

SW 153rd Improvement Survey Business Owners

Burien Business & Economic Development
Partnership (BEDP)



94

Total Number of Business Owners on SW 153rd

40

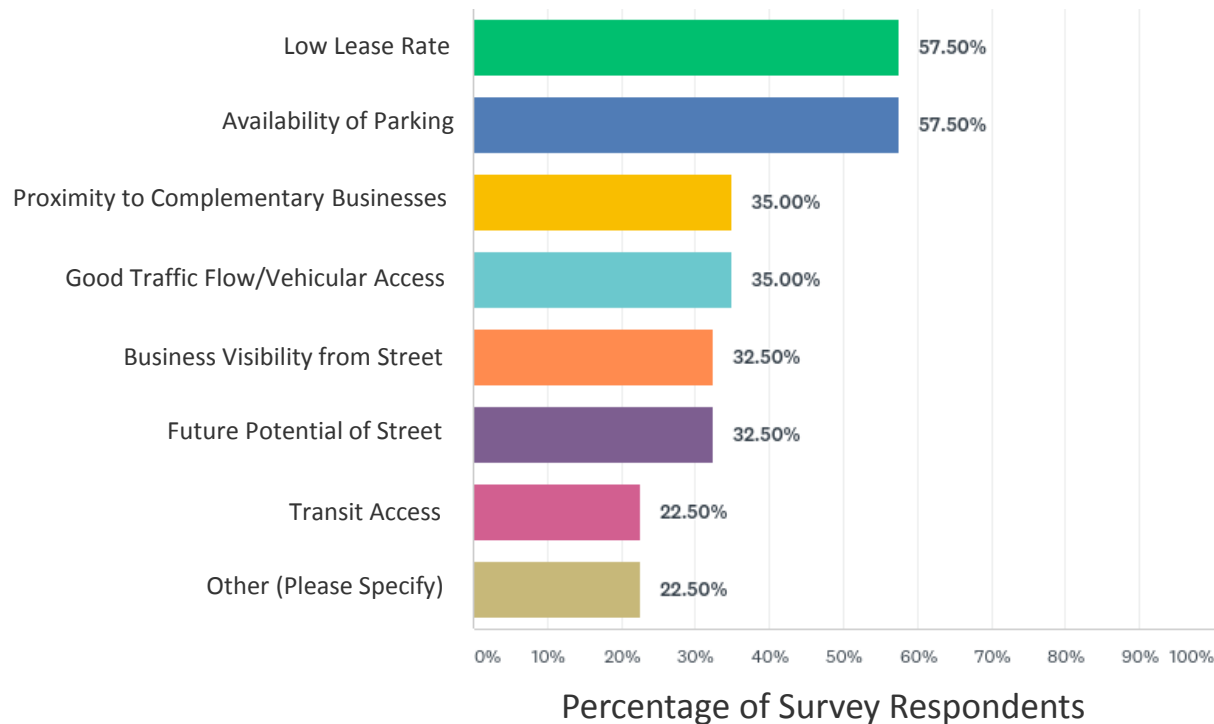
Total Responses to Survey from Business Owners

43%

Survey Response Rate

Question 1: What attracted you to SW 153rd to locate your business? What keeps your business here? Please select all that apply.

Answered: 40 Skipped: 0

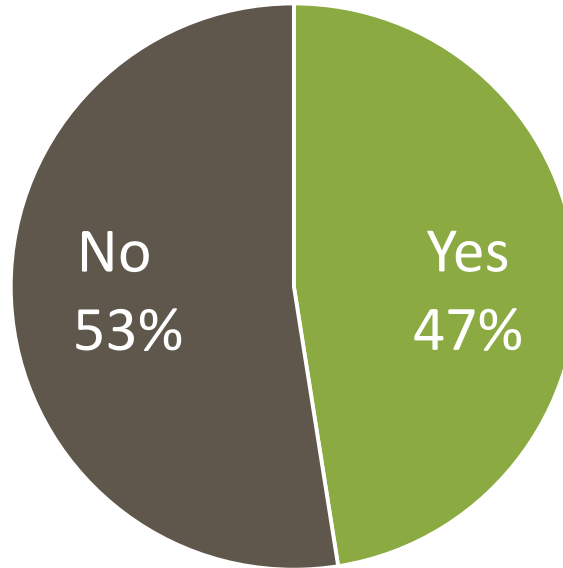


Question 1 (cont) : “Other - Please Specify” **Open-ended responses**

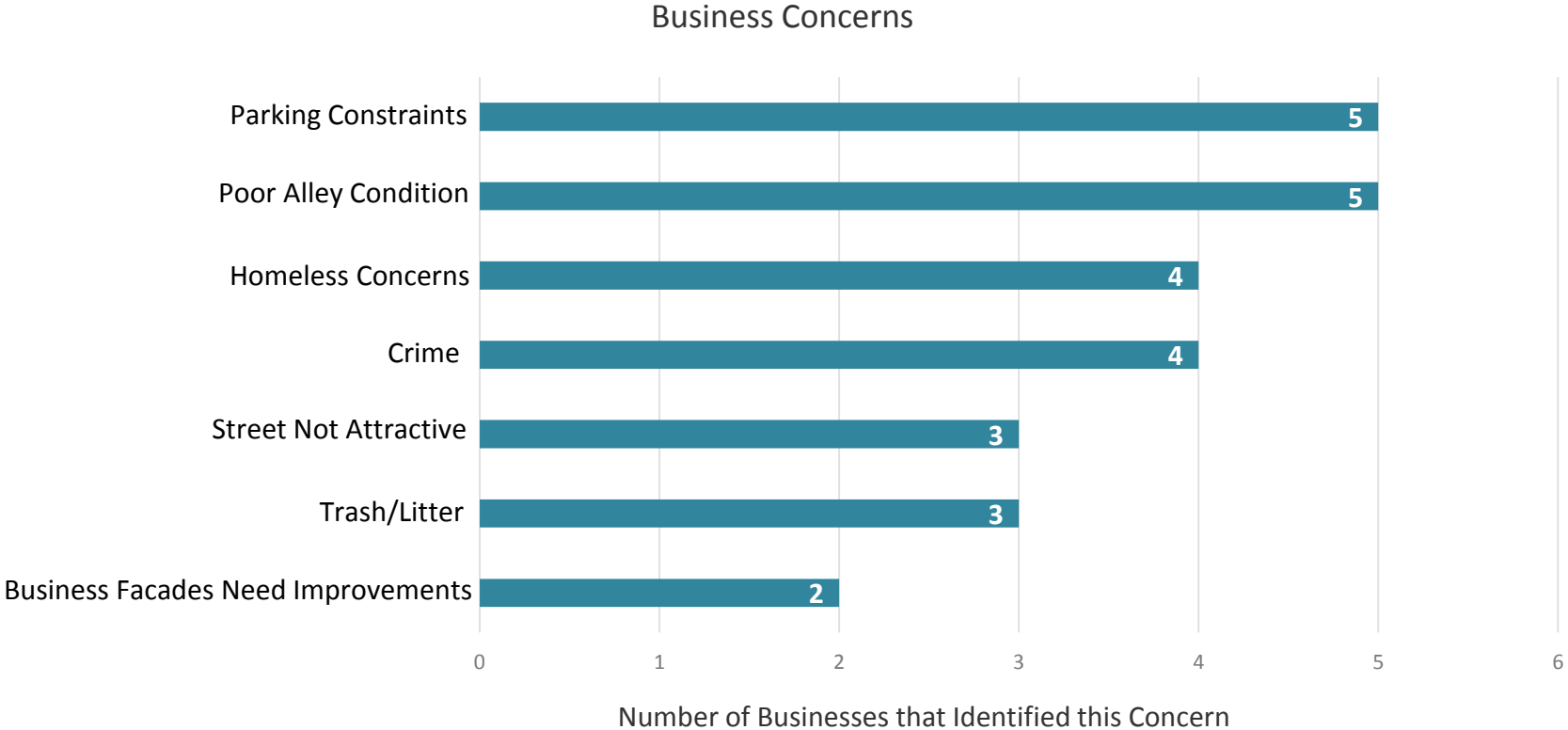
- Close to home. I grew up in Burien and graduated from Highline High School. My family and friends are in the Burien area. Also, proximity to the airport and I-5 for my business travel.
- Centrally located for what we do
- Our business has been operating since 1953. It's been in the current location since 1953. We worked for the previous owners for 10 years and purchased the business from them when they opted to retire.
- Property was in the family for 30 years
- It was already established here
- We managed the property.
- Proximity to home
- Purchase cost of an existing building
- The street looks very abandoned. Put more decor like on 152nd.

Question 2: Are you experiencing any issues or challenges with doing business on SW 153rd that are negatively impacting your business?

Answered: 40 Skipped: 0



Question 2 (cont): “If Yes, challenges I face include: ” Major Themes

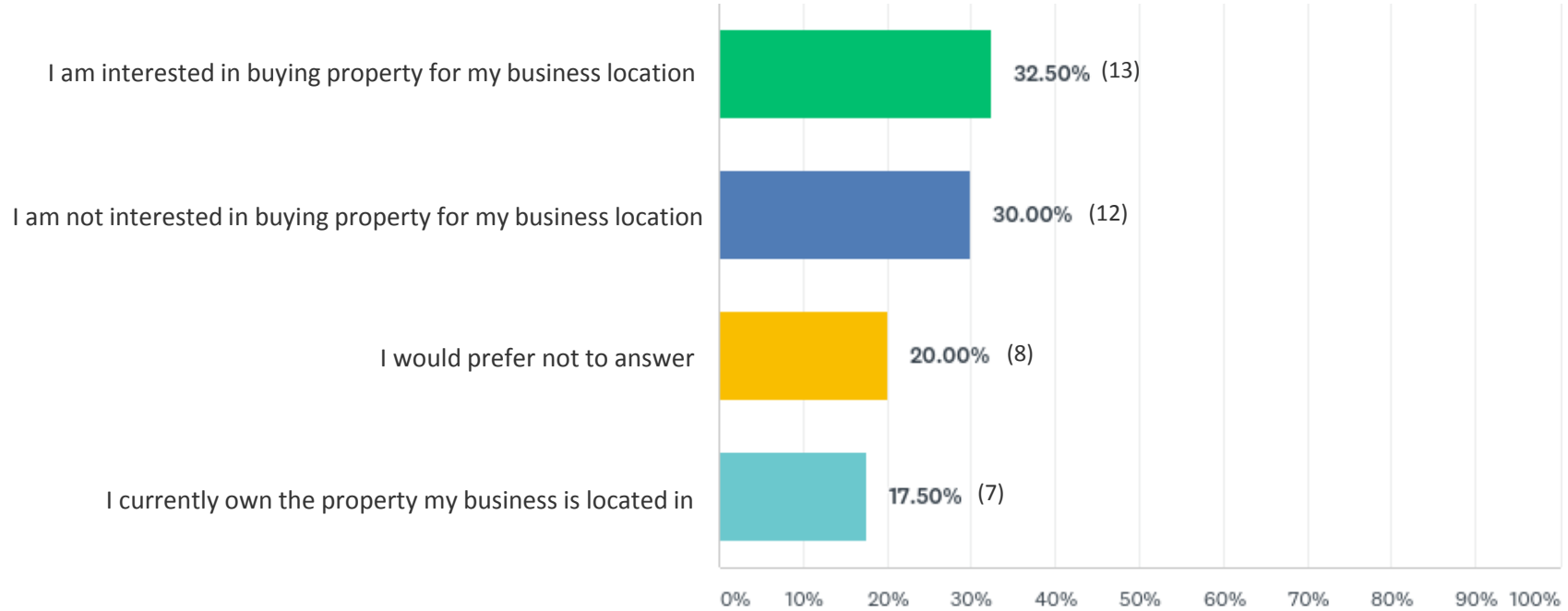


Question 2 (cont): “If Yes...challenges I face include:” **Open-ended responses**

- Parking is severely limited during peak times
- Alley way is dirty, and lots of homeless using it for a bathroom
- The street is not very attractive
- Parking issues, graffiti in the alley, vandalism
- Litter, graffiti, and general filth from people camping in alley
- As 153rd is not the main street (152nd), it can be difficult for potential consumers to know where we are. And there isn't much foot traffic
- Problems with graffiti and non customers hanging out in back ally of 153rd street
- Trash pile up and parking
- The street looks trashy and low class - the property owners don't enhance the old buildings and it just contributes to the over all look
- People have trouble finding it due to the sign on the window is not visible enough to read from the street
- The drug addicts scare if potential customers
- We have dog grooming business by us whose customers have their dogs poop and pee in front of our office, on the sidewalk, and by our door and don't clean it up. I picked up dog poop from the sidewalk this morning
- The type of businesses that move in - and out
- The aesthetics of the business storefronts could be improved
- Druggies and homeless using alley in back makes it dangerous to go in the alley & could use some trees for shade along the street
- Homeless people used to loiter in adjacent lot
- Lots of presence of homelessness people around especially library's
- Patrons of other businesses in the area parking in the lot that goes with our business
- Careless drivers (speeding). Poor sidewalk conditions. Need for more parking (there is a private parking lot across the street that the city should acquire and build a parking garage. Some plants/trees along the sidewalk way would improve the curb appeal immensely. A lot of dead parking space privately owned that could be used to update the street with center street curbing and plants - would help slow down traffic, give better curb appeal for existing businesses (starting to show they are suffering / leaving)

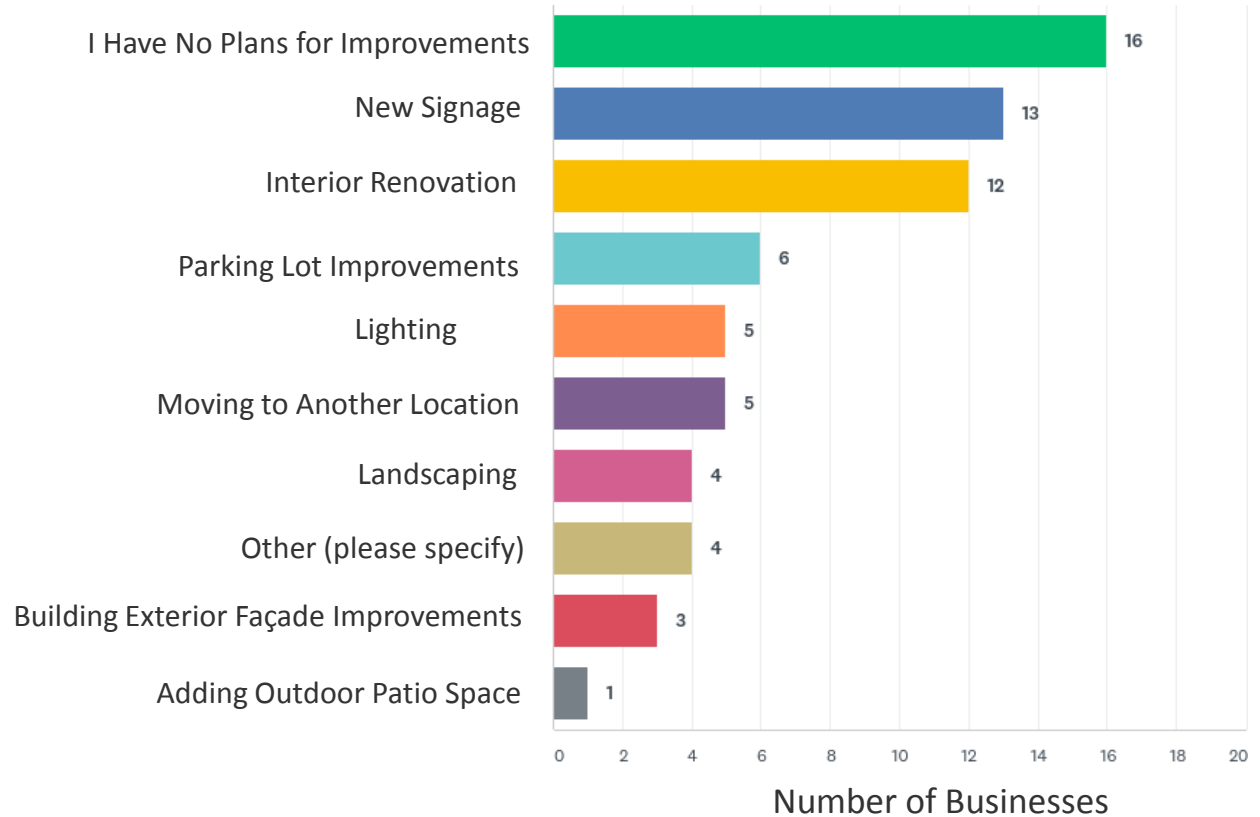
Question 3: If you currently lease building space for your business, are you interested in buying property?

Answered: 40 Skipped: 0



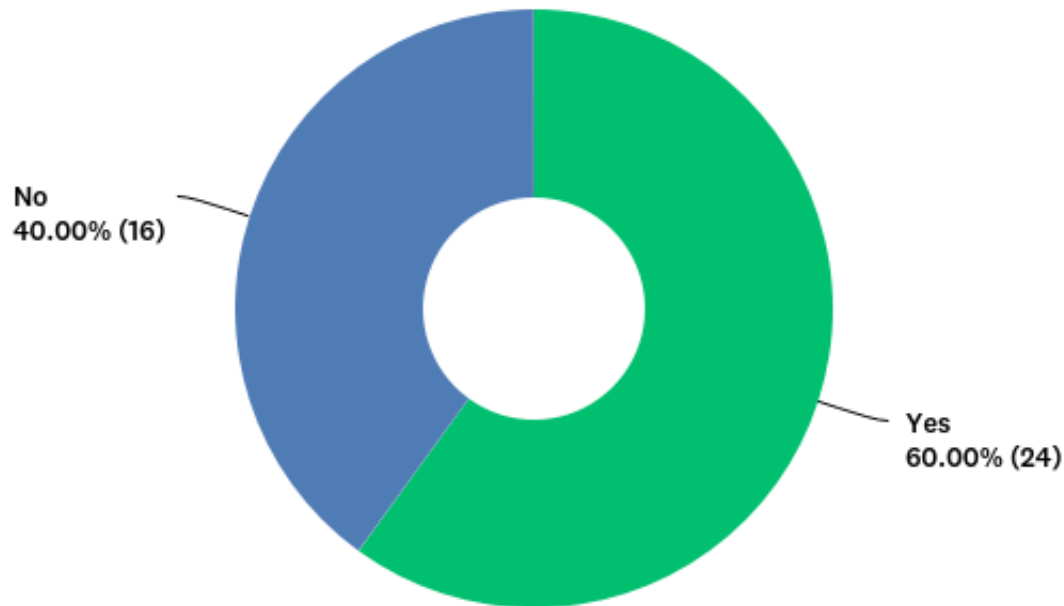
Question 4: What types of physical improvements do you have planned for your business/property in the next 1-5 years? Please select all that apply.

Answered: 40 Skipped: 0



Question 5: Would you like to receive more information about how you may be able to improve your properties' visual appeal?

Answered: 40 Skipped: 0



Question 6: Would more City sponsored activities or events held on SW 153rd be a benefit to your business? Examples might include a parade, or other seasonal themed events.

Answered: 40 Skipped: 0



Question 7: A previous City study recommended ‘a theme and a strong unique vision be created to unify the businesses and brand the corridor’ on SW 153rd. Below are photo examples of artwork and urban design that has been utilized in other cities to create a neighborhood identity. Should the City work to encourage an identity or ‘theme’ for SW 153rd?

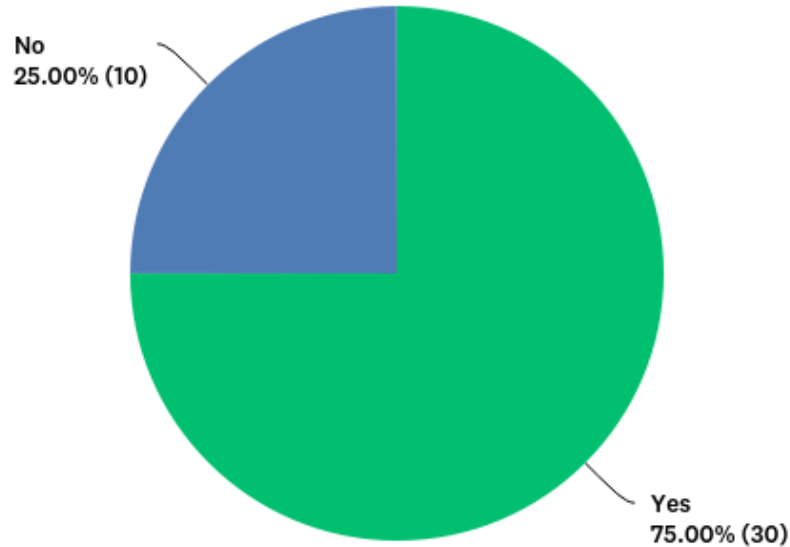


Q7: Photo Examples

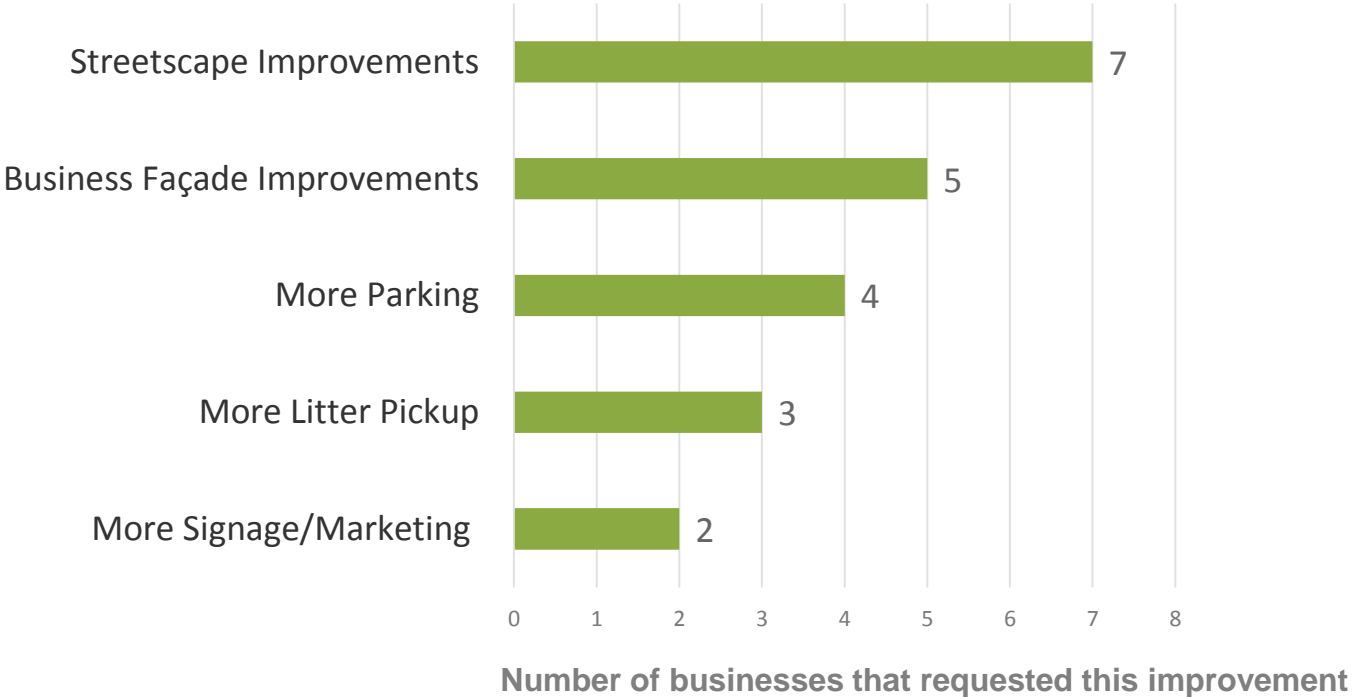


Question 7 (cont): A previous City study recommended ‘a theme and a strong unique vision be created to unify the businesses and brand the corridor’ on SW 153rd. Below are photo examples of artwork and urban design that has been utilized in other cities to create a neighborhood identity. Should the City work to encourage an identity or ‘theme’ for SW 153rd?

Q7: Survey Results



Question 8: What other improvements or changes to SW 153rd street would you like to see? Major Themes

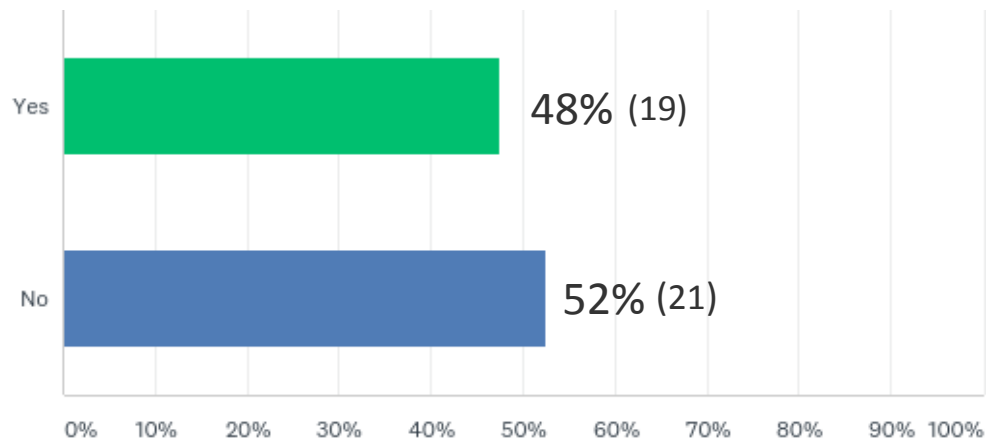


Question 8 (cont): What other improvements or changes to SW 153rd street would you like to see? **Open-ended responses**

- More advertising/promotion
- A little more decoration. Allow businesses to put more publicity outside of the businesses like, for example posters, and flyer or flags
- Stricter and more stringent guidelines for maintaining the facades of businesses and the general cleanliness of the street. 153rd looks "dumpy" at best, and it doesn't help bring new business to the current occupants
- Repair the sidewalks. They are a disaster, especially the South side of the street. Maintain the planters. If they're empty they become trash receptacles
- Property owners taking an active role in cleaning and refurbishing their buildings and the city taking the lead in making them comply
- More parking and better lighting
- There are a lot of business that seem to not be active in the community or open . Would like to see these spaces occupied by more proactive businesses . Also more plants and areas for animals
- cleaner streets and all of the unoccupied offices filled
- Graffiti getting cleaned up faster. Regulation of what storefronts are allowed to do with their storefronts
- Officers presence like walk patrol or bike patrol
- Make a sidewalk on 4th Avenue between 160th and 156th. It is shameful to see Sylvester MS students walking so close to traffic
- 153rd lacks visual appeal. The stores and signage have been around for quite awhile. Perhaps embracing that fact and furthering that look might be interesting...or not.
- The people that pick up garbage, don't come over to our side of the street any more. And they don't really pick up the garbage that well anywhere. Keeping the street free of litter would go a long way.
- Clean it up,
- More large trees planted to shade the road
- Street trees
- Street trees or landscaping to attract more foot traffic
- None
- More Parking
- The option for zone parking on the street.
- Art is not needed - the art community has already embraced 152nd. The same with all city events and parades. Restaurants are popular and bring people downtown so curb appeal and a renovated street/sidewalk/trees would be a big improvement to improve current business and attract new business. If you build (better streets and curb appeal) the businesses will follow. They will not update their buildings until then, they never have and they never will. If the surroundings are nice the new businesses will keep up. Streets and parking need to be first, not "how can I help you spend money on the front of your business". That didn't work when 152nd was updated and won't work with the ugly stepchild either.

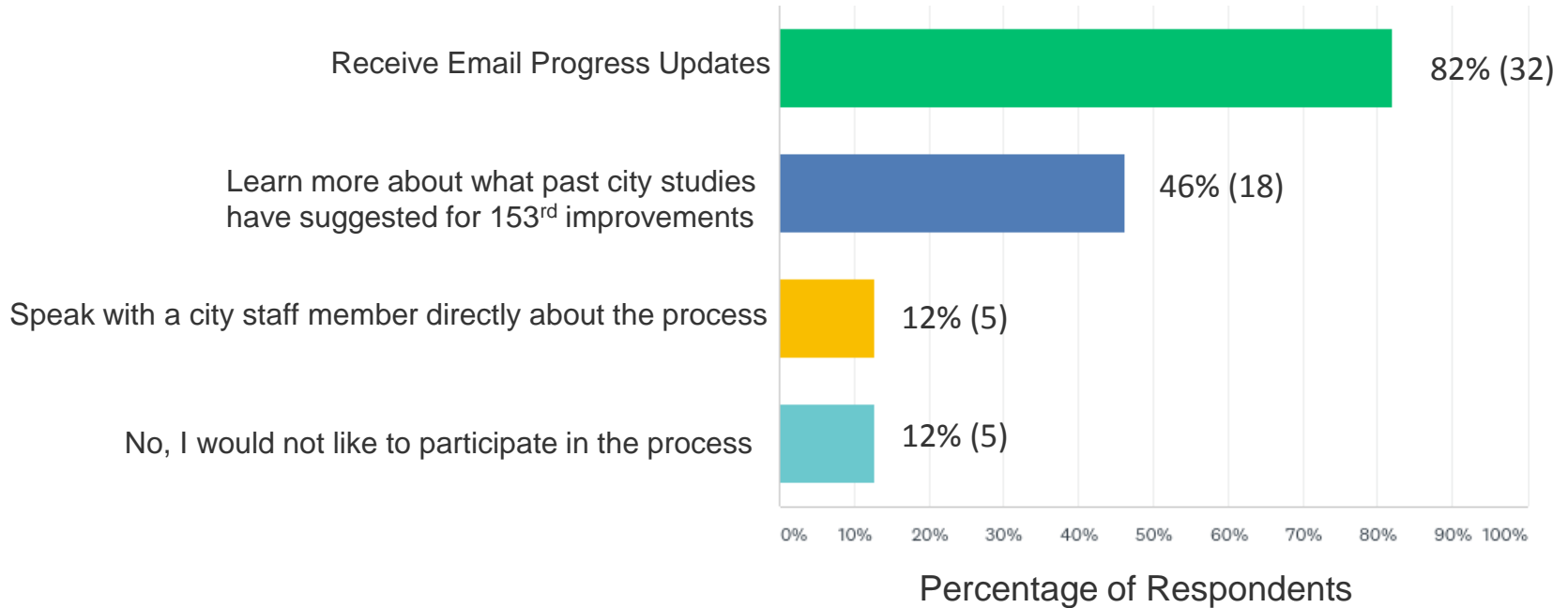
Question 9: Would you be interested in participating in a stakeholder round table discussion about potential improvements to SW 153rd?

Answered: 40 Skipped: 0



Question 10: If you would like to be involved in the 153rd improvement process in other ways, please select the ways in which you would like to participate.

Answered: 39 Skipped: 1



Questions?

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