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### **Background & Methodology**

In March 2022, the City of Saskatoon (the City) contracted Insightrix® Research Inc. (Insightrix) to conduct a public survey with residents and businesses in Saskatoon to gather feedback on two potential sites for a new downtown event centre / arena.

The key research objective of this survey was to gather public feedback on opportunities and challenges for each potential location. The questionnaire used in this study was developed by the City in collaboration with Insightrix.

Mode

- Multi-mode survey (online & in-person)
- The pick list options for key questions (opportunities and challenges of each site) were determined based on coded open-ended comments collected during the representative survey. Respondents were not limited to the pick list and could provide open text responses not identified in the pick list.
- •Data was collected from September 13 to October 3, 2022 (online survey) and until October 9, 2022 (in-person surveys).

Sample Source

- •A link to the online survey was made available to the public on the City of Saskatoon website and promoted by the City through various online, print and social media channels.
- •Insightrix contacted 248 businesses in Saskatoon by telephone to raise awareness of the online survey.
- •Insightrix staff conducted 401 in-person surveys at a number of locations throughout Saskatoon. Questions were administered via tablets.

Responses

- •8,378 total responses to the open survey
- 7,885 individuals
- 493 businesses / associations / organizations / property managers

## In-Person Surveying Locations (number of surveys completed)

| River Landing / Riversdale | 153 |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Downtown Core              | 48  |
| Midtown Shopping Centre    | 42  |
| Open Door Society          | 26  |
| City Park                  | 23  |
| Confederation Mall         | 22  |
| Caswell Hill               | 22  |
| Lawson Civic Centre        | 20  |
| TCU Place                  | 17  |
| SaskTel Centre             | 14  |
| The Centre Mall            | 7   |
| Market Mall                | 7   |
| Total                      | 401 |
|                            |     |



### **Survey Introductory Material**

The following background information and map were presented to respondents prior to completing the survey.

In November 2018, Saskatoon's City Council decided that planning should begin on the development of a Downtown Event & Entertainment District as part of a larger vision to revitalize Saskatoon's Downtown. Anchored by a new event centre/arena and a new or enhanced convention centre, and connected to the rest of the city by a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system, the District will be a shared public space offering residents and visitors a gathering place for entertainment and events.

City Administration retained consultants to assist with technical assessments of five potential Downtown locations for an event centre/arena. Based on these assessments and the City's own analysis, two sites have been determined as feasible options and have been ranked based on technical criteria (e.g., available land area, access to parking, proximity to a future BRT station and existing businesses, etc.).

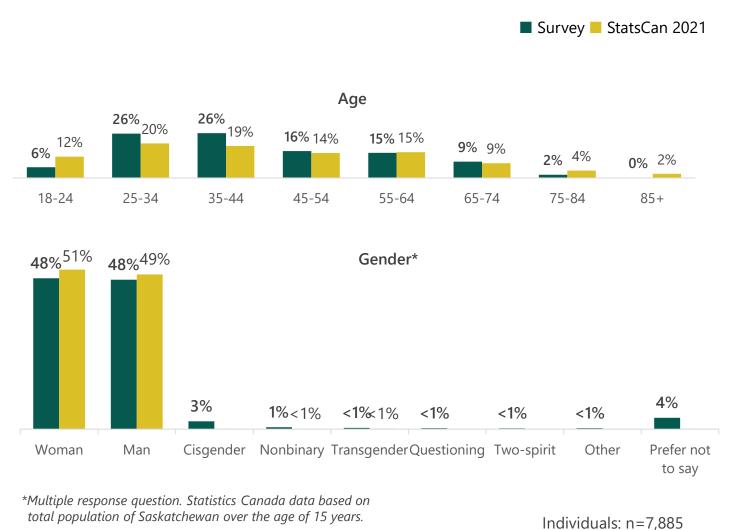
One site has the highest technical score based on the approved evaluation criteria, with the other site location provided as a viable alternative. The City is now seeking feedback from the community on the opportunities and challenges of each site. This feedback will be shared with City Council, who will then make the final decision on the location for the event center/arena, which will become a key anchor for further development of the District.

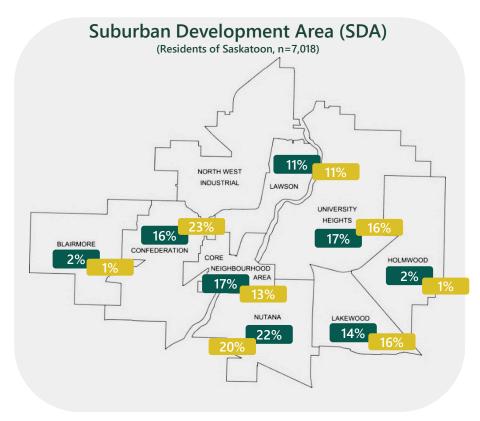




## Who We Surveyed – Individuals

Demographic questions were asked to help understand who we heard from. The distribution of age, gender and SDA in the open survey closely align with the representative survey and Statistics Canada data on the total population of Saskatoon.





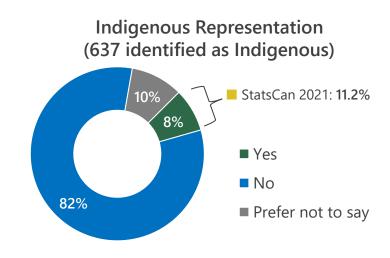


als: n=7,885

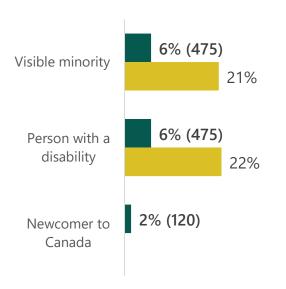
### **Other Individual Demographics**

Additional demographic questions were asked to help understand who we heard from. Representation from some demographics is comparatively lower than Statistics Canada Census data. It is worth noting that were almost 1,600 participants, or 20 percent of the sample, who identified as Indigenous, a visible minority or a person with a disability.





#### **Minority Group Representation\***



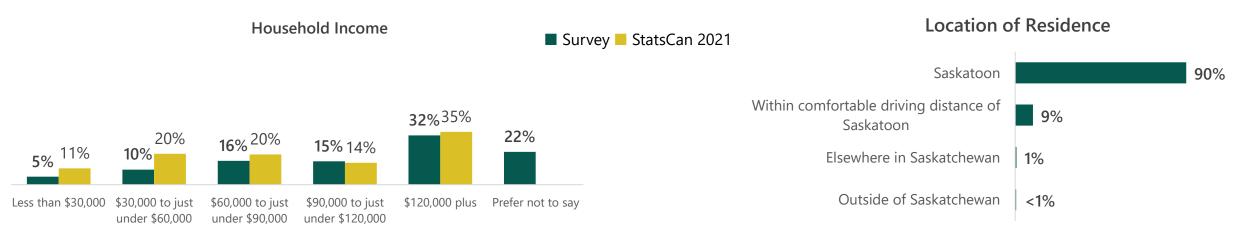
\*Statistics Canada 2019 data based on total population of Saskatchewan over the age of 15 years.

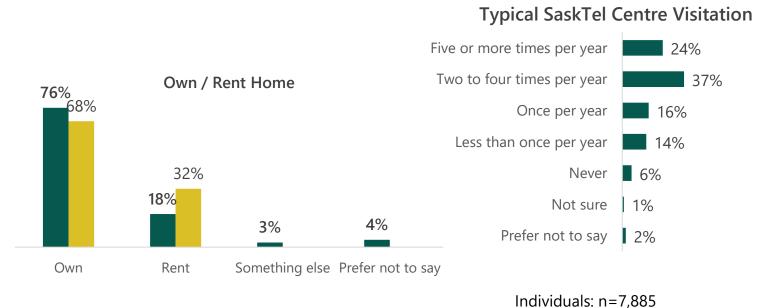
Individuals: n=7,885

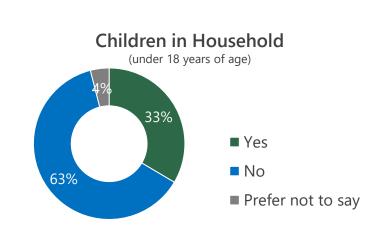


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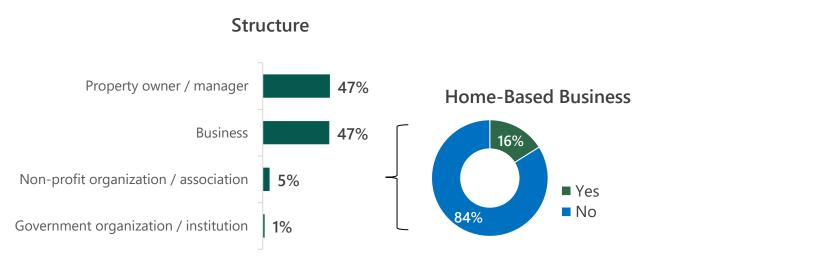




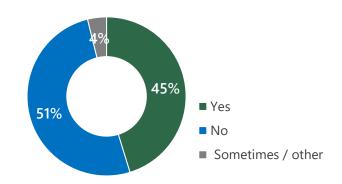


## Who We Surveyed – Businesses & Organizations

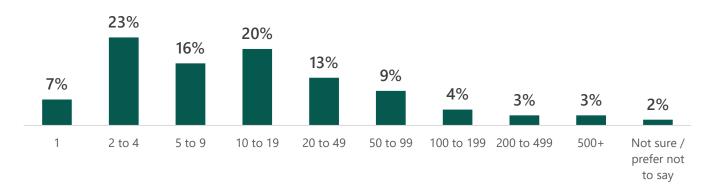
Profiling questions were asked to help understand who we heard from. Almost half of businesses and organizations are located in the Downtown core. Two-thirds of the business respondents have less than 20 employees.







Number of Employees (Excluding Property Managers, n=261)

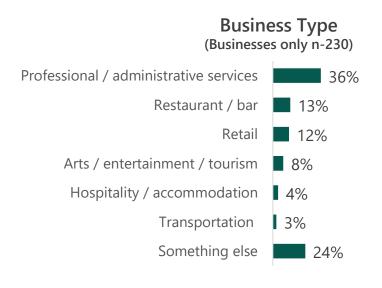


Businesses & Organizations n=493

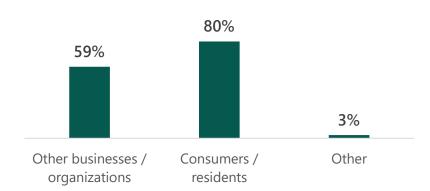


## **Other Business & Organization Demographics**

Profiling questions were asked to help understand who we heard from.



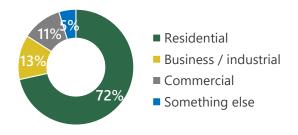




# Organization / Association Area of Operation (n=31)



# Type of Property Managed (Property Managers Only, n=232)







### **Reporting Notes & Study Limitations**

#### **Reporting Notes**

- Percentages shown in this report are based off the total number of responses received unless otherwise specified. Base sizes and descriptions for each question can be found at the bottom of each reporting page.
- Data have been rounded to zero decimal places; therefore, percentages may not add up precisely to 100% on some graphs.
- Statistically significant differences between sample subsets (age, gender, neighbourhood / business structure, type, size, location, etc.) have been highlighted in this report with a "▲" or "▼". A standard alpha value of less than 0.05 is considered statistically significant. This means there is less than a 5% chance the results would have occurred by chance.
- Online and in-person survey data has been combined for the purpose of this report.
- Open-ended questions have been themed and coded into categories. The percentages from individual codes could total more than 100%, as comments from each respondent could be relevant to more than one code.
- 'Other mentions' represent coded open-ended responses for which there aren't enough similar responses to form a common theme.
- Due to the limited number of responses from gender identities other than "man" or "woman," only those two categories are utilized for comparative analysis in this report.

#### **Study Limitations**

- Survey responses are meant to give a snapshot of resident and business opinions. The opinions expressed in this report may not reflect those of all residents or businesses and organizations.
- Respondents may be more likely to identify opportunities and / or challenges in a pick-list style question as opposed to an open-text response option as was in the representative sample survey. As such, results could differ somewhat compared with the representative survey results.
- Picklist options are open to respondent interpretations which could impact results.
- The surveys were primarily offered online, which can be restrictive as to who can participate. To mitigate this limitation, in-person 'intercept' surveys were conducted at various locations. Customer service also entered surveys for those who phoned the City to provide their input.







#### **Insightrix Research Inc.**



### **Key Findings – Midtown Shopping Centre North Parking Lot**

Key findings include the top three items from the pick lists for each question, as well as notable differences by demographic groupings.

#### **Key opportunities:**

- Proximity to amenities such as restaurants, bars, shopping, hotels and other entertainment venues (63%)
- Central location (54%)
- Increased downtown activities (53%)
- Men, young (ages 18-34) and middle-aged (ages 35-54) adults, as well as residents of the downtown core are most likely to identify opportunities with the Midtown Shopping Centre North Parking Lot location
- Respondents who visit SaskTel Centre less than once per year are also more likely to identify opportunities with the site
- Businesses and organizations who operate in the downtown core are more likely to identify opportunities such as increased downtown activity, access to transit, traffic flow and parking availability

#### **Key challenges:**

- Traffic flow / congestion (70%)
- Parking availability (70%)
- Crowding / small space (58%)
- Price of parking (58%)
- Older adults (ages 55+), women, residents who live outside of the downtown core and those who visit SaskTel Centre frequently are most likely to identify challenges with the site
- Individuals with disabilities are more likely to cite concerns about safety and distance from amenities



### **Key Findings – North Downtown City Yards**

Key findings include the top three items from the pick lists for each question, as well as notable differences by demographic groupings.

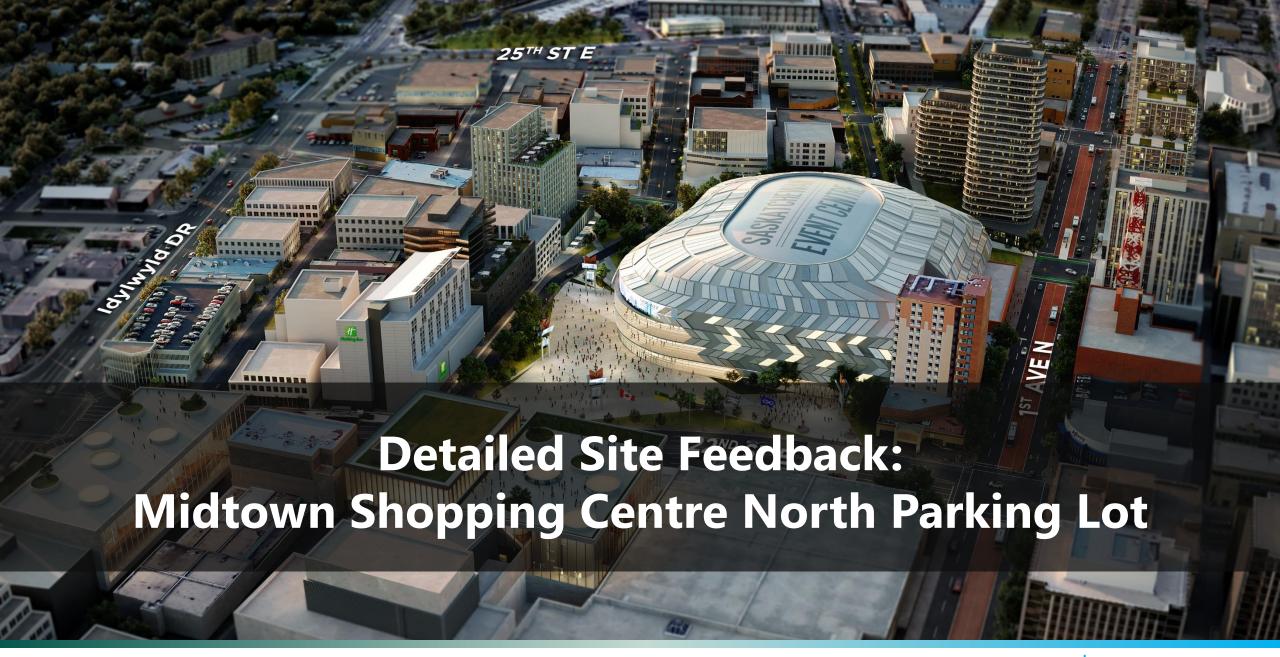
#### **Key opportunities:**

- Increased downtown activity (34%)
  - Young adults (18-34) are more likely to note increased activity as an opportunity
- Central location (34%)
  - Residents who live in the downtown core are more likely to cite central location as an opportunity
- Traffic flow / access (34%)
- Identified opportunities are similar between individual and business & organization respondents

#### **Key challenges:**

- Traffic flow / congestion (51%)
- Parking availability (50%)
- Far from amenities (45%)
- Women, young- (ages 18-34) and middle-aged (ages 35-54) adults as well as residents who live outside of the downtown core are most likely to identify challenges with the North Downtown City Yards
- Individuals with disabilities are more likely to cite concerns with the price of parking and crowding / small space
- Business and organization respondents note distance from amenities, traffic congestion and limited parking availability as key challenges









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## **Opportunities**: Midtown Shopping Centre North Parking Lot

Three quarters identify opportunities with the Midtown Shopping Centre North Parking Lot location. Younger generations and men are most likely to identify opportunities. Residents of the core neighbourhood and those who currently visit SaskTel Centre less frequently are also more likely to identify opportunities. Businesses are more likely to identify opportunities compared with organizations / associations.





What opportunities do you see with the Midtown Shopping Centre North Parking Lot location? Base: All respondents; Individuals: n=7,885, Businesses: n=493. Percentages are calculated based out of all respondents.





### **Opportunities**: Midtown Shopping Centre North Parking Lot

Young (ages 18-34) and middle-aged (ages 35-54) male adults, those who live in the downtown core, and those who currently visit SaskTel centre infrequently are most likely to identify opportunities with the Midtown Shopping Centre North Parking Lot location, with the largest opportunity being proximity to nearby amenities.

**Individual Respondents (7,885)** 



Note: Statistically significant differences between sample subsets (age, gender, neighbourhood, etc.) have been highlighted in this report with a "▲" or "▼". A standard alpha value of less than 0.05 is considered statistically significant. This means there is less than a 5% chance the results would have occurred by chance

What opportunities do you see with the Midtown Shopping Centre North Parking Lot location? Base: All respondents; Individuals: n=7,885, Businesses: n=493. Percentages are calculated based out of all respondents.

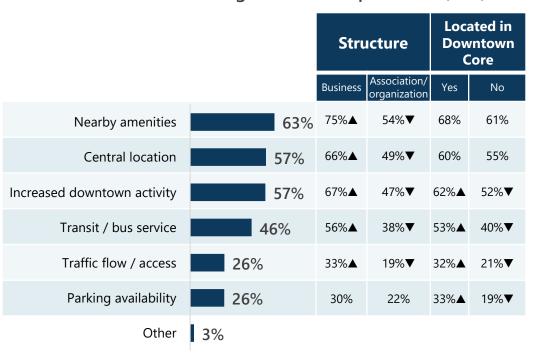




## **Opportunities**: Midtown Shopping Centre North Parking Lot

Businesses and organizations located in the downtown core are most likely to identify opportunities with the Midtown Shopping Centre North Parking Lot location. Like individual responses, business and organizational responses identify proximity to nearby amenities as the most prominent amenity.

#### **Business and Organization Respondents (493)**



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## Challenges: Midtown Shopping Centre North Parking Lot

Nine in ten cite challenges with the Midtown Shopping Centre North Parking Lot location. Older adults and women are most likely to cite challenges with the site.



|                        | Individual                                 | Business/Organization   |
|------------------------|--|---|
| One challenge or more: | 90% (7,102)    18-24   90%   25-34   89% ▼ | 83% (409)  Note: No significant differences were found between business and organization subsets. |
| No comment:            | 2% (144)                                   | 2% (11)   |
| No challenges          | 8% (640)                                   | 15% (73)  |

What challenges do you see with the Midtown Shopping Centre North Parking Lot location? Base: All respondents; Individuals: n=7,885, Businesses: n=493. Percentages are calculated based out of all respondents.





### **Challenges**: Midtown Shopping Centre North Parking Lot

Older adults (ages 55+), women, residents not living in the downtown core and those who visit SaskTel Centre regularly are most likely to identify challenges with the site. Persons with a disability are more likely to identify safety concerns.

#### **Individual Respondents (7,885)**



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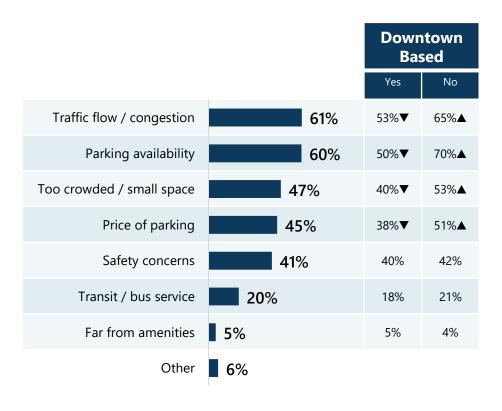




## **Challenges**: Midtown Shopping Centre North Parking Lot

Businesses located outside of the downtown core are more likely to identify challenges with the site, with traffic flow and parking being the most cited challenges.

#### **Business and Organization Respondents (493)**

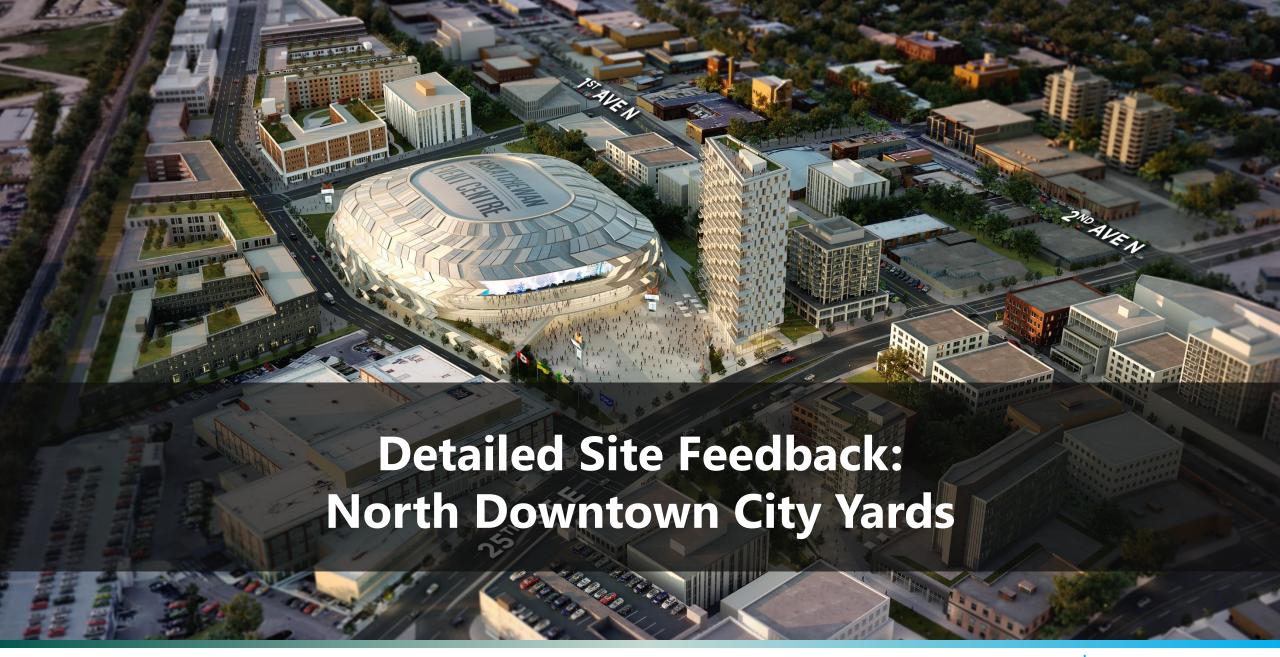


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### **Opportunities**: North Downtown City Yards

Young and middle aged adults, those who live in the downtown core and those who have children in the home were more likely to identify one or more opportunity with this site.



|                          | Individual                 | Business/Organization   |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| One opportunity or more: | 68% (5,345)    18-24   71% | 64% (314)  Note: No significant differences were found between business and organization subsets. |
| No comment:              | 5% (381)                   | 6% (29)   |
| No opportunities         | 27% (2,161)                | 30% (150)   |

What opportunities do you see with the North Downtown City Yards location? Base: All respondents; Individuals: n=7,885, Businesses: n=493. Percentages are calculated based out of all respondents.

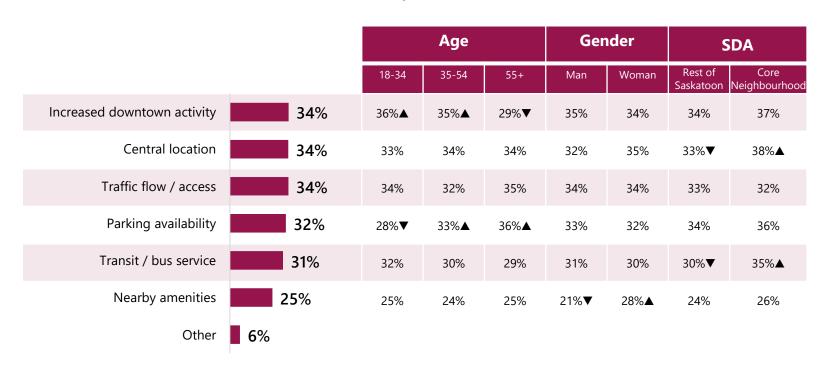




### **Opportunities**: North Downtown City Yards

Increased downtown activity is an opportunity most cited by young adults. Parking availability is most recognized by middle aged and older adults. Core neighbourhood residents appreciate the central location.

#### **Individual Respondents (7,885)**



Note: Statistically significant differences between sample subsets (age, gender, neighbourhood, etc.) have been highlighted in this report with a "▲" or "▼". A standard alpha value of less than 0.05 is considered statistically significant. This means there is less than a 5% chance the results would have occurred by chance

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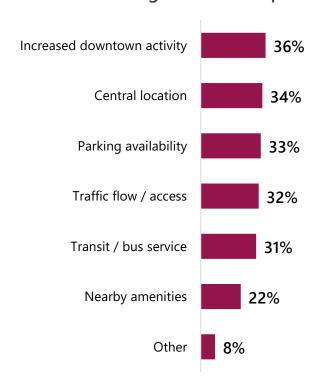




### **Opportunities**: North Downtown City Yards

Business/organization respondents suggest that the most mentioned opportunity for this site is increased downtown activity. No significant differences were found between business and organization subsets.

#### **Business and Organization Respondents (493)**



What opportunities do you see with the North Downtown City Yards location? Base: All respondents; Individuals: n=7,885, Businesses: n=493. Percentages are calculated based out of all respondents.



### **Challenges**: North Downtown City Yards

Young and middle aged adults, those who have children in the home as well as residents who visit SaskTel Centre more than once per year were more likely to identify one or more challenge with this site. Residents who live outside the downtown core were also more likely to identify challenges.



|  |                        | Individual  | Business/Organization   |
|--|------------------------|-------------|---|
|  | One challenge or more: | 88% (6,960) | 83% (408)   |
|  |                        | 18-24   92% | Note: No significant<br>differences were found<br>between business and<br>organization subsets. |
|  | No comment:            | 3% (262)    | 3% (17)   |
|  | No challenges          | 8% (663)    | 14% (68)  |

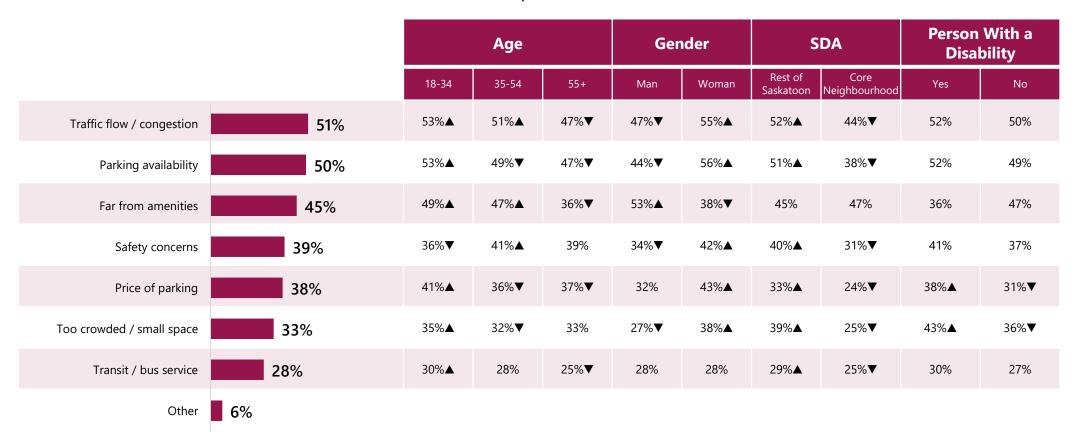
What challenges do you see with the North Downtown City Yards location? Base: All respondents; Individuals: n=7,885, Businesses: n=493. Percentages are calculated based out of all respondents.



### **Challenges**: North Downtown City Yards

Generally, young adults, women and residents who live outside of the downtown core are most likely to identify challenges with the North Downtown City Yards location. Persons with a disability are more likely identify challenges related to price of parking and crowding due to small space.

#### **Individual Respondents (7,885)**



Note: Statistically significant differences between sample subsets (age, gender, neighbourhood, etc.) have been highlighted in this report with a "▲" or "▼". A standard alpha value of less than 0.05 is considered statistically significant. This means there is less than a 5% chance the results would have occurred by chance

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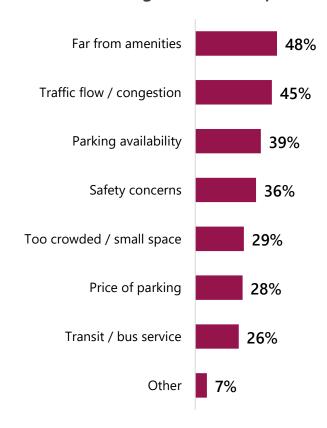




### **Challenges**: North Downtown City Yards

Business/organization respondents mention distance from amenities, challenges with traffic flow / congestion, parking availability and safety concerns as top challenges with this location. No significant differences were found between business and organization subsets.

#### **Business and Organization Respondents (493)**



What challenges do you see with the North Downtown City Yards location? Base: All respondents; Individuals: n=7,885, Businesses: n=493. Percentages are calculated based out of all respondents.



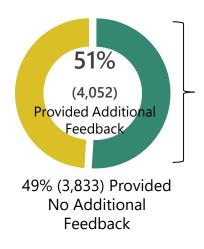






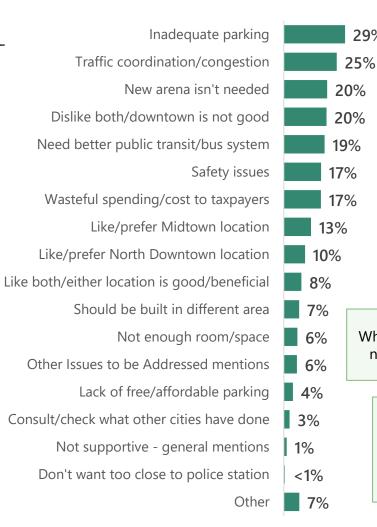
#### **Insightrix Research Inc.**

### Additional Feedback About Potential Locations



#### **Individual Respondents (4,052)**

29%



I would sooner make a weekend of going to Edmonton, Calgary or Winnipeg events than deal with the traffic and parking downtown. I already didn't go downtown on the weekends because there was no parking.

As a commuter from Warman, these locations are very unappealing. Traffic flow is already a concern at SaskTel Centre, tighter streets and more population will be just as much of a concern. Getting to events at TCU is a headache, with a lot less people in the venue. Even going downtown for supper is unappealing due to traffic and parking issues. I do not want to drive to a location, wait outside for a bus, then wait in a bus to get to a venue. This would add multiple hours to an evening. Very unappealing!!!

Use the money to update the current facilities.

Until we have rapid transit like the larger cities with downtown arenas this is a bad idea.

What is wrong with SaskTel Centre? Why are we paying more money to build a new centre when we have a perfectly fine one!!! Downtown is [...] not safe!!!

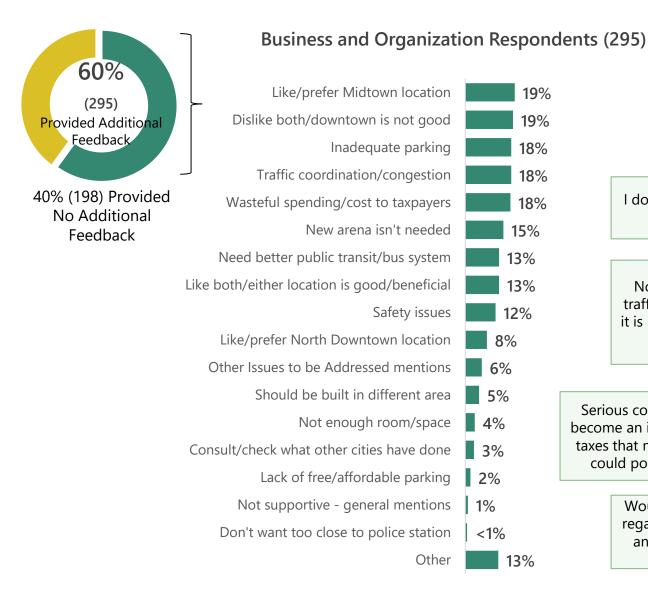
Multiple modes of transport will need massive improvements ahead of any large new venue opening, this includes multiple additional parking structures within walking distance periphery of the location, safe and efficient transit stops (preferably with shelters, washrooms and security) or preferably an adjacent main terminal, pedestrian and cycling infrastructure needs to be improved upon to separate vehicle traffic as much as possible.

Do you have any additional feedback about the potential locations? Base: All respondents; Individuals: n=7,885. Open-ended survey question.





### Additional Feedback About Potential Locations



There is really no comparison between these two locations. the North site beside the police station has no amenities associated with it, and there is only one main street currently serving the area. It also destroys the vision and concept for the North Downtown. The Midtown site is served on two sides by the BRT and will only add activity to an area with retail, hotel, restaurant and conference facilities nearby.

I don't see either locations as good viable locations due to lack to transit and roadways and parking.

Not downtown. This city is not set up for something like this (transportation, parking, traffic flow, safety...) You will not build an arena any easier to get to and from than where it is now. Our city is not so big that you have to travel long distances to get anywhere. If it is necessary to have a new arena (is it?) NOT in the downtown!

Serious consideration of impact to current businesses in the area. If traffic and parking become an issue it will seriously impact my business. Considering the amount of property taxes that my business is responsible for, it is a huge disappointment that my tax dollars could potentially be going toward something that may force me to close my doors.

Would be a great idea for it to be downtown regardless, as it would force for better transit, and push Saskatoon to be more like other big cities in Canada.

Either one would be fantastic! We need this central arena for our city!

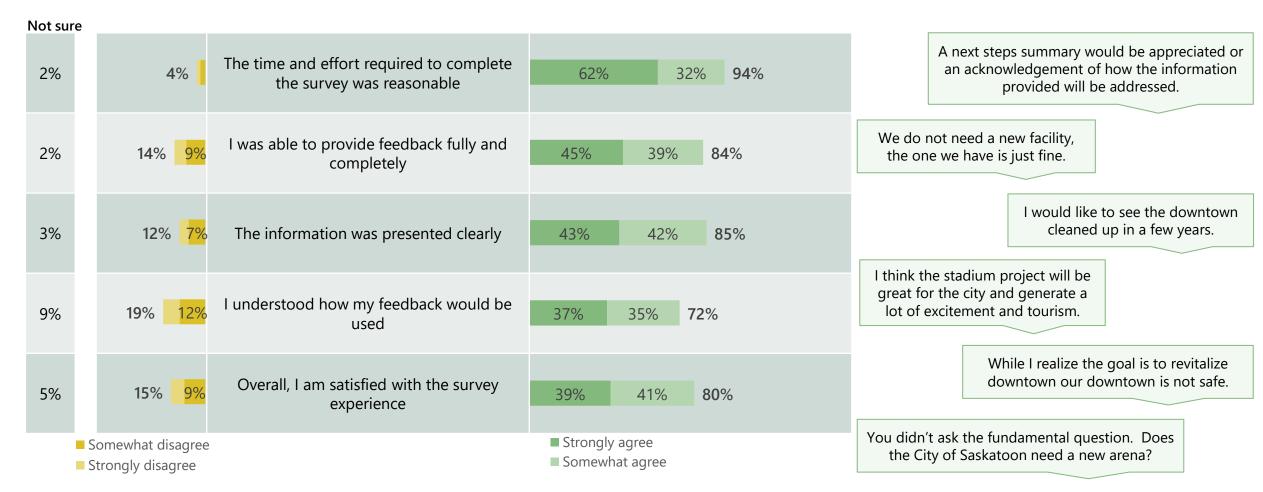
Do you have any additional feedback about the potential locations? Base: All respondents, Businesses: n=493. Open-ended survey question.





### Survey Experience / Feedback

Respondent feedback regarding the engagement survey is important for understanding study participants' experiences and satisfaction with the engagement process. In order to minimize respondent burden, in-person (intercept) survey respondents were not asked this set of follow up questions. No variance was found with respect to individuals compared with businesses and organizations. Data are combined for this question.



Finally, we'd like your feedback about this survey. Do you agree or disagree with each of the statements? Base: All online respondents (excluding intercepts); n=7977.

