

# DOWNTOWN DECIDES!

OFFICE OF AMIR FAROKHI

DISTRICT 2 - ATLANTA

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING - VOTING PHASE

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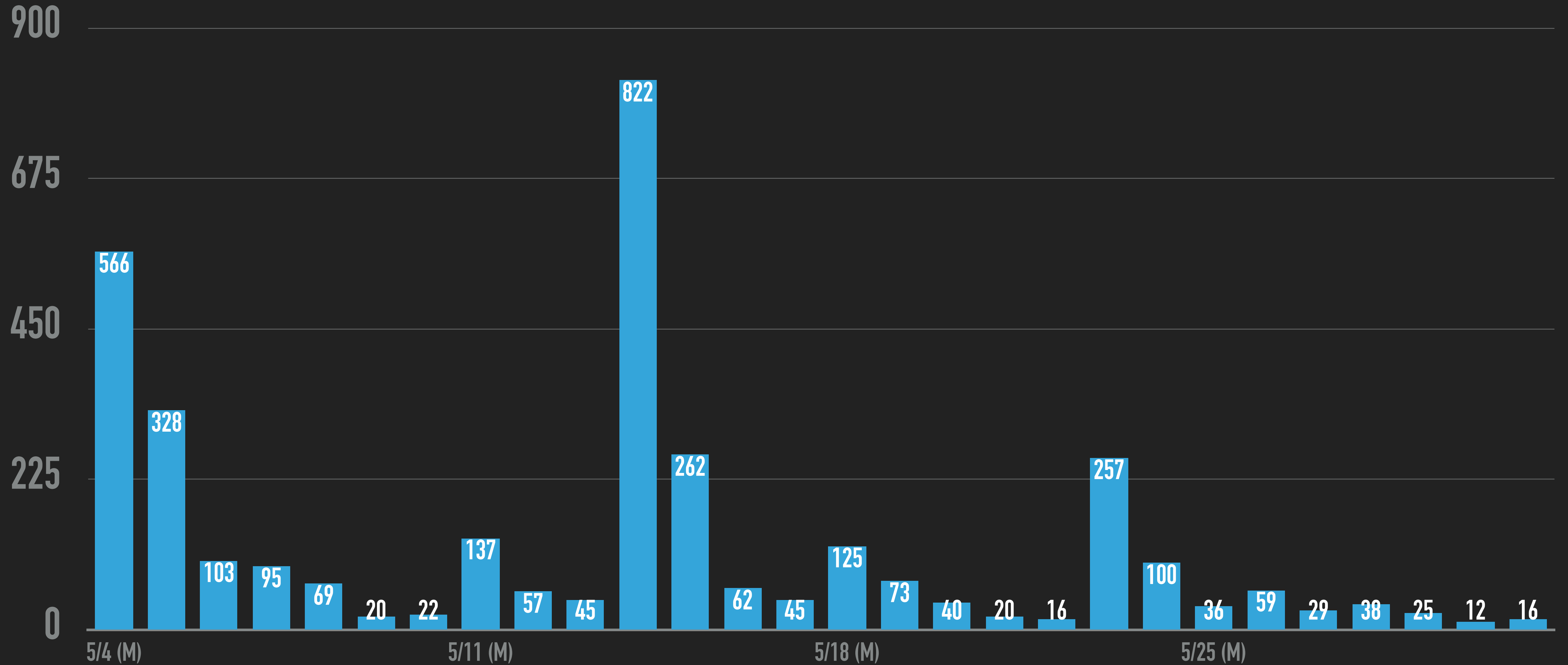


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# VOTING RESULTS

VOTES BY DAY

MAY 04 - MAY 31, 2020





## LIST OF WINNING PROJECTS

Project Name	# Votes	Project Cost			
1. More pedestrian only streets	2,174	\$15,000	11. The Smooth Roads Act of 2019	1,397	\$140,000
2. Handicap access at Williams St and Peachtree St	2,089	\$6,000	12. Edgewood Sidewalk Widening Phase 1	1,354	\$130,000
3. Handicap access at Ted Turner and Williams St	2,007	\$9,000	13. Edgewood Avenue Loading Zone Revamp	1,337	\$10,000
4. Make dangerous Island more visible	2,004	\$3,400	14. Sweet Auburn Way-finding	1,307	\$15,000
5. More trashcans in Sweet Auburn	1,841	\$20,000	15. Beg Button Removal - pedestrian-friendly signal	1,013	\$40,000
6. Extend Jackson St Bike Lane	1,758	\$45,000	16. Remove Unnecessary Stoplights	931	\$125,000
7. Don't Block the Box	1,688	\$15,000	17. Sidewalk Furniture	868	\$22,000
8. Connect Downtown: Marietta St Cycle Track	1,612	\$130,000			
9. Complete Streets Peachtree	1,564	\$225,000			
10. Peachtree Center Ave cycle track	1,479	\$50,000			

► Total combined cost of winning projects:  
**\$1,000,400**

## COMPLETE LIST OF BALLOT ITEMS

Project Name	Votes Received		Votes Received
1. More pedestrian only streets	2,174	18. Fairlie Poplar Path Phase 2	890
2. Handicap access at Williams St and Peachtree	2,089	19. Sidewalk Furniture	868
3. Handicap access at Ted Turner and Williams St	2,007	20. Handicap Access at Williams St and Ted	863
4. Make dangerous Island more visible	2,004	21. Sidewalk Lighting	813
5. More trashcans in Sweet Auburn	1,841	22. Creative Bike Racks	778
6. Extend Jackson St Bike Lane	1,758	23. Peachtree St NE mid-block Crossing	775
7. Don't Block the Box	1,688	24. Pave Jackson Place - Phase 1	749
8. Connect Downtown: Marietta St Cycle Track	1,612	25. Sweet Auburn Parklet	705
9. Complete Streets Peachtree	1,564	26. Fairlie Poplar Path - Phase 1	668
10. Peachtree Center Ave cycletrack	1,479	27. Improve Cameras	617
11. The Smooth Roads Act of 2019	1,397	28. Secure Bicycle Charging Stations	429
12. Edgewood Sidewalk Widening Phase 1	1,354	29. Welcome Walks	263
13. Edgewood Avenue Revamp	1,337	30. Artistic Crosswalk - Peachtree	210
14. Sweet Auburn Wayfinding	1,307	31. Artistic Crosswalk - Marietta	206
15. Beg Button Removal - pedestrian-friendly	1,013	32. Pave Jackson Place - Phase 2	154
16. Vertical Verde	957	33. Edgewood Sidewalk Widening - Phase 2	151
17. Remove Unnecessary Stoplights	931		



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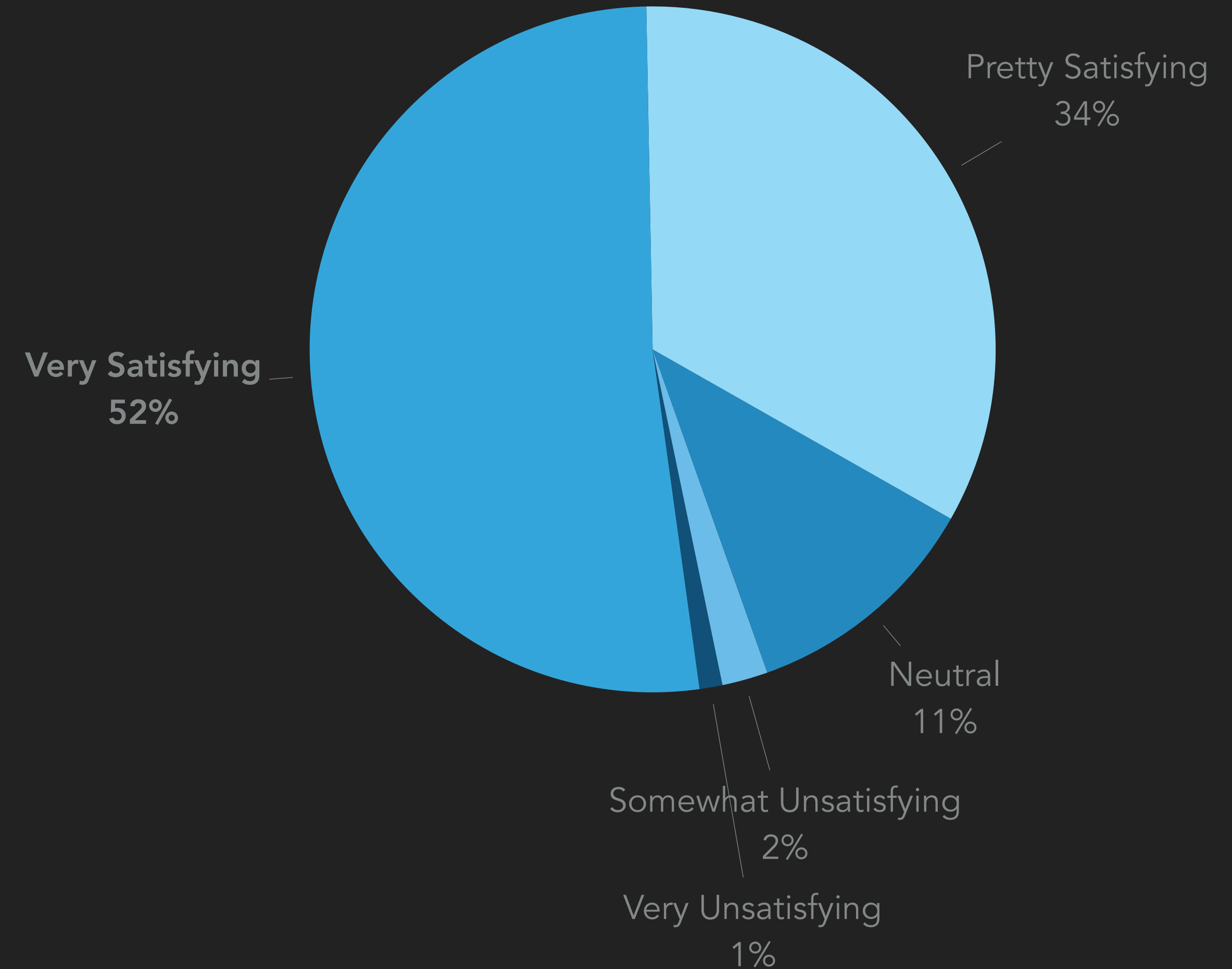
# SURVEY RESPONSES

# SURVEY RESULTS

## HOW WOULD YOU RATE YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH DOWNTOWN DECIDES?

Response	#
Very Satisfying	96
Pretty Satisfying	62
Neutral	21
Somewhat Unsatisfying	4
Very Unsatisfying	2

TOTAL RESPONSES = 185





# SURVEY RESULTS

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE A SIMILAR PROJECT TAKE PLACE IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY?

Response	#
Yes	177
No	8



TOTAL RESPONSES = 185

# SURVEY RESULTS

## ...IF SO, WHERE?

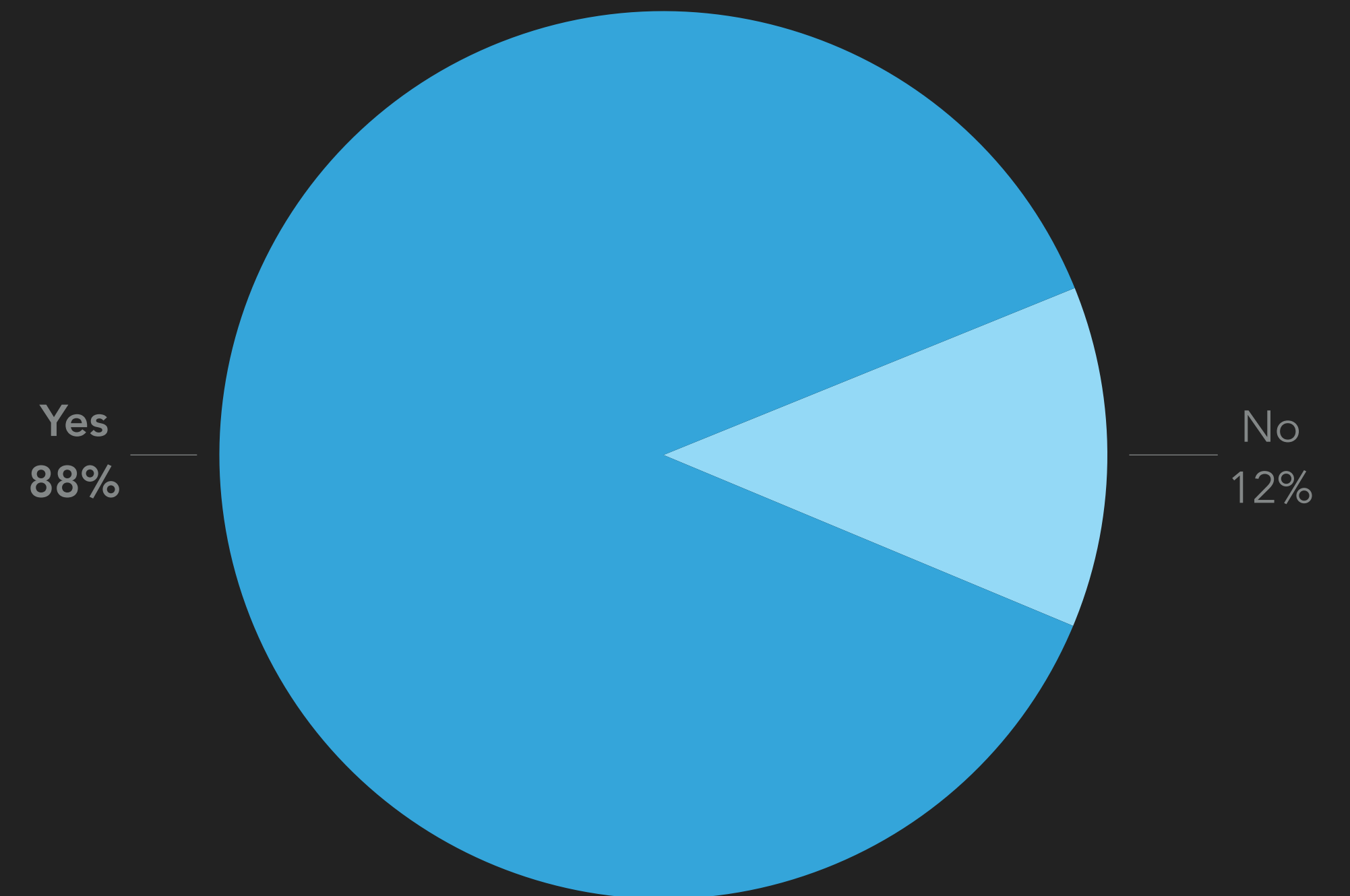


\* Based on 161 responses

SURVEY RESULTS

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THIS EXPANDED BEYOND TRANSPORTATION TO INCLUDE PROJECTS RELATED TO THINGS LIKE PARKS, SCHOOLS, OR ARTS & CULTURE?

Response	#
Yes	162
No	23



TOTAL RESPONSES = 185

SURVEY RESULTS

# ...IF SO, WHAT?

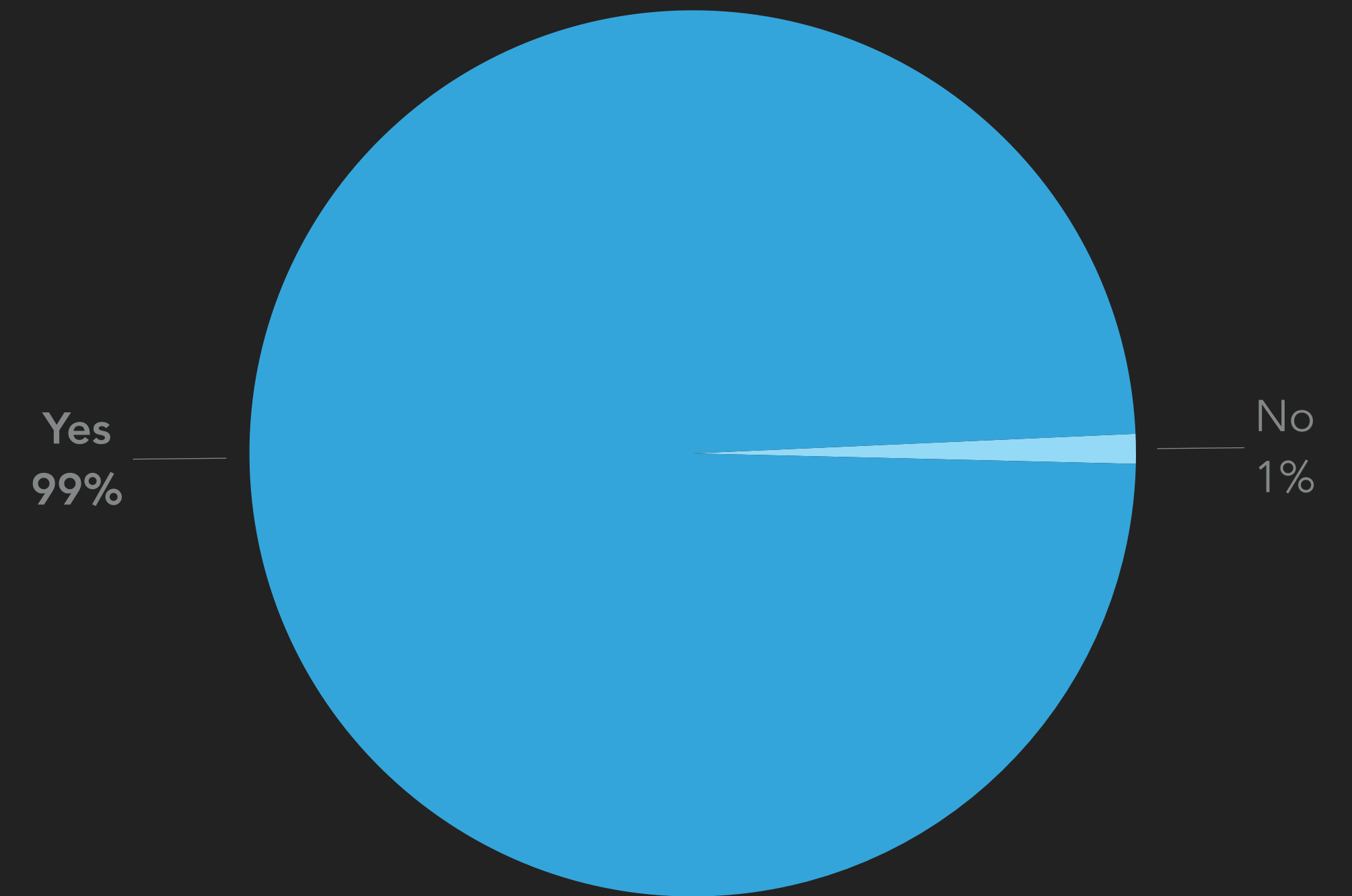


\* Based on 102 responses

SURVEY RESULTS

DO YOU FEEL THAT "PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING" PROGRAMS LIKE THIS ARE A POSITIVE STEP BY THE CITY TOWARDS BETTER ENGAGING THE PUBLIC?

Response	#
Yes	183
No	2

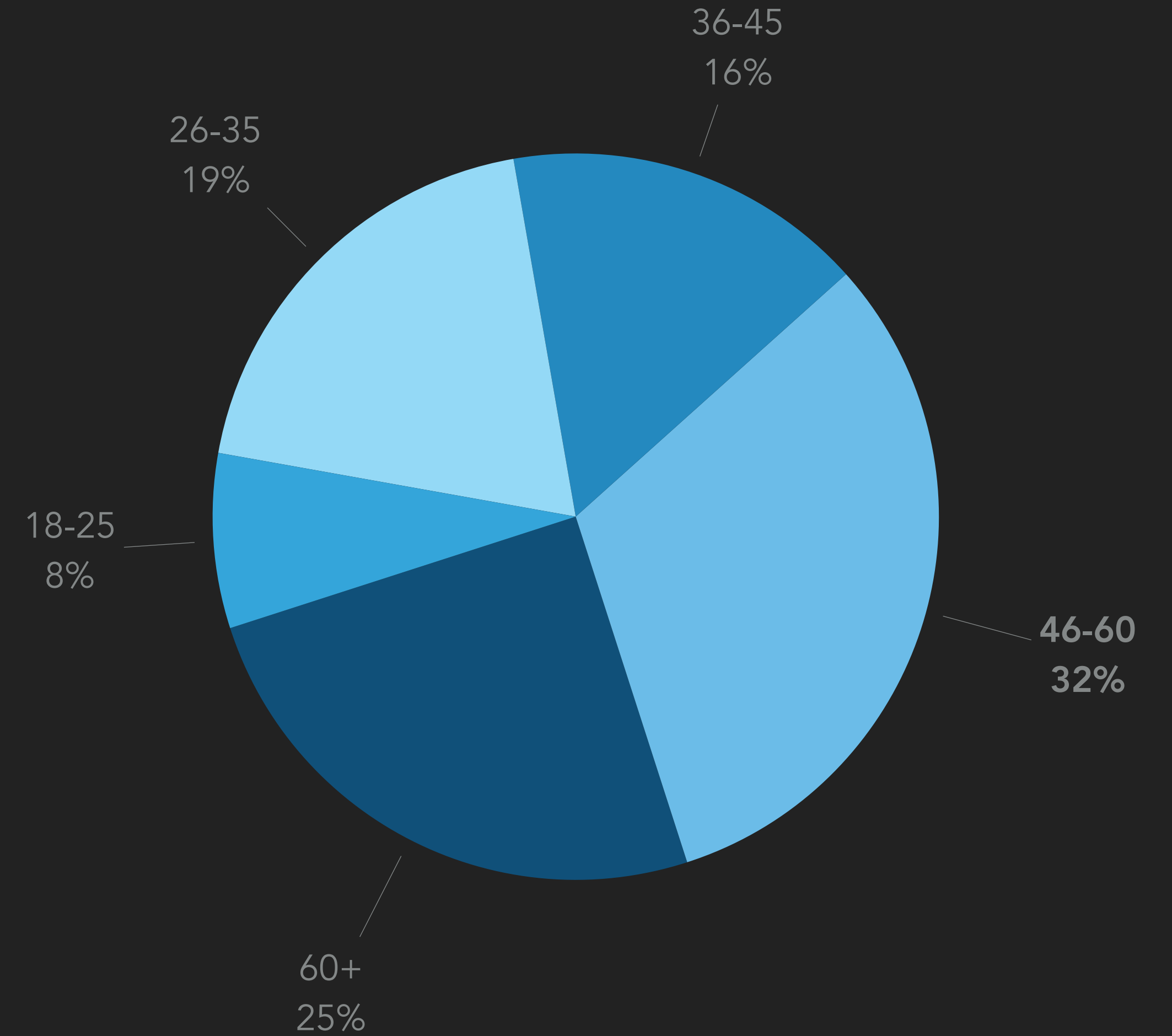


TOTAL RESPONSES = 185

SURVEY RESULTS

# WHAT IS YOUR AGE GROUP?

Response	#
18-25	14
26-35	35
36-45	29
46-60	57
61 (+)	45

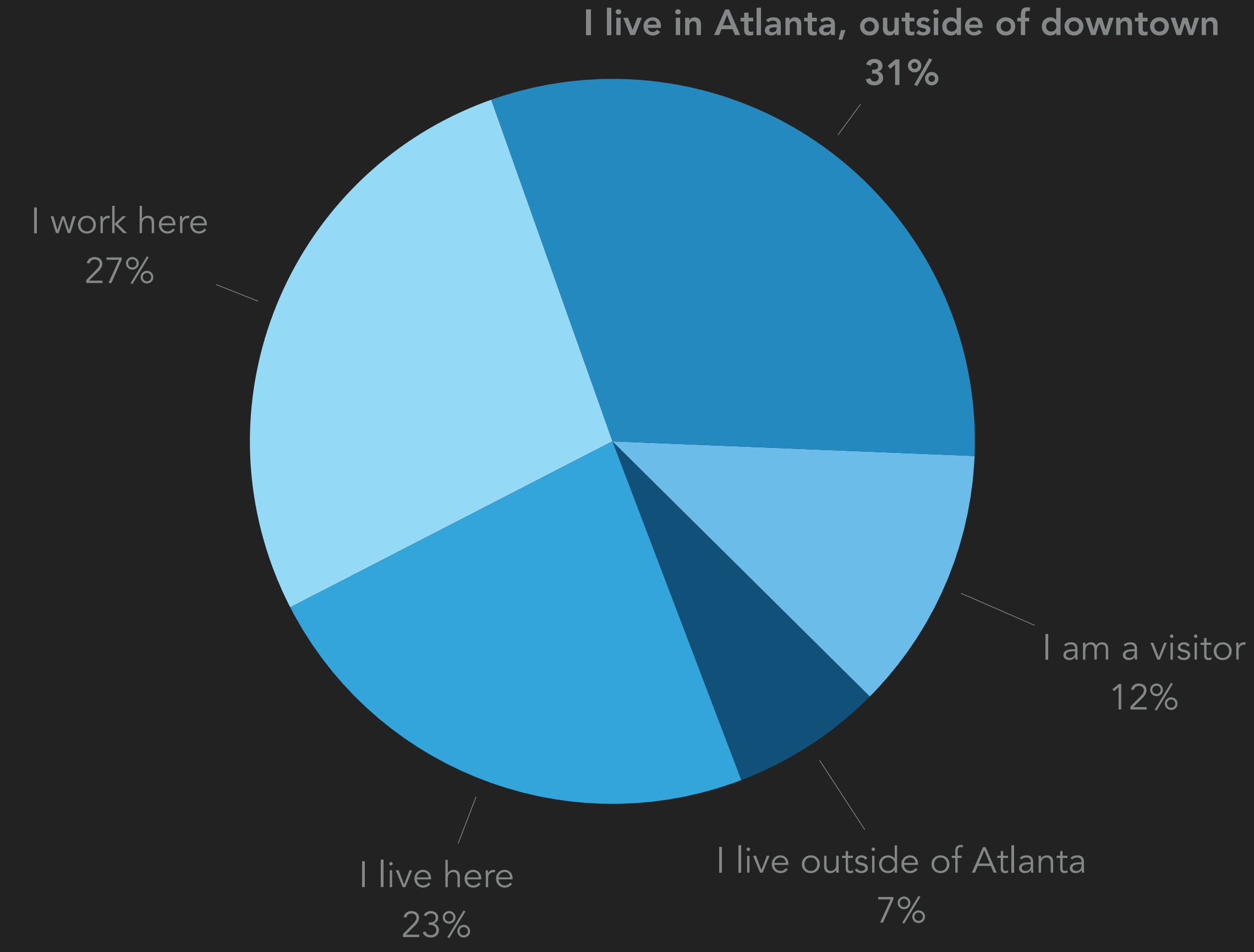


TOTAL RESPONSES = 180

# SURVEY RESULTS

## WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO DOWNTOWN ATLANTA? (CAN SELECT MULTIPLE)

Response	#
I live here	65
I work here	76
I live in Atlanta, outside of downtown	87
I am a visitor	33
I live outside of Atlanta	19



TOTAL RESPONSES = 180



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**APPENDIX:  
- PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS  
- PUBLIC COMMENTS**



# WINNING PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

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Project Name	Description
1. More pedestrian only streets	Install removable bollards within the Fairlie Poplar district to create "Pedestrian Only" zones at specific times at the following locations: Broad St between Poplar St and Walton St
2. Handicap access at Williams St and Peachtree St	Provide a side walk ramp on curb like other crosswalks.
3. Handicap access at Ted Turner and Williams St	Handicap curb ramp at Ted Turner and Williams St.
4. Make dangerous Island more visible	Repaint this island and make it more visible (perhaps with a sign as well) for bicyclists and scooters. It is difficult to see for people who are using this trail for the first time - especially those travelling Westbound. Its probably less than \$1,000, but it will prevent a couple of injuries a year, I bet.
5. More trashcans in Sweet Auburn	The Sweet Auburn District is inundated with revelers every Fri, Sat and Sun, Spring through Fall. Many of these revelers are so excited to be here that they bring many party favors, which inevitably end up strewn all over the streets and sidewalk or piled around the very few existing receptacles. Dr. King would roll over in his grave if he saw the condition of Sweet Auburn on a Monday morning after a long weekend of reveling. Please provide us with more trash and recycling cans to help our visitors keep our
6. Extend Jackson St Bike Lane	The southbound bike lane on Jackson St, between Irwin St and Auburn Ave has been removed due to on-street parking for Ebenezer Baptist Church. Jackson St is a crucial North-South bicycle connection from Sweet Auburn to Midtown. It connects Piedmont Park, Ponce De Leon Corridor, Stone Mountain Trail, MLK Jr National Historical Park, and King Memorial Station.

# WINNING PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

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Project Name	Description
7. Don't Block the Box	Install infrastructure to reduce gridlocked traffic / blocked boxes at key intersections
8. Connect Downtown: Marietta St. Cycle Track	Install a 2-way cycle track (or 2 separate dedicated bike lanes) along Marietta Street between Edgewood Avenue and Centennial Olympic Park Drive to complement & connect the existing infrastructure which surrounds Downtown.
9. Complete Streets Peachtree	Create dedicated bike/scooter lanes northbound and southbound down Peachtree Street from North Avenue to Ellis Street.
10. Peachtree Center Ave Cycle Track	Much needed maintenance to restore the Peachtree Center Ave. Cycle Track to peak condition. Money will go towards installation of delineators for cycle track (striping, signs, reflectors, etc.) along Peachtree Center Avenue from International Blvd to Peachtree St
11. The Smooth Roads Act of 2019	Fill potholes and smooth out sidewalks at GSU so that I can enjoy my passion of skateboarding!
12. Edgewood Sidewalk Widening Phase 1	Edgewood Avenue has become one of Atlanta's most popular destinations and attracts hundreds of visitors on weekend nights. With Edgewood Avenue's relatively new Beltline entrance, new businesses sprouting along Edgewood Avenue, and the designation of Edgewood as a biker and pedestrian-friendly alternative to DeKalb Avenue, ensuring pedestrian safety on Edgewood Avenue is paramount. While sidewalks along most of the corridor are relatively wide, ADA-friendly, and in fair condition, there is a huge disparity in the quality of sidewalks on Edgewood Avenue between Jackson and Boulevard Ave. This block is arguably the epicenter of pedestrian activity, centrally located within the Edgewood Avenue corridor and home to some of Atlanta's most popular restaurants. We, the businesses of the Old Fourth Ward, are proposing the city right sizes the sidewalks along this block by widening them to match the sidewalk width and quality on either side of the block. Funding from downtown decides would be used to complete a sidewalk impact study and design sidewalk improvements.

## WINNING PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

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### Project Name

### Description

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#### 13. Edgewood Ave. Loading Zone Revamp

Through careful deliberation with the City of Atlanta Community Planning Department and business stakeholders along Edgewood Avenue between Jackson and Boulevard, we are proposing a redesign of the street to better accommodate pedestrians, bikers, and delivery vehicles. This proposal includes the removal of six parking spaces from the street to accommodate lane shifts and a curbside loading only zone at the corner of boulevard and Edgewood. In addition, bike lane protection will be installed at either end of the block to protect against right turn vehicular movement. To better accommodate both bikers and pedestrians and improve safety in the center of the street, where a large amount of unsanctioned pedestrian crossing occurs, we are proposing small manicured medians each with available bike parking. While not a sanctioned crosswalk, these medians will slow down traffic as well as allow a safe haven for pedestrians and bikers who, regardless of law, will continue to cross the street at the center of the block. The \$10,000 quoted would be just for that loading zone as a first step.

#### 14. Sweet Auburn Wayfinding

Directional signage to help pedestrians in the Sweet Auburn district get to and from 12 historic sites on foot. Signs will be done artistically to give them a feel distinct to the neighborhood and its history.

# WINNING PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

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Project Name	Description
15. Beg Button Removal - pedestrian-friendly signal	<p>Many of Downtown's signalized intersections include "beg buttons" (pushbuttons that pedestrians use to "beg" for a green walk signal) and/or very long cycle lengths that result in excessive wait times for pedestrians waiting to cross the street. This project would fund the permanent, physical removal of all beg buttons at signalized intersections within the the coverage area and the reprogramming of traffic signals such that pedestrians always, automatically get a green walk signal within a reasonable wait time. (NACTO guidelines recommend a total cycle length of 60-90 seconds in walkable urban areas; many Downtown Atlanta intersections are at least double that today.) Intersections in the coverage area that currently have beg buttons installed and/or very long signal cycle lengths include (but are not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Peachtree/Wall - Peachtree/Walton - Peachtree/Forsyth/Carnegie - W Peachtree/Allen - Allen/Turner - Allen/Williams - Turner/International - COP/International - COP/Luckie - COP/Walton - COP/Marietta - Turner/Marietta - Forsyth/Marietta - Forsyth/Luckie</li></ul>
16. Remove Unnecessary Stoplights	<p>A study should be conducted to determine which traffic lights can be removed downtown, especially in Fairlie Poplar or at intersections with less than 1,000 cars per day.</p>
17. Sidewalk Furniture	<p>Sidewalk seating to encourage pedestrians to sit, stay, and enjoy the area. The seating can be creatively designed to work with the character of the surrounding businesses or buildings.</p>

## PUBLIC FEEDBACK

# DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON HOW THINGS MIGHT BE IMPROVED FOR NEXT TIME?

"People deserve the right to decide! This is great."

"Well designed and simple to complete. Great way to engage."

"I wish I had seen a news report on this. I had to rely on seeing a shared post on Facebook of a WABE story. There were several click-throughs that needed to take place."

"Participants/voters need context about options as well as info about what the experts think is likely to make the most impact and what that impact."

"More publicity about these surveys, so more people could participate."

"\$200,000 to paint crosswalks? Seriously???...I'll paint the crosswalks for \$10,000 and save the taxpayers \$190,000. Yes, I'm serious."

"Please do this again!"

"Because we're living in uncharted waters, just the idea of including the public is a step toward good communication. I love this city."

"More advertisement is need to increase participation. Reach out to preservation organaizations like Historic Atlanta and culture organizations like Atlanta Influences Everything etc. GSU students , staff at hotels and businesses in downtown. Advertise to parents in public schools especially the predominantly african american ones."

"A truly interactive experience that I wish I knew earlier."

"Make it a little easier to use on a mobile phone for example some illustrations are very small."

"Looking for more Walkable/bikable streets to get around the city."

"No, Good Survey."

"I very much like this opportunity and how it is to vote online."

\* Based on 133 responses

## DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON HOW THINGS MIGHT BE IMPROVED FOR NEXT TIME?

"I'm not sure where it's currently shared, but holding a large campaign for survey participation on social media (targeted Instagram adds for users in the ATL area, targeted FB adds, targeted Youtube adds) would help engage the younger population and therefore help create a sustained voting body. Partnering with other companies local to Atlanta (coffee shops, museums, restaurants) to spread awareness would also be helpful."

"Maybe provide links where one can find more details on a proposed project."

"Yes. I got tricked into filling in pin which I guess closed my ballot even though I had only voted for \$265,000 worth of projects. I am bummed that I won't get to vote for other worthwhile projects."

"I would have liked to be able to rank my choices by priority to indicate what my top concerns were."

"More strict guidelines for proposal submission, some had only one line statements."

"Further reach to residents - Use the NextDoor App to distribute to residents."

"Great survey!"

"It was just a shame, because there were so many great things to do!!"

"Make downtown safe or all this work will be in vein."

"I think that it is important to reach all different types of people. Maybe you could engage people at senior centers, people out to lunch, people walking by that might not live there."

## PUBLIC FEEDBACK

# DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON HOW THINGS MIGHT BE IMPROVED FOR NEXT TIME?

"Set aside a larger budget for projects like these to get more of them done."

"More communication to reach more people who could participate."

"Get the message out to more people that'd make a difference in getting involved."

"More publicity of this project to increase engagement."

"Let residents and other interested people sign up to be notified of more initiatives like this."

"Better interface (get UX and UI specialists involved), larger photographs, and a way to get a PIN other than a phone number (privacy concerns, accessibility)."

"Really loved this platform and easy process to become civilly engaged and empowered to make change in my community! Please scale this up."

"Would like to be able to X projects I really don't care about, so that I can strike them from consideration."

"I appreciate the ability to submit my feedback."

"More background on the different projects. Which members of the community supports them."

"I really enjoyed this and look forward to future opportunities. I like how you don't need to live downtown to vote since almost no one lives downtown (there's no housing there!) but lots of people work and visit downtown."

\* Based on 133 responses

PUBLIC FEEDBACK

DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON HOW THINGS MIGHT BE IMPROVED FOR NEXT TIME?

"Really makes me feel like my opinion matters. Really wish this was expanded to other areas of Atlanta, like Midtown, and on more topics. Democracy is all about participation, and these days it feels like it's impossible for the common person to participate. This at least brings it a step in the right direction."

"Yes, I would like to see this initiative applied to schools. However, I feel schools should have this in addition to whatever obligated improvement and maintenance requirements are already in place."

"Official notice to citizens informing of amt \$ allocated for their neighborhood and/or district every time we vote for allocations."

"No. Great overall project."

"ADDRESS THE HOMELESS we need to find temporary homes and food and job training for the homeless."

"add sorting options from most expensive to least."

"This format is great because it allows the citizens to decide what projects should be funded instead of developers who don't live, work."

"I really liked the process, helpful to see how much these projects cost."

"Keep doing more outreach."

"If this isn't a Sweet Heart deal to simply pacify communities without real results and transparency, it is an avenue other neighborhoods should explore."

"this is a great idea."

\* Based on 133 responses



## PUBLIC FEEDBACK

# DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON HOW THINGS MIGHT BE IMPROVED FOR NEXT TIME?

"Mobile phone experience for the poll was very challenging - had to shift to computer to complete, which will severely limit participation in communities without as accessible internet/home computers. Great first process."

"Add it to NPU agendas to discuss and comment."

"Let's do our best to make sure our more vulnerable people impacted are made aware of their ability to vote."

"Keep being creative about how to spread the word. Getting to a computer is much easier for most of us than getting to a council meeting/open house/ town hall in person. Enlist the help of neighborhood advocates to spread the word. "

"This is fantastic! I would like the survey to be sent out more broadly (I only heard about it from a friend, not sure how she found it) to get more votes. Maybe with available email addresses or paper invitations in the mail for people who are known to live/work in the relevant area."

"I would have liked to submit a project."

"I love everything you are doing. Especially this. Keep it up. I really want to have a say and push you guys to reopen Broad street and put a mixed use high rise on top of Five Point Station. Brilliant idea whoever came up with it."

"Clearer graphics and maps showing location of projects."

"weighted scores for people who live in the district."

"Please increase the size of the pot for participatory budgeting in the future! And expand the area where projects can be implemented, please. This is a great way for more tangible, smaller scale projects to be implemented and seen on a daily basis. Love this program. Expand it. "

## DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON HOW THINGS MIGHT BE IMPROVED FOR NEXT TIME?

"I am one of many inspired by the leadership of Atlanta City Council member Amir Farokhi who launched this first-ever participatory budgeting program in our GREAT city. Every city, state or nation that invites and welcomes the involvement of its citizens to cultivate the health of their communities is insuring a brighter future for all who will come later. It is GREAT that we all support civil, voting and human Rights. It is equally vital we all do whatever we can to also excel in our civil, voting and human RESPONSIBILITIES. For Council member Farokhi to encourage participation of the citizenry in nurturing our collective future, he is essentially helping us to grow in the areas of individual & collective Rights & Responsibilities. KUDOS to Mr. Farokhi and all citizens who are participating in the GREAT future for ATLANTA: City of Peace, an ideal Global Capital of Peace. Plato (428-348 BC), the founder of the first institution of higher learning in the Western world, described the situation best:

"The city is what it is because our citizens are what they are""

A nighttime photograph of a city skyline with a multi-lane highway in the foreground. The highway shows light trails from cars, and the city buildings are illuminated against the dark sky. The text 'THANK YOU' is overlaid in the center.

# THANK YOU

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