

Jackson City ⊕ County

Nonmotorized Plan

Steering Committee Meeting

Date: Friday, June 7, 2019
Time: 9:30 am to 11:30 am
Location: 1 Jackson Square

The purpose of the meeting was to review input from the public outreach meetings and online survey collected during the month of May 2019.

Meeting Notes

Below is a summary of key points from the meeting.

- New park to replace gravel pit after road closed - contact Bruce Cruise from JDOT for more info – may want to provide temporary gravel route while road closed, then permanent path through park long term
- This plan will help JDOT coordinate with MDOT to get non-motorized connections across I-94
- Traditionally JDOT does not maintain sidewalk or trails and townships do not want to maintain and clear
- Maintenance of off-road facilities –may be potential for partnership between JDOT and parks commission
 - JDOT can maintain pave shoulders, difficult to maintain when separated or raised
 - To apply for grant applications the project must include maintenance plans
 - In the 90's when Kent Trails went in in Grand Rapids cost for resurfacing in 20 years was included
 - Example organizations:
 - Huron Waterloo Pathways group – private group
 - Detroit Waterfront Conservancy
 - Calhoun County Trail Alliance – private group that fundraises
- Calhoun connections – At Pulaski meeting a route to Homer was identified
 - Albion and Homer residence have shot down ideas in the past
 - May be challenges with route
- Five Healthy Towns do not support trail maintenance at this time, maybe potential to expand on Huron Waterloo Pathways group
- Issue with intersection in Napoleon – Maybe opportunity for safety grant with MDOT, JDOT will look into it
- No public comments regarding Downtown Jackson - public generally happy with improvements that have been made to the Downtown

- Opportunities for bike parking in the Downtown Jackson have been brought up in the past but shut down
- Connection to Falling Waters Trail on Teft Road in Spring Arbor- JDOT moving forward with building path, issues with blind corner addressed
- JDOT going to try and set up a meeting to talk with leadership in the City of Jackson
- In general, City of Jackson looking at including more separated facilities over on-road bike facilities
- Ann Arbor Road trail project is a Leoni DDA funded project
 - Can we extend trail on to Grass lake (would like an off-road bicycle connection)
 - Leoni DDA project
 - TGC will should contact Steve to talk about project
 - Grass lake wants to know cost of maintenance – routine costs and capital costs \$2,500 per mile to over \$10,000 per mile a year
 - Maybe JDOT could provide maintenance service with re-investment from the DDA/Township/Cities
- Tanya will check on August Meeting date for attendance, open to changing date or format of meeting (web)

Jackson City ⊕ County Nonmotorized Plan



A plan for people who walk, bike and ride

Steering Committee Meeting

Friday, June 7, 2019

9:30 am – 11:30 am

1 Jackson Square Building

11th Floor Conference Room



The Greenway
Collaborative, Inc.





Agenda

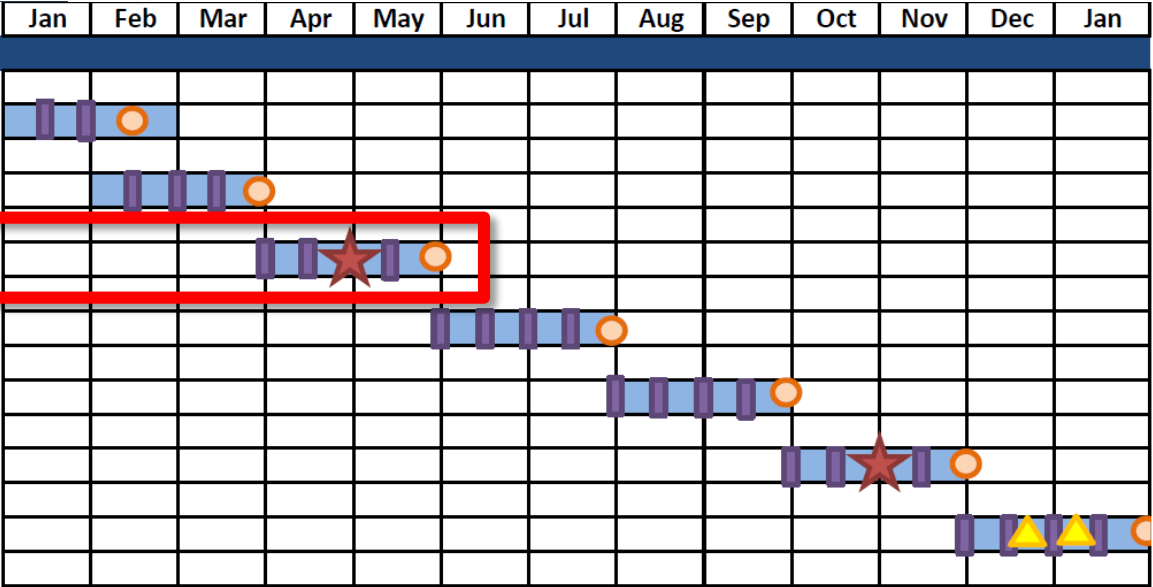
1. Introductions
2. Public Outreach Meetings
3. Community Values
4. Issues by Mode
5. Specific Places
6. Key Takeaways
7. Discussion
8. Next Steps





Where Are We in the Process?

Timeframe in Months



Legend:

- Task Duration
- Bi-Weekly Update Web Meetings with R2PC
- Steering Committee Meetings (7)
- County Board & City Council Meetings (2)
- Community Workshops (20)

Preliminary List of Workshop Locations:

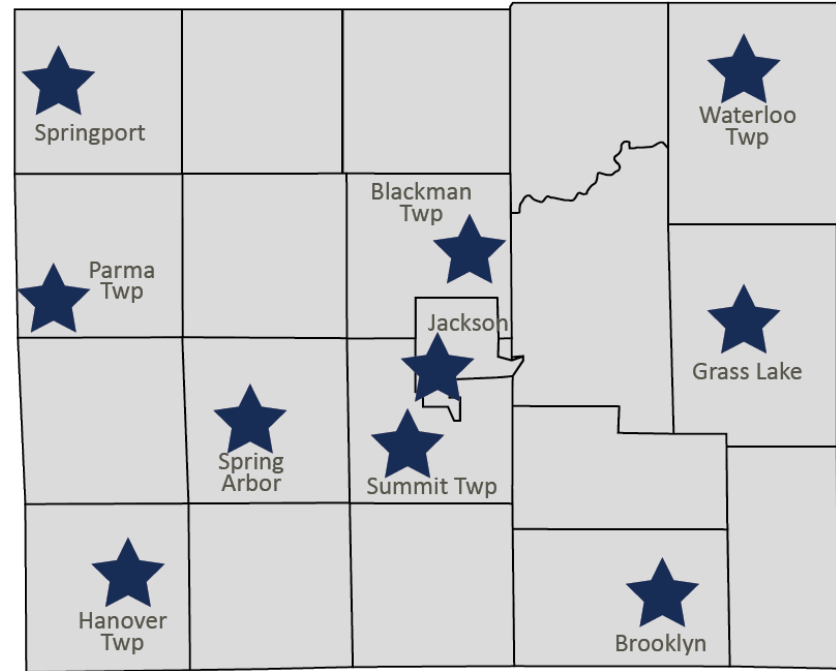
- 1 Blackman and Rives Township
- 2 Brooklyn & Napoleon, Norvell, and Columbia Twps
- 3 City of Jackson
- 4 Concord & Concord, and Spring Arbor Twps
- 5 Grass Lake & Grass Lake and Waterloo Townships
- 6 Hanover & Pulaski, Hanover, and Liberty Townships
- 7 Leoni and Henrietta Townships
- 8 Parma & Parma and Sandstone Townships
- 9 Springport & Springport and Tompkins Townships
- 10 Summit Township





Public and Stakeholder Outreach Meetings

- 10 meetings in one week
- Geographically dispersed across the County
- Attendance
 - Over 90 people total
 - Ranged from 2 – 20 people at each meeting
- Encouraged people to fill out surveys as part of the workshop
- Encourage groups to spread the word of the web survey to their networks



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAY 6	MAY 7	MAY 8	MAY 9	MAY 10
9:30 am - 11:30 am Blackman Twp Hall 1990 W Parnall Rd Jackson, MI 49201	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm Poling Center at Spring Arbor University 133 Ogle Ave Spring Arbor, MI 49283	9:30 am - 11:30 am Pulaski Twp Hall 12363 Folks Rd Hanover, MI 49241		9:30 am - 11:30 am Springport Twp Hall 101 W Main St Springport, MI 49284
2:30 pm - 4:30 pm Columbia Twp Hall 8500 Jefferson Rd Brooklyn, MI 49230	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Middle School at Parkside - Library 2400 4th St Jackson, MI 49203	2:30 pm - 4:30 pm Waterloo Twp Hall 9773 Mt Hope Rd Munnith, MI 49259	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Parma Twp Hall 2388 Eaton Rapids Rd Albion, MI 49224	2:30 pm - 4:30 pm Summit Twp Hall 2121 Ferguson Rd Jackson, MI 49203
			6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Whistle Stop Depot 210 E Michigan Ave Grass Lake, MI 49240	



Meeting Format

- Start out with community values exercise
 - What 3 things make Jackson special to YOU?
- Overview Presentation
 - Introduce “Alter Egos”

Do you have any idea what college tuition costs these days? I can barely afford shoes let alone a car. All I can afford to do is walk and bike.

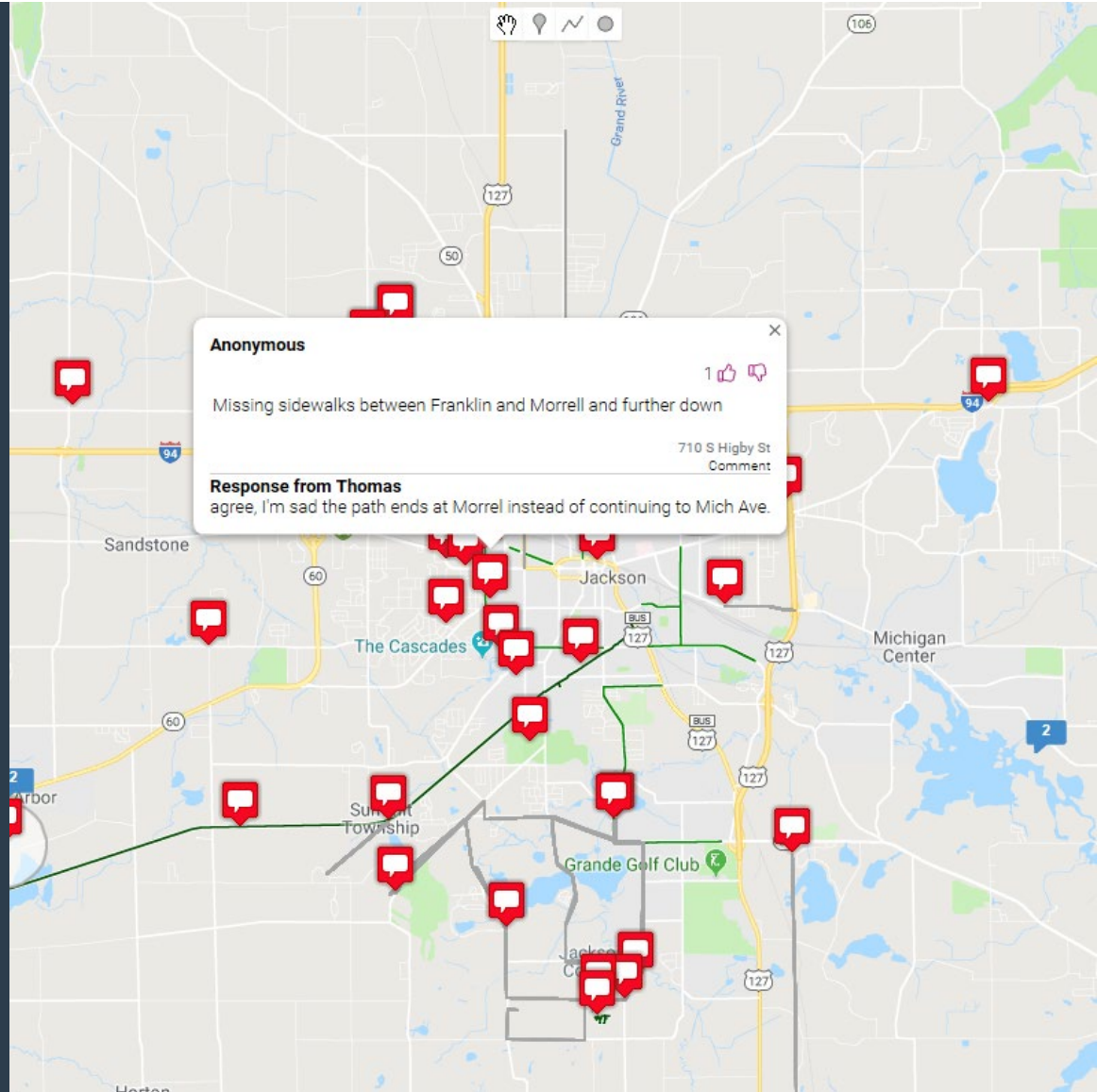
- Participants encouraged to fill out survey as part of presentation
- Small Group Exercise
 - Large Maps of different areas of county
 - What are some of the specific issues you want to see this plan address?





Online input

- For those who were unable to attend a meeting, there were opportunities to provide input online
- Web survey matched meeting survey
- Interactive web map to input on specific places
- Online survey and map stayed open through the end of May to collect any additional input





What Makes Jackson Special?



We started out each workshop with this simple question, this word cloud distills what we heard



How Does This Impact the Plan?

- 70% of “placemaking” is recognizing what you have and not screwing it up
- These are the characteristics that the community treasures and that should be highlighted and linked
- Community wayfinding can be integrated with interpretive “trails” and Jackson has some great stories to tell



Think of a favorite city that you visit – odds are it has a distinctive vibe that sets it apart from other places

Jackson does not need to invent an image – it just needs to celebrate what it already has



Survey Participation

Jackson City + County Nonmotorized Plan

Circle all that apply to you:



I WALK



I RIDE A BICYCLE



I RIDE THE BUS
AND/OR TRAIN



I DRIVE



How would you rate your satisfaction with walking in Jackson County right now (circle one):



I am interested in walking:

- to work
- to the store/errands
- for fitness/recreation
- to see family/friends
- to school
- other _____

*select all that apply

Is anything preventing you from walking to those destinations right now? How could we make the experience better?

people who walk



How would you rate your satisfaction with riding a bicycle in Jackson County right now (circle one):



I am interested in riding a bike:

- to work
- to the store/errands
- for fitness/recreation
- to see family/friends
- to school
- other _____

*select all that apply

Is anything preventing you from bicycling to those destinations right now? How could we make the experience better?

people who bike

Page1 - survey continued on back of page >>>>



How would you rate your satisfaction with riding the bus and/or train in Jackson County right now (circle one):



I am interested in riding the bus and/or train:

- to work
- to the store/errands
- for fitness/recreation
- to see family/friends
- to school
- other _____

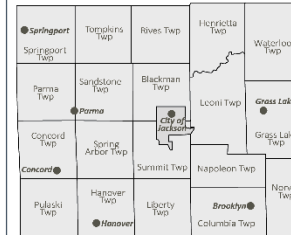
*select all that apply

Is anything preventing you from riding the bus or train to those destinations right now? How could we make the experience better?

people who ride



Please circle the area of the county you live in or are most familiar with:



Tell us anything else you feel is important:



If you would like project updates, please provide your email below:

Page 2 - please turn in your survey before you leave

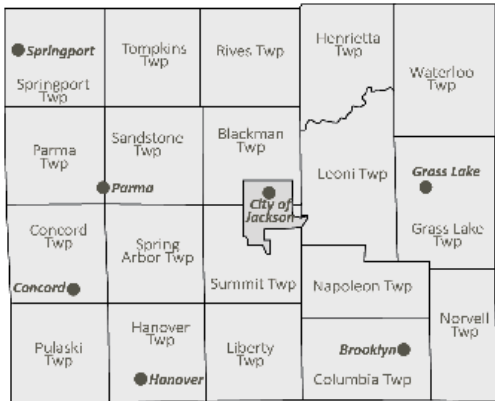
240 Total Responses (140 Web, 100 Printed)



Geographic Distribution

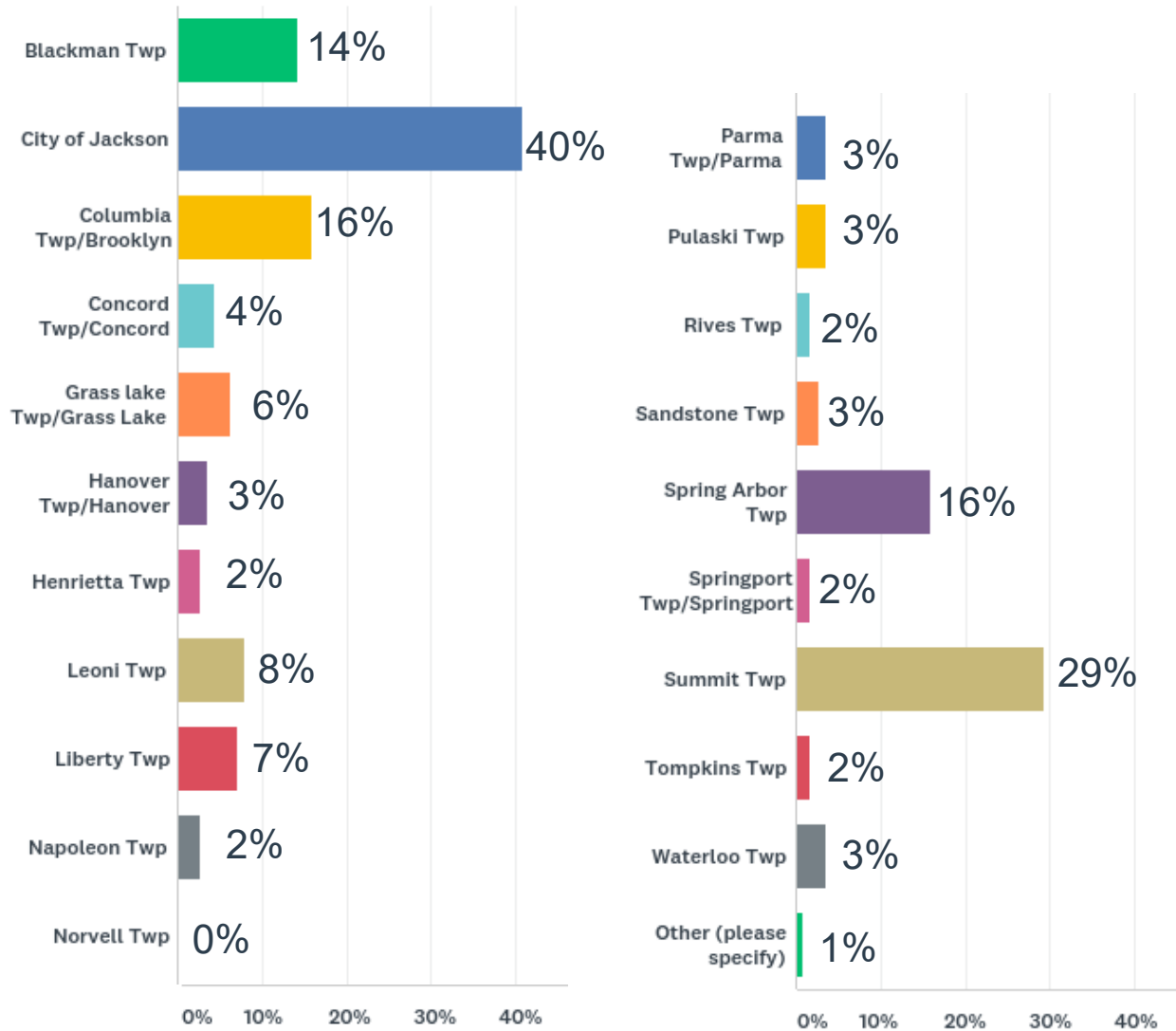


Please circle the area of the county you **live in** or are **most familiar** with:



Every township represented except Norvell Twp.

Some participants selected multiple locations





How do the Participants Get Around Town?

Circle all that apply to you:



I WALK



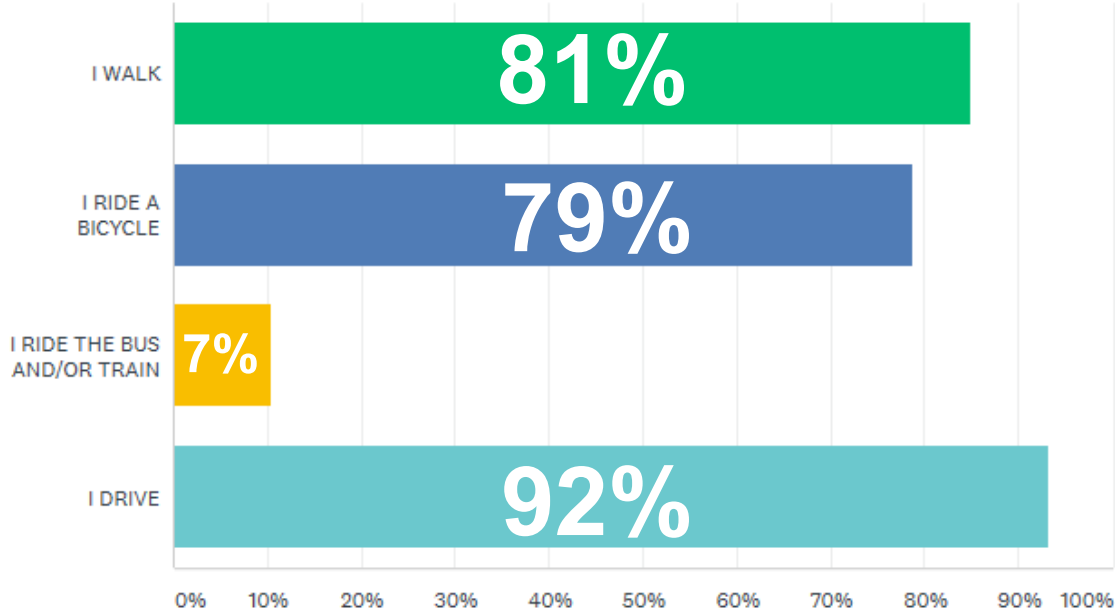
I RIDE A BICYCLE



I RIDE THE BUS
AND/OR TRAIN



I DRIVE

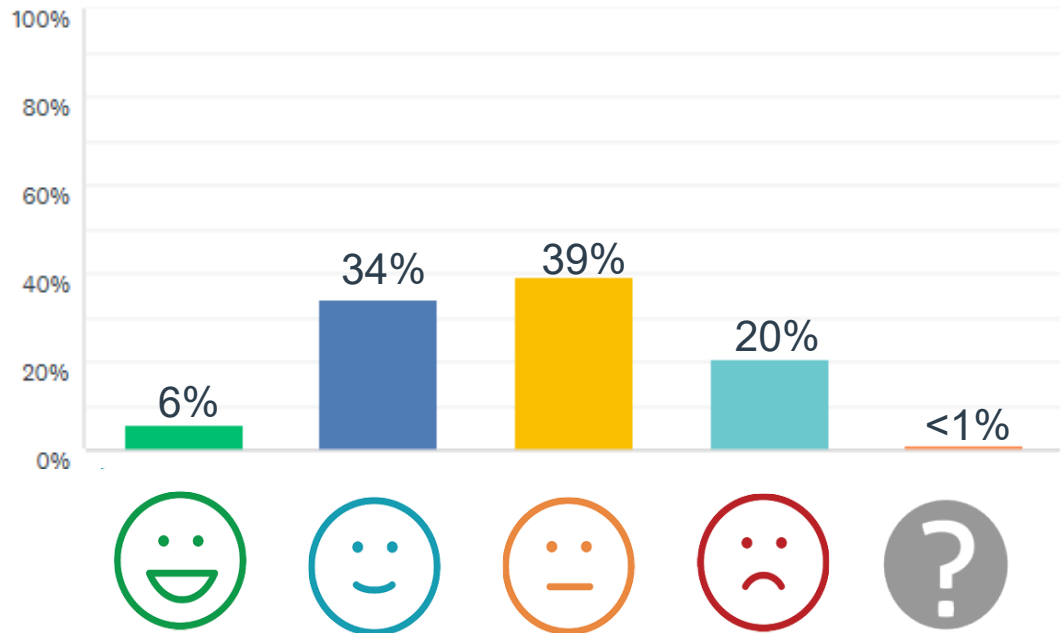


A marked disparity between the percent using transit and other three modes



Walking – Current Satisfaction

How would you rate your satisfaction with walking in Jackson County right now (circle one):



- It is okay, but could be better

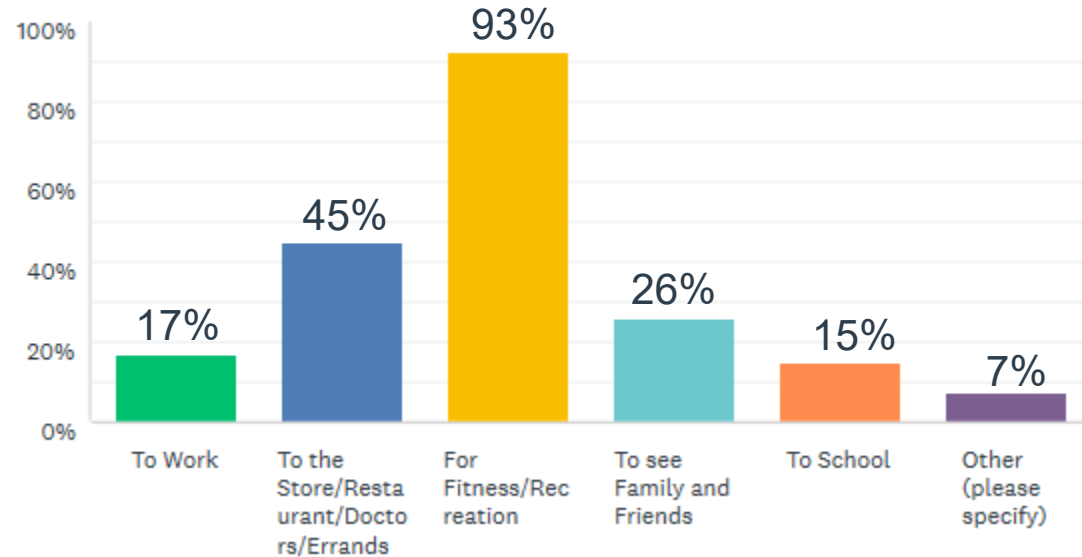


Walking – Desired Destinations

I am interested in **walking**:

- to work
- to the store/errands
- for fitness/recreation
- to see family/friends
- to school
- other _____

*select all that apply



- 93% of respondents are interested in walking for fitness and/or recreation
- Transportation trips are focused on travel to the store, restaurants, and errands.
- Minimal interest in walking to work (probably a distance issue or don't work)



Walking – Issues Preventing Walking Trips

Is anything preventing you from walking to those destinations right now? How could we make the experience better?

paths enough condition sidewalks available neighborhood especially Jackson
 within traffic much around Brooklyn places pedestrians street safety live
 concerns many cross areas Lack sidewalks walking
 snow ice removal sidewalks walking paths road county safe
 winter lighting snow even also shoulder broken city feel safe trails
 bike trail bike walkways condition need personal safety cars crosswalks

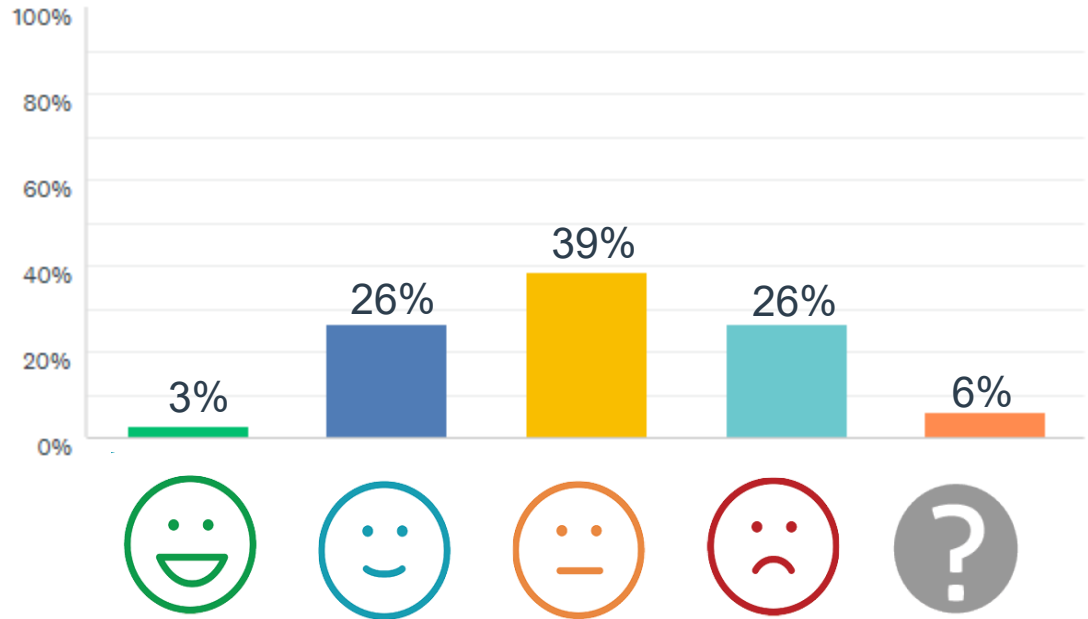


- Maintenance/condition of existing sidewalks poor/narrow/uneven (Jackson, Grass Lake, Brooklyn)
- Lack of sidewalks or paved shoulder (outside of downtowns, Lake Columbia, Brooklyn, Spring Arbor, Leoni Twp, Summit Twp)
- Lighting and personal safety
- Snow ice removal
- Drivers paying attention
- Lack of crosswalks



Bicycling – Current Satisfaction

How would you rate your satisfaction with riding a bicycle in Jackson County right now (circle one):



- Similar to walking
- It is okay, but could be better

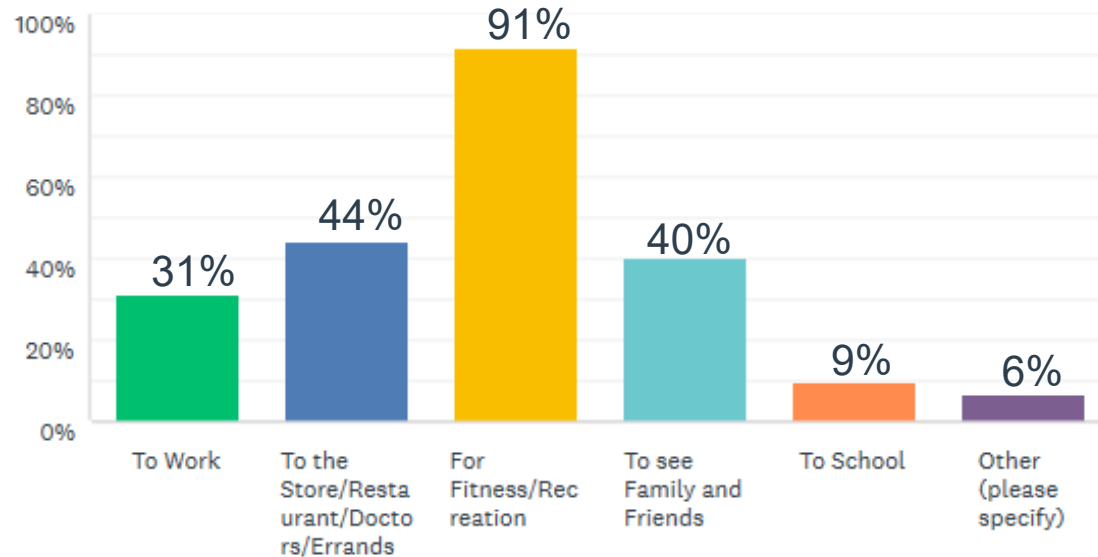


Bicycling – Desired Destinations

I am interested in riding a **bike**:

- to work
- to the store/errands
- for fitness/recreation
- to see family/friends
- to school
- other _____

*select all that apply



- Very similar distribution curve as desired pedestrian destinations but higher percentages likely due to what is within biking distance
- Bike to work almost doubles to 31%
- Visit Family and Friends almost doubles to 40%
- 91% want to bike for fitness / recreation



Bicycling – Issues Preventing Bicycling Trips

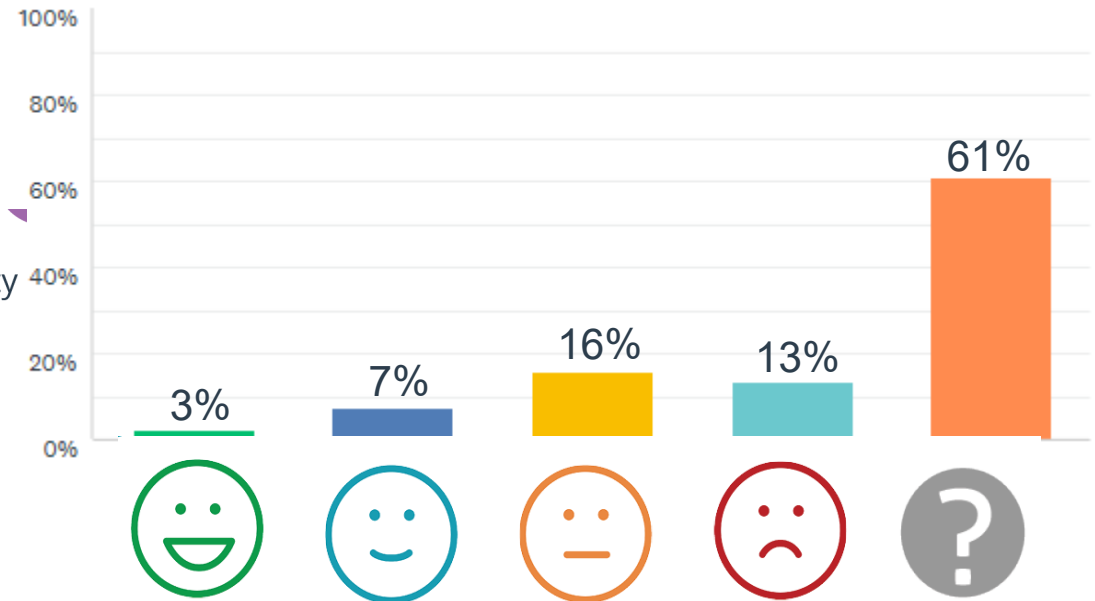
- Pavement condition (pot holes, debris)
- Availability of safe bikeways
- Driver knowledge and attitudes toward bikes
- Lack of separated bikeways
- Narrow roads / no paved shoulders
- High speed, high traffic roadways
- Bike parking





Transit – Current Satisfaction

How would you rate your satisfaction with riding the bus and/or train in Jackson County right now (circle one):



- 61% are not familiar with the Bus or Train service in the Jackson County

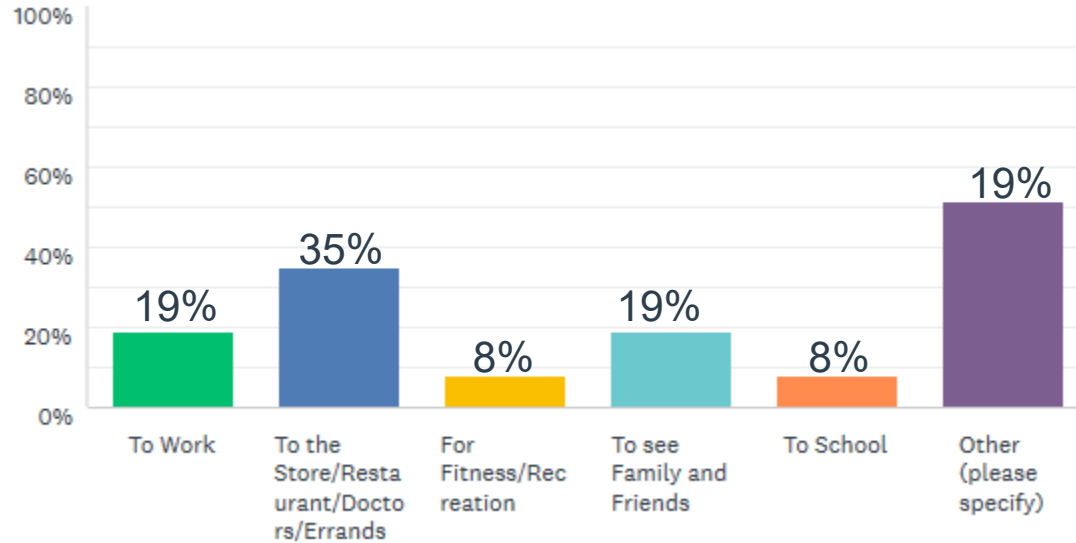


Transit – Desired Destinations

I am interested in riding the **bus and/or train**:

- to work
- to the store/errands
- for fitness/recreation
- to see family/friends
- to school
- other _____

*select all that apply



- “Other” shows interest in having a commuter rail to places like Ann Arbor, or they are unfamiliar with the transit system
- High level of taking transit to the store, restaurants, errands





Transit – Issues Preventing Transit Trips

Is anything preventing you from riding the bus or train to those destinations right now? How could we make the experience better?

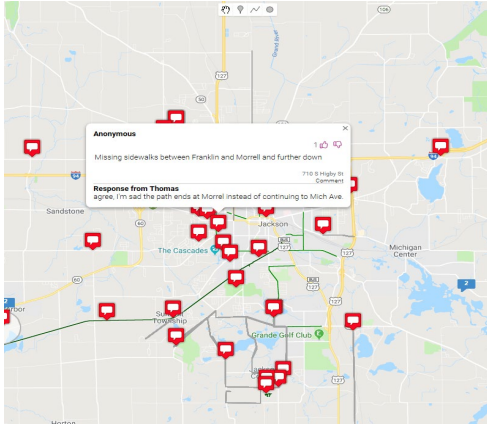
people_{work} Jackson_{even} train_{transportation} bus_{service} use
take



- Unfamiliar
- Confusion on bus route
- No bus routes near me
- Infrequent and inconvenient
- Expensive
- Safety
- Lack of commuter rail service



What Specific Places Would you Like to See Improved?



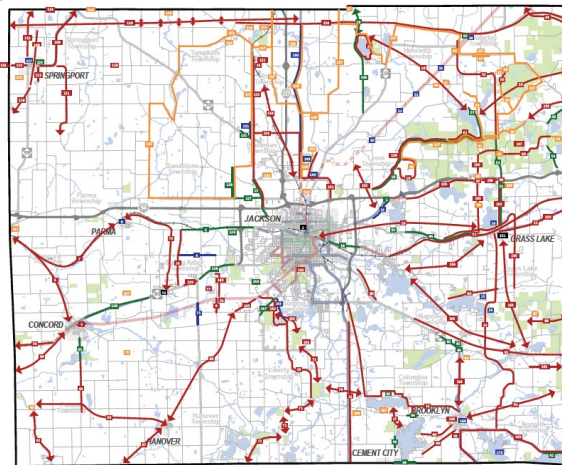
Online Map



Meeting Maps

downtown Cement City lighting Lansing Ave Jefferson Rd
 Browns Lake Rd shoulder spirit Trail Parks Jackson
 Jackson Clark Lake path Brooklyn trail
 neighborhoods road Columbia Township traffic
 Jackson County sidewalks Brown St
 Falling Waters Trail Hewitt bike lanes Spring Arbor
 intersection walking paths around Lake Columbia Morrell
 Grass Lake

Online Survey



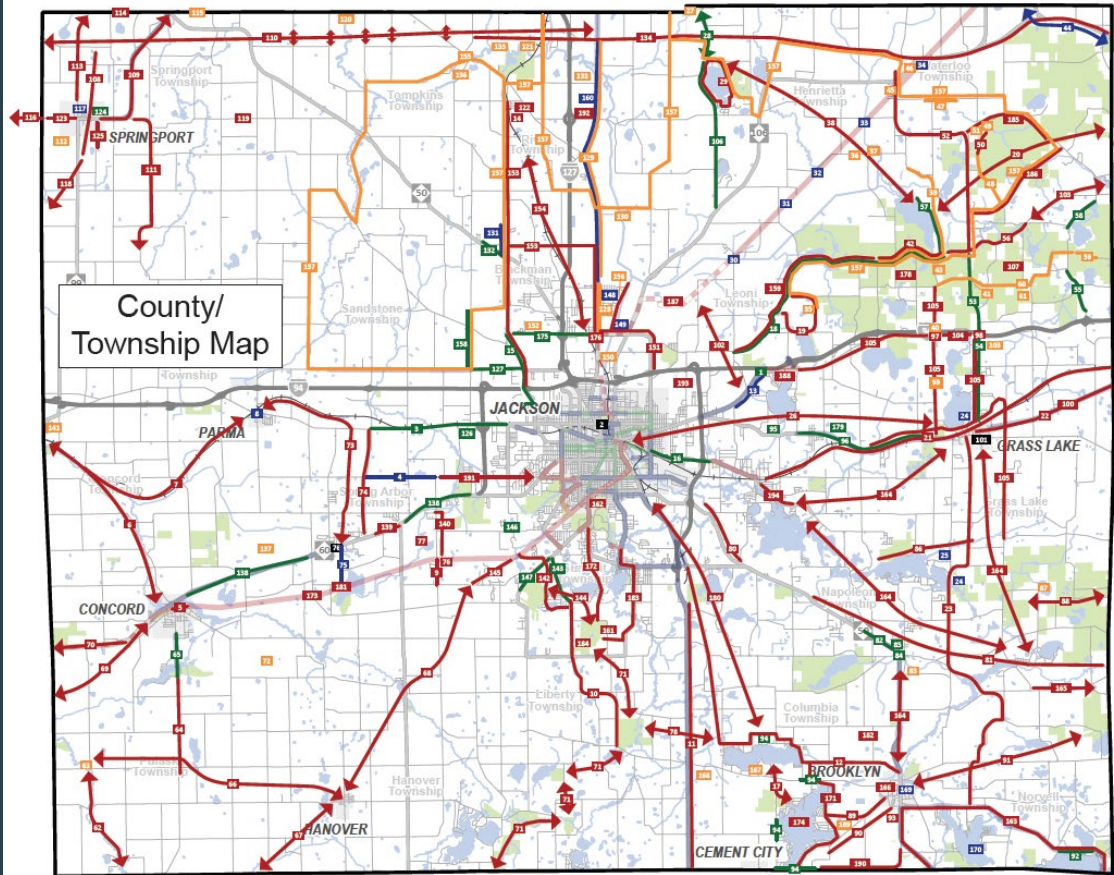
Combined input from numerous sources



Workshop Map Input

County/Townships:

- 194 places with specific requests noted
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Connections highly desired
 - Along Rail corridors
 - Along Consumer Energy Corridors
 - Connecting parks, lakes and communities
- Looking for off-road facilities



Red = Idea/suggestion

Green = Issue/concern

Blue = Existing or planned facility

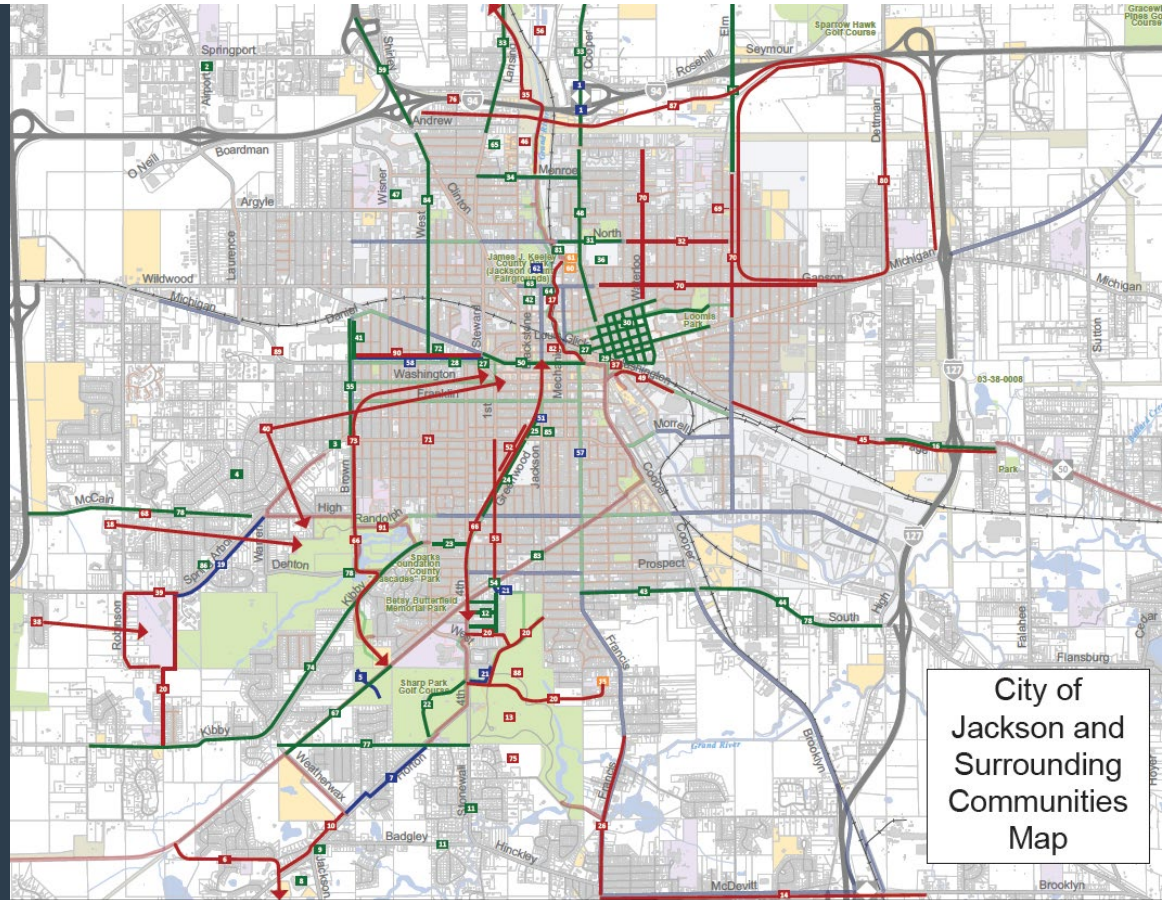
Orange = Other



Workshop Map Input

City of Jackson and Surrounding Communities:

- 91 places
- Connecting neighborhoods to downtown and to parks
- Complete sidewalk/pathway gaps
- Connections to schools
- Getting across I-94 and US-127



Red = Idea/suggestion

Green = Issue/concern

Blue = Existing or planned facility

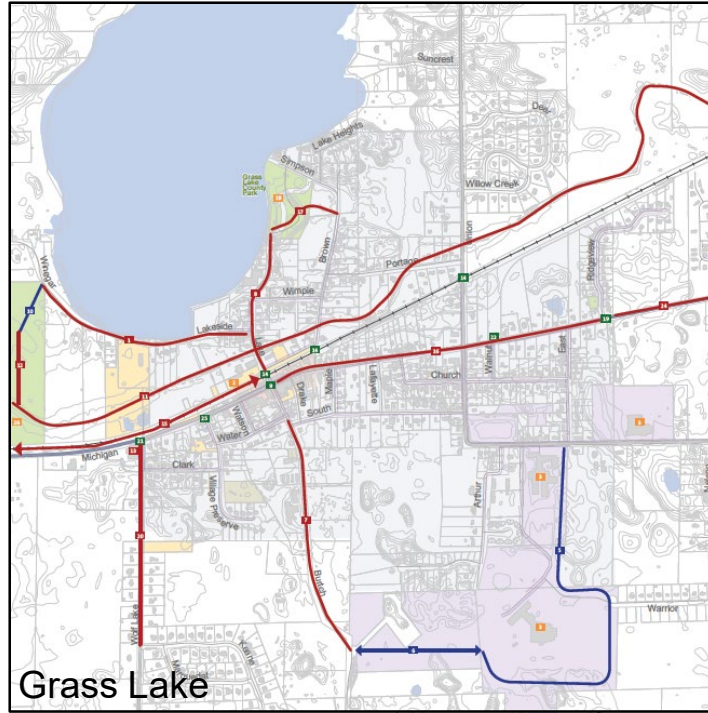
Orange = Other



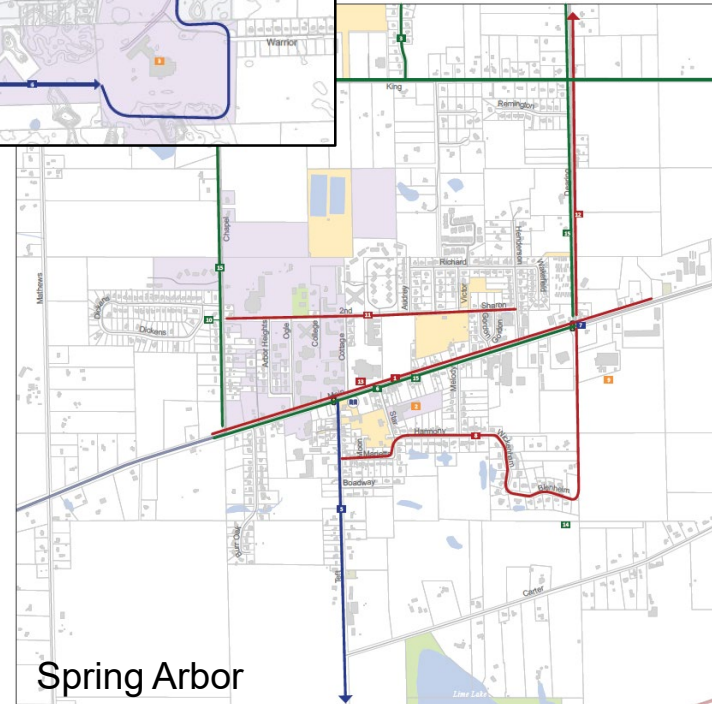
Workshop Map Input

Detailed maps for Spring Arbor and Grass Lake:

- 27 places for Grass Lake
 - Connections to parks, schools and grocery stores
 - Improve crosswalks
 - Off road trail opportunities
 - Sidewalk gaps
- 15 places for Spring Arbor
 - Connection to schools and market
 - Improve M-60 (sidewalks, crosswalks)
 - Sidewalk gaps



Red =
Idea/suggestion
Green =
Issue/concern
Blue = Existing
or planned
facility
Orange = Other





Anything Else that is important?

- Bikeways separated from roadways
- Education and Enforcement
- Walkable and bikeable communities
- More wide shoulders in rural areas
- Safe and healthy places
- Promote trails
- Thank you for doing this plan!



area improve bike lanes Please Thanks Jackson County paths city
trails great roads people bike walking biking walking feel
Jackson making need county community traffic



Key Takeaways – Urban and Suburban Areas

- In-street bicycle facilities must be done right – good separation, connected, and well maintained if they are to be used
- Need to take care of the pedestrian basics by filling sidewalk gaps and providing appropriate crosswalks
- We can't address bicycle and pedestrian facilities without addressing poor pavement condition of the roads



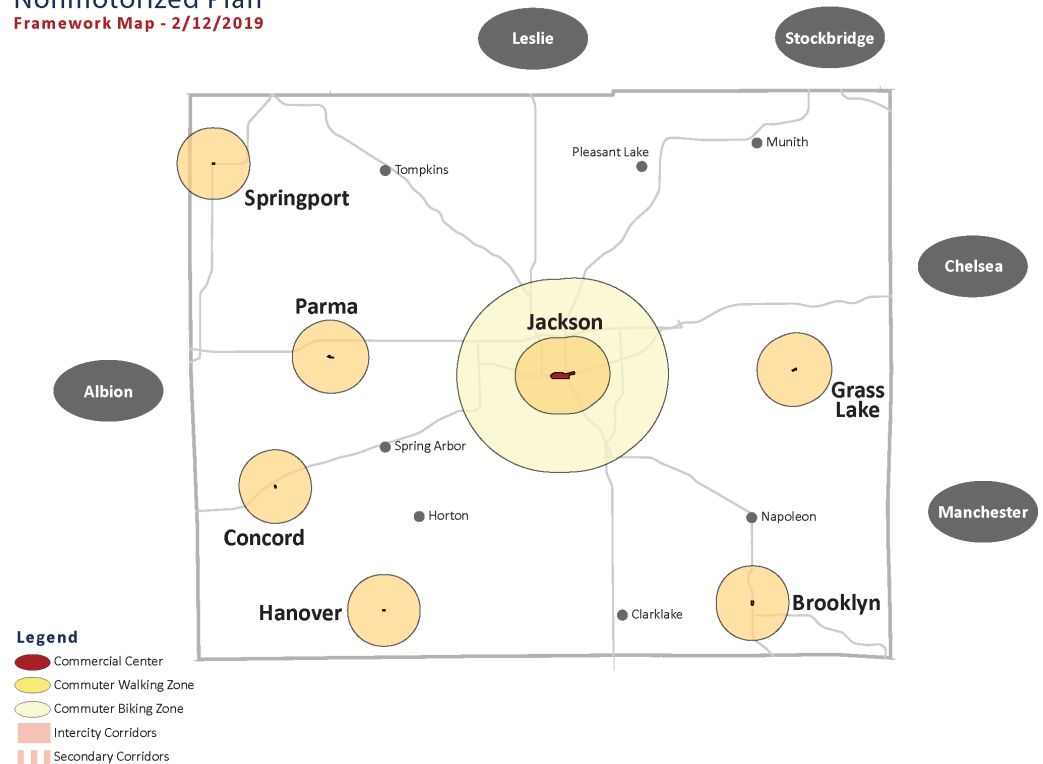
There is a latent demand for more and better pedestrian, bicycle, and transit routes and facilities



Key Takeaways – Intercommunity Connections

- There is a can-do attitude for building trails in the rural areas
 - Willing to work with private land owners to make things happen
- The connections do not all have to look like the Falling Water's Trail
 - Natural surface trails
 - Gravel road routes
- Connections are not just between communities in Jackson
 - Look beyond the borders

Jackson City + County
Nonmotorized Plan
Framework Map - 2/12/2019



Use intercommunity trails and routes as a way to explore and celebrate the county's natural areas and rural character

Can be a key part of creating a brand for Jackson County and bringing in visitors



Other Key Takeaways

- Rural on-demand system is not keeping up with demand - need some new approaches
- Limited service hours is the biggest limitation of the fixed route transit system
- Need to provide pedestrian and bicycle linkages in the suburban fringe areas
- The City of Jackson appears to be less engaged in this effort than many of the other communities



There was not an urban/rural dichotomy in the demand for pedestrian, bicycle, and transit routes and facilities



Next Steps

- Develop the preliminary systems plan over the summer
- Then another round of public input in the fall to get input on the preliminary systems plan
- Next Steering Committee Meeting
Friday, August 2nd at
9:30 am



Any Questions or Additional Thoughts?

Jackson City ⊕ County Nonmotorized Plan



A plan for people who walk, bike and ride

Thank You!