



Asset: Access to the Shell Rock River north of Plymouth is desirable for recreational activities such as tubing.



Barrier: Fast traffic on Broad Street and the lack of good sidewalks are barriers to access the north of Plymouth.



Asset: The foot bridge is a nice connection to City Park and the recreation trail.



Barrier: The closed bridge on Main Street is a barrier to drivers who want to cross the creek and connect to the west part of Plymouth.



Asset: The trail connects the places in Old School Park, which is a popular destination.



Barrier: Visibility is poor at County Roads S56 and B15. Drivers hesitate to cross.

What Factors Affect Transportation in Plymouth?

Transportation is integral to small-town life and a vibrant economy. In the context of the Community Visioning Program, we recognize walking, biking, and driving as quintessential modes of travel to various destinations important to residents and visitors. Access to these destinations is crucial for many everyday activities—getting to work and school, participating in community events, and providing for basic needs such as food, health care, and healthy activity.

In this participatory assessment, we want to find out which factors and conditions affect transportation use in Plymouth, where these factors and conditions are most prevalent, and how they influence route and transportation choices locally. Because residents have the best knowledge of how Plymouth's transportation system works, we use focused, small-group conversations, mapping, and photos of the best and worst places taken by residents to understand local transportation.

Different Users = Different Needs

To capture insights about transportation from a variety of perspectives, we invited Plymouth residents with different transportation needs to participate in focus groups. A total of 43 residents attended Plymouth's workshop. Participants were separated into four user groups and the Plymouth steering committee.



(10 participants): This user group represents those in the community who engage in outdoor recreation, including cycling, walking, running, swimming, skiing, etc. The availability of multiple venues for outdoor recreation matters to this group.



(0 participants): This user group is directly affected by accessibility barriers such as high curbing and uneven sidewalks that make it difficult to operate mobility-aiding equipment effectively. Handicapped parking, curb ramps, and smooth surfaces are critical transportation features.



(15 participants): Accessibility—both in terms of physical access and proximity—is a major concern for this user group. Because some people in this user group do not or are unable to drive, having goods and services within walking distance is important.



(7 participants): This group uses primarily non-motorized modes of transportation, so pedestrian- and bike-friendly streets and sidewalks are important. These users value the ability to get to destinations on foot or via bicycle and having goods and services within walking distance.



(1 participant): Safety of their children is a primary concern of this user group. Access to safe and easy routes to school activities is another significant factor to this group. Parents of young children desire smooth, wide surfaces for strollers.



(10 participants): The common denominator for this user group is that their observations are influenced by special knowledge of the transportation system acquired during the Community Visioning assessment process. As a result, this group is more representative of decision makers.

Transportation Assets and Barriers

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