

Chester PAPER Bike-Ped Path Survey Results July 2022
16 Total Completed PAPER Surveys
Survey Live Dates: May 9th – June 18th 2022

DEMOGRAPHICS

1. Please check your age group.

10 – 19:	0	(0%)
20 – 39:	0	(0%)
40 – 59:	5	(31%)
60 – 69:	3	(19%)
70 or greater:	8	(50%)

2. How close do you live to the village center?

0.0 – 1.0 mile:	1	(6%)
1.1 – 5.0 miles:	12	(75%)
5.1 miles or greater:	3	(19%)

PEDESTRIAN QUESTIONS

3. Please check all answers that apply. When in Chester, I ...

Walk to shops, restaurants, activities in the village center:	9	(56%)
Walk for recreation, exercise/ fitness:	9	(56%)
Walk to the N. Quarter Park, Meeting House, post office, work, school:	2	(13%)
Run or jog for exercise:	2	(13%)

Other (please specify):

- Drive into town, park and walk.
- N. Quarter Park
- Cemetery in town.
- Don't go to Chester Village.

4. If you walk or jog/ run in Chester, please indicate how far you go in a typical week.

0 to 5 miles:	11	(69%)
5 to 10 miles:	1	(6%)
Greater than 10 miles:	1	(6%)
Not answered:	2	(13%)

Other (please specify):

- Don't walk or jog.

**5. If you walk, run, or jog for exercise, where do you typically do so?
Please check all that apply.**

Sidewalks:	10	(63%)
Local streets only:	4	(25%)
Local streets and state roads (Rte. 145, Rte. 148 & Rte. 154):	6	(38%)
Private and/or public trails:	4	(25%)

Other (please specify):

- Basin Marina, state forest, 154 to Mobil Mart, Town Hall.
- Don't walk or jog.
- Local streets and state roads to get to Town Hall, Bank, Store.

6. How often do you usually walk or run/jog?

1 – 2 times per week:	7	(44%)
3 – 5 times per week:	6	(38%)
Greater than 5 times per week to daily:	2	(13%)

Other (please specify):

- Not often.

7. Do you think you would walk/jog/run more frequently if sidewalks or pathways in Chester were inter-connected?

Definitely, Yes:	12 (1 respondent stated "Absolutely Yes, No Kidding!")	(75%)
Possibly, Yes:	2	(13%)
No:	1	(6%)

I am unable to walk, but I would like to see the improvements so I could use my wheelchair to get to accessible places: 0 (0%)

Other (please specify):

- Been ill- am working on getting strength back (physical therapy etc.). I would like these improvements and plan on using them in the future sooner rather than later.

8. If you are hesitant to walk, jog or run in or around town, please indicate your reason(s). Please check all that apply.

I don't think it's safe to walk, jog or run in Chester in some areas:	9	(56%)
There is no inter-connectivity of sidewalks, and I don't like to walk in the road:	8	(50%)
There is too much traffic:	8	(50%)
There is hazardous driver behavior:	9	(56%)
There are limited or no places to cross the road(s) safely:	5	(31%)
Our neighborhood is separated from walking paths or sidewalks:	7	(44%)
Disability or health difficulty:	0	(0%)
Not answered:	2	(13%)

Other (please specify):

- Don't go to Chester village.
- I enjoy walking in Chester center (Main St.)- Have to get there first if I ride w/ 9-Town Transit. Have to schedule in advance.

9. Do you think the addition of crosswalks that provide marked areas for pedestrians to cross streets should be a high priority for the town?

Yes: 15 (94%) No: 1 (6%)

Other (please specify):

- Back in the 1990's the Town put in the budget for a crosswalk from Pleasant St to Ridge Rd for the Elem School because speed was a Factor. Also the site line coming up the hill of Pleasant St.
- There is such a crosswalk so that I can get to Town Hall, Bank, convenience store- But traffic, at great speed along 154 can be unnerving- But usually I really need to get there.

10. If you answered 'Yes' to the above question, where are the crosswalks most important? Please check all that apply.

Intersection of Pleasant St./ West Main St./ Straits Rd.:	9	(56%)
At the blind corner on West Main St. near the Congregational Church:	11	(69%)
Intersection of Rte. 148 and Rte. 145:	8	(50%)
Intersection of Water St. and Rte. 154 (near Moravela's):	8	(50%)
Intersection of Goose Hill Rd. & Liberty St./ E. Liberty St.:	8	(50%)
Not answered:	2	(13%)

Other (please specify):

- "School Zone"- Pleasant St/ Ridge Rd, also High St/ Ridge Rd.
- All of the above for safety.
- Just put the "bloody" sidewalks in.
- On the Main Road itself.
- All neighborhoods need accessible sidewalks.
- All, there is little space, little parking, major pedestrians, always crowded, maybe a parking garage.

11. Walkers/ Runners: In your opinion, what locations in Chester are in greatest need of attention, improvement due to lack of sidewalks, incomplete sidewalks, sidewalks in disrepair or inadequate roadway shoulders? Comments:

- Find 1980-1996 Town of Chester vs DOT needing sidewalks from 148/ straits to connect to the United Church. Due to DOT they had no funding for repairs or sidewalks due to the State Budget. Many letters from Robert Blair and Martin Heft.
- Curve to the North of the United Church. No Sidewalk. Ends abruptly.
- Rt 154, 148, 145. I would never walk on these roads. When driving I am terrified for the walkers/runners, bikers. There is not enough room for them & they often do not walk or run facing traffic. The bikers, including E bikes are so at risk! It's like playing Russian roulette! Chester has not invested in walkers/ runners- only vehicles. We must provide for people on foot!
- Don't know.
- idk, walk by marina & entranceway & around project.
- improvement due to lack of sidewalks.
- Main St. (Chester center).

11. Continued: Walkers/ Runners: In your opinion, what locations in Chester are in greatest need of attention, improvement due to lack of sidewalks, incomplete sidewalks, sidewalks in disrepair or inadequate roadway shoulders?

Comments:

- Middlesex Ave., Water St.
- Rt 154 between Haddam and Moravelas.
- West Main between Rt 9 and Town Center.
- Maple Street up to the parking lot.
- The Rt's from Chester Center to Cedar lake, both sides of the lake -> store side to Terrice Town Beach Rt 148.

Not answered: 4 (25%)

BICYCLE/ CYCLIST QUESTIONS

12. Please check the box that most closely describes which type of cyclist you are.

Highly confident rider: rides at faster speeds, for advanced exercise, in almost any traffic conditions, typically on streets/roads: 0 (0%)

Moderately confident rider: prefers not to ride in heavily trafficked roads, unless separated from traffic; typically rides off main streets, on sidewalks or on trails: 2 (13%)

Avoids traffic: rides mostly for recreation on off-road trails/ paths: 0 (0%)

Not answered: 8 (50%)

Other (please specify):

- "School Zone" students.
- 1 Checked "Other" but no info documented.
- I would never ride a bike here – much too dangerous!
- Don't know.
- Not a biker.
- Don't use Bike.

13. How often do you usually bike?

1 – 2 times per week: 2 (13%)

3 – 5 times per week: 1 (6%)

Greater than 5 times per week to daily: 0 (0%)

Not answered: 9 (56%)

Other (please specify):

- N/A.
- Don't ride.
- 0
- N/A.

14. Where do you ride your bike? Please check all that apply.

On local roads only:	1	(6%)
On local and state roads (Rte. 145, Rte. 148, Rte. 154):	2	(13%)
Both on and off road:	0	(0%)
Off-road only:	0	(0%)
Not answered:	9	(56%)

Other (please specify):

- N/A.
- No Bike.
- N/A.
- N/A.

15. Do you believe that it is too dangerous for someone to ride his/her bike alongside the traffic on existing streets and roads?

Agree:	10	(63%)
Disagree:	0	(0%)
Neither Agree or Disagree:	0	(0%)
Not answered:	5	(31%)

Other (please specify):

- Agree description - School Zone Pleasant St./ Ridge Rd/ Hight St.
- Agree description – traffic congested, heavy, speeding.
- Answer Other - On Main Roads.

16. When you ride your bike in Chester, do you encounter any of these problems? Please check all that apply.

Traffic driving too close to the cyclists:	3	(19%)
Road obstructions, e.g., trash cans, parked vehicles:	0	(0%)
Poor road surfaces:	0	(0%)
Difficulty crossing intersections:	1	(6%)
Lack of bike lanes:	3	(19%)
Not answered:	9	(56%)

Other (please specify):

- Don't Ride.
- N/A.
- Lack of Shoulders on Roads.

17. Cyclists: Please provide any comments, concerns, recommendations related to biking in and through Chester.

- Elementary student's Riding bikes to and from School. Vehicle speed zone 20 mph In School Zone many violations. Running Stop signs.

- WEST MAIN BETWEEN RT9 AND TOWN CENTER IS OF CONCERN. TRAFFIC OFF OF RT 9. 25 MPH IS APPRECIATED.

- 1 answered N/A.

Not answered: 13 (81%)

GENERAL QUESTIONS

18. Would a comprehensive pedestrian and biking path system enhance the quality of life in Chester?

Agree:	13 (1 of the 13 commented "YES, YES, YES.")	(81%)
Disagree:	0	(0%)
I Am Not Sure:	2	(13%)
Not answered:	1	(6%)

19. What goals & outcomes of implementing a plan for pedestrian/ bicycle paths in Chester are important to you? Please check all that apply.

Safer conditions for walking/ jogging/ running/ bicycling:	12	(75%)
More choices for recreation and exercise with improved connection between neighborhoods:	9	(56%)
Increased overall quality of life:	10	(63%)
Opportunity for increased tourism and property values:	5	(31%)
Promote town sustainability now and for future generations:	9	(56%)
Not answered:	2	(13%)

Other (please specify):

- School Zone speed @ 15 mph, repair To sidewalk. Going up To the School/ pleasant ST. Cutting back the brush, "Site Lines."
- Don't Ride.
- Love to see buildings in Chester Village looking more attractive.

20. If safer pedestrian/ bike paths are implemented, would you take advantage of them and be apt to leave your car at home and walk or bike to the destinations and amenities in town?

Yes:	8	(50%)
No:	3	(19%)
Not answered:	4	(25%)

1 answered N/A.

1 who answered No wrote "ride from apartment."

21. If a right-of-way was needed for a bike/ped plan that did not damage or devalue a piece of your property, would you grant it?

Yes:	7	(44%)
No:	0	(0%)
Unsure:	0	(0%)
I do not own property in Chester:	7	(44%)
Not answered:	2	(13%)
<u>Other</u> (please specify):	0	(0%)

22. Please indicate which statement most closely reflects your opinion on spending money to construct new pedestrian/ bike pathways. Please check all that apply.

I fully support a bike/ped plan in Chester regardless of how it is funded:	10	(63%)
I gladly support this if grant, county, state or federal funds are used for the improvements:	7	(44%)
I strongly oppose a plan if funding is going to increase my property taxes:	1	(6%)
I am not a property or business owner in Chester:	5	(31%)
I strongly oppose a plan to construct new pedestrian/ bicycle pathways:	0	(0%)
Not answered:	2	(13%)

Other (please specify):

- I may not own property in Chester, but improvements would benefit everyone and are much needed.

The Chester Sustainability Committee, the Economic Development Commission and town and community leaders THANK YOU for completing this survey!

*If this survey left out any questions or thoughts that you would like addressed, please use this space to add your comments.

Comments:

1. My Focus is on our children and the Elem School. Bike Season is here. I'm concern also about redoing the sidewalk on 148 From pleasant st to the corner by the United Church. Hoping that over the 20 years that D.O.T. will work with Chester.
2. I don't think that Chester truly can develop safe biking paths/ lanes, due to Narrow Streets and steep banks and residential Private property. I think your mission is well intended, but in the end, there is simply put no areas in Chester that have the room (safely) that can accommodate Bike lanes. Bikes and Cars will continue to share the existing Roadways.
3. I wish that we could walk around Cedar Lake and connect with Cockaponset Forest-Turkey Hill Rd & the town. If sidewalks are built there must be enough room to feel safe. So many drivers speed on all roads and/or are distracted. Interconnected pathways are much safer and more enjoyable even if I need to drive to get to them. If more people come to town to walk, run or bike we create more risk.

4. Town and State make it safe for Bikers, Jog(g)ers, walkers, Enforce The speed limit. You will make more money for pedestrian and Bicycle pathways.
5. Improve the overall look of Chester. Quaint, ? ____, attractive with flowers taken good care of, clean sidewalks and road.
6. BIKERS NEED TO OBEY TRAFFIC LAWS, POLICE SHOULD ENFORCE.
7. More police. Many crazy fast drivers. Littering everywhere- catch driver(s) tossing “nips” out of car. Workers here in Chester need to be kind, knowledgeable & more helpful. I’ve encountered “bad attitudes” in town.
8. THANKS FOR (SENDING) THE SURVEY. ENCOURAGING.

Not answered: 8 (50%)