

60% Design Outreach Summary

Last updated: May 8, 2020

Overview

During late 2019 and early 2020, SDOT asked stakeholders to review 60% design updates and share feedback in order to help the design team continue project design. This work builds on outreach in 2015 and 2017 as initial scoping decisions were made about the project.

60% updates focused on the North (S Atlantic St to S Spokane St) and Central (S Spokane St to Diagonal Ave S) segments of the project. For the North Segment, project features include a protected bike lane, intersection reconstructions at S Hanford St and S Horton St, and full roadway reconstruction. In the Central Segment, the project includes a shared use path for people on bicycles and people walking, as well as roadway reconstruction for a portion of the project area.

Parts of the North Segment improvements, specifically the protected bike lane and intersections, could go to construction as early as 2021. SDOT is pursuing additional funding for the construction of other project features.

Outreach activities

Stakeholder interviews and briefings

In fall 2019, project staff interviewed representatives of businesses located along the Central Segment, between S Spokane St and Diagonal Ave S to learn more about their operations and access needs. These interviews served as an important opportunity for the project to establish relationships with these businesses and collect feedback. Representatives generally said they were supportive of the project, citing a need for roadway improvements in the Central Segment, but several also expressed concern about the impacts of construction.

In addition to Central Segment interviews, project manager Megan Hoyt briefed several community organizations to give updates on design, timeline, and next steps, and answer questions about the project. As design progresses, the project team will continue to seek ways to collaborate and engage with all interested community partners.

Public agency coordination

Key agency partners during this phase included Port of Seattle and Union Pacific Railroad. Megan Hoyt works with these partners on an ongoing basis to identify and solve project design issues and discuss how the project can coordinate with them throughout the design process and during construction.

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Public survey

SDOT developed and launched an online survey to collect input on the 60% design plans. The survey was available February 7 through March 15, 2020. It focused on confirming what the project team felt were the key issues people experience when traveling on East Marginal Way S and whether the proposed design addresses those issues effectively.

The project team advertised the survey in several ways:

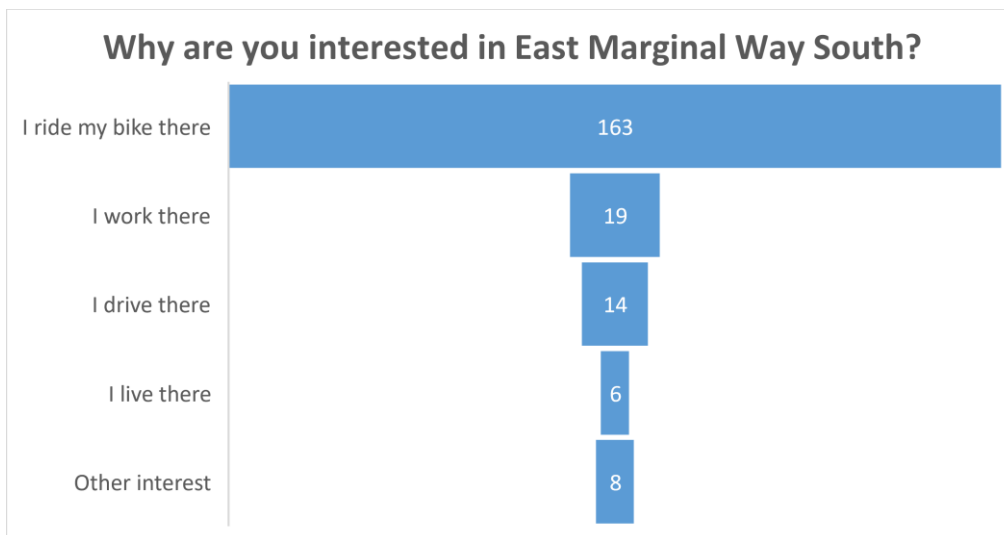
- SDOT posted the survey on the project webpage.
- Project staff emailed the project listserv with a link to the survey and sent a reminder email before the survey closed on March 15.
- Project staff held two pop-up events.
 - On February 11, staff spoke to bicyclists and pedestrians on East Marginal Way during the morning commute.
 - On February 12, staff spoke to bicyclists and pedestrians on the West Seattle Bridge Trail during the evening commute.

Survey results and key findings

More than 200 people completed the survey. Participants provided nearly 900 comments. See all survey questions listed in the Appendix.

Nearly 75% of survey respondents said they were interested in the project area because they bike there. East Marginal Way is a major connection for people who bike between the West Seattle Bridge Trail, downtown, and the SODO neighborhood. Survey results showed the bike community's investment in and support for this project.

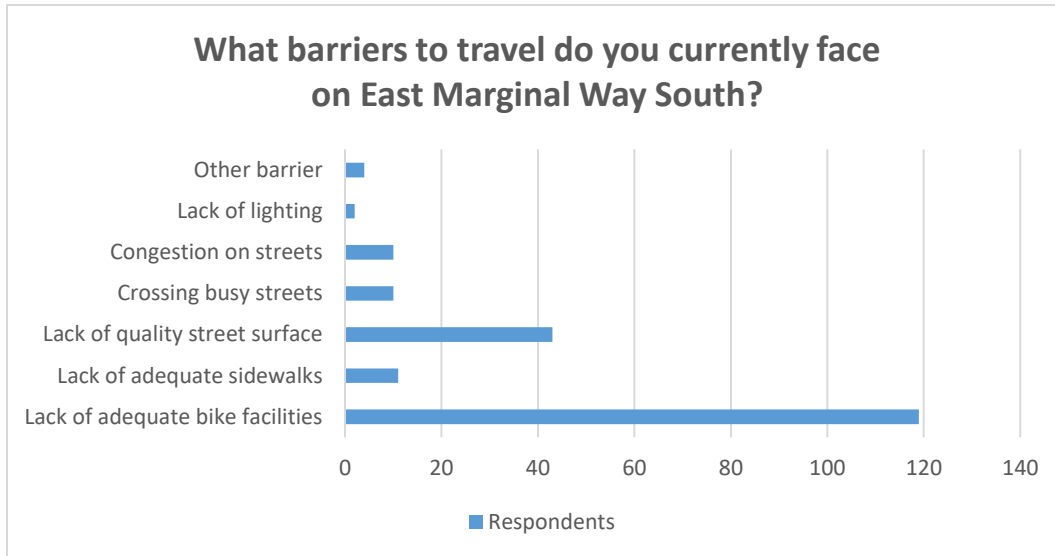
The survey received relatively low participation from commercial vehicle drivers, who are a key audience for this freight mobility project. The project will seek out ways to engage this group differently going forward to ensure that drivers' input is incorporated into this project that will affect a critical freight corridor.



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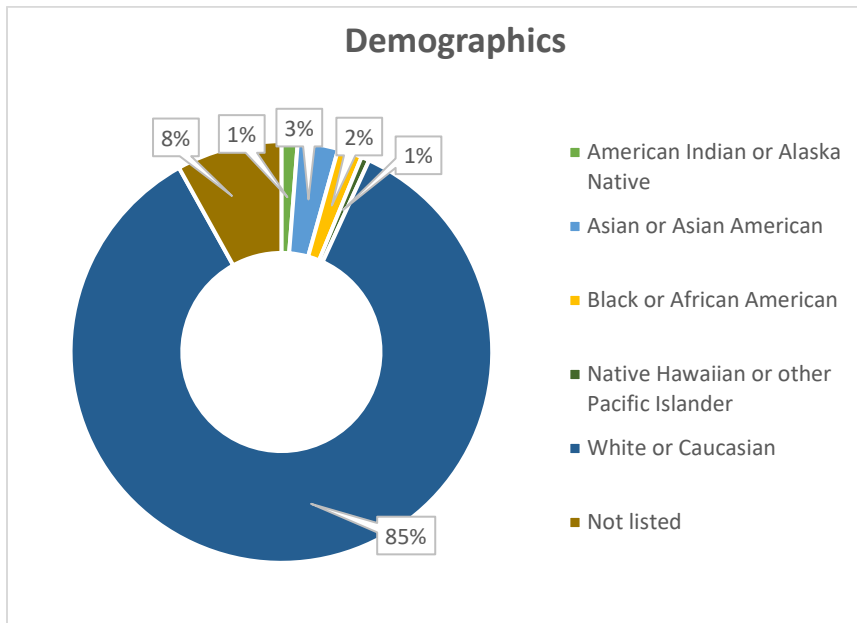
Individuals who work, drive, or live in the project area made up about 18% of respondents. Many participants use the area in multiple ways, like work and bike in the project area. **Several participants noted that they would bike in the area if the roads were safer.**

Out of 212 responses, 70 people said they use East Marginal Way five or more days per week. 60% of participants identified lack of bike facilities, such as protected bike lanes and signage, as the main barrier to travel on East Marginal Way. Lack of quality street surface was the second highest response, a barrier to 22% of participants.



Most participants said they support the proposed design. A large majority, 84% of respondents, said they support the addition of a protected bike lane between S Atlantic St and S Spokane St; 84% of respondents said they support the intersection improvements at S Hanford St and S Horton St; and 74% of respondents said they support the plans to build a new shared use path between South Spokane Street and Diagonal Avenue South.

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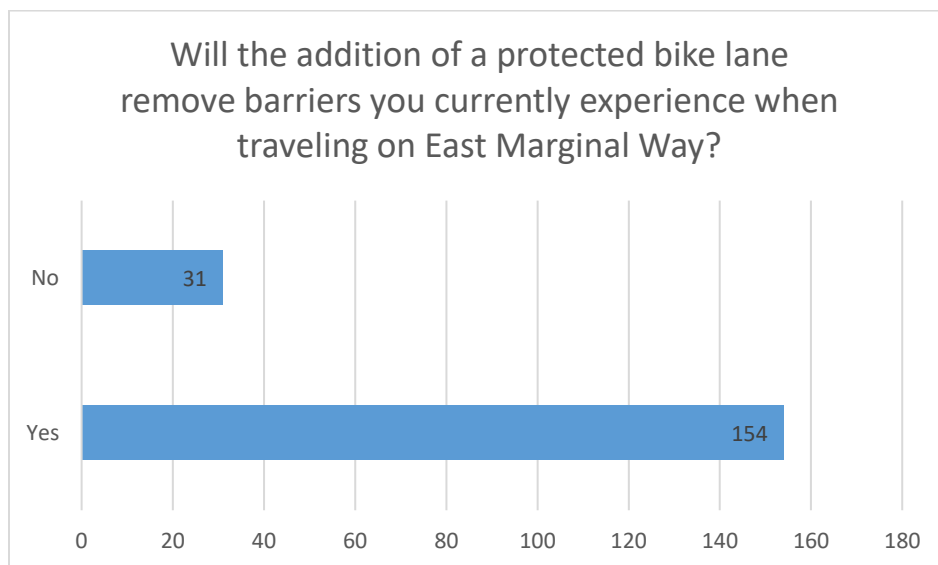
Most survey participants were white, male, and middle aged. About 60% of respondents were between 31 and 49 years old. About a quarter of respondents identified as female; 5% of respondents identified as transgender or a gender not listed; and 67% of respondents identified as male.

Survey participant demographics closely mirror the demographic makeup of the larger Seattle bike community.

Summary of feedback

Survey participants provided 846 comments. A clear concern of many participants was street safety in the project area. Whether people walk, bike, live, or work in the area, participants said they feel unsafe because of truck traffic, poor street surface quality, and lack of protection for pedestrians and cyclists.

Respondents commented 148 times on the proposed features of the project they like and support. Support for a protected bike lane on East Marginal Way is mentioned in nearly half of those comments.



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Survey participants also shared concerns on proposed improvements to the East Marginal Way corridor. **The topics mentioned most frequently were:**

- Clear signage and wayfinding in the project area
 - Some survey respondents identified a need for clearer signage along East Marginal Way S to help people navigate to key destinations.
- Clearly marked, signalized, and appropriately-timed crossings for people walking and on bikes
 - Survey respondents had mixed feelings about the proposed signalization of S Horton St. Some respondents expressed concern about how long cyclists would need to wait at the signal to receive a green light to cross East Marginal Way S.
- Truck traffic causing safety hazards for people walking and on bikes
 - Some respondents identified the southern driveway at Port of Seattle's Terminal 25 as a place where people walking and biking are most concerned about truck traffic.
- Protected bike lanes/path connectivity should be expanded north and south of project area
 - Many survey respondents commented that they preferred to see the protected bike lane extend south of S Spokane St instead of changing to a shared use path.
- Obstacles in the bike lane
 - Many survey respondents cited debris and standing water in the bike lane as barriers to traveling in the corridor.

Many questions and concerns raised by survey respondents can be found in the East Marginal Way Corridor Improvement Project Frequently Asked Questions document.

How we are incorporating feedback

Our project team is reviewing the comments from 60% outreach and incorporating feedback into 90% design where possible. Some of the steps we have already taken include:

- We met with representatives of Port of Seattle and Northwest Seaport Alliance to discuss options to reconfigure the south driveway at Terminal 25.
- We added to the design a northbound right turn lane at S Horton St so that people on bikes will have a green light for more of the signal cycle.

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- We updated the design of the protected bike lane at S Horton St to improve lines of sight for people on bikes as they merge from the West Seattle Bridge trail onto East Marginal Way.
- We added to the design a raised berm to the planting strip between the roadway and the protected bike lane to better prevent debris from entering the bike lane.

We will continue to incorporate public input into our design as the project moves forward. In response to feedback received about the shared-use path south of S Spokane St, we are exploring any alternative options that may be available, however right-of-way constraints in this area may prevent these options from being viable.

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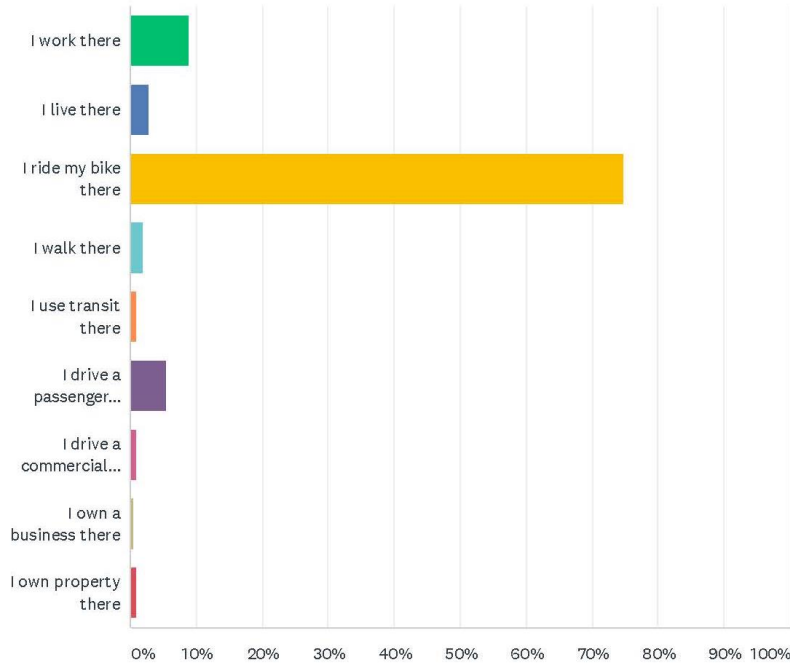
Appendix A – Survey Results

This section includes survey questions and responses. It does not include individual responses to open-ended questions.

E Marginal Way Corridor Improvement Project

Q1 Why are you interested in E Marginal Way S?

Answered: 218 Skipped: 0

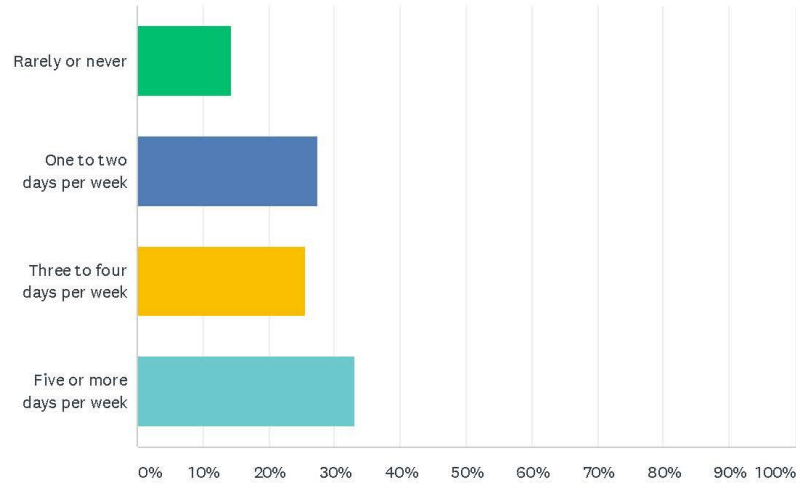


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I work there	8.72% 19
I live there	2.75% 6
I ride my bike there	74.77% 163
I walk there	1.83% 4
I use transit there	0.92% 2
I drive a passenger vehicle there	5.50% 12
I drive a commercial vehicle there	0.92% 2
I own a business there	0.46% 1
I own property there	0.92% 2
TOTAL	218

E Marginal Way Corridor Improvement Project

Q2 How often do you use E Marginal Way S?

Answered: 212 Skipped: 6



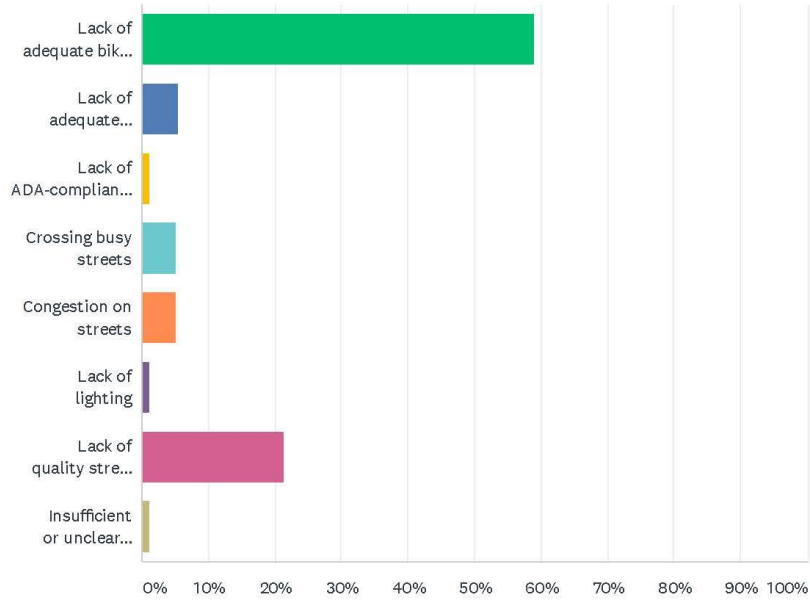
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Rarely or never	14.15%	30
One to two days per week	27.36%	58
Three to four days per week	25.47%	54
Five or more days per week	33.02%	70
TOTAL		212

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Q3 What barriers to travel do you currently face on E Marginal Way S?

Answered: 202 Skipped: 16



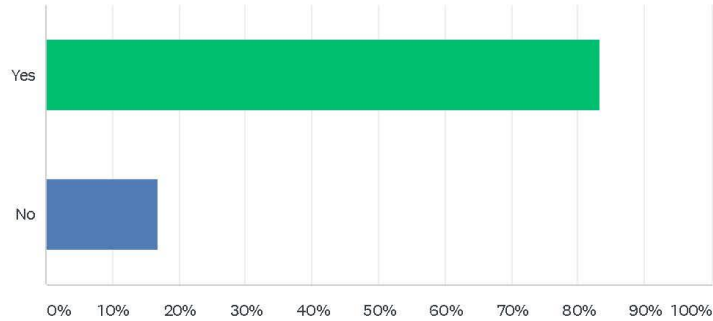
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Lack of adequate bike facilities	58.91% 119
Lack of adequate sidewalks	5.45% 11
Lack of ADA-compliant facilities	0.99% 2
Crossing busy streets	4.95% 10
Congestion on streets	4.95% 10
Lack of lighting	0.99% 2
Lack of quality street surface	21.29% 43
Insufficient or unclear signage	0.99% 2
TOTAL	202

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Q4 Will the addition of a protected bike lane between S Atlantic St and S Spokane St help remove barriers you currently experience when traveling on E Marginal Way S?

Answered: 185 Skipped: 33



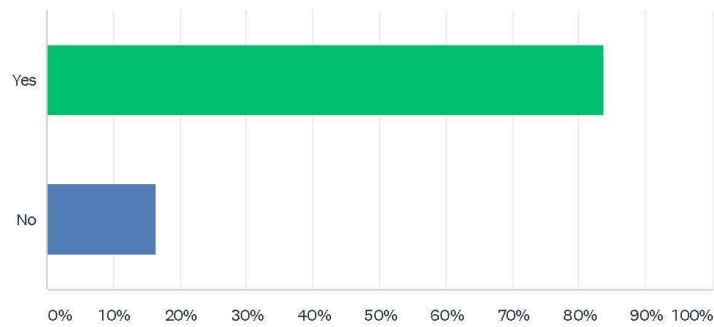
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	83.24%	154
No	16.76%	31
TOTAL		185

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Q6 In this design, we will rebuild the intersections at S Hanford St and S Horton St, to feature protected movements for all users at S Hanford St, and a signalized, diagonal crossing at S Horton St for people biking to and from West Seattle. Will these improvements help remove the barriers you currently experience when traveling on E Marginal Way S?

Answered: 178 Skipped: 40



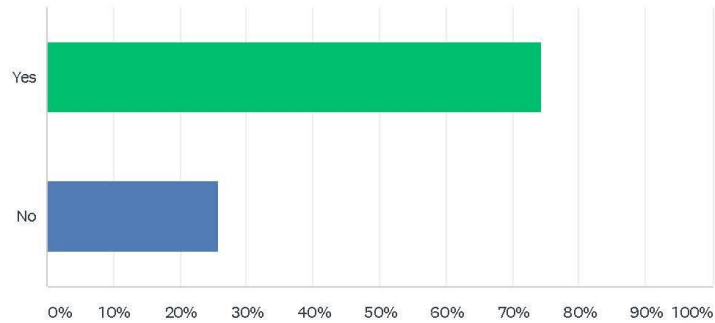
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	83.71%	149
No	16.29%	29
TOTAL		178

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Q8 In this design, people walking or riding a bike between S Spokane St and Diagonal Ave S will use a shared use path that features crosswalks with flashing beacons to cross E Marginal Way S. Do you agree with the location and features of this proposed alignment?

Answered: 167 Skipped: 51

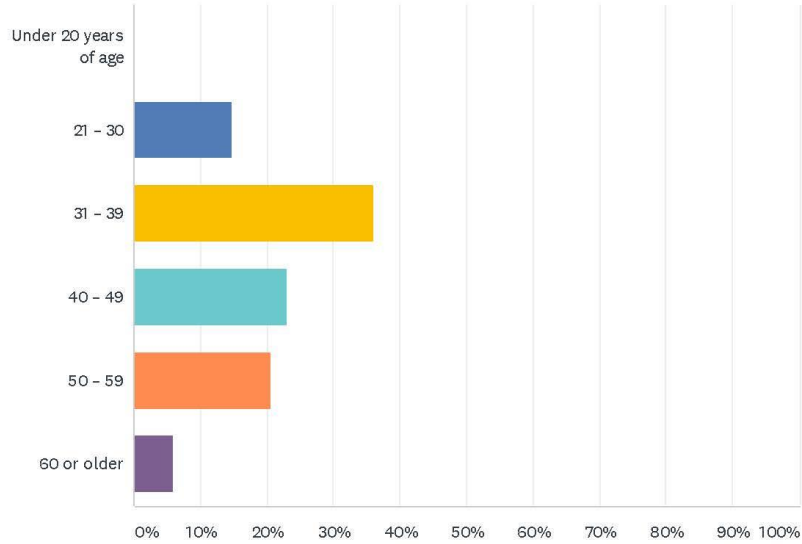


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	74.25%	124
No	25.75%	43
TOTAL		167

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Q13 How old are you?

Answered: 170 Skipped: 48

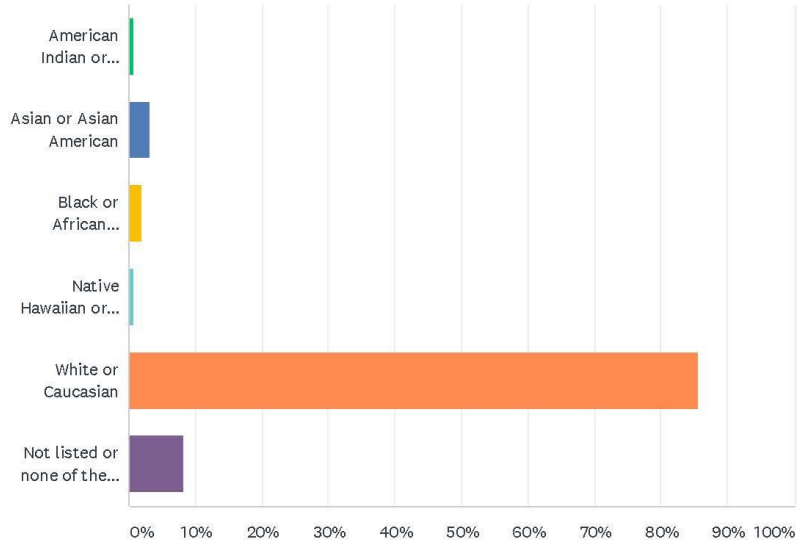


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 20 years of age	0.00%	0
21 - 30	14.71%	25
31 - 39	35.88%	61
40 - 49	22.94%	39
50 - 59	20.59%	35
60 or older	5.88%	10
TOTAL		170

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Q15 With which race or ethnic group would you most identify?

Answered: 160 Skipped: 58

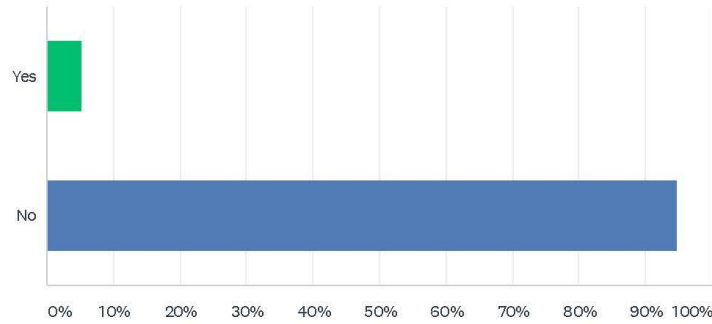


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.63% 1
Asian or Asian American	3.13% 5
Black or African American	1.88% 3
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.63% 1
White or Caucasian	85.63% 137
Not listed or none of the above	8.13% 13
TOTAL	160

E Marginal Way Corridor Improvement Project

Q16 Are you of Hispanic origin?

Answered: 156 Skipped: 62



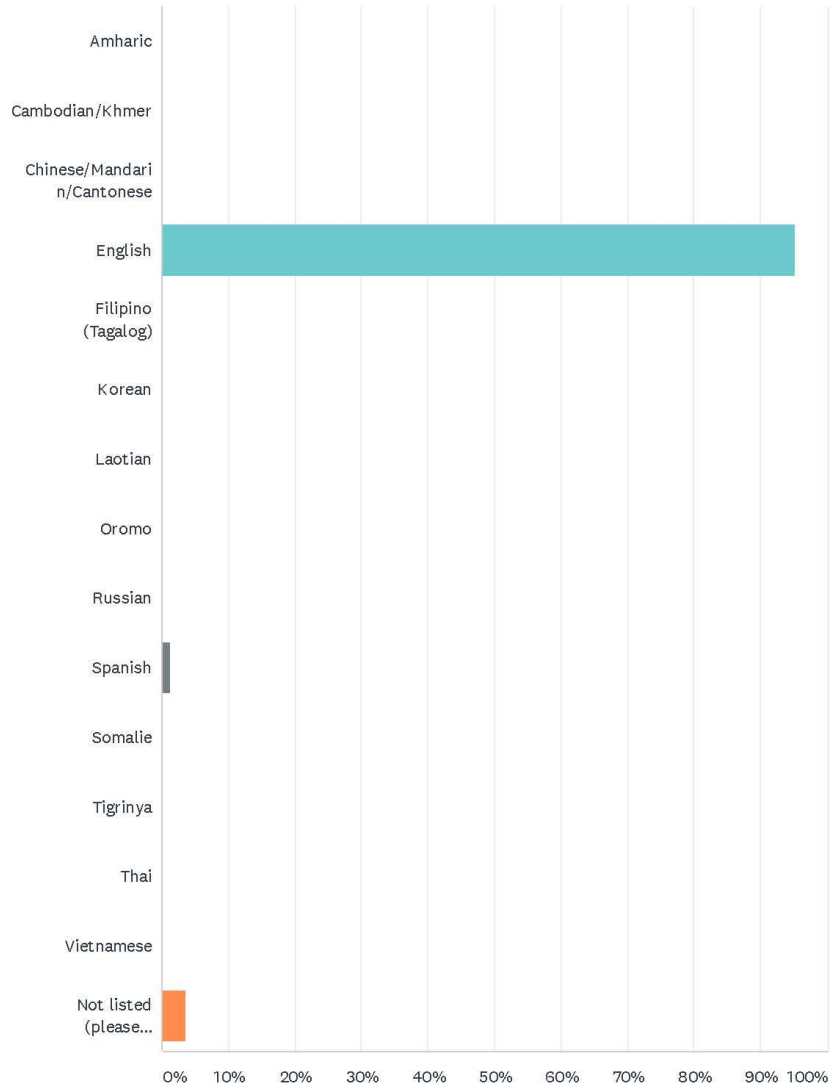
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	5.13%	8
No	94.87%	148
TOTAL		156

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Q17 What is the primary language spoken in your home?

Answered: 164 Skipped: 54



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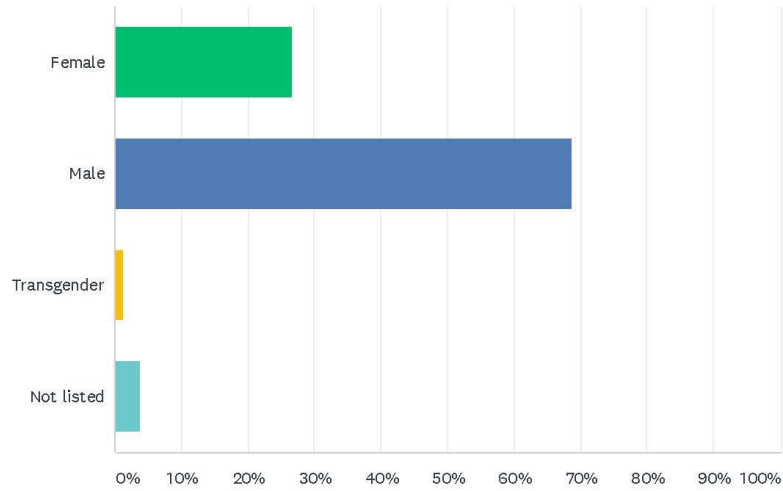
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Amharic	0.00%	0
Cambodian/Khmer	0.00%	0
Chinese/Mandarin/Cantonese	0.00%	0
English	95.12%	156
Filipino (Tagalog)	0.00%	0
Korean	0.00%	0
Laotian	0.00%	0
Oromo	0.00%	0
Russian	0.00%	0
Spanish	1.22%	2
Somalie	0.00%	0
Tigrinya	0.00%	0
Thai	0.00%	0
Vietnamese	0.00%	0
Not listed (please specify)	3.66%	6
TOTAL		164

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Q18 With which gender do you most identify?

Answered: 162 Skipped: 56



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Female	26.54%	43
Male	68.52%	111
Transgender	1.23%	2
Not listed	3.70%	6
TOTAL		162