

"...we don't have enough signage telling people when they come into town...where they need to go [to park and use the trail]. Unless you're right on it, you don't know that's where you're supposed to be."

"The trail is] usable; you can walk through [the snow], but just not as [easily]. You definitely wouldn't want to run on it. I wouldn't think. It would be pretty slick."

"It would be nice to have something along Main Street, whether it's just something down the middle of the road with trees in it or planters, something that kind of divides it and looks attractive."

"...there [are] a lot of people [who] walk with strollers and dogs and lots of families, and I imagine it's scary to walk on the road [along East Main Street]."



Actives

"It would be nice if somehow there could be an entrance on Davenport or somewhere along there to get to the bike trail."

"...the cars, they don't [pay attention] to the 'stop, children at play' signs, and they go way too fast [on Station Street]."

"Backing out of where I live, which is South Station Street, all the hills...have ice...where your driveway is, and... when you finally get out, if you do, it's hard to go down or up any hills, because all of them are icy and there's too much snow drifting."



Youth

"I cut through [the Denco property to get to the trail], because my parents don't want me going up on the highway and getting turned into a pancake."

"...our trail and the Snack Shack and the park are my favorite places."

"...anywhere along the trail's pretty nice... especially in spring time or fall, because you can see everything budding and all the leaves falling off the trees and changing colors too."

"...[At the] intersection [of Highway 117 [the] bike trail...sometimes [feels unsafe], especially [with] all the traffic on 117...There [are] stop signs...but there have been some pretty close calls with a lot of bike traffic coming back and forth between pedestrians and cars."

"The only [bridge over the creek] we have coming out of town is at Walnut, and...it's pretty rough. You can only go like 20 miles an hour over the bridge."

"...the turn into Mingo [from Highway 117 onto East] Main [is] pretty tight...there have been...trucks that have dumped their trailer."



Parents

"One of the big problems [is that] from... one end of the town to the other, on [East Main Street], there [are] no sidewalks."

"...people park [along Highway 117 between East Main and the trail] to get access to the bike trail..."

"Spring, summer, fall, [the Chichaqua Trail has] heavy bike use and a lot of walkers—and in wintertime it's the crazy walkers—and sometimes they leave part of it snow covered for the cross-country skiers."

"I think our biggest asset is the distance we are between Des Moines, Ames, Ankeny, Newton. We're centrally located. It's fabulous. It's about a half hour [in] any direction. It's a good location."

"[The Station St. sidewalk is] broken. It's not really a good sidewalk."

"...when we go to the bike trail [from East Main Street]...we're... cutting through [private property] and walking our bikes up the hill, because you don't want to get on [Highway 117] with little kids on a bike, and...there's no sidewalk [on East Main,] so you're [biking on the street]...with cars coming."

"[On Walnut Street] there's probably an 8-foot or 10-foot break where there's no sidewalk. On my side of the street there's nothing."

"When we do walk, [we] like to walk on the bike trail, and if we get to the end...at [Highway 117], it would be nice to be able to cut over. There's no sidewalk or access point that would bring you back unless you're on the highway."

"...there's really no shading in this downtown area... so it gets very hot when you are walking."

"...when...kids are playing in the park, they're also up on the bike trail, which is super, super safe until you hit where it crosses East... they kind of migrate down [the trail] and then all the sudden they're right next to that road."

"If you're walking, you better be paying attention because chances are [drivers are] not going to stop [at the intersection of West Main and Walnut], but they're friendly. They wave at you as they run it."



Older Adults

"The community center...has a shelter house and picnic tables, and there [are] benches. It's a nice break [for cyclists on the trail]...it's perfectly located...for a break, and we have a...water-bottle filling station and fountain..."

"[At West Main and Walnut] you cannot see the stop sign because of all the trees and brush."

"There's only benches down by the park...and one...by city hall. [Those are] all the benches that are in town."



Mobility Impaired

"My grandkids always want me to take my hammer so when we get to the bridge on the bike trail I can pound the nails back."

"It's really hard to navigate [around the potholes on Station Street] with a stroller and with kids on bikes, and there really aren't... enough sidewalks. As you get closer into town there [are] sidewalks, but they're very narrow and they alternate sides."



Steering Committee

"...the brush needs to be cut back on the north side of the bike trail [where it crosses East Street]... so drivers can see bikers as they're coming."



What People Said

Transportation Assets and Barriers

Julia Badenhope, Sandra Oberbroeckling, Austin Alexander, Lexi Blank, Aaron Lewis, Kristian Schofield, Ben Stewart

Iowa State University | Trees Forever | Iowa Department of Transportation

