

MEET ME ON MEEKER ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

August 7, 2017

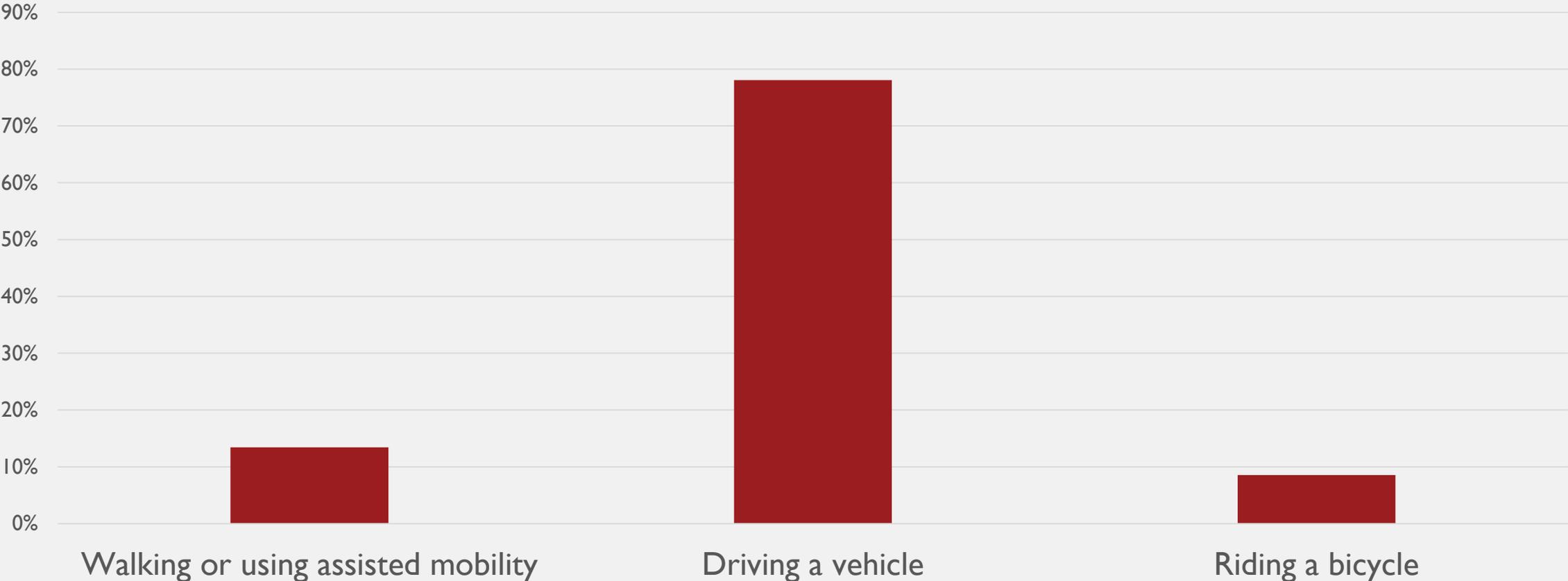
Economic and Community Development Department

City of Kent

SURVEY OVERVIEW

- 245 responses over 12 weeks
- Different questions depending on primary mode of transportation (walking/assisted mobility, driving a vehicle, riding a bicycle)
- All participants asked to weigh in on Meeker improvement priorities
- Multiple choice, ranking and write-in-response questions

PRIMARY MODE



PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

How safe do you think walking along Meeker Street between central avenue and the 167 underpass is today?

- Mean (average) score: 5.76
- Mode (most common) score: 7

1 = very unsafe
10 = very safe

How safe do you think walking along Meeker Street between the 167 underpass the golf course is today?

- Mean (average) score: 4.86
- Mode (most common) score: 3

1 = very unsafe
10 = very safe

How much of a problem do you believe conflicts between bicyclists and pedestrians on Kent's existing trail system are?

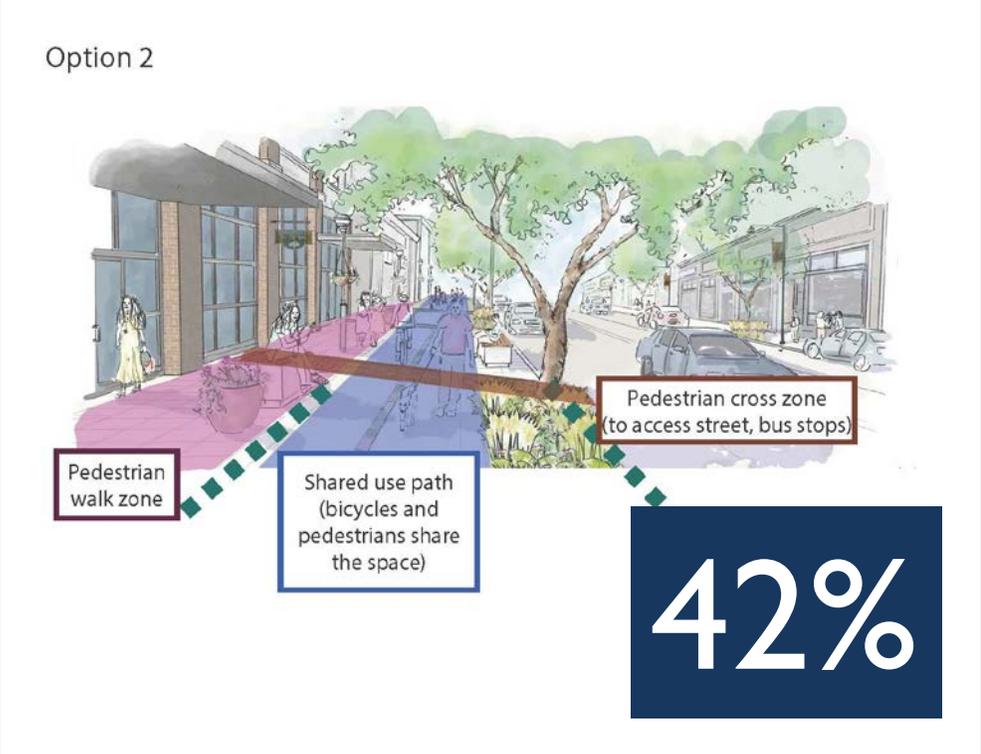
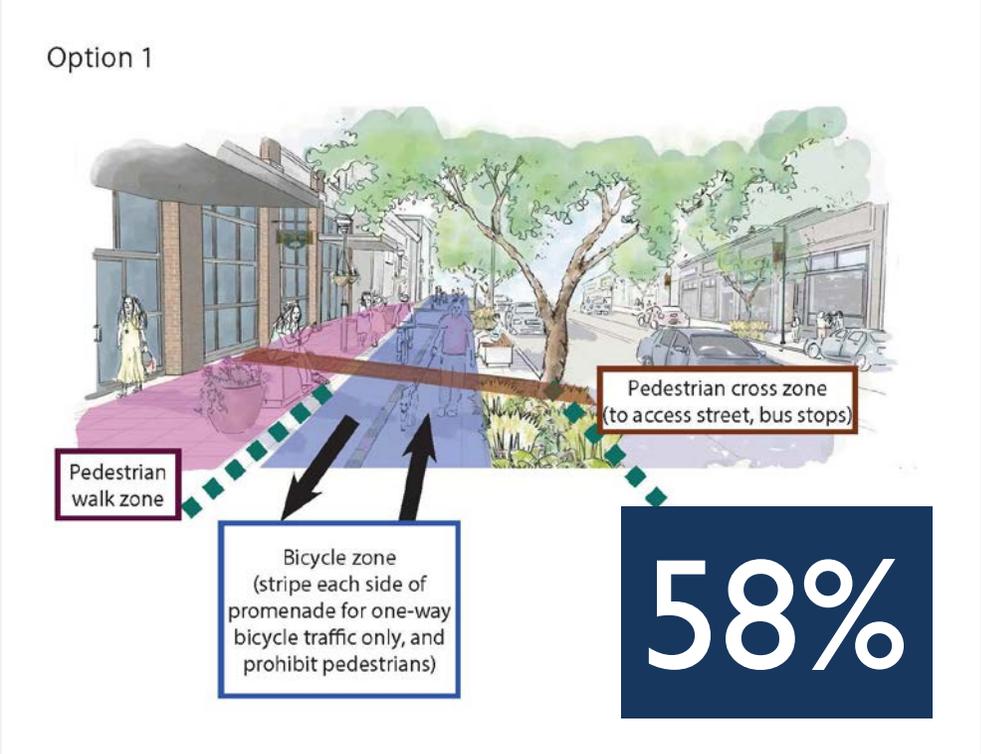
- Mean (average) score: 5.82
- Mode (most common) score: 8

1 = major problem
10 = not a problem

Suggestions to lessen conflicts between pedestrians and bicyclists:

- Wider trails
- Separate zones with striping
- Education/etiquette

PEDESTRIAN CHOICE FOR PROMENADE STRIPING OPTION



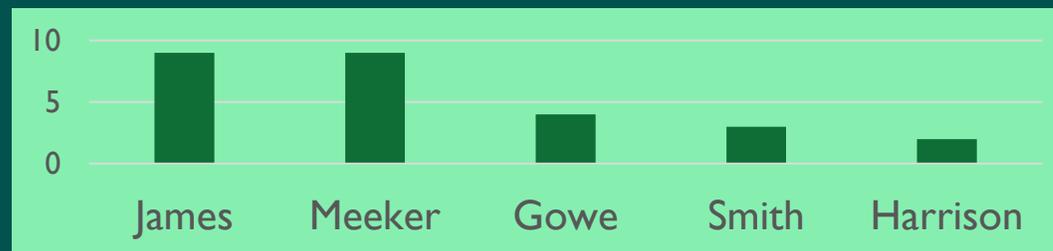
BICYCLE SAFETY

How safe do you feel riding your bicycle downtown?

- Mean (average) score: 4.76
- Mode (most common) score: 3

1= very unsafe
10=very safe

What is your preferred route across downtown?



How much of a problem do you believe conflicts between bicyclists and pedestrians on Kent's existing trail system are?

- Mean (average) score: 6.7
- Mode (most common) score: 8

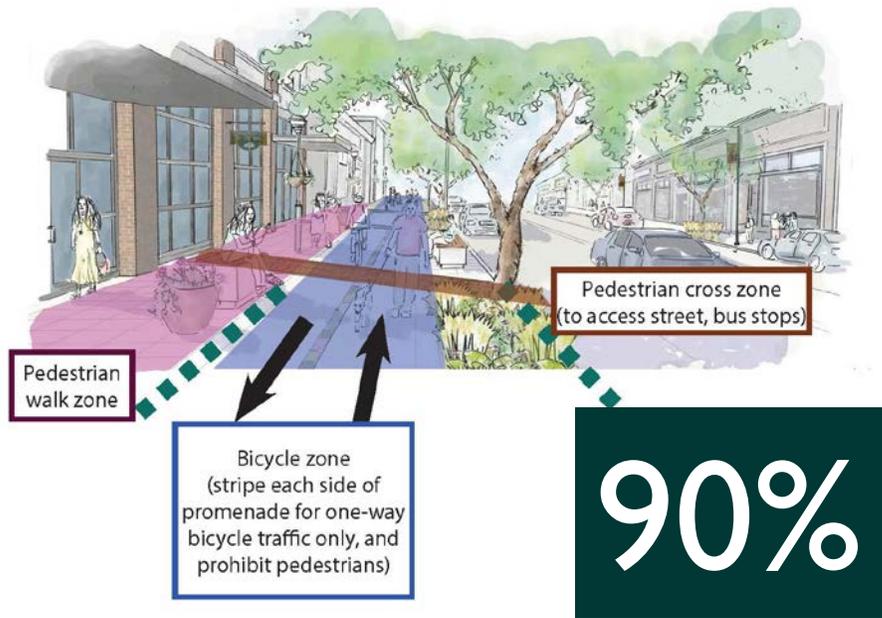
1= major problem
10=not a problem

Suggestions to lessen conflicts between pedestrians and bicyclists:

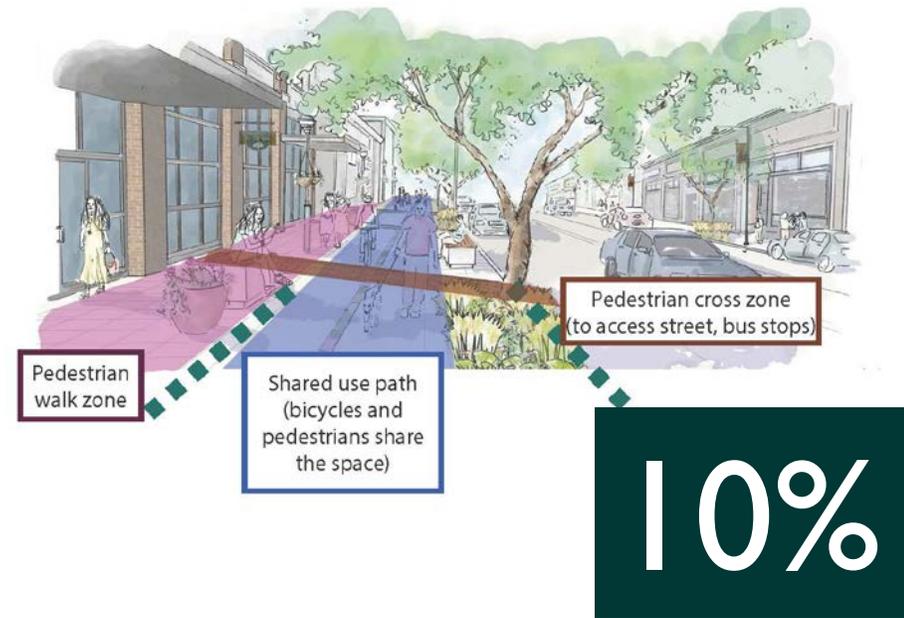
- Separate zones with striping
- Education/etiquette
- Signage

BICYCLIST CHOICE FOR PROMENADE STRIPING OPTION

Option 1



Option 2



DRIVERS WHO USE MEEKER TO GET TO THE HIGHWAY

43% of drivers use Meeker Street to get to I-5 or Highway 99

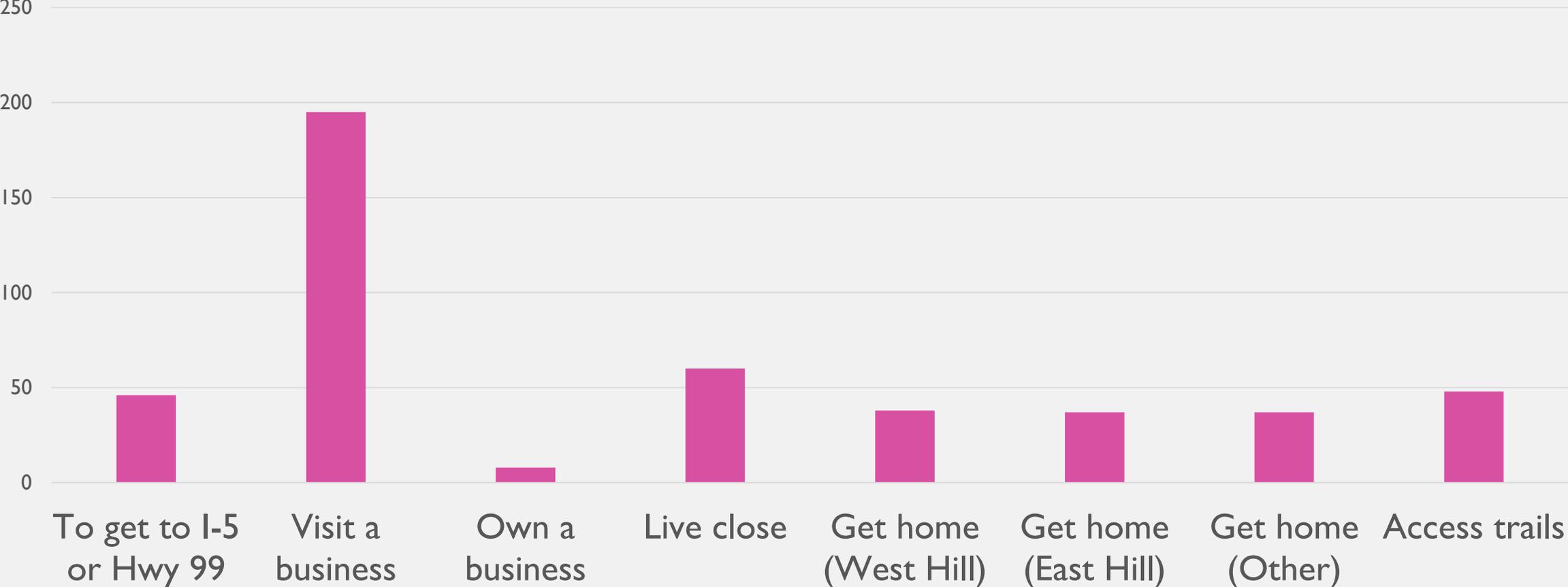
Over 40% of those drivers reported that the primary reason is to make stops at businesses

- Traffic/speed a factor – responses indicate that lower speeds on Meeker will drive some users to Willis/516
- Less traffic on Washington could encourage using Willis/516

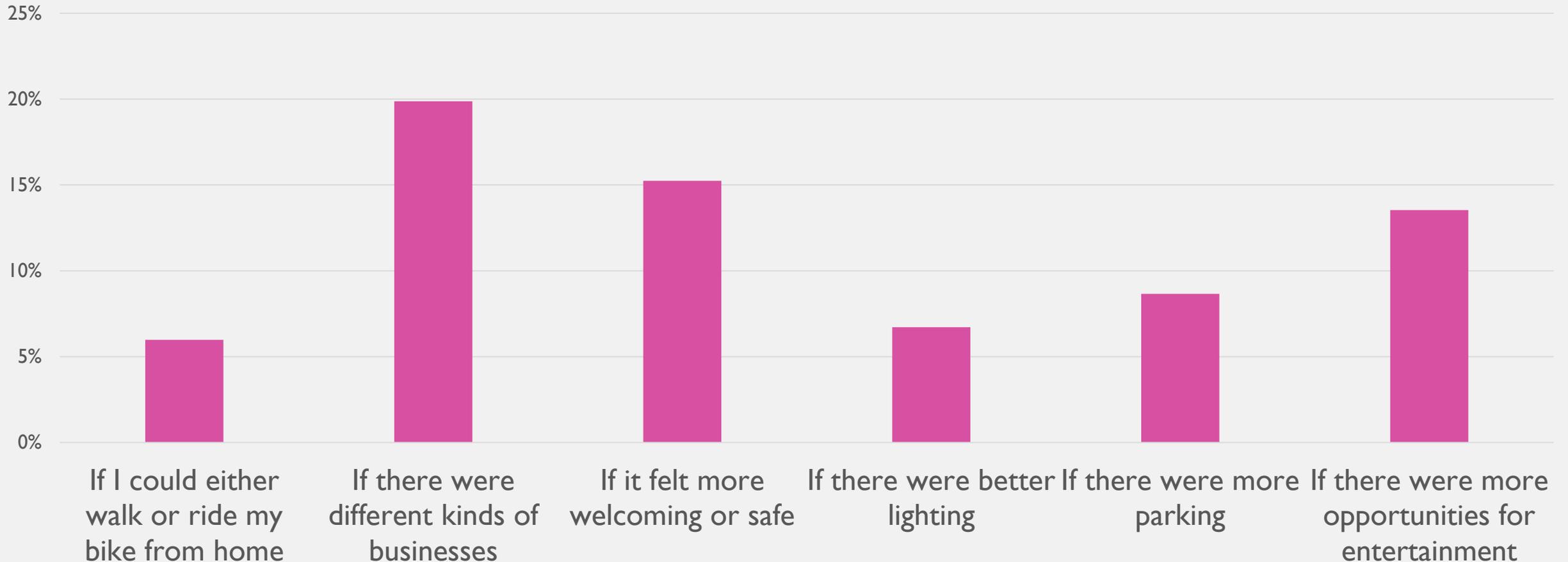
On choosing Willis/516 instead of Meeker...

- “It has become a habit.. I would be willing to make adjustment.”
- “Just a change of scenery.”
- “I use both depending on time of day.”
- “Further development on Meeker that makes it more personally attractive. Pedestrian friendly area would make me respect the area more. Then I would use 516 for west destinations.”

WHY PARTICIPANTS USE MEEKER TODAY



WHAT WOULD COMPEL PARTICIPANTS TO VISIT MEEKER MORE OFTEN



BREAKDOWN OF COMMUNITY IDEAS FOR INCREASING VISITS TO MEEKER BY TOPIC AREA

Topic Area:
Businesses and
Retail

35%

Topic Area: Social
Conditions

26%

Topic Area: Built
Environment

23%

Topic Area: Traffic

16%

See next four pages for specific ideas

COMMUNITY IDEAS FOR INCREASING VISITS TO MEEKER

- Restaurants
- Retail
- Entertainment
- Outdoor seating
- Cafes

I visit almost weekly because I love the local businesses and want to support them. It's quaint and unique.

Areas street side to sit and rest, read a book, knit or just watch people

Sidewalk cafes

Topic Area: Businesses and Retail

35%

See Appendix A for full list of responses

COMMUNITY IDEAS FOR INCREASING VISITS TO MEEKER

- Concerns related to:
 - Crime
 - Violence
 - Litter
 - Drugs

Hire more bike cops.

Topic Area: Social
Conditions

See Appendix A for full list of responses

26%

COMMUNITY IDEAS FOR INCREASING VISITS TO MEEKER

- Bike trails, bike parking
- Safer streets for walking
- Maintenance
- Affordable rentals

Safe place to keep bikes.

...Improve on pedestrian walk areas

23%

Topic Area: Built Environment

See Appendix A for full list of responses

COMMUNITY IDEAS FOR INCREASING VISITS TO MEEKER

- Less traffic
- Signal timing

If there were better flow of traffic

16%

Topic Area: Traffic

See Appendix A for full list of responses

WAITING FOR THE BUS ON MEEKER

56% feel
safe

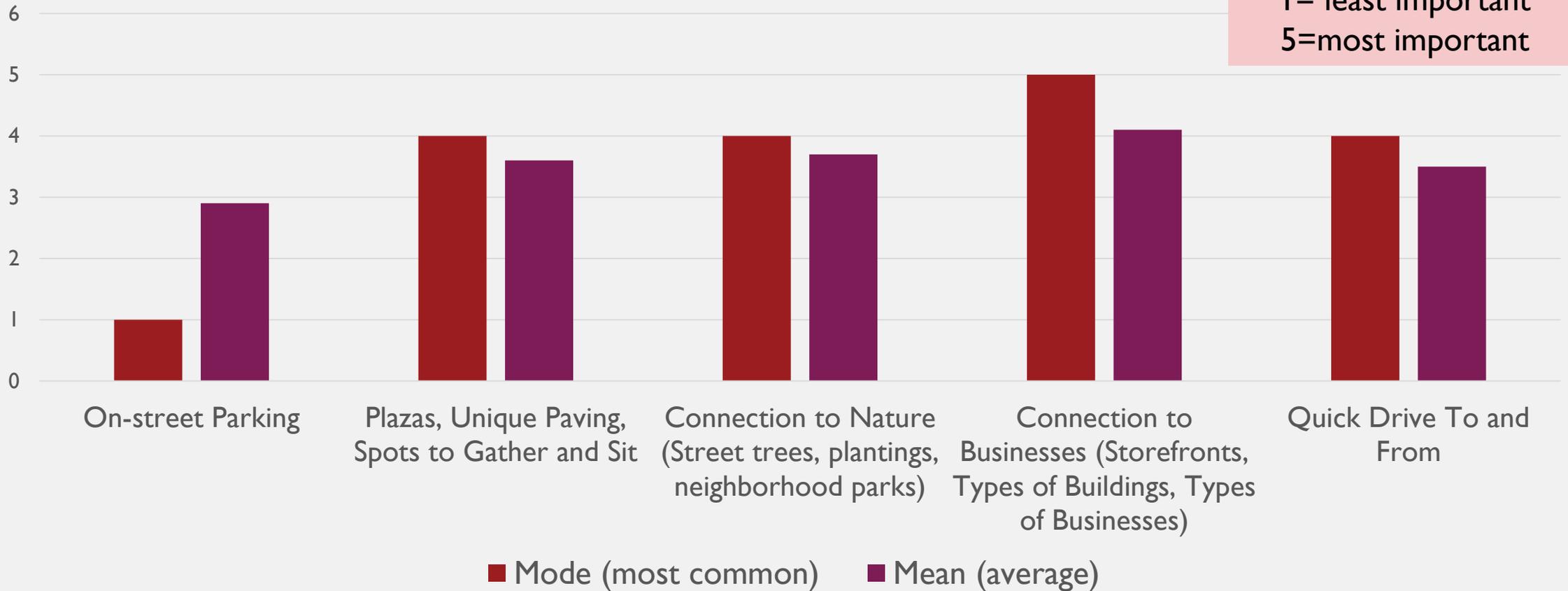
44% feel
unsafe

What would make it feel more safe?

- “Better surrounding environment. More pedestrian foot traffic, better development.”
- “Lighting near Meeker & 64th”
- “A nicer bus stop... where pedestrians can be seen.”
- “Better lighting, more people around”
- “Cleanliness”

RANKING WHICH IMPROVEMENTS ARE MOST IMPORTANT FOR MEEKER STREET

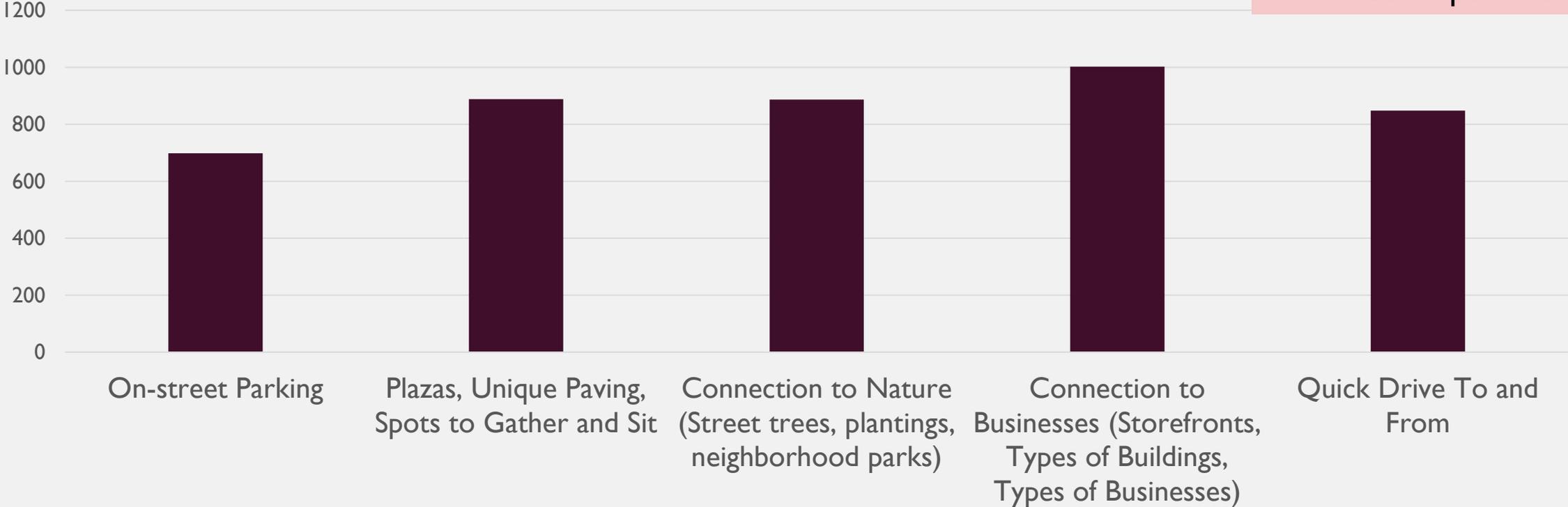
1 = least important
5 = most important



RANKING WHICH IMPROVEMENTS ARE MOST IMPORTANT FOR MEEKER STREET

Total Points Awarded

1 = least important
5 = most important

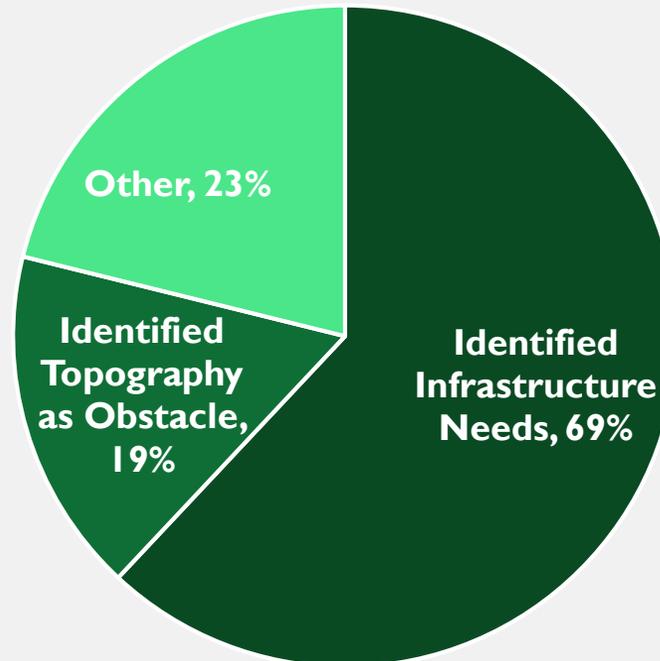


USING A CAR TO BRING A BICYCLE TO THE TRAIL SYSTEM

"What would encourage you to use your bicycle for the whole trip?"

29%

of participants use their car to bring a bicycle for use on Kent's trail system



What infrastructure?

- Safe bike lanes
- Bike-friendly streets
- More bike paths
- Safer routes
- Safe bike lanes
- Wider bike lanes
- Separate bike path

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

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APPENDIX A – WRITE-IN RESPONSES

What would compel you to visit Meeker more often?

- Safe places to keep bikes, not locked outside
- If the tweakers went into treatment
- I visit almost weekly because I love the local businesses and want to support them. It's quaint and unique.
- Downtown Kent has become a hotbed for homeless people. I have a hard time even going to the Library these days out of fear.
- Deli, Doughnuts, ice cream, green grocer, butcher
- There are next to no businesses. "Downtown" is sad looking and full of vagrants.
- It looks run down and not very inviting. It looks like it hasn't really maintain 100% or update for awhile.
- Hire more bike cops
- If the lights were synchronized
- The easy driving access is important (5-lanes)
- Wider road widths
- Promotion to rapidly increase businesses in empty storefronts. Need more to draw people to Meeker like it used to years ago -- like when the Apple Barrel, Stewart's Jewelers, Blessing's Jewelers, Penneys, etc. were on Meeker. It was fun to go to Kent then!
- If you rid it of the gang activity at 64th.
- If you didn't kick out Scotch & Vine
- Remove the trash and homeless groups
- The only part of meeker that is worth visiting is the downtown area. The other areas west of the freeway are not inviting
- I love Meeker/Downtown Kent, but most of the shops aren't places I'd go. Downtown Kent has an abundance of niche stores (rock store, Catholic store, Christian Science reading room, Science Fiction book store) and hair/nail salons.
- Need better place to shop. Not more second hand store.
- It has to be tweaker and homeless free
- Sidewalk cafes
- Not much opportunity in Kent for live music
- If there wasn't tax payer money wasted on unnecessary projects like this

- Concrete is dangerous from tree roots
- If there weren't so many empty stores and homeless people
- If there were fewer empty stores, and fewer homeless people hanging around
- More stores like comic shop or unique hip gifts or craft
- Outdoor seating, restaurants or coffee shops
- Kent needs another grocery store!!!
- Areas street side to sit and rest, read a book, knit or just watch people
- If traffic were not so congested
- Crime is horrible around there
- Affordable residential rentals
- Better restaurants
- I suggested this year's ago, close Meeker from 4th Ave to the train tracks, install a top cover that light shows and laser shows can be played on. Allow outdoor dining and year round street vendors.
- If it wasn't a bunch of soulless chain restaurants. I would visit a farm there if there was one.
- More restaurants and unique retail, otherwise you're kidding yourself about anyone using Meeker St.
- Less traffic
- If there was better flow of traffic, it needs another bridge if the traffic is going to increase because of the retail and apartments. It is already backed up every rush hour

- Meeker on the westside of Meeker always feels dirty to me. I go to some of the businesses at lunch time.
- It's not a safe street to walk or bike down
- If it was safe and we could be rid of the rif raf that hangs out
- A reason to go there (see the above)
- Gang and homeless free
- Nothing
- Make street one way for cars and then add bike lanes and improve on pedestrian walk areas
- Get rid of the gang shootings
- If you could ride safely under SR-167
- Less homeless people
- Easier to get out of parking lots
- If homeless people would not be on this beautiful street smoking pot. I wish they had a gathering place for their drugs. I feel unsafe. I used to walk 3 years ago and now they are dealing drugs by the Riverwood Apartments, asking for money outside 7/11, smoking pot. What happened Kent?
- Less traffic backups
- I'm down there enough.
- Cross walk lights for intersections in the downtown business area
- If there were less traffic especially evening rush hour

What would make waiting for the bus along Meeker Street a better experience?

- Safety. Shady characters hanging around. Businesses are second rate and unappealing to want to go inside
- If my bus ran latter
- cleaner bus stops that do not smell like urine
- Better surrounding environment. More pedestrian foot traffic, better development.
- hire more bike cops/ we over work the ones kent has
- Cleanliness and no concerning people/activities
- Seem to be a lot of transients around meeker and the river these days
- Cars don't stop for school bus flashing lights, drug deals on street and in businesses, scary people at 7-11, people murdered at gas station, old woman hit by a car on Meeker, woman stuffed into a suitcase in fishing hole, old people smoking and hanging out by road, dshs brings in a diversified class, drunkenness, 7-11 riff raff, people stealing at rite aid, panhandling at McDonald's entrance
- Better lighting and more people around
- Less criminals and drug use at stop
- people with ethics
- Police present on site
- A nicer decent bus stop by the Bridge where pedestrians can be seen.
- Safer areas, lighting near Meeker & 64th