Upper Explorerland's Safe Routes to School program hosted a Wheels in Motion Workshop in October and gathered additional input through a follow-up survey in November and December.

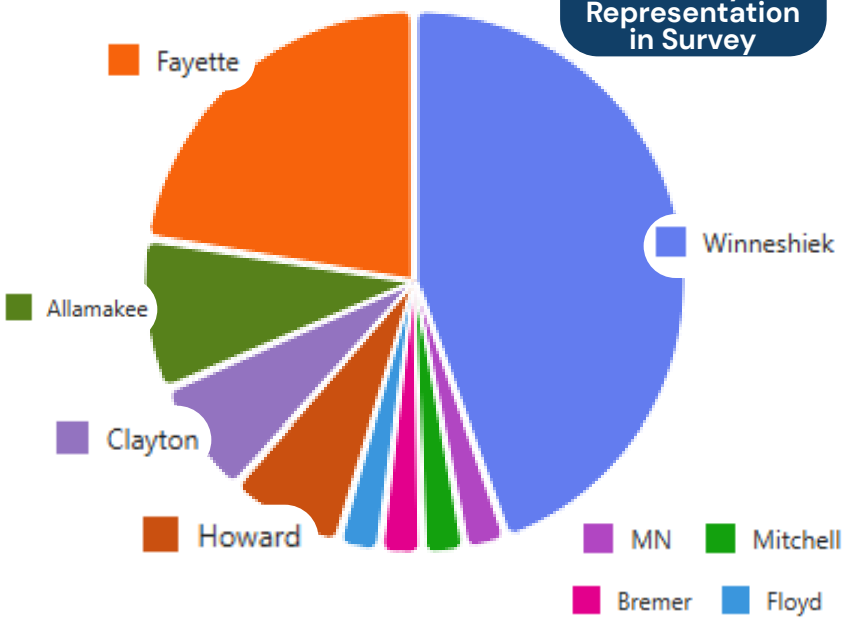
This document is a summary of the Wheels in Motion: Continuing the Conversation survey responses to review at the December 16th meeting. Local leaders and interested community members were invited to join—either in person or virtually—to review the survey results and determine next steps for advancing safe bicycling in 2026. Our focus is on small towns and rural areas across Allamakee, Clayton, Fayette, Howard, and Winneshiek Counties.

We look forward to discussing strategies to promote biking for transportation and community well-being. It's about more than "just" bike safety—it's about creating safer, healthier, and more connected communities.

Overview

October Workshop Participants	Continuing the Conversation Survery Repsonses	December 16th Meeting Est. Attendees
18	36	13

County Representation in Survey



Organizations Represented in Survey

Turkey River Recreational Corridor
Fayette County Conservation
Local Cyclists
City of Decorah Parks and Recreation
Winneshiek County Conservation
Fayette County Public Health
Decorah Public Library
Fayette County Conservation
Cresco Police Department
Visit Decorah Tourism
Fayette Community Library
Decorah Human Powered Trails
Pine Creek Trail Builders LLC
Decorah Bicycles
Decorah Police Department
Allamakee County Economic Development
Winneshiek Energy District
Veterans Memorial Hospital
Wapsi-Great Western Line Trail Association
Allamakee County Conservation Board
DCSD - John Cline School
Oneota River Cycles
MFL MarMac
Trinity Cluster
Elkader Opera House Players
Winneshiek County Development
Decorah Jobs
Carlson Park Coalition
City of Decorah-Engineer

Best first steps for advancing safe bicycling?

Order of Priorities

- Create continued support for multi-use/alternative transportation infrastructure (trails, signage, bike racks, etc.): 26 votes
- Create partnerships with community groups and schools for bicycle education, handouts, and demonstrations: 21 votes
- Create a change in mindsets about walking/biking convenience (education on time it takes): 20 votes
- Create social media/website videos with information and guidelines for trail use: 19 votes
- Create a network to share best practices related to bicycling advancement and safety: 11 votes

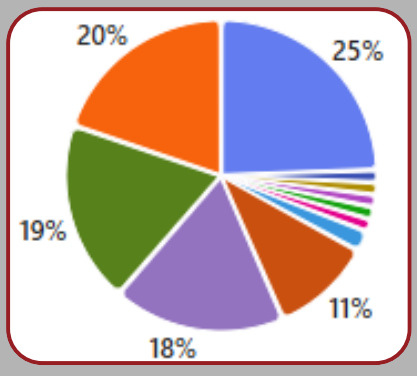
Other Input:

- Hold another bicycle-focused workshop: 2 votes
- Locate funding to maintain existing trails: 1 vote
- Community contest or initiative: 1 vote
- Create fun outlets (bike parks/playgrounds/pumptracks): 1 vote
- Secure funding for visible/dedicated bike paths: 1 vote
- Better interactive map to show trails: 1 vote

Create partnerships with community groups and schools to provide bicycle education, handouts, and demonstrations.

Create continued support for multi-use/alternative transportation infrastructure. *(trails, signage, bike racks, etc.)*

Create a change in mindsets on how long or inconvenient it is to walk/bike as a form of transportation. *(education on the time it takes to walk/bike between locations in our towns)*



Hold another bicycle focused workshop.

Locate funding to maintain existing trails.

Community contest or initiative.

Create fun outlets such as bicycle parks/playgrounds/pumptracks that promote joy and excitement around bicycles for kids and families.

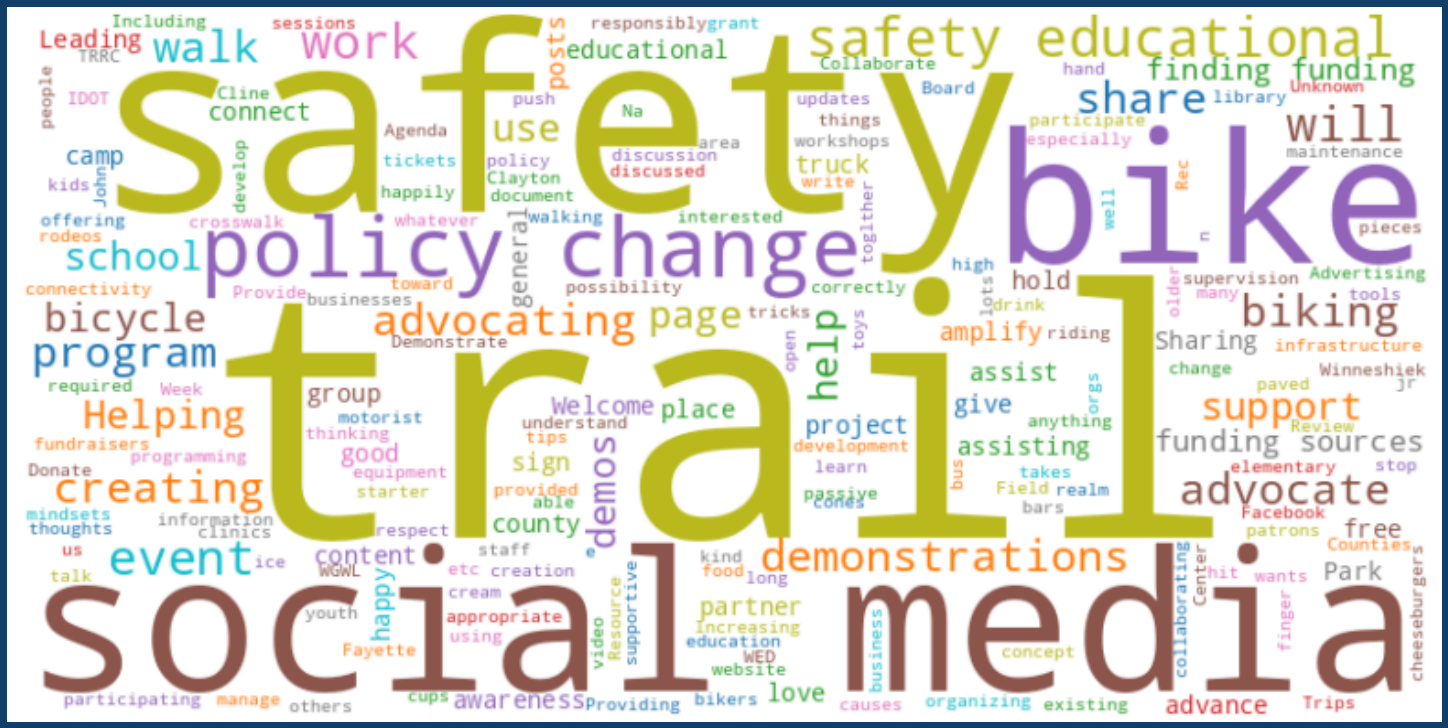
Secure funding for bike paths that are visible/dedicated.

Better Interactive map to show trails.

Create social media/website videos with information and guidelines for trail use

Create a network to share best practices related to bicycling advancement and safety

In what way(s) would you be able to help advance safe bicycling?



Community Collaboration & Partnerships

Working with schools, businesses, and organizations to promote bike safety.

Advocating for Policy Change

Supporting and amplifying policy updates for biking and walking safety.

Youth Engagement & Programs

Bike rodeos, field trips, and school-based biking programs.

Safety & Educational Demonstrations

Leading or assisting with bike rodeos, clinics, workshops, and safety camps.

Motorist Awareness & Safety Advocacy

Increasing awareness of bikers among drivers and promoting safe interactions.

Social Media & Content Creation

Sharing posts, creating videos, and amplifying safety messages online.

Event Hosting & Support

Offering spaces for educational events and providing refreshments or resources.

Funding & Grant Writing

Finding funding sources, writing grants, and supporting fundraising efforts.

Mindset & Behavior Change

Encouraging biking/walking as practical transportation and shifting community habits.

Infrastructure Development & Maintenance

Improving trails, connectivity, and maintaining existing routes.

Additional comments about increasing safe bicycling

Thank you for your leadership! Lets keep looking for opportunities to amplify ped/bike transportation. I do feel that there is a cultural aspect to this work, at least in walkable towns like Decorah. The more it's normalized, the more likely people will do it.

There seems to be a gap in biking & walking opportunities between cities like Decorah and smaller rural communities. There are less safe places to bike & walk for those who live in small towns and especially out in the countryside - these areas are very vehicle dependent for transportation. Would be interesting to brainstorm ways to serve these communities as well as larger towns who have plenty of access to biking/walking trails.

Teaching adults about proper bike safety, and being examples to the youth.
We have to keep this conversation going.
Your presence as the Safe Routes to School Coordinator at our school lets the children know that someone other than locals think that this is an important topic. Someone from outside other than Grace's parents or our committee pointing out the safety issues is good.

In Fayette we have some wonderful trails for walking and biking. Is there a way to "get the ball rolling" on making sure the trails are mapped and MARKED! I have met resistance every time I have suggested it be improved. So maybe if there was a nudge or an offer of guidance or help, it might actually happen.

More trails.

Keep bicycles off sidewalks. Enforce traffic laws for bikes. Encourage the use of helmets and lights.

Public etiquette for motorists, bikes and peds.

Not all kids have access to proper fitting safety equipment-helmets are essential--I would like to see every kid that does the bike rodeo get one donated that fits, so we can show them how to wear it

Decorans are generally positive towards cyclists

Work toward organizing folks interested in transportational bicycle use
such great work!