Bainbridge Island Walking & Biking Needs Survey

March 2018

Report of Results
Agenda

• Who is Bainbridge Mobility Alliance?
• Survey overview and objectives
• Who took the survey?
• What did we hear?
• Questions/discussion
Survey Sponsor

Bainbridge Mobility Alliance

• Citizen coalition

• Mission to improve conditions and opportunities for walking and biking on Bainbridge Island

• Survey based on similar community surveys by various organizations – customized for island issues
Survey Objectives

The survey was intended to do the following:

- Gather **baseline data** on behaviors and attitudes with respect to walking and biking.
- Understand the **perspectives and needs** of Bainbridge residents with respect to walking and biking.
- Identify **priorities and preferences** with respect to infrastructure improvements.
- Gauge the willingness of island residents to support a **funding measure** to enable construction of enhanced facilities for walking and biking within a reasonable time.
Survey Delivery

- 100% Online
- Widely promoted to general audience
- Designed to allow one response/person
Survey limitations

• Not a randomized survey – open to all residents
• Questions were limited to specific areas of inquiry
  • Limited info on what besides infrastructure improvements will motivate people to change behavior
  • No questions about specific projects
Who took the survey?

- 1,576 people – 97% island residents
- 62% of respondents were women
- ~ 1/2 were commuters, and half of commuters travel to Seattle
- ~ 1/3 of respondents were parents of school-aged kids
- Less than 1/4 were frequent bike riders
- ~ 3/4 were frequent walkers
- 4% have physical mobility limitations or disability
Bainbridge Residential Distribution

- Downtown Winslow: 30%
- Center Island not Winslow: 28%
- North Island: 28%
- South Island: 14%

Source: statisticalatlas.com
Tracts somewhat different from survey breakdown

Survey Residential Distribution

- Downtown Winslow: 24%
- Central Island not Winslow: 29%
- North Island: 24%
- South Island: 23%
Finding 1: People not satisfied with infrastructure for walking and biking

- 71% of respondents rated the biking environment on Bainbridge as Somewhat or Very Unsafe
- 48% of respondents rated the infrastructure for walking in the vicinity of their home as Bad or Very Bad – ratings vary widely by area
Finding 2: Poor infrastructure is a barrier to walking and biking

71% of those who do not bike or would like to bike more identified inadequate bike infrastructure as a barrier.

77% of parents with school-aged kids said lack of safe infrastructure is a barrier to their kids walking or biking to school.
Finding 3: People want a range of infrastructure improvements

Islanders want to see:

• Shoulder improvements (88%)
• Safe routes to school (76%)
• Other improvements
## Priority of infrastructure categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Build adequate shoulders for walking and biking along major roads</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>connecting to commercial areas and parks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build trails/paths to enable children to walk or bike to school</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>separated from traffic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Build sidewalks to fill gaps in Winslow and make existing</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sidewalks accessible for people with mobility limitations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build multi-use trails to create networks for off road</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>transportation and recreation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower speed limits for drivers to make roads more hospitable for</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walking and biking</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Dark green = Very Important
- Light blue = Important
Finding 4: People want high-quality shoulder facilities

More than half of respondents indicated they want more than a standard 5’ shoulder on major island roads

- 43% of “Interested but concerned” cyclists said a buffered shoulder was their minimum acceptable option – 24% want physical separation from cars
Finding 5: Motivating factors

- People are highly motivated by the health benefits of walking and biking (91%)
- Other highly-rated factors include fun/enjoyment and connection to nature
Finding 6: Some tree impacts accepted

- ~2/3 of respondents expressed a moderate view regarding tree removal to construct walking and biking facilities, as long as impacts are minimized
- Very few people expressed a “zero tolerance” view
Finding 7: There is strong support for a ballot measure

- 74% of respondents said they would be Likely or Very Likely to support a tax increase with an average cost of about $19/household/month to significantly shorten the time required to construct connected networks for walking and biking.

- Of the likely supporters, almost 60% indicated they would support a larger funding measure to further accelerate the construction of facilities for walking and biking.
## Funding measure support seen across demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subgroup</th>
<th>Percent Likely/Very Likely</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>74.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>75.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>73.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents of school kids</td>
<td>77.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commuters</td>
<td>78.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-commuters</td>
<td>70.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Interested but Concerned”</td>
<td>80.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subgroup</th>
<th>Percent Likely/Very Likely</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Downtown Winslow</td>
<td>78.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Island</td>
<td>71.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Island</td>
<td>69.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Island</td>
<td>76.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age 45-59</td>
<td>78.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 60-74</td>
<td>72.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age &gt;75</td>
<td>68.8%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Concerns of Non-supporters

• ~ 25% Unlikely or Very Unlikely to support the described funding measure

• Most common reason for lack of support was that they “Need more information or justification”

• Second most common reason was “Can’t afford to pay more taxes”
Free Text Responses – What else should we do to improve conditions for walking and biking on the island?

779 free-text responses regarding this question. Examples of frequent responses:

◦ Enforce current speed limits
◦ Educate bikers and drivers about how to share the roads safely
◦ Address safety issues in specific areas/roads
◦ Improve street lighting in high-traffic areas
◦ Keep the existing bike lanes free of debris
◦ Make safety improvements NOW – we’ve waited too long
◦ And MANY other ideas
Subgroup analysis
Finding 1: Parents of school-aged kids (N=540) want better infrastructure

• 77% said a lack of safe infrastructure is a significant barrier to their kids walking or biking to school
• 70% rated the biking environment on the island as either somewhat or very unsafe
• 65% said their kids would walk or bike to school more often if there were safe infrastructure between home and school
Finding 2: People who live in and near Winslow are happier with the current pedestrian infrastructure

• 81% of Downtown Winslow residents rated the pedestrian environment near their home as Okay or Very Good, as compared to 52% of the overall group
• 48% of Central Island (not downtown) residents rated the nearby pedestrian environment as Okay or Very Good; compared to 38% of North Island residents
Finding 3: People walk more in Winslow

A significantly higher % of Downtown Winslow residents reported frequently walking to get to a destination
- 82% v. 47% overall
- Center Island 43%
- North Island 30%
Gender differences
Finding 4: Men feel safer than women

The percentage of men rating the biking environment as Fairly or Very Safe was almost twice as high as that for women (37% v. 22%)

As a group, women show more risk aversion than men – and a greater need for high-quality bike lanes/infrastructure

46% of women were in the “Interested but concerned” group, compared to only 28% of men
“Interested but Concerned” bikers

• This is the group that would like to bike more but is not comfortable with current infrastructure – they might be encouraged to bike if infrastructure is improved (n=610, or about 40% of survey respondents)

• This group rated the importance of all infrastructure categories more highly than the general group
  • 95% of this group rated shoulder improvements as either Important or Very Important
  • 83% of this group rated trails/paths to enable kids to walk or bike to school separated from car traffic as Important or Very Important
Thank you!

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE??