

New Visions Public Participation Plan

Summary of Public Comments



Strategies & Methods

The Draft *New Visions 2050* Plan was released for public comment in early March. Due to COVID-19 and the implementation of NYS on PAUSE, CDTC amended its New Visions 2050 Public Participation Plan and shifted much of the outreach to online and virtual platforms. There were two, separate, planned phases for public outreach that included a number of in-person presentations and events. Out of an abundance of caution to protect public health, CDTC will, instead, do continuous public outreach through September.



CDTC has made all workshop and presentation materials available on CDTC's New Visions webpage at www.cdtcmpo.org/nv2050. The public is able to visit the website and download all New Visions 2050 documents, participate in online surveys and polls, and download materials to hold their own in-person or virtual meetings.

A virtual public engagement series occurred throughout the month of July with five opportunities for the public to attend virtual workshops: July 8 at 1:30pm, July 15 at 2:00pm and 6:30pm, July 22 at 6:30pm, and July 28 at 1:30pm. Additionally, CDTC coordinated with Capital Region ADAPT to hold a virtual workshop on June 3, Saratoga County Age-Friendly Committee on Monday, July 27 and the Environmental Clearinghouse of Schenectady County (ECOS) on Tuesday, July 28.

New Visions 2050 Regional Transportation Plan Update

CDTC is federally mandated to prepare and maintain a regional transportation plan (RTP) in order to allocate federal transportation funds to projects and programs. The current plan, known as *New Visions 2040*, is being updated to include development scenarios, projections, strategies and actions through 2050. *New Visions 2050* will define a shared vision of the region's future and will describe the transportation investments needed to support that vision.

The update process involves three phases. (1) the development of white papers on a range of transportation related topics, providing the foundation for the plan; (2) the development of a preliminary draft plan followed by two months of public engagement; and (3) the development of a final draft plan with a second two-month public engagement process.

Draft updated 4/30/2020

[Read the New Visions 2050 Summary here!](#)

[Host your own meeting \(download materials here\)](#)

? What transportation investments would you make?

[Take Our Funding Poll!](#)

How to get involved in the 2050 Plan - Social Distancing Update

Online at www.cdtcmpo.org: Learn more about how long-range planning works, take surveys, & sign up for our newsletter & email list to get updates on planning initiatives in the Capital Region & comment opportunities.

Virtually in-person: Invite us to attend your Zoom or webinar and present to your group by contacting our community outreach staff.

OR [register](#) for a workshop as part of the Virtual Public Engagement Series:

- **Wednesday, July 8**
 - 1:30-2:30 pm
- **Wednesday, July 15**
 - Session 1: 2:00 – 3:00 pm
 - Session 2: 6:30 – 7:30 pm
- **Wednesday, July 22**
 - 6:30 – 7:30 pm
- **Wednesday, July 29**
 - 1:30 -2:30 pm

Become a citizen planner: Participate in CDTC's Citizen Planner training, plan & hold your own New Visions 2050 meeting with your friends, family, or other community in the Capital Region. A "meeting-in-a-box" will be provided to citizen planners with all the tools & information needed to present & collect comments on the New Visions 2050 Plan. Make New Visions 2050 your next Zoom Happy Hour activity!

[Request a presentation or meeting materials](#)

[Take the survey](#)

New Visions Public Participation Plan

Summary of Public Comments



CDTC also developed a flyer with information about New Visions 2050, how to access plan documents, and how to submit comments online, by phone, text, or mail. The flyers were distributed to several stakeholders to distribute with in-person interactions such as food and book deliveries by non-profits and libraries, and local bike rescue operations. Social media was also used to engage the public by promoting opportunities to participate in the virtual workshop(s) and the launch of the “Photo Voices” campaign.



Photo Voices social media campaign



New Visions flyer distributed to stakeholders

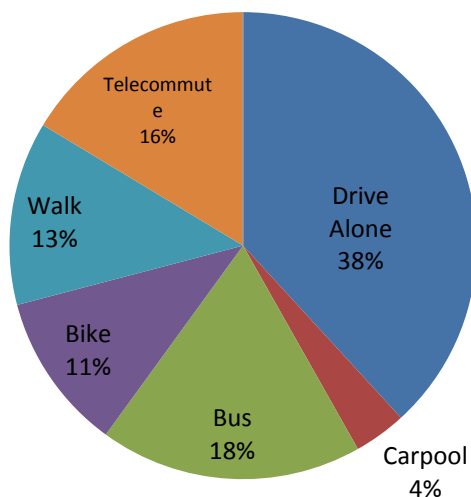
Summary of Feedback

CDTC integrated live polling using the software PollEverywhere, into the virtual presentations. Participants were able to participate online (using a separate browser window) and by mobile device. Sixteen questions, related to the region’s existing transportation system, major New Visions themes, and policy recommendations, were asked throughout the 40-minute presentation. Presentations ended with a live question and answer period where participants could type comments or questions into a chat box. Below is a summary of the feedback received from the seven presentations.

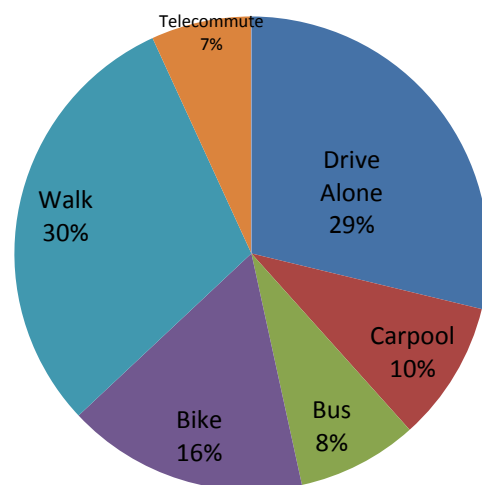
What do you like about living in the Capital Region?

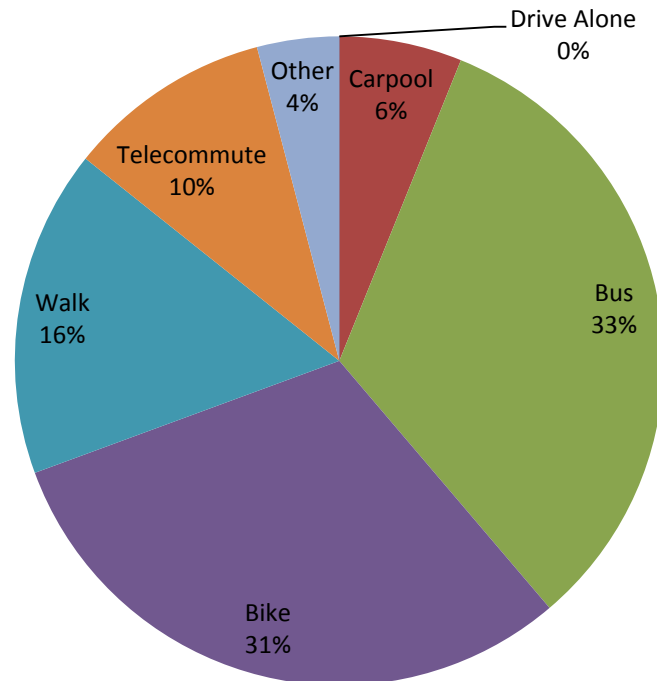


What modes do you use to commute to work? (Check all that apply)



What modes do you use for other types of trips? (Check all that apply)





What does “Quality Region” mean to you?

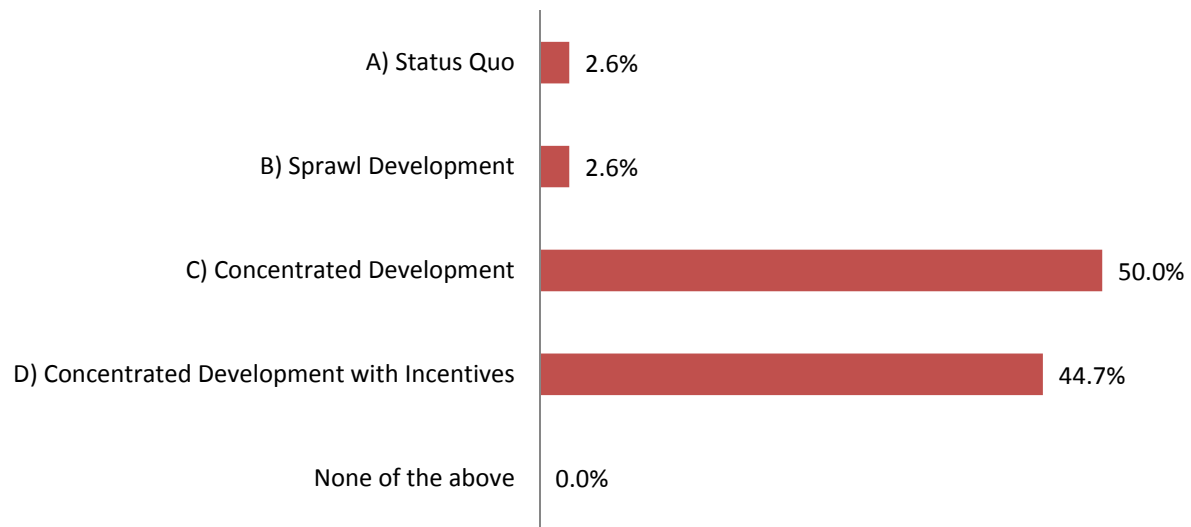


New Visions Public Participation Plan

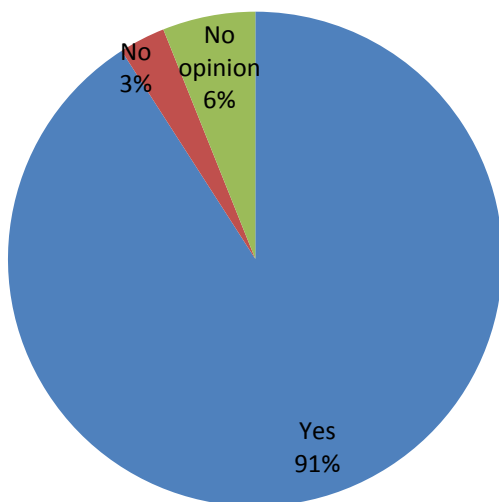
Summary of Public Comments



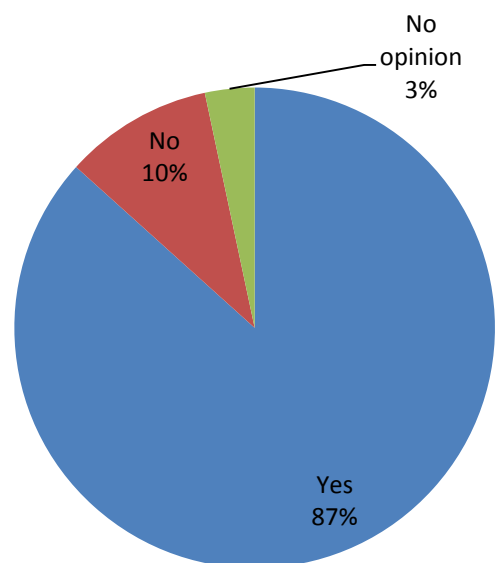
From your perspective, which scenario supports a "Quality Region"



Do you support this regional policy: Maintain a State-of-Good-Repair on Infrastructure



Do you support this regional policy: Manage Congestion, No New Capacity

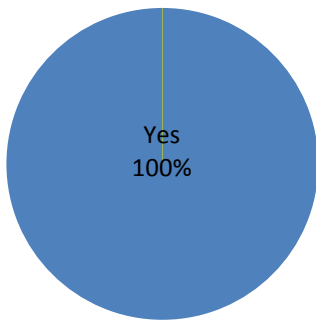


New Visions Public Participation Plan

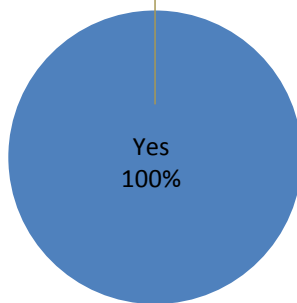
Summary of Public Comments



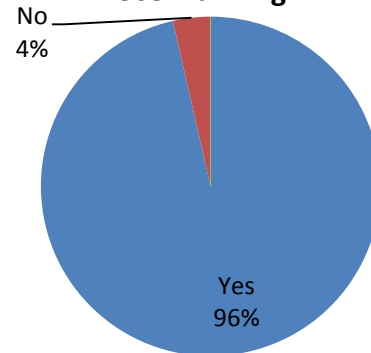
Do you support this regional policy: Plan & Implement Complete Streets



Do you support this regional policy: Encourage adoption of Safe Systems & Vision Zero Policies



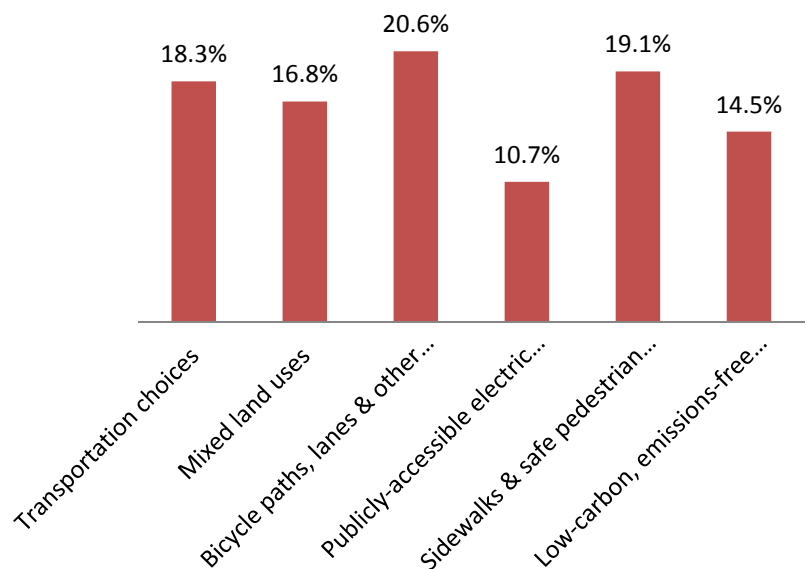
Do you support this regional policy: Encourage Smart Land Use Planning



The year is 2050...

Dwayne just relocated to the Capital District. He got a job as a nurse at a local hospital and is looking to purchase a home, for the first time. He wants to find a neighborhood where he can bike to work when the weather is nice. Dwayne drives a plug-in vehicle and knows that if he doesn't find a home with a driveway, he will need to rely on public charging infrastructure close by. Having a place to plug in at work is important too, he is committed to eliminating emissions from his commute. Dwayne also wants to live in a neighborhood close to restaurants and businesses where he can meet up with friends after work and on the weekends.

What about this vision do you like (pick all that apply)?



New Visions Public Participation Plan

Summary of Public Comments

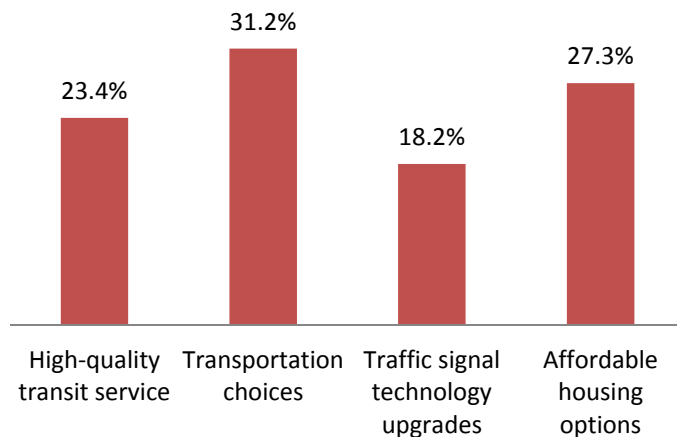


The year is 2050...

Lucy and Ray are life-long residents of the Capital Region and preparing for retirement. They both worked for the State and spent years commuting to Empire State Plaza and the State Office Campus from their home in Colonie. Ray can tell you about years of driving Central Avenue to and from work and the traffic lights that always “tied him up.” But these problems seem like long ago now. While more development has occurred throughout the corridor, traffic moves better since they upgraded the traffic signals with “smart” technology. Sometimes Ray avoids traffic entirely and saves money on gas and parking fees because he can take BusPlus. He can’t believe there’s a lane just for buses now and loves how quickly he can get downtown.

Ray and Lucy are looking forward to not having to commute everyday but are worried about how they will afford two vehicles on a fixed income. Lucy wants Ray to sell his car. She thinks they can get by on just one, even though they both plan on filling their time in retirement helping with their grandkids, volunteering at the local community center, and keeping up with their exercise classes. Lucy doesn’t mind hailing a ride with her smartphone if she needs to. And if they decide they no longer want to maintain their house, Ray and Lucy know they have a range of affordable housing options for seniors close by. They are confident they can continue to live independently and stay in close contact with their friends and family throughout the region. They feel lucky to live in a vibrant place.

What about this vision do you like (pick all that apply)?

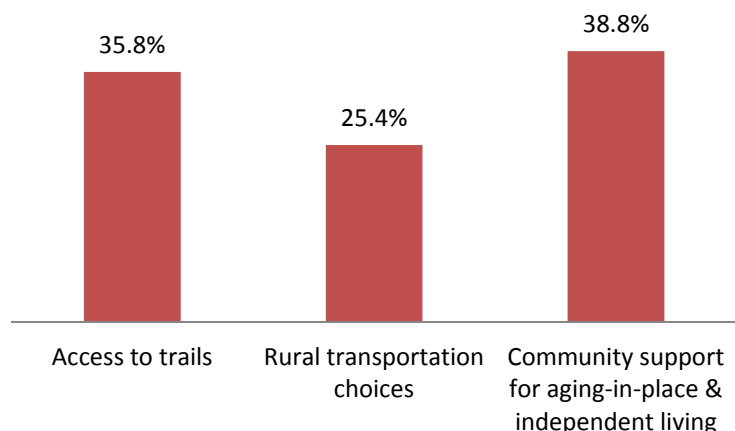


The year is 2050...

John and Edie sold their construction business nearly 15 years ago and have been living happily in retirement. They were glad to be able to stay in their home on several acres where they live with their dogs and other animals. Their daughter and her family live nearby and come and help out around the house often. Edie loves that their granddaughter, Elsie, can use the new rail-trail to walk or bike to her school with her friends. Edie jokes with Elsie about the “old days” when she had to drive everyone “all over creation” for school and soccer and play dates.

Edie is planning an overnight trip with her daughter but realized it conflicts with one of John’s doctor appointments in the city, 30-minutes away. John can’t drive anymore but Edie remembers that John can request a ride by calling a service or scheduling a ride through a smartphone app. Elsie reminds her grandpa how to use the app. Edie and John are grateful for the new rural transportation services available to seniors like her and John so that they can stay in their home, that they love.

What about this vision do you like (pick all that apply)?



New Visions Public Participation Plan

Summary of Public Comments



The year is 2050...

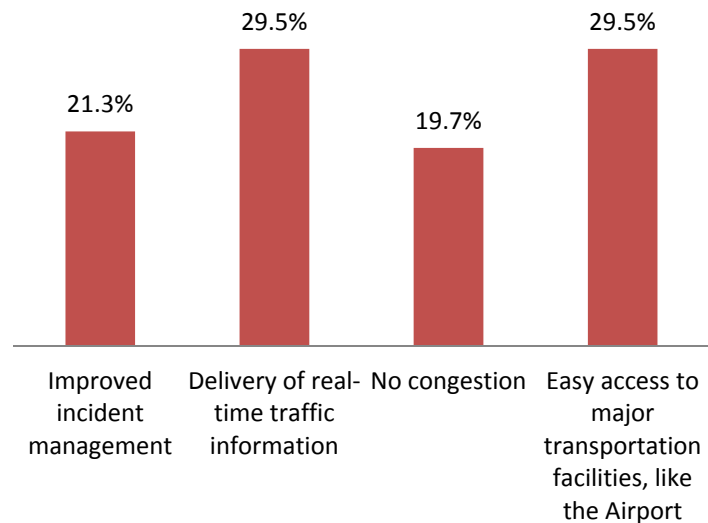


Chad, Siobhan, and their three children are a busy family. Both Chad and Siobhan work outside of their home and all three kids are involved in extracurricular activities. Chad often works long hours so Siobhan is primarily responsible for managing the kids' after school schedules. This means driving straight from work to the soccer field, swim practice, or piano lessons almost everyday of the week.

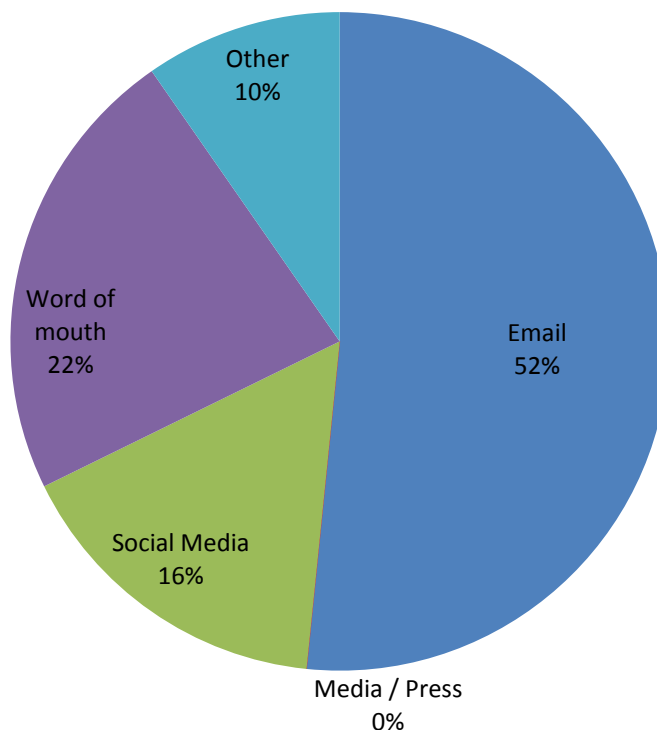
Siobhan is glad that she can drive her kids everywhere they need to go and plan trips ahead with all of the real-time traffic information that is easily accessible from her car's GPS, smartphone, and the new electronic message signs on most of the region's roadways. She's able to get across the county from piano lessons to soccer practice in less than 20 minutes and without being delayed by congestion or other issues because of improved incident management.

The family is looking forward to their beach vacation next week. It's rare that they all get to spend time together. Getting to and from the airport will be no problem because they have direct access and they know they will easily be able to find parking and their terminal. They enjoy a high quality of life because of investments in the region's highway infrastructure.

What about this vision do you like (pick all that apply)?



How did you hear about today's workshop?

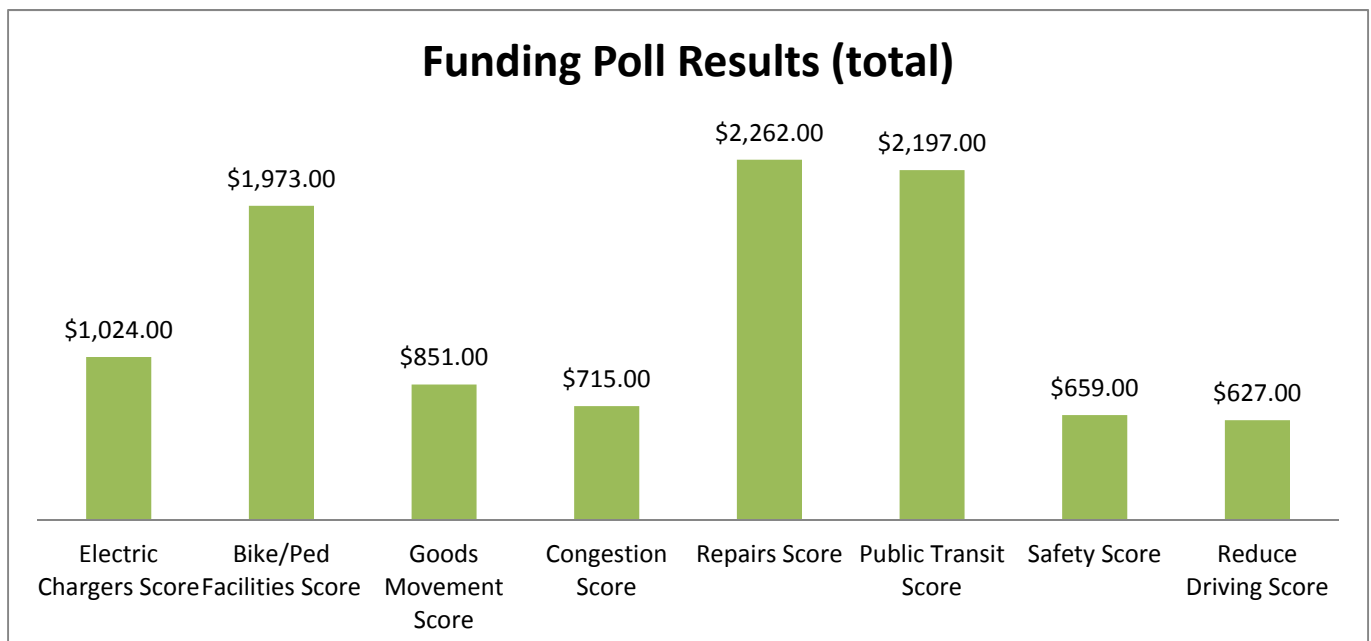
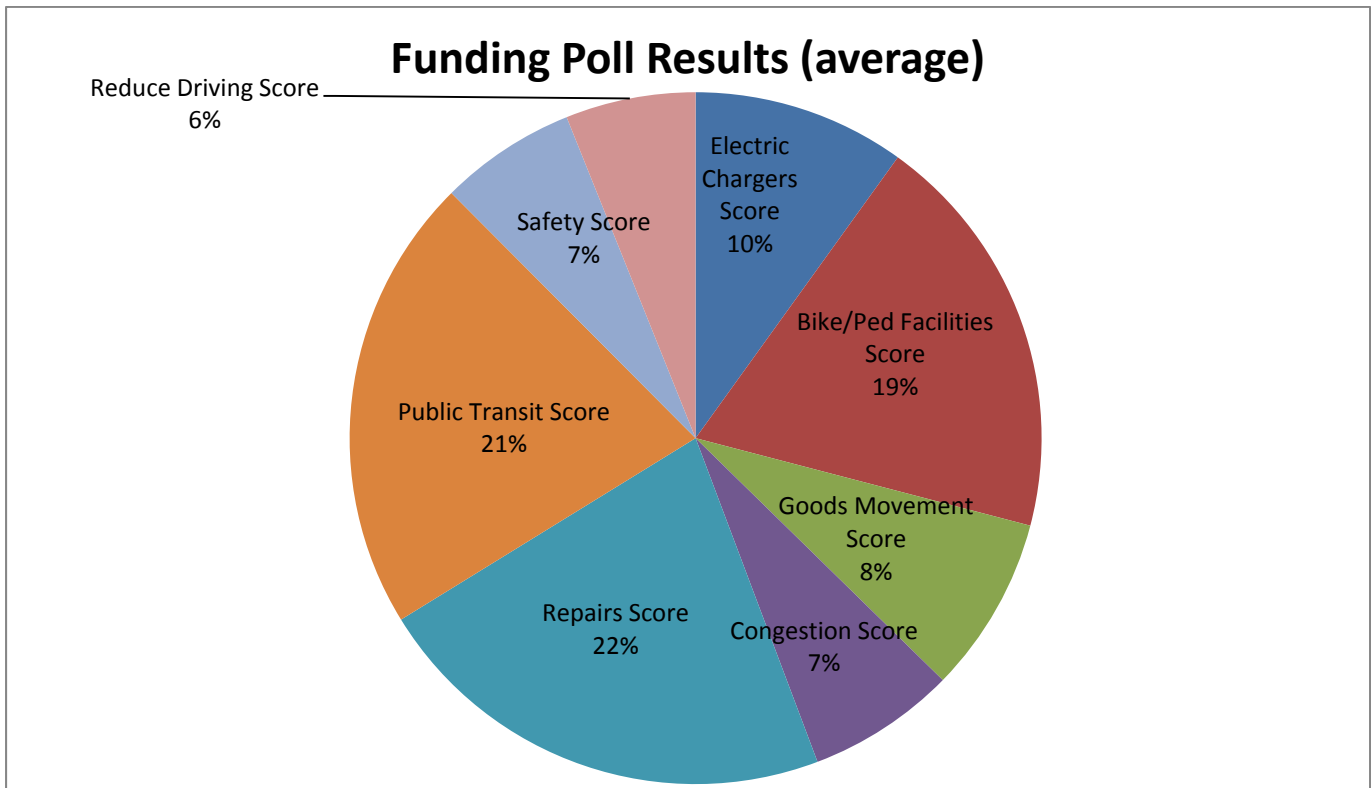


New Visions Public Participation Plan

Summary of Public Comments



In addition to live polling, CDTC commissioned the design of a web-based funding poll. Participants were given a hypothetical \$100 to spend on different transportation programs and project types. Each program or project type was accompanied for a photo and brief description. These included electric vehicle chargers, bike/ped facilities, goods movement, congestion, repairs, public transit, safety, and reduce driving. There were a total of 103 participants and the results are as follows.



New Visions Public Participation Plan

Summary of Public Comments



Participants in the funding poll were given the option to leave an accompanying comment for each funding choice. The table below lists the comments left for each program / project type.

Program / Project Type	Comment
Electric Vehicle Charging	I'm all in favor of electric vehicles, obviously all cars will electric in time. But just because one shells out \$100k for a Tesla does not mean that you or I should pay their fuel costs.
	I think this is great and necessary
Bike/Ped Facilities	<i>No comments</i>
Goods Movement	Movement of freight is completely under-appreciated and underfunded. It is more important for freight to move than for people to move. We can work from home, freight must travel. That said, we will soon be drowning in a sea of delivery pods, unless someone gets control of Amazon-style sales outlets. Obviously this is not an issue that can solved locally, but perhaps we can lead the way in identifying possible solutions.
	Low priority
Congestion	Congestion in the Capital District, really? What little there is serves to have people move trips away from the peak of the peak. It is a good thing.
Repairs	<i>No comments</i>
Public Transit	<i>No comments</i>
Safety	<i>No comments</i>
Reduce Driving	<i>No comments</i>

Policy Board and Planning Committee members, advisory committees, and the general public were all invited to review draft New Visions 2050 documents and submit questions and comments. CDTC encouraged comments to be submitted by email (newvisions@cdtcmpo.org), phone, virtual voicemail / text, or written and mailed. The table below summarizes the major several comments that there were received. Individuals and entities that submitted comments each received responses.

Public/Local Govt/Other	Comment Summary	Responded
Local Govt	Improving travel reliability in the NYS Route 67 Corridor is a high priority that is also crucial to the freight system and local economy.	✓
Other	Maintaining exiting transportation infrastructure, particularly major highway facilities should be the region's highest priority and should be communicated in the plan in stronger language.	✓
Local Govt	General comments including typos and grammatical errors	✓