

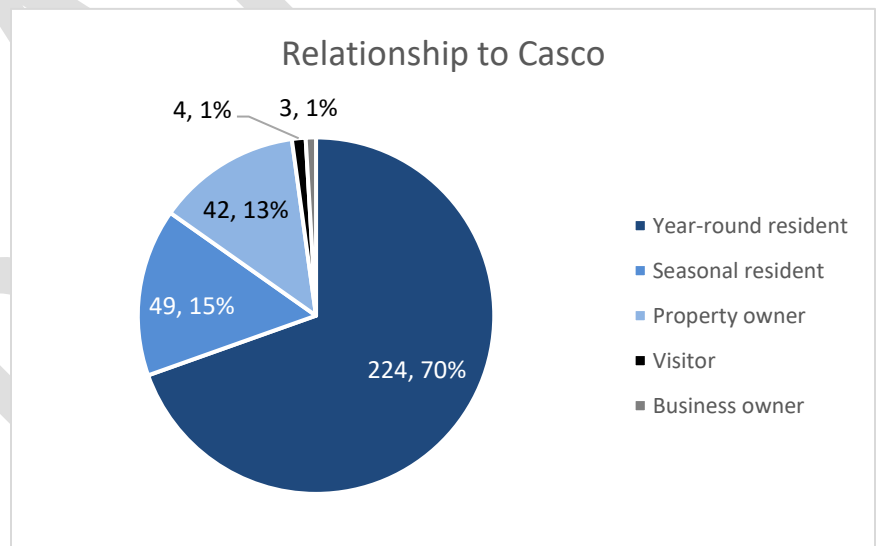
## Casco Capital Investment Plan Survey Analysis

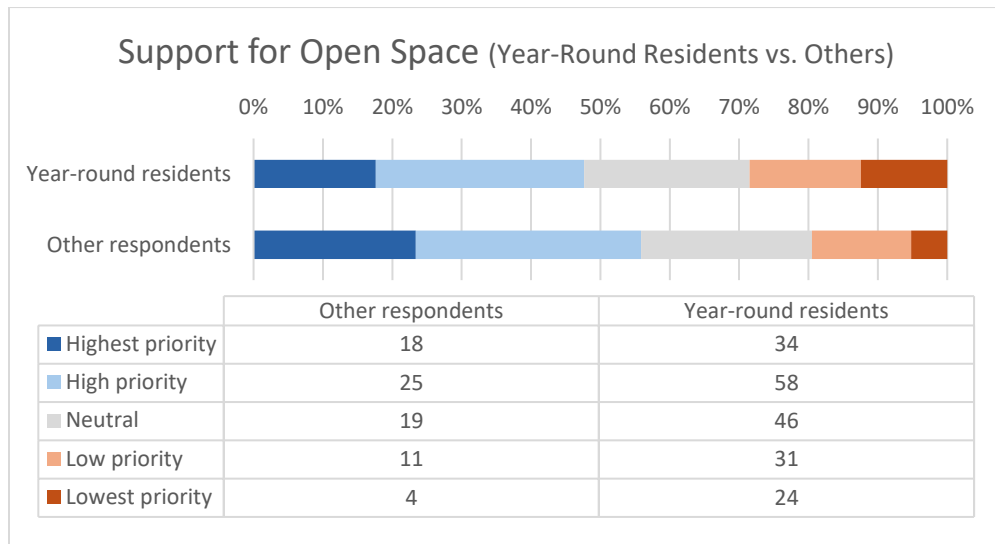
### Summary

The town of Casco is creating a Capital Investment Plan to guide their capital investments. A survey was published in order to better understand the public's priorities, values, and willingness to support future investments. The survey was conducted in June and July of 2025, and gathered 322 responses, 224 of which were from year-round residents. This document reviews the results of the survey, starting with a general analysis of all non-short answer questions. Next is a comparison of relative importance, satisfaction, opinions on current/historical funding, opinions on future funding, and willingness to increase property taxes of each area of potential capital investment. Finally, there is a short summary of answers to short answer questions.

### General Survey Analysis (year-round residents)

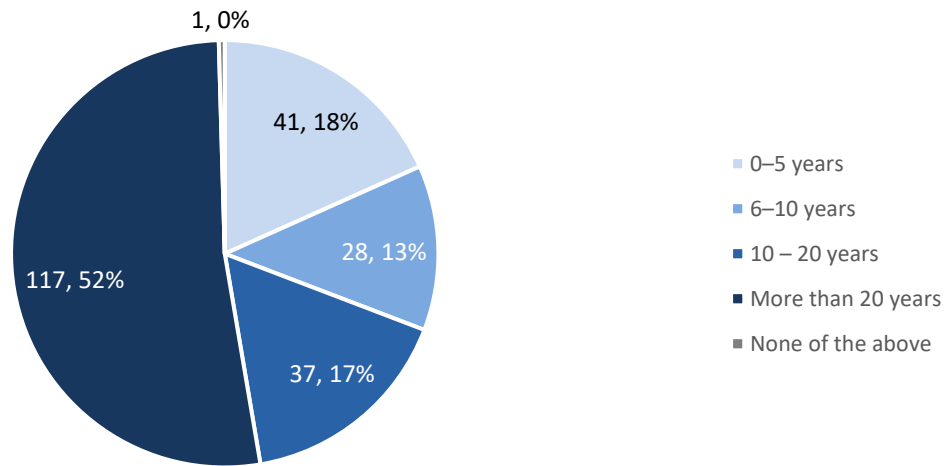
This survey analysis concerns the responses of year-round Casco residents unless otherwise marked. This group accounts for 70% of survey respondents. There were some differences between the responses of year-round and non-year-round residents. Across all questions, year-round residents generally prioritized roads/bridges and stormwater/drainage more than non-year-round residents. Non-year-round residents generally prioritized open space more than year-round residents (see "Support for Open Space" graph on next page). However, when asked if they'd be willing to pay more in property taxes to fund open space, non-year-round residents' answers were similar to those of year-round residents. Year-round residents were slightly more supportive of the town incurring debt to fund capital improvements than non-year-round residents.





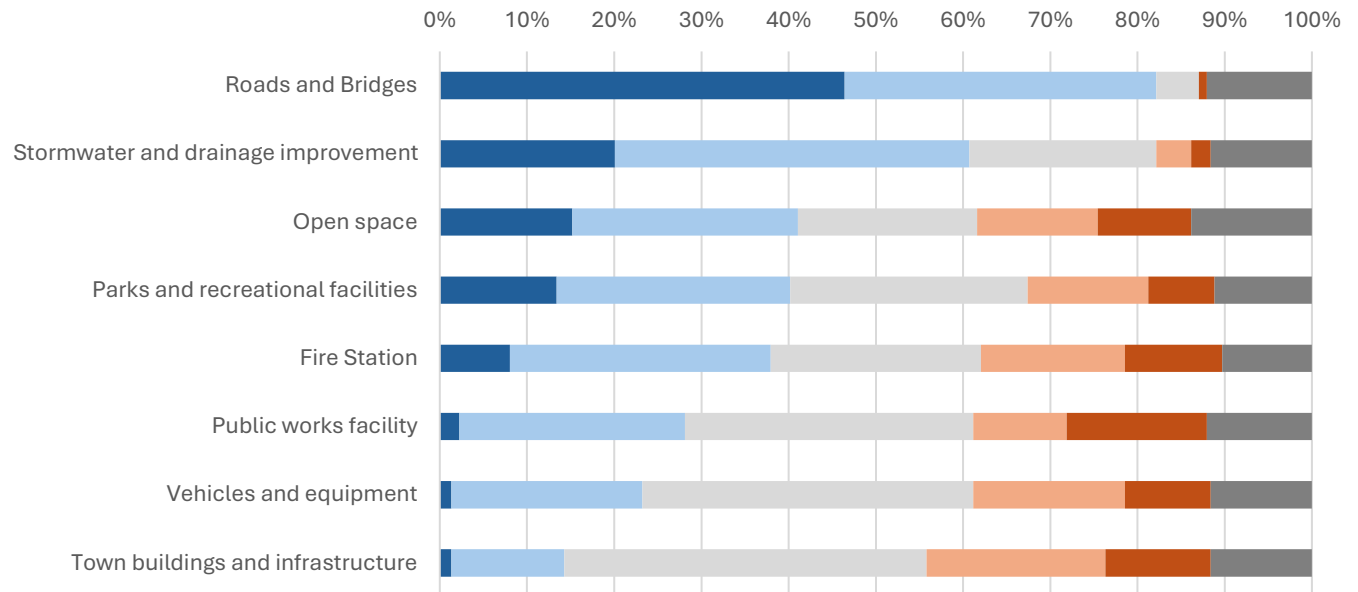
Overall, roads/bridges and stormwater/drainage were by far the areas that the most year-round resident respondents valued, were unsatisfied with the current state of, and would consider raising taxes to support. Recreational facilities and open space followed and then the fire station and the public works facility. Vehicles/equipment and town buildings/infrastructure had the least amount of support.

Q2. How long have you lived, worked, visited, or owned property in Casco?  
(year-round residents)



**Key takeaway:** The majority of year-round resident respondents have lived in Casco for over 20 years.

Q3. Please rank the following areas of capital investment in order of importance to you  
(year-round residents)

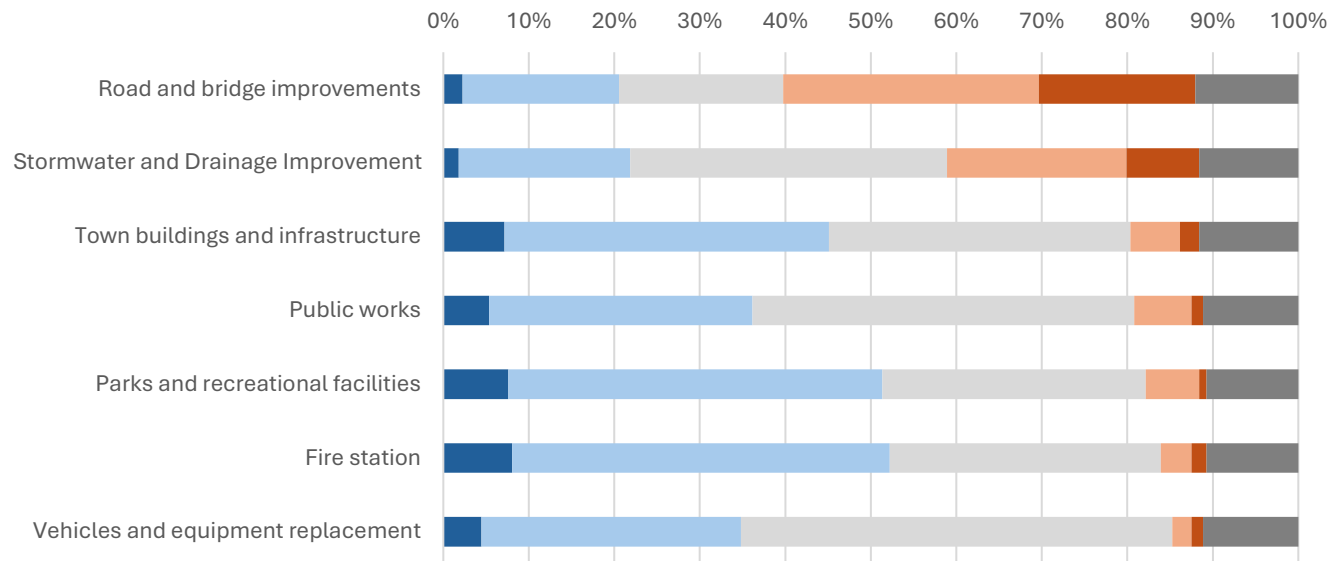


|                            | Town buildings and infrastructure | Vehicles and equipment | Public works facility | Fire Station | Parks and recreational facilities | Open space | Stormwater and drainage improvement | Roads and Bridges |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| ■ Highest priority         | 3                                 | 3                      | 5                     | 18           | 30                                | 34         | 45                                  | 104               |
| ■ High priority            | 29                                | 49                     | 58                    | 67           | 60                                | 58         | 91                                  | 80                |
| ■ Neutral                  | 93                                | 85                     | 74                    | 54           | 61                                | 46         | 48                                  | 11                |
| ■ Low priority             | 46                                | 39                     | 24                    | 37           | 31                                | 31         | 9                                   | 0                 |
| ■ Lowest priority          | 27                                | 22                     | 36                    | 25           | 17                                | 24         | 5                                   | 2                 |
| ■ No opinion or left blank | 26                                | 26                     | 27                    | 23           | 25                                | 31         | 26                                  | 27                |

**Key takeaways:**

- 82% of year-round residents rate **roads/bridges as a priority**
- 33% of year-round residents say that **town buildings/infrastructure are a low priority**
- **Fire station:** 38% of year-round residents say that the fire station is a priority, 24% are neutral, and 28% say that it is a low priority
- **Public works facility:** 28% of year-round residents say that the public works facility is a priority, 33% are neutral, and 27% say it is a low priority. Although a similar number of year-round residents rated the public works facility as high/highest priority and low/lowest priority, the cohort that rated it as a low priority was more skewed towards “lowest priority”.

Q5. How satisfied are you with the current state of the following in  
Casco?  
(year-round residents)

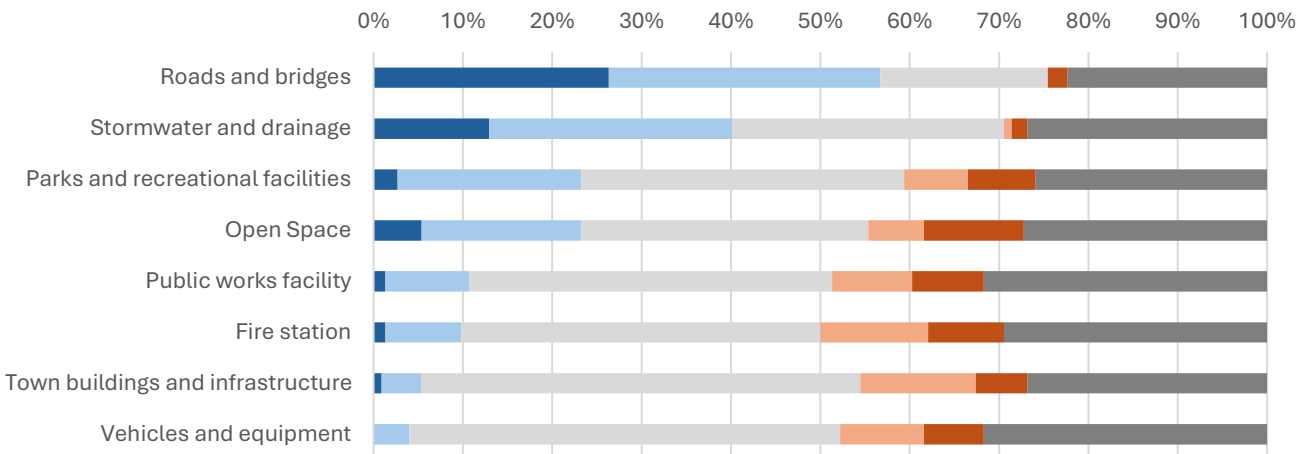


|                   | Vehicles and equipment replacement | Fire station | Parks and recreational facilities | Public works | Town buildings and infrastructure | Stormwater and Drainage Improvement | Road and bridge improvements |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Very Satisfied    | 10                                 | 18           | 17                                | 12           | 16                                | 4                                   | 5                            |
| Satisfied         | 68                                 | 99           | 98                                | 69           | 85                                | 45                                  | 41                           |
| Neutral           | 113                                | 71           | 69                                | 100          | 79                                | 83                                  | 43                           |
| Dissatisfied      | 5                                  | 8            | 14                                | 15           | 13                                | 47                                  | 67                           |
| Very Dissatisfied | 3                                  | 4            | 2                                 | 3            | 5                                 | 19                                  | 41                           |
| Blank             | 25                                 | 24           | 24                                | 25           | 26                                | 26                                  | 27                           |

**Key takeaways:**

- Year-round residents are **most dissatisfied with the current state of roads/bridges** (48% dissatisfied) and **stormwater/drainage** (29% dissatisfied)
- Year-round residents are **most satisfied with the current state of the fire station** (52% satisfied), **parks/recreational facilities** (51% satisfied), and **town buildings/infrastructure** (45% satisfied)
- **Fire station:** 52% of year-round residents are satisfied with the current fire station, 31% are neutral, and only 5% are dissatisfied.
- **Public works:** 36% of year-round residents are satisfied with the current state on the public works facility in Casco, 45% are neutral, and 8% are dissatisfied.

Q6. For each of the following areas of capital investment, please indicate your opinion of current and historical levels of spending.  
(year-round residents)



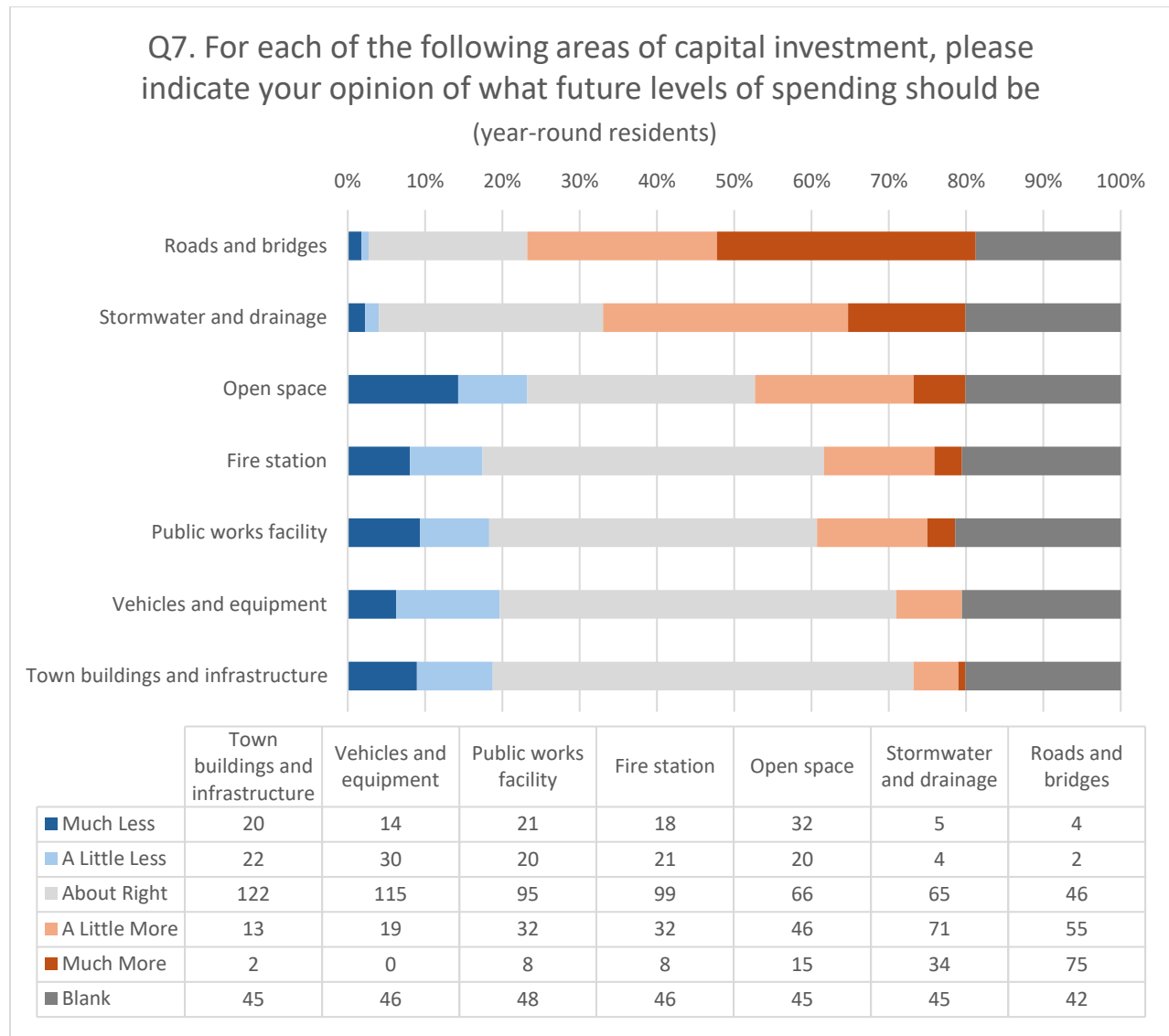
|                     | Vehicles and equipment | Town buildings and infrastructure | Fire station | Public works facility | Open Space | Parks and recreational facilities | Stormwater and drainage | Roads and bridges |
|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Far Too Little      | 0                      | 2                                 | 3            | 3                     | 12         | 6                                 | 29                      | 59                |
| Too Little          | 9                      | 10                                | 19           | 21                    | 40         | 46                                | 61                      | 68                |
| About Right         | 108                    | 110                               | 90           | 91                    | 72         | 81                                | 68                      | 42                |
| Too Much            | 21                     | 29                                | 27           | 20                    | 14         | 16                                | 2                       | 0                 |
| Far Too Much        | 15                     | 13                                | 19           | 18                    | 25         | 17                                | 4                       | 5                 |
| No opinion or blank | 71                     | 60                                | 66           | 71                    | 61         | 58                                | 60                      | 50                |

### Key takeaways:

- The greatest number of year-round residents believe that **too little has been spent on roads/bridges** (57%) and **stormwater/drainage** (40%) out of any category of capital investment
- A similar number of year-round residents believe that **too much has been spent on all other areas of capital investment** (15-21%), with a slightly larger number of people believing that **too much has been spent on the fire station** (21%). Of these, **open space was the most polarizing**, with only 32% believing that the right amount of money has been spent in this area.
- The greatest number of year-round residents were **satisfied with current/historic spending on town buildings & infrastructure** (49% think funding has been “about right”) and **vehicles & equipment** (48% think funding has been “about right”)

- **Fire station:** 9% of year-round residents believe that too little has been spent on the fire station, 40% are neutral, 21% believe that too much has been spent.
- **Public works:** 11% of year-round residents believe that too little has been on the public works facility, 41% are neutral, 17% believe that too much has been spent.
- This question had the **fewest number of respondents** out of any question on the survey, indicating perhaps a lack of understanding/knowledge about present/historic funding, a point that was brought up in several short answer responses.

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### Key takeaways:

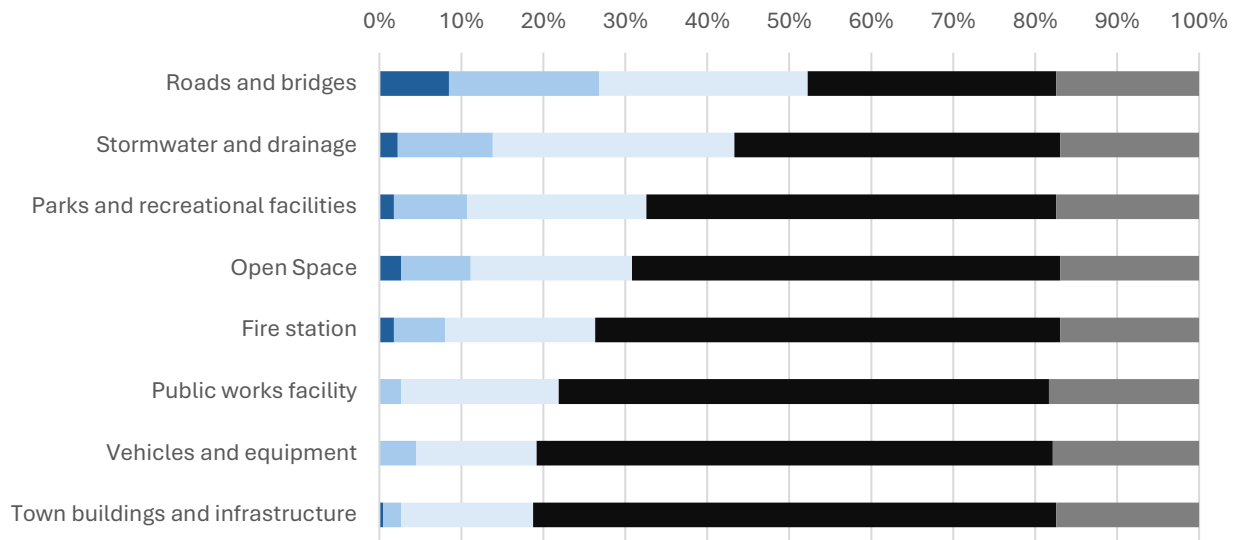
- The greatest number of year-round residents **believe more should be spent on roads/bridges (58%) and stormwater/drainage (47%)** in the future
- A similar number of year-round residents believe that **less should be spent on all other areas of capital investment (17-23%)**, with a slightly larger number of people believing **less should be spent on open space in the future (23%)**. **Open space was also the most polarizing**, with only 39% believing that the same amount of money has been spent in this area.
- The greatest number of year-round residents think the **same should continue to be spent on town buildings & infrastructure (54%) and vehicles & equipment (51%)**



- **Fire station:** 17% of year-round residents believe that less should be spent on the fire station, 44% believe spending should stay the same, 18% believe more should be spent
- **Public works:** 18% of year-round residents believe that less should be spent on the public works facility 42% believe spending should stay the same, 18% believe more should be spent

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Q8. For each of the following areas of capital investment, please indicate your willingness to pay more in property taxes for those (year-round residents)



|  | Town buildings and infrastructure | Vehicles and equipment | Public works facility | Fire station | Open Space | Parks and recreational facilities | Stormwater and drainage | Roads and bridges |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| ■ Much More (10% or more)              | 1                                 | 0                      | 0                     | 4            | 6          | 4                                 | 5                       | 19                |
| ■ Some More (5% to less than 10% more) | 5                                 | 10                     | 6                     | 14           | 19         | 20                                | 26                      | 41                |
| ■ A little More (up to 5% more)        | 36                                | 33                     | 43                    | 41           | 44         | 49                                | 66                      | 57                |
| ■ None                                 | 143                               | 141                    | 134                   | 127          | 117        | 112                               | 89                      | 68                |
| ■ Blank                                | 39                                | 40                     | 41                    | 38           | 38         | 39                                | 38                      | 39                |

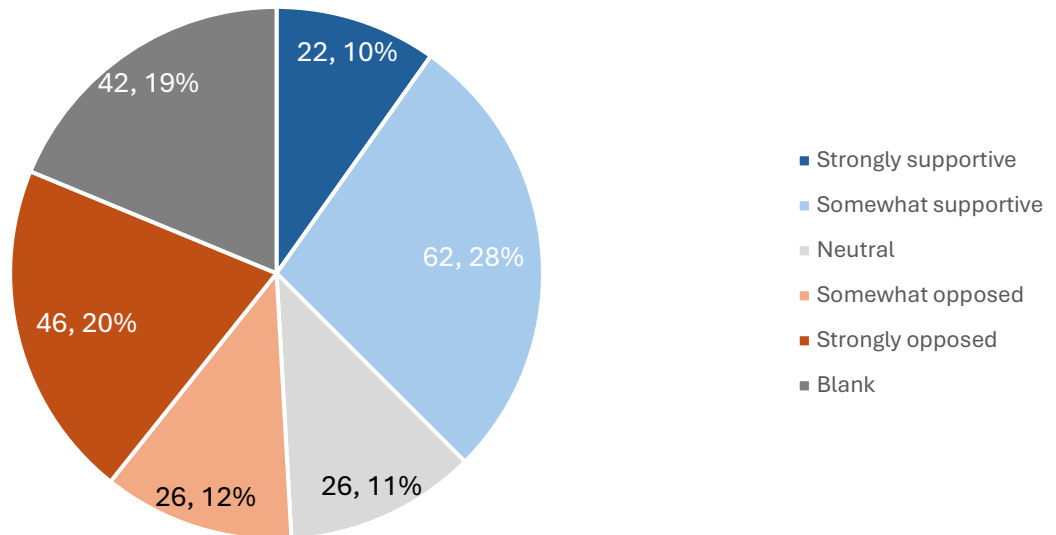
What are the priorities of year-round residents that would pay more in taxes in only 1-2 capital investment areas?

| Capital Investment Area         | Percent |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Roads and bridges               | 65%     |
| Stormwater & drainage           | 49%     |
| Fire station                    | 24%     |
| Open Space                      | 24%     |
| Fire station                    | 5%      |
| Public works facility           | 5%      |
| Town buildings & infrastructure | 0%      |
| Vehicles & equipment            | 0%      |

**Key takeaways:**

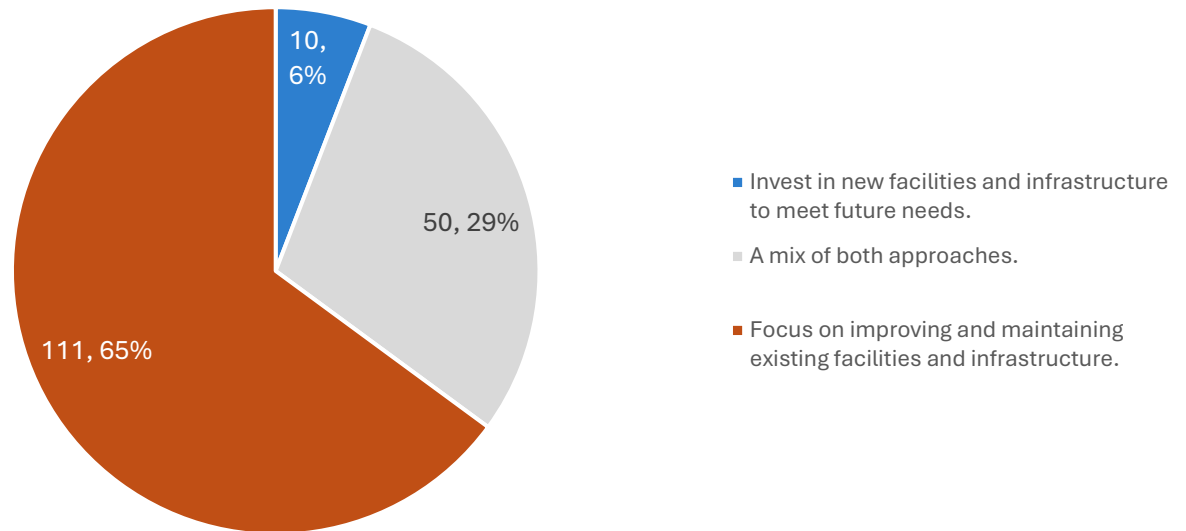
- The greatest number of year-round residents would **be willing to increase their taxes to fund road/bridge improvements** (52%) and **stormwater/drainage improvements** (43%). Both of these areas were also the most prioritized by residents that were only willing to increase taxes for 1 or 2 areas of capital improvement (65% and 49% respectively).
- The greatest number of year-round residents would **not be willing to increase their taxes to fund improvements to town buildings/infrastructure** (64% unwilling) or **vehicles/equipment** (63% unwilling).
- **Few year-round residents were willing to increase their taxes by 10% or more in any area** (14%), with 75% of those only willing to increase by much more in one area.
- **Fire Station:** 26% of year-round residents were willing to increase taxes to fund improvements to the fire station, 52% were not willing.
- **Public works:** 22% of year-round residents were willing to increase taxes to fund improvements to the public works facility, 60% were not willing. None were willing to increase their taxes by 10% or more to fund improvements to the public works facility.

Q9. How would you describe your willingness to support the town incurring debt by issuing bonds or using other financing options to fund high-priority capital improvements?  
(year-round residents)



**Key takeaways:** A slightly larger proportion 38% of year-round residents would be supportive of the town incurring debt by issuing bonds, compared to 32% who would be opposed.

Q10. If funding is limited, which of the following strategies would you prefer the town to prioritize?  
(year-round residents)



**Key takeaways:** A large majority of year-round residents (65%) prefer to focus on maintaining and improving existing facilities and infrastructure as opposed to investing in new facilities and infrastructure (6%).

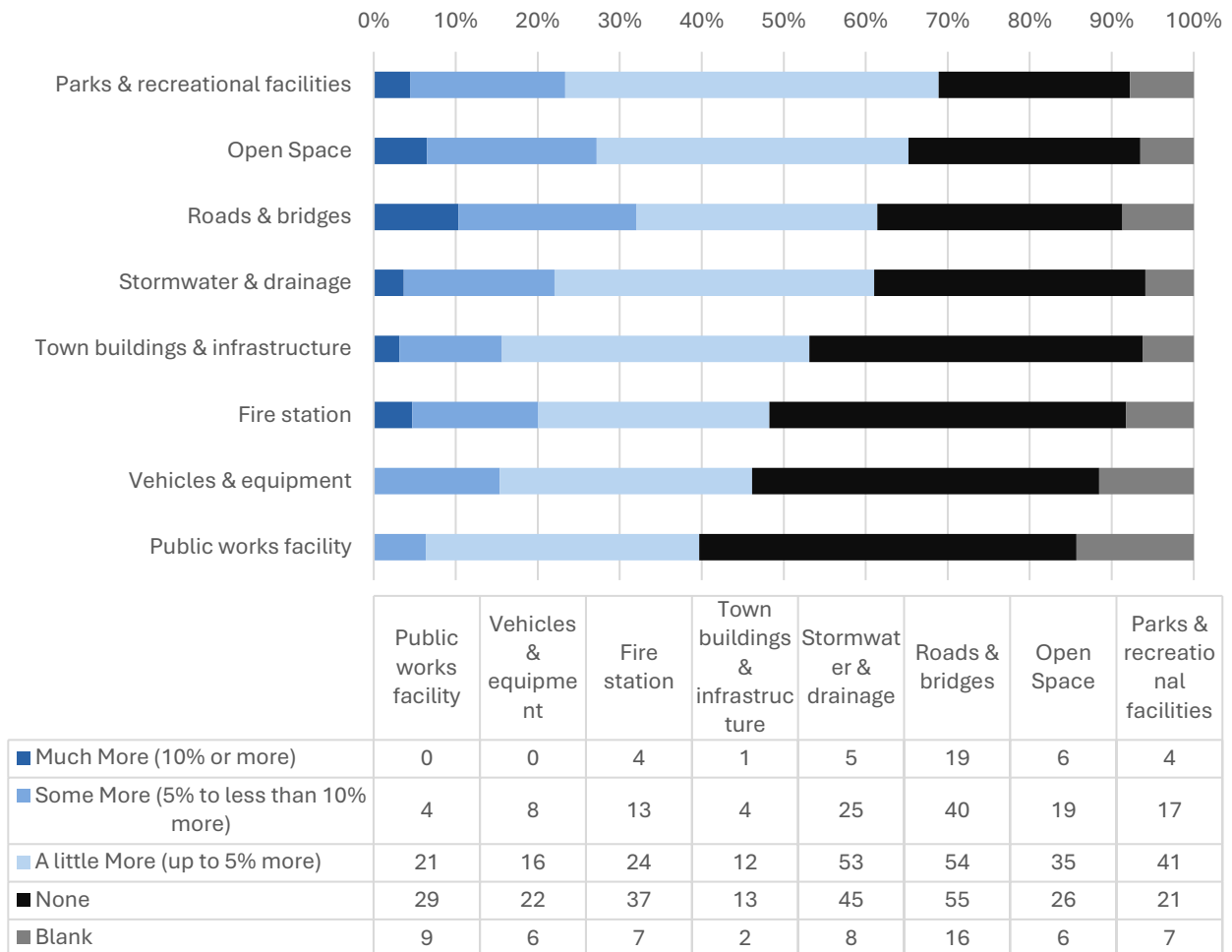
## Alignment

This section serves as a comparison of importance, satisfaction, opinions on current/historical funding, opinions on future funding, and willingness to increase property taxes for each area of potential capital investment. How willing were respondents to support more property taxes for capital improvements they consider important? What is the importance of capital investments to respondents who were willing to increase their taxes to pay for them? Generally, importance, satisfaction, opinions on current/historical funding, opinions on future funding, and willingness to increase property taxes were well aligned: if an area ranked high in importance, it ranked low in satisfaction and current/historical funding, and high in future funding and willingness to increase property taxes. A potential capital investment's perceived importance and respondent's willingness to increase property taxes were particularly well aligned.

As support for the town incurring debt to fund capital improvements was not broken down by areas of capital investment, this section also examines the support for incurring debt by the respondents that rated each potential capital investment as important or very important. Significantly more than half of respondents that valued parks/recreational facilities, the fire station, vehicles/equipment, and town buildings/facilities supported the town incurring debt to fund capital improvements, while less than half of those that valued roads and stormwater supported the town incurring debt.

## How willing are respondents to support more property taxes for capital improvements they consider important?

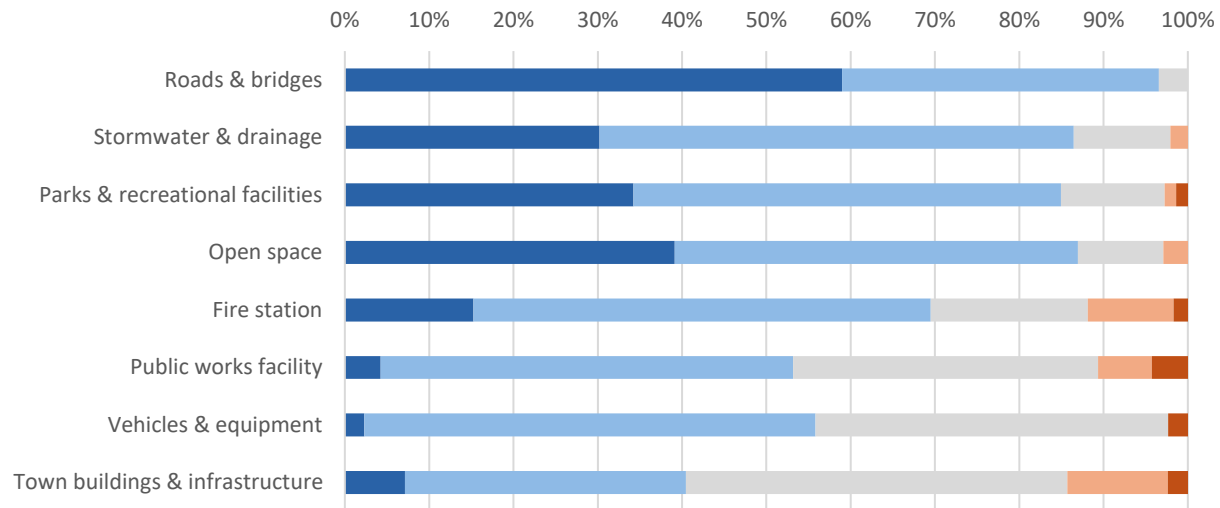
(year-round residents)



### Key takeaways:

- **Between 40% and 69% of respondents were willing to pay more in property taxes to support the areas that were important to them**, with only 40% (25 people) of those supporting the public works facility willing to pay more to fund improvements and 69% (60 people) of those supporting parks and recreational facilities willing to pay more to fund improvements.
- **Between 23% and 46% of respondents were not willing to pay more in property taxes to support the areas that were important to them**, with 23% (21 people) of respondents supporting parks & recreational facilities unwilling to increase their taxes to pay for improvements, and 46% (29 people) of respondents supporting the public works facility unwilling to pay more in taxes to fund improvements.

### What is the importance of capital investments to respondents who were willing to increase their taxes to pay for them?



|                    | Town buildings & infrastructure | Vehicles & equipment | Public works facility | Fire station | Open space | Parks & recreational facilities | Stormwater & drainage | Roads & bridges |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| ■ Highest priority | 3                               | 1                    | 2                     | 9            | 27         | 25                              | 29                    | 69              |
| ■ High priority    | 14                              | 23                   | 23                    | 32           | 33         | 37                              | 54                    | 44              |
| ■ Neutral          | 19                              | 18                   | 17                    | 11           | 7          | 9                               | 11                    | 4               |
| ■ Low priority     | 5                               | 0                    | 3                     | 6            | 2          | 1                               | 2                     | 0               |
| ■ Lowest priority  | 1                               | 1                    | 2                     | 1            | 0          | 1                               | 0                     | 0               |

#### Key takeaways:

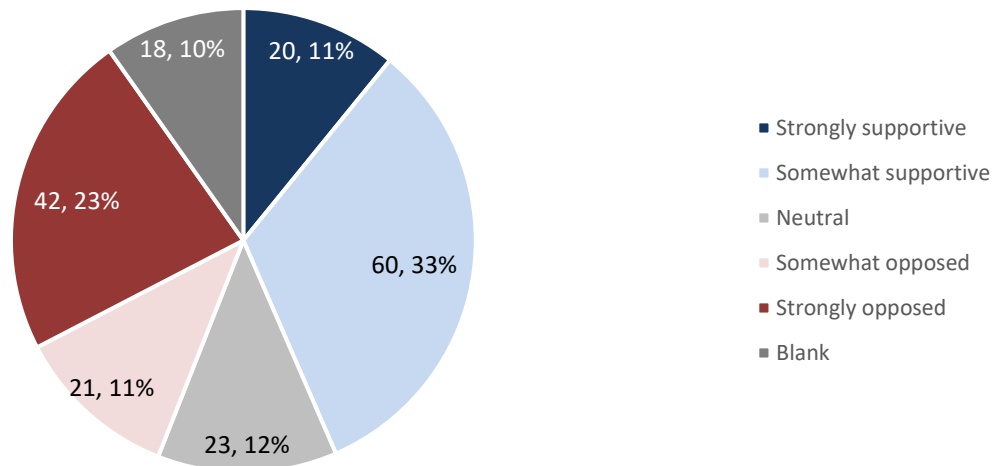
- **Most year-round residents that said they were willing to increase taxes to fund improvements ranked them as high or neutral priority. Few year-round residents were willing to increase taxes to pay for an area they marked as low priority.**
- 97% (113 people) of year-round residents who were willing to pay more in property taxes to fund roads & bridges marked roads & bridges as a high priority
- 40% (17 people) of year-round residents who were willing to pay more in property taxes to fund town buildings & infrastructure marked town buildings & infrastructure as a high priority, 14% (6 people) of year-round residents who were willing to pay more in taxes to fund town buildings & infrastructure marked them as low or lowest priority



## Roads & Bridges

|   | Rank          |   |   |             |   |   |              |   |
|---|---------------|---|---|-------------|---|---|--------------|---|
|   | 1             | 2 | 3 | 4           | 5 | 6 | 7            | 8 |
| <b>Importance</b>                       | X             |   |   |             |   |   |              |   |
|   | High priority |   |   | Neutral     |   |   | Low priority |   |
| <b>Satisfaction</b>                     |               |   |   |             |   |   | X            |   |
|   | Satisfied     |   |   | Neutral     |   |   | Unsatisfied  |   |
| <b>Current &amp; historical funding</b> |               |   |   |             |   |   |              | X |
|   | Too low       |   |   | About right |   |   | Too high     |   |
| <b>Future funding</b>                   | X             |   |   |             |   |   |              |   |
|   | Higher        |   |   | Same        |   |   | Lower        |   |
| <b>Tax increase willingness</b>         | X             |   |   |             |   |   |              |   |
|   | Willing       |   |   | Neutral     |   |   | Unwilling    |   |

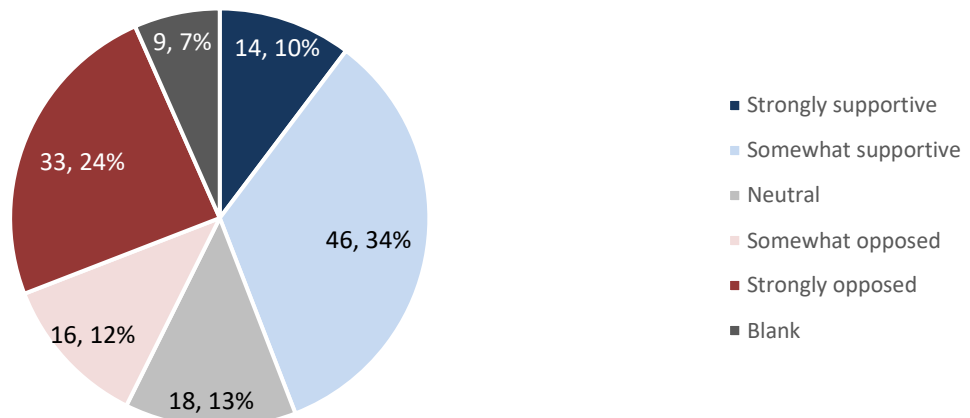
Are respondents that ranked roads & bridges as high priority/highest priority supportive of the town incurring debt?  
(year-round residents)



## Stormwater & Drainage Improvement

|   | Rank          |   |   |             |   |   |              |   |
|---|---------------|---|---|-------------|---|---|--------------|---|
|   | 1             | 2 | 3 | 4           | 5 | 6 | 7            | 8 |
| <b>Importance</b>                       |               | x |   |             |   |   |              |   |
|   | High priority |   |   | Neutral     |   |   | Low priority |   |
| <b>Satisfaction</b>                     |               |   |   |             |   | x |              |   |
|   | Satisfied     |   |   | Neutral     |   |   | Unsatisfied  |   |
| <b>Current &amp; historical funding</b> |               |   |   |             |   |   | x            |   |
|   | Too low       |   |   | About right |   |   | Too high     |   |
| <b>Future funding</b>                   |               | x |   |             |   |   |              |   |
|   | Higher        |   |   | Same        |   |   | Lower        |   |
| <b>Tax increase willingness</b>         |               | x |   |             |   |   |              |   |
|   | Willing       |   |   | Neutral     |   |   | Unwilling    |   |

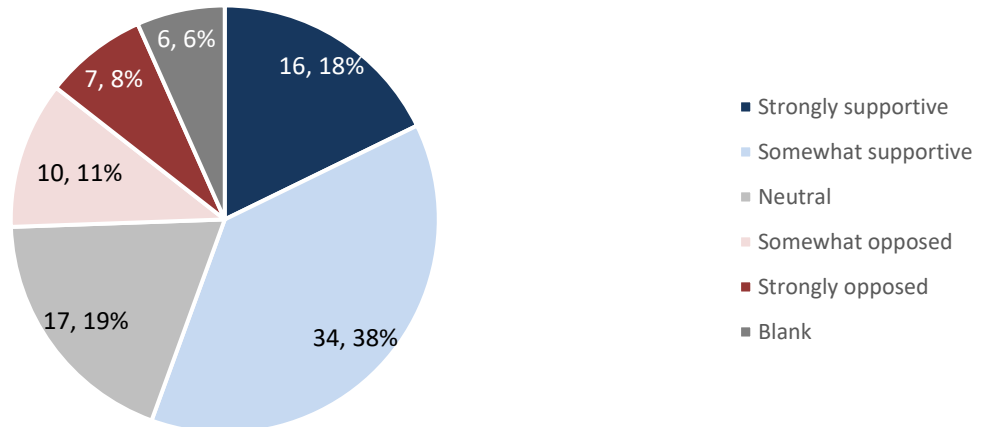
Are respondents that ranked stormwater improvements as high priority/highest priority supportive of the town incurring debt?  
(year-round residents)



## Parks & Recreational Facilities

|   | Rank          |   |   |             |   |   |              |   |
|---|---------------|---|---|-------------|---|---|--------------|---|
|   | 1             | 2 | 3 | 4           | 5 | 6 | 7            | 8 |
| <b>Importance</b>                       |               |   | x |             |   |   |              |   |
|   | High priority |   |   | Neutral     |   |   | Low priority |   |
| <b>Satisfaction</b>                     |               | x |   |             |   |   |              |   |
|   | Satisfied     |   |   | Neutral     |   |   | Unsatisfied  |   |
| <b>Current &amp; historical funding</b> |               |   |   |             |   | x |              |   |
|   | Too low       |   |   | About right |   |   | Too high     |   |
| <b>Future funding</b>                   |               |   |   |             |   |   |              |   |
|   | Higher        |   |   | Same        |   |   | Lower        |   |
| <b>Tax increase willingness</b>         |               |   | x |             |   |   |              |   |
|   | Willing       |   |   | Neutral     |   |   | Unwilling    |   |

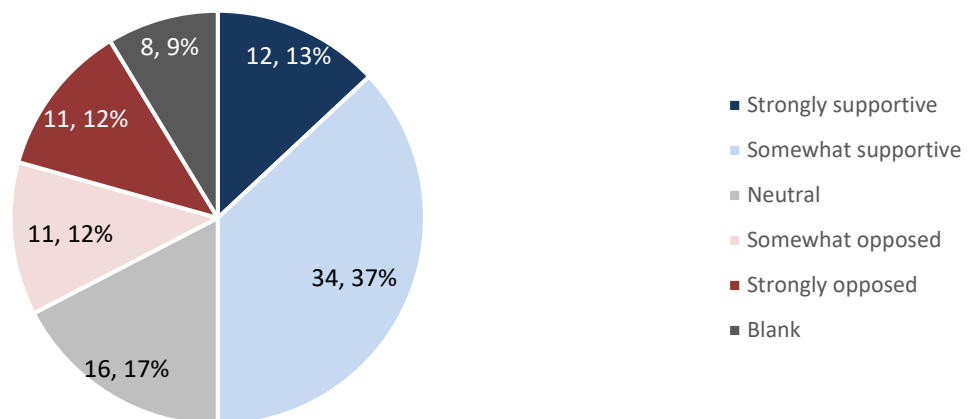
Are respondents that ranked parks & recreational facilities as high priority/highest priority supportive of the town incurring debt?  
(year-round residents)



## Open Space

|                              | Rank          |   |   |             |   |              |   |   |
|------------------------------|---------------|---|---|-------------|---|--------------|---|---|
|                              | 1             | 2 | 3 | 4           | 5 | 6            | 7 | 8 |
| Importance                   |               |   |   | x           |   |              |   |   |
|                              | High priority |   |   | Neutral     |   | Low priority |   |   |
| Satisfaction                 |               |   |   |             |   |              |   |   |
|                              | Satisfied     |   |   | Neutral     |   | Unsatisfied  |   |   |
| Current & historical funding |               |   |   |             | x |              |   |   |
|                              | Too low       |   |   | About right |   | Too high     |   |   |
| Future funding               |               |   | x |             |   |              |   |   |
|                              | Higher        |   |   | Same        |   | Lower        |   |   |
| Tax increase willingness     |               |   |   | x           |   |              |   |   |
|                              | Willing       |   |   | Neutral     |   | Unwilling    |   |   |

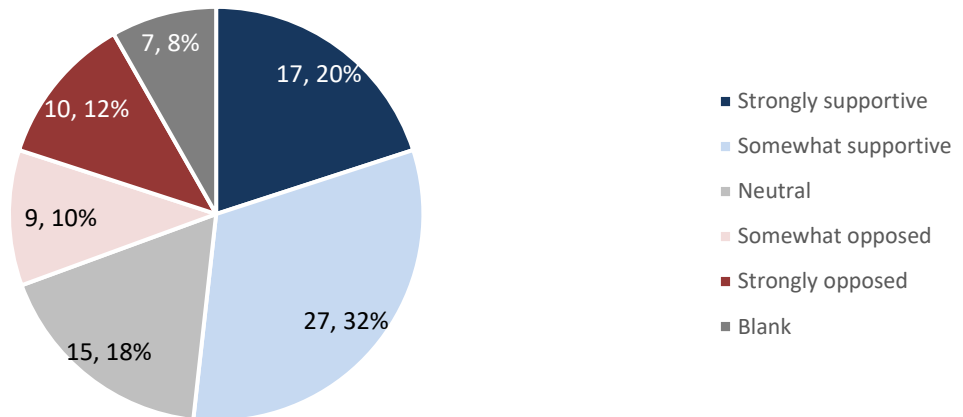
Are respondents that ranked open space as high priority/highest priority supportive of the town incurring debt?  
(year-round residents)



## Fire Station

|   | Rank          |   |             |         |   |              |   |   |
|---|---------------|---|-------------|---------|---|--------------|---|---|
|   | 1             | 2 | 3           | 4       | 5 | 6            | 7 | 8 |
| <b>Importance</b>                       |               |   |             |         | x |              |   |   |
|   | High priority |   |             | Neutral |   | Low priority |   |   |
| <b>Satisfaction</b>                     | x             |   |             |         |   |              |   |   |
|   | Satisfied     |   | Neutral     |         |   | Unsatisfied  |   |   |
| <b>Current &amp; historical funding</b> |               | x |             |         |   |              |   |   |
|   | Too low       |   | About right |         |   | Too high     |   |   |
| <b>Future funding</b>                   |               |   |             | x       |   |              |   |   |
|   | Higher        |   | Same        |         |   | Lower        |   |   |
| <b>Tax increase willingness</b>         |               |   |             |         | x |              |   |   |
|   | Willing       |   | Neutral     |         |   | Unwilling    |   |   |

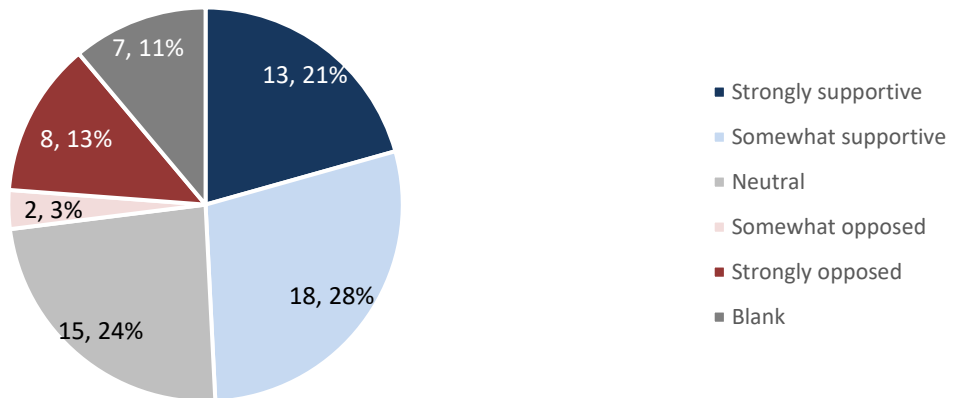
Are respondents that ranked the fire station as high priority/highest priority supportive of the town incurring debt?  
(year-round residents)



## Public Works Facility

|   | Rank          |   |   |             |   |   |              |   |
|---|---------------|---|---|-------------|---|---|--------------|---|
|   | 1             | 2 | 3 | 4           | 5 | 6 | 7            | 8 |
| <b>Importance</b>                       |               |   |   |             |   |   | X            |   |
|   | High priority |   |   | Neutral     |   |   | Low priority |   |
| <b>Satisfaction</b>                     |               |   |   |             | X |   |              |   |
|   | Satisfied     |   |   | Neutral     |   |   | Unsatisfied  |   |
| <b>Current &amp; historical funding</b> |               |   |   | X           |   |   |              |   |
|   | Too low       |   |   | About right |   |   | Too high     |   |
| <b>Future funding</b>                   |               |   |   |             | X |   |              |   |
|   | Higher        |   |   | Same        |   |   | Lower        |   |
| <b>Tax increase willingness</b>         |               |   |   |             |   |   | X            |   |
|   | Willing       |   |   | Neutral     |   |   | Unwilling    |   |

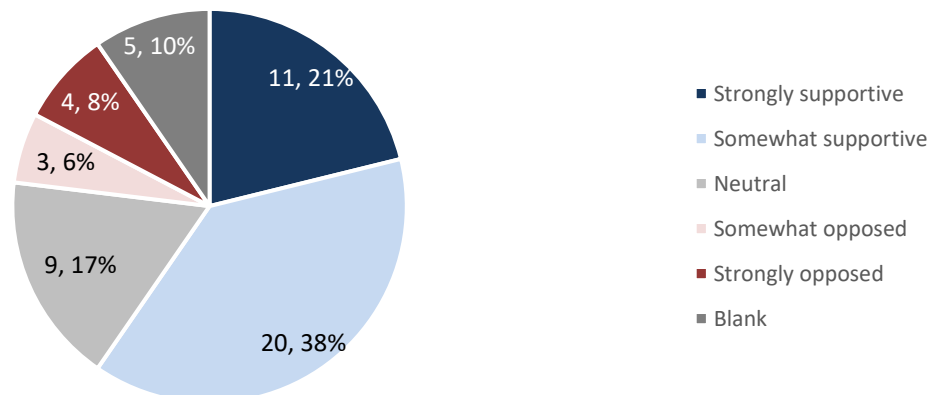
Are respondents that ranked public works as high priority/highest priority supportive of the town incurring debt?  
(year-round residents)



## Vehicles & Equipment

|   | Rank          |   |             |         |   |   |              |   |
|---|---------------|---|-------------|---------|---|---|--------------|---|
|   | 1             | 2 | 3           | 4       | 5 | 6 | 7            | 8 |
| <b>Importance</b>                       |               |   |             |         |   | x |              |   |
|   | High priority |   |             | Neutral |   |   | Low priority |   |
| <b>Satisfaction</b>                     |               |   |             | x       |   |   |              |   |
|   | Satisfied     |   |             | Neutral |   |   | Unsatisfied  |   |
| <b>Current &amp; historical funding</b> | x             |   |             |         |   |   |              |   |
|   | Too low       |   | About right |         |   |   | Too high     |   |
| <b>Future funding</b>                   |               |   |             |         |   | x |              |   |
|   | Higher        |   | Same        |         |   |   | Lower        |   |
| <b>Tax increase willingness</b>         |               |   |             |         |   |   | x            |   |
|   | Willing       |   |             | Neutral |   |   | Unwilling    |   |

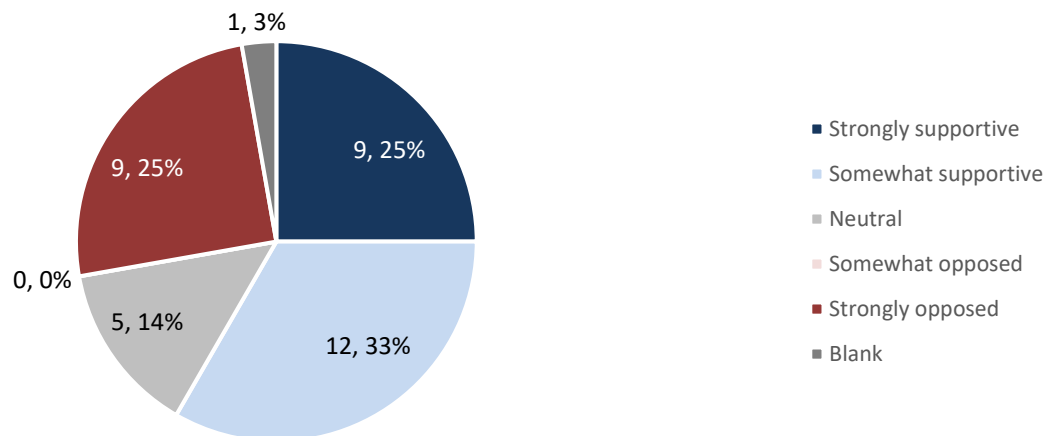
Are respondents that ranked public works as high priority/highest priority supportive of the town incurring debt?  
(year-round residents)



## Town buildings & infrastructure

|   | Rank          |   |   |             |   |   |              |   |
|---|---------------|---|---|-------------|---|---|--------------|---|
|   | 1             | 2 | 3 | 4           | 5 | 6 | 7            | 8 |
| <b>Importance</b>                       |               |   |   |             |   |   |              | X |
|   | High priority |   |   | Neutral     |   |   | Low priority |   |
| <b>Satisfaction</b>                     |               |   | X |             |   |   |              |   |
|   | Satisfied     |   |   | Neutral     |   |   | Unsatisfied  |   |
| <b>Current &amp; historical funding</b> |               |   | X |             |   |   |              |   |
|   | Too low       |   |   | About right |   |   | Too high     |   |
| <b>Future funding</b>                   |               |   |   |             |   |   | X            |   |
|   | Higher        |   |   | Same        |   |   | Lower        |   |
| <b>Tax increase willingness</b>         |               |   |   |             |   |   |              | X |
|   | Willing       |   |   | Neutral     |   |   | Unwilling    |   |

Are respondents that ranked town buildings & infrastructure as high priority/highest priority supportive of the town incurring debt?  
(year-round residents)





## Short Answer Responses

### *Roads:*

Several respondents that prioritized roads mentioned state roads in their comments; however it was not a significant portion of respondents, and some of these respondents also mentioned town roads in their comments or acknowledged that the town would have to work with the state. Private roads were also mentioned several times by both residents advocating for and against town maintenance of private roads.

### *Fire Station:*

Short answer responses showed some confusion around why a new fire station was needed, such as “why do we need a new fire station?” and “fire station appears adequate”. In addition to questions around the necessity of the fire station, several respondents had questions about the South Casco fire station and how it would factor into potential investments.

### *Public Works:*

There were several comments indicating a lack of education around the need for investment in a public works facility, such as “need to see proof that a full public works department makes sense” and “haven’t heard any justification for improving or adding a public works facility”.

### *Tax Increases:*

Around 23% of year-round resident respondents said that they would not be willing to increase taxes to fund any capital investment, several citing recent increases in taxes. Around 60% of year-round residents reported that they would be willing to increase taxes by some amount for at least one of the listed capital investments.