

UPT Comprehensive Plan Research Process

❖ Phase I -- Issue Identification

✓ Qualitative

- *interviews with community leaders, business owners, township officials*
- *focus groups with community members*

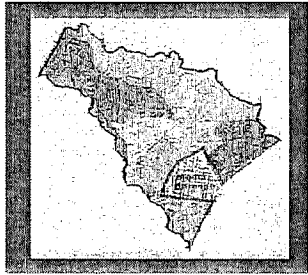
✓ Quantitative

- *residential community survey*

❖ Phase II -- Idea Generation

✓ Visioning Processing

- Qualitative – invited forum, open public forum



Focus Groups

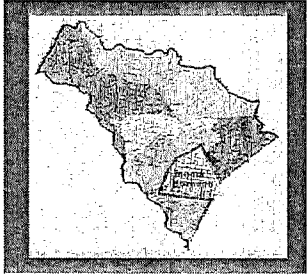
UPT Residents and Businesses invited to participate via local press during August 2003

Issues Discussed:

UPT Quality of Life, Local Economy, Housing, Land Use Patterns, Environmental, Natural, and Historic Resources, Local Government, Infrastructure (public utilities, transportation, roadways/circulation), Recreation, Other Concerns/Open Discussion

Key Issues/Concerns

- Pros – quality of life, diverse socio-economics, surroundings, safety, schools, business mix
- Concerns --
 - Sense of community
 - Growth Management/Development
 - Recreation (Parks/Playgrounds, Playing Fields)
 - Losing ‘feel’ of area -- Trees, Messy Business strip
 - Speed – Route 252 is of particular concern
 - Confusion/misunderstanding about UPT taxes vs. RTM taxes



Individual/Small Group Interviews

Interviewees included:

RTM Superintendent of Schools, Local Business Owners, Media Little League, Chief of Police, Township Council, Churches, Schools, etc.

Key Issues/Concerns

- Business owners feel lack of inclusion in UPT matters
- Township 'leaders' are concerned about growth in area -- neighboring communities in particular
- Better and more frequent communication or communications forums would be appealing.
- Traffic (speed and flow through UPT)
- Walkways (through business district and to points of destination)
- More information/communication about Township matters – better partnership with the Township



Key Findings from Residential Survey

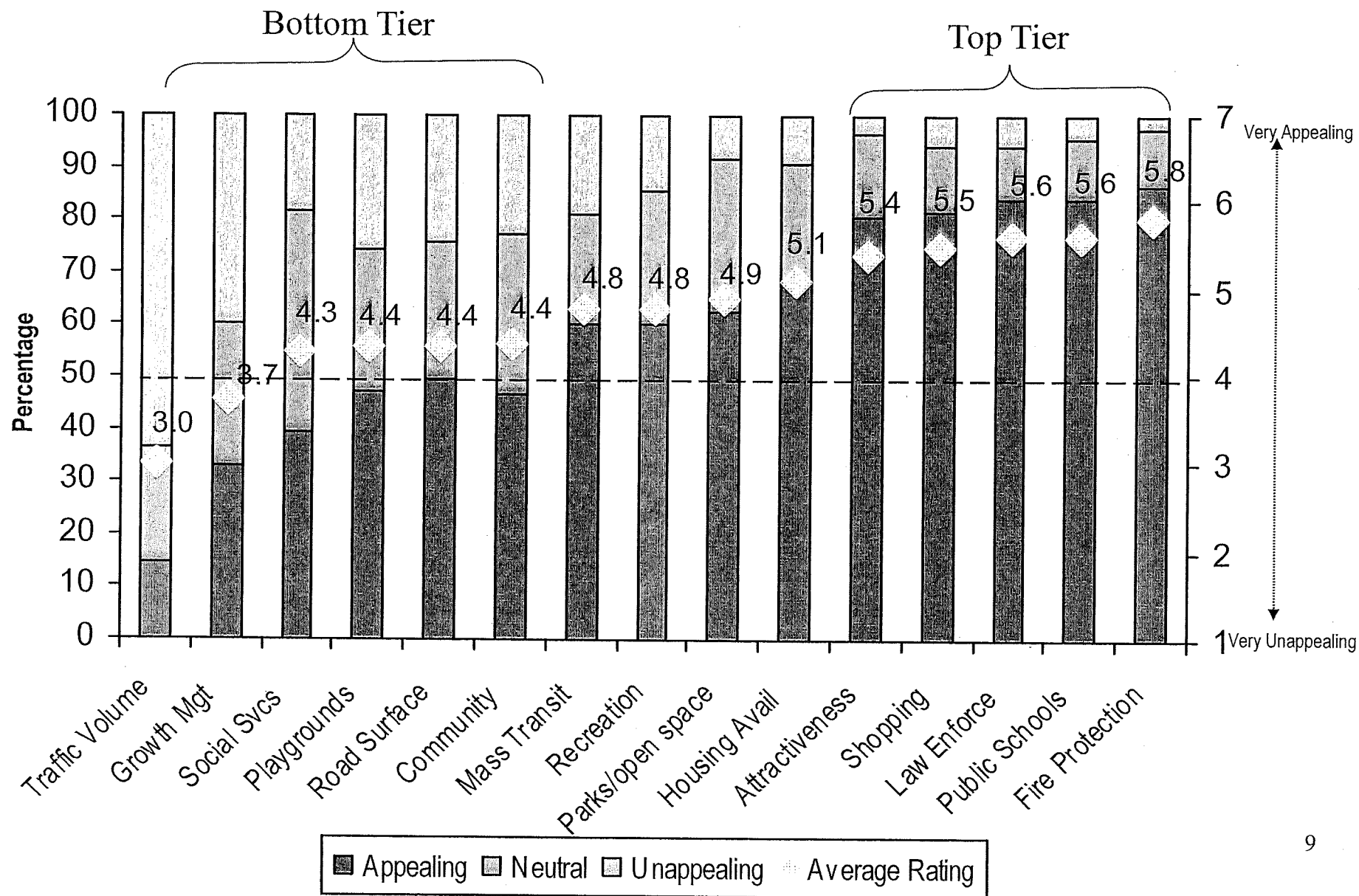
Survey Administration and Response Profile

- Surveys mailed to census of UPT Residents in January 2004.
 - 4,258 surveys mailed, 874 surveys (only 4 from renters) analyzed for an overall response rate of 20.5%.
 - 129 additional surveys returned after analysis was completed
- Robust responses analyzed by district:
 - District 1 -- 172
 - District 2 -- 180
 - District 3 -- 163
 - District 4 -- 145
 - District 5 -- 214

Upper Providence Township Appeal

- **Most Attractive:** Fire protection services, public schools, law enforcement services, convenience to shopping, and its attractiveness, aesthetics of the area.
- **Least Attractive:** traffic volume, social services, management of growth and new development, playgrounds for children, road surface conditions, and a sense of community.
- **Traffic volume** is most problematic issue explored - traffic was cited as being the least appealing aspect of UPT across 4 of 5 voting districts. Opinions on other issues vary somewhat by voting district.

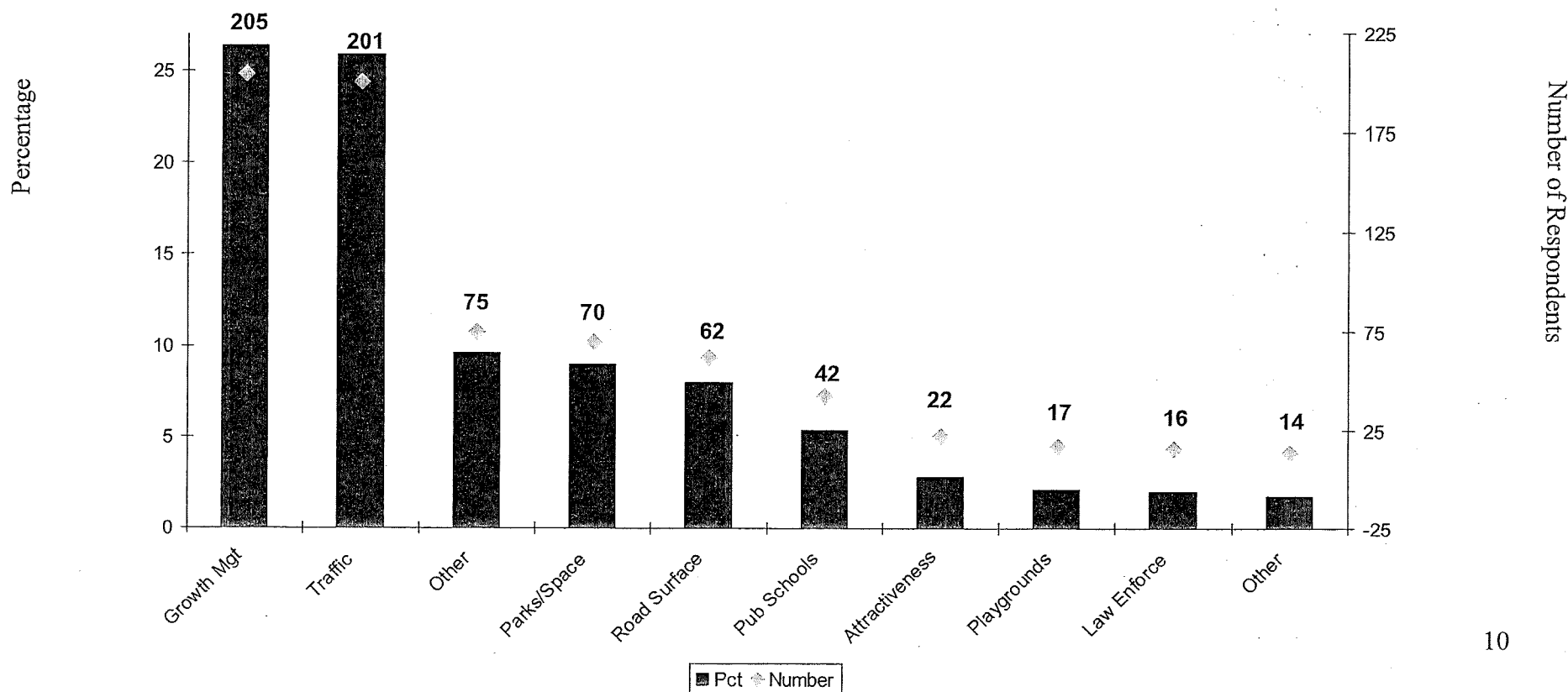
Upper Providence Township Appeal



Critical Township Issues

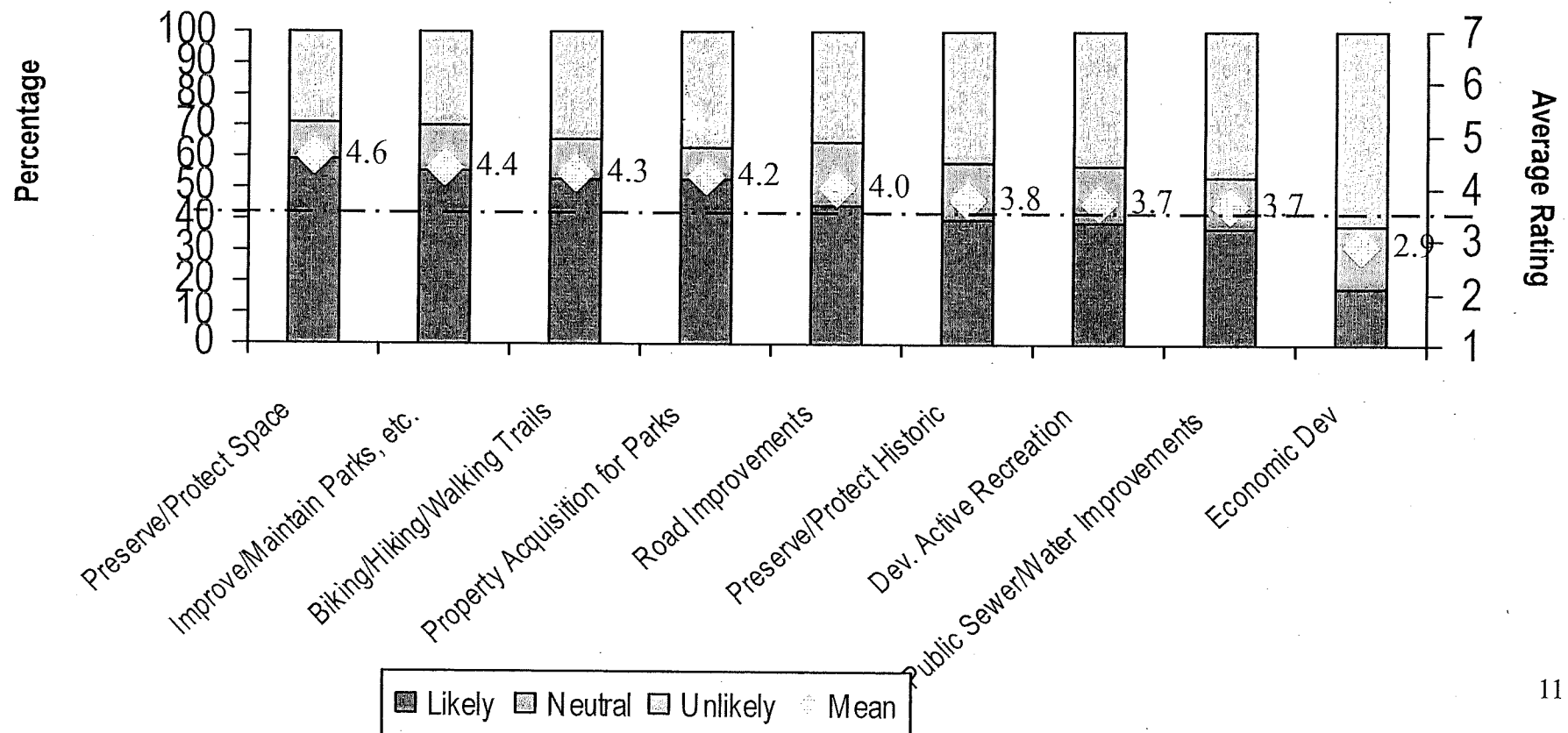
(Top 10 #1-rated issues)

- Growth management and traffic volume are in a virtual tie for being the **top** issue that residents believe should be addressed by UPT. All other issues pale in comparison to these two concerns.



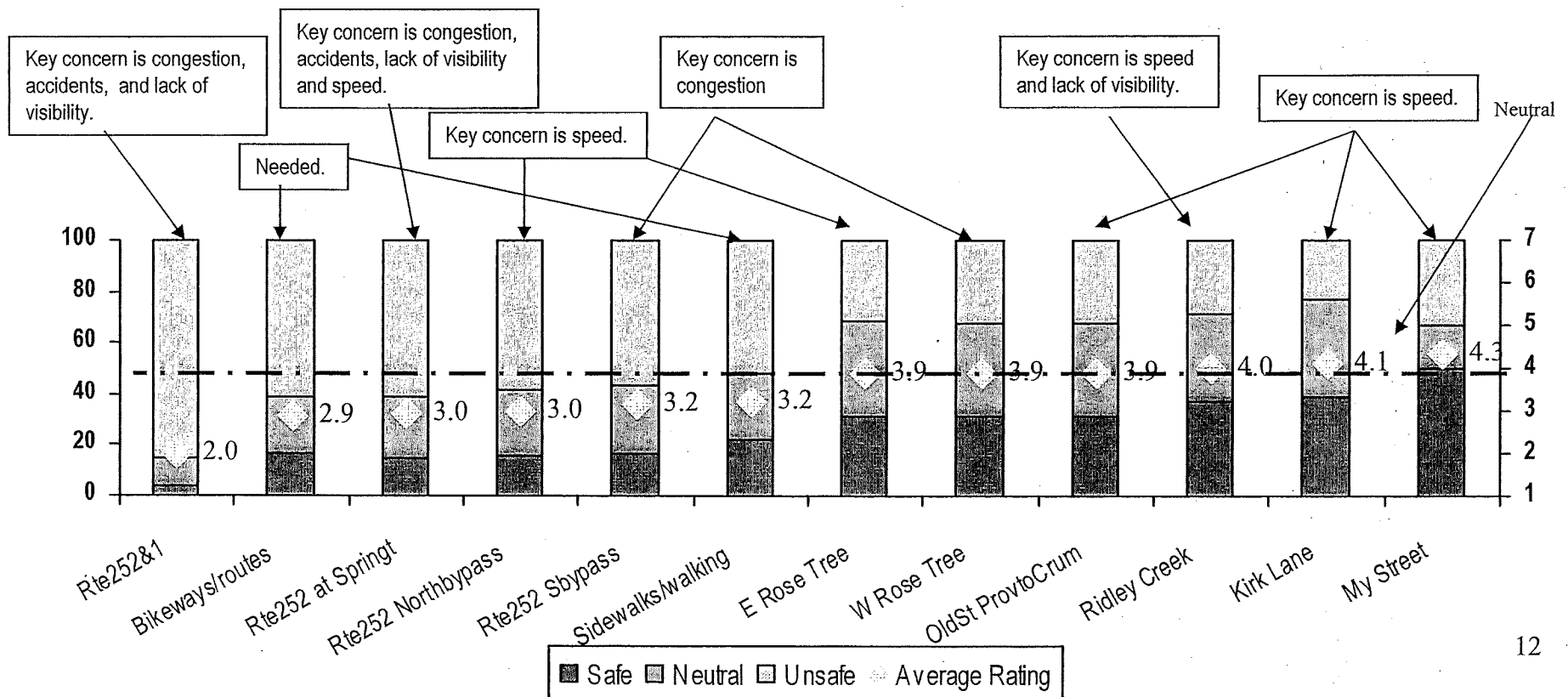
Willingness To Pay Additional Taxes for Various Initiatives

- Despite a strong sentiment that change is needed, residents do not strongly support improvements and changes with their tax dollars.



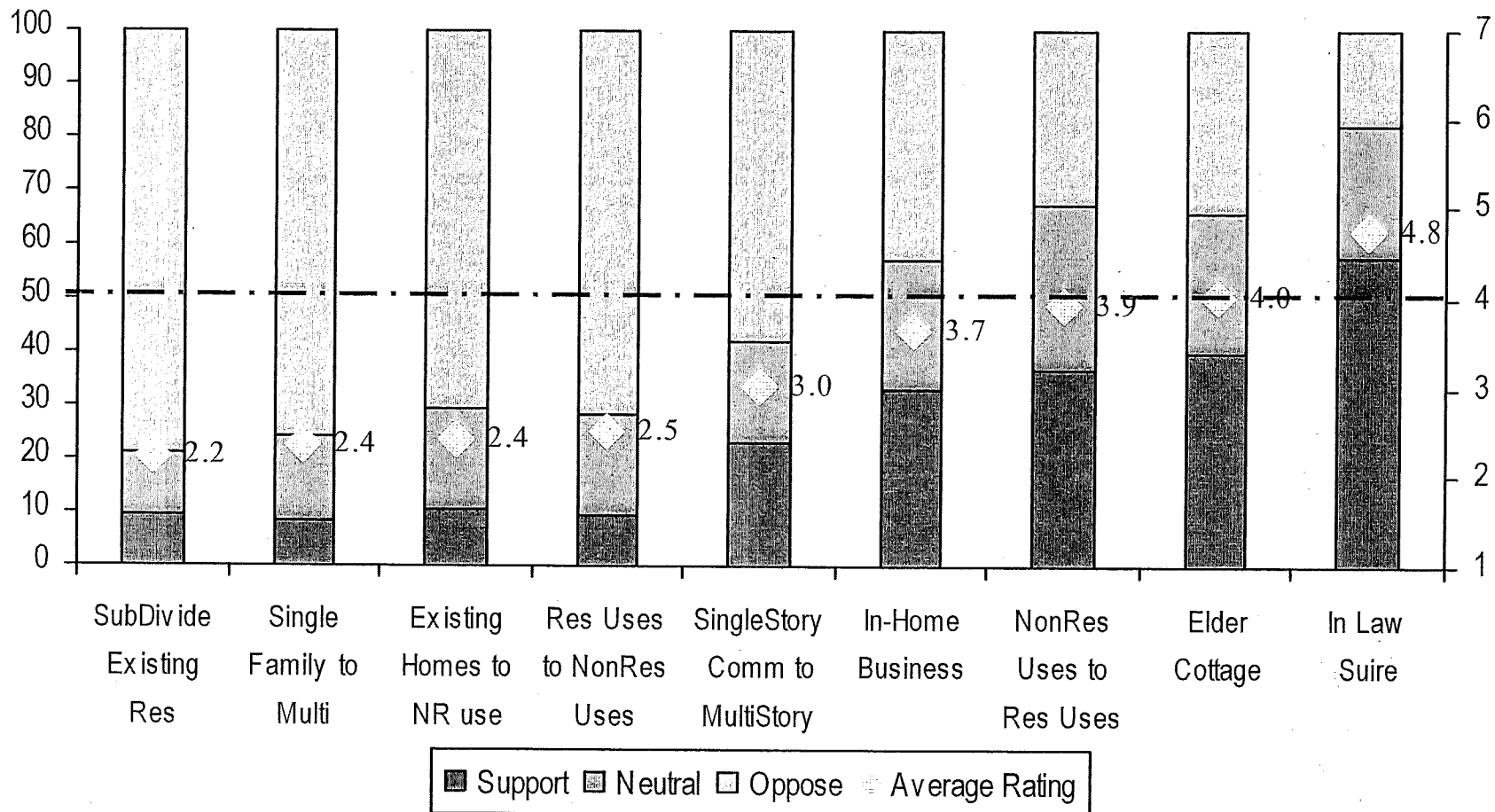
Street/Commuting Safety

- On average, residents generally do not rate any area or facet of UPT as being safe.
- Rte 252 at the by-pass is uniformly considered to be unsafe*. In fact, residents view all areas of Rte 252 are unsafe/congested—especially at Springton Lake School.
- Current bikeways/bike routes and sidewalk/walking areas are also considered to be unsafe.

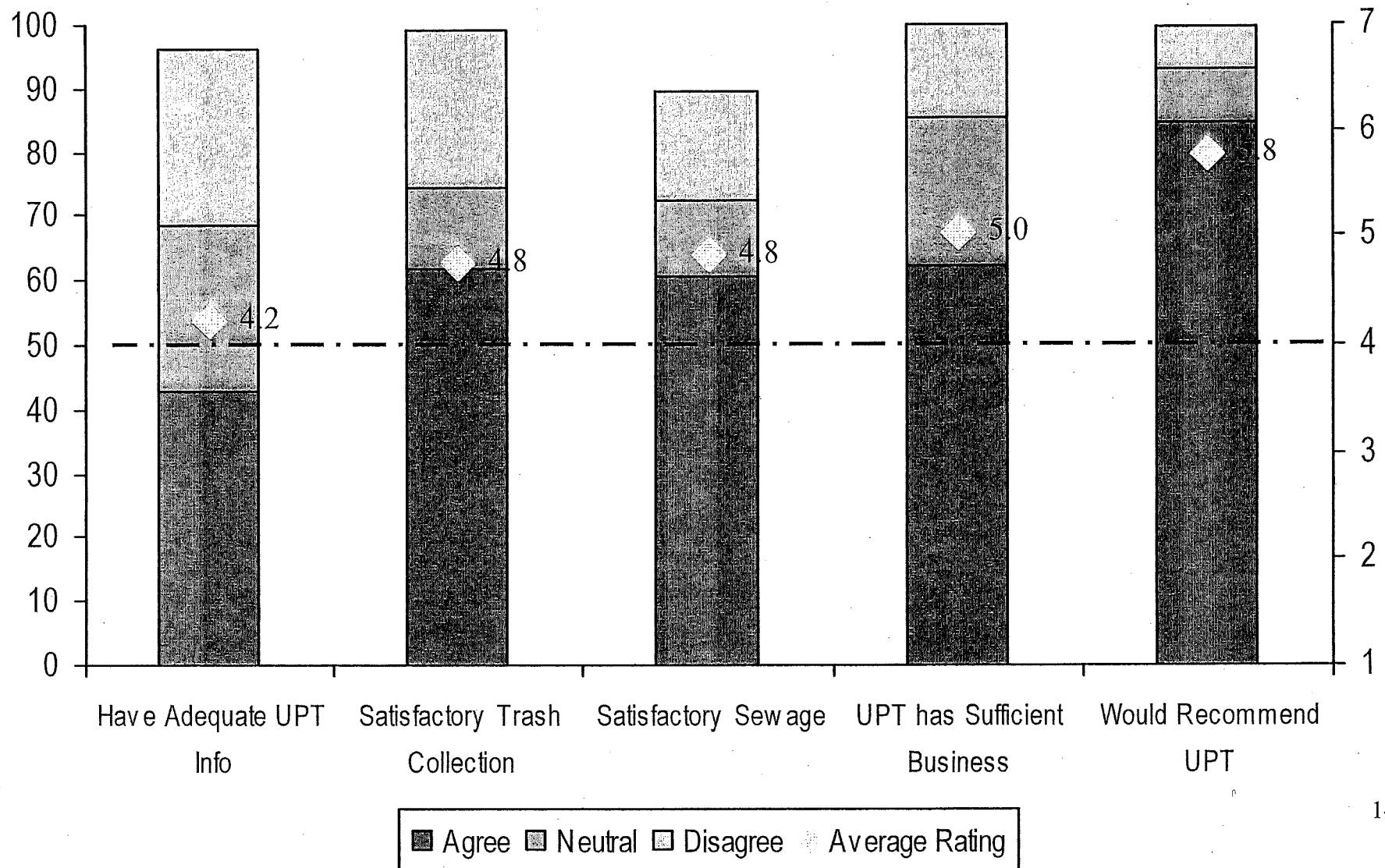


Support for Re-Development in UPT

- Support for re-development in the Township is fairly limited. Support for initiatives that preserve existing buildings and liberalizing residential uses (e.g., In-Law suites, Elder Cottage) is stronger than for conversion to nonresidential uses.

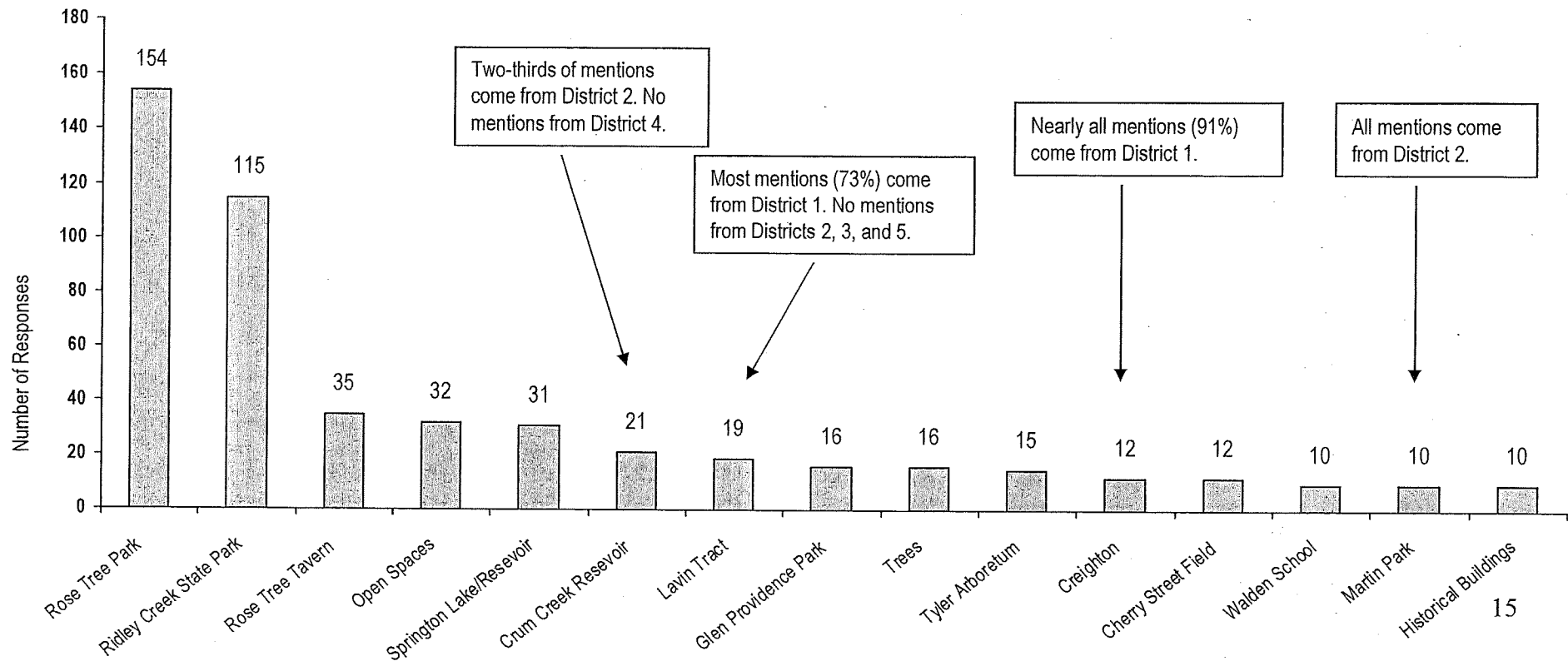


Township Services and Overall Perception



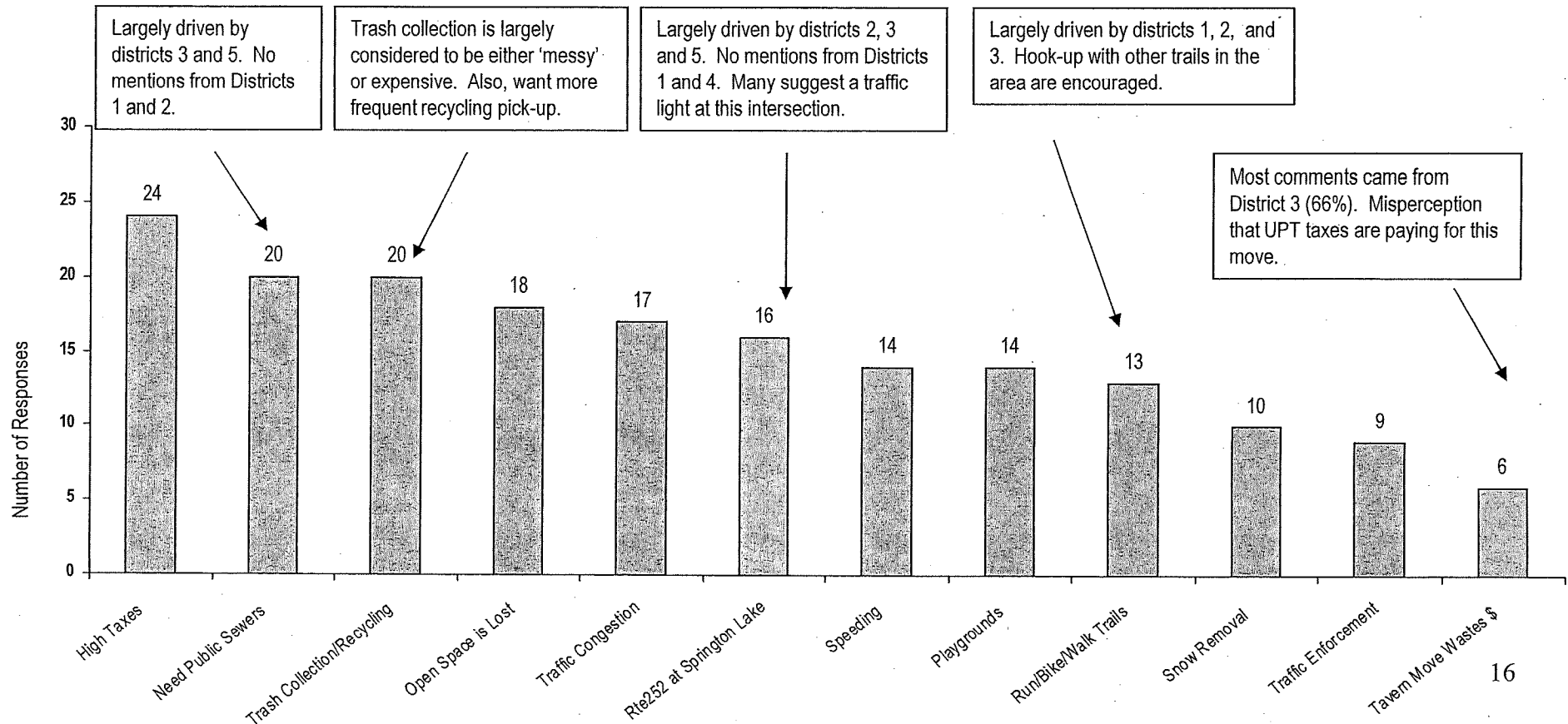
Township “Treasures”

- Rose Tree Park and Ridley Creek State Park are the most-identified ‘treasures’.
- Other treasures: Rose Tree Tavern, any Open Space, Springton Reservoir areas.
- Some “treasures” – Crum Creek Reservoir, the Lavin Tract, Creighton, and Martin Park -- are valued most by one ‘driving’ district.



Additional Survey Comments

- Leading comment themes: taxes, the need for public sewers, unsatisfactory trash collection/recycling, open space, and a myriad of traffic concerns.
- A handful of residents commented on their pleasure at living in UPT – some expressed thanks for the opportunity to participate in the survey.



Selected Suggestions

Respondents made a few suggestions for improvement – a few suggestions are provided below.

- Partner with Media and other nearby townships to plan for and address some of the Township's issues.
- Key Township streets need shoulders (&/or "pavement ribs") to help with traffic.
- Speed limits in UPT are set too high. Speeds in residential neighborhoods should not exceed 30 as in neighboring Marple Township where roads similar to UPT roads have substantially lower speed limits.
- The business district looks like a shanty-town and needs to be cleaned up.
- Offer back door trash pickup at no extra charge to the elderly and disabled. The added cost for this service is least affordable to those who most need it.
- Enforce the speed limits! Speed enforcement equals revenue for UPT. This is a win-win situation for the Township Administration and the residents.

Conclusions : What's Working

- **Residents like UPT:** The large majority of residents say that they would recommend UPT as a place to live to their family and friends.
- **Township safety services:** Fire protection/law enforcement services are among the highest rated features of the Township.
- **UPT attractiveness and aesthetics are very appealing:** The look and feel should be preserved in any way possible.
- **Breadth and variety of businesses in UPT are sufficient:** Residents are pleased with the convenience to shopping in Media and Newtown Square. The current business mixture is considered to be adequate; thus most residents do not support township efforts to lure new businesses to the area.
- **Housing availability and variety is adequate:** There is, however, a strong sentiment that enough housing exists and that no new housing is needed.
- **Existing parks/open space are appreciated:** Rose Tree Park and Ridley Creek State Park are considered to be UPT 'treasures' and are widely recognized as such by residents.

Conclusions : What's Not Working

- **Biggest Township issues -- traffic and growth management:** Development and growth in UPT and neighboring areas has created traffic problems. Route 252 is of particular concern, especially at the By-pass and the Providence Road /Route 252 split (near Springton Lake Middle School). Traffic, congestion, high speeds, lack of visibility, and accidents are all cited as problematic along Route 252.
- **Recreational facilities in the Township are lacking:** Residents feel the pinch for recreational locations in the Township. Many believe that the Township lacks sufficient playgrounds, recreational fields, and hiking/biking/walking paths. These facilities do not exist at centrally-located Rose Tree Park (which is designated a passive-use park) and are lacking at Ridley Creek State Park.
- **Egress throughout the Township is insufficient:** Residents want sidewalks/bikepaths. Key areas include locales near public transportation, the business district, Rose Tree Park, and Ridley Creek State Park.
- **Township services are concerning to some:** Some are concerned with trash collection, sewage and water services. These concerns are not held by a majority, but by a fairly significant minority.