



Actives


"I love the idea of doing more trails, whether [they're] paved or unpaved...towards the river. I think [the river is] an underutilized asset that we have, and [a trail to the river] could give you more access to nature than even the trail by the lake does."

"I run a lot, and we don't have consistent sidewalks through town... there's nothing more frustrating than... having your sidewalk end, having to get onto the road, back onto the sidewalk. Or you could just stay on the road, but then people look at you, like, 'Why are you running in our way?'"

"...It just seems like the businesses aren't really made a priority in town as far as snow removal goes. If it snows in the morning, it's for sure going to be a super slow day for us, and that needs [to be] worked on."

"I love walking along the lake to just have pretty scenery, stuff to look at and just change of pace."

"We ride our bikes mostly on the trail, sometimes around town. I would be more apt to ride my bike downtown to do business if there was a place to lock it...Emmetsburg is safe...but I'm not willing to leave my bike unlocked somewhere."



Youth


"...to cross the highway, I think we should have one of those [Rapid Flashing Beacons] to press the button and then you could walk."

"I usually roller blade on the bike trail because it's softer, and it's easier to get to my aunt's house, because there's a bike trail going all the way..."

"When [we] go to school [on 7th Street] there's a sidewalk, then it ends, and then there's a sidewalk again, and it gets really, really bumpy."

"I usually walk sometimes to Dollar General to get some stuff, but there's a lot of traffic [on Hwy 18/4], so it's hard to cross."

"The [sidewalk along] the highway is very smooth and you don't trip or [have] rocks go under your shoes."



Parents


"I would love for the long side of the lake to be connected. They have started a trail on the other side. It would be awesome if it could have a trail all the way around."

"...King Street from the high school down to the main road [has] no sidewalk...so when the kids are walking home, they're walking on the street...that's not ideal for some of those... middle school kids, and you've got high schoolers [who] are driving past, so that's a little bit of a concern."

"I think [business owners] feel like they lose a lot of business because the plowing [along the highway] isn't ideal for people that need to get out of their vehicles, get into restaurants and things like that."

"I love how wide [the FIT trail] is, and I like the fact that you can hop on it and it takes you down to the little league field."

"We tend to walk on the road because our stroller doesn't fit [on the sidewalk], or even the quality of the sidewalks—if there is a sidewalk—is very poor."



Older Adults


"The crosswalks...have actually become [less safe] because [drivers] stop in the right-hand lane to let [pedestrians cross], [but] the vehicle in the left lane that is maybe a short ways behind can't see the person crossing in front of that first car that stopped."

"...Lake Shore Drive...[is] a very busy street because of the lake use, and the sunset walks, bicycling, young adults with children in strollers literally most every day year-round...There are cars coming from each direction, and [when] there's someone walking a child on that road... they have to get off in the grass...I'd like to see that made into a one-way street going north."

"...from Lawler going west on 1st Street out to the hospital, people are on the street all the time... the ambulance comes along, they're still in the street. It's a problem in my opinion..."

"The library/wellness center...parking lot is awful...It's full of ruts. Older people have a hard time accessing...the library or even the wellness center. They do have handicapped parking, but you have to walk a long way once you park in the handicapped parking lot to get in."

"... I think the priority for me—if we're looking at walker safety, student safety, public safety—would be sidewalk from 1st Street to...College Drive on Lawler."



Mobility Challenged

"Obviously the trail seems to be a hot topic for people. I definitely think [for] those [who] are impaired some, it is very nice to be able to have an area to exercise, to walk, to bike..."

"...there's adequate handicapped parking at the grocery stores. [We] probably could use something at the post office...most of the town is laid out pretty well with handicapped parking...the Hughes Pharmacy doesn't have anything right out front for handicapped. You have to pull into their parking area, but I get around fine with a pickup and a cane, and on the trails I use a walker."

"It would be nice if they could fix some of the potholes on some of the side streets, because I didn't realize how bad the potholes were on [King] Street until I rode my bike down it."

"I've also noticed that even if there is a sidewalk, it is so broken up that you cannot roll a wheelchair over it."

"Not having a crosswalk or...some place to control the traffic along Highway 18 can sometimes [be] a barrier to accessing The Shores on the other side of Highway 18."

"[We would like to connect] all the points of interest so that it's easy to get there on a bike or walking versus having to get in a vehicle and go somewhere... and then connecting them with the downtown to help grow downtown business and foot traffic."

"...general way-finding signage is totally lacking throughout the community...beyond directing you to the lake, we don't have anything really in the downtown besides whatever random signage the state has put up."

"...people talk about [how hard it is] crossing the highway to get to Harrison Park, especially [for] little kids. It's on a hill and it's not great visibility, and if I walked around Harrison [Park], then I might have to wait a while before I can cross [Highway 18]."

"I use the trail quite a bit when it's warm, and otherwise if I'm not walking on the trail, I am just probably walking on the street in residential areas, not so much [on the] sidewalks."

"One intersection that floods regularly with general rains is Lawler [Street] and Highway 18. That intersection... gets pretty deep sometimes."

Steering Committee

Emmetsburg

What People Said

Transportation Assets and Barriers

Julia Badenhop, Sandra Oberbroeckling, Chad Hunter

Iowa State University | Trees Forever | Iowa Department of Transportation

