

# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION  
NOVEMBER 30, 2010



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

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# WELCOME



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

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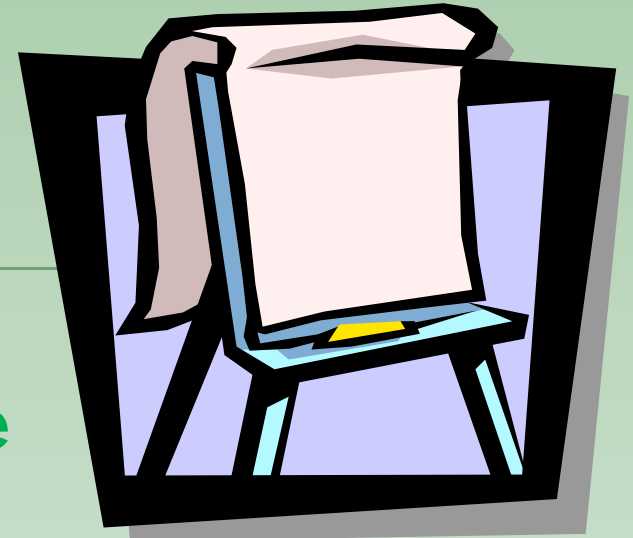
- Agenda
- Overview and meeting goals
  - Who is here?
  - What are the ground rules?
- Project scoping: the process and content
- What we have learned so far?
  - From small group sessions
  - Where do you stand?
- Initial project objectives - discussion
- Concluding thoughts - discussion



# Public Input

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- ALL ideas/suggestions are welcome
- Identification of alternatives is fine
- Listen to understand
- Respect each others' viewpoints
- Be fair with time



# Lewiston looks at parkway options

By NANCY A. FISCHER

NEWS NIAGARA REPORTER

LEWISTON — Lewiston Road is not the best option for travel between Niagara Falls and Lewiston, Town Board members believe.

Board members voted unanimously this week in support of the Robert Moses Parkway between the two communities, in advance of a public meeting next week as part of a state "scoping" process to consider future prospects for the roadway.

"From Niagara Falls, you need to have some connection from the north," said Councilman Michael A. Marra. "Without it, there would be a regional negative effect on business."

Marra said a recent poll shows that town residents favor maintaining the parkway in some form, while also allowing for increased access to the Niagara Gorge. Almost 80 percent of people polled said they want the connection and some type of improvement.

"They don't want barrier to perpetuity," Marra said.

Councilman Ernest C. Palmer agreed that he wanted the parkway remain open. He added, "It can't be in the form it is now."

"I hope it gets fixed, and get rid of the concrete barrier," Palmer said during the meeting. "In its current state, there are no emergency pull-off areas. It's a real hazard to pedestrians in certain areas."

Palmer, a former Falls officer, said that there has been a lot of rhetoric about two versus four lanes and that a realistic compromise would be some type of an arterial road with the city but not adversely affect the gorge.

"Lewiston Road is no substitute," he said.

He said options would be to utilize Hyde Boulevard, down Highland Avenue through a former right of way, to create a transportation option.

"A highway similar to the Twin Cities Highway th

# Lewiston re-enactors to stage fires that burned in War of 1812

By NANCY A. FISCHER

NEWS NIAGARA REPORTER

LEWISTON — In Buffalo, there are plans to set a series of bonfires along the shores of the Niagara River to rekindle interest as the bicentennial of the War of 1812 approaches.

But before Buffalo was burned, Lewiston was on the front lines and "Flames Through Lewiston" at 7 p.m. Dec. 18 will be the first in a series of bicentennial events through 2014 to remember the War of 1812 in this area.

"We were burned down here in Lewiston on Dec. 19 [1813] and ... days later Buffalo was burned down. We were all part of the same war," said Lee Simonson, volunteer War of 1812 director and Lewiston Historical Society president.

Simonson said planning has been under way for well over a year and four main projects will be offered.

"We still have a long way to go. This involves grants and foundations and getting sponsors and funding sources. This is a big project," he said. "We never expected any help from the state and we knew if this was going to be done, it would be done locally."

Simonson said they have al

ready begun by selling replicas of the "Star Spangled Banner flag" to the community at the Lewiston Historical Society. The flag with 15 stars and 15 stripes flew during the War of 1812 and inspired the anthem.

"We've sold well over 200 and are selling them for \$15 each," Simonson said.

He said they also plan to fly these flags along Lewiston's Center Street.

Simonson said an original flag from that era was purchased in the 1990s and rehabbed by Old Fort Niagara. It is now on display in a protective showcase in the fort's visitors center.

"That was the flag that was captured when the British captured Fort Niagara on Dec. 19, 1813," Simonson said.

Another project that is part of the War of 1812 commemoration will be the construction of a bronze Tuscarora Heroes monument, using the same model as the Underground Railroad monument, Freedom Crossing. The Tuscarora Heroes monument will be unveiled on the 200th anniversary of the attack, on the morning of Dec. 19, 2013, Simonson said.

On Dec. 18, "Flames Through Lewiston" will commemorate the attack and burn-

ing of Lewiston 200 years ago.

"On that night at 6 p.m., Center Street between Fourth and Fifth streets will be closed and at 7 p.m. there will be 10 fires right down the middle of the street. We will have volunteer re-enactors running down Center Street, screaming and crying just like they did in real life and that will be accompanied by some dramatic chase music," Simonson said.

During the bicentennial year, Lewiston will offer the "Battle of Queenston Heights" on Oct. 12, 2012, as part of a re-enactment weekend.

Re-enactors will be in Lewiston drilling and marching and there will be a huge artillery bombardment of Canada, Simonson said. There will also be field days and fireworks, and local schoolchildren will be invited to attend on field trips.

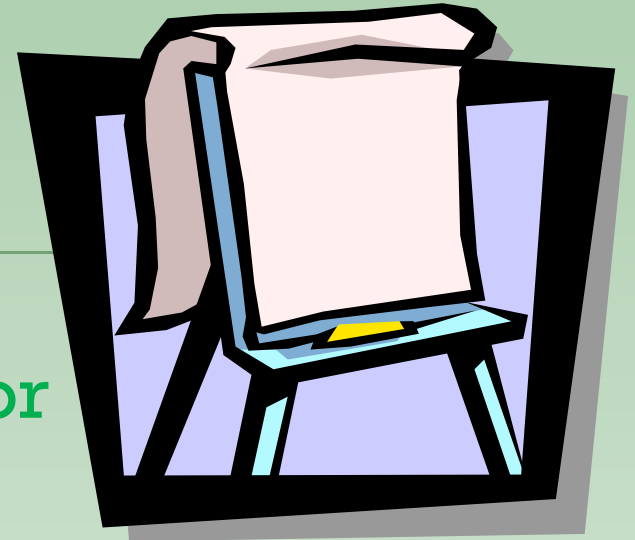
The following day, events will shift to Queenston in Canada to commemorate the killing of British Maj. Gen. Isaac Brock. Brock is credited with stopping the Americans from taking over Canada. A re-enactment of the funeral of Gen. Brock will be held Oct. 14, in Queenston.

e-mail: [nfischer@buffnews.com](mailto:nfischer@buffnews.com)

# Public Input

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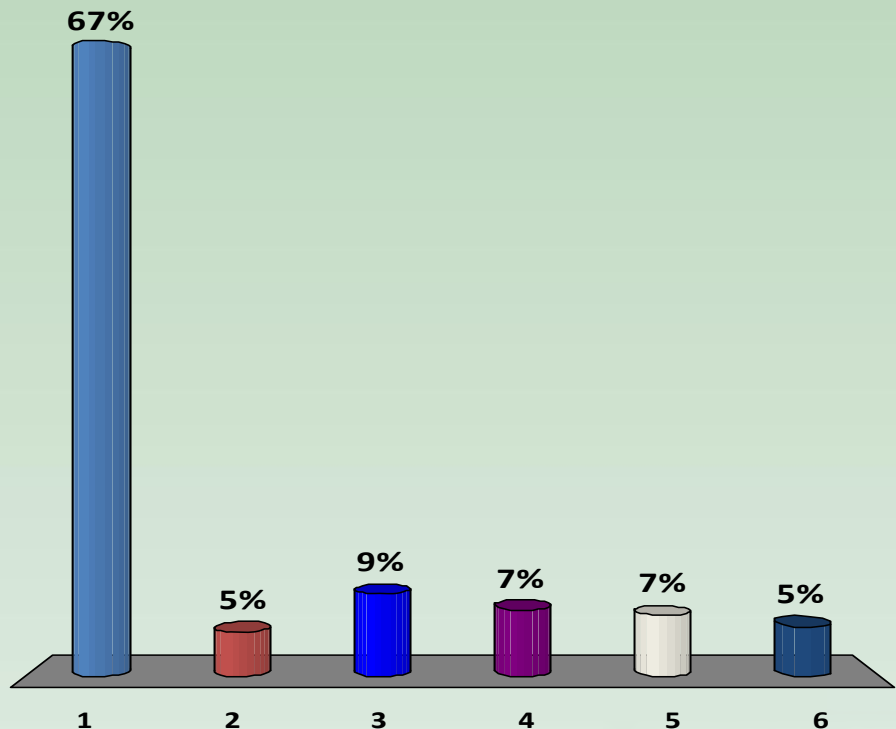
- Tonight we identify not analyze or decide on solutions
- Questions to help define or understand input are OK
- Be concise
- Any written statements?
- Minimize “side bar” conversations



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

## Who are you?

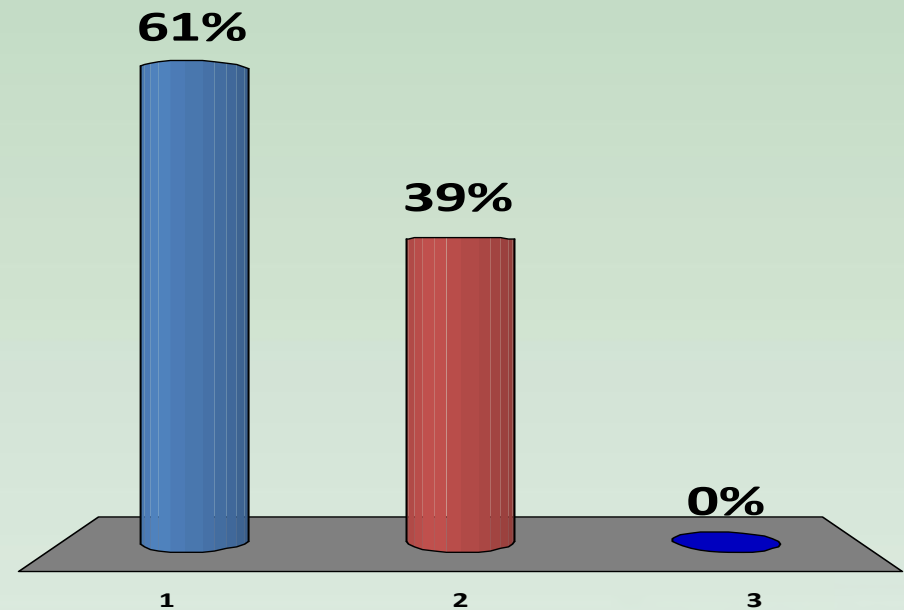
1. Concerned Citizen
2. Neighborhood Organization
3. Non-profit organization
4. Local Business
5. Government
6. Other



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

What is your gender?

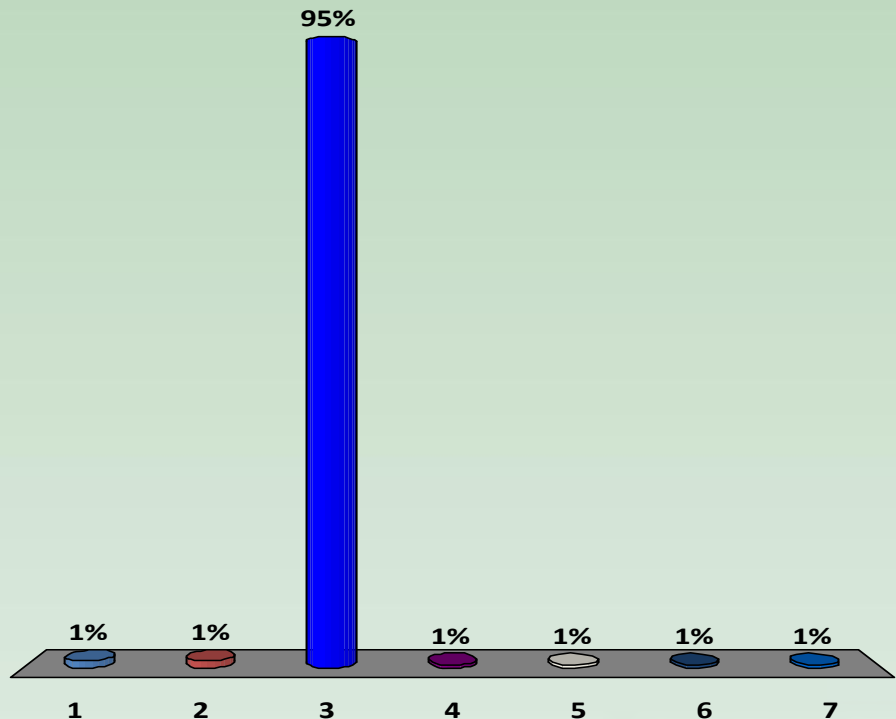
1. Male
2. Female
3. Other



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

## What is your race?

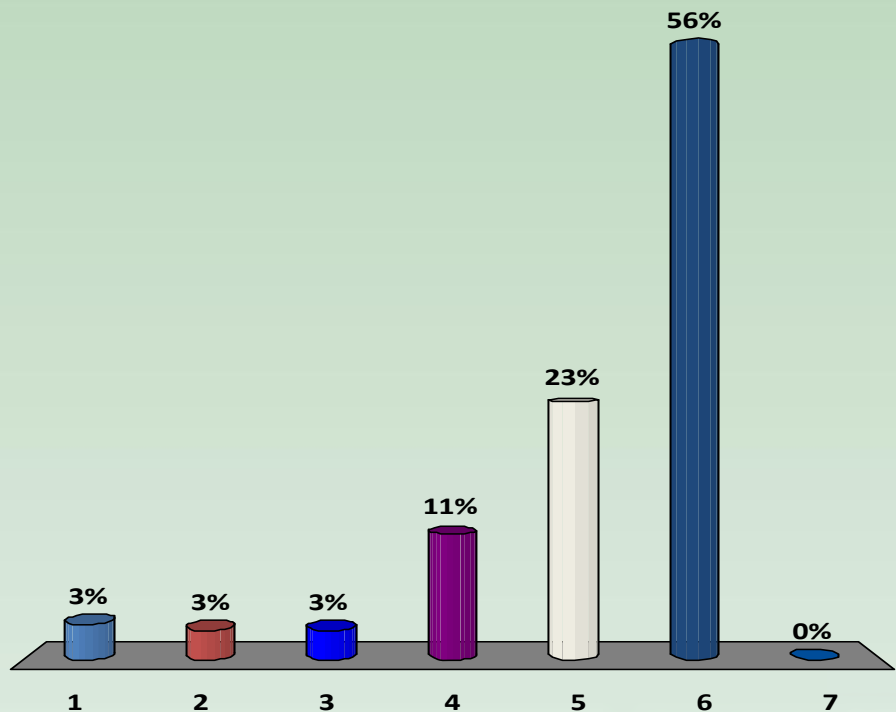
1. Hispanic/Latino
2. African American
3. White
4. Native American/ Alaskan Native
5. Asian/Pacific Islander
6. Mixed Race
7. Other



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

## How old are you?

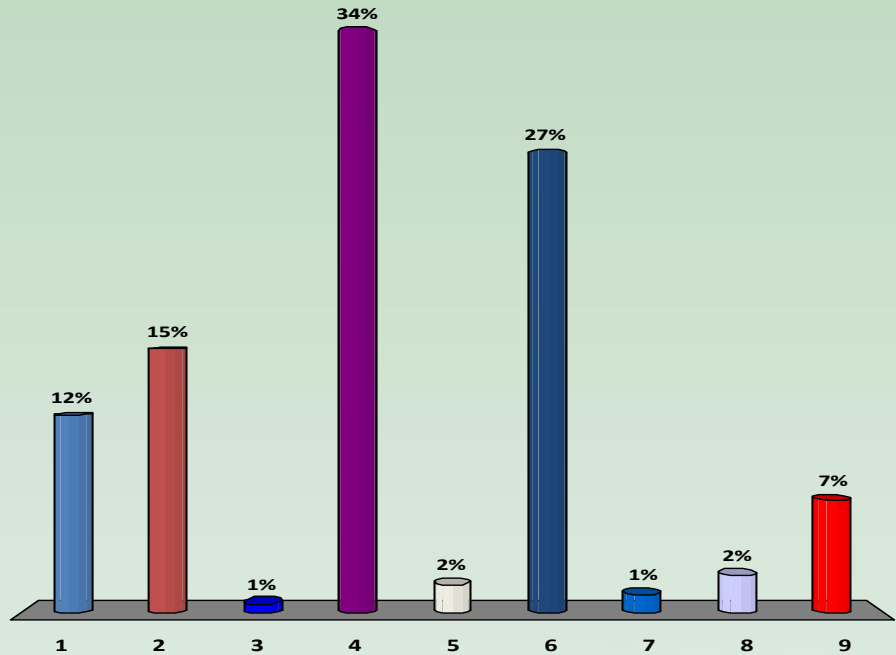
1. 19 or under
2. 20-29
3. 30-39
4. 40-49
5. 50-59
6. 60 or older
7. Don't remember



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

## How did you hear about this meeting?

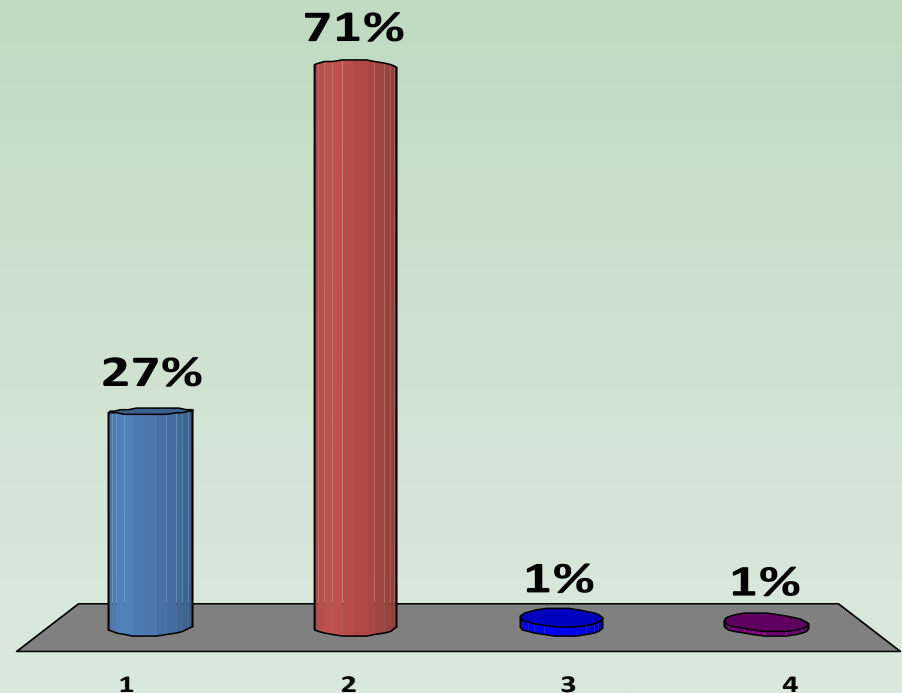
1. Email
2. Mail
3. Radio
4. Newspaper
5. Poster
6. Word of Mouth
7. Website
8. Social Media
9. Other



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

## Why are you here?

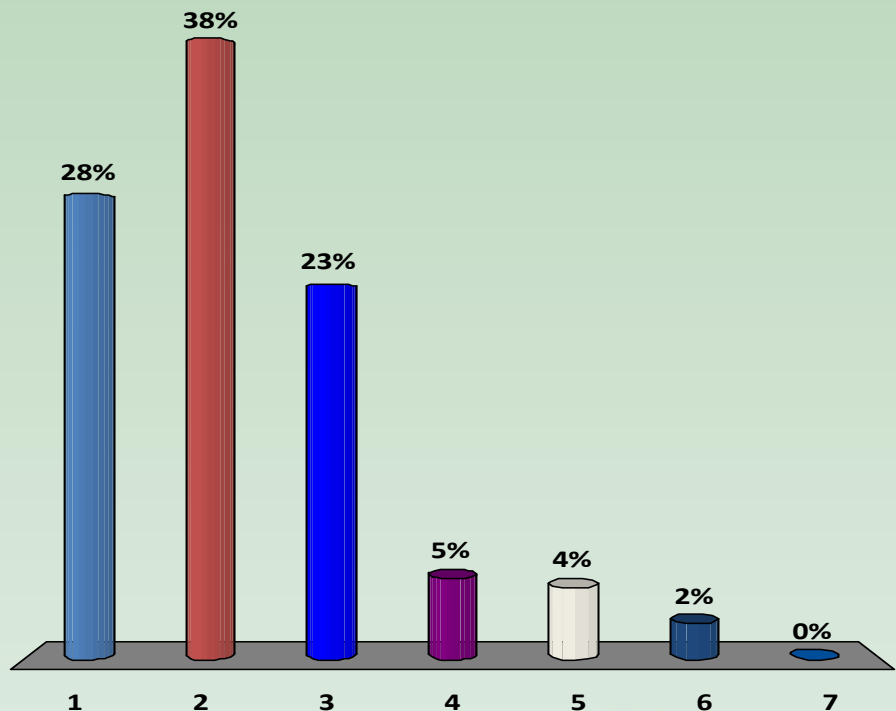
1. General Interest in Niagara Gorge
2. To advocate for my view of responsible action on the corridor
3. Nothing else to do on a weekday night
4. I don't know



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

## Where do you live?

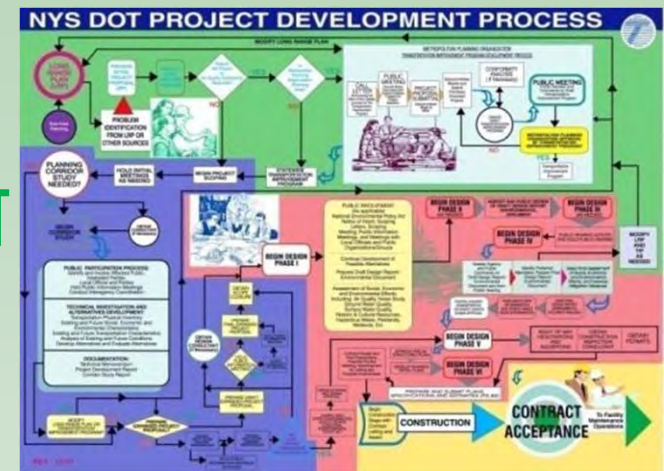
1. Niagara Falls
2. Lewiston
3. Youngstown
4. Elsewhere in Niagara County
5. Erie County
6. Other
7. I don't know



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

## PROCESS:

- PROJECT IDENTIFICATION
- PROJECT INITIALIZATION
- **PROJECT SCOPING**
- PRELIM DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (NEPA/SEQRA) PHASES I-IV
- FINAL DESIGN
- CONSTRUCTION



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

## PROJECT SCOPING:

- 1) Gather Information
- 2) Consider other ongoing planning efforts
- 3) Obtain input regarding concerns/issues
- 4) Develop purpose/needs and objectives of the project
- 5) Develop initial set of concepts
- 6) Determine anticipated social, economic and environmental issues that may be affected by concepts
- 7) Obtain stakeholder and public input on concepts
- 8) Recommend alternatives that should be studied in detail under Phases I-IV
- 9) Document findings in a Scoping Report



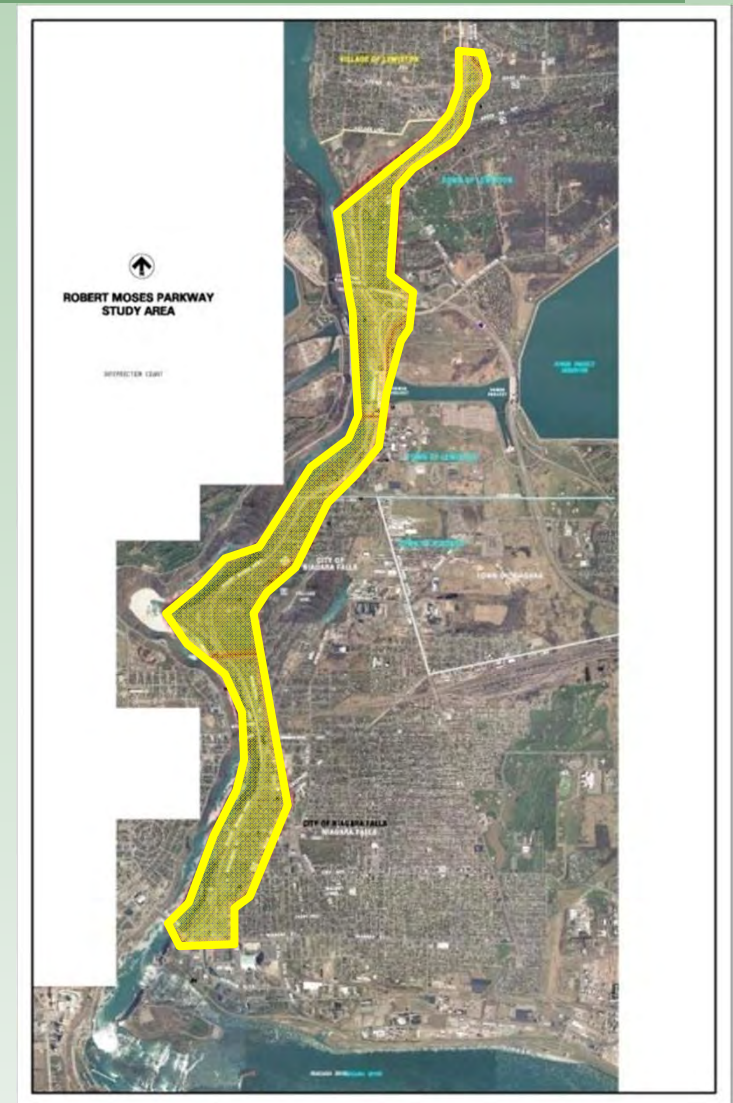
# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

**Project Study Area**

**MAIN STREET  
(NIAGARA FALLS)**

**TO**

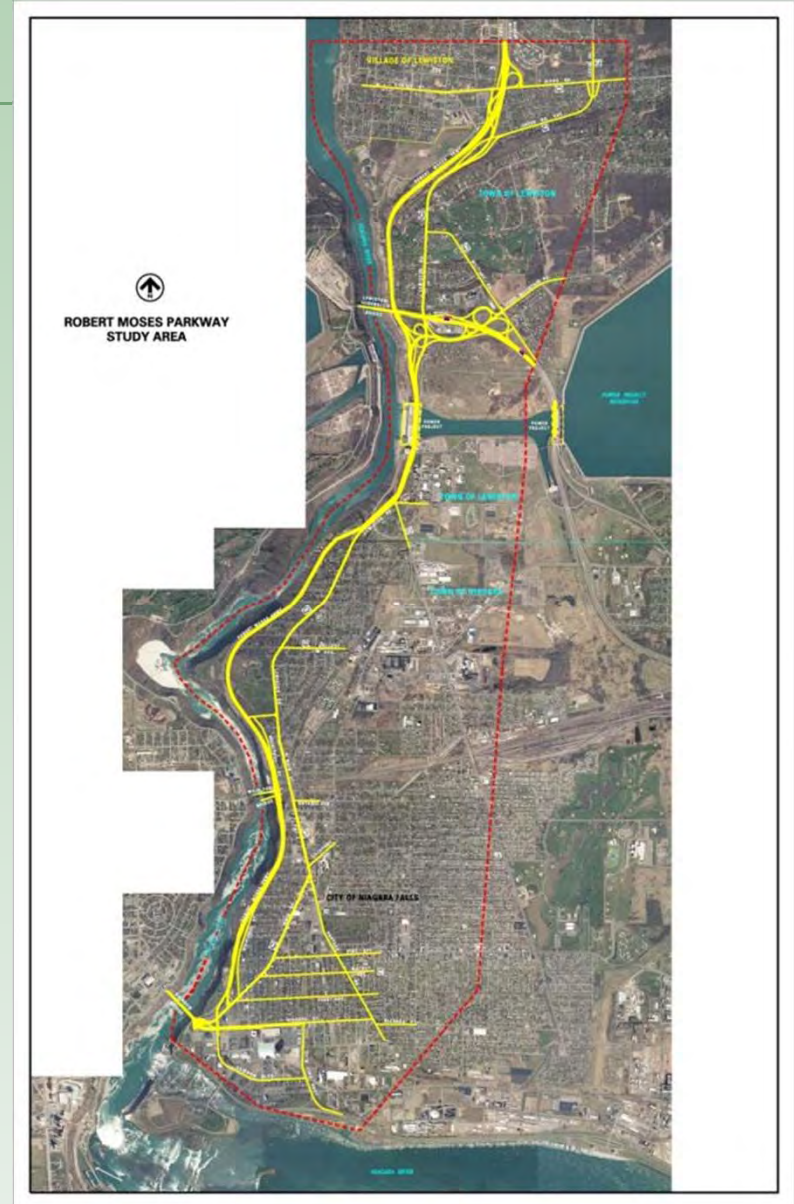
**ROUTE 104  
(LEWISON)**



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

**Project Study Area**

**TRAFFIC MODEL  
AREA**



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

PROJECT MILESTONE DATES	2010				2011							
	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	
STAKEHOLDERS MEETINGS	█	█										
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING			★									
CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT AND ASSESSMENTS				█	█	█						
DRAFT REPORT AND PUBLICATION						█	█					
FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS WITH STAKEHOLDERS AND THE PUBLIC								★				
FINAL REPORT – RECOMMENDED CONCEPTS									█			
FINAL MEETING WITH THE PUBLIC											★	

## SCHEDULE



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

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## Initial Meetings:

1. **MOU GROUP – PARKS, NYSDOT, USAN, CNF**
2. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT GROUPS**
3. **AGENCIES/ELECTED OFFICIALS**
4. **CULTURAL/COMMERCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS**



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

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## **MOU Group**

August 26, 2010

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
New York State Department of Transportation  
USA Niagara  
City of Niagara Falls

## **Municipal / Village**

October 1, 2010

Niagara County, Department of Public Works  
Village of Lewiston  
Niagara Falls Central School District  
Town of Lewiston

## **Elected Officials / Public Agencies**

October 21, 2010

New York State Senator Maziarz  
Assemblywoman Del Monte's Office  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation - Permits  
Niagara River Greenway Commission  
Niagara Falls Bridge Commission  
New York Power Authority  
U.S. Border Patrol  
Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

## Cultural, Commercial & Environmental Groups

October 27, 2010

Cataract Tours

One Niagara

Laborer's Local #91

Niagara Falls Tourism Board

Niagara Majestic

Niagara Falls Block Club Council

Sierra Club

Parkway Preservation Committee

Wild Ones Niagara

Niagara Frontier Wildlife Habitat Council

Niagara University

Main Street Business and Professional Association

Buffalo Audubon Society



Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce

Artpark

Upper Mountain Fire Department

Aquarium of Niagara

Old Fort Niagara

EDR Companies

Preserve De Veaux

Niagara County Environmental Management Council

Bedore Tours, Inc.

Niagara Heritage Partnership

Buffalo Niagara River Keeper

Niagara Falls High School



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

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## Purpose of the Initial Group Meetings:

- Obtain any relevant project data that government/municipal groups may possess
- Gain understanding/input regarding the concerns/issues /perceived project objectives
- Obtain information on parallel planning efforts the group may have undertaken.
- Obtain input on alternative concepts that may be proposed by the group



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

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## INPUT RECEIVED SO FAR:

- Support for parkway removal
- Support for parkway preservation
- Economic impacts:
  - With and without a parkway
  - Future parkway maintenance costs
  - Tourism, Eco Tourism
- Traffic Impacts:
  - Artpark events
  - Impacts to residents/Maple Avenue School (Lewiston Road)
  - International Bridge crossing traffic
- Environmental impacts
  - Storm water runoff,
  - wildlife habitat
- Access to the gorge
- Link between Niagara Falls and northern municipalities



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

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## Project Objectives:

### What?

General statement of what we would like to accomplish

### Who?

Initiated by project sponsors and adjusted through stakeholder input – you






















































### Why?

Gauge how well an alternative satisfies what we want to accomplish



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

## Project Objectives - Measurement

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6	Option 7	Option 8
Objective 1								
Objective 2								
Objective 3								
Objective 4								
Objective 5								
Objective 6								
Objective 7								



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

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## Initial Project Objectives:

1. Remove the excess transportation infrastructure that currently exists within the Niagara Gorge Corridor.
2. Provide appropriately scaled, direct, continuous and integrated improvements to the vehicular, bicycle, pedestrian and public transportation linkages between the points of interest (scenic, natural, cultural and historic attractions) along the Niagara Gorge Corridor and within adjacent communities, neighborhoods and business districts.
3. Create new and enhance existing connections with the adjacent community and the Niagara Gorge.



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

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## Initial Project Objectives:

4. Enhance opportunities for appropriately scaled uses within the Niagara Gorge Corridor by expanding the park experience up to and into the adjoining communities.
5. Provide improved pedestrian access throughout the Niagara Gorge Corridor.
6. Provide multi-modal recreational trails throughout the length of the corridor to points of interest and community destinations.



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

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## Initial Project Objectives:

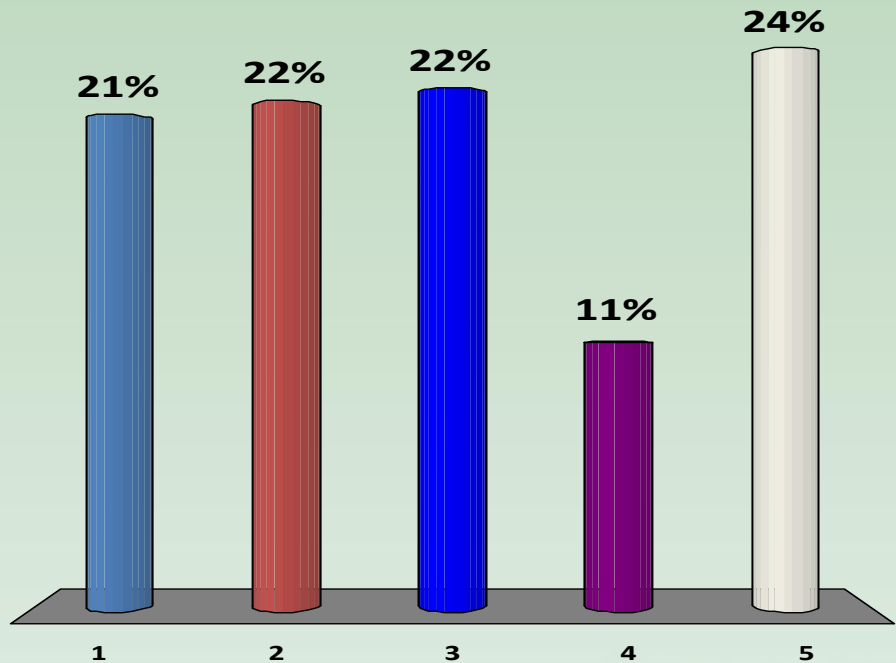
7. Conserve, rehabilitate and protect the natural setting of the Niagara Gorge Corridor.
8. Improve the visitors' and residents' experience both in the park and in the adjacent community.
9. Support the Niagara River Greenway's vision by providing access to and connections between the important resources within the corridor, giving rise to economic opportunities for the region.



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

## I believe the objectives:

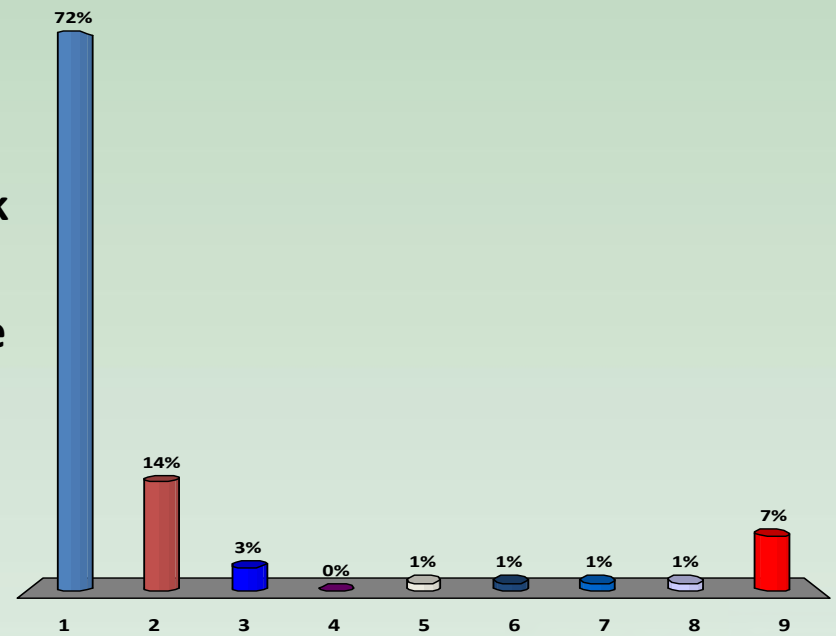
1. Are basically sound
2. Need minor adjustments
3. Need to be significantly adjusted
4. Are fatally flawed, We should start over
5. It is too soon to tell, I don't know yet



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

The objective I most want changed is:

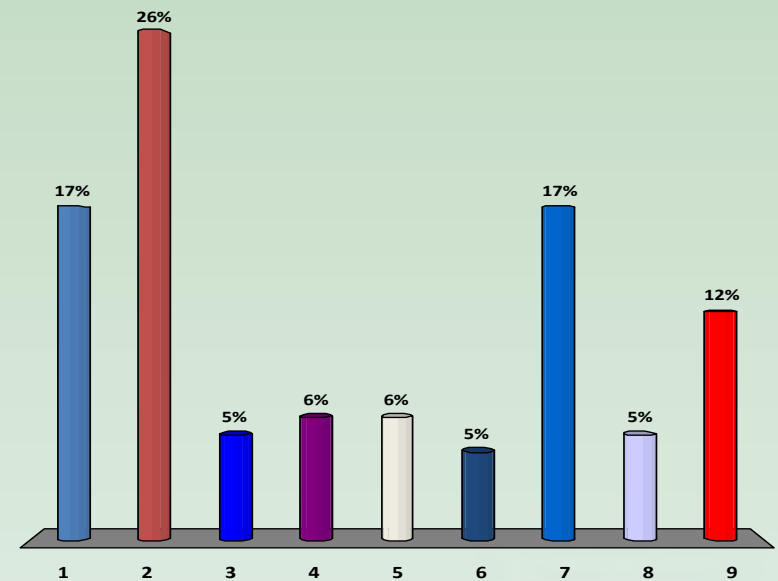
1. Remove excess transportation infrastructure
2. Provide links between key destinations
3. Create and enhance neighborhood-gorge connections
4. Enhance opportunities for uses in the park and adjacent communities
5. Improve pedestrian access throughout the corridor
6. Provide multi-modal trails to points of interest and community destinations
7. Conserve, rehabilitate and protect natural settings in the corridor
8. Improve resident and visitor experience in the park and adjacent community
9. Support the Niagara River Greenway vision



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

In my view, the most important corridor objective is:

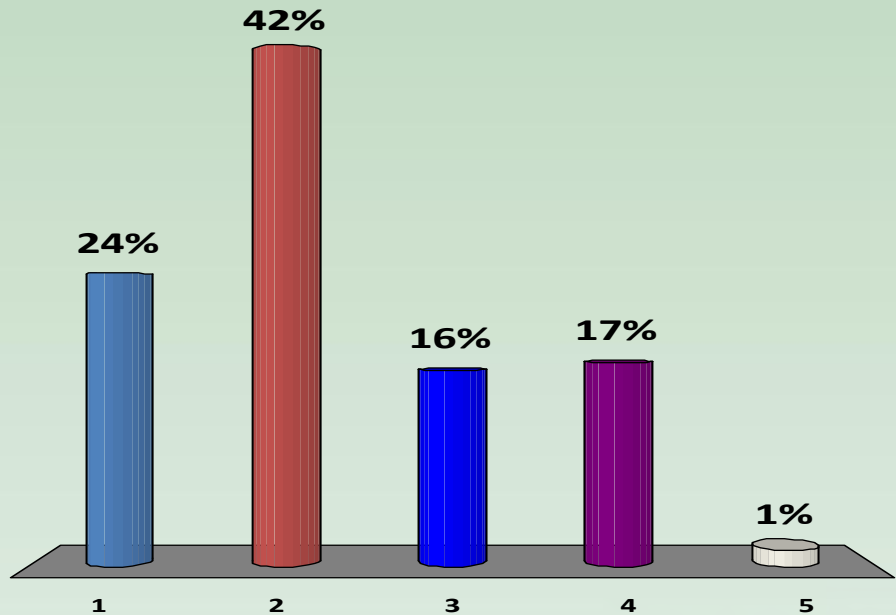
1. Remove excess transportation infrastructure
2. Provide links between key destinations
3. Create and enhance neighborhood-gorge connections
4. Enhance opportunities for uses in the park and adjacent communities
5. Improve pedestrian access throughout the corridor
6. Provide multi-modal trails to points of interest and community destinations
7. Conserve, rehabilitate and protect natural settings in the corridor
8. Improve resident and visitor experience in the park and adjacent community
9. Support the Niagara River Greenway vision



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

At tonight's meeting, how much did you learn about the process of scoping and the Corridor Project?

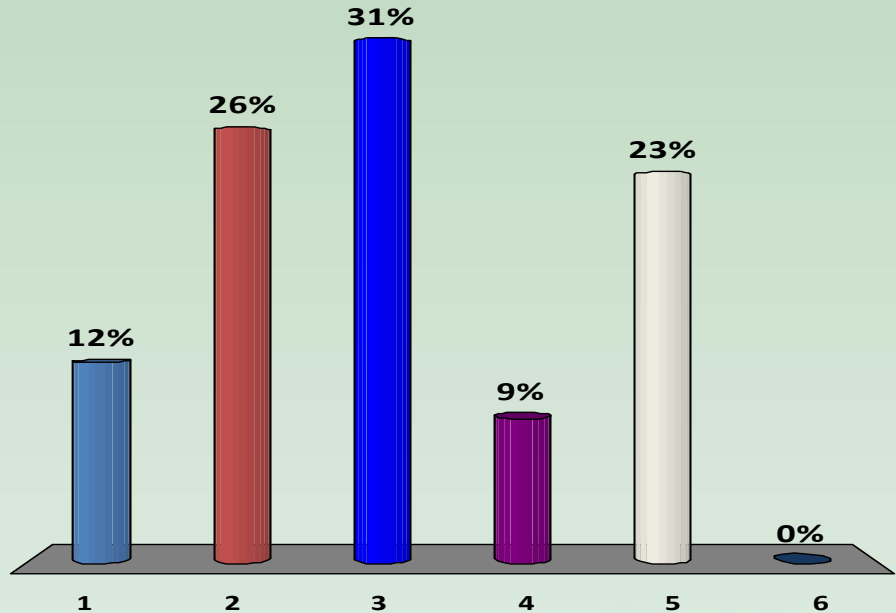
1. A lot
2. Some new things
3. Only a little bit
4. I didn't learn anything
5. I don't know



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

At tonight's meeting, I had a chance to speak my mind:

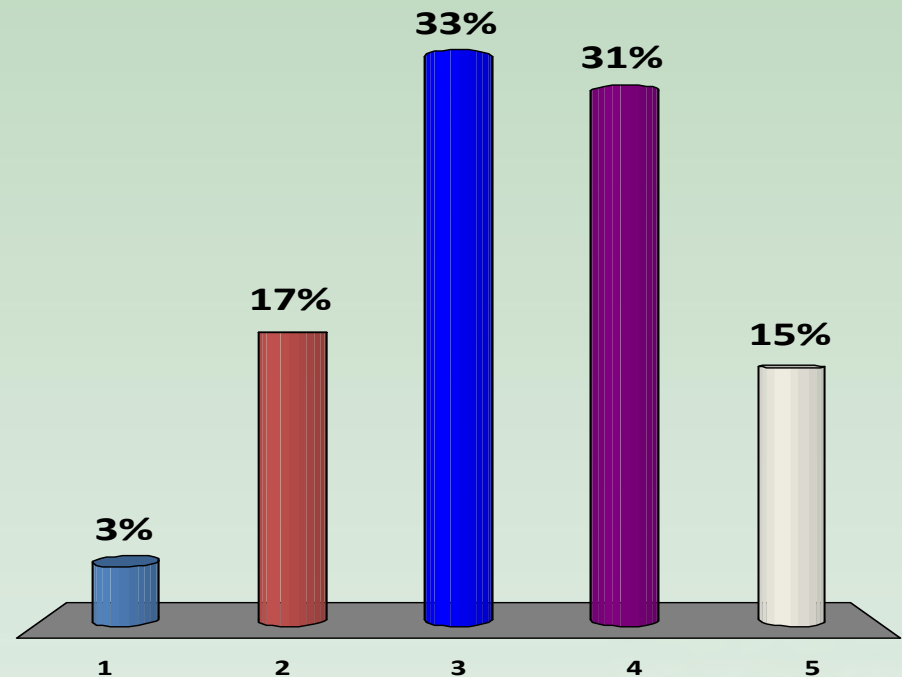
1. Fully
2. Mostly
3. A little bit
4. Not at all
5. I was just here to observe
6. I don't know



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

I believe we can find a solution that will fulfill:

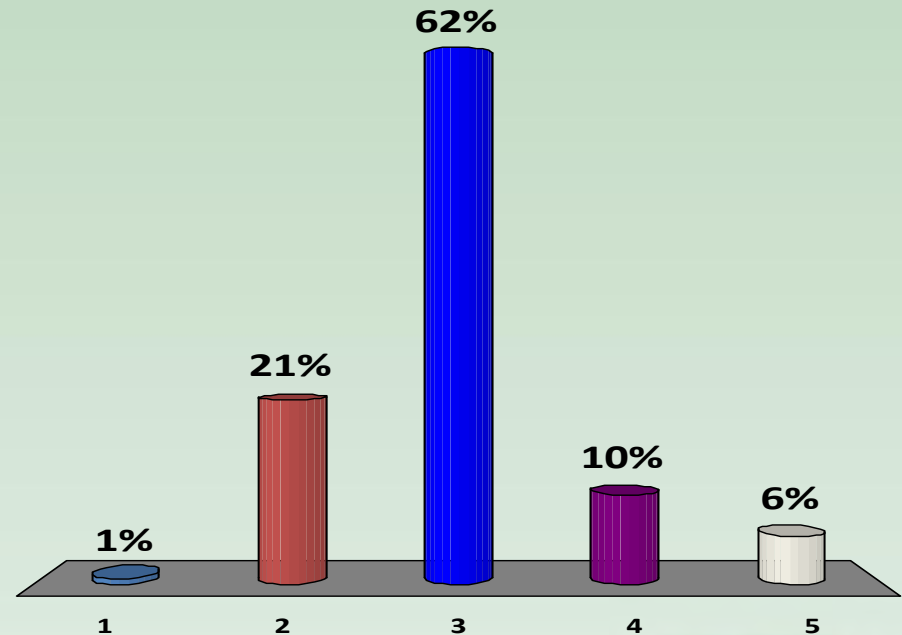
1. All of the objectives
2. Some or most of the objectives
3. A balance of competing objectives
4. Some objectives to the exclusion of others
5. I think some other outcome is likely



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

It is possible we will find a solution to:

1. Make everyone happy
2. Satisfy most people
3. Please some people but anger others
4. Disappoint most everyone
5. I have a different expectation



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

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## COMMENTS

**December 24, 2010**

### WRITTEN COMMENTS

ON THE PAPER PROVIDED WHEN YOU CAME IN OR WRITE TO:

**Niagara Gorge Corridor Project**

**c/o Parsons**

**40 La Riviere Dr.—Suite 350**

**Buffalo, NY 14202**

E-mail comments:

**[Moses.Parkway.North@oprhp.state.ny.us](mailto:Moses.Parkway.North@oprhp.state.ny.us)**

Project web site:

**<http://nysparks.state.ny.us/inside-our-agency/public-documents.aspx>**



# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

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THANK YOU

