Freight Stakeholder Survey

Memphis MPO Freight Advisory Committee Meeting

January 22, 2026

THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS
Center for Applied Earth Science and Engineering Research

Memphis MPO
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Agenda

Project overview

Methodology

Outreach Activities

Results

Key Findings

Project Overview

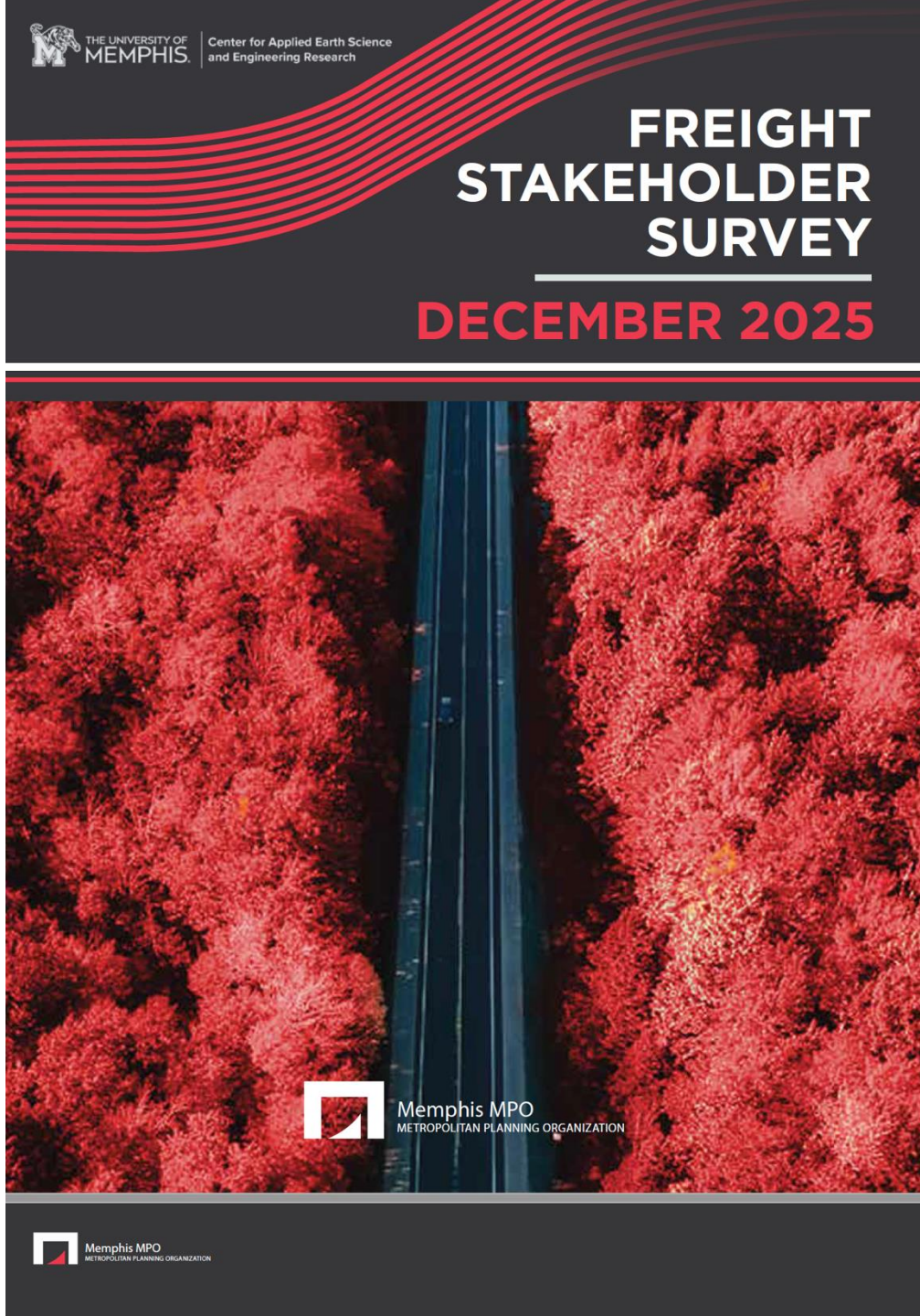
Purpose: Gather feedback from stakeholders within the Memphis MPO boundary

Inform updates to the MPO Freight Plan and future Regional Plan updates

Conducted in 5-year cycle

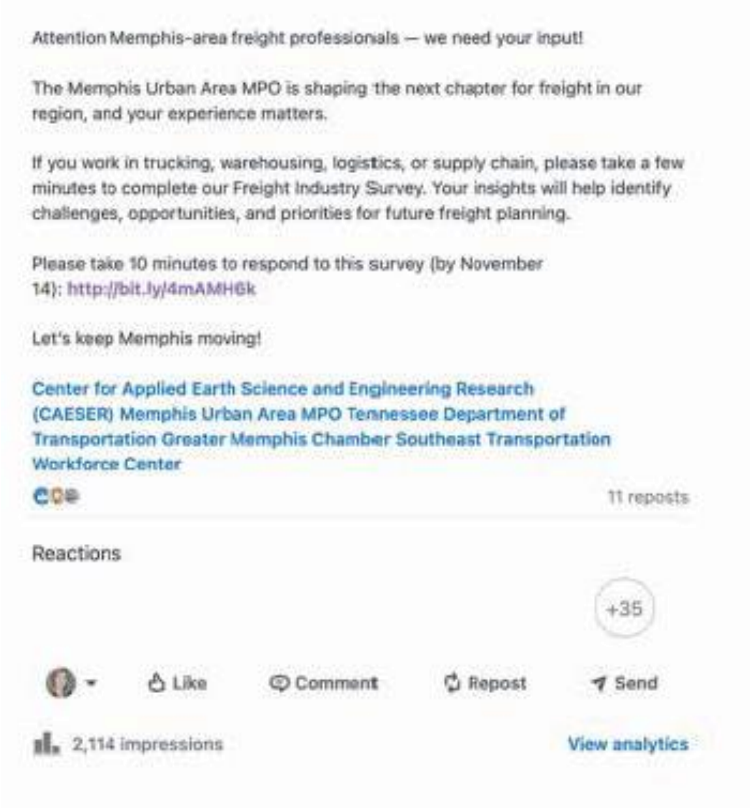
Methodology

- Survey instrument based on 2020 Freight Stakeholder Survey (Memphis MPO, 2020)
- 21-item questionnaire developed in Qualtrics
- Questionnaire topics:
  - Company information
  - Transportation infrastructure ratings
  - Barriers to efficient freight operations
  - Impacts of local infrastructure project
  - Need for infrastructure improvements
  - Focus areas for future planning and investment
- Comparison to 2020 results



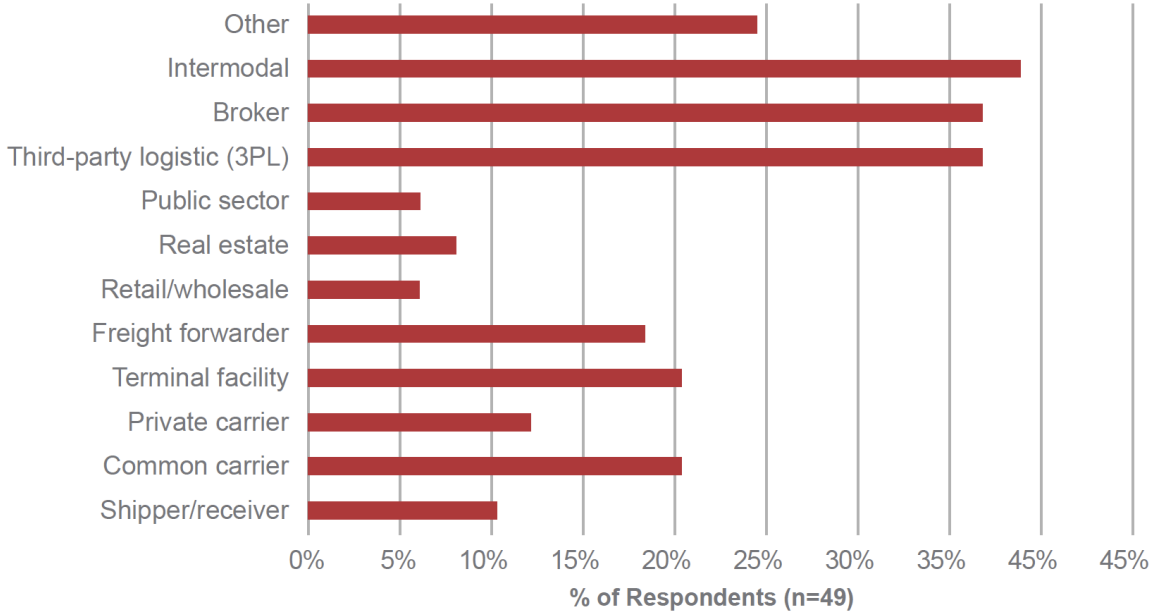
Outreach Activities

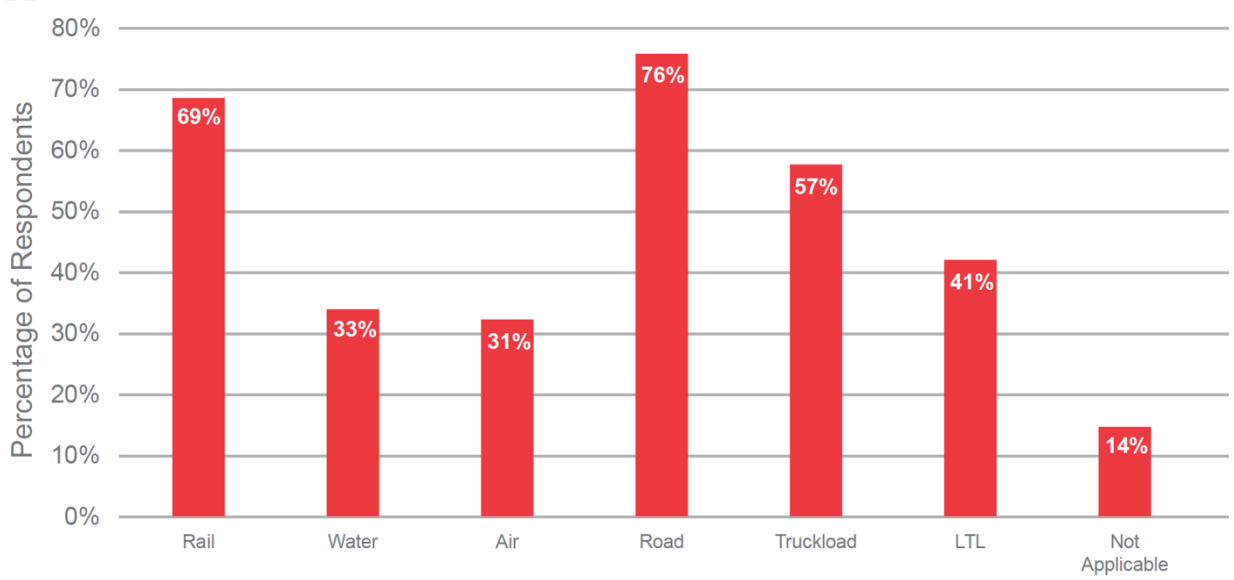
- Outreach conducted September 26 – November 7
- Email Outreach
  - Database of over 200 industry representatives
  - Distribution via committee lists and newsletters
  - Range of modes, industry types, geography
- Website and LinkedIn posts



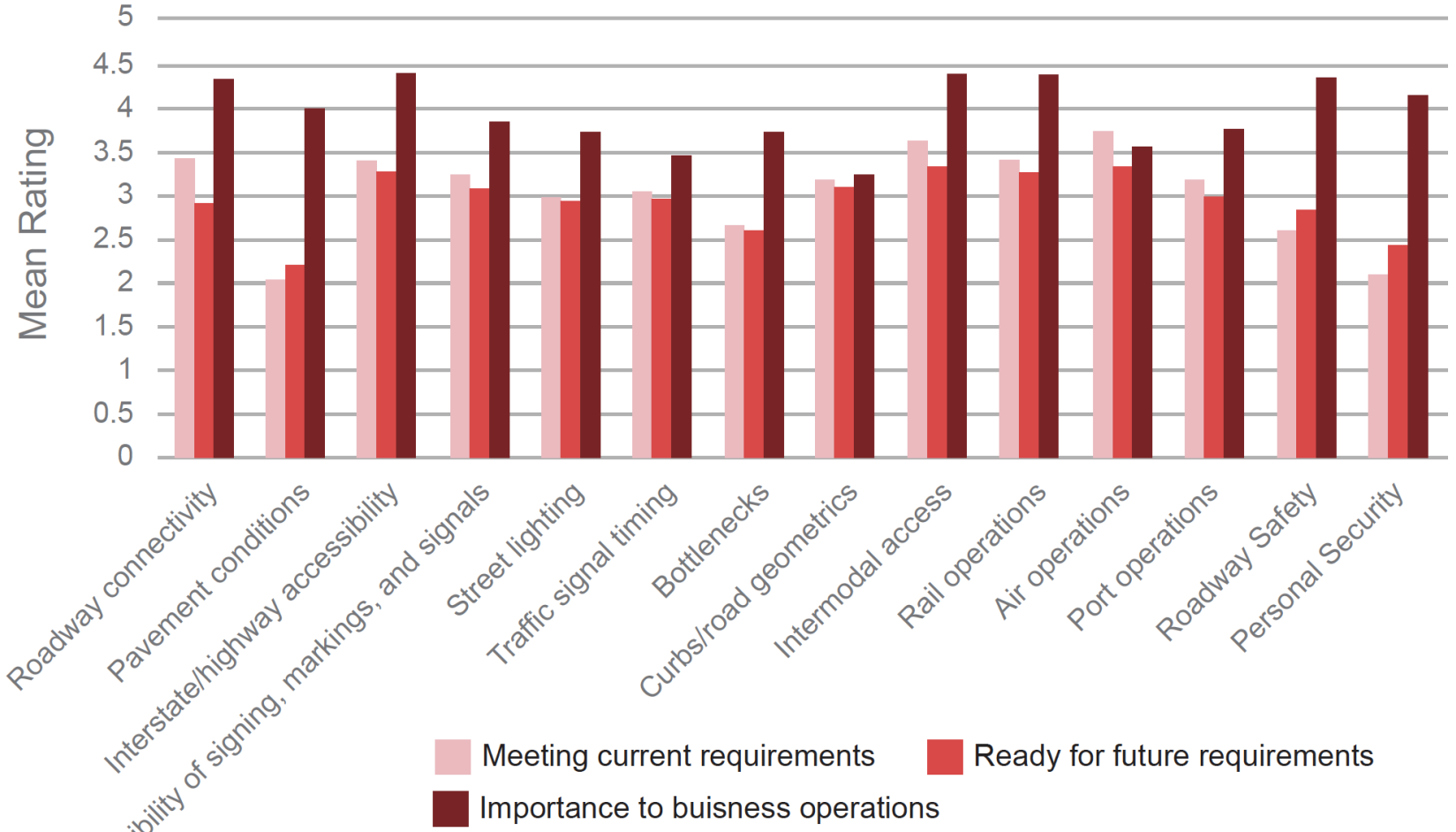
Results - Respondents

- 53 survey participants
- Response rates to questions varied
- 95% of respondents from TN
- 5% of respondents from MS



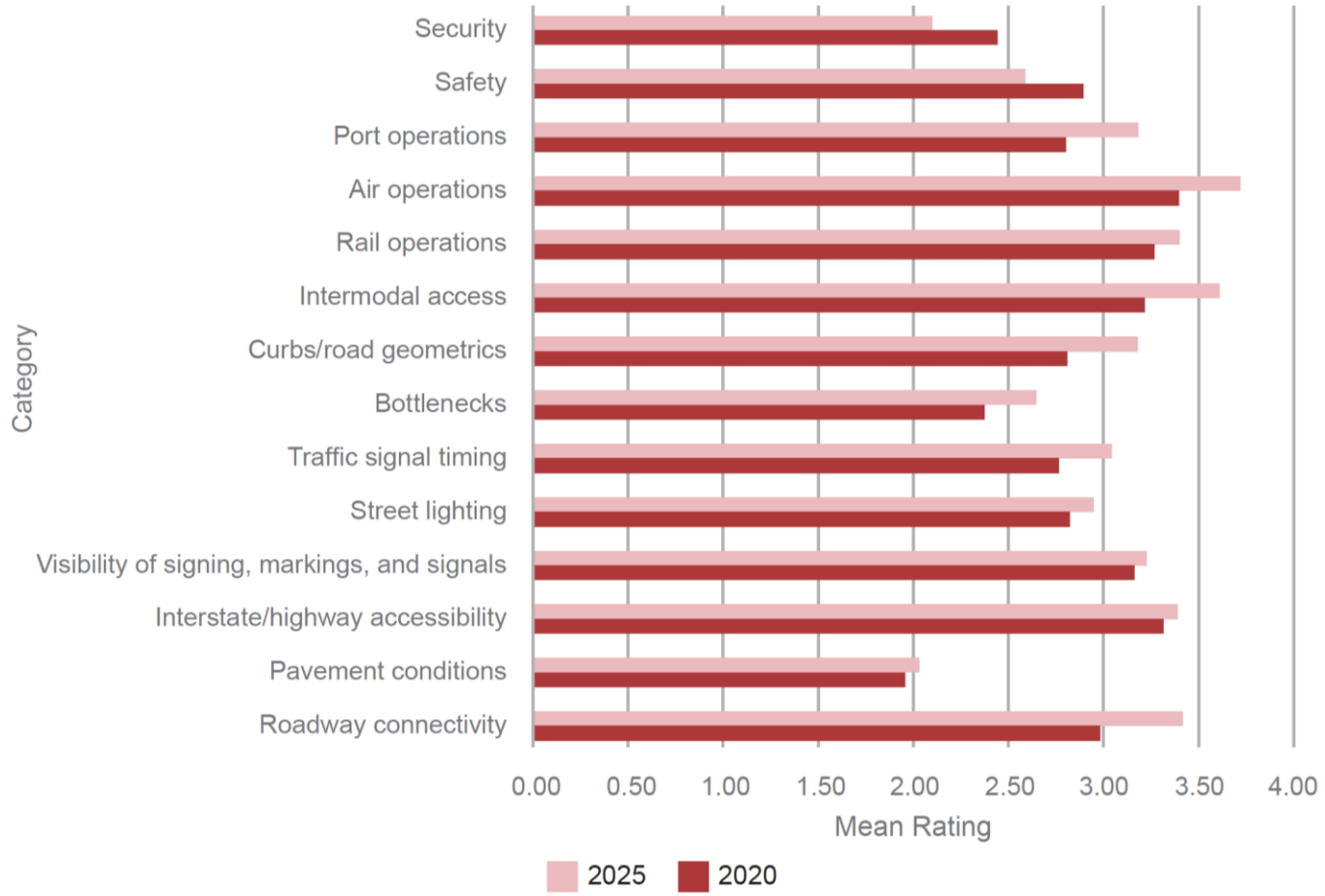


Results – Local Infrastructure Ratings



5 = Exceeds Requirements
3 = Meets Requirements
1 = Falls Short of Requirements

Results – Infrastructure Ratings Comparisons

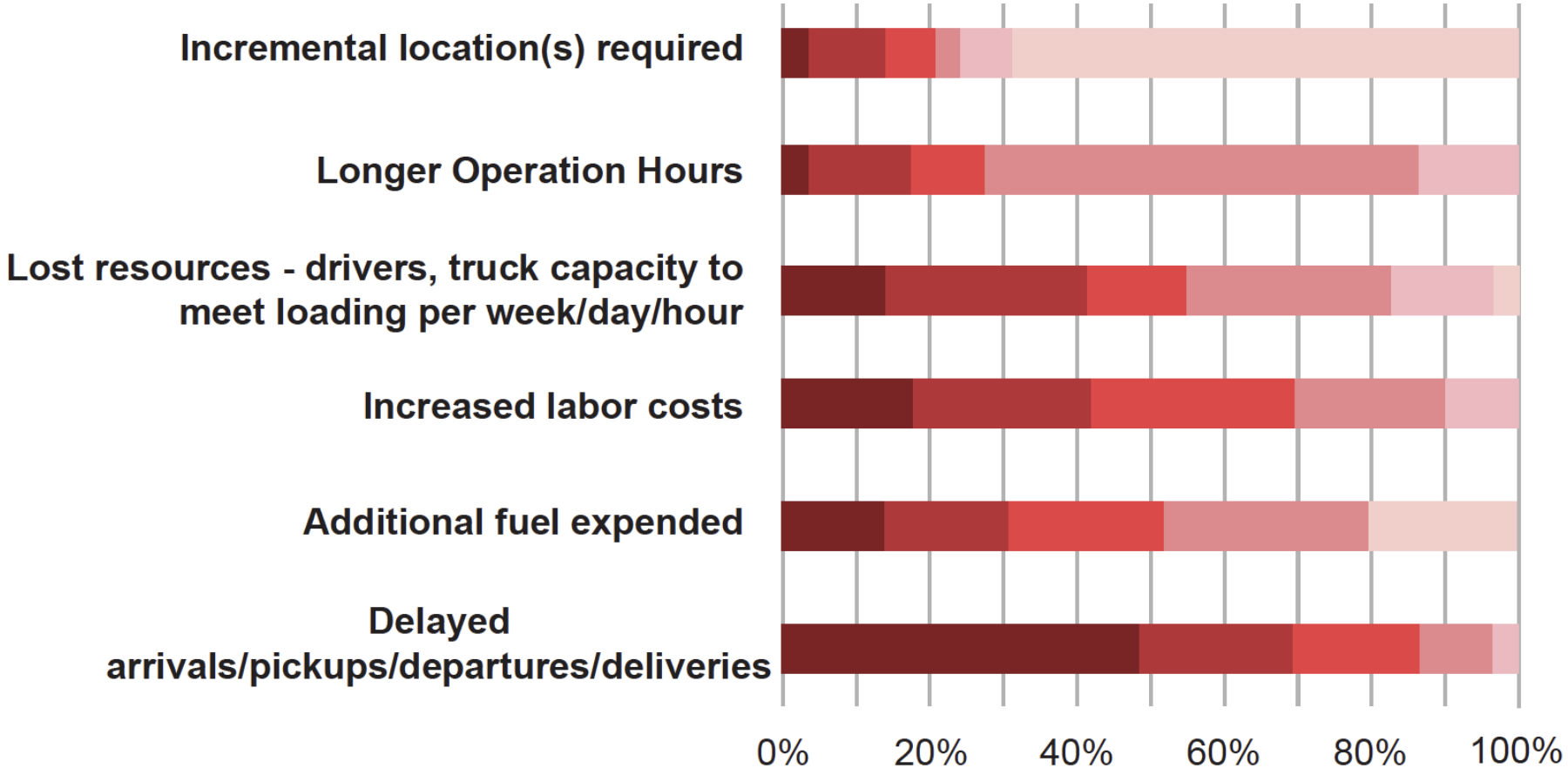


Meets Current Requirements

Results – Infrastructure Ratings 2025 vs. 2020

Ready for Future Requirements

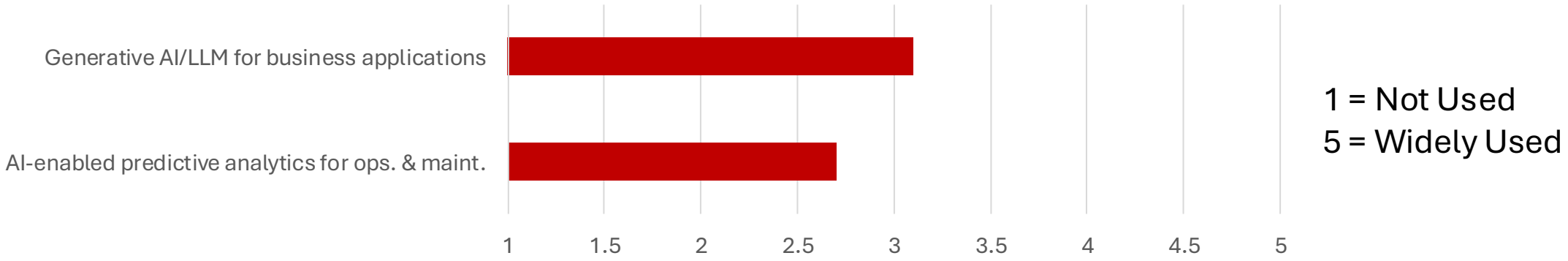
Results – Congestion Costs to Business



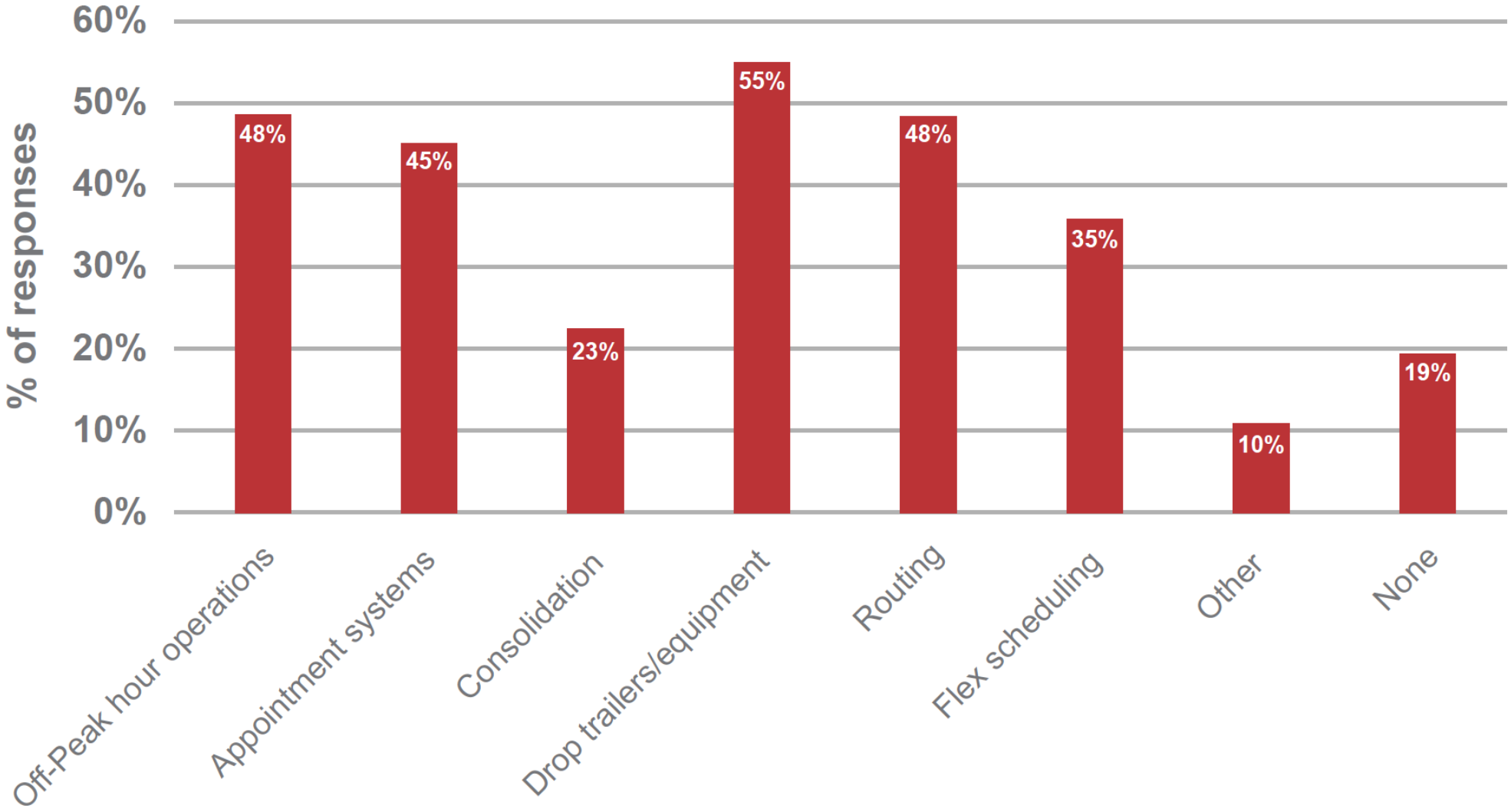
**Darker color indicates higher cost*

Results – Technology Use

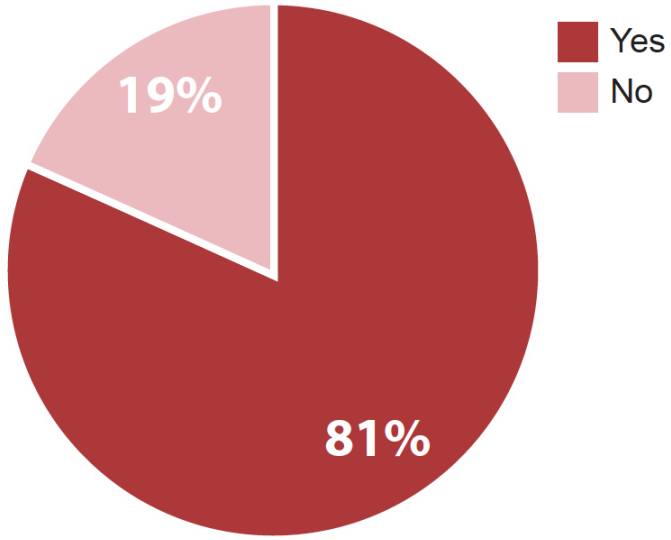
- **Increased technology adoption across most categories** between 2020 and 2025
- Greatest increases seen in use of warehouse automation systems, intelligent speed adaptation, electronic tolling systems, electronic credentialing
- New categories for AI applications in 2025



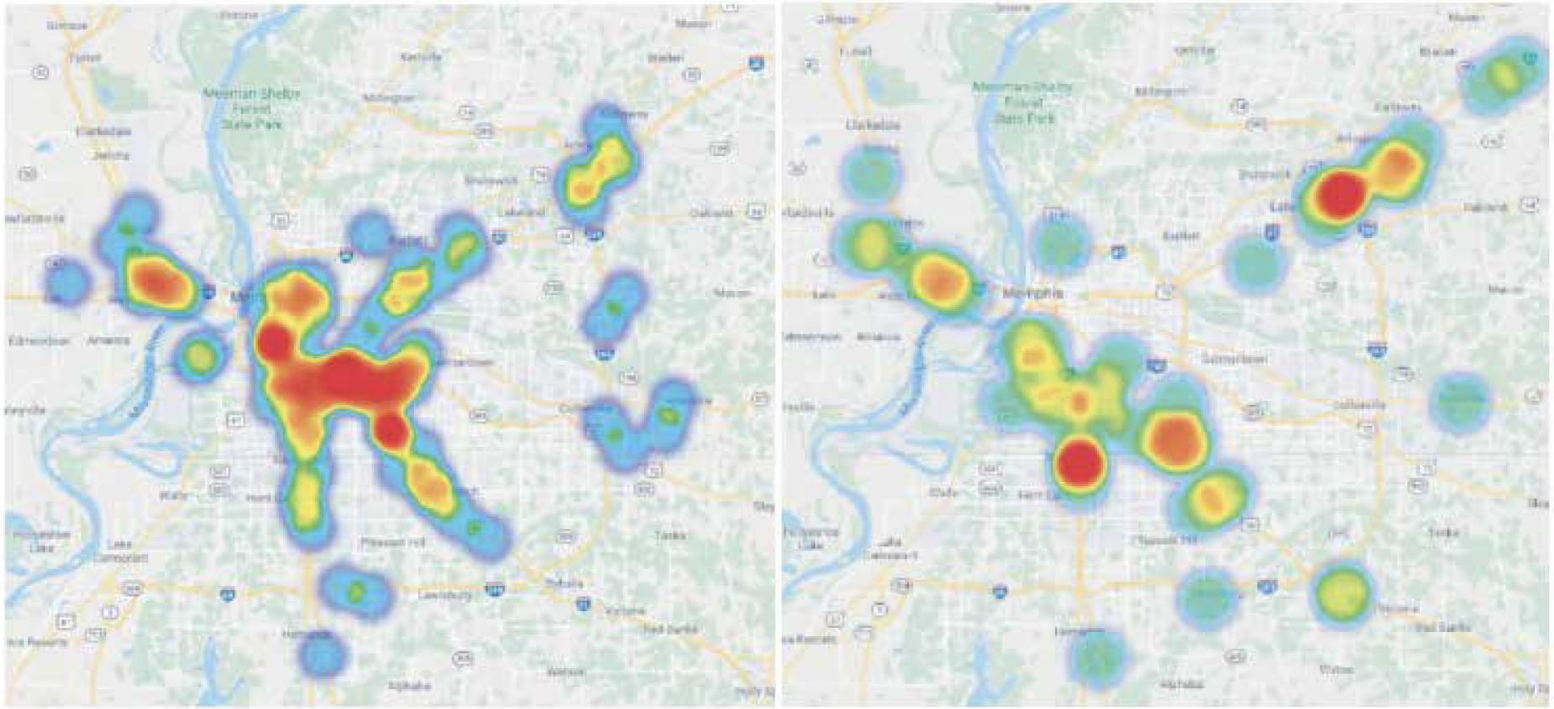
Results – Operational Strategies Used



Results – Truck Parking

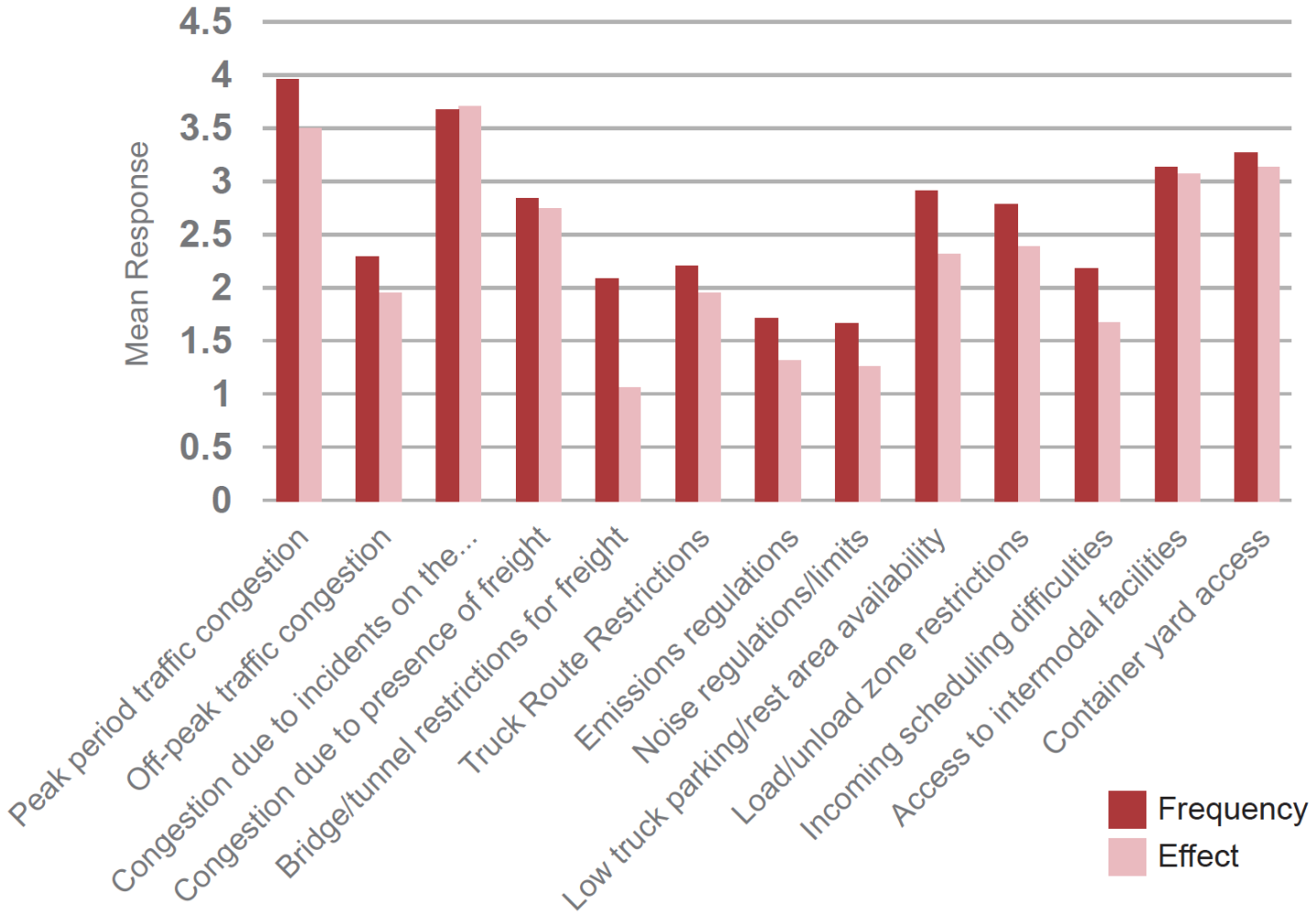


Safe Truck Parking Available



Locations where Parking is Needed

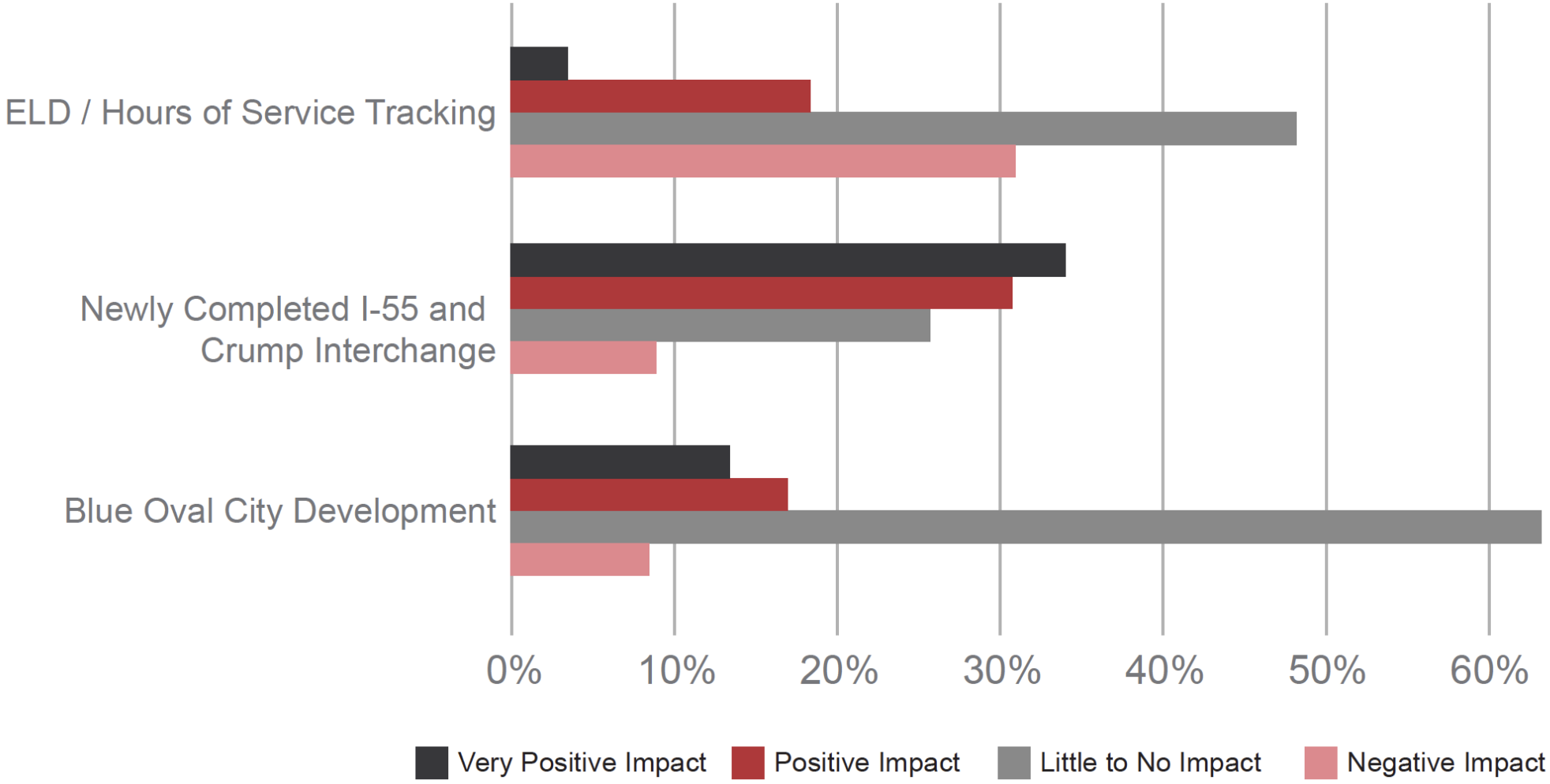
Results – Barriers to Driver Efficiency



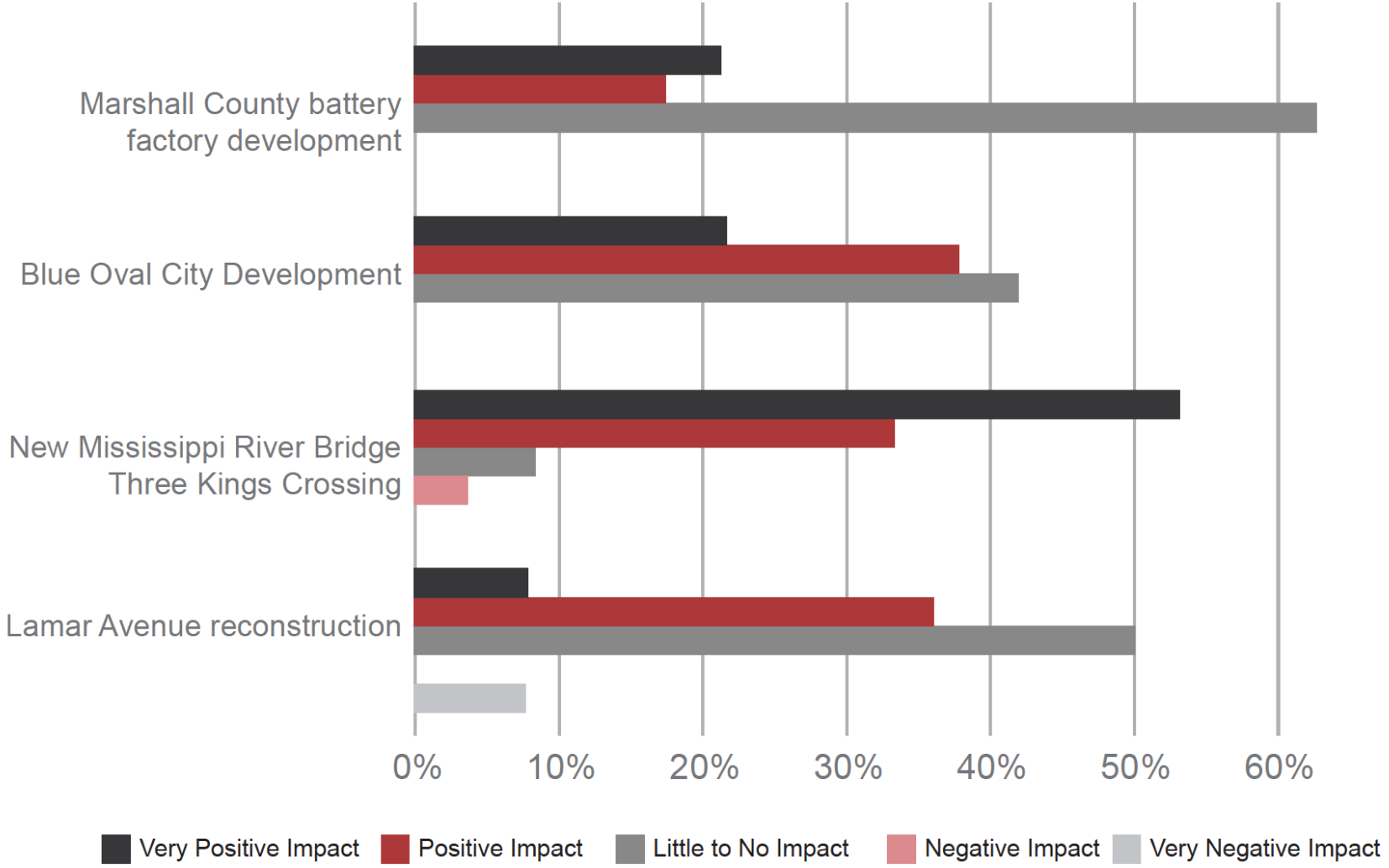
Frequency
1 = Never
5 = Very often

Effect
1 = Little to no effect
5 = Extremely disruptive

Results – Perceived Impact of Recent Changes



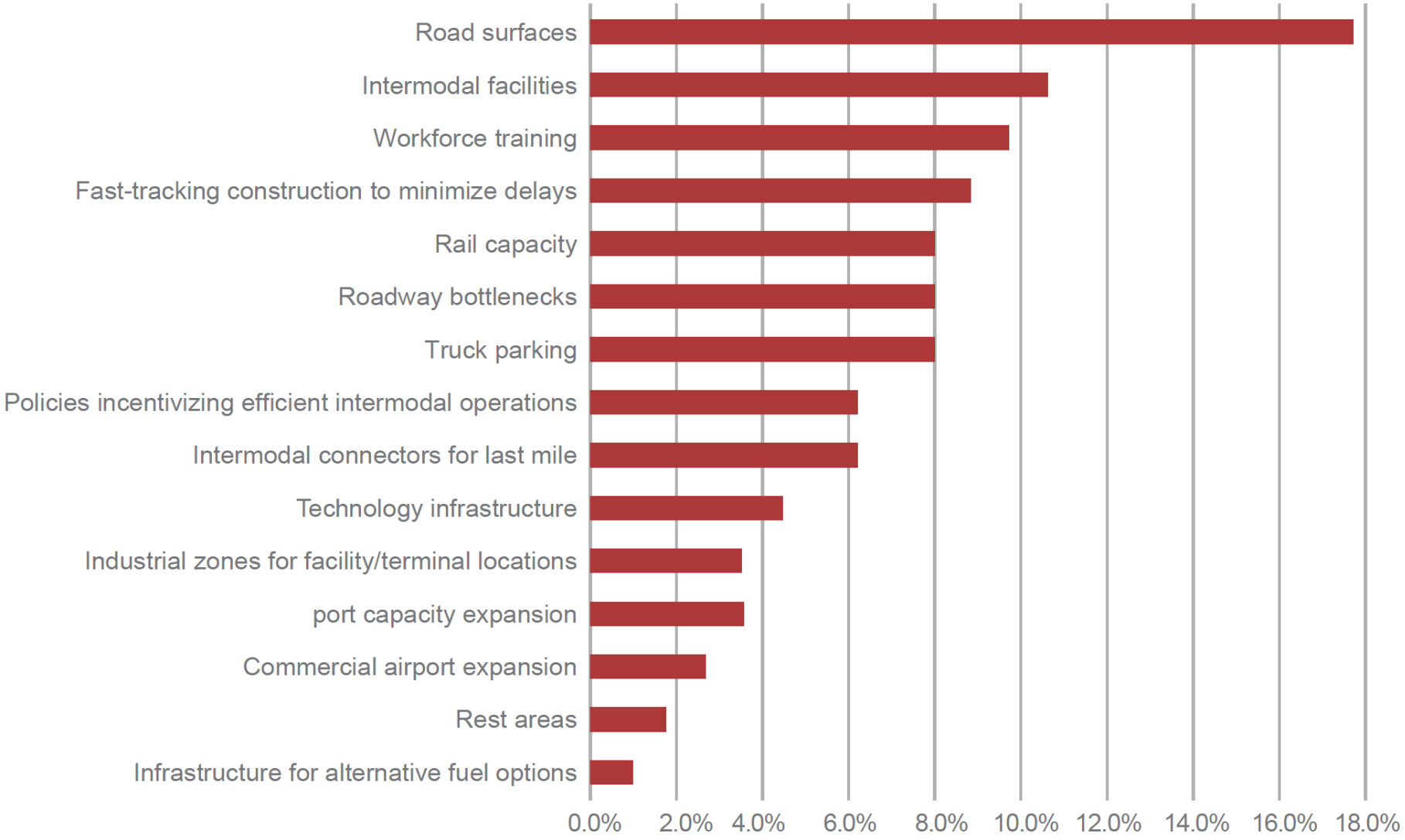
Results – Perceived Impact of Future Projects



Results – Locations for Future Emphasis

Location Description	Reasons for Selection	Frequency
Airport Area	Need to improve roads and paving around the Memphis Aerotropolis; While in the plan, Airways BLVD interchange modification will be beneficial for the Region; Airways I-55 to Airport	9
Lamar	congestion, poor roads; More truck parking in this trucking corridor; Dangerous area due to amount of truck traffic in the area due to industry and BNSF ramp in the area. Highly used roadway; This is a nightmare from Airways south. Poor traffic flow and roadways; Need to improve condition of road, minimize any access points	7
I-40 east / US-64 / I-269 northeast	Harrahan Bridge; North of Hernando; congestion	6
I-40/I-55 in West Memphis, AR	This is the obvious confluence of two major interstates with high freight usage rates. Buckey's is soon coming to town as well!; Outdated ramps & configuration	5
Downtown	Access	4

Results – Topics for Future Emphasis



Key Findings

Multimodal freight infrastructure remains one of the region's **strongest assets**.

Pavement conditions remain as one of the **lowest rated** infrastructure elements.

Security-related issues, including cargo theft, and lingering COVID-19 disruptions emerged as **critical concerns**.

Congestion continues to impose **significant operational costs**.

Safe **trucking parking shortages** were still noted, although **hotspots shifted** from 2020 findings.

Key Findings – Perceptions and Priorities

Technology adoption increased across nearly all categories.

Clear positive impact from the I-55/Crump Interchange.

New Mississippi River Bridge – Three Kings Crossing generated strong positive expectations.

Airport area, Lamar Avenue, I-240/I-40 corridor were most frequently cited priority locations for future investments.

Road surfaces, intermodal facilities, workforce training, fast-tracking construction, and truck parking were identified as highest priority focus areas.

Questions?

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METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Strengthening Regional Transportation