



# ActiveTO Major Road Closures:

Intercept Survey Evaluation  
Summary

**JANUARY 2021**



# Project Team

## The Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT)

A project of the environmental charity, Clean Air Partnership, TCAT advances knowledge and evidence to build support for safe and inclusive streets for walking and cycling.

## Park People

Park People supports and mobilizes people to help them activate the power of parks to improve the quality of life in cities across Canada.



# Project Background

- Weekend closures in Toronto of four major streets from May to October 2020 to give people more space to walk and cycle safely during the Covid-19 pandemic
- TCAT and Park People assisted the City with evaluation



# Study Objectives

- **Understand user perspectives**
  - Who is participating
- **Is the project meeting its goals?**
  - Increasing safe and equitable access to active modes of transportation during the Covid-19 pandemic



# Data Collection

- **Intercept surveys conducted in two locations on September 20, 2020**
  - Lake Shore Blvd W at Strachan
  - Lake Shore Blvd E at Coxwell
- **8 surveyors (four at each location)**
  - 4 hr shift; approached every person who passed moving slowly enough to stop
- **359 survey responses**



**Total Responses: 359**

<b>Cycling</b>	Lake Shore West	Lake Shore East
	85%	82%
<b>Walking and Jogging</b>	13%	10%
<b>Other</b> (roller blades, skate board, etc)	2%	8%

## Lake Shore West

	Survey Responses	Surrounding Neighbourhood	City of Toronto
Male	48%	49%	48%
Female	52%	51%	52%
65 yr and less	94%	89%	82%
Over 65	6%	11%	18%
Under \$50,000	10%	36%	38%
Over \$50,000	90%	64%	62%
BIPOC or visible minority	19%	37%	52%
Not BIPOC or visible minority	81%	63%	48%

*\*See full report for a detailed breakdown of age and income.*

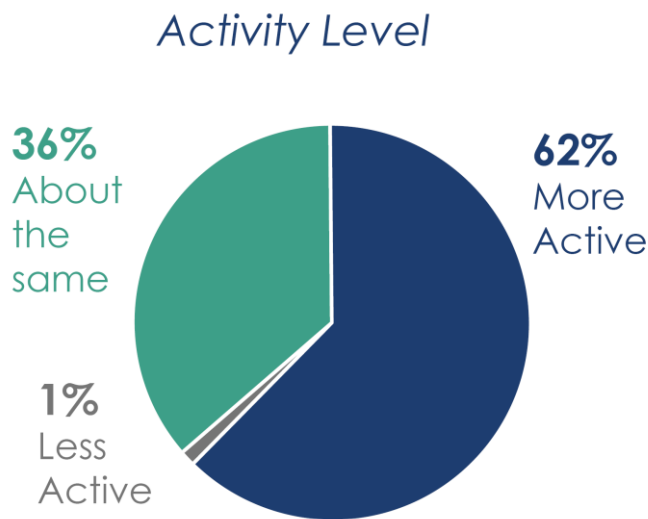
## Lake Shore East

	Survey Responses	Surrounding Neighbourhood	City of Toronto
Male	60%	49%	48%
Female	40%	51%	52%
65 yr and less	85%	85%	82%
Over 65	15%	15%	18%
Under \$50,000	14%	35%	38%
Over \$50,000	86%	65%	62%
BIPOC or visible minority	18%	31%	52%
Not BIPOC or visible minority	82%	69%	48%

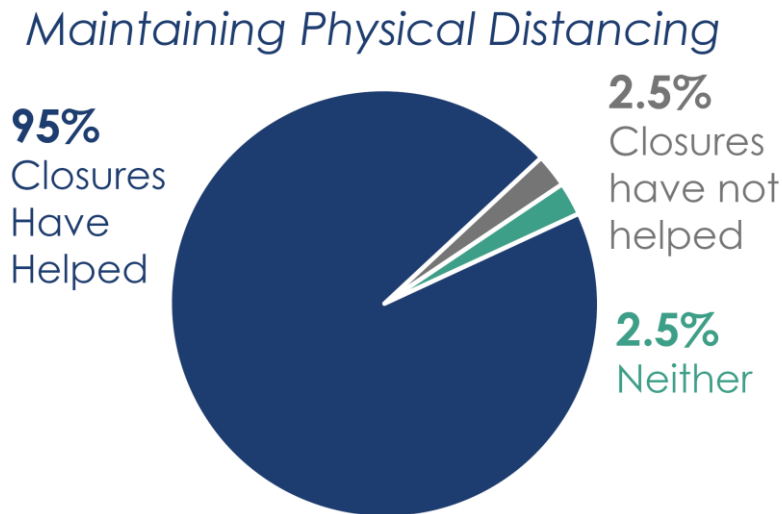
*\*See full report for a detailed breakdown of age and income.*



# Key Finding #1: The weekend closures helped Torontonians be active and stay safe during COVID-19.



Question: Since you first accessed the City's major road closures, have you been more active, less active, or about the same? n=317

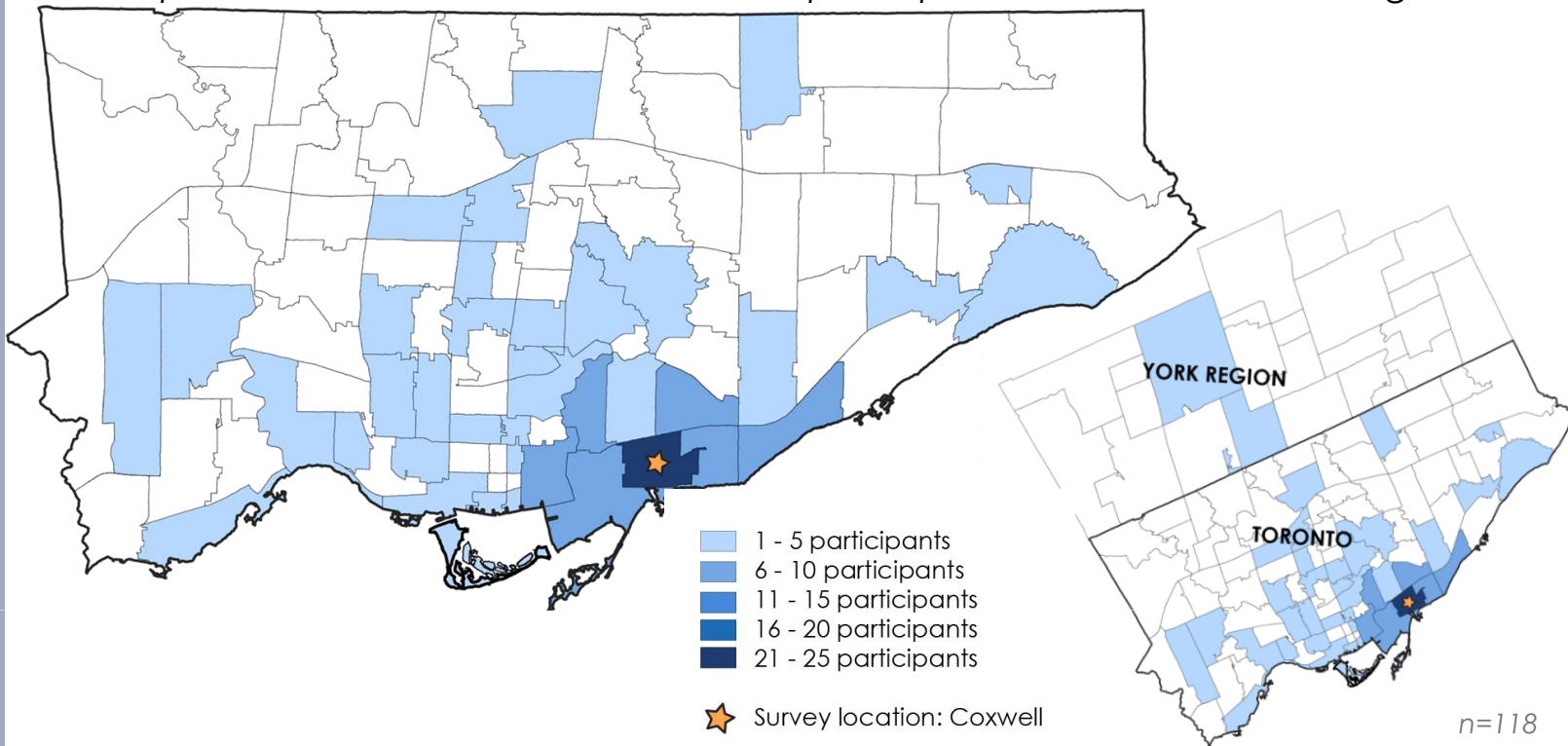


Question: To what extent do you agree/disagree with this statement: "The major road closures program has improved my ability to maintain physical distancing while walking, running, using a mobility device and/or cycling along this street." n=317

## Key Finding #2: Most people came from the immediate neighbourhood.

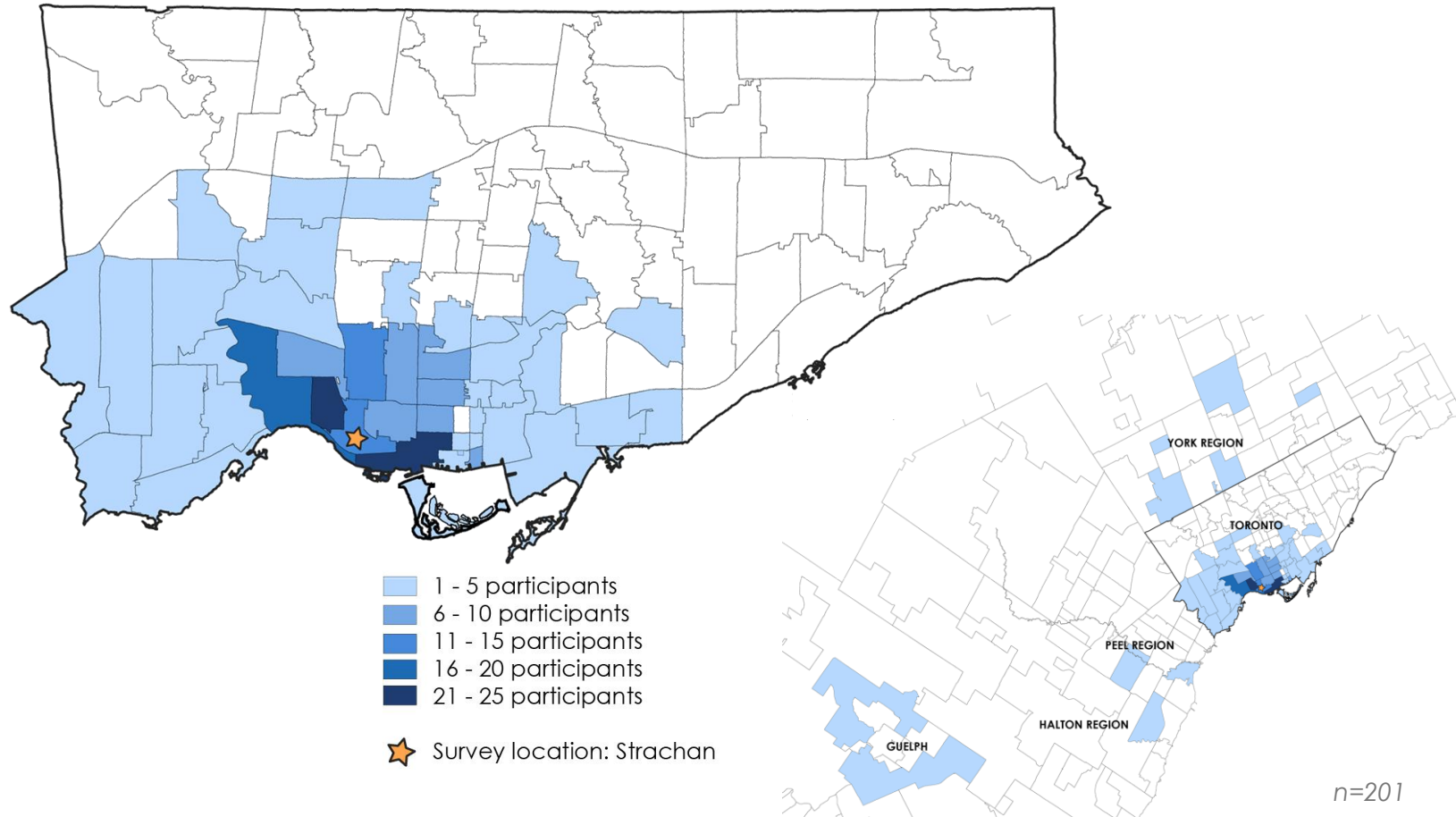
Origin Map: Lake Shore Blvd East

Home postal codes of Lake Shore Blvd East participants, Toronto inset and region

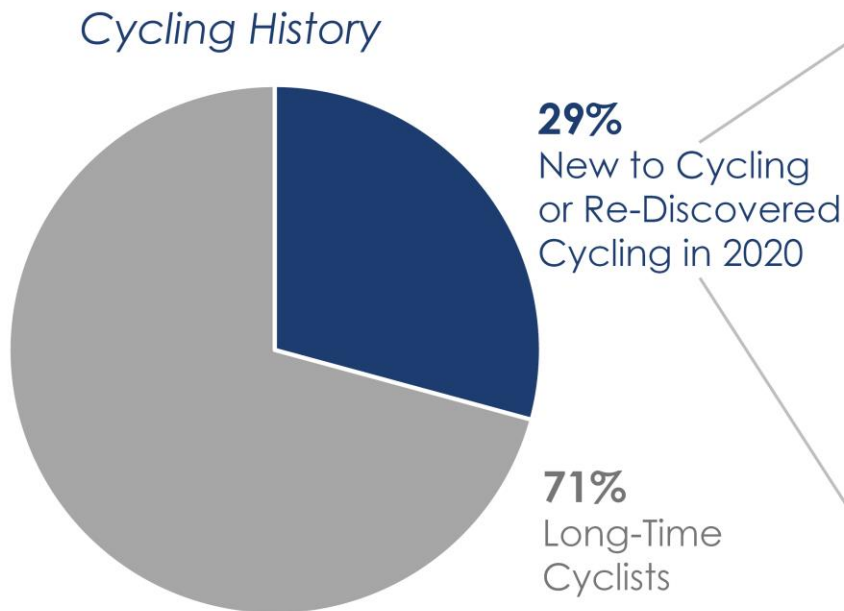


## Origin Map: Lake Shore Blvd West

Home postal codes of Lake Shore Blvd West participants, Toronto inset and region



# Key Finding #3: The weekend closures are growing cycling in Toronto.



Has the space provided by the weekend road closures helped you discover or re-discover cycling?

Yes	77%
Unsure	4%
Not at all	19%

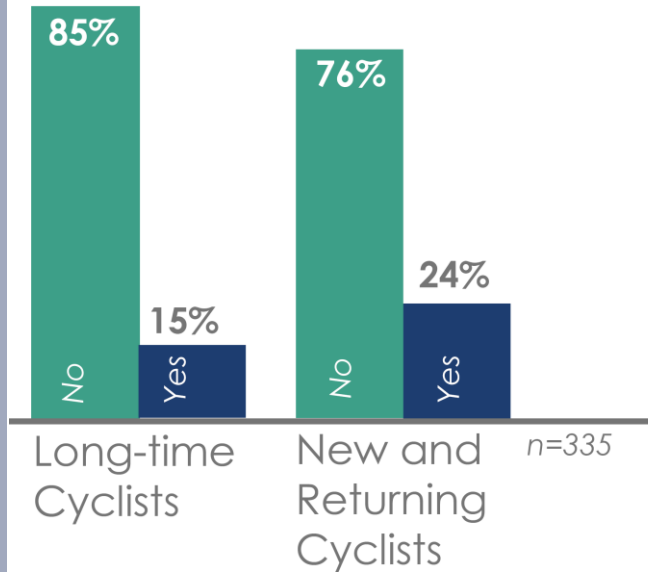
n=100

Question: How long have you been cycling?  
n=318 (Only those on bike were asked this question.)

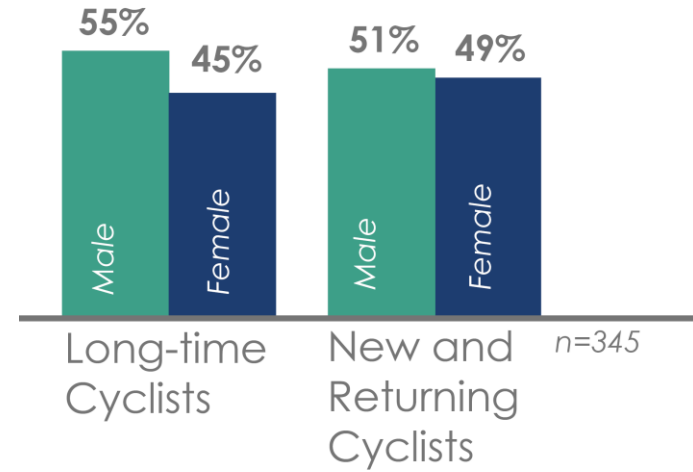
## Key Finding #4: The weekend closures are diversifying cycling in Toronto in some respects.

*New cyclists and those returning to cycling included more women and more people identifying as BIPOC compared with long-time cyclists. However, overall, cyclists who identify as BIPOC, female, have low income, or are older adults were under-represented.*

### Black, Indigenous or Person of Colour

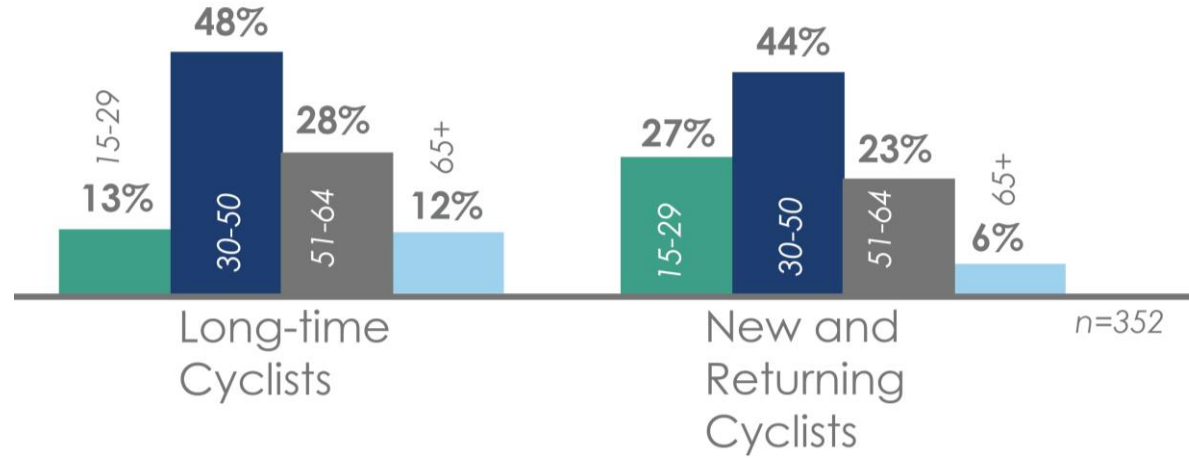


### Gender

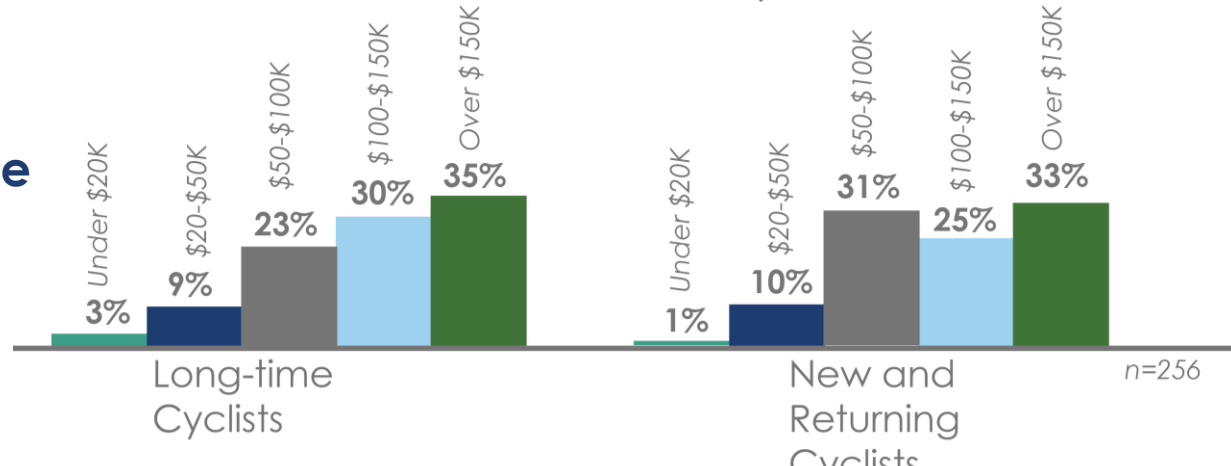


Older adults and people with low income were under-represented even among new and returning cyclists

## Age

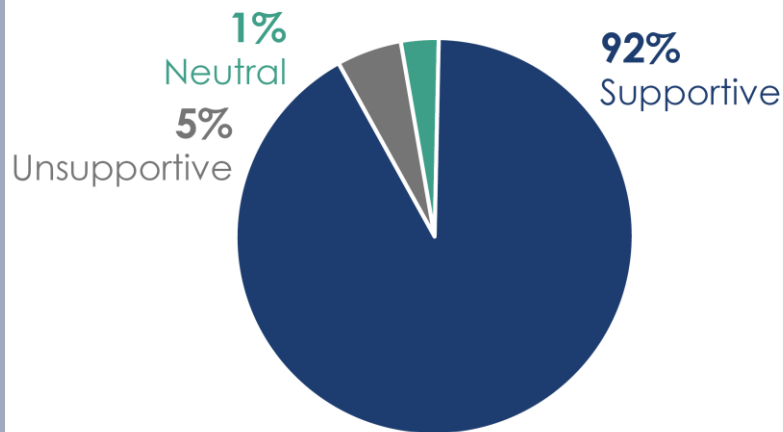


## Income



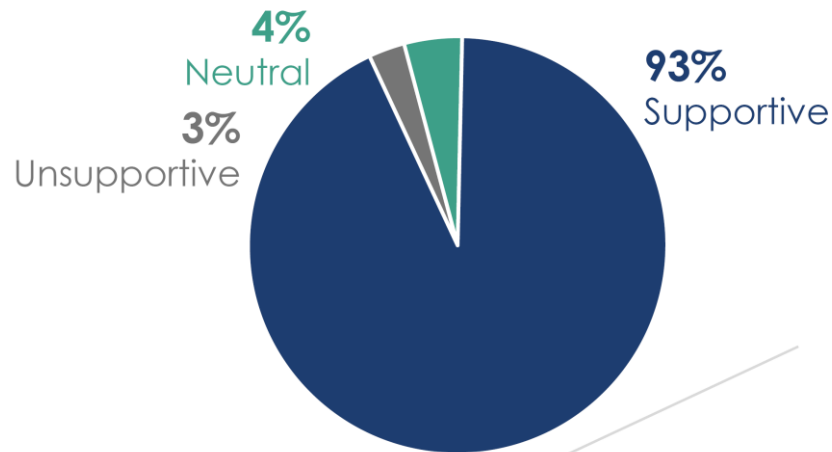
# Key Finding #5: There is high support for continuing the closures, both during and after COVID-19.

Continuation During Pandemic



Question: The Major Road Closures program is planned to end on the last weekend of September. Please rate your support for the program continuing on a temporary basis during the Covid-19 pandemic. n=359

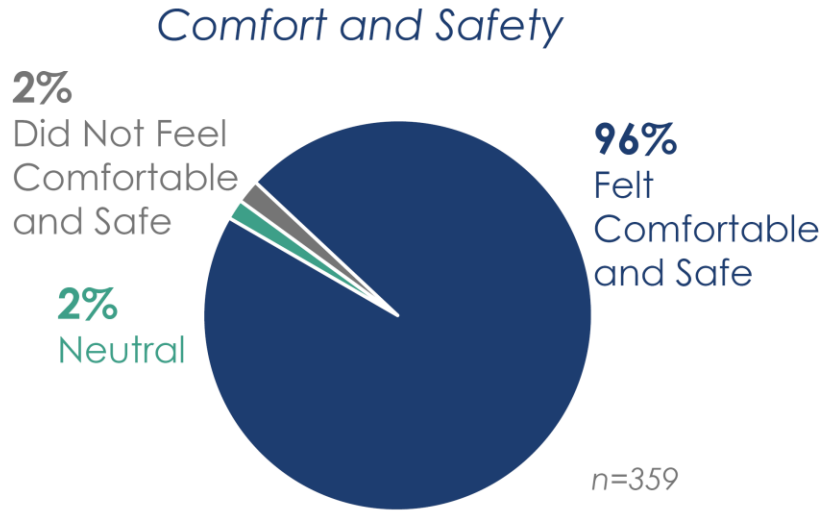
Continuation After Pandemic



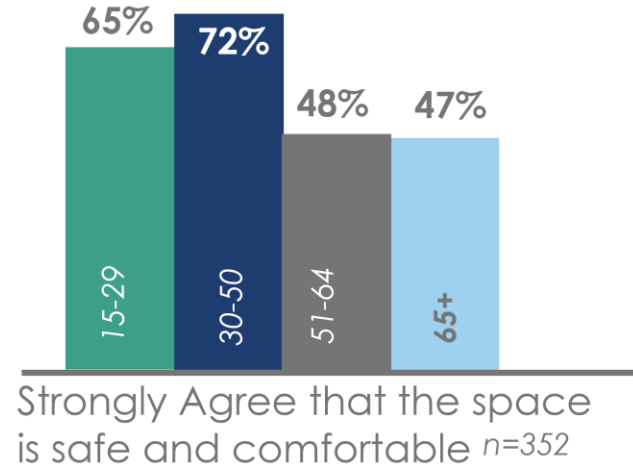
Question: Please rate your support for the program continuing on a regular basis after the Covid-19 pandemic. n=358

## Key Finding #6: For people using them, the weekend closures were mostly issue-free.

Nearly all agreed that the space felt safe and comfortable for walking and cycling. However, fewer older adults expressed strong agreement.



Comfort and Safety by Age



Question: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "The space provided by the weekend road closures is safe and comfortable for walking and cycling." Strongly Agree; Agree; Neither Agree nor Disagree; Disagree; Strongly Disagree



74% reported no issues.

Issues Reported		
	LW	LE
Conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists/crowded	7.2%	1.9%
Timing/extension issues (e.g. closes too soon, doesn't go far enough)	1.9%	1.4%
Infrastructure safety issues (e.g. physical separation needed between cyclists and pedestrians; gaps in barriers too narrow)	1.1%	1.7%
Issues with cars/for drivers (e.g. encroaching on space, traffic jams)	0.8%	1.9%
Poor location for Major Road Closures route	0.3%	1.7%
Requires additional materials (barriers, signage, etc.)	0.8%	1.1%
Issues with police (not helpful, horse droppings)	0.8%	0.6%
People not following physical distancing guidelines	1.1%	0%
Other	1.1%	0.3%

n=359

"Drivers cut in front of cyclists to access the park."

"Creates traffic, but I am a driver who has sat in the traffic jams and I still think it's worth it."

"Slow people should go on right and do we need to provide access to cars?"

"At intersections, the gap in the barriers is too narrow and creates an unsafe situation when lots of cyclists pass through."

# Further Information

For more detailed findings, consult the full report:  
*ActiveTO Major Road Closures Intercept Survey  
Evaluation Report.*

[www.tcat.ca/resources](http://www.tcat.ca/resources)

TCAT and Park People worked collaboratively on two ActiveTO studies. TCAT led an evaluation of the ActiveTO Weekend Road Closures, as outlined in this report. Park People led an evaluation of Destination Danforth, the results of which can be found at [www.parkpeople.ca/resources/en](http://www.parkpeople.ca/resources/en).

