

TOWN OF MARS HILL

Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan



► PROJECT OVERVIEW

In 2023 the Town of Mars Hill received a Multimodal Planning Grant from the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to develop a comprehensive, implementation focused plan for bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

► VISION + GOALS

DRAFT VISION STATEMENT

"The Town of Mars Hill is a livable community with an accessible and connected network of sidewalks, trails, and bicycle facilities where residents and visitors of all ages and abilities can safely and conveniently walk and bike to their destinations while enjoying mountain landscapes and small-town charm."

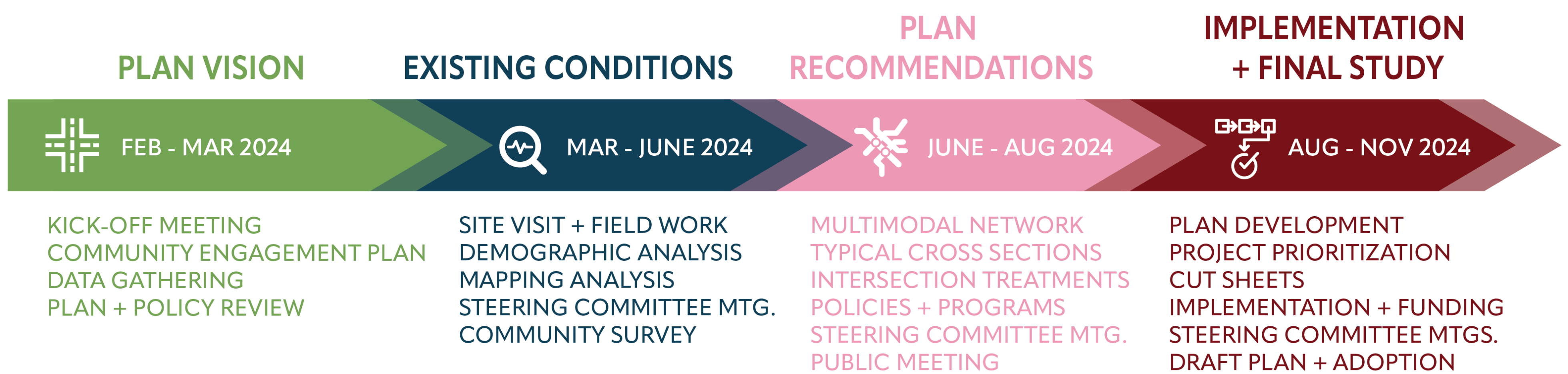
GOALS



► PROCESS + SCHEDULE

Input from the public is key to the Plan's success.

By obtaining input throughout the planning process, the Town will incorporate diverse perspectives and needs into the plan's recommendations.



► WHY PLAN?

Planning for bicycle and pedestrian facilities helps create a focused vision for the community's transportation network, identify priority projects, and develop strategies for implementation. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities provide numerous benefits to the community:



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement is key to the planning process to ensure the plan reflects the priorities and mobility needs of the community.

► PUBLIC SURVEY

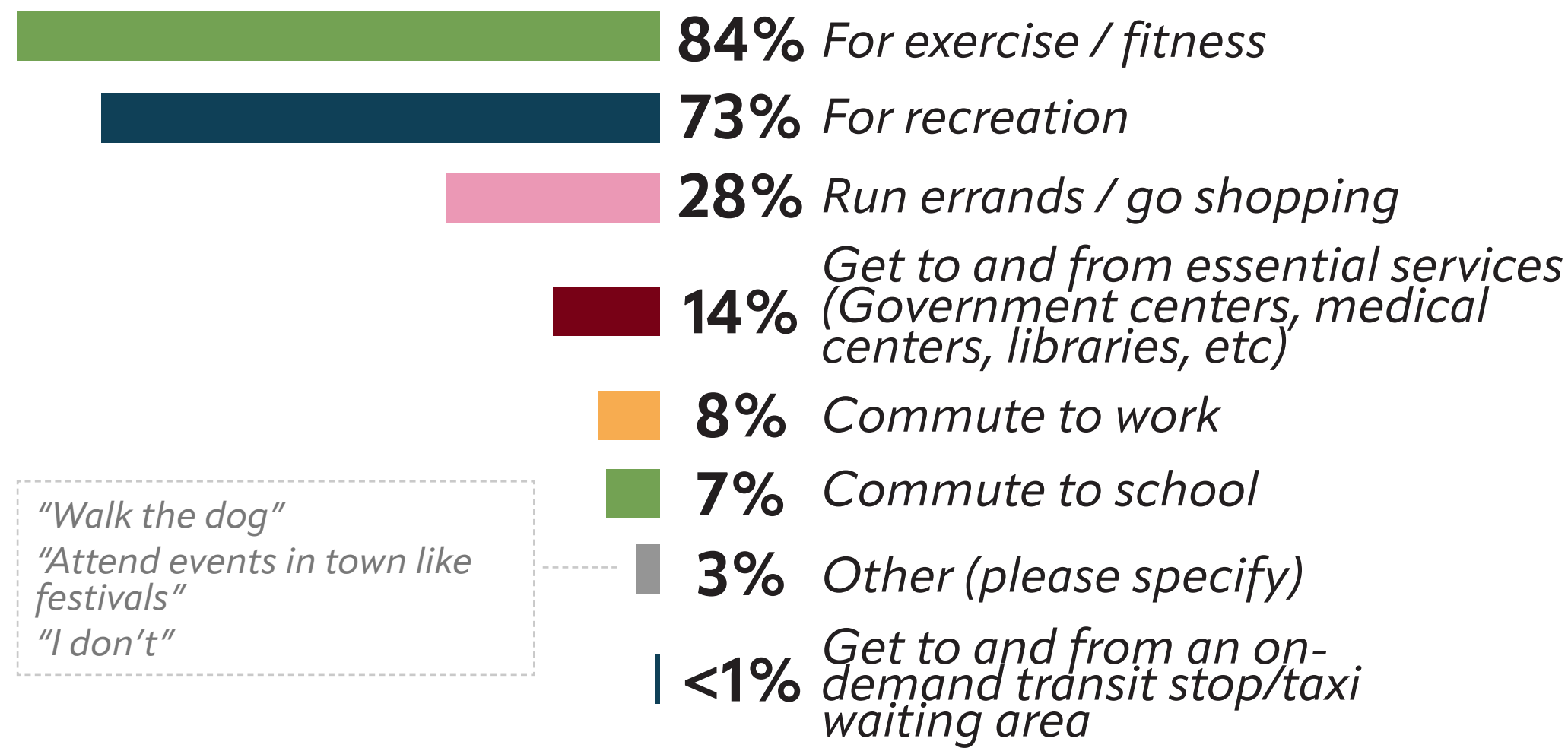
A public survey was held to collect feedback about the existing bicycle and pedestrian network in Mars Hill and to establish ideas for the future. The survey was hosted on PublicInput.com and open from May 2 through July 5, 2024.

536 survey participants

408 survey comments

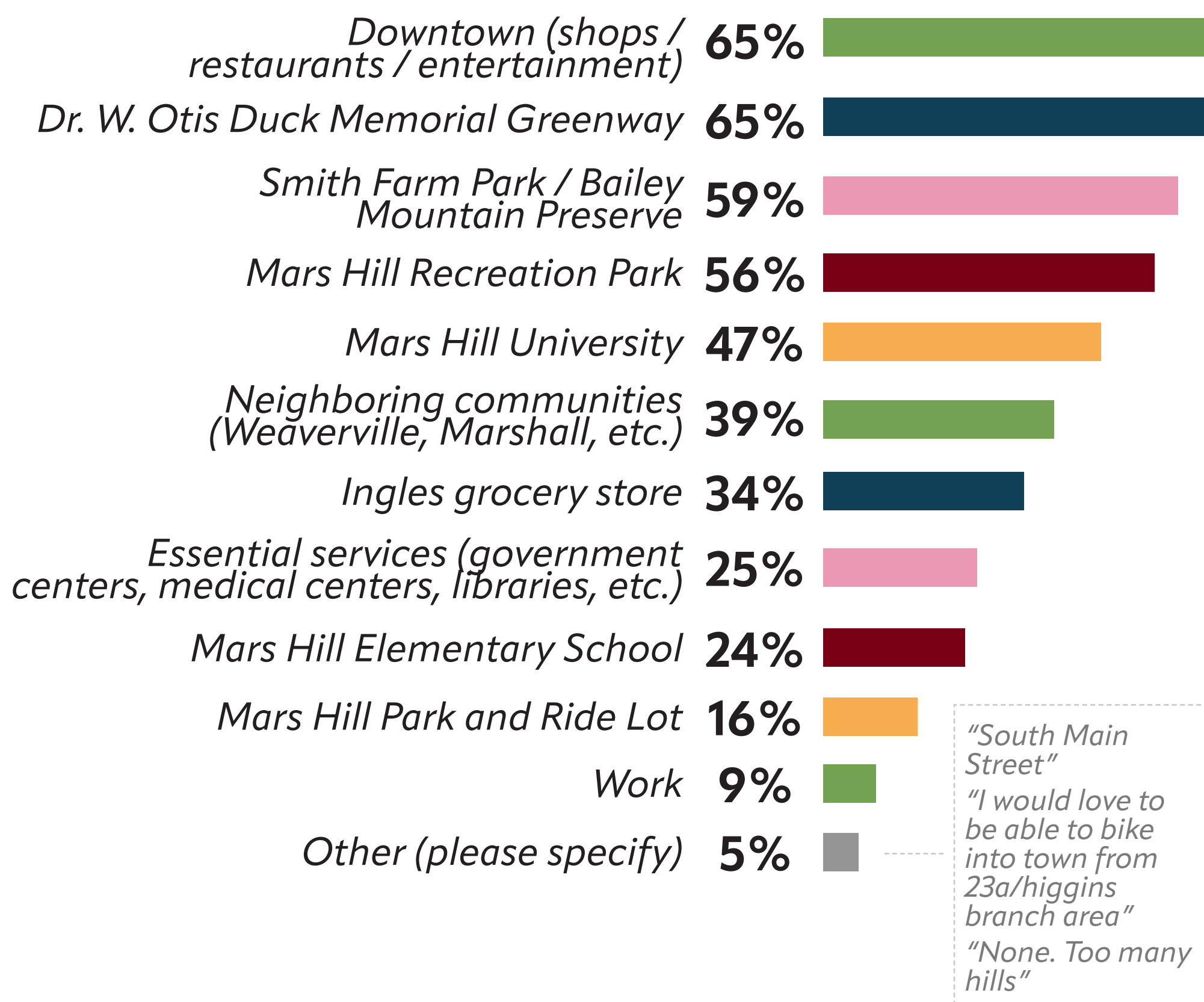
WHAT ARE THE PRIMARY REASONS THAT YOU OR MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD WALK OR BIKE IN MARS HILL?

Select all that apply.

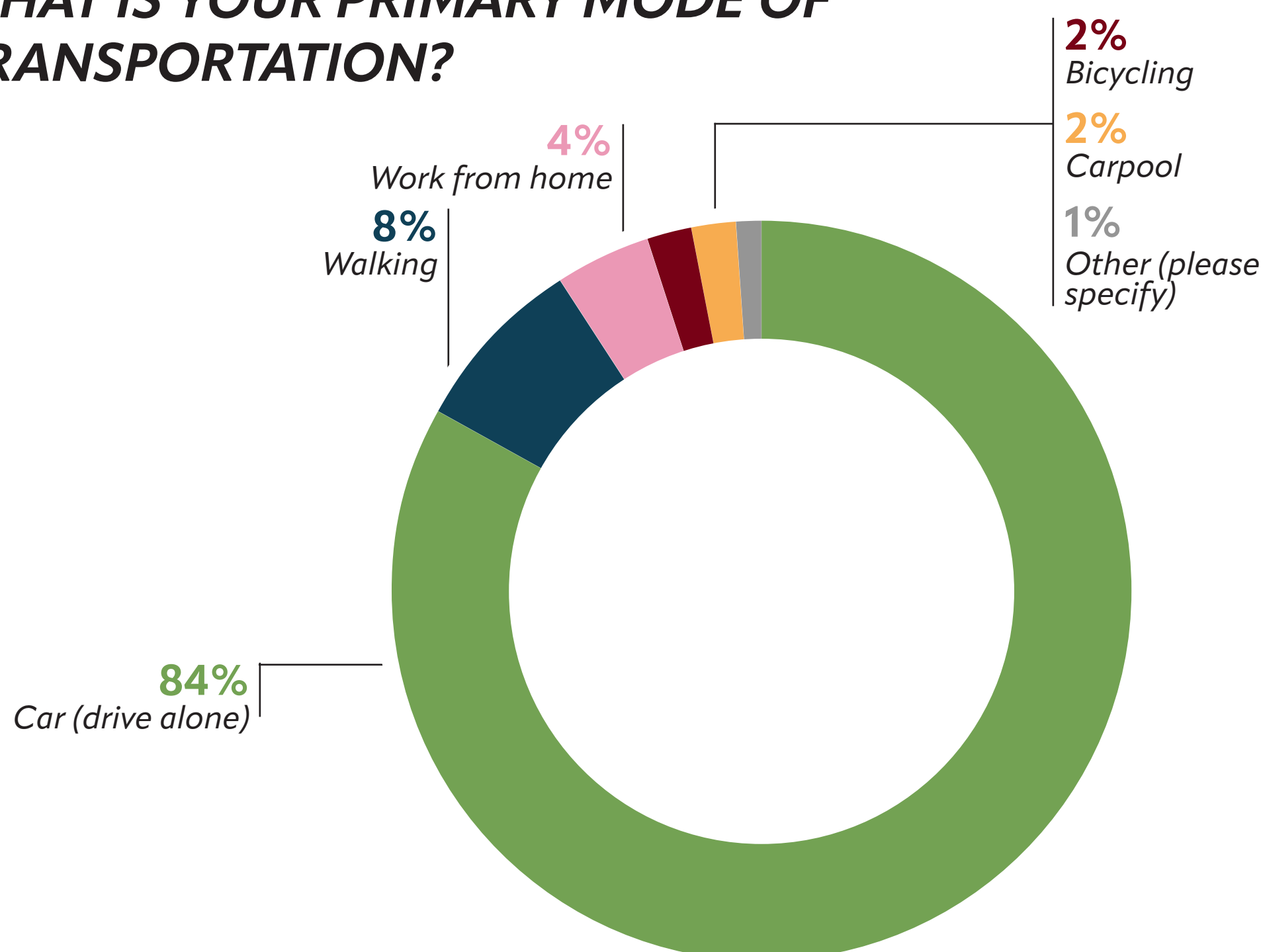


WHICH DESTINATIONS WOULD YOU LIKE TO WALK OR BIKE TO IN MARS HILL IF BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES WERE IMPROVED?

Select all that apply.



WHAT IS YOUR PRIMARY MODE OF TRANSPORTATION?



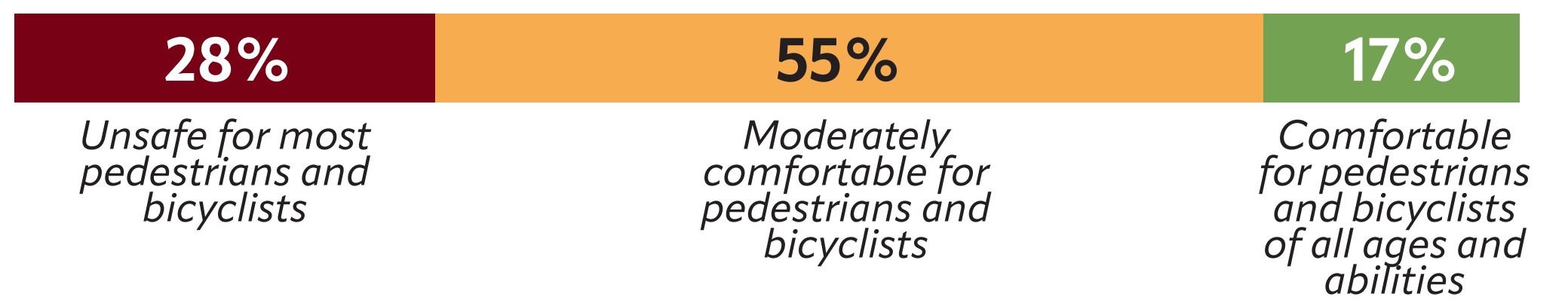
SELECTED QUOTES

"The lack of a sidewalk between Cemetery St and the library, as well as upper North Main St are concerns. A sidewalk on Bruce to the greenway would also be nice, and a crosswalk at Anderson/ Bruce and North Main as well. Also, can we get a four way stop at the Anderson and Mountain View intersection?"

"Where Bailey Street and greenway meet there needs to be safer passage for both pedestrians and cyclists as well as cars. Maybe a tunnel could be built or the bushes cut back at the greenway crosswalk? Drivers cannot see pedestrians at all coming from the greenway toward the college until they are almost in the road."

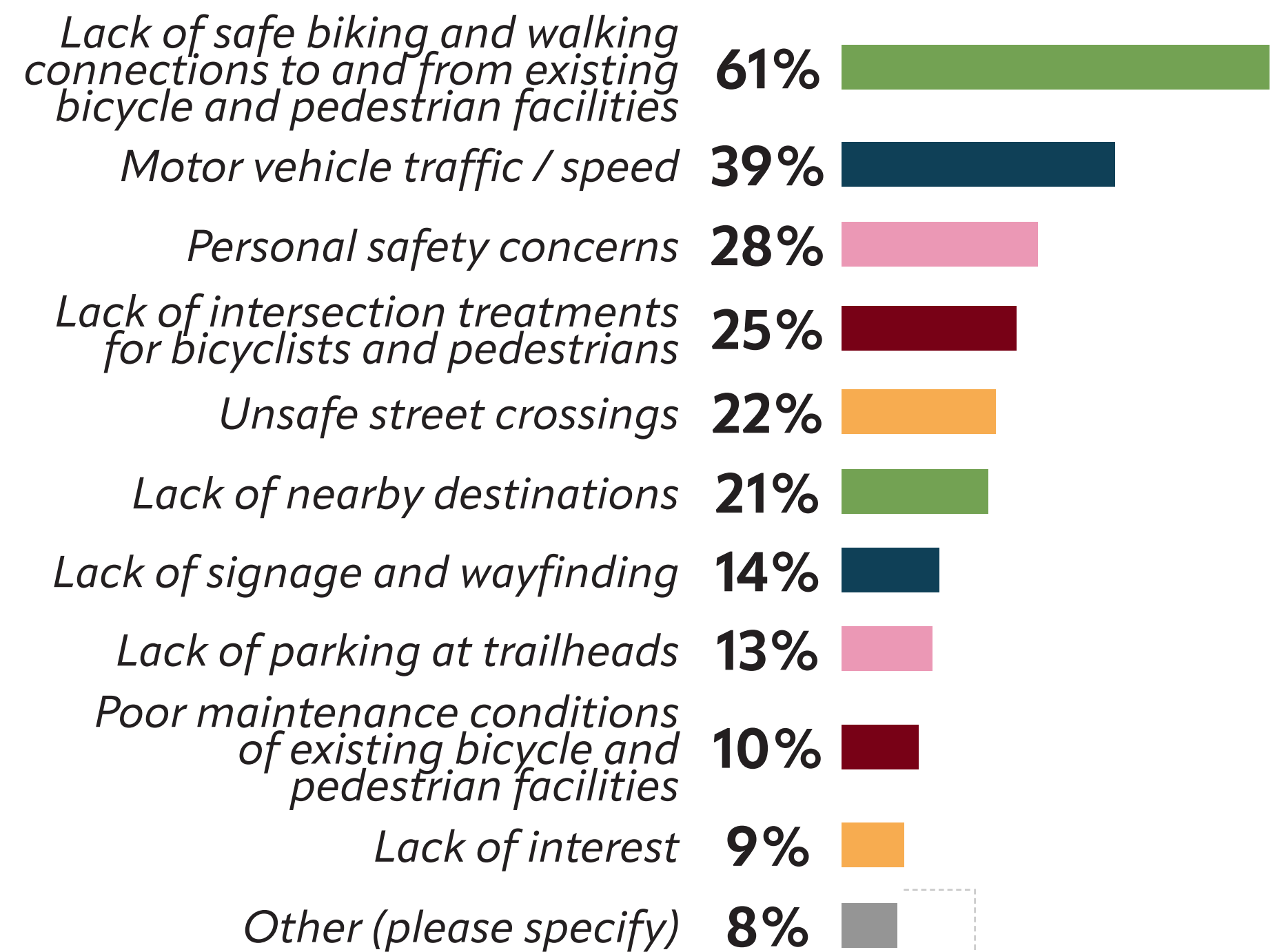
"I love living and working in Mars Hill and raising my children here! We would all love to bike and walk more."

HOW DO YOU RATE LEVELS OF COMFORT FOR THOSE CURRENTLY WALKING AND BIKING IN MARS HILL?



WHAT FACTORS DISCOURAGE YOU FROM WALKING OR BIKING IN MARS HILL?

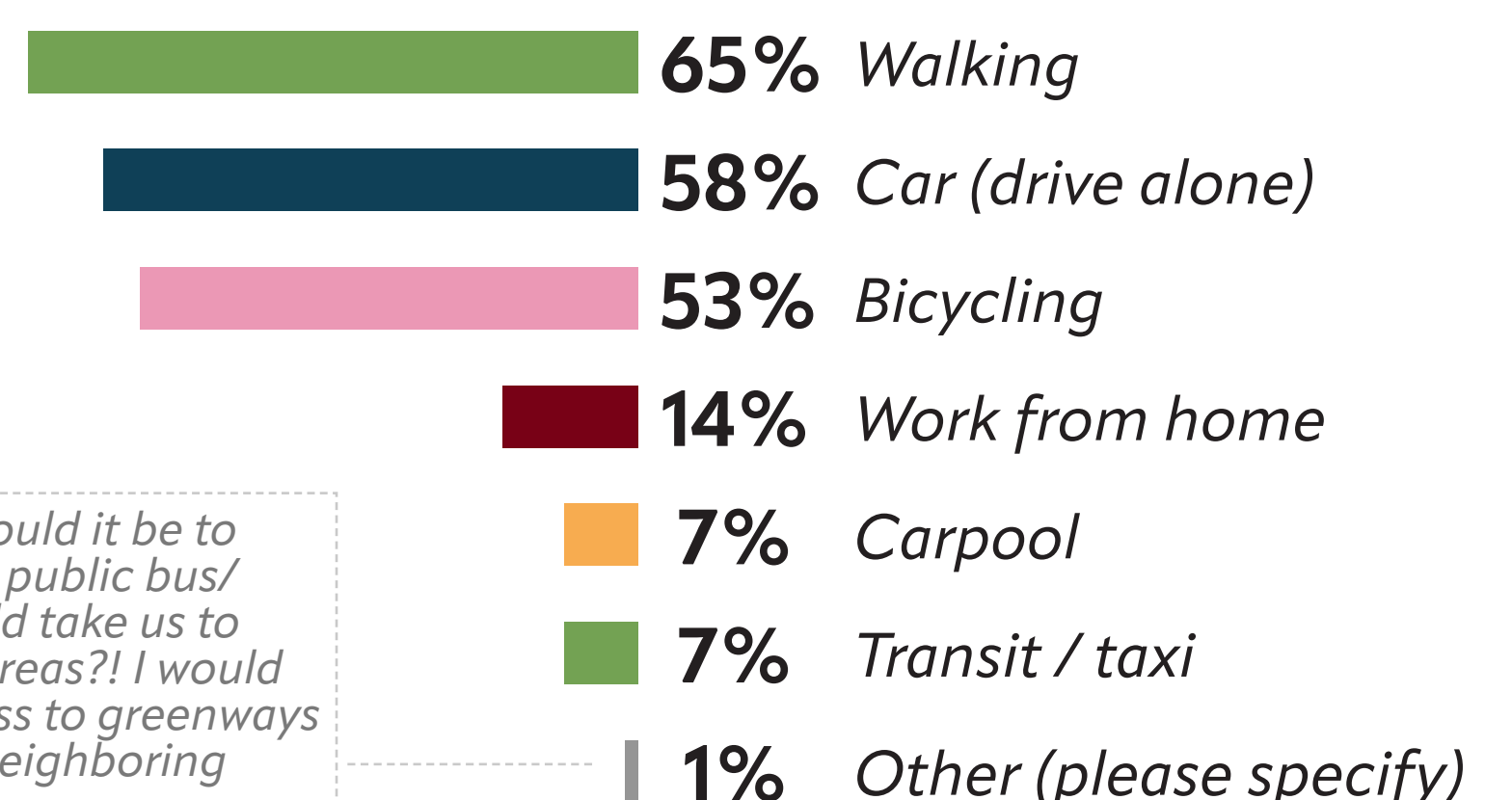
Select all that apply.



"Narrow winding roads"
 "Dogs that are loose especially on Park Dr."
 "Lack of bike racks for securing the bicycle at nearby locations like the grocery store or downtown. The library has one but it is blocked by a nearby fence."
 "I'm a wheelchair user and non-accessible walkways such as sidewalks, curbs, barriers, traffic etc make it unsafe for a manual wheelchair user to commute up and down the hills and about town I grew up in has to offer"

NOW CONSIDER YOUR DESIRED MODES OF TRANSPORTATION IN THE FUTURE. WHICH MODES WOULD YOU LIKE TO USE?

Select all that apply.

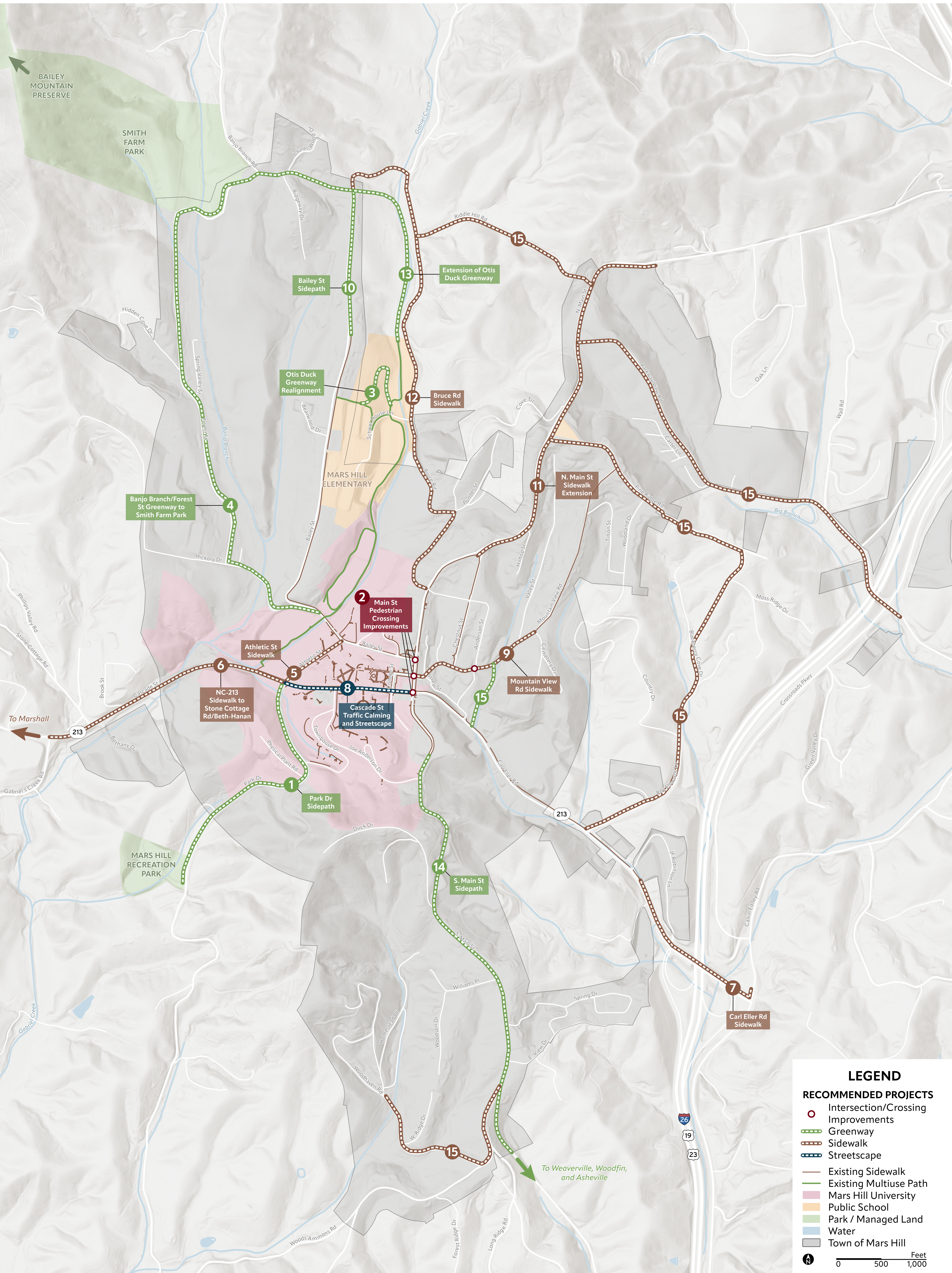


"How great would it be to walk/bike to a public bus/train that could take us to neighboring areas?! I would also love access to greenways for biking to neighboring areas"

TOWN OF MARS HILL

Bicycle + Pedestrian Plan

Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Recommendations



LEGEND

RECOMMENDED PROJECTS

- Intersection/Crossing Improvements
- ▬ Greenway
- ▬ Sidewalk
- ▬ Streetscape

EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE

- ▬ Existing Sidewalk
- ▬ Existing Multiuse Path
- ▬ Mars Hill University
- ▬ Public School
- ▬ Park / Managed Land
- ▬ Water
- ▬ Town of Mars Hill

Scale: 0 500 1,000 Feet

DRAFT BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN NETWORK RECOMMENDATIONS

The projects listed below are draft recommendations for future bicycle and pedestrian projects in Mars Hill. Use sticky dots to “vote” for the projects that you feel are important to implement, and leave a comment to provide feedback or suggest additional projects.

PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME + DESCRIPTION	VOTE FOR THIS PROJECT!
1	<p>Park Dr Sidepath Create a 10 foot sidepath connection along the west side of Park Drive between Cascade Street and the Mars Hill Recreation Park. Sections constrained by topography or other design factors may be reduced width.</p>	Place sticky dots here to vote for this project!
2	<p>Main St Pedestrian Crossing Improvements Addition or enhancement of pedestrian crossings on Main St between Cascade St and Bailey St in Downtown Mars Hill. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bailey St and N. Main St <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Construct curb extension along N. Main St to reduce pedestrian crossing distances, improve sight distance, and reduce the turning radius for vehicles, providing traffic calming o Create curb ramps on the east side of N. Main St and add new crosswalk striping • College St/Mountain View Rd and N. Main Street. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Add a fourth striped crosswalk o Add pedestrian signals head on all four approaches o This may require minor curb extensions on the Mountain View Rd/ Ivey St approach to create enough space for proper curb ramps and pedestrian signal head placement • Cascade St and Main Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Add pedestrian signal heads on all four approaches 	Place sticky dots here to vote for this project!
3	<p>Otis Duck Greenway Realignment Realign the greenway connector in open space within school property to improve user safety and provide a more gradual grade to accommodate riders of all ages and abilities. The existing connector from the Otis Duck Greenway to Bailey St uses portions of School House Ln which has very steep grades, and only provides about 5 ft of space directly adjacent to cars accessing the school.</p>	Place sticky dots here to vote for this project!
4	<p>Banjo Branch/Forest St Greenway to Smith Farm Park Provide a greenway connection to Smith Farm Park/Bailey Mountain Preserve from Mars Hill University and Downtown Mars Hill. A feasibility study is underway to evaluate alignment alternatives for this corridor, including a sidepath along Forest St or a greenway along Banjo Branch.</p>	Place sticky dots here to vote for this project!
5	<p>Athletic St Sidewalk Add sidewalk on one side of the street from Cascade St to Bailey St. Potentially reallocating space from on-street parking or removing retaining wall for sidewalk.</p>	Place sticky dots here to vote for this project!
6	<p>NC-213 Sidewalk to Stone Cottage Rd/Beth-Hanan Community Add sidewalk on one side of the street.</p>	Place sticky dots here to vote for this project!
7	<p>Carl Eller Rd Sidewalk Add a new at-grade pedestrian connection between the Park and Ride Lot and existing sidewalk on NC-213/Carl Eller Road. Project includes reallocating space on the I-26 bridge, grading work on the west side of the bridge, and constructing approximately 1,200 feet of new sidewalk.</p>	Place sticky dots here to vote for this project!
8	<p>Cascade St Traffic Calming and Streetscape Reduce the travel lane widths from 18 ft to 12 ft, adding 6 ft of space to widen sidewalks, plant street trees, or implement other streetscape enhancements. Project limits are from S. Main St to Athletic St.</p>	Place sticky dots here to vote for this project!
9	<p>Mountain View Rd Sidewalk Add sidewalk on one side of the road from Main St to Cemetery Dr, with crosswalk improvements at Anderson St.</p>	Place sticky dots here to vote for this project!
10	<p>Bailey St Sidepath Extend sidepath on Bailey St north to Banjo Branch Rd and continue sidepath west along Banjo Branch Rd and Forest St to Smith Farm Park/Bailey Mountain Preserve. A feasibility study is underway that includes this corridor as a potential alignment for a greenway extension.</p>	Place sticky dots here to vote for this project!
11	<p>N. Main St Sidewalk Extension Extend sidewalk on N. Main St from Chestnut St to municipal boundary.</p>	Place sticky dots here to vote for this project!
12	<p>Bruce Rd Sidewalk New sidewalk on Bruce Rd starting at N. Main St just north of downtown and extending all the way to Bailey St to connect to the Bailey St Sidewalk Loop. A feasibility study is underway that includes this corridor.</p>	Place sticky dots here to vote for this project!
13	<p>Extension of Otis Duck Greenway Extend Otis Duck Greenway north along Gabriel Creek or Bruce Rd to Bailey St/Banjo Branch Rd. A feasibility study is underway to study this.</p>	Place sticky dots here to vote for this project!
14	<p>S. Main St Sidepath Build sidepath on S. Main St from existing sidewalk to municipal boundary.</p>	Place sticky dots here to vote for this project!
15	<p>Various Sidewalk and Greenway Projects Build greenway or sidewalk on one side of streets in and around Mars Hill.</p>	Place sticky dots on locations identified on the map to vote for these projects!