

# Lucas County

## Making Active Transportation a Priority in Lucas County

Feedback from community residents define active transportation focus.

### Challenge

According to the 2019/2020 Lucas County Community Health Assessment, nearly 72% of Lucas County adults were overweight (34%) or obese (38%). 25% of adults and 18% of youth did not participate in any physical activity in the past week. Lucas County adults also report using the following modes of transportation on a regular basis, walking (11%), public transportation (9%) and biking (3%). These same individuals reported needing more accessible walking paths, bike trails, designated safe routes, and improvements to existing infrastructure.

### Approach

By providing safe, accessible active transportation facilities, more people will be able to incorporate physical activity into their daily lives resulting in less driving as well as improving overall health outcomes. Extensive community outreach was conducted during the months of May-September 2021 throughout Lucas County. Important partnerships were developed with both stakeholders and community organizations to assist with the engagement process. Different methods employed by the steering committee included social media posts, pop-up events/tabling, printed ads, online surveys, and paper surveys at different locations around the county. The purpose of the community engagement was two-fold: introduce the concept of active transportation to residents as well as understand the needs and wants of the people who live, work, and visit the county, in hopes of gaining community support for the adoption and implementation of the final Active Transportation Plan.

### Results

Over 650 Lucas County residents responded to the online and in-person surveys. Thirty-nine percent (39%) of survey respondents reported walking most days for transportation, while 21% of respondents reported bicycling most days to get to their destination. Respondents stated that better maintained or new sidewalks would improve walking in and around Lucas County. Continuous bicycle facilities, designated bike lanes, and protected bike lanes are most needed to improve bicycling in the county. The online map received close to 300 comments relating to popular destinations and good routes for walking and bicycling along with opportunities for improvements. Information gathered during engagement efforts was used to develop a draft bicycle network, pedestrian safety toolkit, and recommendations for programs and policies to support active transportation.



### At A Glance

Lucas County residents report walking and biking for transportation on a regular basis. Providing access to safe and accessible infrastructure will allow Lucas County residents the opportunity to incorporate physical activity into their daily lives and positively impact how an individual arrives to their destination. Lucas County Creating Healthy Communities collaborated with Toole Design Group and the Active Transportation steering committee to conduct community outreach throughout Lucas County to understand the transportation needs of the residents. The results from the extensive outreach effort was used to develop a draft county wide active transportation plan.



### Contact

**Amy Abodeely MEd, RD, LD**  
Toledo-Lucas County Health Department

[abodeela@co.lucas.oh.us](mailto:abodeela@co.lucas.oh.us)  
<https://lucascountyhealth.com/>