

Whately Comprehensive Plan

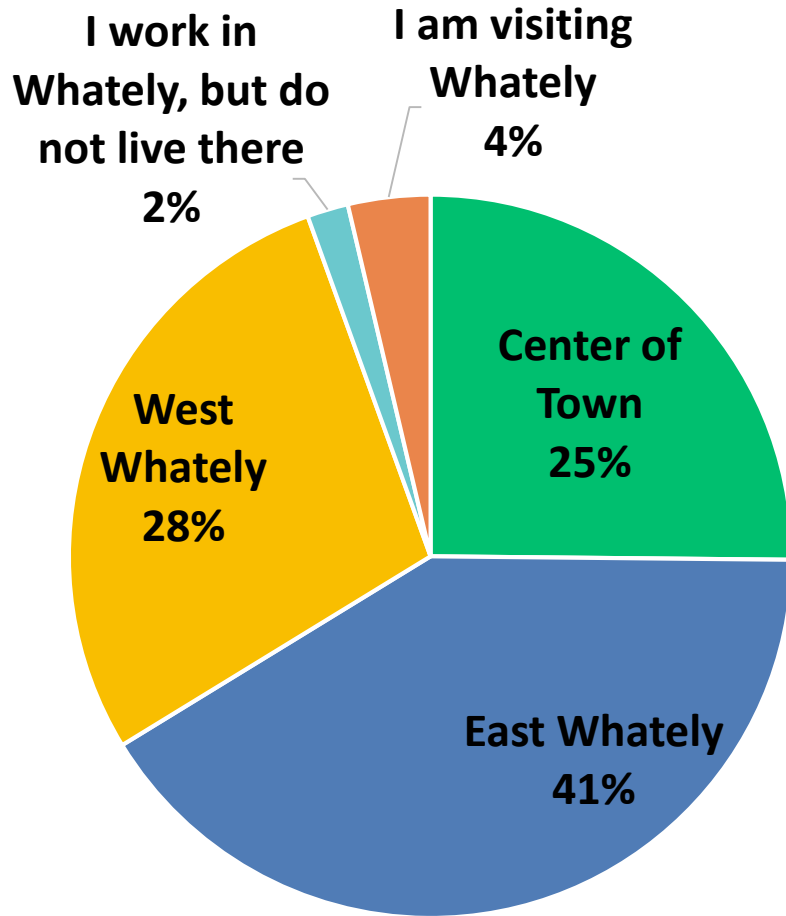
Survey Results

Responses collected January 22 – March 12, 2024

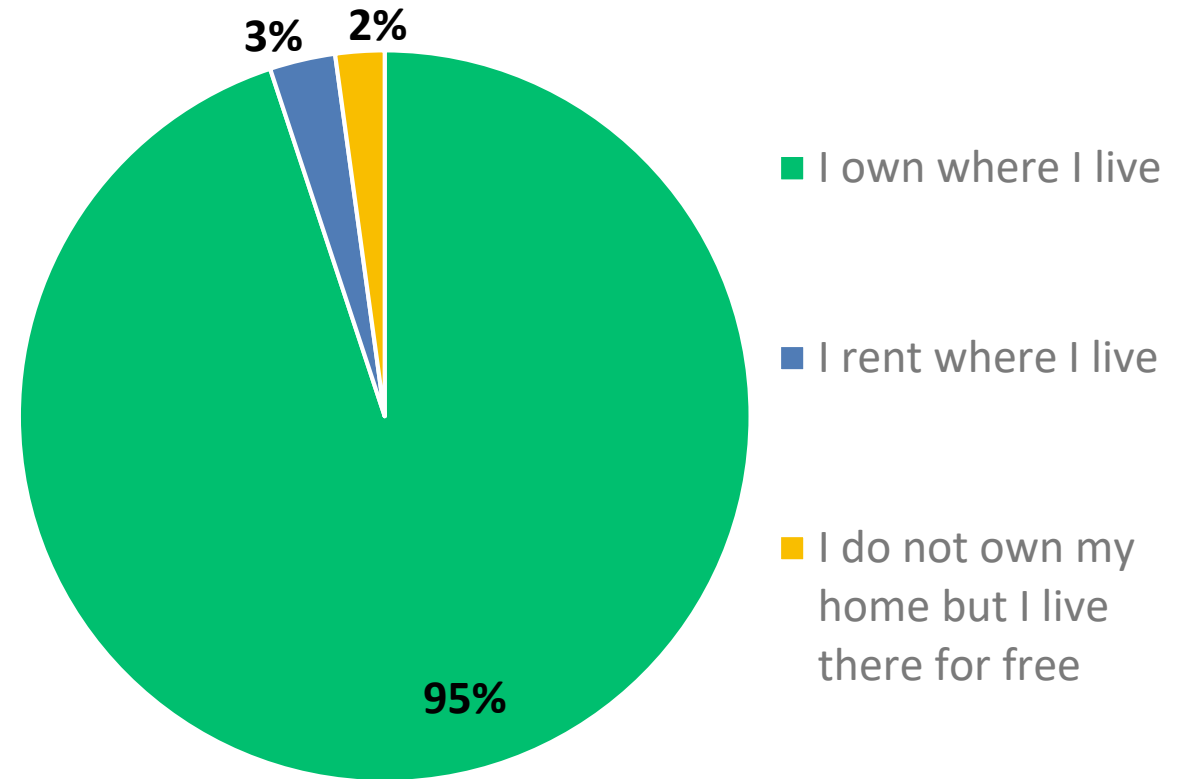
- 168 total responses
- 140 fully completed (~83%)

Demographics of Survey Respondents

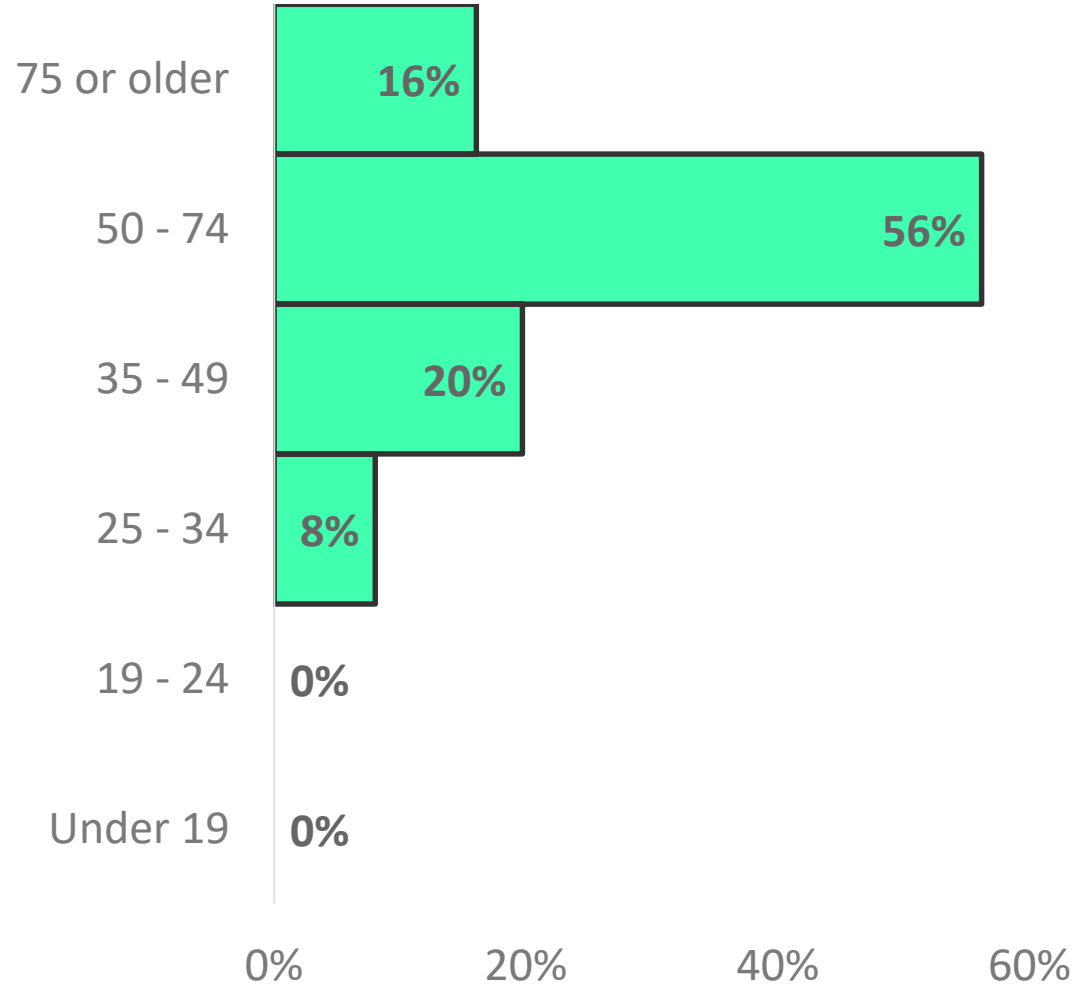
Q1: Where do you live in the Town of Whately?
Select one.



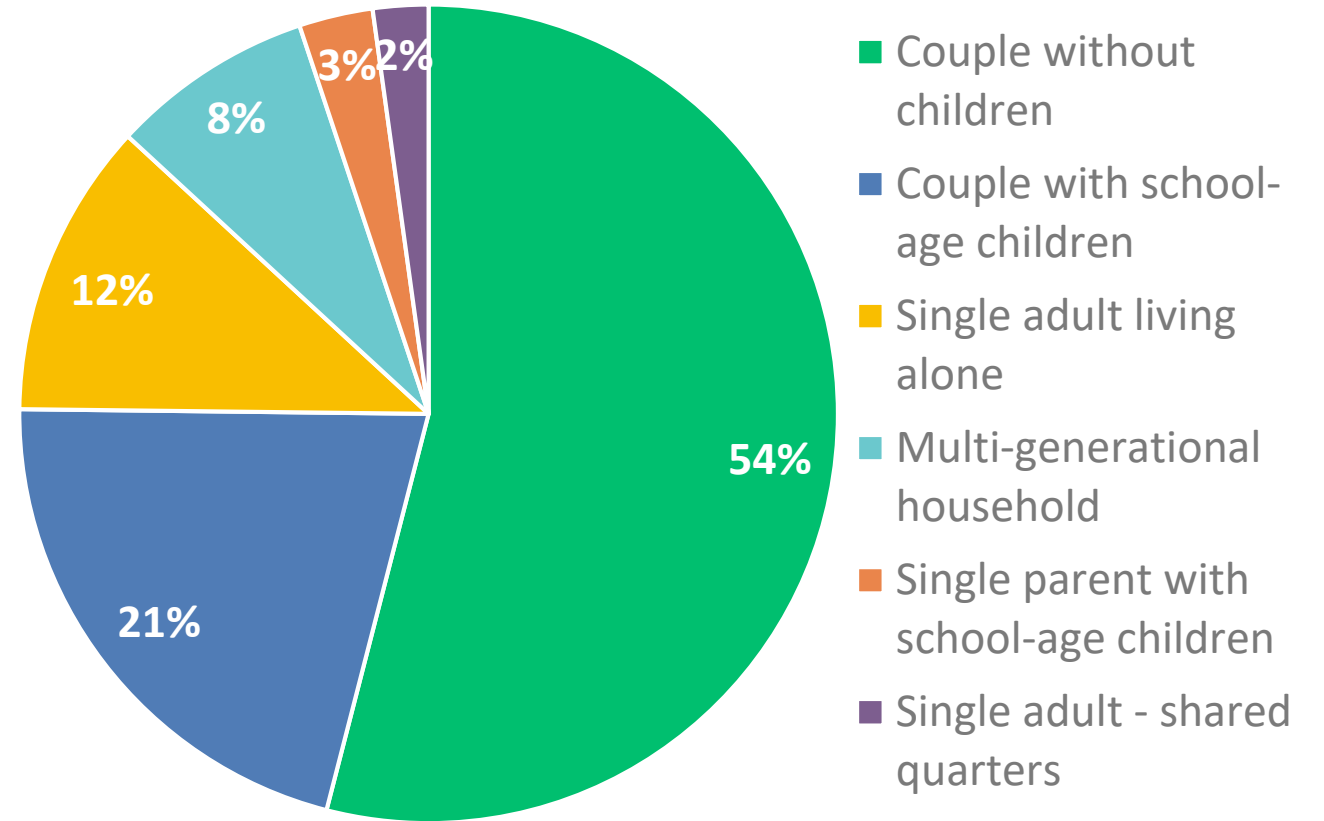
Q22: Select the phrase that best describes your housing.
Select one.



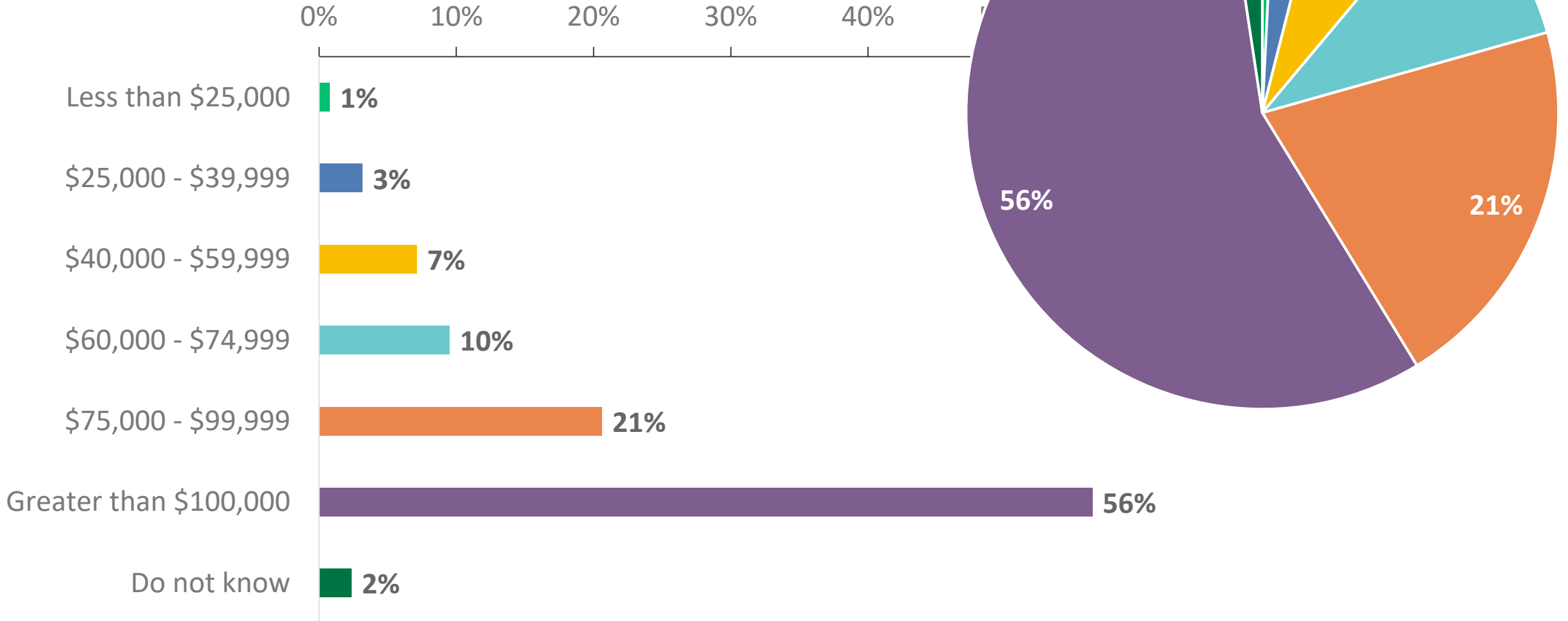
Q23: What is your age? *Select one.*



Q24: What is your current living situation? *Select one.*



Q23: What is your approximate annual household income?
Select one.



Summary of Demographics of Survey Respondents Relative to Whately Population

Housing:

Homeowners are overrepresented in the survey, at 95% compared to the actual rate of 88%.

Age:

Three-quarters (76%) of survey respondents were between the ages of 35 and 74, while this group represents 63% of the population. This survey was geared towards adults, so it was not expected to have a representative response rate from children and youth. (Table 1)

Income:

Higher income groups are more represented in the survey. People who earn less than \$60k are not well represented despite making up 25% of the population. Those earning \$100k or more are overrepresented. (Table 2)

Table 1. Age

Region	% of Responses	% of Current Pop.
Under 35	8%	31%
35-74	76%	63%
75 or Older	16%	6%
*Current population as defined in 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.		

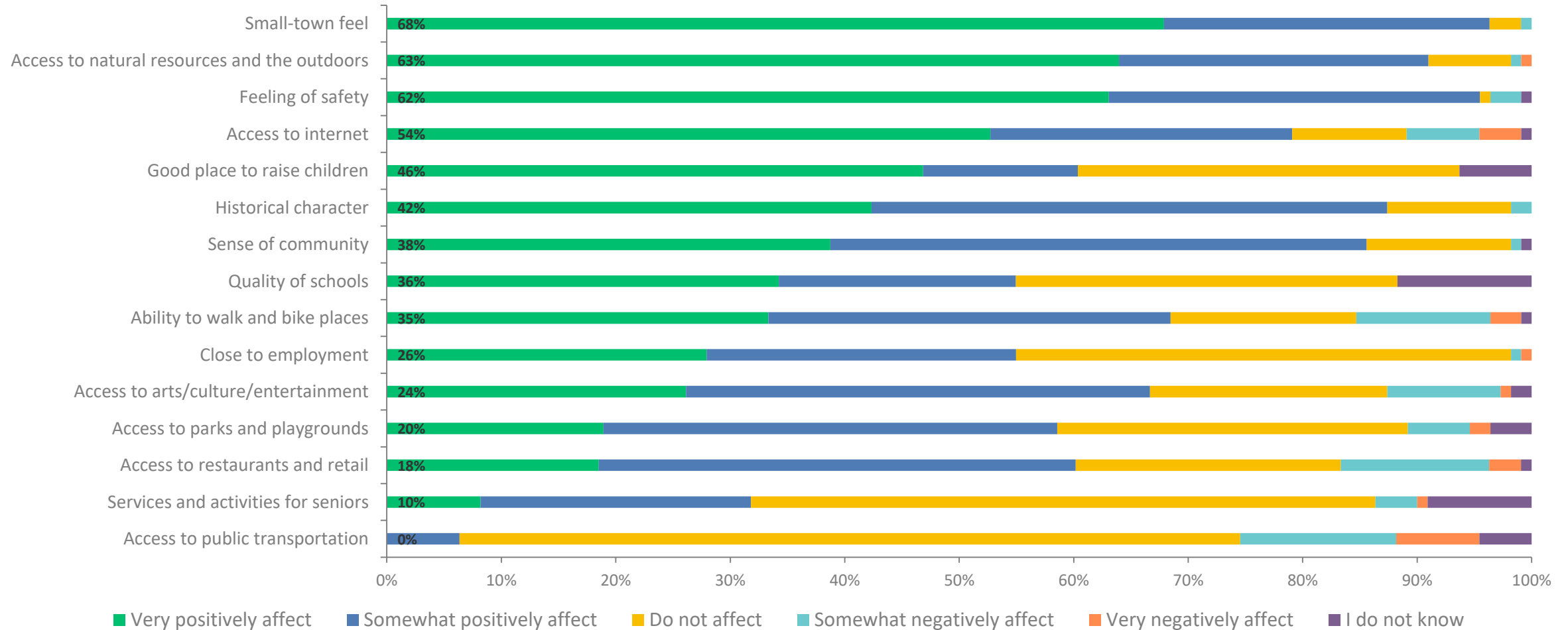
Table 2. Income

Income bracket	% of Responses	% of Current Pop.*
Less than \$25,000	1%	7%
\$25,000 - \$39,999	3%	8%
\$40,000 - \$59,999	7%	10%
\$60,000 - \$74,999	10%	11%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	21%	16%
\$100,000 or more	56%	48%
2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.		

Quality of Life

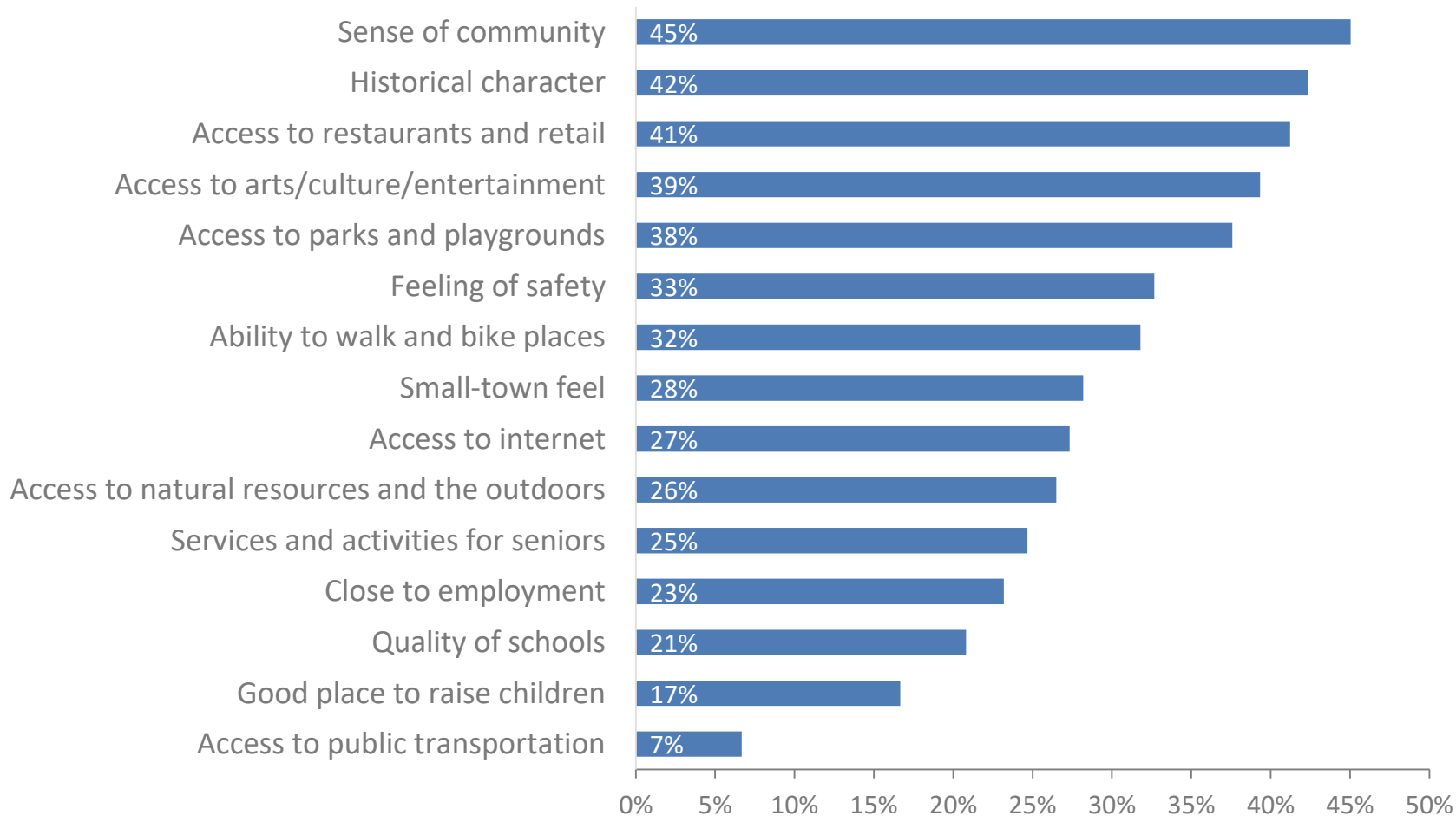
Q2: How do the following factors affect your life in the Town of Whately?

Ranked by those answering "Very positively affect"



Q2: How do the following factors affect your life in the Town of Whately?

Ranked by those answering “Somewhat positively affect”

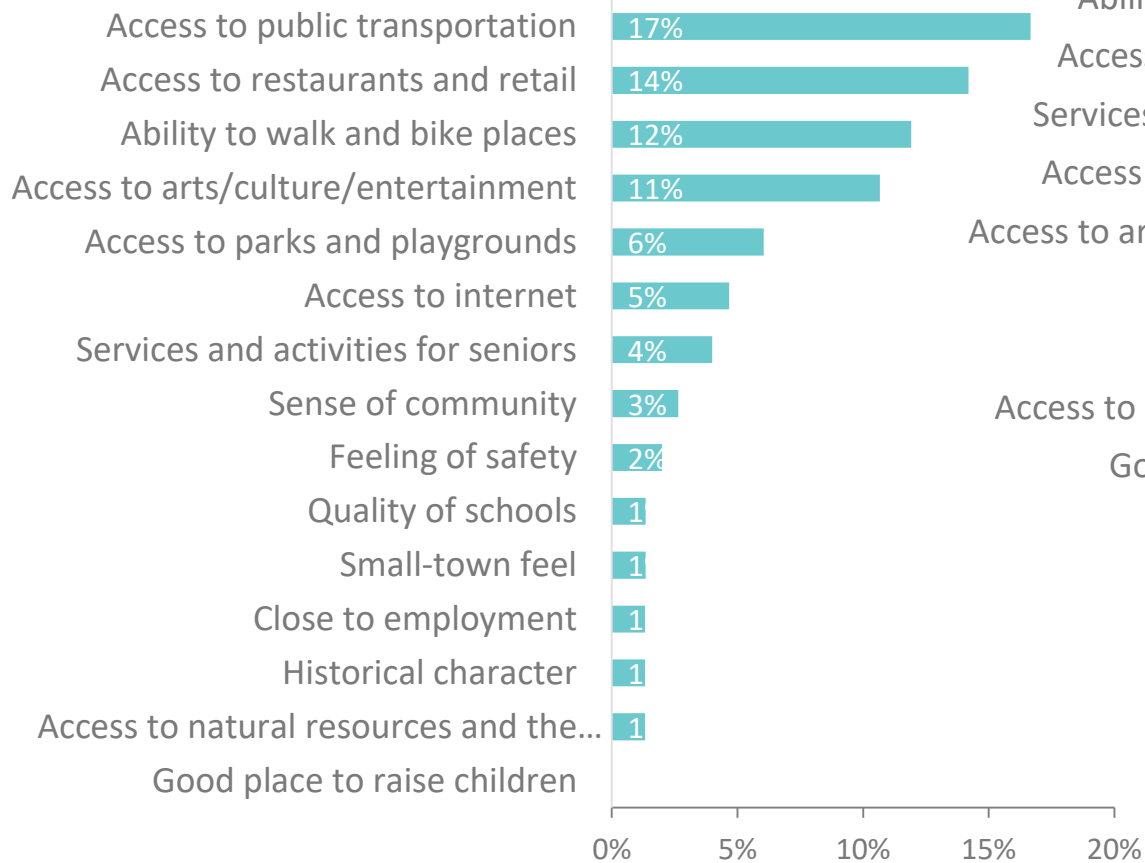


“Very positively” and “Somewhat positively” combined top 5 ranking:

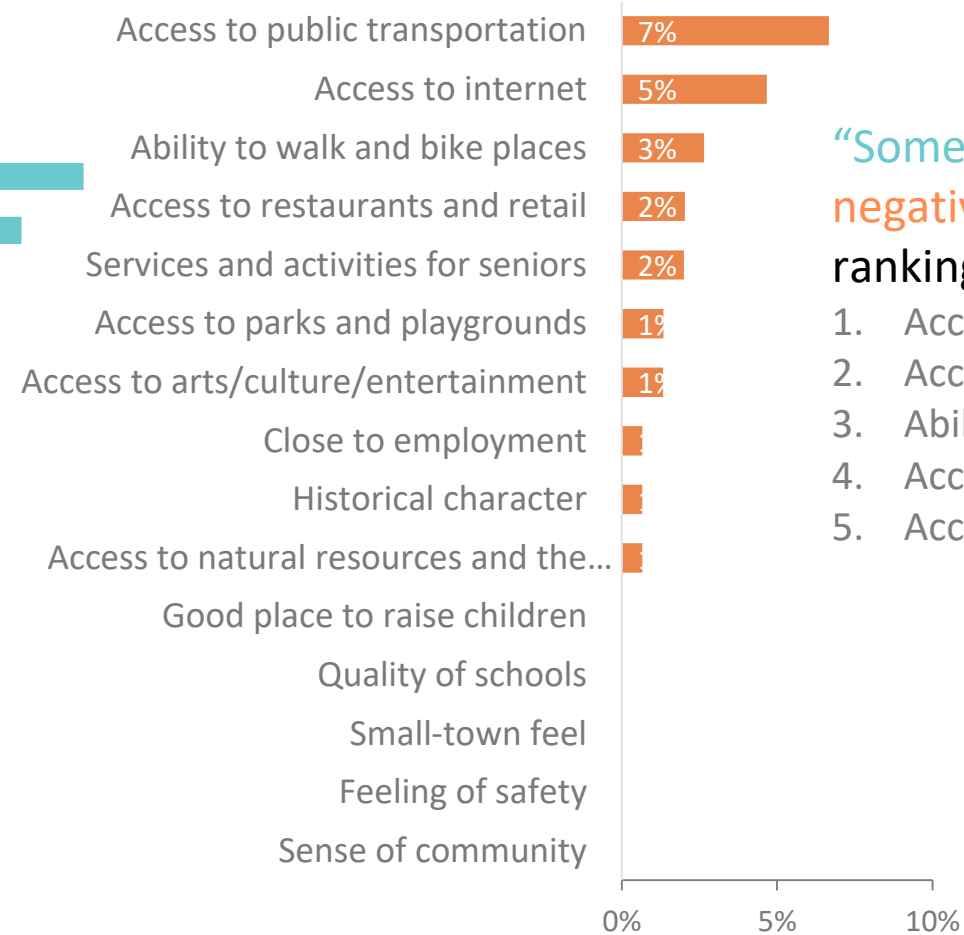
1. Feeling of safety
2. Small-town feel
3. Access to natural resources and the outdoors
4. Historic character
5. Sense of community

Q2: How do the following factors affect your life in the Town of Whately?

Ranked by those answering “Somewhat negatively affect”



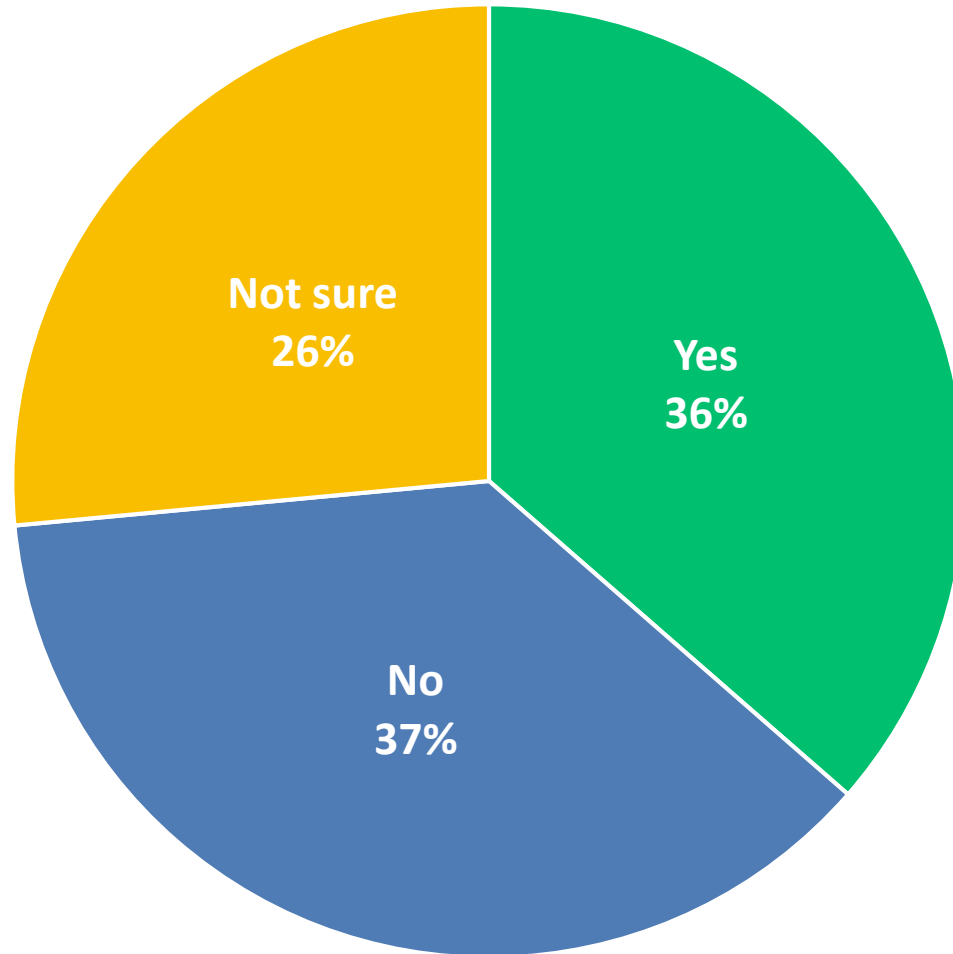
Ranked by those answering “Very negatively affect”



“Somewhat negatively” and “Very negatively” combined top 5 ranking:

1. Access to public transportation
2. Access to restaurants and retail
3. Ability to walk and bike places
4. Access to arts/culture/entertainment
5. Access to internet

Q3: Are there enough places to gather – with friends, neighbors, or as a community – in Whately? *Select one.*



Q4: What do you think is missing from Whately that would improve your quality of life? *Opened ended.*



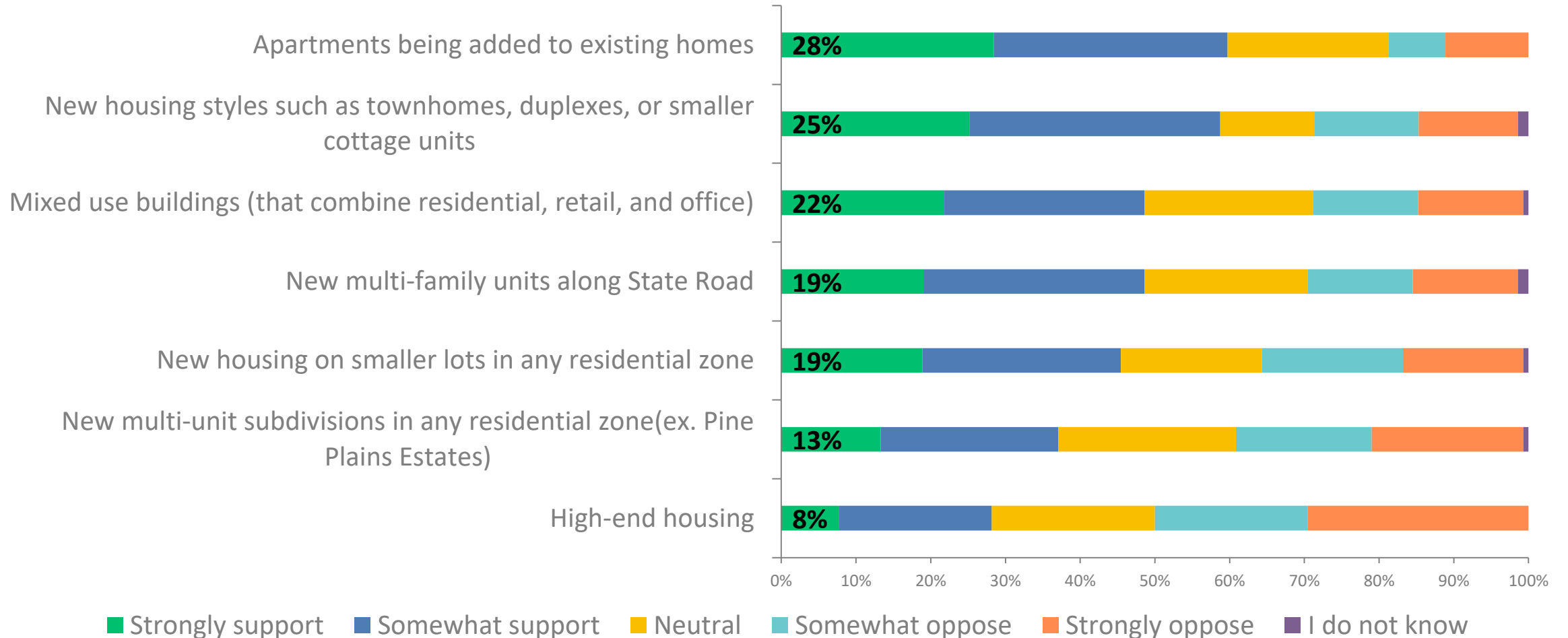
Q5: What is the best thing about our town? *Open ended.*



Housing

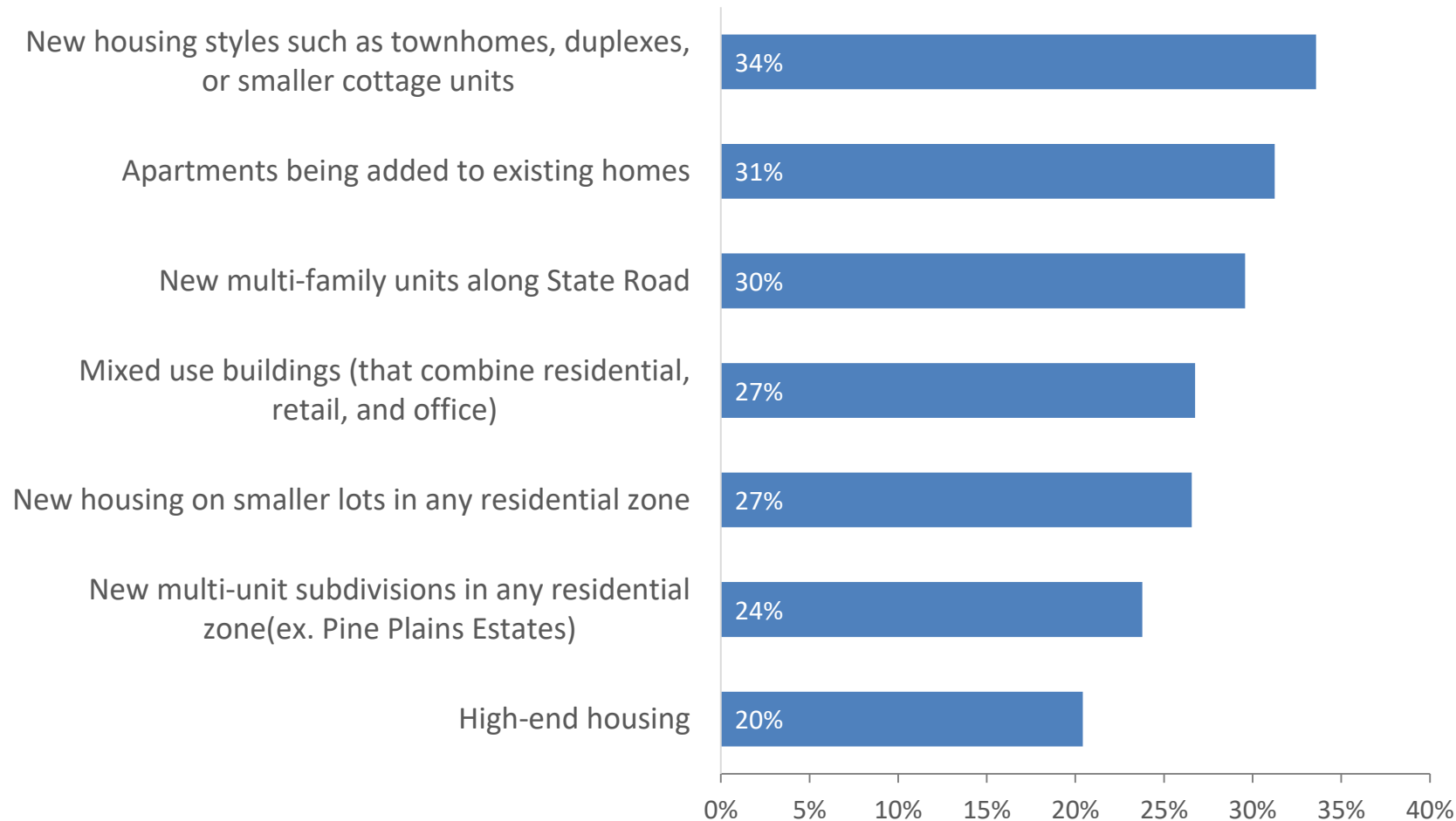
Q7: Would you support or oppose the following for new development?

Ranked by those answering “Strongly support”



Q7: Would you support or oppose the following for new development?

Ranked by those answering “Somewhat strongly support”



“Strongly support” and “Somewhat support” combined top 3 ranking:

1. Apartments being added to existing homes
2. New housing styles such as townhomes, duplexes, or smaller cottage units

Tied for 3.

Mixed use buildings (that combine residential, retail, and office)

and

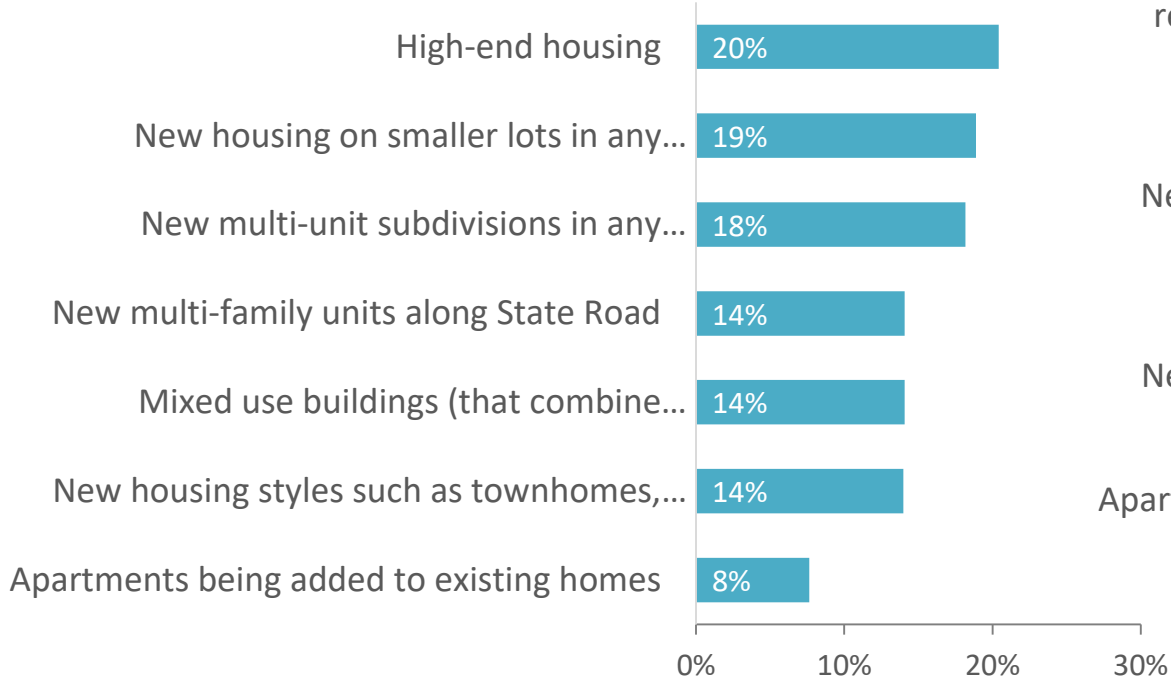
New multi-family units along State Road

Q7: Would you support or oppose the following for new development?

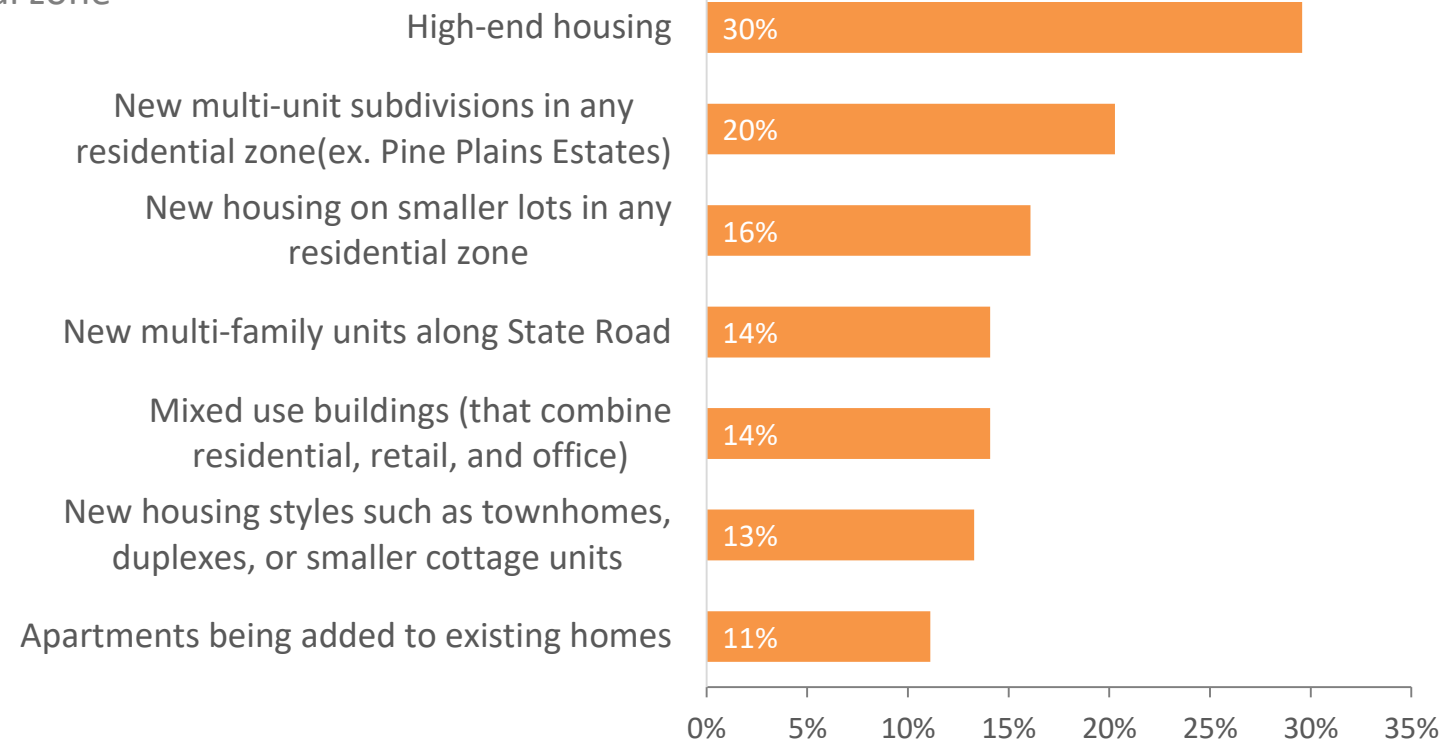
“Somewhat oppose” and “Strongly oppose” combined top 3 ranking:

1. High-end housing
2. New multi-unit subdivisions in any residential zone (ex. Pine Plains Estates)
3. New housing on smaller lots in any residential zone

Ranked by those answering “Somewhat negatively affect”



Ranked by those answering “Very negatively affect”



Q6: How should new housing be prioritized over the next 15 years?

Rank the following choices from 1 to 4 with 1 = Most Important and 4 = Least Important.

Average Ranking

2.1

#1 New housing should be made more intentionally affordable for those in the workforce
(teachers, firefighters, laborers, small business owners, etc.)

2.4

#2 New housing should be set aside for seniors

2.5

#3 New housing should include more starter homes for families

3.0

#4 New housing should include more market-rate housing

Natural and Cultural Resources

Q8: How should the Town prioritize the following natural and cultural resources actions/activities?

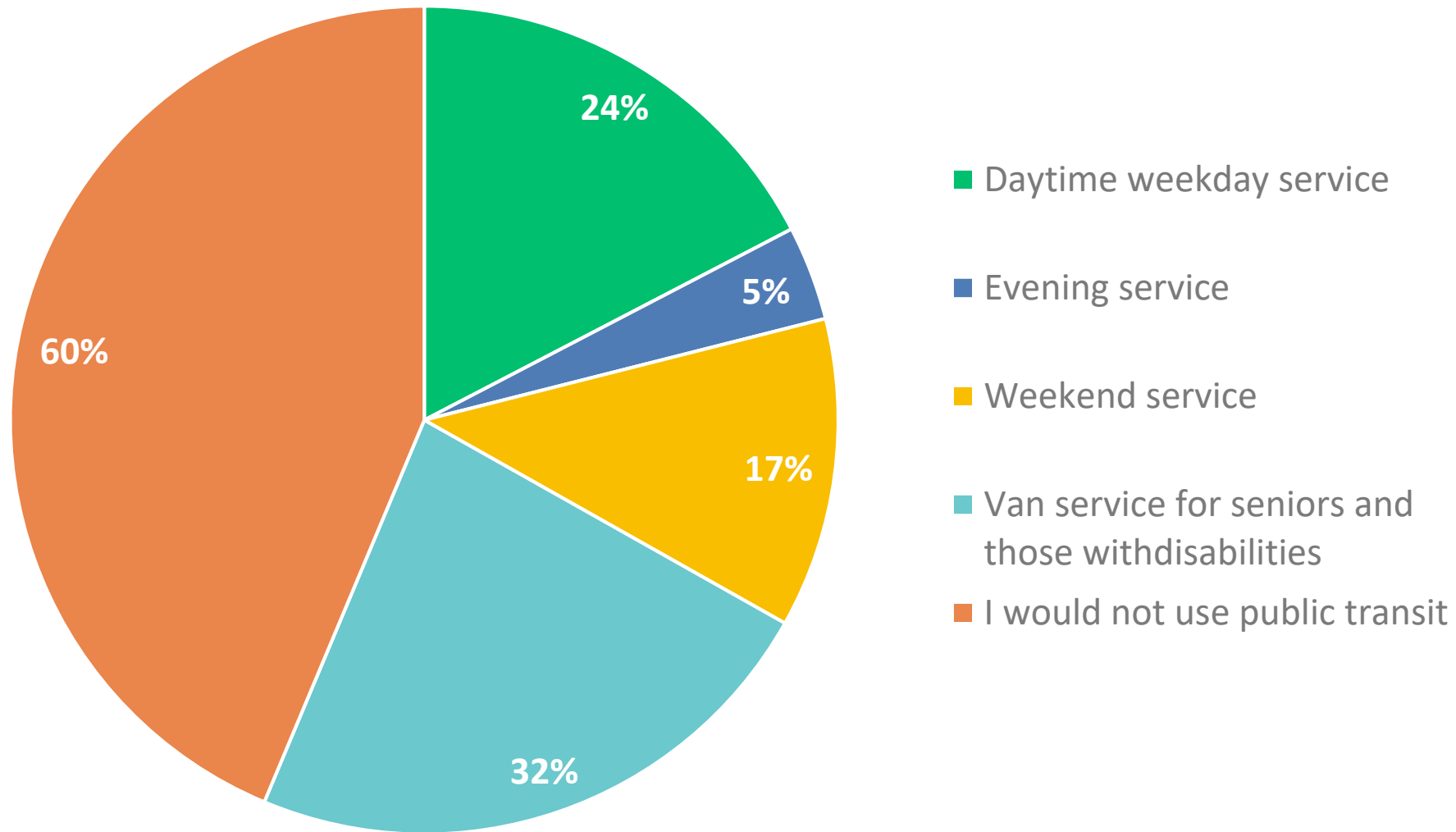
Rank the following activities from 1 to 7 with 1 = Most Important and 7 = Least Important.

Average Ranking

- | | | |
|------------|-----------|---|
| 1.9 | #1 | Protect additional farmland and forestland |
| 2.5 | #2 | Preserve groundwater and surface water quality |
| 3.9 | #3 | Protect hill slopes and ridgelines |
| 4.5 | #4 | Preserve scenic roads |
| 4.8 | #5 | Better link open space parcels together |
| 4.9 | #6 | Support historical preservation |
| 5.5 | #7 | Increase opportunities for community gatherings |

Transportation

Q9: Would you use the following public bus services if they were available? *Select all that apply.*



Q10: What could make walking and biking feel safer in Town? Where?
Opened ended.

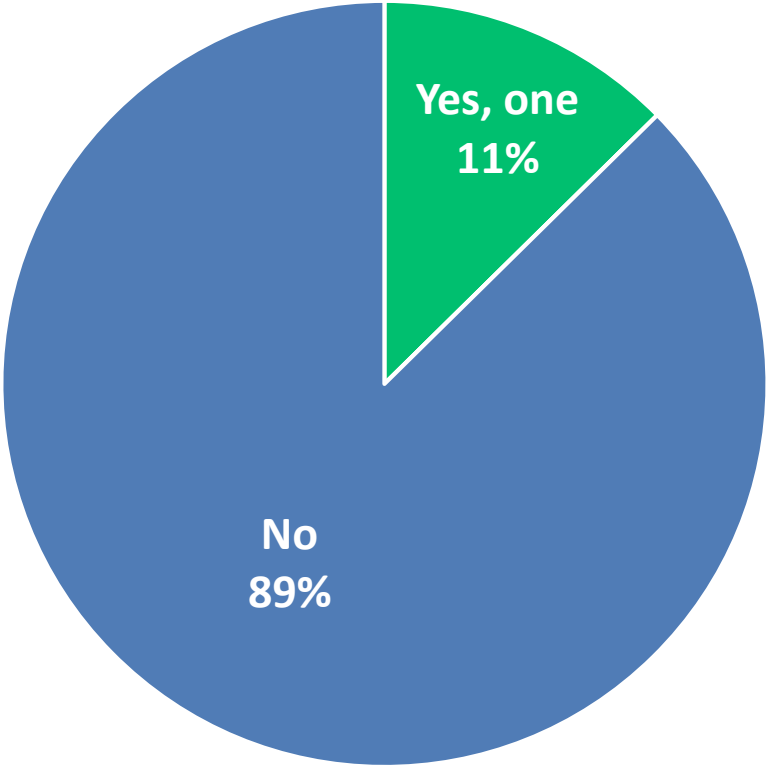


Challenging Areas for Pedestrians and Bicyclists

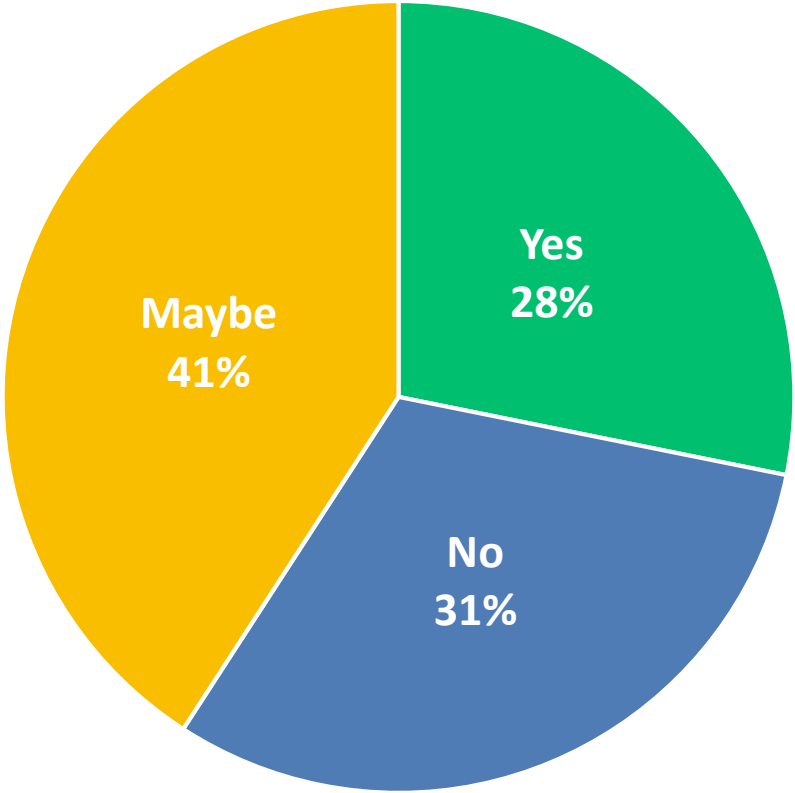
Identified in Question 10.

Pine St
Haydenville Rd
Long Plain Rd **North St**
River Rd **Westbrook Rd**
Chestnut Plain Rd
Christian Lane **State Rd 5&10**
Swamp Rd **Route 116**
Depot Rd

Q11: Does your household own an electric vehicle (EV)? *Select one.*



Q12: Would you like additional public electric vehicle charging stations in Town? *Select one.*



Recreation

Q13: How should the Town prioritize the following recreational actions/activities?
Rank the following activities from 1 to 8 with 1 = Most Important and 8 = Least Important.

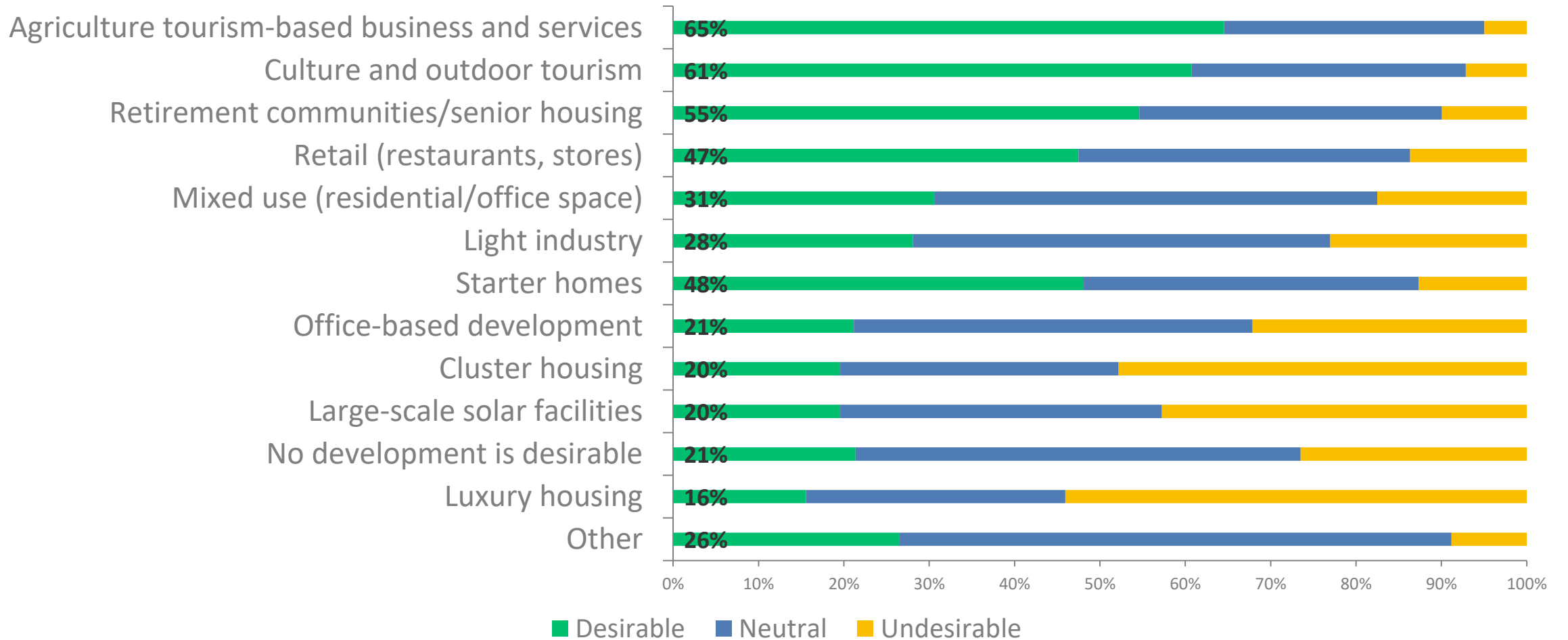
Average Ranking

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------|--|
| 2.3 | #1 | Promote outdoor recreation (hiking trails, multi-use trails, river access, etc.) |
| 3.4 | #2 | Create recreational access to the Connecticut River |
| 4.2 | #3 | Improve existing athletic facilities and playgrounds |
| 4.9 | #4 | Provide recreational programming for seniors |
| 5.06 | #5 | Provide recreational programming for youth |
| 5.07 | #6 | Increase parking for existing trails |
| 5.4 | #7 | Create more athletic facilities and playgrounds |
| 5.6 | #8 | Provide recreational programming for adults |

Economic Development

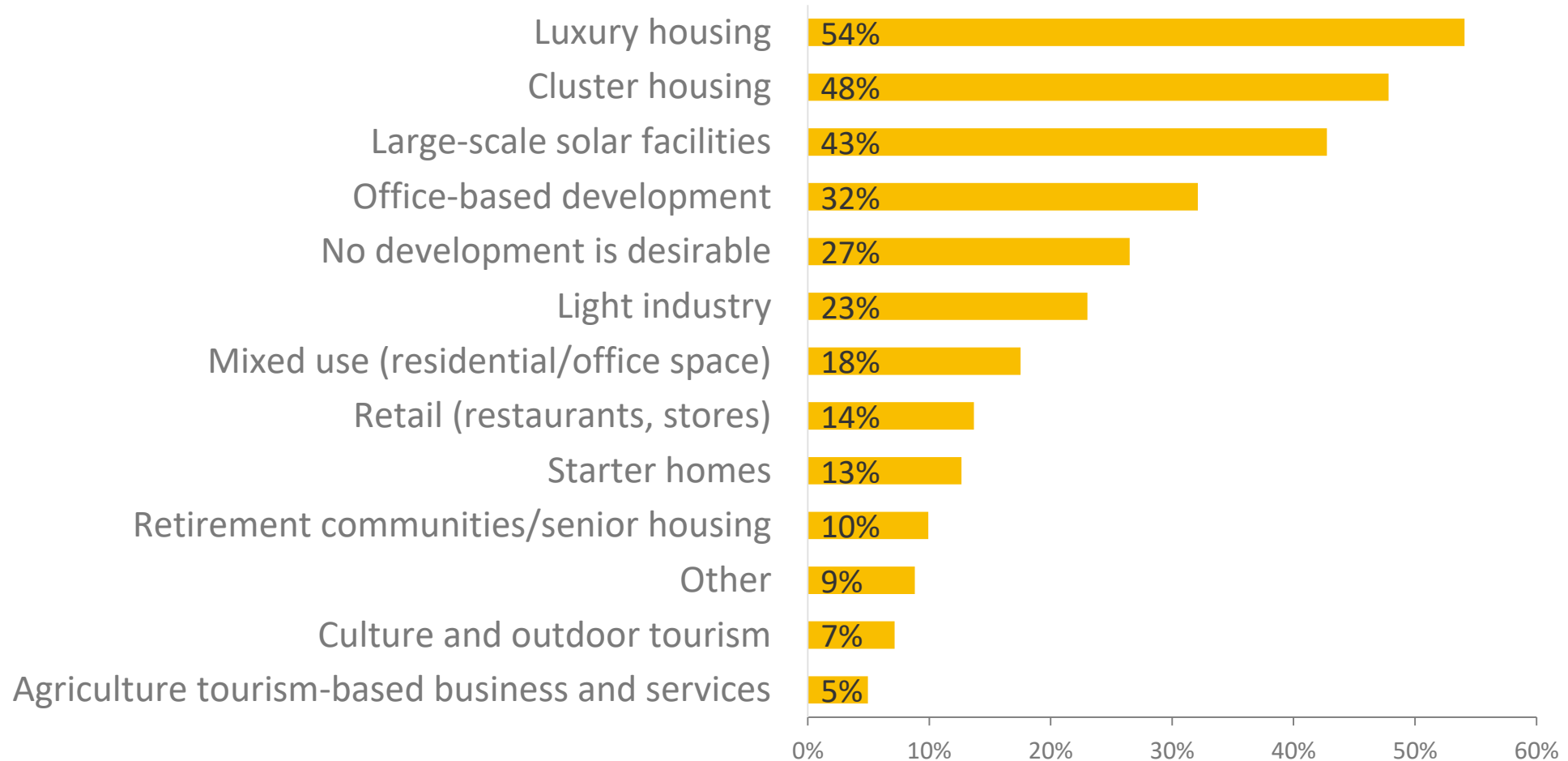
Q14: To what extent do you feel the following development types are desirable or undesirable for Whately?

Ranked by those answering "Desirable"



Q14: To what extent do you feel the following development types are desirable or undesirable for Whately?

Ranked by those answering “Undesirable”



Climate

Q15: What do you think are the most concerning impacts from climate change for Whately?
Rank the following activities from 1 to 8 with 1 = Most Important and 8 = Least Important.

Average Ranking

- 2.9** #1 Decrease in agricultural productivity (as crop yields are impacted by precipitation patterns, extreme weather, pests, and other climate factors)
- 3.4** #2 Threats to water quality and supply (due to warming waters, drought, and increased runoff)
- 4.2** #3 Health effects of extreme storms and power outages (including from injuries, food safety, and medical device failure)
- 4.4** #4 Reduction in food safety and security (due to production and supply chain issues as well as spoilage during power outages)
- 4.8** #5 Threats to forest health (from warming temperatures, changing precipitation, extreme storms, and increasing pest occurrence)
- 5.0** #6 Shifting distribution of native and invasive species (as changing climate conditions favor certain species)
- 5.3** #7 Damage to buildings, roads, and other infrastructure (from extreme weather events and flooding)
- 6.2** #8 Extreme heat and wildfire smoke (workers, school children, people wanting to be outside)

Q16: Are you concerned about other aspects of climate change that affect, or could affect, Whately? *Opened ended.*

Communication

Political/social unrest

Overreaction

Climate refugees

Decreased quality of life Disposal of solar panels and batteries

Runoff and flooding

Added infrastructure repair costs

Hillside erosion

Water supply storage

More insects to spread disease

Long term power outages

Community Facilities and Services

Q17: Is there a municipal service or facility (building or outdoor space) that is not offered that the Town should consider providing? *Opened ended.*

Rec Center

Fire department with full-time and part-time employees

Shaded gathering place with seating

Senior center

Basketball courts
Community gardens

Municipal internet service

Access to the Connecticut River

Tennis/pickleball courts

Better swimming areas/pool

Community playground

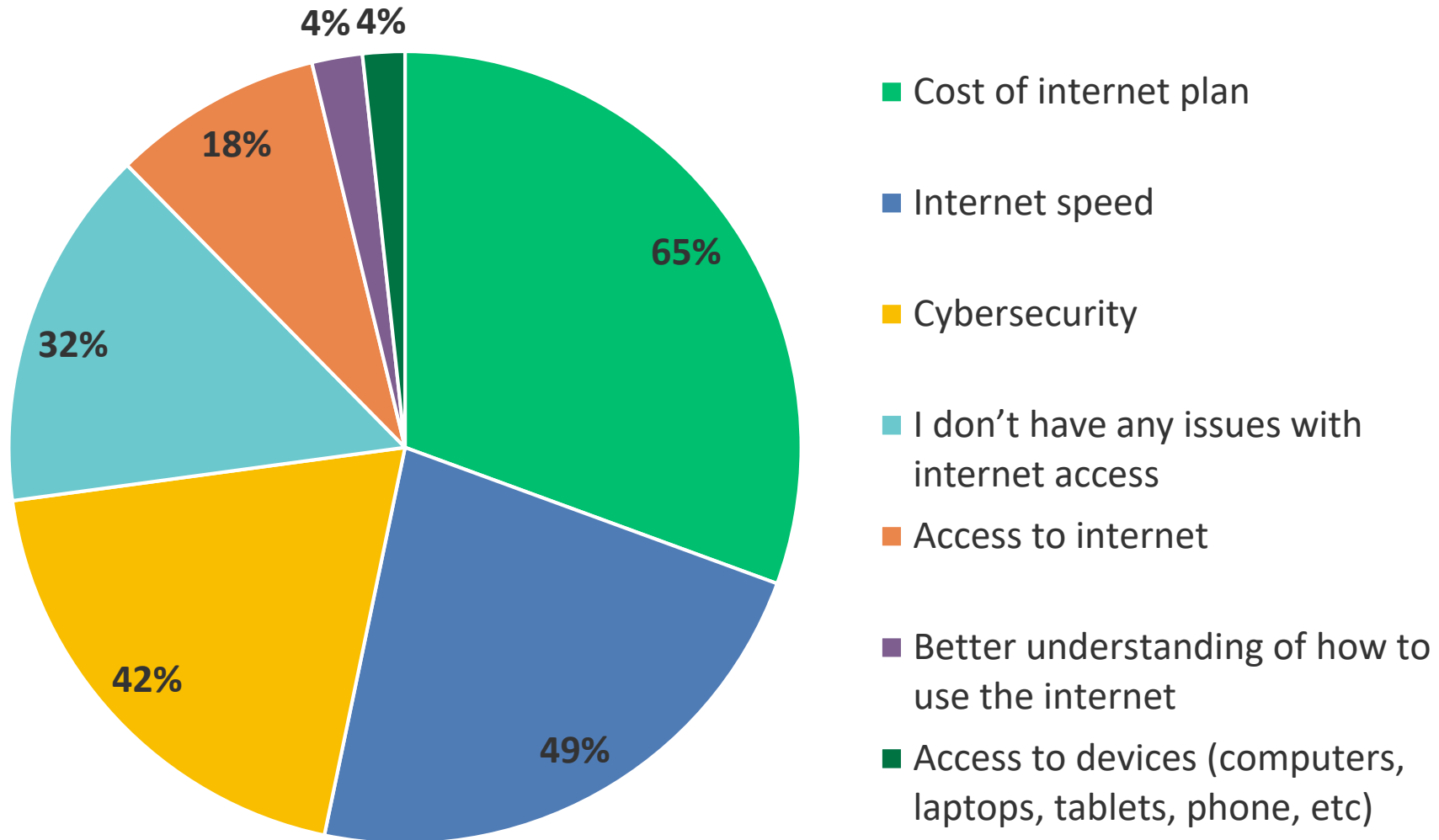
More public transportation

Town solar **Electric car charging stations**

Trash/recycling pick up services

Community center

Q18: What are the top three issues for your household regarding internet access?
Select up to 3 answers.



Q19: Please rank the following actions that the Town could take in order of importance to you.

Rank from 1 to 6 with 1 = Most important and 6 = Least important

Average Ranking

- 2.4 #1 Protect agricultural land and open space from development
- 3.0 #2 Invest in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate resilience for all facilities owned by the Town
- 3.3 #3 Increase walkability and safe ways to get around without cars
- 4.02 #4 Create a variety of housing options for Whately residents (senior housing, starter homes, duplexes, etc.)
- 4.03 #5 Improve the quality of municipal facilities and services
- 4.3 #6 Attract business/commercial development

General

Q20: What improvements or priorities would you like to see for the Town over the next 15 years? *Opened ended.*



Q21: Is there anything not addressed in this survey that you believe to be important in planning for the future in our community? *Opened ended.*

Forest preservation/protection incentives

No additional solar fields

Eliminating hunting in swamp lands near residences

Support the library

Education on recycling, composting, alternatives to burning

Multi-generational community spaces

Better use refurbished town hall

High property taxes

Pesticide usage and notification

Senior "Work off" plan for property taxes

Town offices staffed 5 days a week

Improve Tri-Town beach

Farmland protection

Fixing the bridge on Christian Lane by Depot Road

Opposition to using CPA funding for church or private owners

Opposition to creating a municipal sewer system