

Near Southeast Area Plan

Community Input Summary

Phase 1: Understanding the Area



Contents

- *Kickoff engagement overview*
- *Engagement strategy feedback*
- *Feedback and themes by topic*
- *Next steps*

Kickoff Engagement Overview

Goals

- *Understand how the community views the area and what they like and dislike*
- *Learn what they would like the area to be like in the future*
- *Identify major issues that need improvement*
- *Improve engagement strategy*

Key Takeaways

- *Desire for improvements to commercial corridors, particularly Evans Avenue, with better design, walkability, and shopping, dining, and entertainment options*
- *Better and safer mobility options for all modes*
- *More diverse and affordable housing options*
- *Preserve and improve parks, trails, green spaces, and landscaping*

Overview

July - September

- *Community kickoff meeting*
- *Online survey*
- *Pop-up events*
- *Intercept events*
- *Focused engagement*
- *Stakeholder interviews*
- *Neighborhood meetings*

Community Kickoff Meeting

July 20, 2021

- *128 participants*
- *Held virtually over Zoom*
- *Introduced the plan and the process*
- *Survey questions about likes, dislikes, how the area currently meets residents' needs, what participants would like the area to be in the future, and how people would like to participate in the process*

Online Kickoff Survey

July – September 2021

- *523 participants*
- *2,489 comments*
- *Survey questions about likes, dislikes, how the area currently meets residents' needs, participants' vision for the future of the area, and successful engagement*
- *Comments could be placed on a map*

In-Person Engagement

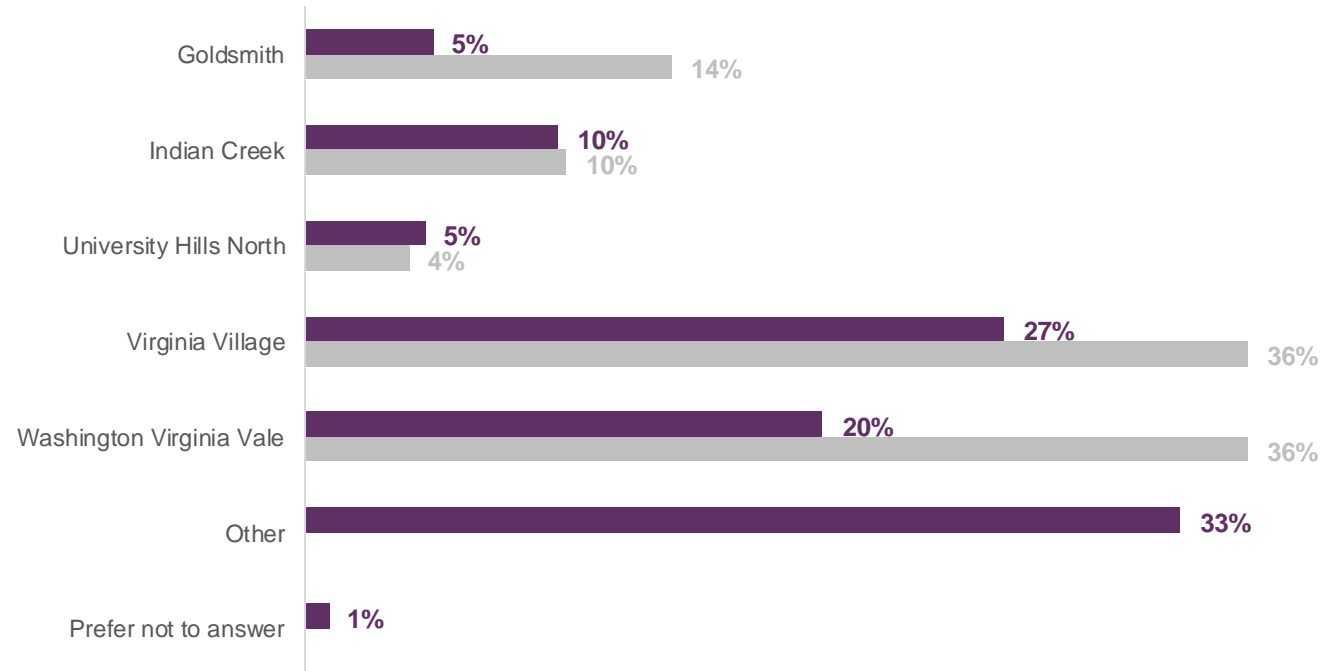
August 2021

- *9 pop-up and intercept events*
- *331 participants*
- *Paper surveys similar to the online survey*
- *Comments could be placed on a map*

Demographics

- *1,400 touchpoints*
- *2,960 text comments*
- *1,263 map comments*

Neighborhood



Legend

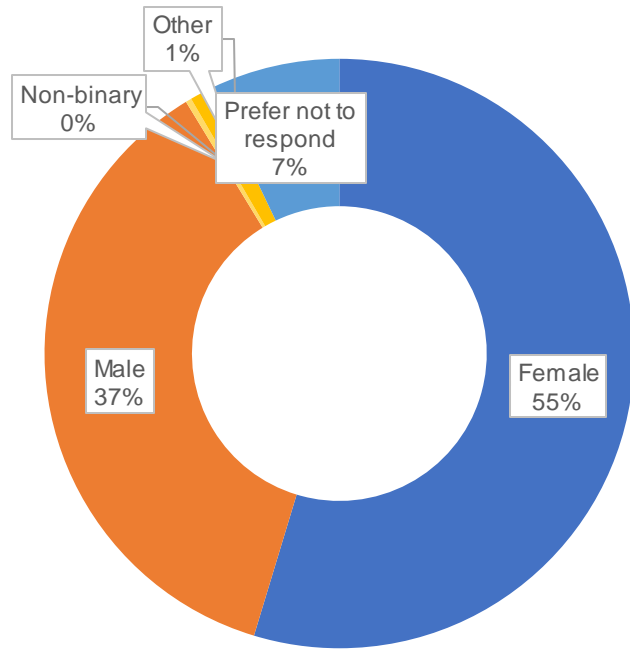
CPD Engagement

Near Southeast Totals (ACS 2019)

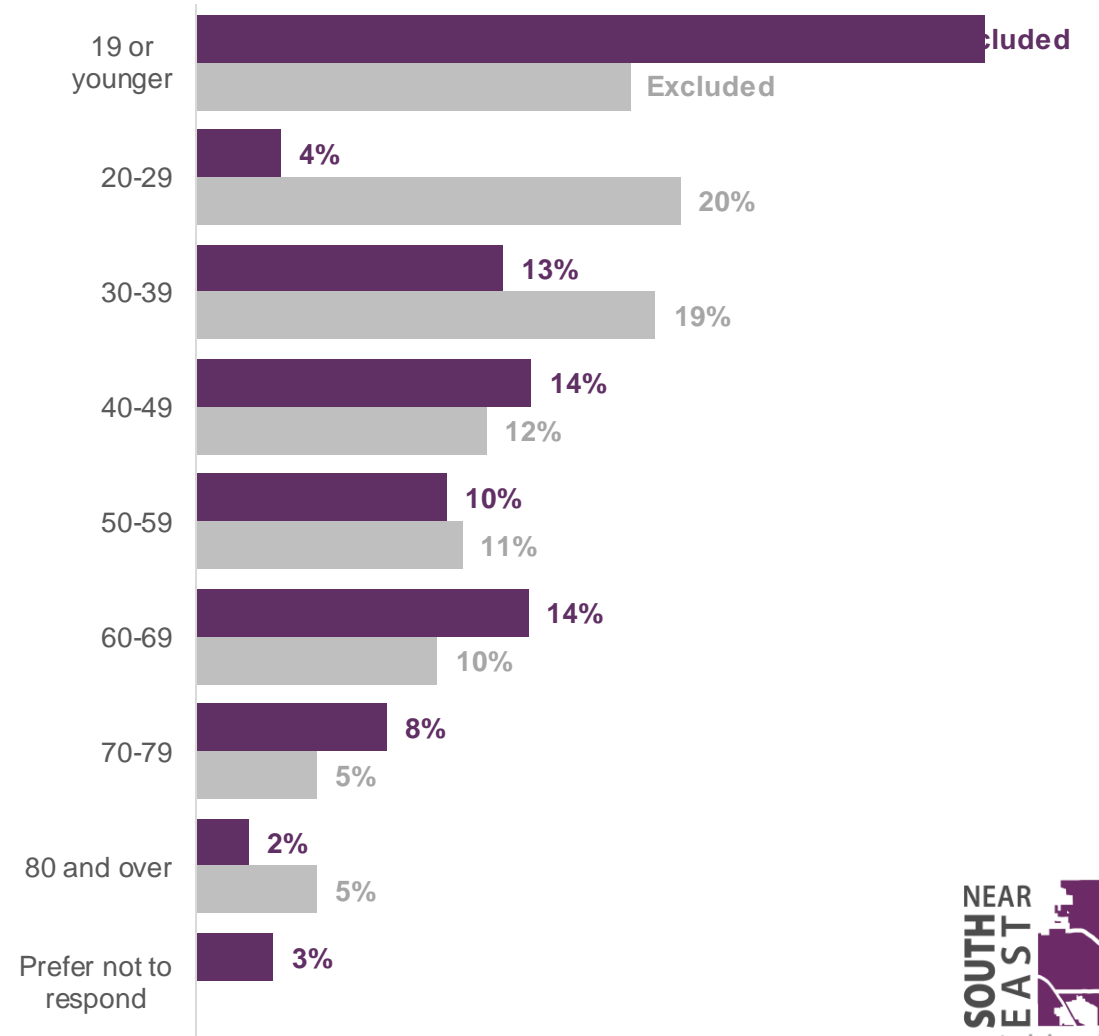


Demographics

Gender



Age



Legend

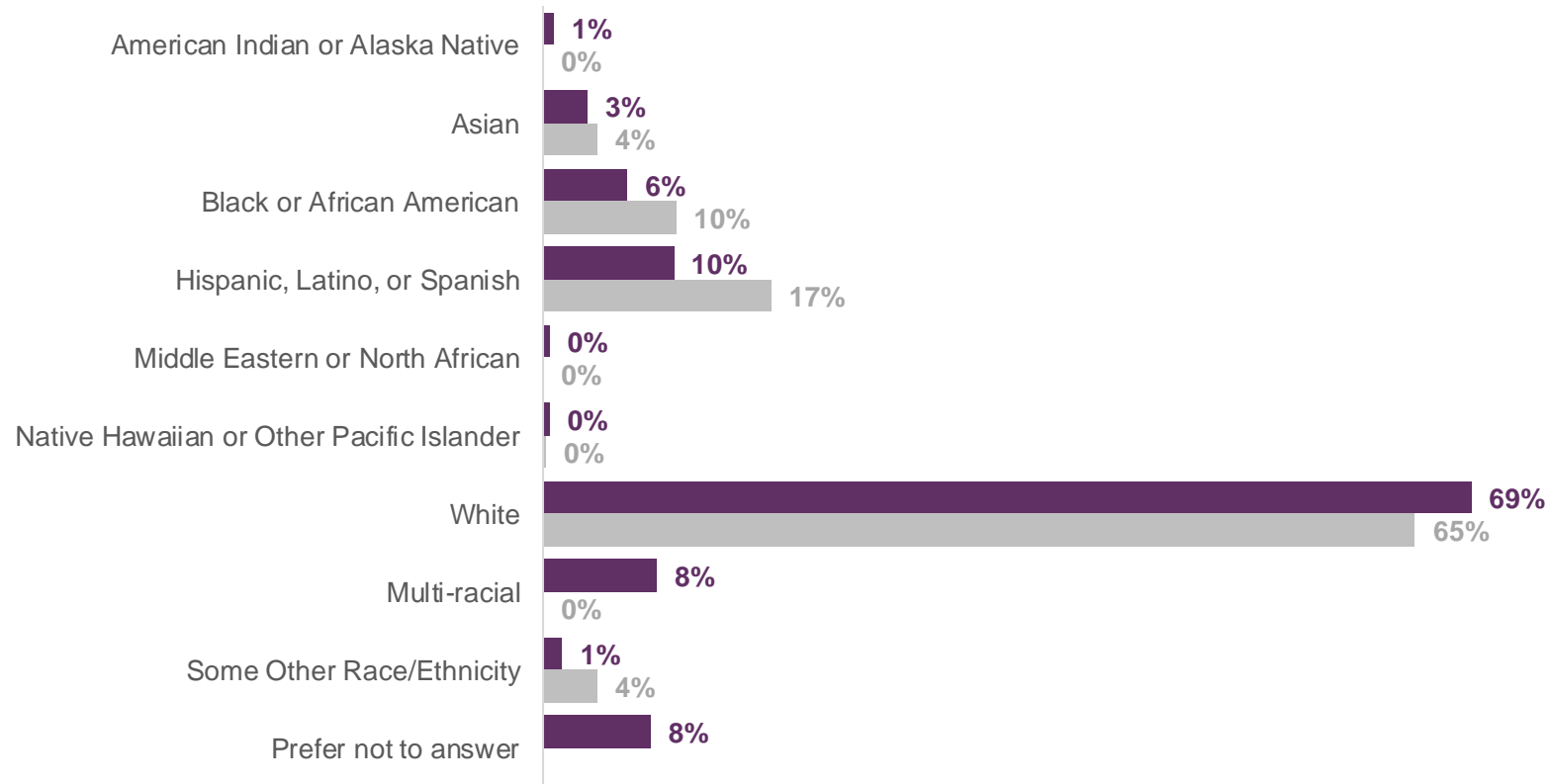
CPD Engagement

Near Southeast Totals (ACS 2019)



Demographics

Race/Ethnicity



Legend

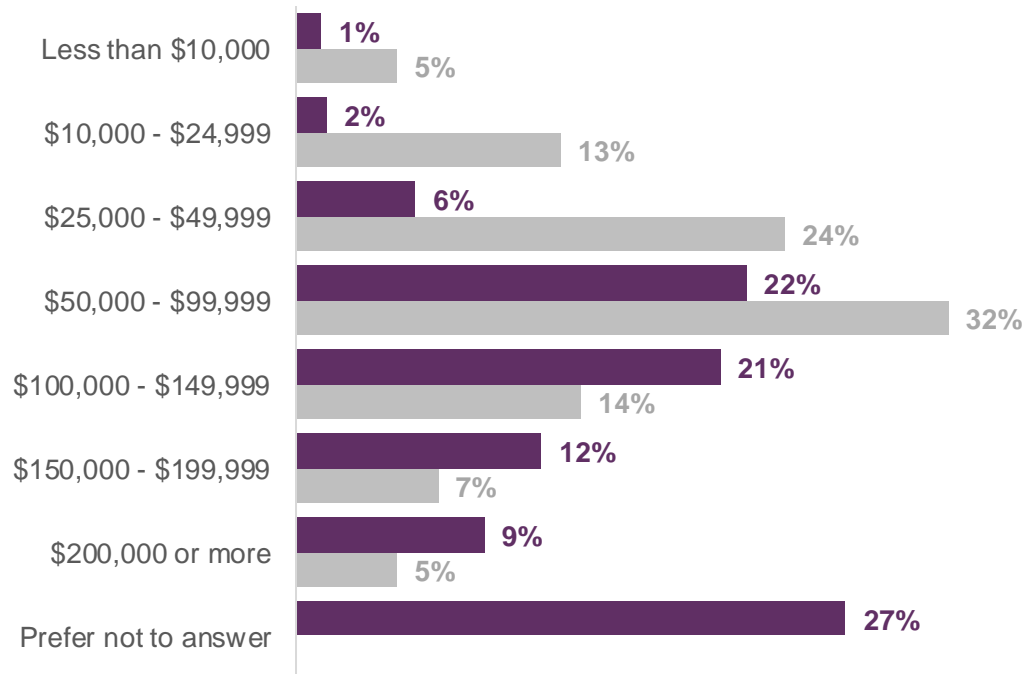
CPD Engagement

Near Southeast Totals (ACS 2019)

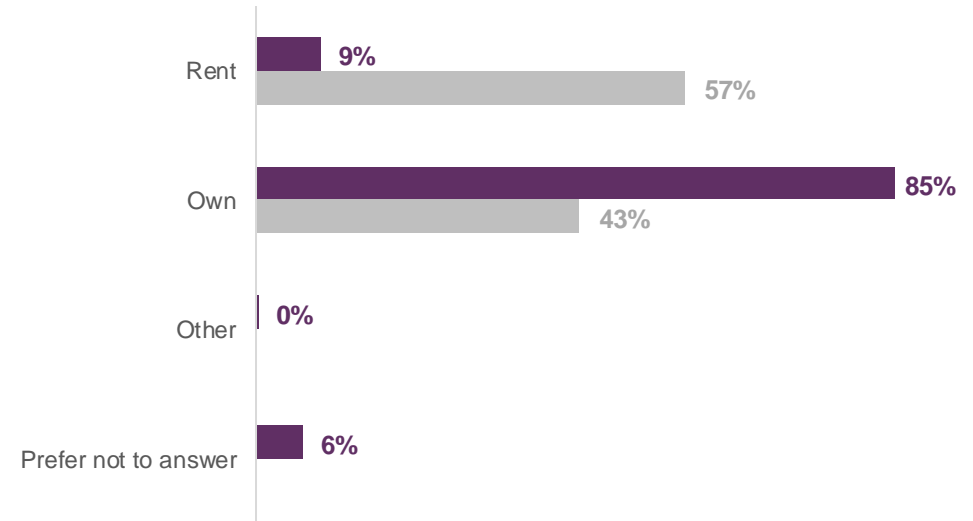


Demographics

Income



Rent/Own



Legend

CPD Engagement

Near Southeast Totals (ACS 2019)



Focused Engagement

August - September 2021

- *Outreach to apartment complexes to reach renters, younger, and lower-income residents*
- *Engagement with students at George Washington High School*

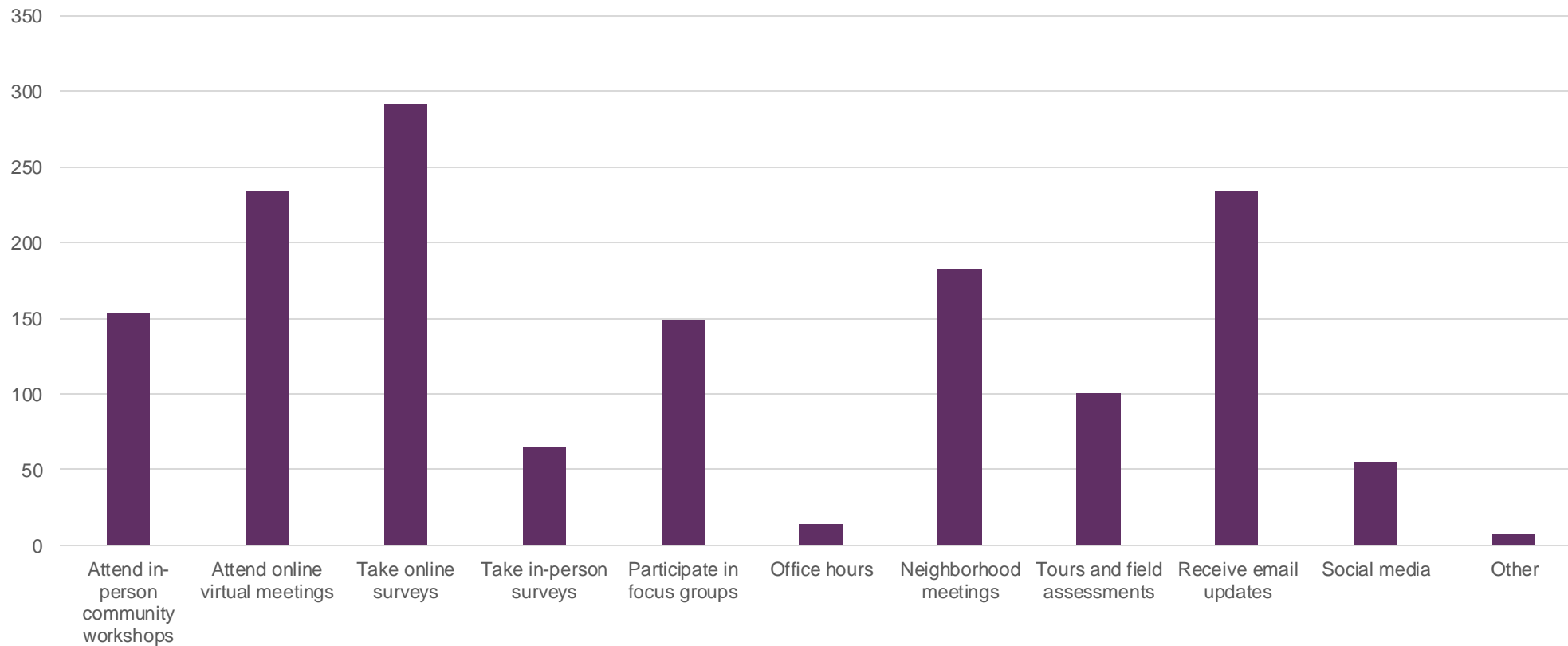
Engagement Strategy

Engagement Strategy

- *Lays out engagement goals for the Near Southeast Plan*
- *Describes the methods that will be used to achieve those goals*
- *Identifies how progress will be tracked*
- *Draft will be developed with input from steering committee and community*

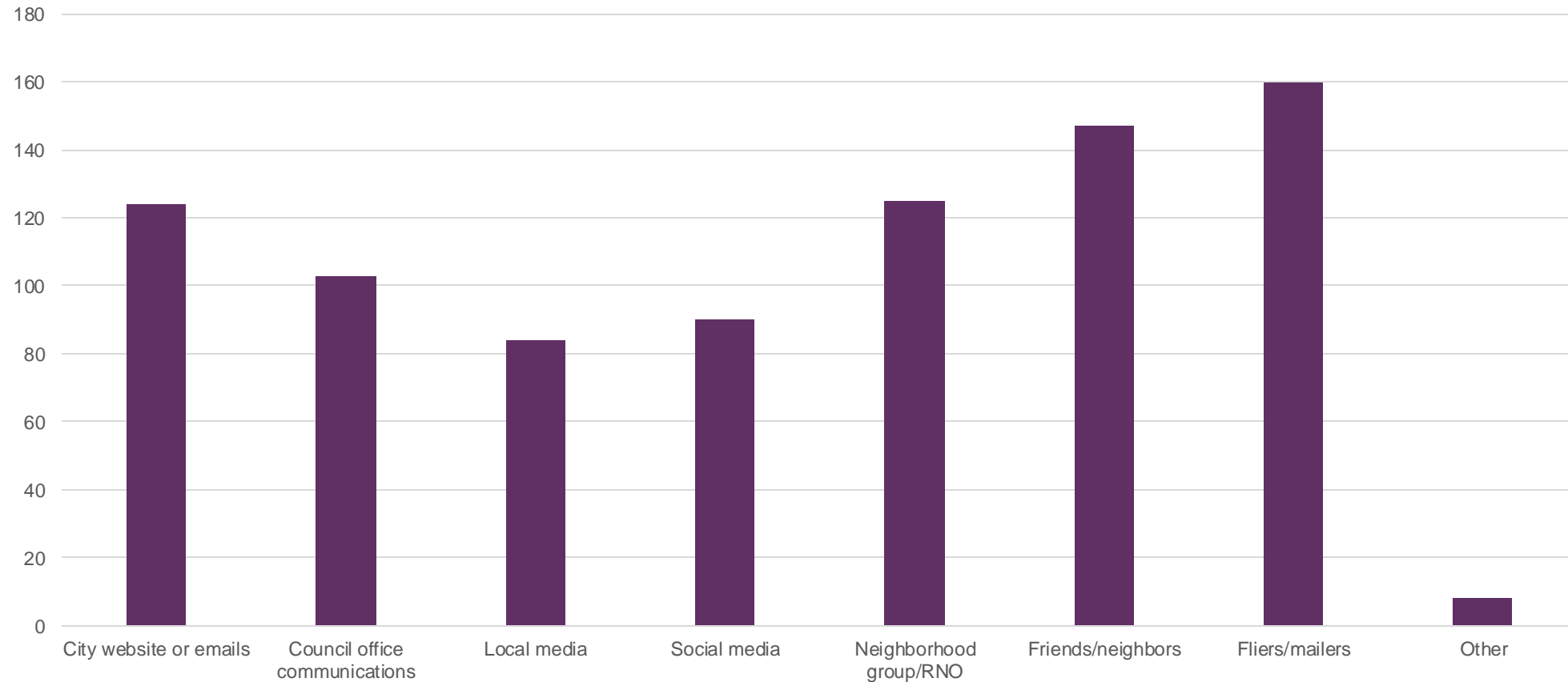
Participation

How would you like to participate in the process?



Information

How do you learn about things happening in your neighborhood?



Successful Engagement

Common themes:

- *Ensure plan responds to community concerns*
- *Show how comments are taken into account*
- *Communicate what is going on with the plan and how people can participate*
- *Include everyone in the area, and reach new people to the process*
- *Use a variety of methods and timeframes to communicate and gather input*
- *Develop a plan that will be implemented and address neighborhood issues*
- *Build capacity of residents, RNOs, and other neighborhood groups for plan and after*
- *Build trust with the community that their input matters and the plan is for them*
- *Create interest, ownership, and community cohesion*
- *Continue strong engagement on the plan*

Feedback and Themes

Organization

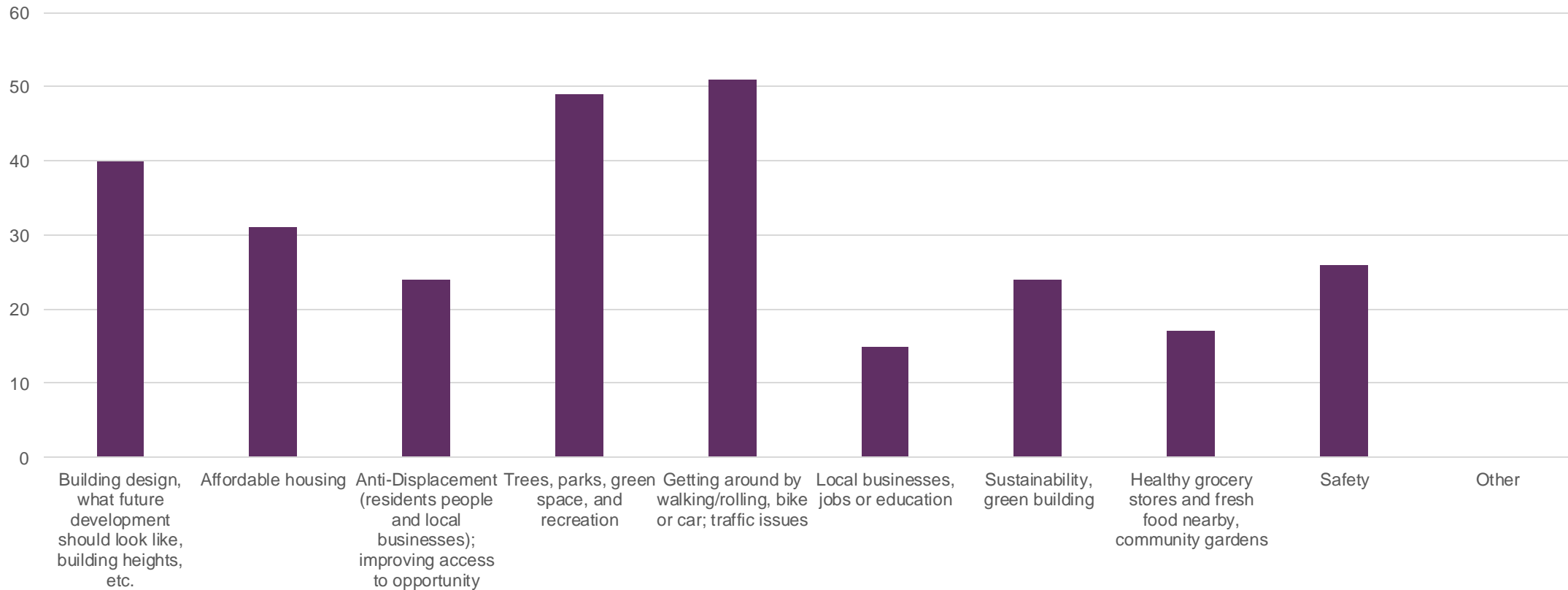
Comments have been summarized into top likes, dislikes, and ideas by topic:

- *General*
- *Land use and built form*
- *Equity and housing*
- *Mobility*
- *Quality of life infrastructure*

For more details on comment themes, see the [October 13, 2021, Steering Committee Presentation](#)

General

What topics interest you most



Land Use and Built Form

Top Likes

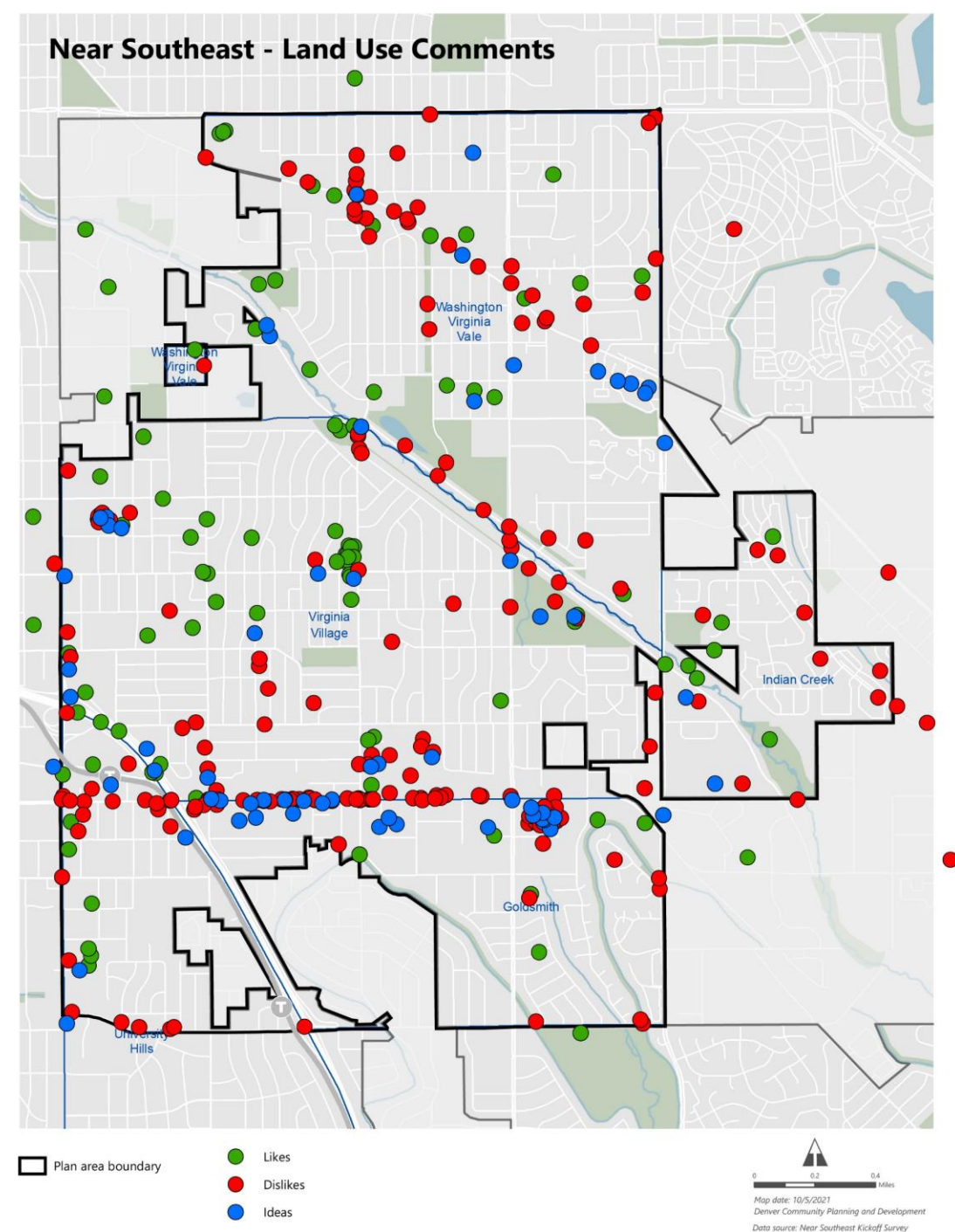
- *Mix of urban and suburban feel*
- *Scale and location of the area*

Top Dislikes

- *Impacts of new development, traffic, loss of green space*
- *Areas in need of revitalization, Evans corridor*

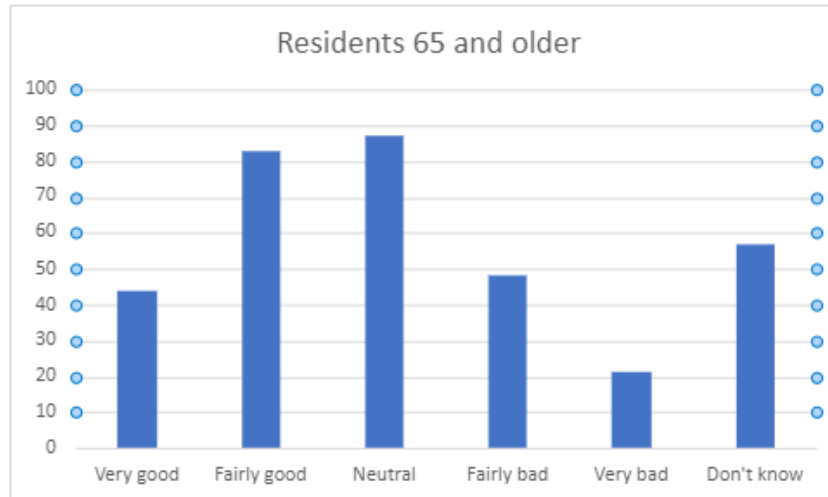
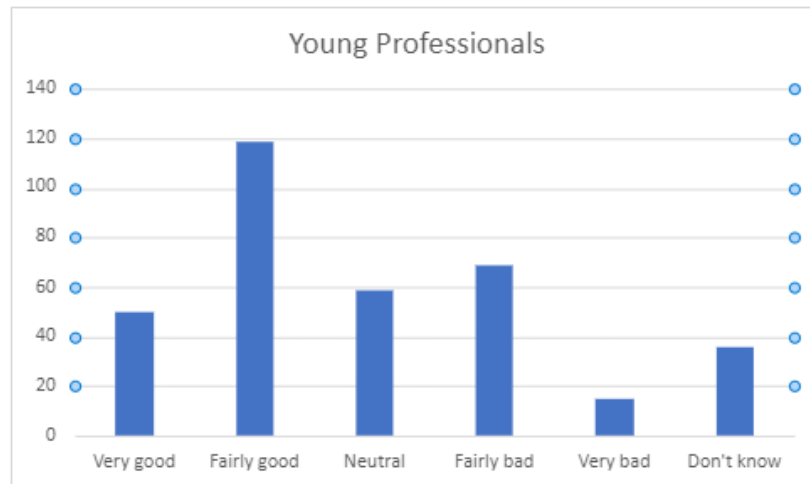
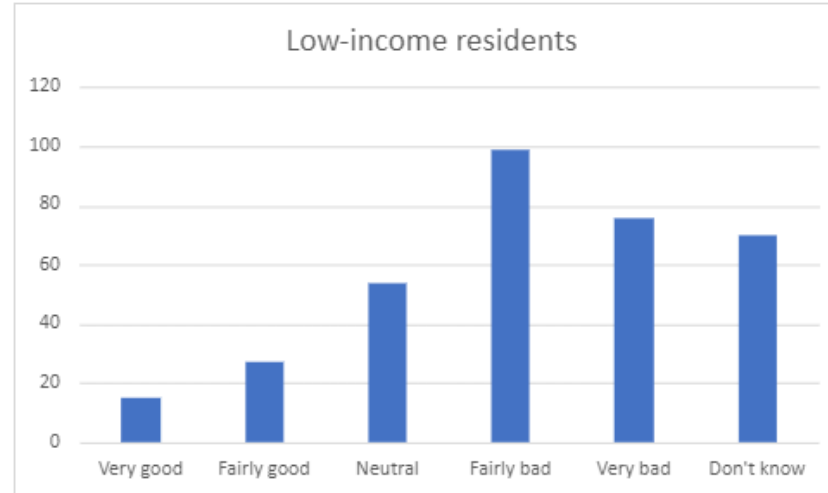
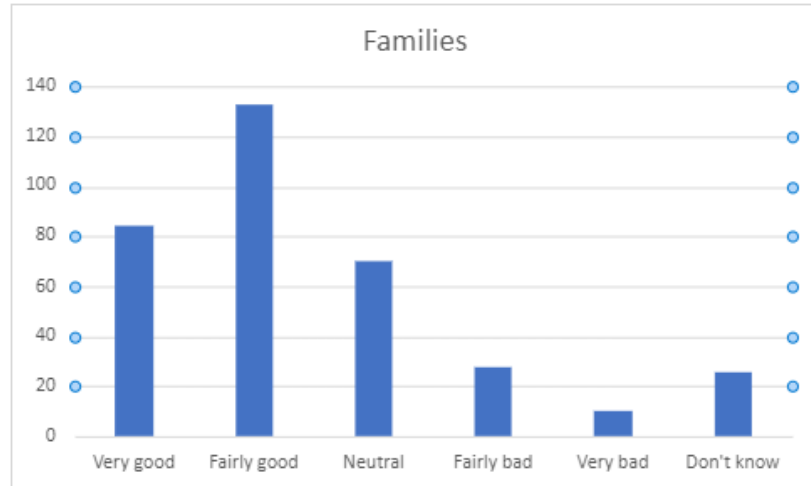
Top Ideas

- *Sensible and sustainable growth that preserves what people like*
- *More mixed-use areas with businesses/services/entertainment options to walk/bike to*



Housing

How good are the housing options for each of the following groups, including availability, quality, and affordability?



Housing

Top Likes

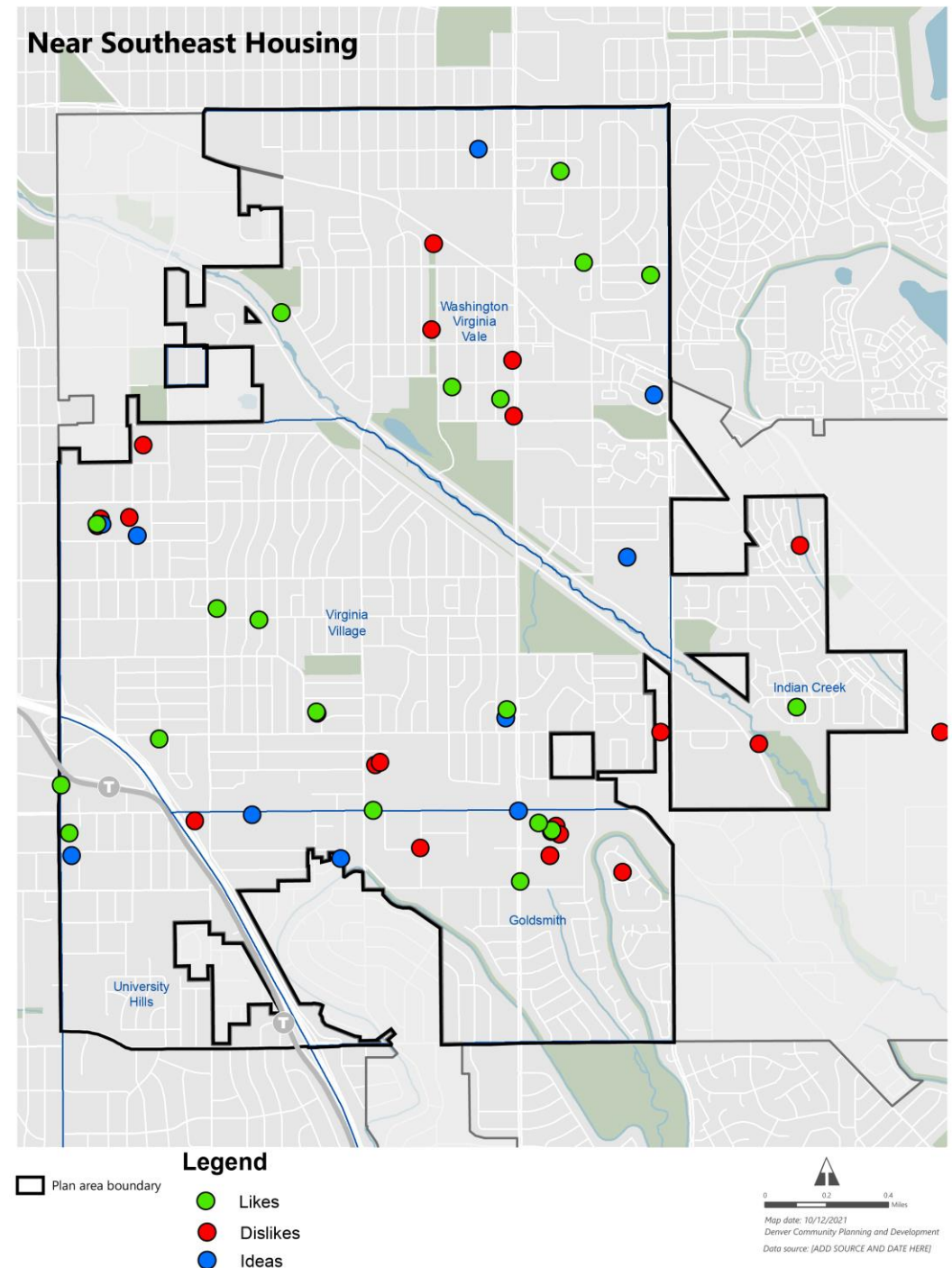
- Nice homes on large lots
- Quiet neighborhoods

Top Dislikes

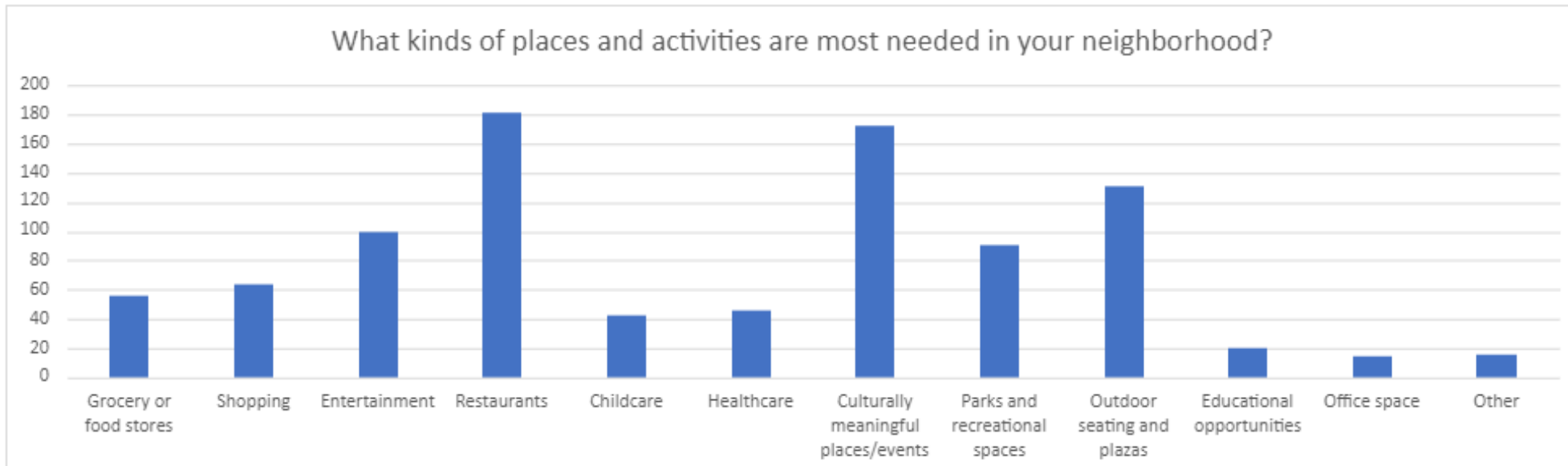
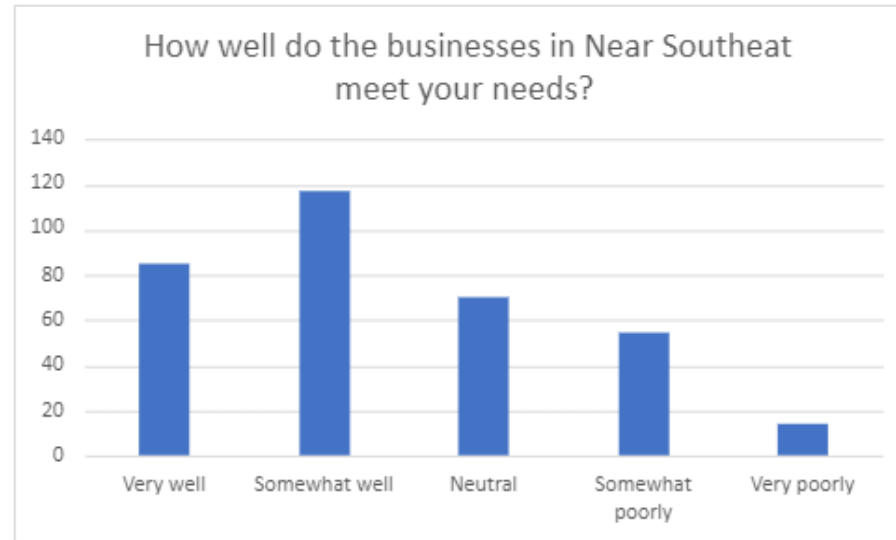
- Increases in housing costs
- Lack of affordable housing
- Limited middle-income housing options

Top Ideas

- High quality affordable housing
- Housing assistance
- Housing that will lead to a diverse population



Economy



Economy

Top Likes

- *Easy access to shops/restaurants, downtown/DTC, and highways*
- *Most essentials can be found in the neighborhood (grocery, pharmacy, etc.)*
- *Proximity and quality of public schools*

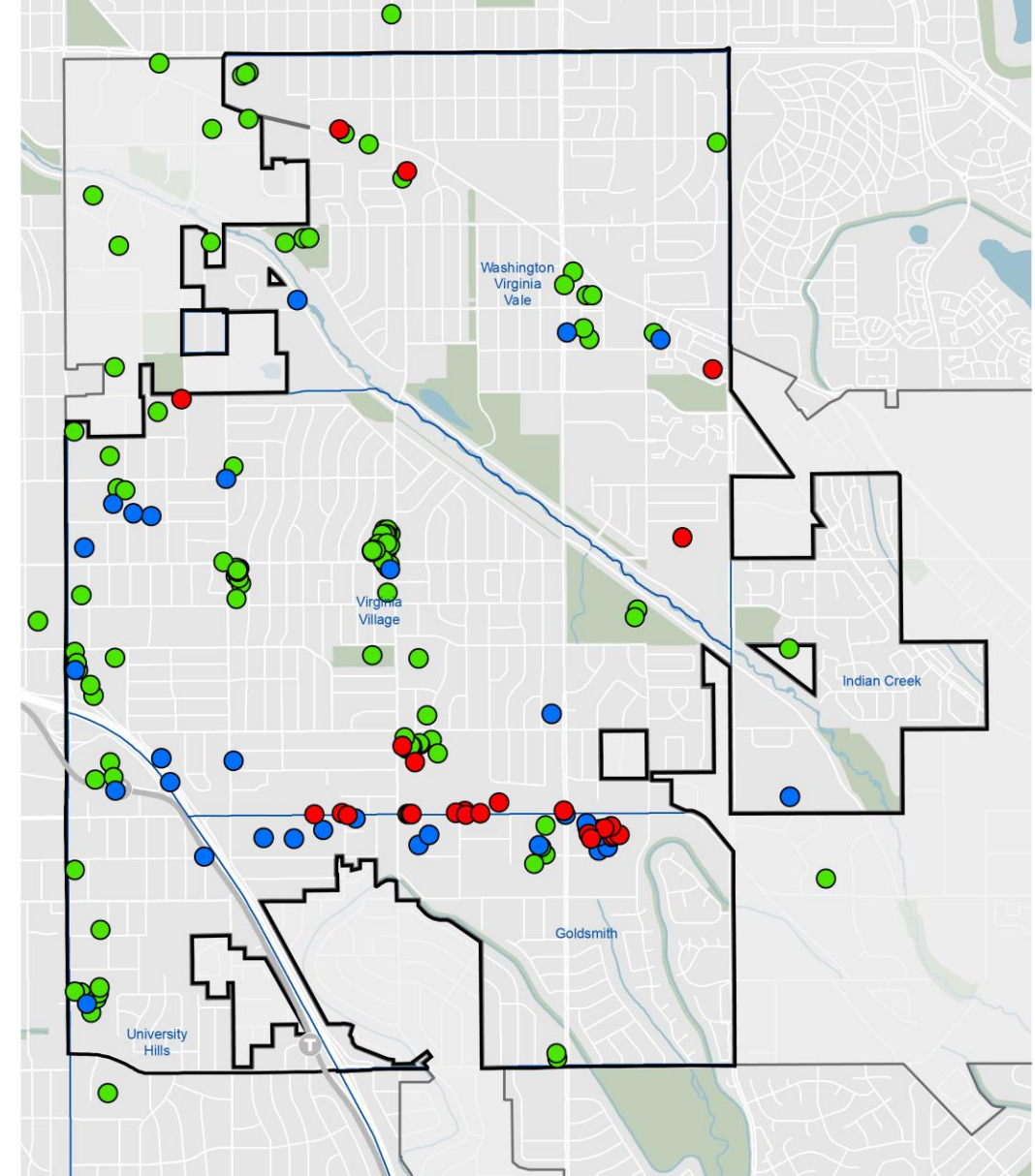
Top Dislikes

- *Rundown buildings and strip malls along Evans and other corridors*
- *Lack of gathering places (entertainment, breweries, bars, plazas, etc)*
- *Increase in homeless population*

Top Ideas

- *More community gathering places for neighbors to connect*
- *Walkable goods and services*
- *Revitalize Evans Ave.*

Near Southeast Economic Development, Businesses, Arts & Culture



□ Plan area boundary

Legend

● Likes

● Dislikes

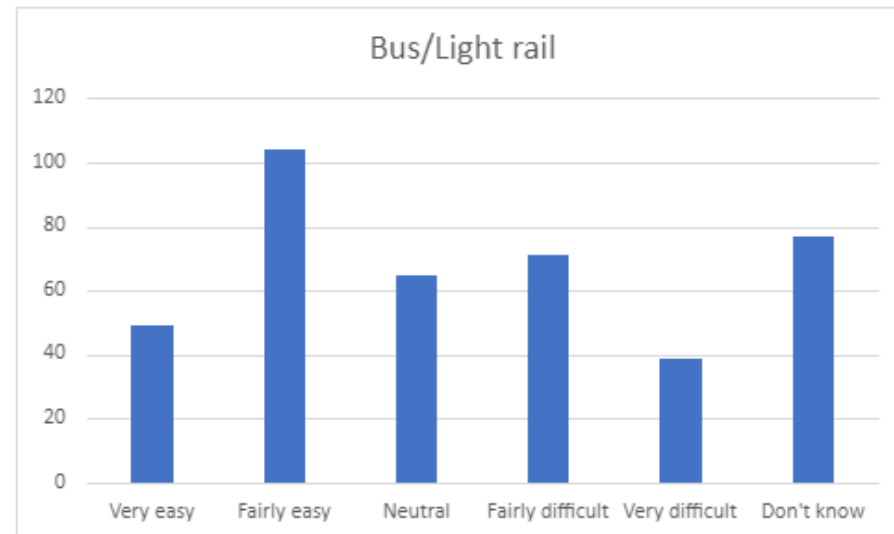
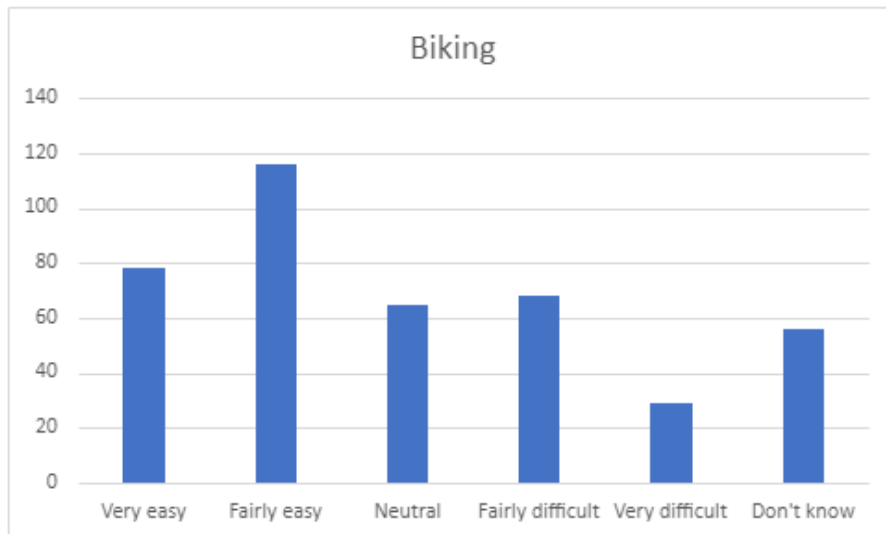
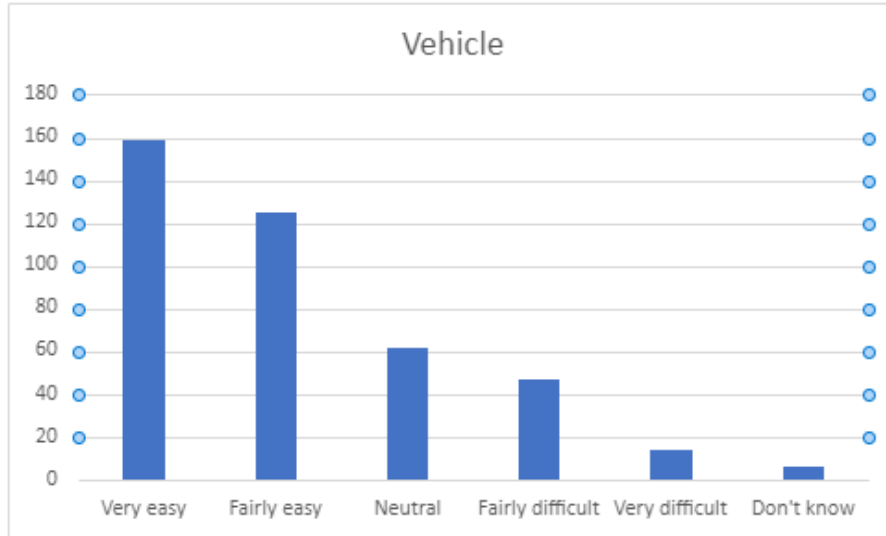
● Ideas



Map date: 10/15/2021
Denver Community Planning and Development
Data source: [ADD SOURCE AND DATE HERE]

Mobility

How easy is it to use each mode of transportation in Near Southeast?



Mobility

Top Likes

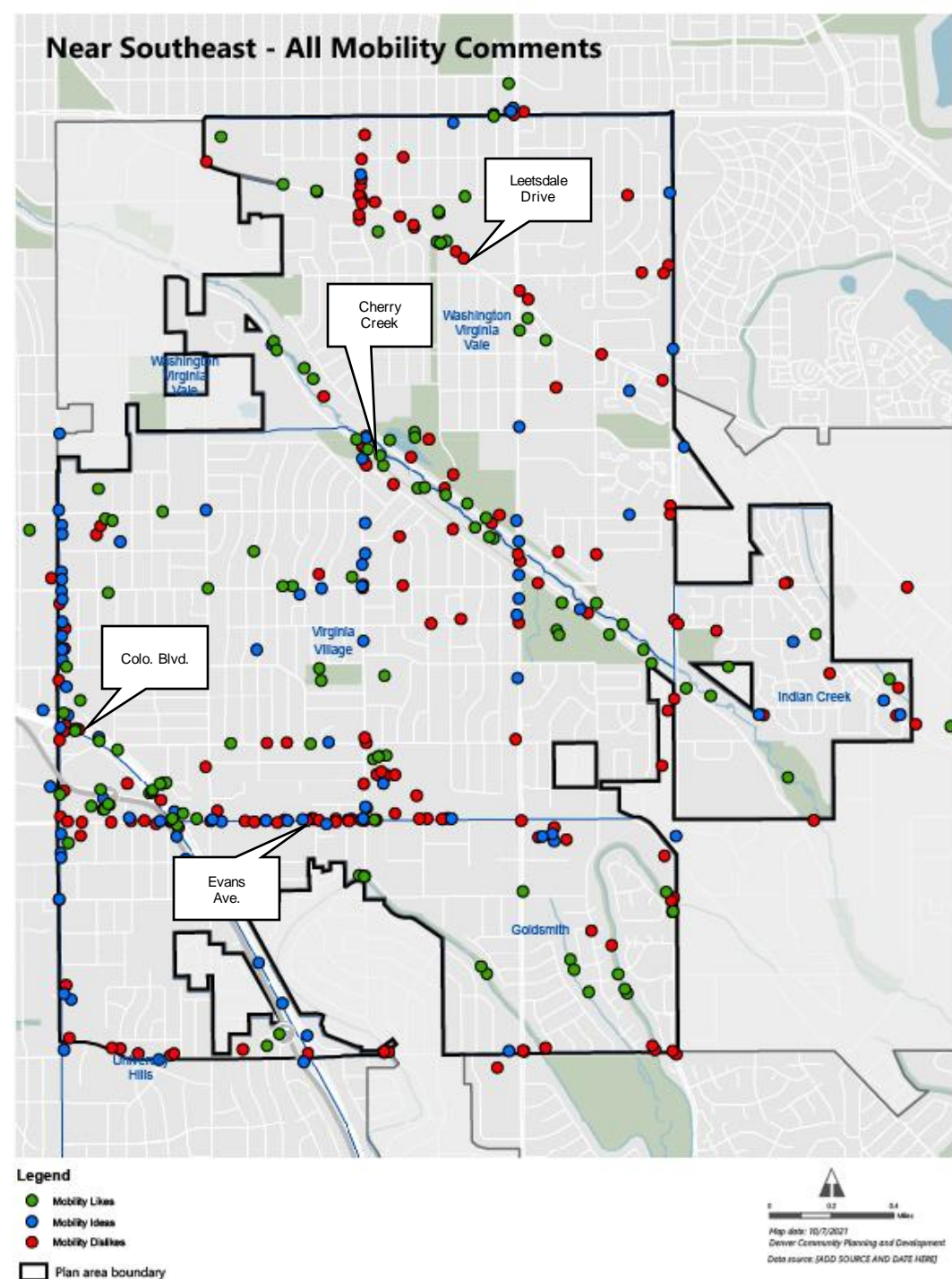
- *The central location of neighborhoods and proximity/accessibility to local amenities and regional destinations like Downtown Denver*
- *Access to Cherry Creek Trail and ability to walk/bike with family to local parks, including Four Mile Historic Park*

Top Dislikes

- *While there are plenty of sidewalks, the area is generally not pedestrian friendly when it comes to comfort and safety*
- *Lack of protected bike lanes and bike signals at intersections and overall safety prevent people from biking*
- *Evans Avenue, Leetsdale Drive and Colorado Boulevard are dominated by vehicles and major intersections are unsafe*

Top Big Ideas

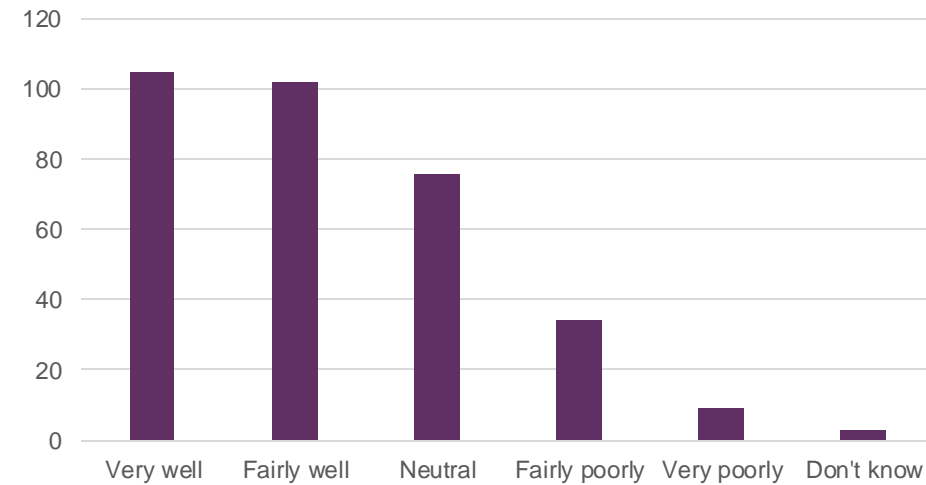
- *Connect neighborhoods with more pedestrian and bike infrastructure, and invest in mass transit for the major arterial roads*
- *More time to cross the street and wider sidewalks with street trees and landscaping to act as a buffer from vehicles*
- *Less car-centric and more incentive to use alternative modes of transportation*



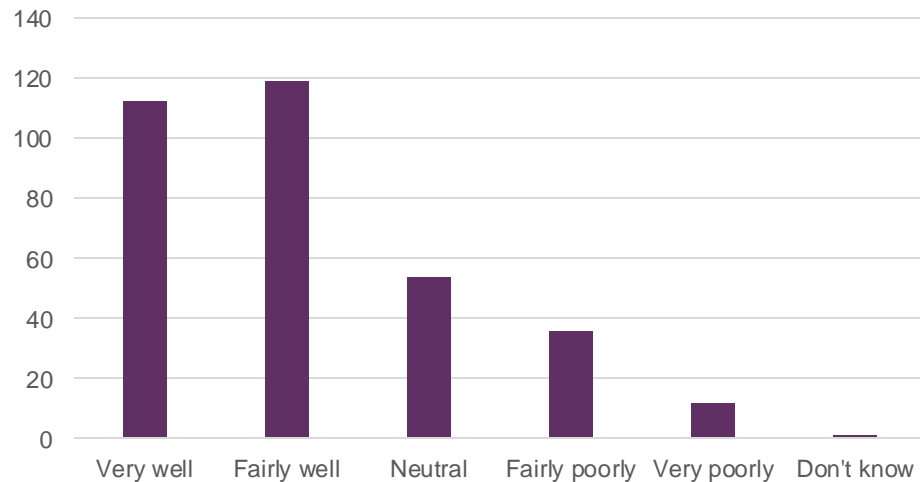
Quality of Life Infrastructure

- *How well do parks and rec centers meet your needs for the following?*

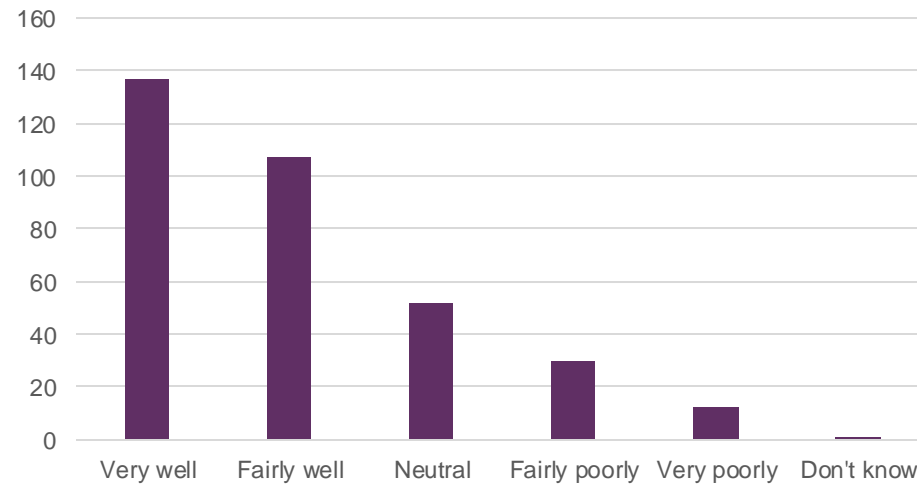
Gathering with friends and family



Exercising/sports



Being close to nature



Quality of Life Infrastructure

Top Likes

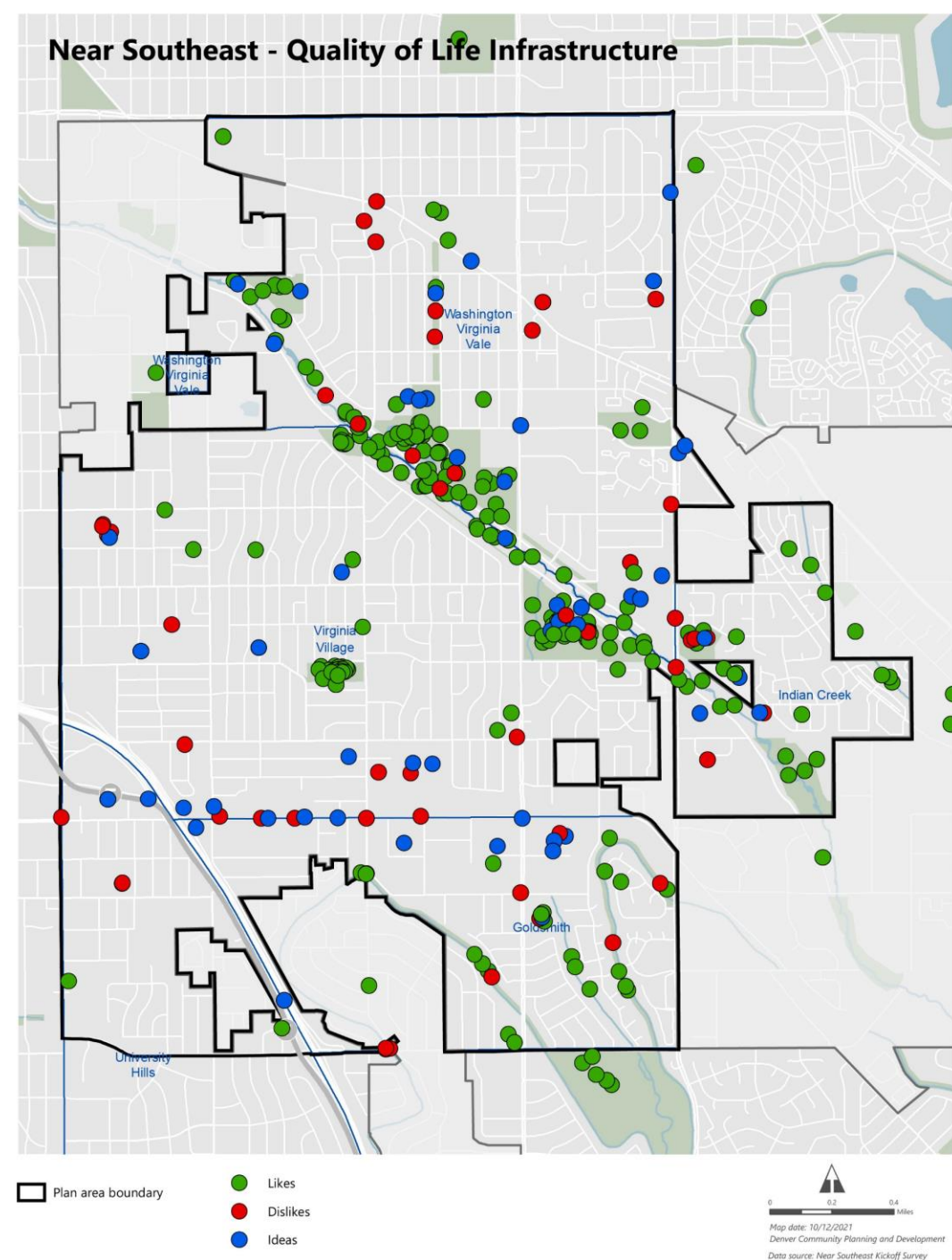
- *Trees, large open spaces to gather and do activities, and other amenities in parks*
- *Cherry Creek, Highline, and Goldsmith Gulch trails for green space and mobility*

Top Dislikes

- *Need more park amenities, better access*
- *Appearance of more trash and neglected streets and properties in the area, especially along major arterial corridors*

Top Ideas

- *More culturally significant events and festivals in the existing parks, more activities, better rec leagues*
- *Improved and better-maintained landscaping, climate appropriate and less water-intensive*



Next Steps

Next Steps

The input above will be used for:

- *Finalizing the engagement strategy*
- *Developing draft vision statements*
- *Identifying issues and opportunities the plan should address*
- *The next round of community engagement to develop recommendations*