

PEDESTRIANIZE PIKE PLACE MARKET

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Background

- Pike Place Market is one of the busiest tourist destinations in Seattle
- A mixture of pedestrians, private vehicles, and delivery trucks today



Figure 1. Pedestrians lining up on the sidewalk, vehicles parked at main street, while some vehicles try to pass the street.

- Private vehicles parked next to the sidewalk narrowed the public spaces
- Low walkability and low accessibility for elderly and the disabled

Research Questions/Thesis

1. Understanding the views of vendors at Pike Place Market towards the idea of pedestrianization.

Hypothesis: Vendors oppose the idea of pedestrianizing Pike Place Market since fewer vehicles may decrease vendors' income.

Internship and Methods

- I interned with SNG on the project Pedestrianize Pike Place Market
- Throughout the internship, I visited Pike Place to interview business owners and employees about the idea of a car-free Pike Place
- Interviewees expressed their opinions and concerns about the idea
- During my internship, 67 responses were collected, with 52 participants indicating their supportive level

Results

Current Problems

- Private vehicles (vendors and visitors) sometimes parked at the spot for loading and unloading purposes
- Pedestrians have to be alert of vehicles when crossing the street which degraded their experience
- GPS mislead visitors directly to the main street even if the store requires visitors to walk

Survey

- Vendors overwhelmingly support the idea of pedestrianizing Pike Place Market (Figure 2).
- There are still concerns about the idea

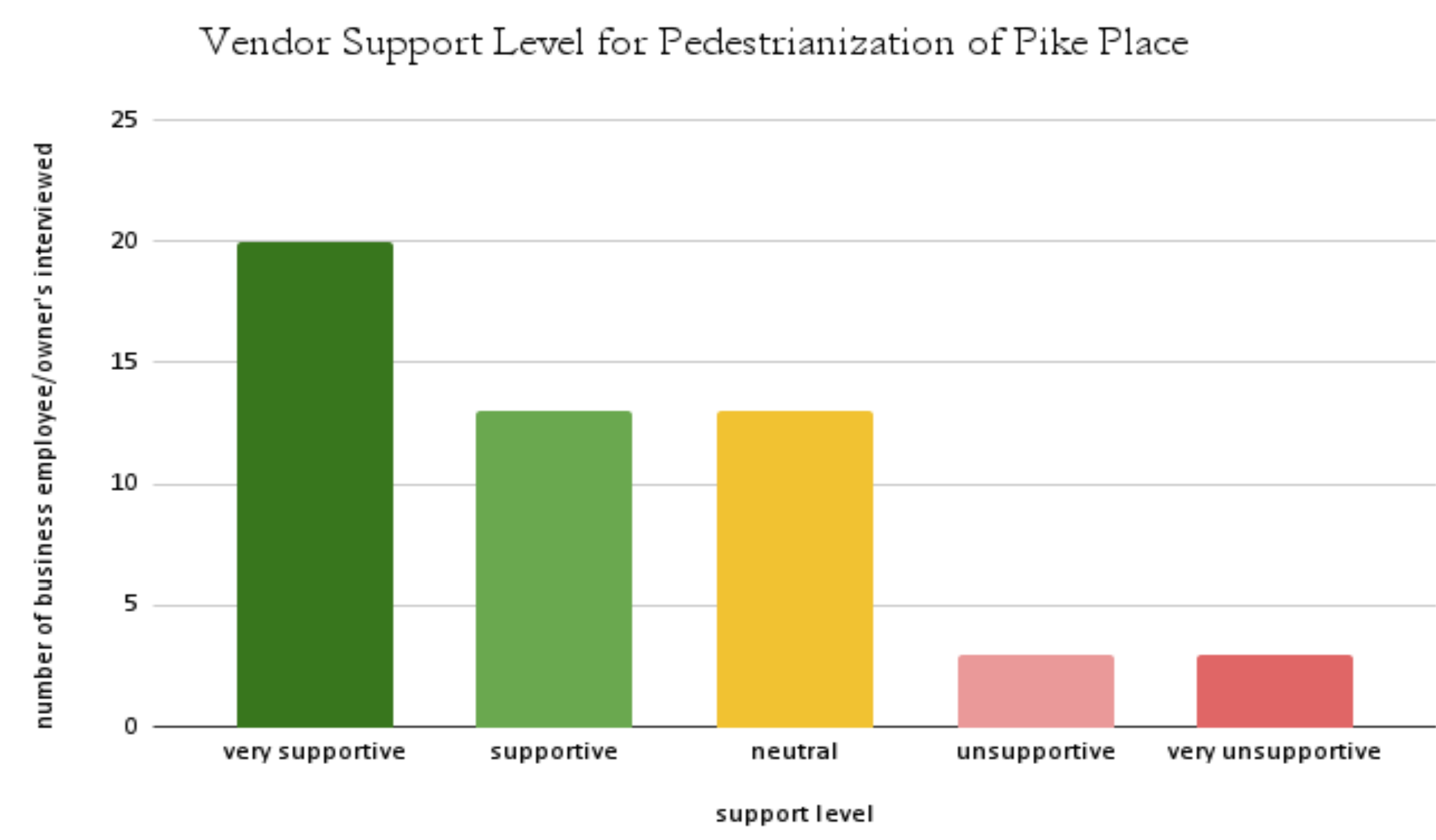


Figure 2. Participants indicated their level of support of the idea for pedestrianizing Pike Place Market

Arguments in favor

- Currently a chaotic street environment
- Reduction of documented road rage events
- Reduce car vs. pedestrian collisions
- Increase accessibility for elderly & disabled

Argument against

- Parking garage too expensive (especially for workers, ~\$275/month)
- A far distance to parking garage

Advantage of full closure

- Tables & seats on street (good for food vendors)
- Provide safe & walkable environment
- Better shopping experience
- Studies showed increase income for vendors on pedestrian streets because people love to walk

Compromise/Solutions

- Better enforcement of existing parking regulations
- Redirect GPS and bring vehicles to parking garage
- Limit hours for vehicles and delivery trucks

Implications

- Pedestrianized streets provide a safer, healthier, and more equitable place for everyone
- Promote public transport/encourage people not to drive
- A reduction of air/noise pollution and GHG emissions

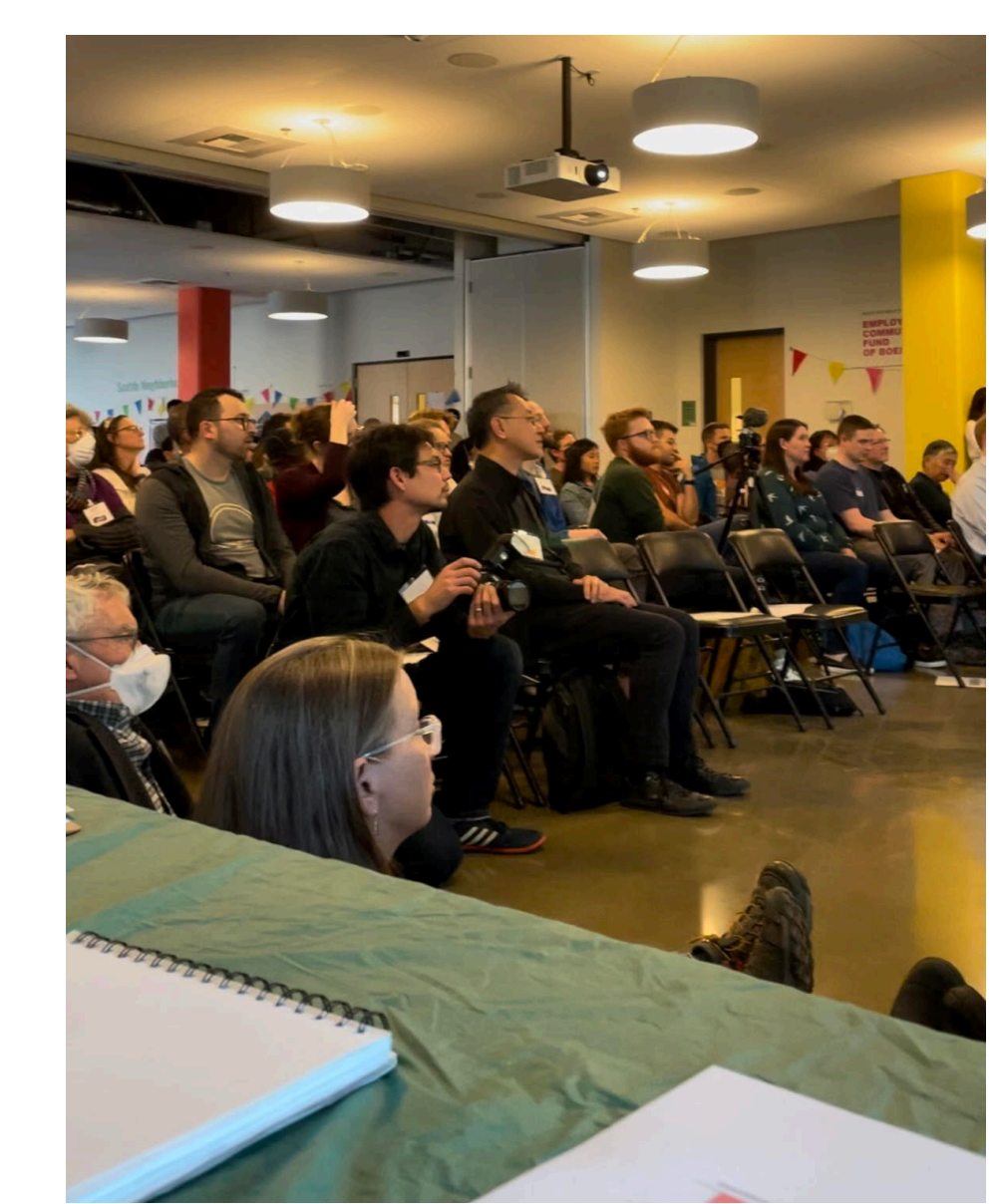


Figure 3. The opportunity to attend the event "Pedestrianize This" and speak to the public

Acknowledgement

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