

2021 Safe Routes Academy and NJ Bike and Walk Summit

Held June 1- June 5, 2021

Survey Results & Lessons Learned



NEW JERSEY Safe Routes



RUTGERS

Edward J. Bloustein School
of Planning and Public Policy

Acknowledgements

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The Safe Routes Academy was hosted and organized by the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC) which is housed at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy as part of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Thank you to our sponsor, the NJ Department of Transportation for supporting this effort.

The Safe Routes Academy was held as part of the NJ Bike & Walk Summit hosted by the NJ Bike & Walk Coalition. The NJ Bike and Walk Summit sessions were hosted and managed by the NJ Bike Walk Coalition. Civic Eye Collaborative (CEC) provided support with technical assistance and visuals.

Report Author

Corey Hannigan

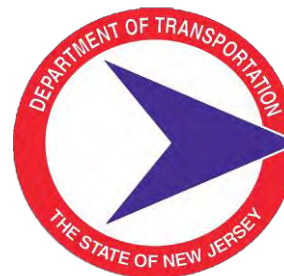
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2021 NJ Bike and Walk Summit and Safe Routes Academy Sessions

NJ Bike & Walk Coalition

- Opening Session
- Achieving Vision Zero
- Connecting Communities
- From Tactical to Practical
- Trails, Equity and Environmental Justice

Safe Routes Academy

- No Money? No Problem. Meet your Regional Safe Routes Coordinators
- Building Municipal Support
- Fund Your Project
- Vision for Safety SHSP

Safe Routes Academy Summary

- The Safe Routes Academy for 2021 was hosted by the Safe Routes Resource Center at Rutgers University with support from NJ Department of Transportation in coordination with the NJ Bike Walk Coalition.
- The NJ Bike and Walk Summit sessions were managed by the NJ Bike Walk Coalition.
- All sessions were conducted online through Zoom, including registrations.
- Each session ran for a total of 60 minutes.
- Registrations were managed by the NJBWC through the Zoom Conference option.
- Civic Eye Collaborative (CEC) managed all back-end functionality of the Academy and Summit including:
 - pre-session tech checks for presenters
 - session countdown
 - participant entry
 - ongoing participant and speaker technical assistance
 - recording and posting recordings to YouTube Channels
 - all technical troubleshooting, when needed

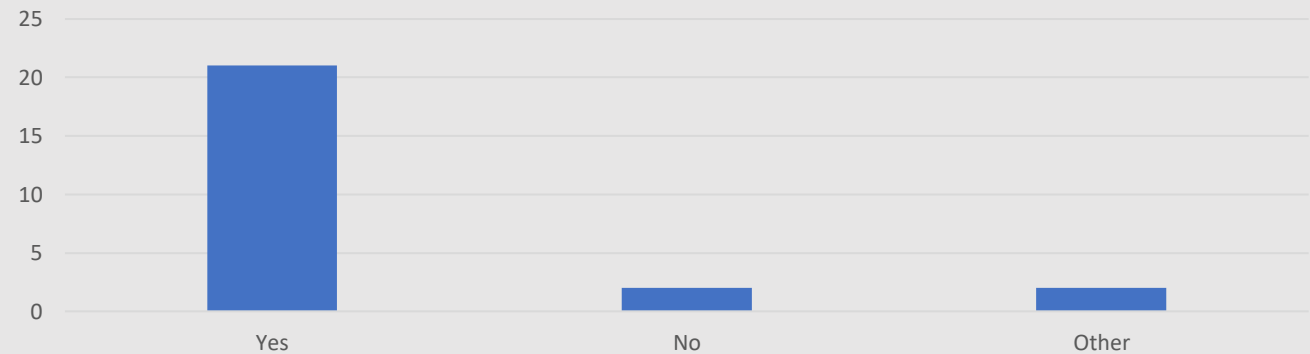
Opening Session

“It did not broaden my knowledge. I did not expect it to. It highlighted the importance of our work and the support of state leadership. The awards recognized important work on the ground.”

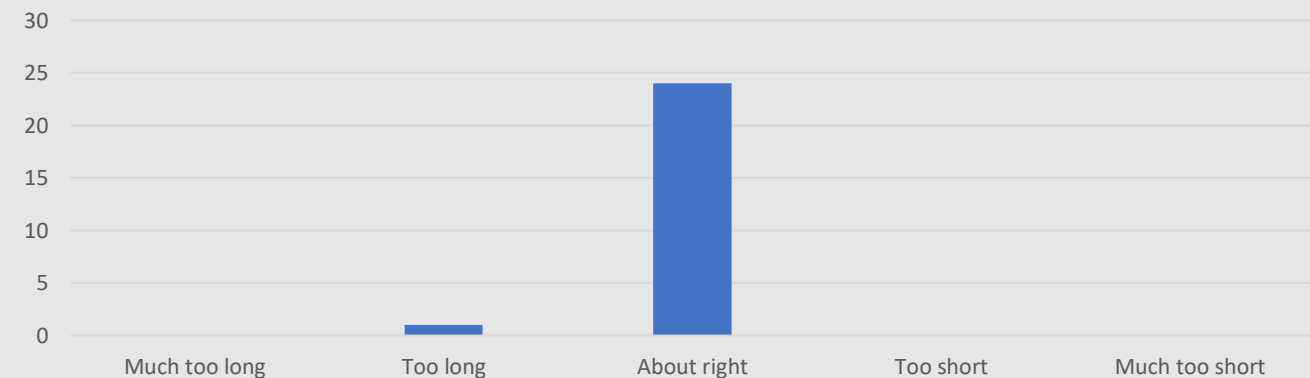
Overall, how would you rate this session?



Did the session broaden your knowledge on the topic?



Was the session length too long, too short, or about right?

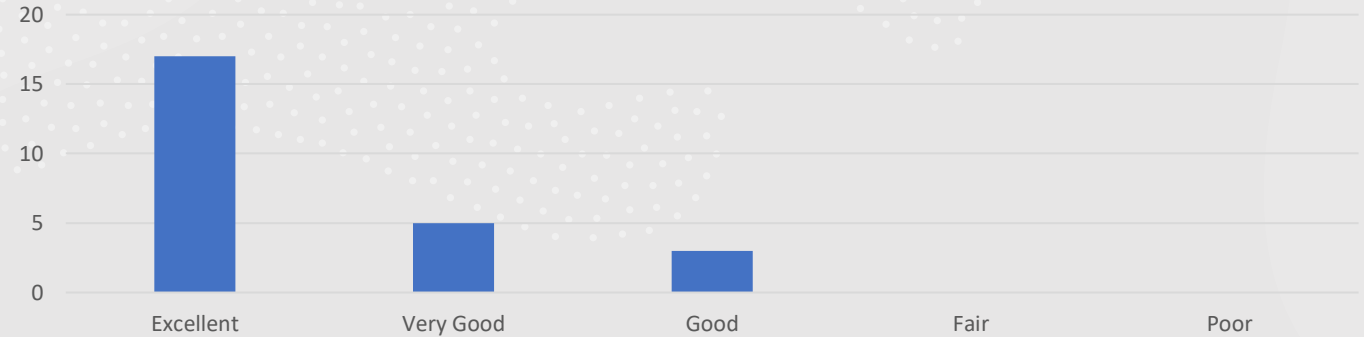


Achieving Vision Zero

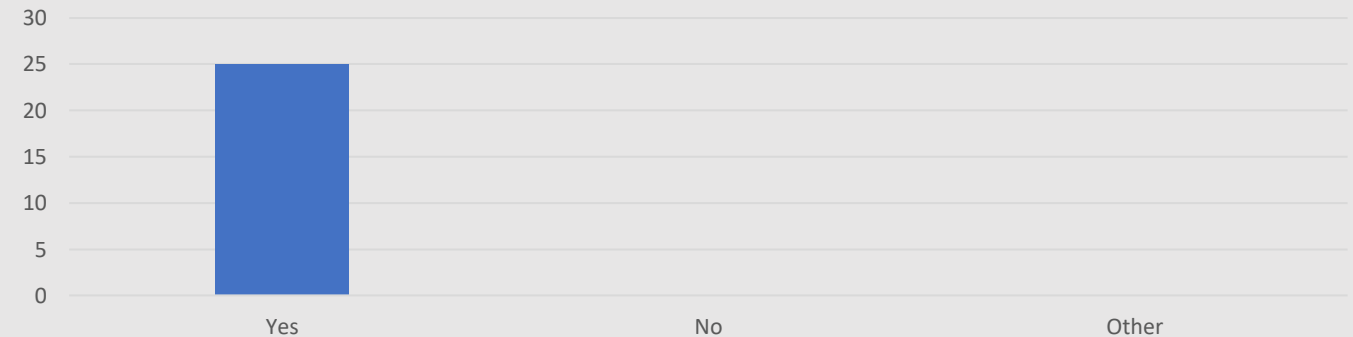
“Loved this session. All the speakers were knowledgeable and helpful.”

“Label all attendees location/ organization so you know who is who when speaking. Don't disable chat, you lose the fun/interactive part of conferences - even if you want people to use the Q& A feature, sometimes people want to leave comments (I did and couldn't!)”

Overall, how would you rate this session?



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Connecting Communities

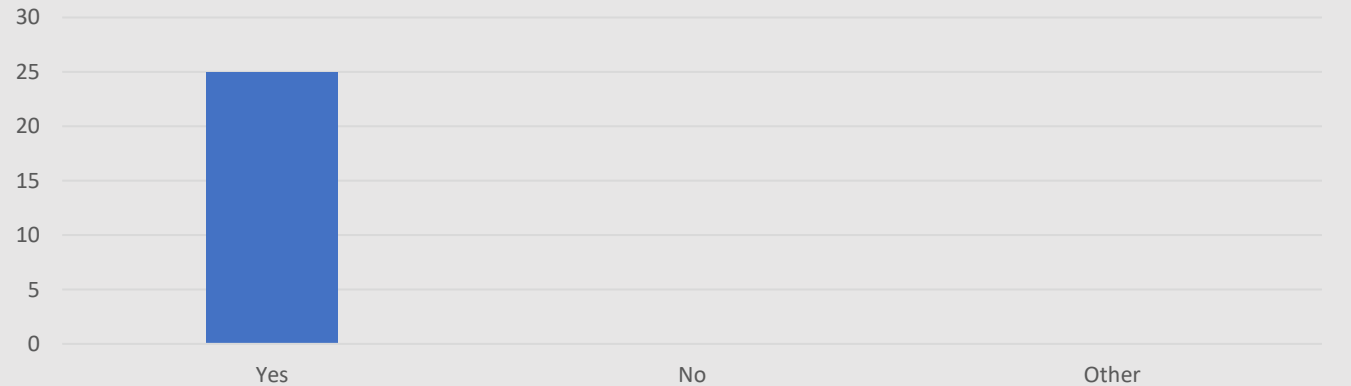
“Excellent information from all speakers”

“Combined sewage storage under a trail?!?! What a brilliant idea! I would have never of thought about that in a million years.”

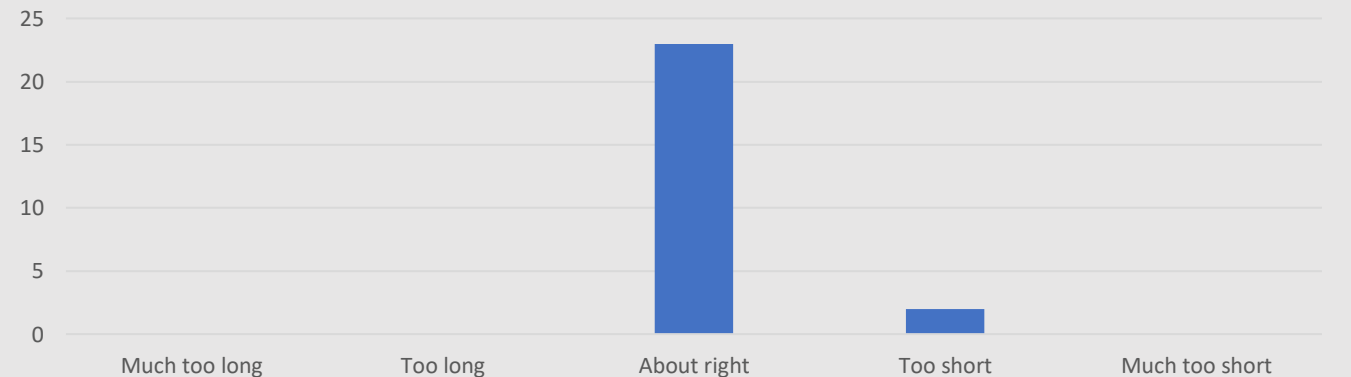
Overall, how would you rate this session?



Did the session broaden your knowledge?



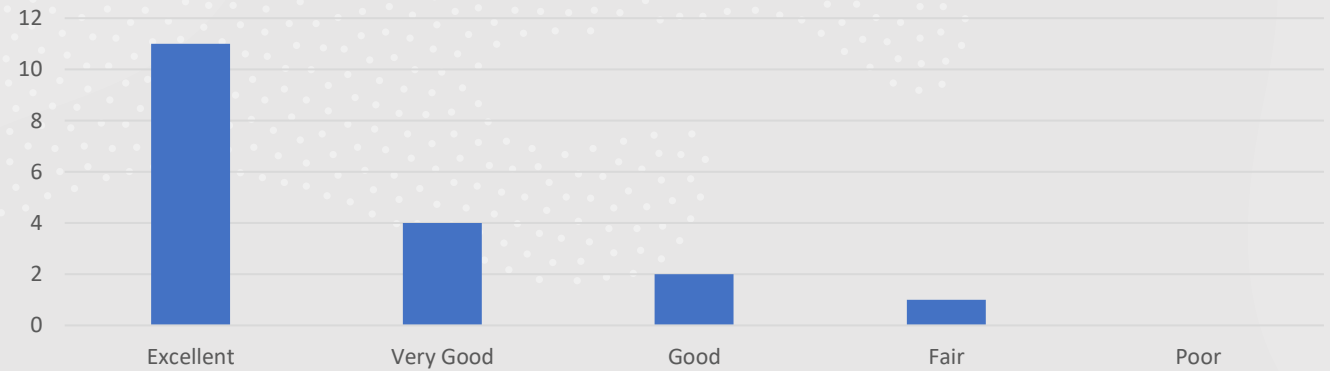
Was the session too long, too short, or about right?



From Tactical to Practical

“A lot of repeated info that I knew. Bob's stats on Covid's impact on walking and biking was interesting.”

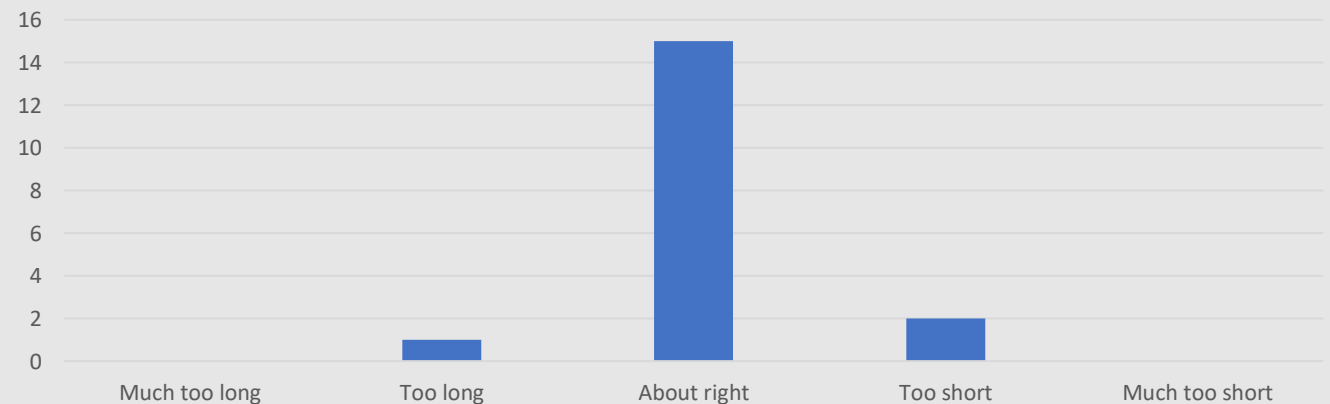
Overall, how would you rate this session?



Did the session broaden your knowledge on the topic?



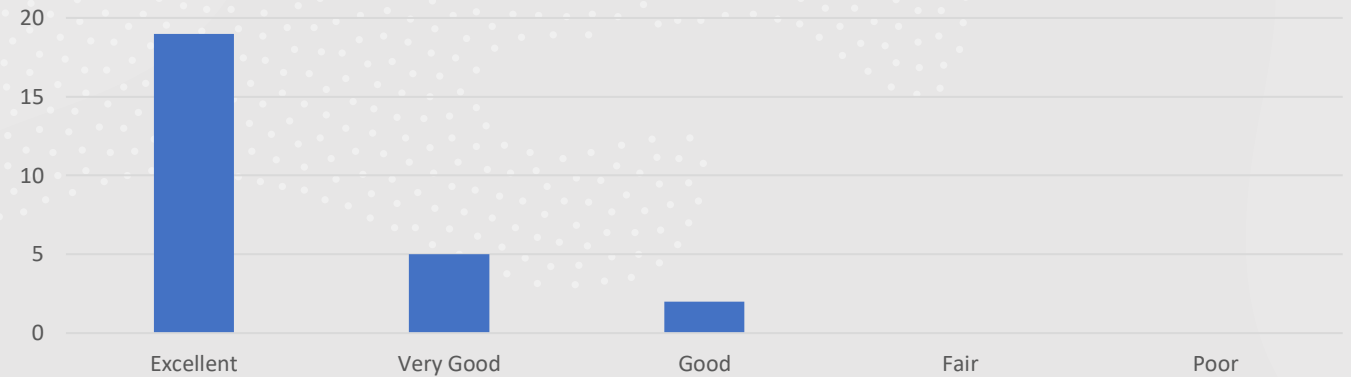
Was the session too long, too short, or about right?



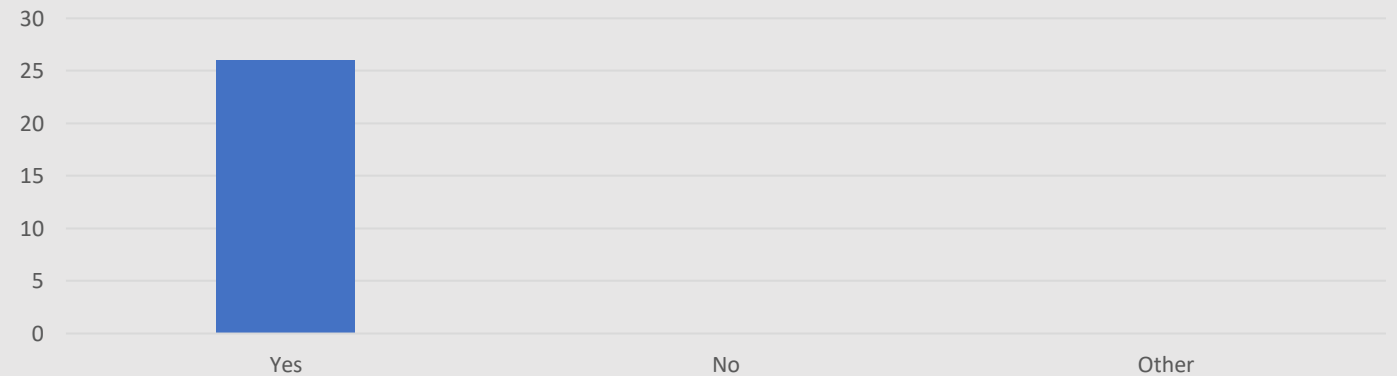
Trails, Equity and Environmental Justice

“Important information. Speaker went too fast in some slides.”

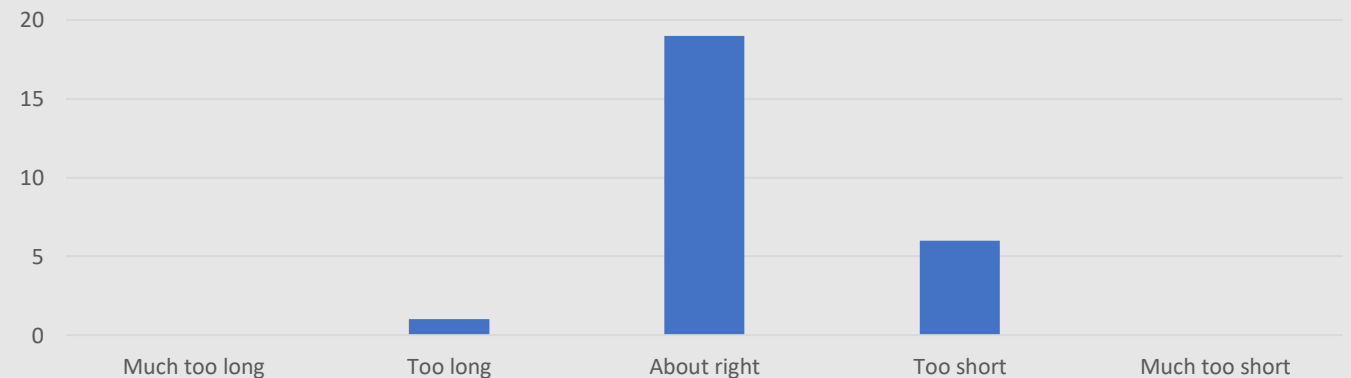
Overall, how would you rate this session?



Did the session broaden your understanding on the topic?



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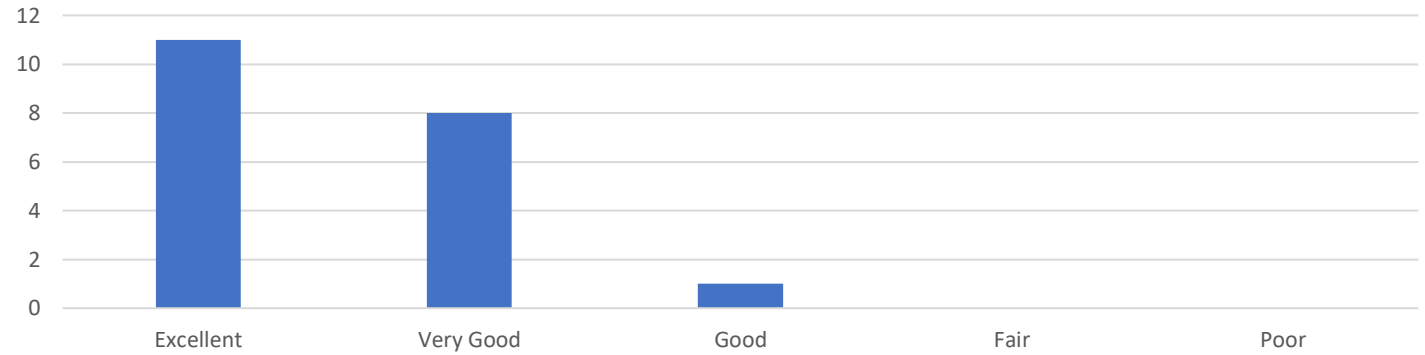


Building Municipal Support

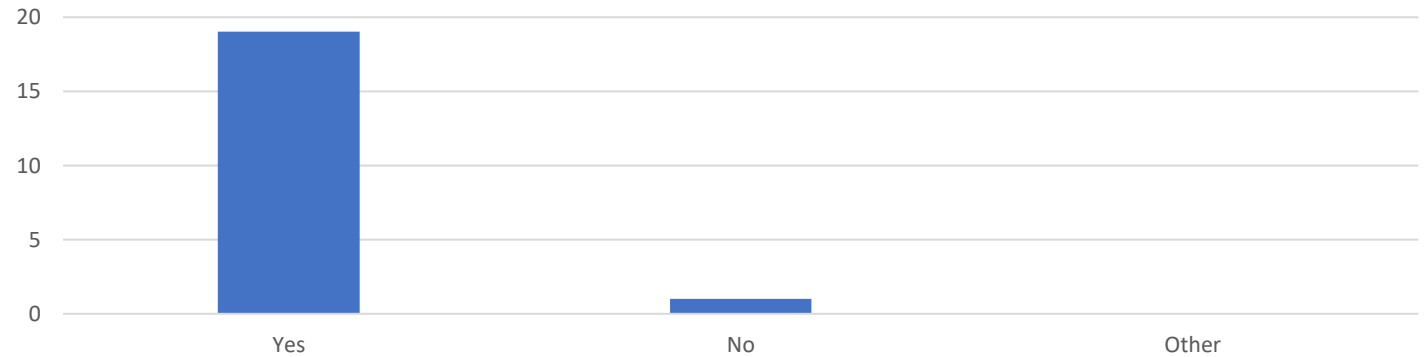
“I would like to see a compiled list of Safety and Complete Streets projects within NJ, as a means to motivate municipalities to effectively compete for public funds. Does Safe Routes maintain or would consider maintaining such a list?”

“How to engage constructively with that small but very vocal opposition”

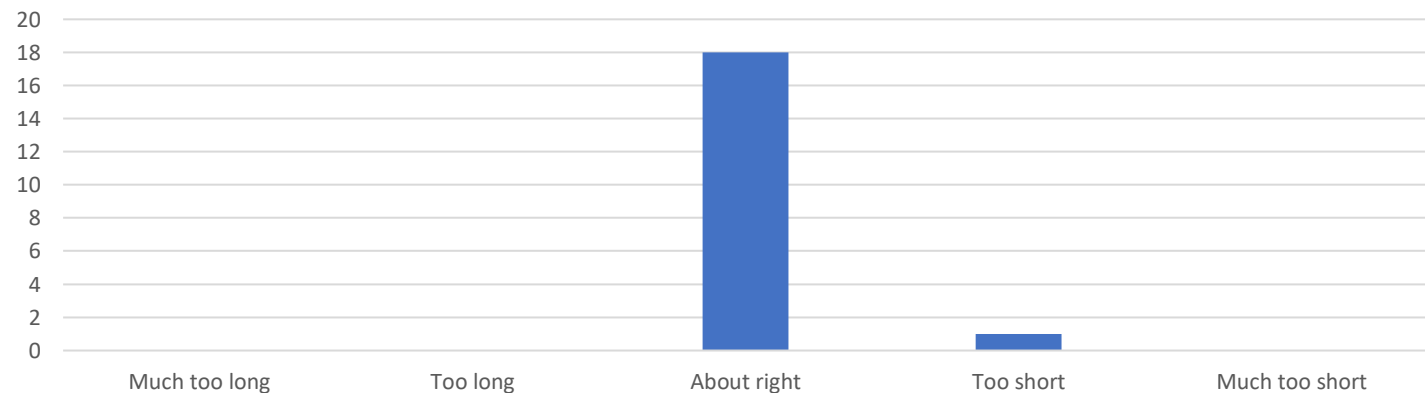
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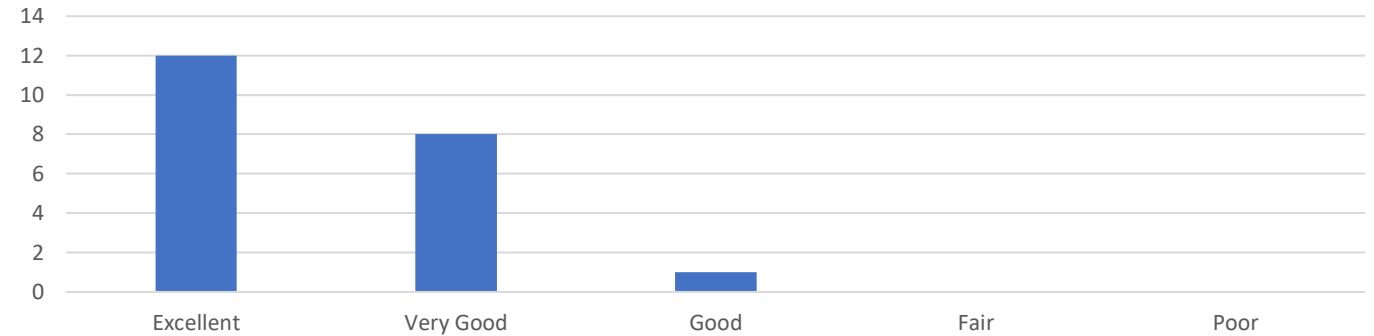
Fund Your Project

"I'm glad this session covered grant applications. I'd like to see some case studies of the grant application process and successfully funded/completed projects."

"Funding 201 or 301, in addition to 101."

"The less reading in the presentation the better the audio"

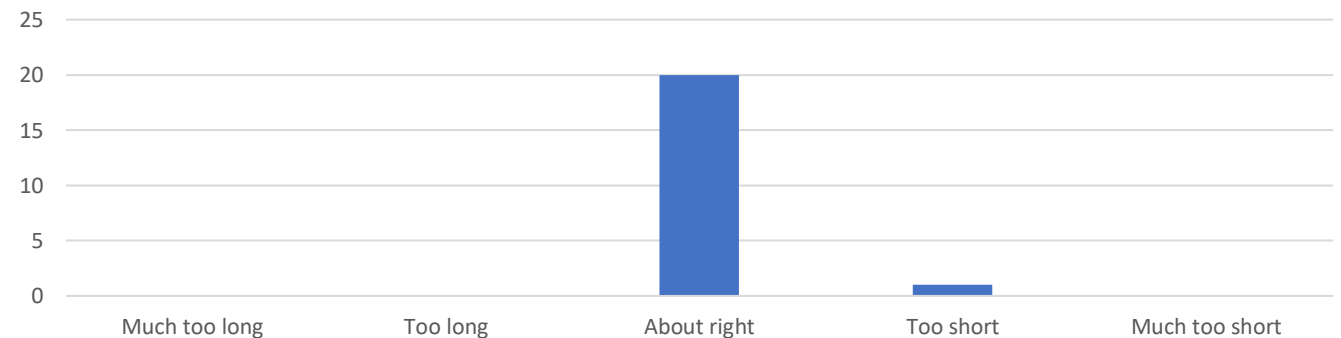
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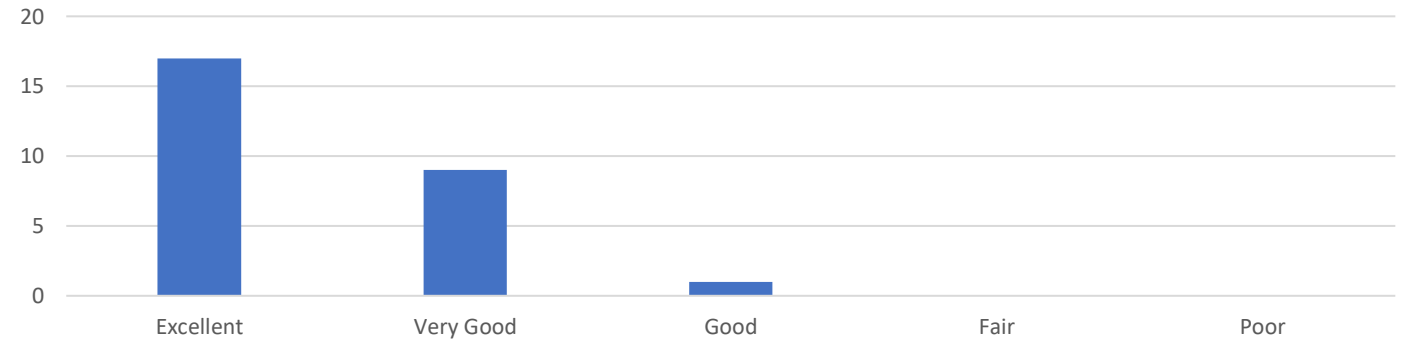
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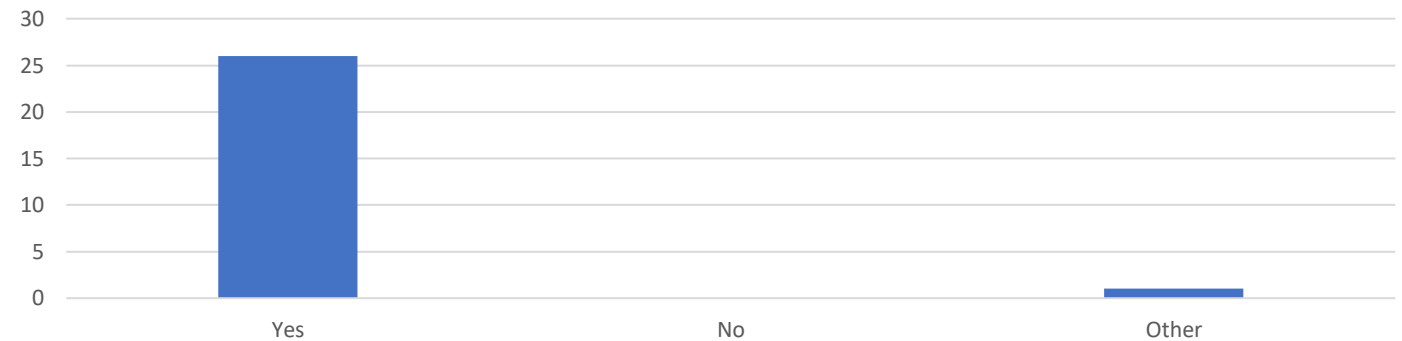
Vision for Safety SHSP

“Already I participate in an Emphasis Area Team, though always interested to hear what's new. Most interesting to me was the presentation by Elise Bremer-Nei.”

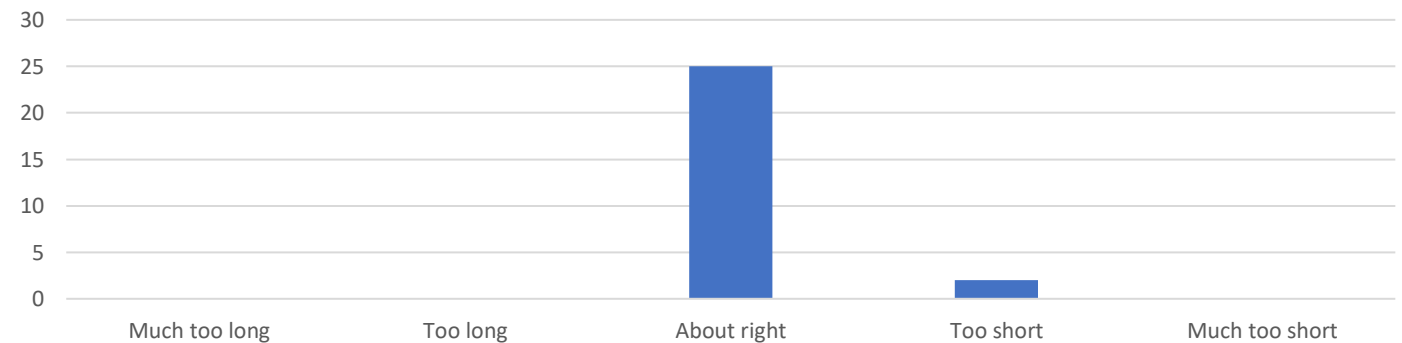
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Summit Topics

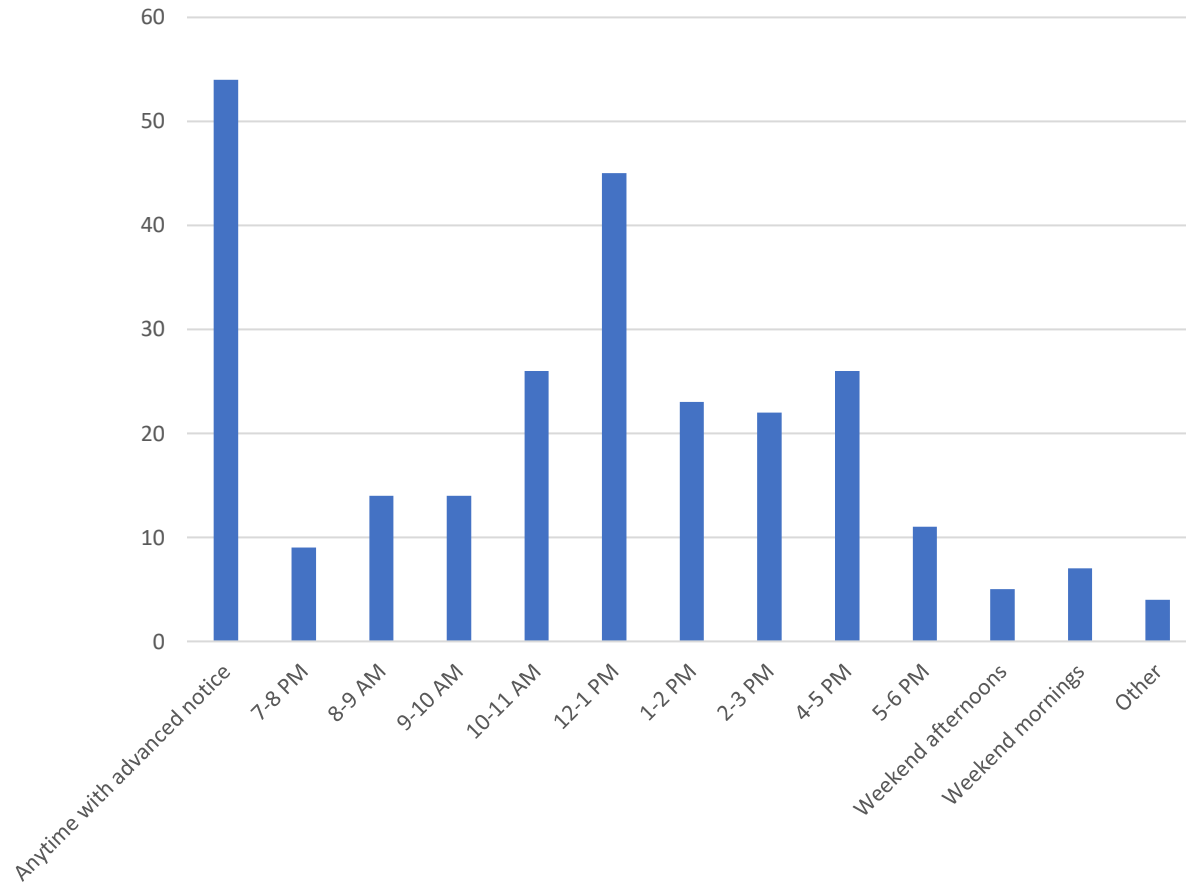
Preferred Time of Day

Suggested Improvements

Requested Topics

Next Time: In-Person vs. Online

What time of day works best for you to attend online sessions (webinars)? (Check all that apply)



Preferred Time of Day

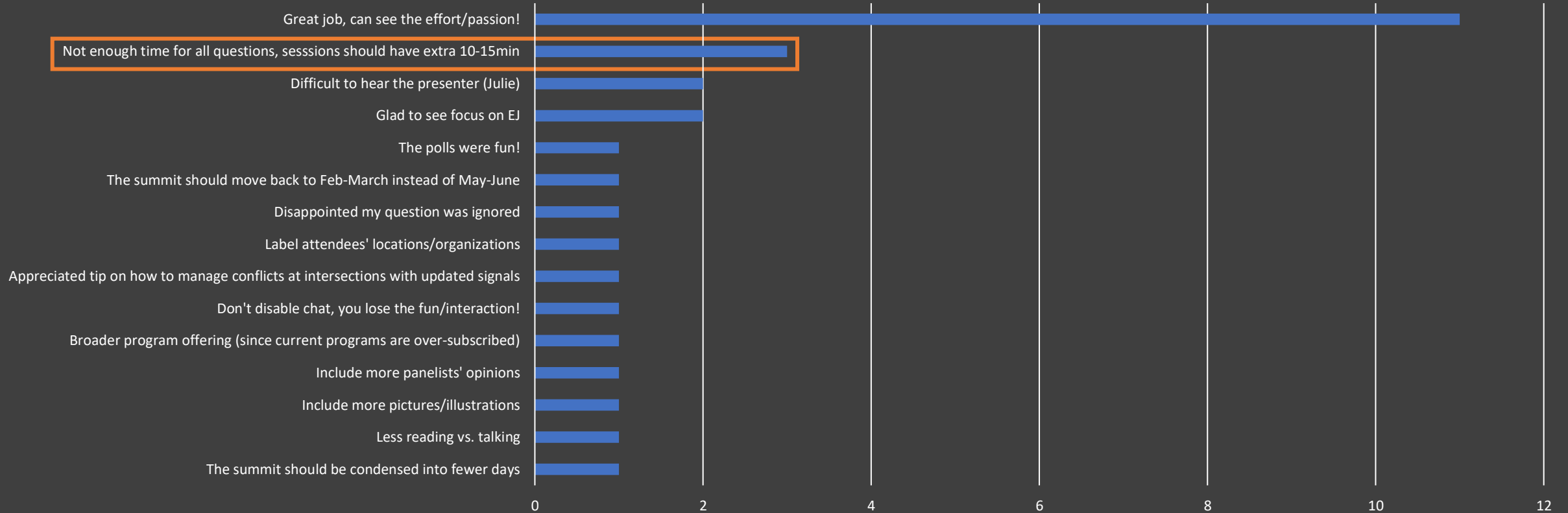


Most attendees were flexible (if provided advanced notice).



Otherwise, **12 to 1PM** is the preferred timeslot.

Do you have any other suggestions or feedback you would like to share?

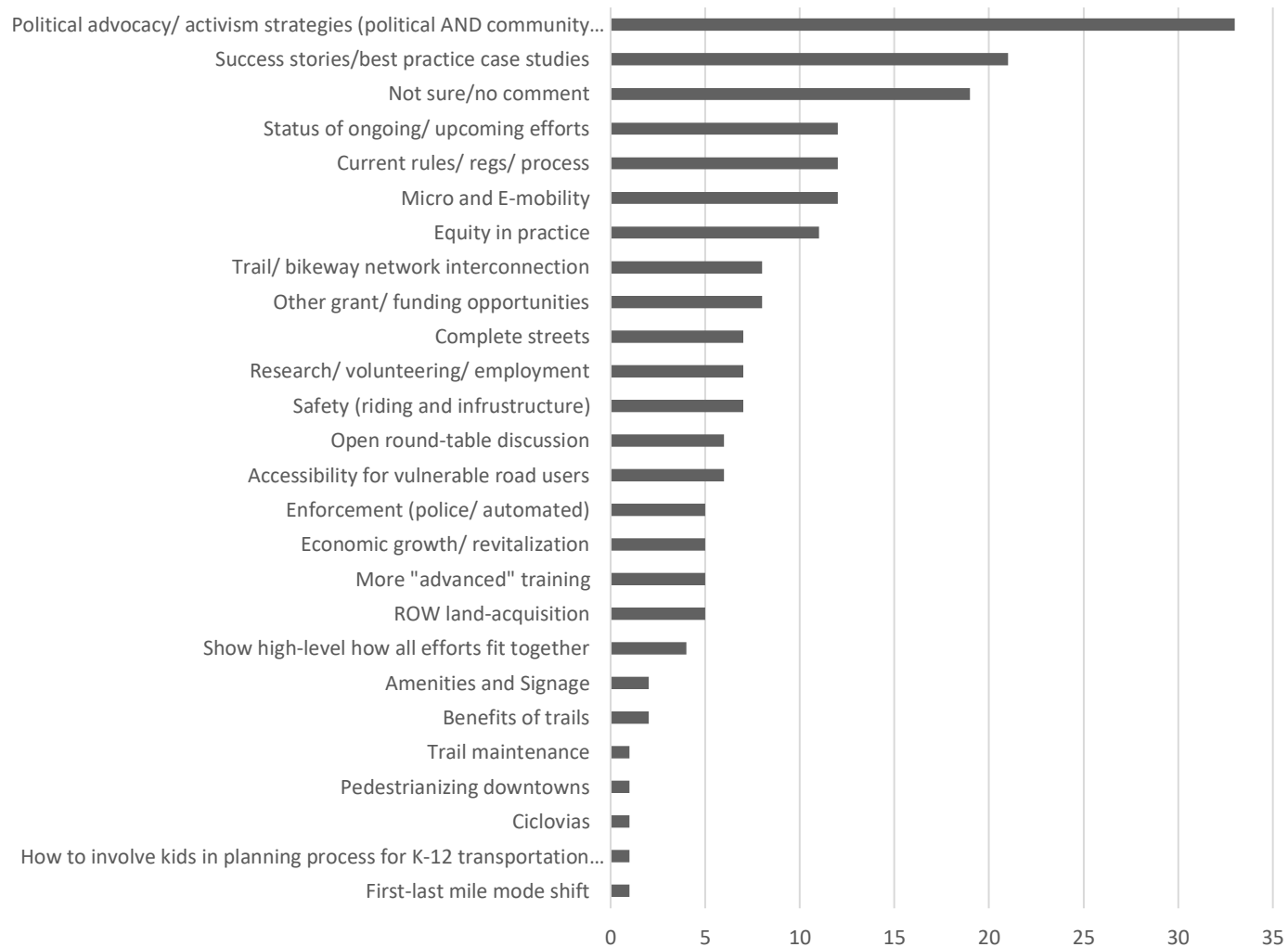


Suggested Improvements

- Attendees wanted more Q&A time at the end of each session, so consider using the session breaks as optional additional Q&A time.
- Sessions worked best with a dedicated person answering questions in the chat.

Requested Topics

Which topics would you like to see covered at future NJ Bike Walk Summits?

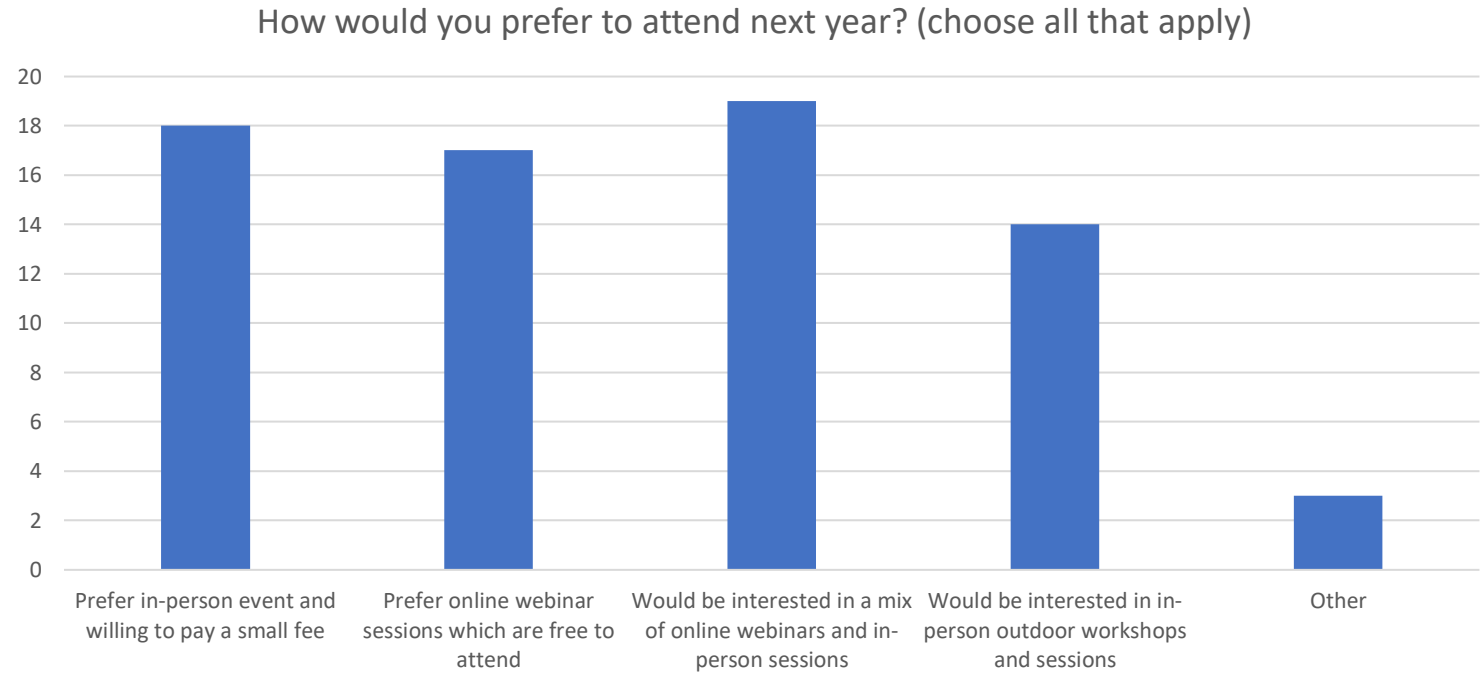
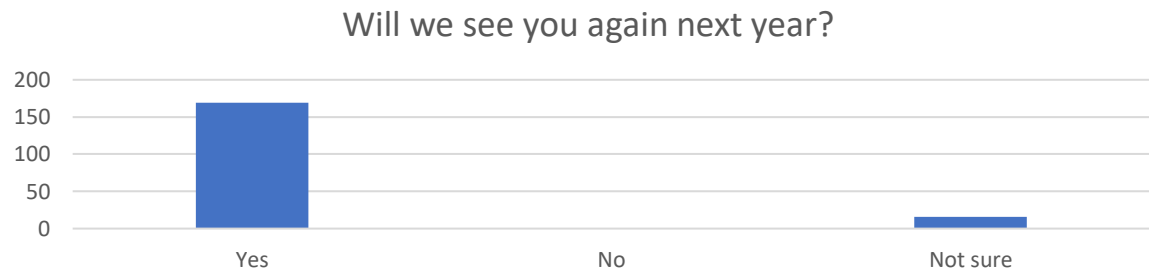


Most requested:

- Tips/strategies for community & political buy-in from disinterested parties
- Successful, best practice projects (incl. the actual applications/proposals)
- Status of larger/ongoing efforts, high-level planning
- Trail/bikeway network interconnection
- E-mobility, micro-mobility, and accessibility for vulnerable users (e.g. speed-differentials)
- More focus on equity in design and project selection

See page 24 for all feedback comments

Next Time: In-Person vs. Online



- All attendees were interested in attending next year, providing they are able.
- No clear consensus on in-person vs online:
 - Online is better for dispersing information and education.
 - In-person is better for deeper discussions and problem-solving.
- Consider more frequent online sessions for general info webinars, with less frequent in-person conferences to discuss specific issues and exchange knowledge.

Lessons Learned



Academy Planning

- Pre-Planning and Weekly meetings: The core team (VTC, CEC, NJBWC) met weekly several months before the Academy to discuss development of sessions, targeted speakers, speaker coordination, logistics, timing, responsibilities, etc. These meetings were critical to the success of the Academy to review outstanding issues, questions, concerns and overall project management. Sessions were all Zoom webinars except for the TMA focused “No Money? No problem: Meet your Safe Routes Coordinator!” session which was a regular Zoom meeting format, allowing participants to be sent to multiple break out rooms sorted by TMA service area.

Meetings included:

- January 25 -- first Academy discussion with NJBWC -- there were many emails back and forth prior to this meeting between VTC, NJDOT, CEC, NJBWC to start the organizational process.
- Feb 11 -- Academy discussion with NJBWC and CEC about event timing, session timing, and event platforms.
- March 4 -- Academy discussion with NJBWC about session subjects, speaker recruitment, and session timing.
- March 8 - First weekly scheduled meeting with VTC, NJBWC and CEC to discuss event planning and coordinate logistics.
- March 9 - Continued discussion about the event platform for the Academy/Summit.
- March-May -- Weekly update meetings with VTC, NJWBC and CEC about Academy/Summit, session planning, technology issues, registration, promotion, and speaker coordination.
- June 7 - Post-Academy debrief with CEC
- June 9 - Lessons learned/debrief with NJBWC and CEC
- At least 3-4 meetings were held with panelists and speakers for each session to organize presentations, review schedules, and prepare for the event -- There were approximately 16 meetings held with presenters and panelists for the four Academy sessions leading up to the event.

Academy Planning (cont'd)

- Securing a time and date for the Academy:
 - This is critical for promotion/registration and confirming speaker attendance.
 - An online platform can potentially allow for a much wider audience and special attention must be paid to ensure there are opportunities for engagement appropriate to these individual audiences.
 - For example, sessions targeted toward practicing planners can be scheduled during the work day while sessions targeted toward volunteers should be scheduled during lunch, the evening, or on the weekend.
 - Spreading sessions over multiple days also allows for a wider audience and helps to combat “Zoom exhaustion” that may result from an intense single-day event.
 - Ensuring adequate timing and scheduling for each session was a recurring and ongoing process.
- Speaker confirmation:
 - A meeting invite was sent for 30 minutes prior and the full length of the session to confirm attendance.
 - A separate panelist link was also sent to each speaker to login to the Zoom webinar.
- Presentations:
 - A significant amount of time is needed to ensure presentations are written, edited and approved, particularly if pre-recording a speaker.
 - Pre-recording speakers can lose some quality of the recording (out of focus, audio breaks, unstable bandwidth) – ideally good bandwidth, good technology (web cam, headsets, laptops, etc.) are needed when pre-recording.
 - Scripts were created for each presentation.
- Speaker preparation:
 - CEC created a run-of-show for some sessions indicating tech check, countdown timer, detailed timing of each speaker, QA timing, and closing.
 - Perhaps a short training or instruction sheet would be helpful for speakers on presenting online (inflection, eye contact, pauses, PPT best practices, tech prep for bandwidth, audio, visual, etc.).

Academy Planning (cont'd)

- Zoom setup:
 - CEC created Zoom links for each webinar, with waiting rooms and set up of Zoom polls in advance of each session.
- Session Leader:
 - Each session had a designated VTC staff person to coordinate:
 - speakers and presentations
 - speaker bios and headshots
 - speaker questions
 - create intro and welcome scripts with housekeeping items (sessions are recorded, put any questions in QA, etc.)
 - create thank you for attending script and slides
 - create speaker scripts for NJDOT if needed
 - determine who will monitor the QA and chat.
 - Session leaders also worked with outside panelists to develop and form presentations and ensure that they were high quality, visually appropriate, and as interactive as possible given the online format.
 - Session leaders also worked with panelists or presenters to pre-record presentations, work through technology issues or limitations, and ensure familiarity with the Zoom platform.
- Common online storage:
 - Google was used to share presentations, bio information, handouts, PDFs, etc. by creating a folder for each session, however NJDOT could not access Google so another file sharing platform may need to be used in the future.
- Registration & Promotion:
 - An event webpage was created to provide information about each session and the overall event on the NJBWC website.
 - A main page described the overall event, while a sub-page was created for each session that provided a session description, listed each presenter with a photo and their bio, and provided a registration link to register through Zoom.
 - With the Zoom platform, an individual registration was necessary for each session a participant planned on attending.
 - Another webpage was created on the Safe Routes resource center website.
 - This page focused on Academy sessions, providing session information and providing a registration link for each Academy session.
 - Participation was encouraged through use of social media, eblasts, and by forwarding and dissemination through partner organizations and groups.

Academy Pre-Sessions (right before)

- Registrations: CEC used the Zoom registration list to allow participants from the waiting room into the session.
- Speaker prep: All speakers, moderators and CEC met 30 minutes prior to the session to allow speakers/moderators to check their audio, visual, screen share capabilities, and troubleshoot answers to any questions.
- Countdown: CEC created a countdown video with music which was played 5 minutes prior to the start of each session which avoided awkward silence, allowed participants to know that they had reached the correct destination, and allowed the session to begin on time. CEC allowed participants into the Zoom webinar from the waiting room while the countdown video played and sessions began on time.
- Recording: CEC started the recording of each session

Academy Sessions (during session)

- Opening Remarks: Bill Riviere from NJDOT opened each Academy session with a 5 min intro speech, including a thank you for attendance, an agenda/overview of each session, introduction of each speaker, and housekeeping details regarding session recording and the overall event.
- Recording: CEC started the recording of each session once the session began, at the end of the countdown.
- Monitor QA: A designated person with knowledge of the session was helpful to review and respond (if able) to QA and chat throughout the presentation. This allowed moderators and speakers to focus on presenting and QA was reviewed after all speakers finished presenting.
- Screen sharing: Depending on the timing of the session and technology limitations, it may be easier to have one person (moderator) share their screen and have all speakers' PowerPoints together in one master PowerPoint presentation for timeliness and ease of transitions.

Academy Post Sessions (after the session)

- Recording: CEC edited and posted each session on the Safe Routes Resource Center YouTube Channel which was shared with NJBWC and linked to saferoutesnj.org on the Safe Routes Academy webpage.
- Feedback survey: VTC created a feedback survey which popped up automatically to each attendee after the session concluded to gauge satisfaction and offer suggestions for improvement. The survey was tabulated, analyzed, and presented as part of this report.

Feedback Comments

Which topics would you like to see covered at future NJ Bike Walk Summits?

- "Funding" 201 or 301, in addition to 101.
- How do we get NJDOT to increase its state dedicated bike / ped / trails fund back to the \$8 million it used to be decades ago and then increase it to account for inflation and the increasing need?
- Discussions regarding the advocacy topics the NJWBC is working on.
- A review of topics the NJBWC would like to work on the following year.
- A listening session where members can voice ideas regarding important issues in their communities. This may include roundtables discussions for the following: bike clubs, county governments, municipal governments, universities, SRTS / school districts, local advocates.
- A discussion of all the efforts that are going on in the state and surrounding area and their goals and progress.
- A greater focus on just vulnerable road users, including not just bicyclists, but also pedestrians, disabled persons, scooters, skateboards, etc. Also a greater focus on just disability to include not just physical disability but also mental health.
- A progress update on the implementation of the new SHSP would be an interesting topic.
- Acquiring land for bikeways and trails.
- Active transportation elements in NJDOT's Long Range Transportation Plan, status of trails across New Jersey
- Advocacy, gathering and streamlining crash data for advocacy use
- Allowing cycling in all NJ parks - state, county and municipal.
- An overall description of how all the efforts fit together.
- Any other grant opportunities

Feedback Comments

Which topics would you like to see covered at future NJ Bike Walk Summits?

- Automated enforcement research/results/advocacy
- Barriers to Complete Streets Implementation
- Becoming an advocate- what community steps can one take to plug in
- Best practices in bike design across NJ
- Best practices, updates to manuals (MUTCD)
- How to best target advocacy efforts to effect change
- Bicycle Safety, Pedestrianizing Downtown Areas, Revitalizing shopping centers in wake of retail decline
- Bike & Ped projects are used in economic growth.
- Bike-ped concepts at the implementation level. It's great to see our victories in the state!
- Bring Complete Street and Vision Zero are the parts of economic development for our infrastructures. May Concept Development review through Complete Street Check list and Crash diagrams.
- Broader visibility of ongoing initiatives
- Case studies by municipalities who have accomplished a lot - how they did it, what is important and what to prioritize
- Community organizing
- complete street
- complete street policy
- Converting private land to public
- County or region-specific talks or small group discussions
- Developing funding for large projects while still supporting local connections.

Feedback Comments

Which topics would you like to see covered at future NJ Bike Walk Summits?

- Discussions on the development of new mobility devices, including e-bikes
- Discussion of trail, bikeway and greenway linkages with maps and mark-ups.
- DIY audits for advocates of infrastructure gaps, poor pavement, poor maintenance...
- E-mobility
- More on trails
- Trails and trail networks
- Equity in practice.
- E-scooters, e-bikes and more about protected lanes
- First mile/last mile bike/ped connections to transit for mode shift away from single occupant vehicles
- For advocates - How to get ideas to implementation.
- For Advocates: How to get a city to take action - how to get from ideas to implementation.
- Grant Funding Opportunities
- Greater focus on pandemic recovery for strategies to specifically target all vulnerable road users, not just pedestrians and bicyclists, but also disabled person that utilize a mobility device, children, skateboards, scooters, emergency vehicles, etc. Also greater focus on pandemic recovery for strategies to specifically target the "hard to house" population. As NJ approaches the July 15 deadline on its eviction moratorium and courts begin to take cases again, this is going to be a very pressing issue that will flow onto our streets. Greater focus on which state, county, municipal legislations and policies cause greater delay in pandemic recovery strategies, to specifically target those aspects of laws like RSIS and the MLUL.

Feedback Comments

Which topics would you like to see covered at future NJ Bike Walk Summits?

- Help advocated target funding support efforts so they can better track State and National legislation - prep for national Bike Summit support
- How are municipalities/counties including safety in all their projects?
- How can people with backgrounds in research and policy find good jobs in this field?
- How can young people push forth advocacy- I have a girl scout troop that advocated for more sidewalks in our rural community. Could you recommend persons who would be interested in talking to them?
- How do all the initiatives intertwine? How can advocates navigate the different efforts?
- how my town got stuff done - local case studies
- How to advocate for more money
- How to engage constructively with that small but very vocal opposition
- How to get cities and politicians to support complete streets
- How to find funding to make small quick changes - some of the available grants take too long to see change that is needed
- How to get involved in research
- How to get smaller projects accepted by community and off the ground.
- how to pass policy within a town
- How to promote public interest in general not just usage
- I really liked the session on trails - especially economic, health impacts of trails
- I would like to see a compiled list of Safety and Complete Streets projects within NJ, as a means to motivate municipalities to effectively compete for public funds. Does Safe Routes maintain or would consider maintaining such a list?

Feedback Comments

Which topics would you like to see covered at future NJ Bike Walk Summits?

- I'd like to see some "complete streets" discussions that include disability/limited mobility, street/sidewalk/cycletrack/etc. maintenance (who's responsible? how to enforce?), user velocity conflicts (e.g. road cyclist averaging 14 mph versus child or casual cyclist averaging 5 mph), "between" vehicles (e-bikes, mobility scooters, mopeds), etc.
- If like to see details of an equitable project and its outcome.
- I'm glad this session covered grant applications. I'd like to see some case studies of the grant application process and successfully funded/completed projects.
- In addition to exhibits, best practice presentation.
- Infrastructure deployment
- Infrastructure Improvements in EJ communities - while it is good to know about the Bicycle improvements in areas where biking is optional, or a choice... there are other communities where these facilities are needed because the people have no other option/choice but to bike. How can we work with funding projects in EJ communities, while waiting for these facilities to be installed in some of the affluent neighborhoods.
- Interconnections
- K-12 transportation planning curriculum ideas. How to involve kids in the planning process. Interactive workshops for soliciting community input (hands-on demo session).
- Legality of NJDOT prohibiting Slow/Open streets
- Lessons Learned on project planning, design, construction
- Linking walking and biking trails; community trails in non-urban areas
- Local trail funding options and best practices in property acquisition
- Low income residents' transportation needs
- Focus on transportation around NJ and not just to NYC

Feedback Comments

Which topics would you like to see covered at future NJ Bike Walk Summits?

- Good Lord, reduce public transit rates. My younger son was blocked from participating in many activities in Trenton as a youth historical re-enactor because the round trip from Fair Lawn to Trenton cost almost \$30.
- College students need expanded and faster options for trips to/from campus involving work and/or home. "
- Many workshops on "how to make your streets more people friendly" focus almost exclusively on the road design and engineering. But the really hard part is to convince residents and other stakeholders that doing this is a good idea. For instance, too many bike lanes get scotched because people are unwilling to give up the on-street parking. I think many of us would benefit from a how-to session on communications, campaigns, and general persuasion.
- Markings and signs for bike lanes and trails
- Microbility, shared scooters
- Micromobility and after-pandemic issues
- More about e-scooters and e-bikes. More about how to get state legislation passed. How to find data like crash fatalities and health data
- More data like Bob Noland's!
- Data about value creation.
- Basically, a set of facts with which to motivate reluctant business owners and town leadership."
- More discussion on the use of trails - clearly not just for recreation . With examples.
- More discussions of working with rail companies for rails to trails (for sale of land) and rails with trails.

Feedback Comments

Which topics would you like to see covered at future NJ Bike Walk Summits?

- More information on how to make a difference in towns that have no programs at the moment.
- More interactive sessions
- More links to the local/grassroots groups to reach out to in our local towns and trails
- More local success stories to inspire others throughout the State
- More on Ciclovias
- More on Implementation, strategies and lessons-learned from Complete Streets projects within NJ.
- More real life case studies showing Vision Zero progress.
- More sessions on how regular people can advocate for trails as real transportation connections both locally and regionally
- Needs of low-income families
- Newish to this area, so may be done in recent past. Perhaps coverage of how well state, county/regional, local plans and efforts are aligning (or not)? Trend analysis of local application, success, use, and evaluation of implementation, for the various funding programs over a significant time. Trends in engagement, including cost, support sources, and effort maintenance data.
- No one mentions police and enforcement. We are reducing speed limits. We just need the police to enforce. Police need to be involved in the awareness and play a key role.
- Opportunity to meet other advocates
- Other real-world examples of excellent infrastructure improvements from throughout NJ
- Other vulnerable users, example - motorcyclists

Feedback Comments

Which topics would you like to see covered at future NJ Bike Walk Summits?

- Outcomes of vision zero initiatives
- permitting bike and pedestrian improvement through NJDEP. The new Stormwater Management Rules greatly impact any new trails being planned and constructed.
- Planning and designing idea, so that every Bike Ped user will speak in the town ship open house (Plan development) meeting for their Bike and Ped accommodations during the concept development.
- Lets flow the real ideas, Bike /Ped accommodation for our economic development. Going to work using Bike/Ped. When some one having financial difficulty to manage car lone, car insurance, car parking, car maintenance, towing car, car rental, cost to the public transit etc. bike /Ped accommodation is their only choice.
- Planning Equity, Complete streets in underserved communities, Green Streets.
- Progress with the four-foot passing rule, Ways to persuade the State to focus on, pass and fund projects to benefit bicycling safety
- Public support & awareness raising
- Rail trails
- Recent changes to the MUTCD for crosswalk striping standards. Innovative products for increasing pedestrian and bike safety.
- Recruiting minorities for trails and bikeway projects and parks and greenway related employment
- Regional bikeway safety
- Routes and Paths to connect towns and cities in NJ; Ways to ride safely
- Rules and regulations for establishing bike paths (stand alone or shared road) MITCD, FHWA, etc. And ADA and trails. Whats required and when.

Feedback Comments

Which topics would you like to see covered at future NJ Bike Walk Summits?

- Safe Routes Academy, progress report on the SHSP, Vision Zero, Trails development, Advocacy in Action
- Showing the tradeoffs and costs other forms of transportation.
- Speed reduction and automated enforcement success stories
- Speed reduction/automated enforcement success stories
- Status update of SHSP actions
- Success stories
- Technical aspects of obtaining grants
- There was a mention of mobility changes. What is the near or far future going to bring us?
- Caregivers from childhood to adult
- People with disabilities
- Elderly & children
- Powered vehicles
- This session covered really rich topics on bike/walk as transportation mode, GHG impacts, equity in access but also in terms of safety and inclusion. More of these.
- Trail maintenance and trail amenities
- Trail Network progress - northeast NJ
- Trails & Equity would be a great topic for a workshop that showed how to use the data tools, identifying trail users who may not be using facilities because they don't feel welcome, and ways to be more inclusive with public engagement

Feedback Comments

Which topics would you like to see covered at future NJ Bike Walk Summits?

- Trails!
- Trails, planning, funding
- Trails, SRTS, Vision Zero, working with local, County and State offices to advance safe infrastructure
- Trails, transit, bike lanes, and sidewalks as one collective sustainable transportation network
- Training, planning & design guidance, transit access, and greenways/trails.
- Updates on the projects discussed today - the good, the bad, and the
- Urban NJ efforts for safer transportation.
- Using research to inform trail design
- Volunteer opportunities
- VZ, SRTS, Trails, Equity, Advocacy
- What about a round table for experienced cyclists to voice their concerns and solutions they would like to see. To many people in the bike planning world just think that experienced cyclists don't want or need any facilitation which is very far from the truth.
- Women and Bicycling
- Working with local populations
- “Yes, you can get there from here without a car - here's how”
- Trail network mapping session

Thank You!



NEW JERSEY Safe Routes

