

What We Did

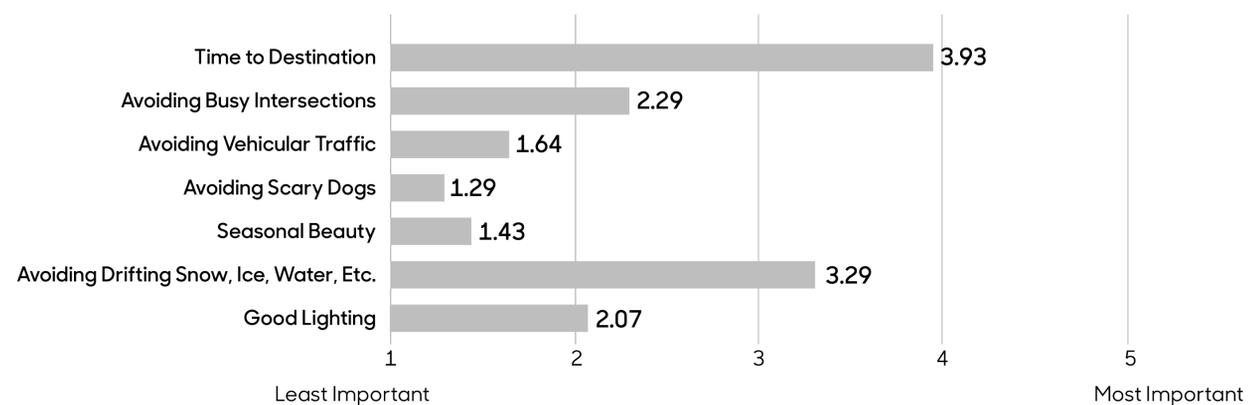
To supplement the data collected from adult residents, Community Visioning Program staff at Iowa State University conducted a census-style survey of all 9th- and 12th-grade students at Emmetsburg High School. The survey addressed high school students' experiences and needs as drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists. The questionnaire was similar to that used in the random-sample survey mailed to adult Emmetsburg-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 packets were distributed to 138 students and 15 (10.87%) completed the questionnaire.

Although the data gathered through the survey are not statistically significant, the information presented here may provide insight into the needs and desires of this unique user group.

Going to School

High school survey respondents were asked how they travel to school. The majority reported that they drive alone (62.5%). More than one-third indicated that they drive alone (92.9%), 28.6% carpool or ride with someone else, 7.1% walk to school, 7.1% bike, and 14.3% take the bus. Some respondents indicated that they use more than one mode of transportation to get to work; therefore, the percentages add up to more than 100%.

Respondents were also asked to draw the routes that they take to school on a map. These routes are included with the commuting routes identified by Emmetsburg 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 destinations is the most important factor, with a mean value of 3.93. Avoiding weather-related issues such as snow and ice (3.29) is the second most important factor determining routes to school. Avoiding busy intersections and vehicular traffic, avoiding scary dogs, seasonal beauty, and lighting are not considered important.



What They Said

"My dad walks/runs for an hour or two every day. He is scared of getting run over. Sidewalks are non-existent in many areas, like around the community center and on King Street."

"[I don't feel safe walking because I'm] afraid of getting run over—[there are] not enough sidewalks."

"[I feel safe on the trail because it's] open; people can view [it] from road."

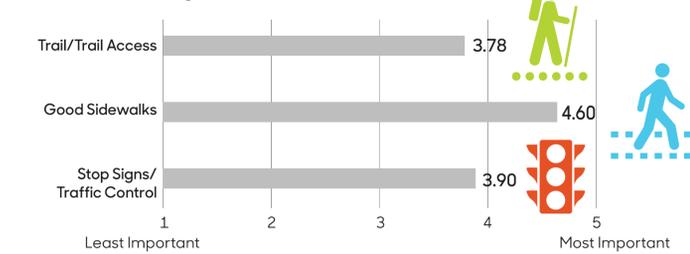
"[I feel safe biking] only when on [a] bike path or sidewalk."

"[They need to] put even more sidewalks by the school and have better non-sloped parking near the trail start."

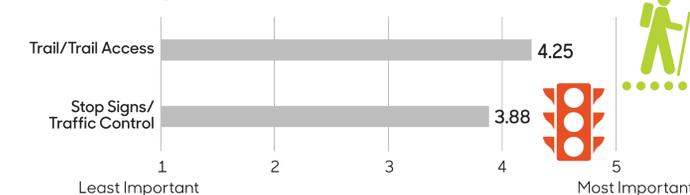
Walking & Biking

Survey respondents were asked to draw the routes that they walk and bike in town. These routes are included with the routes identified by Emmetsburg residents, shown on boards 4e and 4f. They were also asked to rank characteristics and features that factored into their choice of routes, as well as desired trail features, on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the most important. The most popular features for walking and biking routes and desired trail features are summarized here.

Desired Walking Route Features



Desired Biking Route Features



Desired Trail Features

