

User Types	Destinations and Activities			Desirable Qualities and Features			Undesirable Qualities and Features					Most Desired Improvements and Activities			
	Luther College	Natural Areas	Downtown	Taxi Service	Access to Outdoor Recreation	Local Services and Amenities	Incomplete/Inaccessible Sidewalks	"Car Culture"	Poor Visibility	Busy Intersections	College Drive	Safe Pedestrian Crossings	Improved Connectivity	Way-finding Signage	College Drive Improvements
Actives		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●				●	
Mobility Impaired	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		
Older Adults	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	
Youth	●	●	●		●	●	●		●	●			●		●
Parents	●	●	●		●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		●
Steering Committee	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<p>Luther College is considered an asset because it offers activities that are open to the public. Parents and steering committee members use the trails at the college. Older adults enjoy the music events and theater.</p> <p>Residents of all ages enjoy the many natural areas in and around Decorah, including the river and streams, the bluffs, Dunning Springs, the Ice Cave, the prairie, and the many parks throughout town.</p> <p>Decorah has what residents describe as a "vibrant" downtown, with several restaurants, businesses, and gathering space for events and activities.</p> <p>Decorah is unique among small communities in that it has a taxi service. The taxi is particularly beneficial to mobility-impaired individuals and older adults who do not drive.</p> <p>All user types value access to outdoor recreation, notably the trails system, Dunning Springs, the fish hatchery, the river, the Ice Cave, and all of the parks. People are able to walk, bike, canoe, fish, watch wildlife, cross-country ski, and many other activities year-round.</p> <p>Residents appreciate the services and amenities available to them, including the school system, health care, the arts, the co-op and farmers market, fitness centers, library, and retail outlets.</p> <p>Incomplete, narrow, crumbling, and missing sidewalks are a major concern for all groups. Specific areas identified include Ice Cave Road, Locust Road, and Montgomery Street. Some downtown sidewalks have steps, impeding wheelchair users, strollers, and fitness.</p> <p>Some users perceive a "car culture" in Decorah, that is, they feel that vehicular traffic does not yield to cyclists and pedestrians. These users noted that drivers speed through town and do not watch for walkers and bikers.</p> <p>All user types identified visibility issues. For active youth, and mobility-impaired users, poor lighting is the problem. For others, cars parked on both sides of the street to the intersection create problems.</p> <p>Residents pointed out many intersections that are difficult for pedestrians, bikes, and vehicles to pass through safely, such as the intersections along College Drive near the schools, and several downtown intersections.</p> <p>In addition to its many problem intersections, College Drive is perceived as unsafe by all user types because it is not well delineated between pedestrian/bike and vehicular areas. It is a multi-use street with a lot of turning traffic and fast speeds.</p> <p>Bump-outs at intersections, push-button crossing lights, crosswalks, and trees are some of the ideas that users expressed to make it easier for pedestrians and cyclists to cross busy intersections.</p> <p>Both youth and adult users would like to improve connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists by adding more sidewalks and bike lanes throughout town. Areas of note include Ice Cave Road, Locust Road, and from Trout Run Trail along South Street to connect to downtown.</p> <p>The steering committee older adults and active users noted the need for way-finding signage so people can find local destinations, specifically the trail, trail parking, and the historic district.</p> <p>Some users suggested improvements to make College Drive more pedestrian/cyclist friendly, such as push-button crossing lights at the intersections, a protected bikeway, on-street parking, and trees.</p>															

Actives walk, drive, bike, and run regularly, either as part of a daily commute or as recreational/sports training. They are interested in more trail amenities such as showers at the trailhead and more lighting.

Those who are mobility-impaired walk, drive, use motorized scooters, or take the taxi to get around. They would like an inexpensive form of public transport.

Older adults walk, drive, and bike. Sometimes they use the taxi service. This group is interested in making connections between the trail and local destinations, as well as connecting to the Prairie Farmer Trail.

Youth walk, drive, bike, run, and take the bus. This group is concerned about heavy traffic and congestion at the schools during start and end times.

Parents walk, drive, and bike. They are concerned about their children's transportation experience. Parents' top priority is revamping the parking lot north of Water Street. They are also interested in connectivity for walkers and bikers.

The steering committee walks, drives, and bikes. Committee members consider College Drive north of the bridge as a major barrier. They also would like to revamp the parking lot north of Water Street.

Decorah

Emerging Themes

Transportation Assets and Barriers
 Julia Badenhope and Sandra Oberbroeckling
 Iowa State University | Trees Forever | Iowa Department of Transportation

