Urban Growth Plan: Public Engagement Update
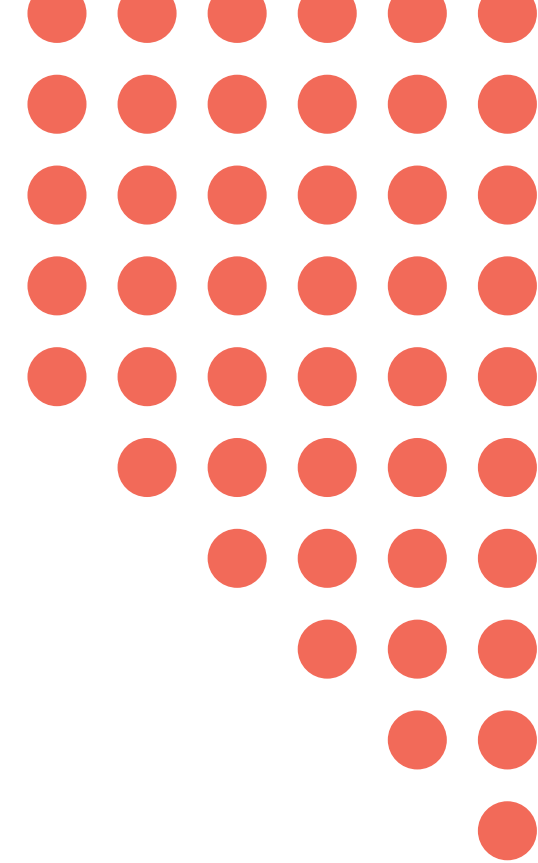
LFUCG Planning Commission
March 21, 2024

CivicLex

imagine LEXINGTON | 2024 URBAN GROWTH PLAN

What is CivicLex?

We're a nonprofit working to improve the civic health of Lexington–Fayette County, Kentucky.

We help residents understand local government, help local government connect with residents, and are building a community in which everyone can meaningfully participate in the decisions that shape where they live.

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CivicLex and the 2024 Urban Growth Plan

Our Role: Community Engagement
- High quality and accessible public engagement benefits residents, stakeholders, and decision makers
- Layering what we know from the Comprehensive Plan onto the sites recommended for inclusion

Project Staff
- Kit Anderson, Deputy Director
- Richard Young, Executive Director
- Haley Wartell, Communications and Social Media
- Megan Gulla, Director of Programs

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UGP Community Engagement Activities

Phase 1
(40%)

- Urban Growth Kickoff Meeting
- Urban Growth Website
- Deep dive into OTT Data
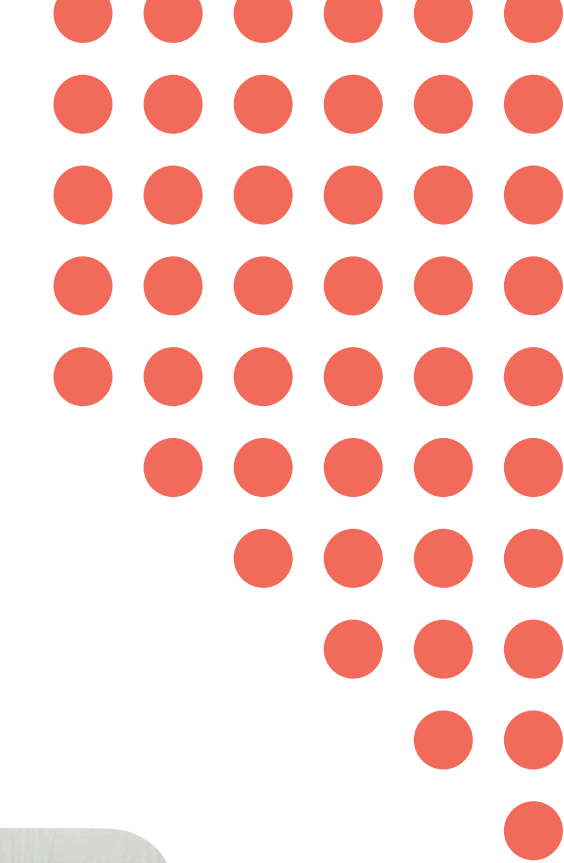- Urban Growth Survey 1
- Tabling and in-person engagement

Phase 2
(35%)

- Design Workshop
- Focus Groups
- Urban Growth Festival
- Maintenance of Urban Growth Website

Phase 3
(20%)

- Final Urban Growth Survey
- Open House event
- Urban Growth Festival

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In-Person Engagement

UGP Kickoff at Greyline Station
December 6, 2023

Estimated residents engaged: 90

Tabling at Beaumont Library, Tates Creek Library, Whitaker YMCA, North Lexington YMCA, Julietta Market
February and March, 2024

Estimated residents engaged: 300

Other in-person events hosted by CivicLex, including City Budget Price is Right at UK and Civic Breakfast at Woodhill Community Center
February and March, 2024

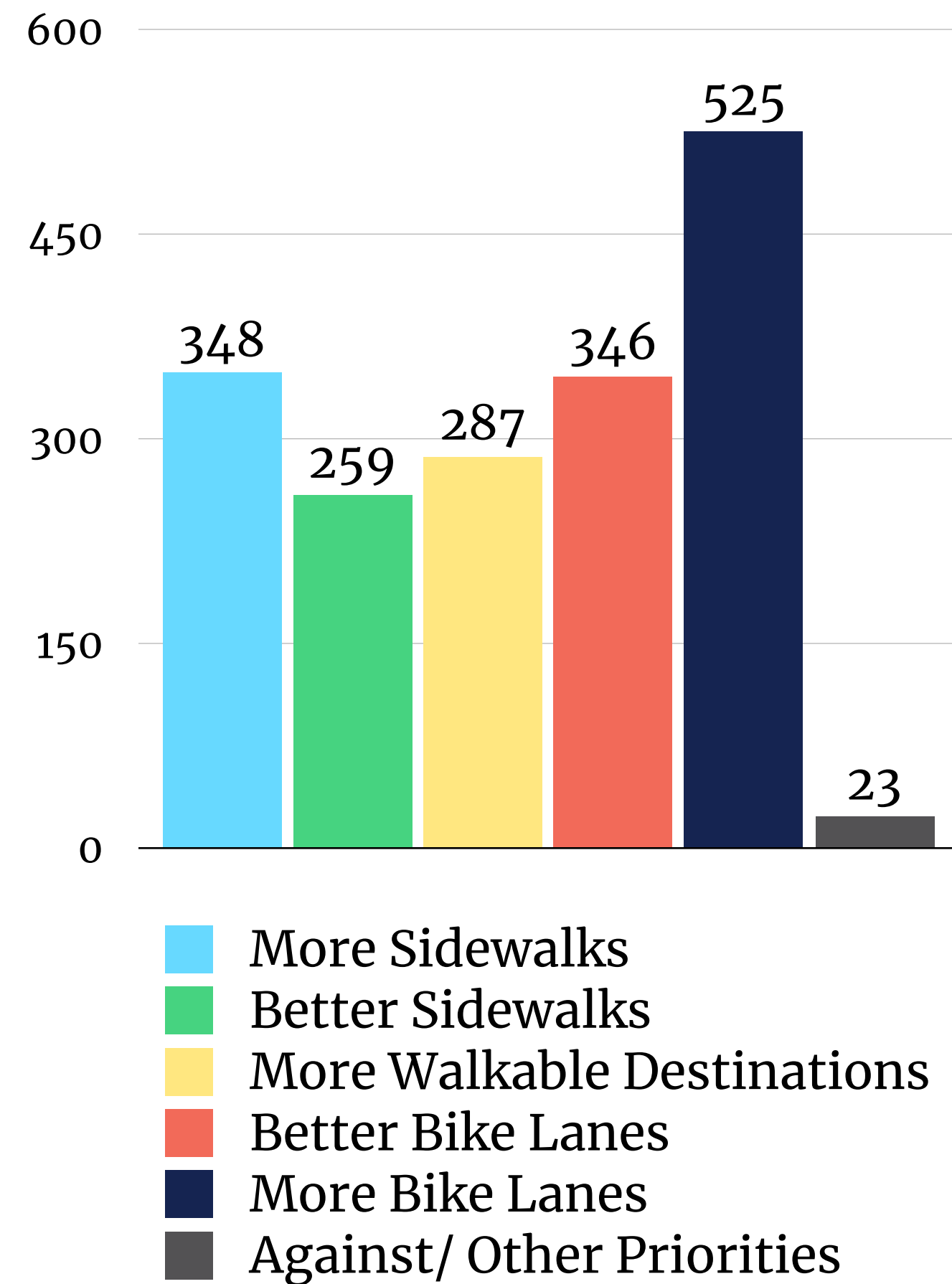Estimated residents engaged: 160

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On the Table Data

Sub-coding

- The original On the Table data was organized by 31 commonly occurring topics ("codes")
- Two key concessions of initial codes: no value judgements, not a detailed understanding
- In partnership with the University of Kentucky's College of Community and Leadership Development, we investigated the top seven most popular codes to get a more detailed, value based understanding of what respondents were saying inside these codes
- Supervised by Kit Anderson, Dr. Karen Rignall, and Dr. Nicole Brezeale

Please note: The following slides contain preliminary findings
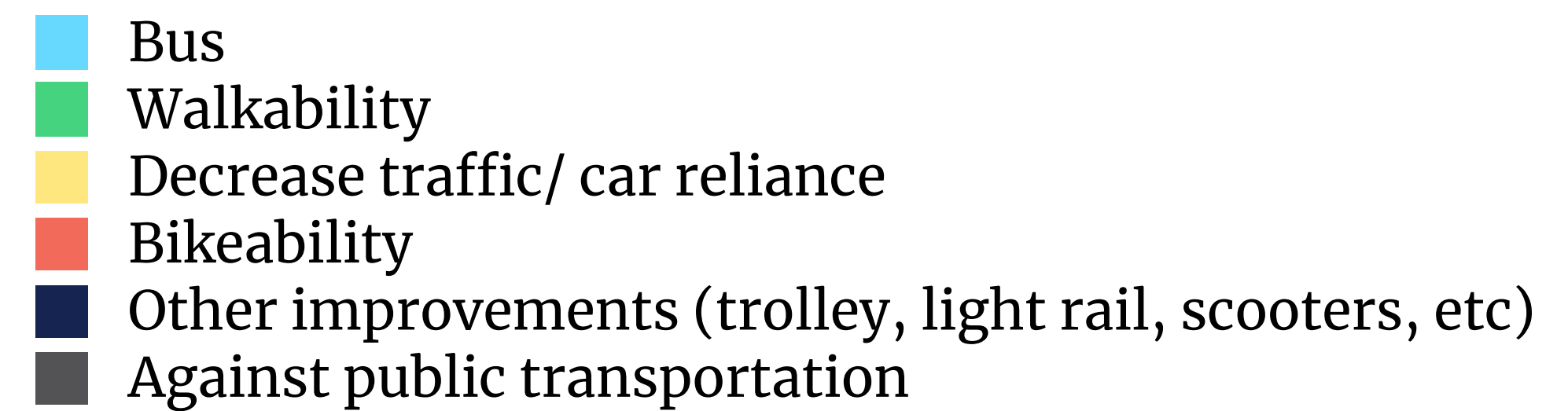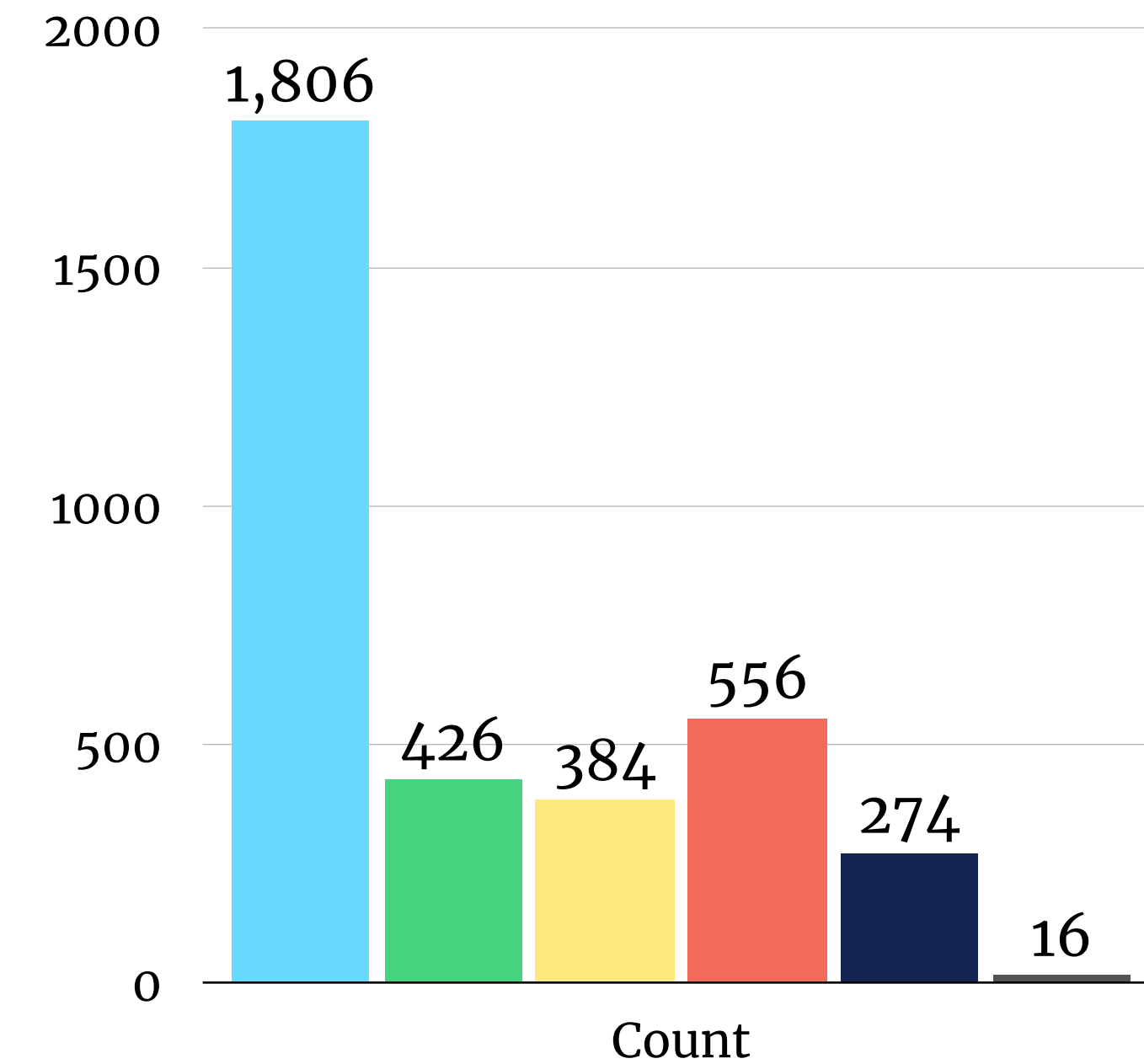
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Walkability, Bikeability, and Accessibility

- 1,789 responses
- Codes:

    1. **More bike lanes:** bike lanes, trails, and paths
    2. **More sidewalks:** walking paths and trails
    3. **Better bike lanes:** more protected, better maintained, more accessible/connected, *"more bikeability"*
    4. **More walkable destinations:** businesses, parks, neighborhoods, *"more walkability"*
    5. **Better sidewalks:** safer, better maintained, more ADA accessible, with landscaping

Legend:
- More Sidewalks
- Better Sidewalks
- More Walkable Destinations
- Better Bike Lanes
- More Bike Lanes
- Against/ Other Priorities

Bar values: 348, 259, 287, 346, 525, 23

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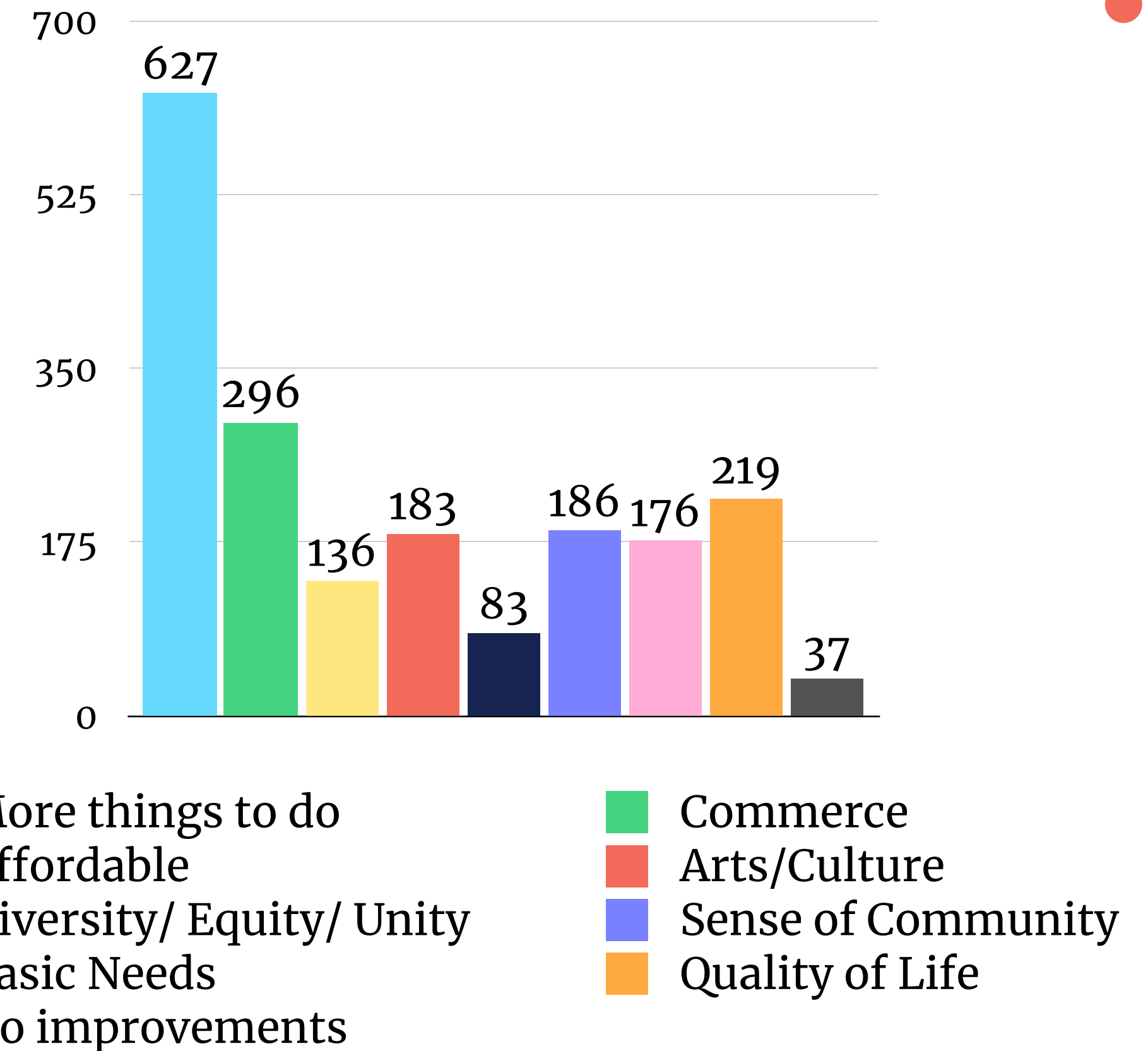
Preliminary Findings

Public Transportation*

- 1,744 responses
- Codes:
  1. **Bus:** Improve or increase bus service, adding stops, adding routes, more consistency
  2. **Bikeability**: add, connect, improve bike lanes and trails
  3. **Walkability:** adding, connecting sidewalks and walking paths
  4. **Decrease traffic/ car reliance:** less traffic, less car-centric developments, more traffic management
  5. **Other Improvements:** trolley, light rail, scooters
  6. **Against public transportation**: reduce/remove public transportation, don't add more

Bar chart values: 1,806 (Bus), 426 (Walkability), 384 (Decrease traffic/ car reliance), 556 (Bikeability), 274 (Other improvements), 16 (Against public transportation)

Legend:
- Bus
- Walkability
- Decrease traffic/ car reliance
- Bikeability
- Other improvements (trolley, light rail, scooters, etc)
- Against public transportation

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*Public Transportation analysis completed by Krasi Staykov, OTT Microgrant Recipient

Amenities & Quality of Life

- 1,263 responses
- Codes:
  1. **More things to do:** activities, events, festivals, entertainment
  2. **Commerce**: retail, restaurants, nightlife, local businesses
  3. **Quality of life:** not included in other codes, includes noise, "vice", general health
  4. **Sense of community**: sense of connection, belonging, neighborhood pride
  5. **Arts/Culture:** events and venues for arts and culture, concerts, public art, museums
  6. **Basic needs**: grocery stores, laundromats, healthcare, childcare
  7. **Affordable**: activities and amenities that are low cost or free
  8. **Diversity/Equity/Unity:** increasing or celebrating diversity or equity, bringing people together
  9. **No improvements:** satisfied with current level of amenities and quality of life

Legend:
- More things to do
- Affordable
- Diversity/ Equity/ Unity
- Basic Needs
- No improvements
- Commerce
- Arts/Culture
- Sense of Community
- Quality of Life

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Preliminary Findings

Environmental Sustainability

- 1,263 responses
- Codes
    1. **Waste management:** recycling, composting, litter
    2. **Renewable energy:** solar panels, electric vehicles, other "clean energy sources"
    3. **General environmental protection,** not specific to other codes
    4. **Air and water quality:** pollution, waterway preservation, harmful materials
    5. **Yards/lawns:** pollinator friendly yards, eco friendly fertilizes, grass alternatives, gardens, native plants
    6. **Anti/other priorities:** against environmental protection or specifically state need to prioritize other things

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Preliminary Findings
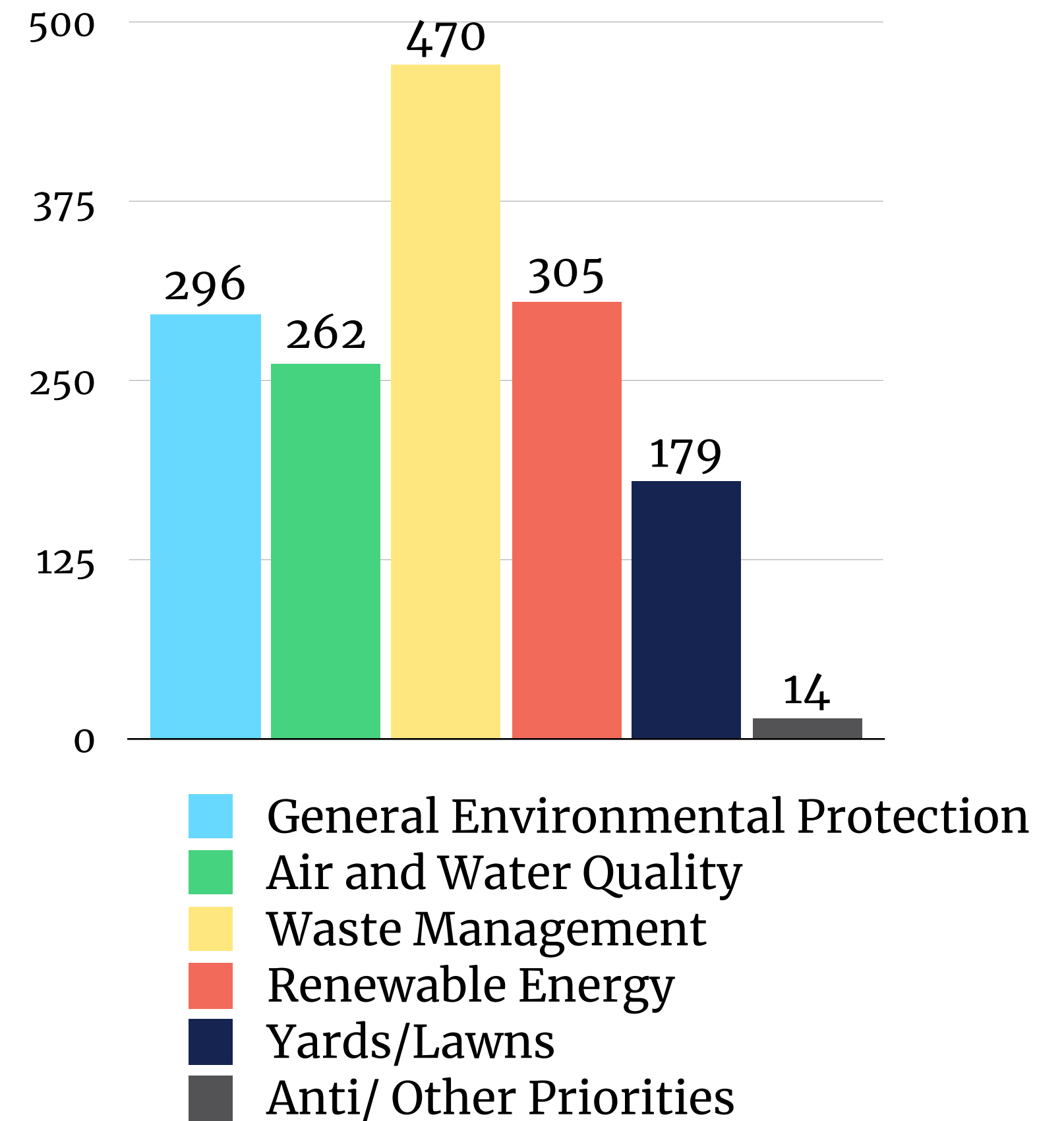
Style of Development

- 1,188 responses
- Codes:
  1. **Increase density:** more denser, development including infill, up not out, missing middle, smart growth
  2. **Decrease density/ development:** concerns about overdevelopment, including overcrowding, historic preservation, safety of density
  3. **Environmental Sustainability**: eco friendly development, LEED certification, environmental context
 4. **Development for Equity:** specifically increase equity, decrease segregation, increase accessibility

Chart values:
- Increase Density: 524
- Decrease Density/ development: 141
- Equity: 59
- Environmental Sustainability: 97

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Preliminary Findings
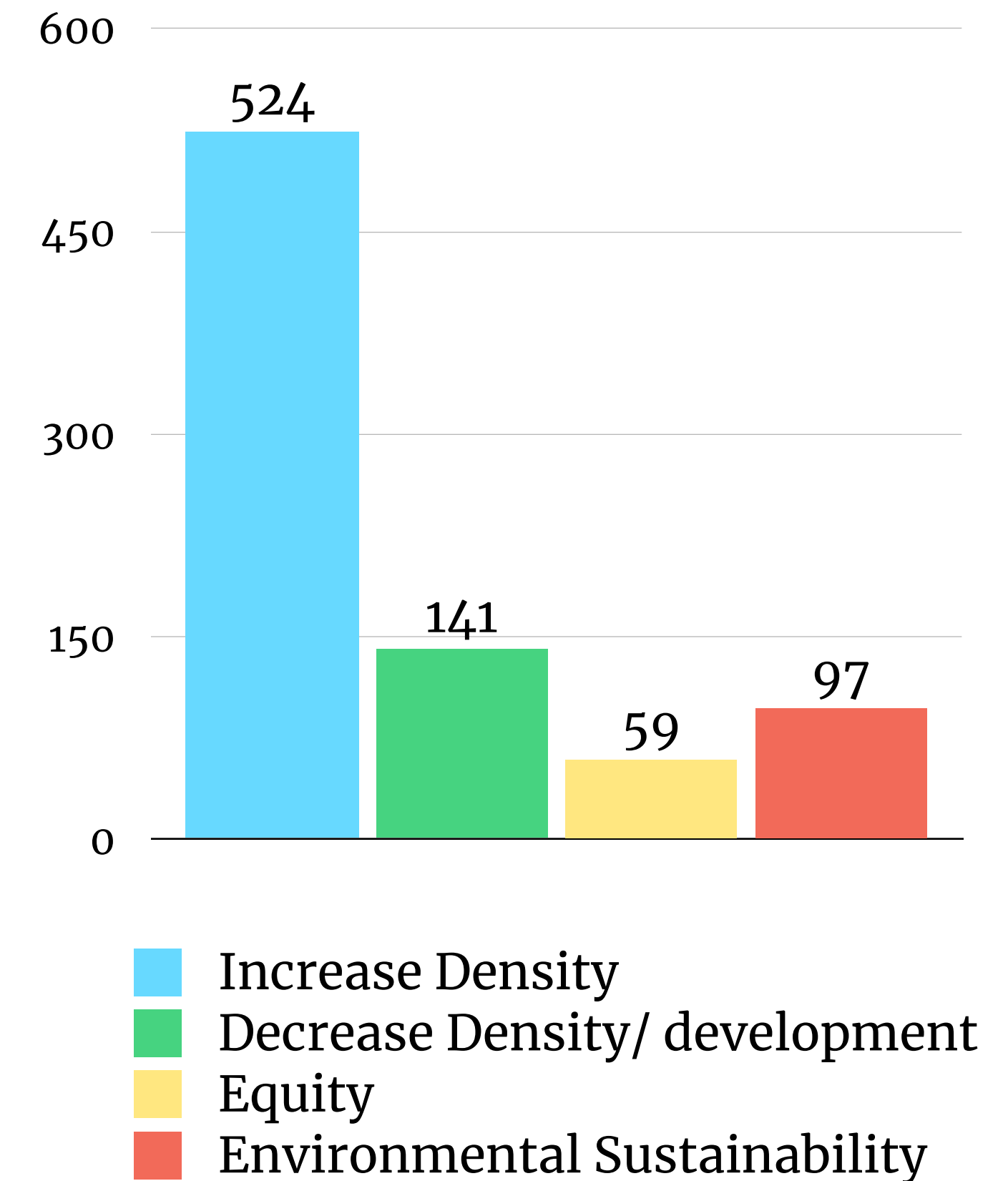
Urban Greenspaces

- 1,188 responses
- Codes:
  1. **More Parks/Greenspaces**: more parks, more green spaces, requesting a specific new type of park
  2. **Protect existing parks/greenspaces**: maintain existing PGS
  3. **Better parks/ greenspaces**: better maintained, safer, open more, better infrastructure, adding features
  4. **Expansion parks/ greenspaces**: specifically requesting PGS in newly developed areas
  5. **Anti/other priorities**: against PGS, specifically reference prioritizing other things

Legend:
- More Parks/Greenspaces
- Better Parks/Greenspaces
- Protect Existing Parks/Greenspaces
- Activation of Parks/Greenspace
- Expansion Parks/Greenspaces
- Anti/Other Priorities

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Preliminary Findings
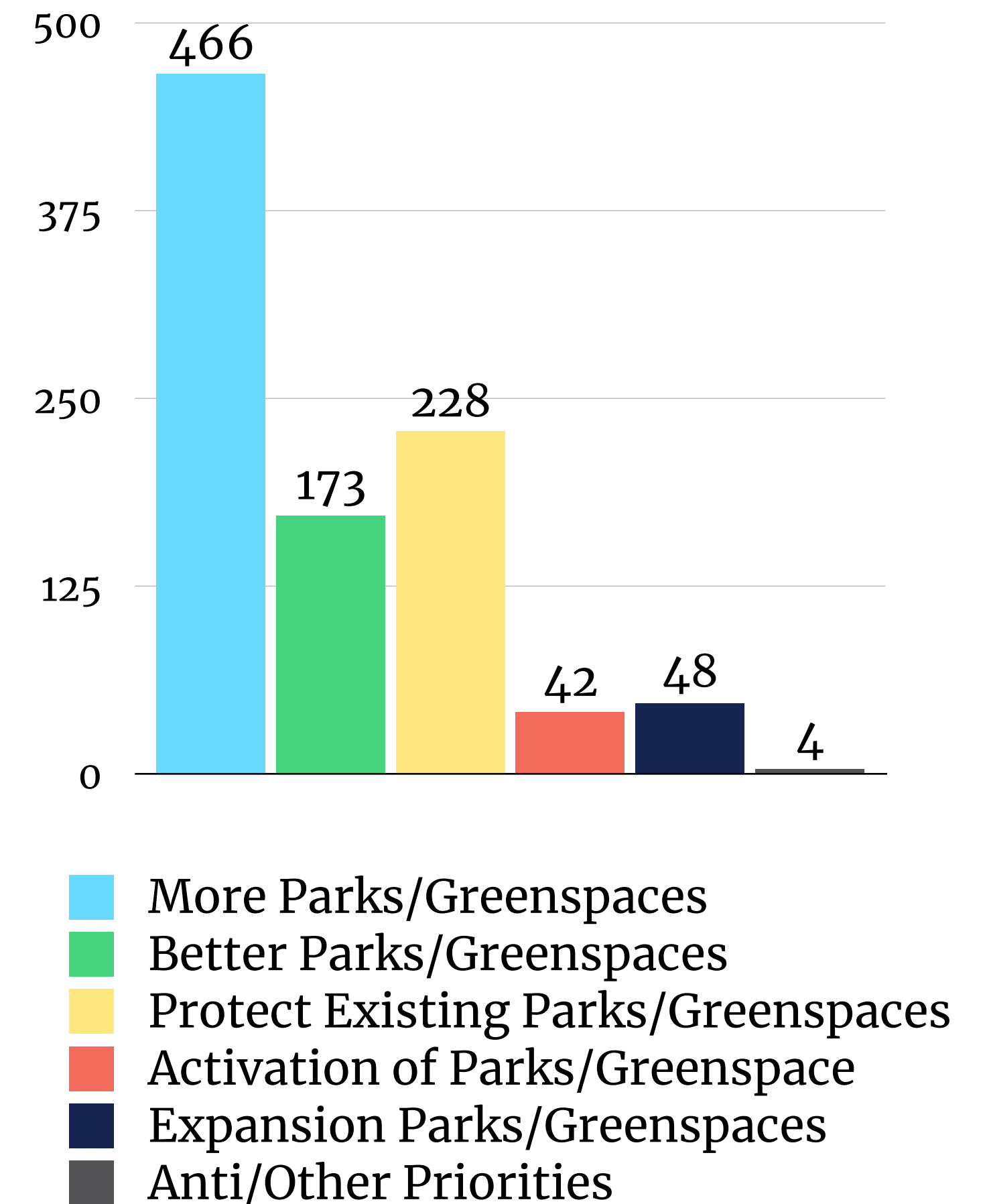
Housing Affordability

- 874 responses
- Codes:
    1. **More affordable housing**: more affordable housing for renting or owning, lower cost housing, more affordable units, "housing is too expensive"
    2. **Solutions/ideas:** specific policy suggestions or ideas to increase affordable housing
    3. **Better affordable housing:** improving the location, condition, accessibility, or safety of existing affordable housing
    4. **Contributing factors**: other topics that make housing more difficult (wages, cost of living, childcare)
    5. **Anti/other priorities:** against affordable housing, explicitly state to prioritize other things

Legend:
- More Affordable Housing
- Better Affordable Housing
- Contributing Factors
- Solutions/Ideas
- Anti/ Other Priorities

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Preliminary Findings
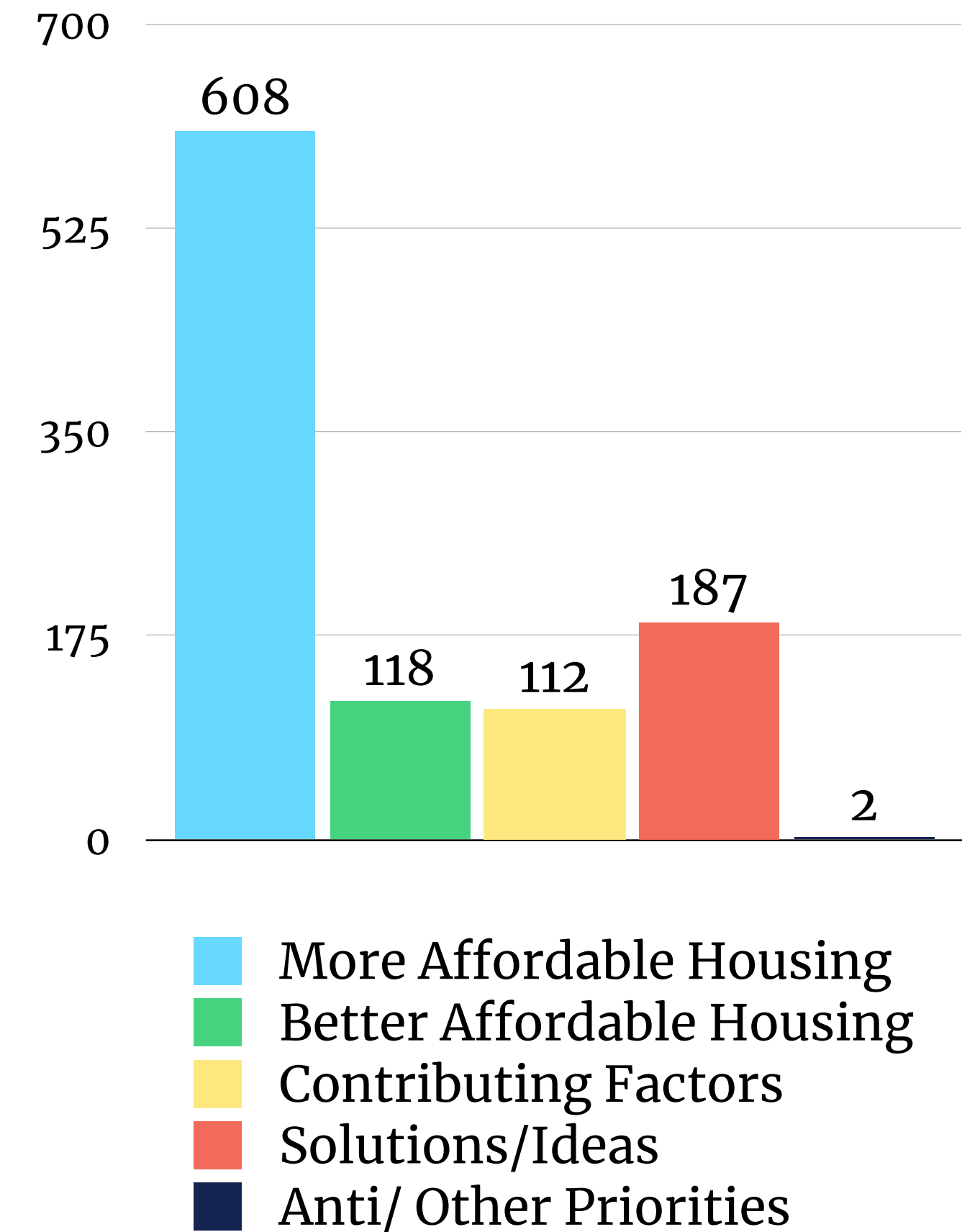
Urban Growth Survey

- Opened late November 2023, 984 responses*
- Designed to add clarity, prioritization to public input from Comprehensive Plan
- Includes information about Urban Growth Plan, prize drawing
- Promotion methods:
  - In-person engagement
  - Social media
  - Newsletters/mailing lists
  - Flyers
  - Cards
- 667 respondents gave email address to receive updates about the plan


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*Preliminary findings. Last updated 3/15/24

UGP Survey: Neighborhoods

- 824 of 984 answered open response
- Other common priorities:
  - Housing affordability + distribution
  - Environmental conservation
  - Traffic congestion
  - Aesthetics
  - Trees
  - Density and infill
  - Transit access
  - Grocery stores

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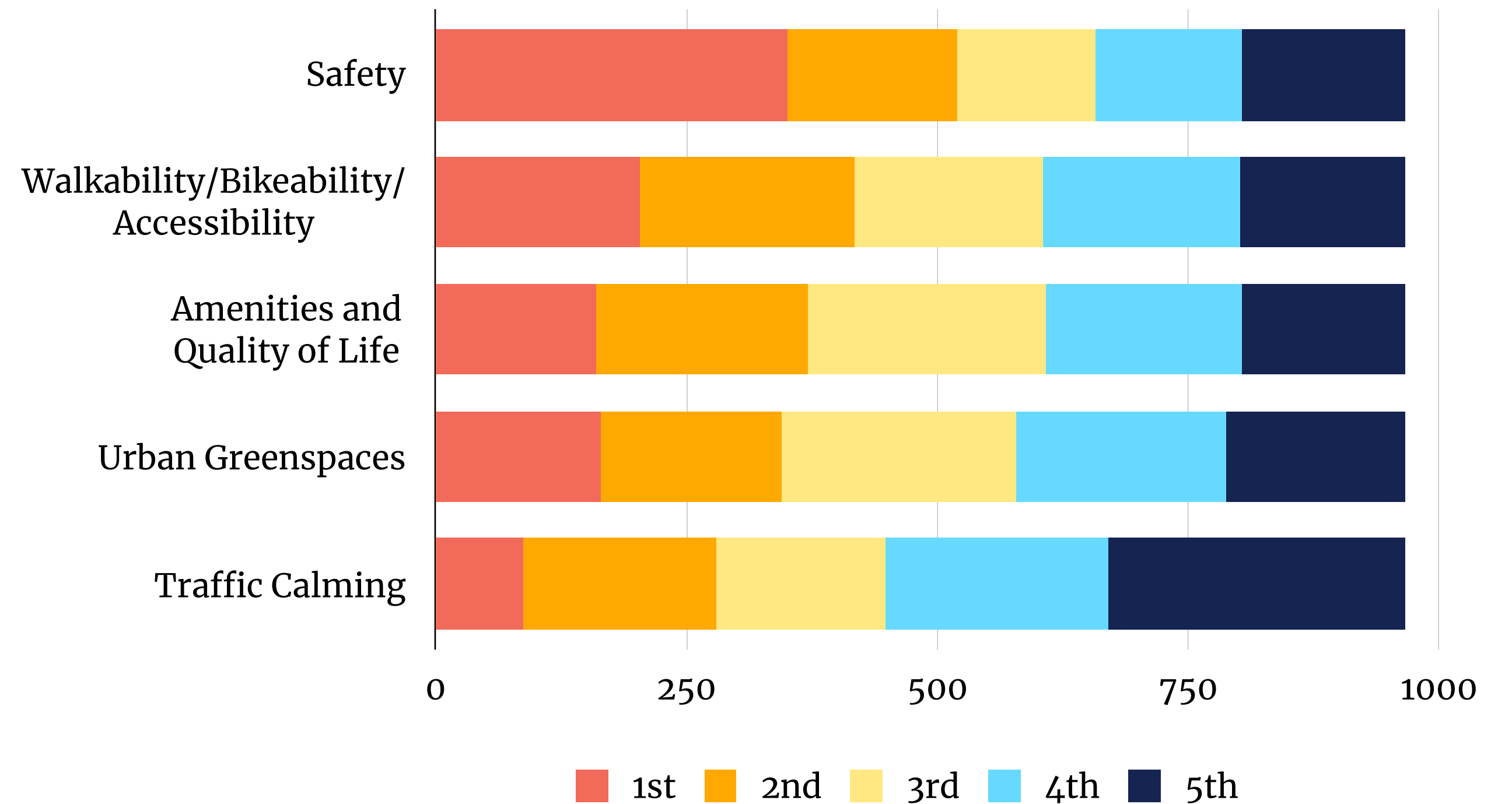
UGP Survey: Environment

- 631 of 994 answered open response
- Other common topics:
  - No priorities/no other priorities
  - Public transportation
  - Solar energy
  - Water pollution
  - Erosion and watersheds
  - Infill development
  - Wildlife protection
  - Walkability

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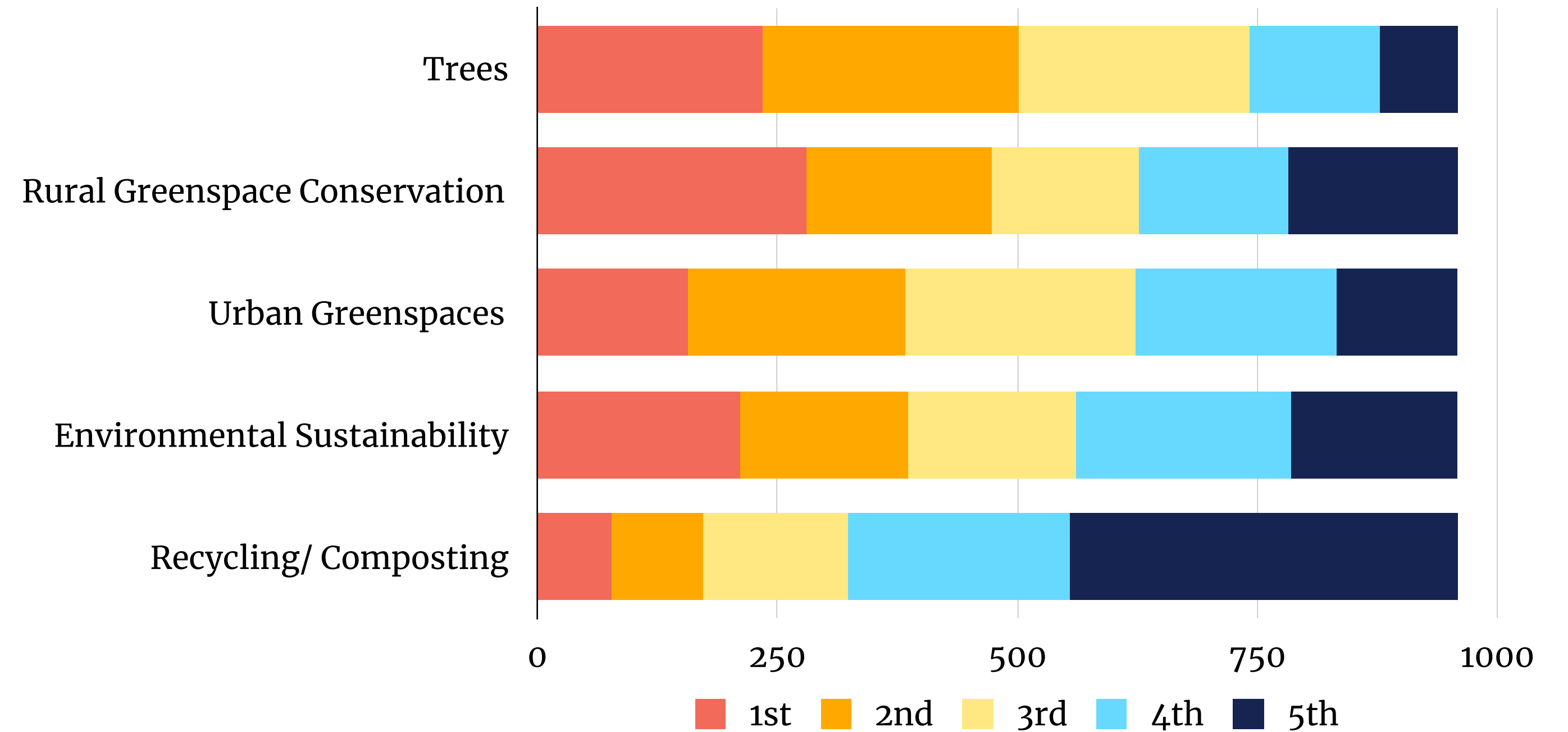
UGP Survey: Jobs & Prosperity

- 522 of 994 answered open response
- Other common topics:
  - Small businesses
  - Roads and traffic
  - Transportation access
  - Quality/ type of jobs
  - Cost of living
  - Farmland conservation

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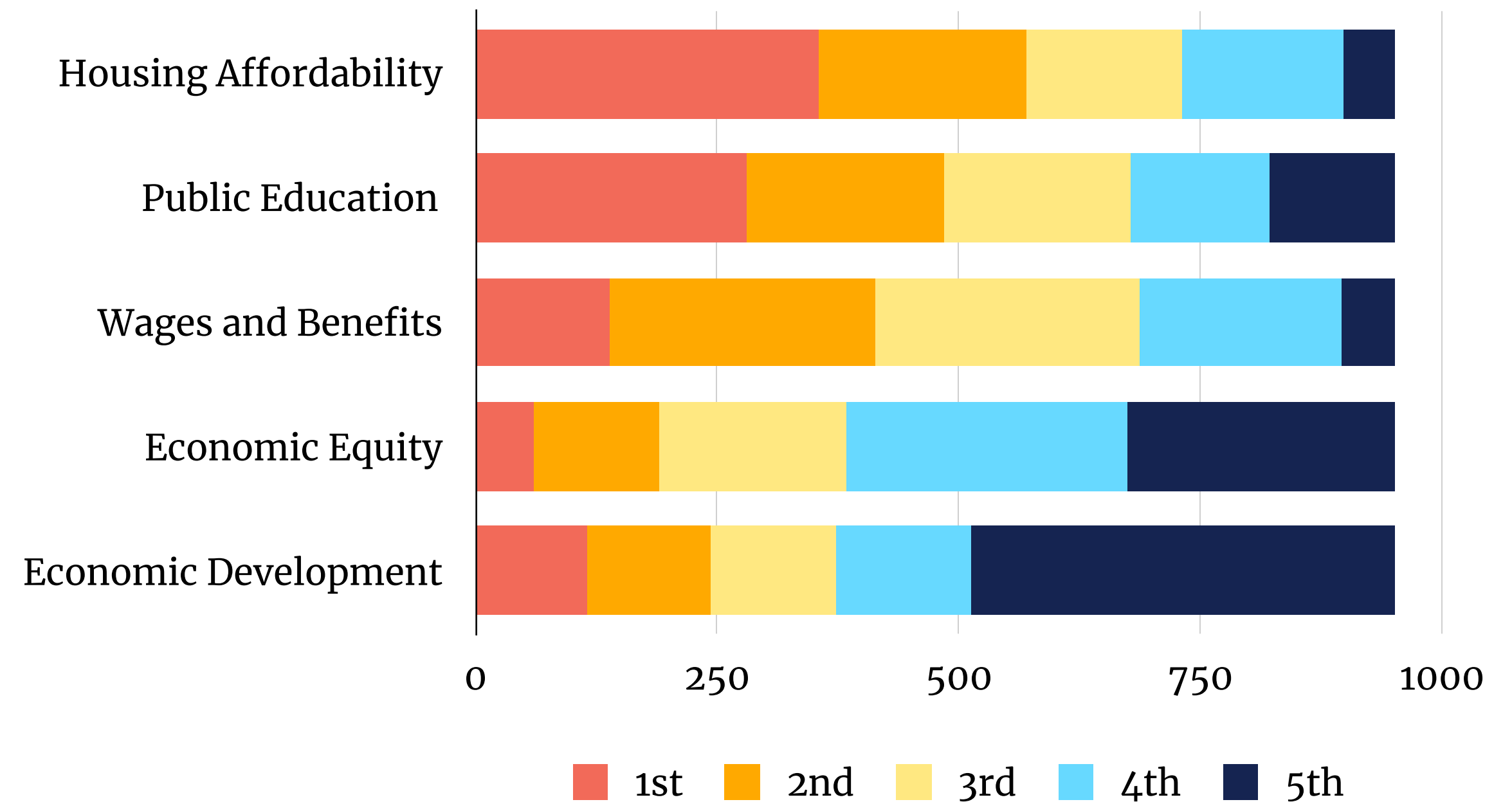
UGP Survey: Transportation

- 511 of 994 answered open response
- Other common topics:
  - Further elaboration on listed topics
    - Traffic congestion specific to new developments
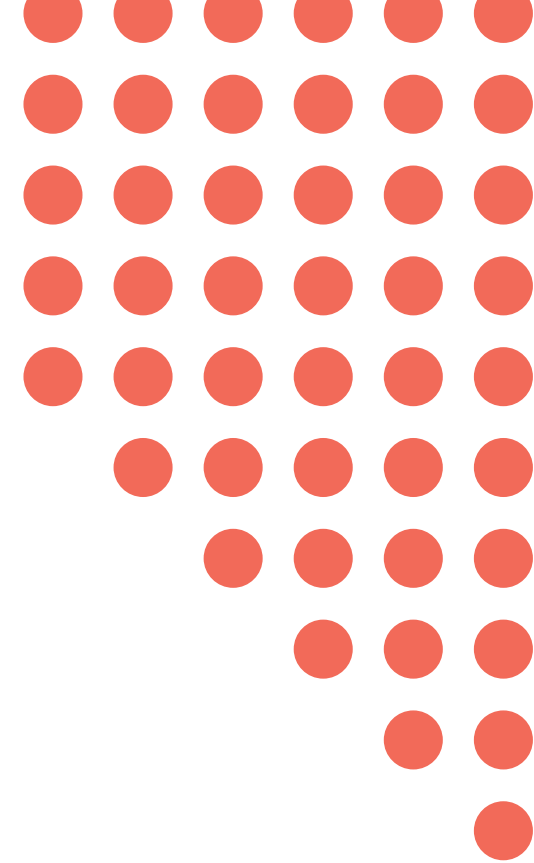   - Speeding in rural areas
    - Bicycle and pedestrian safety
    - Regional connectivity

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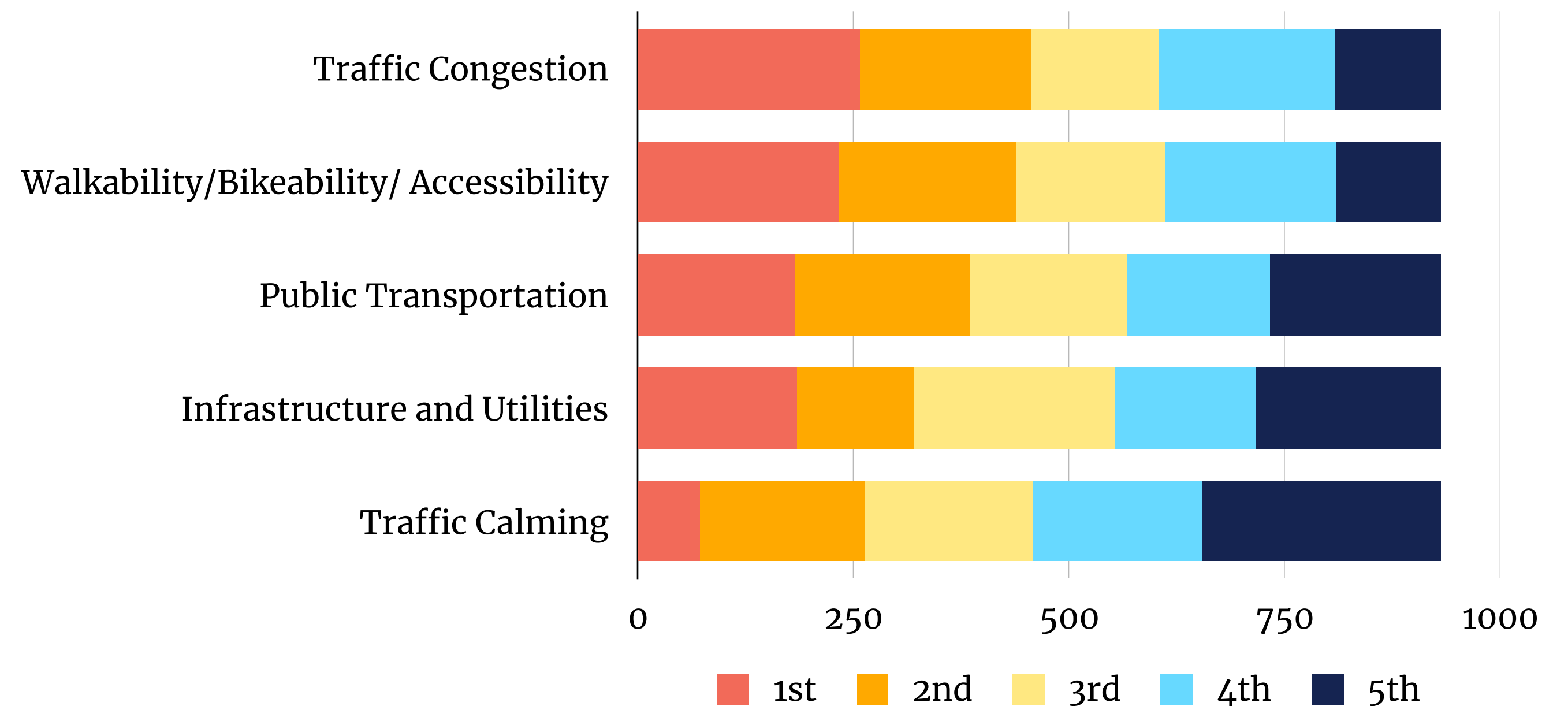
UGP Survey: Equity

- 376 of 994 answered open response
- Other common topics:
  - Emphasis on housing, different development types
  - Equity as a lower concern
  - Access to mental health services
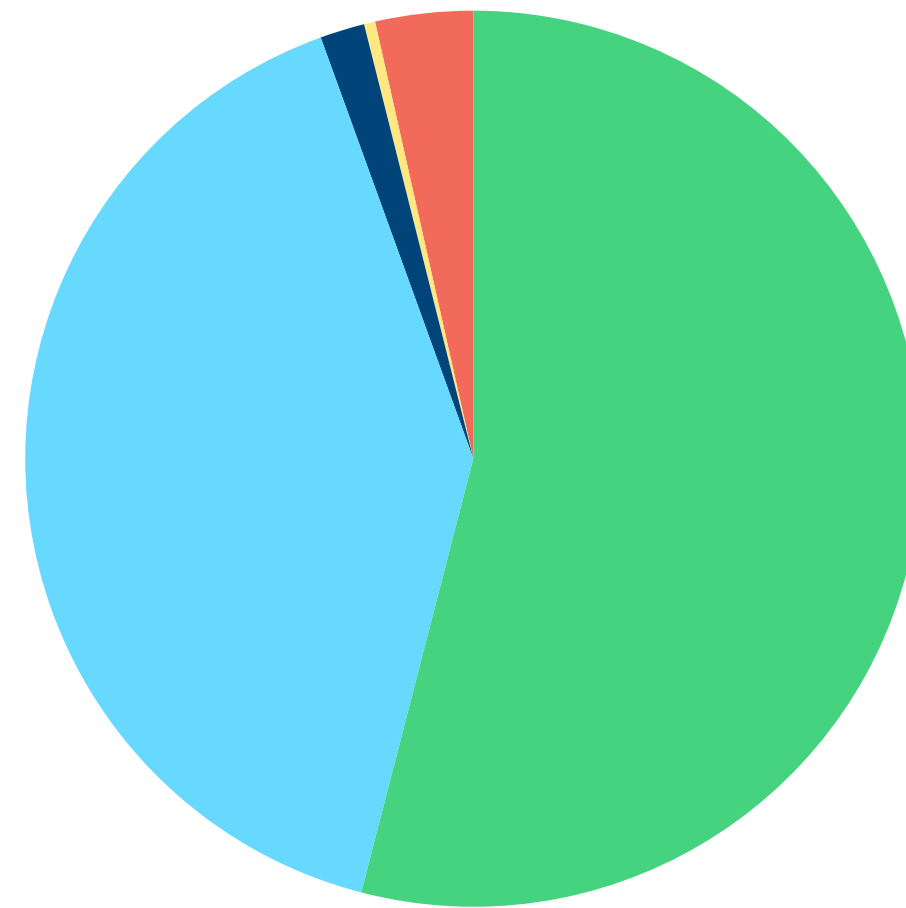 - Education funding and access
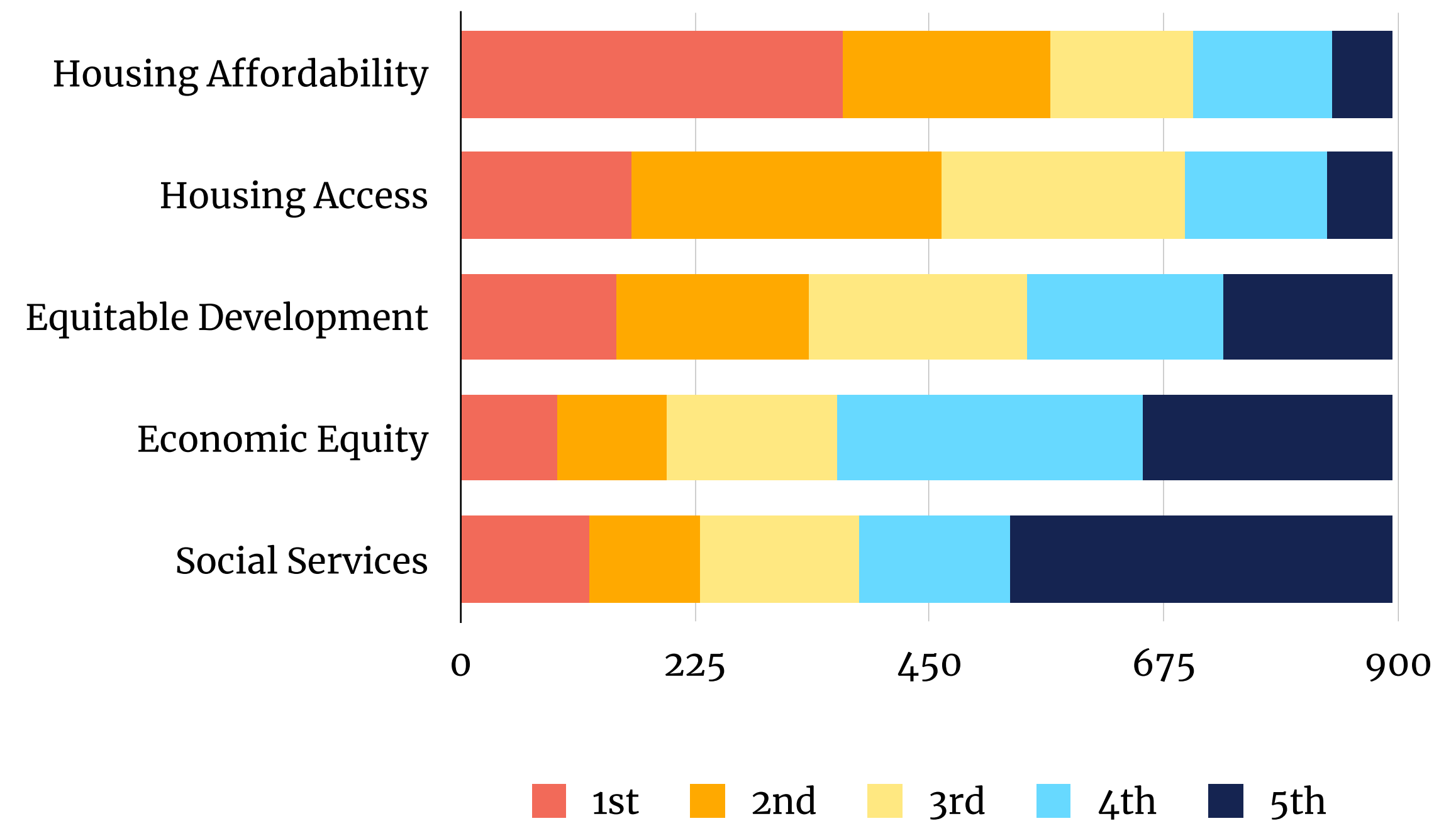
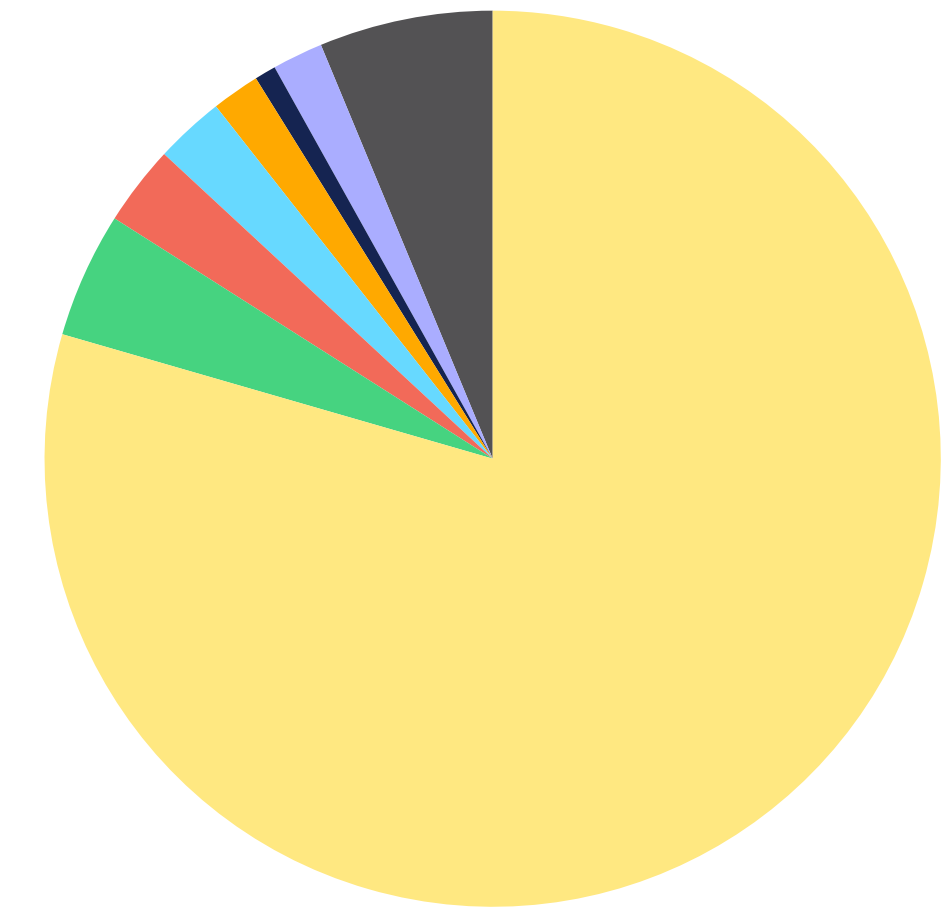# UGP Survey: Demographics

Age Range
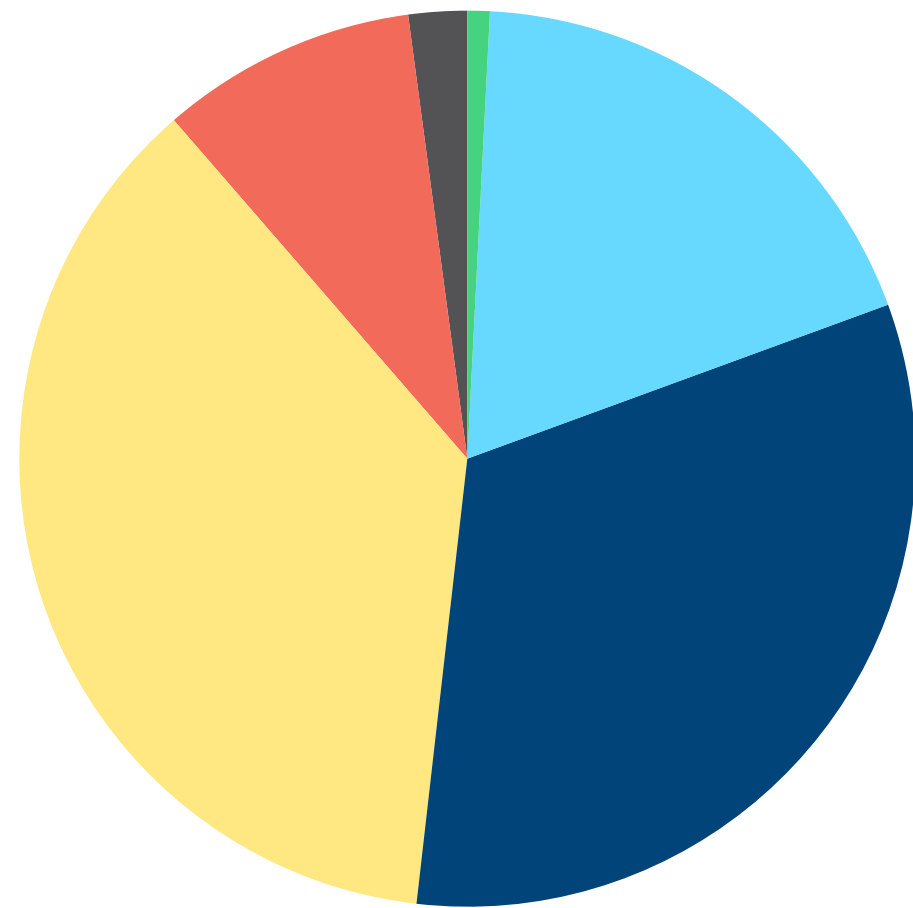
- 17 or younger
- 18-34
- 35-54
- 55-74
- 75 or older
- No response

Gender

- Female
- Male
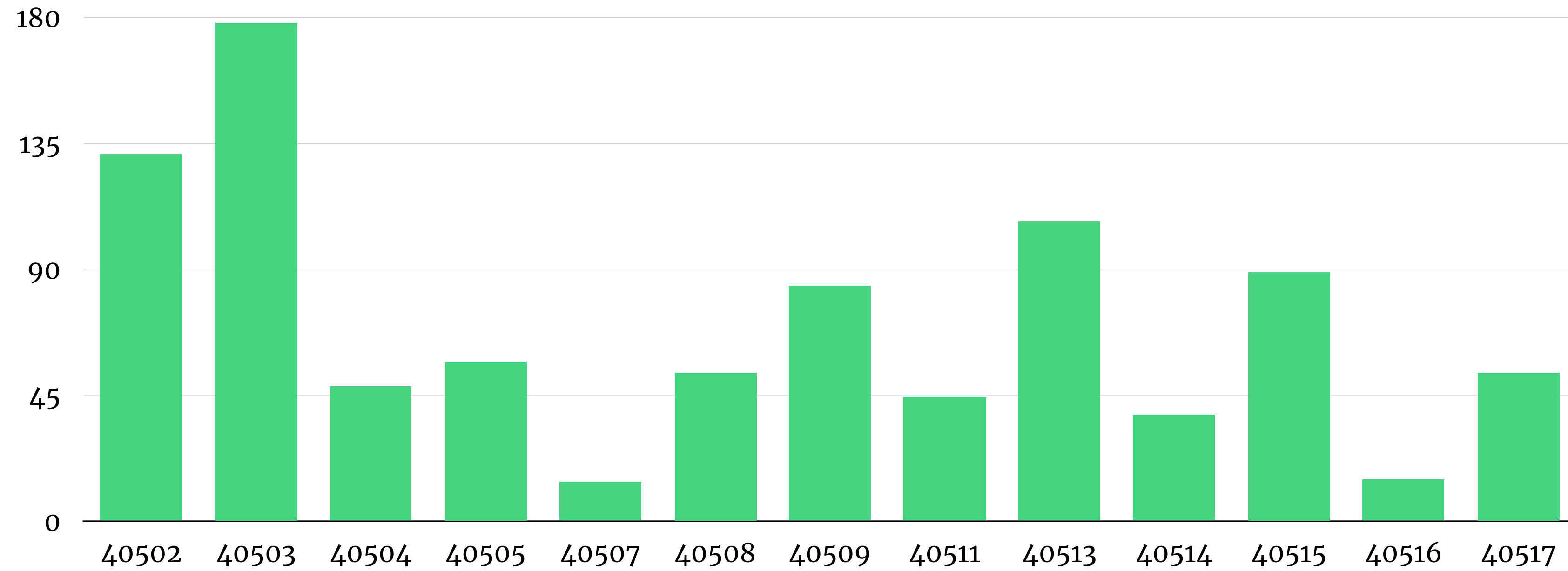- Nonbinary
- Other
- No response
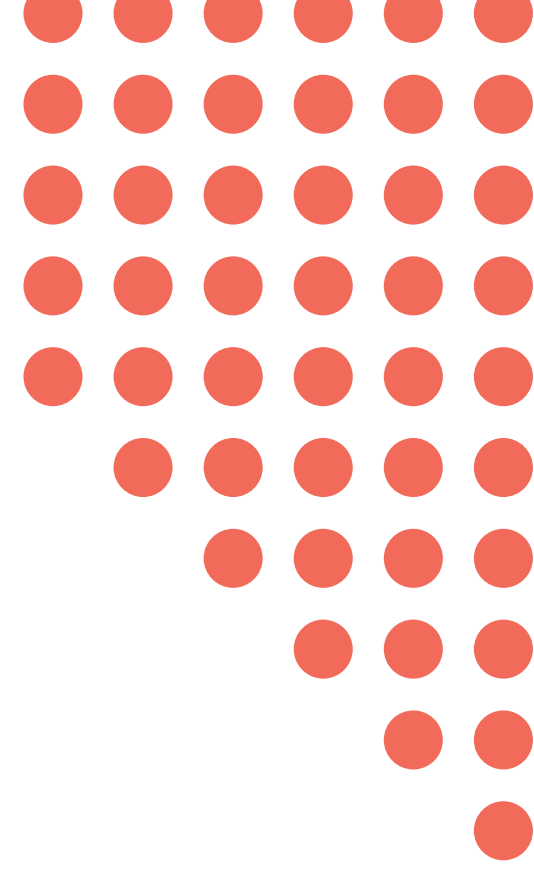
Race/Ethnicity

- White/Caucasian
- Black/African American
- Hispanic/Latino(a)
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- American Indian/Native
- Middle Eastern
- Other
- No response

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Preliminary findings. Last updated 3/15/24

UGP Survey: Location

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For more information, go to **urbangrowthlex.com**
or email **kit@civiclex.org**

Thank You!