

# CITY OF TALLAHASSEE FAMU WAY SURVEY



**JANUARY 2010**

**REPORT**



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City of Tallahassee FAMU Way Survey

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## **INTRODUCTION**

On January 9, 2010, the City of Tallahassee invited citizens to a Community Breakfast to share their ideas for and input on the concept of extending FAMU Way from Wahnish Way to Lake Bradford Road. The project includes a new road, improvements along the existing FAMU Way, and recreational opportunities including a linear park along the St. Augustine Branch (canal). The event was promoted by the City and over 300 citizens attended the open house type event. After having an opportunity to review conceptual drawings and design options at tables around the community center, attendees were asked to complete a brief survey. To encourage participation in responding to the survey they were also informed that two of the completed surveys would be selected to receive \$50 off their city utility bill. Of those in attendance, 145 people completed the survey.

It should be noted that the results are round to nearest percent and the multiple response questions are based on the number of times an answer choice was selected on the survey. Respondents could choose more than one of the given choices.

This survey reflects the opinions of attendees completing the survey and not the opinions of the entire community.

Oppenheim Research only provided data entry and analysis of the survey's results.

The following report presents the findings of the responses given to the survey.

## SUMMARY REPORT

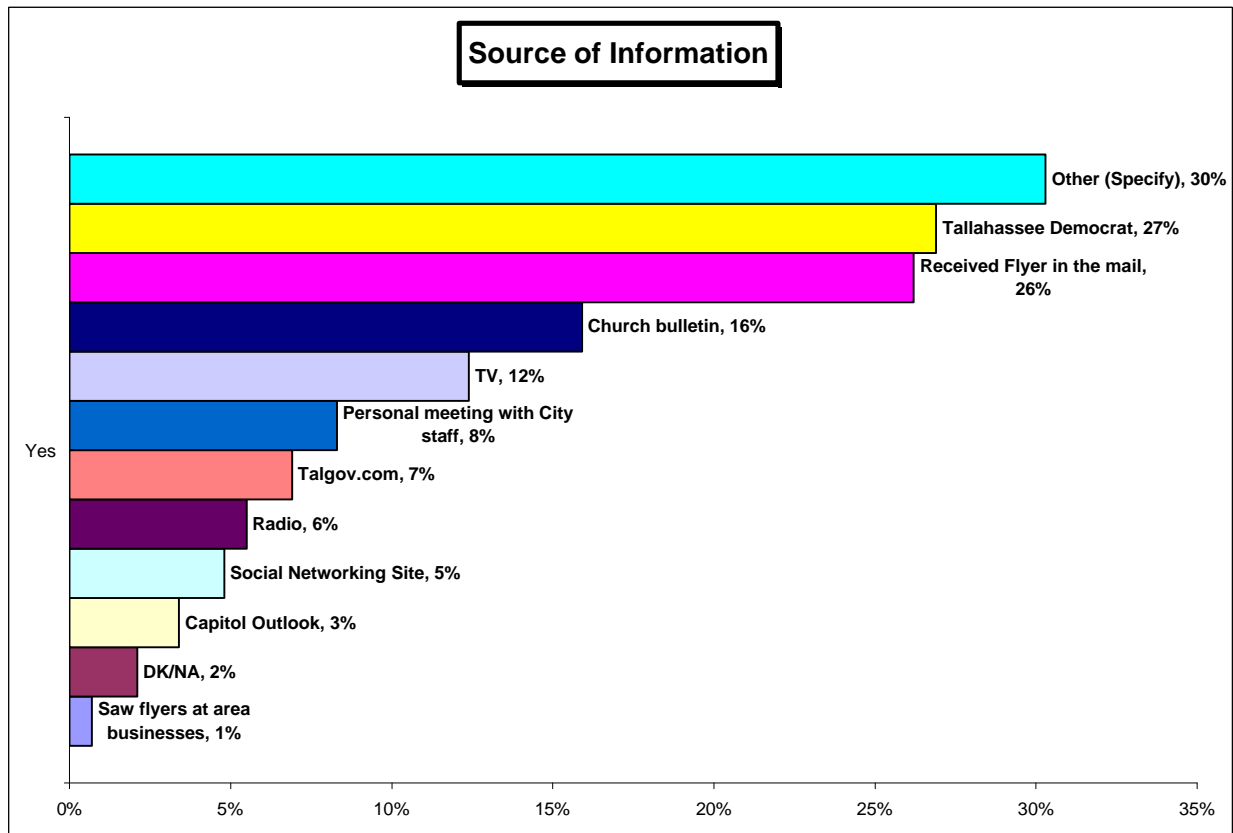
### INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

The most effective way that the meeting for the FAMU Extension Project was publicized appears to have been the daily newspaper (Tallahassee Democrat) and flyers delivered via US postal service.

About 27 percent of the attendees heard about the meeting through the daily newspaper, the Tallahassee Democrat, while 26 percent received a flyer in the mail. 16 percent received a church bulletin, and 12 percent heard about the meeting on television. About 8 percent heard about the meeting through personal meetings with City staff. Other media sources mentioned by attendees were Talgov.com (7 percent), radio (6 percent), social networking sites (5 percent) and Capitol Outlook (3 percent).

Additionally, about 30 percent specified other sources where they had heard about the meeting (see appendix for specific responses).

- 2: How did you hear about this public meeting?  
(Please check all that apply)



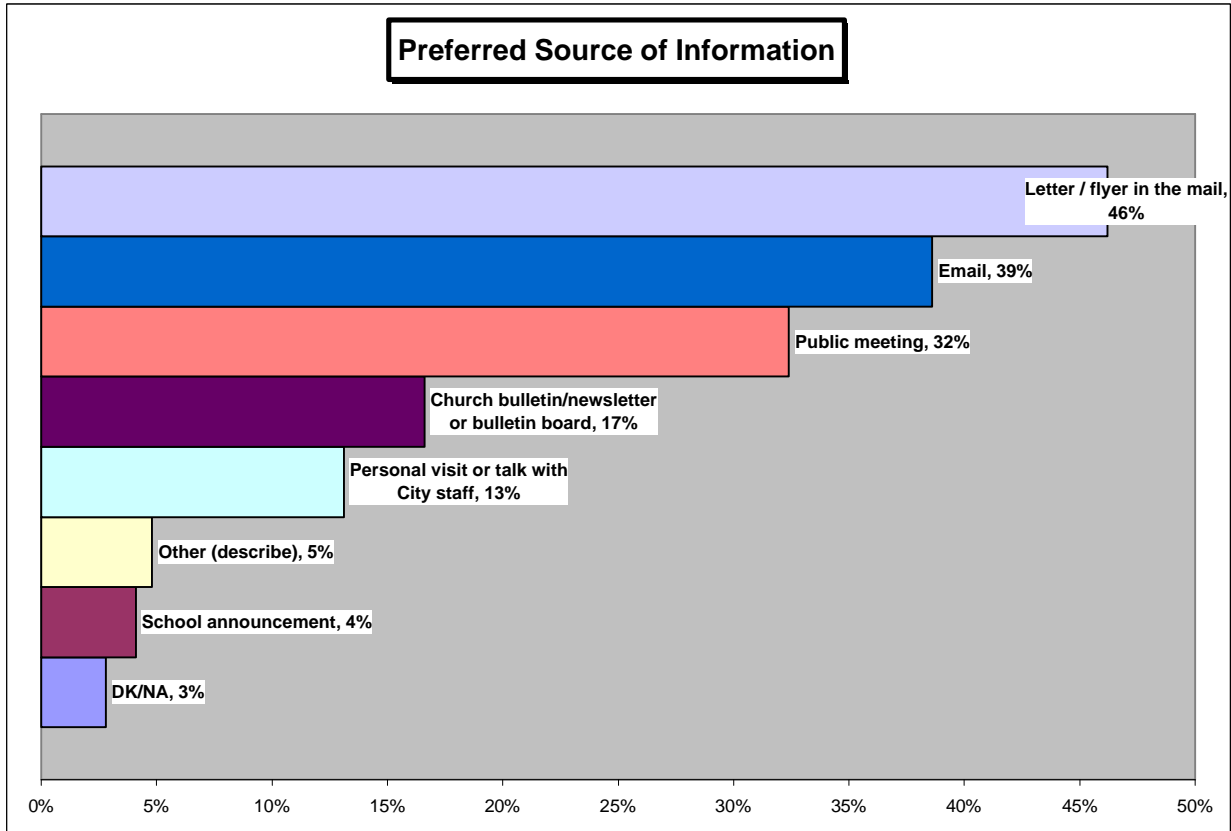
City of Tallahassee FAMU Way Survey

	145
Church bulletin	23 15.9%
Capitol Outlook	5 3.4%
Tallahassee Democrat	39 26.9%
talgov.com	10 6.9%
Social Networking Site	7 4.8%
TV	18 12.4%
Radio	8 5.5%
Received Flyer in the mail	38 26.2%
Saw flyers at area businesses	1 0.7%
Personal meeting with City staff	12 8.3%
DK/NA	3 2.1%
Other (Specify)	44 30.3%

## City of Tallahassee FAMU Way Survey

The most preferred forms of communication were a letter or flyer in the mail (46 percent), Email (39 percent) and public meetings (32 percent).

4: What form of communication do you prefer?  
(Please check all that apply)

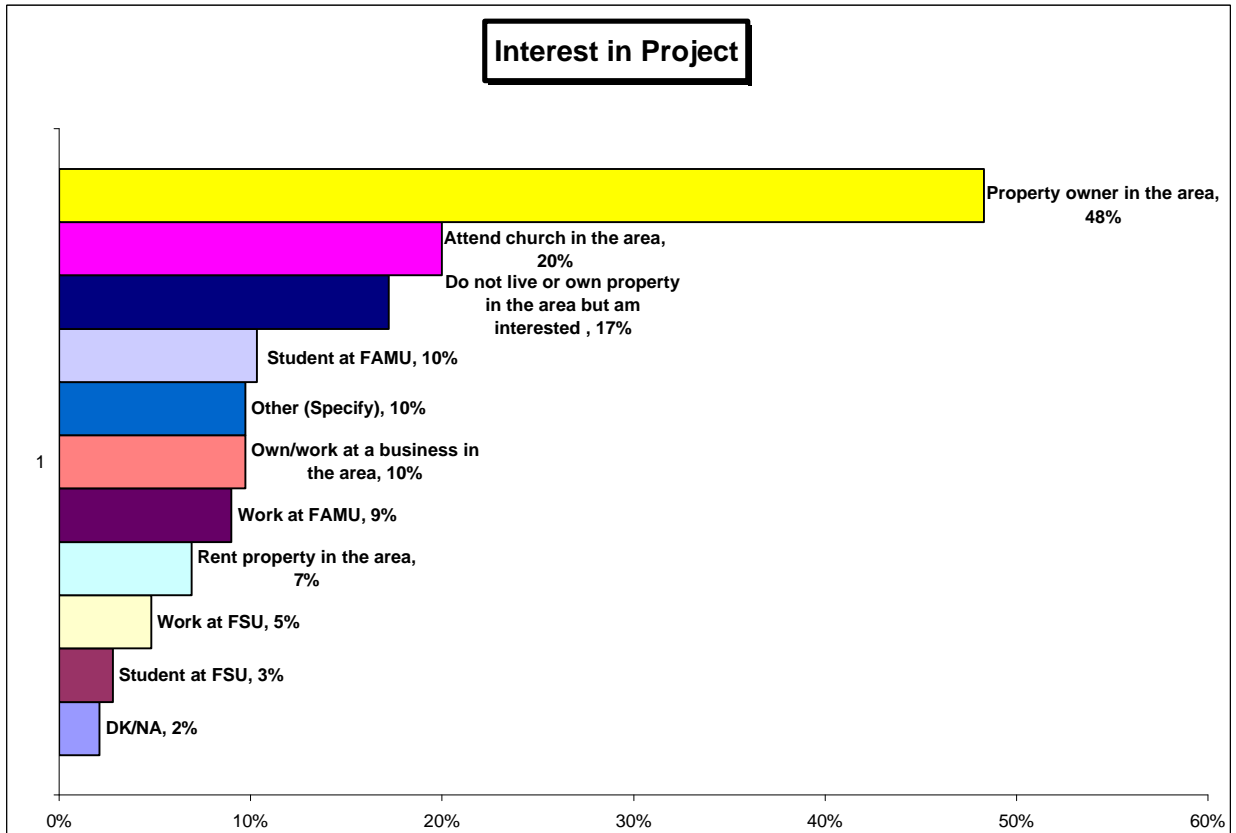


	145
Church bulletin/newsletter or bulletin board	24
	16.6%
Letter / flyer in the mail	67
	46.2%
Public meeting	47
	32.4%
School announcement	6
	4.1%
Email	56
	38.6%
Personal visit or talk with City staff	19
	13.1%
DK/NA	4
	2.8%
Other (describe)	7
	4.8%

### INTEREST AND SUPPORT FOR FAMU WAY EXTENSION PROJECT

Almost half of the attendees (48 percent) described their interest in the project as property owners in the area. About 20 percent attend church in the area while about 17 percent do not live or own property in the area but are interested community members. Ten percent respectively were students or own or work at a business in the area. Ten percent respectively were students or own or work at a business in the area.

6: How would you describe your interest in this project? (Please check all that apply)



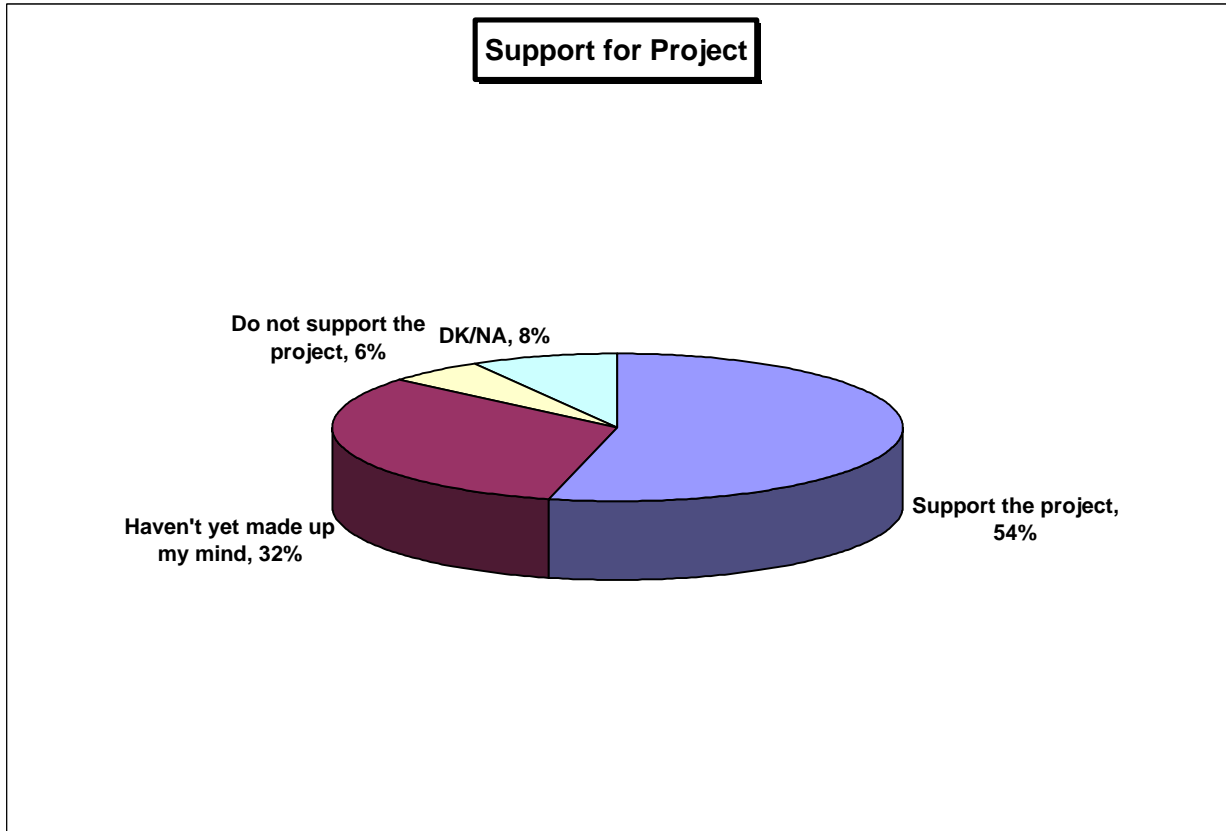
City of Tallahassee FAMU Way Survey

	145
Property owner in the area	70 48.3%
Work at FAMU	13 9.0%
Student at FAMU	15 10.3%
Own/work at a business in the area	14 9.7%
Attend church in the area	29 20.0%
Rent property in the area	10 6.9%
Work at FSU	7 4.8%
Student at FSU	4 2.8%
Do not live or own property in the area but am an interested community member	25 17.2%
DK/NA	3 2.1%
Other (Specify)	14 9.7%

## City of Tallahassee FAMU Way Survey

More than half of the attendees (54 percent) support the FAMU Extension Project while 32 percent have not made up their mind and 6 percent do not support the project at this time.

8: Based on what you've learned about the proposed FAMU Extension Project, please indicate your level of support at this time?

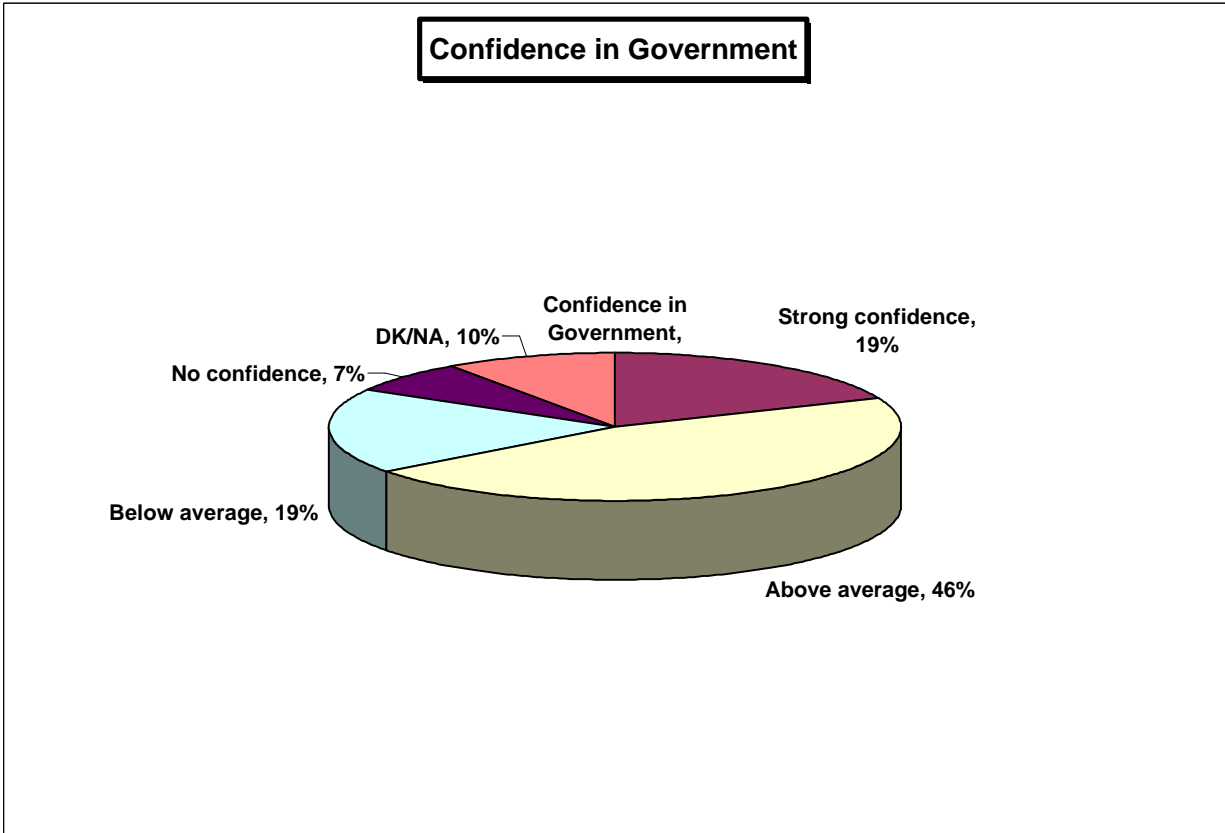


	145
Support the project	78 53.8%
Haven't yet made up my mind	47 32.4%
Do not support the project	8 5.5%
DK/NA	12 8.3%

**CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT**

Almost half of the attendees (46 percent) rated their confidence in government as above average, 19 percent respectively rated their confidence in government as strong or below average confidence while 7 percent noted that they have no confidence in government.

9: The City has a goal of building citizen trust and confidence in government. Please indicate how you'd rate your level of confidence in government.

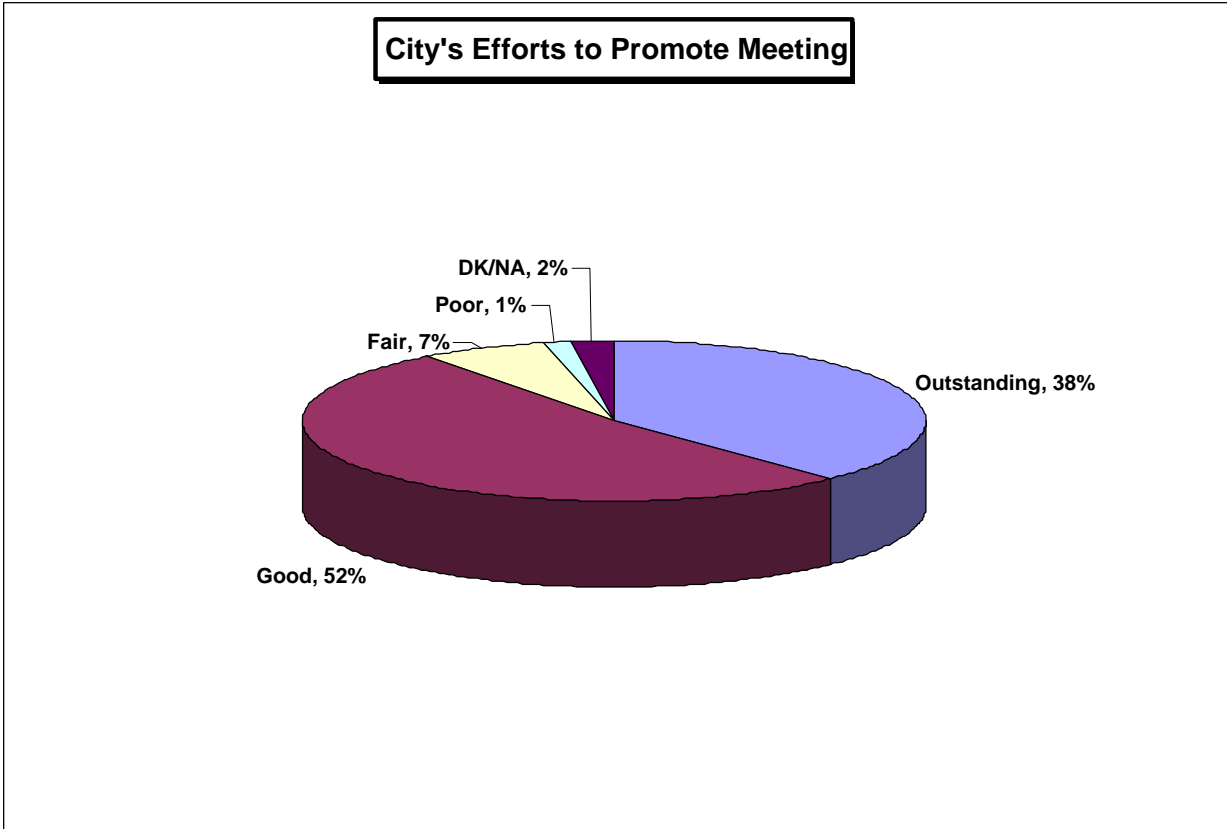


	145
Strong confidence	27 18.6%
Above average	67 46.2%
Below average	27 18.6%
No confidence	10 6.9%
DK/NA	14 9.7%

**RATING OF CITY EFFORTS TO PROMOTE MEETING**

More than half (52 percent) rated the City’s efforts to built awareness of the breakfast meeting as good while 38 percent rated it outstanding. Seven percent rated the City’s efforts to built awareness as fair and 1 percent did as poor.

10: How would you rate the City’s efforts to make you aware of this breakfast to gain citizen input?



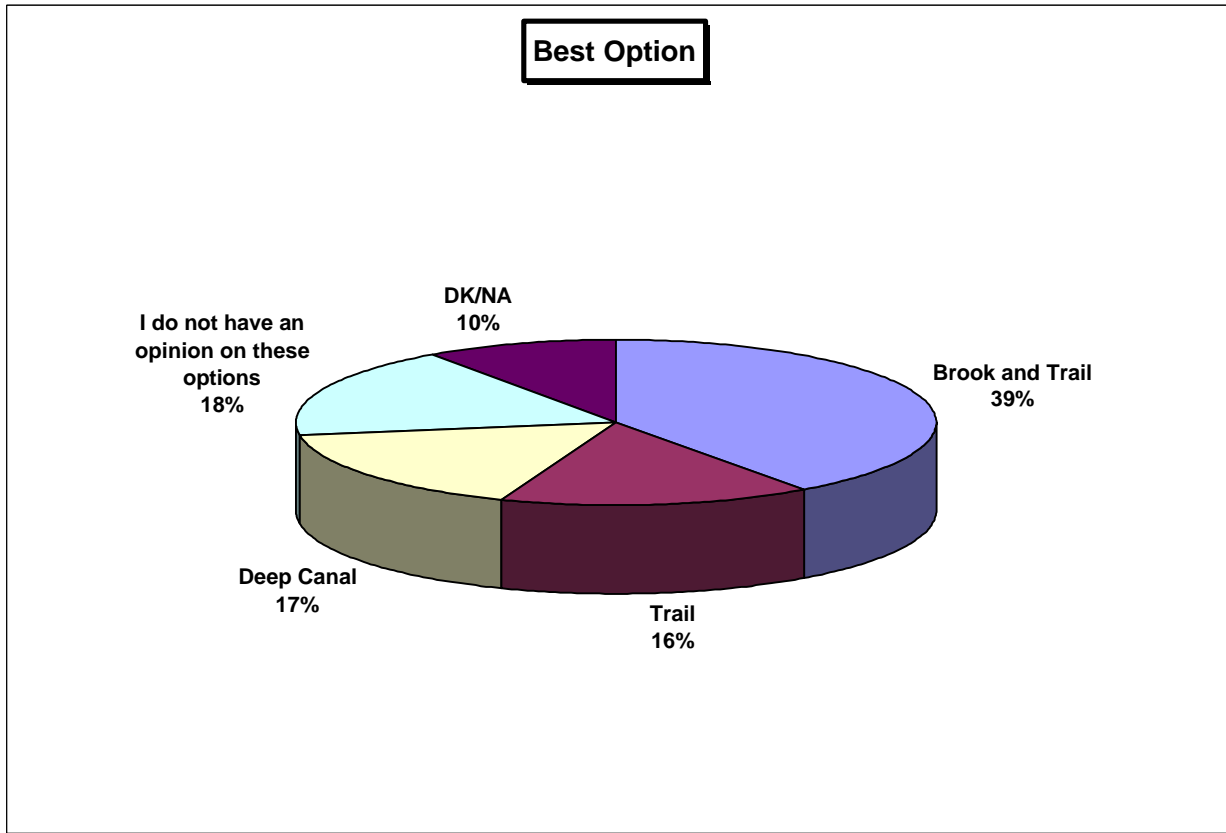
	145
Outstanding	55 37.9%
Good	75 51.7%
Fair	10 6.9%
Poor	2 1.4%
DK/NA	3 2.1%

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**MOST PREFERRED OPTION**

City staff presented several options for the project to attendees and the most preferred option (by 40%) was a brook and trail alongside FAMU Way.

11: As part of the project, the city is considering three different options on how to address the St. Augustine Branch (canal / ditch) that runs alongside FAMU Way (formerly Canal Street). Please circle the option you like best.

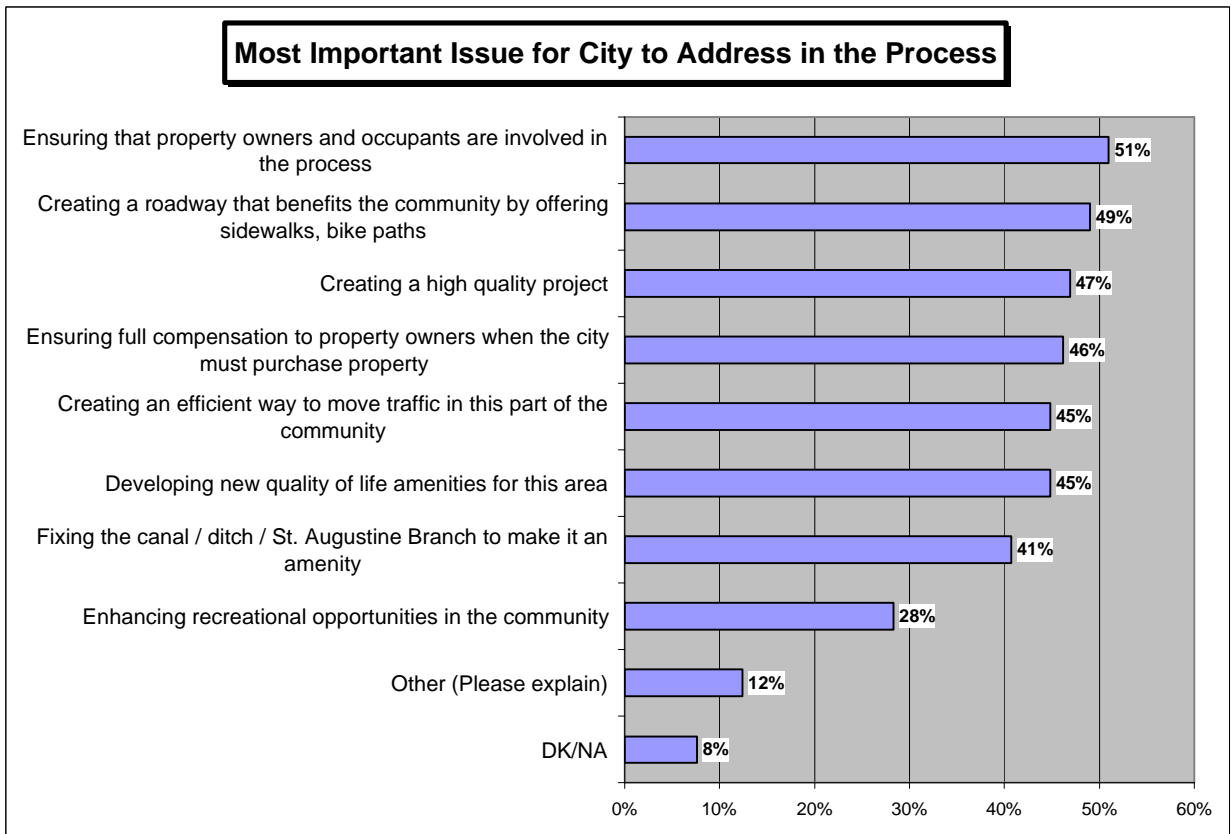


	145
Brook and Trail	58
	40.0%
Trail	23
	15.9%
Deep Canal	24
	16.6%
I do not have an opinion on these options	26
	17.9%
DK/NA	14
	9.7%

**MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES TO CONSIDER**

The most important issue for the City to think about in the process of this proposed roadway extension project is ensuring that property owners and occupants are involved in the process while also ensuring full compensation to property owners when the city must purchase property. About half of the attendees thought that the City should also consider creating a high quality roadway that benefits the community by offering sidewalks and bike paths, moving traffic efficiently, fixing the canal and developing new quality of life amenities. Enhancing recreational opportunities for the community was mentioned by 28 percent.

12: What issues do you think are most important for the City to address in the process for this proposed new roadway extension and improvements?  
 (Please check all that apply)



City of Tallahassee FAMU Way Survey

Creating a high quality project	68 46.9%
Developing new quality of life amenities for this area	65 44.8%
Creating an efficient way to move traffic in this part of the community	65 44.8%
Ensuring that property owners and occupants are involved in the process	74 51.0%
Enhancing recreational opportunities in the community	41 28.3%
Creating a roadway that benefits the community by offering sidewalks, bike paths	71 49.0%
Fixing the canal / ditch / St. Augustine Branch to make it an amenity	59 40.7%
Ensuring full compensation to property owners when the city must purchase property	67 46.2%
DK/NA	11 7.6%
Other (Please explain)	18 12.4%

## City of Tallahassee FAMU Way Survey

Other feedback offered by attendees for this project is list below.

### 14. Please share with us any additional feedback you'd like the city to have on this project

- ?? A presentation was needed at this breakfast. There are many concerns and issues that people need to hear at the same time. \$50 giveaway should have been on a separate sheet of paper. I filled a separate sheet for \$50 give away.
- ?? A water course adds to the aesthetic interest of the trails and street. Deep water can be a hazard and an eyesore. 'Average or below average' rating for level of confidence in government
- ?? All I have to say is you all are doing an exceptional job! Keep up the good work you all are doing for Tallahassee!
- ?? Also designated 'trail' as a choice for the option liked best
- ?? Also indicated Trail and Deep Canal as best liked options
- ?? Between 'support the project' and 'haven't yet made up my mind'; 'Just average' as response for level of confidence in government.
- ?? 'C+ for level of confidence in government'; Tallahassee's southwest side could be a good, attractive place to live, work, play. There are some public safety issues to territorial disputes that need attention. Don't put the bike lanes in the traffic--especially not between traffic and parking!
- ?? Cars that are late for class and the roadside parking. This is a serious safety issue. On all proposals, eliminate one 5 ft. bicycle right of way and use the other 5 ft to widen mixed use bike/pedestrian paths which have a buffer between them and vehicular traffic. Students riding their bikes to class prefer the safety of a separate bike path. These are not the same as the minority of bikers who wear spandex outfits and like mix it up with traffic. Don't put our children's lives at risk!!!
- ?? Combination of extension to Gable St. and Lake Bradford seems to be the most efficient proposal because it will not only reduce traffic congestion but it provides alternative route in case one of the routes is inoperable.
- ?? Concerned about the alternate traffic for games.
- ?? Consider the people aspect of the project
- ?? Consideration for the impact on long time residents and providing fair market value based on the highest use for the property
- ?? Edging yards more and cleaning streets more effectively
- ?? Ensure a roadway that is designed to move traffic and enhance security. Deny motor vehicle parking on roadway.
- ?? Extend existing FAMU Way to S. Monroe St. (not Oakland)!; City needs to landscape existing Canal St.
- ?? Extend this project to join goose pond trail
- ?? Gaines St. and Cascades Park; '50% support the project'
- ?? Get it done!
- ?? Great info provided!

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- ?? How many people will receive a job from this neighborhood which will be involved?
- ?? I am 61 years old, I had two friends in high school that drove off in that canal and lose their lives.
- ?? I do like the idea of the project but have not made up my mind about the routes. I appreciate the efforts made to build confidence and I have had some positive experiences with city staff. I like the idea of the brook and trail, but I am not informed enough to say more. 'Average' rating for level of confidence in government; 'Very good' rating for city's efforts to make citizens aware of breakfast
- ?? I have no feedback at this time.
- ?? I prefer routes 1 or 2; I oppose route 3A. I believe route 3A will have the most negative impact on FAMU and my property.
- ?? I think it's good idea, because for years I was wondering when you all would do away that ditch and beautify this area near A&M campus
- ?? I think speed bumps will be necessary on Gamble as a way of making sure pedestrians are safe.
- ?? I think that concept 2 that uses Gamble St. makes the most sense; Does not cross the railroad tracks; Uses existing roads
- ?? I think that it's great that the city is finally doing something to make this side of town more livable.
- ?? I think the alternate 2 is the most preferred choice for me.
- ?? I think this project will enhance the traffic flow; Help beautify the community
- ?? I would have liked to see an opening video presentation of all 3 options. Brief presentation then on individual charts to explain 3 alternatives. The drawings were very confusing. A person should explain every option separately. The breakfast idea was great!
- ?? I'm interested in projects that promote bicycle and pedestrian use and ease.
- ?? In the event that dollars run short - promised amenities must be followed through on; Restrict type of traffic/vehicles near FAMU. 'Average level of confidence in government'
- ?? Include some feature to give families from the area a way to remember their heritage. IE. Brick walkway with names of persons from families; Will the owners have any opportunities to truly partner in the development for their own investment? Investing in the development proposals that will bring our community a share of the profitability that is obvious to be made other than having to only sell their land.
- ?? Instead of raising taxes (as recently done) cut back on services; Independence of government regulation is better, anyway. Less control (services if necessary) by government.
- ?? Keep Alt 3B; Ensure full traffic circle at railroad, no hybrids (i.e. No dedicated right turns). Work w/ blue print 2000 to complete Suwannee St. ext along railroad tracks through Cascades Park. This will help move the

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- large amounts of new traffic on FAMU Way across Monroe St. and towards commercial Appalachee area, and out of Myers Park area.
- ?? Make sure compensation includes the higher taxes involved with different areas and nice homes
  - ?? Must come up with a better way of flow of traffic, trimming trees hanging over electric wire
  - ?? Need to examine alternate routes that don't displace homeowners
  - ?? None other than to keep the citizens aware of the projects progress.
  - ?? Pay the property owner for what the property is valued.
  - ?? Please make speed bumps on Gamble St. to avoid diverted traffic going through the residential neighborhood and the FAMU Campus; Please restrict the type of vehicles travel near FAMU and restrict the speed along FAMU Way extension
  - ?? Put it on the ? (unreadable)
  - ?? Save the twin century old Live Oak trees on Stearns St.(at Eugenia end of Stearns St) Major Marks is supportive of this- amend considerations to cyclists
  - ?? See diagram on survey form
  - ?? Thank you for deciding to end the eastern boundary west of Adams - we live east of Monroe and feared dumping traffic on our 1920's curvy streets.
  - ?? Thanks for all your hard work and for involving the public in this project!
  - ?? The breakfast was good. I feel that a presentation would have enhanced the meeting since the turn out was large. The turn out was large because is was well promoted and working people has an opportunity to attend since it was on a Saturday morning/Baby sitting
  - ?? The proposed route through to Jackson Bluff Rd. is a waste of taxpayer's money. The lack of an over pass at the railroad will create a traffic bottle neck.
  - ?? This project is going to cost the community/city and I agree with the community having a say so in the construction and new improvements
  - ?? This property has been in my family over or at least 90 years or more
  - ?? This was great (and I didn't even eat breakfast!); 'Do not live in the DIRECT area but am indirectly affected'
  - ?? What about the people who rent rooms from some home owners?
  - ?? You will be uprooting families with history, memories and history in this community. Families have lived in this community years, family members worked hard for family history

**APPENDIX**

**OTHER RESPONSES**

**Question 3: Other**

Bond Elementary  
C Man  
C. Jones  
Church announcement  
Cornelius Jones (2)  
Democrat articles  
Door knocker (2)  
Email from city; friend in neighborhood (3)  
Family member (4)  
FAMU Info (2)  
Flyer (2)  
Friend  
Gaines St. and FAMU Way  
Group email list  
Hand delivery letter  
Jake Gaither Exercise Class (2)  
NA (4)  
News  
Notified by other resident  
Owner Shaker Heights Apt. (FAMU Way)  
Professor Norman Bellamy  
RR Square Shops and Studio's email  
School- Bond  
Shica @ Walker  
Smith William  
Smith-Williams Center  
Talgov Email  
Tal-Rides yahoo group e-mail  
TOO.com  
Word of mouth (2)

**Question 5: Other**

NA (2)  
Newspaper  
NPR Radio  
Radio  
Regular mail and phone  
Updated Web sites

## City of Tallahassee FAMU Way Survey

### Question 7: Other

Arts community  
Church located in area  
Concerned  
Cyclist - New trails!  
Did not say  
NA (8)  
Student at TCC

### Question 13: Other

A written guarantee that the current residents of the Bond community will NOT be taxed beyond a minimum percentage over a 20 year period (i.e. 5% over 20 years with no more than 1% over any 3 year period).

All proposals are essentially connectors between FAMU & FSU. On all proposals a 5 ft. designated bicycle right of way exists between traffic and parking. Think about it, your proposals use our children on bicycles as buffers between kids in their..

Avoiding negative impacts to FAMU; Making sure the roadway and amenities are safe and attractive for pedestrians and bikers.

Community

Compensate owners

Do not raise taxes drastically for the property owner who lives on the property. It's ok to tax higher for rental property.

Enhance opportunities for community involvement in city projects and policy initiatives.

Ensuring any economic opportunities are afforded some of the interested community long time property owners, if it presents itself

Minimizing the impact of people and their property

Preserving the historical homeowners properties

Relocating all of the unsightly utility poles- Dogwoods, azaleas, and camellias along FAMU way

Safety

Stop taking 'Blacks' property for FSU development

Student /cyclists Must have a curb between car parking and car traffic-to protect cyclists from parked car doors opening etc., Gaines St.

The city needs to do more than one event to fully educate the community about what they plan on doing so that the citizens can make informed decisions.

They need to consider additional ways to move traffic (not only FAMU Way to Lake Bradford

Will insure 'creating a high quality project'