



SURVEY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WALK·BIKE·RIDE·LEB
City of Lebanon, NH



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In March of 2022, we asked how Lebanon residents and transit users feel about pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit infrastructure in their community. We received 410 responses with 90% of respondents living or working in Lebanon, indicating the remaining 10% of respondents from outside of the community also have a vested interest in ped/bike infrastructure. Respondents also tended to have higher median household incomes than the median household income in Lebanon.

When asked what keeps them from walking and biking, community members listed issues with road safety among their top concerns. Respondents noted their top barriers to walking: 1) a lack of sidewalks, 2) busy road crossings, and 3) traffic speeds. To put it into perspective, 167 community members indicated sidewalk maintenance should be a top priority, and 159 community members indicated road/sidewalk condition discourages them from walking more. Respondents also noted their top barriers to biking: 1) distracted drivers, 2) traffic speeds, and 3) traffic volume with 170 community members saying road conditions discourage them from bicycling.

When zooming in on these specific ped/bike attributes, community members believe intersections/road crossings, walking/biking to stores and services, and walking/biking to work are in need of more attention. This indicates a desire to replace low-mileage car trips with more active forms of transportation. However, the current state of safety discourages these behaviors for many community members.

While it is important to illuminate top concerns, it is also important to acknowledge barriers of lesser concern. For example, respondents did not see weather or steep hills at the largest barriers for bicycling or walking. Respondents also did not see access to bus stops or visibility/lighting as items that are in need of more attention. However, it should be noted these priorities can shift from the perspective of accessibility.

For the existing public infrastructure in Lebanon, we asked participants with a mobility limitation or other accessibility challenge to remark barriers based on their experience. Community members with an accessibility challenge said snow/ice on sidewalks along with sidewalk/road in poor condition were key issues. Given the fact Lebanon undergoes harsh winters and severe storms, this result was not a complete surprise. However, this may indicate more attention is needed to maintain ped/bike infrastructure year-long.

When asked about what projects are priorities, community members noted three projects that expand locations on the pedestrian and bicycle network. These included the Mascoma Greenway Extension, Colburn Park Ped/Bike Access, and NH Route 12A Commercial Area Access. While priority projects varied based on each respondent's needs and experiences, highly trafficked walk/bike routes reflected these preferences.

Any improvements or maintenance for ped/bike infrastructure require time and resources to accomplish. However, our survey significantly indicates it is worth the investment! More than 80% of community members think that Lebanon should invest more city funds into pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.

In conclusion, our survey illuminated safety and accessibility concerns around pedestrian and bicycle mobility in Lebanon. The survey provided many insights into the types of investments the City should be making to improve community needs.