

2016 Traffic Calming Survey

Conducted by Balcones Village/Spicewood HOA

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The contents of this report reflect survey data with no evaluation or judgements of effectiveness or feasibility.

Survey Purpose & Scope

- Purpose: Provide input from residents to focus efforts on improving street safety in BV/S.
 - Effectiveness of speed bumps and improved feeling of safety with speed bumps.
 - Effectiveness of possible traffic calming solutions
 - Ways residents are willing to help
- Postcards requesting participation in survey mailed to all homes in Balcones Village/Spicewood subdivisions (~1168)
 - 281 completed on-line survey; 14 records deleted as non-residents or duplicates => 267 unique records
 - Survey consisted of 5 questions plus opportunity to add comments.
 - 184 submitted comments (68%)

Summary of Survey Results

- Most agree that Spicewood Parkway Speed Bumps reduce speeding
 - 60% agree; 26% disagree; 14% neither agree or disagree
- More than half do not feel safer with speed bumps
 - 54% do not feel safer; 12% are neutral; 34% feel safer
- Driving the Speed Limit is seen by most as an effective solution to speeding (76% of responses)
- Responses supporting solutions as effective:
 - Paid Off-duty Police patrols – 39%
 - Sidewalk installation* – 39%
 - Speed Bumps – 33%
 - “Slow Down” Yard Signs – 27%
 - “Slow Down” Car Decals – 9%
 - None of Above – 4%

* Note: Sidewalks are a pedestrian safety rather than speeding solution

Summary of Survey Results

(continued)

- Responses indicated willingness to help in these ways:
 - **85% willing to drive the Speed Limit in neighborhood**
 - 24% willing to donate for police patrols
 - 19% willing to buy and display Slow Down yard signs
 - 19% willing to donate for sidewalks
 - 18% willing to donate for speed bumps
 - 8% willing to display Slow Down car decals
 - 6% not willing to do any of the above!
- 30 different individuals indicated they are willing to work on solutions!
- See Slides 12-15 for detailed survey results

Spicewood Parkway Speed Bumps

- BV/S HOA had NO INVOLVEMENT in implementation, design, or location.
- All modifications to Austin City streets must follow the Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) process.
 - A summary of the LATM process follows (next page)
 - Residents on Spicewood Pkwy petitioned for Speed Mitigation as required by LATM
- City of Austin Traffic Dept. determined the type, number and location
 - Type installed allows Emergency Vehicles to straddle and minimize slow down required
- Paid for by City of Austin funds diverted from Light Rail and District 6 funds
 - NO private or HOA funds were used.

Local Area Traffic Management (LATM)

City of Austin

- All street modifications controlled by City of Austin Transportation Department.
 - Speed Mitigation and Cut-through Traffic Mitigation
- LATM Process
 - Resident(s) request traffic/speed mitigation on their street
 - Including evidence of support by residents/community
 - Austin Transportation Department
 - Conducts traffic survey – volume & speed
 - Determines eligibility for speed mitigation project
 - Develops speed mitigation plan (type and location of speed control devices)
 - Considering street width & configuration, drainage, bicycle lanes, emergency access, sidewalks, street lights, etc.
 - **Preferences of residents ARE NOT considered.**
 - Approve/Disapprove petition of ALL residents of street segment must be submitted.
 - Projects prioritized for implementation
 - Severity of problem, cost of project
 - Level of support by property owner's - Typically 75% or more approval is required.
 - Projects implemented as funds are available.
 - Voluntary/private payment of at least half cost may expedite implementation.
- Note: Clearrock/Cedar Crest have been approved for speed mitigation; awaiting funding.

Spicewood Parkway Speed Bumps (Continued)

- 95% of those who expressed opinion on Speed Bumps disliked the type and number installed; 5% said they liked them.
 - Too abrupt/aggressive; require slowing down too much; damage vehicles
 - Concern about emergency vehicles
 - Two responses say no need to slow down so much.
 - Too many bumps
 - Suggestions to eliminate some; no need to have one close to stop sign
 - Other comments
 - Cause increased congestion on Spicewood Parkway
 - Divert traffic causing speeding/congestion on other streets.
 - Concern for safety of pedestrians & cyclists as drivers swerve to avoid bumps
 - Speed bumps degrade the value of the homes.
 - Many stated preference for speed hump type on Ashton Ridge if speed mitigation is necessary.

Summary of Comments Submitted

- Responses are divided on speed bumps as solution to speeding.
 - Many strongly against speed bumps; a few like them or see them as a necessary “nuisance”.
 - Many expressed dislike for the type and number of speed bumps installed on Spicewood Pkwy.
- Driving speed limit needs to be encouraged with more speed limit signs, possibly flashing.
 - Most supported solution; Driving speed limit would resolve the speeding issue
- Police Patrols next most supported as way to discourage speeding
 - Influences ALL traffic; not just BV/S residents.
 - Paid, off-duty police/constables
 - Some said should not have to pay for police protection promised when annexed
- Sidewalks for pedestrian safety on major streets seen as effective
 - Clears roadway for vehicles.
 - Very costly; disruptive to install
 - Requires City of Austin involvement
 - Process to get approval/funding/implementation needs to be researched
- “Slow Down” yard signs
 - Limited effectiveness; get stolen; some think are unsightly

Other Solutions

Suggested in Survey Comments

- Electronic speed monitoring signs to alert drivers of their current speed.
- More Stop Signs; 3-way stops at Balcones & Cedar Crest and Clearrock & Cedar Crest
- Traffic Light at Cedar Crest & Spicewood Parkway.
- “Slow Down” banners above streets
- Paint “Slow” or “Reduce Speed” on streets
- Rumble strips with speed limit painted on roadway
- Neighborhood patrols
- Make gated community
- Connect Old Lampasas Trail (Spicewood Springs) to 620

Other Street Safety Issues

From comments submitted

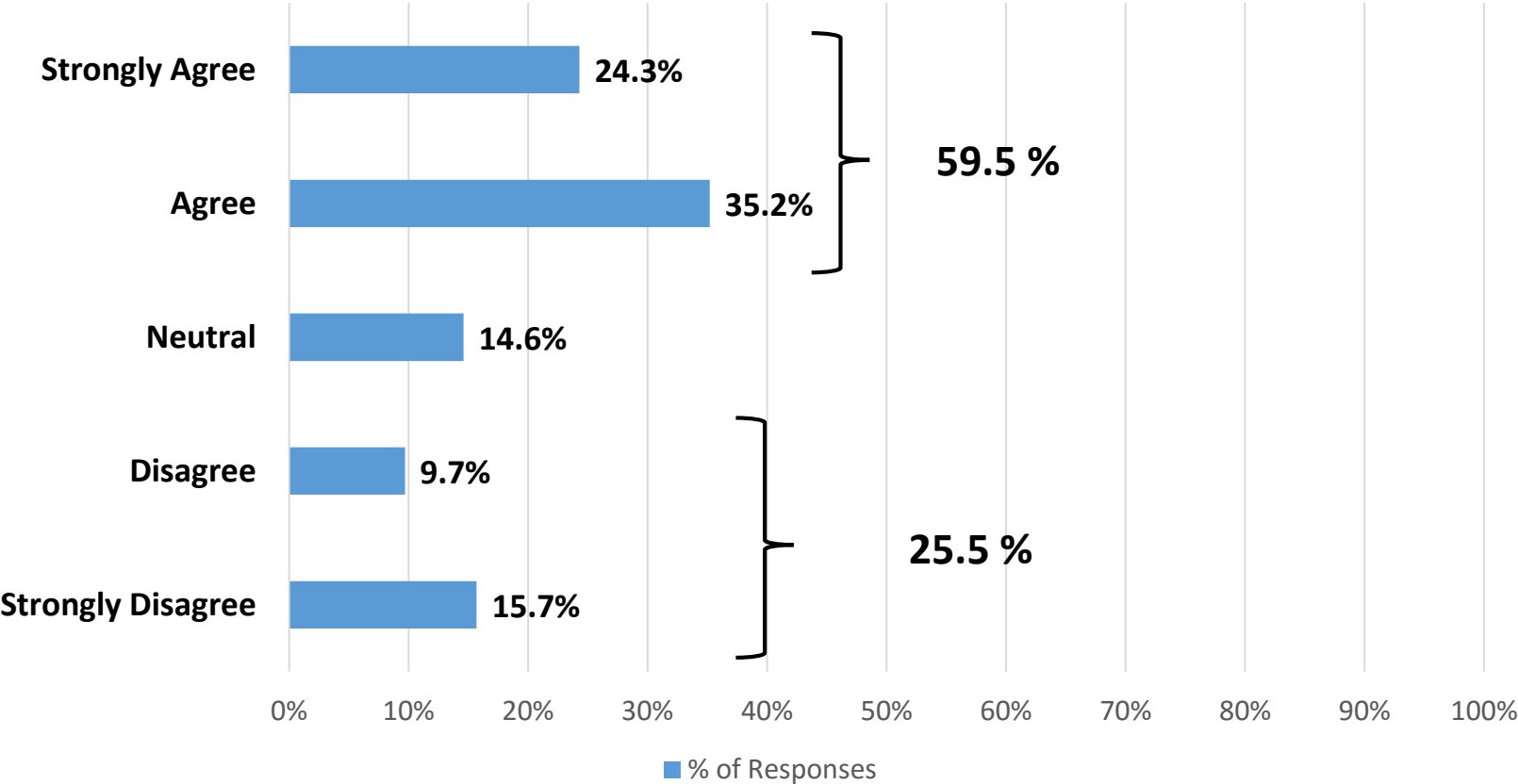
- Other streets with speeding problems
 - Cedar Crest
 - Spicewood Club
 - Pickfair
 - Taterwood
 - Balcones Club
 - Clearrock
 - Spring Lake
 - Cedar Ridge Circle
- Disregard of stop signs by vehicles and cyclists.
- Talking/texting while driving.
- Cut-through Traffic
 - Adds to congestion and speeding problem
- Speed Violators in addition to residents
 - Commuters/Cut Through traffic
 - UPS & FedEx Drivers
 - Contractors

Next Steps

- Establish/Activate a Traffic Committee
 - Meet with those who volunteered to help research street safety solutions
- Develop plan to research the steps/costs/effectiveness of options
 - Implementation of Police Patrols
 - Installation of Sidewalks for pedestrian safety
 - Additional Stop Signs
 - Additional Speed Limit Signs
 - Painting “Slow” or speed limit on roadway
 - Note: Steps/costs for Speed Mitigation is already researched.
- Report findings; make recommendations
- Take Actions!

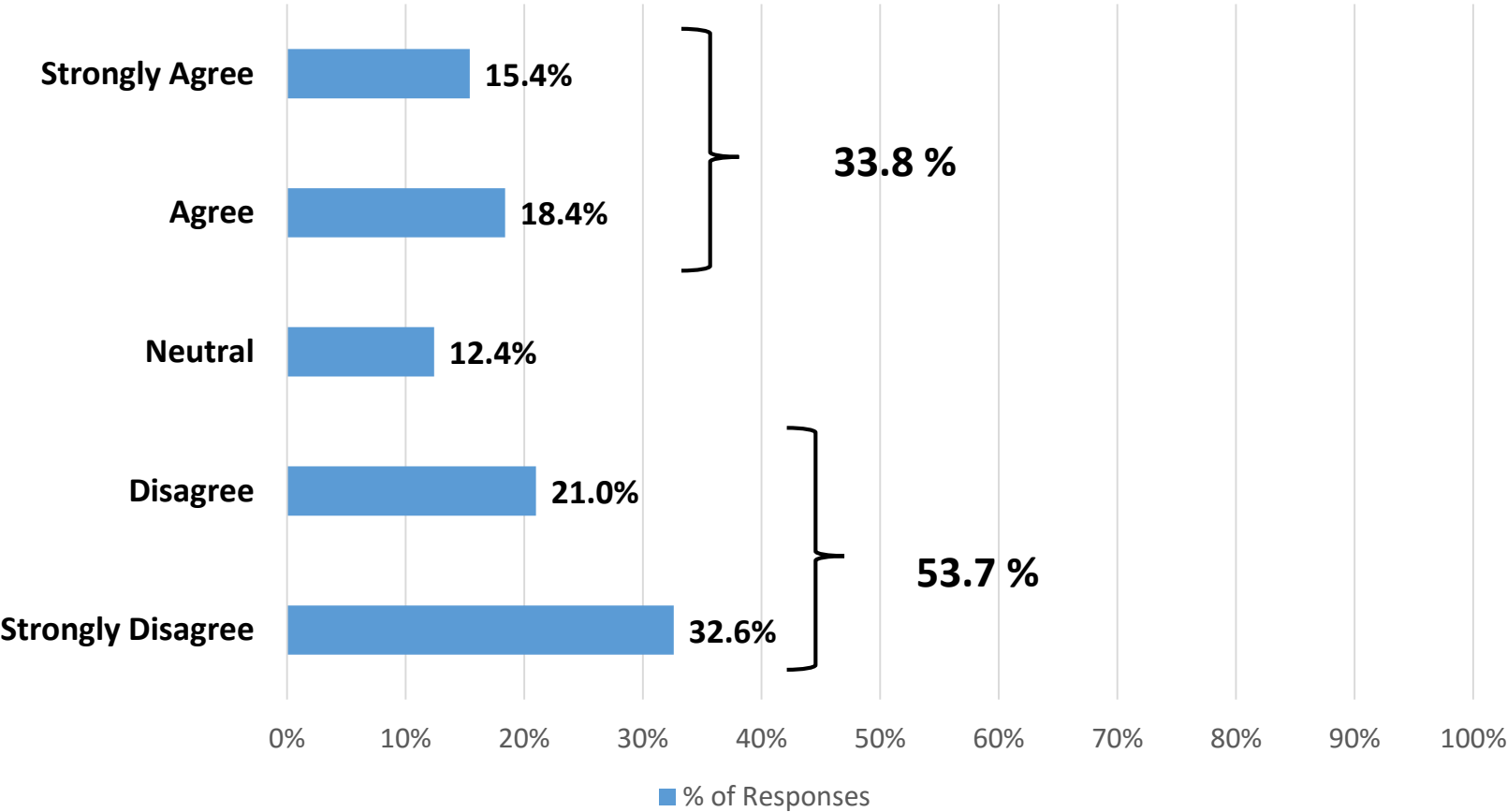
Q1: Speed Bumps on Spicewood Pkwy are effective in reducing the speed of vehicles

267 responses



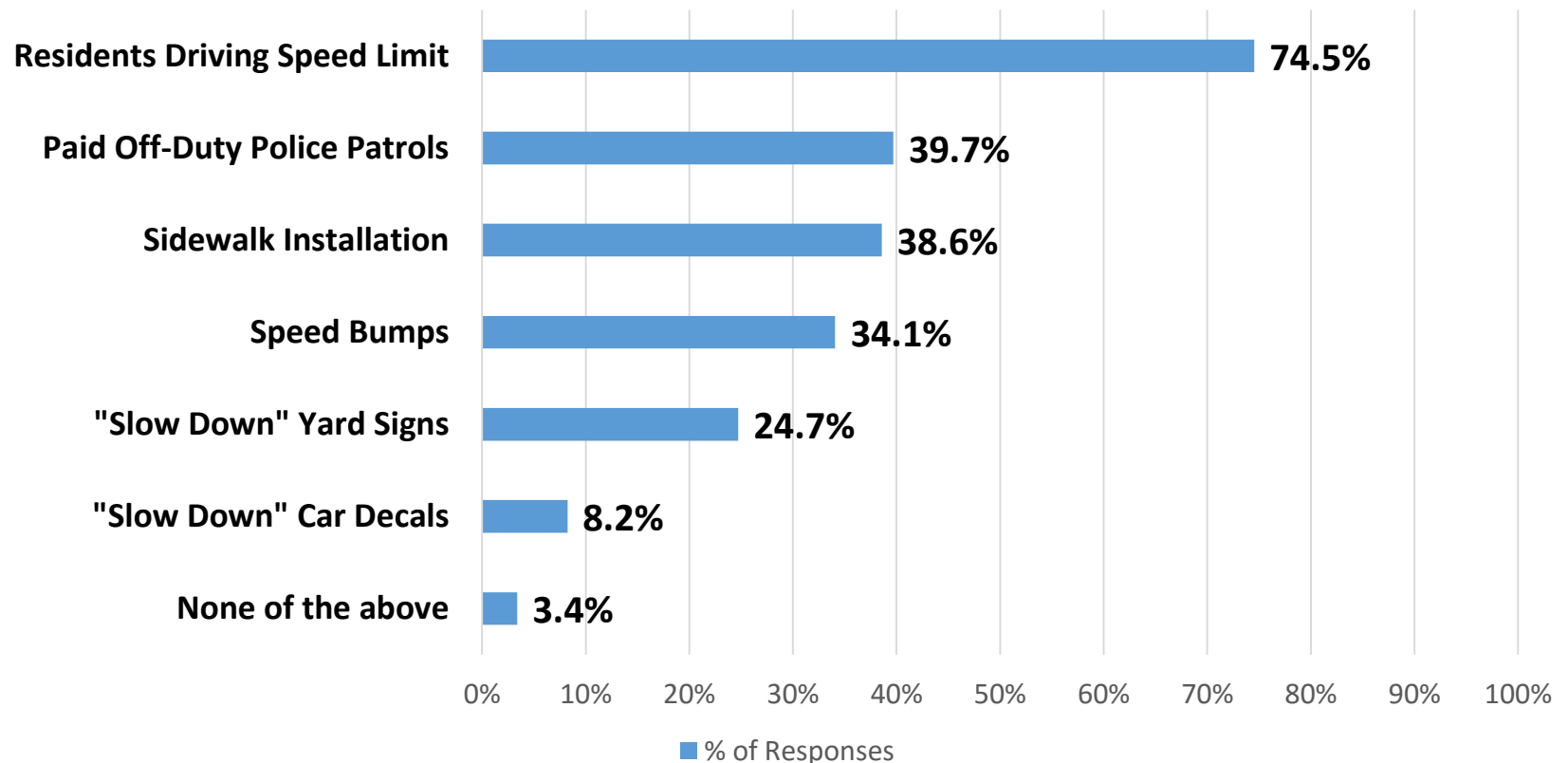
Q2: I feel safer with Speed Bumps

267 responses



Q3: What type of speed calming solution(s) to YOU believe would be effective? (Select all that apply)

267 responses



Q4: To help with the solution(s) I selected, I am willing to: (Select all that apply)

267 responses

