



Date: May 29, 2021

To: Town Council

From: WH Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission Member Denisse Gutierrez

Subject: Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission Public Survey

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission survey in collaboration with the Town captured 1,019 respondents between mid-February and March 31, 2021. The commission finds the survey to contain the voice of many who use our infrastructure to bicycle and walk. The current COVID-19 pandemic has changed what individuals find important to a healthy quality of life, shown in the 39% of respondents which said the amount they bicycle has increased since the pandemic. Of those who answered question number 4 which asks, "Are streets in West Hartford Safe to Bicycle?" 49% of respondents considered West Hartford streets as unsafe and 10% of respondents considered them extremely unsafe. This is important feedback for the Town, as it pursues enhancements to make West Hartford a destination for residents and visitors. Responses within the survey, show demand for more off-street and protected facilities. Here is one such comment, "I bike with my young children, and I worry about having to cross intersections, and would certainly never bike with them in the roadway. Dedicated off-road paths with as few street crossings as possible are super-important to us!"

Regarding pedestrian safety, we started by asking how comfortable participants are walking around their home. On a scale of 0 to 100, 100 being extremely conformable, the average answer among the 810 who answered was 77.3. The response on actual concerns provides some contrast. When given the option to pick their top three concerns with walking in West Hartford, the top three answers involved motorist behavior.

The level of detail the commission took to capture genuine input was not lost on demographic of respondents. The age bracket breakdown among the 965 who responded was: 24.6% 41 – 50 years, 21.9% 51 – 60 years, 21.8% 60 – 70 years, 16.3% 30 – 40 years, 11.4% 70+ years, 3.9% 20 – 30 years. The gender identification breakdown among the 875 who responded was: 59.3% female, 38.9% male, 1.8% other. Other questions asked were zip code and location of work if applicable to survey taker.

As a commission we've identified the need to partner with the town to increase education, capture more feedback from individuals below 30 years of age, and protect the safety of bicyclist and motorist through enforcement and future developments. The commission asks the Town Council to review the survey results and record when developing policy and infrastructure that impact its most vulnerable



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users. The survey may be used for purposes of reference, analysis, and call-to-action by the commission or community members.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the West Hartford Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission,

Denisse Gutierrez

Secretary and Commission Member