

Farm Creek Trunk Sewer Project - Study Phase Questionnaire

Complete Set of Responses

The City of Washington requires professional engineering services for the review of sewer alignment alternatives, project cost estimates, environmental impacts, and accessibility issues, for a gravity sanitary sewer collection system connecting the decommissioned wastewater treatment plant 1 to wastewater treatment plant 2.

Hamilton Consulting Engineers, Inc. (HCE) has been selected to provide these services, and built a [website](#) that served as the primary communication hub for the general public to receive the latest updates and announcements about this important project.

We developed a questionnaire, designed to:

- capture feedback from the residents impacted by the City of Washington's Farm Creek Trunk Sewer project
- provide some educational materials on sewer infiltration and inflow
and to then,
- poll residents on key points that will help the elected officials as they evaluate options during this Study Phase of the overall project

All survey responses were completely anonymous - and each person was only able to respond to the survey once. All questions were required to complete the questionnaire, but all answered questions are included in this report of responses, even if the individual did not answer every question.

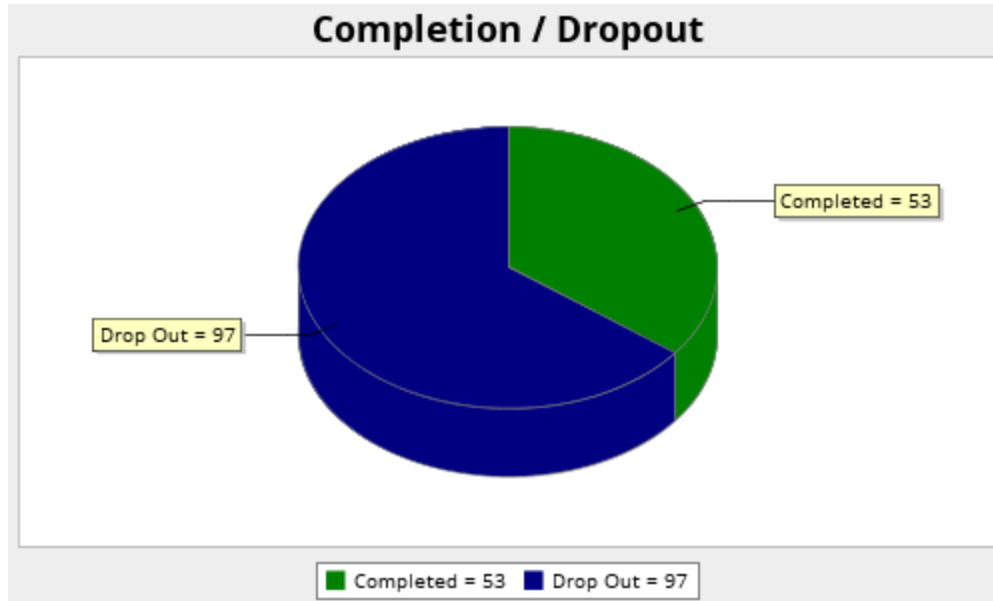
The survey was open for responses until 5:00 PM on Monday, February 28, 2022.

If you have any additional questions or comments, please fill out our [contact us form](#).

Thank you,

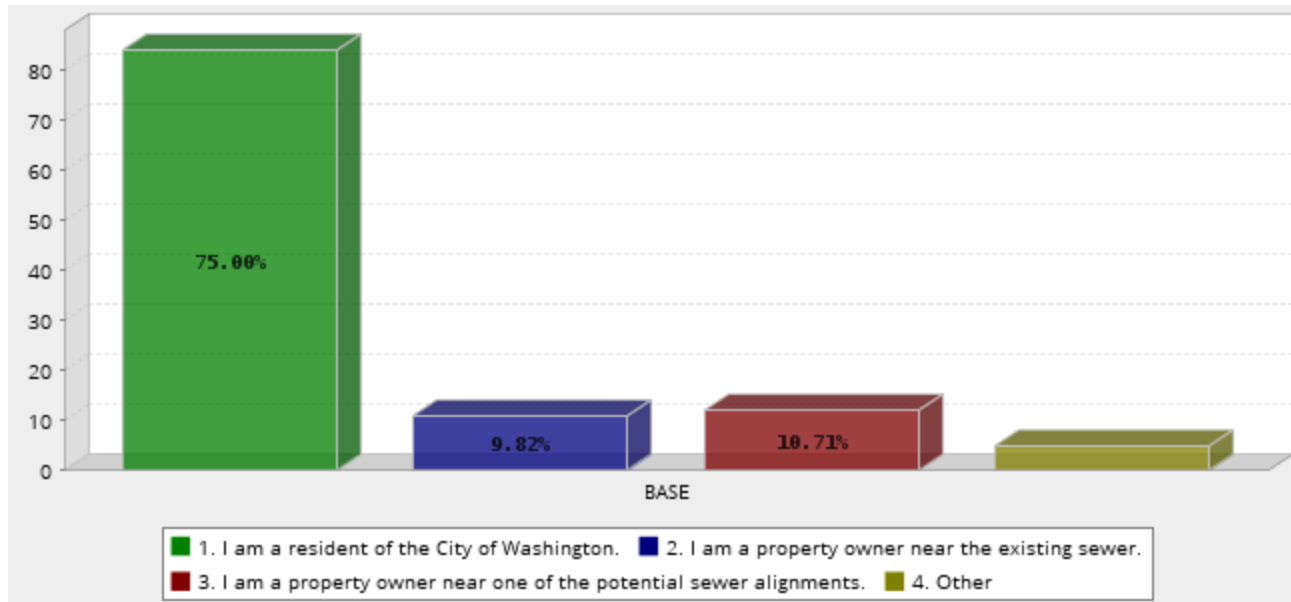
City of Washington, IL and Hamilton Consulting Engineers, Inc

Survey Overview



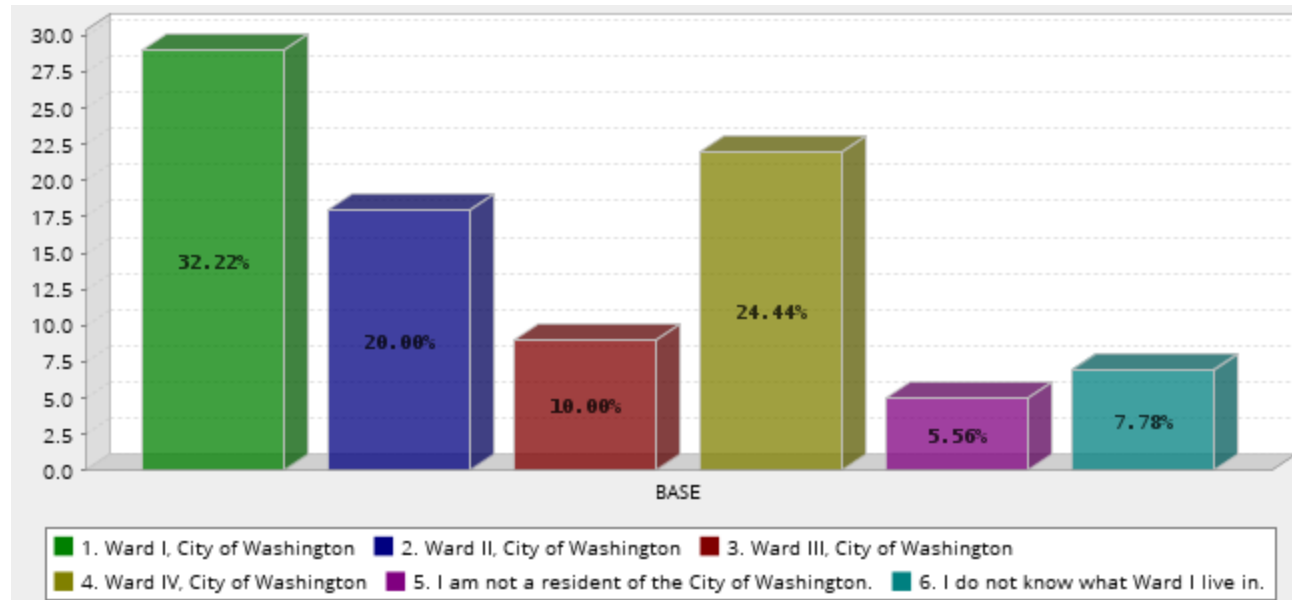
Viewed	Started	Completed	Completion Rate	Drop Outs (After Starting)	Average Time to Complete Survey
389	150	53	35.33%	97	5 minutes

Q1. Please check all that apply:



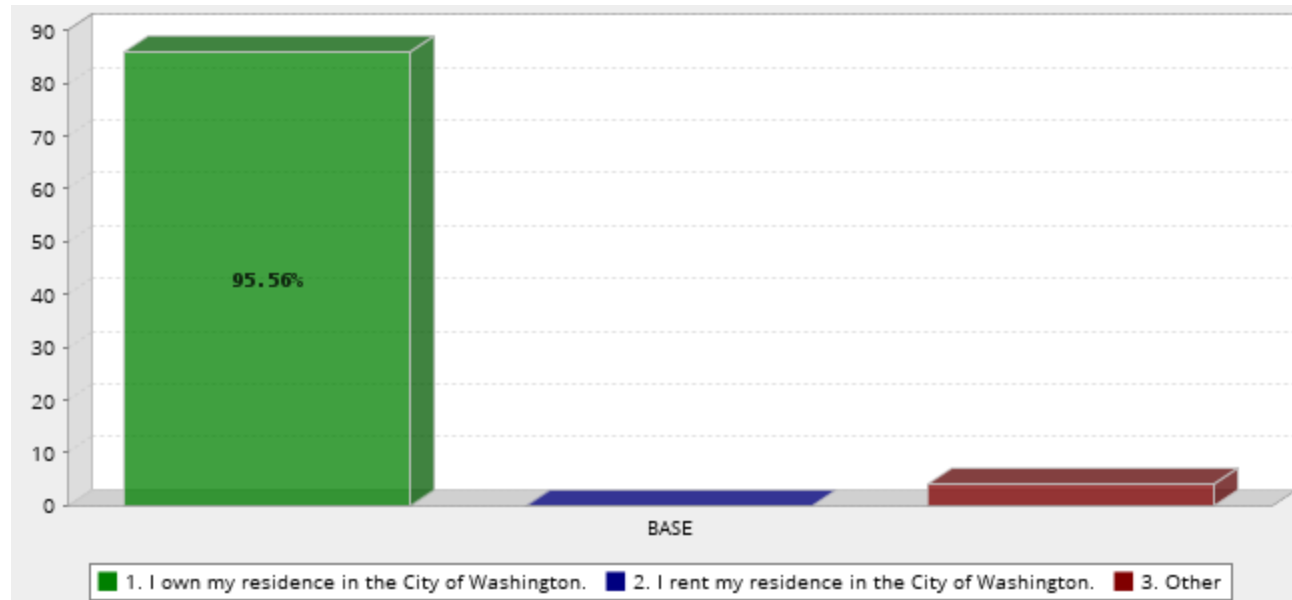
	Answer	Count	Percent
	1. I am a resident of the City of Washington.	84	75.00%
	2. I am a property owner near the existing sewer.	11	9.82%
	3. I am a property owner near one of the potential sewer alignments.	12	10.71%
	4. Other	5	4.46%
	Total	112	100%
Mean : 1.446 Confidence Interval @ 95% : [1.288 - 1.605] Standard Deviation : 0.858 Standard Error : 0.081			

Q2. Where do you live?



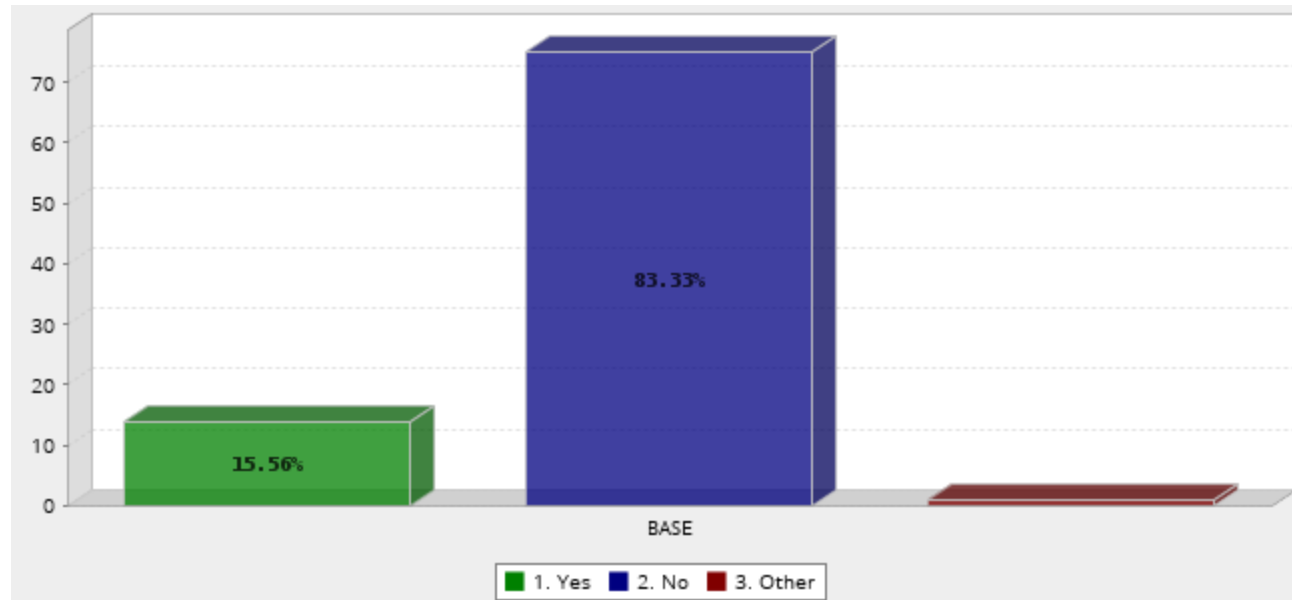
	Answer	Count	Percent
1.	Ward I, City of Washington	29	32.22%
2.	Ward II, City of Washington	18	20.00%
3.	Ward III, City of Washington	9	10.00%
4.	Ward IV, City of Washington	22	24.44%
5.	I am not a resident of the City of Washington.	5	5.56%
6.	I do not know what Ward I live in.	7	7.78%
	Total	90	100%
Mean : 2.744		Confidence Interval @ 95% : [2.410 - 3.079]	
		Standard Deviation : 1.618	
		Standard Error : 0.171	

Q3. Which best describes your residence situation?



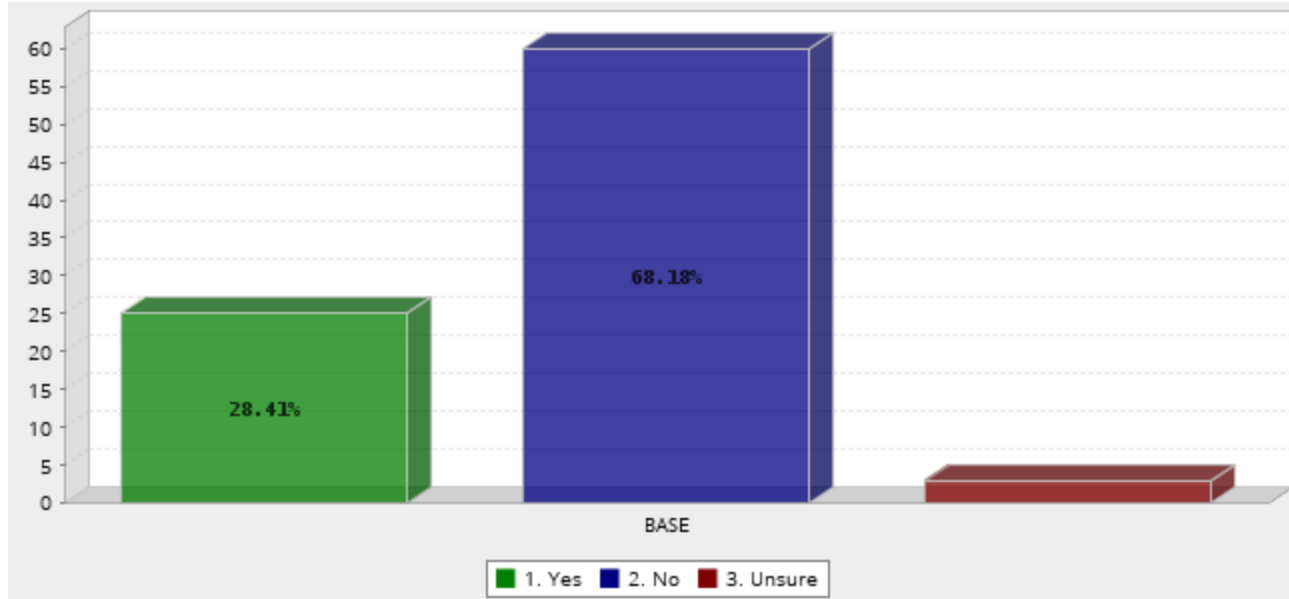
	Answer	Count	Percent
	1. I own my residence in the City of Washington.	86	95.56%
	2. I rent my residence in the City of Washington.	0	0.00%
	3. Other	4	4.44%
	Total	90	100%
Mean : 1.089 Confidence Interval @ 95% : [1.003 - 1.175] Standard Deviation : 0.414 Standard Error : 0.044			

Q4. Do you own or manage a business in the City of Washington?



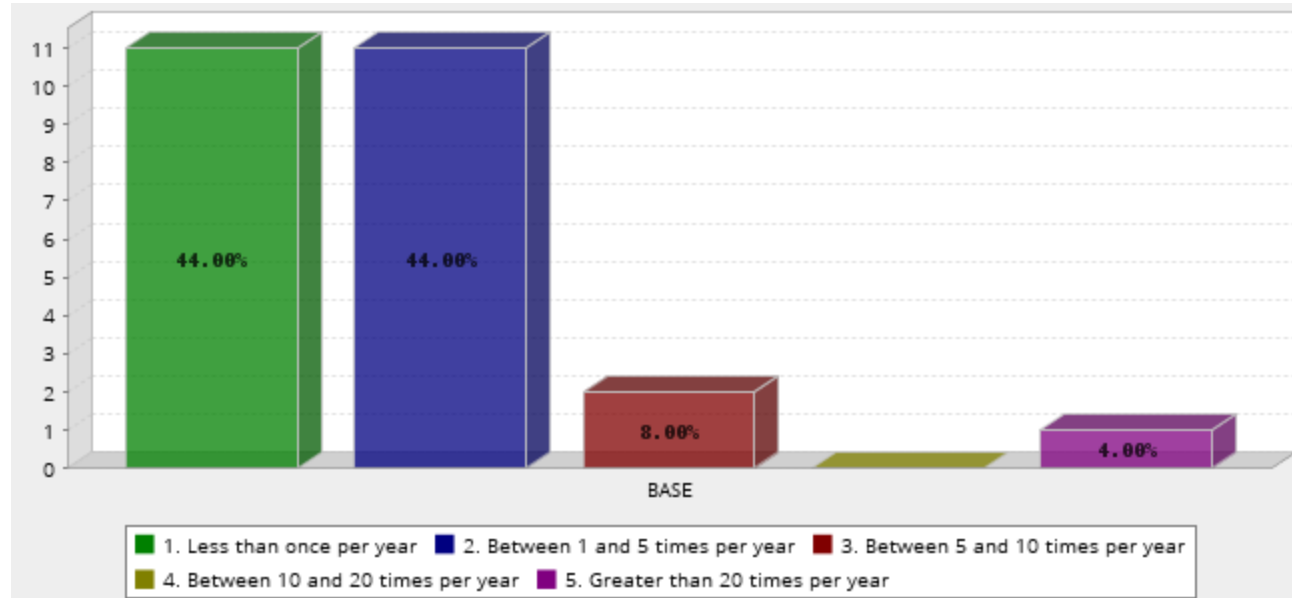
	Answer	Count	Percent
	1. Yes	14	15.56%
	2. No	75	83.33%
	3. Other	1	1.11%
	Total	90	100%
Mean : 1.856 Confidence Interval @ 95% : [1.776 - 1.935] Standard Deviation : 0.384 Standard Error : 0.040			

Q5. Have you experienced sewer backups in your residence or business?



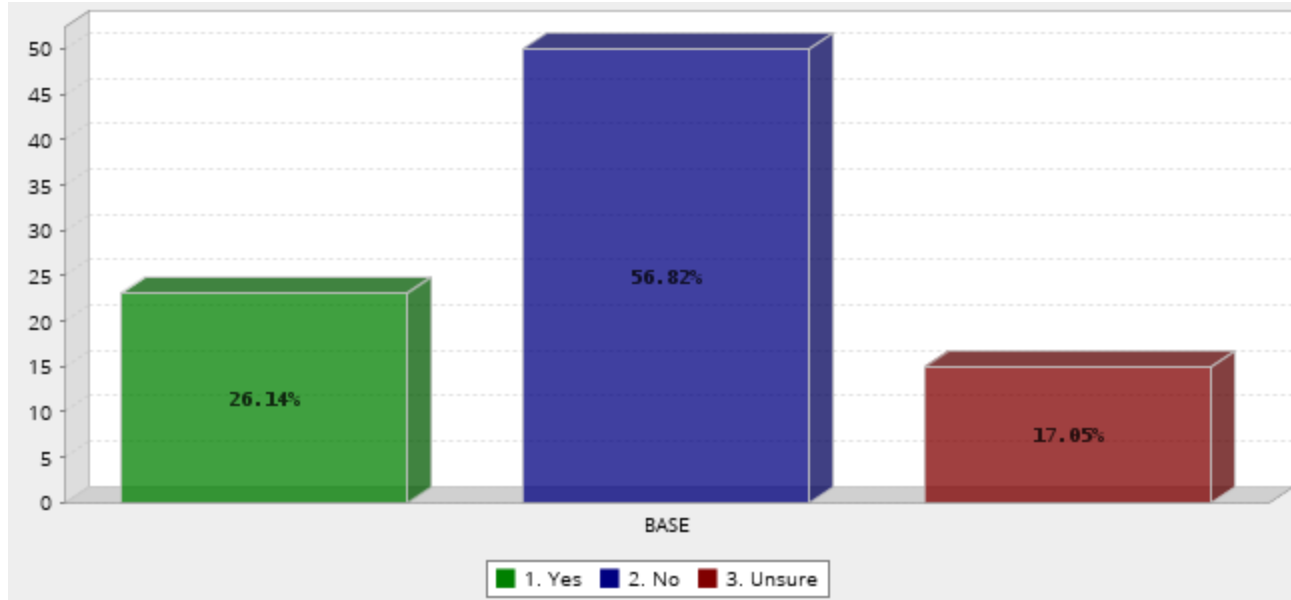
	Answer	Count	Percent
	1. Yes	25	28.41%
	2. No	60	68.18%
	3. Unsure	3	3.41%
	Total	88	100%
Mean : 1.750		Confidence Interval @ 95% : [1.644 - 1.856]	Standard Deviation : 0.509
		Standard Error : 0.054	

Q6. How many times have you experienced sewer backups in your residence or business?



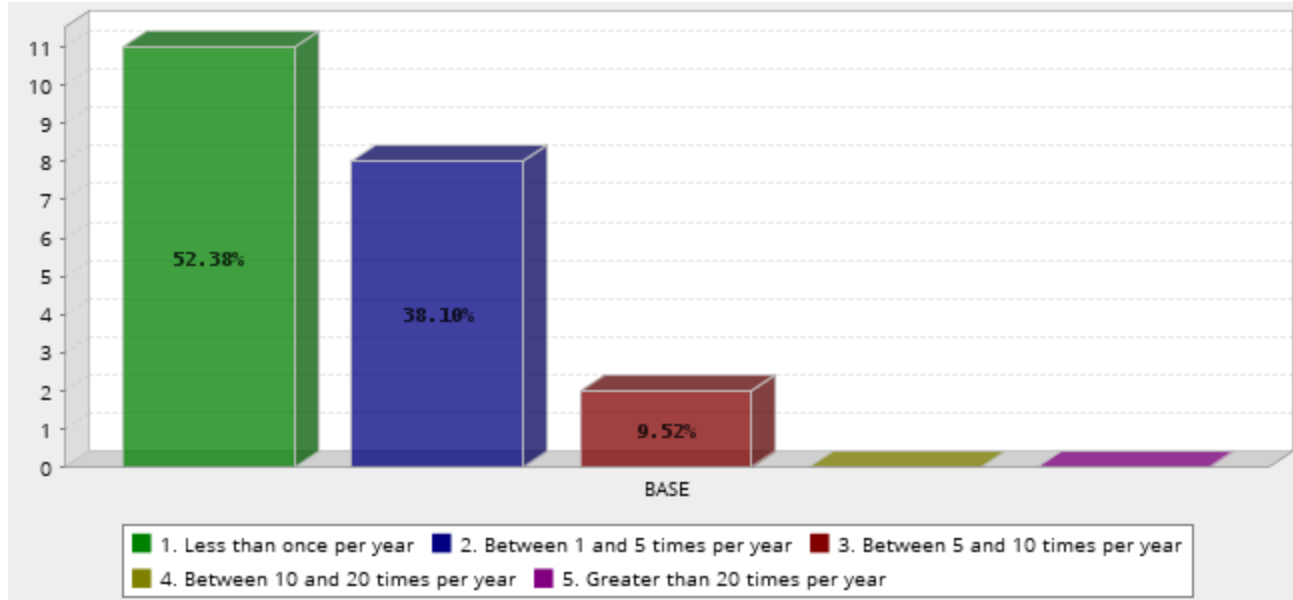
	Answer	Count	Percent
1.	Less than once per year	11	44.00%
2.	Between 1 and 5 times per year	11	44.00%
3.	Between 5 and 10 times per year	2	8.00%
4.	Between 10 and 20 times per year	0	0.00%
5.	Greater than 20 times per year	1	4.00%
	Total	25	100%
Mean : 1.760		Confidence Interval @ 95% : [1.397 - 2.123]	Standard Deviation : 0.926
		Standard Error : 0.185	

Q7. Are you aware of others in your neighborhood that have experienced sewer backups in their residence or business?



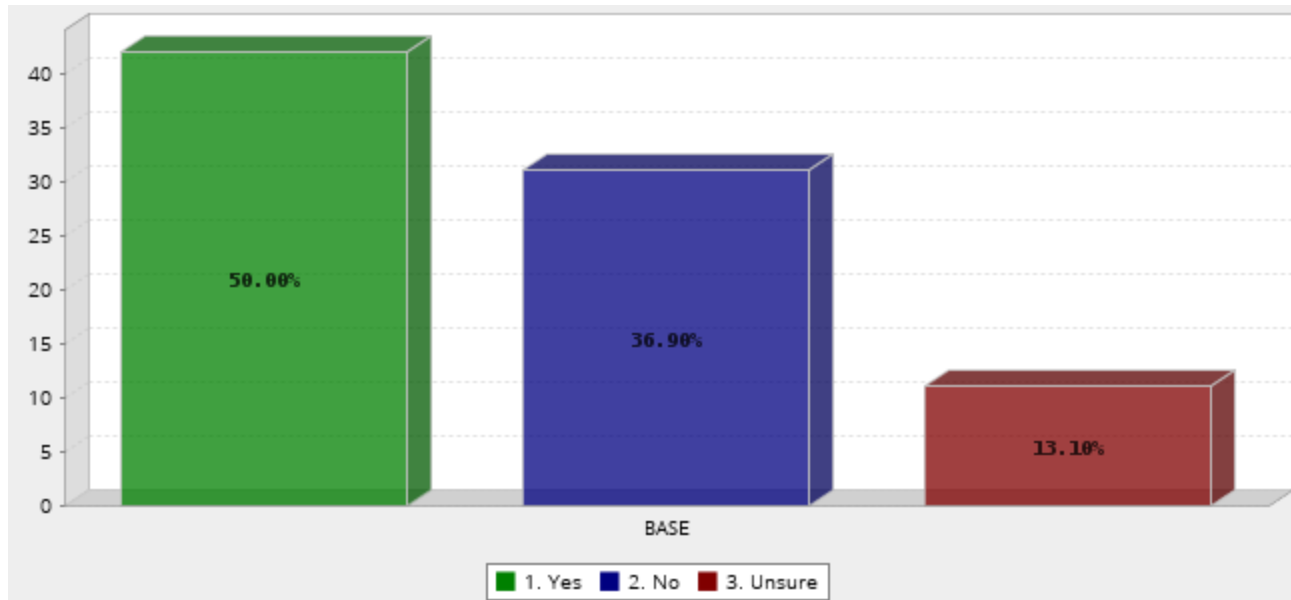
	Answer	Count	Percent
1.	Yes	23	26.14%
2.	No	50	56.82%
3.	Unsure	15	17.05%
	Total	88	100%
Mean : 1.909		Confidence Interval @ 95% : [1.772 - 2.046]	Standard Deviation : 0.655 Standard Error : 0.070

Q8. How many times have they experienced sewer backups in their residence or business?



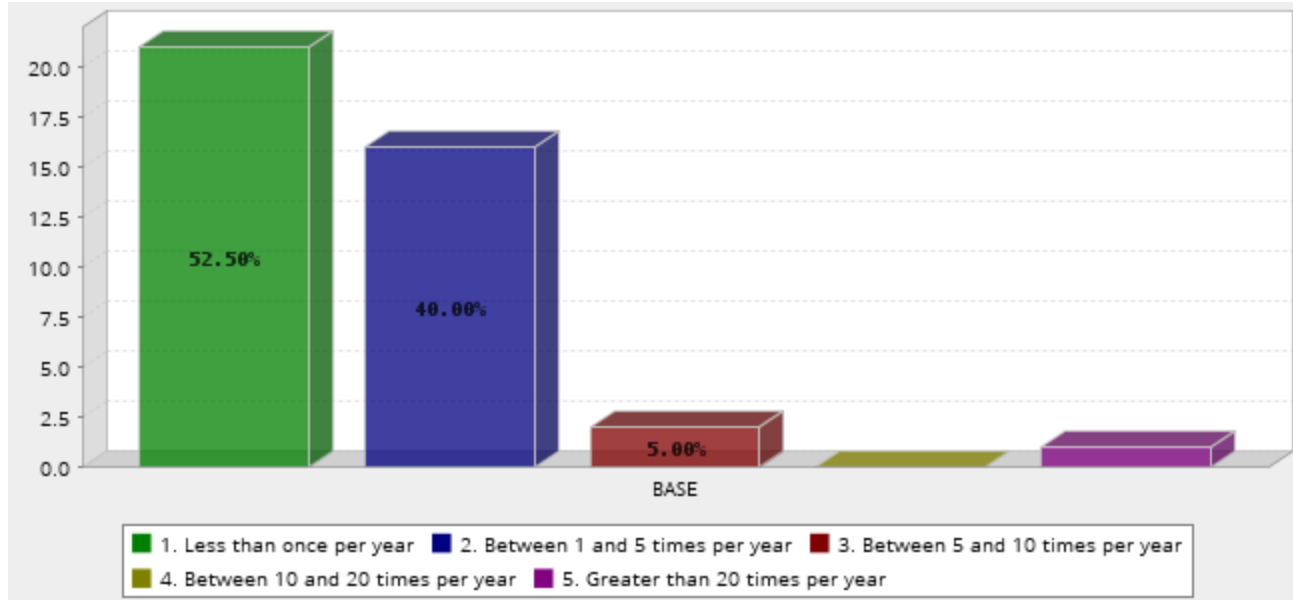
	Answer	Count	Percent
1.	Less than once per year	11	52.38%
2.	Between 1 and 5 times per year	8	38.10%
3.	Between 5 and 10 times per year	2	9.52%
4.	Between 10 and 20 times per year	0	0.00%
5.	Greater than 20 times per year	0	0.00%
	Total	21	100%
Mean : 1.571		Confidence Interval @ 95% : [1.282 - 1.861]	Standard Deviation : 0.676
		Standard Error : 0.148	

Q9. Are you aware of others in the City of Washington, but NOT in your neighborhood, that have experienced sewer backups in their residence or business?



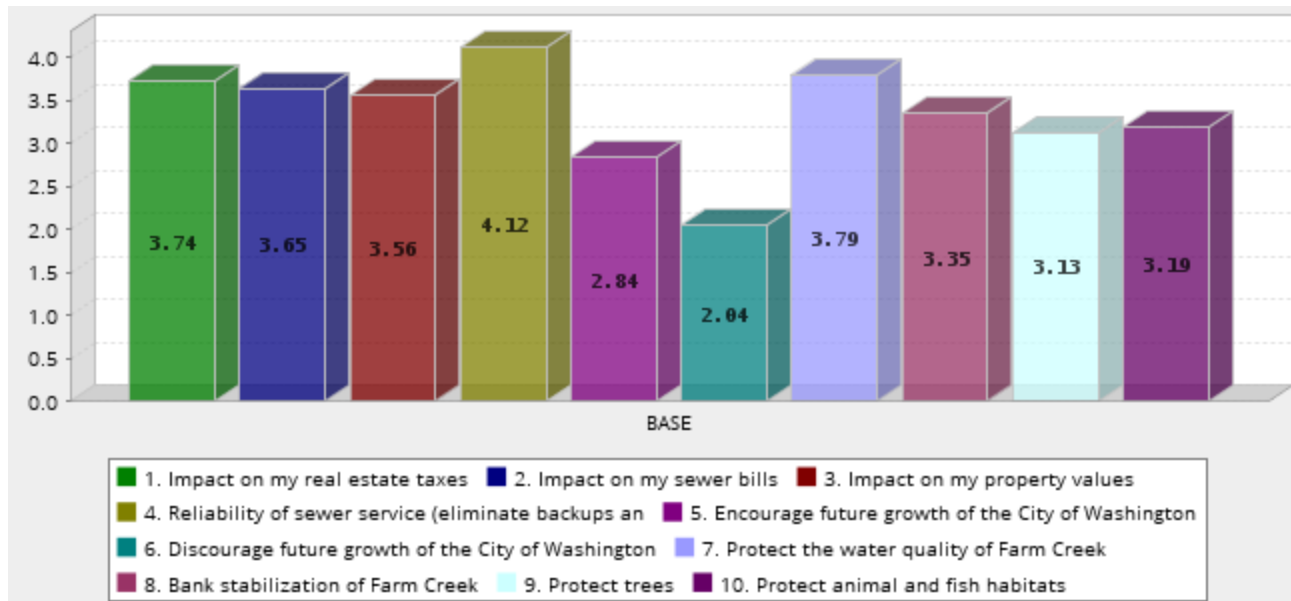
	Answer	Count	Percent
1.	Yes	42	50.00%
2.	No	31	36.90%
3.	Unsure	11	13.10%
	Total	84	100%
Mean : 1.631		Confidence Interval @ 95% : [1.480 - 1.782]	Standard Deviation : 0.708 Standard Error : 0.077

Q10. How many times have they experienced sewer backups in their residence or business?



	Answer	Count	Percent
1.	Less than once per year	21	52.50%
2.	Between 1 and 5 times per year	16	40.00%
3.	Between 5 and 10 times per year	2	5.00%
4.	Between 10 and 20 times per year	0	0.00%
5.	Greater than 20 times per year	1	2.50%
	Total	40	100%
Mean : 1.600		Confidence Interval @ 95% : [1.349 - 1.851]	
		Standard Deviation : 0.810	
		Standard Error : 0.128	

Q11. Please click and drag the marker for each of the listed concerns below, to indicate how important each concern is to you. We need your response to each concern - please indicate how high of a priority each is to you.

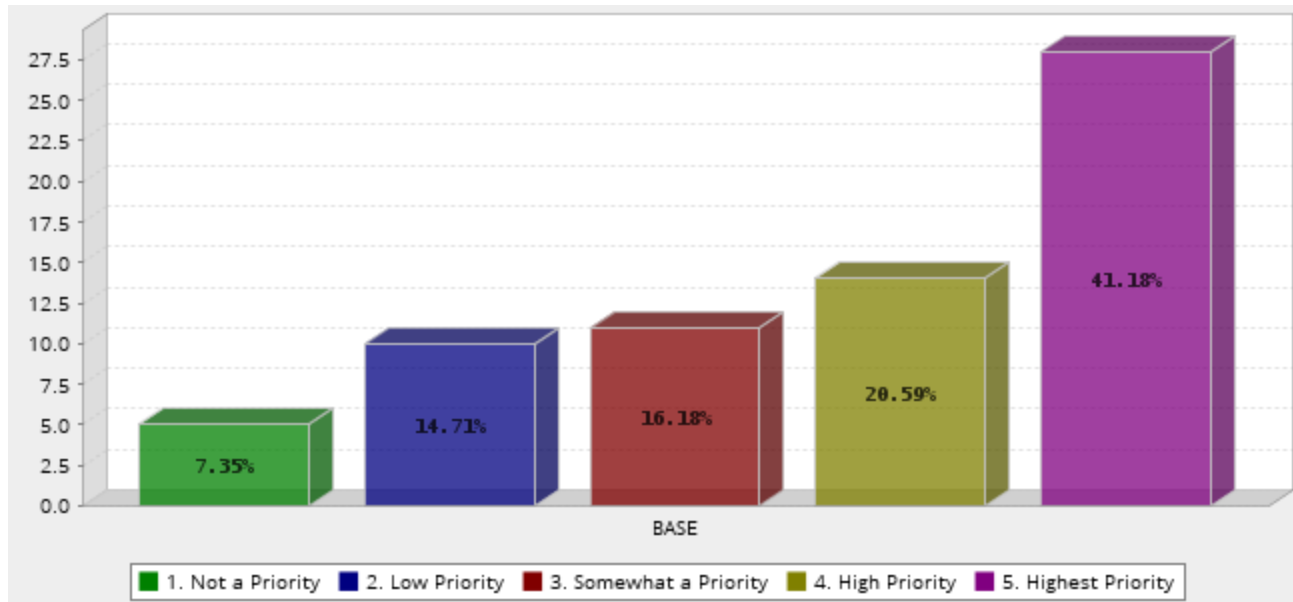


Q30. Overall Matrix Scorecard : Please click and drag the marker for each of the listed concerns below, to indicate how important each concern is to you. We need your response to each concern - please indicate how high of a priority each is to you.

Question	Count	Score
1. Impact on my real estate taxes	68	3.735
2. Impact on my sewer bills	68	3.647

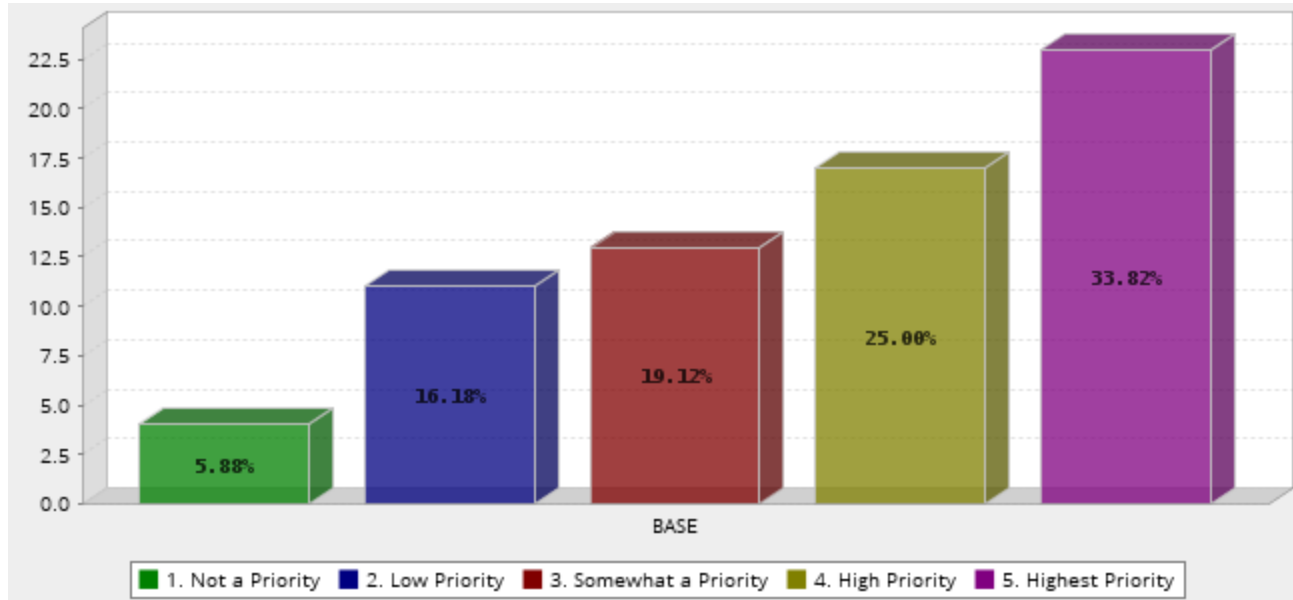
3.	Impact on my property values	68	3.559	
4.	Reliability of sewer service (eliminate backups and overflows)	68	4.118	
5.	Encourage future growth of the City of Washington	68	2.838	
6.	Discourage future growth of the City of Washington	68	2.044	
7.	Protect the water quality of Farm Creek	68	3.794	
8.	Bank stabilization of Farm Creek	68	3.353	
9.	Protect trees	68	3.132	
10.	Protect animal and fish habitats	68	3.191	
Average			3.341	

Q11-A. Impact on my real estate taxes



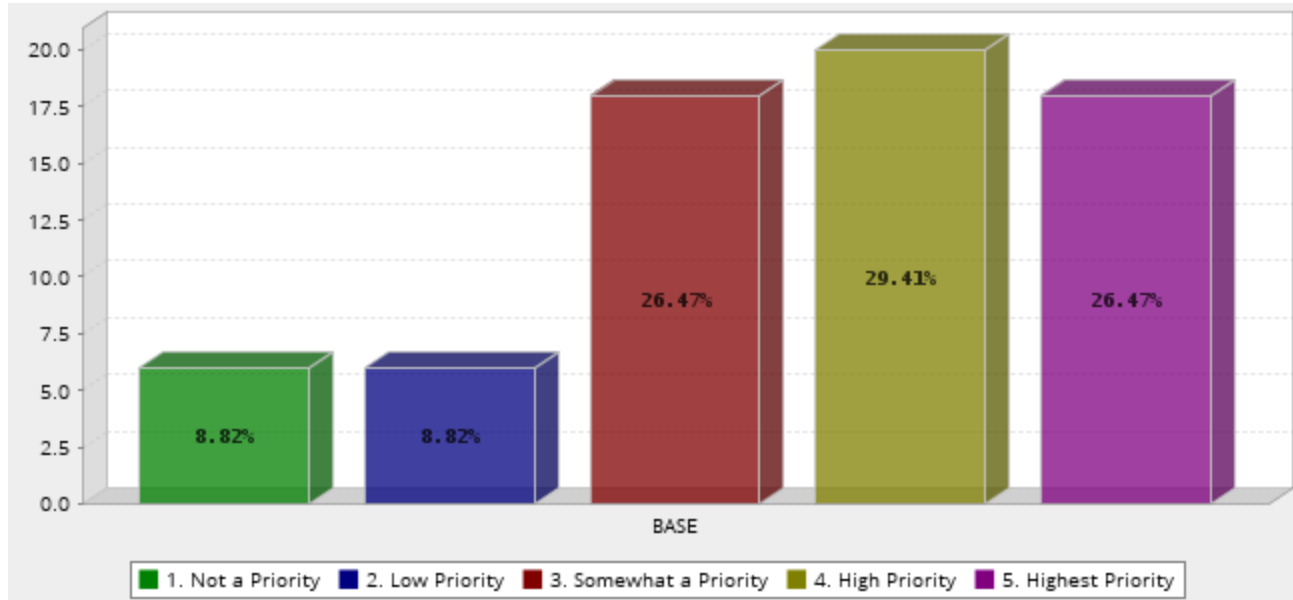
	Answer	Count	Percent
1.	Not a Priority	5	7.35%
2.	Low Priority	10	14.71%
3.	Somewhat a Priority	11	16.18%
4.	High Priority	14	20.59%
5.	Highest Priority	28	41.18%
	Total	68	100%
Mean : 3.735		Confidence Interval @ 95% : [3.418 - 4.052]	
		Standard Deviation : 1.334	
		Standard Error : 0.162	

Q11-B. Impact on my sewer bills



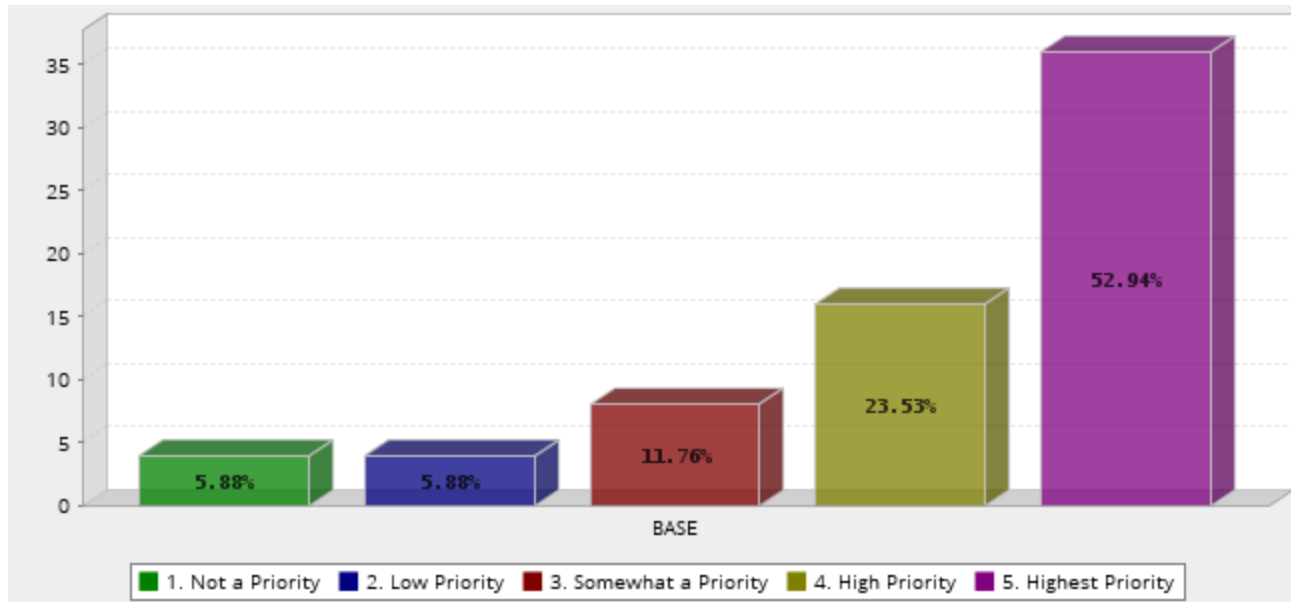
	Answer	Count	Percent
	1. Not a Priority	4	5.88%
	2. Low Priority	11	16.18%
	3. Somewhat a Priority	13	19.12%
	4. High Priority	17	25.00%
	5. Highest Priority	23	33.82%
	Total	68	100%
Mean : 3.647		Confidence Interval @ 95% : [3.346 - 3.948]	
		Standard Deviation : 1.267	
		Standard Error : 0.154	

Q11-C. Impact on my property values



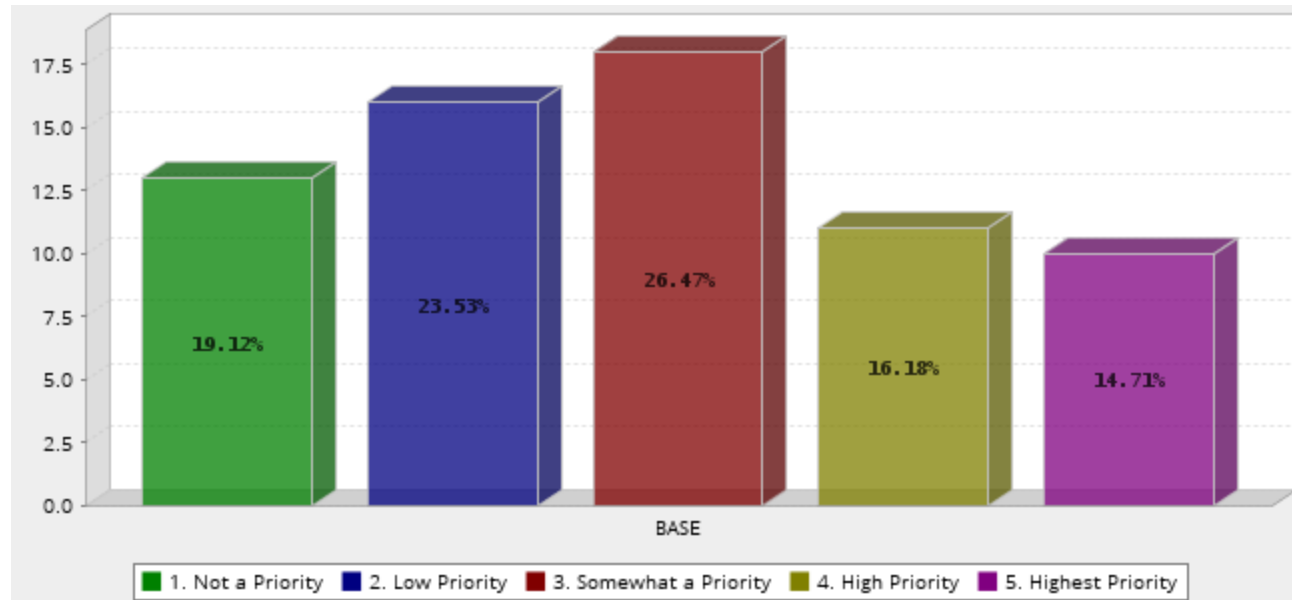
	Answer	Count	Percent
	1. Not a Priority	6	8.82%
	2. Low Priority	6	8.82%
	3. Somewhat a Priority	18	26.47%
	4. High Priority	20	29.41%
	5. Highest Priority	18	26.47%
	Total	68	100%
Mean : 3.559 Confidence Interval @ 95% : [3.267 - 3.850] Standard Deviation : 1.226 Standard Error : 0.149			

Q11-D. Reliability of sewer service (eliminate backups and overflows)



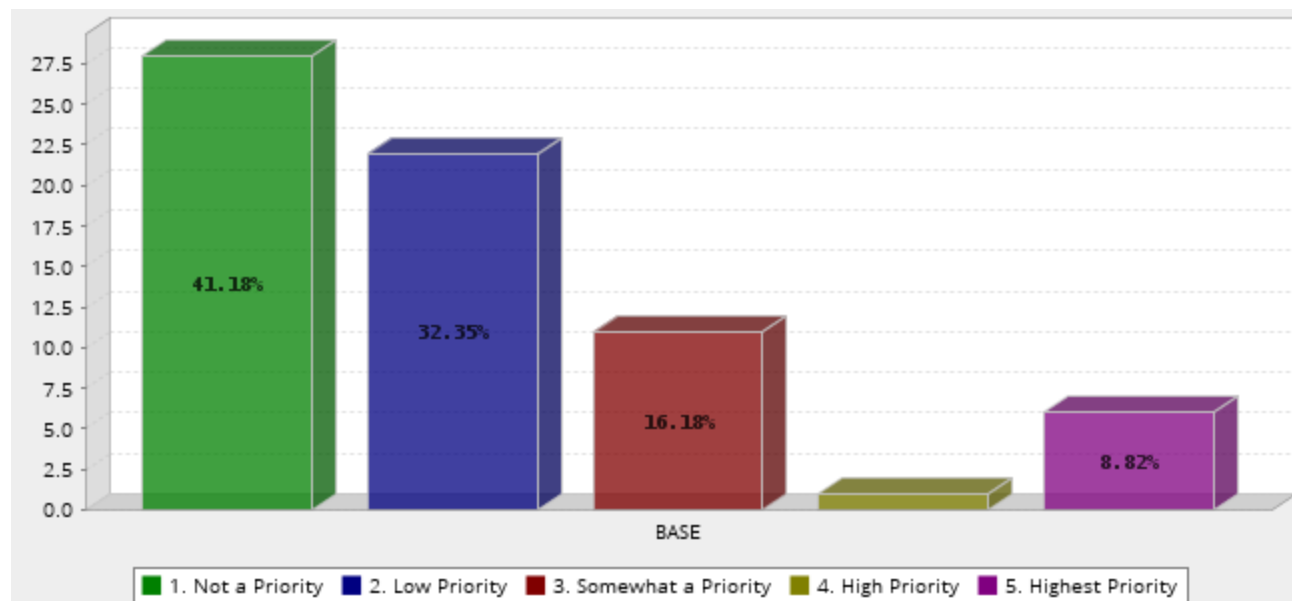
	Answer	Count	Percent
	1. Not a Priority	4	5.88%
	2. Low Priority	4	5.88%
	3. Somewhat a Priority	8	11.76%
	4. High Priority	16	23.53%
	5. Highest Priority	36	52.94%
	Total	68	100%
Mean : 4.118		Confidence Interval @ 95% : [3.835 - 4.401]	
		Standard Deviation : 1.191	
		Standard Error : 0.144	

Q11-E. Encourage future growth of the City of Washington



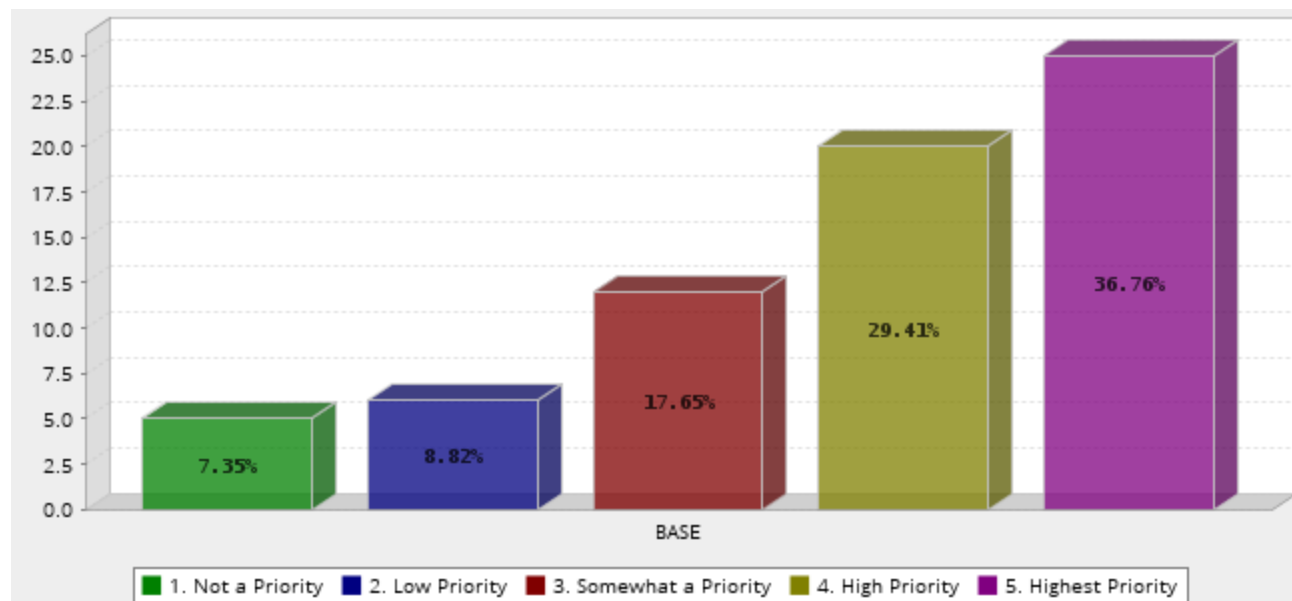
	Answer	Count	Percent
1.	Not a Priority	13	19.12%
2.	Low Priority	16	23.53%
3.	Somewhat a Priority	18	26.47%
4.	High Priority	11	16.18%
5.	Highest Priority	10	14.71%
	Total	68	100%
Mean : 2.838		Confidence Interval @ 95% : [2.524 - 3.153]	
		Standard Deviation : 1.323	
		Standard Error : 0.160	

Q11-F. Discourage future growth of the City of Washington



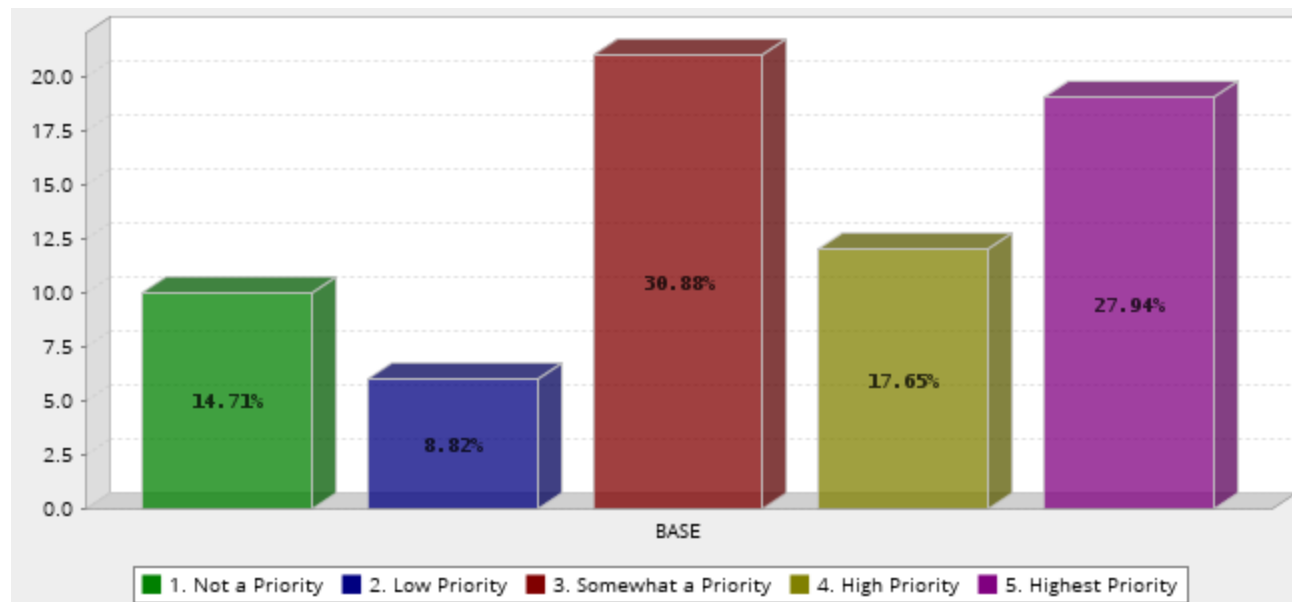
	Answer	Count	Percent
1.	Not a Priority	28	41.18%
2.	Low Priority	22	32.35%
3.	Somewhat a Priority	11	16.18%
4.	High Priority	1	1.47%
5.	Highest Priority	6	8.82%
	Total	68	100%
Mean : 2.044 Confidence Interval @ 95% : [1.758 - 2.330]		Standard Deviation : 1.202 Standard Error : 0.146	

Q11-G. Protect the water quality of Farm Creek



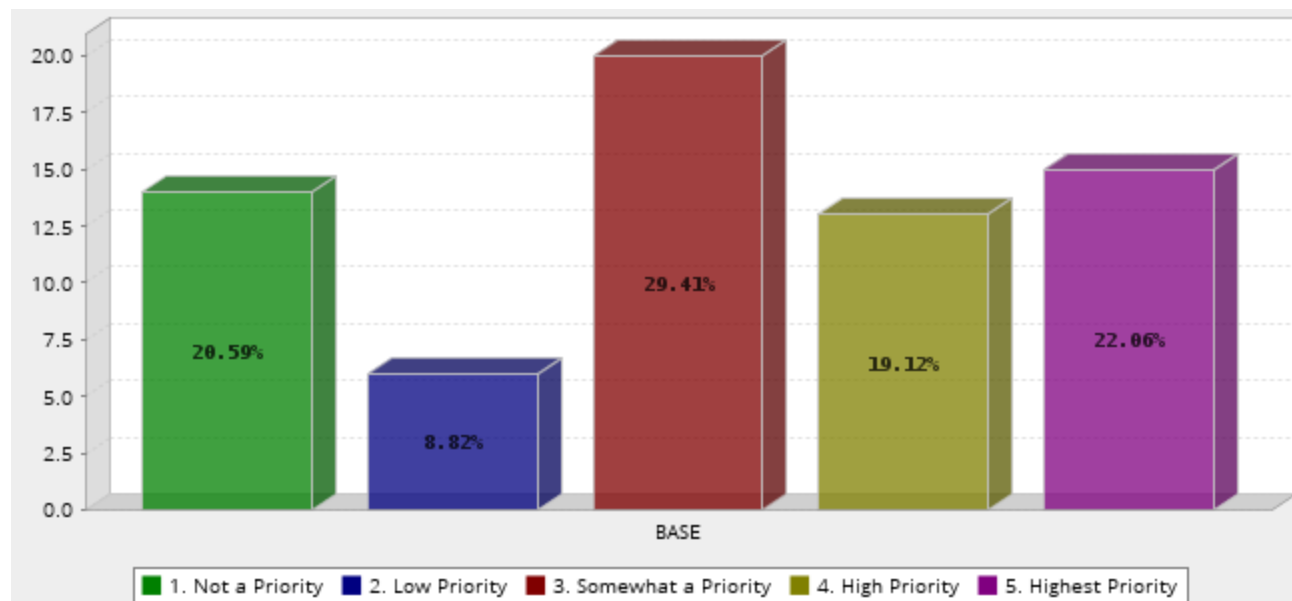
	Answer	Count	Percent
1.	Not a Priority	5	7.35%
2.	Low Priority	6	8.82%
3.	Somewhat a Priority	12	17.65%
4.	High Priority	20	29.41%
5.	Highest Priority	25	36.76%
	Total	68	100%
Mean : 3.794 Confidence Interval @ 95% : [3.499 - 4.089] Standard Deviation : 1.241 Standard Error : 0.150			

Q11-H. Bank stabilization of Farm Creek



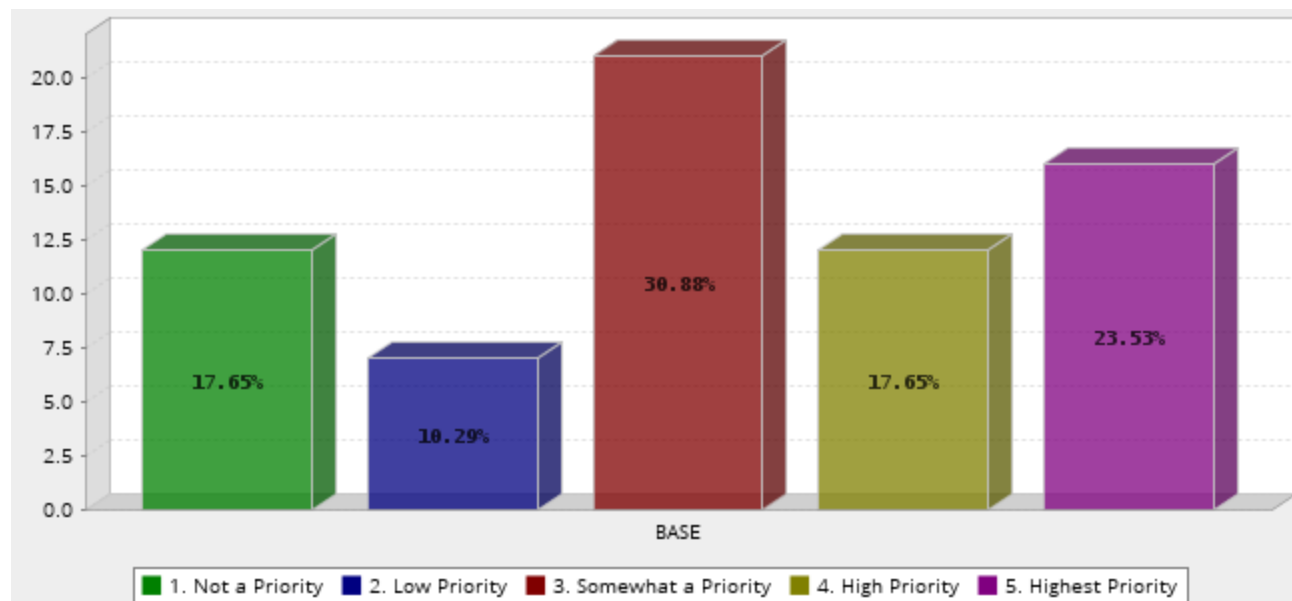
	Answer	Count	Percent
	1. Not a Priority	10	14.71%
	2. Low Priority	6	8.82%
	3. Somewhat a Priority	21	30.88%
	4. High Priority	12	17.65%
	5. Highest Priority	19	27.94%
	Total	68	100%
Mean : 3.353		Confidence Interval @ 95% : [3.028 - 3.678]	
		Standard Deviation : 1.369	
		Standard Error : 0.166	

Q11-I. Protect trees



	Answer	Count	Percent
1.	Not a Priority	14	20.59%
2.	Low Priority	6	8.82%
3.	Somewhat a Priority	20	29.41%
4.	High Priority	13	19.12%
5.	Highest Priority	15	22.06%
	Total	68	100%
Mean : 3.132		Confidence Interval @ 95% : [2.796 - 3.468]	
		Standard Deviation : 1.413	
		Standard Error : 0.171	

Q11-J. Protect animal and fish habitats



	Answer	Count	Percent
1.	Not a Priority	12	17.65%
2.	Low Priority	7	10.29%
3.	Somewhat a Priority	21	30.88%
4.	High Priority	12	17.65%
5.	Highest Priority	16	23.53%
	Total	68	100%
Mean : 3.191		Confidence Interval @ 95% : [2.862 - 3.520]	
		Standard Deviation : 1.385	
		Standard Error : 0.168	

Q12. Other concern? Please describe, and include how high of a priority it is to you.

The city routinely identifies a lack of funds for projects all over the city. The solution for this main utility of Washington should be extremely sensitive to the cost of construction and longer operation and maintenance. This is one of the highest priorities. You cannot detach environment and cost for the construction of this project. The more trees and creek crossings, the more expensive to construct and maintain. There are options that prioritize this and align with the original concerns outlined by the first engineering firm.

I am concerned that the city is still considering other options after they already came to a good conclusion several months ago with the proposal by Strand. That agreed to alignment would impact only a few property owners but be best for the city. yet that small group was able to convince the city to spend even more money to evaluate the alignment again and delay the project just to keep it off of their property, push it on to actual homeowners and other property owners, and limit the ability for the city to grow. This is a public utility that is far too important to be deterred by a few bold loud folks. What is best for the whole of the city in the long run is most important.

I want emphasize the importance that this project encourages growth of the city or at a minimum, does not limit future generations in their ambitions to grow the city. It is also important that this line not bisect across the middle of properties as to not reduce the options in how those properties are used. Following the edge of property lines where other structures cannot be built anyway and limiting the number of impacted properties is important. Also, future maintenance costs for the city should be considered. This solution better consider the least amount of maintenance, and be the most robust, permanent long term option to make our future residents proud of the decision made.

That taxpayers are not burdened with additional cost when the project needs to be done and residents don't trust city staff, or their consultants, to pick the right corridor. High Priority.

I have a concern that uninhabited land is being prioritized over lived on lots.

Just need a good capital improvement plan that addresses the needs and wants of its citizens, based upon a comprehensive community development plan.

Trunk 2b project is a necessary project for the City. Cost should be primary concern,

Washington shouldn't have old sewers that back up, with broken lines that do not work correctly. We pay too much in taxes. Just update the old stuff.

Health issues having the basement floor drain backup into the home and the black mold it creates. Plus the costs of cleaning it up and repairing the damage

Having the floor drain backup into the basement during storms is a real pain and can't finish the basement as nicely as would like. Not to mention the possible health problems of contaminated water in the home, And the black mold which we have had to deal with removing and remodel afterwards, plus the financial cost.

Updating maps and information regarding residential sewer lines and city connections in older neighborhoods. Last year, I replaced the entire sewer line from behind my garage through the neighbors back and side yard to the city connection. My contractor had a bit of luck on his side and was able to trace the line from residence to street.

Personal expense and time to solve problems-especially when old sewer lines run under city streets. Why isn't the city responsible for that part? They should at least provide access to those "private" lines at the city's expense. It's not like the homeowner could have told the city they couldn't build a road over their sewer line years ago when the roads were paved! The very older sewer systems in the older parts of town are a huge issue for homeowners.

I want my house to stop flooding. We have a sump pump, dewatering system, added landscaping. Nothing helps. The city needs to help. There was sink whole in the road and no one fixed the broken pipes out there they just cover it right back up. Ward 2 is about to float away.

The project needs to be completed with a priority of long-term effects on Washington and that the work will last for many years.

The rate of flow and the water quality into and in Westlake lake water. The culvert under Lakeshore Drive was pushed out because of high rate of water during a bad storm. This occurred after the farmers nearby were allowed to divert water to our lake. The water quality is a serious concern because of runoff that feeds the lake. People

swim and fish in the lake. The city and state would not help cover the cost of the culvert and road repair and a future concern is if the inflow becomes more of an issue, who will cover the cost if it, for example, breaks the dam? It's not right to cause a problem and then expect the few residents of the neighborhood to cover the cost of those repairs. It was a significant cost to each resident to repair the culvert. Since it was caused by actions taken by the city and state, that amounts to an unfair and additional tax.

The condition of roads---- Very High priority

I want my house to stop flooding. We have put so much work into our home to make the flooding stop. This last time it flooded my whole basement floor cracked open and sewer began spraying out of the floor. My foundation and my floor is wrecked

High priority: Why can't a pumping station be placed in middle of run rather than at stp2. Is there a map of city's existing r.o.w. and easements in the area + the total money paid out to acquire it? (What was original plan to connect the two plants?)

Q13. An additional other concern? Please describe, and also include how high of a priority it is to you.

Long term viability of this utility will be impacted by its location. Farm Creek's instability will threaten the viability of this utility over the long term. The current pipe was exposed in Farm Creek within 30 years of its lifetime. This utility should last the city 90+ years. Keep it out of Farm Creek to maximize the investment being made today.

It is important to recognize that trees do grow back. I hate to see trees cut down, but in 50 years, after they've re-grown, we will recognize them again the same as they are now. Enabling the growth of our city and reducing the impacts /interference on use long term of private property Re more important than counting the number of trees taken. That said, the city should be prepared to replant said trees.

That an engineering firm familiar with the city, and has done much work on determining peak flows in areas of the city, is second guessed to the point of hiring another firm to review their work. This is wasteful spending and our elected officials cannot make a handful of residents happy and burden many other residents with additional costs on an already expensive project. More Important Priority.

We do not need motorcycles. Fix our roads, make sure the park district is funded with what it needs, and update our sewers.

This is a very big priority for me. It also affects the property values in the older parts of town. Nobody wants to buy a house with a sewer problem, and it's extremely costly to repair when city streets or neighbor properties are involved since the older sewer lines could be anywhere. People who own homes in these parts of town often do not have the disposable income to drop on a thousands of dollars sewer project.

My basement floor broke open and water start d coming in like a fountain. This is not something I can fix till the city fixes the sewer and drains in ward two

I put a sump pump in my basement over a year ago. I am simply amazed at how much water it pumps, even without rain for weeks at a time, it never stops

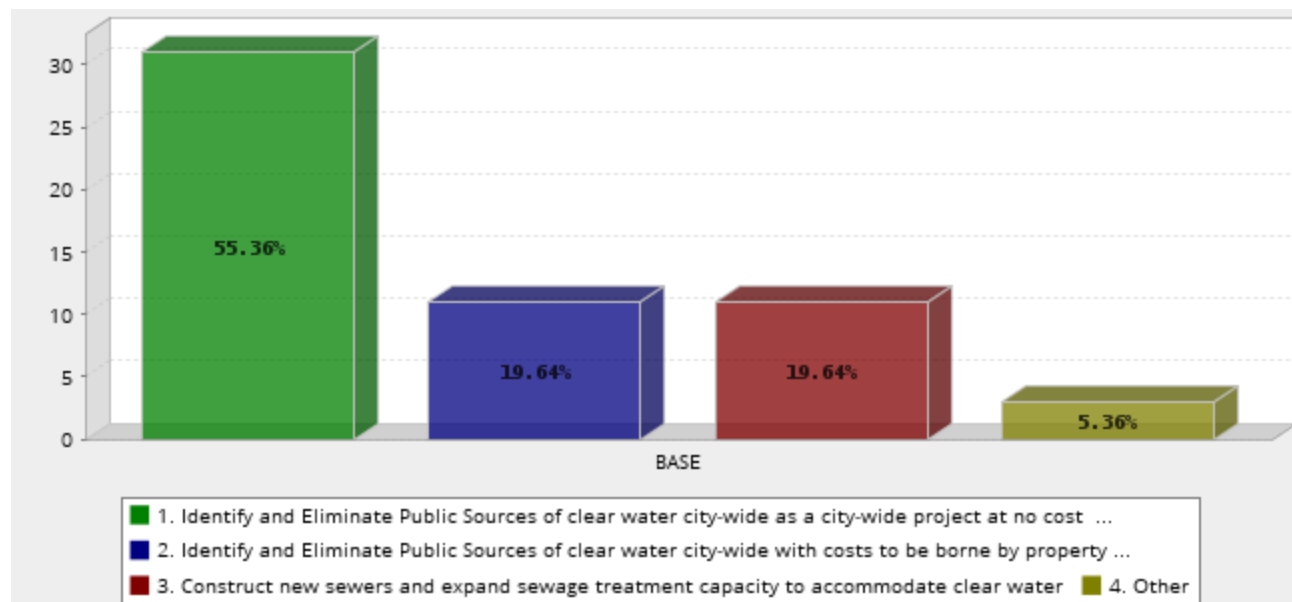
From what I know, the route wasn't feasible the way it had been laid out. Residents made suggestions to make this better. Let's do this project right, for all residents. It's a high priority to me, not just the work itself, but to prove the integrity of projects tackled by the city.

Help those of us are in ward two who flood every darn time it rains because your drains don't work properly

High priority: will the report be weighted to level concerns of 7 (+ or -) property owners vs the 3 property owners with large tracts on southern route. For example, will input from someone with 1 mile or 2 acres of impacted land be valued equal to a property owner with 40' or 0.25 acres of impacted land? Finally, on any route, the valuation of timber, expense of harvesting it and the plan to reduce the risk of introducing disease (ex. oak wilt) while cutting and compacting soil with large equipment.

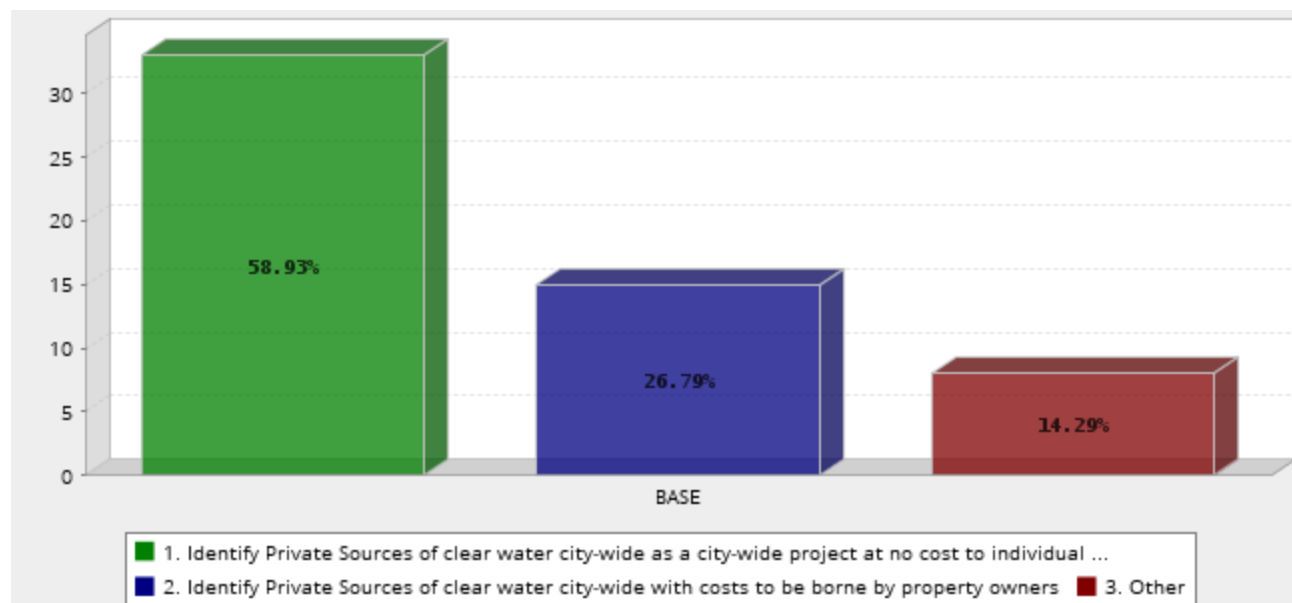
The trunk line should absolutely not run through a residential area.

Q14. To eliminate sewer backups and overflows, the City of Washington should:



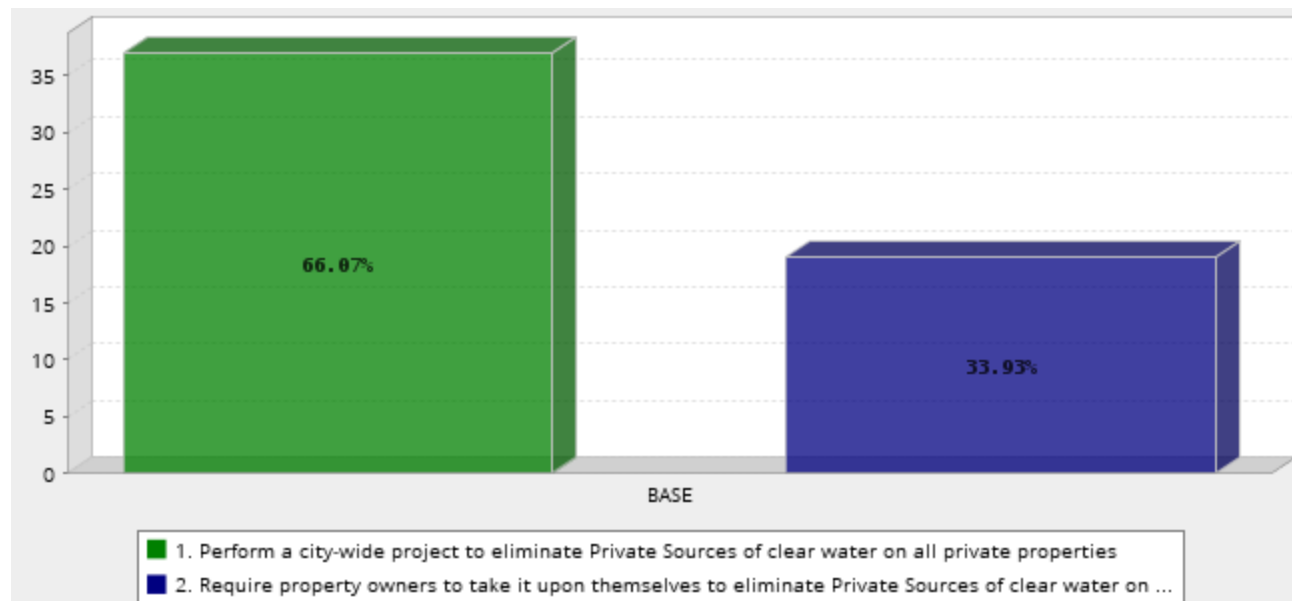
	Answer	Count	Percent
1.	Identify and Eliminate Public Sources of clear water city-wide as a city-wide project at no cost to individual residents	31	55.36%
2.	Identify and Eliminate Public Sources of clear water city-wide with costs to be borne by property owners that are connected to the affected sewers	11	19.64%
3.	Construct new sewers and expand sewage treatment capacity to accommodate clear water	11	19.64%
4.	Other	3	5.36%
	Total	56	100%
Mean : 1.750		Confidence Interval @ 95% : [1.499 - 2.001]	Standard Deviation : 0.958
		Standard Error : 0.128	

Q15. To identify the cause of sewer backups and overflows, the City of Washington should:



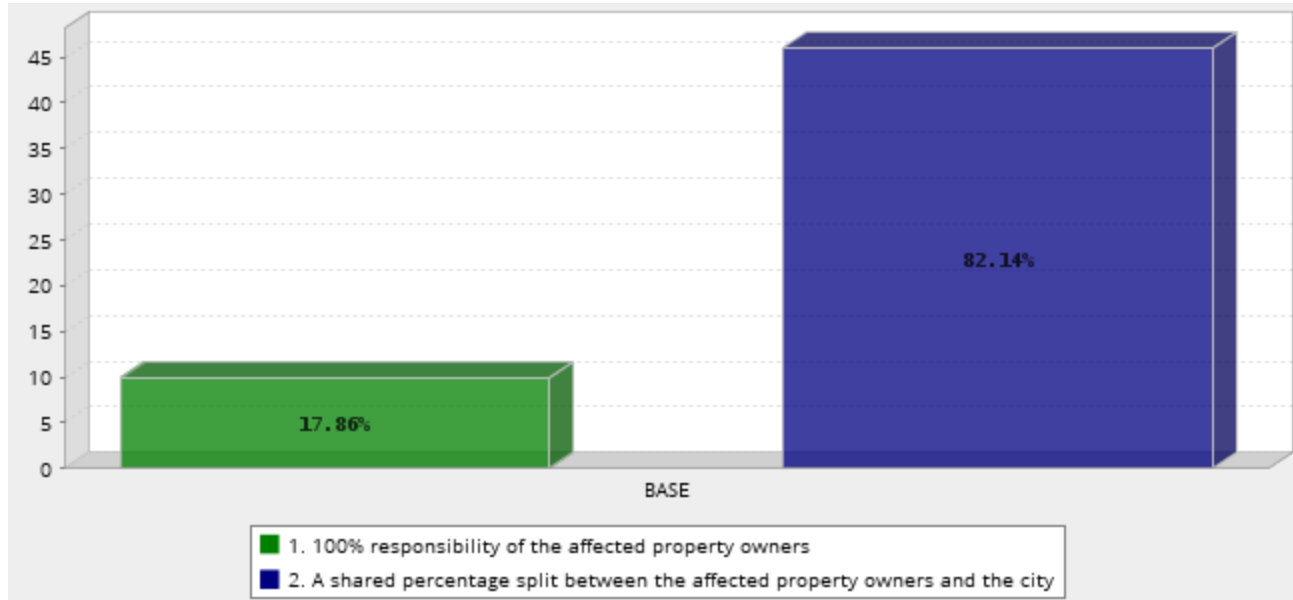
	Answer	Count	Percent
1.	Identify Private Sources of clear water city-wide as a city-wide project at no cost to individual residents	33	58.93%
2.	Identify Private Sources of clear water city-wide with costs to be borne by property owners	15	26.79%
3.	Other	8	14.29%
	Total	56	100%
Mean : 1.554 Confidence Interval @ 95% : [1.361 - 1.746] Standard Deviation : 0.737 Standard Error : 0.098			

Q16. To eliminate sewer backups and overflows, the City of Washington should:



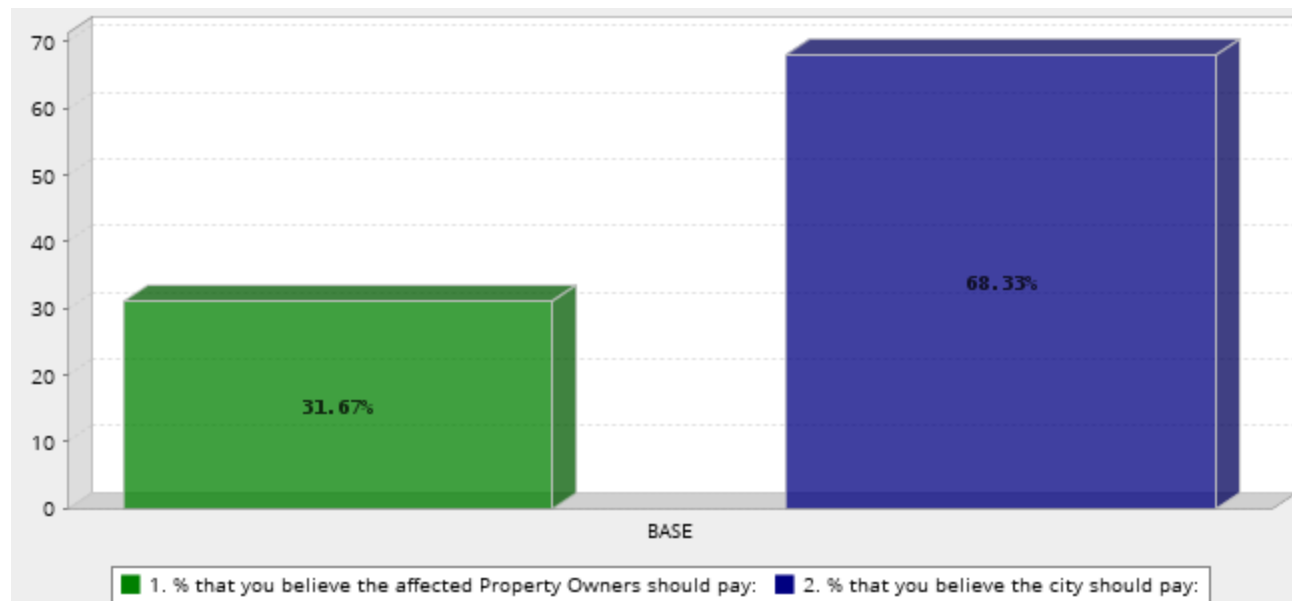
	Answer	Count	Percent
1.	Perform a city-wide project to eliminate Private Sources of clear water on all private properties	37	66.07%
2.	Require property owners to take it upon themselves to eliminate Private Sources of clear water on their own private property	19	33.93%
	Total	56	100%
Mean : 1.339		Confidence Interval @ 95% : [1.214 - 1.464]	Standard Deviation : 0.478
		Standard Error : 0.064	

Q17. For either option above, what percentage of the related costs for the elimination of Private Sources of clear water on private properties be:



	Answer	Count	Percent
	1. 100% responsibility of the affected property owners	10	17.86%
	2. A shared percentage split between the affected property owners and the city	46	82.14%
	Total	56	100%
Mean : 1.821 Confidence Interval @ 95% : [1.720 - 1.923] Standard Deviation : 0.386 Standard Error : 0.052			

Q18. Please allocate 100 percent of the shared costs between the property owners and the city:



	Answer	Count	Percent
	1. % that you believe the affected Property Owners should pay:	31	31.67%
	2. % that you believe the city should pay:	68	68.33%
	Total	99	100%
Mean : 1.683 Confidence Interval @ 95% : [1.592 - 1.775] Standard Deviation : 0.468 Standard Error : 0.047			