

# Highway 17 Bicycle and Pedestrian Overcrossing Feasibility Study



## Survey Report



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### A. Background

Connect Los Gatos is a new public engagement initiative that promotes bicycle and pedestrian projects that are all part of a big picture effort to provide connected multi-modal routes through the Town. Connect Los Gatos is aimed at making it easier and safer for all to bike and walk in Los Gatos. All of the improvements have a strong focus on providing safe routes to schools and will potentially benefit the students.

#### Purpose

The survey was conducted to engage the community in the project development process and to provide information on people’s travel patterns and preference.

The survey included 17 questions targeted toward understanding how respondents use Blossom Hill Road, cross Highway 17 when walking and biking, and what their top priorities are for this location. It also provided an opportunity to leave comments or feedback on the project.

#### Survey Period

February 25, 2020 at the Community Meeting

Online via SurveyMonkey between March 11<sup>th</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

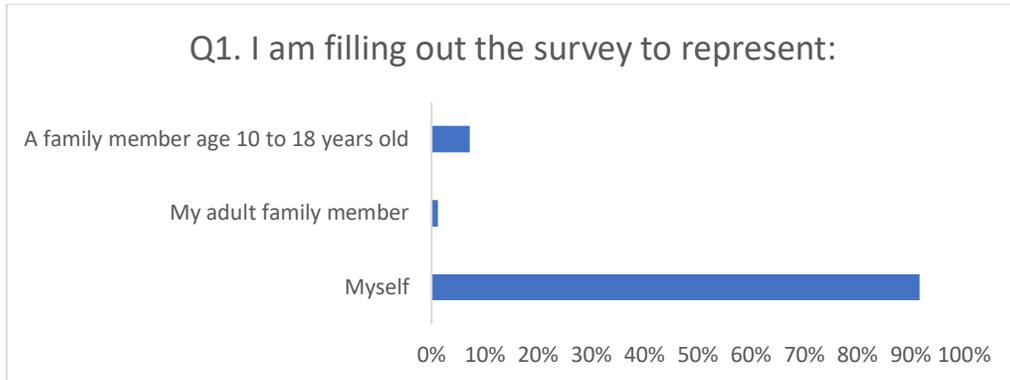
#### Survey Mechanism

This survey was administered at the February 25 Community Meeting and online through SurveyMonkey. At the Community Meeting the survey was provided on paper. Meeting attendees were encouraged to complete the survey. The link was sent through Los Gatos Monte Sereno Safe Routes to School and Los Gatos Union School District email list. The survey was also posted on the Connect Los Gatos – Bicycle and Pedestrian Overcrossing over Highway 17 page on the Town’s website and was promoted via social media. A total of 84 responses were received. The survey questions can be found in section C.

## B. Survey Responses

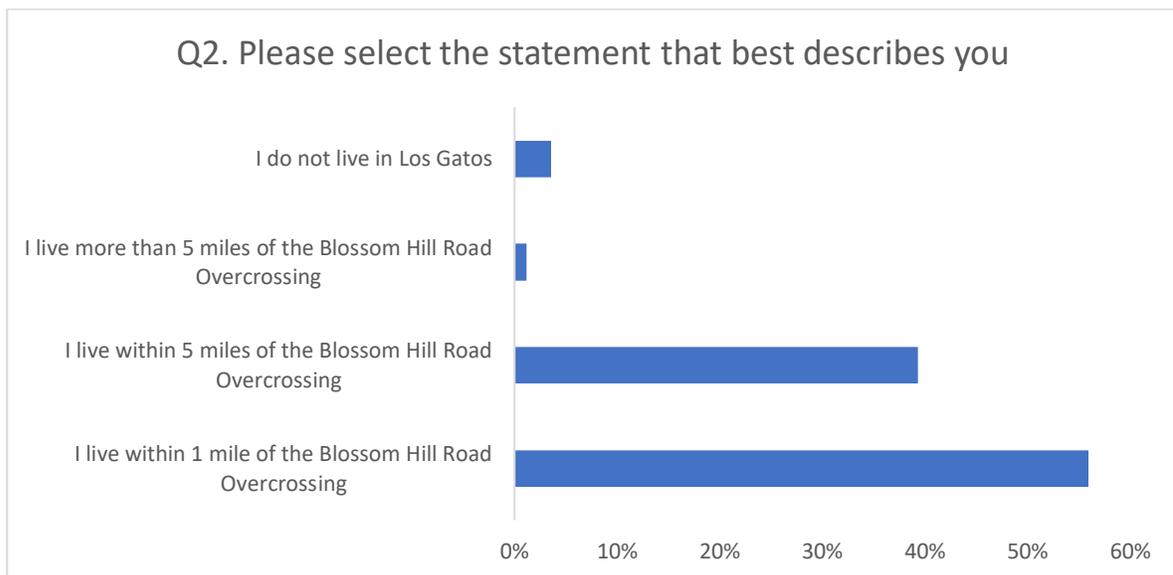
### Q1. I am filling out the survey to represent:

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE PERCENT	RESPONSES
Myself	91.67%	77
My adult family member	1.19%	1
A family member age 10 to 18 years old	7.14%	6
TOTAL		84



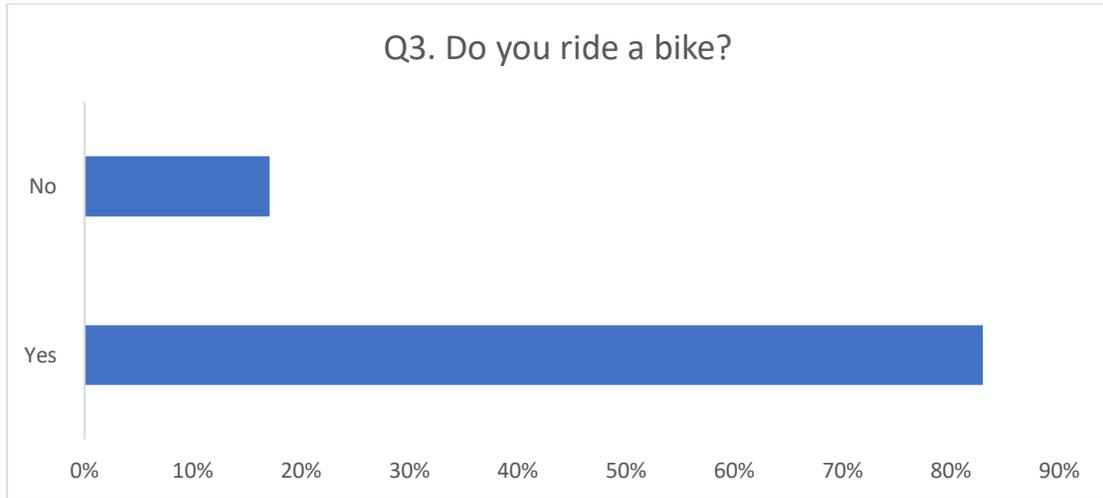
### Q2. Please select the statement that best describes you:

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE PERCENT	RESPONSES
I live within 1 mile of the Blossom Hill Road Overcrossing	55.95%	47
I live within 5 miles of the Blossom Hill Road Overcrossing	39.29%	33
I live more than 5 miles of the Blossom Hill Road Overcrossing	1.19%	1
I do not live in Los Gatos	3.57%	3
TOTAL		84



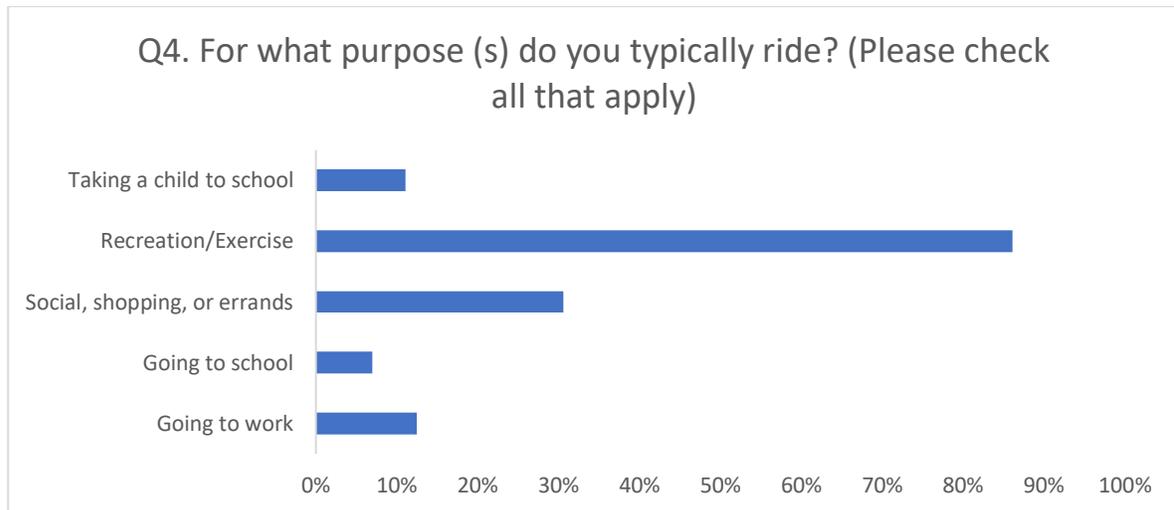
**Q3. Do you ride a bike?**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE PERCENT	RESPONSES
Yes	82.93%	68
No	17.07%	14
TOTAL		82



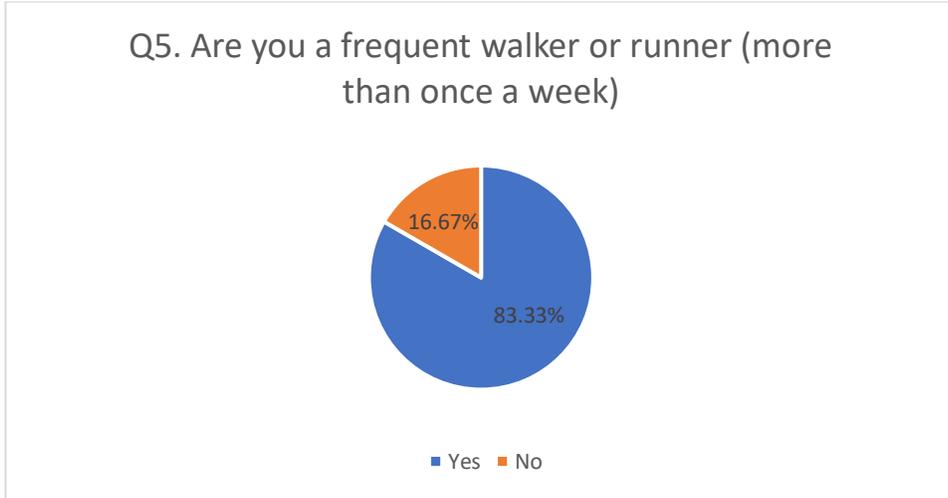
**Q4. For what purpose (s) do you typically ride? (Please check all that apply)**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE PERCENT	RESPONSES
Going to work	12.50%	9
Going to school	6.94%	5
Social, shopping, or errands	30.56%	22
Recreation/Exercise	86.11%	62
Taking a child to school	11.11%	8
TOTAL		72



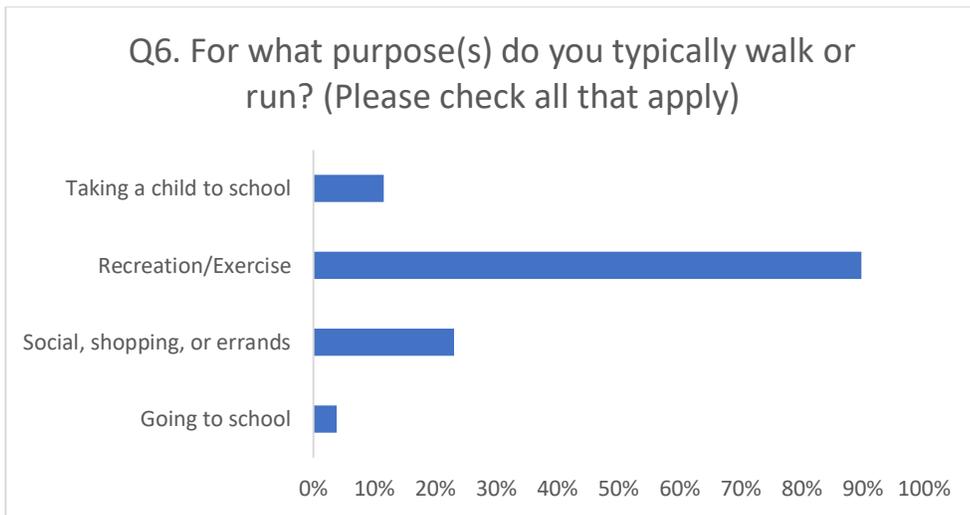
**Q5. Are you a frequent walker or runner (more than once a week)**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE PERCENT	RESPONSES
Yes	83.33%	70
No	16.67%	14
TOTAL		84



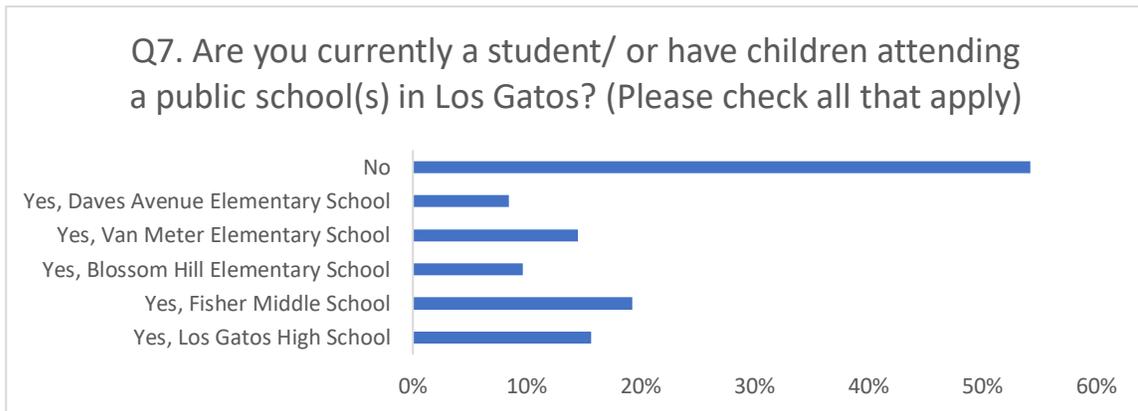
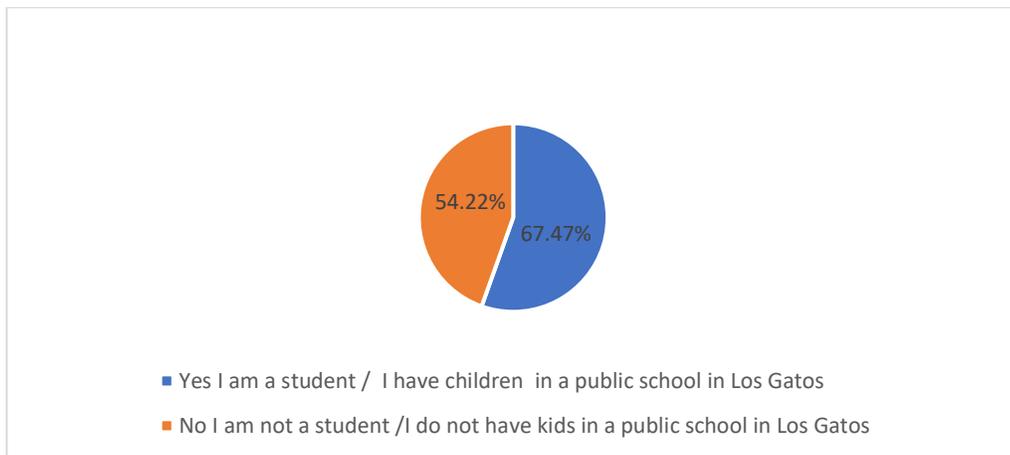
**Q6. For what purpose(s) do you typically walk or run? (Please check all that apply)**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE PERCENT	RESPONSES
Going to school	3.85%	3
Social, shopping, or errands	23.08%	18
Recreation/Exercise	89.74%	70
Taking a child to school	11.54%	9
TOTAL		78



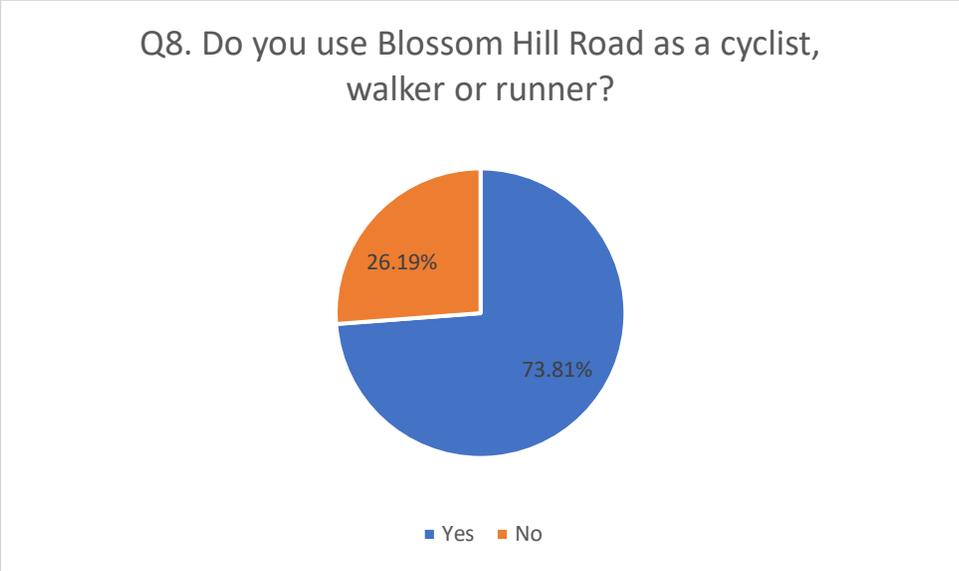
**Q7. Are you currently a student/ or have children attending a public school(s) in Los Gatos?  
(Please check all that apply)**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE PERCENT	RESPONSES
Yes, Los Gatos High School	15.66%	13
Yes, Fisher Middle School	19.28%	16
Yes, Blossom Hill Elementary School	9.64%	8
Yes, Van Meter Elementary School	14.46%	12
Yes, Daves Avenue Elementary School	8.43%	7
No	54.22%	45
TOTAL		83



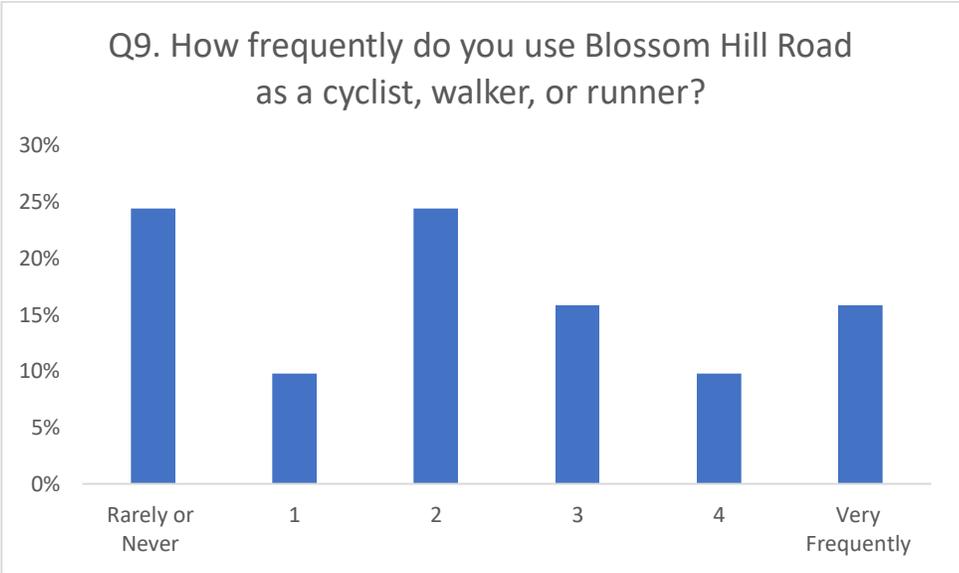
**Q8. Do you use Blossom Hill Road as a cyclist, walker or runner?**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE PERCENT	RESPONSES
Yes	73.81%	62
No	26.19%	22
TOTAL		84



**Q9. How frequently do you use Blossom Hill Road as a cyclist, walker, or runner?**

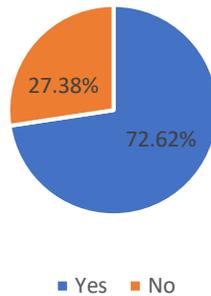
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE PERCENT	RESPONSES
Rarely or Never	24.39%	
1	9.76%	
2	24.39%	
3	15.85%	
4	9.76%	
Very Frequently	15.85%	
TOTAL		82



**Q10. If an improved/new Highway 17 crossing at or near Blossom Hill Road was provided for cyclists and pedestrians, would you use the crossing more frequently?**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE PERCENT	RESPONSES
Yes	72.62%	61
No	27.38%	23
TOTAL		84

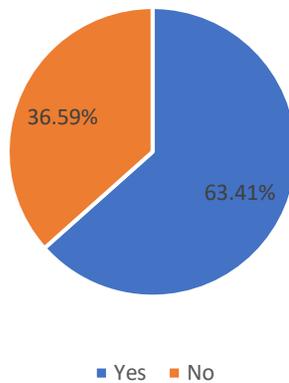
Q10. If an improved/new Highway 17 crossing at or near Blossom Hill Rod was provided for cyclists and pedestrians, would you use the crossing more frequently?



**Q11. Would the frequency of use be dependent on the location of the crossing?**

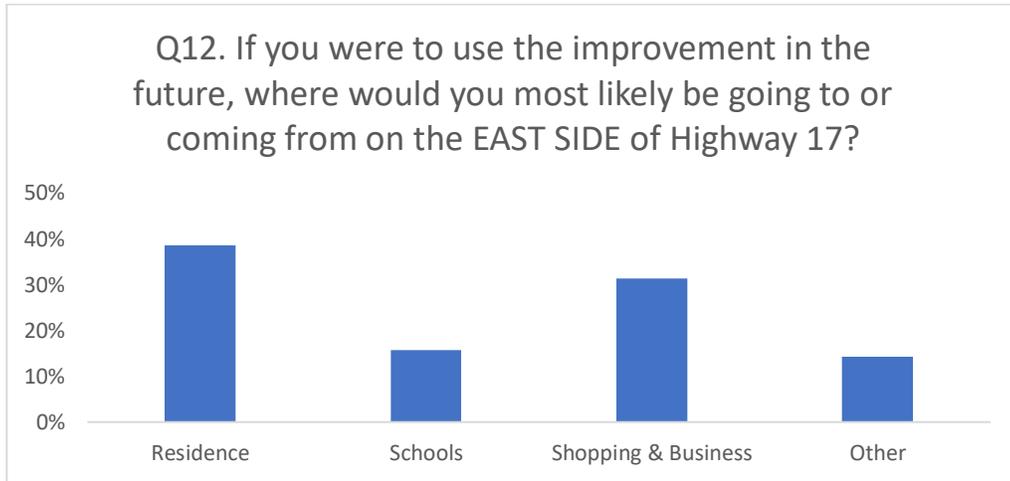
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE PERCENT	RESPONSES
Yes	63.41%	52
No	36.59%	30
TOTAL		82

Q11. Would the frequency of use be dependent on the location of the crossing?



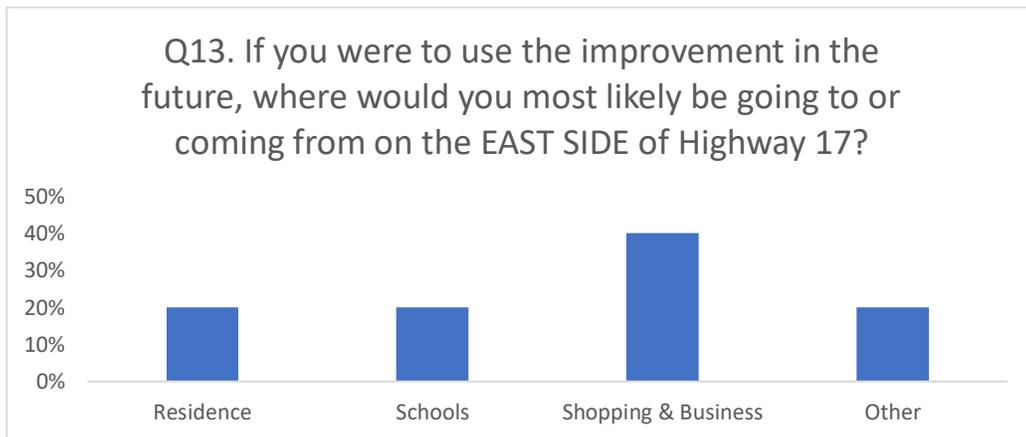
**Q12. If you were to use the improvement in the future, where would you most likely be going to or coming from on the EAST SIDE of Highway 17?**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE PERCENT	RESPONSES
Residence	38.57%	27
Schools	15.71%	11
Shopping & Business	31.43%	22
Other	14.29%	10
TOTAL		70



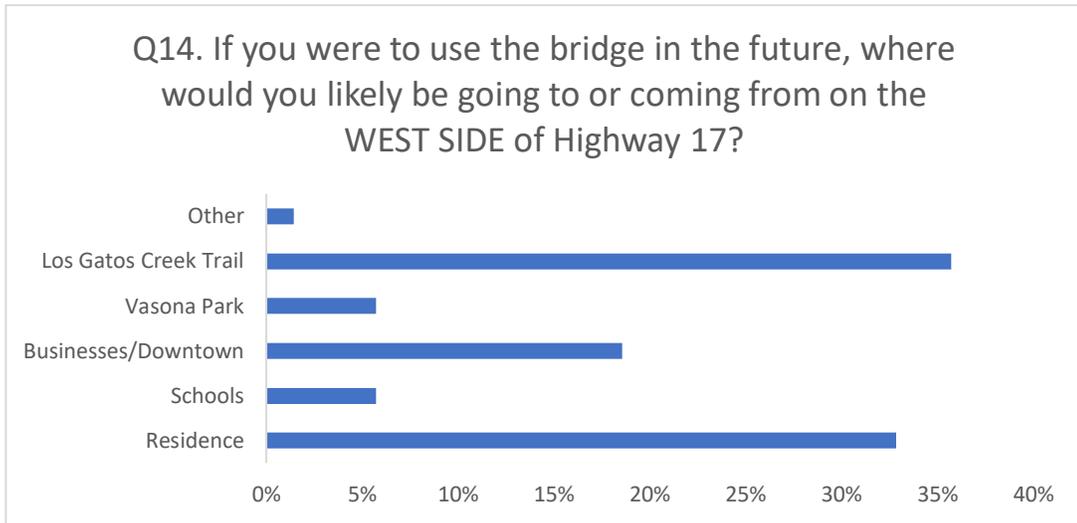
**Q13. If you were to use the improvement in the future, where would you most likely be going to or coming from on the EAST SIDE of Highway 17?**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE PERCENT	RESPONSES
Residence	20.00%	2
Schools	20.00%	2
Shopping & Business	40.00%	4
Other	20.00%	2
TOTAL		10



**Q14. If you were to use the bridge in the future, where would you likely be going to or coming from on the WEST SIDE of Highway 17?**

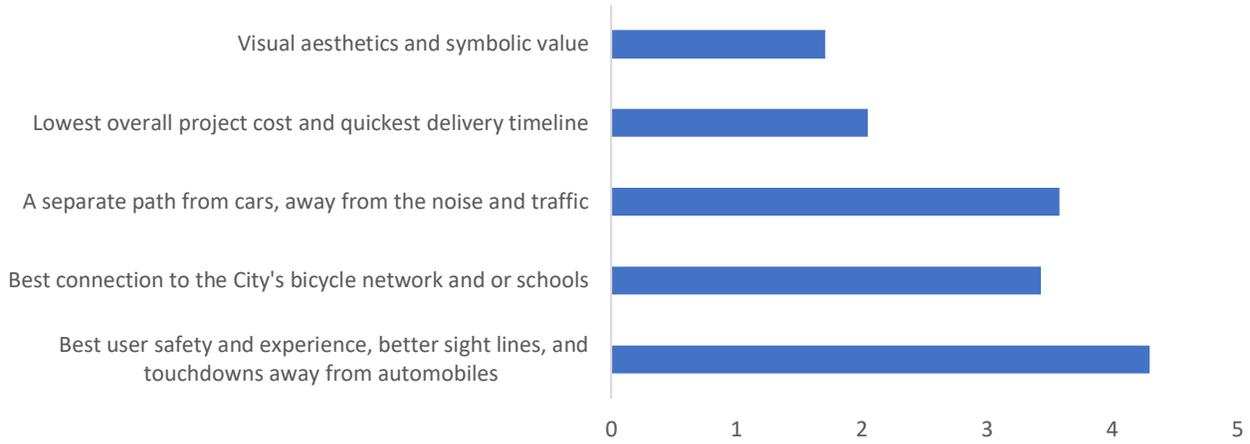
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE PERCENT	RESPONSES
Residence	32.86%	23
Schools	5.71%	4
Businesses/Downtown	18.57%	13
Vasona Park	5.71%	4
Los Gatos Creek Trail	35.71%	25
Other	1.43%	1
TOTAL		70



**Q15. You may choose a number (1=highest priority, 2=second priority, and so on) or move the choices up and down to indicate your priorities.**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE SCORE	RESPONSES
Best user safety and experience, better sight lines, and touchdowns away from automobiles	4.3	67
Best connection to the City's bicycle network and or schools	3.43	67
A separate path from cars, away from the noise and traffic	3.58	66
Lowest overall project cost and quickest delivery timeline	2.05	65
Visual aesthetics and symbolic value	1.71	65

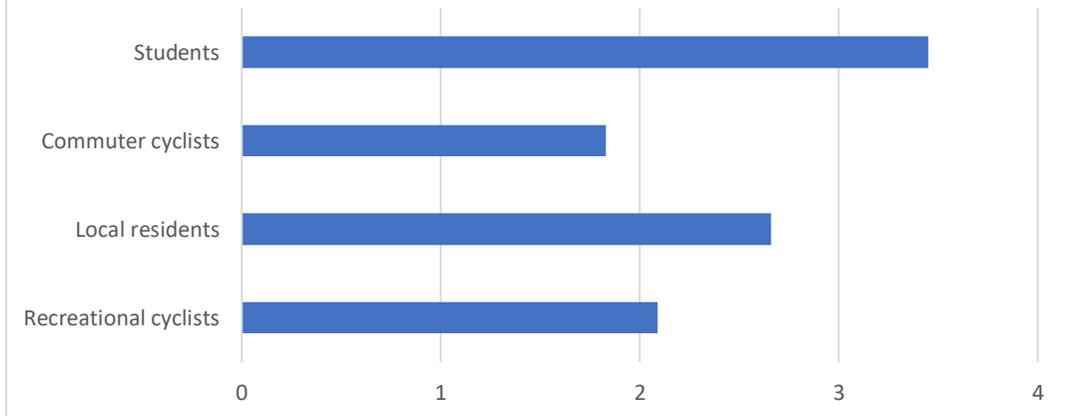
Q15. You may choose a number (1=highest priority, 2=second priority, and so on) or move the choices up and down to indicate your priorities.



Q16. Please select your TOP user group (1=highest priority, 2=second priority, and so on) or move the choices up and down to indicate your priorities.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE SCORE	RESPONSES
Recreational cyclists	2.09	66
Local residents	2.66	67
Commuter cyclists	1.83	65
Students	3.45	66

Q16. Please select your TOP user group (1=highest priority, 2=second priority, and so on) or move the choices up and down to indicate your priorities.



**Q17. If you have any additional comments you would like to share with the Design Team, please provide them here.**

- 1 I raised 2 sons in town - biked and walked to school - BHR Bridge
- 2 Alternative 2 is my vote and is least disruptive to the Ohlone and Nino Avenue.
- 3 I am strongly opposed to option impacting Ohlone Court due to privacy and noise pollution impact. This is my top priority.
- 4 Do not continue this project if you only consider options 1,2&3. Priority should be using the existing bridge until CalTrans builds a new bridge.
- 5 A crossing which accesses the trail would increase the frequency of bike trips for me to downtown/Santa Cruz Avenue
- 6 I am retired. The ped/bike over-crossing would not change my recreational activities.
- 7 I am a parent and teacher in the community. I want all kids to be safe FIRST.
- 8 In addition to the bridge, please install crosswalks with flashing lights at the on/off ramps at Highway 9 and 17. I am a nervous wreck every time we want to cross those ramps! We live off Shannon and like to walk to downtown. Even with the new bridge, residents should have safe crossings at those ramps.
- 9 The most practical approach would be an extension (widening) of the existing Blossom Hill Rd bridge, or a pedestrian/cyclist bridge just next to it (on the south side). There is already good access to that area from the West. There will be needed just a widening of the sidewalk (with a dedicated bike lane) on the East side going uphill on Blossom Hill Rd.
- 10 The current Blossom Hill Rd. overcrossing seems adequate to me. Why is a new bridge needed?
- 11 The utilization of bicycles as a form of transportation is exaggerated and should NOT be a high priority for any municipality. I think this project should be put up for a vote to the people, as opposed to allowing a few squeaky wheels to force the town council into an expensive project.
- 12 Lane improvements already complete on Blossom Hill are good. There does need to be a distinct marker for driveway entrances though.
- 13 this is another waste of money, students use this area 160 days per year for 15 minutes in the morning and 15 minutes after school. The rest of the day it just promotes congestion with the reducing of a lane on blossom hill road. where in the town planning handbook does it say when there is increased population and traffic remove a lane of traffic? Just plain stupid.
- 14 I actually see the groups in item 16 as equally important.

15 The biggest problem for bicyclists heading west on blossom hill road to access South Bound Los Gatos Creek Trail is getting across Blossom Hill Road to Roberts Road

16 A bridge from Farley to Vasona would be ideal. No cars and direct connection to LG creek trail

17 Los Gatos s as los needs to improve the Los gstos creek trail- like campbell and maintain it! Garbage cans, rest areas, and relocate the path that floods every year north of lark

18 Anytime autos and cyclists have separate routes there is increased safety. Especially with kids.

19 Pretty much anything is better than the status quo. Dangerous/scary to ride a bike across the overpass if you can't use sidewalk (when occupied by pedestrians)

### C. Survey Questions

Q1. I am filling out the survey to represent:

Myself
My adult family member
A family member age 10 to 18 years old

Q2. Please select the statement that best describes you:

I live within 1 mile of the Blossom Hill Road Overcrossing
I live within 5 miles of the Blossom Hill Road Overcrossing
I live more than 5 miles of the Blossom Hill Road Overcrossing
I do not live in Los Gatos

Q3. Do you ride a bike?

Yes
No

Q4. For what purpose (s) do you typically ride? (Please check all that apply)

Going to work
Going to school
Social, shopping, or errands
Recreation/Exercise
Taking a child to school

Q5. Are you a frequent walker or runner (more than once a week)

Yes
No

Q6. For what purpose(s) do you typically walk or run? (Please check all that apply)

Going to school
Social, shopping, or errands
Recreation/Exercise
Taking a child to school

Q7. Are you currently a student/ or have children attending a public school(s) in Los Gatos? (Please check all that apply)

Yes, Los Gatos High School
Yes, Fisher Middle School
Yes, Blossom Hill Elementary School
Yes, Van Meter Elementary School
Yes, Daves Avenue Elementary School
No

Q8. Do you use Blossom Hill Road as a cyclist, walker or runner?

Yes
No

Q9. How frequently do you use Blossom Hill Road as a cyclist, walker, or runner?

Rarely or Never
1
2
3
4
Very Frequently

Q10. If an improved/new Highway 17 crossing at or near Blossom Hill Rod was provided for cyclists and pedestrians, would you use the crossing more frequently?

Yes
No

Q11. Would the frequency of use be dependent on the location of the crossing?

Yes
No

Q12. If you were to use the improvement in the future, where would you most likely be going to or coming from on the EAST SIDE of Highway 17?

Residence
Schools
Shopping & Business
Other

Q13. If you were to use the improvement in the future, where would you most likely be going to or coming from on the EAST SIDE of Highway 17?

Residence
Schools
Shopping & Business
Other

Q14. If you were to use the bridge in the future, where would you likely be going to or coming from on the WEST SIDE of Highway 17?

Residence
Schools
Businesses/Downtown
Vasona Park
Los Gatos Creek Trail
Other

Q15. You may choose a number (1=highest priority, 2=second priority, and so on) or move the choices up and down to indicate your priorities.

Best user safety and experience, better sight lines, and touchdowns away from automobiles
Best connection to the City's bicycle network and or schools
A separate path from cars, away from the noise and traffic
Lowest overall project cost and quickest delivery timeline
Visual aesthetics and symbolic value

Q16. Please select your TOP user group (1=highest priority, 2=second priority, and so on) or move the choices up and down to indicate your priorities.

Recreational cyclists
Local residents
Commuter cyclists
Students

## **D. Survey Summary**

A total of 84 valid responses were received, from both the February 25 Community Meeting SurveyMonkey.

Overall, the results of this survey suggest that the respondents are locals, who largely use cycling and walking for exercise purposes. Over half of the respondent's state that they would use the overcrossing more often if there were improvements made. The overcrossing gets used mostly to get to places of residence, retail centers, or to the Los Gatos Creek Trail. Safety, connection, and separation from noise and traffic for local students are the respondent's top priorities for this improvement project.