

Summary of Public Input on 2022 Roanoke Valley Transportation Investments: Surface Transportation Block Grant

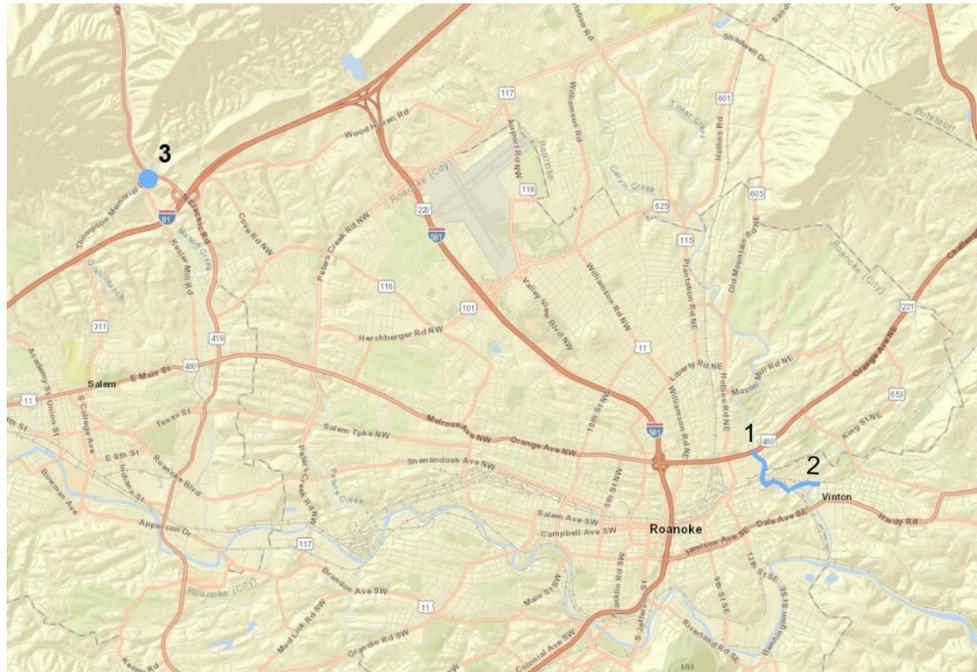
Public input was accepted on three existing project requests for additional funding as part of an adjustment to the FY2022-2027 financial plan of the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG). The RVTPO Policy Board held a public comment period, and a survey to collect public input was available from February 10, 2022 to February 23, 2022. Public input was also accepted in the same survey on the FY2023-2029 STBG financial plan; this information is not included in this summary.

The survey was promoted through:

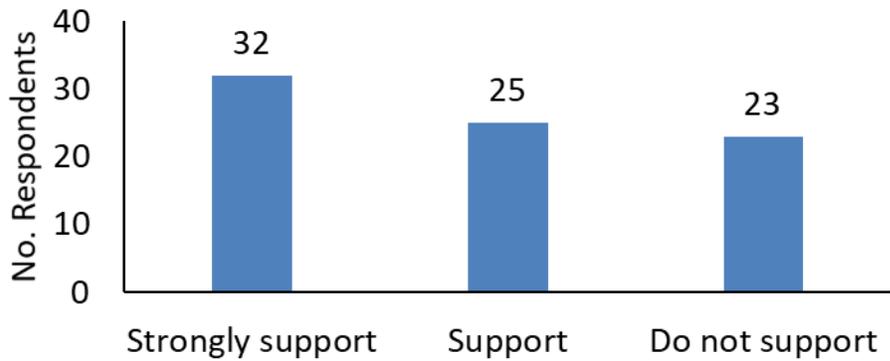
- Blog post with the survey link on the RVARC website
- Emailed survey link to over 400 people who have taken an RVTPO survey, served on a committee, or participated in a workshop or meeting
- Survey link in an eblast to the media and to subscribers to the RVARC e-newsletter
- Facebook post on RVARC Facebook page
- Facebook post boosted to RVTPO zip codes
- Newspaper ads in the Roanoke Tribune and the Roanoke Times
- Shared by stakeholders including Roanoke County, Vinton, and the Roanoke Regional Chamber

The survey introduction referred respondents to the RVARC website for an interactive map and more information. 80 people participated in the survey.

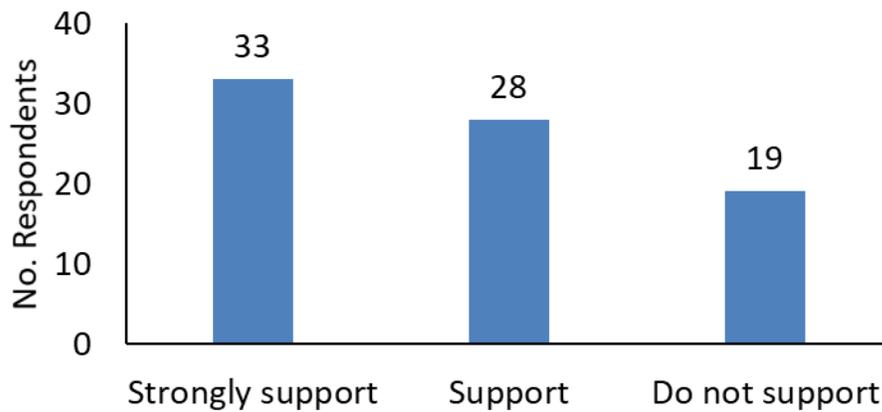
The survey asked respondents about their level of support for funding cost overruns that are being requested by sponsors of existing STBG projects. The survey included a map showing the locations of the projects and a [link to the draft financial plan](#).



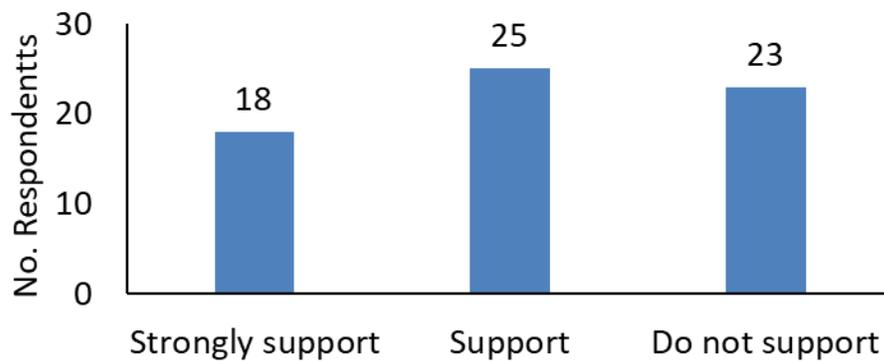
Map #2. Walnut Avenue Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements



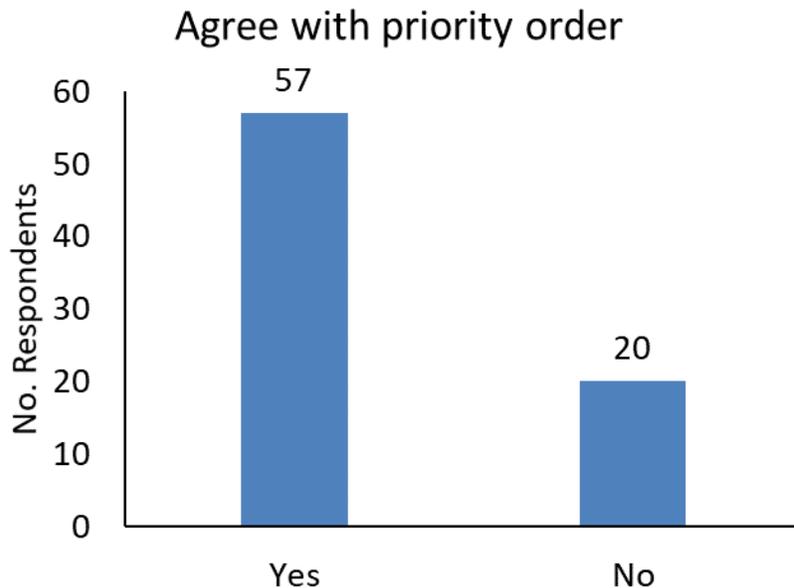
Map #1. Tinker Creek Trail Extension



Map #3. Orange Market Park and Ride/Parking Lot Improvements



In previous surveys, typically less than 20% of respondents oppose the proposed project investment. It is unusual that 24% to 35% of respondents opposed each project in this survey. The comments (see below) indicate that respondents may not oppose the projects themselves but oppose cost overruns.



The projects' priority order was determined by the scores the projects received when project sponsors originally requested STBG funding. Cost overrun for priority #2, Walnut Avenue, is being considered for funding above higher priorities because this project is ready to be advertised for construction this spring and cannot proceed without 100% funding. Participants who did not agree with the priority order commented:

- \$7.5 million for #1 is OUTRAGEOUS. There are too many other things that should be priorities.
- I do not support further funding of Walnut Ave.
- Orange Market Park and Ride is important because it can help alleviate parking issues up at McAfee's and Dragon's Tooth
- I feel the Orange Market Park and Ride project is deserving of more priority. I feel that side of the county should be helped more than they are.
- I think the Walnut Ave project should have highest priority
- Park and Ride means people are working which feeds back into the economy
- should be 1) Tinker Creek Greenway, 2) Walnut Avenue, 3) Orange Market Park and Ride
- Tinker Creek Greenway is most important, certainly more than a parking lot
- Why would I support projects that expand areas where I can't exercise my 2nd amendment rights?

Participants had these additional comments about the 2022-2027 STBG financial plan:

- WASTEFUL
- While I support some pedestrian and bike infrastructure...I more strongly support projects with the potential for higher usage. The build it and they will come strategies are often flawed.

- Additional funding should be considered and approved when the projects are ready for advertisement.
- Don't spend more than you have. Do a better job of budgeting for better accuracy. Eliminate cost overruns!
- Fix the old water lines and failed drainage system. People can walk at a park or sidewalk. That's what there for.
- I am glad to see much-needed improvements to our infrastructure.
- I don't know enough about the benefits of these projects or # of people impacted. It would be good to have that assessment.
- I would support these requests IF and ONLY if we have the funding.
- Investing in and completing bicycle and pedestrian improvement projects is an excellent way to improve the quality of life for all road users in Roanoke.
- Keep moving forward. Future generations will thank you.
- Only thing mentioned here that needs completing ASAP is the roundabout at Hanging Rock.
- Stay within your budget or amend projects.
- The park and ride can be gravel or park of the adjacent parking lot. I used to walk the Tinker Creek Greenway and stopped because the people using it as a drug pipeline between the low income housing and downtown.
- We have more pressing issues. Roads are in bad shape and we need more sidewalks, not bike lanes. The lady on Williamson Road got killed walking in the street after snows, because the city didn't plow the width of the road.
- While important for safety improvements, I do have to question what are the unintended consequences of these regular budget overruns. Perhaps it is better to reduce the scope of these improvements and understand better the project process.
- You do not provide enough information about these projects or pros/cons to make decisions. This is a typical issue with city surveys. I suggest you do more research on how to create effective, unbiased surveys.
- Cost originally excessive.
- Someone needs to be better at estimating costs.
- Sidewalks yes. Bicycles make no sense in this area.
- We had a bicycle project nearby, and discovered there is not enough usage to warrant the inconvenience. I don't know enough about the Orange parking lot to respond.
- We need busing for underserved areas, not more bicycle trails for elite residents. Come on Roanoke!
- Why does Valleypointe need to be expanded? It got a zero delay score for its SmartScale application. The Route 460 and Alternate Route 220 Intersection Improvement seems to be a lot of money without a lot of justification. "The benefits of this project will improve safety and increase efficiency." What is the safety problem? What is the efficiency problem? It didn't score well in SmartScale which looks at safety and efficiency.
- Would love to see more funding for bike/ped projects in Botetourt county.