Actives

"...the route to school up from East Mills, to be able to connect to the downtown, it's not safe right now if students are walking. They're basically walking on a highway to get to the western side of town, so that's not safe."

"...The fairgrounds and the golf course and the new subdivision, there's no real way to get there walking or riding a bike. You basically have to drive or you're walking on the highway, so it would be nice to have some type of a trail to connect all of that [to downtown]."

"We don't have anywhere to fill up water bottles [and] most of the towns that have a trailhead do. I know Imogene does. Silver City...they all do, but we're lacking there."

"My route to the Trace [along West Fifth Street and Second Avenue] doesn't have sidewalks on a lot of it, so that's a little bit problematic...I actually cut back on a gravel road...It could be easier if there were better sidewalks."

"It's kind of an underused amenity in town, the Boehner Pond and Boehner Pond campground...I think part of the reason it's not used by residents is because it's not very easy to get there."

Youth

"We like to walk on the Wabash Trace because... it's fun and you get...fresh air and a lot of good exercise."

"Sometimes [crossing Main Street], cars come up really fast behind you...it looks like they're about to hit you. It scares you a lot."

"[Walking] from the high school down on Main Street is really hard to do with all the passing cars...When I'm driving, I see other kids walking, on the side of the road by the ditch because... there are no sidewalks..."

"Sometimes when we're driving along [Main St toward downtown] there will be potholes. It kind of startles you when you go [over them]."

"It would be nice if they fixed the path that went from [Boehner] Pond to the Trace because then you could park at the pond...There was a nice trail there, but I think they tore that out."

Parents

"...when we have the fair going on, there [are] a lot of times that my kiddos want to go home...and I don't feel like I can send them because there's no real sidewalk for them to...get to downtown or to C&M's..."

"...there aren't stop signs when you go up Marion and Prospect. It doesn't matter what direction you go, there [are] no stop signs. People use Marion like it's a...racetrack."

"...if you're sitting at Casey's and you're turning to go north on the main drag... that...sometimes feels like it's a pull out and pray, because you can't see from the south."

"...we usually walk...two to four miles every day in Malvern. We just risk our lives walking all over town in the streets, on the sidewalks."

"When we come in to use the Trace with our bicycles, we have to unload on to the road onto oncoming traffic and it's terrifying."

Older Adults

"...[there are a] number of sidewalks that either don't exist or they're grown over with grass [and are] uneven...I've stubbed my toes and fallen, and fallen pretty hard a few times."

"I would say Marion Avenue is a particularly good place to walk...We also enjoy going up to the high school track and walking around the track. You get nice breezes up there...in the summertime and we enjoy that."

"The alley behind Cisco's shop and behind Classic Cafe floods really bad during any heavy rain... It's like driving your car through standing water to get through that."

"In the hot summer months, we're more likely to walk where there's lots of trees. That's pretty easy to find here in Malvern, so that's a good thing. We just enjoy walking."

"We just enjoy the nature. I mean, it's fun to walk around and [see] the different birds that are out there...Fresh air, being on the Trace, and perhaps seeing turkeys and deer—that's always enjoyable too."

Mobility Challenged

"...the semis are always turning from Main Street onto Sixth Street to get down to the co-op. Basically, they just destroyed the road... The asphalt that's been put down is coming up... so it's just a bad spot between Main Street and Second Avenue on Sixth Street...It's so bad you can't walk over it without tripping."

"I'm confined to a wheelchair, so I have a lot of issues with, [getting] cuts...to get on sidewalks. The only place in town that I'm aware of that there are curb cuts is the immediate downtown area, so that means I'm rolling down the middle of the street anywhere where I go if I'm not in a car..."

"...from the high school on Main Street across the viaduct...There's not a sidewalk there for kids walking from the school to downtown."

"Main Street [L63] is not very accessible for a wheelchair or walkers. [The shoulder] is a gravel section...and there's no permanent way to walk [north] from [the bridge] along Main Street."

"...Marion Avenue is really pretty. It just depends on what season it is too, the trees and stuff like that."

Steering Committee

"We have a lot of after-school traffic on [Main Street/L63] with kids walking...the big rock quarry, truck traffic that goes through...it's literally just a step and you're in the street... There's nothing...that keeps you protected."

"Sidewalks are terrible all over town. A lot of places don't have sidewalks... it's difficult with parents [who] have strollers to not have their baby be on a cross-country type of unlevel system, trekking along, hit a bump and about eject them out of the seat."

"...I think we have some handicapped parking up by the doctor's office on Main Street and down by the restaurant, but that may be our only two spots of handicapped parking. Sometimes that's an issue."

"I don't like to [bike] on the brick streets that we still have. They're really, really bumpy, so I do find the asphalt streets and usually navigate that way."

"It would be good to have a path or a lane for the bikers to come off of the Wabash Trace to get them up to the business district. Right now, there's no safe way for them to do it. There's no bike lane anywhere."

Malvern
What People Said

Transportation Assets and Barriers
Julia Badenhope, Sandra Oberbroeckling, Chad Hunter

Iowa State University | Trees Forever | Iowa Department of Transportation

Iowa's Living Roadways
community
visioning