



MEMORANDUM

To: Scott Hoelscher, Clackamas County
From: Jeri Stroupe and Layne Wyse, Nelson\Nygaard
Date: February 3, 2023
Subject: Walk Bike Clackamas Public Engagement Milestone #1 Summary

INTRODUCTION

This memo summarizes the approach, activities, and feedback from Walk Bike Clackamas Public Engagement Milestone #1. Walk Bike Clackamas centers community input to inform work at all stages of the planning process. The first round of public engagement was conducted in late fall 2022 and included three Community Conversations at in-person events and a corresponding online survey, with over 110 total participants including both in-person and online engagement. Engagement Milestone #1 was designed to:

- Build awareness and support for Walk Bike Clackamas;
- Understand what people like and dislike about walking, rolling, and biking in Clackamas County;
- Begin to identify gaps and deficiencies in the walking, rolling, and biking networks; and
- Understand community priorities to inform project goals and objectives.

METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

Community Conversations

Community Conversations were informal staff “tabling events” with project information to share with people where they were already gathered at community events or during daily travel. Clackamas County project staff conducted three Community Conversations that invited the passersby to learn about Walk Bike Clackamas and provide feedback using an informational project overview poster, maps, and a dot voting exercise (see materials in the images below under each Community Conversation summary). Nearly 50 people engaged with the project team at the three events held in late November-early December (Figure 1).

Walk Bike Clackamas Engagement #1 Summary
Clackamas County



Figure 1 Community Conversation Events

Date	Event	WBC Planning Area	Number of participants
November 19	Bilquist Elementary School Holiday Bazaar	McLoughlin Area	9
December 12	Winter Fair and Holiday Market at Canby Fairgrounds	South Area	31
December 15	Clackamas Town Center Transit Center	Clackamas Town Center Area	7
			Total: 47







Participants indicated their most important active transportation issues in Clackamas County, and shared with the project team their ideas and locations for active transportation improvements as well as the challenges they have while walking, rolling, and bicycling (Figure 2). The Community Conversations generated too few responses to this prompt to draw any meaningful conclusions, however the corresponding online survey (see below) collected more than 60 responses.

Figure 2 Community Conversation posters

Walk Bike Clackamas
What's most important to you about walking, biking, and rolling in Clackamas County? Place a sticky dot on your top 3 priorities and tell us why.





Respond online!



 Safety	 Connections	 Equity	 Climate	 Health	 Economy
Having places to walk, roll, and bike that are safe and comfortable for people of all ages and abilities	Getting to school, parks, jobs, and other places without a car	Accessibility for all people regardless of age, income, ability, race, or gender	Combatting climate change through use of active travel options	Supporting personal and community health through use of active travel options	Supporting tourism and local businesses


Is there anything missing? What would you add?


Walk Bike Clackamas Engagement #1 Summary Clackamas County

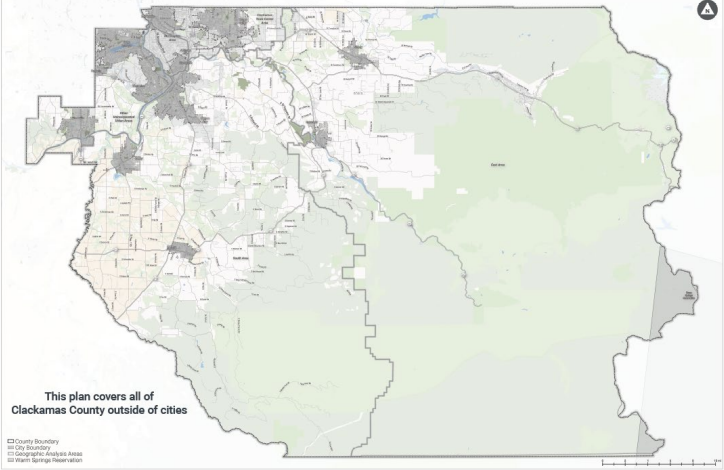
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! 

Where do you like to walk, roll, or bicycle?
Where would you like to, but currently do not?
Show us with colored dots or tape.

  Respond online!

What is working well? 

What is challenging? 



This plan covers all of Clackamas County outside of cities

County Boundary
City Boundary
Geographic Analysis Area
Warm Springs Reservation

See table for smaller area maps.

Bilquist Elementary School Holiday Bazaar

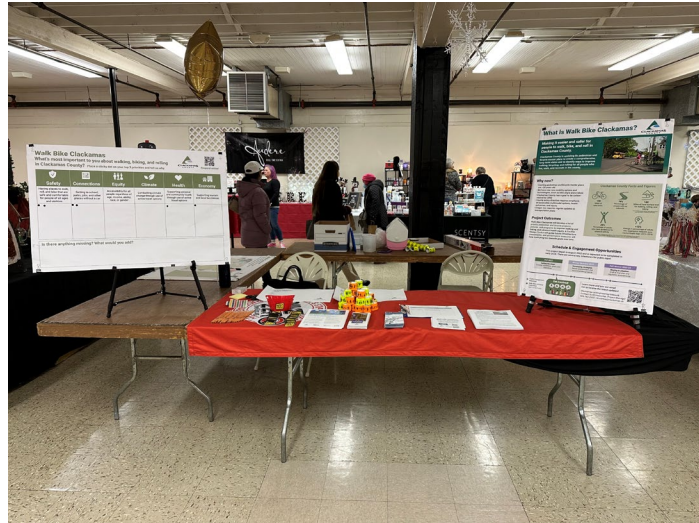
The project team set up near the event entrance for three hours on Saturday, November 19. Three people signed up for the interested parties list to receive project email updates. Participants commented on the need for active transportation improvements on Clackamas River Drive and Jennings Avenue.



The Community Conversations setup included informational and dot voting posters as well as smaller focus area maps of existing walking and biking networks. Staff distributed cards with the link to the online survey (see below).

Winter Fair and Holiday Market at Canby Fairgrounds

The project team attended the Winter Fair and Holiday Market on Saturday, December 10, from 5-8:30 p.m. Three participants signed up for the interested parties list and more than 30 people stopped by the table to learn about the project. Key themes of conversations included the general need for multimodal safety improvements, more sidewalks, and more protected or separated bike lanes.



Clackamas Town Center Transit Center

County project staff set up at the Clackamas Town Center Transit Center for 1.5 hours on Thursday, December 15. They offered free blinky bicycle lights and knit hats to encourage more engagement from people passing. Community members voiced general support for Walk Bike Clackamas and for ongoing County efforts toward improving multimodal transportation, and noted their satisfaction with recent active transportation improvements in the Clackamas Town Center area, which include upgraded crosswalks and cycle tracks.



Online Survey

The project team created a complementary online survey to broaden the reach of this phase of public engagement and allow participants to provide more in-depth feedback on their own time. The survey was publicized through the project interested parties list, the Walk Bike Advisory Committee, the project website, county social media channels and e-newsletters, and by handing out flyers at the in-person Community Conversation events. The 65 people who responded to the survey provided hundreds of comments. Themes of the feedback received on each question are described below. Detailed survey responses for each question are available in Attachment A: Survey Report.

Question 1: Where do you like to walk, bike or roll in Clackamas County?

Respondents like to engage in active transportation all over the county. Specific areas that stand out include the incorporated and unincorporated urban areas from Oregon City to Milwaukie (especially the Trolley Trail), the Clackamas Town Center area, and more rural areas to the east around Sandy, Estacada, and Mt. Hood.

Question 2: Where would you like to walk, bike or roll in Clackamas County?

Respondents like to walk, bike, or roll throughout the county. Many mentioned a preference for urban areas, such as Clackamas Town Center/82nd Avenue area, neighborhoods from Oregon City to Milwaukie, and downtowns, and others commented on trails between communities and in the Mt. Hood area.

Question 3: What keeps you from walking, biking or rolling in these places?

The majority of respondents indicated they are kept from walking, biking, or rolling in preferred places because of concerns for their or their family's safety. Concerns focused on active transportation infrastructure (or lack thereof) and proximity to vehicle traffic.

Question 4: What do you like about walking, biking, or rolling in Clackamas County?

Respondents enjoy the paths, sidewalks, and trails in the county, and offered some suggestions for improving them or adding more. They like being outdoors, the sense of community, enjoying the beauty of the county, helping the environment, and getting some exercise.

Question 5: What is challenging for you about walking, biking, or rolling in Clackamas County?

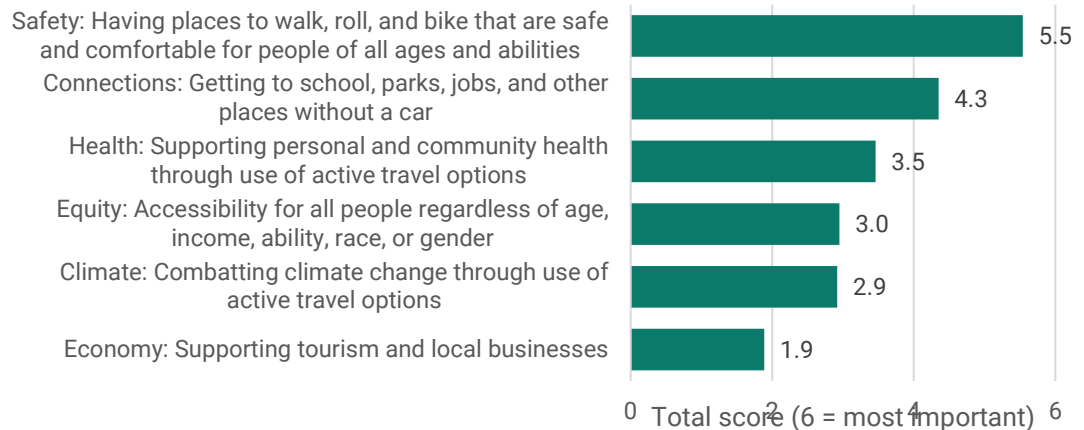
Safety was the biggest concern cited among respondents. Specific issues centered around missing or inadequate infrastructure, and high traffic volumes and speeds.

Question 6: What is most important to you about walking, biking, and rolling in Clackamas County?

Participants were asked to rank the relative importance to them of issues related to active transportation. Safety was most important for the respondents, followed by connections and health, with climate and equity tied as the fourth priority, followed by the economy (Figure 2).

Figure 3 Importance of active transportation issues in Clackamas County

What's most important to you about walking, biking, and rolling in Clackamas County?



Question 7: Please let us know why these issues are most important to you.

Respondents were asked to comment on their responses provided to Question 6. Safety was the top issue for many respondents and a high priority for nearly all respondents. Participants noted that other issues follow safety because if people don't feel safe traveling by active modes, they will simply choose other modes and the remaining active transportation issues (equity, connections, etc.) are not applicable. Though safety was the top theme in these responses, the full set of responses shows the wide variety of topics and perspectives related to walking, rolling, or biking in Clackamas County.

NEXT STEPS

The project team will use the feedback and themes generated through Public Engagement #1 in the following ways:

- Inform draft goals, objectives, and performance measures.
- Help shape the questions asked and topics covered in Public Engagement Milestone #2 to dig deeper into gaps and deficiencies for an interactive map exercise.
- Create program recommendations that respond to community desires for increased safety, better multimodal connections, and other key themes.
- Compile lists of specific locations with safety concerns or project suggestions, and ideas related to facility selection or project conceptual design, to inform project recommendations.