

S. George Mason Drive Multimodal Transportation Study

Summary of Engagement #1 (Existing Conditions and Experiences) – Spring 2022

Project Background

S. George Mason Drive is a major north-south transportation corridor within Arlington County, providing access to businesses, neighborhoods, schools, parks, as well as neighboring jurisdictions (i.e., Fairfax County, City of Alexandria). The Master Transportation Plan (MTP) identifies portions of S. George Mason Drive as a primary transit corridor and the entirety of the roadway as a primary cycling corridor. Additional planning guidance for S. George Mason Drive includes the Vision Zero Action Plan, General Land Use Plan, Arlington’s Commitment to Equity, and the County’s Biophilic Goals and Principles.

Project Goals

The purpose of this study is to develop a preliminary plan to improve safety and access along S. George Mason Drive for people cycling, riding transit, walking/rolling, and driving. This plan will identify challenges, constraints, and opportunities for multimodal transportation improvements along S. George Mason Drive from Arlington Boulevard to the Arlington/Fairfax County Line. The study will include a corridor-wide concept with high-level recommendations for the entire 2.0-mile corridor, as well as an initial 15% design concept for the segments from Columbia Pike to the Fairfax County line.

Public Engagement on Existing Conditions and Experiences

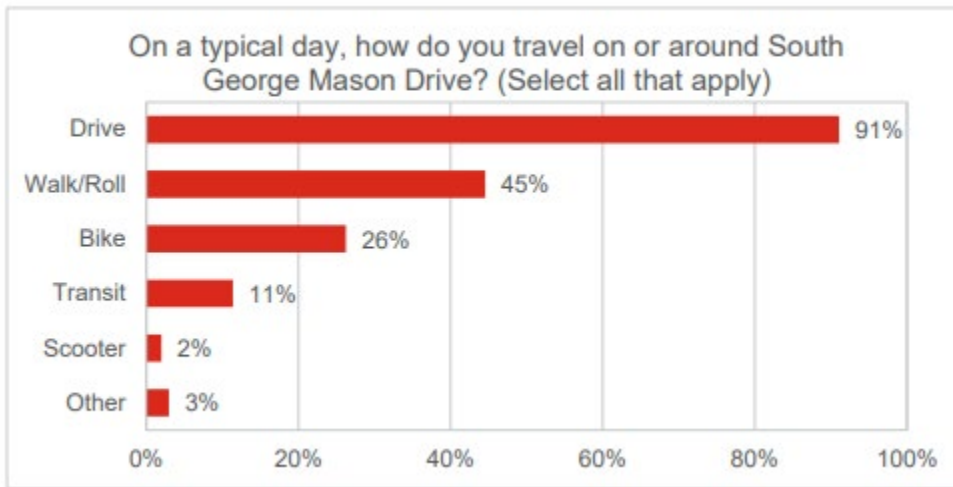
In the spring of 2022, the County kicked off the study’s public engagement with a virtual community meeting. At the same time, the County opened an interactive online map to gather and assess the community’s thoughts on and experiences with the existing conditions on S. George Mason Drive. The interactive map included questions about travel habits, demographics, safety, and allowed respondents to place pins along the project corridor to note concerns, ideas, likes, dislikes, and general comments.

Approximately 404 individuals provided 625 comments on the interactive online map. The interactive map was available in multiple languages using the Google translate function, including Amharic, Arabic, Cantonese, English, Mandarin, Mongolian, Spanish, and Vietnamese – the most frequently-used languages in census tracts along the corridor.

The project team also held two in-person walking tours. The first walking tour focused on existing conditions and opportunities for improvement along S. George Mason Drive from Four Mile Run Drive to the County Line. The second walking tour focused on existing conditions and opportunities for improvement along S. George Mason Drive from Columbia Pike to Arlington Boulevard. Spanish/English translation was provided at the walking tours.

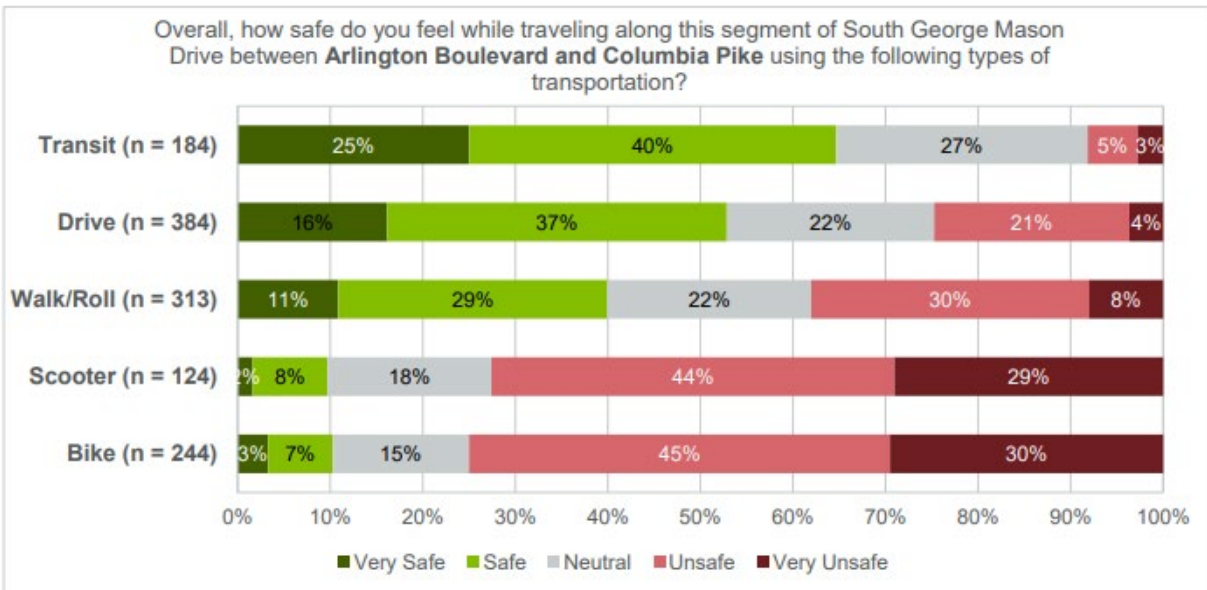
What We Heard

Of the respondents we heard from, over half live within the 22204 zip code, which encompasses the neighborhoods in and around S. George Mason Drive. Many respondents also work in Arlington (42%). When asked how they currently use S. George Mason Drive, respondents indicated the use of a variety of transportation modes on the corridor, but primarily drove (see below).

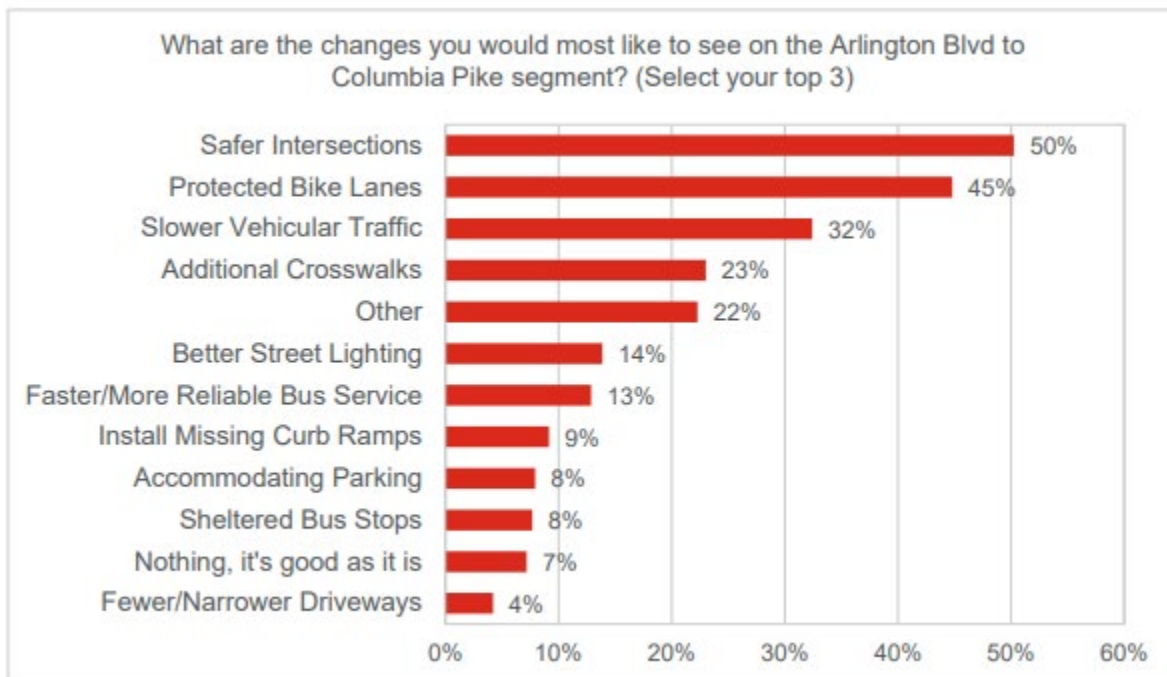


The last section of the survey split the corridor into three segments and asked people about their opinions on safety and potential improvements for each. **Responses were nearly identical between segments.** Therefore, responses from the first segment (Arlington Boulevard to Columbia Pike) are highlighted in this summary for brevity. A complete summary of feedback received on each segment is available in the appendix at the end of this document.

When asked how safe they feel while traveling on the corridor using various modes of transportation, people responded that they felt safest while driving or taking transit, and least safe while bicycling or using a scooter.



When asked to select three potential high-level changes to South George Mason Drive out of a list of 12, the most common responses people selected were safer intersections (50%), followed by protected bike lanes (45%), and slower traffic (32%). Crosswalks were also high on the list at 23% (see below).



A similar percentage of survey respondents also used the “Other” field to indicate other unnamed changes or write more specific details as it had a text box. Common themes from



comments entered via the “Other” field were similar to those entered into the interactive online map.

Combined, these themes included :

- Concerns expressed about the complex intersections at Arlington Blvd and Four Mile Run Drive among all road users
- Challenges entering S. George Mason Drive from driveways and side streets
- People bicycling were particularly challenged by the Columbia Pike and 8th Street intersections
- Speeding, especially in places where there are curves or hills
- Narrow parking lanes do not accommodate large commercial vehicles
- People walking/rolling found certain segments of sidewalk to be too narrow for side-by-side walking/rolling
- Desire for a crosswalk and better wayfinding for Four Mile Run Trail at the intersection with the project corridor
- Transit-specific recommendations included building bus shelters at stops serving NFATC

Next Steps

The project team is currently developing corridor-wide concepts for S. George Mason Drive, informed by existing conditions engagement, County planning guidance, and inter-departmental staff coordination. These corridor-wide concepts will be brought for public engagement in Summer 2022 via a virtual public meeting, interactive online map, and in-person workshop. Meeting dates will be announced on the website and promoted via the County’s communications channels.

More Information

Project Page: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Transportation-Projects/S.-George-Mason-Drive-Multimodal-Transportation-Study>

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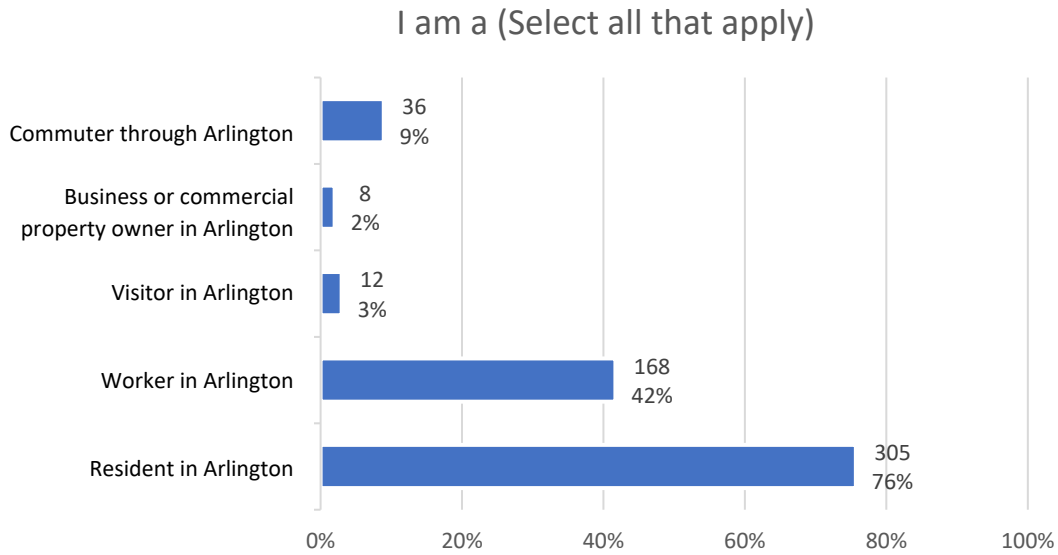
Public Engagement Specialist, Transportation

Tel: 703-228-3112

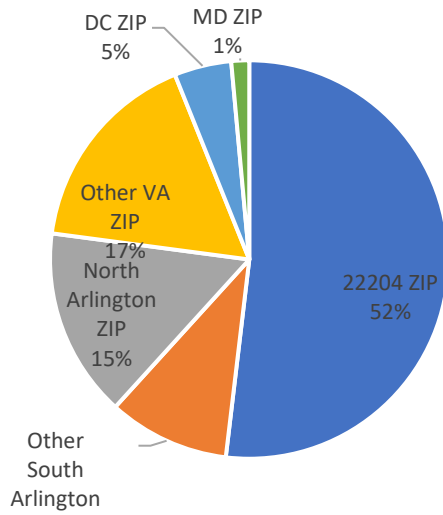
Email: nsgraham@arlingtonva.us

F. Online Feedback Survey Summary Statistics

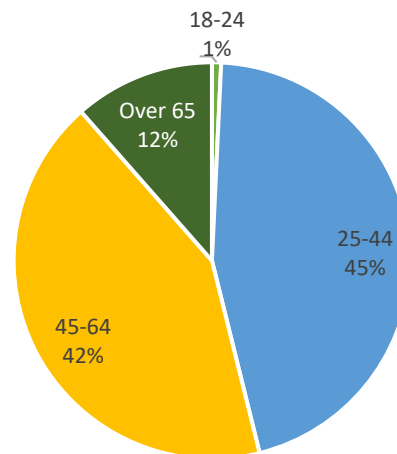
Chart and axis titles are the survey questions and options as they were asked, respectively.



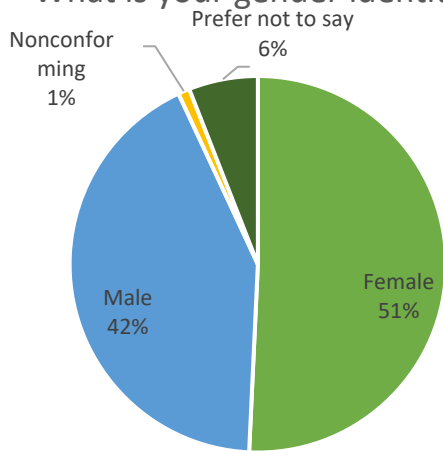
What zip code do you live in?



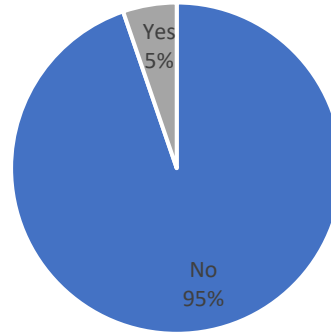
Which range includes your age?



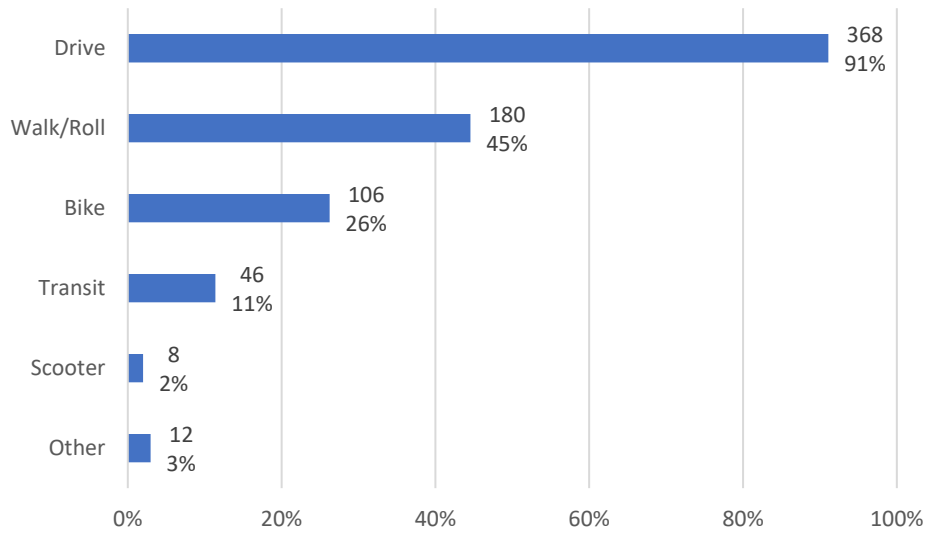
What is your gender identity?



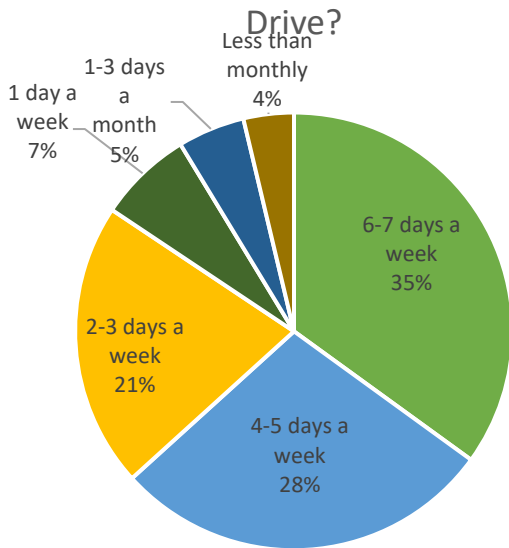
Do you have a disability that impacts your mobility?



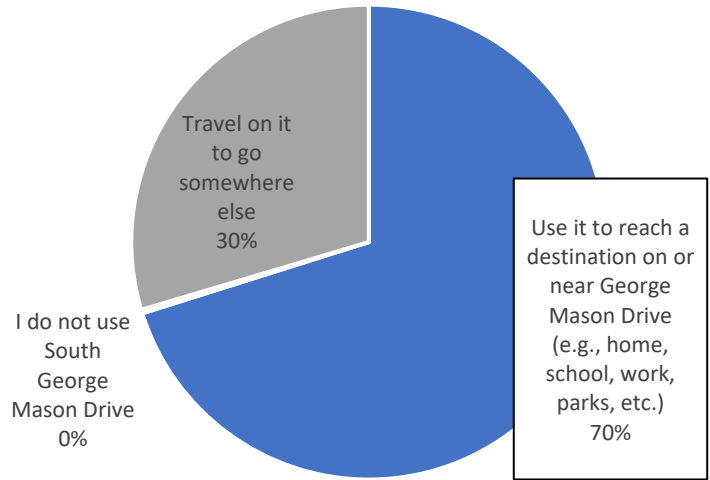
On a typical day, how do you travel on or around South George Mason Drive? (Select all that apply)



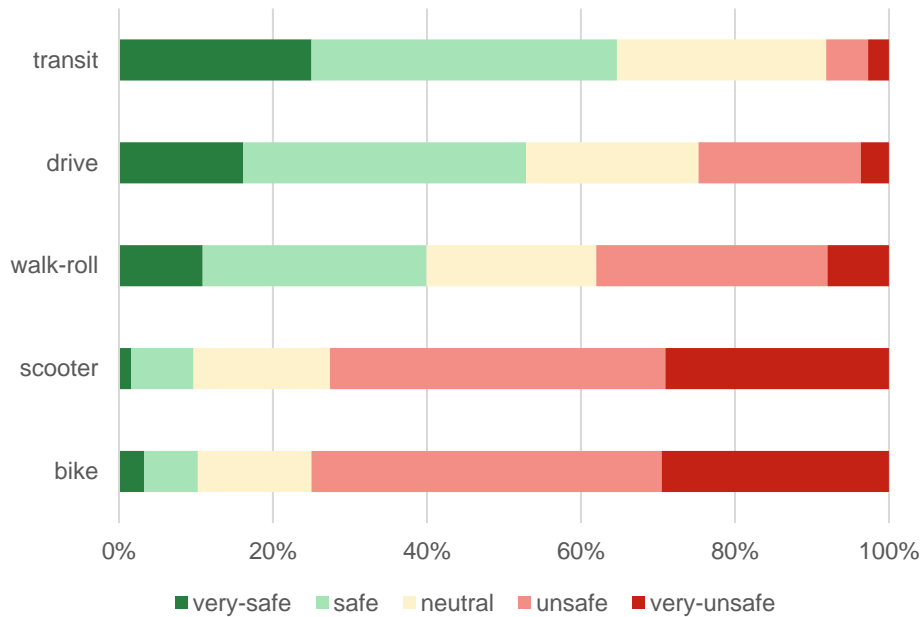
How often do you travel on or across South George Mason Drive?



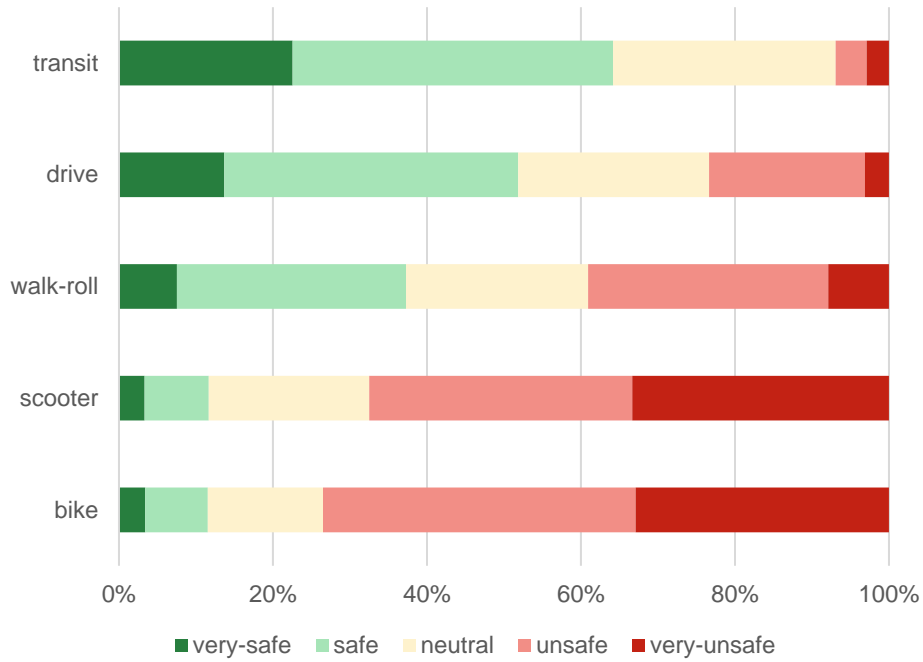
Why do you primarily use South George Mason Drive?



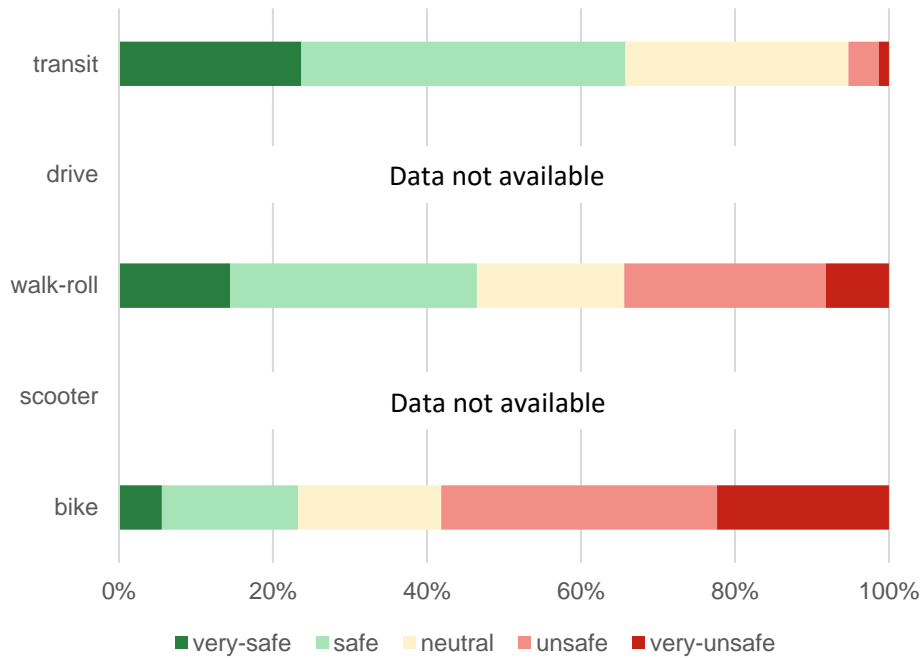
Overall, how safe do you feel while traveling along this segment of South George Mason Drive between Arlington Boulevard and Columbia Pike using the following types of transportation?



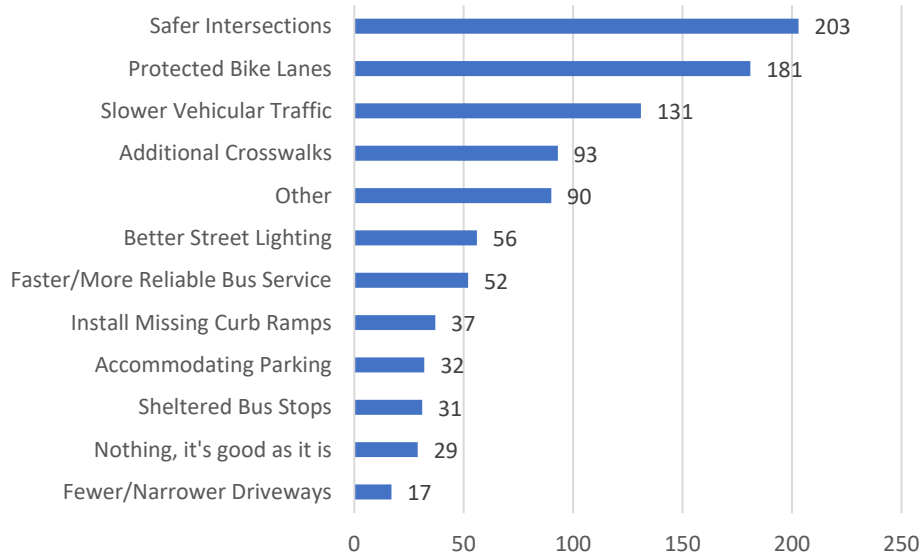
...between Columbia Pike and Four Mile Run Drive...



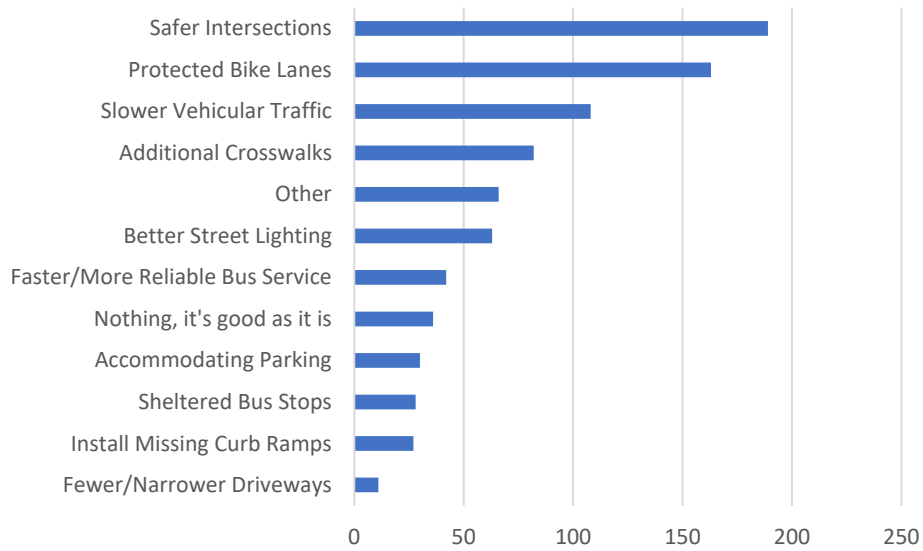
...between Four Mile Run Drive and County Line...



What are the changes you would most like to see on the Arlington Blvd to Columbia Pike segment? (Select your top 3)



What are the changes you would most like to see on this segment? (Select your top 3) (Columbia Pike to Four Mile Run Dr)



What are the changes you would most like to see
on this segment? (Select your top 3)
(Four Mile Run Dr to County Line)

