

## SUGAR HILL GREENWAY CONCEPT LIVABLE CENTERS INITIATIVE COMMUNITY INPUT MAP SUMMARY

The City of Sugar Hill is developing its Greenway Concept Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) study for a new section of the greenway that will connect Downtown Sugar Hill to nearby neighborhoods, two new city parks, and the larger greenway loop, as well as begin building out connections to regional destinations like the Chattahoochee River, Lake Lanier, and the park and ride transit center near I-985. The project team developed an online, interactive community input map to gather input on community preferences and concerns about the project.

### ABOUT THE COMMUNITY INPUT MAP

The map was promoted at a Virtual Open House for the project, through the City's social media platforms, on the City website, through email mailing lists, and by members of the project's Core Team. It was open to the public from July 10 to July 26, 2020 and available to desktop and mobile users. Participants were encouraged to focus their comments within the mapped study area or related to access points to the study area but were also able to add comments outside the study area. They were able to draw and submit comments for five types of input:

- Routes I currently walk or bike
- Routes I would like to walk or bike, if it was more comfortable or safe
- Places I'd like to walk or bike to
- Ideas for greenway features
- Issue spots for walking or biking

If desired, they were also able to upload photos to depict issue spots or greenway feature ideas.



Community Input Map desktop interface



Social media post announcing the community input map

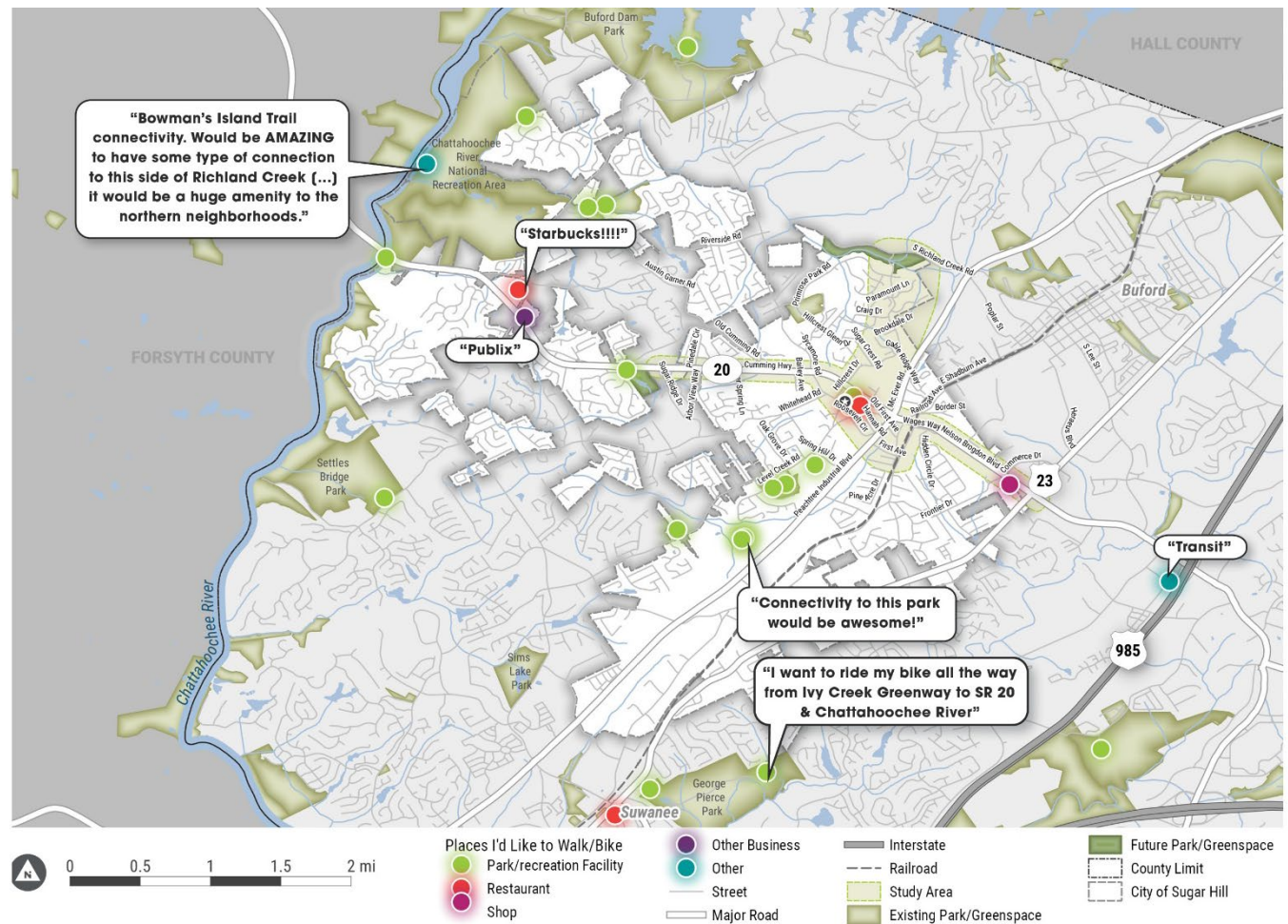
# WHAT WE HEARD

## Within the Study Area

### Destinations

Participants identified Downtown Sugar Hill and the Sugar Hill Station shopping plaza at the intersection of SR 20 and Buford Highway as the places they would most like to walk or bike to within the study area, with Downtown Sugar Hill being the most popular choice. Just outside of the study area, they also identified EE Robinson Park Baseball Complex and the planned new city park on SR 20 near Sugar Ridge Dr as desired destinations for walking or biking.

Figure 1. Community Input Map Results: Desired Destinations



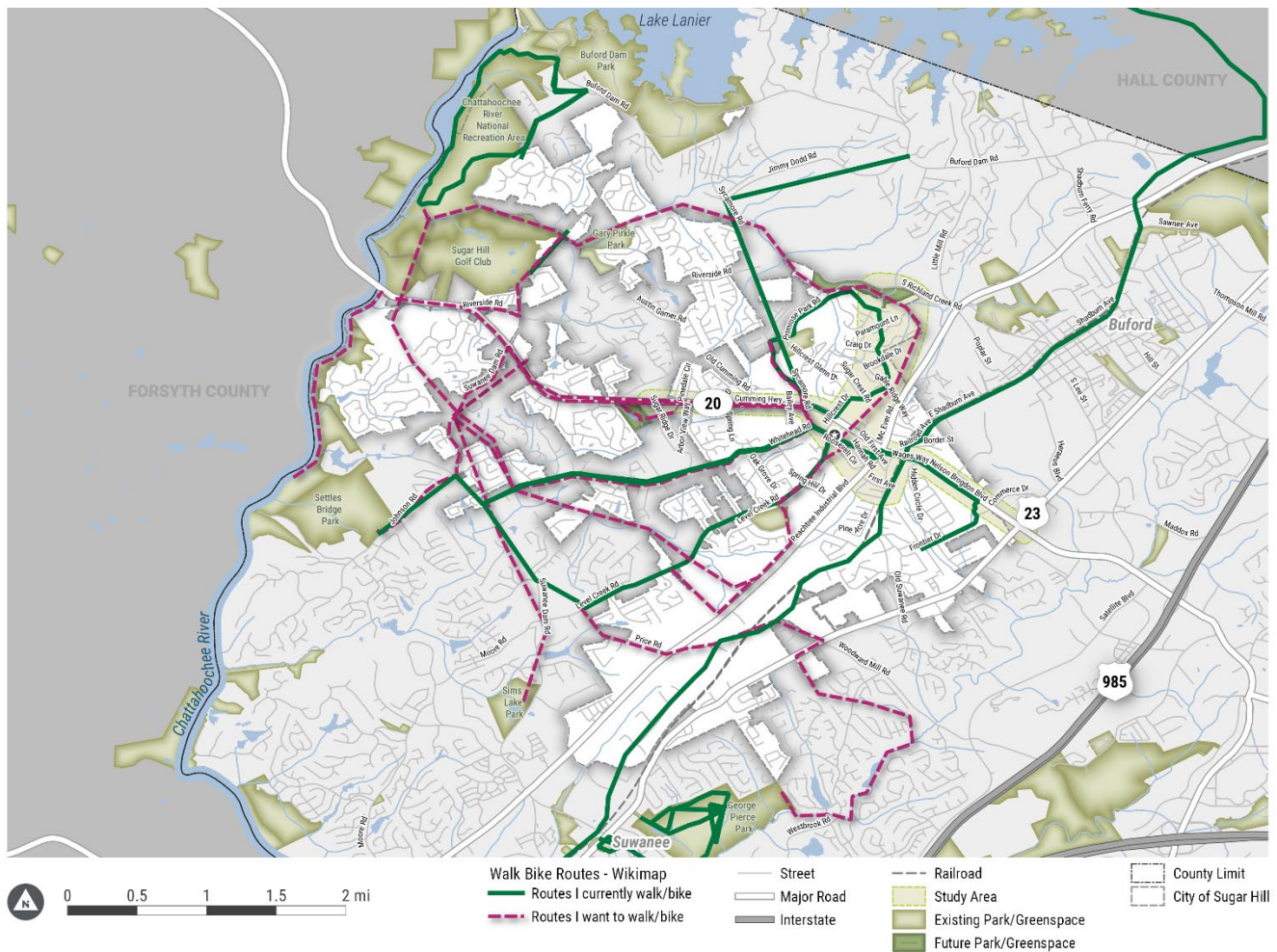


## Desired Routes

Several routes within or directly connecting to the study area were identified as routes people would like to walk or bike if they were more comfortable or safe, including:

- W Broad St/Alton Tucker Blvd
- SR 20 (Sycamore Rd/W Broad St west to the Chattahoochee River)
  - Comments for this route specified they would prefer a high visibility, wide, multi-use path along this corridor and like that it is mostly flat
- Off-street route through the planned new city park on SR 20 near Sugar Ridge Dr
- Church St
- Level Creek Rd (Alton Tucker Blvd to EE Robinson Park)
- Sycamore Rd (SR 20 to Primrose Park Rd)
- Whitehead Rd (W Broad St to Suwanee Dam Rd)
- Off-street route through wooded parcels east of Hillcrest Dr from SR 20 to Richland Creek

**Figure 2. Community Input Map Results: Walking and Biking Routes**

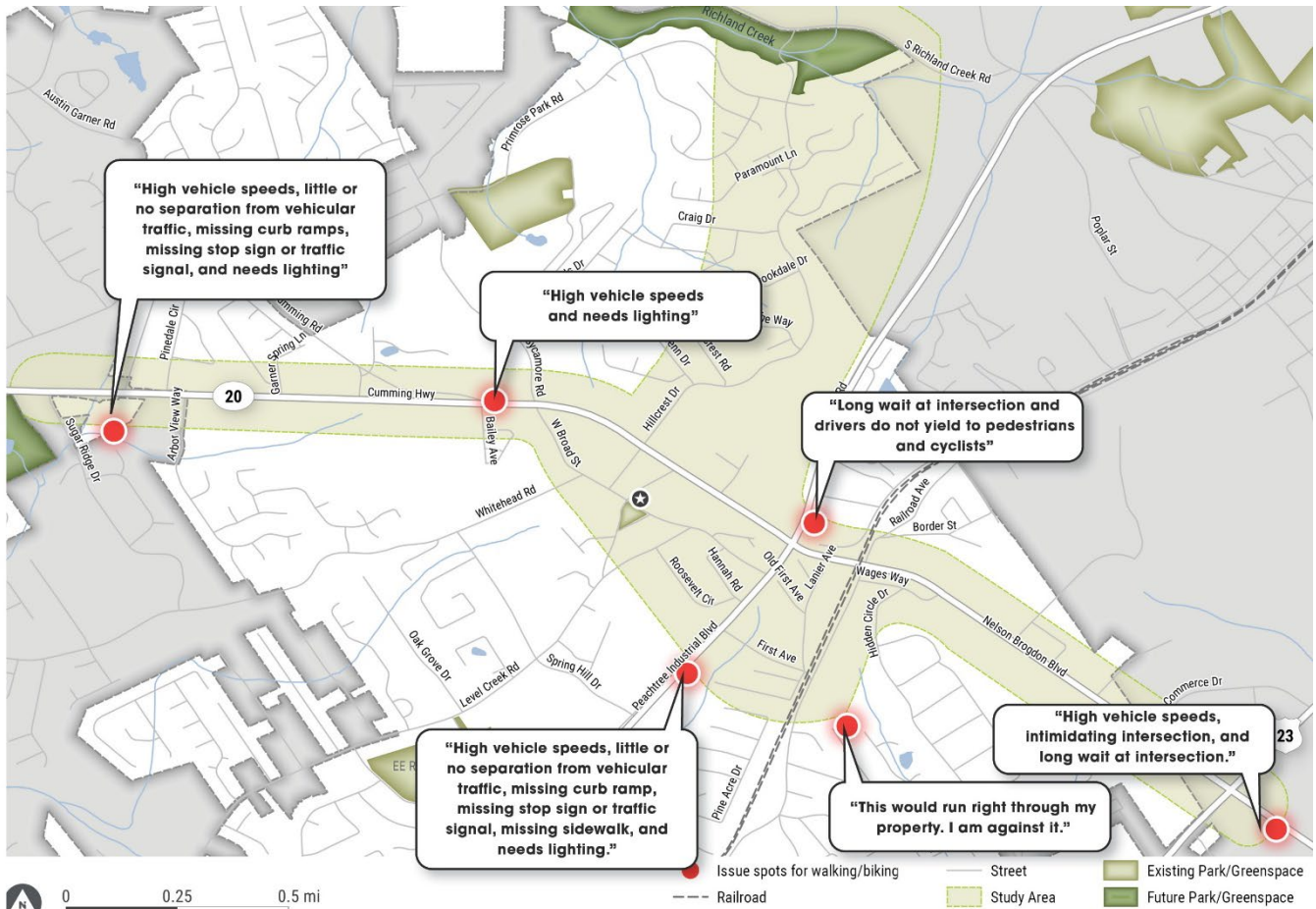


### Issue Spots for Walking or Biking

Within the study area, locations identified as issue spots for walking or biking included:

- The Shell gas station at the intersection of SR 20 and Peachtree Industrial Blvd
- Shopping plazas at the intersection of SR 20 and Buford Hwy

**Figure 3. Community Input Map Results: Issues Spots for Walking or Biking**

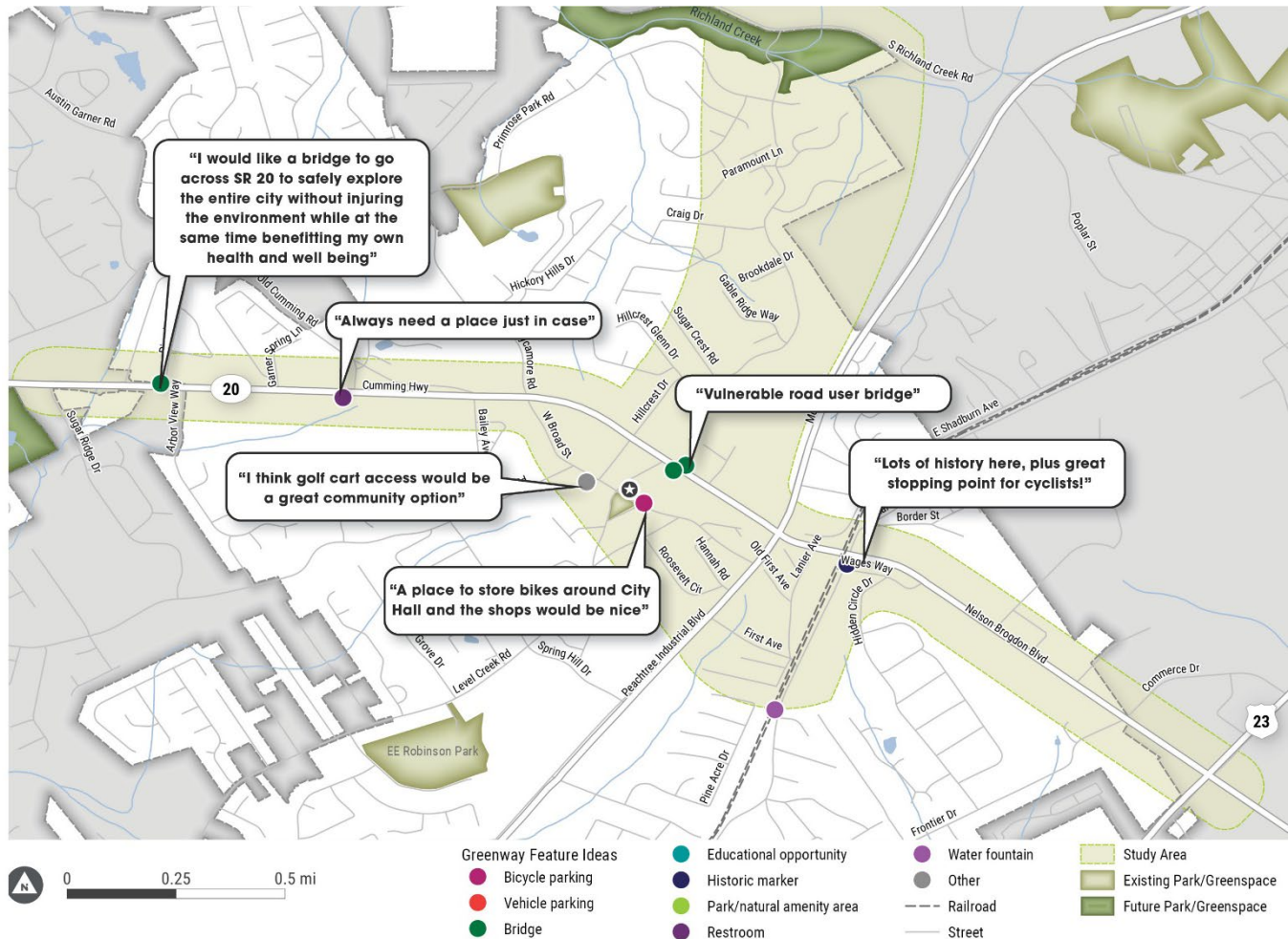




## Ideas for Greenway Features

Several participants added locations where they had ideas for greenway features within the study area, including pedestrian and bicycle bridges over SR 20, bike parking Downtown, and amenities like restrooms and water fountains.

**Figure 4. Community Input Map Results: Ideas for Greenway Features**



## Beyond the Study Area

Many participants added comments beyond the study area for this project. While they are beyond this scope, they help inform desired regional destinations that this project can begin building connections to and can help inform future work. The most popular comments beyond the study area were:

### Destinations

Outside of the study area, participants noted several locations they would like to walk or bike to. The most popular choices were nearby natural recreation areas. Desired destinations included:

- Chattahoochee River
- EE Robinson Park
- Gary Pirkle Park
- Shopping plazas on SR 20 near Suwanee Dam Rd

- Lake Lanier Park
- Buford Dam Park
- Sims Lake Park
- Settles Bridge Park
- Residential neighborhoods
- Park and ride transit center near I-985
- George Pierce Park
- Downtown Suwanee
- Suwanee Creek Greenway
- Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center

### ***Desired Routes***

Participants identified many routes they would like to walk or bike comfortably beyond the study area, including:

- SR 20 (beyond study area west to the Chattahoochee River)
- Greenway loop proposed in the 2016 *Sugar Loop Greenway Master Plan*
- Natural trail along the Chattahoochee River
- Suwanee Dam Rd/Johnson Rd (SR 20 to Settles Bridge Park)
- Connections to Downtown Suwanee and George Pierce Park
- Connections to Settles Bridge Park
- Connections to Sugar Hill Golf Club and Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area
- Connections to Sims Lake Park

### ***Issue Spots for Walking or Biking***

Participants identified several locations outside of the study area as issue spots for walking and biking, including:

- Intersection of SR 20 and Emerald Pkwy/Henry Bailey Rd
- Safety concerns over trails proposed by other users being too close to houses, children, or pets and potential noise issues
- Curves along SR 20 approaching the Chattahoochee River
- Intersection of Suwanee Dam Rd and Austin Garner Rd

### ***Ideas for Greenway Features***

Most of the greenway feature ideas participants had for outside of the study area were located along SR 20 near the Chattahoochee River to improve access to the river and riverfront trails, including:

- Rest area with bathrooms, water fountains, parking, and local artwork
- Multi-use trail system with access to the greenway, river, and mountain biking trails
- Views of the Chattahoochee River
- Need a way to continue running from the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area by going up from under the bridge to SR 20 eastbound instead of tuning around and going back to running with the high volume traffic; there are big boulders blocking the way now

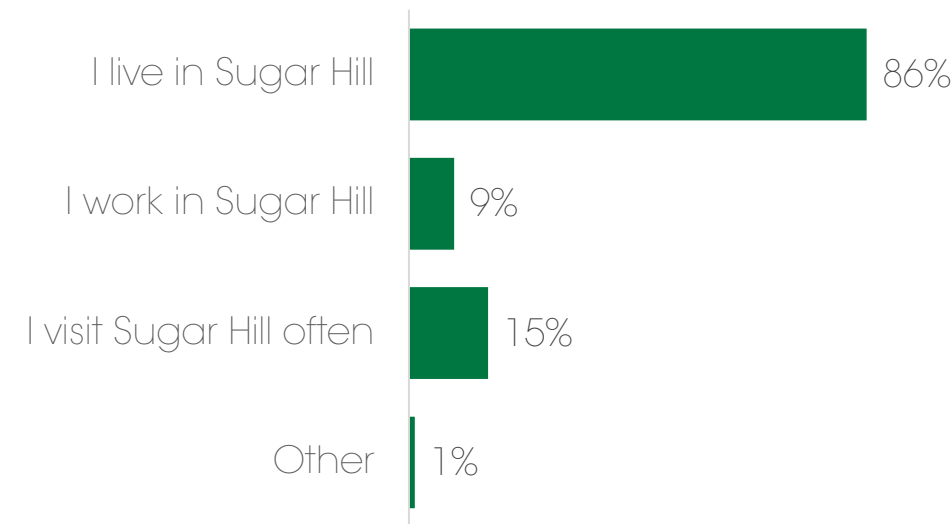
# WHO RESPONDED TO THE SURVEY?

Respondents were asked to complete a brief survey prior to sharing their input to help the project team understand who had participated in the survey and if it is a representative sample of the community. If users felt uncomfortable answering the registration survey, they were able to add input to the map without completing it. 94 respondents completed the registration survey.

## Relationship to Sugar Hill

Most people who responded to this survey were Sugar Hill residents (86 percent). About 15 percent said they visit Sugar Hill often, and 9 percent work in Sugar Hill. Only 1 percent of respondents said they have some other kind of relationship to the city. Respondents were allowed to select more than one relationship to the city for this question; percentages do not sum to 100 percent.

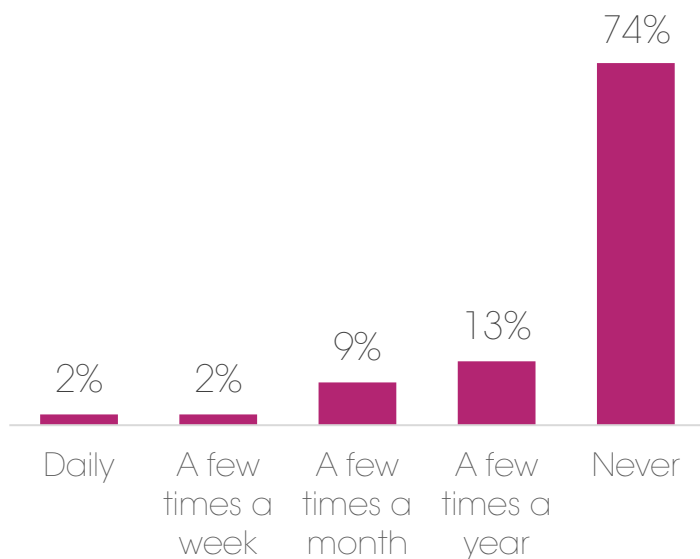
Figure 5. What is your connection to Sugar Hill? (Check all that apply.)



## Walking and Biking Behavior

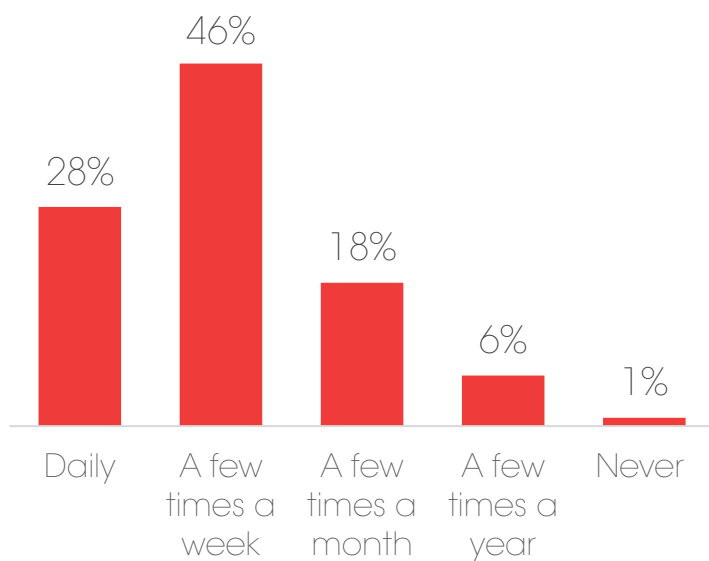
**Active Transportation:** Most respondents (87 percent) very rarely walk or bike for transportation, either a few times a year (13 percent) or never (74 percent). 13 percent of respondents walk or bike for transportation at least monthly, either daily (2 percent), a few times a week (2 percent), or a few times a month (9 percent).

**Figure 6. How often do you walk or bike for transportation, such as commuting to work or running errands?**



**Recreation and Exercise:** Respondents were significantly more likely to walk or bike for recreation or exercise than for utilitarian purposes. 92 percent of respondents said they walk or bike recreationally at least a few times a month. Only 1 percent said they never walk or bike for exercise.

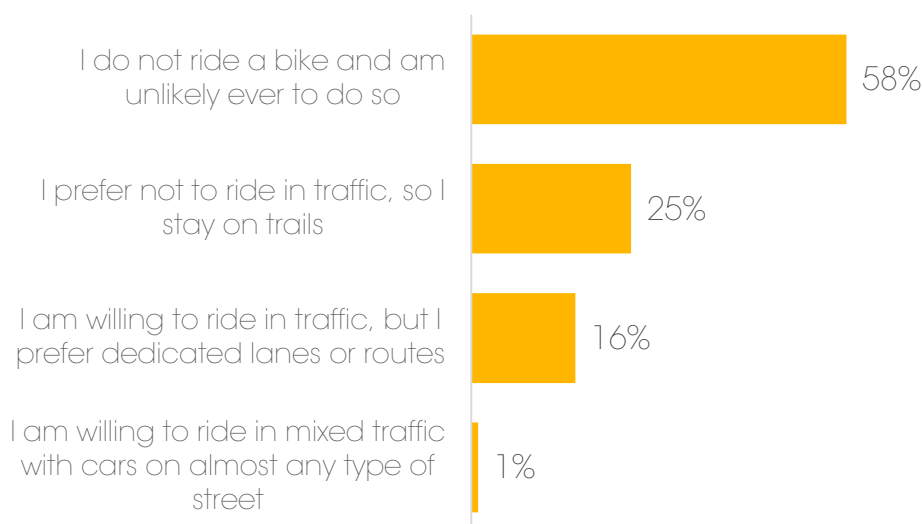
**Figure 7. How often do you walk, run, or bike for recreation or exercise?**





**Comfort Level:** When asked about their level of comfort riding a bike, the majority of respondents (58 percent) said they do not currently ride a bike and are unlikely ever to do so. Most other respondents (41 percent) said they would ride a bike, but the type of bicycle facility matters to them. 25 percent prefer not to ride in traffic and would stick to trails or paths, and another 16 percent would be willing to ride in mixed traffic but would still prefer dedicated lanes or routes. Only 1 percent of respondents were willing to ride in mixed traffic with cars on almost any type of street.

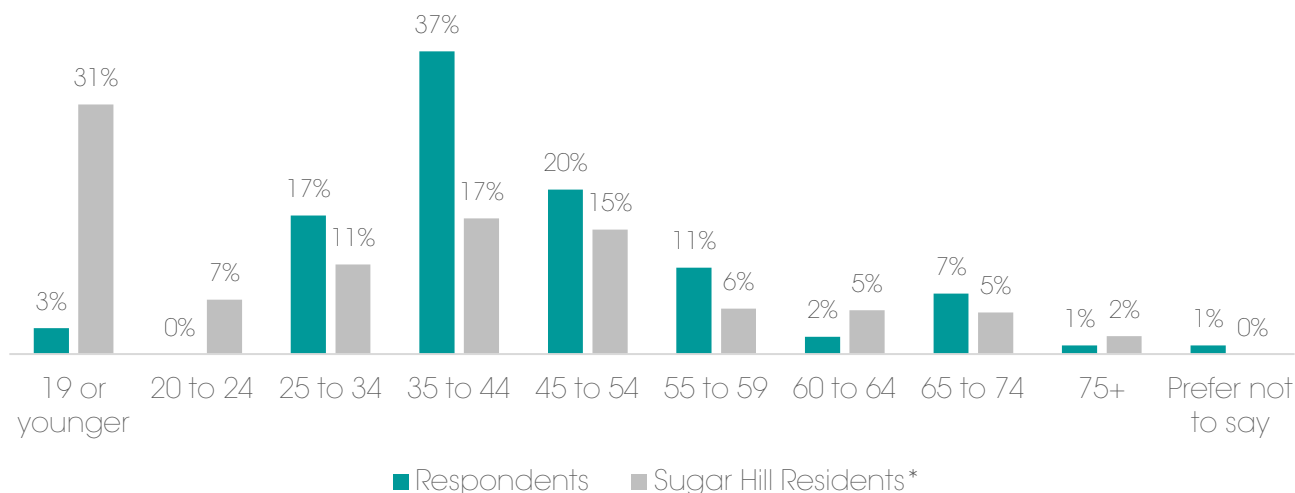
**Figure 8. How would you describe your biking habits and comfort level?**



## Demographics

**Age:** Most of the respondents (74 percent) were young and middle-aged adults between the ages of 25 and 54. The largest age bracket was people ages 35 to 44 (37 percent). This sample was on average older than the population of the City of Sugar Hill, largely because there were few respondents aged 19 or younger, a group that makes up 31 percent of the city's population.

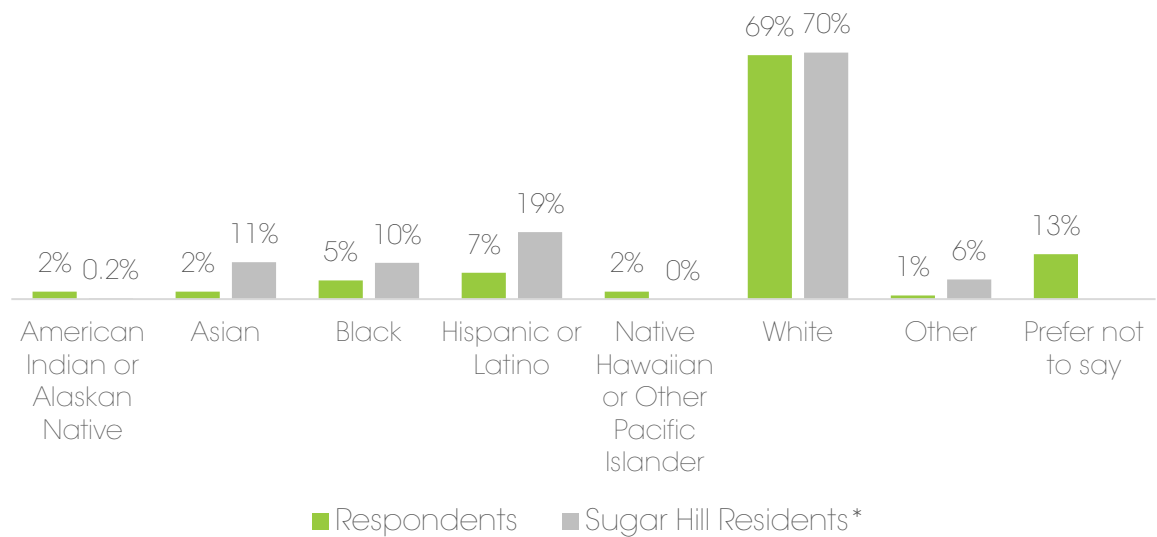
**Figure 9. How old are you?**



\*Source: U.S. Census 2018 American Communities Survey 5-year Estimates

**Race and Ethnicity:** The group of respondents was likely less diverse than the City of Sugar Hill overall, as illustrated in the graph below. There were proportionally low response rates for people who identify as Asian, Black, or Hispanic or Latino, relative to the city’s population. The percentage of white respondents was comparable to the percentage of white residents. Respondents could select multiple choices; percentages do not sum to 100 percent. Respondents had the option not to identify their race or ethnicity; 13 percent preferred not to say.

**Figure 10. How do you identify your race and ethnicity? (Check all that apply.)**



\*Source: U.S. Census 2018 American Communities Survey 5-year Estimates