

The ISU research team conducted virtual focus groups with active recreationists and the Princeton visioning committee. Not enough Princeton residents from the other demographic groups volunteered to participate, so those sessions were canceled. As a result, the information presented here is not inclusive of all transportation user types. However, understanding the similarities and differences among user types who are represented will offer insight when the visioning committee identifies programming objectives.

Desirable Qualities and Features

Walking is the most popular form of exercise among the two focus-group types; actives also bike and run. Safety, scenic views, and wildlife make walking more enjoyable for these groups. Both groups mentioned River Drive as a nice place to walk and they enjoy seeing wildlife in the pocket parks along the river. Actives also like to walk to the Princeton Wildlife Management Area. Both groups identified Woomert Park as a popular place for youth and adults to play softball.

Undesirable Qualities and Features

Participants in both focus groups identified Highway 67 as a major barrier to accessing the river. People do not feel safe crossing the highway because of heavy, fast-moving traffic. The absence of sidewalks along some areas of the corridor make it difficult for walking, and cyclists don't feel safe biking on the roadway because of the truck traffic. Both groups also mentioned that some existing sidewalks are in such poor condition that people walk and run in the streets. Steering committee members pointed out that River Drive to Lost Grove Road is not ADA accessible, and neither is the bridge over Whiskey Run Creek.

The groups also discussed flooding and drainage issues. Steering committee members talked about runoff and drainage problems on Bluff Boulevard, River Drive, Chestnut Street, and Pineo Grove, as well as farm runoff in Lost Grove Acres. Actives noted that River Drive is impacted by historic floods.

Desired Improvements

Focus-group participants want designated pedestrian crossings along Highway 67, specifically at Lost Grove Road, Clay Street, and Chestnut Street. Steering committee members would like a pedestrian overpass from Washington Street across the railroad tracks to the community center and boat dock. Committee members also suggested filling in sidewalk gaps and repairing existing infrastructure.

Active recreationists are most interested in creating safe biking and running paths in Princeton and along the river. Steering committee members would like a bike path that connects to the schools.

Steering Committee

- "We have the most difficulty crossing at Lost Grove Road just because...Highway 67 and Lost Grove Road are probably our most popular [routes] for in and out of town, and then you have a lot of the semi traffic that's near Casey's gas station, so there's a lot going on there."
- "As a parent with a son [who] likes to walk to elementary school, on Fifth Street, there [are] no sidewalks, and there's a hill that makes it hard for drivers to see anybody [who]'s walking or biking."
- "The sidewalks are either nonexistent or 50 percent of them are in really bad condition for walking...Biking on the side of the road is limited because of the size of our streets."
- "[On Clay Street] there [are] no sidewalks that cross [the railroad tracks], so you have to walk in the road to cross there."
- "I was out doing a walk/run the other day and I went down River [Drive]; you have to run in the streets because the sidewalks are kind of chewed up...running in the middle of that road, that road is kind of chopped up and messy too."

Actives

- "I...like the views...I like running down on River Drive, especially early, when the sun rises, [you can] get good pictures."
- "I'd love a running path, so I don't have to run on the highway. Being passed by a semi at 60 miles an hour is really awesome...and driving 15, 20 minutes to the bike path in Bettendorf is not very convenient."
- "I would just like to have [a] trail, at least two-mile stretch [so] there's at least something safe that everyone can use-bicyclists, runners, walkers."
- "We like to tow the kids behind us on our bikes, and any time I can run with somebody, it's sometimes more enjoyable just to have company."
- "Some of the railroad crossings...[have] such a steep drop-off from...the railroad track down to River Road, so we pretty much have to pull up on to the railroad track sometimes to see traffic well."

Princeton

What People Said

Transportation Assets and Barriers

Julia Badenhop, Sandra Oberbroeckling, Chad Hunter

Iowa State University | Trees Forever | Iowa Department of Transportation

