



STARS & PROJECT PIPELINE UPDATES

Ongoing Studies

- **Project Pipeline:**
 - **US 29 at I-64 Exit 118:**
 - VISSIM model is being developed as the final deliverable for the current Pipeline Study
 - Final Report will be developed for the completed analysis
 - **5th Street:**
 - Final Report is under development
 - Will include updated analysis of previously identified improvements that were submitted as SMART SCALE Round 5 applications
- **STARS:**
 - **US 29 Corridor & Interchange:**
 - Public surveys scheduled to launch on October 13th
 - Two separate surveys running concurrently

New Studies

- **Project Pipeline:**
 - **US 29 at Airport Road (Albemarle)**
 - **US 29 Corridor from Frays Mill (Albemarle) to Matthews Mill**
 - **Activity:**
 - Project alignment meetings held with the local/regional stakeholders
 - Traffic data collection underway this week
 - Expect approval from CTB next week to issue formal Notice to Proceed
- **STARS:**
 - **US 29 at I-64 Exit 118 (Albemarle)**
 - **Preston/Ridge-McIntire Intersection (Charlottesville)**
 - **US 250/E. High Street intersection and E. High Street Corridor (Charlottesville)**
 - **Activity:**
 - Consultants drafting data collection plan
 - Consultants preparing scopes for the Framework Phase

SMART SCALE PRE-APP AND FINAL APP COST ESTIMATES

Purpose

- The VDOT Culpeper District prepares SMART SCALE project cost estimates for applicants to use during the pre-app and final application phases of SMART SCALE applications
- The MPO Policy Board requested a comparison of pre-application vs. final application cost estimates in the Culpeper District for SMART SCALE Round 7 at their meeting on August 26, 2026
- This presentation is not intended to examine cost estimates specific to individual projects, but to provide a high-level understanding of factors that can influence changes in cost estimates
- Note: Costs referenced here are estimates submitted as part of the final applications and are subject to change pending review

Cost Estimate Development

Pre-App:

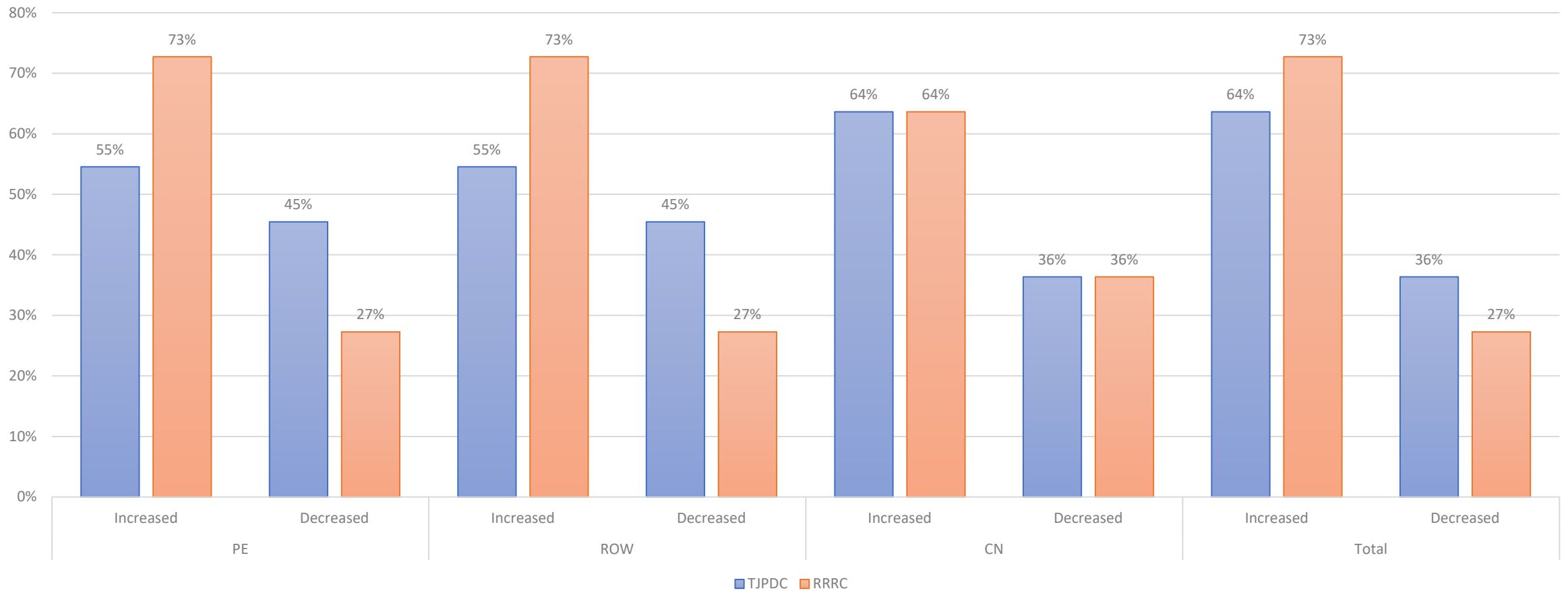
- **SMART SCALE does not require estimates submitted during the pre-app phase to be validated**
- **At pre-application, cost estimates are based on:**
 - Comparisons to previously awarded projects (if available)
 - Planning level cost estimate tools
 - Estimator's understanding of project scope at the time, which may not be finalized
 - Right of Way Division does not provide estimate during pre-app phase
- **Final App:**
 - **Project scope is finalized and project risks are identified**
 - **SMART SCALE requires estimates to be developed using standardized Project Estimate Summary (PES) format**
 - **Final cost estimates are validated at either the district (CN phase <\$15 million) or central office level (CN phase >\$15 million)**
 - **Right of Way cost estimates provided by Right of Way Division**

Comparison of Pre-App and Final App Costs

		TJPDC	RRRC	Full Resubmission	Partial Resubmission	New Submission	Urban	Rural	Low Total Project Cost (<\$20M)	High Total Project Cost (>\$20M)
Phase	Total # Submissions	11	11	5	3	14	15	7	12	10
PE	Final Increased	6 (55%)	8 (73%)	3 (60%)	1 (33%)	10 (71%)	10 (67%)	4 (57%)	6 (50%)	8 (80%)
	Final Decreased	5 (45%)	3 (27%)	2 (40%)	2 (67%)	4 (29%)	5 (33%)	3 (43%)	6 (50%)	2 (20%)
ROW	Final Increased	6 (55%)	8 (73%)	2 (40%)	2 (67%)	10 (71%)	9 (60%)	5 (71%)	5 (42%)	9 (90%)
	Final Decreased	5 (45%)	3 (27%)	3 (60%)	1 (33%)	4 (29%)	6 (40%)	2 (29%)	7 (58%)	1 (10%)
CN	Final Increased	7 (64%)	7 (64%)	1 (20%)	1 (33%)	12 (86%)	9 (60%)	5 (71%)	5 (42%)	9 (90%)
	Final Decreased	4 (36%)	4 (36%)	4 (80%)	2 (67%)	2 (14%)	6 (40%)	2 (29%)	7 (58%)	1 (10%)
Total	Final Increased	7 (64%)	8 (73%)	1 (20%)	1 (33%)	13 (93%)	10 (67%)	5 (71%)	6 (50%)	9 (90%)
	Final Decreased	4 (36%)	3 (27%)	4 (80%)	2 (67%)	1 (7%)	5 (33%)	2 (29%)	6 (50%)	1 (10%)

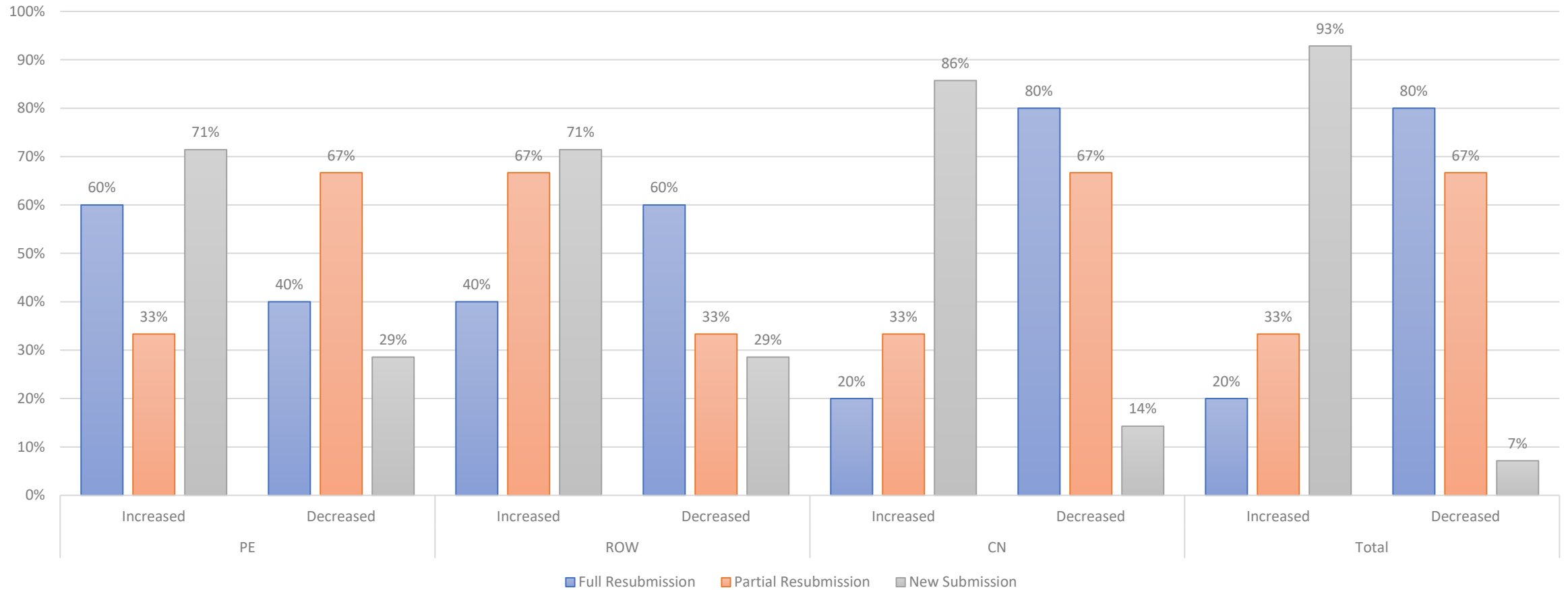
Comparison Across Planning Districts

% Applications Increase/Decrease in Costs from Pre-App to Final App - TJPDC/RRRC Comparison



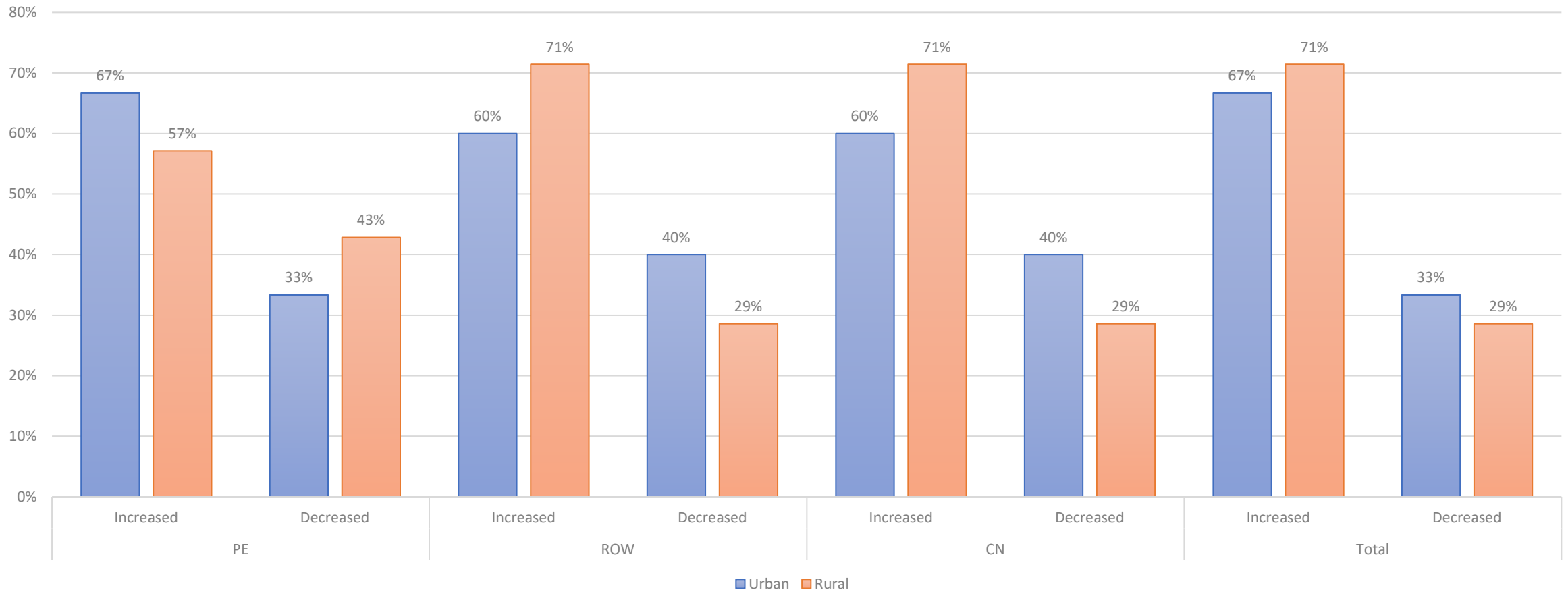
Comparison across Types of Submissions

% Applications Increase/Decrease in Costs from Pre-App to Final App - Submission Type Comparison



Comparison by Area Type

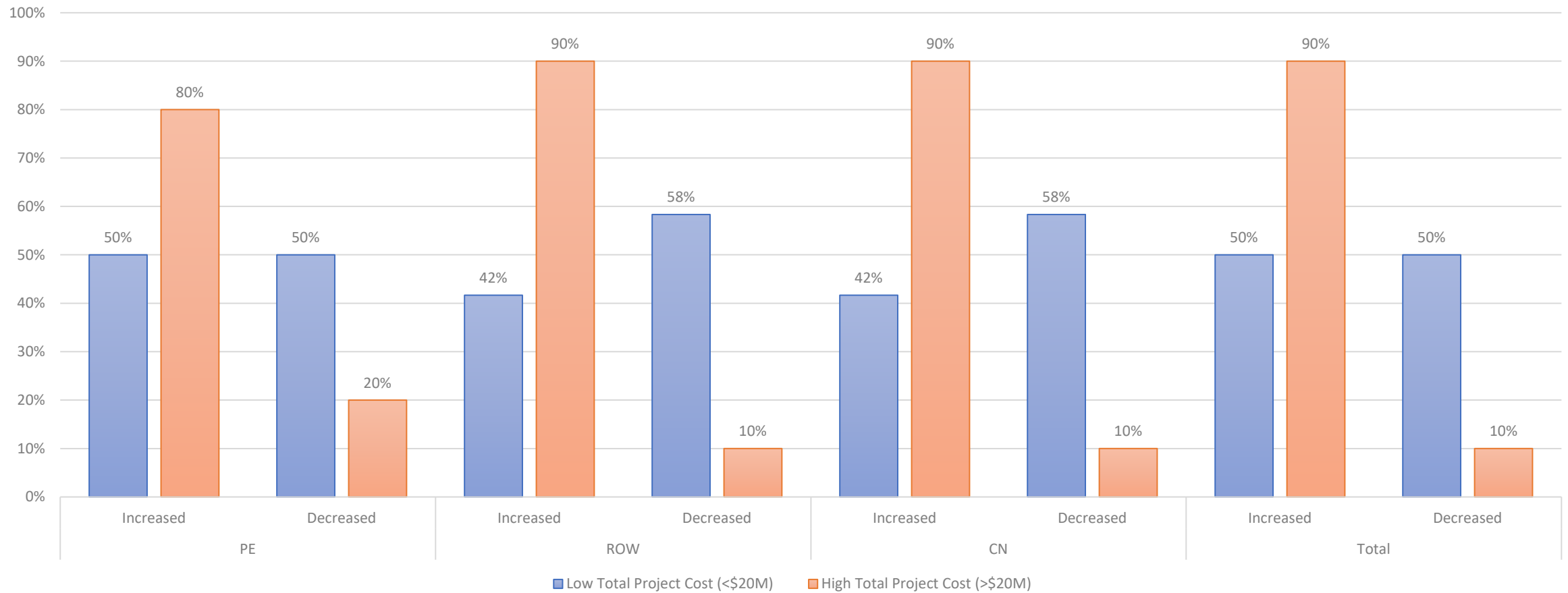
% Applications Increase/Decrease in Costs from Pre-App to Final App - Area Type Comparison



Projects that were located within an urban area as defined by the 2020 Census were considered urban for purposes of this analysis.

Comparison by Final Project Cost

% Applications Increase/Decrease in Costs from Pre-App to Final App - Total Project Cost Comparison



Findings

- **Only two categories of comparison had strong correlations with project cost changes:**
 - **Application Type - New submissions compared to partial or full resubmissions**
 - **Project Complexity – Measured by the final project cost at time of application**
- **Cost estimates at time of pre-application are based on best available information at the time of the pre-application, but the accuracy will be limited by a number of factors**
- **Understanding factors that will likely contribute to higher cost estimates at the final application can reduce frustration**