sacramento | 2040

PHASE I CITYWIDE WORKSHOPS COMPILED RESPONSES

City of
SACRAMENTO

City of Sacramento General Plan Update and Climate Action Plan

Phase I Citywide Workshops
Compiled Responses

Each of the four Phase I Citywide Workshops had seven staffed stations where community members could learn about the General Plan Update and provide input to guide Sacramento's future. Major themes that emerged from the comments are summarized here; full text of comments can be found in the supplemental document in the appendix. Images of the accompanying displays can be also found in the appendix.

Station 1: Welcome & What is a General Plan Update

Station 1 included an overview of the project and the goals of the visioning workshop. The station included a project schedule and a short narrative about the 2040 General Plan Update and how a general plan impacts the community. Displays:

- What is a General Plan?
- Project Timeline
- Map of the City

Station 2: Issues & Opportunities

At the issues and opportunities station, participants were asked, "What do you like about Sacramento," "What do you wish Sacramento had more of?" and "What do you wish could change in Sacramento?" Because participants gave free-form responses, many responses identified multiple themes; thus, percentages may add up to more than 100%.

Workshop attendees providing input through post-it notes

What do you like about Sacramento?

When asked what features of Sacramento they valued most, residents described a variety of the City's unique characteristics, including its access to natural resources, diverse and friendly community spirit, opportunities for walking and biking, and how the City's size and location enable residents to experience the benefits of both small town and big city life.

Most Common Themes:
- Sacramento's natural beauty, especially the abundant trees and access to the river (34%)
- Sacramento is a diverse and friendly city, with activities available for people of all ages (28%)
- Sacramento has a unique and welcoming "small-town" feeling, while still offering the arts, entertainment, and cultural amenities typically associated with larger cities (13%)
- Opportunities for walking and biking (13%)
- The accessibility of farmer's markets and Sacramento's close connection to the agricultural community (12%)

What do you wish Sacramento had more of?

Suggestions included a diverse and expanded suite of public services, increased opportunities for active transportation, and more affordable housing.

Most Common Themes:
- Expanded public services, especially those serving youth, the elderly, and the homeless (17%)
- Expanded cycling facilities, including bike lanes, bike paths, places to lock bikes, and ongoing facility maintenance (12%)
- Affordable housing, particularly located near transit, in walkable neighborhoods, and serving a wide range of resident types (10%)

What do you wish could change in Sacramento?

Common suggestions included improved non-auto mobility options, a greater diversity of housing choices, and services and housing for those experiencing homelessness.

Most Common Themes:
- Improvements in mobility options for cyclists, pedestrians, and transit riders, including expansion of services and increased emphasis on safety (12%)
- More housing, serving residents at a variety of income levels (11%)
- Improved services for the homeless population (10%)

Station 3: Vision Statement and Guiding Principles

This station focused on the vision statement and guiding principles from the 2035 General Plan, and featured a board displaying the 2035 General Plan Vision Statement, "Sacramento will be the most livable city in America." This station also featured a series of boards listing the 2035 General Plan Guiding Principles.

Displays:

- Vision and Guiding Principles (2)

Because these were free-form responses, many respondents identified more than one theme in their answers; thus, percentages may add up to more than 100%.

3A. What would you keep or reinforce?

Key themes that emerged from respondent's reflections on what they like about the 2035 General Plan Vision Statement and Guiding Principles included the emphasis on facilitating alternative transportation, respect for Sacramento's natural features, and emphasis on expanding housing opportunities.

Most Common Themes:

- The City of Sacramento provides ample opportunities for alternative transportation, both by providing infrastructure for biking and public transit, and by promoting walkable neighborhoods and transit-oriented development (38%)
- The City of Sacramento respects the City's natural features and is committed to preserving environmental quality (29%)
- The City of Sacramento is committed to providing affordable housing to people of all walks of life (27%)

3B. What would you add or change?

Key themes that emerged around respondent's reflections on which elements they would like to see added to the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles included a commitment to diversity, equity, and affordability; enhanced mobility and walkability; an expansion of public and social services; and more climate-related environmental goals.

Most Common Themes:
- The City of Sacramento will remain affordable and welcoming for people from all backgrounds, ages, and income levels (22%)
- The City of Sacramento will make using active and alternate transit easy through a commitment to continually improving infrastructure for cyclists, providing accessible public transit, and designing walkable neighborhoods (22%)
- The City of Sacramento is committed to protecting the wellbeing of all residents via the provision of health and homelessness programs, youth enrichment opportunities, and community and cultural events (21%)
- The City of Sacramento recognizes the severity of the threat that climate change poses to our way of life and is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and ensuring that the City is climate-ready (19%)

Station 4: Environmental Justice

At the Environmental Justice station, the display introduced the concepts of environmental justice and equity with infographics and maps showing disparity in health outcomes (e.g. Life expectancy and rates of respiratory illness), environmental conditions (e.g. urban heat island effect), and healthy food access. The board contained a definition of Environmental Justice (the basic right of people to live, work, go to school, and play in a healthy and clean environment) and an explanation of SB1000, which requires cities and counties with disadvantaged communities to incorporate environmental justice policies to their general plans.

Displays:
- What is Environmental Justice?
- Maps with Health Disparity Outcomes in the City of Sacramento
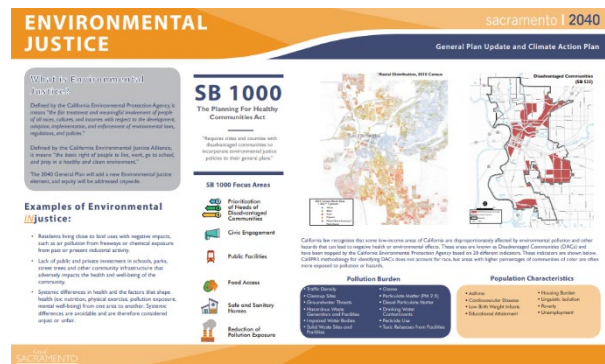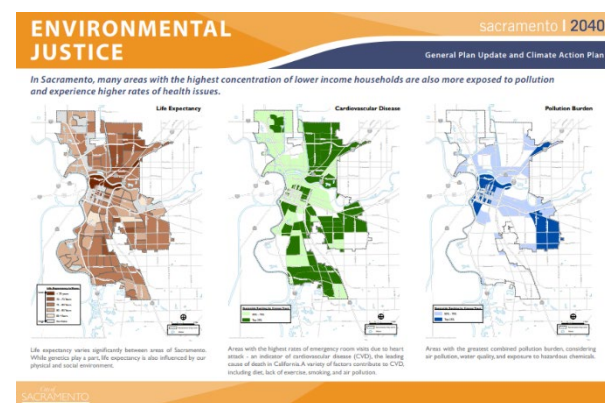
4A. What do you see as the most significant disparities between neighborhoods in Sacramento? Check all that apply.

- o Household income
- o Public health factors
- o Pollution burden
- o Life expectancy
- o Other (please explain)
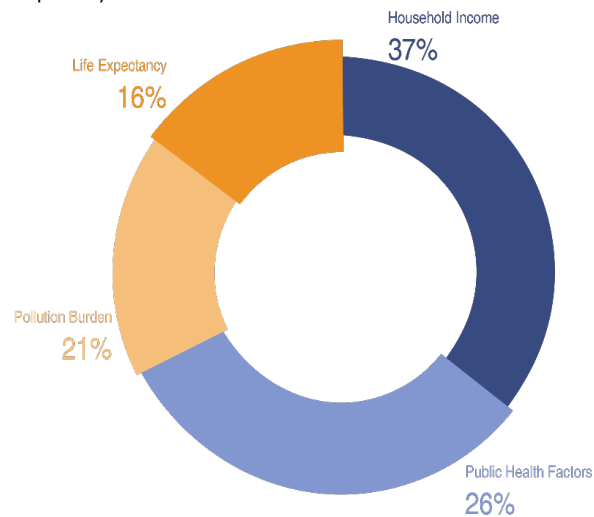
Of "other" responses, recurring themes among responses included differences in access to healthy food, job and educational opportunities, public and active transit options, and natural resources, as well as differences in the relationship between the neighborhood and local police.

Most Common Themes:

- Access to fresh, healthy food (14%)
- Accessibility of jobs and educational opportunities (14%)
- Quality public transit options and walkability (13%)
- Prevalence of tree canopy and availability of green space (11%)
- Availability of public services, including health and emergency centers (11%)
- Relationship between the community and local police (11%)

4B. What could be done to address these disparities?

Key themes that emerged among suggested solutions included improved workforce development, enhanced community outreach and civic engagement opportunities, housing, and food accessibility. Because these were free-form responses, many respondents identified more than one theme in their answers; thus, percentages may add up to more than 100%.

Most Common Themes:
- Expansion of job opportunities, workforce and business development programs, and increases in wages (27%)
- Increased civic engagement opportunities, coupled with proactive community outreach and expansion of social service programs (26%)
- Housing development, especially affordable housing (24%)
- Improved access to fresh and healthy food, particularly through grocery stores and community gardens (22%)

Station 5: Climate Change

At the climate change station, one board introduced the concept of climate change with infographics and graphs to frame the issues, for example, GHG emissions trends over time versus State targets, a pie chart of GHG emissions by sector in Sacramento, details of various rebate programs and incentives from SMUD for electrification of vehicles and homes. A second board showed a map of natural hazard risk areas, including flooding, wildfire, drought and extreme heat, with maps and short text. The station also provided flyers regarding the Mayor's Commission on Climate Change Initiative.
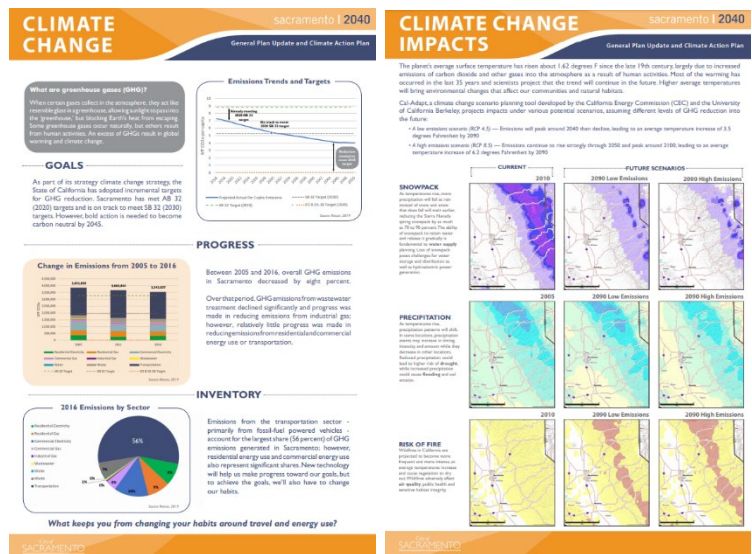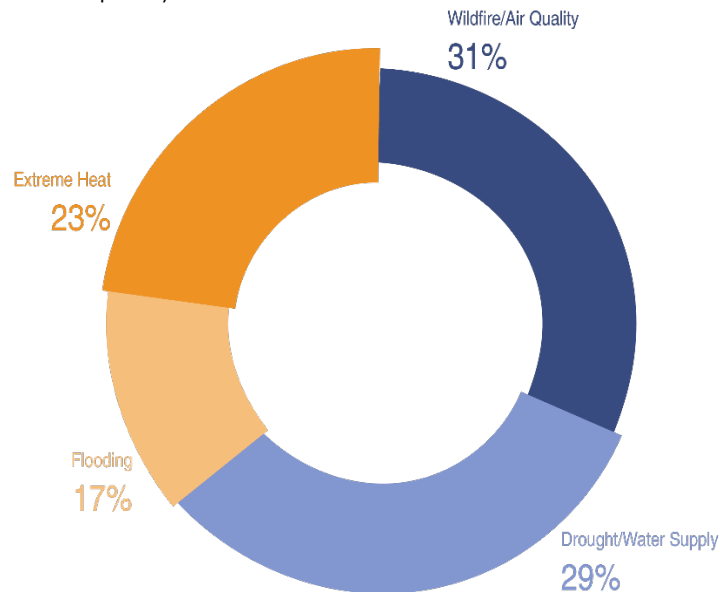

Displays:
- Climate Change Goals, Progress, and Inventor
- Climate Change Impacts

5A. What is your biggest concern regarding climate change impacts? Please select your top three.

- o Wildfire/Air quality
- o Drought/water supply
- o Flooding
- o Extreme heat
- o Other (please explain)

Some respondents also listed an "other" choice; among "other" responses, responses were diverse and wide-ranging, addressing climate change impacts likely to occur on a variety of temporal and geographic scales. Key themes that emerged included concerns over food availability, health impacts, ecological impacts, and flooding.

Most Common Themes:

- Decreased accessibility and affordability of food (15%)
- The effect of extreme heat and air quality degradation on public health (15%)
- Harm to wildlife, tree canopy, and insects (13%)
- Flooding (10%)

5B. How should we respond as a community to reduce impacts of climate change on our most vulnerable citizens (elderly, disabled, children and low-income families)? Please select your top three.

- o Free weatherization program for low-income families
- o Improve weatherization and energy-efficiency of rental housing
- o Plant more shade trees to reduce impact of extreme heat
- o Rebates and subsidies for home air cleaners to improve indoor air quality during wildfires
- o Rebates and incentives for home energy efficiency programs
- o Other (please explain)

Improve weatherization and energy-efficiency of rental housing
23%

Plant more shade trees to reduce impacts of extreme heat
23%

Rebates and subsidies for home air cleaners to improve indoor air quality during wildfires
11%

Free weatherization program for low-income families
23%

Rebates and incentives for home energy efficient programs
20%
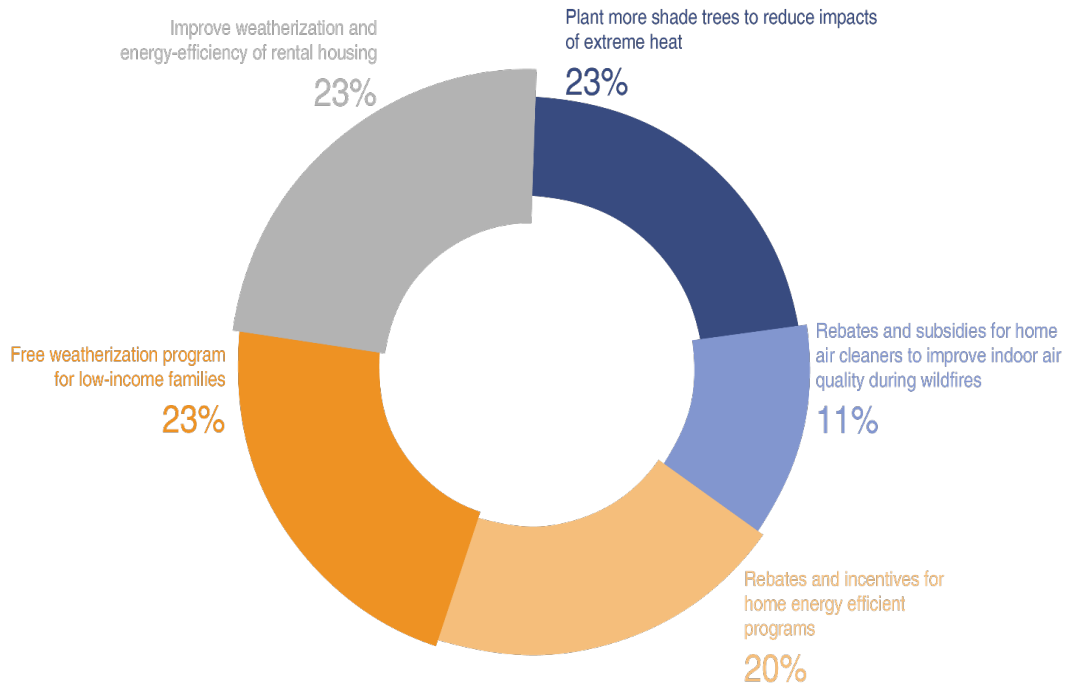
"Other" recommended responses were varied, and included such ideas as improving sustainable transportation options, increasing use of renewable energy, designing home and neighborhoods for climate resiliency, and providing education and job training. *Most Common Themes:*

Most Common Themes:

- - Reduce emissions through by promoting public transportation, renewable fuels, and transit-oriented development (24%)
- - Promote residential solar use, electrification, and electric vehicle infrastructure (16%)
- - Incorporate sustainability and climate resiliency features, such as water storage and rooftop gardens, into new development; make climate-smart land use decisions such as avoiding floodplain development and promoting infill development (16%)
- - Educate the community about climate change and how they can reduce their environmental impact (13%)

5C. Converting your home to all-electric appliances (heating system, water-heater, stove, etc.) can significantly reduce your household greenhouse gas pollution/carbon footprint. What, if anything, prevents you from converting to an all-electric home? Select all that apply.

- o I am a renter and don't own my home.
- o I am concerned that all electric appliances could cost more to purchase.
- o I am concerned that all-electric appliances could raise my utility bill.
- o I prefer gas appliances.
- o Other (please explain)

I prefer gas appliances
28%

I am a renter and do not own my own home
18%

I am concerned that all electric appliances could raise my utility bill
31%

I am concerned that all-eletric appliances could cost more to purchase
23%
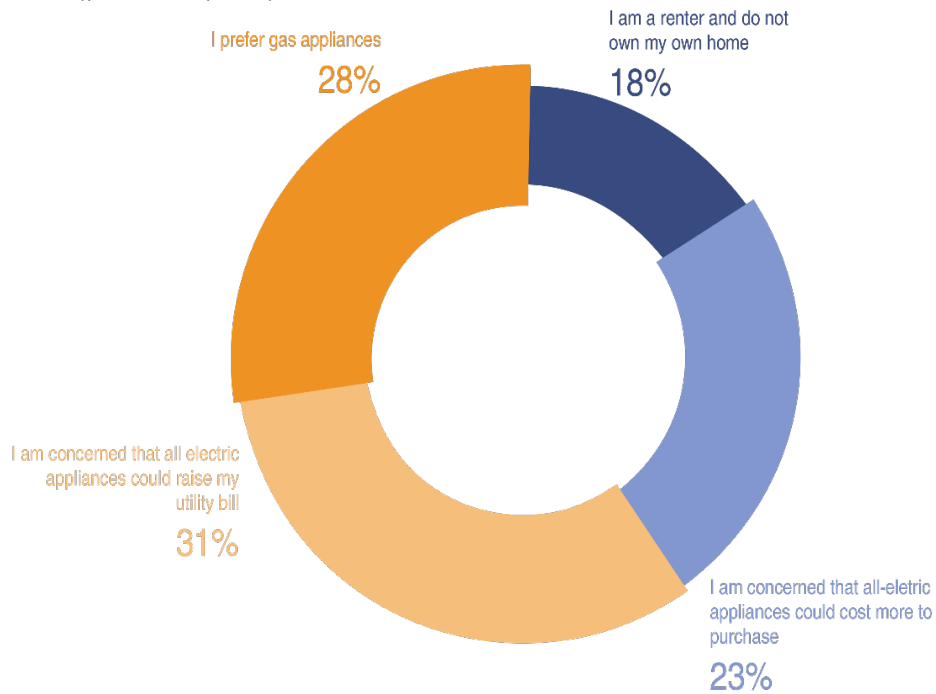
The most common "other" response cited a lack of reliable information regarding how to replace certain home appliances and what these changes would mean in terms of home heating and cooking quality (11%).

- • Would you consider converting your home to all-electric appliances is they don't cost you more and function as well as gas appliances?
    - o Yes
   - o No

Yes
87%

No
13%
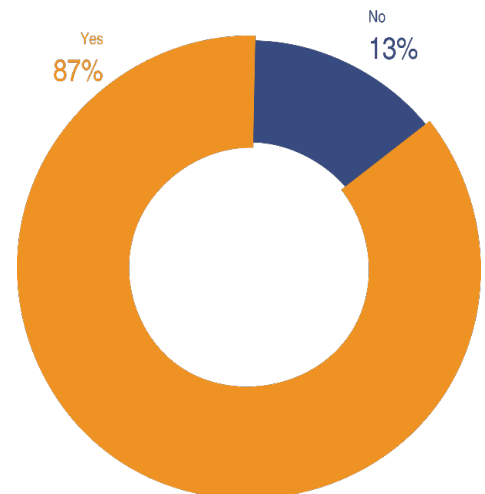
5D. What, if anything, prevents you from converting to a plug-in electric vehicle? Please select all that apply.

- o I live in an apartment complex and would have no place to plug in my vehicle.
- o I don't have a place to plug in at work.
- o The availability of charging infrastructure and insufficient range to reach the destination.
- o "The higher cost of plug-in electric vehicles when compared to conventional internal combustion vehicles.
- o Other (please explain)

Greg Sandlund, Long Range Planning Manager, talking to a community member

The higher cost of plug-in electric vehicles when compared to conventional internal combustion vehicles **36%**

I live in an apartment complex and would not have a place to plug in my vehicle **11%**

I do not have a place to plug in at work **14%**

The availability of charging infrastructure and insufficient range to reach the destination **39%**
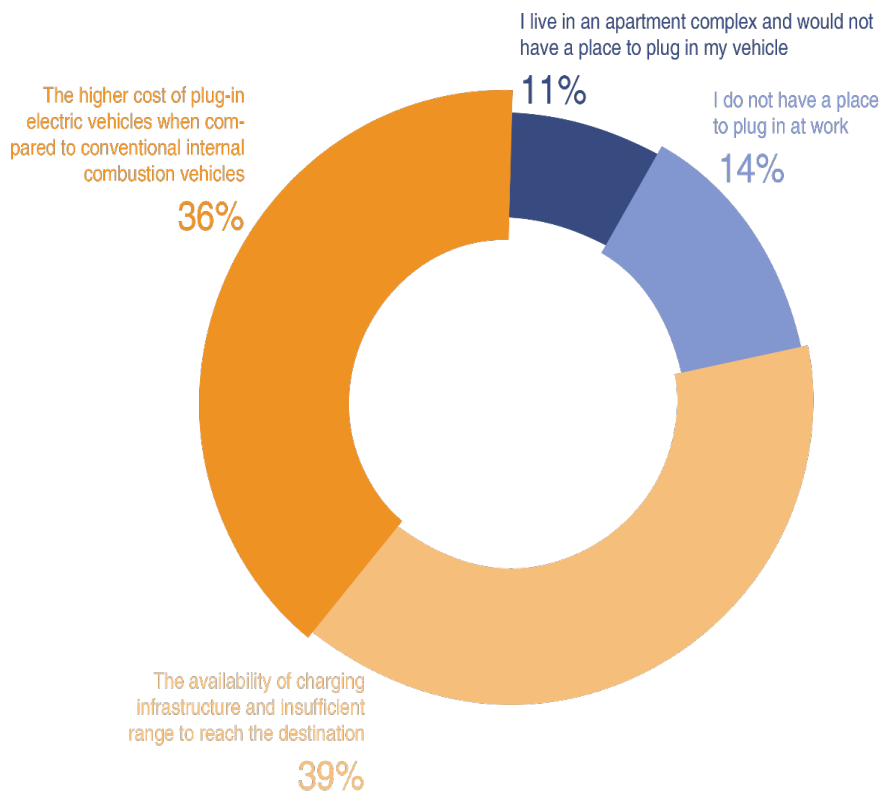
The most common "other" response was that electric vehicles are too small or do not meet specialized vehicle needs (14%)

Would you consider replacing your vehicle with a plug-in electric if vehicle charging stations were more widely available in Sacramento?

- o   Yes
- o   No

Yes 67% No 33%
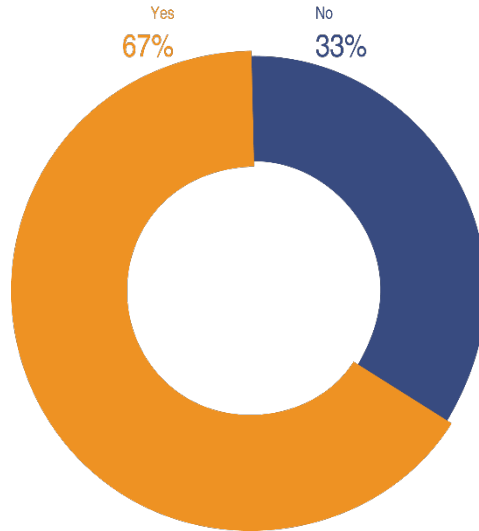
Kids participating in the kids' activity

Station 6: Mobility

At the mobility station, the poster introduced mobility within the General Plan, showing commute to work mode share graphs and maps, a high frequency transit corridors map, a map of collisions, and SacRT's new map. In addition, representatives of the EV Blueprint planning effort were posted at the station with a map-based origin-destination exercise intended to generate input on the best locations for future EV charging stations.

Displays:

- Mobility
- Rate your Mobility Experience (interactive board)

6A. What would make you more likely to walk, bike or take transit regularly?

Residents were asked what would incentivize them to regularly walk, bike, or take public transit. Common

themes among respondents included increasing the convenience and ease of access of transit services, both the area which they serve and the frequency at which they arrive; improving user's sense of safety and comfort; and ensuring that transit is affordable for all members of the community.

Most Common Themes:
- Bike facilities, sidewalks, and transit routes take people where they want to go (66 occurrences, 43%)
- Cycling, walking, and using transit feels safe across the city and at all times of day and night (55 occurrences, 35%)
- Transit services are frequent, rides are fast and efficient (38 occurrences, 25%)
- Transit is affordable to residents of all ages and income levels (14 occurrences, 9%)
- The transit experience is clean and comfortable (8 occurrences, 5%)

6B. What should the City do to accommodate emerging transportation technology such as autonomous vehicles or on-demand scooters, bike share or car sharing?

Residents were asked what they felt the City should do in order to accommodate emerging transportation technology. Respondents provided a variety of policy and infrastructure recommendations, as well as expressing enthusiasm for the availability of emerging transportation in general.
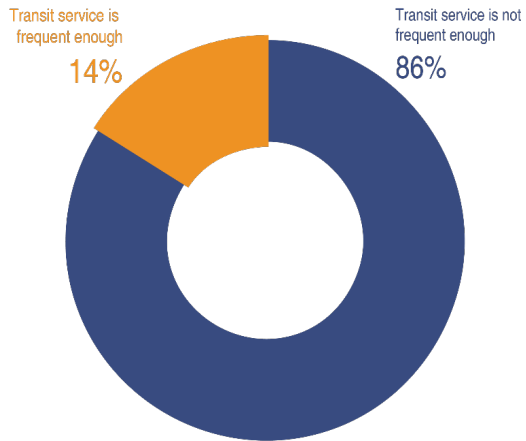
Most Common Themes:
- Emerging transportation should be widely accessible to people of all ages and ability levels, and should be easily accessible across the City (16%)
- Affordability is a key determinant of transportation choice. The City can ensure that all transportation modes are affordable through measures such as subsidized transit fares, providing free parking for electric vehicles, and allowing employers to provide incentives for using sustainable transportation options (14%)
- Transportation infrastructure should accommodate the needs of transit, scooter, carshare, and bike riders, as well as autonomous vehicles (14%)
- The City should develop and enforce transportation regulations in order to ensure public safety (13%)
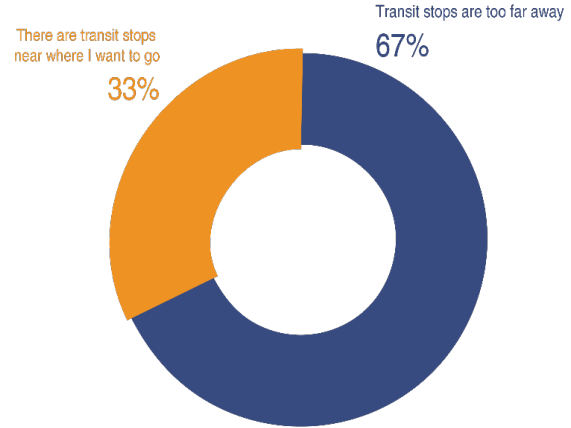
Rate your Mobility Experience

Workshop participants were asked to rate their mobility experiences in Sacramento on scales of 1 to 5 and to provide their zip codes. Below are the agglomerated responses, divided into simplified positive and negative responses, followed by maps that show participants' mobility ratings correlated with zip codes. Not all zip codes were represented at the workshops; for those areas, the maps show a grey "no data" hatch.
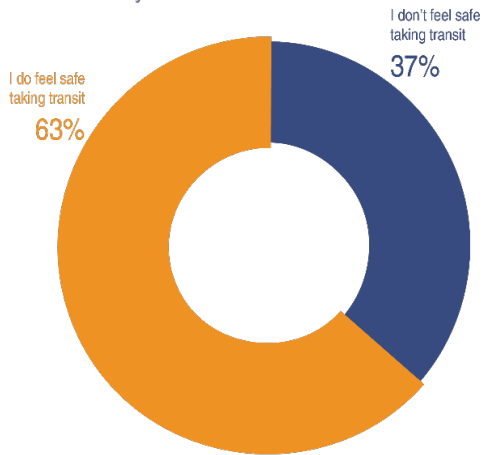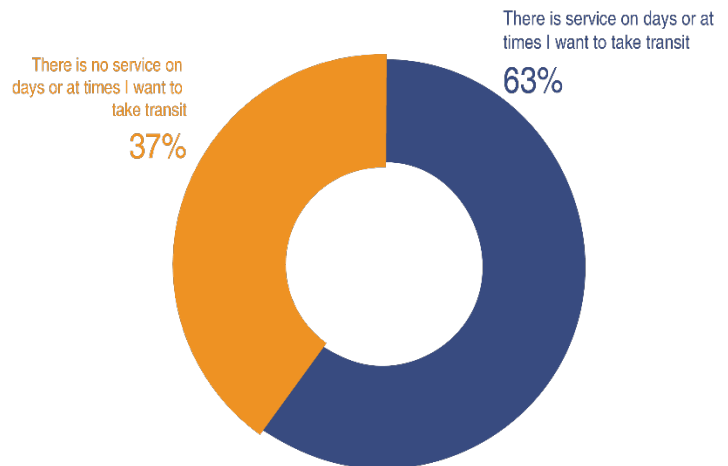
Transit

Transit Frequency

Transit service is
frequent enough
14%

Transit service is not
frequent enough
86%

Distance to Transit Stops

There are transit stops
near where I want to go
33%

Transit stops are too far away
67%

Transit Safety

I do feel safe
taking transit
63%

I don't feel safe
taking transit
37%

Transit Scheduling

There is no service on
days or at times I want to
take transit
37%

There is service on days or at
times I want to take transit
63%

Bicycling

Bicycling Frequency

There are enough bike lanes and routes for me to go where I want
Easy to park my bike
16%
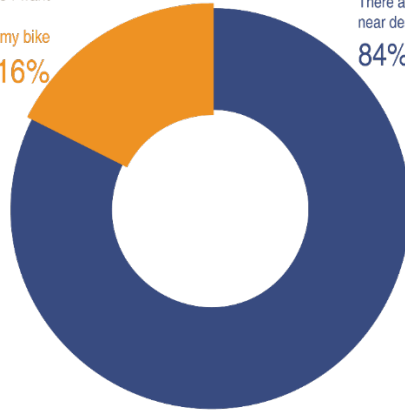
There are not enough bike lanes and routes for me to go where I want to go

There are not enough secure bike parking spaces near destinations.
84%

Bicycle Safety

I feel safe bicycling in Sacramento
38%
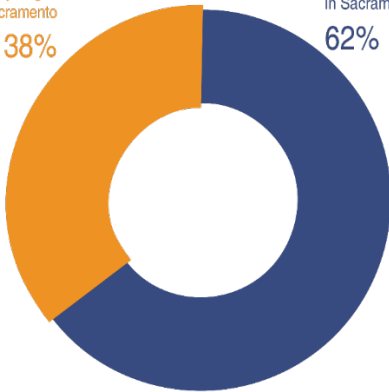
I don't feel safe bicycling in Sacramento
62%

Bicycling Ability
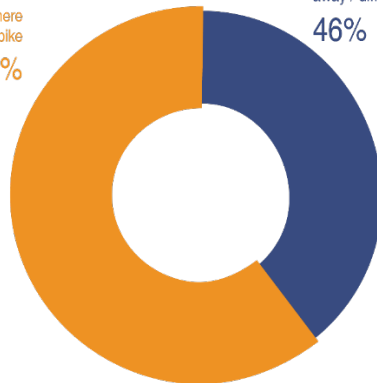
I am physically able enough to bike in Sacramento
80%
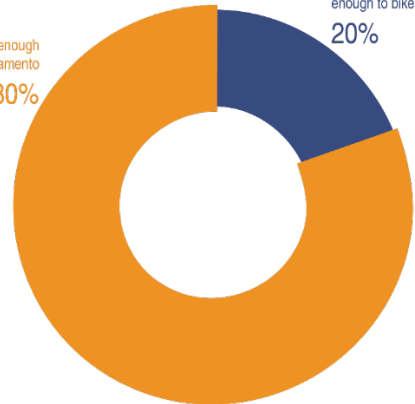
I don't feel physically able enough to bike in Sacramento
20%

Bicycling Convenience

It's easy to get where I want to go on a bike
54%

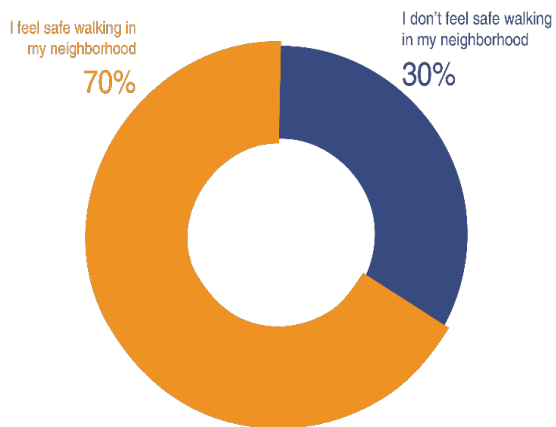The places I want to go are too far away / difficult to reach by bike
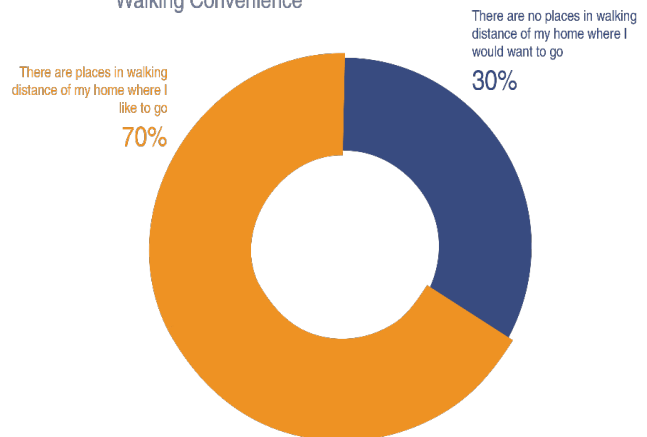46%

Walking

Walking Infrastructure

There are enough sidewalks and crosswalks for me to go where I want
52%

There are not enoughsidewalks and crosswalks for me to go where I want
84%

Walking Safety

I feel safe walking in my neighborhood
70%

I don't feel safe walking in my neighborhood
30%

Walking Convenience

There are places in walking distance of my home where I like to go
70%

There are no places in walking distance of my home where I would want to go
30%
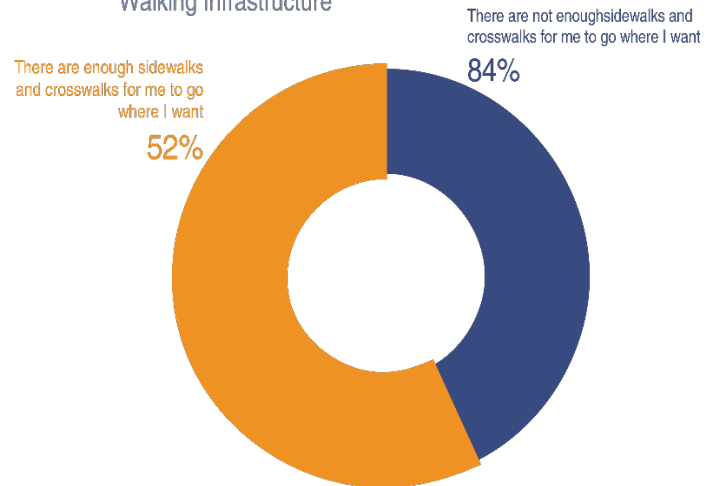
Mobility Index Activity:
"Transit service is frequent enough."
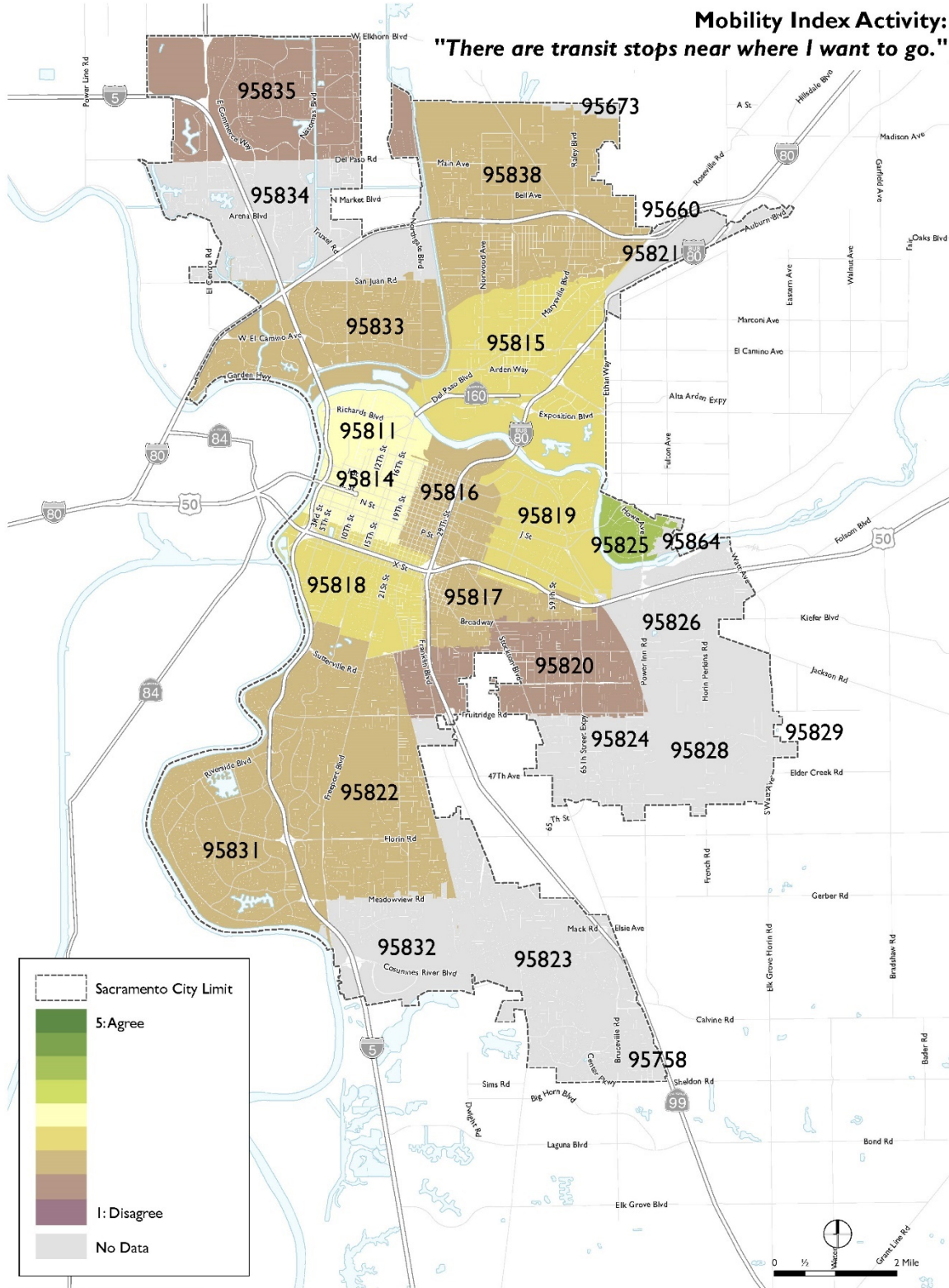
Legend:

Sacramento City Limit

5: Agree

1: Disagree

No Data
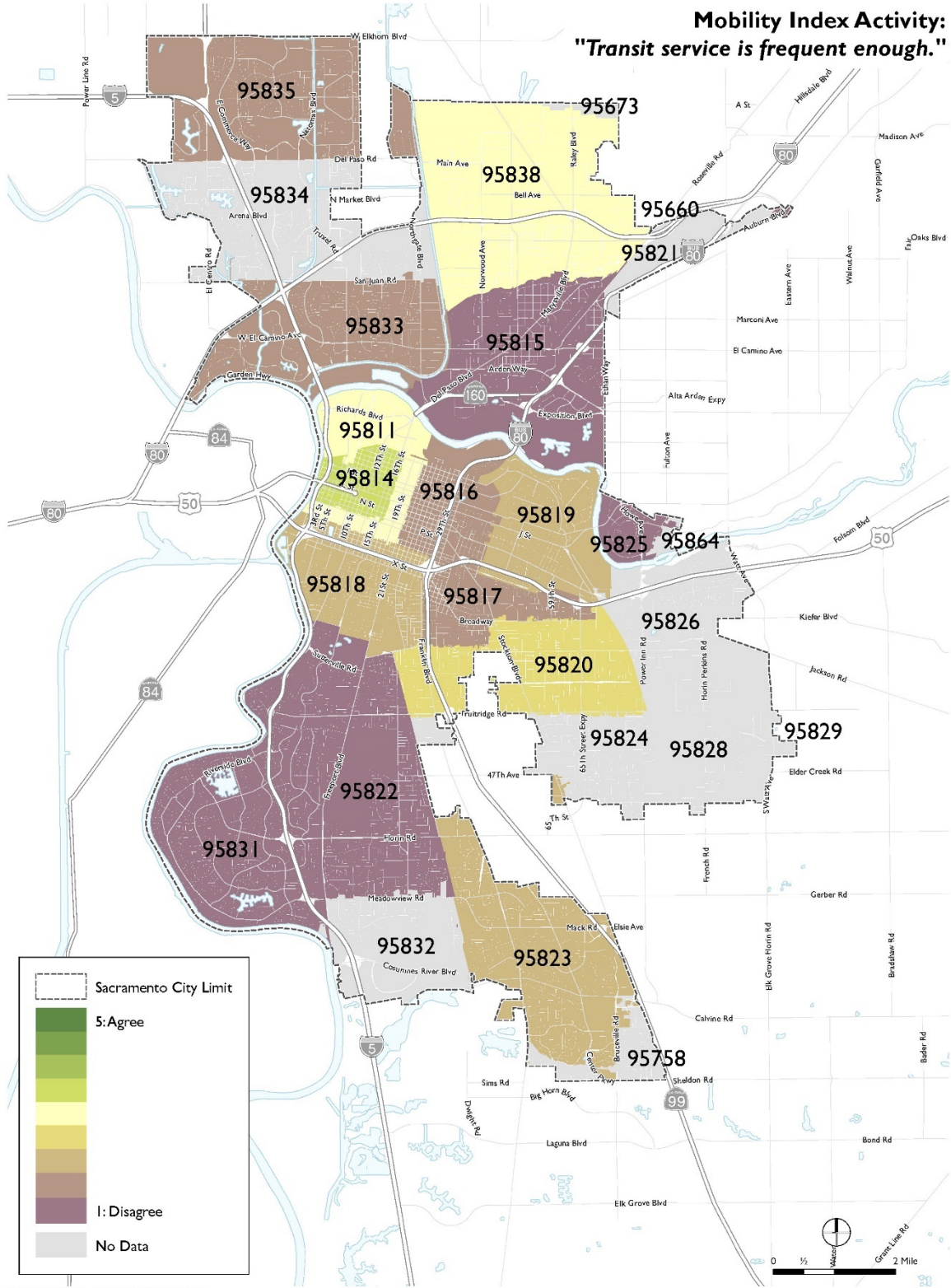
Source: City of Sacramento, 2019; Dyett and Bhatia, 2019

Mobility Index Activity:
"I feel safe on transit."
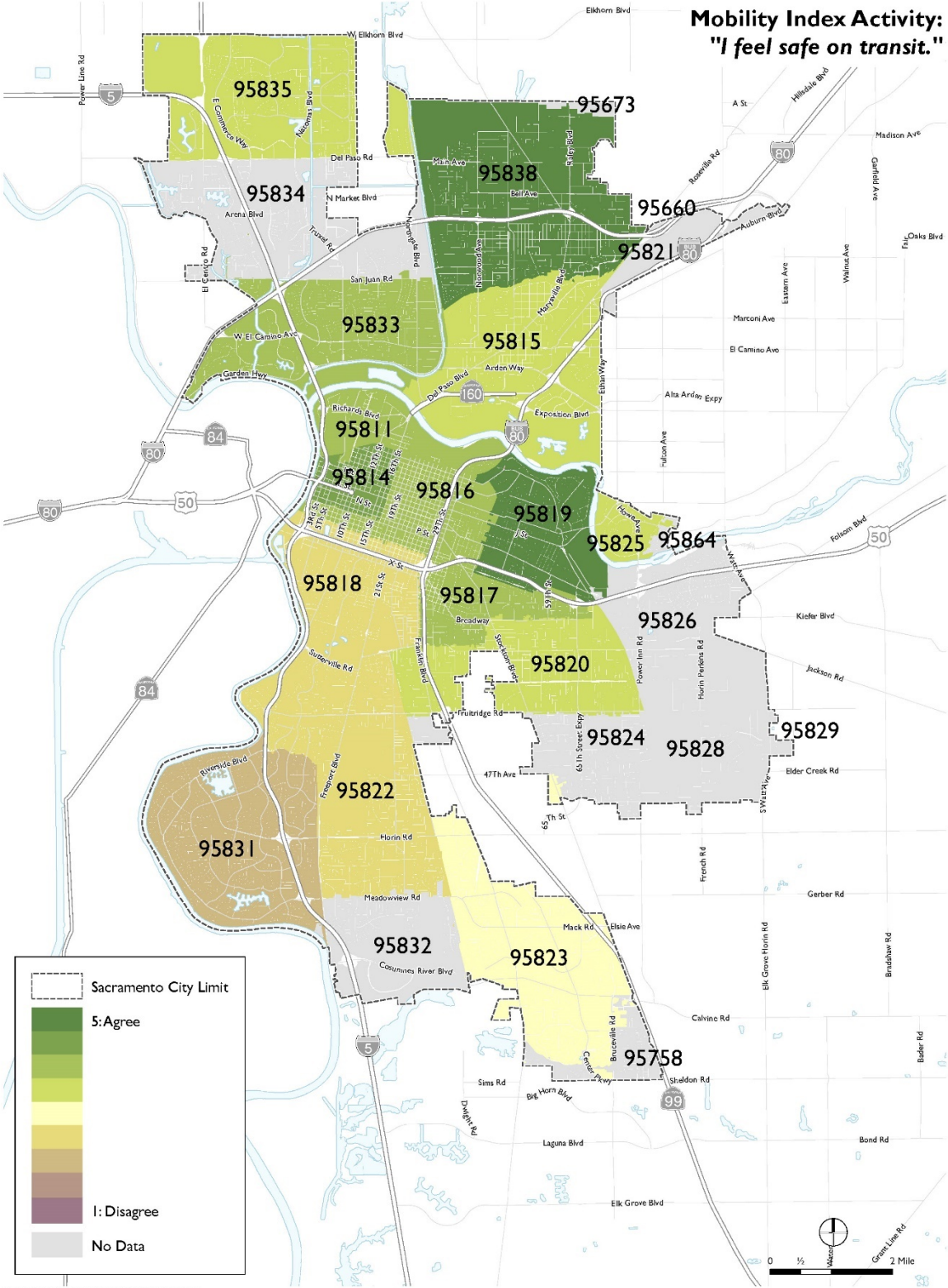
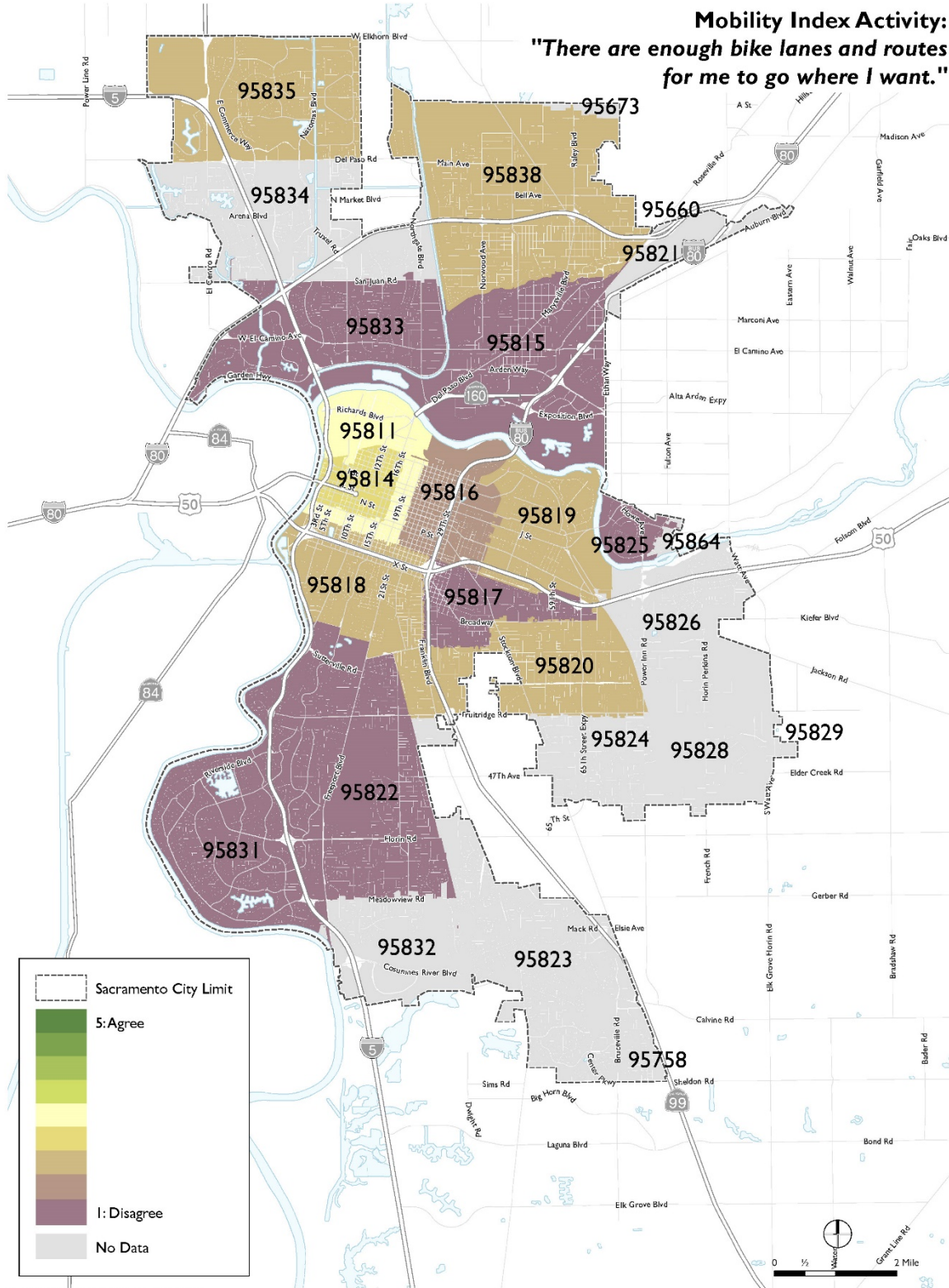Mobility Index Activity:
"There are transit stops near where I want to go."

Legend:
- Sacramento City Limit
- 5: Agree
- 1: Disagree
- No Data

Source: City of Sacramento, 2019; Dyett and Bhatia, 2019

Mobility Index Activity:
"There are enough bike lanes and routes for me to go where I want."

95835

95673

95834

95838

95660

95821

95833

95815

95811

95814

95816

95819

95864

95825

95818

95817

95820

95826

95822

95824

95828

95829

95831

95832

95823

95758

Sacramento City Limit

5: Agree

1: Disagree

No Data

0   ½   1   2 Mile

Source: City of Sacramento, 2019; Dyett and Bhatia, 2019
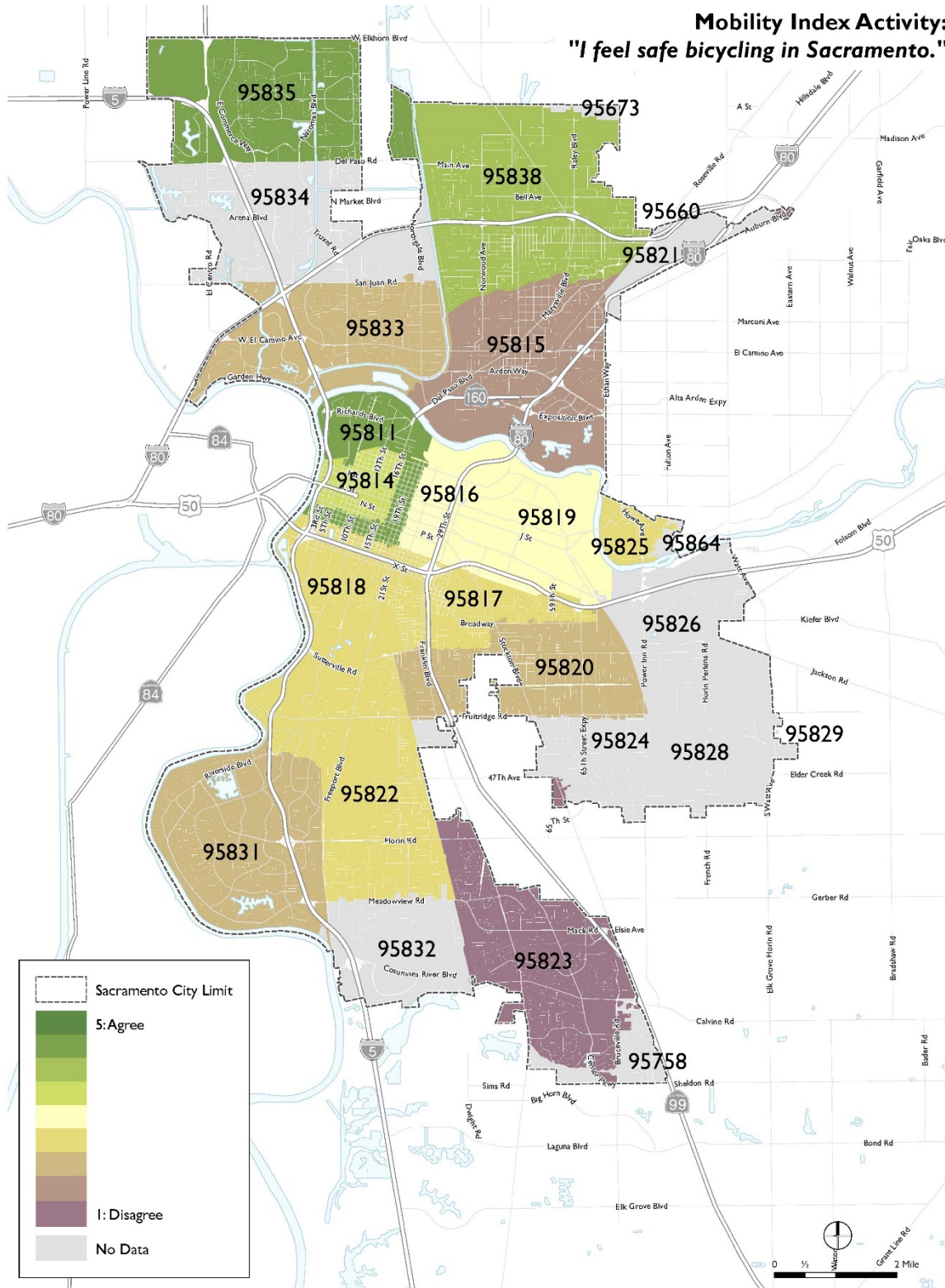
Mobility Index Activity:
"I feel safe bicycling in Sacramento."

Mobility Index Activity:
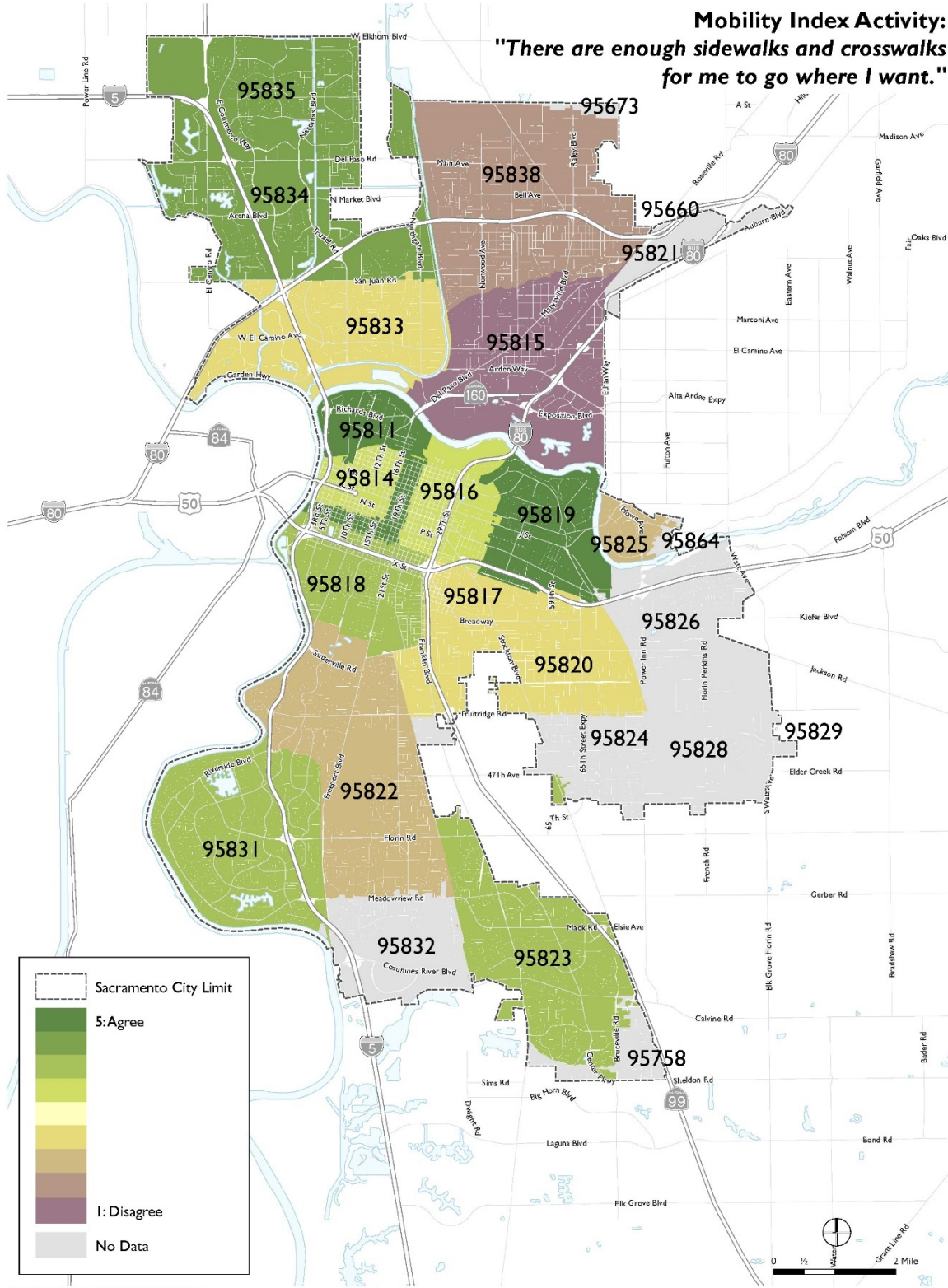*"It's easy to get where I want to go on a bike."*
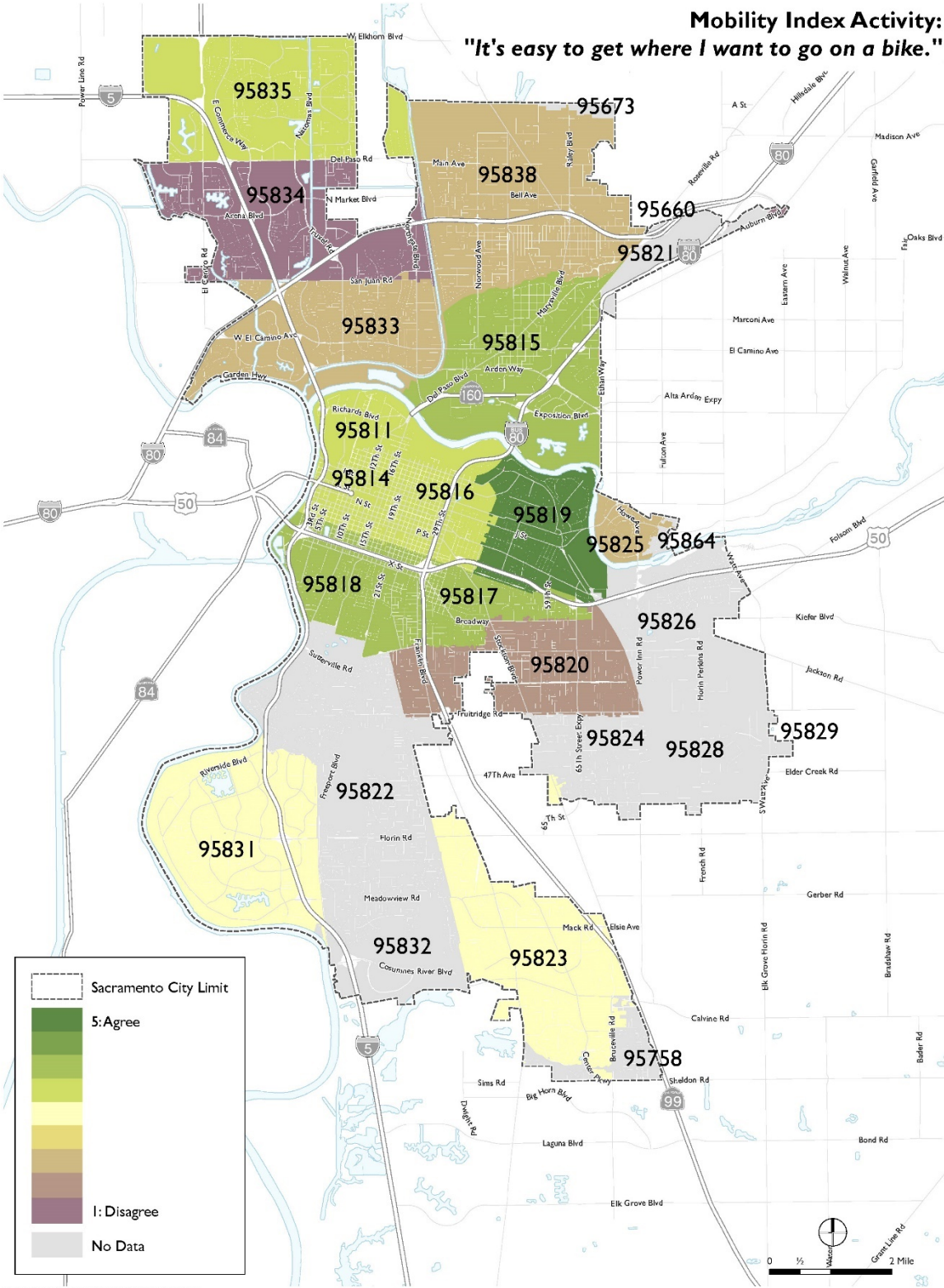
95835
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95831
95832
95823
95758

Sacramento City Limit
5: Agree
1: Disagree
No Data

0   ½   2 Mile

Source: City of Sacramento, 2019; Dyett and Bhatia, 2019

Mobility Index Activity:
"There are enough sidewalks and crosswalks
for me to go where I want."
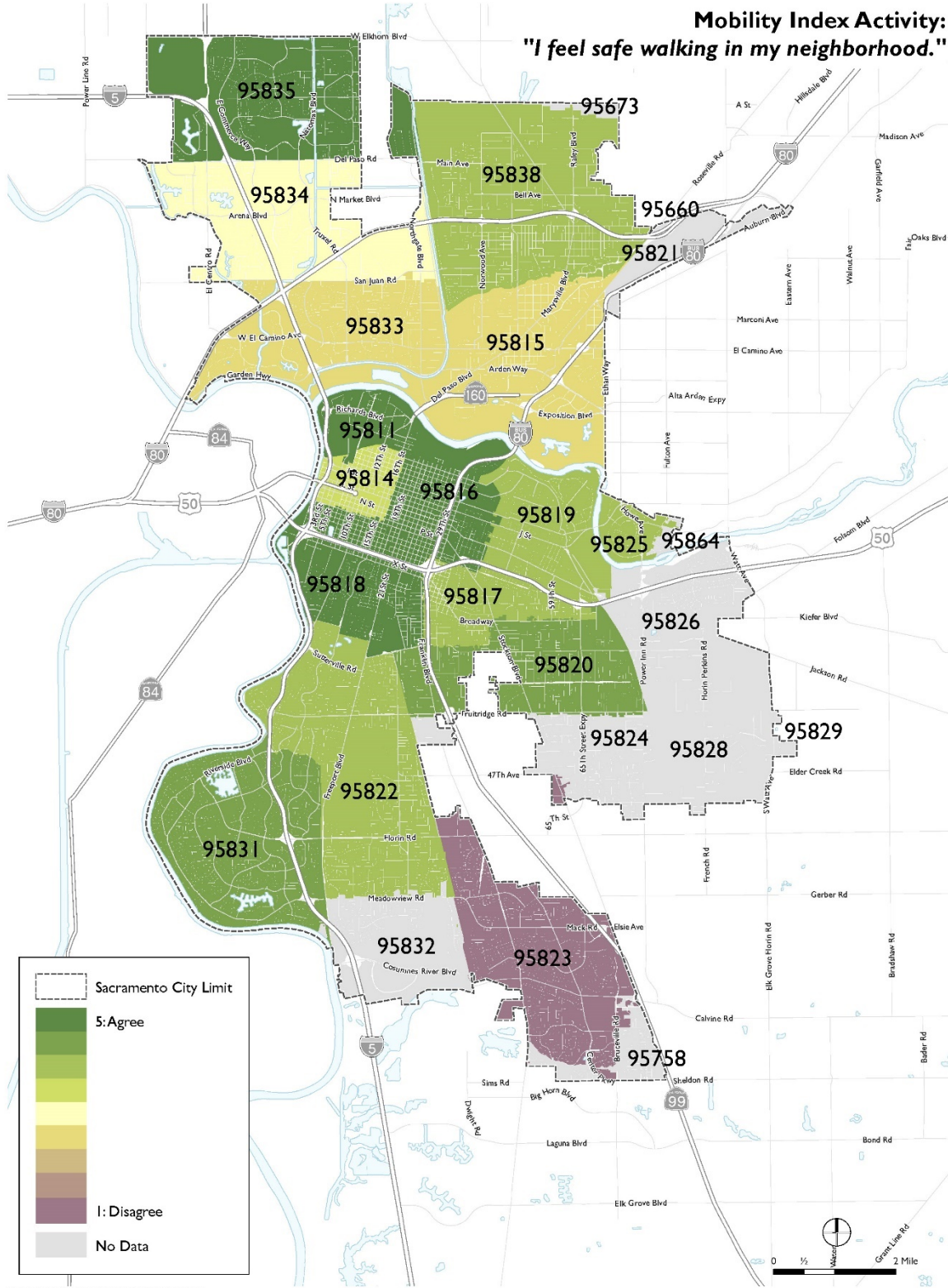
Mobility Index Activity:
"I feel safe walking in my neighborhood."

Mobility Index Activity:
"There are enough places in walking distance of my home where I would want to go."
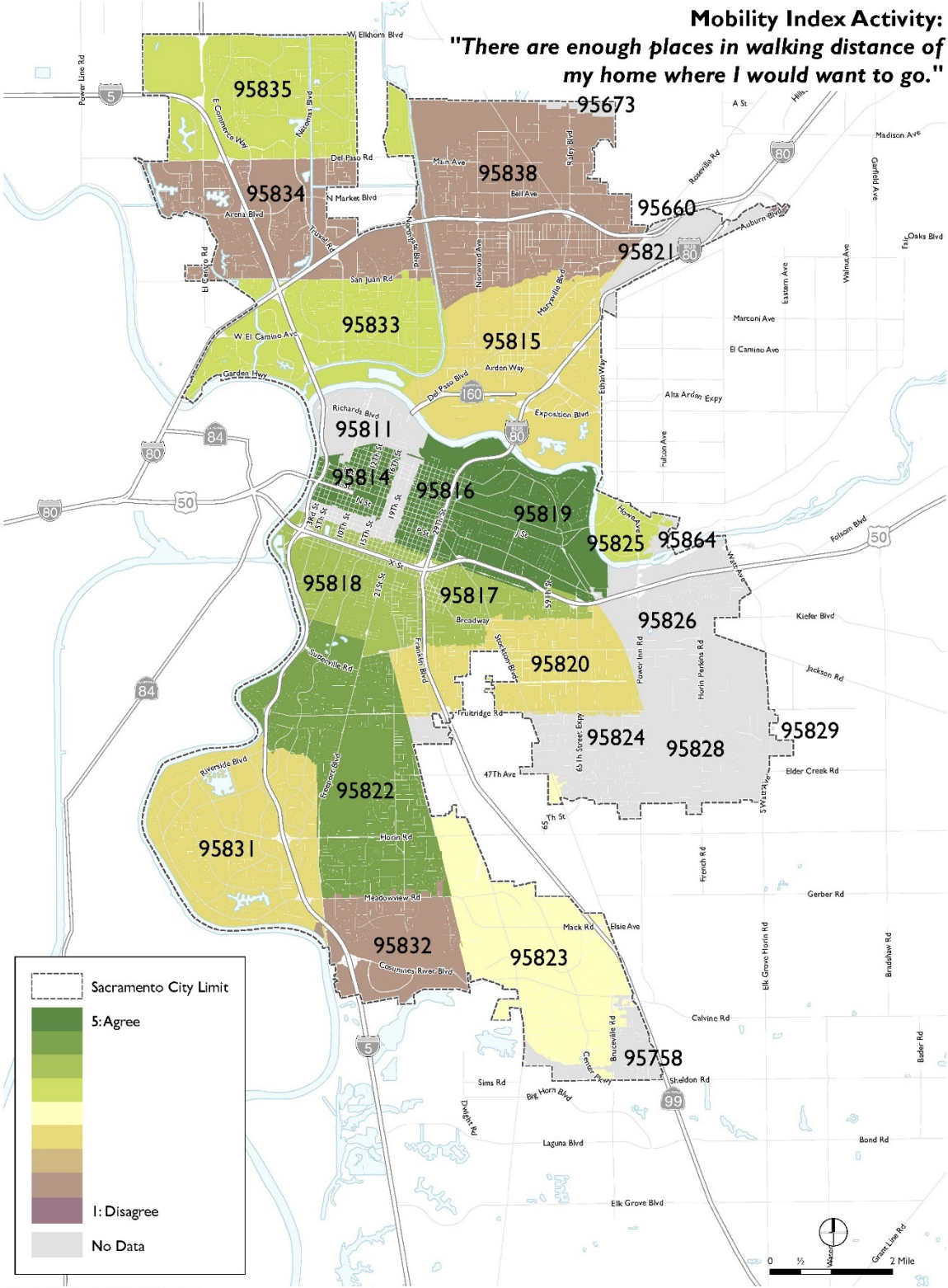
Station 7: Livability

At the livability station, one board introduced some factors that contribute to livability with infographics on housing costs (median rent; median home price etc.), average commute time and crime rates in Sacramento and other comparable cities; conceptual map of cultural assets by Council District; map of parks and recreational facilities; and photos of community gatherings/events. A second board drew connections to show that many of the same factors that make a livable community (strong social networks, housing security, good communication and access to information about potential climate change impacts and responses, positive relationships between the City and the community, strong infrastructure) also make a resilient community.

Displays:
- What is Livability?
- Resilience
- Livability: Urban Heat Island Effect

7A. What makes a community truly livable?

Responses were diverse, but encapsulated several key themes including feeling that the surrounding environment is healthy and supportive of an active lifestyle; an engaged and supportive community spirit; easy access to key shops, jobs, and services, such that car trips are largely unnecessary; a wide variety of public venues and event options that appeal or offer services to all members of the community; and a sense of safety and security.

Most Common Themes:
- An environment that feels healthy, with clean air, clean water, and ample access to parks, trees, and other green spaces (33%)
- A community that is well-connected; walking and biking are easy because almost all key stores and services can be found within walking distance (31%)
- Ample access to a variety of public spaces, public services, community events, and arts and entertainment venues, suitable for residents of all ages (47 occurrences, 31%)
- Living among neighbors who are friendly, supportive, and take pride in their community (31%)
- A sense of safety and security (30%)

7B. Many of the factors that make a city livable also build resilience in the face of disasters, climate change impacts, and other threats. Is Sacramento well prepared for natural or man-made disasters? How can we become more resilient?

Respondents were asked if they felt that Sacramento is well prepared for a natural or man-made disaster, as well as what the City can do to be more prepared. Respondents expressed a variety of concerns regarding Sacramento's vulnerability to climate-related hazards and provided several recommendations for improving the City's resilience.

Most Common Themes:
- The City is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of flooding; measures to reduce flooding impact including levee improvement (33%)
- Residents do not know what they should do or where they should go in the event of an emergency, or whether they would be able to evacuate safely; the City should continue to invest in educational and awareness efforts, as well as develop and disperse emergency response and evacuation plans (33%)
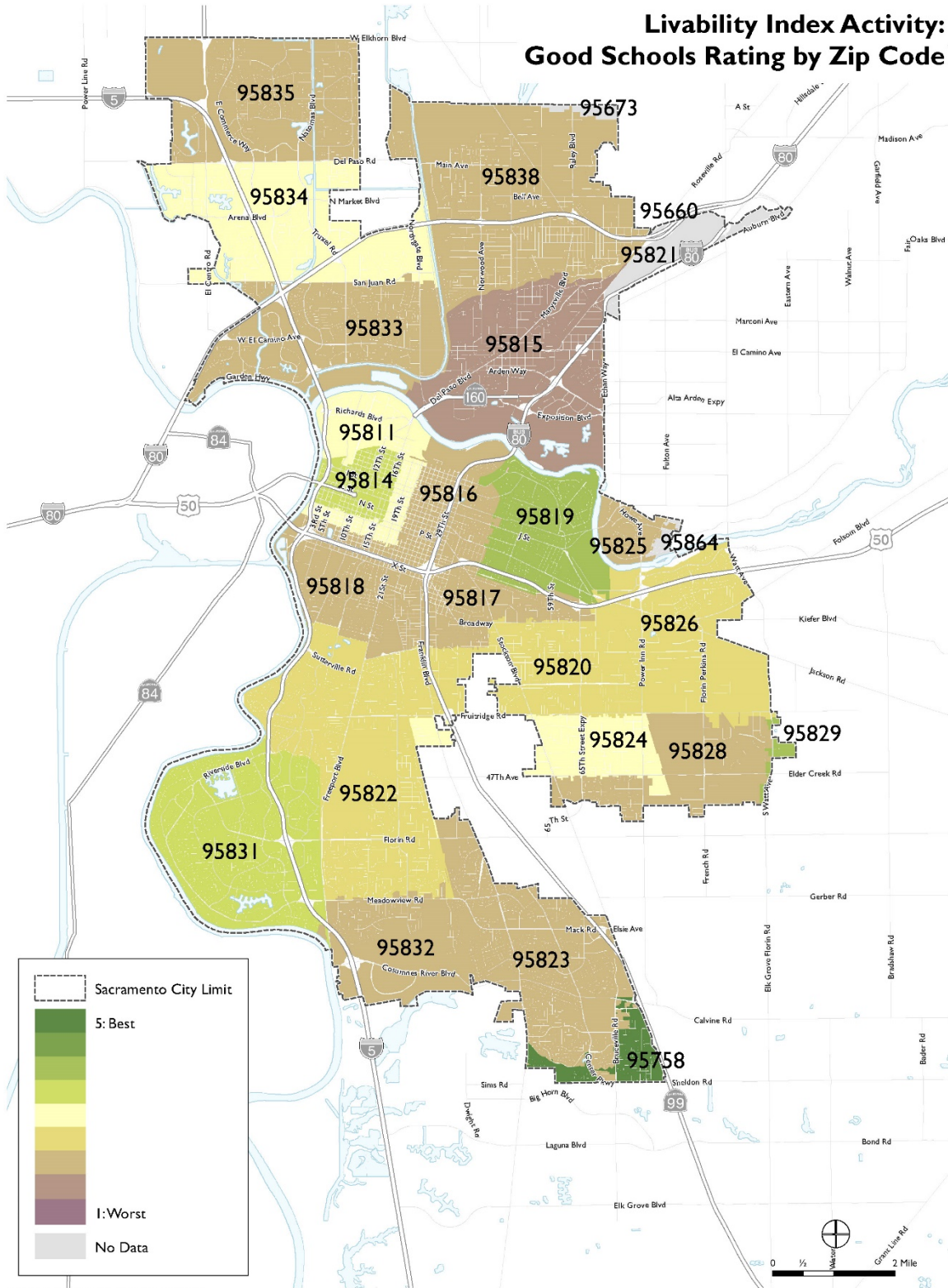
<u>Livability Index</u>

Participants were asked to rate how well their communities performed on several indicators of livability: housing choice, ease of getting around, access to parks and recreation, good schools, sense of community, and access to a variety of leisure activities. Using dots with their zip codes written on them, participants rated these indicators on a scale of 1: low to 5: high. The following maps show the distribution of responses across Sacramento's zip codes. Not all zip codes were represented; for those, a grey "no data" hatch is shown.

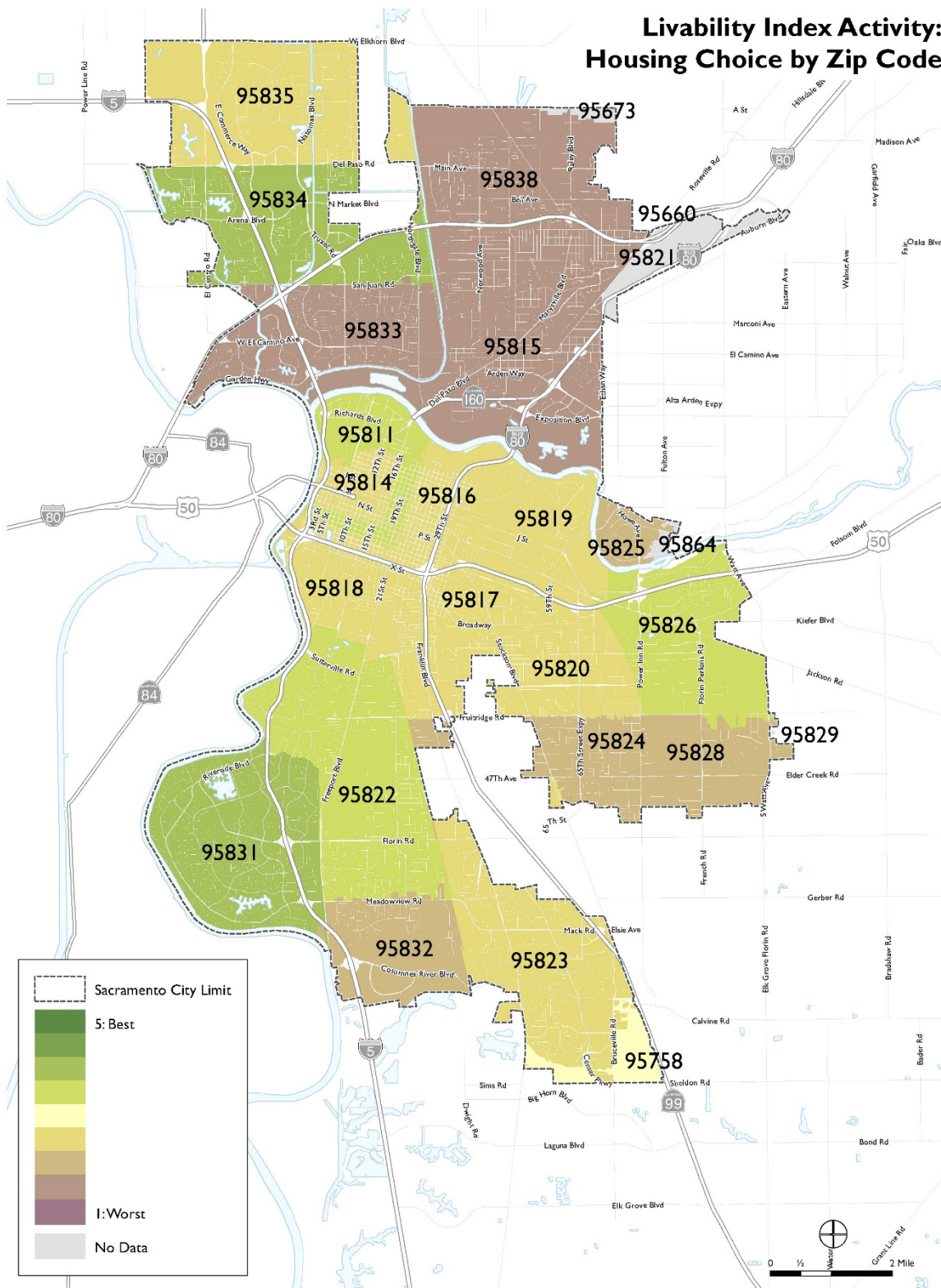Livability Index Activity:
Ease of Getting Around by Zip Code

95835
95673
95834
95838
95660
95821
95833
95815
95811
95814
95816
95819
95825
95864
95818
95817
95826
95820
95822
95824
95828
95829
95831
95832
95823
95758

Sacramento City Limit
5: Best

1: Worst
No Data

Source: City of Sacramento, 2019; Dyett and Bhatia, 2019

0   ½   2 Mile
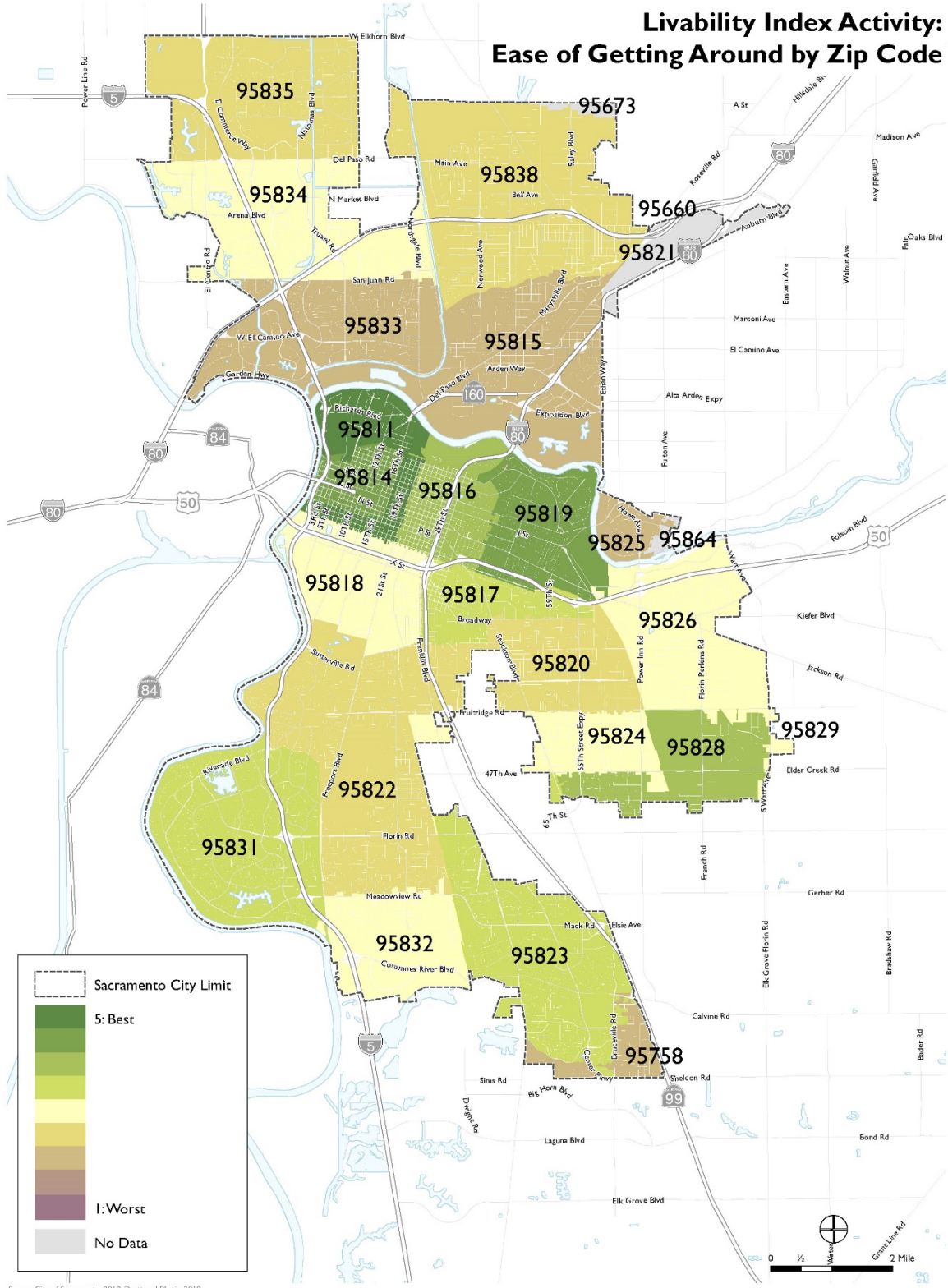
Livability Index Activity:
Good Schools Rating by Zip Code

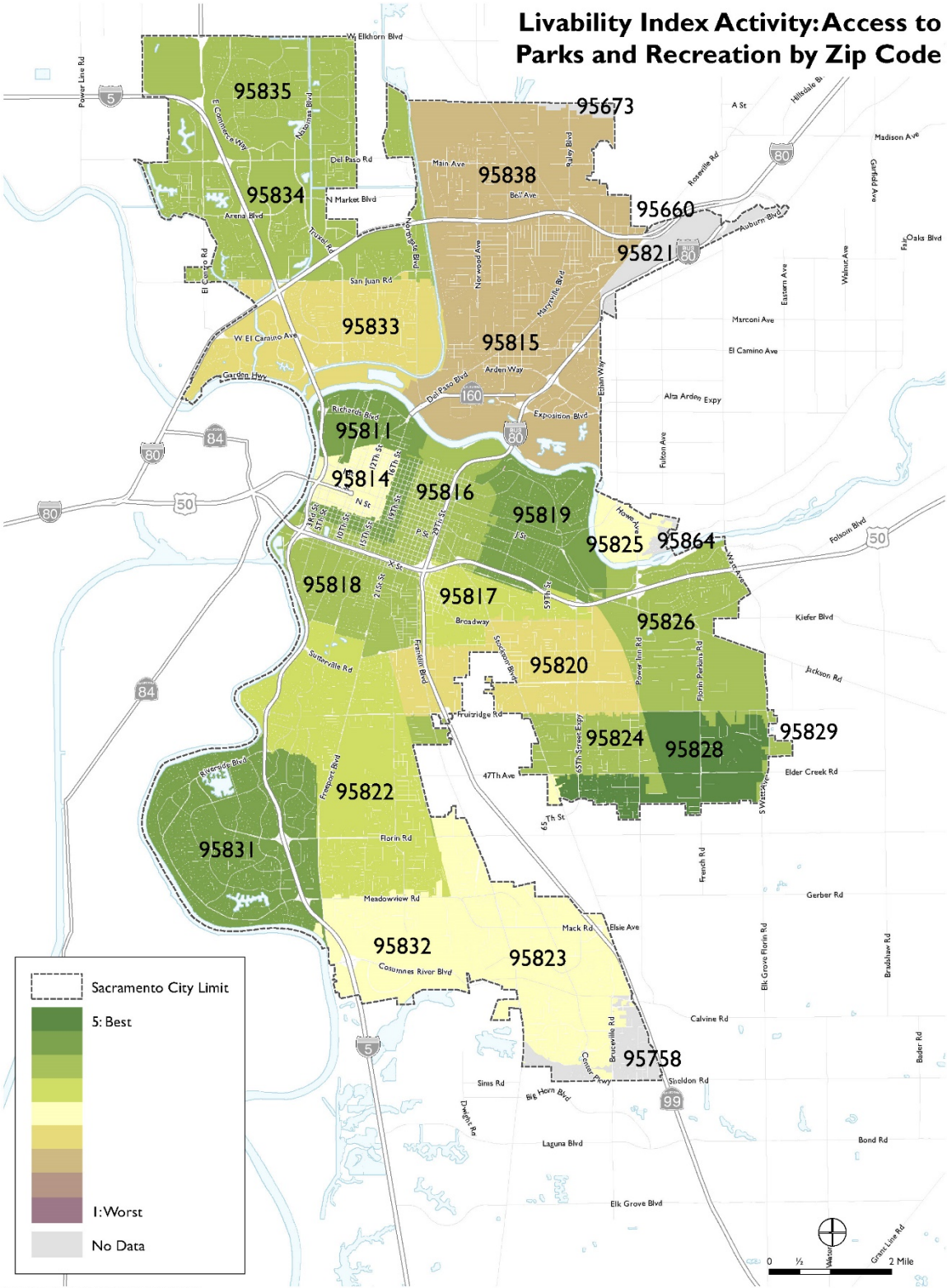Livability Index Activity:
Housing Choice by Zip Code

Livability Index Activity: Access to Parks and Recreation by Zip Code

**Livability Index Activity:
Sense of Community by Zip Code**

95835

95673

95834

95838

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95825

95864

95818

95817

95826

95820

95824

95828

95829

95822

95831

95832

95823

95758

Sacramento City Limit

5: Best

1: Worst

No Data

Source: City of Sacramento, 2019; Dyett and Bhatia, 2019

0   ½   2 Mile
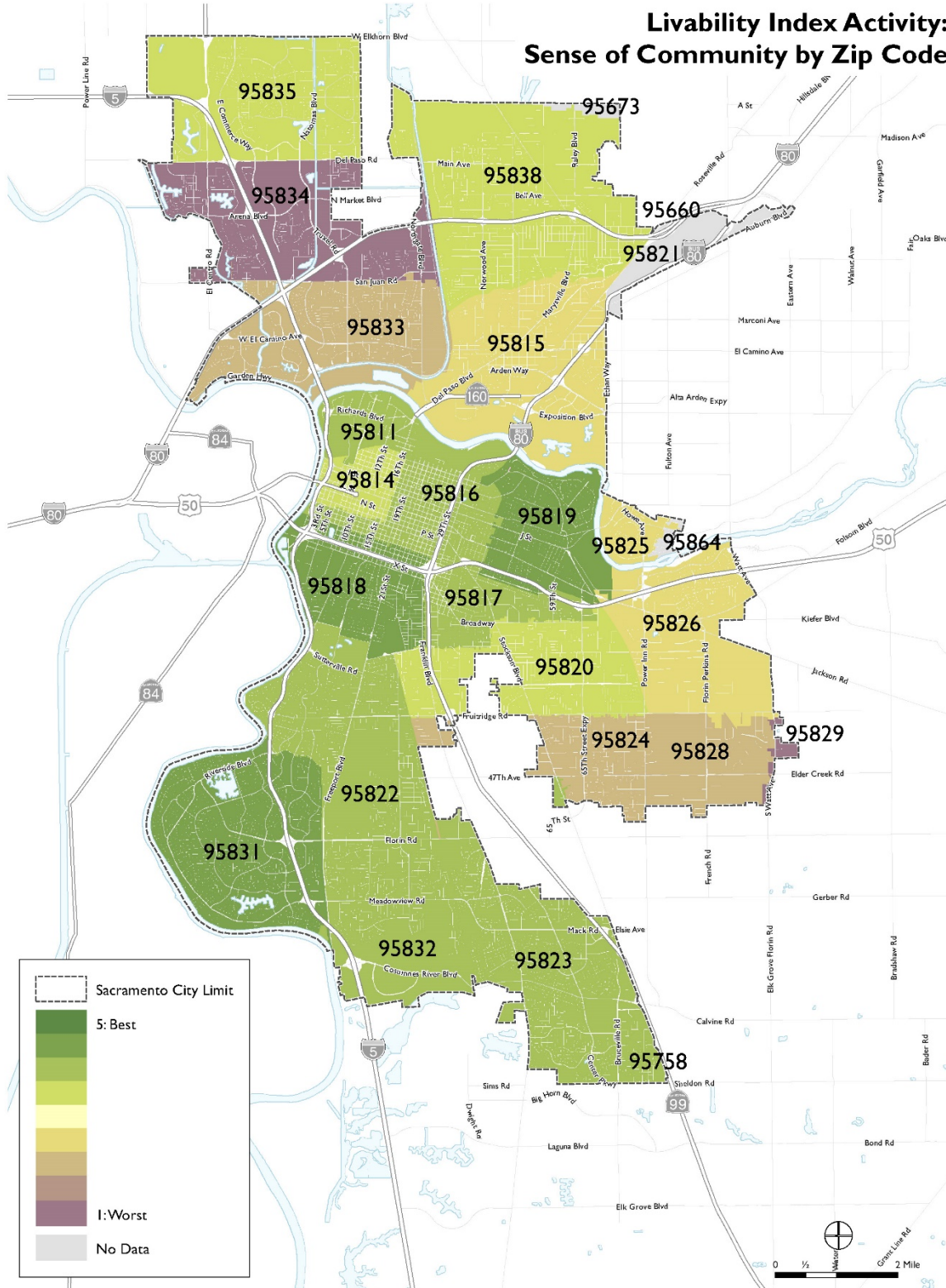
Livability Index Activity:
Variety of Leisure Activities by Zip Code

Sacramento City Limit

5: Best

1: Worst

No Data
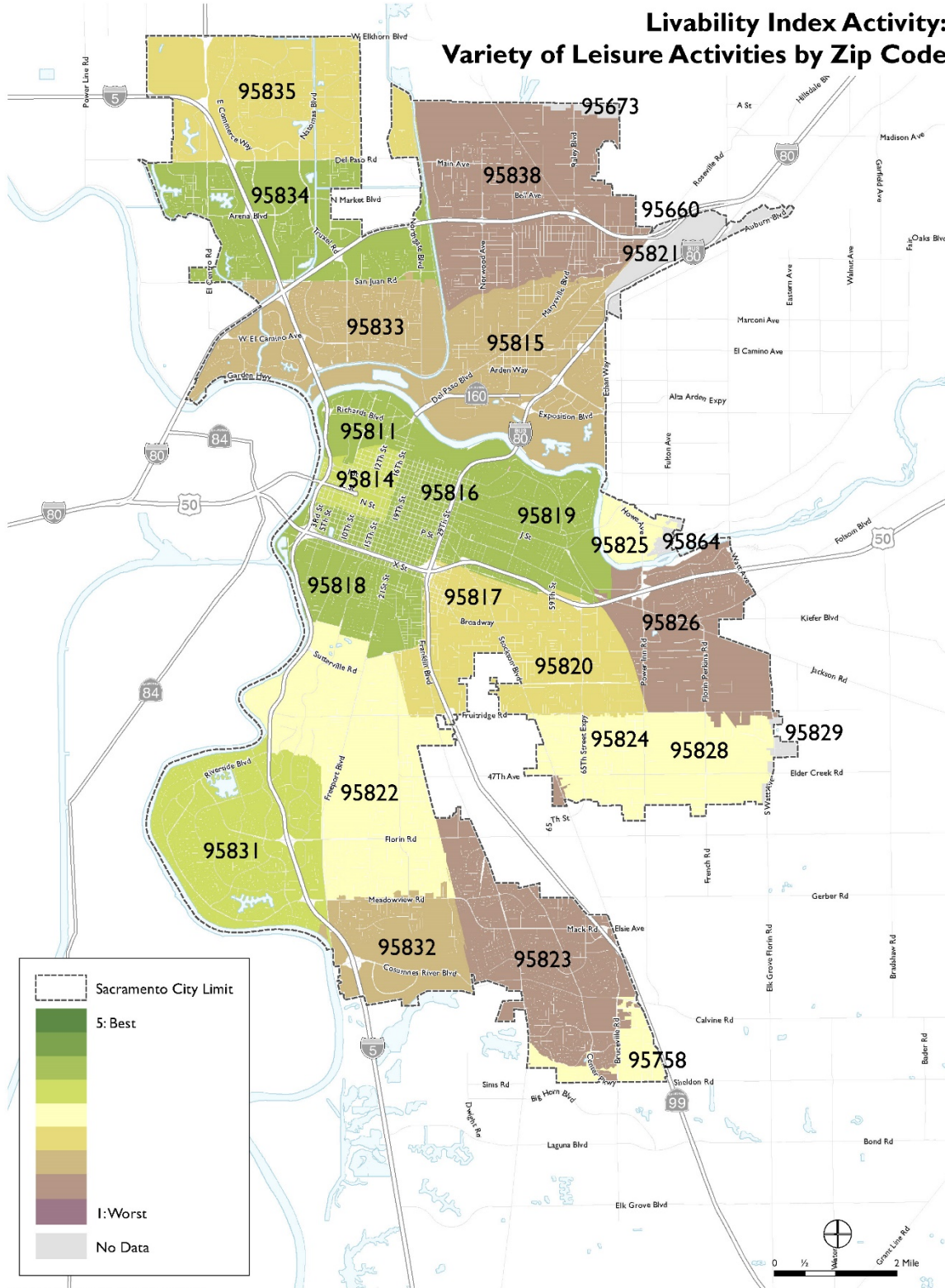
Source: City of Sacramento, 2019; Dyett and Bhatia, 2019

Additional Comments

At the end of the session, respondents were given the opportunity to provide open-ended commentary on their experiences as residents of Sacramento, their hopes for the City's future, and the public input process as a whole. Many respondents expressed gratitude for having the opportunity to share their opinion and hope that the public outreach meeting they attended would serve as a steppingstone for improving quality of life in Sacramento. Other key themes that emerged from respondent commentary included a desire for additional public outreach and education opportunities, a request

Community members participating in an interactive board

for more affordable housing in the City, a desire to see the City directly tackle issues related to climate change and environmental quality, and a request to center diversity and equity initiatives in the city planning process.

Most Common Themes:
- Residents value the opportunity to make their voices heard and engage in community events. These opportunities should be expanded, especially for local youth (23%)
- Affordability and diversity of different housing types is important (19%)
- The City should take a leadership role in mitigation greenhouse gas emissions, addressing climate change impacts, and protecting natural resources (19%)
- Sacramento residents cherish the diversity of their City and want to see it continue to be a welcoming and equitable place for people of all ages, backgrounds, and income levels (14%)

Gladys Cornell, Principal at AIM Consulting, assisting a community member with one of the interactive stations

Notification

An email notification and 4 subsequent reminder emails were sent to more than 69,000 community members regarding the 4 Citywide Visioning workshops.
Fliers were posted at the following locations in the

Sacramento area:

- All workshop venues (Hagginwood Community Center, The Sam and Bonnie Pannell Community Center, Oak Park Community Center, Hart Senior Center)
- Underrepresented Community Centers
- Libraries

Several community-based organizations, community leaders, neighborhood associations, and local agencies shared the workshop information on their media platforms or through e-newsletters.

- City of Sacramento Social Media Platforms
- City of Sacramento City Express Blog
- WALK Sacramento
- Everything Sac and More
- House Sacramento
- AARP California
- The Railyards
- Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce
- City of Sacramento Councilmember's Social Media/E-Blast: Councilmembers Ashby, Warren, Harris, Hansen, Schenirer, Carr, and Mayor Steinberg
- Neighborhood Associations including the Colonial Village Neighborhood
- Downtown Sacramento Partnership

A news release including information about the workshops was sent to the City of Sacramento's media distribution list.

Workshop participants were also asked to provide information on where they lived and worked:

Do you live in Sacramento?

I do not live in Sacramento
12%

I live in Sacramento
88%

Do you work in Sacramento?

I do not work in Sacramento
42%

I work in Sacramento
58%