

U-6108 Reconfiguration Preliminary Survey Report

6/6/2023

The following document contains user responses expressing their concerns and perspectives of the Battleground Avenue (US220)/ Lawndale corridor between Wendover and Fernwood Drive.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Public Review was held for NCDOT Project, U-6108, Reconfiguration of Battleground Avenue (US 220)/ Lawndale Drive between Wendover Avenue and Ferndale Drive. The public review period was conducted from March 15, 2023, to May 2, 2023, aimed to gather public input on transportation challenges and potential improvements for the corridor. It received a substantial response, with over 350 participants providing feedback both online and in-person during a town meeting held on March 27, 2023, at Guilford Park Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, located at 2100 Fernwood Drive.

The majority of respondents reported living and working in the 27408 zip code area and primarily relied on private vehicles for transportation. However, there was also a significant presence of individuals who utilized alternative modes of transportation and did not reside or work in the immediate area, showing a broad interest in the topic.

The comments expressed a common concern for improving safety, accessibility, and traffic flow. Ensuring safe access and crossings for pedestrians and cyclists was emphasized, particularly at intersections like W. Cornwallis Drive and Green Valley Road. Suggestions were made to eliminate the existing Battleground (US 220) roadway section and enhance pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.

Improved access to downtown destinations, increased business use, and clear navigation were also highlighted as essential goals. The linking of the A&Y and Downtown Greenway, along with the need for traffic signals at greenway crossings, was seen as a high priority. Separated bike lanes and considerations for Cornwallis Drive's traffic flow were also mentioned.

Transit access and connectivity received significant attention, with calls for dedicated bus lanes, improved bus frequency (including weekends), and grade-separated crossings on the A&Y Greenway. The survey respondents expressed a strong desire to enhance alternative transportation options and support the complete streets model.

Overall, the survey results reflect the community's desire for safer, more accessible, and efficient transportation infrastructure. The diverse range of perspectives gathered through the survey provides valuable insights for future planning and decision-making processes.

SURVEY OBJECTIVES

To obtain public input, both qualitative and quantitative data, to support identification of major goals and needs for the corridor.

DATA COLLECTED

The types of data were collected:

- *Qualitative:* Data including participant comments.
- *Quantitative:* Data including card sort and category ranking metrics as well as general frequency of similar terms used.

Introduction

A Public Review was held for NCDOT Project, U-6108, Reconfiguration of Battleground Avenue (US 220)/ Lawndale Drive between Wendover Avenue and Ferndale Drive. The public review period was conducted from March 15, 2023, to May 2, 2023, aimed to gather public input on transportation challenges and potential improvements for the corridor. It received a substantial response, with over 350 participants providing feedback both online and in-person during a town meeting held on March 27, 2023, at Guilford Park Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, located at 2100 Fernwood Drive.

A public engagement online tool known as Metroquest was used to solicit feedback for the project. The tool included three major focus areas:

- Major Goals for the Corridor
- Detailed Identification of Corridor Concerns and Improvements
- Mapping Corridor Concerns and Improvements

Below are summaries for each focus area.

Major Goals for the Corridor

The public was asked to prioritize goals for the corridor. The results of the prioritization is shared below along with major themes within each goal.

These comments highlight the desire for safer intersections, improved traffic flow, slower speeds, and enhanced access for various modes of transportation, including pedestrians, cyclists, and public transportation users. The importance of considering urban form, roundabouts, and safe crossings for the greenway is also emphasized.

The ranking was determined using a weighted scoring system.

Priority #1: Reduce Crashes & Improve Safety

1. Reconfiguring Intersections and Improving Access: Suggested to reconfigure the intersections, such as creating a connection from Cornwallis to Battleground through the former location of the Golden Corral. Additionally, improving safety for cyclists, pedestrians, and vehicles is emphasized.
2. Addressing Intersection Challenges: One comment highlights the challenges faced when turning from Cornwallis onto Battleground, expressing the need for improved traffic flow and safety in this area. The commenter mentions difficulties experienced while turning into specific destinations and the need for multiple stoplights.
3. Slowing down Traffic and Reducing Curb Cuts: Concerns were raised about the speed of traffic in the area and the need to slow it down. Reducing the number of curb cuts is also suggested as a way to enhance safety.
4. Urban Form and Transportation Considerations: Commenters express the need to consider larger urban form challenges and opportunities for growth in the corridor, suggesting that transportation-related improvements alone may not be sufficient.

5. Roundabouts as a Solution: Roundabouts are proposed as a potential solution to improve traffic flow, access, and safety. The idea of merging Battleground and Lawndale near the Cornwallis intersection to create a roundabout was mentioned.
6. Safe Crossings for Greenway: The importance of providing safe crossings for major roads to ensure the usability of the A&Y Greenway is emphasized.
7. Improved Public Transportation Frequency: There are requests to increase the frequency of bus services, particularly the 17 Bus, to half-hour intervals instead of hourly.

Priority #2: Traffic Flow

1. Eliminating Intersections and Improving Flow: There is a suggestion to eliminate the intersections at Cornwallis and Pembroke from Battleground to improve traffic flow. The flow of traffic is described as horrible, and there is a need to address congestion and delays.
2. Safety Concerns at Intersections: Concerns are raised about the danger of making turns at Cornwallis onto Lawndale, particularly when cars from Battleground make right turns on red. The comment highlights the need to address this issue for the safety of drivers and pedestrians.
3. Managing Turn Movements: Some individuals suggest creating dedicated turn lanes at the Cornwallis-Battleground intersection or preventing right turns from Lawndale at this intersection to alleviate congestion and blockage of the straight lane.

Priority #3: BiPed Connectivity

1. Safety and Practicality: There is a concern that the greenway needs to be safe and practical for larger groups of runners. Some individuals worry that adding pedestrians will increase the danger, especially considering the existing crashes in the area.
2. Barrier to Connectivity: Several respondents mentioned that the presence of multiple road crossings within a short stretch of the greenway poses a significant barrier to safe and efficient BiPed connectivity.
3. Importance of Access: Many participants emphasized the need for safe means of access for cyclists to reach downtown areas, including shopping centers and restaurants.
4. Priority on Pedestrian Mobility and Safety: The importance of prioritizing pedestrian mobility and safety was highlighted by multiple respondents.
5. Opportunity for Design and Connectivity: Some individuals expressed the opportunity to design the area with future considerations, such as accommodating electric vehicles, bikes, and pedestrians. They mentioned the desire to connect different areas of the city and improve walkability.
6. Importance of Connecting Greenways: There was a consensus among respondents about the need to connect the downtown greenway to the A&Y greenway and other bike/hike paths across the state. This connection was seen as essential for attracting visitors and promoting cycling and walking in Greensboro.

7. Ideas for Design: Suggestions included a bridge path for bicycles and pedestrians over the intersection, an elevated access skywalk above traffic zones, and creating a city that is accessible and safe for cyclists.
8. Safety Concerns: Some individuals expressed concerns about bike lanes in the area due to the high volume of vehicular traffic. They stressed the need to address traffic problems before adding bike lanes.
9. Value of Greenway: Many respondents emphasized the positive impact of greenways on the city, including health benefits, drawing events and tourism, and connecting resources.
10. Safety Improvements: There were calls for improving safety measures at specific crossings, such as Cornwallis, Pembroke, and Benjamin Parkway intersection.

These comments reflect the various perspectives and priorities of respondents regarding bicycle and pedestrian connectivity in the area.

Priority #4: Destination Access

1. Safe Access and Crossings: There is a concern for ensuring safe access and crossings for pedestrians and cyclists as the greenway intersects with streets in the project area. It is important to minimize conflicts with turn movements at intersections like W. Cornwallis Drive and Green Valley Road.
2. Eliminating Existing Roadway: Some individuals suggest considering the elimination of the existing Battleground Avenue (US 220) roadway section that splits from Westover Terrace and merges with Lawndale Drive, allowing for smoother east-west traffic flow from Cornwallis to Wendover.
3. Encouraging Pedestrian and Bicycle Use: The need to enable safe pedestrian and bicycle access across roads is emphasized, promoting the idea that areas should not be solely designed for cars but should also prioritize alternative modes of transportation.
4. Improved Access to Downtown: There are calls for improved access for cyclists to reach downtown destinations easily and safely.
5. Increasing Safety for Business Use: It is believed that enhancing pedestrian and cyclist safety will increase business use in the area, with some individuals expressing their willingness to visit more frequently if it were safer to access certain businesses in the north side of Wendover by bicycle.
6. Clear Navigation and Left Turns: Some respondents mentioned the difficulty in figuring out the best way to access certain businesses and determining left turn options to reach them. Improved signage and navigation may be needed.
7. Proper Oversight and Business Saturation: Concerns are raised about the over-saturation of businesses in the area and the need for proper oversight by planning and city council during the approval process.

8. Priority on Greenway Linking: Linking the A&Y and Downtown Greenway is seen as a high priority, providing safe and easy access for residents of surrounding neighborhoods to shopping areas on Lawndale and the restaurant entertainment district in the Kotis "Mid-Town" area, without the need for cars. Traffic signals at greenway crossings are suggested.
9. Separated Bike Lanes: Some individuals recommend separating bike lanes from traffic by using raised sidewalks to ensure safety for cyclists.
10. Cornwallis Drive and Traffic Flow: Suggestions include considering a bridge over Lawndale and Battleground for Cornwallis Drive, diverting traffic onto Cone or Wendover, or implementing a large, efficient traffic circle. This could provide alternative access for Cornwallis residents and potentially improve traffic flow.
11. Improved Public Transportation: Requests for improved public transportation services are made, such as increasing the frequency of the bus route 17 to every half hour, including weekends.
12. Mid-Block Crossings: There is a need for improving mid-block pedestrian and bicycle crossings along Lawndale and Battleground.

These comments reflect the various perspectives and concerns regarding destination access in the area, with an emphasis on safety, improved transportation options, and traffic flow considerations.

Priority #5: Transit Access

1. Redirection of Cross Traffic: There is a suggestion to redirect cross traffic from Cornwallis to Cone or Wendover, ideally improving traffic flow and reducing congestion.
2. Importance of Safe Connectivity: It is emphasized that connecting the A&Y Greenway to the new greenways downtown is important, but safety should be a priority. The suggestion of a bridge, similar to the Highline in NYC, is made to demonstrate the possibilities and positive impact it can have.
3. Critical Biped Connectivity: Biped connectivity is considered crucial, highlighting the need to connect downtown to the Battleground Parks District, watershed trails, mountains to sea, and ultimately the east coast greenway. It is seen as an important part of the overall network.
4. Traffic Flow Improvements: Suggestions include implementing roundabouts, collector street designs, and avoiding traffic stoplights to improve traffic flow between Wendover Ave., Westover Terrace, Battleground Ave., Lawndale Dr., and Cornwallis Dr.
5. Dedicated Bus Lanes and Improved Bus Service: Some individuals advocate for dedicated bus lanes, considering the width of the right-of-way, and suggest improving bus service frequency, particularly for the bus route 17, which currently runs hourly. Increasing bus service on weekends is also mentioned.
6. Infrastructure for Alternate Transportation: The importance of improving infrastructure to support alternate means of transportation, such as biking, is emphasized. The complete streets model is seen as vital for safety and connectivity.

7. Grade-Separated Crossings for A&Y Greenway: To make alternative transportation safer and more convenient, there is a call for grade-separated crossings on the A&Y Greenway at intersections with heavily used east-west bike corridors like Cornwallis Dr.

These comments highlight the need for safe and efficient transit options, improved infrastructure for alternative transportation, and connectivity between different greenways and bike corridors.

Additional Comments

1. Slowing Down Cars and Improving Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety: Concerns were raised about the speed and frequency of cars on W. Cornwallis Dr., and a desire to prioritize pedestrian and bicycle safety. The suggestion is to implement measures that encourage cars to slow down while also improving access and safety for pedestrians and cyclists.
2. Interconnected Goals: One comment suggests that by prioritizing bicycle/ pedestrian connectivity, destination and transit access, and traffic flow, there will be a positive impact on reducing crashes and improving safety. The idea is that focusing on these aspects will have a synergistic effect on overall transportation improvements.
3. Emphasis on Transit Access and BiPed Connectivity: Another comment suggests that by prioritizing transit access and bicycle/pedestrian connectivity, the other goals will naturally be addressed. By improving transit reliability and volume and promoting walking and biking, it is believed that there will be a reduction in crashes, traffic flow, and improved access to businesses in the area.

These comments highlight the importance of balancing the needs of various modes of transportation, promoting safety for pedestrians and cyclists, and considering the interconnectedness of transportation goals in order to achieve overall improvements in the area.

Detailed Identification of Corridor Concerns and Improvements

UNDER DEVELOPMENT

Mapping Corridor Concerns and Improvements

For added context, we asked the public to map their concerns under the following categories:

- Multi-Modal Features
- Property Access & Impacts
- Safety Issues,
- Traffic Operations
- Other Ideas

The public was able to provide a location and detailed comments for each mapped concern or improvement. Although, comments were mapped based on the five above categories, it was determined to analyze comments by geographic location.

Figure 1. All Concerns Heat Map

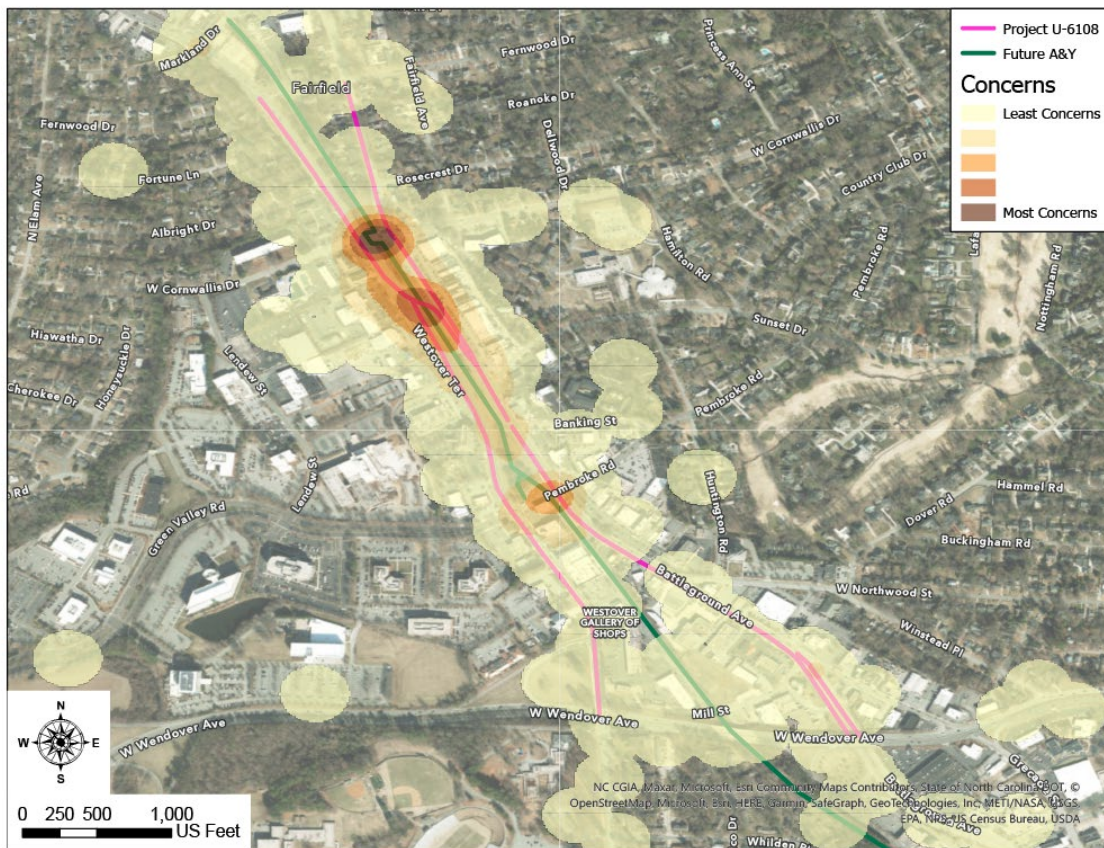
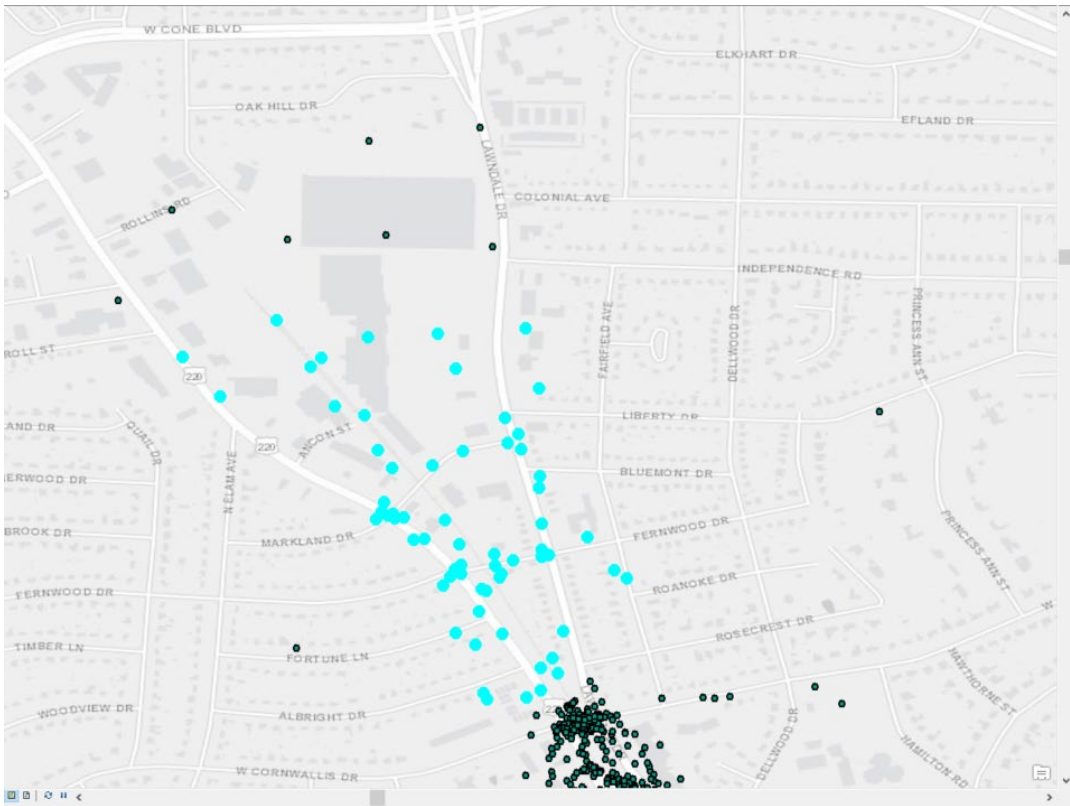


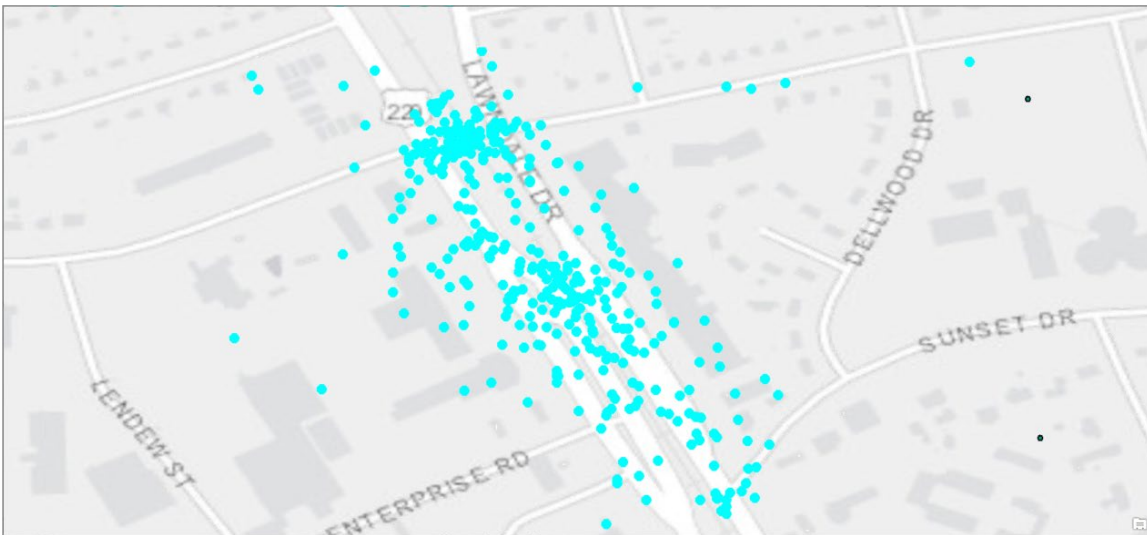
Figure 2. Battleground Avenue and Lawndale Drive between W. Cornwallis Drive and W. Cone Blvd.



In the Battleground Avenue, Lawndale Drive, and W. Cornwallis Drive intersection to W. Cone Blvd area, there are numerous comments expressing the need for continued development of the A&Y Greenway while addressing the challenges of access. Suggestions include creating a tunnel below a future roundabout or building a bridge over the intersection. The completion of the greenway and connectivity to other pedestrian and bike paths is considered a top priority to alleviate congestion and provide alternative transportation options. Safety concerns for cyclists are raised, with requests for improved bike lanes, signals, and separated paths. Elevating the greenway, providing safe crossings, and enhancing visibility for bicycles are also recommended. Many people emphasize the importance of completing the greenway to connect to downtown and promote tourism.

The intersection itself receives a lot of attention, with suggestions for a traffic circle or roundabout to improve traffic flow and reduce confusion. Some propose consolidating roads or reconfiguring the area to create a safer and more efficient layout. Pedestrian and bike access to businesses along Lawndale is a concern, with requests for improved crossings and separated pathways. Better bus stop accommodations, right-of-way for future light rail, and the creation of a modified four-way intersection are also mentioned. Parking, signage, and access to businesses receive mixed reviews, with some calling for more parking spaces, improved signage, and better-designed parking areas. The frequency of crashes and close calls with pedestrians and cyclists is a recurring concern, with calls for better enforcement of traffic laws and increased safety measures. Overall, the completion of the greenway and the improvement of safety and access for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists are the key priorities for this area.

Figure 3. Battleground Ave, Lawndale Drive, between Cornwallis Drive and Sunset Drive Intersection



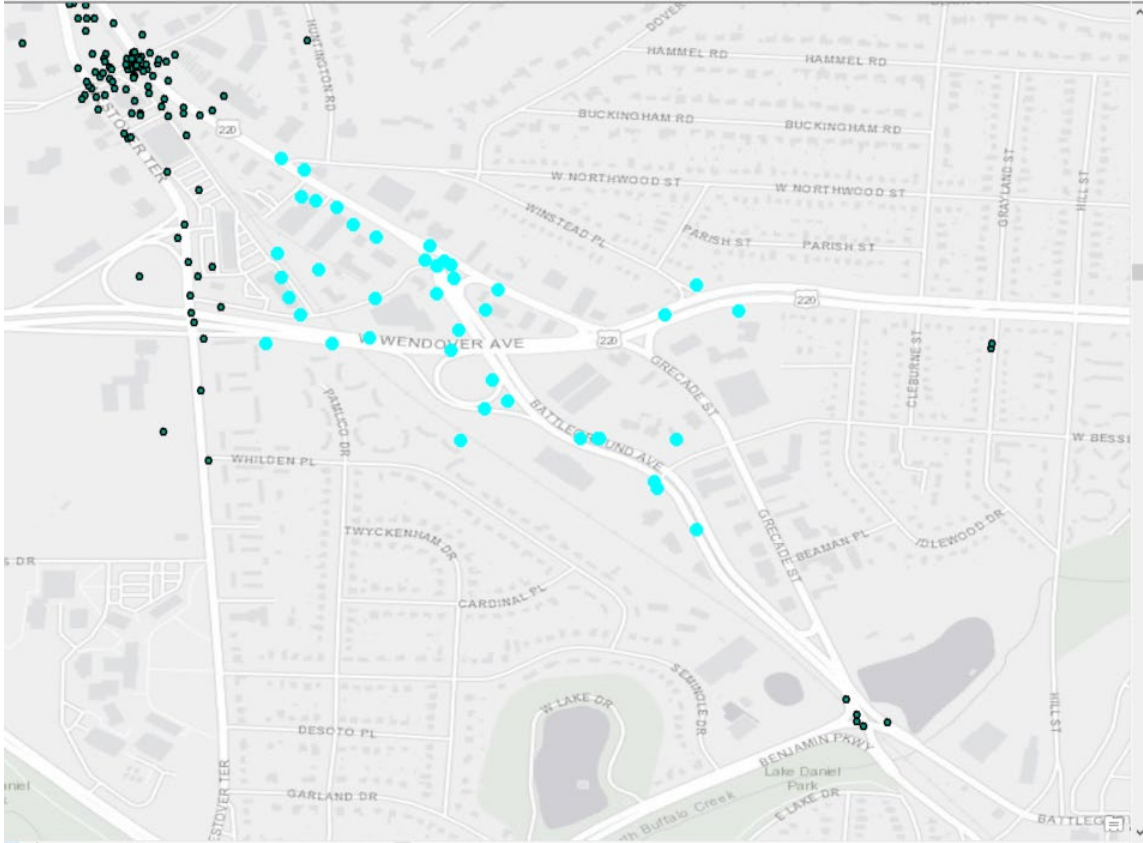
Feedback from the community regarding the intersection of Battleground Avenue and Lawndale Drive, from W. Cornwallis intersection to Sunset Drive, has highlighted several key areas of concern and improvement. One major consideration is the extension of the A&Y Greenway, which, despite challenging access, could have a significant impact on the area. Enhancing connectivity and prioritizing pedestrian and bike access along the greenway are essential goals. Safety for cyclists at the intersection is a recurring issue, and suggestions include implementing bike signals, better bike lanes, and dedicated crossing options to separate cyclists and pedestrians from car traffic. Additionally, the completion of the greenway through the area is a priority, with ideas for ramps, bridges, or tunnels to elevate the greenway and improve accessibility.

Traffic concerns and safety for pedestrians and cyclists are also at the forefront of community feedback. The introduction of roundabouts or traffic circles, along with potential road consolidation and limited access points, could alleviate congestion and improve overall traffic flow. Moreover, addressing bus stop accommodations and considering future light rail plans are essential for accommodating public transportation needs. In terms of aesthetics and community appeal, suggestions include creating a statue corridor to honor local heroes and enhancing the curb appeal similar to the Rail Trail in Charlotte. Clear signage, improved navigation, and adequate parking options are also essential for ensuring ease of access to businesses and reducing confusion for visitors. Finally, there is a strong emphasis on addressing safety concerns, reducing crashes, and promoting yield to pedestrians and cyclists through improved infrastructure and traffic management.

In summary, the community feedback for the Battleground Avenue and Lawndale Drive intersection centers around enhancing the A&Y Greenway extension, improving safety for cyclists and pedestrians, addressing traffic concerns, and enhancing the overall appeal of the area. The completion of the greenway and the implementation of dedicated bike lanes, signals, and safe crossing options are crucial for accommodating alternative modes of transportation. Exploring roundabouts, limited access points, and traffic flow improvements are necessary to alleviate congestion. Additionally, considerations for public transportation, aesthetics, and

community engagement through statues and improved curb appeal are vital. Ultimately, the goal is to create a safer and more accessible environment for all residents and visitors while maintaining the unique character of the area.

Figure 4. Battleground Avenue and W. Wendover Avenue Area

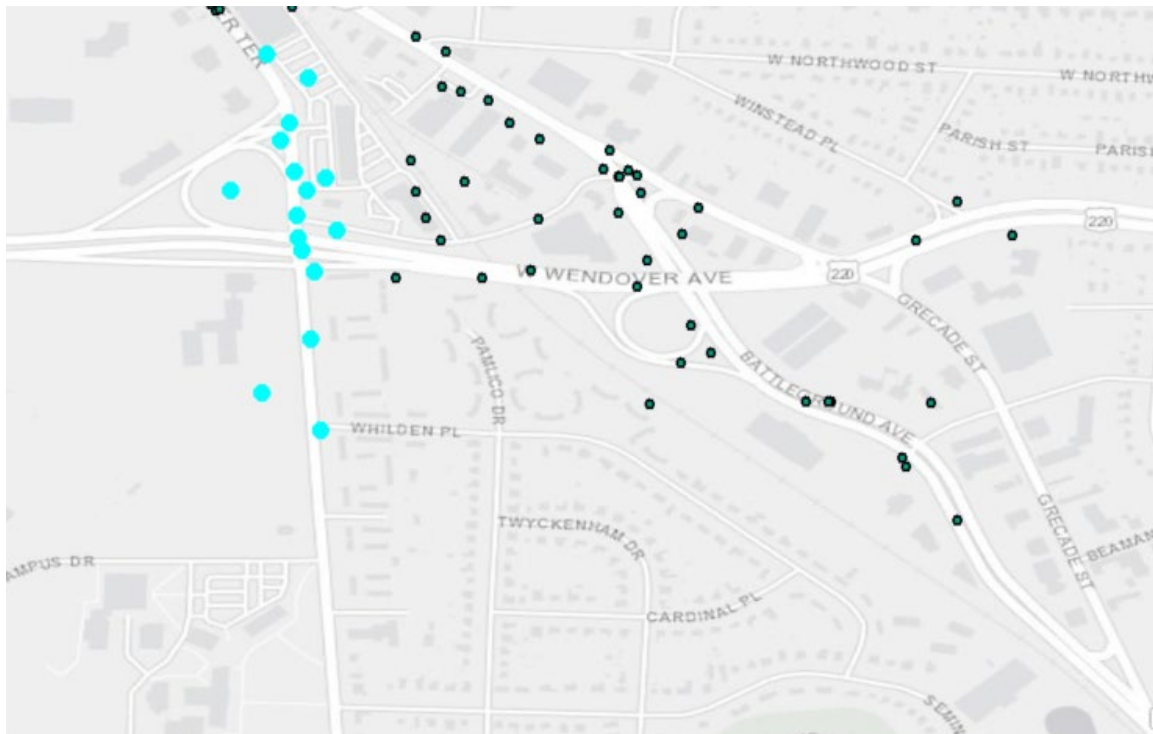


Community feedback for the next area, spanning Battleground Avenue and Westover Terrace between Pembroke/Green Valley Road to W. Northwood Street, highlights several key concerns and improvement suggestions. Pedestrian and cyclist safety is a recurring issue, with cars frequently failing to yield and a lack of dedicated bike lanes making it dangerous for cyclists. Residents propose solutions such as a T-intersection, side paths for pedestrian and bike access, and the completion of the greenway connecting downtown to Lake Brandt and the Mountains-to-Sea Trail.

The need for flood prevention measures along the bike path and the overall expansion of greenways in Greensboro are also highlighted. Creating safe pedestrian crossings to shopping centers and encouraging businesses like Kotis to face the Greenway are suggested. Other ideas include underground bike lanes and improved connections between the A&Y Greenway and downtown Greenway. Ensuring sidewalks are set back from the road for safety, installing crosswalks at bus stops, and redirecting traffic to proposed intersections are additional recommendations to enhance the area's accessibility and traffic flow.

In summary, the community feedback emphasizes the importance of prioritizing pedestrian and cyclist safety, completing the greenway network, and improving overall connectivity in the Nest area. Suggestions range from implementing safety measures and bike lanes to creating dedicated pedestrian crossings and encouraging businesses to face the Greenway. The ultimate goal is to create a vibrant and accessible area that meets the needs of residents and visitors while fostering a safer and more enjoyable experience for all.

Figure 5: Westover Terrace, between Green Valley and Whilden Place



Feedback and markers in the Westover Terrace area between Green Valley and Whilden Place highlight several concerns related to pedestrian safety, road infrastructure, and traffic flow. One suggestion is to close Mill Street when Publix arrives to allow for uninterrupted continuation of the greenway. Another idea is to relocate the Wendover access for better convenience.

Pedestrian safety remains an issue, with cars failing to yield at crosswalks and a potential lack of pedestrian signals connecting the neighborhood to local businesses. There are also concerns about the safety of crossing the bridge and the area for pedestrians and bicyclists.

The road infrastructure itself presents challenges, with the left lane abruptly ending and causing last-minute turns. There are suggestions to improve signage when transitioning from Wendover Avenue onto Westover Terrace to alleviate confusion. Additionally, the

left turn onto Mill Street lacks a dedicated lane, resulting in cars stopping suddenly in the middle of the road. Addressing this issue by either removing the left turn option or adding a dedicated lane is proposed. Lastly, accessing the southbound direction on Josephine Boyd from Mill Street is not easy due to visibility or traffic flow concerns.

In summary, the feedback in the Westover Terrace area emphasizes the need for improvements in pedestrian safety, road infrastructure, signage, and traffic flow. Suggestions include closing Mill Street for the greenway, relocating the Wendover Avenue access, adding pedestrian signals, improving bridge safety, addressing lane endings, enhancing signage at transitions, and resolving challenges with left turns and access to Josephine Boyd from Mill Street. These improvements aim to create a safer and more accessible environment for pedestrians and motorists alike.

Additional Maps

Figure 6. Multi-Modal Features

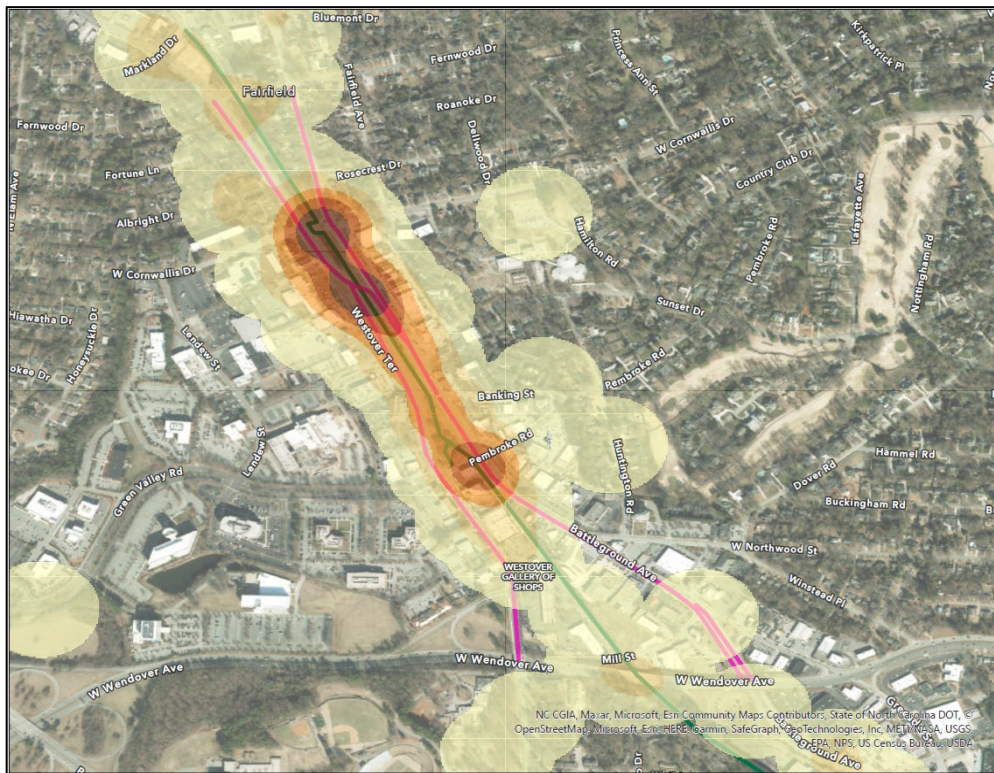


Figure 7. Property Access



Figure 8. Safety Issues

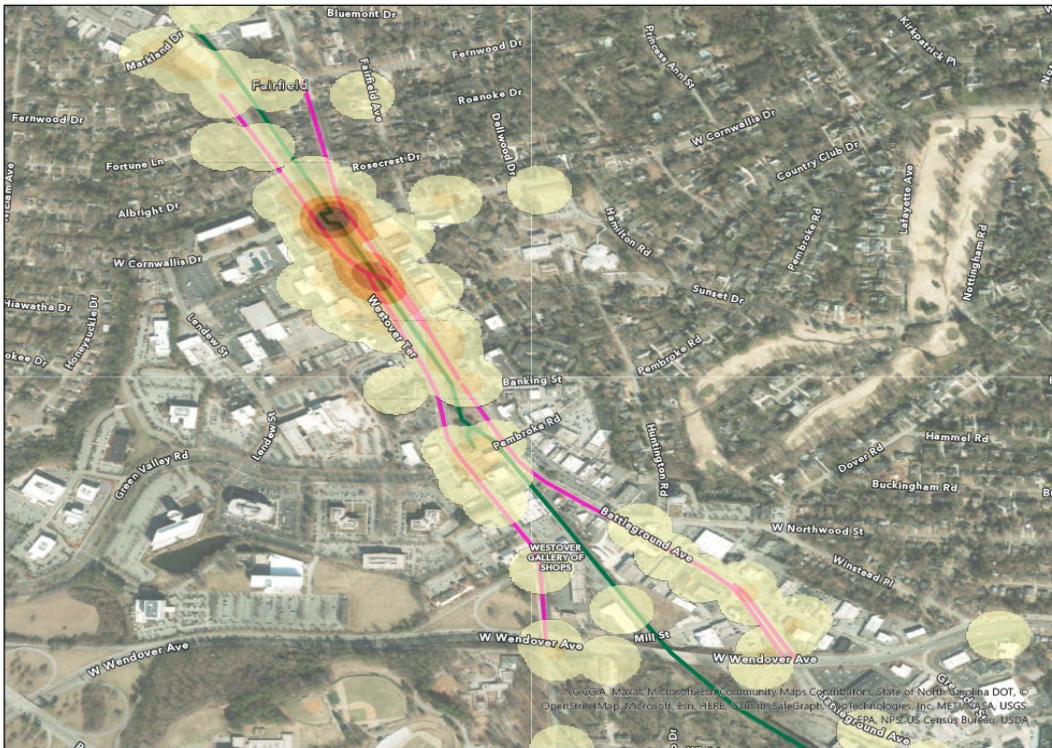
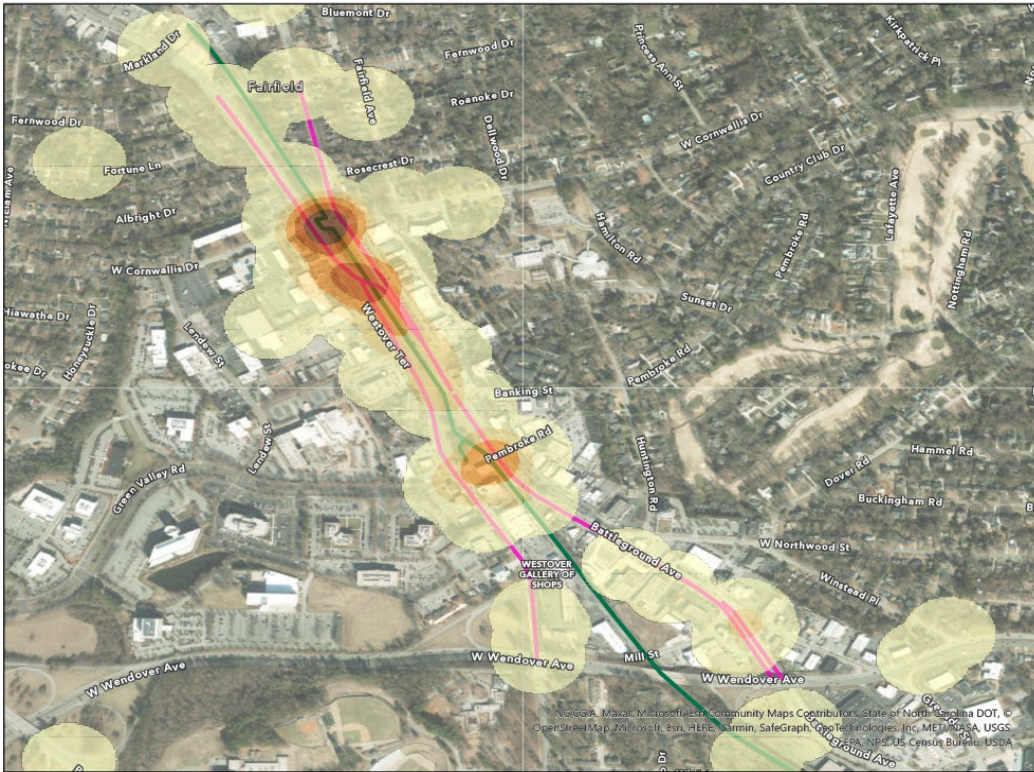
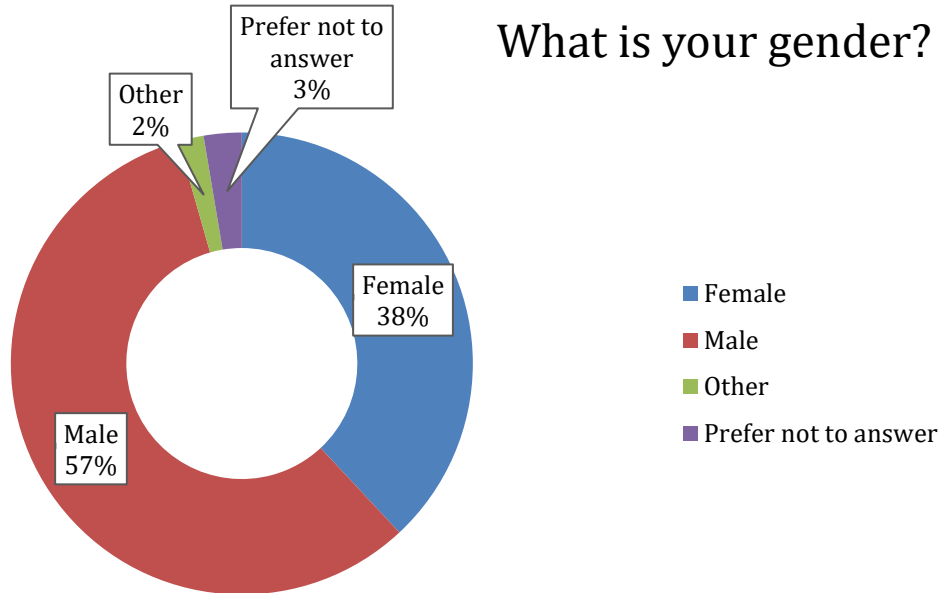


Figure 9. Traffic Operations

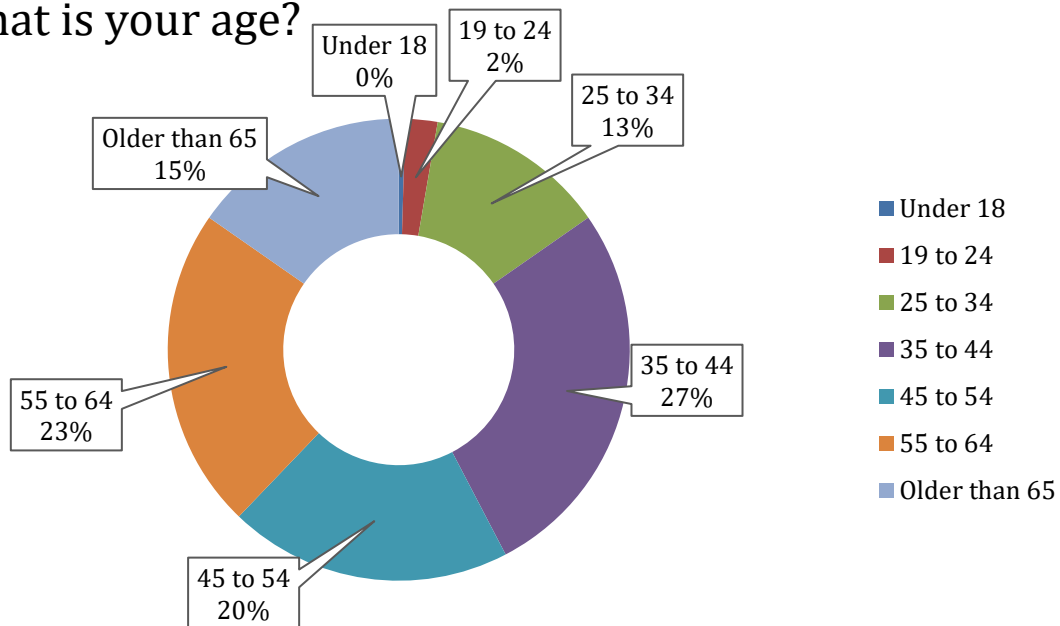


Demographic Summary

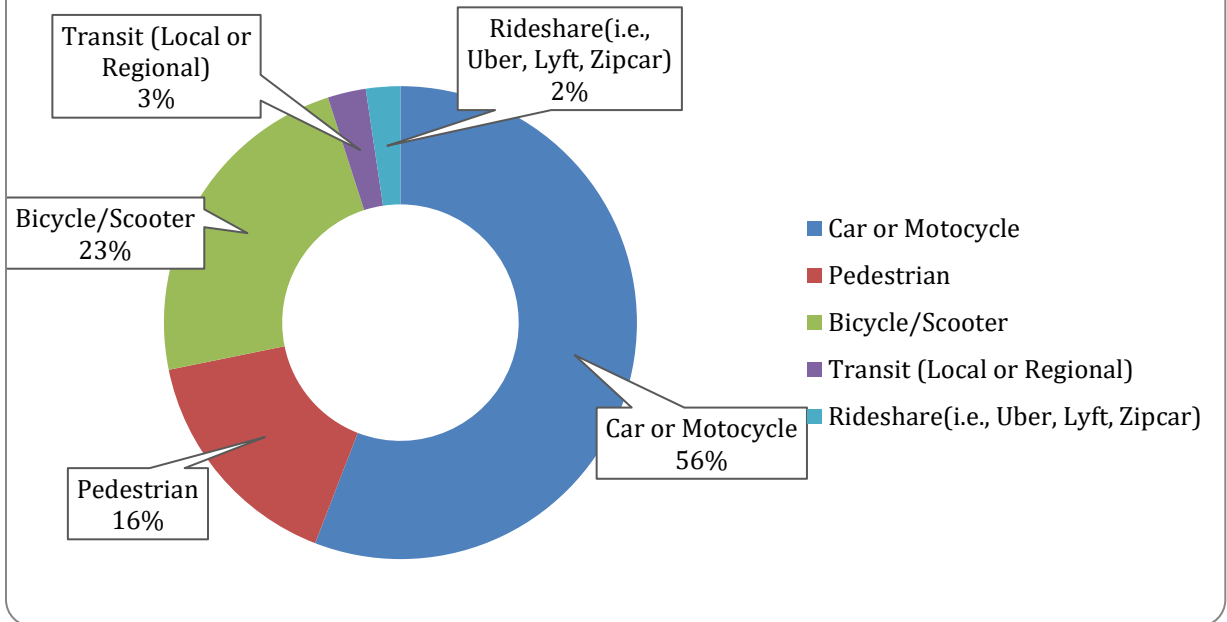
What is your gender?



What is your age?



How do you regularly travel in, or around, the study area?



Which one of these best describes you?

