

La Porte County Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan

Public Meeting #1

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Project Team



Eric Neagu, P.E, LEED AP, AICP, Principal

Email: eneagu@anterogroup.com

Phone: 201.705.2138

Mindy Smith, Senior Planner

Email: msmith@anterogroup.com

Phone: 630.779.4289

Jonathan Sherman, AICP Senior Planner

Email: jsherman@anterogroup.com

Phone: 954.815.4201

Bethany Simon, Planning Technician

Email: bsimon@anterogroup.com

Phone: 201.705.2138



Jeremey Sobecki, La Porte County Parks, Superintendent

Email: jsobecki@laporteco.in.gov

Phone: 219.325.8315



Mitch Bishop, La Porte County, County Planner

Email: mbishop@laporteco.in.gov

Phone: 219.326.6808 Ext. 2253

Agenda

- **Project Introduction**
- **La Porte County Priorities**
- **Existing Data**
- **Survey Results**
- **Safety**
- **Activity #1: Vision Statement**
- **Activity #2: S.W.O.T. Exercise**
- **Next Steps**



Project Introduction

Photo Cred: Tom Gill

Project Background



Since 2010, new bicycle trail needs and opportunities have emerged.



Urban cities within the county want to integrate all trails systems into a County-wide trail network.



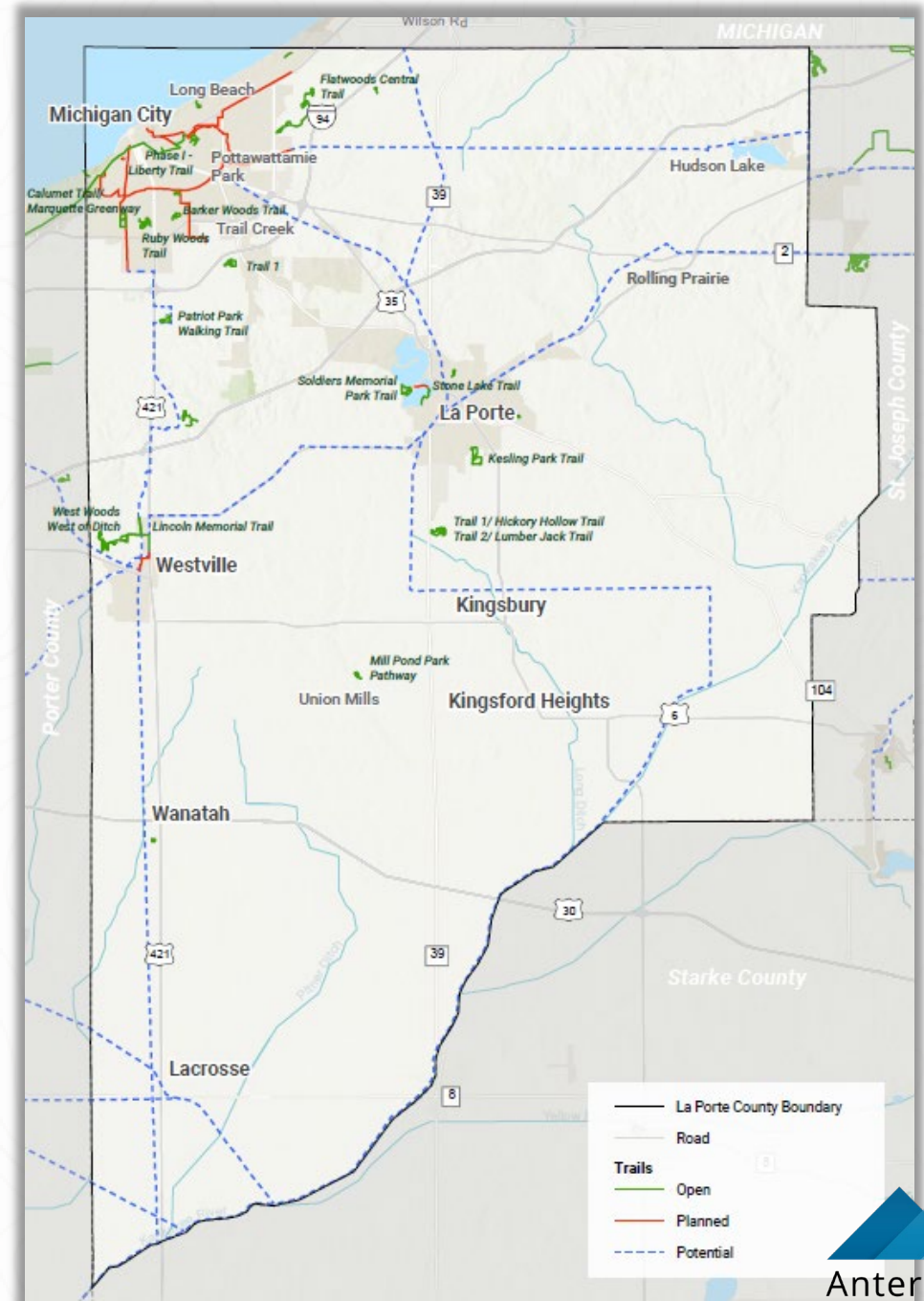
The plan will cover existing and shared roadway systems.



The plan will identify areas for new trails and shared connections.



The goal is to increase accessibility and connectivity.

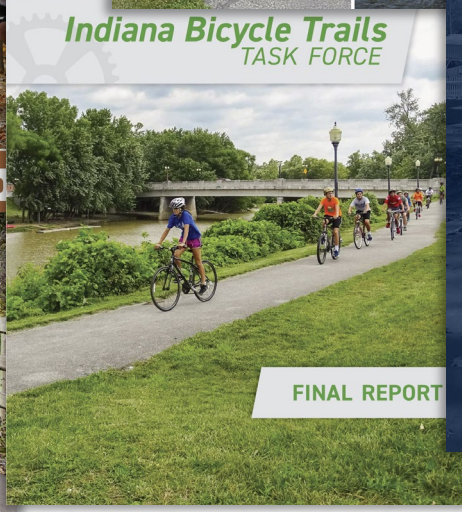
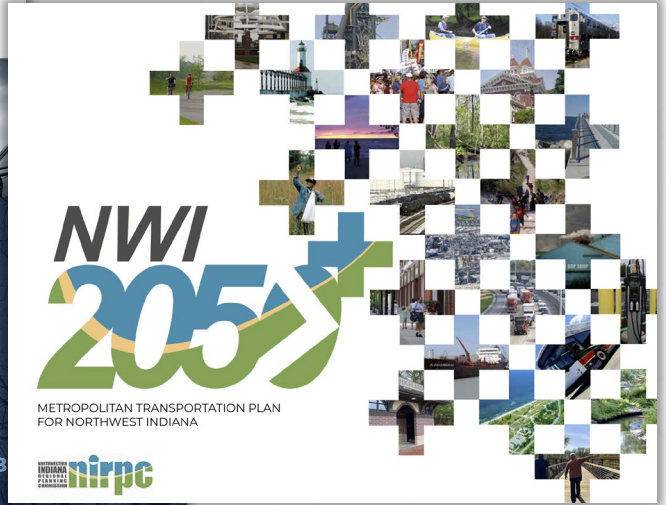
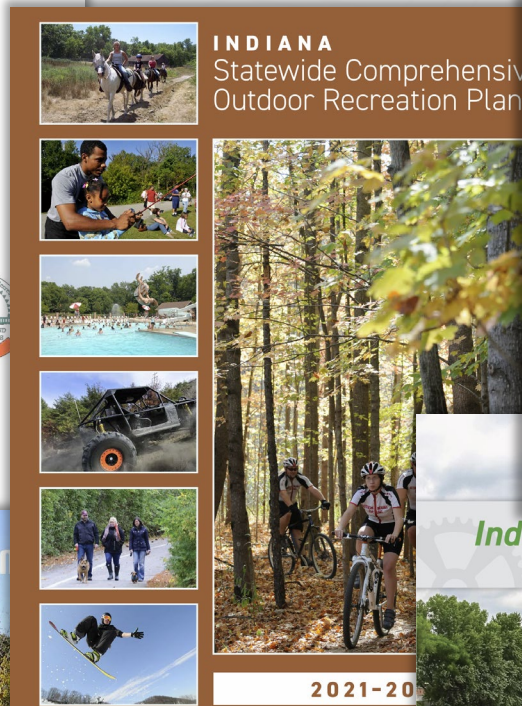
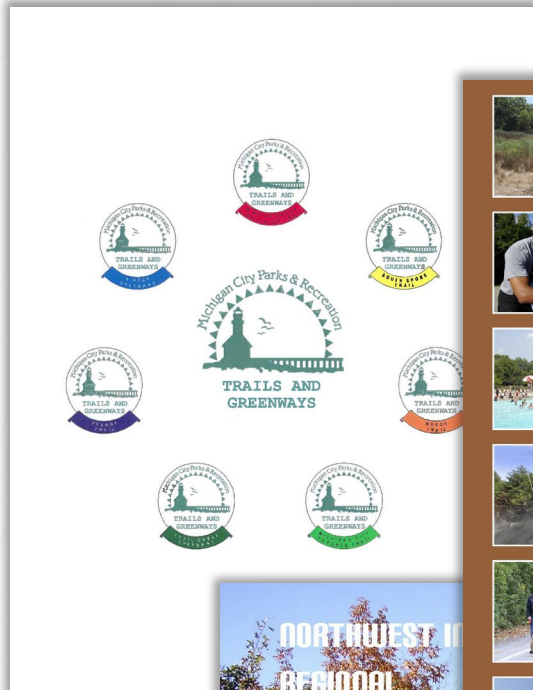


La Porte County Priorities



- Connections with La Porte County Parks
- Promote a healthy and active community
- Increase safety for all shared roadway and trail users
- Support environmental sustainability
- Complete a plan that is integrated with surrounding planned and future growth
- Plan for system gaps to common destinations and growth areas

Relevant Plans



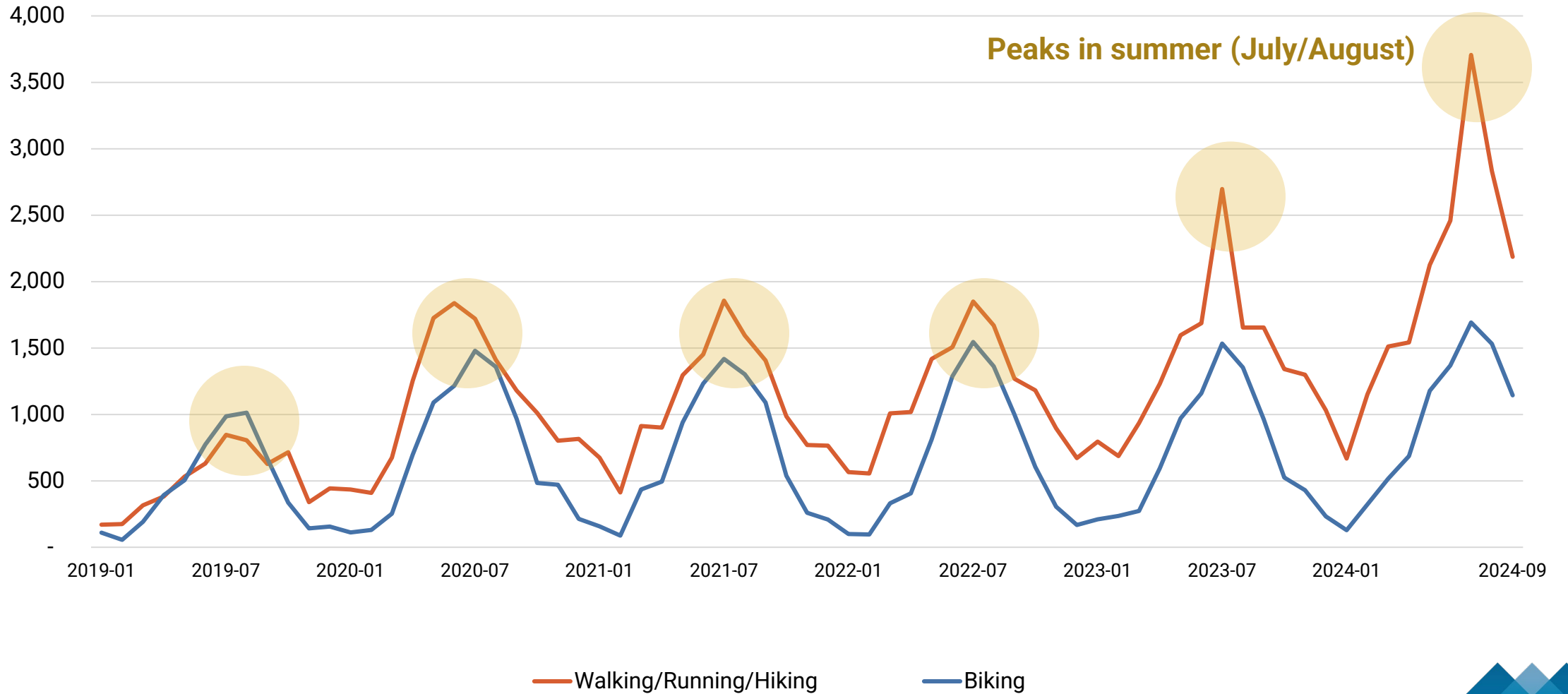
Existing Data



Total Trips



Total Trips, 2019-2024



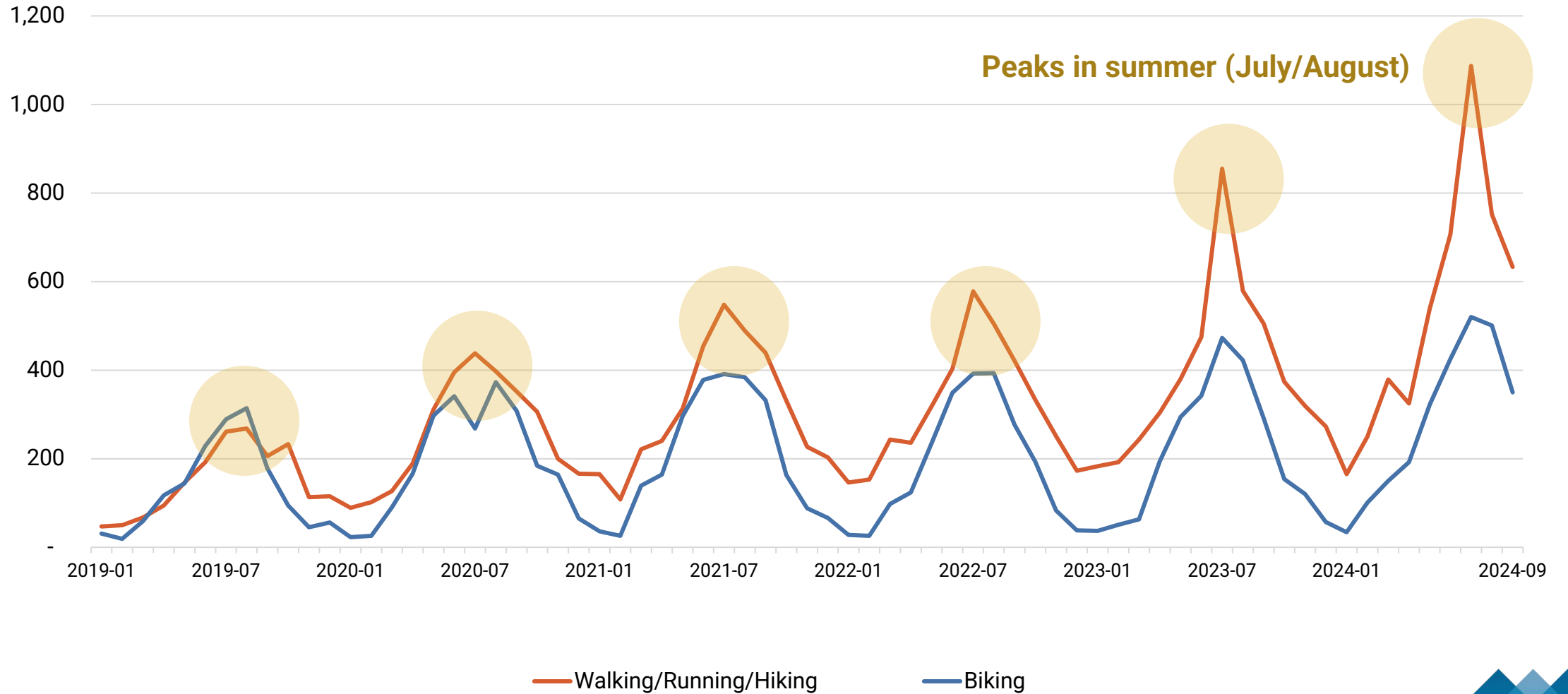
Source: Strava



Total People



Total People, 2019-2024



Source: Strava



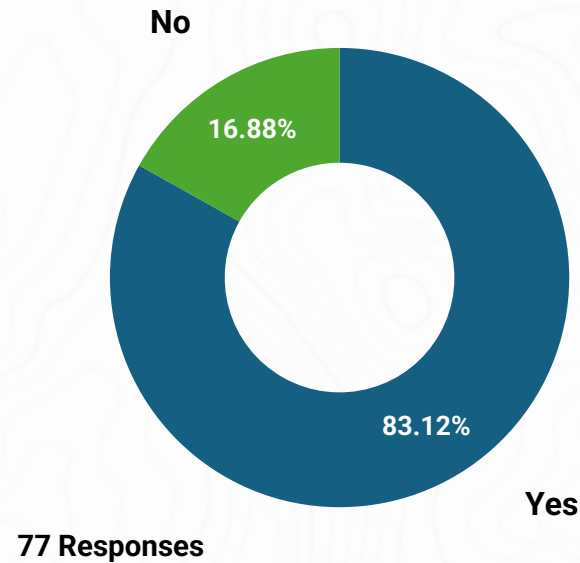
Survey Results



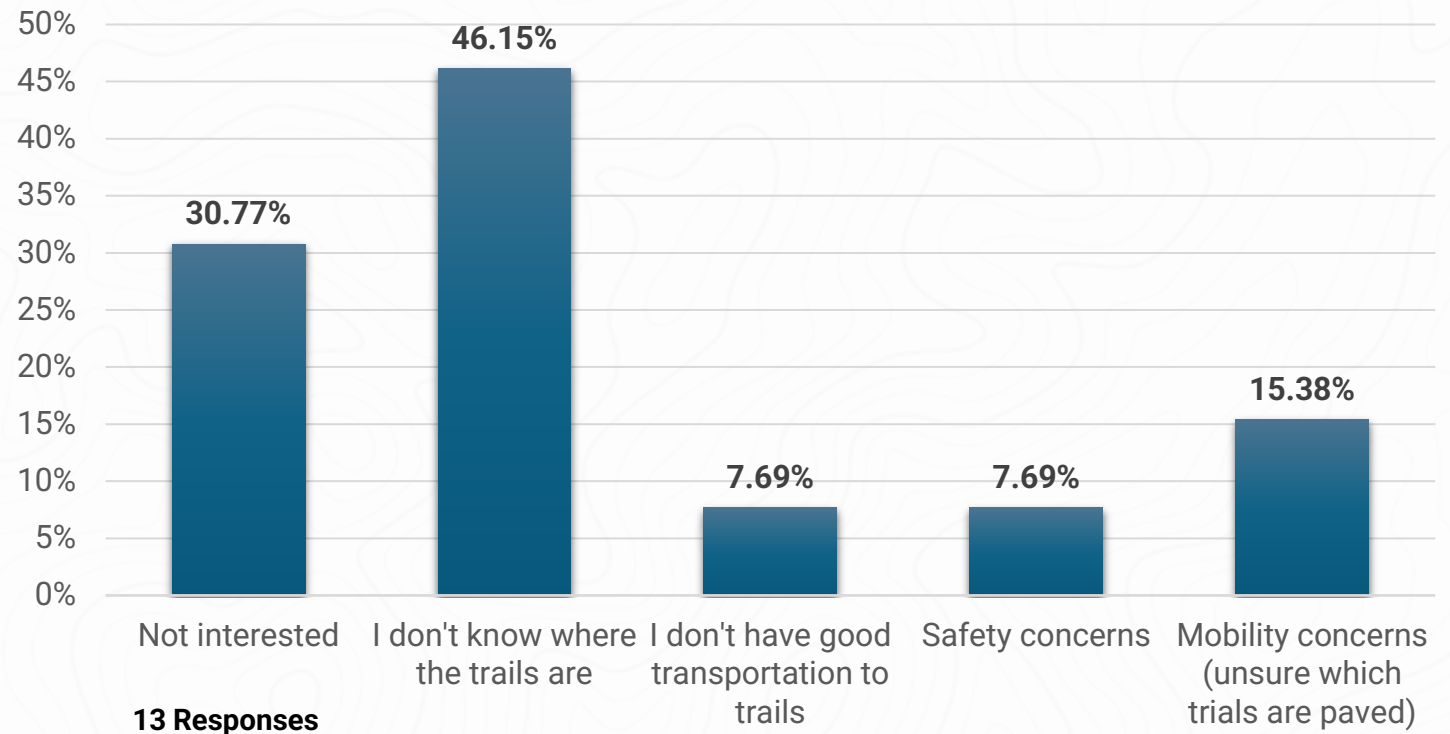
Survey: Hiking, Walking, or Running



Do you hike, walk, or run on La Porte County trails?



Why don't you use the trails in La Porte County?

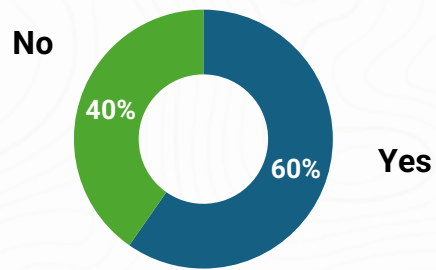


Survey: Cycling



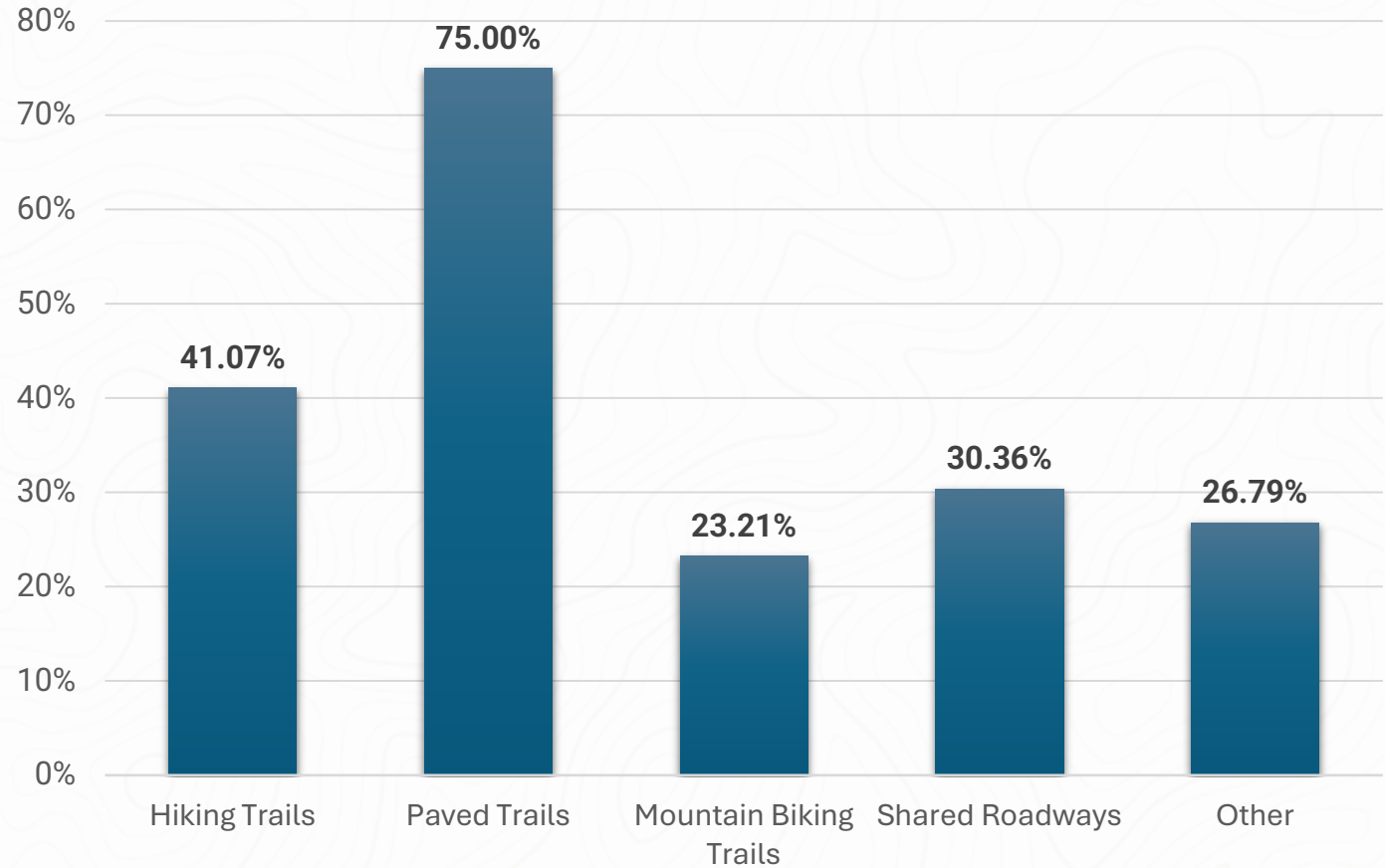
- Over **48%** of respondents do not feel safe riding on the road with cars
- Over **37%** of respondents do not feel safe riding on a road without marked or signed bike lanes

Do you ride on shared roadways in La Porte County?



67 Responses

What kind of trails would you like to see more of?



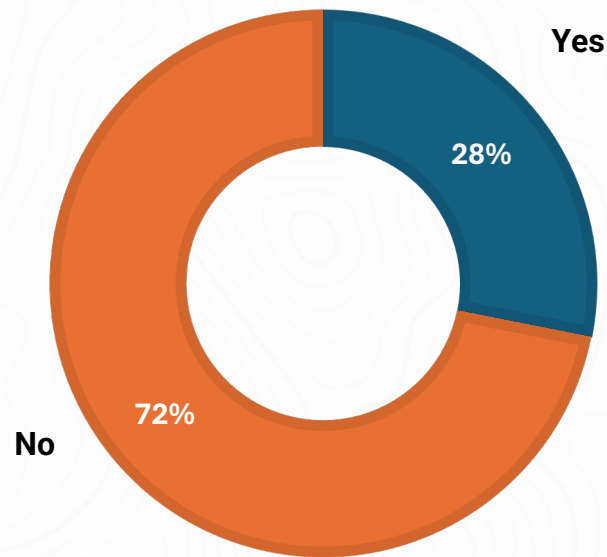
56 Responses



Survey: Mountain Biking



Do you mountain bike on the La Porte County trails?



18 Responses

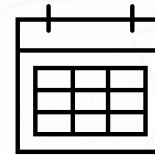


Over **25%** of respondents bike at least once a month



Mentionable Mountain Biking Trails:

- Bluhm County Park
- Red Mill County Park
- Soldiers Memorial Park
- Bendix Woods County Park

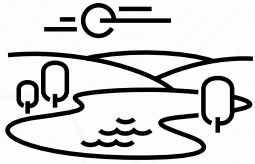


Over **60%** of respondents bike on both weekdays and weekends

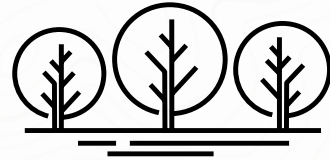


50% of respondents spend between 30 min to 1 hour on the trails

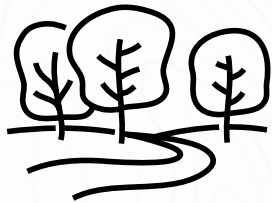
Survey: Trail Use



Over **66%** of the respondents use trail to visit parks or public open space



About **75%** of the respondents use trails on both weekdays and weekends

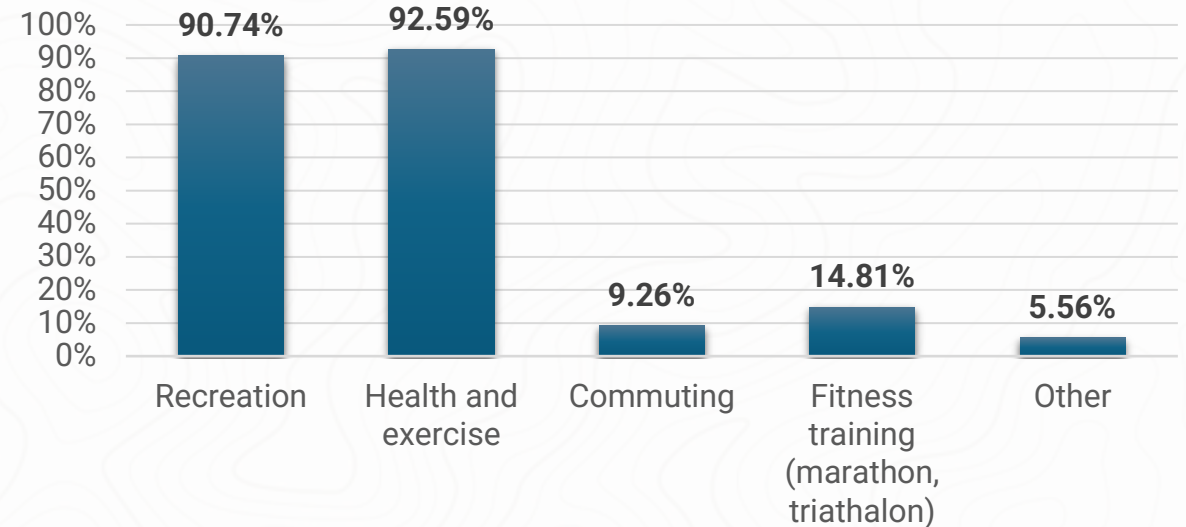


Over **45%** of the respondents spend **1-2** hours for each trail visit



Over **20%** of respondents use the trails between **3-5** times per week

Would you consider your use of the trail to be for...



54 Responses

Survey Findings

Of **84** survey participants:

- Over **90%** of users use the trails for health and exercise or recreationally.
- Over **70%** of users walk/run and /or bike on La Porte County trails and shared roadways.
- Over **50%** of users don't feel safe on shared roadways.
- Over **50%** of users don't know where the trails are located.
- Users would like to see an **increase in paved trails**.
- Users report that there could be improvements with overall **trail connectivity**, specifically into rural La Porte towns.

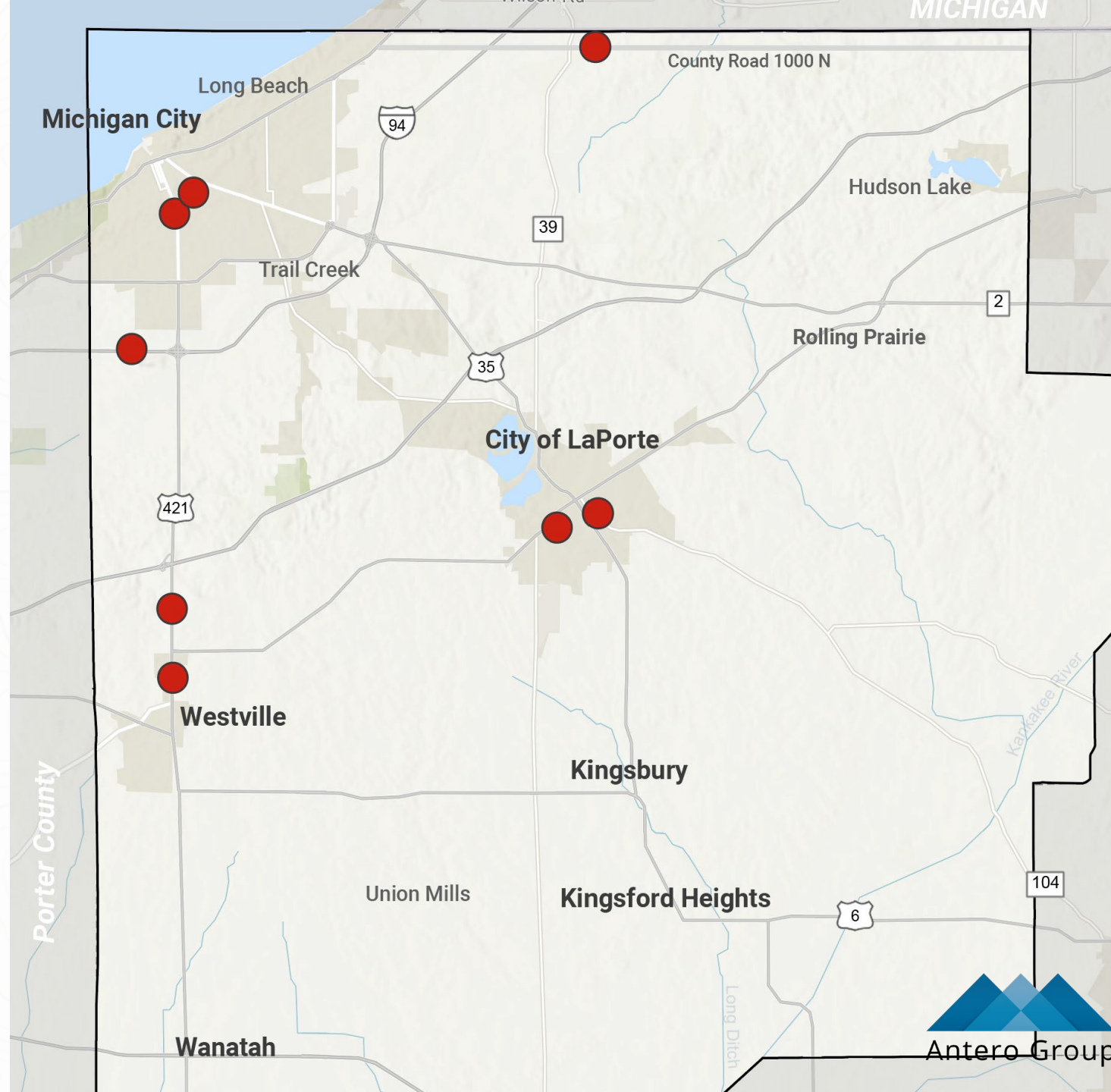


Safety



Safety Concerns

- Total of **8** fatal cyclist fatalities between 2008 – 2022
- **2** fatalities occurred in 2016
- **3** crashes occurred along US Highway 421





Activity 1: Vision Statement

Vision Statement



- A short, clear description of what an organization or individual wants to achieve in the future.
- Outlines long-term goals and the impact they hope to have.
- Serves as a guide for decision making and motivation
- Creating a vision statement will help to set a unified goal for the plan.
- Allows the project team to assess the wants and needs of the community.

Vision Statement Creation




Choose 2-3 words from the provided word bank that you feel resonates with your feelings surround the plan and paste it on the board or write one in

Word bank containing the following terms:

- Safety
- Pedestrian Friendly
- Vibrant
- Multi-use
- Inclusive
- Sustainable
- Active
- Health
- Exercise
- Connectivity
- Accessible
- Infrastructure



Break

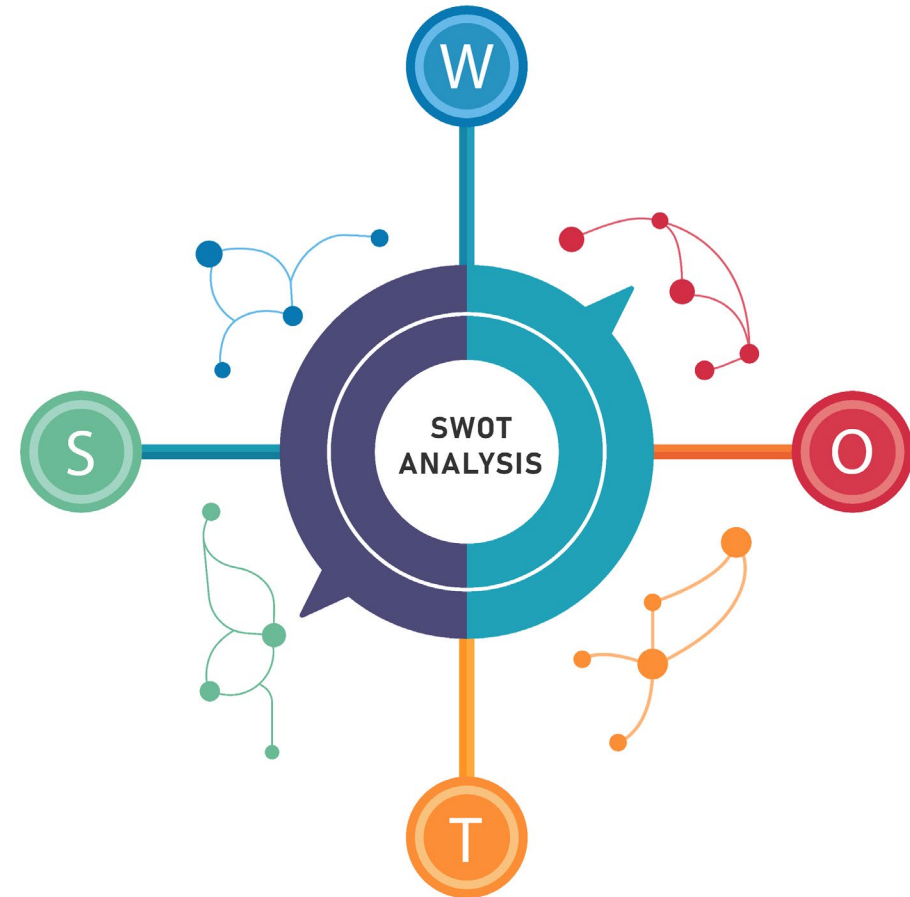


Activity 2: S.W.O.T. Mapping

What is a **S.W.O.T.** analysis and why is it important to the plan?



- A **S.W.O.T.** analysis is a tool used to assess a project's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.
- It helps identify how the community feels on current conditions and where changes need to be made.
- Based on the community's views and observations the project team can provide recommendations that align with the community's feedback.

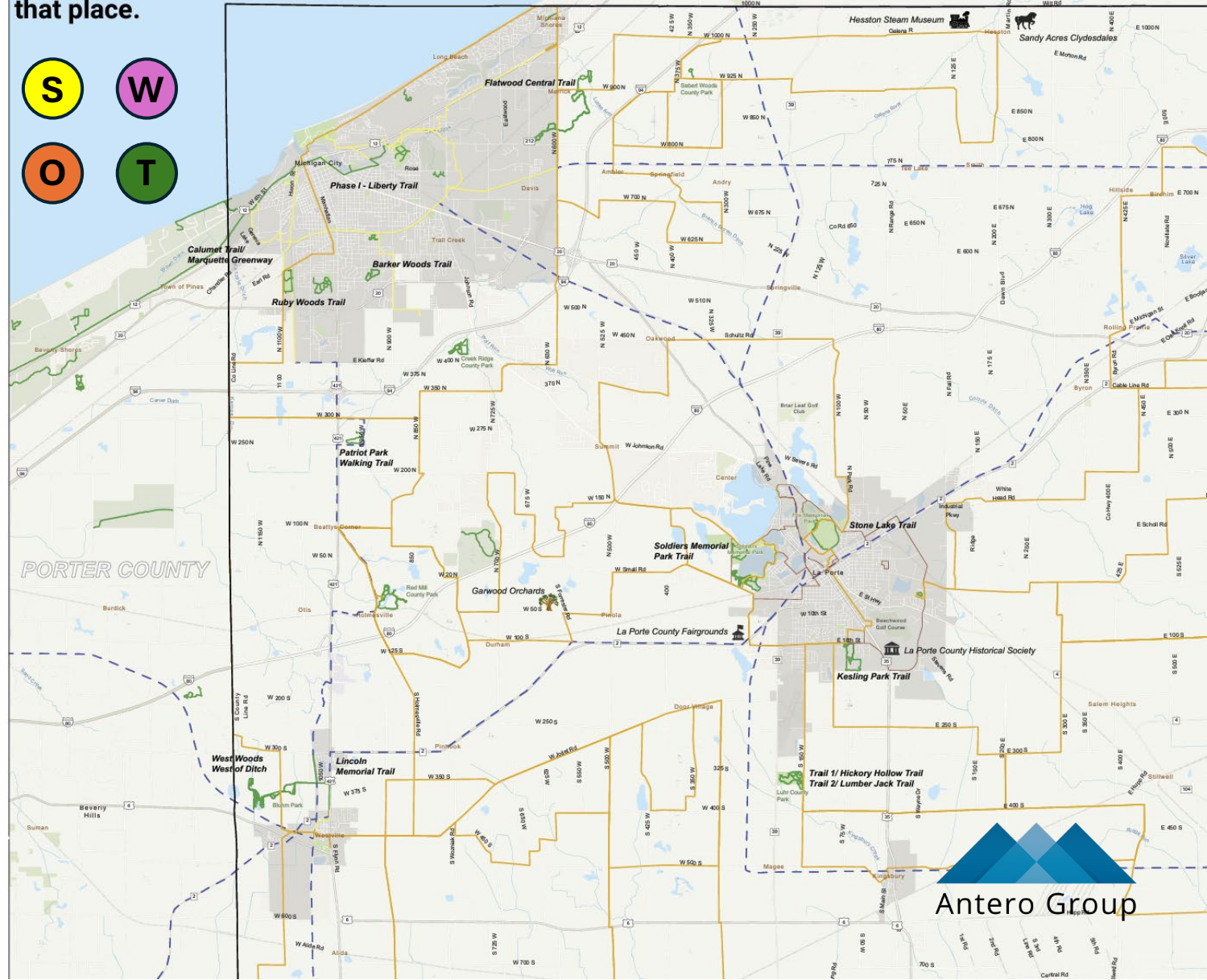
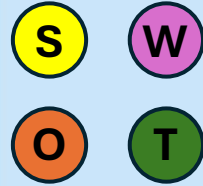


S.W.O.T. Mapping

- Choose a sticker that corresponds with a **S**rength, **W**eakness, **O**ppportunity or **T**hreat.
- Place the sticker on the map and write a comment on why you chose that sticker for that place.
- We will provide guiding questions for each section.

Choose a sticker that corresponds with a **S**rength, **W**eakness, **O**ppportunity or **T**hreat.

Place the sticker on the map and write a comment on why you chose that sticker for that place.



S.W.O.T. Mapping: Strengths

- Which is your favorite route?
- What trails/roadways do you feel safest walking/riding on?
- Which trails/roadways do you enjoy walking/riding on?
- What strengths does La Porte County bike and pedestrian network have?



S.W.O.T. Mapping: Weaknesses

- What are your biggest concerns regarding bicycle and pedestrian safety?
- What are some challenges for bicyclists and pedestrians entering and exiting urban areas?
- What are some challenges for bicyclists and pedestrians entering and exiting rural areas?
- Which areas do you feel are lacking trails and/or routes?



S.W.O.T. Mapping: Opportunities

- What are some common destinations you would like to see the trails/routes connect to?
- Can you identify areas where you would like to see new trails/routes?
- Where can the bike and pedestrian network be improved?
- What would the ideal bike and pedestrian network for La Porte County provide for the community?



S.W.O.T. Mapping: Threats

- Is there any development you feel would interfere with proposed trails/routes?
- Is there any current or planned construction that have impacted accessibility?
- What factors could negatively impact the bike and pedestrian network in the future? (i.e. weather, vehicle infrastructure prioritization, funding, etc.)





Website and Survey

Project Website and Survey



<https://laportecoplanning.com/>

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NG3T3NW>

Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan

La Porte County is developing its Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. New pedestrian and bicycle trail needs and opportunities have emerged in the County since the 2010 Bluhm/Lincoln/US 421 Trail Corridor Master Plan. Additionally, the cities of Michigan City and La Porte have both advanced trail systems that can be integrated into the larger County-wide trail network. The plan will show the existing trail and shared roadway systems throughout the County, identify areas where the increased trail and shared connections would be beneficial, and create implementable steps to achieve increased accessibility and connectivity.

More to come...!

La Porte County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Survey

This survey will help the team better understand...

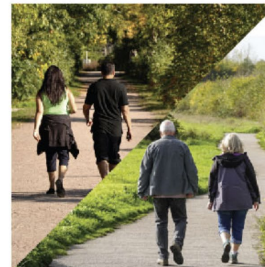
- Frequency of use for La Porte County trails and shared roadways
- How trails and shared roadways are used
- Trail and shared roadway concerns
- Demographics of trail and shared roadway users

Thanks for taking the survey!

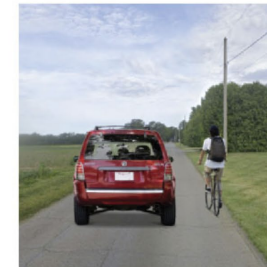


The following questions are related to trails, shared roadways, and mountain biking trails in La Porte County, below are some examples.

Trail



Shared Roadway



Mountain Biking Trail



Next Steps

Next Steps



01

On-going
data
collection

02

Stakeholder
interviews

03

Reflect on
feedback
from
stakeholder
and public
meetings

04

Create
existing
conditions
deliverable

05

Schedule
second
public
meeting

Contact Information



Eric Neagu, P.E, LEED AP, AICP, Principal

Email: eneagu@anterogroup.com

Phone: 201.705.2138

Mindy Smith, Senior Planner

Email: msmith@anterogroup.com

Phone: 630.779.4289

Jonathan Sherman, AICP Senior Planner

Email: jsherman@anterogroup.com

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Thank you!

