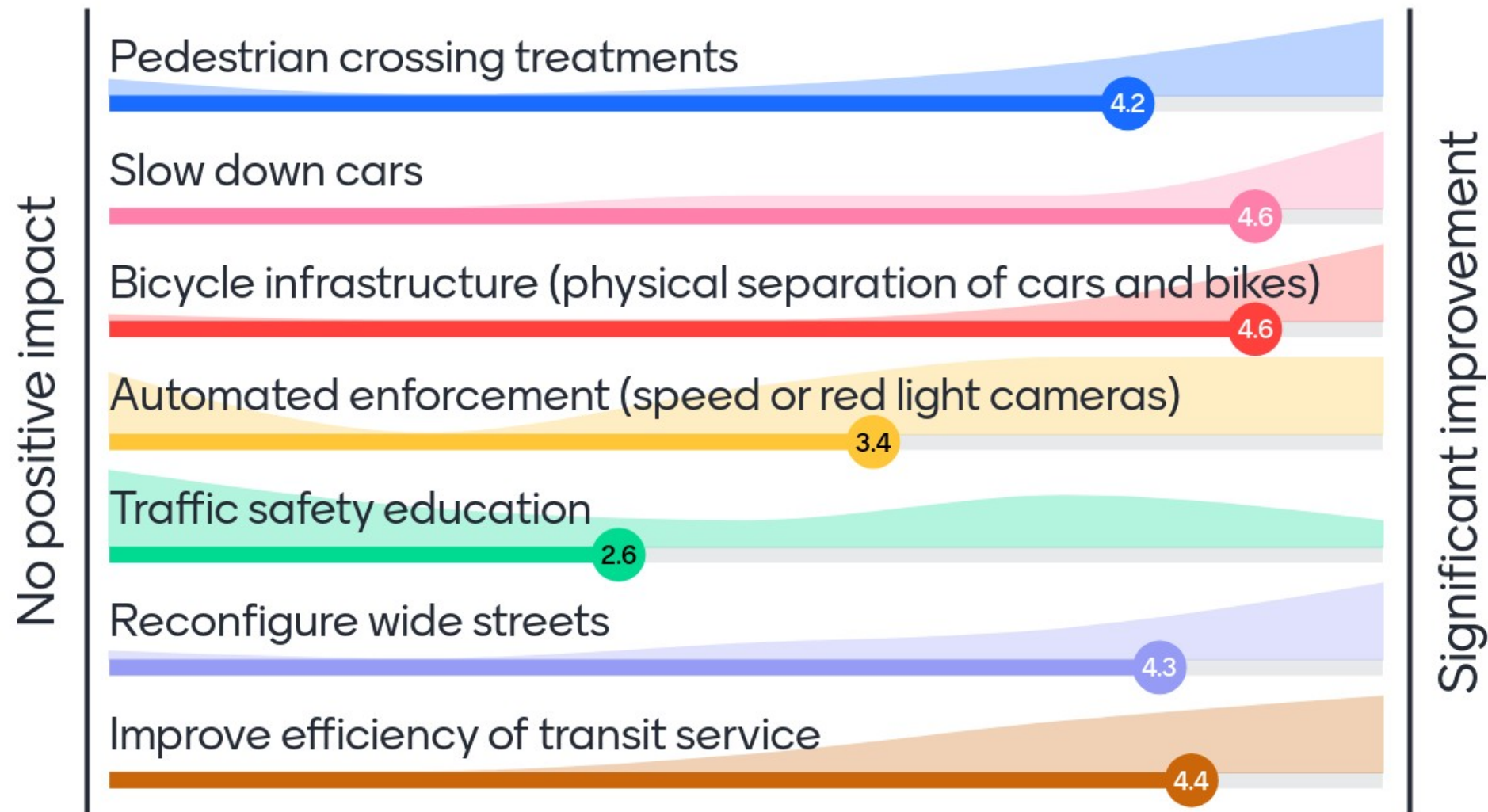
TAKEAWAYS

- Personal safety is the most common reason why participants choose to drive
- Some participants attributed dangerous road conditions to the lack of police presence on the roads

WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAID:

- “I believe the unsafe roadway design leads to poor driver behavior – they are not separate”
- “We definitely need to have more traffic safety patrol officers visible back on the streets”

What kind of impact would each type of strategy have on traffic safety in your community?



TAKEAWAYS

- After learning of the Vision Zero toolkit, participants found that slowing down cars would provide significant safety improvements in the community
- Physical improvements such as separated bike infrastructure and pedestrian crossing treatments also ranked high for safety improvements

Facilitated Discussion

Group responses have been summarized below

Question 1: What project or initiative would have the biggest impact on traffic safety?

Traffic Calming

- road diet
- bumpouts
- raised crosswalks
- stop signs

Traffic Safety Enforcement

- speed cameras
- red light cameras
- police monitoring traffic/traffic safety patrol vehicles

Improved infrastructure and regular maintenance

- separated bike lanes
- better striping at crosswalks
- better lighting
- repair potholes

Question 2: Describe a place that feels safe and comfortable traveling along.

- A street that clearly and safely separates people walking, biking, rolling, and driving
- A street with low to moderate traffic moving at slow speeds
- A street with wide sidewalks and business activity where cars drive slower
- Pedestrians, cyclists, drivers, and all road users respect each other's spaces and the community where they live or pass through
- Public green spaces like parks that accommodate multiple leisure activities
- Walking through the park
- Traveling on DuSable Lake Shore Drive

We appreciate the time and energy dedicated to helping the Vision Zero team gain a better understanding of your traffic concerns. Sign up for project updates and learn about upcoming engagement opportunities at:

chicagocompletestreets.org/visionzerosouthside



Contact us

Michael Kent, Vision Zero Coordinator, CDOT
michael.kent@cityofchicago.org

Stacey Meekins, Project Manager, Sam Schwartz
smeekins@samschwartz.com

**Romina Castillo, Community Engagement Lead,
MUSE Community + Design**
romina@musecommunitydesign.com