



The Comet Trail provides access to nature and the Wolf Creek overlook, where people enjoy great views of the creek and the wildlife.



Conrad Family Aquatic Center and Reunion Park, which has a playground, are very popular in the warmer months.



The trail behind Little Scholars Learning Center (Conrad Trail) is a safe and scenic way for kids to get to the Comet Trail and 330th Street.



South Main Street has no sidewalks so people have to walk in the street. The hill makes it hard to see oncoming traffic.



The bridge over Wolf Creek is difficult to use because there is a walkway on only one side, so people walking north have to cross the street.



The sidewalks throughout town are cracked, uneven, or nonexistent, so people have to walk in the streets.

What Factors Affect Transportation in Conrad?

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 Conrad, 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 Conrad's transportation system works, we use focused, small-group conversations, mapping, and photos of the best and worst to understand local transportation.

Different Users = Different Needs

To capture insights about transportation from a variety of perspectives, we invited Conrad residents with different transportation needs to participate in focus groups. A total of 31 residents attended Conrad's workshop. Participants were separated into four user groups and the Conrad steering committee.



Actives

(9 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.



Mobility Challenged

(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.



Older Adults

(6 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.



Youth

(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.



Parents

(3 participants): 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.



Steering Committee

(6 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.