

## **COVID-19 and Safe Streets Survey**

From May 27 through June 12, 2020, the Barre City Planning Commission conducted an online survey to collect observations and concerns from citizens focused on how streets are used in neighborhoods around the city.

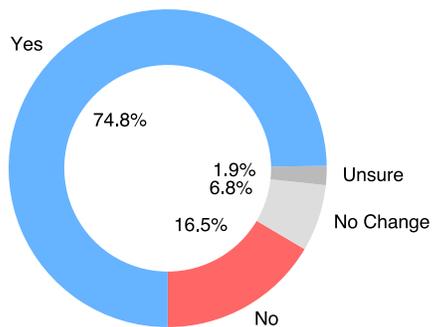
We promoted the survey on Front Porch Forum and Facebook, as well as on the Barre City website, receiving 103 responses from 70 different streets. In addition to multiple choice answers, we solicited input from residents in their own words to identify the top hopes and concerns for our streets.

The following pages summarize the results from the survey, and we are hopeful they can help guide policy and investment to make our neighborhoods and our city the best they can be.

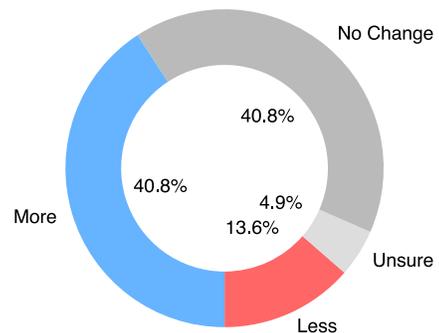
## Observations

Our survey posed four questions to assess residents' view of current and changing conditions on the city's streets. Respondents overwhelmingly observed a change in the number of people walking, biking, and jogging on the streets. More than a third of respondents observed no change in the number of children playing in streets or sidewalks or in the behavior of drivers in their neighborhoods, but almost the same percentage noticed more children and faster driving. More than half of respondents reported needing to enter the street to keep a safe distance from other people.

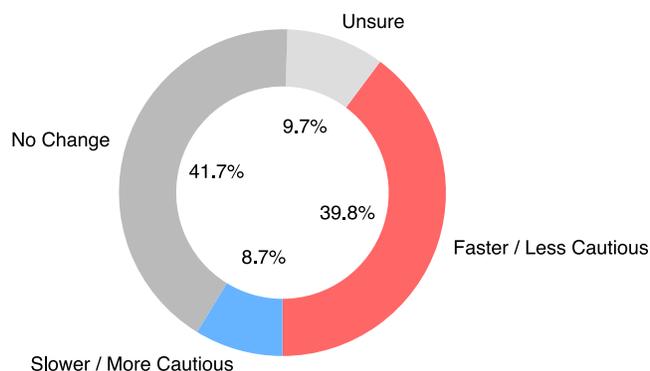
Have you seen changes in the amount or frequency of people walking, biking or jogging?



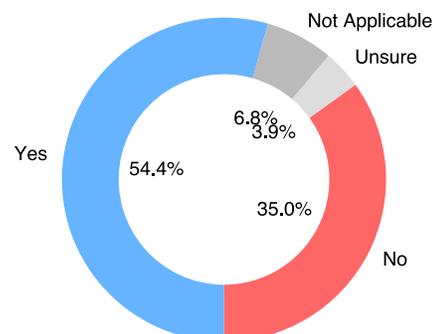
Have you seen changes in the amount or frequency of children playing in the street/sidewalks?



Have you observed changes in driving behavior in your neighborhood?



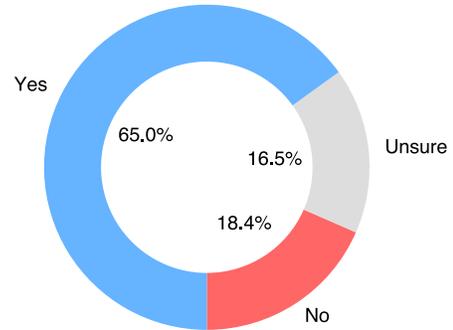
When out walking/biking/jogging, have you felt the need to cross the street or step into the street to maintain a safe physical separation of 6 feet?



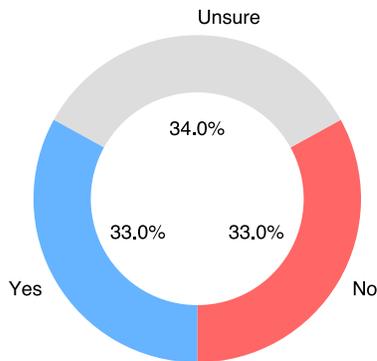
## Interventions

Our survey posed five questions to gauge citizen response to specific interventions. We found strong support for improving crosswalks, anti-speeding measures, and demonstration projects for improving street safety. Support for closing streets to through traffic or crowdfunded projects was mixed.

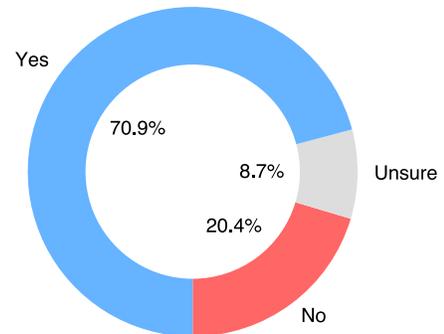
Would you support more crosswalk painting to improve the safety of pedestrian crossings?



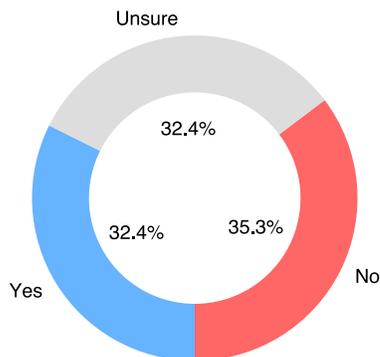
As a way to decrease traffic on local neighborhood streets, would you support the use of neighborhood streets for local traffic only (residents, visitors and service providers)?



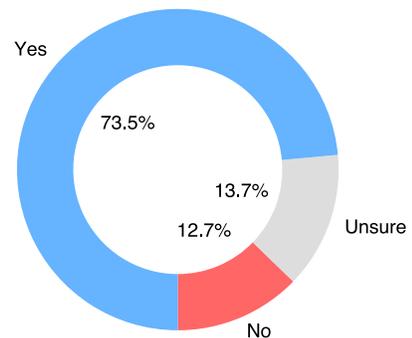
Would you support a city-wide anti-speeding campaign and increased speed enforcement and ticketing by the police?



With budget constraints, would you be willing to contribute to the cost of a crowdfunded project that slows traffic and improves safety for pedestrians and other users?



What about demonstration projects? Would you support an official process to allow neighborhoods to propose and test out ideas that improve the safety of driving, walking and biking in the City? These might include projects like tree plantings, new signage, curb extensions, pavement painting or crosswalks.



# Expressed Concerns

Of our 103 respondents, 73 provided narrative responses of their observations and suggestions for anything related to streets and transportation that they are struggling or would grow their enthusiasm for living in the City of Barre. Four concerns were mentioned significantly more often than others, with concern about drivers unsafely exceeding posted speed limits mentioned in 20% more responses (20) than the next concern, sidewalk presence and condition (16). The top three concerns reflected the use of streets by people walking or recreating, followed by frustration with pavement condition on roadways (12).

