

Active Transportation Survey Summary Report

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Overview

From May to October 2025, community members, families, and local businesses were surveyed by Lakeshore Eco-Network's Active Transportation Committee to understand walking and biking habits, motivations, and barriers, as well as priorities for improvements. Findings highlight strong interest in active transportation for health and enjoyment, but also significant infrastructure and safety challenges.

Survey Methodology

Questions were compiled from several existing active transportation surveys to create three separate questionnaires for individual community members, families, and businesses. The surveys were initially hosted on SurveyMonkey using a free license with a 50-response limit. Once the community survey exceeded that limit, it was transferred to Google Forms to allow additional responses.

The survey was promoted through the Lakeshore Eco-Network and Lambton Shores Nature Trails newsletters, as well as through posts on the Lakeshore Eco-Network Facebook page. These posts were shared across local community pages, including those for Grand Bend, Port Franks, Forest, Lambton Shores, and Ipperwash.

Total respondents: 282

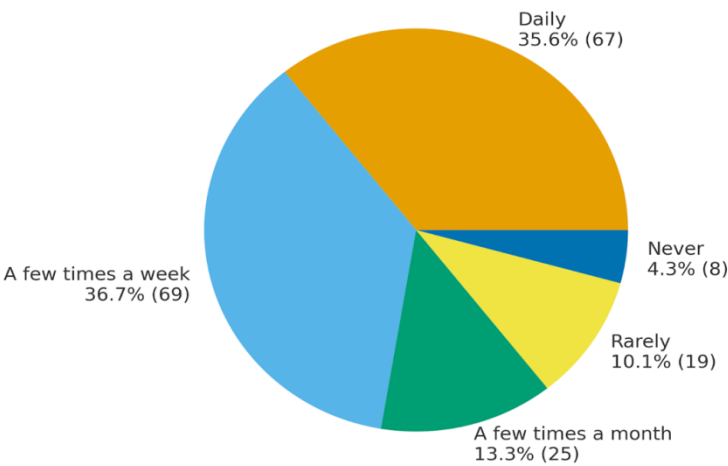
- Community respondents: 210
- Family respondents: 47
- Businesses: 25

Key Takeaways

- The primary reasons for active transportation are **health and enjoyment**.
- The biggest barriers are **safety and infrastructure gaps**.
- The community desires **more sidewalks/bike lanes, better maintenance of these, and traffic-calming measures**.
- The top priority areas for investment are **downtowns, parks & trails and neighbourhoods**.
- Families benefit from **crosswalk improvements and route maps**.
- Businesses see value in **employee incentives and bike parking to increase accessibility**.

Survey Results

1. Frequency of Walking and Biking



Insight: Most respondents walk or bike daily or several times per week.

2. Top Reasons People Walk or Bike

Reason	Total Responses	Key Notes
Health & fitness	158	#1 motivator across all groups
Enjoyment	135	Strong lifestyle activity component
Environmental reasons	63	Significant sustainability motivation
Convenience	58	Secondary practical benefit
Cost savings	36	Less common, but still meaningful
Family bonding	18	Important motivator for families

3. Main Barriers to Walking & Biking

Barrier	Total Responses	Notes
Traffic safety concerns	154	#1 barrier
Lack of sidewalks/bike lanes	130	Major infrastructure gap
Lack of suitable routes	65	Need for connected networks
Weather	53	Expected regional challenge
Personal safety concerns	51	Beyond vehicle safety
Distance	41	Some trips not walkable/bikeable
Insufficient bike parking	9 (business)	Local business opportunity

Insight: Safety and infrastructure improvements are the most urgent needs.

4. Priority Areas for Improvement

Area	Total Responses	Notes
Downtown areas	116	Highest priority
Parks & recreational trails	108	Popular for leisure and family activity
Residential neighbourhoods	80	Interest in safer neighbourhood streets
School zones	27	Important for youth safety
Commercial zones	8 (business)	Targeted business district needs

5. Most Requested Improvements

Improvement	Total Responses	Notes
More sidewalks/bike lanes	147	#1 improvement requested
Traffic calming measures	80	Desire for slower, safer streets
Better maintenance of pathways	74	Year-round upkeep needed
More bike racks	54	Growing need for secure parking
Better lighting	42	Safety after dark
Crosswalks with flashing lights	45	Safer crossings
Family-friendly route maps	12	Enhance family navigation
Employee incentives (businesses)	10	Interest in workplace programs

6. Comments

What are the biggest barriers you face when it comes to walking or biking in your community?

"Uneven and too narrow sidewalks. No bike lane means bikes take over sidewalks."

"Along highway 21 south, the sidewalks are very close to the road and not wide enough for bi directional foot/bike traffic."

"Some of the worst sidewalks I've seen in any Municipality."

"The rules/expectations for riding bikes downtown are rather ill-defined. Should we or should we not use the sidewalk? This can be a concern with heavy pedestrian traffic. Are we expected to ride down the centre of the lane, sometimes slowing down other vehicular traffic?"

"I ride on 21 and find the bike lane excellent. Might be nice to have bike lanes on other roads."

What specific improvements would make you more likely to walk or bike more often?

"Protected bike lanes on the major roads and/or multi-use pathways to accommodate bikes"

"More walking/biking trails connecting communities so people don't have to walk/bike on country highways and all small rural communities have access to nature trails"

"Multi-use paths along Townsend to get to the grocery store by bike"

"Highway 21 from north of Grand Bend to Bayfield and south of Highway 81 intersection to paved shoulder at Pinedale Road"

"Paved shoulder from Highway 21 & 81 intersection to Mollard Line"

"Safe lock up areas for bikes in commercial areas"

"Lower speed limits to 30 km from Highway 83 to downtown Grand Bend. Even with a bike path, motorists drive well over the speed limit making it unsafe for young families."

"Enforcement of speed limits"

"Better sidewalks without trip hazards"

Conclusions

Survey results show that most respondents already walk or bike frequently and have a strong interest in expanding active transportation options.

Currently, safety concerns and infrastructure gaps remain barriers to active transportation in our community. Respondents identified additional pedestrian and biking paths/lanes, improved maintenance and traffic-calming measures as top priorities.

Findings highlight strong community support for investments that make walking and biking safer, more convenient and enjoyable – helping to build healthier, more connected neighbourhoods.