

Hilltop Community Mobility Plan

Steering Committee Meeting March 4, 2009



Mayor Michael B. Coleman

Tran Systems

Agenda

- Introductions
- Study Overview
- Results of Public Input on Problems
- Identification of Top Issues
- Discussion – Top Issues
- Work Plan for Focus Areas
- Discussion – Work Plan
- Next Steps
- Update on School Travel Plan

Introductions

- City of Columbus - Transportation
 - Terry Stewart, Project Manager
 - Christopher George, Project Engineer
- TranSystems
 - Susan Daniels, Project Manager
 - David Shipps, School Travel Plan Manager, Interim Project Manager
 - Josh Sikich, Lead Planner
- Steering Committee members

Study Overview

- Community Mobility Plan Goals
 - Balance the transportation infrastructure for moving people and goods among all modes in accordance with Columbus' Complete Streets Policy
 - Reduce traffic violations, both ticketed and not detected (speeding, failure to yield to pedestrian, running red-light, etc)
 - Strengthen the connection between land use and transportation
 - Promote distinct and vibrant neighborhoods
 - Address issues from public workshops, walk audits, 311 database (traffic calming, crosswalks, sidewalks, etc.), area plans and pedestrian crash history
 - Coordinate with the Columbus Bicentennial Bikeways Plan

Study Overview

- *October 2008 - December 2008*
 - Project Kick-off and Data Collection
- *January 2009 –February 2009*
 - Public Input on Problem Identification
- *February 2009 - August 2009*
 - Alternative Solutions Development
- *Spring 2009*
 - Walk Audits with Public
- *Summer 2009*
 - Public Input on Solutions
- *Fall 2009*
 - Develop Recommendations and Report
- *End of 2009*
 - Plan Completion and Presentation to City Officials

Study Overview

- Meetings and Events So Far
 - Steering Committee Kick-off Meeting – Dec. 3, 2008
 - Community Stakeholders Meeting – Jan. 13, 2009
 - Public Open House – Jan. 29, 2009
 - Public Outreach in Community – Jan. 13-Feb. 13, 2009
 - Steering Committee Meeting #2 – Today



Results of Public Input on Problems

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- Open Houses – Jan. 28 and Jan. 29
 - Advance news coverage in Westside Messenger, Columbus Dispatch, and NBC4
 - Team approached over 50 locations to display posters to promote Open House – over 37 agreed, resulting in posters in public places throughout community
 - Changeable message sign placed at Broad St and Westgate Ave to advertise Open House
 - Website at www.hilltopmobility.com with Open House information
 - Flyers sent to over 130 emails and 110 mailing addresses of stakeholders – businesses, schools, churches, cultural organizations, community groups, etc. – so they could spread word to their constituencies and general public about Open Houses

Results of Public Input on Problems

- Open House Results
 - Jan. 28th event canceled due to Class 3 Snowstorm Emergency
 - Jan 29th event went on as planned, but attendance suffered due to continuing poor road conditions and school cancellations



Photos: Columbus Dispatch

Results of Public Input on Problems

- Additional Public Outreach – Going to the Public
 - Partnerships with Hilltop Library, Center for Latin Hope, Hilltop Neighborhood Health Center, Ohio Thrift Store, and Gearhart’s True Value Hardware to collect comments from the public
 - Multi-platform, multi-lingual outreach - Surveys about Hilltop transportation in English and Spanish, on paper and on web at www.hilltopmobility.com
 - Study Team and City Interns staffed tables to collect comments from public



Survey Table at Hilltop Library



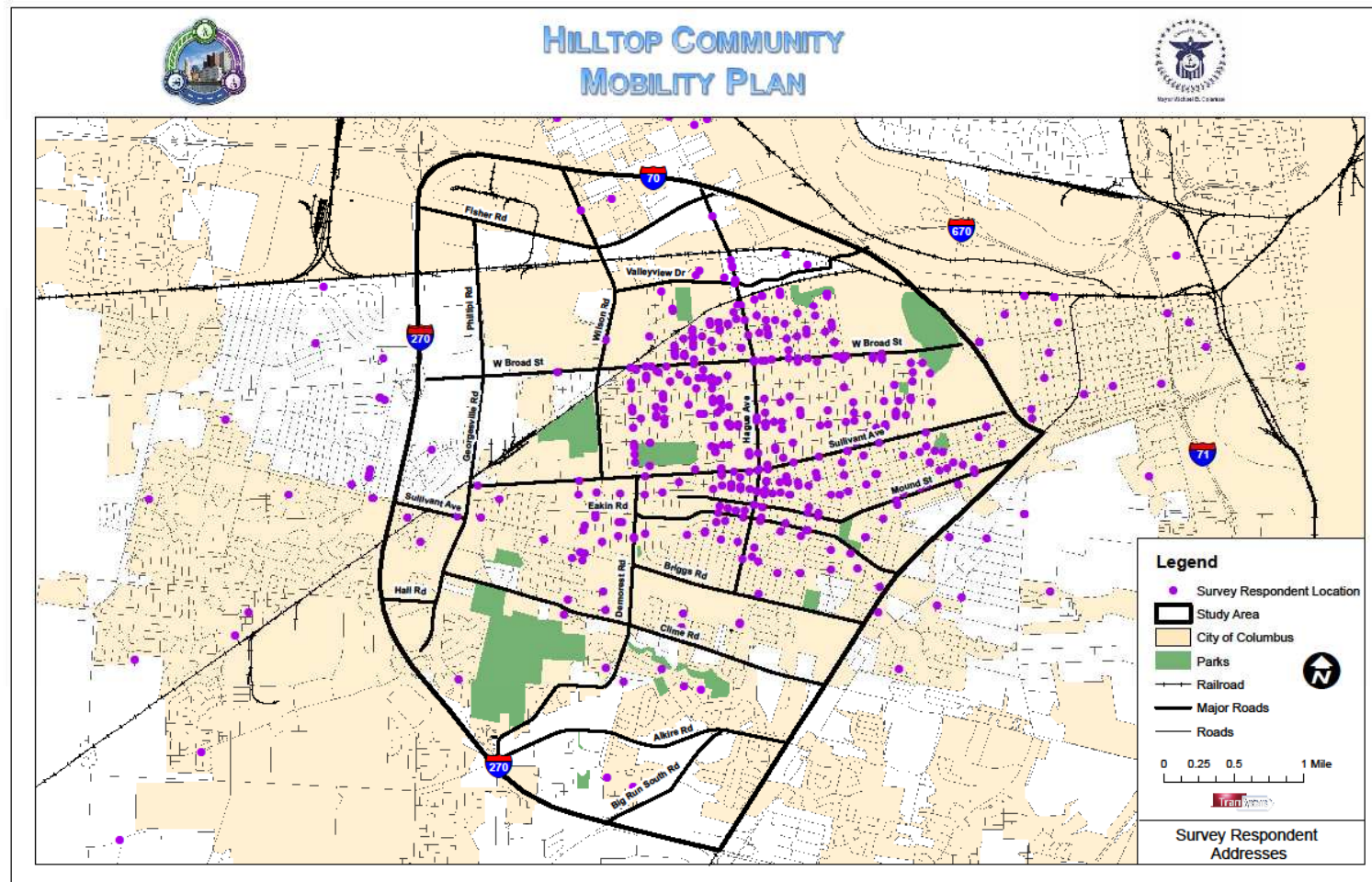
Ohio Thrift Store on Sullivant Ave

Results of Public Input on Problems

- Survey Results
 - Approximately **700 people** filled out surveys
 - 54 were Spanish-language surveys
 - Approximately 110 were collected online (not at library)
 - Overwhelming majority collected from staffed table at library
 - Overwhelming majority wrote comments in addition to checking survey boxes

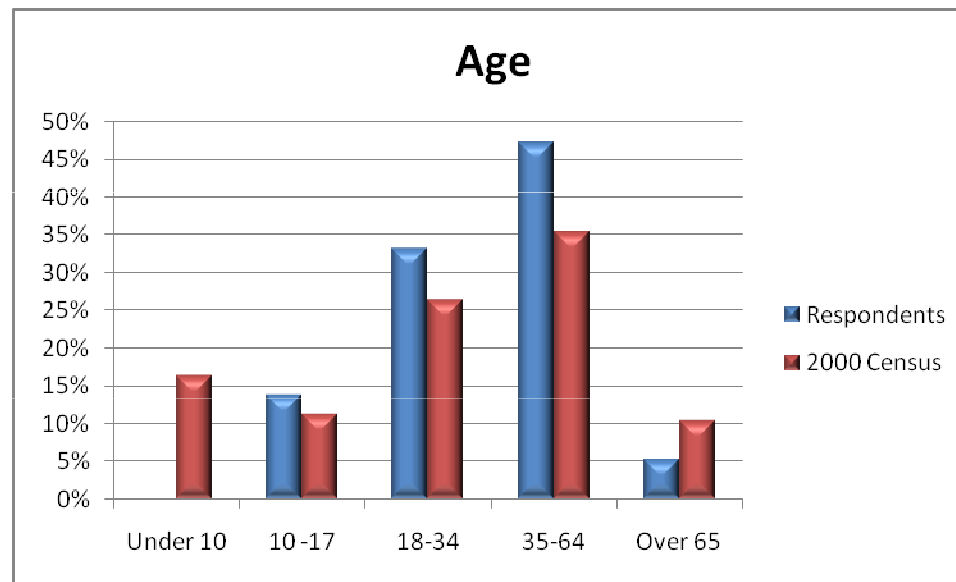
Results of Public Input on Problems

- Map of Survey Respondent Addresses



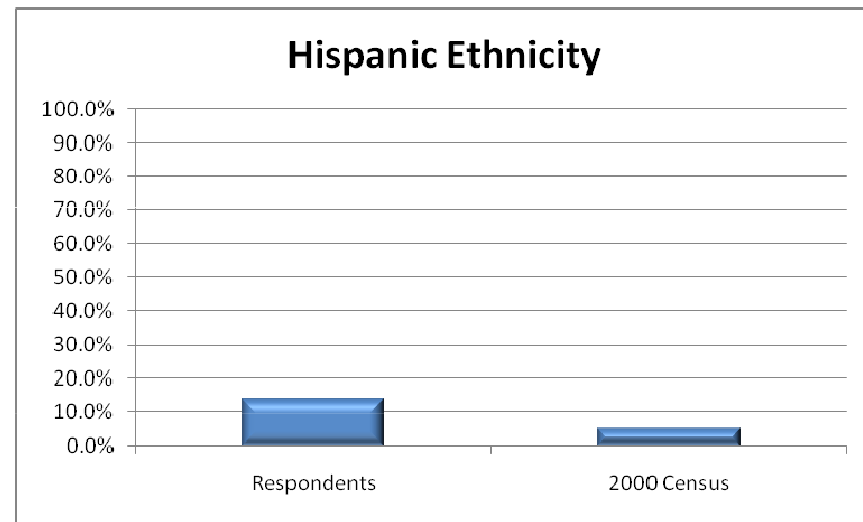
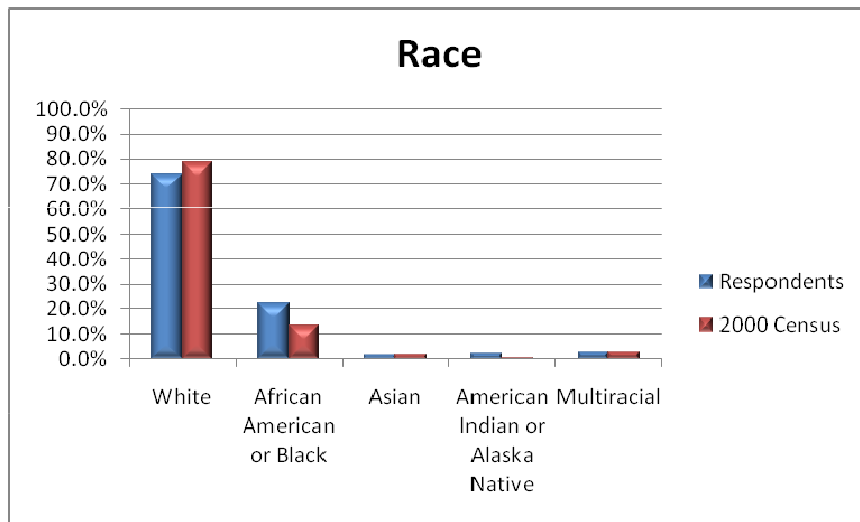
Results of Public Input on Problems

- Demographics – Survey Respondents and Hilltop Census Data



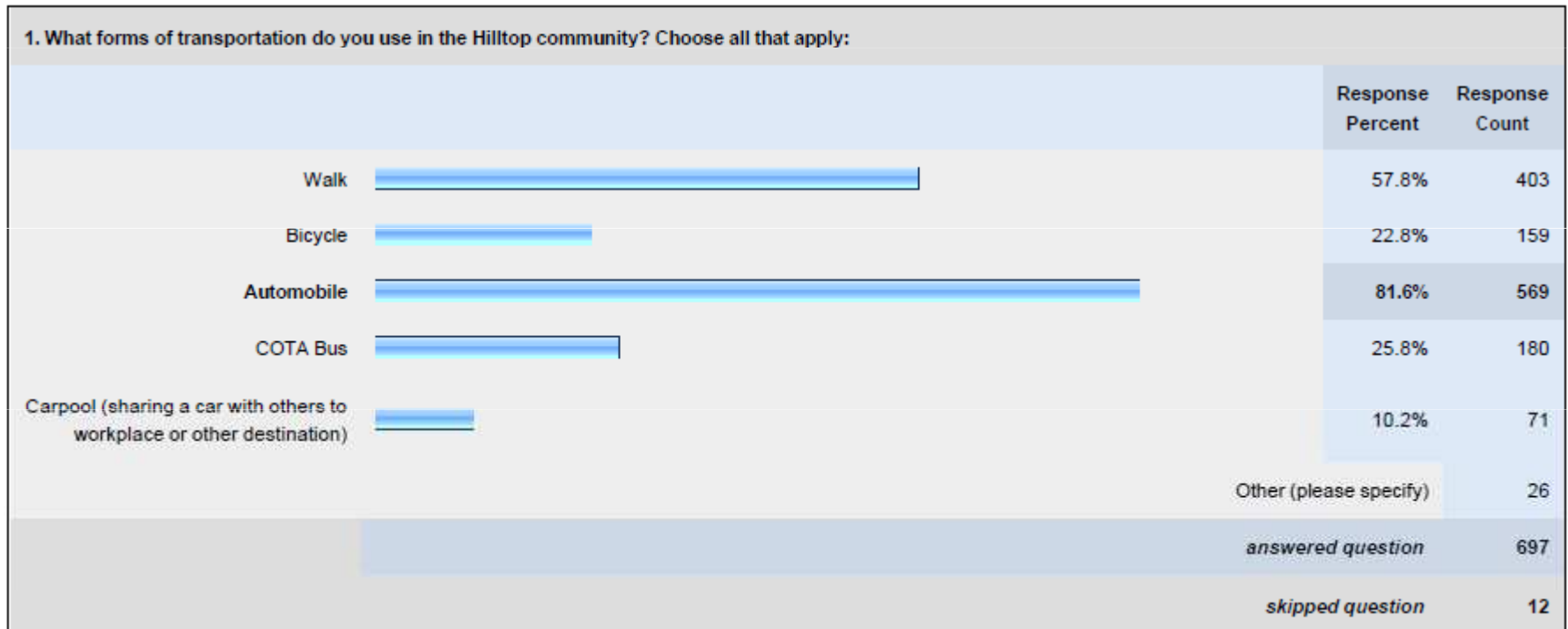
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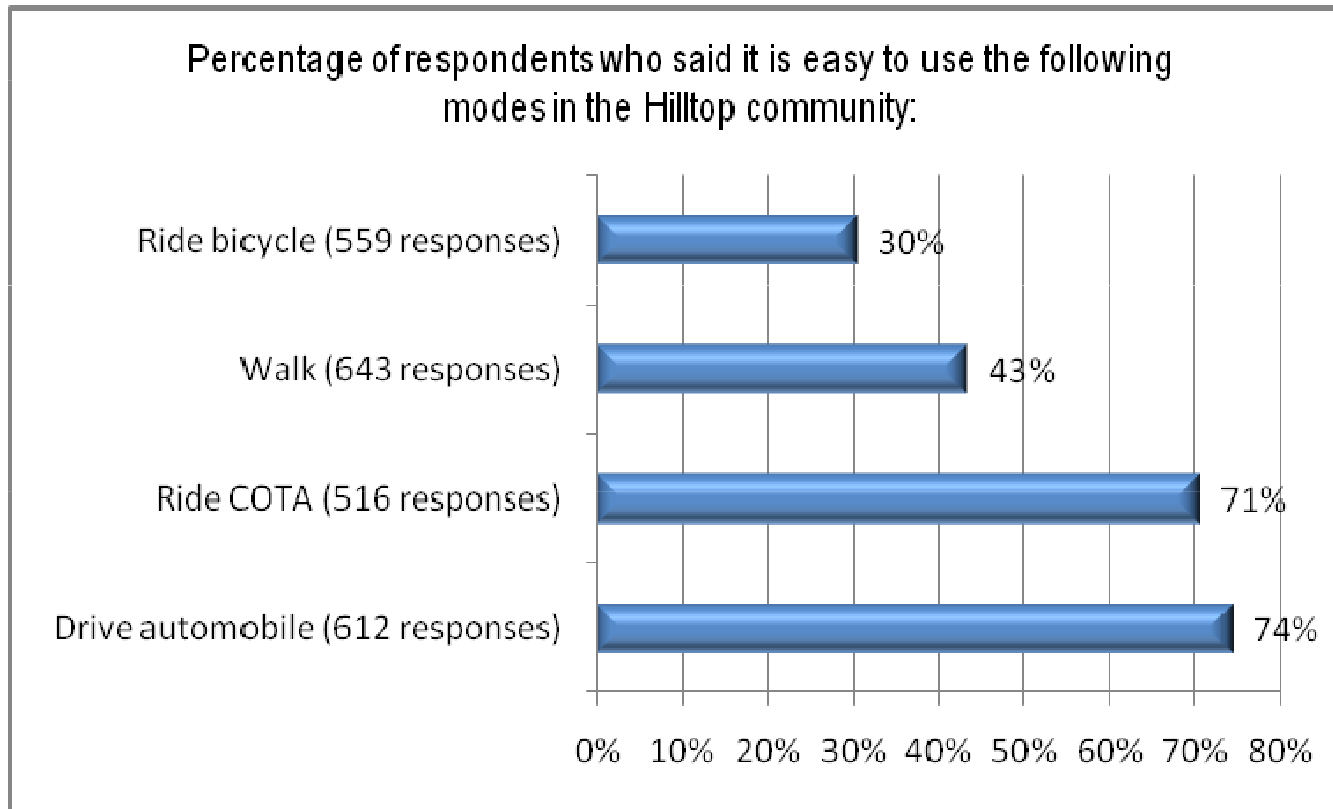
Results of Public Input on Problems

- Survey Results



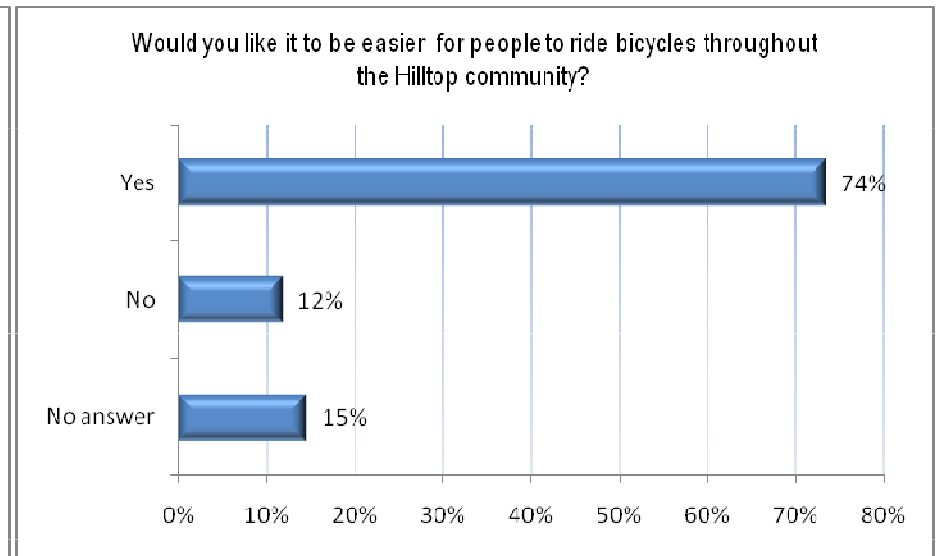
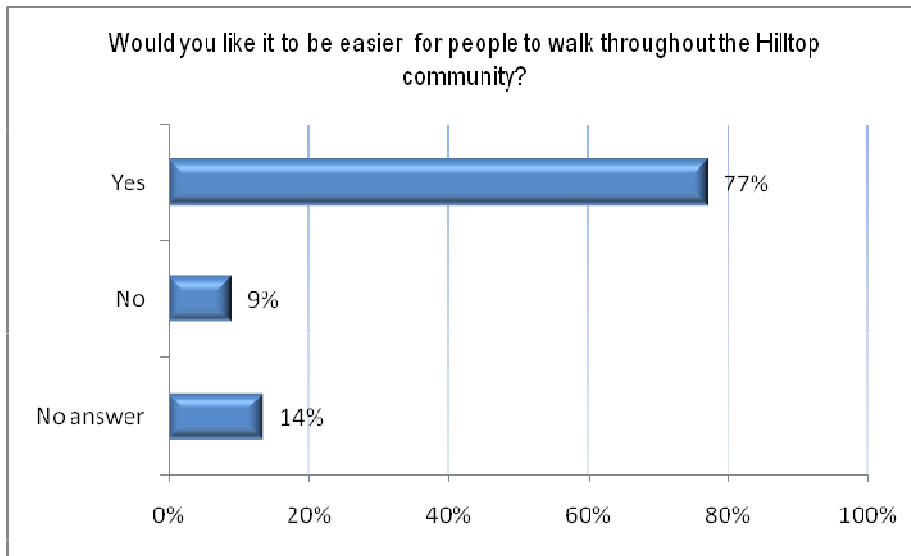
Results of Public Input on Problems

- Survey Results – unbalanced transportation?



Results of Public Input on Problems

- Survey Results – Walking and Biking



Where easier to walk?

1. Everywhere
2. Mound St
3. Wilson between Broad and Sullivant

Where easier to bike?

1. Everywhere
2. Broad St
3. Sullivant Ave
4. Mound St

Results of Public Input on Problems

- Survey Results – Problems Walking

3. If there are problems walking in the Hilltop community, is it because (choose all that apply):

	Response Percent	Response Count
No sidewalks or paths	55.7%	316
Sidewalks are too narrow or blocked with signs or bushes	28.4%	161
Sidewalks are broken or cracked	58.6%	332
Roads are too wide to cross	14.6%	83
Cars drive too fast	47.8%	271
No safe/legal place to conveniently cross roads	20.5%	116
Poor lighting on sidewalks and crosswalks	29.3%	166
Traffic signals do not give enough time to cross roads	22.8%	129
Other (specify below)	12.9%	73
Specify the locations and type of problems with walking in the Hilltop community:		227
<i>answered question</i>		567
<i>skipped question</i>		142

Results of Public Input on Problems

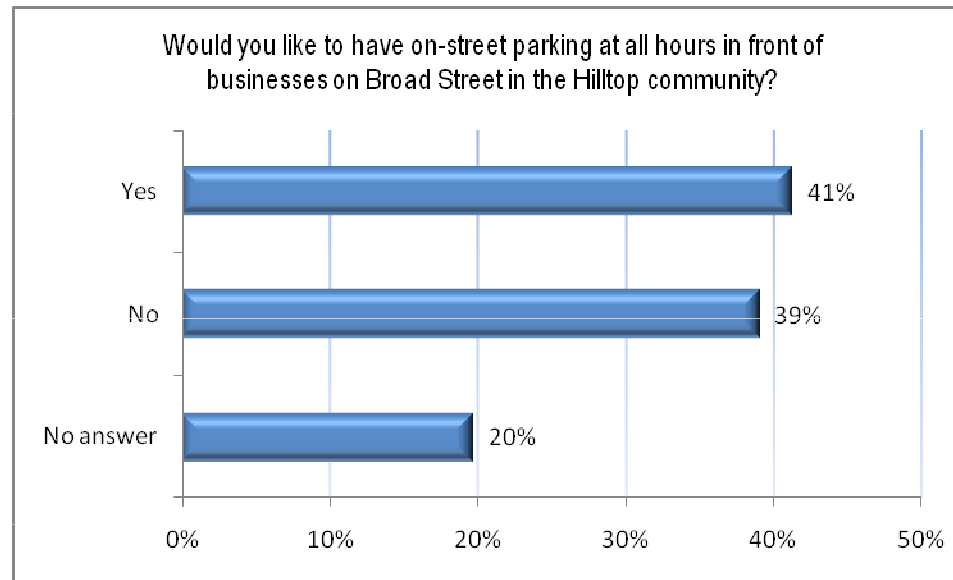
- Survey Results – Problems Bicycling

5. If there are problems riding a bicycle in the Hilltop community, is it because (choose all that apply):

	Response Percent	Response Count
I do not feel safe riding my bicycle in traffic	59.0%	278
No space for bicyclists to ride	65.2%	307
Poor surface on roads or paths	50.1%	236
Cars drive too fast	51.4%	242
Poor lighting on roads	23.8%	112
Other (specify below)	12.1%	57
Please specify the locations and types of problems with bicycling in the Hilltop community:		146
<i>answered question</i>		471
<i>skipped question</i>		238

Results of Public Input on Problems

- Survey Results – On-street parking



- Comments in favor said it would help businesses and provide easier access
- Comments opposed said there is already enough parking off-street or behind businesses
- Other comments opposed said there were no businesses on Broad where they would want to shop

Results of Public Input on Problems

- Survey Results
 - In general, the same people stated that they did not want walking or bicycling to be easier
 - 7% of respondents over the age of 18 said they do not have access to an automobile
 - 10% of respondents said that English is not the primary language spoken in their home
 - Primary languages include: Spanish, Hmong, German, French, Somali, Fulani, Oromo, Potwai, and Russian
 - When data is broken down by teens or elderly, results do not noticeably shift
 - When data is broken down by Hispanic or non-English speaking populations, results do not noticeably shift
 - Exception to the above is that people who are Hispanic rated COTA more difficult to use than non-Hispanics, and their biggest problem with COTA is not being sure how to ride, much more so than non-Hispanic people

Results of Public Input on Problems

- Survey Results
 - Westgate Park repeatedly mentioned as an easy place to walk and bike. Many complaints about getting to the park easily – lack of sidewalks, speeding
 - Many stated they would walk more except for a lack of destinations to walk to and concerns about crime
 - Walking in residential areas without sidewalks – difficult
 - Majority of comments about COTA were positive. Negative comments about appearance and maintenance of bus stops and shelters, and the need for more shelters.



Identification of Top Issues

Identification of Top Issues

- Top Issues are a result of a combination of:
 - Survey results – checked boxes and written comments
 - 311 Call Center requests
 - Pedestrian crash history
 - Previous planning documents and studies in Hilltop
 - Steering Committee, Stakeholder, and Open House comments
 - Goals of the Hilltop Community Mobility Plan
 - Verbal comments made by individuals who did not want to fill out survey
 - Emails to hilltopmobility@transystems.com or other contact with study team

Identification of Top Issues

1. **Broad St** – economic development facilitated by less fast-moving cars
2. **Bike lanes** on major roads, especially Broad, Sullivant. Bike access to downtown.
3. **Broad St** – on-street parking 24/7 east of Hague, possibly east of Demorest
4. **Sullivant Ave** – speeding, running red lights, too narrow
5. **Mound St** –needs sidewalks, narrow, can remove lanes
6. **Hague Ave** – deteriorating curbs, parking on curbs
7. **Westgate & all residential areas east of Hague** – speeding, public says roads too narrow, parking on both sides a problem
8. **Wilson** - sidewalks between Broad and Sullivant
9. **Sidewalks** needed everywhere. Where they exist, they need repaired.
10. **Bicycle emphasis** needed everywhere.

Other top issues we will discuss with appropriate entity:

11. Potholes and street maintenance
12. Sidewalks on Broad west of Wilson, and on Georgesville (Franklin Township)
13. Maintenance and appearance of bus stops and shelters; bus education to Hispanic and non-English speaking populations (COTA)
14. Crime



Discussion – Top Issues

- In the list of top issues, is there anything that surprises you?
- Is anything missing?

Work Plan For Focus Areas

- W. Broad St. corridor
- Potential other corridor
- Neighborhood Clusters
 - East of Hague between Broad and Sullivant including Highland West
 - Westgate
 - East of Hague, south of Sullivant
 - North of Broad
 - West of Hague, south of Sullivant including Wilshire Heights
 - Others areas to address additional concerns from public input and 311 requests



Discussion – Work Plan

Next Steps

- Tentative schedule:
 - Walking audits – late April/Early May
 - Steering Committee Feedback on Preliminary Plans – late June
 - Public Input on Potential Solutions – July
 - Steering Committee Feedback on Recommendations and Prioritization – October
 - Finalize report and present to City Officials – end of 2009

School Travel Plan Update

- School Travel Plan
 - Valleyview Elementary & Westmoor Middle Schools
 - Outlines the community's intentions for enabling students to engage in safe, active transportation (walking/biking)
 - Required component of any Safe Routes to Schools Application
- Kick-off Meeting (January)
 - Identified Barriers to Active Transportation (walking/biking)
- Field Meeting (March 12)
 - Will be discussing potential Solutions
- Draft Plan (April)
- Final Plan (May)



Thank you

www.hilltopmobility.com

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