

Manning Boulevard Street Improvement Project

City of
Albany
New York

Public Meeting #2
November 9th, 2023

Jack Grieshober, RLA

WESTON & SAMPSON
PROJECT MANAGER

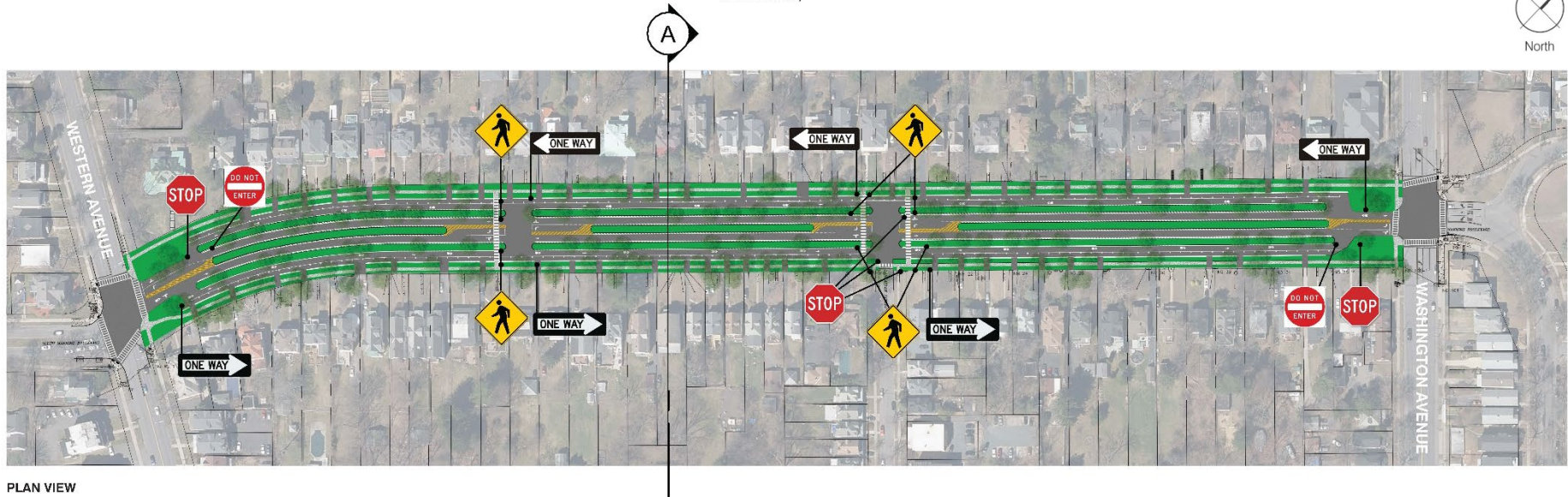
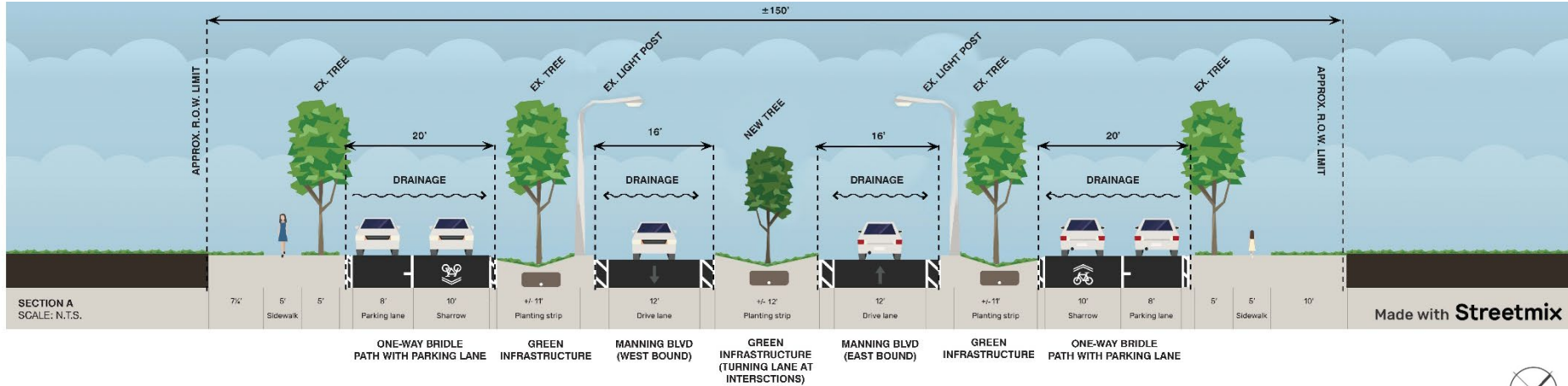
Project Goal & Objectives

- Project Goal: Improve drainage and pedestrian infrastructure along the Manning Boulevard corridor.
- Project Objectives:
 - Regrade & introduce stormwater drainage systems and green infrastructure to the corridor to mitigate flooding of adjacent properties.
 - Provide pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and safety improvements throughout the corridor, including ADA compliant crosswalks, curb ramps, sidewalks, road crossings, and shared lane markings / bicycle route signage.
 - Provide streetscape improvements including tree plantings, vegetated buffers, new curbing, signage, etc.

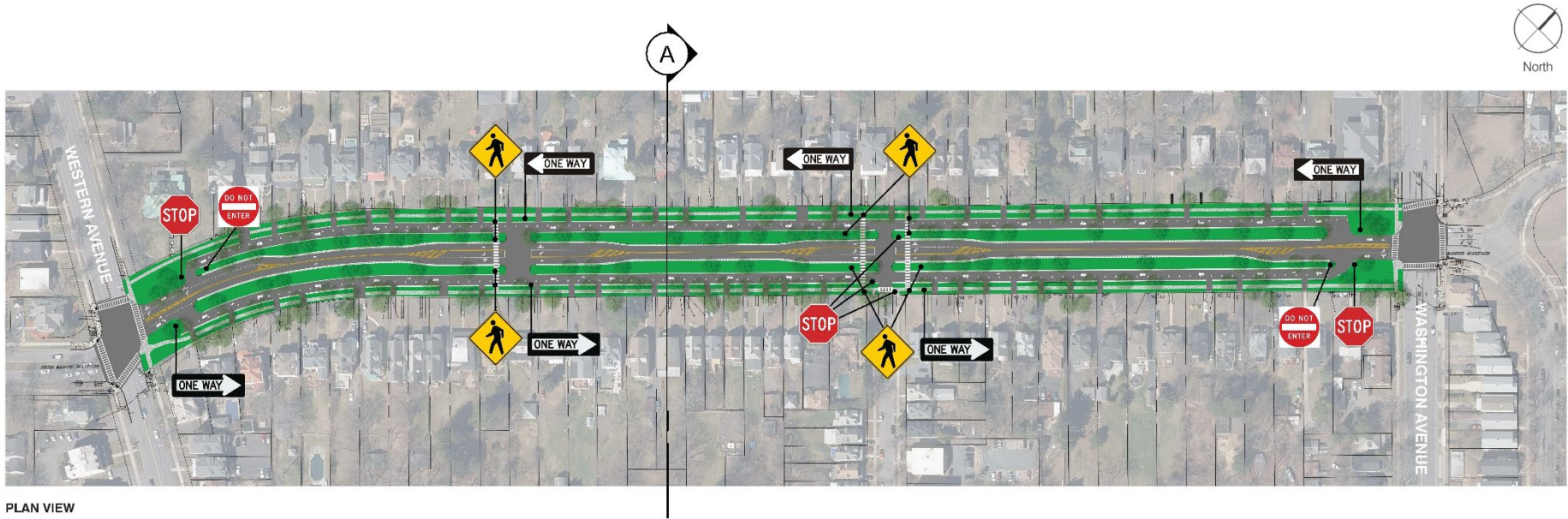
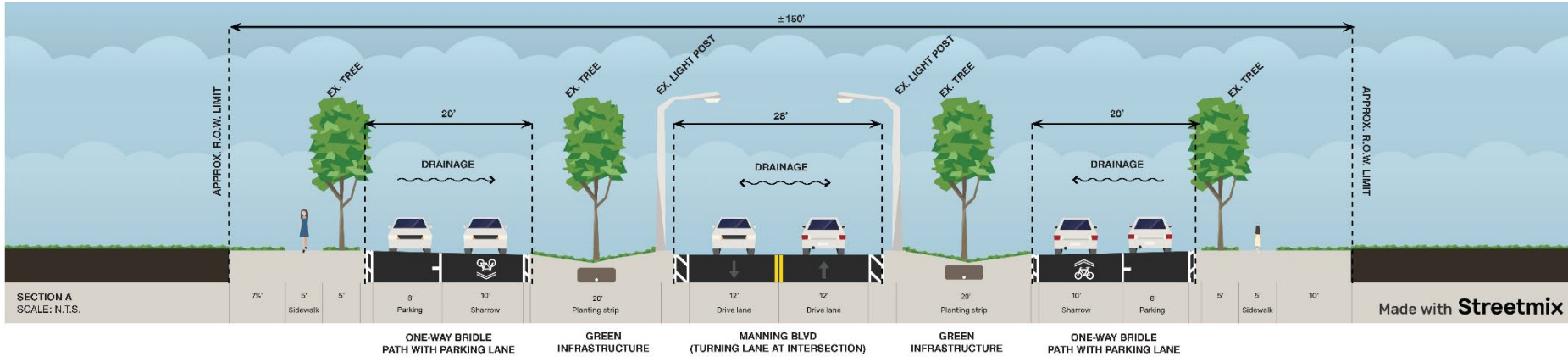
Summary of Public Meeting #1

- Meeting held on August 14th, 2023 at Albany Pine Hills Public Library
- Approximately 30 residents in attendance along with City of Albany representatives
- Presentation included:
 - Project Overview
 - Existing Conditions Summary
 - Presentation of Initial Concept Designs
 - Overview of Project Schedule
- Open Discussion, Questions, Comments

Concept 'A'



Concept 'B'



Summary of Public Meeting #1

- Bridle Paths
 - Dislike conversion to one-way
 - Concerns about winter maintenance
 - Desire for curbing
 - Dislike removal of access points
- Manning Boulevard
 - Concerns over queuing lengths at intersections
 - Concerns about utility improvements within project corridor
 - Some approval for narrowing lanes, suggestions to narrow further
 - Desire for traffic control devices (speed humps, raised crosswalks, signage, etc.)
 - Concerns that safety & convenience were not adequately considered
 - Some approval for green spaces, concerns it may encourage speeding
 - Concerns about tree removals – support for replacing any tree removed with an appropriate replacement
 - Concern over lack of current traffic law enforcement on Manning Boulevard
- Bike / Pedestrian Safety
 - Desire for crosswalk improvements
 - Desire for intersection improvements
 - Desire bump outs / speed bumps
 - Support for bike lanes / infrastructure

Public Survey

- Public Survey introduced at Public Meeting #1
- Open from August 16th through September 7th.
- 56 Total Respondents, 29 of which live within the immediate project area.

The screenshot displays the official website of the Albany Department of General Services. The header features the city's name 'ALBANY' and 'NEW YORK | EST. 1686' alongside a search bar. A left-hand navigation menu lists various infrastructure projects, including 'Micro Surfacing', '2023 National Grid Gas Main Replacements', 'Lark Street Infrastructure Project', '2023 Street Projects', 'New Scotland Avenue Infrastructure Project', 'Brevator Street Improvement Project', 'Past Projects', 'Albany Pedestrian Experience (DRI) - Clinton Avenue/Livingston Avenue & Columbia Street', 'Manning Boulevard Improvement Project', and 'DGS Delivers'. The main content area is titled 'Manning Boulevard Improvement Project' and includes a large photograph of the street with a yellow text overlay. Below the photo, the project title is repeated, followed by sections for 'Project Boundaries' and 'Scope of the Project'.

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Manning Boulevard Improvement Project

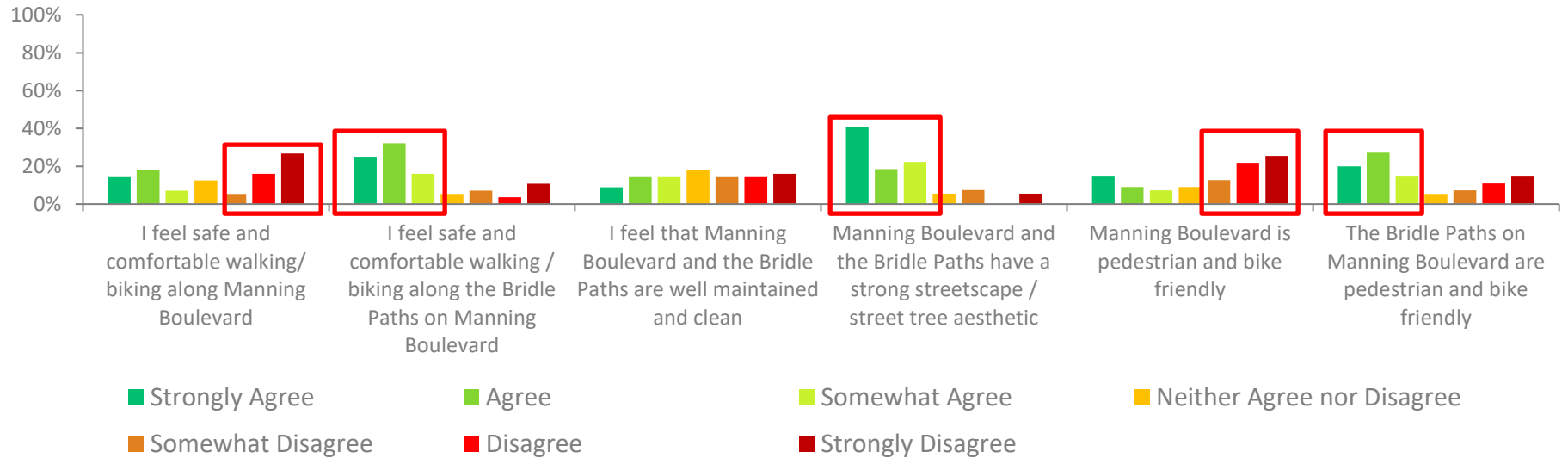
Manning Boulevard Improvement Project

Manning Boulevard Improvement Project

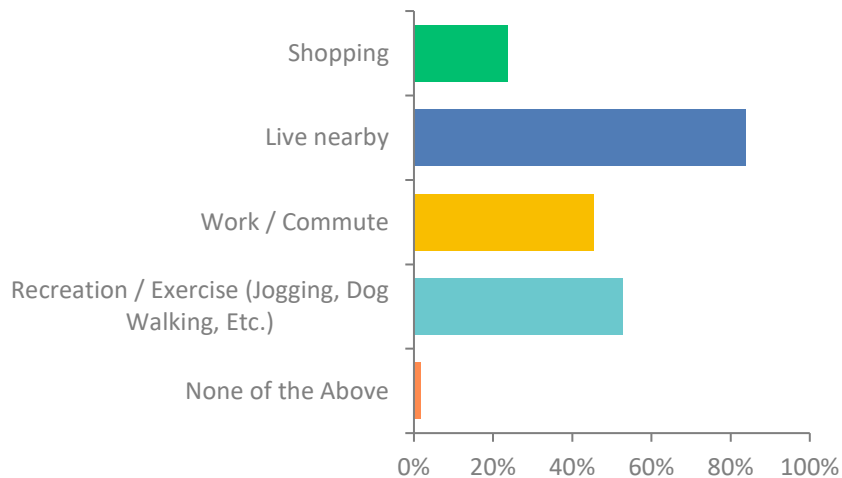
Project Boundaries
Manning Blvd. from Western Avenue to Washington Avenue. The project includes the Bridle Paths on both sides of the street.

Scope of the Project
This project includes transforming the current roadway into a modern pedestrian-friendly roadway that will incorporate complete street elements that will enable safe access for all people including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities.

Q1: To what extent do you agree to the following questions?

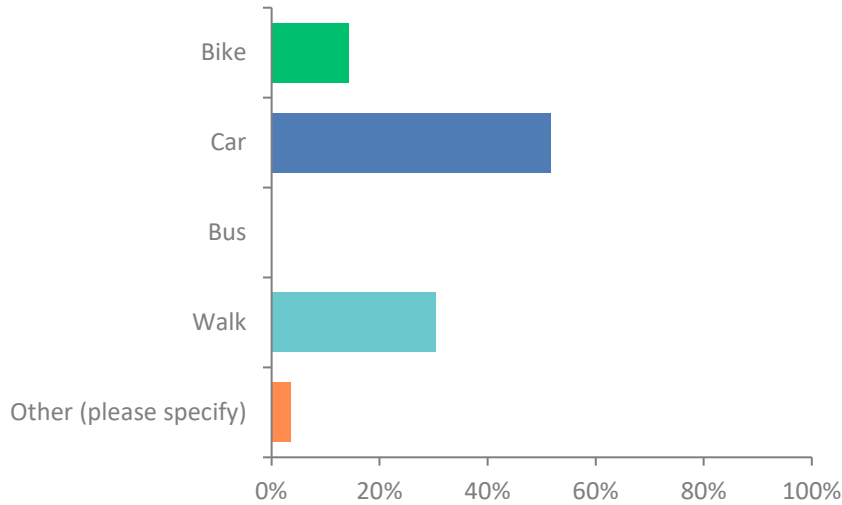


Q2: Why do you typically travel on Manning Boulevard? Check all that apply.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Shopping	23.64%	13
Live nearby	83.64%	46
Work / Commute	45.45%	25
Recreation / Exercise (Jogging, Dog Walking, Etc.)	52.73%	29
None of the Above	1.82%	1
TOTAL		114

Q3: What form of transportation do you use the most when travelling on Manning Boulevard?



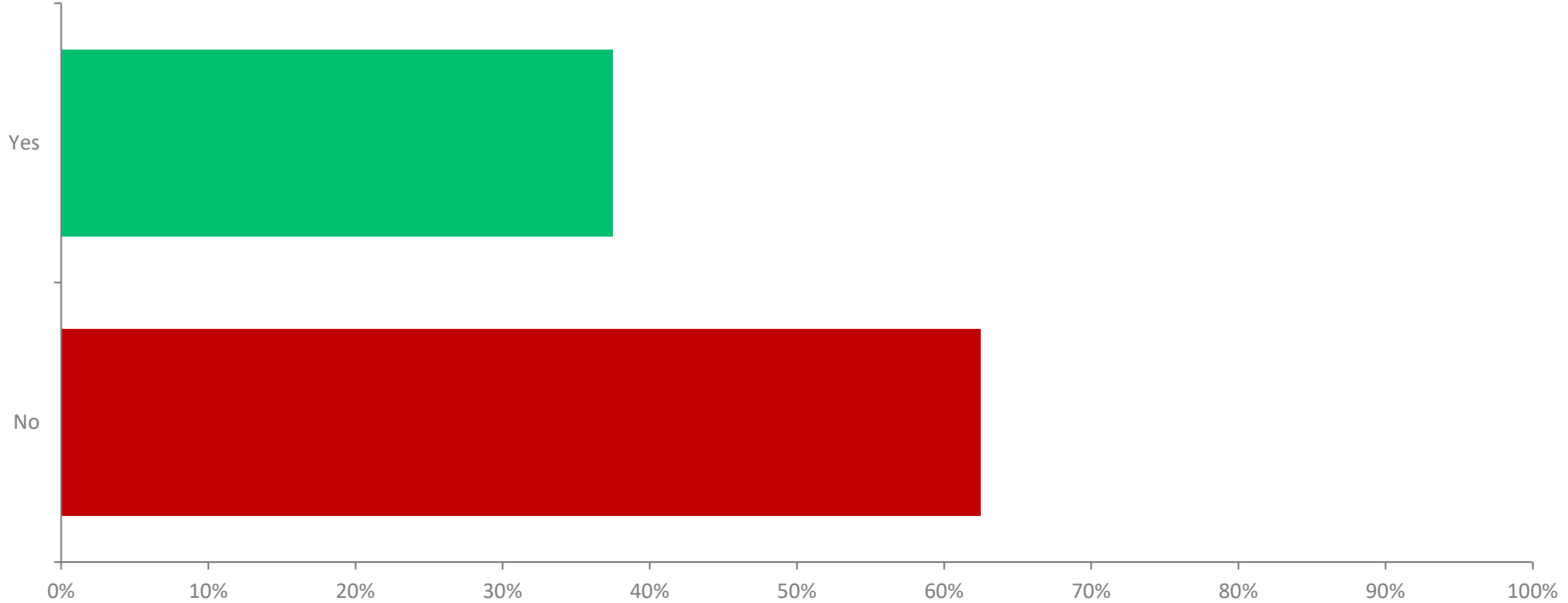
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Bike	14.29%	8
Car	51.79%	29
Bus	0%	0
Walk	30.36%	17
Other (please specify)	3.57%	2
TOTAL		56

Q4: How would you rate Manning Boulevard's visual environment?

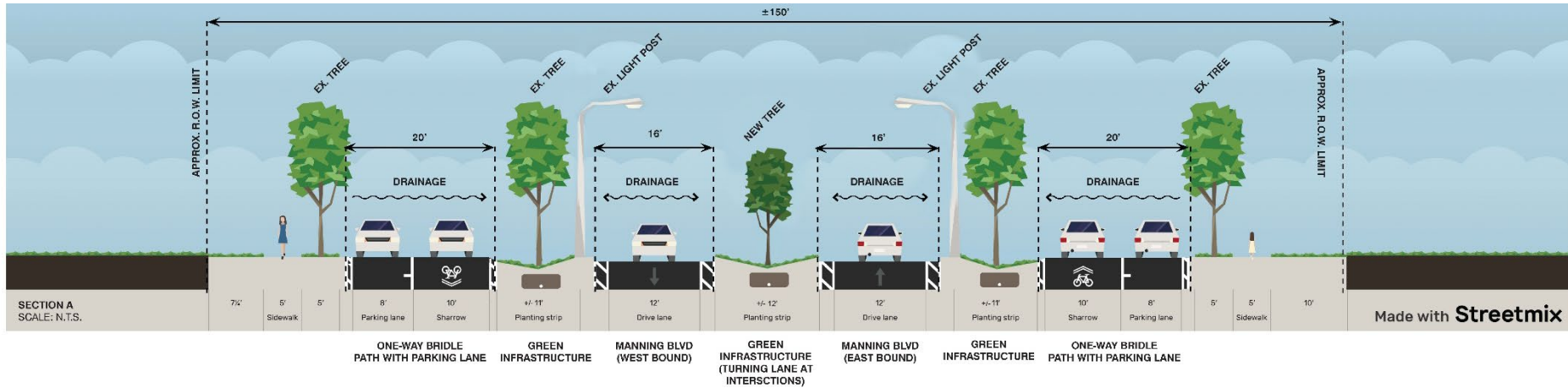


	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
★	1.79% 1	8.93% 5	30.36% 17	23.21% 13	35.71% 20	56	3.82

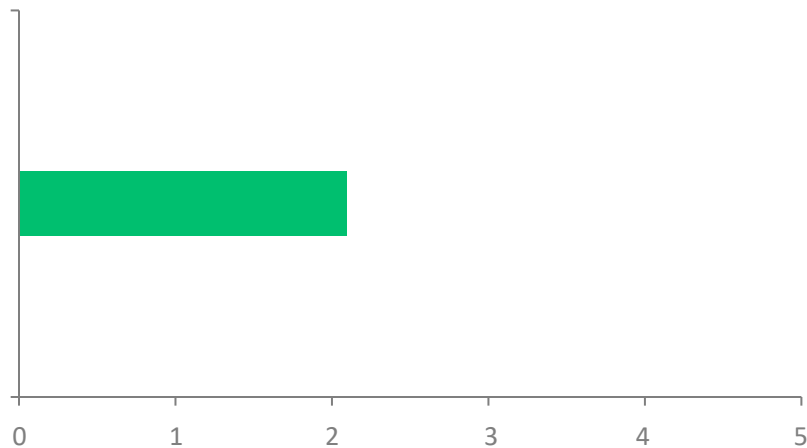
Q5: Do you feel safe when walking across Manning Boulevard?



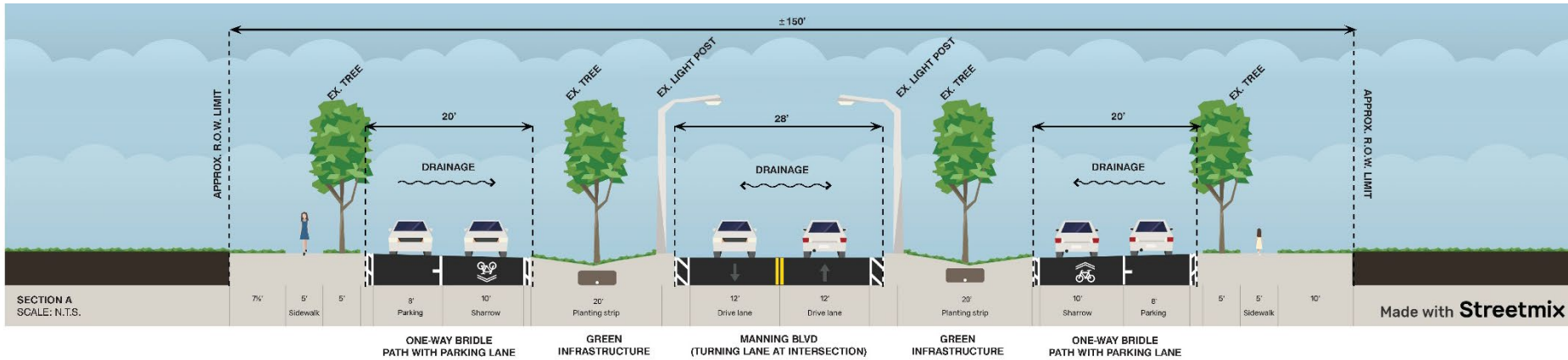
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	37.50%	21
No	62.50%	35
TOTAL		56



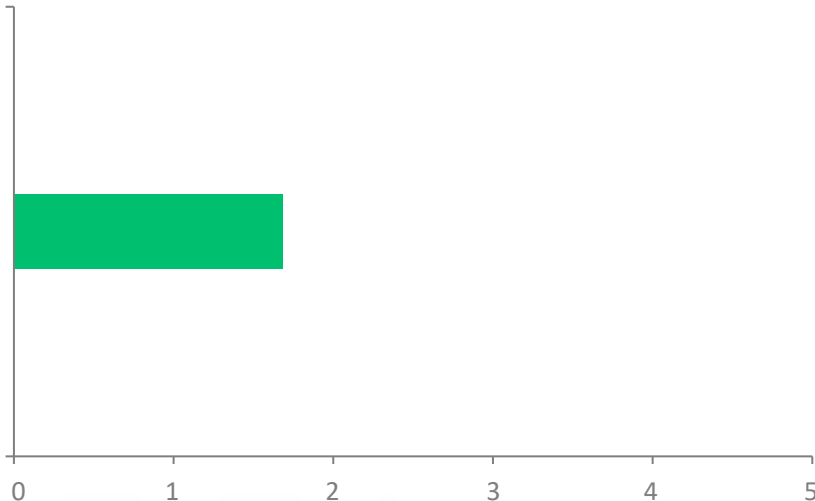
Q6: How would you rate the general design for Concept 'A' of Manning Boulevard on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being best, 1 being worst)?



ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	RESPONSES
	2.1	52



Q9: How would you rate the general design for Concept 'B' of Manning Boulevard on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being best, 1 being worst)?



ANSWER CHOICES

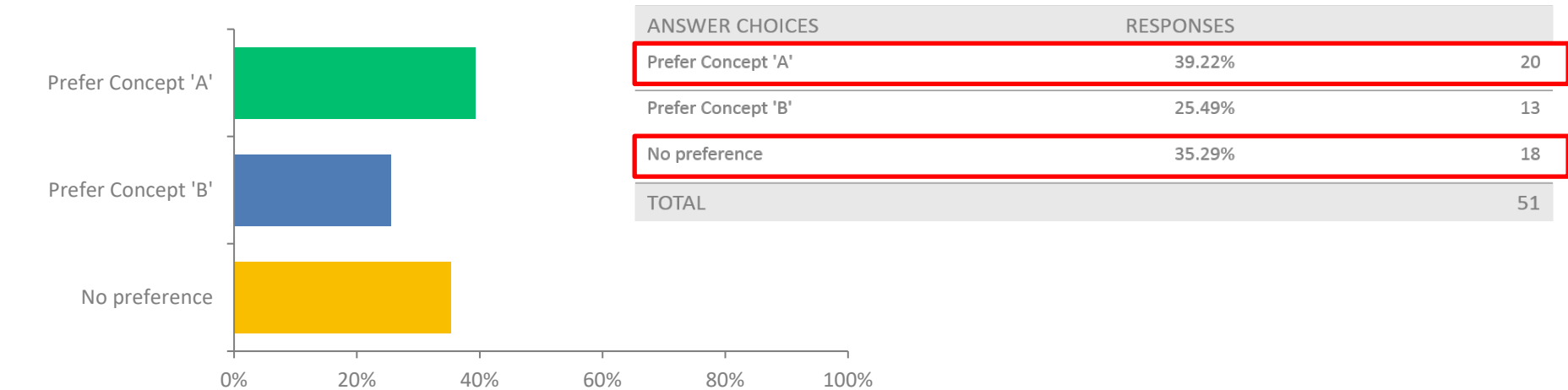
AVERAGE NUMBER

RESPONSES

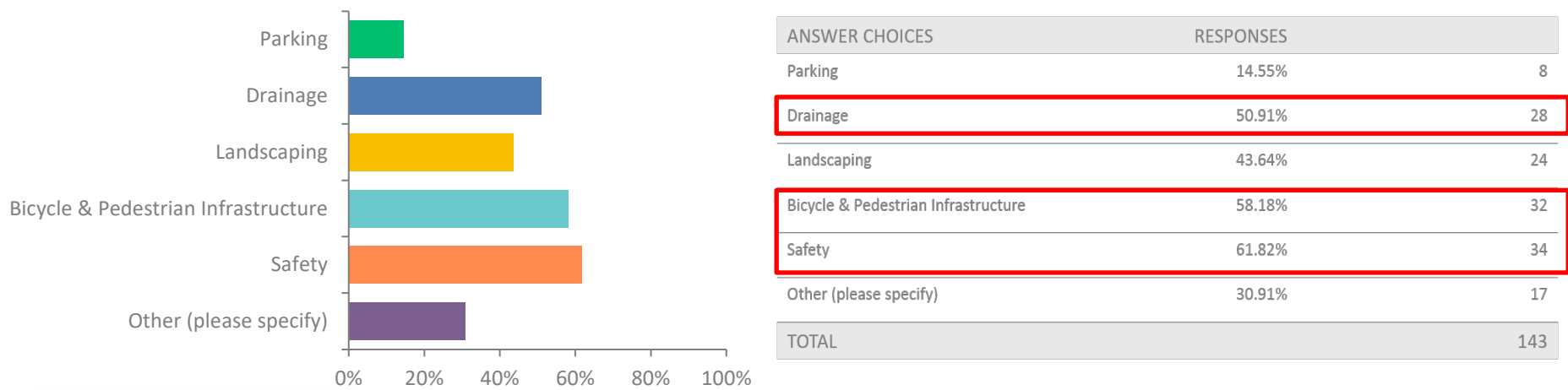
1.7

50

Q12: Overall, do you have a preference between the two general design concepts?



Q13: What improvements are a top priority for you? Check all that apply.




Public Survey - Summary

- Respondents generally feel the bridle paths are safe and friendly to bicyclists and pedestrians, while the main travel way of Manning Boulevard is not.
- Respondents generally felt that Manning Boulevard had a positive aesthetic and visual environment.
- Neither initial concept received majority support – concerns generally mirrored those expressed during the public meeting including:
 - Impacts of one-way bridle paths
 - Traffic control & speed reduction
 - Bicycle / Pedestrian safety, intersection improvements, etc.
 - Support for dedicated bike lanes
 - Maintaining street trees
- Drainage, safety, and bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure ranked the top 3 concerns for respondents.

Incorporating Feedback

Note: Comments of similar nature have been consolidated & summarized.

Comment / Concern	Response
Improve drainage and eliminate ponding / icing on sidewalks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improperly constructed sidewalks will be replaced Sidewalks, buffer spaces, and carriage paths will be rebuilt to divert runoff
Bridle Paths are functional in their current condition and should remain unchanged. Curbing is preferred.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bridle paths will remain in their current configuration. Bicycle Route signage would be installed directing bicyclists to the Bridle Paths* Wedge curb may be provided along the house-side of the bridle paths
Manning Boulevard should have a turning lane – this was pushed for previously in conjunction with narrowing the road from 4-lanes to 3-lanes and has had a beneficial impact on traffic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turning lane will be provided at all intersections & bridle path access points. Queuing length of the turning lane will be reviewed and approved by the City of Albany Traffic Engineer 

** Keeping the Bridle Paths in their current configuration without designated lanes prevents the installation of shared-lane markings – signage will be provided in lieu of markings*

Incorporating Feedback

Note: Comments of similar nature have been consolidated & summarized.

Comment / Concern	Response
Travel lanes on Manning should be narrowed further. Middle median will encourage speeding and create “raceway” condition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Shoulders must be provided in addition to lane width</i> • <i>Must be wide enough to accommodate emergency vehicle</i> • <i>Medians, trees, parked cars, etc. generally result in a traffic calming effect by limiting the perceived width of available pavement.</i> • <i>The City of Albany Traffic Engineer will review and approve all roadway elements.</i>
Enforcement of traffic laws is lacking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Concerns about enforcement have been brought to the attention of the Albany Police Department.</i> • <i>City current implements temporary control measures to encourage conformance with traffic laws</i>
Pedestrian safety is a top priority and design elements should be implemented to reduce speeds and promote safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Narrower roadway widths are proposed</i> • <i>Signed and signaled mid-block crossings are proposed</i> • <i>While some traffic control devices such as speed bumps are not permitted on the main travel lanes, some measures could be explored for implementation on the Bridle Paths</i>
Trees and lighting should be preserved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lighting is proposed to remain</i> • <i>Select tree removals are proposed for trees identified as dying or in decline by the City Arborist*</i> • <i>The planting plan will be reviewed by the City Arborist for approval</i>

** Dead trees / trees in decline would need be removed irrespective of this project.*

Project Schedule

Public Engagement
Aug. – Nov.



Project Design
Nov. – Feb.



Construction
Summer 2024

For additional information, please visit the project page on the City of Albany website:

[Project Page](https://www.albanyny.gov/2201/Manning-Boulevard-Improvement-Project)

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Thank you for joining us!

Questions? Comments?

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