

## MEMO

To : Selectboard, Town of Casco  
Tony Ward, Casco Town Manager

From : Tony Plante, Director of Municipal Collaboration & COO  
Shukria Wiar, Senior Planner & Community Engagement Manager

Date : August 15, 2025

Re : High-Level Casco CIP Survey Take-Aways and Next Steps

The following are some high-level take-aways from the Casco CIP Community Survey, some initial reflections, deeper analytical questions, and next steps:

- There were 322 respondents to the survey, received from June 17 to July 22, 2025.
- 97% of respondents were year-round residents (69%), seasonal residents (15%), or property owners (13%).
- 51% of respondents have been associated with the town for more than 20 years; other groups (0-5, 6-10, and 10-20 years) all in the same range (14-18%).
- Roads, stormwater improvements, open space, and parks and recreation improvements ranked as the highest priorities.
- Roads are where respondents were the most dissatisfied (though some or much of this may be related to state roads, and not roads that are the town's responsibility).
- Respondents felt the town spends too little on roads and road improvements, though that may be tempered by the above.
- Most respondents are not willing to spend more on capital improvements other than roads.
- There is a 44%-40% split on support of bonds or other financing for capital improvements, with 16% neutral (which we're considering undecided).
- 65% of respondents felt the town should focus most on the capital assets it already has, with the balance willing to support a combination including new capital needs.

There were a lot of comments and open-ended responses. In general, there seems to be an opportunity to explain more about what the town's leadership sees as the town's needs and make the case for them. There are those who may not ever be convinced, but others who said they didn't know enough to say.

We are digging deeper into the data, including the following questions about year-round residents (those most likely to be voters):

- Which areas for capital investment are most important?
- Looking at the open-ended responses, are there others that should be considered and don't fall into any of these areas?
- How does their level of satisfaction with these areas compare to how important they think they are?
- For areas of capital investment, how does their opinion of importance compare to their satisfaction and opinion of spending, both current/historic and what they think it should be?
- Which areas of capital investment have the most support for additional spending (and to what degree) compared to how high a priority they are? And for those, how much support is there for borrowing (i.e. issuing bonds) to pay for them?
- Looking at open-ended responses across the survey, what themes pop out?
- What were the overall feelings about the fire station or public works facilities?

We are meeting with the Ad Hoc Capital Improvement Plan Committee on August 26, 2025 and are working to have some more detailed analysis for them which, of course, we'll share with you as well.