



# **A SURVEY FOR OUR TIME AND FUTURE**

**A REPORT ON SHENANDOAH COUNTY'S  
COMMUNITY SURVEY MARCH 2020 - SEPTEMBER 2022  
CONDUCTED BY THE CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Author: Tyler Hinkle**

# THANK YOU TO ALL THAT HELPED:

## Members of the CAC

District 1  
Vito Gentile, Chair  
Seth Coffman

District 2  
Mike Liskey  
Jacob Bowman

District 3  
Jon Bennett  
Brad Swank  
Tony Durso (Resigned 2019)  
Stephen Curtis (Resigned 2020)

District 4  
Jessica MacDonald  
Laura Bennett  
Katie Freakley (Resigned 2019)  
Peggy Boston (Resigned 2020)

District 5  
Rochelle Dornatt  
Joseph Bayless  
Dee Hockman (Resigned 2020)  
Kevin Rooney (Resigned 2021)

District 6  
Sarah Mauck  
Scott Terndrup  
John Adamson (Passed 2021)

## Members of the Planning Commission

District 1  
Mark Dotson  
Josh Stephens (Became BOS Member 2020)

District 2  
Gary Lantz

District 3  
Tommy Miller  
Kathleen Curtis (Passed 2020)

District 4  
Todd Steiner

District 5  
Debbie Keller

District 6  
Eunice Terndrup  
Timothy Taylor (Became BOS Member 2019)

## Members of the Board of Supervisors

District 1  
Josh Stephens  
Dick Neese (Passed 2020)

District 2  
Steve Baker

District 3  
Bradley Pollack  
Richard Walker (Resigned 2019)

District 4  
Karl Roulston

District 5  
Dennis Morris

District 6  
Timothy Taylor  
Conrad Helsley (Resigned 2019)

## Town Staff

Meghan Rupkey  
Todd Walters  
Chris Rinker  
Neil Showalter  
Erick Moore  
Dan Harshman  
Steve Wood  
Aaron Grisdale  
Michelle Bixler  
Jill Jefferson  
Katie Mercer  
Lisa Curie  
Amanda Kerns  
Waverly Coggsdale  
Brian Otis  
Wyatt Pearson  
Lee Pambid  
Wayne Sager

## County Staff

Brenna Menefee  
Chad Milgrim  
Mark Griffey  
Liz Morgan  
Emily Carroll  
Jason Smith  
Lemuel Hancock  
Summer Andes  
Tyler Hinkle  
Evan Vass  
Mandy Belyea  
Kathy Black  
Timothy Carter  
Scott Proctor  
Patrick Felling  
Jenna French  
Bobby Clarke  
David Ferguson  
Jennifer Proctor  
Jered Hoover

Mark Johnston  
David Hinegardner  
Mike Dorman  
Todd Lynn

## Others

Kim Woodwell  
David Brotman  
Mary Gessner  
Joan Comanor  
Concha Mendoza  
John Boor  
Sarah McDonald  
Doug French  
Mike Ashley  
Phillip Bowman  
Pieter Greeff  
Kelly Watkinson  
David Zirkle  
Max Thornberry  
Bradley Fauber  
Janet Michael

## AI

DALL-E 2  
NovelAI  
StyleGAN2



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents	
Background	6
Executive Summary	8
Demographics & Statistical Validity	12
Characteristics Of Respondents	18
Vision For The Future	32
Future Of Villages And Hamlets	36
Major Statements	38
Chapter Results Overview	39
From The Mountaintop	40
To The Street	44
Taxes	48
Personal Budget	49
Additional Comments	50
Food Results	52
Historical, Cultural, And Scenic Resources	55
Natural Resources	61
Economic Development	67
Business Survey	76
Housing	85
Community Resources And Facilities	93
Transportation	107
Appendix	127

# BACKGROUND

From March 2020 to September 2022, the Citizen’s Advisory Committee conducted a survey for the future of the County in order to plan appropriately. That plan for the future is called the Comprehensive Plan and it impacts every aspect of one’s life from where you live and work, to where you can go out to eat, where the nearest fire station is located, and what view you see when traveling around the County. The Citizen’s Advisory Committee, or more commonly known as the CAC, was first formed in 2005. They are comprised of 12 citizen members with two representatives from each of the six Electoral Districts of the County and are appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The CAC also has a representative from the Planning Commission.

The Citizen’s Advisory Committee and Shenandoah County have launched Shenandoah 2045: A Future Together, a community built plan for our County and all those who have a connection to it. The planning process will unfold over the next four years with majority of the community collaboration occurring from 2020-2022, with input in 2023-2024. As the next Comprehensive Plan is developed, we invite everyone to let us and the community know their ideas on the future of Shenandoah County.

The comprehensive plan is a community’s guide to the future, its north star. It represents the shared vision that the community holds from where public investments in resources such as schools and roads should go, and where private investment, such as the development of housing and businesses, should occur. While the 20-year vision serves as the, “big picture,” of where the community intends to go or the ultimate development of the community, most plans focus on five year increments to ensure the goals and actions recommended are measurable and achieved.

Since 1980, the State of Virginia has required localities to adopt a comprehensive plan and perform related planning activities. The State also requires that comprehensive plans are revised in their entirety every 20 years and updated every five years with substantial updates at the ten year mark. While the State of Virginia requires every locality to have a comprehensive plan, localities benefit as they give the community a level of protection for their future, provide a picture of what the community wants to be to the outside world, and provides a path for grant and funding providers to understand the public improvements we want to make from our schools and Internet to parks.

Currently, we are in the process of updating our entire Comprehensive Plan for the next 20 years, looking to what Shenandoah County could be in the year 2045. This effort began in the fall of 2019, when we launched a community survey in March of 2020. We understand that the survey may not capture everything. For this new comprehensive plan we engaged and informed the public with a Community Survey, 11 District Information Sessions, 14 Community Collaboration Sessions, and then in 2023 we will host a set of Comprehensive Review Sessions to see if we captured the community’s vision.

The Comprehensive Plan is currently broken into ten chapters: History And Regional Setting, Natural Resources, Land Use, Economic Development, Population, Housing, Community Facilities, Transportation, Growth Management, and Implementation. In addition, the Comprehensive plan has a vision statement which is that in the year 2025, Shenandoah County is and will be a primarily rural community that:

- Protects its natural resources
- Directs its growth to the towns ensuring its open, agricultural character
- Provides a variety of jobs in business, light industry, tourism, and sustainable agriculture
- Maintains moderate growth of a demographically varied population
- Supports safe and efficient interstate transportation and maintains the rural character of its primary and secondary roads
- Affords its students excellent and appropriate education
- Serves its citizens with public facilities and services that enhance their quality of life
- Ensures preservation of its natural beauty and unique, historical character by strictly adhering to the goals and objectives of the Plan.

In the fall of 2019 the CAC began the process of developing the Community Survey as they knew that they could benefit from the data gathered from the survey while they were out in the community collaborating with and engaging people face to face. The concept of a Community Survey was first discussed at the August 28th, 2019 meeting of the CAC where the group agreed to take on the task of a complete Comprehensive Plan rewrite and update and members discussed the need to solicit public input and a survey was discussed. Draft surveys were reviewed in September and October with the first idea of there being two parts to the survey in October as some respondents would not be interested in a long survey and would prefer to keep their responses brief. This two part survey was reviewed in November with CAC members requesting that the full vision statement be included as a question to poll to see how the public felt about the current vision statement and if there were any changes that they would like to see. A draft of the survey was sent out to the public in the winter of 2019 into the start of 2020 and comments received from the public on the layout of the survey, questions asked, and questions that should be asked were taken into account by the CAC and the survey was updated to reflect the comments from the public. This means that not only was the survey developed by citizen members of the public with the CAC, but individuals from across the County had a say in what the survey should cover and what it should ask to ensure a clear picture of the future was achieved.

As outlined in the CAC's December 18th, 2019 meeting, the original intent with the Community Survey was to have it open from March 2020 to July 2020 and then to follow up the survey with community meetings in the fall of 2020 and in the spring/summer of 2021. Due to the impact from the COVID-19 Pandemic that started in early March, the CAC's timeline was thrown off. While the survey was still released in March 2020 around the same time as the 2020 Census, the survey remained open for a prolonged period due to the complications that the Pandemic presented. This can be seen with different responses for the survey as opinions from the general public on certain aspects changed with time and with what was happening around them. An example is public transportation as most comments were indifferent to public transportation yet once ShenGO, Shenandoah County's public transportation system, started operations and the public saw what public transportation would look like in a rural setting responses started to be more favorable towards public transportation and the word ShenGO started to be used by respondents.

While the CAC understands this survey nor any survey can truly capture the complete picture and ideas of the community especially when the survey is more detailed than voting for a set of pre-made options, it's better that the CAC has this information from the survey in order to inform their process rather than if they were working in a vacuum and did not have any evidence or data as to what the public wants for the future. Further, having this information made available to the public allows for a conversation to start on whether the reader supports the ideas the respondents supported or if they feel differently. Either way the CAC and County Staff encourage all who read this report and who see the results online to share your opinions because your voice matters and if you don't share how you feel or what you think then there will be no way for new ideas to be incorporated into the new Comprehensive Plan.

We also understand that this was a very in-depth and detailed survey and that it may take hundreds more pages to accurately depict what the public has said and splitting the data into different categories to better understand the opinions of different sectors of the public. This report does not seek to cover every single way the data could be analyzed and presented, rather this report seeks to summarize the results of the survey in a manner that can be understood by the general public while also providing some detailed information in order to aid County, Town, and other local decision makers and leaders as they think about the future. The full dataset will be made available online with certain personal information removed in order to protect the participants of this study. We encourage you to dig in deeper and see what everyone said about the future of Shenandoah County and ask that you also tell us what you would like to see in a future together.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

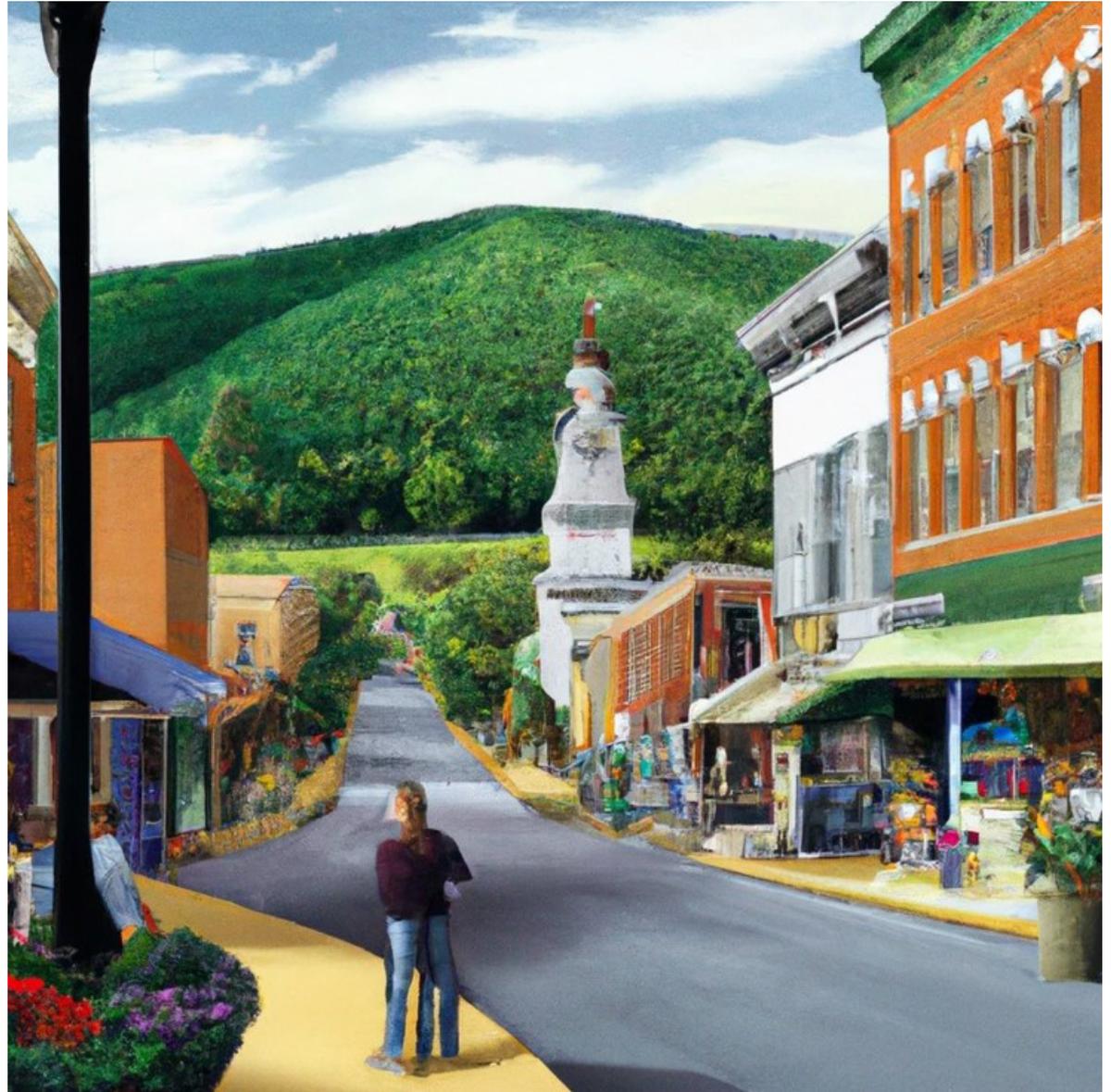
336 individuals took the Community Survey and based on their household data responses they represented 970 people in Shenandoah County from various parts of the County and from a variety of backgrounds and personal identities. We took all of the ideas that were shared with us by the public and asked NovelAI to write a description of the future and then asked Dalle-2 to draw a picture of that future:

We traveled to the year 2045 to see how Shenandoah County residents wanted their future to look. To summarize, we saw:

County leaders focused on keeping taxes low and providing incentives to attract new jobs. As a result, residents were able to keep their tax rate lower than neighboring counties. However, if they were going to grow, they needed to focus on growing in the right ways. With that said, there was a lot of discussion about how they could improve infrastructure and amenities. Additionally, there was a real desire to preserve the rural character of the area and ensure it remained attractive as development continued.

Overall in the year 2045, Shenandoah County was thriving. It had a growing population and an influx of new residents from surrounding areas. The county had invested in public transportation, expanded sidewalks, and added bike lanes to encourage residents to get out and explore. Their downtown had vibrant retail shops and restaurants, and they held events throughout the year to celebrate the unique history of the area. At the same time, they were careful to preserve the rural character of the community by making sure farmland was protected and rural areas didn't become overdeveloped.

It's important to note that the people of Shenandoah County were very realistic about what they wanted for their future. Many of the things they hoped for weren't possible or would take a long time to accomplish. Nevertheless, it was inspiring to hear all the ideas and enthusiasm for the future of Shenandoah County. It was also inspiring to see some aspects accomplished.



#### Summary of the results from the survey:

- Participants felt the vision statement was somewhat upheld and that a future vision statement should include aspects such as education and further addressing growth and development that has occurred in rural areas of the County.
- The public understands that new buildings and people will come to the villages and hamlets in the County yet when it happens it should be done in a way that doesn't tamper with the rural areas around the community, with more growth through local businesses than residential buildings, and that new buildings should reflect the characteristics of existing historic buildings already in the community.
- Participants think students should receive an education that prepares them for a well paid job or post-graduate education and that Shenandoah County should not become just like Northern Virginia. Participants also feel that they do not want to sell their land to make a profit and that they want the option to live without needing to drive everywhere.
- Overall participants care the most about the protection and access to the vast natural resources in the County as well as adequate public services such as fire and rescue, police, and education while also growing a local economy. Participants do not want large corporations to enter the County, to have no access to natural amenities, and they do not want more chain restaurants and stores.
- In the year 2045 participants want to see a Valley with growth in its existing Towns and villages and open green space surrounding while in the Towns and villages respondents want to see an active and vibrant downtown with lots of people walking and enjoying the space.
- Participants would pay more in taxes to support fire and rescue and local schools as well as protect our water and air resources.
- Housing makes up the largest percent of participants' personal budgets followed by discretionary spending and food.

#### Top two options from each chapter:

- Historic Resources: "Retaining Historic Landscapes" and "Teaching The Community, Including Youth, Of Our Past."
- Natural Resources: "Our Rivers And Streams Being Safe And Accessible" and "Having Clean, Fresh, And Safe Drinking Water."
- Economic Development: "Support Local Food In Restaurants And Stores" and "Promote More Local Restaurants."
- Housing: "Being Able To Work Where We Live" and "Ability To Be Born, Live, Work, And Retire Here."
- Community Resources: "Fire And Rescue Coverage" and "Internet Access."
- Transportation: "Safe Roads With Less Congestion" and "Repairing Pot Holes."

#### Additional Results:

- We also heard that respondents choose their jobs because of pay and the role they'd play in the community, and that if they were looking for employment they would look online or go to a government contact.
- We also heard that respondents want more investment in trade school education and adult education opportunities such as HVAC and plumbing.
- We heard that the main reason why respondents don't benefit from public services is due to time or spaces being too far and that medical rescue, fire protection, and law enforcement should all be available in less than ten minutes. Respondents also want to live around 11 minutes by automobile, 17 minutes by bicycle, or 19 minutes on foot from a basic needs grocery store, local restaurant, and trash disposal.
- We also heard that people who bike and walk along the road are in the same places as where farm equipment is typically hauled and that east-west bike-pedestrian trails and trails off the Route 11 corridor may be needed to improve safety.
- The business survey also revealed that businesses struggle with expansion because of the time needed and their age, concerns on quality of service, and that their largest challenges are competing with chain businesses / organizations and access to trained employees. The business survey also revealed that most businesses located here because they were founded by local people, the view/landscape, low amount of regulations, and connections with other local businesses.

The chart below demonstrates the rate of responses received over time with certain key events and program periods noted on the chart such as newspaper articles, Valley Today radio shows, as well as when the District Information Sessions and Community Collaboration Sessions occurred. Notable spikes in responses can be seen on the same day as certain events or throughout public engagement periods.

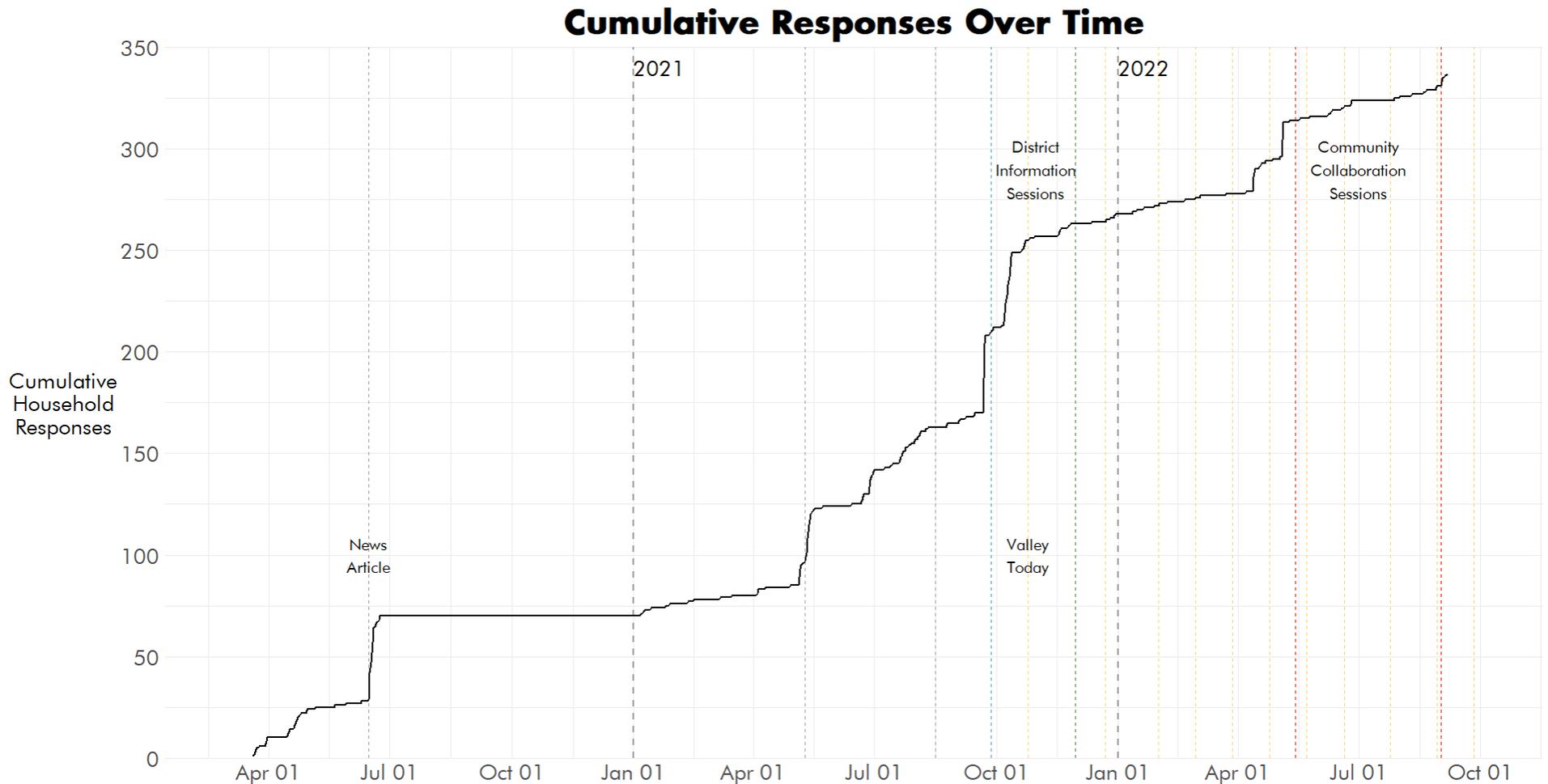
On page 11, we analyzed all responses at once. Throughout this report there are common chart types. To help explain how the charts work:

Word Web: Chart on the top left of page 11. This chart shows the relationship between different words said by respondents. We are able to pull out narratives because of this, for example retired respondents used the words stay and plan frequently meaning they may plan to stay here.

Word Cloud: Chart on the top right of page 11. Community was said the most. This chart means the largest words are those used most often.

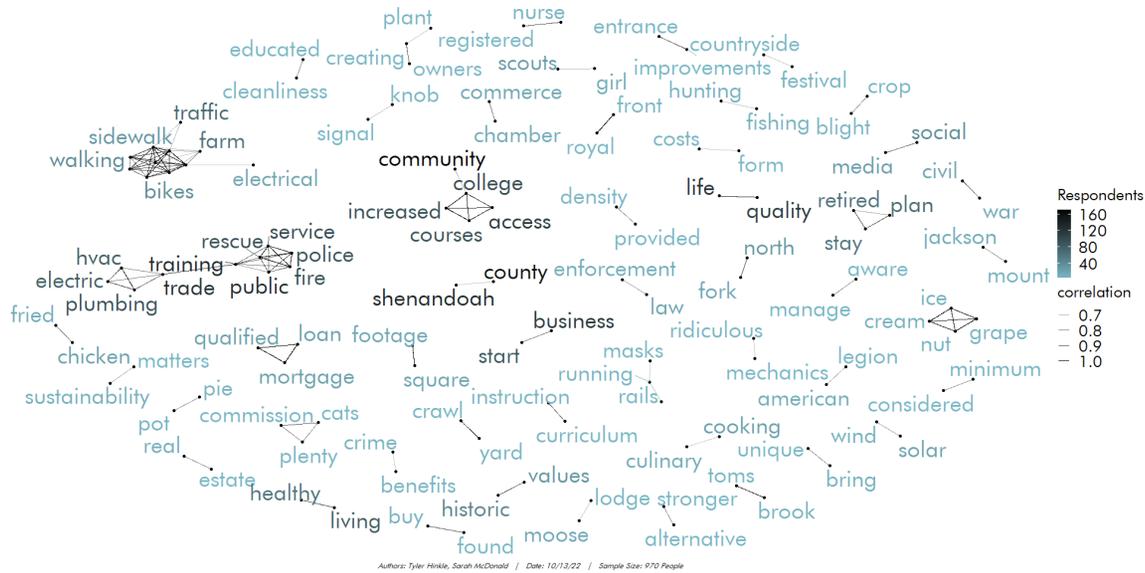
Bar Chart: Chart on bottom of page 11. This is the word cloud in bar chart form, showing the top ten words said most often.

Detailed Bar Chart: Pages 38 and 39 show another bar chart, this one shows lines which mean the result is somewhere in that range, and it shows a dashed line which shows the median for the chart, or for the chapter charts it shows the median of all chapter options.

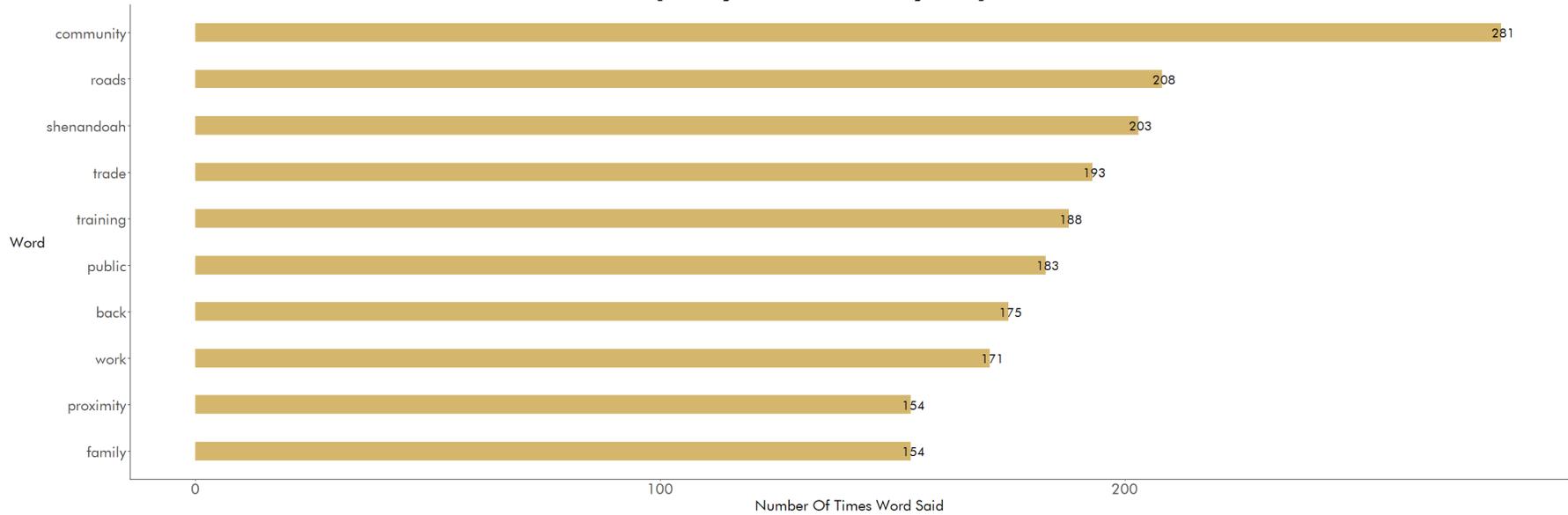


Authors: Tyler Hinkle, Sarah McDonald | Date: 10/13/22 | Sample Size: 335 Households

### Connections Between Everything Respondents Shared



### Frequently Used Words By Respondents



# DEMOGRAPHICS & STATISTICAL VALIDITY

According to the 2021 American Community Survey, Shenandoah County has a total population of 44,752 individuals with 35,113 individuals over the age of 18. Provided that and knowing that the results from the 336 survey responses represent 970 individuals in Shenandoah County, this survey represents 2.76% of the voting age population of Shenandoah County. Previous and future reports may note that the CAC has collaborated with over 5% of the County population, which is true if we take into account all of the methods of collaboration the CAC has engaged in not including engagement through Facebook, the Valley Today Radio Show, guest speaker events, fliers, and many more methods of engagement.

The following are a few notes on how the survey respondents compare to the Shenandoah County population:

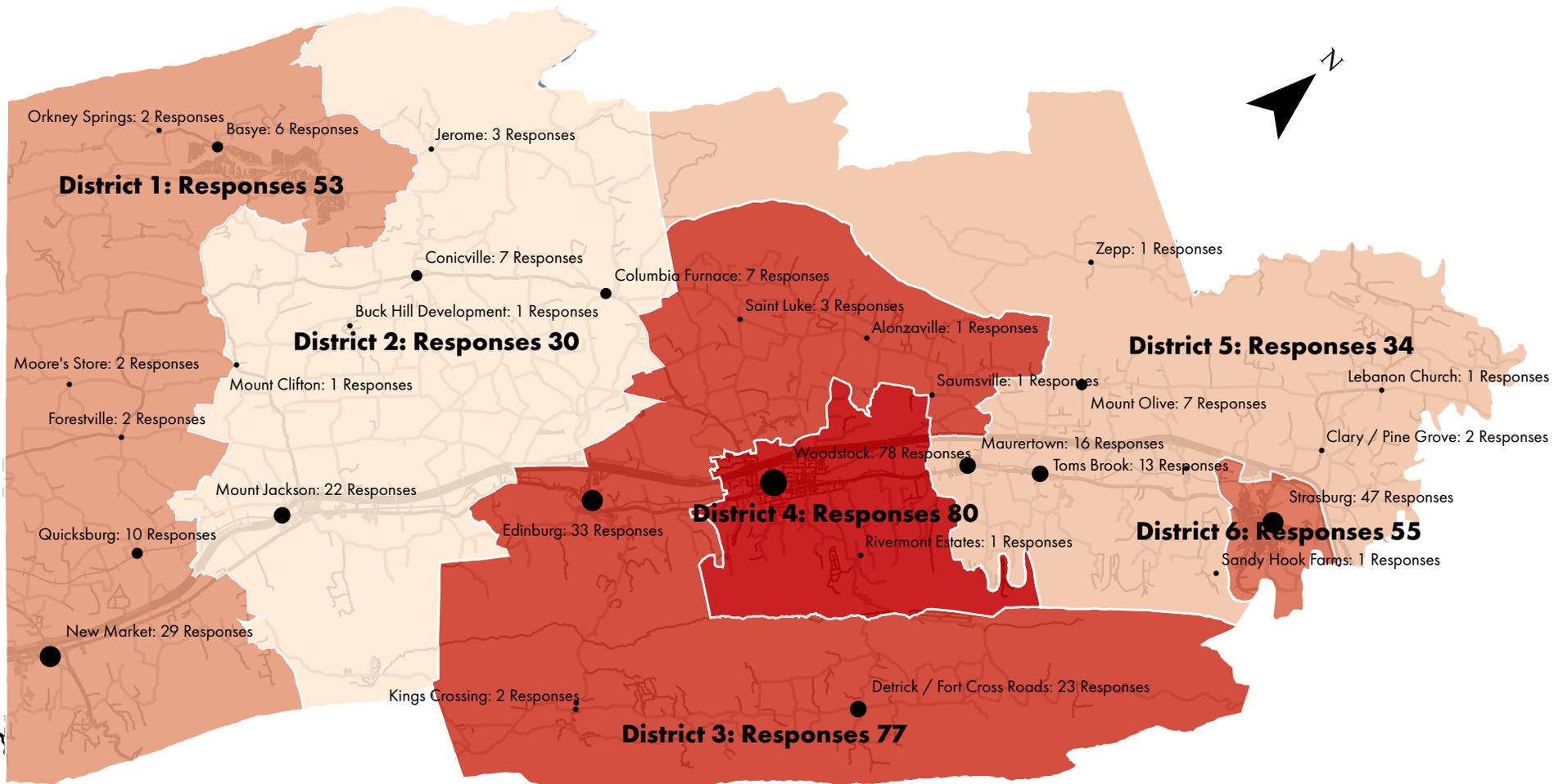
- 53.2% of respondents identified as female while 50.8% of the County population identifies as female per the 2020 Census, with 44.9% of respondents identifying as male and 49.1% of the County population identified as male in the 2020 Census. This shows that a near accurate population sample was achieved for gender identity.
- 94% of respondents identified as White yet 85.6% of the County population identified as White in the 2020 census. The largest non-white group in the County is Hispanic/Latinx with 8.5% of the County population while only 0.89% of survey responses are composed of Hispanic/Latinx identifying individuals. The second largest non-white group in the County is Black or African American alone with 2.3% of the County population while only 0.29% of respondents identified as Black or African American alone. This data shows that further engagement may be needed to fully collaborate with the entire County.
- The median age in Shenandoah County is 44.2, meaning that half the populations is older than 44.2 and half is younger, yet the median age of survey respondents was between the ages of 50-54 meaning that the survey is comprised of a slightly older population than Shenandoah County. At the same time the largest population age group in Shenandoah County is those aged 50-54 with 65-69 coming in second, which shows that having more respondents who are older may not be a negative aspect on the results of the survey.
- Population throughout the six Districts in the County is evenly split yet Districts 4 and 3 hold 46.7% of the survey responses. If responses were equally proportioned there would have been 56 responses from each District which means that Districts 6 and 1 were very close to having a fair share in the responses for the survey. This means that further engagement may be needed in Districts 5 and 2 as well as individuals outside of the County to better understand the needs across the County and how everyone views the County.
- While Woodstock and Strasburg collectively hold 37.7% of responses and 66.6% of responses came from people who identified with the six towns in the County, there were responses from all across the County and it was not just those who live in Towns that took the survey and example can be seen with how Fort Valley holds 6.5% of total responses with the survey. While only 42% of the County population lives in the Towns, it can be assumed that some individuals who live in the County outside of a Town identify with a Town rather than saying the unincorporated area. Nevertheless, this difference speaks to a potential need for engagement to occur in the County rather than in Towns.
- The survey results show that 39.5% of respondents live in two person households, which reflects reality as Census data shows that 37% of households are two person in Shenandoah County. While the three person household responses are close to reality with responses around 15.7% and reality being 13.4%, four person households and one person households don't reflect reality. 13.3% of respondents live alone or in one person households while 29.6% of the County population lives alone. 30.9% of respondents live in four or more person households yet in reality 19.9% of households are four or more person. This means that further engagement may be needed for those who live alone.

Overall, the data shows that a rough sample of the population of Shenandoah County was achieved with this survey. While there are another 34,143 voting age individuals who did not take the survey, we ask if any of the ideas the survey population presented are unexpected or unfamiliar.

# Response Rates



Author: Tyler Hinkle, AICP Date: 11/15/2022 Source: Shenandoah County Shenandoah County GIS Department



## Count

- 1 - 3
- 4 - 10
- 11 - 23
- 24 - 47
- 48 - 78

## Responses



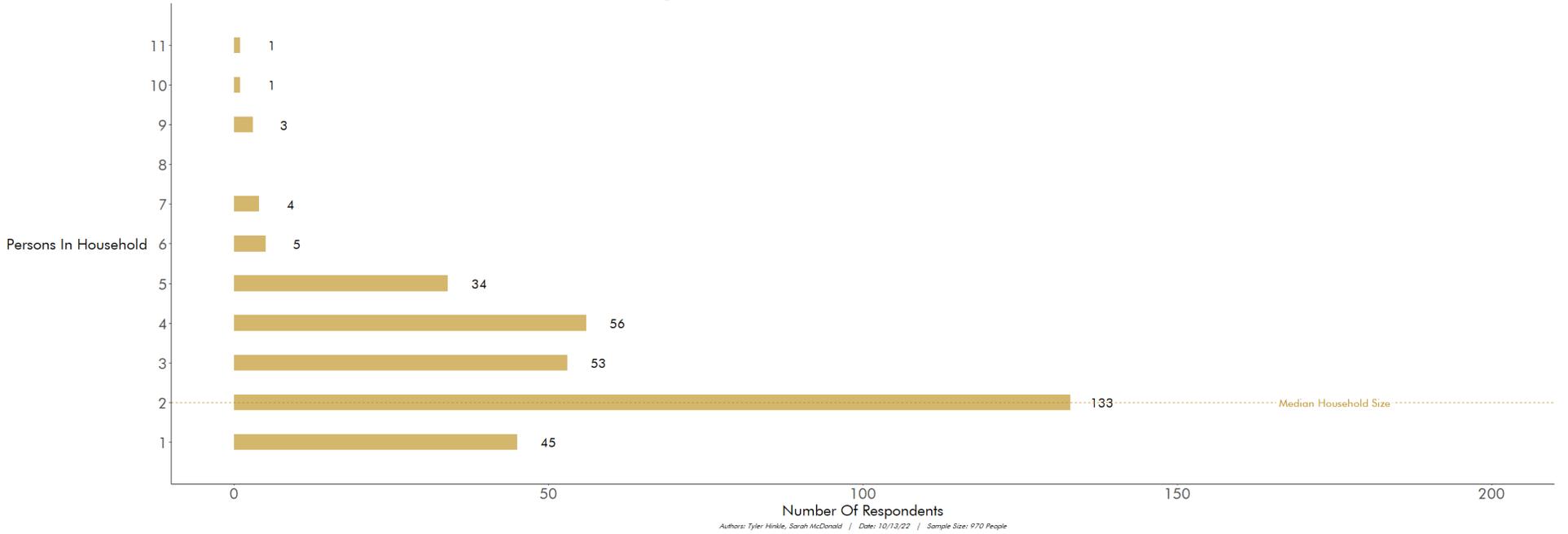
Fewer Responses

More Responses

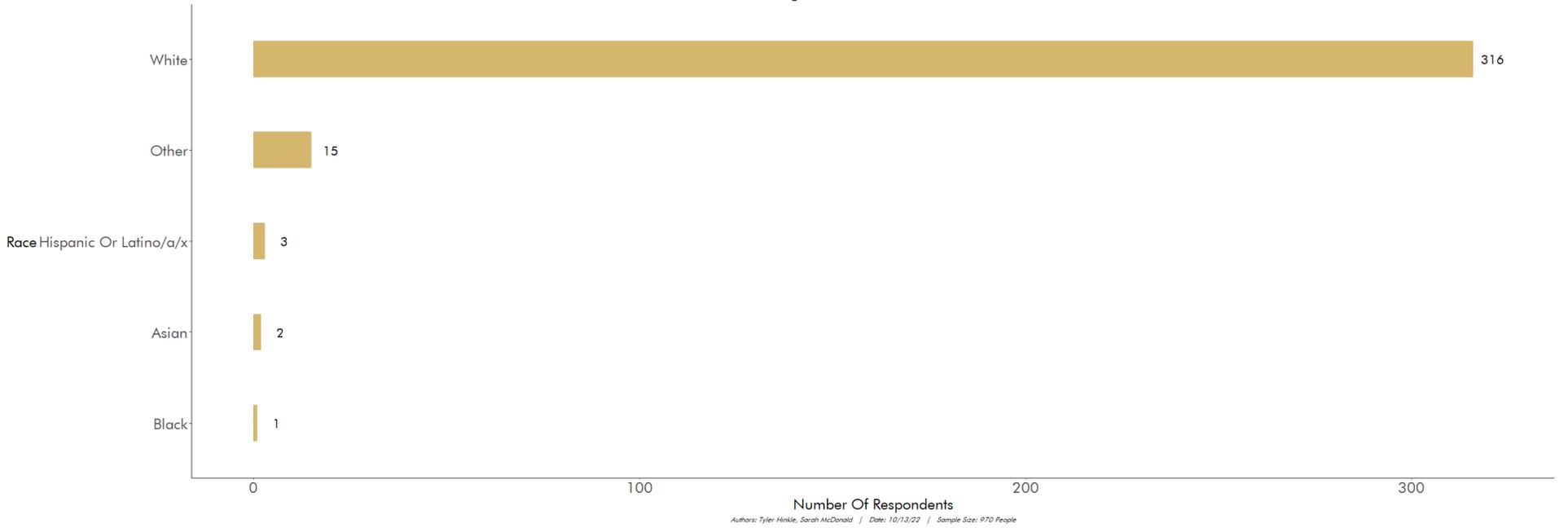
## Road Type

- Interstate
- Primary
- Private
- School Access
- Secondary
- State Maintained
- US Route

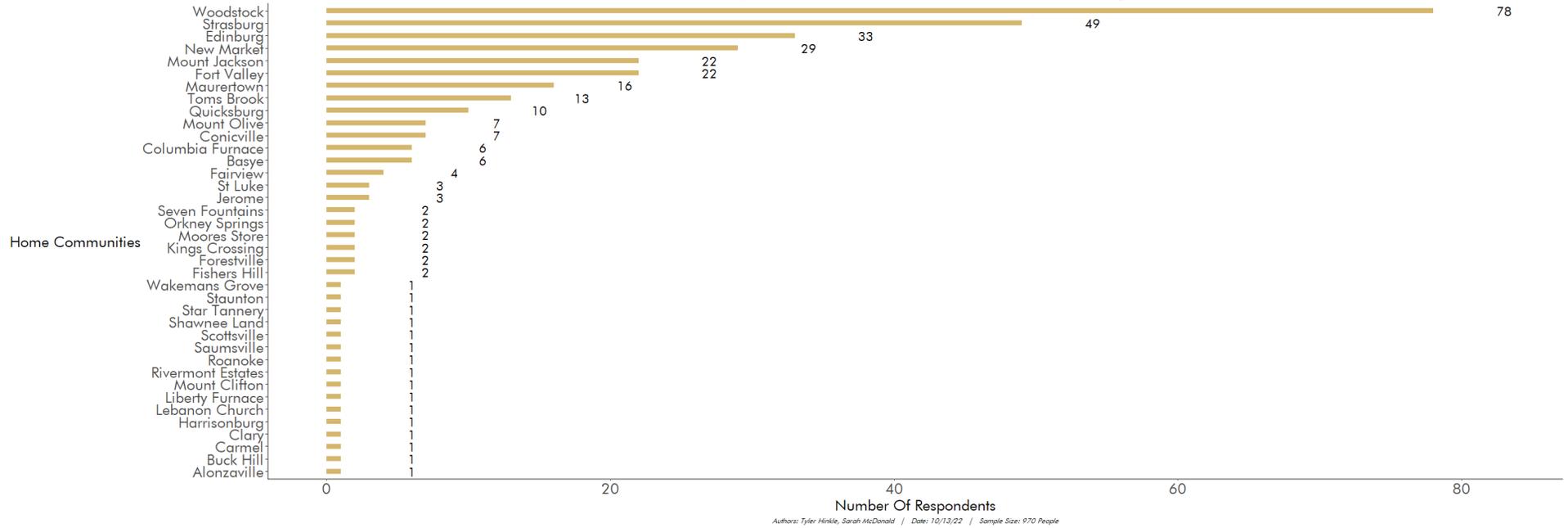
### Most Repondents Live In Two Person Households



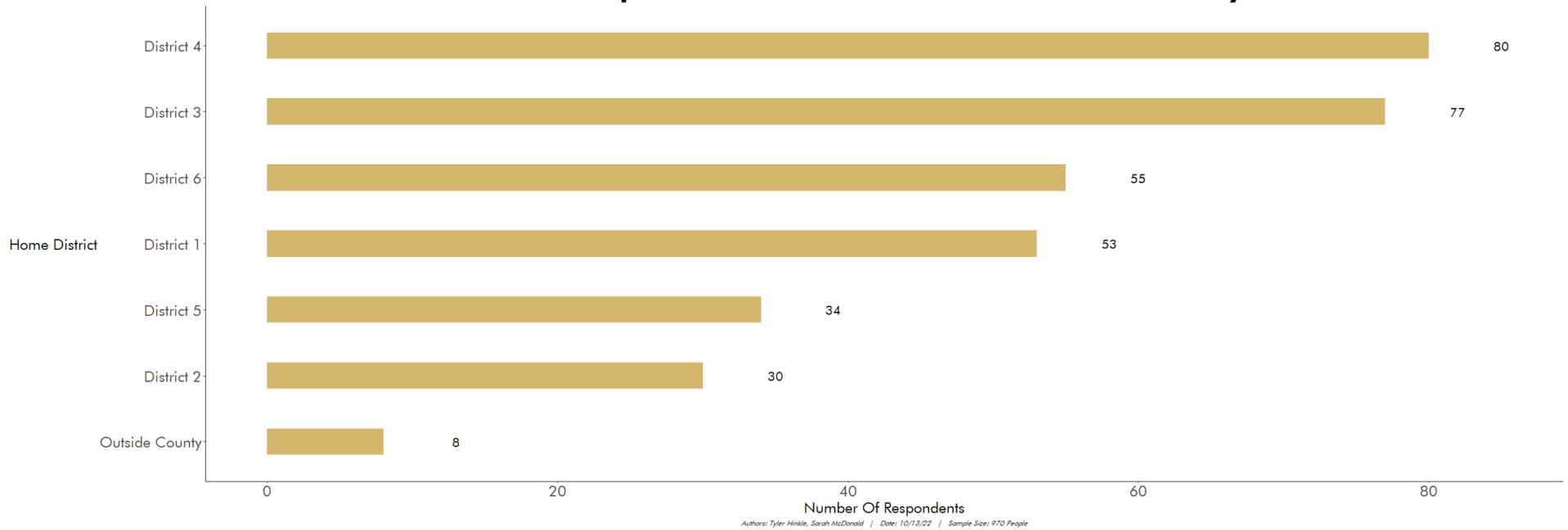
### Most Repondents Were White



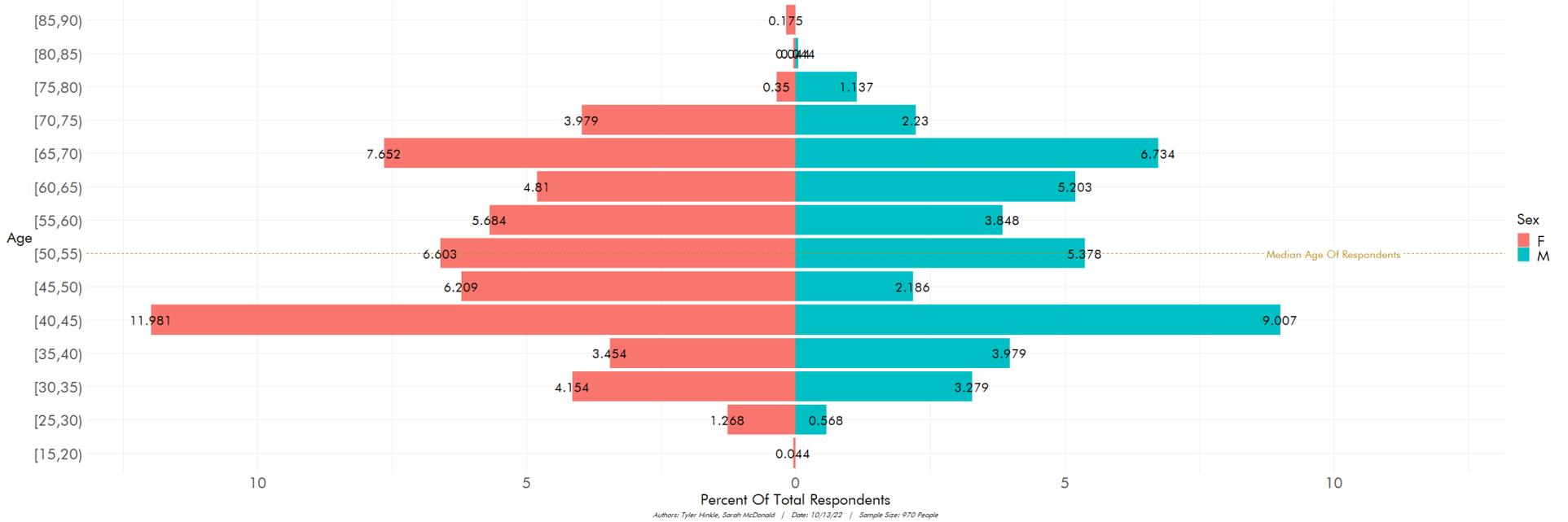
### Respondents Live Across The County



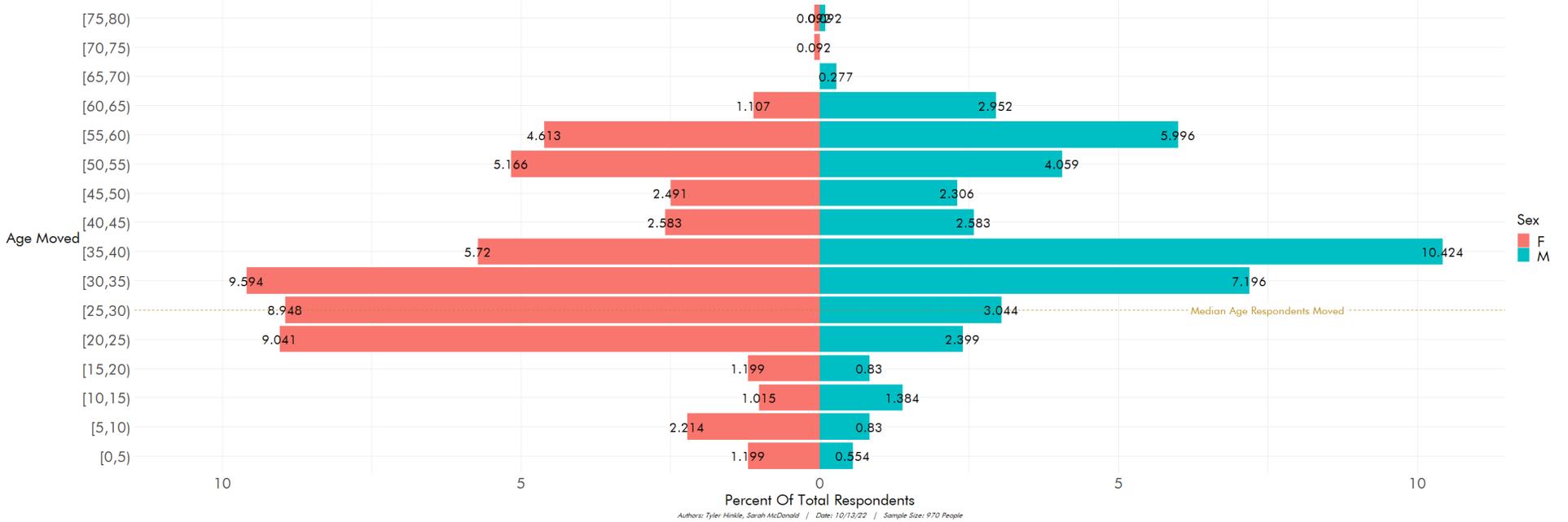
### Most Repondents Live In The Middle Of Shenandoah County



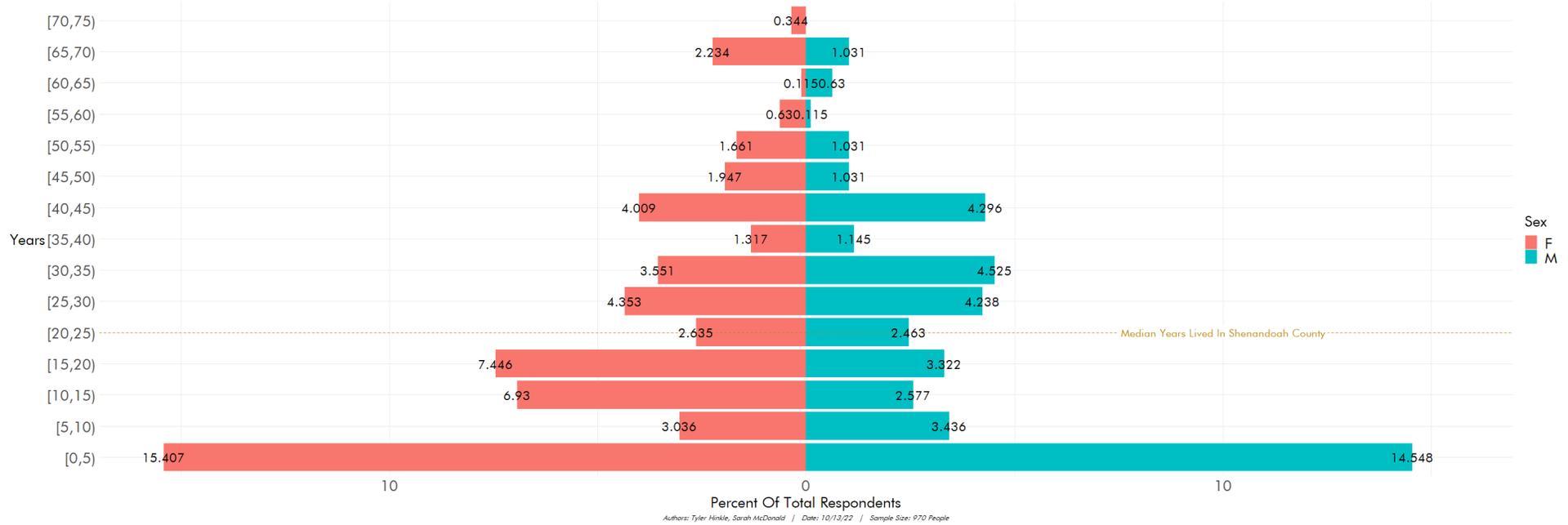
### Respondents Ranged In Age



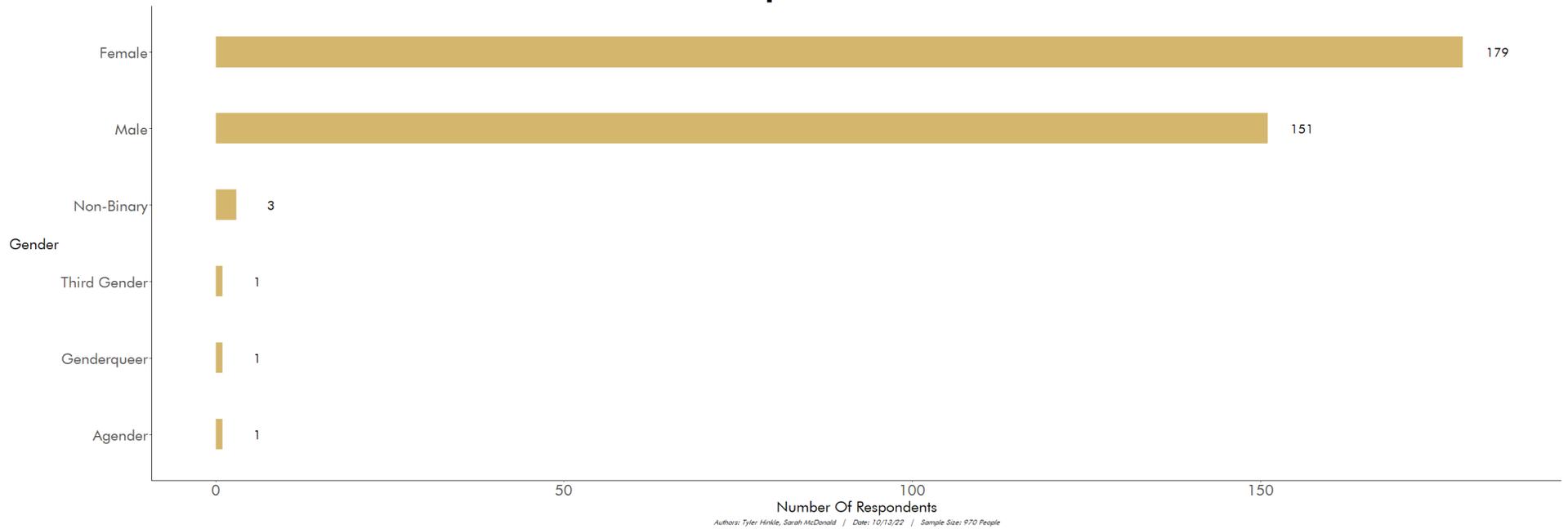
### Respondents Ranged In Age When They Moved To County



## Respondents Ranged In Years Spent In County



## Most Repondents Were Female



# CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

Participants come from a variety of backgrounds but there were some similarities that we saw between those who took the survey. Overall they are engrained in the community, many have strong connections to the church, many have family here and moved here because of family, all have a variety of skills and expertise that they bring to the County, they're of a variety of ages, they're predominantly white, they're from all over the County, and they're from a variety of household sizes, while most are two person households

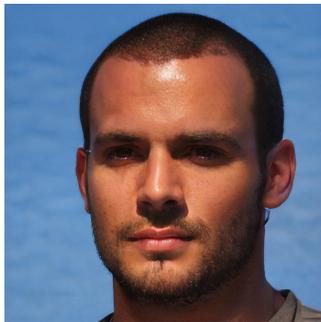
To help visualize these different populations, we used [www.thispersondoesnotexist.com](http://www.thispersondoesnotexist.com) and generated six individuals who can serve to represent different parts of the population, then used [www.behindthename.com](http://www.behindthename.com) to generate random names. Then we asked Novelai to tell us about their lives and then generated a map showing the places they travel to throughout the day to better understand how different people use and view the County.



Name: Rosita Salomé Age: 18  
Occupation: High School Student  
Lives In: Strasburg  
Everyday Activities: Wakes up at 7:30, goes on a run. Takes the bus to school with her brother. Goes to class until 2:45, then goes to practice until 5:00 when she walks home. After dinner she goes downtown with her friends.



Name: Luther Jack Age: 42  
Occupation: Contractor In Winchester  
Lives In: Maurertown  
Everyday Activities: Gets up at 5:30, goes to work from 8-5, stops off at the gym on his way back home and takes care of some errands. Then gets home around 6:15, eats dinner with family and then watches TV or a movie.



Name: Kenny Sean Age: 26  
Occupation: Delivery Driver / News  
Lives In: New Market  
Everyday Activities: Journalist shifts begin at 10am. He completes delivery runs during his lunch break (12pm-1pm) and again between 5pm-7pm. After deliveries he goes to his friends' house to eat and play video games.



Name: Melissa Sinclair Age: 58  
Occupation: Retireed, Part-time writer  
Lives In: Fort Valley  
Everyday Activities: Travels to Washington D.C for groceries, visits family and friends, then drives back to the Fort for a hike and spends time writing and reading and making crafts on her back porch looking at the mountains.

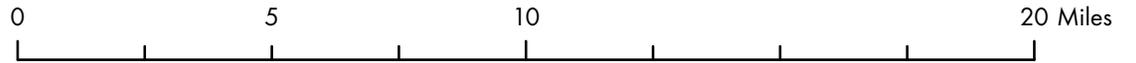


Name: Kathy Barclay Age: 33  
Occupation: Science Teacher  
Lives In: Woodstock  
Everyday Activities: Gets up at 7:00, makes coffee, wakes up roommate, eats breakfast. She brings her daughter to school at 7:40, picks her up at 3:20 then walks to the grocery store and comes home for dinner and cleans the house.

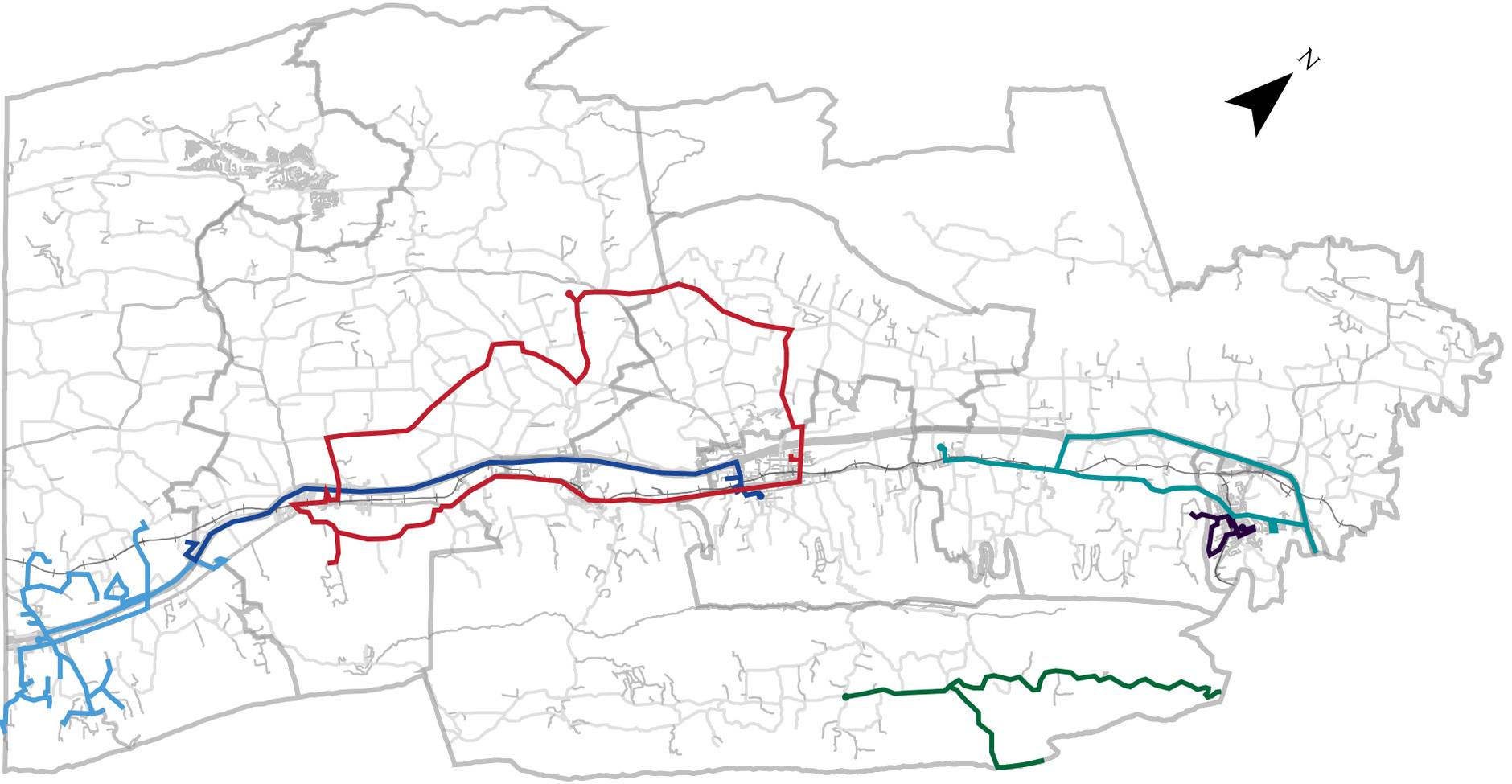


Name: Craig Griffin Age: 67  
Occupation: Farmer  
Lives In: Columbia Furnace  
Everyday Activities: Gets up at 4:30, makes coffee, takes care of animals, gathers eggs, tends to his crops, picks up grandkids, goes to the coop store, watches movies, talks with his son over Skype, eats dinner with his family.

# Characteristics Exercise



Author: Tyler Hinkle, AICP Date: 11/15/2022 Source: Shenandoah County Shenandoah County GIS Department



Kenny Sean



Craig Griffin



Kathy Barclay



Melissa Sinclair



Luther Jack

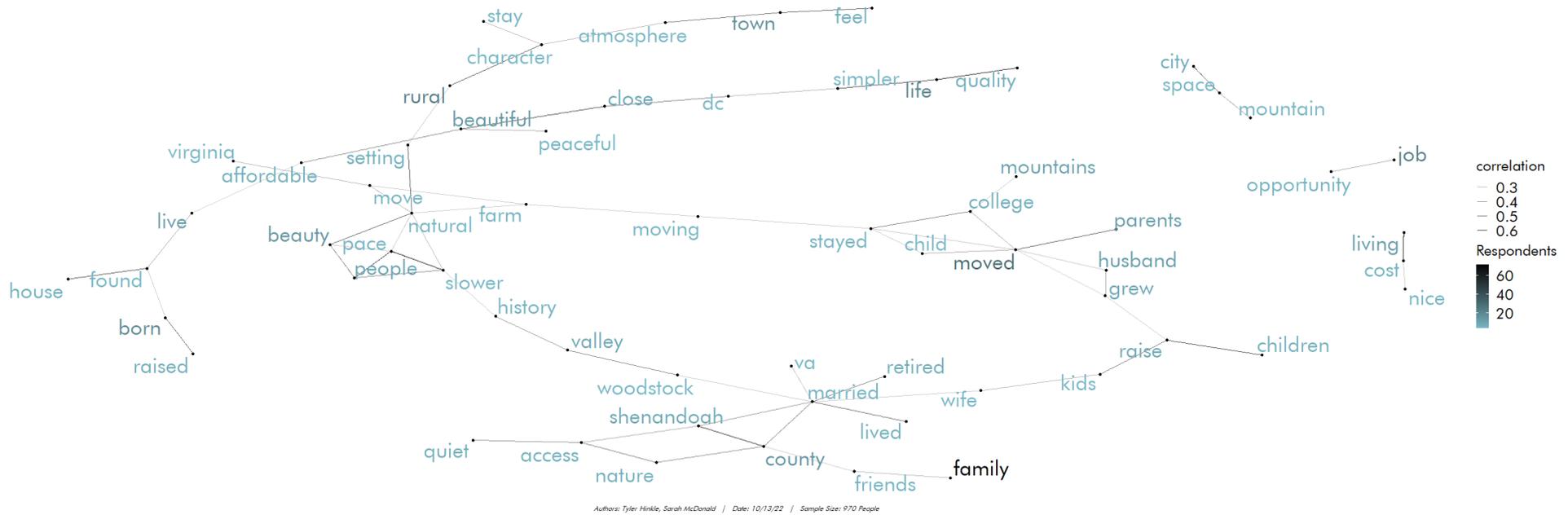


Rosita Salomé

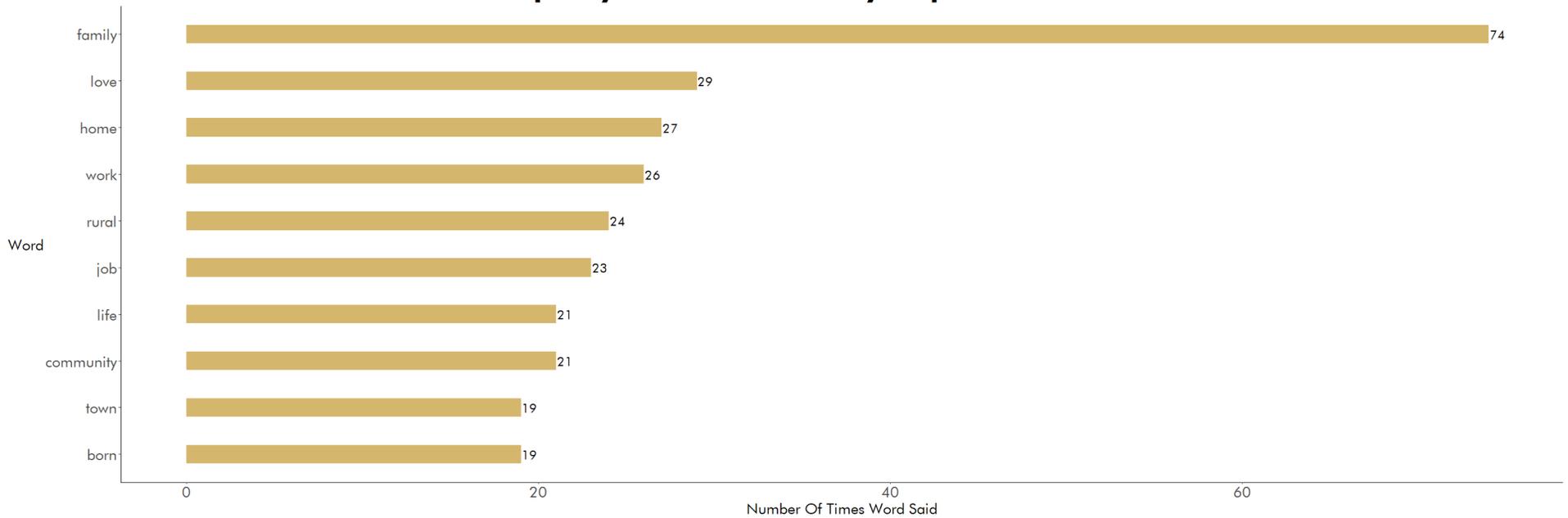




## Connections Between Why People Live In The County



## Frequently Used Words For Why Respondents Moved Here

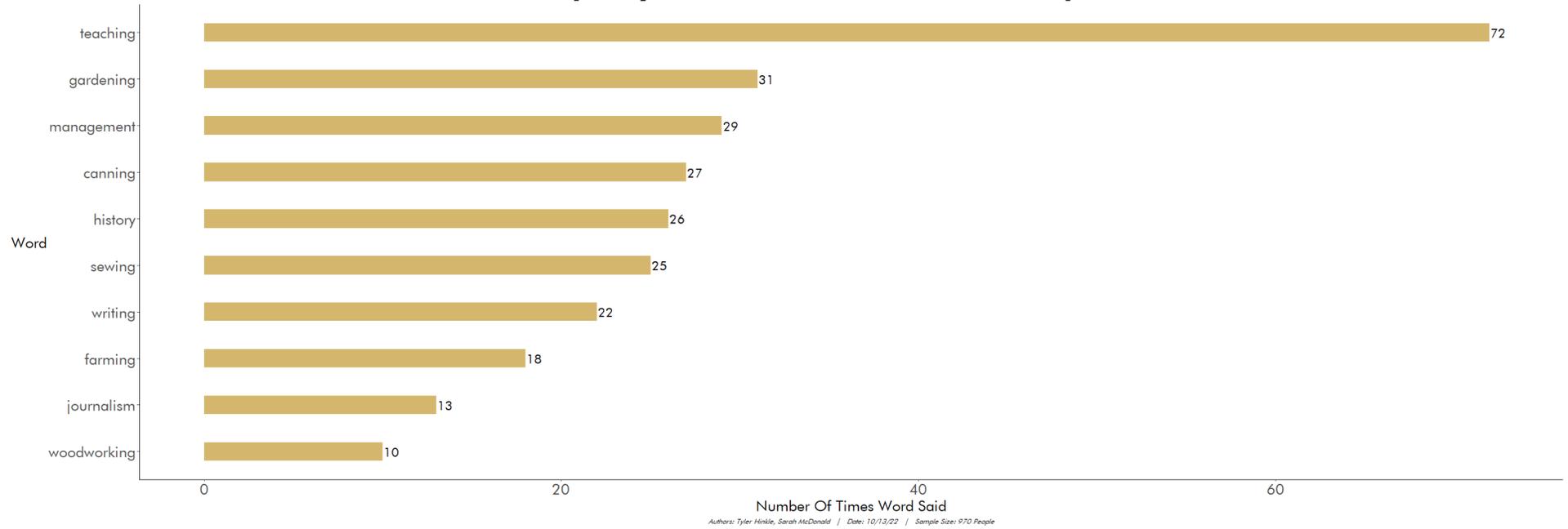




## Connections Between Respondents' Skills

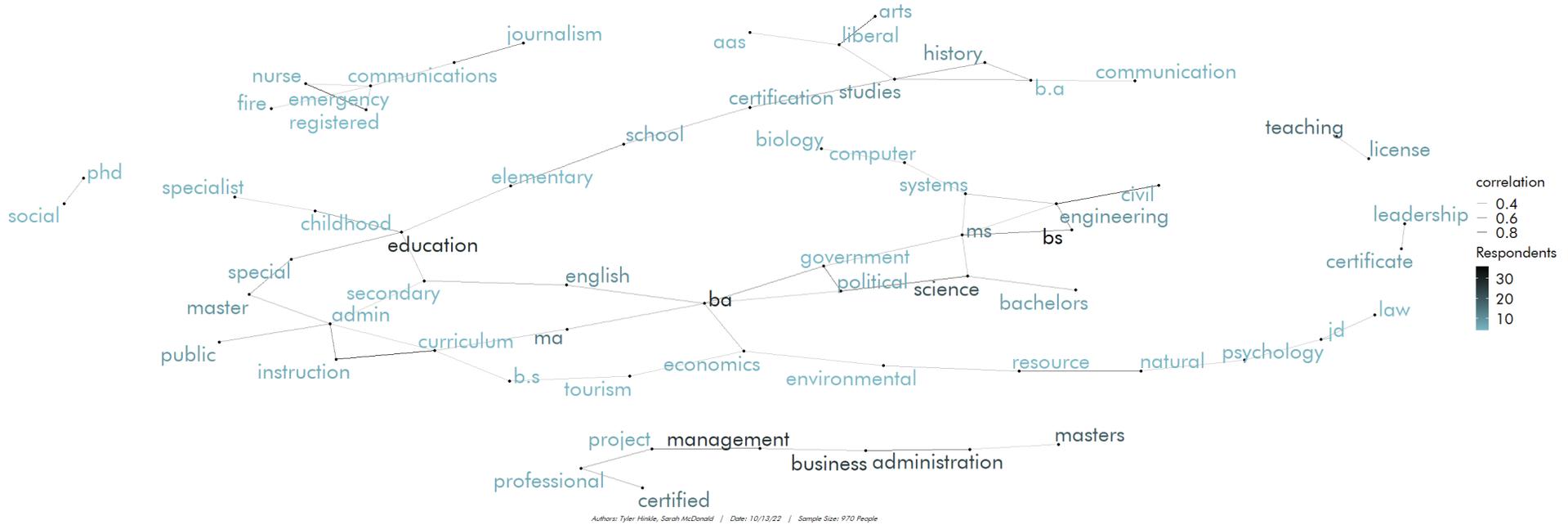


## Frequently Used Words For The Skills Of Respondents

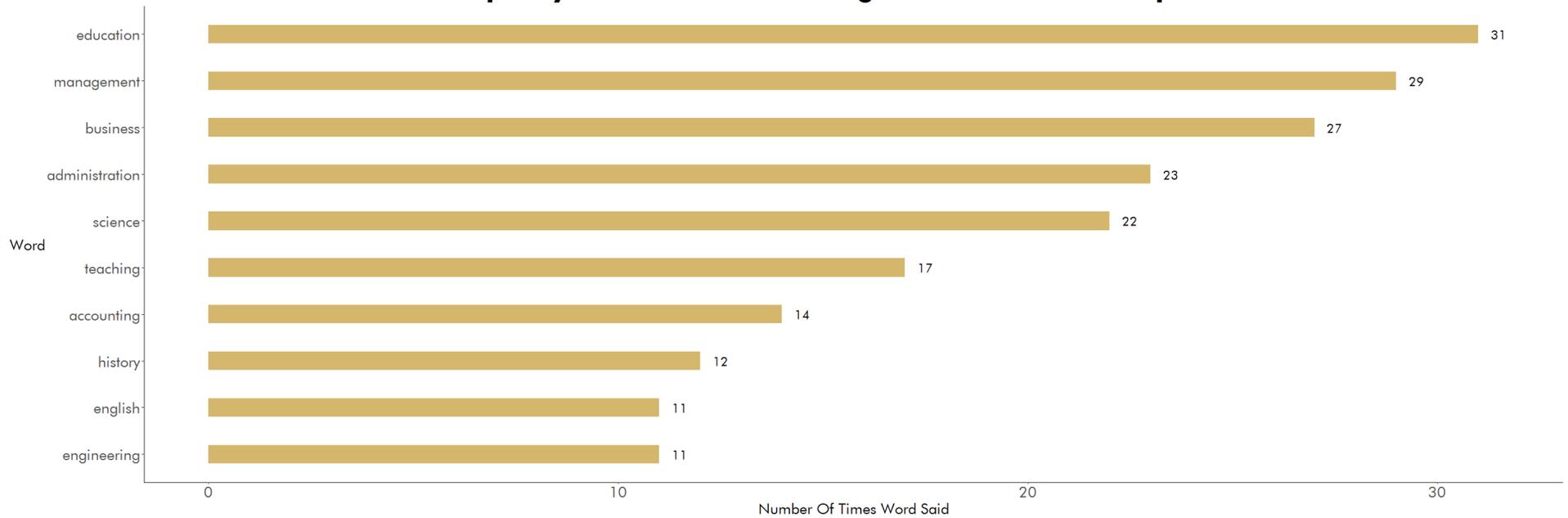




## Connections Between Respondents' Degree/Certification

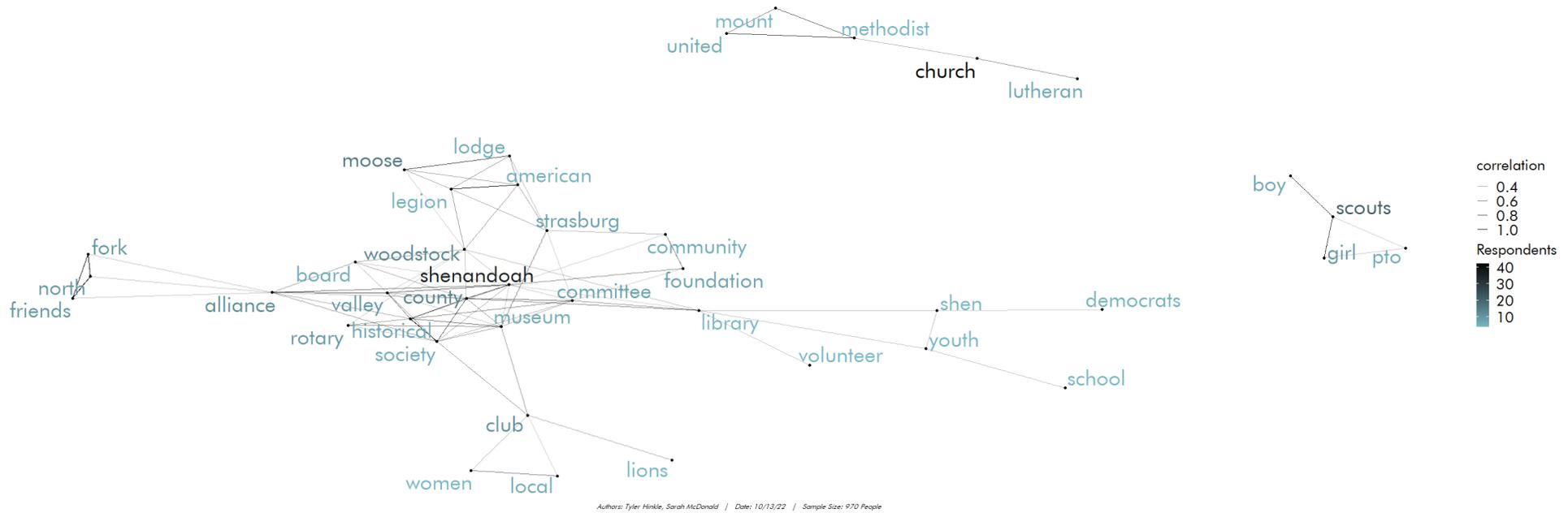


## Frequently Used Words For The Degree/Certification Of Respondents

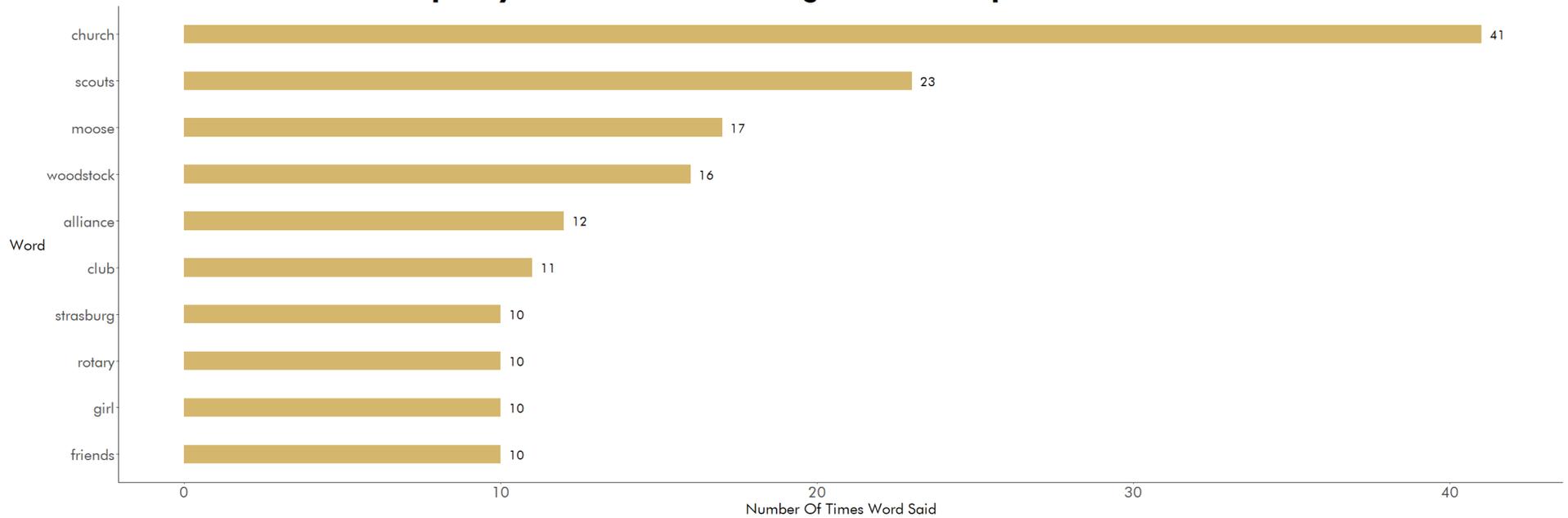




## Connections Between Respondents' Organizations Involved In

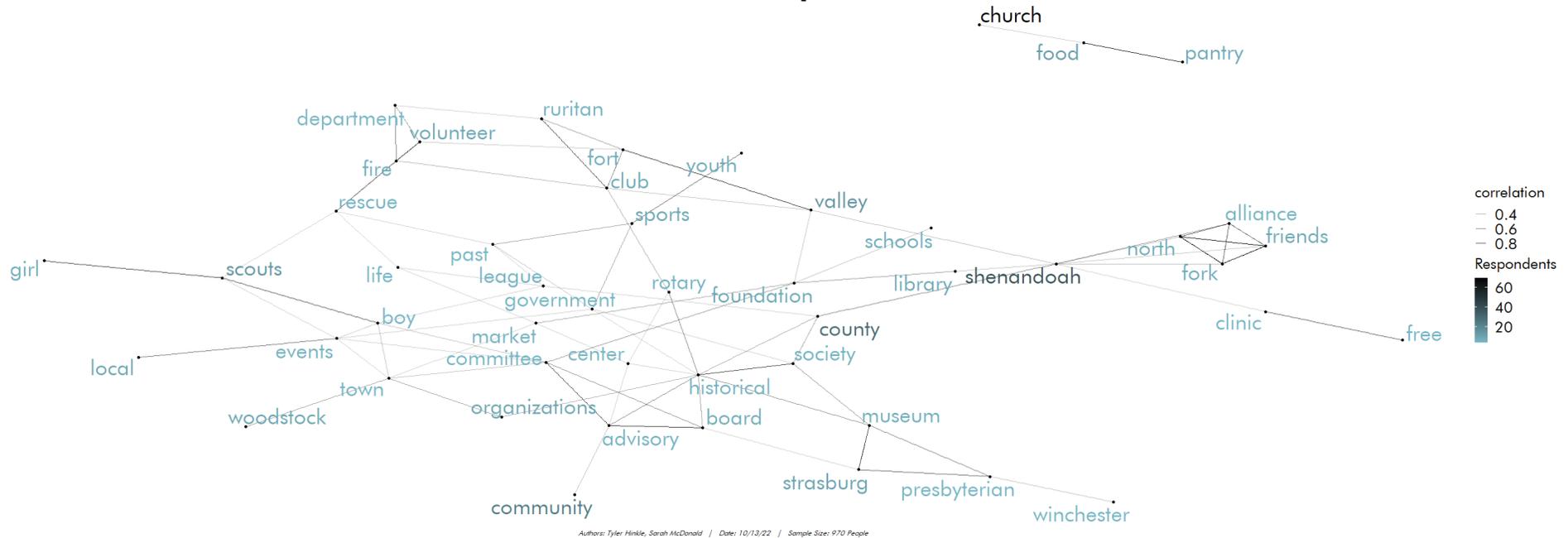


## Frequently Used Words For The Organizations Respondents Are Involved In

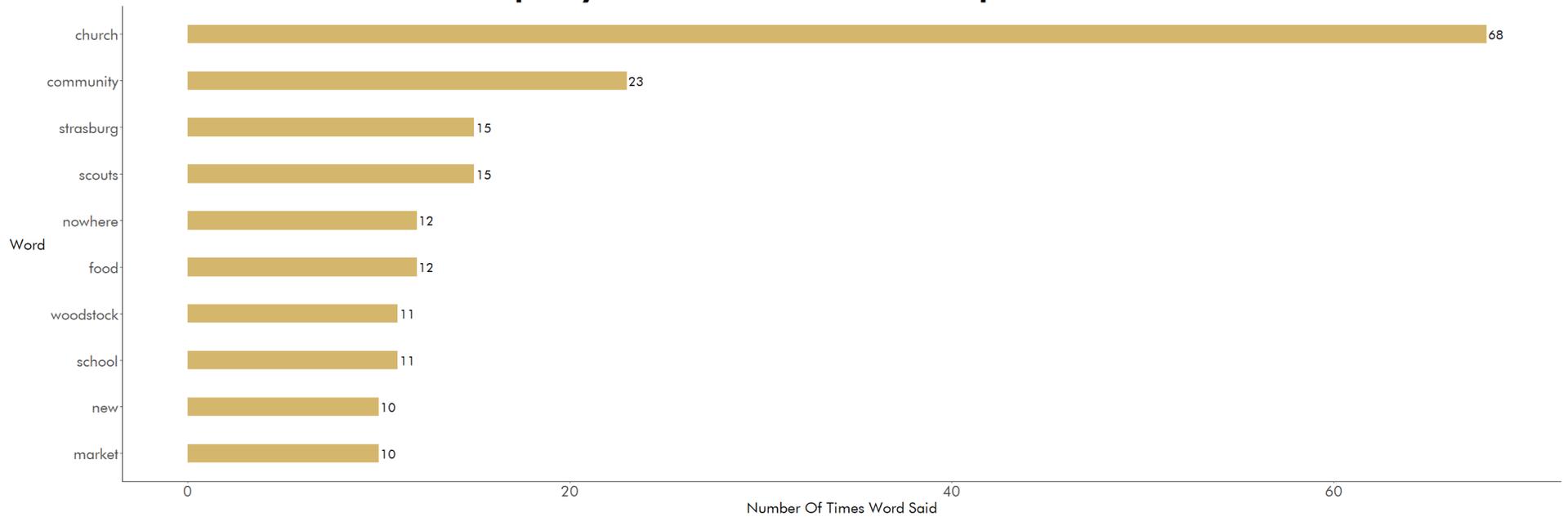




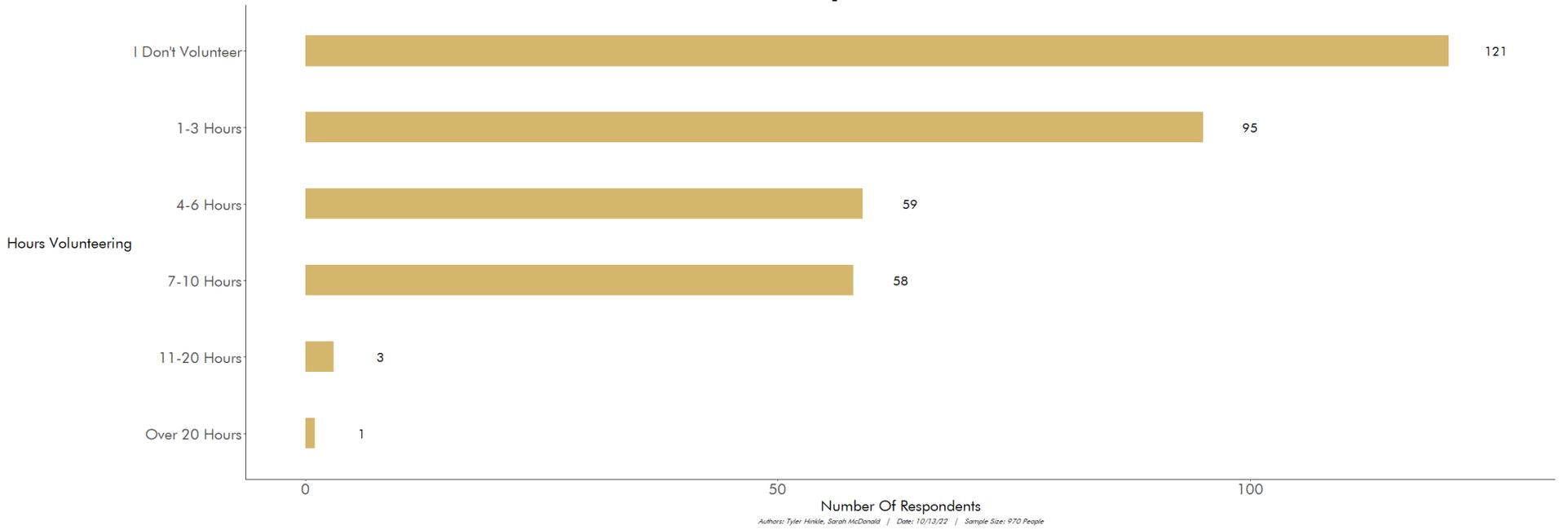
### Connections Between Places Respondents Volunteer



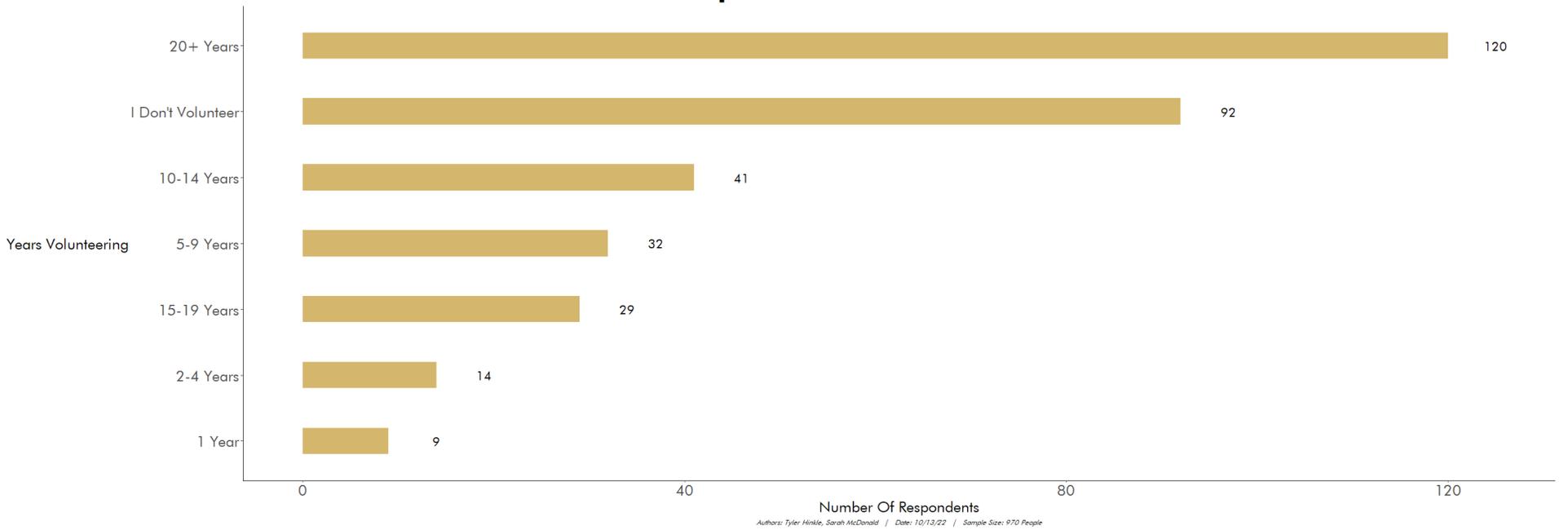
### Frequently Used Words For The Places Respondents Volunteer



### Most Repondents Volunteer



### Most Repondents Have Volunteered For Years





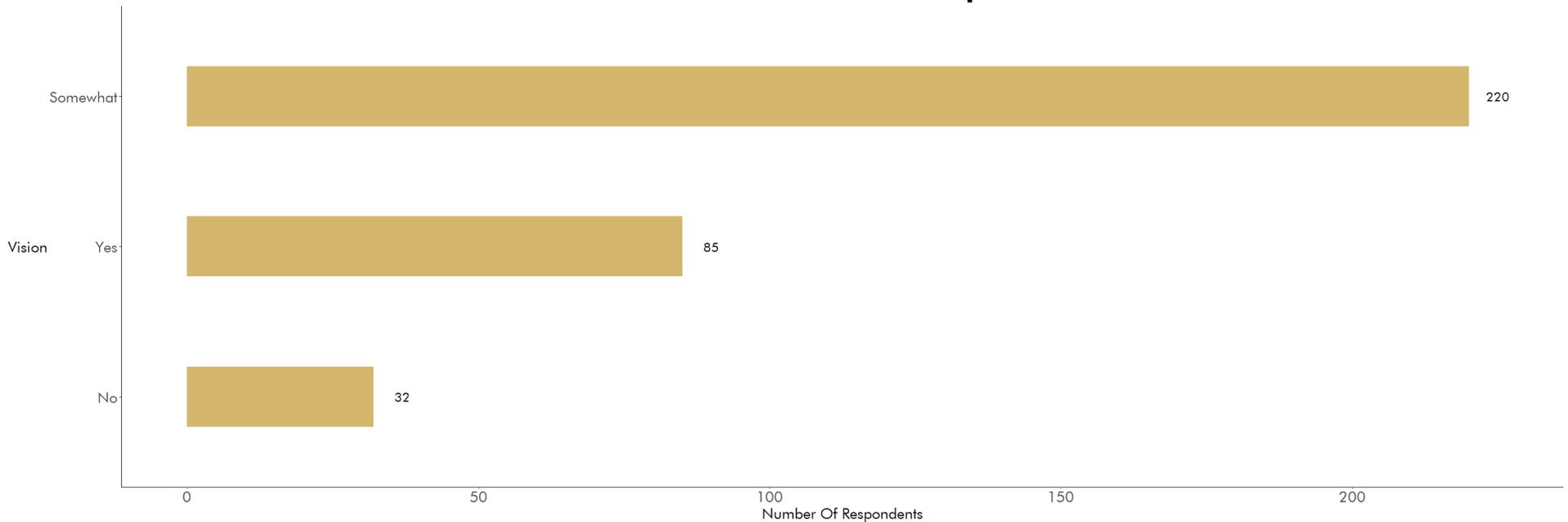
# VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Participants were asked if the following vision was upheld since it was adopted in 2005:

In the year 2025, Shenandoah County is and will be a primarily rural community that:

- Protects its natural resources
- Directs its growth to the towns ensuring its open, agricultural character
- Provides a variety of jobs in business, light industry, tourism, and sustainable agriculture
- Maintains moderate growth of a demographically varied population
- Supports safe and efficient interstate transportation and maintains the rural character of its primary and secondary roads
- Affords its students excellent and appropriate education
- Serves its citizens with public facilities and services that enhance their quality of life
- Ensures preservation of its natural beauty and unique, historical character by strictly adhering to the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan.

## Was The Vision For 2025 Upheld?



Authors: Tyler Hinkle, Sarah McDonald | Date: 10/13/22 | Sample Size: 970 People



We asked NovelAI to write a new version of the Vision Statement for us based on all of the data from the public input received. Then Dalle-2 drew us an image of that future. Here it is:

### Vision 2045

In the year 2045, Shenandoah County will be a vibrant and thriving community that preserves its natural beauty while providing residents with a high quality of life. We envision an inclusive, sustainable community where people are healthy, safe and secure. Through leadership, collaboration and stewardship, we plan for the future with consideration of both current needs and long-term growth.

- A place people feel proud to call home.
- A strong foundation for economic development.
- An attractive area for visitors and tourists.
- Accessible and well managed public spaces.
- A diverse, resilient economy that provides opportunities for all.
- A healthier environment.
- A solid infrastructure.

We believe in building a foundation of trust and transparency by listening to the citizens of Shenandoah County and encouraging participation from all sectors of the community.





# FUTURE OF VILLAGES AND HAMLETS

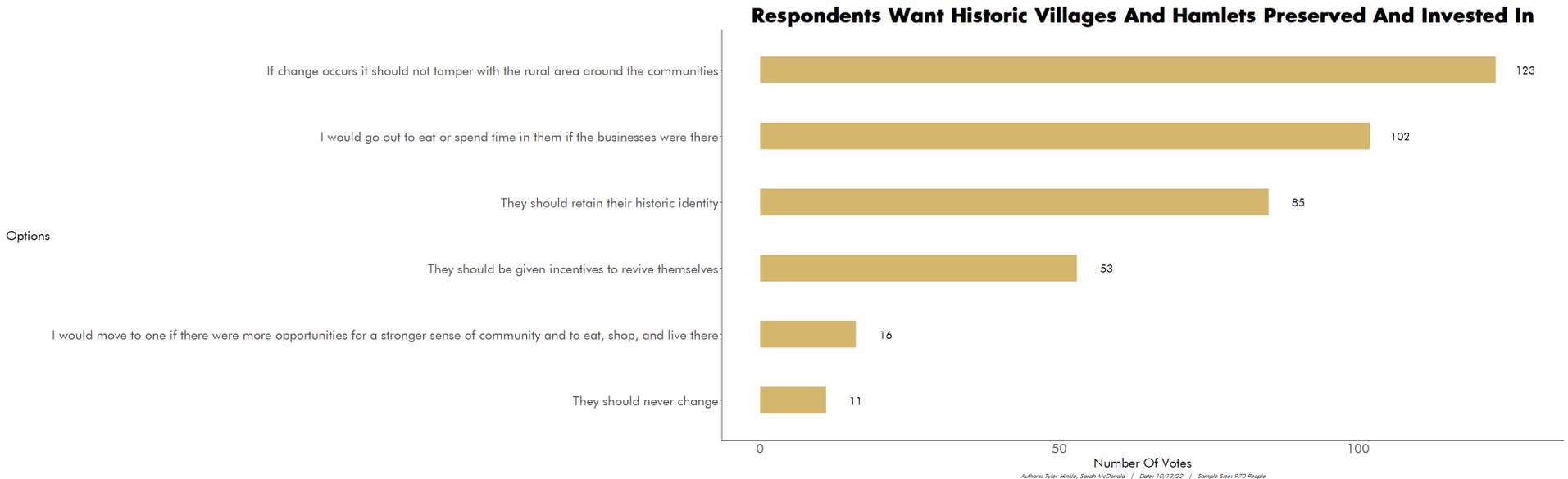
Participants were asked:

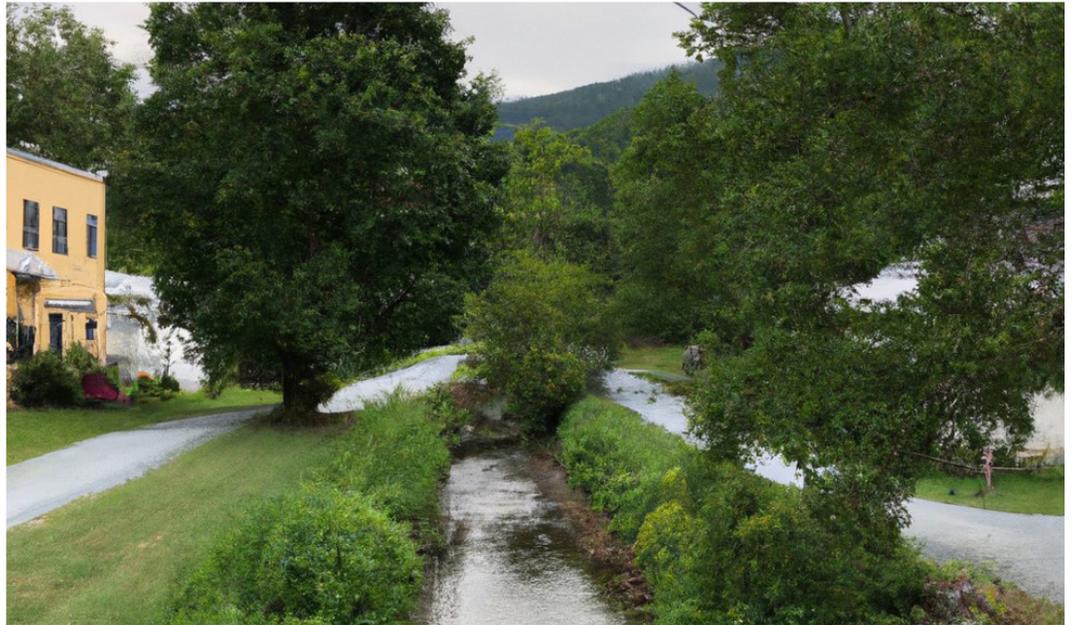
What do you think of the future of the villages, hamlets, burgs, hollows, and many other communities in Shenandoah County? (ie: Alonzaville, Forestville, Conicville, Mount Olive, Detrick)

As can be seen with the bar chart below, the public understands that new buildings and people will come to the villages and hamlets in the County yet when it happens it should be done in a way that doesn't tamper with the rural areas around the community, with more growth with local businesses than residential buildings, and that new buildings should reflect the characteristics of existing historic buildings already in the community.

We asked NovelAI to describe such a community and then asked Dalle-2 to visualize that future for us. Below is the description and to the right are the images that were drawn of the future of the villages and hamlets in Shenandoah County.

To describe the scene in short, the community in Shenandoah County was a small town that had been left alone to grow organically. The people of this area seemed happy and content. The community was located on the banks of a stream.



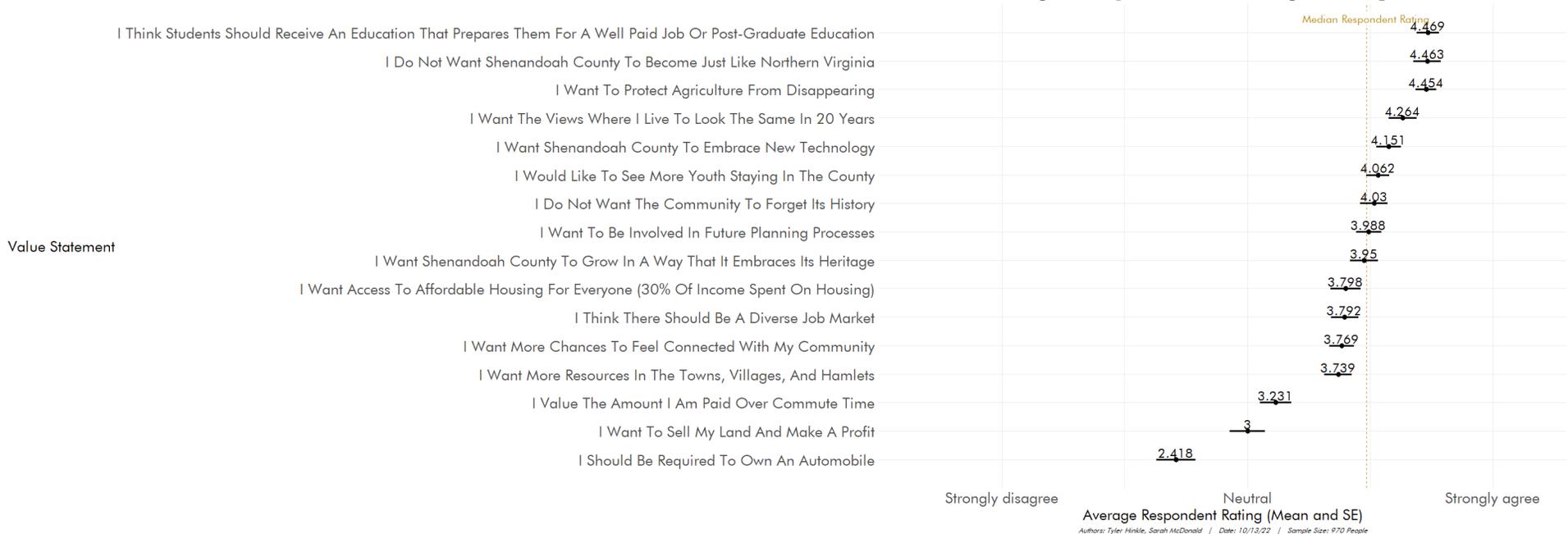


# MAJOR STATEMENTS

Participants were asked to rate a set of statements, "Please state how much you agree with the following:" (Options were: Strongly disagree, Somewhat disagree, Neutral, Somewhat agree, and Strongly agree)

1. I Want The Views Where I Live To Look The Same In 20 Years
2. I Want More Resources In The Towns, Villages, And Hamlets
3. I Want To Sell My Land And Make A Profit
4. I Think There Should Be A Diverse Job Market
5. I Value The Amount I Am Paid Over Commute Time
6. I Should Be Required To Own An Automobile
7. I Think Students Should Receive An Education That Prepares Them For A Well Paid Job Or Post-Graduate Education
8. I Do Not Want The Community To Forget Its History
9. I Want Access To Affordable Housing For Everyone (30% Of Income Spent On Housing)
10. I Want To Protect Agriculture From Disappearing
11. I Do Not Want Shenandoah County To Become Just Like Northern Virginia
12. I Want To Be Involved In Future Planning Processes
13. I Want More Chances To Feel Connected With My Community
14. I Want Shenandoah County To Grow In A Way That It Embraces Its Heritage
15. I Want Shenandoah County To Embrace New Technology
16. I Would Like To See More Youth Staying In The County

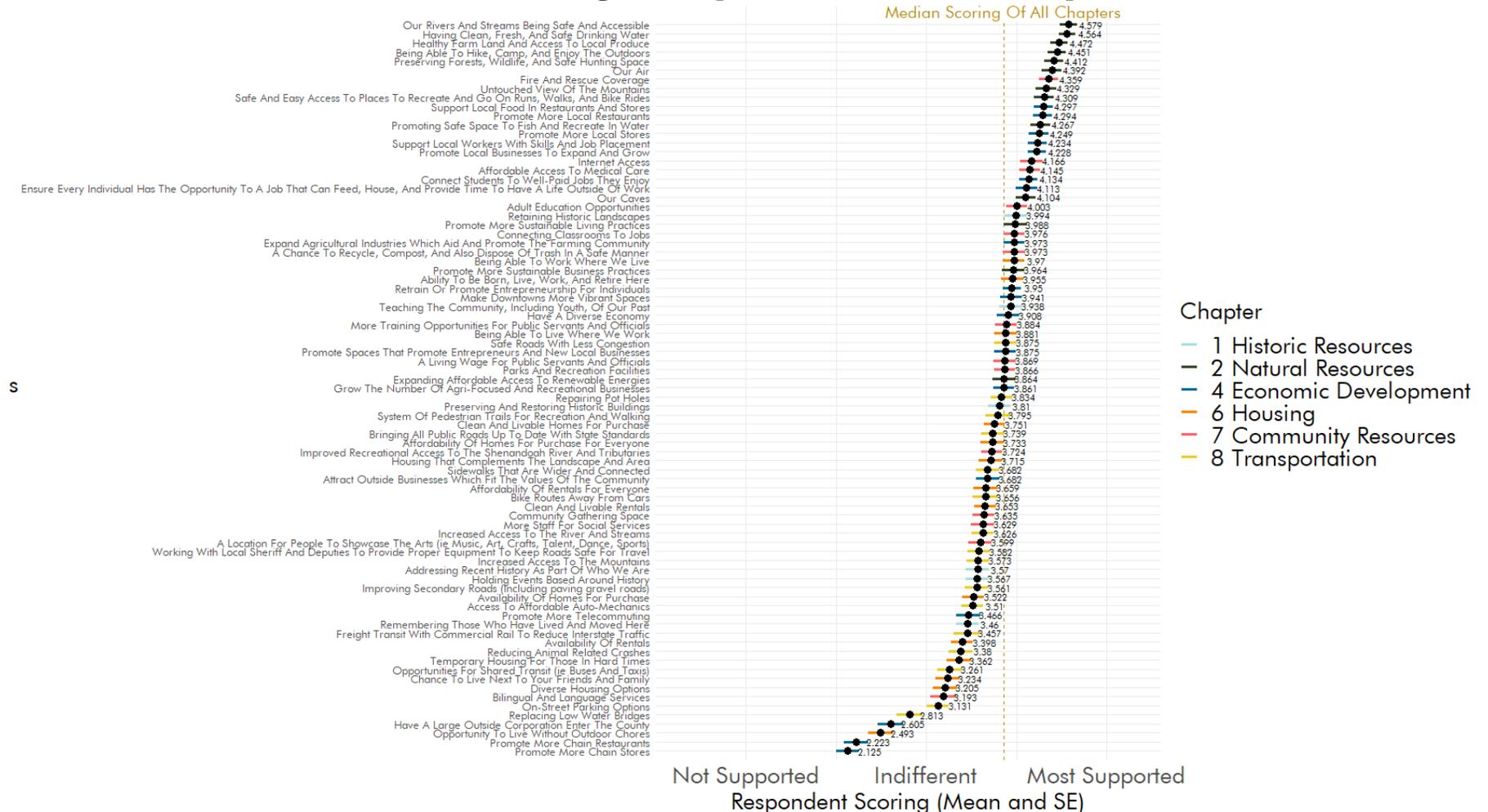
## Average Respondent Rating Of Key Values



# CHAPTER RESULTS OVERVIEW

We took all of the responses that participants provided us from all of the Chapter-based questions and sorted them based on the average rating of all ratings provided. We also color coded the responses by Chapter as can be seen on the right hand side. We also took the median of all of these aspects and drew a line which shows half of all responses above or right of the line and half below or left of the line. This line is also on every Chapter bar chart so its easier to clearly see which items were in the top half of ideas and which were in the bottom half. Further, if an item is to the right of Indifferent then the public overall supports it, while if its to the left the public overall does not support it.

## Average Responses For All Chapter Questions



# FROM THE MOUNTAIN TOP

In the second part of the survey, in order to better understand the look and feel of Shenandoah County in the future, a question was asked on what the future would look like from the top of a mountain looking down into the County. Participants were asked:

If you stood on a mountaintop overlooking Shenandoah County in 2045, what would you want to see?

Here are some of the statements that respondents provided us per District:

## District 1 Ideas

- The Valley that grew but still preserved the beauty.
- Full towns, surrounded by farms
- Open landscape and be able to point out places in the community to my kids
- Beautiful landscape with some city-like areas spread apart.

## District 2 Ideas

- Rural space with communities, rather than suburban sprawl
- Growth and businesses. We are becoming a low income housing community.
- Lots of green trees, grass, beautiful agriculture fields, renovated remodeled down town. Community gathering places, more parks

## District 3 Ideas

- Clean, well organized towns dotting an otherwise rural landscape. Solar and wind farms distributed throughout valley.
- A vibrant patchwork of ag lands and residential development clustered in towns, villages and hamlets.
- Beautiful, rural area with most growth clustered around towns, some industrial growth on or near already-existing sites

## District 4 Ideas

- River, trees, agriculture, and small communities surrounding Route 11.
- Clear skies & beautification & vegetation & well kept landscaping & buildings!!
- The Seven Bends, farming, clear skies, small industry
- Purposeful advancement and NEW SCHOOL BUILDINGS!!!!!!

## District 5 Ideas

- Green, open spaces, farmland, and small towns
- Mountains, nature, more businesses, a more vibrant and thriving community with younger people, families and kids.
- A rail system right in the media of I-81
- Definitely NOT something that looks like Fairfax County.

## District 6 Ideas

- Active farms and neat towns & villages with well defined edges
- Clear mountain, river views. Plenty of tilled farmland. Human and animal habitat. A rainbow future.
- A green valley with water still flowing in the rivers.
- Happy people, larger towns, maybe a few tall buildings

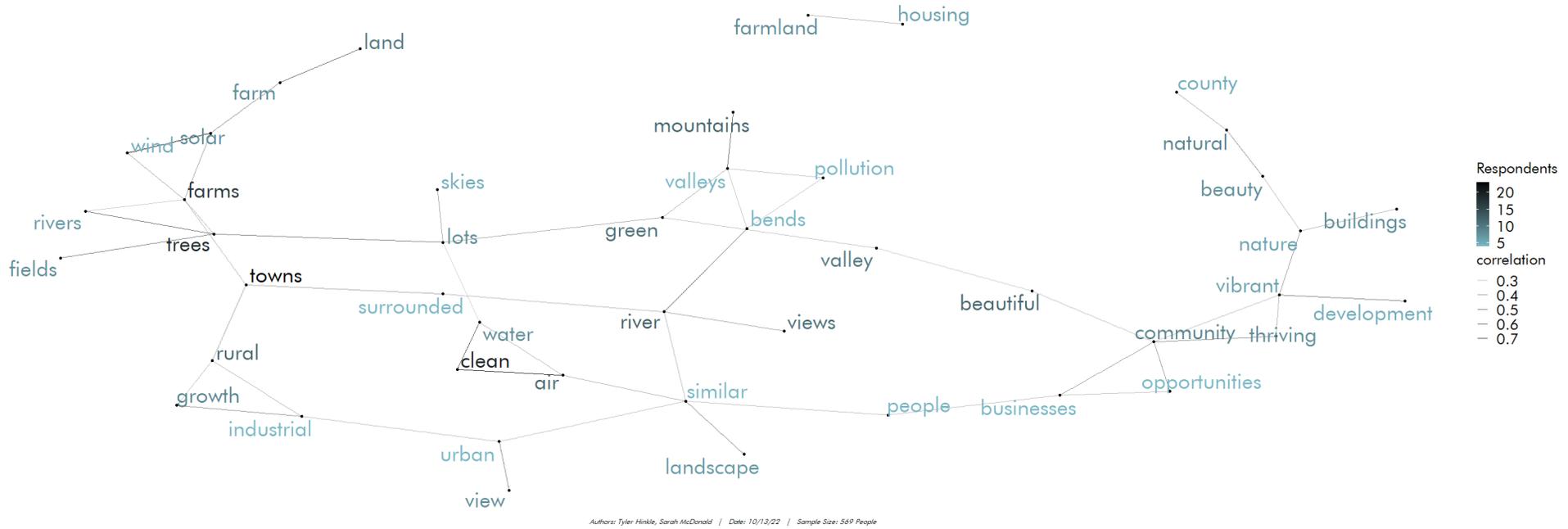
We took all of those ideas that respondents shared with us and put them into an artificial intelligence program called Novel AI and asked it to describe this future Shenandoah County in the year 2045. Then we asked another artificial intelligence program called Dalle-2 to visualize that future as can be seen with the image below the story.



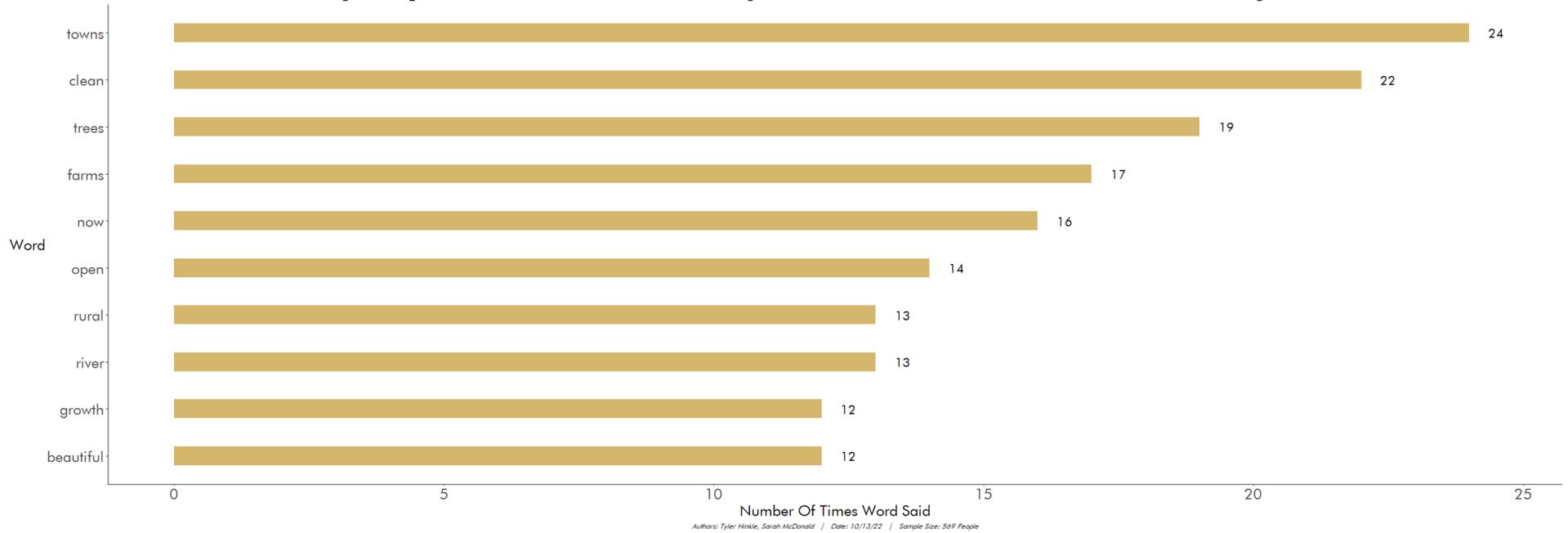
In the year 2045 I climbed on top of the mountain to look down on Shenandoah County, looking out I could see, a small town, a farm, and a few small homes. The sun was shining bright with a deep blue sky. It was peaceful. There were no big cities, no construction, no signs of over industrialization, no new highways, and nothing but nature. Looking at the Towns I could see kids playing in a park, people walking down the street, the river running through it all. Looking at the villages and hamlets I saw a general store, a restaurant, a gas station, a post office, and a library. All these things make up the life of a small town. Then I looked out and saw the farms and I knew this was where I wanted to be. This is why I believe it is important to leave the land unspoiled and untouched because we need to preserve the beauty of what remains so our grandchildren will have something to look forward to when they return here in 2065.



## Connections Between What Respondents Want To See From A Mountaintop In 2045



## Frequently Used Words For What Respondents Want To See From A Mountaintop In 2045



# TO THE STREET

In the second part of the survey, in order to better understand the look and feel of Shenandoah County in the future, a question was asked on what the future would look like from the view of the street or downtown. Participants were asked:

If you were on the street of a town, village, or hamlet in Shenandoah County in 2045, what would you want to see in the community?

Here are some of the statements that respondents provided us per District:

## District 1 Ideas

- I would want to see people walking to and from eateries, local shopping options, a rails to trails bike path connecting towns.
- More stores, not just for tourists, the well to do or retired
- Full sidewalks, outdoor seating, lush landscaping
- People smiling, walking, eating, talking, relaxing, and social

## District 2 Ideas

- Mixed use zoning, with town centers and residential mixed
- A vibrant downtown with something besides thrift stores
- A vibrant, diverse community free of the Stars and Bars
- Parks, community events, remit of historical buildings more local businesses

## District 3 Ideas

- Walkable access to stores, restaurants. Performing arts center(s)
- People, safe walking and biking paths to schools, stores and recreation, and local merchants.
- Mom and pop restaurants, shops featuring the local talents
- All the buildings on route 11 restored to a decent standard!!!

## District 4 Ideas

- People enjoying time outside, shopping, eateries, and entertainment
- Clean streets, uncluttered yards, no vacant buildings
- No homeless people, businesses that were open and thriving, not too much noise, good air quality, a diverse community
- Walkable, tree shaded sidewalks; bike paths; thriving local businesses

## District 5 Ideas

- Places to eat, shopping, places to hang out with friends, activities
- People gathering at small businesses talking outside at tables
- Diverse, small shops locally owned, e.g., coffee & pastry shop, flower shop, book store and/or library, small diner or restaurant
- Preserved historical homes, family owned small businesses

## District 6 Ideas

- A thriving community center with people engaged in family activities
- People out enjoying local shops, eateries, and learning spaces
- Colorful vibrant buildings, people walking, patios, laughter, smiles, lots of trees.
- Buildings being used not run down and dilapidated

We took all of those ideas that respondents shared with us and put them into an artificial intelligence program called Novel AI and asked it to describe this future Shenandoah County in the year 2045. Then we asked another artificial intelligence program called Dalle-2 to visualize that future as can be seen with the image.

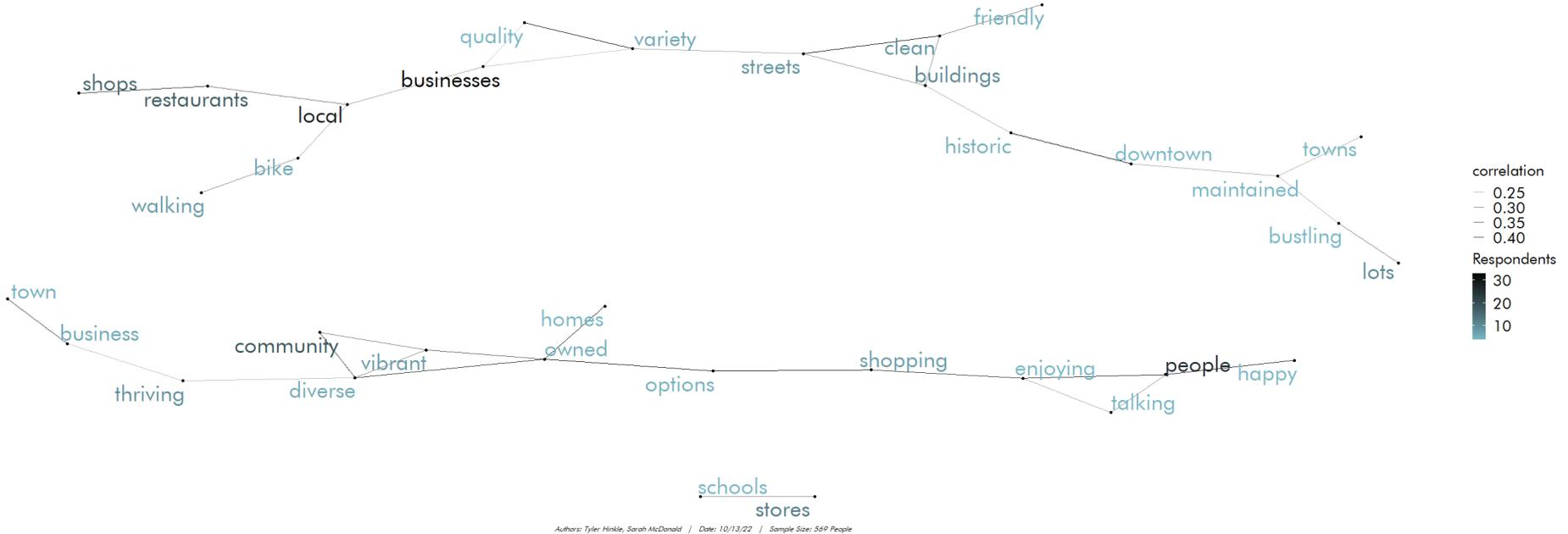


In the year 2045 I traveled into one of the Towns in Shenandoah County and when I stepped out onto the street downtown I saw a large number of people milling around the streets. They appeared to be very friendly as if they knew each other and were having a great day. There was some traffic on the road that looked to be mostly bicycles or electric cars. There appeared to be several restaurants and shops open with people inside and outside. There were many people of different ages going about their daily lives. It felt like a real community where everyone knew each other and was kind to each other. Then I traveled to one of the villages out in the County and when I walked down the street I saw a group of people sitting around a table in front of a small café. The look on their faces was serious as they discussed how they could make the Village better and safer. I noticed a large number of children playing in the park. The people appeared to be from a wide variety of races and cultures. There were young couples and older couples holding hands and walking.

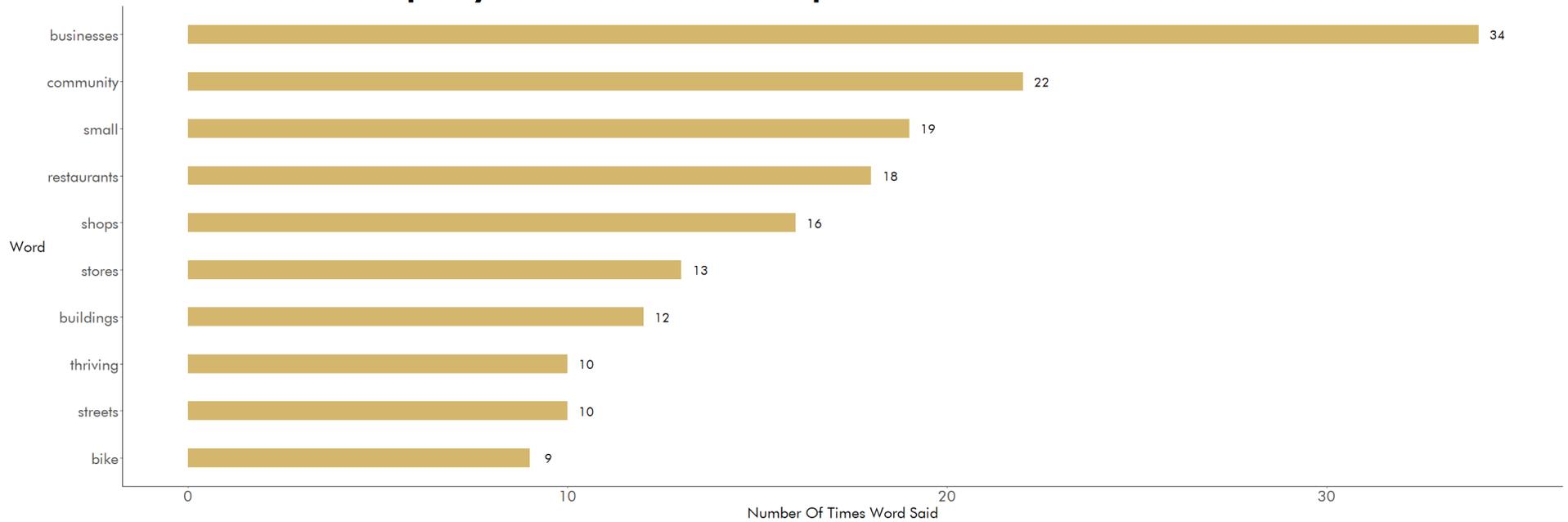
# What Respondents Want To See From The Street And In Downtown In 2045



## Connections Between What Respondents Want To See Downtown In 2045



## Frequently Used Words For What Respondents Want To See Downtown In 2045



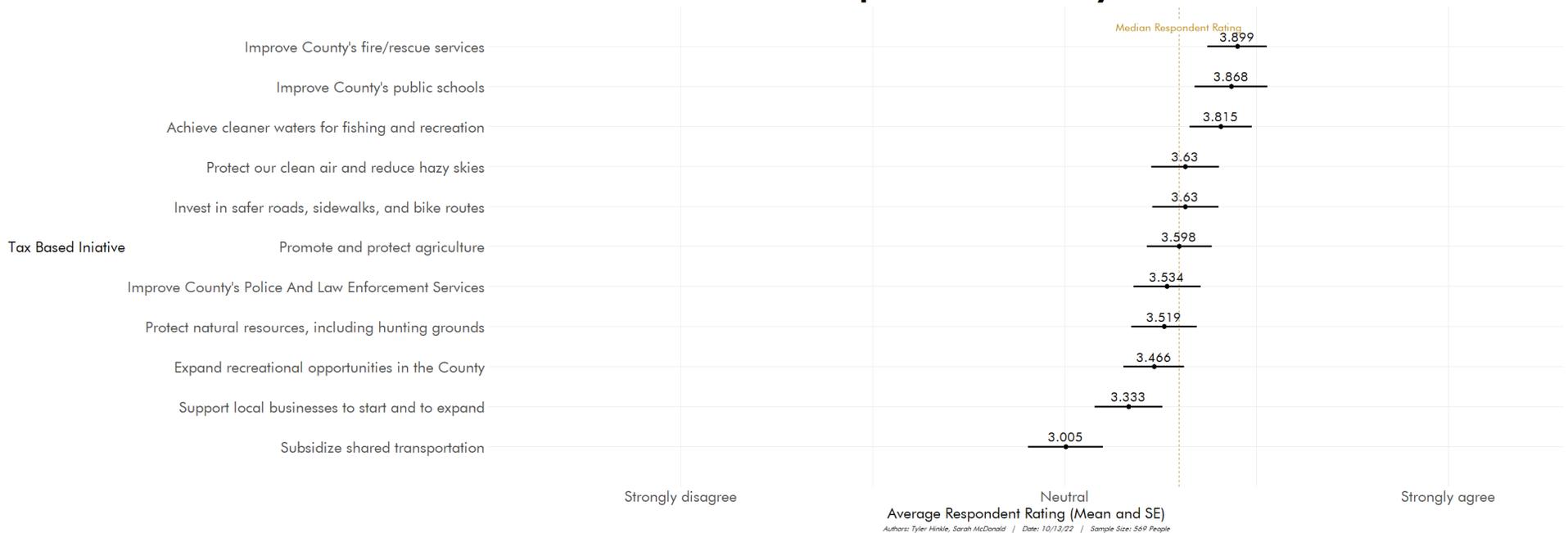
# TAXES

In the second part of the survey, in order to better understand the financial desires of the community a question was asked on future tax spending. Participants were asked:

Please state how much you agree with the following. I would pay additional local taxes in order to:

- Protect natural resources, including hunting grounds
- Achieve cleaner waters for fishing and recreation
- Improve County’s public schools
- Improve County’s Police And Law Enforcement Services
- Improve County’s fire/rescue services
- Expand recreational opportunities in the County
- Support local businesses to start and to expand
- Invest in safer roads, sidewalks, and bike routes
- Protect our clean air and reduce hazy skies
- Subsidize shared transportation
- Promote and protect agriculture

## What Respondents Would Pay More Taxes For

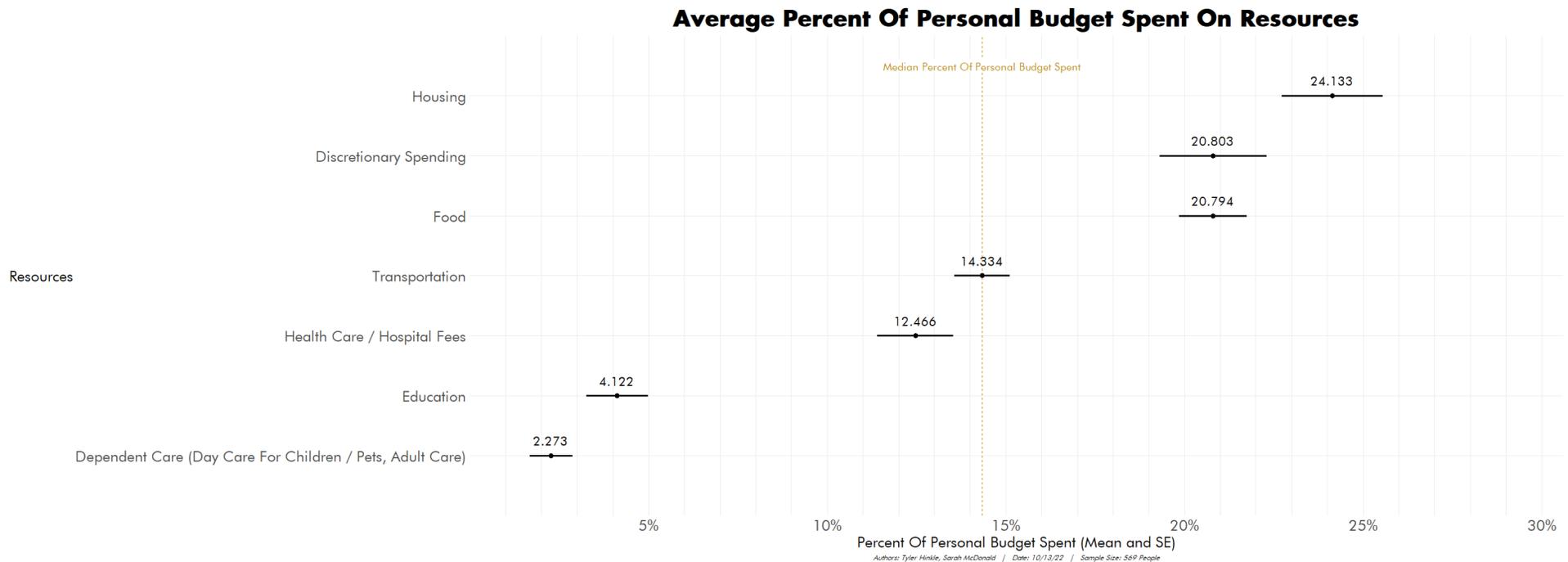


# PERSONAL BUDGET

In the second part of the survey, in order to better understand the financial demands of the community a question was asked on their personal budgets. Participants were asked:

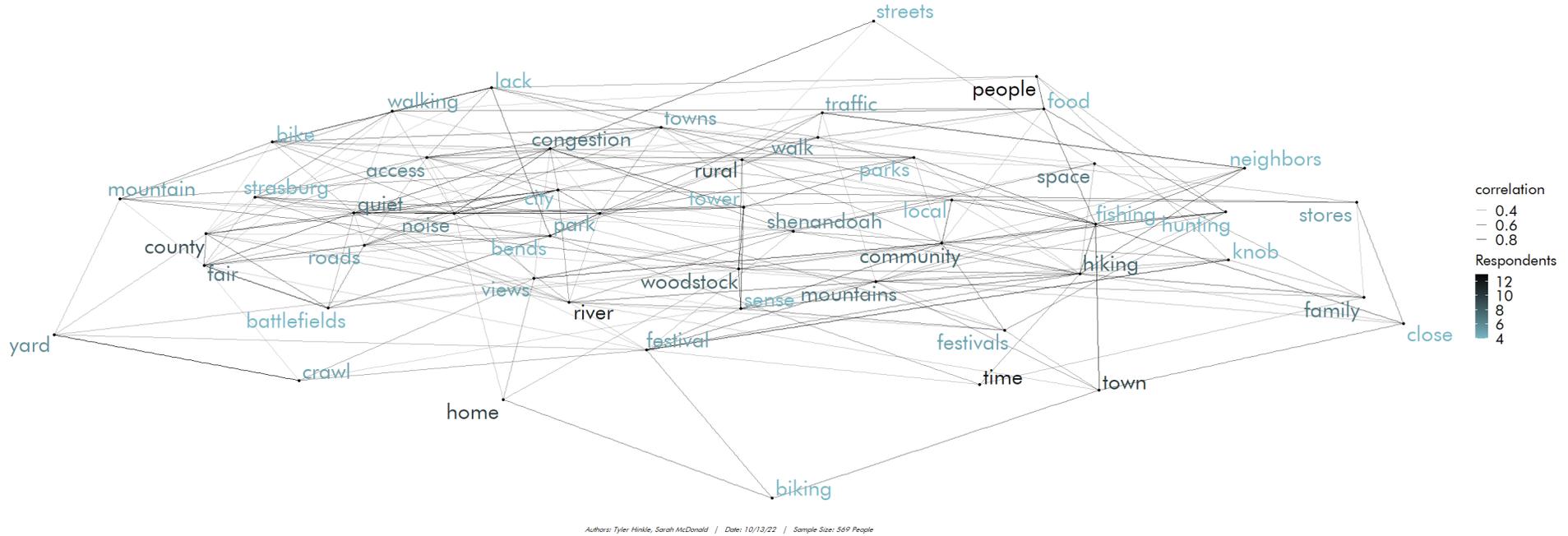
How does your personal budget break down currently: (This is in terms of percentages that add up to 100) (For those that do not impact you, put 0) (This is an estimate and does not need to be exact)

- Housing
- Food
- Transportation
- Education
- Health Care / Hospital Fees
- Dependent Care (Day Care For Children / Pets, Adult Care)
- Discretionary Spending





## Connections Between Additional Comments By Respondents

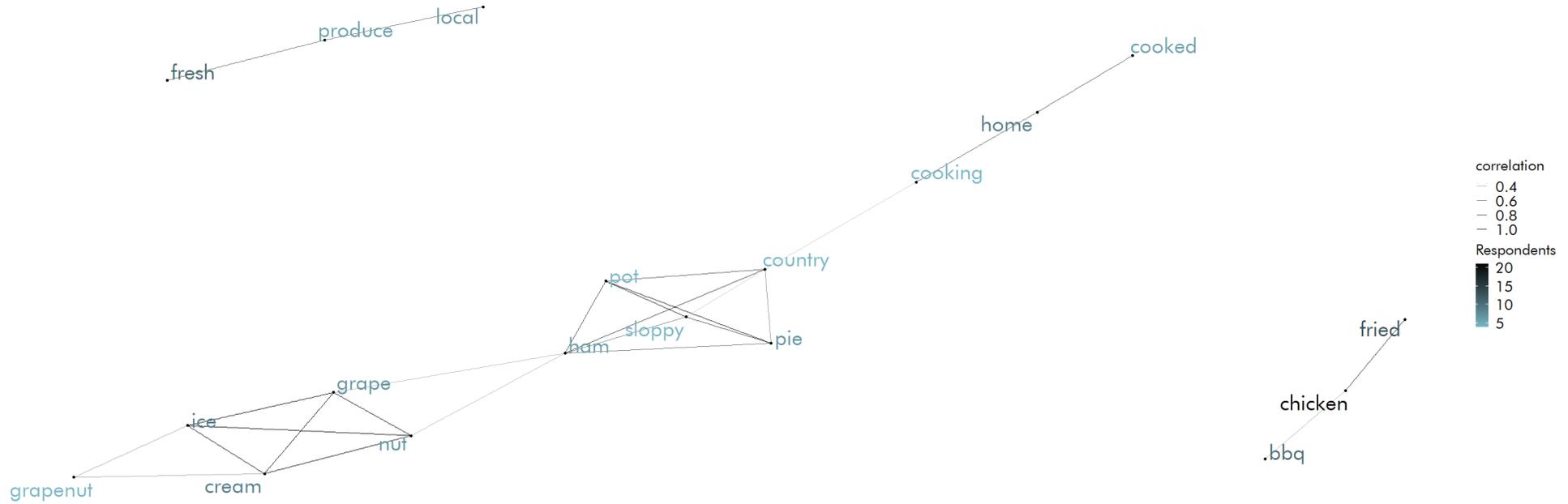


## Frequently Used Words For Additional Comments By Respondents

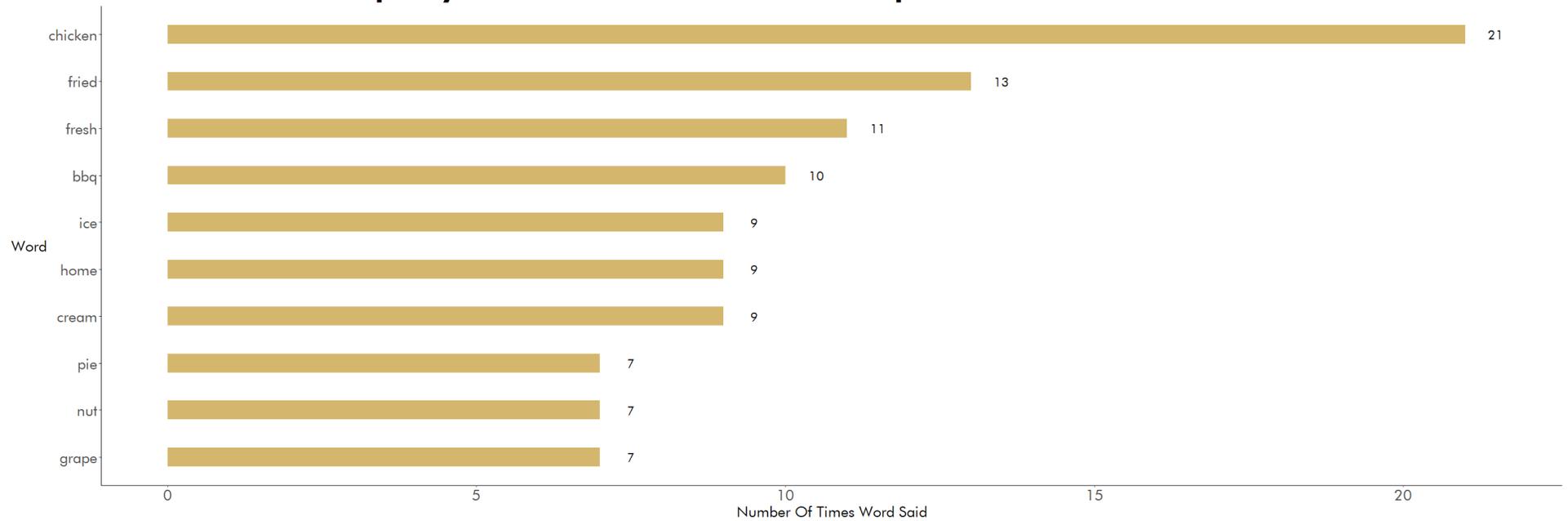




## Connections Between Foods That Respondents Feel Characterize The Area



## Frequently Used Words For The Foods That Respondents Feel Characterize The Area



“The history of Shenandoah County was preserved in 2045 by assisting in the renovation of the historic homes and communities in the County by encouraging homeowners to restore their homes to look as they did when the original owners lived there. This program allowed residents to take advantage of tax incentives to help them save money as well as provide a better life for the occupants.” - NovelAI, Imagery By DALL-E 2

# HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, AND SCENIC RESOURCES





## District 1 Top Concerns

1. Teaching The Community, Including Youth, Of Our Past
2. Retaining Historic Landscapes
3. Preserving And Restoring Historic Buildings



## District 4 Top Concerns

1. Retaining Historic Landscapes
2. Teaching The Community, Including Youth, Of Our Past
3. Preserving And Restoring Historic Buildings



## District 2 Top Concerns

1. Retaining Historic Landscapes
2. Teaching The Community, Including Youth, Of Our Past
3. Preserving And Restoring Historic Buildings



## District 5 Top Concerns

1. Retaining Historic Landscapes
2. Teaching The Community, Including Youth, Of Our Past
3. Holding Events Based Around History



## District 3 Top Concerns

1. Retaining Historic Landscapes
2. Teaching The Community, Including Youth, Of Our Past
3. Preserving And Restoring Historic Buildings



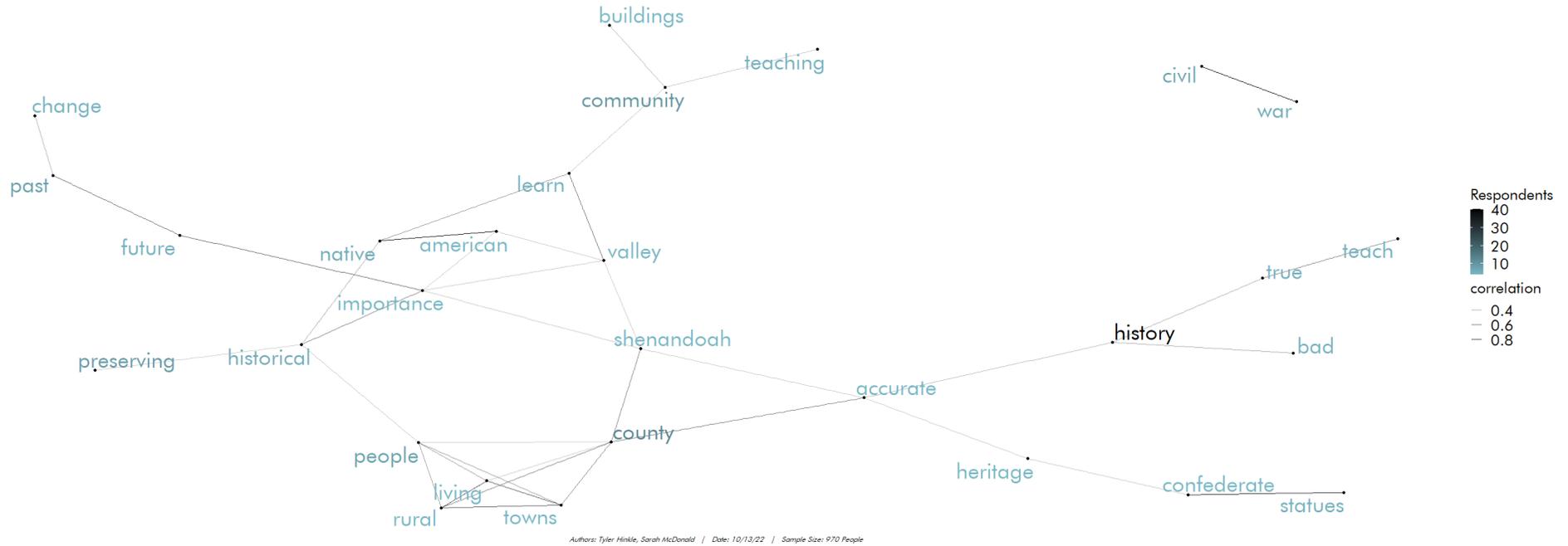
## District 6 Top Concerns

1. Retaining Historic Landscapes
2. Addressing Recent History As Part Of Who We Are
3. Teaching The Community, Including Youth, Of Our Past

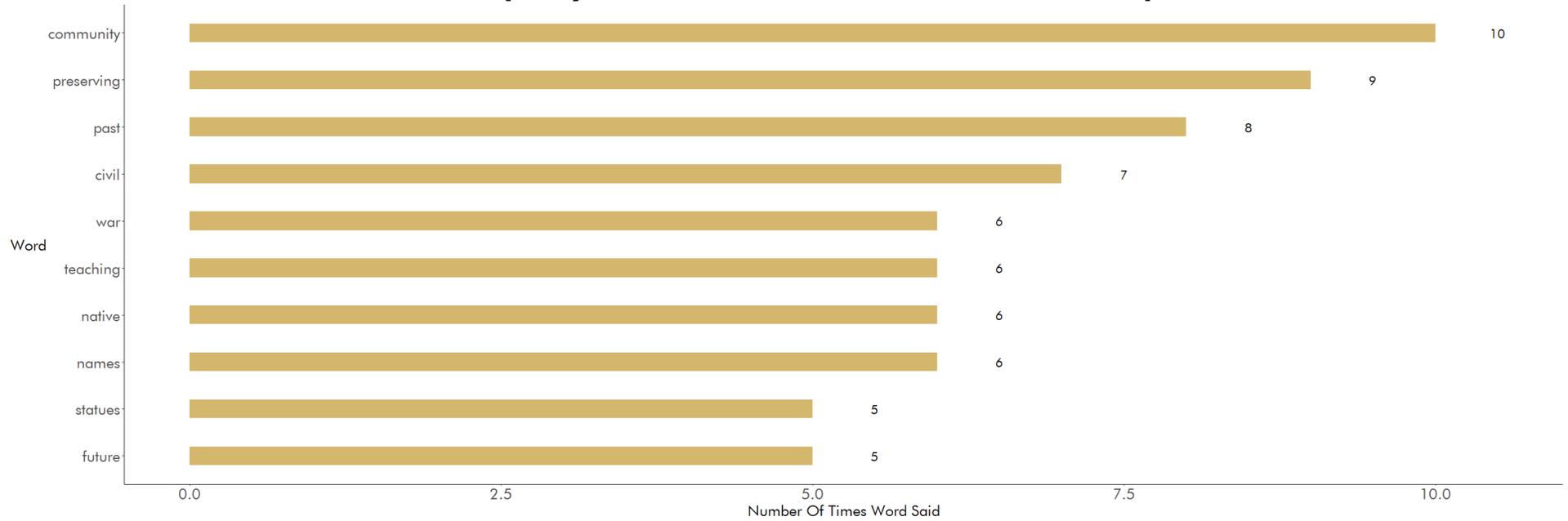




## Connections Between Other Historic Resources Comments



## Frequently Used Words For Historic Resources Other Responses



“The natural resources of Shenandoah County were preserved in 2045 by preserving farmland and forests with strict building codes that kept most new construction in the towns and villages. By 2070, the county was still one of the cleanest counties in Virginia. It is still known for its beautiful views, charming old towns, and great restaurants.” - NovelAI, Imagery By DALL-E 2

# NATURAL RESOURCES



# NATURAL RESOURCES

In the first part of the survey, participants were asked: Please rate the important issues related to natural resources in Shenandoah County:

- Untouched View Of The Mountains
- Our Rivers And Streams Being Safe And Accessible
- Healthy Farm Land And Access To Local Produce
- Preserving Forests, Wildlife, And Safe Hunting Space
- Promoting Safe Space To Fish And Recreate In Water
- Having Clean, Fresh, And Safe Drinking Water
- Being Able To Hike, Camp, And Enjoy The Outdoors
- Our Caves
- Our Air
- Safe And Easy Access To Places To Recreate And Go On Runs, Walks, And Bike Rides
- Expanding Affordable Access To Renewable Energies
- Promote More Sustainable Business Practices
- Promote More Sustainable Living Practices

Overall the results revealed that the highest priority of participants was “Our Rivers And Streams Being Safe And Accessible” which was followed by “Having Clean, Fresh, And Safe Drinking Water.” These two as well as the following four are not only the top six of this chapter, but also scored as the top six topics of concern overall. All options fall above the score of three and the median of 3.861 meaning that respondents overall are supportive of all of these options. When looking at the open ended additional thoughts question the word, “Solar,” can be seen throughout and the word web shows that when respondents use that word they are talking the ties solar has to land and other renewable energies such as wind.

## Average Responses For Natural Resources Questions



## District 1 Top Concerns

1. Having Clean, Fresh, And Safe Drinking Water
2. Our Air
3. Healthy Farm Land And Access To Local Produce



## District 2 Top Concerns

1. Our Rivers And Streams Being Safe And Accessible
2. Having Clean, Fresh, And Safe Drinking Water
3. Preserving Forests, Wildlife, And Safe Hunting Space



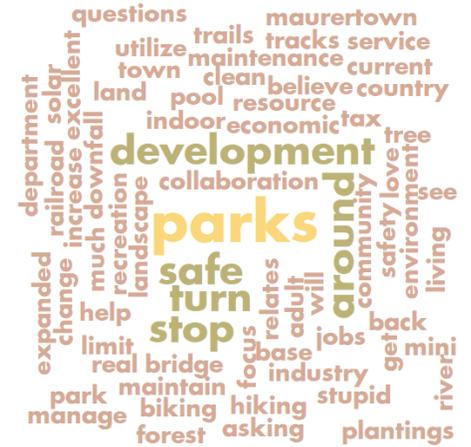
## District 3 Top Concerns

1. Having Clean, Fresh, And Safe Drinking Water
2. Our Rivers And Streams Being Safe And Accessible
3. Our Air



## District 4 Top Concerns

1. Our Rivers And Streams Being Safe And Accessible
2. Having Clean, Fresh, And Safe Drinking Water
3. Healthy Farm Land And Access To Local Produce



## District 5 Top Concerns

1. Our Rivers And Streams Being Safe And Accessible
2. Preserving Forests, Wildlife, And Safe Hunting Space
3. Healthy Farm Land And Access To Local Produce



## District 6 Top Concerns

1. Our Rivers And Streams Being Safe And Accessible
2. Being Able To Hike, Camp, And Enjoy The Outdoors
3. Safe And Easy Access To Places To Recreate And Go On Runs, Walks, And Bike Rides



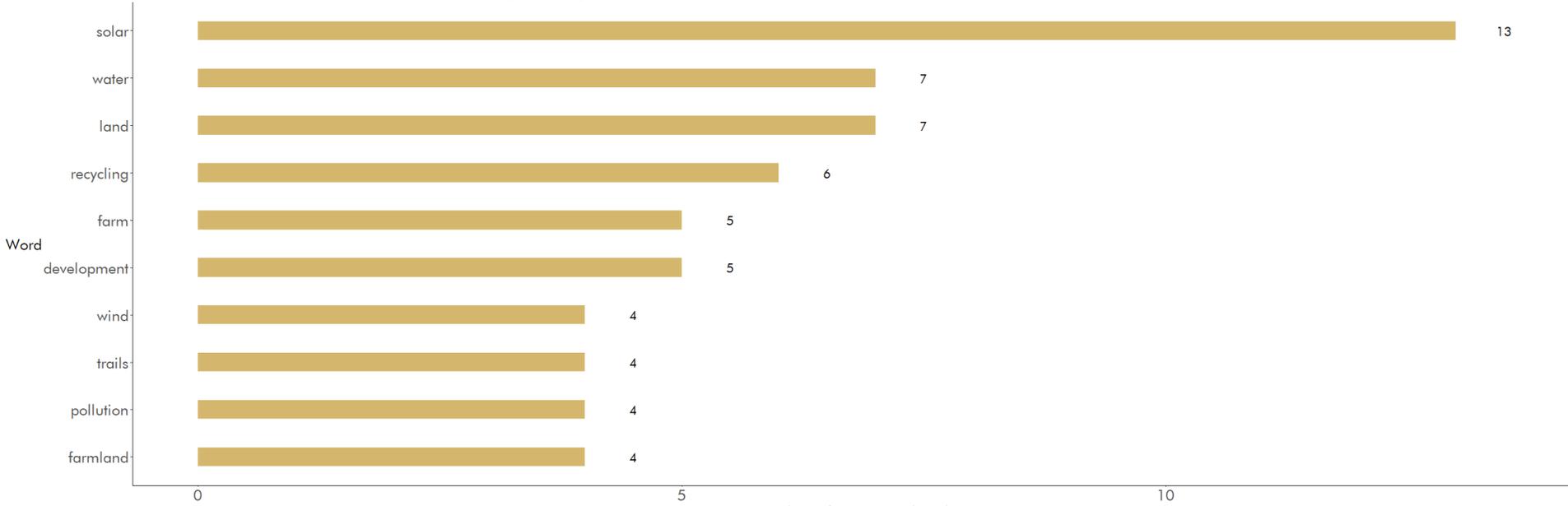


### Connections Between Other Natural Resources Comments



Authors: Tyler Hinkle, Sarah McDonald | Date: 10/13/22 | Sample Size: 970 People

### Frequently Used Words For Natural Resources Other Responses



Authors: Tyler Hinkle, Sarah McDonald | Date: 10/13/22 | Sample Size: 970 People

“Economic development in Shenandoah County improved by 2045 through continued expansion of existing industries and new industry relocations into the region. This will create over 3000 jobs and \$100 million in economic activity. Small businesses and tourism grew to become major sectors of the economy.” - NovelAI, Imagery By DALL-E 2

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In the first part of the survey, participants were asked: Please rate the important issues related to the economy and economic development in Shenandoah County:

- Connect Students To Well-Paid Jobs They Enjoy
- Retrain Or Promote Entrepreneurship For Individuals
- Promote Local Businesses To Expand And Grow
- Support Local Workers With Skills And Job Placement
- Have A Large Outside Corporation Enter The County
- Promote More Chain Stores
- Promote More Chain Restaurants
- Support Local Food In Restaurants And Stores
- Promote More Local Stores
- Promote More Local Restaurants
- Attract Outside Businesses Which Fit The Values Of The Community
- Expand Agricultural Industries Which Aid And Promote The Farming Community
- Ensure Every Individual Has The Opportunity To A Job That Can Feed, House, And Provide Time To Have A Life Outside Of Work
- Promote Spaces That Promote Entrepreneurs And New Local Businesses
- Grow The Number Of Agri-Focused And Recreational Businesses
- Have A Diverse Economy
- Promote More Telecommuting
- Make Downtowns More Vibrant Spaces

Overall the results revealed that the highest priority of participants was “Support Local Food In Restaurants And Stores” which was followed by “Promote More Local Restaurants.” These two as well as the following ten on the chart below also scored above the median overall score of 3.861. “Attract Outside Businesses Which Fit The Values Of The Community,” and “Promote More Telecommuting,” are the only two which fall below the median but have a score higher than three. Three options fall below the score of three, meaning that respondents overall were not supportive of these options. When looking at the open ended additional thoughts question the words, “Community,” and “Businesses,” can be seen throughout, and the word web shows that respondents are talking about development in town and the community or local business and stores in towns like Woodstock.

Chapter Directives

**Average Responses For Economic Development Questions**



Authors: Tyler Hinkle, Sarah McDonald | Date: 10/12/22 | Sample Size: 970 People

## District 1 Top Concerns

1. Support Local Food In Restaurants And Stores
2. Promote More Local Stores
3. Promote More Local Restaurants



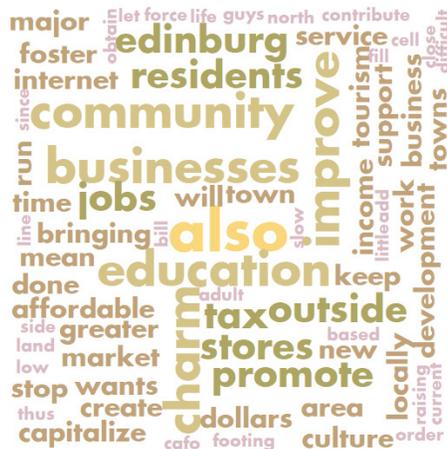
## District 2 Top Concerns

1. Support Local Workers With Skills And Job Placement
2. Promote Local Businesses To Expand And Grow
3. Connect Students To Well-Paid Jobs They Enjoy



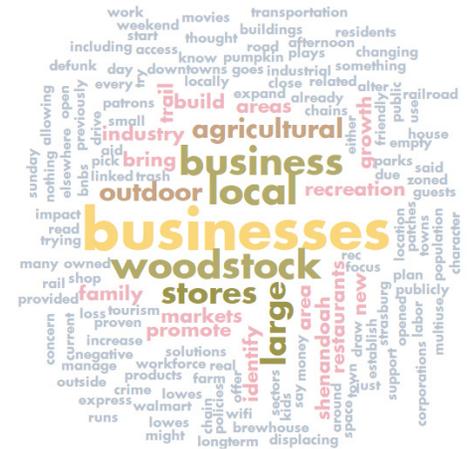
## District 3 Top Concerns

1. Support Local Food In Restaurants And Stores
2. Promote Local Businesses To Expand And Grow
3. Support Local Workers With Skills And Job Placement



## District 4 Top Concerns

1. Promote More Local Restaurants
2. Support Local Food In Restaurants And Stores
3. Promote More Local Stores



## District 5 Top Concerns

1. Support Local Food In Restaurants And Stores
2. Promote Local Businesses To Expand And Grow
3. Support Local Workers With Skills And Job Placement



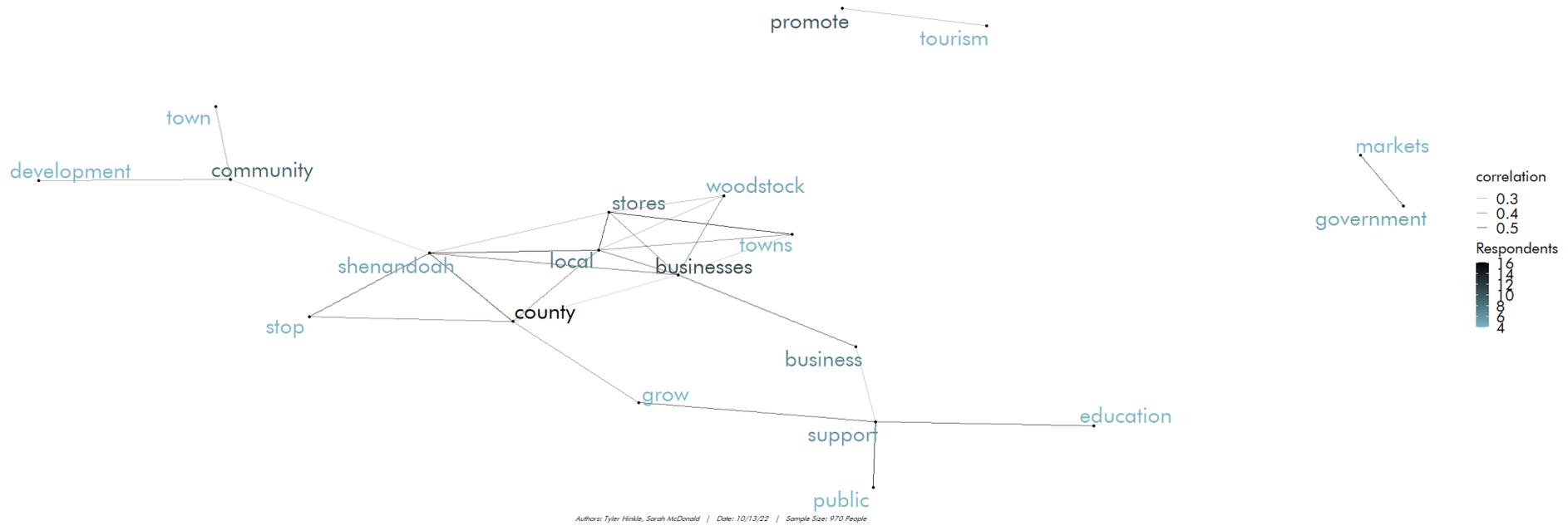
## District 6 Top Concerns

1. Promote More Local Restaurants
2. Ensure Every Individual Has The Opportunity To A Job That Can Feed, House, And Provide Time To Have A Life Outside Of Work

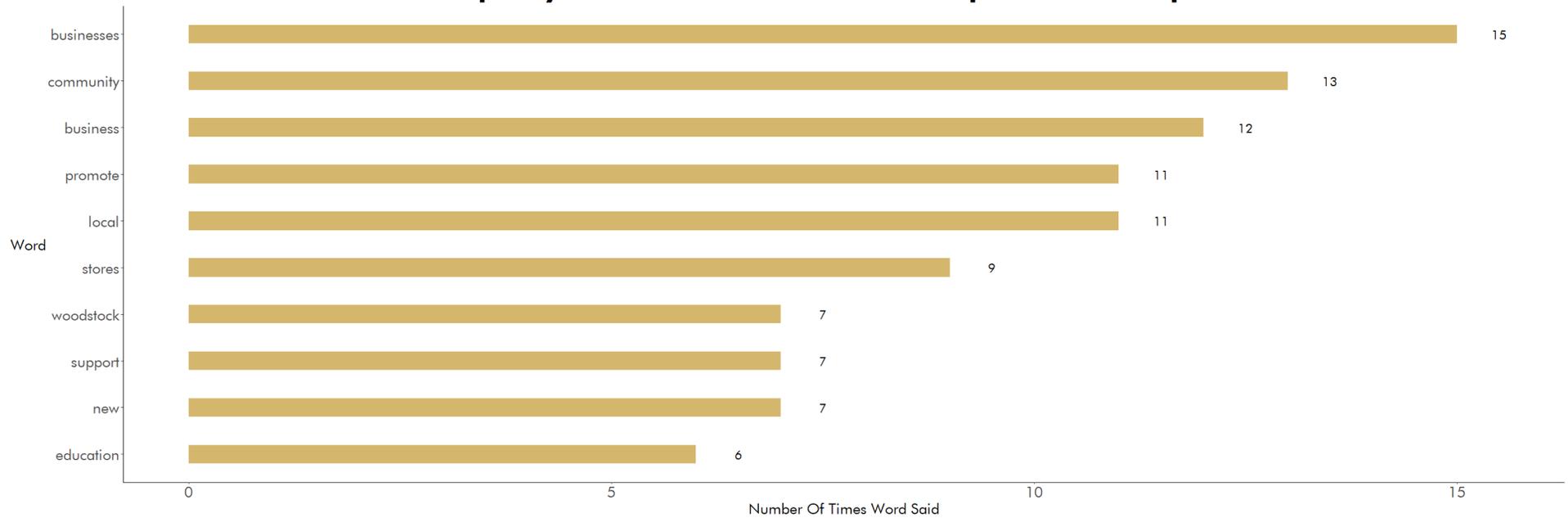




## Connections Between Other Economic Development Comments



## Frequently Used Words For Economic Development Other Responses

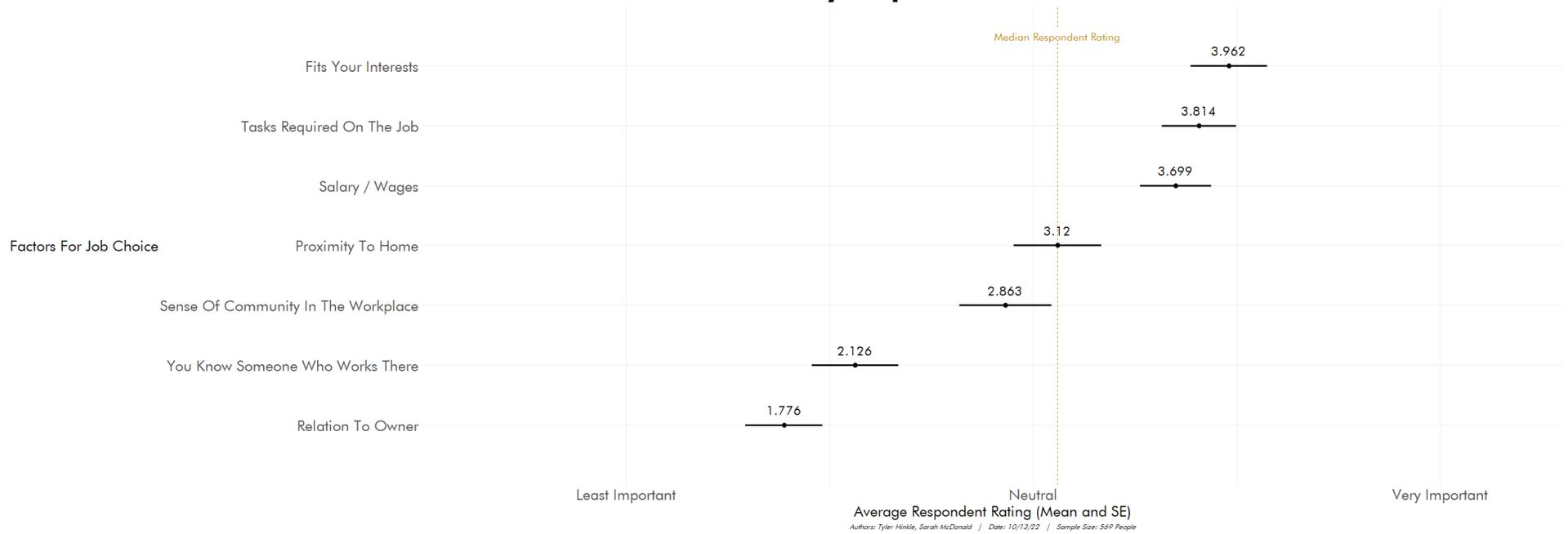


# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

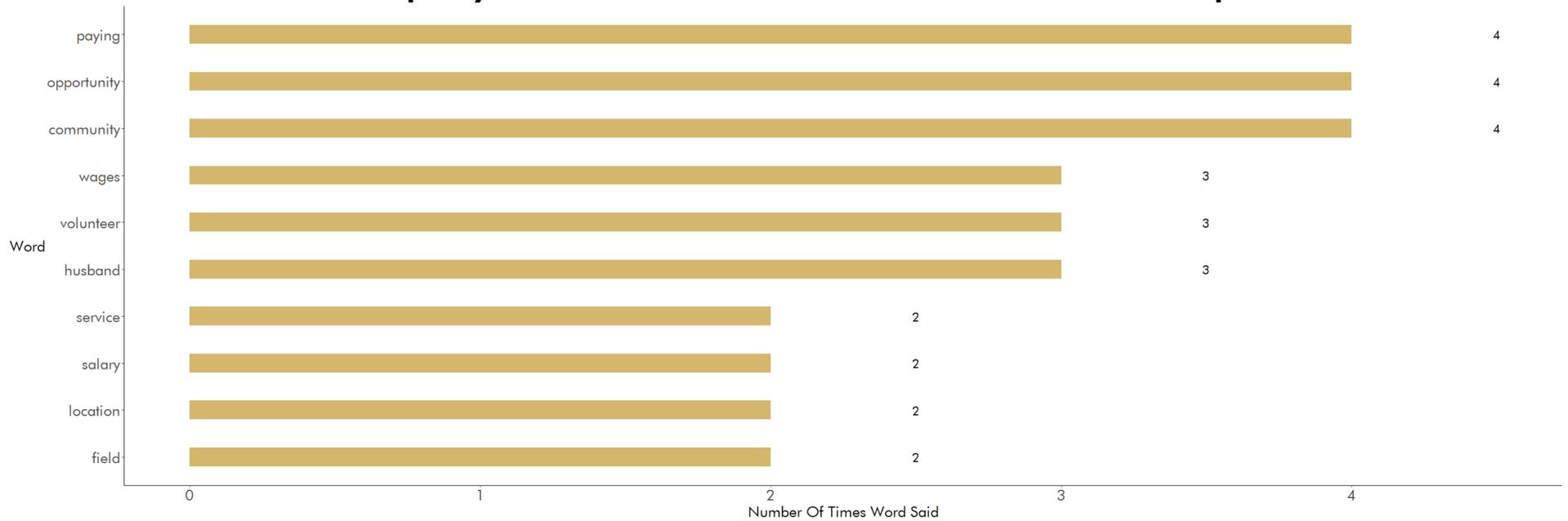
Why did you choose your job?



## Why Respondents Chose Their Job



## Frequently Used Words For The Other Comments On Job Choice Of Respondents



Authors: Tyler Hinkle, Sarah McDonald | Date: 10/13/22 | Sample Size: 569 People

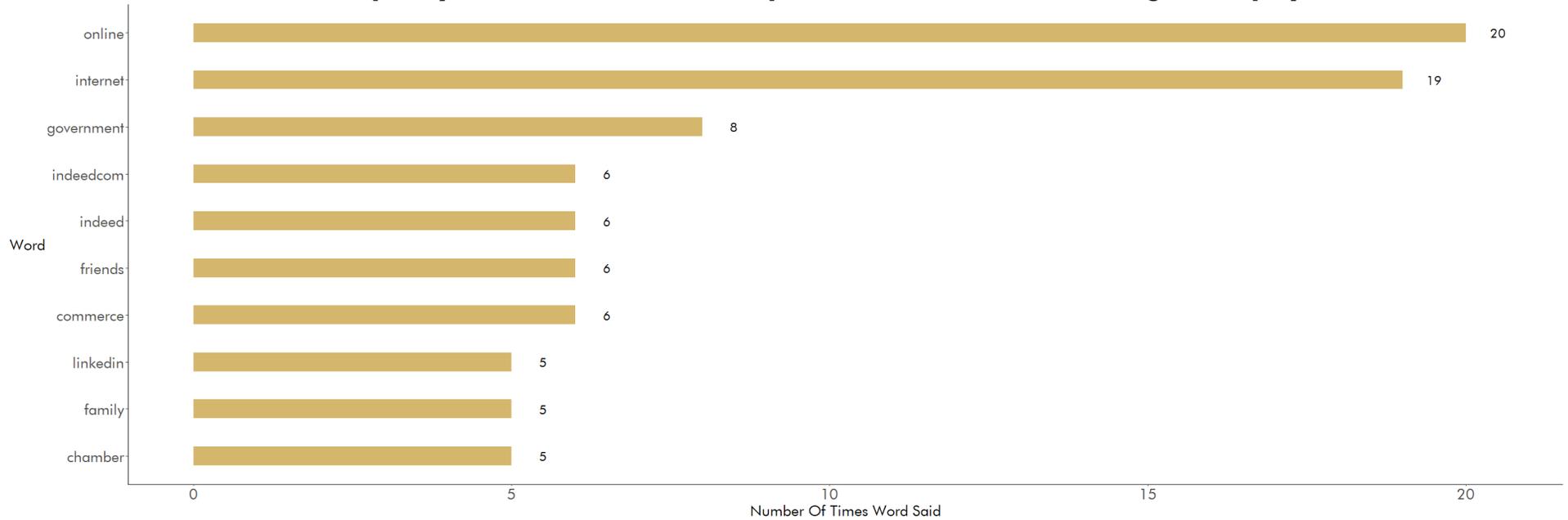


## Connections Between Who Respondents Go To When Searching For Employment



Authors: Tyler Hinkle, Sarah McDonald | Date: 10/13/22 | Sample Size: 569 People

## Frequently Used Words For Who Respondents Go To When Searching For Employment



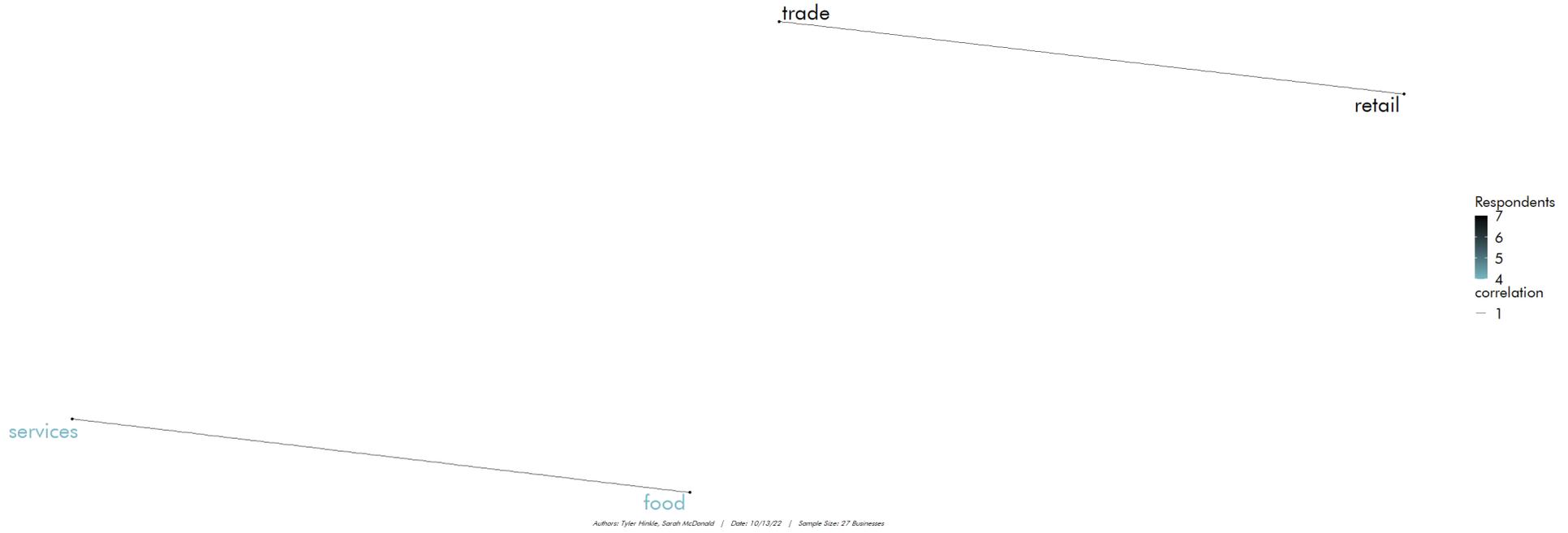
Authors: Tyler Hinkle, Sarah McDonald | Date: 10/13/22 | Sample Size: 569 People

# BUSINESS SURVEY

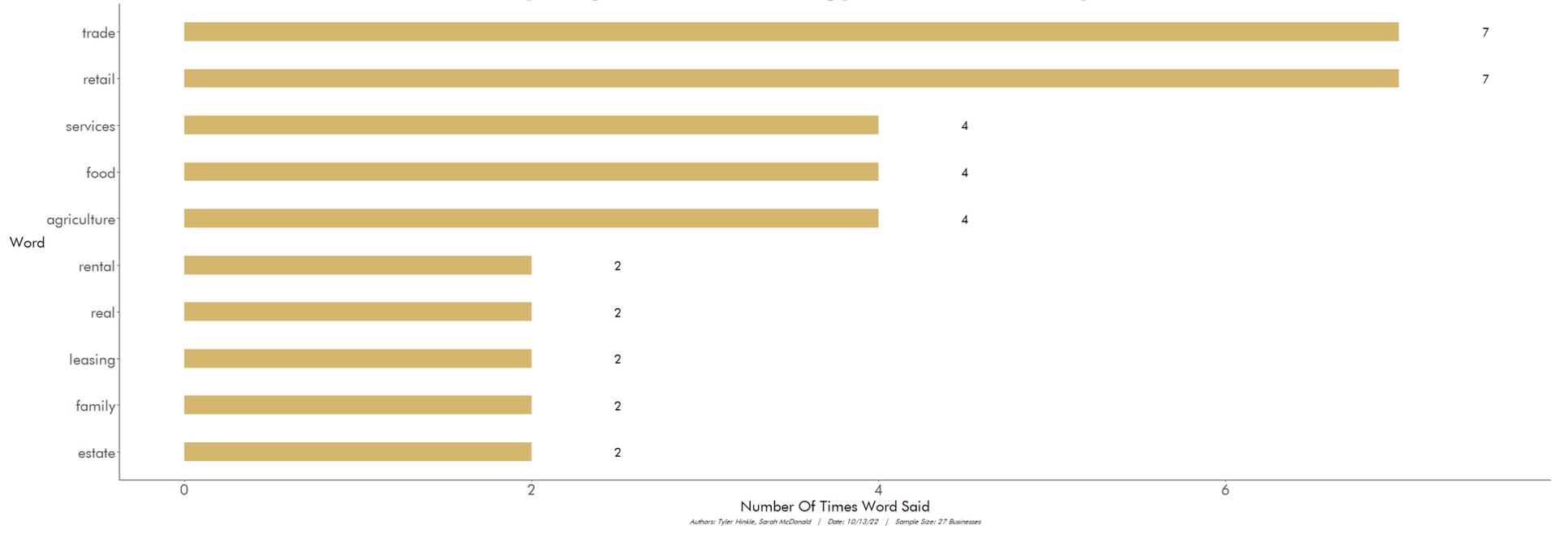
## Types Of Businesses That Took The Business Survey



## Connections Between Types Of Business Respondents

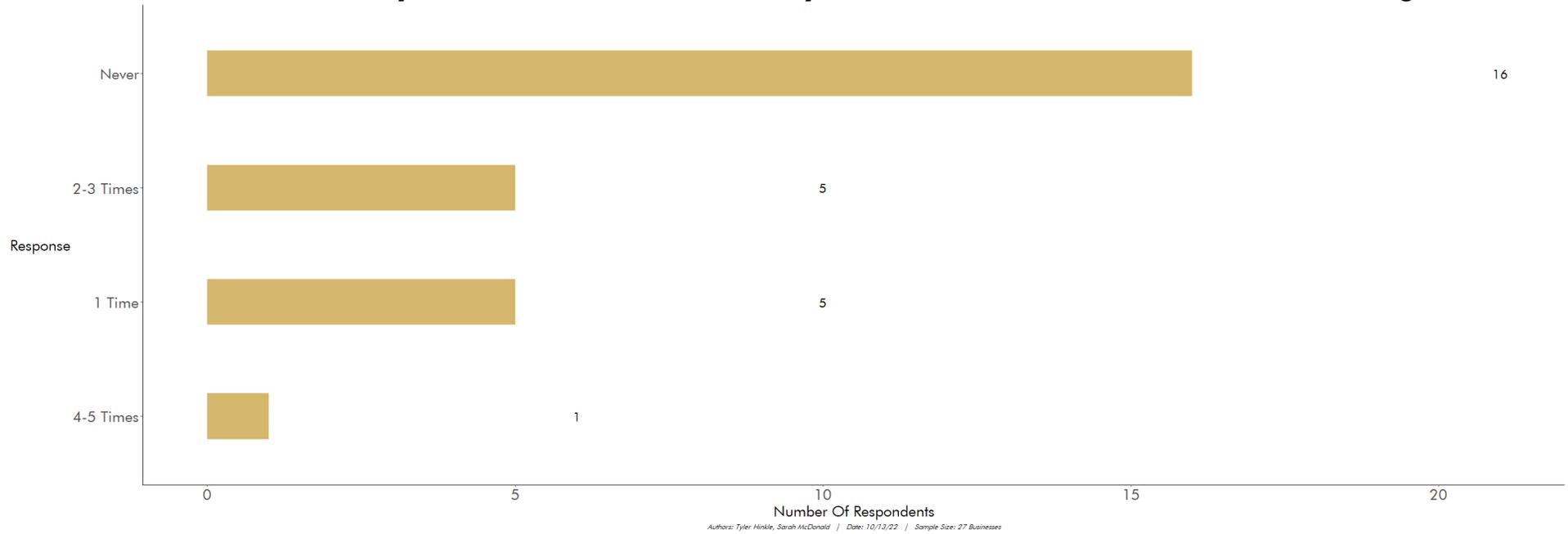


## Frequently Used Words For Types Of Business Respondents

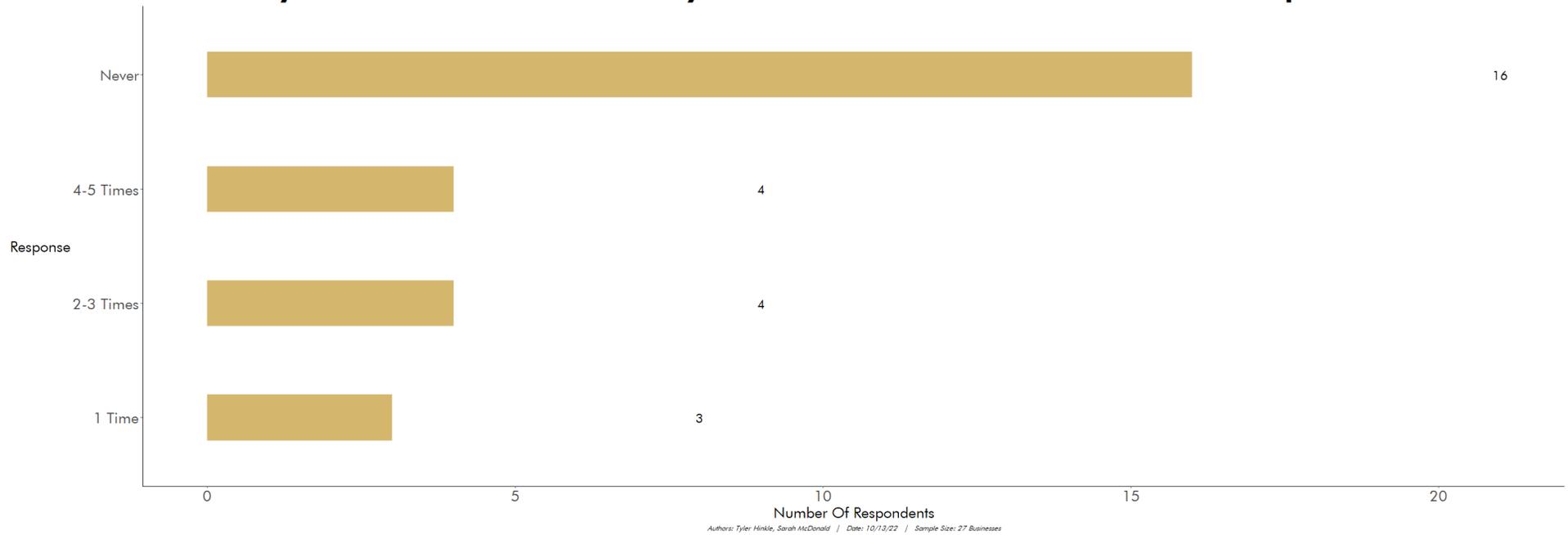




### How Many Times Has A Shenandoah County Official Reached Out Ask How Business Is Going?

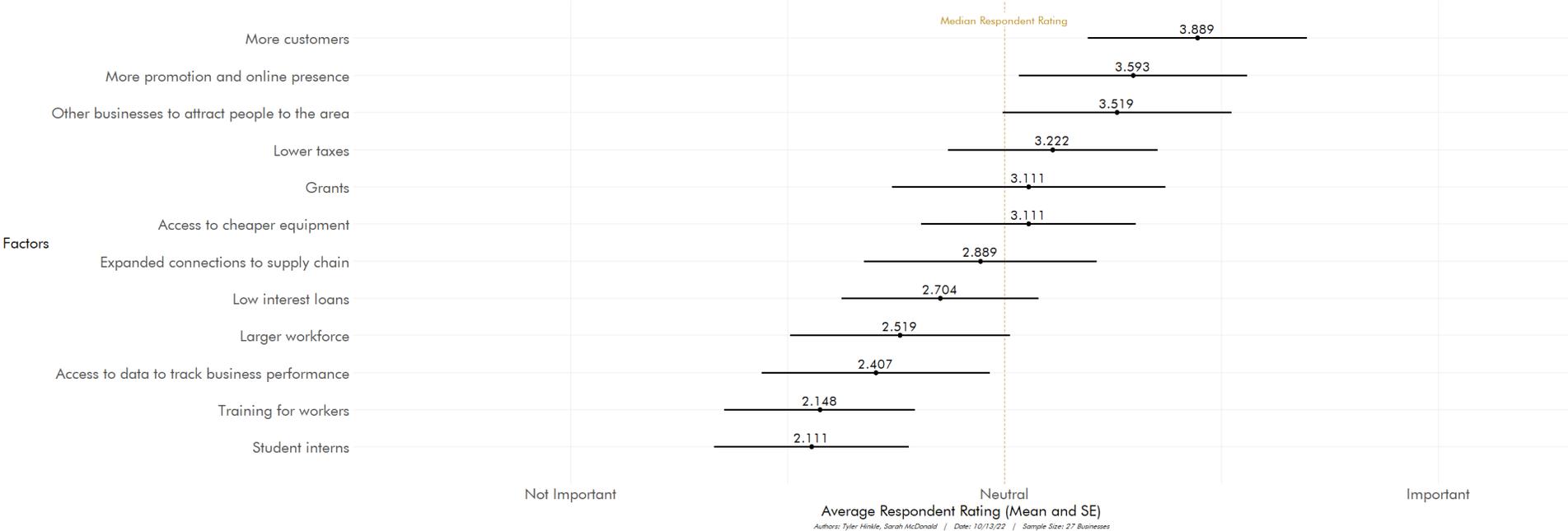


### How Many Times Has A Shenandoah County Official Reached Out Ask What You Need To Improve Your Business?

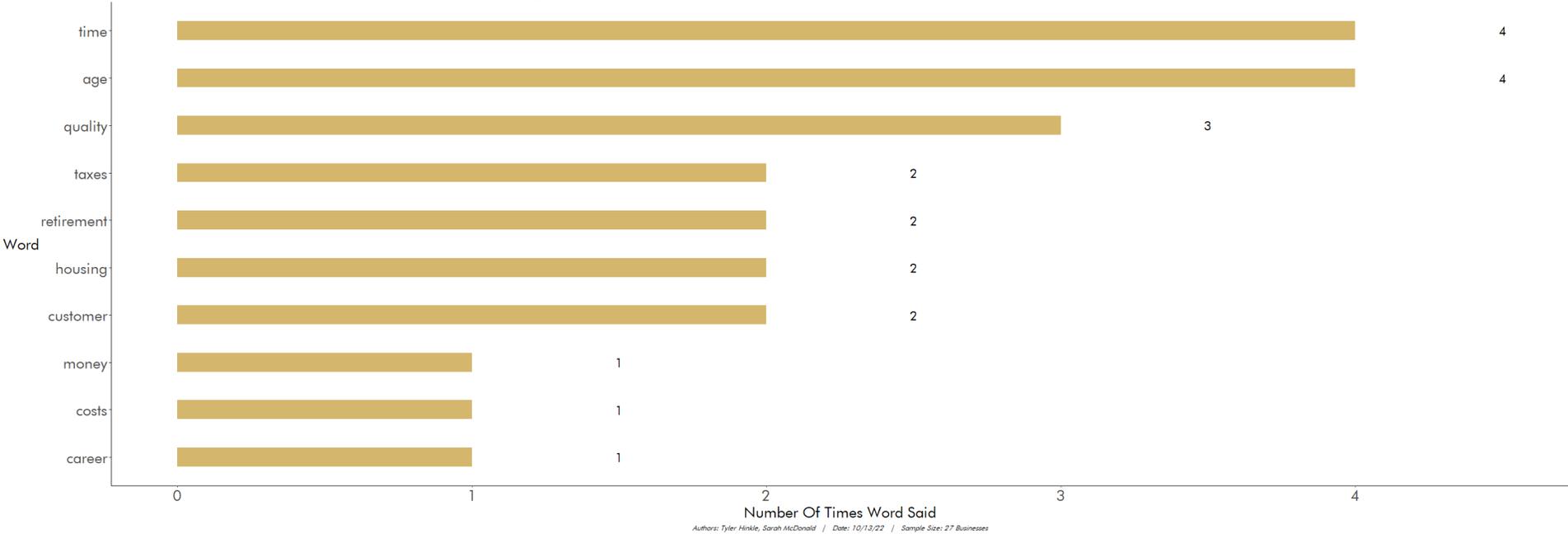




### Factors To Promote Business Expansion

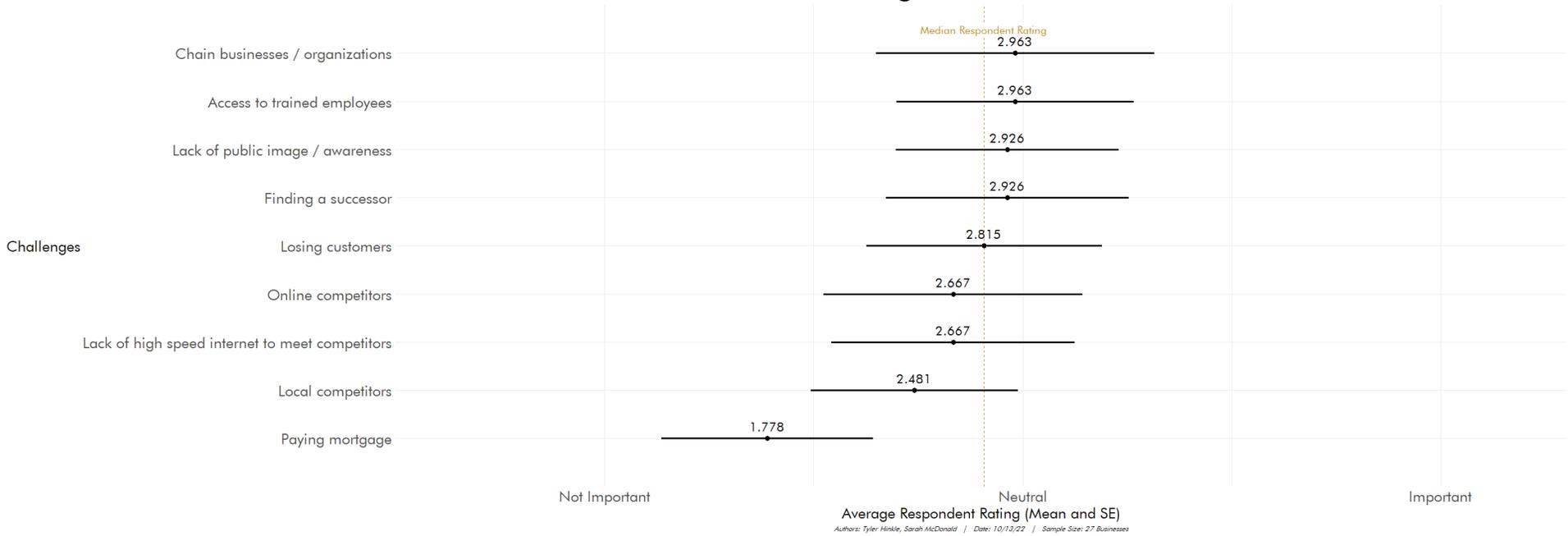


### Frequently Used Words For Why Business Respondents Can't Expand

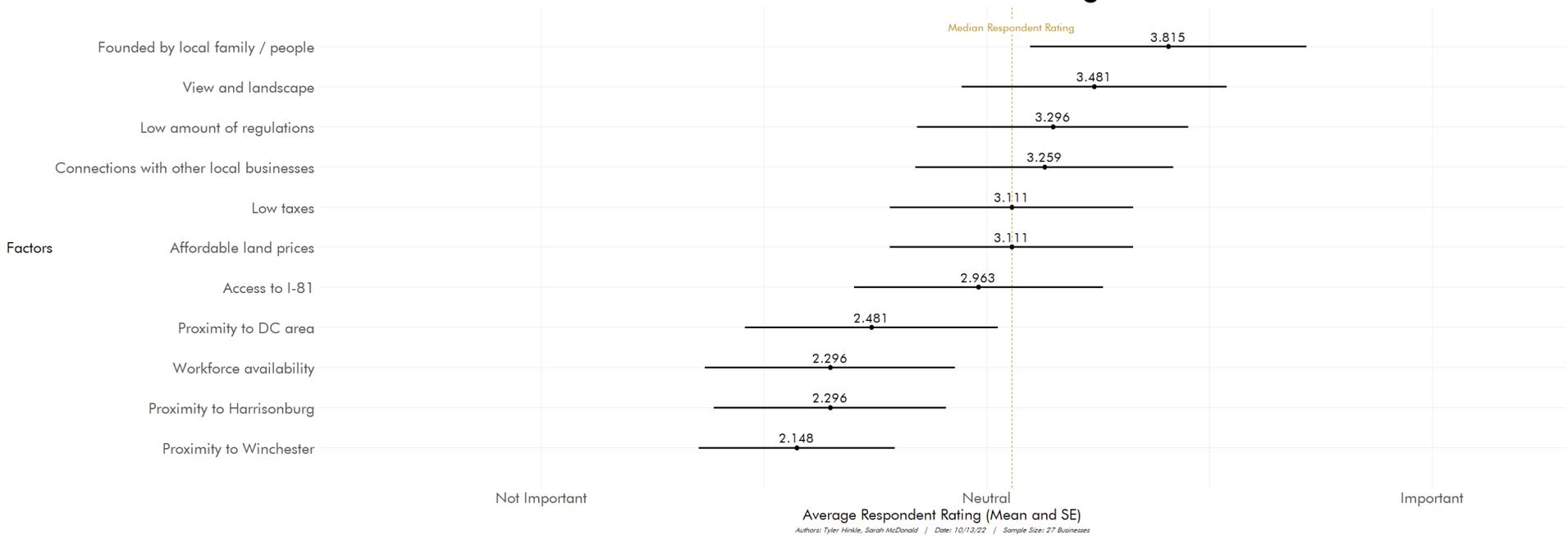


# BUSINESS SURVEY

## Challenges Businesses Face



## Factors For Businesses Locating Here





“Housing in Shenandoah County improved by 2045 with the encouragement of zoning and building codes that encourage infill development. The new building regulations will ensure adequate infrastructure, such as sidewalks, stormwater facilities, and parking. This includes all new construction to include solar panels and geothermal heating systems.” - NovelAI, Imagery By DALL-E 2

# HOUSING



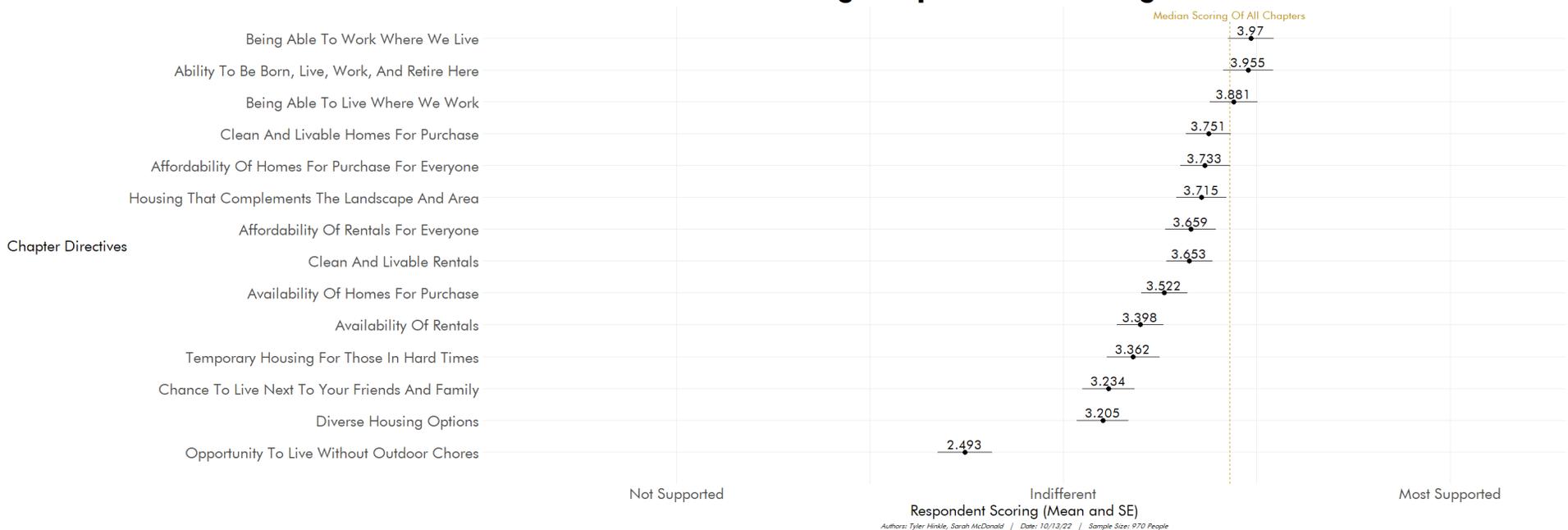
# HOUSING

In the first part of the survey, participants were asked: Please rate the important issues related to housing in Shenandoah County:

- Availability Of Homes For Purchase
- Availability Of Rentals
- Clean And Livable Homes For Purchase
- Clean And Livable Rentals
- Affordability Of Homes For Purchase For Everyone
- Affordability Of Rentals For Everyone
- Ability To Be Born, Live, Work, And Retire Here
- Being Able To Live Where We Work
- Being Able To Work Where We Live
- Opportunity To Live Without Outdoor Chores
- Temporary Housing For Those In Hard Times
- Housing That Complements The Landscape And Area
- Chance To Live Next To Your Friends And Family
- Diverse Housing Options

Overall the results revealed that the highest priority of participants was “Being Able To Work Where We Live” which was followed by “Ability To Be Born, Live, Work, And Retire Here,” and “Being Able To Live Where We Work .” These three are the only options that fell above the median score, meaning they are in the top 40 of 81 options. All options fall above the score of three except “Opportunity To Live Without Outdoor Chores,” which may mean that housing should have access to nature and the outdoors. When looking at the open ended additional thoughts question the word, “Affordable” can be seen throughout and the word web shows that when respondents use that word they are talking the ties affordability has to living in a safe community.

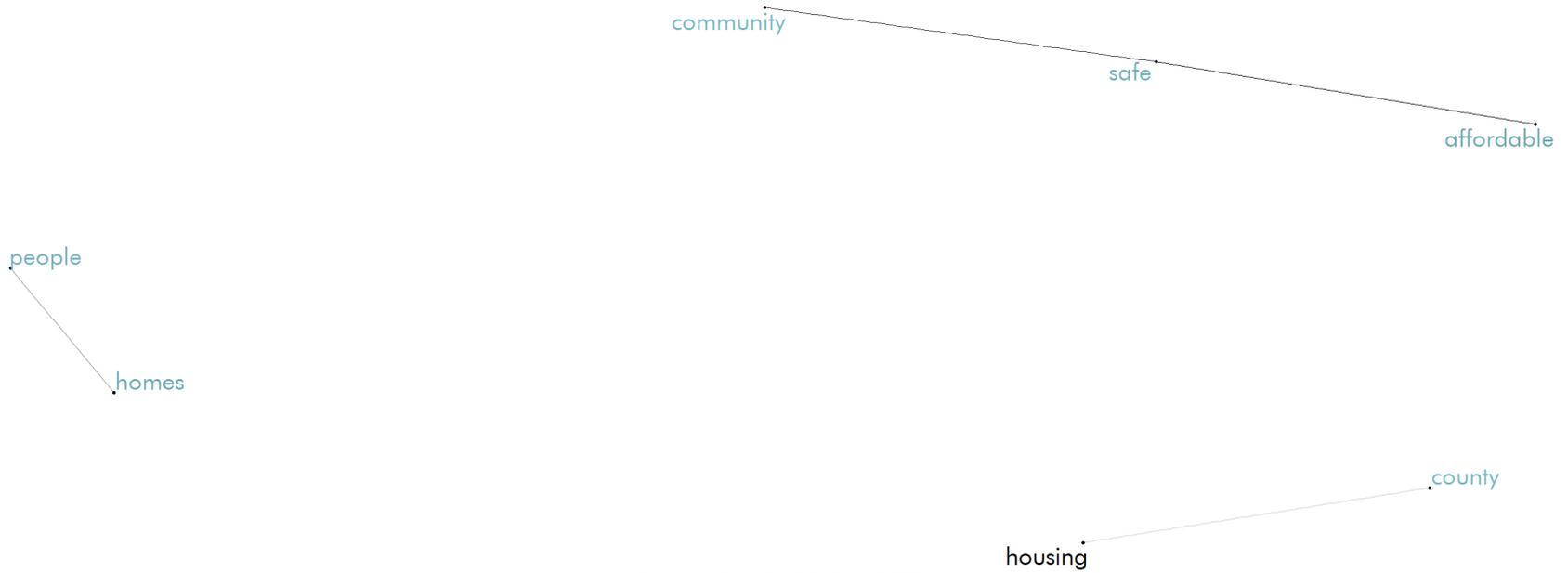
## Average Responses For Housing Questions





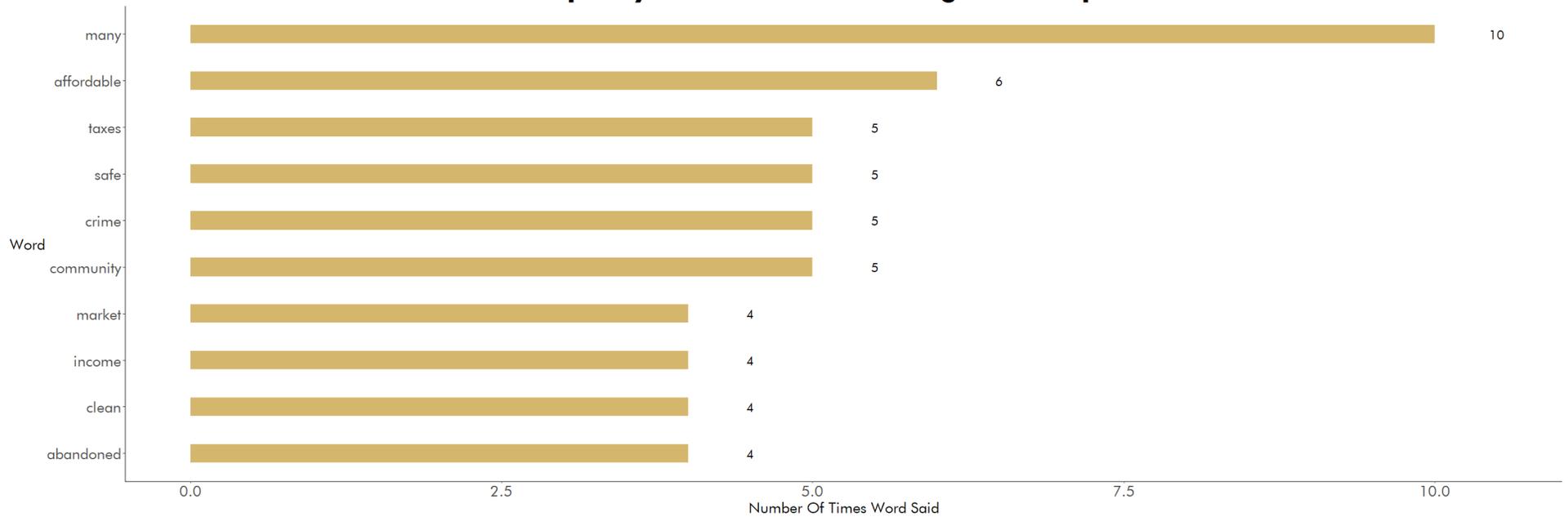


## Connections Between Other Housing Comments



Authors: Tyler Hinkle, Sarah McDonald | Date: 10/13/22 | Sample Size: 970 People

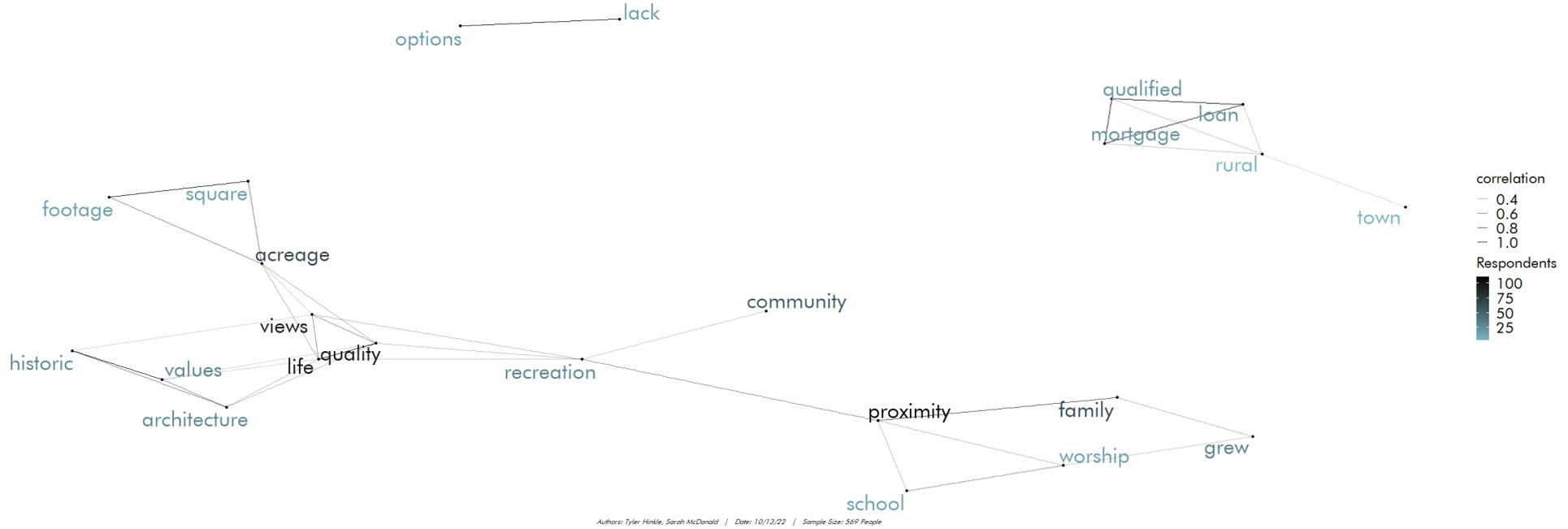
## Frequently Used Words For Housing Other Responses



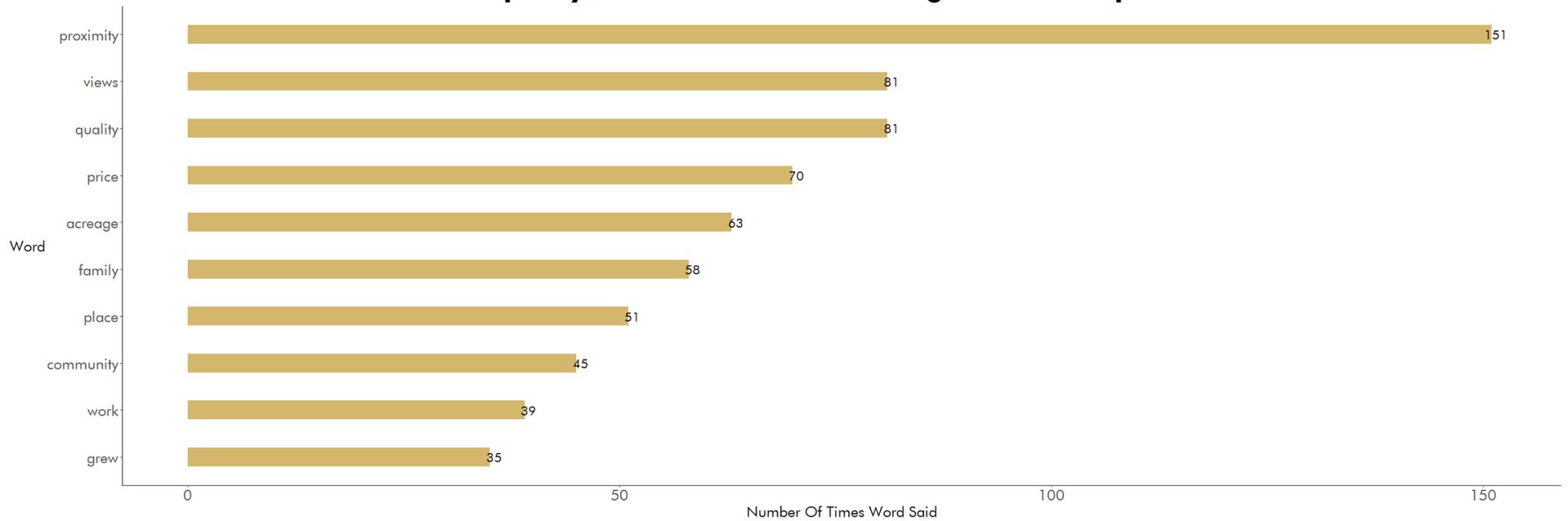
Authors: Tyler Hinkle, Sarah McDonald | Date: 10/13/22 | Sample Size: 970 People



## Connections Between Respondents' Choice Of Housing



## Frequently Used Words For The Housing Choice Of Respondents



"Community Resources in Shenandoah County were improved by 2045 with renovating the schools and updating the library. The six towns along I-81 and Route 11 all became Town centers and the focus was placed on improving public safety and increasing tourism. The county constructed a new fire station and upgraded all public buildings including the courthouse." - NovelAI, Imagery By DALL-E 2

# COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND FACILITIES



# COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

In the first part of the survey, participants were asked: Please rate the important issues related to community services in Shenandoah County:

- Fire And Rescue Coverage
- A Living Wage For Public Servants And Officials
- More Staff For Social Services
- Internet Access
- Connecting Classrooms To Jobs
- Adult Education Opportunities
- Community Gathering Space
- More Training Opportunities For Public Servants And Officials
- Improved Recreational Access To The Shenandoah River And Tributaries
- Affordable Access To Medical Care
- A Location For People To Showcase The Arts (ie Music, Art, Crafts, Talent, Dance, Sports)
- Parks And Recreation Facilities
- A Chance To Recycle, Compost, And Also Dispose Of Trash In A Safe Manner
- Bilingual And Language Services

Overall the results revealed that the highest priority of participants was “Fire And Rescue Coverage” which was followed by “Internet Access.” These two as well as the following seven on the chart below also scored above the median overall score of 3.861. The remaining options fall below the median but have a score higher than three, meaning that respondents overall were supportive of all options. When looking at the open ended additional thoughts question the words, “Support,” and “Internet,” can be seen throughout, and the word web shows that respondents are talking about supporting services and the enforcement of the law. Further we see that Internet is tied to access in the County, meaning respondents may want better Internet access in the County.

**Average Responses For Community Resources Questions**



## District 1 Top Concerns

1. Internet Access
2. Fire And Rescue Coverage
3. Affordable Access To Medical Care



## District 4 Top Concerns

1. Fire And Rescue Coverage
2. Internet Access
3. Parks And Recreation Facilities



## District 2 Top Concerns

1. Fire And Rescue Coverage
2. Internet Access
3. Adult Education Opportunities



## District 5 Top Concerns

1. Fire And Rescue Coverage
2. Internet Access
3. Affordable Access To Medical Care



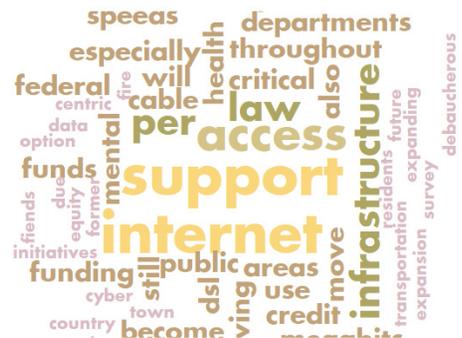
## District 3 Top Concerns

1. Fire And Rescue Coverage
2. Affordable Access To Medical Care
3. Internet Access



## District 6 Top Concerns

1. Fire And Rescue Coverage
2. Affordable Access To Medical Care
3. Adult Education Opportunities



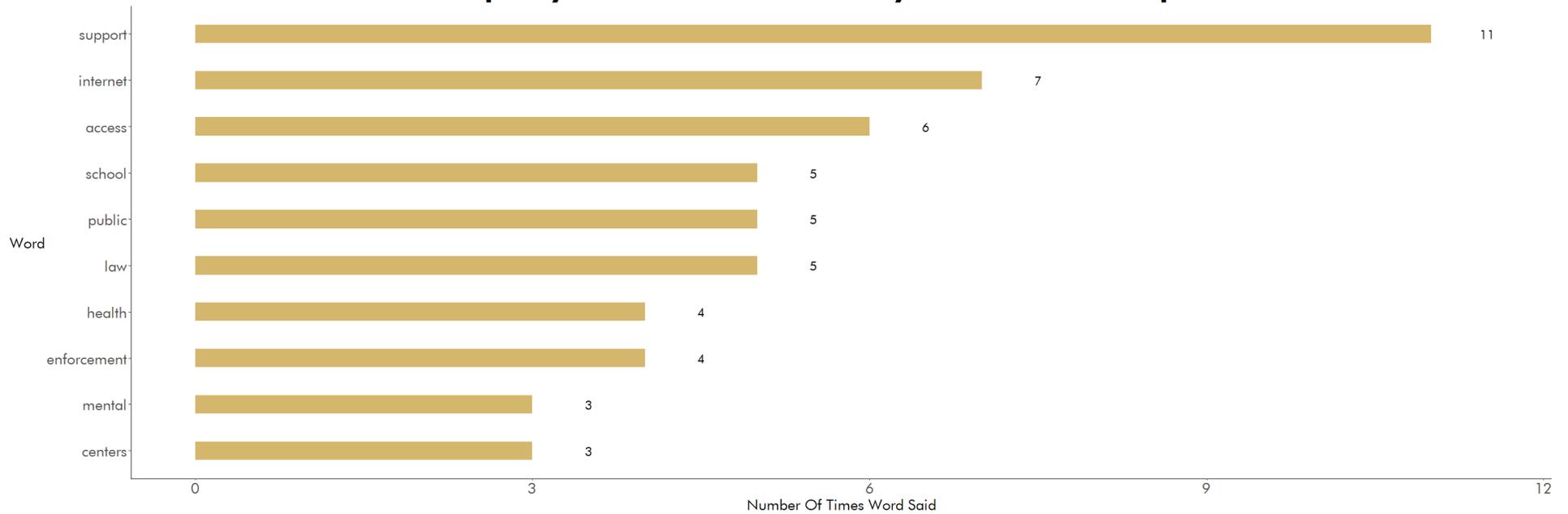


## Connections Between Other Community Resources Comments



Authors: Tyler Hinkle, Sarah McDonald | Date: 10/13/22 | Sample Size: 970 People

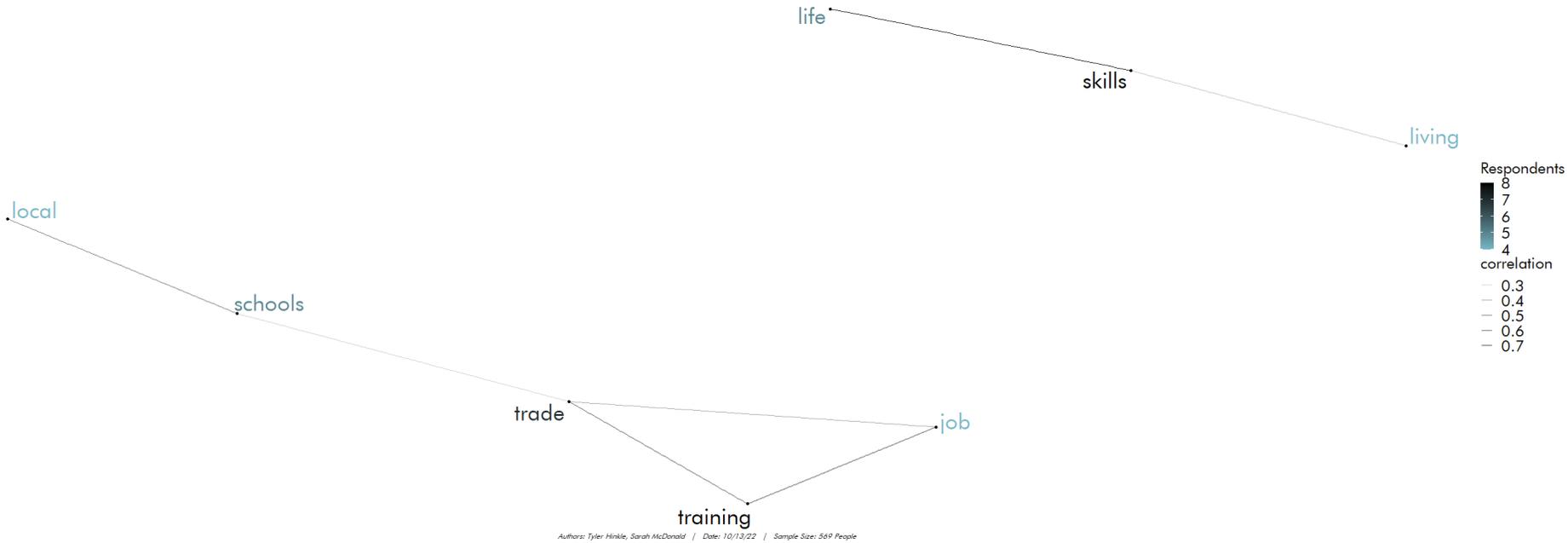
## Frequently Used Words For Community Resources Other Responses



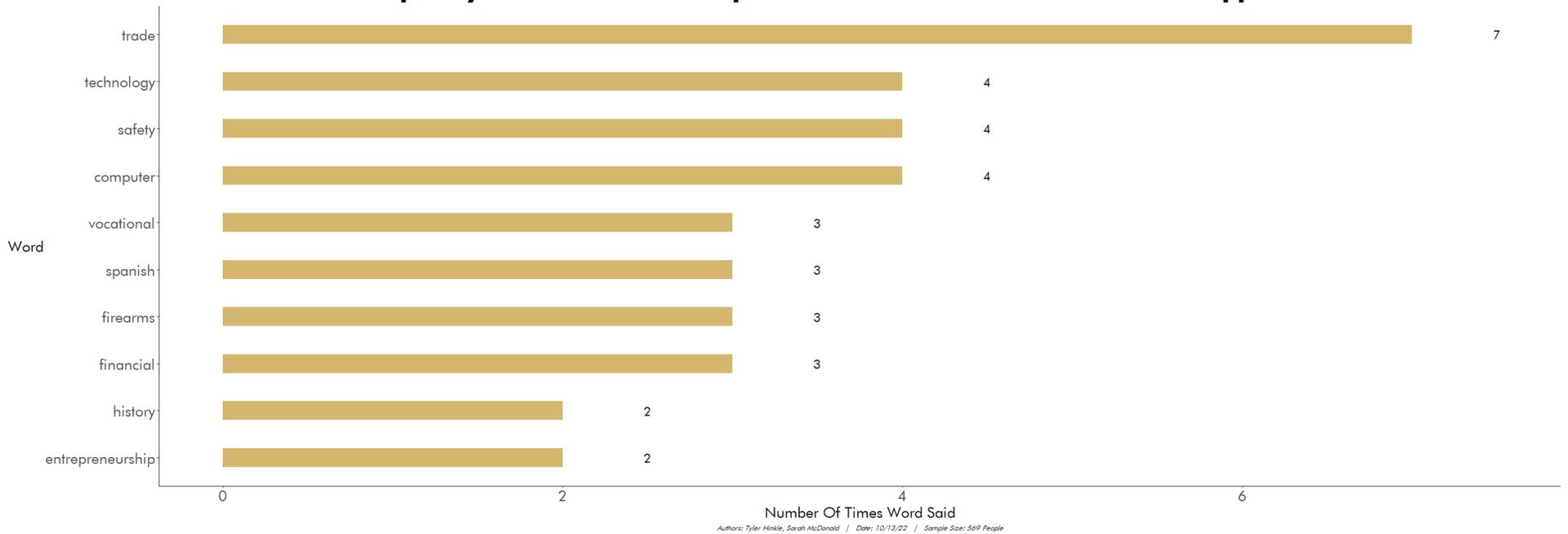
Authors: Tyler Hinkle, Sarah McDonald | Date: 10/13/22 | Sample Size: 970 People



## Connections Between Respondents' Desires For Public Education Opportunities

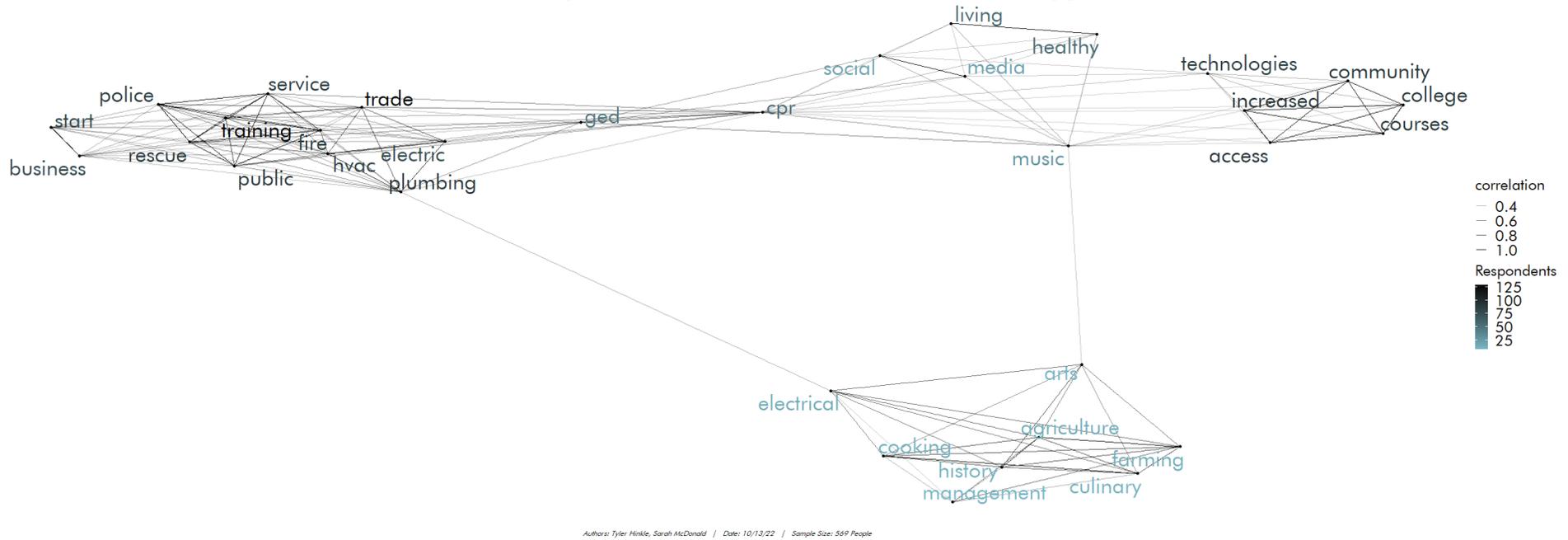


## Frequently Used Words For Respondents' Desires For Public Education Opportunities

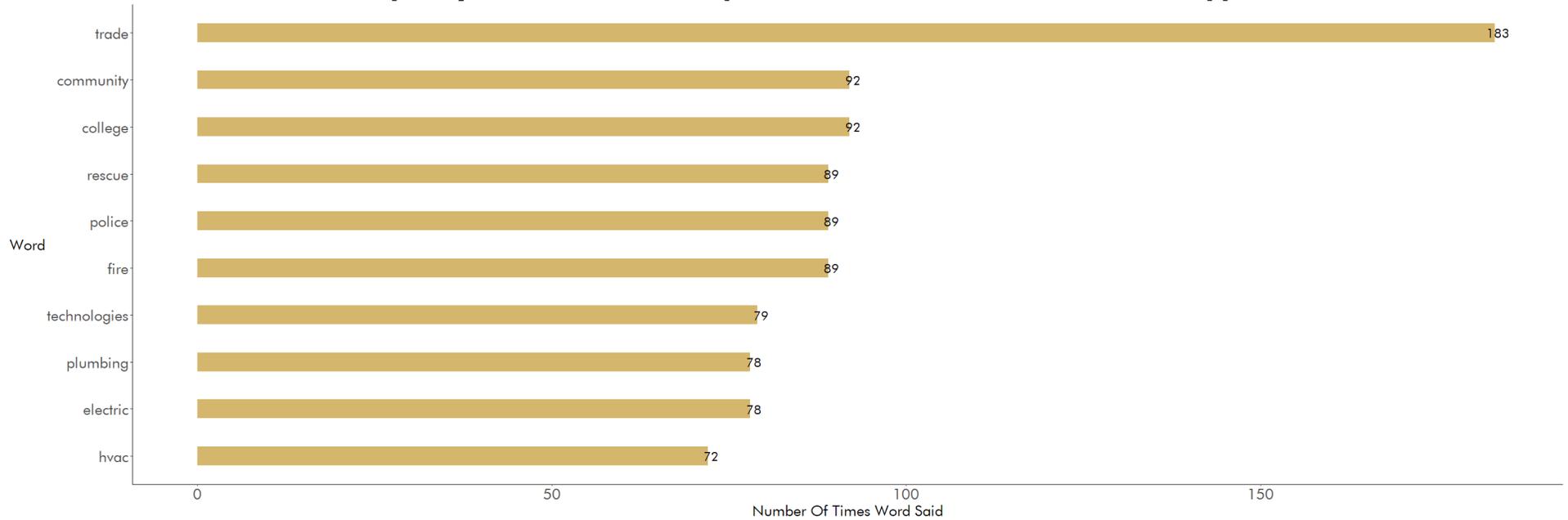




## Connections Between Respondents' Desires For Adult Education Opportunities

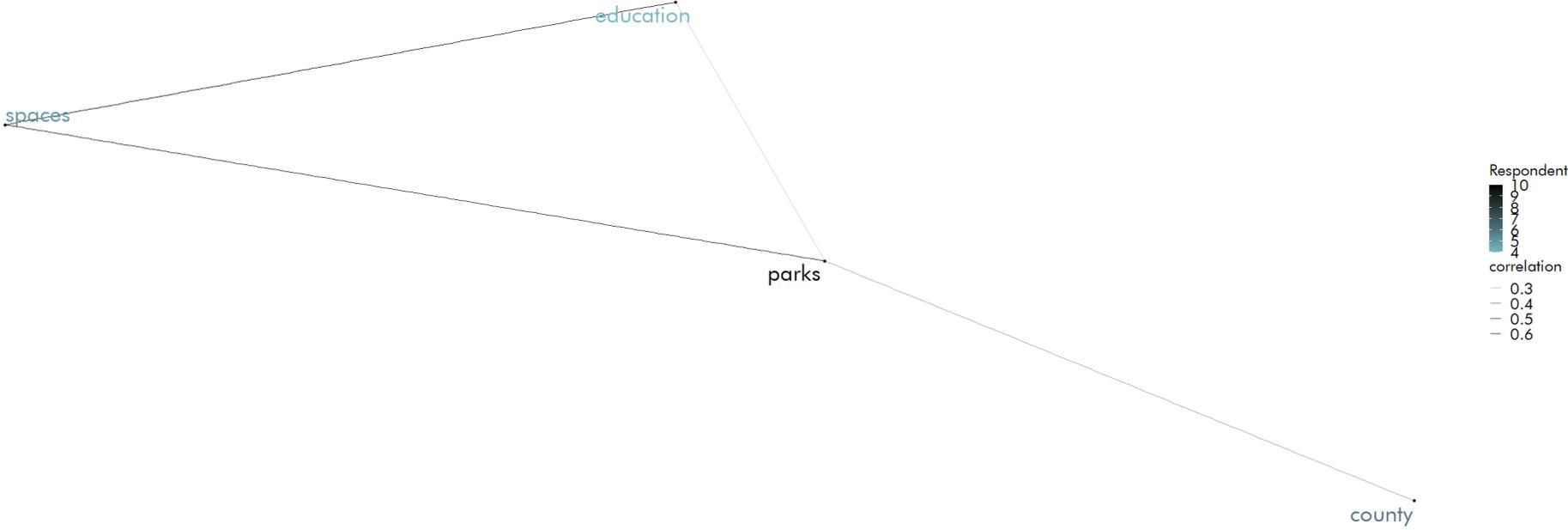


## Frequently Used Words For Respondents' Desires For Adult Education Opportunities



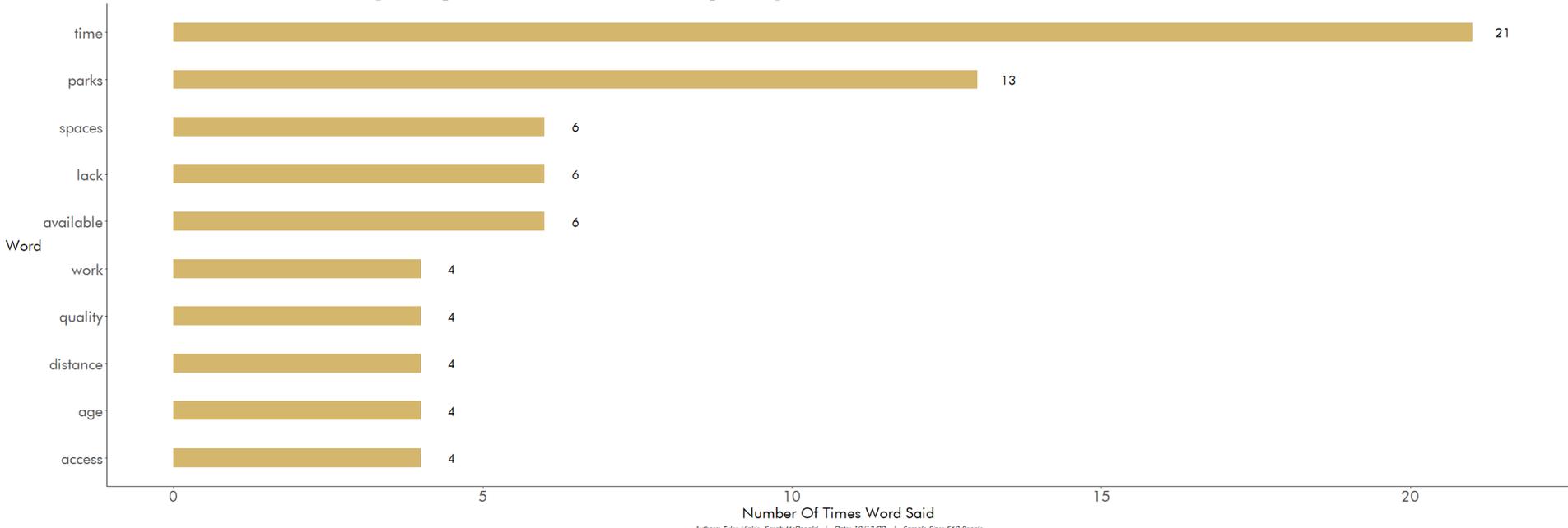


### Connections Between Government Services Respondents Struggle To Use



Authors: Tyler Hinkle, Sarah McDonald | Date: 10/13/22 | Sample Size: 569 People

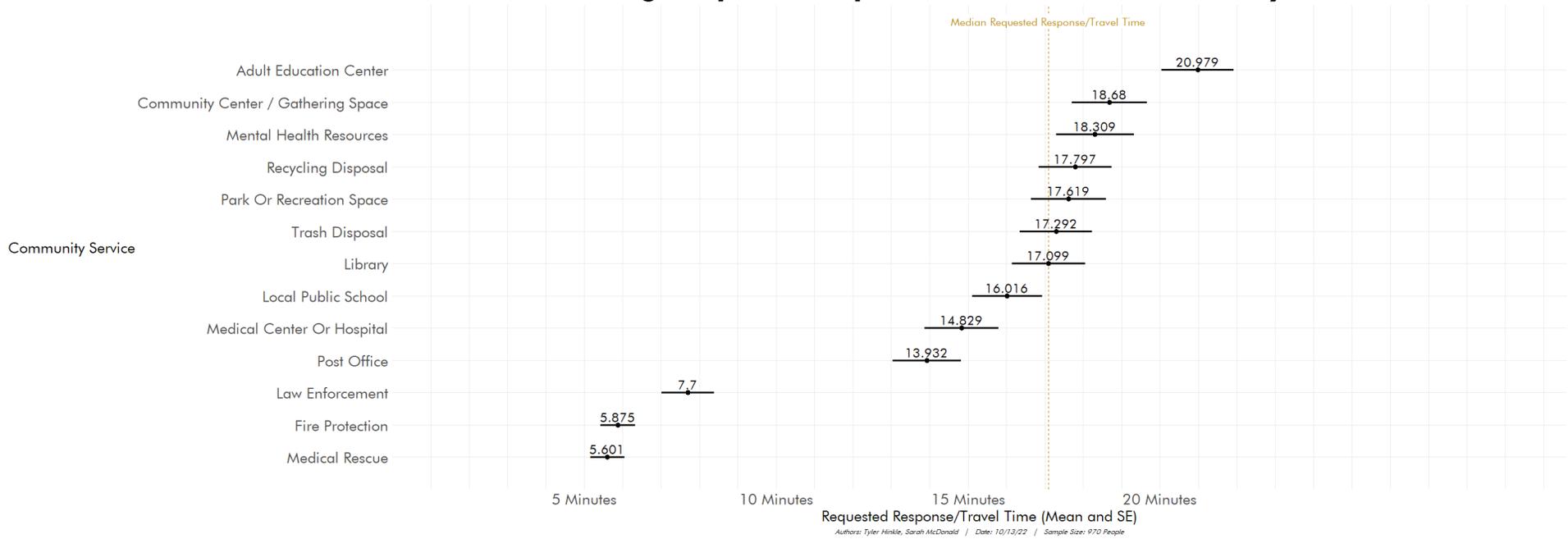
### Frequently Used Words For Why Respondents Don't Use Government Services Often



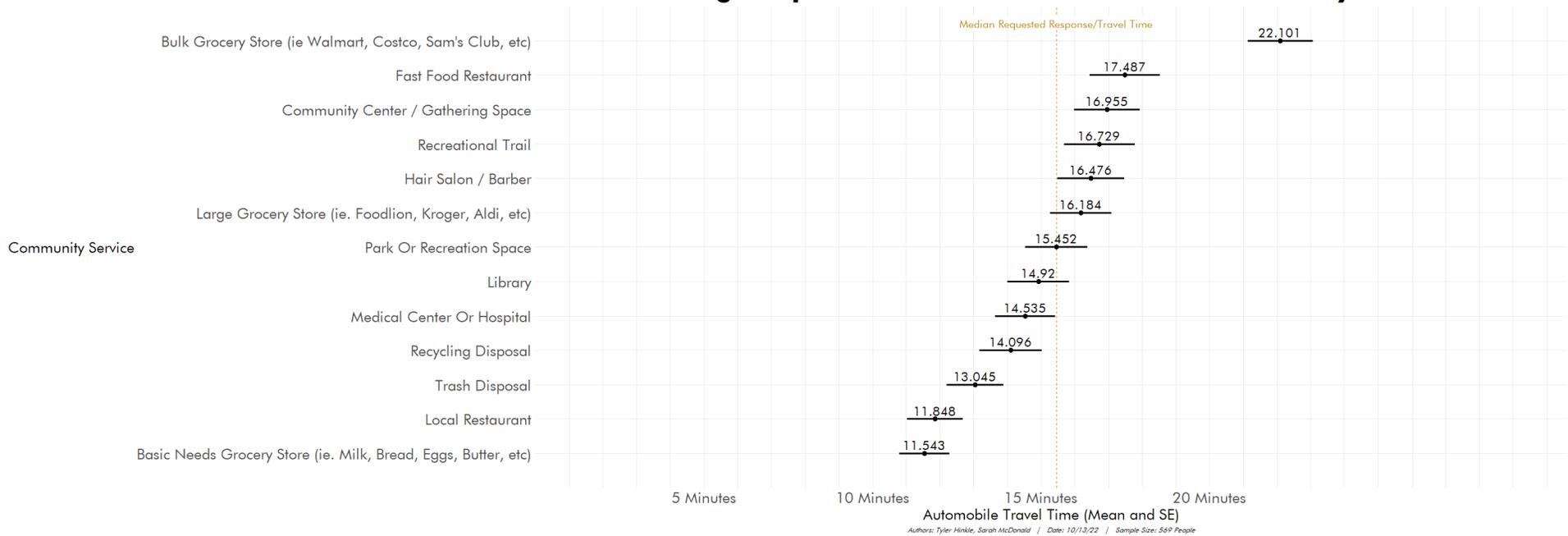
Authors: Tyler Hinkle, Sarah McDonald | Date: 10/13/22 | Sample Size: 569 People

# COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

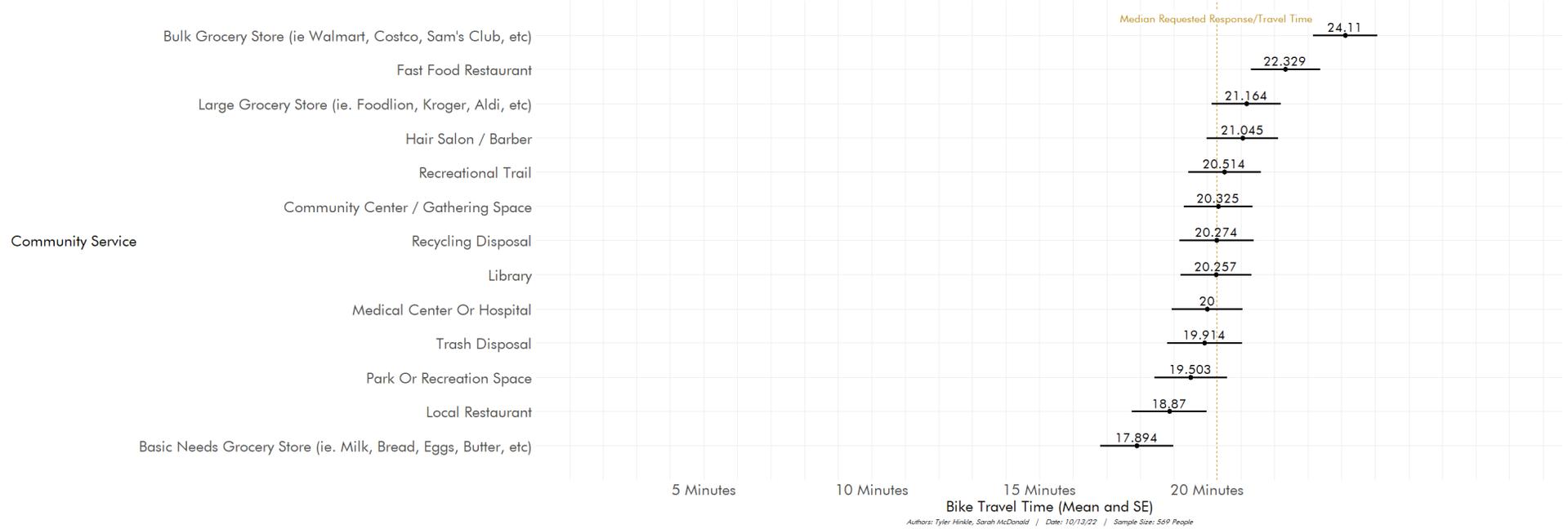
## Average Requested Response/Travel Times For Community Services



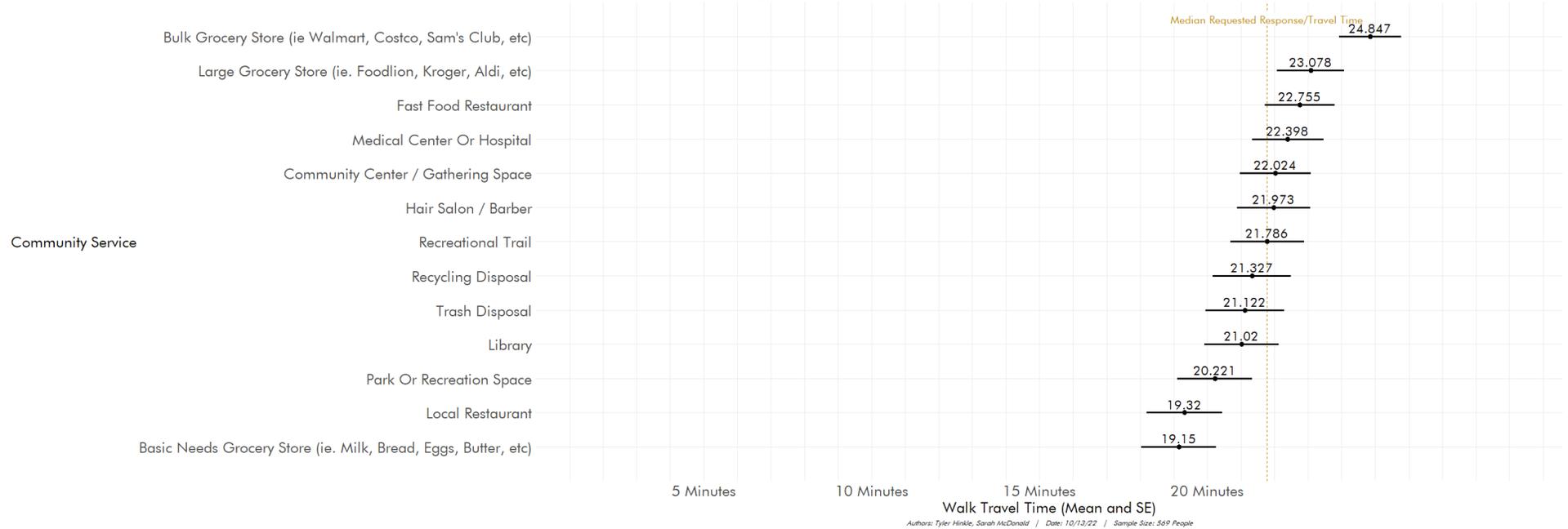
## Average Requested Automobile Travel Time To Community Services



## Average Requested Bike Travel Time To Community Services



## Average Requested Walk Travel Time To Community Services



“Transportation in Shenandoah County improved by 2045 through improved public transit systems, increased bike lanes, reduced reliance on fossil fuels in vehicles, increased use of electric cars, increased use of mass transit such as trains, and increased use of telecommuting. Local roads will be paved and maintained, and traffic congestion will be eased, and rural roads will be repaired.” - NovelAI, Imagery By DALL-E 2

# TRANSPORTATION



# TRANSPORTATION

In the first part of the survey, participants were asked: Please rate the important issues related to community services in Shenandoah County:

- Safe Roads With Less Congestion
- Sidewalks That Are Wider And Connected
- On-Street Parking Options
- Bike Routes Away From Cars
- Increased Access To The River And Streams
- Increased Access To The Mountains
- Access To Affordable Auto-Mechanics
- Replacing Low Water Bridges
- Opportunities For Shared Transit (ie Buses And Taxis)
- System Of Pedestrian Trails For Recreation And Walking
- Improving Secondary Roads (Including paving gravel roads)
- Working With Local Sheriff And Deputies To Provide Proper Equipment To Keep Roads Safe For Travel
- Freight Transit With Commercial Rail To Reduce Interstate Traffic
- Bringing All Public Roads Up To Date With State Standards
- Repairing Pot Holes
- Reducing Animal Related Crashes

Overall the results revealed that the highest priority of participants was “Safe Roads With Less Congestion” which was the only option that scored above the median overall score of 3.861. The remaining options fall below the median but have a score higher than three, meaning that respondents overall were supportive of all options except one. “Replacing Low Water Bridges,” is the only option that scored less than three meaning overall respondents did not support it. When looking at the open ended additional thoughts question the words, “Rail” and “Roads” can be seen throughout, and the word web shows that respondents are talking about accessibility of roads in Town and the County but also how pedestrians fit in, and that rail may address traffic concerns.

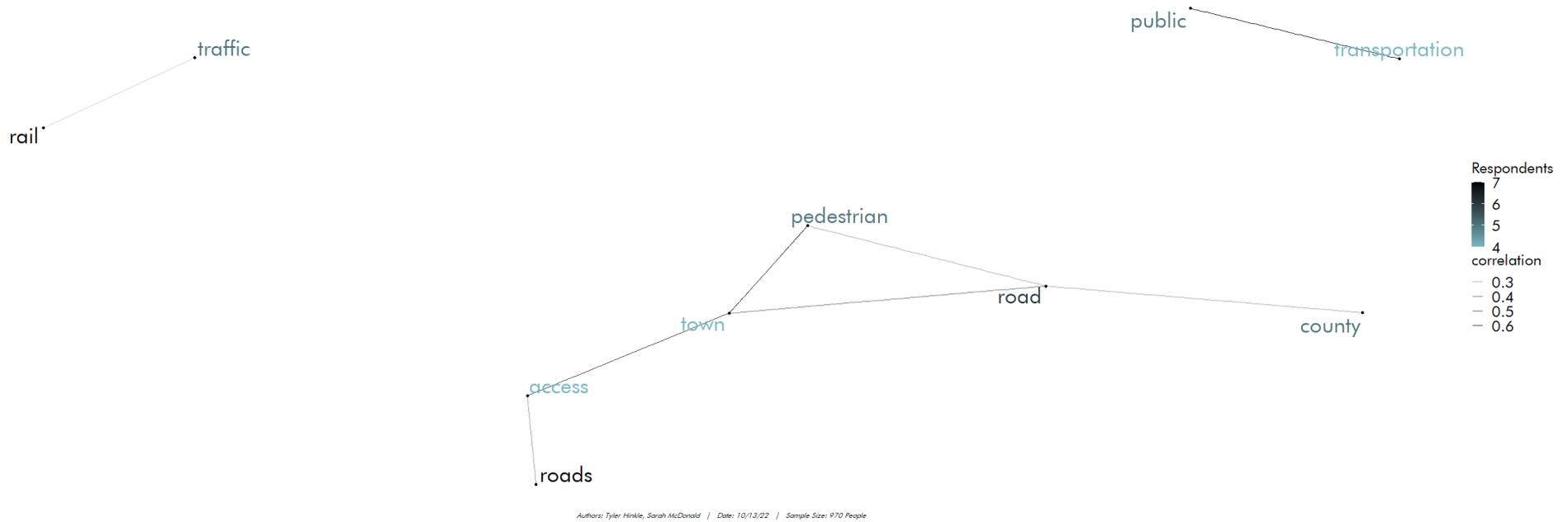
## Average Responses For Transportation Questions



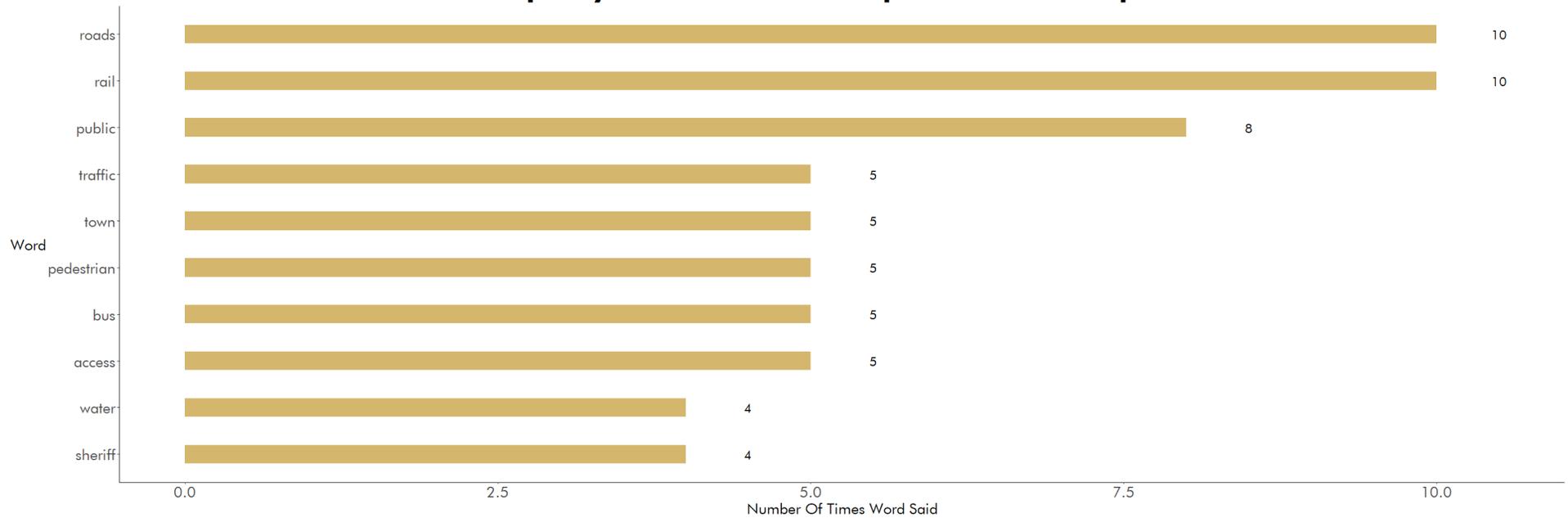




## Connections Between Other Transportation Comments

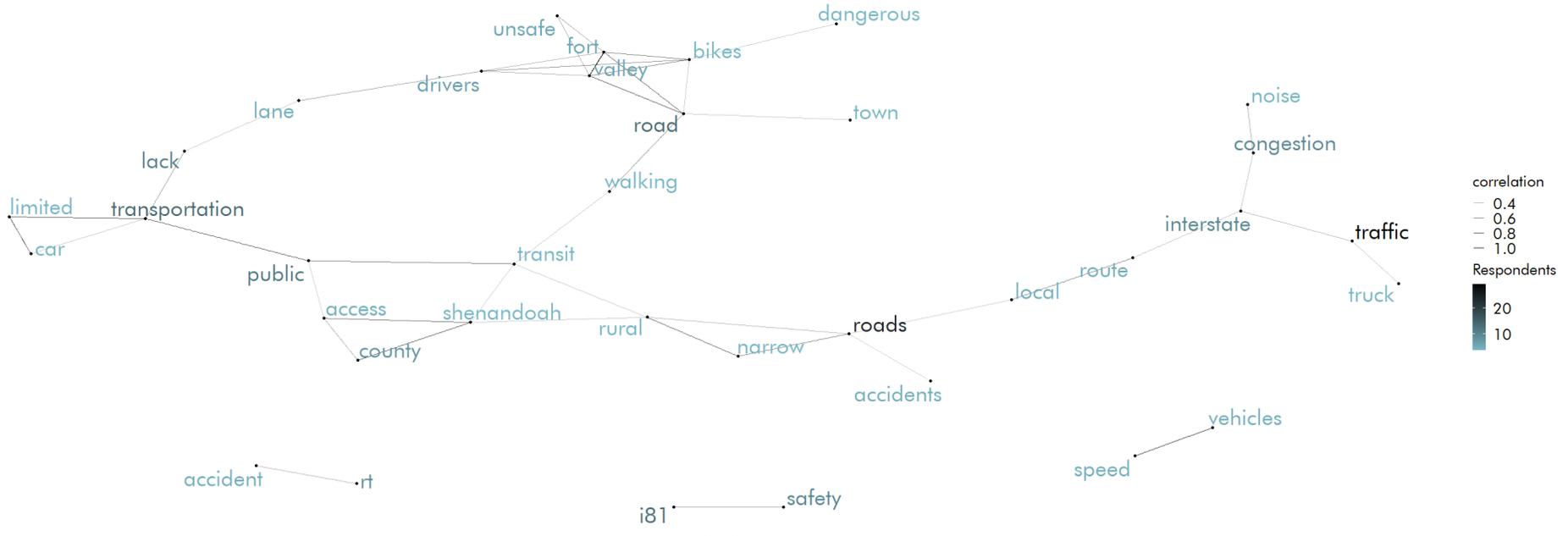


## Frequently Used Words For Transportation Other Responses

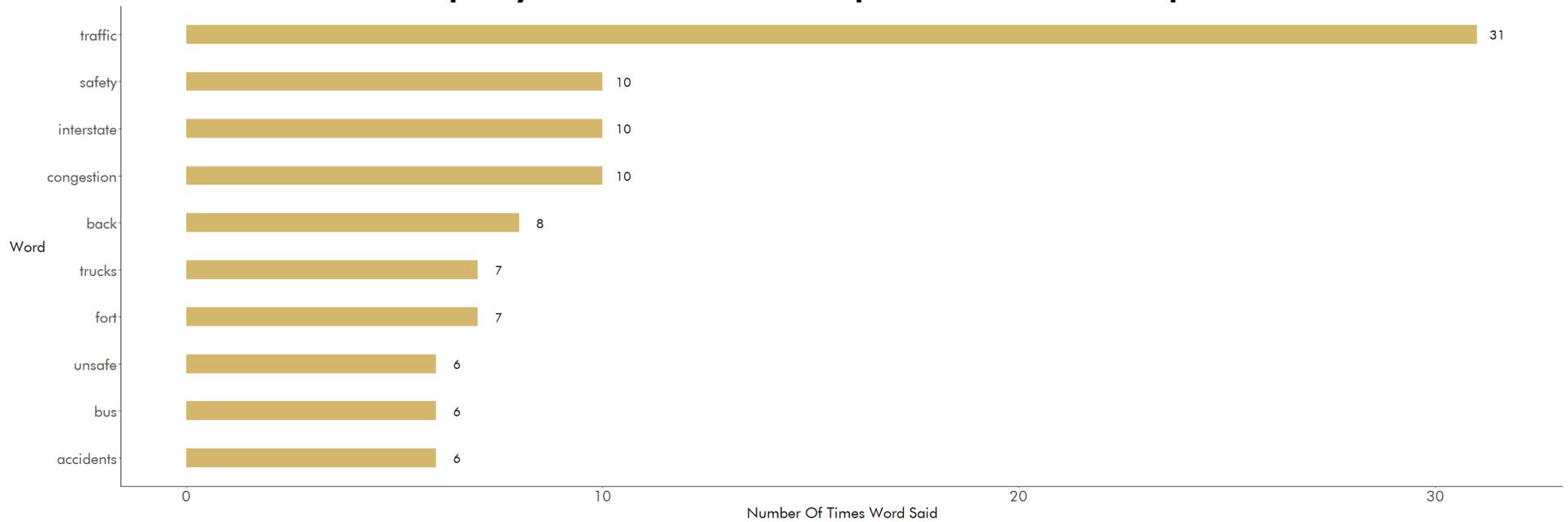




## Connections Between Respondents' Transportation Concerns



## Frequently Used Words For The Transportation Concerns Of Respondents

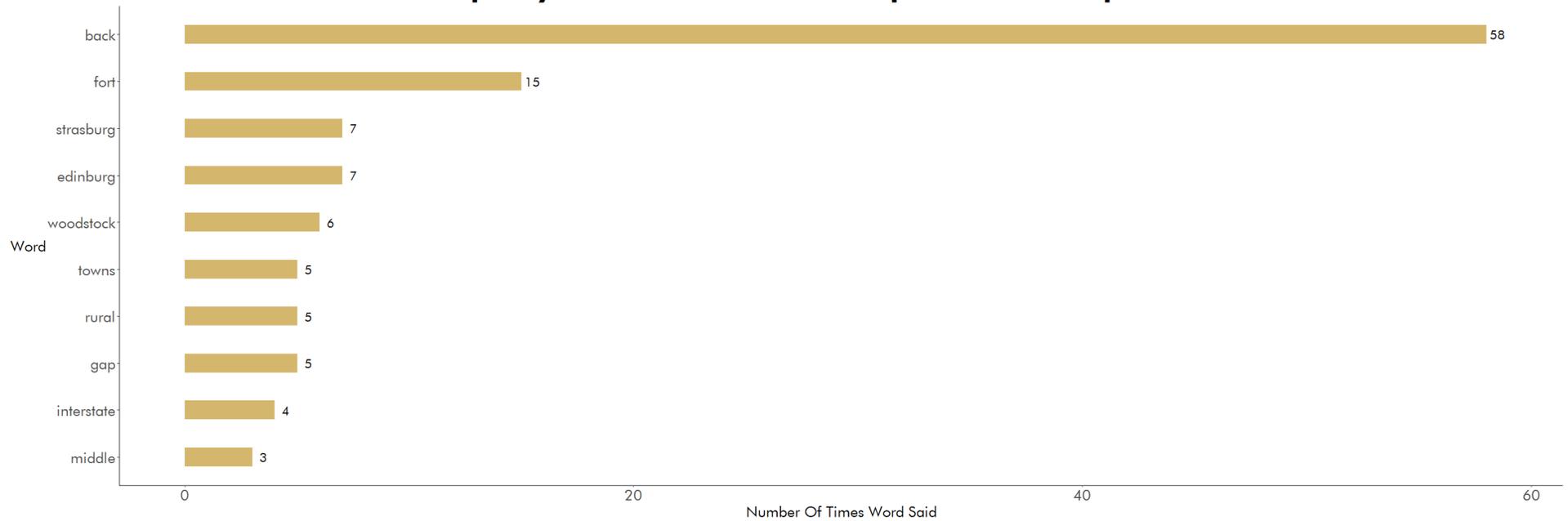




## Connections Between Where Respondents Saw People On Bikes



## Frequently Used Words For Where Respondents See People On Bikes



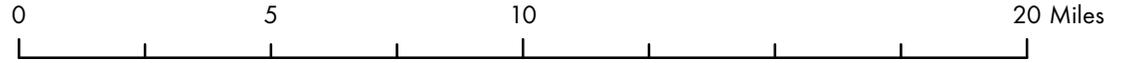
# TRANSPORTATION

## Legend

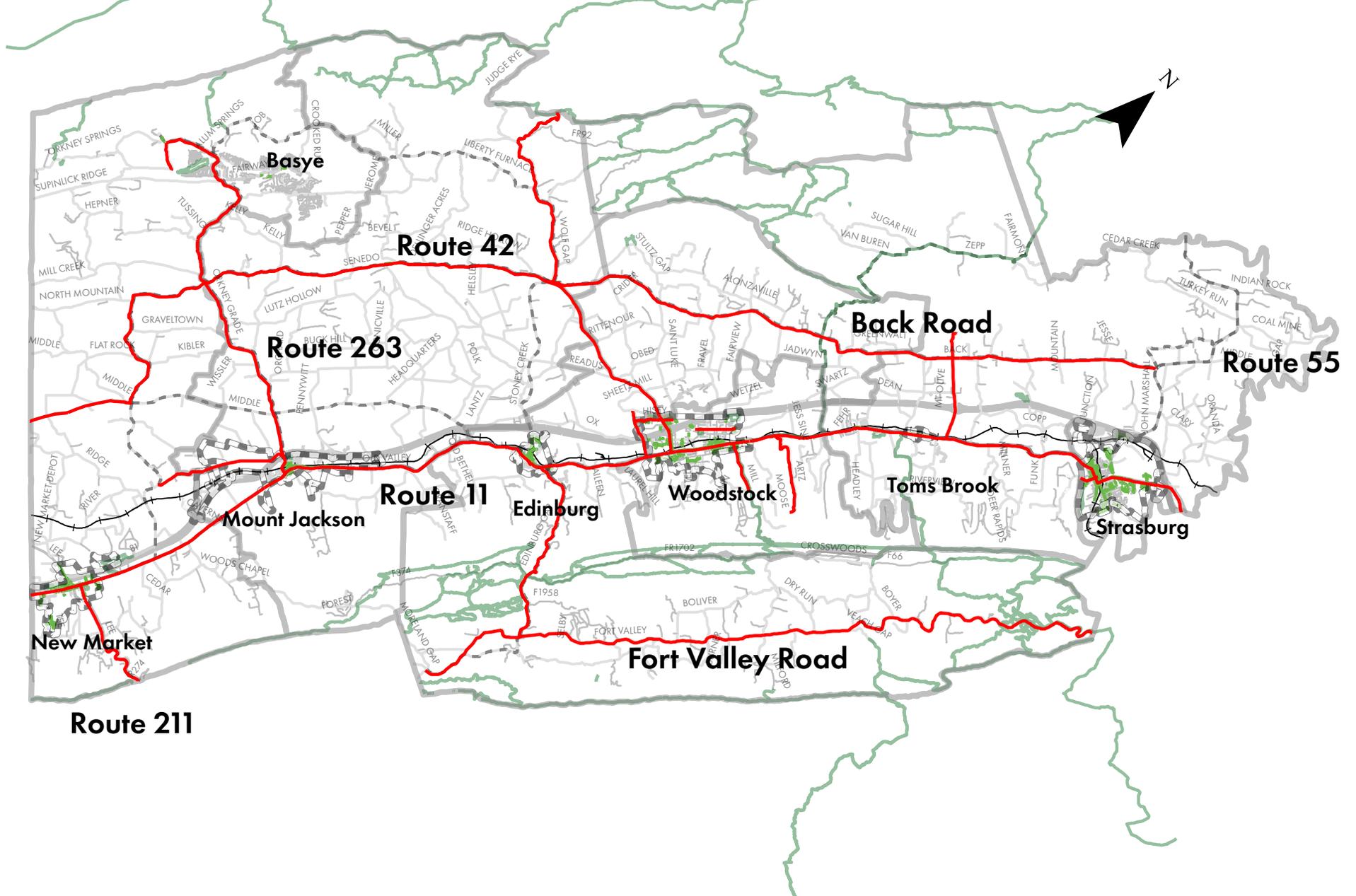
-  District Boundaries
  -  Town Boundary
  -  Sidewalks
  -  Where People Bike
  -  Trails
  -  ShenGO Route
  -  Scenic Byways
  -  Railroad
- Roads
- Road Type
-  Interstate
  -  Primary
  -  Private
  -  School Access
  -  Secondary
  -  State Maintained
  -  US Route



# Where People Have Been Seen Biking

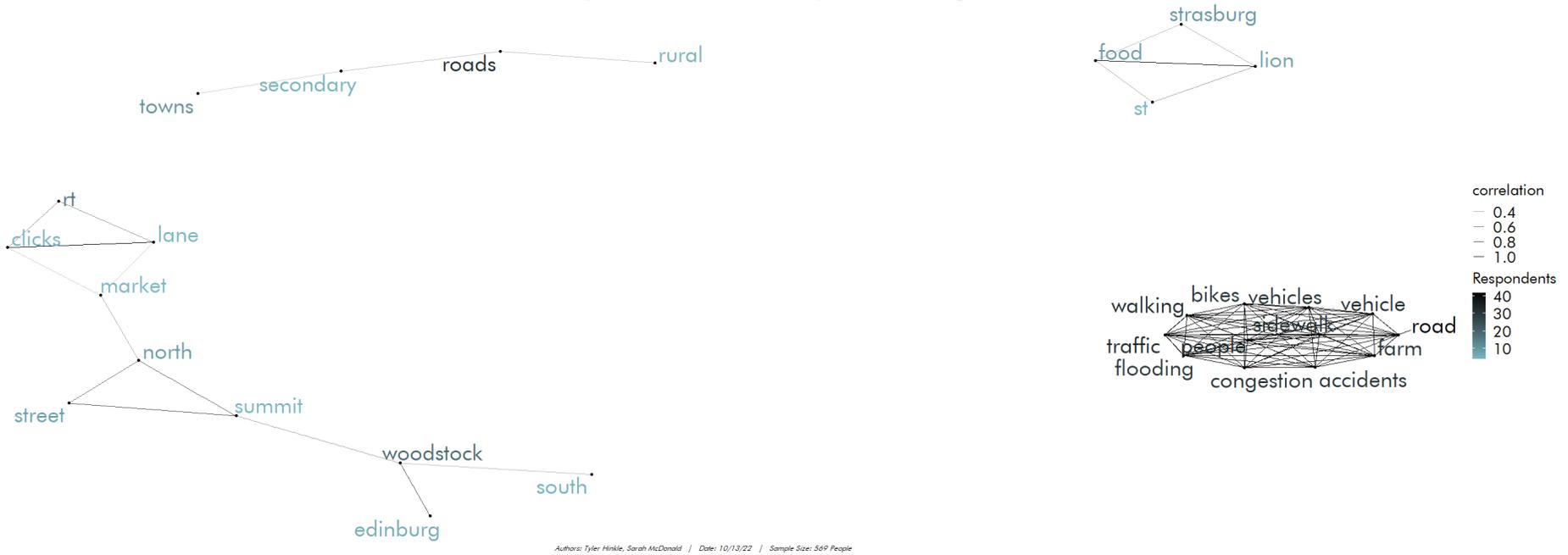


Author: Tyler Hinkle, AICP Date: 10/24/2022 Source: Shenandoah County Shenandoah County GIS Department

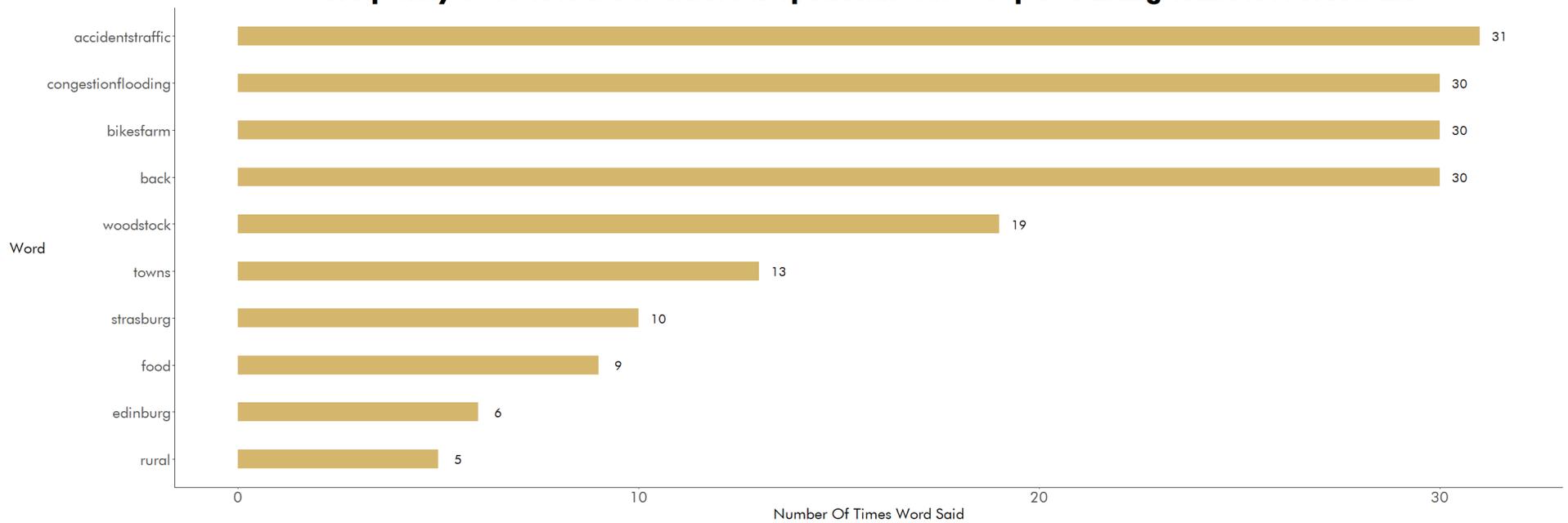




## Connections Between Where Respondents Saw People Walking Without A Sidewalk



## Frequently Used Words For Where Respondents Saw People Walking Without A Sidewalk



# TRANSPORTATION

## Legend

 District Boundaries

 Town Boundary

 Sidewalks

 Where People Walk

 Trails

 ShenGO Route

 Scenic Byways

 Railroad

Roads

Road Type

 Interstate

 Primary

 Private

 School Access

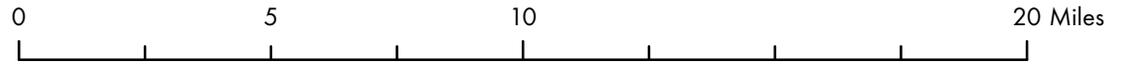
 Secondary

 State Maintained

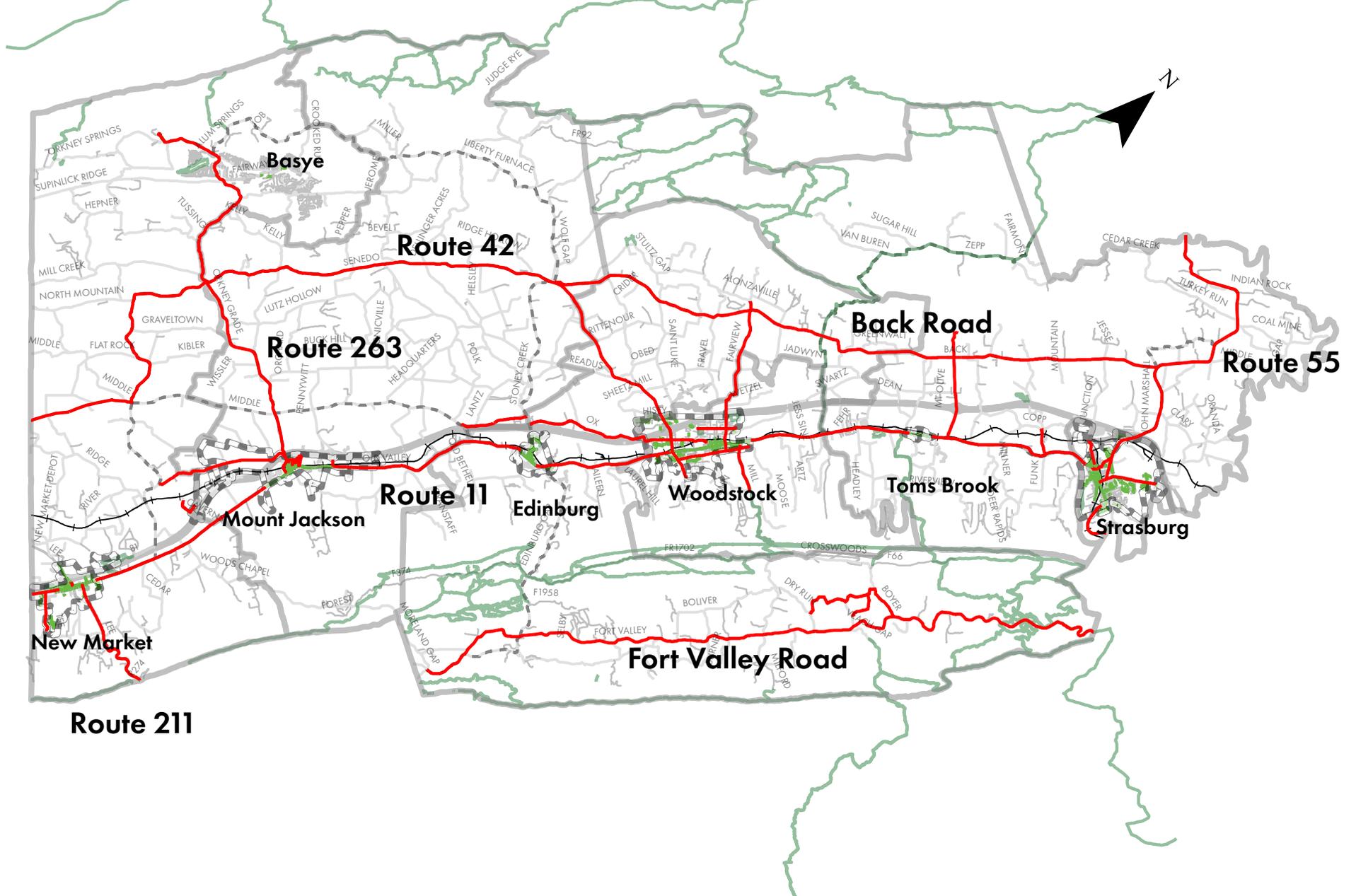
 US Route



# Where People Have Been Seen Walking Without A Sidewalk



Author: Tyler Hinkle, AICP Date: 10/24/2022 Source: Shenandoah County Shenandoah County GIS Department



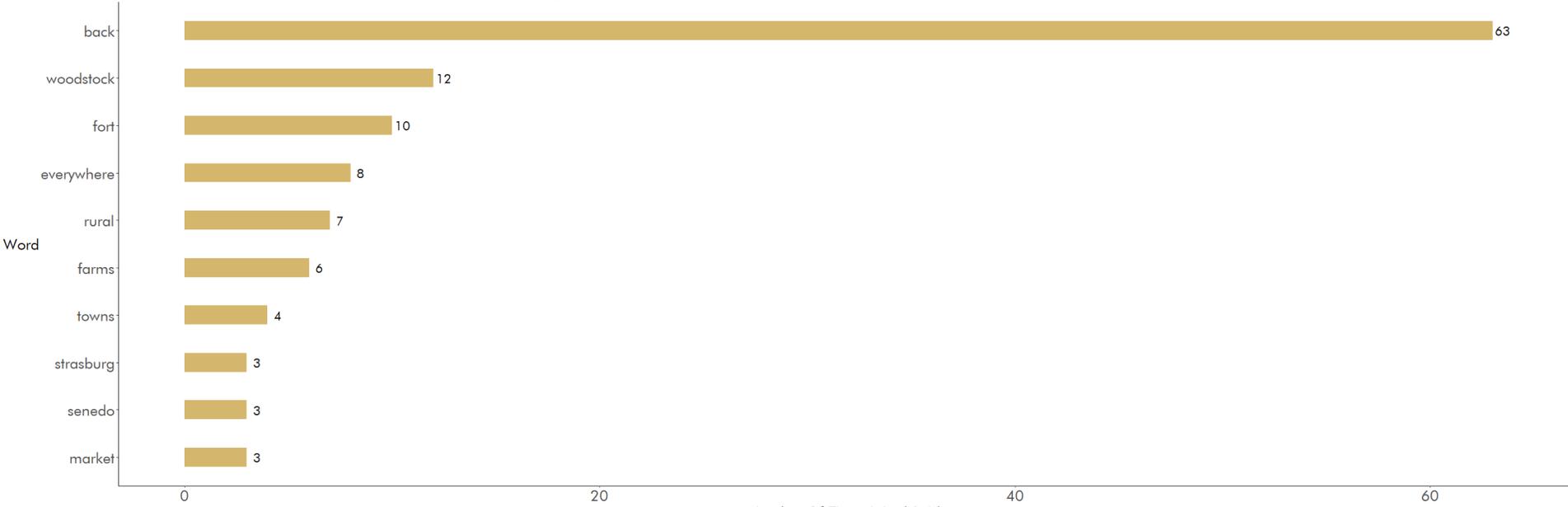


# Connections Between Where Respondents See Farm Vehicles



Authors: Tyler Hinkle, Sarah McDonald | Date: 10/13/22 | Sample Size: 549 People

# Frequently Used Words For Where Respondents See Farm Vehicles



Authors: Tyler Hinkle, Sarah McDonald | Date: 10/13/22 | Sample Size: 549 People

Legend

 District Boundaries

 Town Boundary

 Sidewalks

 Where Farmers Drive

 Trails

 ShenGO Route

 Scenic Byways

 Railroad

Roads

Road Type

 Interstate

 Primary

 Private

 School Access

 Secondary

 State Maintained

 US Route







# **APPENDIX**

# CONSENT FORM

Participants were provided this consent form prior to the start of the survey in order to inform them of all the details of the survey and what the data would be used for in the future. Only four individuals did not take the survey after reading the consent form as if a respondent said no they would be directed to the end of the survey and would be opted out. Only those who selected yes were able to continue on and take the survey.

## Shenandoah 2045: A Future Together

This survey is to be used to develop the Shenandoah County 2045 Comprehensive Plan. All municipal governments must develop a comprehensive plan every 20 years in order to be in accordance with VA § 15.2-2223. In addition to developing new comprehensive plans every 20 years, municipal governments must update their comprehensive plans every five years, with more comprehensive updates at the ten year mark.

The comprehensive plan represents the citizen's future vision for the County. This plan will be built on the opinions and desires of local residents. Your input is needed in order to make this plan, your plan.

The current comprehensive plan was last updated in June 2019 as a new economy or economic development chapter was adopted. The plan was originally implemented in 2005 and was based on a report from 1998 titled, "Commission On The Future." The current plan will expire in its entirety by 2025, which is why we are working on this new 2045 plan. The current comprehensive plan has continuously been updated thanks to the diligent and caring work by a group of unpaid volunteers known as the Citizen's Advisory Committee. This organization fills the role that a typical private firm would, and saves Shenandoah County tens of thousands of dollars of tax revenue every year.

Members of the public are always welcome to attend the CAC's monthly meetings held on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 5:00 pm in the Board of Supervisors' Conference Room in Woodstock unless there is a conflicting holiday. As it can be difficult for everyone to come to Woodstock at that time, we plan on coming to you for this new comprehensive plan. We will be organizing public gatherings at each and every village, hamlet, burg, hollow, and other communities around Shenandoah County and need all the help we can get to make sure everyone's voices are heard.

Your responses will not be used to identify you and no information that could identify who you are will be released to the public. Your data will be consolidated into a final report that will be publicly available, implemented into the new 2045 comprehensive plan, and will be used to inform what issues are most important in every community in Shenandoah County. Together we can work on ensuring that the next twenty years are full of collaboration and benefit all individuals in Shenandoah County, including yourself.

What you will do in the study: You will be taking a 12 minute survey in order to comprehend the needs, aspirations, and desires of various communities in Shenandoah County. You can skip over any questions that make you feel uncomfortable and you can stop the survey at anytime. The questions are presented in various formats. The star rating questions ask you to rate topics on a 1-5 scale with 5 being the highest.

Time required: The study will require about 12 minutes of your time.

Risks: There are no anticipated risks in this survey.

Benefits: There are no direct immediate benefits to you for participating in this survey. Your responses will however benefit you in ensuring that your voice is included in the discussion of the 2045 Comprehensive Plan and that the plan is your plan too, rather than a plan that was made for you.

Confidentiality: The information that you give in the study will be handled confidentially. Your data will be anonymous which means that your name will not be collected or linked to the data.

Voluntary participation: Your participation in the study is completely voluntary.

Right to withdraw from the study: You have the right to withdraw from the study at any time without penalty.

Please note that this survey will be best displayed on a laptop or desktop computer. Some features may be less compatible for use on a mobile device.

If you wish to exit the survey you can simply close your browser and your responses will be disregarded. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the County Planner Tyler Hinkle at:  
Email: [THinkle@ShenandoahCountyVa.US](mailto:THinkle@ShenandoahCountyVa.US)  
Phone: 540-459-6204

Do you agree to allowing your data to be used to develop a report that will better inform the future of Shenandoah County, given that no identifying information will be released to the public?

- Yes
- No

# AN UNWANTED FUTURE

When we asked NovelAI at the start to take all of the survey data and describe the future, it took a few tries to get a story that matched the results of the survey. Instead we received two detailed stories where the Comprehensive Plan failed and the citizens' desires were not realized. In short, NovelAI helped us see a future that is not wanted, or one to be avoided:

We traveled to the year 2045 to see what came of the new comprehensive plan and how it impacted the County. To summarize what we saw was that the county had two very distinct areas. One area was a thriving agricultural community and the other an expanding residential area. It appeared that the agricultural area was doing quite well while the residential area was not.

The biggest issue was traffic. With several new housing developments coming online during our time in Shenandoah County there were numerous traffic lights added to the roads. We learned that many of the new homes were being built outside of the town limits.

We also found out that the Board of Supervisors voted to build a new high school and a new library. They decided against building a new middle school because they felt that their current middle school could be expanded into a new high school instead.

It didn't take long before we realized why the county was struggling so much. There were no jobs! The county had way too many people, yet they had no businesses or infrastructure to support them. When I asked about this problem, it became apparent that there was a reason.

The county commissioners had issued a moratorium on annexations to all new developments until they could get their act together. Unfortunately, this meant that the county couldn't support its own people let alone others.

I asked several residents if they thought this was fair but most said that the board just had to do something to stop the growth before things got any worse. This made us wonder: Would this happen in every county? Was that really the best solution for the county?



We traveled to the year 2045 to see what came of the new comprehensive plan and how it impacted Shenandoah County. To summarize, there was significant growth along Routes 81 and 42. It appears that many of the original residents moved elsewhere. While the plan identified the need for more housing, it failed to increase affordable housing and did little to control sprawl. Many areas were developed into large subdivisions and townhouses, which are largely devoid of any charm or culture. The county also lost several large employers including the two manufacturing plants. This has led to an economic downturn and a decline in tax revenue. More importantly, however, is the fact that it seems that some of the goals set forth by the comprehensive plan have been abandoned. While the plan was intended to help create a cohesive community, it seems that individuals have forgotten their roots, even if only slightly. The community still lacks any sort of identity; instead, it's become a collection of disparate groups that seem to have little in common beyond the fact that they live in Shenandoah County.

In order to understand why the plan failed, we must look at what happened during the 20 years since its completion. The last time we checked in on Shenandoah County, it was 2035 and the county had grown considerably. It was easy to see from the aerial photograph that many of the original residents had either moved elsewhere or died off. There were also plenty of new houses, but most of them were quite large in size. The only remaining evidence of the old small-town charm seemed to be found on Main Street in downtown Strasburg. However, the empty storefronts that once populated the entire block had disappeared entirely. Even the building that used to be the Ruritan Hall was now gone, replaced by a large parking lot.

What was particularly interesting about the plan, however, was the fact that it made no mention of preserving the area's rich history. As we mentioned before, the plan focused mostly on the future and how to develop land as opposed to protecting historic structures or landmarks. In 2035, Strasburg was the last vestige of small-town America, but all signs pointed toward it being swallowed up by larger cities. By 2040, Route 81 had widened significantly, and the town square had been paved over. We saw no signs of anything resembling a historical district, and the buildings that remained on Main Street were mostly run down and deserted.

The most disturbing part of the visit, however, was the fact that the local school system seemed to have completely ignored the plan altogether. When we entered the high school, we immediately noticed something very wrong. The school's main auditorium, which had once been state-of-the-art, looked like it hadn't been touched in decades. The seats were old and worn out, and the stage itself was covered in dust and cobwebs. The theater department had apparently fallen apart shortly after the plan was completed, and the students were forced to use a different venue for their productions. The same scene played out in every other school in the county.

While the buildings themselves may not have been maintained, there was one thing that the local government did get right. The plan called for new roads to be built. While this improved traffic flow and helped with development, it also led to increased congestion and pollution. One of the biggest problems was the fact that many of the new streets were designed to allow cars to pass through rather than serve as thoroughfares. As a result, there were constant delays whenever two lanes of traffic needed to merge. The lack of adequate public transportation also made things worse. Unlike many towns in the US, Shenandoah County didn't have an extensive network of trains and buses. It was simply too expensive to build railroads and bus systems throughout the county. As a result, many residents chose to commute by car, which resulted in even more congestion. It was also apparent from our survey that some of the goals set forth in the plan had already been forgotten. The plan had outlined ways in which to attract tourists to the region. We were surprised to find that almost all of the attractions were gone, with the exception of a few museums and a couple of roadside tourist traps. The only surviving attraction appeared to be the Shenandoah Caverns and Cave Tour, which we learned was owned by the county.

One of the major goals outlined in the plan was to preserve the rural character of the county. Since most of the land in Shenandoah County is agricultural, this goal was relatively simple to meet. However, we soon discovered that this goal had been completely abandoned. Instead, the local government was encouraging people to move to the region and build big houses on sprawling lots. The plan inadvertently enabled it to accelerate.