

# Vision for Brooklyn Marine Terminal

Initial Public Engagement Summary

November 2024

**BMT** Managed by  
NYC/EDC

## Content

- A. Initial Engagement Summary
- B. Public Workshop #1
- C. Community Survey
- D. How to Get Involved
- E. Next Steps
- Appendix

A.

# Initial Engagement Summary

Engagement Timeline

Public Engagement Overview

Emerging Feedback

Additional Emerging Feedback

Methodology

# BMT Project Timeline

Public engagement in the Vision for the BMT helps to inform Task Force decision-making throughout the process.

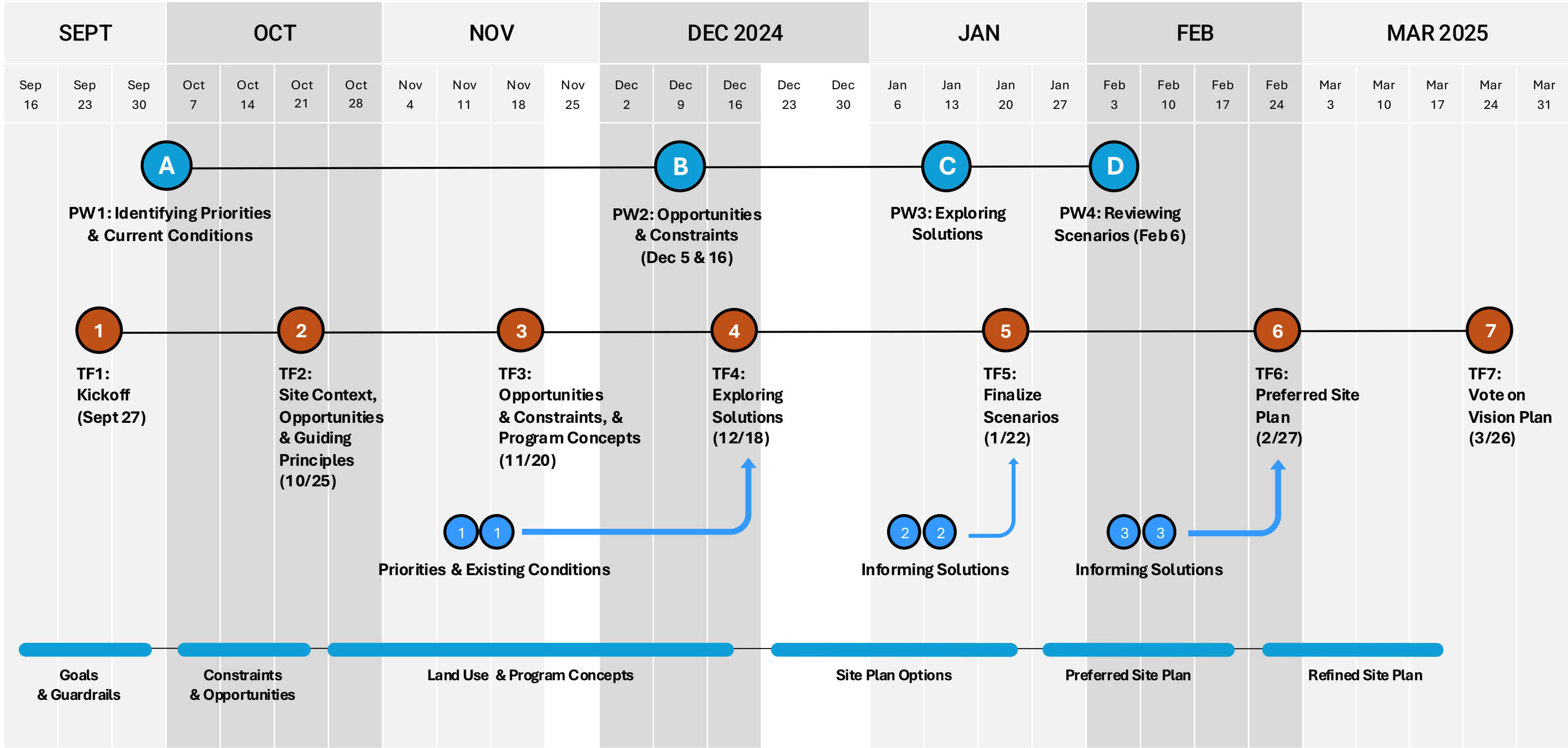
Public engagement throughout the project helps to inform the Task Force, Advisory Groups, and Planning Team.

Public Workshops

Task Force Meetings

Advisory Groups

Planning Team Activity



# Methodology

Community feedback is collected at each stage of the planning process, informing the BMT Task Force in their decision-making.

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



Engage the public to understand community priorities.

## FEEDBACK SYNTHESIS

A screenshot of a spreadsheet used for organizing feedback. It has columns for 'Comment', 'Workshop Date', 'Priority', and 'Comment Type'. The 'Comment' column lists various suggestions such as 'Blue Highway to reduce truck traffic', 'Public green space that helps mitigate climate impacts', and 'More housing? Yes in my backyard'. The 'Workshop Date' column shows dates from 2024-09-26 to 2024-10-23. The 'Priority' column lists categories like 'Reduce Truck Traffic', 'Public Parks and Open Space', and 'Climate Resilience'. The 'Comment Type' column lists 'Workshop', 'Public Hearing and Open House', and 'Online Feedback'.

Develop and implement a process for documenting and organizing all comments from engagement.

## FINDINGS INFORM TASK FORCE MEETING



Share a feedback summary with the Task Force to inform their decision-making.

## PUBLIC SHAREOUT



Synthesize feedback in a clear, accessible format to share publicly.

**REPEAT**

# Public Engagement Overview

A range of virtual and in-person engagement opportunities have been available in the planning process to-date.

Through November 15th, this process has included:

- **2** information sessions
- **6** tabling sessions at various community events such as NYCHA Family Day and Atlantic Antic
- **2** sessions of Public Workshop #1
- **11** drop-in feedback sessions
- **6** Advisory Group meetings
- **4** Advisory Group tour options
- **2** public tours
- **40** hours of Red Hook outreach by Green City Force youth, including door knocking at Red Hook Houses and flyering at local businesses and community spaces
- And, additional presentations at community meetings such as the local community board, local precinct community council, and Cobble Hill Association

\*Tabling events as of 11/15/24

\*\*BMT Feedback Sessions as of 11/15/24

Vision for Brooklyn Marine Terminal



BMT Public Workshop #1 on October 7th, 2024

# Public Engagement Overview

A number of community members have engaged in the planning process to-date.

And has engaged:

- **1,800+** community members across all engagement types
- **450** virtual introductory information session attendees
- **295** tabling event participants\*
- **280** public workshop attendees
- **91** drop-in feedback attendees\*\*
- **810** survey respondents
- **84** site tour attendees



BMT Public Workshop #1 on September 28, 2024

\*Tabling events as of 11/15/24

\*\*BMT Feedback Sessions as of 11/15/24

# Emerging Feedback through October 2024

In reviewing all public feedback to-date, the following themes are emerging:

## Public Parks and Open Space

Enthusiasm and desire for increased park space, recreational amenities and waterfront access

## Climate Resiliency and Sustainability

Concern over how the Vision for BMT will address or impact air quality, flooding, and overall climate resiliency of the area

## Transportation Options and Connections

Strong desire for increased public transportation access (ferries, train, shuttles, bus) and bike/pedestrian infrastructure

## Reduce Truck Traffic

Major concerns around truck and vehicle traffic from BQE creating major safety hazards, streets already overburdened, coordinate with BQE study

## Housing and Affordable Housing

Strong opposition to luxury high-rises, and a desire to increase affordable housing and to prioritize and fund repairs at existing local public housing (Red Hook Houses)

## Industrial and Maritime Growth

Tension between desire to preserve the working waterfront and providing additional non-maritime uses; importance of health and safety of workers and nearby residents

## Retail/Shopping/Entertainment

Desire to maintain and strengthen small, local businesses in the area; mixed feedback on cruise industry with some concerns around negative traffic impacts

## Job Training

Interest in educational programming, space to support maritime training, prioritizing local community members for employment opportunities at BMT



# Additional Emerging Feedback through October 2024

Some community members also shared feedback on the planning process.

## **Coordination with relevant area plans**

Importance of coordinating the BMT plan with relevant area plans, such as BQE Vision, Red Hook Coastal Resiliency Plan, and the DOT Red Hook Truck and Traffic Study

## **Clarity around timeline**

Some confusion around timeline, how long this planning process will take, and what decisions the public can influence

## **Desire for structured discussion**

Some desire for more structured learning and discussion at next public workshop

B.

# Public Workshop #1

- Public Workshop #1 - At a Glance
- Printed Materials for Information Sharing
- Printed Materials for Discussion
- Share Your Priorities Boards
- Questions for Advisory Groups Boards
- Findings by Theme

# Public Workshop #1 - At a Glance

The first round of public engagement included two public workshop sessions to introduce the process, share key details about BMT, and collect feedback around community priorities, challenges, and opportunities.

## Workshop sessions

- Miccio Center  
Saturday, September 28th | 11am to 2pm  
200 attendees
- Sacred Hearts & St. Stephen  
Monday, October 7th | 6 to 8pm  
80 attendees

## Activities

- Share your Priorities
- Questions for the Advisory Groups
- Mapping Feedback

## Language access

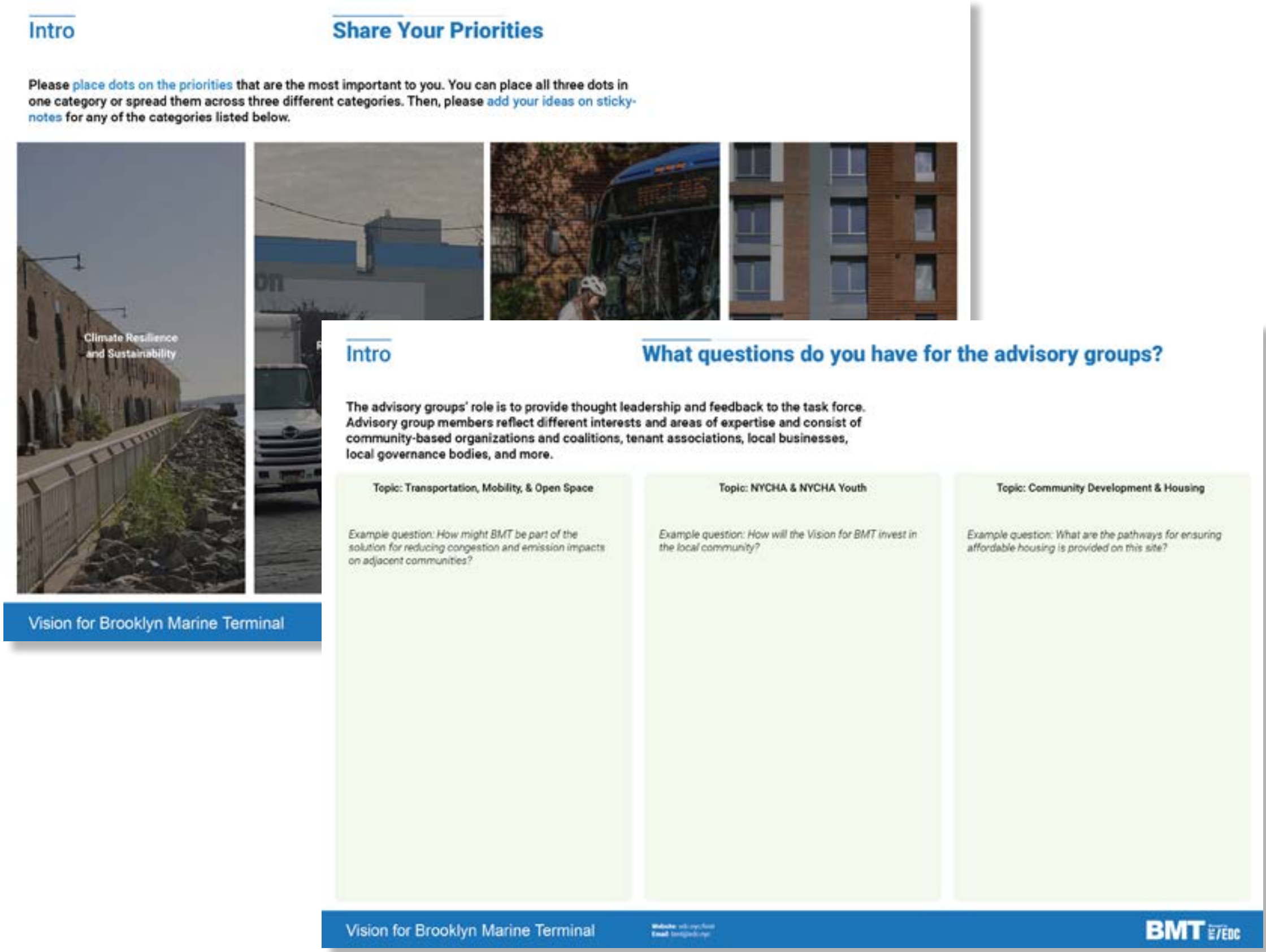
- Spanish and Mandarin interpretation available at both sessions



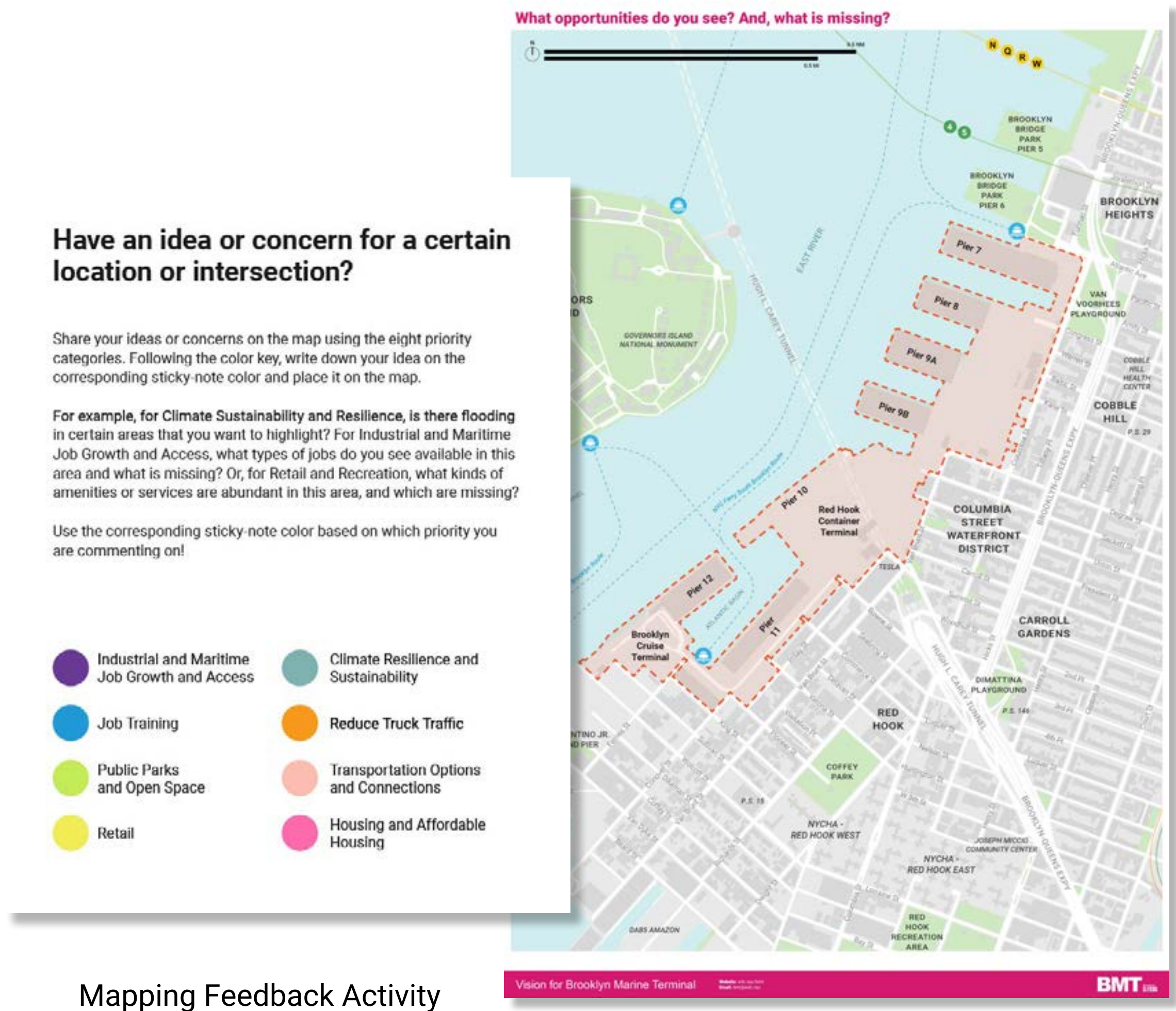


# Printed Materials for Discussion

Four feedback boards and one mapping activity collected input from public workshop participants.



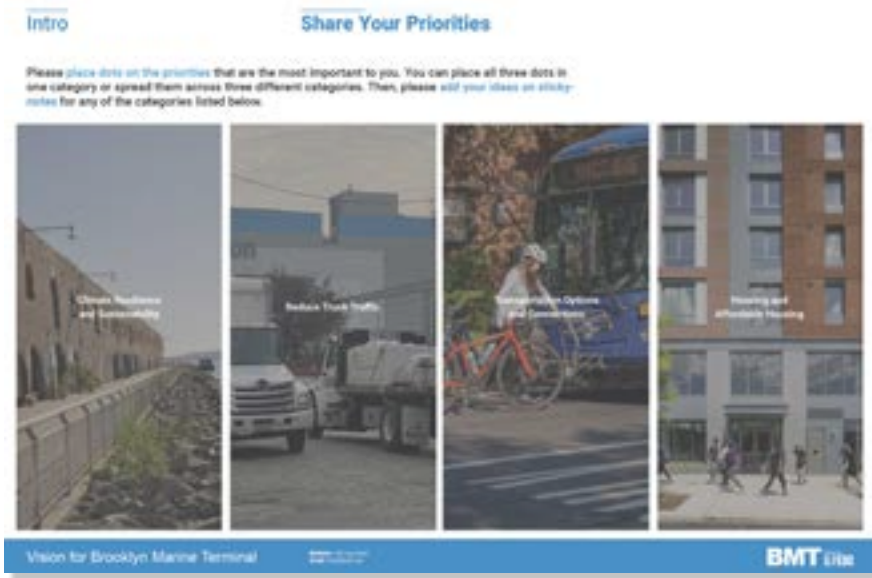
Share Your Priorities boards (2) and Questions for Advisory Groups boards (2)



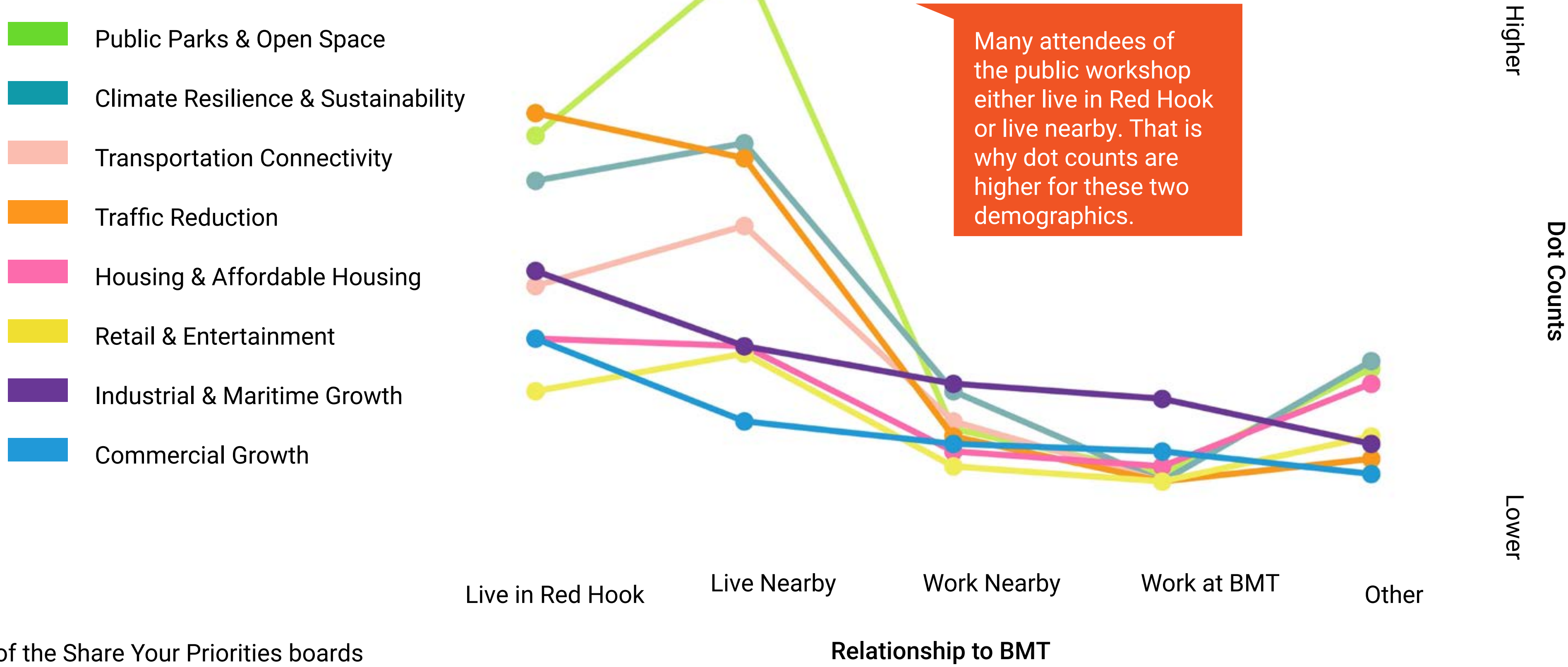
Mapping Feedback Activity

# Share Your Priorities Boards

Top priorities varied by workshop attendee's relationship to BMT. Both attendees who live in Red Hook and nearby had some combination of Traffic Reduction, Public Parks & Open Space, and Climate Resilience & Sustainability in their top three priorities.



Priorities Dot Count by Relationship to BMT



Pictures of the Share Your Priorities boards are shown in the Appendix.

# Public Parks and Open Space

## Emerging Feedback:

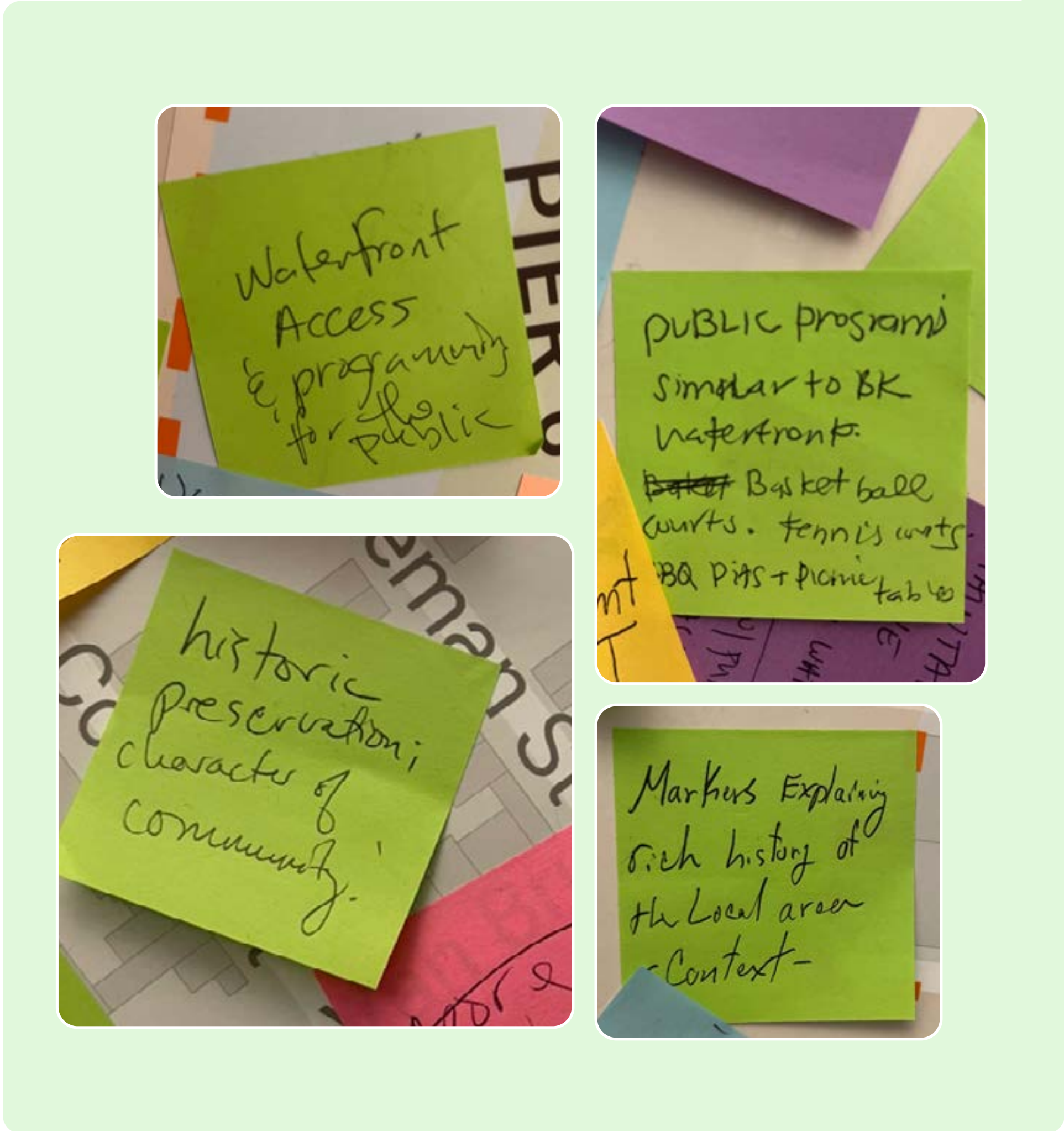
Enthusiasm and desire for increased park space, recreational amenities, and waterfront access

## Participants also noted:

- Parks and open space as high priority— one of the most frequently mentioned priorities among workshop attendees.
- Many ideas for specific amenities, ranging from sports fields, playgrounds, libraries, cultural heritage institutions, landmarks/signage, and more

## Additional quotes from sticky-notes:

- “Waterfront accessibility and historic preservation”



# Climate Resiliency and Sustainability

## Emerging Theme:

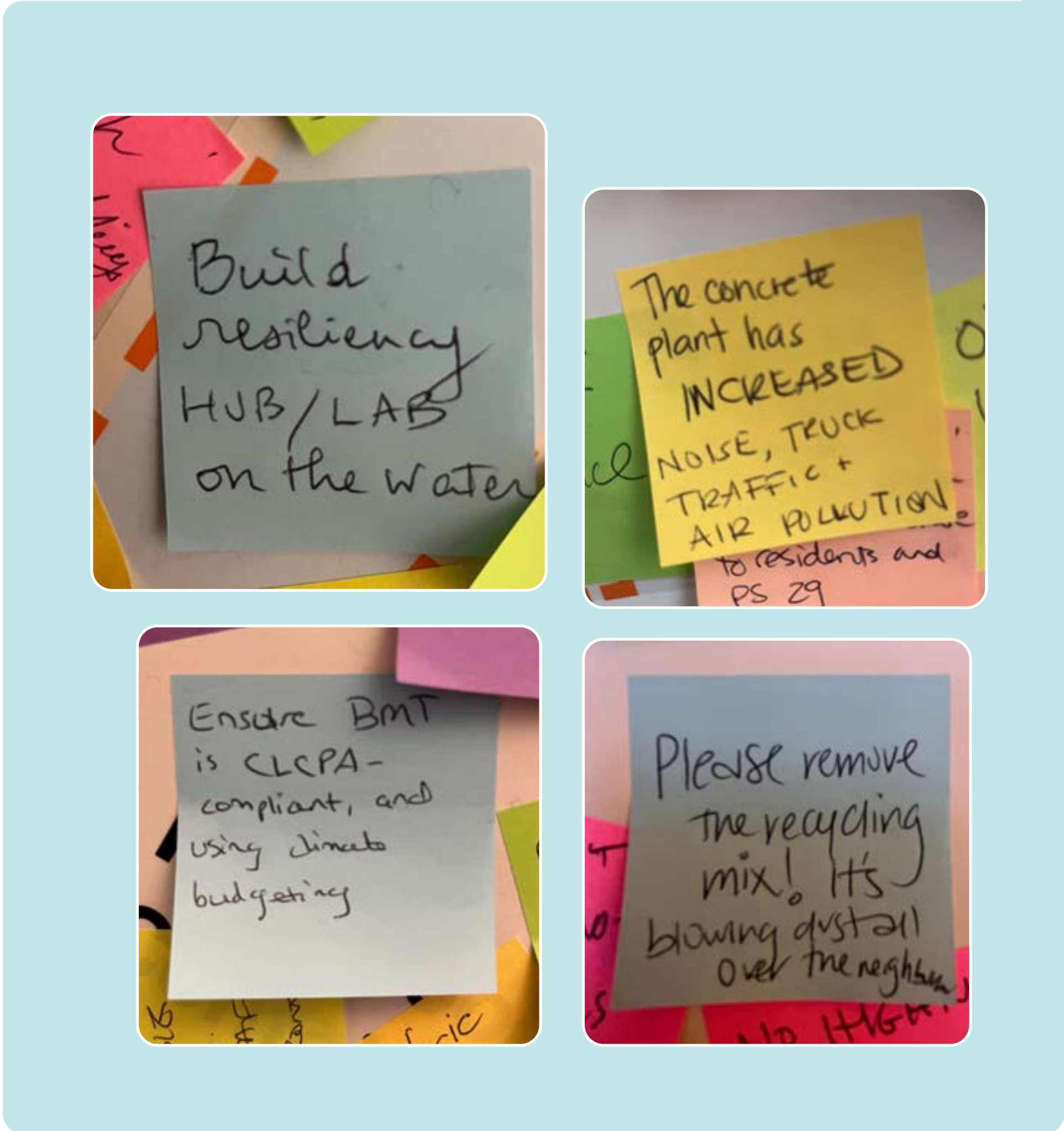
Concern over industrial air pollution, flood protection, and overall resiliency plan for the area

## Participants also noted:

- Heavy pollution from truck traffic and dust from the concrete mixing plant
- Strong emphasis on following best practices/measurements around waterfront resiliency
- Green workforce opportunities are desired

## Additional quotes from sticky-notes:

- “Whatever you build, have a plan to manage flooding, surge + stormwater”
- “What is good for fish + aquatic life?”





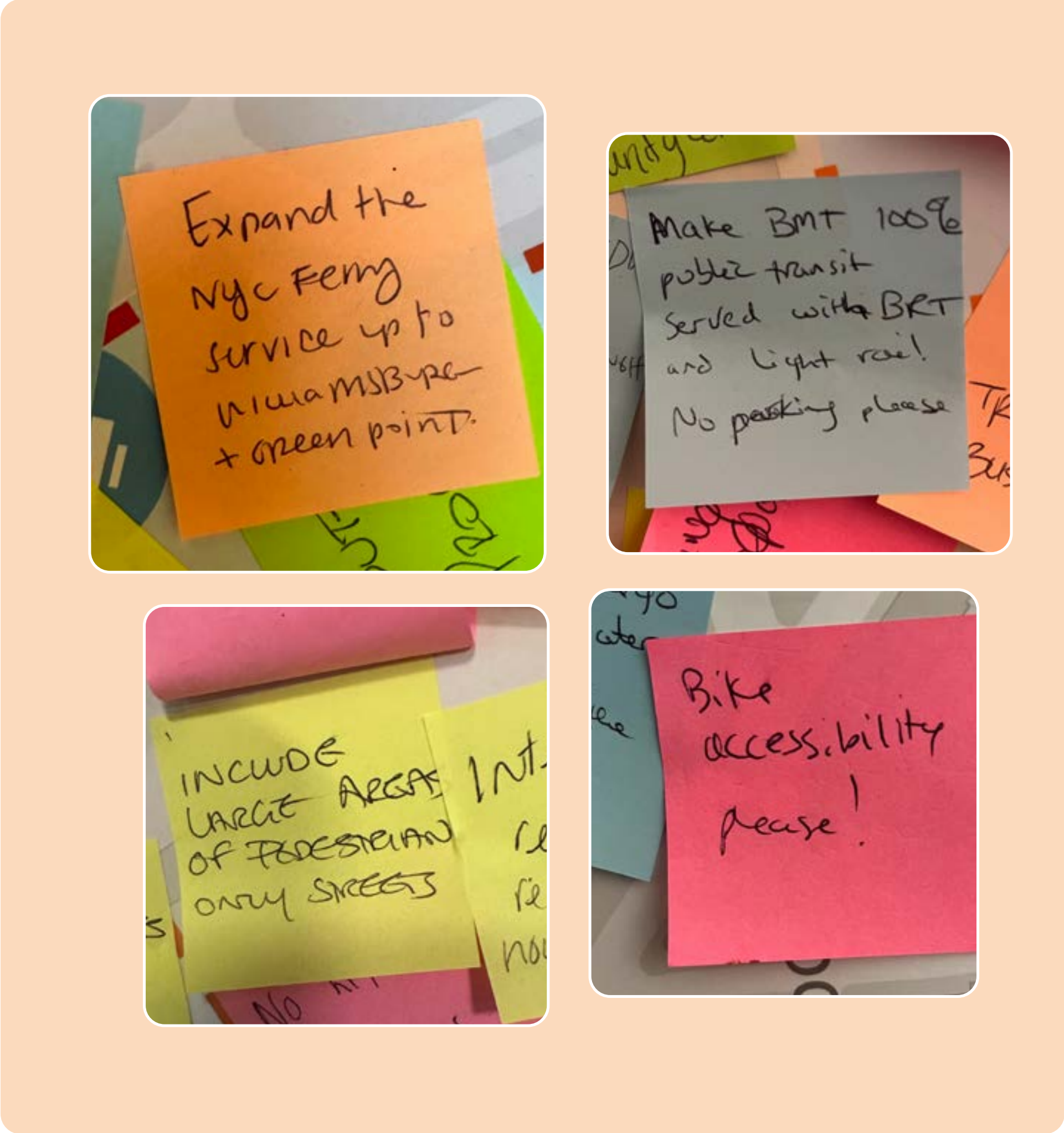
# Transportation Options and Connections

## Emerging Theme:

Strong desire for increased public transportation access (ferries, train, shuttles, bus) and bike/pedestrian infrastructure

## Participants also noted:

- There are few transportation options in the area, and BMT should address this gap, especially if BMT includes housing
- More bike and pedestrian connectivity is desired particularly to other areas in Brooklyn
- Importance of coordinating with relevant area plans like BQE Vision, Red Hook Coastal Resiliency Plan, and the DOT Red Hook Truck and Traffic Study



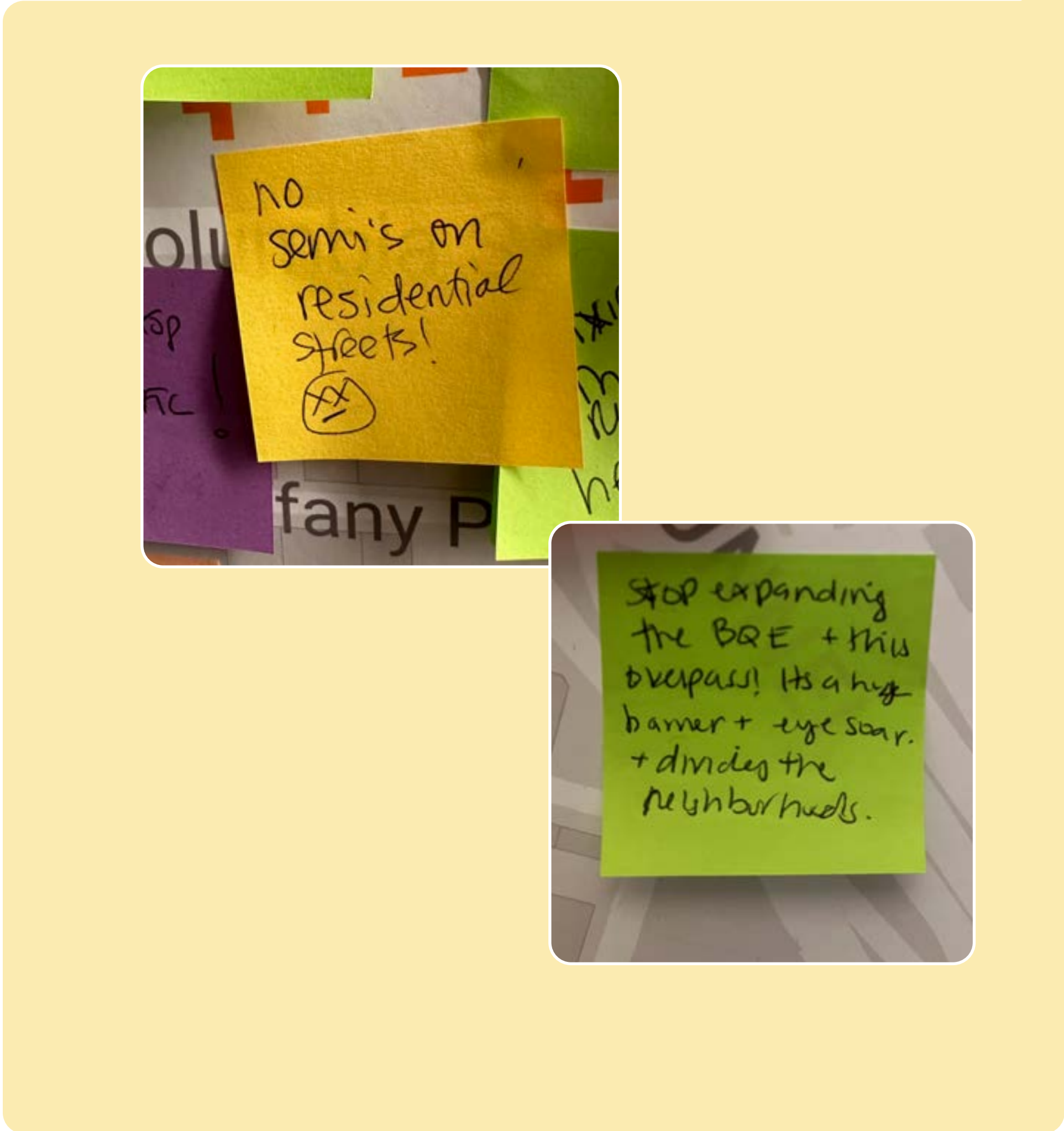
# Reduce the Impact of Truck Traffic

## Emerging Theme:

Major concerns around truck and vehicle traffic from BQE creating major safety hazards, streets already overburdened, coordinate with BQE study

## Participants also noted:

- Transition from BQE into neighborhood streets needs better design, planning, and coordination from the City
- Suggestions around closing various BQE exits/entrances at various times of day
- Concerns around trucks on specific streets like Van Brunt and Atlantic Ave
- Several unsafe turns, such as at Degraw St. & Columbia St. and at Van Brunt St. & Degraw St.



# Housing and Affordable Housing

## Emerging Theme:

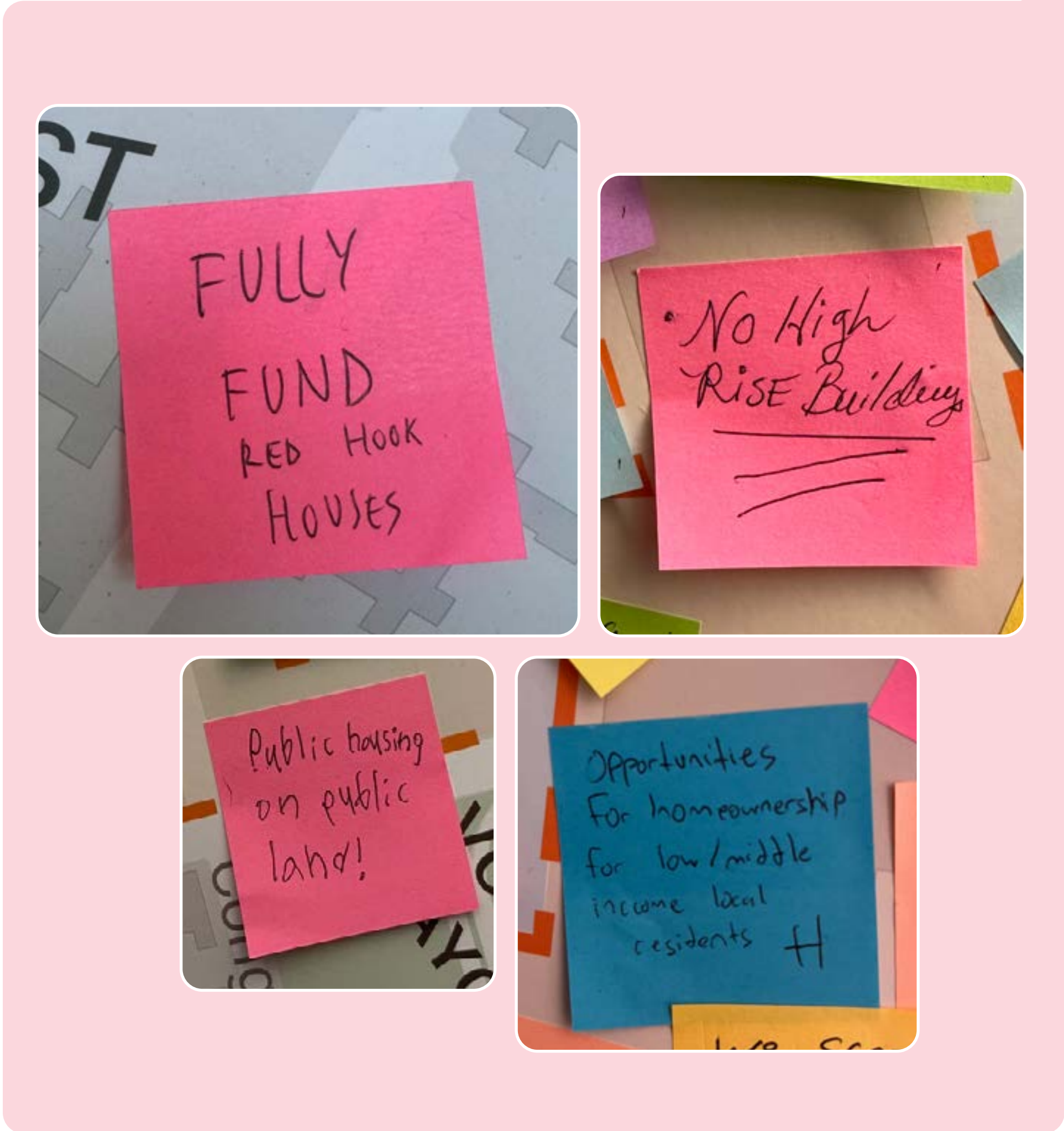
Strong opposition to luxury high-rises and a desire for increased funding for existing public housing at Red Hook Houses and additional affordable housing

## Participants also noted:

- Desire to cap the height of buildings at BMT

## Additional quotes from sticky-notes:

- “Need mixed use and affordable housing.”
- “No more housing in flood zone”
- “No transfer of property to developers, long-term leases only”



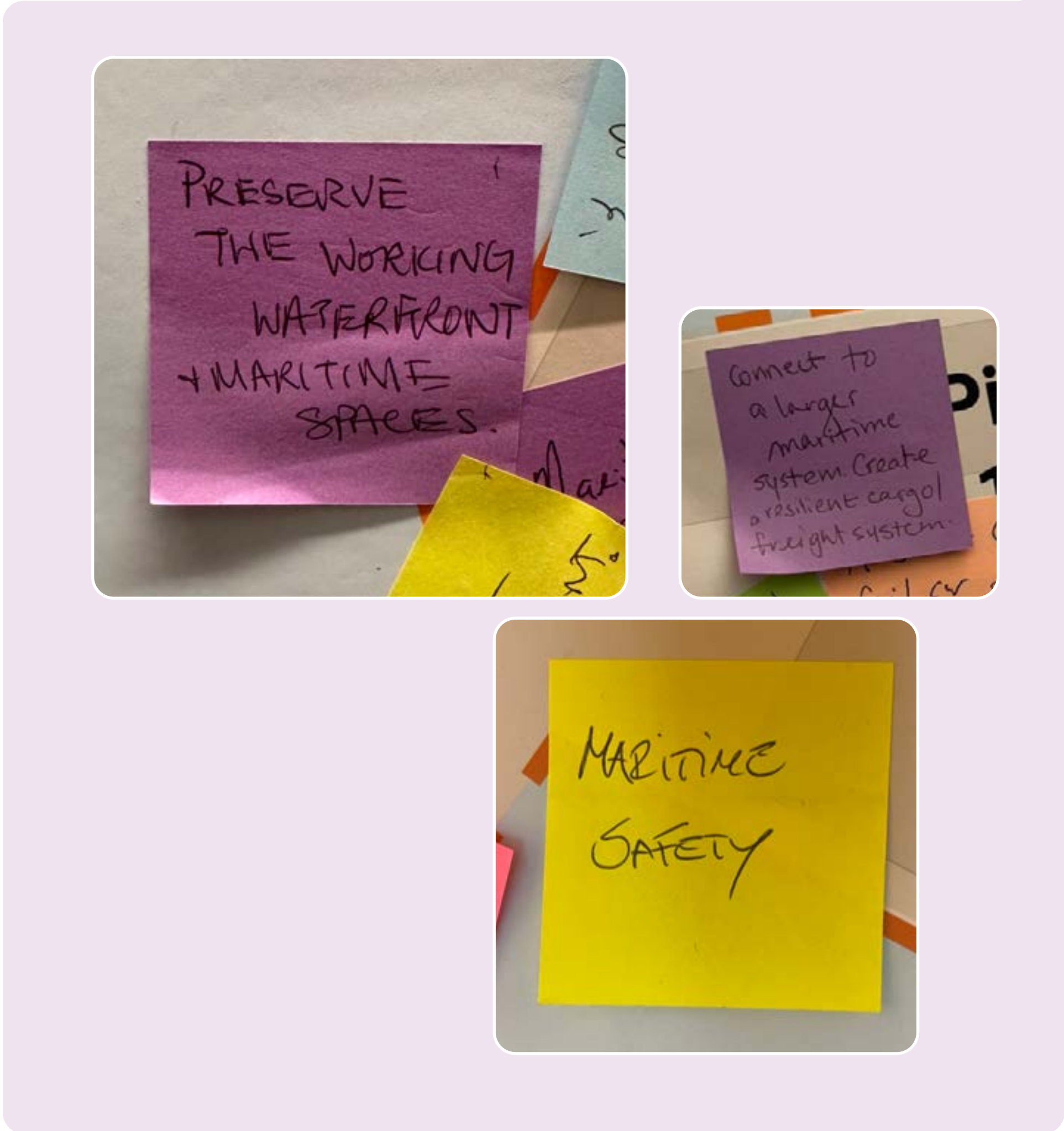
# Industrial and Maritime Growth

## Emerging Theme:

Tension between desire to preserve the working waterfront and providing additional non-maritime uses; importance of health and safety of workers and nearby residents

## Participants also noted:

- Interest in maritime jobs for the local community and maritime education for local youth
- Reducing industry-related truck traffic and creating safer streets for families as high priority
- Desire to restore and increase public access to docks and water
- Some overnight noise complaints, though generally people felt maritime, open space, and housing can co-exist if designed well



# Retail/Shopping/Entertainment

## Emerging Theme:

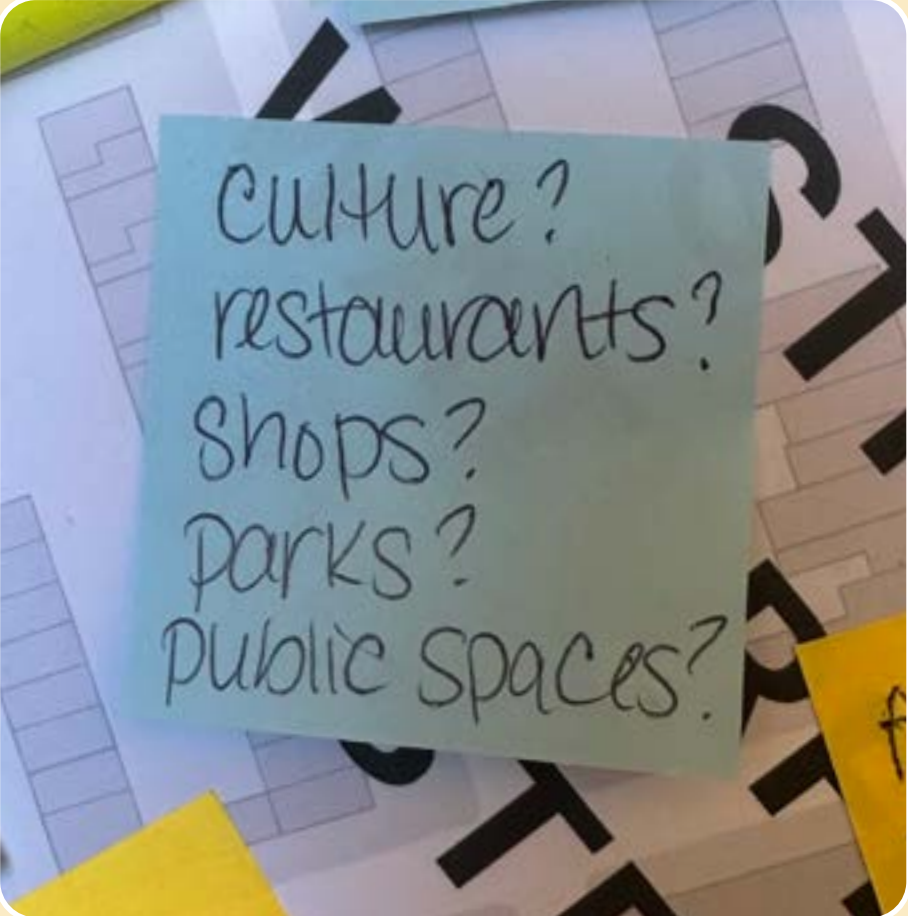
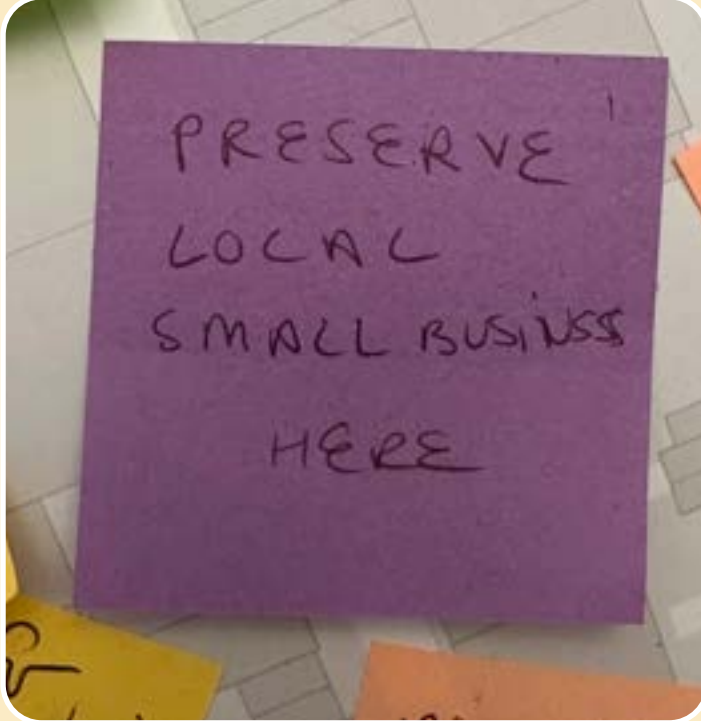
Desire to maintain small, local businesses in the area, mixed feelings over cruise industry

## Participants also noted:

- Desire for small, local businesses that complement existing uses

## Additional quotes from sticky-notes:

- “We are a pharmacy and food desert”



# Job Training

## Emerging Theme:

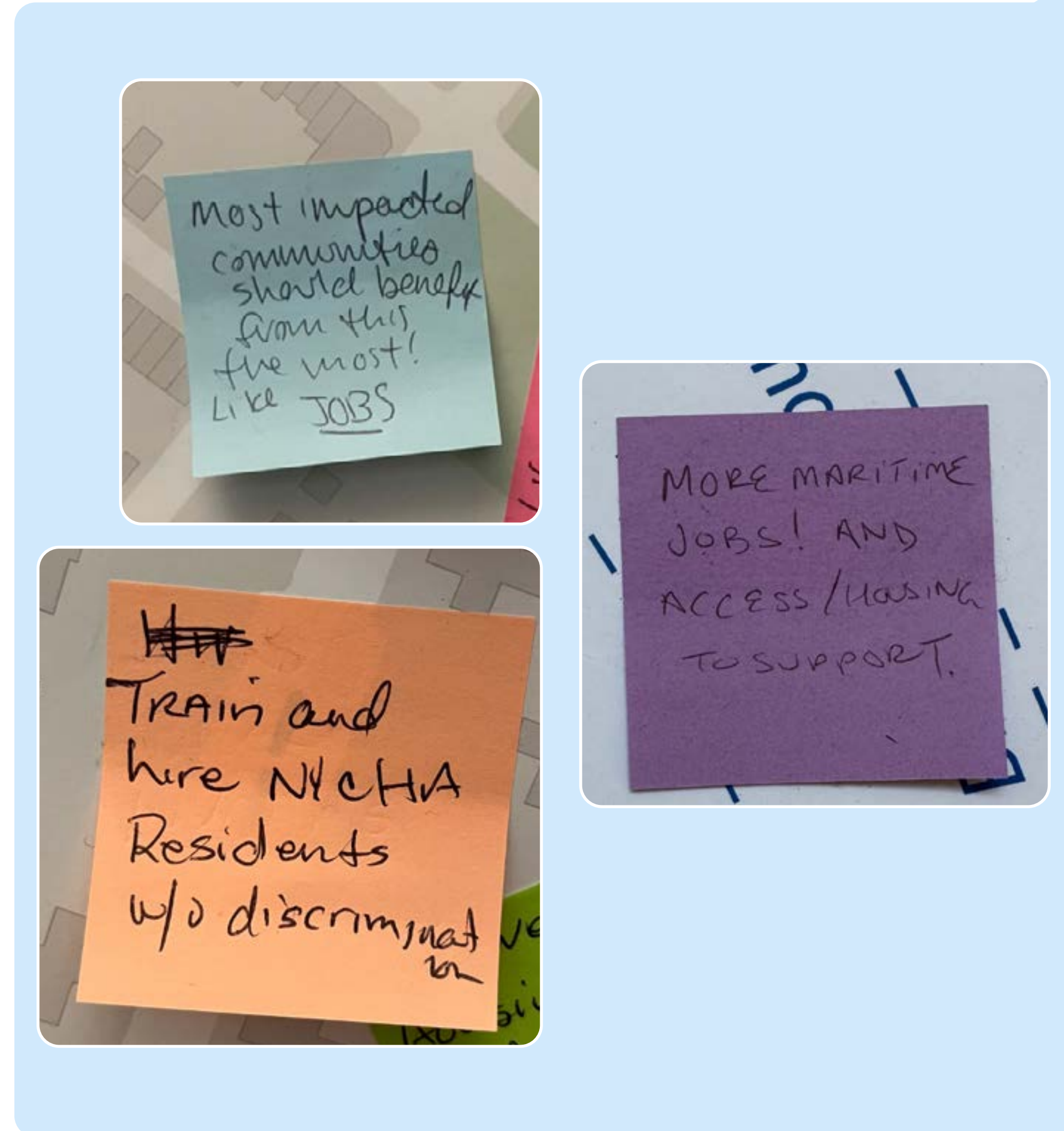
Interest in educational programming, space to support maritime training, prioritizing local community members for employment opportunities at BMT

## Participants also noted:

- Desire for job training opportunities for youth and residents of the area, especially for communities most impacted by this plan
- Interest in green and climate-forward career opportunities

## Additional quotes from sticky-notes:

- “Urgently need skill training for specialized jobs”

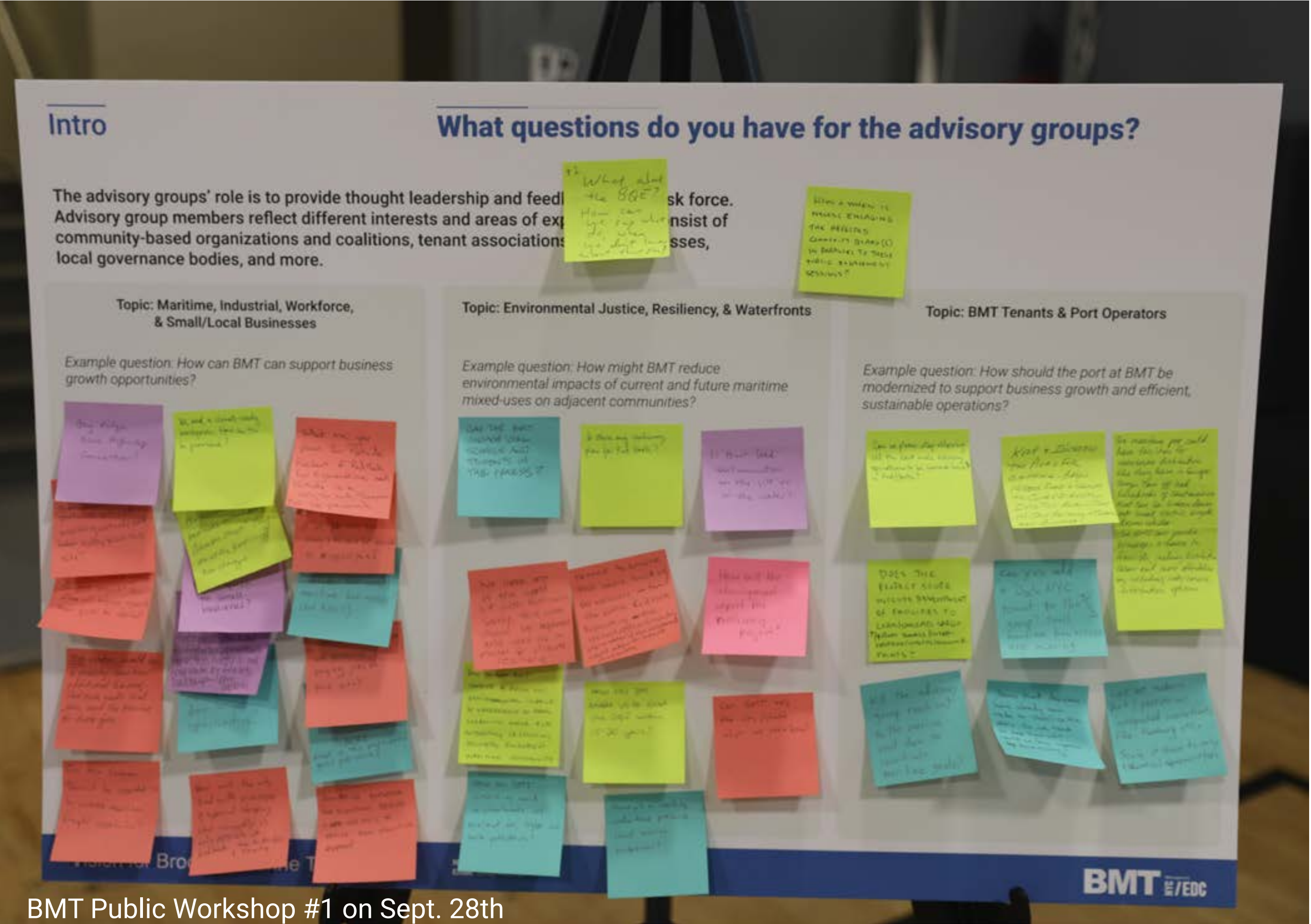


# Questions for Advisory Groups Boards

Public workshop attendees shared their questions for the six advisory groups formed as part of this planning process.

For example, some attendees asked:

- “How do you propose to deal with the increased truck traffic on already over burdened streets?”
- “How might BMT contribute to alternative transportation solutions to reduce violent traffic deaths and provide safer routes for biking, etc.”
- “How is this project prioritizing NYCHA tenant access to maritime jobs and educational opportunities?”



Pictures of all Questions for the Advisory Groups boards are shown in the Appendix.

# C. Community Survey

Survey - At a Glance

Respondents

Survey Findings

Example Quotes

Priorities Across Adjacent Neighborhoods



# Survey - At a Glance

The first round of public engagement also included a community survey to collect initial feedback around community priorities, engagement considerations, and any additional reflections.

## Key details

- **810** total respondents
- Opened Wednesday, September 18th
- Closed Monday, October 21st
- The survey was available in English, Spanish, and Mandarin.

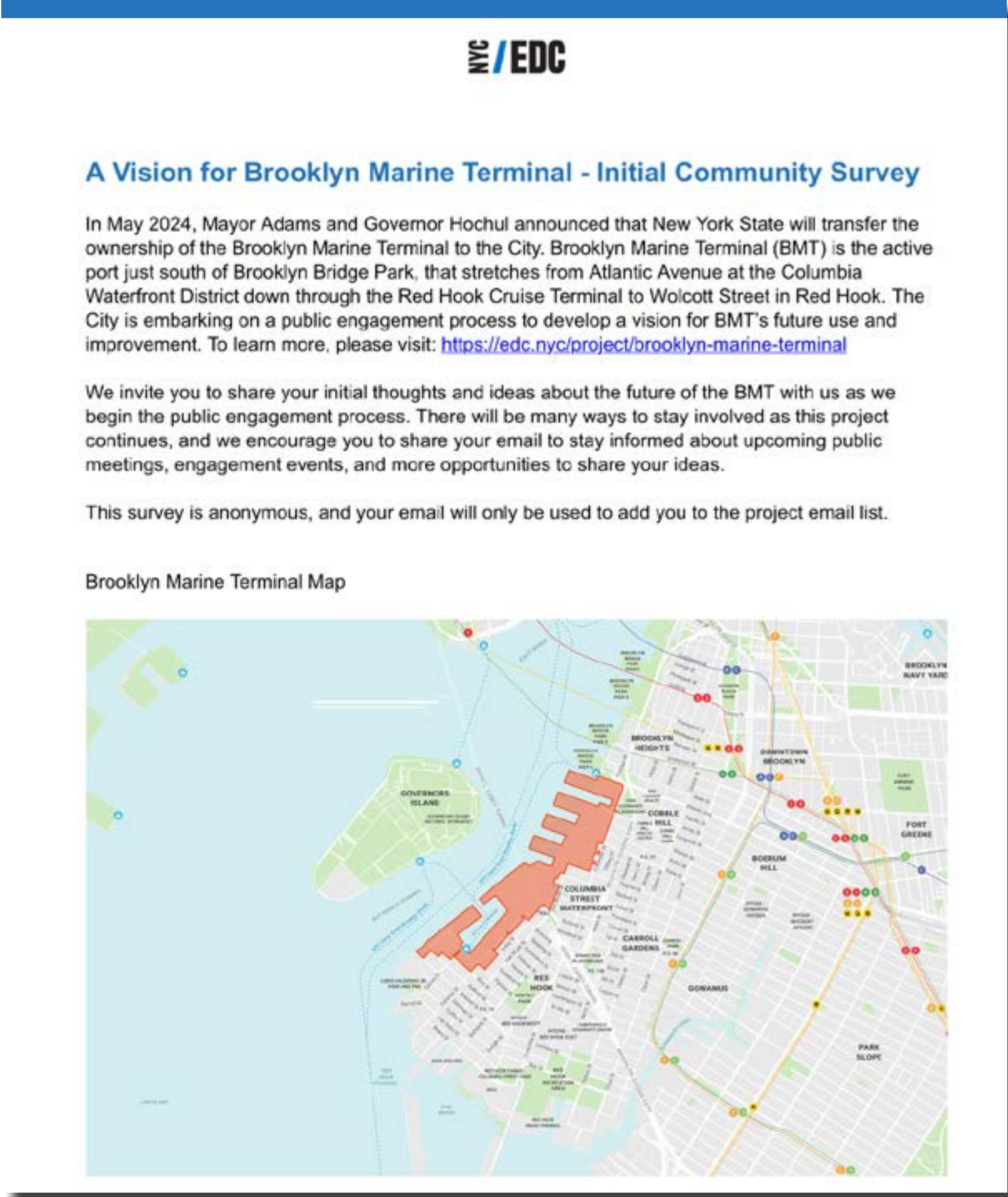
## Representation

Less than 7% of survey respondents earn 75k or less in household income compared to around 35% in neighborhoods surrounding BMT.\*

Around 7% of respondents identified as Hispanic and 4% as Black, compared the demographic breakdown of 20% Hispanic and 12% Black in surrounding neighborhoods.\*\*

Neighborhood Tabulation Area of 'Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill-Gowanus-Red Hook' is used here to understand surrounding area demographics.

\*American Community Survey, 2018-2022  
\*\*Decennial Census, 2020

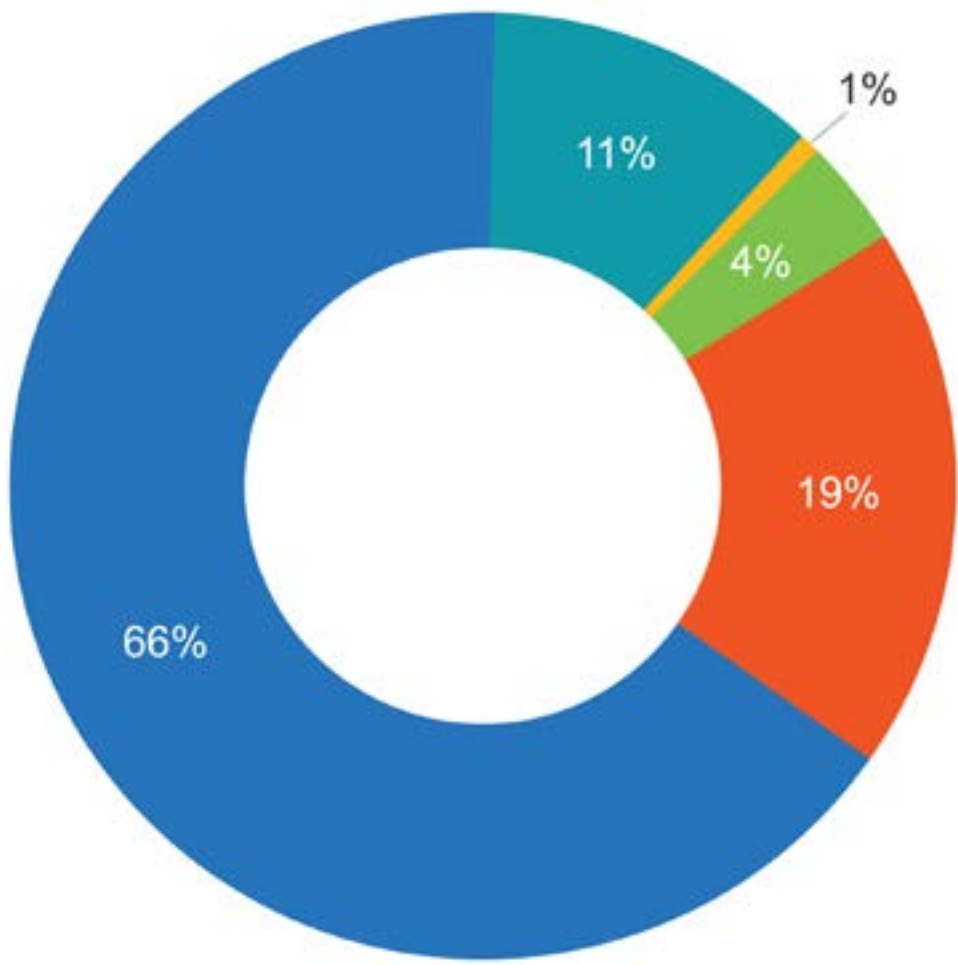


Vision for BMT Community Survey

# Survey Respondents

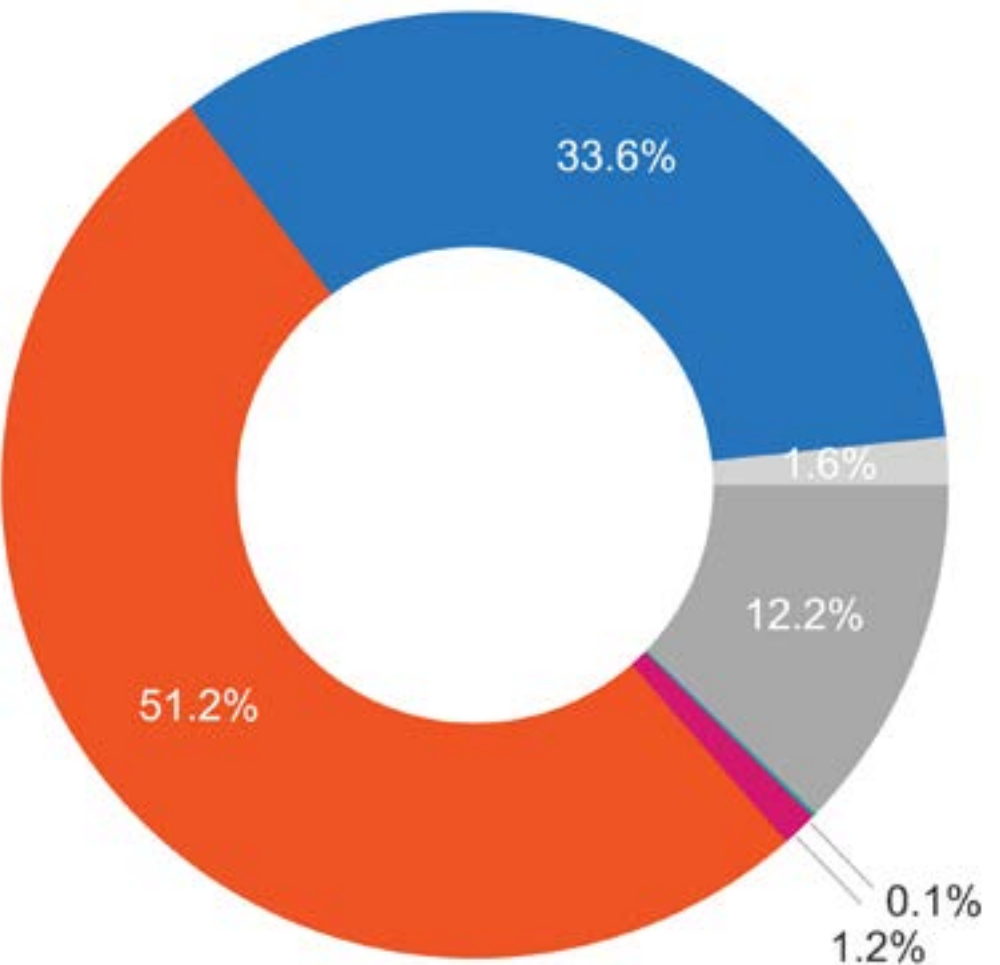
61% of survey respondents identify as White, 51% as women, and 66% live near BMT.

What is your relationship to the Brooklyn Marine Terminal?



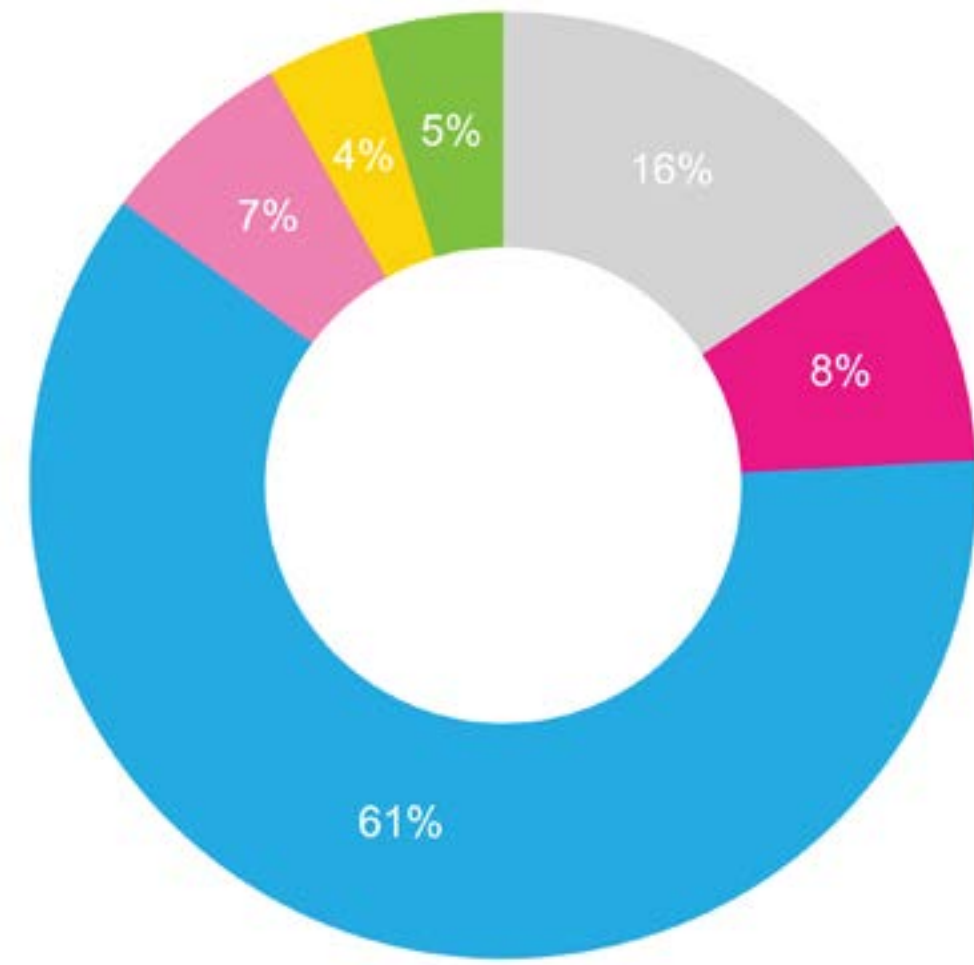
- I work on site
- I work nearby
- I live nearby
- I take the NYC Ferry
- None of the above

What is your gender identity?



- Woman (cis-gender)
- Man (cis-gender)
- Non-binary
- Woman (trans-gender)
- Man (trans-gender)
- Other
- Prefer not to say

How do you identify in terms of race and identity?

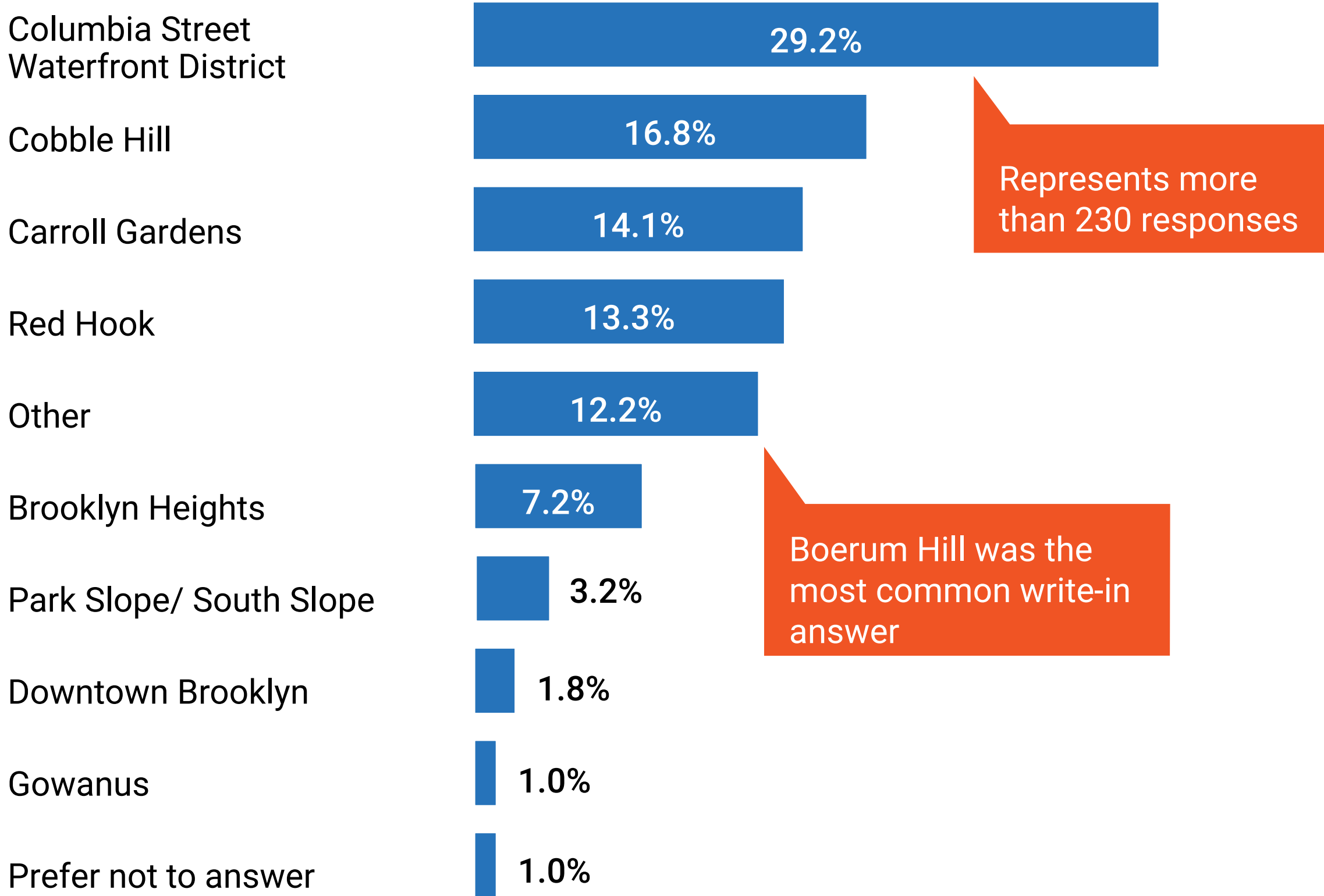


- White
- Hispanic
- Black
- Asian
- Other
- Prefer not to answer

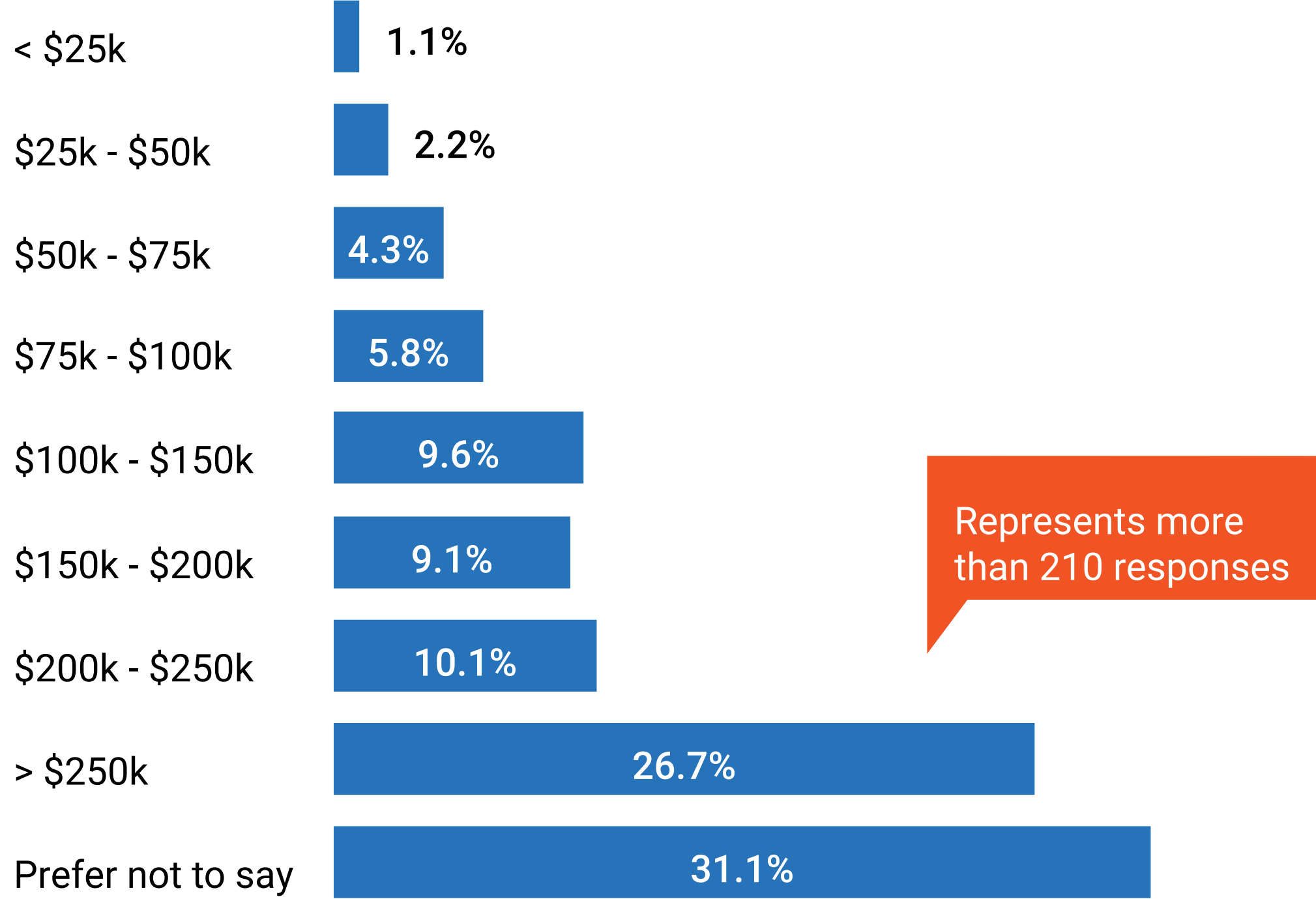
# Survey Respondents

29% of survey respondents live in Columbia Street Waterfront District, 17% in Cobble Hill, and 14% in Carroll Gardens. 37% of survey respondents have an household income of over \$200k and 31% chose not to disclose this information.

What neighborhood do you live in?



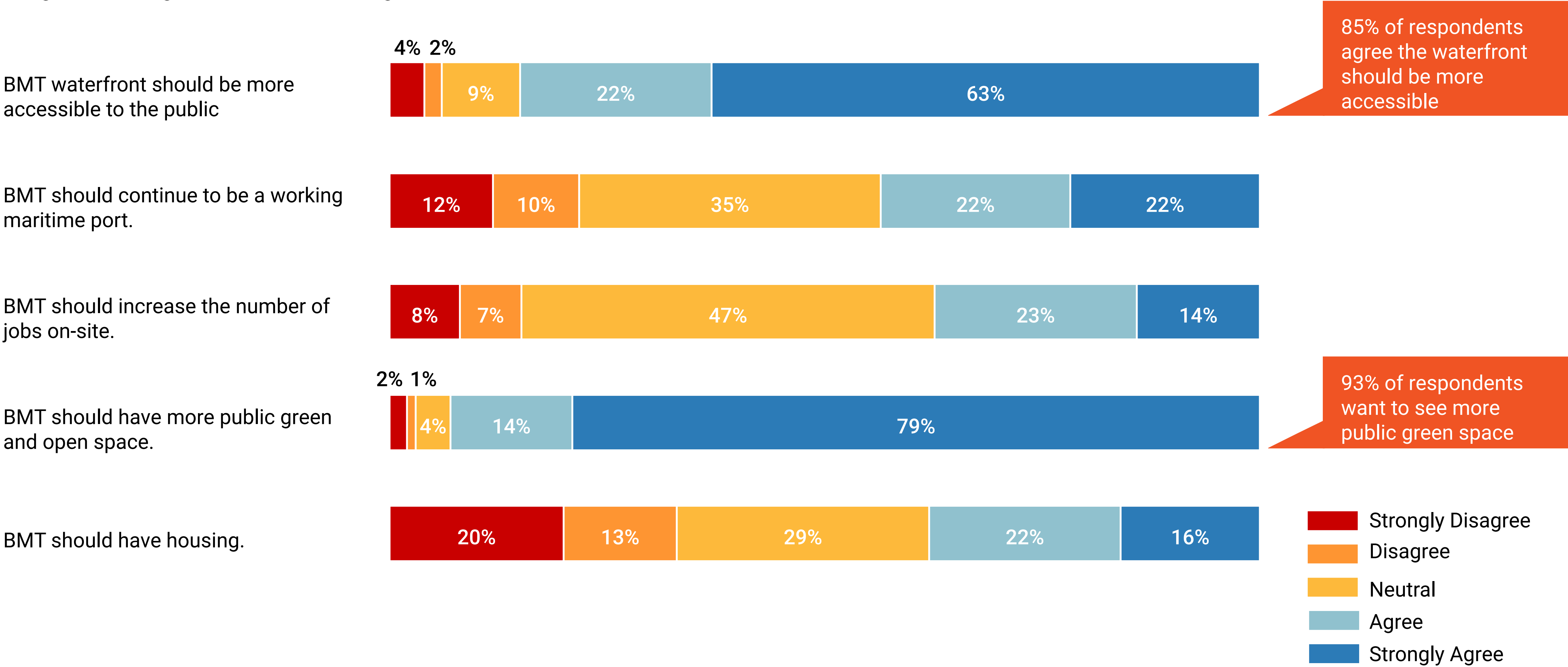
What is your household income?



# Survey Findings

The survey showed strongest agreement on access to the waterfront and public green and open space and less agreement around housing, maritime functions, and jobs.

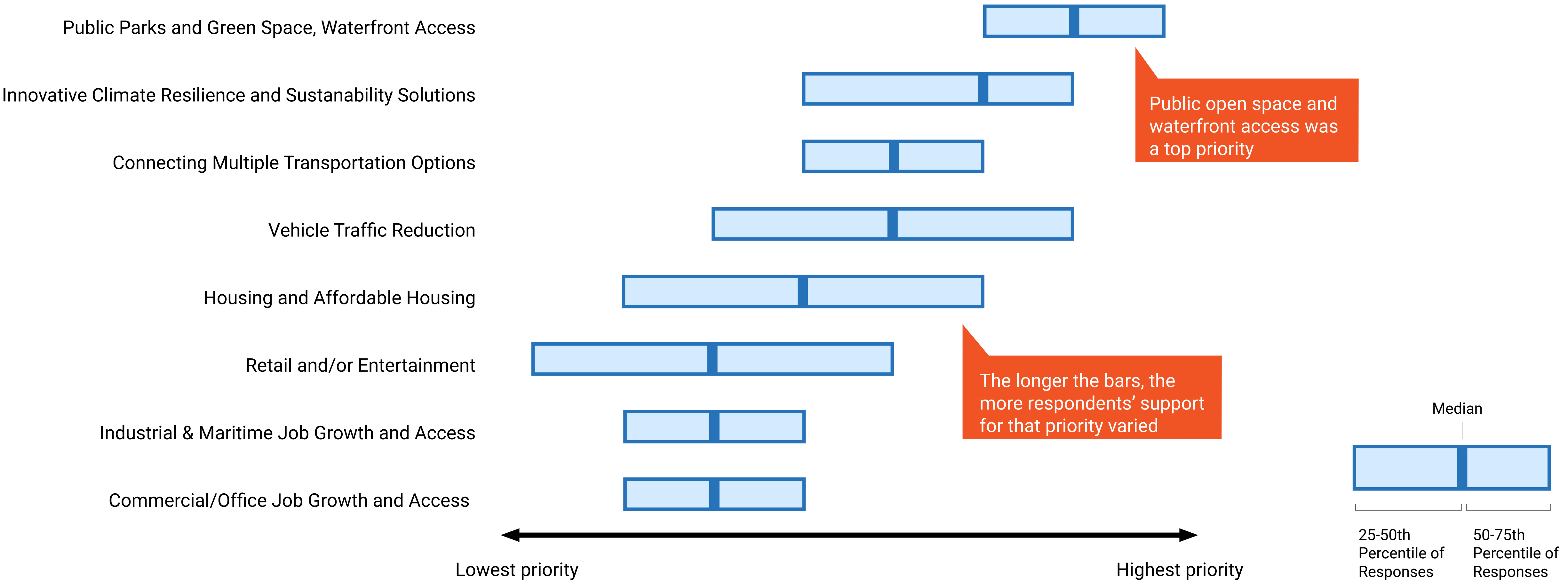
How Much Do You Agree or Disagree with the Following Statements?



# Survey Findings

The top three priorities included public parks and green space, climate resilience, and connecting transportation options.

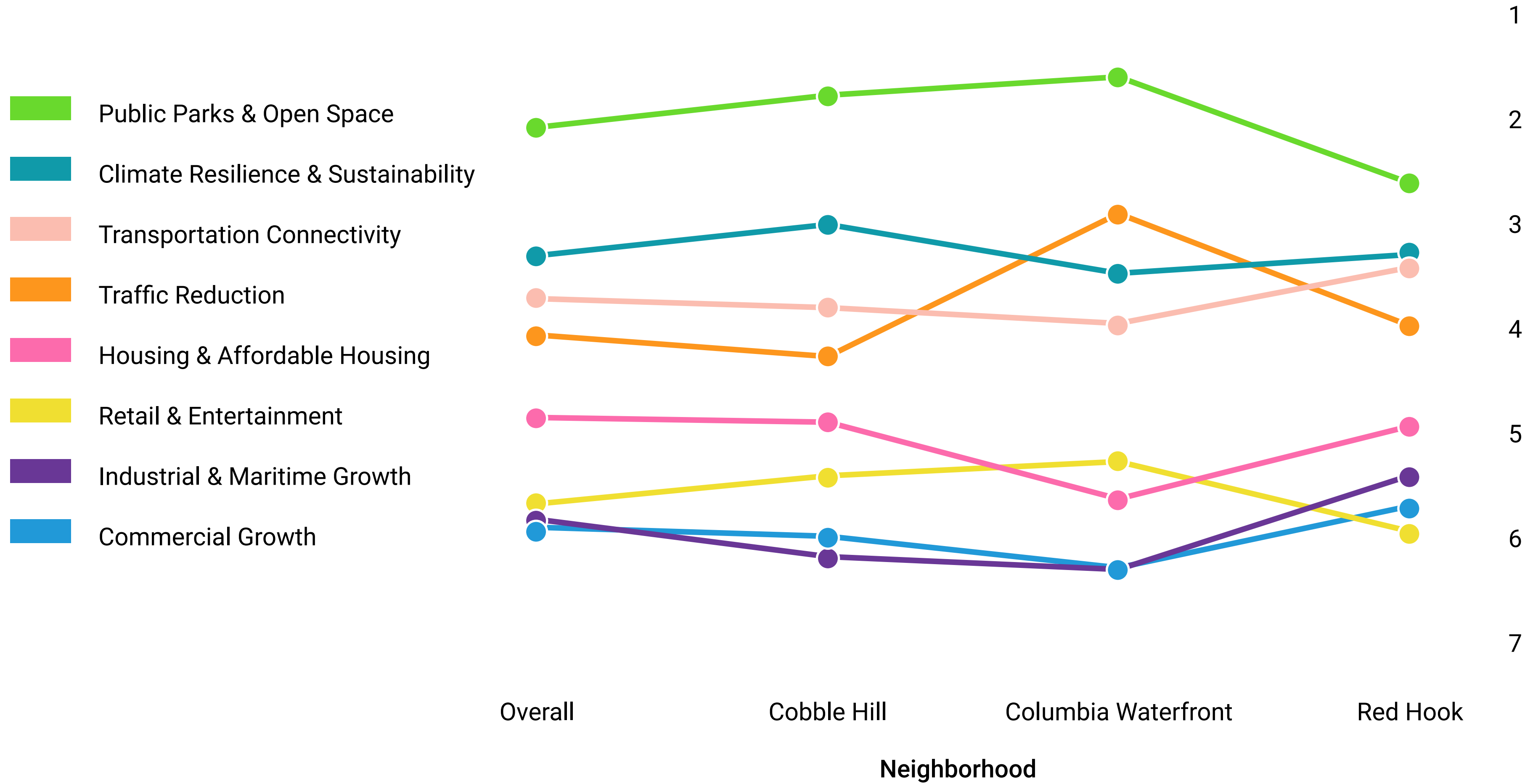
## BMT Priorities Ranking by Category



# Survey Findings - Neighborhood Breakdown

Public parks & open space was the top priority among the neighborhoods listed below.

BMT Average Priority Ranking by Neighborhood



# Example Survey Quotes

Survey respondents also shared specific ideas and concerns for consideration in the planning process.

"This feel likes a once in 100 year opportunity to develop the future of the area. Therefore I'd like to see a **holistic discussion about the other infrastructure issues that exist nearby.**"

"I think it's crucial that BMT continues to be a **working waterfront while providing greater access to public and increasing jobs and affordable housing.**"

"Provide **training opportunities** to local residents to ensure their inclusion in new job opportunities."

"Please **combine this project with the BQE project** that needs to happen. One flows right into the other and they really do share many things in common specifically around traffic/ too many cars on the road/air pollutoin/environmental concerns."

"**The process is much too fast!** We can't possibly come up with a vision for such a massive site in four months. What is the hurry? Why not take a longer time to create a vision for the site."

"**Climate resiliency** shouldn't be it's own "request." It comes off as a bit glib to make residents have to choose between these things, when this redevelopment should include ALL of the above."

"I'm proud to live in this neighborhood and hope that the area will continue to serve as a working waterfront. Please work to **involve the existing community wherever possible.** It's one of the few remaining affordable options in South Brooklyn."

"It's 120+ acres of land –the idea that you can figure out what the public, and the communities around it, want in four months is just not remotely plausible. "

D.

# Next Steps





# Next Steps

Opportunities to engage in the planning process continue throughout the duration of this project.

## Upcoming Public Workshops

Register for the following workshops by visiting the EDC website via the QR code:

- Public workshop #2 Virtual | December 5th | 6:00-8:00pm
- Public Workshop #2 | December 16th | 6:00-8:00pm

## Representation

The planning process is aiming to increase representation from lower income families and non-English speakers in feedback collected. The following engagement is planned for the coming months:

- NYCHA tenants site tour
- NYCHA adult focus group
- NYCHA youth focus group
- Spanish-language focus group
- Mandarin-language focus group

Scan this QR code to visit the Vision for Brooklyn Marine Terminal website!



# Appendix

Survey Results by Neighborhood

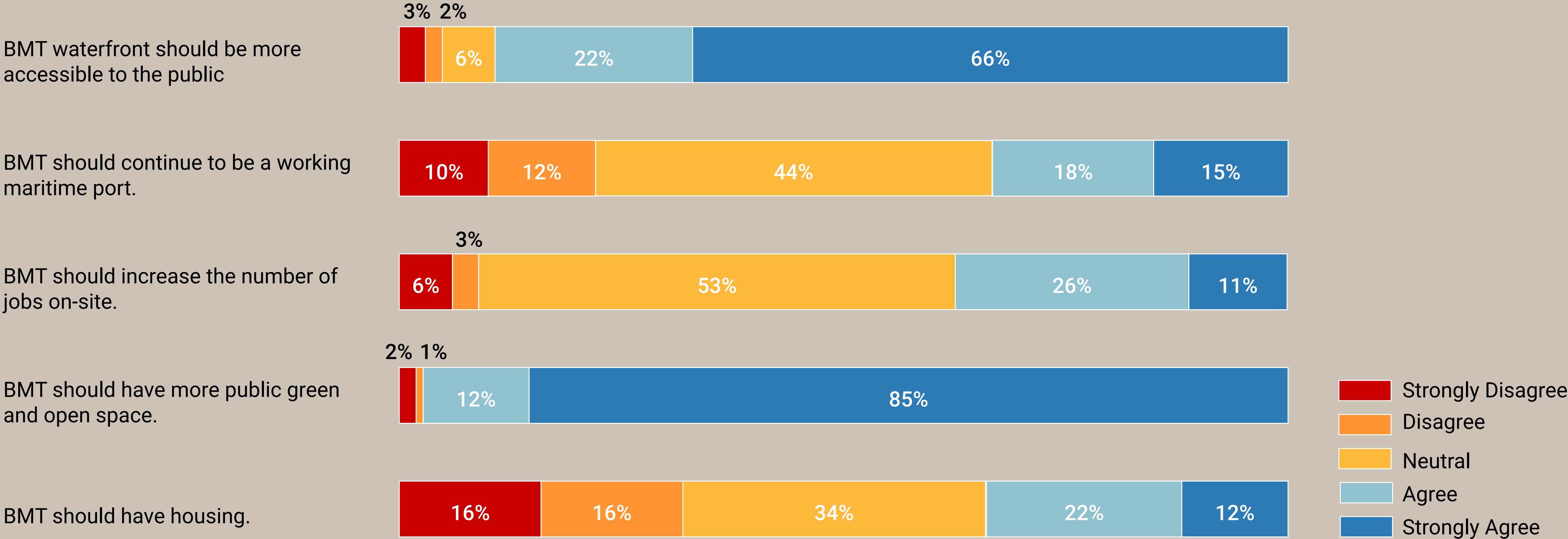
Public Workshop #1: Ideas & Priorities by Role Boards

Public Workshop #1: Questions for the Advisory Groups

# Survey: Neighborhood Breakdown

## Cobble Hill

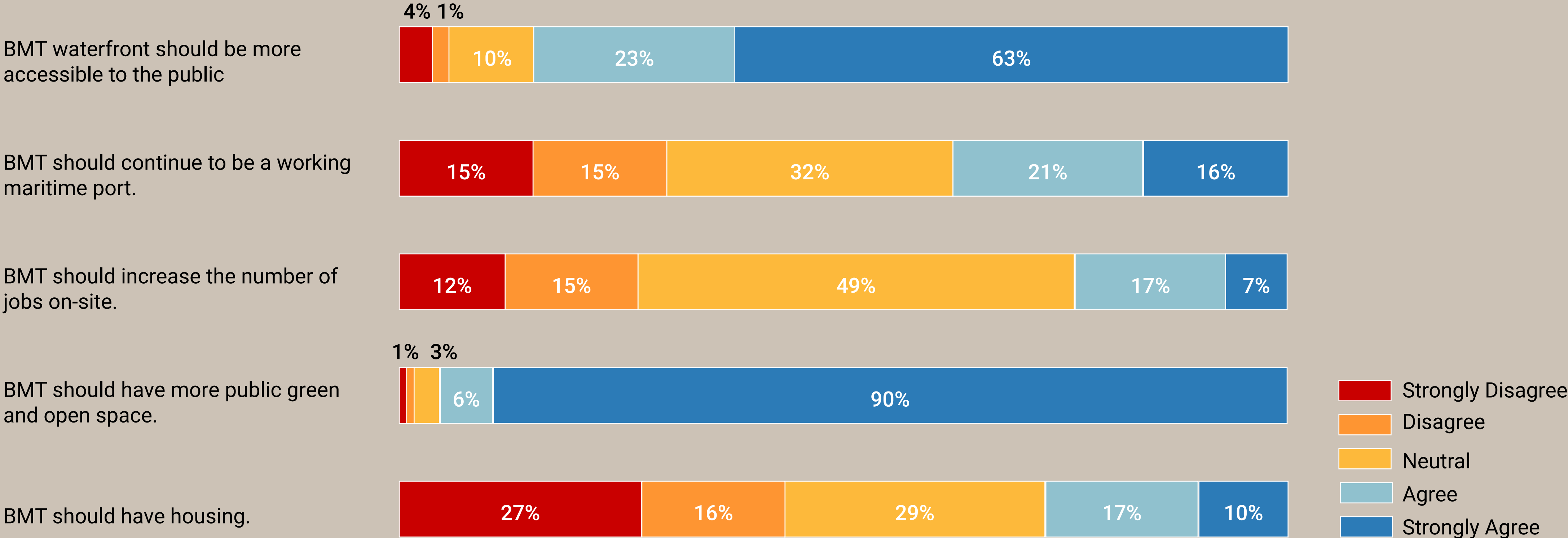
How Much Do You Agree or Disagree with the Following Statements?



# Survey: Neighborhood Breakdown

## Columbia Street Waterfront District

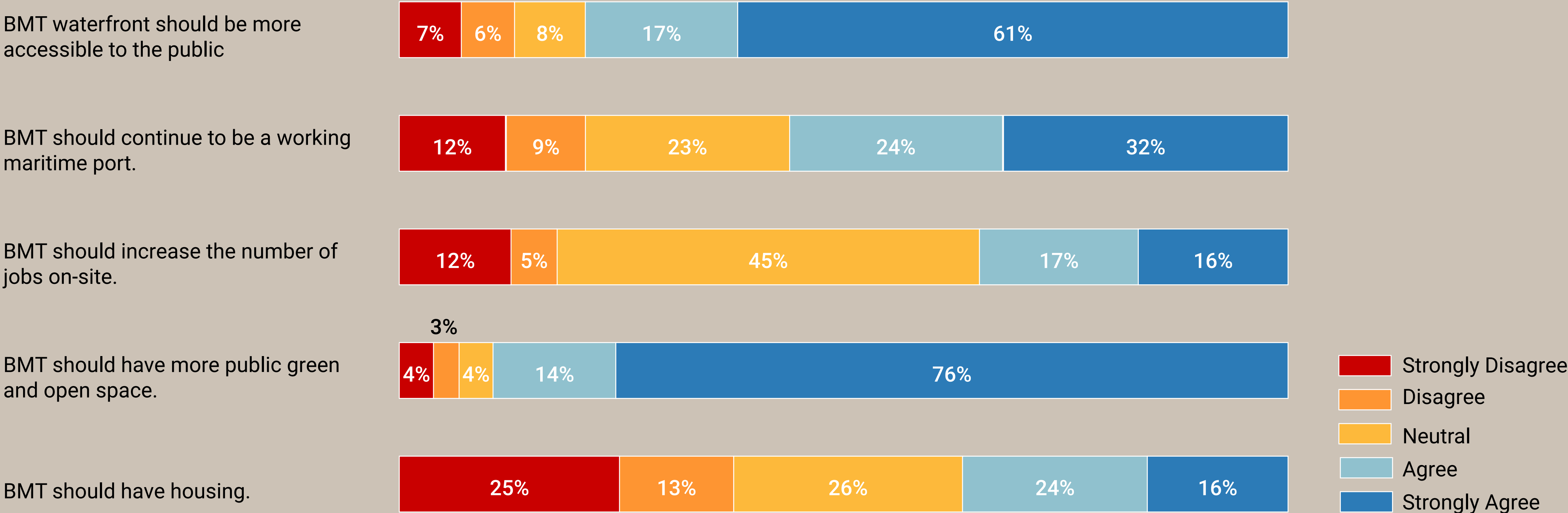
How Much Do You Agree or Disagree with the Following Statements?



# Survey: Neighborhood Breakdown

## Red Hook

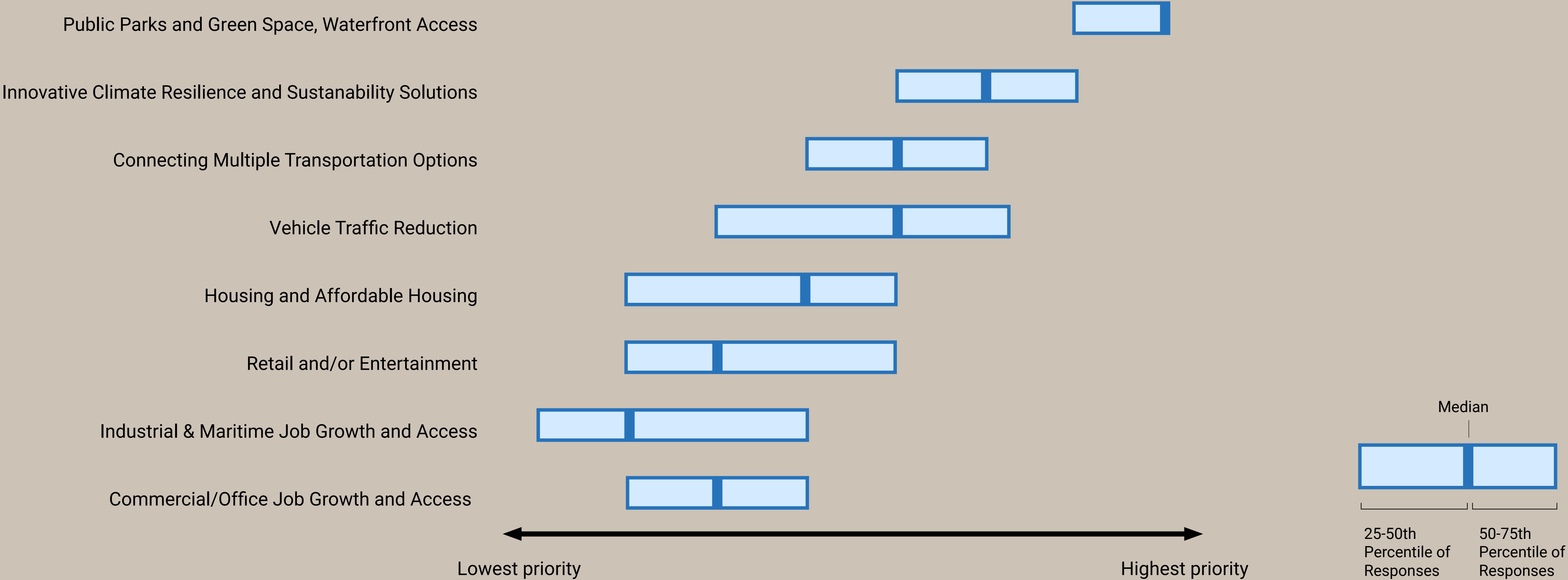
How Much Do You Agree or Disagree with the Following Statements?



# Survey: Neighborhood Breakdown

## Cobble Hill

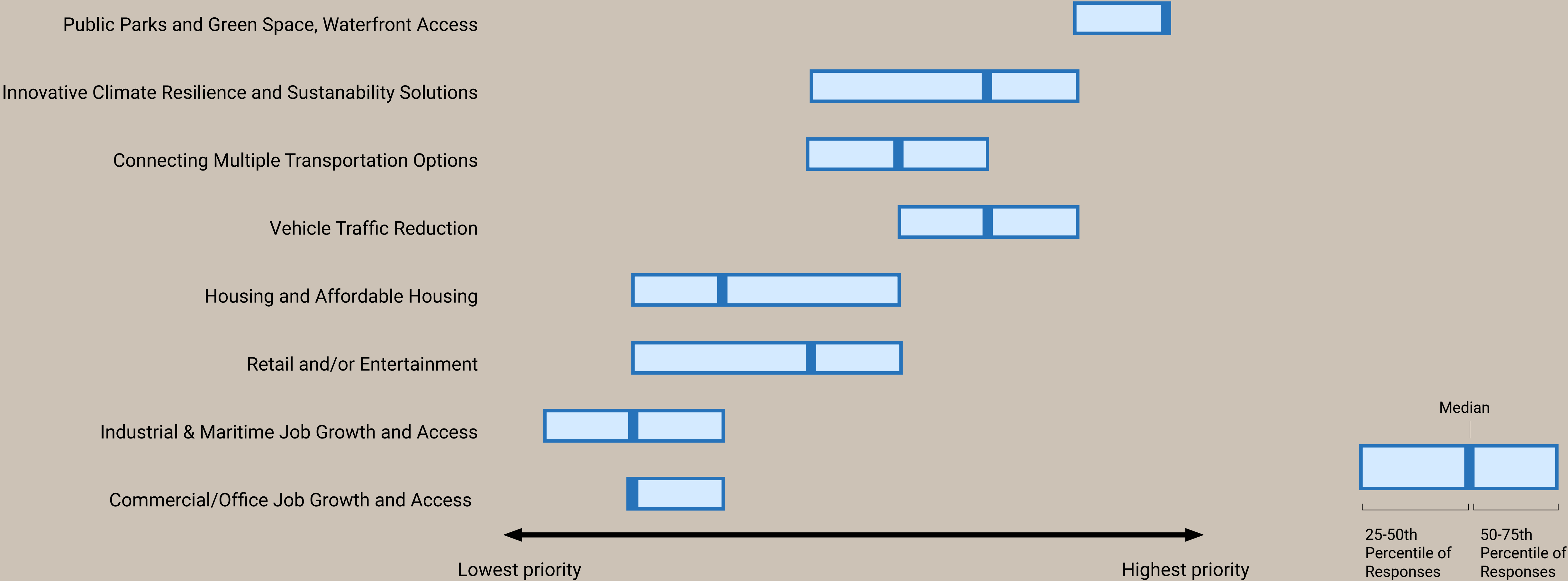
Please Rank the Following BMT Priorities from Highest to Lowest



# Survey: Neighborhood Breakdown

## Columbia Street Waterfront District

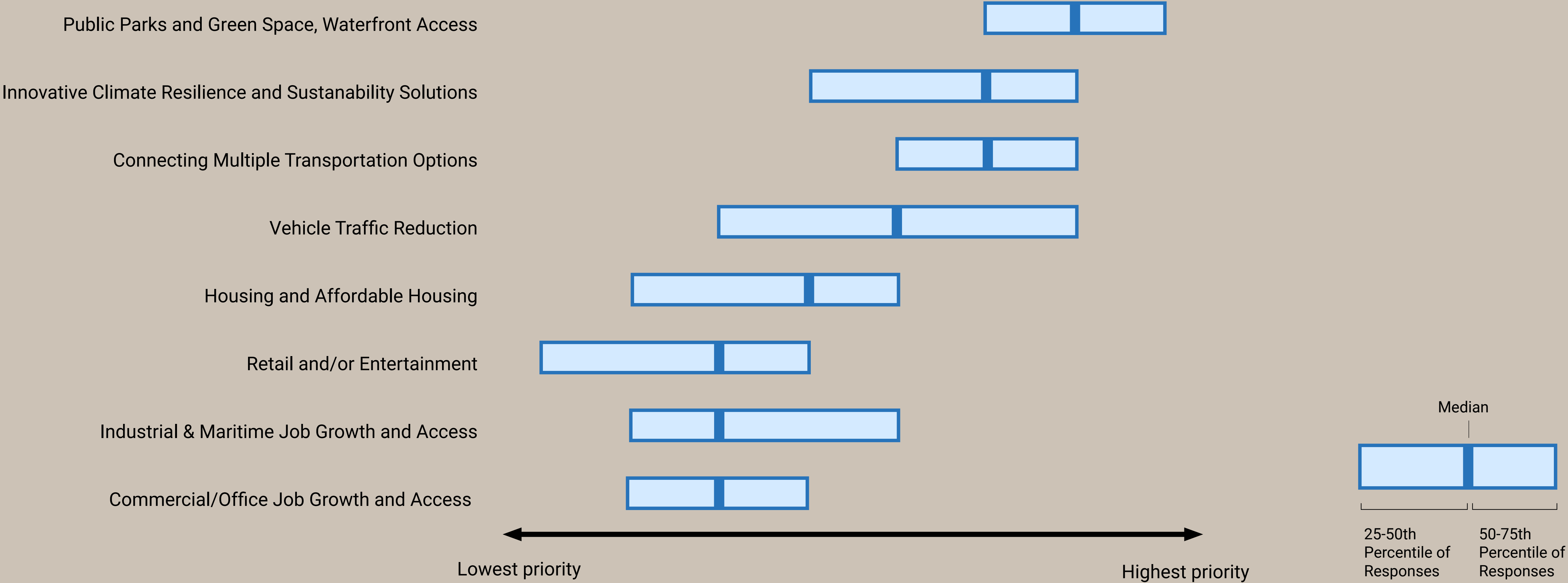
Please Rank the Following BMT Priorities from Highest to Lowest



# Survey: Neighborhood Breakdown

## Red Hook

Please Rank the Following BMT Priorities from Highest to Lowest





# Public Workshop #1: Ideas & Priorities by Role Boards

**Intro**

**Share Your Priorities**

Live Nearby
Live in Red Hook
Work in BMT
Work Nearby
Others

Please place dots on the priorities that are the most important to you. You can place all three dots in one category or spread them across three different categories. Then, please add your ideas on sticky notes for any of the categories listed below.

Industrial and Maritime Job Growth and Access

Job Training

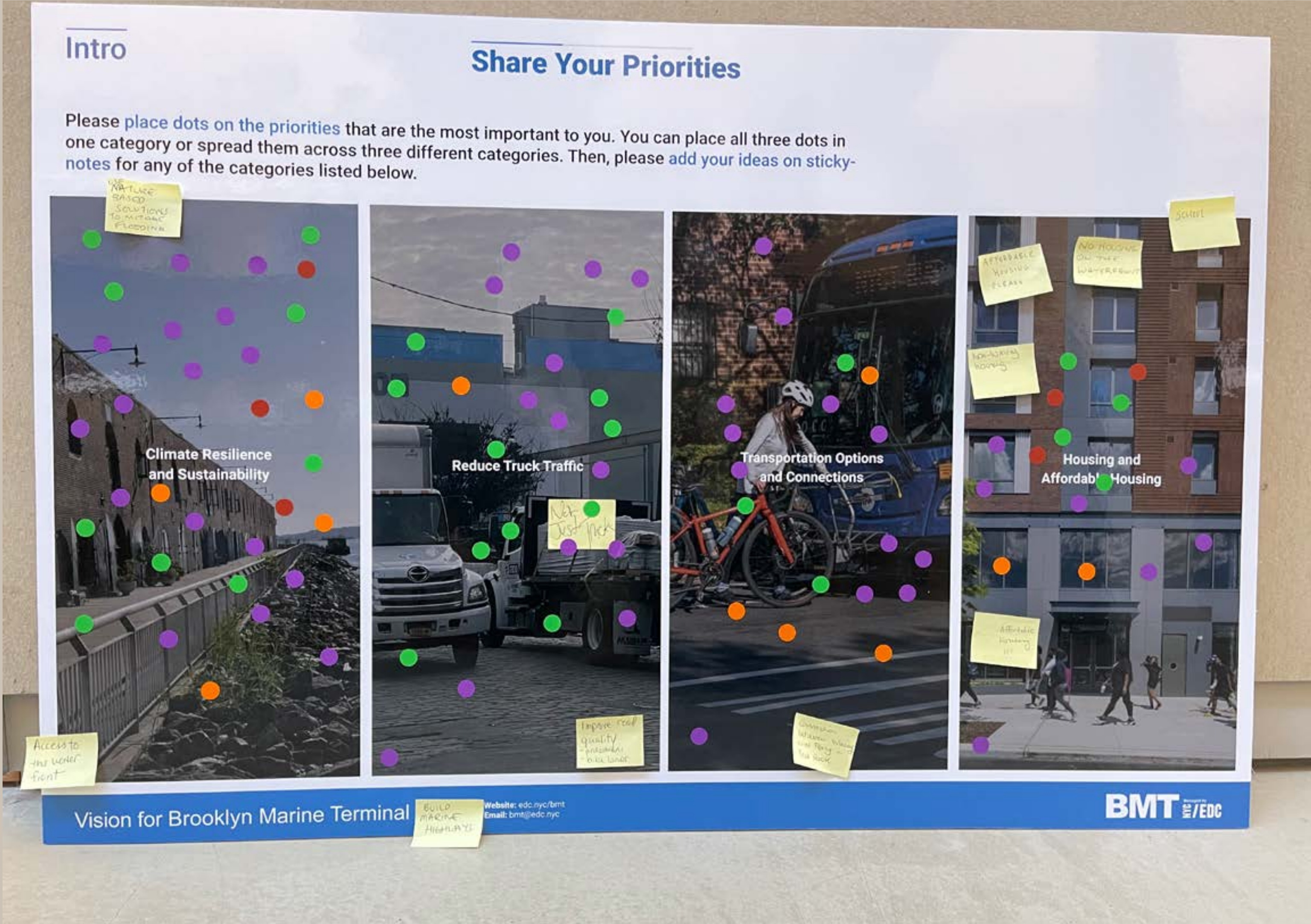
Public Parks and Open Space

Retail

Vision for Brooklyn Marine Terminal | Website: edc.nyc.gov/bmt | Email: bmt@edc.nyc.gov | BMT NYC/EDC

10/7/24 - Sacred Heart & St. Stephen

# Public Workshop #1: Ideas & Priorities by Role Boards



10/7/24 - Sacred Heart & St. Stephen

# Public Workshop #1: Ideas & Priorities by Role Boards

**Intro**

**Share Your Priorities**

Please place dots on the priorities that are the most important to you. You can place all three dots in one category or spread them across three different categories. Then, please add your ideas on sticky notes for any of the categories listed below.

**Climate Resilience and Sustainability**

**Reduce Truck Traffic**

**Transportation Options and Connections**

**Housing and Affordable Housing**

Vision for Brooklyn Marine Terminal

Website: [edc.nyc.gov/bmt](http://edc.nyc.gov/bmt)  
Email: [bmt@edc.nyc](mailto:bmt@edc.nyc)

9/28/24 - Miccio Center

# Public Workshop #1: Ideas & Priorities by Role Boards

**Intro**

**LIVE IN:** RED DOT

**LIVE NEARBY:** PURPLE DOT

**WORK NEARBY:** ORANGE DOT

**WORK AT BMT:** BLUE DOT

**OTHERS:** GREEN DOT

**Share Your Priorities**

Please place dots on the role boards below to indicate the most important to you. You can place all three dots in one category or spread them across three different categories. Then, please add your ideas on sticky notes for any of the categories listed below.

**Industrial and Maritime Job Growth and Access**

**Job Training**

**Public Parks and Open Space**

**Retail**

Vision for Brooklyn Marine Terminal

Website: [edc.nyc.gov/bmt](http://edc.nyc.gov/bmt)  
Email: [bmt@edc.nyc](mailto:bmt@edc.nyc)

**BMT** NYC/EDC

9/28/24 - Miccio Center

# Public Workshop #1: Questions for the Advisory Groups

## What questions do you have for the advisory groups?

**Intro**

The advisory groups' role is to provide thought leadership and feedback to the task force. Advisory group members reflect different interests and areas of expertise and consist of community-based organizations and coalitions, tenant associations, local businesses, local government bodies, and more.

**Topic: Transportation, Mobility, & Open Space**

Example question: How will the Vision for BMT invest in the local community?

**Topic: NYCHA & NYCHA Youth**

Example question: How will the Vision for BMT invest in the local community?

**Topic: Community Development & Housing**

Example question: What are the pathways for affordable housing is provided on this site?

**BMT** NYC/EDC

Website: edc.nyc/bmt  
Email: bmt@edc.nyc

9/28/24 - Miccio Center

# Public Workshop #1: Questions for the Advisory Groups

## Intro

The advisory groups' role is to provide thought leadership and feed back force. Advisory group members reflect different interests and areas of expertise, consist of community-based organizations and coalitions, tenant associations, businesses, local governance bodies, and more.

## What questions do you have for the advisory groups?

**Topic: Maritime, Industrial, Workforce, & Small/Local Businesses**

Example question: How can BMT support business growth opportunities?

*Bay Ridge Blue Highway Community?*

*What are your plans for Portside Business & Retail? For organizations with Portside in a historic district and "historic" sign requirements?*

*How can we support small businesses?*

*How will the city deal with a surge of small shipping that currently is only possible at Cribbs & Roads?*

*How do we prevent the maritime space from being used for other purposes?*

**Topic: Environmental Justice, Resiliency, & Waterfronts**

Example question: How might BMT reduce environmental impacts of current and future maritime mixed-uses on adjacent communities?

*Can the BMT reduce local schools and students in the process?*

*Is there any existing plan for Portside?*

*How will the redevelopment impact the surrounding project?*

*How can BMT reduce us to zero the CO2 within 15-20 years?*

*How can BMT operations and activities reduce local air pollution?*

**Topic: BMT Tenants & Port Operators**

Example question: How should the port at BMT be modernized to support business growth and efficient, sustainable operations?

*Can we please stop allowing all the last mile delivery operations to be located here in Portside?*

*KIP + Increase the Port's Role Shipping - Bids - Needs Find a Way to Connectivity Into the BMT - How Can BMT + Tenants Be Better?*

*Can we please stop allowing all the last mile delivery operations to be located here in Portside?*

*Does the project scope include development of facilities to load/unload cargo from small (inter-national) ships?*

*Will the advisory group read out in the morning just how to coordinate meeting goals?*

*Can you add a Dock NYC tenant to the group? Small maritime businesses are missing.*

*Some that discuss how about how to stabilize the site. Do we need to keep some as a "core" or how to manage by zoning?*

*Look at modern port / operations integrated location like Hamburg etc. Look at how to use essential equipment?*

**BMT** NYC/EDC

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# Public Workshop #1: Questions for the Advisory Groups

## Intro

The advisory groups' role is to provide thought leadership and feedback to the task force. Advisory group members reflect different interests and areas of expertise and consist of community-based organizations and coalitions, tenant associations, local businesses, local governance bodies, and more.

## What questions do you have for the advisory groups?

**Topic: Transportation, Mobility, & Open Space**

Example question: How might BMT be part of the solution for reducing congestion and emission impacts on adjacent communities?

How will BMT impact the dangerous on ramps + off ramps to the BQE and Alton?

Water the street rocks

Please be honest about the current traffic situation (not just trucks) and how to address

How will BMT impact the dangerous on ramps + off ramps to the BQE and Alton?

How will BMT impact the dangerous on ramps + off ramps to the BQE and Alton?

Remove a lane only for trucks

Remove recycling plant (lots of inequality should be priority)

When will you get rid of the recycling mix??

**Topic: NYCHA & NYCHA Youth**

Example question: How will the Vision for BMT invest in the local community?

More green space!

How can the BMT deliver on community space promises that have not been delivered to date (e.g. playground, dog park, etc.)

More green space!

How can we have meaningful affordable housing with mixed income in the neighborhood? (e.g. co-ops, etc.)

**Topic: Community Development & Housing**

Example question: What are the pathways for ensuring affordable housing is provided on this site?

WHAT TYPE OF AFFORDABLE AND WHAT LEVEL?

How are we having for that workers? How are the other spaces connecting the new and old?

The pathways are may be the design and build through consideration of zoning and site analysis with also connection to the side areas.

How can we have meaningful affordable housing with mixed income in the neighborhood? (e.g. co-ops, etc.)

When does have impact the height of condos + the height cap

What percentage of new housing should be set aside for NYCHA priority tenants?

Can we be more creative - NO need to favor like LIC!! (e.g. priority tenants, low density street like rooftop decks will build community by connecting people vertically)

Housing should NOT be on the waterfront.

Vision for Brooklyn Marine Terminal

Website: [edc.nyc.gov/bmt](http://edc.nyc.gov/bmt)  
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10/7/24 - Sacred Heart & St. Stephen

# Public Workshop #1: Questions for the Advisory Groups

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### Topic: Maritime, Industrial, Workforce, & Small/Local Businesses

Example question: How can BMT support business growth opportunities?

Look us to avoid my shop to better water front STE M EDUCATION LYONS MOTOR CAR

TO BE ON LIST PLEASE ADD WHEN THE TIME COMES.

IS THIS MPE USE

Will there be a non-use or become a part of something marine and industrial zone? If so, how much and by what?

How will you ensure current existing power that may include marine electrical systems work - or not?

First year living residents here in store also a market set up possible

### Topic: Environmental Justice, Resiliency, & Waterfronts

Example question: How might BMT reduce environmental impacts of current and future maritime mixed-uses on adjacent communities?

Get all the dust out of the air for every body but mainly kids, and old

How will you ensure current existing power that may include marine electrical systems work - or not?

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### Topic: BMT Tenants & Port Operators

Example question: How should the port at BMT be modernized to support business growth and efficient, sustainable operations?

How can we help modernize blue highway help reduce noise emissions and increase safety for the BMT?

How to make it more efficient and sustainable process

How will you ensure current existing power that may include marine electrical systems work - or not?

Website: [edc.nyc.gov/bmt](http://edc.nyc.gov/bmt)

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# Public Workshop #1: Mapping Feedback Activity



9/28/24 - Miccio Center



# Vision for Brooklyn Marine Terminal

Initial Public Engagement Summary

November 2024

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