

THREE MILE TRAIL EXTENSION PROJECT

Stakeholder Feedback Regarding Vision, Values, and Use and Design Preferences – January 2021

This report summarizes feedback received from stakeholders in January 2021 regarding their values, vision, and use and design preferences. The documentation includes perspectives shared via an online survey and also at a stakeholder meeting.

SURVEY RESULTS

In late December and early January, TART Trails, Inc. promoted an online survey link to the stakeholder email list it is maintaining for the project. There were 39 survey respondents to the survey. A majority (56.4%) of the people completing the survey did so individually, while 35.9% did so on behalf of an entity.

A majority of respondents (61.5%) have a home close to the project. 28.2% have a business close to the project, and 25.6% work for a non-profit whose mission and work are connected to the project area.

VALUES AND MOTIVATIONS

Survey participants were asked, “What is one word or phrase you'd use to describe what excites you, or the entity you represent, most about the proposed 3 Mile Trail extension?” The most frequently used words and phrases included:

- **Connection or connectivity** (10 responses)
- **Safety or safe routes** (10 responses)
- **Accessibility or access** (7 responses)
- **Recreation, fitness, health or wellness** (4 responses)

VISION

Survey participants were asked: “What will a successful trail extension look like to you, or the entity you represent? How will the community be different or better as a result of the trail extension?” Survey respondents contributed 35 individual vision statements. The summary statement below reflects the combined content of the individual vision statements.

A safe, scenic, and connected trail system providing access to schools, businesses, shopping, neighbors, downtown Traverse City, nature, and fitness and recreation.

USE AND DESIGN PREFERENCES

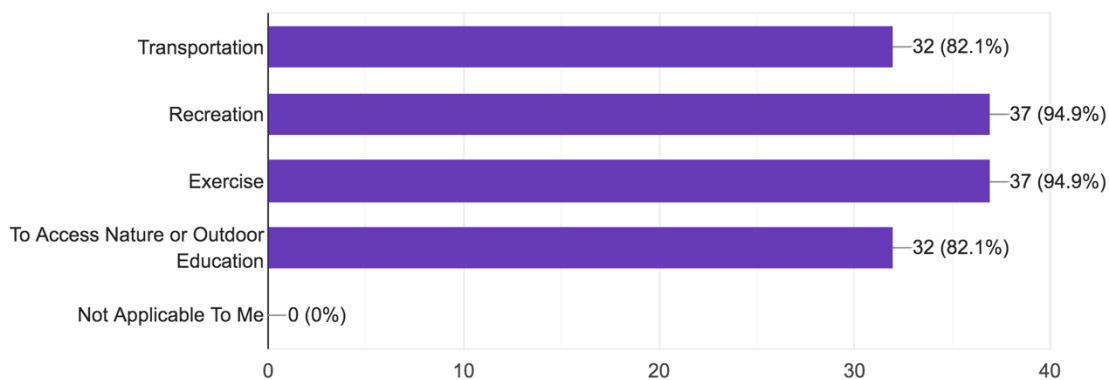
Survey participants were asked to share their use and design preferences. The graphs below illustrate the responses. Some highlights include:

- 94.9% indicated they intend to use the trail for recreation and exercise.
- 82.1% intend to use the trail for transportation.
- 82.1% intend to use the trail to access nature.
- A majority of respondents intend to bike (79.5%) or walk (64.1%) to get to the trail; 48.7% intend to drive from their place of origin.
- 60.5% plan to access the trail from the south; 26.3% intend to access the trail via the trailhead at Parsons and Three Mile Road.
- Primary modes of travel along the trail include biking (100%), walking/jogging (92.3%).
- Timed traffic signals, paved trails, lighting, and wayfinding signage were important to respondents.
- Important amenities included restrooms, signage, seating/benches, and waste cans at trailheads.
- The future trail connections that were important to respondents included:
 - Safely crossing Hammond Road and connecting to points south of Hammond Road.
 - Safe crossing at Three Mile and Hammond Road.
 - Safe connections with all school campuses.
 - Safely connecting to adjacent neighborhoods and surrounding businesses, including Costco.
 - Connecting with the VASA trail system and Timber Ridge.

CHARTS AND GRAPHS

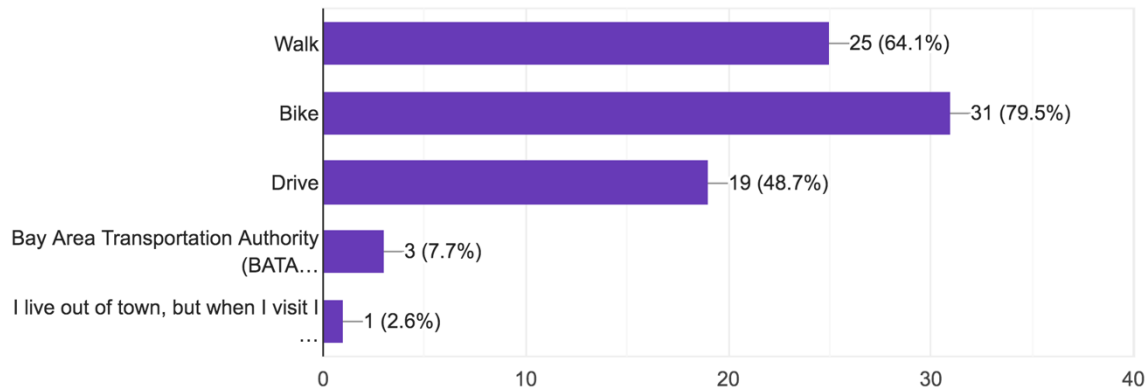
How do you, or the constituents you represent, intend to use the proposed 3 Mile Trail extension?
(Check all that apply.)

39 responses



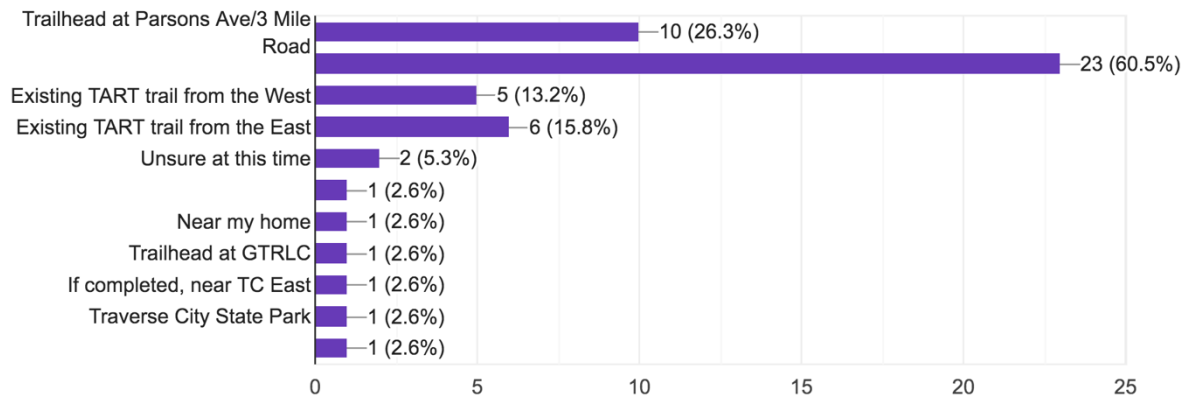
How will you, or the constituents you represent, get to the 3 Mile Trail from your place of origin (home, school, job, etc.)? (Select all that apply.)

39 responses



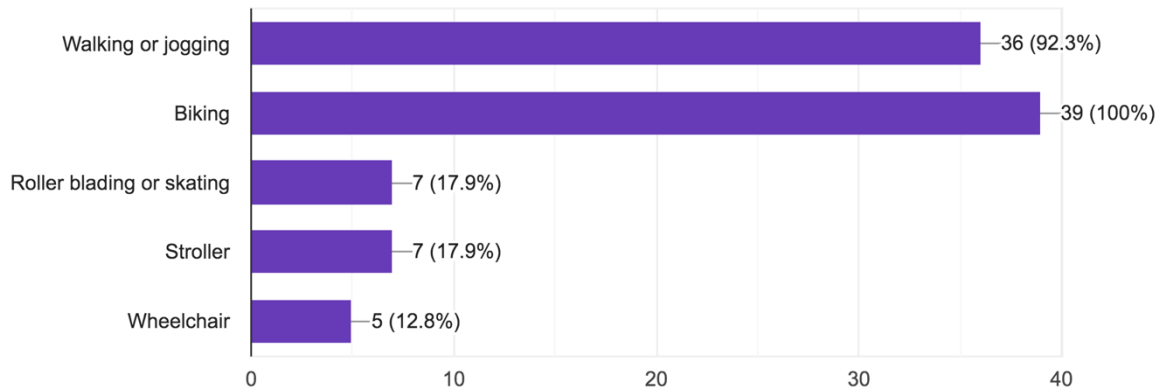
How are you, or the constituents you represent, most likely to access the trail?

38 responses

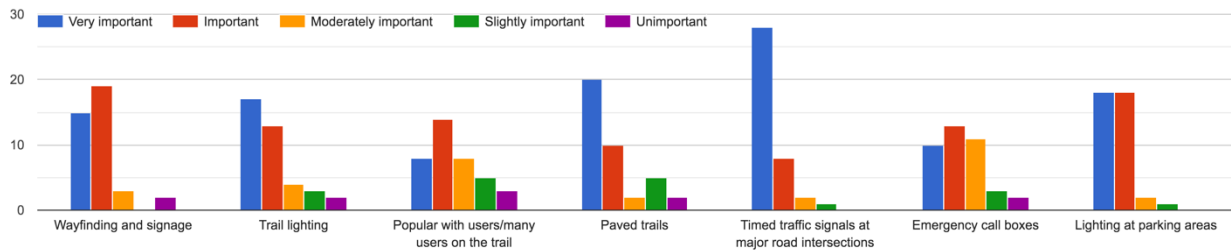


What primary modes of travel do you, or the constituents you represent, intend to use while on the trail? (Select two.)

39 responses

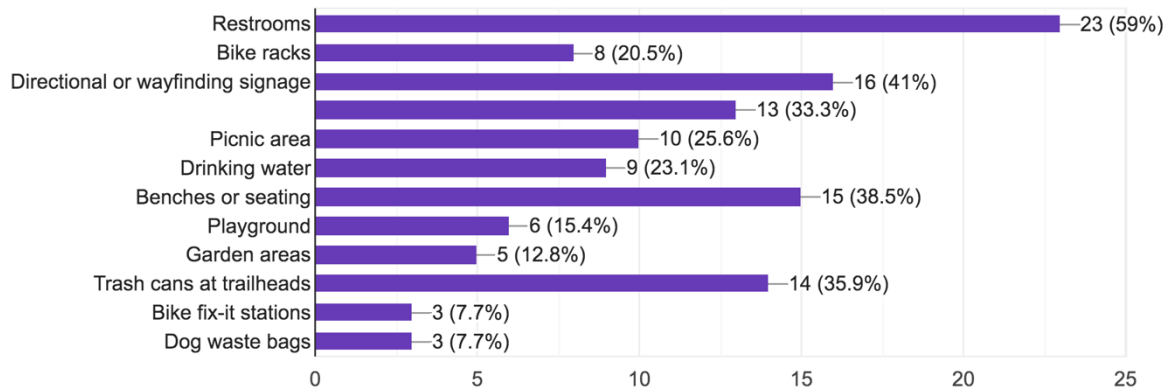


How important to you, or the constituents you represent, are the following elements related to safety on the trail?



What are the three most important amenities you, or the constituents you represent, would like on the trail? (Pick up to three.)

39 responses



FEEDBACK SHARED AT STAKEHOLDER MEETING

Project partners hosted a stakeholder meeting on January 11, 2021 for the purpose of sharing a project overview and timeline, sharing partners' visions, values and givens, and assessing stakeholders' hopes related to use and design, thoughts about project resources, and perceptions of obstacles and potential solutions. Those in attendance at the Zoom meeting included:

1. Mary Carboneau, Property Manager, Alta Vista
2. Lisa Taylor, Traverse City Track Club
3. Levi Truelove
4. Claire Karner, East Bay Township
5. Jim Coneset, Superintendent, Grand Traverse Academy
6. Wayne Schoonover, Grand Traverse County Road Commission
7. Sabrina Garland, East Bay Township Parks & Recreation Commission
8. Gary Howe, Norte
9. Julie Clark, TART Trails, Inc.
10. Elizabeth Calcutt, TART Trails, Inc.
11. Lyndsay Herigstad, Woodcreek Property Manager
12. Cindy Schlaack, Better Living Homes
13. Justin Mortier
14. David Foote, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy
15. DJ Shook, Conservation Resources Alliance

Participants were invited to self-select into a small group to explore important design features, resources, and potential obstacles from the following lenses:

- Connectivity
- Safety

- Recreation and Fitness
- Nature

The chart below summarizes the outcomes of the small group discussions.

Theme	Important Design Features	Resources Needed	Potential Obstacles
Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having a maintenance agreement • Direct access from trail to schools • Serve all residents • Bikes lanes along South Airport and Hammond • Safe crossings at Three Mile and Hammond 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kids and families as advocates • Funding from public and private sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating safe crossings • Current infrastructure
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting • Crosswalks to businesses and services • Separate facilities for walking, biking, driving • Signage, including to designate separate users and also to identify private property • Emergency phone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the County Road Commission “where the trail meets the road” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water levels/flooding
Recreation and Fitness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting • Separate facilities for walking, biking, and driving • Wayfinding signage, including distance markings • Softer running surface • Educational signage about wetlands, wildlife, and invasives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traverse City Track Club – grants and members as advocates or volunteers • East Bay Township residents’ awareness and support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding • Trail safety and connectivity with the Township
Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigating the negative impacts of lighting on wildlife • Restoration and how to highlight these efforts from the trail • Creating wildlife observation areas • Creating fishing areas • Creating resting areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Resource Alliance’s stream restoration work • Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy’s work on its preserve and trailhead area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topography • Wetlands • Balancing wildlife habitat protection needs with other use and design preferences • Funding