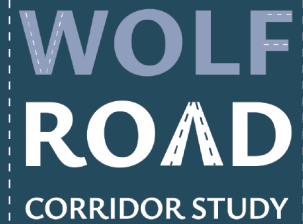


Village of Indian Head Park and Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways

Wolf Road Corridor Phase I Study



Community Survey Summary and Results

Study Overview

The Village of Indian Head Park, in collaboration with the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (DoTH), has conducted a two-pronged comprehensive public survey to gather crucial insights from the community. This initiative aimed further to evaluate the community's future wants and needs along the Wolf Road corridor. The survey was administered from September 25, 2023, through November 10, 2023, serving as a vital tool to solicit input and feedback. These contributions will play a pivotal role in guiding the initial stages of the evaluation of potential opportunities along the corridor.

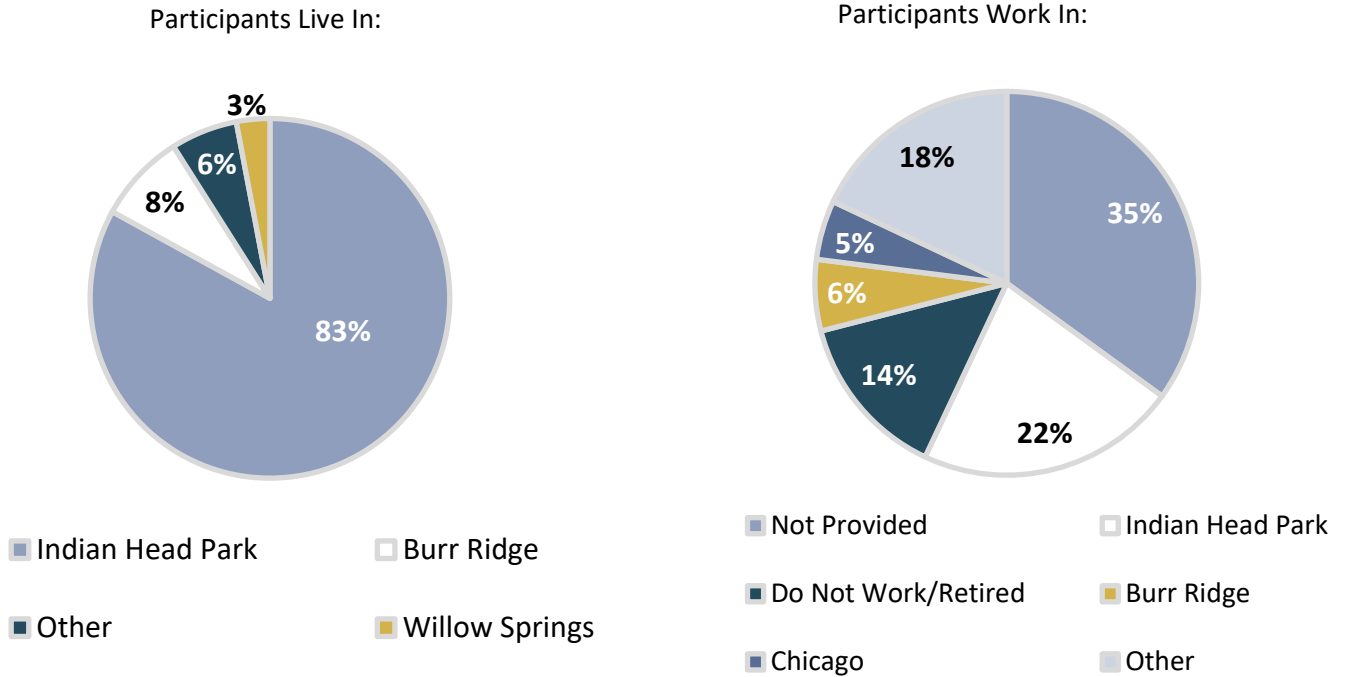
The survey was split into two sections: a questionnaire and an interactive mapping survey. The questionnaire included eight (8) questions designed to gather corridor demographic information on participants, ask participants about their top concerns along the corridor, and provide an open-ended feedback mechanism to the project team. The high-level results and responses to the questionnaire can be found in an attached appendix. The interactive map invited participants to place pins on geographic areas of interest and like/dislike and add comments on other's pins. The interactive mapping survey high-level results and responses can be found in an attached appendix.

Questionnaire Summary

The survey resulted in a total of 339 responses. Of those responses, there were 19 duplicates or instances where one community member submitted multiple responses. These duplicate responses were consolidated into one response, resulting in a total of 320 responses. The data presented in this section includes information from all 320 responses aggregated into a summary of responses. The detailed response table found in the appendix below removes 38 responses where participants opted out of sharing their responses publicly.

When asked about participant demographic information the follow are characteristics of those that responded to the questionnaire. 83% of respondents are residents of Indian Head Park, 8% are residents from Burr Ridge, and 3% from Willow Springs. Other participants live throughout the local area. When asked where participants work, 49% of participants did not answer or noted that they do not work and/or are retired. 22% of participants work in Indian Head Park. Most questionnaire respondents also claim to use the corridor regularly: 297 of them (93%) use the corridor daily, 16 (5%) use the corridor weekly, and 7 (2%) use the corridor on occasion.

Where do Participants Live and Work?



Most notably, of the participant information gathered by the questionnaire, 61% of participants claim that they did not participate in the previous 2022 study outreach activities, specifically Public Information Meeting #1. This indicates that of the 2023 outreach activities, the study team is providing additional opportunities to add to the valuable information received in 2022 and attracting both those who have been engaged and those who have not.

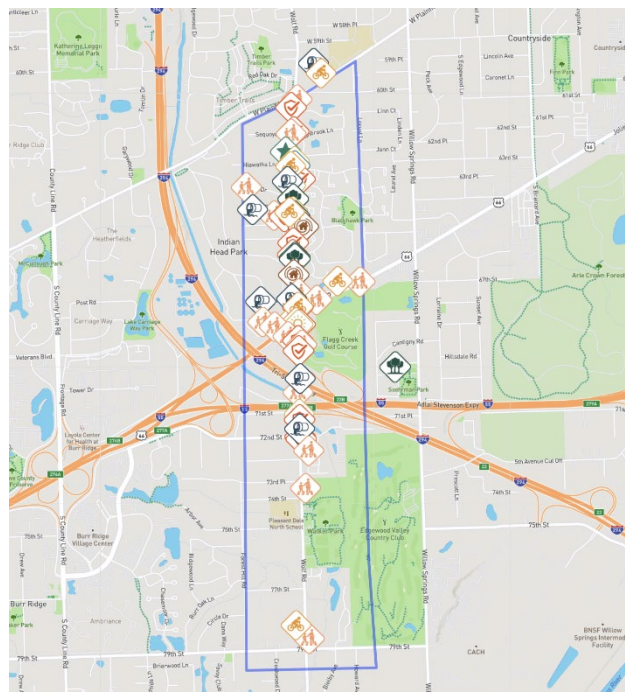
The top three concerns identified by participants include traffic and roadway conditions (27% of respondents), biking and pedestrian accommodations (24% of respondents), and safety concerns (23% of respondents). Of those that identified an Other Option (6% of respondents) common responses included concerns with increased freight traffic in residential areas, the future landscaping/trees, and the future roadway geometry/widening and turn lanes.

Open-ended input and feedback provided by participants addressed concerns and preferences regarding proposed changes to the area. Participants skew towards maintaining the current look and feel of the roadway and expressed reservations with adding lanes or widening the corridor. Many participants expressed opposition to increased freight and large truck traffic with some proposing ways to deter the traffic. Many participants also expressed concerns about the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists. While opinions on bike lanes vary, there was unanimous emphasis on the need for safe pathways for pedestrians, specifically to facilitate the safe passage of children. These participants highlighted the lack of sidewalks and expressed interest in developing sidewalks to connect to existing infrastructure as well as increasing the safety of crosswalks and traffic lights. Of those opposed to sidewalks and multiuse paths, the main concerns expressed were of loss of privacy, decreased distance of the public to homes and properties, land acquisition for increased public space, and potential impacts on property values.

Participants also proposed widening the road to 3 lanes, though with caution about potential traffic increase and safety. A center/left turn lane was requested. Additionally, environmental concerns about air quality and drainage were raised. Finally, the preservation of the natural landscape, including trees, and minimizing noise and pollution were common concerns.

Interactive Mapping Survey Responses and Pins

81 total participants interacted with the mapping survey. Participants added 62 pins to the map and 447 comments. The pins added to the map pertained to pedestrians, bikes, trees, safety, drainage, new ideas, community resources, and property impacts. The below image shows the 62 pins. The majority of pins were located on the northern half of the corridor.



Participants emphasized an urgent need for enhanced pedestrian and cycling infrastructure to ensure safe mobility, especially throughout the southern half of Wolf Rd. Additional concerns discussed on the map include safety concerns of the Joliet Road intersection, including any widening that may exacerbate traffic. Many commenters stressed the importance of safe pedestrian crossings, to access parks and under the nearby bridge. There was a significant debate on the map in regard to sidewalks and bike paths noting the importance of connectivity vs. projected usage and safety.

Of the safety concerns highlighted on the map, there was support expressed for updating the ‘no turn on red’ sign to include all pedestrians rather than only children. Other safety concerns include hesitation in supporting sidewalks if the roadway will include large freight vehicles and maintain the current high speeds. The amount of driveways and interactions with multimodal vehicles were discussed as additional safety concerns along the corridor.

A lack of public transit and Pace service along the corridor was highlighted by a few respondents.

Many participants indicated areas of drainage concerns and drainage improvement needs, particularly near bridges and along sidewalks. Of participants, there was a consensus on the benefits of curbs, gutters, and stormwater detention on the west side of Wolf Road.

Finally, landscaping was discussed, focusing on the replacement of mature trees and the need for effective maintenance and landscaping plans. Overall, the comments received on the interactive map emphasized the need for a careful balance in addressing safety, accessibility, and environmental considerations in any proposed improvement to the corridor.

Additional Comments and Feedback

In addition to the insights gathered from the questionnaire and mapping surveys, the study team received a variety of feedback through letters (2), social media, emails (83), and voicemails/phone calls (18).

The concerns expressed throughout these additional feedback opportunities echoed the information highlighted in the surveys, with an emphasis on safety. A unanimous sentiment among those who provided feedback highlights the necessity for at least one sidewalk, with an emphasis on the safety of children. It was also suggested to have alternating sidewalks, as well as ADA-compliant sidewalks.

Recommendations such as the implementation of crossing guards/sites and a reduction in the speed limit were put forth to enhance overall safety. Strong opposition to a five-lane corridor arose due to concerns about heightened truck traffic and its potential adverse effects on the well-being of residents.

The proximity of increased traffic to residents' homes following the road widening emerged as a substantial concern. Suggestions ranged from the installation of fencing to outright opposition to the widening.

Health considerations added another layer of complexity, as residents expressed dismay at the prospect of heightened carbon emissions and the subsequent health implications for the community. As highlighted earlier, property impacts remained a key apprehension, with residents expressing concerns about landscaping and a collective desire to preserve existing trees while addressing invasive species. There was also acknowledgment of low visibility issues attributed to overgrown bushes, contributing to safety hazards and accidents in the area. These comments reinforce the concerns expressed throughout the survey and map but should also be taken into careful consideration as the details of corridor improvements are unveiled.