

Appendix D: Community Engagement Description and Results

OVERVIEW

The project team and their partners conducted community engagement at 33 community gatherings throughout Minnesota between July and November 2015. The activities at the events were facilitated by practitioners from various backgrounds – public health professionals, local planners, regional development commission employees, non-profit employees, and more. With the help of practitioners, the project team was able to reach much more people – both in terms of numbers and geographic reach. Summaries of each of the community gatherings are described below, followed by charts with engagement results from each event.

PILOT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

The engagement activities were tested at two community gatherings in Minneapolis and Saint Paul to determine their applicability for widespread community engagement at events throughout Minnesota. The engagement process, results and synthesis process from the first two community gatherings helped the project team refine the activities for future engagement opportunities with the goal of making them easy to understand, easy to facilitate, and easy to synthesize into helpful information for the development of the Minnesota Pedestrian System Plan. This section summarizes input received during Open Streets Northeast and Rondo days, as well as some of the lessons learned during these early activities.

Open Streets Northeast

Open Streets Northeast is one of a number of free Open Streets events held in Minneapolis where the street (or multiple streets) are car-free and open for people to walk, bike, shop and participate in a variety of activities. The project team set up activities during the event from 12pm-5pm at the intersection of 4th Street NE and 13th Avenue NE Minneapolis and estimates 350 participants engaged in the project activities. This event was selected because it was likely to have children in attendance and it was located in the Sheridan and Holland neighborhoods in Northeast Minneapolis where 43.8% and 49% (respectively) of household incomes are less than \$35,000, and 20.6% and 32.1% (respectively) household incomes are below poverty.¹

¹ See Minnesota Compass summaries of U.S. Census data
<http://www.mncompass.org/profiles/neighborhoods/minneapolis/sheridan>
<http://www.mncompass.org/profiles/neighborhoods/minneapolis/holland>

Image 1: The activities were set up at an Open Streets Northeast in Minneapolis.



At this pilot event, participants used three different colored markers to show which destinations they currently enjoy walking to, do not enjoy walking to, and wish they could walk to. The project team found that the lines drawn on the page filled up very quickly and became difficult to count. At the next community gathering, sticker voting was to be used to make processing the information more efficient. In addition, the project team noticed that many wrote “transit” in comments section so that was added to the boards at the next community gathering. It also became apparent that the information needed was about the destinations that are *most* important to people – regardless of their current ability/enjoyment around reaching them as a pedestrian. Therefore, the three categories were an unnecessary complication. Participants at Open Streets Northeast indicated the most important destinations to be able to walk to are restaurants and cafes, parks, convenience stores, and grocery stores.

Participants were asked to write down the positive and negative aspects of their community that influence walking on post-it notes. The activity generated a lot of interest and provided useful input about what works and what doesn't work relative to walking environments. There were many post-it notes to process and the project team refined the activity for future community gatherings. The activity results was refined and for future community gatherings, participants had specific categories to review and indicate their responses.

Rondo Days

Rondo days is an annual one-day community gathering that commemorates the Rondo neighborhood, a historically African-American community in Saint Paul, MN. The event was held on Saturday July 18th, 2015 on Dale Street/Concordia Avenue (Old Rondo Avenue) and was facilitated by several members of the project team. This community gathering was selected because it was likely to have children and older adults in attendance and was

located in the Summit-University neighborhood where 45.3% of household incomes are less than \$35,000, and 30.6% households have incomes are below poverty.²

Image 2: People participate in the engagement activities at Rondo Days in Saint Paul



Approximately 300-400 people participated in the activities that were held at Rondo Days. The event had many younger attendees and took place in the Summit Hill Neighborhood, an urban neighborhood that is home to a high concentration of low income residents. For Activity One, the grocery store was the top destination that people would like to walk to, followed by home and parks. In Activity Two, the top characteristics that people identified as make walking safe, convenient, and desirable are the presence of other people, bus and light rail access, and good sidewalks/trails. The top characteristics people reported that make walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable were fast car speeds/poor driver behavior, lack of public art, and lack of benches/seating.

ENGAGEMENT AT COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

After the two pilot community gatherings, the engagement activities were modified slightly to make them easier, more intuitive, and better suited for widespread dissemination. The project team and dozens of other partners, practitioners, and volunteer facilitators engaged participants at 33 additional community gatherings throughout the state. A variety of community gatherings were attended, including health clinics, transportation meetings, youth-focused events, fairs, public libraries, civic events, and many other community events.

² See Minnesota Compass summaries of U.S. Census data
<http://www.mncompass.org/profiles/neighborhoods/st-paul/summit-university>

Engagement Activity One: It is important that I am able to walk to... In this activity, participants selected the top three destinations that are most important for them to be able to walk to. They used three stickers to place next to icons representing destinations.

Engagement Activity Two: What makes your community walkable? In this activity, participants placed tally marks next to characteristics that either add or detract from their walking experience. Participants were not limited in the number of characteristics they could select.

Throughout this process, over 4,000 people participated in the engagement activities. Each event is described in more detail in the following sections. The top destinations were grocery store, park, home, transit, restaurant, and job. The top factors that contribute to making walking safe, convenient, and desirable were that there are people around, good sidewalks/trails, and quiet roadways/low traffic. The top factors that contribute to making walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable were fast car speeds, poor driver behavior, and poor sidewalks/trails. The following figures summarize the results for all engagement at community gatherings.

All community gatherings combined

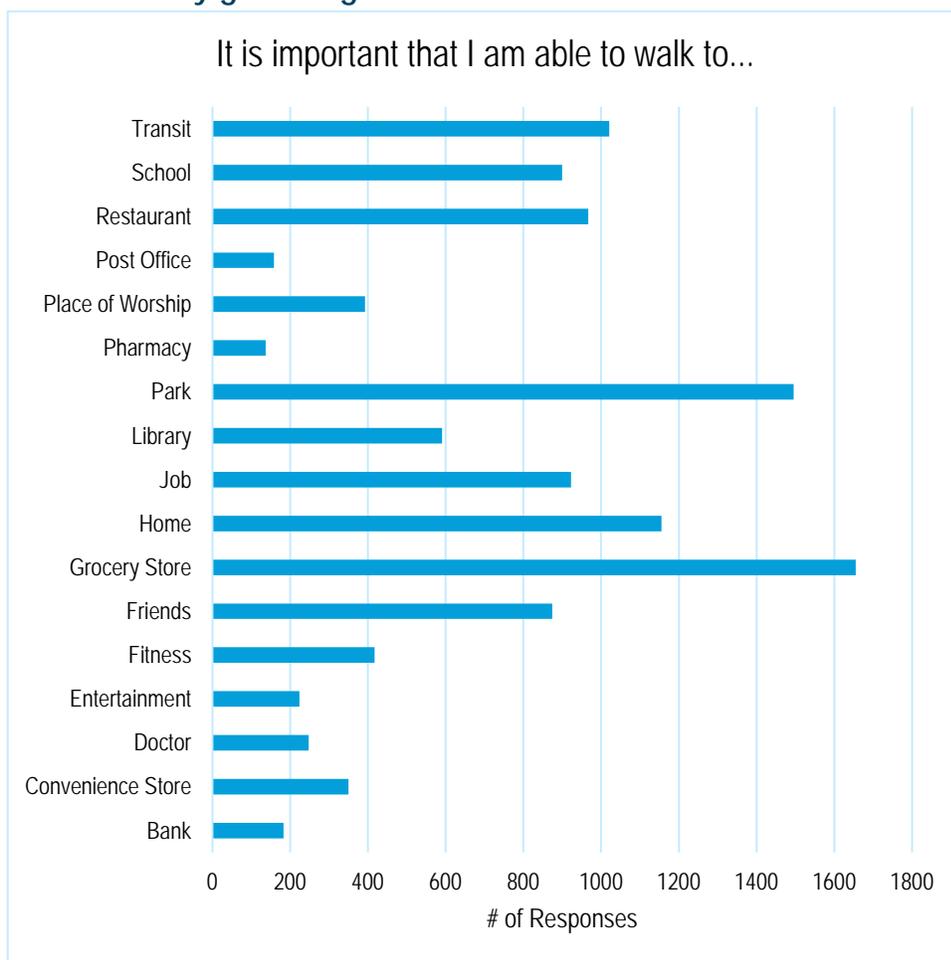


Figure 1: Top destinations from all community gatherings totaled

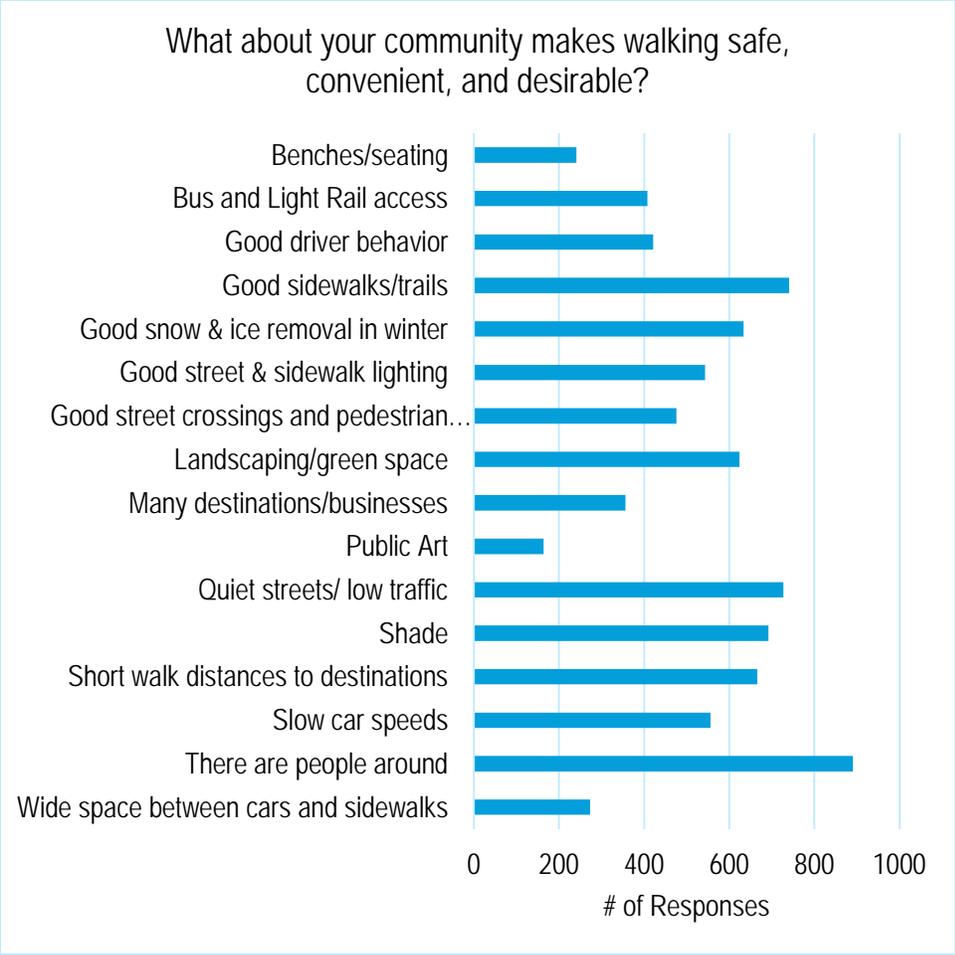


Figure 2: Factors that make a community walkable from all community gatherings total.

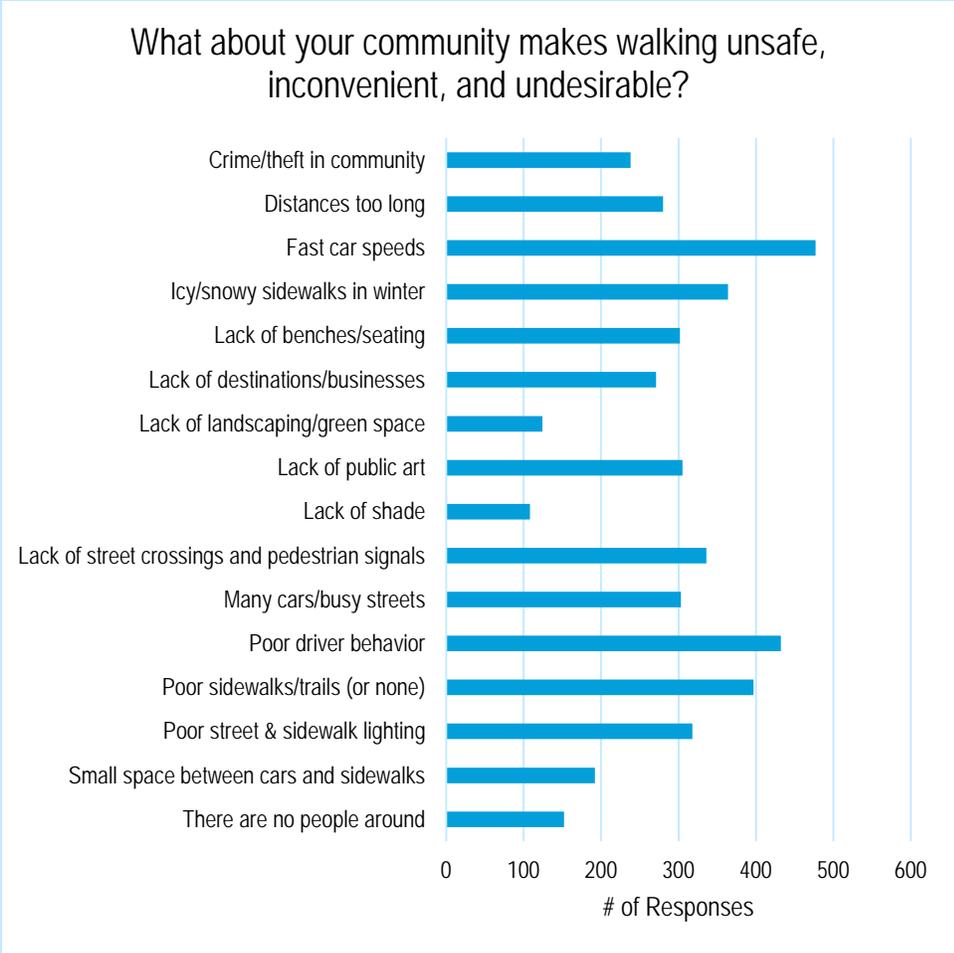


Figure 3: Factors that make a community less walkable from all community gatherings total

60+ and Healthy Clinics

The 60+ and Healthy is a series of health clinics held in Wright County that are attended by senior citizens who are physically unable to maintain some aspects of personal hygiene, such as cutting and filing toenails. The two activities were facilitated by a public health practitioner from Wright County at seven different events between September 2015 and October 2015. These events reached older adults and small rural core populations in towns throughout Wright County. Nearly 100 seniors participated in the activities during the seven events. The top three destinations for people reported it was important to be able to walk to were: the grocery store, place of worship, and a restaurant. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking safe, convenient, and desirable were: shade, good driver behavior, and slow car speeds. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable were: lack of public art, distances too long, and lack of destinations/businesses.

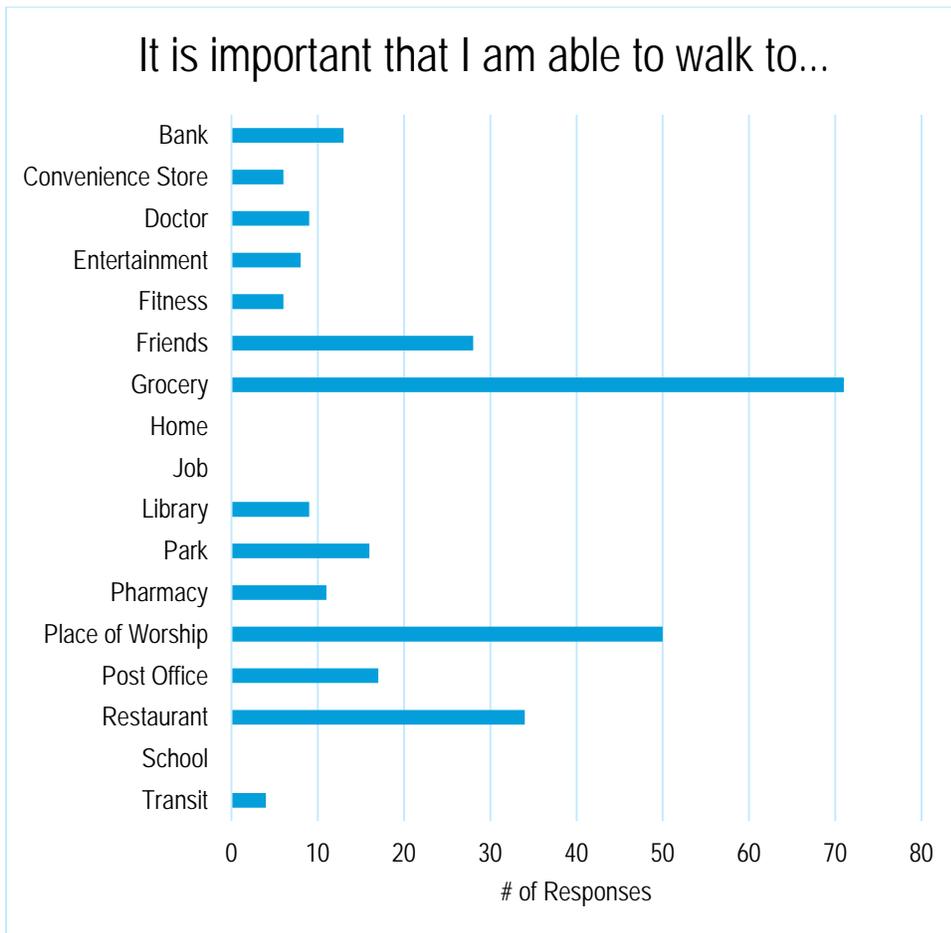


Figure 4: Top destinations from 60+ and Healthy Clinics

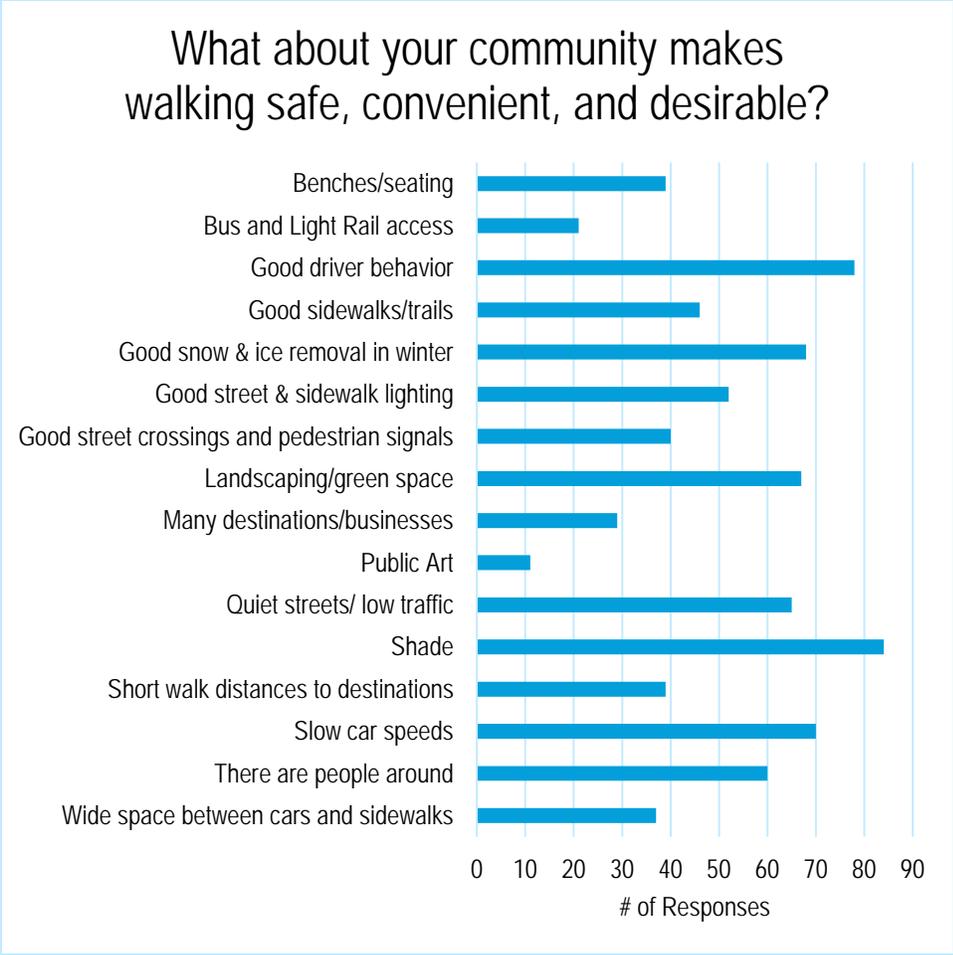


Figure 5: Factors that make a community walkable from 60+ and Healthy Clinics

What about your community makes walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable?

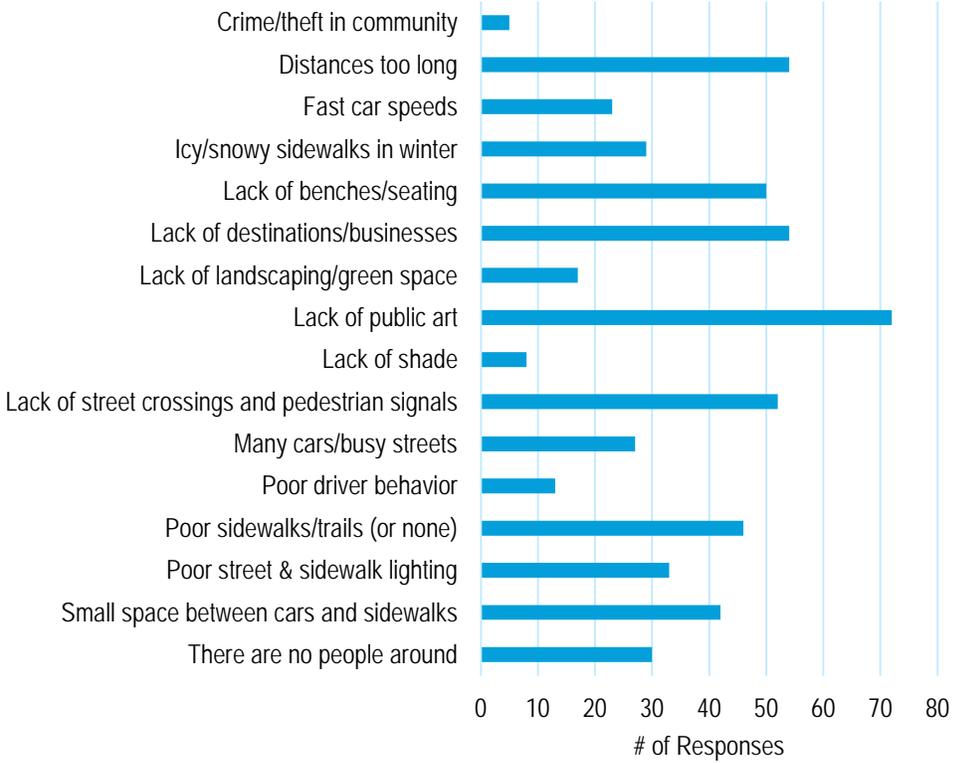


Figure 6: Factors that make a community less walkable from 60+ and Healthy Clinics

Appleton Sidewalk Plan meeting

The Appleton Sidewalk Plan meeting was held on September 15th, 2015 and was organized to discuss priority routes for sidewalks in Appleton, and provide information on sidewalk funding. The activities at this community gathering were facilitated by a transportation planner from the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission. Approximately six people participated in the activities at the meeting in Appleton, a small rural core community in western Minnesota. The top destinations reported were schools and jobs. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking safe, convenient, and desirable were quiet streets/low traffic, landscaping and green space, and shade. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable were icy/snowy sidewalks in winter, fast car speeds, poor sidewalks/trails (or none), and poor street and sidewalk lighting.

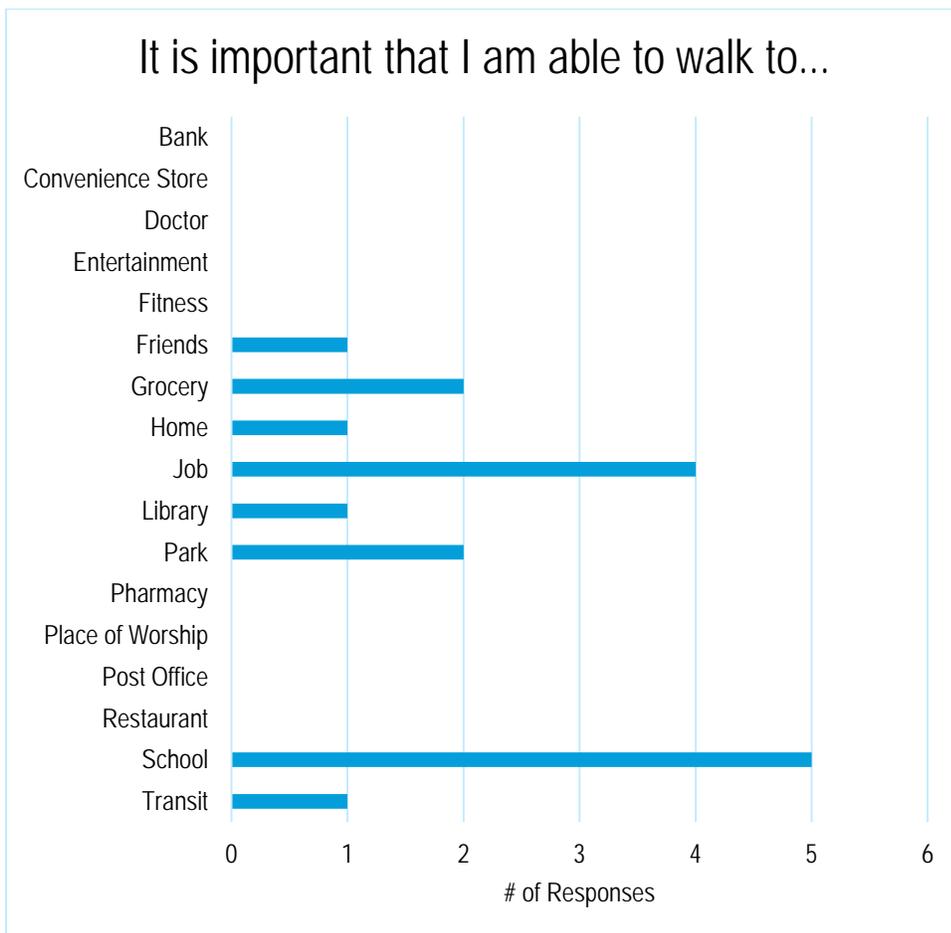


Figure 7: Top destinations from Appleton Sidewalk Plan meeting

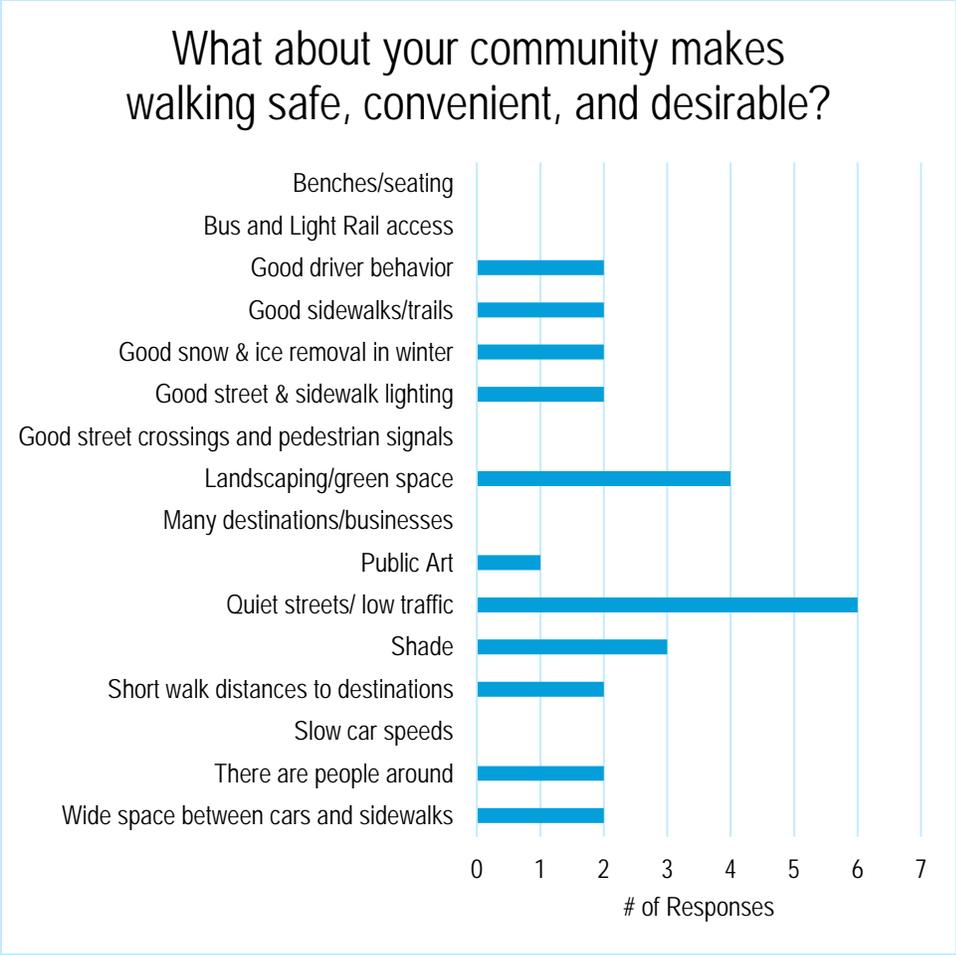


Figure 8:: Factors that make a community walkable from Appleton Sidewalk Plan meeting

What about your community makes walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable?

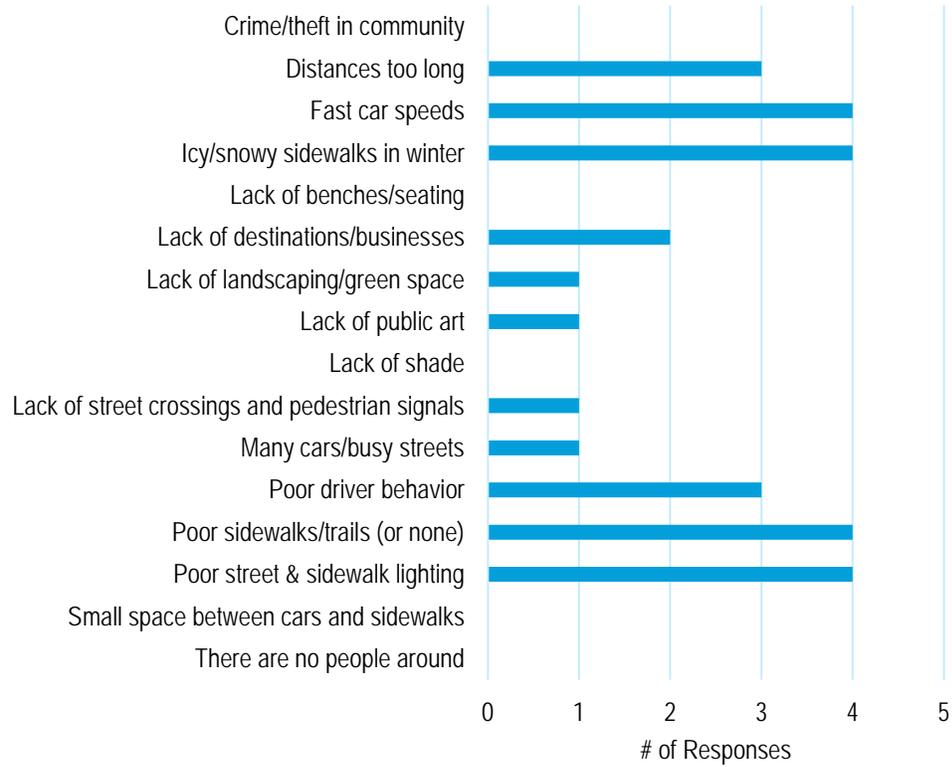


Figure 9: Factors that make a community less walkable from Appleton Sidewalk Plan meeting

Bemidji Public Library

Engagement activities were set up unattended in the Bemidji Public Library from September 23rd-September 25th, 2015. Over thirty people participated in the activities during the two days. The project team brought the activities to the Bemidji library because it is located in a small rural core area, and near to Red Lake Reservation and White Earth Reservation, and libraries often attract a diverse range of people including older adults and youth. The top destinations reported were grocery store, library, park, and job. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking safe, convenient, and desirable are good snow and ice removal, slow car speeds, and good sidewalks and trails. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable were fast car speeds and long walking distances.

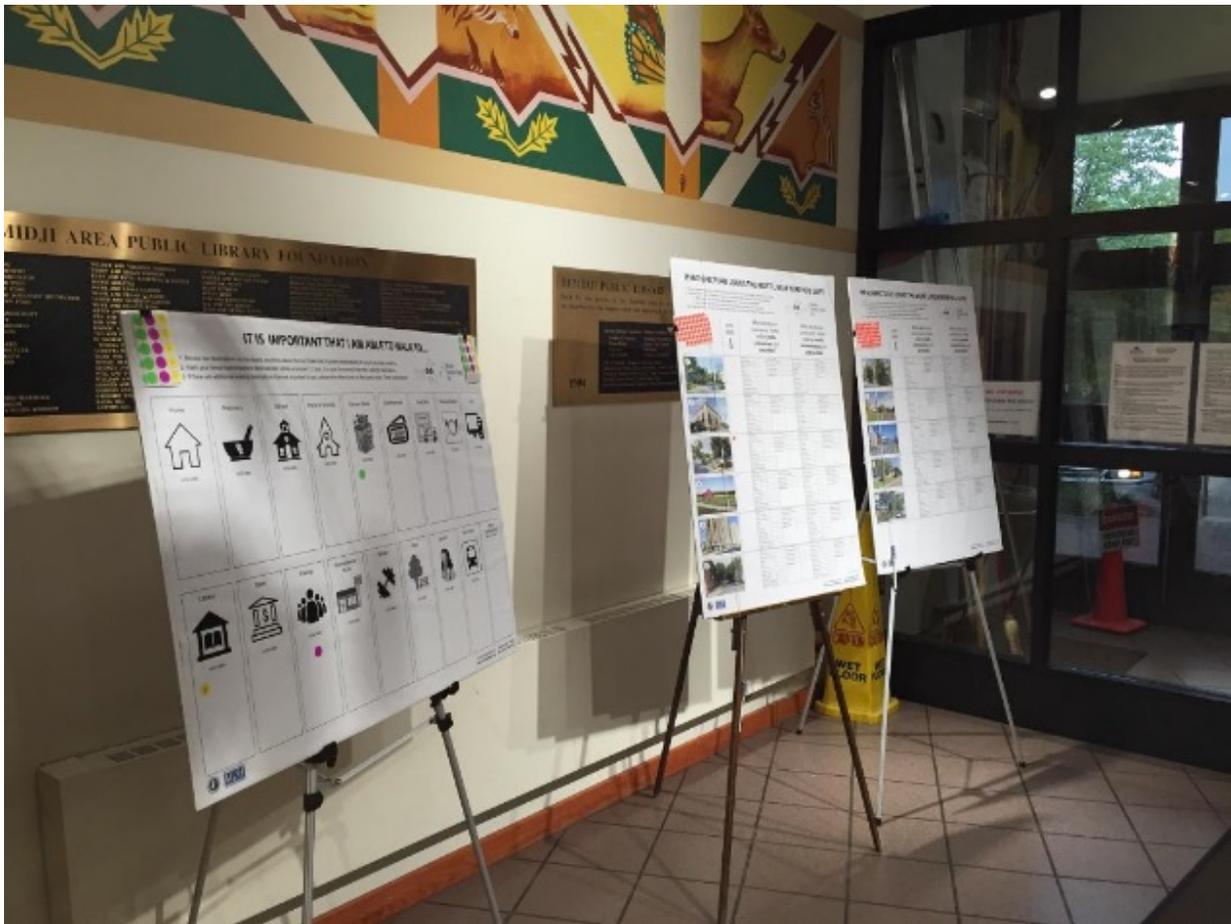


Image 2: Community gathering engagement toolkit posters stand on easels at the Bemidji Public Library.

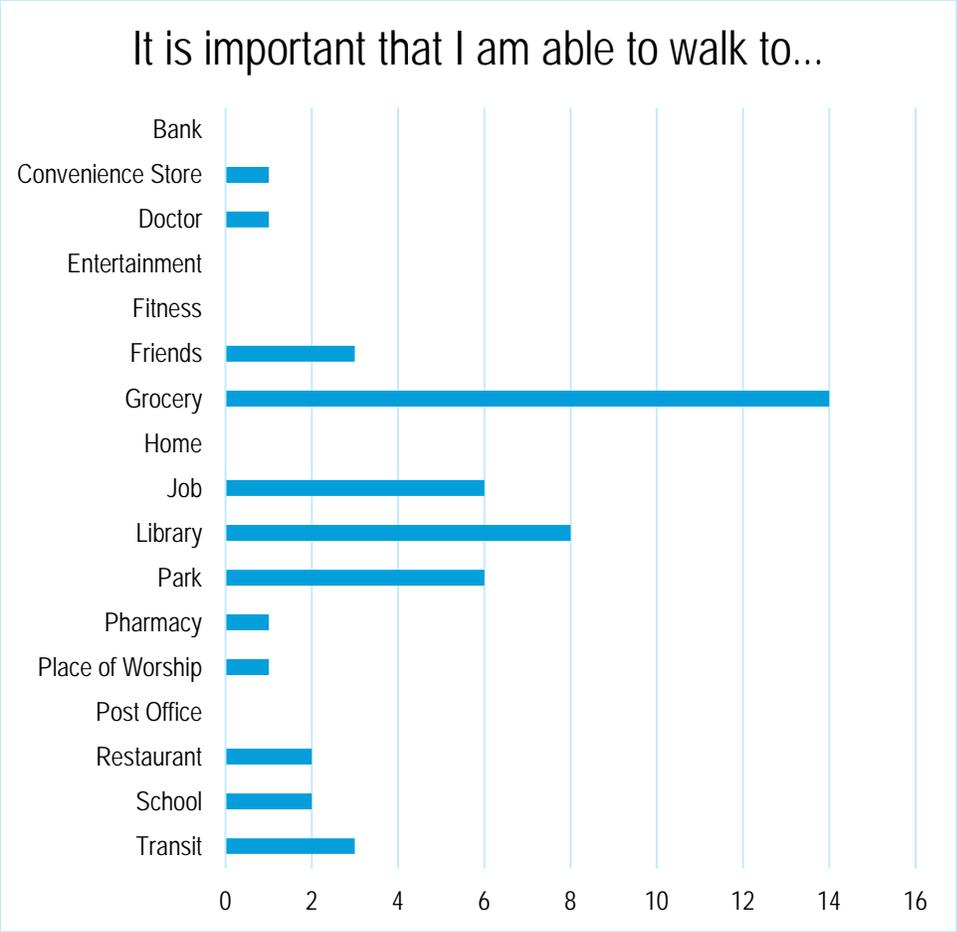


Figure 10: Top destinations from Bemidji Public Library

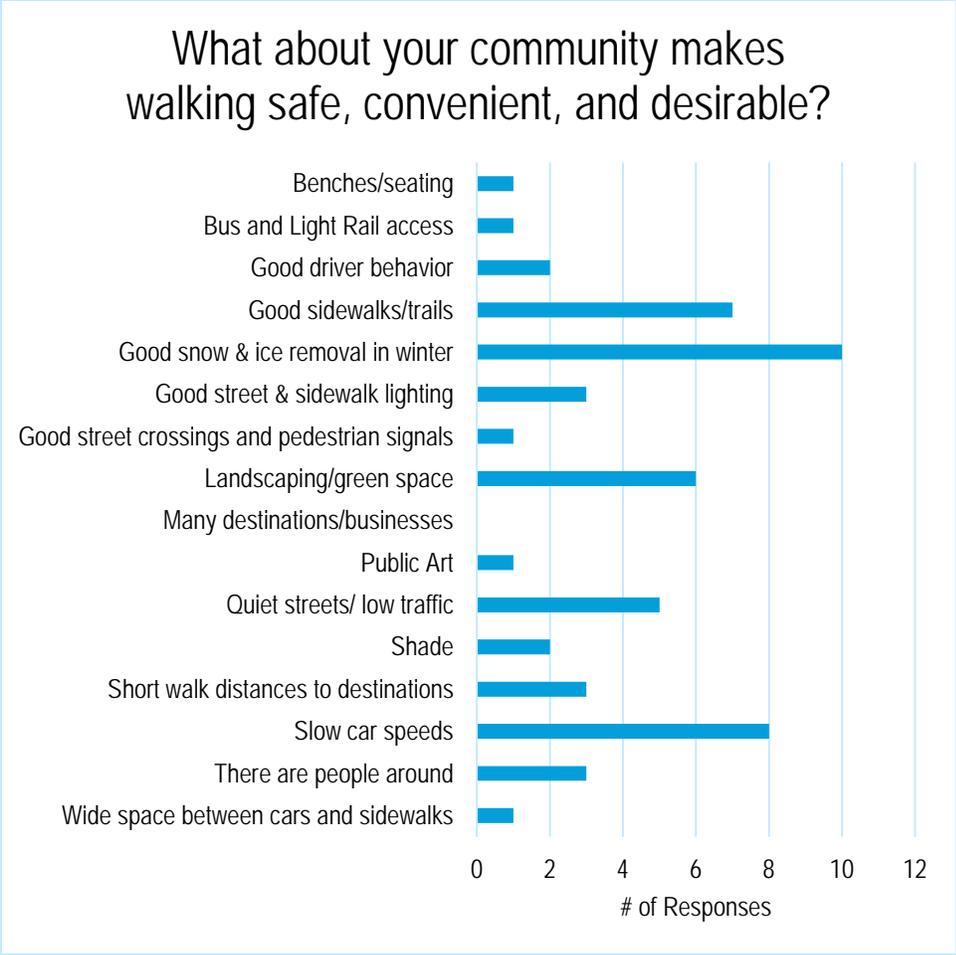


Figure 11: Factors that make a community walkable from Bemidji Public Library

What about your community makes walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable?

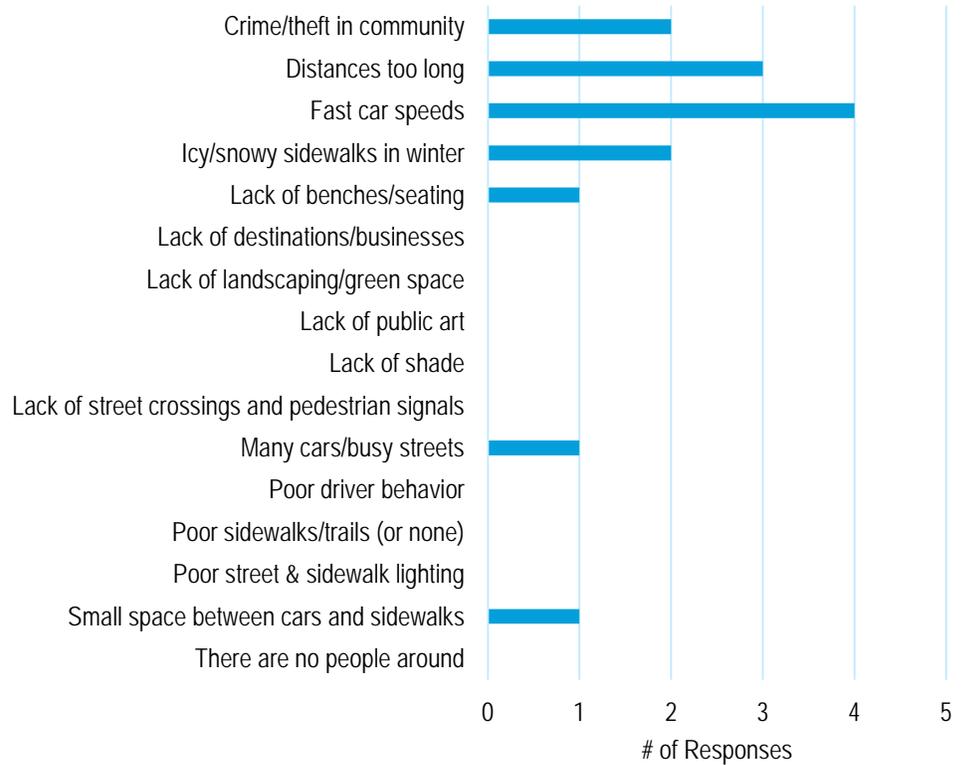


Figure 12: Factors that make a community less walkable from Bemidji Public Library

Bemidji State University Health Fair

The Bemidji State University Health Fair was an event held on October 21st, 2015 for students and staff to get flu shots and receive other health related information. Approximately 25 students and staff were engaged in the activities during the health fair, which was facilitated by a development specialist from the Headwaters Regional Development Commission (HRDC). The top destinations reported were school, grocery store, and home. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking safe, convenient, and desirable were quiet streets/low traffic, landscaping/green space, and slow car speeds. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable were poor sidewalks/trails (or none), poor driver behavior, and lack of street crossings and pedestrian signals.

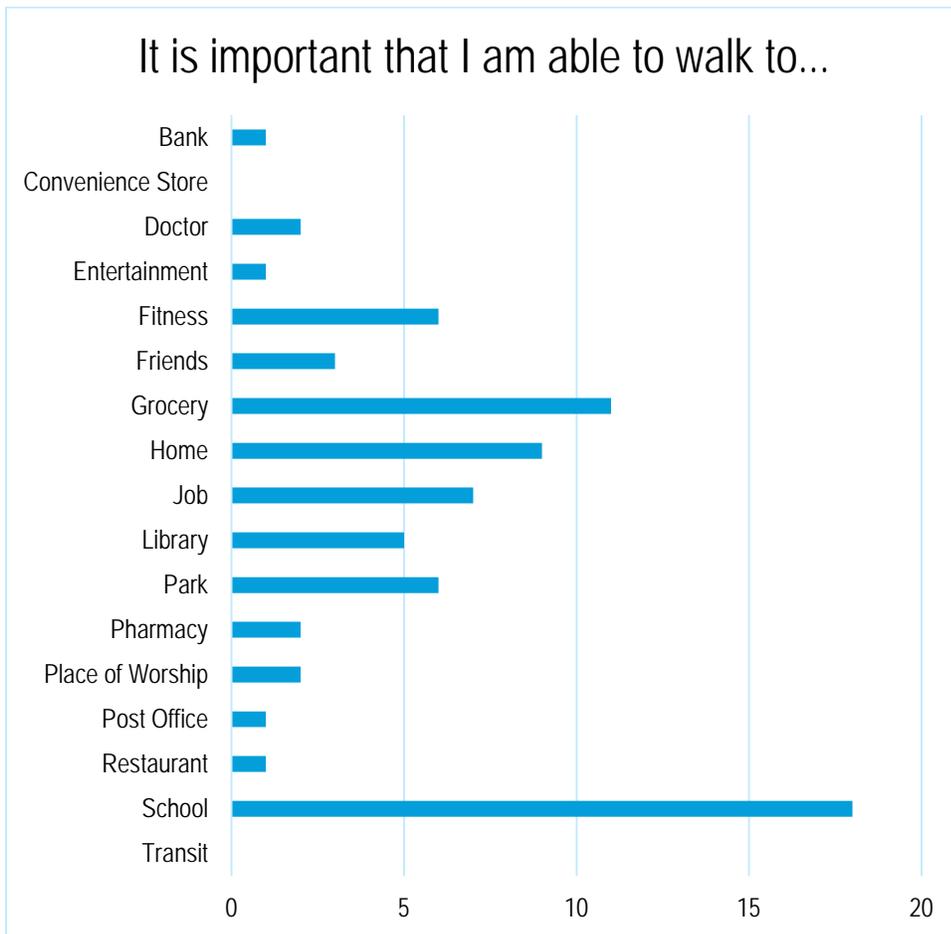


Figure 13: Top destinations from Bemidji State University Health Fair

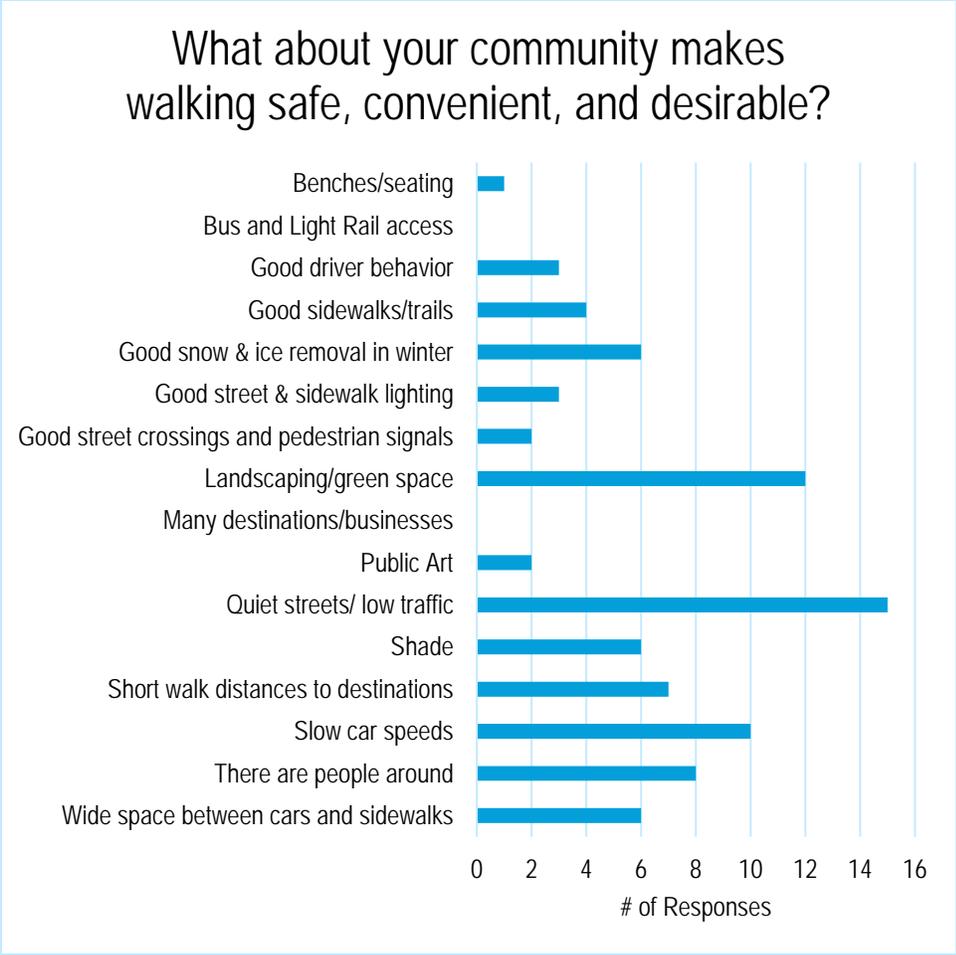


Figure 14: Factors that make a community walkable from Bemidji State University Health Fair

What about your community makes walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable?

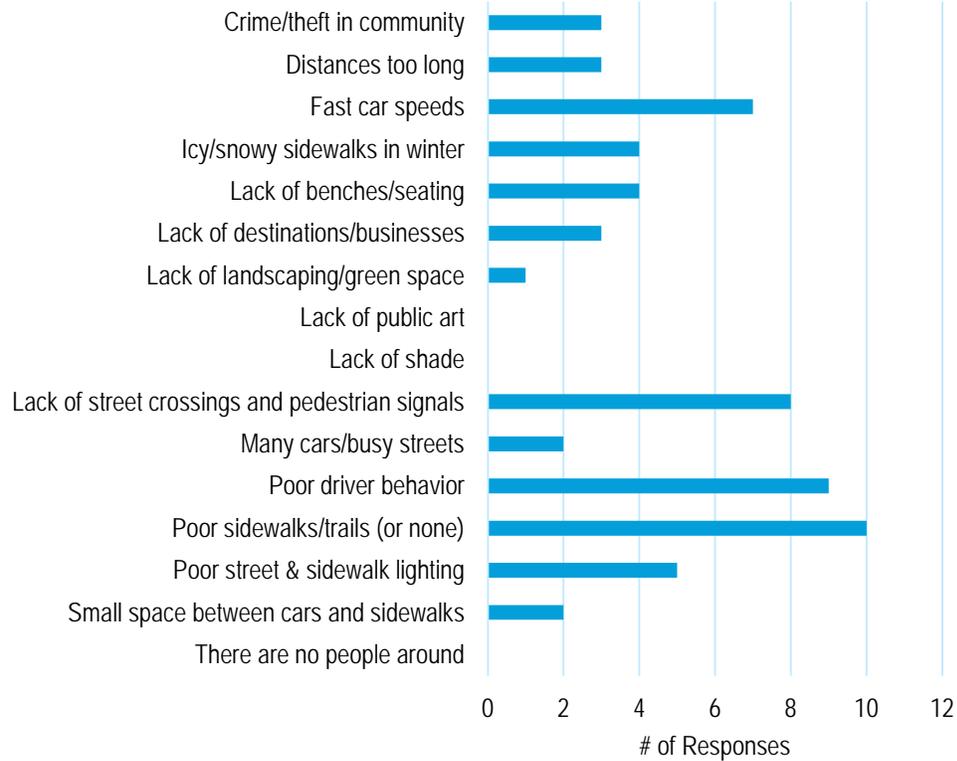


Figure 15: Factors that make a community less walkable from Bemidji State University Health Fair

Celebrate Snelling

Celebrate Snelling was a community event to celebrate the work and investment along Snelling Avenue and the opening of the Snelling Avenue Bridge. Hosted by MnDOT it was an opportunity to thank area businesses and residents for their patience and support during construction. The event took place on August 20th, 2015 in Saint Paul and approximately 150 people participated in the engagement activities. The event was selected, in part, because Hamline-Midway is a neighborhood where 19% of households have income below the poverty line.³ The top destinations reported were grocery stores, transit, and home. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking safe, convenient, and desirable were bus and light rail access, short walk distances to destinations, and having other people around. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable were fast car speeds, poor driver behavior, and icy/snowy sidewalks in winter.



Image 3: An adult and two children smile next to the community gathering engagement toolkit activities at Celebrate Snelling.

^{3 3} See Minnesota Compass summaries of U.S. Census data
<http://www.mncompass.org/profiles/neighborhoods/st-paul/hamline-midway>

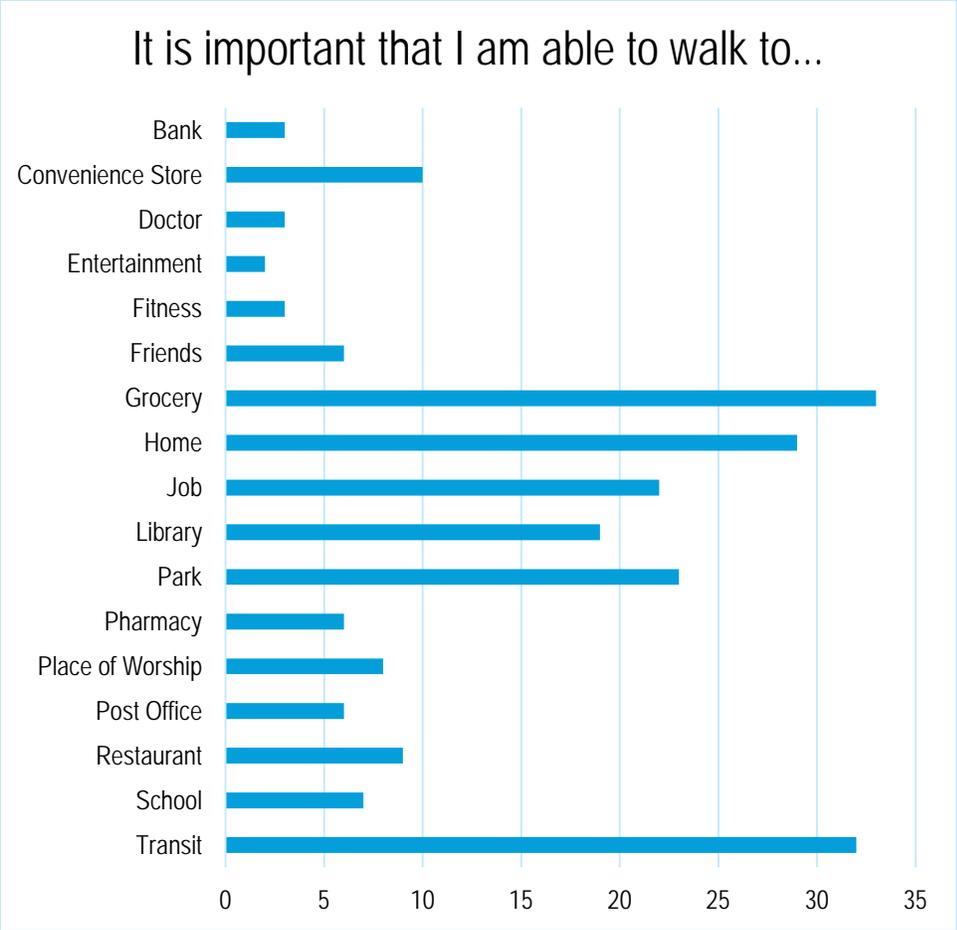


Figure 16: Top destinations from Celebrate Snelling

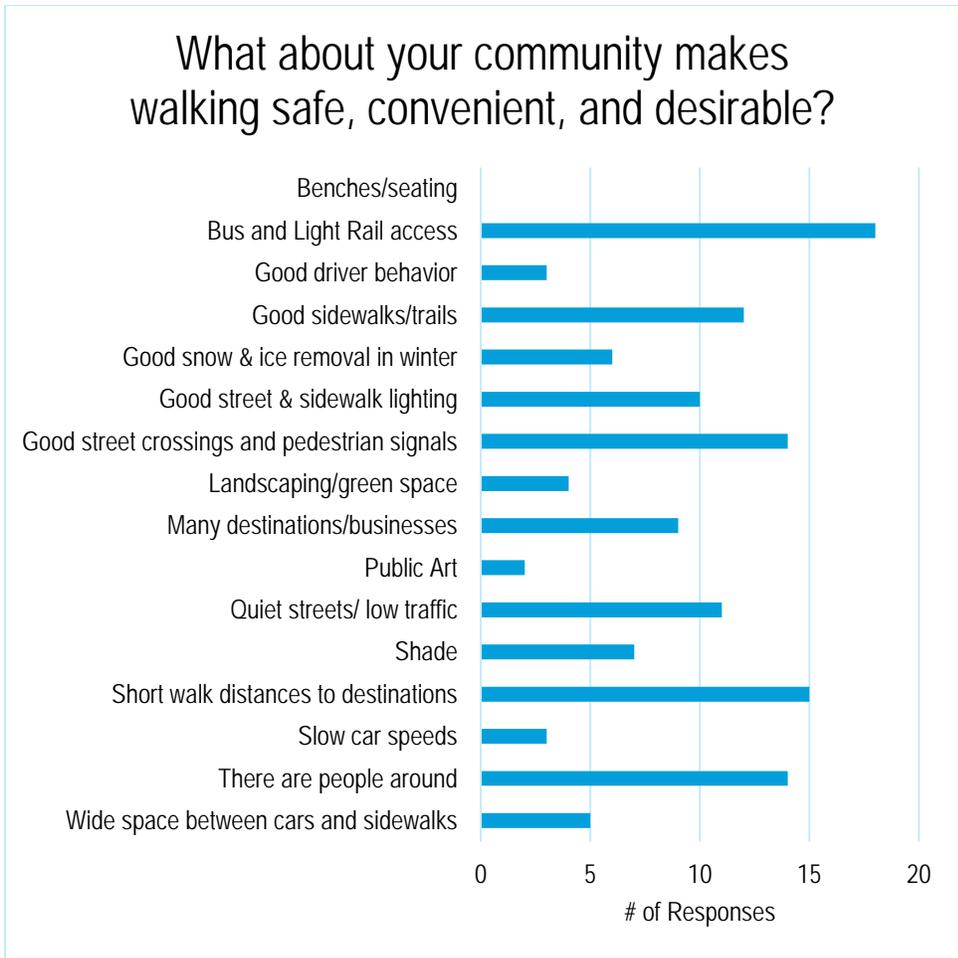


Figure 17: Factors that make a community walkable from Celebrate Snelling

What about your community makes walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable?

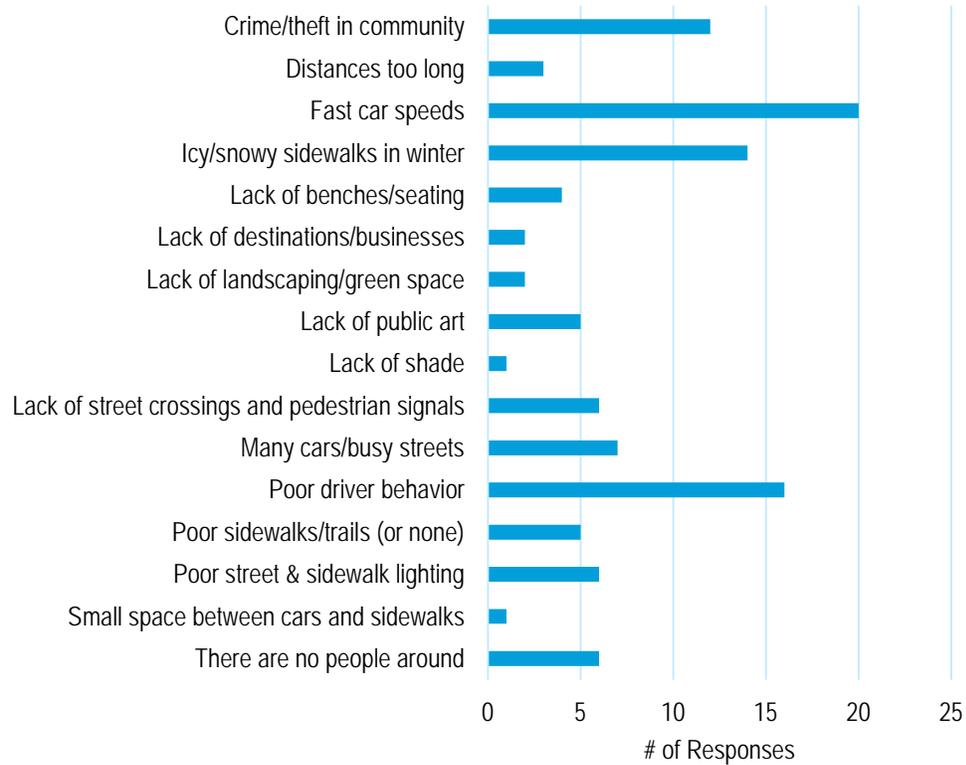


Figure 18: Factors that make a community less walkable from Celebrate Snelling

Courtesy Corporation National Senior Citizens Day

The Courtesy Corporation National Senior Citizens Day was held in Winona on August 21st, 2015. According to the volunteer who facilitated the activities, the event was created to support, honor and show appreciation to seniors and provide the opportunity to interact with many local businesses and services. Activity One was set up at the event, and was facilitated by an employee of Live Well Winona, a non-profit dedicated to supporting healthy activities and lifestyles. Eleven people participated in Activity One at the event, most of whom were older adults. The top destinations reported were grocery store, home, and place of worship.

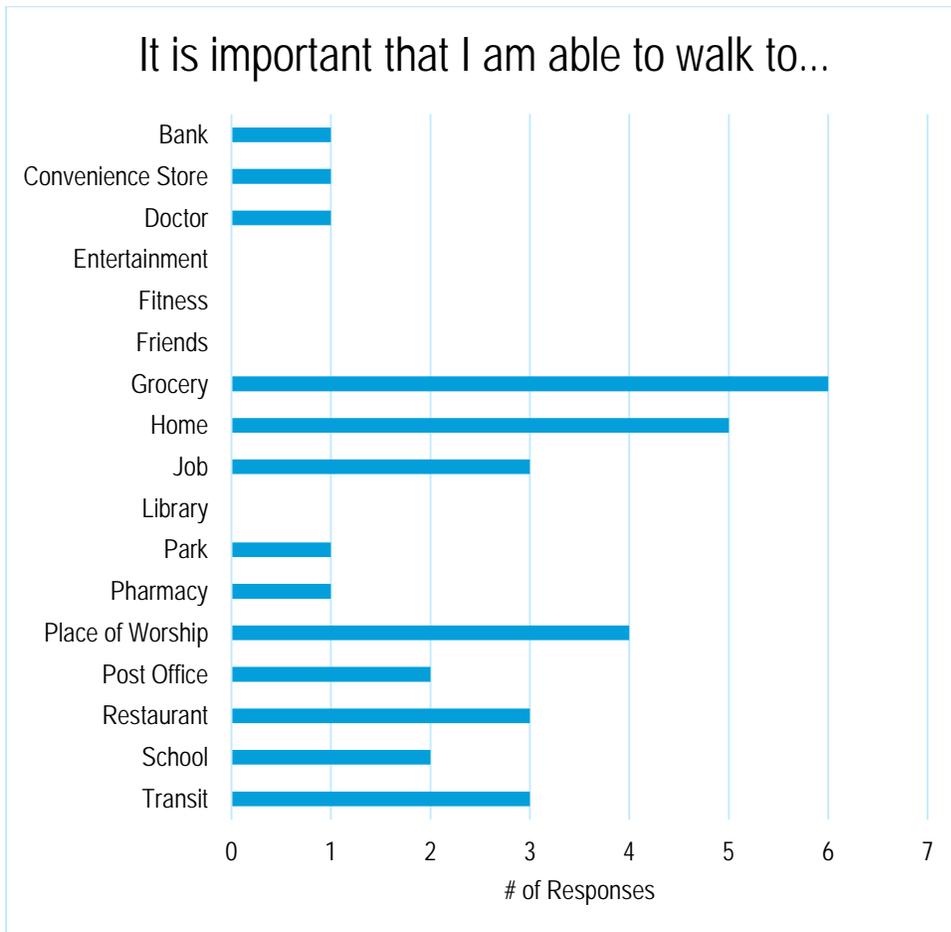


Figure 19: Top destinations from Courtesy Corporation National Senior Citizens Day

Duluth Public Library

Engagement activities were set up in the Duluth Public Library for one week in September 2015. Over thirty people participated in the activities during the week. The intended audience at the Duluth Public Library was older adults and youth. The top destinations reported were grocery store, transit, and parks. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking safe, convenient, and desirable were shade, having people around, and good sidewalks/trails. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable were ice/snowy sidewalks in winter, poor driver behavior, and fast car speeds.

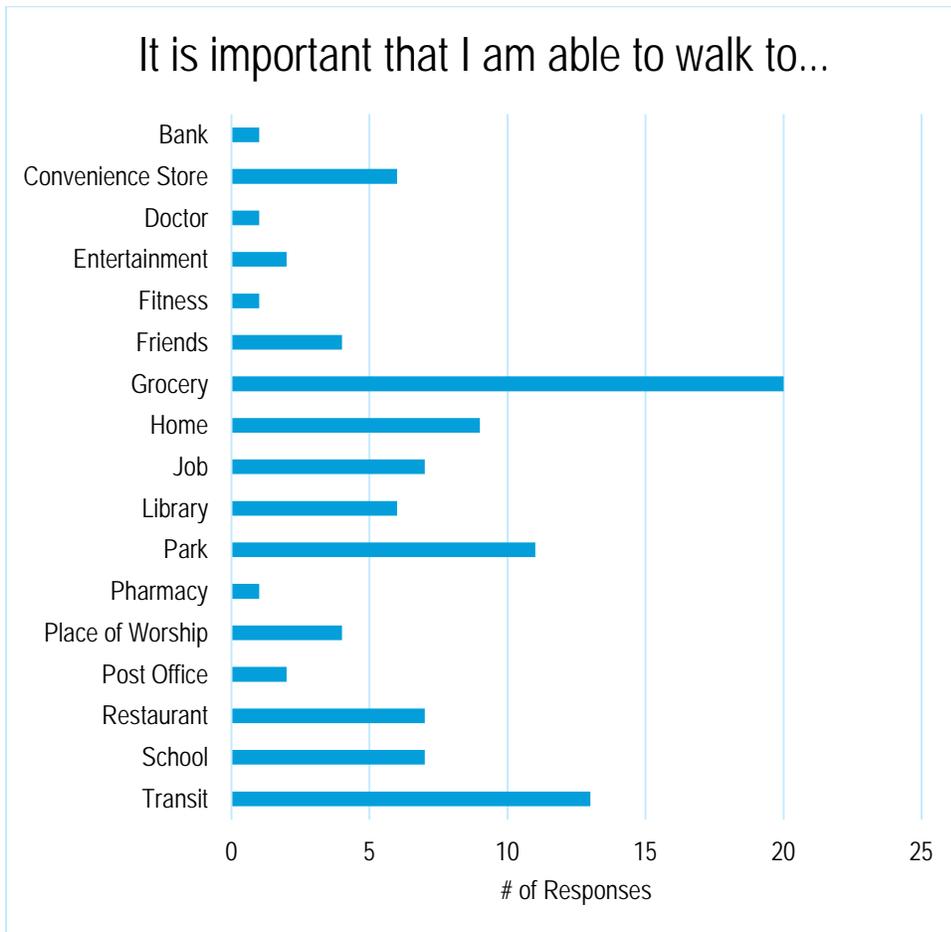


Figure 20: Top destinations from Duluth Public Library

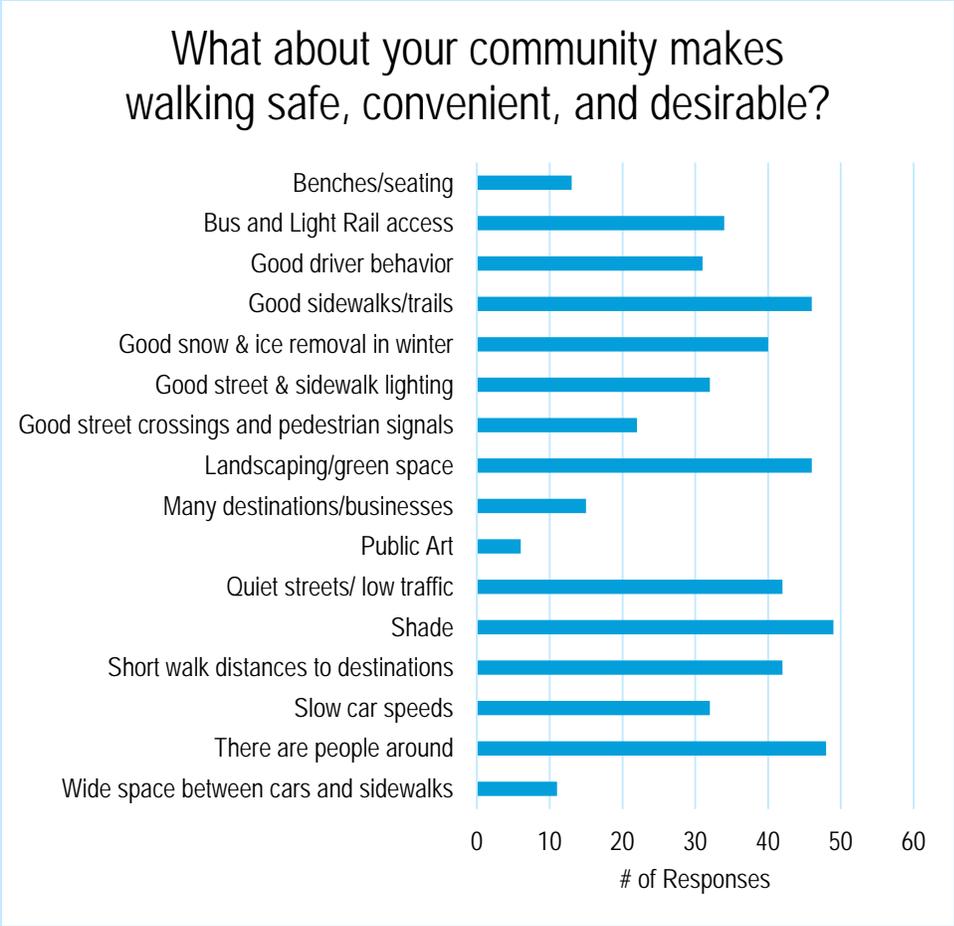


Figure 21: Factors that make a community walkable from Duluth Public Library

What about your community makes walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable?

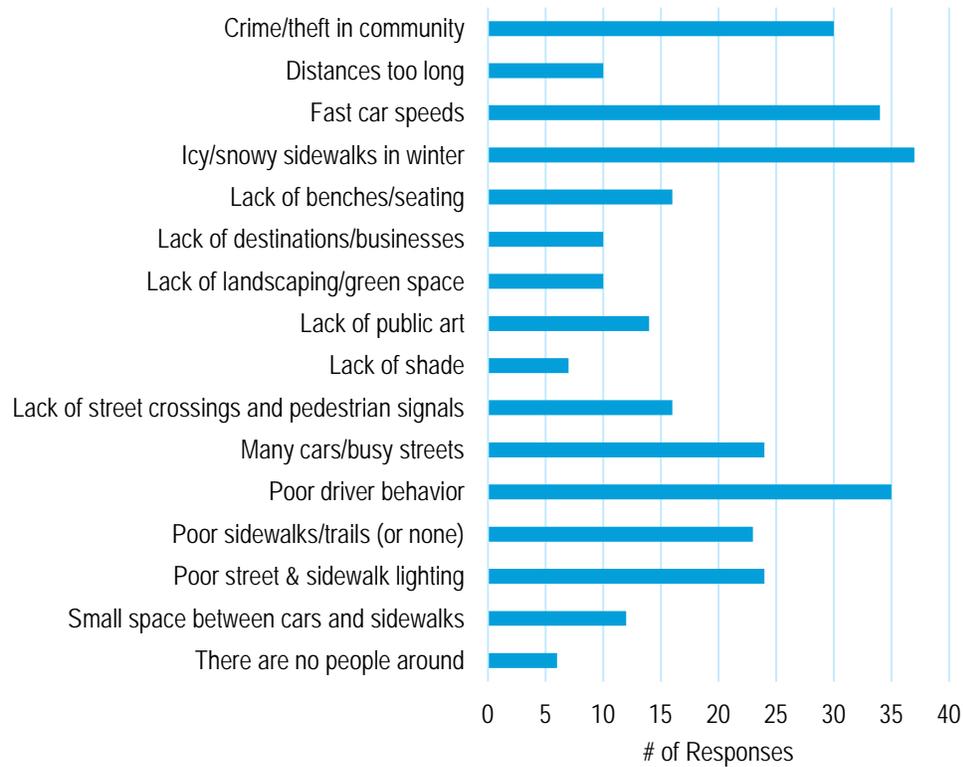


Figure 22: Factors that make a community less walkable from Duluth Public Library

Duluth Community Health Fair

The Arrowhead Regional Development Commission, the Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC), and St. Louis County Public Health jointly facilitated the engagement activities at the Community Health Fair on October 28th, 2015 at Myers-Wilkins Elementary School in Duluth. They had a booth set up and engaged approximately 30-40 people in the two activities. The top destinations reported were park, home, and grocery store. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking safe, convenient, and desirable were having people around, landscaping/green space, and bus and light rail access. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable were poor sidewalks/trails, and lack of street crossings and pedestrian signals.

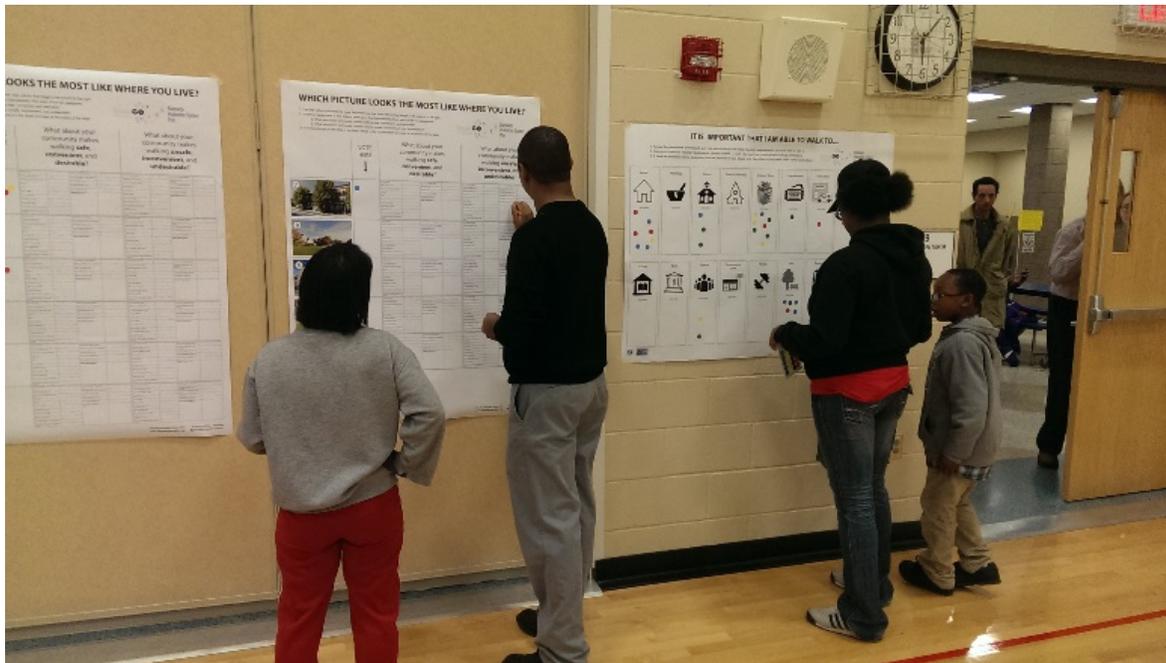


Image 4: Four people participate in the community gathering engagement toolkit activities at the Duluth Health Fair.

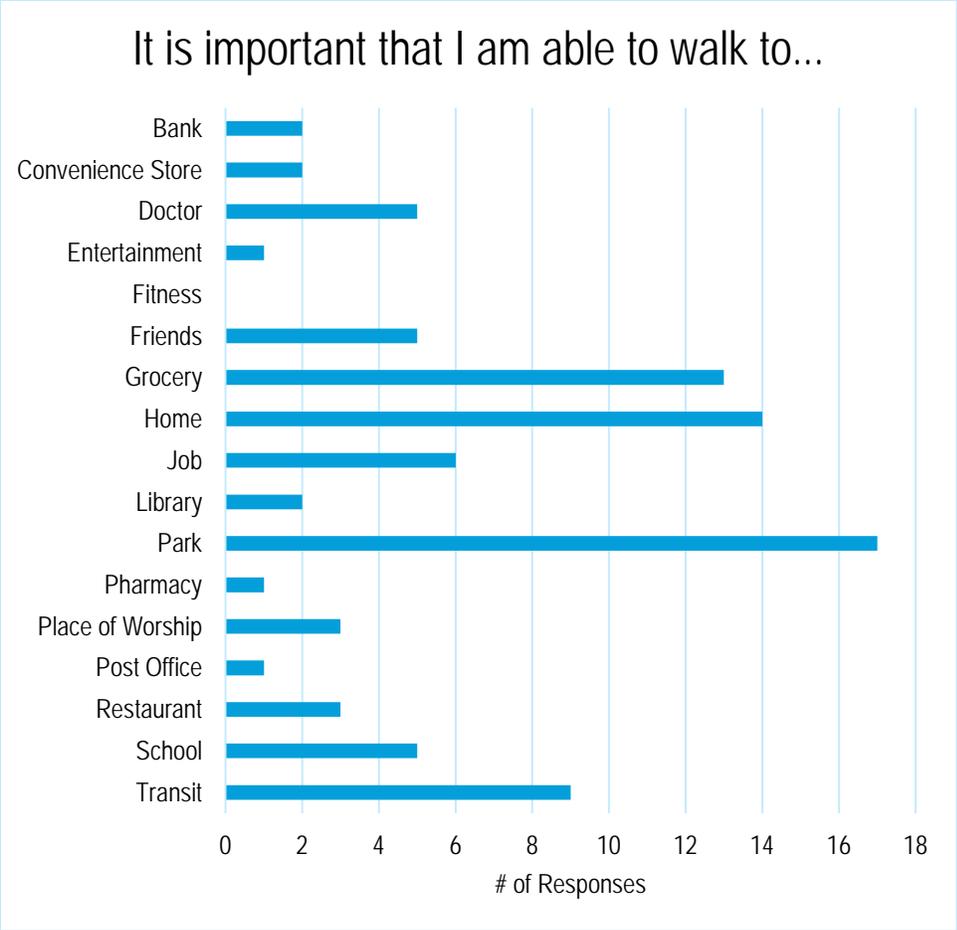


Figure 23: Top destinations from Duluth Community Health Fair

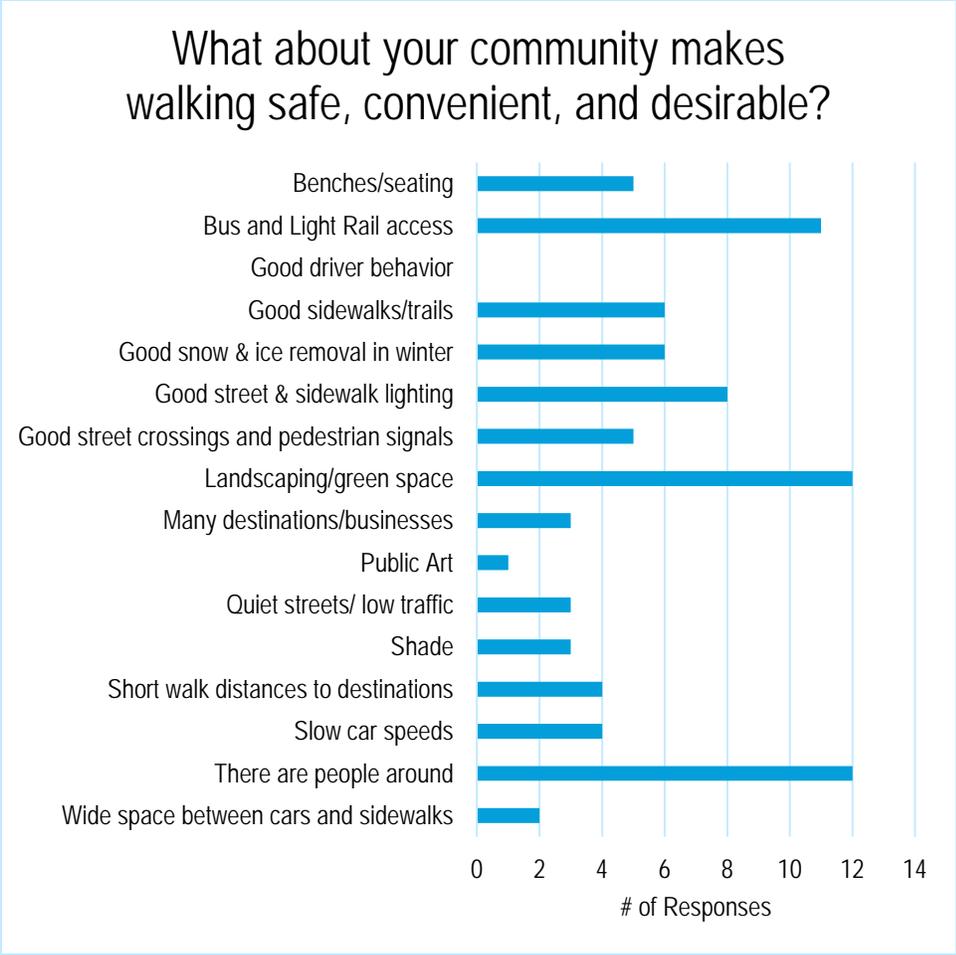


Figure 24: Factors that make a community walkable from Duluth Community Health Fair

What about your community makes walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable?

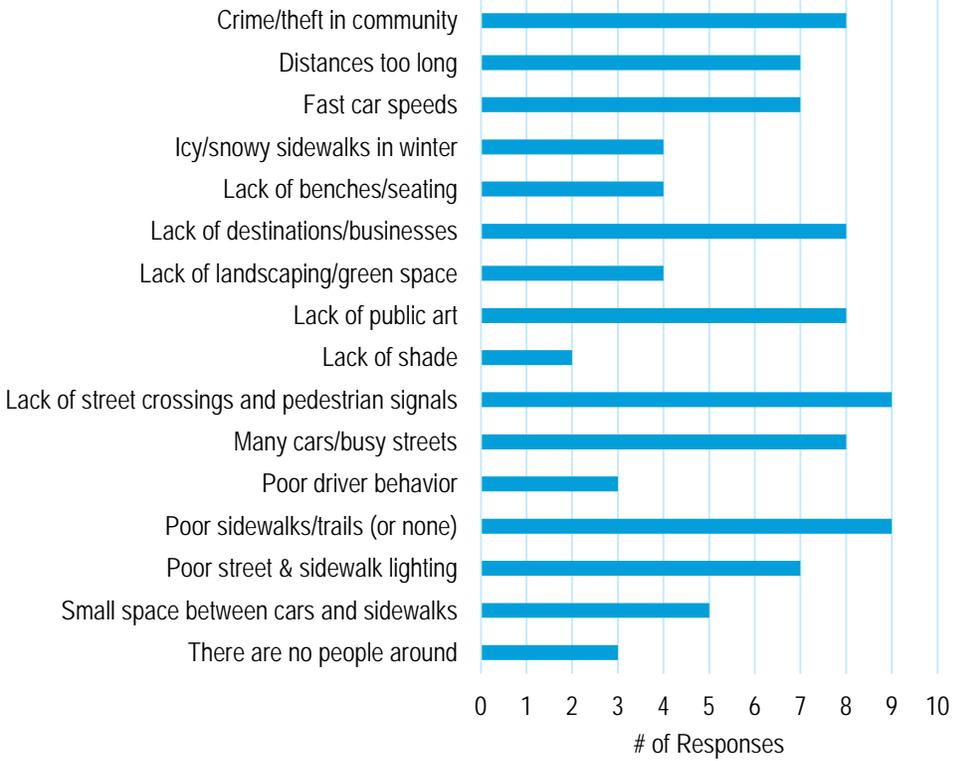


Figure 25: Factors that make a community less walkable from Duluth Community Health Fair

Fall Into Health

Fall Into Health, a free community health and wellness event in Morris, MN was held on October 26th, 2015. Free health screenings were offered for all event attendees, which included many older residents of the small rural core community. Approximately 120 people participated in the engagement activities. The top destinations reported were grocery store, park, and fitness. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking safe, convenient, and desirable were landscaping/green space, quiet streets/low traffic, and slow car speeds. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable were poor sidewalks/trails, poor street and sidewalk lighting, distances to destinations are too long, and not having people around.

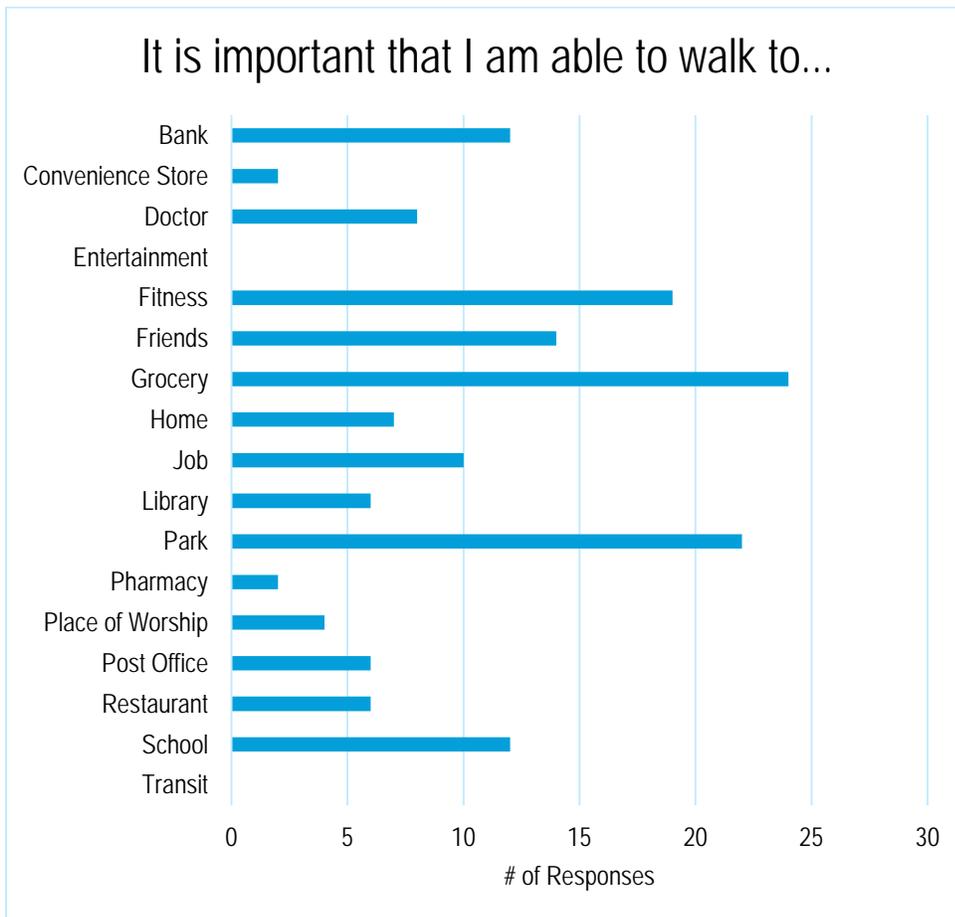


Figure 26: Top destinations from Fall Into Health

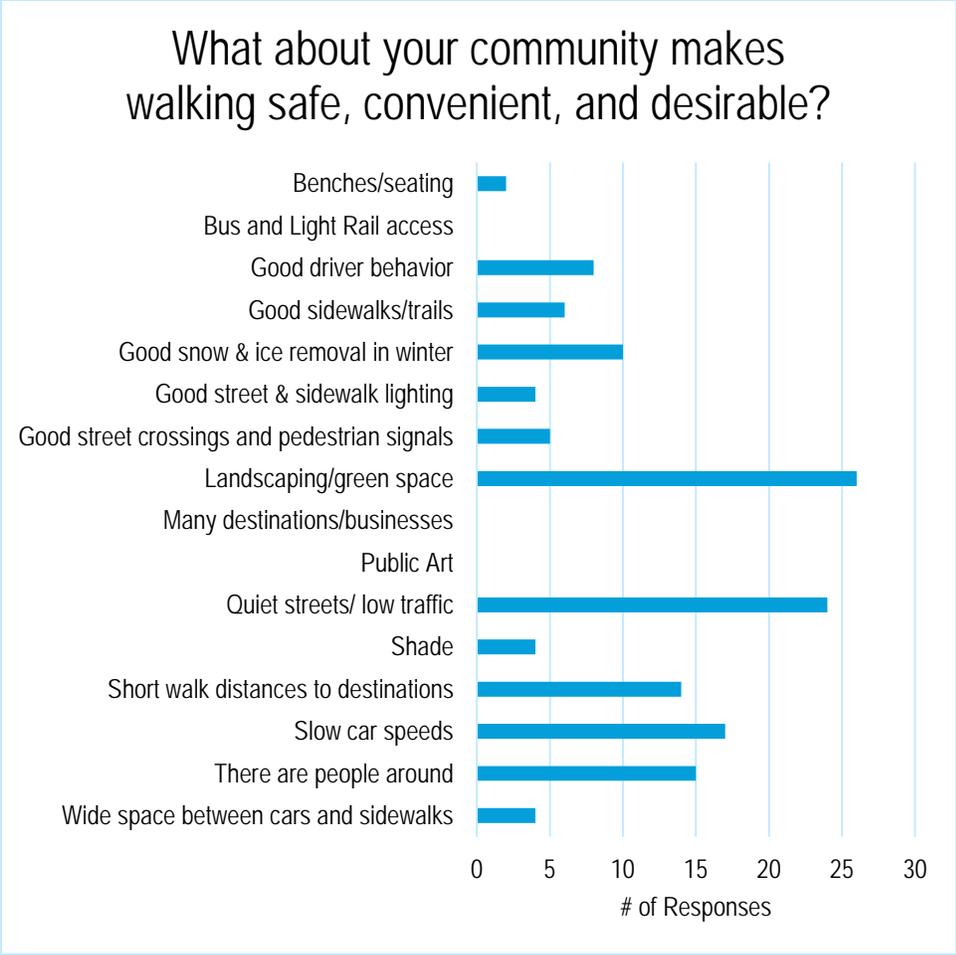


Figure 27: Factors that make a community walkable from Fall Into Health

What about your community makes walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable?

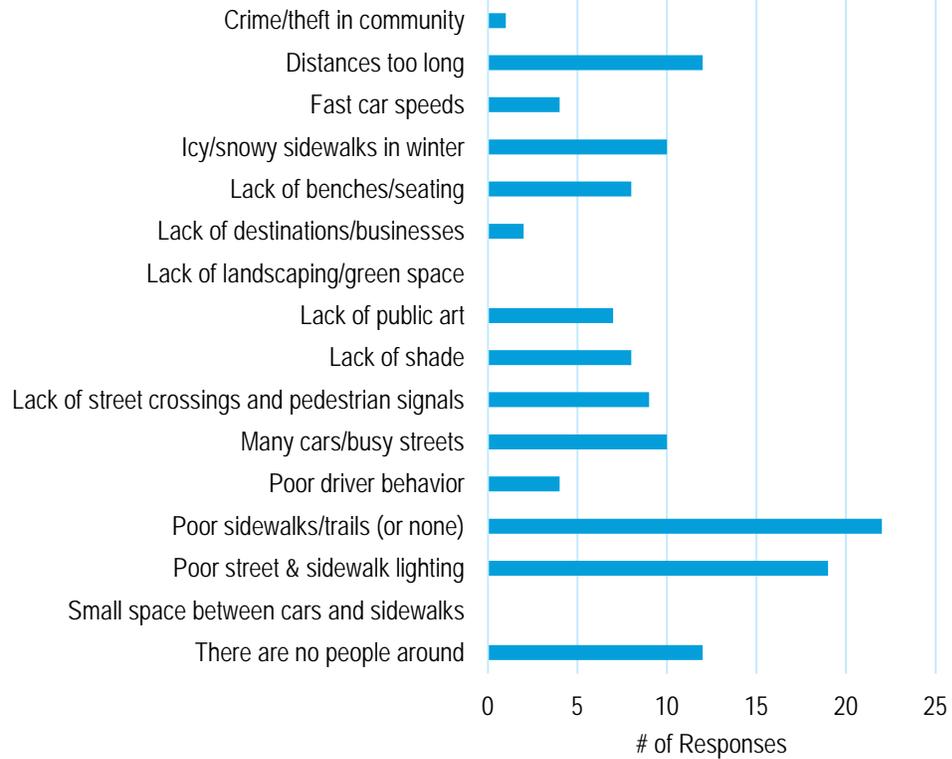


Figure 28: Factors that make a community less walkable from Fall Into Health

Farm to School Community BBQ - Minneapolis

The Minneapolis Farm to School program hosts an annual community gathering focused on local food, food education, and community engagement. The project team hosted the engagement activities at the Farm to School Community BBQ on September 24th, 2015. A variety of nonprofit organizations, businesses, school families and students, and local community members attend the event. The event was selected because it was likely to have many children in attendance and because it was located in Near-North and Willard-Hay neighborhoods where 41.8% and 37.2% (respectively) of households have incomes below the poverty line.⁴ Because Activity One does not involve reading and uses stickers rather than pens, the project team thought it would be more appropriate for children than Activity Two. In addition, the booth had limited space and only accommodated one display board. The top destinations reported were grocery store, parks, and friends.



Image 5: Young children participate in activity one at the Farm to School Event in Minneapolis.

⁴ See Minnesota Compass Census Data:
<http://www.mncompass.org/profiles/neighborhoods/minneapolis/near-north>
<http://www.mncompass.org/profiles/neighborhoods/minneapolis/willard-hay>

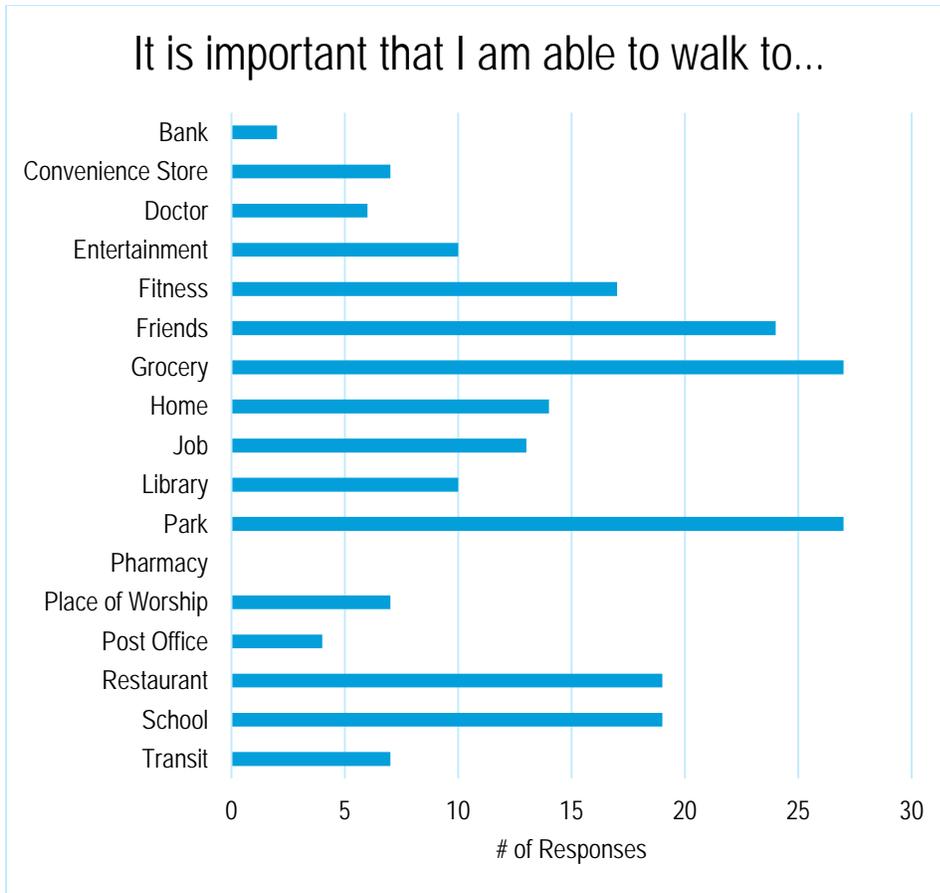


Figure 29: Top destinations from Farm to School Community BBQ

Hill City Health and Wellness Expo

The Hill City Health and Wellness Expo was hosted at the Hill City School on September 1st, 2015. The event was organized for children and parents of the small rural core community and featured a variety of booths aimed at promoting healthy eating and healthy lifestyles. The two activities were set up inside the school lobby, and received approximately 65 responses from youth and parents. The top destinations reported were home, school, and the grocery store. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking safe, convenient, and desirable were quiet streets/low traffic, having people around, and shade. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable were icy/snowy sidewalks in winter, and poor driver behavior.

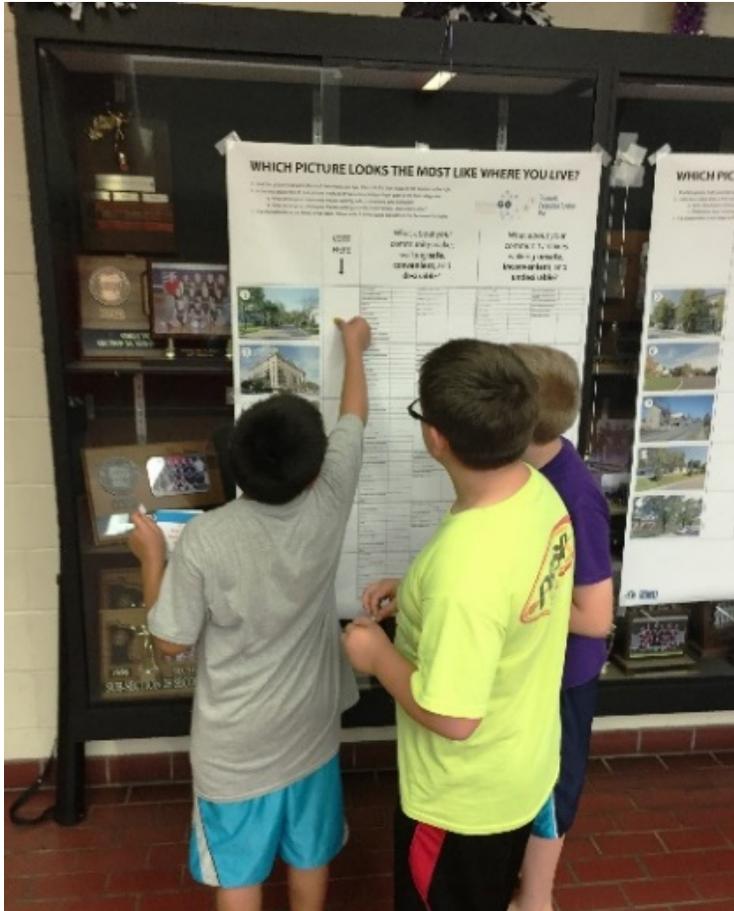


Image 6: Three children participate in activity two at a youth-focused event in Hill City.

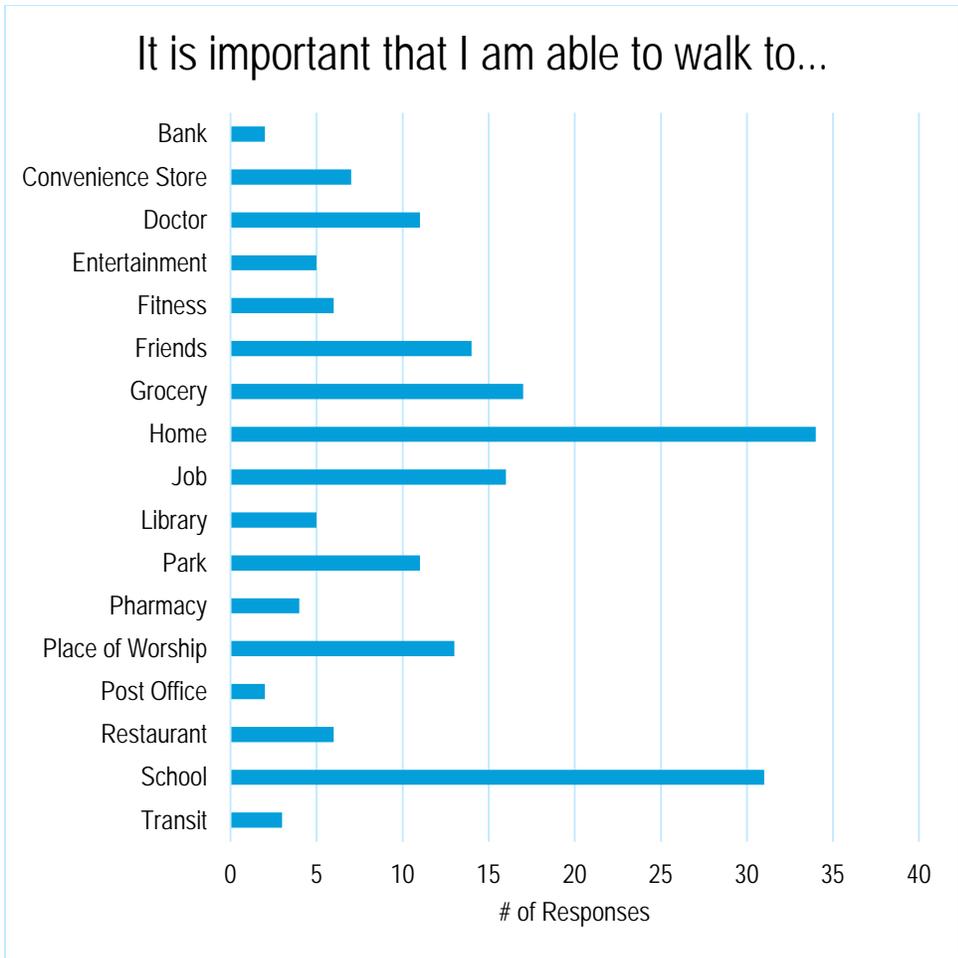


Figure 30: Top destinations from Hill City Health and Wellness Expo

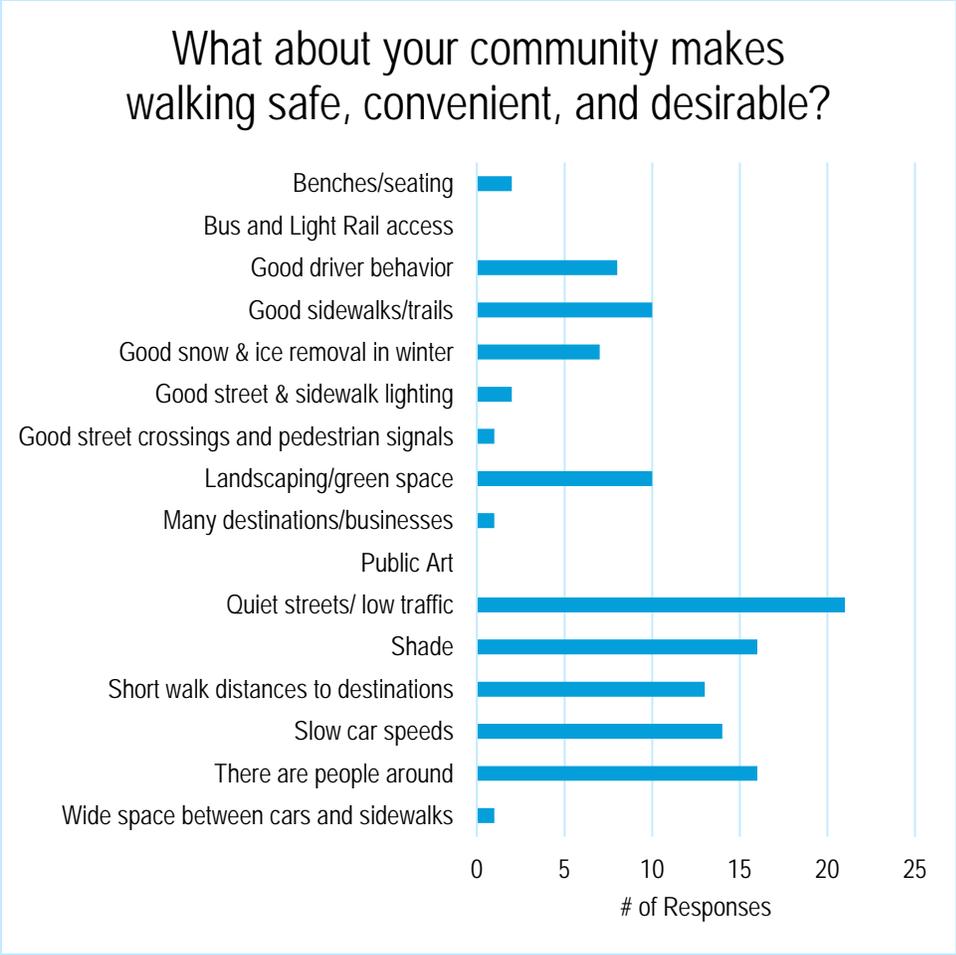


Figure 31: Factors that make a community walkable from Hill City Health and Wellness Expo

What about your community makes walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable?

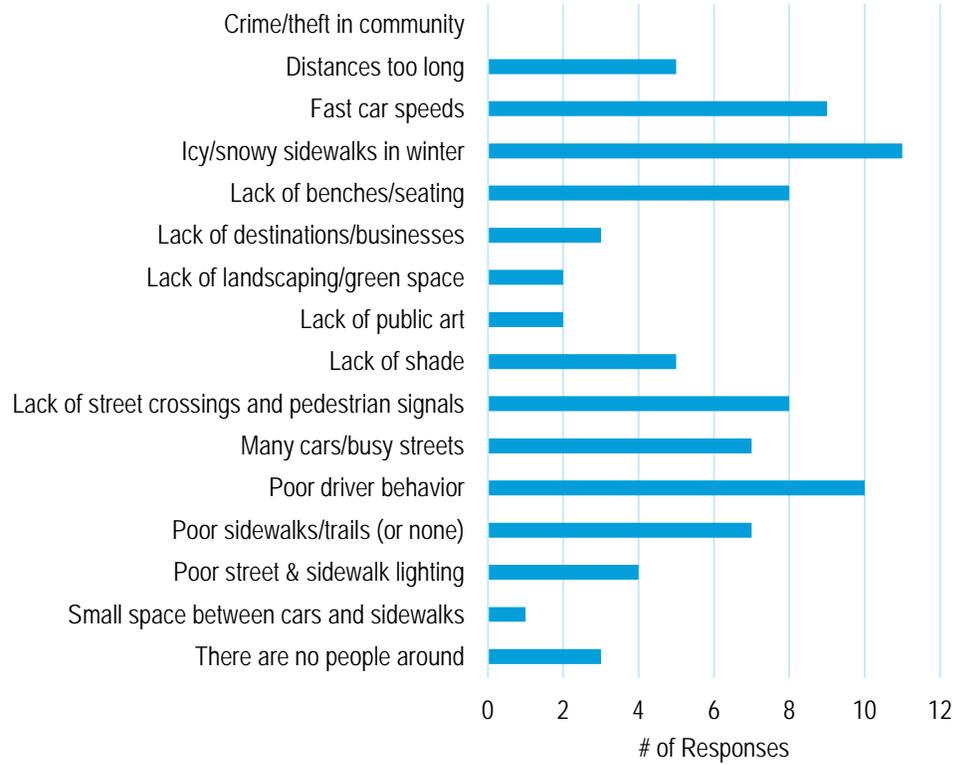


Figure 32: Factors that make a community less walkable from Hill City Health and Wellness Expo

Kirkbride Festival

The Kirkbride Festival was held in Fergus Falls on September 19th, 2015 on the grounds of the old Fergus Falls Regional Treatment Center. According to the volunteer facilitator, the festival included booths representing different community organizations and included tours of the hospital and food vendors. Volunteers engaged over 25 people at the two activities during the festival. The top destinations reported were parks, friend, and grocery store. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking safe, convenient, and desirable were good sidewalks/trails, landscaping/green space, and short walk distances to destinations. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable were poor sidewalks/trails, lack of street crossings and pedestrian signals, and poor street and sidewalk lighting.



Image 7: People participate in activity two at the Kirkbride Festival in Fergus Falls. Photo Credit: Andrew Besold, West Central Initiative.



Figure 33: Top destinations from Kirkbride Festival

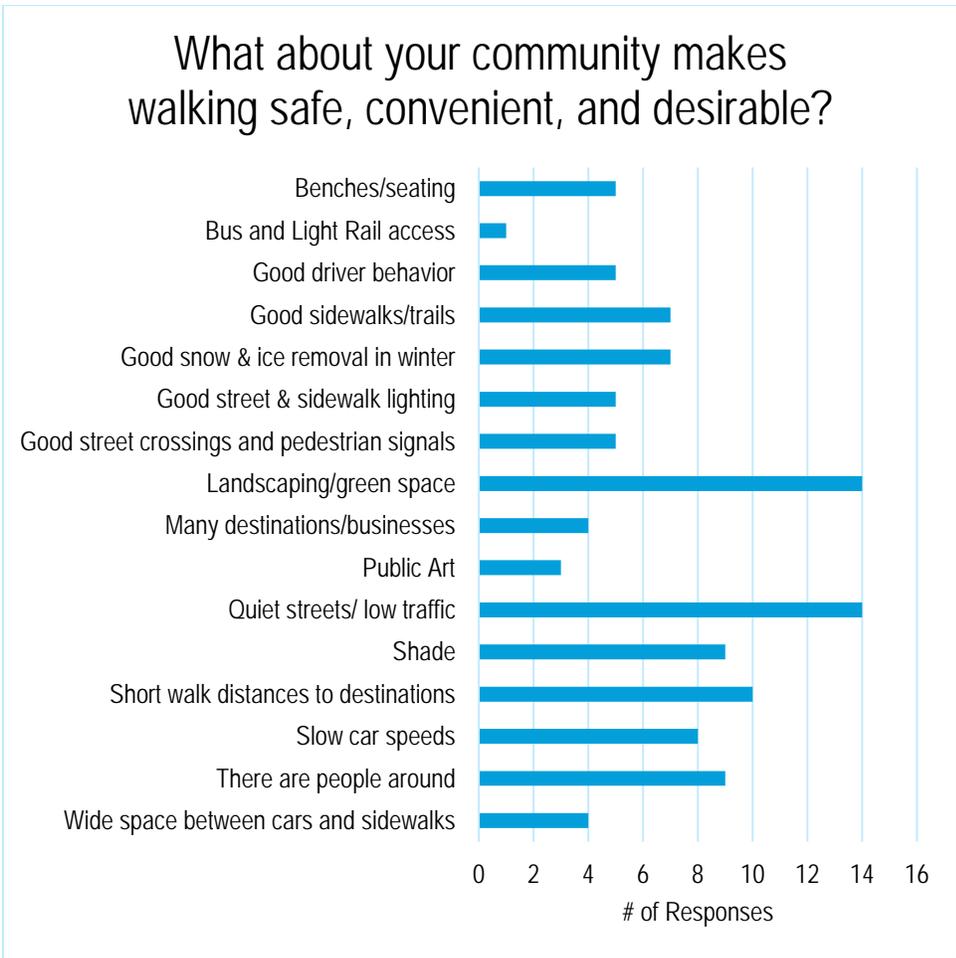


Figure 34: Factors that make a community walkable from Kirkbride Festival

What about your community makes walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable?

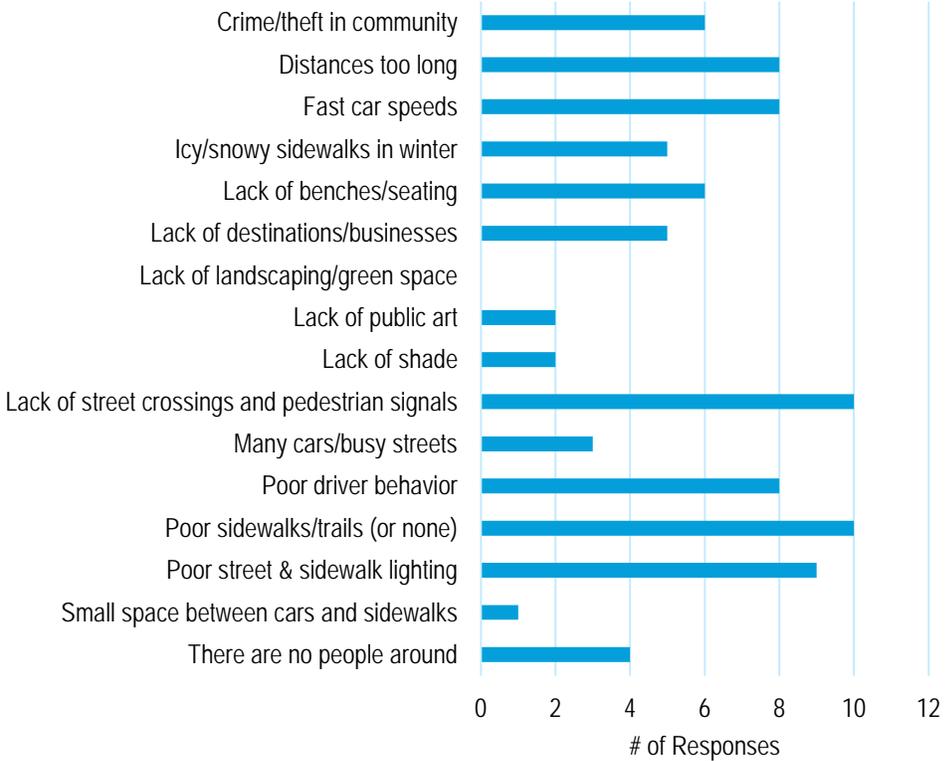


Figure 35: Factors that make a community less walkable from Kirkbride Festival

Making it Better Regional Learning Meeting – Rochester

The Making it Better Regional Learning Meeting was held on August 13th, 2015 at the Minnesota Department of Health office in Rochester. About 25 local public health practitioners participated in the two activities during the meeting, in addition to a 'listening session'. The top destinations reported were school, job, and parks. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking safe, convenient, and desirable were presence of people, shade, landscaping, and quiet traffic. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable were poor pedestrian crossings and poor sidewalks.

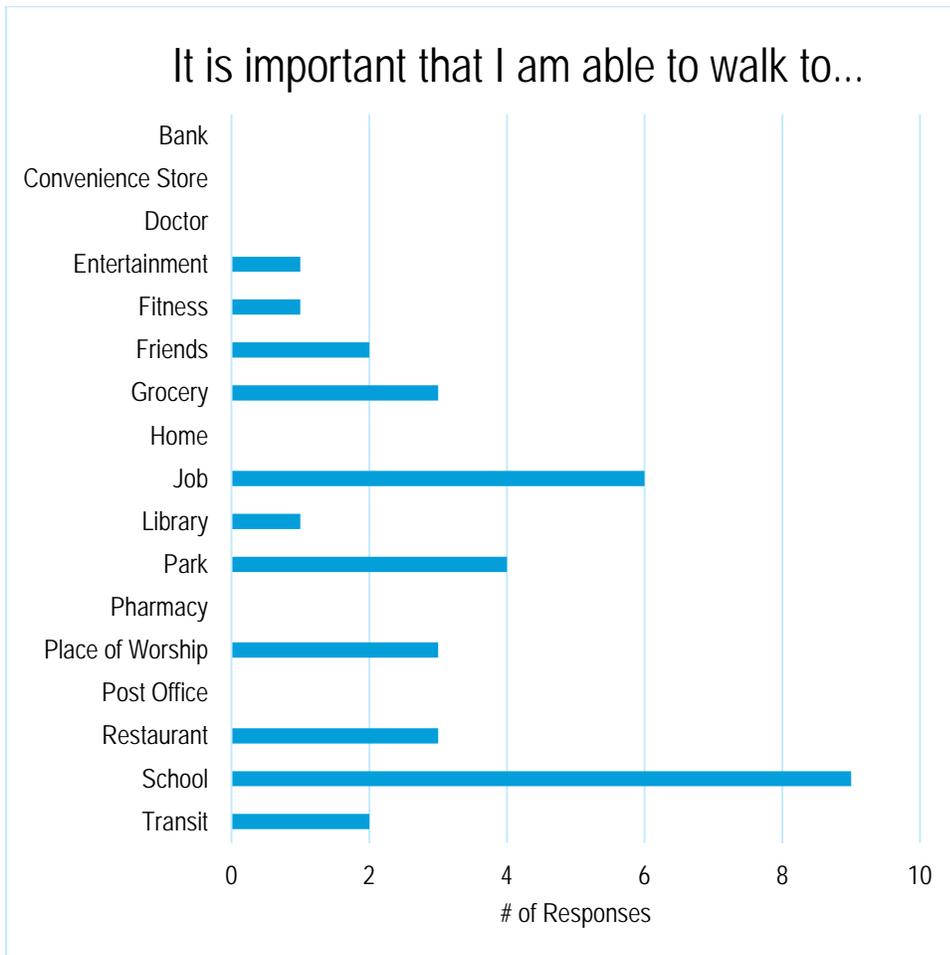


Figure 36: Top destinations from Making it Better Regional Learning Meeting - Rochester

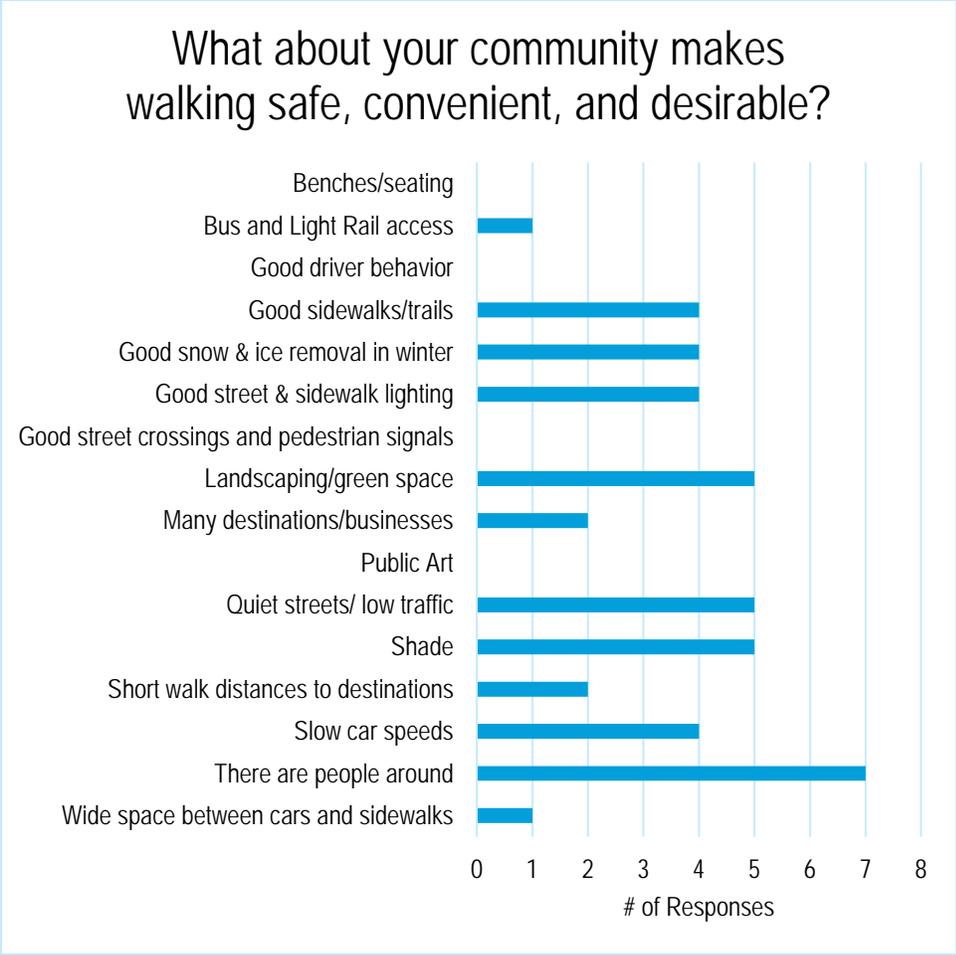


Figure 37: Factors that make a community walkable from Making it Better Regional Learning Meeting - Rochester

What about your community makes walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable?

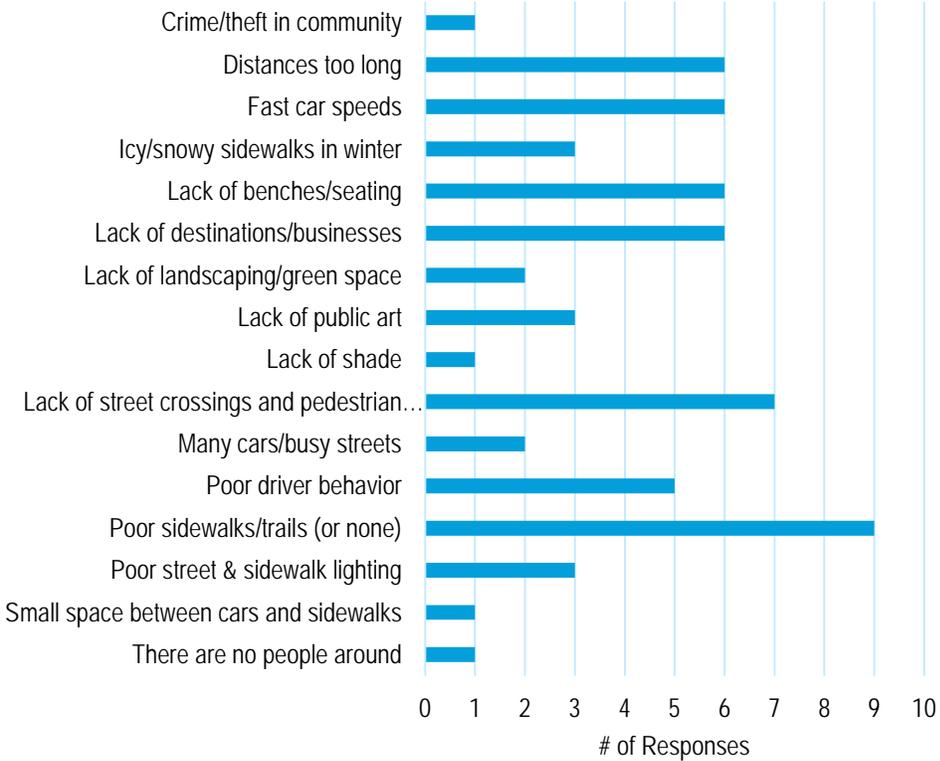


Figure 38: Factors that make a community less walkable from Making it Better Regional Learning Meeting - Rochester

Making it Better Regional Learning Meeting – Sauk Rapids

The Making it Better Regional Learning Meeting was held on August 17th, 2015 in Sauk Rapids. Fifteen local public health practitioners participated in the two activities during the meeting. The top destinations reported were parks, grocery store, and convenience store. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking safe, convenient, and desirable were presence of people, slow car speeds, low traffic, and short walking distances. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable were fast car speeds and icy/snowy sidewalks.

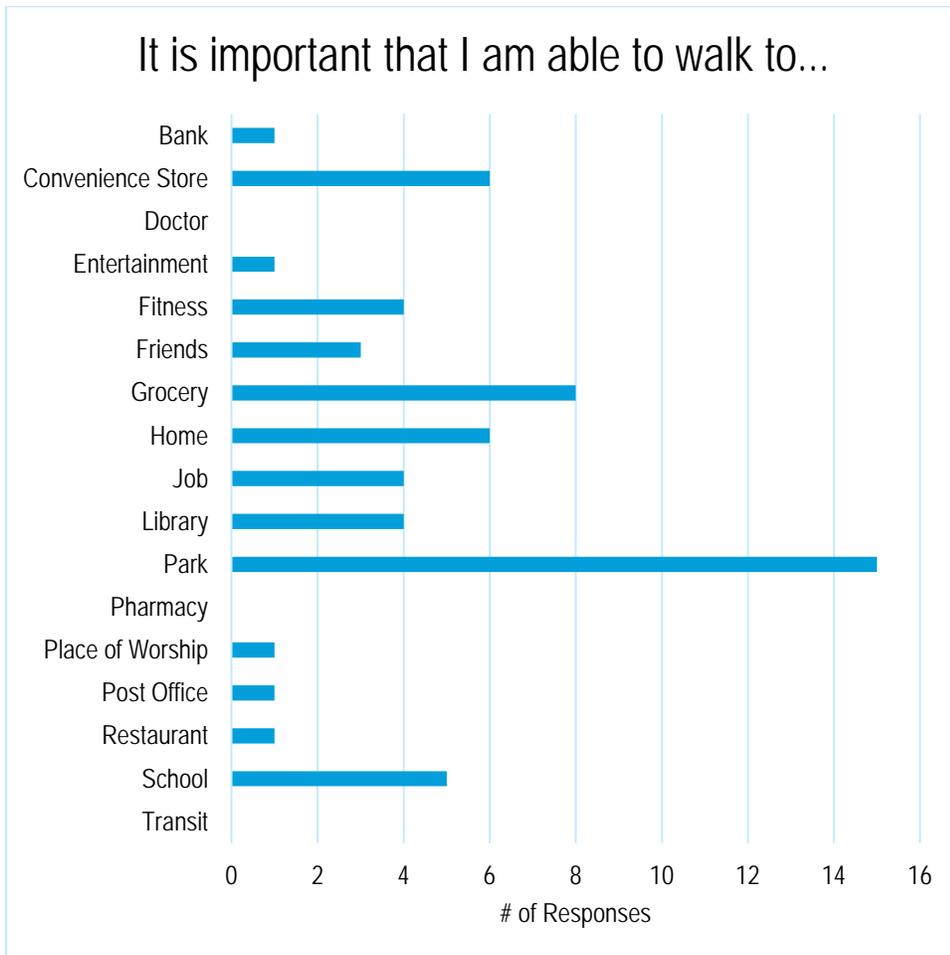


Figure 39: Top destinations from Making it Better Regional Learning Meeting - Sauk Rapids

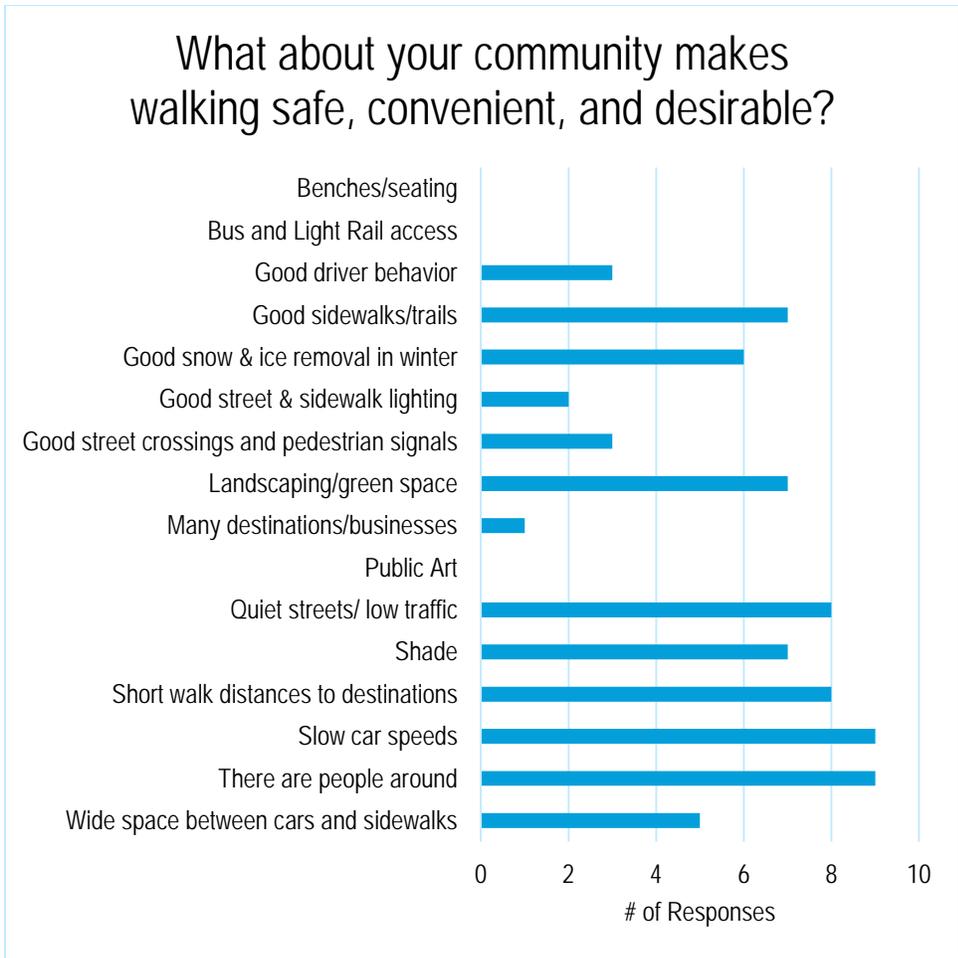


Figure 40: Factors that make a community walkable from Making it Better Regional Learning Meeting - Sauk Rapids

What about your community makes walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable?

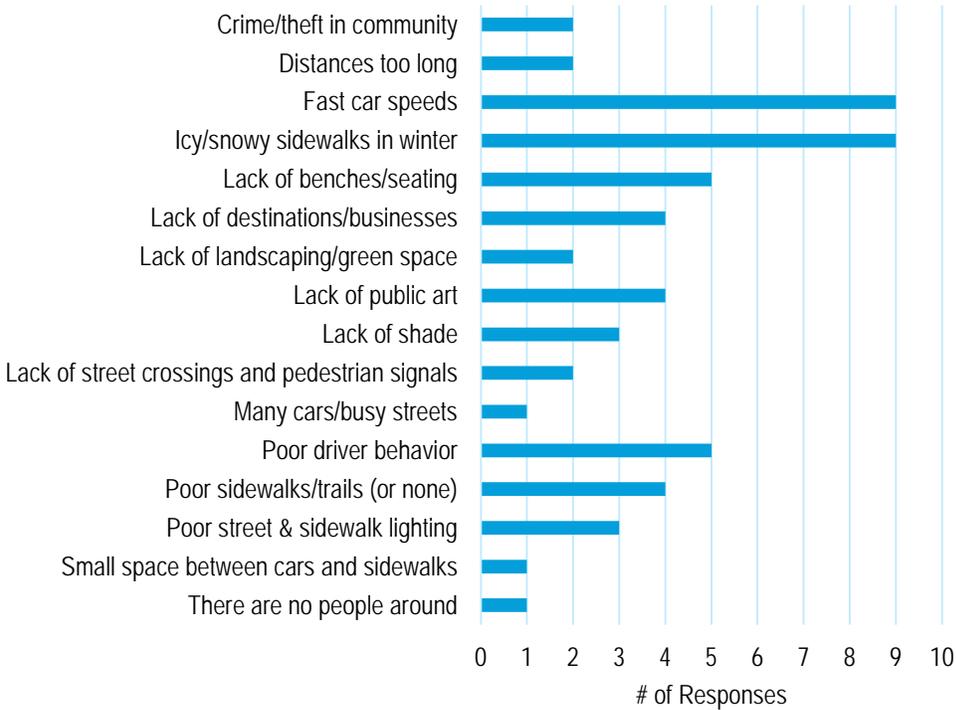


Figure 41: Factors that make a community less walkable from Making it Better Regional Learning Meeting - Sauk Rapids

Minneapolis High-rise Representative Council

The Minneapolis High-rise Representative Council engaged public housing residents in Minneapolis at a series of meetings in the fall of 2015. Both engagement activities were conducted at four High-rise Council meeting, including two area meetings of Representative Councils, the Active Living Advisory Committee, and the Executive Committee. Additionally, both activities were also present during a Heritage Park Senior Services health fair, which primarily focuses on engaging with senior residents of Heritage Park, a mixed-income housing development just west of Minneapolis. According to the facilitator from Minneapolis Public Health, the majority of public housing high-rise residents are older adults and/or people with disabilities; all have very low incomes. The top destinations reported were the grocery store, transit, and to the doctor. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking safe, convenient, and desirable were having people around, benches/seating, good sidewalks/trails, short walk distances between destinations, and good street crossings and pedestrian signals. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable were fast car speeds, snowy/icy sidewalks in winter, and many cars/busy streets.

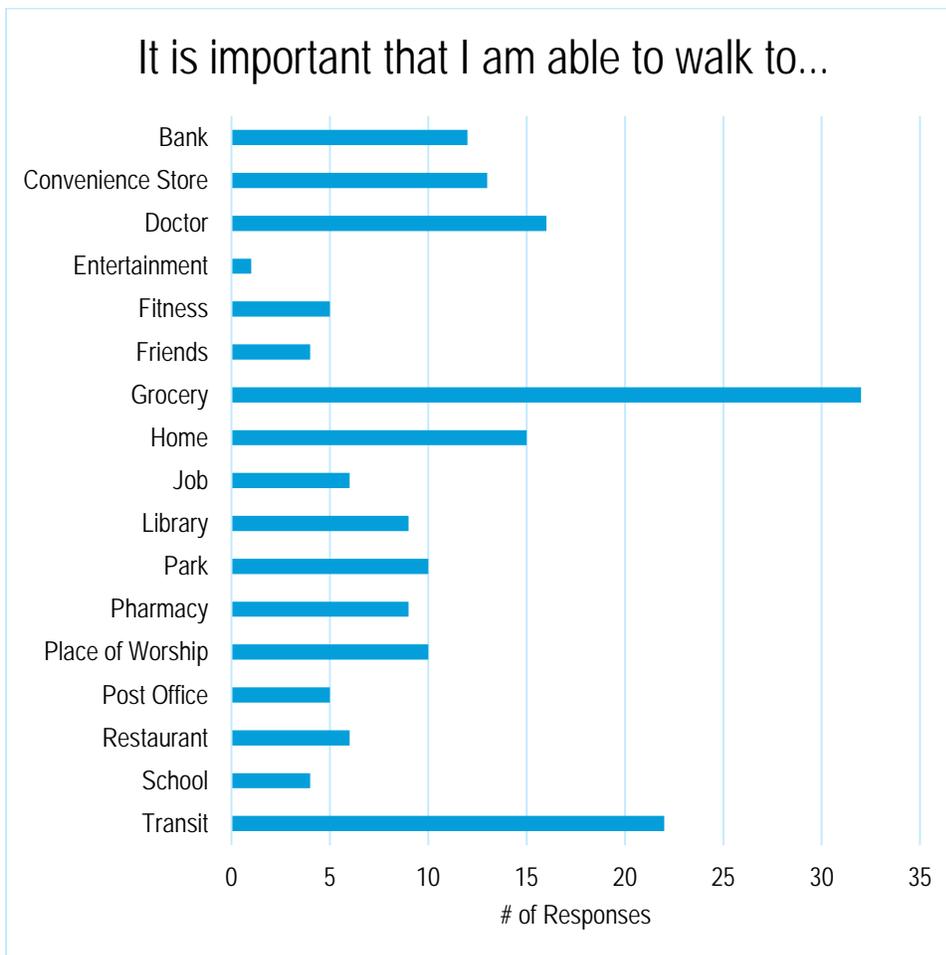


Figure 42: Top destinations from Minneapolis High-rise Representative Council

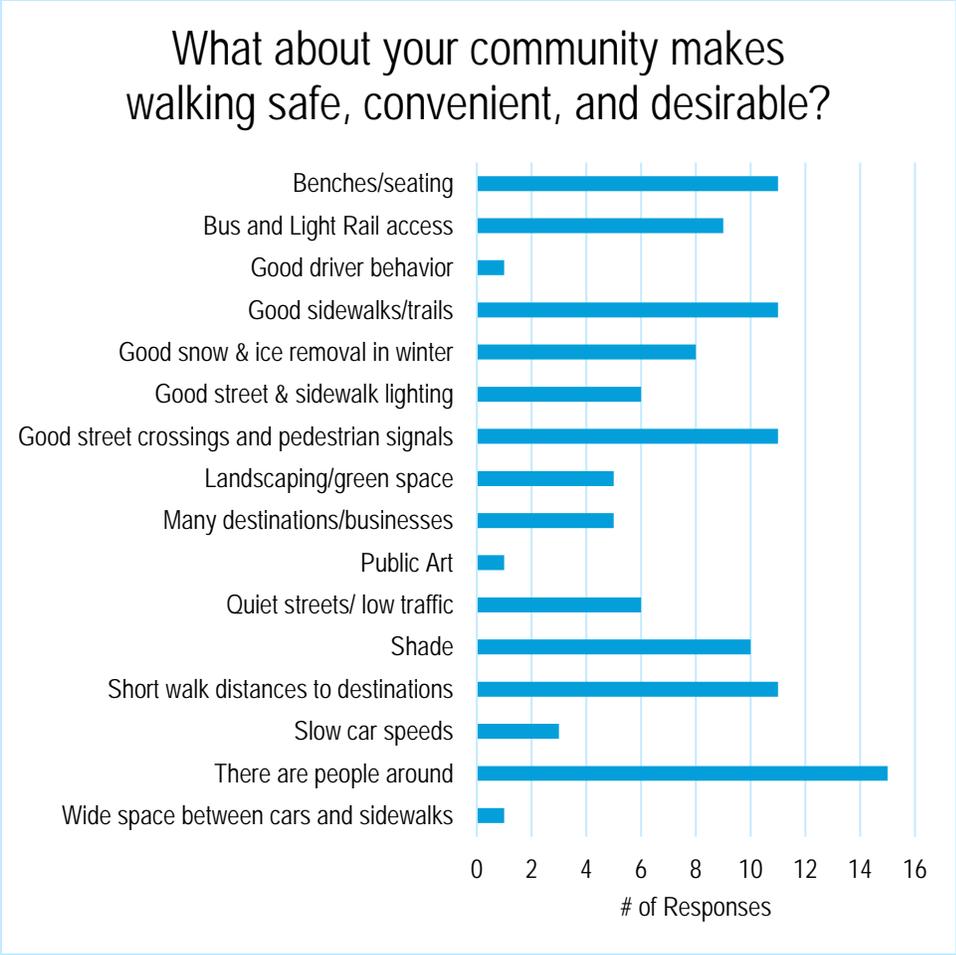


Figure 43: Factors that make a community walkable from Minneapolis High-rise Representative Council

What about your community makes walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable?

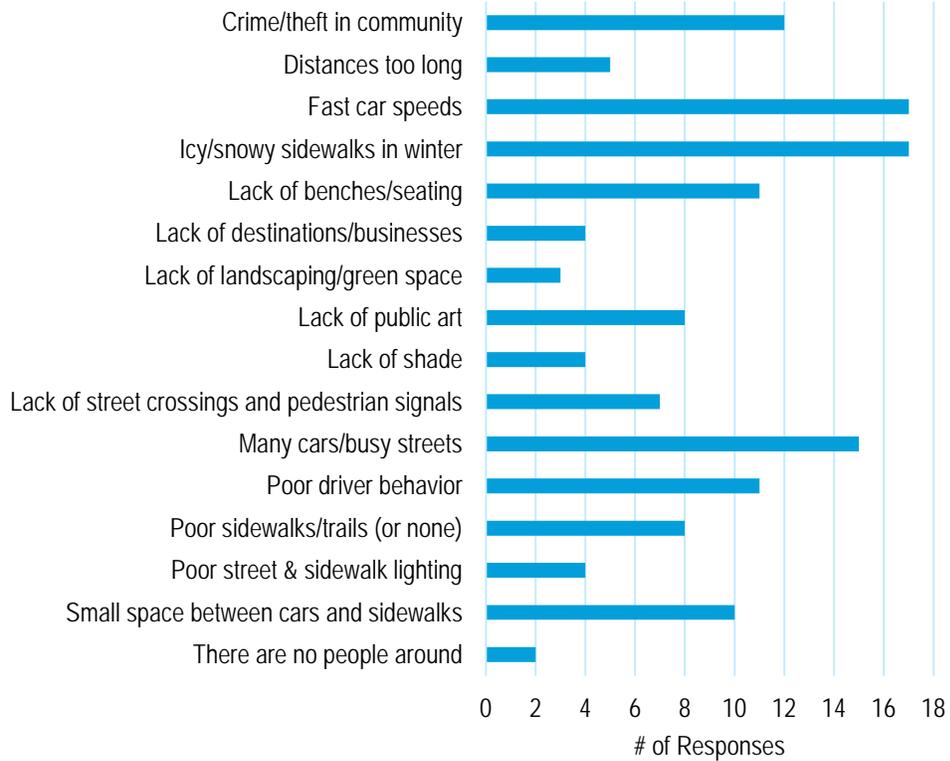


Figure 44: Factors that make a community less walkable from Minneapolis High-rise Representative Council

Minnesota American Planning Association (APA) Conference

The Minnesota American Planning Association (APA) Conference was held in Bemidji from September 22nd-25th, 2015. The activities were posted in the halls of the conference center so that attendees could participate as they come and go during the conference. Approximately 100 people participated in the activities during the conference, including health professionals, planners, engineers, and landscape architects from urban areas, rural towns, and counties across the state. The top destinations reported were the school, park, and grocery store. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking safe, convenient, and desirable were having people around, good sidewalks/trails, and short walk distances to destinations. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable were fast car speeds, poor driver behavior, and distances too long.

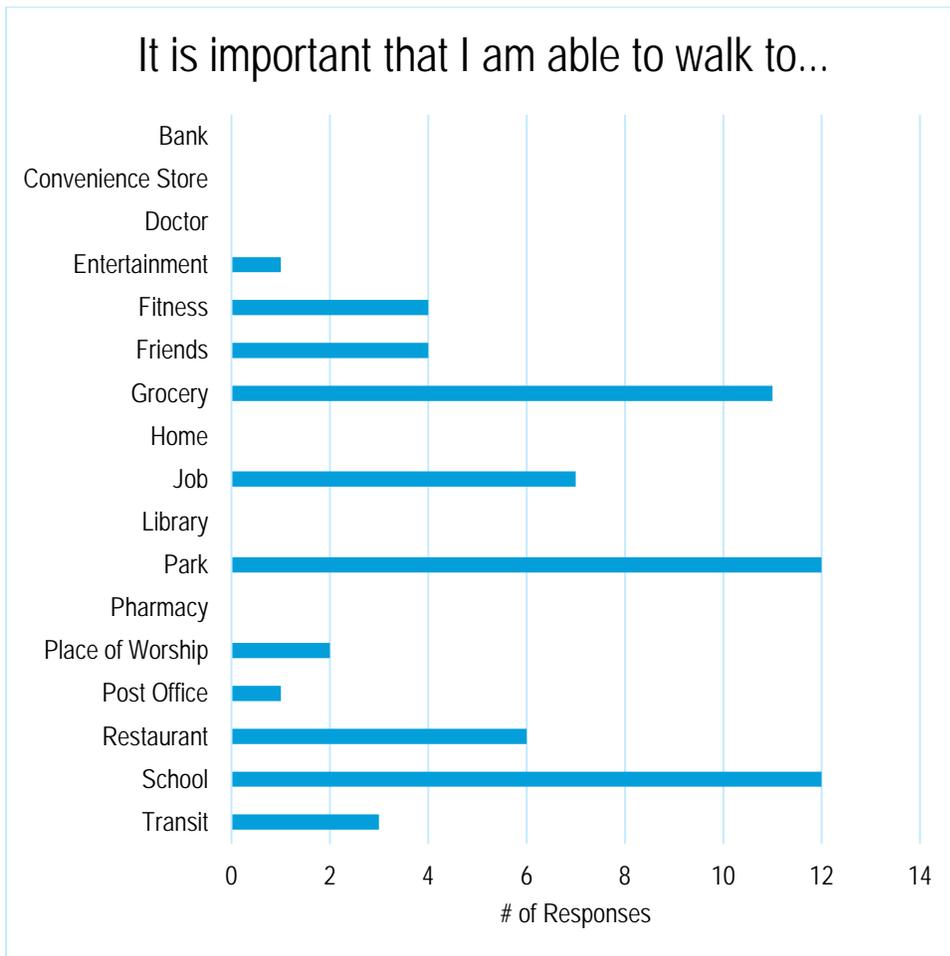


Figure 45: Top destinations from Minnesota American Planning Association (APA) Conference

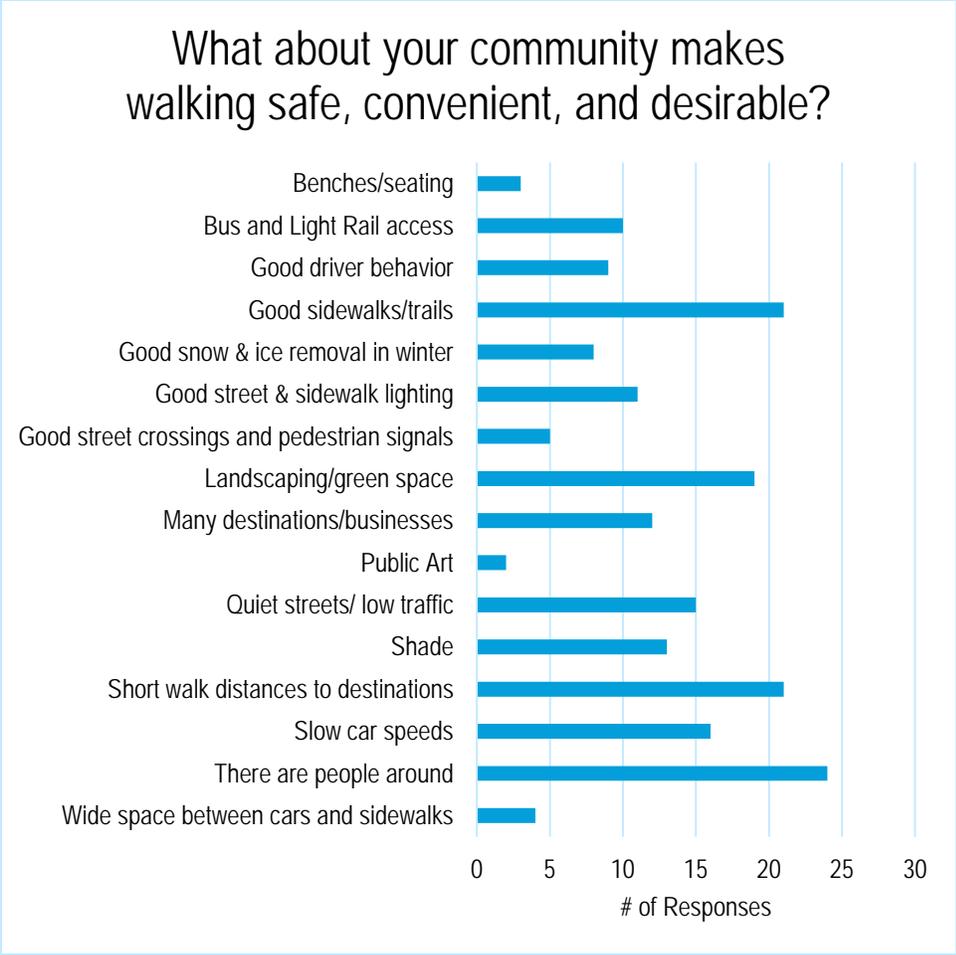


Figure 46: Factors that make a community walkable from Minnesota American Planning Association (APA) Conference

What about your community makes walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable?

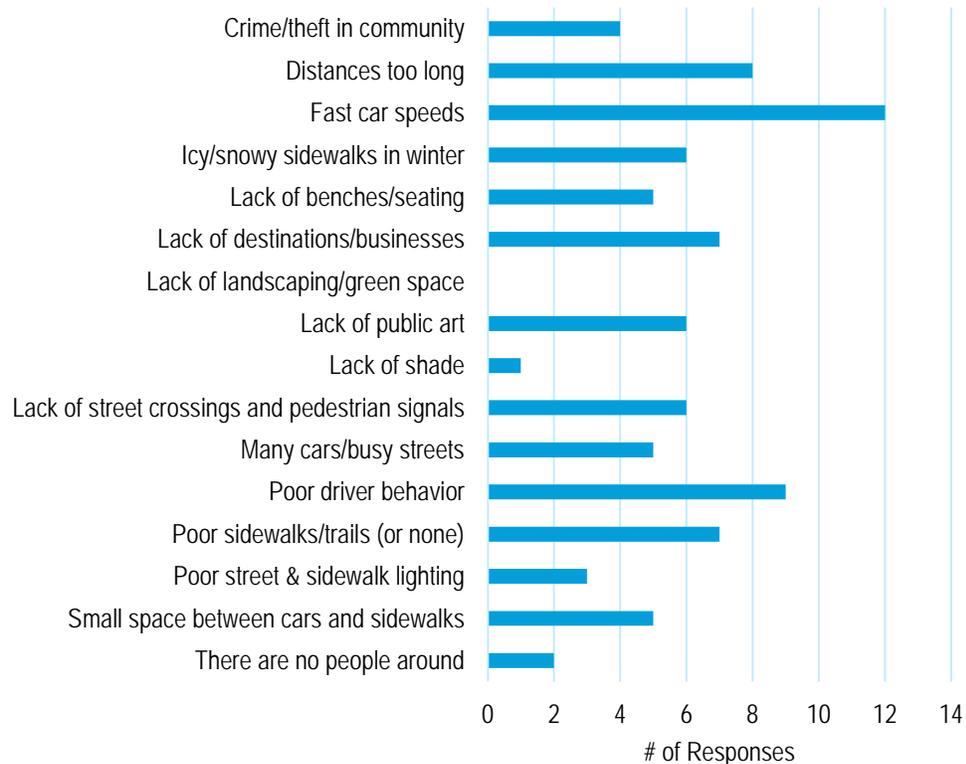


Figure 47: Factors that make a community less walkable from Minnesota American Planning Association (APA) Conference

Minnesota Medical Association: Public Health Committee Meeting

The Minnesota Medical Association's Public Health Committee Meeting was held on August 17th, 2015 in Minneapolis. Approximately 11 medical doctors participated in the two activities. The group also discussed how the Minnesota Medical Association may be interested with the implementation of policies and programs in the Plan. The top destinations reported were the grocery store, park, and restaurant. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking safe, convenient, and desirable were good snow and ice removal and shade. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable were icy/snowy sidewalks in winter, and fast car speeds.

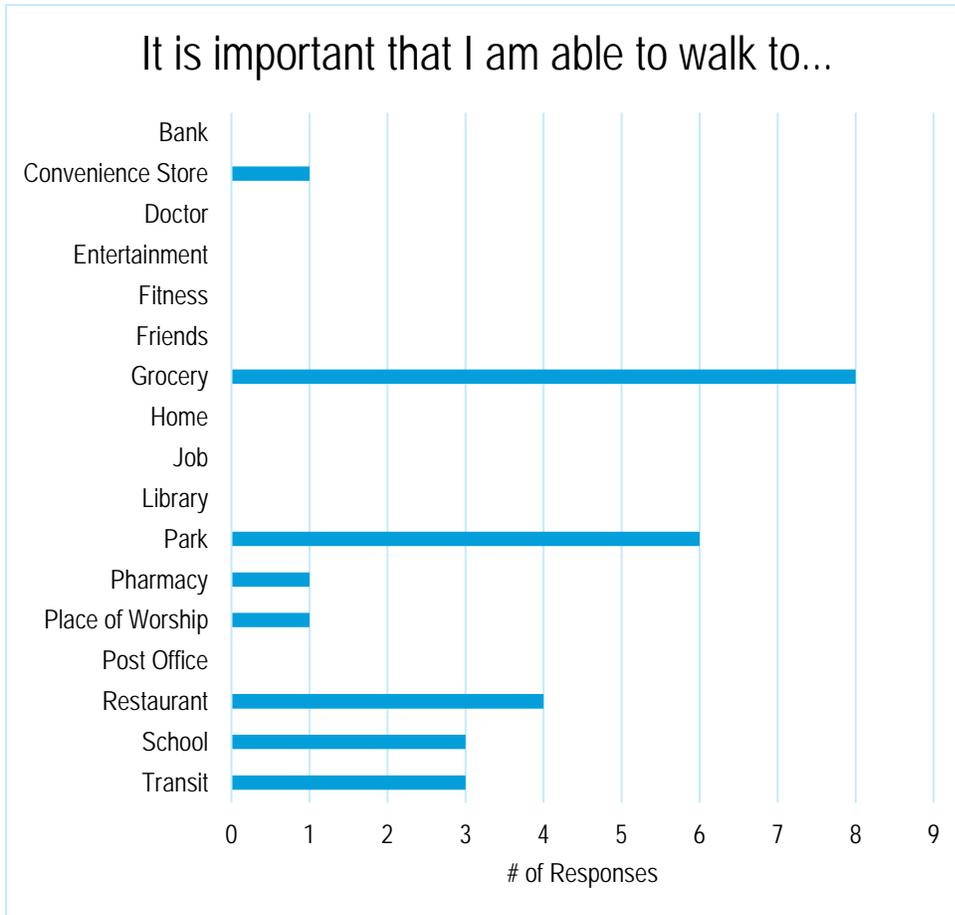


Figure 48: Top destinations from Minnesota Medical Association: Public Health Committee Meeting

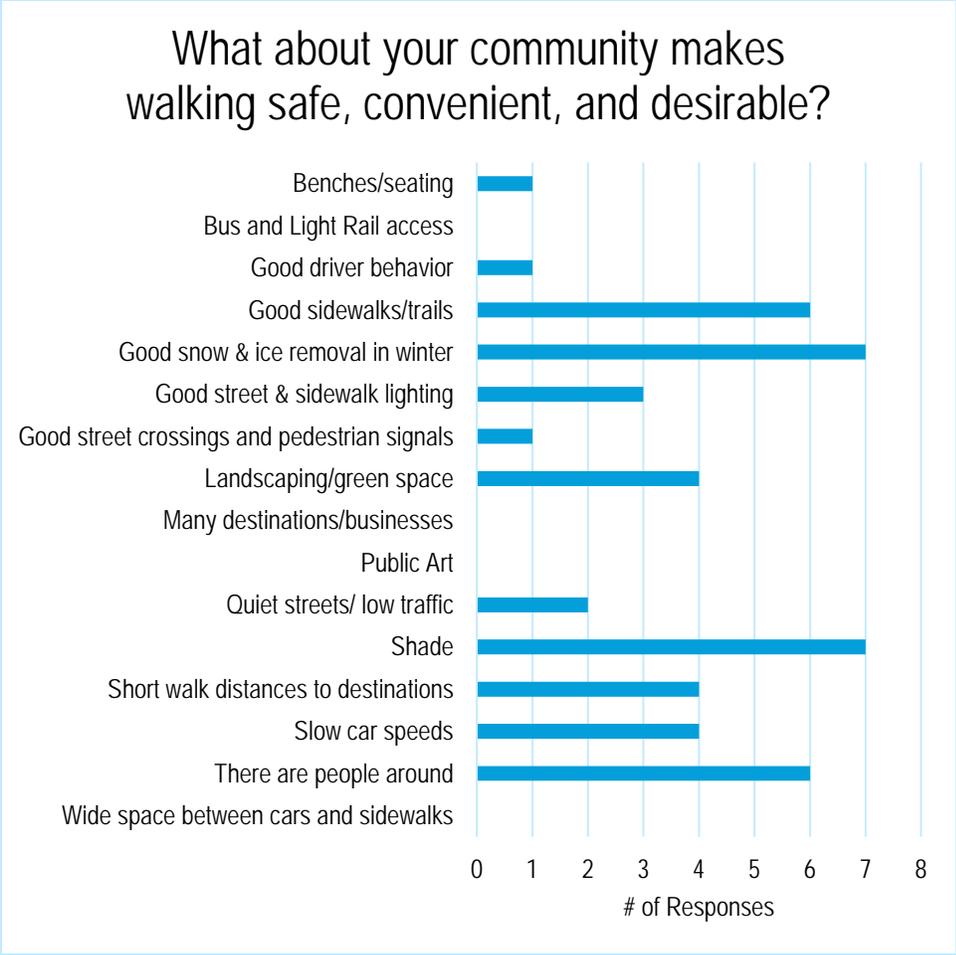


Figure 49: Factors that make a community walkable from Minnesota Medical Association: Public Health Committee Meeting

What about your community makes walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable?

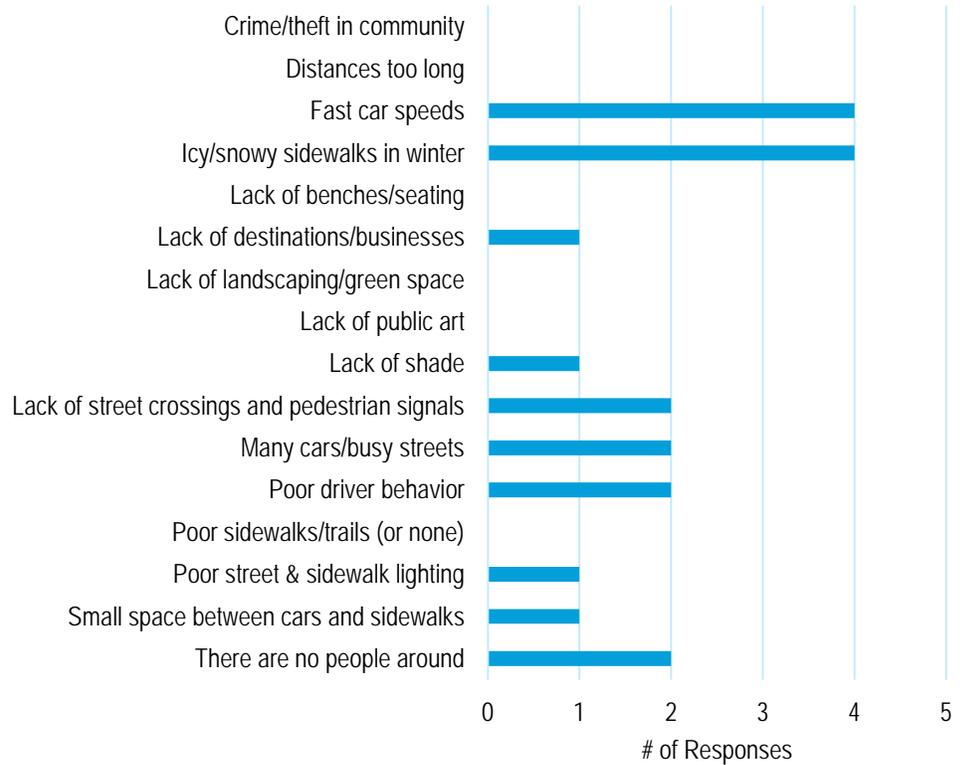


Figure 50: Factors that make a community less walkable from Minnesota Medical Association: Public Health Committee Meeting

Move and Make on Main

Move and Make on Main was held on Saturday, September 12th, 2015 in Shakopee. The walk and bicycle friendly community gathering is an annual celebration of local businesses, trails, public spaces, art, and environmentally friendly initiatives throughout the city. Members of the project team facilitated the activities, which attracted approximately 100 participants, including local community members from a nearby low-income neighborhood and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community. The top destinations reported were parks, restaurant, and grocery store. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking safe, convenient, and desirable were slow car speeds, the presence of other people, quiet streets/low traffic, and good sidewalks/trails. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable were fast car speeds, poor driver behavior, and a lack of street crossings and pedestrian signals.

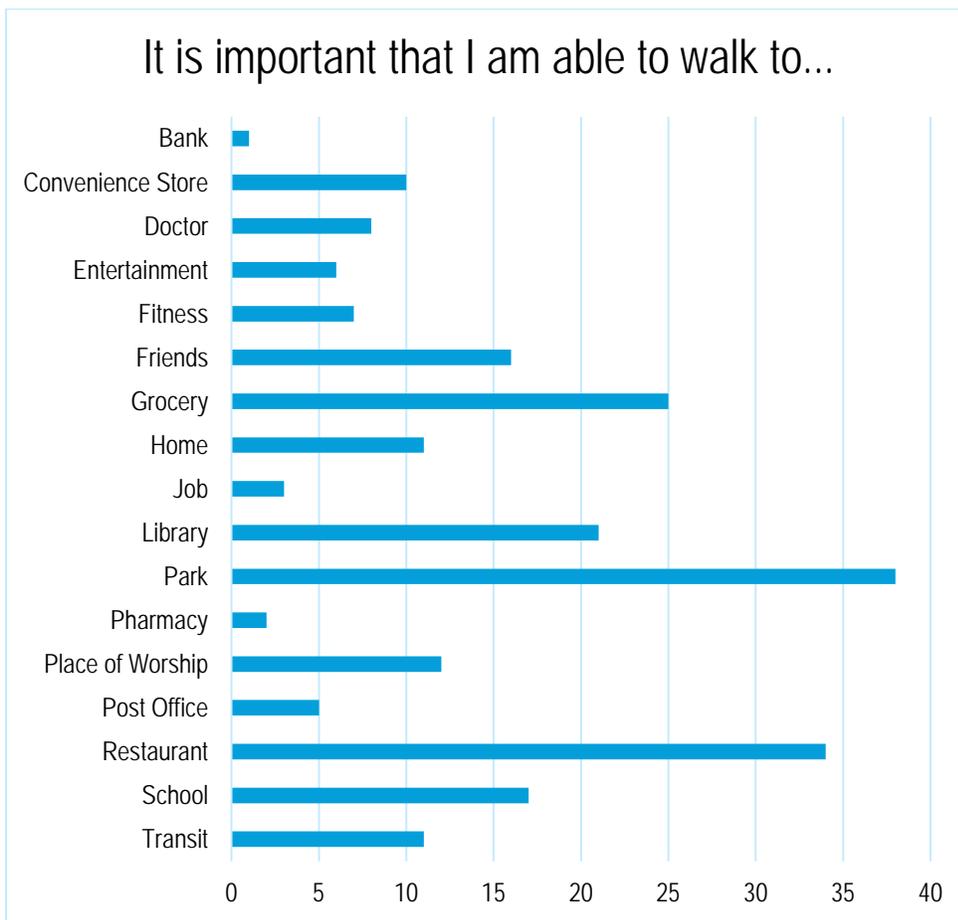


Figure 51: Top destinations from Move and Make on Main

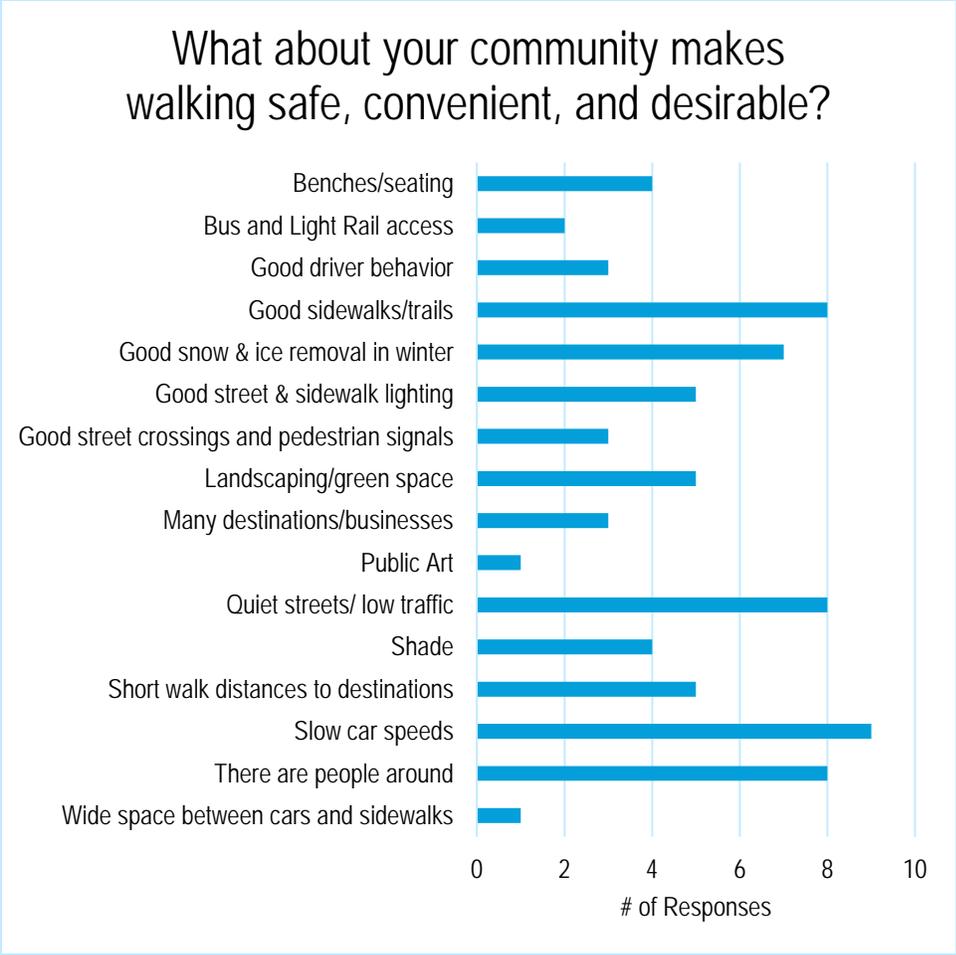


Figure 52: Factors that make a community walkable from Move and Make on Main

What about your community makes walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable?

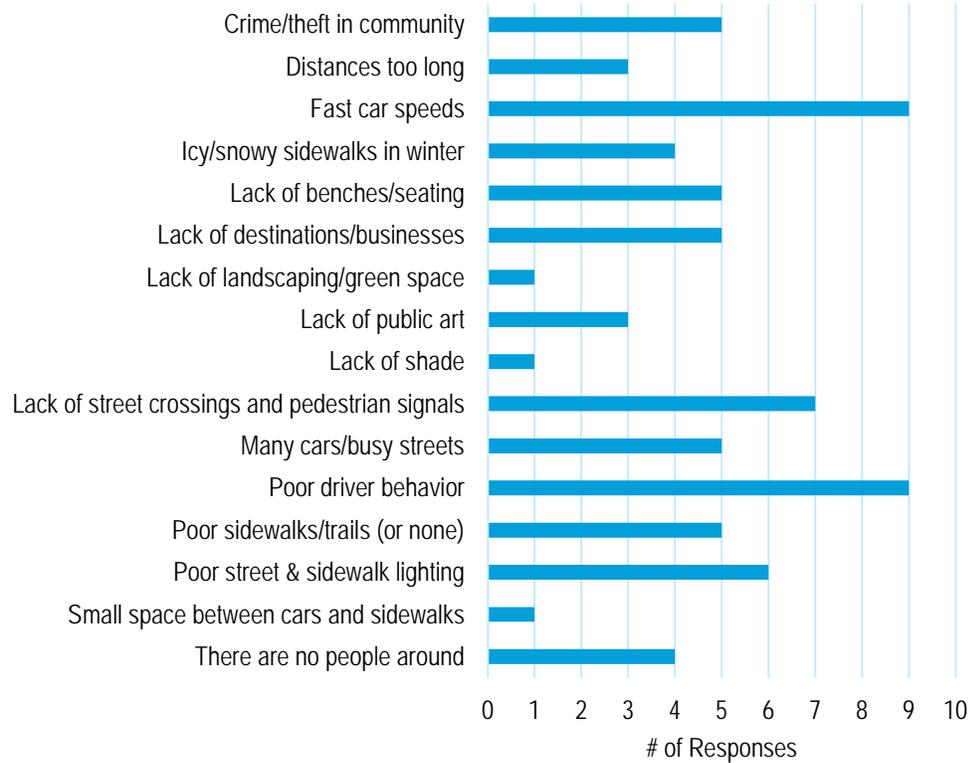


Figure 53: Factors that make a community less walkable from Move and Make on Main

Open Streets Downtown

Open Streets Downtown is one of a number of free Open Streets events held in Minneapolis where the street (or multiple streets) are car-free and open for people to walk, bike, shop and participate in a variety of activities. Open Streets Downtown took place on August 23rd, 2015 in downtown Minneapolis and attracted many young families with children. The Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee tabled at the event, and approximately thirty people from the public participated in Activity One. The top destinations reported were the grocery store, park, and restaurant.



Figure 54: Top destinations from Open Streets Downtown

Regional Development Organizations (RDO) Quarterly Transportation Planners Meeting

The RDO Quarterly Transportation Planners Meeting was held in Duluth on August 25th, 2015. The activities were facilitated by a project team member transportation planners from regional development organizations throughout the state participated. Eight of the attendees participated in the activities during the event. The top destinations reported were parks, restaurant, and entertainment. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking safe, convenient, and desirable were quiet streets/low traffic, slow car speeds, shade, and landscaping/green space. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable were a lack of benches, lack of street crossings and pedestrian signals, and poor street and sidewalk lighting.

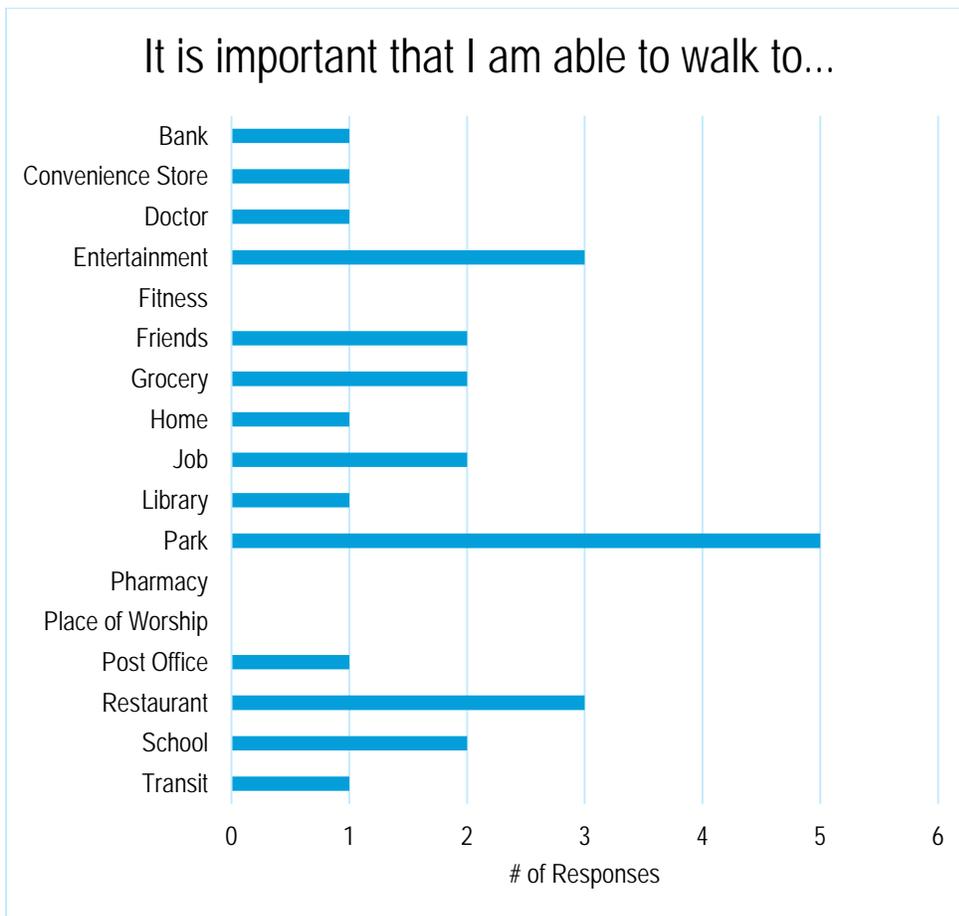


Figure 55: Top destinations from Regional Development Organizations (RDO) Quarterly Transportation Planners Meeting

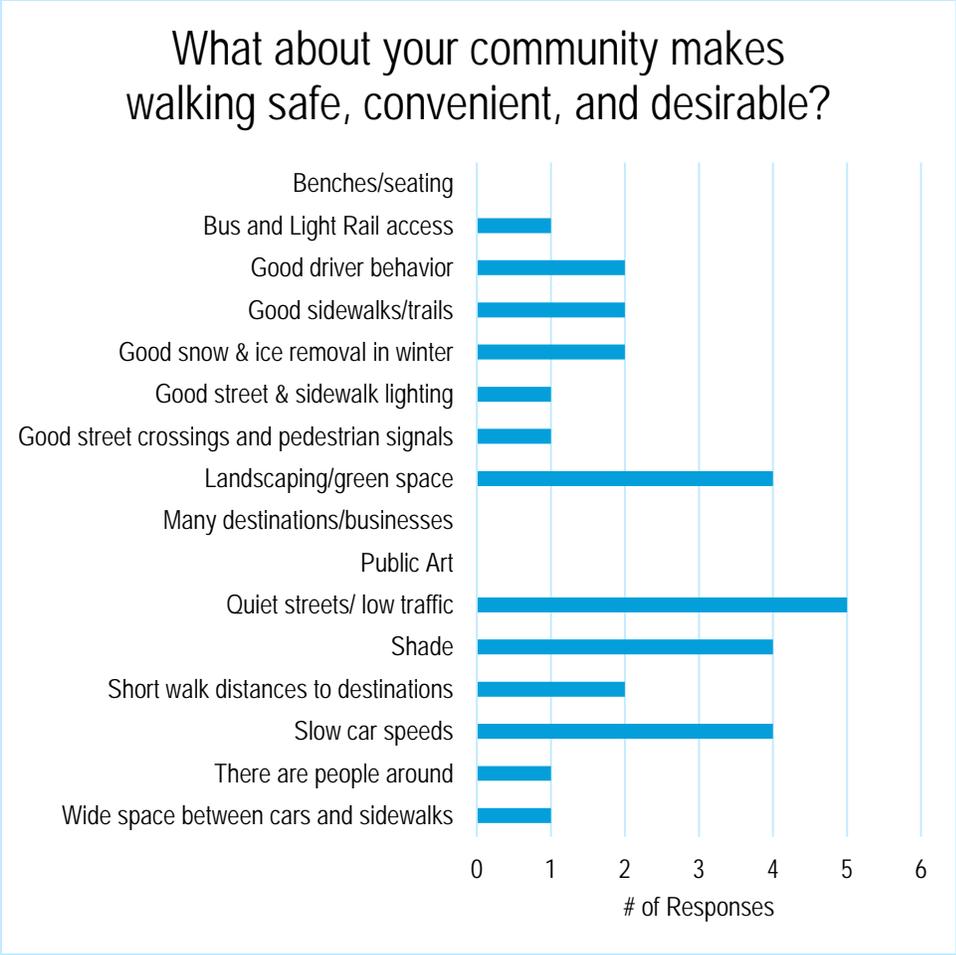


Figure 56: Factors that make a community walkable from Regional Development Organizations (RDO) Quarterly Transportation Planners Meeting

What about your community makes walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable?

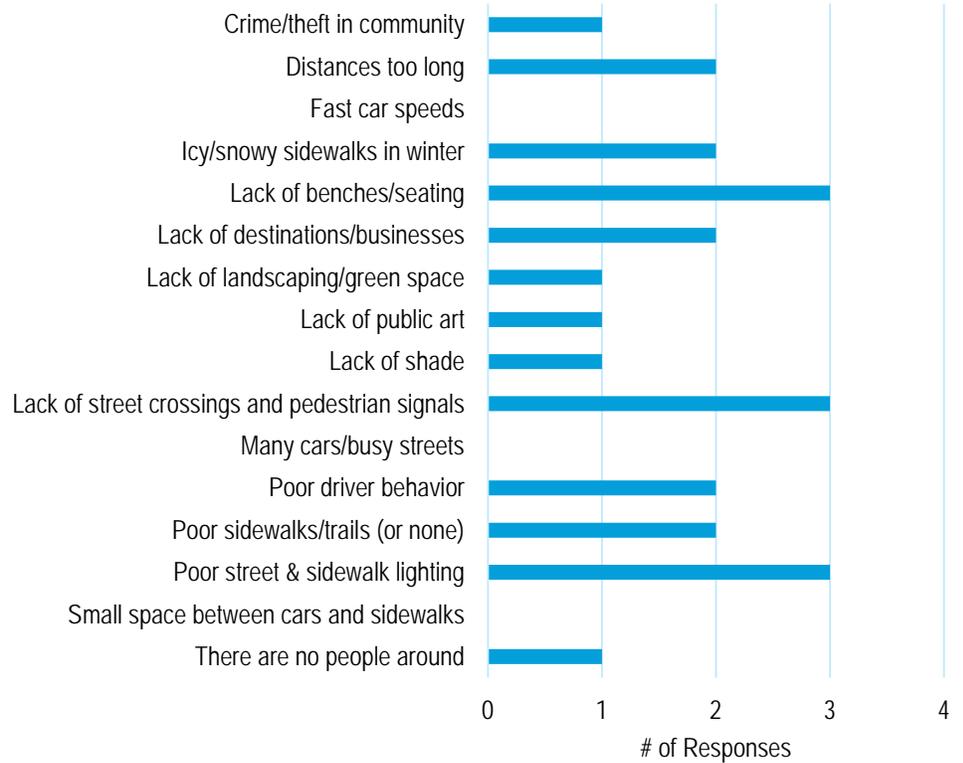


Figure 57: Factors that make a community less walkable from Regional Development Organizations (RDO) Quarterly Transportation Planners Meeting

Region 7W Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

The Region 7W Transportation Advisory Committee meeting was held in St. Cloud on September 16th, 2015 and included county and city transportation representatives within Benton, Sherburne, Stearns, and Wright counties. The activities were facilitated by a project team member and twenty meeting attendees participated, which included city engineers, county engineers, and transit directors. The top destinations reported were parks, school, and restaurants. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking safe, convenient, and desirable were the presence of other people and slow car speeds. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable were icy/snowy sidewalks, fast car speeds, busy streets, poor sidewalks/trails, lack of street crossings and pedestrian signals, and lack of destinations/businesses.

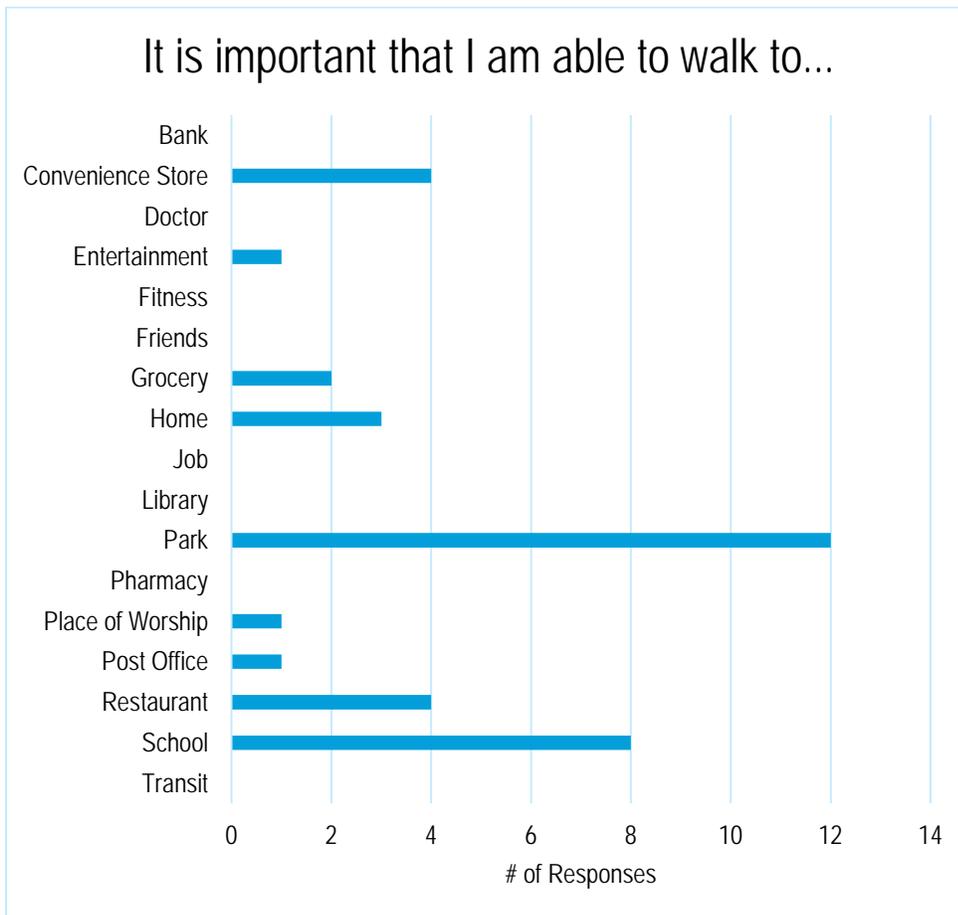


Figure 58: Top destinations from Region 7W Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

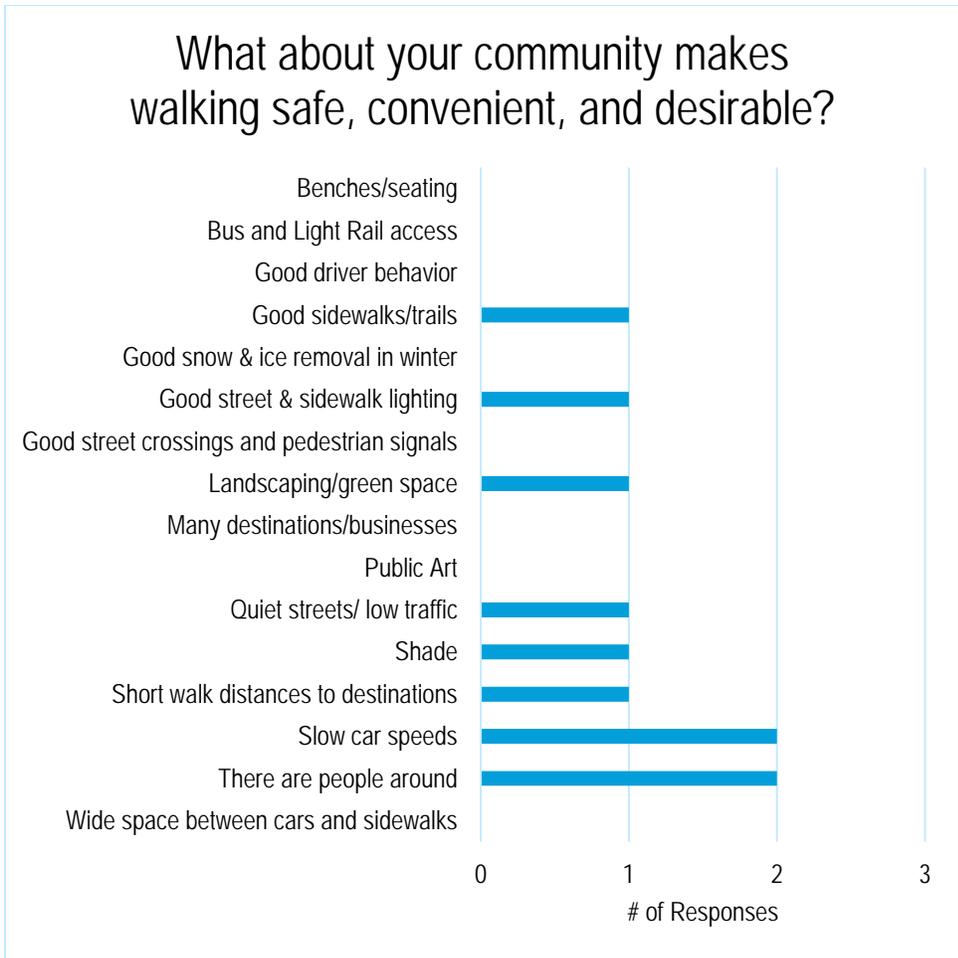


Figure 59: Factors that make a community walkable from Region 7W Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

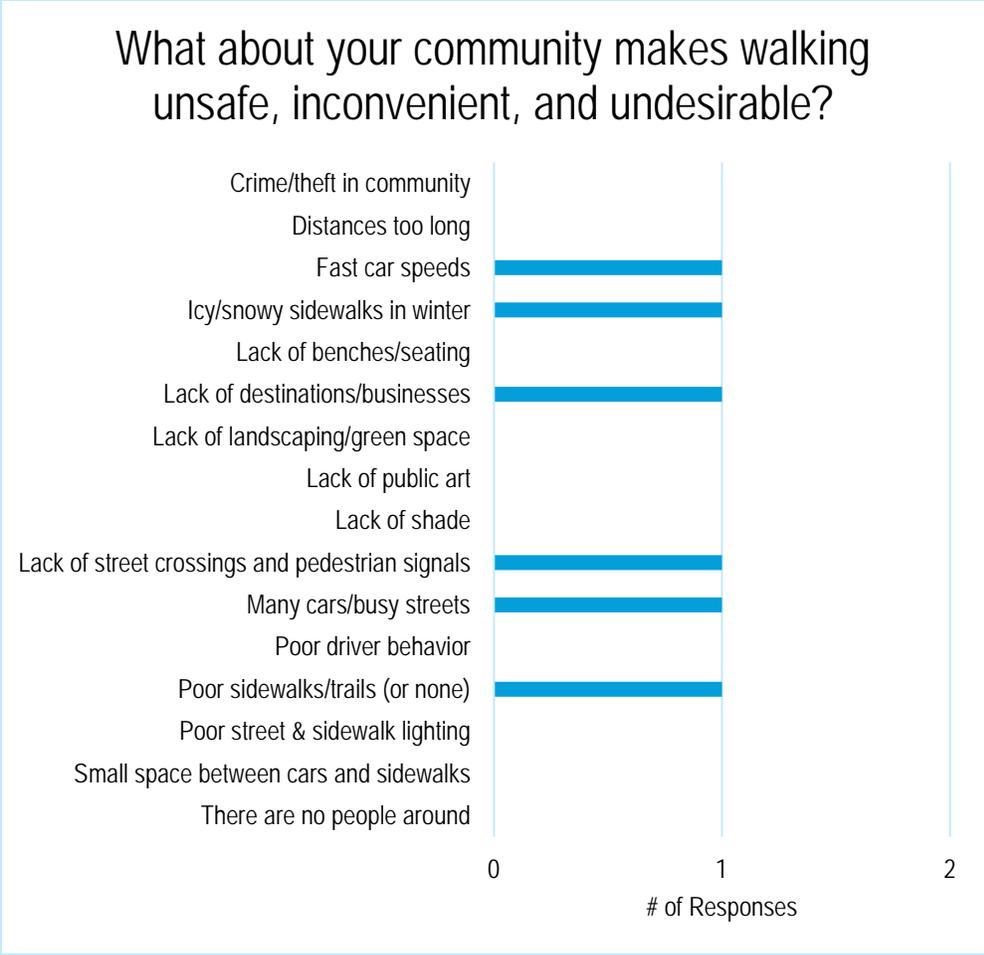


Figure 60: Factors that make a community less walkable from Region 7W Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Regional Active Transportation Plan Open House

The Regional Active Transportation Plan Open House was held on October 6th, 2015 in Becker. According to the facilitator, approximately 30 people attended the open house to review the Regional Active Transportation Plan analysis. The two activities were set up and facilitated by a member of the project team. About twenty attendees participated in the activities, which consisted of residents from small rural core communities in Wright, Benton, Stearns, and Sherburne counties. The top destinations reported were parks, job, and grocery store. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking safe, convenient, and desirable were the presence of other people, quiet streets/low traffic, and slow car speeds. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable were poor sidewalks/trails, fast car speeds, and poor driver behavior.

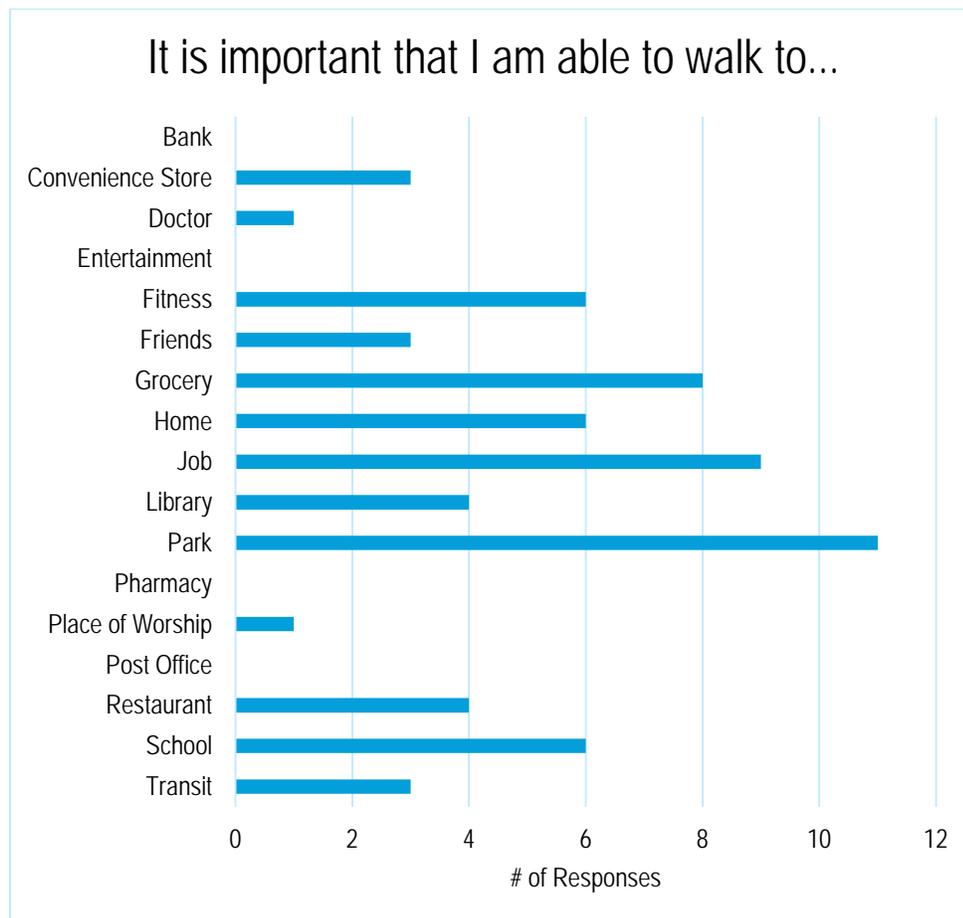


Figure 61: Top destinations from Regional Active Transportation Plan Open House

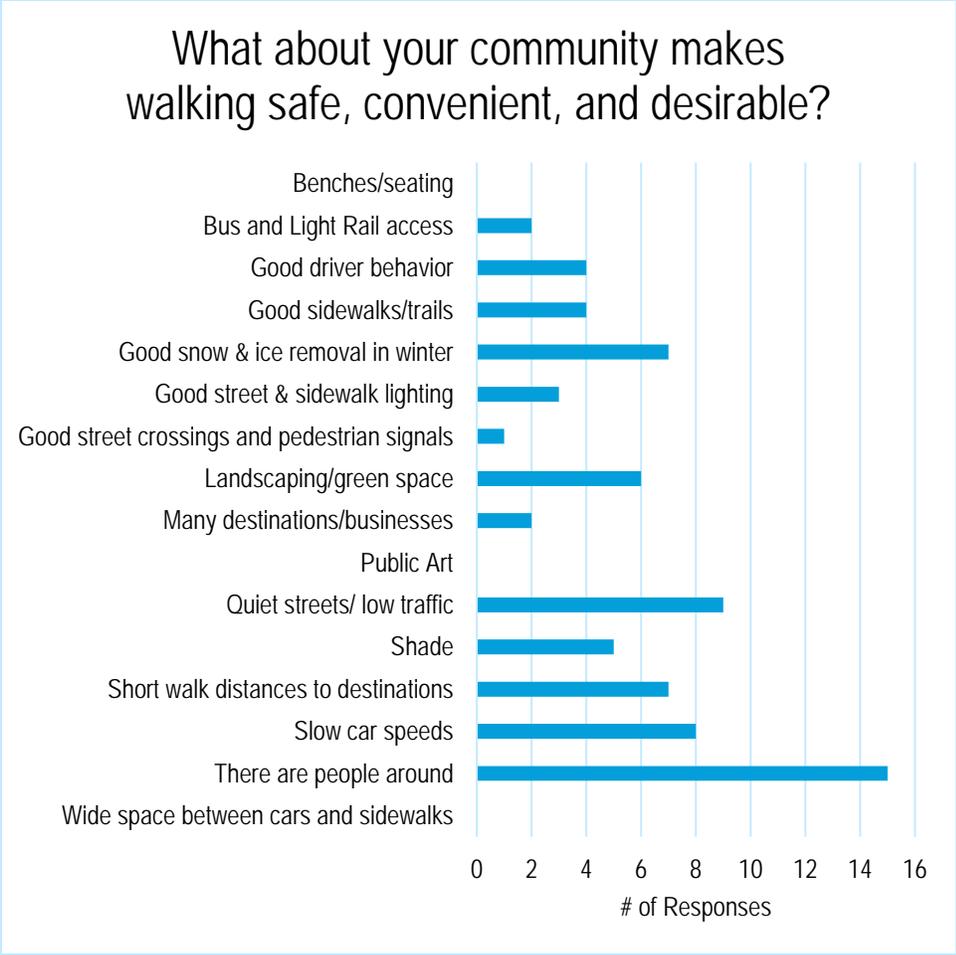


Figure 62: Factors that make a community walkable from Regional Active Transportation Plan Open House

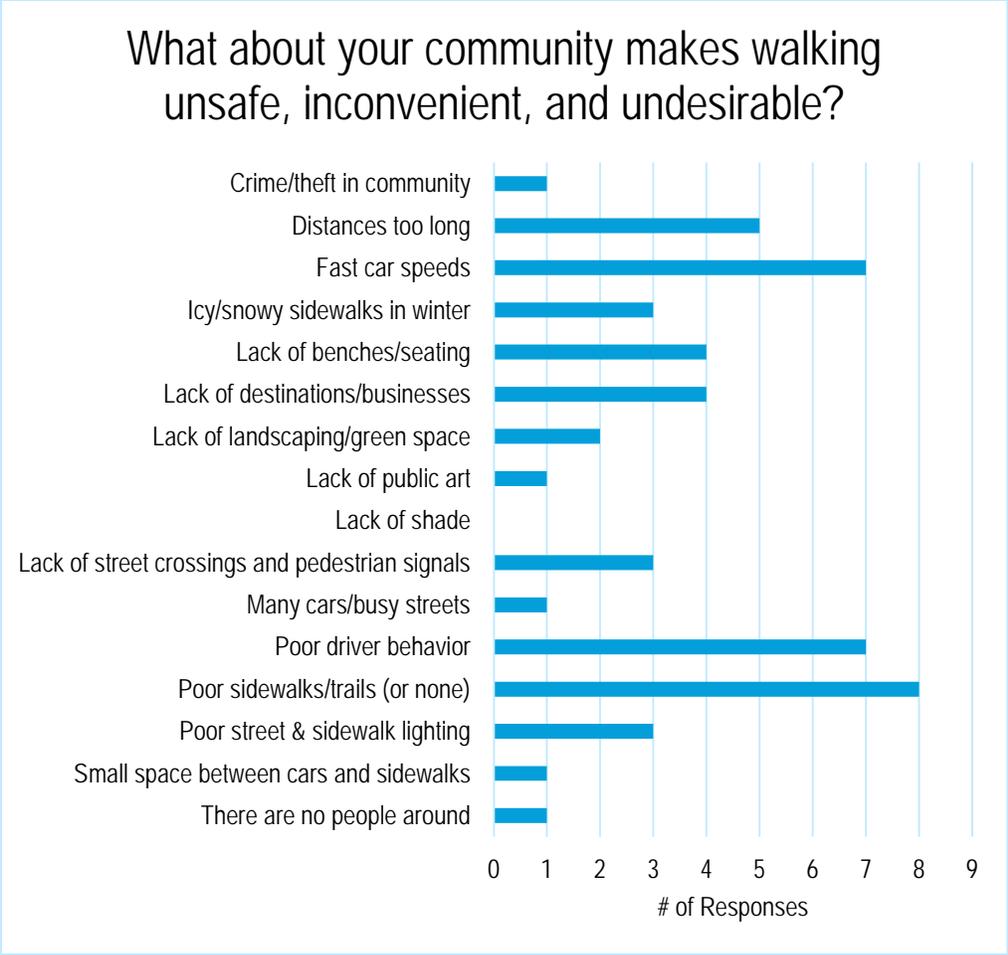


Figure 63: Factors that make a community less walkable from Regional Active Transportation Plan Open House

Riverwalk Market Fair

Riverwalk Market Fair is a weekly event each Saturday from June-October in Northfield. Project staff attended the event on Saturday October 10th, 2015 for three hours and engaged approximately eighty people at the fair which included children/youth and residents of small rural core communities. The top destinations reported were restaurants, grocery stores, and parks. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking safe, convenient, and desirable were quiet streets/low traffic, short walk distances to destinations, and having other people around. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable were poor sidewalks/trails (or none), lack of street crossings/pedestrian signals, and poor street and sidewalk lighting.



Image 8: A family with young children participate in the activities at a community event in Northfield.

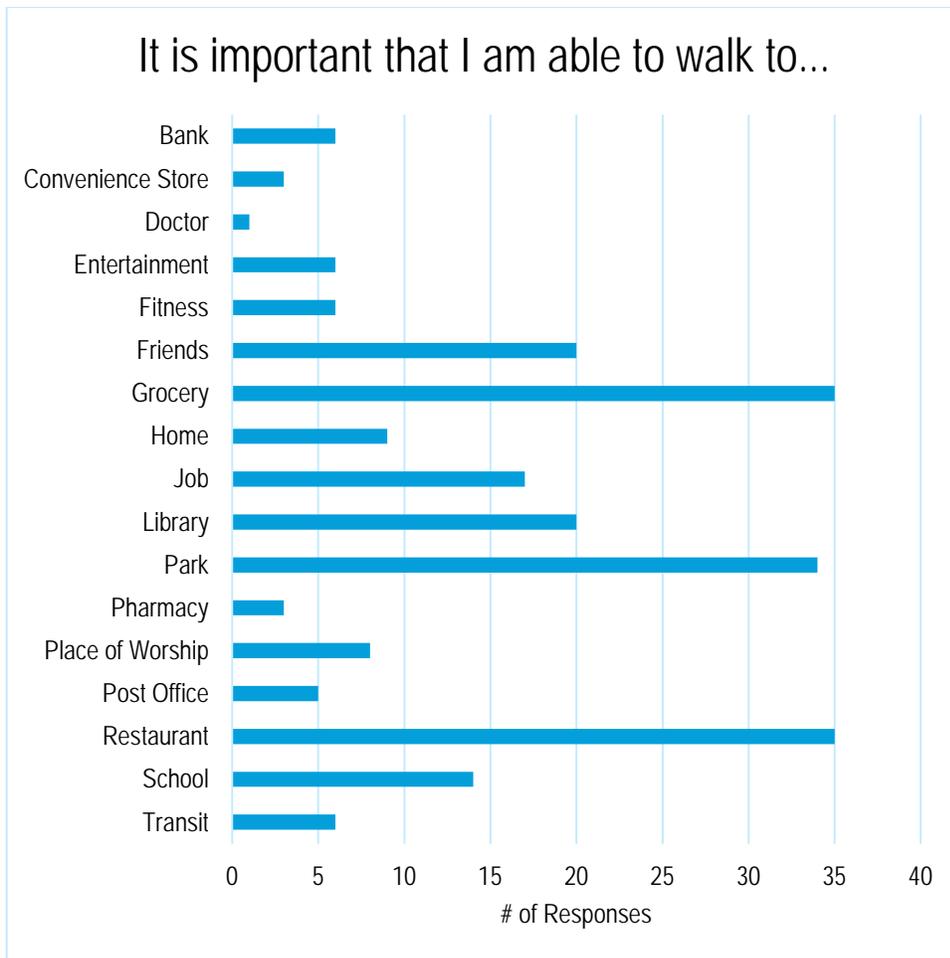


Figure 64: Top destinations from Riverwalk Market Fair

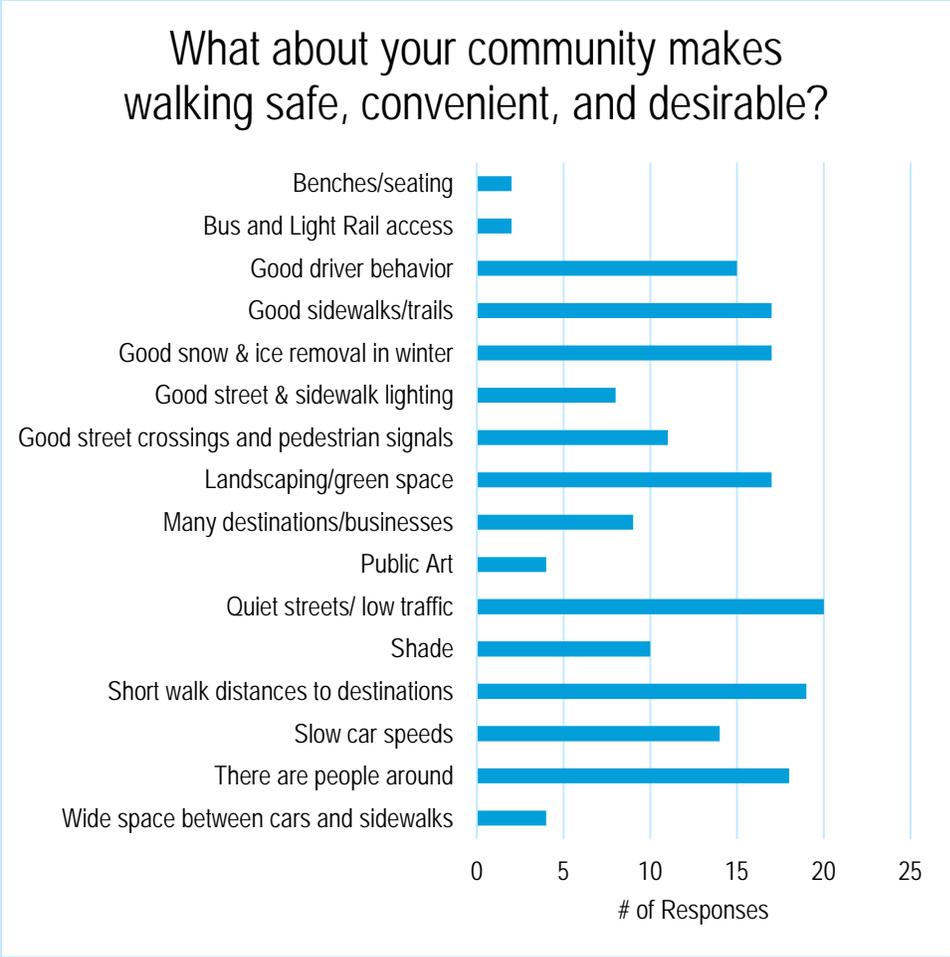


Figure 65: Factors that make a community walkable from Riverwalk Market Fair

What about your community makes walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable?

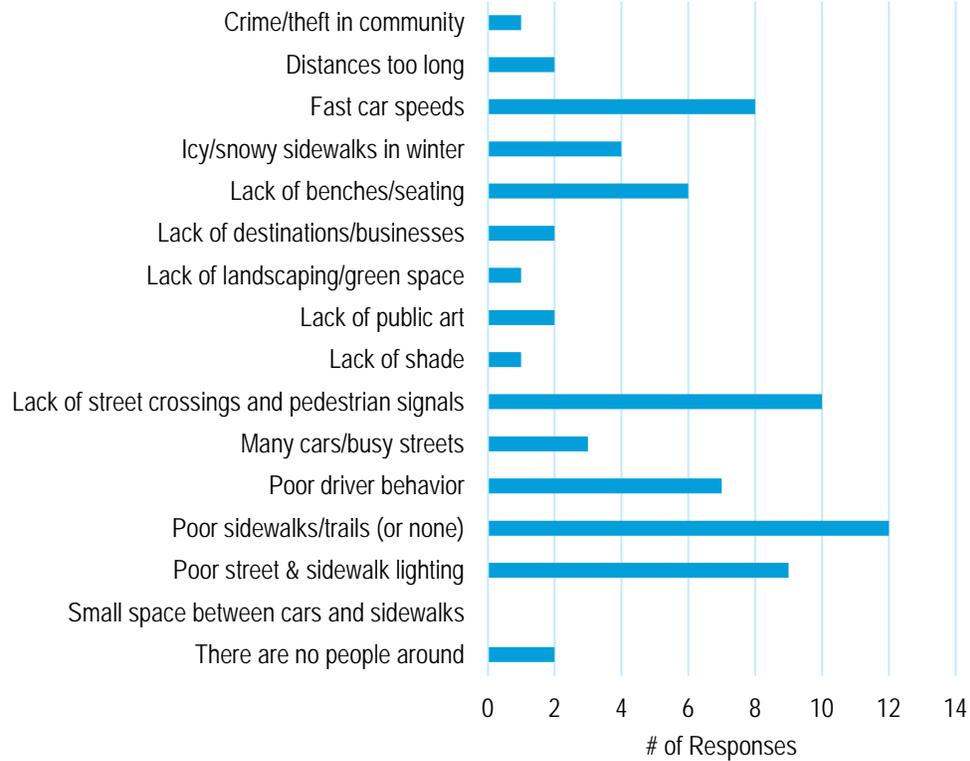


Figure 66: Factors that make a community less walkable from Riverwalk Market Fair

Saint Paul Public Library - Arlington Hills Community Center

Activity Two was set up in the Arlington Hills Community Center Saint Paul Public, which is located in a Payne-Phalen neighborhood where 30.1% of households have income below poverty.⁵ Over sixty people participated in the activity over the two week period in September 2015, including children/youth. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making safe, convenient, and desirable were having people around, quiet streets/low traffic, and good sidewalks/trails. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable were crime/theft in the community, fast car speeds (or none), and poor sidewalks/trails.



Image 9: A participant indicates their ideas in Activity Two at a library in Saint Paul.

⁵ See Minnesota Compass Census Data summary
<http://www.mncompass.org/profiles/neighborhoods/st-paul/payne-phalen>

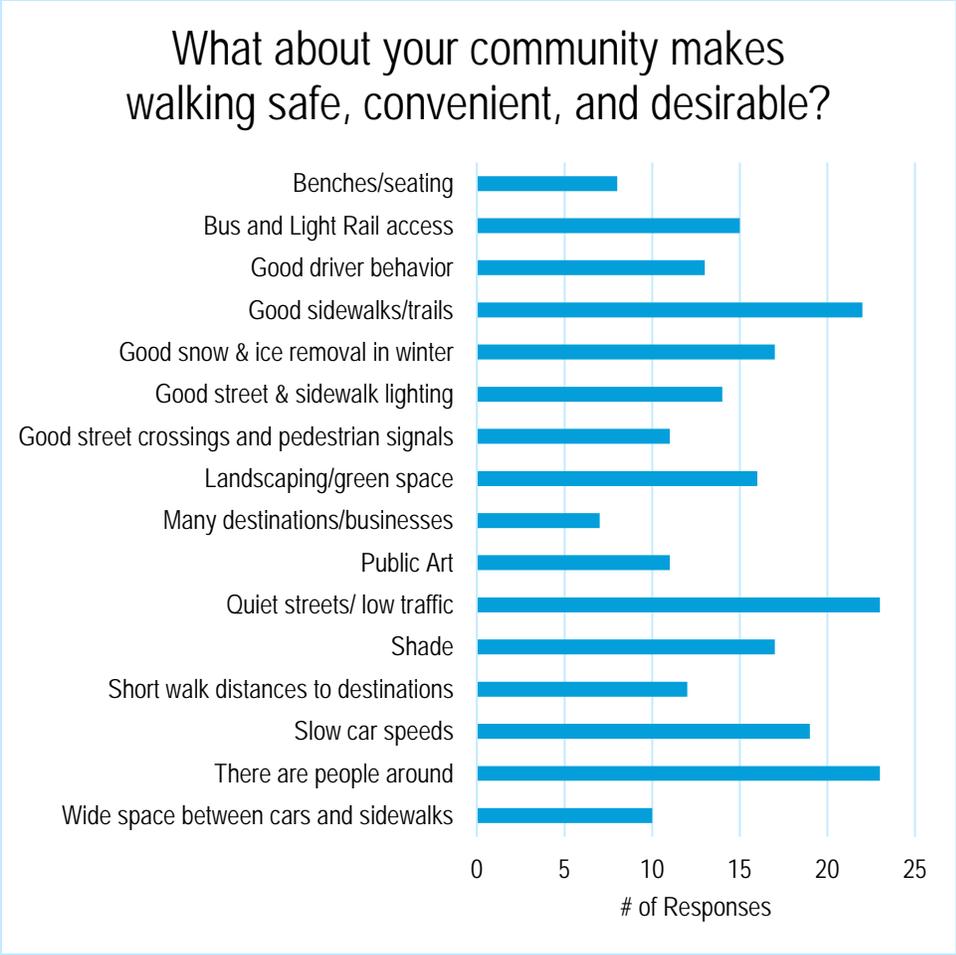


Figure 67: Factors that make a community walkable from Saint Paul Public Library - Arlington Hills Community Center

What about your community makes walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable?

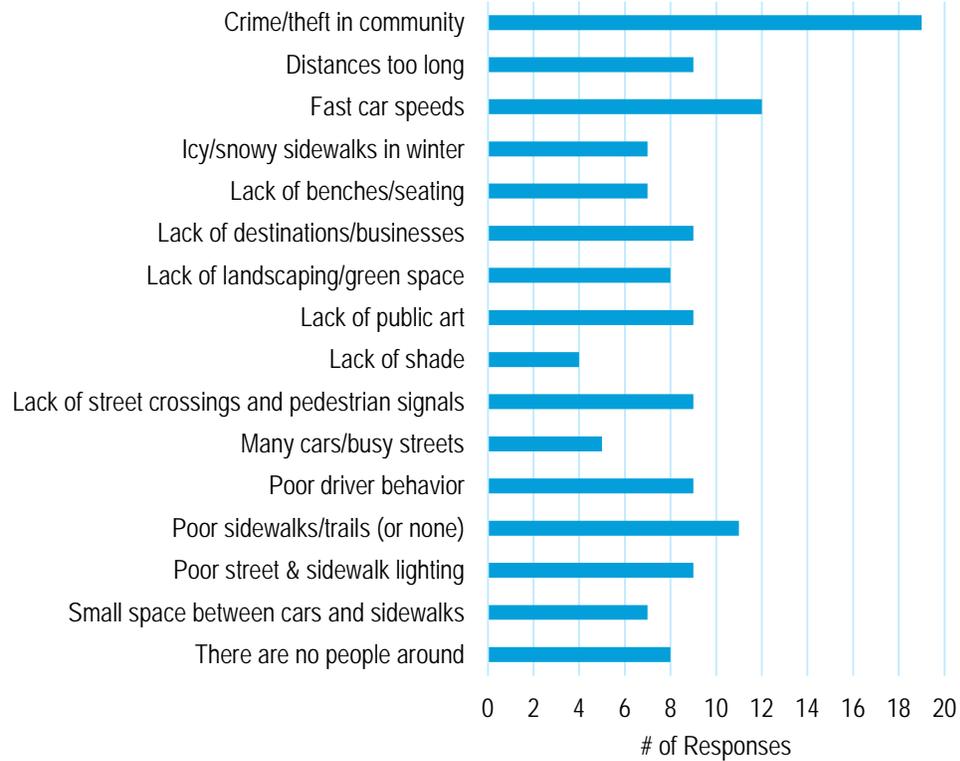


Figure 68: Factors that make a community less walkable from Saint Paul Public Library - Arlington Hills Community Center

Transportation on Tap

Transportation on Tap is a happy hour event hosted by Transit for Livable Communities (TLC) that includes a discussion on a featured topic related to biking, walking, or transit. The event was held on October 6th, 2015 and was attended by members of TLC and the broader community. Approximately 25 people participated in the two activities during the event, which were facilitated by an employee of Transit for Livable Communities. The top destinations reported were transit, restaurants, and jobs. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking safe, convenient, and desirable were shade, and the presence of other people. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable were fast car speeds and poor driver behavior.

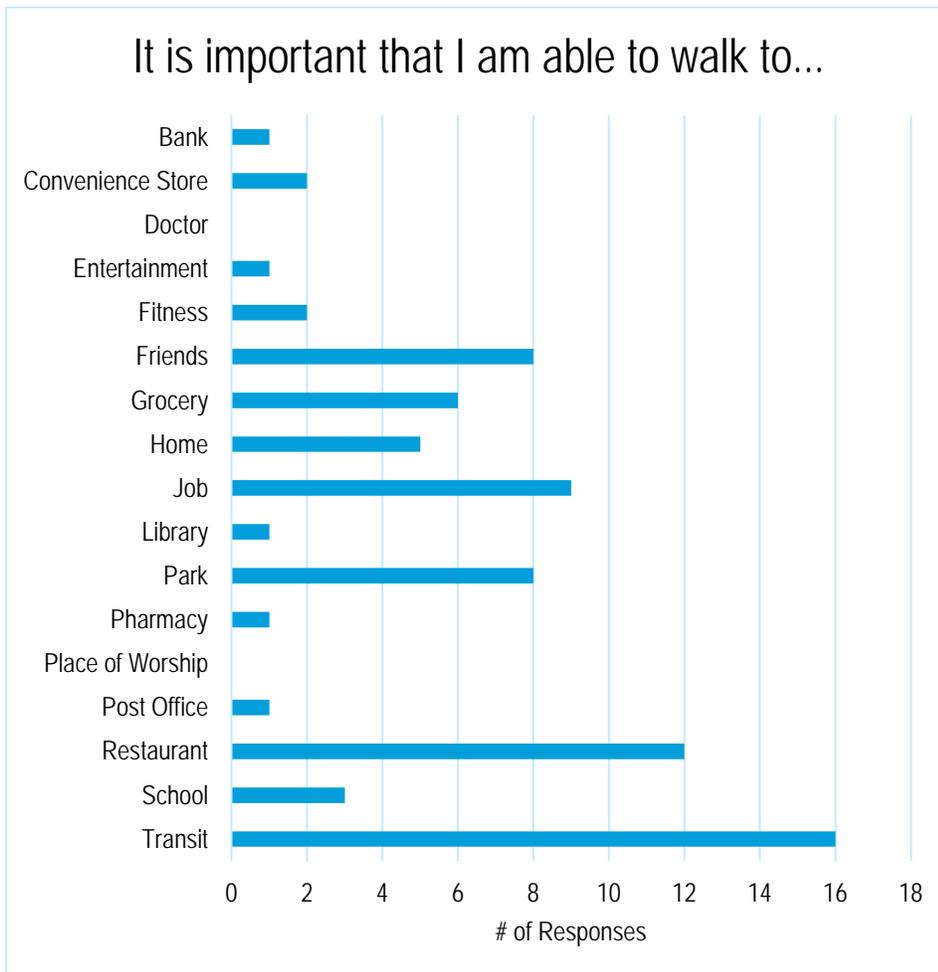


Figure 69: Top destinations from Transportation on Tap

What about your community makes walking safe, convenient, and desirable?

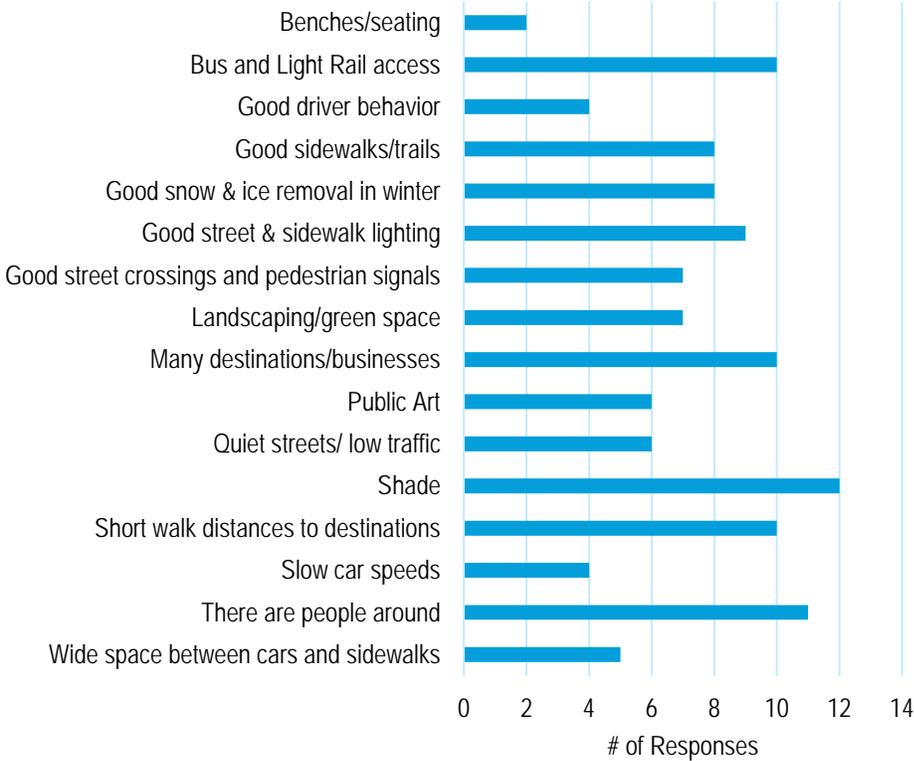


Figure 70: Factors that make a community walkable from Transportation on Tap

What about your community makes walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable?

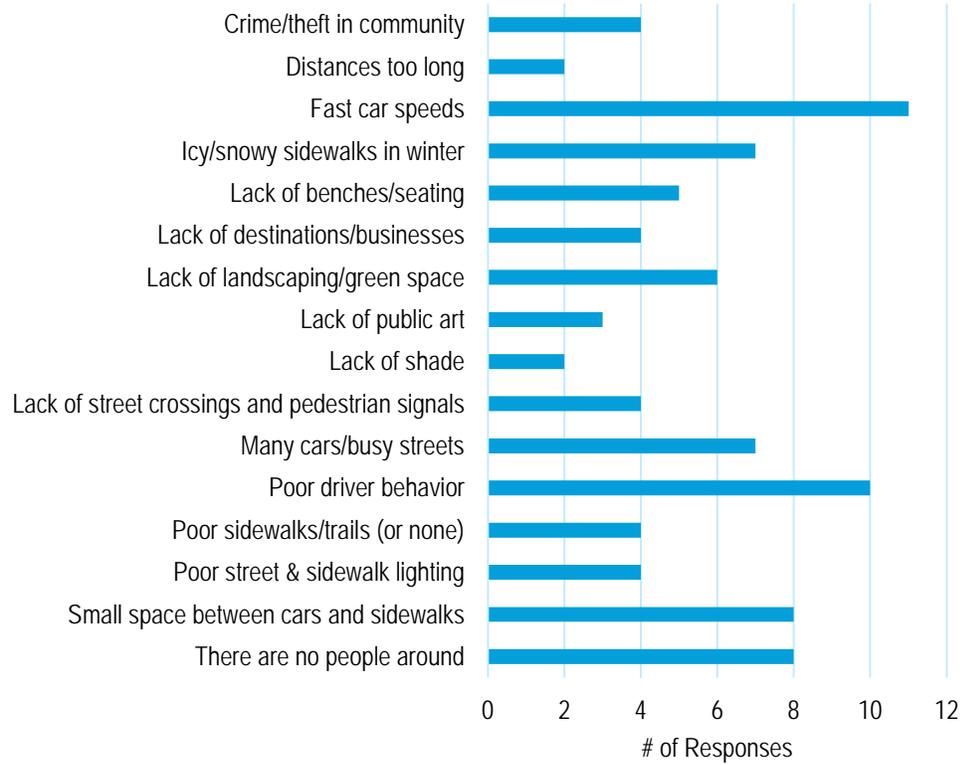


Figure 71: Factors that make a community less walkable from Transportation on Tap

2015 Minnesota State Fair

The Minnesota State Fair is one of the largest state fairs in the country, attracting over 1.7 million visitors per year. The activities were set up in the Eco Experience building for all twelve days of the 2015 State Fair in August and garnered input from over 3,200 respondents. The activities were facilitated by project staff on some days, and left without a facilitator on other days. State Fair attendees represent a diverse group of populations throughout Minnesota, including many of the priority populations. The top destinations reported were parks, and home. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking safe, convenient, and desirable were the presence of other people, good sidewalks/trails, and shade. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable were fast car speeds, poor driver behavior, and poor sidewalks/trails.



Image 10: An attendee of the 2015 Minnesota State Fair participates in activity one.



Figure 72: Top destinations from 2015 Minnesota State Fair

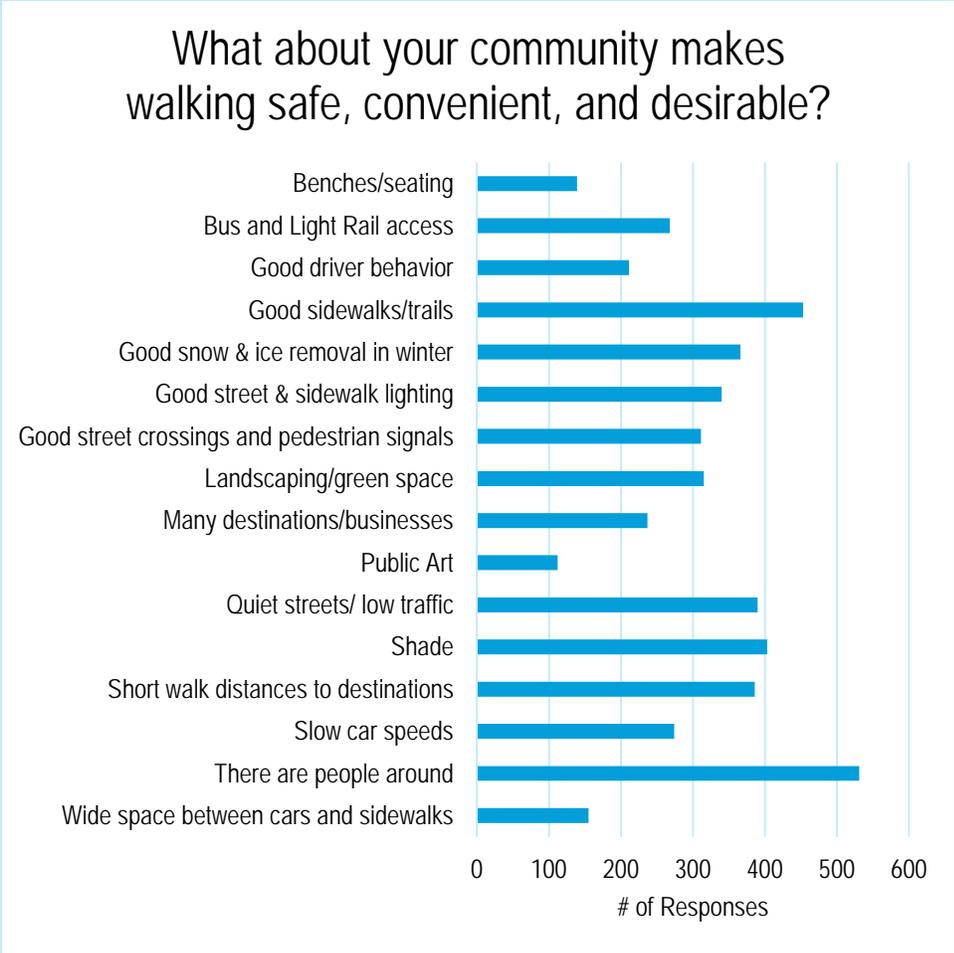


Figure 73: Factors that make a community walkable from 2015 Minnesota State Fair

What about your community makes walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable?

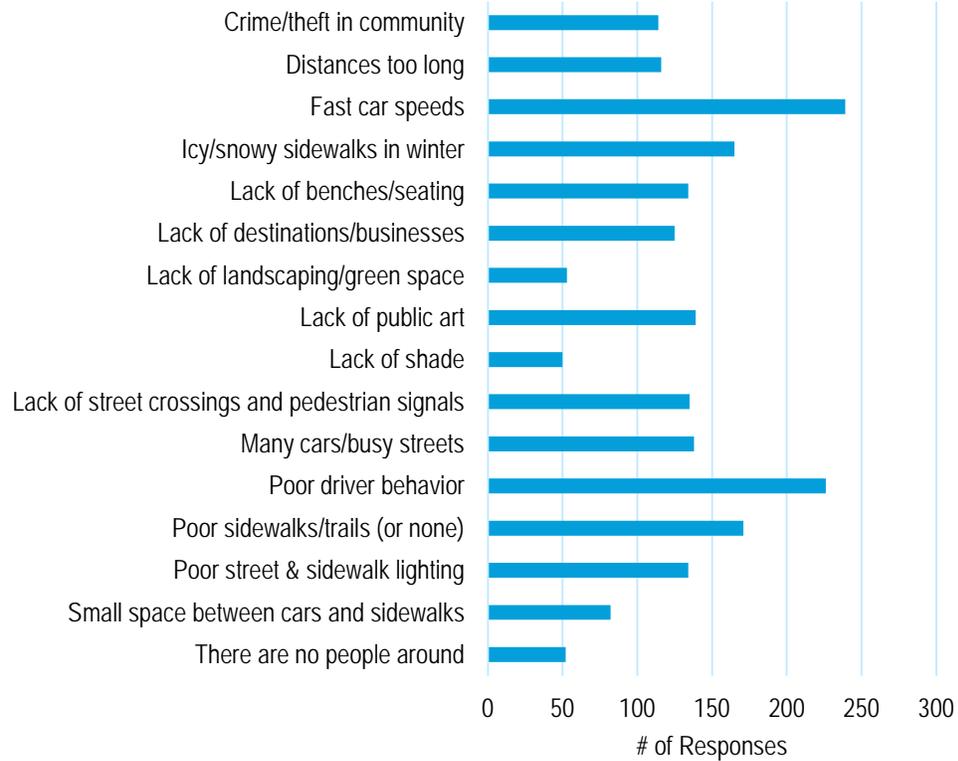


Figure 74: Factors that make a community less walkable from 2015 Minnesota State Fair

Visual Preference & Pedestrian Survey Open House

The Visual Preference & Pedestrian Survey Open House was held on August 27th, 2015 in Winona and was attended by members of the community in Winona. The volunteer who conducted the engagement was from Live Well Winona. Approximately 58 attendees participated in the activities, which were facilitated by an employee of Live Well Winona, a non-profit dedicated to supporting healthy activities and lifestyles. The top destinations reported were school, restaurant, and grocery store. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking safe, convenient, and desirable were the presence of other people, good sidewalks and trails, good snow and ice removal, and short walk distances to destinations. The top characteristics people identified as factors in making walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable were poor driver behavior, many cars/busy streets, and poor street and sidewalk lighting.

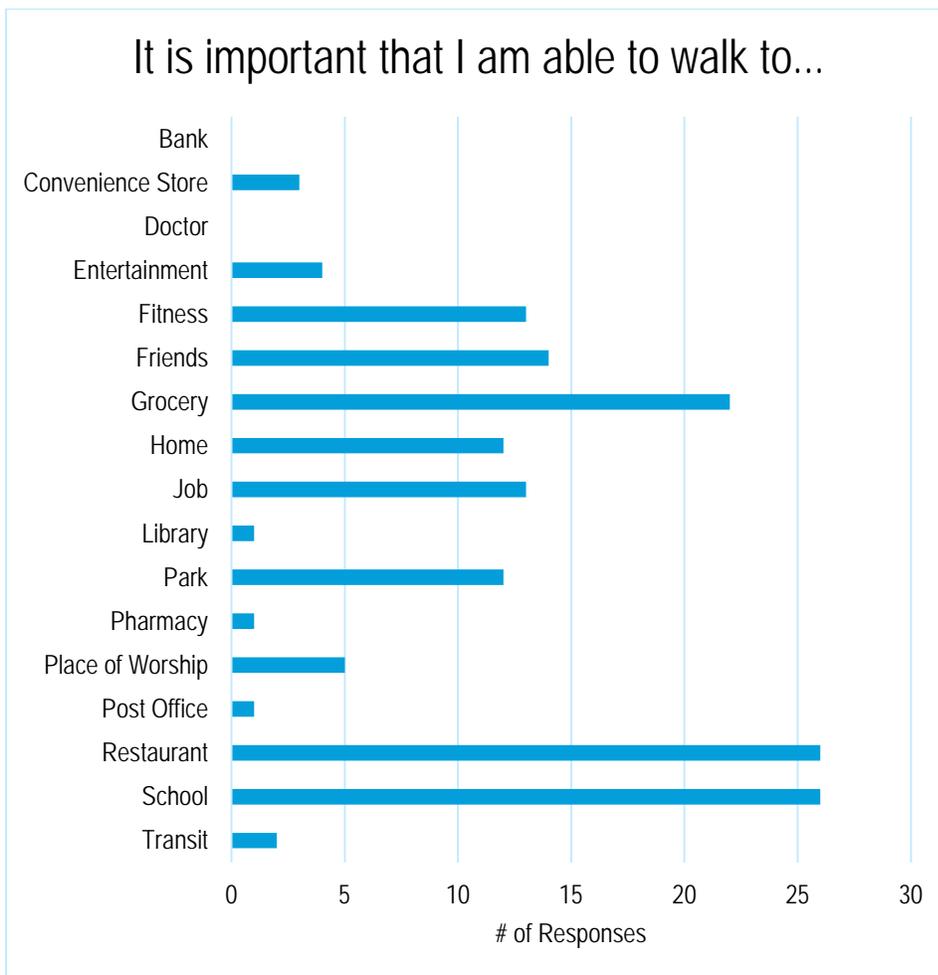


Figure 75: Top destinations from Visual Preference & Pedestrian Survey Open House

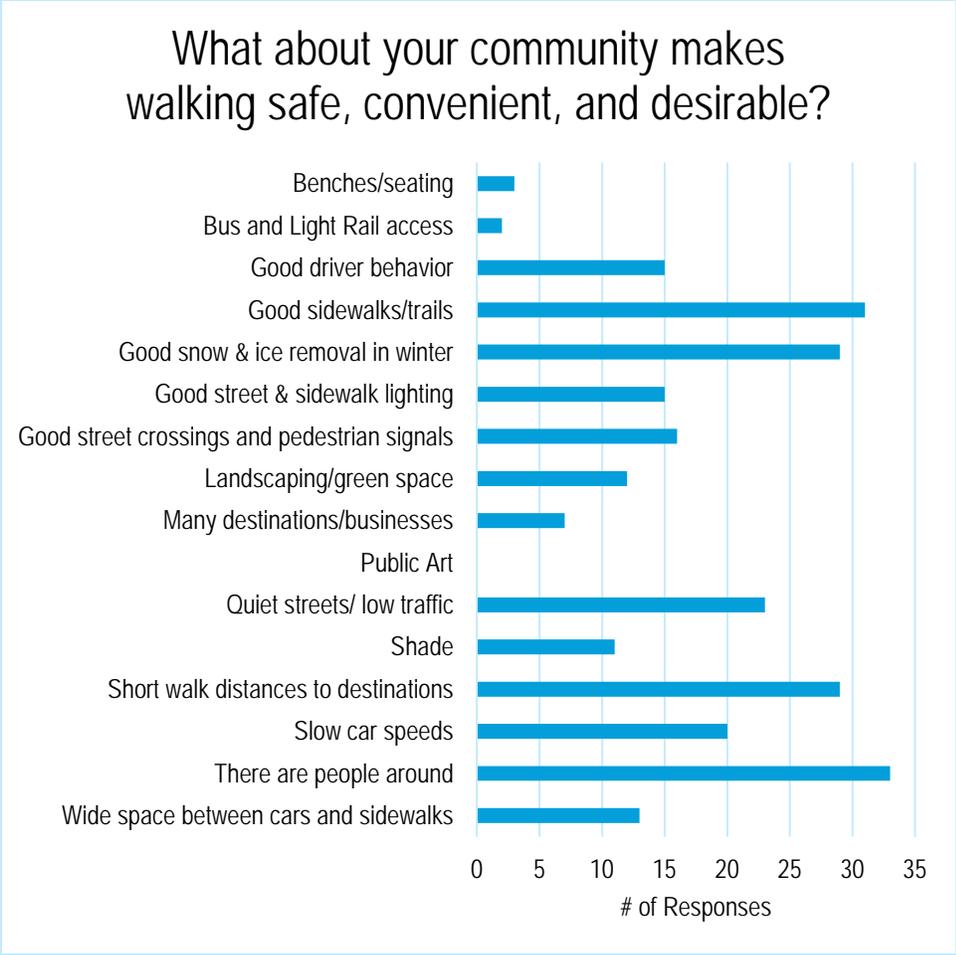


Figure 76: Factors that make a community walkable from Visual Preference & Pedestrian Survey Open House

What about your community makes walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable?

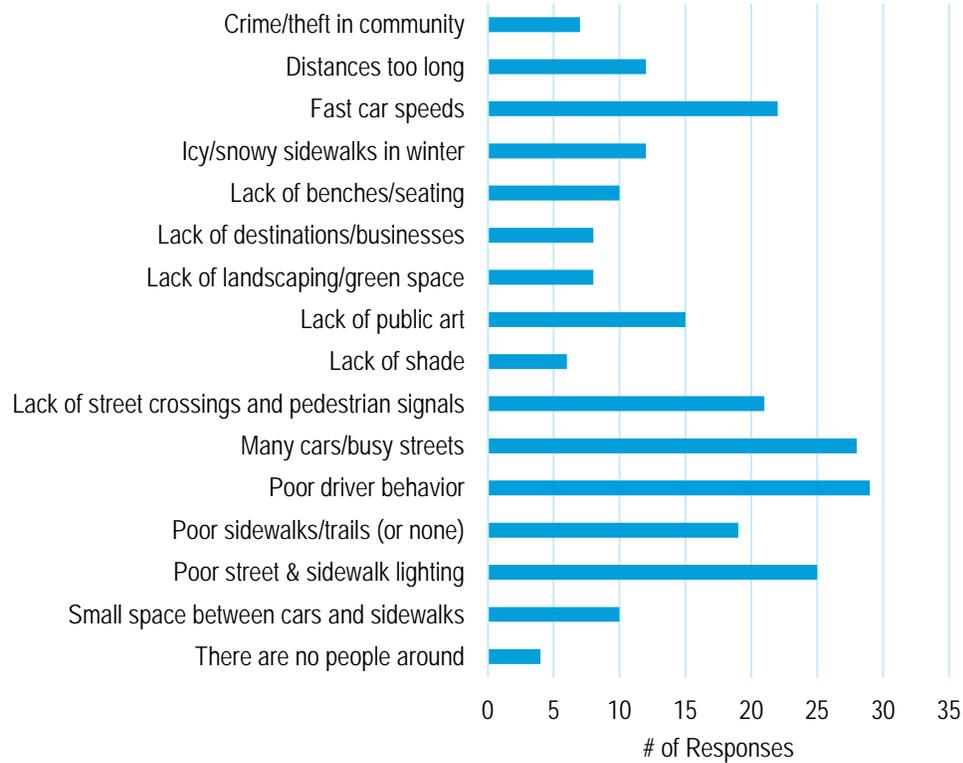


Figure 77: Factors that make a community less walkable from Visual Preference & Pedestrian Survey Open House