



Residents appreciate the trail around Cherry Lake for its connections to nature, scenic views, and safety.



Heavy traffic and the lack of sidewalks and crosswalks make it difficult to get to the highschool on foot.



The smooth surface and curb ramps on E 5th Street allows easy access for bikers and walkers.



There are no sidewalks along State Street from Tama to Toledo. The narrow street is heavily used and feels unsafe for pedestrians and drivers.



Pedestrians and cyclists enjoy the South Tama Recreation Trail for its nicely graded surface, scenic views, tree canopy and benches.



The road connections to the school are narrow. Bus traffic and the lack of sidewalks creates an unsafe path for people walking to and from school.

## What Factors Affect Transportation in Tama?

Transportation is integral to small-town life and a vibrant economy. In the context of the Tama Visioning Program, we recognize walking, biking, and driving as quintessential modes of travel to various destinations important to residents and visitors. Access to these destinations is crucial for many everyday activities—getting to work and school, participating in community events, and providing for basic needs such as food, health care, and healthy activity.

In this participatory assessment, we want to find out which factors and conditions affect transportation use in Tama, where these factors and conditions are most prevalent, and how they influence route and transportation choices locally. Because residents have the best knowledge of how Tama’s transportation system works, we use focused, small-group conversations, mapping, and photos of the best and worst to understand local transportation.

## Different Users = Different Needs

To capture insights about transportation from a variety of perspectives, we invited Tama residents with different transportation needs to participate in focus groups. A total of 17 residents attended Tama’s workshop. Participants were separated into five user groups and the Tama steering committee.



Actives

**(4 participants):** This user group represents those in the community who engage in outdoor recreation, including cycling, walking, running, swimming, skiing, etc. The availability of multiple venues for outdoor recreation matters to this group.



Mobility Challenged

**(2 participants):** This user group is directly affected by accessibility barriers such as high curbing and uneven sidewalks that make it difficult to operate mobility-aiding equipment effectively. Handicapped parking, curb ramps, and smooth surfaces are critical transportation features.



Older Adults

**(2 participants):** Accessibility—both in terms of physical access and proximity—is a major concern for this user group. Because some people in this user group do not or are unable to drive, having goods and services within walking distance is important.



Youth

**(2 participants):** This group uses primarily non-motorized modes of transportation, so pedestrian- and bike-friendly streets and sidewalks are important. These users value the ability to get to destinations on foot or via bicycle and having goods and services within walking distance.



Parents

**(4 participants):** Safety of their children is a primary concern of this user group. Access to safe and easy routes to school activities is another significant factor to this group. Parents of young children desire smooth, wide surfaces for strollers.



Steering Committee

**(5 participants):** The common denominator for this user group is that their observations are influenced by special knowledge of the transportation system acquired during the Community Visioning assessment process. As a result, this group is more representative of decision makers.