

"I would like to bike and walk more just because we are a small community, but we don't generally have safe pathways. I drive Highway 99 to Oakville, and that way, it's... unsafe because there [are] no shoulders."

"...it's nice to be in nature when you walk because it reduces stress, but it would be nice if there was something that you could walk around along the river."

"I think [at] this [south] end of town, it's nice to have those nice shaded trees, but they are blocking the street lights now because they have grown. I mean, it's beautiful during the daylight, but at night it's [dark]."

"[I walk] just for health benefits; [sidewalks] go around onto Second Street or onto Main Street, and as you go around, the sidewalks literally just disappear."



Actives

"Not when I'm...outside, [the river] is not a problem, but when my bus driver drives, she's not really safe. One day, it was [an] icy day, and she was driving really fast. Someone on our bus had to yell at her to slow down."

"[I would like] more entries to Mill Race because it is really is fun down there."

"When I go through to Roy El Road, it's a really bumpy road, and then on through Kennedy Drive, it's still really bumpy."

"If you were at South End Park for a while for the soccer game, getting home would be kind of scary. There needs to be more lighting at South End Park."

"You can't see around the [corner of G62 and 61]. It completely turns this way and turns this way. You can't see anything."



Youth


"...little kids and they're going to face the same problems we did when our kids were little. The parks are on that side. Tough to cross the highway...the only way for them to do anything, unless they're playing in their driveway, is to cross 61 to get to the South End Park."

"If you look before school or after school, you will see the majority of our elementary kids walking in the road because the sidewalk either is gone or it's so torn up, nobody is going to walk it."

"Cars are traveling faster [on Highway 99]...we had a couple close calls on 99, my kids, just thinking it was another road."

"Before when we were little, crossing 61 was exceptionally treacherous with all the traffic. Even now, it's probably still treacherous."

"Wapello is tremendously dark...We want people to walk in town. We want to promote that, but after dark, you can't do it."



Parents

"Very caring and that's very important and because I raised all my children here. I mean, someone -- if something happened, they had a little bicycle accident, someone came out and took care of them, never had to worry. And the safeness of it too."

"A really big issue is kids riding bikes. They cross [by the nursing home]. It's a really speedy highway and traffic cannot judge. [This] problem is going to get [worse] because more houses with young people are being built [across the highway]. The kids are going to want to go to the pool on the bikes. The school is over there. The soccer fields are over there, and they live on the other side of the highway."

"Some of...the sidewalks are okay, and then you hit a spot that's sunken in, and it's filled with dirt or mud, and then you go out around it. So most of time, I skip the sidewalks and just walk on the streets."

"The city keeps the town looking [good] as far as mowing the grass and keeping down weeds. They do an excellent job."

"...the walks are just-- they just crumbled. Just hardly any sidewalks along [Highway 99], but I think it would be nice if they paved the walking thing out at the park."



Older Adults


"One thing I'm looking forward to...getting from one side of Wapello to the other without having to cross 61. Yet, a lot of older people have trouble crossing 61 to go to the grocery store because it's on the west side and they live on the east side and they have trouble. My mom had an accident years ago crossing 61 there."

"The post office not handicapped accessible...First you got to pull up. Then you got to climb over that curb. Then up the step to get into the building...[I saw] a lady fall there and had to pick her up."

"You never know when you need to use the restroom. Especially if elderly people want to go and... walk around the park. You never know."

"I like the small town. It's easy to get around in. I don't like to drive, and I won't drive in big cities, but we don't have any red and green stoplights or anything. There's not any traffic hassles, so that's what I like."

"At one time they talked about having a trail from the landing...up to north of the business district... [It] would be nice to walk along and see the river."



Mobility Impaired

"I fell in love with the water when I moved here. I like the Iowa and the Mississippi...and even just along north of town, we have all the little drainage ditches that are full of ducks...I have young kids so we do the parks quite a bit."

"We do use the North End Park a lot. That's actually where our rodeo is. It's the only FFA that runs a national or pro rodeo in the nation, so it's kind of cool that it's here in the small community. It's great for kids to get the experience."

"One of the biggest problems I see is on 61... some of th[ose] side streets are hard to see who's coming and where they're coming from, and 61 is always busy."

"Well, coming through these trees...on Van Buren...this is all super dark...I've walked that going back and forth to high school activities from downtown. There's no lights and it's--it can definitely use improvement. There's a lot of traffic there."

"I like the river, the access, [and] the boat landing. I don't think we [en]capsulate the river or natural resources as much as we should. We...need to celebrate that we are a river town."



Steering Committee

Wapello

What People Said

Transportation Assets and Barriers

Julia Badenhope, Sandra Oberbroeckling, Abby Schafer, Clare Kiboko, Dominick Florer, Emma Georgeff, and Tim Kerkhove

Iowa State University | Trees Forever | Iowa Department of Transportation

