eBike Trial at the City of Belmont

Crawford Connell –TravelSmart Officer

eBike as a tool (for change)

- Intro
- My electric bike run through
- Our ‘Switched on Bikes’ Trial
- eBikes for us going forward
- eBikes for you ?

Hands up

Who ...

- Can ride a bike ?
- Has ridden an electric bike ?
- Would like to have a go on one ?
- Would like to see them in their fleet?
- Has a spare $3000 ?

TravelSmart

… is about empowering people to make travel decisions that can benefit their environment, their health and their wallet.

***City of Belmont* - TravelSmart Plan & Officer**

- 10 years - Focus always evolving
- Cycling is definitely high on the agenda
- Sometimes it is a hard sell

We are always looking for new ways or tools to encourage behaviour change

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eBike Story time

- John was in the army cycling team but hadn't ridden a bike in 30 years – he was inspired
- Linda rode every day bar one – never before
- Darryl had a double knee reco – did site visits
- Nicole mentioned the bike was a conversation starter when you are out and about
- Gerry saved $80 in fuel for his fortnight –still does many of his site inspections, City trips

- Sharon would rather watch the river flow than traffic not flow (same time includes selfies)
- Tara loves zipping home to walk her dog at lunch
- Sam was surprised at how easy it was to transition from a normal bike
- Sally thought the whole experience was great fun and so easy the anyone could use one

WHY ALL THIS YOU ASK ?

- Trying to convey the potential energy

…empowering people to make travel decisions

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Ebike e-Bike E-bike eBike !?

- A bike with a battery & electric motor to assist
- We have been bit slow to embrace this technology compared to the rest of the world
- Recent State Gov planning notes the eBike as a future transport mode

What's good

- New tool to bust excuses with !
  - I was convinced in 10 seconds
- No sweat – no shower – no changing
- Helps on the hills and wind
- Minimal fitness / Injury
- Easy, fast (25km/h) and comfortable
- Cheap to run – 60-80 km range 6-8 cents
- Can carry or tow heavy loads

What's bad

- Pretty expensive (relative bike terms)
- Heavy / Big / Bulky
- Possible target for theft
- Need to consider battery is a consumable.
  - 600 full charges = $1000 – varies greatly
- Servicing can costs a bit more than a normal bike
- Another bike in the shed

  (but maybe 1 less car in the garage)

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Variation

- Technology = Evolution
- New (urban) transport options

How trial began for us

- The RAC trial – 40 eBikes over 4 workplaces
  - Received much acclaim – valuable research
  - Almost halving commuting trips by car for trial
- 3 hours - between hearing about and trying to get us involved – No good
- BUT before I knew it we were asked to be involved the “Switched on Bikes” initiative

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Starting Switched on Bikes

- Switch your thinking + RAC Sponsorships
- Belmont was first up
- 4 eBikes for 11 weeks (April – June 2016)
- Pre promoted the program
  - email / posters / parked a bike lunchroom
- 34 people interested – >20%

SWITCHED ON BIKES

Following the success of the recent RAC e-Bike Trial, RAC sponsored 'Switched on Bikes', a project delivered by the South East Regional Energy Group to increase awareness and uptake of electric bikes and help reduce congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.

Switched on Bikes forms part of the broader 'Switch Your Thinking' sustainability initiative led by the group.

The project included a four-month community engagement program and a workplace e-bike trial that was offered to 'Switch Your Thinking' member councils.

The City of Gosnells, City of Armadale, City of Belmont, City of Perth, Town of Victoria Park and the City of Wanneroo all registered to participate in the e-bike trial and each were gifted at least one e-bike to encourage staff to take part.

The City of Belmont has reported that of its 21 e-bike trial participants, 90 per cent had never previously ridden an e-bike. However, during the trial they replaced 67 per cent of car trips with e-bike trips.

After the trial, each council will integrate their gifted e-bike(s) into their respective pool bike schemes, so that staff can utilise them for business commuting on a regular basis.

The complete trial results will be collated in June 2017.

Training Session

- Proviso of the scheme was formal training
- Good and bad
  - Great intro (only 2 people had used before)
  - Makes it exclusive - but may limit participation
  - Peoples own lunch time – 2 sessions only
  - Allows people to be part of the 'buzz'
  - Good social / atmosphere
  - Definitely misses a segment of people
- We initially trained 26 people *(34)*

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On Your Bikes

- After training it all happened pretty fast
  - I was operating a very fluid methodology
- 18 people took a bike home to try
  - 1-2 weeks exclusive use (initially)
  - 12 people rode to work
  - 4 new people tried riding to work
- Slotted other interested people during/ after
- A couple never got back on bikes after training - confidence

On Your Bikes

- Total for Trial - 1195km travelled
  - At home, to work and site visits
- Number of trips etc , breakdown of each or more detailed data
  - Is available but not really reliable
  - See RAC write ups for quality data in this area

Since then

- Very lucky to have inherited 2 bikes
- Another training session myself
  - Operations Centre - 12 people
- New people using the bikes more and more
  - Stuart Cole promises me - home to work
  - Booked out to commute more often than not
  - Part time commuter from Double View to CoB
  - More and more site inspections

Focus on Work trips

- We work in centre of our City – 6 km max
- Doing time trials vs cars to certain locations
  - Map for reference and as a tool
- Site inspections logging
  - 2 week journey log in Parks & Environment (7)
  - 23 work trips
  - 10 said eBike useful when on site
  - 5 done on the eBikes (21% of trips)

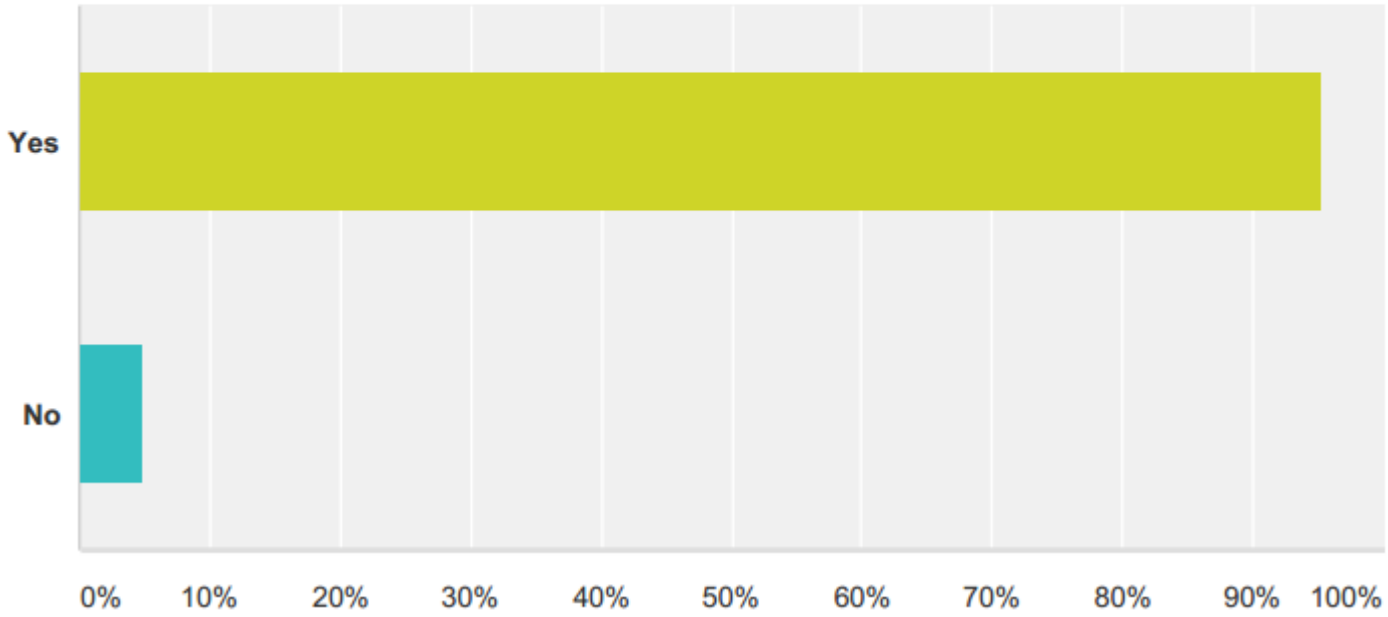
After that

- Booking in focused sessions with relevant areas – Planning, Building, Parks etc
- Trying to picking up some people we have missed first time around
- Thinking ahead
  - CoB bike fleet will always involve electric bikes
  - New community building bike parking with charging points etc
  - Updating Planning scheme guidance document to include information about electric bikes

eBikes in your fleet ?

Q13 If your workplace had a pool of e-bikes for loan, would you consider switching some of your work-related car trips to e-bike trips?

Answered: 21 Skipped: 0



eBikes in your fleet ?

- Perfect low $ project in the transport / climate change / environment / wellbeing space
- Need a coordinator
  - time to run a program
  - completely familiar with the bikes
  - charging, punctures, changeovers, refreshers, training
- Insurance and risk
  - Get that done early
- Storage and charging of the bikes

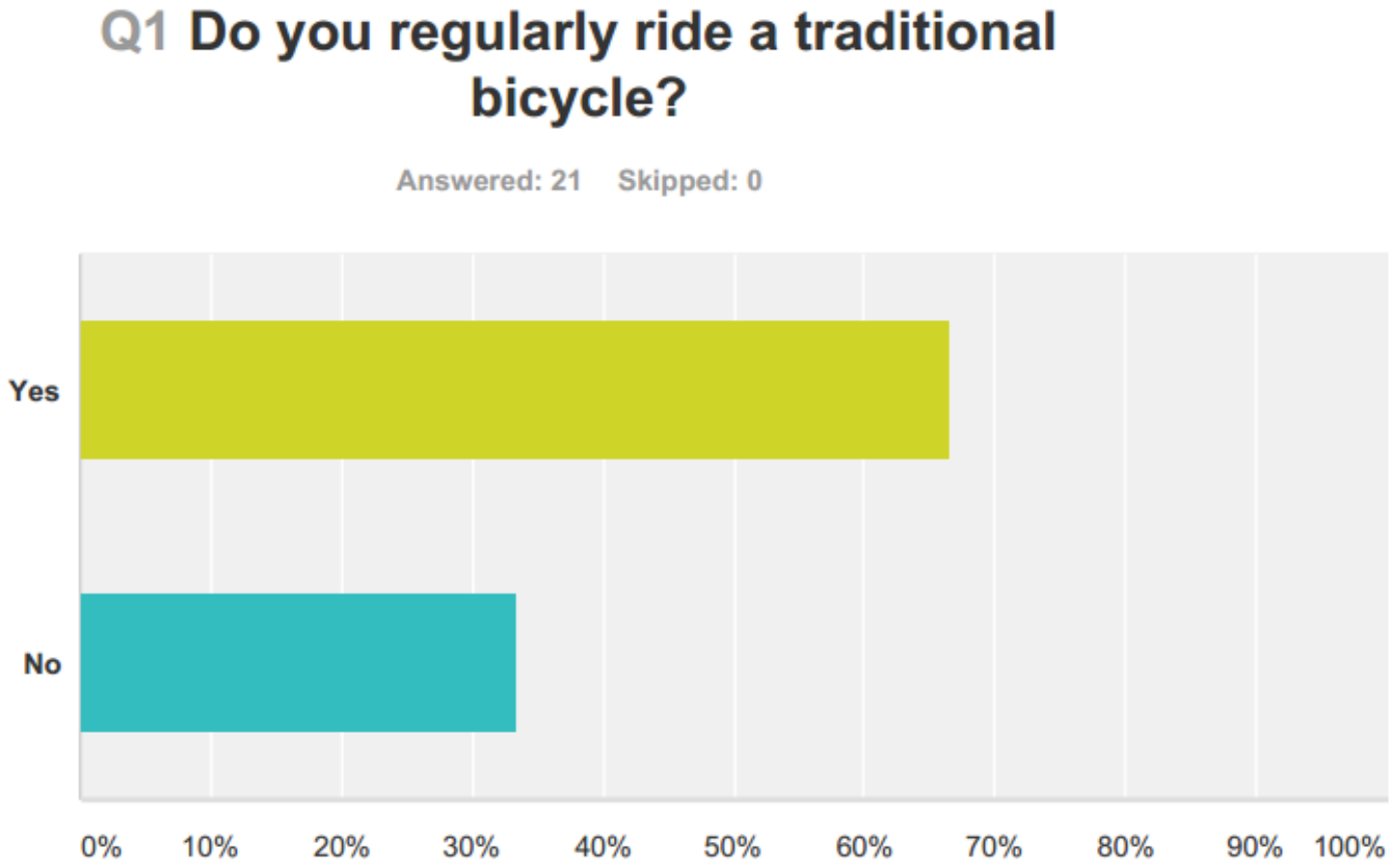
Leanings

- Electric Bike definitely a tool for change
- Positive for the organisation
- Embrace the excitement after training/1st go
  - Get the people out on them ASAP
  - Quick trips vs starting the long trials
- Focus on small groups (areas at a time)
- Partner up to share the work and $ load
- Walk in others footsteps
- Offer general bike skills course

Leanings

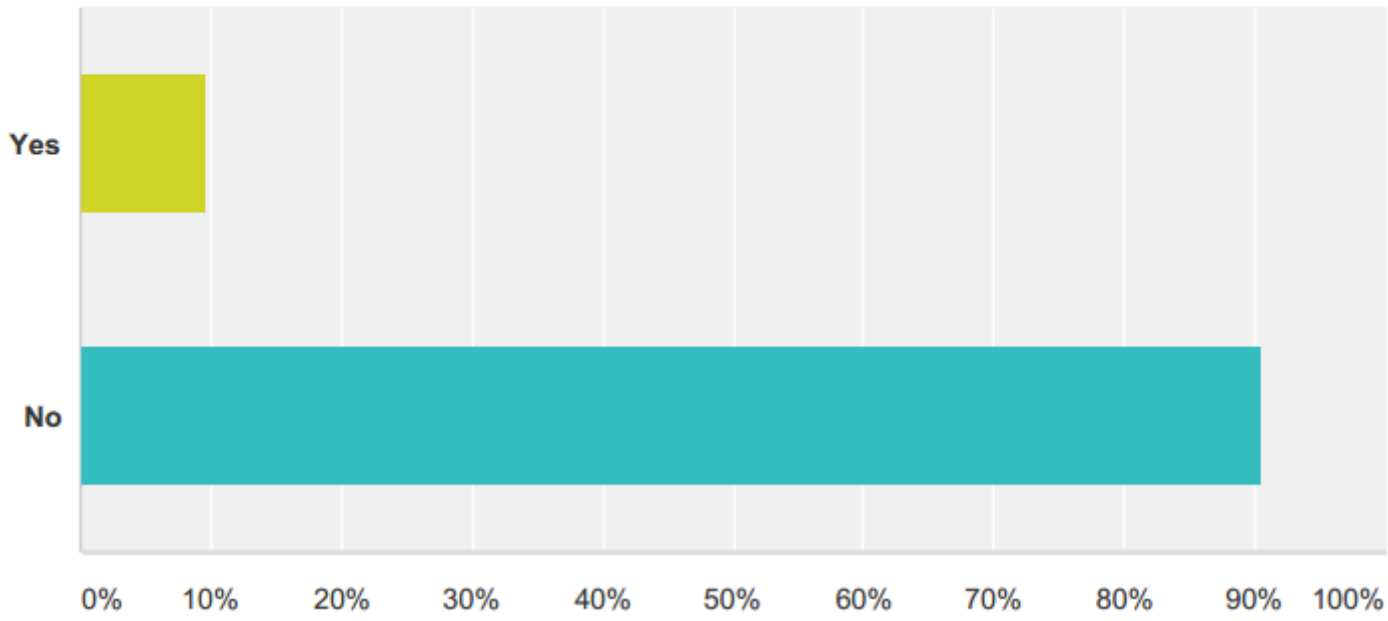
- One bike doesn't fit all
- Good data – needs good planning
  - Pre survey
  - Try electronic trip log (spreadsheet)
  - be strict with it
- Everybody loves a challenge/competition
  - Play departments off

All graphs are from after survey



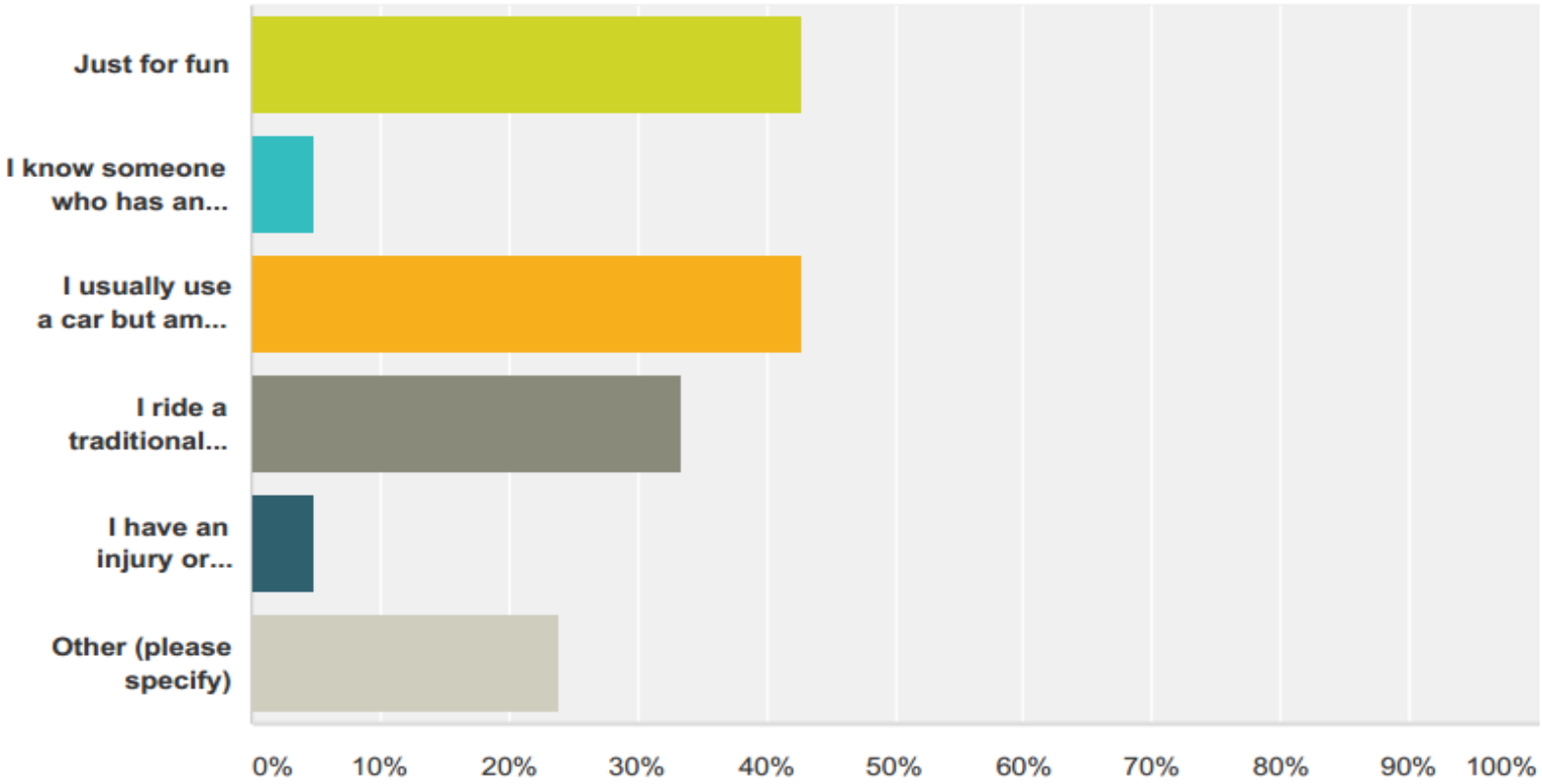
Q3 Before Switched on bikes, had you ridden an e-bike?

Answered: 21 Skipped: 0



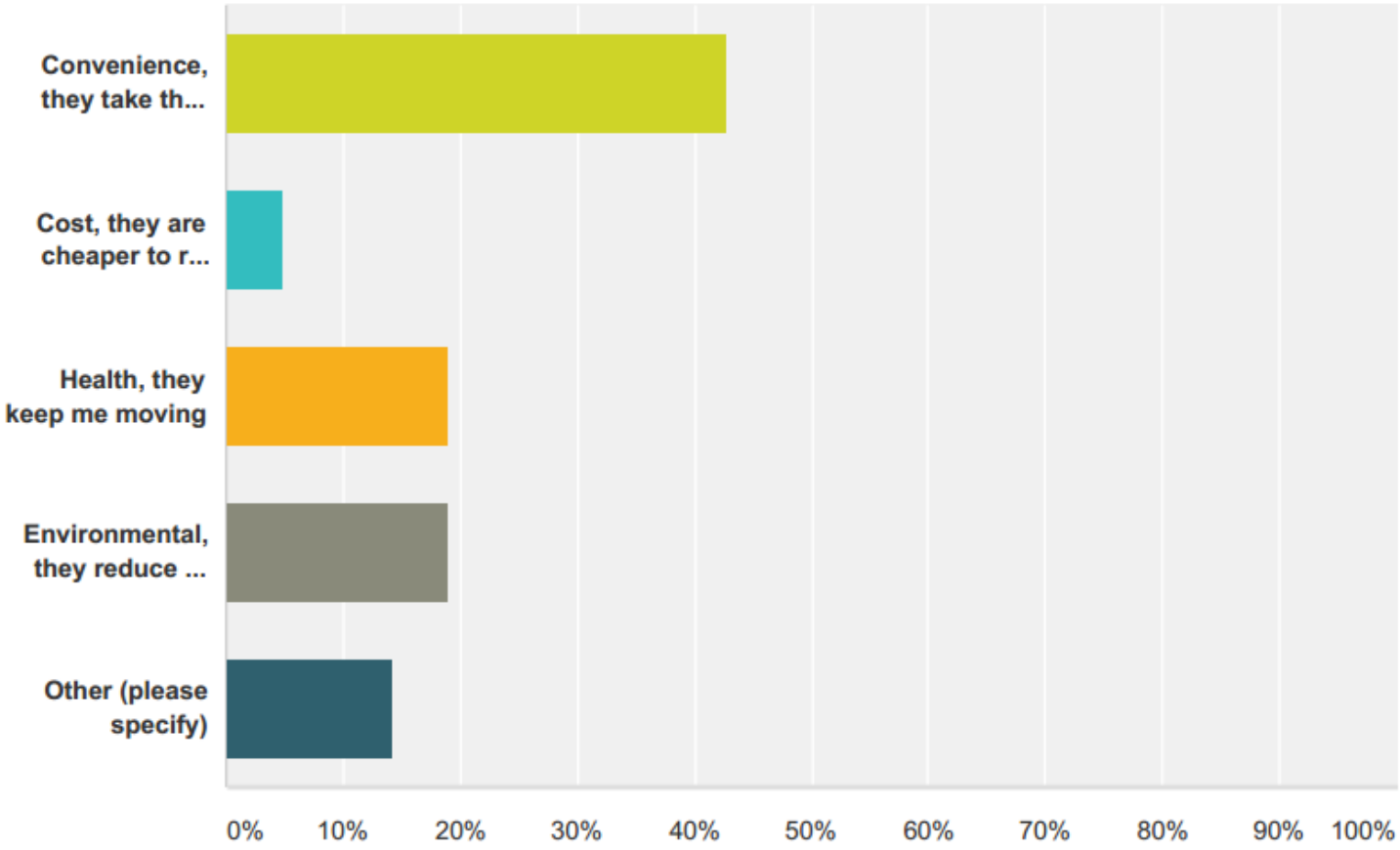
Q2 Why did you want to trial an e-bike?

Answered: 21 Skipped: 0



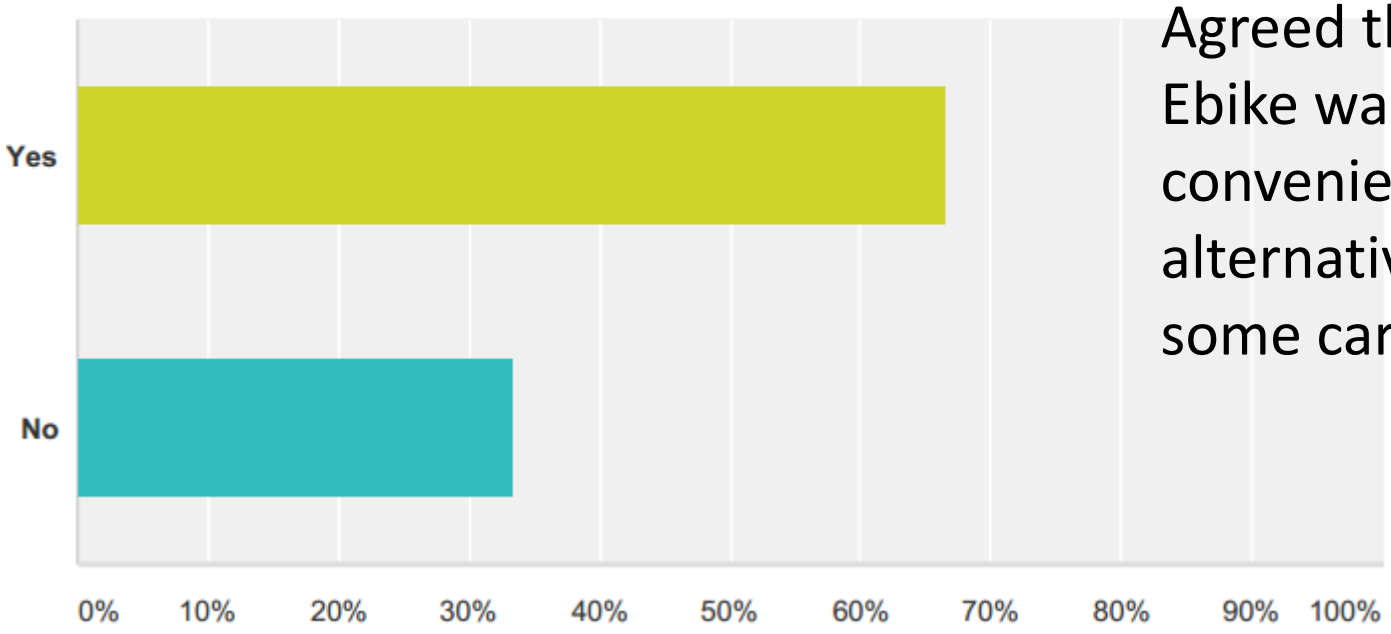
Q8 What do you think is the greatest benefit of an e-bike?

Answered: 21 Skipped: 0



Q9 Did you replace car trips with e-bike trips?

Answered: 21 Skipped: 0



85% of people Agreed that the Ebike was a convenient alternative to some car trips.

Q14 If a friend or family member asked you about your experience on an e-bike, what would you say?

Answered: 21 Skipped: 0

Q17 Any other comments.

Answered: 12 Skipped: 9

Climate Change

- Is the eBike the transport emissions silver bullet ?
- Will introducing eBikes into your fleet significantly reduce your emissions?
  - Last year CoB fleet made about 250 tonnes C02
  - If all our Ebike trial km were all work km = 0.1% of that
  - Extrapolate that out for the year and round up

Lets make that a more respectable 1% ☺

Climate Change

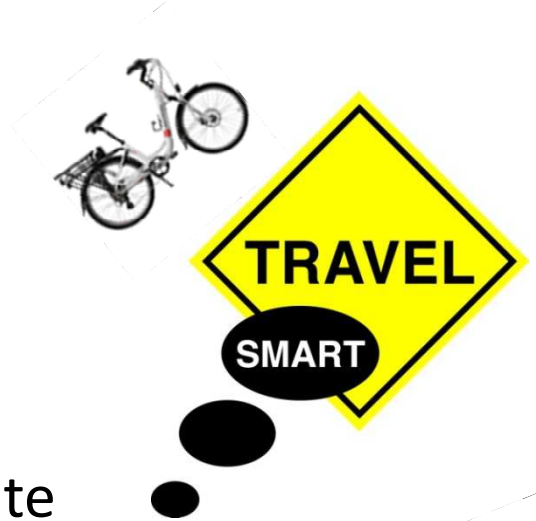
BUT

- Does every trip you make outside a car make you healthier, happier, more relaxed ?
- Does getting places on a bike get you more connected with the places you go and the community you serve ?
- Does every km travelled ultimately contribute to a reduction in emissions ?

Thank you!

Switch Your Thinking / Switched on Bikes team

RAC



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