

February 17, 2023

2023 Budget

What We Heard

District of Sooke Public Engagement (Phase One)

By joining the budget conversation and staying connected throughout the process, residents will learn:

- opportunities and limitations of the district's budget; and
- what projects and service changes are planned within the five-year financial plan.

Stay informed!

[Letstalk.sooke.ca/budget](https://letstalk.sooke.ca/budget)



Territorial Acknowledgment

Central to Sooke's history is the acknowledgment that Sooke occupies the unceded traditional territories of T'Sou-ke Nation and Scia'new First Nation. We recognize the ongoing presence, influence, and rights of these Nations within the community.

The ancestors of the T'Sou-ke Nation and Scia'new Nation have lived in and stewarded these lands and waters since Time Immemorial.

The District of Sooke makes this land acknowledgment to raise awareness of the ongoing Indigenous presence and land rights in the territory that includes and encompasses Sooke. It invites us, a local government, to reflect on how colonial processes are ongoing – and from which we have benefited – as well as the changes we must make to honour the Indigenous peoples and their lands that we inhabit.



Executive Summary

The District of Sooke conducts a citizen budget survey and attends local markets to discuss the district budget annually from mid-June to mid-July.

Using the Citizen Budget survey, residents can enter their assessed property value and see how their tax dollars are distributed between district service areas. Through the survey, residents can also:

- advise on satisfaction levels;
- rate the importance of services;
- propose changes such as increase or decrease to various service areas; and
- provide additional comments.

200 surveys were completed in 2023, an 78% increase from 2021; however, short of the desired 400 for statistical reliability.

As a relatively new initiative, the rate of growth is promising and will continue to be built upon. Consistently offering the survey at the same period each year and overlapping with “property tax time” will help communicate reliability and participatory value.

In addition to the survey, staff attend community markets during the same period to inform residents of the District’s budget, encourage survey participation and provide an opportunity to connect with Service Area Leadership.

Further, the community market attendance includes an engagement experience where residents are given a limited amount of “tax dollars” (blocks) and asked to distribute the dollars into various services/areas and/or initiatives (baskets). Approximately 400 residents participated in this experience/engaged with staff through the District’s attendance at eight markets in summer 2022.

Overall, given the interaction between the survey and market attendance, the information gathered provides a reasonable “snapshot” to inform the district’s participatory budget process.

This data is combined with master planning documents and technical expertise to develop a preliminary budget for Council’s review of service levels. After service levels are determined, the Director of Finance presents Council with an initial budget for consideration.

This is one of two phases of public engagement in the District’s participatory budget process. A second phase is conducted through a Budget Open House after Council has given the budget second reading.

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Key Learnings

Increased public understanding of municipal budget challenges.

Building a budget that meets the needs of Sooke while balancing what's possible especially given current economic realities and pandemic recovery is not easy. Residents acknowledged this challenge during this phase of engagement and, generally, recognized not all things can be funded. In short, difficult decisions need to be made.

Understanding that property taxes may need to increase.

When given the option to express an increase, decrease or no change for funding of services areas, most respondents expressed "status quo." Where a decrease in funding was not possible (with reasons provided to substantiate this claim), survey participants expressed support to increase funding and not remain "status quo."

Areas of priority: roads, parks and environmental services, and community safety.

Survey respondents including conversations at local markets affirm funding priorities in the areas of roads (maintenance in particular), parks and environmental services, and community safety (both police and fire services).

Shorten survey. Enhance market experience.

Participants describe the interactive market experience as "challenging (in a good way)", "informative", "fun" and "a great experience."

By contrast, the survey has tried to achieve too much and will be adapted to increase its accessibility and enhance the value of the data collected through this mechanism. It is anticipated this will also increase survey participation. To retain the informational value of the content provided in the survey, supplemental PDFs (one-pagers) summarizing service areas can be offered to provide easy access to this information for those seeking it.

Engagement Approach

The District of Sooke Budget experience is meant to be accessible, inclusive – and fun! The experience has been iterative over the last two years to determine the best approach for our community.

Locations have been tested to maximize reach and return on the investment of staff time attending the identified locations. For example, a poll of attendees at the Sooke Marine Boardwalk identified 28 of 30 persons were visitors. As the target audience for this survey are residents (homeowners and renters), staff have not returned to this location for the budget survey. Additionally, the dynamic audience at both the Thursday Night Market and Sooke County Market on Saturdays demonstrates the value of regular attendance at these venues during the survey period.

How We Engaged

Two participatory experiences were made available from mid-June to mid-July:

1. Citizen Budget Survey
2. Interactive “Pop-Up” Booth

Citizen Budget Survey

The citizen budget survey provided persons with in-depth information about the district and the opportunity to comment on increasing spending, decreasing spending or keeping spending consistent.

The survey was available from June 15 to July 17, 2022. Most participants engaged on the platform on June 29, 2022, with over 200 visits. The engagement was lowest on June 19, 2022, with ten site visits.

Interactive “Pop-up Booth”

The District attended eight local markets with an exhibit space (“pop-up”) sharing information and providing an interactive experience. The “interactive experience” invited persons to assign five blocks (representative of tax dollars) to ten baskets (representative of various service levels). The idea is to communicate that there are limited tax dollars and difficult decisions are required in determining the district’s budget.

Inclusion and access

Surveys were accessible digitally, including at local markets where tablets were available for those wishing to participate in the events and remove a potential barrier of lack of computer/internet access. An option to complete the survey by phone was also provided and utilized by those with self-proclaimed lower levels of computer literacy.

Who We Engaged

Survey participants were equally distributed between the ages 35-44; 45-54; 55-64 and over 65.

Participation slightly decreased in the 25-34-year-old age group and was minimal in the 18-24-year-old age group.

Participation at the interactive “pop-up booths” were generally a younger demographic (25-64 years) and included children and youth participants (8-18 years).

The majority of survey participants are homeowners who have lived in Sooke for more than 6 years and reported that their assessed property value is between \$750,000-\$1,000,000. Participation at the pop-ups included newer residents to Sooke, although in-person participation was generally balanced between residents living in Sooke for 1-8 years.

How long have you been living in Sooke?

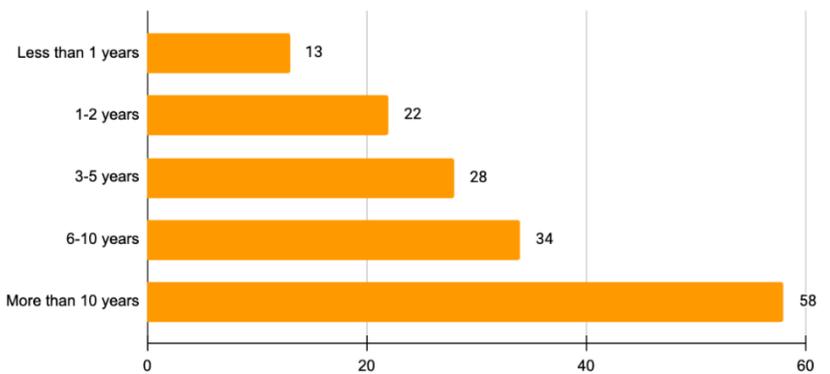


Figure 1: Age distribution of survey participants

Feedback summary

- 2,204 visits to Citizen Budget Survey
- 200 survey participants (145 completed the majority of the survey)
 - 88 more survey respondents than the previous year
- 576 comments left
- An estimated 400 residents engaged in the interactive pop-up experience
- Data collected in the citizen budget survey is consistent with observations from the pop-up booths.
- Recommended “status quo” funding for:
 - Administrative Services
 - Corporate Services
 - Financial Services and Information Technology
- Consideration was expressed for funding increases in the areas of road maintenance; parks and environmental services; planning, development and building services; fire services; and police services.
- The majority of survey respondents see the importance of the service areas the District offers (Figures 2 and 3).
- For each survey respondent who expressed an item being “not important” or “less of a priority”, consistently more persons reported those service areas to be “important”, “very important” or “extremely important”:
 - Administrative Services (79) [v. important (99)]
 - Community Engagement and Public Participation Opportunities (77) [v. important (107)]
 - Financial Services and Information Technology (75) [v. important (94)]
 - Community Grants (72) [v. important (92)]
 - Corporate Services (69) [v. important (90)]
 - Online Payment Functionality (69) [v. important (95)]
 - Snow Removal (68) [v. important (88)]
 - Increasing Bylaw Education (67) [v. important (87)]
 - Fire-related Community Education initiatives (64) [v. important (83)]
 - Yard Waste Disposal (57) [v. important (105)]



Head of IT, Ryan Reisch and Director of Finance, m Raechel Gray attend the Sooke Country Market to talk about budget with residents

(TOP 10) Areas expressed most strongly as “not important” and “less of a priority”:



Figure 2: Top-down – survey respondents express areas of least importance. For every respondent expressing an area of lesser importance, consistently more respondents indicated the same service as “important.”

- Generally, roads and community safety are the top areas of importance according to survey respondents:
 - Implementation of the Transportation Master Plan (119) [v. not priority (22)]
 - Parks and Environmental Services (118) [v. not priority (49)]
 - Road Maintenance (116) [v. not priority (27)]
 - Police Services (116) [v. not priority (43)]
 - Roads and Underground Services (110) [v. not priority (25)]
 - Fire Services (110) [v. not priority (41)]
 - Planning, Development and Building Services (108) [v. not priority (47)]
 - Emergency Preparedness (107) [v. not priority (55)]
 - Community Engagement and Public Participation Opportunities (107) [v. not priority (77)]
 - Yard Waste Disposal Program (105) [v. not priority (57)]
 - Online Payment Functionality (95)
 - Climate Action (94)

- Financial Services and Information Technology (94)
- Corporate Services (90)
- Increasing Bylaw Education (87)

(TOP 10) Areas expressed most strongly as “important”, “very important” and “extremely important”:

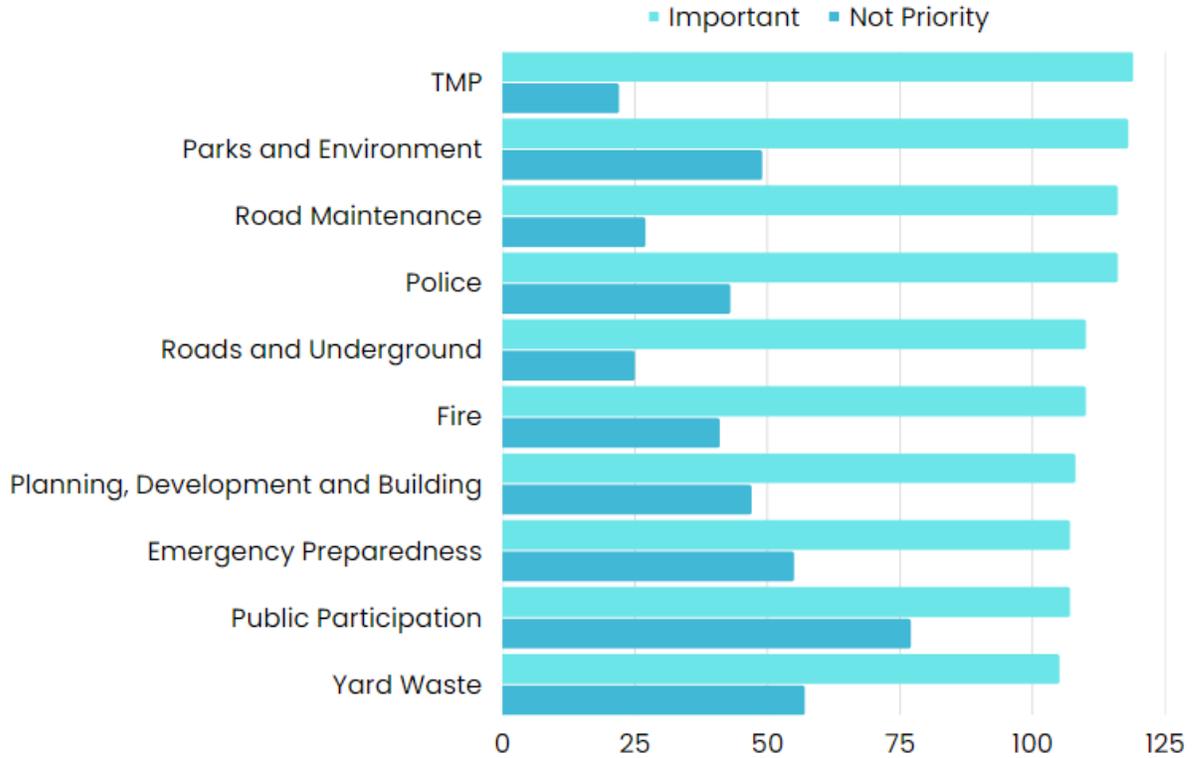


Figure 3: Top-down - survey respondents express areas of greatest importance.

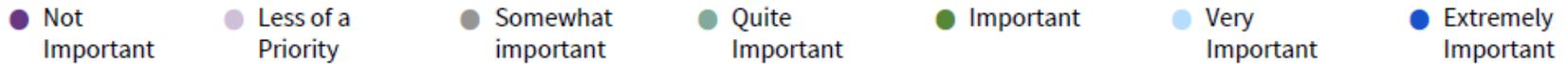
Road infrastructure (Transportation Master Plan (TMP), Road Maintenance and, overall, Roads and Underground Services, and community safety (Police and Fire) emerged as a key priority areas obtaining a combination of the the highest ranking of importance AND lowest expressions as a “lesser priority.”

Administrative Services

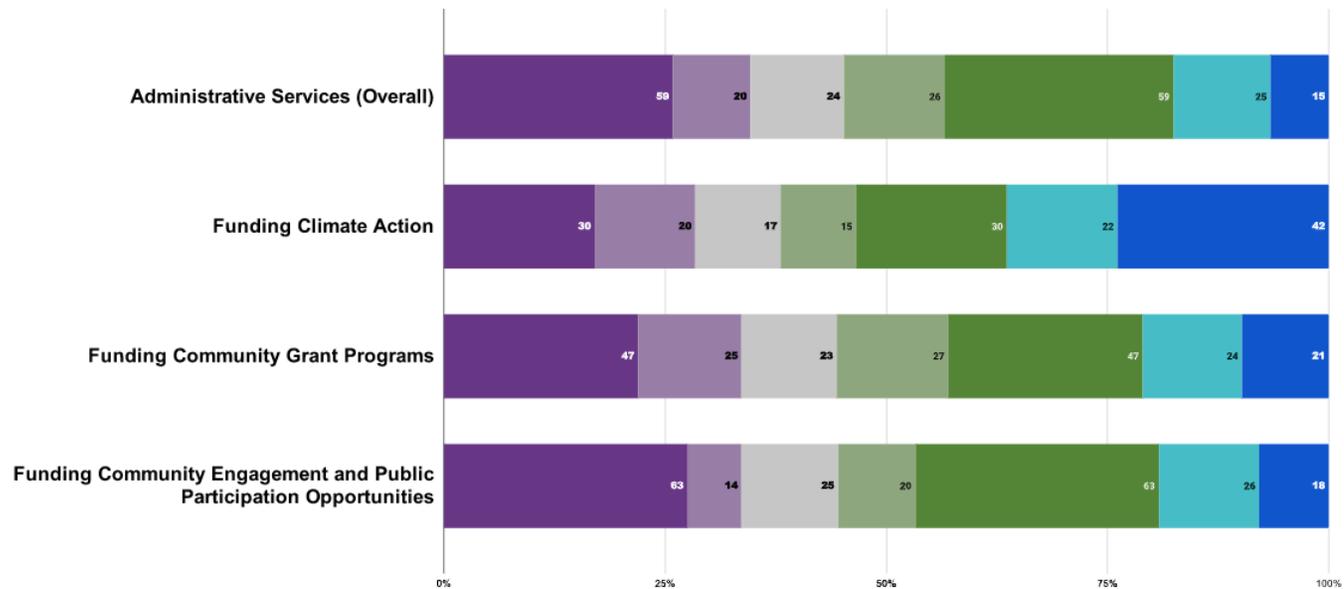
Comment summary

- Keep funding status quo.
- Generally, survey participants are appreciative of public participation opportunities and keen to see how feedback correlates with action/response.
- Generally, survey participants do not want more funds invested into climate action; however, do want work to continue in this area.

Rating importance of services

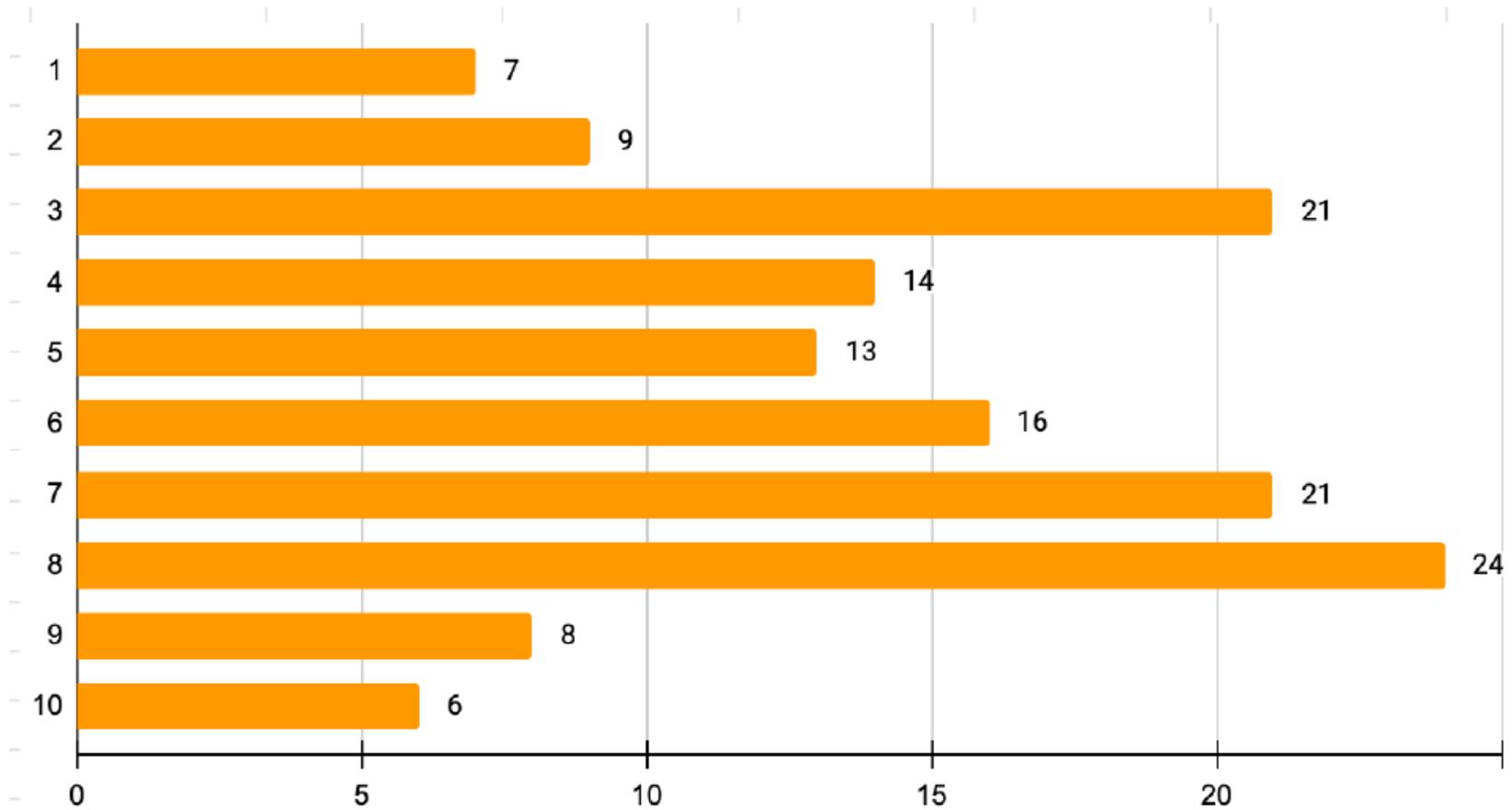


How important are these services to you?



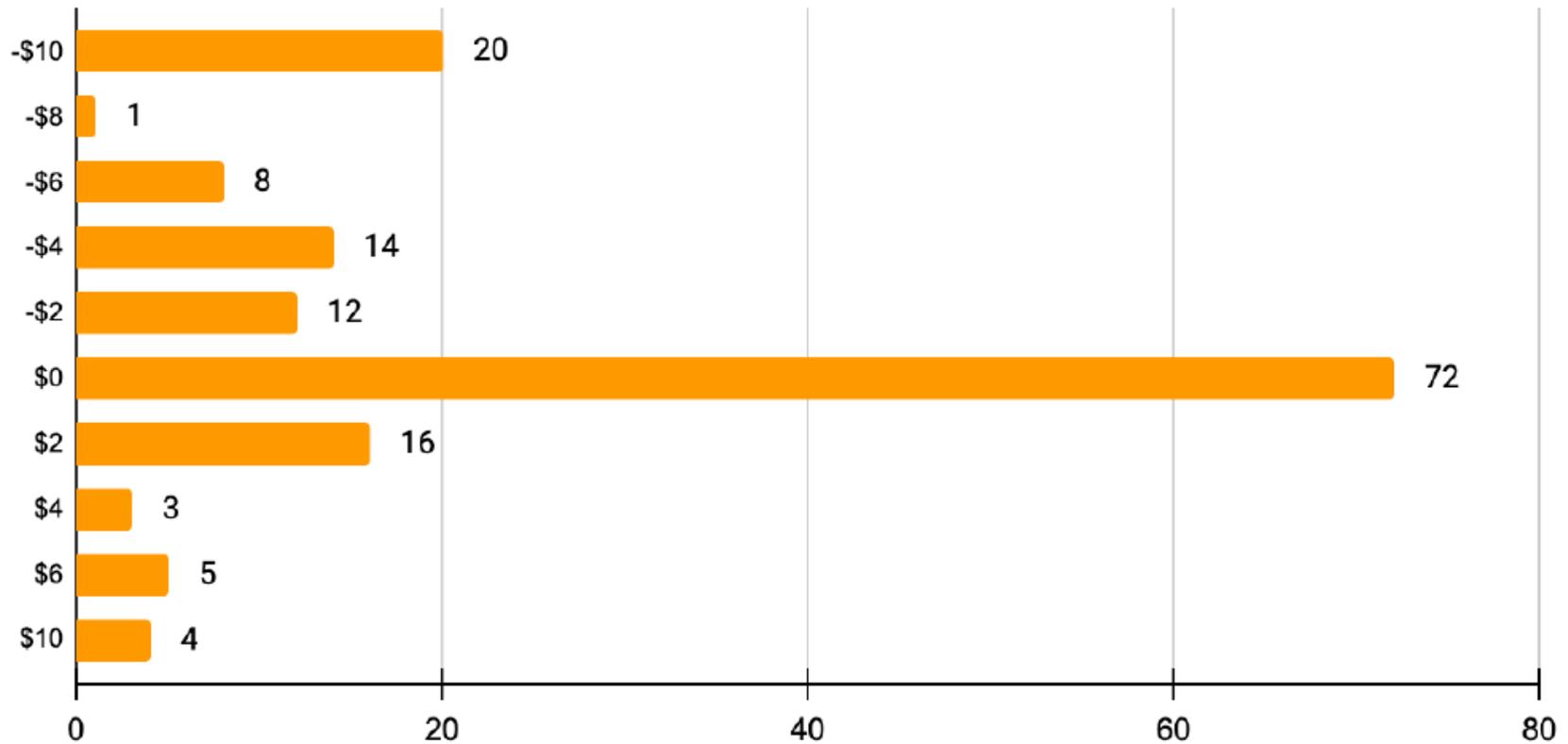
Satisfaction of service (Administrative Services)

How satisfied are you with the value you are receiving for this service?



Funding status

Would you like to invest more or less of your tax dollars in this service area? Invest More or Less in Administrative Services

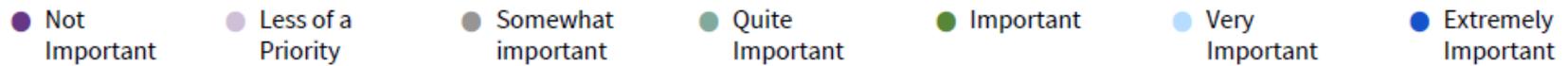


Corporate Services

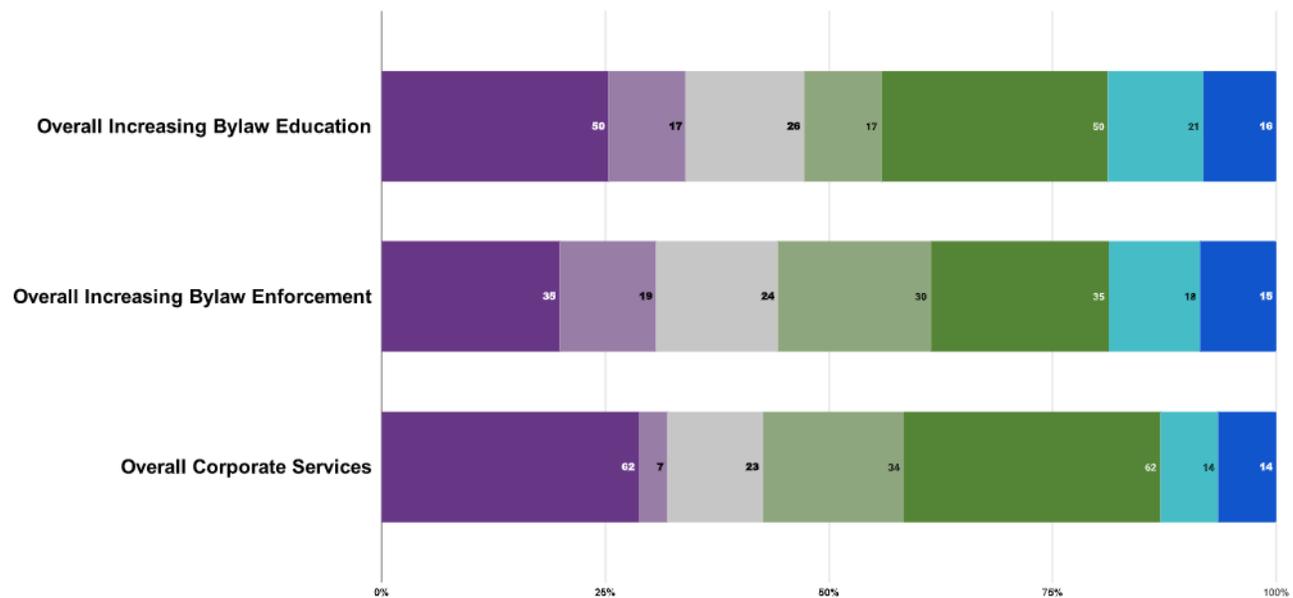
Comment summary

- Keep funding status quo.
- Generally, survey participants recognize the need for bylaw services and would like to see more enforcement.
- Generally, survey participants expressed a need for increased visibility of (bylaw) officers in the community.

Rating importance of services (Corporate Services)

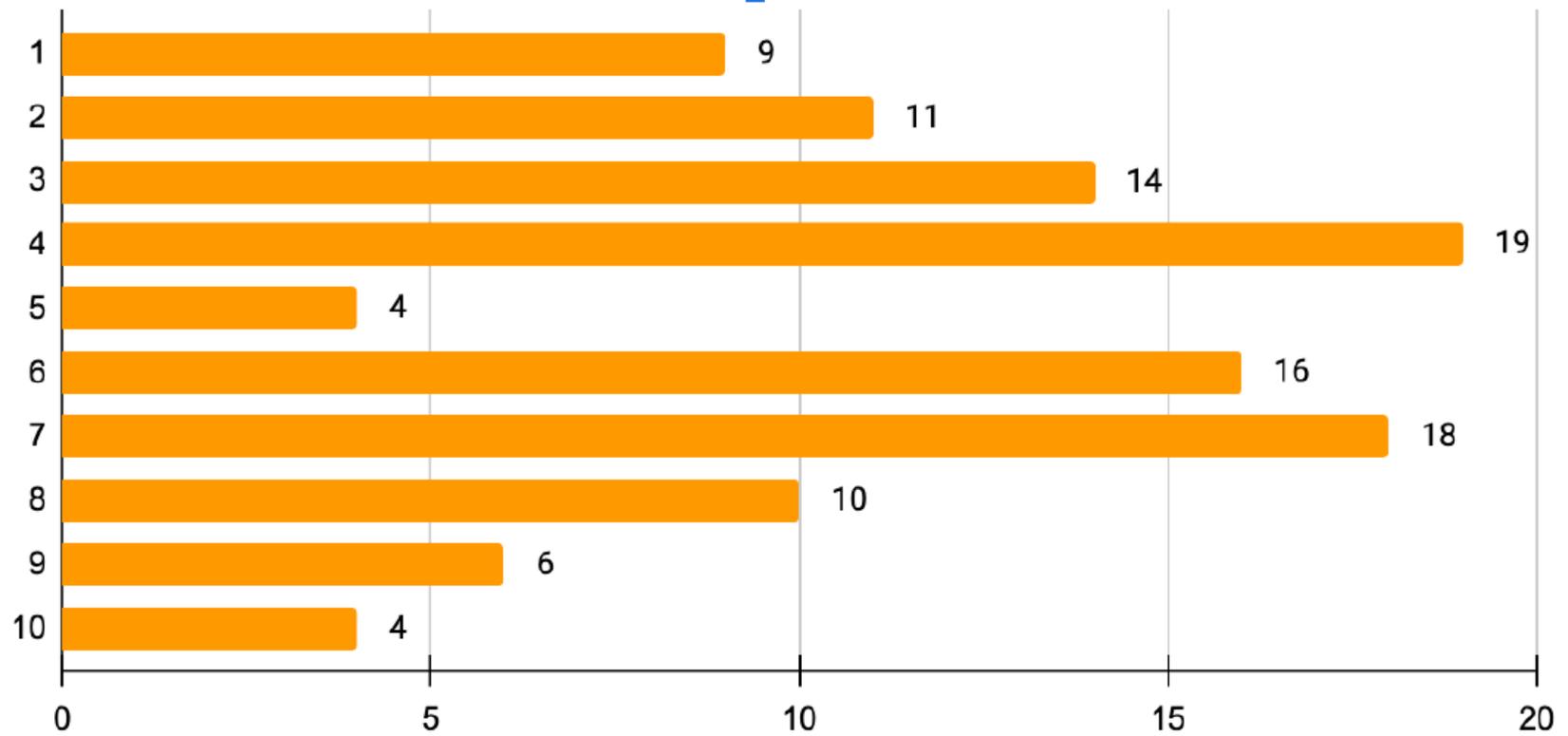


How important are these services to you?



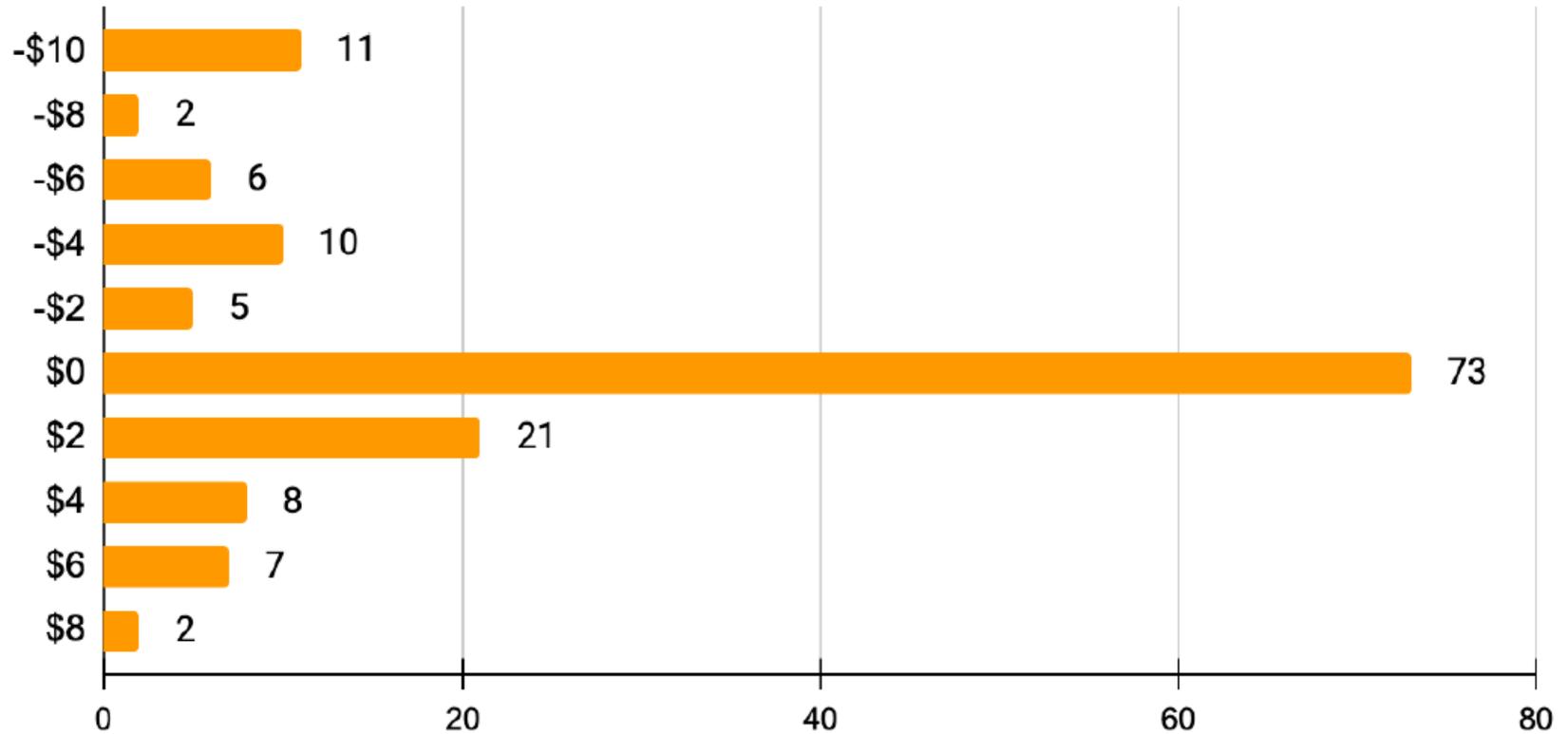
Satisfaction of service (Corporate Services)

How satisfied are you with the value you are receiving for this service?



Funding status (Corporate Services)

Would you like to invest more or less of your tax dollars in this service area?

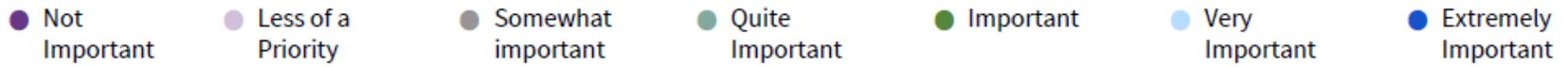


Financial Services and Information Technology

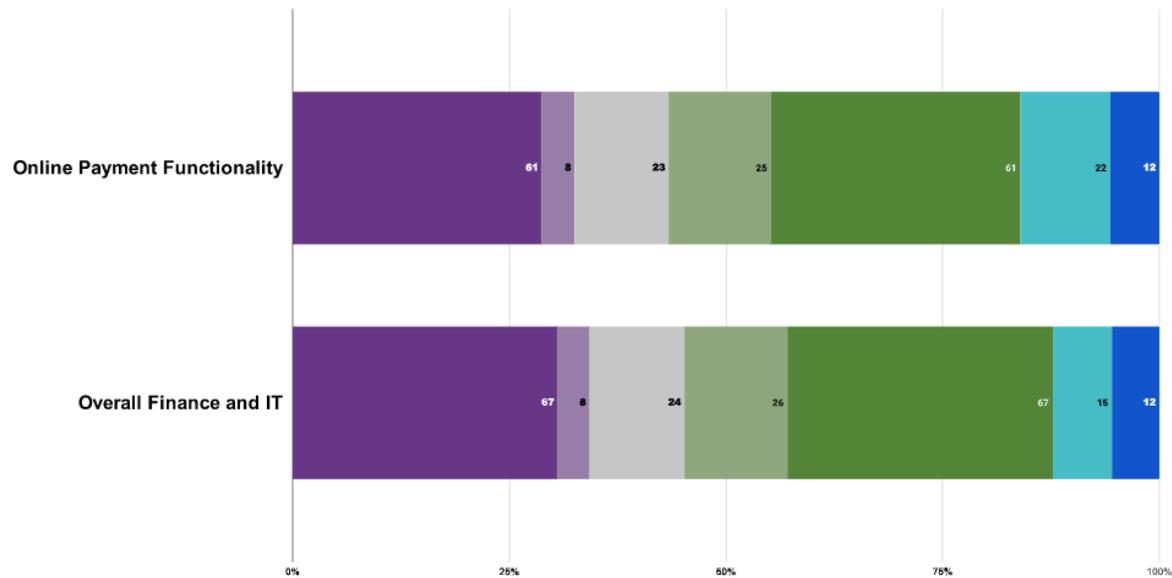
Comment summary

- Keep funding status quo.

Rating importance of services

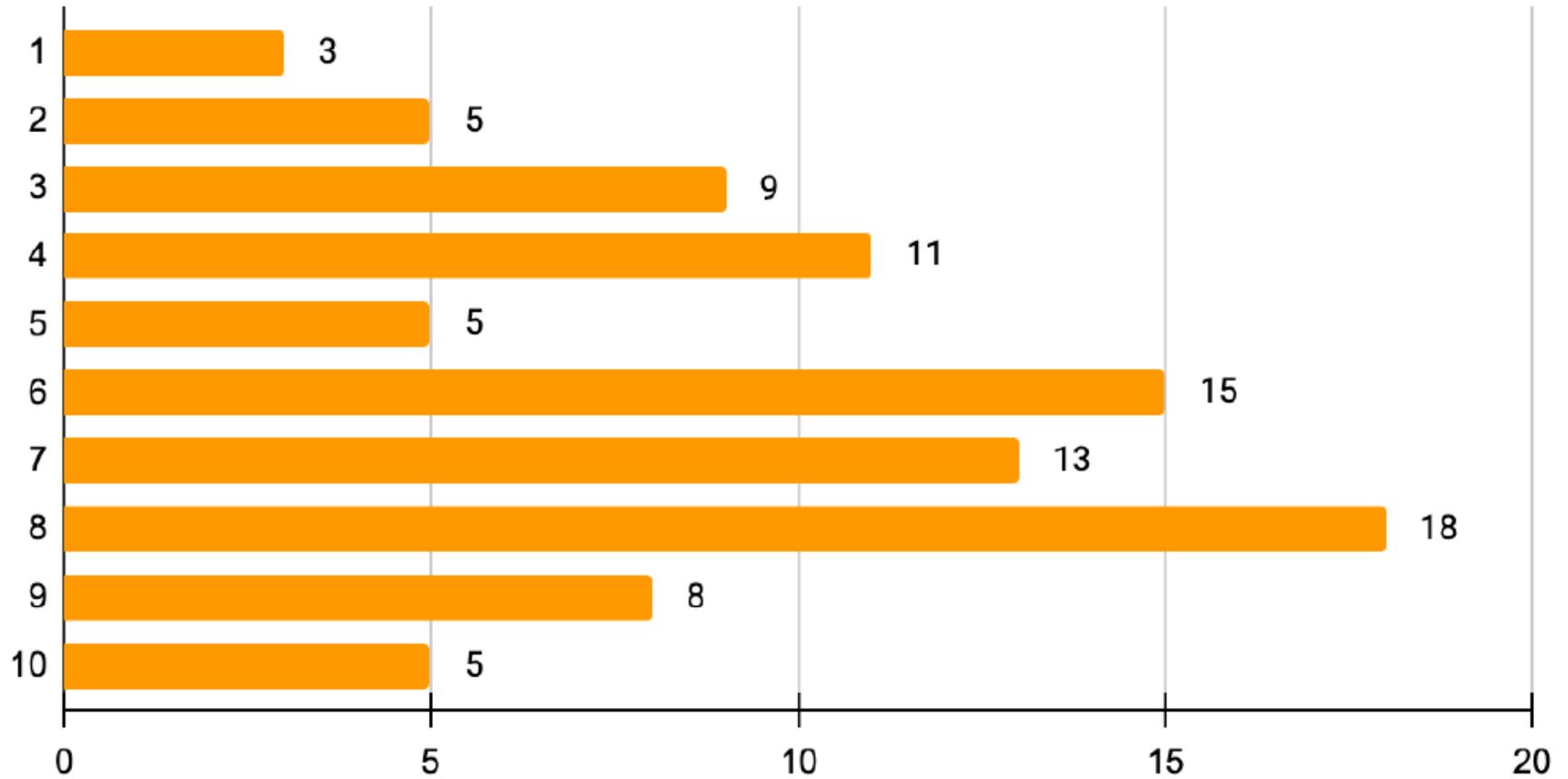


How important are these services to you?



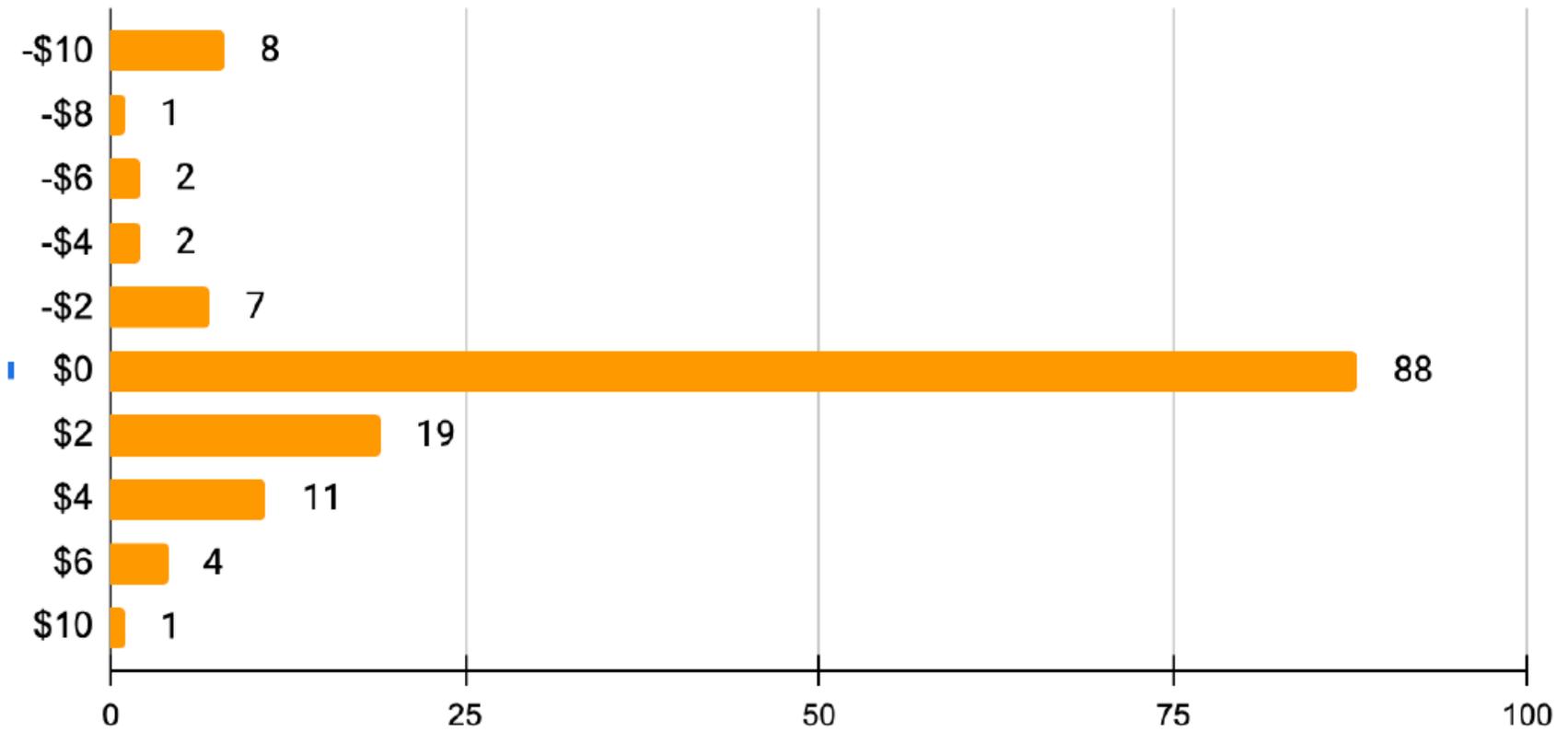
Satisfaction of service (Financial Services and Information Technology)

How satisfied are you with the value you are receiving for this service?



Funding Status (Financial Services and Information Technology)

Would you like to invest more or less of your tax dollars in this service area?

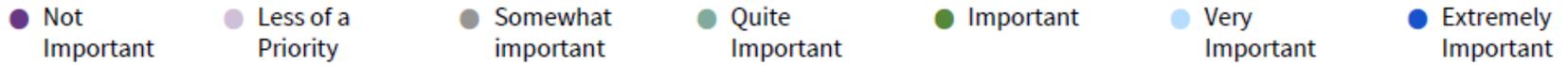


Planning, Developing and Building Services

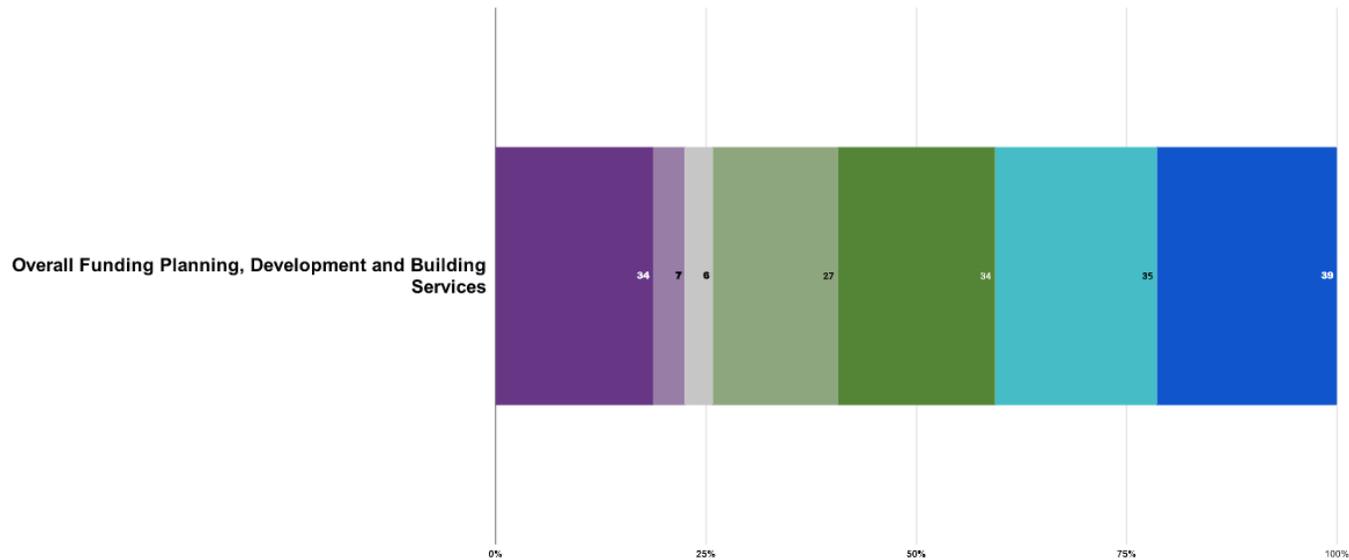
Comment summary

- Generally, survey participants expressed a need for increased infrastructure associated with development.
- Generally, survey participants expressed consideration for a user-pay system.

Rating importance of services

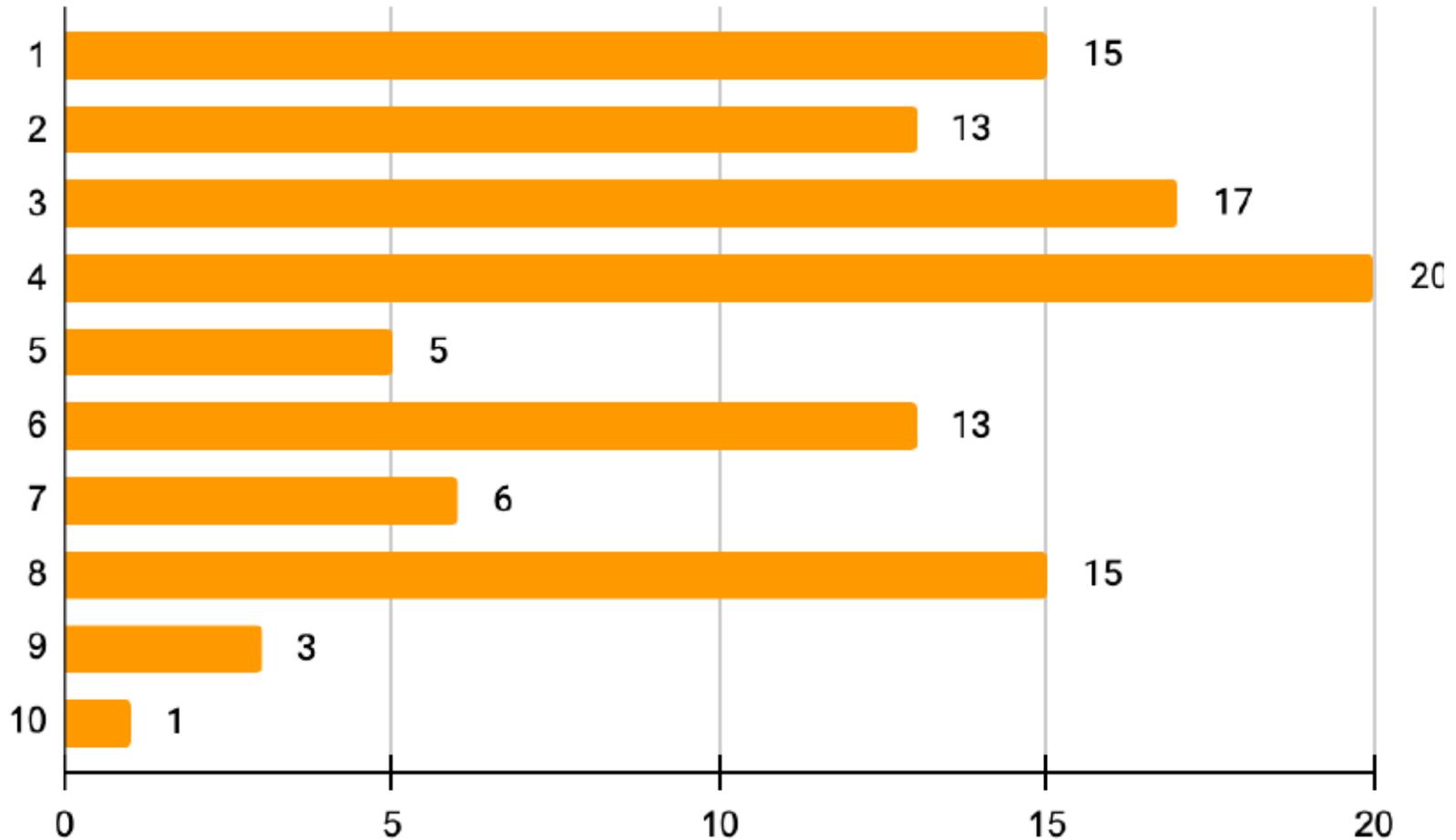


How important are these services to you?



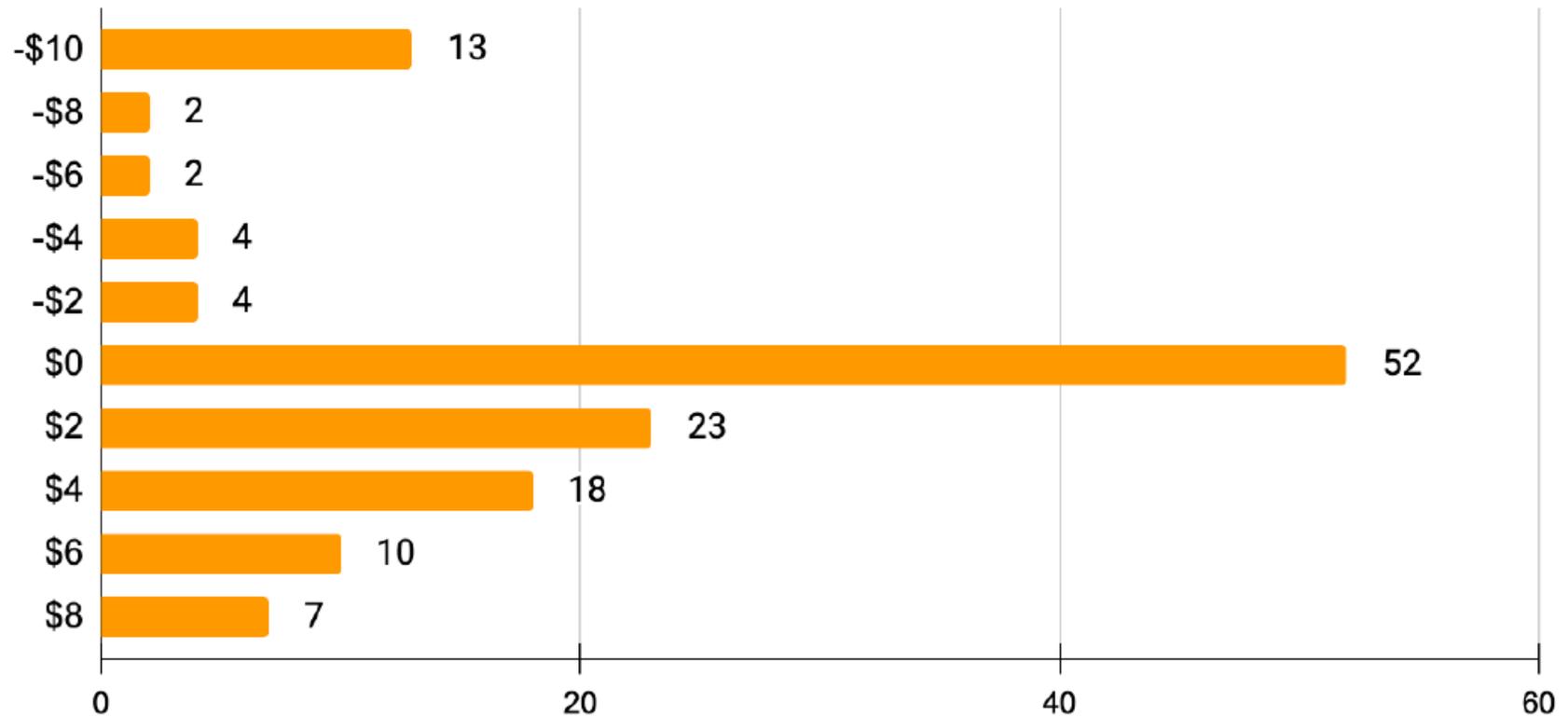
Service satisfaction (Planning, Developing and Building Services)

How satisfied are you with the value you are receiving for this service?



Funding status (Planning, Developing and Building Services)

Would you like to invest more or less of your tax dollars in this service area?

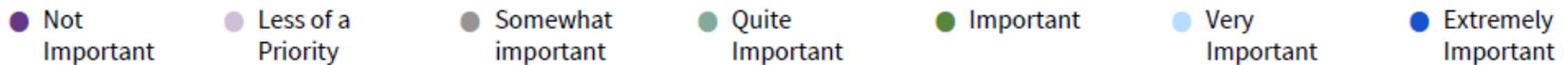


Operations

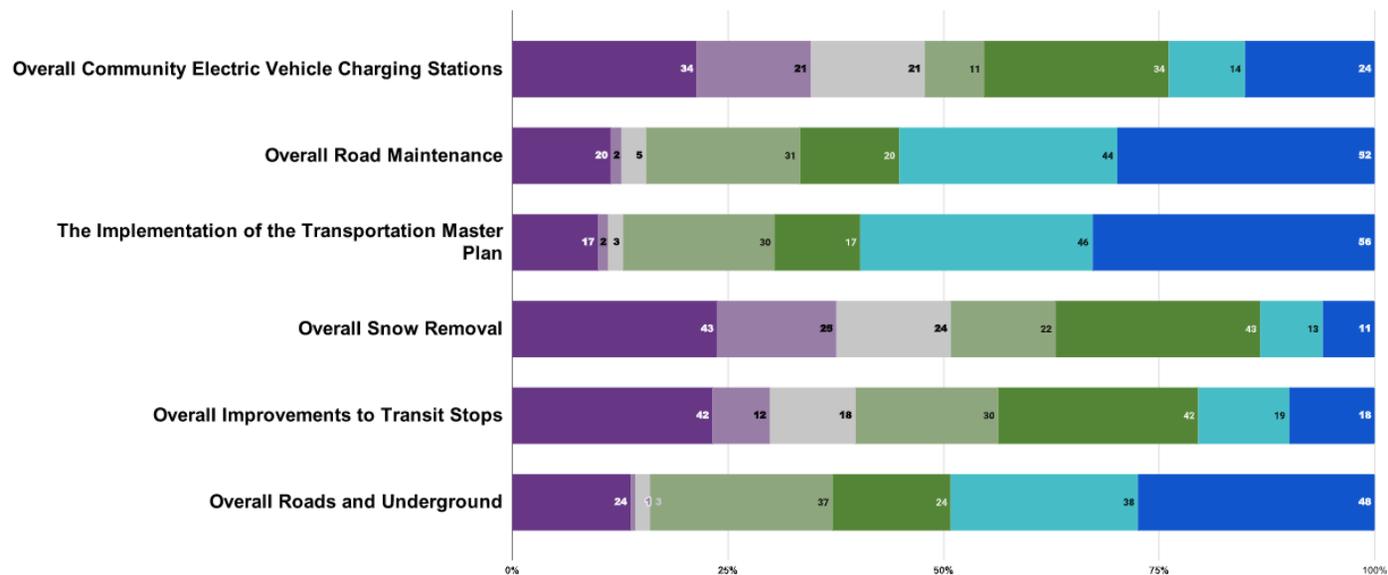
Comment summary

- Generally, survey participants expressed support for increasing funding for road maintenance and repairs.
- Generally, survey participants expressed the status quo with funding the implementation of the Transportation Master Plan. Survey participants suggest the District consider alternative solutions such as developer contributions, transit advocacy and slowing down traffic as means to support master transportation planning.

Rating importance of services

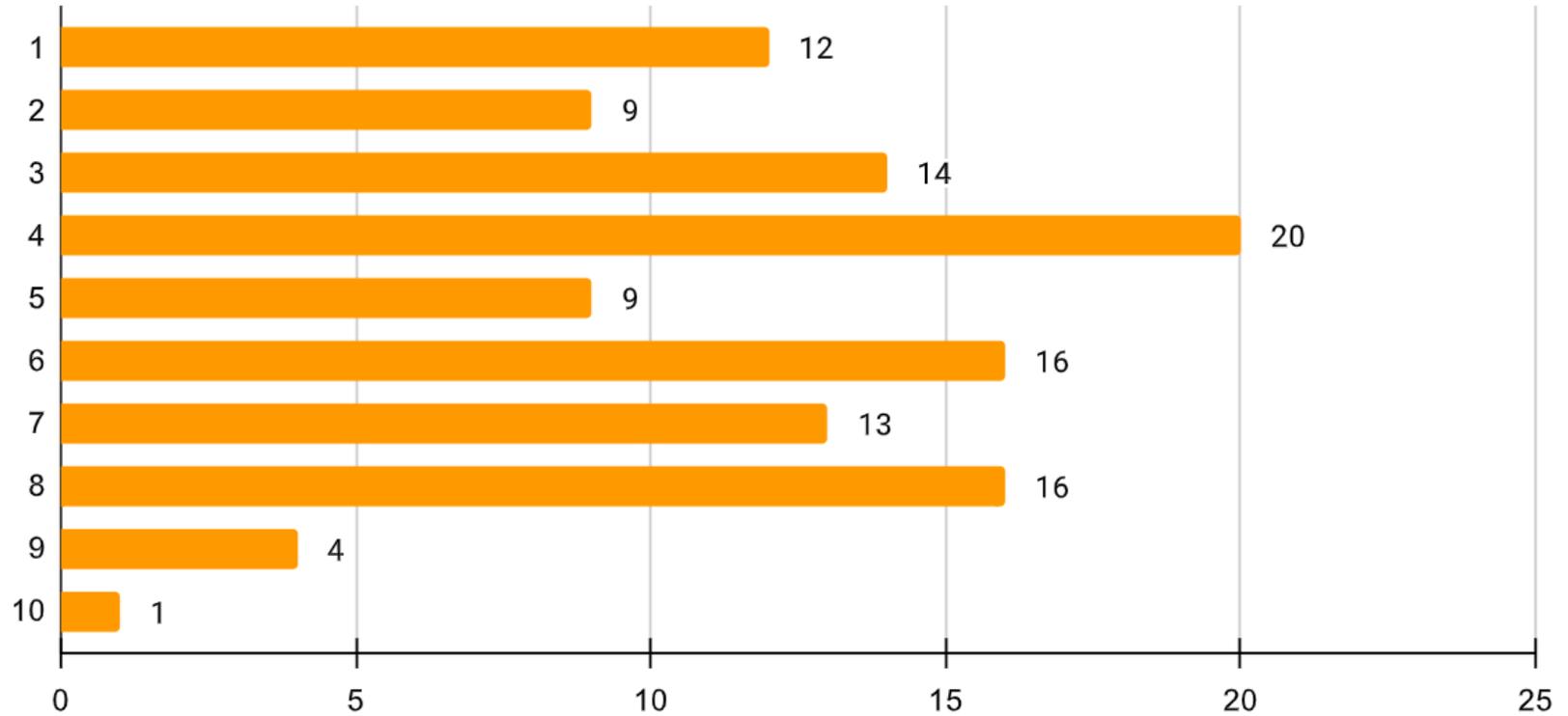


How important are these services to you?



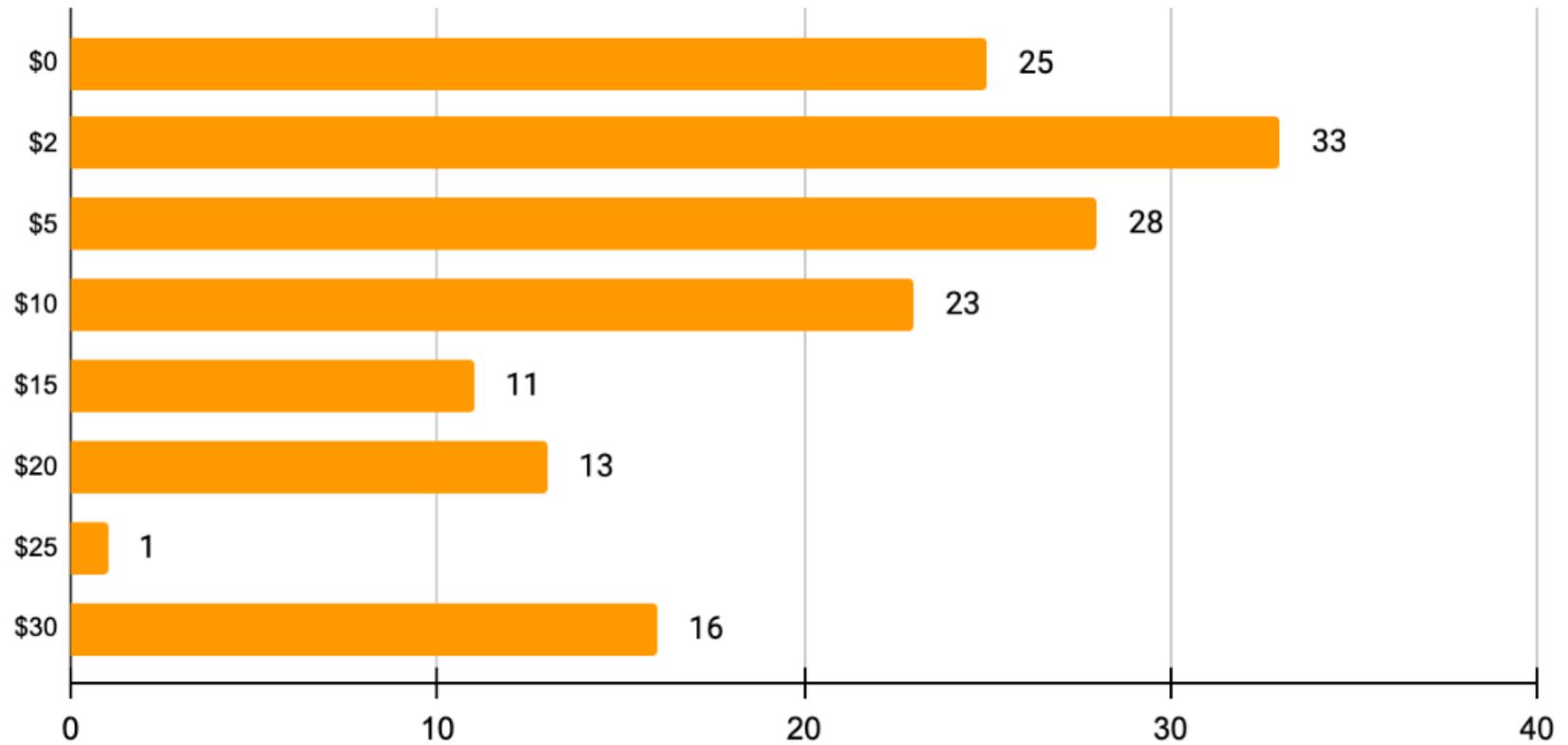
Service satisfaction (Operations – Roads and Underground Services)

How satisfied are you with the value you are receiving for this service?

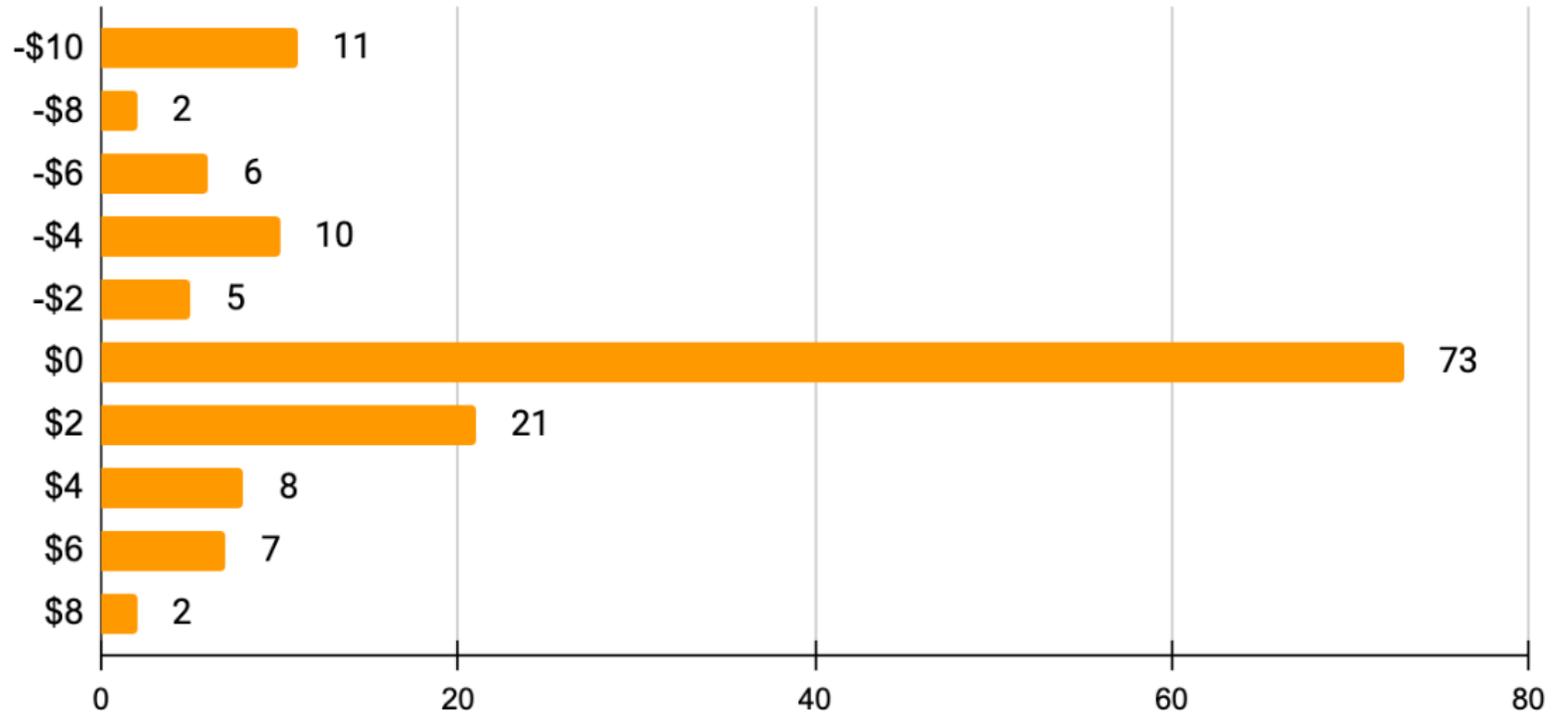


Funding status

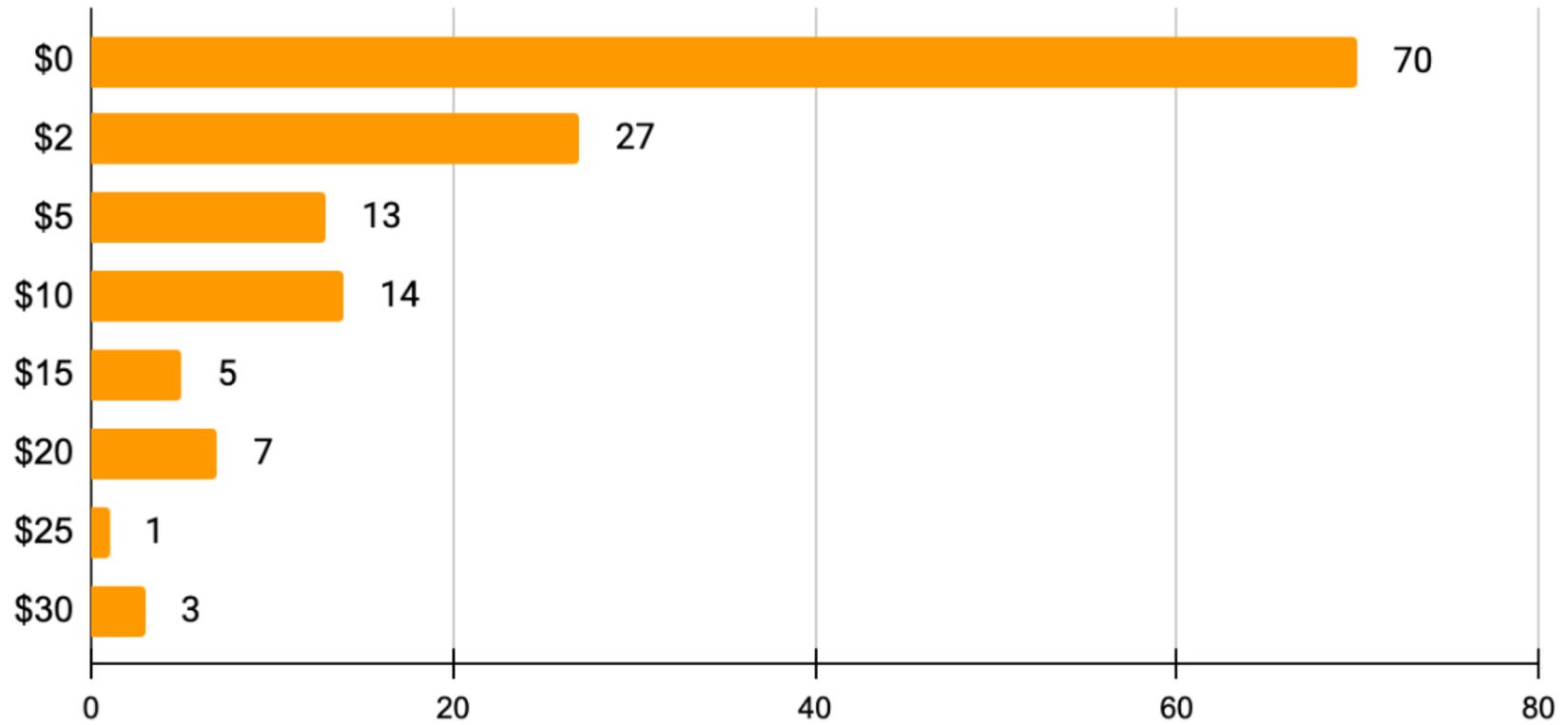
Road maintenance – road repairs and paving



Implementation of the Transportation Master Plan to assist with traffic flow off Highway 14



Transit Stop Improvements - (i.e. accessibility, shelters, benches, bike parking, etc.)

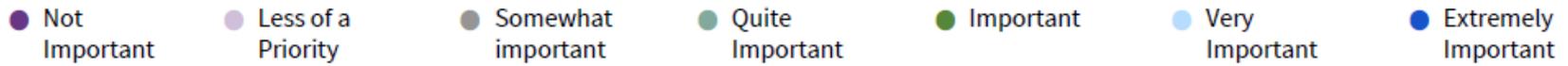


Parks and Environmental Services

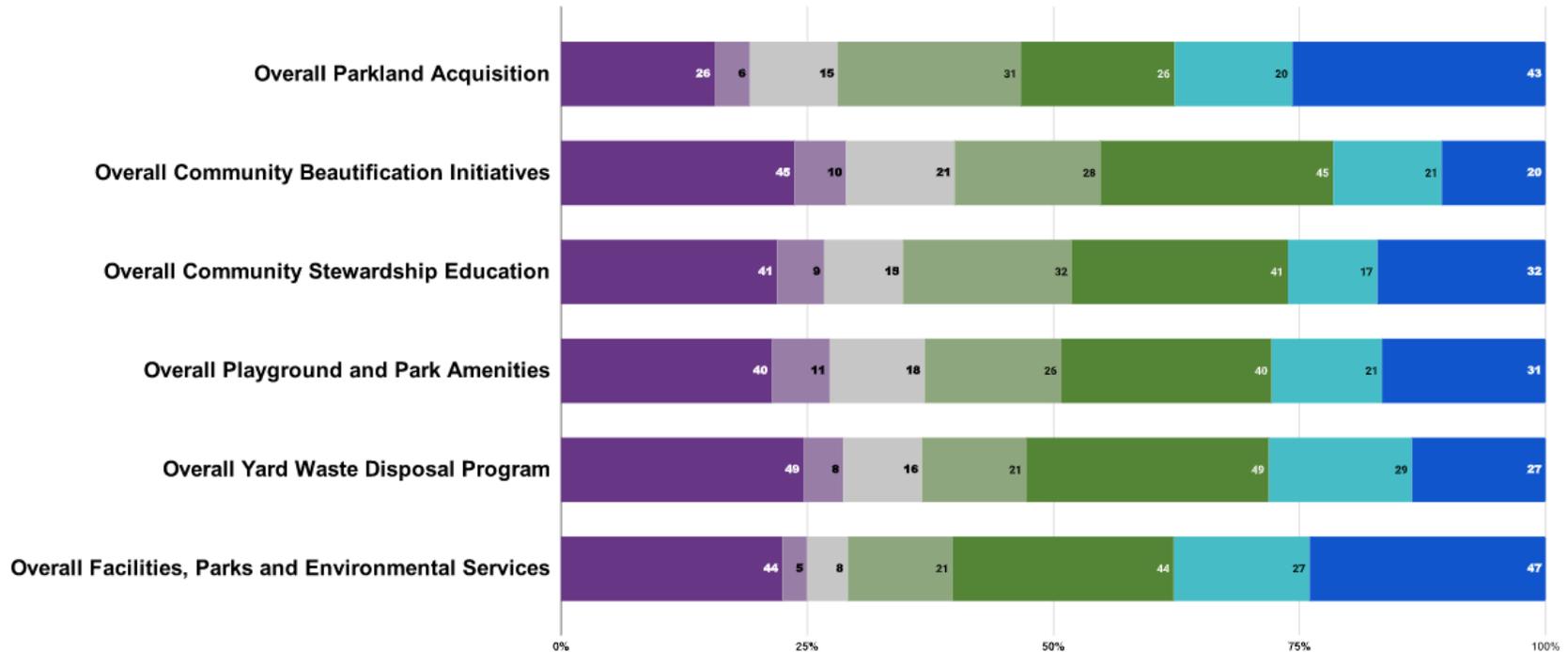
Comment summary

- Generally, survey participants expressed support for increased funding in this service area.

Rating importance of services

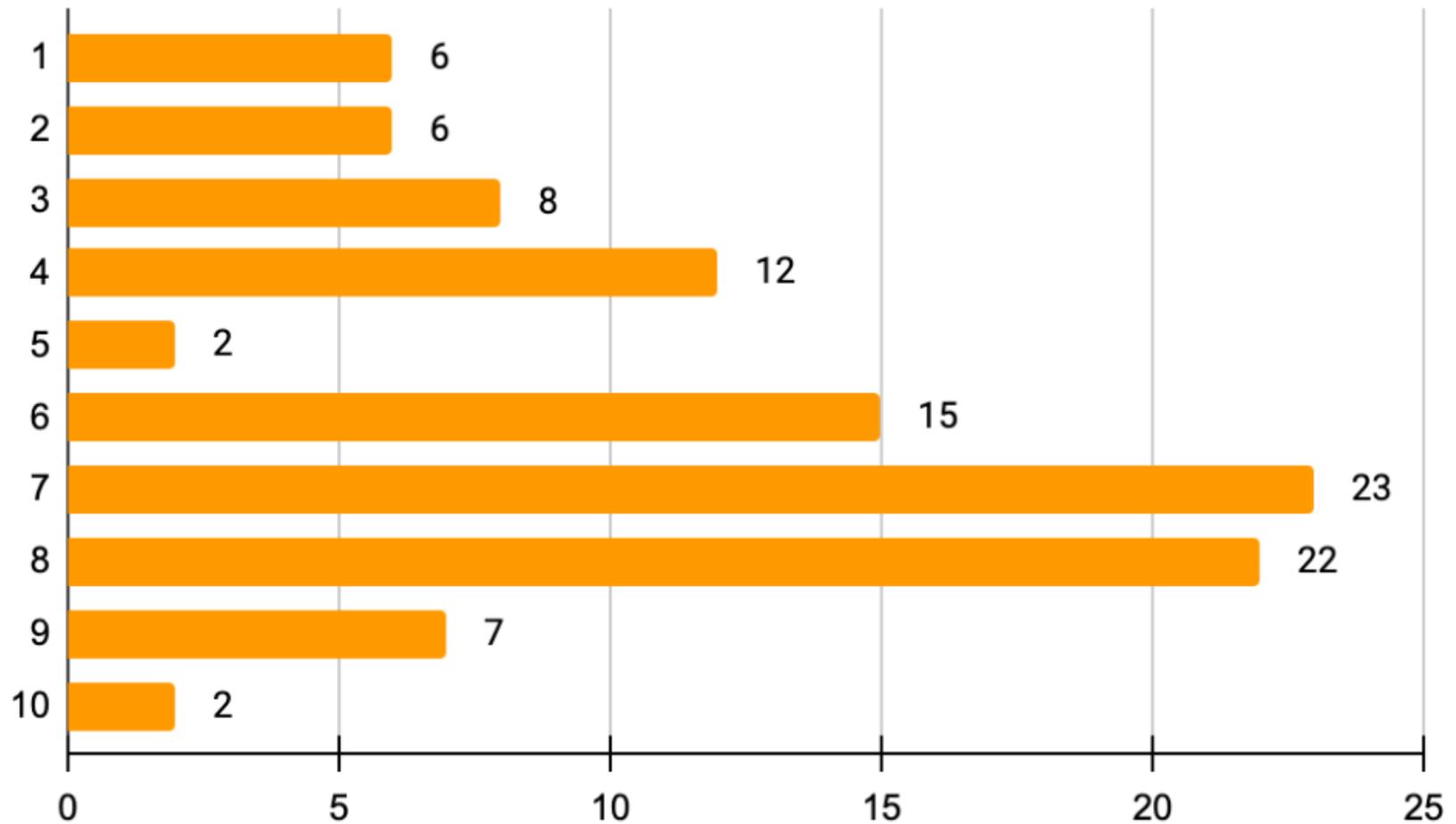


How important are these services to you?



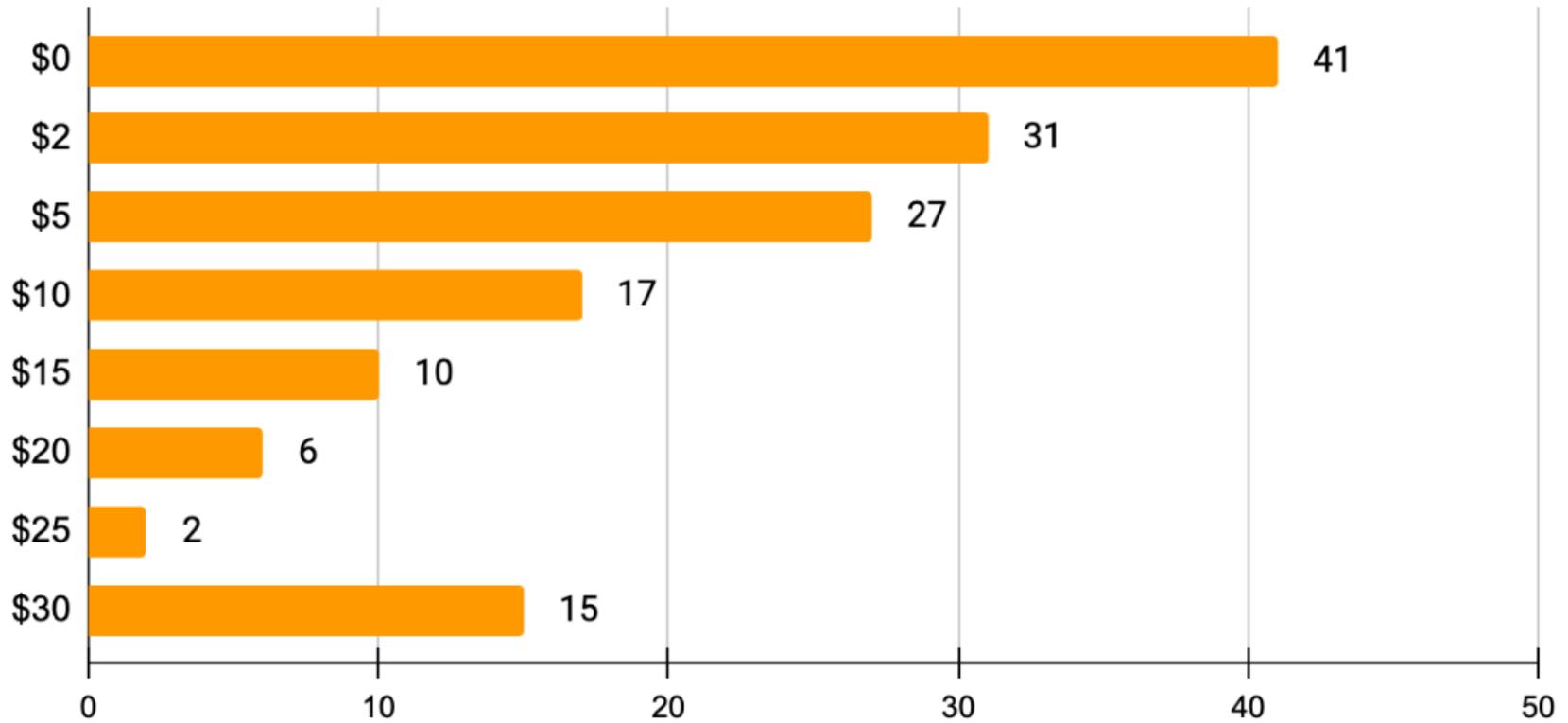
Service satisfaction (Parks and Environmental Services)

How satisfied are you with the value you are receiving for this service?



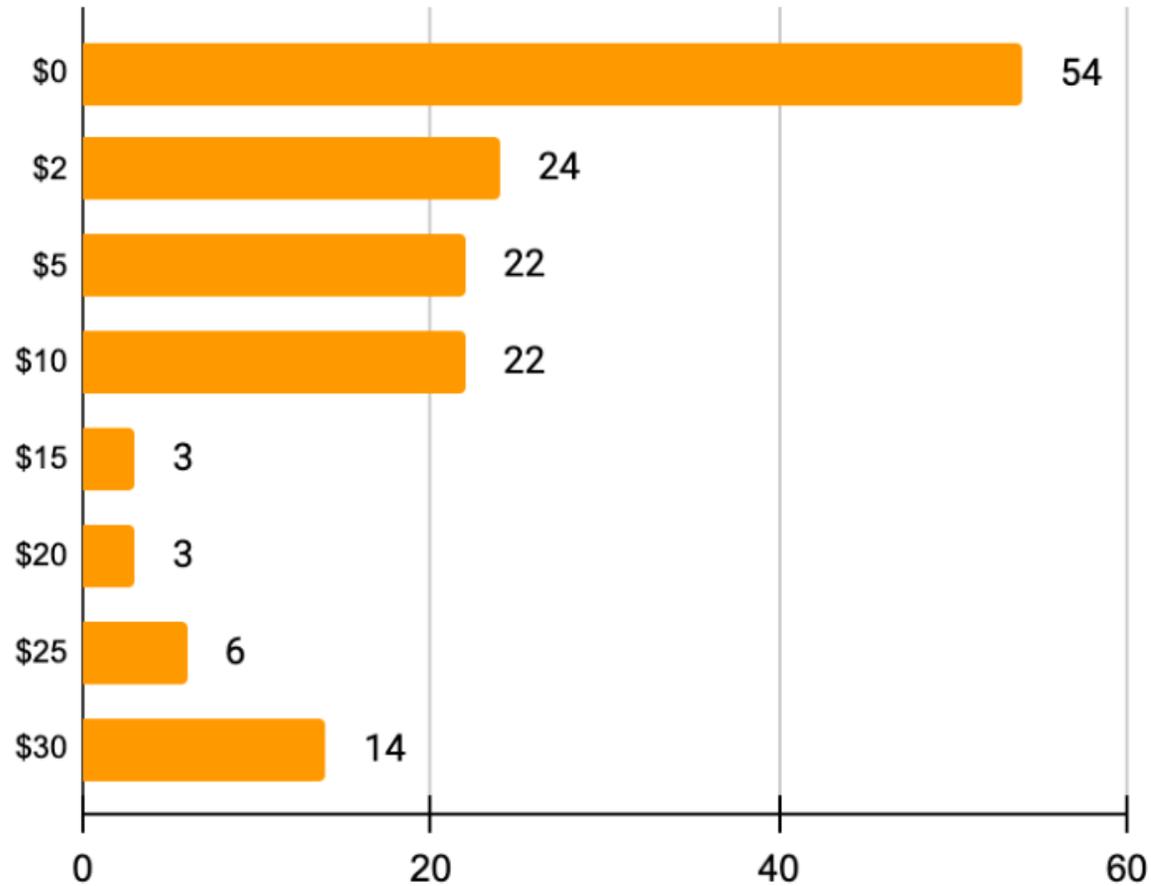
Funding Status - Parks and Environmental Services (Overall)

Would you like to invest more or less of your tax dollars in this service area?

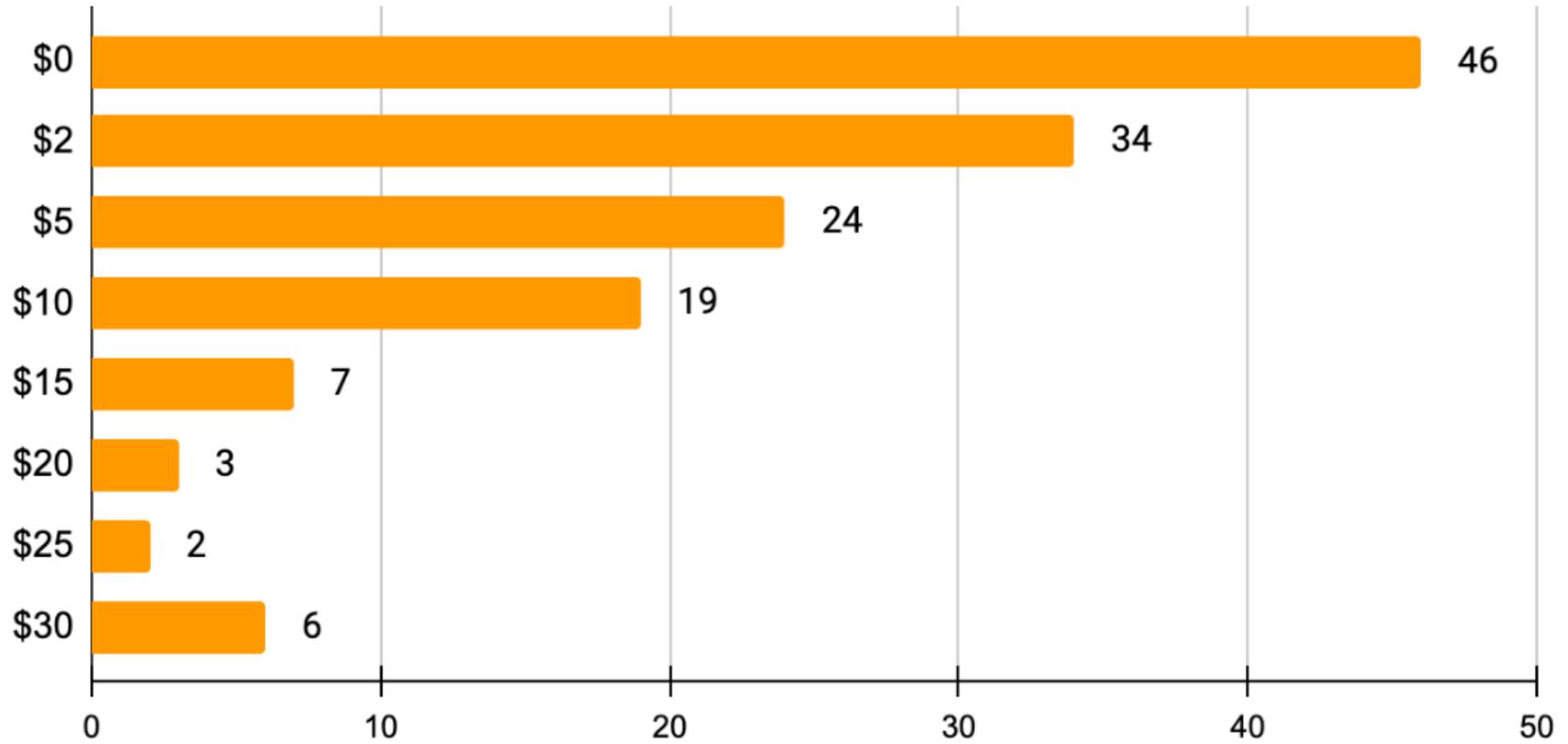


Funding Status - Parkland Acquisition

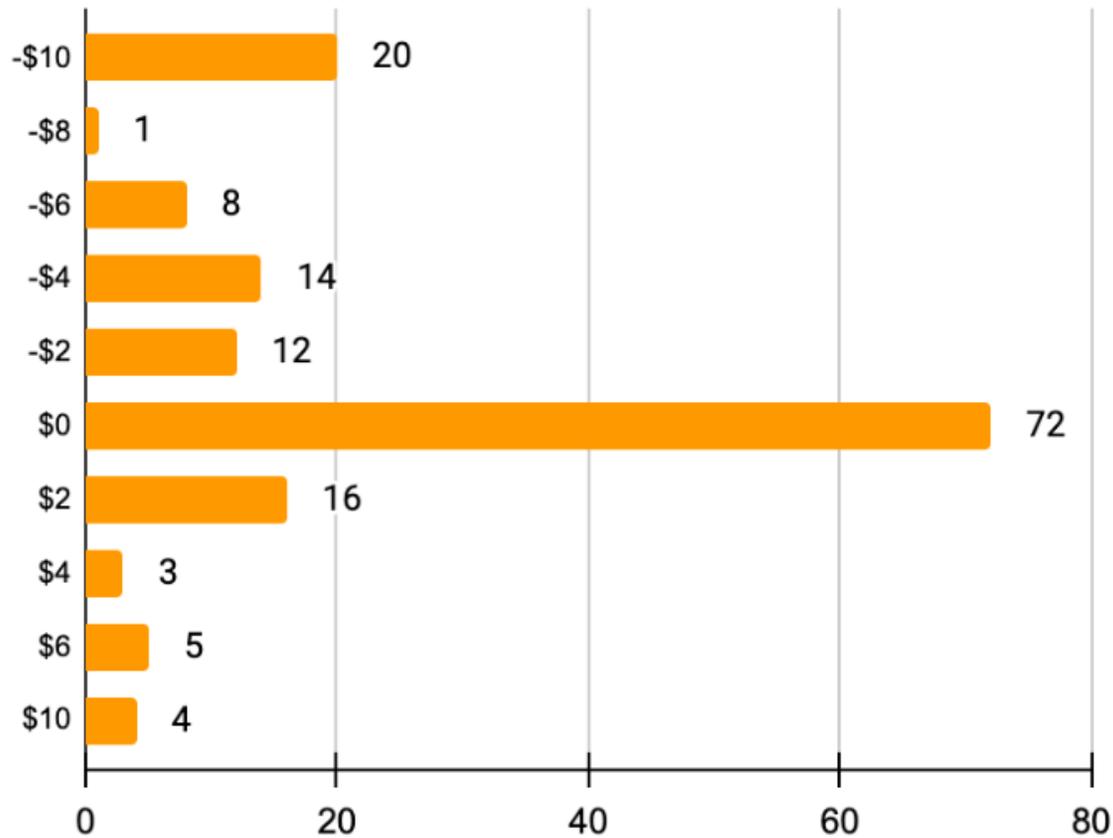
Would you like to invest more or less of your tax dollars in this service area?



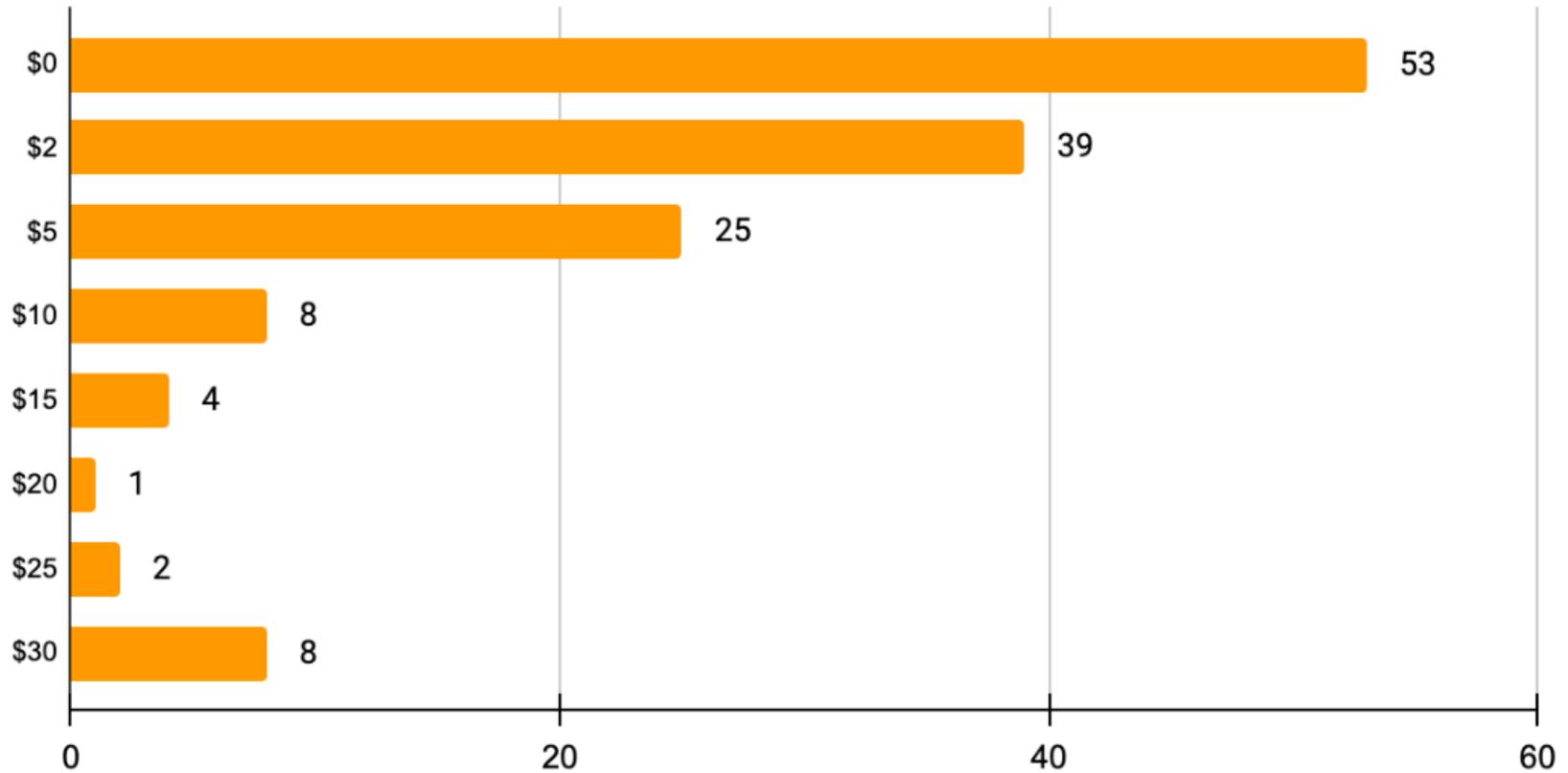
Would you like to invest more or less of your tax dollars in this service area?



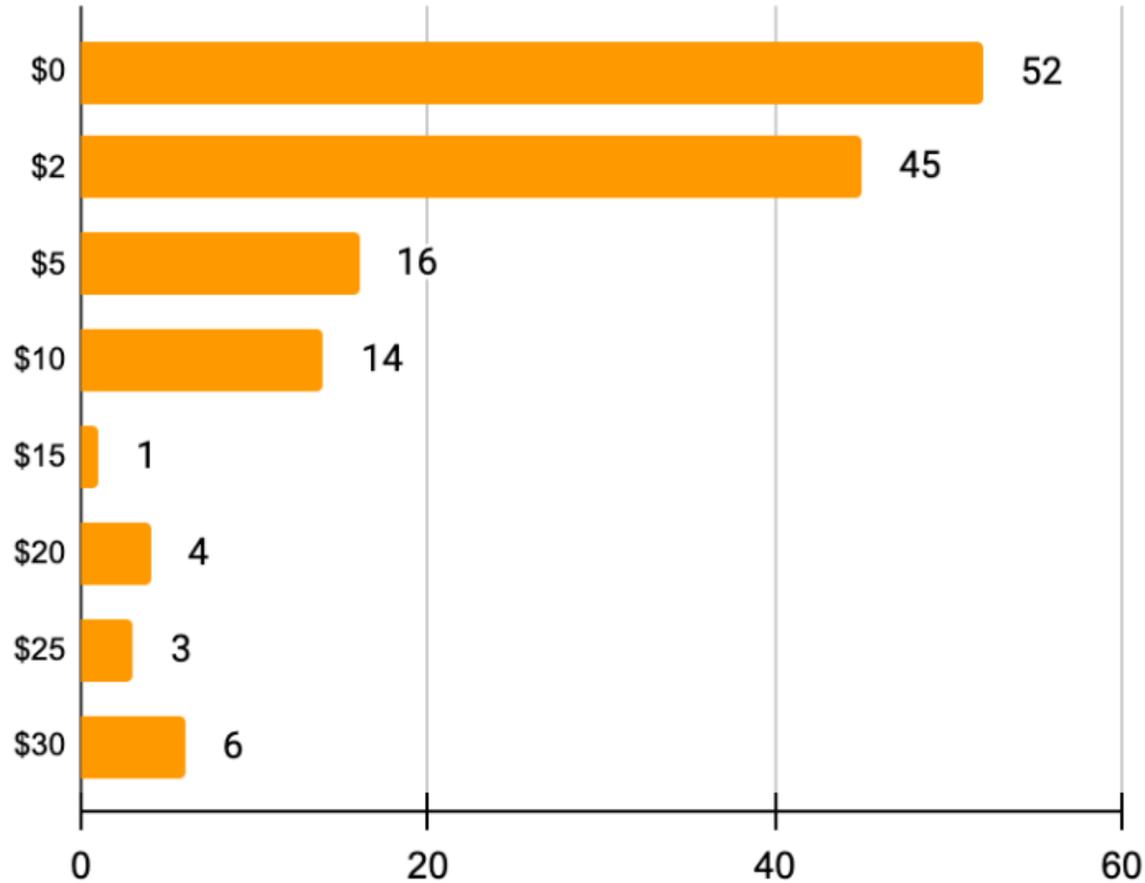
Would you like to invest more or less of your tax dollars in this service area?



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Would you like to invest more or less of your tax dollars in this service area?

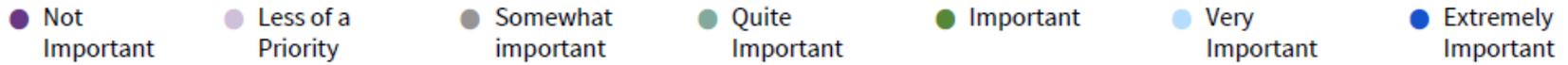


Fire Services

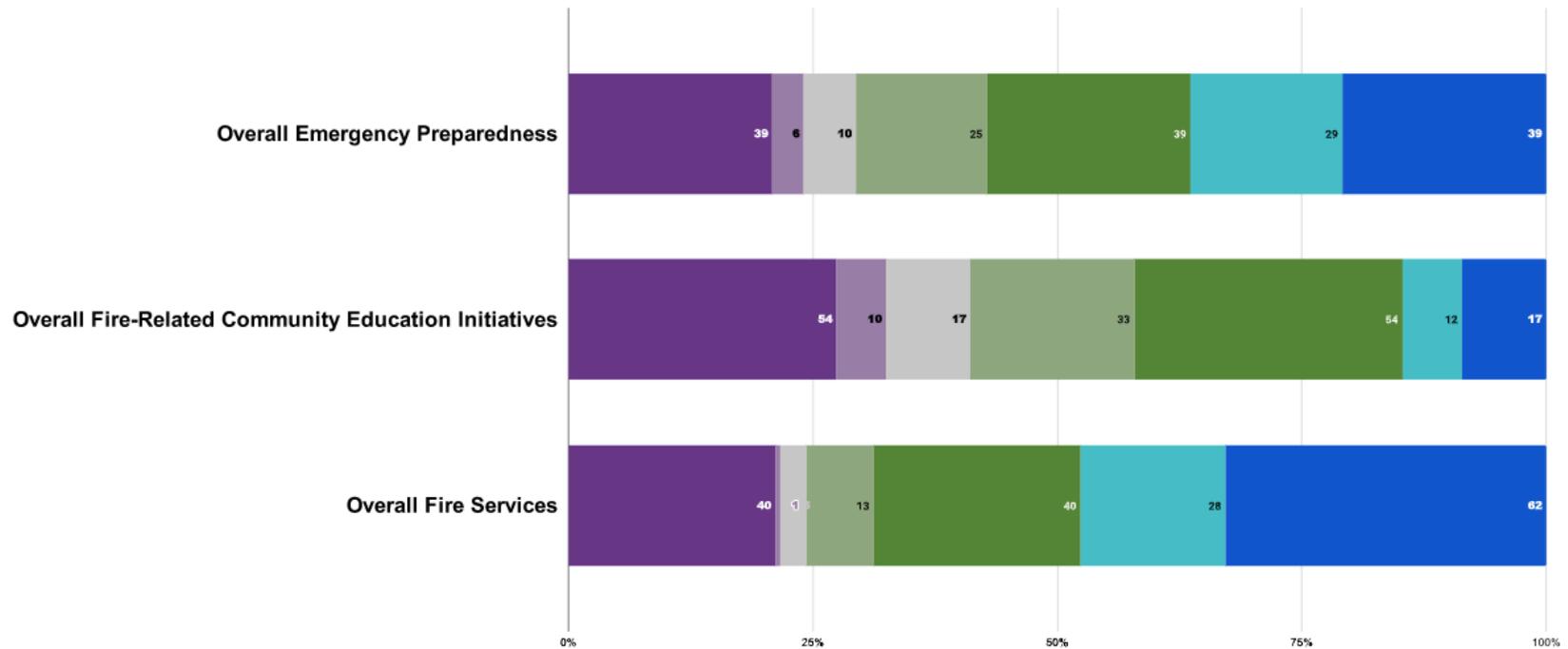
Comment summary

- Generally, survey participants express support for a funding increase to this service area.

Rating importance of services

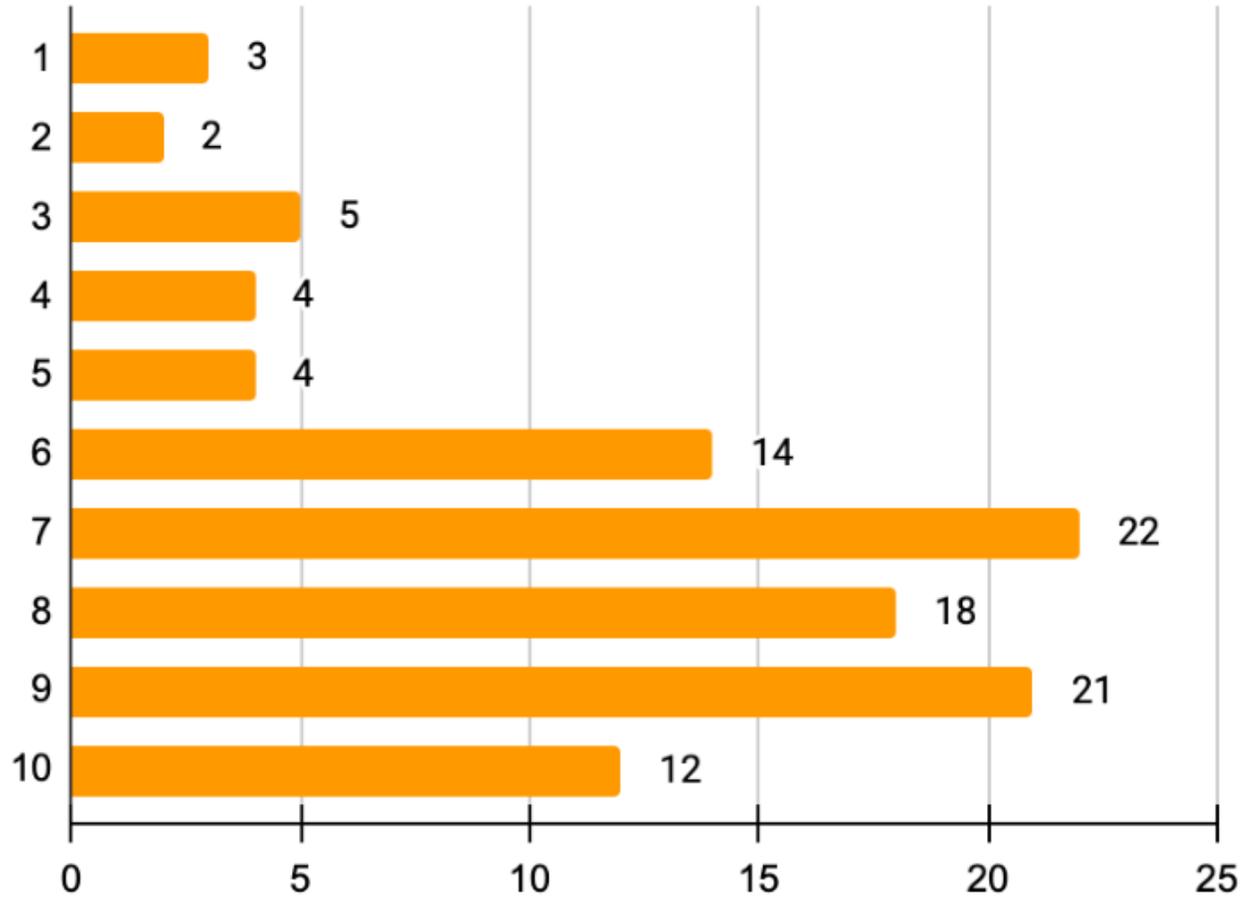


How important are these services to you?



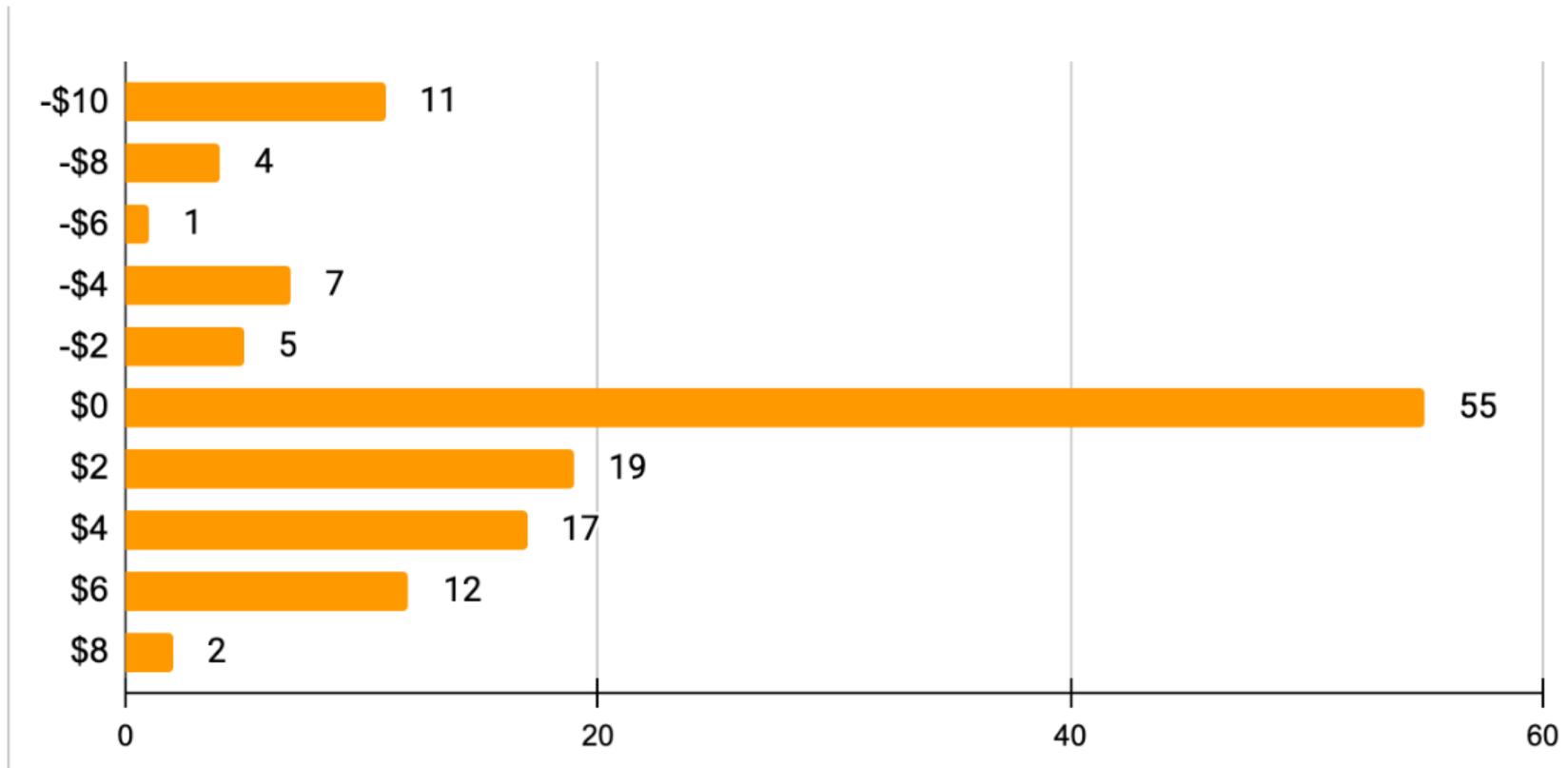
Service satisfaction (Fire Services)

How satisfied are you with the value you are receiving for this service?



Funding Status (Fire Services)

Would you like to invest more or less of your property tax dollars in this service area?

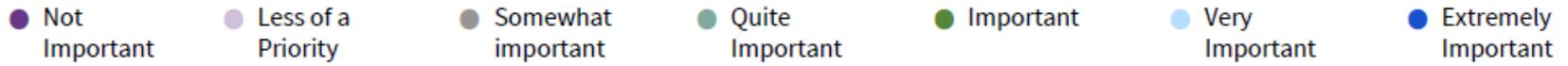


Police Services

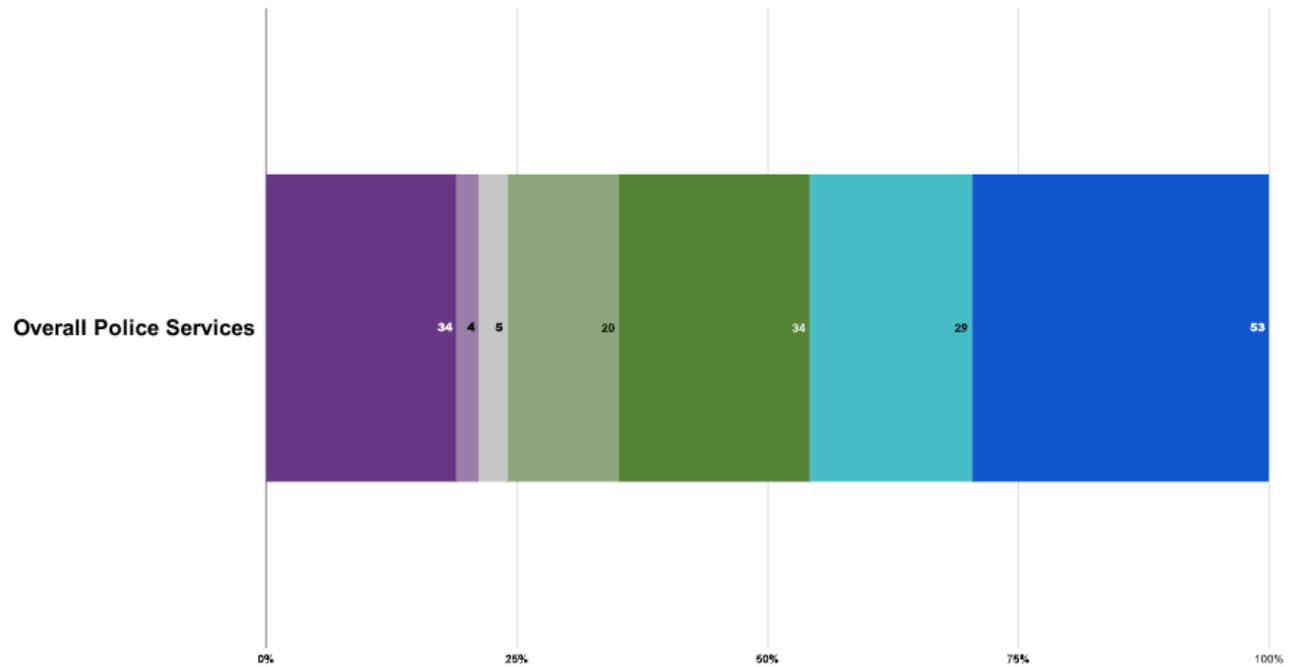
Comment summary

- Generally, survey participants express support for a funding increase to this service area.

Rating importance of services

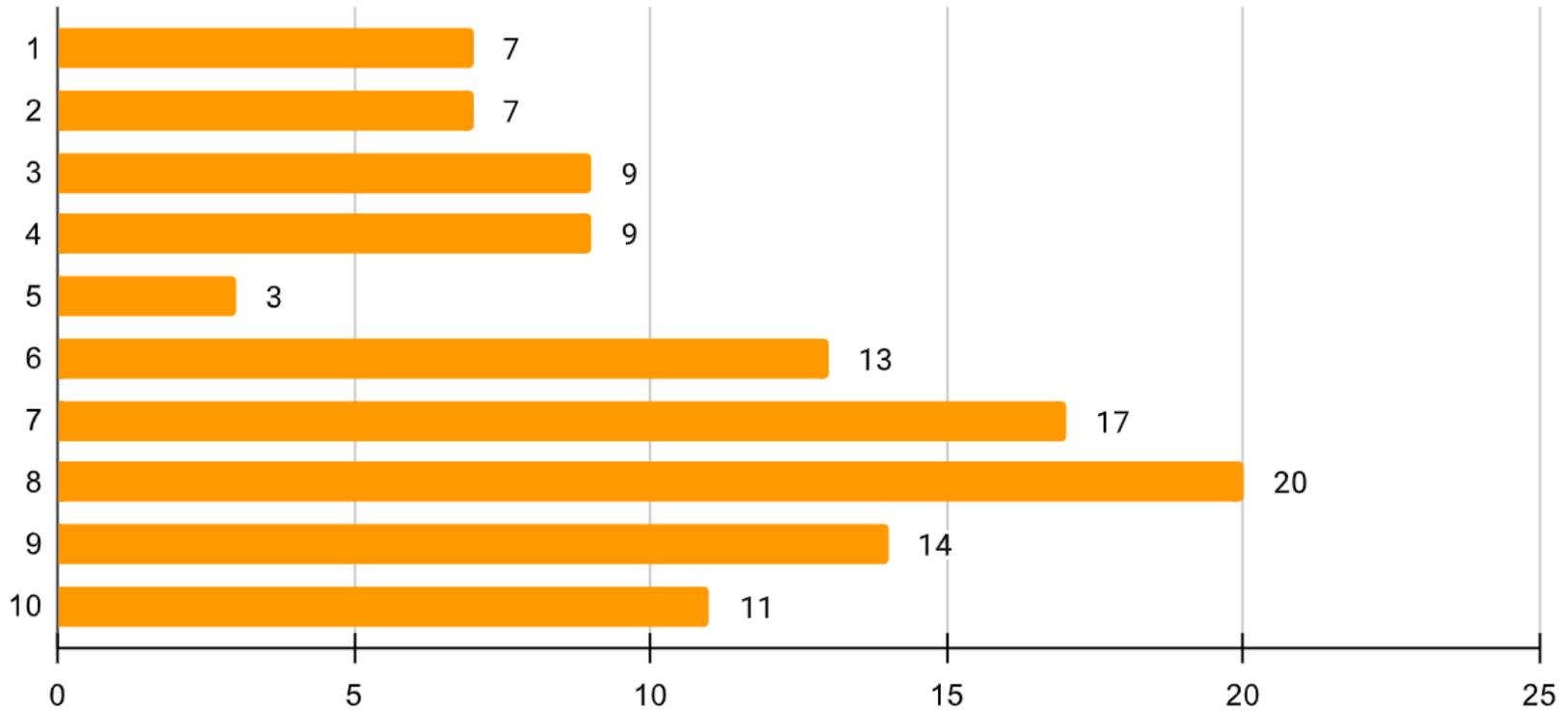


How important is this service to you?



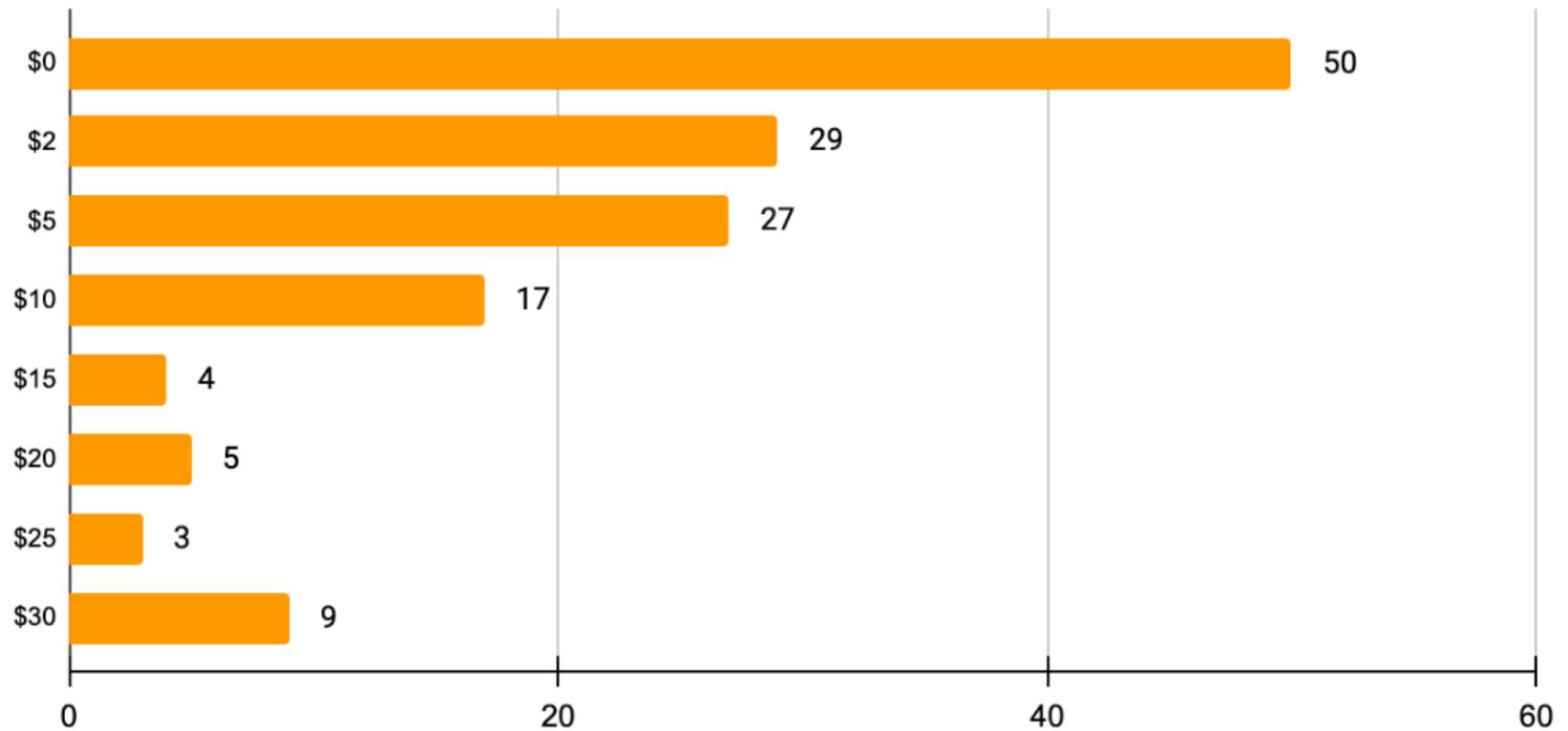
Service Satisfaction (Police)

How satisfied are you with the value you are receiving for this service?



Funding Status (Police)

Would you like to invest more or less of your tax dollars in this service area?



Promotion

Multiple mediums helped make the survey opportunity known to residents. Given the diversity of promotions, it is reasonable that those who wanted to participate would have been appropriately informed.

Tactics

- News release: [Public Invited to Participate in 2023 Citizen Budget Survey](#)
- Media coverage:
 - Sooke News Mirror, June 16, 2022: [Sooke launches survey for public input on budget priorities](#)
 - Island Social Trends, updated July 16, 2022: [Sooke residents asked for input on Budget 2023](#)
- Advertisement in property tax notice
- Digital Read-o-graph displayed by Saseenos Elementary from June 15 to July 17, 2022
- Signage at municipal hall, SEAPARC, lawn signs in parks and on local trails
- Cross-promotion at pop-up stations
- Splash screen on District website
- District of Sooke e-newsletters
- District of Sooke Twitter Feed

Understanding the Budget Process

Each year the District of Sooke updates its Five-Year Financial Plan, in accordance with the *Community Charter*. This plan includes budgets for operating and capital expenditures for all departments within the municipality.

Through the budget process, we look for public input to identify priorities for District spending. The first phase of the budget process, the Citizen Budget Survey, takes place June 15-July 17.

Next, staff develop a preliminary budget based on your input, combined with master planning documents such as the Transportation Master Plan and the Parks & Trails Master Plan.

A Budget Information Session and Service Level Review takes place at a Committee of the Whole public meeting in the fall.

From there, First (introduction) and Second (initial discussion) Reading of a bylaw take place at a Regular Council public meeting.

After Second Reading, the District hosts a Budget Open House where the community is invited to

Budget information excerpt from property

meet with Council and staff, learn more about District operations and have their questions on the budget answered.

Following the Budget Open House, the budget returns to Council for Third Reading (final discussion including any amendments along the way), before proceeding to Fourth Reading (adoption).

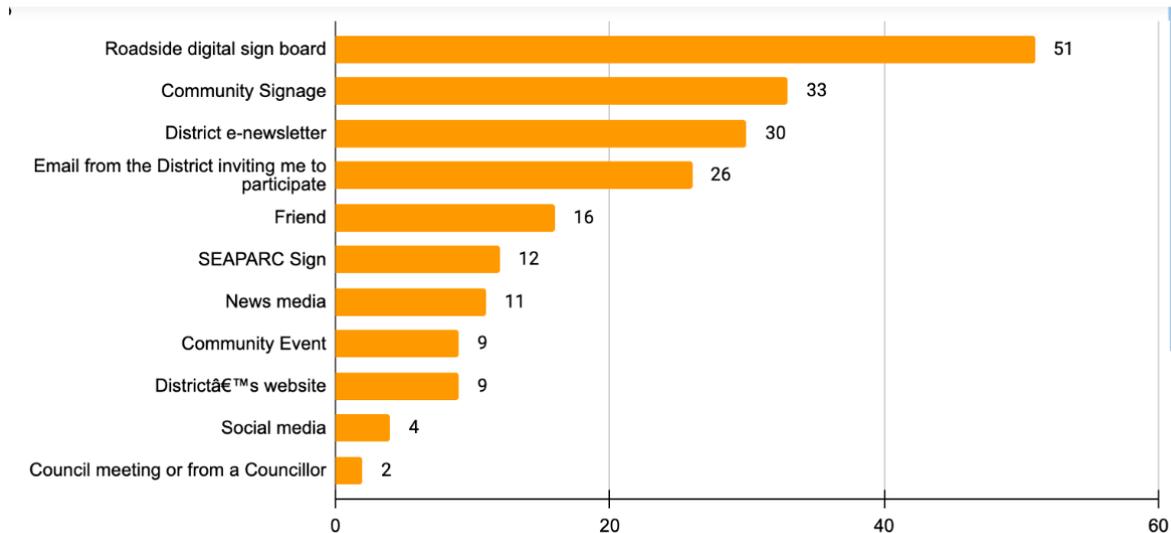
Learn more about the District's budget at letstalk.sooke.ca/budget.



Promotion results

- When responding to “how did you hear about this survey”? majority of the respondents indicated the digital roadside marquee along with direct electronic mail from the District.

How did you hear about this survey?



- Website Traffic:
 - Budget/Financial Services: 300 page views with 2:53 average time on page
 - Related news release: 64-page views
 - By comparison: traffic advisory page had 5,335 page views during the same period and an average time on time of 2:29
- Let's Talk Sooke Budget 2023 Information Page:
 - 350 page visits
 - Max visitors per day: 21
- District of Sooke e-newsletter:
 - Sent: June 16, 2022
 - Sent to: 443
 - Opened: 257 (58% open rate)
- District of Sooke Twitter feed:
 - June 16, 2022 - We invite you to help shape the 2023 District of #Sooke Budget! Have questions? Laura and Christina will be at the @SookeRegionMuse Night Market tonight from 5-8pm. Stop by to say "hello". Learn more and participate at <https://t.co/4SY5NbJzot>
 - Impressions: 133
 - June 17, 2022 - We're all set to talk about budget 2023 at the @SookeRegionMuse! Stop by to say "hello" to Parks, Facilities & Environmental

Services Manager, Laura Hooper and Communications Coordinator, Christina Moog. Hope to see you soon, #Sooke! <https://t.co/ArHJwdoLPi>

- Impressions: 198
- June 17, 2022 – Seeing this sign? That means a new public engagement opportunity is available. Let’s talk budget 2023, #Sooke! Our citizen budget survey is open until July 17, 2022. Participate at <https://t.co/pQCI23VB7P>
 - Impressions: 172
- June 17, 2022 – #Sooke launches survey for public input on budget priorities <https://t.co/Y2ji7WvRGJ>
 - Impressions: 177
- June 23, 2022 – We invite you to help shape the 2023 District of #Sooke Budget! Have questions? Laura and Jessica will be at the @SookeRegionMuse Night Market on Thursday, June 23 from 5–8pm. Stop by to say "hello". Learn more and participate at <https://t.co/4SY5Nc1aN3>. <https://t.co/AZzmUju5t4>
 - Impressions: 218
- June 23, 2022 – We invite you to help shape the 2023 District of #Sooke Budget! Have questions? Laura and Jessica will be at the @SookeRegionMuse Night Market tonight from 5–8pm. Stop by to say "hello". Learn more and participate at <https://t.co/4SY5Nc1aN3>. <https://t.co/zVFGewDcPq>
 - Impressions: 119
- June 24, 2022 – Great to connect with residents to talk about district activities and budget 2023 at the @SookeRegionMuse Night Market. Stop by to say “hello” We’re here until 8pm, #Sooke. <https://t.co/7VDo9m6egf>
 - Impressions: 153
- June 24, 2022 – We invite you to help shape the 2023 Budget! Have questions? Director of Finance, Raechel Gray & Communications Coordinator, Christina Moog will be at the #Sooke Country Market on Saturday. Stop by to say "hello", 10am–2pm. Learn more; participate at <https://t.co/4SY5Nc1aN3>. <https://t.co/kSmtXeVILF>
 - Impressions: 124
- June 25, 2022 – We invite you to help shape the 2023 Budget! Have questions? Director of Finance, Raechel Gray & Communications Coordinator, Christina Moog will be at the #Sooke Country Market from 10am–2pm today. Stop by to say "hello!" Learn more & participate at <https://t.co/4SY5Nc1aN3>. <https://t.co/42yqBb16xS>
 - Impressions: 118
- June 25, 2022 – The sun is shining and we’re at the #Sooke Country Market to talk about budget 2023. Raechel, Director of Finance & Christina, Communications are here 10a–2pm. We’d love to chat! Stop by to say “hello” <https://t.co/YC6uwP0Sql>

- Impressions: 218
- June 29, 2022 – Looking to chat about roads or sewers? Director of Operations, Jeff Carter & Manager of Wastewater, Paul Bohemier will be @ the @SookeRegionMuse Thursday Night Market this week to answer your questions. Mobile stations avail to complete 2023 #Sooke Citizen Budget Survey, too. <https://t.co/F8TOygKKos>
 - Impressions: 236
- June 30, 2022 – It’s Jeff, Director of Operations & Paul, Manager of Wastewater. Stop by to say “hello” and complete the #Sooke citizen budget survey! Our team will be at the @SookeRegionMuse until 8pm. <https://t.co/PjKUWVw8d5>
 - Impressions: 151
- July 4, 2022 Have your say! We welcome input on the 2023 Budget. Complete the #Sooke Citizen Budget Survey by July 17, 2022 to provide feedback on how your tax dollars are invested: <https://t.co/tS2akrRGEN> <https://t.co/Mh7dMMzMIl>
 - Impressions: 199
- July 5, 2022 – Thanks for the feedback! A #Sooke resident shared this with our team at the @SookeRegionMuse Night Market on Thursday. Participate in the 2023 Budget Survey and have your say on how your tax dollars are invested: <https://t.co/tS2akrRGEN> <https://t.co/cFjITz3srB>
 - Impressions: 199
- July 6, 2022 – Have your say! We welcome input on the 2023 Budget. Complete the #Sooke Citizen Budget Survey by July 17, 2022 to provide feedback on how your tax dollars are invested: <https://t.co/tS2akrRGEN> <https://t.co/Mh7dMMzMIl>
 - Impressions: 271
- July 7, 2022 – This week at the @SookeRegionMuse Thursday Night Night Market, Chief Ted Ruitter will be available to answer your questions from 5–8pm. Stop by to say "hello" and participate in the 2023 Citizen Budget Survey. Learn more: <https://t.co/4SY5NbJzot>
 - Impressions: 119
- July 7, 2022 – Have your say! We welcome input on the 2023 Budget. Complete the #Sooke Citizen Budget Survey by July 17, 2022 to provide feedback on how your tax dollars are invested: <https://t.co/tS2akrRGEN> <https://t.co/Mh7dMMzMIl>
 - Impressions: 207
- July 9, 2022 Thanks to the 120 residents who have completed the 2023 Budget Survey! Tell your neighbours/spread the word. We want to hear how #Sooke residents want their tax dollars invested. Talk Budget 2023 w/ Councillor Logins & Chief Ruitter @ the @SookeRegionMuse July 7th Market, 5–8p. <https://t.co/zsMLqDU53A>
 - Impressions: 156

- July 9, 2022 - Our team is back at the @SookeRegionMuse tonight, 5-8pm. Stop by to say "hello" & have your questions about district activities answered; chat about #Sooke Budget 2023! <https://t.co/EjInhtFPIS>
 - Impressions: 231
- July 11, 2022 - Good morning, #Sooke! It's great to be back at the Sooke Country Market, 10am-2pm, to continue the conversation about budget 2023. Can't make it today? Participate online at <https://t.co/4SY5NbJzot>. 1 WEEK LEFT: Budget survey closes next Sunday (July 17). <https://t.co/meLdp4fbyc>
 - Impressions: 165
- July 12, 2022 - Have your say! We welcome input on the 2023 Budget. Complete the #Sooke Citizen Budget Survey by July 17, 2022 to provide feedback on how your tax dollars are invested: <https://t.co/ts2akrRGEN> <https://t.co/Mh7dMMzMII>
 - Impressions: 138
- July 15, 2022 - Have your say! We welcome input on the 2023 Budget. Complete the #Sooke Citizen Budget Survey by July 17, 2022 to provide feedback on how your tax dollars are invested: <https://t.co/ts2akrRGEN> <https://t.co/Mh7dMMzMII>
 - Impressions: 201

Next steps

- February 21, 2023: Through the Committee of the Whole, staff will receive direction on fire, police and climate action service levels.
- [date to be confirmed]: Through the Committee of the Whole, staff presentations on services levels and preliminary budget considerations.
- [date to be confirmed]: Council to consider first, second and third reading of Budget 2023.
- [date to be confirmed]: Community Event (Phase two public engagement) - Budget Open House
- [date to be confirmed]: Council to consider fourth reading (adoption) of Budget 2023.

----- BUDGET 2023 APPROVED -----

- Late spring 2023: Director of Finance to receive third-party tax rate information
- Late spring 2023: Director of Finance to present tax rate bylaw to Council
- Late April/Early May 2023: Tax rate bylaw adopted
- Late May 2023: Property Tax notices issued

Appendix A: Raw Comments – Administrative Services

Overall

DoS Admin is truly appreciated and needed.
We need Indigenous representation on staff. HR hides behind hiring terms that intentionally exclude anyone who hasn't done the job already for 5+ years, meaning regardless of skills and successes, certain segments will always be excluded. Hiring language should be examined, and blind assessments (redacted names, gender, years of experience) need to be considered to deal with unconscious biases. The world is changing at an exponential rate. There's no reason to think that what worked 5 years ago will work in today's volatile rapidly changing world.
Climate Action Leadership? WTF?
Do not allow inflated admin. Salaries
Properly managed admin services are a priority.
The community needs to be well run so the Administrative Services are important.
Don't need a climate action coordinator - waste of tax dollars. We don't need to subsidize heat pumps for home owners, etc.
Climate Action and OCP are top priorities.
We need to be dealing with year over year increases and comparatives, not % and cost per assessed value. What staff have been added, for what new positions and how does that relate to expenditures and revenues. Is the rapid expansion of staff being paid for by new growth or are existing residents being asked to finance new growth for homes that they or their family can neither aspire to live in or afford.
Administrative Services helps to ensure follow through. This is particularly important for areas that don't have a "department".
Is an email to subscribers truly the best way to communicate information to the public about this work?
Good Admin and supporting not for profits are important but climate is more important. Shave this a bit to add to a climate mitigation budget please
We are surrounded by wilderness. We do not need paved trails and perfect maintenance

The feedback from the public must be taken seriously and results and action documented with i.e. Gant Charts for ACTUAL progress and action especially where repeat topics such as slowing growth, serious traffic issues, climate change control via restrictions on anti climate methods in housing, exorbitant increasing taxes while promoting high growth of new housing, lack of meaningful new businesses to benefit the community beyond fast foods, cannabis stores and nail salons. Develop attractive waterfront facilities to attract locals from travelling to Langford and Victoria, keeping it local. Careful review of staffing of District of Sooke in relation to actual results achieved in past 10 years and for the next 10 years OCP

Strong leadership which is sensitive to the Climate "Emergency" is essential at municipal level, particularly here in Sooke!

There needs to be far more access to the waterfront in Sooke for the general public.

Seems like a fairly large portion of the budget, compared to other things like police and fire services.

Climate Action Leadership should be a priority for us in Sooke!

Too much oversight can be redundant. Example, much oversight is not needed for a roundabout

All of these Objectives are important to the continuity of the Sooke District. We will fail without them.

Funding Climate Action Comments

I would like to see district vehicles being fully electric

We all share this planet & I can do my part as a citizen, but I believe that government can play a great role as well in implementing change to protect the environment and all that rely on its bounty to survive.

DoS has done more than most places it's size and has once again shown due diligence.

Should go without saying, climate action is singularly the most important item on the action list. Funding projects, yes, but also lobbying other levels of government, and recognizing and promoting corporate responsibility initiatives also matter significantly.

Talking about climate change while letting development run rampant is the ultimate hypocrisy. Stop killing the old trees so real estate developers can get rich. Stop destroying habitat for bears and many other wild animals along the Sooke River while pretending to

care. Stop your dirty deals with the Lions club to destroy more perfect parkland in MacGregor.

How about start by not plowing down or blowing up every bit of land to put a house on it?

Concentrate on tangible local issues

This District is doing nothing to combat climate change. You have yet to commit to a tree protection bylaw, you are approving too many developments, and doing nothing to stop the Sooke Crawl and idling for hours on the highway.

The environment is very important to me not only from a health perspective but also from a mental health one. I believe a lot of the problems the world faces today are caused by the lack of the natural environment being integrated into people's lives. A simple life that lives in tune with nature is the best healthiest life. It is also good for the planet an all the other creatures humans share it with.

Better spent on infrastructure and parks - not another staff position! Have CRD coordinate climate action.

This is the top community priority.

Funding Climate Initiatives needs to be separated from the administrative budget as it is for all other departments and initiatives for the District. To lump costs for Climate Action in is both confusing and misleading.

Without a livable climate, human society will not survive. The District has a responsibility for the safety and health of residents. In order to have safe, healthy residents, a community needs to be resilient. Not just economically resilient, but climate resilient, also. To become climate resilient, a community implements policies that reduce its ghg emissions to 0 by 2050 across all sectors (housing transportation health), restore natural assets and ecosystems and enhance social equity and participation in local community. In this way, climate resilient communities will be able to thrive through the fires, floods and storms of climate change.

Climate action does not have to be expensive as some developers want us to believe. Siting houses to have south facing roofs for solar collection is simply a design choice. Prewiring buildings for EV hook ups is a few more yards of wiring and a dryer plug in for a lot of buildings. Dryer plug ins are about \$ 5 if that. Permeable paving, daylighting streams, rain swales and diverting roof rain into swales is cheaper than a lot of infrastructure for rain which is NOT wastewater and belongs where it lands or as closely as possible. Some climate

actions are more expensive, like metal roofs for potable water- they are not fossil fuel tar, last longer than asphalt shingle, are more fire safe than either asphalt or shakes

This is political potlicking. The climate changes everyday.

ONLY if this can realistically be achieved. Taking steps to rein in climate change offenders and adjust aids that will help rather than throwing money at it unwisely without positive results.

Think this should be covered by provincial and federal government as well as the crd

The climate "emergency" is a CRISIS! Urgent action is needed ... especially in adoption of local sustainable energy sources and reduction of fossil fuel emissions. Mandate building code requirements for heat pumps and/or geothermal heating and demand that wiring for solar panels and electric vehicle chargers be included in all new construction. Take action to anticipate and mitigate rising sea levels; Sooke is a coastal community... Whiffin Spit, Billings' Spit and Cooper's Cove are going to be affected!

Climate action is important at the municipal level! Together we make it better. This is a great combination of personal and collective action. Our district can set standards for industry and homeowners, and work with other municipalities for group approaches to climate action.

We are seeing the negative impact of climate change all around us. We cannot ignore it. The lives and livelihoods of future generations depends on what we do today.

Majority of private companies are moving towards green initiatives. If the initiative isn't a new technology or creating good jobs, is it useful?

How we grow Sooke, needs to have sustainable eco design at forefront

With WW3 raging and other urgent issues, Climate Action is less of a priority.

Without action we won't have anything left worth fighting for.

Need to expand reach, through untraditional means. Hire differently, get different results.

It is important that the community is consulted and engages in the business of the District. I am happy to be part of a community that engages and where decision making is shared with all.

Funding of public participation is skewed and irregular. Example - the AAP had very little publicity or public engagement in 2021. The District needs to be less discretionary in what

projects get attention and be based on engagement policies and fulfillment strategic priorities in approved public plans (eg Parks and Trails Masterplan, Transportation Masterplan), rather than political and administrative whims.

Community engagement is vital to the health of local government, and is best when it is carried out systemically, rather than through one-off engagements run by consultants. Sooke has, through "Let's Talk Sooke" and the annual budgeting exercise, taken great strides towards more systemic engagement. Well done.

These could be done through Town Halls and email updates and on the Sooke site. Shave a lot of this for climate mitigation.

most community engagement is during working hours for most people, so the engagement is meaningless

This has at least increased over the past few years including "independent surveys" with verbatim comments from the public the results need to be SEEN from ACTION taken and not ignored or procrastinated with same old subjects that are opposed by the majority of the public from responses I have observed.

more community involvement. Maybe a pop up at the spit and dog park

Find innovative ways to engage and inform public: then listen to these peoples' responses and act on their recommendations instead of shelving their reports and letting them gather dust.

It's very important to involve the community in decision-making processes. Informed decisions can only be made, however, if people have the necessary information beforehand.

Public participation is hugely important and I don't feel is really listened to by this administration

More transparency about what groups are funded would be good. Many good groups deserve funding.

Funding community grant programs encourages and allows citizens to step up and do work that benefits all and fills a void that may not be met through government, etc

Transparency is needed to allow the public to assess the validity of grants. Do we need to spend \$5,000 sending upper middle class students to a sailing competition or do we need to spend that money on services for children, youth and young adults at risk. Hard to tell when

we have no basis for the decision. There are many models out there for scoring proposed public projects. Ad his granting of funds at political will is a thing of the past.

This depends on what the programmes and service agreements are. Sooke depends a lot on volunteering and I think could ask for more and divert some of the cost to Climate mitigation without people being too short changed.

More wasted tax dollars. What exactly is a service agreement?

I'd really like to see progress on a senior's center but don't believe it needs to be so extravagant. I miss the old, simple center. That is all we need. It would be great to be near Ayer Manor. I really miss it!

Service agreements - such as with Food CHI - enhance food security in the DoS.

Local funding supports local projects best understood by locals. Federal and provincial programs are good, but local funding covers small and unique projects.

The city needs more oversight on the homeless shelter.

Leave it to the departmental staff to implement climate action strategies as part of their mandate.

So the only option is the same or more or way more? How about less, since all the expenditures are for talking, grandstanding and printing more BS on paper. Clean up garbage, clean up rivers, stop rampant uncontrolled development and we are doing our part. Mayor Tait and the council show, repeatedly, that they are trying to recreate Langford here in Sooke. Climate action talk is a joke when this crew is in charge.

Why is a decrease in funding not an option?

Stick to local governance issues

Until this district does anything to actually address climate change there is no point in increasing funding. You are already doing nothing with the current funds.

Sooke does not impact the climate significantly. The growth of the city will impact the climate if not managed responsibly - focus on strategic growth

No not at all, more sidewalks, more bike lanes, more traffic circles

Waste of money, you are not accomplishing anything in the grand scheme of things

Yes, I believe that action on the climate is very important to all of our well being. We all know the degradation of the environment is a problem and our community must take responsibility to do our part along with the rest of the planet. In reality that is the future and we wouldn't want our community to fall behind. Better to be a positive example. Also, other costs may fall as the the environment and ourselves become healthier and there is less mental and physical health costs.

I will pay my part.

Our rapidly deteriorating global climate is the foremost issue of our era. The facts of science are not debatable. The need for concrete action at all levels of government is immediate. Surely it makes sense to fully fund climate initiatives when extreme weather and changing climates exposes our most vulnerable citizens to risk, stress and sickness. What Sooke is trying to do is to simulate a response to climate while promoting growth which leads to environmental degradation and hardship for the less fortunate. The less fortunate being those who can not afford the \$799,000 homes in West Trails, Broomhill and Sun River.

I am quite willing to pay more in property tax to ensure that Sooke takes appropriate climate action to ensure community resilience.

We need connected lit (paved) pathways throughout the town of safe non-vehicular transport and access to water and beaches as well as more electric plug ins for ev, park land, wilderness area preservation and local education, ways for youth to get involved and responsible development that considers green architecture, tourism and access

If we collectively do not get our act together fighting climate change parts of Sooke and areas like Gordon's Beach Hwy 14 are going to be under sea water. As close to us as Washington State potable water is becoming a crisis - it is not just hot places like California and southern Africa. We do not want to but HAVE to lower our GHGS and make this work. Yes it will cost money but there is a lot that is just a different mindset - as above -rain is NOT waste water so keep in where it falls and houses can have sloped south facing roofs for solar panels.

We do not need to fund this. There is no climate crisis. I have lived here my entire life. We have hot/cold cycles every 8-10 years.

The balance being collected through creative means such as DCC increases and enforcing specific building codes IMMEDIATELY and not waiting until too late so that the goal cannot be achieved.

Please have over pass walk ways at the schools and update the roads. Traffic is extremely frustrating coming home from work on Sooke rd. It can take an hour to travel from the Stickleback to Church road.
Climate emergency is a CRISIS! We need to respond appropriately.
Climate action is an important goal for local government.
Climate action is not a Municipal responsibility.
Definitely not - less admin is required, thus costing far less. Other communities have downsized yet you keep increasing!!
None
I would like to decrease my tax dollars towards Sooke's participation towards climate change. Especially if Sooke is to continue allow further housing projects.
No investment needed for a service that does not impact growth
Climate action planning should not require additional funding. Incorporate these expectations in ALL roles rather than relying on a separate position.
More to environmentally friendly and sustainable public transit solutions including making walking and biking safe and viable alternative. More roads, for more cars, makes no sense.
Definitely invest less. Of which there are no "less" choices on expanding this blue bar. (Web design & testing error?) "No change" is the lowest permitted choice, therefore your survey is biased.
Administration should be funded so ratepayers get prompt efficient service, and those working in Admin. deserve a living wage. I have no idea if Sooke is efficient or not in this regard.
More funding for community events
Why is \$10 decrease the maximum permitted?
No I think infrastructure are much more important
I think only the district knows this so I will defer to that decision making process. I trust that the District will use my tax dollars prudently.

Everything is more expensive now and as a retired person I realize we all have to live with that and spend even more carefully and really look at the difference between "want" and "need". Creative alternatives are out there, ask anyone in the not for profit sector how to make do with very little.

We need our Climate Action employee Maia or a replacement to be hired!

No

Appendix B: Raw Comments – Corporate Services

Overall

<p>Bylaw needs to work in the evenings and weekends when the problems with illegal burning and other issues happen in Sooke.</p>
<p>Like that an e-bike is used.</p>
<p>At this time in history I feel protection of the environment is very important and I feel that the environment can only be properly maintained currently through the use of bylaws. I would like to see a Tree Protection and Pesticide Bans and building bylaws put in place in Sooke. It would be nice if these laws were in place provincially or federally but I think it's important that at least pressure is applied from municipalities to make sure these important protections are in place. Leaving it up to the individual to consider the environment who does not have the knowledge and also is struggling with day to day survival to think of the welfare of everyone is not fair. A case in point is the rezoning of properties for subdivision.</p>
<p>Without laws and regs. and enforcement that is visible and fair, the law is just a paper tiger so people will not always behave well according to the current laws and regs.</p>
<p>Not enough is done to implement bylaw offences citing must be able to go to a court of law etc. for even basic infractions that are obvious and provable like building on Canada Day! Fines and penalties are too low including cutting down trees illegally then just paying a meaningless fine, if any, against the rewards gained from such action. Violators should have their licenses revoked as a minimum.</p>
<p>Bylaw enforcement is a necessary evil, and it needs to be more compassionate, generally speaking.</p>
<p>We need to step up the business licensing process. Make it faster</p>
<p>This is the basic, minimal job of local government.</p>
<p>Senior Bylaw staff need to be take the time to call residents back within 24 hours and listen to the concerns.</p>
<p>I have never seen this fellow pedaling anywhere around Sooke in all the time I've lived here. If he's receiving 7% of everyone's tax \$\$ I would think he's being paid way too much for whatever it is he does (and wherever he does it).</p>
<p>Seems like a large number of people for this</p>

Bylaw enforcement officers are essential to a happy, clean and safe community. Enforcement of noise bylaws and other nuisance issues are important services.

Freedom of Information and transparency is VERY important.

Comments on Increasing Bylaw Education

Start young and over time it will be more positively widespread.

I think most people are aware of the bylaws, they simply don't care coupled with the fact that in all likelihood won't face repercussions.

With good explanations, media and outreach, it is possible to help people understand why some laws exist and why they may be very good for our area. This is more important than rigid enforcement. No easy solutions in the world of bylaw and compliance, hire good people, do your best!

More education less police

Residents need to be aware of the bylaws so the everyone the rules to follow and not ignore them.

Yes, I think increasing education about the environment is important. Not sure about the other kinds of bylaws.

If by-laws are to be followed the reasons for them need to be understood and embraced by Sooke citizens. If this education is done through the District's engagement processes larger numbers of citizens will buy into the bylaws, and the need for enforcement will lessen.

Bylaw education is good but climate is important. Keep bylaw education funding as is and any extra to climate.

Sounds like a make work project to me

Can be done effectively and inexpensively via current systems already in place. The biggest advertisement is word of mouth - don't break the law or there will be serious consequences, not just a slap on the wrist

I've tried to understand Sooke's bylaws, but you need a legal degree just to read them. Anything more user-friendly?

More training to suit are growth

We seldom hear what bylaws are being enforced.
It should be possible to learn bylaws easily, and we should be confident they're being applied & enforced.
We do need to know more about our bylaws
I support this
This would enable regular citizens to be more aware of the By Laws and how they are applied
this town needs more bylaw enforcement, it is well known that there is very little ticketing or enforcement being done in Sooke that can lead to resentment towards the town. bylaws should be enforced by officers and not be complaint driven. it can cause neighbours to have disputes because neighbours have to complain for bylaws to be enforced.
There isn't close to being enough bylaw enforcement. Apathy rules the day.
Can we start by getting rid of all these campers parked on the side of the road and tents all over the city?
Current bylaw does no enforcement, just a nice friendly chat and nothing changes. Happy to fund different bylaw officers but not more.
Stop giving money to cops. Please.
No point in having bylaws if they are not adequately enforced
I think what we have now is sufficient for the size of our community
Don't know how much enforcement the District does now. Would prefer if everyone just followed the rules.
By-laws need to be followed; in some cases they won't be unless there is enforcement.
It would be really nice to have bylaw officers patrol the streets for noise. We have a neighbor here that have noisy dogs that are barking all day long. Would be nice for bylaw officers to issue tickets to offenders.
New staff are needed in this area. Existing staff, in the main, do not have the right tough no nonsense attitude towards Bylaw offenders

More control on dogs on the spit
It does no good to have good bylaws when they are not enforced.
On the whole, Sooke citizens are law-abiding.
I support this
Without By Law enforcement, we end up with places like the RV Trailer Park at XXXX Otter Point Road and run down RV's on properties like the one at XXXX Otter Point currently being rented out for \$500.00 per month. Last I checked this was not allowed but it is being allowed.
It's worth increasing IF AND ONLY IF it's used for the correct reasons, i.e. illegal building practices etc.

Comments on Investing in Bylaw Services

If a lack of bylaw officers is the excuse them hire more.
No opinion.
I don't often see bylaw officers in the community. I am surprised there are only two to cover Sooke given the physical size of the community. It can take an hour to get around. How can two officers meet the needs of Sooke at all hours? It is impossible.
Specifically for environmental bylaws.
Keep it the same and do more with less if it is more expensive. Be creative - have a quiz contest where people (including those too young to vote) can "play" and offer a prize of ? an electric bike or some funky locally designed (EMCS ?) Sooke cloth shopping bags.
I'd like to believe that 'corporate services' doesn't mean 'do what business owners want at the expense of the environment and good roads/sidewalks/development'

Appendix C: Raw comments – Financial Services and Information Technology

Overall

These 2 services are what makes things happen. Expectations of excellence are of importance.
Be as cost effective as possible, do your best to serve aging members of the public who are not tech savvy.
Again only the staff at the District understands the costs and requirements. I trust that they are working in everyone’s best interests.
Ensuring effective and secure it and finance is critical
Once more, more with less if costs are going up. Climate first and climate does not necessarily exclude but can often include other aspects.
"financial strategizing for sustainable long-term corporate accountability". PROPER management of municipal finances
Essential to ensure proper financial oversight and accounting. IT services are becoming increasingly important in our modern world of computers, cell phones and other electronics.
Keep track of what our district spends, and keep it accountable! We want to be proud of what our district does.
Most of the services can be done online

Comments about Funding Financial Services

Service levels should drive the process, spend wisely. Nerds may rule the world but they still need to justify their expenses....some of my best friends are Nerds! Really
Look at ways to save tax \$
Not sure I know enough but again more with less if costs are rising./ Any extra funding to climate of course.
Finding and applying for grants seems so important!

I'd like this service area to be more accountable and make info available in understandable terms.

Comments about online payment functionality

Don't use it, have no opinion.

Again not sure if this is really necessary?

Stay home and pay online. Great idea if it is too far to walk or bike.

I paid my taxes online this year and have received no acknowledgement, which is disconcerting. I likely won't in the future if this is not changed. It is a big chunk of money to send out into the ether with no receipt/proof of payment coming back

Online payment is important especially during the pandemic.

I prefer Online payments as I can do that anywhere.

Appendix D: Raw comments – Planning, Development and Building Services

Overall

All depends on what you're doing with the money. Right now it appears only housing projects are going through with little infrastructure improvements or business complexes being built.

Increase service fees for large developers, but not for individual home owners and renters.

New OCP seems to respond to some problems the community have been dealing with. It would be good to see it adopted.

This department should be paying for itself through building permit fees, I would not give another cent of my property tax dollars towards this.

All of it should gradually moved to developers

If the extra funding is used for progressive, environmentally friendly planning and development. A creation of a new paradigm.

I would like to see priority being given to the OCP, TMP and PTMP in this service area. It is not obvious to me that this is currently the case.

Change the bylaws and building code to greener- not a lot of cost in that.

The land usage in Sooke is a joke. We should not be building so much low income housing in the area and remove the homeless population

I have no idea what this service currently provides, beyond a lot of roadblocks to new ideas.

Should be entirely user-pay AND any new housing units NOT truly affordable should pay for ALL costs associated with increased growth. Why are Sooke Citizens subsidizing developers and speculators?

More activities for families. How about mini golf, things everyone can play. There is nothing to do here for families besides Seaparc

We need to better manage planning with the district with an eye towards thoughtful development. Right now, there appears to be a lot of development going on without consideration for infrastructure and the type of community we want to build. Decisions like approval to remove setbacks for certain developments, height of buildings, roadways are concerning.

I'd pay more if our district stood up to developers more. I'd pay more if I saw our district developing affordable modest homes instead of permitting more suburban housing sprawl.

Sooke will grow whether people want it to or not. Traffic is already a sign of that. Time to invest in Sookes future

This service is important to me, however, I am disappointed in the Inspector as he failed to provide assistance when required and I am really disappointed that there are so many developments that destroy the environment. The rapid expansion of housing (although I know is needed) rapes the land of all vegetation, destroys wildlife and their homes and contributes to noise & pollution. I would like to see stricter rules around development and more responsible construction where the natural environment takes precedence over the pockets of the developers. I know that the developments have to protect a certain amount of greenspace in their plans, however, I'd like to see that more of the natural environment remains around & within developments

As Sooke grows we need more businesses and a plan. Not just cookie cutter houses stacked on top of one another.

Population growth is the reality that we have a responsibility to keep up with. Plan Plan Plan...

Transparency to the Sooke taxpayers on all matters relating to land use and development is needed. It does not exist as we all know.

This should be self funded through building permit fees and development fees, not our existing property taxes

Ensuring that Sooke can keep up with the logistical demands that are involved in development is critical for the future infrastructure to come as the city grows

Again this is a service that needs to be properly managed. Throwing more money at a garbage fire does not actually fix it.

More thoughtful planning required for road size and driveways space for homes with suites to keep excess vehicles off the streets.

Important that this is done properly to protect the environment. Because of the terrible degradation of the environment I believe we need to be looking at new ways to do things for the people and the planet. Housing should be a joy for people to live in and at the same time providing a healthy environment and space for all other living things to thrive. Live simply so others may simply live.

Is new growth in Sooke paying its way? Are less advantaged residents being asked to pay for expanded, super fast, development services for well heeled developers. Are less advantaged residents being asked to pay for infrastructure and services for those who can afford a \$800,000 home. Many municipalities have made these types of financial assessments to inform their residents.

I would like to see priority being given to the OCP, TMP and PTMP in this service area. It is not obvious to me that this is currently the case.

Right now, with our massive growth in housing development, planning matters often dominate Council's agenda-- usually on behalf of the for-profit development projects of private landowners. Whether this will always be the case is unknown. Those who favour a slower growth model might look forward to the day when Council agendas are taken up with other matters such as environmental restoration or local business incubation. That said, Planning uses a very small portion of my taxes, and provides excellent value for money. Currently planning staff are stretched, given the number of development applications they have to process.

Purposeful and intentional community design will impact this town long into the future. We need to ensure we are developing spaces with a sense of community, connection, and access to the outdoors, resources and traffic ease for those who must commute

Less of business and building as usual and more emphasis on green building, green energy, water management, climate change mitigation. Do NOT believe developers who say it will all cost too much. They need to educate themselves. There are some builders and developers who think green and they have not declared bankruptcy.

This is the most in-your-face topic i.e. visual growth of Sooke with green spaces available, USE of green spaces (some areas just left in a very poor shape that could be utilized much more wisely i.e. waterfront parcels), densification, aesthetics, road structures and maintenance, feeling of proper control (or not), type of businesses in the area, not allowing contentious variances slip through to set bad precedences, APPROPRIATE and mixed land use to allow quality of life to increase in Sooke, not get worse.

More funding should be through permitting and inspection fees

We need more affordable housing NOW, and not the type supplied by developers. If this service can provide that, then it is of critical importance.

These costs should be funded entirely by the developer since they gain nearly the entire benefit of increased building & population growth. Any benefit to existing Sooke citizens is negligible. Additionally, external costs as a result of increased development should be shouldered by those who profit. Additional need for infrastructure - roads, sewage, policing, bylaw enforcement, fire, parks, corporate services, etc -- all these should be paid for by the people who make money from the increased needs associated with increased growth. To limit "Planning, Development & Building Services" to just direct costs of development planning is misleading. Current citizens' cost of living goes up and quality of life goes down.

Add requirements to help to accelerate conversion to sustainable home construction in building codes. Make greater use of innovative building materials e.g. hemp and lime building blocks. Ensure use of alternative energy - solar and wind. Preserve as many natural areas as possible (e.g. John Phillips Memorial Park). Listen more to developers who are focused on sustainable development, not just the bottom line!

I would really like to believe our district doesn't just let developers do what they want to do. All the good planning the district and committees do gets wiped out when a hundred new houses get built in ways that are not environmentally sensitive.

The Town needs a plan that makes sense the hodge podge of zoning and exceptions is a muddle to understand

The reason we moved to Sooke was for its charming rural aspects. Close to parks and trails, beaches and walkability. Housing has increased substantially since we moved here 3 years ago. The road in and out will be strained (not to mention the patience of the drivers using it) to breaking. We need to keep Sooke small and rural. It does not need to become a city.

Sooke is growing at a pace, that without careful management of resources, and thoughtful planning for environmental sustainability is a huge risk.

This is an important issue...infrastructure and growth MUST be thought out BEFORE more development goes on in this area...all our remaining green space is being devoured by development

Appendix E: Raw Comments – Operations (Roads and Underground) Services

Overall

Right now it appears to lack planning/execution. How was charters closed for 2 weeks causing major highway delays without even being fixed?

I pay a large amount of property tax on a property that receives absolutely no Municipal Services. Otter Point Rd is in horrid condition, being unsafe and riddled with constant potholes, cracks and shoulders that are rapidly eroding. While the older existing properties continue to pay into the tax base the newly created subdivisions, having yet to pay into the tax base are catered to with all services and newly paved roads. Many of us are on wells that do not produce in summer costing us a fortune to bring in water and yet we pay into an infrastructure we are denied of connecting to. At what point do long term existing properties get priority for much needed/failing services and road/safety improvements?

Sooke taxpayers pay for roads that cars and pick up trucks use, as they should. Rampant out of control development has drastically increased the number of large rigs, gravel trucks etc. on our roads. The heavy rigs disproportionately beat up our roads. Any extra charges for developers for this damage?? Of course not, because this council and Mayer or more loyal to developers than to Sooke residents.

Improvements to the main highway need to include the removal of traffic lights to roundabouts. Stopping traffic on a major highway makes zero sense and causes massive backlogs on the community.

Our towns overall infrastructure is 30 years behind the times, we need sewer in more subdivisions.

We need more alternate roads throughout Sooke to deal with constant increase of traffic congestion.

Not enough being spent in this area.

It's time to move towards mass transit. Roads, vehicles, the insurance, health care costs are all too expensive! If all the money took to support transportation and a saner model of moving people around were created it would be a lot cheaper. The planet can not afford the wasteful modes of transportation anymore!

Infrastructure is not keeping up with the rabid development. Stop allowing new subdivisions until infrastructure is in place.

We need to recover payment for these services from the people the services are provided for, not from existing residents. Growth has made traffic a nightmare in Sooke and the major infrastructure projects to accommodate new growth need to be paid for either by Local Service Area taxes or by developers as part of their development projects. Existing residents also need to be compensated when their service levels deteriorate or become more expensive as a result of new growth. You can't expect existing taxpayers to pay for new growth.

I would like to see much greater priority being given to active transportation routes (pedestrian and bicycle pathways and trails) over motor vehicle corridors (roads). I would also like to see much better connectivity between active transportation routes in downtown Sooke and between downtown and the wider community. These active transportation routes would preferably be separated from motor vehicle traffic as much as possible. There always seems to be budget available to build more car parking (e.g. John Phillips Park, Sport Box), but the priority given to active transportation seems to fall far behind this.

Not sure if this is the place to put it, but I'd really like to see Sooke embrace rain water harvesting, rain gardens and swales to reduce "wastewater". Also, there are natural assets in Sooke that Operations should begin to take into account.

Improvements to be paid by developer

These are important by their absence. No rain run off in pipes and culverts. Swales and ground areas where people can grow food and trees, not just BBQ in a patio. Subdivisions where there are more green spaces between houses not the dead alleys and pocket hanky half paved yards developers now offer us. This is developers squeezing in as much as they can to maximize profits not a healthy neighbourhood or life style.

I live rural and receive no benefit from expenditures in this area. We have no water, sewer, sidewalks or snow removal in a timely manner in the winter. Exactly what does my tax contribution get me?

Investment in road infrastructure is critical and we need to re-think how our streets are being used. Less cars and more alternatives but that said we need better work done at alleviating the long commutes. We also DESPERATELY need a more reliable bus service to and from Sooke but also from within Sooke.

Kaltasin Road (the other side of the bridge from Sooke Town) has remained neglected for years including road surfacing and sidewalks for the many people that walk for pleasure alone or with pets or to get to the bus stop. A few potholes took over 6 months to fill once notified. The water pipes system took 5 months longer than planned. We are advised we are

having to wait until sewer lines are approved in 2 - 3 years which, with the time past already is already overdue.

Why did the council not fund underground electrical services when putting in the traffic circle and other improvements?

Too many really expensive houses and taking down all the forest. We are becoming "Where the subdivision meets the sea."

Underground electrical services are really important to counter electrical outages and unsightly overhead wires. Storm water should be managed more naturally with swales and holding ponds.

These are the basic minimum services our municipality should provide.

As our community grows exceptionally important and controllable unlike an issue like climate change a issue of which is costly and of very little consequence (yes I understand the climate change etc just think it is not a proper focus for municipal governance)

Very informative. Thank you

We need more bike lanes and sidewalks. Currently, it is not safe for children to ride their bikes to school.

Infrastructure is extremely inadequate, yet extremely important. Much more thoughtful decision-making is needed in this area.

Comments on Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

I support vehicle charging stations, but people charging their vehicles should pay for the electricity.

Let private enterprise find charging solutions. Does the municipality own gas stations?

Developers should take this on. Charging stations should mandatory for new commercial developments. All least 10% parking should be charging stations and where 50% reduction in vehicle parking is permitted, a community benefit should bike parking. We need bike storage all the Goose and at more locations in the community to encourage cycling. The Goose is amazing. Let's use it more to be a cycling mecca!

EV charging should be on a fee basis if at all. EV users do not currently pay road taxes (typically charged on gasoline)
The units I have seen around town are never full
This is important to have some but I think people should take responsibility for charging their own vehicles. We have an electric vehicle and we usually charge it at home usually just using an ordinary household plug. Also the public charging stations should also have a plug-in for bikes and scooters.
It is MUCH more important to get private motor vehicles off the road as much as possible by improving active transportation, public transportation and car pooling rather than EV charging stations. This would help reduce BOTH traffic congestion AND GHG emissions. It is also more equitable, since it is primarily the more wealthy who can afford EVs, who do not need to be subsidized by public provision of EV charging stations.
With the 7% Solution, the District of Sooke aims to replace 200+ I.C.E. vehicles with EVs annually. To support that increase Sooke needs charging stations.
If you build them people will come. They do not have to be free and could be card accessed.
Why should I pay for someone to fill up their luxury car? Vehicle choice is just that. Choice. The carbon footprint of an electric vehicle is more than a traditional vehicle.
People should be charged for recharging electric vehicles the power has to be paid by the user not the general public
Should be for local use and cost for out of town users
I don't think they should be free
DoS should take better advantage of available grants to install more public charging stations. We were disappointed to see that the planned Eustace Rd chargers have yet to be installed. And tourism will become more and more dependent on DC Fast Charging stations.
These fast-charging stations allow electric vehicles to charge while the driver buys groceries. More of these fast charge spots = confidence for drivers = fewer fossil fuel cars = safer for me on the road with my bike.
Hopefully they are user pay if initiated, shouldn't be free as that is asking tax payers to fund a private user group

It would be nice to have a unified system , it seems all charging stations require different apps and very inconvenient
The couple that we have should be fine until they are at maximum capacity. Most residents from here that have an electric car also have their own charging station in their home.
We need more chargers as well as funds to make sure that chargers are well maintained
Great to have but I don't feel anyone but the users pay for the use!!!
Charge at home
The world economy runs on Energy, and unfortunately electric vehicles are not yet the optimum answer. Very very wasteful - the amount of precious finite resources to mine and process electric vehicle components, including extremely precious water resources, needs to be better understood by both consumers and our elected decision-makers.

Comments on improvements to Transit stops

Let BC Transit pay for this line item.
More seating is needed at stops. It would be nice to have recycling at larger stops.
Ensure transit stops enable the bus to FULLY pull off the road to allow traffic to pass.
Yes, mass transit. Free buses, etc
If/when the main BC Transit bus stop is moved from Sooke Road to Wadams Way, I would like to see good bus shelters constructed for this, and safe pedestrian/bicycle crossing points on Wadams Way to service them. I would also like to see a pedestrian/bicycle link provided between Evergreen Mall and the new library.
Taking the bus in winter in Sooke is really unpleasant; at night it is worse. Well appointed stops where you can stay dry, sit comfortably and use a garbage can if you need one will help to make transit a more frequently chosen transportation option.
Improve those that need it but not at a big expense. A couple of donated chairs and maybe an umbrella ?
We need more options to turn left on Sooke road from roads like Dover. During high traffic time (almost all the time) it's unsafe to turn left and there's no easy options to turn around if one must turn right.

They seem to have had some improvements including the bus stops / turnouts along HWY that were done TWICE as they were not at the right level for boarding the bus which must have cost \$ 100,000's !

Transit stops have greatly improved with bus shelters and bus pull-outs on Hwy 14.

We need More Bus Routes, More Bus Stops, and most stops must be accessible for wheelchairs/strollers. We were getting more routes & stops but the pandemic happened, so we've got to get back to making it happen.

Make sure buses are able to pull completely off the driving lane for safety of drivers passing while they are stopped.

Seems like there's lots of bus stops

Comments on road maintenance

Could we get some road maintenance done? The roads are a disgrace around here.

I am sick of potholes on Grant Road.

Roads here are absolutely terrible I can't believe that the roads are in such awful condition and nothing gets done to maintain or fix them

Potholes not being repaired on a timely basis. Extremely poor timing on road maintenance when Church and Otter Point being worked on at the same time.

Perhaps if the roads were a little less maintained people would slow down a bit. I realize the complaining would be intense so maybe more money needs to be put into the managing complainers bin?? (:

Road are in terrible shape. Eg. Church rd

I have been advised by [District staff] that the road maintenance budget needs to increase in north Sooke(Gillespie/Nagle) in order for us to have the same services as the rest of the district. As we pay the same taxes as everyone else, this should not be difficult to establish. Line painting, chip sealing, have not been performed since the district took over in 2007 as well as only about 10% of winter maintenance(salting/plowing) compared to the rest of the district

I quite like potholes as they are speed bumps :)

potholes slow down traffic. Slower traffic means less accidents. Sounds beneficial to me.

Glad to see the crosswalk lights and lower speed on Otter Point Road.

Also need to consider more sidewalks as well as road improvements

Transportation means foot traffic and bikes, not only cars! Look at your photo at the top of this page -- a useful bike lane disappears Right In Front Of The Police Station! There's no clearer way of saying "Not even the cops will stand up for bike transportation around here."

Roads are generally in need of stronger maintenance and repair.

More money to fix the craters on Church Rd and all others in Sooke

Due to traffic issues, please consider night construction on all projects.

The paving of Otter Point Road from Laronde Rd to Sarah Drive would be lovely.

PLEASE fix Ella Rd and bring sewer down the road

West coast road needs a shoulder.

And by roads, I mean for bikes ebikes, walking, running. Cars being a lesser focus - not maintenance of the poor solutions we have now

The current practice of cold patching of potholes is nothing other than a temporary band aid that has minimal longevity as well as being highly not cost effective. The overall road infrastructure has been miserably neglected for decades, leading to a massive amount of roads in great disrepair and now needing extensive and costly repairs/replacement. Sooke is rapidly growing with new construction/subdivisions adding far more wear and tear on substandard roads/infrastructure by both construction equipment, trucks, and expanded population. This rapid growth is adding to the tax base and yet with added revenues little to nothing is done in improving/repairing roads. Travel time to and from Sooke has increased immensely and yet still one road

We need to be willing to pay more for this service and I am. Are we willing to charge developers more so they can pay their fair share too?

What road maintenance our road is and absolutely s*** road and the municipal yard is on it. Why can't the roads actually get maintained and repaired instead of paved road that's as bumpy and rougher than a lot of logging roads

Victoria contracting does not do a good job. The previous contractor was much better.

As I've said personal vehicles are the way of the past. Putting the funds towards mass transit and bicycles would be money better spent. You can't eat a car!!

Make the greedy developers pay for roads, not the tax payers. The subdivision at Church/Wadams is so high density - roads will be more clogged.

In England there were old men who each were designated their own bit of road and diligently went out with their little pots of tarry sandy gravel and fixed the holes. They received a small increase in their pensions for their work. Not a solution for Hwy 14 but probably a Union issue here for the smaller streets.

Whiffin Spit Road needs improvement. Too narrow.

I'd pay more if I could see obvious small repairs being routinely done! I'd pay more if I could see bus stops being made accessible whenever road work is done nearby! I'd pay more if I saw lower speed limits enforced on roads! I'd pay more if big SUVs didn't howl around corners without looking for me in the crosswalk!

Fill the potholes!

Painting of lines that are visible in rain and dark nights! So important for safety reasons!!!!

Comments on snow removal

Too much brine on roads last year, concentrated in sections

I typically remove the snow from the full length of our street with my tractor at my cost given it's a hill and as well a low priority for the current contractor to clear.

Adequate as is.

Costly and necessary. Not a priority.

For now this should remain a limited priority as when it snows, it doesn't last long.

I realize for emergencies we need to be able to get people to hospital but the world moves too fast and I believe the occasional snow day is a good thing. Also with all the weather changes due to climate degradation I am wondering if it is going to be impossible to keep up with it. Perhaps convincing people that staying and working from home is the way to go.

Snow doesn't happen often, but when it does things grind to a halt, which can be annoying if you have somewhere to be. On the other hand, through COVID we learned to do a lot of

<p>things on line so it has become less critical to actually "be somewhere" for many activities. Also-- Vancouver Islanders like the occasional snow day.</p>
<p>Small cars do not do well in snow. Keeping roads in good repair helps on insurance costs as well</p>
<p>Not often do we get a lot of snow here and it is like speed bumps- slows traffic :)</p>
<p>We live rural on Phillips Rd. It does NOT end at Sunriver development limits. "Shitty" is the current service adjective.</p>
<p>We don't get much but when we do, we need it gone because people here are not used to it.</p>
<p>We receive so little snow on average that this seems less of an issue. Kids love snow days!</p>
<p>This is Canada, and Handling Snow is an essential service. Keep the storm drains cleared in autumn, ready for winter storms! Keep running that little snowpusher tractor around town to clear sidewalks and drains! Keep our snowplows busy.</p>
<p>Hills should be given priority (after major and school access routes)</p>
<p>Main roads and bus roads should be done ASAP so to allow emergency/buses/school buses travel safely.</p>
<p>No opinion.</p>
<p>WHAT SIDEWALKS?</p>
<p>This impacts women, children, and the elderly more than snow removal on the streets and is often overlooked.</p>
<p>Again within reason. The ice is the problem. Someone should invent shoes that don't slip. (:</p>
<p>Teens can do this.</p>
<p>get a shovel and get some exercise.</p>
<p>There are no sidewalks for the majority of roads and no consideration for people with mobility issues</p>
<p>This is the responsibility of the home occupiers</p>

Keep that little snowpusher tractor busy whenever there is snow! Just keep the sidewalks clear and charge building owners & business. Few people are clearing the sidewalks in front of their home and businesses and apartment buildings.

Adequate as is. Fund in an efficient manner, pay crews a fair wage.

This is fine the way it is

Figure out a plan for emergency transport and lets enjoy our snow days. I do think it is ridiculous how society can not tolerate any inconvenience and expects instant gratification. 200 years ago the way we live now would be unbelievable. Because our ancestors lived a slower life it allowed the world to exist in environmental balance. Is it worth destroying the planet for convenience.

This is what teenagers are for !

step it up people

I'd pay more if I saw that little snowpusher tractor zooming around the sidewalks. I'd pay more if the snowplows were kept in action. I'd pay more if the storm drains were cleared in autumn in preparation for winter storms.

Implementation of the Transportation Master Plan

Transportation master plan, yes. However I don't agree with taking traffic off Highway 14, that is exactly what a highway is for, moving traffic. If anything stop putting new lights on the road and do things to enable traffic flow. Restrict the on/off highway to proper intersections, stop the left turns without a turning lane (Dover Street during school drop off/pick up, I am looking at you!)

This needs to be done in consultation with residents. Diverting traffic means increasing traffic in quiet residential areas which is not ideal for Sooke residents.

Sooke needs road infrastructure

I really don't see any action on this matter other than the province's hwy 14 upgrade that won't fix the traffic nightmare here. How long does it take to implement a plan and have some actual concrete resolutions to this mess. We moved out here and really not impressed with the municipality and your bone headed ideas.

Not working. Lots of money spent downtown on paving stone sidewalks when 14 should have been twinned thru downtown instead

More mass transit and bicycle lanes. Personal vehicles will hopefully soon be like dinosaurs the environment will just not support them. See my previous comments. The planet just can't afford them any longer. I wonder if all the money that transportation costs it wouldn't pay for people to stay home?

Need a bypass of Sooke. The lineups going into Sooke are terrible and getting worse. Stop allowing so much new housing.

The Transportation masterplan are not effectively addressing either carrying capacity or access to Hwy 14. Simply put, until those issues are addressed and resolved, any Transportation Plan is simply window dressing. Example - politicians decried the effect Hwy 14 schools were having on transportation flows while at the same time adding 100s of cars through new Hwy 14 housing developments.

To me, implementation of the Parks and Trails Mater Plan is much more important than implementation of the TMP to assist with traffic flow off Highway 14.

A big part of the Transportation Master Plan relies on BC Transit's Sooke Local Area Plan. The District needs to "light a fire" under BC Transit or find a way to complete it as a District endeavor. This can help to reduce consumer traffic. However, the Transportation Master Plan has a lot more to it, including the profoundly radical privileging of active transportation over vehicular transportation.

This is one of the areas where education is important and better transportation choices are necessary. A better bus schedule that goes out to Shirley ? More minibuses that cruise neighbourhoods on a schedule to take people to a central bus hub make perfect sense. Be creative !

So far there has been no decent plan. Sooke continues to grow at unsustainable levels with no recognition of poor access from Langford. The current project is a joke, as it will only provide another 4way drag strip before traffic is funneled into 2 lanes again. Big deal. You'll get home 2-3 minutes faster.

It is obviously very complex with costs and grants and needs to be realistic with achievable goals OR REDUCE EXCESSIVE GROWTH if cannot be achieved within the foreseeable future .

I disagree with the changes to Route 14; multi-lanes are going to invite speeding, passing and accidents. :(

I use Wadams way, which is getting busier.

That highway runs right through town. Slow and steady traffic is the goal on that highway. And when cars or especially trucks turn OFF the highway onto our roads, they have GOT to slow down to residential speeds for safety and for road maintenance.

We need to do what Sidney BC did and adopt a 30km/hr speed limit on all streets off the highway.

We need to have roundabouts instead of lights at intersections in the core . The back up on Sooke road through the core is far to long

Some consideration of another road into Sooke would be a good idea to help alleviate the traffic congestion on Highway 14. The idling that happens daily is just bad for the environment and is not helping the mental health of the Sooke residents that must travel to Victoria/Langford for work, doctor appointments, etc.

Effective execution on a plan dedicated to FUTURE and current traffic management is essential for growth

Too car focused.

Good plan. Since most of this need results from rampant over development, maybe we should ask the developers to pay some too?

Again, make the rich developers pay.

We do not need to assist with Hwy 14 flow. We need to limit and regulate any future increases to the size of Hwy 14 flow

Until people are educated and change their ways this important.

There's a plan???? I've lived here 7 years and see no evidence of managing traffic flow into Sooke

I'd pay more if "assist with traffic flow off Hwy 14" didn't mean "let drivers of cars and trucks zoom onto roads at highway speed." I'd pay more if traffic flow was kept to a slow but steady movement along our roads. I'd pay more if traffic flow was safer for school zones and for children going to and from school. I'd pay more if painted bus lanes and sharrows and road shoulders meant traffic flow acknowledged the presence of bikes and foot traffic on the roads And Drove Slower & Safer. I'd pay more if our footpaths were increased, like Ponds Park Corridor and the sidewalk along Church Road.

Why has the Transportation Master Plan been sitting on the shelf for so long?

Appendix F: Raw Comments – Facilities, Parks and Environmental Services

Overall

<p>We are lucky to have CRD and JDF parks so close to us, because Sooke has almost nothing, and MacGregor is under siege. Shameful.</p>
<p>How can you work better with community groups to offer improved services</p>
<p>The District needs to not allow the nightmare and destruction to our park that occurred during vivid letting illicit drug users damage and make out parks unsafe for those that are paying for them and their maintenance.</p>
<p>Need more parks and trails. Make the developers include more parks. E.g why are there no parks (accessible by car for seniors and young familys) at the higher elevation subdivisions where there are fantastic views? Only the wealthy can enjoy the wonderful views of Sooke.</p>
<p>Parks and wildlife are important. I would like to see parks developed with habitat for wildlife and insects. Definitely less grass.</p>
<p>The 2020 Parks and Trails masterplanning needs to be implemented as it was approved without interference so that residents may be assured that the plans they spent time and money on are actually accomplished rather than in building legacy projects. Example Sooke is looking for funding for two seniors ventures which duplicate services (one by the Lions and the other by the CH Network) this weakens any grant applications made to enhance our community in those areas of duplication.</p>
<p>Parks and green spaces are important especially with all the building and infilling. Green washing is a recognized mental health boon.</p>
<p>I prefer to spend my money in my own yard, and be in nature outside of it.</p>
<p>Just as important as roads, having nice areas makes people want to hang out in the town rather than driving away. We need more things to do that can be engaging.</p>
<p>The appointed Contractor for paving has proved to be slow and inefficient including charging for work not done. More accountability and controls need to be in place and improved cost efficiency</p>
<p>Disappointed in the decision to build the Lions club facility. This was railroaded in.</p>

Like to see concrete benches at the spit if they could look nice, so it won't rust. I don't like the memorial area planned for Whiffen Spit

These green spaces are an important part of our collective home.

We need more park space, and hope we can secure the land overlooking Mariners Village. It's the one chance we have to make Sooke a destination and not just a drive through.

We NEED green spaces

More parks are needed.

If it was to protect and promote the natural environment.

For park land acquisition and training volunteers

I don't mind paying more when I can see trees and grass and green space and footpaths and the Scotch broom isn't crowding out salal & Oregon grape.

Sani dumping station for RVs is sorely lacking in this community

Community Beautification

Yes! Invest more here.

Implement a tree protection bylaw then you won't have to spend money planting small vegetation.

Should be a more aggressive plan to deal with invasive species like Scotch Broom.

I personally don't find cement community beautification but would be happy with more native plantings and use of natural organic materials.

please start watering the parklands throughout Sunriver, most of the greenspaces have sprinklers installed. Use Them!

It sounds dumb but some pretty flowers and nice trees make people feel better.

I would love to see more trees and flower gardens. Perhaps a community indigenous garden and a community pollinator garden. Could it be stands for developers to wrap electrical boxes? This might help prevent graffiti.

Our community was already beautiful until the District started allowing so many building permits to developers ripping down swaths of natural forest and landscape.
Natural native plants, etc
I'd like to see a focus on policies and infrastructure that will support community resilience, first. After that is achieved, we can focus on cosmetics. That said, I'd like to see a lot more public art, everywhere.
This could also be a volunteer initiative and service groups could pitch in.
We need to be able to enjoy where we live and not be turned into an over densified monstrosity. At some point it will be TOO LATE if not strongly promoted to enhance the beauty of this area. A slight example is that Singapore makes great use of it's limited space with gardens and water features in the most unlikely places using imagination and common sense combined
So many of our parks have sprinklers installed but are not watered, please start watering our parks so they are not dead and full of weeds all summer.
Remove the homeless tent community on Sooke road. It is a health and safety issue
There are bigger priorities, like affordable housing rentals
It's amazing how much a few stupid flowers make people feel better. How about hiring a flock of sheep to nibble grass?
Does this mean turning areas back into natural habitats? If yes, then it is more of a priority. How about a program to motivate landowners/homeowners to do this, and get rid of their lawns?

Community Stewardship and Education

Great volunteers doing lots, city just needs to help organize and coordinate.
Congratulations with the broom busting program! I would like to see more of these initiatives
If Sooke implemented a tree protection bylaw planting trees would be less necessary. Just look at the Nevergreen Mall...
Save our green spaces.

Only dangerous invasive species. Plants that we consider weeds that aid wildlife and insects should be left. Native plant planting.

This can contribute to widespread restoration of the land which can only have positive effects in terms of local ecosystems and species. An important part of long term changes in our social valuation of land.

Yes especially if some people are considered invasive species.

Promote volunteer opportunities so people can take an afternoon to be active in support. That broom bash was great, so people could drop off broom to be mulched!

Plant more trees

Again I would like to see dangerous plants removed but I would prefer ordinary weeds to stay as we as a society need to start seeing wild areas as the norm and not manicured lawns with pretty flowers that need gallons of water.

I actually wanted to chose "3" here, to make the amounts add up.

Would really like to see more in this area!

Removal of Broome bushes Daphne & Japanese Knotweed

trees along stickleback tree are not doing well. It is important to know what trees belong here. I miss the big, old trees

Education and volunteer events are both needed! People WANT to know what to do, and they LIKE doing a CRD Broom Bash. Coordinate fruit trees & gardens with people wanting to help.

More trees!!!

Parkland Acquisition

Tough at this time with crazy land prices, but a good lesson to show how 'rich' Sooke would be if we had acquired park land a few years back.

Most parkland should be added through development, new subdivisions need to be giving the city more park land.

Only if the "parkland" will retain any forested areas natural landscape. Not parkland to mow over forests for grass and benches that provide no benefit to the environment or climate change.

This could be partially accomplished by developments providing some shared green space. Have housing closer together, perhaps even row housing with green roofs.

There isn't much park in the Core, and that lack will become more apparent as current developments are unpacked. Sooke should take action to preserve and restore lands which may become part of the T'em'exw (?) treaty. If that is done by declaring them park, great.

The more parkland that no one builds on the better particularly parks with native plants and protected watersheds and riparian areas and salmon streams.

Needs to be very appropriate and well thought out as to best community impacts with money spent

Not in favour of the Lion's club proposal. Stop taking out trees

Don't let developers skive off their duty to maintain parks AND ravine greenspaces.

We need more park space, and hope we can secure the land overlooking Mariners village. Its the one chance we have to make Sooke a destination and not just a drive through

More off street parking is necessary especially when more and more building is going on!

Only if the parks are playgrounds and grass lawns. Keep the natural landscape.

Don't take away designated green space at John Phillips park.

Again to protect and promote the natural environment or reverse previous damage.

Yes not to be paved and made "civilized" and large enough areas for green washing.

We are completely surrounded by parks and forests. Spoke needs to increase its boundaries for residential purposes.

Every park acquired is one less badly-developed cul-de-sac of big houses.

Exchanging acquired park land for development is something I see far too often here

Playground and Park Infrastructure

Would prefer to see this paid for by developers.
I do think at this time that wildlife areas are more important.
I would like to see a substantial portion of this allocation going to expanding, improving and maintaining pedestrian/bicycle pathways and trails. This aspect seems to be neglected in this survey so I am including it here.
Garbage cans and maybe washrooms (composting toilets?) where needed most.
Can developers build better playgrounds within subdivisions? Does this need to come from property taxes?
Existing playgrounds need maintenance and upkeep for the children.
Playgrounds are needed for children! more park benches and footpaths also for all of us!

Yard Waste Disposal

Yard waste could be collected, mulched and composted, turning it into soil and sold back to the public in generating revenue and offsetting costs as many Municipalities currently practice.
Could this be a fee for service?
You don't have yard waste disposal we have to take it to a for profit company to dispose of it so not sure what you are even talking about on this one
Should be a place to drop off yard waste for free
I would suggest that the District review and consider what cost-effective programs other municipalities have to address this.
I like the select drop off days. What impact does burning yard waste have? If it is significant, I would support this if it meant no more burning.
This is part of our basic minimum services. People need to drop off yard waste and pick up mulch or compost.
There are private options that are meeting the need of the community.

<p>Since the ability to burn has been continuously eroded and is looking towards elimination, Sooke needs to step up and get something in place for yard waste disposal.</p>
<p>Sooke should not permit so much open burning, when this waste could be repurposed as mulch and fill instead of polluting the air with smoke.</p>
<p>Our property taxes should be paying for this already.</p>
<p>Compost centre?</p>
<p>Compost, mulch. Why toss out what could be feeding your soil and plants?</p>
<p>have a good compost facility at municipal hall, where residents can come get the composted yard waste</p>
<p>This can help to be used to recycle vegetation and wood waste and turned to good fertilizer as they do in Delta BC</p>
<p>this would be amazing</p>
<p>There isn't any</p>
<p>Might stop people from dumping</p>
<p>This is part of the basic minimum services we should be providing! Drop off yard waste, pick up chipped mulch and compost.</p>
<p>Didn't know we had this program.</p>
<p>New residents need to be made aware of attracting animals to their yards by not employing proper waste disposal methods. Perhaps this could be sent to new residents in the form of a letter?</p>
<p>I pay for this service through GFL. We should have a program like Saanich where we can drop it off.</p>

Appendix G: Raw Comments – Fire Services

Overall

Fire fighting costs are out of control, in Sooke and all municipalities and districts. A large portion of structure fires are simply allowed to burn out for safety purposes. How many homes were saved per year over the past 10 years? Nobody wants to answer that one. There is virtually no expertise in the very different forest fire fighting category. The ability to respond locally to a backyard fire or a bush fire is vital. Our Fire services need to train people to the S100 and S185 Forest fire standards, get geared up and recruit volunteers too.

Firefighter's are over paid. Let paramedics respond to medical related calls. No need for fire unless called for

Need to get a handle on the costs of firefighting and police services as the costs of these services are excessive in almost all communities. Better building codes and the increased use of cameras to help reduce overall risk over time.

I think fire is a real threat for the future and that is why we need to put the environment as a priority.

How do our costs compare to similar sized isolated communities? U til this is answered it is difficult to know if we are paying taxes to support a Cadillac version of fire support or a bicycle version.

Life savers

We hear the sirens all the time, they either are very good at making themselves look busy or they're REALLY helping a LOT of people :p

Need to work toward a permanent full time paid fire fighting force

Volunteer firefighters should get more and be contracted here for at least a year

Train these brave firefighters! And prepare for a firestorm to blow into town as it did in Lytton.

Motherhood and Apple Pie, how does one successfully argue the amount spent is in disproportion to the value received.

Too much of the budget goes to Fire Department. Wages/benefits are too high IMO

Emergency Preparedness

Important in principal, but currently nothing but a huge black hole where good money gets converted to talk and fancy reports.

How much potable water and how much dried food is stored in accessible clean facilities in Sooke right now? Do we have a plan to distribute it? How many silly reports have been generated on the topic, how many symposiums and useless meetings have been held? At what cost? My guess is that for every dollar of inventory of food water and medical supplies, we have spent over \$1000 dollars on grandstanding.

Between earthquakes, tsunamis and climate change related severe weather, we need to have plans in place to address increasing risk.

A resilient community is one that is prepared for emergency and knows how to respond.

We need more neighbourhood "pods" and it could be combined with Blockwatch but most neighbourhoods are strangerhoods as so many people commute to work then cocoon in front of a screen.

We need fire drills, earthquake drills, and tsunami drills, just as a bare minimum. Make evacuation and shelter plans and POST THEM SO PEOPLE KNOW.

Port Alberni has tsunami danger zone signs, and evacuation/shelter plans. Why doesn't Sooke?

The community is vulnerable because one route in and out or the circle route, not the best situation, however the same argument could be made for Greater Victoria

Much more focus needed in preparing District of Sooke for emergencies.

Fire Services

I have never accessed fire services so I am not sure how to answer these questions.

Let the fire service justify the massive budget with facts on how many homes and other structures have been saved.

Again trusting the fire department and the municipality to make the right decisions. I certainly don't know enough about this issue to comment.

I'd feel better about paying more if I saw some Tsunami Danger Zone signs and Emergency Shelter Centre signs.

Community Education

Particularly in these times its important for all citizens to learn how to prevent fire.
The more "Fire Smart" type programmes the better. One of the best initiatives this year.
I'd also like more education for people who have properties that boarder forests. What is our part?
Educate the developers so new homes don't get built in vulnerable ways.

Appendix H: Raw Comments – Police Services

Overall

<p>Police officers have huge responsibilities and protect our community. I would gladly help to fund another position, however, I thought the EComm costs wasn't going to be passed onto the districts at this time?</p>
<p>Increase police presence and more preventative programs.</p>
<p>Why is there no option to reduce police spending? Every other option included this possibility. Not OK</p>
<p>Average staffing ratio, or lower, a must for this growing community</p>
<p>Again I must leave it up to the municipality and the police service to make the decision. I certainly don't have the knowledge. I suspect it is hard for the municipality too to understand.</p>
<p>I am upset to read this report. I believe we give far too much of our budget towards police and that there are more important things that we should be prioritizing.</p>
<p>Would like to see more community initiatives and proactive policing. See the officer play baseball with youth at Journey was great. What more can be done to build healthy relationships between police and youth?</p>
<p>Download the increased cost (since our population went over 15,000) for police services onto the developers who insisted on being allowed to build more houses. It's their cost of doing business.</p>
<p>Definitely in agreeance with the 2021 citizen budget survey to increase police staffing by 1 Officer per year until Sooke's population per Officer is aligned (or above) with the provincial average.</p>
<p>There is no reason why a city of Sooke's size should not have 24 hr policing.</p>
<p>The police department strength has not grown in line with the population increase or increase in tourism. There is a perception that there is an increase in crime and anti-social behavior and this does not correlate with a visible police presence. Geographically, the resources are spread too thin, with Sooke resources also covering neighboring jurisdictions as far away as Port Renfrew. I have seen this in other jurisdictions where overtime is used to bolster resources. Long term, this leads to burn out and increase in sickness and not a good use of the budget.</p>

Redirect any new funding to social work, mental health, and other experts in human crisis. Mental health and addiction are not crimes, and should be a policed role, as they are not crimes.

Really don't find this to be a good value given they are unreachable after regular business hours unless it's an emergency. Police should be available 24/7.

There isn't enough!

No simple answers to a complex problem. The huge increase in homeless people moving to Sooke is a taboo subject and needs to be part of the discussion. Taking care of our own people first is a nice thought, but hard to manage as it is impossible to define what makes a person 'local'. With Vancouver Nanaimo and Victoria all in extreme crisis over homelessness issues, Sooke is impacted. Our desire to help must be factored with our capacity to help. Once a critical mass of homeless people are reached, we are no longer helping people up, we are dragging Sooke down. Better to house 30 people well in clean conditions with rehab options than to have 150 in tents and filth. So tragic that political correctness rules over genuine compassion.

Education. Climate change. Traffic.

These are priorities. Not police.

They work bank hours and spend the majority of their time enforcing traffic speed laws.....and then they give themselves a \$20,000 a year raise?!

Our police services are underfunded compared to the size of our community.

I think there are a lot of issues that contribute to the violence in society but poverty, lack of housing and lack of mental health services are certainly contributors. I would like to see at least as much attention paid to these issues.

Defund police services and invest in early childhood education, social services and child poverty.

I believe we give far too much money to police. To me, our community should be putting the majority of our budget towards building sidewalks, investing in education, and protecting the environment in the fit against climate change.

Without people who enforce the law and are seen to do so well the law is nothing. There is such a diminished sense of social conscience now.

I'd prefer to see police officers patrolling the street either by bike or by foot rather than in their police cars. Better for the environment and get a chance to better interact with civilians. (better relationship)

Police services would be more important to me if the mounties didn't show up dressed like a SWAT team and treat my neighbours like a bunch of redneck dummies. Police services are a joke when mounties take off their nametags at Fairy Creek and hurt peaceful protesters. Police services cost us money we can't afford, just to have bullies strut around without protecting us from car collisions or a few drug dealers with guns. Where the hell is our hospital? Why do cars speed on Church Rd & Otter Point Rd?

The community needs a steep increase in police officers. Additional assets are needed to police the rampant drug and homeless problem that continue to get worse. The safety of the downtown core is deteriorating directly from the total mismanagement of the Sooke Shelter Society. This has caused issues to residents including property crime, violence, drug use in the parks, and other related issues.

We need resources that are not the police to respond to mental health and addiction concerns. Throwing more money at the police for these is the wrong direction, and should be addressed as a separate budget item!