

APPENDIX D

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN AWARENESS SURVEY (Completed by Zogby International)

**Residents' Views On
Bicycling, Walking, and Jogging
In Onondaga County**

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I. Methodology and Sample Characteristics

Methodology

Zogby International conducted interviews of 404 adults chosen at random in Onondaga County. All calls were made from Zogby International headquarters in Utica, N.Y., from Saturday, September 14 to Sunday, September 15, 2002. The margin of error is +/- 5.0%. Slight weights were added to age and gender to more accurately reflect the population. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

Sample Characteristics	Frequency	Valid Percent*
Sample size	404	100
City of Syracuse	127	31
Onondaga County	277	69
18-29	75	19
30-49	153	39
50-64	83	21
65+	83	21
18-24	48	12
25-34	49	13
35-54	165	42
55-69	75	19
70+	57	14
<i>Did not answer age</i>	11	--
Less than high school	22	6
High school graduate	82	20
Some college	104	26
College graduate+	195	49
Parent of child under 18	152	38
Not parent of child under 18	250	62
Male	195	48
Female	209	52

* Numbers have been rounded to the nearest percent and might not total 100.

II. Executive Summary

Two-fifths of respondents in Onondaga County own and ride a bicycle. One-third neither owns nor rides a bicycle.

Most cyclists ride their bicycles on a weekly basis than on a monthly basis, and rarely ride daily.

One in four residents of Onondaga County walks or jogs daily, while a plurality (42%) does so one or more times a week.

Two in five respondents agree that conditions in Onondaga County are friendly for bike travel, while nearly half disagree. The biggest reason people disagree is because of a lack of bike lanes and routes to desired locations.

Nearly twice as many people agree than disagree that conditions in Onondaga County are friendly to pedestrian travel. A lack of sidewalks is the biggest reason they disagree about the ease of pedestrian travel.

Personal enjoyment and exercise are the most popular reasons why people ride their bikes, walk or jog.

A majority of respondents usually travels 1-5 miles on their bicycles on each occasion, while a plurality walks or jogs 1-2 miles on each occasion. Half as many walk or jog 3-5 miles or less than a mile.

Onondaga County adults are twice as likely to bike on rural roads or on recreational trails than on city streets. On the other hand, they are more likely to walk or jog on rural roads or city sidewalks than on recreational trails or city streets.

Most adults agree – including three in four who strongly agree – that a separate lane for bicyclists and/or joggers would improve safety on roadways. Bicyclists' biggest complaint with motorists is that they drive too close or squeeze them off the road. Hence, three-fourths of cyclists say they would be more likely to use a separate lane for bicyclists when riding alongside traffic.

Respondents are most likely to say they would like to be able to reach parks and recreational trails by walking or cycling, with half as many wanting better access to malls and shopping or school. Several people also show interest in being able to walk or bike to downtown, to work, to the Carousel Mall or to the doctor's office.

III. Narrative Analysis

1. Do you own a bicycle or do you ever ride a bicycle?

Own and ride	42%
Own/do not ride	22
No	34
Not sure	2

Two-fifths of respondents (42%) own and ride a bicycle, while an additional one-fifth (22%) owns a bike, but does not ride it. One in three (34%) neither owns nor rides a bicycle.

The most likely to own and ride a bicycle are a majority of 18-49 year-olds (52% average), and a 47% average of college graduates, parents of children under 18, and those residing in the “rest” of Onondaga County. Men (49%) are also much more likely than women (34%) to own and ride a bike.

2. How often do you ride a bicycle?

One or more times a week	29%
One or more times a month	26
Daily	8
Rarely	37

A plurality of people who owns and rides a bicycle says they rarely ride their bikes (37%). Slightly more respondents ride their bicycles on a weekly basis (29%) than on a monthly basis (26%), and only 8% ride daily.

A majority of Syracuse residents (54%) rides a bike *one or more* times a week. Adults 18-29 years old are the most likely to ride a bicycle one or more times a week (36%) and one or more times a month (35%).

A 43% average of 30-49 year-olds, seniors 65 and older, and parents of children under 18 say they *rarely* ride a bicycle.

3. Which of the following best explains why you ride a bicycle?

Personal enjoyment	43%
Exercise	41
Commute to stores/shopping	6
Commute to work	4
Commute to school	2
For sport or competition, such as in a bicycle club or race	1
Out of necessity/Only means of transportation	1
*Other	1
Not sure	1

***Other: (One each)** Camping; To see the grandchildren; To the pool in Florida

Personal enjoyment (43%) and exercise (41%) are cited as the biggest reasons for riding a bike. They are much less likely to ride a bicycle to stores and shopping (6%), to work (4%), or to school (2%). Few people ride a bicycle for sport or competition or out of necessity (1% each).

Majorities of women and parents of children under 18 (51% each), and nearly half of 30-49 year-olds (48%), ride a bicycle for *personal enjoyment*.

A majority of seniors 65 and older (52%) and nearly half of 50-64 year-olds (47%) say they ride for the *exercise*.

Residents of Syracuse (13%) are the most likely to ride a bicycle to go *shopping*.

4. How far do you generally travel by bike on each occasion?

Less than 1 mile	15%
1-5 miles	60
6-10 miles	15
11-20 miles	4
20+ miles	5
Not sure	2

A majority of respondents (60%) usually travels 1-5 miles on their bicycles on each occasion. Approximately one in seven generally bikes 6-10 miles or less than one mile (15% each); 4% travels 11-20 miles, and 5% rides a bicycle more than 20 miles on each occasion.

Majorities of people within each sub-group (except seniors 65 and older) generally travel *1-5 miles* on each occasion.

Women are three times as likely as men to travel *less than a mile* on each occasion (24% to 8%, respectively).

5. Which of the following describes where you bike most often?

Rural roads	38%
Recreational trails	34
On city streets	18
On city sidewalks	6
Not sure	4

Onondaga County adults are twice as likely to bike on rural roads (38%) or on recreational trails (34%) than on city streets (18%). They are least likely to ride bicycles on city sidewalks (6%).

Close to half of the residents in the rest of Onondaga County and parents of children under 18 (48% average) most often bike on *rural roads*.

Women (38%) are more likely than men (30%) to bike on *recreational* trails. However, men are more likely than women to ride on *city streets* (22% men-12% women) and rural roads (41% men-34% women).

6. As a cyclist, would you be more likely or less likely to use a separate lane for bicyclists when riding alongside traffic, or would you say it makes no difference?

More likely	78%
Less likely	2
No difference	18
Not sure	3

A vast majority of cyclists (78%) would be more likely to use a separate lane for bicyclists, while only 2% would be less likely. Nearly one in five (18%) says a separate lane would make no difference.

Majorities of people in all sub-groups are more likely to use the *separate lane*. Women and 30-64 year-olds (87% average) are the most likely to use the lane for bicyclists.

Adults 18-29 years old (43%), and more men (24%) than women (10%), say this lane for bicyclists would *make no difference*.

7. Please tell me if you encounter any of the following problems with motorists while riding your bike?

They drive too close to you or squeeze you off the road	29%
They make turns in front of you or cut you off	19
Motorists do not see me on my bike	15
They honk their horns at you	13
*Other	16
Not sure	8

***Other:** (Number in parentheses denotes frequency of similar responses)

I have no problems with motorists (29); I don't ride in the road or near traffic (7)

One each: I'm more cautious; Lack of consideration; I ride too infrequently; Speed of passing; They swing too wide

Bicyclists' biggest complaint with motorists is that they drive too close or squeeze them off the road (29%). Cyclists also complain that motorists make turns in front of them or cut them off (19%); do not see them on their bikes (15%), and honk their horns at them (13%).

The most likely to complain that motorists *drive too close* or *squeeze them off the road* are 18-29 year-olds (35%).

Syracuse residents (26%) are the most likely to say motorists *turn in front of them* or cut them off.

8. Do you agree or disagree that conditions in Onondaga County are friendly for bicycle travel?

Agree	41%
Disagree	48
Not sure	11

Nearly half of all respondents (48%) disagrees that conditions in Onondaga County are friendly for bicycle travel. Two in five (41%) agree that conditions are friendly for bike travel, and 11% are not sure.

The most likely to *agree* that conditions are friendly are 18-29 year-olds (50%).

Majorities of Syracuse residents, 30-49 year-olds, and parents of children under 18 (53% average) *disagree* that conditions are friendly for bicycle travel.

9. Which of the following **best** explains why you feel that way (disagree that conditions in Onondaga County are friendly for bicycle travel)?

Lack of bike lanes/routes to desired locations	47%
Too many aggressive/inconsiderate motorists	17
Lack of off road trails designed for biking in the country	7
Lack of motorist education about rules/regulations/laws affecting bicyclists	7
Lack of bicycle racks/storage at sites	1
*Other	8
Not sure	13

***Other:** Bikers need to be educated on the rules (4); Bikers should obey the law (3)
One each: Bicyclists are inconsiderate; Bikes should have their own lane without cars; Cyclists don't know what they are doing; Don't ride in traffic; Drivers; Feel bikes are dangerous; Hard to flow with traffic; Hard to see; Ride on wrong side of street; Roads are not as smooth as they should be.

Nearly half disagree that conditions are friendly for bicycle travel because of a lack of bike lanes and routes to desired locations (47%). Other reasons people disagree are because of aggressive or inconsiderate motorists (17%); a lack of off-road trails designed for biking in the country (7%), and a lack of motorist education about rules affecting bicyclists (7%). One in eight (13%) is not sure why they disagree.

Majorities of 30-49 year-olds (62%), college graduates (57%), and parents of children under 18 (51%) say a *lack of bike lanes and routes* makes conditions disagreeable for cyclists. Residents in the rest of Onondaga County (49%) are slightly more likely than Syracuse residents (42%) to say the same.

Residents of Syracuse (22%) are the most likely to blame *aggressive and inconsiderate motorists* for unfriendly treatment of cyclists.

10. Are Centro buses in Onondaga County equipped with bicycle racks?

Yes	27%
No	29
Not sure	44

Respondents are evenly divided on whether Centro buses in Onondaga County are (27%) or are not (29%) equipped with bicycle racks. A plurality (44%) is not sure.

Those who say that Centro buses in Onondaga County *are equipped* with bicycle racks include more Syracuse residents (44%) than people in the rest of the county (19%); twice as many 30-64 year-olds (34% average) than 18-29 year-olds and seniors 65 and older (17% each); more parents of children under 18 (32%) than people without children (24%), and more men (31%) than women (23%).

11. Please tell me if you encounter any of the following problems with cyclists while driving your car?

They do not obey traffic lights and signs	25%
They ride on the wrong side of the street	23
They bike too close to you	19
They make illegal turns in front of you/cut you off	16
*Other	11
Do not drive	2
Not sure	3

*Other: I encounter no problems (56); Not wearing helmets, no reflectors (8); Riding side-by-side (5); Kids don't know the rules (2)

One each: Children play "chicken"; Cross intersections on red light; Don't give right of way; In the middle of the road; Kids going along with traffic cannot see the cars; Kids speeding on bikes on hills; Ride at night; Ride in main road; I think they should face traffic; Too many are wearing headsets; Travel in park; Unaware that motorists know how to deal with cyclists; Uncertain about their actions; Unsupervised; Very little respect for motorists; Weave in and out of traffic.

Drivers say that the biggest problems they encounter with bicyclists include not obeying traffic lights and signs (25%) and riding on the wrong side of the street (23%).

Motorists also say that bikers ride too close to their cars (19%) and make illegal turns in front and cut them off (16%). Some people, though, say that they have no problems with bicyclists (7%)

12. Which **one** of the following three statements comes closest to your knowledge of safety laws in Onondaga County?

Table 1. Knowledge of Helmet Law

	%
B: Only cyclists under the age of 18 in Onondaga County are required to wear helmets.	54
A: All cyclists in Onondaga County, adults and children, are required by law to wear helmets.	36
C: Wearing helmets is optional when cycling in Onondaga County	5
Not sure	6

A majority thinks the law requires only cyclists under the age of 18 in Onondaga County to wear helmets (54%). Approximately one in three believes that all cyclists in Onondaga County are required by law to wear helmets (36%), and only 5% feels the law says wearing helmets is optional.

A majority of residents in the rest of Onondaga County (59%) say that *only cyclists under 18* are required to wear helmets. A majority of 18-64 year-olds (58% average) says that only cyclists under 18 are required to wear a helmet.

Syracuse residents, however, are closely divided, with 44% saying riders under 18 are required to wear helmets, and 41% saying it applies to *all cyclists*. A majority of seniors 65 and older (54%) says it is required of all cyclists.

13. How often do you go walking or jogging?

Daily	27%
One or more times a week	42
One or more times a month	8
Rarely	12
Never	10

One-fourth of respondents (27%) walks or jogs daily, while a plurality (42%) does so one or more times a week. Eight percent walks or jogs one or more times a month, while 12% rarely walk or jog. One in ten (10%) never goes walking or jogging.

Those who jog or walk *daily* include at least one-third of 18-29 year-olds (36%) and 50-64 year-olds (33%).

Adults 30-49 years old and college graduates (47% each) are the most likely to walk or jog *one or more* times a week.

Seniors 65 and older (22%) are the most likely to say they *never* walk or jog.

14. Which of the following best explains why you walk or jog?

Exercise	44%
Personal enjoyment	33
To get to the stores/shopping	8
For sport or competition, such as in a club or race	4
To get to school	3
Out of necessity / only means of transportation	3
To get to work	2
*Other	3

***Other:** Walk the dog (4); Walk on the job (3); My health (2); Do not walk often (2)

One each: Errands; Hunting and fishing; Visiting the State Fair; To be out and about; I'm too heavy to walk or jog far; While I'm looking for my kids.

People in Onondaga County are most likely to walk or jog for exercise (44%) or personal enjoyment (33%). Fewer do so to go shopping (8%); for sport or competition (4%); to get to school (3%); because they have no other means of transportation (3%), or to get to work (2%).

Adults 50 and older and residents of the rest of the county walk or jog for the *exercise* (49% average).

Those who like to walk or jog for *personal enjoyment* include 30-49 year-olds (37%).

Syracuse residents (9%) and 18-29 year-olds (11%) are most likely to say they walk or jog to *school*.

Syracuse residents and 18-29 year-olds (13% each) are also the most likely to say they walk or jog to go *shopping*.

15. How far do you generally walk/jog on each occasion?

A very short distance	12%
Less than 1 mile	20
1-2 miles	43
3-5 miles	22
More than 5 miles	3

A plurality of respondents (43%) walks or jogs 1-2 miles on each occasion. Half as many walk or jog 3-5 miles (22%) or less than a mile (20%). One in eight travel only a very short distance (12%), while 3% walk or jog more than five miles on each occasion.

Syracuse residents and seniors 65 and older (18% average) are most likely to walk or jog a *very short distance* on each occasion.

More than one-third of seniors 65 and older (35%) also walk or jog *less than a mile* on each occasion.

Adults 30-64 years old (47% average) are most likely to walk or jog *1-2 miles*.

Residents in the rest of Onondaga County (26%) are twice as likely as those in Syracuse (14%) to walk or jog *3-5 miles*. Others who walk or jog 3-5 miles include a 29% average of 18-29 year-olds, 50-64 year-olds, and college graduates, and more men (27%) than women (18%).

16. Which of the following describes where you are most likely to walk/jog?

Rural roads	30%
On city sidewalks	28
Recreational trails	22
On city streets	14
In a mall/indoors only	6

People are more likely to walk or jog on rural roads (30%) or city sidewalks (28%) than on recreational trails (22%) or city streets (14%). They are least likely to walk or jog indoors (6%).

Residents of the rest of Onondaga County (42%), parents of children under 18 (36%), and women (34%) are among the most likely to walk or jog on *rural roads*.

Syracuse residents (60%) are by far the most likely to walk or jog on *city sidewalks*. Others include a 35% average of 18-29 year-olds and seniors 65 and older, and more women (31%) than men (24%).

Adults 18-29 years old (30%) and men (29%) are the most likely to walk or jog on *recreational trails*.

City streets are most often used by 30-49 year-olds, college graduates, and parents of children under 18 (18% average).

17. Do you agree or disagree that conditions in Onondaga County are friendly to pedestrian travel?

Agree	61%
Disagree	34
Not sure	5

Respondents are almost twice as likely to agree (61%) than disagree (34%) that conditions in Onondaga County are friendly to pedestrian travel.

Majorities of people in every sub-group *agree* that conditions are friendly. Among the most likely to agree are 18-29 year-olds (68%).

Syracuse residents, those 50-64 year-olds, and college graduates (38% each) are among the most likely to *disagree*.

18. Which of the following **best** explains why you feel that way (disagree that conditions in Onondaga County are friendly to pedestrian travel)?

Lack of sidewalks/or lack of sidewalks leading to desired destinations	48%
Sidewalks in poor condition	14
Lack of motorist education about the rules/regulations/ laws affecting pedestrians	13
Lack of off-road trails/sites designed for pedestrians/joggers	7
Lack of traffic and/or pedestrian lights to allow pedestrians to cross at the intersections	1
*Other	9
Not sure	8

***Other:** People drive way too fast (3); Pedestrians are too aggressive, they are walking in the road (2); Inconsiderate drivers (2)

One each: Depends on where you walk; I'm only familiar with the city of Syracuse; Lack of security, bad neighborhoods; No biker path lanes; Okay except when biking or jogging on Rte. 80; The lack of signs; They are not well supervised; We are allowed to turn right.

Nearly half disagree that conditions in Onondaga County are friendly to pedestrian travel because they say there is a lack of sidewalks (48%). Others disagree because they say sidewalks are in poor condition (14%); because motorists lack education about rules affecting pedestrians (13%), or because of a lack of off-road trails or pedestrian-only paths (7%).

Majorities of residents in the rest of Onondaga County, 30-49 year-olds, college graduates, parents of children under 18, and men (57% average) disagree conditions are friendly because of a *lack of sidewalks*.

Those who say that *sidewalks are in poor condition* include a 35% average of Syracuse residents and 18-29 year-olds, and more women (17%) than men (11%).

19. What specific places in Onondaga County would you like to be able to reach by walking or cycling?

Parks/recreational trails	28%
Malls/shopping areas/supermarkets	15
Schools/colleges	13
Downtown	10
Work	9
Carousel Mall/DestiNY USA	9
Doctor's offices/hospitals	8
*Other	5
Not sure	4

***Other:** None (34); I live too far away (9); Church (2); The local neighborhood (2)

One each: Cemetery; Drug store, beauty salon; Erie Canal; More bike routes; Onondaga Park; Pleasure and exercise; Post office; Suburb; Transportations Department; Would like connection to East and West Canal Park.

Respondents are most likely to say they would like to be able to reach parks and recreational trails by walking or cycling (28%). Half as many would like access to malls and shopping (15%) or school (13%). Less than 10 percent each would also like to be able to walk or bike to downtown, to work, to the Carousel Mall, or to the doctor.

Adults age 50-64 (35%) and people in the rest of Onondaga County (31%) are among the most likely to want to reach *parks and recreational trails*.

Syracuse residents and 18-29 year-olds (14% each) are among the most likely to say they would like to reach *downtown* by walking or cycling.

The 18-29 year-olds (14%) are also most likely to want to reach *Carousel Mall*.

20. *Do you agree or disagree that a separate lane for bicyclists and/or joggers would improve safety on roadways?*

Strongly agree	73%		
Somewhat agree	17	Agree	90%
Somewhat disagree	6		
Strongly disagree	2	Disagree	8
Not sure	2		

Most adults (90%) in Onondaga County – including four-fifths or more within each sub-group – agree that a separate lane for bicyclists and/or joggers would improve safety on roadways. Overall, three-fourths (73%) *strongly agree*.

Only 8% of respondents strongly or somewhat *disagree*. Syracuse residents (13%) and 18-29 year-olds (14%) are the most likely to disagree.

21 – 24, 26, 27. Now I would like to get your opinion on a series of safety-related questions.

Table 2. Knowledge of Safety Issues (ranked by % yes)

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Not sure</i>
24. When crossing a street, is a pedestrian required to obey traffic signals?	99	0	1
21. Is a bicyclist required to obey the same traffic signals and traffic laws as drivers?	96	2	2
26. When a driver approaches an intersection or crosswalk, are they required to allow a blind pedestrian with a cane or guide dog to cross first?	85	5	9
23. When pedestrians walk or jog in the street, are they required to face traffic?	59	29	12
27. If there is no crosswalk at an intersection, does a pedestrian have the right of way?	53	36	11
22. Is a bicyclist required to ride facing traffic?	24	71	5

Nearly all respondents say that a pedestrian is required to obey traffic signals when crossing a street (99%) and that a bicyclist is required to obey the same traffic signals and traffic laws as drivers (96%). Most say that a driver is required to allow a blind pedestrian with a cane or guide dog to cross first (85%).

Majorities agree that pedestrians are required to face traffic when walking in the street (59%) and have the right of way if there is no crosswalk at an intersection (53%). Only one in four says a bicyclist is required to ride facing traffic (24%), while more than two-thirds say a bicyclist is not required to face traffic (71%).

Adults ages 18-29 are the most likely to say that a *bicyclist is not required to obey* the same traffic signals and traffic laws as drivers (9%), and a driver is *not required to allow a blind pedestrian* with a cane or guide dog to cross first (13%).

Women and 50-64 year-olds (70% average), seniors 65 and older and college graduates (64% average), are the most likely to say that *pedestrians who walk or jog in the street* are required to face traffic. Syracuse residents, parents of children under 18 and men (37% average) and 18-29 year-olds (50%) are among the most likely to say they are *not required* to face traffic.

Syracuse residents, 50-64 year-olds, and men (58% average) are among the most likely to say that a *pedestrian has the right of way* if there is no crosswalk at an intersection.

One-third of 18-29 year-olds (34%) says that a *bicyclist is required to ride facing traffic*. College graduates (81%) and 30-49 year-olds (77%) are the most likely to disagree.

25. *If you just started crossing an intersection and a “Don’t Walk” or red hand signal is flashing, is it okay to continue to cross the street, or are you required to go back to the curb and wait for traffic to stop?*

Required to go back	57%
Continue to cross	32
Not sure	11

A majority of respondents (57%) says a pedestrian is required to go back to the curb and wait for traffic to stop if encountering a “Don’t Walk” signal in an intersection. One in three (32%) says it is okay to continue to cross the street, and 11% are not sure.

Majorities of people within each sub-group (except pluralities of 50-64 year-olds and those with some college education), agrees a person *is required to go back to the curb* and wait. More than three-fifths of Syracuse residents, 18-29 year-olds, and seniors 65 and older (64% average) also agree.

Two-fifths of adults with some college education or a college degree (39% each) believe it is okay for a person to *continue to cross the street*.

APPENDICES

Appendices for this survey report are available upon request