

REGULAR MEETING NOTICE/AGENDA OF THE SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL

MEETING OF THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023, 11:00 A.M. – CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

A regular meeting of the Spokane City Council will be held at **11:00 A.M. on Thursday, May 25 2023**, in City Council Chambers - City Hall, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd. The meeting can also be accessed live on CityCable5 and streamed online at <https://my.spokanecity.org/citycable5/live/> and <https://www.facebook.com/spokanecitycouncil> or by calling 408-418-9388 and by using access code 2490 239 4174.

The meeting will be conducted in a study session format and will be open to the public both virtually and in person. No legislative action will be taken. No public testimony will be taken, and discussion will be limited to appropriate officials and staff.

Executive Session

At any time during or after the regular Study Session Agenda, the City Council may choose to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing privileged legal matters. This portion of the meeting would be closed to the public pursuant to RCW 42.30.110.

Agenda:

[Access to Justice Presentation - Jim Bamberger, Director of the Washington State Office of Civil Legal Aid \(15 min\)](#)

[DSP Strategic Plan & BID Evaluation Update - Brad Segal, Progressive Urban Management Associates \(45 min\)](#)

2023 Budget Projection Detail and Homeless Funding Challenges- Matt Boston (45 min)

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) INFORMATION: The City of Spokane is committed to providing equal access to its facilities, programs and services for persons with disabilities. The Spokane City Council Chamber in the lower level of Spokane City Hall, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., is wheelchair accessible and also is equipped with an infrared assistive listening system for persons with hearing loss. Headsets may be checked out (upon presentation of picture I.D.) at the City Cable 5 Production Booth located on the First Floor of the Municipal Building, directly above the Chase Gallery or through the meeting organizer. Individuals requesting reasonable accommodations or further information may call, write, or email Human Resources at 509.625.6237, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA, 99201; or dmoos@spokanecity.org. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact Human Resources through the Washington Relay Service at 7-1-1. Please contact us forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting date.

STATE FUNDED CIVIL LEGAL AID IN SPOKANE

A Briefing for the
SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL

@

Council Work Session 5/27/23

Jim Bamberger, Director
Washington State Office of Civil Legal Aid



EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW

ORIGINS OF TODAY'S CIVIL LEGAL AID SYSTEM

- 1965 – federal Legal Services Corp established
- Spokane Legal Services Center established 1970; 1995 SLSC merged to form two statewide civil legal aid programs – Northwest Justice Project and Columbia Legal Services
- Spokane County Bar Association Volunteer Attorney Program established in early 1980s.
- Office of Civil Aid established in 2005 to underwrite the statewide civil legal aid system underwritten with state legislative appropriations.



GROUNDED IN A COMMITMENT TO RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

- “Equal Justice Under Law” rings hollow if the laws and legal systems treat people and communities differently.
- Civil and criminal legal systems have been and continue to be administered differently depending on whose rights (individuals and communities) are involved.
- Spokane’s history of racial intolerance and legalized differential treatment is well documented. Some suggest that this history is in the past; it is not.
- Recognizing the continuing racial inequalities in the administration of civil and criminal justice for Black, brown, Indigenous, and other people of color, the Washington Supreme Court issued [June 4, 2020 Open Letter](#). See also, *State v. Vaile*, [dissenting opinion of Judge George Fearing](#).
- [OCLA’s Race Equity Statement of Purpose and Commitments](#)



THE NEED FOR CIVIL LEGAL HELP

2015 CIVIL LEGAL NEEDS STUDY

- Conducted by Supreme Court CLNS Update Committee; Principal Research partner – WSU Social and Economic Services Research Center (SESRC)
- Key Findings:
 - 71% of low-income people experience at least 1 important civil legal need per year
 - Of those who do, the average number of problems experienced is 9; but for survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault, the number is 18.
 - 24% of those with a civil legal problem go any help at all; 76% did not.
 - Civil legal problems are disproportionately experienced by people who identify as BIPOC (esp. African American and Indigenous) or sexual/gender non-conforming.



BASIC CIVIL LEGAL AID PROGRAM

Provides access to information, advice, limited, and extended legal representation to low-income individuals facing legal problems related to:

- Private and public housing related problems (evictions/foreclosures)
- Family safety, domestic violence, and sexual assault
- Access to behavioral, medical, and related health care services
- Access to public benefits and services to which individuals have a claim of right or entitlement
- Problems relating to employment and unemployment including discrimination, worker safety, rights to UI insurance benefits, etc.
- Consumer, financial services, access to credit, and bankruptcy
- Education (including special education) services



CIVIL LEGAL AID IN SPOKANE --2023

OCLA-funded programs currently operating in Spokane include:

- Basic civil legal aid program (Northwest Justice Project (NJP); Spokane Bar VLP)
- Civil public defense program for indigent tenants (NJP; Housing Justice Project)
- Legal assistance for tenants threatened with eviction but not yet eligible for court appointed attorneys (NJP; Spokane Bar VLP, HJP)
- Crime victims legal aid program (NJP, NWIRP)
- Legal aid for domestic violence survivors (YWCA, NWIRP)
- Appointed counsel for legally free children and youth in child welfare cases (private attorney contractors)
- Restorative Justice Programs – *State v. Blake* Civil Consequences (TWTJ, NJP); Reentry Legal Assistance (Civil Survival); Community Reinvestment (under dev.)



SPOKANE COUNTY CIVIL LEGAL AID BY THE NUMBERS – CY 2022*

- Number of closed cases in CY 2022 by NJP and Spokane Bar VLP – 2222
- Number of indigent tenants represented pursuant to court appointment of attorneys – 756
- Percentage of tenants appointed counsel who identify as non-white – 32%
- Percentage by case type:
 - Landlord-Tenant – 58.5%
 - Family Law, Safety/DV – 23.6%
 - Consumer/Finance/Debt Collection – 9%
 - All Other – 9%

*Client service data is tracked on county of residence basis



RESOURCES

- [WashingtonLawHelp](#)
- [Washington Forms Online](#)
- [CLEAR Statewide Civil Legal Aid Hotline](#) – 888-201-1014
- CLEAR*Sr. (hotline for low-income seniors) – 888-387-7111
- Statewide [Eviction Defense Screening Line](#) – 855-657-8387
- [Eviction Defense Services Program Data Dashboard](#)
- CY 2022 Spokane County Client Service [Data Dashboard](#)



QUESTIONS?

It's great to be "home"

THANK YOU!

Jim Bamberger

Washington State Office of Civil Legal Aid

jim.bamberger@ocla.wa.gov





DSP BID Evaluation & Strategic Plan Update

**Downtown Spokane, WA
May 2023**

AGENDA

- National Trends Impacting Downtowns
- DSP BID Evaluation & Strategic Plan Process Overview
- Community Engagement Summary
- Key Takeaways





**NATIONAL
TRENDS
IMPACTING
DOWNTOWNS**

Progressive Urban Management Associates (P.U.M.A.)

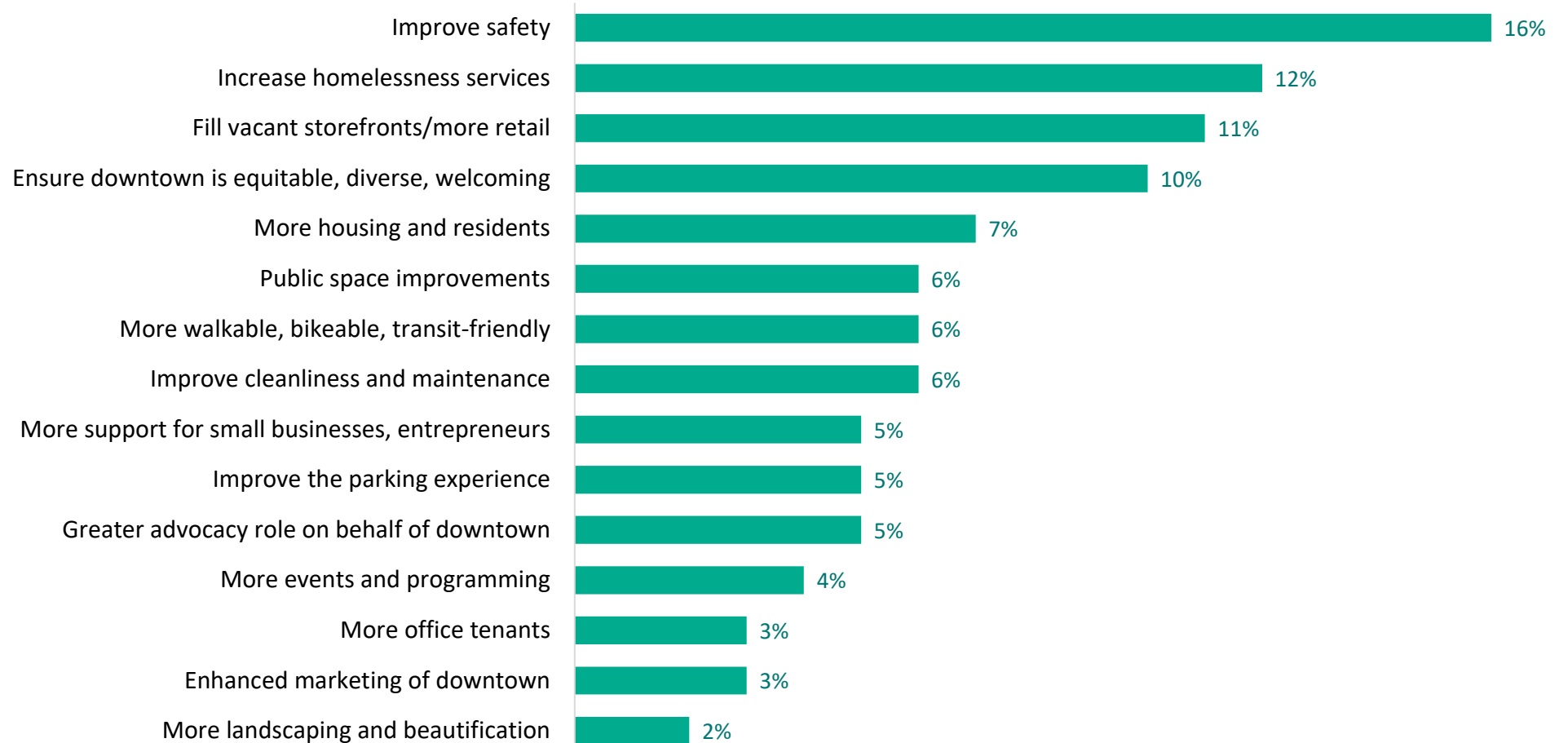
- Denver-based real estate economics and planning firm
- 30 years, 37 states, 300+ cities
- Specialties include downtown strategic planning & BIDs



TRENDS IMPACTING DOWNTOWNS

What our
downtown
stakeholders
were
prioritizing
before 2020

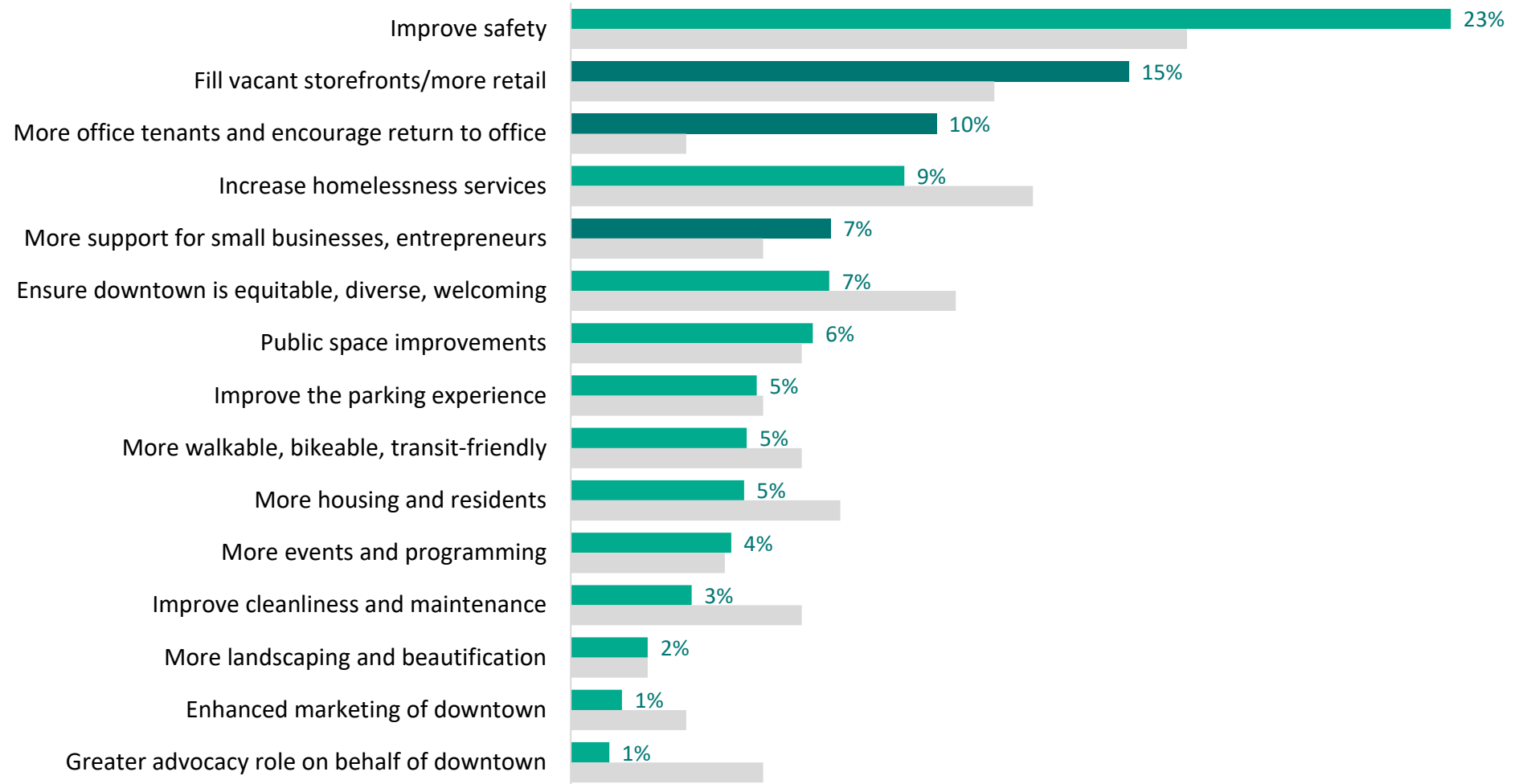
Pre-COVID



TRENDS IMPACTING DOWNTOWNS

Pre-COVID vs. Post-COVID

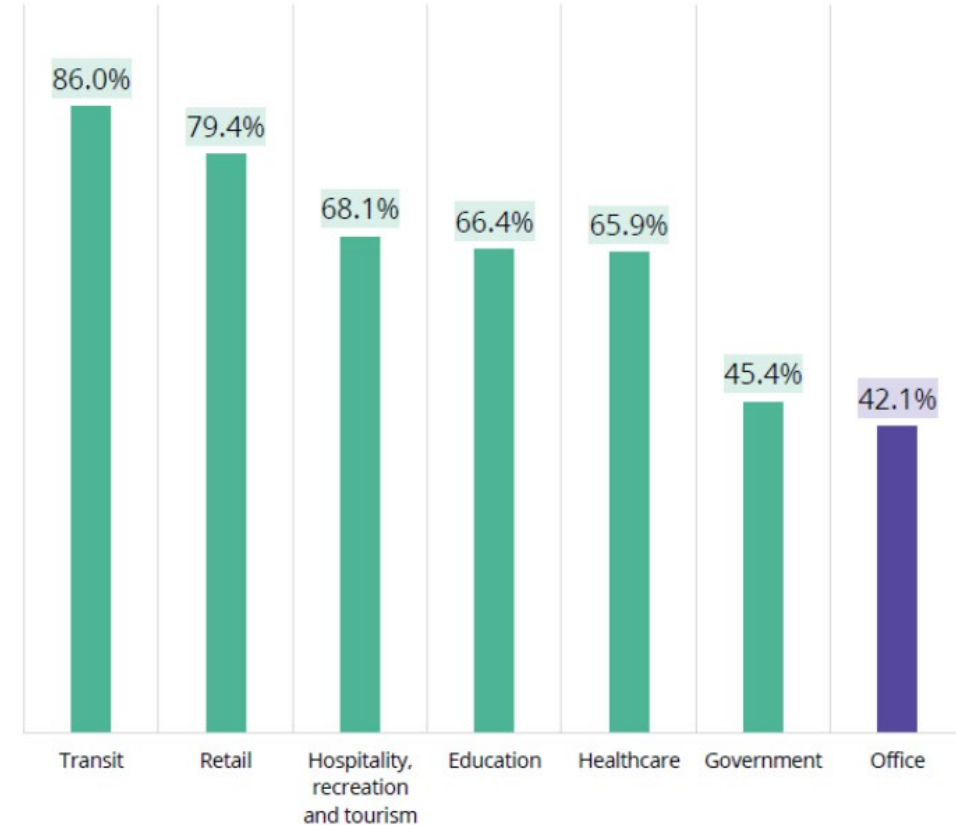
How priorities have changed (and not changed) since 2020



TRENDS IMPACTING DOWNTOWNS

*Pandemic an **accelerator** of key trends...*

- **RETAIL:** Euthanasia for outdated formats; urban environments well-positioned
- **OFFICE:** Workers seek flexibility, movement to top quality spaces, commute-worthy districts and workplaces will be critical
- **HOUSING:** CBDs -> neighborhoods
- **POWER OF PLACE:** Unique experiences, outdoor gathering places, establish and build on fundamentals
- **EQUITY & INCLUSION:** Diversified City = Diversified Economy



Note: Representative office locations. Weekdays only.
Source: Orbital Insight, AVANT by Avison Young

AVANT
by AVISON YOUNG

DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIPS & BIDS

- **Common in Downtowns** – More than 1,000 in U.S., including nearly 25 in Washington

- **BIDs Are:**
 - ✓ A source of funding for common area improvements and services
 - ✓ Self-imposed and self-governed by those who pay -- residents, property and business owners
 - ✓ Work in partnership with local governments

- **BIDs Are Not:**
 - ✓ Do not replace basic government services, provide supplemental services within a defined boundary
 - ✓ Do not lobby, do undertake research and/or education on projects and issues
 - ✓ While local government has fiduciary oversight, BIDs are not considered part of local government

DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIPS & BIDS

- **Downtown Partnerships Are:**

- ✓ A “best practice” model for managing day-to-day BID services
- ✓ Generally non-profit organizations (c3 or c6) governed by a board of downtown stakeholders
- ✓ Can be effective to leverage non-assessment revenues – i.e. memberships, sponsorships, grants, etc.
- ✓ Advocates for policy positions on issues affecting downtown

- **Downtown Partnerships Are Not:**

- ✓ Do not take positions on or fund candidates or individuals
- ✓ Employees are not of the BID or government – independent non-profit



DSP BID EVALUATION & STRATEGIC PLAN PROCESS

DSP BID EVALUATION & STRATEGIC PLAN PROCESS OVERVIEW

PROJECT TASK	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG
ASSESSMENT & DISCOVERY							
Site Immersion	■						
Existing Plans Review	■						
Internal Document Review	■						
Staff Workshop	■						
Interviews, Roundtables	■						
Online Survey		■					
Best Practice Research		■					
BID EXPANSION OPTIONS							
Expansion Area Outreach	■						
Expansion Area Evaluation		■					
Expansion Recommendations				■			
BID MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PLAN (MDP)							
Draft MDP			■				
Committee, Stakeholder Review				●			●
Final MDP					■		
STRATEGIC PLAN							
Strategic Plan Framework				■			
Committee, Board Workshops				●			●
Final Strategic Plan					■		
P.U.M.A. TEAM SITE VISITS	●			●			●



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

- Met with **more than 60 key stakeholders** including:
 - Downtown property owners
 - Downtown business owners
 - DSP and BID Boards
 - DSP staff
 - City Council and Mayor
 - City staff
 - Partner organizations
- Online survey – **486 responses**



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT THEMES - STRENGTHS

- **Regional cultural hub and reasons to come Downtown** – entertainment venues, Riverfront Park, hotels, River Park Square, North Bank sports facilities, convention center, library, events, etc.
- **Legacy employers with a commitment to Spokane** – civic engagement of the business community, large employers invested in success of Downtown
- **Large city amenities with a small town feel**
- **Physical character** – historic buildings, mix of architecture, strong network of bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- **Transit access** – incoming City Line system, regional bus system
- **Higher education facilities adjacent to Downtown** – Gonzaga University, Washington State University Spokane, Eastern Washington University, Whitworth University, University of Washington School of Medicine, and Community Colleges of Spokane

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT THEMES - CHALLENGES

- **Safety concerns, both perception and reality** – open drug use, property and violent crime, lack of police presence and slow response times
- **Prevalence of unhoused individuals** – concentration of services and shelters adjacent to Downtown, lack of wraparound services, challenges with mental health and addiction
- **Return to work and commercial vacancy** – empty storefronts and slow return of office workers to Downtown, difficulty recapturing pre-pandemic sidewalk vibrancy
- **Lack of diversity** – lack of diverse representation in civic organizations and institutions, missing variety in business and restaurant offerings
- **Parking** – cost, safety in surface lots, lack of lighting
- **Skywalks** – creates a bifurcation of the street-level experience
- **Physical connections** – need to better connect across the Spokane River
- **Surface parking** – creates gaps in the Downtown environment, detracts from the pedestrian experience

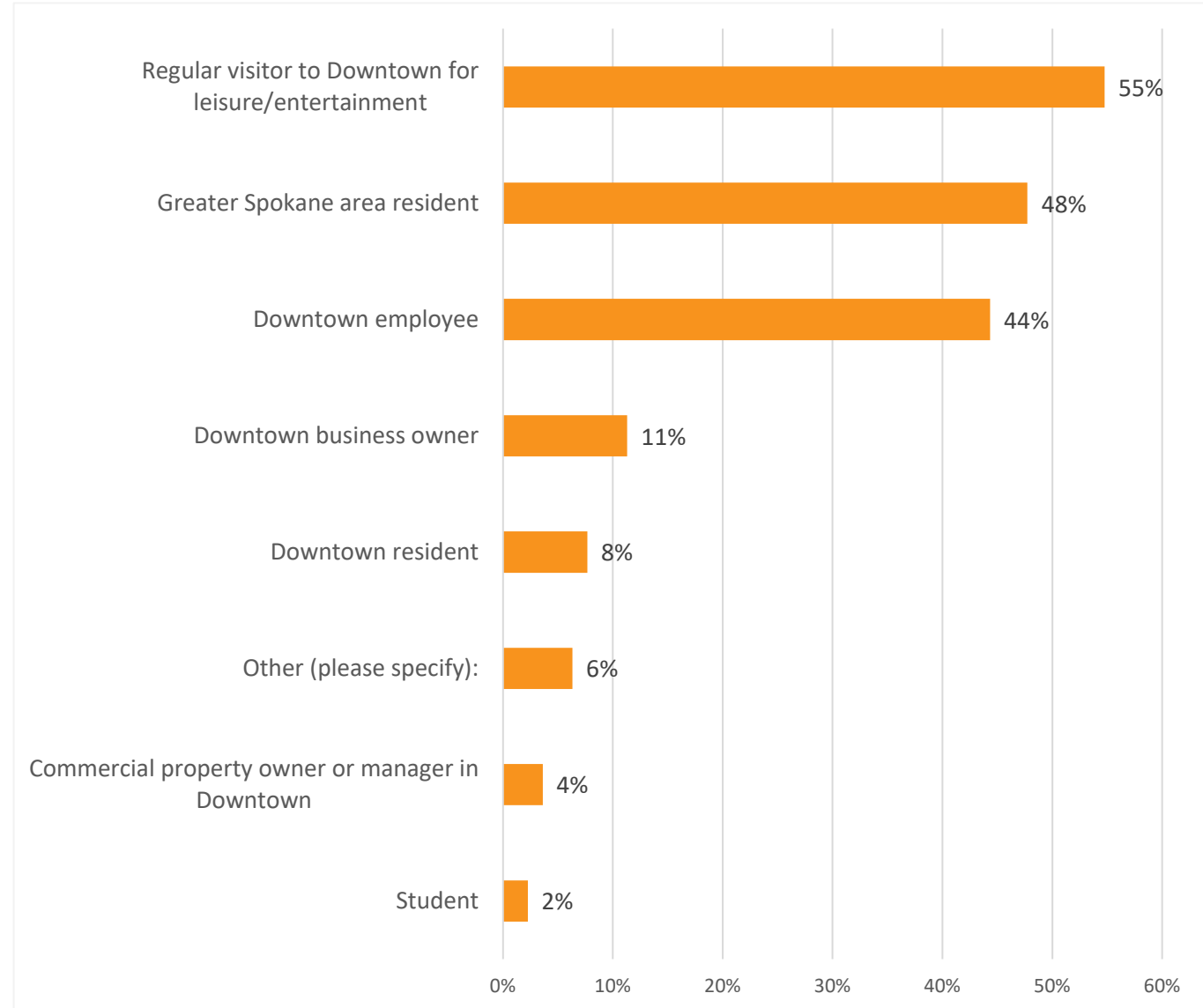
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT THEMES –IMPROVEMENTS

- **Ensure Downtown is clean and safe** – reduce nuisance behaviors, address property and violent crime, ensure the Downtown environment is consistently cleaned and maintained
- **Provide additional services and resources for the unhoused population** – improve coordination of service delivery among partners, identify a regional approach to address
- **Encourage infill development** – development of underutilized sites, including surface parking lots
- **Recapture pre-pandemic vibrancy** – focus on return to work, program Downtown public spaces, activate storefronts and skywalks with diverse offerings
- **Improve collaboration among civic partners around Downtown initiatives** – ensure DSP, City, GSI, Visit Spokane, STA, and other civic partners are coordinating efforts to improve Downtown
- **Increase housing options and residents in Downtown** – opportunities for office to residential conversions, to-own and rental opportunities at a variety of price points

ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS SNAPSHOT

Demographics overview:

- **Interest in Downtown Spokane:** regular visitor to Downtown for leisure/entertainment (55%), Greater Spokane area resident (48%), Downtown employee (44%)
- **Other demographics:** 68% between the ages of 35 and 64, mostly female (55%) and white (78%)



ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS SNAPSHOT

When you think of Downtown Spokane today, what three words come to mind? *Top responses were:*

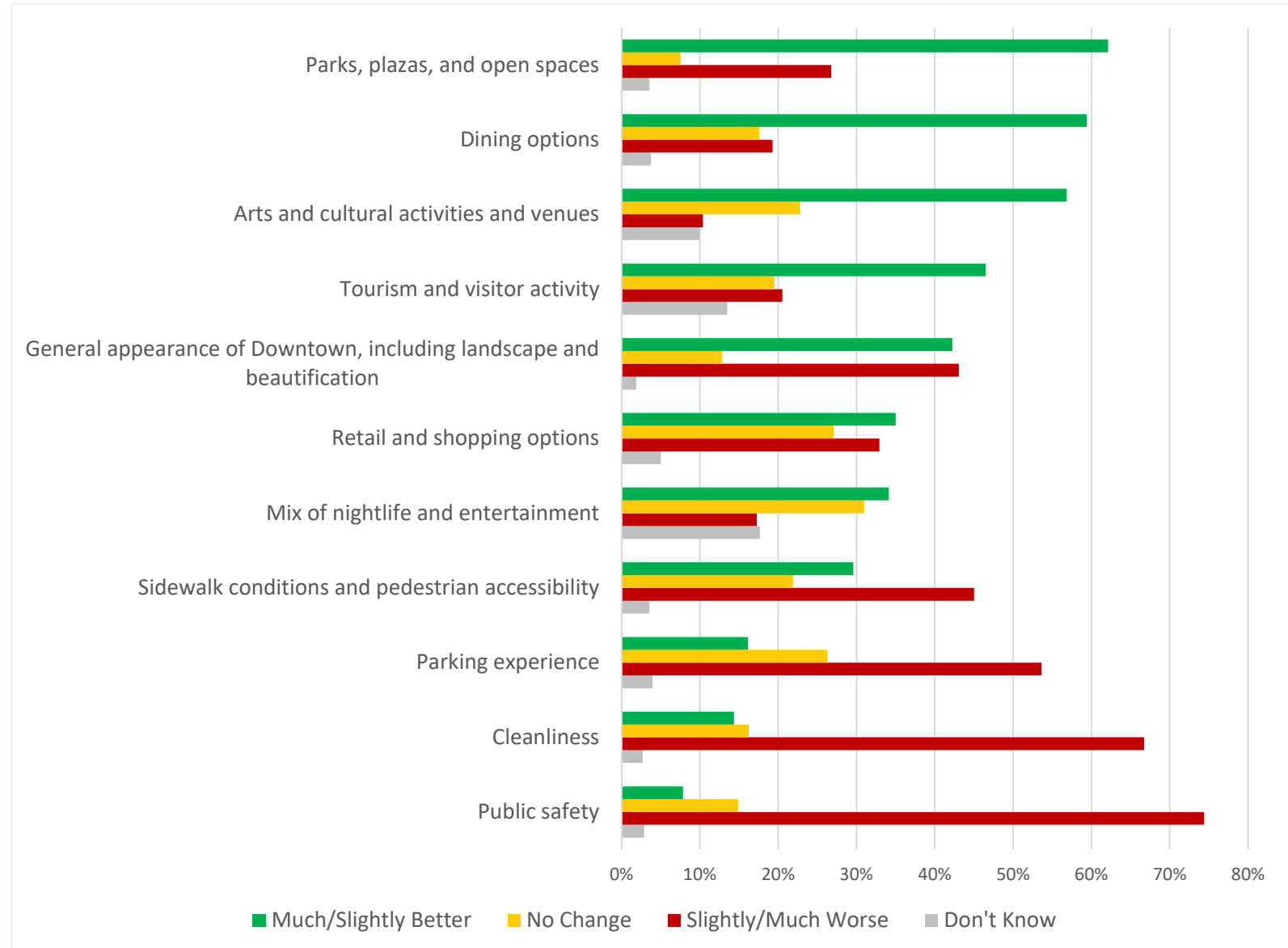
- Homeless
- Dirty
- Riverfront
- Parking
- Unsafe
- Potential



ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS SNAPSHOT

Do you think the following characteristics of Downtown have become better or worse in the past five years?

- **Much/Slightly Better:** Parks, plazas, and open spaces (62%), dining options (59%), arts and cultural activities and venues (57%)
- **Much/Slightly Worse:** Public safety (74%), cleanliness (67%), parking experience (54%)



ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS SNAPSHOT

On a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate the following DSP/BID services and programs provided in Downtown Spokane today?

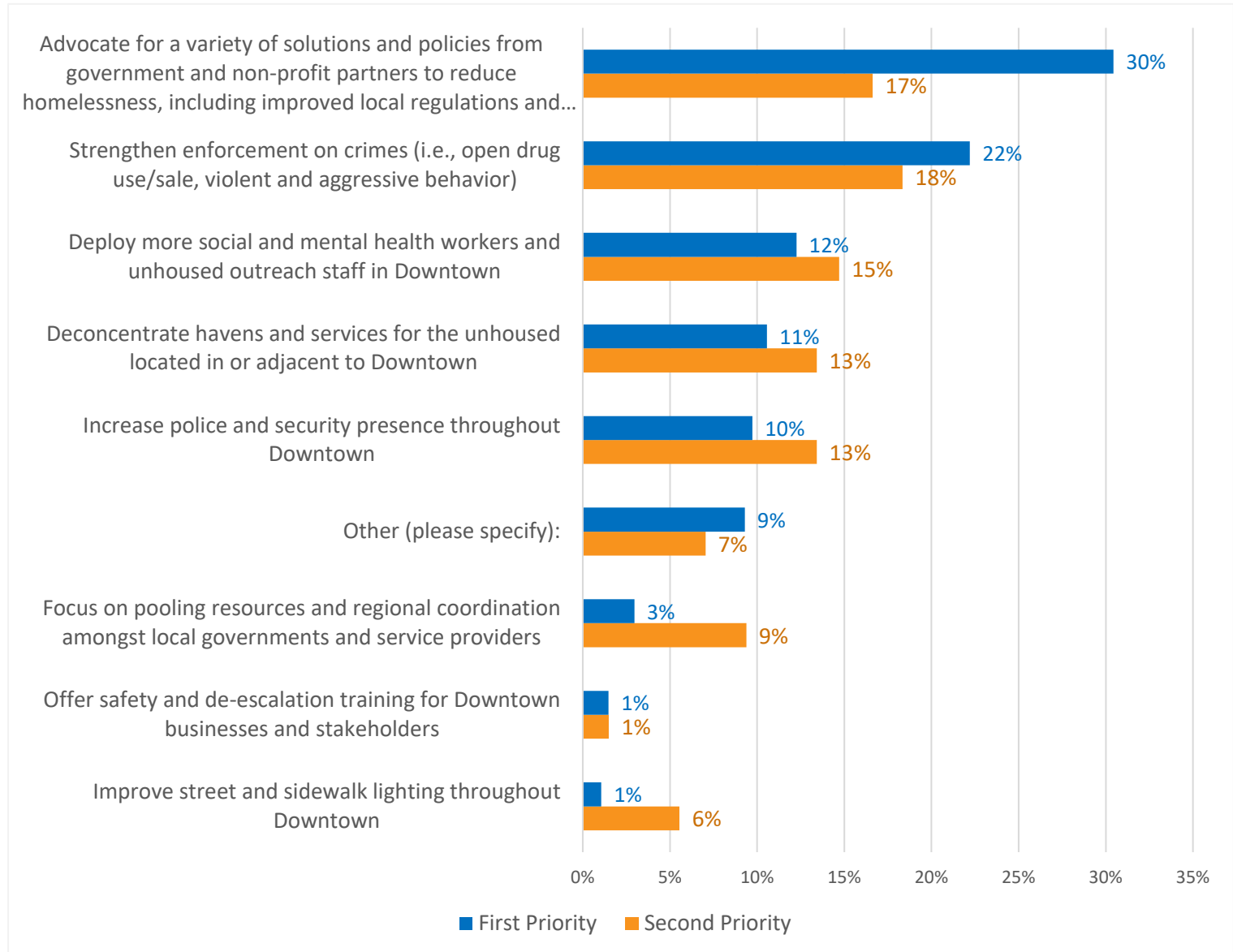
- **Very Good/Good:** Streetscape Improvements (42%), advocacy (38%), office Recruitment & Retention (38%)
- **Very Poor/Poor:** Retail recruitment & retention (55%), transportation & parking (45%), social outreach (36%)



ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS SNAPSHOT

Which of the following tactics do you believe should be prioritized to increase safety and address the homelessness challenge? *Top 3 priorities:*

- Advocate for a variety of solutions and policies from government and non-profit partners to reduce homelessness
- Strengthen enforcement on crimes
- Deploy more social and mental health workers and unhoused outreach staff in Downtown



ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS SNAPSHOT

Looking to the future, please offer three words that best capture your vision for Downtown Spokane by the year 2030?

Top responses were:

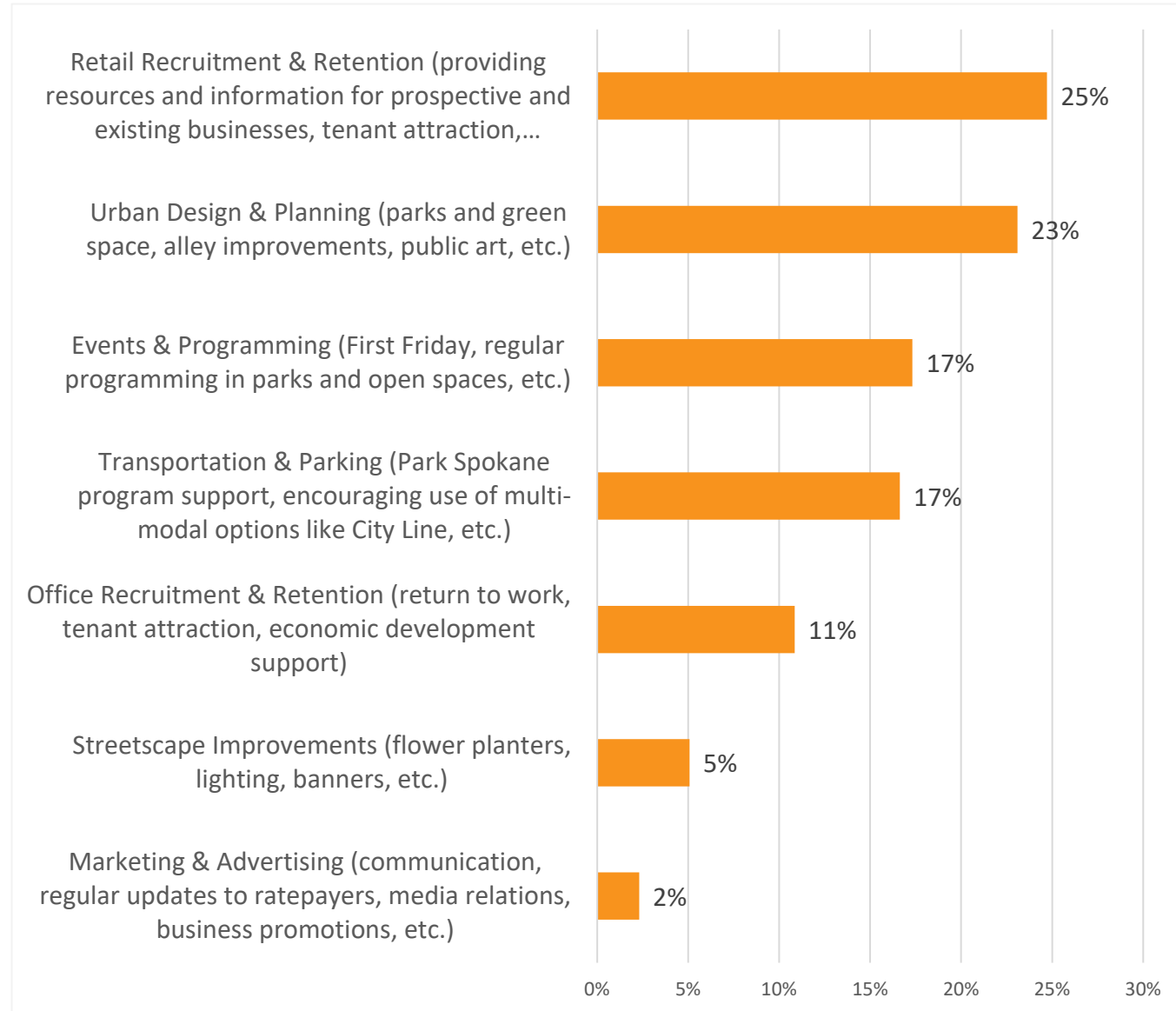
- Safe
- Clean
- Vibrant
- Fun
- Beautiful
- Accessible



ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS SNAPSHOT

Beyond clean and safe, which one DSP service or program do you consider to be the MOST important to improving Downtown Spokane? *Top 3 priorities:*

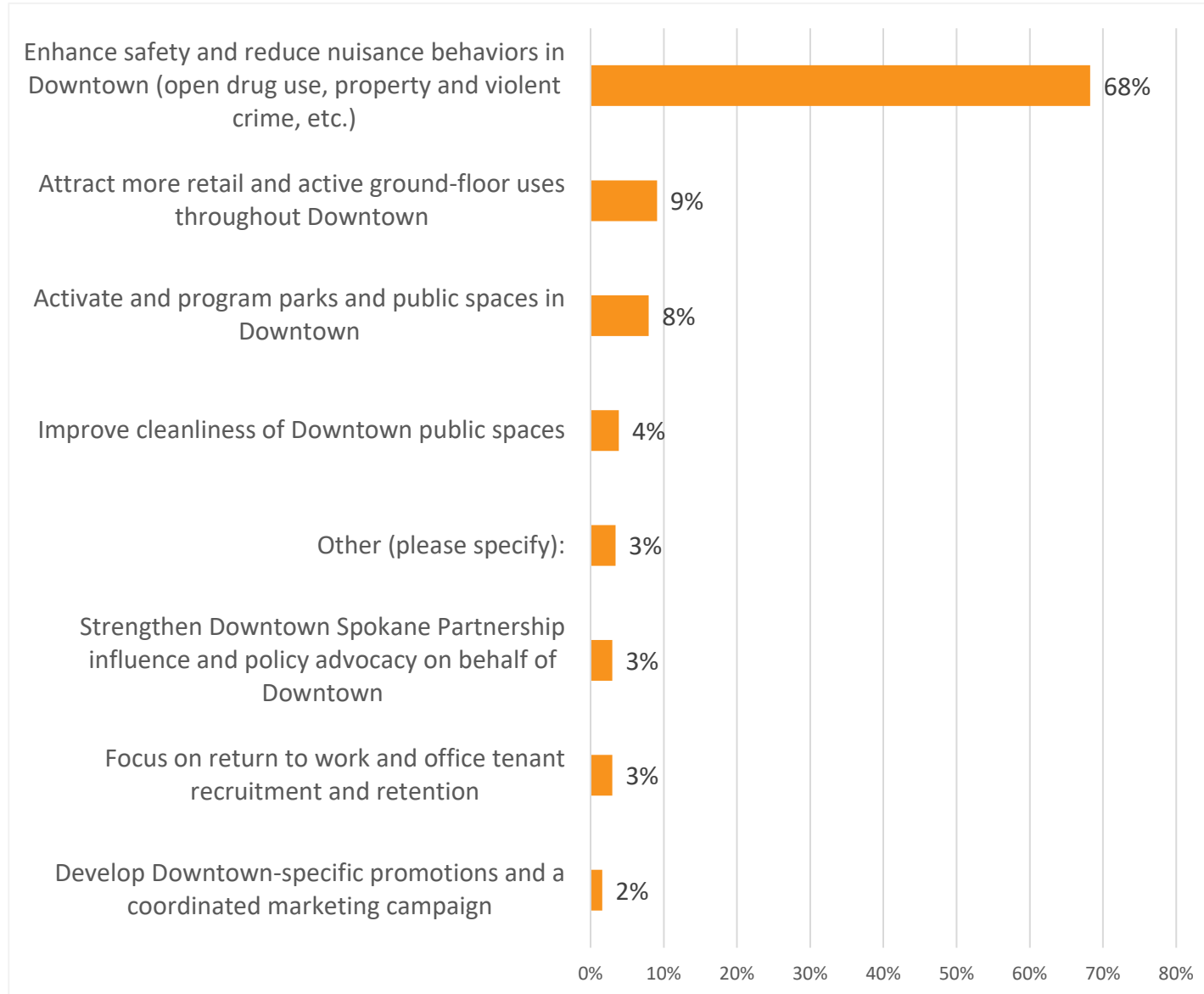
- Retail recruitment & retention (25%)
- Urban design & planning (23%)
- Events & programming (17%)



ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS SNAPSHOT

To achieve your vision for Downtown, how important will implementing the following programs and services be over the next 5 to 10 years? *Top 3 priorities:*

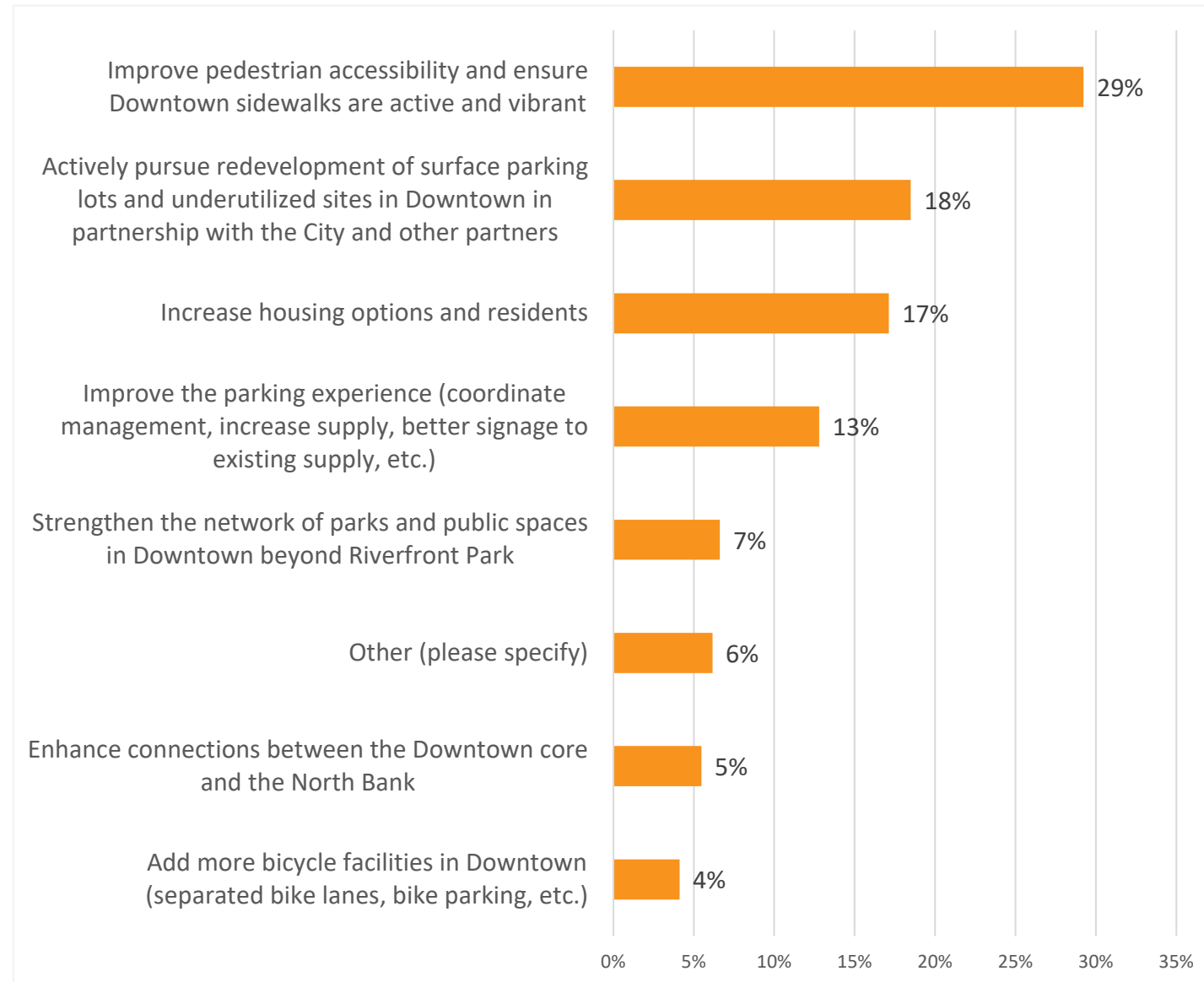
- Enhance safety and reduce nuisance behavior Downtown (68%)
- Attract more retail and activate ground-floor uses throughout Downtown (9%)
- Activate and program parks and public spaces in Downtown (8%)



ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS SNAPSHOT

To achieve your vision for Downtown, how important will implementing the following physical improvements be over the next 5 to 10 years? *Top 3 priorities:*

- Improve pedestrian accessibility and ensure Downtown sidewalks are active and vibrant (29%)
- Actively pursue redevelopment of surface parking lots and underutilized sites in Downtown (18%)
- Increase housing options and residents (17%)





KEY TAKEAWAYS

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 1. Downtown Spokane is encountering many of the same challenges and opportunities that are being experienced by many downtowns today.**
 - Most downtowns throughout the West are experiencing similar increases in crime, homelessness, commercial vacancy.
 - Opportunities include creating a more mixed use environment with housing, active storefronts and enhanced public spaces.
 - Resolving these challenges and capitalizing on these opportunities will require new approaches and collaboration between public, private and non-profit sectors.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 2. In recent years, public/private partnership approaches to Downtown Spokane challenges have been fraught by conflict and a lack of focus on realistic solutions.**
 - Spokane lacks many of the tools and spirit of cooperation that are needed to resolve difficult civic challenges in Downtown.
 - The lack of collaborative problem solving makes Spokane a national outlier.
 - A fundamental place to start for defining roles and building trust is creating a base level of service framework between the City and the BID.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

3. Moving forward, the DSP, BID and City must employ a collaborative, market-driven and problem-solving approach with partners to be effective.



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 4. To be more effective, DSP and the BID need to update their business models.**
- Created in the 1990s, the DSP and BID structure have not been significantly changed in nearly 30 years. Downtown and today's challenges are very different.
 - The BID is spread an inch deep and a mile wide. Moving forward, it should focus on three or four core functions, building on clean and safe, and its contract with the City should be amended accordingly.
 - Structural changes to the BID's underlying engineering (i.e. assessment method, zones, etc.) are recommended to bring it into line with industry standards and best practices.
 - Initial financial analysis of BID Expansion suggests insufficient revenue to support deployment of needed services.
 - The DSP Strategic Plan will align the organization around clear goals and objectives that support the BID and the betterment of Downtown.



NEXT STEPS