

Cycling News

December 2009

Public Support for Cycling in Saskatoon

Every year the City of Saskatoon conducts a survey to gauge citizens' concerns and satisfaction with civic services. In the November 2009 survey, 501 residents were also asked for their response to the actions and programs undertaken to encourage and accommodate cycling in our city. The following results indicate that there is strong support for the work that has been done so far, and that there is more work to be done:

Downtown Changes for Cyclists

In 2009, the City implemented a plan to improve conditions for cyclists in downtown that included adding bike lanes and shared-use lane markings on downtown streets.

- Seven in ten (69.7%) citizens agree that new bike lanes and share-used lane markings has made downtown more friendly for cyclists (47.5% somewhat agree and 22.2% strongly agree).
- On the other hand, two in ten (19.2%) either somewhat (12.2%) or strongly (7.0%) disagree with this statement, while one in ten (11.2%) report they do not know.

Additional Bike Lane Options

The City is considering a variety of options to provide space on more roads for cyclists.

- Nearly one half (46.5%) believe cyclists should continue to share existing lanes with vehicles and no further space be provided.
- Among those open to offering further space to cyclists, opinions are divided. Nearly two in ten (18.8%) support widening streets to build bike lanes (after being informed that doing so would be an additional cost to taxpayers) and 17.2% support converting parking lanes into bike lanes.
- A further 7.8% support converting a traffic lane to use for cyclists.

Accommodating Cyclists on all Streets

The City's policy regarding cycling is that "Every Street is a Cycling Street", indicating that cyclists have the same right to use all streets as other users – excluding freeways.

- A majority of citizens (67.8%) support this policy (27.9% strongly, 39.9% somewhat).
- Three in ten (29.4%) somewhat (16.0%) or strongly (13.4%) disagree.

Interest in Cycling Education Program

Note that the following results do not take into consideration if respondents own a bike. Further, actual interest in a Cycling Education Program, if offered, may be notably different than these findings suggest, particularly as pricing for the program was not presented to respondents.

- One quarter (27.2%) report they would be either somewhat or very interested to enroll in a course to learn how to safely and effectively use their bike within the city.
- The balance (71.1%) is either not very or not at all interested, with a notable proportion being not at all interested (48.9%).

For the full results of the Civic Services Survey, visit the City of Saskatoon website at Saskatoon.ca and click on “C” in the directory for Civic Services Survey.

