

Lake Johanna Boulevard Roadway and Trail Design Study

Round 1 Engagement Summary – November 2021

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND APPROACH

Three rounds of engagement are planned for the Lake Johanna Boulevard Roadway and Trail Design Study. Ramsey County has completed the first round of engagement. In this round, the county introduced the project, shared existing conditions information and asked the public about their experiences using Lake Johanna Boulevard and their visions for the corridor. This document summarizes the feedback received during the first round of engagement from October through November 2021.

ROUND 1 COMMON FEEDBACK THEMES

- Generally supportive of having trail separated from traffic.
- Cars travel too fast on this road, causing accidents.
- Cars travel on/pass on the shoulders that pedestrians and cyclists are using.
- Roadway doesn't feel safe to walk, bike and/or push a stroller, especially with children.
- Curves in road make it hard to see oncoming traffic.
- Existing asphalt path along portion of west bank of the lake is too narrow and uneven.

Engagement To-Date:

- In-person open house held Oct. 5, 2021
- Virtual open house held Oct. 12, 2021
- 199 paper and online survey responses
- 76 interactive feedback map comments
- 484 project introduction postcards mailed
- Email blasts to project distribution list
- Yard signs posted around the project area
- 12 posts on Ramsey County social media outlets
- Newspaper notices

ONLINE AND PAPER SURVEY RESULTS

A snapshot of the online and paper survey results are displayed on the next page. Responses to the open-ended survey question regarding barriers to pedestrian and bicycle use are summarized below:

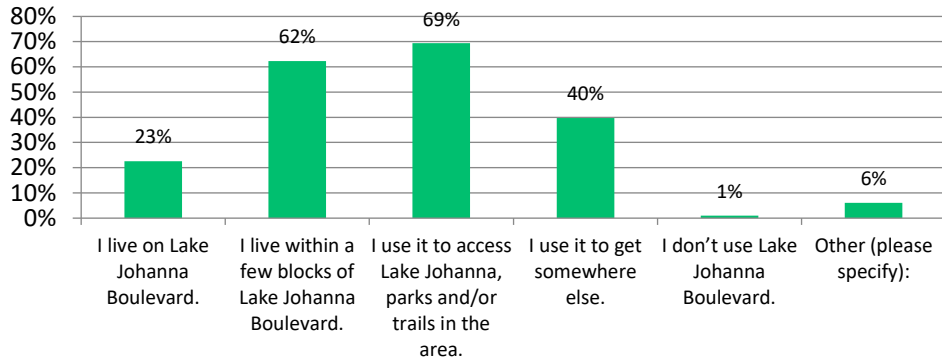
What barriers, if any, do you experience to using this stretch of Lake Johanna Boulevard?

- Cars travel and take turns too fast, drive on/pass on the road shoulders that pedestrians/bicyclists are using.
- Existing path along the lake is too narrow, uneven and close to traffic; people aren't able to pass each other or walk side-by-side; it isn't accessible for strollers on the south side near Lake Lane; existing path is not cleared of snow in winter.
- Many cars don't stop for people in the crosswalks (e.g., at the beach, at the trail head).
- Poor sightlines make using shoulders to walk unsafe/uncomfortable.
- Cars/trailers are often parked on shoulders blocking walkers and cyclists.

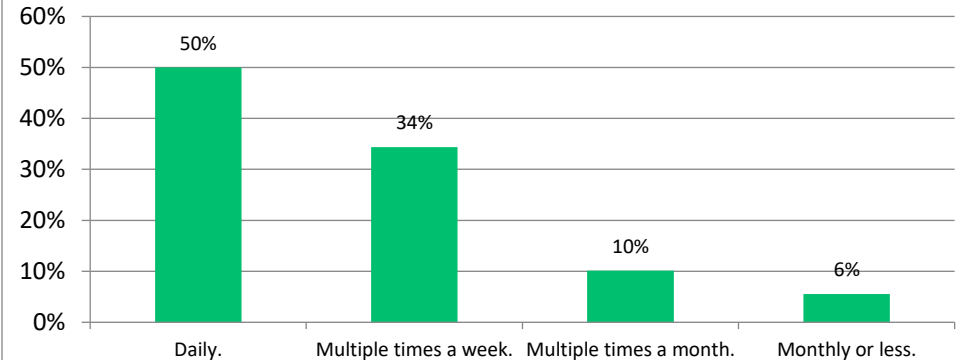
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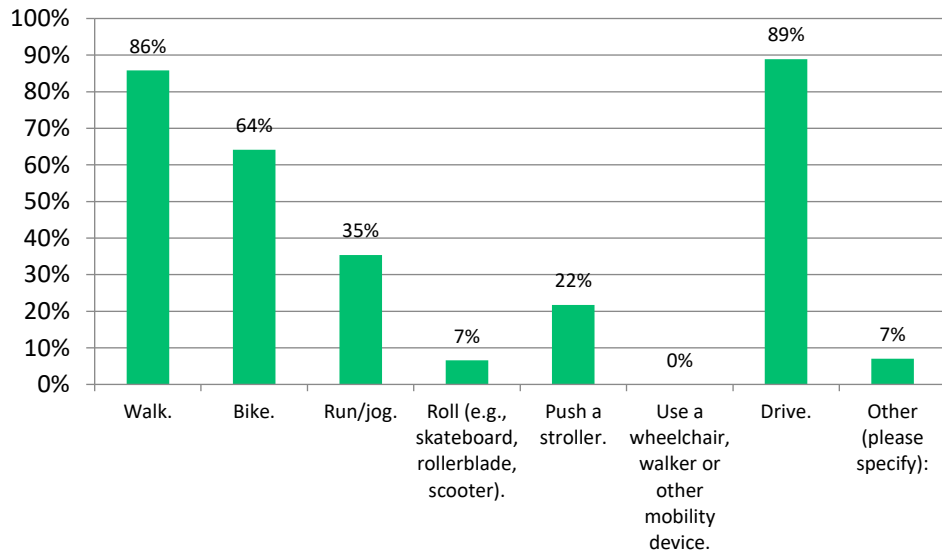
What is/are your purpose(s) for using this stretch of Lake Johanna Boulevard? Select all that apply.



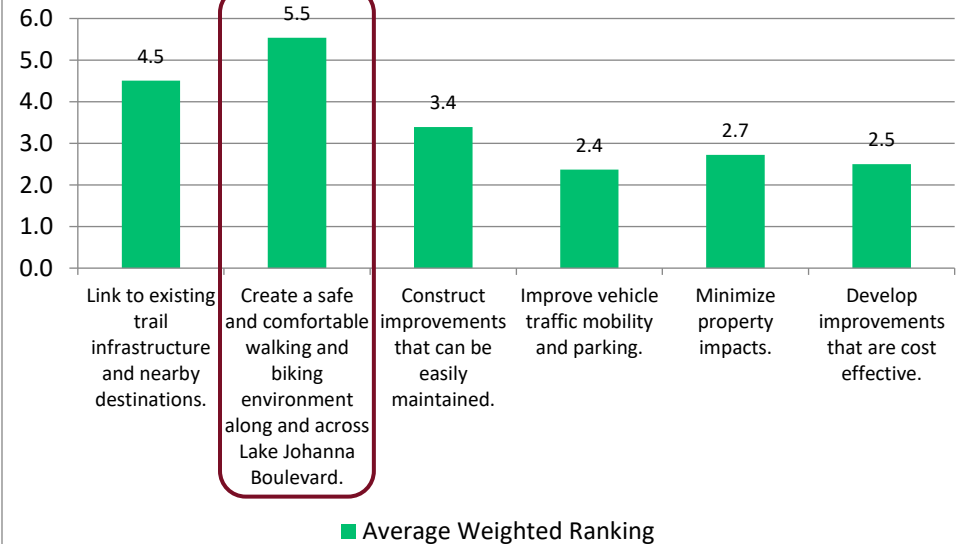
How often do you travel along this stretch of Lake Johanna Boulevard?



How do you travel along this stretch of Lake Johanna Boulevard? Select all that apply.



Which of the following goals are most important to you?



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INTERACTIVE MAP RESULTS

Users could select a pin and drop it in a location along the project corridor where they wanted to provide feedback. Pin categories included: amenities, needs improvement and important destinations. Common feedback is summarized by comment pin category.

Important destinations

- Public boat landing parking lot often overflows on to Lake Johanna Boulevard; consider allowing boat trailers to park in the regional park parking lot north of Lake Johanna Boulevard.
- Ensure there are safe places for people to gather/enjoy activities along Lake Johanna.
- Trail location/design should create a good connection to the public beach.
- Ensure trail is ADA accessible and wide enough to allow strollers, wheelchairs, bicyclists and pedestrians to safely pass each other.
- Mixed feedback regarding preference for trail location along Lake Johanna Boulevard through Tony Schmidt Park and connection to Old Snelling Avenue:
 - Having a trail on the south side of the road would connect well with the existing trail on County Road E.
 - Concern from property owners along the lake that a south side trail would impact their yards and cause increased bike/pedestrian traffic very near their homes.

Amenities

- Increase pedestrian safety of crosswalk near beach by adding flashing crosswalk lights and wide, raised crosswalk.

Needs improvement

- Prioritize connections to existing trails to ensure continuous stretches of safe space for people walking and biking.
- The curves on Lake Johanna Boulevard are dangerous for walkers, bikers and pedestrians; many motorists drive in the shoulder creating unsafe conditions.
- Mixed feedback about preferences for traffic modifications/road closures along the west side of Lake Johanna:
 - Convert Lake Johanna Boulevard between County Road E and Lake Lane to pedestrian/bike space and remove vehicles; Cleveland Avenue and New Brighton Boulevard can accommodate traffic.
 - Consider making Lake Johanna Boulevard a one-way to divert through traffic to New Brighton Boulevard and/or Cleveland Avenue to provide more room for trail and to improve overall safety.
 - Do not close Lake Johanna Boulevard to vehicle traffic; would push more traffic to already busy, high-speed streets and make it harder to use the beach.
- Traffic calming needed, especially at south end of the corridor where the lanes are wider and roadway is straight.
- Consider extending trail 0.5 mile south to the existing trail on Fairview Avenue; would allow for better connections to trail network.