

BEDFORD HIGHWAY FUNCTIONAL PLAN

What We Heard in Phase 1



ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The first phase of public engagement activities for the Bedford Highway Functional Plan took place in November 2018 and included open house meetings, an online survey and online information materials.

Phase 1 objectives were to:

- Provide information about the historic and existing conditions.
- Provide information about the Integrated Mobility Plan, and integrated transportation and land use planning.
- Gather public and stakeholder input to develop an understanding of the typical current user experiences, and the ideal user experiences.

The public meetings were attended by approximately 120 people, the online survey had over 800 participants, and around 100 people interacted with the project through Shape Your City materials and social media platforms. The full What We Heard Report is available for review online at www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/bedfordhighway.

MAJOR THEMES

For many engagement participants, the current experience travelling the Bedford Highway by any mode is challenging, due to delays and concerns about safety. Drivers explained how they experience traffic congestion and long trip times during peak periods. Cyclists and pedestrians described encountering conditions that feel uncomfortable and difficult to safely navigate. Transit users also expressed facing unreliable transit service, as well as inconvenience in timing and locations of stops and terminals.

Among participants in the engagement activities, the strongest priorities for the Bedford Highway were improving public transit service, traffic congestion, and safety.

Enthusiasm for commuter rail service was high, as was support for significant improvements to the bus system. In particular, there was support for bus priority measures to alleviate peak period delays. There was also a desire for more frequent bus service and express service during high-demand times of day.

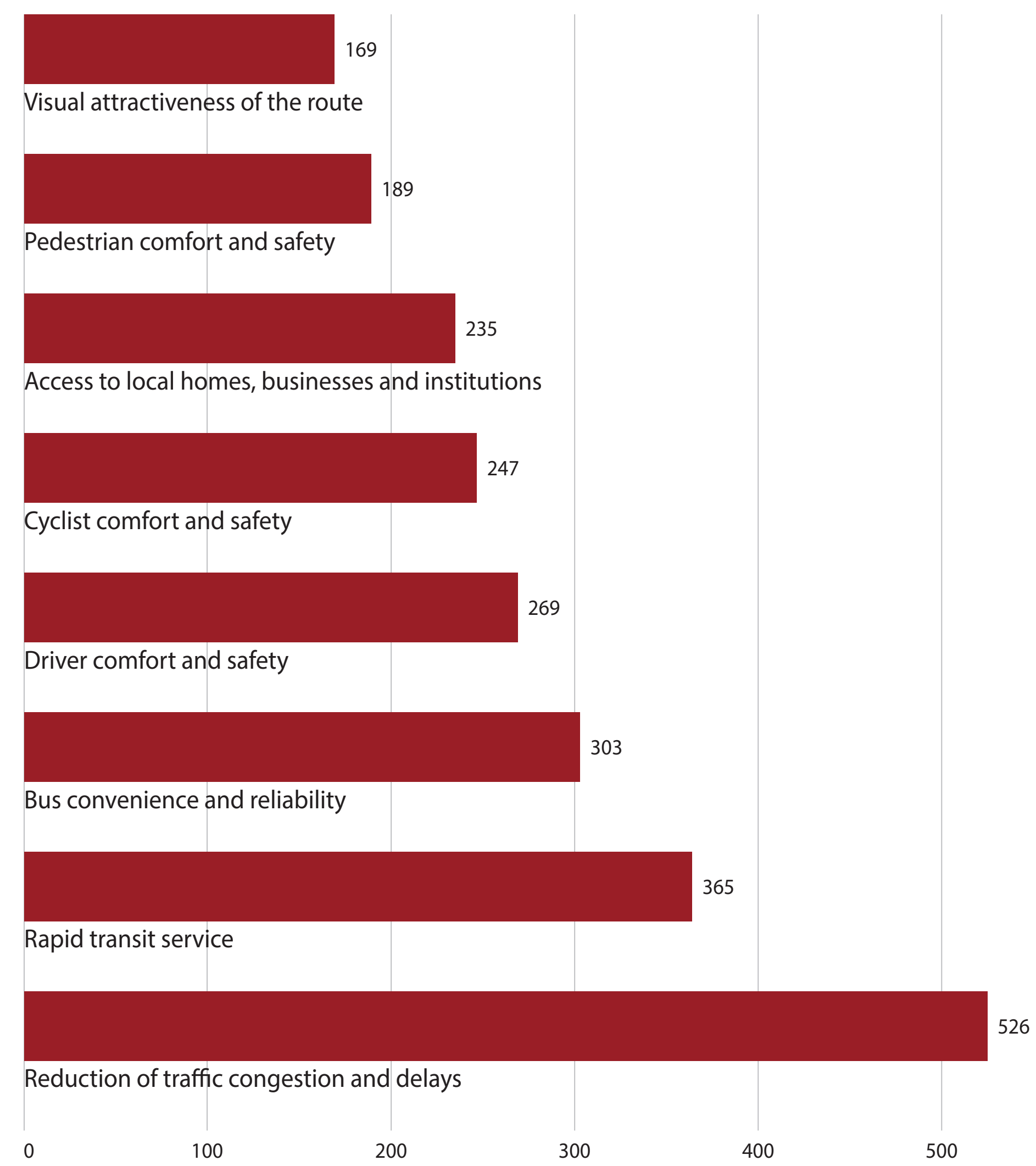
When considering different types of cycling infrastructure improvement, there is a preference for separated multi-purpose pathways versus painted or separated bike lanes. Respondents felt that pedestrian infrastructure improvements would also influence people to walk more often, especially in combination with transit.

Overall, feedback indicates that the community aspires for travel experiences on the Bedford Highway that are smooth, efficient, and safe.

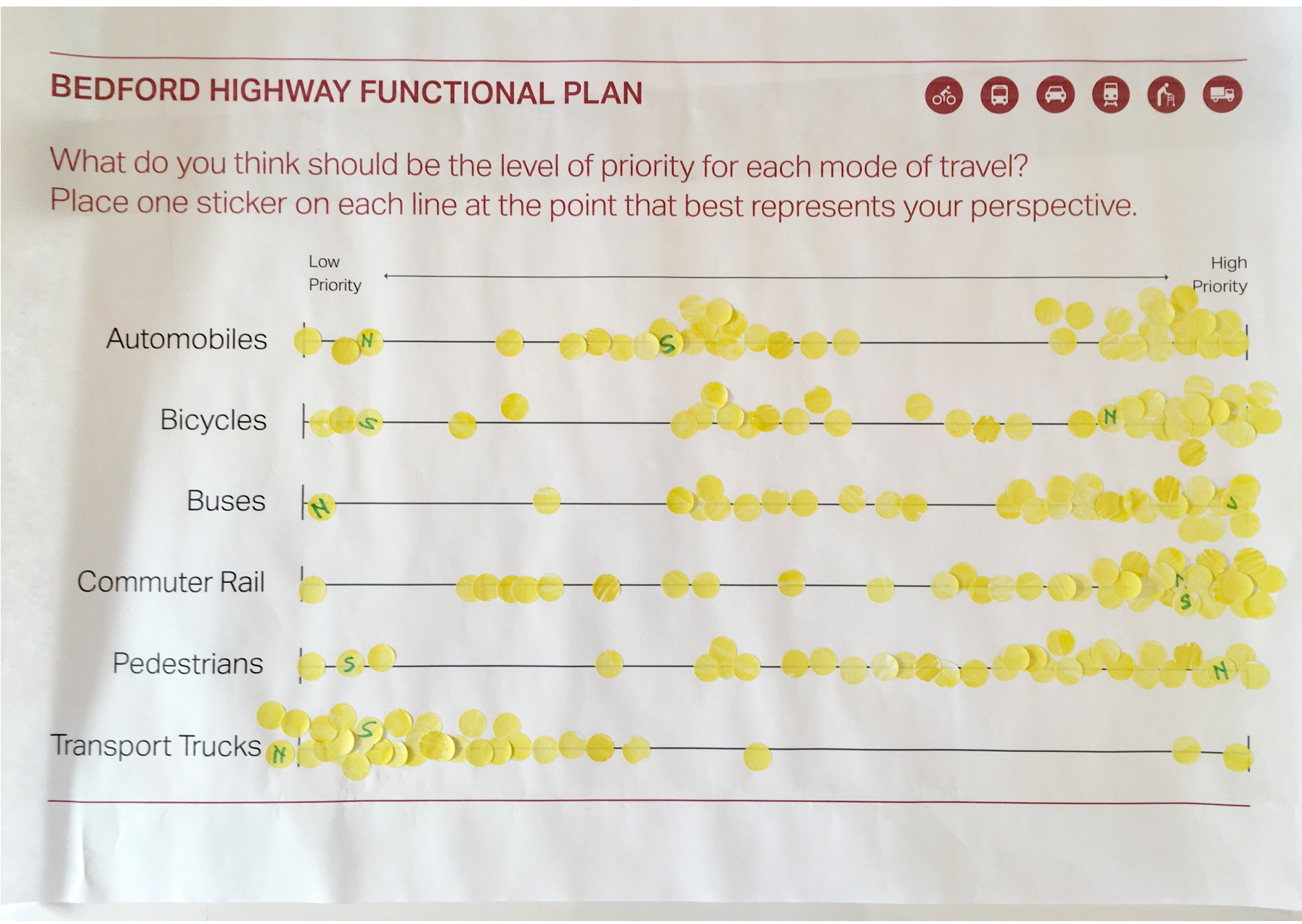
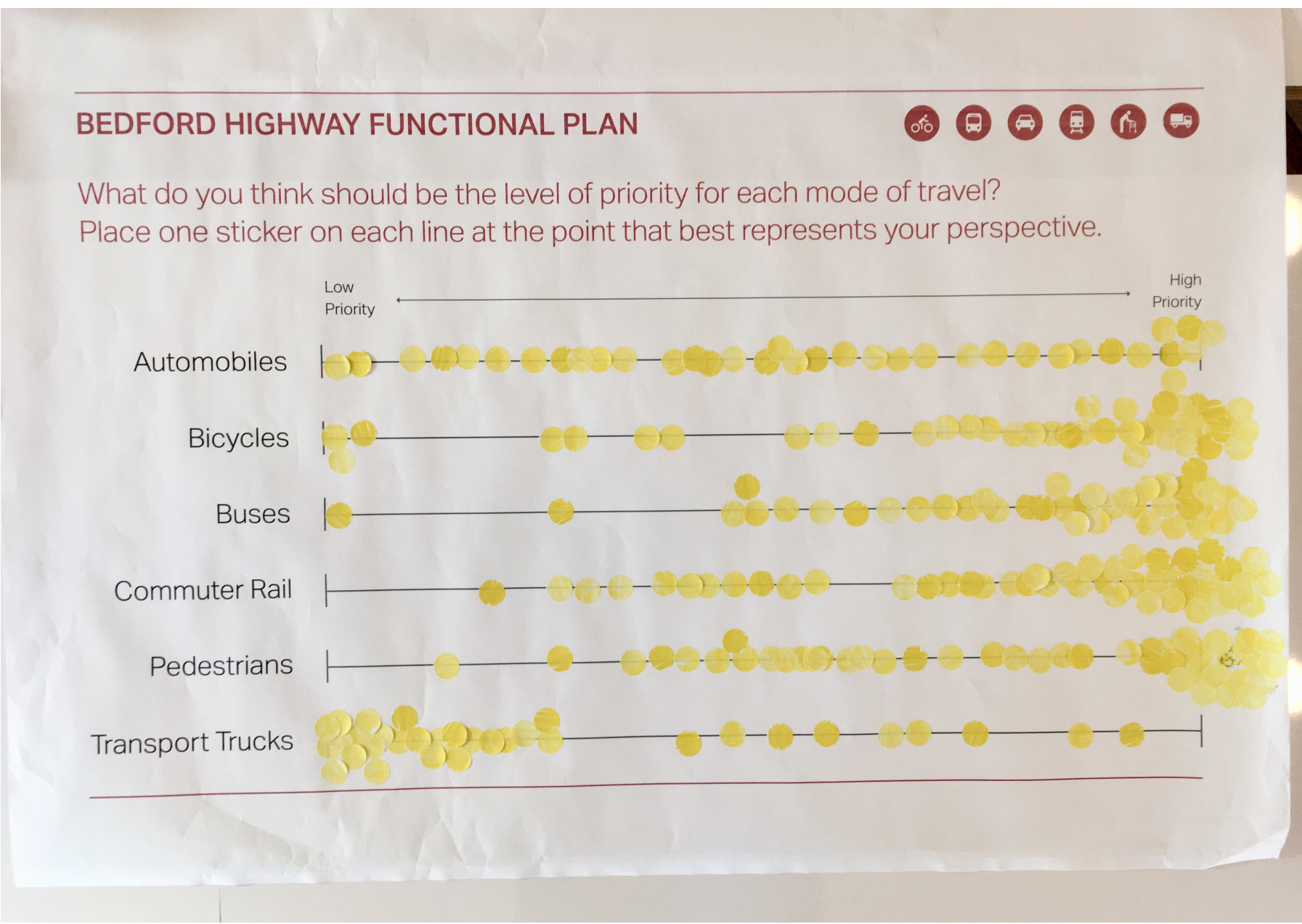


TRAVEL MODE PRIORITIES

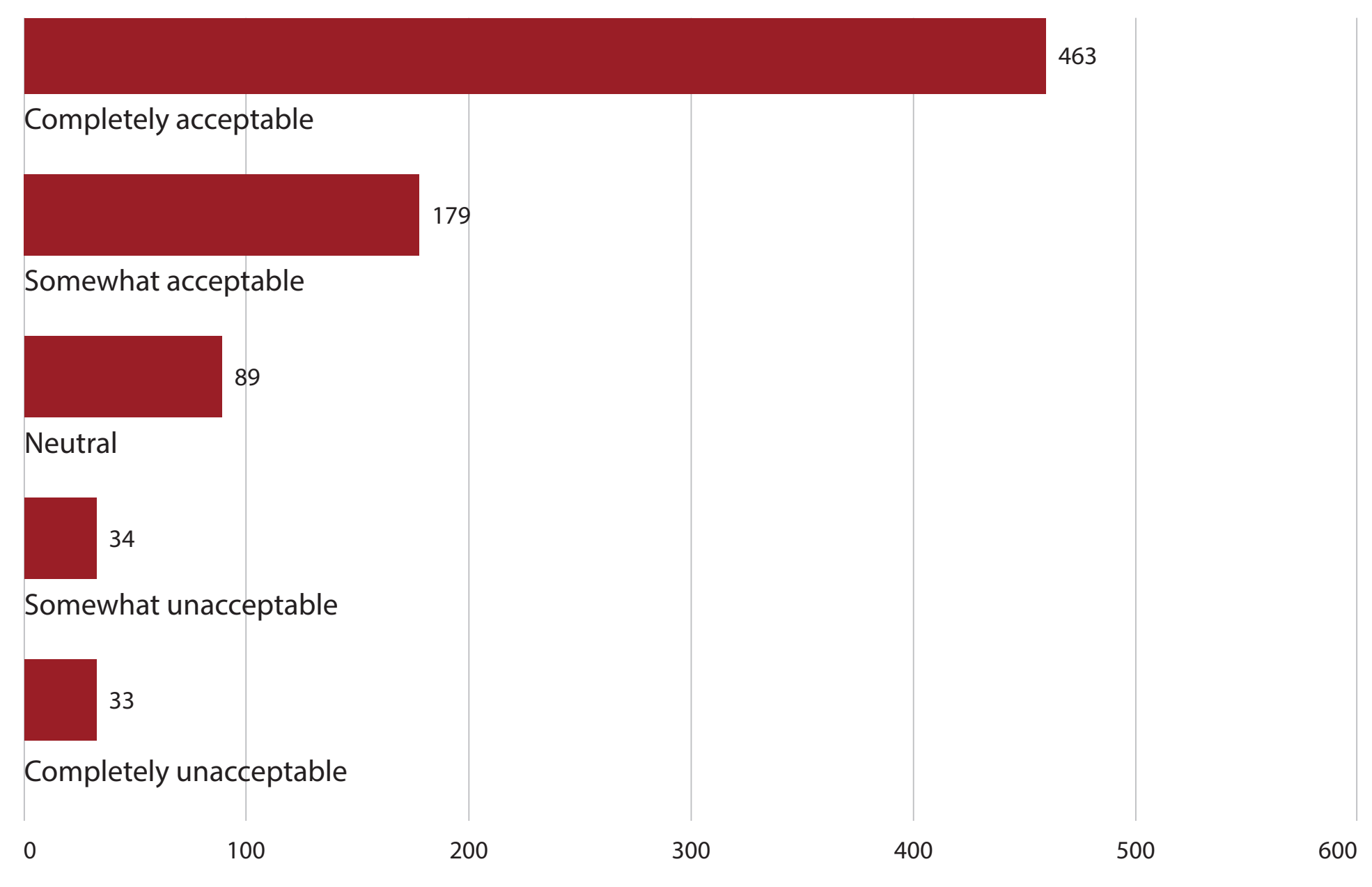
Understanding how people prioritize modes of transportation (i.e. walking, biking, transit, driving) along the corridor was an important part of the engagement process. The following graphs demonstrate findings about travel mode priorities.



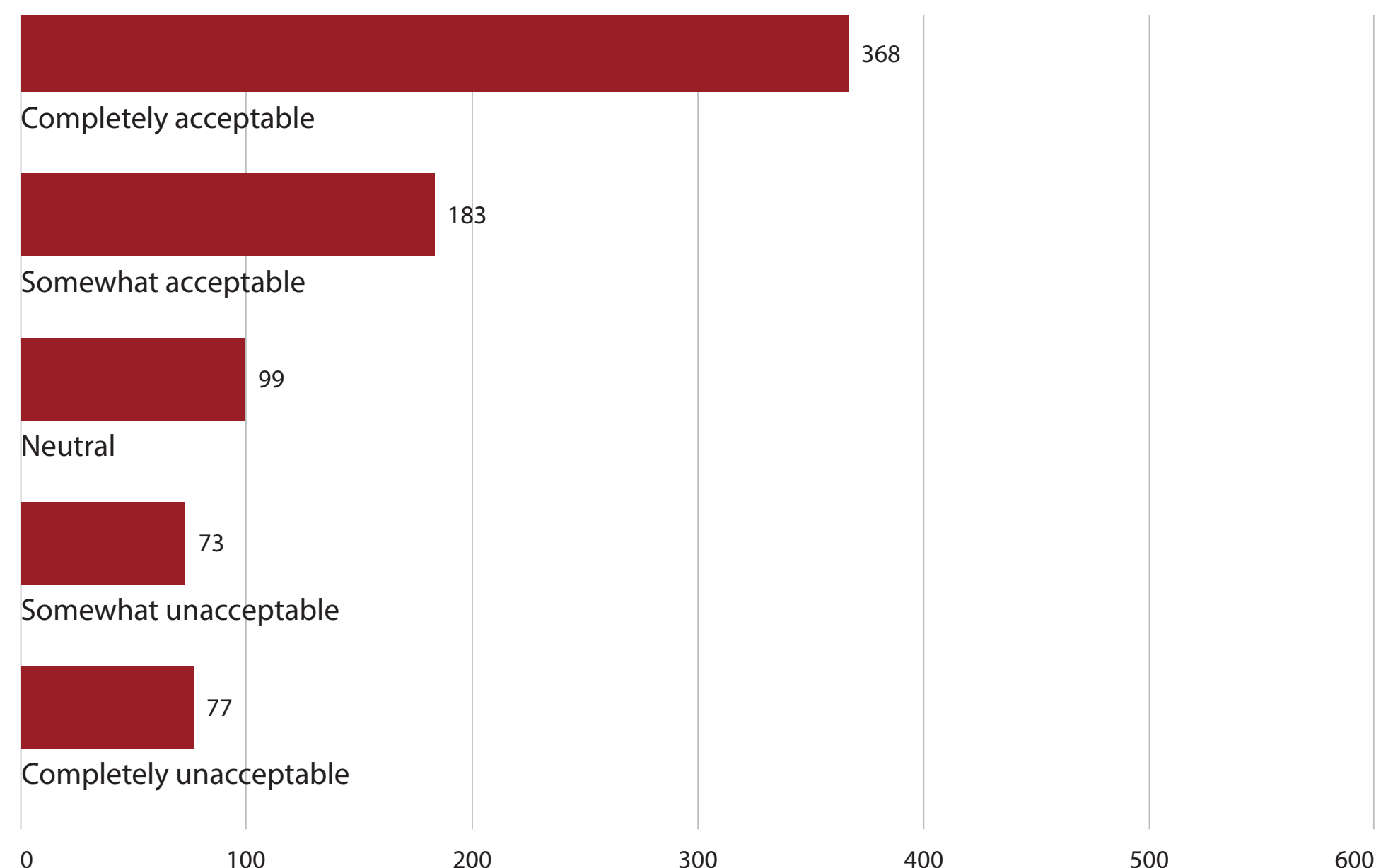
Top priorities for travel along the Bedford Highway corridor. Source: Shape Your City online survey



Continuum of mode priority from public meetings.



Acceptability of public spending to improve transit facilities and services. Source: Shape Your City online survey.



Acceptability of public spending to improve active transportation options. Source: Shape Your City online survey.