

Village - School - Park & Ride Connections in Richmond, VT

SURVEY REPORT ON BIKE & PEDESTRIAN NEEDS (MAY, 2019)



Survey Overview

BIKE-PEDESTRIAN ACCESS / TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT IN RICHMOND



Bridge Street, Richmond Village

Background

Building upon past studies, and in partnership with the Town Planner and Richmond Trails Committee, Local Motion developed and circulated a **survey to assess how best to create better bike and pedestrian access and reduce traffic congestion** between the village, schools and park and ride in Richmond. In the Spring of 2019, 131 surveys were collected from Vermont residents. **85% of respondents lived in Richmond**, and the other 15% lived in other parts of Chittenden County or chose not to provide an address. Respondents **worked throughout the state, with 23% based at home or in Richmond, 19% in Burlington, 19% in other parts of Chittenden County, 10% in Montpelier** or other parts of the state, and 29% retired or electing not to list an employer. This report summarizes the findings based on the data gathered.

Public Outreach

Local Motion, the Town, and the Trails Committee shared the survey with the public in the following ways:

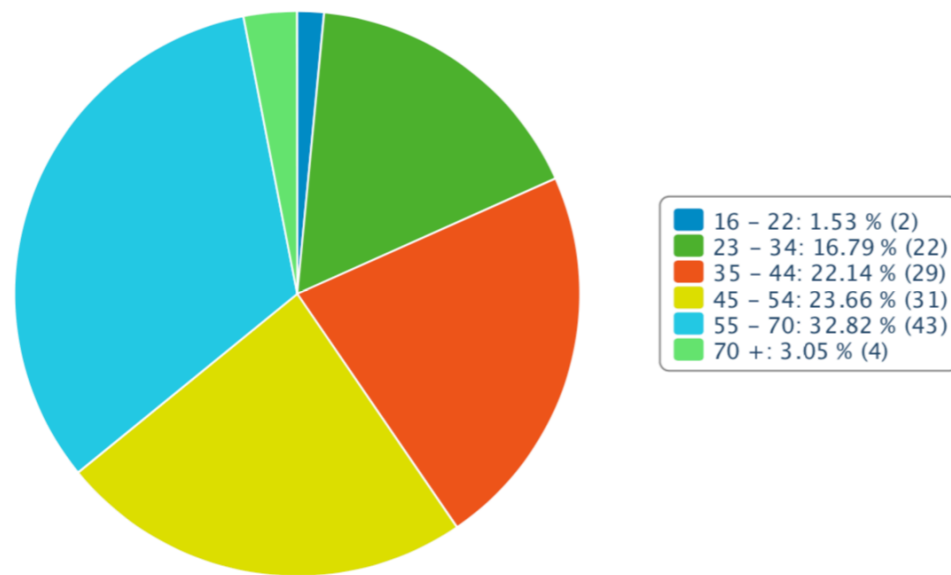
- Local Motion website and E-blast to over 2,000 supporters
- Social media via Local Motion networks
- Richmond Town Website
- Front Porch Forum
- Richmond Public School Networks

BIKE-PEDESTRIAN ACCESS /TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT IN RICHMOND

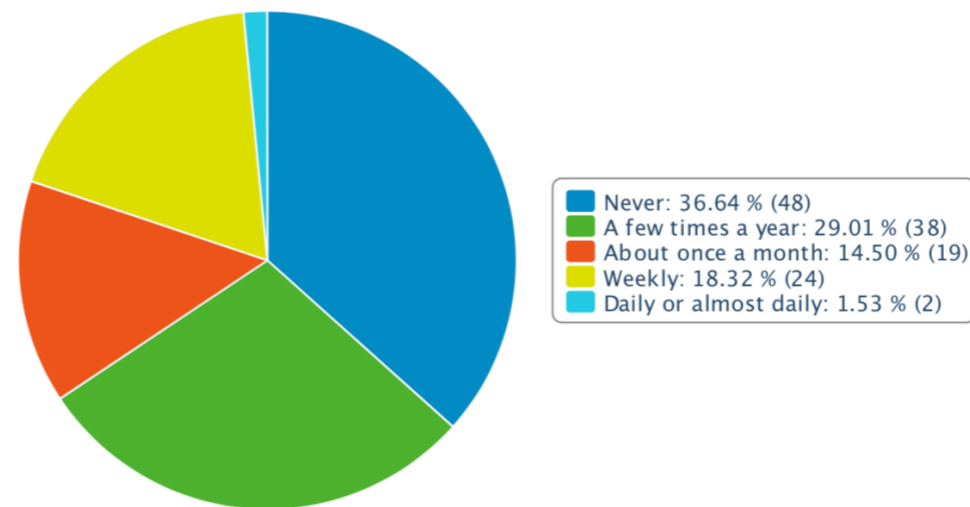
DEMOGRAPHICS

How FREQUENTLY do you travel along Rt 2 between the village and park & ride using the following modes?

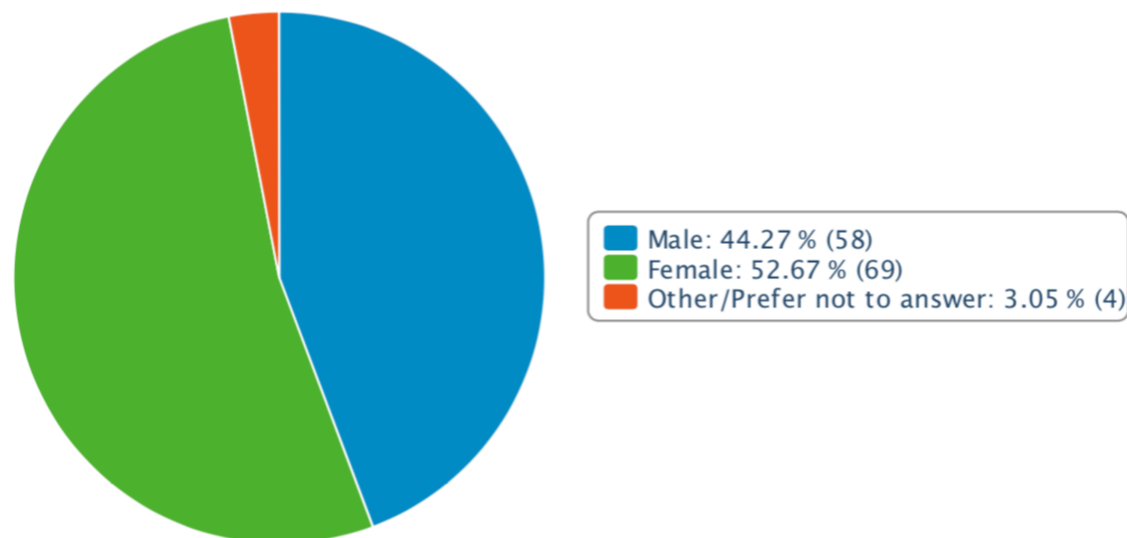
What is your age?



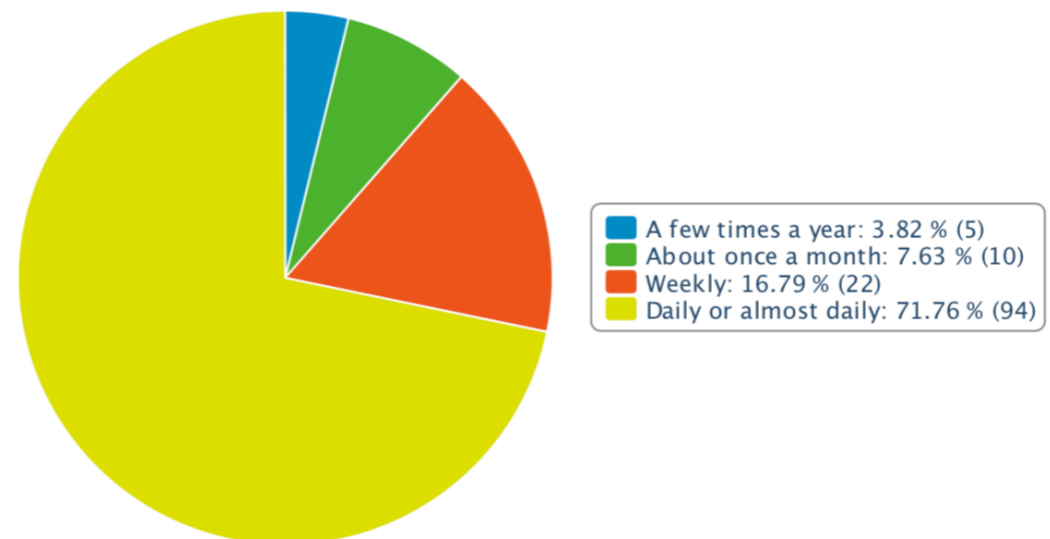
BIKE



What is your gender?

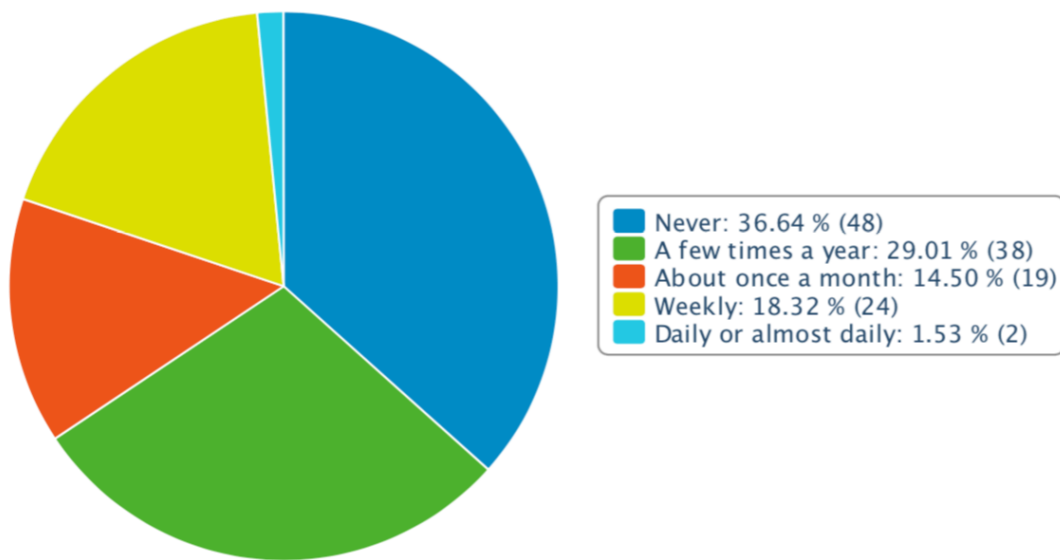


CAR

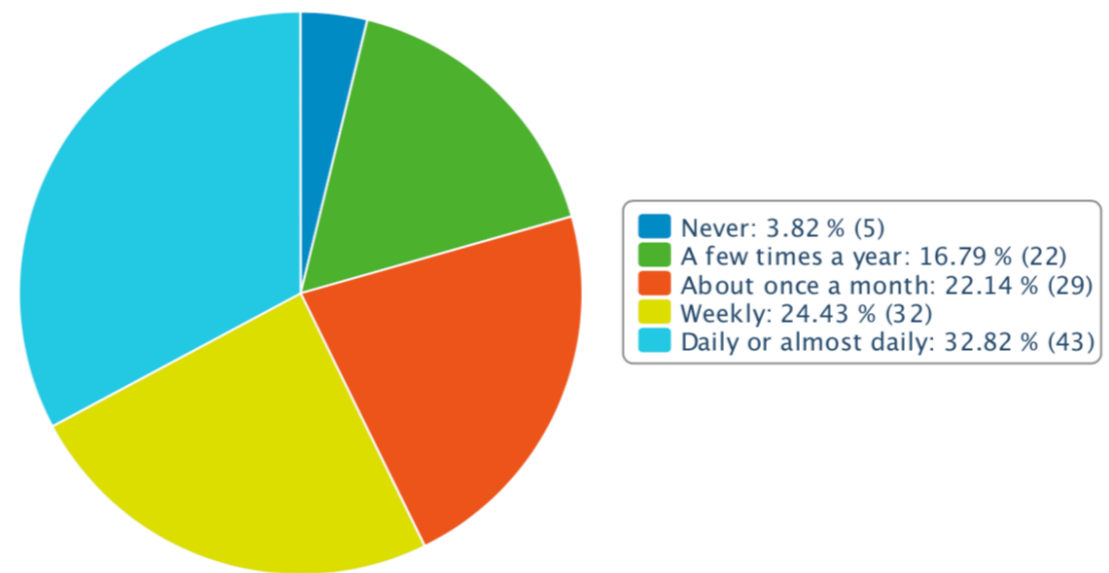


How FREQUENTLY do you travel along Jericho Rd between the village and schools using the following?

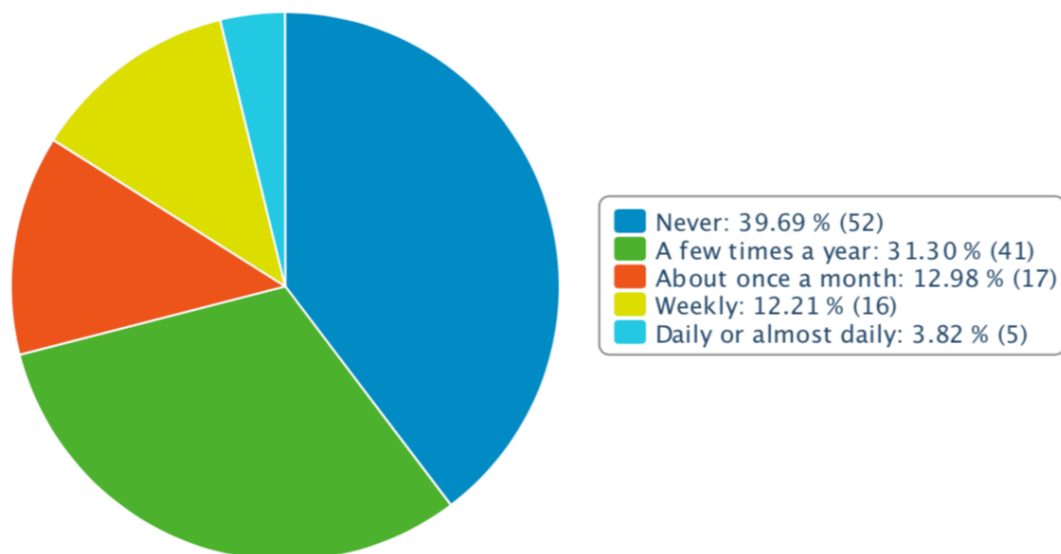
Bike



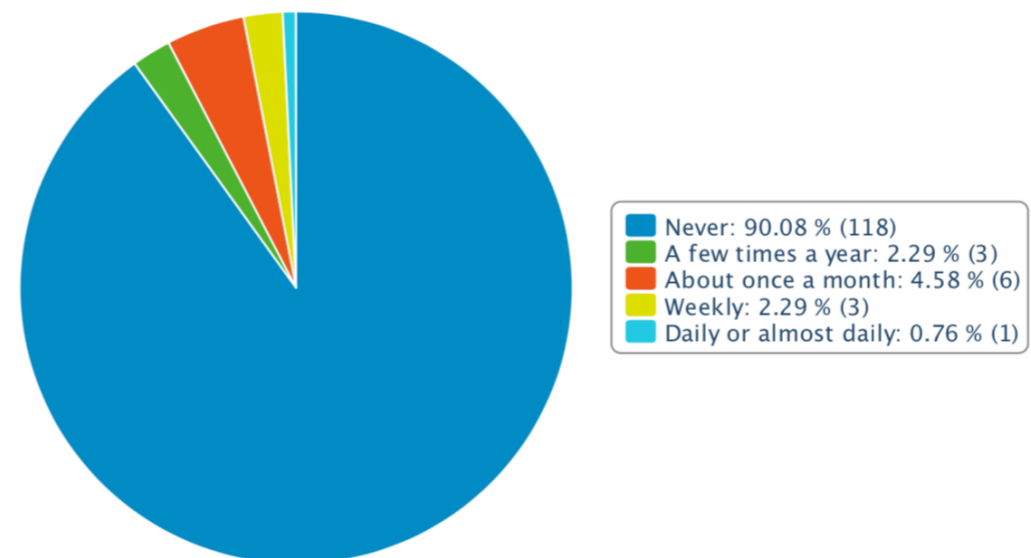
Car



Walk



Other



Survey Highlights

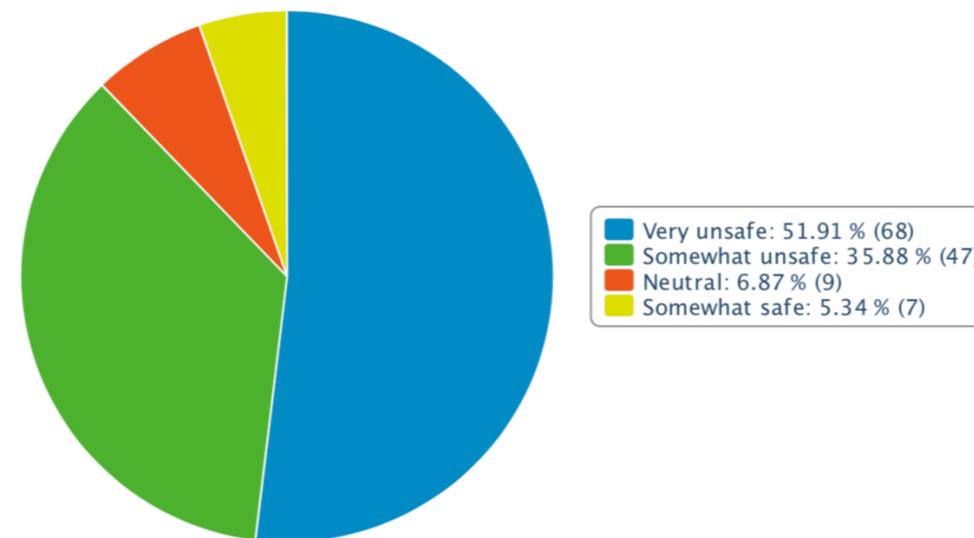
BIKE-PEDESTRIAN ACCESS /TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT IN RICHMOND



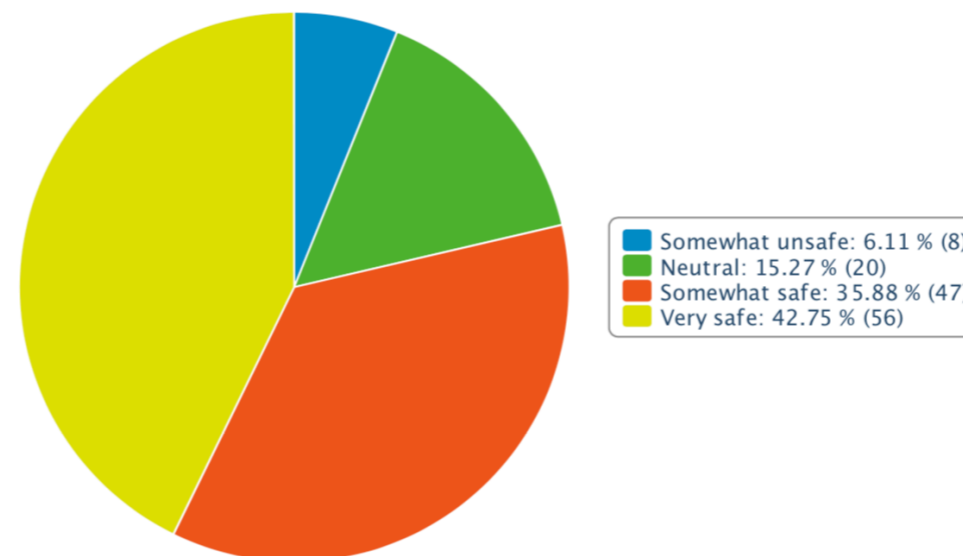
Richmond Park & Ride

How SAFE do you feel traveling along Rt 2 between the Village and Park & Ride using each of the following modes?

Bike



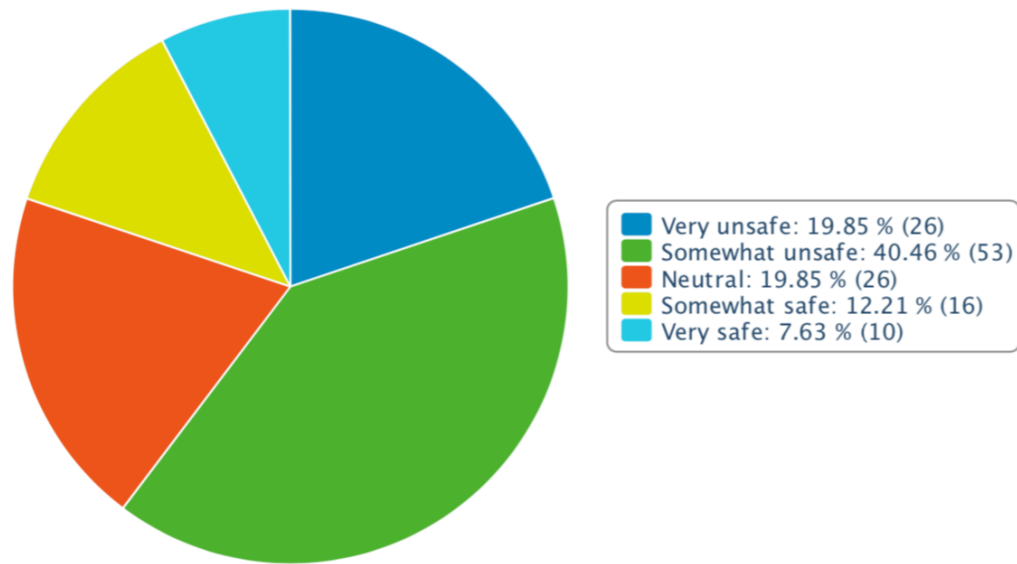
Car



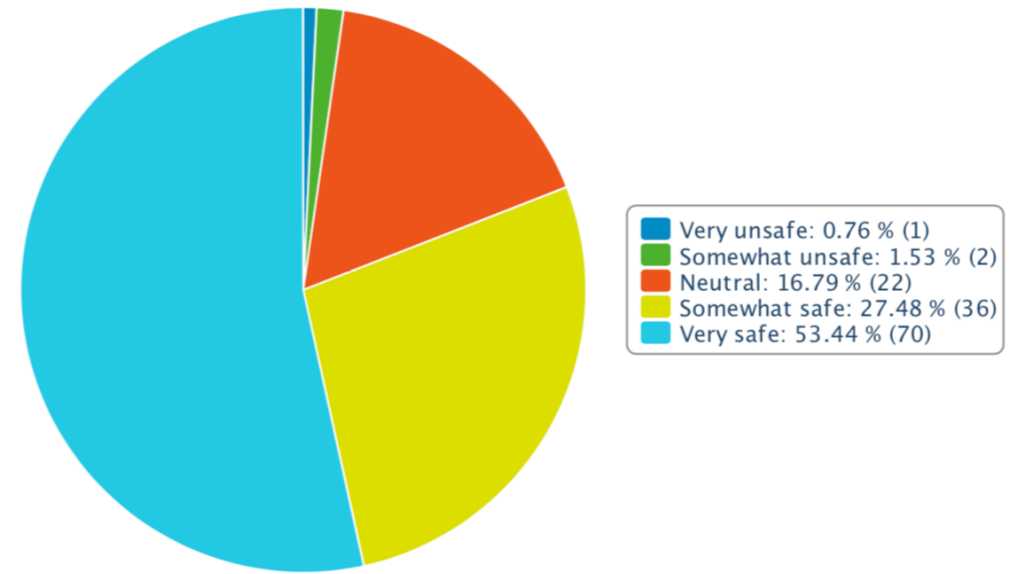
BIKE-PEDESTRIAN ACCESS /TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT IN RICHMOND

How **SAFE** do you feel traveling along Jericho Rd between the village and schools using the following modes?

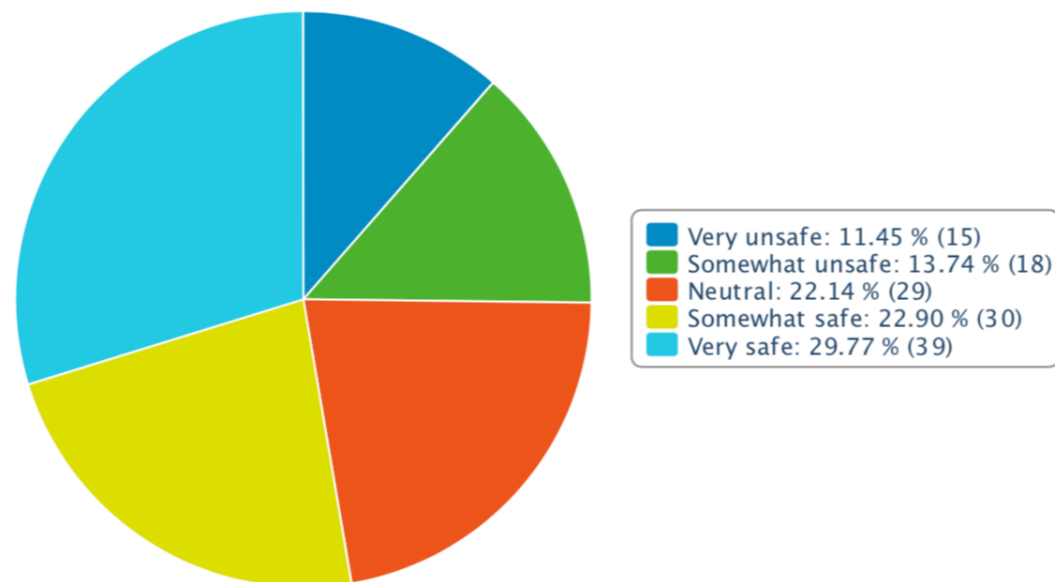
Bike



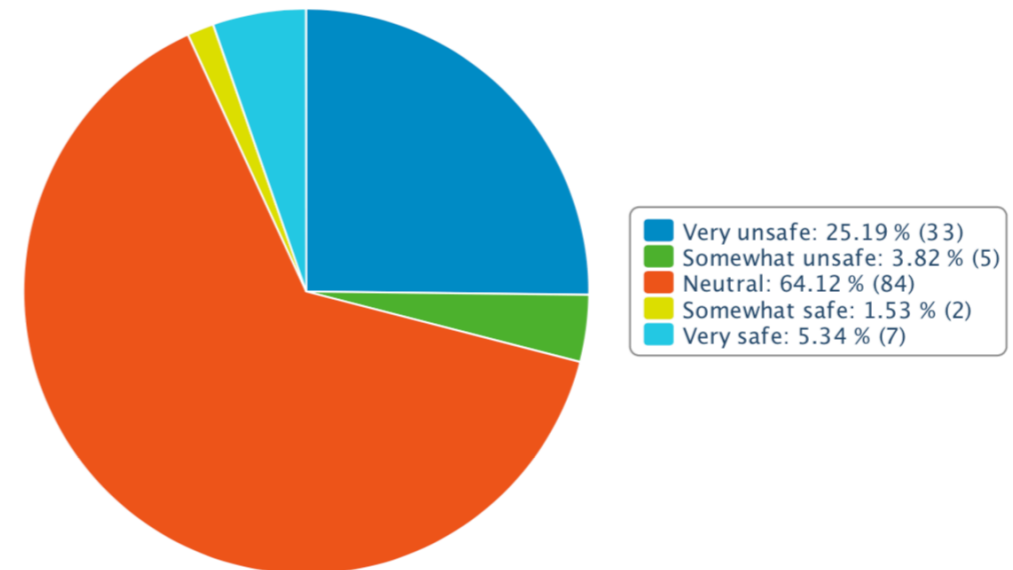
Car



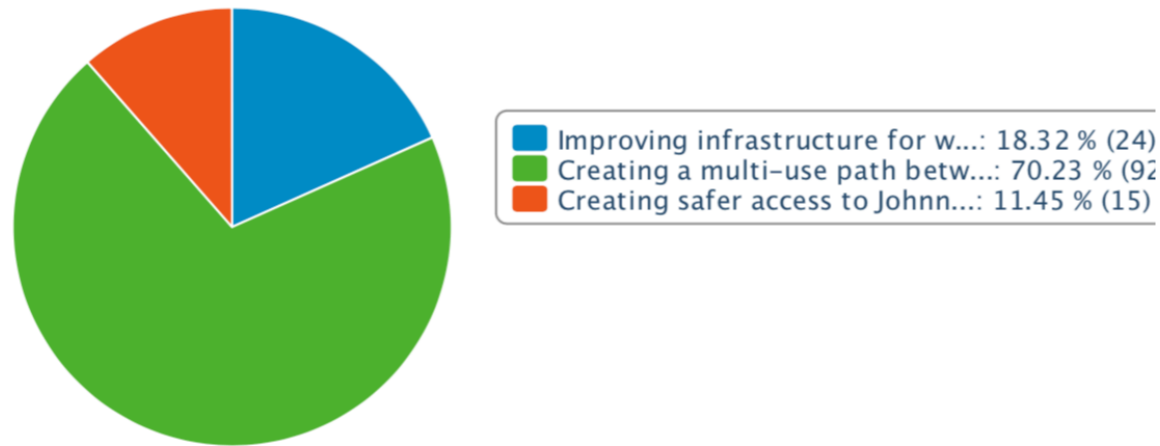
Walk



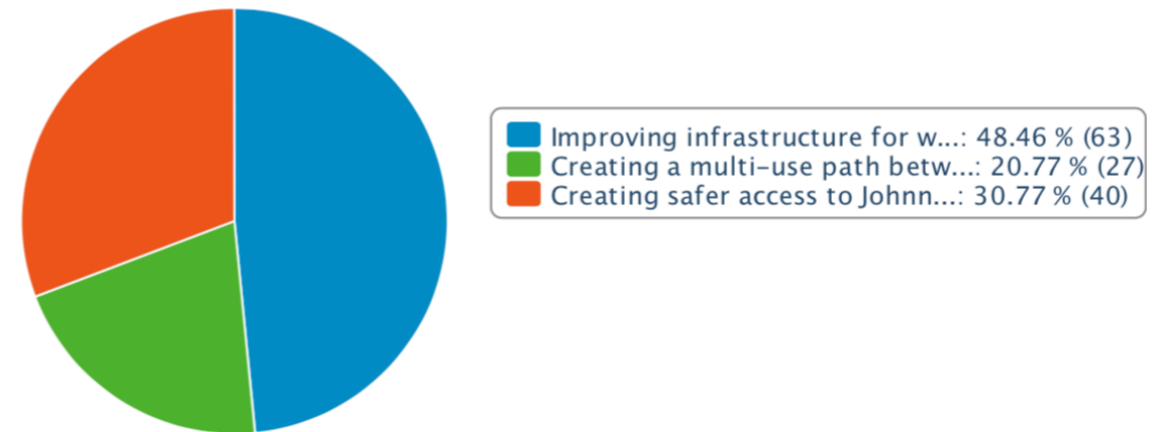
Other



Which of the following would you rank as the HIGHEST PRIORITY for improving bike and pedestrian connectivity in Richmond?



Which of the following would you rank as the SECOND HIGHEST PRIORITY for improving bike and pedestrian connectivity in Richmond?



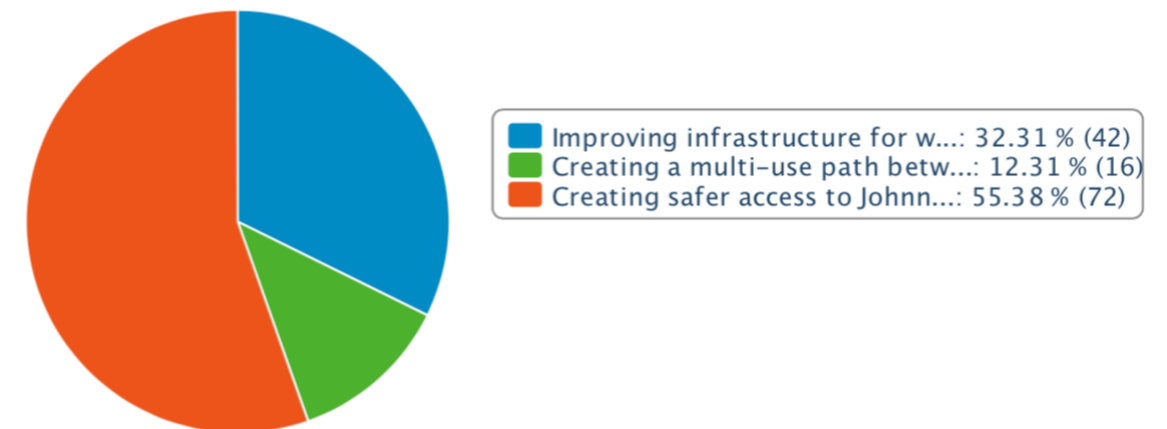
Survey respondents' rankings for improving bike and pedestrian connectivity....

70% Create a multi-use path between the village, schools and park & ride (1st priority)

48% Improve infrastructure for walking and biking in the village center (2nd priority)

55% Create safer access to Johnny Brook Road as an alternate route to the park & ride (3rd priority)

Which of the following would you rank as the THIRD HIGHEST PRIORITY for improving bike and pedestrian connectivity in Richmond?



Suggestions for Improving Bike & Pedestrian Connections Across Town

- **If You Build It, They Will Come**

Several stressed that Richmond has a significant number of residents who like to recreate and those that would love to walk and bike more frequently if the infrastructure existed. A few noted that they would love a multi-use path network in town that they could use locally instead of having to drive with their families to Burlington, South Burlington, or Waterbury/Stowe to use off-road bike paths in those locations.

- **Rt. 2 Bike Lanes vs. Separated Off-Road Path**

The more confident riders that travelled Rt 2 and other roads regularly by bike were more apt to request that Rt 2 be widened to accommodate a shoulder or bike lanes. Those who didn't feel comfortable riding between the village and park & ride on Rt 2, or who would like a place to ride safely with their family preferred an off-road path between the village and park & ride. There was not a clear consensus about which route was most preferable. Topography was noted as a challenge for creating an off-road path behind the schools, although challenges with railroad access have been identified as part of previous outreach efforts for access along Rt 2.

- **Invest in Village Center Improvements**

Several would like to see Bridge Street bike lanes, an expanded sidewalk network, and the implementation of other recommendations presented in the Bridge Street Bicycle and Pedestrian Feasibility Study and Town Plan.

- **Create the Connection to Johnnie Brook Road**

Though not a top priority, several were excited about a connection to Johnnie Brook via Huntington Road.

- **Redesign the I-89/117/Rt 2 Intersection**

Several who commute by bike along Rt 2 to other nearby communities noted this intersection as a barrier that needs to be addressed in order for more to bike.

- **Install Bike Parking**

Several noted the need for more options to safely and securely store and cover their bikes, both at the park and ride and around town.

- **Improve Access to the Town Forest**

While commuting to work and school on foot and by bike were priorities for most respondents, several noted the value of creating better connections to recreational resources in the area as well, like the town forest.

Suggestions for Reducing Traffic Congestion Between the Village, Schools and Park & Ride

- **Assess School Bus Utilization and Repurpose Buses as Commuter Shuttles or Encourage More School Use**

Many had the perception that the school buses were not highly utilized. Shifting bus routes and/or schedules was proposed. Given that a shuttle service between the village and park & ride is lacking, however, others suggested repurposing buses as commuter shuttles.

- **Survey Bus Commuters for their Ideas**

One commuter that rides the bus from the Park & Ride to Burlington or Montpelier each day, and knows of many others who would like to access the facility by means other than a personal vehicle, suggested these commuters might have other ideas as to how to address these challenges, so it would be worth surveying them (both those that currently bike and those that would like to do so)!

- **Create Commuter Rail Access (Ideally with Trail/Path)**

Several would like to see a commuter rail extended between Montpelier and Burlington, with a stop in the

village and/or the park & ride. A rail with trail possibility was presented as well (as opposed to a path behind the schools/along I-89)

- **Redesign the Bridge St/Main St Intersection as a Roundabout to Improve Safety and Efficiency**

A roundabout in this location was a popular suggestion. Other ideas included adding additional lanes to facilitate vehicular turning and adjusting the signal timing to accommodate commuter traffic at peak hours.