Community Meeting and Survey Results for the Managed Parking Trial Program

Background

Parking management in and around the Historic Downtown has been a problem in Idaho Springs for many years.

In 2018, the Urban Land Institute (ULI) produced a study about the parking problem in Idaho Springs. One of its recommendations was for the City to implement a Managed Parking Program to increase turnover in the Historic Downtown and to protect parking for residents.

Following a public process this spring that included several City Council Meetings and a Public Meeting, the City entered into a contract with Interstate Parking of Colorado to manage a Managed Parking Trial Program to include residential permit parking and paid parking downtown. The trial program began on May 15, 2019.

The purpose of the program was to build a contextually sensitive management plan for parking in the most congested areas of our City. The program was designed to be able to evolve and change to handle resident, business, and visitor needs.

Program Rollout and Initial Changes

At a City Council Meeting on May 28th, many residents and community members expressed concern to City Council about the program. Following that feedback, the program was suspended for one week to facilitate a Work Session (held June 3, 2019) to hear citizen concerns and implement changes to the program.

Following that Work Session, the following changes were made:

- Paid parking in the downtown core now ends at 7 PM daily instead of 8 PM.
- The first 30 minutes of Parking in both the surface lots and on Miner Street and the cross avenues is free
- Handicapped parking throughout the Historic Downtown is free with official placard or license plate.
- County Residents can register vehicles to park in the surface lots for free.
- Residents who live within the “Resident Permit Zone” do not have to register guests visiting their homes.
- Coin mechanisms were installed in select parking kiosks in the downtown core.

End of the Trial Program Community Engagement

The Managed Parking Trial Program will end October 1, 2019.

In anticipation of the end of program, and to help gather feedback about the program, City Council directed staff to publish a survey about the parking program. Additionally, a Public Meeting was held on September 3, 2019 at Carlson Elementary.

Community Meeting Format

60 Residents, Business Owners, and Community Members attended the Community Meeting.

Attendees who wished to speak were asked to sign up for public comment, limited to 3 minutes each.

Residents and Business Owners within City Limits were allowed to speak first, followed by Community Members residing outside of City Limits.

24 attendees spoke at the meeting.

The Community Survey

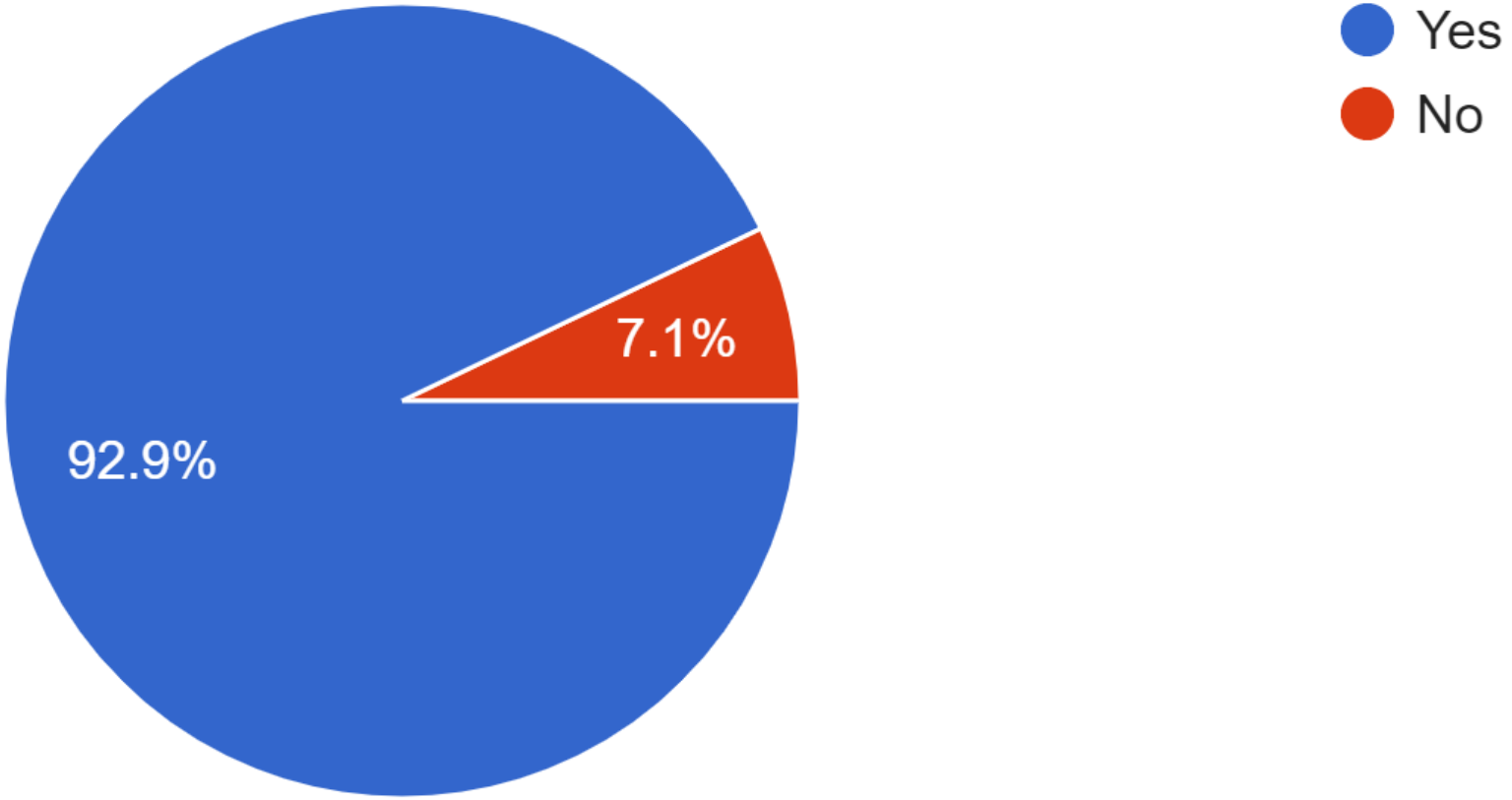
The Community Survey was designed by City Council and Staff to reflect the feedback that had been given to the City throughout the program. The Survey was envisioned as a tool to give City Council a deeper understanding of the managed parking trial program and its impact on residents, business owners, and community members.

Four versions of the Survey were created: A digital and physical version of a Resident survey (to capture responses from City Residents and Community Members from Outside of City Limits) and a digital and physical version of a "Business Owner" survey. Digital and Physical Survey results were combined into a single spreadsheet of results.

Residential Survey Results

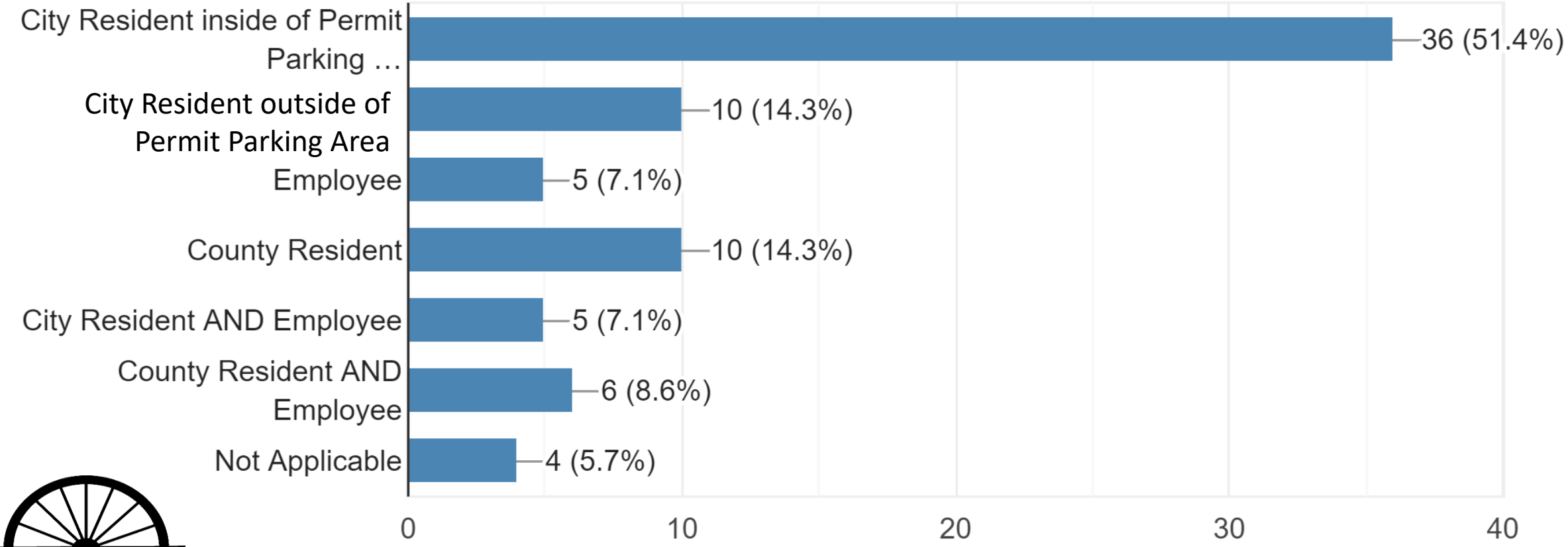
Have you registered a vehicle to park in Idaho Springs?

70 responses



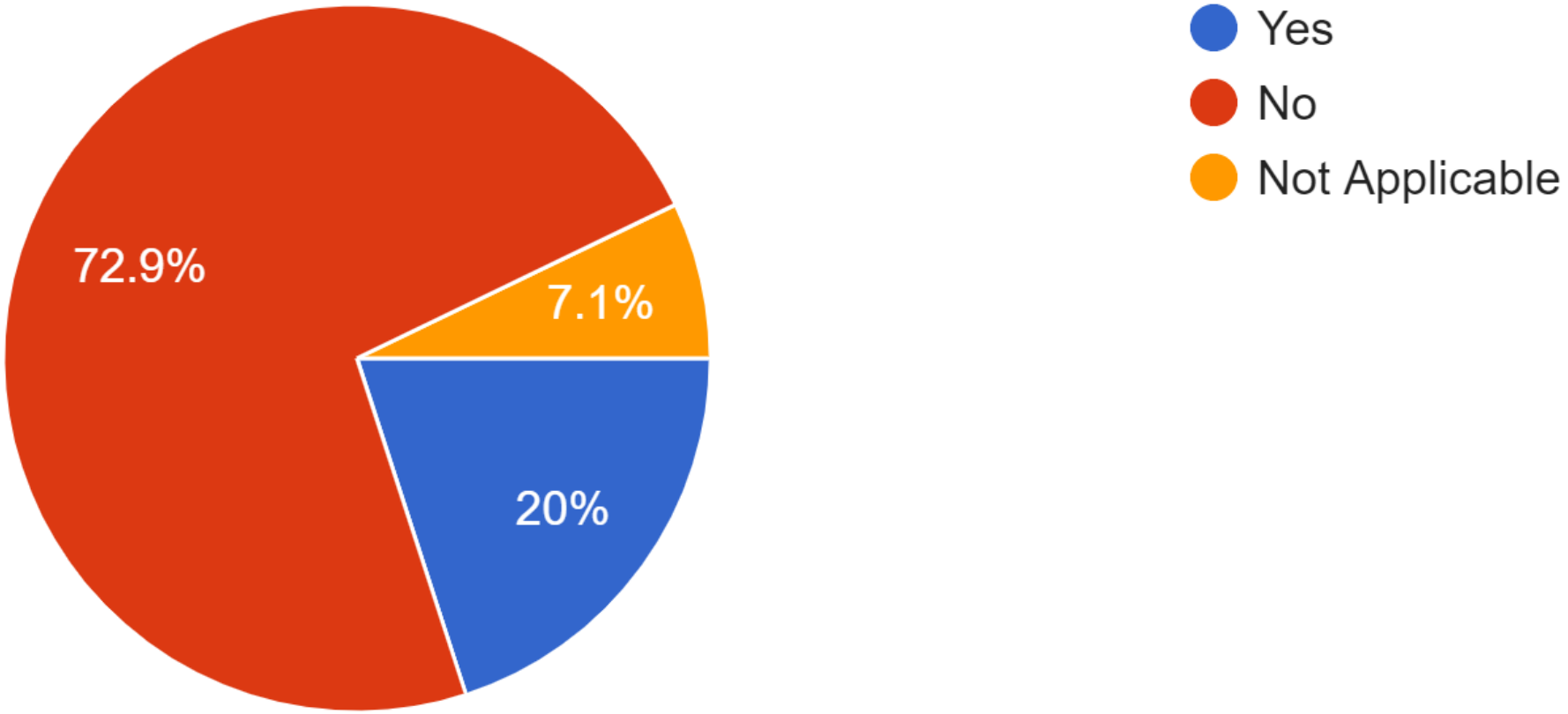
Type of Vehicle Registration

70 responses



Did you encounter any difficulties registering your vehicles?

70 responses



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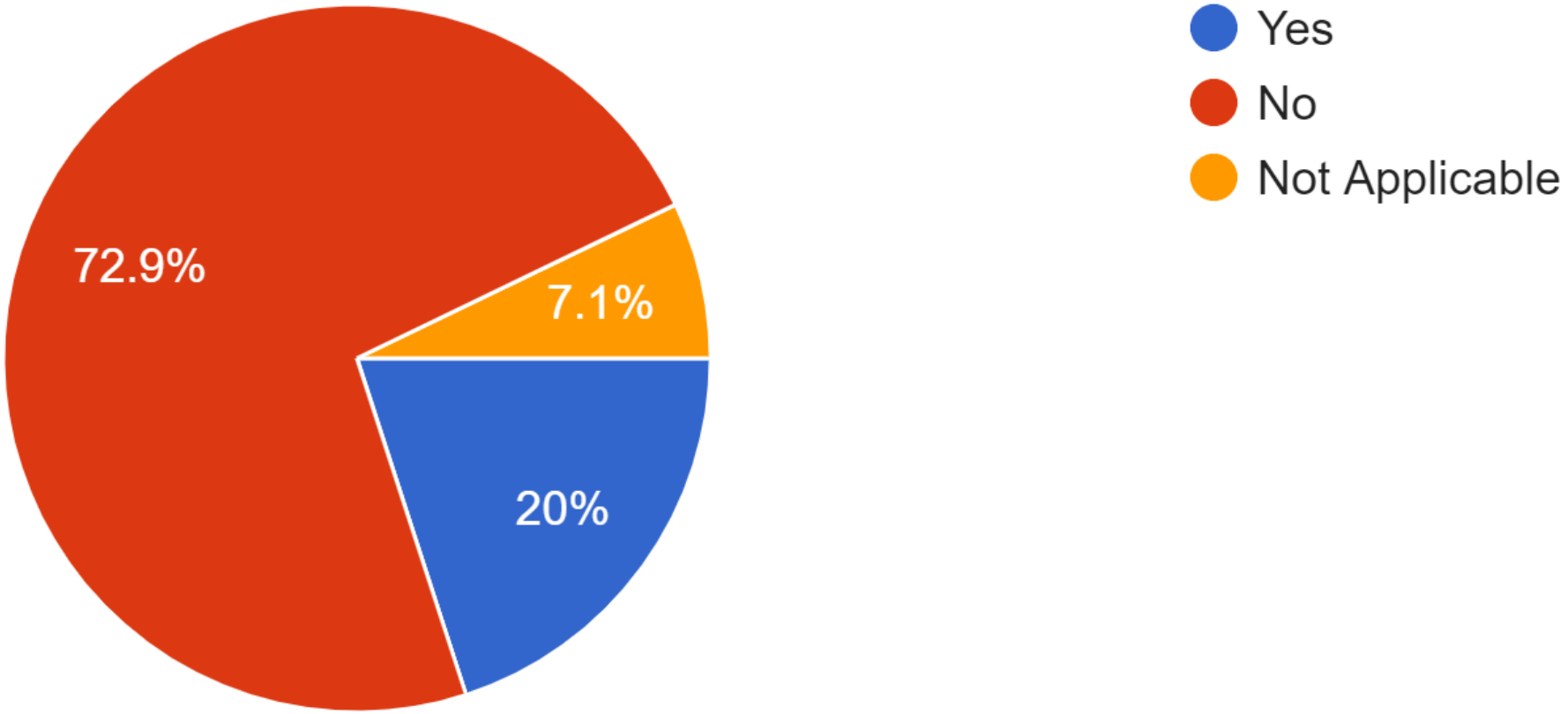
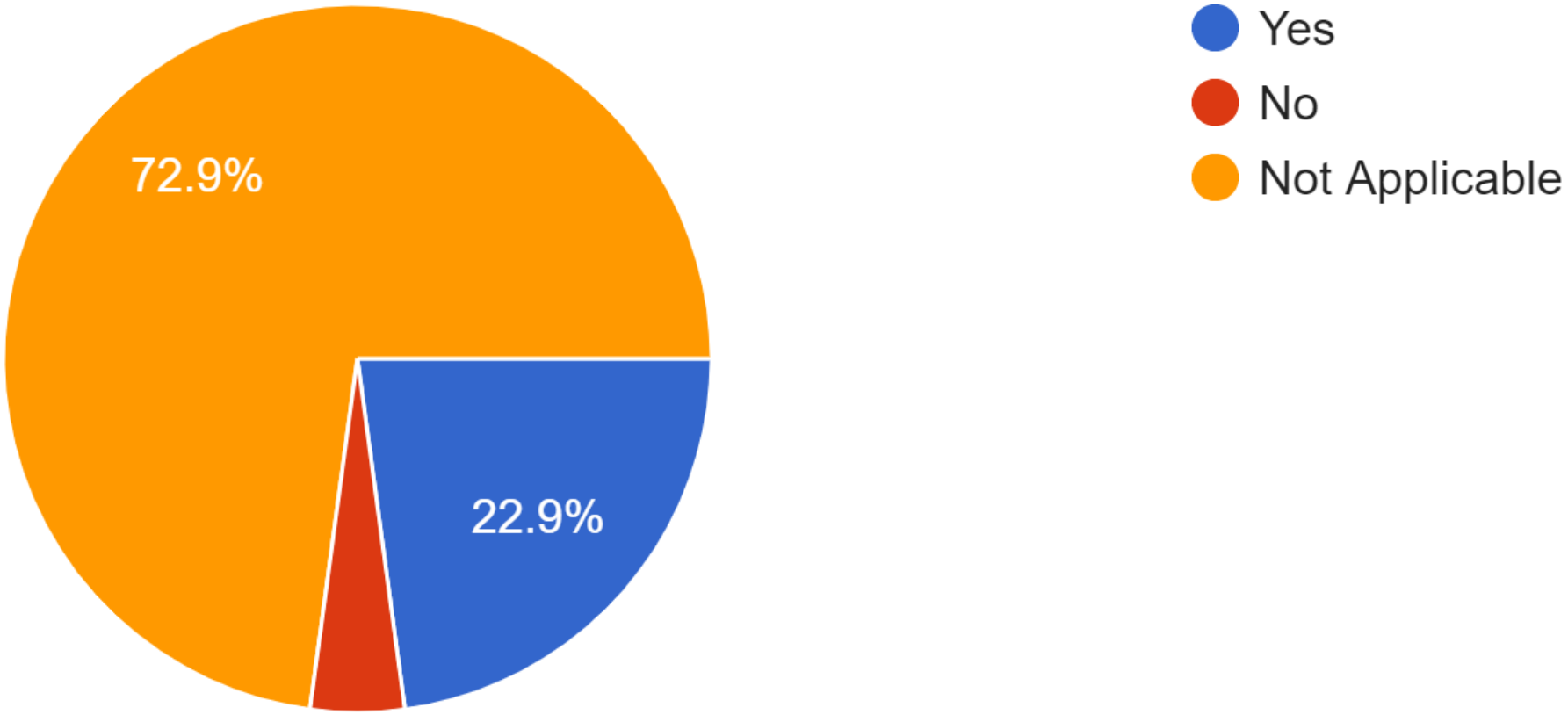


Were your problems resolved?

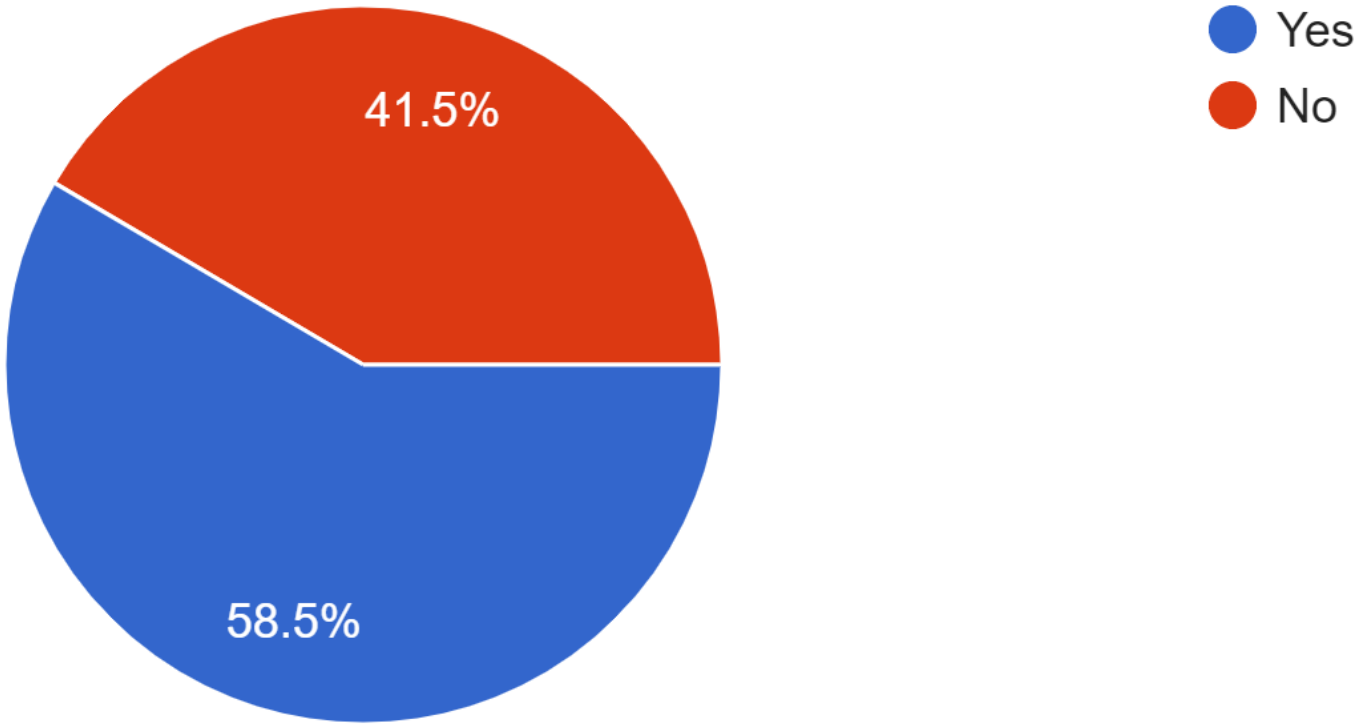
70 responses



Rate these statements (70 Responses)	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NA
Parking Congestion Historical Problem	**30**	**17**	**14**	**5**	**3**	**1**
Managed Parking makes it easier to park by my home	**9**	**10**	**15**	**4**	**9**	**23**
Positive interactions with Interstate	**16**	**14**	**18**	**2**	**3**	**17**
Managed Parking increased turnover downtown	**16**	**8**	**24**	**5**	**8**	**9**

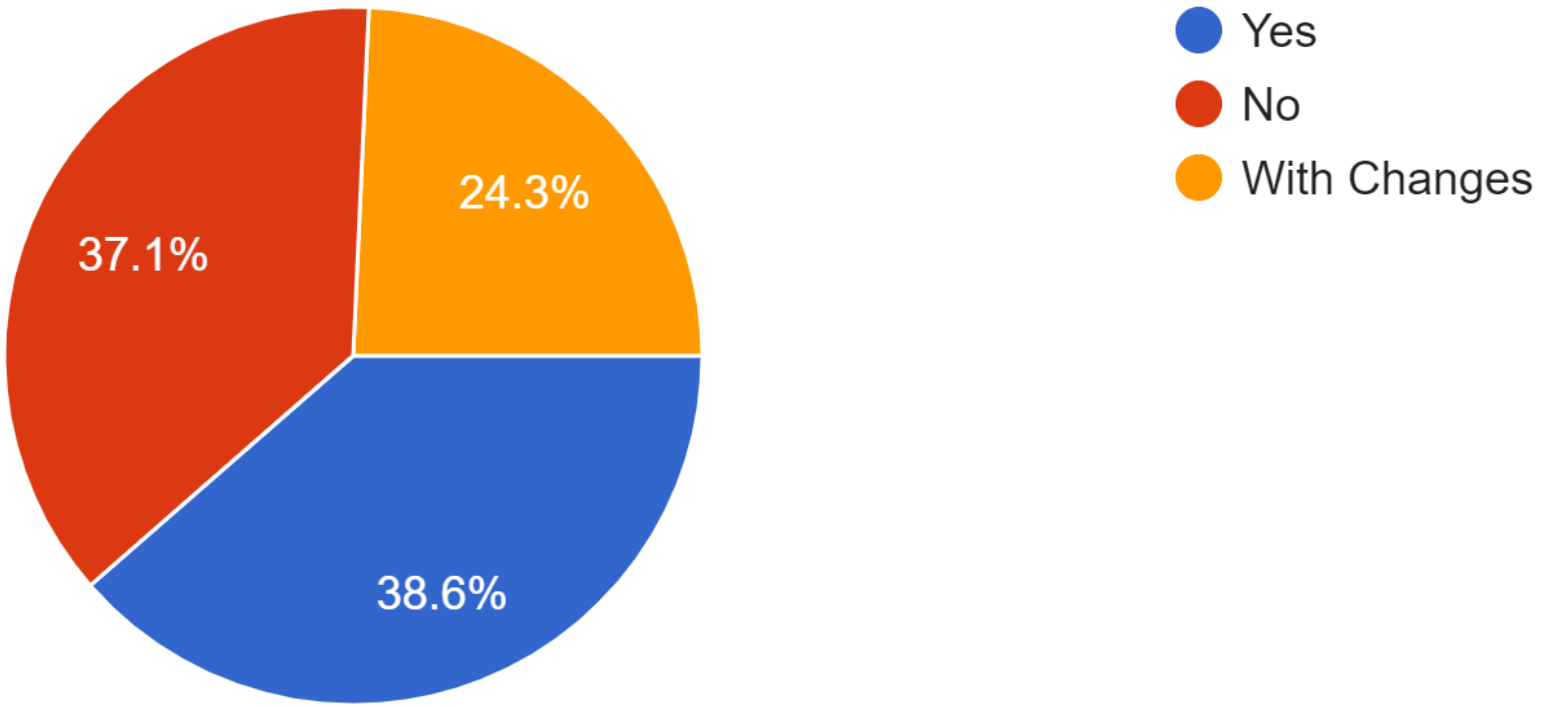
Would you suggest any improvements to the Paid Parking System?

65 responses



I support moving forward with paid downtown parking and managed residential parking in Idaho Springs

70 responses



Residential Survey Comments

Comments about the Residential Managed parking program focused on finding a solution to make it easier for guests to park in Residential Areas, as well as additional solutions to make it easier to enforce the residential managed parking zone. Residents also requested that if the program move forward, a bigger residential management area be considered and more and better signage.

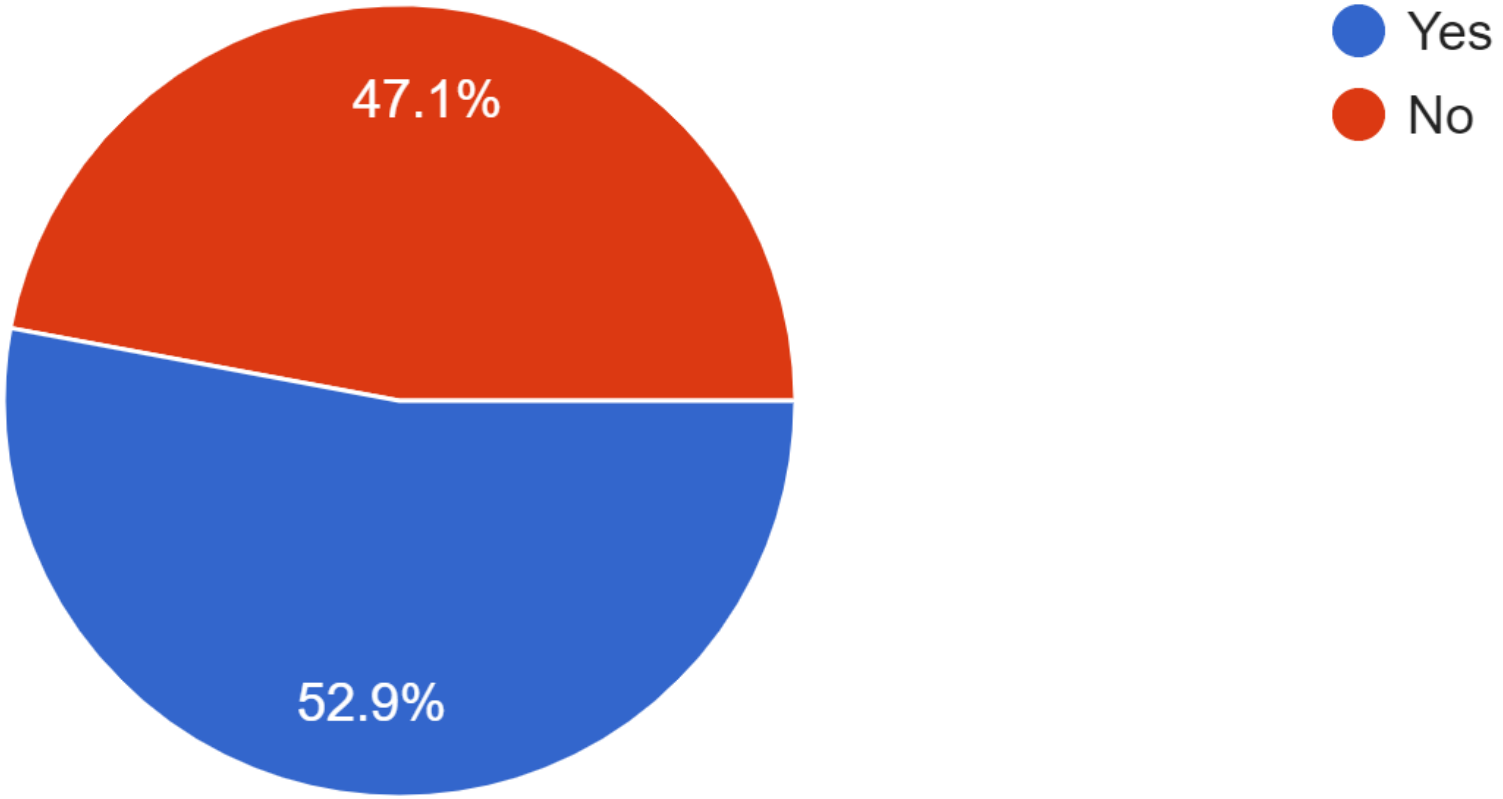
There were also comments made about some of the Community Resources in the Downtown Core such as the Senior Center, The Library, and The Rec Center. Residents asked to ensure that we are maintaining adequate access to these resources for the community.

Business Survey Results

Rate these statements (17 responses):	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NA
Parking Congestion Historical Problem	**9**	**5**	**1**	**0**	**2**	**0**
Paid parking helps more customers access Downtown	**3**	**5**	**4**	**1**	**3**	**1**
Managed Parking adequately addressed Business Needs	**3**	**3**	**2**	**5**	**3**	**1**
Positive interactions with Interstate	**4**	**6**	**3**	**1**	**2**	**1**
Customers have had positive experience using the system	**1**	**0**	**6**	**6**	**4**	**1**
I support moving forward with the Paid and Managed Parking Program	**3**	**4**	**2**	**2**	**5**	**1**

Have things improved as the trial program progressed?

17 responses



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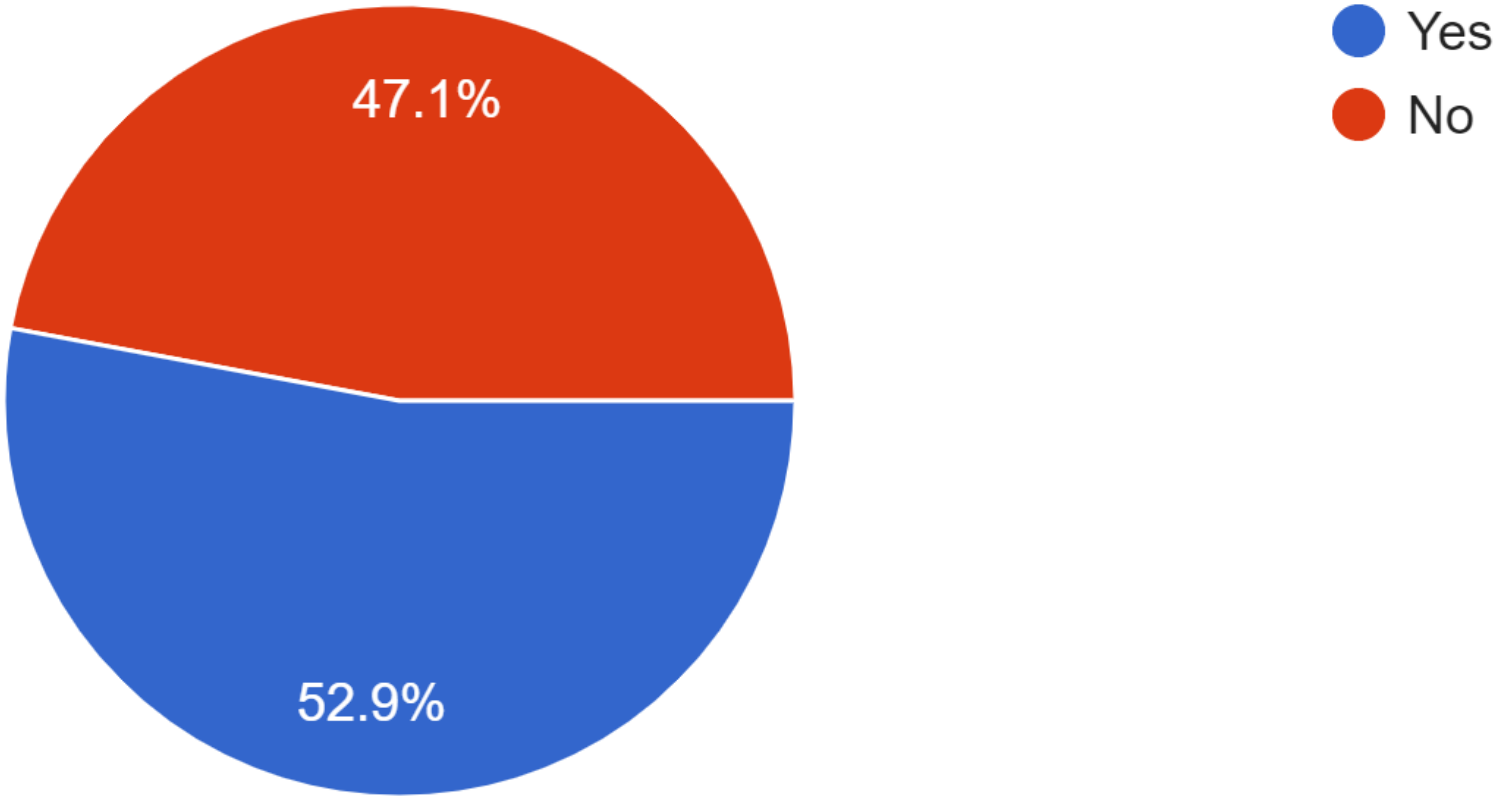

Business Survey Comments

Many comments from the Business survey focused on insuring that there is adequate Employee Parking and focused on building a parking garage as a better solution to the parking issue. Suggestions for improvements included building a community Task Force to make suggestions about the parking program, “pausing the program” during the shoulder seasons, and continuing to listen to community feedback to improve the program.

Next Steps

The contract with Interstate Parking for the Managed Parking Trial Program ends on October 1, 2019. When the contract ends, consideration will need to be made for the future Management of Parking in Idaho Springs.

Formation of a Parking Task Force

One suggestion that came out of the Public Engagement process for the Managed Parking Trial Program was to form a “Parking Task Force” that would meet and consider recommendations for a Managed Parking Program in Idaho Springs.

Staff recommends that City Council form a Task Force to make a recommendation to City Council regarding the future of managed parking in Idaho Springs.

Alternatives for Parking Management after the Trial

Allow the contract to end

Without a contract to move forward, Interstate will remove all their equipment and signage from the City, and the City could manage parking utilizing another method.

Enter Month to Month Contract with Interstate

The City could engage Interstate Parking with a Month to Month contract for limited parking enforcement downtown and in the Residential Area until a decision regarding a permanent plan for managed parking in Idaho Springs is made.

Staff requests direction from City Council regarding the preferred "next steps" for Parking Management in the City.

Thank you.