

Government Operations/ Courts Relocation Opportunities Analysis Advisory Services Update

For the County of Albemarle Board of Supervisors
November 16, 2017

Development Advisory Services Update

Goals for today's work session discussion:

- Follow up on questions from 11/8/17 BOS Work Session
- Present a summary of findings from the Adjacency study and respond to Board questions
- Closed Session

Upcoming Key Events / Milestones

☐ November

- ✓ 8th Work Session
 - ✓ Criteria Confirmation
 - ✓ Content review - Program Analysis
 - ✓ P3 RFP – process/timeframe
- ☐ 16th Work Session
 - Content review – Adjacency Study
 - Closed session

☐ December

- ☐ 6th – Deliverables from Stantec
- ☐ 12th – Fiscal Impact Model meetings (2x1 meetings)
- ☐ 13th work session – initial report on 3 concepts, costs, fiscal impacts, economic benefits, etc
- ☐ 18th Public Hearing
- ☐ 20th – Action meeting

Nov 8th Follow Up Items

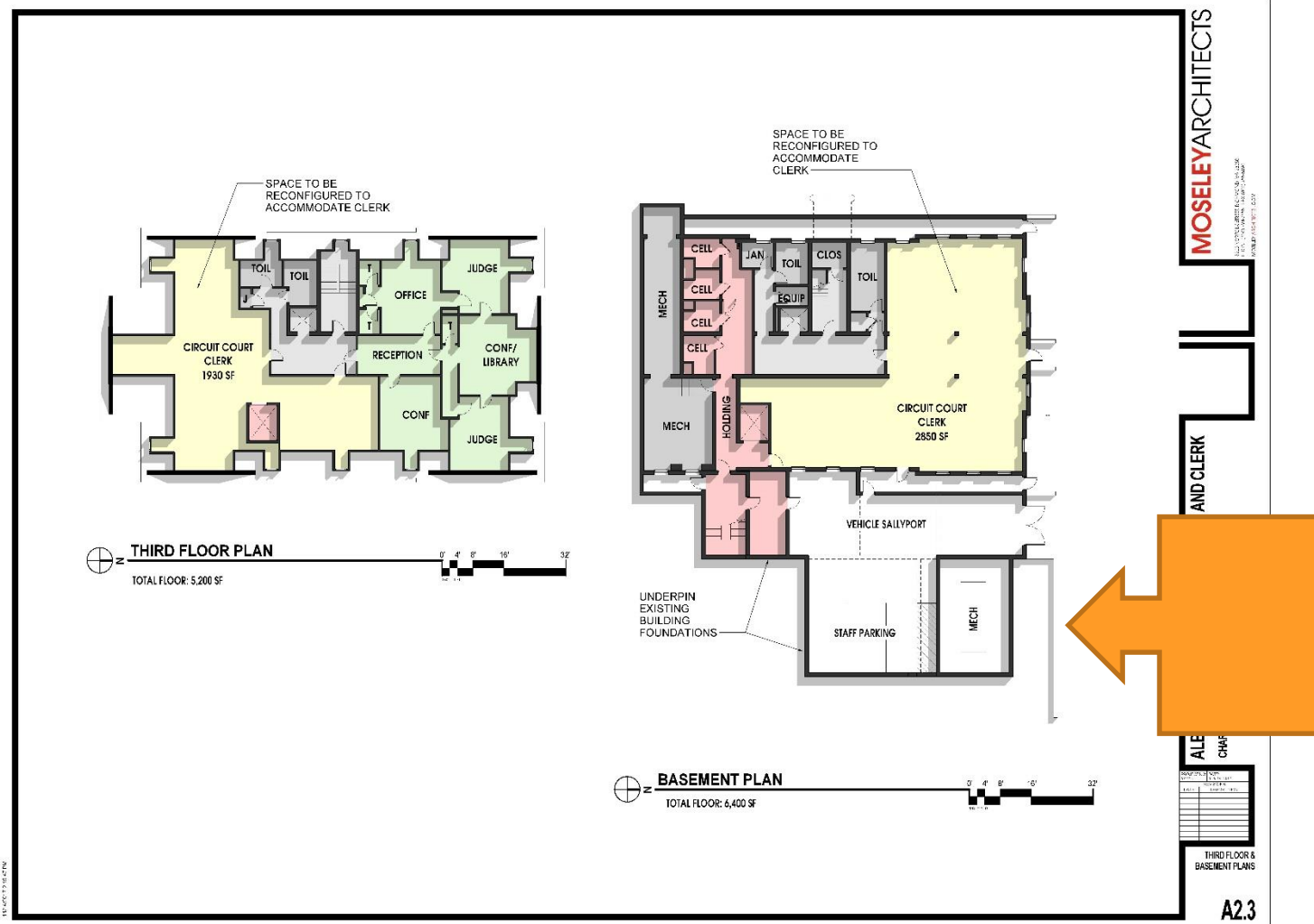
- VA Courthouse Facility Guidelines – Provided to the BOS
- Secure parking for Judges at Downtown Circuit Court
 - Not programmed in original Dewberry Study
 - Analysis from Moseley in process

Nov 8th Follow Up Items



Existing Secure Sally port for Prisoner drop off

Nov 8th Follow Up Items



Propose Expansion concept for adding 3 secure Judge parking spots

Nov 8th Follow Up Items

- Additional Information to be provided:
 - Updated Programming Analysis document for Courts
 - Revised cost estimate adding secure parking for Judges at Downtown Circuit Court
 - Information regarding Cost and delays associated with the J&DR Courts Project (City Fiscal Agent, co funded with County)

National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Court Location Operations Impact Review

Albemarle County, Virginia

November 16, 2017

Greg Langham

Agenda

Scope of Study

Approach and Methodology

Stakeholder Survey & Feedback

Public Survey

NCSC General Observations & Conclusions

Questions

Scope of Study

- Deliverable: identify and compare operational, efficiency, potential cost and convenience of maintaining Albemarle County Circuit and General District Courts in current location vs relocating those functions to an area in the County

Approach and Methodology

- **Stakeholder Focus Groups and Interviews**

- Twelve (12) focus groups
 - Thirty-two (32) officials/representatives interviewed
 - Representing sixteen (16) offices
- Objective: Gather *stakeholder perspectives*

Approach and Methodology

- **Surveys (Information Gathering)**
 - Developed by County officials and project consultants
 - To solicit court users feedback
 - In neutral forum
 - Survey questionnaire process used for information gathering
 - Not intended as a vote for or against any aspect of the Board's considerations.

Approach and Methodology

Surveys Designed

- To protect the identities of the respondents
- To receive high-level information
- To obtain general feedback to assist the NCSC to conduct its overall assessment

Approach and Methodology

Surveys Not Designed

- To be extensively vetted scientific data gathering instruments
- To be sole data-gathering venue
- To provide advanced statistical analysis
- To be a scientific survey
 - Takes much more time and resources to develop, test, administer and analyze

Approach and Methodology

- **Stakeholder Survey**

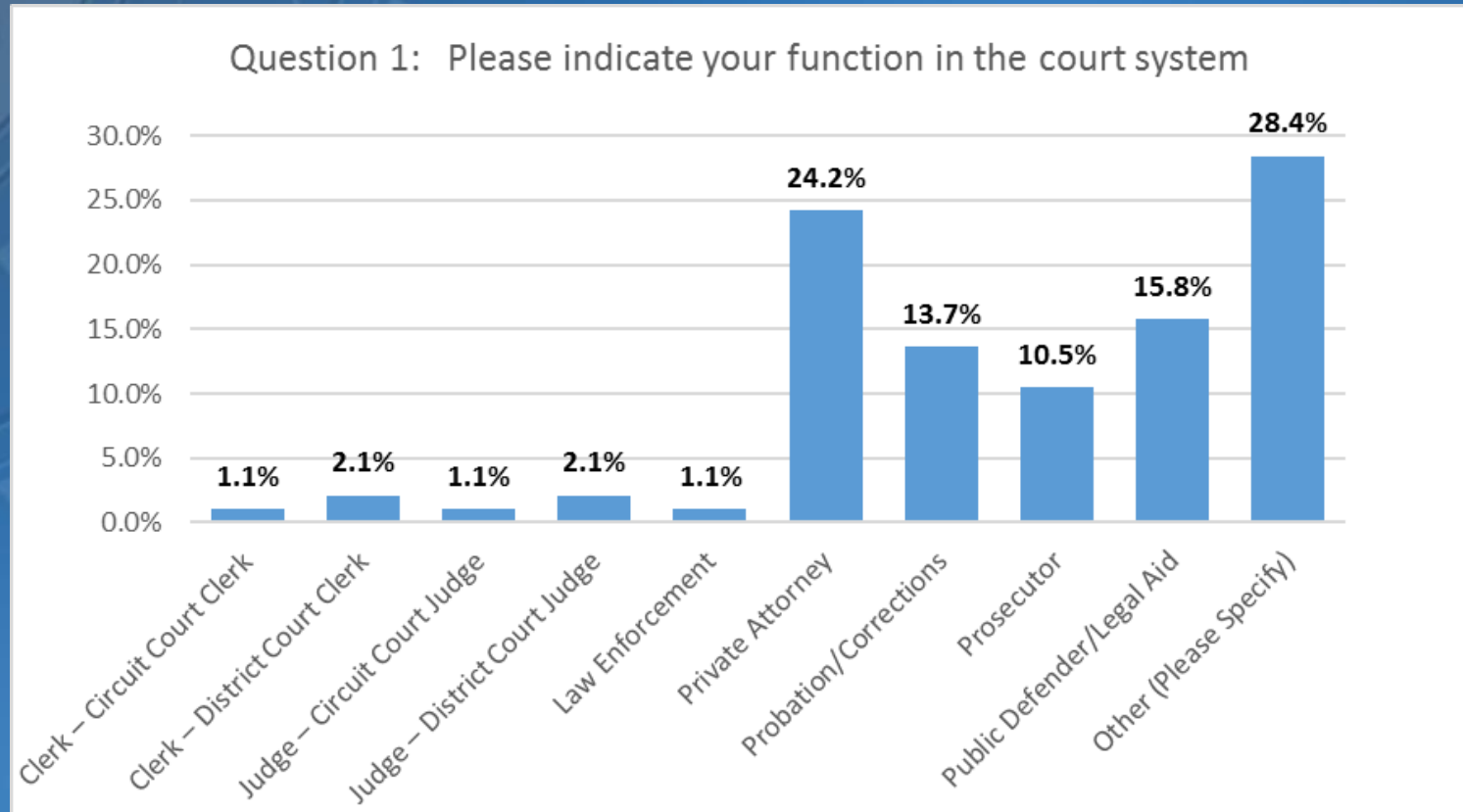
- Distributed to professionals directly involved in court functions
- 98 targeted surveys received (1 disqualified response)

- **Public Survey**

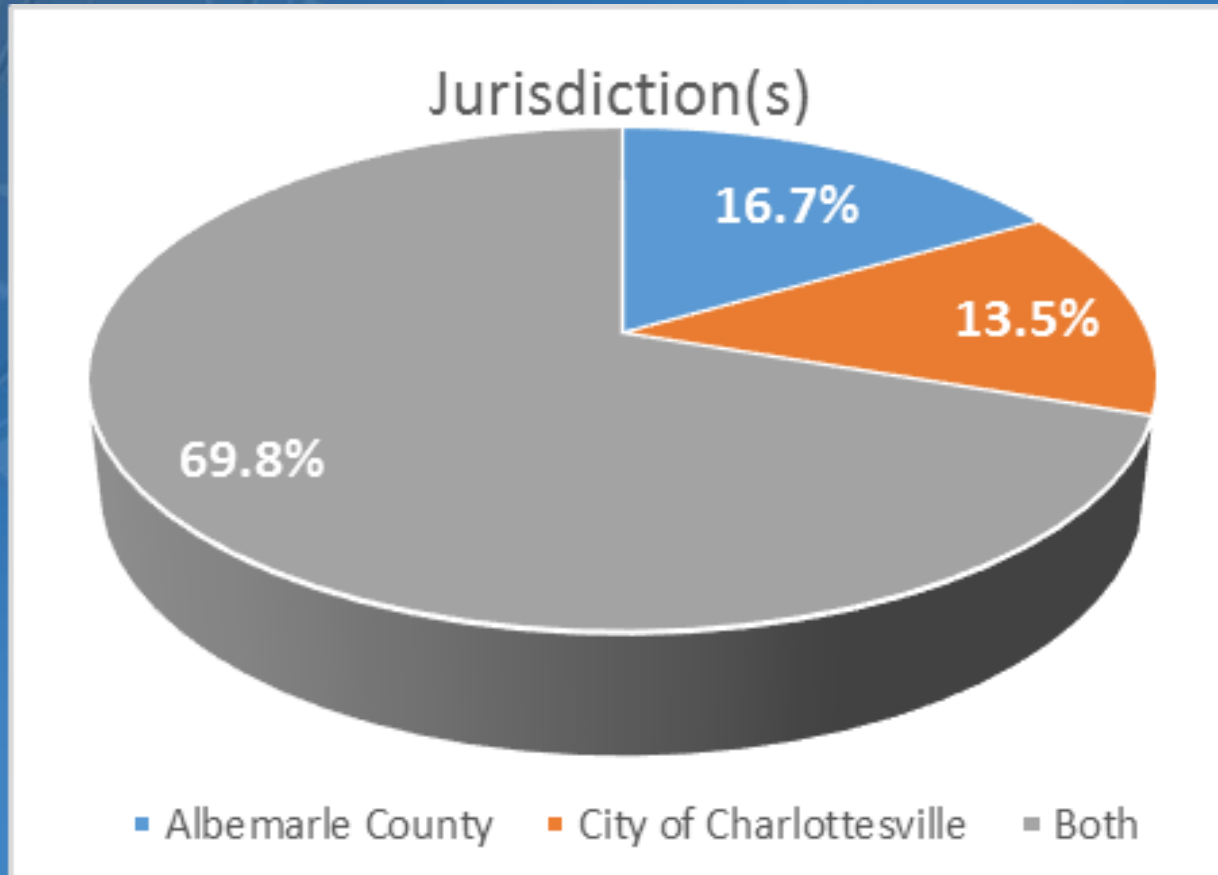
- Posted on the County's Website
- Press Release
- Sent via A-mail
- Posted on County Twitter & Facebook sites
- 519 responses received (15 disqualified)

Stakeholder Survey Summary

Stakeholder Court System Function



Stakeholder Jurisdiction



Option 1

Benefits

- Continuances and court delay reduced as judges and lawyers cover for each other in the single location
- Enhanced access from convenient public transportation
- Enhanced access to court-related services due to central court services

Option 1

Benefits

- Convenient communication between attorneys, court services providers and the public.
- Circuit Court appellate review of Juvenile/Domestic Relations cases easier due to central location of both
- Secure transport of criminal defendants easily achieved within one court location
- Court Square location carries significant historical image

Option 1 Challenges

- Parking inadequate
- Signage needs improvement
- Need resolution to law enforcement jurisdictional boundary concerns
- Court security issues to be addressed
 - Transporting in-custody defendants
 - Courthouse entry screening

Option 5

Benefits

- Parking is sufficient
- New facility plans include enhanced technology and ADA requirements
- New facility plans for improved court security
- New facility plans for modern court operations and possibly court services space

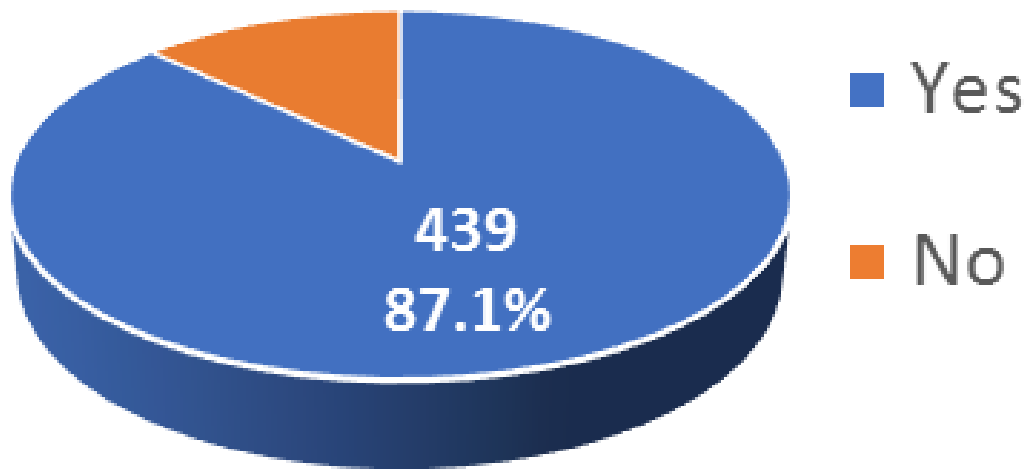
Option 5 Challenges

- Public transportation currently inadequate
- Additional staff may be needed
- Court security costs may increase
- Cases could be delayed and attorney fees may increase with decreased convenient, daily interactions among attorney
- Attorneys may face more schedule conflicts
- Attorney and judge peer coverage opportunities reduced
- Public confusion about court locations
- Court delays due to driving distance
- In-courtroom security

Public Survey Summary

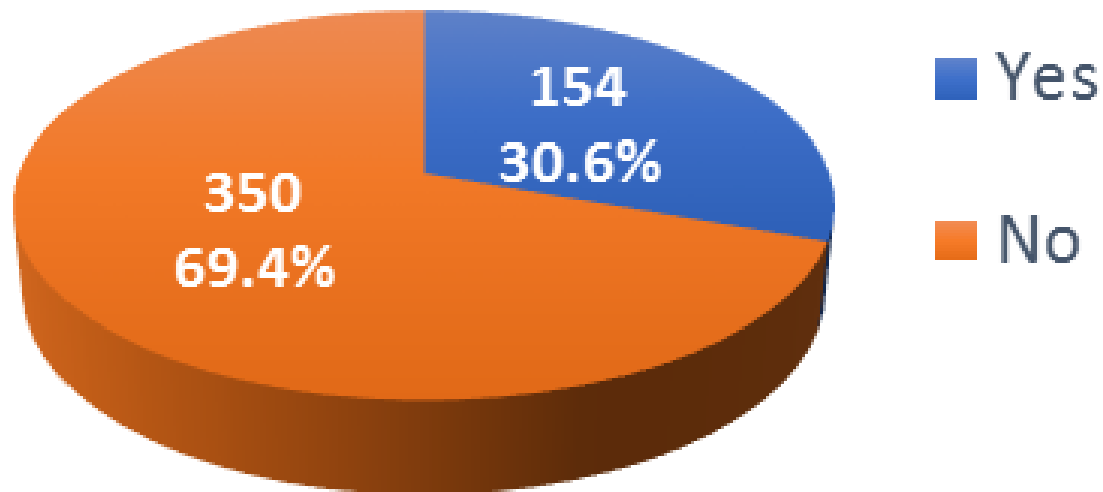
Where Public Participant Lives?

Live in the County

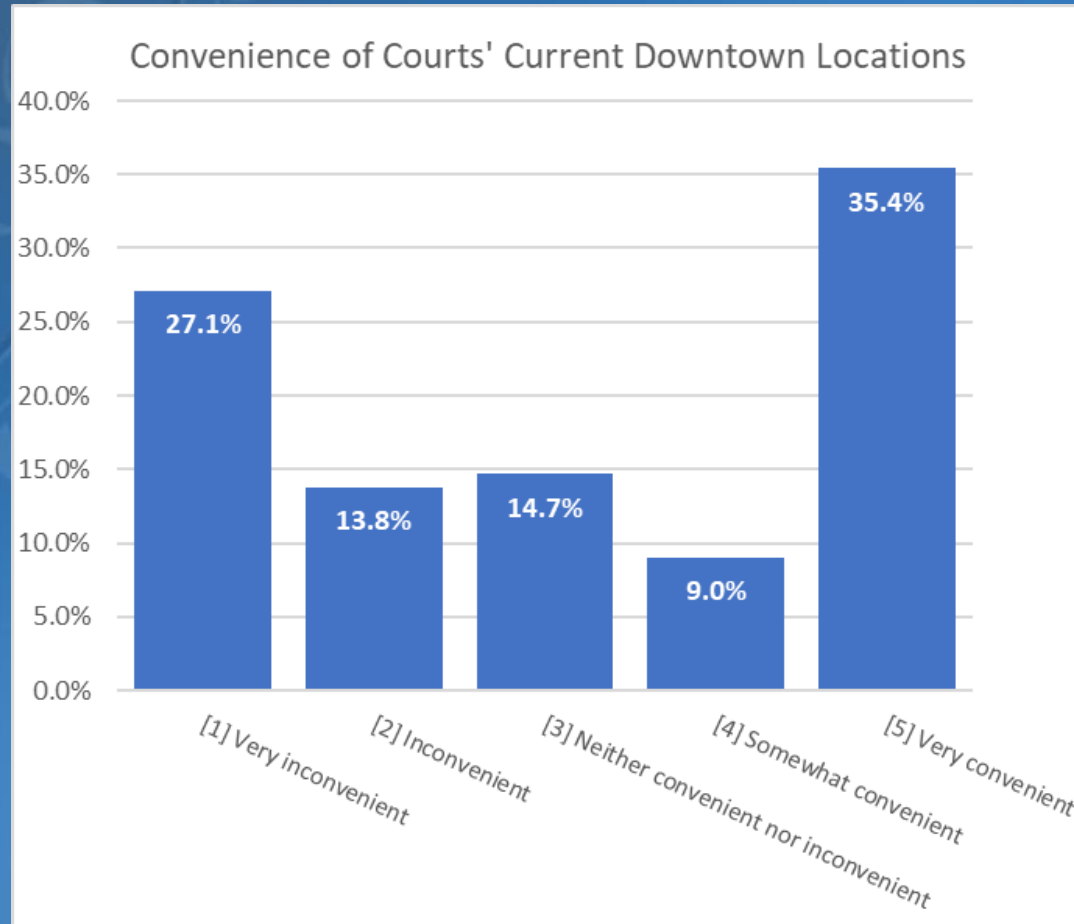


Public Participants' Connection to Legal or Court Community

Part of Legal Community and/or Routinely Work with Court System

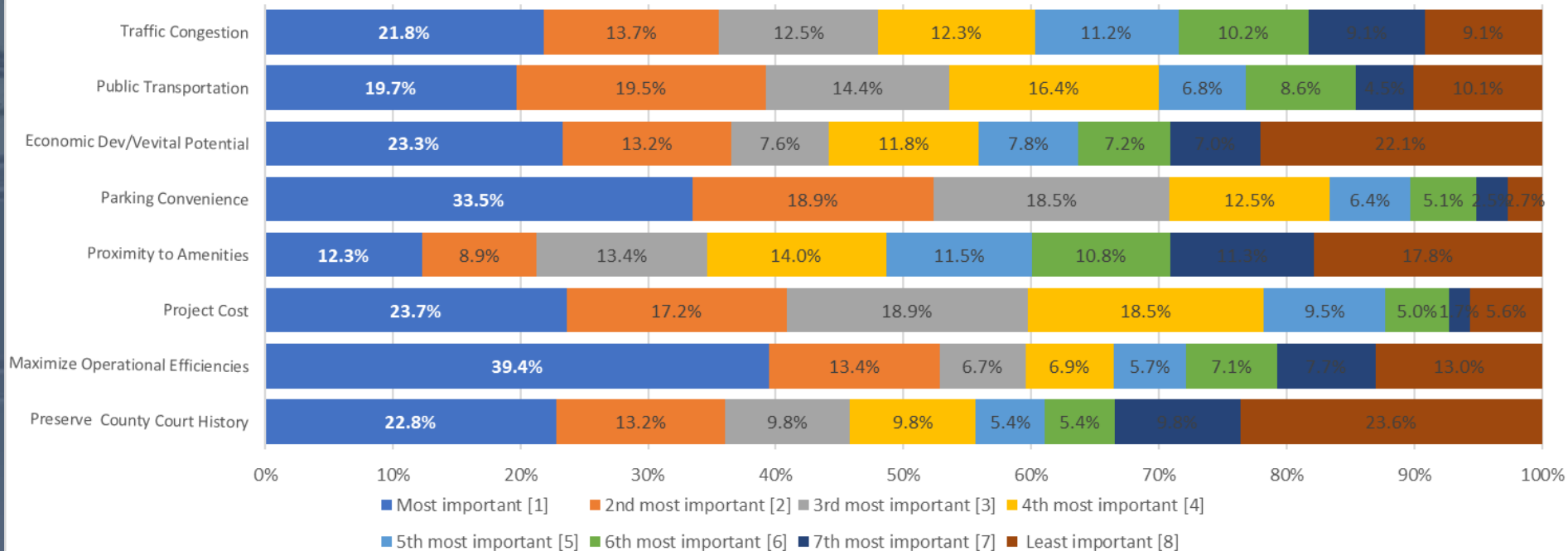


Summary of Public Survey Results



Summary of Public Survey Results

Question 8: Most Important Project Considerations in Deciding on the Location Options



Public Survey Key Concerns

- Option 1 Location
 - Lack of available parking
 - Traffic congestion
 - Confusion about where to report
- Option 5 Location
 - Court users responded as very inconvenient location (61%)
 - Non Court users assessment mixed (33% very convenient vs 29% very inconvenient)

NCSC General Observations & Conclusions

Information Gathering + Stakeholder
Interviews

NCSC General Observations

Option 5 Considerations

- Provide additional satellite space for court services and other courts programs
- Coordinate court schedules/calendars between locations
- Develop case flow management procedures to avoid court delay
- Improved Public transportation will be vital if relocation occurs

NCSC General Observations

Option 5 Considerations

- Add additional resources as required to minimize impacts:
- Recommendations from Stakeholder Interviews
 - The Commonwealth Attorney projects 2 additional FTEs
 - Court Services projects ½ - 1 additional FTE
 - The Sheriff's Department projects 5 additional FTEs to address transport and security needs
 - Potential need for additional Interpreters, other support functions as needed

NCSC General Observations

- **Considerations for any option:**
 - Use of electronic court records, website and additional technology increases efficiency of court operations, interaction with stakeholders and the public, no matter the location
 - Parking issues and public transportation should be a consideration
 - Wayfinding signage should be improved in Court Square and planned well for in any new location

NCSC Conclusions

- Project focus was to:
 - Gather Stakeholder and Public feedback
 - Evaluate in terms of impact on court operations in terms of facility location
- Project conclusion
 - Either facility location could work, with positive and negative trade-offs with either option under consideration
 - Co-location of General District Court optimizes GDC court efficiency (near term)

NCSC Conclusions

- Many concerns reported can either be mitigated or alleviated through changes in Court Management practices and use of technology
- Much of the concerns have to do with what people get used to in a jurisdiction
- Focus on best practices in operating the court and justice entities. Most courts work that into whatever facility from which they operate

Questions