



City of Allentown Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Survey Report

Allentown

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INTERNATIONAL

August 2024

Overview

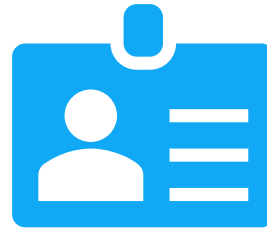
Outreach & Engagement Activities



Pop-Up Events to
Promote Survey



Email blasts to
100+
stakeholders



Online survey
business cards
distributed at key
locations



City Website
Update, Social
Media Posts, La
Fatima FM Radio
Spots

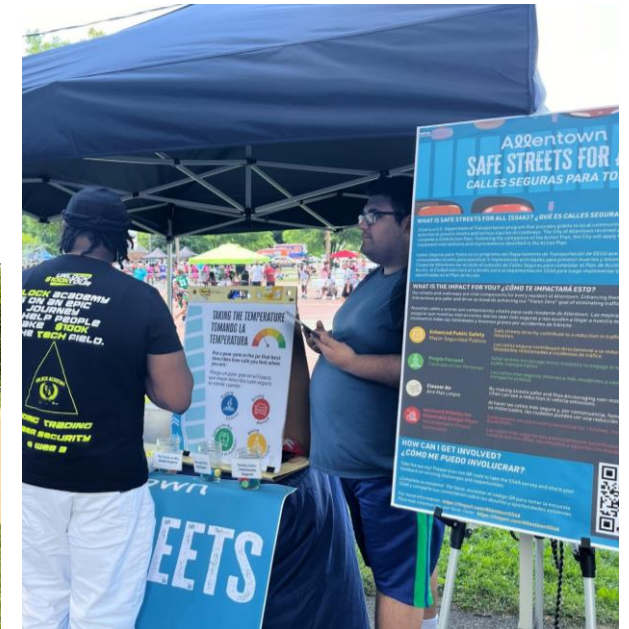
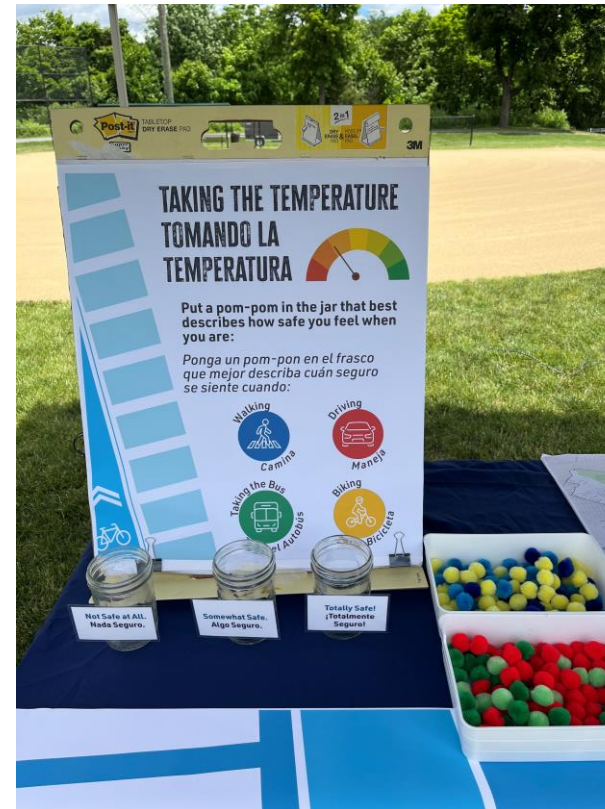


Stakeholder groups
(neighborhood
associations, Housing
Authority, City Center,
etc.) shared survey with
their communities

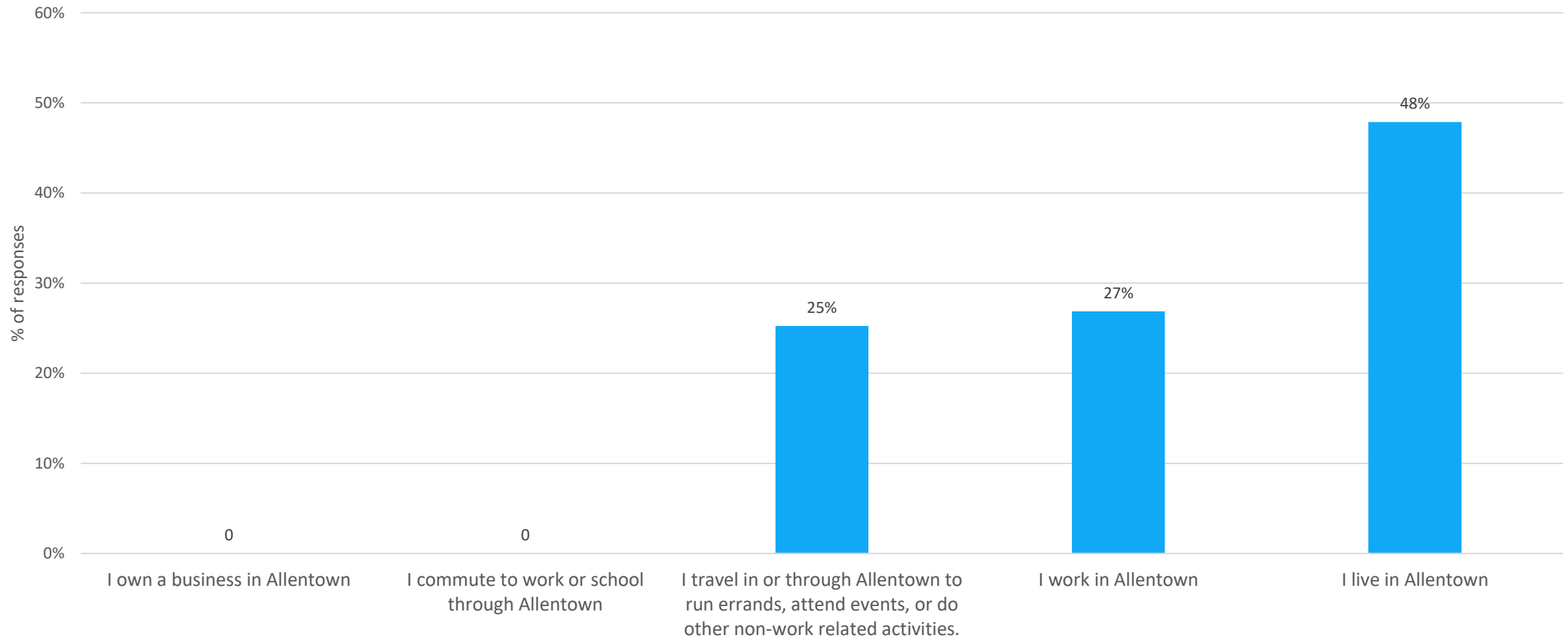
Community Responses

Total Survey Responses: 1,455

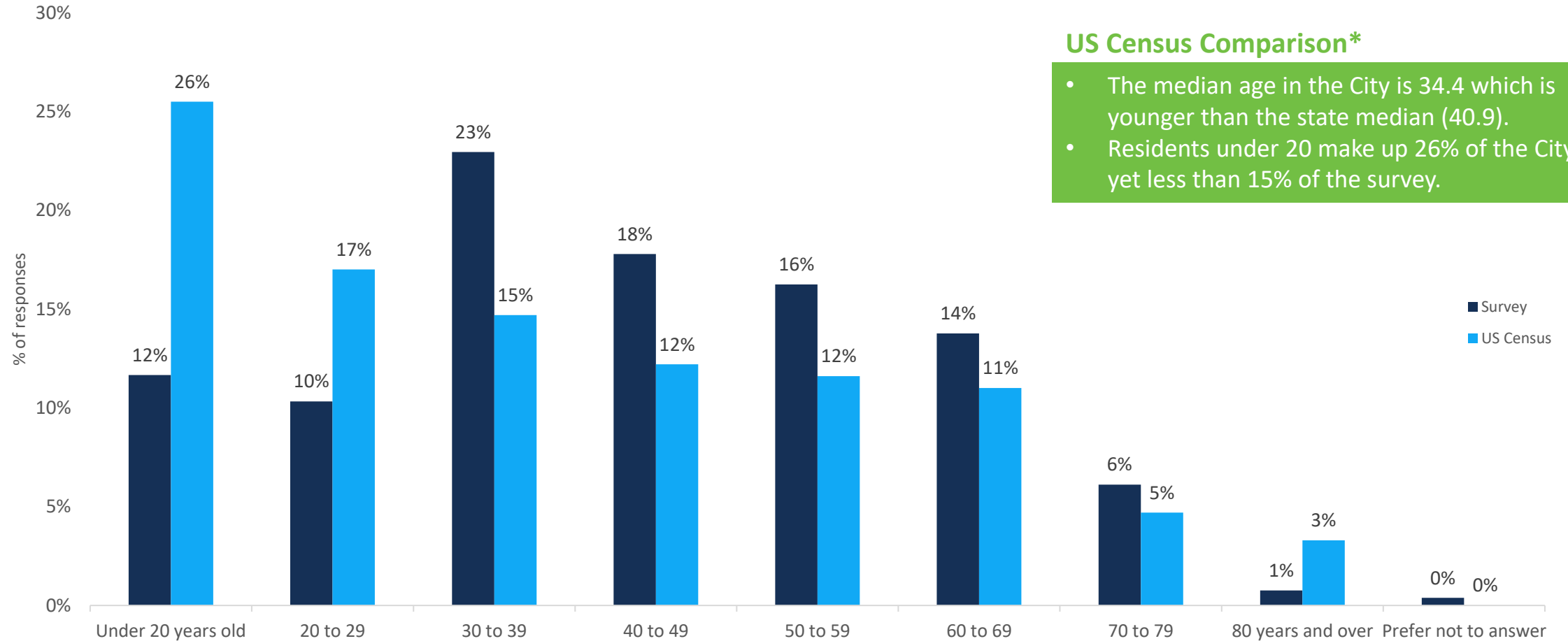
- This report includes data collected from the survey.
- Over 581 responses to the welcome survey and 874 points.
- Over 700 comments on the survey.



Survey Demographics | Primary Relationship to Allentown



Survey Demographics | Age

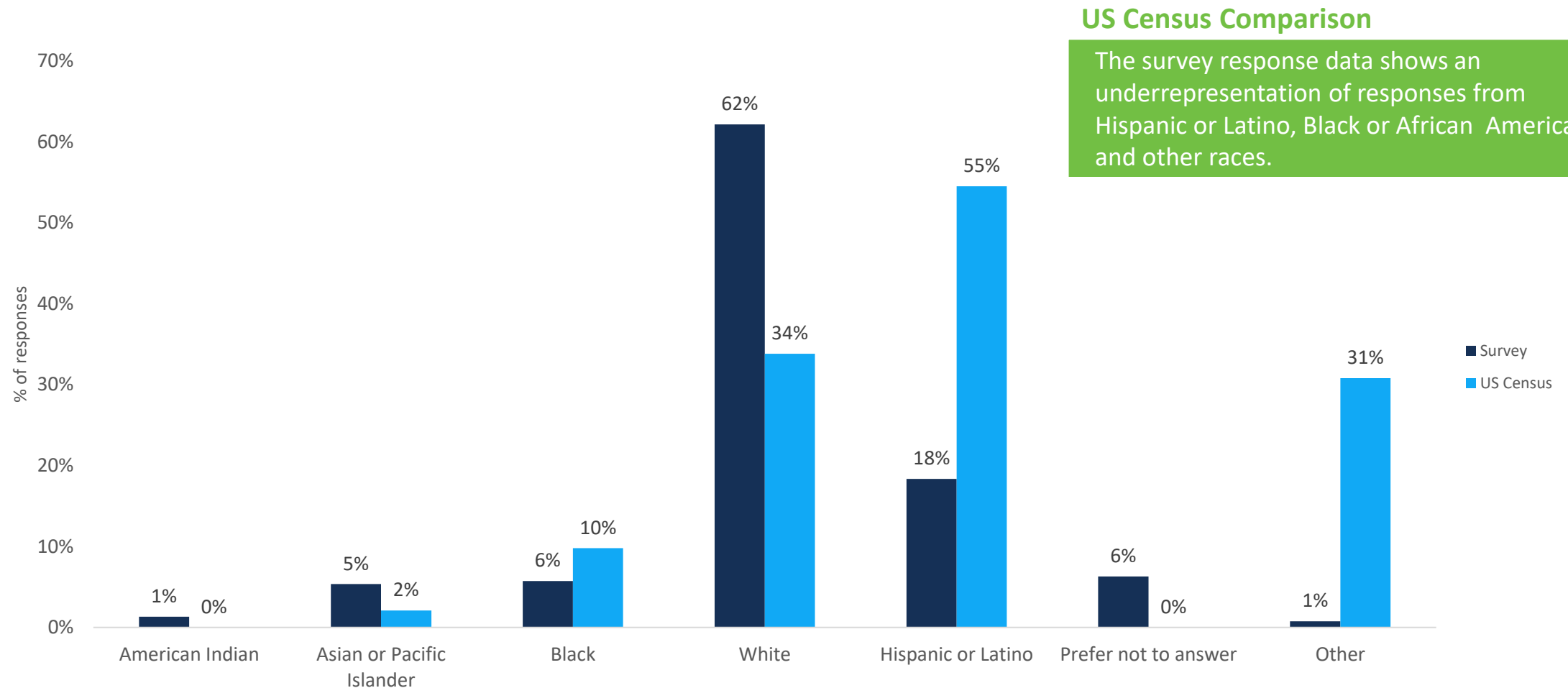


US Census Comparison*

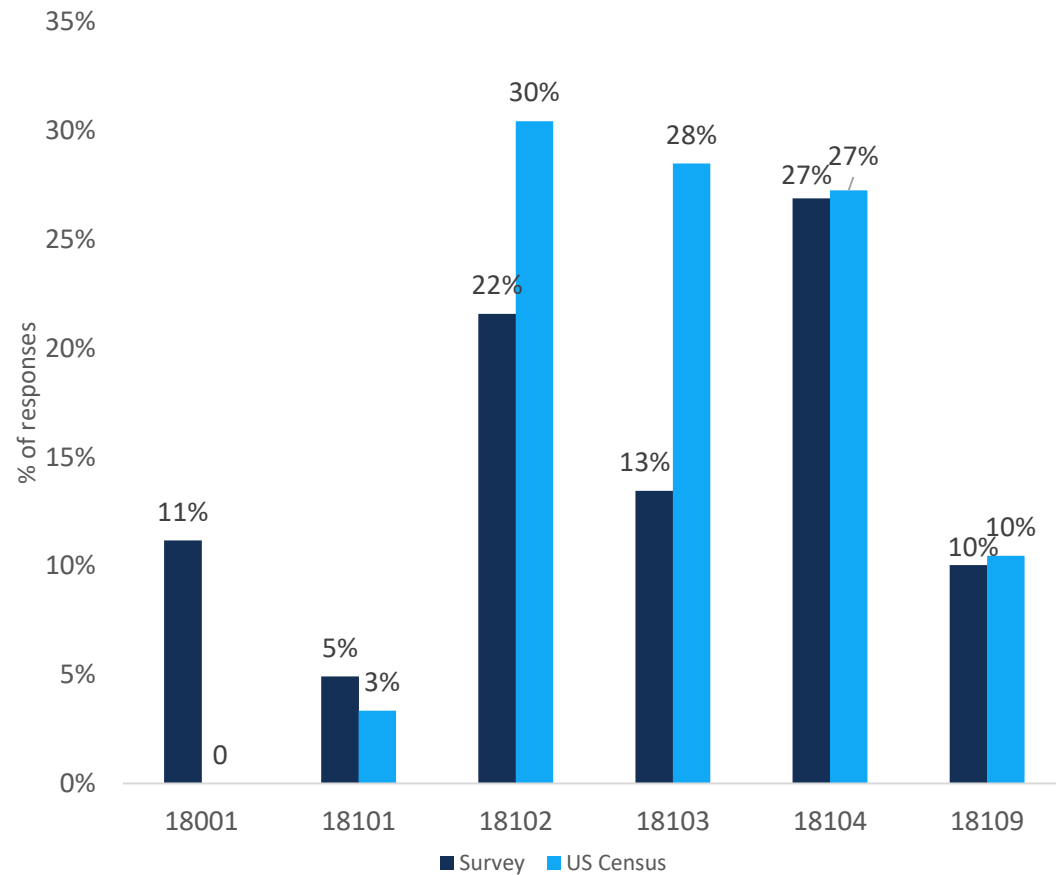
- The median age in the City is 34.4 which is younger than the state median (40.9).
- Residents under 20 make up 26% of the City yet less than 15% of the survey.

*All Census comparisons are City of Allentown municipal numbers.

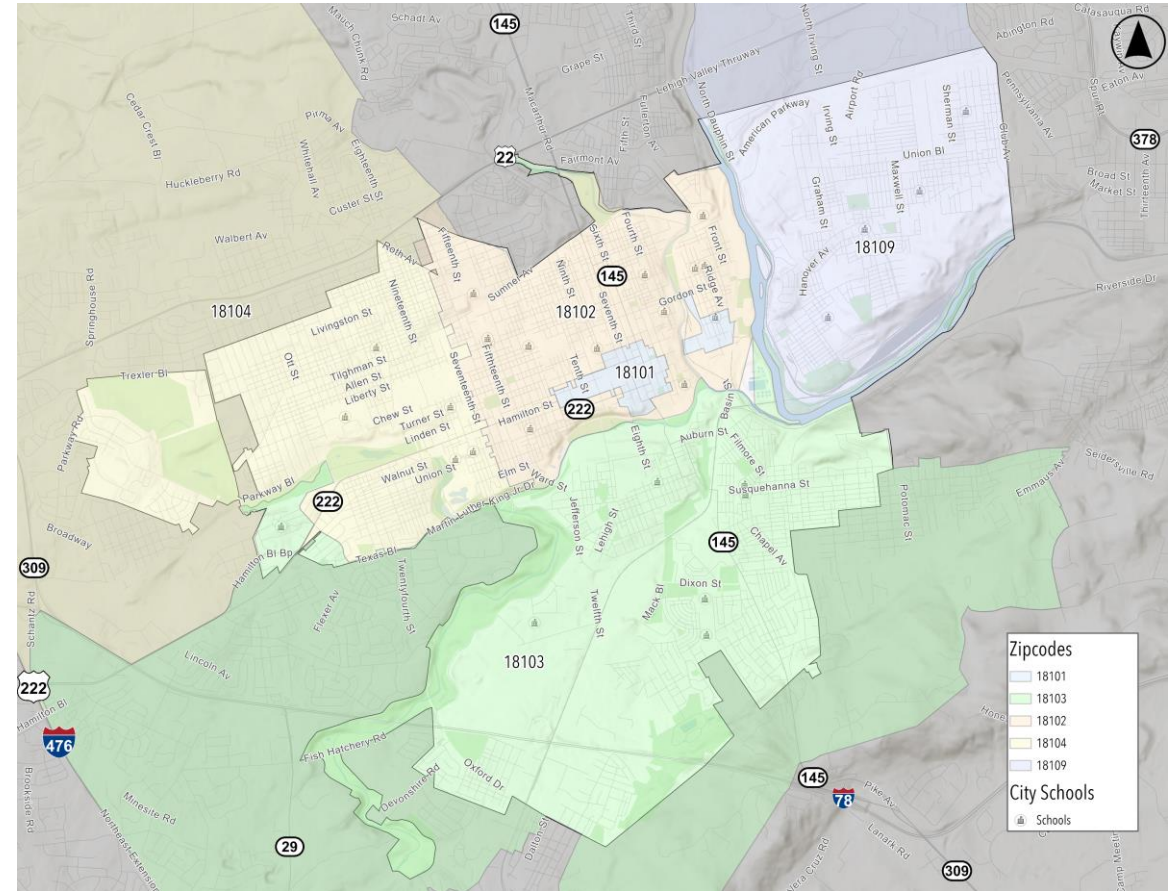
Survey Demographics | Race and Ethnicity



Survey Demographics | Location in Allentown

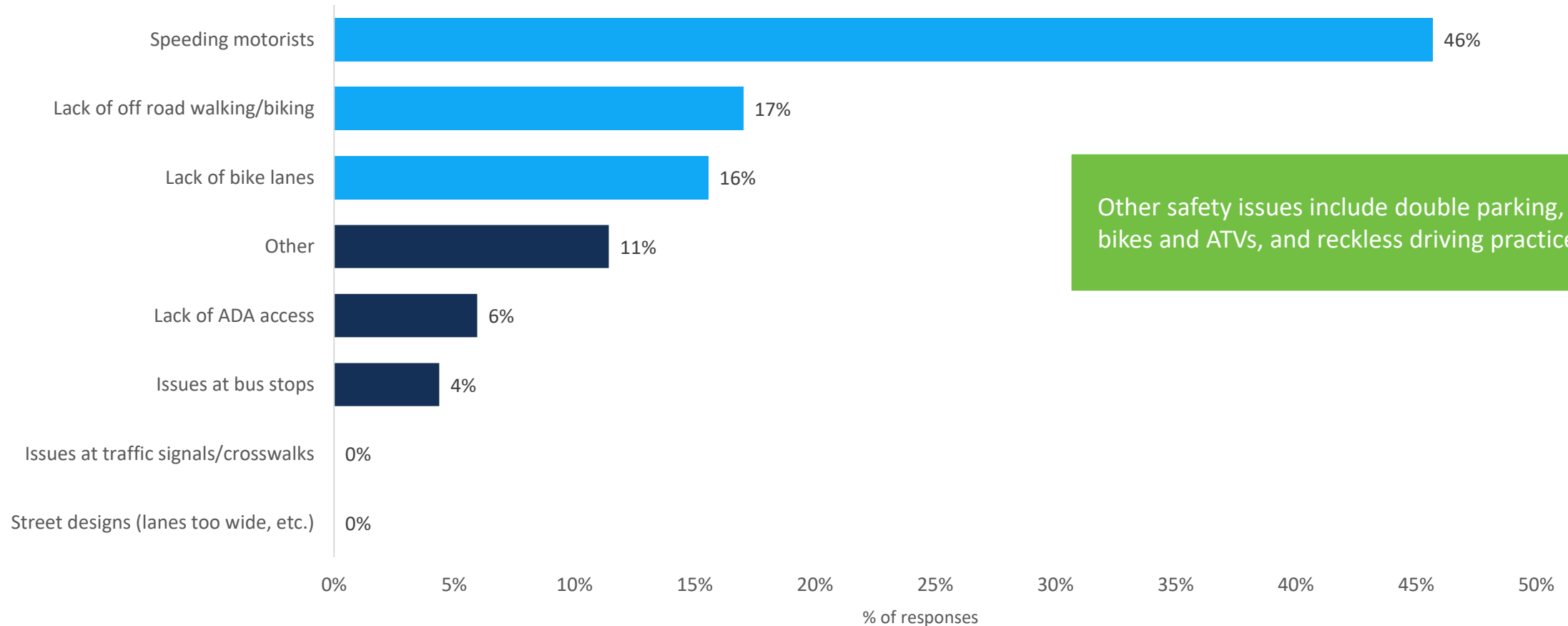


* 12% of survey respondents said they did not live in the township or did not know their zip code



Priorities & Key Takeaways Welcome Survey

What do you think are the **biggest safety issues** on Allentown Streets?



What do you think are the biggest safety issues on Allentown Streets? | Additional Comments & Takeaways

- Double parking is one of the top comments and cause for concern.
- Lack of pedestrian infrastructure and maintenance of existing infrastructure (fading crosswalks, missing sidewalk segments, etc.)
- Motorized vehicles like motorbikes and ATVs not obeying traffic laws.
- Motorists not stopping at stops signs and ignoring signals.

*"People are in a rush in Allentown and they always cause accidents. Also the **double parking** on every street is crazy. Can't go down a single street without a car double parking in the middle"*

*"Uneven sidewalks so people walk in the streets, double parking, people wearing dark clothes, and the **streetlights are not bright** enough or are obscured."*

"Double parking/parking in travel lanes"

*"Lack of enforcement of existing laws, speed limits, **illegal vehicles**, dirt bikes, four wheelers, etc"*

What do you think would improve safety the most on Allentown streets? | Additional Comments & Key Takeaways

- More bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure is desired.
- Speed bumps, road diets, and other measures to help curb speeding were mentioned.

*"More **lighting** in dim lit roadways. Mirrors to see at intersections when cars park to close to corner. Double parking in front of the smoke shops and at barber shops."*

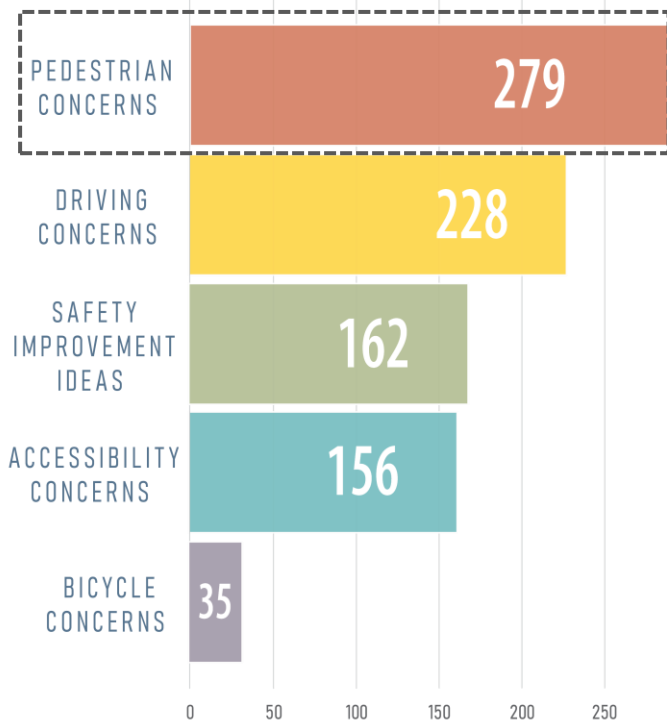
*"**Repaint** street markings."*

*"Sidewalks around the park with multiple crosswalks, maybe with **flashing signs**."*

*"Set up traffic detour **further in advance** for events and add more merging sings when the events start."*

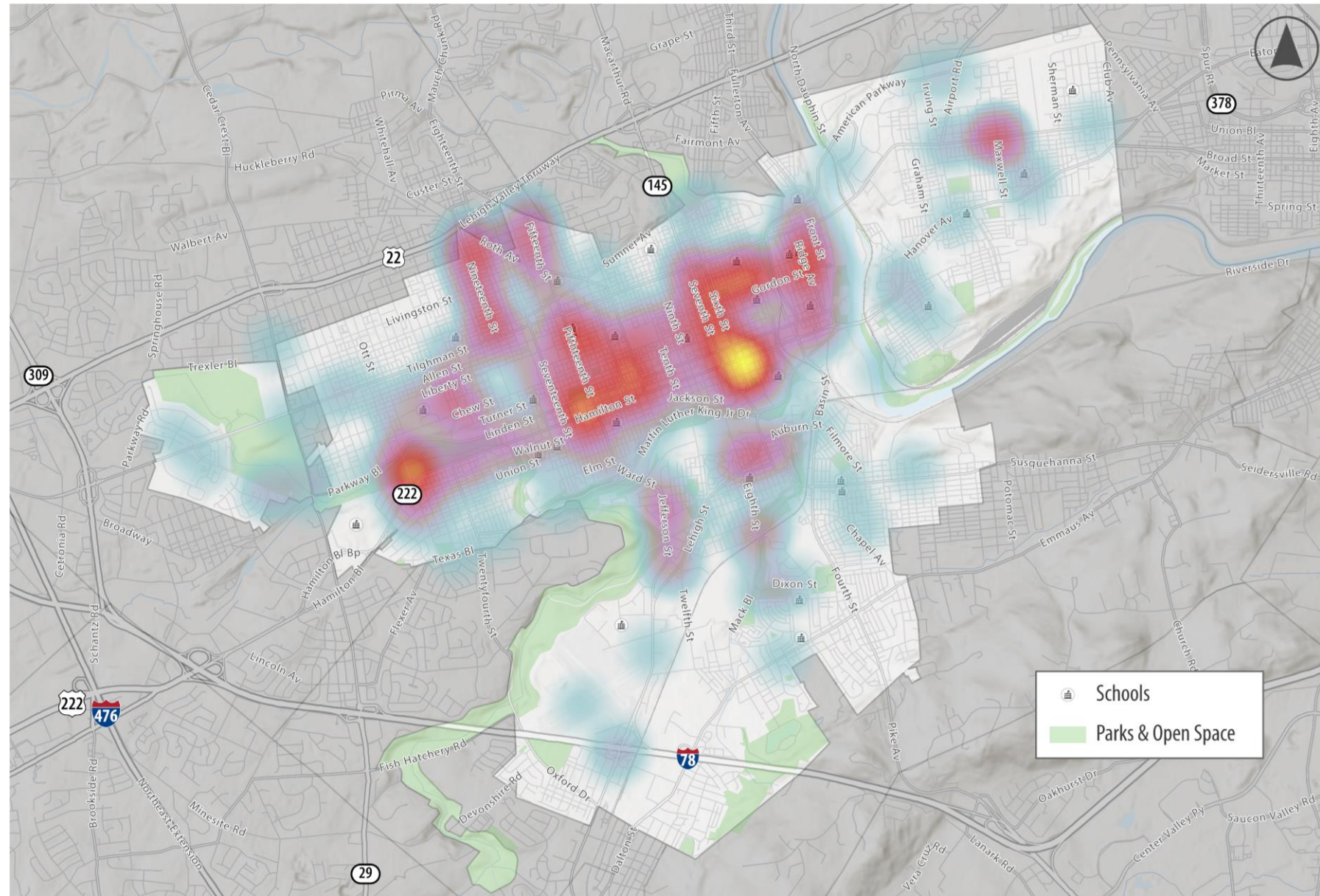
Priorities & Key Takeaways

Point Data

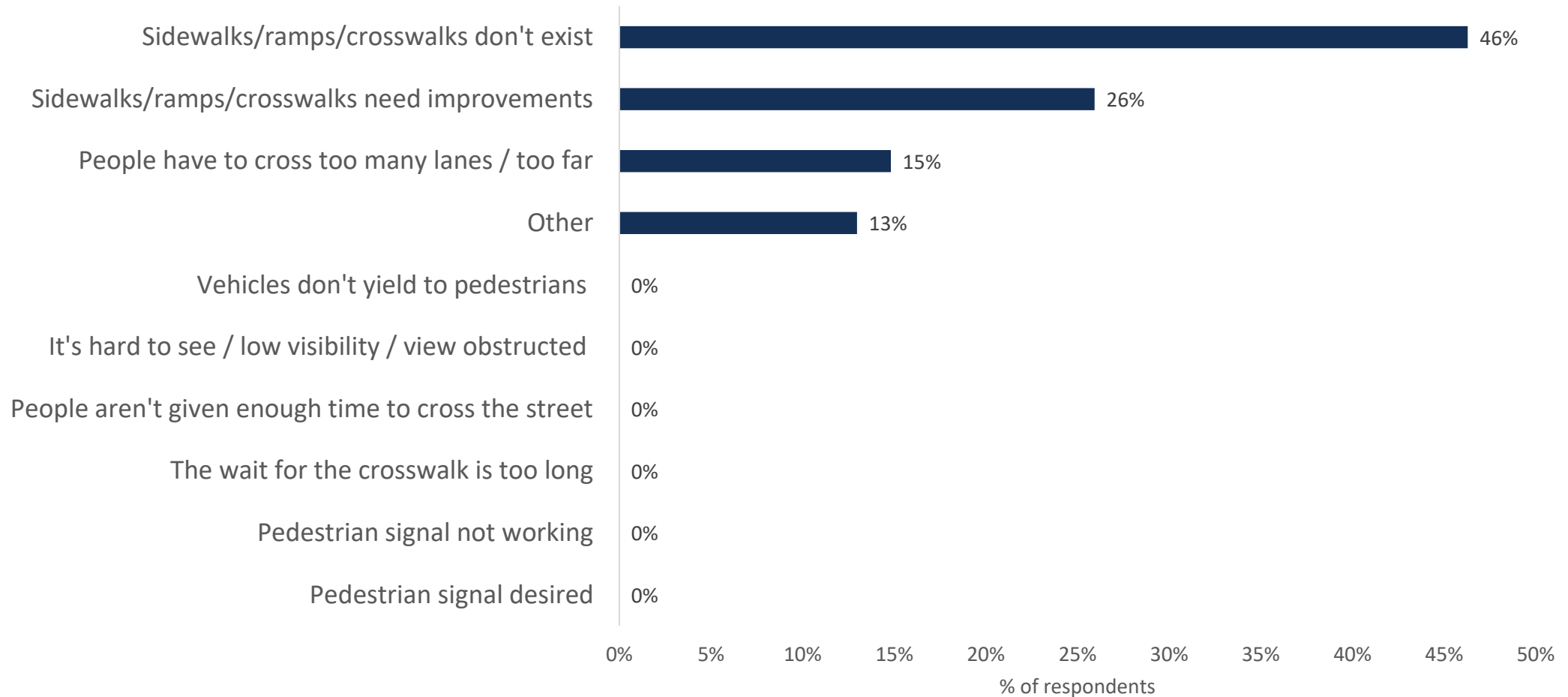


Frequently mentioned areas:

- Hamilton Street
- Tilghman Street
- Union Boulevard
- 17th Street
- Auburn Street
- Turner Street



Pedestrian | Key Takeaways



Pedestrian | Key Takeaways

Desire for comprehensive pedestrian safety improvements including:

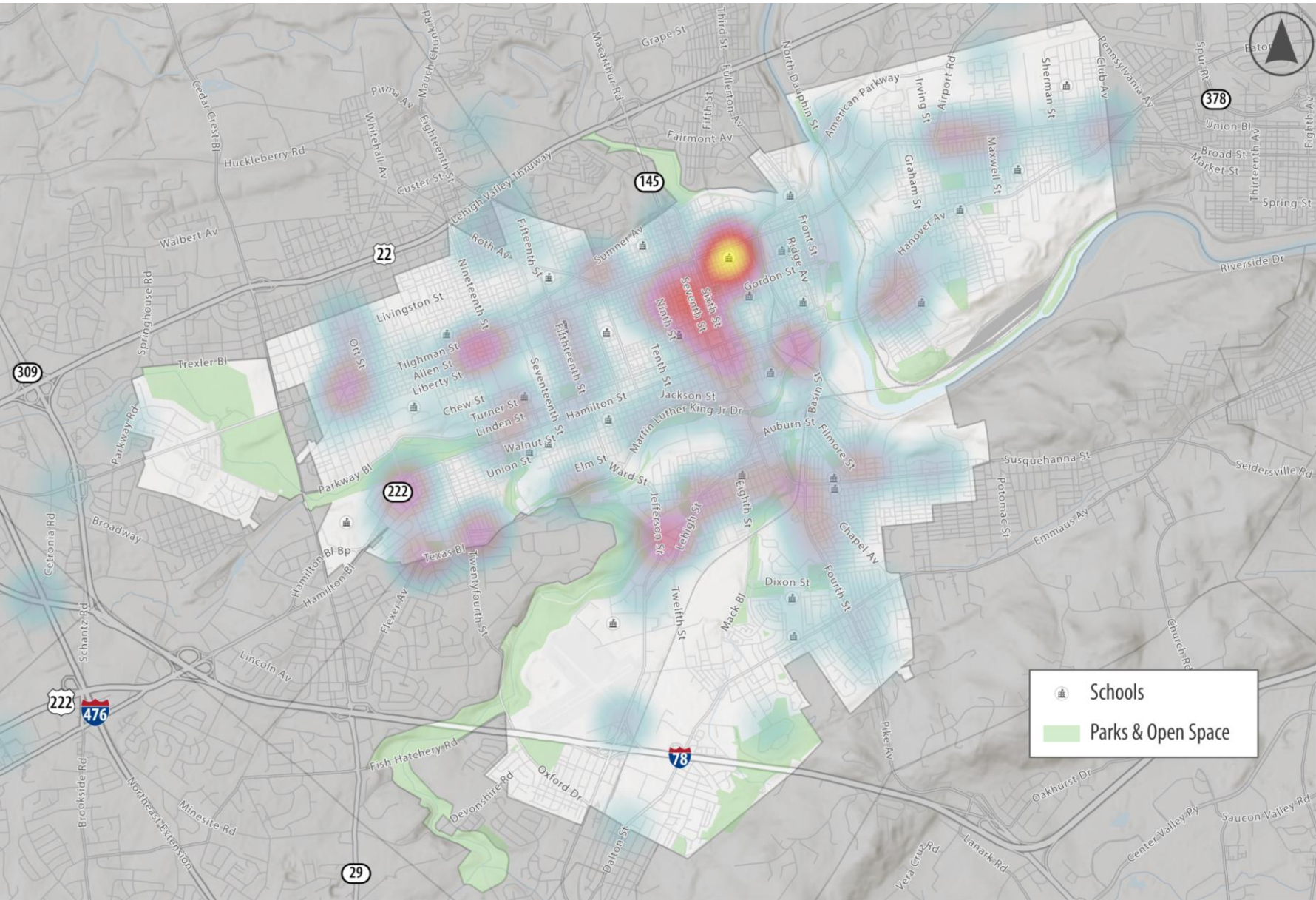
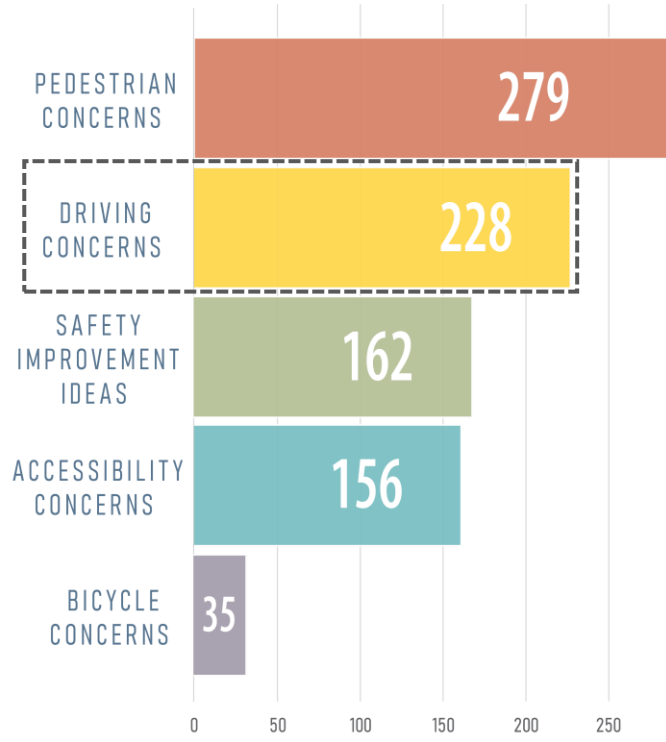
- Pedestrian Signal upgrades
- Crosswalk installations
- Visibility/lighting upgrades
- Measures to slow traffic across multiple locations
- Connecting sidewalk gaps
- Traffic calming/enforcement

"People drive way too fast, especially during the day. It is very hard to cross the street and feel safe."

"Crosswalks are not clearly marked."

"This stretch of Turner St is very dark. Not well lit, making it hard to see as a driver + be seen as a pedestrian."

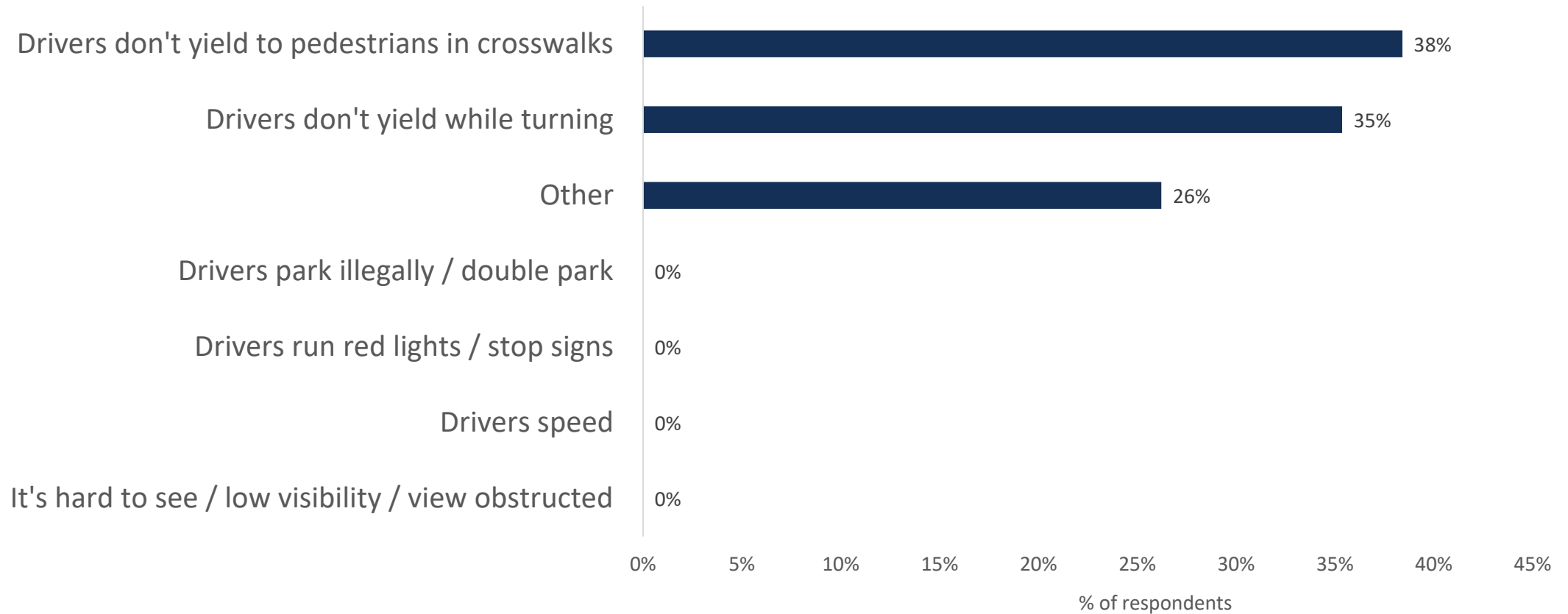
"Despite multiple crosswalks in this stretch of Tilghman, vehicles do not yield or, if they do, other vehicles attempt to go around them."



Frequently mentioned areas:

- Hanover Avenue
- American Parkway
- Susquehanna Street
- Lehigh Street
- Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
- 7th Street
- 4th Street

Driving | Key Takeaways



Driving | Key Takeaways

Primary Concerns:

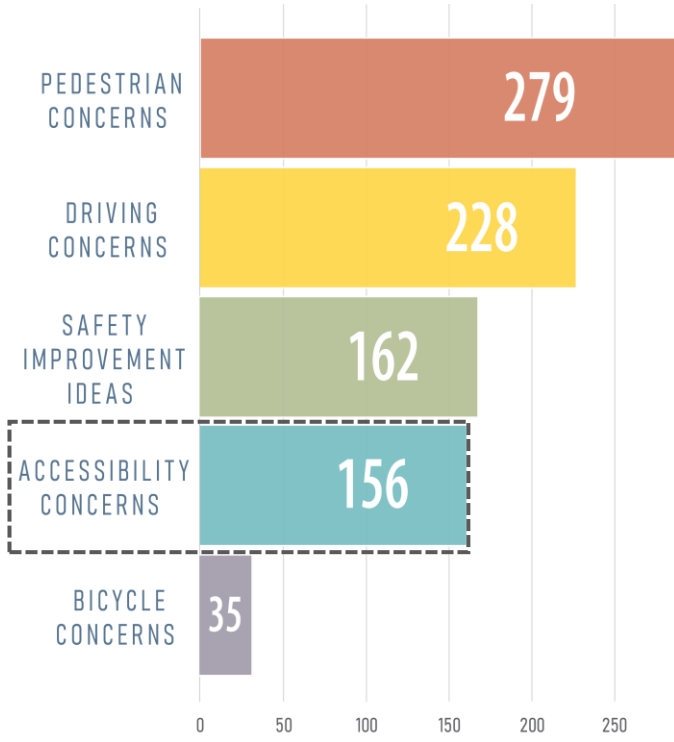
- Illegal parking
- Speeding
- Ignoring stop signs/lights
- Visibility issues
- Intersection design
- Traffic congestion
- Pedestrian safety
- Road conditions
- Driver behavior

"Time and time again I watch people blow through this intersection (Union Blvd/Airport Rd). It's amazing more accidents don't happen here but you learn to wait before going through on a fresh green light as people often just speed through a red."

"Rolling stops are common."

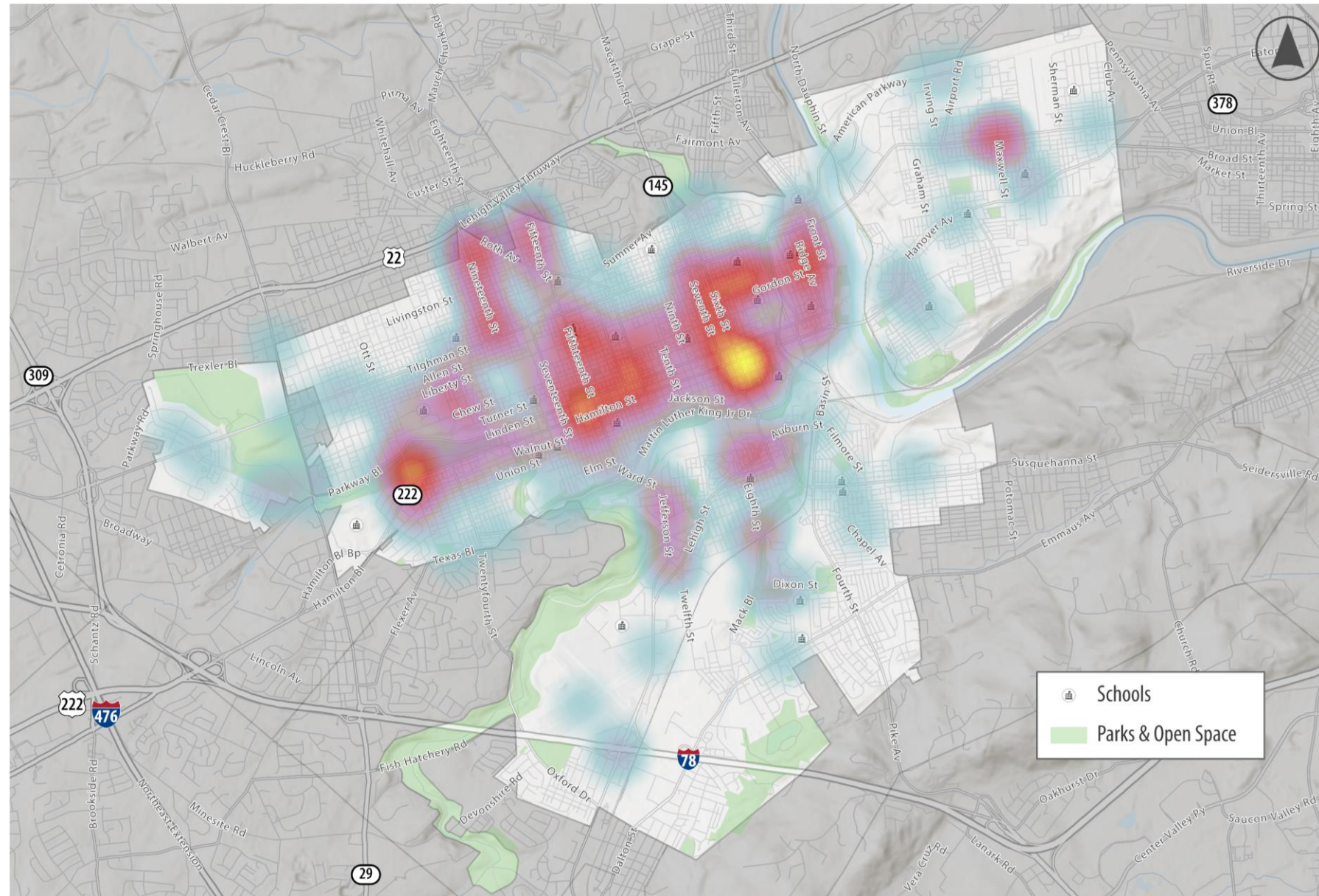
"Cars do not stop for school bus."

"We have lived on Hanover Ave for 27 years. The way the people speed on this road is insane."

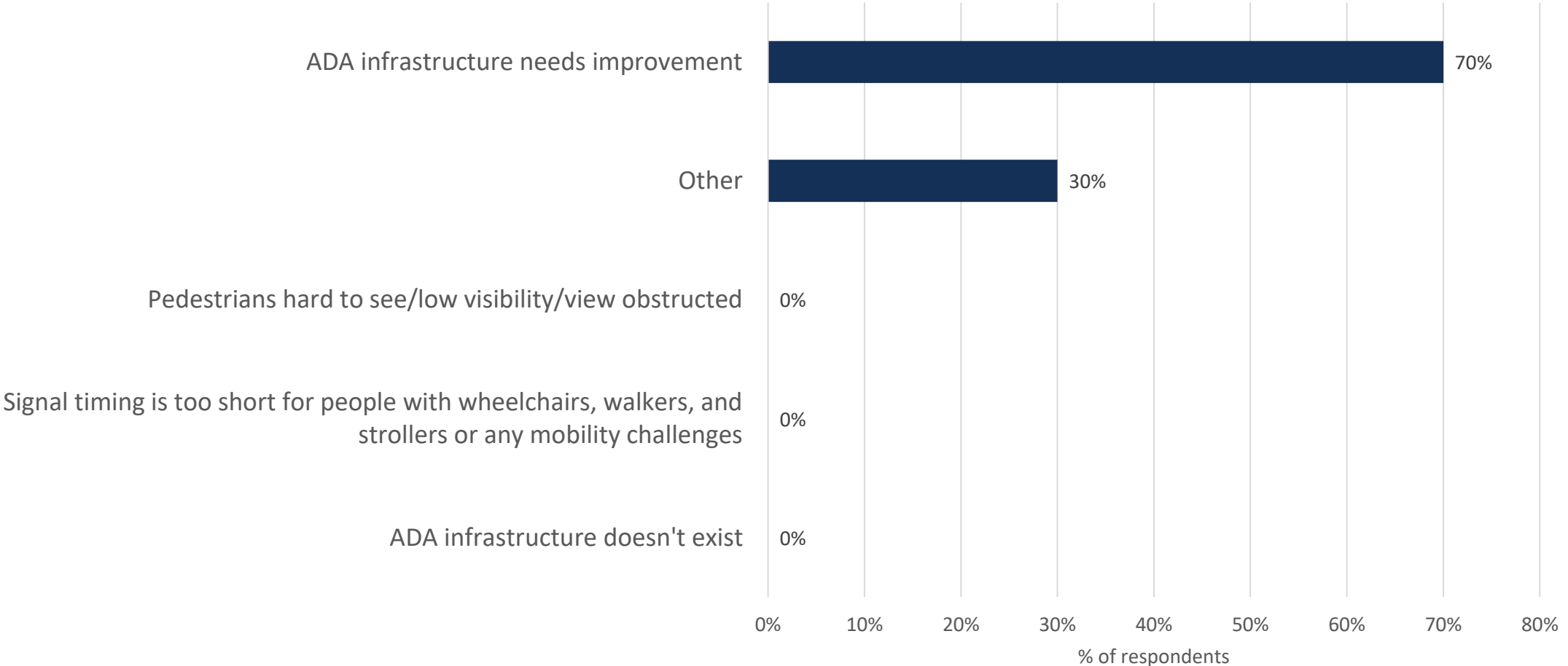


Frequently mentioned areas:

- Hamilton Boulevard
- 6th Street
- Jordan Creek Corridor
- Canal Park



Accessibility | Key Takeaways



Accessibility Concerns | Key Takeaways

Primary Concerns:

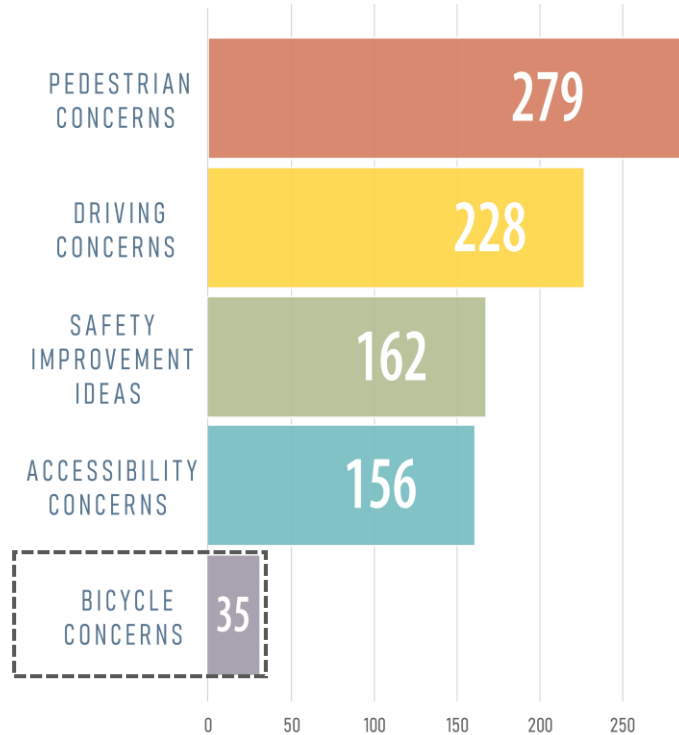
- Many intersections lack ADA accessible infrastructure
- Areas of sidewalk in disrepair
- Difficulty accessing transit
- Missing ADA accessible connections to parks and trails
- Litter and debris

"So, although there is a curb ramp, it leads to a grassy area, no sidewalk, which is frustrating, especially since there is a LANTA bus stop right here."

"The sidewalk is obstructed, and it is not wide enough to be accessible."

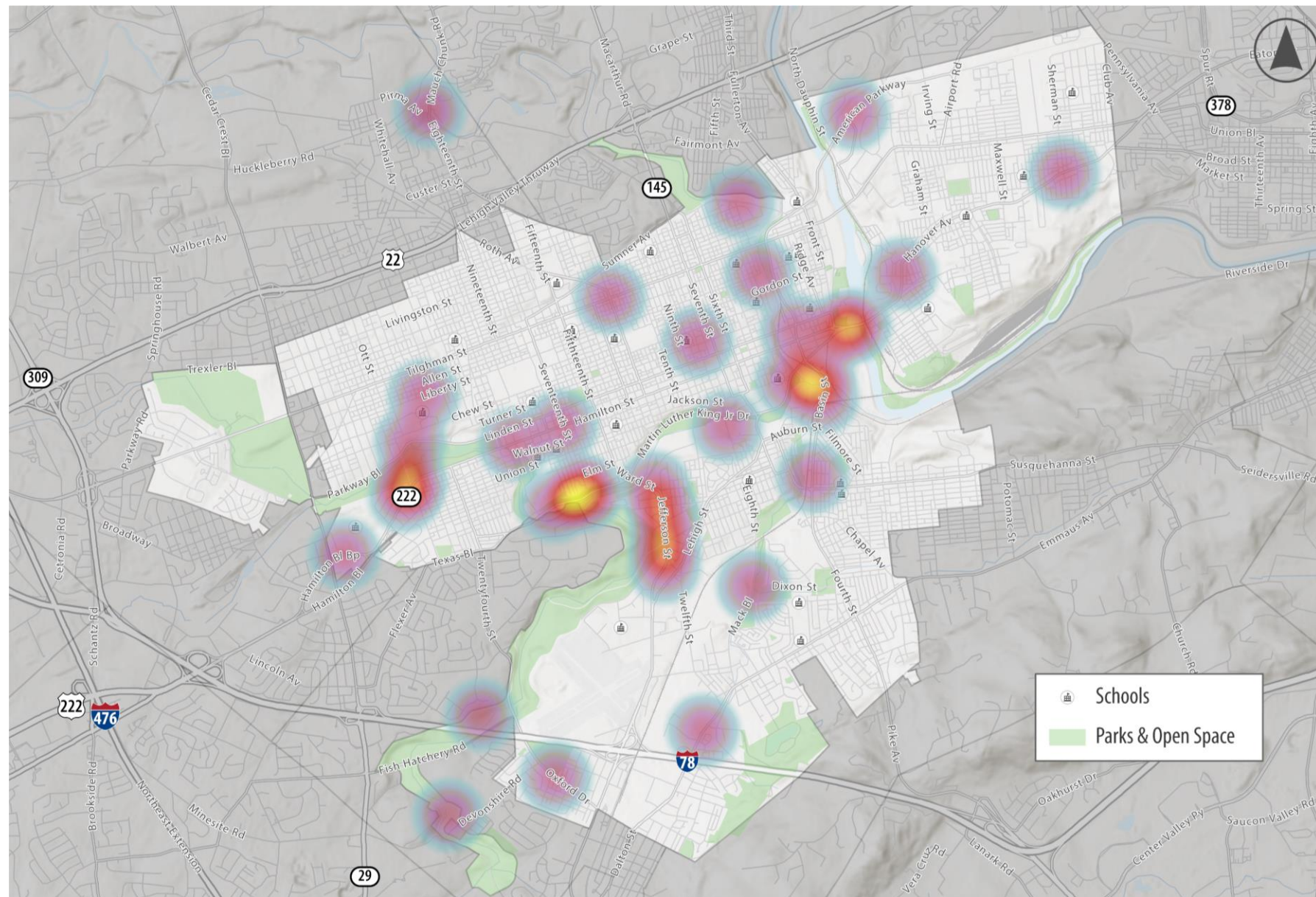
"This intersection is not completely accessible. ADA infrastructure does not exist on all corners."

"Infrastructure connecting the D&L and Canal Park does not exist and traversing Albert Street by foot is extremely dangerous for groups due to the lack of a sidewalk and blind curve off Hamilton."

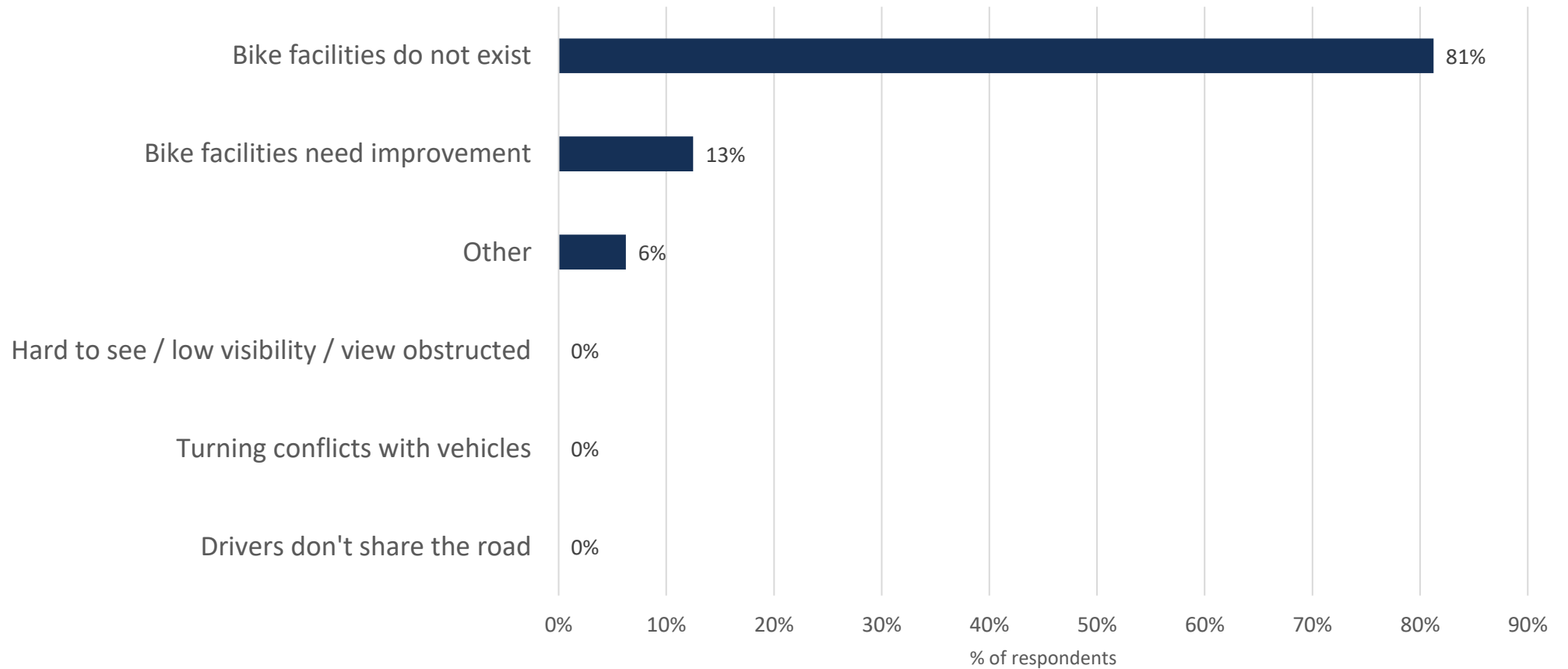


Frequently mentioned areas:

- Martin Luther King Jr Drive
- Hamilton Boulevard
- Hanover Avenue
- American Parkway
- Jefferson Street



Bicycle | Key Takeaways



Bicycle Concerns | Key Takeaways

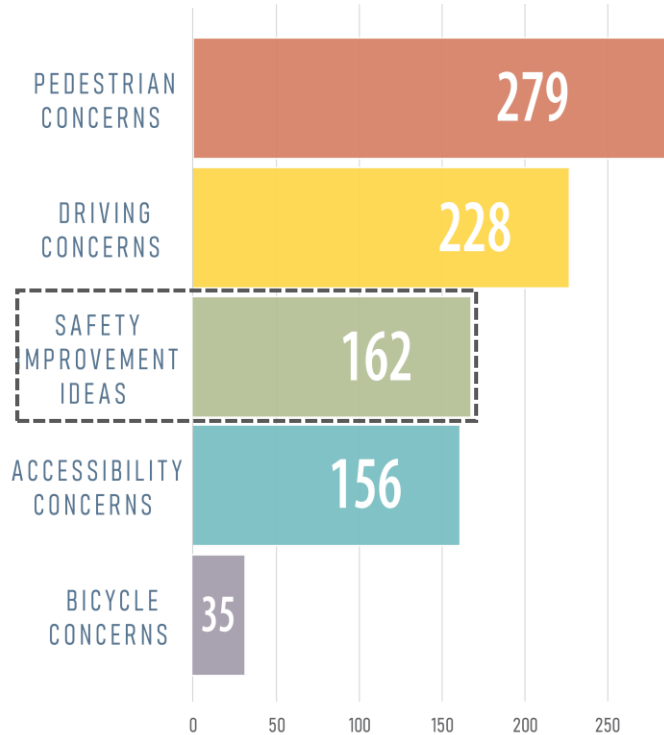
- Primary Concerns:
 - High speed traffic
 - Biking eastbound on Hamilton was noted as a particularly difficult area to bike.
 - Lack of bike infrastructure
 - Connectivity issues
 - Driver and bicyclist education
- Proposed Solutions:
 - More dedicated bike lanes
 - Protected bike lanes on higher-traffic roads are desired.
 - Connected on/off road network
 - Traffic calming measures

"This is a citywide issue. Cyclist ride on the wrong side of the street (facing oncoming cars) and the wrong way on one-way streets. They are required to follow the same rules as car drivers. It's not just kids."

"Traffic is too fast to comfortably share a lane or navigate across lanes when having to make a turn."

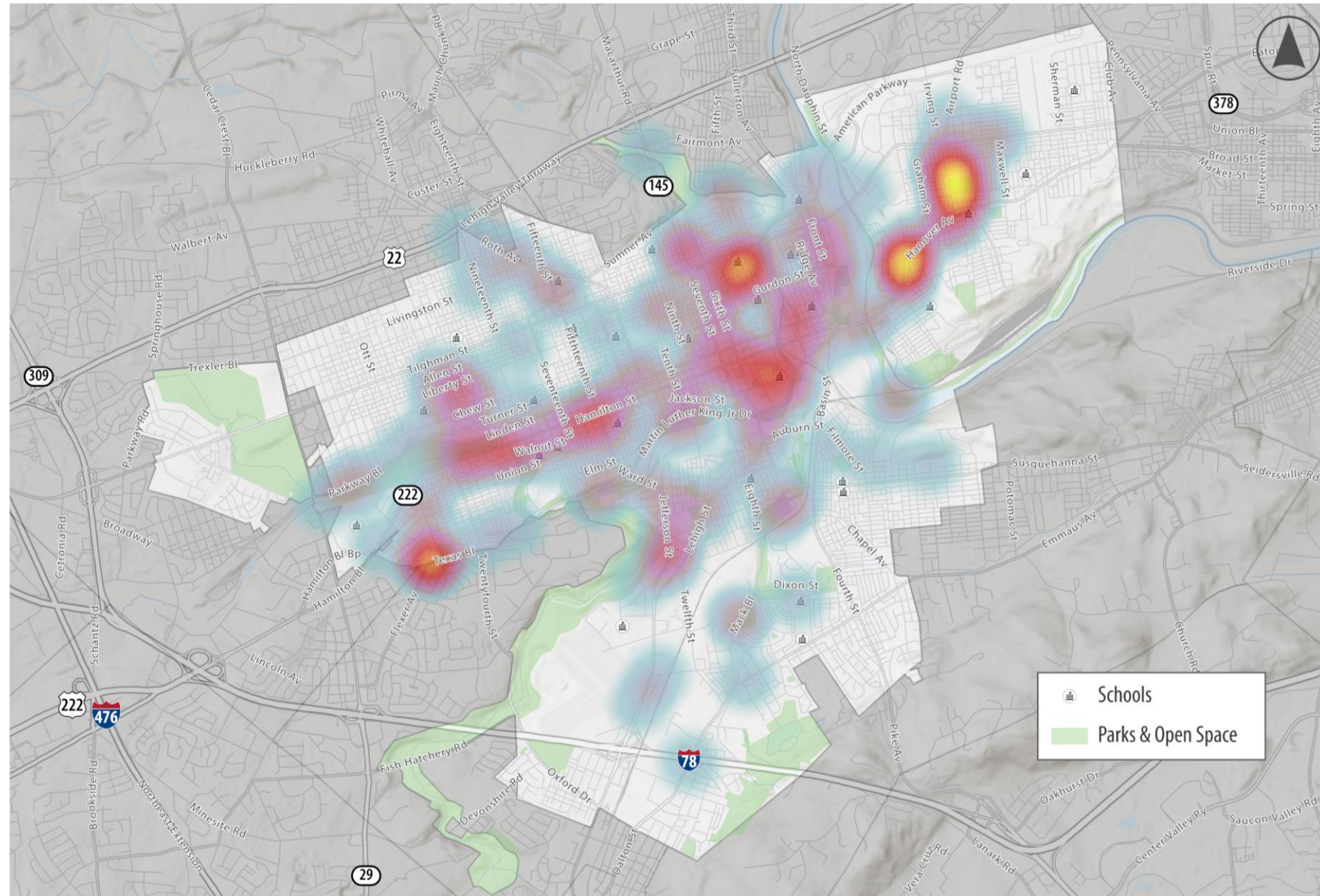
"Please stop with the sharrows, no bike user wants to share the road and gamble their life."

"Hanover Ave is the most dangerous street in Allentown. I've personally witnessed multiple accidents and even some deaths that have occurred on these curves."

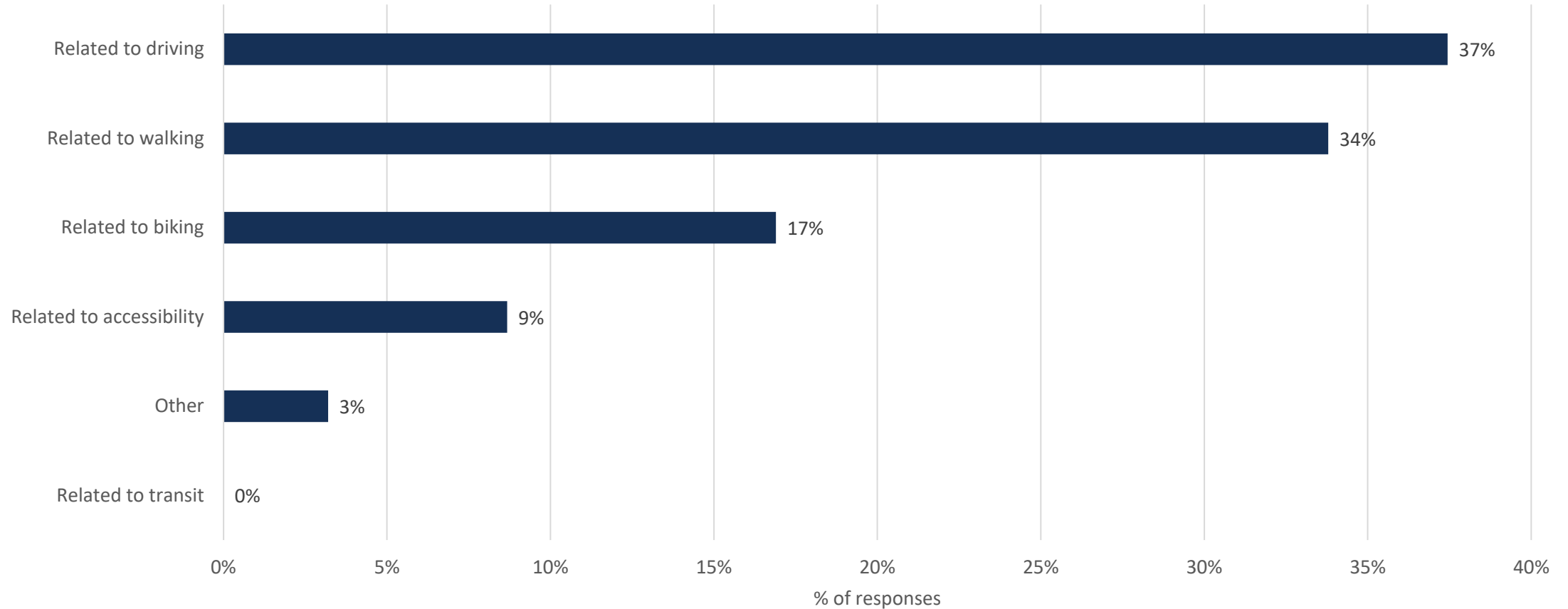


Frequently mentioned areas:

- Hamilton Street
- Chew Street
- 4th Street and Martin Luther King Jr Dr
- Union Boulevard
- 7th Street
- Lehigh Parkway



Safety Improvement Ideas | Key Takeaways



Safety Improvement Ideas | Key Takeaways

- Road diets and speed bumps are among the most desired improvements.
- Most improvements wanted stem from concerns over speeding.
- Increasing street lighting was a popular “other” solution.
- Proposed Safety Ideas include:
 - Pedestrian Crossings & Walkways
 - Traffic Calming Measures
 - Street & Intersection Redesign
 - Bicycle & Pedestrian Prioritization
 - Lighting & Visibility Improvements
 - Traffic Law Enforcement
 - Bridge & Roadway Enhancements

“Awkward intersection (15th St/Hamilton Blvd) that could be reconfigured for pedestrian and driver safety.”

“This block (Washington St) is not well lit after dark. This street is busy for drivers coming onto/off 7th street, and it should receive appropriate lighting.”

“Convert 7th St from a one-way to a two-way, with bike lanes! This will slow down traffic and allow pedestrians and bikers to travel safely.”

“Drivers FLY down Hamilton. The road is wide, and there is no traffic signal between 24th and 19th street. Either install traffic signals, reduce road width, or both!”

Next Steps

Survey findings will be used...

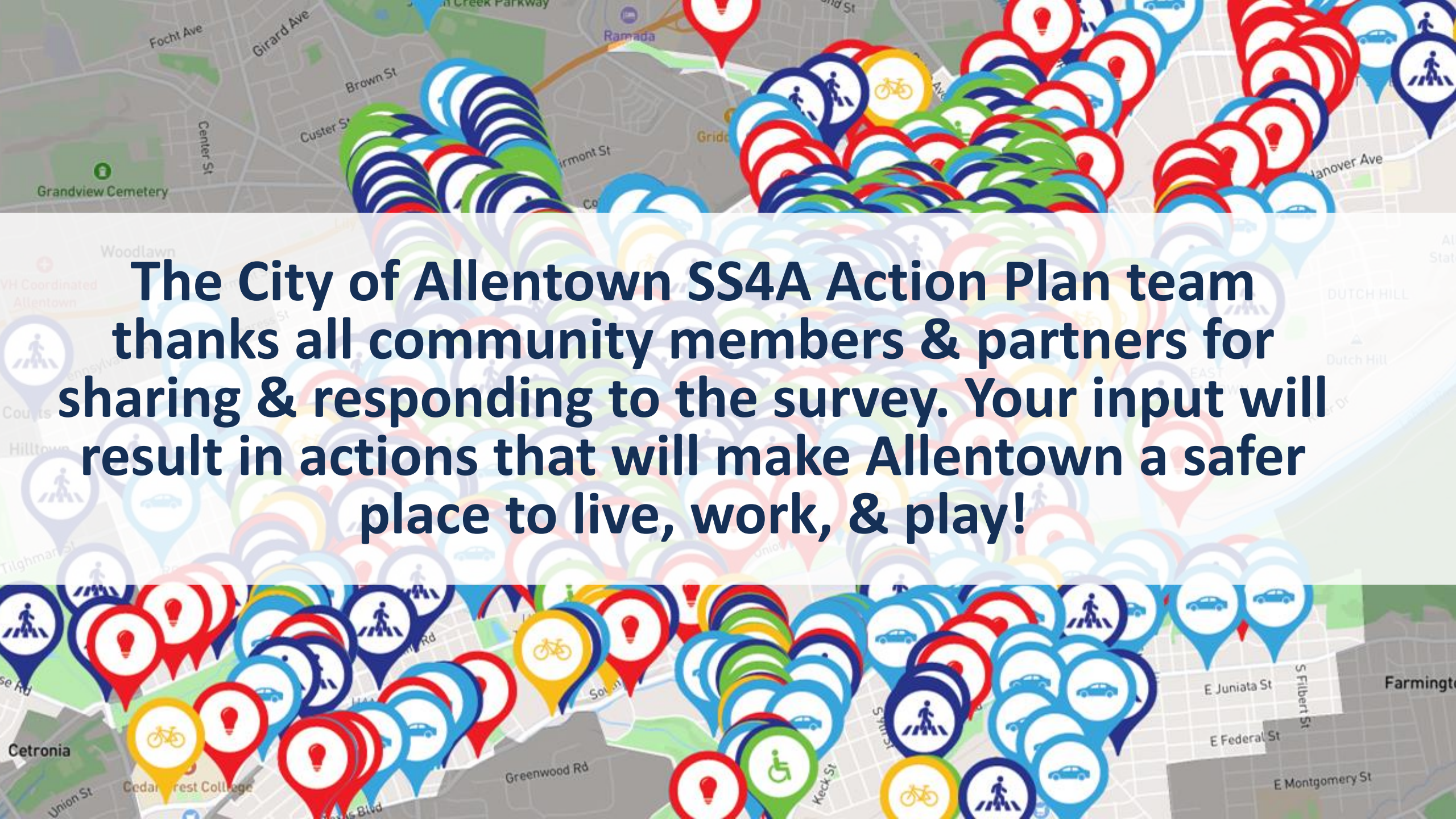
... to inform safety improvement concept plans that will be included in the SS4A Action Plan.

... to inform the priority recommendations within the SS4A Action Plan.

... as a reference document for future safety improvements. Comments associated with specific locations will be referenced whenever safety improvements, paving, or utility work is performed in that area.

Continuing to Cultivate Community Buy-In

- Continued community engagement in transportation safety planning is a goal of the SS4A plan.
- The SS4A project team will be hosting pop-ups in the community in Fall 2024 to share:
 - The survey findings and how they will be incorporated into the plan.
 - A draft of the Allentown SS4A Safety Toolkit (i.e., countermeasures that the City can use to address the concerns raised in the survey).
 - How community members can continue to provide feedback on safety concerns and monitor SS4A progress (i.e., the Allentown SS4A Dashboard).
- Public presentation of the Allentown SS4A Action Plan to City Council in early 2025.



**The City of Allentown SS4A Action Plan team
thanks all community members & partners for
sharing & responding to the survey. Your input will
result in actions that will make Allentown a safer
place to live, work, & play!**