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### The MPO Wants to Know: Bike to Work Week

In an effort to better understand public views, the MPO has launched a series of online surveys about various transportation-related topics. The survey results will help the MPO develop plans and projects for the future. The responses also will be shared with appropriate roundtables and policymakers. For a list of available surveys, please visit the MPO website at <http://www.dmampo.org/user/survey.html>. Below are the results of the first survey, which was distributed to coincide with Bike to Work Week.

#### *Question 1. Do you own a bicycle?*

Yes .....	95.6%
No.....	4.4%

#### *Question 2. If yes, how many days do you ride your bike each week?*

Never.....	24.8%
One.....	20.3%
Two three days.....	33.8%
Four to six days.....	15.8%
Daily.....	5.3%

#### *Question 3. What is the primary purpose of your bike trips?*

Recreation .....	48.9%
Exercise or health reasons.....	20.3%
Commuting to school/work .....	15.0%
Bicycle ride .....	5.3%
Personal errands.....	2.3%
Other (please specify) .....	8.3%
• Fun with friends and just hanging out	
• It is getting safer to ride – I never used to let my kids ride	
• I never ride the bike	
• We are planning to purchase our bikes soon to ride the paths we have near our house	
• Training for racing	
• All of the above, don't have a car	
• All of the above!	
• Both commute and recreation	
• It's a mix between saving on gas/car wear and exercise and plain old recreation	
• Fun, socializing, exercise, commuting – OVERALL LIFESTYLE	
• All of the above	

*Question 4. How satisfied are you with how your community is designed for bicycle safety?*

Not satisfied .....23.4%  
Somewhat satisfied .....64.1%  
Very satisfied .....12.5%

*Question 5. What changes would you recommend your community make for bicyclists?*

Of the individuals who responded to this question, nearly 70% pointed to the addition of more bike trails and bike lanes as a change for communities to make. Many respondents advocated for more education and training for drivers, police, cyclists, and the community in general.

Other respondents noted the option of hosting bicycle safety classes, while other sought stronger laws to protect cyclists. Connectivity and safety also were major issues. Safety concerns focused upon introducing wider trails and enhancing intersection crossings and traffic signals for bicyclists. Some respondents also noted the need for more bicycle facilities, including bike racks.

*Question 6. Have you ridden your bike on the Ingersoll Avenue bike lanes?*

Yes .....25.5%  
No.....74.5%

*Question 7. If you answered yes to question 6, please describe your experience.*

Over three-fourths of respondents had positive experiences utilizing the Ingersoll Avenue bike lanes. Respondents called the bike lanes “happy and fun” and “better, safer, and less stressful.” Another respondent noted that “we need more” bike lanes, while another enjoyed that “Ingersoll now has a real neighborhood feeling.” One small business owner along Ingersoll did mention, though, that “while the addition of the turning lane has improved safety entering the lot, channeling traffic from two lanes to one lane has reduced the number of gaps available to turn into and exit the lot.”

About twenty percent of respondents brought up the bumpy road surface of the bike lane. “Several larger potholes as well as lots of small bumps made the ride somewhat underwhelming.” Another respondent referred to uneven sections of the bike lanes.

Other negative experiences for cyclists along Ingersoll Avenue included competition with buses, which made riding problematic, and vehicle drivers who did not pay attention to where cyclists were riding.

*Question 8. What could the MPO do to help facilitate a bike culture in the Des Moines metropolitan area?*

In order to help facilitate a bike culture in the Des Moines metropolitan area, the majority of respondents suggested the MPO continue to spread the word about bicycling and also encourage education programs for all ages. Following the need for more education, other respondents proposed conducting ad campaigns and media promotions, publishing all the benefits of bicycling, promoting bicycle events, and hosting a community bike ride and picnic in collaboration with neighborhood associations. As one individual noted, “community awareness is the key.”

In addition to raising awareness, respondents also would like to see more bike lanes and bike racks throughout the metropolitan area. They would like the MPO to dedicate more funding to bicycle facilities as well. One respondent would like a designated individual to help bicyclists determine ideal routes. Finally, connectivity is essential for bicyclists in the metropolitan area; some would like to see the MPO help develop a complete network with Des Moines as the hub that connects existing trails throughout the suburbs.