

"...what drew me [to Polk City were] just the trails and recreation, and I lived in Des Moines for a decade...and I wanted to move up here to be able to get outside a little bit more, get on the trails."

"...the trail system...all the way to Big Creek and all the way to the visitors center is not cleaned [after it snows]...[it] would be nice if it was cleaned because you're going to bring more foot traffic, runners, bikers, even in the winter into the city."

"I also use the trails recreationally for running... and I have been stopped continually by people looking to find their way, either to Polk City or to Big Creek...so maybe [we need] some way-finding."

"The High Trestle Trail is a pretty important disconnect that we have right now...[to get to the trail from town] you're having to jump on the highway where it's kind of [unsafe]."



Actives

"It seems a little challenging on Broadway getting to Big Creek...you get up past a certain point and there [are] really no sidewalks."

"...if I walk home from school, then there [are] lots of cars lined up and you don't know when they're going to go, so you have to wait until the car goes and then you have to cross really quickly."

"Sometimes I like to go through Big Creek, if I [have] time, take the scenic route [to Alleman for school]."

"You[ve] got to connect the [Neal Smith and High Trestle Trails], because...during the summer or during the late spring, there [are] always bikers [traveling between the two trails] on [the county roads]... and they take up the whole road."

"I think the easiest way to [connect to the High Trestle Trail] would be to...make a trail or a bike lane past Kiwanis Park... toward Sheldahl and then it can connect to the Oasis, and then you're right there on the trail."



Parents

"...I would say the seasonality of our town does [create] the heightened need for safe bike routes, because we have a lot of boats and campers... moving through town."

"...it's sort of a...benefit that we have living...in Polk City; we're close enough to larger cities, we have access to all the cool stuff, but we also have the beautiful natural aesthetic."

"I feel like when I cross Broadway with my kids, it's like playing Frogger sometimes."

"We love to walk down through...Deer Haven to look at the new developments down there, but there [are] no sidewalks there."

"The slickest road is [Highway 415] down by Big Creek...I crashed my car last year because it was super slick..."



Youth

"It's really hard to cross [Broadway at the Prairie Ridge Road], because the cars are just going. One time a motorcycle was going so fast..."

"In the winter time there's usually a lot of wind; people might use the trails a little bit more just because they are protected from the wind."

"Even though we have designated trails on both sides of Broadway, I don't think anybody feels safe riding on either side of [the road]."

"What we really need is to close the gap on the rec trails, just get rid of the segmentation and have a fluid system."

"The county [road] has a little bit of a shoulder [north of city limits] that you can safely ride bike along, but it disappears at the city limits and there is no sidewalk along [North 3rd Street]."

"[The Neal Smith Trail] doesn't connect well. There's no access...there's [access to the trail at Parker Boulevard and Highway 415], but you have to cross a very busy [Highway] 415 to do that."

"If you want to bring bike traffic to downtown, you should have [sidewalks] along [Highway 415]."



Older Adults

"...some mountain bikers are using...the snowmobile trail [in Big Creek]. It's kind of the best kept secret, but I think...it should be developed and there should be a way to circumnavigate Big Creek on foot or by bicycle, and right now there is not."

"It would be nice to connect to [the High Trestle Trail] safely so you don't have to ride on the shoulder of the road... I refuse to do that because there [are] too many distracted drivers."

"We have...no safe connection to the High Trestle Trail. If you want to get to the High Trestle Trail from [town], you have to go out to Big Creek Park and then ride [north] up the county road..."



Steering Committee

"...we can identify the school, the square, some other [destinations], and then make sure that...a route...exists [to each place], and then [have] signage to support that."

Polk City

What People Said

Transportation Assets and Barriers

Julia Badenhope, Sandra Oberbroeckling, Austin Alexander, Lexi Blank, Minni Davis, Emma Georgeff, Kristian Schofield

Iowa State University | Trees Forever | Iowa Department of Transportation

