

## NC-210 ECG FEASIBILITY STUDY

### PUBLIC SURVEY

The project team launched a public survey on July 12, 2022, and it was open for public comment until August 8, 2022. The Cape Fear Council of Governments linked the survey on their website as a PublicInput.com survey. The survey attracted 1,774 participants who provided approximately 1,500 comments. The feedback obtained through this survey will support the framework for developing the proposed East Coast Greenway through Pender County.

The project team distributed the public survey to help accomplish the following:

- Introduce the project and gauge public support.
- Solicit and compile public comment on destinations, opportunities and challenges, user preferences, and route preferences.
- Fulfill requests for information.
- Develop an email contact list for interested parties.

The survey was divided up into the following three sections: project-specific questions, interactive mapping questions, and [optional] personal questions. Public feedback is summarized below by theme or specific comment.

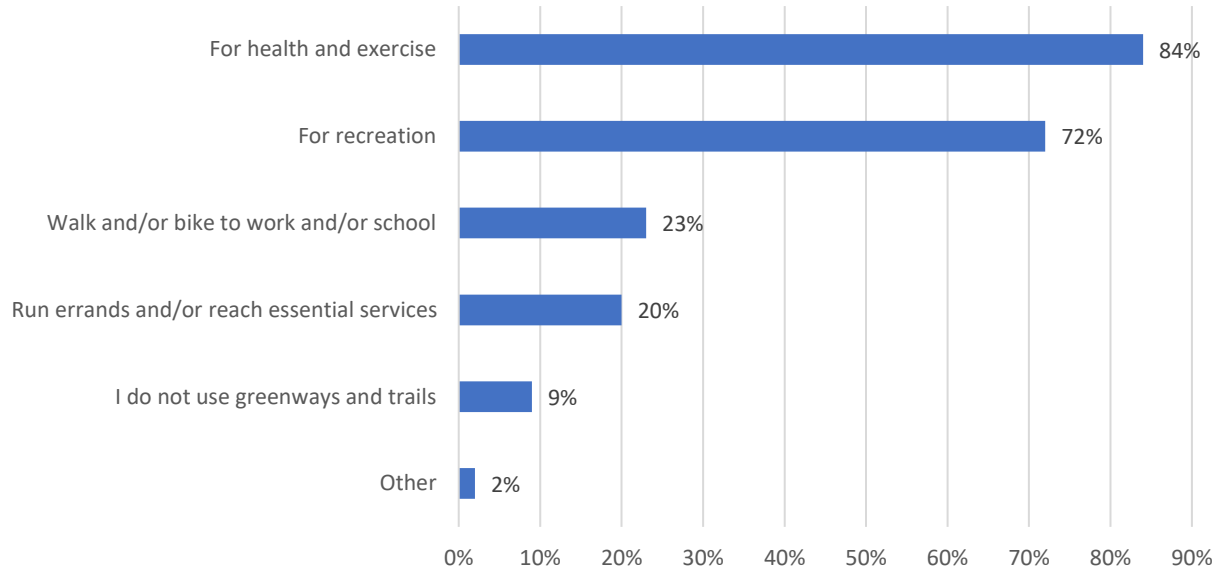
Overall, the comments collected were generally positive and include several different perspectives on the project. Key takeaways from the survey include the following:

- This corridor is a major link in the East Coast Greenway and will provide safe connections for residents and tourists alike
- Greenways are a valued community asset currently missing from the area
- Many people wish they could walk or bike to shopping destinations and the beach and would use a trail if it existed
- Heavy vehicular traffic and the lack of bicycle and pedestrian facilities on US 17, NC 210, Country Club Rd, and on the island makes walking and biking unsafe
- NC 210 between US 17 and NC 50 is a top priority and would enable residents of many neighborhoods to reach shopping and entertainment destinations without driving
- Off-road paths are safer and allow families and people of all ages and abilities to feel comfortable riding and walking
- Dogwood Lakes residents are concerned over possible land impacts and safety issues from a greenway through their neighborhood
- Existing sidewalks in the area often end abruptly or do not connect to useful destinations
- There is a desire for greenway amenities such as pet waste stations, benches, shade trees, and lighting on any proposed trail
- Access to schools and parks via trails is important, especially for families and young adults
- Trails in Wilmington and Wrightsville Beach are popular among respondents and should serve as an example for Surf City. Some respondents drive to Wilmington to use the greenways there.
- Sidewalks on Roland Ave north of the Surf City bridge are difficult to access and poorly maintained. This makes crossing to the island difficult despite the sidepath on the bridge.

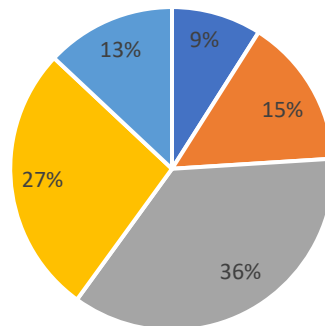
- Greenway connections to Holly Ridge and Wilmington are also desired

Survey Questions

**Question 1.** How do you currently use greenways, trails, and multi-use paths in Hampstead, Surf City, and neighboring communities? *Select all that apply.*

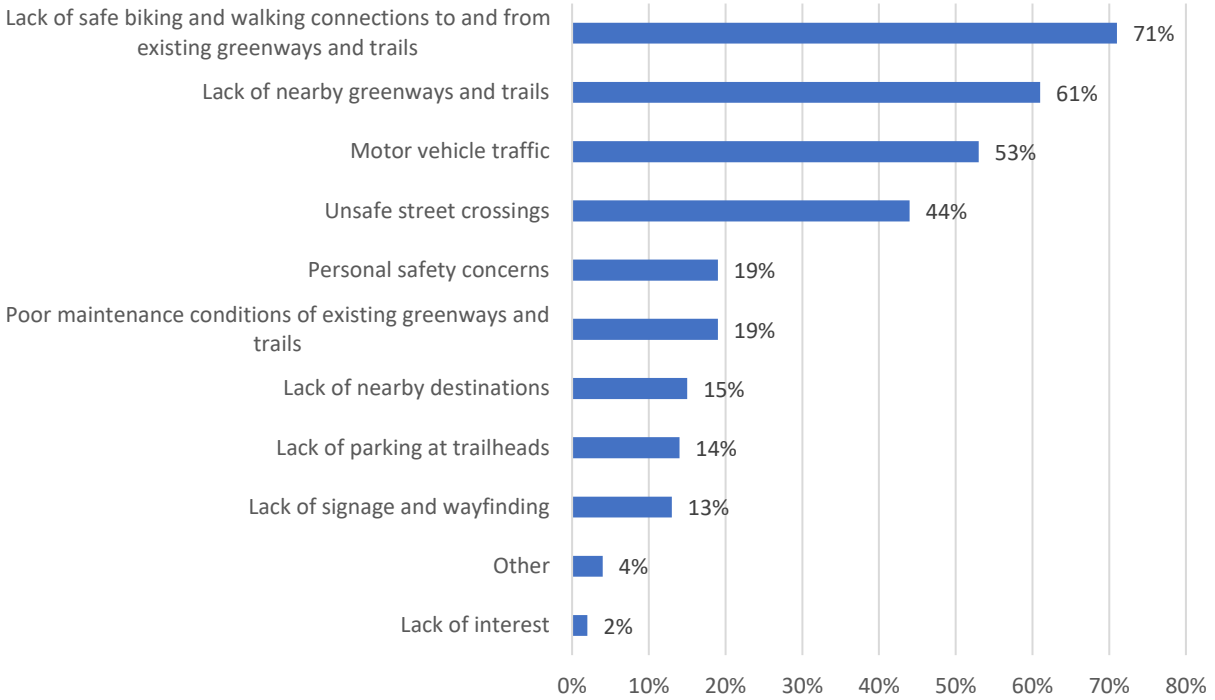


**Question 2.** How frequently do you use greenways, trails, and multi-use paths in Hampstead, Surf City, and neighboring communities?

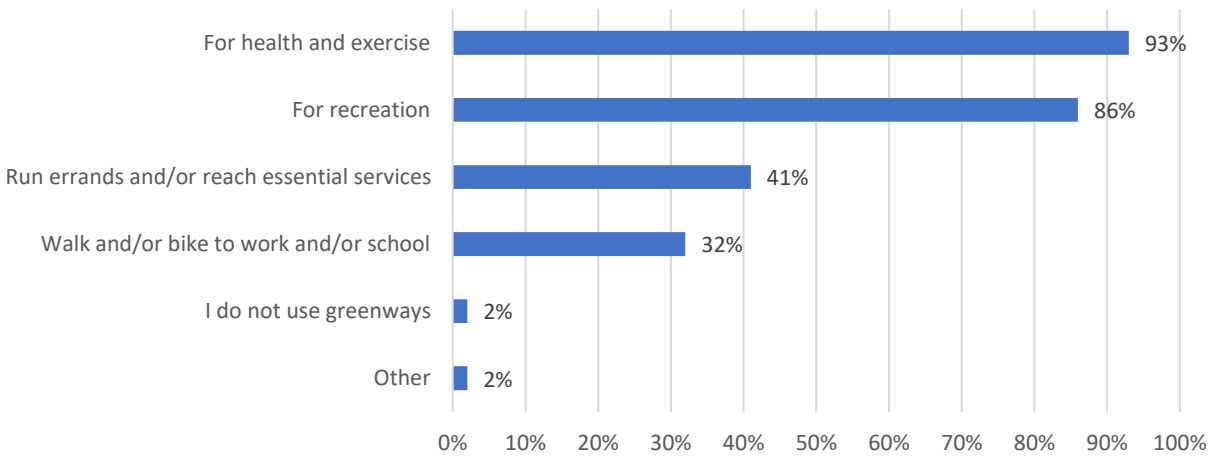


■ Never   ■ Daily   ■ A few times a week   ■ A few times a month   ■ A few times a year

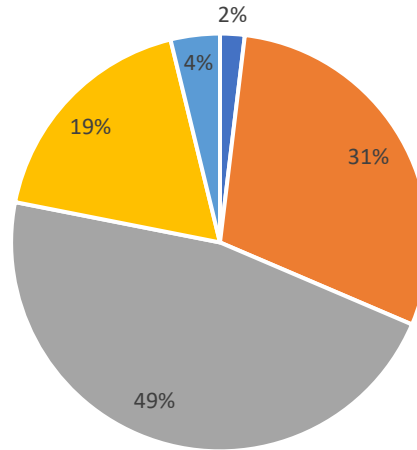
**Question 3.** What factors discourage you from using greenways, trails, and multi-use paths in Hampstead, Surf City, and neighboring communities? *Select all that apply.*



**Question 4.** How would you like to use the proposed NC-210 East Coast Greenway corridor (connecting Hampstead, Surf City, and North Topsail Beach) once the trail is constructed? *Select all that apply.*

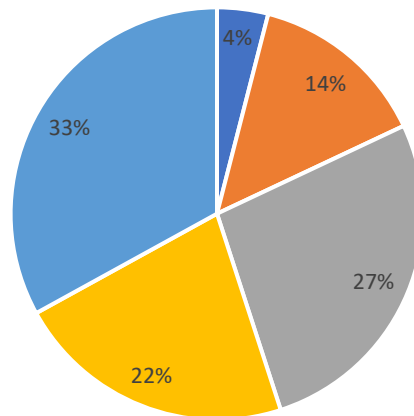


**Question 5.** How frequently would you use the proposed NC-210 East Coast Greenway corridor (connecting Hampstead, Surf City, and North Topsail Beach) once the trail is constructed?



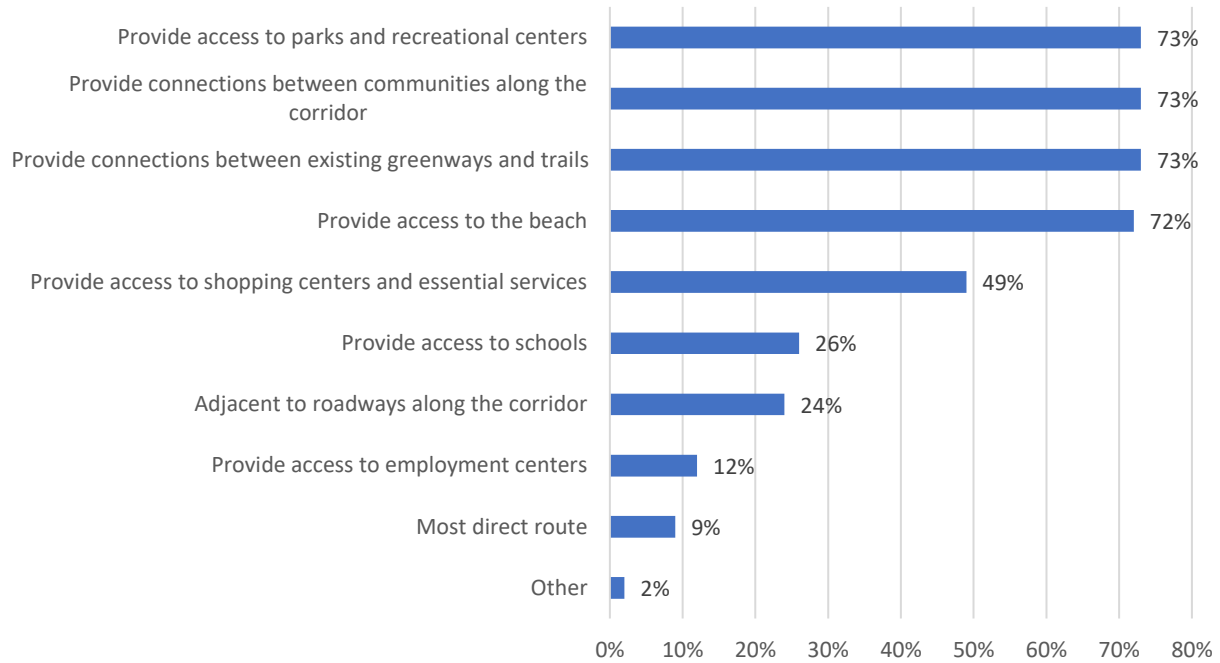
■ Never ■ Daily ■ A few times a week ■ A few times a month ■ A few times a year

**Question 6.** On average, how long of a distance would you be willing to travel along the proposed NC-210 East Coast Greenway corridor (connecting Hampstead, Surf City, and North Topsail Beach) as a part of a trip or activity?

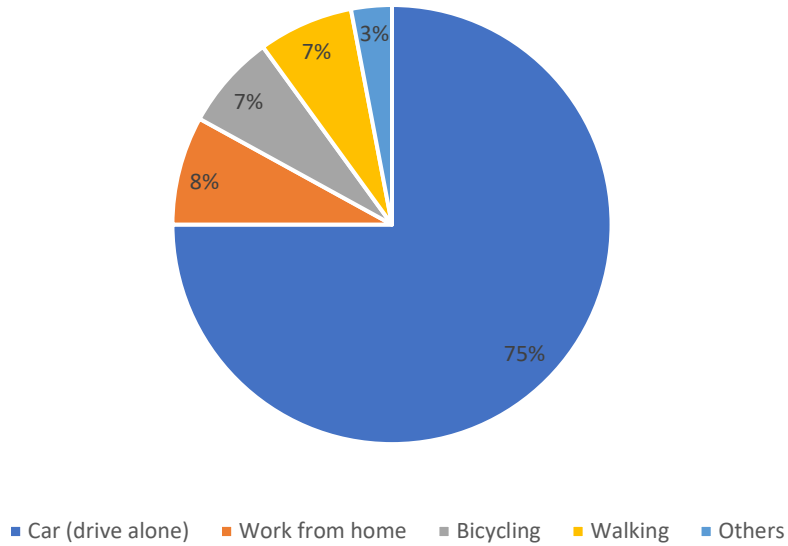


■ Others ■ 2-3 miles ■ 3-5 miles ■ 5-10 miles ■ 10 or more miles

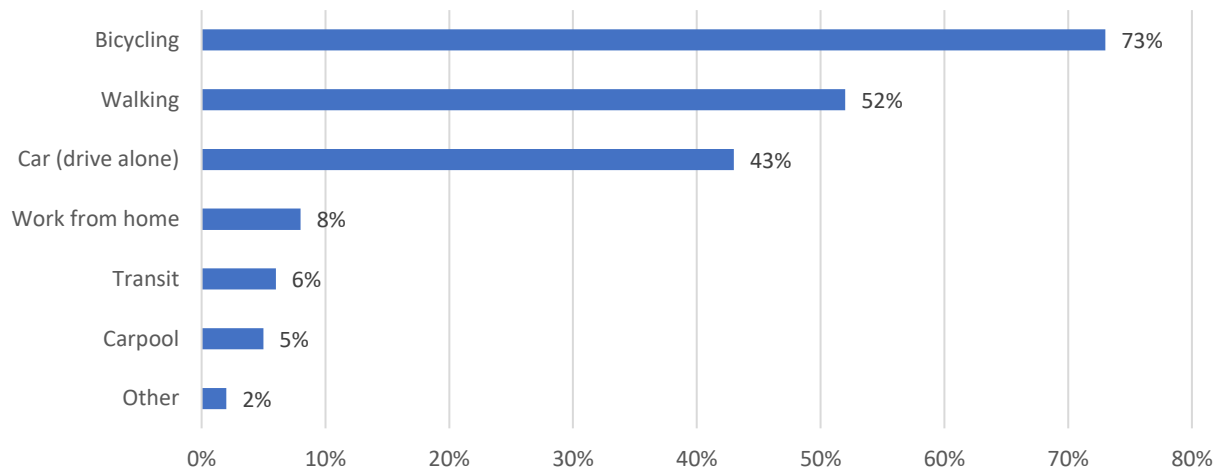
**Question 7.** What are your routing preferences for the proposed NC-210 East Coast Greenway corridor (connecting Hampstead, Surf City, and North Topsail Beach)? *Select all that apply.*



**Question 8.** What is your primary mode of transportation for commuting to work or school and/or running errands?



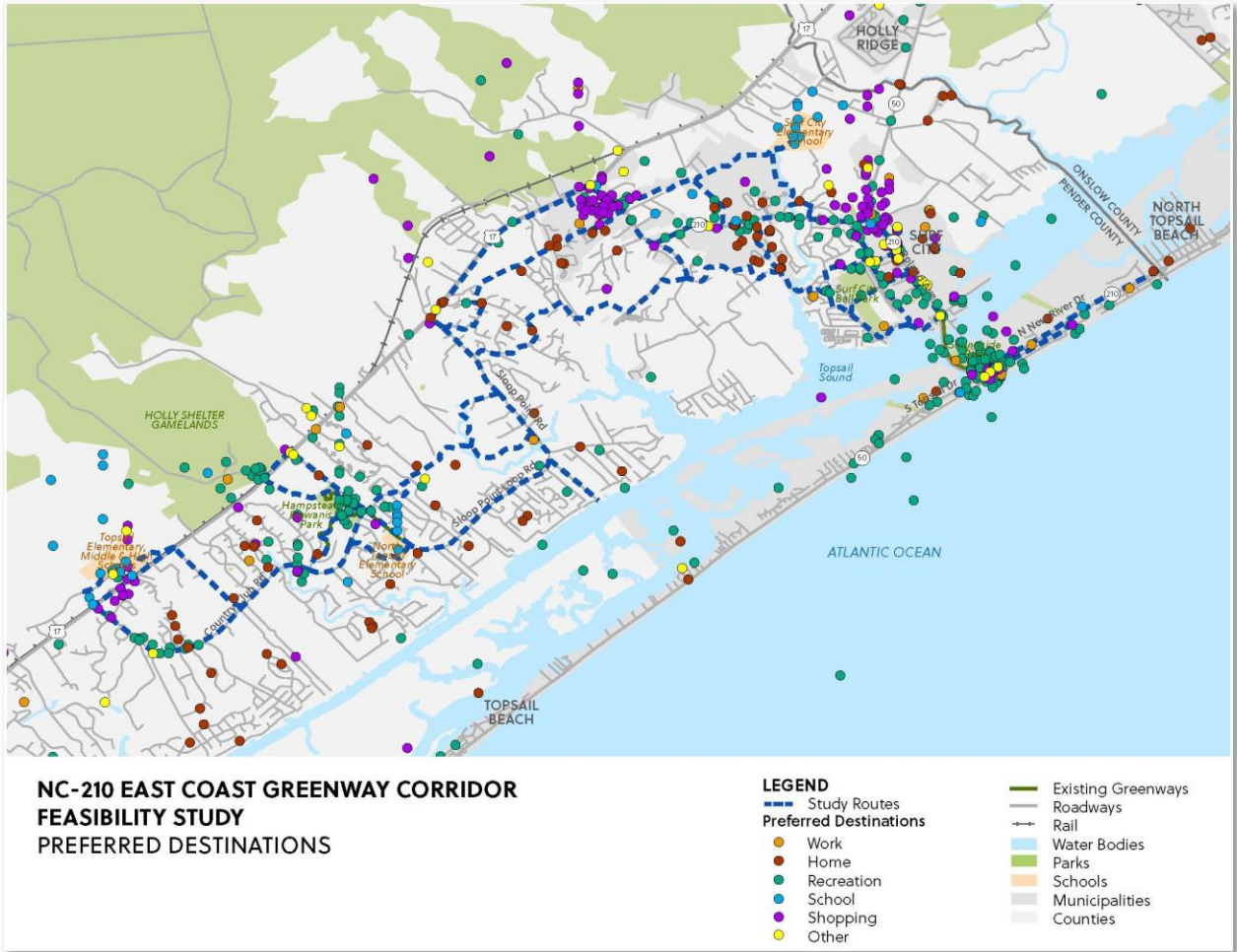
**Question 9.** Now consider your desired commute or mode for running errands in the future. Which modes would you like to use? *Select all that apply.*



### Interactive Mapping Questions

**Map Question 1.** Survey participants were asked to map their preferred destinations that they would like to access via the proposed NC-210 East Coast Greenway corridor (connecting Hampstead, Surf City, and North Topsail Beach). Participants could mark preferred destinations for their house, work location, recreational areas, schools, shopping destinations, and others. The updated study routes for the project were placed underneath the markers to provide a comparison between the routes and the survey results. The results are outlined in the table below by category.

CATEGORY	PREFERRED DESTINATIONS
<b>Work</b>	Survey respondents did not identify accessing work from the greenway as a priority when compared to other destination categories. In general, work locations were scattered across the study area.
<b>Home</b>	Several respondents marked that they live between the Topsail schools (Elementary, Middle, and High) and Sloop Point Road. A handful of respondents also marked that they would like to access the greenway from their homes that are located between NC-210 and the Surf City Ballpark.
<b>School</b>	According to the survey, Topsail Elementary, Topsail Middle School, Topsail High School, North Topsail Elementary School, and Surf City Elementary School were marked as primary destinations for greenway users.
<b>Recreation</b>	Hampstead Kiwanis Park, Holly Shelter Gamelands, and Soundside Park are considered important recreational areas to survey respondents. Respondents also indicated that they would like to access recreational opportunities within the Town of Surf City's municipal limits (and along NC-210).
<b>Shopping</b>	Popular shopping destinations, such as the Lowes Foods and Lowe's Home Improvement store on US 17 were marked multiple times during the mapping exercise. Another popular shopping destination that future greenway users would like to access is the Walmart Neighborhood Market on NC-210.
<b>Other</b>	Several "other" destinations were placed on the map along US 17 and NC-210 in Surf City. Others were scattered throughout the study area.



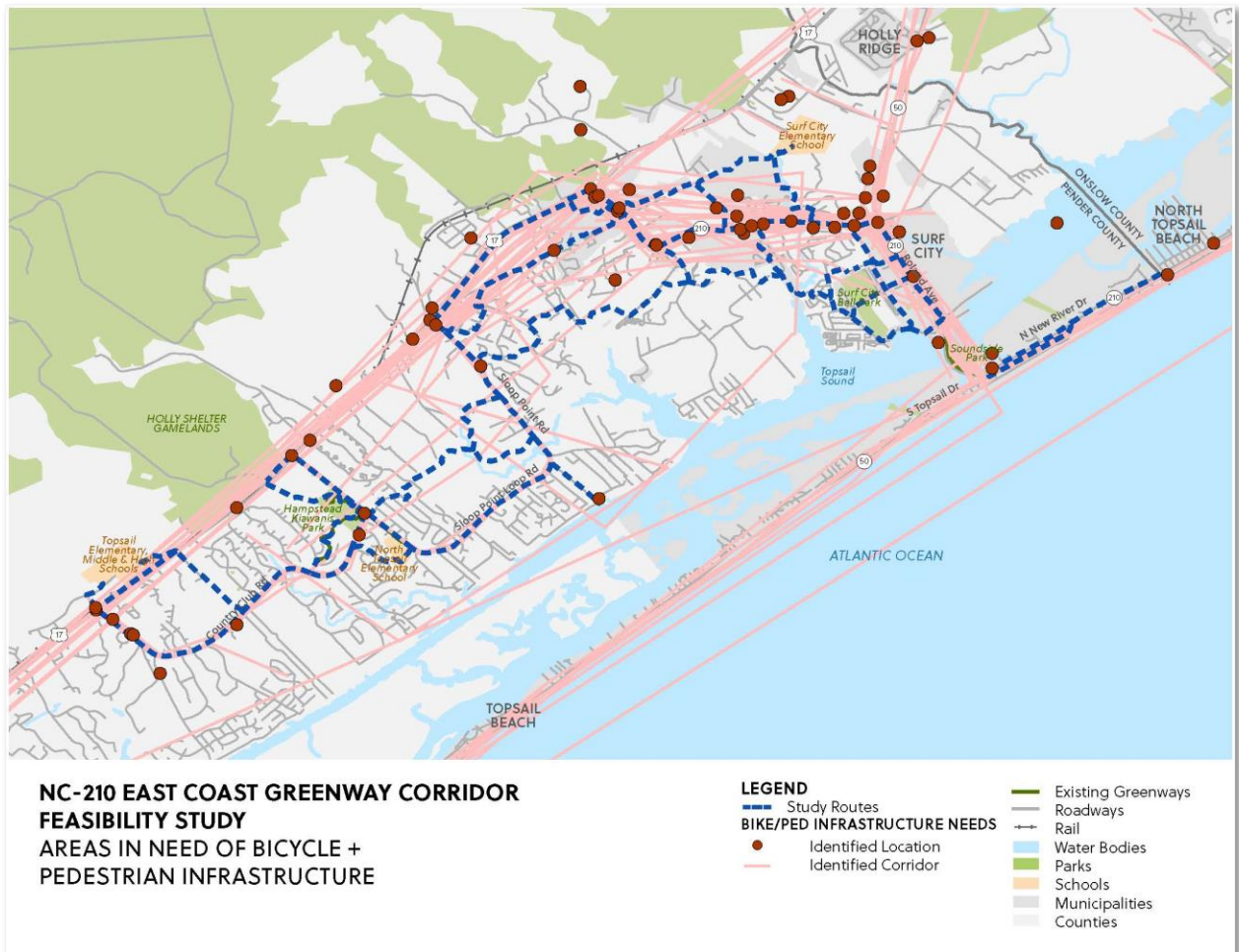
**Summary of Map Comments:**

- Safe and convenient access for pedestrians and cyclists to shopping, dining, and recreation is highly desired by the community
- A trail connection between Holly Ridge and Surf City is desired
- Respondents do not currently feel safe walking or biking on Topsail Island, especially between Surf City and Topsail Beach
- A lack of sidewalks on the east side of Roland Ave north of the Surf City Bridge makes it difficult for some people to walk or bike to the beach
- Harris Teeter is frequently mentioned as a specific shopping destination to which access is desired
- Respondents would like to see the western section of the trail provide access to Olde Point Country Club, Ironclad Golf, and Kiwanis Park



**Map Question 2.** The second interactive mapping question asked participants to mark areas (e.g., streets, intersections, neighborhoods, etc.) that need the most pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements along the proposed NC-210 East Coast Greenway Corridor (connecting Hampstead, Surf City, and North Topsail Beach). Again, the updated study routes for the project were placed underneath the markers to provide a comparison between the routes and the survey results.

According to survey respondents, most of the areas identified for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure fall along US 17, NC-210, and NC-50. Surf City was identified as needing the most bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, especially along NC-210 (indicated by the red markers). Some roads, including Country Club Road and US 17 were also recognized as areas that could use bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in the future. In general, the markers placed in the interactive map exercise align with the routes under consideration for the NC-210 ECG Feasibility Study.



**Summary of Map Comments:**

- Walking and biking on the island, especially south of Surf City, is unsafe due to a lack of sidewalks and bike paths

- Many major roads including NC 210 are narrow and do not have even a wide shoulder for pedestrians, bicyclists, or joggers
- Safe paths and crosswalks are important for encouraging youth to walk or bike to school
- Country Club Rd is unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists yet serves a number of residential neighborhoods
- Pedestrian safety barriers may be needed at US 17
- Traffic on US 17, NC 210, and NC 50 is very high, especially in tourist season