



Centennial Park Cycling Connections

Public Consultation Report
May 2024

Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| Consultation Summary | 2 |
| Project Overview | 3 |
| Overview of Communications and Consultation Activities | 3 |
| Communication Activities..... | 3 |
| Consultation Activities | 3 |
| What We Heard | 3 |
| Survey | 4 |
| Drop-in Event | 7 |
| Interest Group Feedback..... | 7 |
| Additional Feedback..... | 8 |
| Appendices | 9 |

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Consultation Summary

Public and interest group consultation for the Centennial Park Cycling Connections project took place from March 25 to April 30, 2024. Consultation activities included a public drop-in event, a one-on-one meeting with the principal of Mill Valley Junior Public School, a survey, and comment tracking. Over 40 people attended the in-person drop-in event and 256 survey responses were received to the survey, along with 18 people providing comments by mail, phone and email.

Notification to inform the public and interest groups about the project and opportunities to participate included a project webpage, targeted emails to local interest groups, 3,142 flyers distributed by Canada Post throughout the project area and social media posts through X, formerly Twitter.

Overall, there were mixed levels support for the project. The main feedback from those supportive of the project described general pedestrian and cyclist safety issues due to excessive speeding within the project area, which could be dealt with by providing more separated infrastructure. Those unsupportive of the project expressed concerns about potential traffic build-up and increased travel time. The major challenge highlighted was the loading operations at the Mill Valley Junior Public School and daycare.

Feedback received also showed mixed levels of support for the proposal to make improvements to the intersection of Burnhamthorpe Road and Mill Road. Supporters of this proposal cite that it would make it feel safer for pedestrians to cross throughout the intersections. Feedback supporting the proposed improvements highlighted that the protected intersection elements would also make it safer for cyclists in the area. Those who disagree with the proposal cited that implementing a no-right-on-red could cause traffic backups on either side of Mill Road and could impact travel throughout the intersection. In addition to that, residents expressed that construction at 340 Mill Road has already started to affect travel along the corridor. It is perceived that these disruptions could be further exacerbated by the addition of cycling facilities.

The feedback gathered through this consultation along with technical analysis will inform staff recommendations to City Council. Ahead of planned installation, the project team will continue to engage local interests to better understand issues that may impact the project, and these discussions along with technical analysis will inform any change to the project.

More information about the project can be found at toronto.ca/centennialcyclingconnections.

Project Overview

The City of Toronto is proposing a new bikeway connection to Centennial Park from Mississauga's Burnhamthorpe Trail at the border of Toronto along Burnhamthorpe Road and continuing on Mill Road. The proposed project includes an extension of the existing multi-use trail, new on-street cycle tracks and intersection improvements. This project would provide a safer connection to the new multi-use trails as part of the Centennial Park Master Plan on Centennial Park Boulevard and Rathburn Road (anticipated for completion in 2024).

Overview of Communications and Consultation Activities

Communication Activities

A variety of methods were used to notify people of the project and opportunities to participate:

- Project web page toronto.ca/centennialcyclingconnections
- Notice delivered through Canada Post (3,162 addresses in the project area)
- Email to interest groups including residents' associations, community groups, organizations, institutions and elected officials (15 contacts)
- Social media posts @TO_Cycling_Ped

Consultation Activities

Public and interest group comments on the project were received through the following consultation and engagement activities:

| Activity | Date | Participation |
|---|---------------------------|--|
| Public Drop-in Event | April 9, 2024 | 39 attendees |
| Online Survey | March 27 – April 30, 2024 | 256 responses |
| Meeting with Mill Valley Junior Public School | April 26, 2024 | 1 attendee |
| Email/Phone | March 25 – April 26, 2024 | 18 comments received from 15 individuals |



Attendees at the April 9, 2024 public drop-in event speak with City staff

What We Heard

- The intersection of Mill Road and Burnhamthorpe Road feels unsafe for many pedestrians and residents who provided feedback are happy to see proposed changes that could make it safer for vulnerable road users to cross. The intersection is heavily

used by many children attending schools in the area and there is potential for conflict between people driving and the children who frequent this intersection.

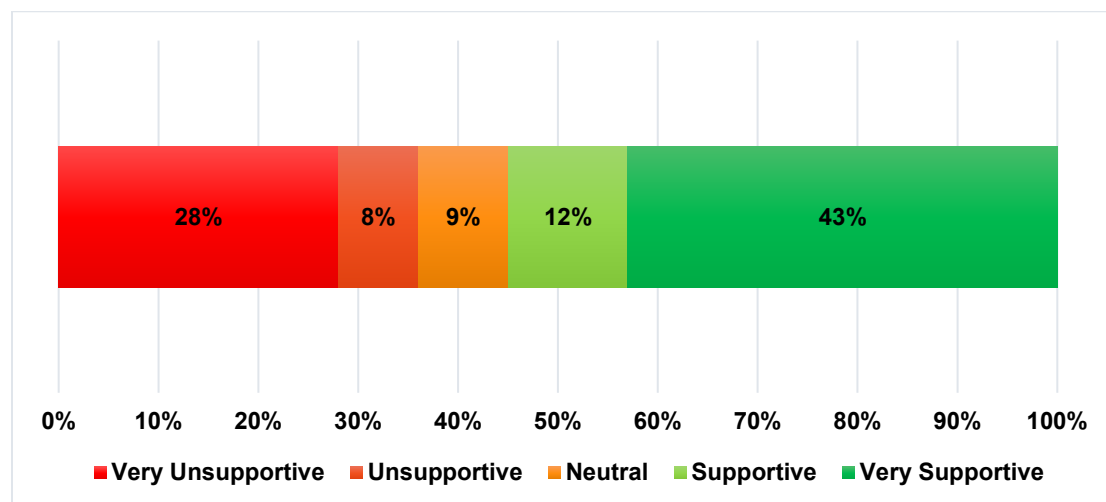
- There is currently a lot of activity on Mill Road, including a condominium development at the intersection of Burnhamthorpe Road and Mill Road, as well as prohibited stopping for drop-off and pick-up activity in the vicinity of the Mill Road Junior Public School and Mill Valley Child Care Centre. It is felt that the installation of cycle tracks on Mill Road would significantly impact drop-off/pick-up and loading activity at the school and contribute to heavier traffic conditions on Mill Road.
- There is general sentiment that some of the proposed safety measures at the intersection of Burnhamthorpe Road and Mill Road would cause traffic back-ups and further delays for people driving. The most referenced proposed improvement was implementing a no-right-on red restriction for people driving.
- While many local-area residents argue that there are not enough cyclists in the area to warrant the changes, many supporters of the proposal expressed enthusiasm for the option to safely connect to the park and for the further expansion of the network. Many added suggestions to look at other opportunities to connect to nearby trails of Burnhamthorpe Road, including the Elmcrest Creek Trail.

Survey

The survey was available online and in print format and included background information on the project. The questions included multi-choice or multi-select responses, in addition to open ended comment boxes and optional demographic questions. Participation in the survey was anonymous. See Appendix for survey participant profile.

Responses received to each question are presented in this section.

Question: Are you supportive of the changes to Burnhamthorpe Road?



There were 240 responses to this question, with 55% very supportive or supportive of the proposed changes; 9% neutral and 36% unsupportive or very unsupportive.

The most common reasons noted for support included:

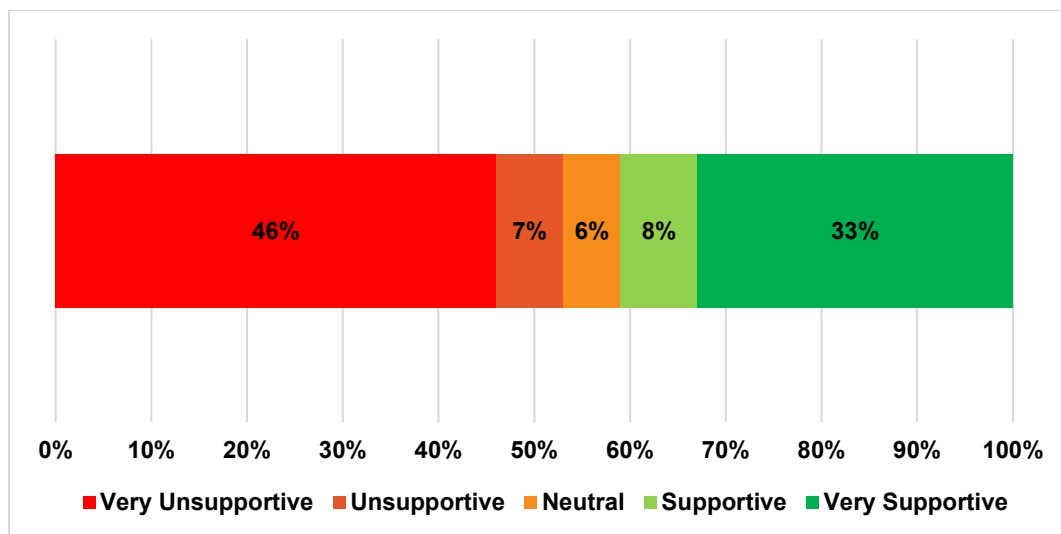
- There is no impact to the roadway
- The trail will create separation for cyclists and pedestrians from car traffic

- The trail gives another option to connect to Mississauga without taking up space on the sidewalk
- It will improve the cycling experience in the area

The most common reasons noted for not supporting the proposed changes included:

- It is a waste of money and unnecessary
- There is already so much construction in this area, including the new development at the corner of Mill Road and Burnhamthorpe Road
- Bike lanes are not needed in an area where there is seldom cyclists
- Bike lanes that have been installed in other areas of Etobicoke (e.g. Bloor Street) have resulted in longer travel times for people driving
- There is already a bike trail that heads into the park from the creek area
- The sidewalk on the bridge is narrow and pedestrians should not share it with cyclists

Question: Are you supportive of the proposed changes to Mill Road?



There were 232 responses to this question. 53% of respondents replied, “very unsupportive or unsupportive” while 41% replied “Very supportive or supportive” and 6% replied “neutral”.

Question: Do you have any comments on the proposed changes to the intersection of Burnhamthorpe Road and Mill Road?

There were 132 responses to this question.

A summary of the most common responses include:

- Implementing a no-right-on-red restriction will cause significant traffic delays on Burnhamthorpe Road and Mill Road, roads already experiencing congestion during rush hour
- This is an unnecessary proposal that will only cause confusion for people driving
- The proposal is a good one that could make traveling in this area safer for everyone
- This is a heavily used intersection by pedestrians and a no-right-on-red restriction should be implemented in all directions to make it safer for pedestrians to cross
- Implementing these changes combined with the construction of the new development at the northwest corner of Mill Road will add to delays and congestion
- Narrowing Mill Road will slow down motor vehicle traffic and cause back-ups
- There are not enough cyclists in this area to justify these changes and it is a waste of resources

- Supportive of intersection improvements that encourage safer access for everyone using the road
- Install a red-light camera/enforcement to ensure compliance with the no-right-on red restriction

Question: Please share any additional comments, concerns, observations, or suggestions related to the Centennial Park Cycling Connections Project.

There were 112 responses to this question.

A summary of the most common responses include:

- Community is opposed to the design and proposal on Mill Road. Staff should consider uni-directional bike lanes or bike lanes in the boulevard
- The proposal is going to make the traffic situation on Mill Road worse
- More cycling connections in the area are needed, especially throughout Centennial Park Boulevard
- The community will benefit from the safety improvements proposed at the intersection; it is currently unsafe for pedestrians
- Bike lanes are not needed in this area of the community as no one currently cycles here
- The conditions in Toronto and this community make it unideal for cycling and this project will only benefit a few people and not the wider community

Drop-in Event

At the April 9, 2024 public drop-in event, attendees were able to view information panels about the project and speak with members of the project team. Participant comments are summarized below:

| Topic | Comment Summary |
|--|--|
| Alternate proposals for consideration | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Put cycle track in the boulevard on Mill Road and do not narrow travel lanes.- Consider Elmcrest Road as an alternate north/south bikeway as it connects to Centennial Park.- Add a route at the bridge west over Etobicoke Creek at Rathburn Road to encourage more cyclist commuting. |
| Impact to drop-off/pick-up | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Installing the cycle track on the east side of the street would take away roadway space and make it difficult for children to be dropped off in front of Mill Valley Junior Public School.- There are 3 school bus stops on the east side of Mill Road that pick kids up to attend Toronto Catholic School Board schools in the area. Installing protected facilities would impact bus pick-ups- Mill Valley Junior Public School now offers a French Immersion program, so even more children from outside the immediate community rely on being driven to school, so additional drop-off/pick-up spaces are needed |
| Parking Considerations | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- There is illegal parking and loading along Mill Road, including by construction workers and parents, indicating a need for more parking spaces- Parents need somewhere to park to take their kids into daycare- Consider adding parking by the school |
| Safety Concerns between people cycling and children | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Bike lanes would not be safe for kids to use because there is no separation between these lanes and side streets. Cars traveling from side streets onto Mill Road could collide with children using lanes |

Interest Group Feedback

The comments received through meetings with interest groups are summarized below:

| Topic | Comment Summary |
|---|--|
| Impact of installation on drop-offs/pick-ups at Mill Valley Junior Public School | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Parking/dropping kids off on Mill Road has been an issue for sometime and parents do not obey the 'no stopping/loading' bylaw- The school will have to reassess at its drop-off and pick up arrangements in the parking area and the loop, given the proposed changes |
| Future communications | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Please ensure that in the future, condo residents are given ample notice and updates |
| Support for changes | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Looking forward to changes to the Mill Road and Burnhamthorpe Road intersection as it is currently very dangerous and connects kids as young as grade 6 to get to local schools |

Additional Feedback

The comments received through phone and email are summarized by theme below:

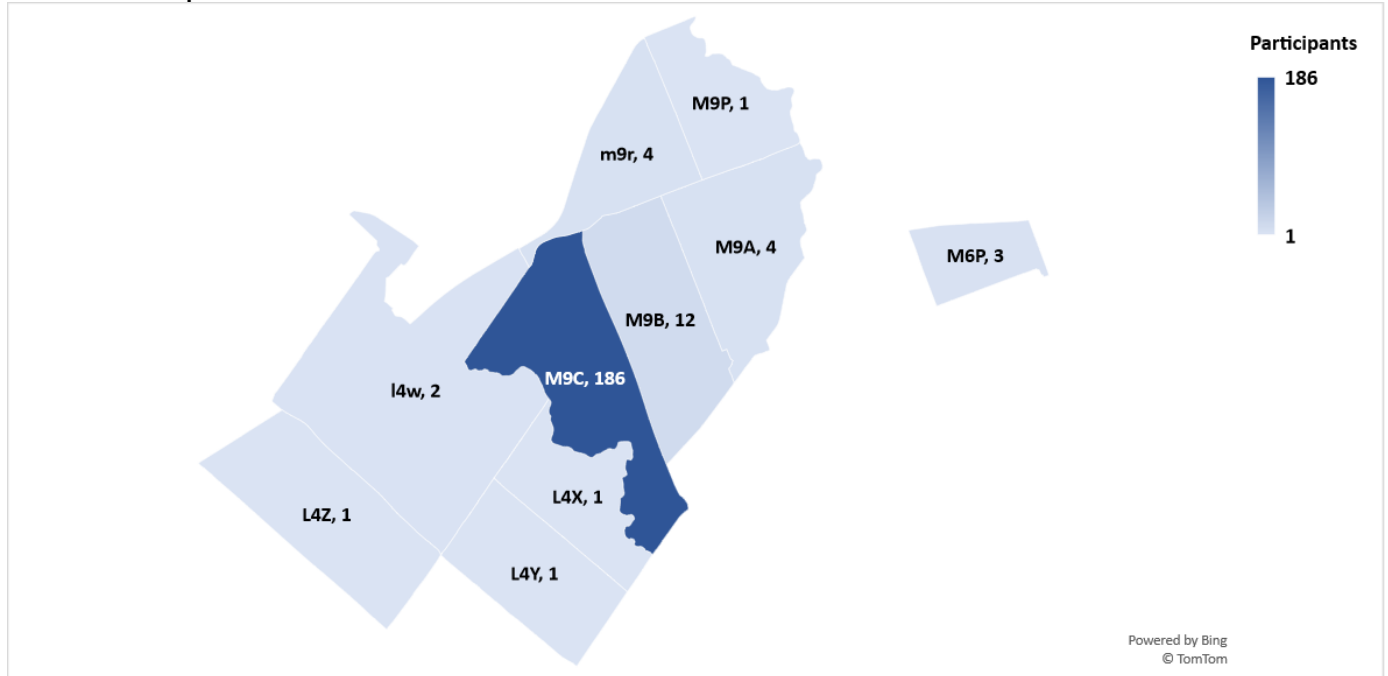
| Theme | Comments |
|--|---|
| Additional improvements to consider | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Consider extending the Burnhamthorpe multi-use trail to the Elmcrest Creek bike path and provide a connection to the park there. The boulevard is wide and can accommodate this- Extend island bump-outs at the intersection to protect vulnerable road users crossing |
| Impact of installing bike lanes | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Narrowing the road will have implications on snow clearing- Consider how the physical barriers of the bi-directional cycle track will affect the school bus pick ups along Mill Road- The project will not do anything to benefit the area in the foreseeable future- The development at 340 Mill Road is already adding to traffic and bike lanes will cause further disruption |
| Support for the project | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Installing bike lanes on Mill Road will be a good change, as too many people are illegally stopping and loading in the northbound lane by the Mill Valley Daycare and it is dangerous and unnecessary- Glad to see the proposed cycling connections as it is an obvious and high value connection- Residents look forward to the proposed redesigning of Mill Road- The no-right-on-red restriction is welcome as cars speed up southbound on Mill Road to turn west on Burnhamthorpe Road and don't consider pedestrians crossing |
| Opposition to the project | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Petition (58 signatures) citing objection to the proposed bikeway on Mill Road; bikeway should be constructed in the boulevard- Strongly against the proposal to narrow the Mill Road as it will impact urban living- There is already traffic congestion along Mill Road and Burnhamthorpe Road and this will make things worse- Hydro and tree maintenance crews need to stop on Mill Road to work on the street; narrowing the road will make it harder to navigate- The Burnhamthorpe Bridge is too narrow for cyclists and pedestrians to share and this is encouraging more cyclists to use it. It will be unsafe for seniors- There is already an existing path |

Appendices

Appendix A: Survey Participant Profile

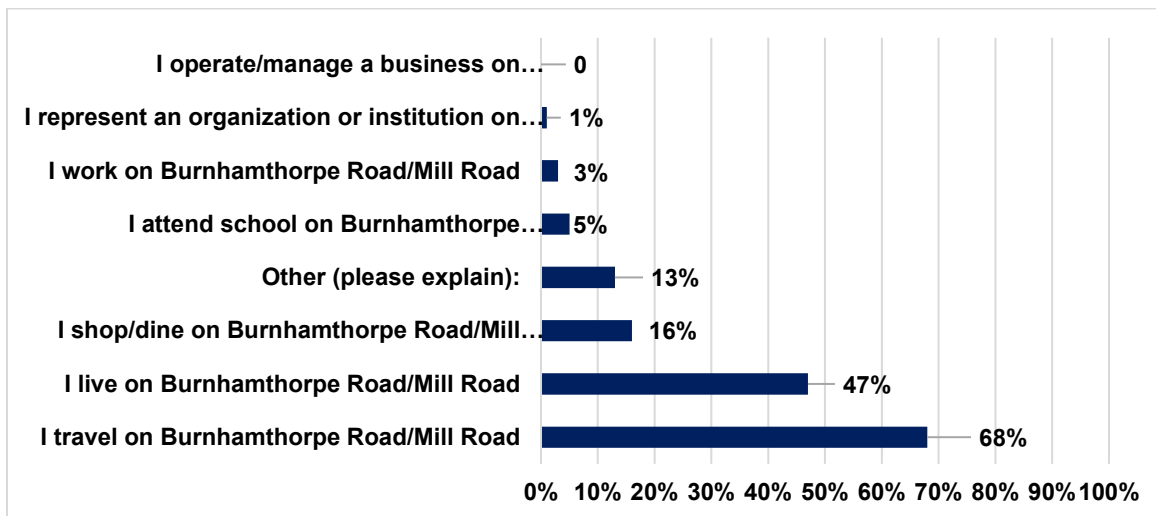
A total of 256 survey respondents provided optional demographic information described below.

Postal Code | n=256



More than three-quarters of all survey respondents live in or near the study area (M9C being the main area and M9B being the adjoining area), with other respondents scattered across the city. Of note, a few respondents live in neighbouring Mississauga.

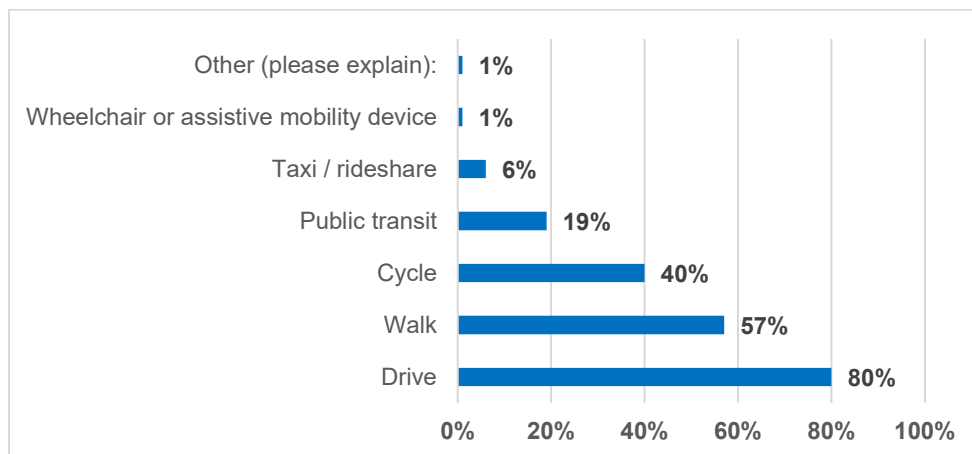
Relationship to the Project Area | n=256



A large proportion of survey respondents travel on Burnhamthorpe Road and Mill Road or live on Burnhamthorpe Road and Mill Road. Other relationships with the project area that were identified include residents that live off a street that connects to Mill Road, including Stoneham

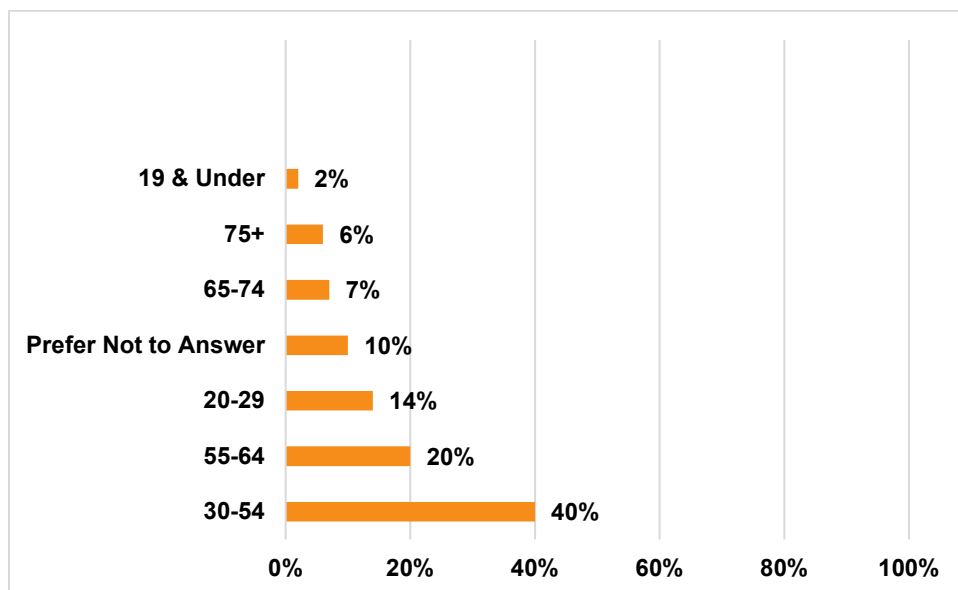
Road and Rathburn Road, among others. Respondents were allowed to provide multiple responses to this question.

Typical Ways of Travelling on/around the Project Area | n=256



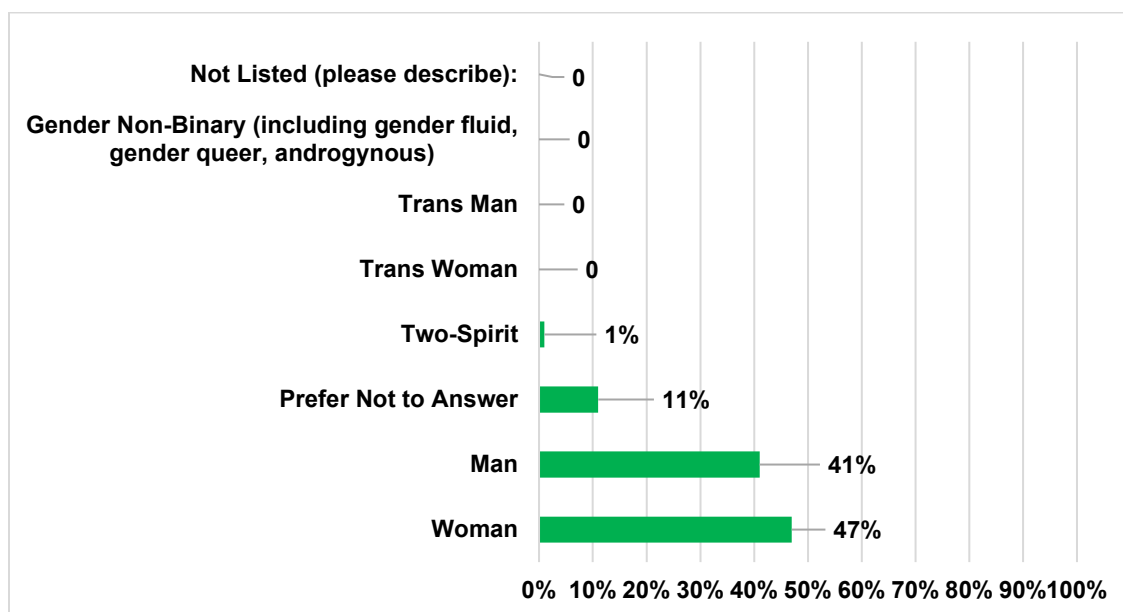
Most survey respondents drive in or near the project area, followed by just over half of respondents who walk, and under a half who cycle. Respondents were allowed to provide multiple responses to this question.

Age | n=226



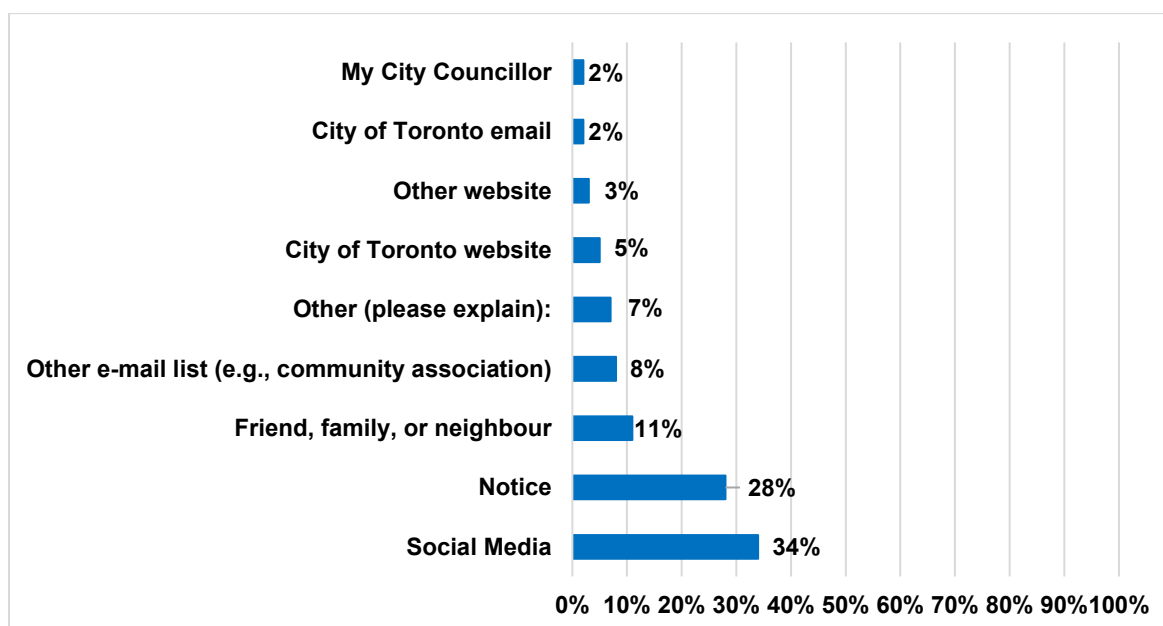
Most survey respondents are between ages 30-54 and 55-64. The other responses provided indicate that overall, most respondents are in the working age group.

Gender | n=226



Slightly less than half of survey respondents identified as 'woman', followed by 'man' and a few participants who chose not to answer.

Point of engagement | n= 226



Most survey respondents heard about this consultation through social media, followed by the flyer delivered to the project area. Others heard through family, friends or neighbours. Others noted that they did not get the notice and were informed by condo management.



Public Consultation

March 20, 2024

Centennial Park Cycling Connections



Artist rendering of Mill Road looking south toward Laver Road




The City of Toronto is inviting residents to learn more and provide feedback on proposed bikeway connections to Centennial Park from Mississauga's Burnhamthorpe Trail at the border of Toronto along Burnhamthorpe Road and continuing on Mill Road. The proposed project includes an extension of the existing multi-use trail, new on-street cycle tracks and intersection improvements. This project would provide a safer connection to the new multi-use trails as part of the Centennial Park Master Plan on Centennial Park Boulevard and Rathburn Road (anticipated for completion in 2024).

Project Area

The proposed bikeway is divided in to two segments, with different changes proposed on each segment:

- Burnhamthorpe Road from the Mississauga Border to Mill Road
- Mill Road from Burnhamthorpe Road to Rathburn Road



| Learn More | Attend the Event | Provide Feedback |
|---|--|--|
|  <p>View project information on the website, including the event presentation</p> <p>toronto.ca/centennialcyclingconnections</p> |  <p>View information panels, ask questions and discuss with the project team.</p> <p>Tuesday, April 9, 2024 Drop in 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Silverthorn Collegiate Institute Gymnasium 291 Mill Road, Etobicoke, ON M9C 1Y5</p> |  <p>Complete an online survey or request a printed copy. Submit comments by email, mail or phone.</p> <p>Comment deadline: Tuesday, April 30, 2024.</p> |

*This location is wheelchair/mobility device accessible. If you have a specific accessibility need or require other accommodation, please contact us.

toronto.ca/centennialcyclingconnections

Page 1 of 2

A screenshot of the public notice that was mailed to the community and shared with community interest groups.