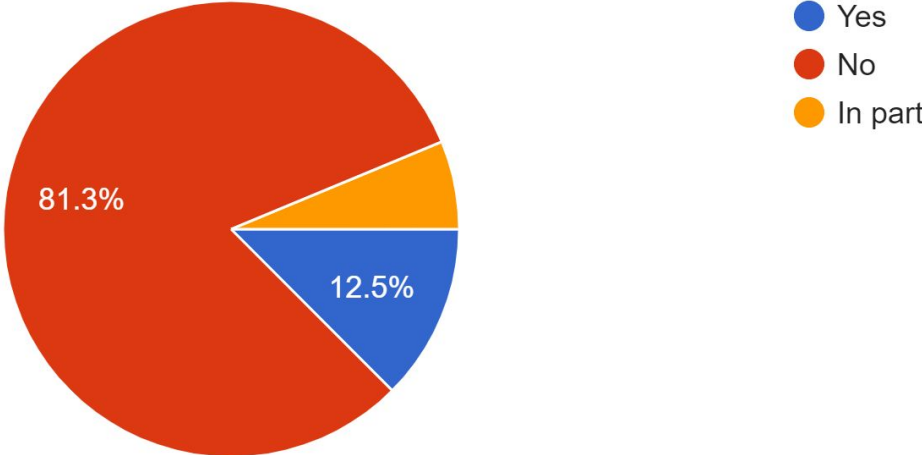


Carlow Master Plan

Feedback summary as of 9/23/20

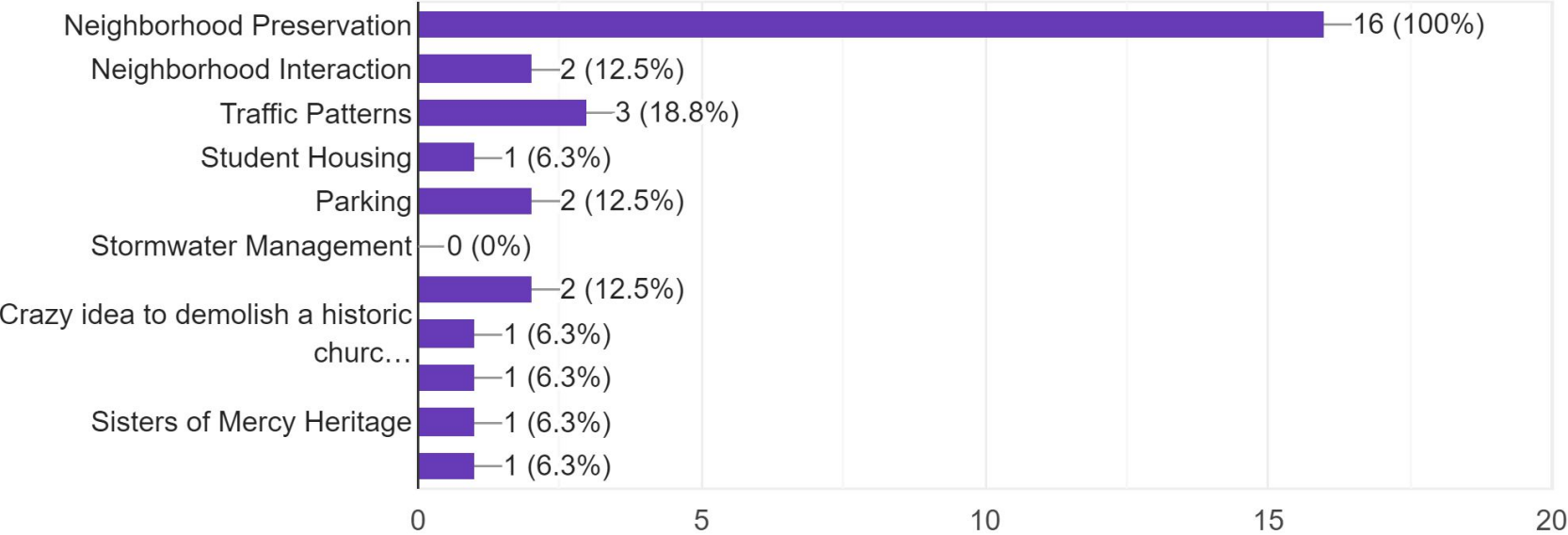
Did you attend the public meeting where this was presented on February 25th, 2020?

16 responses



What are your primary areas of concerns for the IMP? (check all that apply)

16 responses



How do you feel about the proposed changes to St. Agnes and the proposed development on Fifth?

- I am totally against the razing of this church.
- Vehemently opposed
- I feel very strongly about it and it seems that Carlow has made their decisions in a vacuum and is not responsive to community input/concern. I've heard a few people lament that Carlow has already torn down a few churches (I don't know the history on that). But given St Agnes' prominent location on 5th Avenue and its important architecture and heritage both inside and outside the building, there needs to be much more of a public process. Since Carlow is not sure at the moment whether there will be two separate buildings (Carlow's and Elmhurst's) or one building, why not explore the idea of building one building vertically on the existing parking lot site that would meet both the needs of the developer and Carlow. I don't know what heights are allowed there, but if there is the ability to build higher than the zoning allowance, air rights could be used. So build vertical and spare St Agnes! And use a portion of the developer money to refurbish St Agnes (I don't know what the building needs). I also know of some smaller arts/performing groups who are looking for a medium sized performance venue (about 800 seats) - not sure what size St. Agnes can accommodate, but this could be it.
- I am totally opposed to the demolition of St. Agnes Center. This is a gateway for our community and good well serve as a gateway for Carlow. We cannot continue to destroy our history.
- I'm saddened that a historic church that is such a beautiful part of the neighborhood is being torn down.

How do you feel about the proposed changes to St. Agnes and the proposed development on Fifth? (cont.)

- I am not in favor of demolishing another historic building in the name of "progress". The character of Oakland is being destroyed piece by piece, and has been for many years. I would like to see the building repurposed rather than torn down. It has been a neighborhood landmark for 100 years. My own family was intimately involved with the church in many ways when it was a functioning parish. I know there are many people who would be happy to assist in preservation and repurposing efforts. Doing that would be a sign of goodwill and commoradry to the Oakland community. Unfortunately I sense that Carlow is not really listening to anyone but their own agenda makers. There are many older buildings on the Carlow campus which the university values and would not harm, simply because of the atmosphere they create and the visual and historic sense they lend the university. So it is with St. Agnes church and school. Because they were "aquired" and are not a part of the campus center the sense is that they are expendable. But they are extremely valued by those outside the Carlow community and their destruction is heartbreaking and diminishes the gestalt of the neighborhood. Please think again...have another meeting and advertise it in the ways people utilize...facebook and Twitter for example. The FB page Oakland Memories is a good place to start. I'm sure if you are willing to reconsider the community would be happy to assist you in finding a mutually satisfying decision. However, please understand that if you pursue this action you risk the indemnity of many community members, and the reputation of Carlow University would be forever tarnished. The power of social media is (unfortunately) very great, and there is already a FB backlash against this proposed plan. Work with us instead of against us..

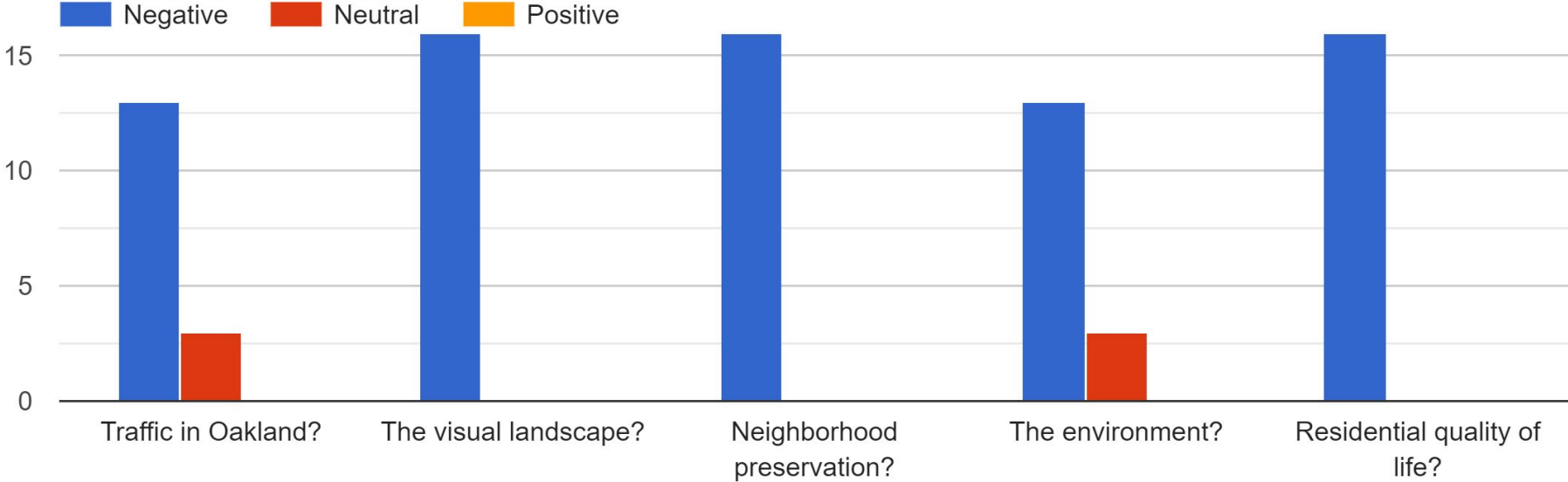
How do you feel about the proposed changes to St. Agnes and the proposed development on Fifth? (cont.)

- St. Agnes should be preserved. It is an important piece of Carlow's, and Oakland's, history, and ways to mitigate costs should be explored further.
- Doesn't fit the neighborhood. You've wiped out so much historical housing. Your plans are invading into the residential neighborhood. The church itself inside is too rare to demolish. A catholic entity should know that. It can be repurposed.
- it's sickening. that is a beautiful historic building that should be preserved. there's no reason that it cannot be renovated into a new space for students that's more special than a new ugly building. it's a senseless waste. take a page from Chathams book and see how they outfitted the old gym to be new art studios. it is beautiful, functional, and pays homage to our history.
- I am strongly against it - the value of the church far exceeds what Carlow university presents. This is a historic landmark and must be declared as such
- It is Horrible, and Destroying History.
- It is a terrible idea to demolish the architectural heritage of an neighborhood, a City and a college campus when the historic building is a jewel that can be integrated into new surrounding structures if planners have the intelligence to give the architects that directive.

How do you feel about the proposed changes to St. Agnes and the proposed development on Fifth? (cont.)

- Tearing down St. Agnes would be a desecration of a priceless artistic monument.
- I have had several relatives who were and are Sisters of Mercy and Carlow was founded to help educate women. St. Agnes Church was designed by women architects and always was a contributor to the neighborhood along with the Carlow College. They worked together to be leaders in developing women for leadership roles in our community, quite a heritage. This restored church, St. Agnes, can be made part of a New Plan for that corner. I cannot believe that Carlow is saving an old dilapidated house that was a funeral home and planning to demolish a beautiful restored historically important and so public edifice as St. Agnes. Are those guys nuts? I work with a group of Pittsburgh leaders in adaptive reuse of Pittsburgh's religious architecture and this building has hundreds of potential uses that would be good not only for the neighborhood but for the future leaders being educated at Carlow. Certainly the best use would be to have the structure be for multiuses and not for only one use. And it could be used around the clock akin to the way the first floor of the Cathedral of Learning is used. This building is too much of a heritage building for the neighborhood to lose and be replaced by characterless functional architecture.

How would you describe the proposed development project's impact on...



How do you feel about proposed changes regarding parking and street configurations/traffic patterns?

- You can build somewhere else! Close to the mother house, Lots of Land Dunseith Street..Robinson Street
- Undecided
- The plan is not good for the neighborhood and needs to be rethought.
- that wasn't discussed at the meeting given preliminary plans
- Parking lot entrance from Fifth Avenue will only lead to more congestion in the area. Will definitely impact Robinson, as well, even though they claim that all traffic will travel south.
- 6433 Nicholson Street--no need for an additional office building on Oakland
- The demolition of St Agnes will in no way affect traffic patterns
- Let the building stand
- no comment
- I fail to see how traffic will be improved or not negatively impacted by construction or increased amounts of cars in the area.
- I don't see anything positive here.
- I can't imagine the traffic congestion on Robinson. 5th Avenue is A one way street. This isn't going to be a benefit to the residents.

Is there any part of the plan that you want more details on?

- Don't tear down History.
- I just want the church preserved.
- Get a new plan. You made this decision in a vacuum of thought.
- More specifics on cooperative agreement between Elmhurst and Carlow. As presented, Carlow only has benefit of 1/4 of building. Seems like a lot to give up for that return.
- Possibility of a variance to allow for a higher building on the parking lot, sparing the church.
- How Carlow university can use this former church
- How to establish it as a historic landmark
- I would like to see a modified plan where the St Agnes building is preserved.
- I would like a new plan.
- Other options for St. Agnes church
- No.

Any additional comments or feedback?

- Please have it in Your Heart, Please, please don't tear down this part of Oakland
- it's a Historic Church and Sacred Land.
- My son recently worked on a illustration of St. Agnes for Carlow. So I was really shocked when I learned today that St Agnes was slated for demolition. When we visited St. Agnes to take reference photos, I was taken by the beauty of the church and impressed that such a wonderful building was part of Carlow. I thought to myself, wow, these people really get it. I remember as a kid living in Oakland, walking to baseball games at Forbes Field with my dad, my uncles and cousins, and then later going to art classes at the Carnegie, the architecture in Oakland was always so impressive to me. To me Oakland is the brains and the soul of Pittsburgh, it's a place of enlightenment. Can't something be done to save St. Agnes?
- don't tear down st. agnes, show respect for our history and save beautiful spaces. we don't need any more ugly & cheap new eyesores
- John Comes is a nationally recognized architect who lived and worked in Pittsburgh. We have already lost several of his buildings. It is time to preserve our history!

Any additional comments or feedback? (cont.)

- If the church is demolished, it would perpetuate a disturbing trend. St. Nicholas on North Side, episcopal Church at Forbes and Craft, "The Church" brew works, Albright Methodist
- I AM STRONGLY AGAINST THE DEMOLITION OF THIS BUILDING
- IT IS A WORK OF ART
- THERE ARE FEWER OF THESE HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND THIS ONE MUST BE PRESERVED
- IT IS SHAMEFUL THAT THIS UNIVERSITY CANNOT SEE ITS VALUE
- Carlow has a mission-based obligation to preserve the former church. Be visionaries and do the right thing.
- no
- You can't really be for this in your heart. Greed is what is driving this. Pure greed.
- You need to build up, not out.