

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 2, 2020 Project #: 23858

To: Project Management Team

From: Mark Heisinger, EIT, and Nick Foster, AICP, RSP

Project: City of Ontario, Active Transportation Update and East Idaho Avenue Refinement Area Plan

Subject: Youth Workshop Summary

The project team and City of Ontario recently completed a series of virtual youth workshops with students from the Four Rivers Community School. The purpose of the workshops was to solicit feedback from the students on walking and biking in Ontario and to teach the students about the project and the role the City plays in maintaining transportation facilities. This memorandum summarizes the feedback received from the students.

The virtual youth workshops were held on the following dates:

- High School Student Workshop (9th – 11th graders) November 18, 2020, 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
- Elementary Student Workshop (4th and 5th graders) November 24th, 2020, 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WORKSHOP

The high school workshop was attended by approximately 90 high-school students in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12. The project team asked the students about their general experiences walking and biking in Ontario, and if there were any specific locations where they thought walking and biking was challenging. Feedback received from the students in the workshop include:

- 4th Ave / Hillcrest. Has a marked crossing across 4th Ave. Several students use this crossing, but consider it to be dangerous and vehicles don't always yield for the students. Several teachers also commented on this crossing and suggested removing it and allowing students to cross at 4th / Sunset.
- SE 5th Ave from S. Oregon Street to City Hall (SW 4th Street) needs sidewalks on south side of street.
- SE 5th Street is not well lit.
- Fairgrounds to Highschool (along NW 9th Street) needs improved sidewalks and crossings.
- Eastside Park – No sidewalk around park and from the residential neighborhoods.

- The area near NW 3rd and NW 1st have no stop signs and high vehicle speeds.
- The students generally prefer to bike on sidewalks rather than on bike lanes or in roadways.

Students were also sent the link to the online comment map, where they left the following comments:

- 9th Street (s of Kiwanis Park) needs better lighting and sidewalks
- The area around 5th Street/Idaho Ave needs more sidewalks. Lots of kids in this area.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT WORKSHOP

The elementary workshop was attended by approximately 40 elementary school students in grades 4 and 5. The project team asked the students about their general experiences walking and biking in Ontario, and if there were any specific locations where walking and biking was challenging.

When asked where the students liked to walk, locations included:

- Walking the dog around residential neighborhoods.
- Parks
- The store
- Aiken Elementary
- Four Rivers School
- Skate park
- A friend's house

When asked where the students liked to bike, locations included:

- Park by the Hospital (Lions Park)
- Library
- School

Most students indicated that they don't bike to school (3-5 students regularly biked to school). The majority of students also indicated that they didn't bike on the road because they felt it was too dangerous and preferred biking on sidewalks.

Other general feedback received from the students in the workshop include:

- More sidewalks and crossing improvements are needed on Alameda Drive, especially near 18th Street
- Crossing the streets adjacent to Aiken Elementary is difficult.
- There are not many places where students feel safe biking on the road.
- There are too many weeds on the roadway shoulders and sidewalks.
- Alameda Drive needs sidewalks, especially the southern portion.
- They would like a crosswalk near the Grocery Outlet.