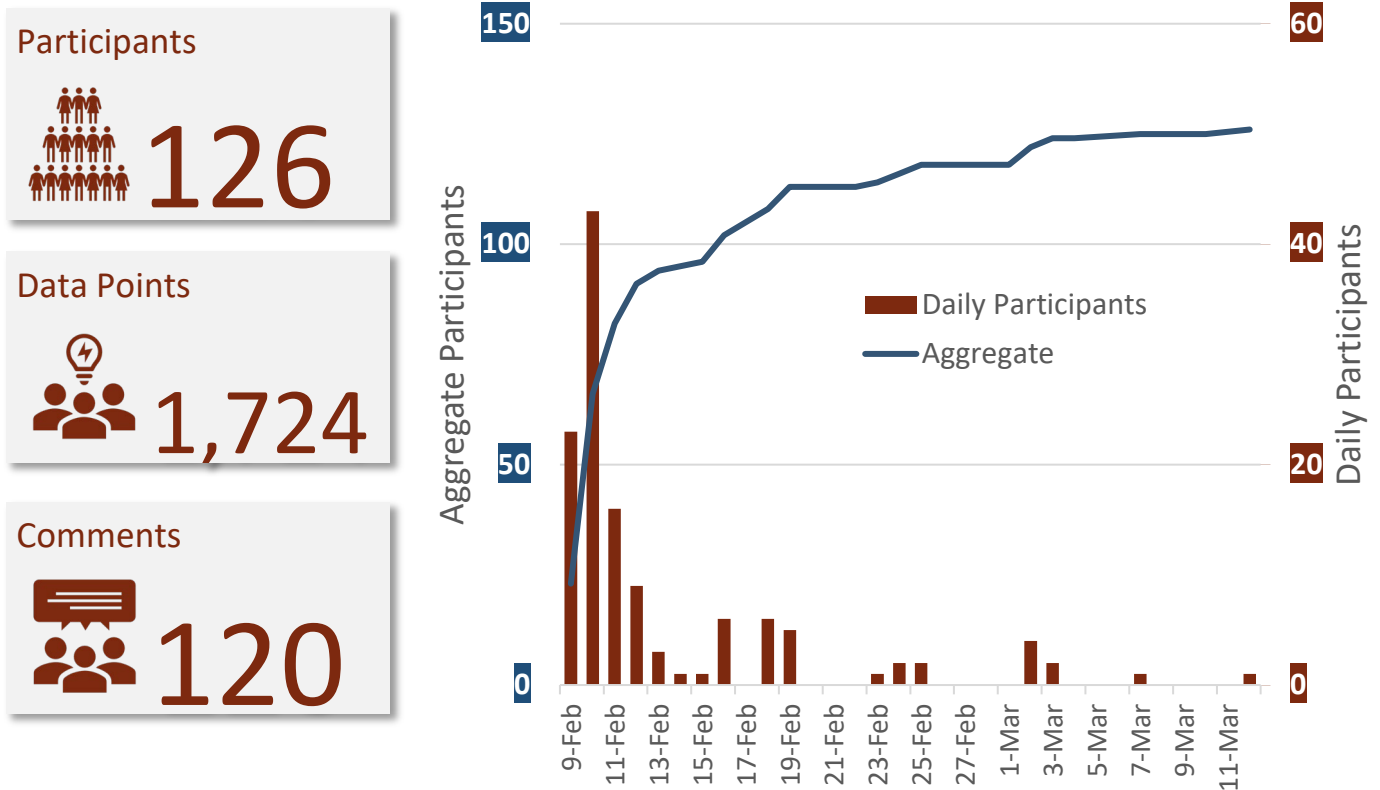


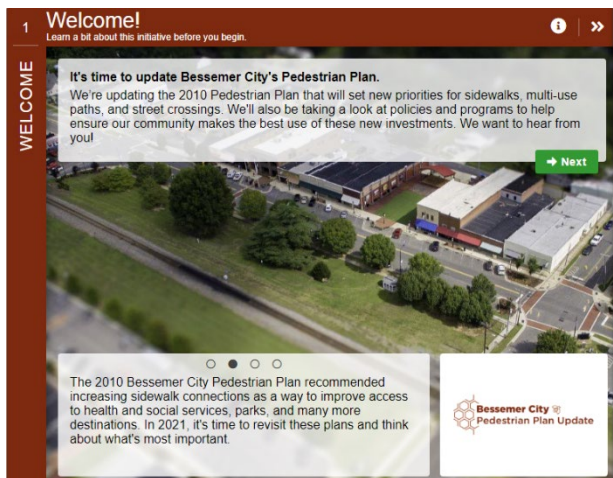
## Public Survey Summary

The Bessemer City Pedestrian Plan Update public survey was active from February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 through March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, via the survey platform MetroQuest. The interactive questionnaire solicited feedback regarding which mobility themes were most important to residents and what obstacles they face to walking. Participants also were given an opportunity to map pedestrian issues and ideas at specific locations. The chart below shows daily and aggregate participation over the 32-day period that the survey was open. A total of 126 people participated in the survey. The greatest participation occurred during the first week that the survey was open. The day with the greatest participation was February 10<sup>th</sup>, the second day that the survey was open, with 43 participants.



### Welcome

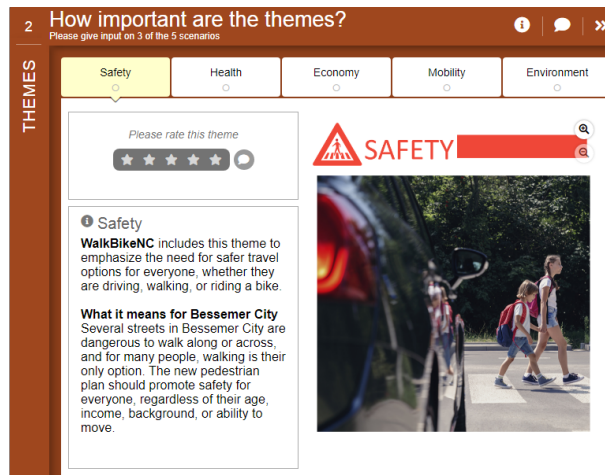
The first screen of the survey briefly explained the goals of the Plan Update: to set new priorities for sidewalks, multi-use paths, and street crossings, and to analyze policies and programs to help ensure the community makes the best use of these new investments. No input was collected on this screen.



## Themes

The next screen asked respondents to rate the importance of the five pillars, or themes, outlined in the WalkBikeNC statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Respondents also had the opportunity to comment on their ratings. The themes included Safety, Health, Economy, Mobility, and Environment.

The graph below displays the results of the theme rating question. The bar graph shows, for each theme, the percentage of respondents who chose each number of stars. The average rating is also shown.



**How important are the themes?**

Please give input on 3 of the 5 scenarios

**THEMES**

Safety Health Economy Mobility Environment

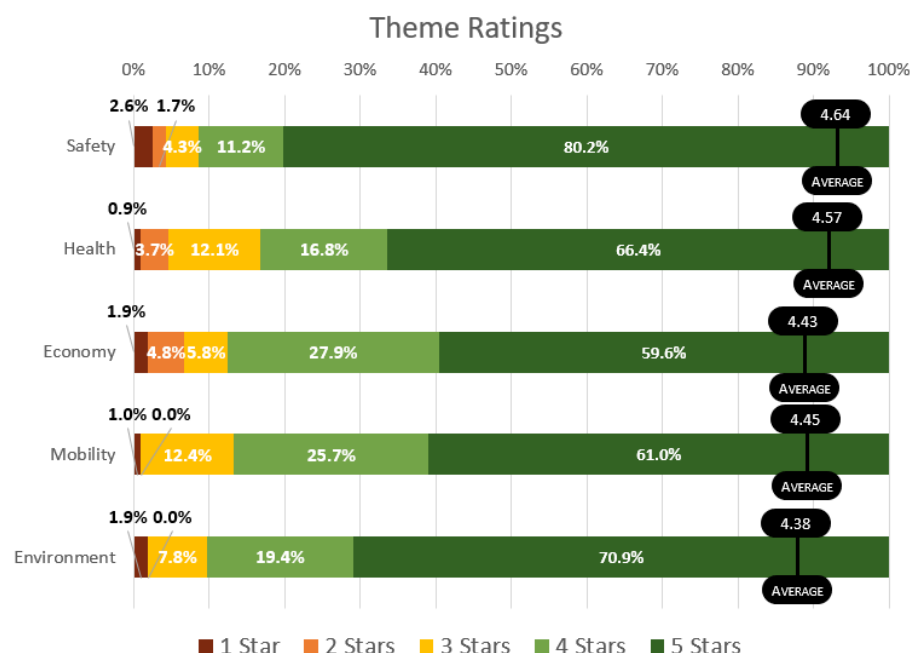
Please rate this theme

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**Safety**

**WalkBikeNC** includes this theme to emphasize the need for safer travel options for everyone, whether they are driving, walking, or riding a bike.

**What it means for Bessemer City**  
Several streets in Bessemer City are dangerous to walk along or across, and for many people, walking is their only option. The new pedestrian plan should promote safety for everyone, regardless of their age, income, background, or ability to move.



According to these results, all themes received at least 50% five-star ratings. The theme that received both the highest average rating (4.64 stars) and the greatest percent of five-star ratings (80.2%) was Safety. The lowest overall rated theme was Environment, though still 70.9% of respondents gave it five stars. All five themes were of importance to most participants.

This screen also provided an opportunity to comment on a particular theme or in general. Comments included:

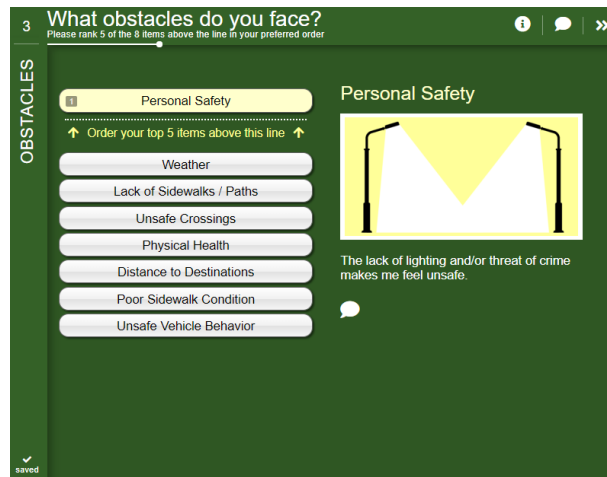
- **Mobility:** "Please make it accessible for handicap with wheelchair ramps to get on the sidewalks and benches every half mile or closer together."
- **Environment:** "We will also need a plan to keep the parks/playgrounds/walking tracks/natural areas in good repair and safe."
- **Safety:** "We definitely need to improve sidewalks in Bessemer City! And make more of them!"

## Obstacles

This screen asked participants to choose and rank the top five biggest obstacles they face when trying to walk in Bessemer City. Participants were also given the opportunity to comment on their choices.

The choices included Distance to Destinations; Unsafe Crossings; Unsafe Vehicle Behavior; Physical Health; Personal Safety; Weather; Poor Sidewalk Conditions; and Lack of Sidewalks/Paths.

The graph below shows the results of the obstacle ranking question by the average ranking given and the frequency each obstacle was ranked in a participant's top five.



3 What obstacles do you face? Please rank 5 of the 8 items above the line in your preferred order

OBSTACLES

Personal Safety

Order your top 5 items above this line

Weather

Lack of Sidewalks / Paths

Unsafe Crossings

Physical Health

Distance to Destinations

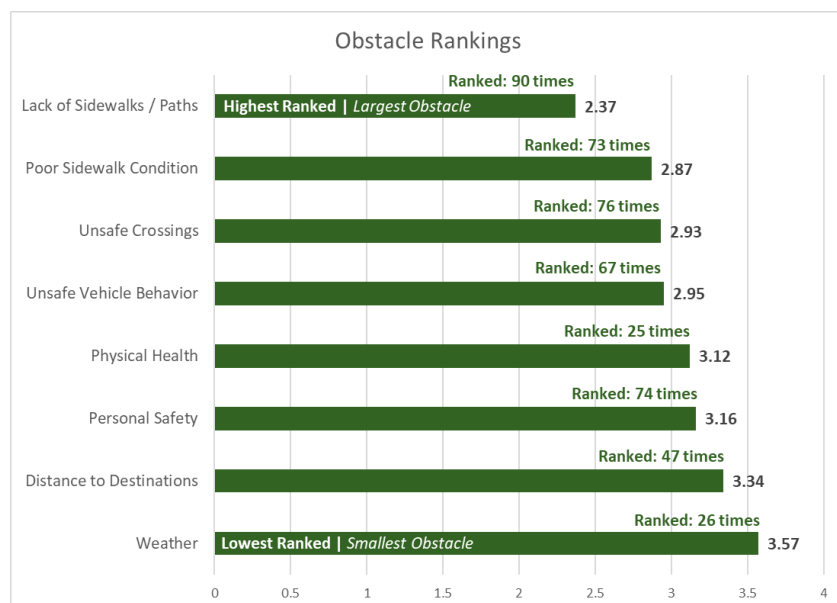
Poor Sidewalk Condition

Unsafe Vehicle Behavior

Personal Safety

The lack of lighting and/or threat of crime makes me feel unsafe.

saved



The obstacle that received the highest average ranking were Lack of Sidewalks/Paths, with an average ranking of 2.37. This obstacle was also the most frequently ranked, with 90 participants listing it in their top five obstacles. Other high-scoring obstacles included Poor Sidewalk Condition, Unsafe Crossings, and Unsafe Vehicle Behavior. The obstacle that received the lowest average ranking was weather. Physical health received the lowest number of rankings (25).

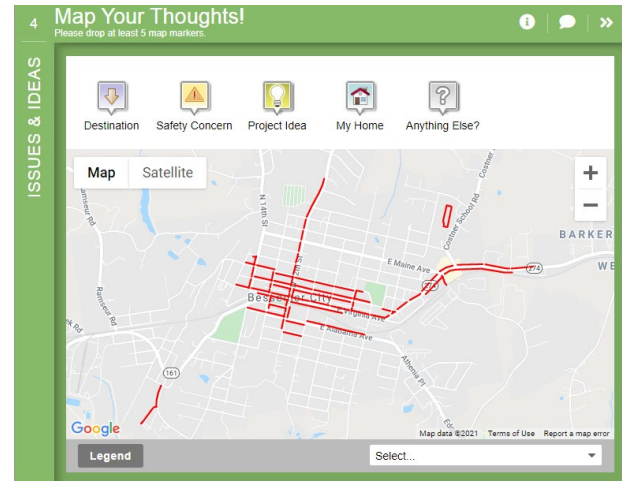
Comments on this question included:

- **Lack of Sidewalks/Paths:** “No connectivity between areas of interest and sidewalks. Sidewalks are not connected in some areas. Neighborhoods are far away from places of interest.”
- **Unsafe Crossings:** “My daughter goes to dance in Downtown Bessemer City and there’s not a crosswalk for us. People drive way too fast and aren’t considerate of people having to cross the road.”
- **Personal Safety:** “Our existing and any new sidewalks need to be very well lit.”

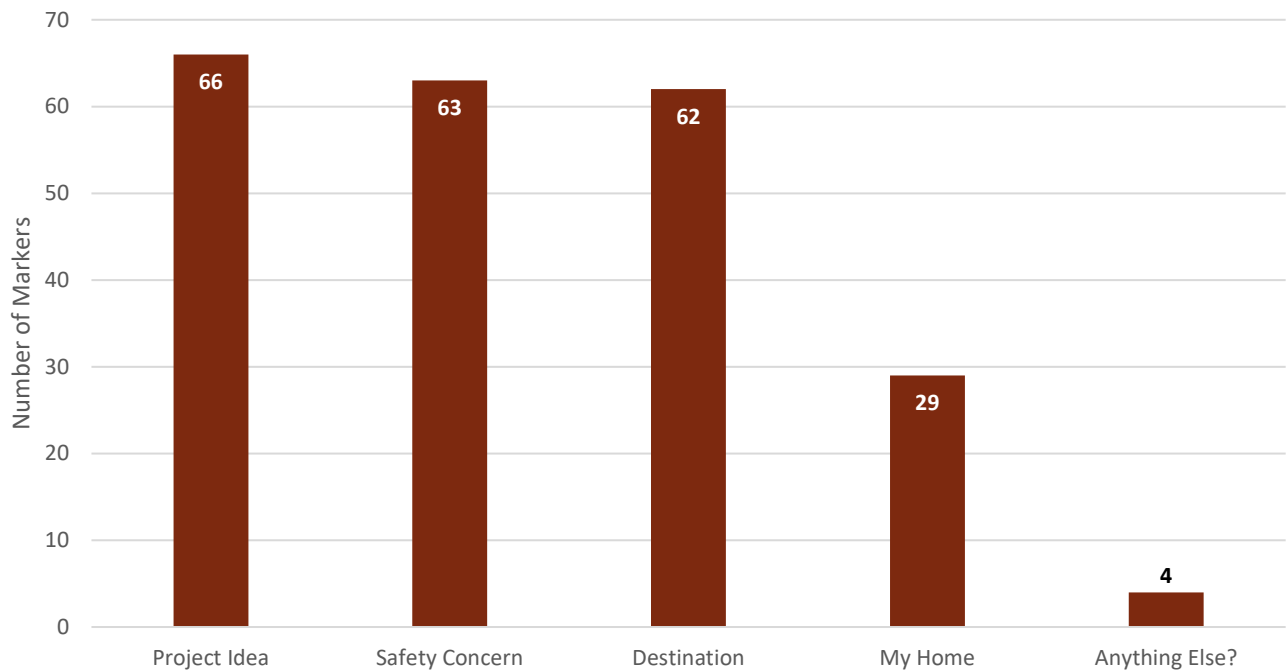
## Issues & Ideas

This screen asked participants to drag markers on a map to identify key locations for walking in Bessemer City. These included destinations, safety concerns, project ideas, the participant's home, and anything else. Each map marker allowed the participant to elaborate. For example, for a project idea, participants could suggest a new sidewalk or crosswalk and express whether the project is "top priority", "important", or "low priority". Existing sidewalks were shown on the map for reference.

The chart below shows the frequency of each type of map marker placed by respondents.



Map Marker Types

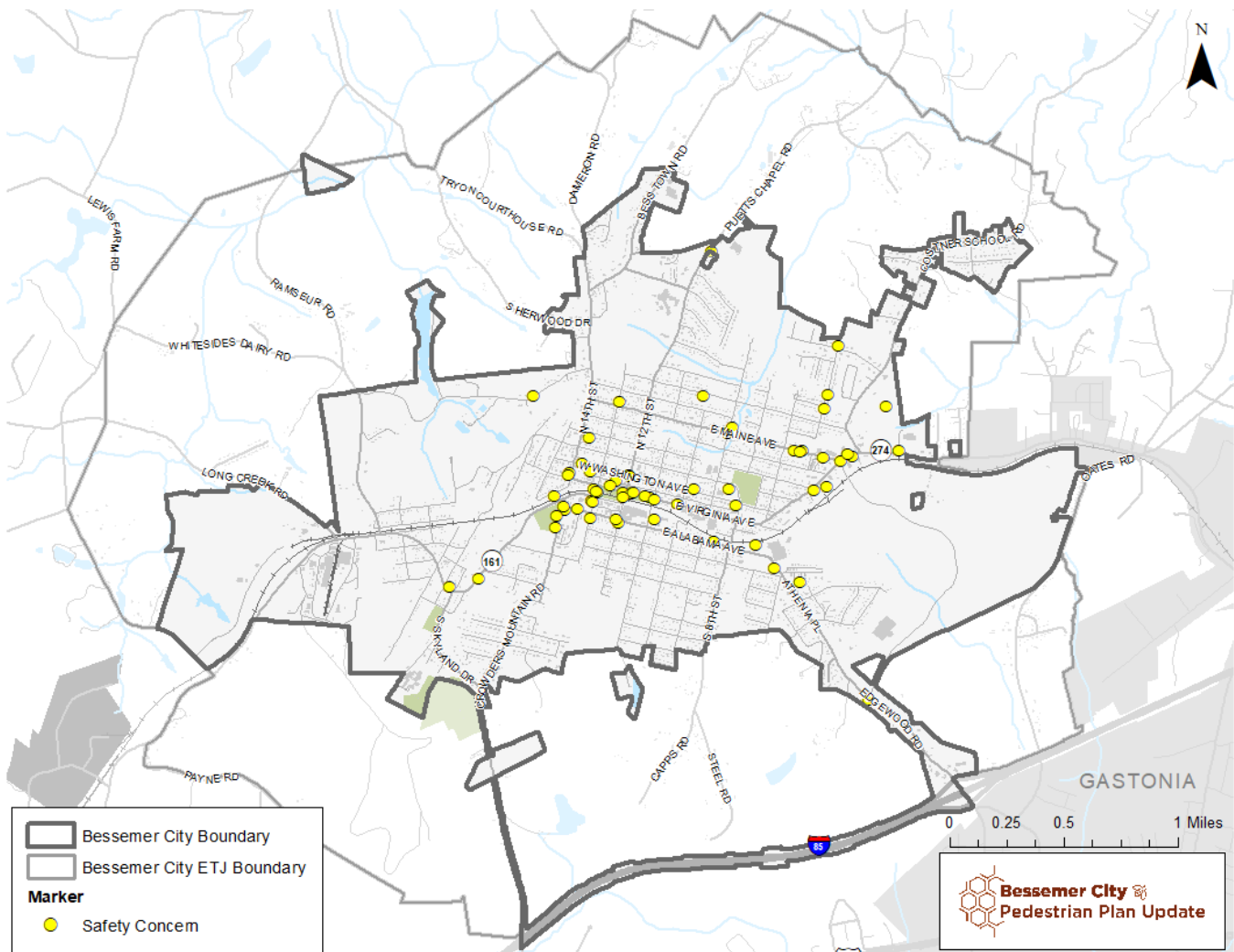


The most placed map marker type was Project Idea, followed closely by Safety Concern and Destination. 29 participants (23% of total respondents) shared their home location in this question.

## Safety Concerns

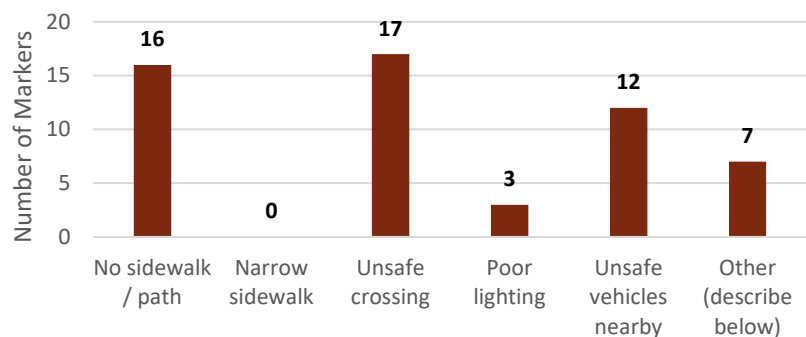
Most safety concerns were clustered around Downtown, with others in eastern Bessemer City along NC 274. Some examples of commonly cited safety concerns included:

- Unsafe crossings/inadequate pedestrian facilities near Bessemer City Pool and Park along S 14<sup>th</sup> Street
- Unsafe crossings along Virginia Avenue Downtown
- No sidewalk/path along Maine Avenue



## Safety Concern - What is the safety concern?

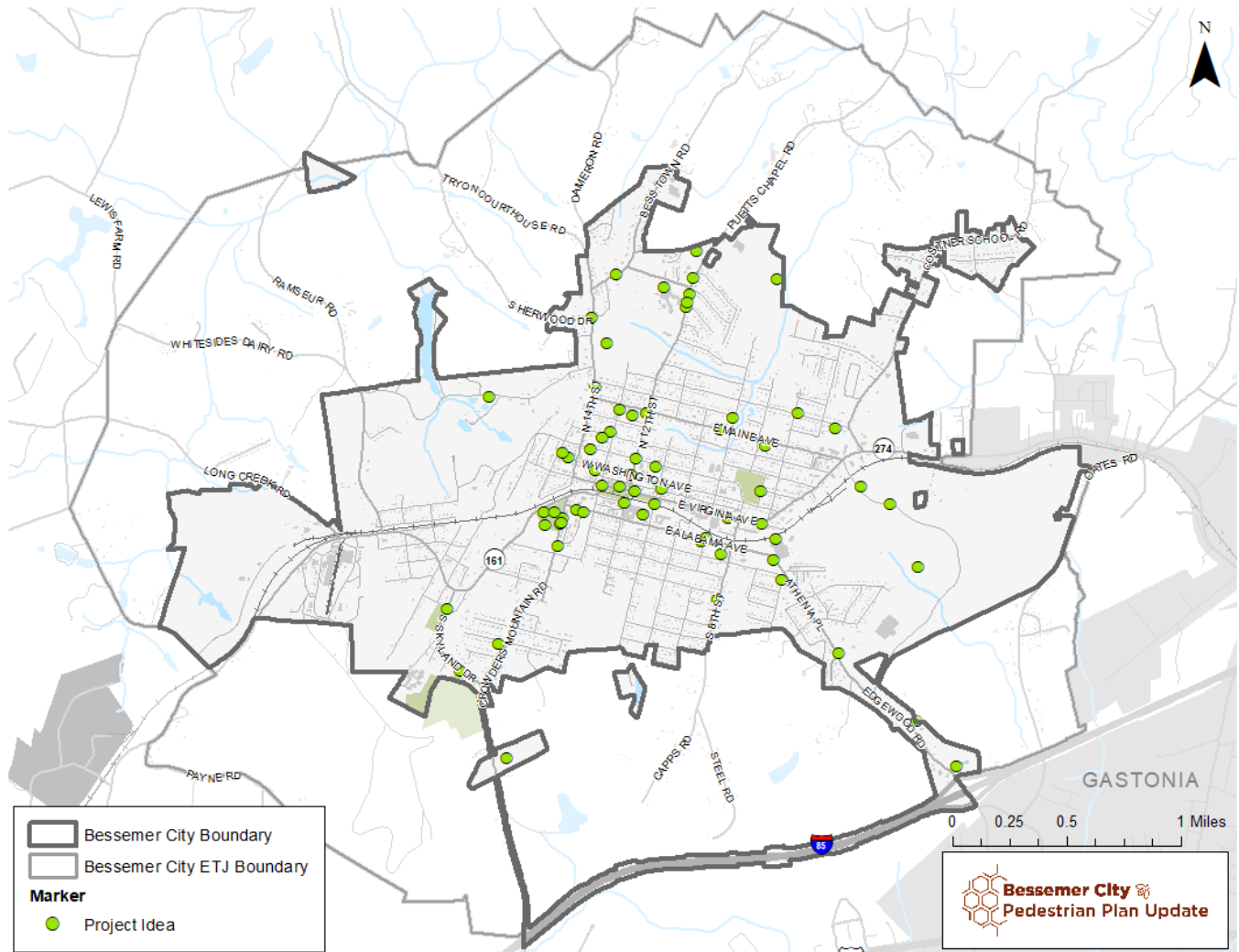
The chart to the right shows which types of safety concerns were most identified. The most commonly identified safety concerns were unsafe crossings, lack of sidewalk/path, and unsafe vehicles nearby.





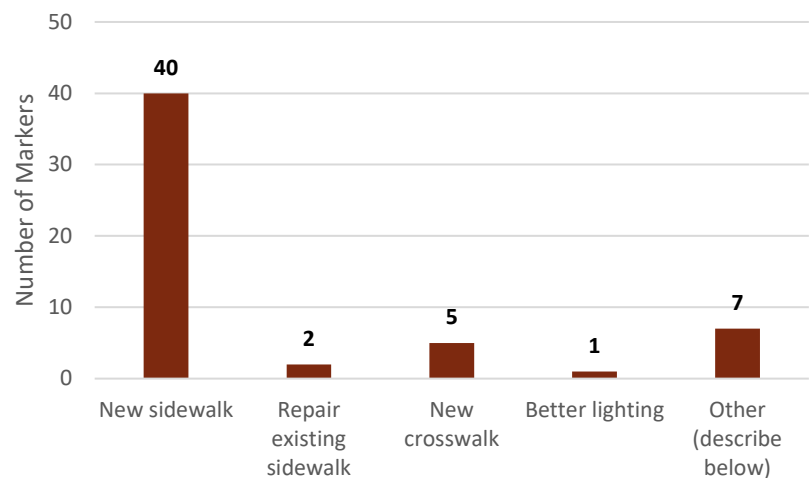
## Project Ideas

Many project ideas were suggested near Downtown, near Bessemer City High School, and near Bessemer City Pool and Park.



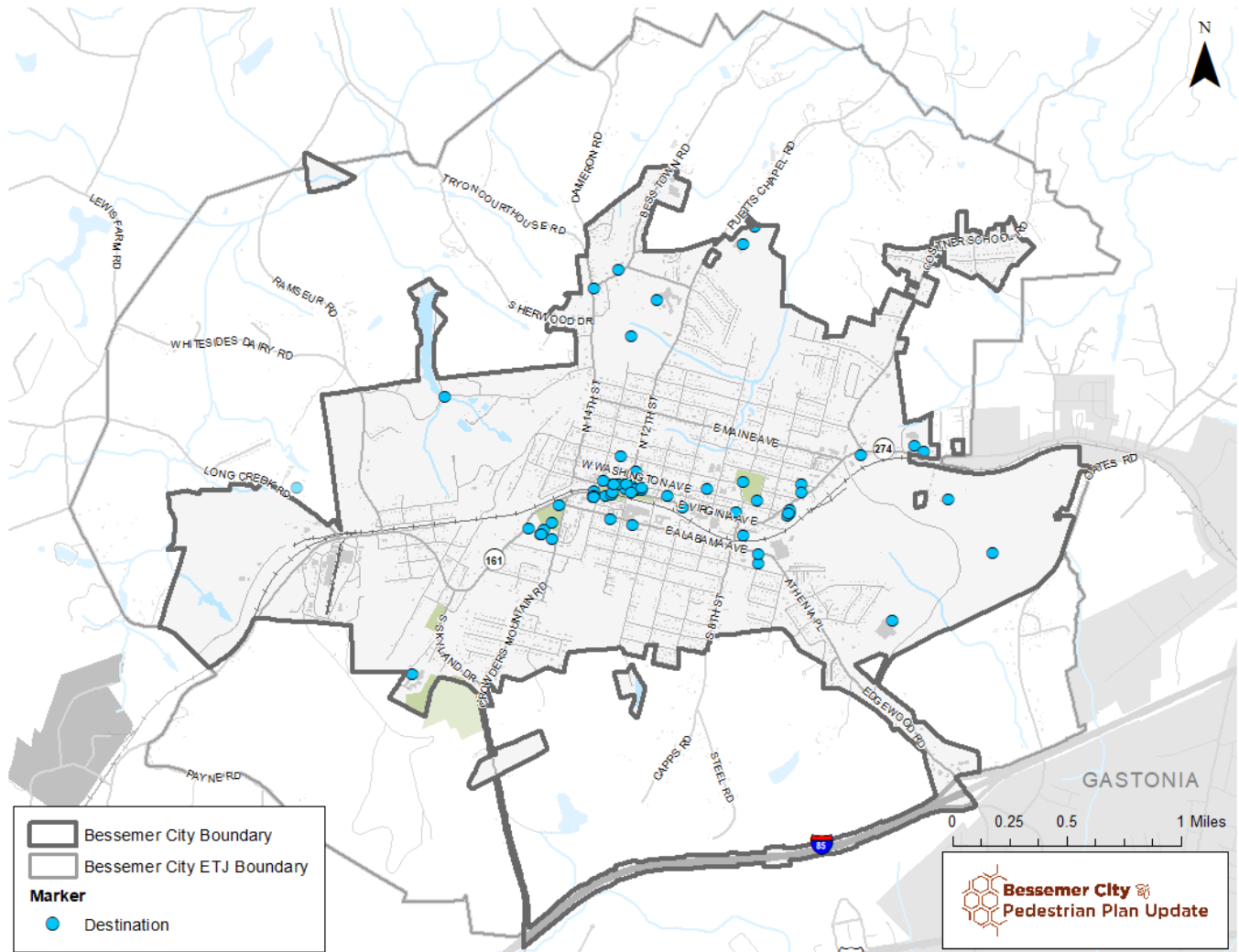
## Project Idea - What is your idea?

The chart to the right shows the frequency of project idea types among participants. The most frequently suggested project idea was a new sidewalk, with 40 new sidewalk projects suggested by participants. Some project ideas frequently mentioned included sidewalks serving the schools, Edgewood Road/Athenia Place, Maine Avenue, and NC 161.



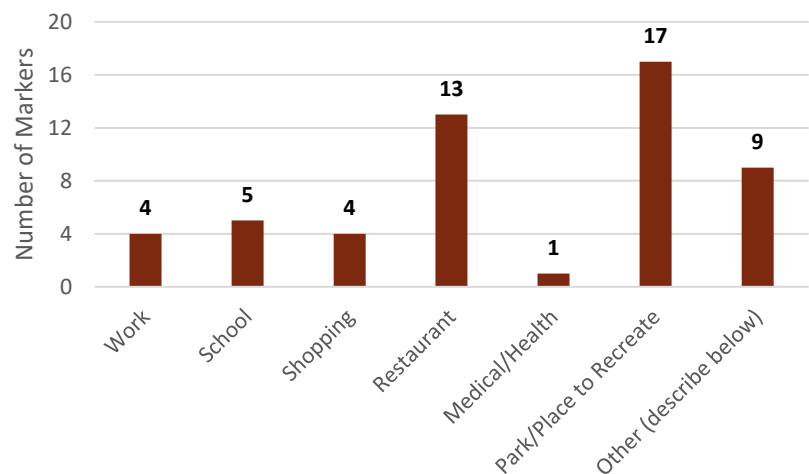
## Destinations

Destinations identified were clustered Downtown, near Bessemer City Pool and Park, and at businesses along NC 274.



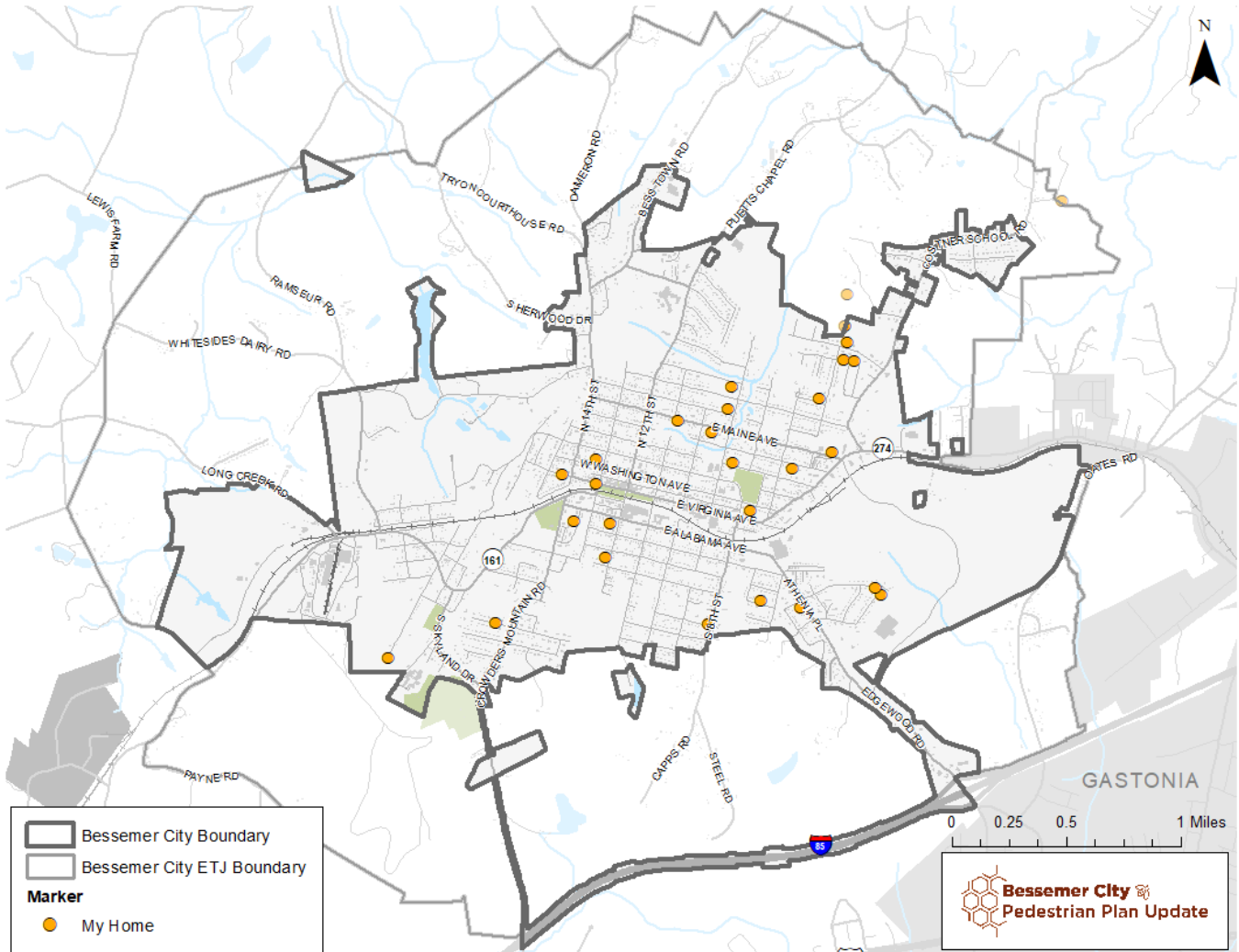
The chart to the right shows the frequency of types of destinations identified. The most identified destination type was Park/Place to Recreate, followed by Restaurant and Other.

Destination - What type of destination is it?



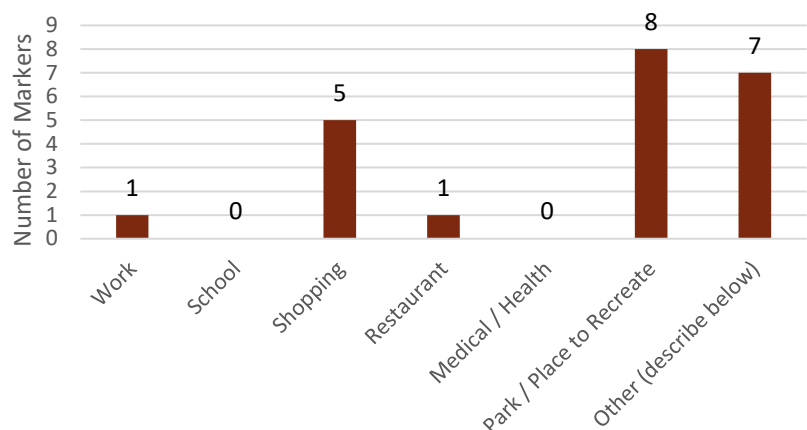
## Home Location

Participants were given the option to identify their home location. The results are shown below.



The most popular destination that participants would like to walk to from home was Park/Place to Recreate. Seven participants chose the Other option. Some responses in this category included churches and Downtown Bessemer City.

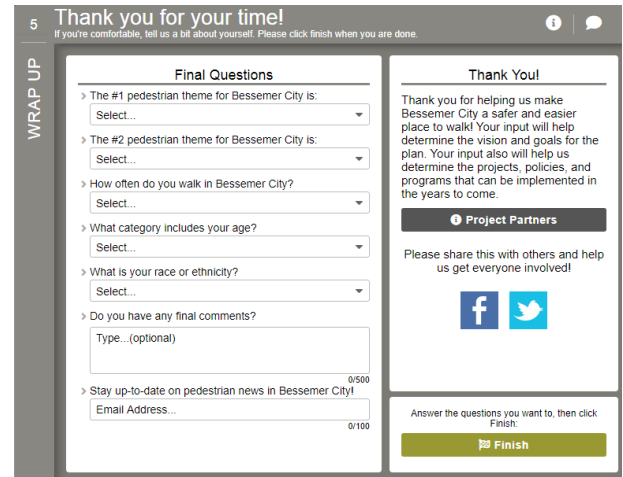
## My Home - If I could, my #1 place to walk to would be?



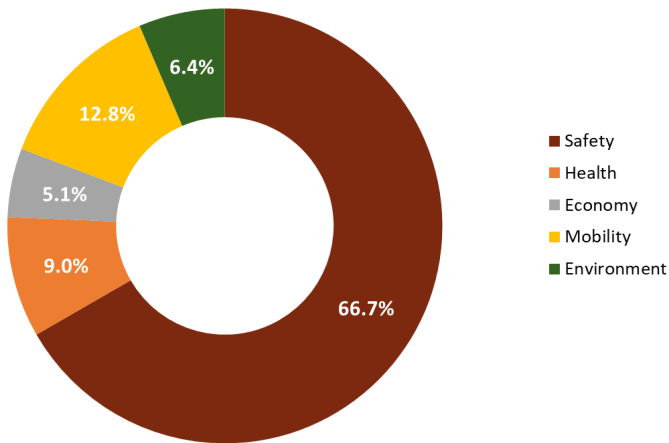


## Wrap Up

The last screen of the survey asked respondents to pick their #1 and #2 pedestrian themes for Bessemer City. The screen also asked how often participants walk in Bessemer City and collected demographic information: age and race/ethnicity. Participants were also given the opportunity to make a final comment about the survey or sign up for updates regarding further engagement.

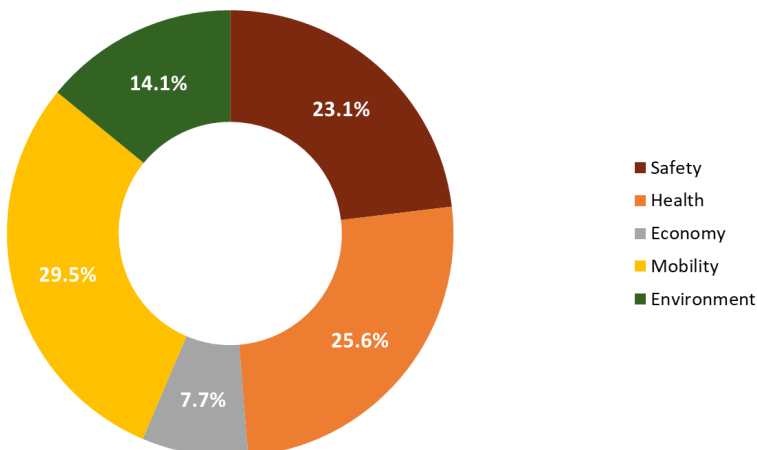


The #1 pedestrian theme for Bessemer City is:



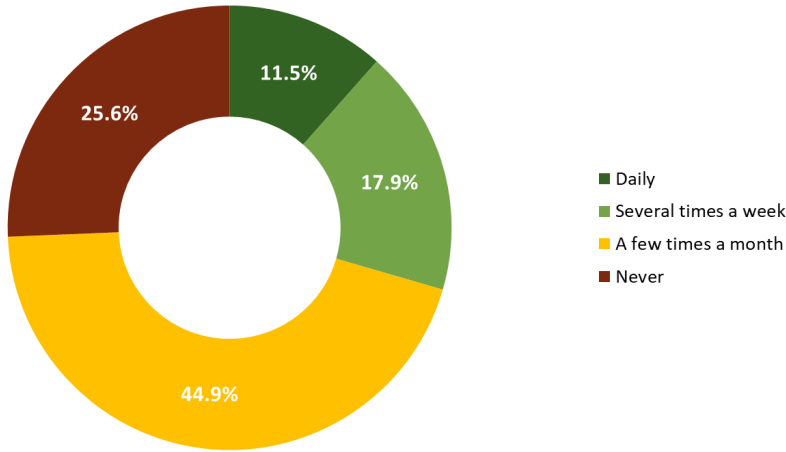
When participants were asked to choose just one theme as most important, a majority (66.7%) of respondents chose Safety. Each of the other four themes were chosen by less than 15% of participants.

The #2 pedestrian theme for Bessemer City is:



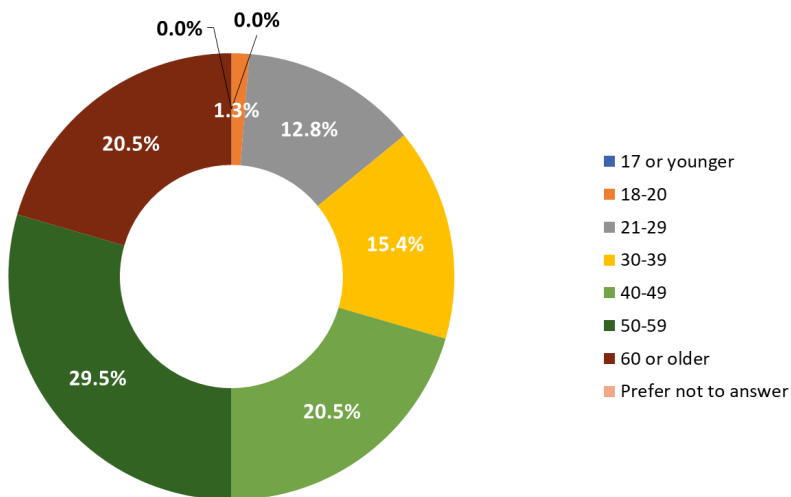
Participants' second-most important themes were more divided. The most common answer was Mobility (29.5%), closely followed by Health (25.6%) and Safety (23.1%).

How often do you walk in Bessemer City?



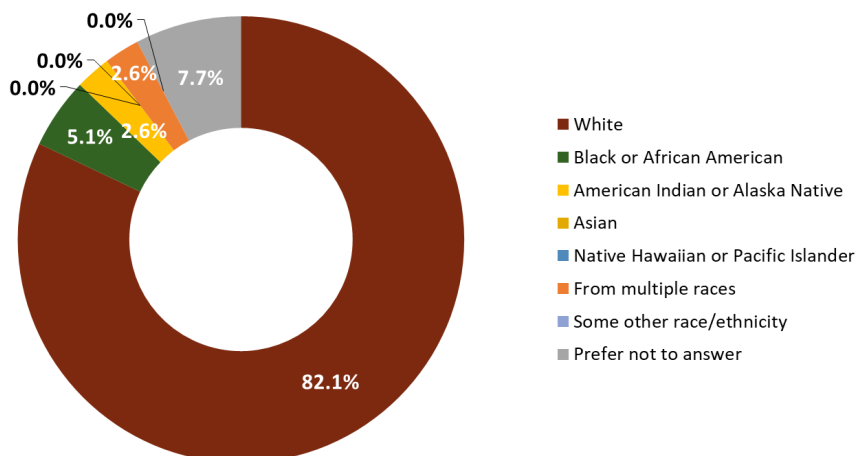
The greatest segment of respondents (44.9%) said they walk a few times a month. 11.5% said they walk daily, and 25.6% said they never walk in Bessemer City.

What category includes your age?



Participants were remarkably varied in age. No more than 30% of respondents were aged within the same bracket. No participants were under 18. The largest age group of participants was ages 50-59.

What is your race or ethnicity?



Most participants in the survey were white. However, this closely matches the racial breakdown of the City as a whole, where 77.1% of residents are white. 7.7% of respondents chose not to answer this question.