



Downtown Dover Parking

DDP Parking Committee Meeting

March 17, 2021



2021 Downtown Dover Parking Survey

What We Heard

A Summary of the On-Line Survey Results

Background

After years of study, the Downtown Dover Partnership (DDP) announced that they have partnered with Colonial Parking to develop a Downtown Dover parking management plan at their November 2020 Parking Committee meeting. During the past several months the DDP-Colonial Team heard from a variety of stakeholders about their thoughts regarding parking in Downtown Dover. In order to gather as much information as possible, the team launched a survey in March 2021. The survey asked about parking behaviors, parking conditions and ideas for future improvements to parking in Downtown Dover. Below are the initial findings of the survey based on 123 respondents.

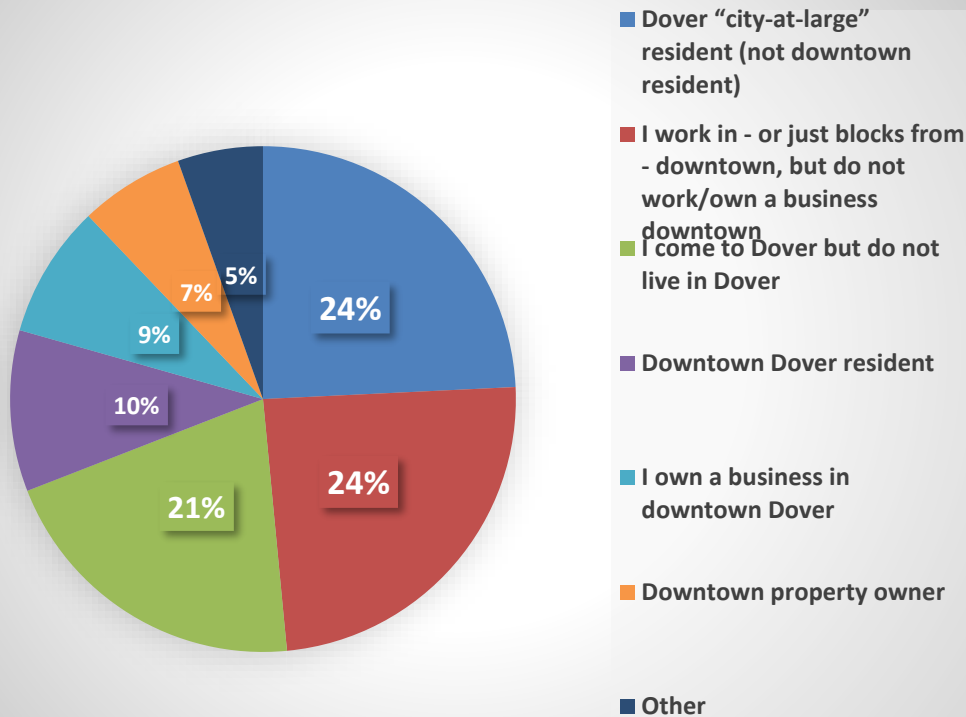
This “What We Heard” presentation provides a high-level summary of the initial survey results. For open ended questions, we have provided a snap-shot of the most commonly heard themes from the public. Thank you to all respondents for taking the time to answer the survey. Your responses will be used to help inform the development and direction of the Downtown Dover parking plan, which is anticipated to be completed by the 4th quarter of 2021.

2021 Downtown Dover Parking Survey

What We Heard



Q1 What is your affiliation with Dover? (Check all that apply)

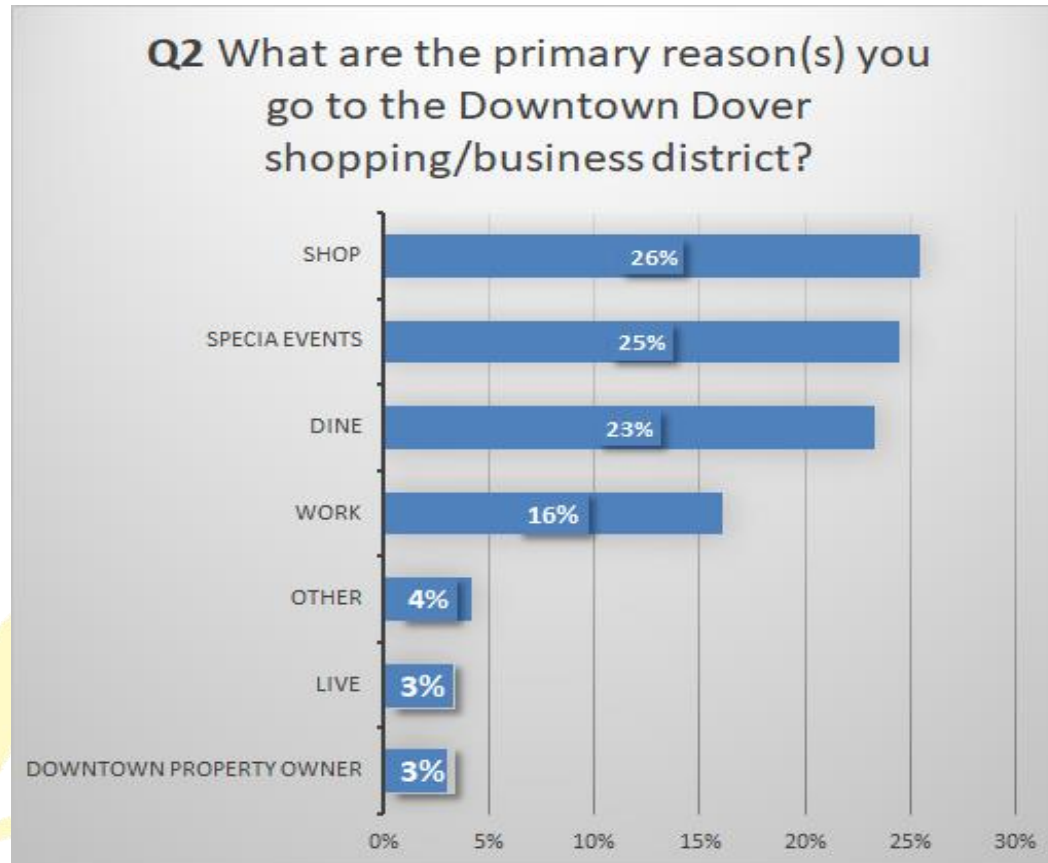


Key Findings:

The Downtown Dover population is diverse with a fairly even mix of City Residents (24%), People Working Downtown (24%) and Non-Resident Visitors (21%).

2021 Downtown Dover Parking Survey

What We Heard



Key Findings:

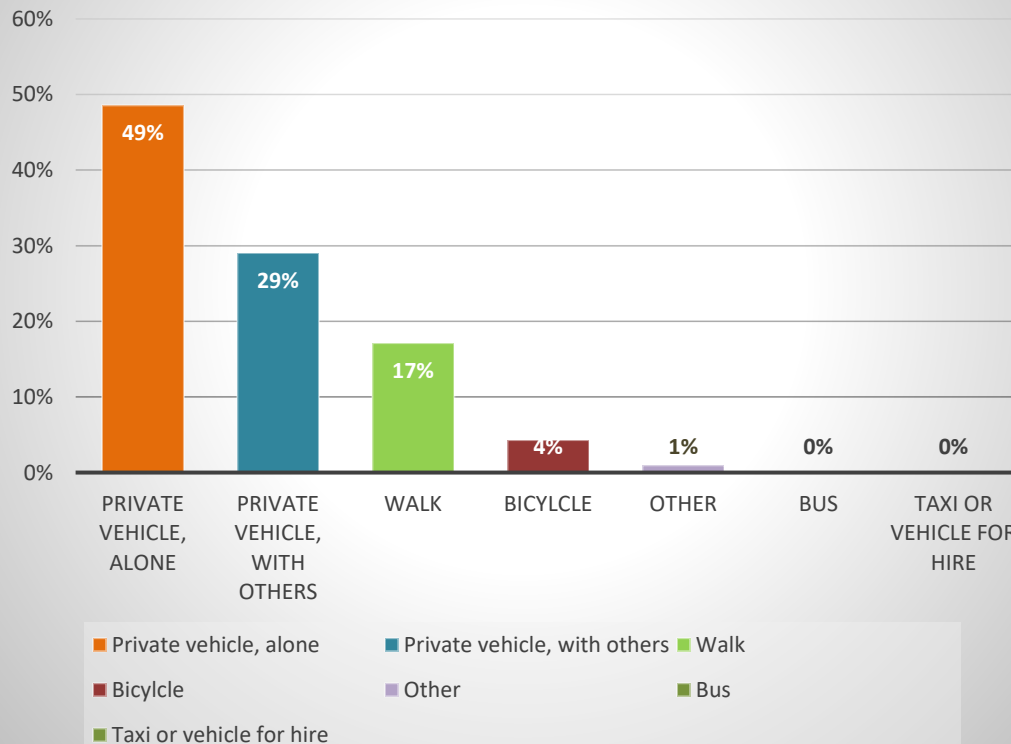
74% of people come to Downtown Dover business district to (1) Shop, (2) Dine or (3) Attend Special Events.

2021 Downtown Dover Parking Survey

What We Heard



Q3 What are the one or two ways you typically get to the shopping district of Downtown Dover?



Key Findings:

78% of people traveling to Downtown Dover shopping district are driving a private vehicle, whether alone or with others.

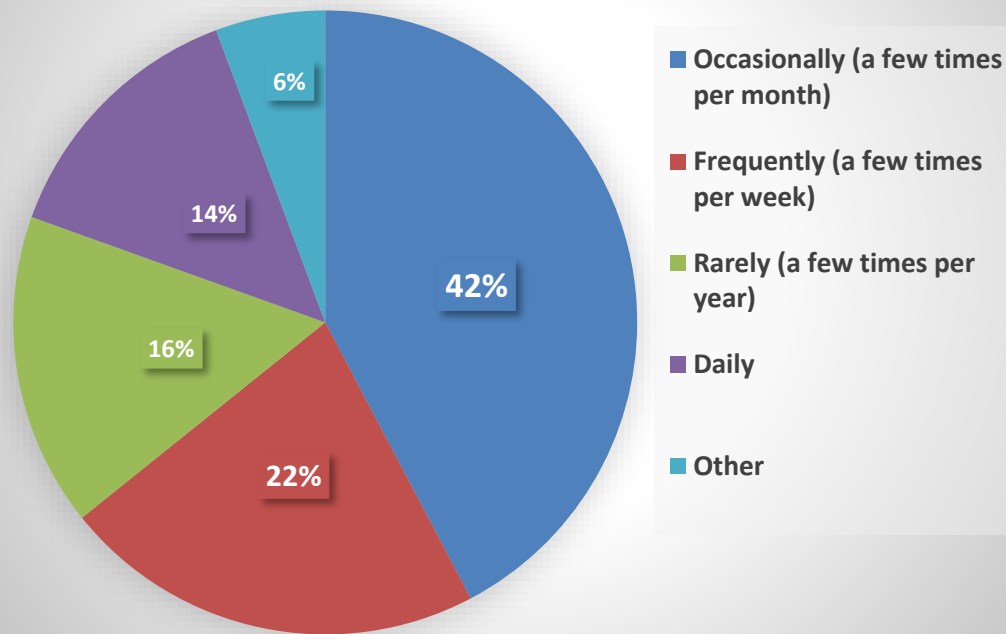
There were no responses for taxi or vehicle for hire

2021 Downtown Dover Parking Survey

What We Heard



Q4 How often do you park in Downtown Dover?



Key Findings:

64% of people who park in Downtown Dover do so at least a few times per month.

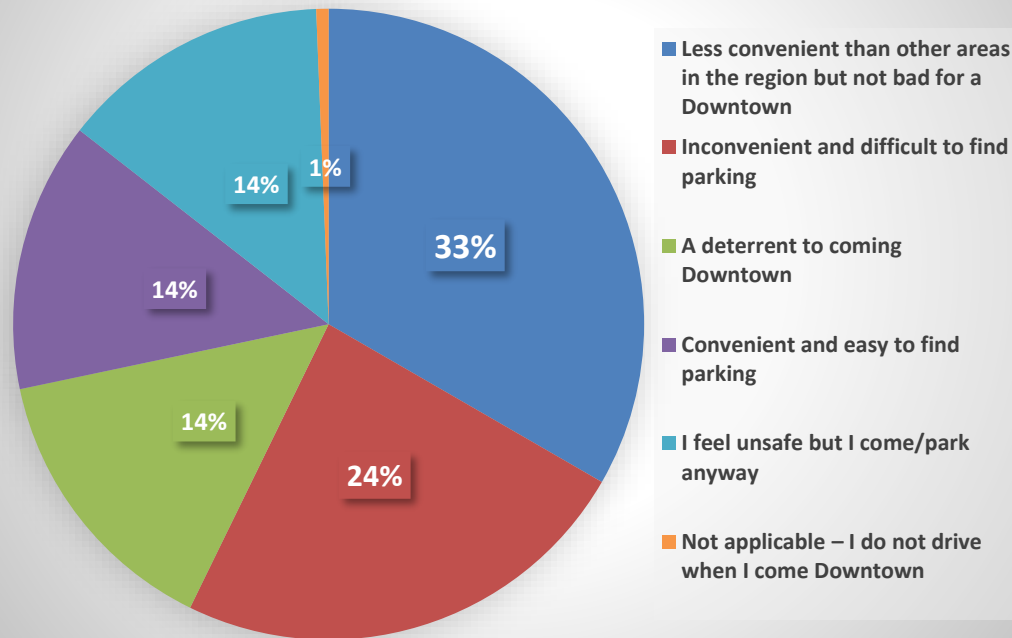
The “other” responses were parking in their employer’s parking lot and never.

2021 Downtown Dover Parking Survey

What We Heard



Q5 How have you typically found the parking experience to be in Downtown Dover?



Key Findings:

57% of people find parking in Downtown Dover to be either “less convenient than other areas, but not bad for a downtown” or “inconvenient and difficult to find parking.”

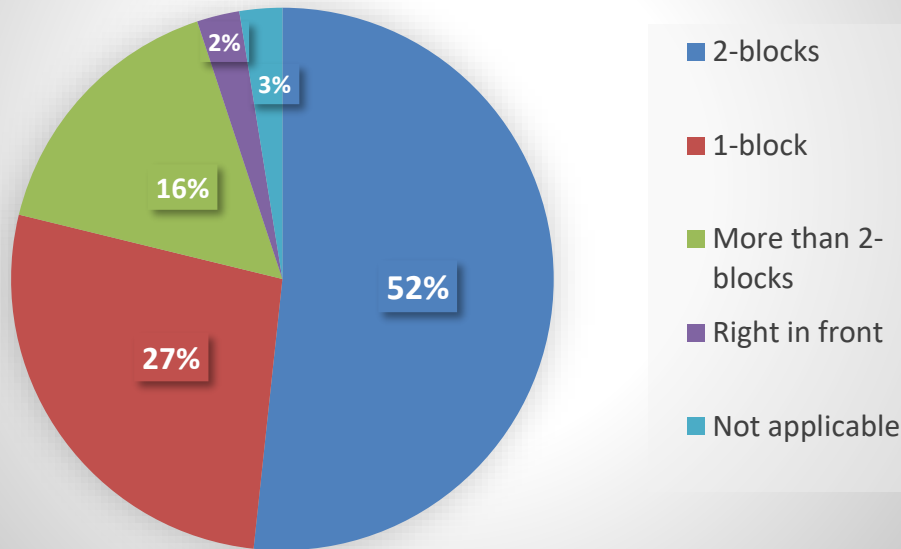
Only 14% of people find parking to be “convenient and easy to find.” While an equal number of people (14%) “feel unsafe but come and park anyway” and “see parking as a deterrent to coming Downtown.”

2021 Downtown Dover Parking Survey

What We Heard



Q6 How far from your desired destination are you willing to park?



Key Findings:

79% of people are willing to park 1- to 2-blocks away from their destination. The overall responses demonstrate that people are flexible when it comes to distance from parking space to their destination.

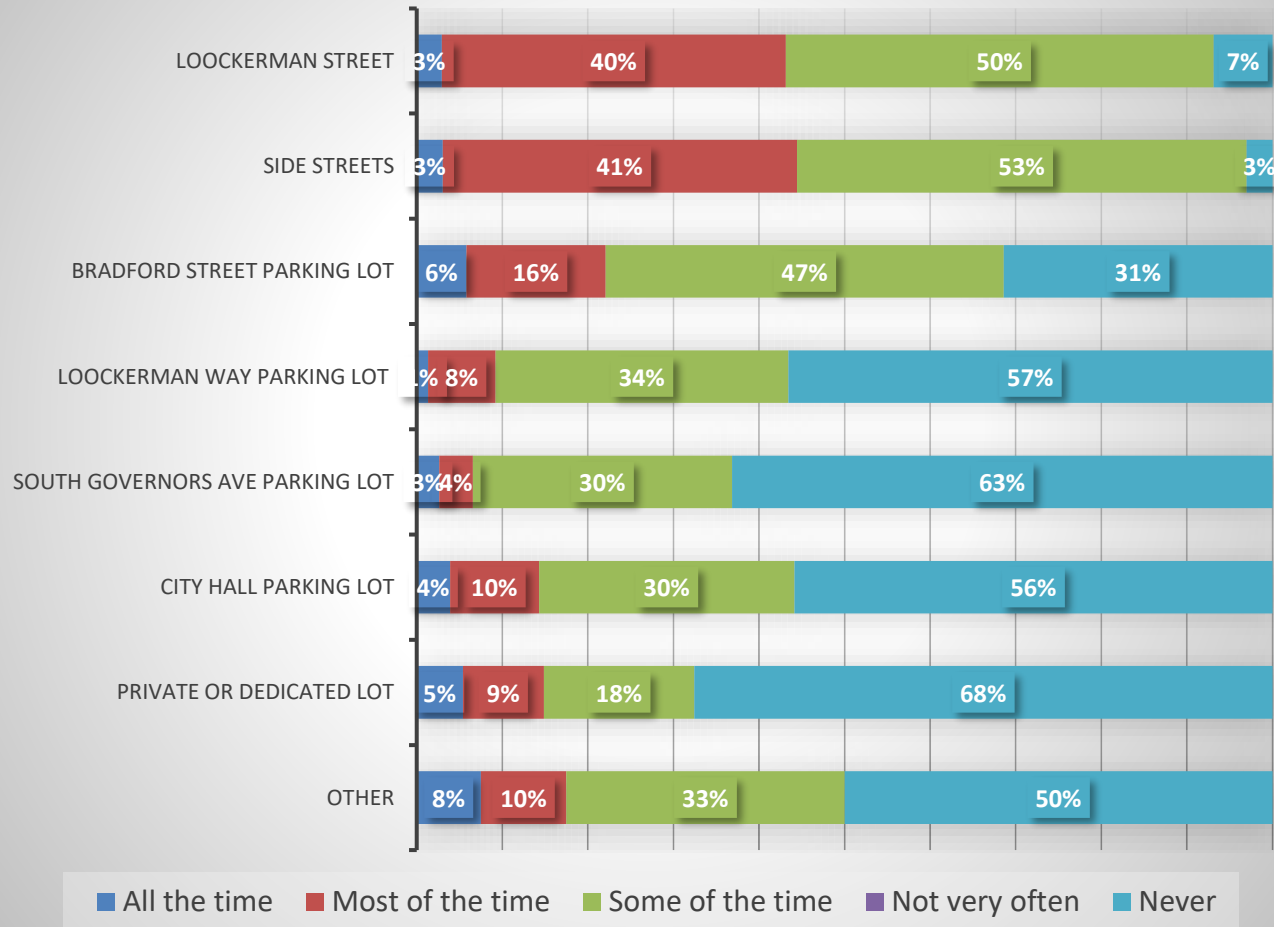
Only 2% of respondents needed a space right in front.

2021 Downtown Dover Parking Survey

What We Heard



Q7 Where do you park when you are in Dover?



Key Findings:

Most people park on Loockerman Street or Side Streets.

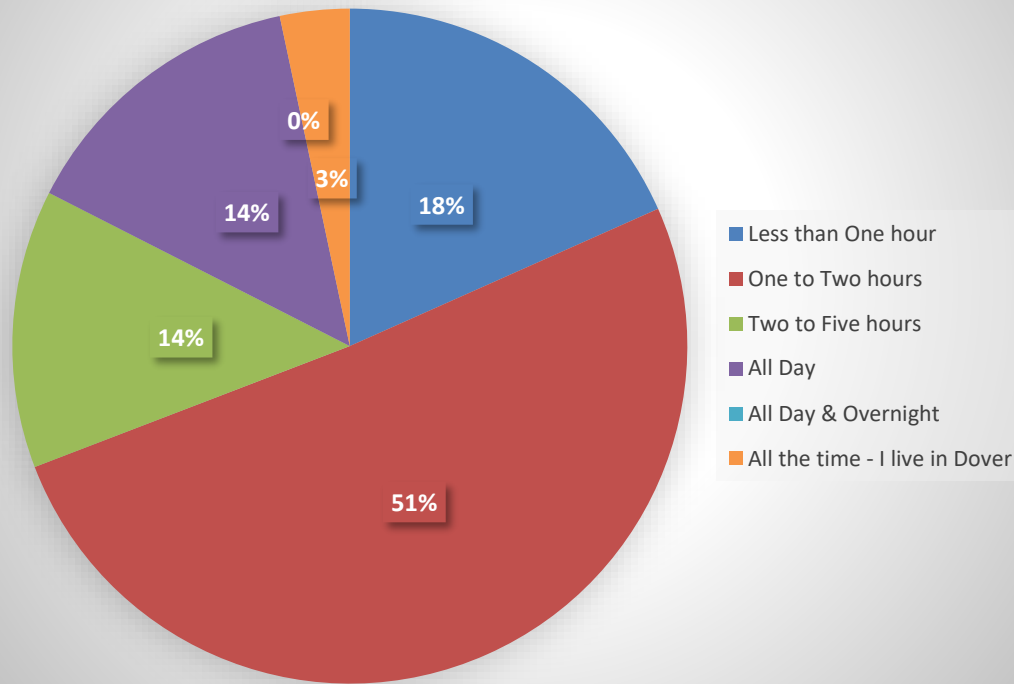
South Governors Avenue Parking Lot is the least used parking location.

2021 Downtown Dover Parking Survey

What We Heard



Q8 How long do you generally stay when you come to Dover?



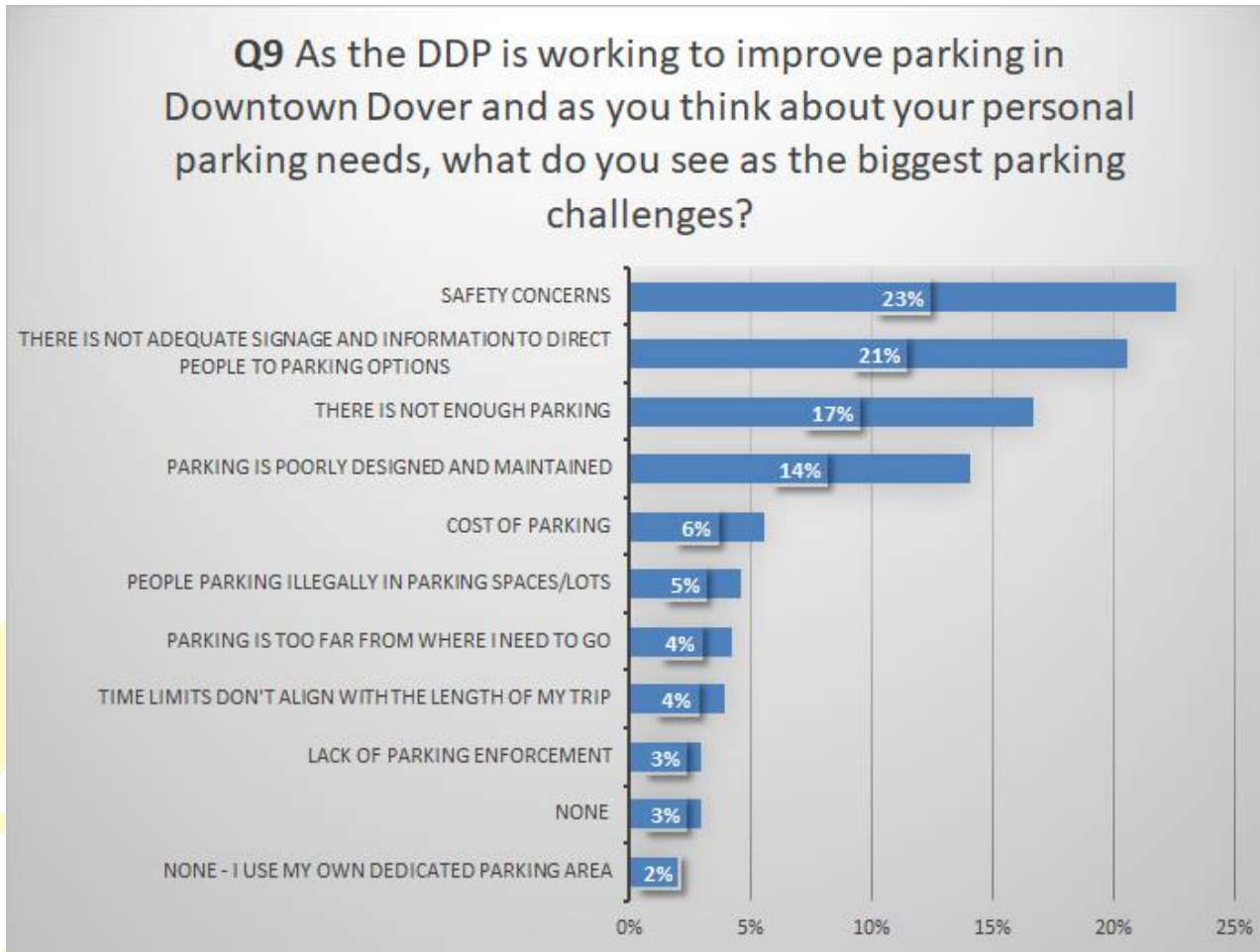
Key Findings:

69% of respondents stay less than 2 hours

28 % stay All Day or All Day & Overnight

2021 Downtown Dover Parking Survey

What We Heard



Key Findings:

Most people (23%) indicated safety concerns are the largest parking challenge.

21% of people pointed to signage and information as a parking challenge.

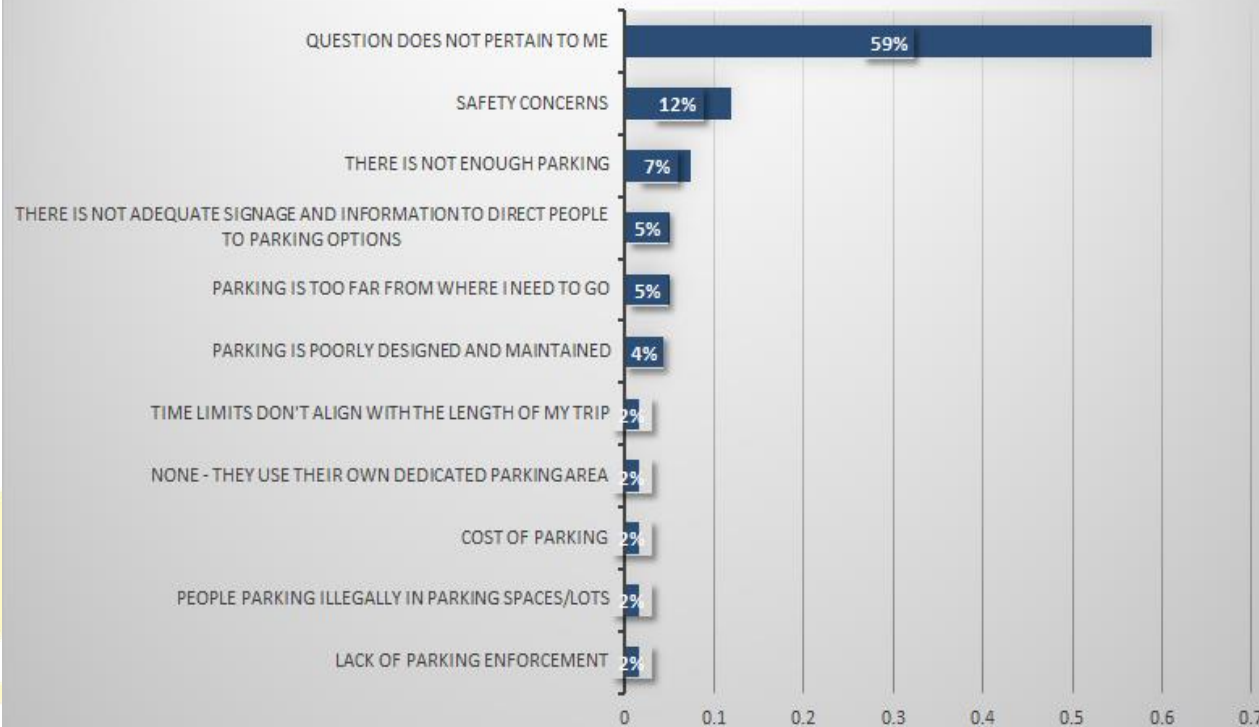
The 3rd most cited parking challenge in the survey was that there is not enough parking.

2021 Downtown Dover Parking Survey

What We Heard



Q10 If you are a business/property owner, what concerns have your constituents (customers, tenants, etc.) expressed to you?

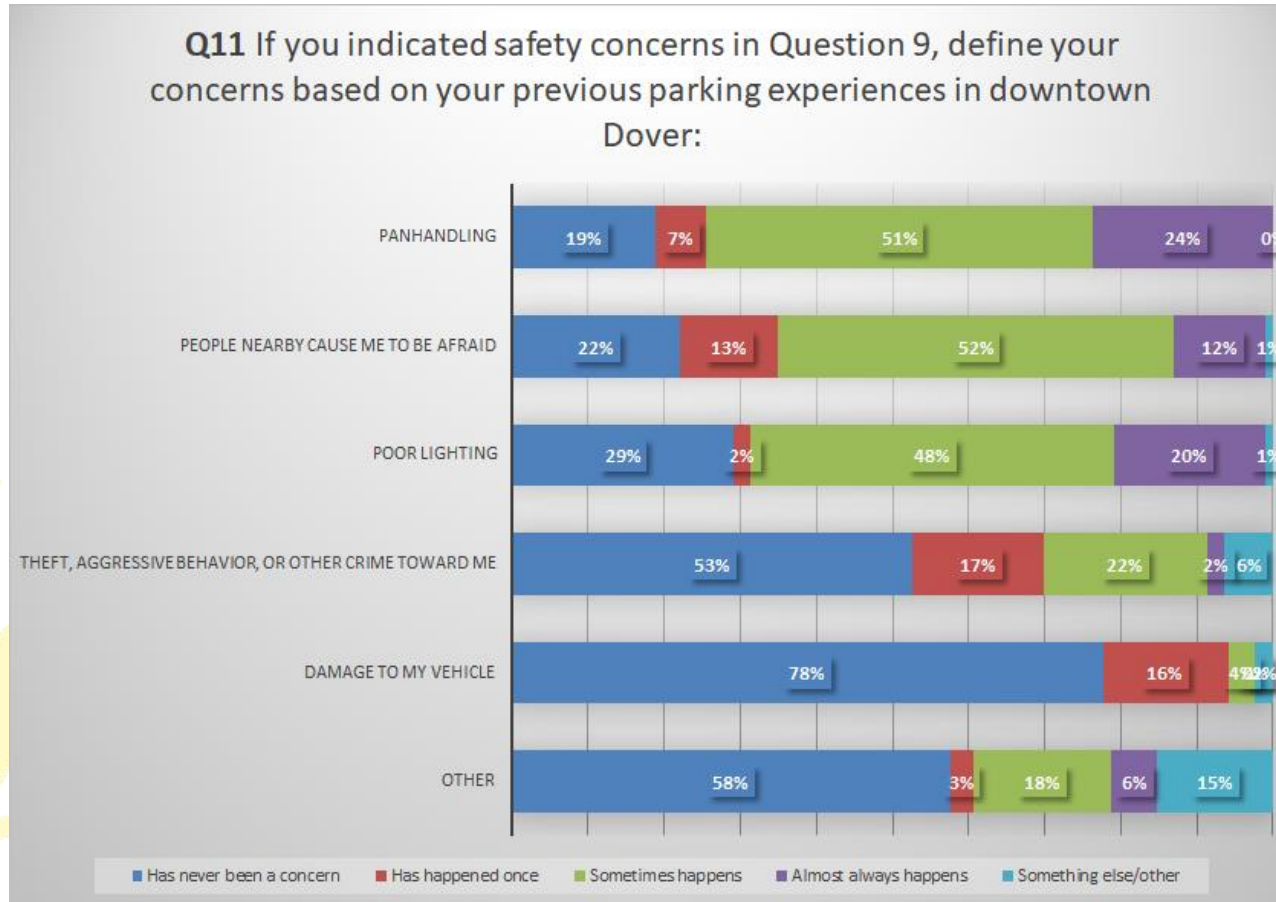


Key Findings:

Among business and property owners, safety was the number one concern expressed by their constituents followed by there not being enough parking.

2021 Downtown Dover Parking Survey

What We Heard



Key Findings:

Panhandling was most often cited as a safety concern, followed by people nearby.

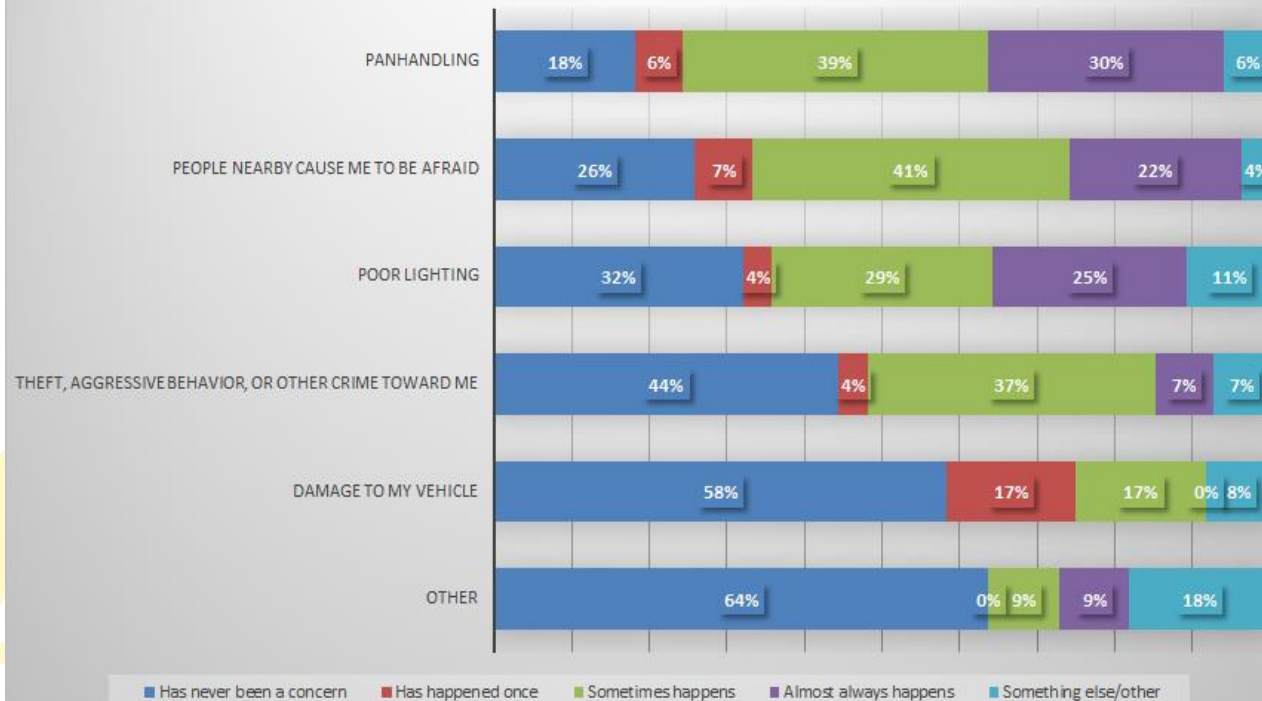
Poor lighting was the third most frequent concern.

2021 Downtown Dover Parking Survey

What We Heard



Q12 If you are a business owner and your constituents have indicated safety concerns, define your constituents' concerns based on their parking experiences in downtown Dover:



Key Findings:

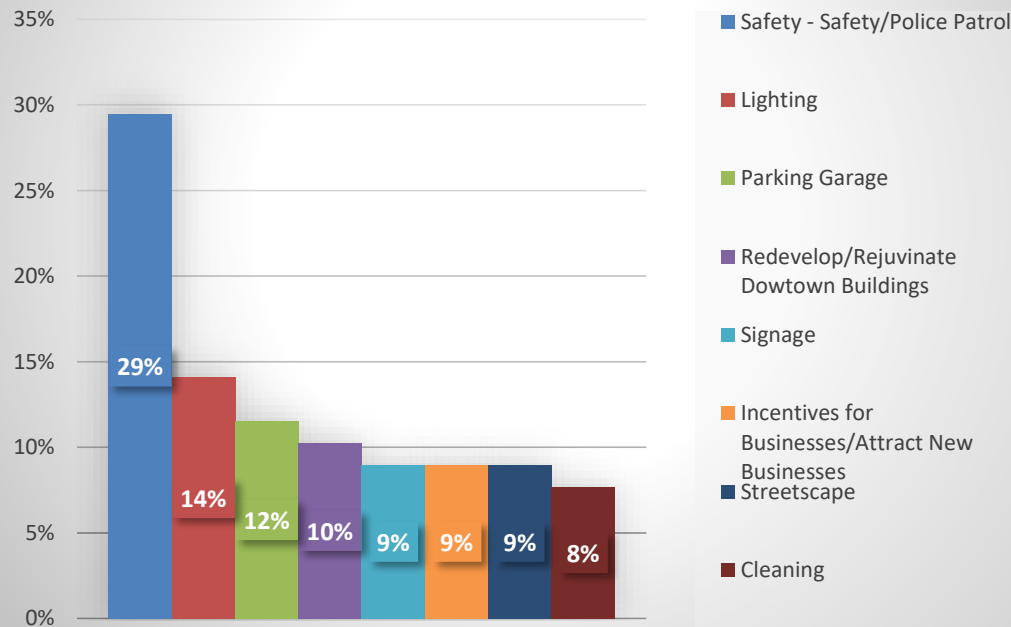
Business owners reported hearing the same concerns provided by visitors to downtown in question 11 with panhandling, people nearby causing fear and poor lighting as the most reported concerns.

2021 Downtown Dover Parking Survey

What We Heard



Q13 If revenue generated from parking were to be invested into addressing needs of downtown, very briefly comment on two or three areas of need that could benefit most:



Key Findings:

Of the top 8-most frequent recommendations for the use of any parking revenue, the single most frequent is Safety – Safety/Police Patrol (29%).

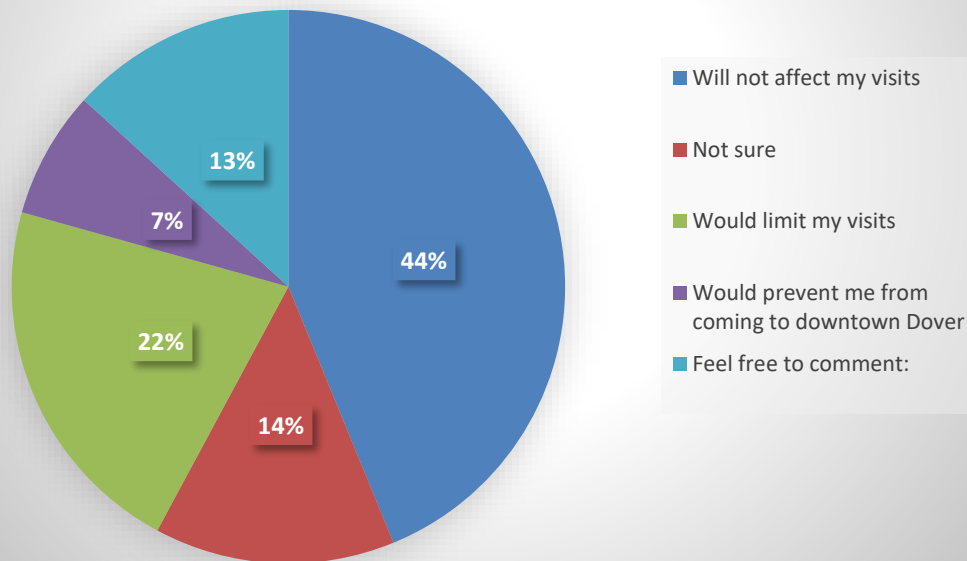
Lighting, building a Parking Garage and Redevelopment/Rejuvenation of downtown Buildings were also mentioned.

2021 Downtown Dover Parking Survey

What We Heard



Q14 If the DDP implemented a new parking management system to both improve parking and streetscape/safety in downtown Dover, and it included parking meters with a modest fee (\$1.00-\$1.50/hour), would it affect your decision to visit?

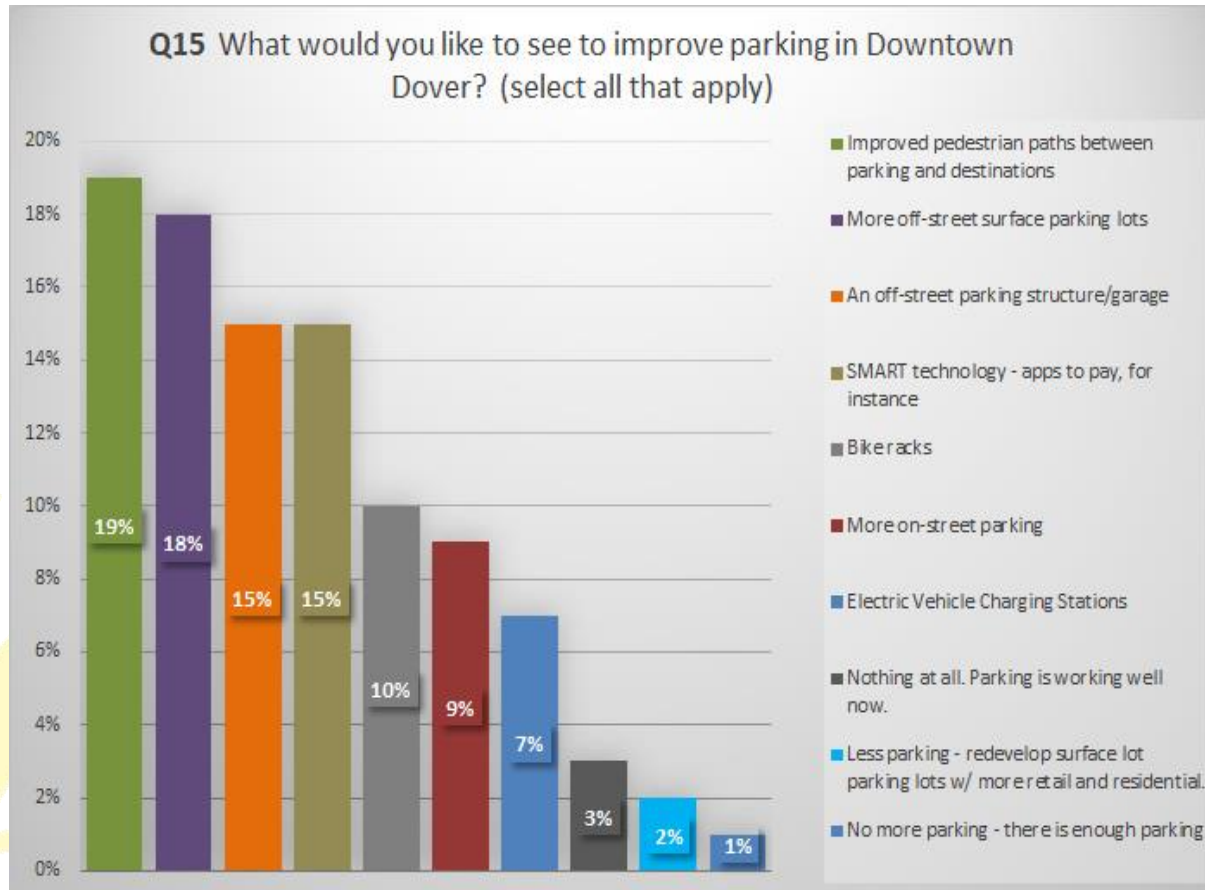


Key Findings:

58% of people indicated a modest parking fee either will not affect their visits or they are not sure.

2021 Downtown Dover Parking Survey

What We Heard



Key Findings:

The top 3-preferred improvements are:

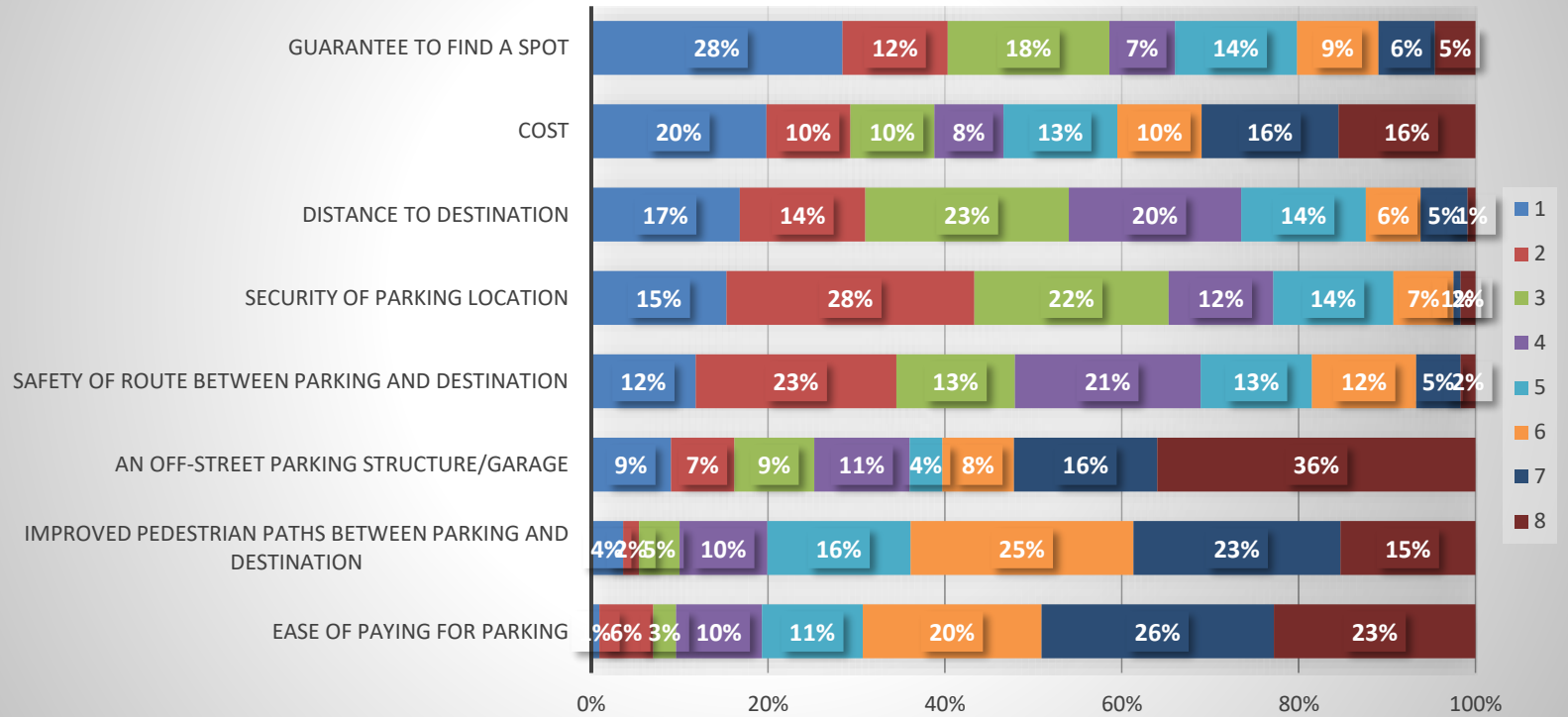
1. Improved pedestrian paths between parking and destinations
2. More off-street surface parking lots, and
3. Tied for third are an off-street parking structure/ garage and SMART technology – apps to pay, for instance

2021 Downtown Dover Parking Survey

What We Heard



Q16 Rank in order what factors influence or would influence where you park.



Key Findings:

Guarantee to find a parking spot is the most important influencer.

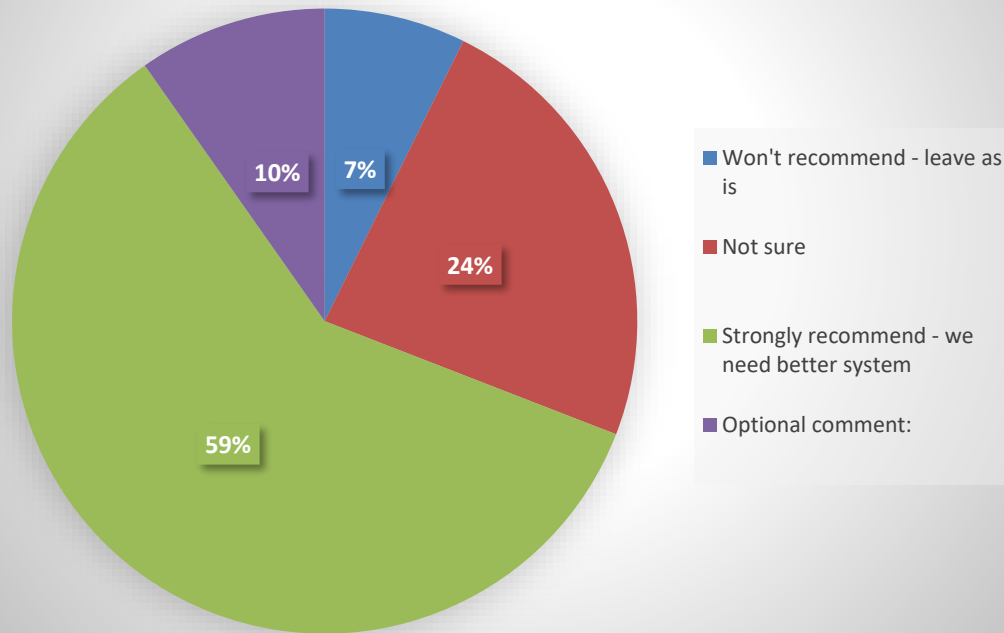
Ease of Paying for Parking is the lowest ranked influencer.

2021 Downtown Dover Parking Survey

What We Heard



Q17 How strongly would you recommend better parking management for Downtown Dover?



Key Findings:

59% of people strongly recommend that Downtown Dover needs a better system of parking management.

Q20 Feel free to share final thoughts:

Key Findings:

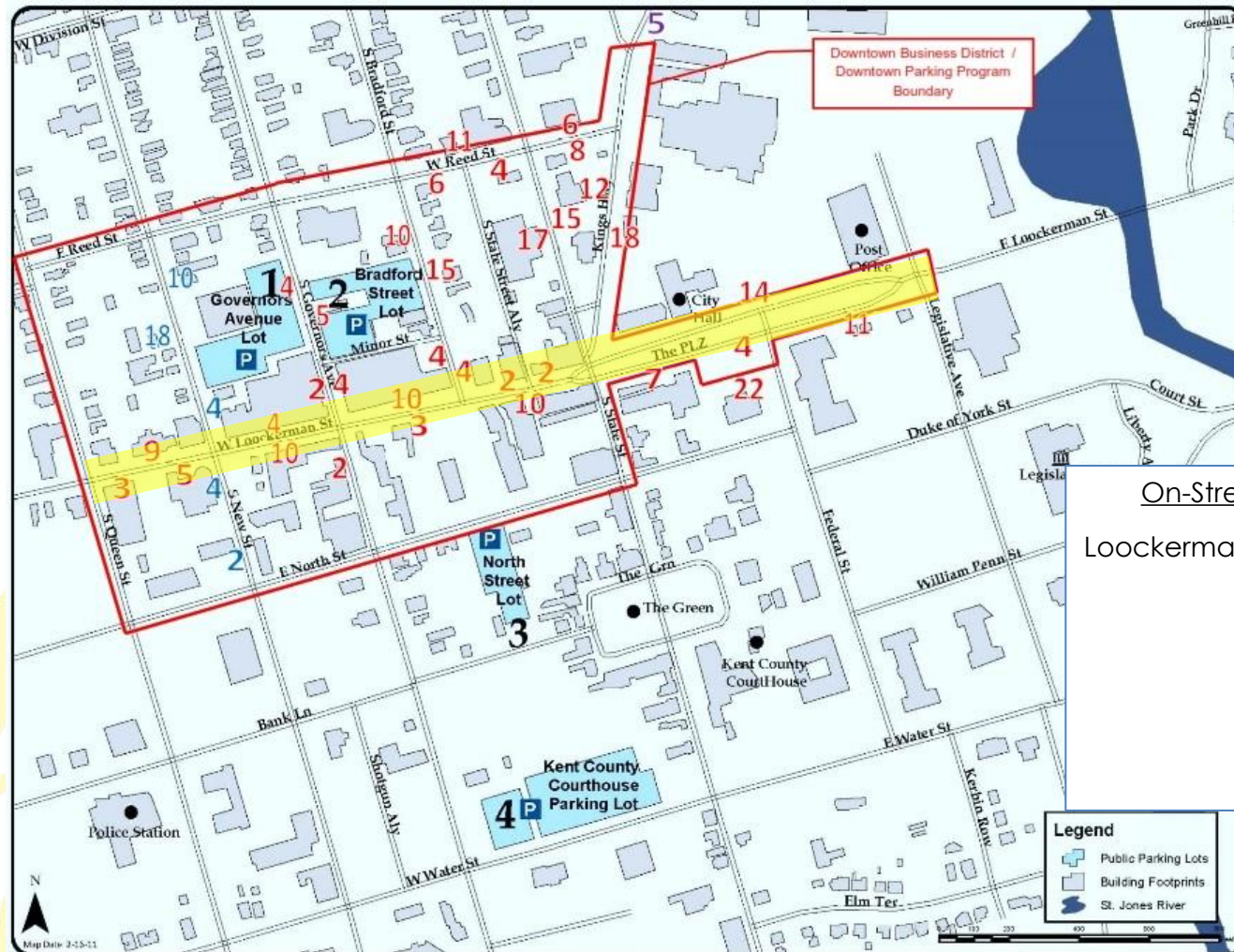
Of the 36-Respondents who had final thoughts to share, the most common themes we heard included:

- Concerns about safety/panhandlers downtown
- Need for a Parking Plan
- Split on the need for a Garage not more Parking Lots and No Garage
- Change the feel of downtown by making it more pedestrian friendly

Downtown Dover Parking



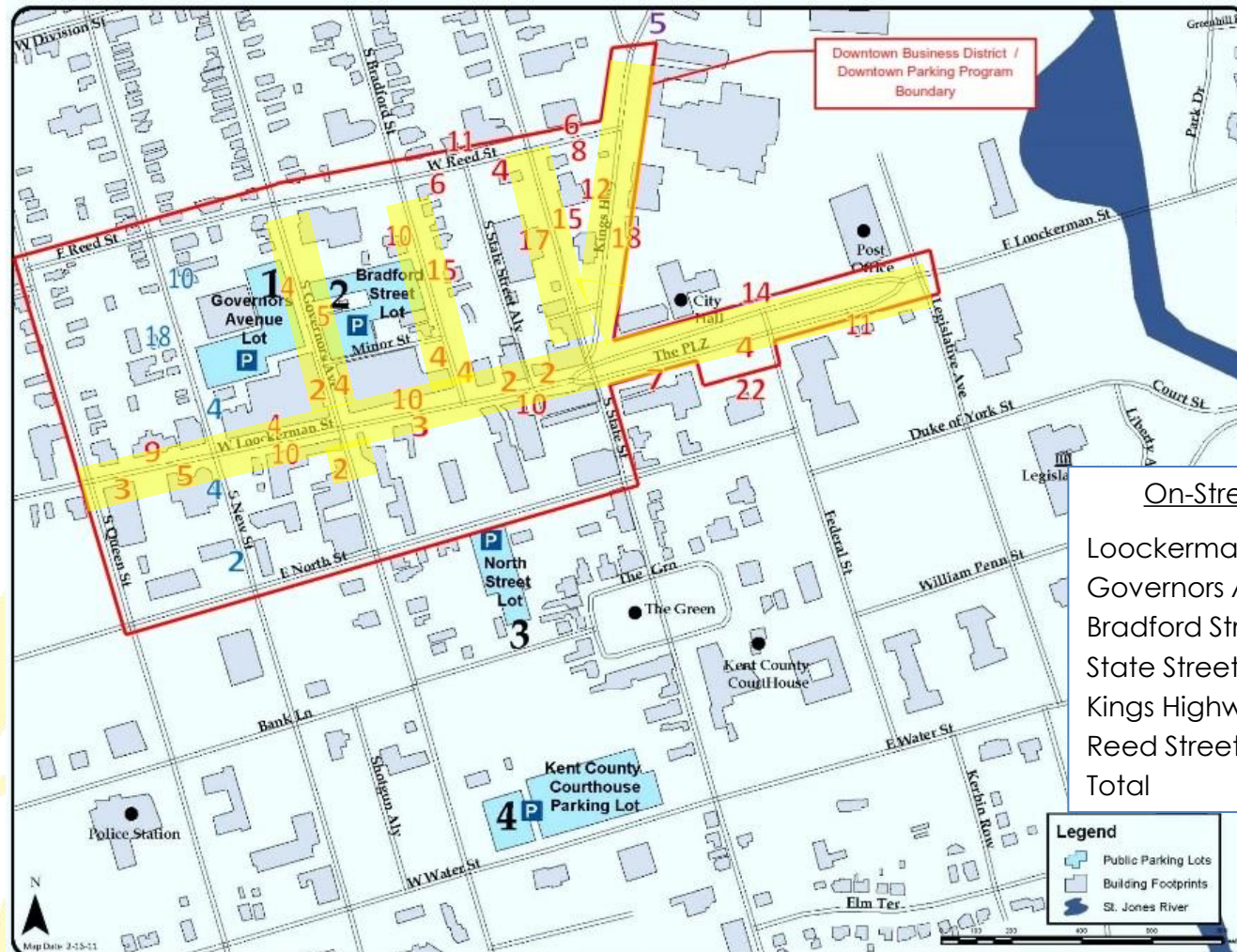
On-Street Parking Footprint – Potential Phase I (Loockerman Street ONLY)



Downtown Dover Parking



On-Street Parking Footprint – Potential Full Implementation



On-Street Parking Spaces

Loockerman Street	116-spaces
Governors Avenue	17-spaces
Bradford Street	33-spaces
State Street	32-spaces
Kings Highway	30-spaces
Reed Street	35-spaces
Total	263-spaces



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Final Questions or Comments?