



I-35 Connects

Moving Duluth People and Goods

# MIC and MnDOT I-35 CORRIDOR PLAN Phase 2 Engagement Summary

Presented to

TAC and MIC

August 16 & 17, 2023



**mn** DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION



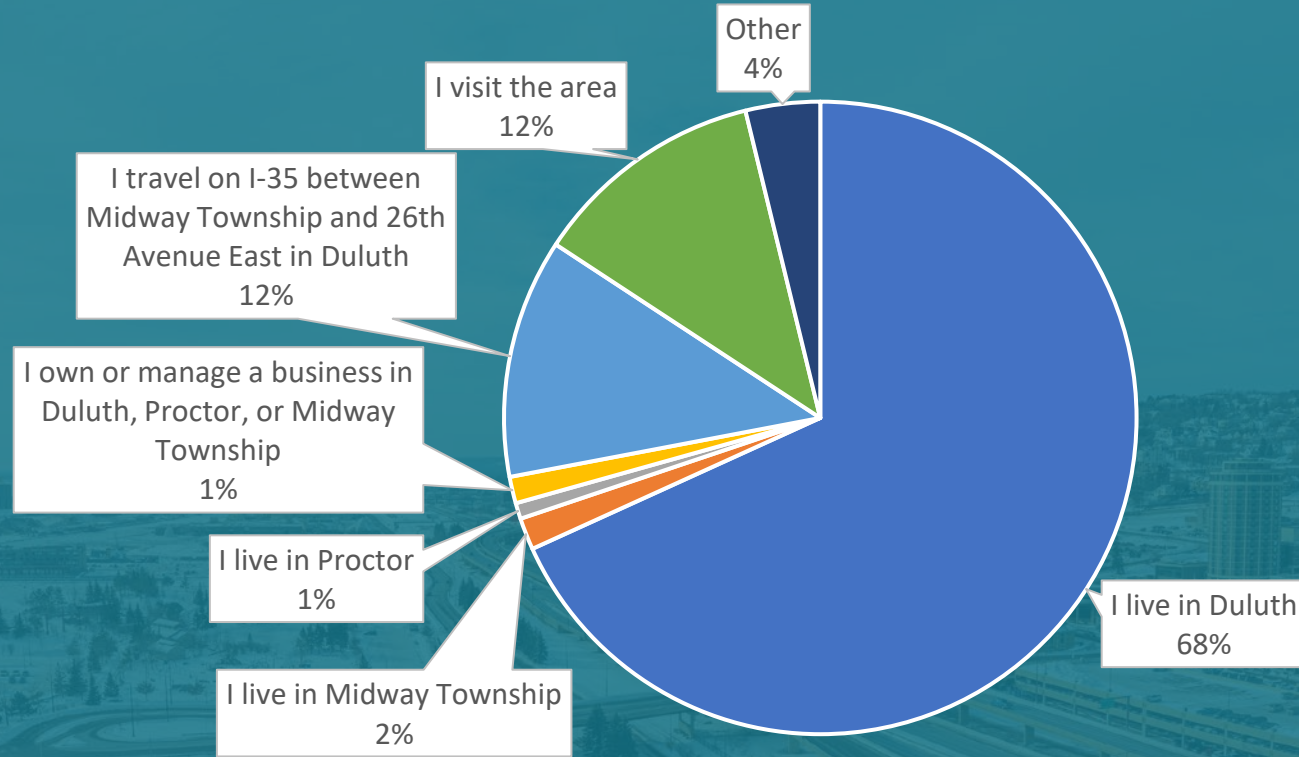
## May to June

Gather feedback on design concepts and potential improvements

- **Online survey (366 responses)**
- **Focus groups**
  - Port & Freight
  - Downtown/Central Hillside
- **Public meeting**



### What best describes you?

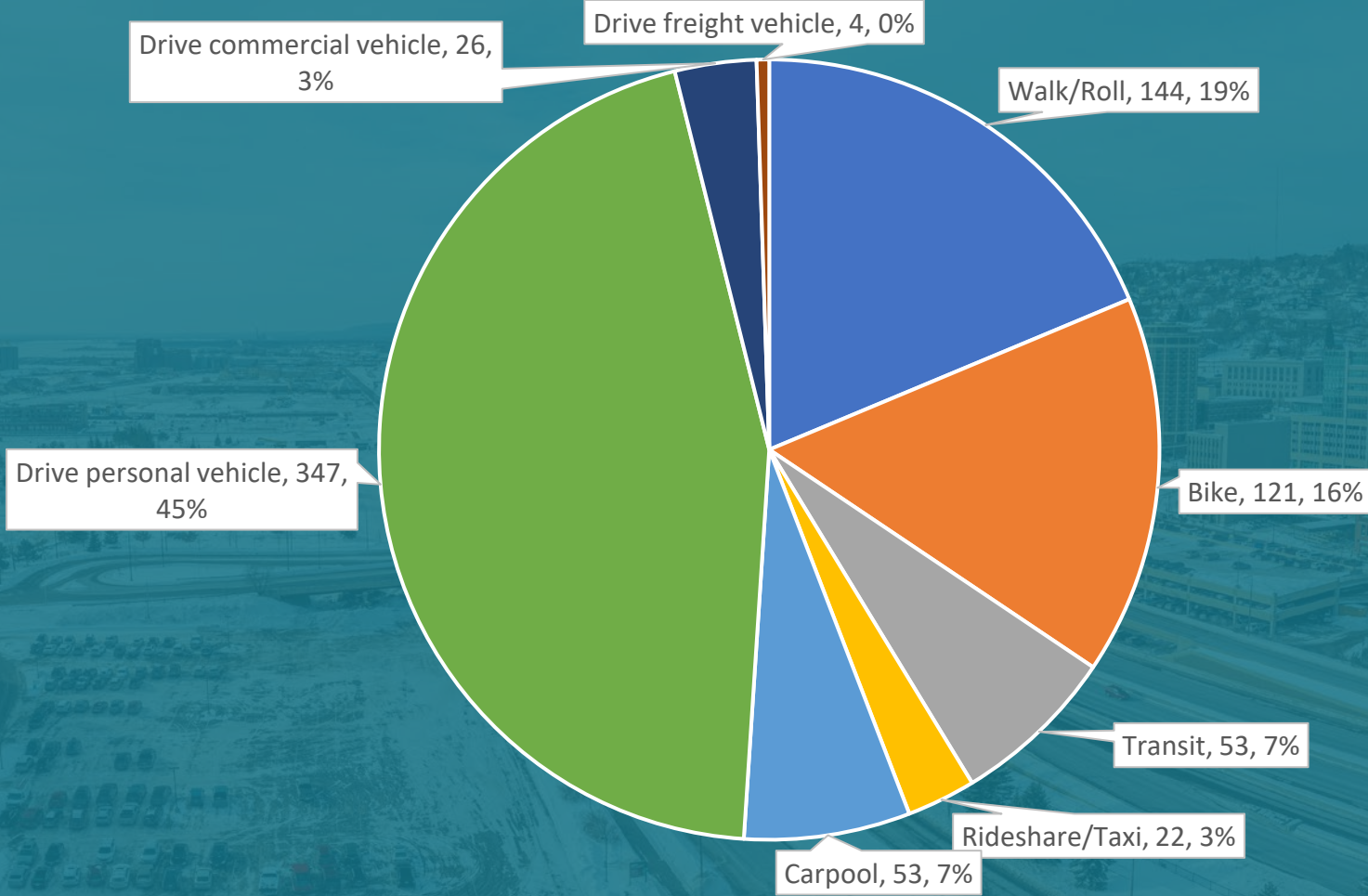


- I live in Duluth
- I live in Midway Township
- I live in Proctor
- I own or manage a business in Duluth, Proctor, or Midway Township
- I travel on I-35 between Midway Township and 26th Avenue East in Duluth
- I visit the area
- Other



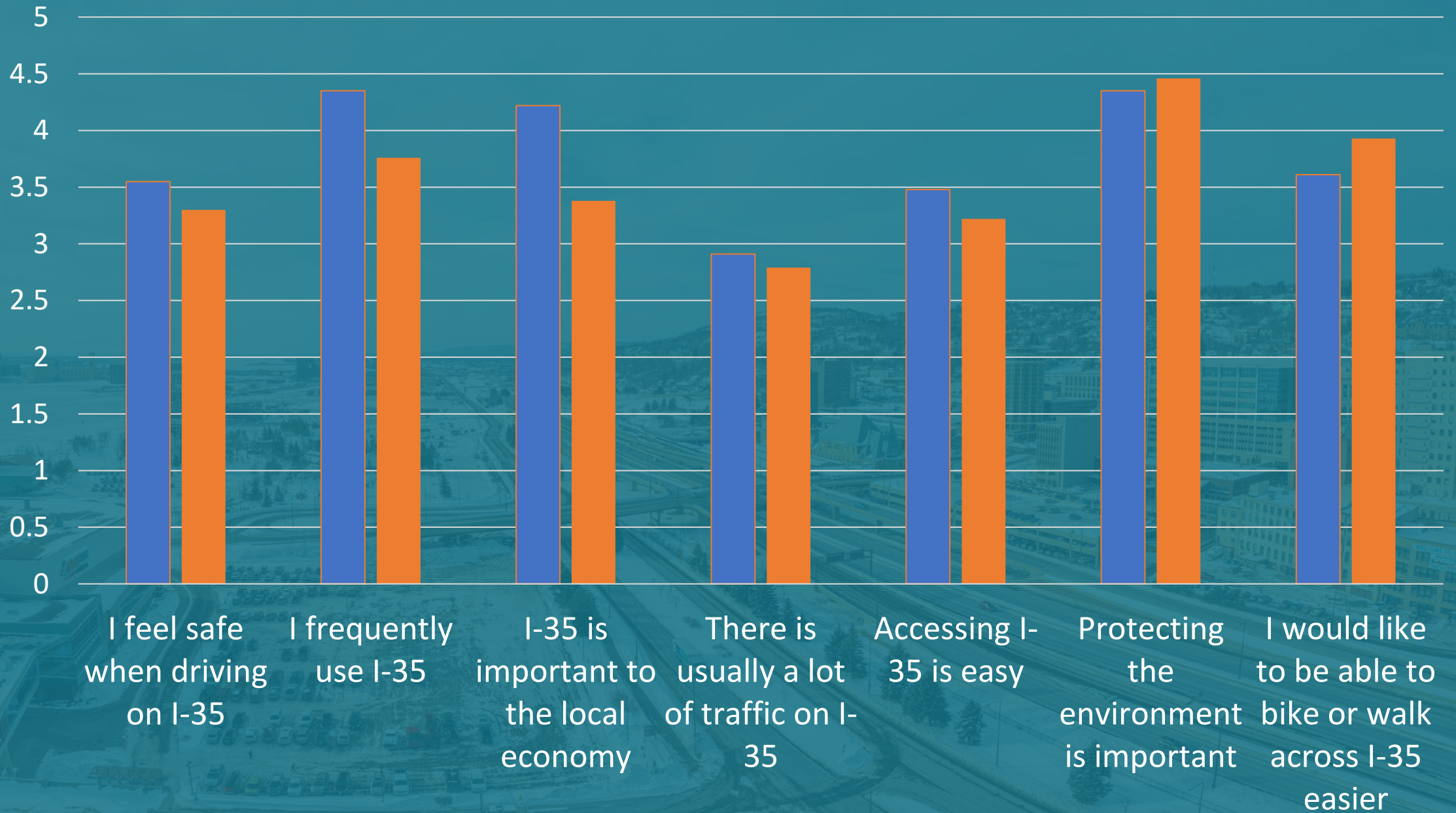


# How do you currently travel on, or along, or across I-35 between Midway Township and 26 Avenue East in Duluth?



- Walk/Roll
- Bike
- Transit
- Rideshare/Taxi
- Carpool
- Drive personal vehicle
- Drive commercial vehicle
- Drive freight vehicle

# VALUE STATEMENTS



■ 2022 ■ 2023



- **Prioritize pedestrian and bicycle**
- **Advocacy for freeway removal**
  - Divides community; pedestrian connectivity; prioritizes cars over other modes;
- **Criticism for freeway removal**
  - Negative impacts on traffic flow and event-related congestion
- **Need for continued planning efforts to consider multimodal transportation (ex: bus, NLX)**



# SPIRIT VALLEY CONCEPTS

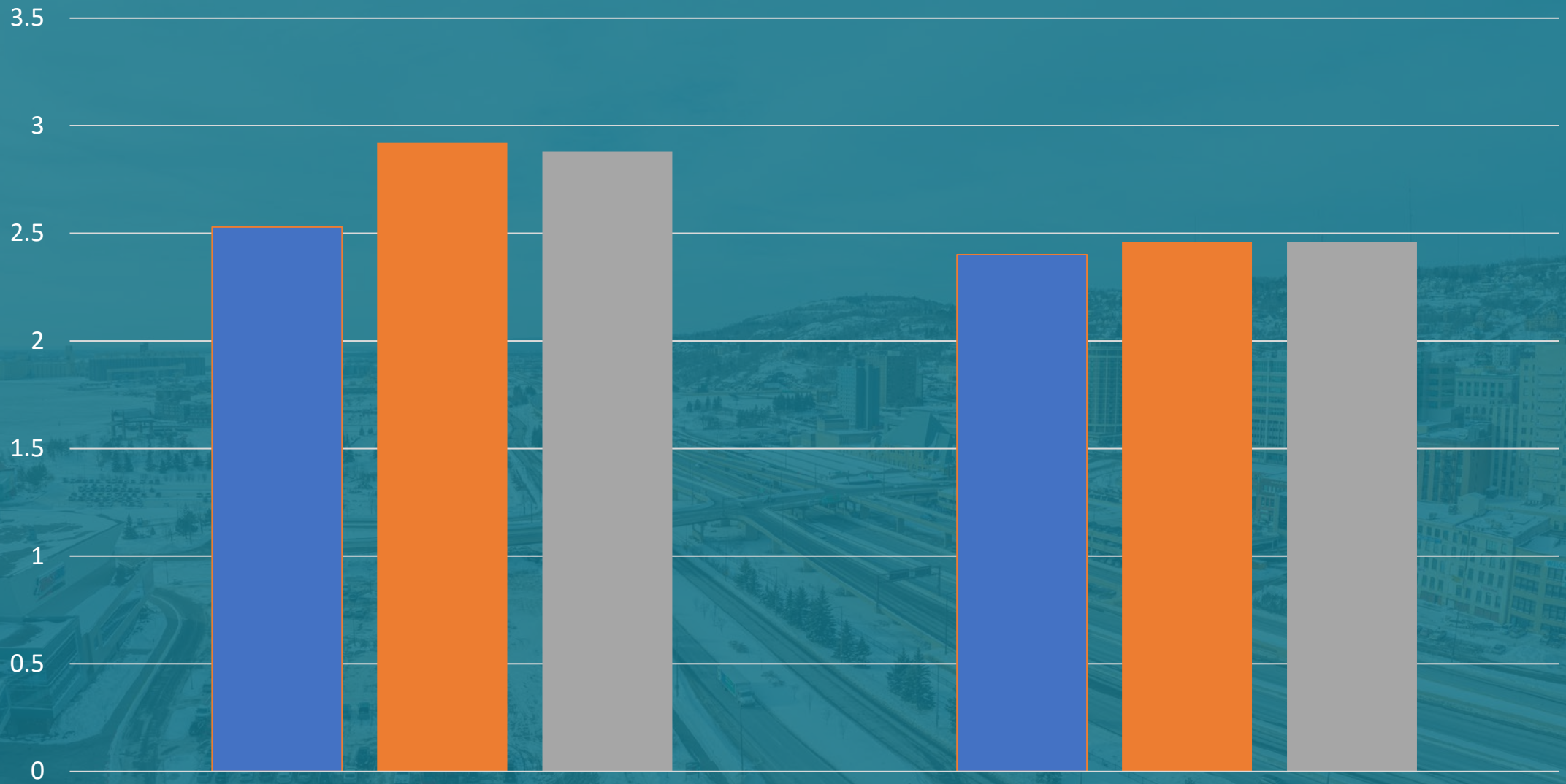
## CONCEPT - SPIRIT VALLEY CONSOLIDATED INTERCHANGE



## CONCEPT - SPIRIT VALLEY MEDIAN U-TURN



# SPIRIT VALLEY RATINGS



Consolidated Interchange

Median U-Turn

■ Mean In-Person Star Rating   ■ Mean Online Star Rating   ■ Mean Combined Star Rating





## Common themes

- Removal of left exits/entrances seen as positive

## Consolidated Interchange

- Mixed views
- Concern with adding traffic lights

## Median U-Turn

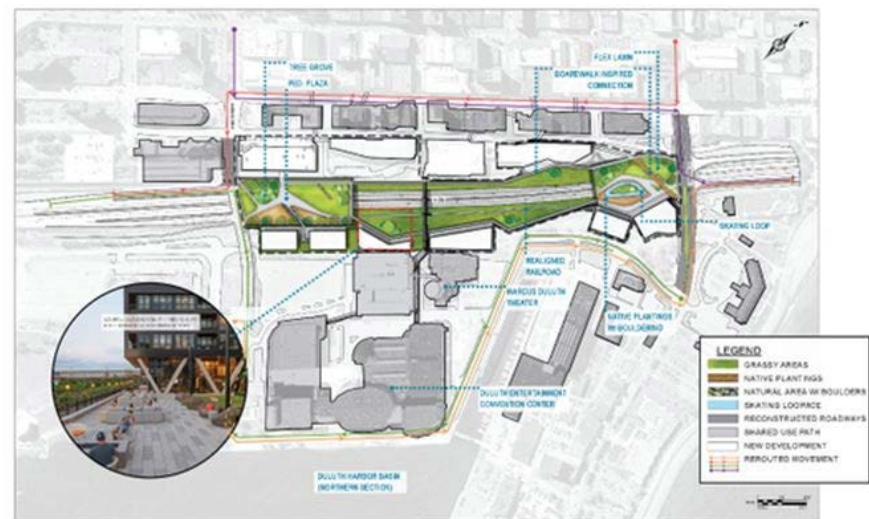
- Concern design is complicated and difficult for users



## CONCEPT - DOWNTOWN ROUNDABOUT PARKWAY



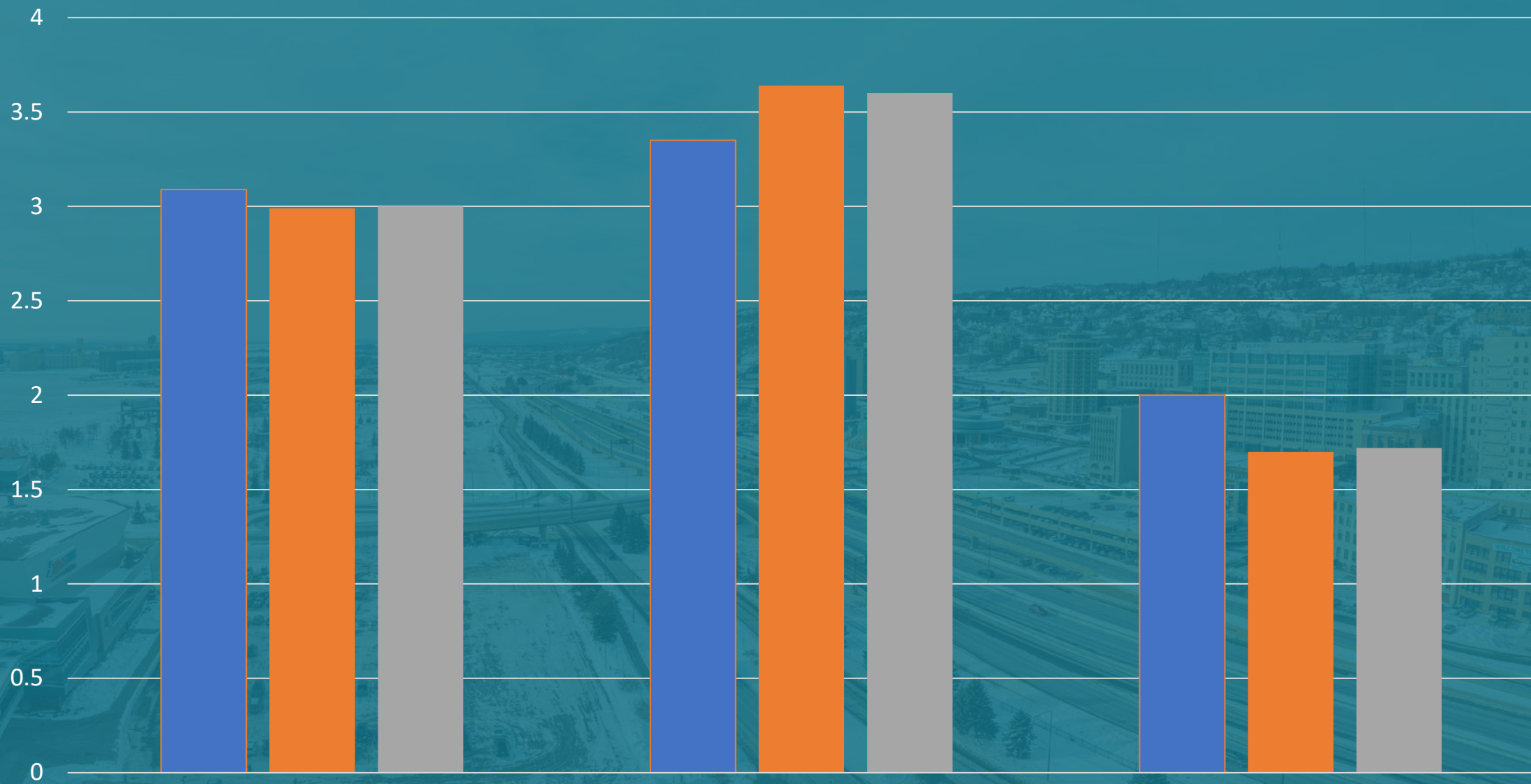
## CONCEPT - DOWNTOWN LID



## CONCEPT - DOWNTOWN INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS



# DOWNTOWN RATINGS



Roundabout Parkway

Lid

Interchange Improvements

■ Mean In-Person Star Rating   ■ Mean Online Star Rating   ■ Mean Combined Star Rating



## Roundabout Parkway

- Polarized views
- Support for enhanced connectivity and aesthetics
- Concern for traffic impacts including freight and accessibility

## Lid

- Support for aesthetics, green space, connectivity
- Cost concerns
- Desire for lid to expand

## Interchange Improvements

- Opposition as too little change or maintaining the status quo



## Implementation Plan

- Outlining future improvements, sequencing, timing, cost, and agency responsibility
- Steering Committee to review (meeting TBD - Sept)

## Connecting Communities Grant

- Meeting held with City of Duluth staff, Mayor, MIC, MnDOT
- Grant application
  - Funded by MnDOT, contracted w/Bolton & Menk to prepare

## Draft Plan – Sept/Oct

- Final plan to be presented for Board approval in December





I-35 Connects

Moving Duluth People and Goods

# MIC and MnDOT I-35 CORRIDOR PLAN Phase 2 Engagement Summary

## Comments? Questions?



**mi** DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION

