

Summary

Knoxville Regional TPO 2050 MTP Update



Public Outreach Round #2

October 2024

Meeting Locations

Round #1 – Community Engagement – three (3) meetings:

1. Monday October 21, 2024 from 4-7 pm at John O'Connor Senior Center (10+ participants)
2. Tuesday October 22, 2024 from 12-1 pm [virtual meeting via zoom](#) (19+ participants)
3. Wednesday October 23, 2024 from 4-7 pm at Blount County Library (25+ participants)

Members of the project team hosted several community events for the Mobility Plan update. Notification of these events were posted to the project website, shared via email from TPO staff to stakeholder / newsletters, and promoted by Technical Advisory Committee members to their local constituents.

Virtual Meeting Format (12-1 pm)

Online attendees were provided with a 15-min project description of the Mobility Plan, the KRTPO region, our partners, and how their input is valuable to the planning process. Polling question using Mentimeter offered feedback opportunities, in addition to the Zoom chat box. Polling questions included:

- **What projects would make life better for your children?** (word cloud of responses)
- **What are the best / most useful return on investment for transportation dollars?** (word cloud)
- **Would you prefer LARGER, regional-scale projects that benefit everyone, or SMALL, local-scale projects that benefit your community?** Or perhaps a balance of both.
- **What are the most pressing problems to fix?** (choose three)
- **How do you want to see investment dollars spent?** (choose three)

Discussion of polling results and chat box contributions allowed for additional insights, and clarification.

In-Person Open House Format (4-7 pm)

Open House stations allowed attendees to learn and share their insights for the Mobility Plan, notably:

- **What we've heard so far** – attendees could view feedback to date
- **Interactive Word Cloud Station** – Mentimeter poll using a QR code to join
 - a) *What projects would make life better for your children or grandchildren?*
 - b) *What are the best / most useful return on investment for transportation dollars?*
- **Project map and table of projects in the region** – attendees could view the list of ~170 projects by location and type of project (roadway, transit, bike/ped, ITS, or study)
- **Interactive Poster stations** (x3)
 - a) **Linear spectrum of: LARGE, regional-scale projects** that benefit everyone, or **SMALL, local-scale projects** that benefit a local community. With a middle line for maintaining a balance of both.
 - b) **Most pressing problems to fix** (choose three of the six categories presented)
 - c) **How do you want to see investment dollars spent?** (attendees were giving \$10 to spend among six buckets of project types; total results were tallied and presented as % of total)
- **Comment Station** – open-ended comments of items that we may have missed
 - Demographic information was voluntary, for comparison with survey participants to date

Summary of Feedback Received – selected themes / consolidated

Preference for safety and greenway projects (smaller / local projects)

- Connected sidewalks / More sidewalks / Greenways that connect / accessible sidewalks / ADA crosswalks and walkways / vertical separation for pedestrians
- Fewer distracted drivers / decreased turning radii (at intersections) / bollards / age-friendly design / marked crosswalks / lighting / traffic calming

Distribution of project funds toward all modes of transportation

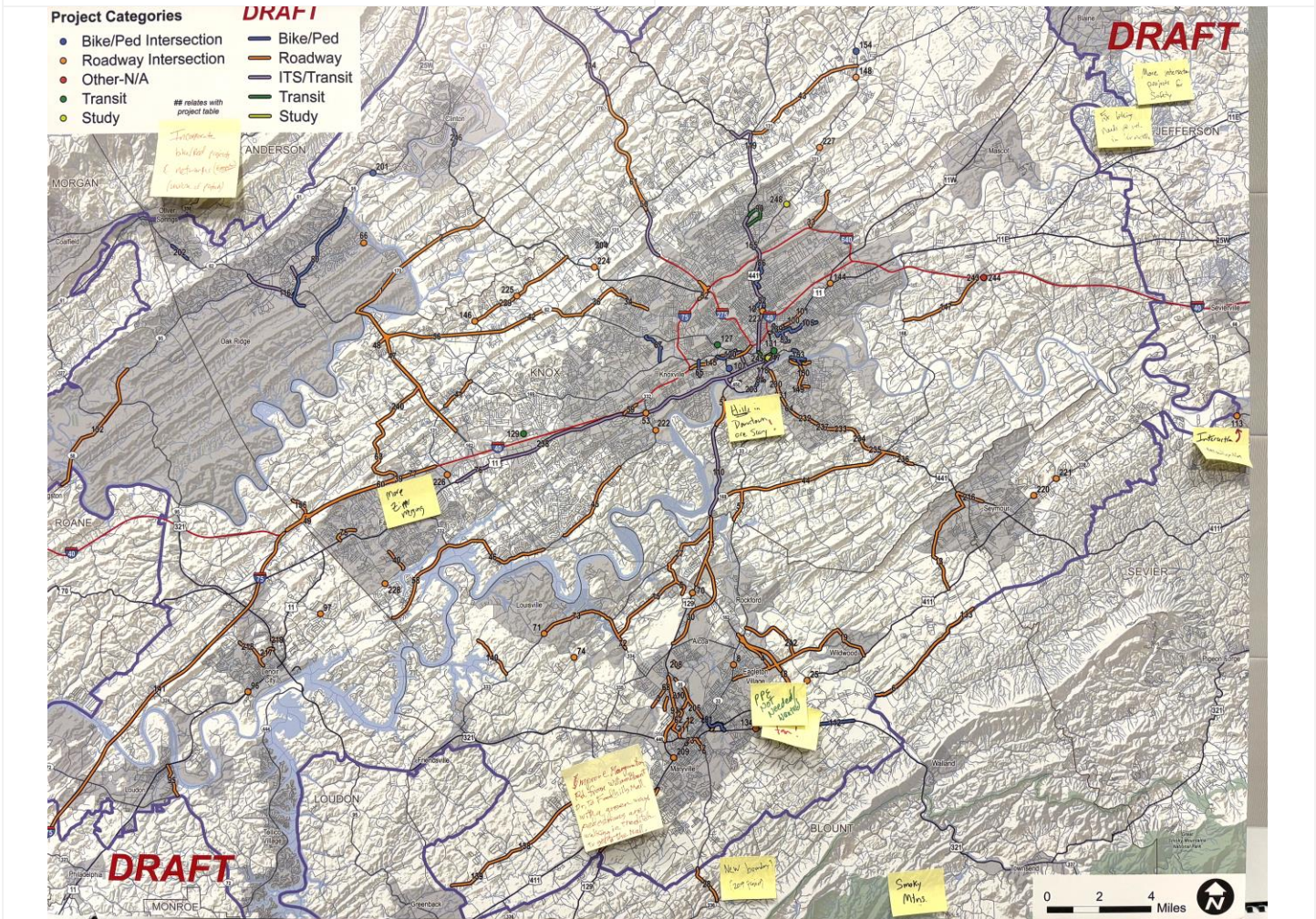
- Fix or maintain what we have first (existing roads and bridges) before building new facilities
- Sidewalks / Improving ability to move around without a car / Address walk-bike and Complete Streets corridor projects
- Improve transit before investing in roadway technology (ITS) or additional plans/studies

Open-Ended Comments Received

- *"How do we balance regional & community investments so that each complements each other?"*
- *"Improve existing roads rather than building new ones"*
- *"I appreciate this venue and having informative instructions."*
- *"Long-term plans (like this) must consider mass public transit options... TRAINS"*
- *"Toll roads won't help. Adding lanes doesn't fix individual's lack of attention"*
- *"Mass transit solves congestion and increases transportation safety"*
- *"The plans presented look good"*
- *"Policy requirement to include multimodal transportation with every roadway maintenance or safety improvement"*
- *"More public transit between Maryville / Alcoa and Knoxville / UT / Medical Center"*
- *"I see women walking with young children walking in the ditch to get to the mall"*



Photos from Open House Events



What types of projects are MOST NEEDED? 33 participants

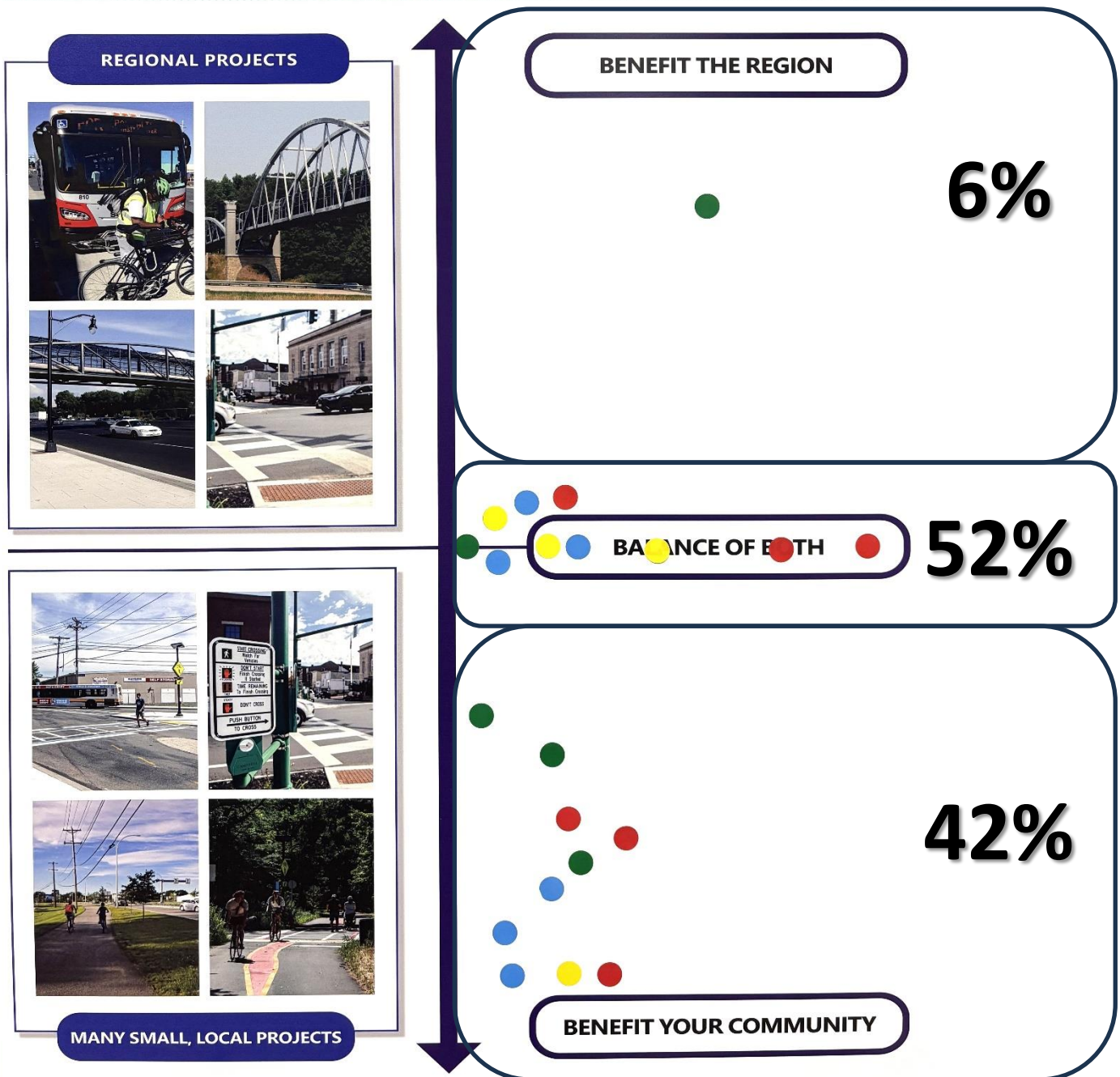


TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENTS

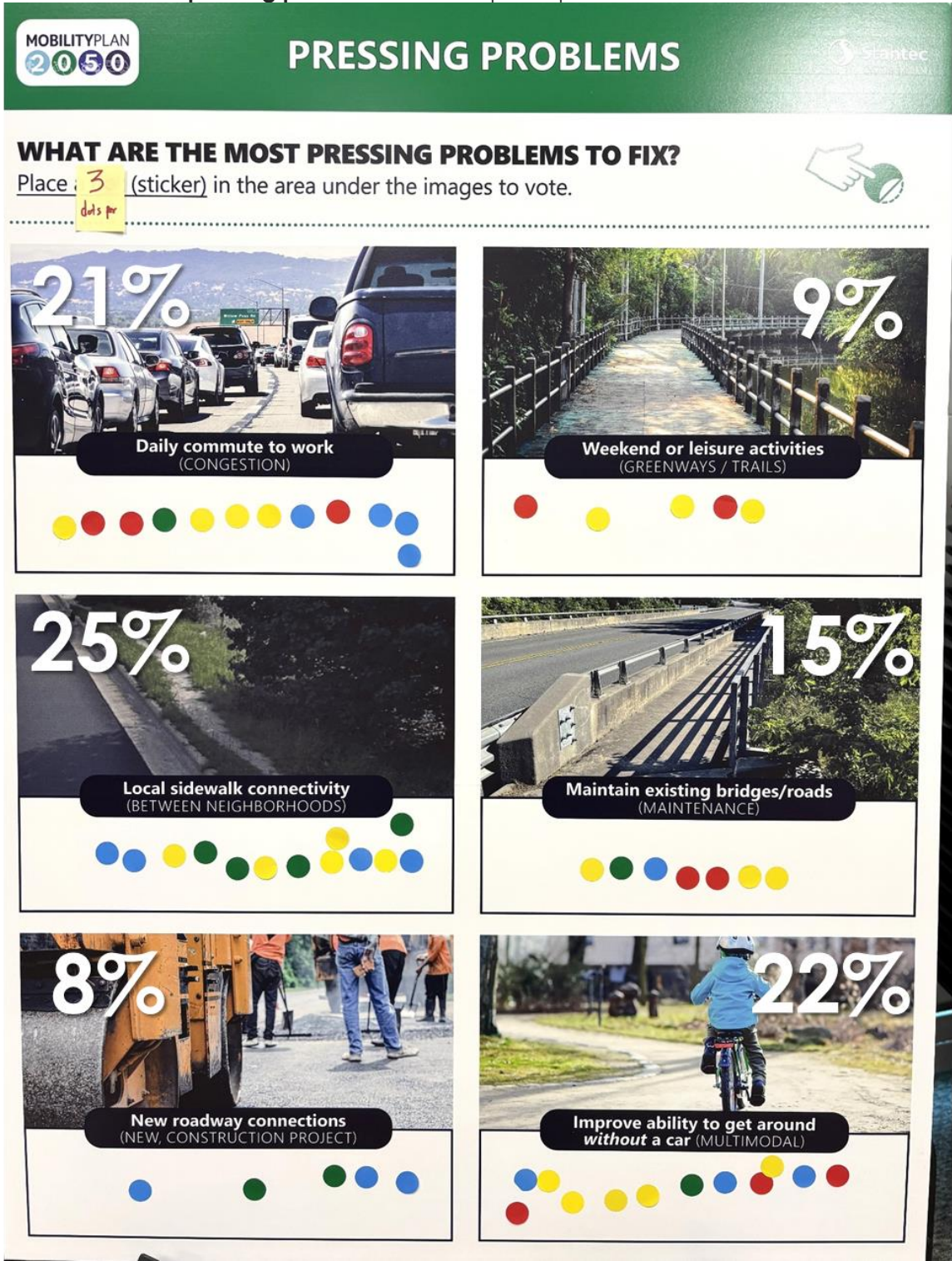


WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS ARE MOST NEEDED?

Place a dot (sticker) in the area to the right of the scale bar to vote.



What are the MOST pressing problems to fix? 30 participants



Compare with online survey participant voting: 196 participants

- 1) Maintain existing bridges/roads **24%**
- 2) Daily commute to work (congestion) **23%**
- 3) Local sidewalks connectivity (gaps) **17%**
- 4) Moving around without a car (multimodal) **17%**
- 5) New roadway connections **13%**
- 6) Weekend or leisure (greenways) **9%**

Where do you want to see investment? 33 participants



WHERE YOUR DOLLAR GOES



WHERE DO YOU WANT TO SEE INVESTMENT?

Place a dot (sticker) in the area under the images to vote.



Compare with online survey participant voting: 196 participants

- 1) Roadway / bridge maintenance **25%**
- 2) Complete Streets corridor investments **23%**
- 3) Walking / biking improvements **17%**
- 4) Transit improvements **16%**
- 5) ITS / Smart technology **14%**
- 6) Studies / pans **5%**