



# **Pedestrian & Bicycle Transport in South Russell Survey Nov 2024 - Feb 2025**

# **South Russell Committee for Safe Bicycle and Pedestrian Transport**

Ad Hoc Committee formed 10/14/24 via a recommendation by Mayor Koons and approved through unanimous council vote - 60 community members have been involved

## **Committee Goal:**

**To evaluate and plan for safe bicycle and pedestrian transport through community engagement, safety education, and infrastructure improvements.**

## **Committee duties:**

- 1. Engaging and learning from the community about bicycle and pedestrian safety needs**
- 2. Developing a safe bicycle and pedestrian access plan**
3. Making recommendations to the village council on the selection of bicycle and pedestrian projects to be submitted for state and federal funding opportunities
4. Working with staff to promote bicycling and walking as safe and healthy modes of transportation, including safe routes to schools
5. Assisting staff in the planning, operations, and maintenance of bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the village

# What was the purpose of the survey?

## **South Russell Survey Intention** (approved November 2024)

1. Use the results to provide information to Council/Mayor on the
  - a. Desire of residents to walk/bike/run in South Russell
  - b. Safety barriers to doing so
  - c. Support or opposition to different types of projects in different locations
2. Use the results to inform our a phased action plan for projects in SRV
  - a. Phase actions based on community needs/identified barriers
  - b. Use insights from the survey to help SRV apply for grants for projects identified above

In the survey and results **walk/bike** refers to all modes of active transport including walking, running, bicycling, and use of a wheel chair or other mobility device



# **Widely distributed through various channels**

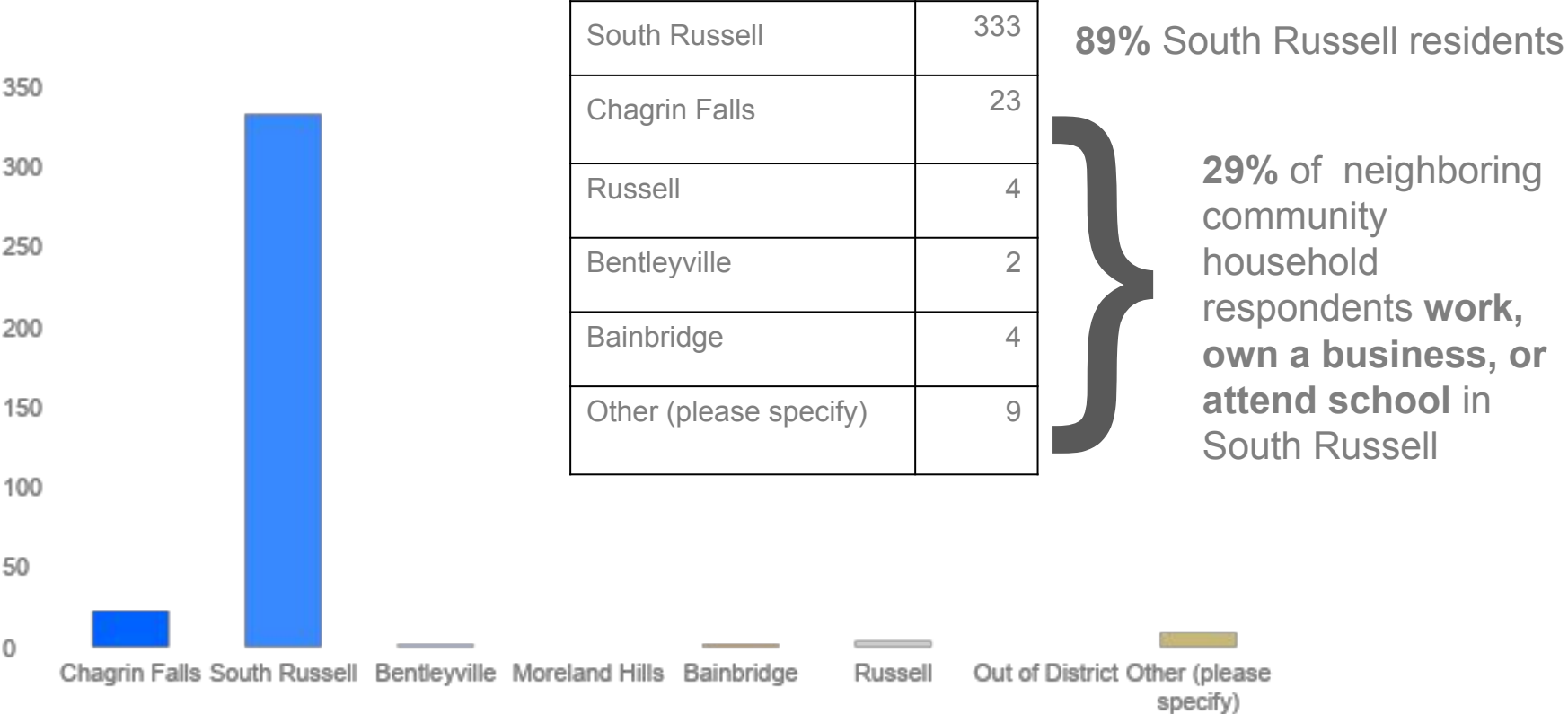
- South Russell Village Newsletter
- Social media
- Direct contact through emails or phone calls with every HOA president for distribution to HOA residents
- Flyers hung in businesses throughout the community
- Flyers delivered to individual houses (locations based on volunteer availability (e.g. every house on Bell Rd between Waverly and Ridgewood, some HOAs))

**Survey was open Nov 2024 - Feb 14, 2025**

**373 Household Responses** (1 household per response)

# Very High Response Rate - South Russell Residents

373 total households



**I. What is the desire of the community to walk/bike in South Russell?**

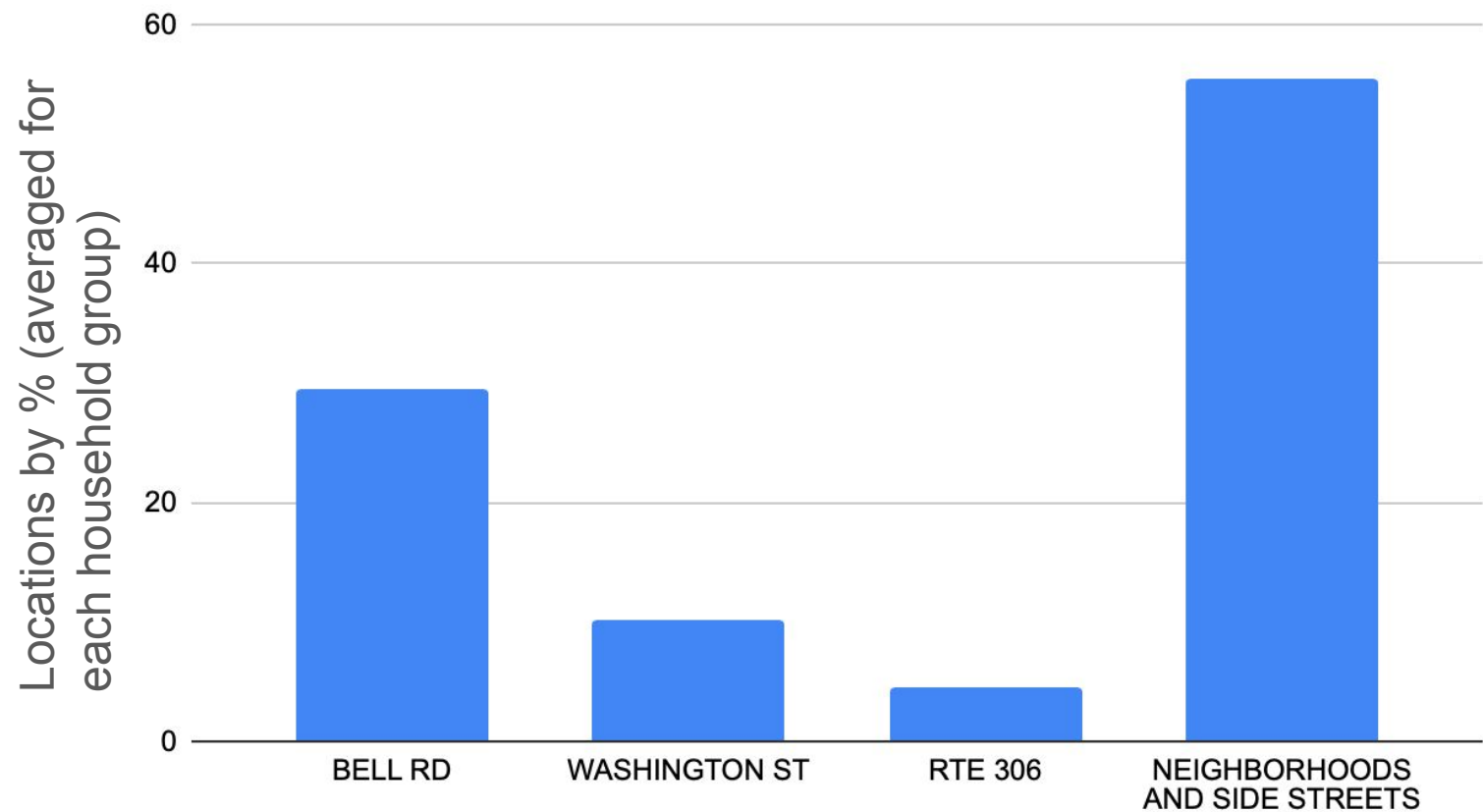
II. What improvements would cause residents to walk/bike more often in South Russell?

III. What is the support or opposition for different improvements in different locations?

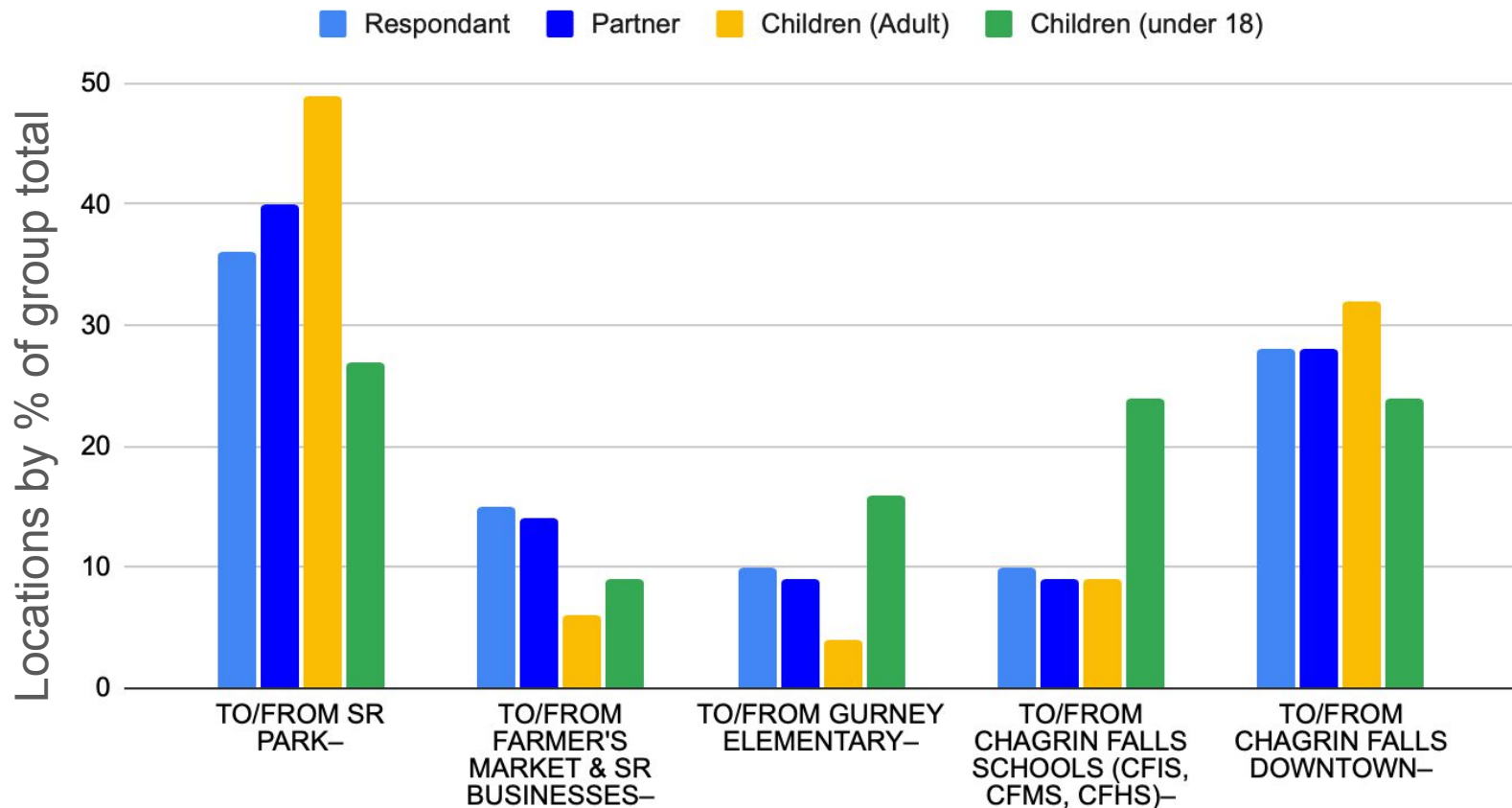
**91% of respondents** have at least one member of the household who walk or bike in South Russell daily, very frequently, often or sometimes



# Where are households walking and biking?



## Where are households walking and biking?



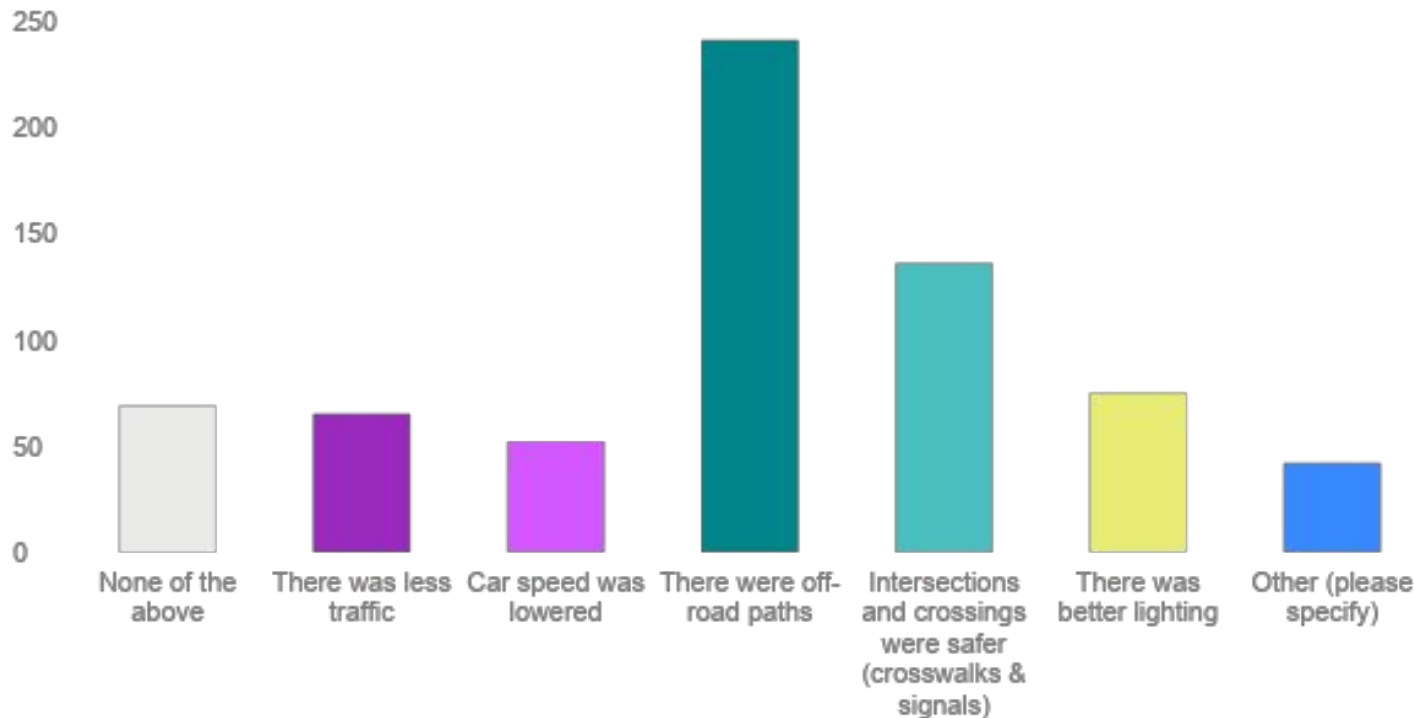
# What is the desire of the community to walk/bike in South Russell?

## Key Insights:

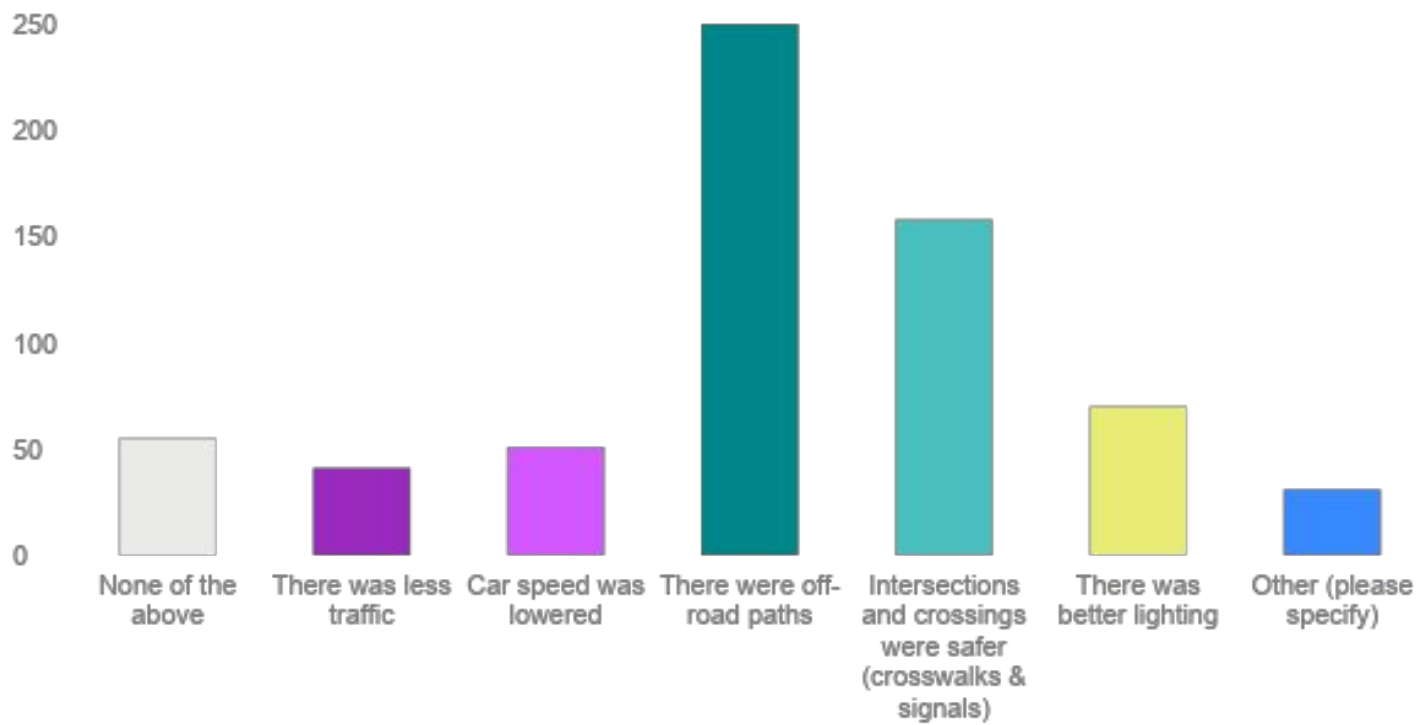
- Members in 91% of households walk/bike in South Russell daily, very frequently, often, or sometimes
- 56% of the pedestrian/bicycle use is within neighborhoods
- 30% of the pedestrian/bicycle use is on Bell
- Most pedestrian/bicycle transport is to **South Russell Village Park**
- Most pedestrian/bicycle transport among **children** is to Chagrin Falls **Schools** (Gurney Elementary, CFIS, CFMS, CFHS)

- I. What is the desire of the community to walk/bike in South Russell?
- II. What improvements would cause residents to walk/bike more often in South Russell?**
- III. What is the support or opposition for different improvements in different locations?

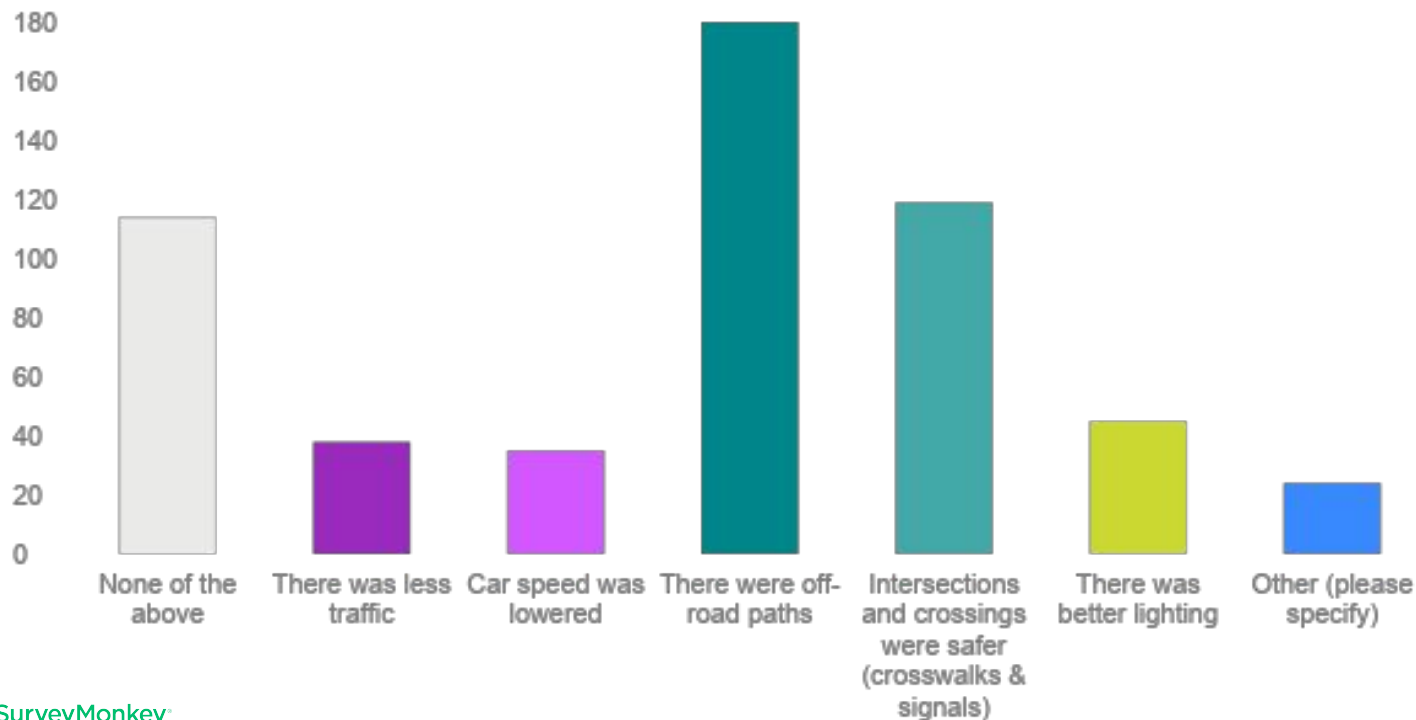
# Which improvements would cause members of your household to walk/bike more often on **Bell Rd - East of 306**?



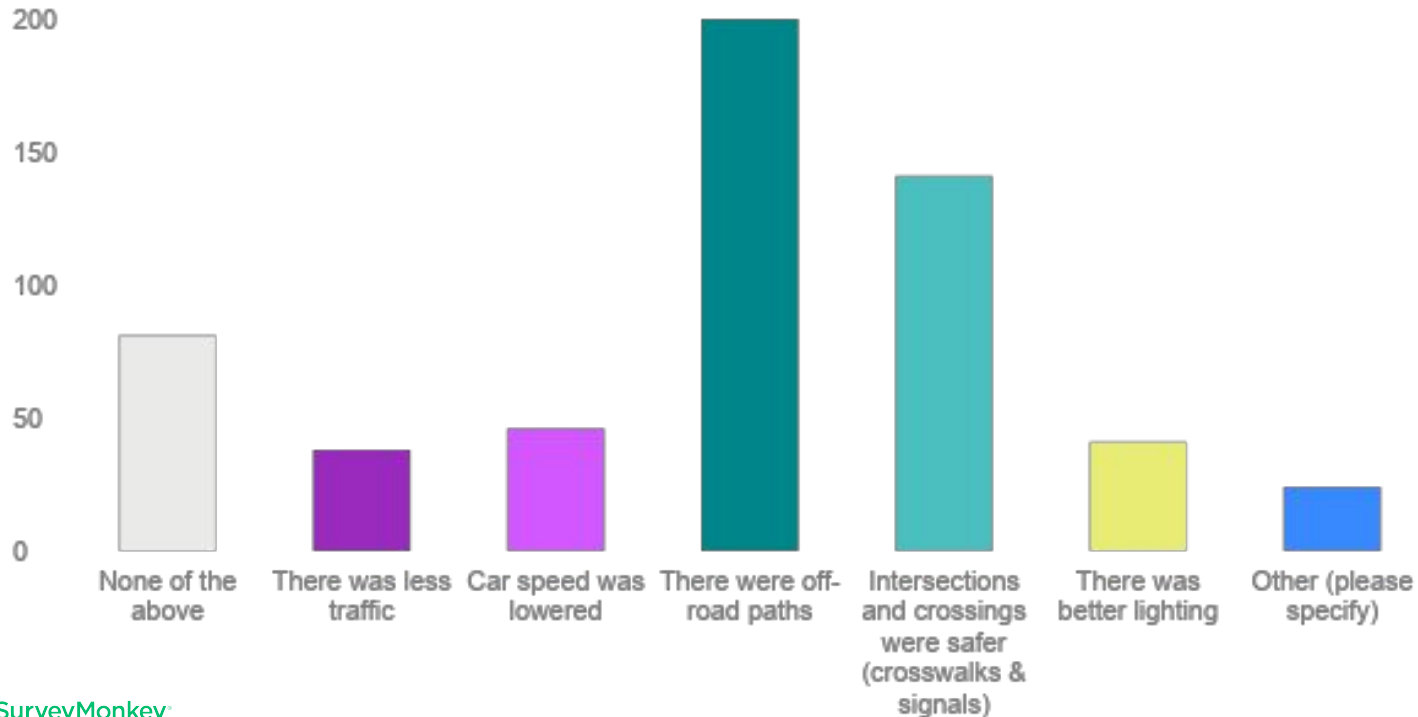
# Which improvements would cause members of your household to walk/bike more often to/from South Russell Village Park?



# Which improvements would cause members of your household to walk/bike more often to/from **Gurney Elementary**?

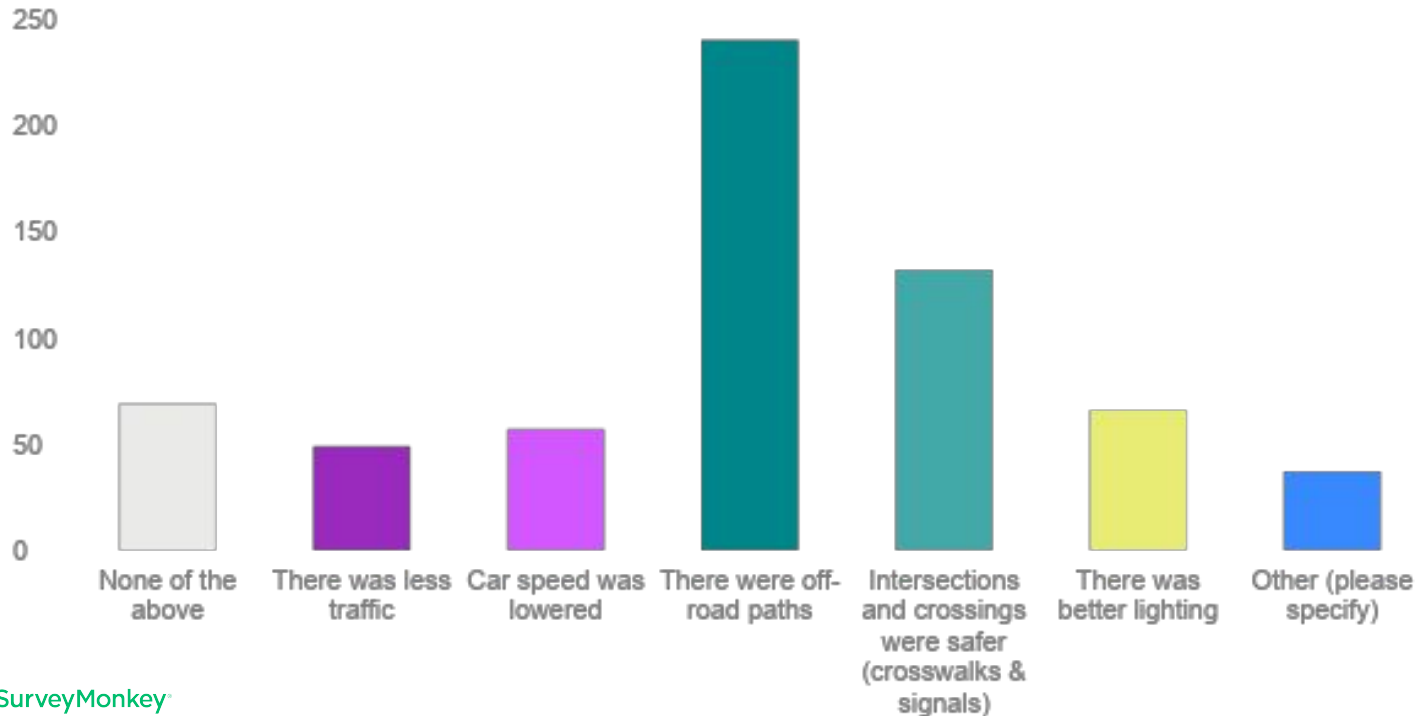


# Which improvements would cause members of your household to walk/bike more often to/from **Farmer's Market & Businesses in South Russell near Bell and 306?**





# Which improvements would cause members of your household to walk/bike more often to/from **Downtown Chagrin Falls via Bell Street?**

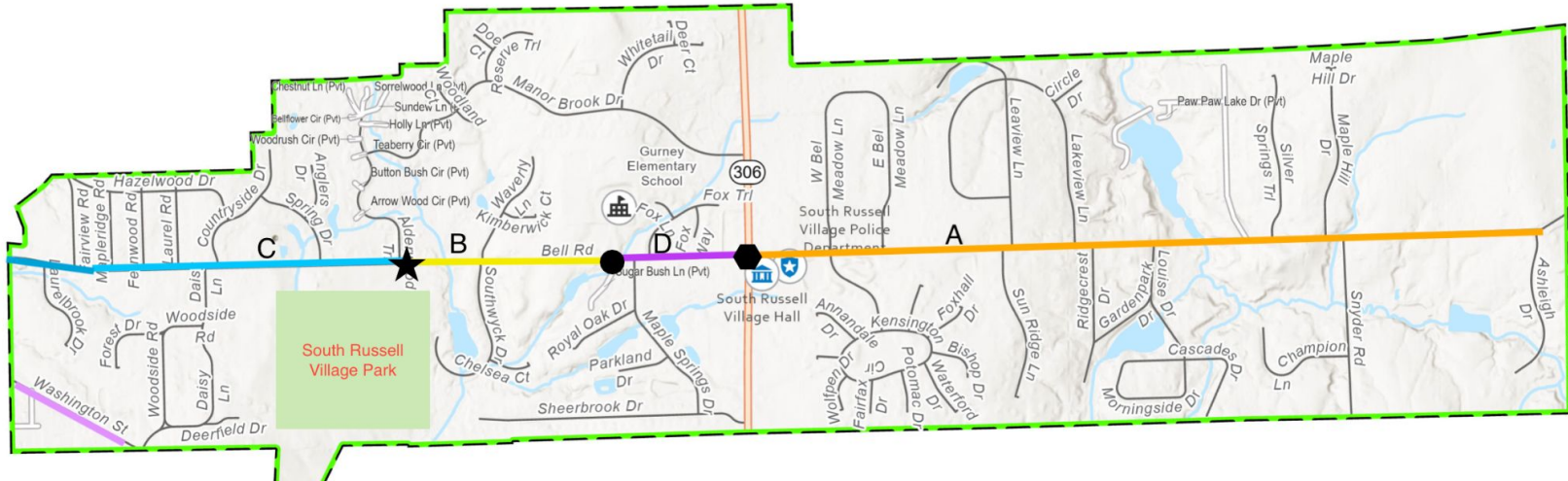


# What improvements would enable residents to walk/bike more often in South Russell?

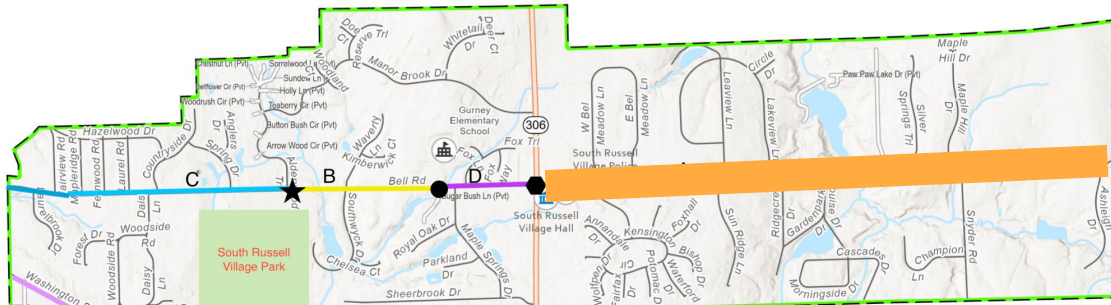
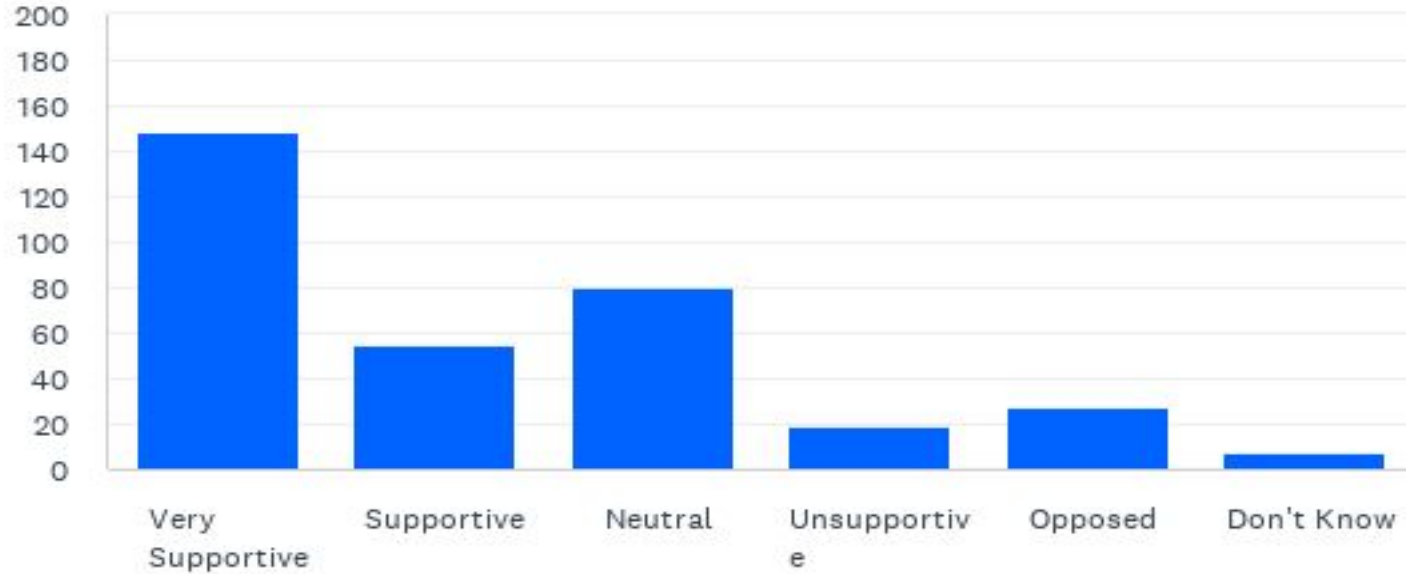
## Key Insights:

- **Off-road paths** are the **#1 infrastructure improvement** that would allow the community to walk/bike more often to all destinations
- **Safer intersections and crossings** (crosswalks and signals) are the second most cited improvement that would allow the community to walk/bike more often to all destinations
- Off-road paths and safer intersections/crossings **to/from South Russell Village Park** would allow the most community members to walk/bike more often (250 households for off-road paths)

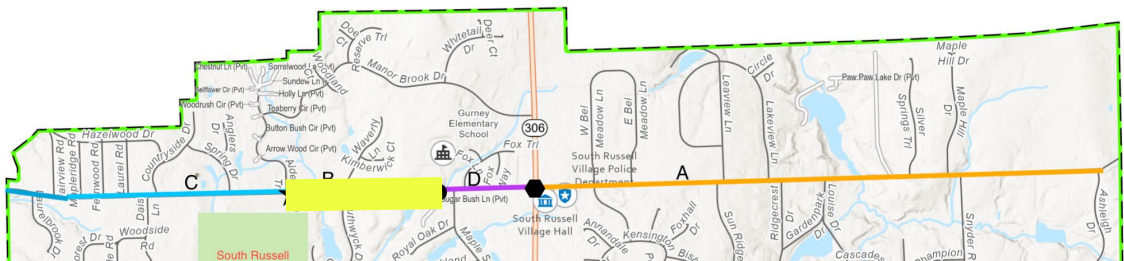
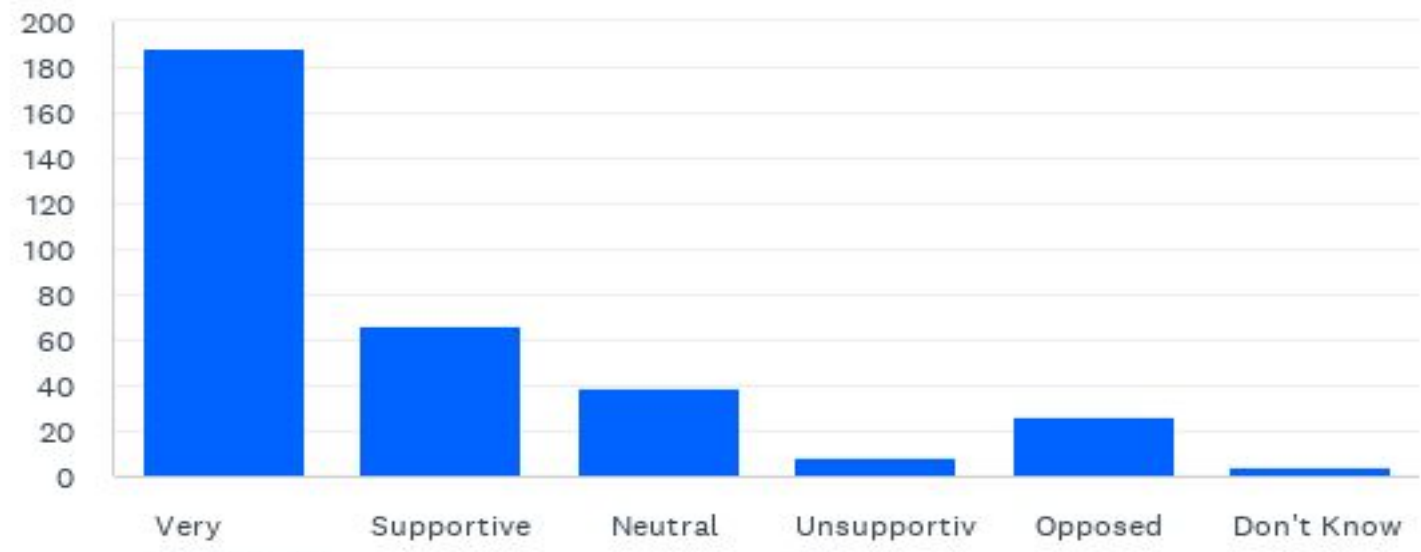
- I. What is the desire of the community to walk/bike in South Russell?
- II. What improvements would cause residents to walk/bike more often in South Russell?
- III. What is the support or opposition for different improvements in different locations?**



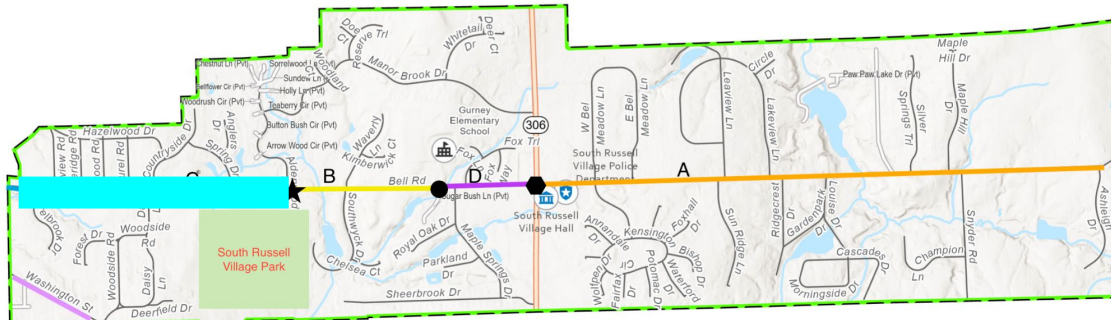
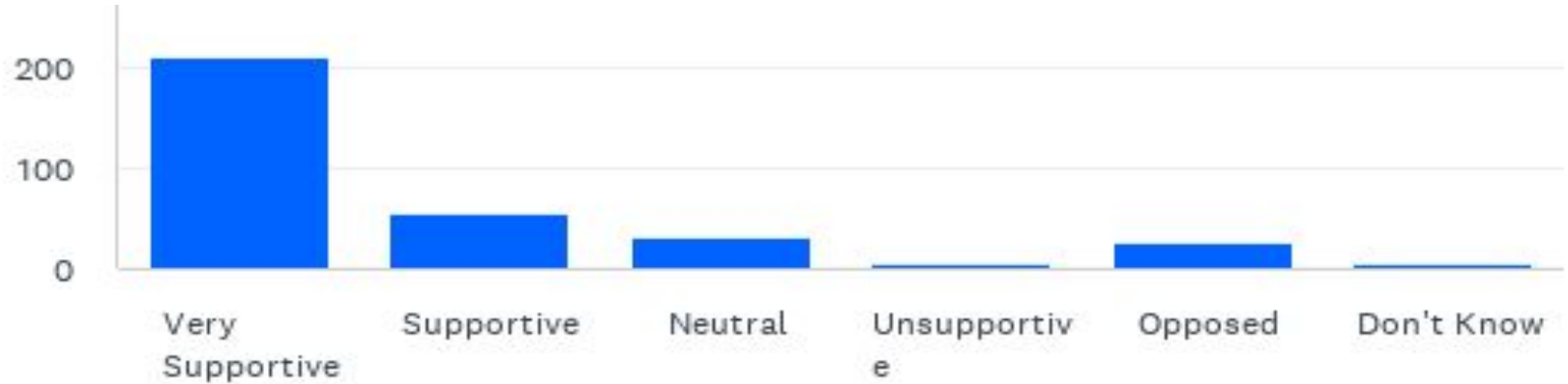
# Level of Support for an off-road path on Bell Rd East of 306



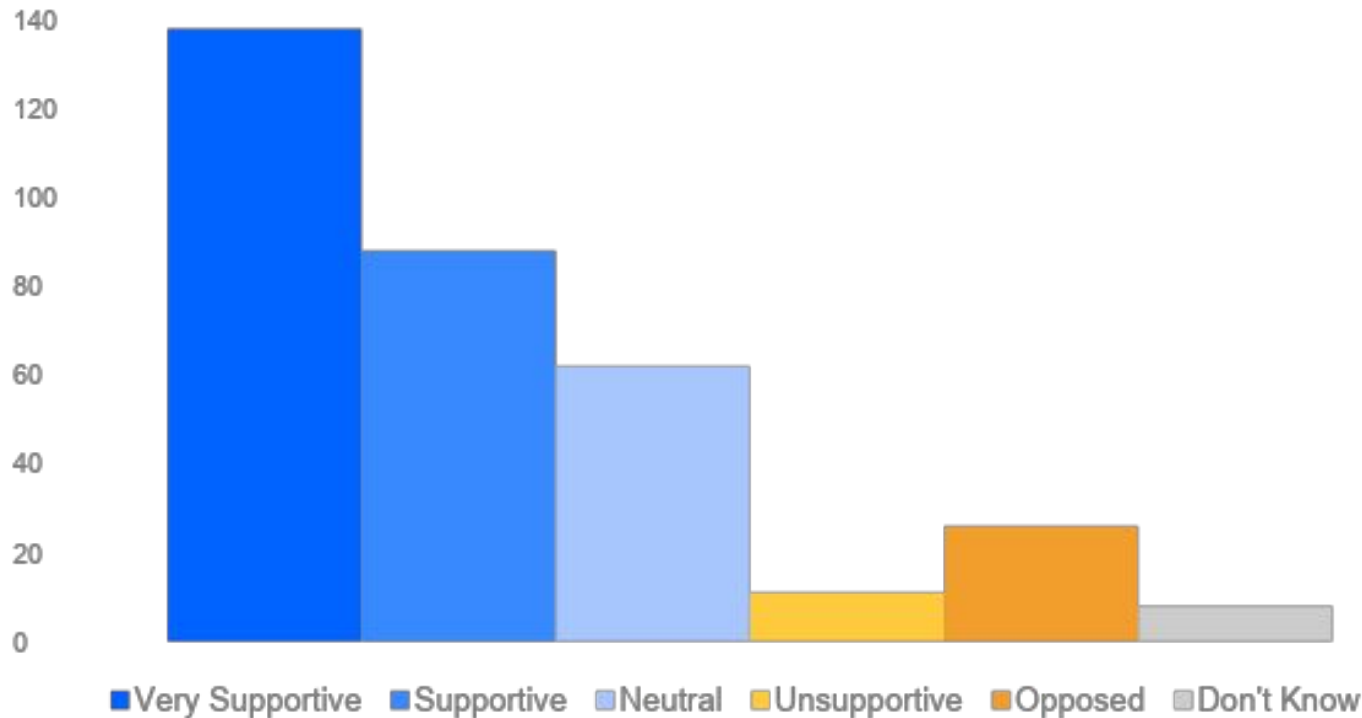
# Level of Support for an off-road path on Bell Rd between Gurney Elementary and South Russell Village Park



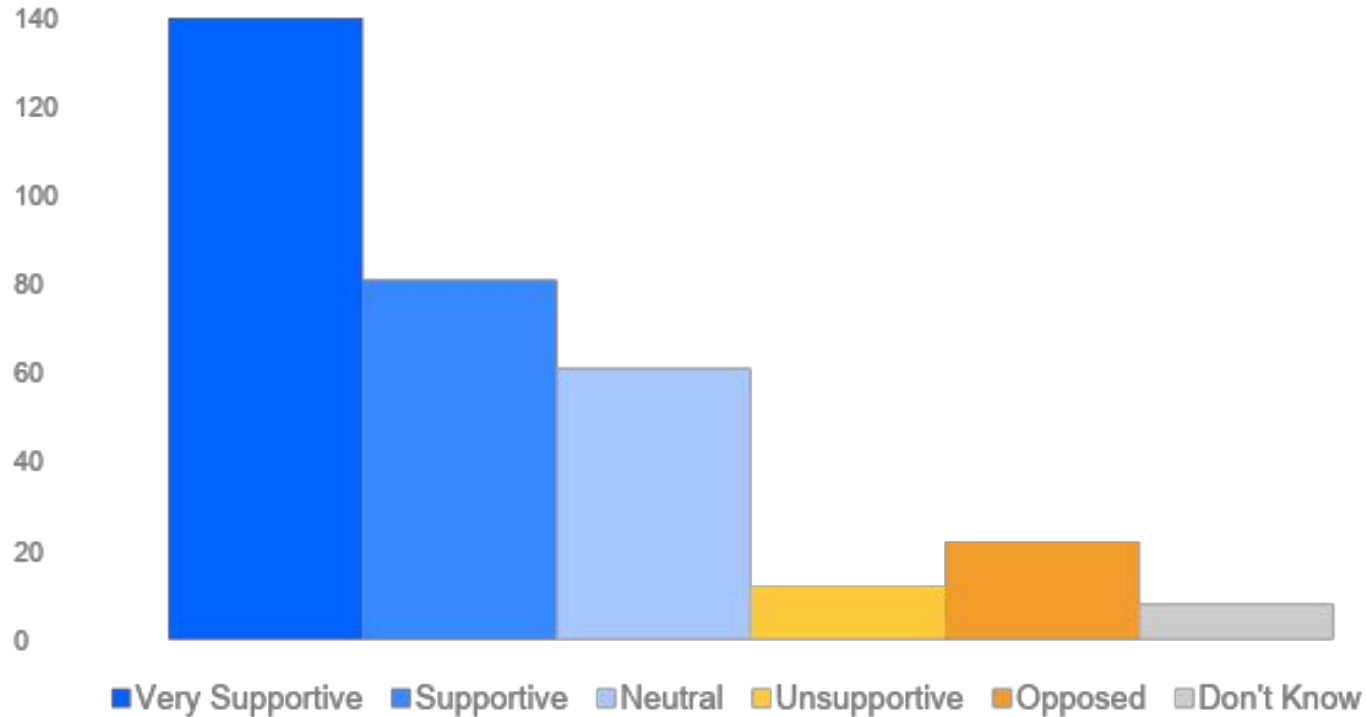
# Level of Support for an off-road path on Bell Rd between South Russell Village Park and the Village of Chagrin Falls



# Level of Support for a crosswalk and pedestrian signals at the **intersection of 306 and Bell**

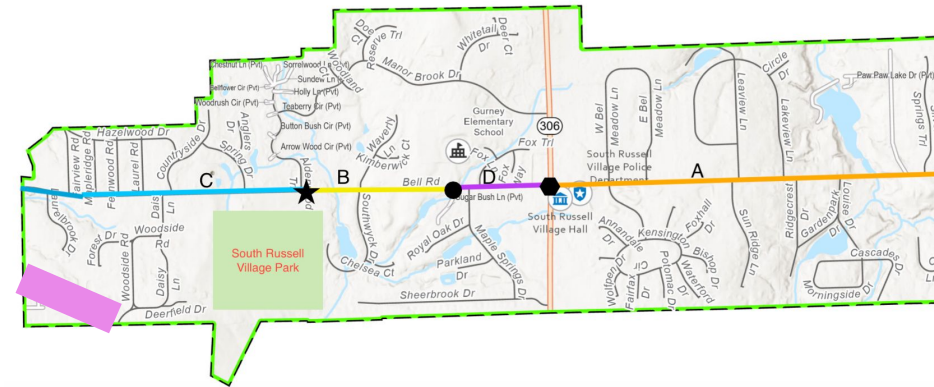
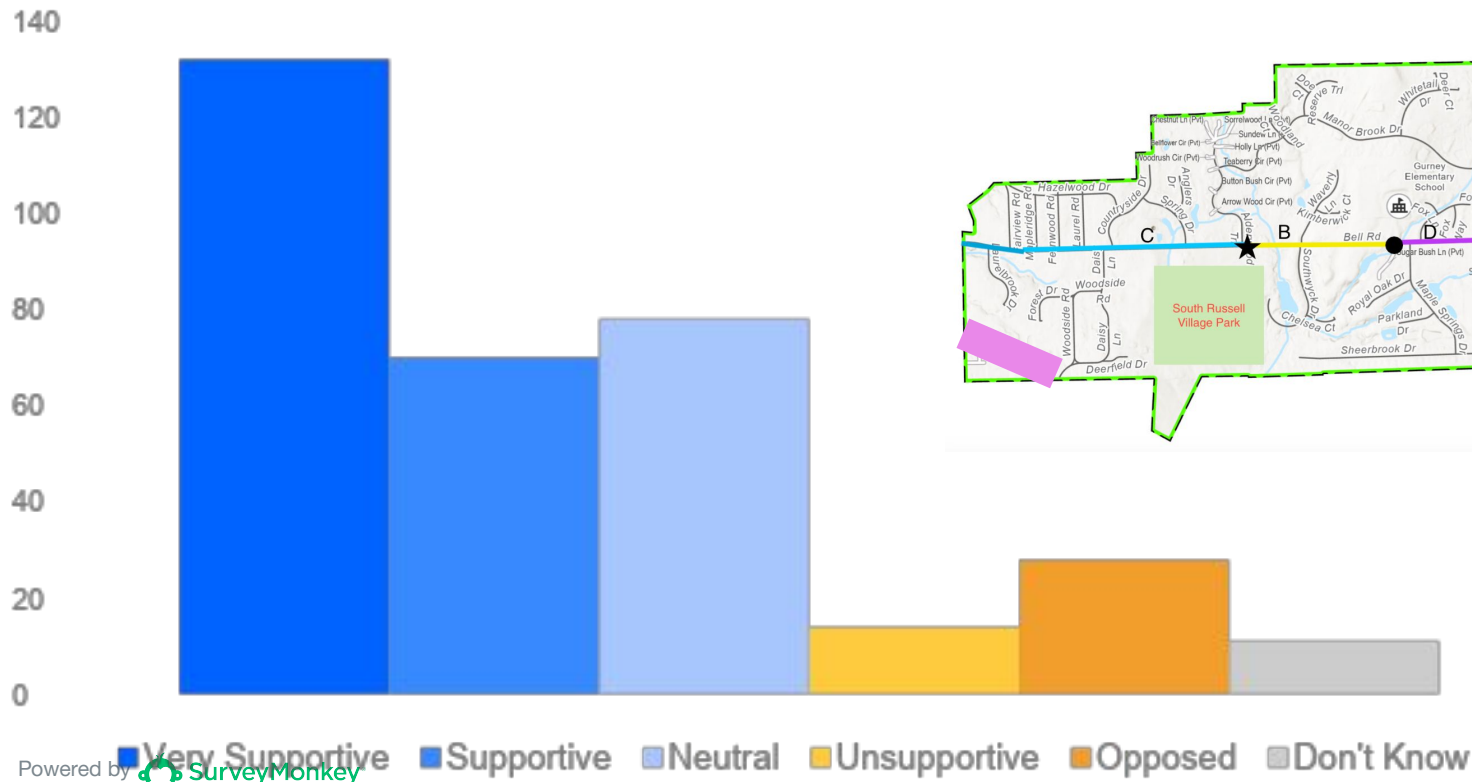


# Level of Support for a crosswalk and pedestrian signals at the **intersection of Bell Rd and Gurney Elementary**



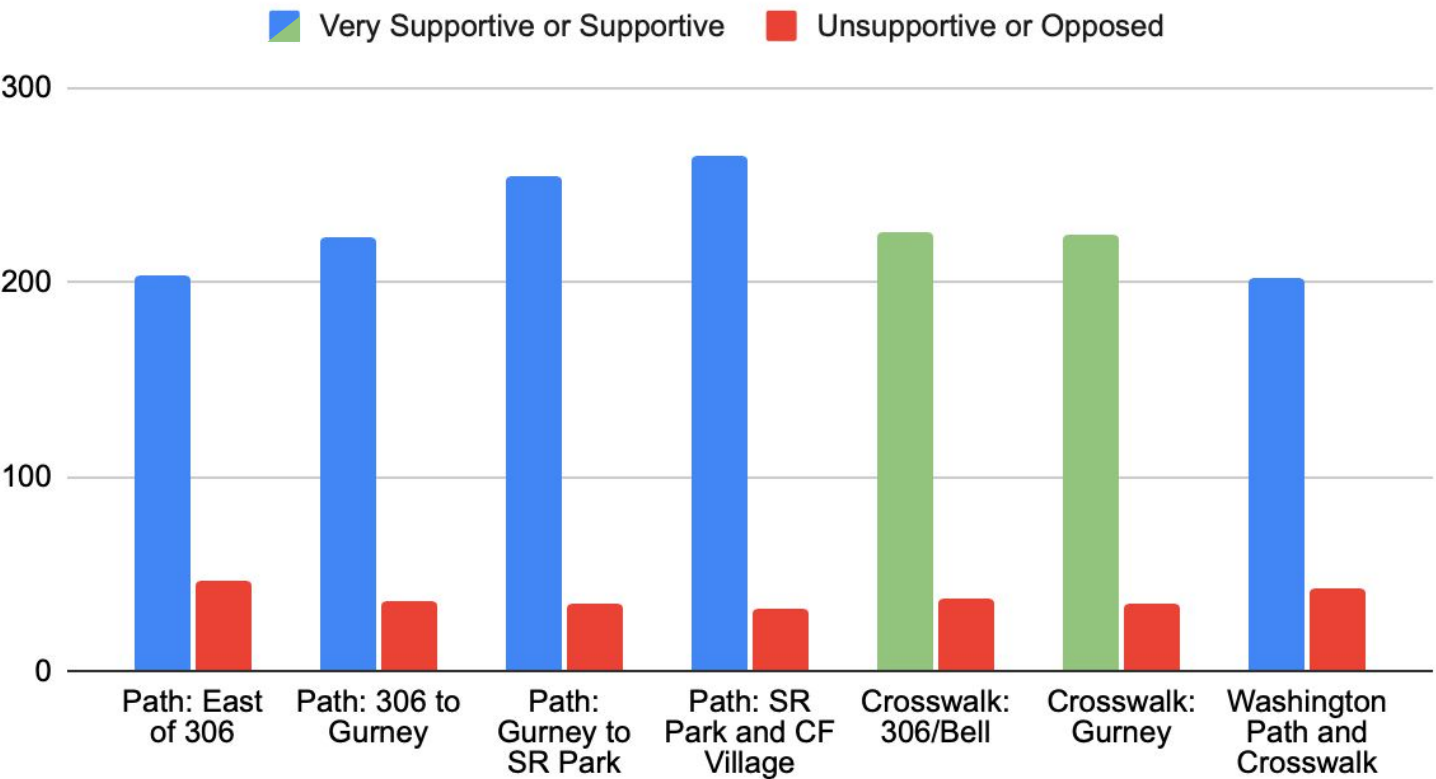


# Level of Support for an off-road path plus crosswalk and pedestrian signals on E Washington St in South Russell between Daisy Lane and Burntwood Tavern.

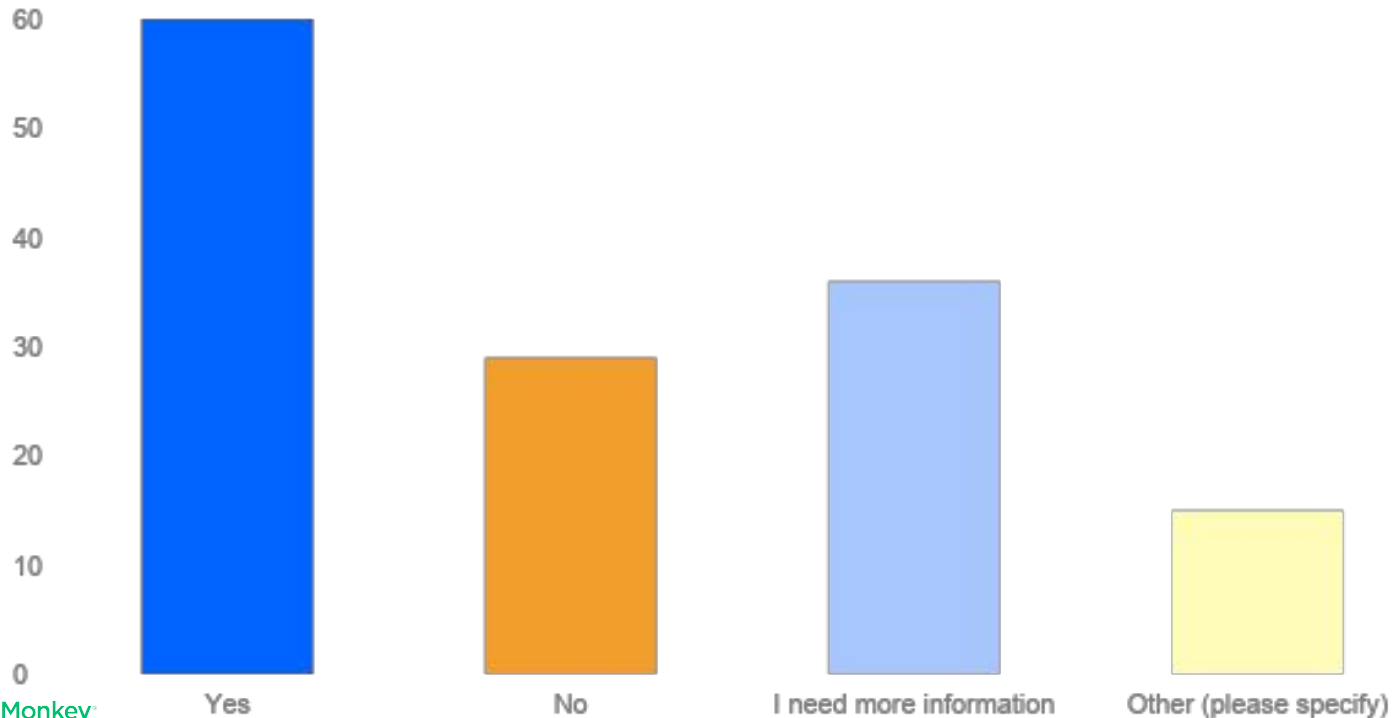


**Support for paths and infrastructure improvements is both broad and enthusiastic.**  
Highest support is for **off-road paths on Bell**  
**Western segments** along Bell have higher support than eastern segments

### Very Supportive or Supportive vs Unsupportive or Opposed



For respondents that chose neutral, unsupportive or opposed for one or more projects. Are they likely to support infrastructure improvements in those areas if partially funded by a State or Federal Grant?



# What is the support or opposition for different improvements in different locations?

## Key Insights:

- **Significant support** for all off-road paths and crossings
- Support is **highest for off-road paths**
- Support increases in the **western segments**
- The highest support is in both of the segments **connecting to South Russell park** (from Gurney Elementary or from Chagrin Falls)
- 60 households would move from neutral/opposed to supportive if improvements were **funded by grants**

# What are the residents concerns?

Maintaining the rural character of the community

Cost

Bell was already widened, isn't that sufficient?

- Ensure rural character is a key component of design



- \$800k in federal funds for walk/bike paths
- Commit to identifying more funding opportunities

Wider streets promote faster driving speeds  
Faster driving speeds narrow peripheral vision.  
Faster driving speeds increase the likelihood of pedestrian death in collisions  
Safety measures therefore are still needed



# Voices from the community

"... An off-road path from our house to downtown Chagrin would be life-changing - not exaggerating! We will not walk or bike on Bell Rd. without it due to safety concerns, but we would absolutely love this!"

"South Russell prides itself on being a safe and family oriented community, yet it lacks basic safety measure necessary for residents to easily access and enjoy parks, local businesses, and neighbors. Sidewalks/off-road-paths, in addition to safe crosswalks, would greatly enhance the daily lives of residents, increase the sense of community, and promote physical activity."

Current situation stinks, can't believe there haven't been more bike or runner deaths because of no sidewalks/paths.

"No brainer. Paths have proven to build a "community". Spend the money. Happy to pay taxes for this."

"We live on Bell Road and would greatly support paths being added the entire length of Bell. It would be wonderful to be able to safely traverse SRV on foot. We would gladly support an easement into our property to widen Bell to create space for a path."

"We have been dying for sidewalks to safely walk to town most of all. Stroller friendly please! I would support this in any way I can. It would be a game changer for our community!"

"As a family, we currently don't bike around town or to town, because it's simply far too dangerous. It would be incredible to have biking/walking paths to use to get to the park, schools, downtown, and businesses on Washington! How wonderful to be able to bike to dinner and back or ride bikes to get ice cream. This would greatly improve our community and encourage people to get out from behind their screens to exercise and enjoy our beautiful community."

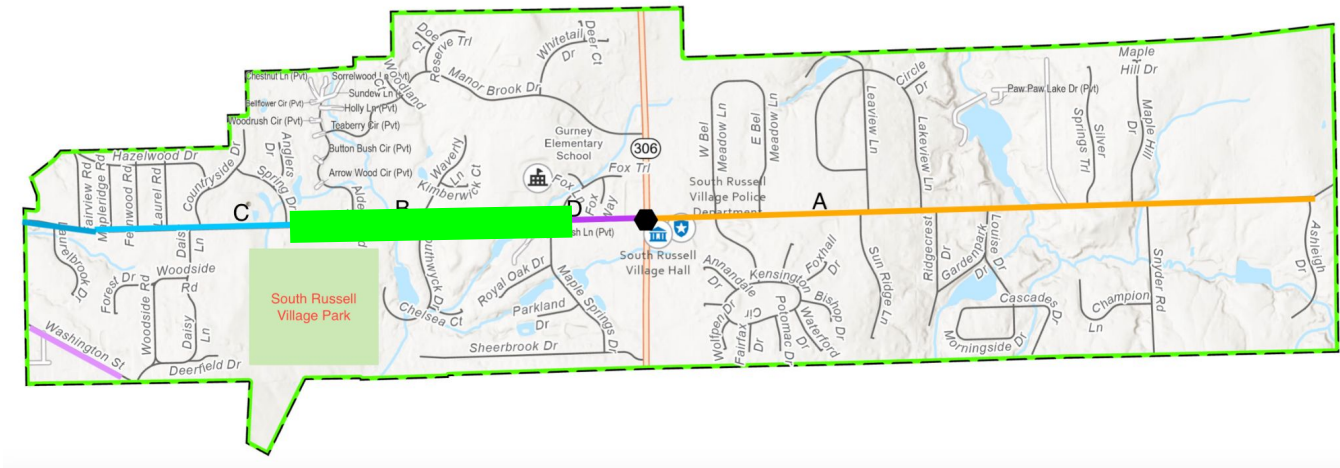
# Committee Insights and Recommendations

- Improved infrastructure of bicycle and pedestrian transport is highly desired in this community
- Prioritize connecting residents to South Russell Park
- Prioritize connecting children to schools
- As much as possible - fund infrastructure with grants
- Keep the rural character of the community in path design
- Make sure to take a phased and actionable approach

# Committee Phase Recommendations

## Phase 1.

- 1. Bell Rd. Crossing at Alderwood (underway)
- 2. Off-road path on Bell Rd. from Fox Run past Gurney Elementary through South Russell Park to Spring Drive.
- 3. Off-road path on Bell Rd from Chagrin Lakes to Sugarbush.
- 4. Bell Rd. Crossing at Gurney Elementary



Less than **1 mile of path** that **connects** more than **50% of residents** to park and school and each other!



# **Committee Phase Recommendations**

## **Phase 1.**

1. Bell Rd. Crossing at Alderwood (underway)
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3. Off-road path on Bell Rd from Chagrin Lakes to Sugarbush.
4. Bell Rd. Crossing at Gurney Elementary

## **Phase 2.**

1. Off-road path on Bell Rd. from Spring Drive to Chagrin Falls
2. Off-road path on Bell Rd. from Chagrin Lakes to 306.
3. Crossing at 306 and Bell Rd.
4. Off-road path on Bell Rd. east of 306 to Sun Ridge

## **Phase 3.**

1. Off-road path and crossing on Washington
2. Improved infrastructure in neighborhoods/HOAs



**Thank you!**