



2023 Brooklyn Heights Survey: Future of the BQE

A history of activism

A focus on the future



Brooklyn Heights Association BQE Community Feedback Survey

**Survey
fielded in
late April -
early May
2023**

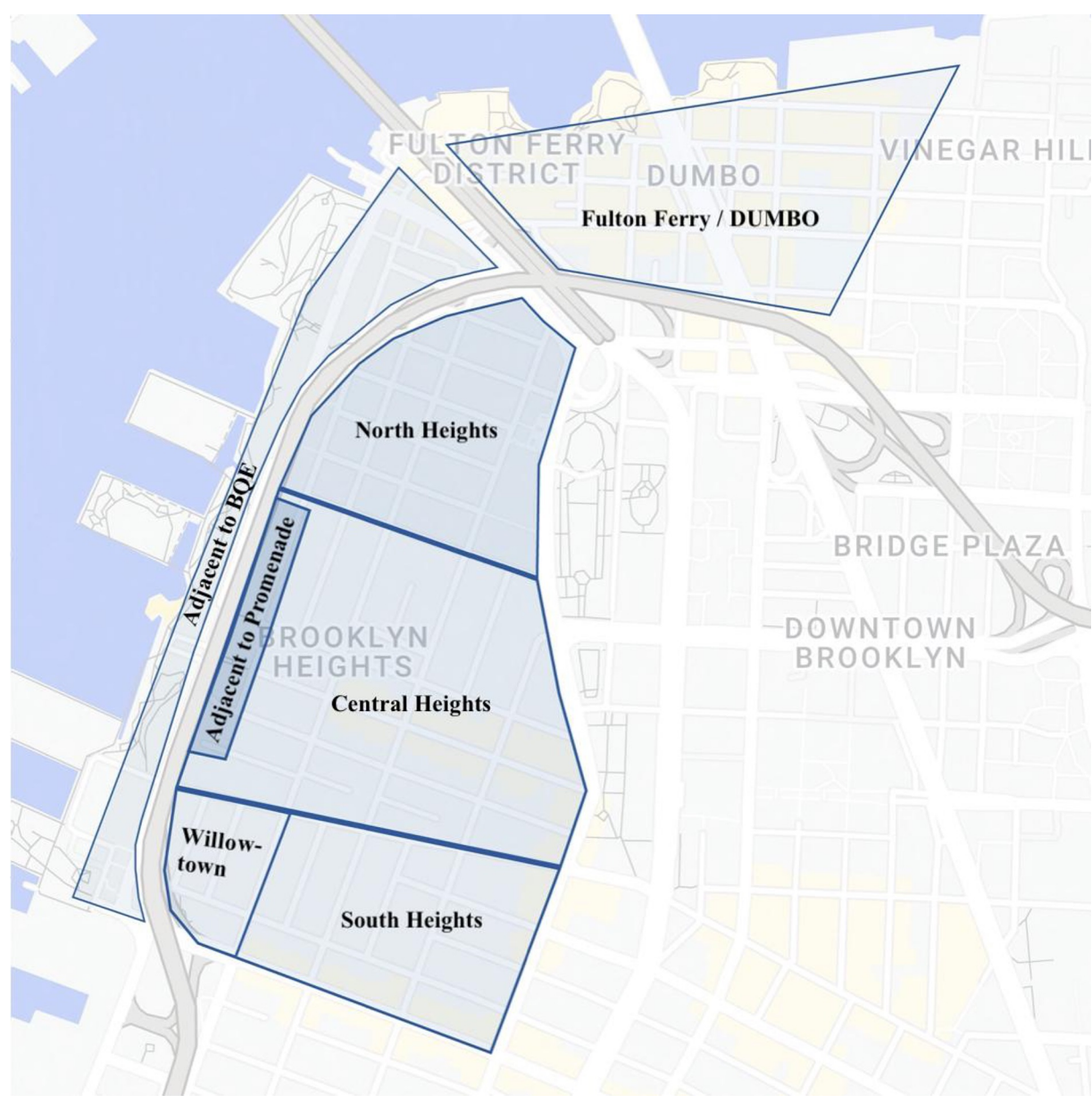
**Distributed through the
BHA's newsletter
(~3,000 subscribers)
and on BHA social
media feeds (~4,000
followers IG/Twitter)**

**~500 (495)
responses
received**

Future of the BQE Survey

Demographics

- 34% live in “Central Heights”
- 21% live in “North Heights”
- 16% live “Adjacent to the Promenade”
- 11.3% live in “South Heights”
- 7.3% live “Adjacent to the BQE”
- 4.6% live in CH, DUMBO, FFL, VH

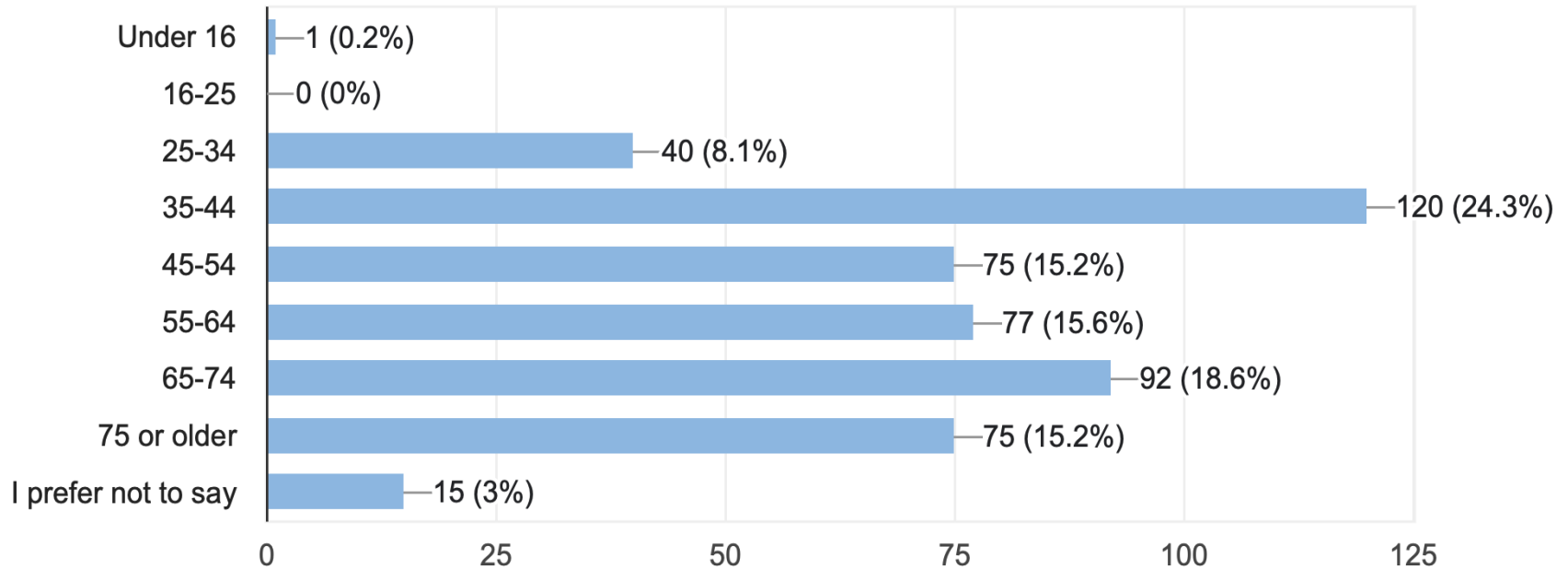


Future of the BQE Survey

Demographics – Age of Respondents

Please indicate your age range.

494 responses



Future of the BQE Survey

Over half of the survey respondents did **NOT** attend DOT's public workshops:

61.2% of respondents
did not attend DOT's
BQE Central public
workshops

32% attended
one or more
public meeting

Overall Top Priorities*

Priority	Count
Preserve the Promenade and respect the special scenic view plane zoning (SV1)	326
Bury the highway and/or maximize covering and tunneling as much as possible	237
Improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gasses	155
Minimize construction impact and timeline	153
Reduce traffic congestion on the BQE	133
Reduce or remove the highway	99
Pedestrian safety improvements on local streets	91
Create additional open/green space for public use	84
Provide additional connection (s) to Brooklyn Bridge Park and the waterfront	75
Eliminate vibrations from the cantilever	54
Use part or all of the BQE for public transportation	26

**Respondents were asked to select their top three priorities without ranking*

Future of the BQE Survey

Agreement that the highway should not be enlarged

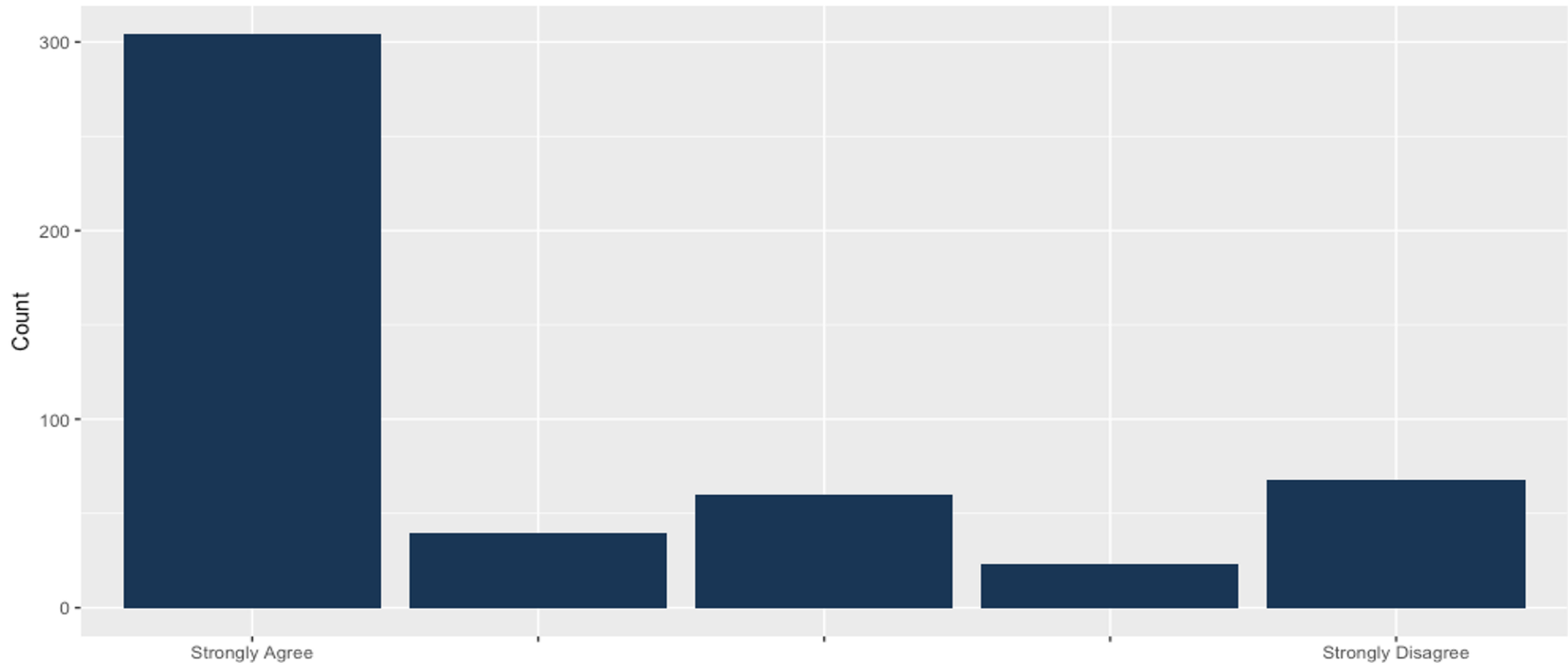
Nearly 70% of respondents agree that BQE Central **should not** be widened to accommodate 3 lanes of traffic in each direction.



Future of the BQE Survey

Agreement that corridor-wide transformation is necessary

City should heed Expert Panel's recommendation for short-term repairs and develop a sustainable plan for BQE.



67% strongly agree or agree that the city should make short-term safety repairs and develop a modern, sustainable plan *for the entire BQE corridor.*

Future of the BQE Survey

Top Five Takeaways

1. Respondents want a smaller highway that maximizes capping and covering, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions and noise, while improving air quality.

"My main concern is taking city transportation into the right direction in the future...fewer cars, cleaner air, safer environments."

2. A majority (67%) support making only the immediate repairs needed for safety reasons and taking the time necessary to plan for a holistic vision for the entire corridor.

"We should preserve what we have and decide on what the truly best option for the long term will be for our city at large, and the neighborhoods most directly impacted."

3. Over 70% believe the highway should not be widened to restore six lanes of traffic.

"A bigger highway is completely unacceptable given the state of our planet's climate and the need to improve our local air quality."

Top 5 Takeaways

4. Preserving the Historic Promenade is a top 3 priority for 66% of respondents, along with creating a new connection from the Promenade to the waterfront (67% in favor.)

“The Promenade and the Park below are widely used by Brooklynites of all ages, colors, and levels of wealth. That’s Brooklyn. Don’t destroy it.”

“The current scale of the Promenade admirably fits human beings for quiet activities, such as strolling, reading, viewing of the harbor and sky, photographing, conversing, courting. Bigger is not better.”

5. 60% support closing specific on and off ramps to improve pedestrian safety and reduce traffic on local streets.

“The northbound ramp from Atlantic Ave has become a nightmare for the neighborhood. There is constant gridlock and dangerous, rule-violating driving by drivers. It dangerous for everyone, drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists.”

“BQE ramps to the Brooklyn & Manhattan Bridges should be CLOSED. This will encourage vehicle traffic to Manhattan to use the Battery Tunnel AND reduce traffic on the cantilever portion of the BQE.”

**More
information is
needed on
virtually all
aspects of
DOT's plans.**



- The construction plan, timeline, and costs.
- The impact on neighborhood streets and local parks – especially Brooklyn Bridge Park.
- The impact on the Promenade, including potential closures during construction.

Future of the BQE Survey