



INNOVATE PASCO 2050

LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

February 1, 2024

Phase 1 Engagement Summary

Phase 1 Engagement Activities

1 Stakeholder Interviews

2 Area Workshop Series 1

3 Online Survey 1



December 12 & 13, 2023



December 8, 2023
through January 31, 2024

4 MPO Committees



January 2, 2024

The Phase 1 Engagement Summary focuses on the input received from the December 2023 stakeholder meetings and area workshops. Results from the first online survey also are provided.

Stakeholder Interviews

Western Municipalities | December 12, 2023 at 9:30am

What is your biggest congestion issue?

Port Richey

- US 19: challenge to development in Port Richey, divides the city (US 19 Corridor Study to be developed by Pasco County)

What are your biggest safety concerns?

Port Richey

- Crossings on US 19 (acts as a barrier)
- User error/poor decision making leading to fatalities and serious injuries
- Golf cart crossings on Grand Boulevard
- Changing land uses over the next 10-20 years could make safety issues worse (especially along US 19)
- Ridge Road at US 19

What are your biggest bicycle and pedestrian needs?

Port Richey

- Pedestrian crossings on US 19
- Streets too narrow, not conducive to riding
- Internal circulation in Port Richey made worse by US 19
- Influx of population from outside Port Richey have their own bike/ped expectations
- Making connection to the Coast-to-Coast Trail the Pinellas Trail
- Golf cart usage popular from the waterfront to downtown, but a safe route doesn't currently exist
 - Application for a golf cart crossing of US 19

Is transit service sufficient for your area? If not, what improvements are needed?

Port Richey

- Adding commuter rail service options in Port Richey
- Regional Rapid Transit Study—St. Petersburg/Airport along US 19 to Hwy 52
- Other current considerations:
 - US 19 high-frequency routes provided by GoPasco
 - Future water taxi

Do you have any concerns with freight movement in your area?

Port Richey

- Volumes in Port Richey seem to be low (perhaps because of the Suncoast Parkway)

What are the biggest regional travel patterns that affect travel in your area?

Port Richey

- Going to the Tampa area for jobs

Eastern Municipalities | December 12, 2023 at 2:30pm

What is your highest priority for the LRTP?

Zephyrhills

- Improvements to widen US 301
- St. Leo
- Orange Belt Trail along Hwy 52

What do you think we are going to hear from your constituents during our public engagement?

Zephyrhills

- Topic of growth and the congestion that comes with it
- Ways to create “bypasses” around the city (especially for truck traffic) as a way to relieve traffic

St. Leo

- Roundabout at Pompano St and CR 52 (construction could begin next year) – construction management is critical, especially to the University

What is your biggest congestion issue?

Zephyrhills

- SR 56 and US 301
- Growth and development (moratorium on new residential development through June 2024)
- Chancey Street needs to be widened to four lanes

St. Leo

- Upgrade to Wichers Road needed to provide connection between old and new Hwy 52

What are your biggest bicycle and pedestrian needs?

Zephyrhills

- Bike/ped access on Wire Road to connect subdivision to the south to the high school
- Increase in non-vehicular traffic from homeless encampment near Hwy 39 and Jerry Road
- Fort King Road Trail project
- Midblock on Hwy 54
- Pedestrian facilities on US 301

St. Leo

- Crossing at Wicher Road and Hwy 52 (part of roundabout project)

Is transit service sufficient in your area? If not, what improvements are needed?

Zephyrhills

- Property at 7th Street and 14th Avenue to be developed and is across the street from Meals on Wheels (might see an uptick in transit traffic)

Do you have any concerns with freight movement in your area?

Zephyrhills

- Chancey Road needs to be four-lane to accommodate truck traffic (cookie manufacturer will add 18 trucks/day from new facility at Chancey and 6th)
- Kiger Road

County Staff, Round 1 | December 13, 2023 at 9:00am

What is your highest priority for the LRTP?

- County's land use pattern changing from urban sprawl to nodal development in urban service area (to favor job growth)
- Changing land uses (particularly onsite circulation from major developments) – need to identify opportunities for smart growth
- Business recruitment's biggest concern is traffic congestion
- Mixed-use development (capture traffic instead of generate) – e.g., Avalon Park/Wesley Chapel saw 50% reduction in onsite traffic generation

What do you think we are going to hear from your constituents during our public engagement?

- US 19
- Little Road – relief valve for US 19; ongoing Four Corners traffic improvements; bottlenecks and congestion points
- Trinity Boulevard congestion from Pinellas traffic and the two-lane section
- Lack of sidewalks/connectivity in New Port Richey (need to improve modal choices throughout County)

What is your biggest congestion issue?

- East/west connectivity
- Travel times through large developments
- Local traffic must use major thoroughfares due to lack of interconnectivity
- Playing “catch-up” to needed improvements
- Need alternatives to new roads and road widenings: transit that appeals to choice riders, multimodal options, connectivity
- Differentiation between the east/west routes (harder due to County's shape) and north/south (easier)

What are your biggest safety concerns?

- “Stroads” are a problem (e.g., US 19)
- US 19 – MPO has researched the crashes on US 19; FDOT constructing 7 midblock pedestrian crossings; Pasco County Safety Action Plan forthcoming; Looking at alternatives to pedestrian bridges; Need to lower speeds
- Policies and procedures get in the way – Focus on travel times, e.g., at the expense of other traffic calming options

What are your biggest bicycle and pedestrian needs?

- Accommodating other modes (e.g., scooters, autonomous vehicles, ridesharing)
- Create overlap with regional trail network
- Golf carts (need a golf cart network map)

Is transit service sufficient for your area? If not, what improvements are needed?

- Things that seem out of reach should still be addressed (e.g., light rail)
- Regional connectivity (Dade City to New Port Richey)
- More multimodal/bus route options in Zephyrhills
- Expansion of GoPasco services
- Current and ongoing efforts
 - Two transfer centers and real-time transit forthcoming
 - Two park-and-rides
 - COA will include focus on microtransit and examine all current routes
 - US 19 a priority transit corridor (currently the busiest route)
 - Have met with Hillsborough and Pinellas to discuss regional transit

County Staff, Round 2 | December 12, 2023 at 2:00pm

How do you use the LRTP in your day-to-day work?

- Five-year CIP projects – Need to check progress toward the CIP projects because it feeds into the cost feasible plan and determine what is a “committed project” in the E+C network; Where in the five-year cycle matters (e.g., confident projects in the first two years will be completed)
- Cost affordable plan

How can the LRTP better advance the goals of the County? Be more implementable?

- LRTP needs to focus on what can be achieved in the 6- to 10-year horizon and how can County can get to year 10
- GoPasco – need a meaningful regional transit system (e.g., Brightline making its way to Tampa); regional transit along US 19
- SunRail Feasibility Study in Polk County
- How much of the transportation budget should be spent on landscaping installation and maintenance

What is the County doing to maximize the investment from private development in providing transportation improvements?

- Every deal is handled independently
- Comprehensive Plan includes plans for future transportation corridors through a horizon year of roughly 2060
- County has to give credits for right-of-way
- If a road is shown in the transportation corridors map from Comprehensive Plan, County will require developers to invest in improvements
- Transportation Team recommends to the Planning Team what improvements need to be made as part of each development project

Policy Considerations

- Developers to provide streetlights
- Credit program
- Provision of bike lanes vs. mixed-use paths
- Determine a typical section that includes multimodal element
- Determine how much landscaping should be in median or along roadway (currently inconsistent)

Other Considerations

- County needs to work with MPO to create a continuous data development process to identify congestion and safety hotspots
- State law constraints (e.g., developer may contribute 20% of a road widening to offset congestion impacts, but County has to wait for remaining 80% to become available)
- Need to tweak prioritization process
- Revenue forecasting needs to occur sooner in the process

Ongoing/Upcoming Considerations

- Comprehensive Plan update underway
- Elections forthcoming (three up for re-election)
- Road repaving process changing to a district-wide approach
- Mobility Fee Update will occur in 2025
- CIP map update in process


Area Workshop Series 1

Project Background

Participants viewed boards that described the study area, the planning process, the purpose of the plan, and key facts about the County.

Project Overview

This board informed workshop attendees of the Innovate Pasco 2050 process, including a map and description of the study area, the plan’s intended outcomes, and a process schedule.



WHAT IS THE INNOVATE PASCO 2050 PLAN?

Innovate Pasco 2050 is a multimodal transportation plan that will endeavor to identify all current and anticipated transportation needs in the County for the years ahead. Innovate Pasco 2050 will consider all modes of transportation, including motorized vehicles, public transportation, bicycles, walking, freight and goods movement, and air travel.

The plan will rely on extensive data analysis of Pasco County’s transportation system and robust public input to determine the County’s transportation system needs.

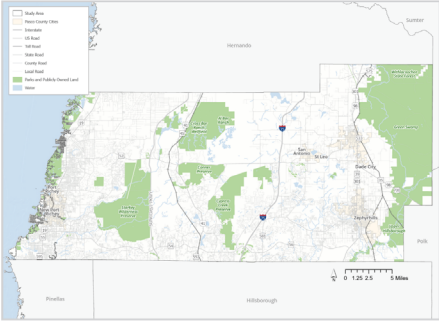
As Innovate Pasco 2050 takes shape over the next year, we want to hear from you along the way and learn about what transportation issues are important to you.

Area Workshop #1
December 12 and 13, 2023

PROJECT OVERVIEW

STUDY AREA

The Innovate Pasco 2050 transportation plan study area includes the all of Pasco County. The map below showcases the study area and major roadways and parks and public lands.



PLAN OUTCOMES


Innovate Pasco 2050 will analyze Pasco County’s transportation system to determine the County’s transportation system needs. Those needs will then be matched with recommended transportation improvement projects, which will be prioritized for funding. The result will be a comprehensive blueprint for effective transportation decision-making and investment choices.

PROCESS SCHEDULE

The project schedule below shows the timelines for different parts of Innovate Pasco 2050. Public involvement will occur throughout the development of the plan, with workshops and online surveys planned for December, April, and May. Additional opportunities to let your voice be heard will occur throughout the process. The first online survey can be accessed using the QR code below. The report will be finalized in Summer 2024 with plan adoption in December 2024.

TASK	2023					2024								
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Existing Conditions	█													
Recommendation Development			█											
Funding and Prioritization					█	█	█							
Documentation							█	█	█					
Congestion Management Process Update					█	█	█	█	█					
Plan Adoption														█
Public Involvement	○					○	○							○

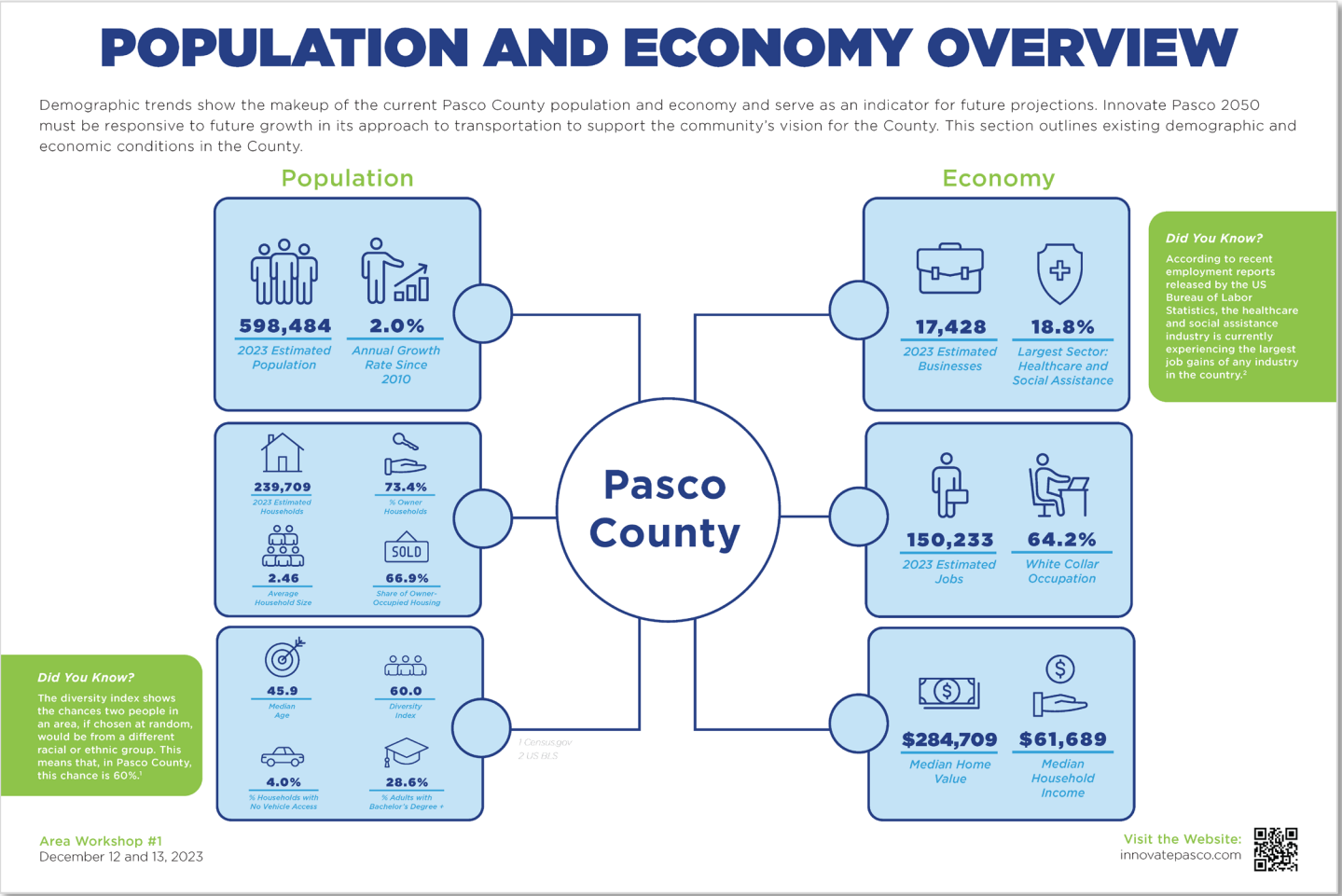
Visit the Website: innovatepasco.com



INNOVATE PASCO2050

Population and Economy Overview

This board introduced attendees to information related to Pasco County's population and economy



Where Do You Live? Work? Recreate?

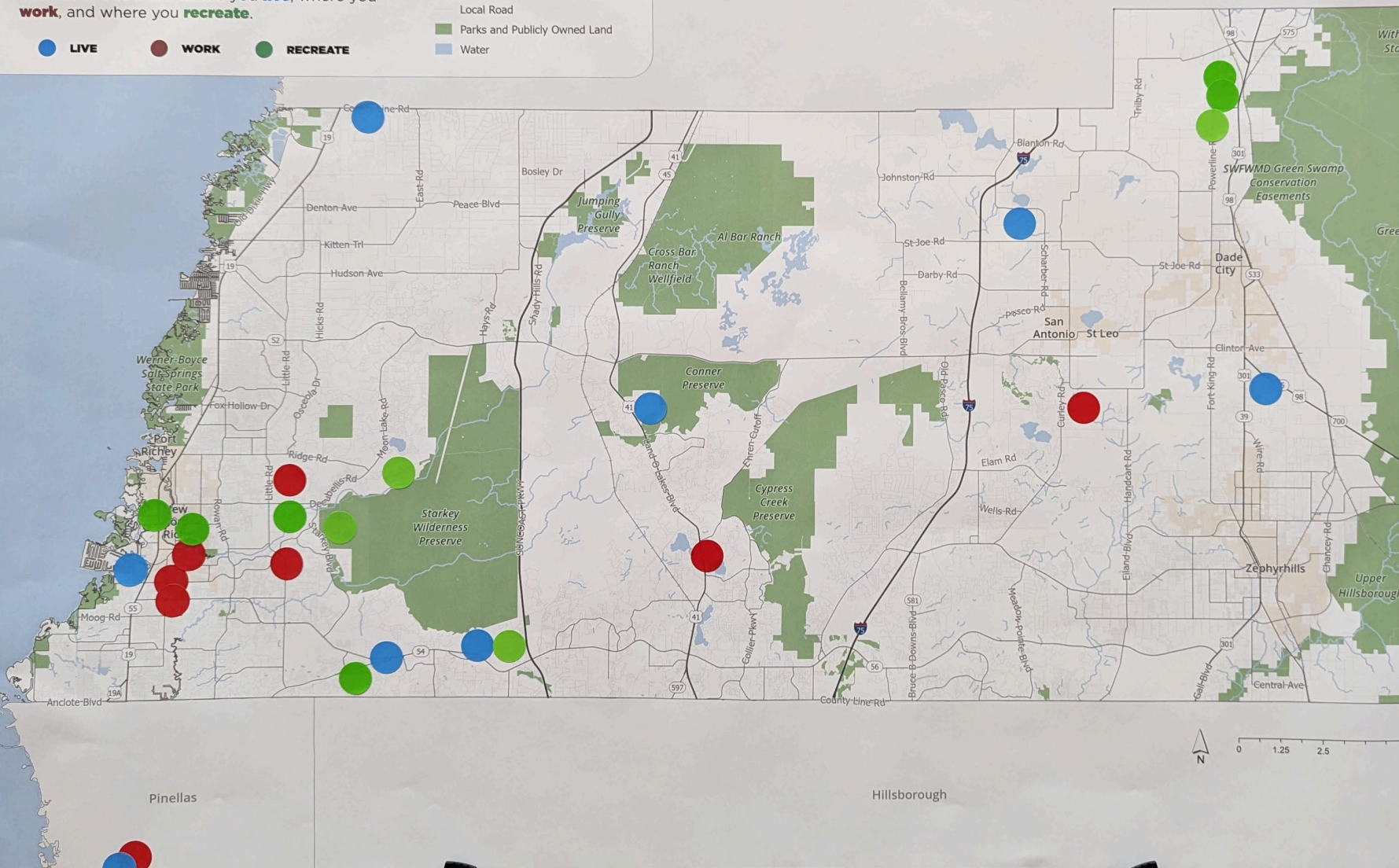
Participants used colored dots to identify where they live, work, and recreate. Accommodates

WHERE DO YOU LIVE? WORK? RECREATE?

Use stickers to mark where you **live**, where you **work**, and where you **recreate**.

LIVE **WORK** **RECREATE**

- Study Area
- Pasco County Cities
- Interstate
- Toll Road
- US Road
- State Road
- County Road
- Local Road
- Parks and Publicly Owned Land
- Water



Participants came from throughout the study area, with most living in the more populated western portion of the County.

Most people work in the western portion of the County, with one participant working outside the County.

Places to recreate were primarily clustered in the southwestern and northeastern portions of the County.

One Word

On worksheets, participants wrote one word to describe transportation in Pasco County today, and one word to describe their ideal for Pasco County's transportation in 2050.

Use one word to describe transportation in Pasco County today.

lousy
crowded problematic
unpredictable
bicycles uni-modal
poor hindsight inaccessible
haphazard
speedy

Participants noted that the current transportation system can be **unpredictable** and **inaccessible** to certain users.

Use one word to describe your ideal vision for Pasco County's transportation in 2050.

choices inclusive
user-friendly great
planned prioritized
rural efficient
accessible collaboration
predictable

In the future, participants hope to see a transportation system that offers choices, accessibility, and predictability to increase safety and efficiency.

Innovation Board

On worksheets, participants wrote their response to the prompt “Pasco County can INNOVATE how we move people and goods in 2050 by...”

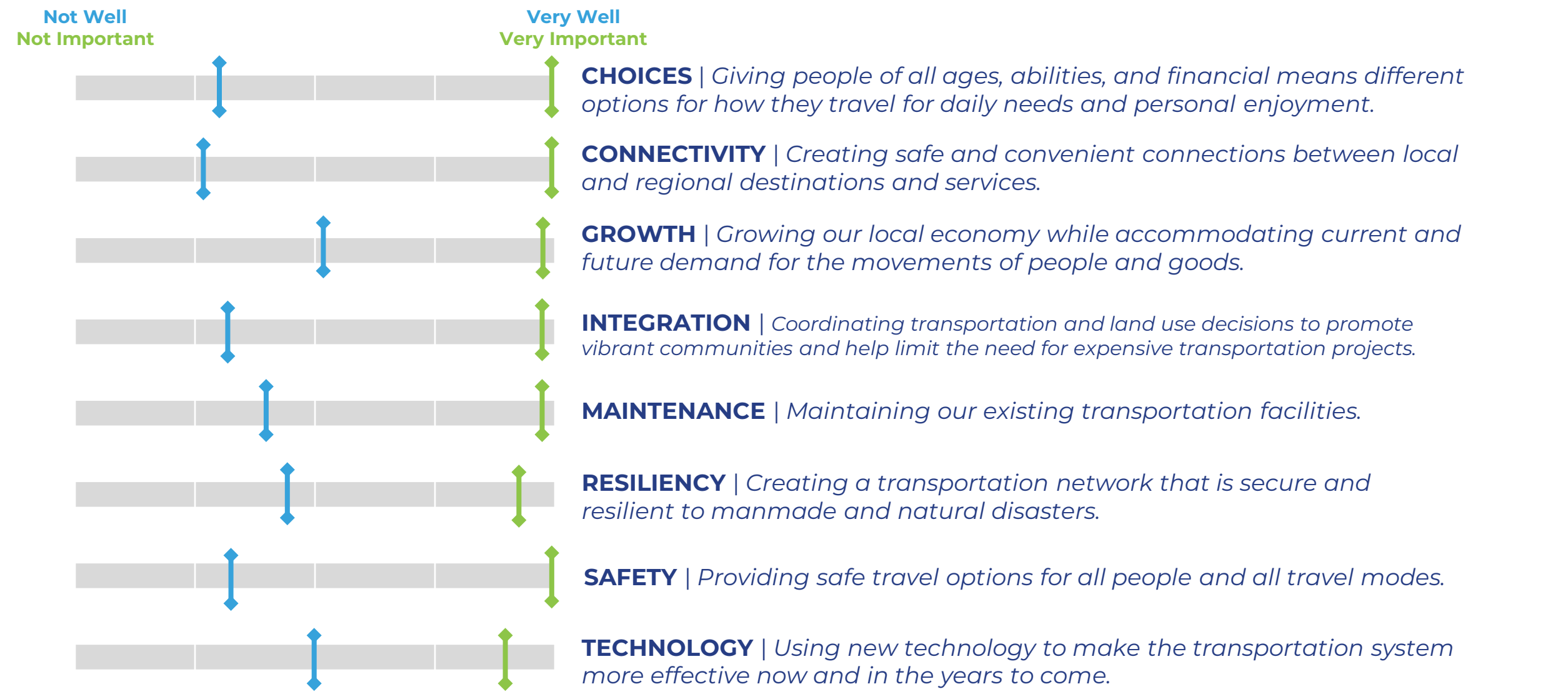
Innovation Board

- Pasco County can **INNOVATE** how we move people and goods in 2050 by...
 - Improving the roadways and intersections
 - Increasing the use of sidewalks
 - Removing potholes from neighborhood streets
 - Having more transit options that are accessible and allow people to carry strollers, walkers, etc.
 - Providing more lighting in neighborhoods and on the main roads

Transportation Topics

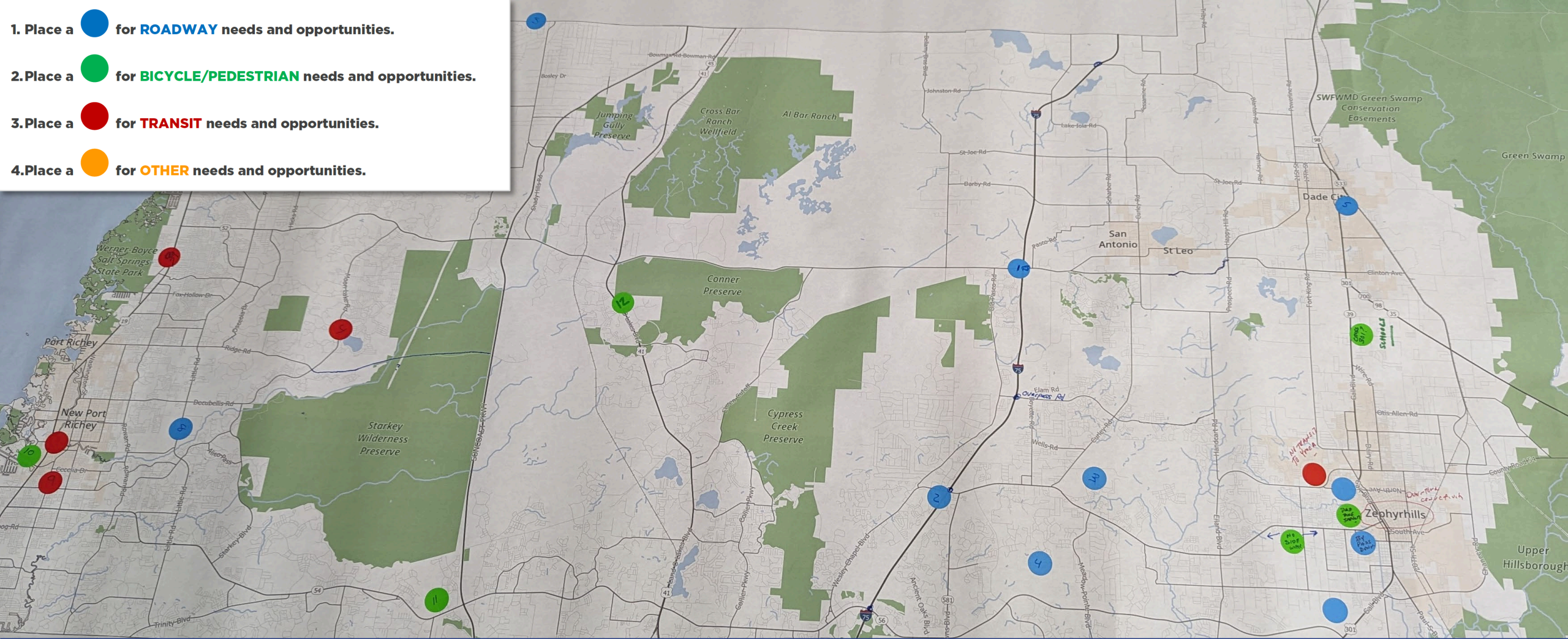
For eight transportation topics, participants answered two questions: How well is the topic addressed today? How important is the topic for the future?

Transportation Topics | How well is the topic addressed today? How important is the topic for the future?



Mapping Activity

Participants used colored dots to identify needs and opportunities for various ways to travel in Pasco County.



ROADWAY needs and opportunities focused on eastern Pasco County along **I-75** and near **Zephyrhills**.

TRANSIT needs and opportunities were identified in western Pasco County along **US 19** and in **New Port Richey**.

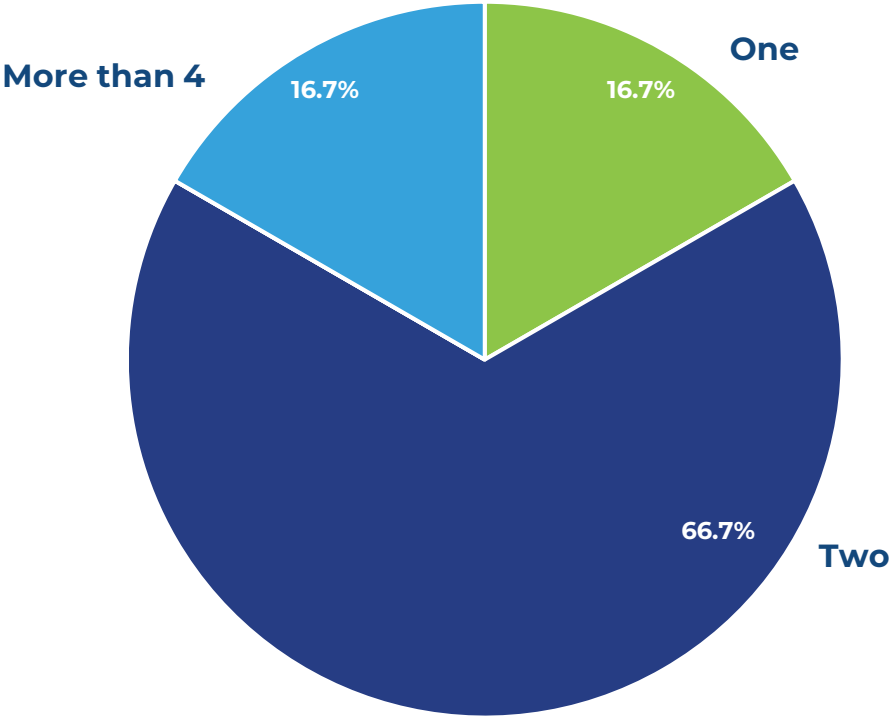
Exit Questionnaire

Before departing the area workshop, participants completed an exit questionnaire.

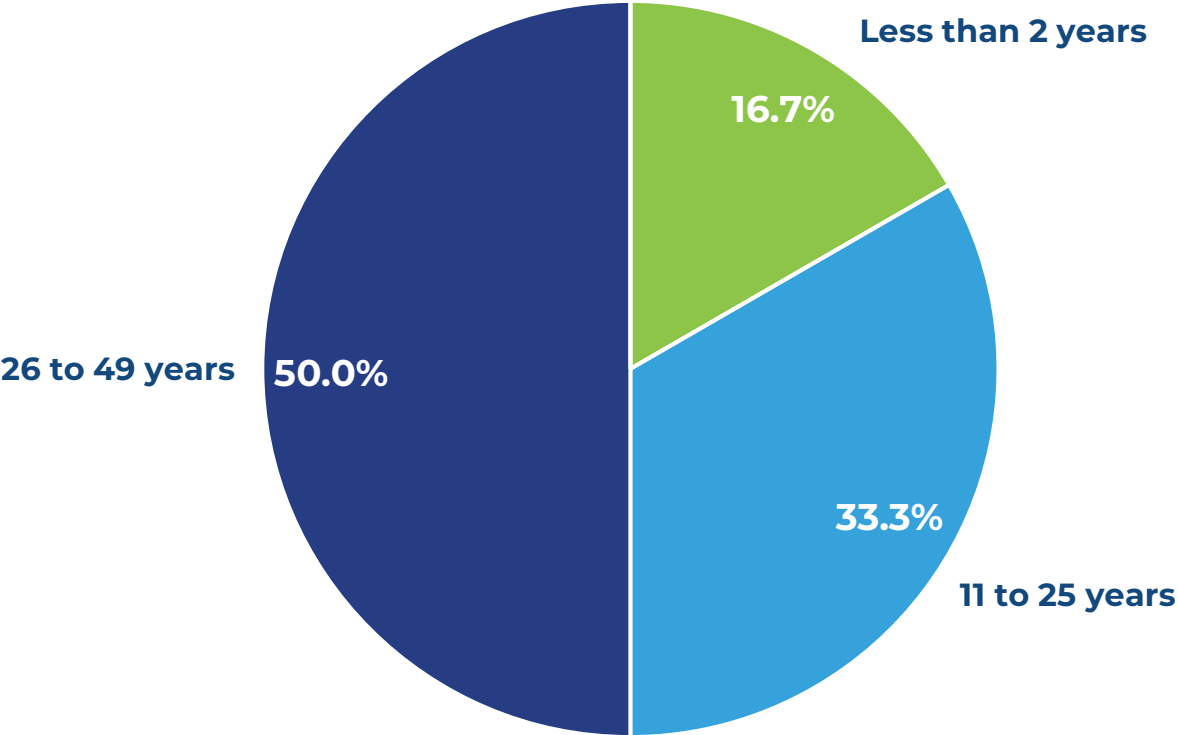
What is your home zip code?

33523 | 33525 | 33556 | 34669

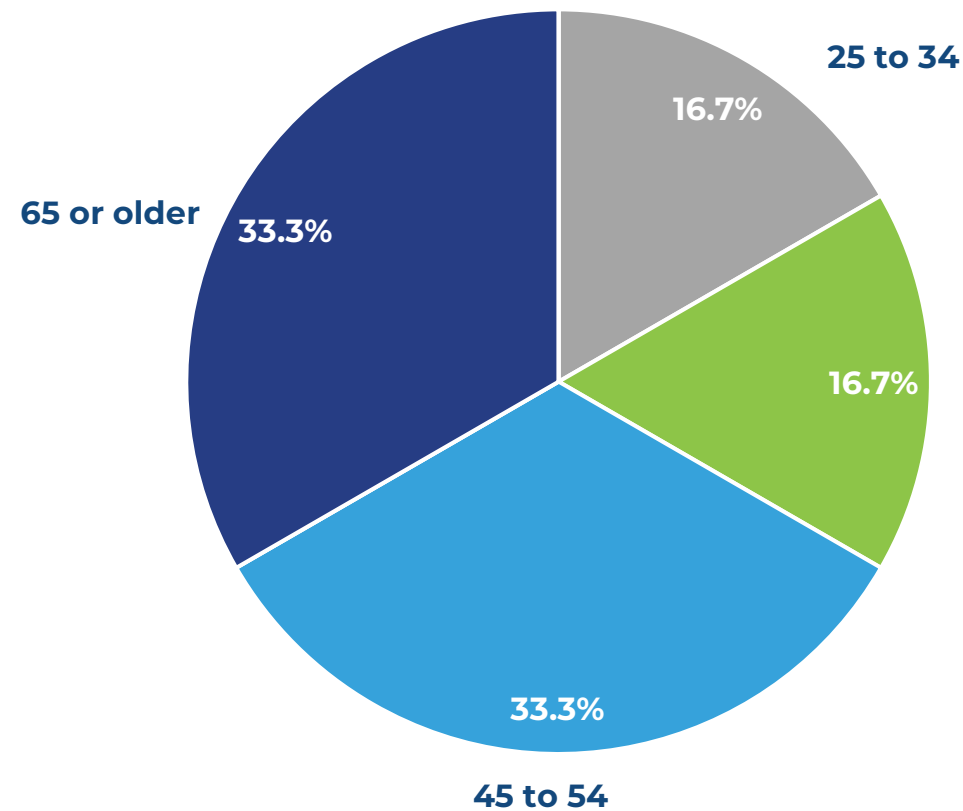
Including yourself, how many people currently live in your household?



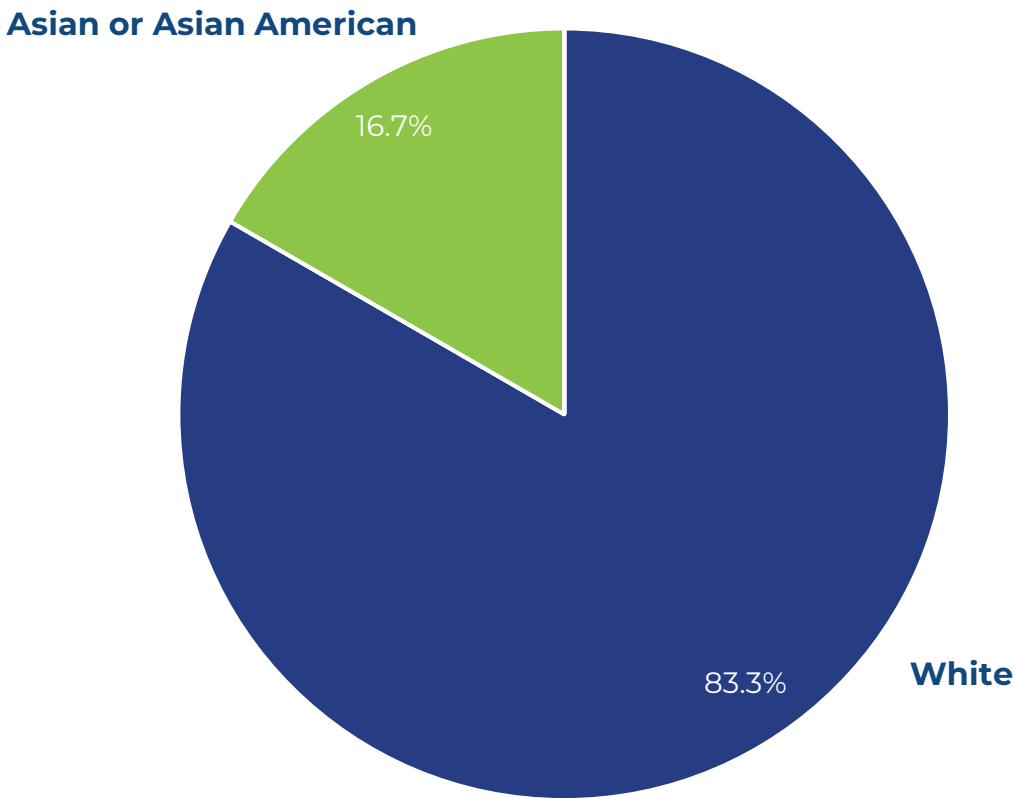
How long have you been associated with Pasco County?



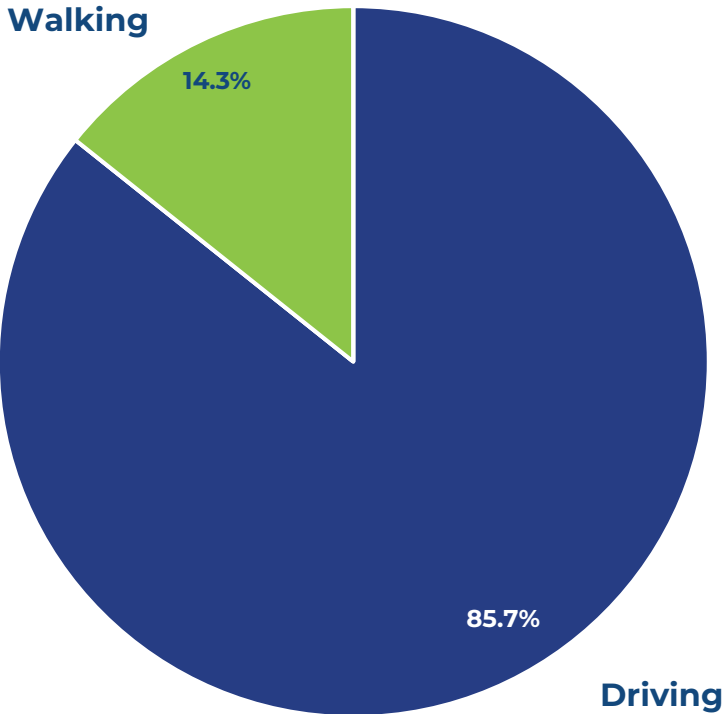
What is your age?



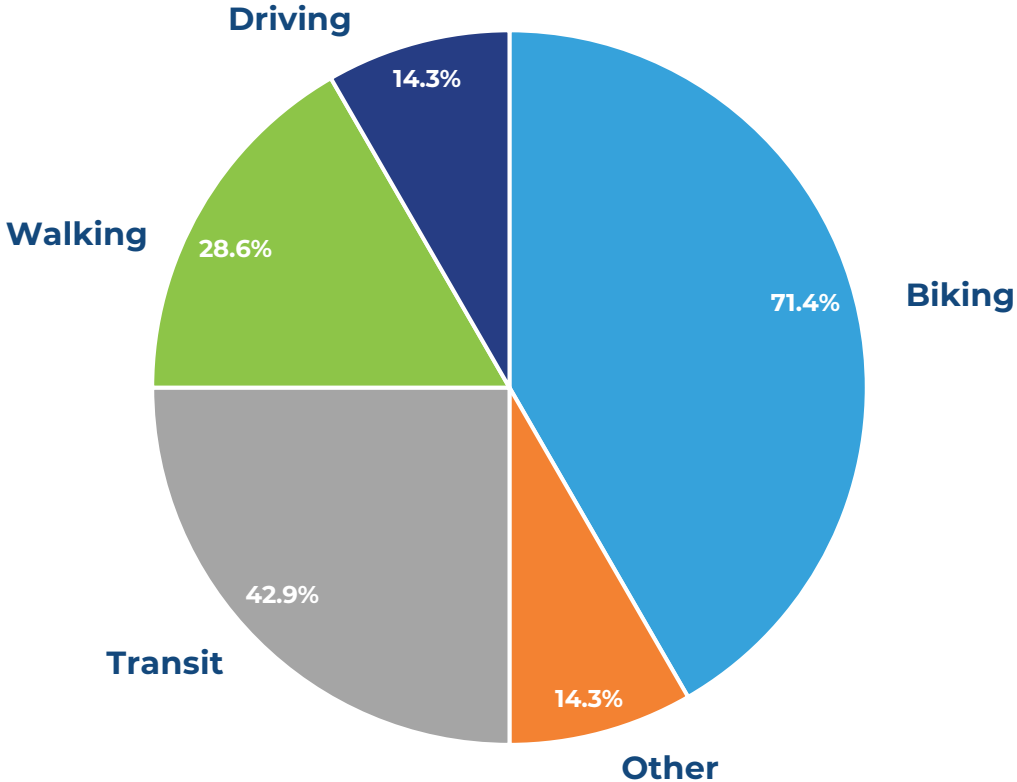
What is your race?

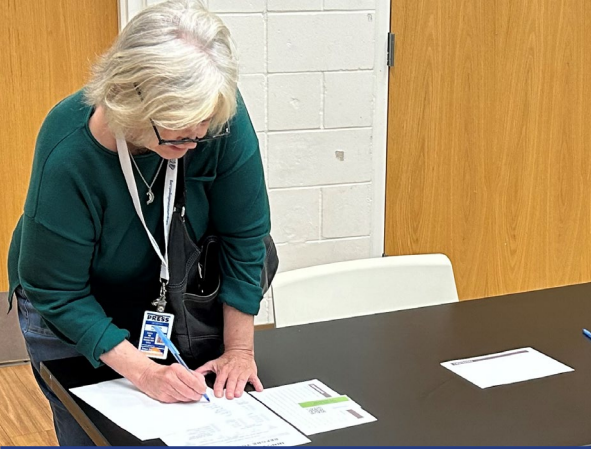


Most of the time, I travel by...



I would prefer to travel more often by...





Online Survey 1

At a Glance



1,136

participants



16,130

individual
data points



1,871

written
comments

What is MetroQuest?

An online survey designed to educate the public about the project and collect feedback using five interactive and visual screens

How long was the survey active?

December 8, 2023, to January 31, 2024

How was it advertised?

Official County social media channels

Word of mouth

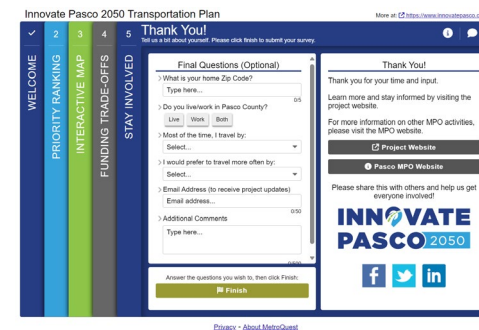
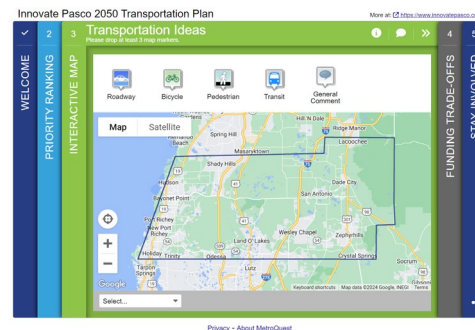
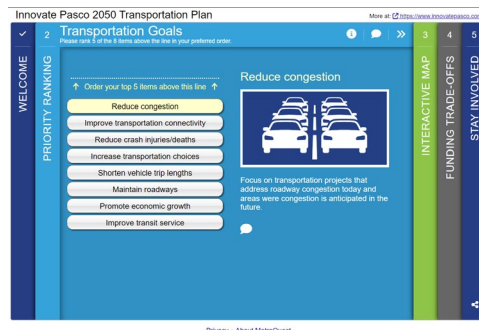
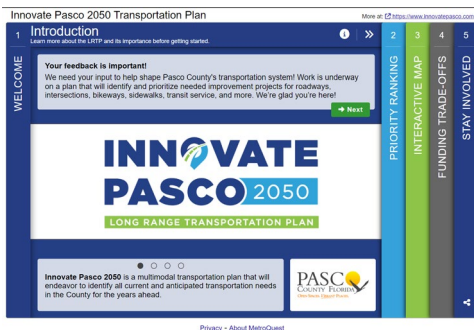
In person promotion at stakeholder events and neighborhood groups

What were participants asked?

1) To prioritize eight transportation goals

2) To identify project ideas on a map

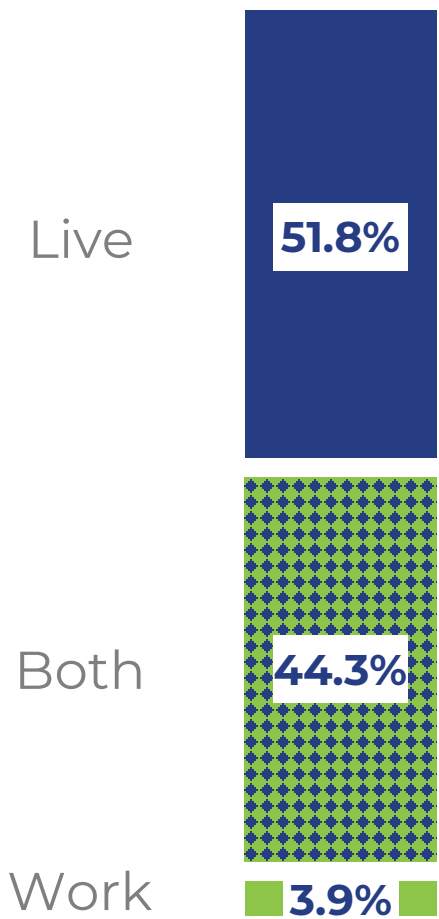
3) To evaluate funding trade-offs among different types of projects



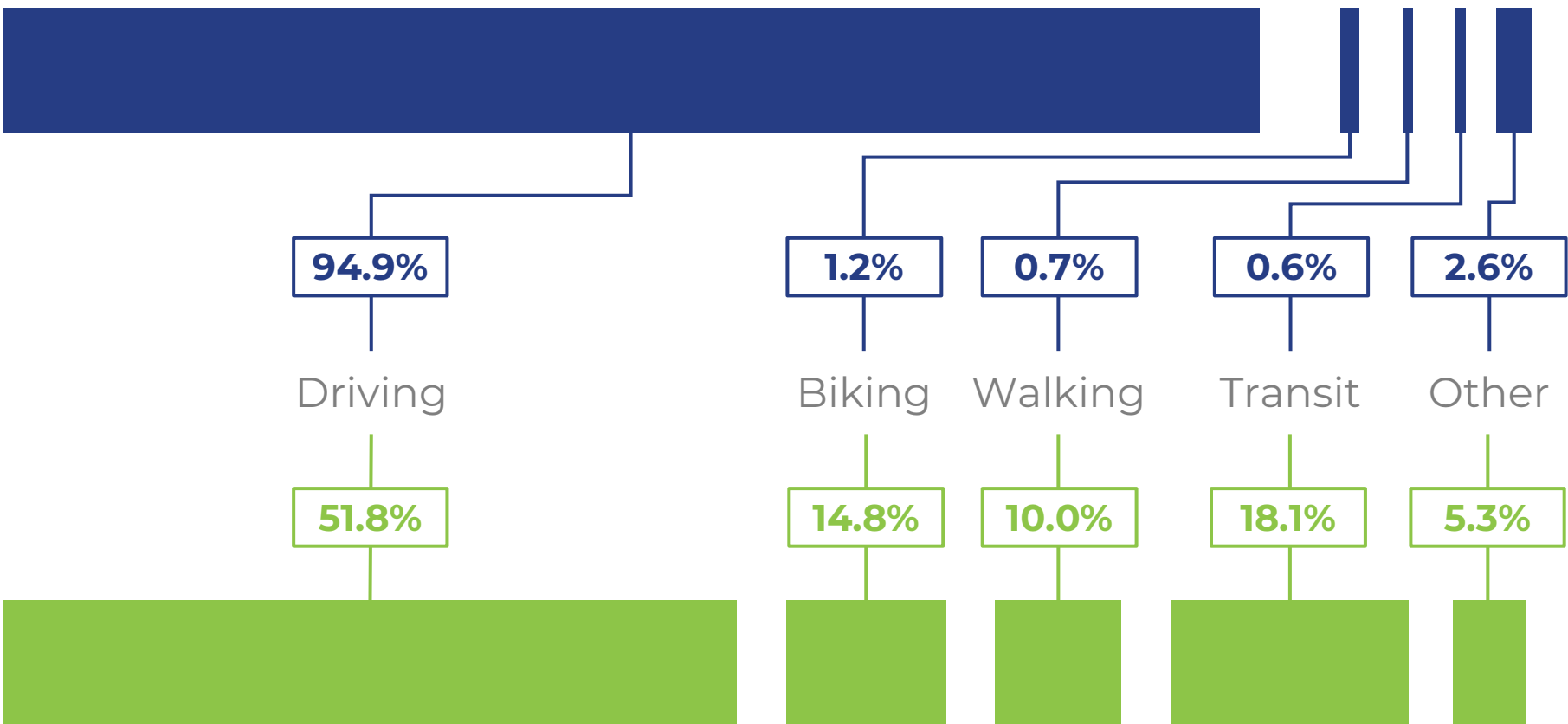
INNOVATE PASCO 2050

Participant Profile

Do you live or work in Pasco County?



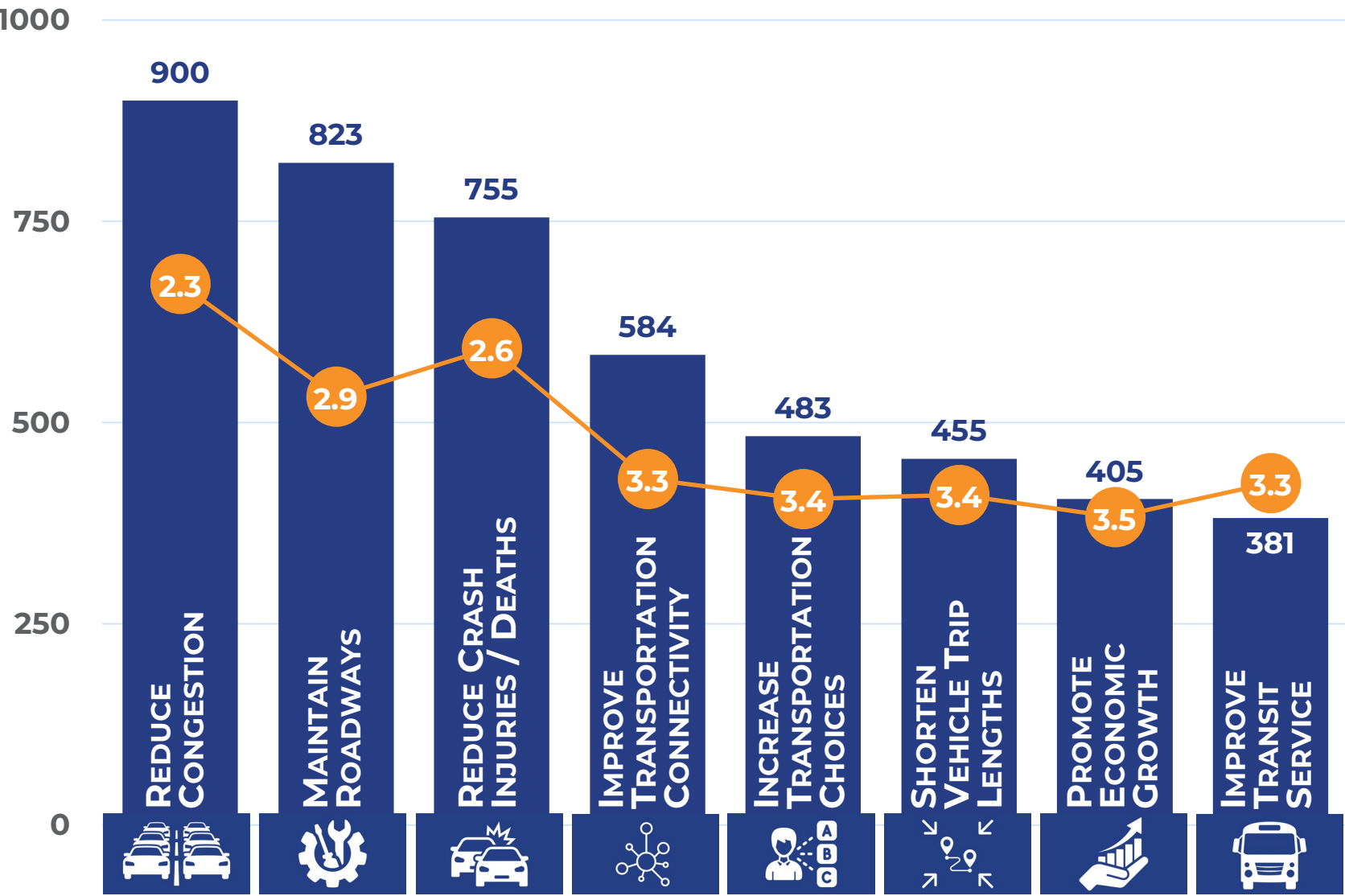
Most of the time, I travel by:



I would prefer to travel more often by:

Transportation Goals

Participants rated the importance of eight transportation goals.



1 **FREQUENCY** refers to how often a goal was ranked in the top five. It is shown in the BLUE bar chart.

2 **INTENSITY** is the average ranking when ranked in the top five. It is shown in the ORANGE line chart.

3 Addressing congestion, maintaining roadways, and travel safety were clear priorities for participants.

4 While transit was ranked in the top five the fewest times, those that ranked it tended to rank it higher than other goals.

Transportation Ideas

Participants identified project needs by dropping pins on a map.



Roadway

990

Pins Dropped



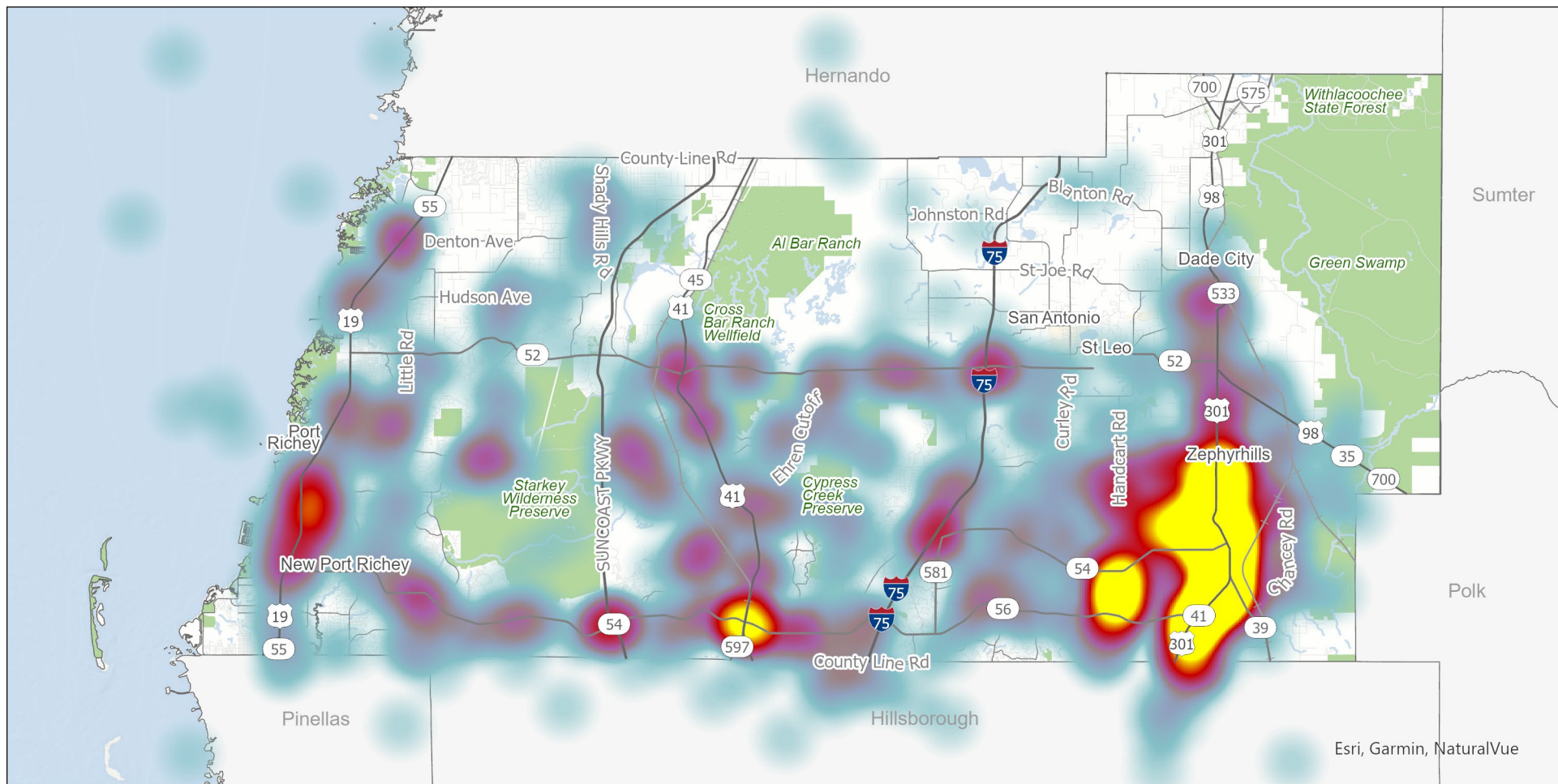
Bicycle



Pedestrian



Transit



The heat map on the left shows where participants dropped pins associated with **ROADWAY** needs.

Pins were densely located in and south of Zephyrhills along US 301.

Other hotspots were located at the intersection of US 41/SR54, and along US 19 near Port Richey and New Port Richey.

Transportation Ideas

Participants identified project needs by dropping pins on a map.

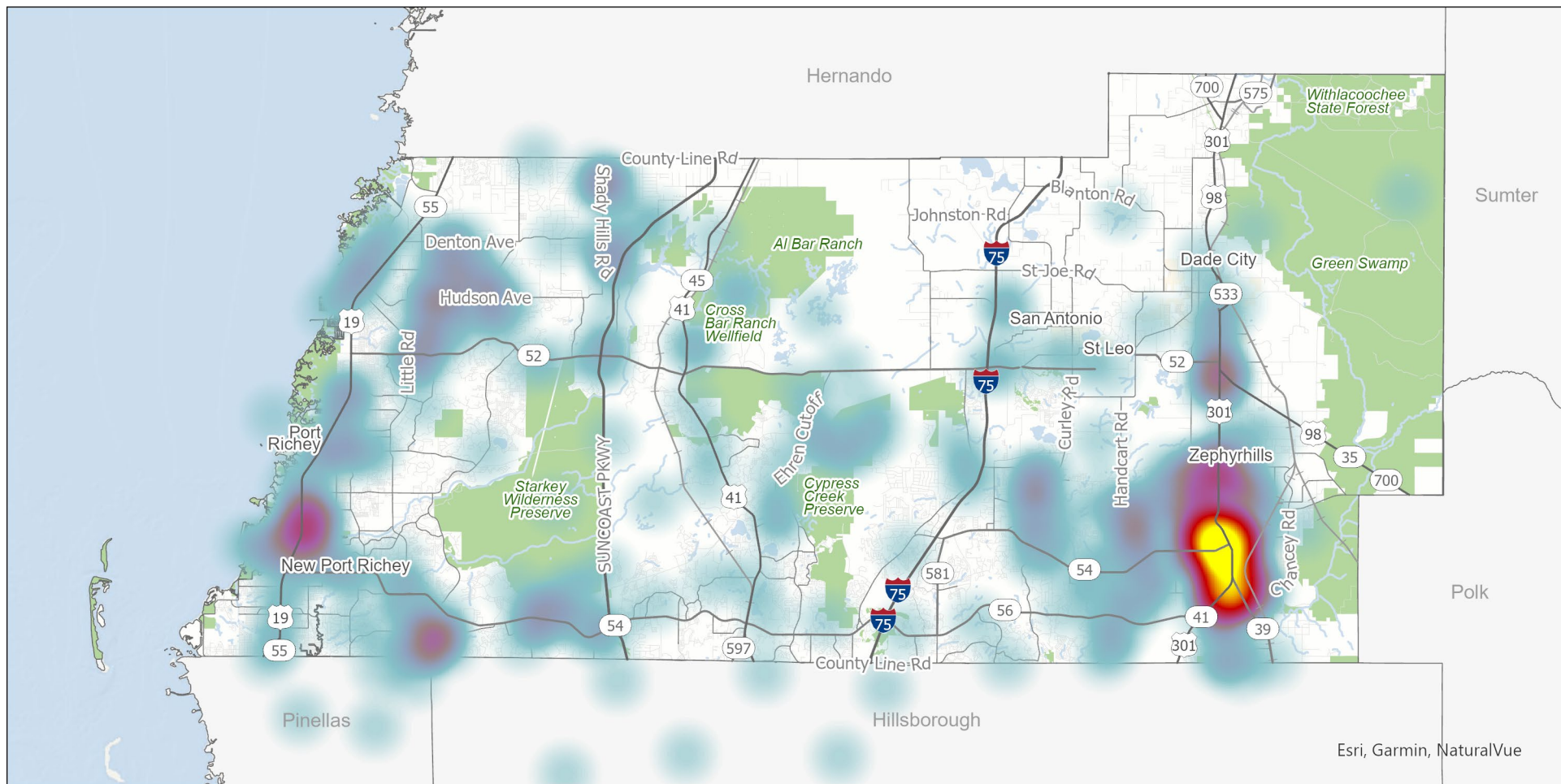
 Roadway

 Bicycle

297
Pins Dropped

 Pedestrian

 Transit



The heat map on the left shows where participants dropped pins associated with **BICYCLE** needs.

Pins were most densely located along US 301, near the intersections with SR 54, SR 39, and SR 56.

Transportation Ideas

Participants identified project needs by dropping pins on a map.

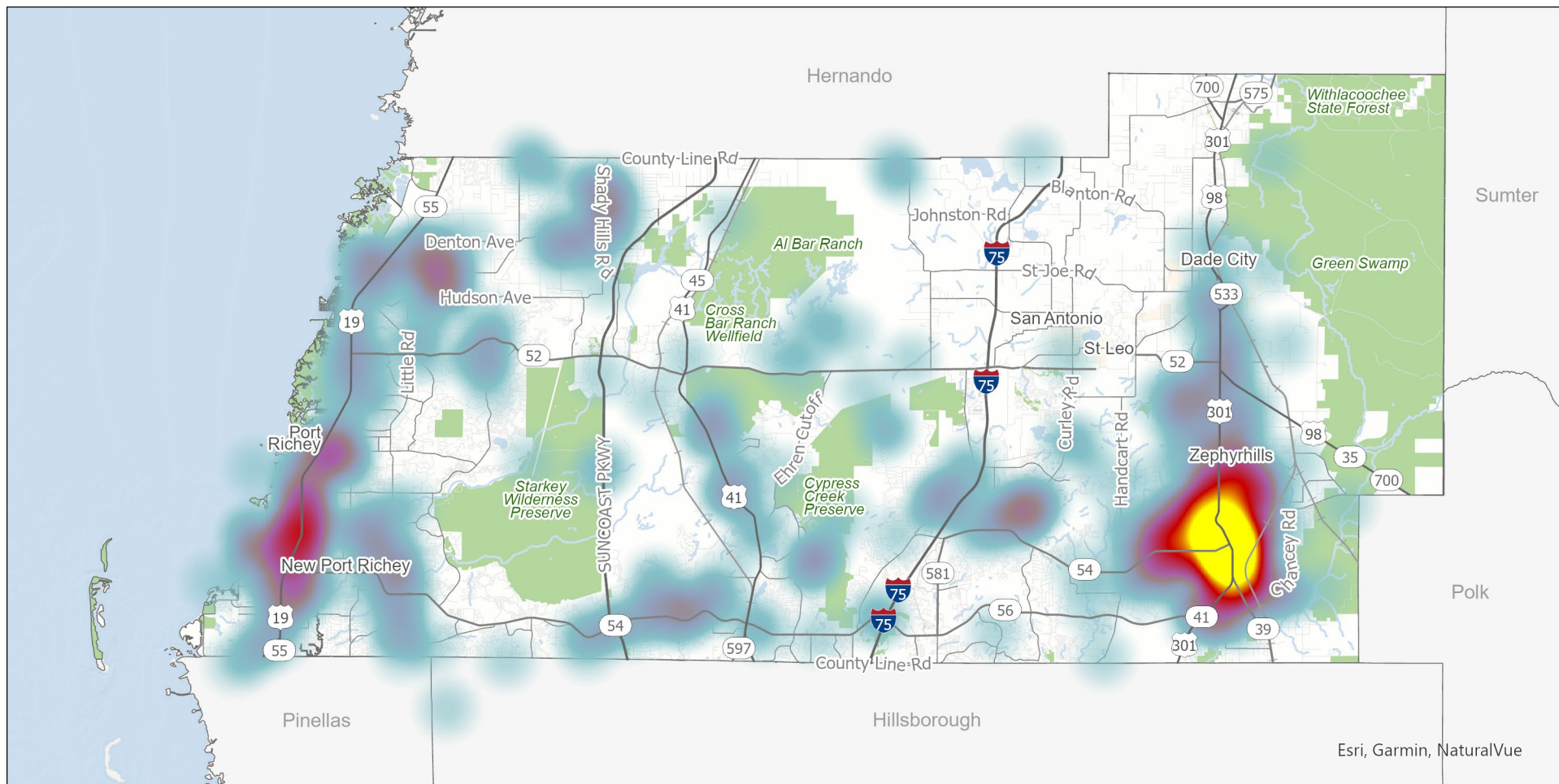
 Roadway

 Bicycle

 Pedestrian

376
Pins Dropped

 Transit



The heat map on the left shows where participants dropped pins associated with **PEDESTRIAN** needs.

Pins were densely located along US 301 in and south of Zephyrhills, particularly near the intersection of US 301 and SR 54.

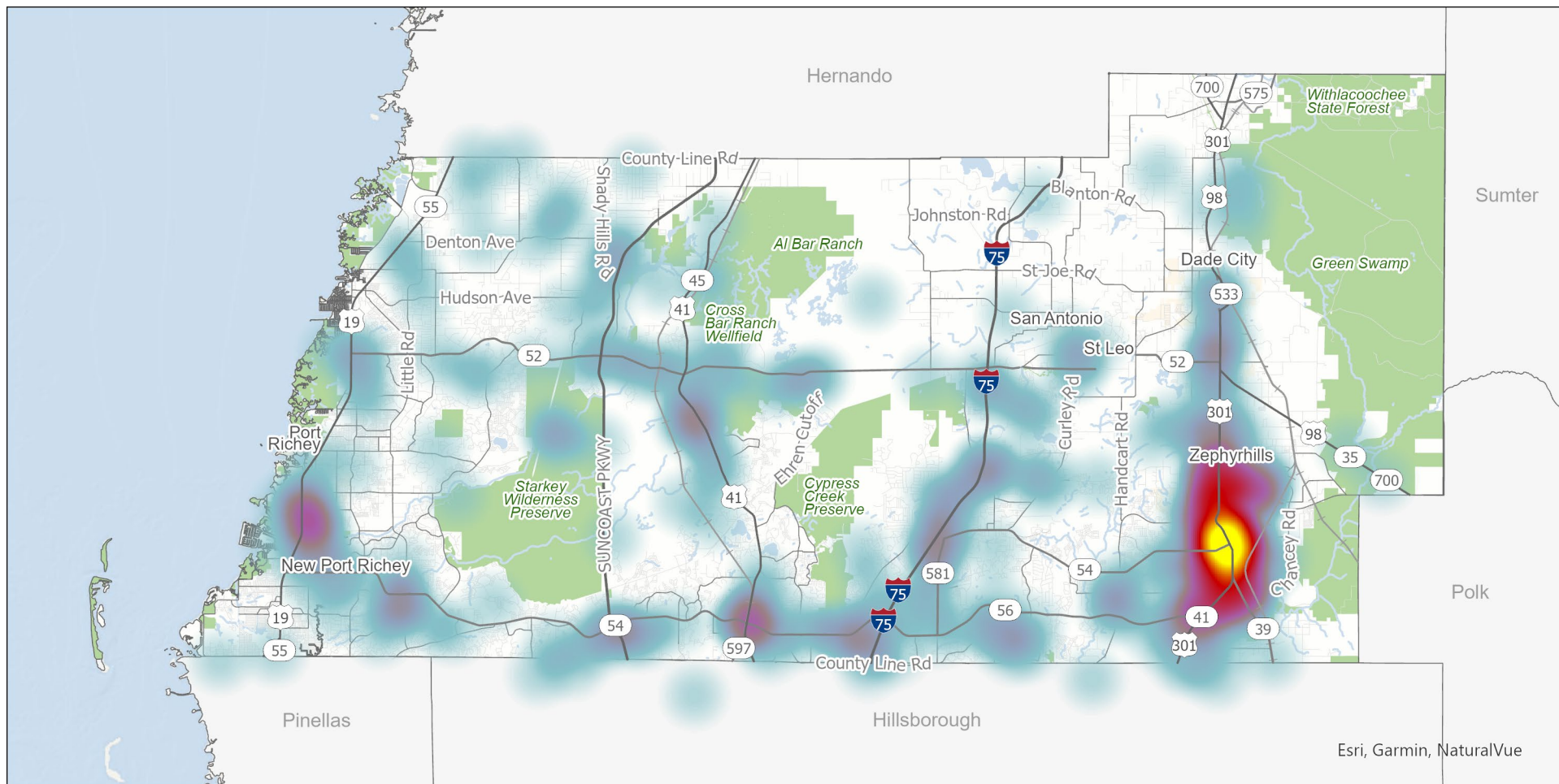
Other hotspots include New Port Richey to the southwest as well as Little Road and Shady Hills Road to the north.

Transportation Ideas

Participants identified project needs by dropping pins on a map.



305
Pins Dropped



The heat map on the left shows where participants dropped pins associated with **TRANSIT** needs.

Pins were most densely located in and south of Zephyrhills along US 301, particularly near its intersection with SR 54.

Other hotspots were located on US 10 and along SR 54, particularly at its intersection with US 41.

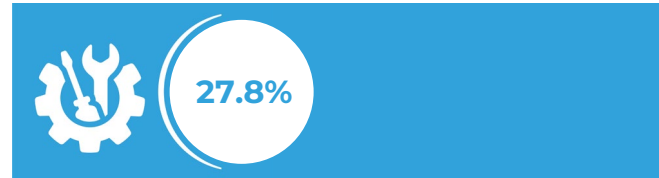
Transportation Funding Options

Participants allocated funding in 20% increments to different project types.

ADDITIONAL ROADWAY CAPACITY



ROADWAY MAINTENANCE



ADDITIONAL TRANSIT SERVICE



ADDITIONAL WALKING FACILITIES



ADDITIONAL BIKE LANES/PATHS



63.3% allocated to
roadway improvements

23.5% allocated to
active transportation

36.7% allocated to
non-vehicular travel

Some participants commented that they would have liked to allocate funding in smaller than 20% increments.

MPO Committees

Citizens Advisory Committee | Top 3 Priorities

	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
1	Improved maintenance of roadways, including lighting, safety	Planning for prospected growth in housing and communities	Understanding seasonal, non-residential occupation and traffic impact
2	General east-west connectivity	Support of the needs of industry and job creators	Regional coordination.
3	More roads and connectivity that would generate economic growth – particularly east-west.	Better Landscaping	Connection of bicycle paths for tourism.
4	Traffic flow into and out of Pasco County.	Safer roadways – more specifically US 19. Make similar to Pinellas with flyovers restricted on/off. Stop making so inviting.	Overbuilt roads instead of underbuilding roads – think of the future. US 41 / County Road 52 / County Road 54
5	Some ability to adapt to dynamic changes.	Focus on major potential congestion points/modes.	Connectivity with plans + planning of adjacent counties and state/federal.
6	Create efficient and reliable public transit, specifically designed to provide transit to/from employment centers to housing densities.	Increase mobility with the county by developing better north/south arteries.	Better freight corridors.
7	SR 54/US 41 improvement.	Increase safety along SR 54 w/ lights & traffic control (no mid-road staging)	Ribble Road expansion to 41 & beyond.
8	Congestion management. Infrastructure first is key!!	Re-evaluating pre-approved projects that do proceed following county approval (within 6-1 year). This creates a "stacking" of multiple projects at one time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Areas of early development that are not being updated & proper lights/sidewalks. - Designated (safe) school bus stops (coordinate with school board) - Vision roads -> PRIORITY!!
9	<u>Lane width</u> – New Major Roads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 11' - Extension 301 Hillsborough - 12' - Extension 301 Pasco Average dump truck is 10'!!!	<u>Congestion</u> – SR54/41 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plans have been discussed for 30 years!!! 	<u>Limited east/west corridors</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Effect of approved/but not yet occupied or used/developments.
10	Ridge road extension to I-75 to create a third east-west corridor in Pasco county.	Include transit amenities (bus shelter, bus bays, transit transfer centers, etc.) along roadways where feasible/possible.	Improve 54/41 interchange.

Transportation Advisory Committee | Top 3 Priorities

	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
1	Golf carts/micro-mobility policies	Frontage roads between communities to reduce need for multiple adjacent signals.	
2	Increase various mobility options + improve interconnectivity.	Tying into #1, more multi-use path connection options & partnering with parks + rec to amenities.	Maintenance of all transportation facilities – there are a lot of potholes + dips.
3	Increase interconnectivity of the entire transportation network in the country. (Especially transit connections)	Safety! Safety! Safety! Safe roads for all users.	More public transportation options i.e. rail system.
4	Reduce congestion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 54/41- 301- Morris Bridge- Chancey Road Multimodal options (scooters, bikes, etc.)	Increase transit options	Create walkability and bikeability.
5	Safe routes to daily needs (parks, schools, library, grocery stores...)	Bike/Ped facility's connectivity	Equitable access to alternate transportation choices.
6	Increase public transit options	Decrease congestion	More east/west corridors. Expand 52, Ridge Road expansion.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee | Top 3 Priorities

	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
1	Orange Belt funded – completely - Little Road to I-75/SR 52. Tanner road.	Funding source for sidewalk prioritization	Mass Transit – Bus Services – Bus stops – Imp bocks?
2	Ped/Bike Safety	Road maintenance	Public transportation
3	Time traffic lights	Sidewalk improvements	Lighting roadways
4	Good mobility across the county – IE – 54/41 overpass and the Tower/Rangeland connections to Suncoast completed	A well-connected trail system (multimodal)	Safe ways for kids to get to school 4. a good transit system
5	Additional crosswalks for major roadways – places that were once rural are rapidly becoming urbanized but the ability to safely cross through roads needs to improve	Additional school sidewalks & lighted pathways.	Linc increases in road capacities to development – especially consider larger roads father away from the specific development
6	Keep agricultural land/don't rezone	Street widening for Shadyhills Road	Lighting & sidewalks for Shadyhills Road
7	All schools should have safe routes within the two-mile radius buses don't pick up. Sidewalks, lighting, signage, etc.	Connectivity of all the bike/ped trails	All new road projects should have bike lanes, proper lighting, sidewalks, etc.

What is the first project you would construct if money wasn't a concern?

TAC

One project of course—SR 54 & 41

54/41

SR 54/41 (US) overpass

54/41 overpass

54/41!

Connect Ridge Road –
Once constructed to
US 41, continue to I-75

#1 Vision—Road Implementation

Improved SR 54/I-75 Interchange

US 41 beefed up connector to
SR 52–SR 54; flyover—Moffet
Conference Center is going
to be a huge boom

Ridge Road EXT to I-75

CAC

Brightline—come
up US 41 / old CSX

Brightline Rail in
old CSX tracks

Meaningful TOD /
robust transit

BPAC

Orange Belt
Trail completion

Bike/ped safety

Master County Trail
connecting parks to
neighborhoods

Orange Belt—Trinity to Hardee Trail

Orange Belt—Little Road to Suncoast

Create safe bike/ped pathway from
Dade City through Zephyrhills—both
sides of US 301 and through Zephyrhills
similar to Hardee Trail in Dade City