



Summer 2019 Active Transportation Survey Summary

Designed, Performed, and Summarized by the
SSMN Active Transportation Committee

SUSTAINABLE



STILLWATER
MINNESOTA



Summer 2019 Active Transportation Survey Summary



1/12/2020

Sustainable Stillwater MN

OUR VISION: A sustainable, healthy life for all in Stillwater, MN.

OUR MISSION: Support initiatives that promote social, economic, and environmental resiliency in Stillwater, MN.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION WORKGROUP:

The active transportation workgroup aims to increase active transportation like cycling and walking and to reduce the use of carbon emitting vehicles.

About the “Summer 2019 Active Transportation Survey”

What the survey is:

- A general, initial survey within Stillwater to capture themes about transportation preferences within the community
- A guide to create dialog with city leaders and residents about community transportation preferences

What the survey is NOT:

- A highly statistical representation of Stillwater to represent a form of “vote” for change
- A thorough, in depth, analysis to determine specific preferences within community demographic groups
- Intended to replace or override any other community development or planning survey

How the survey was designed

Four main question categories:

- Traffic
- Pedestrians and biking
- Parking
- Shuttle and/or bus service

Interviewee basic demographics captured:

- Stillwater Business employee/owner
- Stillwater resident
- Visitor to Stillwater

Survey was offered in two methods:

- On-line survey
- Personal, solicited interviews

How the survey was designed

Subcategories for questions:

- **Traffic**
 - Heavy truck traffic
 - Speed limits
 - Speed enforcement
 - Traffic noise
- **Pedestrians**
 - Crosswalks
 - Sidewalks

Subcategories for questions:

- **Bicycling**
 - Bicycle friendliness
- **Parking**
 - Main street parking
 - Electric car accessibility
- **Shuttle and/or bus service**
 - Shuttle service options

Who responded to the survey?

On-line survey (total)

445 responses

- Stillwater resident 373, (83.8%)
- Stillwater business 36, (8.1%)
- Non-Stillwater/visitor 58, (13%)

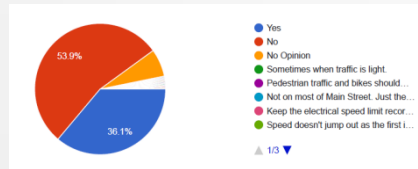
Personal, solicited survey

21 responses

- Stillwater resident 6, (28.6%)
- Stillwater business 7, (33.3%)
- Non-Stillwater/visitor 8, (38.1%)

Analysis and Scoring

Format of Summary:



On-line survey

Actual Pie chart
from on-line
survey summary

On-line:
36.1% Yes
53.9% No
6.7% N.O.

% Summary of
on-line survey,
using only Yes,
No, and No
Opinion
responses (as a %
of all **on-line**
responses only)

Solicited:
14% Yes
67% No
19% N.O.

% Summary of
solicited survey,
using only Yes,
No, and No
Opinion
responses (as a %
of all **solicited**
responses only)

OVERALL:
35.1% Yes
54.4% No

% Summary of
both surveys,
using only Yes
and No,
responses (as a %
of **total**
responses from
both surveys)

**Moderate
No**



Suggested signal
from TOTAL survey
responses
(combined surveys)

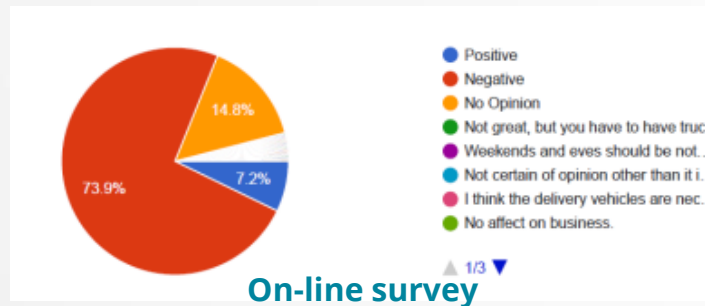
< 10% difference
=Inconclusive

10%-20% difference
=Moderate

>20% difference
=Strong

Category 1, Traffic

1. Do you think that heavy truck traffic is a positive or negative to downtown business?



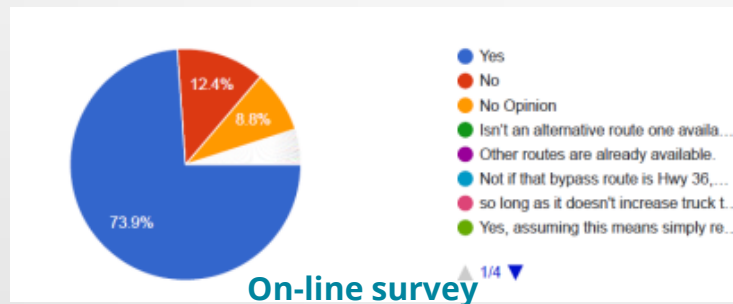
On-line:
7.2% Pos.
73.9% Neg.
14.8% No Op.

Solicited:
0% Pos.
48% Neg.
52% No Op.

OVERALL:
6.8% Positive
72.7% Negative

**Strong
Negative**

2. Would you be in favor of a bypass route around Stillwater for truck traffic going to and from the new bridge?



On-line:
73.9% Yes
12.4% No
8.8% N.O.

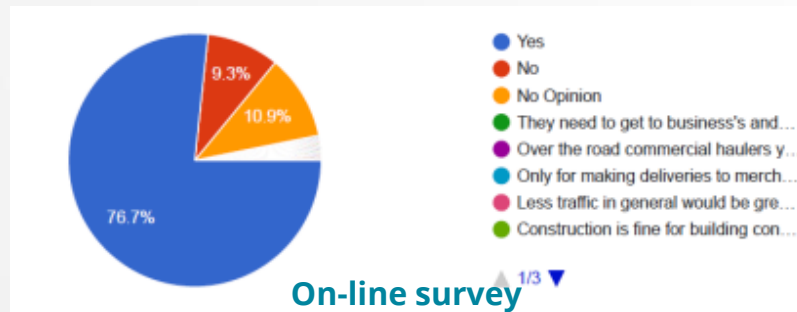
Solicited:
95% Yes
0% No
5% N.O.

OVERALL:
74.8% Yes
11.8% No

**Strong
Yes**

Category 1, Traffic

3. Would you like to see fewer if any heavy trucks passing through downtown?



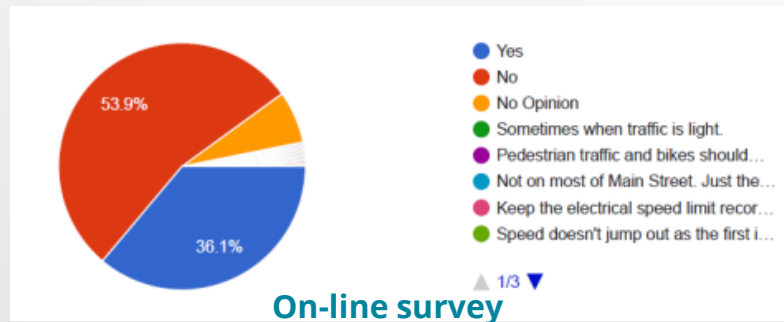
On-line:
76.7% Yes
9.3% No
10.9% N.O.

Solicited:
71% Yes
5% No
24% N.O.

OVERALL:
76.4% Yes
9.1% No

**Strong
Yes**

4. Do you think that traffic speed is an issue on Main Street Stillwater?



On-line:
36.1% Yes
53.9% No
6.7% N.O.

Solicited:
14% Yes
67% No
19% N.O.

OVERALL:
35.1% Yes
54.4% No

**Moderate
No**

Category 1, Traffic

5. Do you think that traffic speed is an issue in Stillwater residential areas?

NO CHART

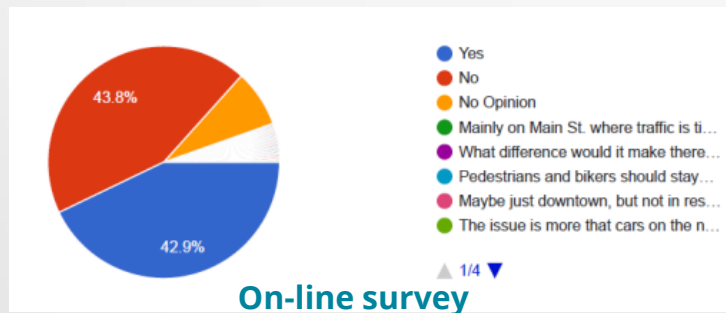
On-line:
41.3% Yes
40.9% No
15.3% N.O.

Solicited:
5% Yes
38% No
57% N.O.

OVERALL:
39.8% Yes
40.9% No

Inconclusive

6. Do you think that the speed limit in Stillwater downtown and in residential areas should be lowered from 30 mph to 25 mph?



On-line:
42.9% Yes
43.8% No
7.9% N.O.

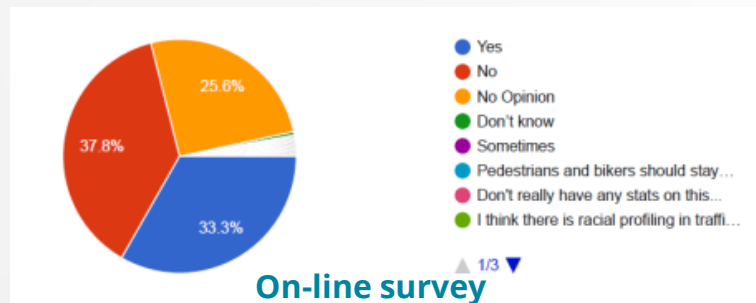
Solicited:
57% Yes
19% No
24% N.O.

OVERALL:
43.5% Yes
42.6% No

Inconclusive

Category 1, Traffic

7. Do you think speed limits are adequately enforced in Stillwater?



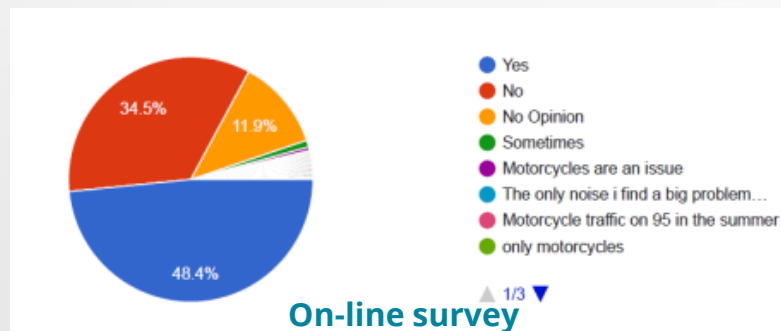
On-line:
33.3% Yes
37.8% No
25.6% N.O.

Solicited:
24% Yes
24% No
52% N.O.

OVERALL:
32.8% Yes
37.1% No

Inconclusive

8. Do you think traffic noise is an issue in downtown Stillwater and Main



On-line:
48.4% Yes
34.5% No
11.9% N.O.

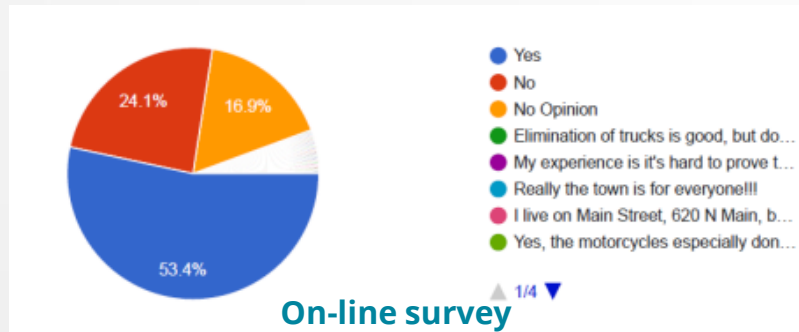
Solicited:
33% Yes
38% No
29% N.O.

OVERALL:
47.7% Yes
34.6% No

**Moderate
Yes**

Category 1, Traffic

9. Would you like to see Stillwater do more to control loud vehicle noises from trucks, cars, and motorcycles in downtown?



On-line:
53.4% Yes
24.1% No
16.9% N.O.

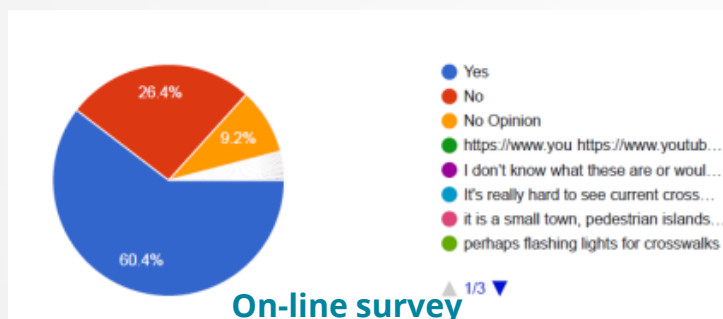
Solicited:
43% Yes
19% No
38% N.O.

OVERALL:
52.9% Yes
23.8% No

**Strong
Yes**

Category 2, Pedestrians

10. Should Stillwater have better pedestrian crosswalks downtown with safer, more modern features?



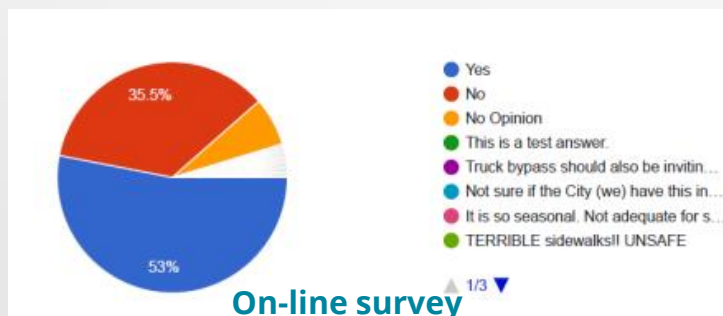
On-line:
60.4% Yes
26.4% No
9.2% N.O.

Solicited:
71% Yes
14% No
14% N.O.

OVERALL:
60.9% Yes
25.8% No

**Strong
Yes**

11. Do you think the current sidewalks are adequate for pedestrian volume and traffic downtown?



On-line:
53.0% Yes
35.5% No
6.7% N.O.

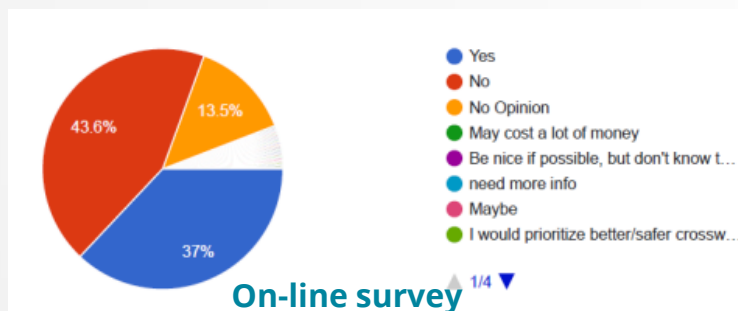
Solicited:
52% Yes
33% No
14% N.O.

OVERALL:
53.0% Yes
35.4% No

**Moderate
Yes**

Category 2, Pedestrians

12. Should Stillwater increase sidewalk width to support the pedestrian volume (especially on weekends) and improve the pedestrian experience?



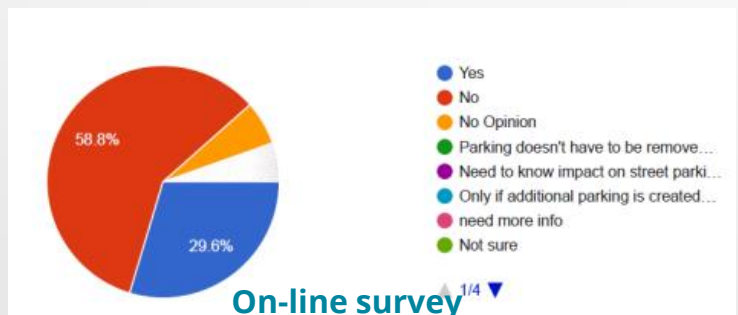
On-line:
37.0% Yes
43.5% No
13.5% N.O.

Solicited:
43% Yes
33% No
24% N.O.

OVERALL:
37.3% Yes
43.1% No

Inconclusive

13. Would you support wider sidewalks even if it meant removing some on-street parking?



On-line:
29.6% Yes
58.8% No
6.1% N.O.

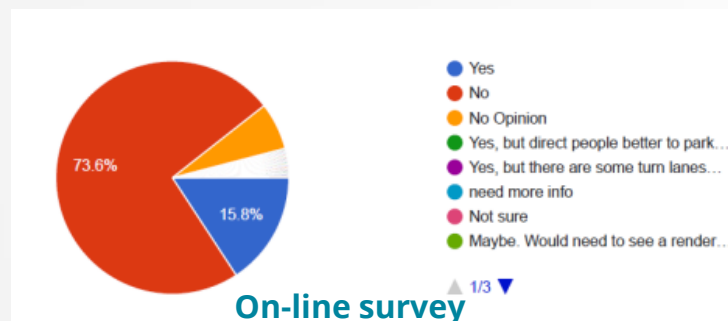
Solicited:
43% Yes
33% No
24% N.O.

OVERALL:
30.2% Yes
59.6% No

Strong No

Category 2, Pedestrians

14. Would you support increased sidewalk width even if it meant removal of turn lanes?



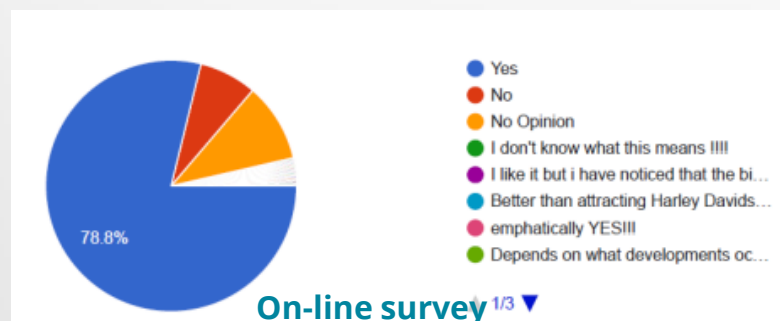
On-line:
15.8% Yes
73.6% No
6.5% N.O.

Solicited:
29% Yes
38% No
33% N.O.

OVERALL:
16.3% Yes
72.0% No

**Strong
No**

15. Do you think it is good that Stillwater is becoming a “destination city” for weekend bicyclists?



On-line:
78.8% Yes
7.4% No
10.1% N.O.

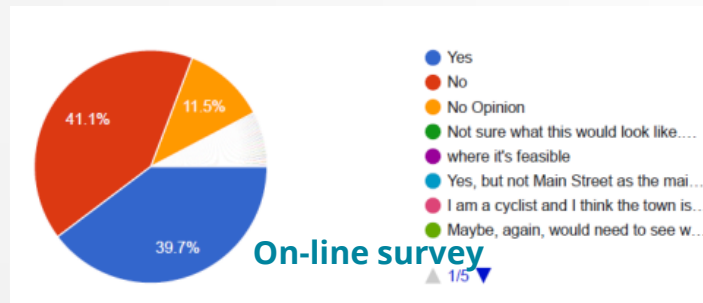
Solicited:
90% Yes
0% No
10% N.O.

OVERALL:
79.3% Yes
7.1% No

**Strong
Yes**

Category 2, Pedestrians

16. Should Stillwater also create bike lanes on city streets for better bike accessibility through downtown for visitors and residents?



On-line:

39.7% Yes
41.1% No
11.5% N.O.

Solicited:

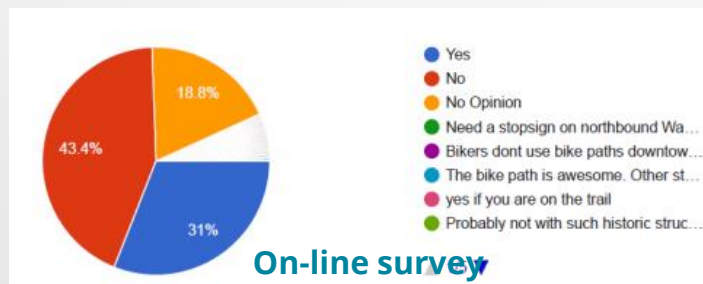
52% Yes
43% No
5% N.O.

OVERALL:

40.3% Yes
41.2% No

Inconclusive

17. Do you think that downtown Stillwater is properly configured and safe for biking?



On-line:

31.0% Yes
43.4% No
18.8% N.O.

Solicited:

10% Yes
76% No
14% N.O.

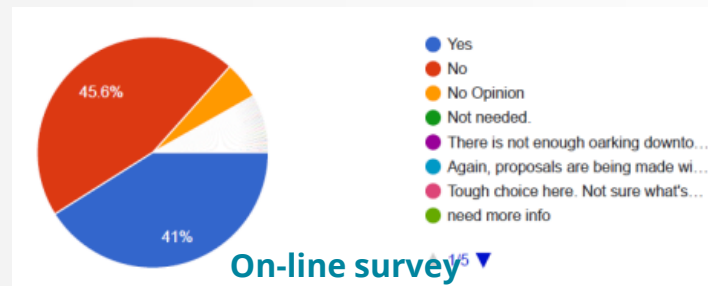
OVERALL:

30.0% Yes
47.1% No

**Moderate
No**

Category 3, Parking

18. Would you be in favor of removing parking from one side of Main Street in order to prioritize walking and biking (expanded sidewalk, more trees, bike lanes, etc.)



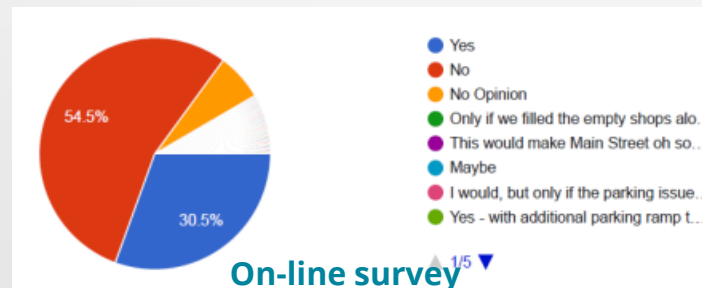
On-line:
41.0% Yes
45.6% No
5.2% N.O.

Solicited:
43% Yes
43% No
14% N.O.

OVERALL:
41.1% Yes
45.5% No

Inconclusive

19. Would you consider removing both lanes of parallel parking on Main Street to create a more "boulevard" look?



On-line:
30.5% Yes
54.5% No
6.5% N.O.

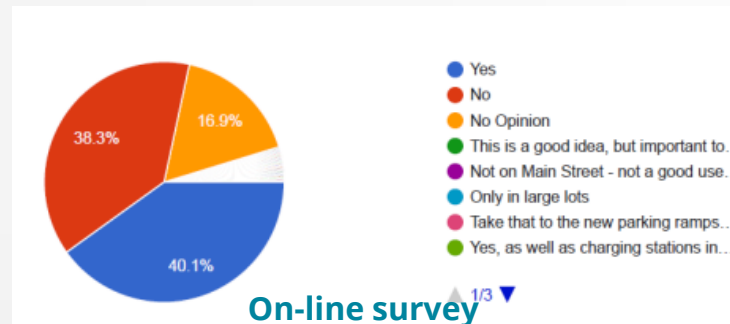
Solicited:
29% Yes
52% No
19% N.O.

OVERALL:
30.4% Yes
54.4% No

Strong No

Category 3, Parking

20. Should some downtown parking spaces be equipped with charging stations and reserved for electric cars?



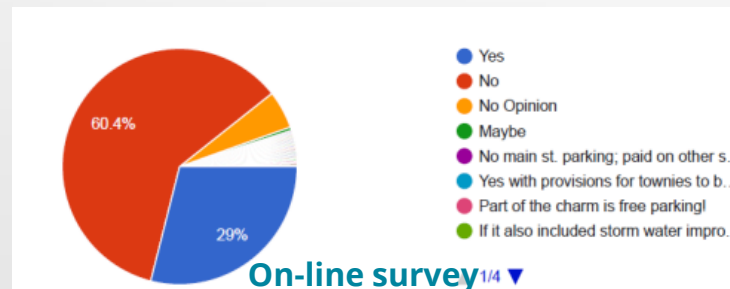
On-line:
40.1% Yes
38.3% No
16.9% N.O.

Solicited:
62% Yes
19% No
19% N.O.

OVERALL:
41.1% Yes
37.4% No

Inconclusive

21. Would you be in favor of converting premium street parking to paid metered parking if the money would be used for downtown pedestrian and biking improvements.



On-line:
29.0% Yes
60.4% No
6.5% N.O.

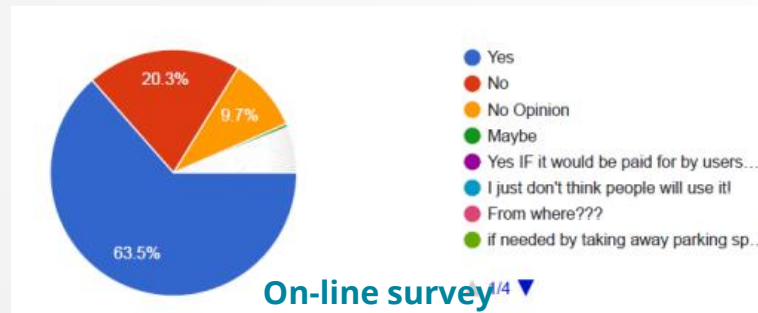
Solicited:
38% Yes
48% No
14% N.O.

OVERALL:
29.4% Yes
59.8% No

Strong No

Category 4, Shuttle Service

22. Should Stillwater create a seasonal weekend shuttle service to downtown so visitors can park their cars a distance away from downtown?



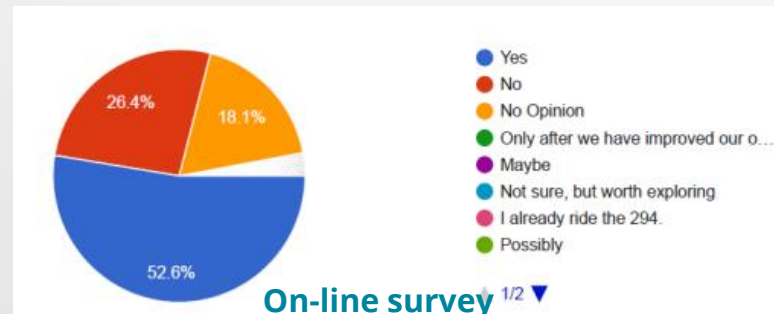
On-line:
63.5% Yes
20.3% No
9.7% N.O.

Solicited:
76% Yes
10% No
14% N.O.

OVERALL:
61.4% Yes
19.8% No

**Strong
Yes**

23. Would you like to see Stillwater create better mass transit connections within Stillwater and to other areas of the metro area?



On-line:
52.6% Yes
26.4% No
18.1% N.O.

Solicited:
71% Yes
14% No
14% N.O.

OVERALL:
53.4% Yes
25.9% No

**Strong
Yes**

Results - Summary

Strong Signal:

1. Do you think that heavy truck traffic is a positive or negative to downtown business? **NEGATIVE**
2. Would you be in favor of a bypass route around Stillwater for truck traffic going to and from the new bridge? **YES**
3. Would you like to see fewer if any heavy trucks passing through downtown? **YES**
9. Would you like to see Stillwater do more to control loud vehicle noises from trucks, cars, and motorcycles in downtown? **YES**
10. Should Stillwater have better pedestrian crosswalks downtown with safer, more modern features? **YES**
13. Would you support wider sidewalks even if it meant removing some on-street parking? **NO**
14. Would you support increased sidewalk width even if it meant removal of turn lanes? **NO**

Results - Summary

Strong Signal:

- 15.** Do you think it is good that Stillwater is becoming a “destination city” for weekend bicyclists? **YES**
- 19.** Would you consider removing both lanes of parallel parking on Main Street to create a more “boulevard” look? **NO**
- 21.** Would you be in favor of converting premium street parking to paid metered parking if the money would be used for downtown pedestrian and biking improvements. **NO**
- 22.** Should Stillwater create a seasonal weekend shuttle service to downtown so visitors can park their cars a distance away from downtown? **YES**
- 23.** Would you like to see Stillwater create better mass transit connections within Stillwater and to other areas of the metro area? **YES**

Results - Summary

Moderate Signal:

- 4. Do you think that traffic speed is an issue on Main Street Stillwater? **NO**
- 8. Do you think traffic noise is an issue in downtown Stillwater and Main Street? **YES**
- 11. Do you think the current sidewalks are adequate for pedestrian volume and traffic downtown?
YES
- 17. Do you think that downtown Stillwater is properly configured and safe for biking? **NO**

Observations

1. There can be a bias to any survey and this is not the exception. There are no “repeat” responses, but the survey results are overwhelmingly from “Stillwater Residents”
2. The “Stillwater Resident” responses can be influenced by how much time they spend downtown, why they visit downtown, whether they park downtown, and whether they personally bicycle. Responding that something is an issue, is personalized as to whether it is an issue to “them”.
3. There is a definite grouping of respondents who support the “status quo”. Approximately 32 respondents (7.2%) had between 94% - 100% universal responses across the survey as positive to the “current state” and negative to all potential changes. This is not a comment that their response is not valid, only that it is an observation.

Observations

4. The survey did not intend to dive into complex issues and discussions on “how to” solve the complex issues. Questions about parking (when asked at the “solicited” surveys) were influenced by alternate solutions. Any question about changes to sidewalks that could affect parking had comments such as “but where would the parking go”. When discussed with the respondents, the vision of change is more positive when assuming that there would be an alternate solution to the other, underlying issue.
5. Main Street traffic noise was generally seen as a negative, however some respondents commented that even though they did not like the noise, they were concerned about the loss of downtown business if the traffic noise was curtailed.

Observations

6. Bicycling in downtown can be misunderstood. Respondents overwhelmingly were positive to Stillwater being a bicycle “destination city”, but because the survey was random, there is no way of knowing how many of the respondents were actually bicyclists themselves, or understood the current state.

During the personal, solicited surveys, most bicyclists (predominately visitors to Stillwater) did not feel that downtown was conducive to bicyclists. However, residents and business owners who were not bicycling, did not feel that there were any issues, and sometimes responded that “bicyclists should stay off the roads anyway”. This is a possible gap in this survey based on the personal perceptions of individuals based on whether they personally bicycle.

Observations

7. There were comments about the downtown sidewalks on Main Street that even when respondents felt they did not want to change traffic flow or parking to expand the sidewalk width, even with the current sidewalk width, the sidewalk pedestrian flow can be enhanced by removing objects and clutter from the sidewalks.
8. The survey shows that even though there was not a strong desire to change the current sidewalk width, Main Street parking, and turn lanes, there is a strong signal that the pedestrian crossing patterns on Main Street needed improvement.

For more information or
questions regarding this
survey, contact:

SustainableStillwaterMN@gmail.com

