

Public Meeting No. 1 Online Meeting Summary

January 2nd – 31st, 2021

Watertown Area Master Transportation Plan
Update

SDDOT/City of Watertown
February 15, 2021

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Public Meeting # 1 Overview

Meeting Details

Date: January 2nd – January 31st, 2021

Location: Online Meeting Hosted at www.watertownmtp.com

Overview: Because of continued restrictions placed upon public gatherings associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, it was required that an online meeting format be used for Public Meeting No. 1 instead of the traditional in-person format. The online meeting and survey were open for review and public comment from Saturday, January 2nd through Sunday, January 31st, 2021.

Advertisements: Watertown Public Opinion (1/2/21 and 1/16/21) and Coteau Shopper (1/10/21 and 1/24/21), project website, SDDOT press release and website, City website, and City Facebook post.

On-line meeting information: The project team hosted an online public meeting for the Watertown Area Master Transportation Plan (MTP) to present an overview of the project and gather feedback from the public and stakeholders. In general, meeting information focused on roadway, bicycle and pedestrian, transit and air issues/needs.

Attendance: Based on the information received from project website traffic, the following data was collected:

- Page views total: 233
- Unique Page views: 200
- Average time on page: 4:20
- Total users: 246
- Top visitor locations:
 - Watertown
 - Sioux Falls
 - Mitchell
 - Brookings
 - Aberdeen

Project Website

<https://www.watertownmtp.com/storymap.html>

The online public meeting guided the attendees through a seven step process, including:

1. Welcome & Overview
2. Safety Analysis & Interactive Mapping Activity
3. Traffic Analysis & Interactive Mapping Activity
4. Origin-Destination (O-D) Analysis
5. Bike and Pedestrian Elements & Interactive Mapping Activity
6. Conclusion, Next Steps, & Comments
7. Online Survey

The interactive mapping activities allowed participants to place suggested improvements or strategies at a desired location where the participant believed there were deficiencies or limitations on the current transportation system. The online survey allowed participants to rank the importance of a specific type of improvement or strategy in addressing system shortfalls. Participants also were able to make general comments with regards to the presented materials or with regards to the project as-a-whole.

The online meeting has been archived on the project website for continued viewing of materials at the following link: <https://watertownmtp.com/storymap.html>

Results

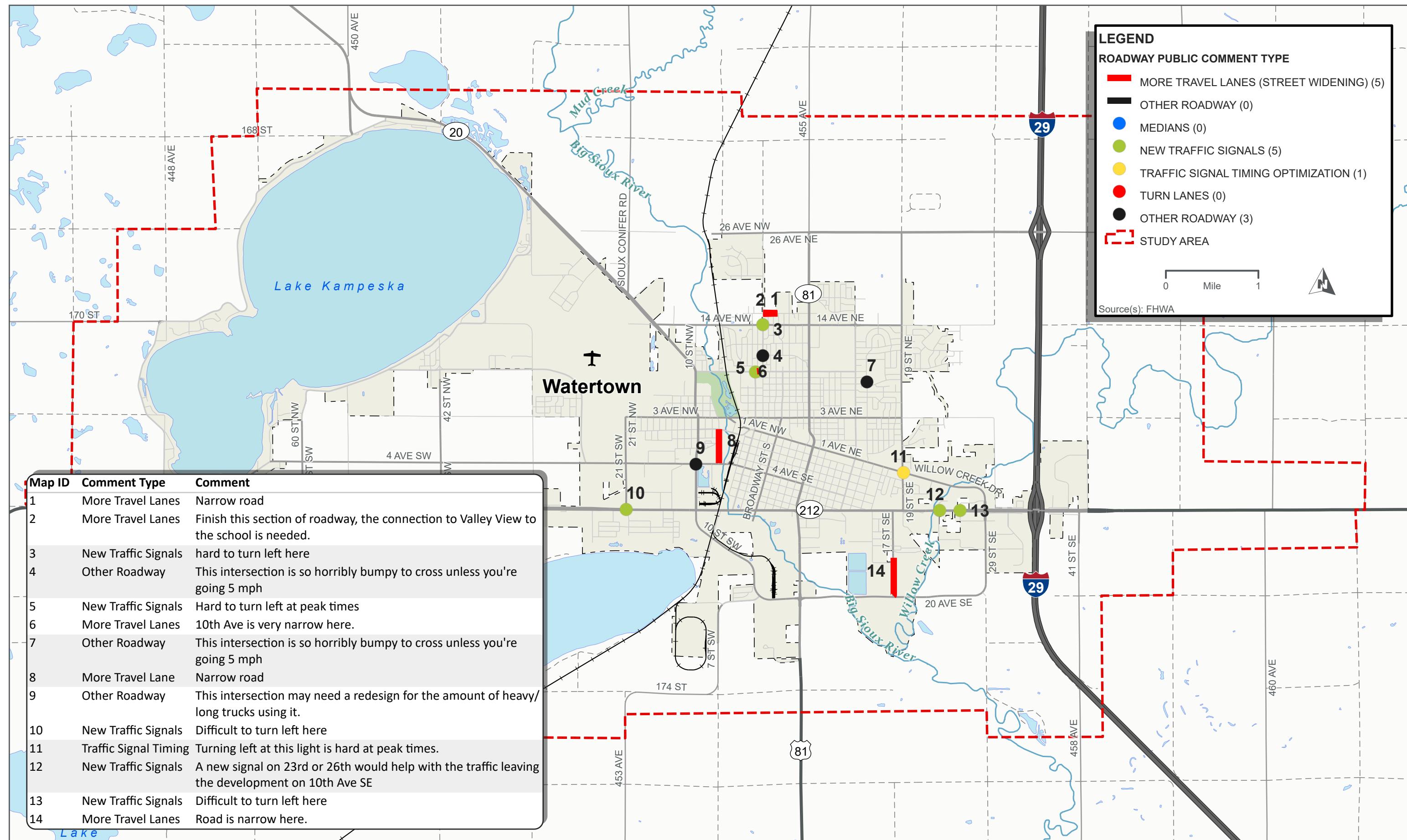
Roadway Needs Activity

While we wish we could implement every single project idea right away, unfortunately it isn't possible for Watertown to do so with fiscal constraints. The meeting attendees were asked to identify locations where they believe improvements are needed on the transportation network.

Solutions to address traffic issues included:

- More Travel Lanes (Street Widening)
- New Traffic Signals
- Traffic Signal Timing Optimization/Coordination
- Turn Lanes
- Medians/Access Control

The comments and targeted location of participant identified issues/recommendations are noted on the attached map.



TRANSPORTATION - ONLINE MEETING PUBLIC COMMENTS

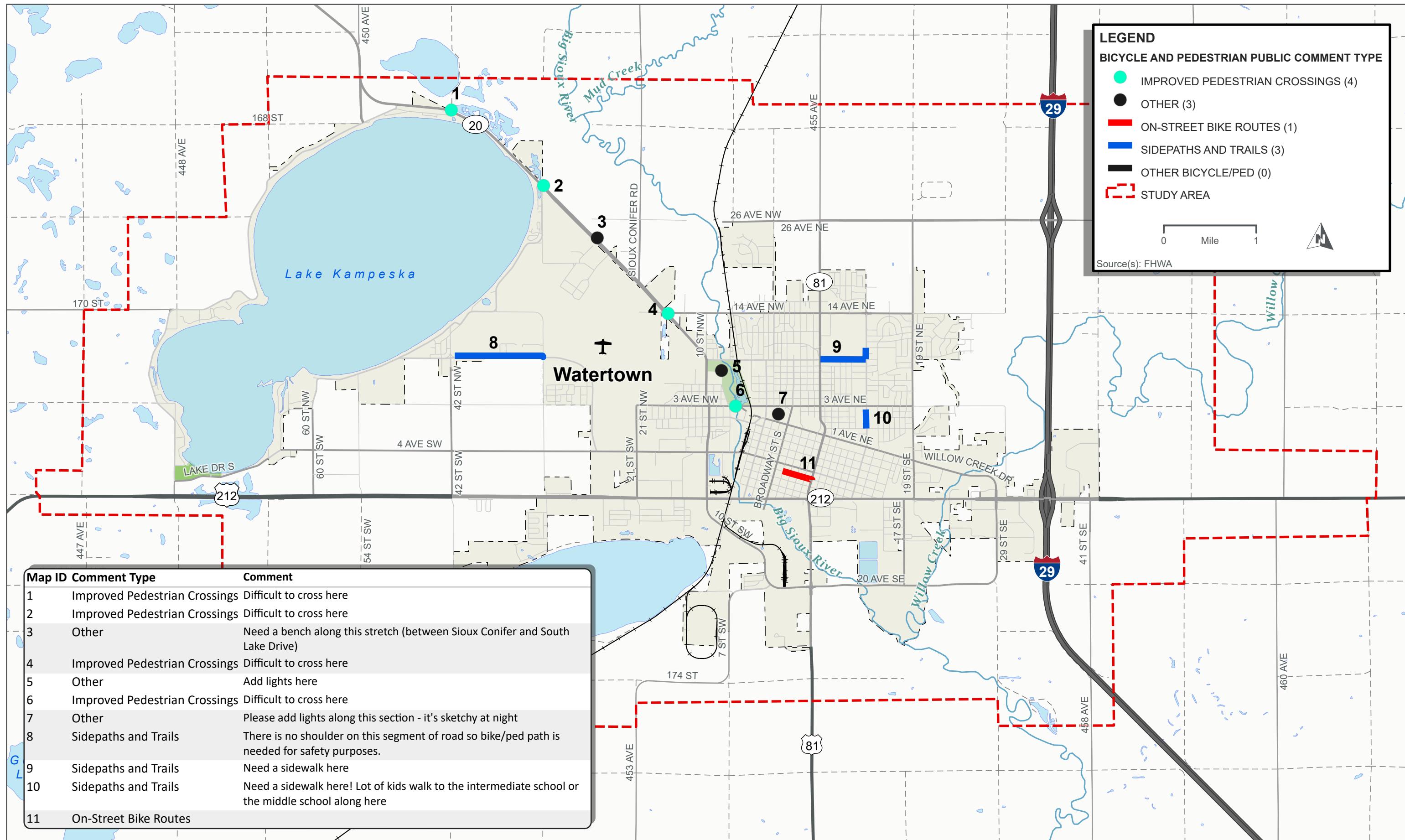
Bike and Pedestrian Needs Activity

To help identify and prioritize bicycle and pedestrian improvements, the meeting attendees were asked to identify the kinds of and locations of improvements that are most important to them.

The improvement types included:

- Improved Pedestrian Crossings
- On-street bike routes
- Sidepaths and Trails
- Other

The comments and targeted location of participant identified issues/recommendations are noted on the attached map.



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN - ONLINE MEETING PUBLIC COMMENTS

Online Survey

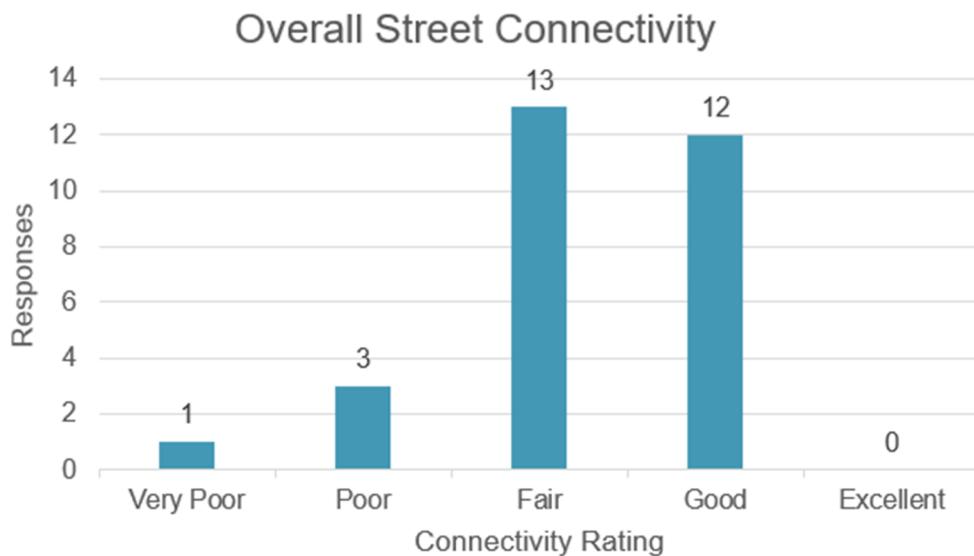
The online survey included a total of 17 questions regarding the existing transportation system, bike/pedestrian system, transit system, air service, budget priorities, and respondent demographics.

A total of 29 surveys were received. Survey questions and results are as follows:

Q1. How would you rate the overall condition of streets/road in Watertown?



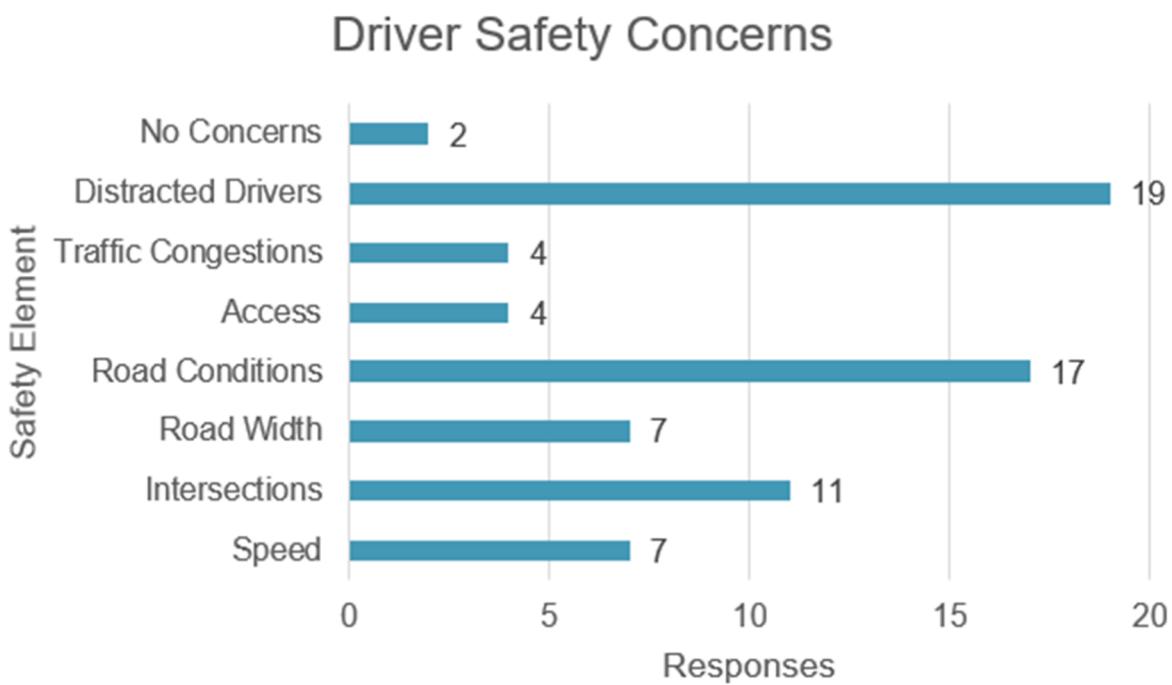
Q2. How would you rate the overall connectivity of the street/road network in Watertown?

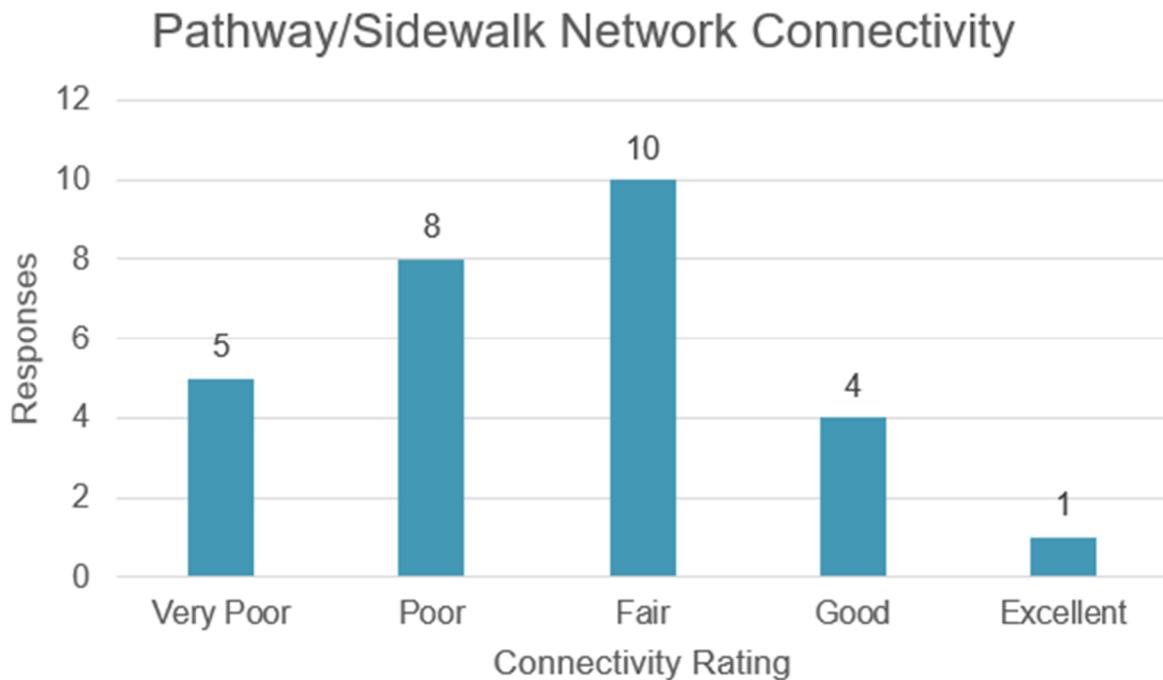


Q3. What improvements/needs do you feel are necessary to enhance the street/road network in Watertown (select top 3)?

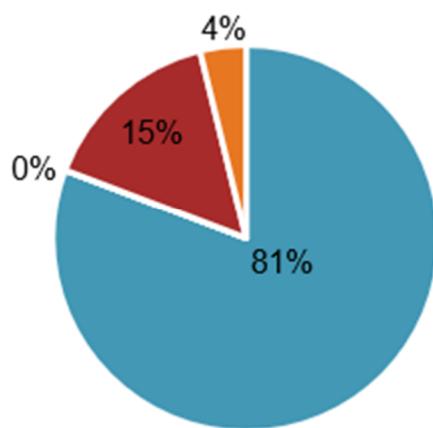


Q4. What areas of driver safety are you most concerned about in Watertown (select up to 3)?



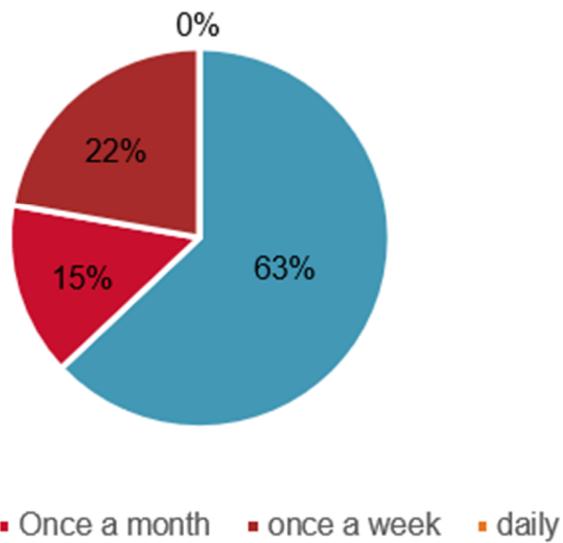
Q5. How would you rate the quality of the pathway/sidewalk network in Watertown?**Q6. How often do you: A. – Bike or walk to work or school, B. – Bike or walk to shop, eat, or run errands, C. – Bike or walk for exercise/recreation?**

How often do you bike/walk to work or school?

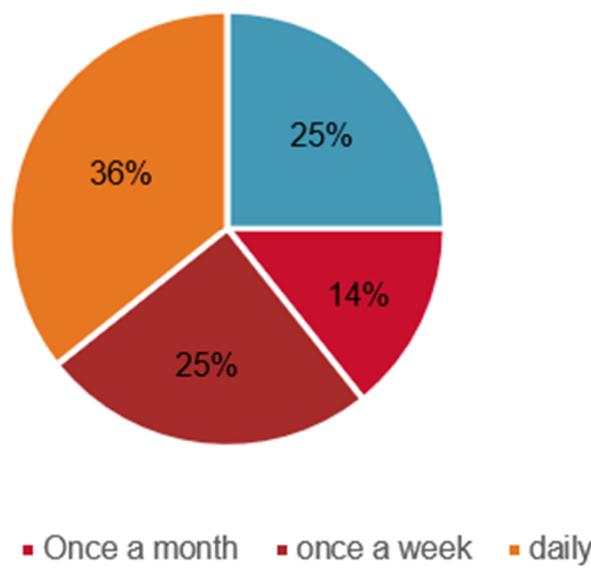


- Rarely
- Once a month
- Once a week
- Daily

How often do you bike/walk to shop, eat, or run errands?

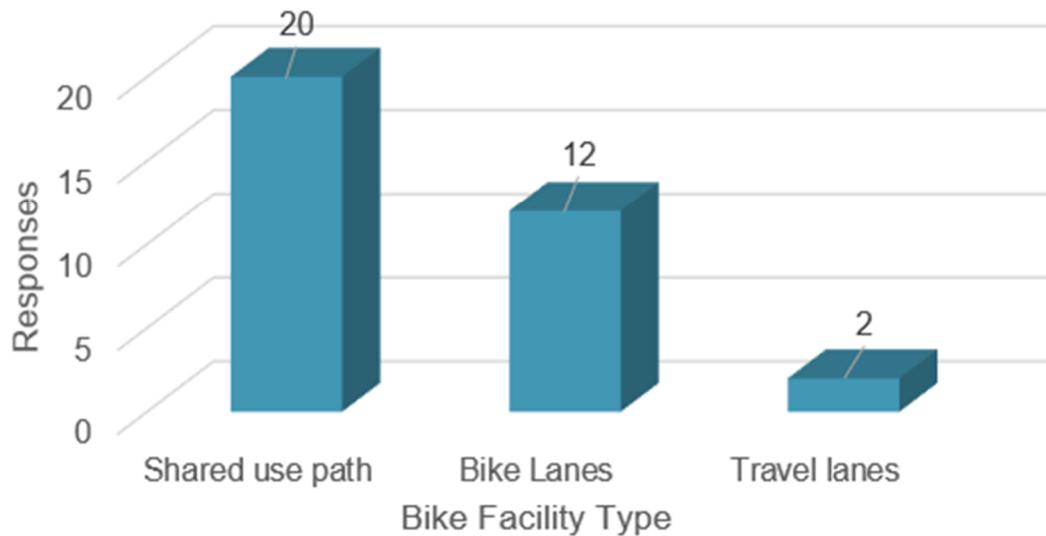


How often do you bike/walk for recreation?



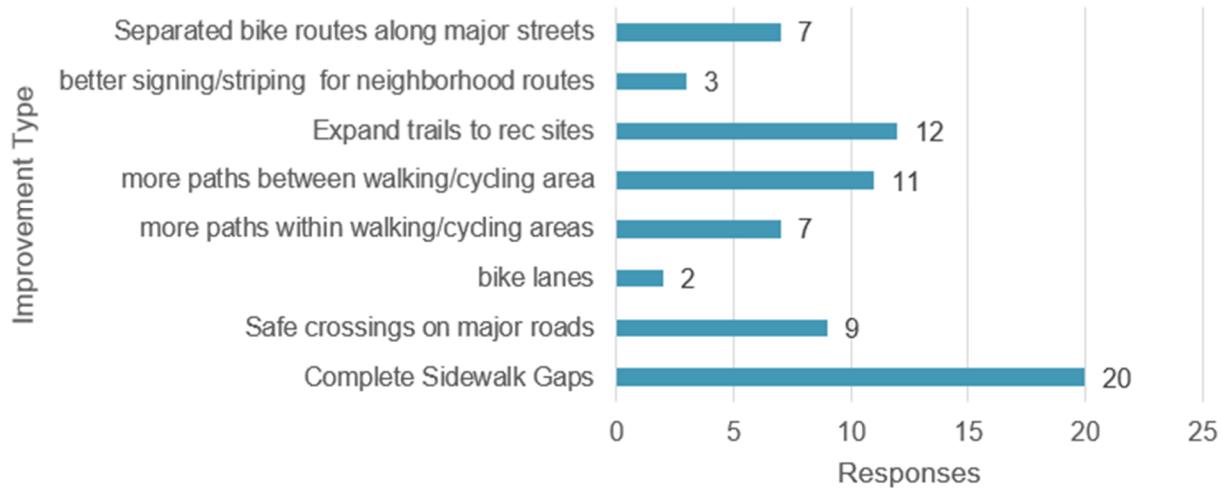
Q7. Which type of bike path facilities do you feel comfortable using (select all that apply)?

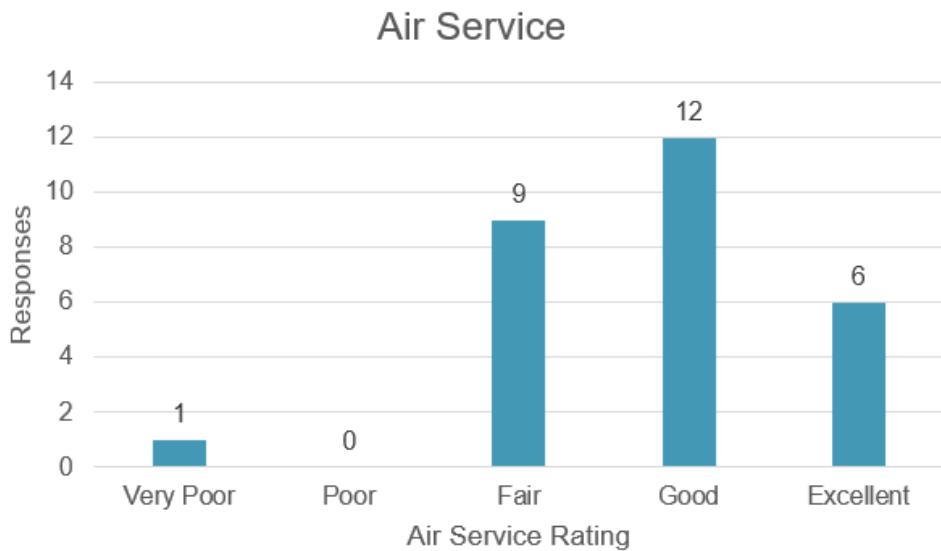
What types of bike facilities do you feel comfortable using?



Q8. Which of the following approaches do you believe would most improve the bicycle and pedestrian network (select up to 3)?

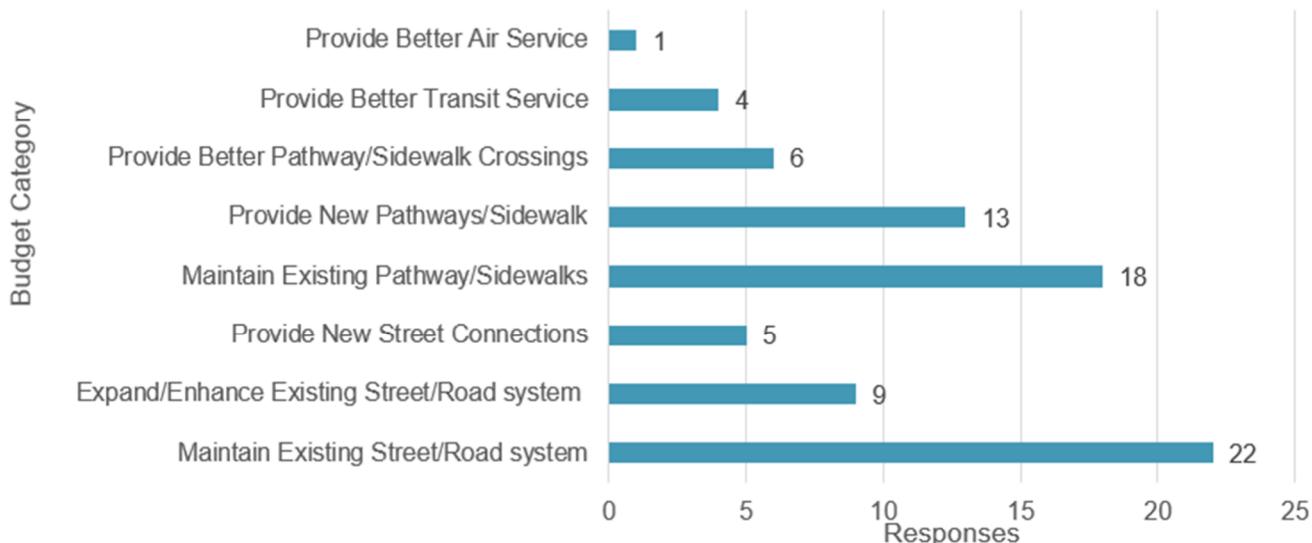
Priority for Bike/Ped Improvements



Q9. How would you rate the transit services provided in Watertown?**Q10. How would you rate the air travel services provided in Watertown?**

Q11. What would improve your satisfaction with transit/and or air services offered in Watertown?

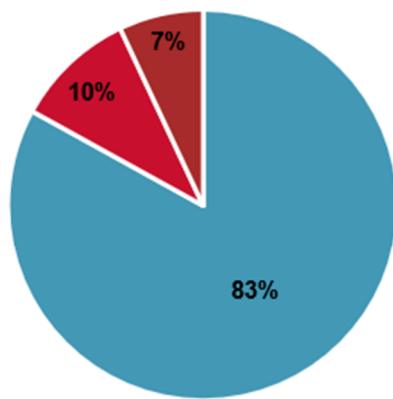
- More transit availability.
- Air service directly to Phoenix.
- Transit routes that would not need to be called in for reservation service.
- I would offer more taxi service within city limits. Or even a bus transit service that does not require a reservation ahead of time. Perhaps between the Downtown district, the mall, Walmart, Rec. Center, etc.
- I wish there were more sidewalks. Like between the high school and 212 there are practically no sidewalks an lots of traffic especially when kids are walking to or from school. Also along 212 and along 19th ave, no sidewalks or hardly any. These are high traffic areas and not everyone has a car or just wants to make a healthier travel choice. Let's making walking/riding bikes safer for everyone. I'm sure there are other areas that I don't know about that need the same consideration.
- If you are building a new airport you must feel there is a need for more flights since you have 2 loading ramps. I don't feel two ramps are needed and a lot of tax money is being wasted at the airport.
- Cheaper flights; more flight times
- I don't fly – so hard to answer that.
- If transit were able to run more frequently and not have to give 24 hours notice prior to a ride.

Q12. What do you believe are the top budget priorities for transportation improvements in Watertown (select up to 3)?**Top Budget Priorities**

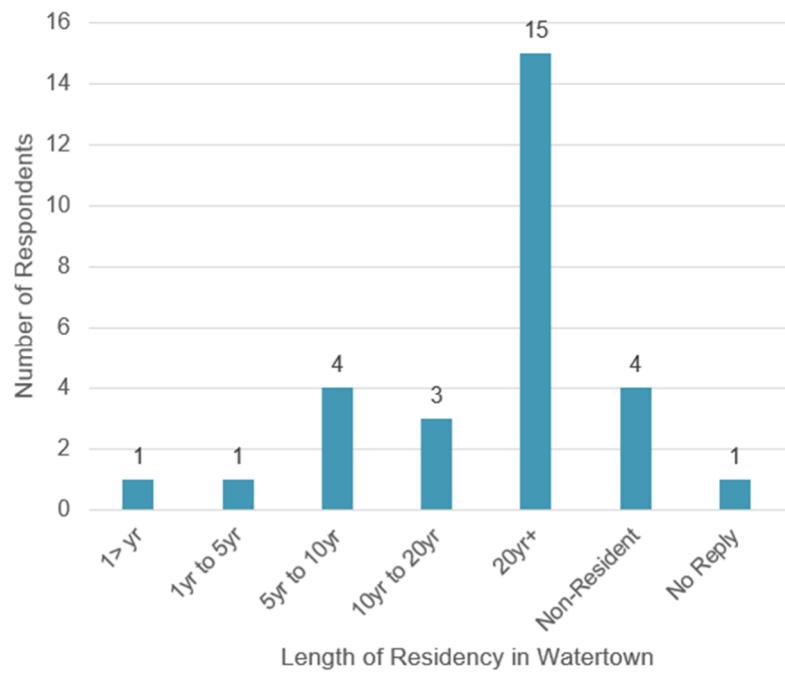
Q13. Overall what do you think are the most pressing transportation issues/needs for Watertown?

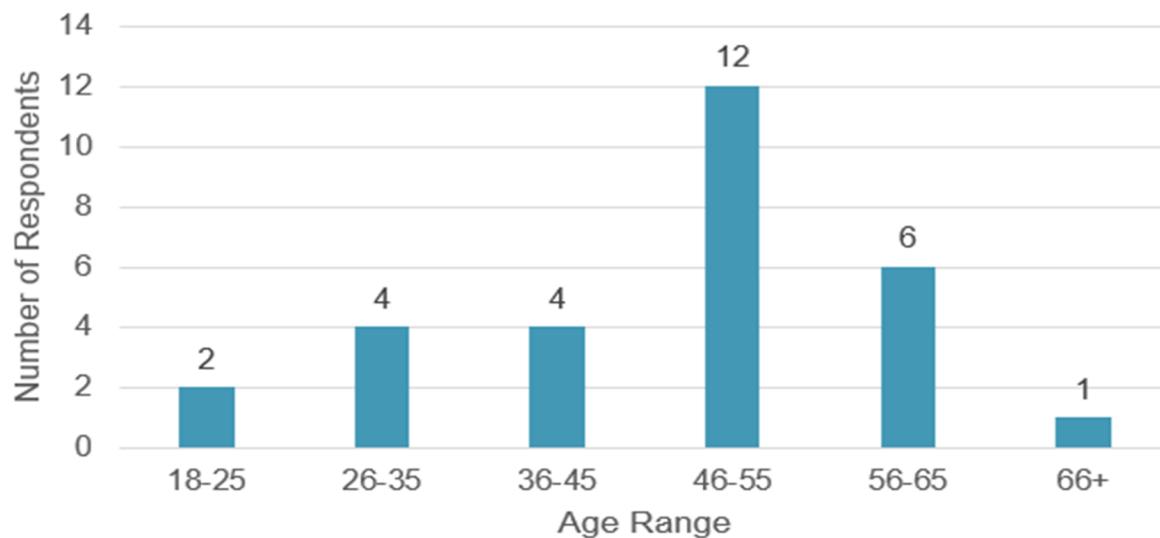
- More bike/walking paths/trails
- Addressing Sidewalk Gaps and Condition
- Sidewalks
- Widen Hwy 20 Intersection at Municipal Utilities Building, Better Transit with fixed routes, New Interchange I29 north of Terex
- More outdoor Recreation
- Fix what we have then look at expansion
- There needs to be significant investment in US212 from SD20 to east of Interstate 29, including traffic calming techniques, synchronized traffic signals, access consolidations and closures, and pedestrian side paths. One key location that I would recommend improving is consolidating 31st Street SE and 35th Street Circle SE to a common access point at the newly constructed signal at 33rd Street SE, streamlining access to business north of US212 and increasing intersection spacing between the frontage road network and the southbound Interstate 29 ramps. Another location of focus is the stretch of US212 from US81 to 19th Street SE, which could include access closures and consolidations, streamlined traffic signals, a wider center-turn lane, and sidewalks on both sides of the road; many of these solutions would require right-of-way acquisition.
- We need more turning lanes and/or turn signals on the major highways. Such as a left turning light signal at Hwy. 20 & 4th SW, right turning signal at Hwy 20 & 212. It might be nice to have a street light at Hwy 20 & 10th NW.
- See previous comment.
- Making a left turn on the residential streets – 10th street, 3rd street, Hwy 81 by the Cowboy is just about impossible during school and morning commute. We need a specific turn light and a turn lane.
- You have many residential areas with no sidewalks or curb and gutter. Some aren't even paved. Every street should be paved with sidewalks and curb and gutter, if residents can't pay, put it on the taxes. Sidewalks should be mandatory in school zones
- I am primarily concerned with the lack of walkability in Watertown. For the most part, it's fairly easy to get across town in 10 -15 minutes as there seems to be enough "artery" roads. However, I see tons of kids walking home from school along busy roads (and not against traffic) where there are no sidewalks (11 ST SE) and it scares the sheep out of me. I think there is also a dire need for a pedestrian crossing at the bridge over Willow Creek on 212 by TSC. I've seen pedestrians cross it in thick traffic and that's also terrifying to witness. I think there are a lot of amenities in Watertown in terms of retail, food, and entertainment, but they aren't accessible to those without cars or who want to reduce car use. Also, there really needs to be a traffic signal at the Trav's intersection. Lots of left-turners taking risks turning on to 212!
- All residential areas should have sidewalks. Too many don't. I'm sorry if residents can't afford it. Prorate in taxes. Especially in a 6 block radius around all schools.

- Bike paths to/around lake Kampeska are in very poor shape...major cracks, subterranean holes/caving in because of water issues, grass/weed growth in the cracks, etc. Need more maintenance and re-builds of the existing paths.

Q14. Which best describes you?

■ Live in Watertown ■ No - But Work In Watertown ■ No - Frequent Traveler

Q15. If you live in Watertown, how long have you lived here?

Q16. What is your age?**Q17. What is your gender?**