Potholes and Politics:

Minnesotans' Attitudes about Transportation Infrastructure

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Preliminary results. For permission to use and updates, contact ProxemicInsights@gmail.com.

Purposes of survey

1. Engage with the public to gain their input on a policy issue of immediate, high relevance.
   - *Mode patterns* (their usual patterns of transportation infrastructure use)
   - *Awareness* (self-assessment of being informed about transportation infrastructure issues)
   - *Quality* of different aspects of transportation infrastructure
   - *Values* they prioritize in transportation infrastructure and policy.
   - *Policy preferences,* gathered in a confidential, apolitical setting
   - *Demographic information* (zip code, age, race, gender, political identification)
2. Strengthen relationships with MnDOT's market research, public engagement, and communication services teams.
3. Test the conventional wisdom about the rural/urban divide or party line splits on transportation issues.

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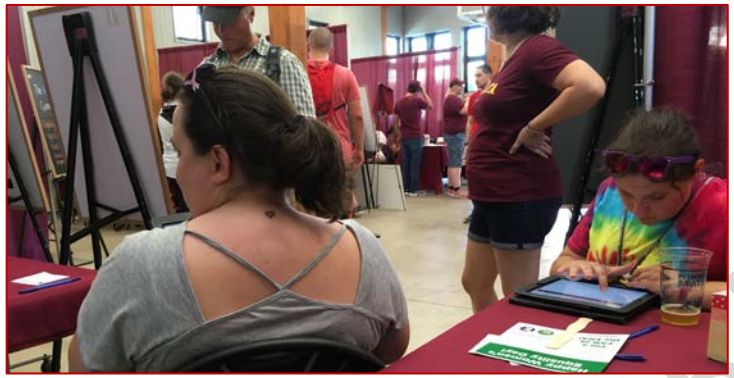

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Preliminary results of State Fair Surveys

- 3-5 minute survey using iPads and Qualtrics (*See handout*)
- UMN Dare to Discover pavilion at 2018 & 2019 State Fair. 7 days, 4-5 hour sessions, space funded by CTS
- Completed by 1633 Minnesota adult participants (2018: 754; 2019: 879)
- 7 MnDOT volunteers, 8 UMN students

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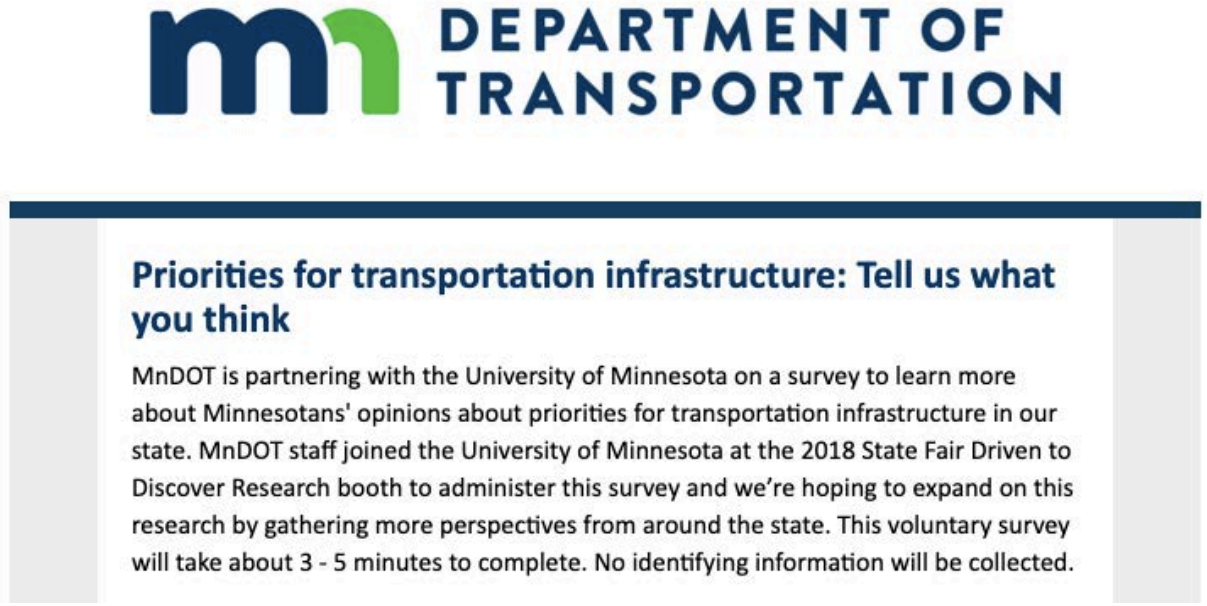
Preliminary results of Online Survey

- 466 respondents
- Survey open for one week in 2019 (February 25th to March 4th)
- 3-5 minute survey
- Sent to list serve of 1,650 Minnesotans who opted in to provide input to MnDOT



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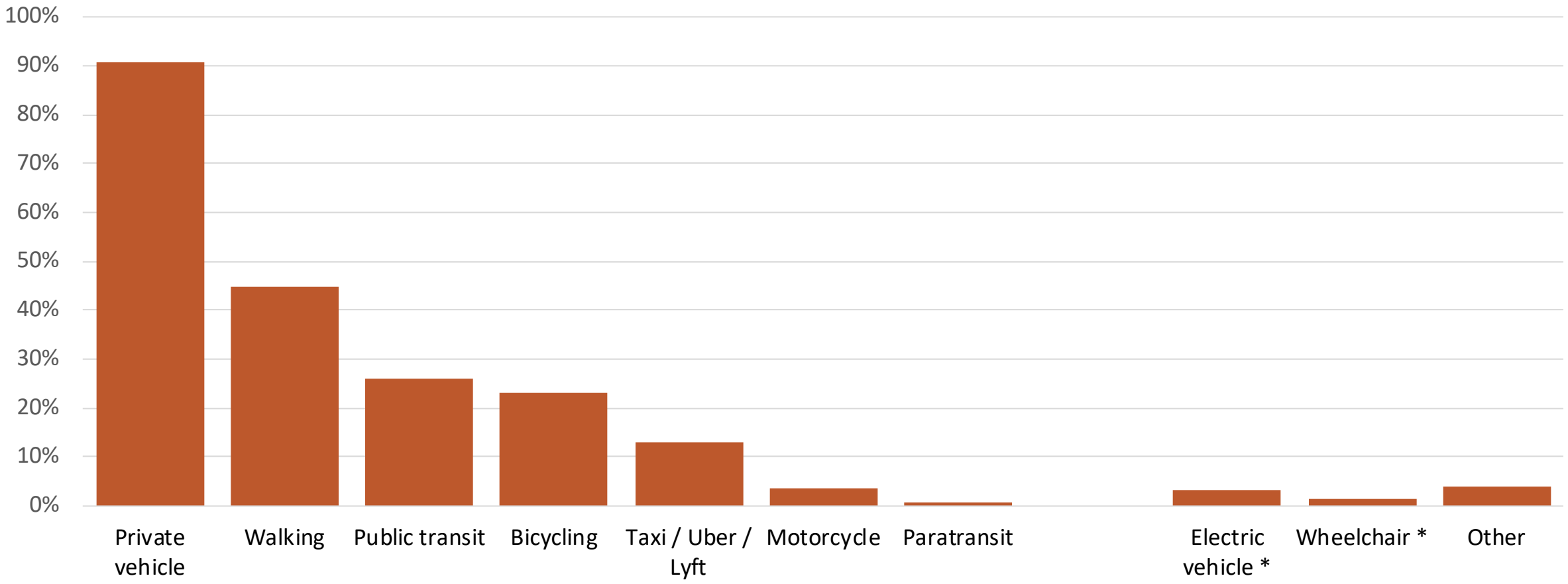
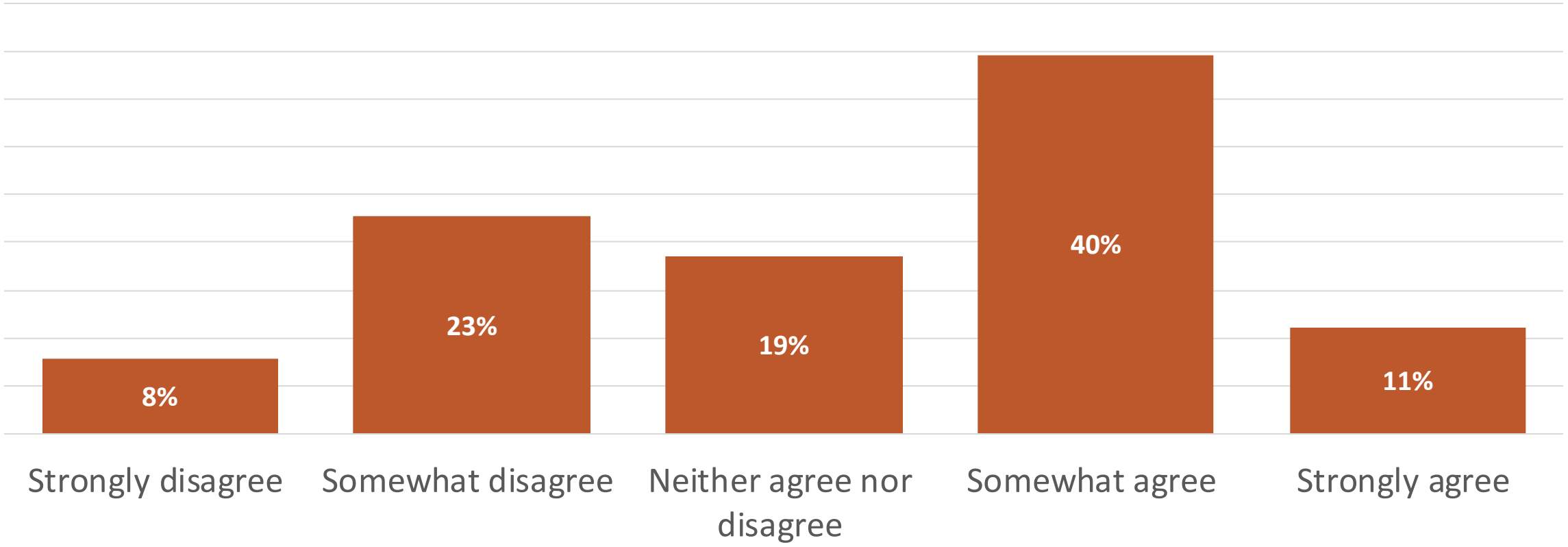
What kinds of transportation do you usually use? (Select all that apply.)



“I feel well informed about transportation infrastructure issues in Minnesota.”



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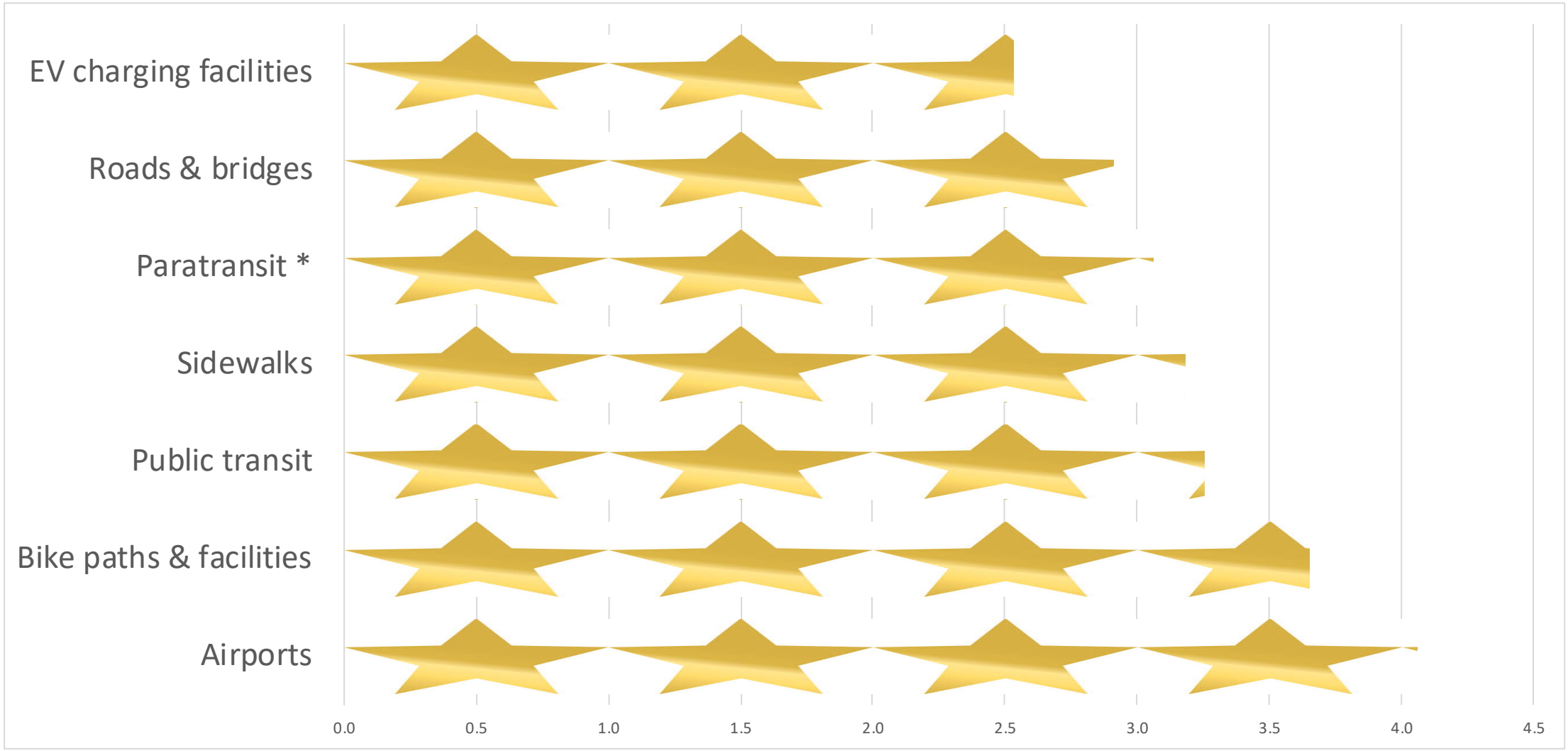
Quality of transportation infrastructure (1 to 5 stars)



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Most important values (forced to choose 4)

Convenience: It is easy and fast to get around.

Coverage: It connects to all of the places we need to go.

Cost to taxpayer: It does not cost the public too much.

Cost to user: It is affordable to use.

Economic vitality: It supports a strong economy.

Environment: It has minimal negative environmental impacts.

Equity: It provides good transportation access for everyone.

Health: It promotes good health.

Maintenance: It is taken care of (not deteriorating).

Safety: It is safe to use.

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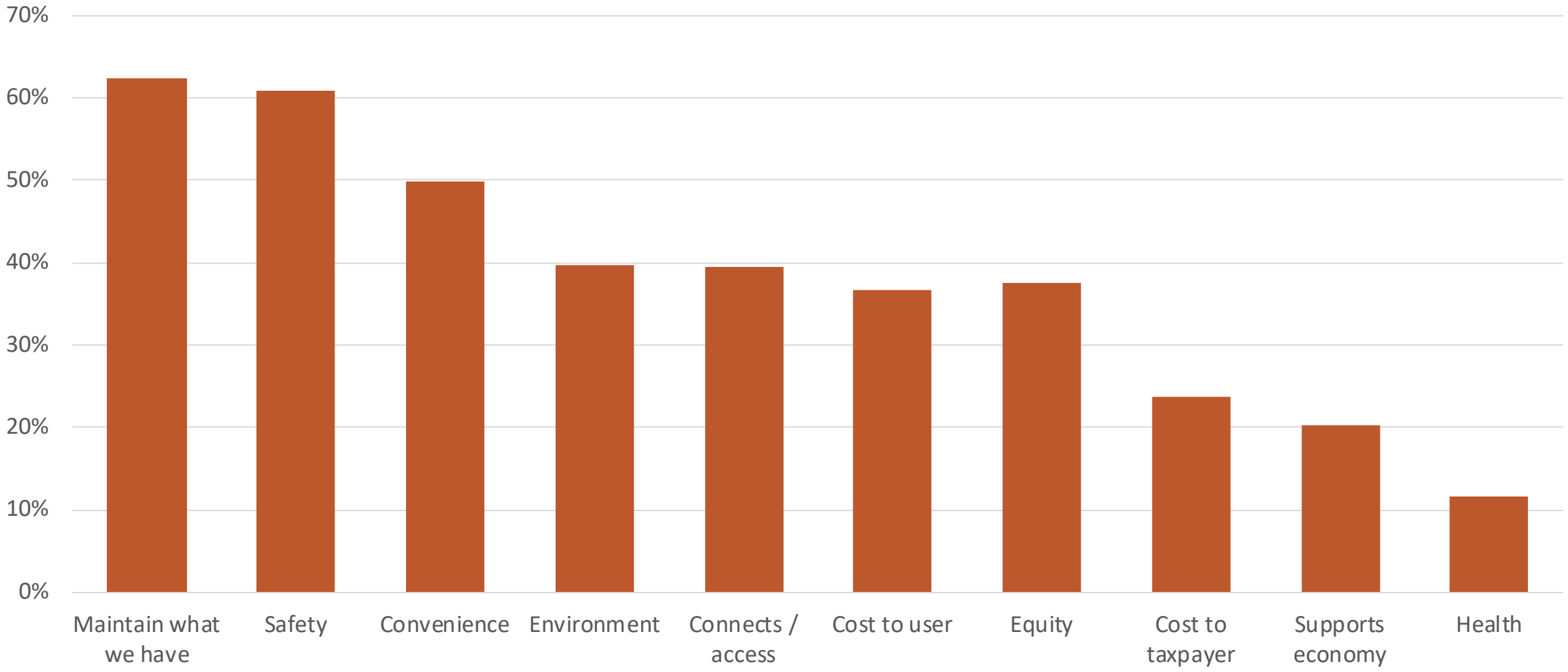
Most important values (forced to chose 4)



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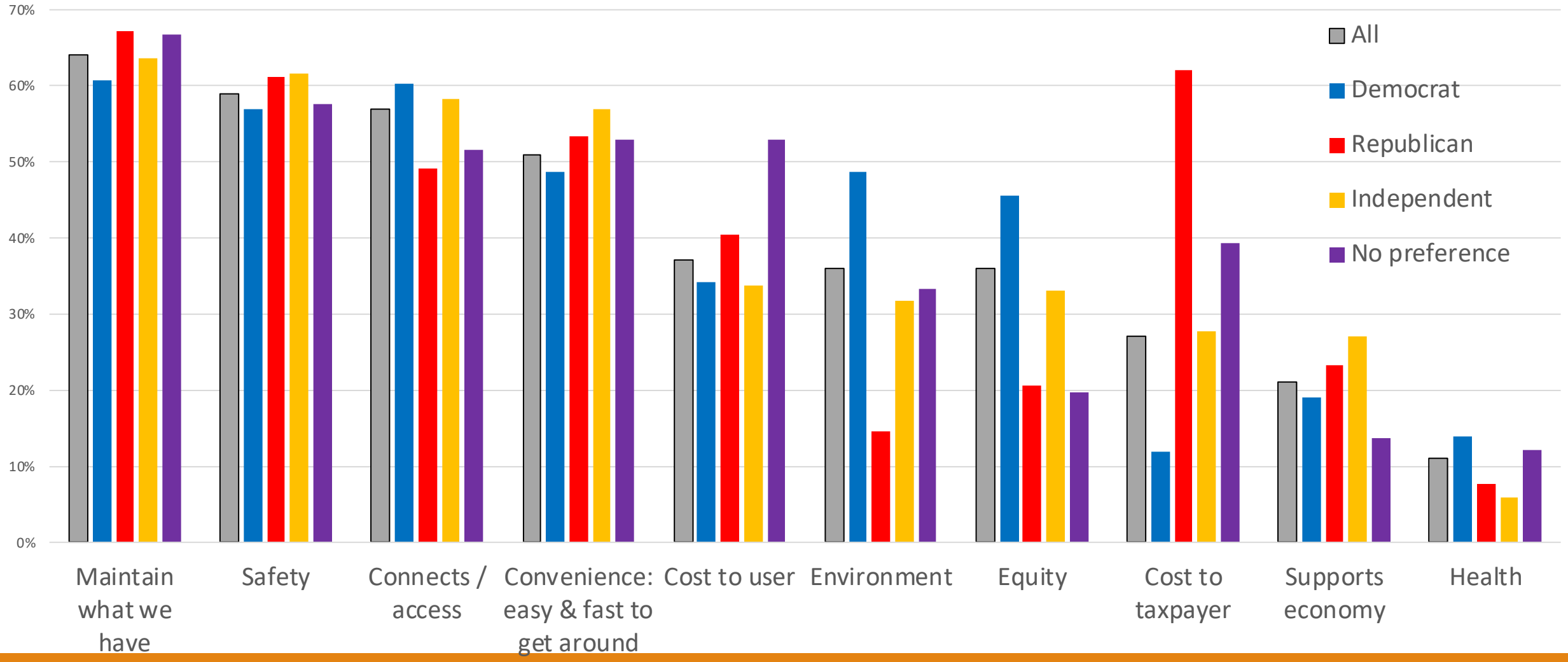
Most important values, by party (2018 State Fair only)



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Correlations of party ID & preferences (2018 State Fair only)

*significant **very significant ***clearly very significant

Cost to taxpayer

- √ Republican***
- √ No preference*
- not Democrat***

Environment

- √ Democrat***
- not Republican***
- not Decline to state*

Equity

- √ Democrat***
- not Republican***
- not No preference**

Cost to user

- √ No preference**

Health

- √ Democrat*
- not Independent*

Economic vitality

- √ Independent*

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Attitude towards policy options (strongly agree to strongly disagree)

Transit funding: Increase funding for public transit.

Reduce wear and tear: Restrict or charge high fees for heavy vehicles.

Gas tax: Raise the gas tax to pay for roads & bridges

Local tax: Raise local sales taxes to pay for roads & bridges.

User fees: Charge tolls or fees for using roads and airports

Fares: Increase fares for transit users

No change: Things are fine as they are.

Downsize: Reduce transportation infrastructure to reduce costs.

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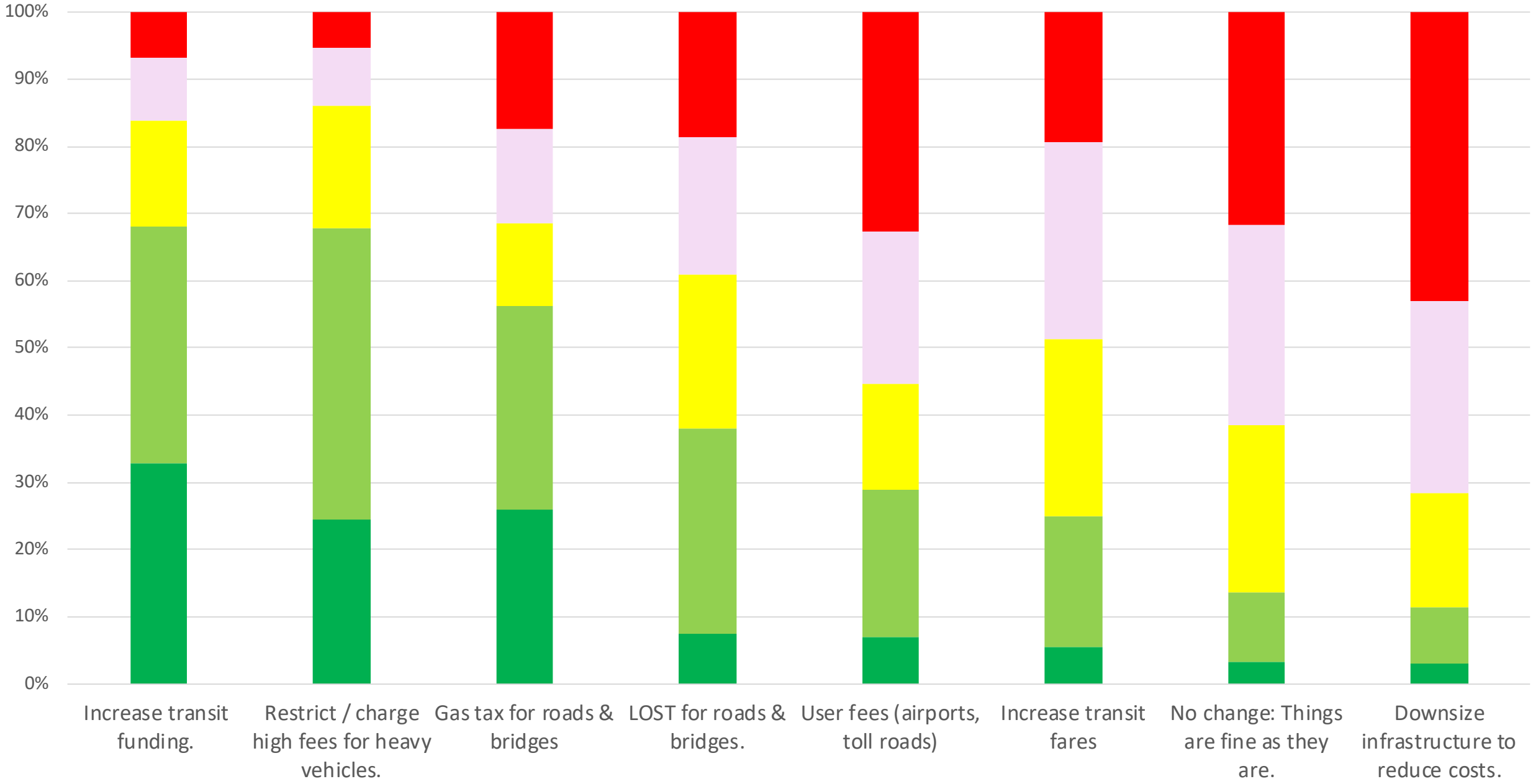

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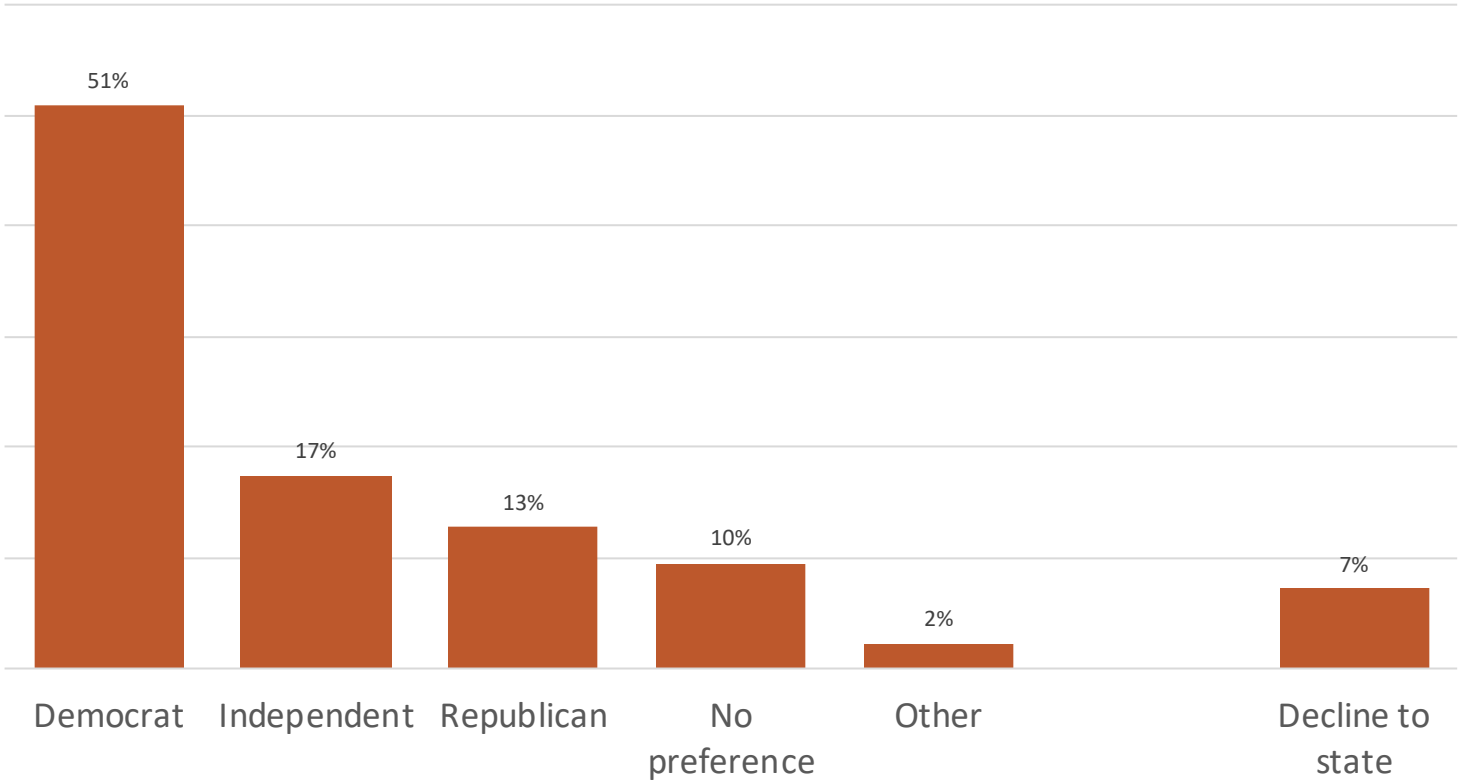
Representativeness considerations

Geographic

- 67% Hennepin and Ramsey counties (1365)
- 17% Greater Metro Area: Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Scott, & Washington counties (341)
- 16% Greater Minnesota (332)



Thank you!

Please contact us with questions, ideas, permission to use data, or requests for updates:

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