

Casco Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Community Engagement Report

October 2025



1 Introduction & Scope

1.2 Purpose of the Report

This report summarizes the community engagement process and findings that were developed to inform the Town of Casco's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) process. The purpose of this effort was to better understand residents' priorities, values, and willingness to support future capital investments in the town's infrastructure, facilities, and public services.

1.3 Overview of the Process and Engagement Effort

The Town of Casco is developing a Capital Improvement Plan to guide future investments in key municipal assets, such as roads and bridges, stormwater infrastructure, town buildings, and public spaces. To ensure that the plan reflects community priorities, the Town partnered with the Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) to conduct a public survey and host community forums to gather input from residents.

1.4 Goals

The engagement process was designed to:

- Identify public sentiment and preferences about capital spending priorities.
- Understand how long-term and seasonal residents view the Town's infrastructure needs.
- Strengthening transparency and trust in the CIP process by actively involving the community.

1.5 Summary of Schedule and Process

GPCOG collaborated closely with the CIP Ad Hoc Committee over the course of several months to guide the engagement process and ensure alignment with community priorities.

Committee Meetings:

April 9, 2025	Initial meeting to establish engagement goals and discuss potential approaches.
April 30, 2025	Session focused on reviewing and finalizing survey questions.
August 26, 2025	Meeting to review preliminary findings and discuss community feedback.

Public Engagement Events:

September 9, 2025	In-person community forum was held to gather input from residents.
September 18, 2025	A virtual community forum was conducted to ensure broader participation and accessibility.

2 Engagement Activities

2.1 Community Survey

2.1.1 Objectives and Methodology

The survey aimed to gauge residents' priorities for capital investments, measure satisfaction with existing infrastructure, and assess willingness to support future spending. It was distributed in June and July 2025 both digitally and in print, using outreach methods to ensure wide accessibility.

2.1.2 Partnership and Support from Town Staff

Town staff supported the effort by helping to promote the survey through the Casco Town Hall, the local library, community center, and grocery stores in Casco and neighboring towns. In addition, postcards including the survey QR code were mailed to all the residents.

2.1.3 Participation Overview

The survey received 322 total responses, of which 224 were from year-round residents. These respondents represent approximately seven percent (7%) of Casco's adult population—a strong participation rate for a municipal survey of this scope.

2.1.4 Focus on Year-Round Residents

The analysis paid particular attention to year-round residents, who are most likely to be active voters and taxpayers. Comparisons were also made between seasonal and long-term residents to explore how length of residency influenced priorities and willingness to invest in town infrastructure.

2.2 Community Forums and Meetings

2.2.1 Dates, Format, and Purpose

Two public forums were held to share survey findings and gather more feedback:

September 9, 2025	In-person community forum, at Casco Community Center, was held to gather input from residents.
September 18, 2025	A virtual community forum, hosted via Zoom, was conducted to ensure broader participation and accessibility.

Both sessions were designed to foster discussion about priorities and tradeoffs in the town's capital planning.

2.2.2 Attendance and Engagement Levels

Together, the forums drew a mix of year-round and seasonal residents, reflecting a cross-section of the community. Attendance levels were moderate but highly engaged, with residents asking detailed questions about roads, drainage, and recreation facilities.

2.2.3 Key Themes and Takeaways

Residents generally expressed agreement that Casco should focus on maintaining and improving its core infrastructure before pursuing any expansion of facilities. Key takeaways from the feedback included a strong appreciation for the transparency of the process, interest in receiving ongoing updates about the development of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), and a desire for greater public education on funding mechanisms and project costs.

2.2.4 Recording and Documentation

The in-person meeting was documented, and virtual session was recorded for transparency and future reference. Notes and summaries are provided in the Appendix.

3 Survey Analysis

3.1 Overview of Analysis Approach

The analysis of survey results, conducted by GPCOG staff, focused on identifying patterns across resident types, length of association with the town, and spending preferences. Responses were reviewed both quantitatively and qualitatively. What follows is a summary of the analysis. For more detail, please refer to the survey analysis attached at Appendix B.

3.2 Demographic Breakdown

A total of 322 individuals took part in the survey. Of these, 224 respondents (approximately 70%) identified as year-round residents of Casco. Notably, about half of all respondents reported having lived in the community for 20 years or longer, indicating strong representation from long-term residents. In the discussion of findings below, the focus is on these year-round residents who are most likely to be both property taxpayers and voters.

3.3 Key Findings and Trends

Survey results show that roads and bridges were identified as the top priority with 93% of those responding rating them as a high or highest priority. Stormwater and drainage improvements followed, receiving 68% of high or highest priority ratings. Parks, recreation facilities, and open space were identified as secondary priorities, while vehicles and equipment as well as town buildings and infrastructure upgrades were considered the lowest priorities among respondents.

3.4 Satisfaction Levels

Respondents reported the highest levels of satisfaction with the Fire Station (52%), Parks and Recreation facilities (51%), and Town Buildings (45%). Conversely, the lowest levels of satisfaction were associated with Roads and Bridges, with 48% of respondents expressing dissatisfaction, followed by Stormwater and Drainage, where 29% reported dissatisfaction.

3.5 Willingness to Pay

Most respondents showed a willingness to pay more for improvements to roads (52%) and stormwater infrastructure (43%), the same categories they cited as their highest priorities. However, most respondents were not willing to pay more for town buildings (64%) or vehicles and equipment (63%). Overall, there was limited support for a tax increase of 10% or more, and 23% of respondents expressed opposition to any tax increase, citing recent tax hikes as their primary concern.

3.6 Length of Residency and Priorities

Long-term residents—those who have lived in Casco for 20 years or more—expressed greater support for infrastructure-related investments, particularly in roads and drainage. In contrast, seasonal residents tended to prioritize parks and open space as their primary areas of interest.

3.7 Open-Ended Feedback

Key themes emerging from the written comments included concerns about road maintenance and stormwater management, a desire for cost efficiency and clearer communication about how projects are selected, and requests for greater transparency and public education related to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) process.

4 Conclusions

The engagement effort successfully reached more than 300 residents, representing a level of participation significantly higher than is typical for a planning process of this nature. The survey gathered input from over 200 year-round residents, ensuring strong representation of those most directly affected by local spending decisions.

Year-round residents primarily emphasized the importance of infrastructure maintenance, while seasonal residents placed greater value on environmental and recreational amenities. Across all groups, participants expressed a strong interest in continued communication about how their feedback will influence future capital planning and spending decisions.

About the fire station and public works facility, two projects of particular interest to the town in commissioning the survey, the data show relatively little support for more spending, taxes, or debt for these projects. A more nuanced interpretation is that the town has more work to do to explain why the projects are needed.

Respondents showed a willingness either to reorient spending and/or incur *some* more spending for things they consider high priorities. Roads and stormwater infrastructure are the most obvious as people meet them in their daily lives, while other kinds of facilities and uses may not be as “front of mind.”

By engaging in this survey and the community forums, the town started a meaningful dialogue on its future capital needs and challenges. We encourage that continue.

5 Next Steps

5.1 Communication

The Town should continue providing updates through its website, newsletters, and public meetings to support community awareness and engagement. Communications should emphasize the active role residents play in shaping capital priorities, highlighting this as a collective achievement for Casco. It is also important to acknowledge existing fiscal challenges while clearly conveying how future investments will be prioritized strategically to maximize community benefit.

5.2 Education

To support transparency and understanding, the Town should share clear information on the evaluations already conducted for municipal facilities and infrastructure. Remaining information gaps and next steps in the planning process should be identified and communicated. Additionally, the Town should develop accessible visuals and concise summaries to help residents easily follow progress and stay informed about upcoming initiatives.

5.3 Ongoing Dialogue

The Town should sustain engagement efforts through open houses, community events, and Selectboard meetings. Opportunities for interactive education on municipal funding and budgeting should be explored to deepen public understanding of the Capital Improvement Program. Continued transparency and regular updates will be essential as projects move forward, ensuring residents stay informed and involved throughout implementation.

6 Appendices

Appendix A: Survey instrument and data tables

Appendix B: Casco Capital Improvement Plan Survey Analysis report

Appendix C: Forum summaries and attendance

Appendix D: Acknowledgments

Appendix A: Survey questions and data

A. Demographics and Background

1. What best describes your relationship to the Town of Casco? (select only one)
 - Year-round resident
 - Seasonal resident
 - Business owner
 - Property owner
 - Visitor
 - Other (please specify): _____
2. How long have you lived, worked, visited, or owned property in Casco?
 - 0–5 years
 - 6–10 years
 - 10 – 20 years
 - More than 20 years

B. Community Priorities

3. Please rank the following areas of capital investment in order of importance to you (**highest priority, high priority, neutral, low priority, lowest priority, no opinion**):
 - Road and bridge improvements
 - Fire station improvements.
 - Public works facility improvements
 - Parks and recreational facilities
 - Town buildings and infrastructure
 - Stormwater and drainage improvements
 - Vehicles and equipment replacement
 - Open Space
 - Library (Tony to ask Town Manager if this should be added)
 - Other
4. Are there other areas you believe should be prioritized for capital investment?
 - [Open text box]

C. Public Facilities and Services

5. How satisfied are you with the current state of the following in Casco?
(*Rate on a scale: Very Satisfied, Satisfied, Neutral, Dissatisfied, Very Dissatisfied*)
 - Road and bridge improvements
 - Fire station improvements.
 - Public works facility improvements
 - Parks and recreational facilities
 - Town buildings and infrastructure
 - Stormwater and drainage improvements
 - Vehicles and equipment replacement
 - Open Space
 - Library (Tony to ask Town Manager if this should be added)
 - Other

D. Current and Historical Community Spending

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6. For each of the following areas of capital investment, please indicate your opinion of current and historical levels of spending (Far too little (or far less than needed), too little, about right, too much, far too much, no opinion)

E. Future Community Spending

7. For each of the following areas of capital investment, please indicate your opinion of what future levels of spending should be (Far too little (or far less than needed), too little, about right, too much, far too much, no opinion)

F. Community Investment Levels

8. For each of the following areas of capital investment, please indicate your willingness to pay more in property taxes for those (Much more (10% or more), some more (5% to less than 10% more), a little more (up to 5% more), none)

G. Public Facilities and Services

9. How satisfied are you with the current state of the following in Casco?

(Rate on a scale: Very Satisfied, Satisfied, Neutral, Dissatisfied, Very Dissatisfied)

- Road and bridge improvements
- Fire station improvements.
- Public works facility improvements
- Parks and recreational facilities
- Town buildings and infrastructure
- Stormwater and drainage improvements
- Vehicles and equipment replacement
- Open Space
- Other

H. Funding and Financial Considerations

10. 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?

(Rate on a scale: Strongly supportive, somewhat supportive, neutral, somewhat opposed, strongly opposed)

11. If funding is limited, which of the following strategies would you prefer the town to prioritize? (select one)

- Focus on improving and maintaining existing facilities and infrastructure.
- Invest in new facilities and infrastructure to meet future needs.
- A mix of both approaches.

I. Open Feedback

12. What other specific improvements or projects would you like to see included in Casco's capital improvement plan?

- [Open text box]

13. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions regarding the town's priorities?

- [Open text box]

NOTE: Survey data provided in a separate Excel workbook file.

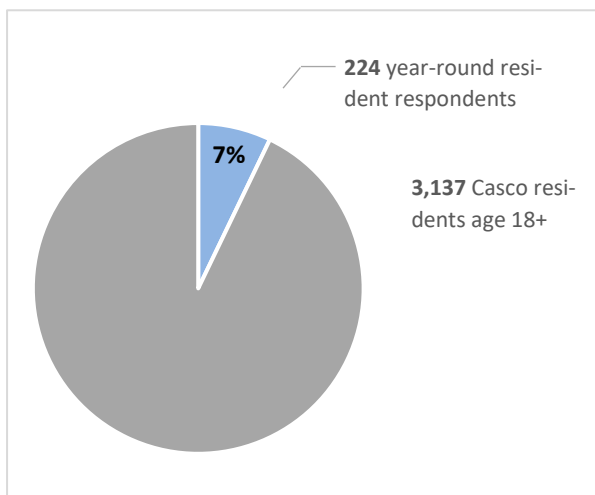
Appendix B: Survey analysis report

Casco Capital Improvement Plan Survey Analysis

Summary

The Town of Casco is creating a Capital Improvement Plan to guide their capital investments. A survey was published 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. Those 224 year-round residents account for 7% of Casco residents over the age of 18.

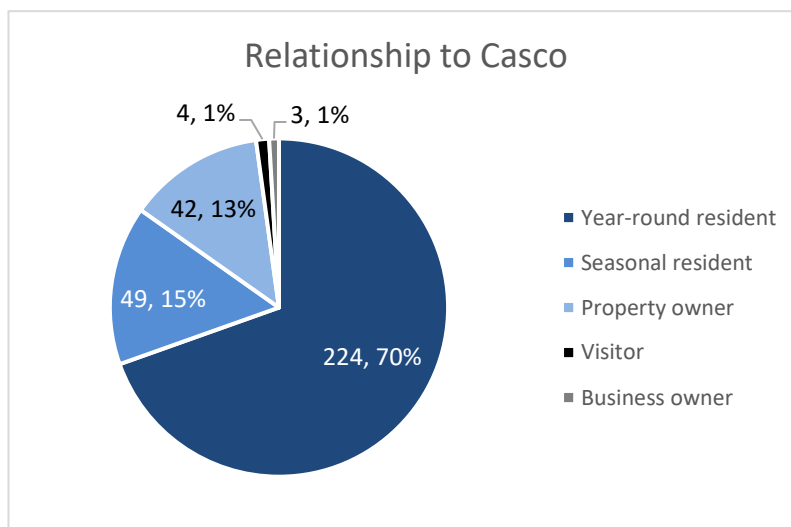
This document reviews the results of the survey, starting with a general analysis of all non-short answer questions. Next is a comparison of relative importance, satisfaction, opinions on current/historical funding, opinions on future funding, and willingness to increase property taxes of each area of potential capital investment. Finally, there is a brief 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. In general, year-round residents were slightly more supportive of the town incurring debt to fund capital improvements than non-year-round residents.

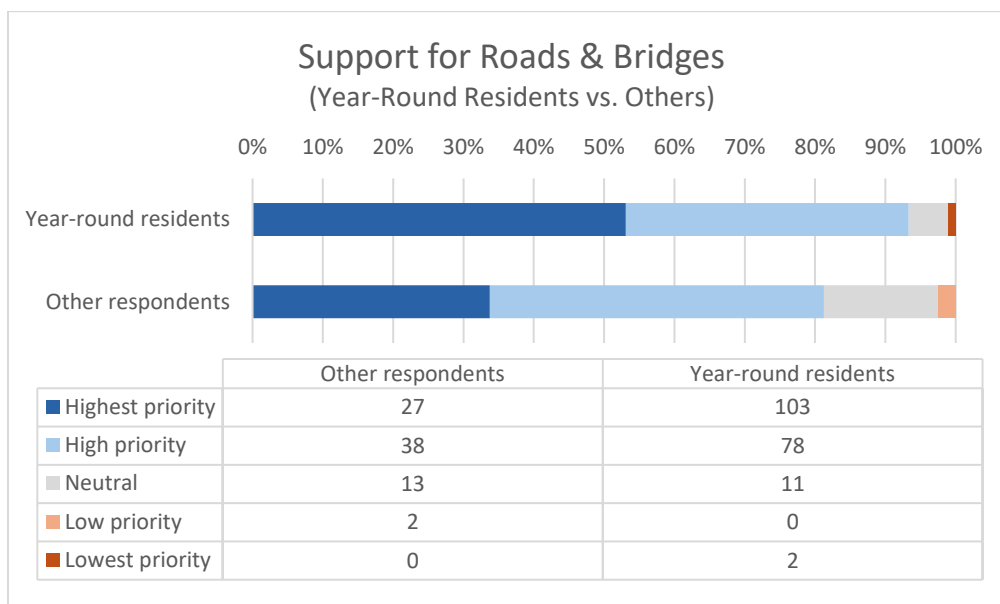


While roads & bridges were the highest priority across all questions for both year-round residents and non-year-round residents, year-round residents were even more supportive of roads and bridges than non-year round

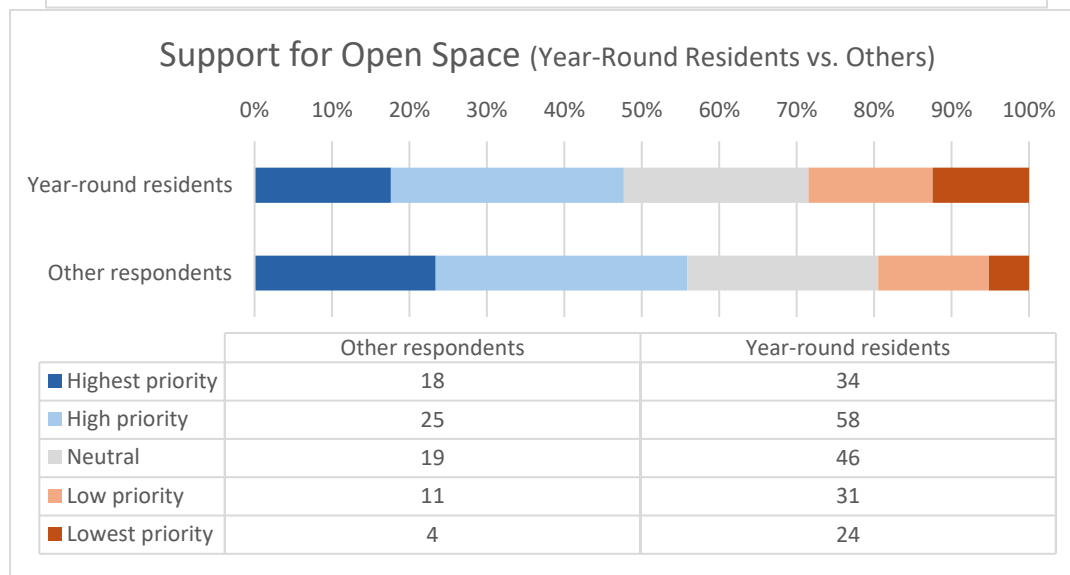
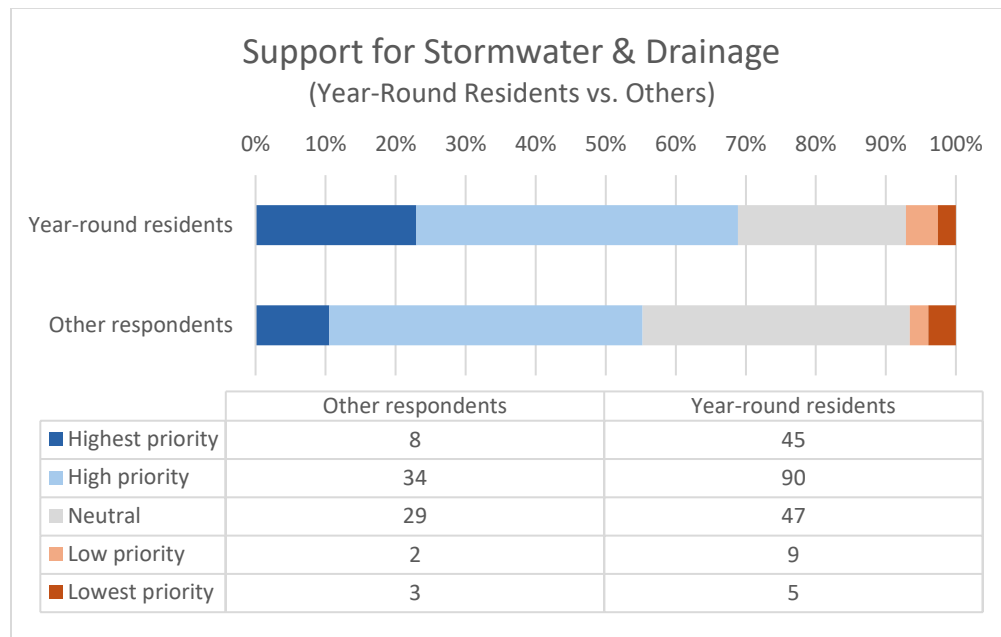
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residents (93% of year-round residents expressing an opinion rated roads & bridges as “high priority” or “highest priority” vs. 81% of non-year-round residents, 64% of year-round residents willing to increase taxes for roads/bridges vs. 53% of non-year-round residents). Though a majority of both groups also valued stormwater/drainage, it was a higher priority for year-round residents than non-year-round residents (68% of year-round residents rated stormwater/drainage as “high priority” or “highest priority” vs. 53% of non-year-round residents, 52% of year-round residents willing to increase taxes to improve stormwater/drainage vs. 38% of non-year round residents).

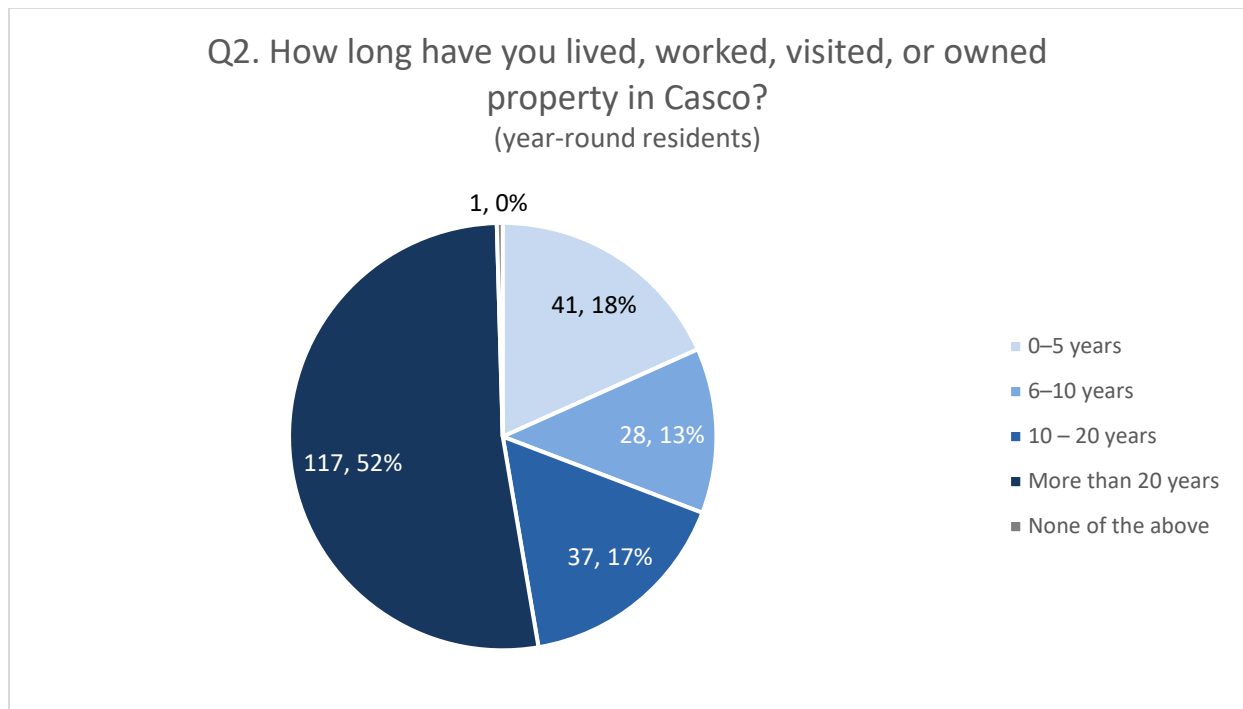
Stormwater/drainage had the second most amount of support among year-round residents, while non-year-round residents were more supportive of open space and parks/recreational facilities than stormwater/drainage improvements. While more supportive of open space and parks/recreational facilities than year-round residents, non-year-round residents were not more willing to increase their taxes to support these areas. Among all other categories of investments, year-round residents and non-year-round residents had similar responses.



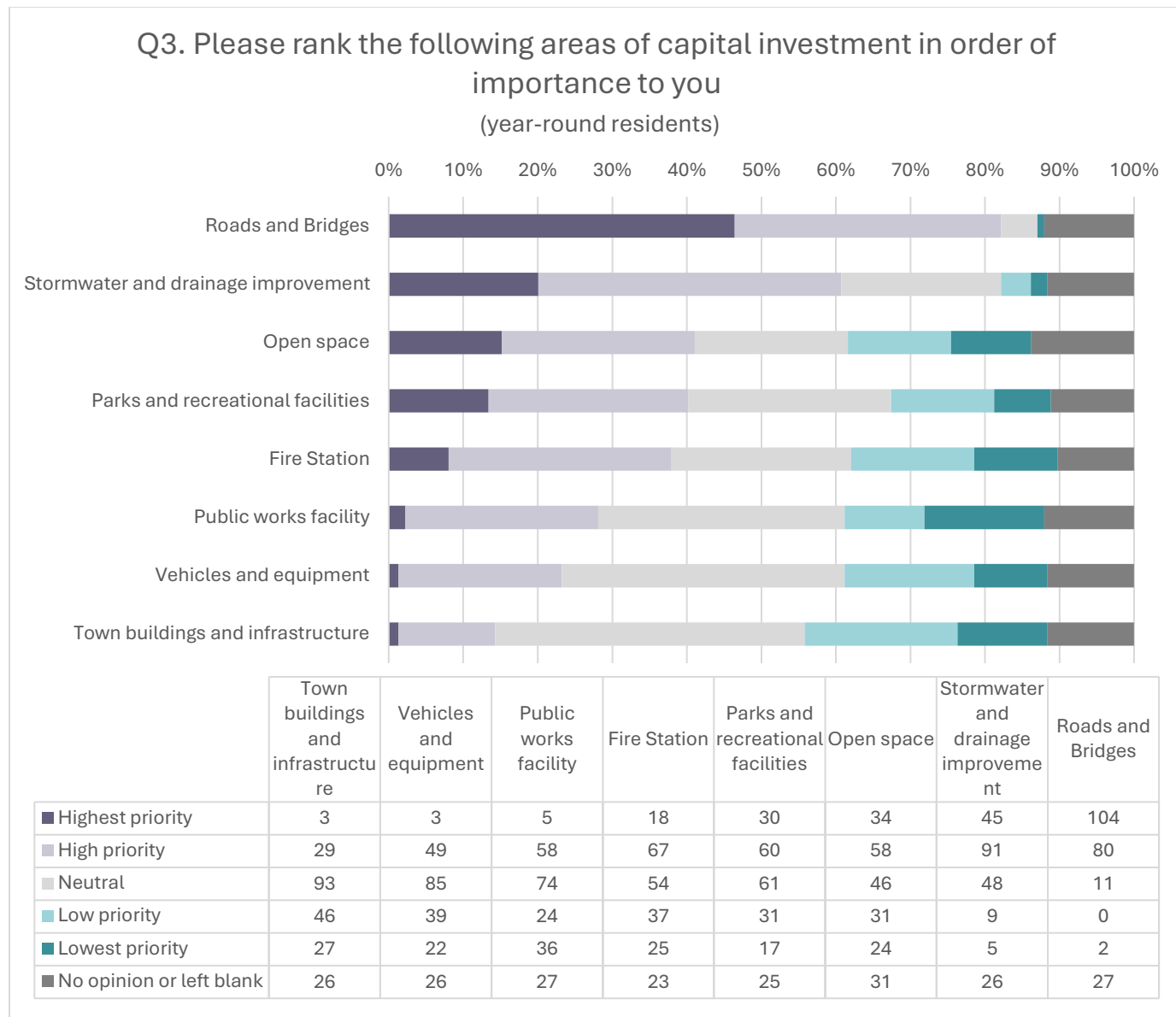
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Overall, roads/bridges and stormwater/drainage were by far the areas that the most year-round resident respondents valued, were unsatisfied with the current state of, and would consider raising taxes to support. Recreational facilities and open space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

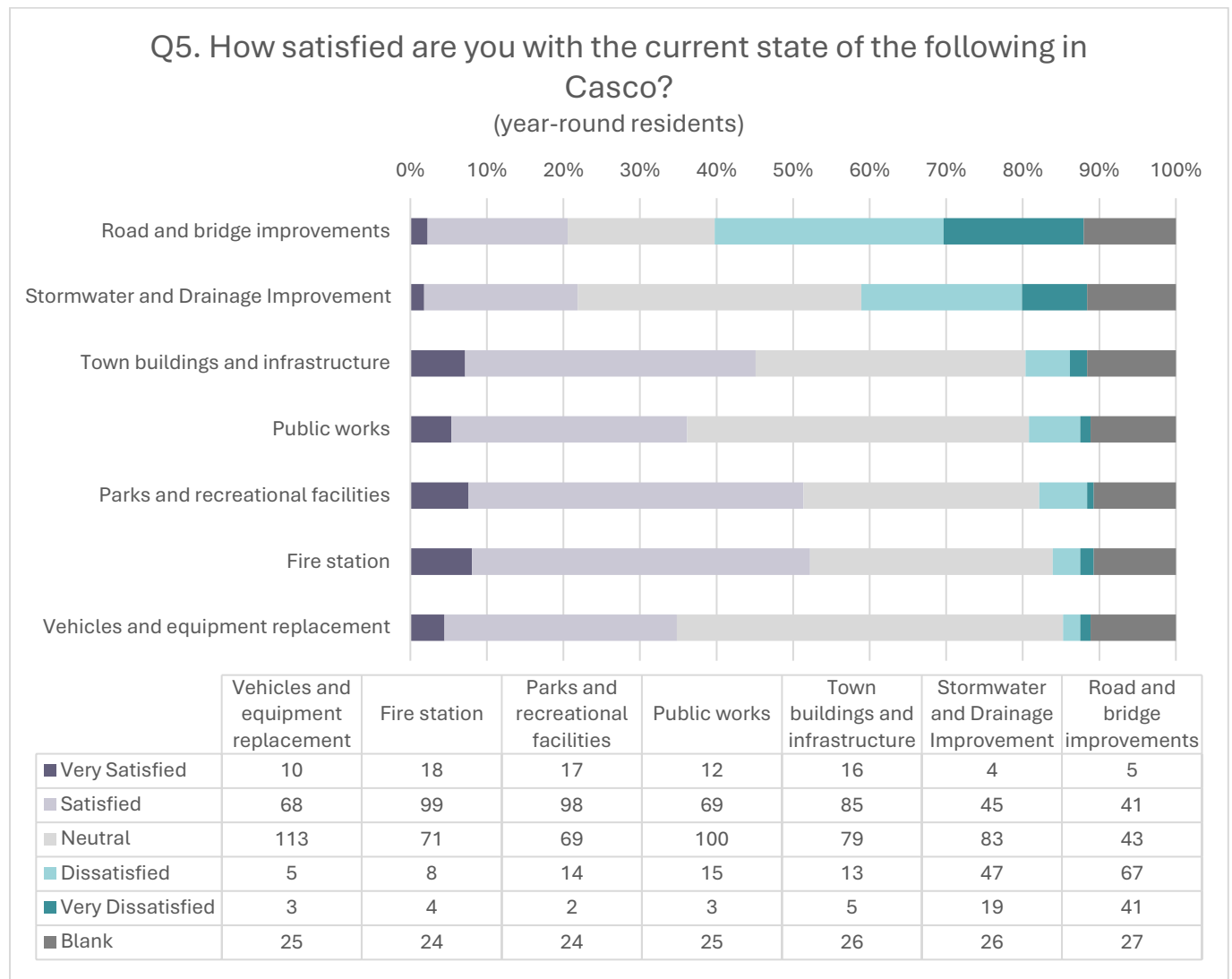


Key takeaway: The majority (52%) of year-round resident respondents have lived in Casco for over 20 years. Residents who have lived in Casco for more than 10 years account for more than two-thirds (69%) of year-round respondents.



Key takeaways:

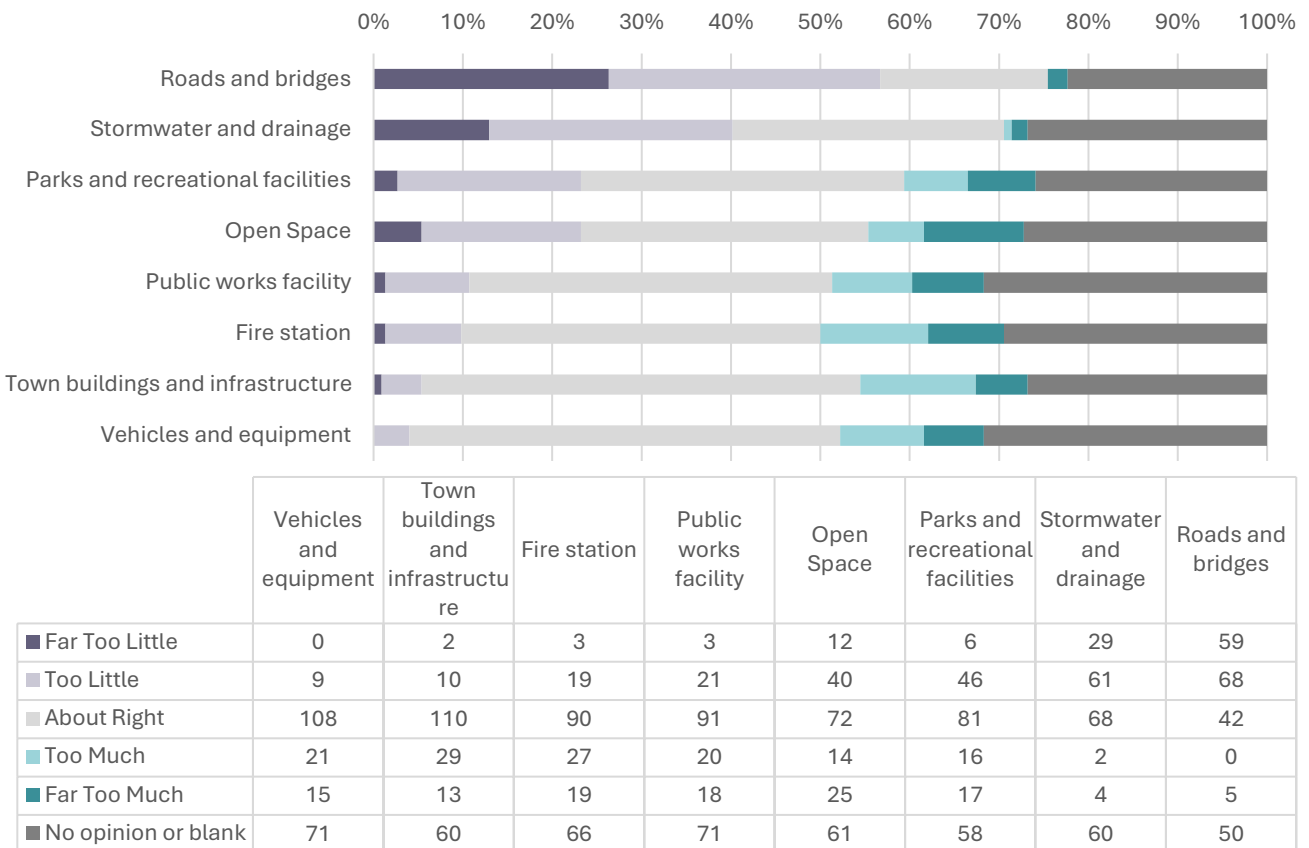
- 82% of year-round residents rate **roads/bridges** as a priority.
- 33% of year-round residents say that **town buildings/infrastructure** are a low priority.
- **Fire station:** 38% of year-round residents say that the fire station is a priority, 24% are neutral, and 28% say that it is a low priority.
- **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”.



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)

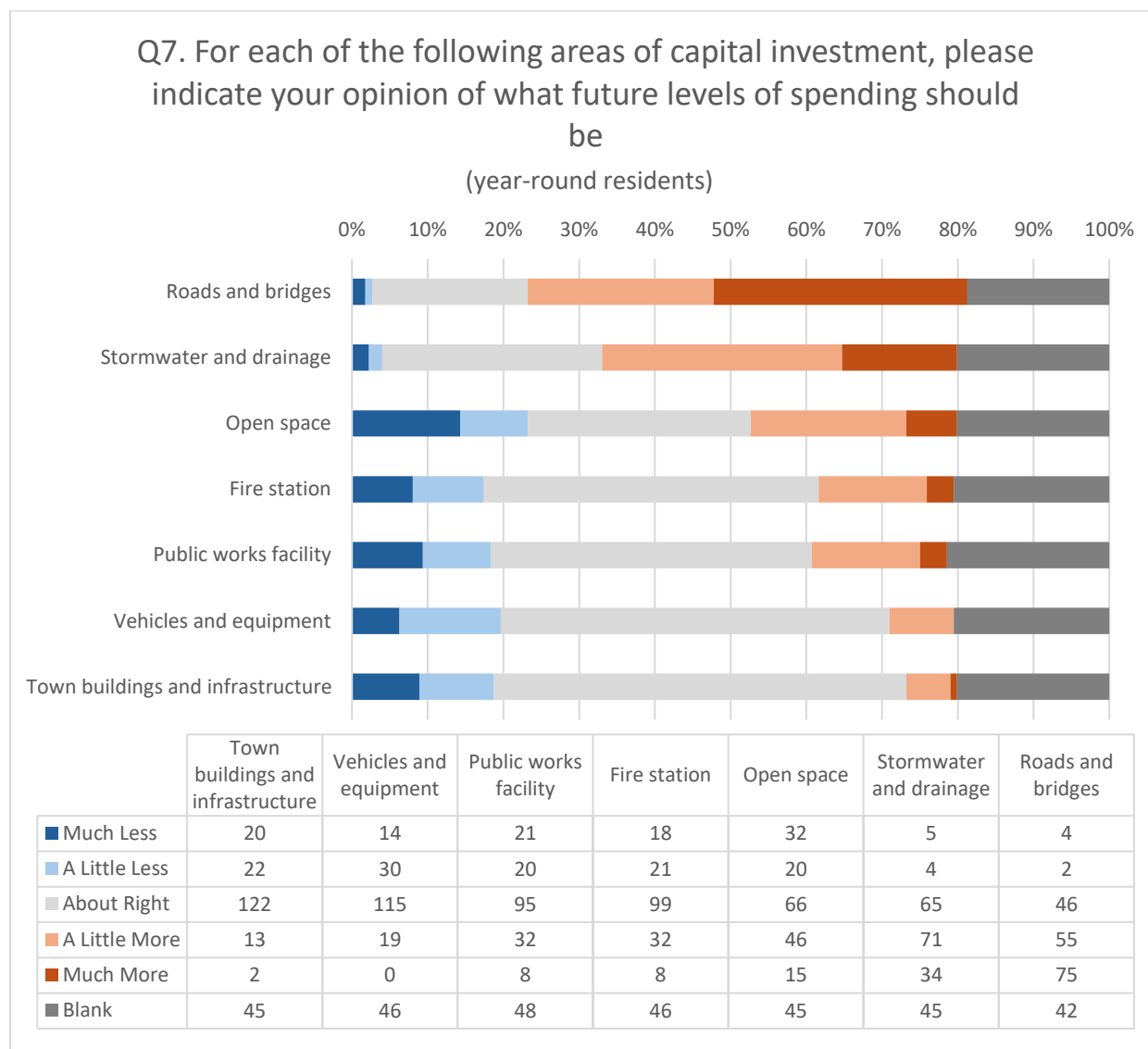


Key takeaways:

- Most year-round residents believe that **too little has been spent on roads/bridges** (57%) and **stormwater/drainage** (40%) of all categories of capital investment.
- Respondents felt spending was about right for other categories but tending toward **too much** except for **open space and parks and recreation facilities** where numbers were most split between the “too much, about right, or too little” camps.
- 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.

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- This question had the **fewest number of respondents** of all questions on the survey, perhaps indicating a lack of understanding/knowledge about present/historic funding, a point reinforced by several short answer responses.



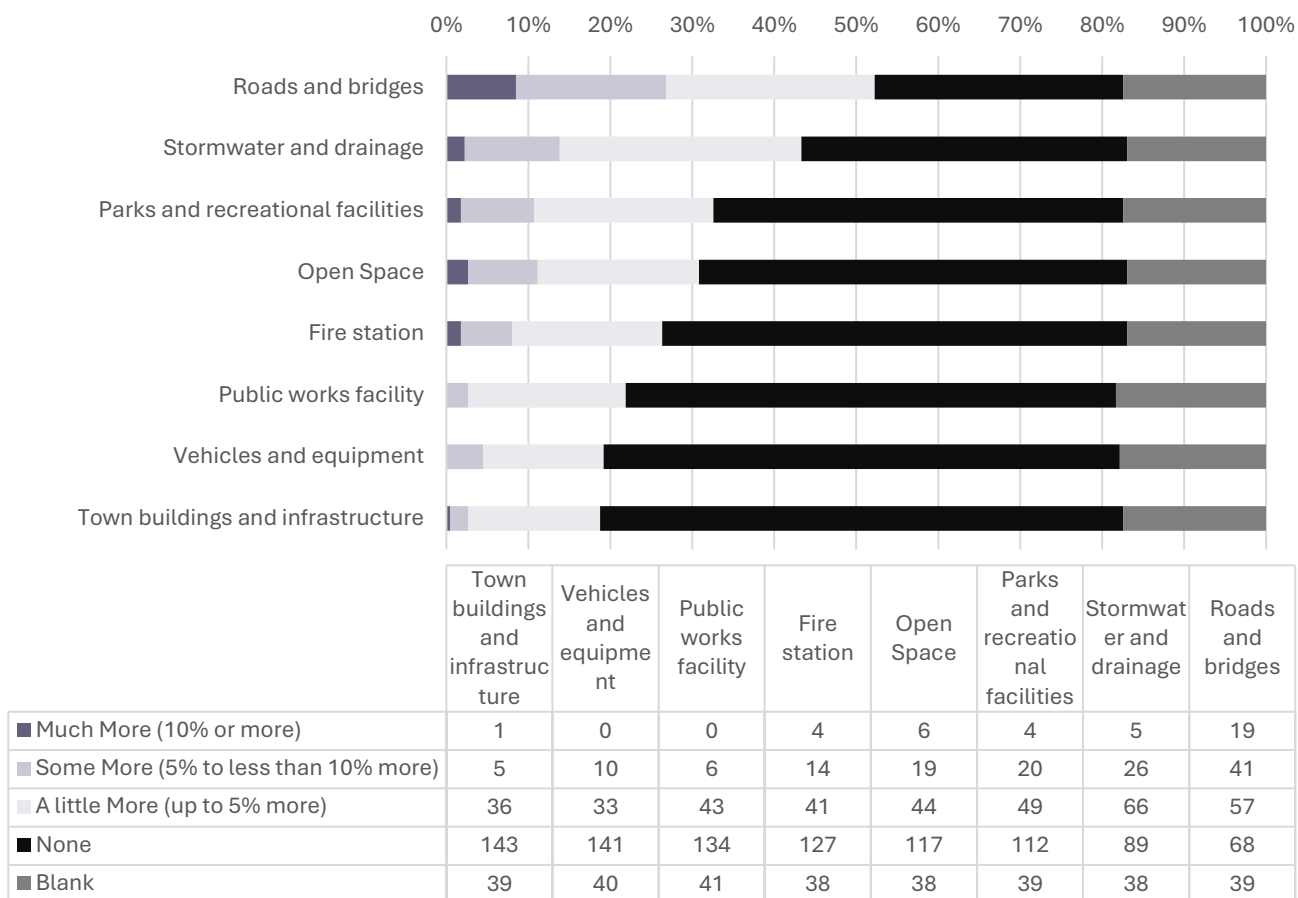
Key takeaways:

- Most year-round residents **believe more should be spent on roads/bridges (58%) and stormwater/drainage (47%)** in the future.
- Year-round residents felt spending on most other areas should remain about the same, tending toward **less (17-23%)**.
- **Open space was split** on future funding, with 29% feeling that funding should remain about the same, increase (27%), decrease (23%), or expressed no opinion (20%).

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- 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.

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)



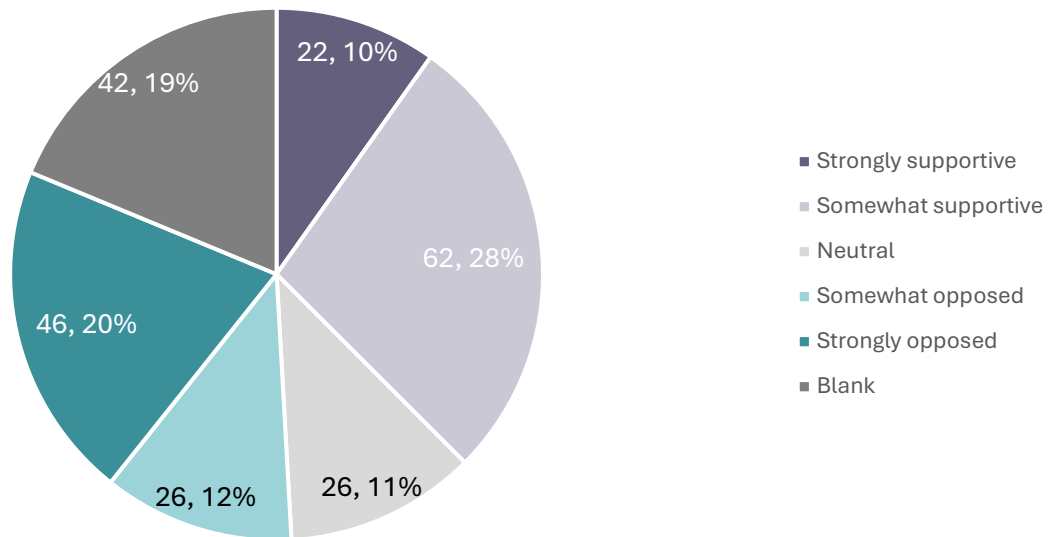
What are the priorities of year-round residents that would pay more in taxes in only 1-2 capital investment areas?

Capital Investment Area	Per- cent
Roads and bridges	65%
Stormwater & drainage	49%
Fire station	24%
Open Space	24%
Fire station	5%
Public works facility	5%
Town buildings & infrastruc- ture	0%
Vehicles & equipment	0%

Key takeaways:

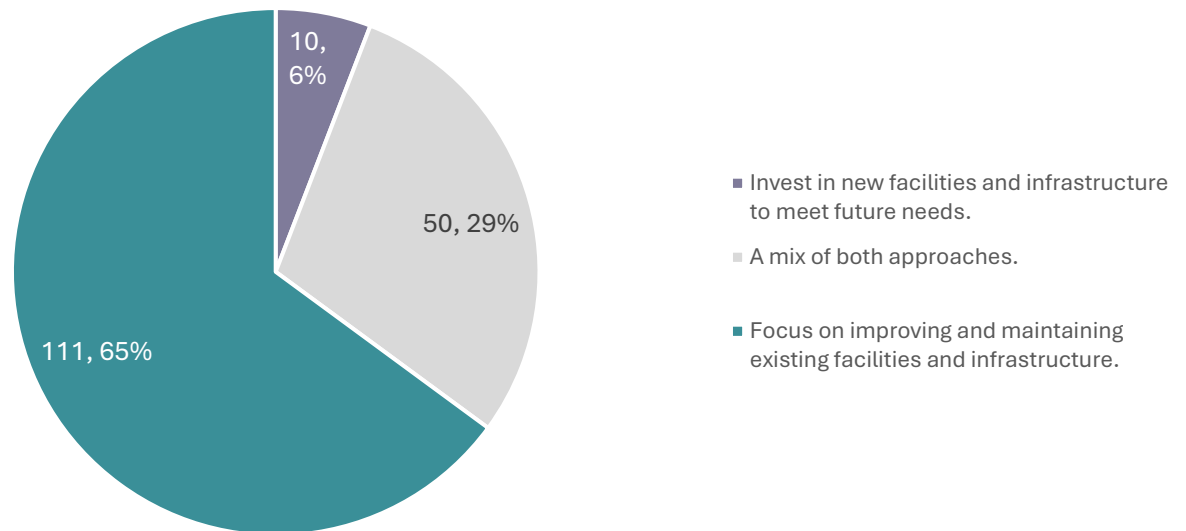
- A slight majority of year-round residents expressed some willingness **to increase their taxes to fund road/bridge improvements** (52%) and **stormwater/drainage improvements** (43%). Both areas were the most prioritized by residents willing to increase taxes for only one or two areas of capital improvement (65% and 49% respectively).
- Most 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.
- **Public works:** 22% of year-round residents were willing to increase taxes to fund a public works facility; 60% were not. None were willing to increase their taxes by 10% or more to fund a 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)

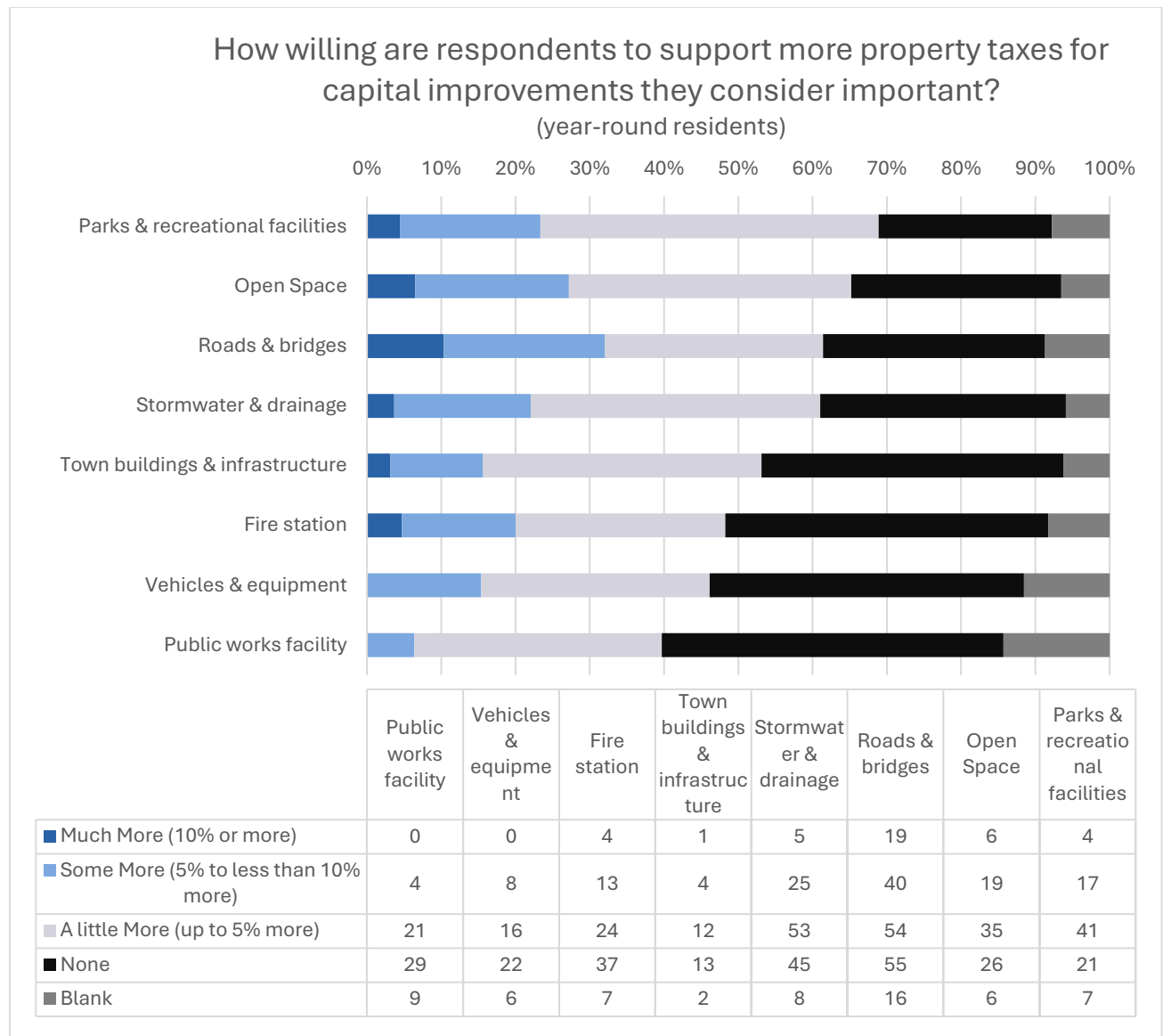


Key takeaways: A large majority of year-round residents (65%) prefer to focus on maintaining and improving existing facilities and infrastructure as opposed to investing in new facilities and infrastructure (6%).

Alignment

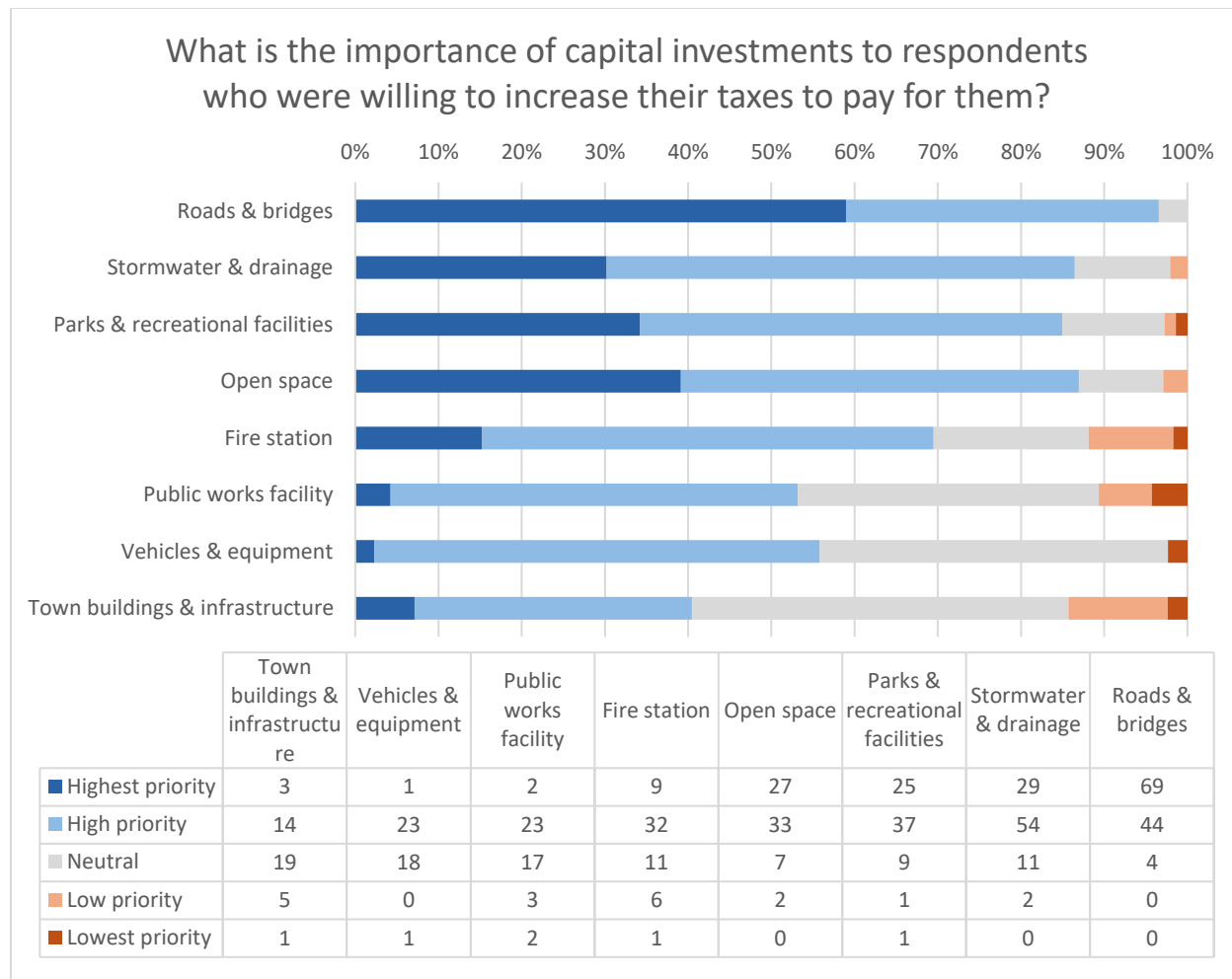
This section compares importance, satisfaction, opinions on current/historical funding, opinions on future funding, and willingness to increase property taxes for each area of potential capital investment. How willing were respondents to support more property taxes for capital improvements they consider 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.



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.



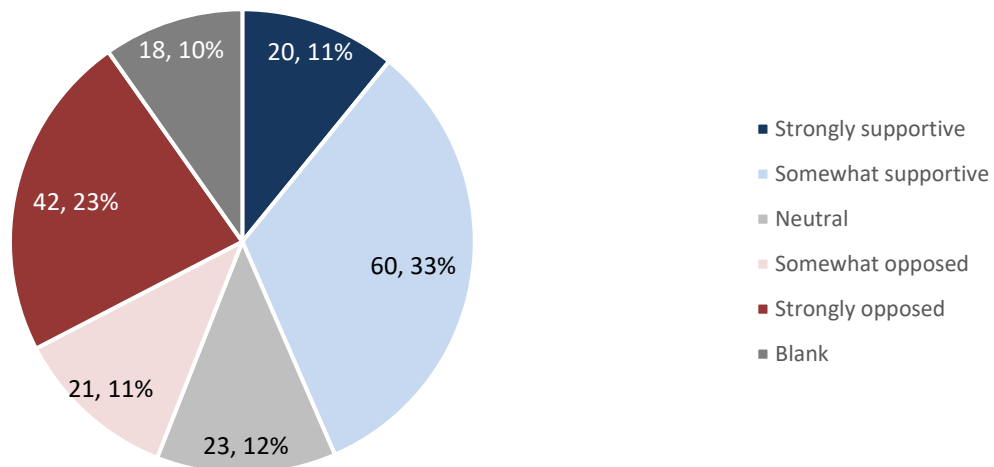
Key takeaways:

- **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
Importance	X							
	High priority			Neutral			Low priority	
Satisfaction							X	
	Satisfied			Neutral			Unsatisfied	
Current & historical funding								X
	Too high			About right			Too low	
Future funding	X							
	Higher			Same			Lower	
Tax increase willingness	X							
	Willing			Neutral			Unwilling	

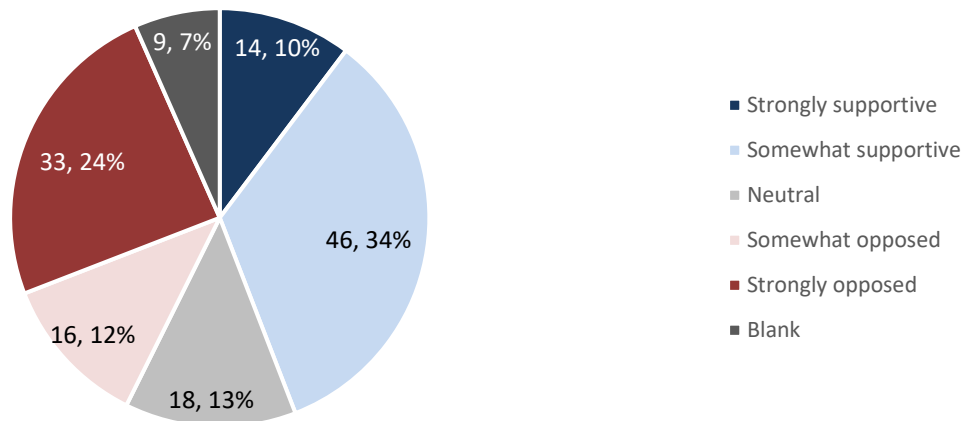
Are respondents that ranked roads & bridges as high priority/highest priority supportive of the town incurring debt?
(year-round residents)



Stormwater & Drainage Improvement

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

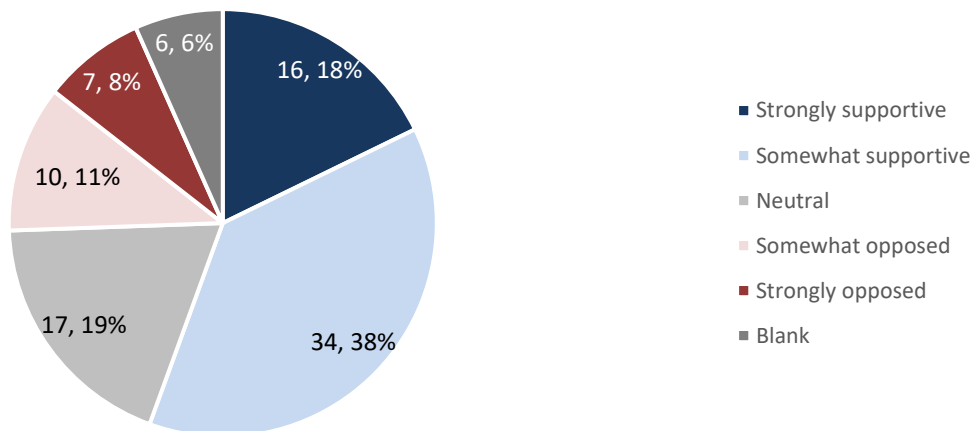
Are respondents that ranked stormwater improvements as high priority/highest priority supportive of the town incurring debt?
(year-round residents)



Parks & Recreational Facilities

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

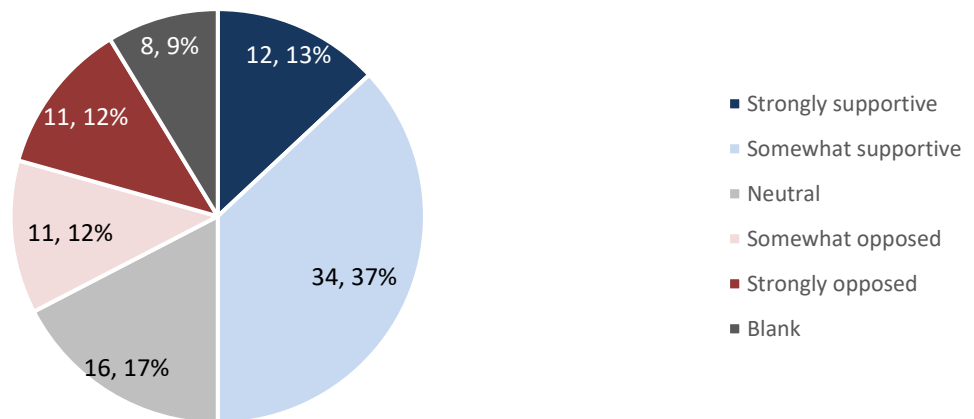
Are respondents that ranked parks & recreational facilities as high priority/highest priority supportive of the town incurring debt?
(year-round residents)



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 high			About right		Too low		
Future funding			x					
	Higher			Same		Lower		
Tax increase willingness				x				
	Willing			Neutral		Unwilling		

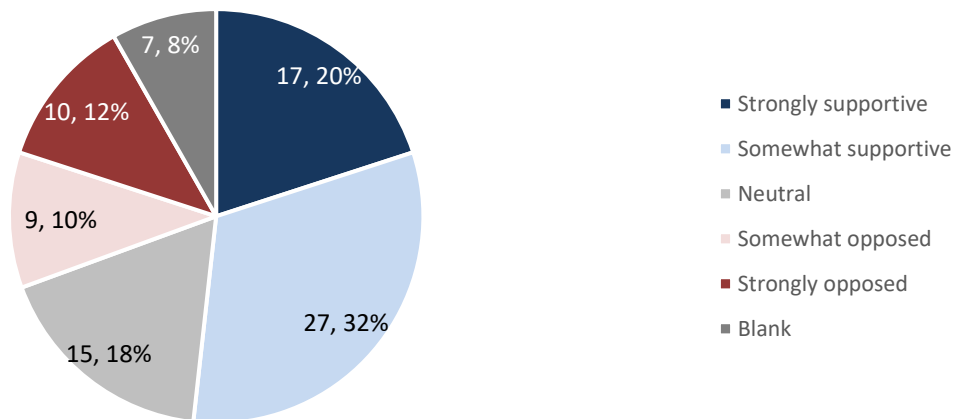
Are respondents that ranked open space as high priority/highest priority supportive of the town incurring debt?
(year-round residents)



Fire Station

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

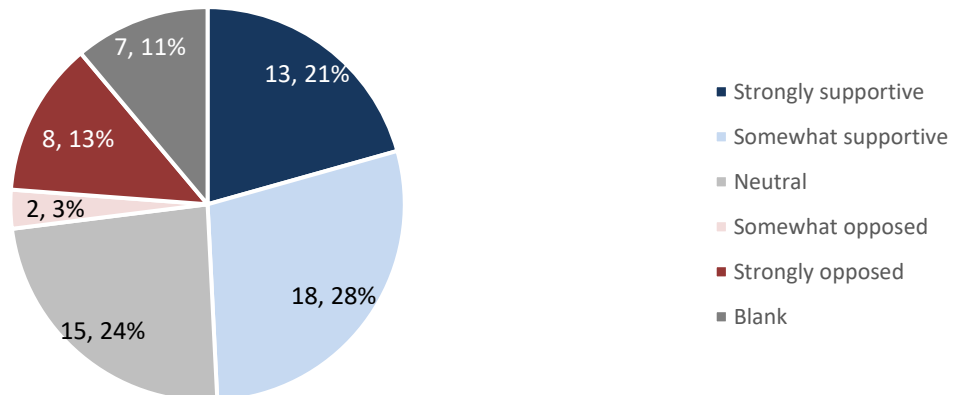
Are respondents that ranked the fire station as high priority/highest priority supportive of the town incurring debt?
(year-round residents)



Public Works Facility

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

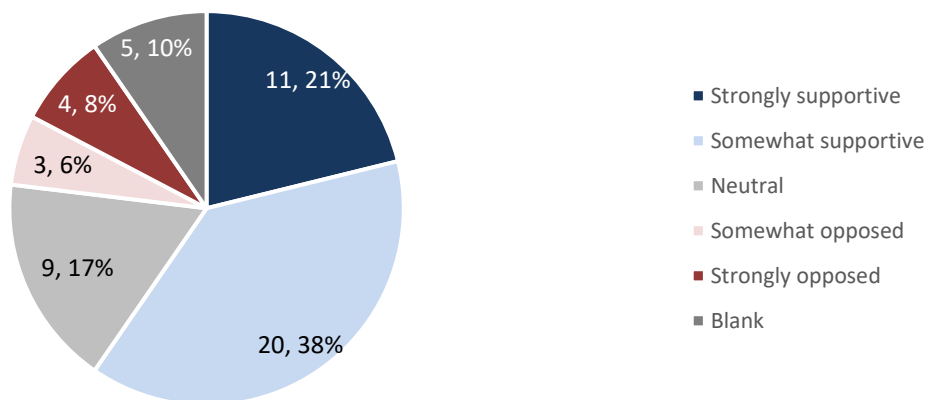
Are respondents that ranked public works as high priority/highest priority supportive of the town incurring debt?
(year-round residents)



Vehicles & Equipment

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

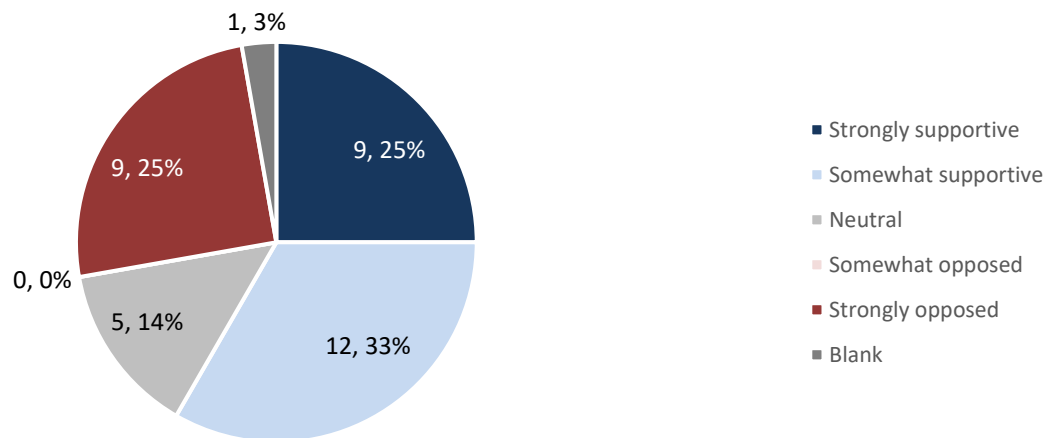
Are respondents that ranked public works as high priority/highest priority supportive of the town incurring debt?
(year-round residents)



Town buildings & infrastructure

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

A small number of respondents that prioritized roads mentioned state roads in their comments. Some of these also referred to 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. Several local roads were mentioned by name:

- **Quaker Ridge Road** was mentioned by 3 respondents who wanted road repairs and lower speeds.
- **Pine Hill Rd** was mentioned by 3 respondents who were concerned with road repair and drainage.
- **Heath Rd** was mentioned by 2 respondents, one of whom expressed a need for repair and paving, and another who expressed concern over the intersection of Heath Rd and Mayberry Hill Rd
- **Mayberry Hill Rd** was mentioned by 2 respondents, one is mentioned above, and the other expressed a need for better plowing of the road in winter.
- **Leach Hill Rd** was mentioned by 2 respondents, one of whom expressed a need for better drainage at the bottom of Leach Hill Rd, and one of whom expressed a desire for sidewalks on the road.
- **Shawnee View Lane** was mentioned by 1 respondent who expressed a need for repair and paving.

A total of 11 year-round resident respondents (5%) highlighted a need for investment in active transportation infrastructure like sidewalks, bike lanes, protected shoulders and walking/biking/ATV trails.

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”.

Opposition to tax increases and capital investments:

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. A couple of respondents were particularly concerned about the effects of potential tax increases on Casco seniors. Around 8% of year-round resident respondents expressed a desire for things to stay the same in Casco or a preference for maintaining existing infrastructure instead of investing in new infrastructure, half of them referencing the importance of maintaining Casco’s rural

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character and small-town feel. One respondent said, “Casco is a beautiful country town with nice open spaces and limited retail development. I’d like to see it stay that way.” However, it is important to note that 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, and 55% of year-round residents were willing to increase taxes by some amount to support multiple areas of capital investment.

Alignment

This section compares the views of year-round Casco residents based on how long they have lived in town: 0–5 years, 6–10 years, 10–20 years, and more than 20 years. The analysis looks at differences in how these groups rated the importance of, satisfaction with, past and future funding for, and willingness to increase property taxes to support various capital investments.

Overall, opinions across groups were largely similar. All residents, regardless of length of residence, identified roads & bridges and stormwater & drainage improvements as top priorities for investment. However, some differences emerged. Long-term residents (20+ years) were the least supportive of future investment in the fire department. Meanwhile, newer residents (0–5 years) were the most open to raising property taxes to fund at least one type of capital investment (68%). This was followed by residents of 20+ years (65%) and those with 10–20 years in Casco (51%). Residents of 6–10 years were the least supportive of tax increases for capital projects (43% supported raising property taxes to fund at least one type of capital investment).

Q3. Importance of Areas of Capital Investment by Length of Residence

	0-5 years	5-10 years	10-20 years	20+ years	Overall
Roads & bridges	1	1	1	1	1
Stormwater & drainage improvements	4	2	2	2	2
Parks & recreational facilities	2	3	4	3	3
Open space	3	4	5	4	4
Fire station	5	5	3	5	5
Vehicles and equipment	7	6	6	8	6
Public works facility	6	7	7	7	7
Town buildings and infrastructure	8	8	8	6	8

High priority Neutral Low priority

Q5. Satisfaction with Areas of Capital Investment by Length of Residence

	0-5 years	5-10 years	10-20 years	20+ years	Overall
Fire station improvements	2	3	3	1	1
Parks and recreational facilities	3	1	1	2	2
Town buildings and infrastructure	1	2	2	4	3
Vehicles and equipment replacement	4	4	4	3	4
Public works facility improvements	5	5	5	5	5
Stormwater and drainage improvements	6	6	6	6	6
Road and bridge improvements	7	7	7	7	7

Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied

Q6. Opinion of Current & Historical Funding by Length of Residence

	0-5 years	5-10 years	10-20 years	20+ years	Overall
Vehicles and equipment	1	4	2	2	1
Fire Station	3	2	3	1	2
Town buildings and infrastructure	2	1	1	4	3
Public works facility	4	3	4	3	4
Open Space	6	6	5	5	5
Parks and recreational facilities	5	5	6	6	6
Stormwater and drainage	7	7	7	7	7
Roads and bridges	8	8	8	8	8



Q7. Opinion on Future Investment by Length of Residence

	0-5 years	5-10 years	10-20 years	20+ years	Overall
Roads and bridges	1	1	1	1	1
Stormwater and drainage	2	2	2	2	2
Open Space	4	5	4	4	3
Fire Station	3	3	3	6	4
Public works facility	5	4	6	3	5
Vehicles and equipment	6	6	5	7	6
Town buildings and infrastructure	7	7	7	5	7



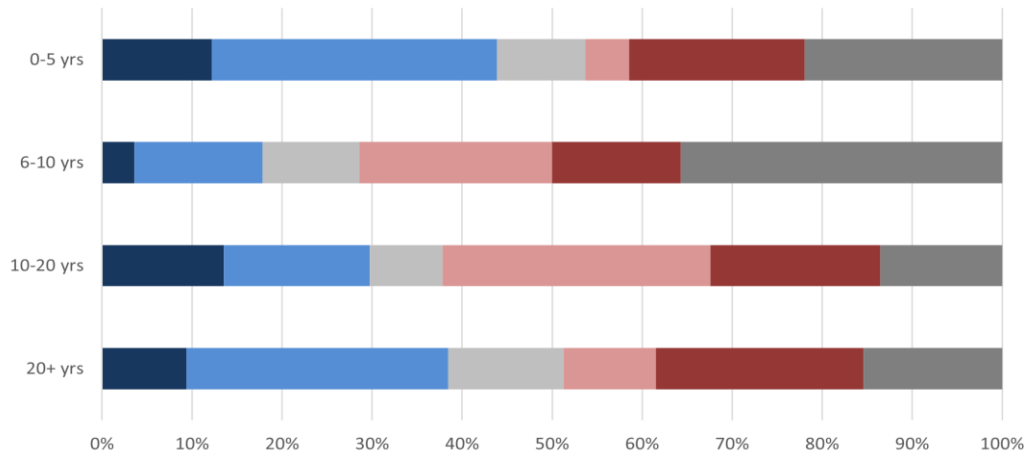
Q8. Willingness to Increase Taxes by Length of Residence

	0-5 years	5-10 years	10-20 years	20+ years	Overall
Roads & bridges	1	1	1	1	1
Stormwater & drainage improvements	2	3	2	2	2
Parks & recreational facilities	3	2	3	4	3
Open space	4	5	4	3	4
Fire station	5	4	5	5	5
Vehicles and equipment	6	8	7	7	6
Public works facility	7	6	6	8	7
Town buildings and infrastructure	8	7	8	6	8



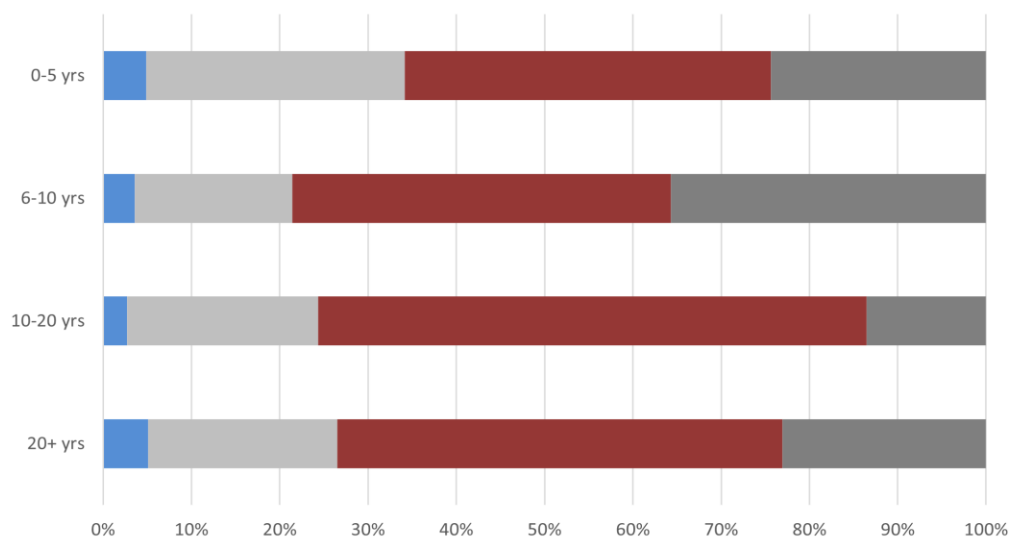
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Q9. Willingness to support the town incurring debt
by length of residence



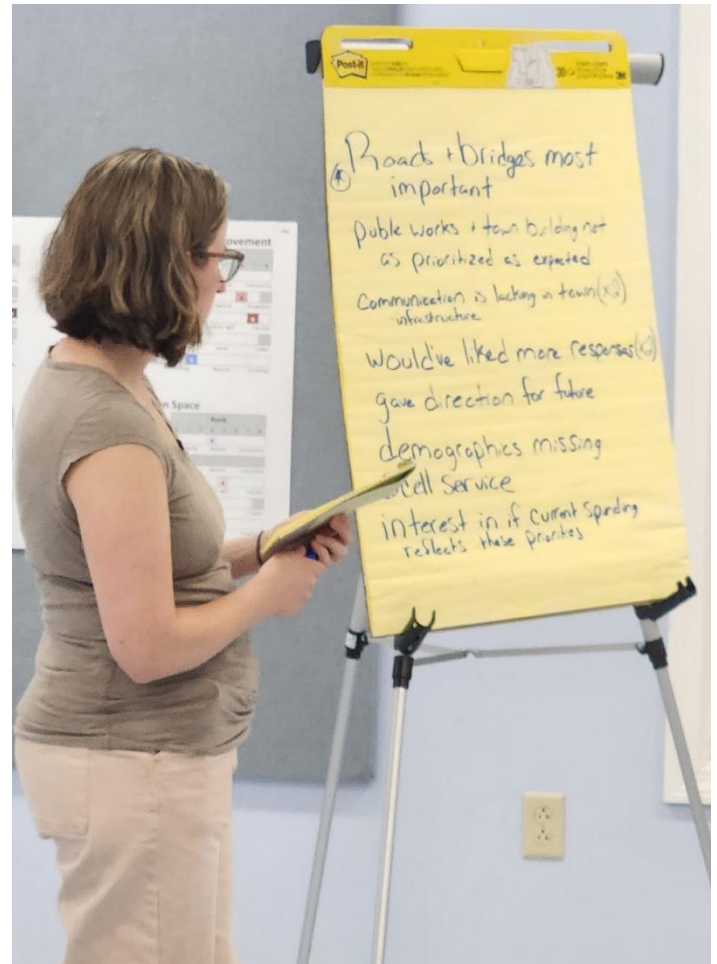
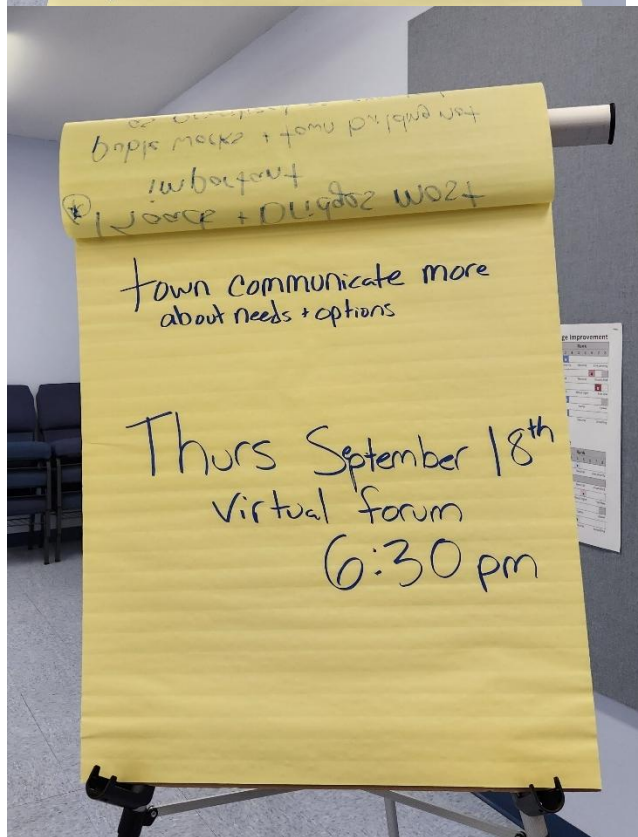
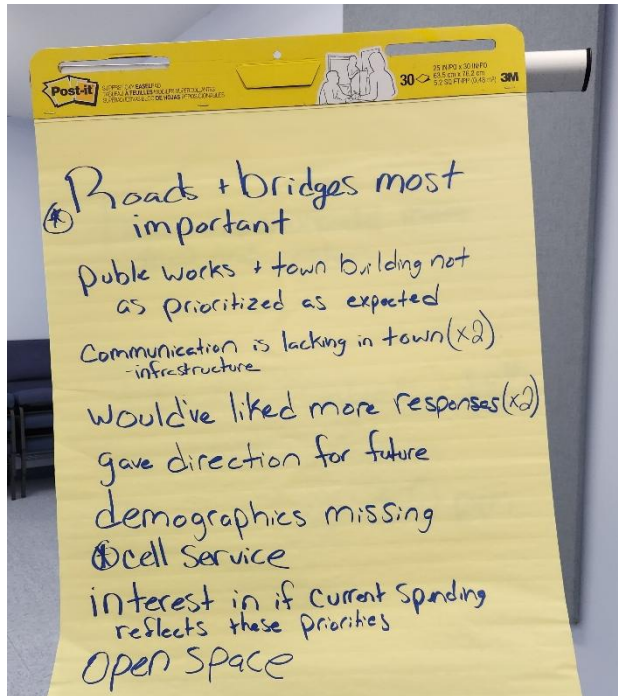
	20+ yrs	10-20 yrs	6-10 yrs	0-5 yrs
Strongly Supportive	11	5	1	5
Somewhat supportive	34	6	4	13
Neutral	15	3	3	4
Somewhat Opposed	12	11	6	2
Strongly Opposed	27	7	4	8
Blank	18	5	10	9

Q10. Investment in investment in new infrastructure vs. maintenance of
existing infrastructure by length of residence



	20+ yrs	10-20 yrs	6-10 yrs	0-5 yrs
Invest in New	6	1	1	2
Mix of Both Approaches	25	8	5	12
Maintain Existing	59	23	12	17
Blank	27	5	10	10

Appendix C: Forum summaries and attendance



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Appendix D: Acknowledgments

GPCOG would like to acknowledge the following for their contributions to this project:

- The Casco Selectboard for initiating the work,
- The Casco Capital Improvement Plan Ad Hoc Committee - Joe Armenti, Jr, Todd Crawford, Joe DeMartin, Rachel Millette, and David Plante for providing valuable guidance and input throughout the process, their commitment to listening to the community and shaping a forward-looking investment strategy,
- Casco Town Manager Tony Ward for providing information and guidance, giving the project team feedback, and scheduling times and dates for meetings and forums,
- Lucy Sinclair, Mapping and Data Analyst, for her work reviewing and tabulating the survey data, analyzing the results and providing the data visualizations to help understand what respondents were saying,
- Becca Hoskins, Communications Specialist for developing graphics and messaging for the survey postcard and online posts, and
- Everyone who took the time to respond to the survey, especially Casco residents, for sharing their input and perspectives.

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