

What We Did

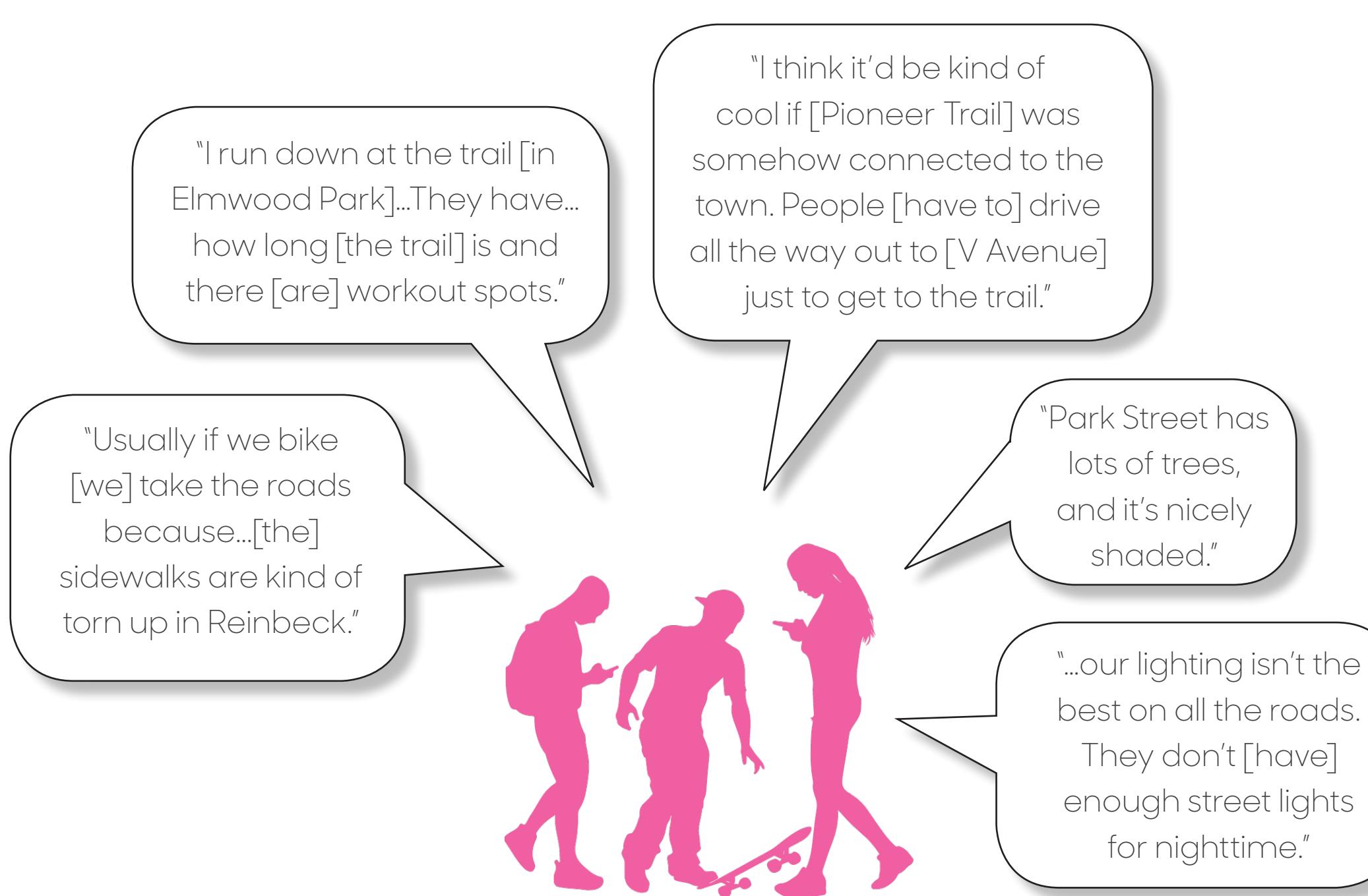
To supplement the data collected from adult residents, Community Visioning Program staff at Iowa State University conducted focus groups and a survey at Gladbrook-Reinbeck Community Jr/Sr High School in January 2020.

ISU design interns held focus groups with five 9th graders and four upperclassmen to understand the factors and conditions that affect transportation use among these unique users. The high school focus groups employed small-group conversations, mapping, and photos of the best and worst to understand local transportation.

The survey addressed high school students' experiences and needs as drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists. The questionnaire was similar to that used in the random-sample survey mailed to adult Reinbeck-area residents. Respondents were asked to identify routes to school, walking routes, and biking routes. In addition, we asked what qualities and features are important to youth when they engage in these activities. Survey respondents were self-selected; a total of three students completed the questionnaire.

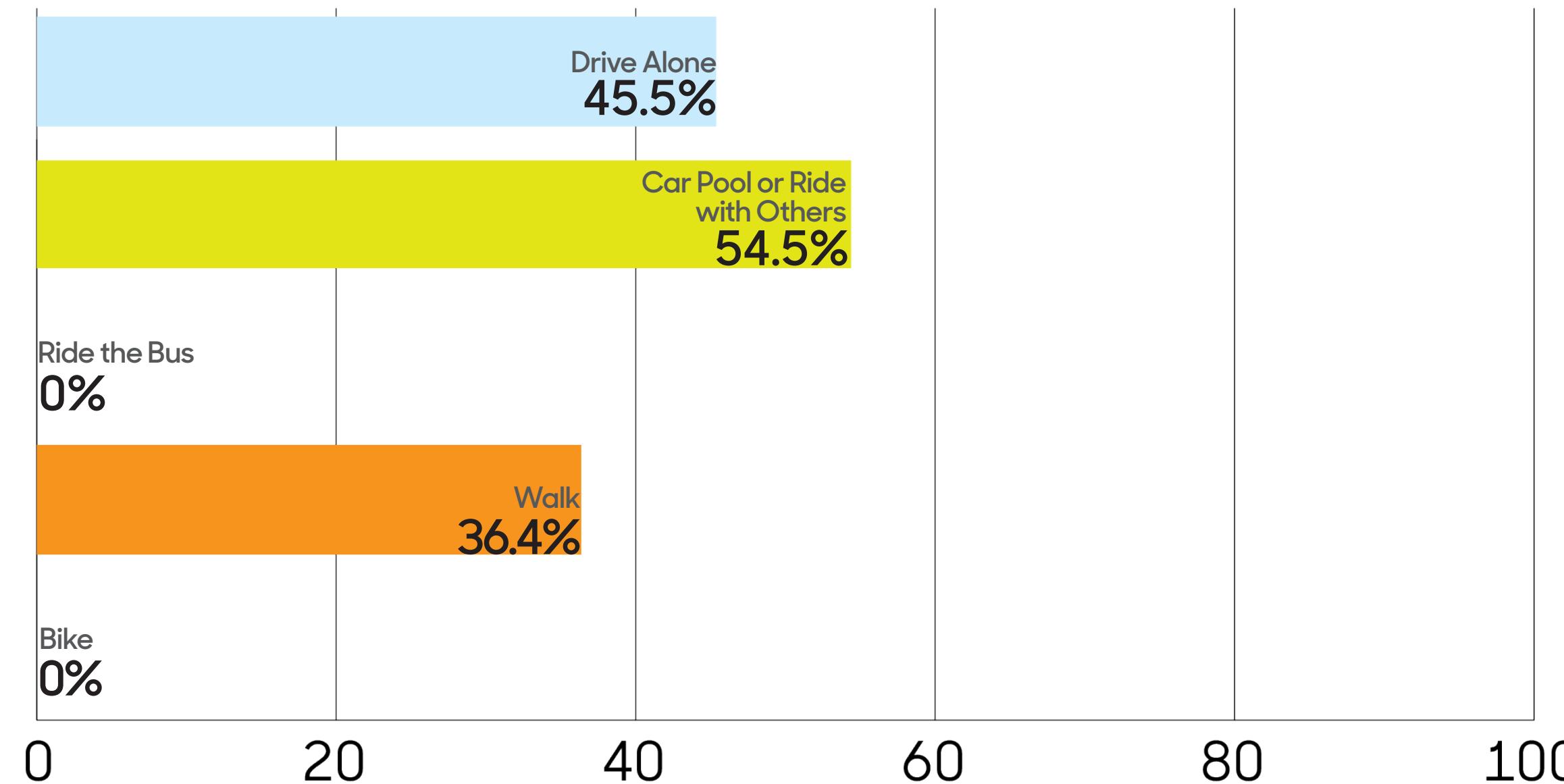
Focus Groups: What They Said

High school focus-group participants drive, walk, and bike to local destinations in town. Their concerns include the conditions of the sidewalks, rough streets, lighting, and flooding. They also said that ice and snow on the roads during the winter make driving challenging. Students value the trail in Elmwood Park, but noted that it is not shaded. Participants like the Pioneer Trail, but would like to see it connected to town. They would also like a trail loop around town and more opportunities for activities for their age group.



How They Travel

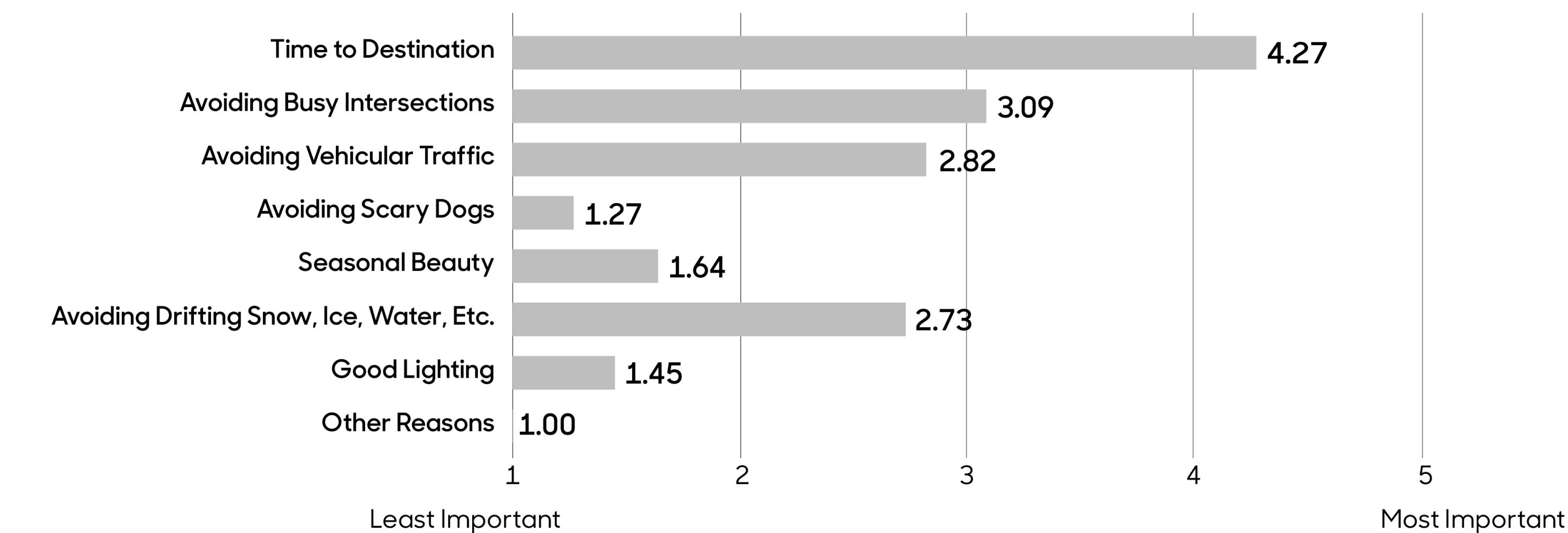
Most high school survey participants car pool or ride with others to local destinations (54.5%). More than 45% drive alone and 36.4% walk to get around town. None of the high school survey respondents ride the bus or bike.



*Please note that some respondents indicated that they use more than one mode of transportation to get to work; therefore, percentages add up to more than 100%.

Why They Go That Way

High school survey respondents were asked to draw the routes that they take to school on a map. These routes are included with the commuting routes identified by Reinbeck residents, shown on board 4d. They were also asked to rank characteristics and features that factored into their choice of route to school on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the most important. Among high school survey participants, time to destination is the most important factor, with a mean value of 4.27. Avoiding busy intersections (3.09) is somewhat important in determining routes to school. Avoiding vehicular traffic, avoiding weather-related issues such as snow and ice, avoiding scary dogs, seasonal beauty, and good lighting are not considered important.



Reinbeck

High School Study Overview

High School Transportation Survey and Focus Groups

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