



Public Works Department

515 Clark Avenue, Ames, Iowa 50010
Phone 515-239-5160 ♦ Fax 515-239-5404

Fellows Leadership Group
c/o Mrs. Cathy Braun
Fellows Elementary School
1235 20th Street
Ames, Iowa 50010

May 24, 2024

Dear Fellows Elementary Leaders:

Thank you so much for your interest in biking safety and accessibility! I appreciate the thoughtful survey; the responses provide excellent data. We are currently completing a citywide bicycle and pedestrian master plan called Walk Bike Roll. We will provide your results to our consulting team that is leading us in development of the plan. I'm sure they will find it valuable!

Walk Bike Roll will guide the City's future investments in our multi-modal systems such as sidewalks, paths, and bike lanes, greatly expanding connectivity across the community. The plan will also help address a few items noted in your survey:

- The plan builds upon the \$1.6 million average per year currently being programmed on biking infrastructure by expanding the shared use (bike) path network in key locations.
- Many intersections are being identified where important improvements will be made for crossing mobility and safety.
- A wayfinding plan is also being developed with Walk Bike Roll, which will guide the development and placement of path identification and mapping signage around the community. This will help users in planning their routes helping to reduce confusion and conflicts.

Thank you again for the work you put into this survey and providing the thoughtful input. We may be able to work with Mrs. Braun to provide a presentation on Walk Bike Roll to your group in the fall.

Sincerely,

John C. Joiner, P.E.
Public Works Director
City of Ames, IA

Cc: Mayor and Council

Mr. Steve Schainker, City Manager
Mr. Damion Pregitzer, Traffic Engineer

Fellows Leadership Group
Fellows Elementary School
1235 20th Street
Ames, Iowa 50010

May 15, 2024

John Joiner, Public Works Director & Damion Pregitzer, Traffic Engineer
City of Ames
515 Clark Ave.
Ames, Iowa 50010

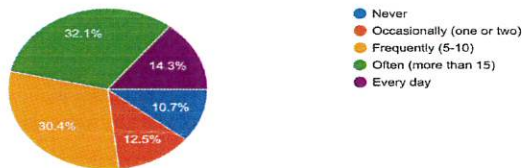
Dear Mr. Joiner and Mr. Pregitzer,

We are a group of fourth and fifth grade students that make up the current Leadership Group at Fellows Elementary. Our main goal is to help support a positive culture and a sense of belonging among students at Fellows. We do this by observing some of the issues at Fellows and become agents of change.

On average we have about 56 bike riders a day at Fellows Elementary. Last week we celebrated Bicycle Safety Week led by our PE teacher, Lucian Diaconu. One of our activities was to participate in an all-school ride. After the ride we completed a survey about the bikeability of Ames (56 responses.) Our leadership group compiled the results. We'd like to share some of the things we learned and hope you'll consider this community input and share it with the City of Ames Council members to improve bike safety in Ames.

50% of those taking the survey described themselves as a confident rider while 34% said they were intermediate riders, and 16% were beginners.

In good weather months, about how many days a month do you ride your bike?
56 responses



Did you have a place to ride safely on the road?

80% of the responses said "yes."

10% of the responses said the bike lane or shoulder disappeared.

How was the surface that you rode on?

60% said good.

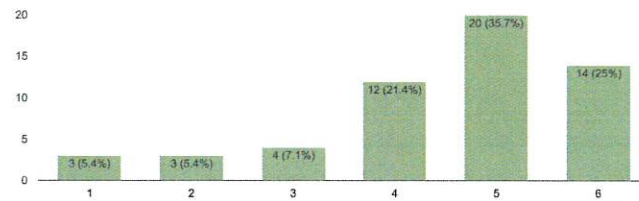
About 40% said the roads were broken or uneven.

Did you have a place to bicycle safely on an off-road path or trail, where motor vehicles were not allowed?

Only 59% of the people said yes.

1 (awful) to 6 (fantastic)

Overall how would you rate the safety of the roads or paths?
56 responses



How were the intersections you rode through?

66% said they were good.

35% said they had to wait too long to cross, couldn't see traffic coming, or were unsure how to cross.

Did drivers behave well?

73% said yes.

24% said no (passed too close, did not signal, cut me off, or ran red lights.)

Was it easy for you to use your bike?

77% of the responses were yes.

Only 9% said no.

The main takeaway we gathered from this data was the safety of the roads that bicycles had access to. It was reported that many of the roads traveled on had cracked or broken pavement, uneven surface or gaps, and bumpy or angled railroad tracks. This makes it very unsafe for bike riders.

Other areas of concern mentioned in the survey were the safety of intersections and vehicle etiquette. Some bike riders felt they couldn't see crossing traffic. Vehicle drivers were reported to drive too fast, too close, or didn't obey the street signs. A consideration would be to put up "Share the Road" signs which will draw awareness to bike riders and increase the safety of our students as well as the community. Clearly marked paths also help in reducing confusion and potential conflicts between cyclists and motorists.

A discussion the leadership group had was increasing the number of bike paths on major roads. This provides us with a separate road area away from vehicles. Dedicated bike paths provide cyclists with a safer environment, reducing the risk of accidents involving motor vehicles.

On a positive note, most of the Ames drivers were courteous to bike riders and most riders felt it was easy to get around by bicycle in Ames. We've included our results for further information. Thank you for taking the time to read our letter and share what we've learned about bike safety in Ames.

Sincerely,
Fellow's Leadership Group
(Facilitated by Cathy Braun, School Counselor)

Cc: Mr. John Joiner, Mr. Damion Pregitzer

Tessa

Evie

Rooney

Josie

Divija

Zofia

Maksha

Rital

Esther

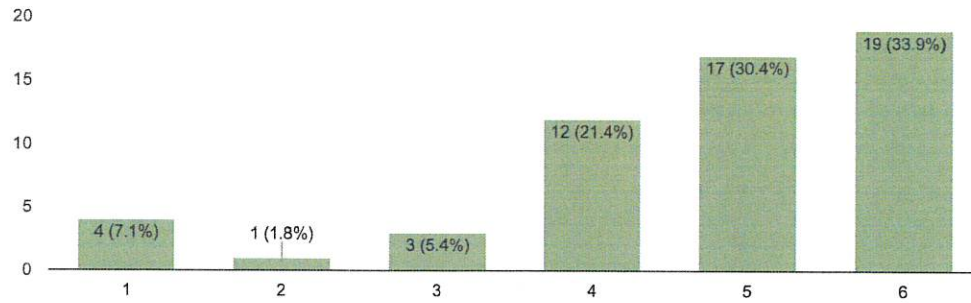
Aadya

Lucas



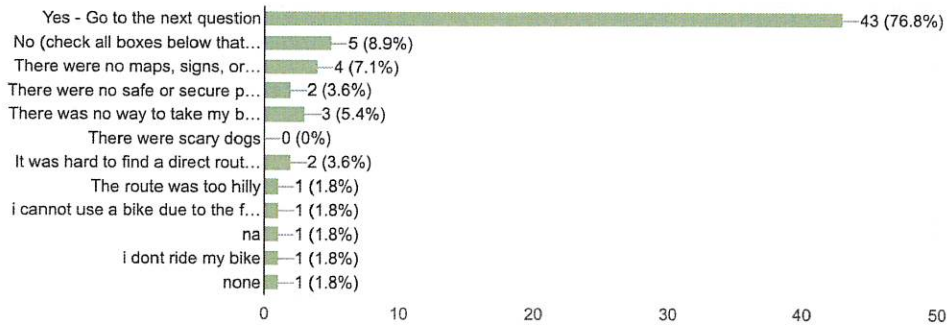
Overall, drivers were

56 responses



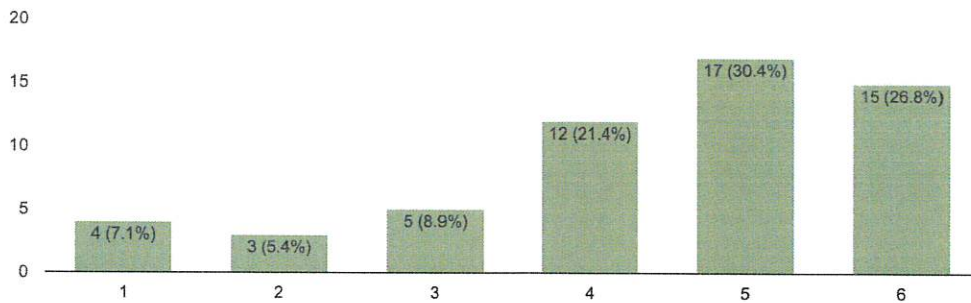
Was it easy for you to use your bike?

56 responses



Overall I would rate the "ease of use" as

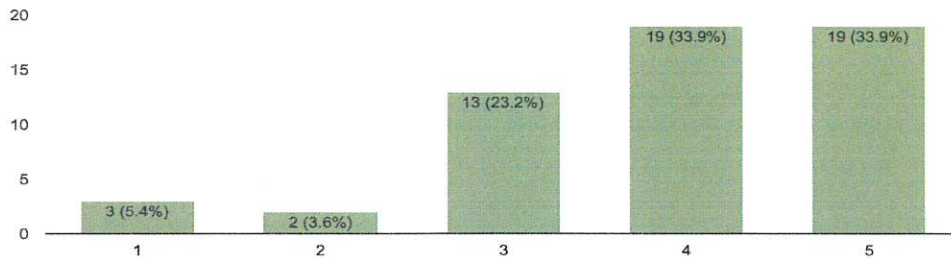
56 responses



May 2024 Bikeability Survey Fellows Elementary

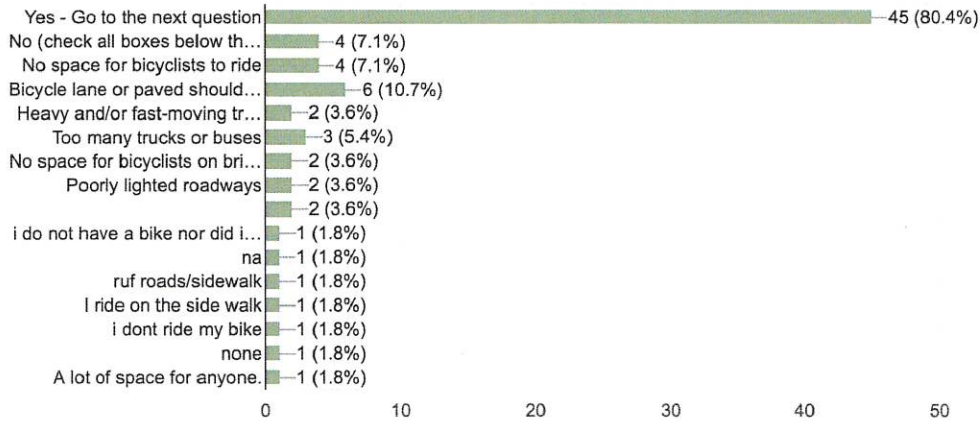
Overall, how would you rate your bike ride?

56 responses



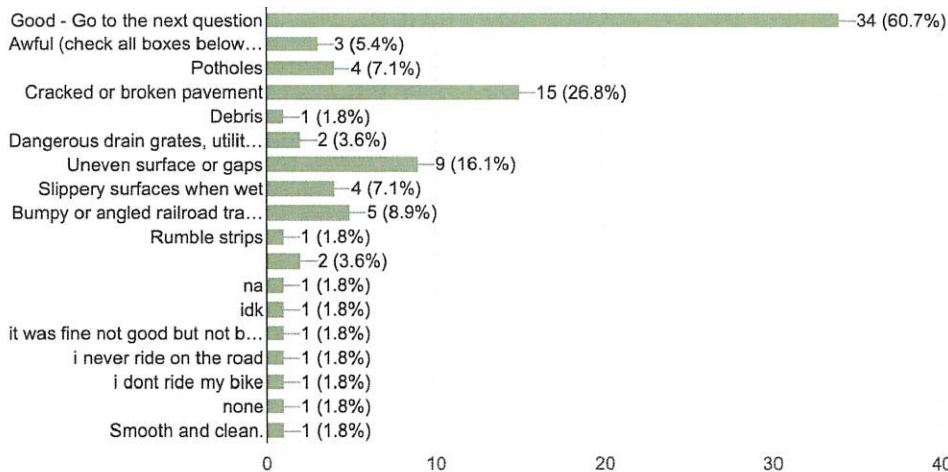
Did you have a place to ride safely on the road?

56 responses



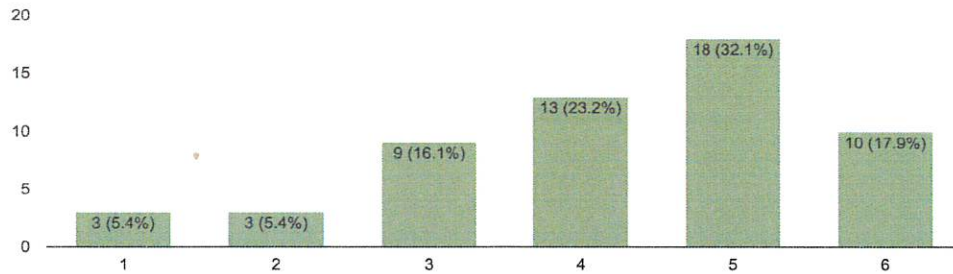
How was the surface that you rode on?

56 responses



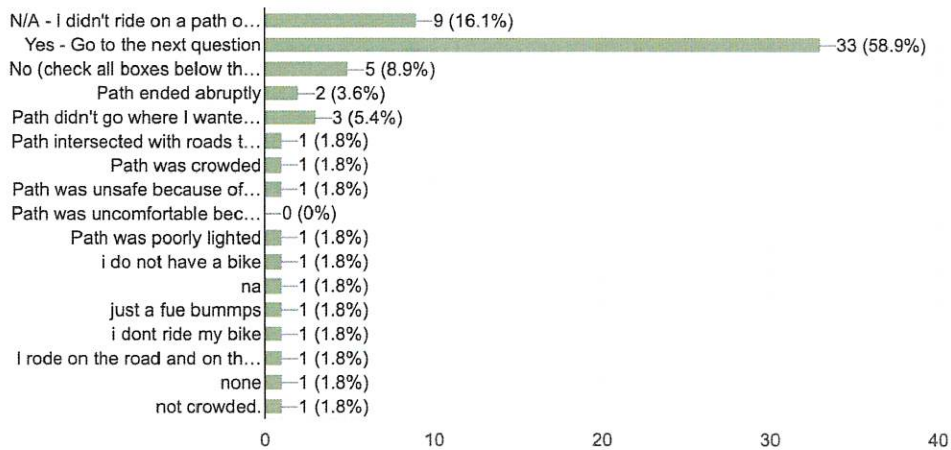
Overall how would you rate the surface you rode your bicycle on?

56 responses



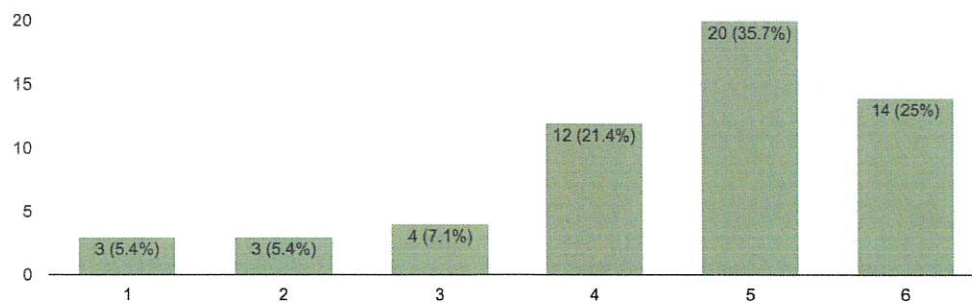
Did you have a place to bicycle safely on an off-road path or trail, where motor vehicles were not allowed?

56 responses



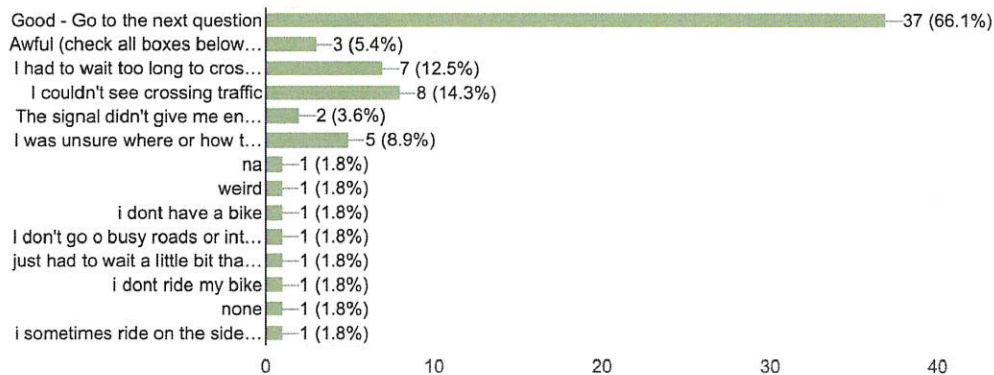
Overall how would you rate the safety of the roads or paths?

56 responses



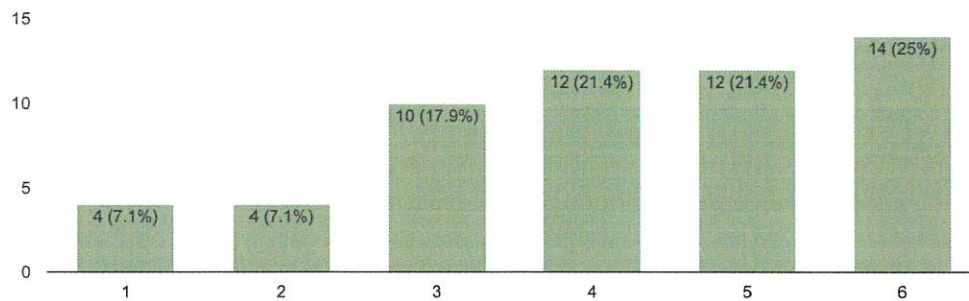
How were the intersections you rode through?

56 responses



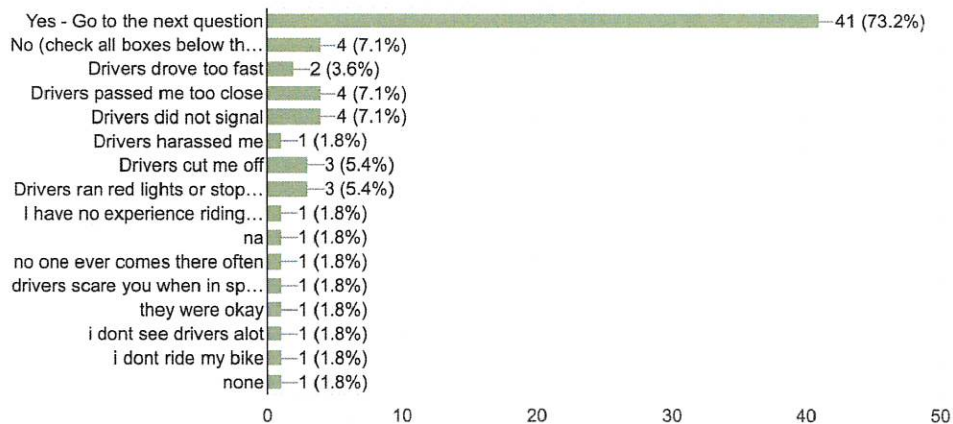
Overall I would rate the intersections as

56 responses



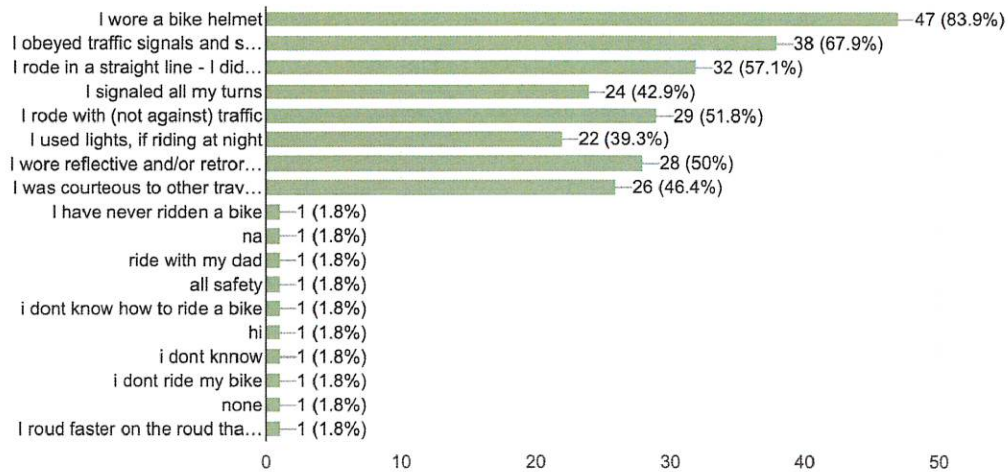
Did drivers behave well?

56 responses



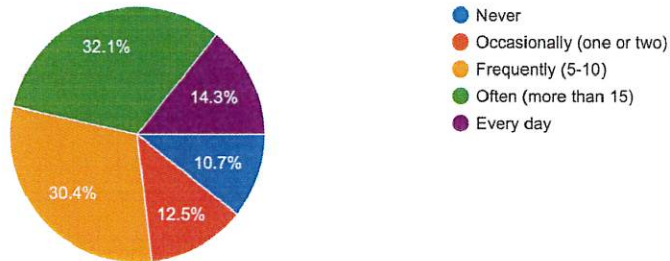
What did you do to make your ride safer?

56 responses



In good weather months, about how many days a month do you ride your bike?

56 responses



Which of these phrases best describes you?

56 responses

