

# Sustainable Bethlehem



Sustainable Bethlehem  
Community Workshop  
March 12, 2012





# Workshop Agenda

- Welcome and Introduction from Supervisor Clarkson
- Bethlehem Bicycle & Pedestrian Goals
- Polling Exercise 1
- Benefits of Bethlehem's Bicycle/Pedestrian program
- Small Group Discussions
- Polling Exercise 2
- Wrap Up and Next Steps





# Rules of Engagement

1. The meeting goals are focused on information sharing and community feedback
2. No decisions regarding policies, programs, or projects will be made at this workshop
3. Differing perspectives about issues and approaches are accepted and welcome
  - a) Please regard differing perspectives as problems to be solved rather than battles to be won.
4. Focus on the future, instead of getting stuck in the past.
5. Separate the people from the issues we seek to address
  - a) Avoid characterizing the motives of others
  - b) Acknowledge and try to understand others' perspectives
  - c) Avoid name calling and otherwise disrespectful behavior
  - d) Stay focused on the task at hand and share airtime with others – ensure that every participant has the opportunity to speak
6. Be a good listener – listening does not require agreement.
7. Please silence the ringer devices on your phones to minimize interruptions.



# Bethlehem Bicycle and Pedestrian Goals

- Maintain and enhance pedestrian connections
- Provide adequate bicycle facilities
- Maintain and improve walkability





## PaTHs 4 Bethlehem Committee (***P**athways **T**o **H**omes, **H**amlets and **H**ealthy **H**earts*)

- March 2009 – Committee Established
- November 2010 – Committee Formally Established through Town Board Resolution
  - 11 Member Committee
    - Town Residents
    - *Planning, Engineering, Parks & Recreation, Highway Department representatives*
    - *Bethlehem Central School District Liaison*
  - *Monthly meetings – 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:30PM in Town Hall Room 101*



## PaTHs 4 Bethlehem Committee Activities

- Complete Streets Resolution – August 2009
- Town Bike Expo – Facilitate Bicycle Skills Stations
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Network
- Evaluation Process for New Pathway Investment
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Tip Palm Cards
- CDTA/CDTC Bike Rack Program – 23 Bicycle Racks



# Town Bike Expo – Bicycle Skills Stations

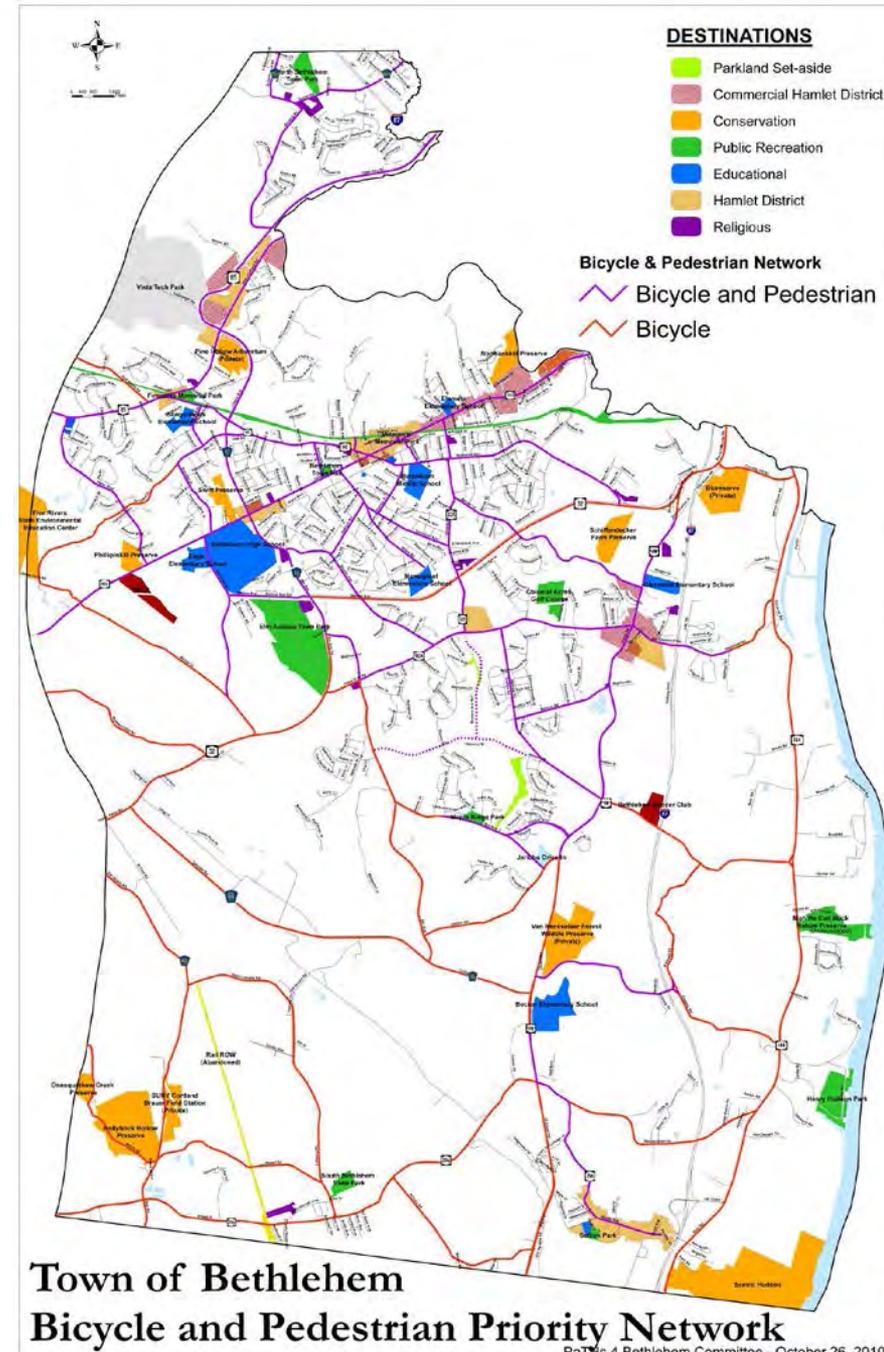




# Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Network

✓ Used for:

- Grant Applications
- Land Use Review
- Evaluation Process





# Evaluation Process for New Pathway Investment



Town of Bethlehem  
Evaluation Process for  
New Pathway Investment  
*Procedures /Users Guide*





# Education

## P E D E S T R I A N S A F E T Y T I P S

### PEDESTRIANS SHOULD...

- Always use a marked crosswalk when one is available.
- Look **LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT** to check before crossing the road.
- Use **sidewalks when available**.
- Walk on the **left side of the road** facing traffic, if sidewalks are not available.
- **Be visible.** Wear bright, reflective clothing, and use lights or flashers when it's dark or dusk.
- **Make eye contact with drivers** before crossing the road.



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### MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVERS SHOULD...

- **Yield to pedestrians in all crosswalks.** It's the law.
- **SPEED KILLS.** Obey the speed limit.
- **Scan for pedestrians often.** Expect to see pedestrians at intersections.
- **Keep an eye on students** gathered at bus stops.
- **Be ready for the unexpected!** Children have difficulty judging speeds and distances.



Developed by the PaTHS 4 Bethlehem Committee—April 2011



## B I C Y C L I S T S A F E T Y T I P S

### BICYCLISTS SHOULD...

- Always wear a **helmet**.
- **Be Seen.** Wear reflective bright gear and use appropriate lights at night.
- **Ride Right.** Always ride on the right side of the road.
- **Obey All Traffic Laws.** You are entitled to your space on the road and must follow the same traffic laws that apply to motor vehicle drivers.
- **Travel no more than two abreast** and remember to share the road with motor vehicles.



### MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVERS SHOULD...

- **Share The Road.** The streets are for everyone and you should expect to see bicyclists on the road.
- **Keep Eyes on the Road.** Look for bicyclists when changing lanes, turning and opening car doors.
- **SPEED KILLS.** Obey the Speed Limit.
- **Pass at a Safe Distance.** Slow down and wait for a safe place to pass with a minimum of 3 feet of clearance.



Developed by the PaTHS 4 Bethlehem Committee—April 2011





# CDTC/CDTA Bike Rack Program

- 23 Bike Racks Awarded



Capital District  
Transportation Committee





# PaTHs 4 Bethlehem Committee

## *(Pathways To Homes, Hamlets and Healthy Hearts)*

### Vision

Residents and visitors in Bethlehem live and work in a sustainable community that has a diversity of transportation options, and they routinely choose bicycling and walking for safe and efficient transportation and as a healthy option for recreation.

### Mission

The PaTHs 4 Bethlehem Committee is a resource that effectively uses a 5E approach (*Engineering, Education & Enforcement, and Engagement & Encouragement*) to advise the Town, educate the community, and advocate for opportunities to improve mobility and connectivity for bicyclists and pedestrians.

### Goals

#### **Engineering**

Bethlehem offers safe and efficient infrastructure to ensure accessibility, connectivity, and mobility for bicyclists and pedestrians

#### **Education & Enforcement**

The Bethlehem community is aware of and actively exhibits safe bicycling, walking, and driving behavior. A share the road approach is respected among all travel modes and reinforced through enforcement of traffic laws.

#### **Engagement & Encouragement**

The Bethlehem community is utilizing its bicycle and pedestrian network to the full extent and is empowered to drive new programs in the Town



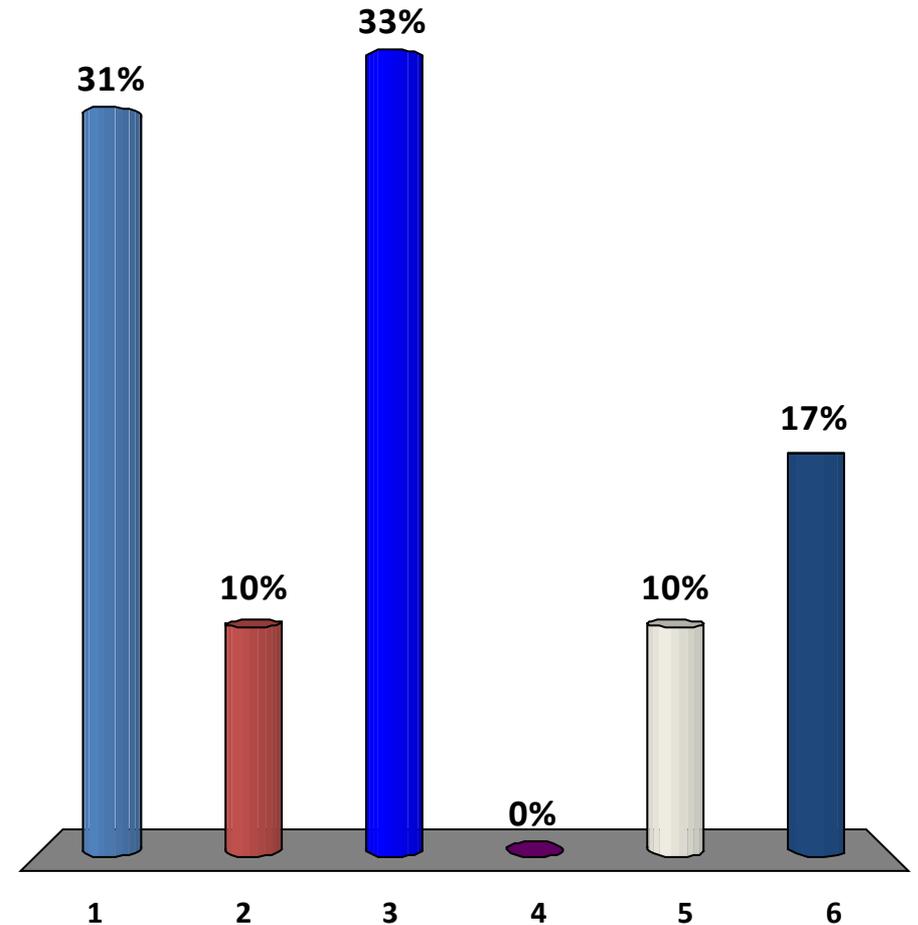
# Key Pad Polling Exercise 1





# What is your favorite Sports Team?

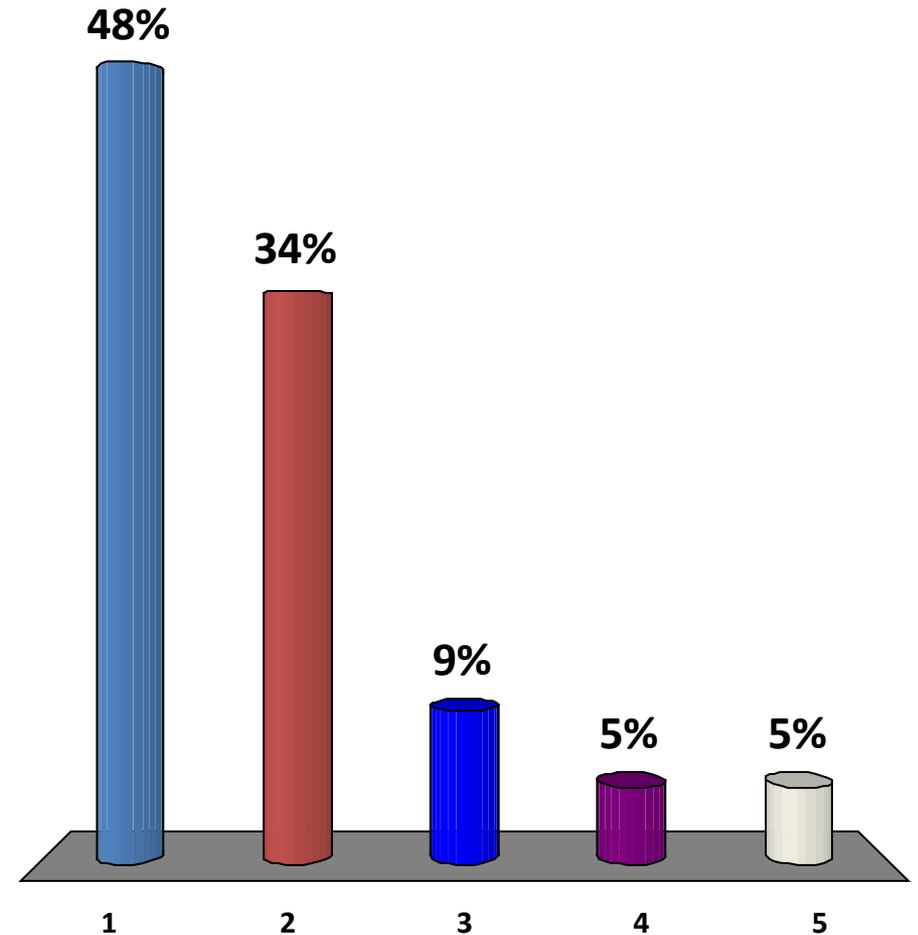
1. New York Giants
2. New York Mets
3. New York Yankees
4. New York Rangers
5. New York Knicks
6. Albany Devils





# How long have you lived in Bethlehem?

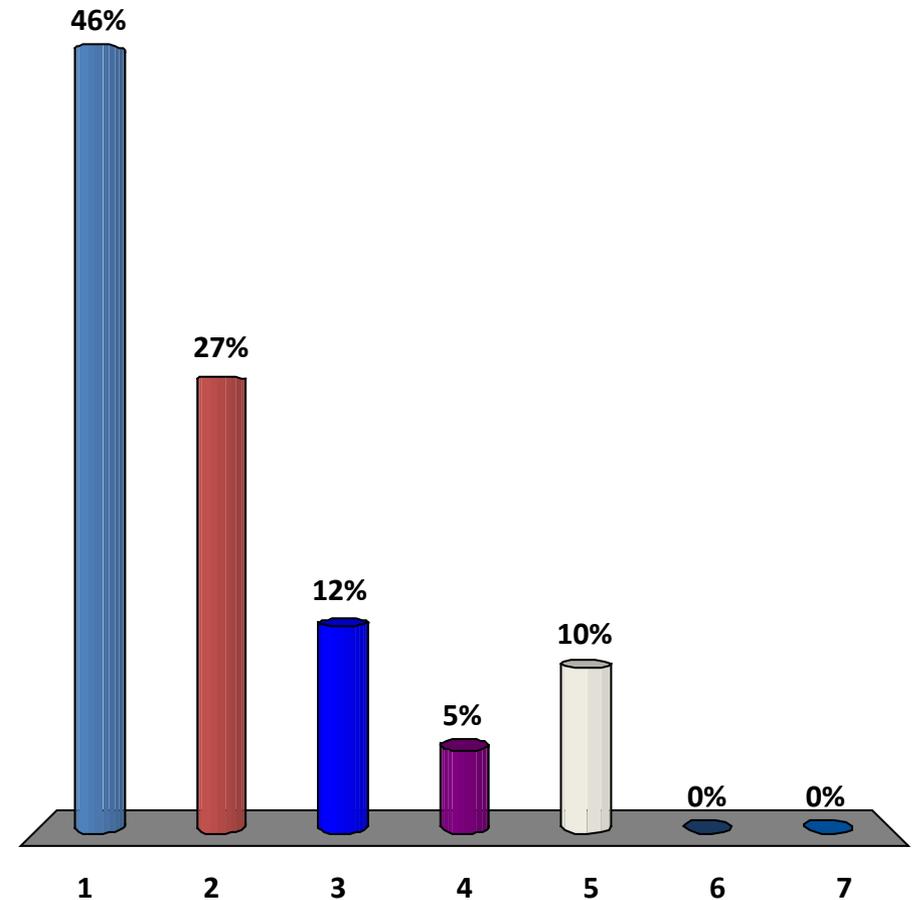
1. More than 20 years
2. 10-20 years
3. 5-10 years
4. Less than 5 years
5. I do not live in Bethlehem





# Which hamlet do you live in?

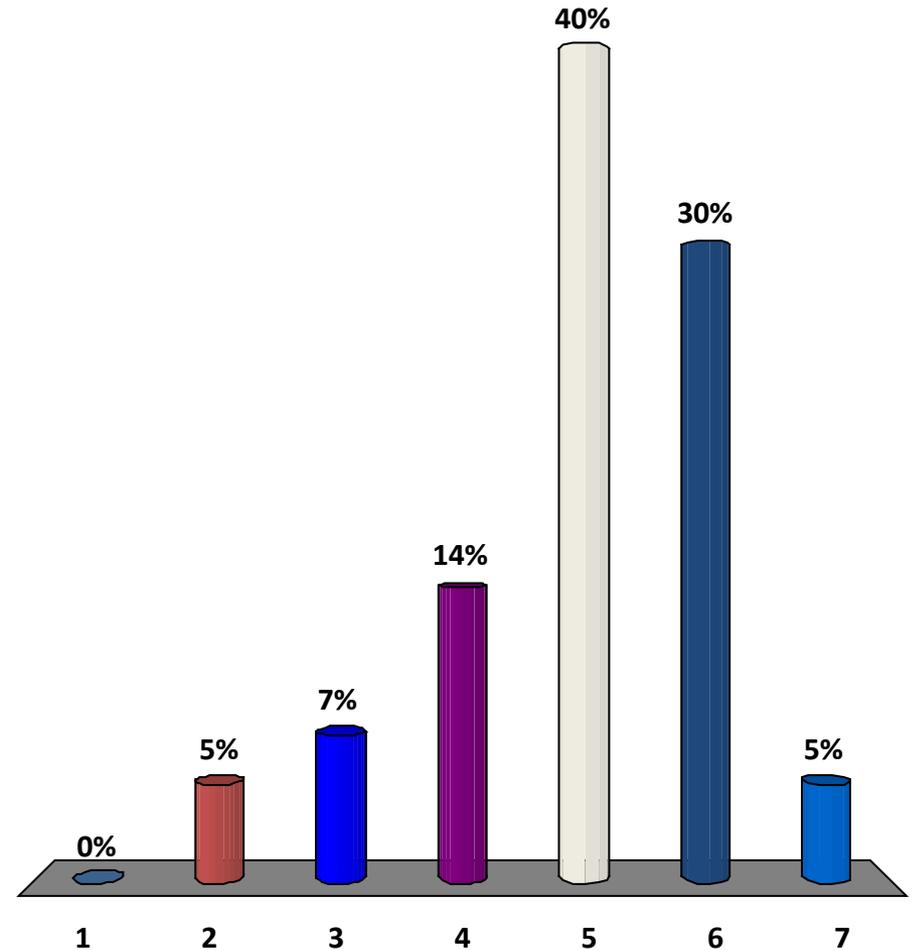
1. Delmar
2. Elsmere
3. Slingerlands
4. Glenmont
5. Selkirk
6. South Bethlehem
7. North Bethlehem





# Which age group do you fall into?

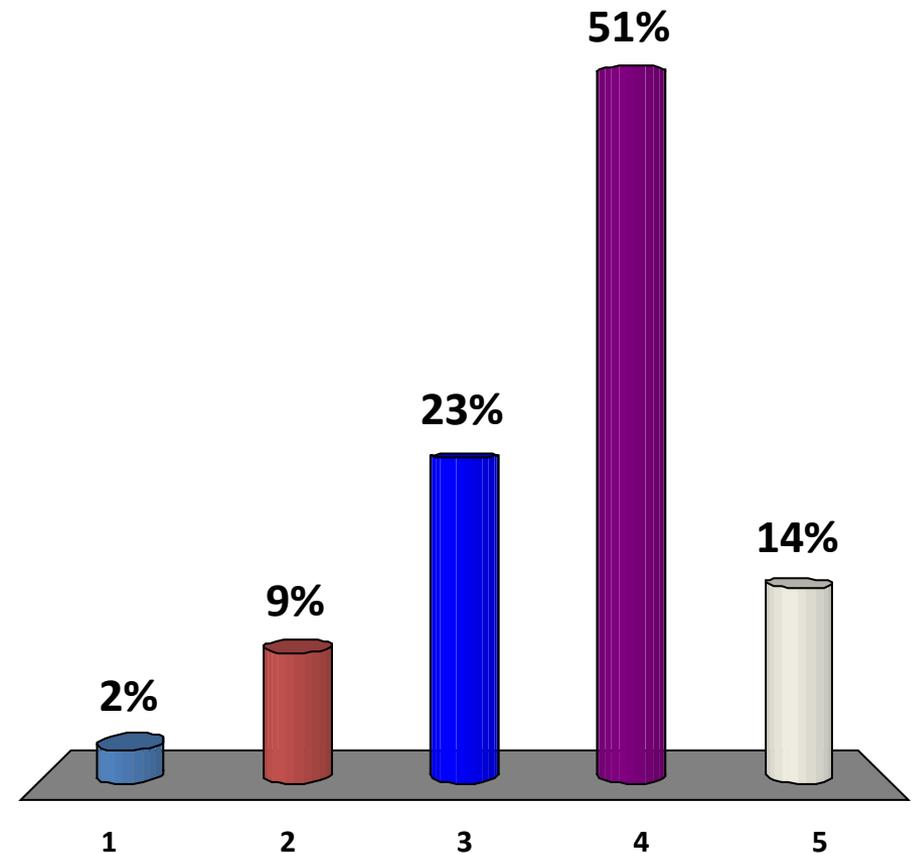
1. Under 20
2. 20-29
3. 30-39
4. 40-49
5. 50-59
6. 60-69
7. 70 +





# What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

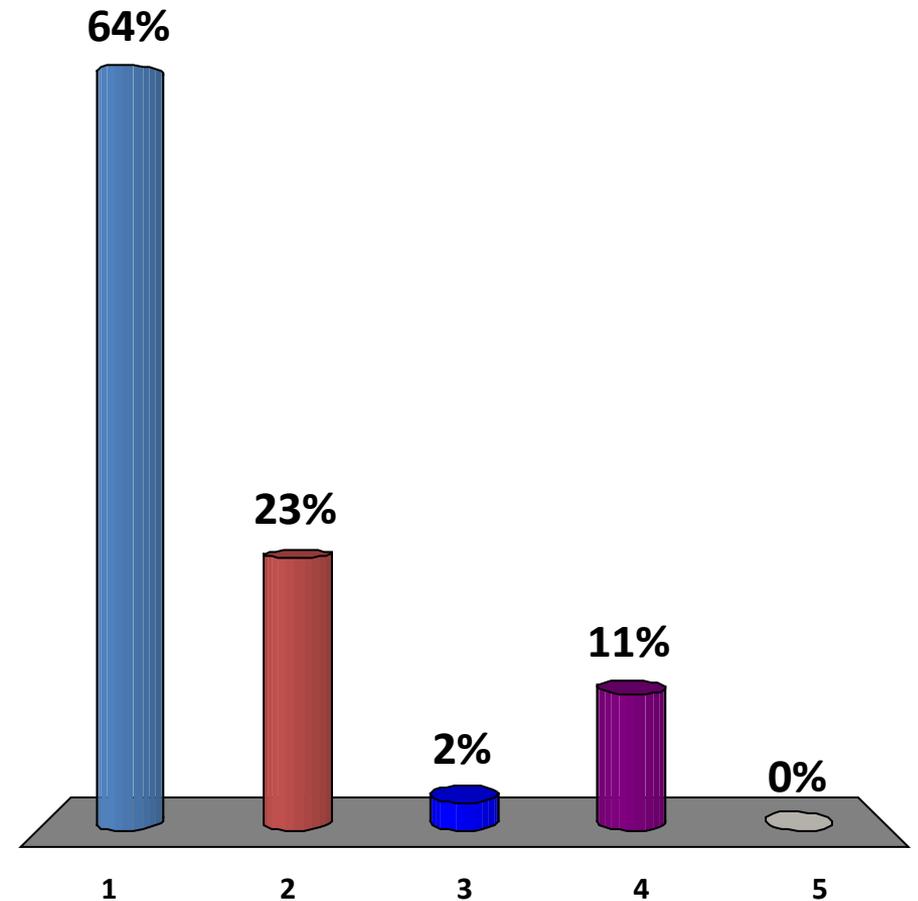
1. High School or less
2. Associate/Technical School
3. Undergraduate
4. Graduate
5. Doctoral





# What mode of transportation did you use to get here tonight?

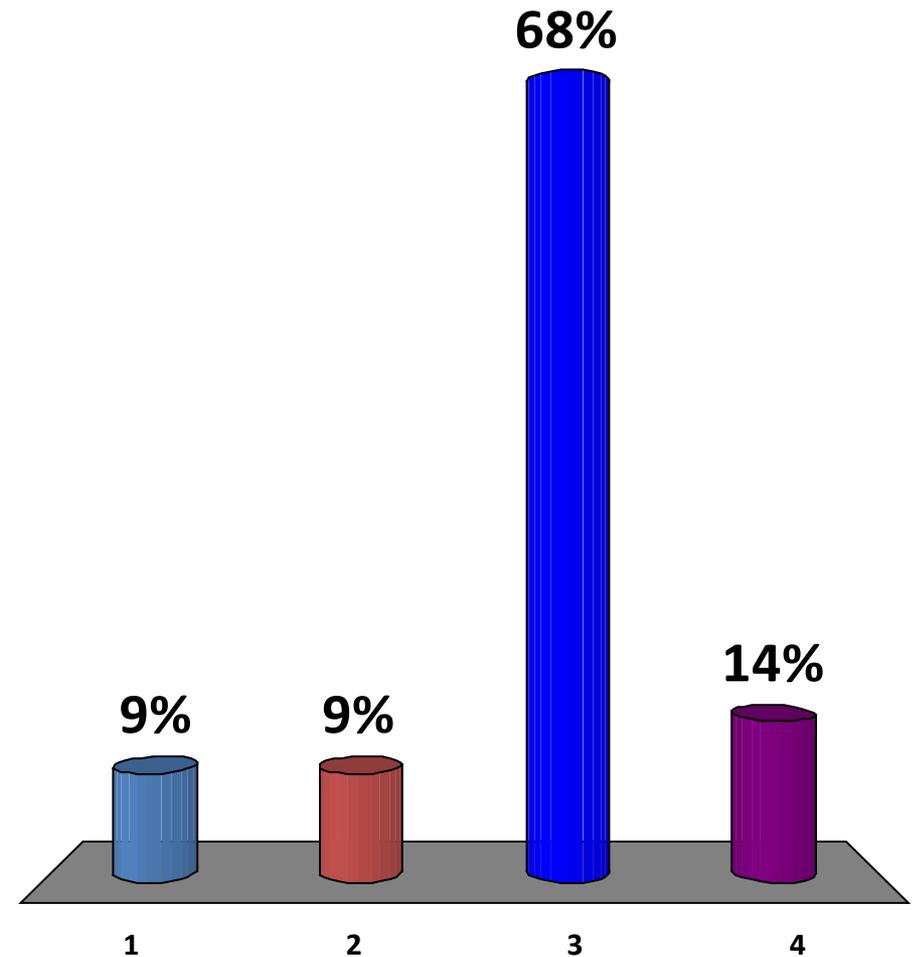
1. Car (by myself)
2. Carpool (2+ people)
3. Bike
4. Walk
5. Bus





# How do you identify yourself with regards to biking?

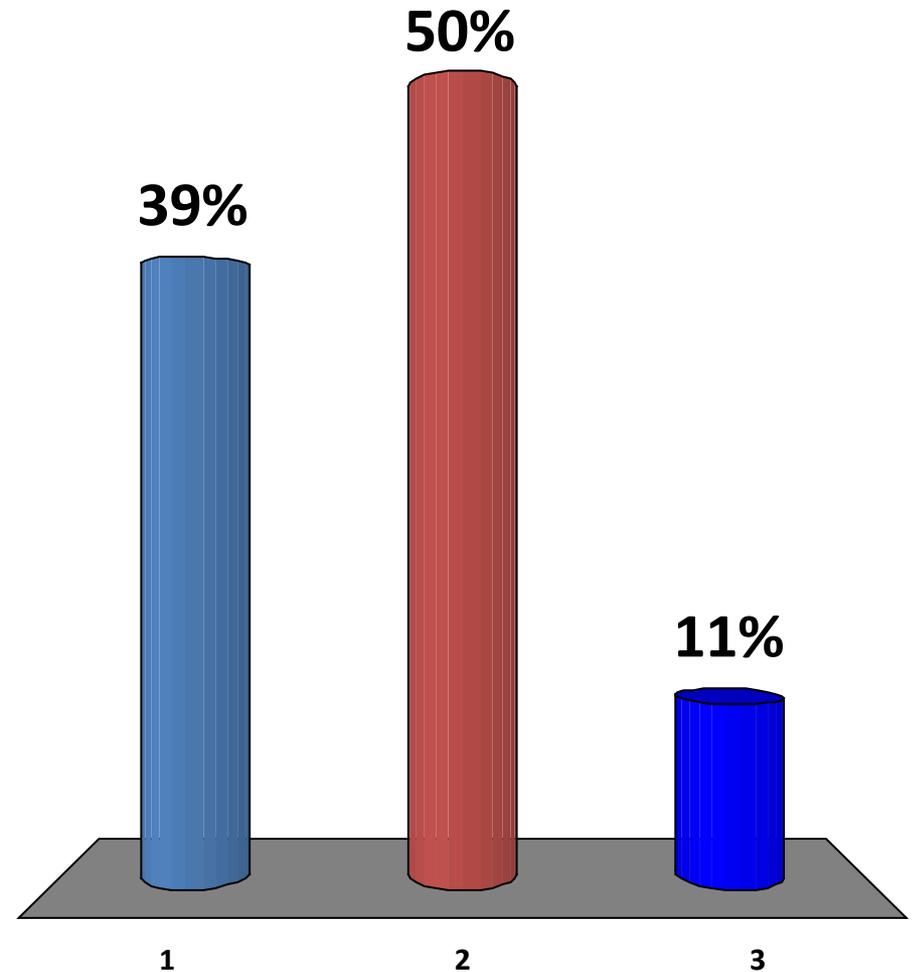
1. Commuter
2. Daily trips (errands)
3. Recreational
4. Do not ride a bicycle





# Do you currently utilize any of the Town's marked bicycle routes?

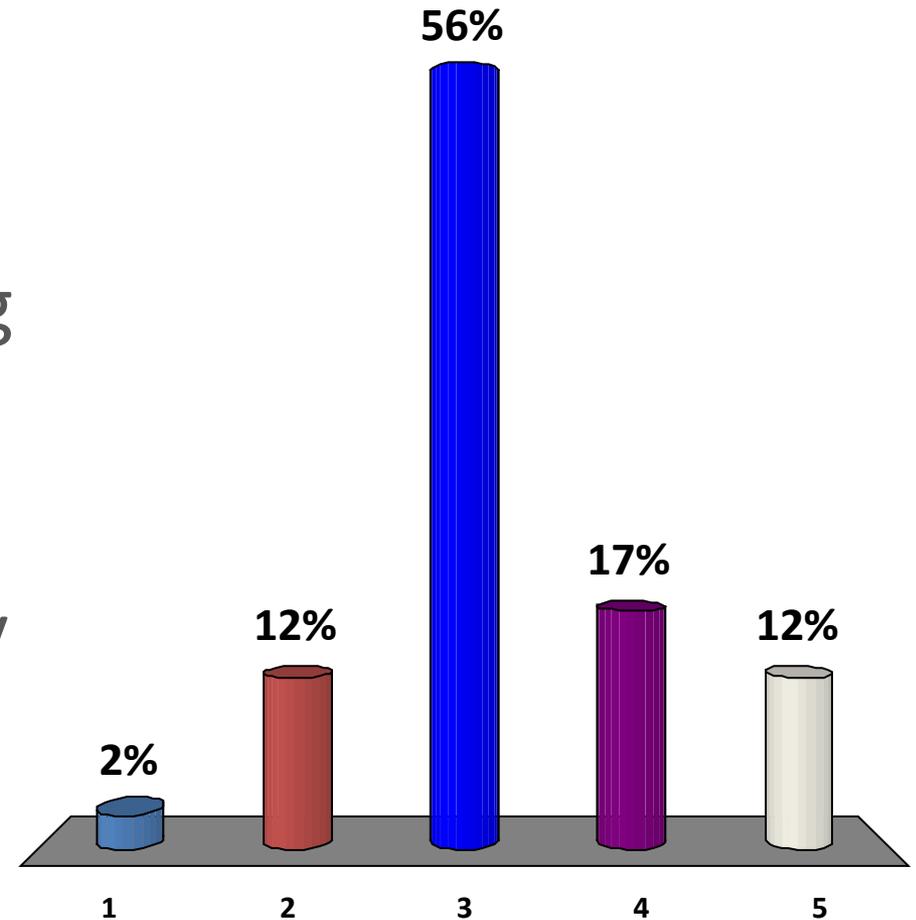
1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know





# What do you consider the greatest barrier to riding a bicycle in Bethlehem?

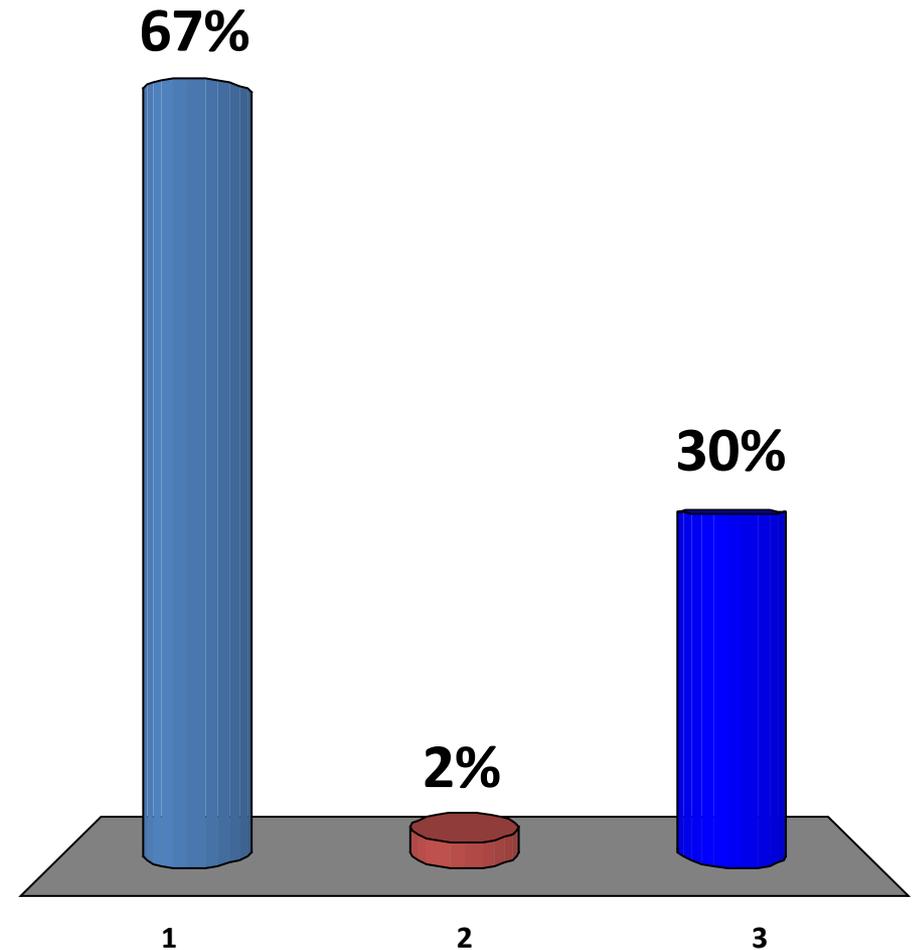
1. Lack of marked routes
2. Condition of infrastructure
3. Safety concerns/being on road with cars
4. Lack of bicycle route network linking to key destinations
5. Weather





# Would you like to see the Town take steps to become a certified Bicycle Friendly Community?

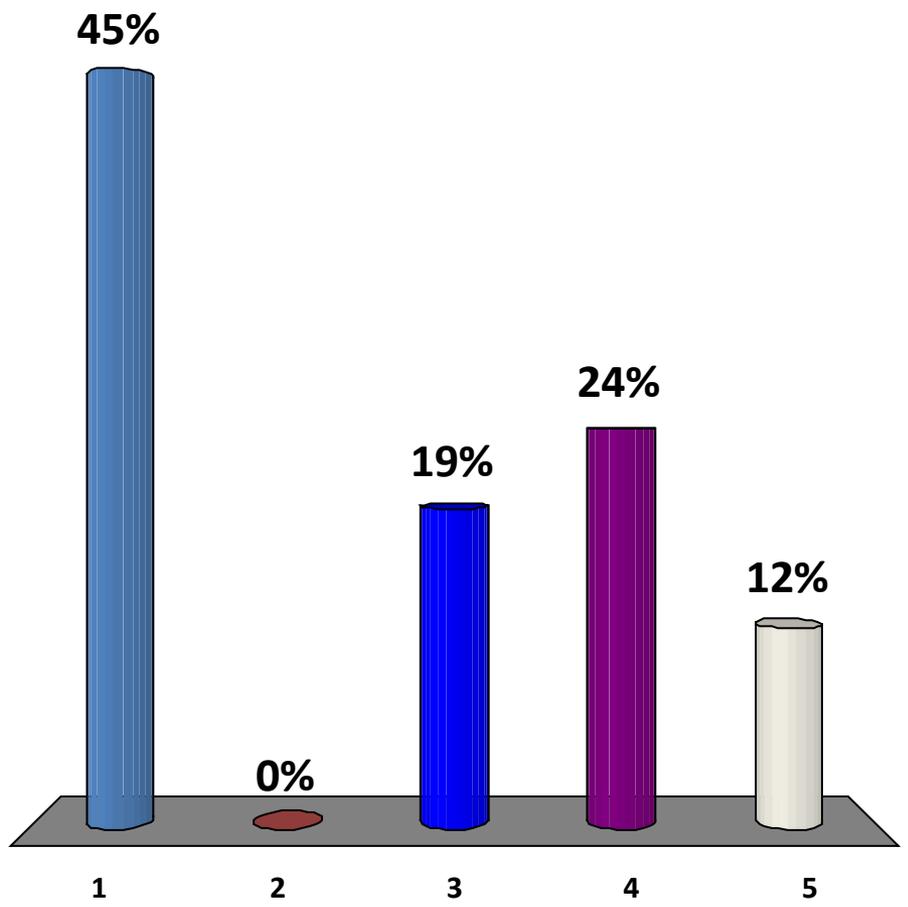
1. Yes
2. No
3. I don't know





# How would your biking habits change if Bethlehem was a certified Bicycle Friendly Community?

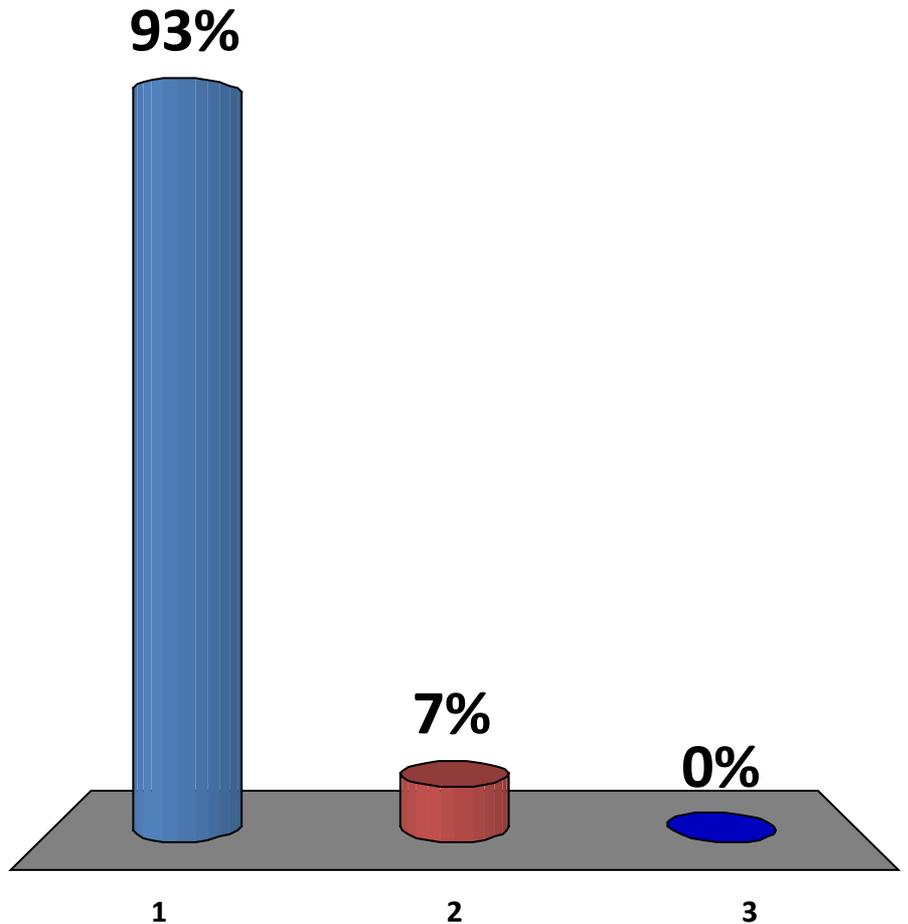
1. I would ride more often
2. I would ride less often
3. I would ride for different reasons
4. They would not change
5. I don't know





# Are you aware of the NYS V&T law requiring drivers to Yield to Pedestrians in the crosswalk at locations without signals?

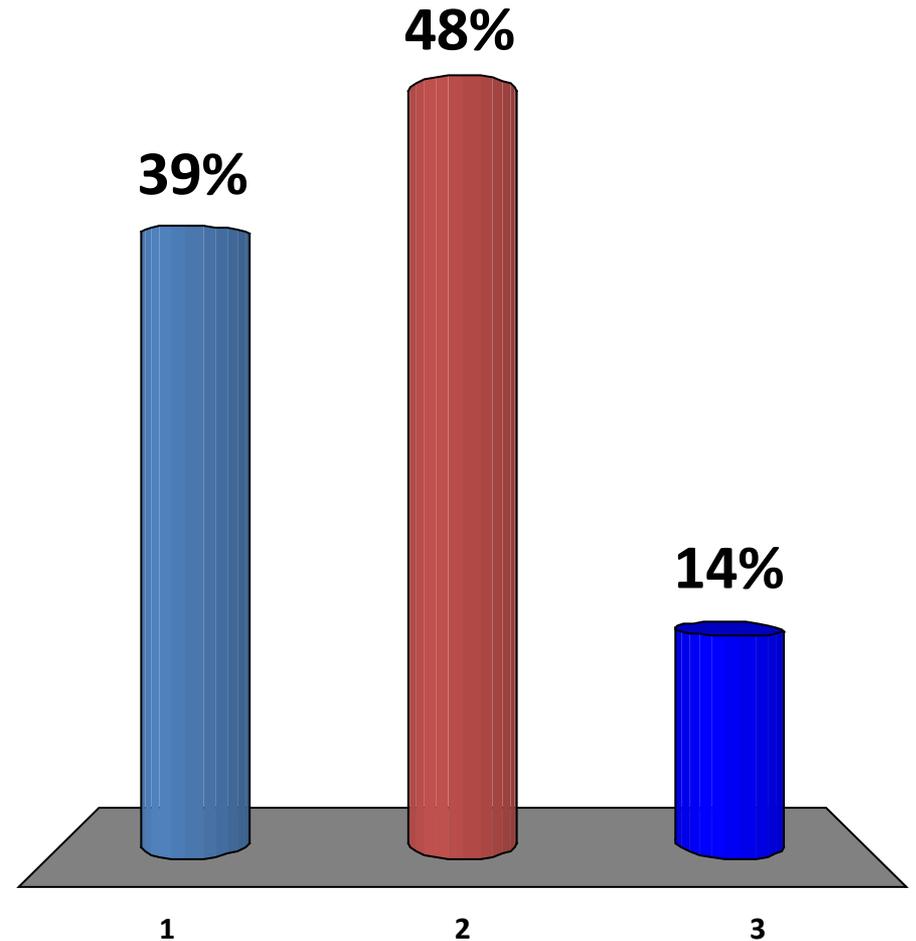
1. Yes
2. No
3. I don't know





# Do you support residents of all ages riding their bicycle on the sidewalk?

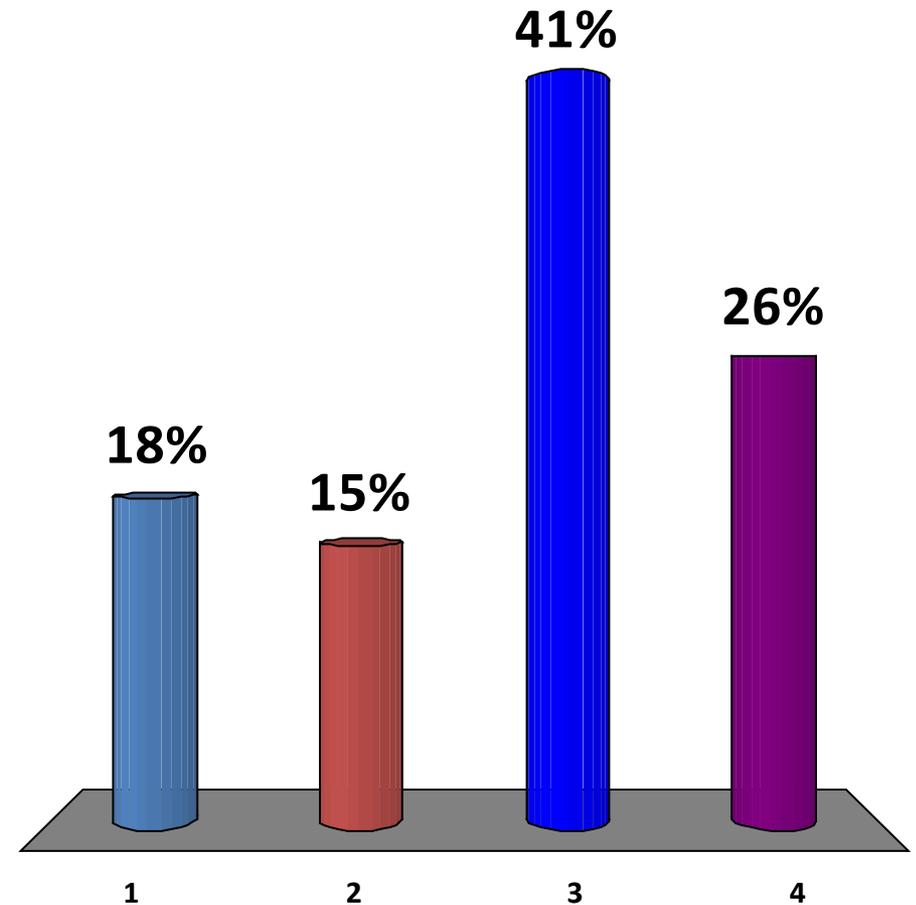
1. Yes
2. No
3. I don't know





# What do you think is the cause of the most motor vehicle-bicycle accidents in Bethlehem.

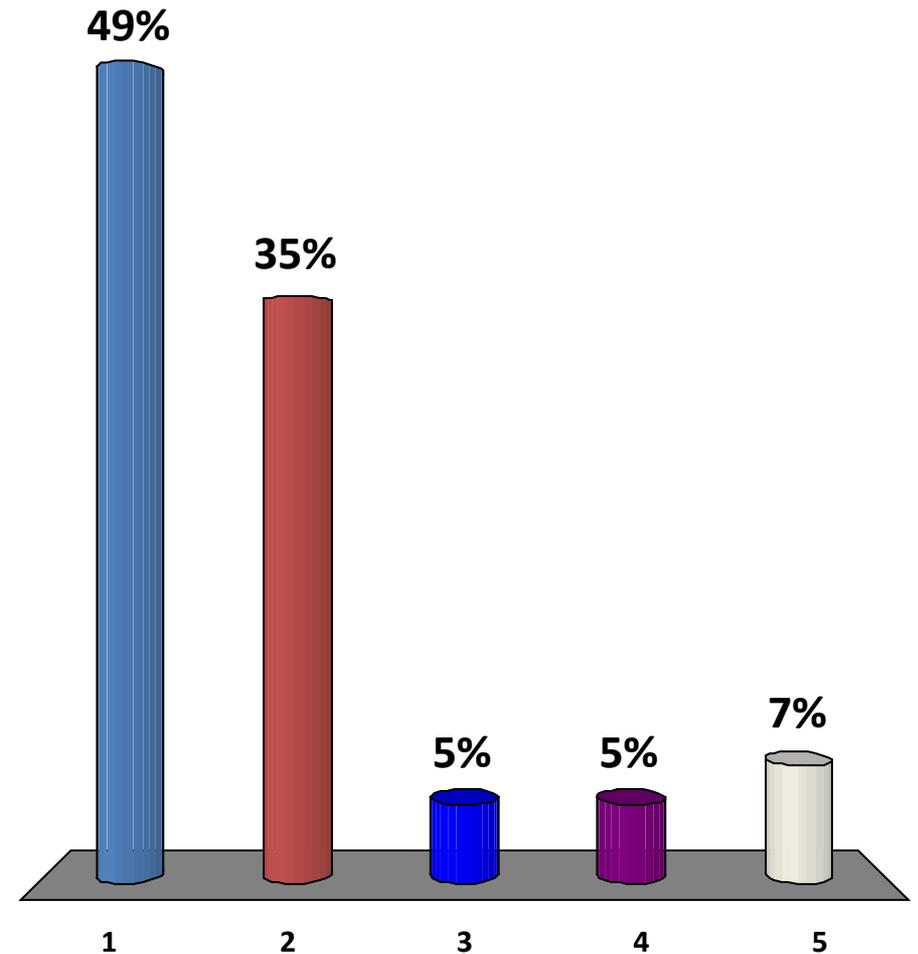
1. Drivers speeding
2. Drivers failing to stop at crosswalks
3. Bicyclists riding against traffic
4. Bicyclists listening to music/not paying attention





# How often do you walk around town?

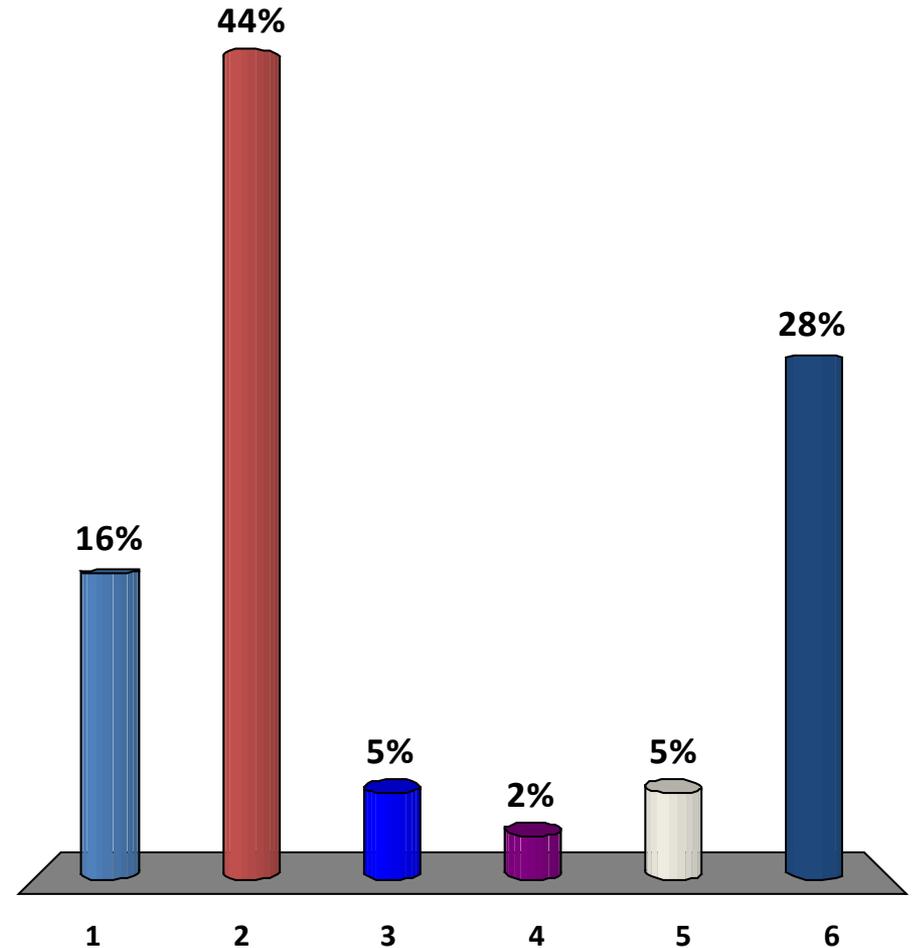
1. Daily
2. Weekly
3. Monthly
4. Less than once per month
5. Never





# What is the youngest age you believe it is appropriate for residents to ride their bicycle on the roadway, not on the sidewalk?

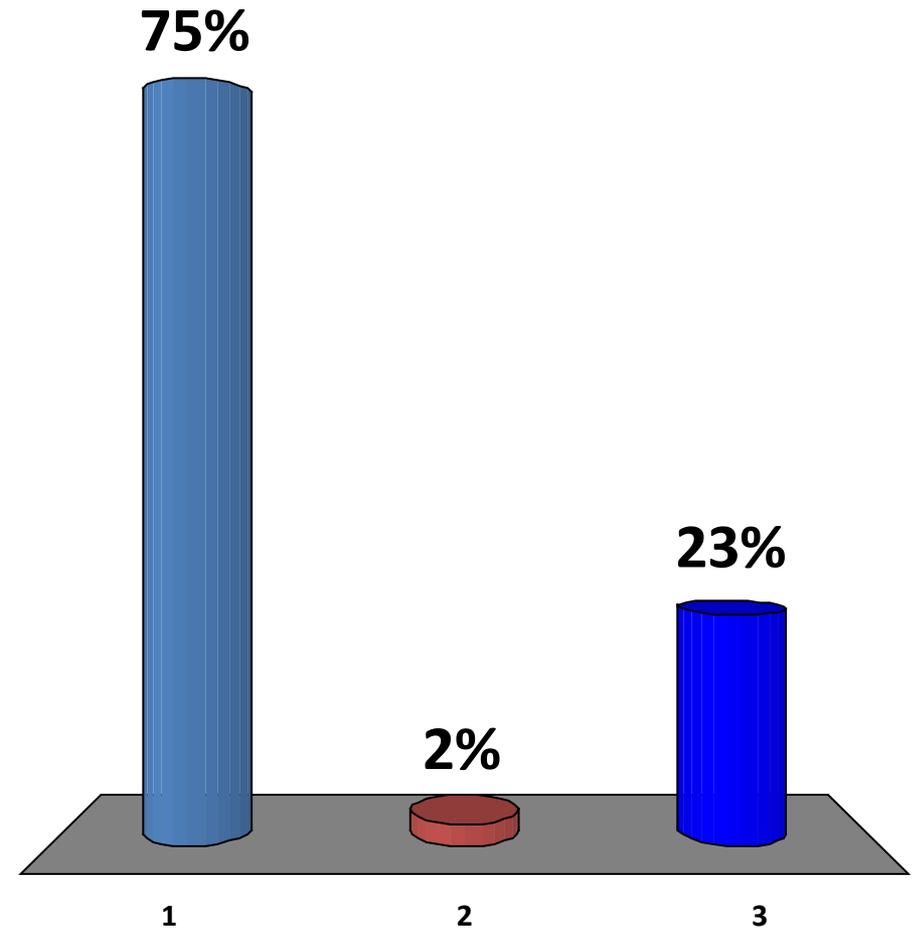
1. 10
2. 15
3. 18
4. 20
5. Anyone old enough to ride a bicycle should ride on the roadway
6. People of any age should be able to ride on the sidewalk





# Would you like to see the Town take steps to become a certified Walk Friendly Community?

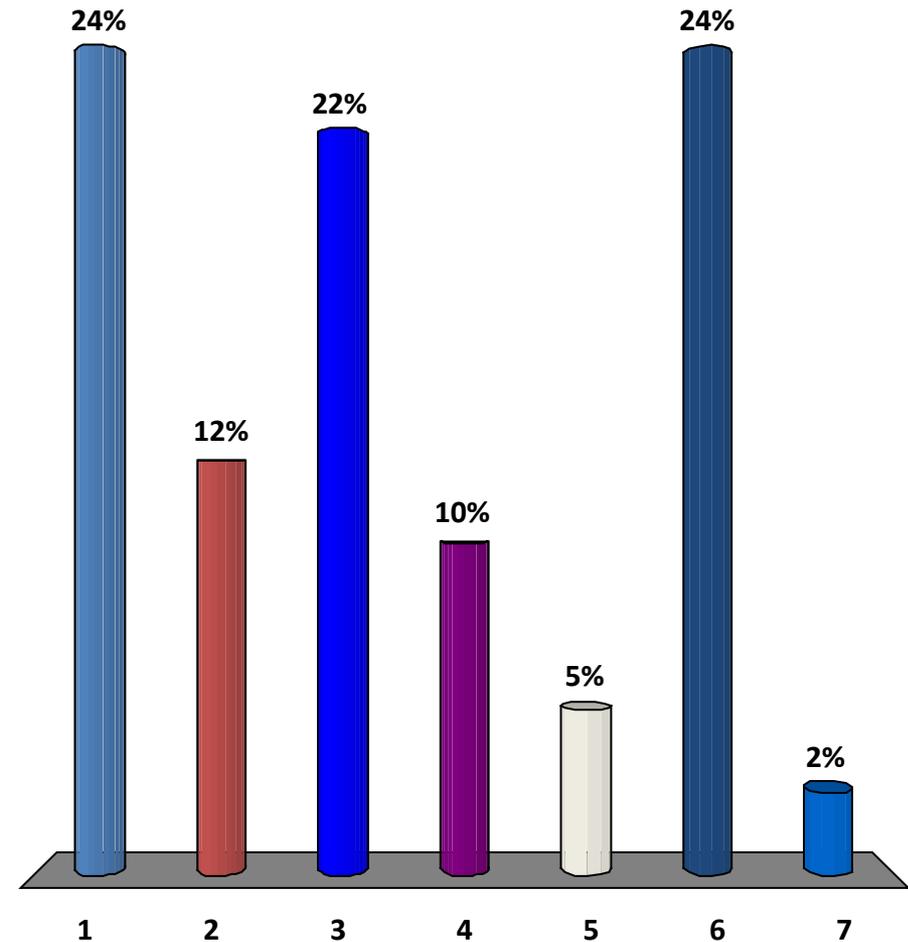
1. Yes
2. No
3. I don't know





# What do you consider the greatest barrier to walking more in Bethlehem?

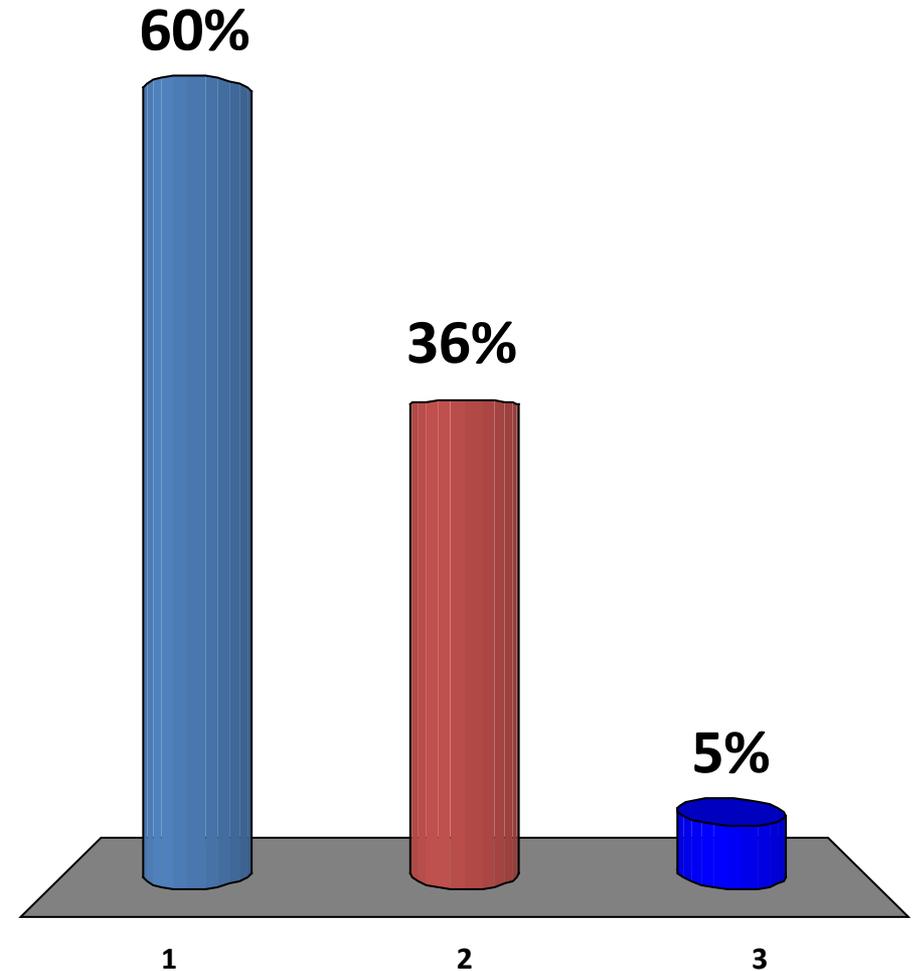
1. Lack of sidewalks
2. Condition of sidewalks
3. Lack of network of sidewalks to get to key destinations
4. Lack of safe crossings
5. Lack of respect for pedestrians
6. Distance
7. Weather





# Prior to tonight, were you aware of the existence of the PaTHs Committee?

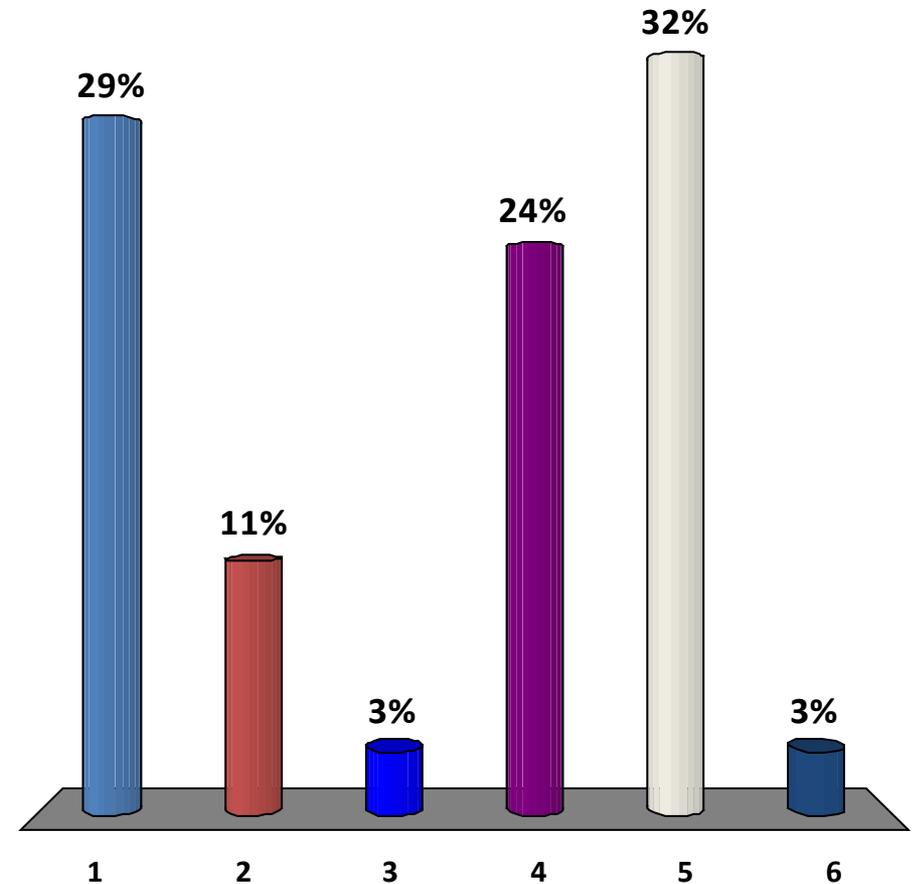
1. Yes
2. No
3. I don't know





# Have you ever attended a PaTHs Committee meeting?

1. Yes, often
2. Yes, a few times
3. Yes, once
4. No, I did not realize the meetings were open to the public
5. No, have not had the chance
6. No, not interested





The ability to *“meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”* – The Brundtland Commission, United Nations

## Sustainable Bethlehem





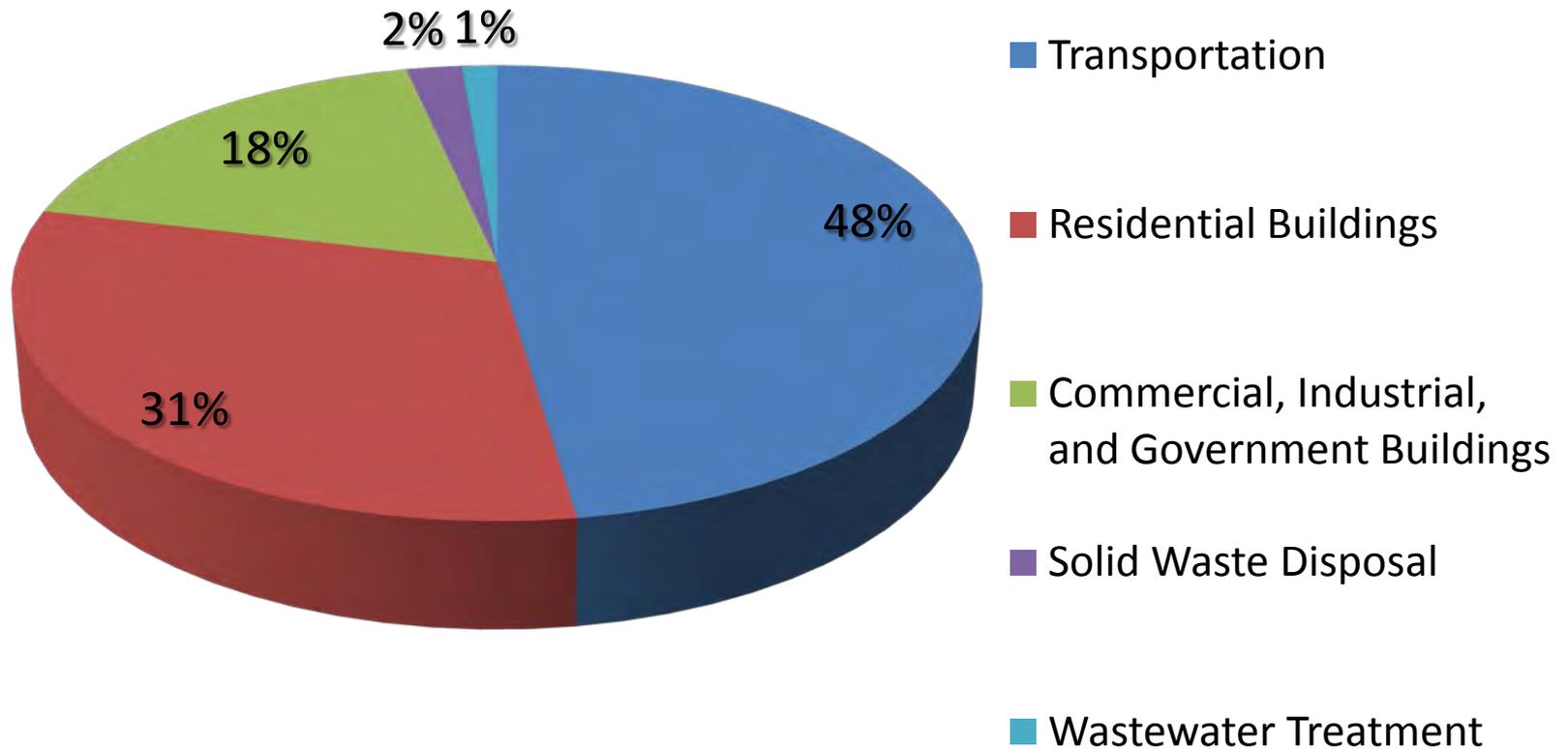
# Sustainable Bethlehem Goals



- Foster a prosperous business environment for both local and new businesses focused on delivering products and services that meet the everyday needs of Bethlehem's residents
- Support a safe and accessible network of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure that is well maintained, and extensively utilized for commuting, recreation, and daily trips
- Land use policies conserve open space and protect natural areas
- Housing options are diverse, affordable, and energy efficient
- Town government leads by example through improving energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in its operations, and by actively promoting its own sustainability successes and informing residents of available resources to become more sustainable at home and work



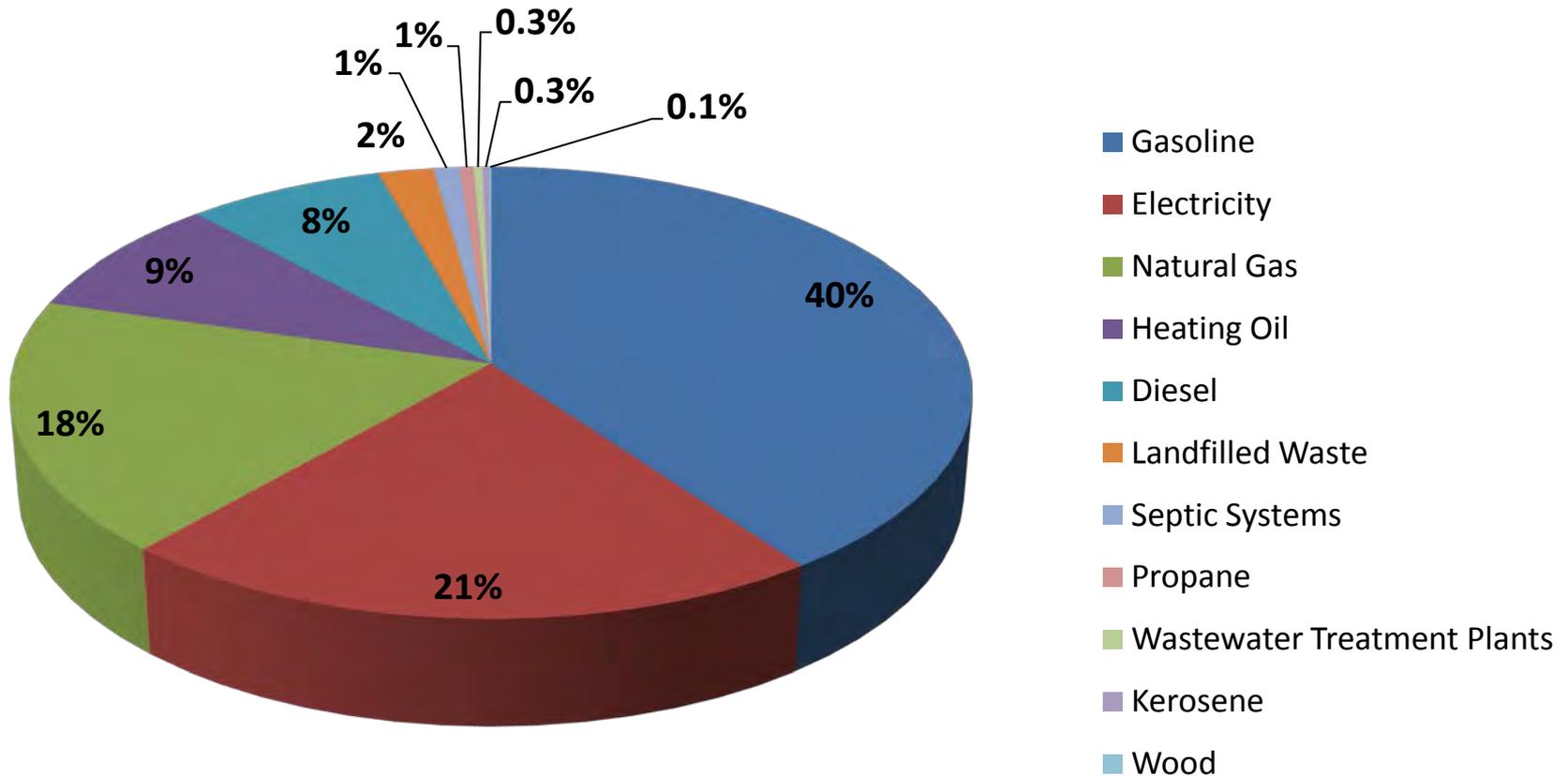
# Bethlehem 2010 GHG Emissions by Sector





# Bethlehem 2010 GHG Emissions by Source

Figure 2: Bethlehem 2010 Community GHG Emissions by Source





## 2005 Comprehensive Plan Mobility Goal

*“Improve mobility—the ability of people, regardless of age and status, to engage in desired activities at moderate cost to themselves and society—throughout the town. This includes strategic investments in needed highway infrastructure, improved access to public transportation and development that is supportive of public transportation, and **significant enhancements to the safety and attractiveness of non-motorized modes of travel.**”*



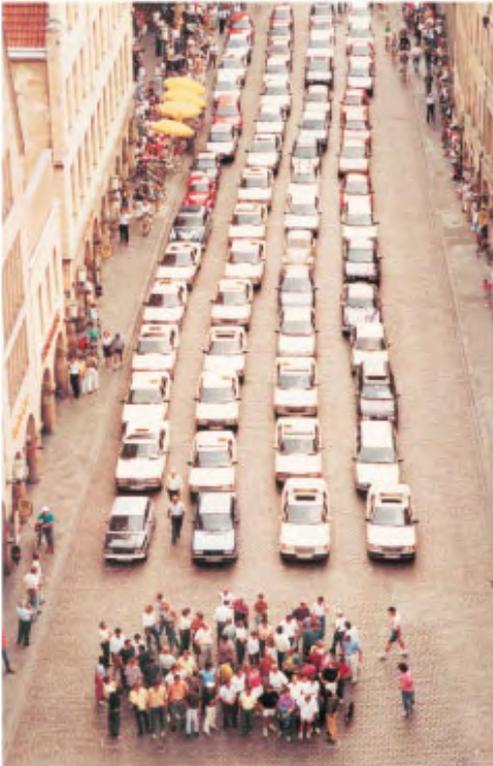
- Maintain and **improve walkability** within the hamlets.
- Provide adequate **bicycle facilities** and establish **signed system of routes throughout the Town**
- Maintain and **enhance pedestrian connections** within neighborhoods, and between neighborhoods and hamlet centers.
- Consider opportunities to **provide paved shoulders** on all collector and arterial roads, where sidewalks are not provided.
- Establish **Delaware Avenue as a pedestrian friendly**, small-scale commercial corridor.



# Benefits of a Bicycle/Ped Program

- Reduce GHG emissions and VMTs
  - Mitigate climate change
  - Reduce congestion

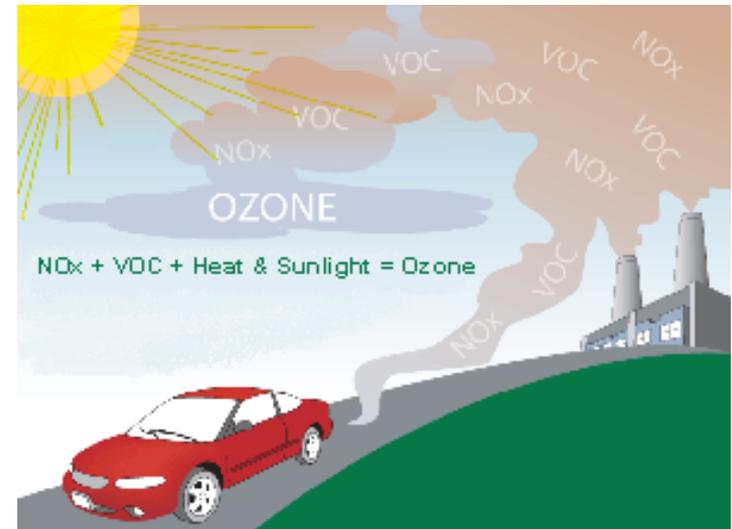
Amount of space required to transport the same number of passengers by car, bus or bicycle.  
(Poster in city of Muenster Planning Office, August 2001)





# Benefits of a Bicycle/Ped Program

- Reduce GHG emissions and VMTs
  - Mitigate climate change
  - Reduce congestion
- Improve Air Quality
  - Motor vehicle exhaust puts harmful chemicals in our air and contributes to ground-level ozone





# Benefits of a Bicycle/Ped Program

- Reduce GHG emissions and VMTs
  - Mitigate climate change
  - Reduce congestion
- Improve Air Quality
  - Motor vehicle exhaust puts harmful chemicals in our air and contributes to ground-level ozone
- Public Health Benefits
  - Bicycle riding is a safe, low-impact method of exercise for all ages and abilities
  - It is a great cardiovascular exercise and can help fight the national obesity epidemic
  - Reduces emissions that exacerbate asthma and other respiratory diseases



## VHB's Role

- Established list of 10 bicycle and 10 pedestrian priority projects based on cost/benefits analysis
- Two bicycle route projects
- Develop education and encouragement materials
  - Brochure
  - Cycling instructor training
- Tonight's meeting
- Maintenance manual
- Zoning and land-use recommendations



## Bikeway types-Rail to Trail shared-use path





# Bikeway types-Rail to Trail shared-use path

## ALBANY COUNTY RAIL TRAIL

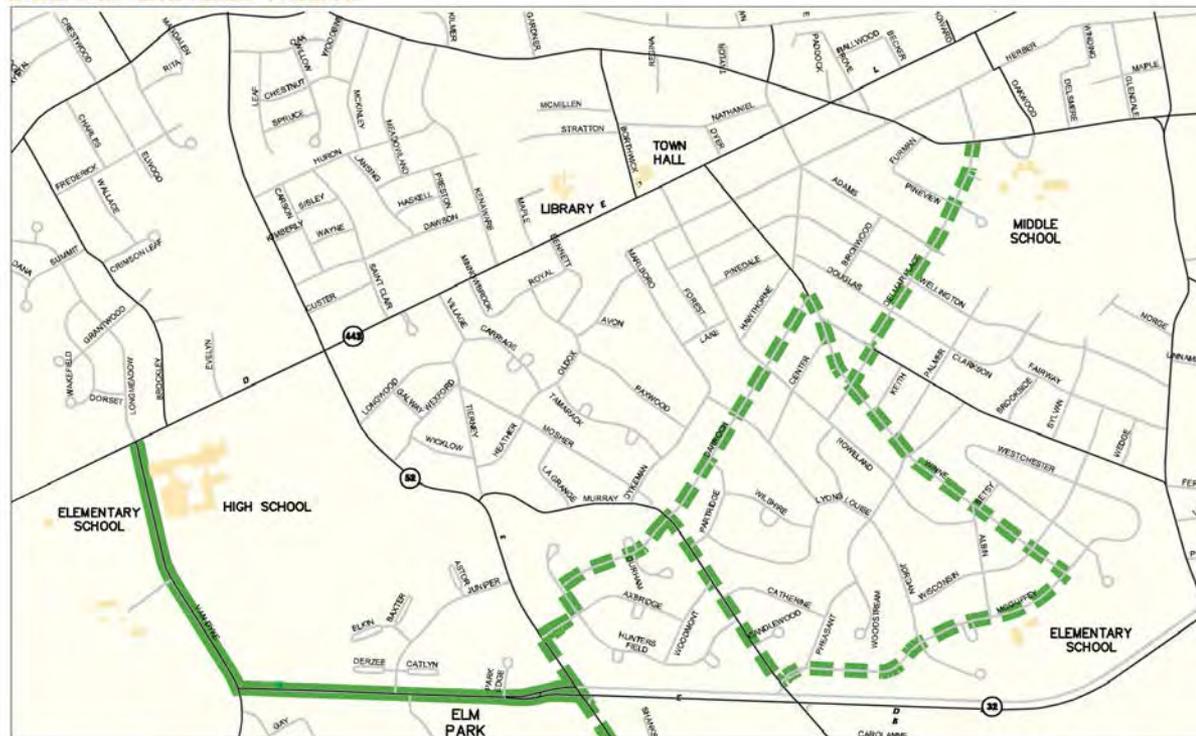




# Bicycle/Ped Projects Underway

- Two bicycle route projects are currently under development
  - Delmar & Glenmont Routes

## DELMAR BICYCLE ROUTE

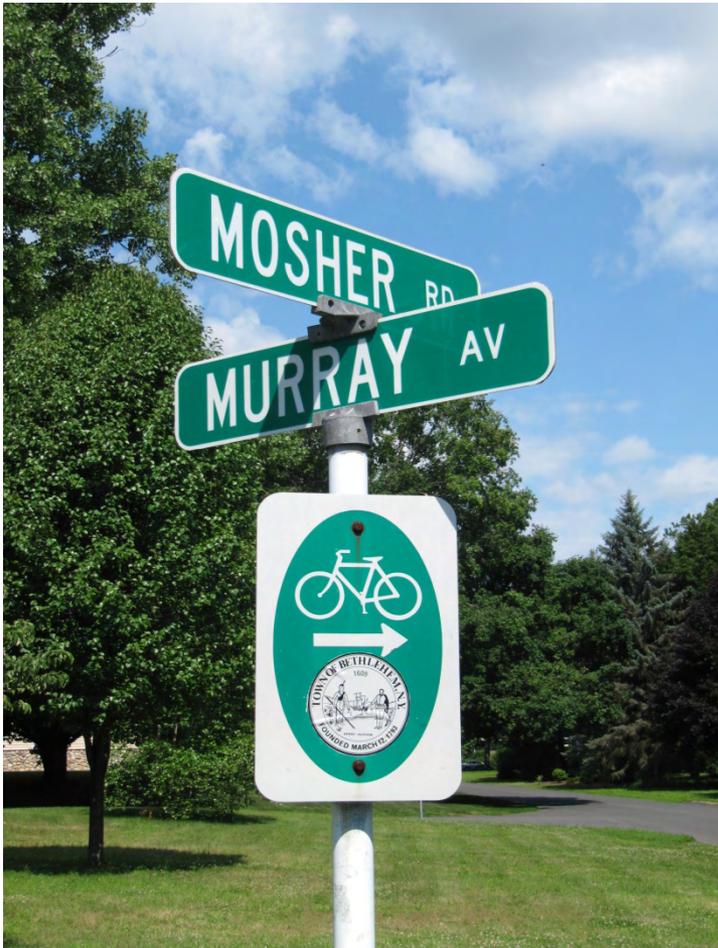


— Off-Road Path  
- - - On-Road Path (Signed)

1 inch = 1800 feet



# Bikeway types: On-road Signed Bicycle Network





# Bikeway types: Shared Lane Marking Albany





## Bicycle/Ped Projects Underway

- Two bicycle route projects are currently under development
- Education and encouragement
  - Why Education is Important-The American Perspective of Cycling Education
    - Engineering
    - Education
    - Enforcement
    - Engagement
    - Encouragement





# Bicycle Accident Types (National)

CRASH TYPE	PERCENTAGE
■ No other object; simple fall	59%
■ Fixed object (tree, curb, parked car)	15%
■ Moving motor vehicle	11%
■ Another bicycle	9%
■ Animal (dog, squirrel)	3%
■ Other	1%

**60% of Bethlehem's bicycle accidents were caused from bicyclists traveling against traffic  
22% were from bicyclists overtaken by a vehicle  
52% of victims were students (18 or under) and 65% were male**



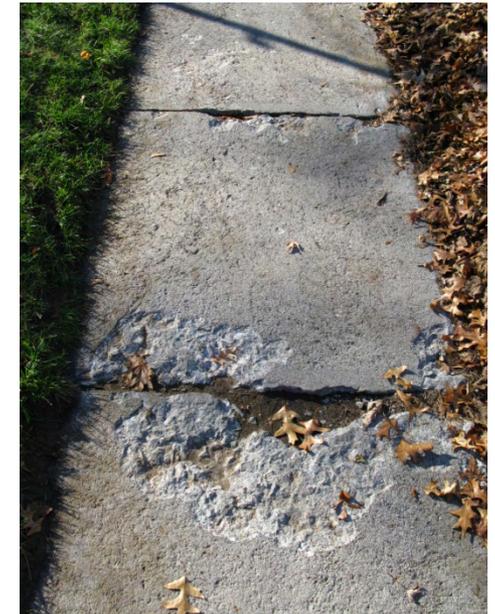
# Education Factor-PaTHs Committee Training





# Bicycle/Ped Projects Underway

- Two bicycle route projects are currently under development
- Education and encouragement materials
- Sidewalk Maintenance Manual





## Bicycle/Ped Projects Underway

- Two bicycle route projects are currently under development
- Education and encouragement materials
- Sidewalk Maintenance Manual
- Bicycle and Walk Friendly Community Designation





## Small Group Discussions

- What other actions would you like to see Bethlehem take to support more biking and walking in the Town?
- Which actions would you like to see prioritized?
- Which organizations/people should be involved as a community partner on these various efforts?



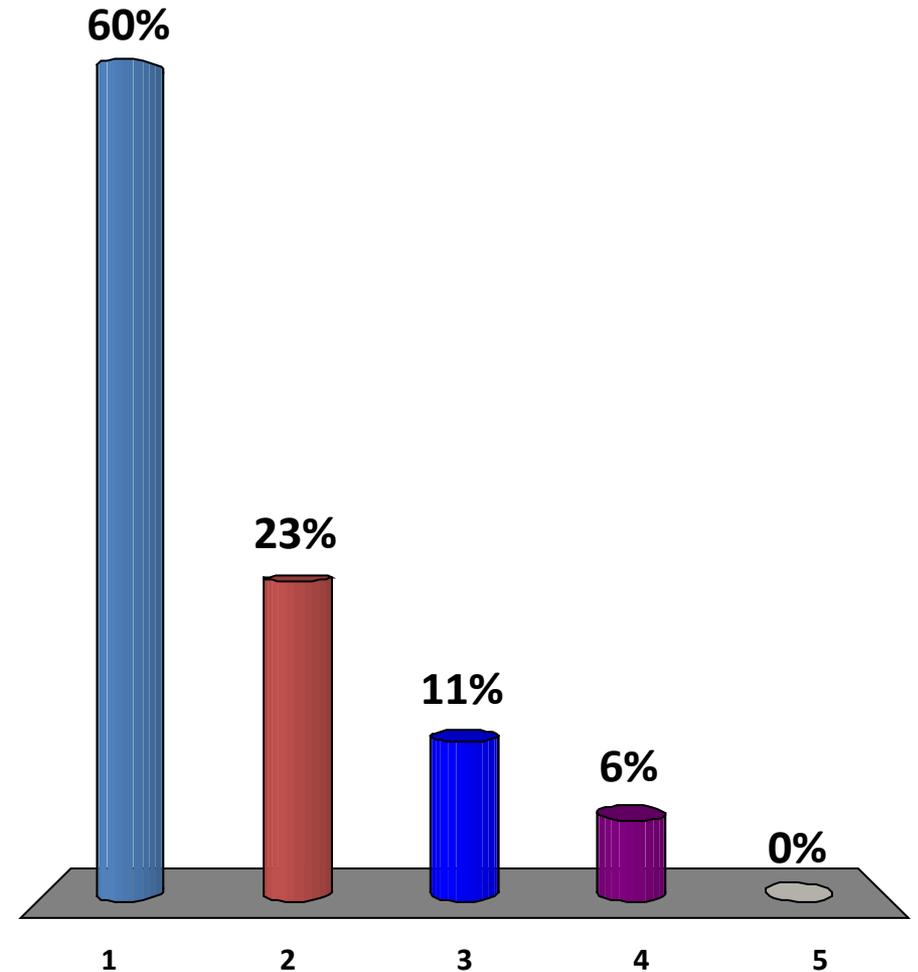
# Key Pad Polling Exercise 2





# The PaTHs Committee has provided an invaluable service to Bethlehem

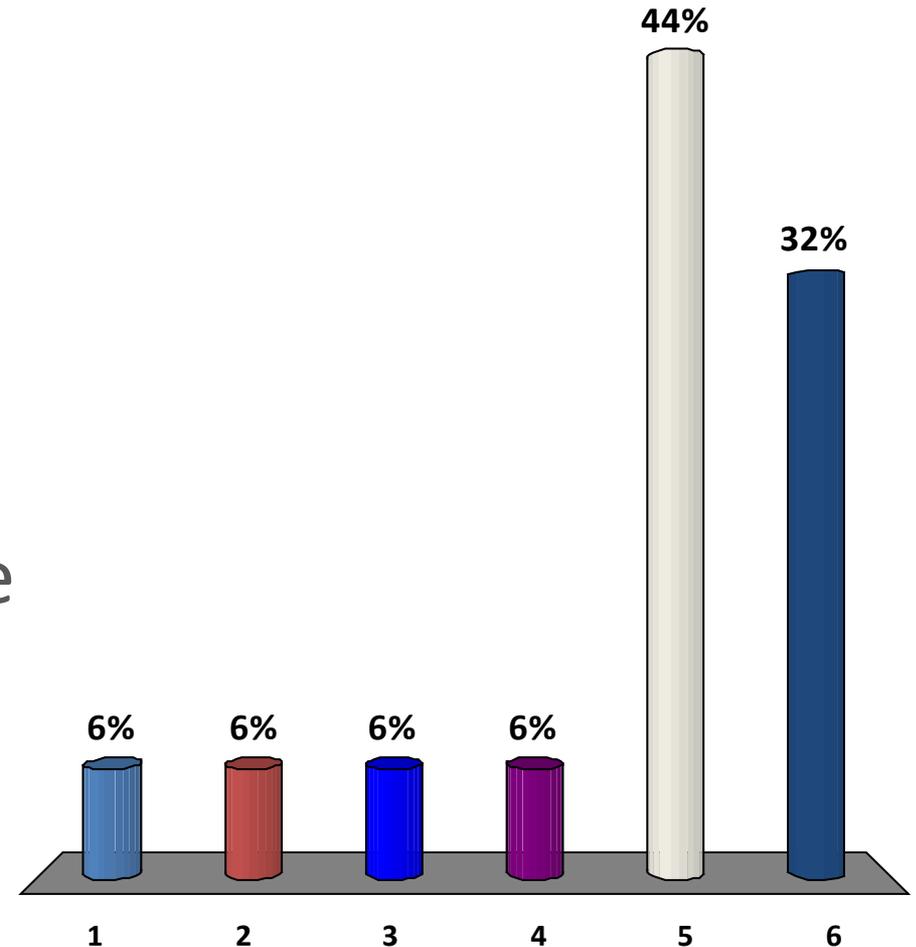
1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neutral
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree





# Which upcoming project/program are you most interested in seeing completed?

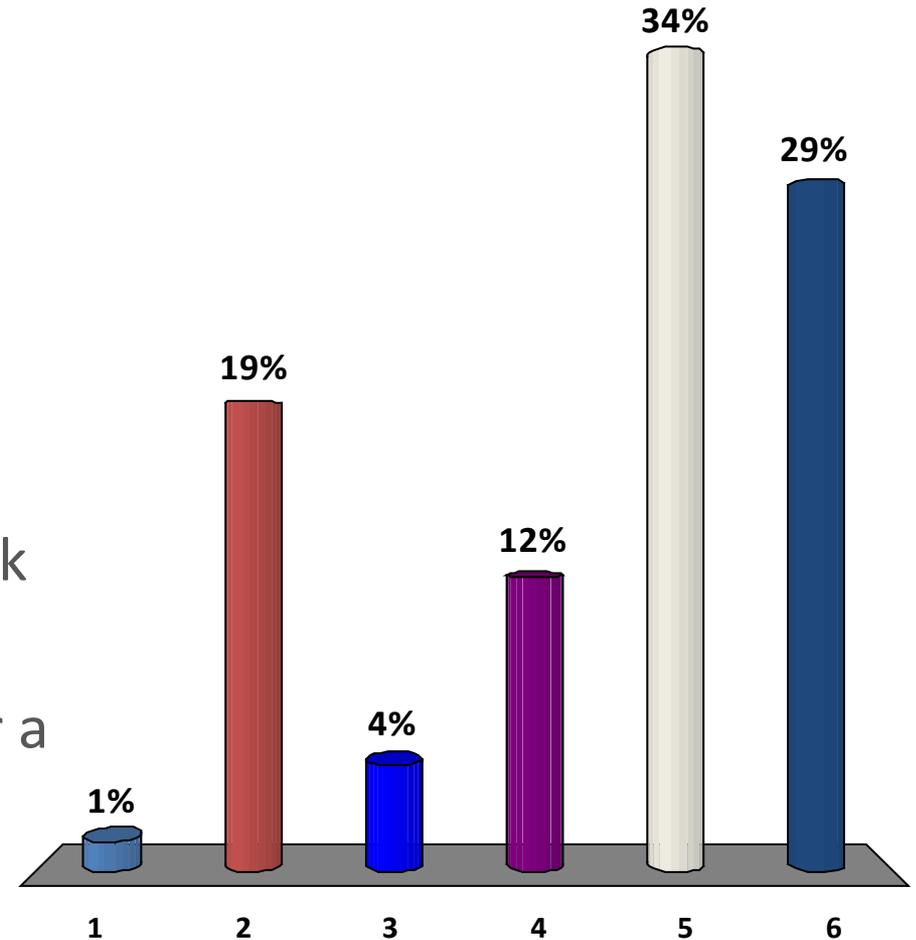
1. Bike Expo
2. Bike to Work Day
3. Bike to School Day
4. Walk to School Day
5. Prioritization of sidewalk maintenance
6. Roadway maintenance for bicyclists





# Please rank the top three projects you think Bethlehem should focus on this year.

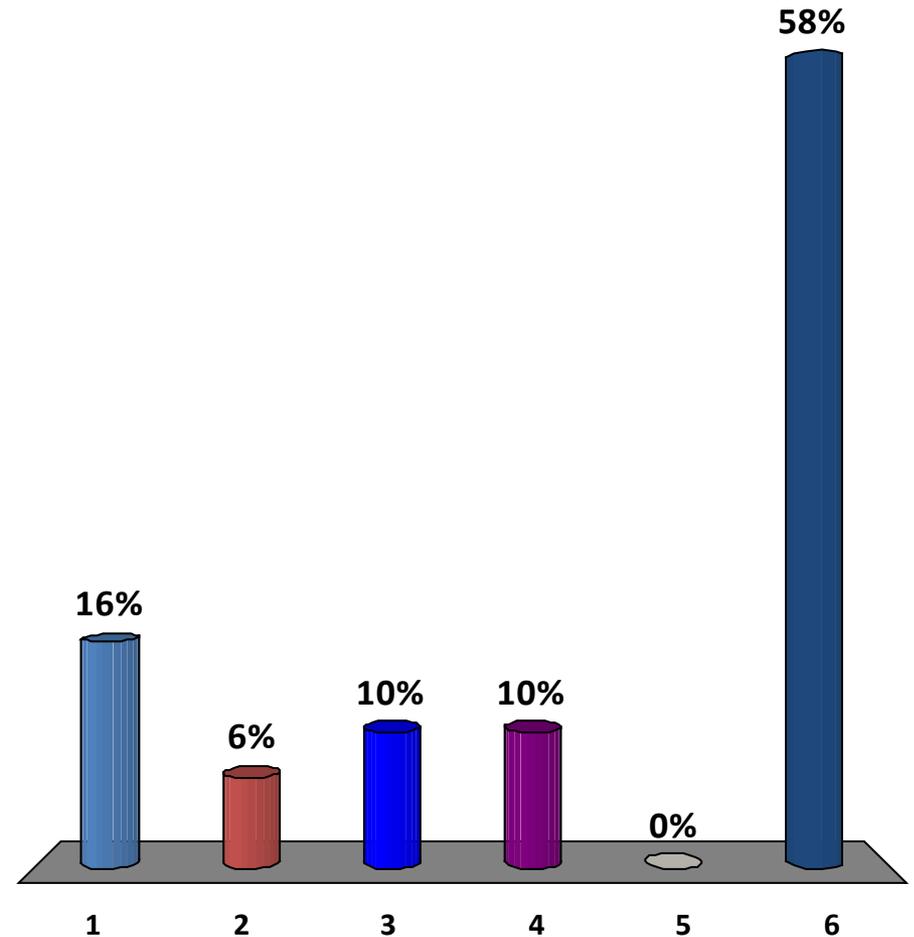
1. Bike Expo
2. Town wide bicycle/walking education campaign
3. Taking action to become a certified bicycle friendly community
4. Engaging community partners
5. Prioritizing roadway & sidewalk maintenance
6. Creating a budget line item for a bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure





# How did you hear about tonight's Workshop?

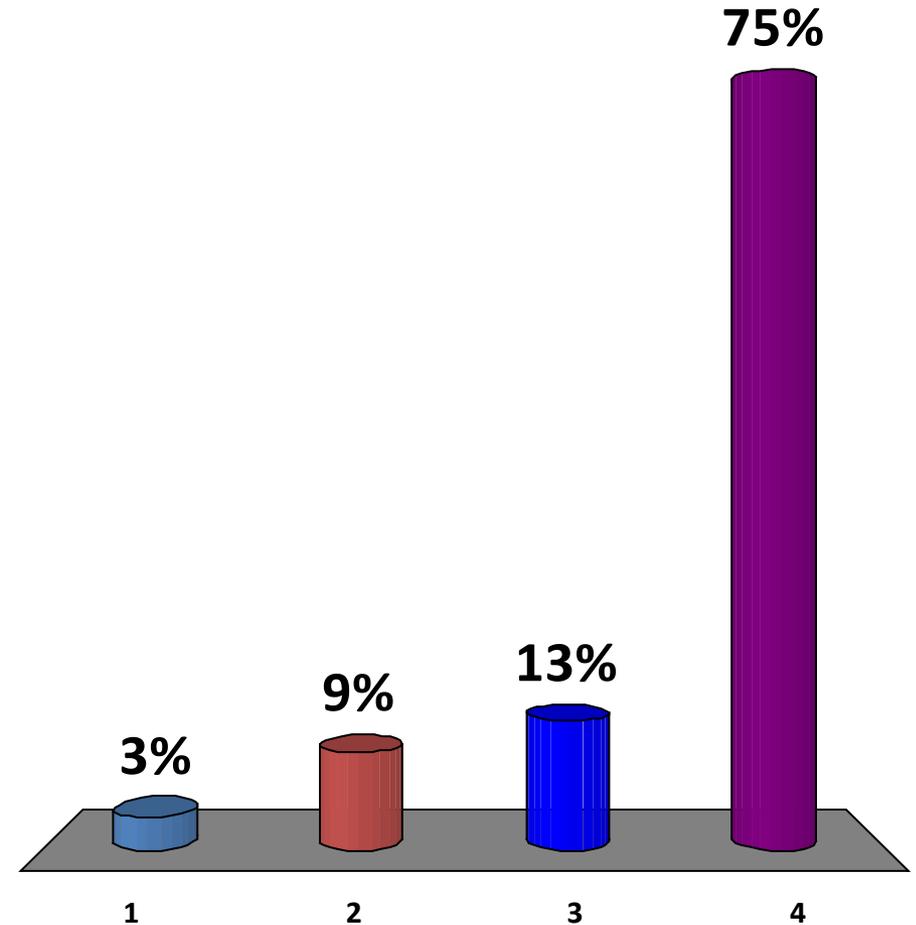
1. Town E-newsletter
2. Town Website
3. Local newspaper
4. Friend/Family
5. Flyer around Town
6. Other  
listserve/email





# What do you think was the most useful portion of tonight's Workshop?

1. Introductions
2. Presentations
3. Keypad Polling
4. Small Group Discussions





# Stay Engaged



- Sustainable Bethlehem Webpage
  - [www.sustainablebethlehem.org](http://www.sustainablebethlehem.org)
  - Contact Brian Kise (518) 439-4955 x1141 – [bkise@townofbethlehem.org](mailto:bkise@townofbethlehem.org)
  - Program updates and future events
  - Businesses and Residents please send your energy saving activities
- Monthly e-Newsletter and Bethlehem Report
- PaTHs 4 Bethlehem Committee Monthly Meetings
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 6:30PM in Town Hall Room 101
  - Contact Jason Gallo – [jgallo@townofbethlehem.org](mailto:jgallo@townofbethlehem.org) (518) 439-4955 x1604
  - Rob Leslie – [rleslie@townofbethlehem.org](mailto:rleslie@townofbethlehem.org) (518) 439-4955 x1157
  - Current Vacancy -2 positions
  - Submit letter of interest by March 30 to Supervisor Clarkson – [jclarkson@townofbethlehem.org](mailto:jclarkson@townofbethlehem.org)
- Bike Expo – Saturday, May 5, 2012