



HEALTHY CONNECTIONS

From our own perspectives and voices

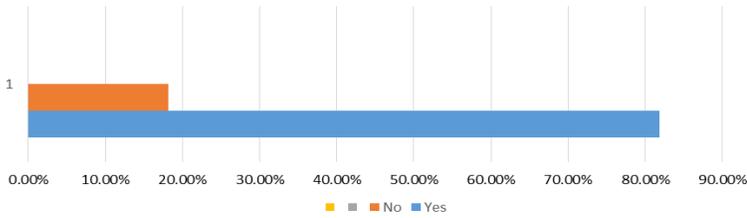
The Minnesota Healthy Kids Coalition Transportation Equity Research Project in partnership with, Healthy Connections Group and Summit Academy OIC has taken the lead in assisting agencies to better understand the need to support local communities of color as they seek opportunities that enable them to determine their own priorities, interests and preferred method of engagement and communication within the emerging transportation equity movement.

Bike and pedestrian investments are not only critical for the economically privileged to use at their leisure, but provide healthy active mobility options for communities of color that more often rely on low cost mobility options to travel. However, policy makers and key institutional stakeholders typically lack a clear understanding of the perspectives, priorities and preferred engagement strategies and methods of these communities most often left out of the transportation conversation. We believe that by investing in more engaged qualitative research methods that aims to understand communities of color as stakeholders in transit we can successfully shift transportation discourse and integrate their needs into policy decisions and investments. This approach is also key in sustaining engaged cross-racial dialogues between investors and planners of transit projects. Through increased understanding and partnership, we can help avoid negative outcomes for communities of color.

Furthermore, we believe that there is a more fruitful, less painful way for communities of color and transit authorities to work together on projects to build infrastructure and increase access to transportation through inclusive governance models that respect and support cultural interest and priorities. This research enables us to identify best practices for community-centered engagement and partnership in the active transportation discussions and decisions now and in the future

<u>Research Methods</u>	<u>Demographics</u>	<u>Healthy Connections Team</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 Community Centered Focus Groups: 82 stakeholders • Community Centered Survey: 57 stakeholders • February-March 2015 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0-65 • Hispanic • American Indian • African American • Somali • Asian 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighborhood Hub, • Masjid An-Nur, • Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board, • Sammie Ardito Rivera • North Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Council (NMBAC)

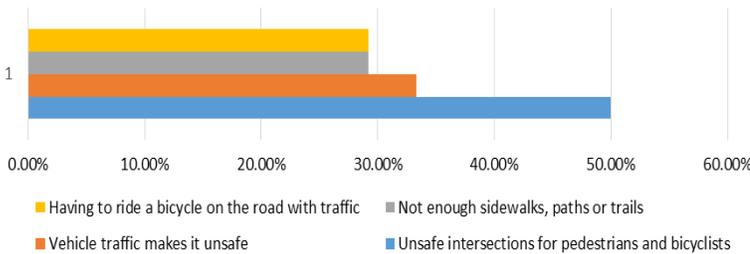
Do you Bike? (n = 55)



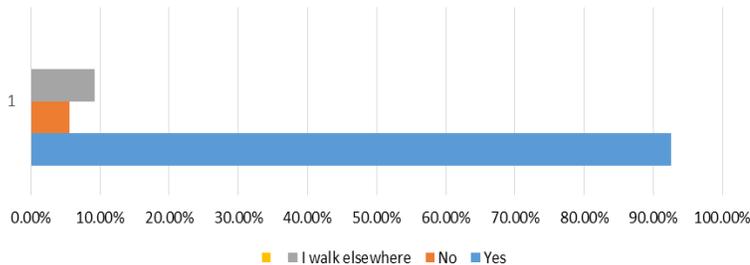
How often do you bike? (n = 45)



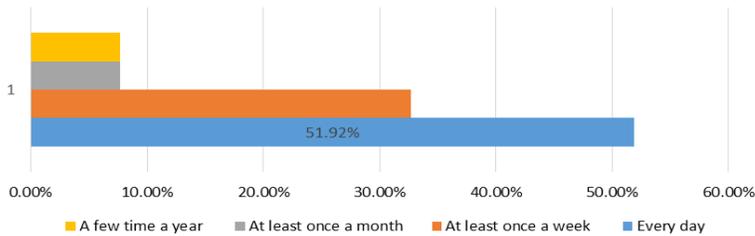
Barriers to Biking (n = 24)



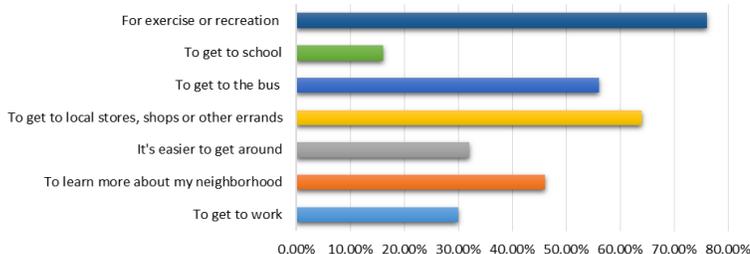
Do you take walks in your community? (n=54)



How often do you walk? (n = 52)



Why do you walk? (n = 50)



Focus Group Key Discussion Points of interests from communities of color

American Indian

- Walking is a safety issue for American Indian girls and women due to fear of solicitation and sex trafficking
- Trust must be established between white researchers and the American Indian community due to historical misuse of community based research data
- We are experienced, we are watchful, we are leaders of our own lands and we are still here

African American Muslim

- Personal safety is vital to increasing biking and walking
- Community ownership, interest and direct benefit is center to community's engagement
- Clear political analysis of the landscape, process, rules, timelines and objectives is key to community impact

Hispanic

- Safety is a high community priority that requires bike and pedestrian infrastructure investments
- Race, Class, and Active gear Affordability impacts community participation of biking and walking on the Greenway
- Must have more intentional and targeted community engagement

Youth

- Would like to be more engaged in the Active Transportation movement and future decisions
- Would like to see more active transportation infrastructure investments
- Would like to increase access to biking and more family biking and walking activities

African American Women

- Personal safety, sexual harassment and community violence prevents biking and walking
- Increased family friendly environments and quality activities and programs promotes biking and walking
- Making a real difference and impact from community input and feedback matters

Community Leaders

- There must be intentional investments in bike and pedestrian infrastructure
- Racial and political power dynamics impact investment and engagement
- Must build and support more community leadership with active transportation movement