

# Active in Moorhead (AIM) Partnership

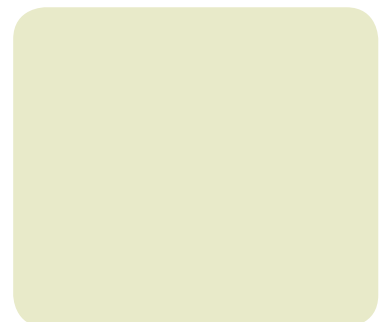
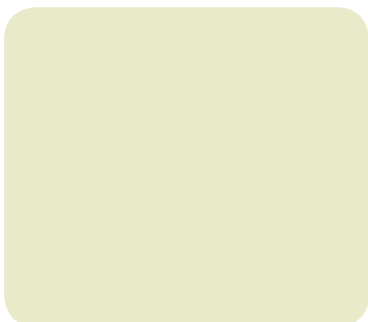
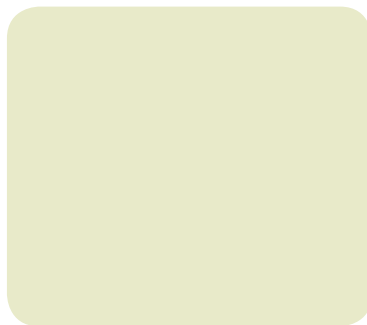
## 2009 Neighborhood and College Meeting Results

Perceptions among community members regarding active living in their neighborhoods

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Prepared by:  
North Dakota State Data Center at North Dakota State University, an Equal Opportunity Institution

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<http://www.ndsu.edu/sdc/publications.htm>





# FOREWORD AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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This report, entitled *Active in Moorhead (AIM) Partnership: 2009 Neighborhood and College Meeting Results*, presents findings from a series of neighborhood and college meetings in Moorhead, Minnesota, conducted between January and March 2009 by members of the AIM partnership. The purpose of the meetings was to gather information from residents of the City of Moorhead regarding active living and life in their neighborhoods. The questions asked at the meetings were designed by members of the AIM partnership.

The AIM partnership is between the City of Moorhead, the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments (Metro COG), and Clay County Public Health with funding from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota. Members of the AIM partnership are:

- Keely Hyland, Health Educator, *Clay County Public Health*
- Wade Kline, Executive Director, *Metro COG*
- Justin Kristan, Regional Bike Pedestrian Coordinator, *Metro COG*
- Deb Martzahn, Moorhead City Planner, *City of Moorhead*
- Gina Nolte, Director of Health Promotions, *Clay County Public Health*
- Nancy Otto, Moorhead City Council, *City of Moorhead*
- Tom Trowbridge, Assistant City Engineer, *City of Moorhead*
- Lori Van Beek, Transit Manager, *City of Moorhead*
- Lisa Vatsndal, Neighborhood Services Manager, *City of Moorhead*

Detailed notes were taken at the meetings and analyzed by the North Dakota State Data Center for the AIM partnership. Results represent an assessment of the themes discussed by participants who attended the meetings, and should not be viewed as generalizable to the entire City of Moorhead. Companion research, a generalizable survey of Moorhead residents on active living issues, will be conducted in June of 2009. Both reports will be available on the North Dakota State Data Center website at [www.ndsu.edu/sdc/publications.htm](http://www.ndsu.edu/sdc/publications.htm).

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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## Project Overview

- ❖ The neighborhood and college meetings were conducted by the North Dakota State Data Center for the Active in Moorhead (AIM) partnership, which is a partnership between the City of Moorhead, the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments (Metro COG), and Clay County Public Health with funding from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota. The partnership is working to promote active living in Moorhead, and is working in collaboration with the city's comprehensive planning process.
- ❖ Four neighborhood meetings (at Moorhead Public Library, the Hjemkomst Center, Horizon Middle School, and S.G. Reinertsen Elementary School) and two college meetings (at Minnesota State University - Moorhead (MSUM) and Concordia College) were conducted between January and March 2009. The meetings involved an interactive clicker presentation, in which participants answered various questions in real time using a "clicker" device similar to a remote control and viewed instantaneous anonymous feedback from the collective group. Discussion was encouraged throughout each meeting.
- ❖ Detailed notes were taken by North Dakota State Data Center staff during the meetings for later analysis. A qualitative analysis of the responses was conducted. Results represent an assessment of the themes discussed by participants who attended the meetings, and should not be viewed as generalizable to the entire City of Moorhead. The Executive Summary presents a brief overview of the results of the meetings.

## Summary of Neighborhood and College Meeting Results

### About the Participants

- ❖ The vast majority of neighborhood meeting participants were Moorhead residents. Most neighborhood meeting participants were older than age 34. More women than men participated in the meetings. The vast majority of participants were homeowners living in a single-family home. The participants do not accurately reflect the proportion of renters and people living in dwellings with three or more housing units in the City of Moorhead.

- ❖ The vast majority of college meeting participants were college students, and most were ages 18 to 24. More women than men participated in the meetings. Most participants at MSUM lived in apartments in Fargo, and most participants at Concordia lived on campus.
- ❖ Most participants were satisfied that their home fits their current needs.
  - Discussion for neighborhood meeting participants regarding this issue included the need for senior housing, problems with streets that don't drain well, cost of heating, and having to drive everywhere. Among college students, discussion included the quality of apartments (such as getting more for your money in Fargo, parking issues).
- ❖ At least half of the neighborhood meeting participants planned to be in the same home in five years, while most college students either do not know or plan to move out of Moorhead.
  - Discussion regarding reasons neighborhood meeting participants might move out of Moorhead included the weather, jobs, health problems, and moving to be near family. Among college students, discussion included the need to go where jobs are, moving back home or to where family is, and going to graduate school.

## Active Living

- ❖ Nearly half of participants said they sit most of the time during a typical day.
- ❖ Most participants said they do go for at least one walk in an average week; college meeting participants walked more than neighborhood meeting participants. Many participants said they do go for at least one bike ride in an average week. However, fewer participants go for bike rides than go for walks.
  - Discussion regarding walking/biking centered mainly around snow and ice issues, such as people not clearing snow off sidewalks.
- ❖ Most participants said they do not take public transportation in the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area on a weekly basis.
  - Discussion regarding taking public transportation included issues with time, the need for protected bus stops for children, the need for more routes, and snow issues.
- ❖ Participants said that wanting to be outside, fun/pleasure/social time, and needing exercise were the most motivating reasons to be physically active.
- ❖ Participants discussed barriers to active living as well as what would encourage them to be more active on a daily basis. Discussion included comments on:
  - Climate issues (such as cold, mosquitoes, puddles, flooding),
  - Facilities and services (such as pools, winter activities, parks, a community center, natural walking areas, lighting),

- Sidewalks (such as adding more sidewalks, clearing them of ice, adding more curb cuts),
- Crosswalks (such as time to cross, paint, fixing/changing “do not walk” lights, adding more crosswalks),
- Traffic (such as speed of vehicles, drivers paying more attention to pedestrians, needing stoplights),
- Bikes (such as needing more paths, separating paths from high traffic areas),
- Layout/connectivity (such as layouts that are bad for foot or bike travel), and
- Communication (such as a central place for information about events in the city, better communication about procedures for reporting problems).

## Neighborhoods

- ❖ Participants defined their “neighborhood” in a variety of ways, including by the location of parks or schools, a square mile area, a particular development, or an area of the city (such as downtown, north/south Moorhead, campus).
- ❖ Most participants were satisfied with the opportunities to get outside in their neighborhood.
  - Discussion regarding this issue included the lack of sidewalks in new construction, the need for open spaces (such as more open spaces to enjoy the outdoors, desire for public access to areas like college fields, difficulty getting through cul-de-sacs), foot traffic through their yards, parks above the flood plain, adjustments to streets to improve walkability (such as more trees, more stop signs, narrower roads).
- ❖ Most participants were satisfied with how easy and pleasant it is to be active within their neighborhood.
  - Discussion regarding this issue included safety (such as dangerous traffic), parks (such as updated play equipment), schools (such as wanting their children to be able to walk to school), problems with sidewalks/crosswalks (such as sidewalks being too narrow or too uneven, crosswalks being too far apart), the aesthetics/feel of a neighborhood (such as trees on both sides of the street, having lots of people out and about), safety, wanting a place to be active in the city but not necessarily having to have opportunities in their neighborhood, and access to outside activities depending on what neighborhood you live in.
- ❖ Many neighborhood meeting participants were satisfied with the sidewalks and pedestrian crosswalks in their neighborhood, but many were dissatisfied as well. More college meeting participants were dissatisfied than satisfied.
  - Discussion regarding this issue included need for repair/attention, crosswalk problems (such as lack of paint, drivers not stopping), being covered with snow and ice, having to walk in the streets, specific locations where they are needed, assistance with crossing streets, and the role of community reaction.

- ❖ Most participants had no experience with public transit in Fargo-Moorhead.
  - Discussion regarding this issue included time/frequency of busses, routes, and weather barriers.
  
- ❖ Many participants were satisfied with access to shopping/services from their home, although opinions varied between meetings.
  - Discussion regarding this issue included trains, downtown area problems (such as too few stores in Moorhead Center Mall and narrow sidewalks next to busy streets), Holiday Mall and Brookdale Mall areas (importance of businesses filling open spots), type of establishment (such as diverse/cultural foods, a club scene, a video store, grocery store, and general desire for neighborhood stores rather than big box stores), logistics (such as not being able to walk to nearby locations due to heavy traffic, being okay with retail close by if roads didn't directly connect it), competing with Fargo, the walking experience (such as aesthetics, auto fumes, unlevel ground), and not being able to find a home to buy that combined desired house features and a convenient neighborhood.
  
- ❖ Many participants were satisfied with the safety of their neighborhood, but there were concerns.
  - Discussion regarding this issue included lighting problems, speeding traffic, lack of city services (such as police officers or adequate fire response in certain parts of town), maintenance issues (such as not seeing lines on the road, lighting), sex offenders, stray dogs, and parking too close to driveways and crosswalks. College students were able to cite specific negative experiences (such as break-ins and thefts, drunken people on the streets, strange characters). Other negative perceptions also impacted college students' feeling of safety (such as experience working at the Rape & Abuse Crisis Center, crime in their neighborhoods).
  - Positive aspects were also shared, including the removal of graffiti and support for neighborhood block parties.
  
- ❖ Satisfaction levels varied a great deal with regard to traffic in participants' neighborhoods.
  - Discussion regarding this issue included traffic going too fast, there being too much traffic, problems crossing streets, bikes (such as adding bike lanes, educating drivers), and noise levels.
  
- ❖ Many participants were satisfied with the upkeep of neighboring properties. College meeting participants expressed more variability in their satisfaction levels.
  - Discussion regarding this issue included rental properties (such as upkeep, parking, inappropriate behavior, garbage in yards), trash (such as cigarette butts), enforcing codes (such as incompliance and not wanting to turn neighbors in), maintenance of property (such as watering of trees on city property or keeping up aesthetics at parks), and the downtown area (such as vacant businesses, generally unpleasant looking section of town, making Moorhead Center Mall into a community center).



- ❖ The vast majority of neighborhood meeting participants knew at least five neighbors by name. The degree to which participants' felt that living in their neighborhood gave them a sense of community varied between meetings.
  - Discussion regarding this issue centered on desire for community nights out and how a sense of community depends on the neighborhood and the individuals involved.
- ❖ Overall, participants desired to see parks/trails/community gardens as well as small retail developed on any open land in their neighborhood.
  - Discussion regarding this issue was about the desire for small retail (such as a local coffee shop, gas stations, video stores), revitalizing existing areas (such as Moorhead Center Mall, the Power Plant, retaining old neighborhoods), housing (such as keeping homes owner-occupied), parking at MSUM, and natural areas.
- ❖ Participants discussed what improvements they would like to see in their neighborhood. Discussion included comments on:
  - Housing (such as more private home ownership, better maintained rentals, off-street parking for rentals),
  - Recreation and amenities (such as an indoor swimming pool, more connected trails, a community recreation center),
  - City issues (such as sidewalks, recycling, street lights, a permanent bike bridge), and
  - Other issues (such as business, Power Plant, and having more positive things for teens to do along with transportation to allow it).
  - College meeting participants also expressed interest in finding a way for college students to become more integrated into the neighborhoods in which they live.
- ❖ Broad categories of recommendations from participants relate to sidewalks, crosswalks, traffic, MAT bus, bikes, aesthetics and maintenance, parks and open spaces, entertainment and recreation, housing, and creating a community.

# PARTICIPANT RECOMMENDATIONS

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In order to assist the reader, this list of participant recommendations is compiled from the comments included in the Detailed Results and Written Comments sections.

Recommendations might represent the comment of a single participant or represent comments by several participants. The recommendations have not been evaluated or prioritized. In cases where specific locations were mentioned, those locations are presented in a box to the right side.

Broad categories of recommendations include sidewalks, crosswalks, traffic, MAT bus, bikes, aesthetics and maintenance, parks and open spaces, entertainment and recreation, housing, and creating a community.

## Sidewalks

- ❖ Improve foot travel. →
- ❖ Keep sidewalks clear of snow and ice.
- ❖ Enforce existing snow removal policies for sidewalks.
- ❖ Clean some sidewalks as “emergency routes.”
- ❖ Have continuous sidewalks in new neighborhoods.
- ❖ Make wider sidewalks, and don’t have them too close to traffic.
- ❖ Fix sidewalks that are cracked and uneven.
- ❖ Put in curb cuts across the city.
- ❖ Have sidewalks on both sides by Robert Asp.
- ❖ Ensure adequate lighting (e.g., lights that are out, → areas that are not well-enough lit).
- ❖ Expand sidewalks downtown.
- ❖ Promote walking through less uneven surfaces, less auto fumes, enhanced aesthetics.
- ❖ Enforce parking regulations, so that parked cars are not blocking sidewalks.
- ❖ Encourage people to keep trees trimmed along sidewalks.

- Getting between Target and Cash Wise by foot
- Town Center Square
- St. Joseph’s School
- Bridge or tunnels for railroad tracks
- Crossing 8<sup>th</sup> Street and 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Streets in north Moorhead

- 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>
- At 4<sup>th</sup> by Island Park in Fargo

## Crosswalks

- ❖ Add more crosswalks. →
- ❖ Make sure “do not walk” lights are working.
- ❖ Educate people so they know to use the button to stop traffic.
- ❖ Have crosswalk signals that count down how long you have to get across.
- ❖ Freshen the paint on crosswalks.
- ❖ Add the crosswalk signs that go in the middle of the street.
- ❖ Set crosswalk signals so there is adequate time to cross the street. →

- 11<sup>th</sup> St. N. where SunMart used to be
- 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> (with park in middle at 15<sup>th</sup>)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. at 8<sup>th</sup> St.
- Flashing light to cross by post office and library
- 34<sup>th</sup> St.
- By high school
- The intersection of Oakway and Birch

- Main Ave.
- Downtown crosswalks
- 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>

## Traffic

- ❖ Consider ways to improve traffic, safety. →
- ❖ Enforce noise ordinances.
- ❖ Enforce people not parking too close to sidewalks and crosswalks.
- ❖ Educate motorists about pedestrian right-of-way.
- ❖ Install better signage designating where pedestrians have right-of-way.
- ❖ Educate drivers about rights of bicyclists.
- ❖ Slow down traffic by narrowing roads, adding stop signs, adding speed tables.
- ❖ Address issues with trains, timing, and flow of people/traffic.
- ❖ Address parking/lane confusion downtown.
- ❖ Examine the effectiveness of “no-turn-on-red” (especially by Concordia College on 8<sup>th</sup> Street).
- ❖ Remove stop sign at 4<sup>th</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South.
- ❖ Encourage the creation of more parking for MSUM.
- ❖ Put something over the railroad tracks for pedestrians to cross (e.g., bridge or tunnels).
- ❖ Have no on-street parking in areas without any sidewalks so pedestrians have a place to walk.
- ❖ Add traffic lights. →
- ❖ Address noise along the interstate (e.g., barriers or trees).
- ❖ Time lights better.
- ❖ Enforce parking regulations. →

- No parking on 24<sup>th</sup> Ave. (during soccer games and other times as well)
- Parked cars blocking sidewalks

- 8<sup>th</sup> St. near MSCTC
- 8<sup>th</sup> St. and 21<sup>st</sup> St.
- M&H
- 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 34<sup>th</sup> St.
- Ridgewood and 12<sup>th</sup>
- 8<sup>th</sup> St. by Brookdale Mall
- By Hopkins
- 11<sup>th</sup> St. and 20<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.
- 4<sup>th</sup> St. S. in Riverside
- Amount of traffic on 7<sup>th</sup> St. (runs into a one-way)
- 8<sup>th</sup> St. and 12<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- 15<sup>th</sup> by MSUM
- 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. on 8<sup>th</sup> St.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. and 12<sup>th</sup> St.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Street, 20<sup>th</sup> Street
- South of Highway 10 to EastTen
- 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. by MSUM
- 11<sup>th</sup> St. by Hornbacher’s
- 15<sup>th</sup> by Edison
- Speeding on one-ways (4<sup>th</sup> St. S. and 5<sup>th</sup> St. S.)

- 8<sup>th</sup> St. between Belsley and 40<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- 42<sup>nd</sup> St. between Belsley and 40<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- 17<sup>th</sup> St. and 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. N.

- Horizon Middle School bus stop too far in the winter
- Near Robert Asp
- Routes further south on Highway 75
- Route to new Trollwood
- 4<sup>th</sup> St. and 40<sup>th</sup> Ave..
- Restart service to Village Green
- Better routes between Fargo and Moorhead
- To Menards
- Route to/from Minneapolis (especially for college students)
- Stop near Target
- From pool to Tastee Freez
- Access to pool for children
- 4:30 bus at school after extracurriculars get out

## MAT Bus

- ❖ Keep bus shelters shoveled out.
- ❖ Have more shelters.
- ❖ Have longer hours of operation (e.g., after shops or bars close).
- ❖ Have more busses on Saturday - more weekend bus service.
- ❖ Have busses come more frequently.
- ❖ Develop relationships that allow people to wait inside nearby businesses.
- ❖ Use real-time technology that allows users to see where the bus is (iPhones, kiosks, Google search).
- ❖ Establish service so fewer transfers are necessary.
- ❖ Improve transportation for the needs of teens.
- ❖ Improve use of transit trip planner for multiple stops.
- ❖ Examine adding more routes, and more stops along routes. →

## Bikes

- ❖ Extend bike paths. →
- ❖ Encourage businesses to have bicycle racks available.
- ❖ Improve safety of access to bike path system at 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and Elm Street, perhaps by paving the access point.
- ❖ Build a permanent bike bridge.
- ❖ Create designated biking lanes on streets.
- ❖ Create areas that are separate from larger moving traffic areas.

- Need to go past 21<sup>st</sup> St.
- All along the Moorhead side of the Red River
- Paths along the road, especially that allow you to travel north-south

## Aesthetics and Maintenance

- ❖ Add more trees (e.g., on the boulevards, on both sides of the street).
- ❖ Create rain gardens in the boulevards.
- ❖ Create a more inviting atmosphere with welcoming storefronts.
- ❖ Pick up branches, keep grass watered and mowed in the parks.
- ❖ Improve paths for safety of rollerbladers.
- ❖ Keep Frisbee parks well-maintained.
- ❖ Do prompt clean-up of parks and trails after flooding.
- ❖ Clear bike trails of snow in the winter.
- ❖ Revitalize areas that need it. →
- ❖ Enforce the sign ordinance.
- ❖ Consider Concordia's campus as a model for visual appeal in Moorhead.
- ❖ Keep public property maintained (e.g., trees, mowing, watering grass in Ridgewood; property near welcome center off Interstate 94).
- ❖ Keep trash cleaned up (e.g., cigarette butts near college campuses).
- ❖ Announce an official "end of storm" time so residents know when the clock starts for getting their sidewalks cleared of snow and ice.

- Moorhead Center Mall (consider making it a community center, or a place for college students)
- Downtown
- Vacant buildings
- Center Ave., Main Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> St.
- 19½ St. S.
- The Power Plant
- Greenwood Trailer Park
- Bennett Park
- Woodlawn Park
- Hansmann Park tennis courts
- Romkey area
- Empty space south of SunMart

## Parks and Open Spaces

- ❖ Have an annual event in each park.
- ❖ Make parks as user-friendly as possible (e.g., bathrooms being open, enough benches, updated playground equipment).
- ❖ Provide access to natural walking areas.
- ❖ Provide access to the river and other areas for snowshoeing.
- ❖ Make open spaces accessible to the public (e.g., college fields).
- ❖ Provide accessibility to the river in all seasons.
- ❖ Do more on the Minnesota side of the Red River (e.g., keeping it groomed).
- ❖ Add more benches to parks.
- ❖ Increase ratio of nonfunctional space (i.e., open green space) to functional space.

- ❖ Improve connectivity (e.g., between cul-de-sacs when trying to walk, bike, and rollerblade).
- ❖ Build a park above the flood plain.
- ❖ Build a water park for people who don't go to the lakes.
- ❖ Provide more opportunities to be "outdoorsy."
- ❖ Have a hockey rink (Alm Park used to have one).
- ❖ Create a better trail system that connects parks in Moorhead.
- ❖ Have better bike trails/lanes on roads to improve safety and help people get more active.
- ❖ Create a skate park.
- ❖ Replace the picnic shelter and add benches at Woodlawn Park.
- ❖ Make a dog park in south Moorhead.
- ❖ Make a short par 3 golf course, focused on youth.
- ❖ Address the use of snowmobiles in town (including backyards).

## Entertainment and Recreation

- ❖ Build an indoor swimming pool.
- ❖ Expand hours for outdoor pools (with hours for adults without children present).
- ❖ Offer winter outdoor activities (e.g., groomed cross-country ski trails, sledding areas).
- ❖ Look into creating a community center (with a water park, basketball courts, walking facility, etc.) with an affordable membership.
- ❖ Arrange activities, games, crafts, etc., for people to show up to participate in (that are not all sign-up).
- ❖ Create activities that are of interest to many ages.
- ❖ Create a downtown theater area.
- ❖ Draw people to Moorhead for shopping.
- ❖ Encourage diversity of establishments in economic development.
- ❖ Encourage development of small retail and neighborhood stores within walking distance.

## Housing

- ❖ Enforce requirements for rental property.
- ❖ Require one off-street parking spot per resident in private rental property.
- ❖ Require properties to remove couches and broken down cars in the lawn.
- ❖ Enforce houses that are "for sale" getting their lawn mowed, sidewalks shoveled.
- ❖ Build housing that prevents college students from moving to Fargo (e.g., larger, more amenities for the amount of rent).
- ❖ Encourage private ownership.
- ❖ Keep new rentals affordable (e.g., new apartments by the river are too expensive).
- ❖ Limit rental development near colleges.
- ❖ Address need for upkeep of homes in north Moorhead, near MSUM (e.g., grants).

## Creating a Community

- ❖ Create a central place for information about all activities going on in the city.
- ❖ Better communication/advertising to citizens regarding procedures to report service complaints/requests.
- ❖ Protect old established neighborhoods from business and high density residential development.
- ❖ Retain old neighborhoods because you can't build "new" old neighborhoods.
- ❖ Develop our already developed neighborhoods.
- ❖ Establish the ability for the fire station to respond south of 20<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ Increase police presence in certain parts of town.
- ❖ Have police officers on bikes in the summer.
- ❖ Communicate about sex offenders moving in to a neighborhood.
- ❖ Address issues with scary and stray dogs.
- ❖ Have the city enforce codes so neighbors don't have to turn each other in.
- ❖ Promote community nights out, block parties.
- ❖ Encourage people to be out and about, which makes it feel like more of a community.
- ❖ Help college students integrate into their neighborhoods.
- ❖ Grow "up" rather than "out."
- ❖ Stop sprawl to promote renewal.
- ❖ Improve feeling of safety/security at night.
- ❖ Improve walkability downtown.
- ❖ Encourage more community gardens within walking distance.
- ❖ Encourage aesthetic standards for old buildings.
- ❖ Facilitate recycling.
- ❖ Explore interest in environmentally friendly initiatives (e.g., more curbside recycling, geothermal pool, ecotype development at Trollwood, non-motorized transportation options).

# INTRODUCTION

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The Active in Moorhead (AIM) partnership is between the City of Moorhead, the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments (Metro COG), and Clay County Public Health with funding from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota. The partnership is focused on finding ways to create an environment that encourages people to be active and healthy. The AIM partnership's efforts are part of Moorhead's comprehensive planning process, throughout which are opportunities for public participation. The website [www.moorheadplansforgrowth.org](http://www.moorheadplansforgrowth.org) is the main contact point for all interested parties to stay informed about the process.

The four neighborhood meetings represented the first opportunity for Moorhead residents to offer feedback. The meetings were held at various points throughout the community, and invited participation from all interested parties. In addition to local community leaders and residents, people from surrounding communities also came to the meetings, including Clay County Commissioners, representatives from Wilkin County Public Health, and City of Fargo Commissioners.

The two college meetings were conducted in a very similar manner to the neighborhood meetings. Questions were modified slightly to reflect the student population. Recruiting for the meetings was limited to the campus only, and meetings were held at a convenient location and time at the respective campuses.

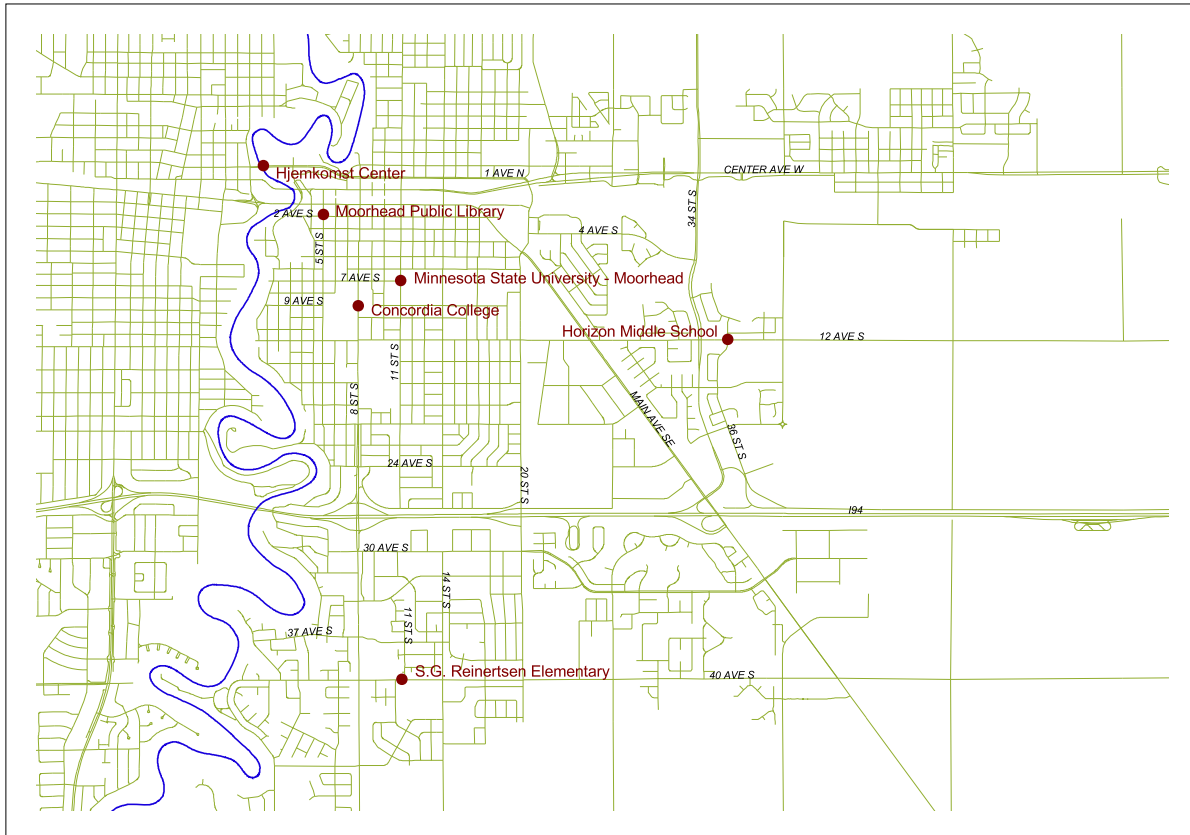
The six neighborhood and college meetings were facilitated by Gina Nolte and Keely Hyland of Clay County Public Health, Deb Martzahn and Lori Van Beek of the City of Moorhead, and Justin Kristan of Metro COG. The meetings involved an interactive clicker presentation, in which Moorhead residents were able to indicate their answers to various questions in real time by pressing a button on a "clicker" device similar to a remote control, provided for use to the AIM partnership by Clay County Public Health. This format engaged the participants and allowed them to see instantaneous feedback from the collective group. Questions were designed by members of the AIM partnership. The clicker presentation began with questions designed to learn about the people participating in the meeting, followed by questions about active living and neighborhoods. Discussion about the topics was encouraged throughout the meeting, and everyone in attendance (even if they did not have a clicker) was encouraged to provide feedback. Attendees were also provided an opportunity to provide written comments.

The schedule of meetings is shown in Table 1. A map of the locations of the six meetings is shown in Figure 1.

Table 1. 2009 Neighborhood and College Meeting Schedule

Meeting number	Type of meeting	Date	Day and time	Location	Number of participants with clickers
1	Neighborhood	1/29/2009	Thursday 5:00 pm	Moorhead Public Library	27
2	Neighborhood	1/31/2009	Saturday 12:00 pm	Hjemkomst Center	41
3	Neighborhood	2/2/2009	Monday 5:00 pm	Horizon Middle School	22
4	Neighborhood	2/5/2009	Thursday 7:00 pm	S.G. Reinertsen Elementary	37
5	College	2/26/2009	Thursday 1:00 pm	Minnesota State University - Moorhead	26
6	College	3/12/2009	Thursday 6:30 pm	Concordia College	24

Figure 1. 2009 Neighborhood and College Meeting Locations in Moorhead, MN





Meeting participants were welcomed by Mayor Mark Voxland at the first three neighborhood meetings, and by City of Moorhead Planning Commissioner Tod Dahle at the last neighborhood meeting. At each of the six meetings, city planner Deb Martzahn offered a brief overview of what the meetings were about and what questions would be asked. Information communicated to participants included that the neighborhood meetings reflected a partnering between health entities, Metro COG, and the City of Moorhead (e.g., planning, engineering) to create neighborhoods that facilitate active living as a part of people's daily routines – such as walking to the store, bicycling, walking to school or work, or to a transit stop. The goal is to help Moorhead residents be more active and healthier while decreasing chronic diseases. The AIM partnership's efforts are part of Moorhead's current comprehensive planning process. The City of Moorhead is working on an update of their 2004 Comprehensive Plan. The plan includes the basis for zoning and determines land use and densities, infrastructure, and investments in the community.

Detailed notes of the discussion were taken by North Dakota State Data Center staff during the meetings. This report represents the Data Center's qualitative analysis of the detailed notes, the general trends of the clicker presentation responses, and the written comments provided by attendees. Results of the neighborhood meetings are presented separately from the results of the college meetings, and a brief analysis of how the meetings differed is provided. The written comments provided by participants at the neighborhood meetings are listed at the back of the report in their own section.

When reporting clicker results, there are often several ways to word the same results (e.g., emphasizing where participants are satisfied versus emphasizing where they are dissatisfied). When analyzing the results, an overall picture is kept in mind and this influences how individual results are presented. For example, if participants indicated high satisfaction on several different questions, then having a larger proportion on one question that is dissatisfied (even if it is still a minority of respondents) is noteworthy. Another impact on how results are presented is that we often try to emphasize areas of "need."

The results of clicker questions and discussion are presented, as well as the results of open-ended questions. In addition, instructions from the moderator or responses from officials are presented in brackets [ ]. Results represent the views of participants who attended the meetings, and should not be viewed as generalizable to the entire City of Moorhead.

# NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS (NM): DETAILED RESULTS

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## About the Participants

### NM Clicker Questions: Are you a Moorhead resident? What is your age? What is your gender? I have a child who is...?

#### Clicker Results:

The vast majority of participants were Moorhead residents. The majority of participants were older than age 34; the proportion age 34 and younger ranged from one-tenth to one-third. More women than men participated in the meetings. The proportion of participants who did not have children under 18 years old ranged from one-third to two-thirds.

### NM Clicker Questions: Do you own or rent your home? Do you live in a...?

#### Clicker Results:

The vast majority of participants were homeowners. The vast majority of participants lived in a single-family home; a handful lived in apartments, twin-home/duplexes, and townhomes. None of the participants in the four neighborhood meetings lived in a mobile home or a dorm room.

In comparison, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey 2005-2007 3-year estimates, 65.5 percent of housing units in the City of Moorhead are owner-occupied and 34.5 percent are renter-occupied. Regarding type of housing units in Moorhead, 65.1 percent are single-family homes, 1.2 percent have two units (such as a duplex or townhome), 2.1 percent are mobile homes, and the rest (31.5 percent) are structures with three or more units.

### NM Clicker Question: How satisfied are you that your home fits your current needs?

#### Clicker Results:

The vast majority of participants were somewhat or very satisfied that their home fits their current needs, with the remaining participants neutral, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied.

#### Discussion:

- The need for senior housing.
- Snow blocking the driveway from plows.
- Issues with water main breaking multiple times.

- There is a community garden close (three miles isn't bad, but closer would be better); the area in this side of town has rather small lots.
- Problems with flooded streets and yard in Ridgewood; it doesn't drain very well in the cul-de-sac.
- When it floods in Ridgewood you are kind of trapped because there aren't that many ways out.
- The bus stopped coming to Village Green and now I have to take a taxi.
- I just bought a duplex/twin home this summer; more accommodating places like this should be built because I couldn't buy a single-family house.
- Takes lots of energy to heat it.
- Wish we had more services that we could bike or walk to; we have to drive everywhere.

### NM Clicker Question: What likely transitions do you see for yourself in the next 5 years?

#### Clicker Results:

Half to two-thirds of participants planned to be in the same home in five years, while some planned to move within Moorhead, some planned to move out of Moorhead, and some did not know.

#### Discussion regarding reasons people might move out of Moorhead:

##### *Weather*

- Warmer climate.
- Senior citizens wanting to be someplace warmer.

##### *Jobs*

- Students reaching the end of their growth here.
- Jobs – a job elsewhere will cause someone to move.
- May have to follow a job, so we have no choice.

##### *Other issues*

- Health problems.
- Getting from MN to ND isn't fun and can be a problem to cross at the toll bridge.
- We will need a larger lot size for children - many move to the country near Moorhead.
- Family is elsewhere.

**NM Clicker Questions: Do you work outside the home (choose all that apply)? If you work outside the home, how far do you live from where you work?**

**Clicker Results:**

At the first and second meetings, about one-third of participants worked full-time. At the third and fourth meetings, more than half worked full-time. Others were retired, worked multiple jobs, worked part-time, were looking for work, were going to school, and didn't work outside the home. For those who were working outside the home, the majority lived more than one mile from where they work.

## Active Living

**NM Clicker Question: During a typical day, are you...?**

**Clicker Results:**

The proportion of participants who said they sit most of the time during a typical day varied from one-third to slightly more than half.

**NM Clicker Question: In good weather, how many times in an average week do you go for a walk (for leisure, to run an errand, etc.)?**

**Clicker Results:**

About one-third of participants go for a walk at least four times a week, on average, in good weather. However, nearly two-thirds of participants in the first meeting go for a walk at least four times a week. The proportion of participants who don't go for walks, even in good weather, was as large as one-fifth.

**Discussion:**

[Consider a walk to be anything over 10 minutes – we're not talking about a walk to your mailbox.]

*Snow and ice issues*

- I run a child care business, and because a lot of people do not clear the snow off the sidewalks, I cannot take the children in my care out for walks – we cannot be walking in the streets; I have complained numerous times, and tenants have been fined numerous times – nothing changes – what else can I do?
- People shovel out their lot and then a plow comes by and you have three feet in your freshly shoveled drive. This is a problem especially for the disabled and the elderly.
- I have the same problem – I call and call; my biggest complaint is 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North – the businesses do not clear the snow (they are worse than anyone).
- Why can't a community service officer do this? Why do civilians have the responsibility?

- People are really behind in following policies.
- Sometimes if you want to walk on 8<sup>th</sup> Street, you need snowshoes to climb over the snow drifts at the corners; you have to go back out the driveway and walk out on the street.
- On 13<sup>th</sup> Street North I've seen the sand truck only once – all these cars and no sand; you have to do the Minnesota Shuffle or you are going to slip and fall.

*Other issues*

- Cars blocking sidewalks – they do not ticket those people.

**NM Clicker Question: In good weather, how many times in an average week do you go for a bike ride?**

**Clicker Results:**

About one-fourth of participants go for a bike ride at least four times a week, on average, in good weather. However, the proportion of participants who don't go for bike rides, even in good weather, was at least one-third.

**Discussion:**

- Regarding bike paths, I live in Ridgewood and would love a path along 12<sup>th</sup> that would allow people to commute. I see people walking, but I would never take my children on it. It would be helpful for doing biking and walking to connect that area to the rest of the city.

**NM Clicker Question: In good weather, how many times in an average week do you take public transportation in the Metro Area?**

**Clicker Results:**

The vast majority of participants do not take public transportation in the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area on a weekly basis.

**Discussion:**

[When participants were asked if they have ever taken the bus (occasional use rather than weekly use), about half the participants raised their hand.]

*Suggestions for improvement of public transit*

- Being cleaner, having more polite drivers, better locations of stops, better routes. Bike racks are good.
- The transit planner is difficult when you have multiple stops.

*Issues with time*

- Length of time could be a factor.

- In order to take the bus, it is a straight shot and only takes about 10 minutes for me; but for my niece who is a student at MSUM, it takes about two hours each way.
- Here it takes way too long (in Washington State the bus was really easy to get on and came every 15 minutes). I don't have 45 minutes to get somewhere.

*Issues with bus stops for children*

- For children at Horizon Middle School, the bus stop is way down the street and it is a tremendous walk especially in this cold. I watched another child in a wheel chair make that trip. I have been told they can't add shelter or put another stop closer to the school – I think they really need to consider it for the safety of the children.
- Need a stop closer to Robert Asp in the winter.
- My child's bus stop is down at the light and I don't want her walking when the weather is cold like this; why can't they have a closer bus stop for after-school activities?
- It seems like it would be possible and feasible to have one at Horizon Middle School because one goes by the elementary and high school already.

*Need for routes*

- Need routes that head further south along Highway 75; unless you have access to a car, it is a real hassle – there are a lot of children that are transported multiple times a day and into the evening, and bus transportation as an option would make it a lot easier for those children and families.
- I did consider the bus route when I moved to my current neighborhood, but it's no longer there after four years.
- I've gone on the trip planner and it's hard to plan a Moorhead multi-stop tri plan. I would have to go through Fargo twice in one ride.
- Don't route bus past Target.

*Snow issues*

- Who is responsible for making sure that bus shelters are shoveled out?  
[Response: Shelters are cleaned by parks service, but corners are the responsibility of the business owner.]
- This can be a big problem for school buses, where kids stand on three foot mounds of snow trying to not slide under the bus.

**NM Clicker Question: What most motivates you to be physically active?**

**Clicker Results:**

Participants found wanting to be outside, fun/pleasure/social time, and needing exercise for themselves or a pet the most motivating reasons to be physically active. Needing to relieve stress was another common motivating factor, and needing to go somewhere was a motivating factor for some as well.

**NM Discussion Questions: What are barriers to active living? What would encourage you to be more active on a daily basis?**

**Clicker Results:**

Not applicable.

**Discussion:**

*Climate issues*

- Ice.
- Three of four seasons are fine; the fourth is the barrier.
- Mosquitoes.
- Floods limit outdoor activity.

*Facilities and Services*

- Pools
  - There isn't an indoor swimming pool, and outdoor pool does not have convenient times.
  - Outdoor pools are often affected by weather.
  - A city-owned waterpark/pool would help.
  - Need an adult pool where kids aren't running around, perhaps through adult-only hours.
  - I swim to keep in shape, but I can only swim at MSUM.
- Winter activities
  - Want neighborhood parks with sledding areas/hills in the winter for kids.
  - More cross country skiing trails that are groomed.
  - Need community centers for winter with a pool, basketball courts, walking facility, etc.
- Parks
  - The parks have bathrooms but they are always locked up; same is true for sporting events (e.g., ball fields) – why do we even have the bathrooms?
  - We need park benches for watching the children play and more equipment for older children.
- Desire a city-owned community center that offers affordable membership (with water park, volleyball park, etc.).
- I play tennis and the tennis courts in north Moorhead need to be refinished (have spoken with a council member about this).
- Access to natural walking areas, private space to get out in nature; unpaved are less expensive and natural, easier to maintain.
- More on the Moorhead side of the river path, more inviting like the ND side (grass not as nice, branches on the path).
- More places for community gardens that you could walk to.
- We need more services in the area – coffee shop, post office, indoor recreation facility, grocery store.
- Better lighting, immediately replacing lights that are out (I will go out walking at night, but my wife won't).

- Need inexpensive gyms.
- Longer hours and better service for buses; I have to walk home after the shops close because there are no more buses.

#### *Sidewalks*

- Lack of sidewalks.
- Need sidewalks that are considered “emergency routes” and are cleared of snow as a high priority.
- Ice on the sidewalks is a major barrier in my neighborhood; perhaps selling ice gripper shoes in town.
- Put in sidewalks as we develop communities.
- Some of the sidewalks don’t have the curb cut – we need more of a universal design; it helps with accessibility and convenience.
- Need a standard policy on curb cuts, and need more of them; difficult for people with walkers. [Response: It can be expensive, but if taxpayer/citizen requests one, the city is obligated to install it.]

#### *Crosswalks*

- Need crossings that give you enough time to get across the street – sometimes too short even with a bike.
- “Do not walk” lights on the street lights often do not work.
- Need to freshen the paint on crosswalks, especially around Concordia.
- Put in more crosswalks to make walking safe; the older neighborhoods don’t have them –places like 11<sup>th</sup> Street North where Sunmart was needs one.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South at 8<sup>th</sup> Street needs a crossing for cars and pedestrians.
- Post office and library need flashing light for pedestrians to cross.

#### *Traffic*

- 8<sup>th</sup> Street is a real struggle; tough to get to the bike path when classes at MSCTC get out.
- Have to run and jump out of the way of motorists.
- Better signage designating when pedestrians have right-of-way.
- Lack of people paying attention to pedestrians on 8<sup>th</sup> Street and 21<sup>st</sup> Street.
- We need a stoplight on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street between Belsley and 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Crossing 8<sup>th</sup> Street and 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue to get groceries is bad.
- Crossing on foot at 8<sup>th</sup> Street, 20<sup>th</sup> Street.

#### *Bikes*

- Bike paths in separate areas.
- Need bike paths; I ride the sidewalks and basically have to be illegal, because the streets are too intimidating.
- The bike paths stop after 21<sup>st</sup> Street; riding now scares me; paths need to be cleaned as well.
- You can’t circle around on a path if you are riding bike for relaxation or exercise; the paths just stop and then you have to navigate the city streets.



- Not enough bike paths for commuters.
- Bike path all along the river on the Moorhead side that is kept up.
- Impossible to bike unless you live close to the bike paths, because you need to go through so many dangerous barriers. Moorhead needs to develop bike paths along the road – it would make our family much more likely to stay in the Moorhead area. Our kid’s school is south but our home is way north.
- Have designated biking areas/streets that are separate from larger moving traffic areas for safety, especially for kids.
- Downtown isn’t safe or comfortable for kids on bikes.

*Layout/connectivity*

- Layout that is unaccommodating for foot travel (e.g., having to drive to get between Target and Cash Wise).
- Can’t get out of the neighborhoods and access with a bike is hard; city lacks connectivity.
- Town Center Square is a problem area; pedestrians and St. Joseph’s School, and it is a struggle if you are a pedestrian.
- We don’t live very far from the paths but I have to go out of the way instead of doing a straight shot because some of the ways to get around downtown are not great with little kids.
- Something over the railroad tracks for pedestrians to cross (e.g., bridge or tunnels).
- EastTen is not good for walking, getting there from south of Highway 10.

*Communication*

- Need a central place for information about all activities going on in the city (city, parks, school, etc.), which would increase attendance at those events as well.
- Better communication to citizens regarding procedures for reporting lights that are out, etc. (e.g., city engineering office, council members). [Response: The city has to know about them to fix them.]

## Neighborhoods

### NM Discussion Question: What area do you consider to be your “neighborhood”?

**Clicker Results:**

Not applicable.

**Discussion:**

[We all consider our neighborhoods a little bit differently so just keep that in mind when answering the next questions – use your personal definition.]

- Our development.
- 6 block radius.

- Centered on parks.
- Divide it at the train tracks – north and south Moorhead.
- Where I can bike to as my neighborhood.
- Historic Comstock district.
- South of the Interstate on Belsley Avenue.
- Area on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North extending from Eventide back to the Hjemkomst.
- North of downtown.
- Village Green.
- Ridgewood Boulevard area.
- School is my definition.
- Between park and river.
- The park and the neighborhood around that.
- A square mile area, generally where you'd walk the dog.
- Houses that are on the street that you go up and down on the way to work.

**NM Clicker Question: How satisfied are you with how easy and pleasant it is to be active within your neighborhood (e.g., bike, walk, rollerblade)?**

**Clicker Results:**

Most participants were somewhat or very satisfied with how easy and pleasant it is to be active within their neighborhood. However, up to one-fourth of participants were somewhat or very dissatisfied with how easy and pleasant it is to be active in their neighborhood.

**Discussion:**

*Safety*

- I got almost hit twice near the post office and the library; I hear of people getting almost killed by M&H. It's the traffic, and I don't know what to do.
- Some of the safety issues relate to traffic and timing of the lights.
- No crosswalk at 34<sup>th</sup> Street.

*Parks*

- Things that help me be satisfied is that the neighborhood has a park and it has a pool (the pool is a big factor).
- Updating play equipment has made such a difference so that more kids can go out and play.
- One big plus is that kids can gather and play at all the parks.

*Schools*

- Kids who take the city bus who go to Horizon Middle School have to walk a long way to get to the stop and there's no wind block, etc. A bus stop closer to the school would be beneficial, especially at 4:30pm when the sports are let out.
- School areas are really busy.

- Neighborhood schools help – Reinertsen is beautiful but kids have to be bussed/driven to this school; we need neighborhood schools we can walk to.

*Other comments*

- I don't feel I have to be active in my neighborhood – I just want access to places like the river where I can be active.
- Right now I drive to the part of town where I can be active because it is terrible where I am. I would love to be able to walk over, but it is not possible and it is just easier to drive to a nice area.
- When I was younger (in the 1960s/1970s), there were games, activities, and crafts available during the day in the summer. Those aren't available now; you can't just go and participate – you have to go and sign up somewhere or else you can't participate.
- Activities weren't just for the younger kids in Crookston; there were a lot of various activities available for many ages that aren't available here.
- May depend on the neighborhood that you live in. I live in a young neighborhood and see lots of kids, families being active outside with pets. People need to have a place to go.
- There should be narrower streets with parking on both sides.

**NM Clicker Question: How satisfied are you with the opportunities to get outside in your neighborhood (e.g., open spaces, parks, trails, large enough yards)?**

**Clicker Results:**

Most participants were somewhat or very satisfied with the opportunities to get outside in their neighborhood; up to one-fourth of participants were somewhat or very dissatisfied with the opportunities in their neighborhood.

**Discussion:**

*New construction/sidewalks*

- I would like sidewalks in areas where they are building new complexes.
- Need wider sidewalks.
- Lack of sidewalks.
- When they build new things, new construction, just build sidewalks. [Response: The city is encouraging that new construction and developments build sidewalks but it is not a required policy at this point. You may want to call your council member or a city staff person about your specific area.]

*Access to areas*

- We enjoy winter. We are probably not considered good neighbors because we snowshoe through people's backyards and up into the trees and hills. There is this fabulous space that is cut off from public use because it is in people's yards.
- College fields used to be open to the community and not fenced; now it is locked. The most obvious open space is inaccessible.

- Along the river is cut off from public use in the summer.

*Other comments*

- I'm by the college, and my yard doesn't feel like mine because of all the foot traffic; I don't decorate my yard because of it.
- In my neighborhood, there is enough yard space so all the neighbors can barbecue, a little park, bike paths, and the river three blocks away. I love where I live but in a more condensed neighborhood, there may not be parks.
- I live in Riverside and am an avid bicyclist – the bike trail system is awful. Moorhead should do something more like Fargo – I go through Lindenwood Park into the Fargo side of the bike paths instead of biking in Moorhead.
- We need to build up the parks and make the grass nice.
- Dense areas don't have any green space.
- Add more trees on the boulevards, slow down traffic with stop signs, create narrower roads, create rain gardens in boulevards (have roots to suck up toxins from yards, etc., so they don't go into the drains).

**NM Clicker Question: How satisfied are you with the sidewalks and pedestrian crosswalks in your neighborhood?**

**Clicker Results:**

At least half of participants were somewhat or very satisfied with the sidewalks and pedestrian crosswalks in their neighborhood. However, at least one-third of participants were somewhat or very dissatisfied with the sidewalks and pedestrian crosswalks in their neighborhood.

**Discussion:**

*Need repair/attention*

- I did a lot of walking all over town helping with election campaigns – I discovered that the sidewalks can be dangerous – two houses with sidewalks then a vacant lot without. They need to do the whole block, not just occupied sections.
- Who is responsible when the sidewalk is pretty beat up? [Response: The Engineering Department is responsible for broken up sidewalks; working on a system for replacing sidewalks – ongoing concerns we have to work on and as we develop answers, we will share them with residents.]
- Sidewalks are uneven and you can trip or hit a ridge when riding bike or rollerblading.
- I'd like to see the sidewalks kept up. I live in an older neighborhood where the sidewalks are cracked – you can't push a stroller or pull a wagon on it – and there are no curb cuts.
- In the summer, I have to duck because of the limbs on the trees – there should be a spring media blitz about keeping limbs trimmed and announce heights.
- Lighting isn't the best sometimes.

- Need light for pedestrians at 4<sup>th</sup> by Island Park.
- Need infill in older neighborhoods, but ask if plan to assess.

*Covered with snow and ice*

- Walking to this meeting from south of Trinity and some sidewalks were clear of ice and snow and others were not at all. [Response: Sidewalks are cleared on a complaint basis.]
- In the winter, there is a bump created by the plow on the sidewalks.
- [Moderator comment: Higher levels of dissatisfaction on clicker question are related to snow removal.]

*Having to walk in the street/no sidewalks*

- I have noticed quite a few kids walking on the street because there are not adequate sidewalks.
- Sidewalks are required in developments now; sometimes it takes a little while to get them in.
- Neighborhoods with no sidewalks.
- We have to walk in the street to get to the pool.
- I don't know why they build developments without sidewalks – eventually the neighborhoods will be in town.
- The street dead ends at a park and people must go through yards.

*Specific locations*

- Need pedestrian crosswalks at various places, especially around parks – cars can really get moving in the several blocks between stop signs (14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>). The neighborhood park my kids play at is between stop signs across the street (15<sup>th</sup>).
- 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 34<sup>th</sup> Street is basically suicide to cross.
- Ridgewood and 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Robert Asp by school needs sidewalks on both sides.
- Need a crosswalk by the high school – cars go too fast.
- The intersection of Oakway and Birch is too wide and needs a crosswalk.

*Crossing streets*

- I like the sidewalks where they count down how long you have to get across (like on the Fargo side).
- Can't we put it in the middle so it still benefits pedestrians without stopping traffic so much? I was glad to see the stop sign go but it would be nice to have it back.
- Main Avenue and downtown crosswalk lights turn too quickly, especially for older people or little kids to cross.
- The lights and the trains are a problem.
- The larger streets are too large for children to cross.
- Pedestrians need access from cul-de-sacs.
- Cars don't yield.

### *Community reaction*

- Sidewalks can be controversial; some are well-used and work well and contribute to the feeling of the neighborhood; some do not want sidewalks.
- We remove stop signs to increase traffic flow yet we want to be a more active community? There is a disconnect between these two objectives.
- Stop signs interrupt college area and interrupt the whizzing down the street; now that it is gone it is like a racetrack. Someone is going to get clipped in the winter – we want the stop sign back. [Response: You can call your council members or police officers so they can put up radar detection to slow traffic; do not be afraid to do that.]
- Why don't some neighborhoods have sidewalks, and why are they only on one side and not both? [Response: Differences are due to changing city regulations.]
- There is a sidewalk disconnect in this community; sidewalks would help and create active living if they were installed throughout the community.
- There was a Ridgewood area where there was a request for an item (e.g., crosswalks, signs, stoplights, sidewalks). [Response: The city will do assessments for the projects. They don't put a lot of effort in if the items aren't wanted. The city will also evaluate areas around town where grass was killed due to frequent foot travel and will create a sidewalk there.]

### **NM Clicker Question: How satisfied are you with the public transit (bus) service in your neighborhood?**

#### **Clicker Results:**

Up to half of participants indicated they had no experience with the public transit service in their neighborhood. Among those with experience, satisfaction levels were spread out across the board.

#### **Discussion:**

[When participants were asked if they would use bus service if it was more available, a few people raised their hands.]

#### *Time/frequency*

- Just takes too long – a two hour trip would take 22 minutes by car.
- I'm an antsy person and don't want to look down the street and see if I've missed bus or if I have to wait for it. MAT should use technology (e.g., iPhones) so I can see where the bus is.
- They discontinued service on 4<sup>th</sup> Street and 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue, but in the past four years, there are more people there now.
- I used to work far up in north Fargo – I was concerned with the frequency of the bus, because I have children.
- You should put up kiosks with computer screens.
- You could use some sort of Google search to see where the bus is.

*Weather*

- Weather keeps people from using it.
- I pity people in the cold. Isn't there some way to develop corner shops (e.g., coffee shops) that could tell people when the bus comes and they could wait inside? We need more than a sheltered kiosk.

*Other issues*

- It's a safer option than biking and crossing intersections for kids to take to get to the pool.
- You should expand the route up to Trollwood for the kids. [Response: Trollwood is too far and we need density for ridership.]
- We need a pool to Tastee Freez connection.
- I'd like the kids to be able to take the bus to the pool.

**NM Clicker Question: How satisfied are you with the access to shopping/services from your home?**

**Clicker Results:**

Overall, participants were somewhat or very satisfied with access to shopping/services from their home. Satisfaction was highest among participants at the second meeting, while more than half of participants in the fourth meeting were somewhat or very dissatisfied with access from their home.

**Discussion:**

[When participants were asked whether they would like to walk to the store, many hands went up.]

*Trains*

- The trains – I have to allow extra time in case I get stopped by a train (or 2 or 3).
- There have been times when I have sat through the equivalent of three lights because I was held up even though the train was far away; it is the engineer's fault. [Response: The city is aware of the train problem and is working it out.]

*Downtown area*

- Going to the Moorhead Center Mall, coming south by the post office, Moorhead changed the streets and narrowed them by two lanes and parking is very confusing. I have seen people parking in the driving areas.
- Moorhead needs an incentive to draw shopping – Fargo is huge competition. Moorhead Center Mall has maybe five stores and everything else is vacant. We need to provide incentives to prevent crossing the river for shopping.
- Moorhead Center Mall has vacancies.
- The downtown area has so much historical stuff, but the sidewalks are too narrow next to the busy street – we need larger downtown sidewalks separated from the street.

- Sidewalks are too close to traffic – need separation, a berm.

#### *Holiday Mall and Brookdale Mall areas*

- South Moorhead never recovered since the Holiday Mall and needs it. [Response: Holiday Mall is privately owned; the city lent them money but they are paying it back. We have property zoned for 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 8<sup>th</sup> Street for a store.]
- What about the Country Kitchen on 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and 8<sup>th</sup> Street? That's so sad – what can they do to develop it. [Response: That's the property owner's prerogative.]
- I live by Brookdale Mall and it has turned into a neighborhood jewel. It's a handy place, but hard to get across.
- Getting across 8<sup>th</sup> Street to Brookdale is hard.

#### *Type of establishment*

- Economic development – I spent 15 years down south in retirement, and down there they have more diversity in establishments (e.g., a Costco to be competition for Sam's).
- It'd be nice to have another gas station to the southeast near Highway 52 and I94.
- I'd take a grocery store over a big box store.
- I'd like to see a video store in the neighborhood.
- I want neighborhood stores (not like a West Acres Mall).
- I was so thankful for a Menards in Moorhead.
- I wouldn't want a big box store.

#### *Logistics*

- Would want a store to be within 10-15 minutes.
- Have to drive everywhere.
- A 10 minute walk to a shopping area would be nice. I live 10 minutes from Hornbacher's but I'm taking my life in my hands when I have to cross 11<sup>th</sup> Street. We need slower traffic, something over the tracks, and maybe narrower roads.
- I wouldn't want retail too close to me.
- Other newer communities seem to be designing their communities around a commercial hub as the central point.
- I wouldn't care if I lived a block away from a store, if the store road didn't connect to mine.
- Don't connect the street, but do connect the sidewalks.

#### *Walking experience*

- I have to walk too much on unlevel ground where I live; I don't want to go through auto fumes – I'd like a pleasant walk.
- Something needs to be said about the aesthetics, too.

#### *Other comments*

- Like to see north and south Moorhead developed.



- [Response: In the 2004 comprehensive plan, there were hard times with the developers because of commercial zoning.]
- I felt like I had two choices when buying a house – developed Moorhead-proper, or south Moorhead. We decided on south Moorhead with great trails and large yards but have to drive everywhere because it's not developed. We couldn't have a convenient neighborhood and the type of house we wanted in Moorhead.
- Have to go to Fargo for everything.
- [Response: Several city staff work on economic development and we work with Greater Fargo-Moorhead Economic Development. Some businesses are looking for a certain number of potential customers within a radius of the store location and there is no way to get them to come until they are satisfied with the customer base.]

### NM Clicker Question: How satisfied are you with the safety of your neighborhood?

#### Clicker Results:

At least half of participants were somewhat or very satisfied with the safety of their neighborhood. However, up to one-fourth of participants were somewhat or very dissatisfied with the safety of their neighborhood.

#### Discussion:

[Safety is whatever you'd like to think of it as – “feeling safe.”]

#### *Lights*

- Street lights do not work in some places.
- Lighting isn't particularly good in some places.

#### *Traffic*

- People run the stop sign by Hopkins.
- Buses are even speeding by Hopkins.
- People drive way too fast in neighborhoods.
- The intersections are heavily traveled near/on 8<sup>th</sup> Street – people are going like 50 mph near Hopkins Elementary.
- At 11<sup>th</sup> Street and 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue South.

#### *City services*

- There is not sufficient safety buy-in from the city. There are not enough sworn officers or fire response. We want to create and maintain ideal safety.
- You have a fire station on 20<sup>th</sup> Street South but it can't get down south here because the streets don't go through. [Response: There is a plan in 2010 to get the road in (which will allow fire trucks to go south) – we have a few issues to work out, but it's a high priority.]

### *Sex offenders*

- I was really upset that the sex offender transitional housing wasn't communicated to the neighborhood (the Guest House).
- Is there sex offender communication to the neighborhoods if they move in? [Response: MN is different about sex offenders because it's private info; in ND it is public info.]

### *Other issues*

- Parking is too close to the driveways and crosswalks.
- Stray dogs are really scary, because they try to come into our backyards to get at our dogs and kids.
- Need alcohol education.

### *Positives/kudos*

- Kudos for the lack of graffiti (and removal).
- Kudos for the neighborhood block parties and neighborhood support.
- Everyone on my block has everyone's names and numbers – it's a positive.
- The party patrol.

## **NM Clicker Question: How satisfied are you with the traffic in your neighborhood (e.g., speed, noise, quantity, type of vehicle)?**

### **Clicker Results:**

Satisfaction levels varied a great deal regarding traffic in participants' neighborhoods. The majority of participants in the third meeting indicated they were somewhat or very dissatisfied with traffic in their neighborhood. The other meetings had about one-third of participants who were somewhat or very dissatisfied.

### **Discussion:**

#### *Traffic too fast*

- Traffic goes fast on 4<sup>th</sup> Street South in Riverside (removed a stop sign).
- People are driving too fast.
- Some of the roads are curved and you can't see, but people still speed.
- Speeding on 34<sup>th</sup>.

#### *Too much traffic*

- I live on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 9<sup>th</sup> Street; I am very satisfied with 9<sup>th</sup> Street but not at all with 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The amount of traffic is ridiculous. It seems to me an extraordinarily poor design to have such a street run into a one way; 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue would be better (in the MSUM area).
- The traffic on 8<sup>th</sup> Street and 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue has gotten worse over the years. Traffic's really building up. If it could be rerouted that'd be great – there's been a tremendous jump in the last years.

- When the interchange goes in on Main and old Highway 52, will there be a rerouting of the trucks using 34<sup>th</sup> or around homes? [Response: We don't route the trucks on 34<sup>th</sup> Street, though it was originally intended for that; there have been some discussions about a bypass.]
- There is parking on the south side of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue South – you can always tell when class is starting or getting out. There's a lot of traffic and it's a safety issue.

#### *Noise*

- Kudos for the whistle-free downtown.
- Is there a noise ordinance with motorcycles? There will be a number of riders that will be out and making noise in a few months, and the elderly people in my area find the noise annoying. [Response: We don't have decibel readers, but we check the flow of the riders on the streets.]
- We live on a two block stretch where motorcycles like to cruise but the cops won't do anything if called.
- I live right by a stop sign and still have problems with the noise.
- We need noise barriers or trees along the interstate.
- Cars and motorcycles are noisy. I followed a motorcyclist to his home and turned his info in to the police but they couldn't do anything – so can anything be done about the noise? Enjoying the evening is hard with this. [Response: We do have a noise ordinance so will pass on concerns to see what can be done.]
- What about noise from pickup trucks with suped up mufflers, and cars? They come down 15<sup>th</sup> like rockets down there by MSUM.
- Noise on 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

#### *Other issues*

- On 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue, “no parking” is not enforced during soccer games and at other times as well.
- Snow removal is a problem (I have to pay to have my driveway cleared due to disability), when plows continue to block up my driveway – and they come by my street several times while others are waiting to get plowed.
- When they do construction they should be more proactive than reactive – put in yield signs to slow down traffic for children and such.
- Keep traffic flow in mind when developing.
- Snowmobile use in town and in the backyards, too – up and down the river, too, are an issue.

### **NM Clicker Question: How satisfied are you with the upkeep of neighboring properties?**

#### **Clicker Results:**

About two-thirds of participants were somewhat or very satisfied with the upkeep of neighboring properties. However, half of participants in the second meeting were somewhat or very dissatisfied with the upkeep of neighboring properties.

## **Discussion:**

### *Rental properties*

- Private rental property should have one parking spot per resident.
- City should take an aggressive stance with rental property – and requirements that landlords meet should also be enforced for single-family homes (some safety concerns exist for these properties regarding fire hazards, etc.).
- College neighborhoods with a couch and lazy boy on the lawn – that has to stop.
- What's the rule to how many people who are not related that can live in a residence? [Response: There is a renter's registration – if there are three problems with the residence, the landlord could lose their license. There's a rule that a max of four unrelated people can live in a residence. We do make surprise inspections to homes. There have been some bad/dangerous living situations. We try not to be intrusive and make it bad for the students, but there has been an effort to change and improve that situation.]
- When a house goes up for sale, people cringe because it will likely go for rent.
- Rentals in the neighborhood – I have children and the neighbors have kegs and are urinating in the backyard. One guy on 4<sup>th</sup> Street has seven cars in front of his house.
- I live in a rental near MSUM on 11<sup>th</sup> Street and there are several properties that are not taken care of at all. I've called the city and they say the properties are inspected every year – but they are not being taken care of.

### *Enforcing codes*

- Existing codes need to be enforced. In older neighborhoods, city staff should enforce the codes so neighbors do not have to turn each other in.
- City assessors should have an extra charge/tax on rundown homes (with a hardship clause).
- Neighborhood folks are overtaxed on sidewalks and maintenance.
- I used to live in south Moorhead until two months ago and that was awful (all of 19½ Street South is bad); there were broken bottles.
- The houses that are put up for sale do not shovel or mow. One house has been empty for several months. How do we get this stuff done? It affects that property but our property, too. [Response: Call neighborhood services – if they do not get a response from the owner, they take care of it and charge the owner.]

### *Maintenance of property*

- There is public/city property behind my home in Ridgewood – no one waters the trees anymore.
- In Ridgewood, they put sidewalks in front of the park but they don't mow it and the grass isn't watered – the aesthetics aren't kept up. Have they thought about putting cement in the parking lot? It's a mud hole.
- Condemn properties that need to be.
- Romkey area has broken bottles and garbage.

### *Downtown area*

- I think downtown Moorhead looks just awful with vacant buildings. I was born and raised here, but it keeps getting uglier.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North looks awful.
- I would like to see more businesses – shops, restaurants, flowerpots, people walking. I'd like to see everything look like downtown Fargo.
- Center Avenue, Main Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> Street – there used to be old, walkable streets, there used to be a cute downtown, but it's no longer.
- Need business on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue.
- We would like to see a revival in Downtown Moorhead.
- The railroads may be a challenge that Moorhead has that Fargo doesn't.
- I'm afraid that if Herberger's leaves, the Center Mall is left with nothing – it needs help.
- Walking downtown isn't good.

### *Other comments*

- There will be a difference in geographical area. We need to focus on development in north Moorhead and need to improve the already existing properties to keep up – supply grants to rebuild and develop.
- I was part of a council that proposed to build apartments, but they weren't built. There was a survey that three-fourths of students in the 1990s commuted from Fargo – those students aren't contributing to Moorhead, fill the interstate with traffic, etc. We need to create high-rises and create a community.
- Moorhead police are very responsive. Neighborhood services are not responsive.
- I like the 11<sup>th</sup> Street underpass.

## **NM Clicker Questions: How many neighbors do you know by name? Living in my neighborhood gives me a sense of community.**

### **Clicker Results:**

The vast majority of participants knew at least five neighbors by name. While approximately half or more of participants said that living in their neighborhood gave them a sense of community, the sense of community was weakest among participants in the first meeting.

### **Discussion:**

#### *Community nights out*

- [When participants were asked how many have been to “national night out” block parties, many hands were raised.]
- Promoting a community night out would be great – get the word out there and push it and get the resources out there – be proactive not reactive.
- Get us organized. It's not just about communicating through the news or the newspapers – be more proactive.

- I don't want the same night as everyone else – I want the police and councilmen to come and visit me.

*Other comments*

- Have an annual event in each park.
- Sense of community depends on your neighborhood – some are very shut off and do not socialize, and others you have a real sense of community where people invite others over all the time.
- Some people do not want to go socialize; they just want to go home and relax.
- River Arts is good.
- The design can close off a community.
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration at MSUM is great.

**NM Clicker Question: I would pitch in if volunteers were needed for an improvement project in my neighborhood.**

**Clicker Results:**

The vast majority of participants indicated that they would pitch in if volunteers were needed for an improvement project in their neighborhood.

As a note, this question was asked before the spring flooding events which had a big impact on several neighborhoods in Moorhead. The tremendous outpouring of volunteers across the entire community shows that the willingness the participants indicated was more than just sentiment.

**NM Clicker Question: If open land was available for development in your neighborhood, what would you most like to see developed there?**

**Clicker Results:**

Parks/trails/community gardens and small retail were consistently the most common choices for participants when asked what they would like to see developed if open land was available in their neighborhood. Some participants indicated they would like to see more housing, and only a small handful of participants wanted to see large retail.

**Discussion:**

*Small retail*

- Where I am (1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North), I'd like more small retail.
- I would like a place where I could have a local coffee shop where I could walk in the morning to get a muffin and a paper.
- I chose small retail because of gas prices. When gas is \$12/gallon, people are not going to drive – they will need to go out to get food, bread, and milk and it will have to be within walking distance.

- Gas stations, video stores, coffee shops, Dairy Queen, dry cleaners.
- More neighborhood type stores.
- No need for small retail by Comstock/MSUM.
- I want to point out the small number of people who said “small retail,” yet the city seems to be promoting retail. The demand may not be there or it may not be feasible or realistic. It is short-sighted to change the zoning for retail when it does not seem to be practical.

#### *Revitalizing existing areas*

- Power Plant
  - It needs something – FEMA will not sell it due to flooding concerns.
  - [Response: There is a committee studying the Power Plant issue. They are here and would like to talk to you after the presentation and also have boards at the back of the room to look at.]
- Moorhead Center Mall doesn’t have businesses anymore and needs revitalization.
- You cannot build a “new” old neighborhood. If you lose those old neighborhoods due to retail, Moorhead loses great assets.
- We would like to keep those older neighborhoods. Every home that is old is sold and filled with students from Concordia and now I am just upset because the students all come in with their packs of beer and we are losing those neighborhoods.
- [Response: I wanted to comment on the community plan – it shows commercial mixed use along 8<sup>th</sup> Street only; the original did not include 7<sup>th</sup>, just 8<sup>th</sup>, and it would provide a mixed use; also, there is a cap of four unrelated persons per dwelling.]

#### *Housing*

- College homes are bought by developers for \$400,000 a piece and single families cannot compete with that. They just sit on them until the city decides they are ugly enough they can be torn down.
- Rental properties are sold too high so single families can’t afford them.
- Need to return rentals to owner-occupied. Maybe sell to a consortium.
- There is an effort to keep homes as owner-occupied.

#### *Other comments*

- Natural area – no upkeep and no expense.
- The state of Minnesota does not know how to deal with alcohol.
- Add a geothermal swimming pool north of the railroad tracks.
- It has to be affordable, as far as maintaining it.
- Parking lot at MSUM.

**NM Discussion Question: What improvements would you like to see in your neighborhood?**

**Clicker Results:**

Not applicable.

**Discussion:**

*Housing*

- More private home ownership – people who have pride in their home do a better job of keeping their homes up-to-date.
- Owner-occupied homes.
- Limited housing rentals.
- Rental unit parking off-street.
- Better maintained rentals.
- Greenwood Trailer Park needs to be revitalized.

*Recreation and amenities*

- Indoor swimming pool.
- More connected trails.
- Improve Woodlawn Park.
- Accessibility to the river in all seasons.
- Cleaner parks.
- Bike access and trails.
- Permanent bike bridge.
- Total dedicated biking/walking paths.
- Community recreation center.
- Bigger trees.
- Indoor recreation center.

*City issues*

- Sidewalks.
- Trains and the noise and downtown Moorhead.
- Vector control.
- More recycling, such as for phonebooks – make it easier and expand beyond just curbside services.
- Street lights.
- Upkeep.
- Narrow the streets.
- Clean up the broken bottles and graffiti in/near the trailer park, Bennett Park.

*Business*

- No big box on 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Bring in bigger businesses to lower taxes.
- Small retail within 6 block zone in neighborhood.



*Power Plant*

- Should put the library in the Power Plant.
- Would be a terrible place for a library because it's too far out – library could be on 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue, I'm sure the city owns it.
- [Response: People indicated in online surveys that they would like Power Plant to be used and remain a gathering/signature place in the community. We are trying to decide what to use the property for. Ideas include relocation of library, community center (physical fitness, area performances, recreation/teen center), science or art museum.]

*Other comments*

- In Trollwood, is there interest in a planned ecotype development?
- Need more positive things for teens to do and transportation to allow this – transportation is key for independence and keeping a job.

# COLLEGE MEETINGS (CM): DETAILED RESULTS

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## About the Participants

**CM Clicker Questions: Are you a college student? What is your age? What is your gender? I have a child who is...?**

### Clicker Results:

The vast majority of participants were college students. Most were ages 18 to 24. The participants consisted of more females than males. The vast majority of participants did not have children under 18 years old.

**CM Clicker Questions: Do you live in a...? How satisfied are you that your accommodations fit your current needs?**

### Clicker Results:

Most of the participants at MSUM lived in an off-campus apartment or in a single-family home, while most of the participants at Concordia lived in an on-campus apartment or a dorm room. The vast majority of participants were somewhat or very satisfied that their accommodations fit their current needs.

### Discussion:

[Students at MSUM were asked where they live, and only about one-third lived in Moorhead with the rest living in Fargo. When asked why they live in Fargo, responses included that there are more (and better) places to live, that you can get more for your money, a larger community, more interstate access. Most students drive to get places. One student indicated they live in Moorhead because time and gas wasted to drive from Fargo did not justify paying less rent. Another student indicated that they like the distinct neighborhoods of Moorhead and the city's tranquil atmosphere.]

- When you are in Moorhead you don't get what you could in Fargo (e.g., washer/dryer in an apartment).
- Space... Moorhead apartments are smaller.
- Parking is bad with a 2 bedroom apartment. We had to fight for street parking in Fargo and in Moorhead too.
- I live close to campus in the Meadows area and have a view of the golf course.
- We don't have to cook or grocery shop; we have a cook at the sorority house.
- I like the fact that here on campus people are focused academically and you can meet new people in the dorms and in the whole college community.

**CM Clicker Question: Do you plan to stay in the Fargo-Moorhead Metro Area after you are finished with school?**

Clicker Results:

Half of MSUM students know they are not staying in the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area after they finish school and most of the rest don't know, while two-thirds of Concordia students know they are not staying in the Metro Area.

Discussion:

*Jobs*

- The economy is bad so you have to go wherever you find a job.
- Depends where your job is going to be.
- Job opportunities aren't here.

*Weather*

- Warmer climates.
- It's cold.

*Other issues*

- Moving to Colorado to be close to family.
- I'm a nurse and I can go anywhere. There's not a whole lot of uniqueness in this area. You can find what is here plus more when you go other places.
- I'm the same way because I'm going to Boston to be a traveling nurse.
- Where you will go to grad school.
- Going back home.

**CM Clicker Questions: Do you work... (choose all that apply)? If you work, how far do you live from where you work? How far do you live from school?**

Clicker Results:

Many students work part-time and several work multiple jobs. One-fifth of MSUM students live less than a half a mile from where they work, while more than three-fourths of Concordia students live less than a half a mile from where they work. The majority of MSUM students live more than one mile from school, while the vast majority of Concordia students live less than a half a mile from school.

Discussion regarding whether any participants chose where they live based on where they work:

- Yes, I'll be moving to south Fargo and working there at the hospital, too.
- I looked for work on campus because it was close to where I live.

## Active Living

**CM Clicker Questions: During a typical day, are you...? In good weather, how many times in an average week do you go for a walk (for leisure, to run an errand, etc.)? ... go for a bike ride?**

**Clicker Results:**

About one-third of participants said they sit most of the time during a typical day. The proportion of students who go for a walk at least four times a week, on average, in good weather, ranged from nearly half to three-fourths. One-fourth or less of participants go for a bike ride at least four times a week, on average, in good weather.

**CM Clicker Question: In good weather, how many times in an average week do you take public transportation in the Metro Area?**

**Clicker Results:**

The vast majority of participants do not take public transportation in the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area on a weekly basis.

**Discussion:**

- Using your ID to ride for free works nicely - just swipe your card and that's it.
- I always have a car so don't need to.
- I live on campus.
- Takes too much time.
- There aren't good routes from Fargo to Moorhead.
- We don't live in a city big enough to have the convenience of larger cities.
- How do we add extra bus routes? [Response: We haven't had any new routes in quite some time due to lack of funding. Southwest Fargo will be holding a meeting soon to discuss routes pertaining to this issue in south Fargo. NDSU provides funds for their routes. Colleges can provide funding.]

**CM Clicker Question: What most motivates you to be physically active?**

**Clicker Results:**

Participants found wanting to be outside, fun/pleasure/social time, and needing exercise for themselves or a pet the most motivating reasons to be physically active. Needing to relieve stress and needing to go somewhere were other common motivating factors.

**CM Discussion Questions: What are barriers to active living? What would encourage you to be more active on a daily basis?**

**Clicker Results:**

Not applicable.

**Discussion:**

*Climate issues*

- The weather... The weather... The weather.
- The flooding and mud issues by the rivers are discouraging because the trails/paths are covered in water sometimes.
- We get snow really late in the season... like last year we had snow storm into later April.
- Puddles.
- Better weather.

*Sidewalks, crosswalks, streets, paths*

- I like to rollerblade a lot but the sidewalks are uneven.
- I like to run but I'm afraid to roll my ankle on the gravel on the streets, because they're not clean.
- Would like more crosswalks between 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue on 8<sup>th</sup> Street.
- It'd be nice to have public paths that would be in a set area.
- The paths on the Fargo side are awesome. The paths by the Hjemkomst are really good for running and biking early in the year; they might be covered by water but that's unavoidable.

*Time constraints*

- Time... not enough hours in the day.
- Less homework.
- Scheduling of time.

*Other issues*

- You have to travel really far to do anything like skiing and snowboarding.
- I can't make it in 10 minutes walking really anywhere, even the Dairy Queen.

## Neighborhoods

### CM Discussion Question: What area do you consider to be your “neighborhood”?

#### Clicker Results:

Not applicable.

#### Discussion:

[If you live in Fargo think of your neighborhood as your college neighborhood, here around campus. If you're from Moorhead you can think of where you live or your college neighborhood, too.]

Note, most MSUM students lived in Fargo and most Concordia students lived on campus.

- Campus.
- Campus and all the apartments that look similar around the campus.
- The east complex at Concordia.

### CM Clicker Question: How satisfied are you with the opportunities to get outside in your neighborhood (e.g., open spaces, parks, trails, large enough yards)?

#### Clicker Results:

Participants at MSUM were split between being somewhat or very satisfied with the opportunities to get outside in their neighborhood and being somewhat or very dissatisfied with the opportunities. Nearly two-thirds of participants at Concordia were somewhat or very satisfied.

#### Discussion:

##### *Open spaces*

- I'm used to lot bigger and open spaces. I used to go to a larger school and there was more space there. We'd have huge lawns and quads.
- There's no space where you can just enjoy the outdoors. It's strictly functional space on campus and in my neighborhood too. All the land is in use for something...there's just not a place where I could sit underneath a tree and do my homework here on campus.
- The parks are very open here, but there's no bench to sit to read. It's just open space. I have lived in other cities where there are cement benches here and there to just sit and spend the day. There's nothing like that here.
- There are so many developments of apartments and townhouses but there is not very much land for parks. It'd be nice to have through streets too, because I bike and rollerblade and I have to do it in through these streets that go nowhere. It's cul-de-sac after cul-de-sac.

### *Other issues*

- If there was enough money, a park above the flood plain would be great! All of them flood.
- The trails are pretty good, but I don't like 8<sup>th</sup> Street because it's too busy. I ride bike to school but not to work in south Fargo. We sometimes ride bike to go eat.
- I live in the Meadows where there are paths and parks for rollerblading.

## **CM Clicker Question: How satisfied are you with how easy and pleasant it is to be active within your neighborhood (e.g., bike, walk, rollerblade)?**

### Clicker Results:

Most participants were somewhat or very satisfied with how easy and pleasant it is to be active within their neighborhood.

### Discussion:

#### *Sidewalks, crosswalks*

- Sidewalks are uneven. It's very hard to use a wheel chair on the sidewalk on and off campus. I know, because I had to be in a wheelchair after I had surgery.
- It goes a long way between crosswalks.
- The narrowness and nearness to traffic is a problem. You are taking a chance if you start going downtown. You're so close to 30- 40 mph traffic. It's not pedestrian friendly, because it's narrow and littered with light poles or boxes that you have to go around. You have to take your chances when crossing Highway 10, too. Plus here you have to drive anywhere like Target or McDonalds. You can't just walk.

#### *Aesthetics, feel of neighborhood*

- Trees on both sides of the street.
- It's a different feeling between Moorhead's 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Fargo's Downtown. You can walk and look into the shops on Broadway. The traffic is different, because the traffic on 8<sup>th</sup> is very fast and the traffic on Broadway is much slower.
- I wasn't very apt to wonder off the campus because everything I needed was on campus. But when I started staying the summer, I was able to go off campus more and I had no idea that the pleasant neighborhood existed. There are houses behind campus with plaques on the homes and it's very nice.
- There are a lot of people out and about walking.

#### *Safety*

- The shops on 8<sup>th</sup> are creepy.
- The roads could use work. Some are narrow and bumpy. Can't see lines, etc.
- Having the opportunity to not be by a busy road. It's nice to get away from that.

#### *Other comments*

- I like that I can walk to Hornbacher's.

**CM Clicker Question: How satisfied are you with the sidewalks and pedestrian crosswalks in your neighborhood?**

**Clicker Results:**

More than half of participants were somewhat or very dissatisfied with the sidewalks and pedestrian crosswalks in their neighborhood.

**Discussion:**

*Crosswalk problems*

- By the apartments the crosswalks are painted like seven times a year. It'd be nice to have the crosswalks on 8th painted more often, because then cars wouldn't think that we are darting out in front of them when we're in a crosswalk.
- Painting the crosswalks would be good also on the south end of campus.
- It'd be nice because people don't stop at the crosswalks.
- We could get the speed tables. They are bigger than speed bumps.
- People do jaywalk all the time.

*Covered with snow and ice*

- I run in the winter but I have noticed that Fargo's sidewalks are cleaned off better. The residential sidewalks aren't kept up as well around this area.
- Sidewalks don't get cleared and there is like 25 feet and you can't get through.

*Other comments*

- The bumpy orange things on the curb cuts – I had an injury from hitting one when rollerblading. It's okay – I'm always falling or getting hurt.
- Is it possible to anchor in signs like what they have on Broadway? Can we get those? [Response: We could look into something like that, but it's amazing how much it costs, like just painting crosswalks.]

**CM Clicker Question: How satisfied are you with the public transit (bus) service in your neighborhood?**

**Clicker Results:**

The majority of participants indicated they had no experience with the public transit service in their neighborhood. Among those with experience, satisfaction levels were spread out across the board.

**Discussion:**

*Time/frequency*

- 15-30 min trips.
- There's always a tight schedule.
- As a non bus rider I've heard that it takes a lot longer than it should.



- Needs to run later at night...after bars close.
- On Saturday, the buses go around less – I think it's like once an hour – and I need it more than that.
- There are particular times during the day that if you need to get on the bus it's a gamble. It's iffy to catch a transfer sometimes, especially right around 3pm when schools are getting out. I sometimes walk to another bus stop that I know I can make no matter what rather than taking the chance of missing my transfer.  
[Response: MAT is doing a study that will include the timing of transfers now because there have been some issues.]
- I feel that I could walk faster.

#### *Routes*

- Express routes to the mall would be good. I don't know where to get on the bus, is there one by campus?
- There isn't a lot of knowledge about it and you don't want to get stuck somewhere. It can be scary. I know someone from here did go on a ride and then they were a lot more confident.
- I did use the bus to get around my freshman year and that's how I knew it was difficult to use to get around.
- Do they go to Fargo?
- This may be interesting but it's hard to get car pooling going but if there was a bus from here to the cities it would be wonderful. I would do that instead of using gas. I would absolutely do that.

### **CM Clicker Question: How satisfied are you with the access to shopping/services from your residence?**

#### Clicker Results:

More than half of participants were somewhat or very satisfied with access to shopping/services from their residence. More MSUM participants than Concordia students were somewhat or very dissatisfied with access from their residence.

#### Discussion:

##### *Type of establishment*

- We have a nice mall, especially compared to larger cities.
- More access to diverse/cultural foods.
- It would be nice to have a water park in the summer instead of having to go to the lake.
- We don't have anything that allows you to be outdoorsy. Not very many trails, paths, etc.
- We need more clubs.
- We need a club scene in Moorhead. Something like downtown Fargo where it's nice to have everything close and accessible... you can walk from one place to another.

- In the Cities, on First Avenue or Street or something like that, they have streets full of restaurants and bars.
- We'd like a lawn here.
- In Omaha there's a large park area with trails and stuff that people go to and interact and become social. They're planning a manmade lake now too.
- I've never had a desire like Taco Bell that I could not find.
- I like how we have so many grocery stores.
- It'd be nice to have more options in the Moorhead Center Mall, like a book store.

#### *Logistics*

- Would walk to the grocery store but have to cross Highway 10.
- Can't carry very much even though my apartment is only four blocks from Cash Wise.
- The new location to the Wellness Center is better than the old. You won't have to drive to the new like you did to the old one.
- I used to live in a small town, so coming from two hours away to right in the same area is great.
- We have quick access to the mall.

#### *Other comments*

- The community needs to be safe. And this community is different from other places I've been such as Denver. Everyone will walk everywhere there, like to the mall – it's the norm. My brother visited from Denver and he couldn't believe that we drive five blocks for stuff.
- We like the downtown feel of the new apartments by the river but they are too expensive.
- Dairy Queen (discussion at Concordia);
  - Most go and most walk when they go.
  - It's classic. It's where the dilly bar was invented, and inexpensive.
  - You can chat with everyone there when you are waiting.
  - Is a good excuse to get off campus.
  - It's a social feeling. You always know someone.
  - Students with disabilities have a really hard time to get around. To get into Stella coffee shop and it's hard to get to the mall or get around anywhere. And the Dairy Queen can be very nerve-wracking for them.

### **CM Clicker Question: How satisfied are you with the safety of your neighborhood?**

#### **Clicker Results:**

At least half of participants were somewhat or very satisfied with the safety of their neighborhood. However, one-fourth of participants at MSUM were somewhat or very dissatisfied with the safety of their neighborhood.

### Discussion:

[Safety is however you define it.]

#### *Negative experiences and perceptions*

- We live by a bar here in Moorhead and it's a safety concern. Strange men just keep trying to break into our apartment. The cops are good to come. We've taken defense classes.
- I live in downtown Fargo and there are a lot of drunken people walking around and there are people who try to break into our building.
- Break-ins and thefts.
- There are some strange characters...I'm up late and will walk around campus at 3am and there are some really weird people lingering around who aren't students. That's why I started to call campus security to escort me home.
- I feel more secure in Fargo than in Moorhead. I lived in Moorhead around campus and there were a lot of break-ins and assaults when I lived here.
- I worked at the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center and I've seen the stats for MN. Moorhead's stats are very high. I don't walk alone, I go in groups.
- I think that people in the FM area don't lock their doors because they aren't aware of or don't realize the danger. There's this feeling that we are safe and we may neglect the safety concerns.
- I feel that there is a lot of police awareness. I call campus security to escort me home whenever I am at the library late.

#### *Maintenance, lighting, city services*

- I can never see the lines on the road. Can they do something... like do them more often?
- And the snow piles on the corners of the streets could be taken other places than left on corners of the streets, because you can't see.
- Our campus is fairly well lit, but you get a block away and it's not.
- Lighting at 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> is a safety concern.

**CM Clicker Question: How satisfied are you with the traffic in your neighborhood (e.g., speed, noise, quantity, type of vehicle)?**

### Clicker Results:

Satisfaction levels varied a great deal regarding traffic in participants' neighborhoods. More than one-third of participants were somewhat or very dissatisfied with the traffic in their neighborhood.

### Discussion:

#### *Traffic too fast, crossing problems*

- People call the school and say we need to use skywalks.
- People come from small towns and cross whenever/wherever.

- Parking, traffic, speed are all a problem.
- I have an 8-year-old. And I live on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and 13<sup>th</sup> Street. The traffic is way too fast and I don't want my daughter out there. They are going like 40 sometimes.
- 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> is always busy...the crosswalk lights aren't long enough and you have to run across. I play a game with the blinking hand.
- The no-turn-on-red causes more problems than it does good. It causes accidents because people are rushing to make the light. The people turn no matter what but students don't because we know people get pulled over. Crossing at a yellow light means death. It's a scary couple of seconds.
- Everyone pushes the boundaries.
- In the summer I had an internship and I had a hard time with the traffic and the trains. I tried to get the timing down so I wouldn't be late but it was difficult.

#### *Bikes*

- Is there any talk about adding bike lanes to the sides of main roads? That'd be awesome. I see people use them on the one-ways fairly often.
- But people don't realize that bike riders can be on the roads, too. I've gotten hand gestures plenty of times. [Response: We are always looking for advocates. We need people to stand up at the city council and tell them what you want for bicyclists.]

#### *Other issues*

- There are always semi trucks trying to bypass the weigh station.
- My bedroom window is next to 8<sup>th</sup> and it's loud.

### **CM Clicker Question: How satisfied are you with the upkeep of neighboring properties?**

#### Clicker Results:

There was a quite a bit of variability in satisfaction levels with the upkeep of neighboring properties. Less than one-fifth of Concordia participants were somewhat or very dissatisfied with the upkeep of neighboring properties, while more than one-third of MSUM participants were somewhat or very satisfied.

#### Discussion:

##### *Trash*

- People throw their cigarette butts between the street and campus. It's disgusting.
- We need more trash receptacles for cigarette butts. Since the new smoking ban policy the littering has become a huge problem. There was a sea of cigarette butts between the road and campus. Eventually a person brought out his own trash can.

### *Rentals*

- Some of the rentals on 8<sup>th</sup> could be kept up more it's sad.
- I noticed that those houses aren't so great. There's furniture in the lawn and it's not just college kids there are families who have the furniture in their yards, too.

### *Moorhead Center Mall*

- Moorhead Center Mall is very depressing – there's like three stores.
- Make Moorhead Center Mall into a dance place, pool tables, some TV's... it's freedom, it doesn't need to be nice. It'd be a nice huge area to just relax. It'd be better as a community/college place.

### **CM Clicker Question: Living in my neighborhood gives me a sense of community.**

#### Clicker Results:

There was a quite a bit of variability in the level of agreement among MSUM participants that living in their neighborhood gives them a sense of community. However, more than half of Concordia participants agreed or strongly agreed.

#### Discussion:

- Seeing people out and about makes it feel like a community.

### **CM Clicker Question: I would pitch in if volunteers were needed for an improvement project in my neighborhood.**

#### Clicker Results:

About half of MSUM participants indicated they would pitch in if volunteers were needed for an improvement project in their neighborhood. The vast majority of Concordia participants indicated they would pitch in if needed.

As a note, this question was asked before the flooding events which had a big impact on several neighborhoods in Moorhead in the spring of 2009. Students from all the area colleges gave a tremendous turnout to requests for volunteers for sandbagging, building dikes, etc.

### **CM Clicker Question: If open land was available for development in your neighborhood, what would you most like to see developed there?**

#### Clicker Results:

Parks/trails/community gardens was by far the most common choice for participants when asked what they would like to see developed if open land was available in their neighborhood.

**Discussion:**

- Be nice if a Target was closer.
- I live in the on-campus townhomes and I'd like to see more of those. I love them.

**CM Discussion Question: What improvements would you like to see in your neighborhood?**

**Clicker Results:**

Not applicable.

**Discussion:**

- I hear some complaints from students who live off campus that their neighbors are mean to them.
- Maybe try to build the community by doing something to bring people together. [Response: I know that at some higher education places they do a picnic to bring the members of the community and the college students together.]
- Maybe the people who lived in the house before them may have ruined it for any other college students.

# DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEETINGS

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## Differences Between the Four Neighborhood Meetings

Each neighborhood meeting was open to participants from anywhere in the city, recognizing that choice of days, times, and locations would allow more to attend. Most of the results from the neighborhood meetings are applicable across meetings. However, a few differences among the four meetings are worth noting.

### Compared to the other neighborhood meetings, Meeting 1 at the Moorhead Public Library:

- Had the smallest amount of participants age 34 and younger, and no participants age 24 and younger.
- Had the smallest amount of participants with children younger than 18 years old.
- Had fewer participants who worked full-time (one-third).
- Had the smallest amount of participants who indicated they sit most of the time during a typical day (one-third).
- Had the smallest amount of participants who don't go for walks in an average week, even in good weather (no participants).
- Had the largest amount of participants who don't go for bike rides in an average week, even in good weather (nearly half).
- Had the smallest amount of participants who were motivated to do physical activity by the need to relieve stress (one-fourth).
- Had the smallest amount of participants who agreed that living in their neighborhood gave them a sense of community (less than half).

### Compared to the other neighborhood meetings, Meeting 2 at the Hjemkomst Center:

- Had fewer participants who worked full-time (one-third).
- Had the largest amount of participants who lived within 1 mile of where they worked (one-fifth).
- Had the largest amount of participants who were somewhat or very dissatisfied with the upkeep of neighboring properties (half).
- Had a strong preference for having park/trails/community gardens developed in their neighborhood if open land was available (more than two-thirds).

**Compared to the other neighborhood meetings, Meeting 3 at Horizon Middle School:**

- Had the largest amount of participants age 34 and younger.
- Had the largest amount of participants who were women. All the meetings had more women participants than men, but the rest were more balanced between women and men.
- Had the largest amount of participants with children younger than 18 years old.
- Had more participants who worked full-time (more than half).
- Had the largest amount of participants who indicated they sit most of the time during a typical day (more than half).
- Had the smallest amount of participants who were motivated to do physical activity by the need to go somewhere (less than one-fifth).
- Had the smallest amount of participants who were somewhat or very satisfied with the opportunities to get outside in their neighborhood (a little more than half).
- Had the largest amount of participants who indicated they were somewhat or very dissatisfied with the public transit service in their neighborhood (nearly half).
- Had the largest amount of participants who indicated they were somewhat or very dissatisfied with the traffic in their neighborhood (more than half).

**Compared to the other neighborhood meetings, Meeting 4 at S.G. Reinertsen Elementary School:**

- Had only homeowners as participants.
- Had more participants who worked full-time (more than half).
- Had the largest amount of participants who don't go for walks, even in good weather (one-fifth).
- Had the largest amount of participants who indicated they were somewhat or very dissatisfied with the access to shopping/services from their home (more than half).
- Had the smallest amount of participants who were very dissatisfied with the safety of their neighborhood (less than one-fifth), and the largest amount who were very satisfied (half).
- Had the largest amount of participants who were very satisfied with the upkeep of neighboring properties (more than half).



## Differences Between the Two College Meetings

Moorhead State University at Moorhead (MSUM) is a public institution. Concordia College is a small, private institution. Some differences between participants at the two meetings are worth noting.

### **Meeting 5 at MSUM, compared to the other college meeting:**

- Had participants living primarily in off-campus apartments and single-family homes. This translates into a variety of neighborhoods that participants would be thinking about when answering questions about their neighborhood.
- Had a larger amount of participants who indicated they are physically active/moving around a lot of the time in a typical day.
- Had a larger amount of participants who go for a walk four or more times a week, on average.
- Had a larger amount of participants who were somewhat or very dissatisfied about the opportunities to get outside in their neighborhood, access to shopping/services from their residence, the safety of their neighborhood, and the upkeep of neighboring properties.
- Had a larger amount of participants who disagreed or strongly disagreed that living in their neighborhood gave them a sense of community.

### **Meeting 6 at Concordia, compared to the other college meeting:**

- Had more participants living mostly in on-campus apartments or dorm rooms, living less than ½ mile from where they worked, and living less than ½ mile from school.
- Had more participants who knew they would not be staying in the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area.
- Had a larger amount of participants who go for a bike ride at least once in an average week, and who bike six or more times a week, on average.
- Had a larger amount of participants who do not take public transportation at all in an average week.
- Had a larger amount of participants who were motivated to be physically active by the need to relieve stress.

## Differences Between the Neighborhood and College Meetings

Some differences between the four neighborhood meetings and the two college meetings are worth noting.

### Compared to the neighborhood meetings, the college meetings:

- Had younger participants.
- Had very few participants with children younger than 18 years old.
- Had mostly participants who lived in rental properties or on-campus in dorm rooms.
- Had more participants who planned to move out of Moorhead.
- Had more participants who walked in four or more times in an average week.
- Had more participants who were dissatisfied with sidewalks and crosswalks in their neighborhood.
- Had participants who referred to the need for more diverse/cultural foods and a club scene.
- Had participants with specific negative experiences that impacted their view of safety in their neighborhood (such as break-ins, thefts, drunken people on the street).
- Had fewer participants who were satisfied with the upkeep of neighboring properties.
- Had participants who expressed a desire for the city to help college students become more integrated into their neighborhoods.

## WRITTEN COMMENTS

Participants at each of the neighborhood meetings were given the opportunity to write comments to share with the city. The comments fall into the major themes presented in the executive summary and analysis. Individual, unedited written comments from each meeting are presented in this section, and, as appropriate, in the participant recommendations section found earlier in the report.

Written Comments from Participants at <u>Meeting 1</u> at the Moorhead Public Library:
Building number on all residences and businesses.
Snow removal 5 <sup>th</sup> Avenue South 3-4 times in 24 hours. Blocks driveways and corners that have a lot of foot traffic. Over grooming around MSUM.
Renters, single-family home problem.
Neighborhood services - ineffective no response in many cases.
Animal control of barking dogs - problem.
Fuel storage too close to residential - aging tanks by Main Avenue.
What's wrong with the traffic lights downtown since the no whistle zone went into effect? It seems traffic is at a standstill at intersections forever if a train comes by. I have done unsafe turnarounds to avoid them.
I love my neighborhood near Woodlawn Park and Concordia!
I'd like to see the Power Plant made into a library or accessible (affordable) community center.
I used to really enjoy the Tuesdays at the Log Cabin. I met lots of my neighbors there and got to see other people who live in Moorhead. It was informal and fun, cozy and comfortable.
I avoid downtown because of narrow streets. Lights at intersections do not give enough time for pedestrians to safely cross. Neighborhood sidewalks are great!
Enforcement of minor laws is non-existent (blowing snow into street, dog bites & leash laws).
More equitable snow plowing - friends have plows go down their street as frequently as four times before I get one.
Could there be some way to encourage businesses to have bicycle racks available? Perhaps a requirement of major renovations or for newly built businesses.
Working "walk/don't walk" signals should be viewed with the same importance as working stop lights - they mean the same level of safety for pedestrians as the stop lights do for motor vehicles.
When I first moved to Moorhead, I got the impression that sidewalks were required for new construction and any major landscaping. In general, in south Moorhead, I have little problems (8th Street corridor, MSUM, and Concordia areas). If this isn't the actual requirement, perhaps it should be made one.
I would appreciate communication with the city workers regarding what they leave behind after addressing a water main break. The front end loader has left chunks of ice that freeze together and from a large solid obstacle in driveway and sidewalk crossings. I can't clear these with a shovel or snow blowers; they quickly become frozen solid and an obstacle.

I would like Moorhead to be conservative when considering neighborhood improvements.
Meet needs and provide safety; support private business development to meet “luxury” items.
Would area city council please please fix area Channel 12 so seniors can hear it; the color is good.
We need right and left turn lights on 8th and 11th Avenue to the delay time because of trains.
Improve walk access to the River Oaks Point - change the gate/fences to invite more use. Find space for natural trails!
I am in favor that the old Power Plant be only for public not private or commercial use but I would like there to be a privately run restaurant/deli there.
Why did they take the hockey rink out of Alm Park? There are many children grade school through high school in the immediate area of Alm Park. Also the shelter house should be utilized for more than present. It is not open at all this winter or fall.
It would be great to have small grocery stores within walking or biking distance. We really appreciate the trees that have been planted along the river and Woodlawn Park. Some friends that are ready for assisted living wish that Moorhead had a place like the Waterford in Fargo. They said they would like to continue as Minnesota and Moorhead residents. I think a type of senior living that allows pets would be good.
Better trail system is needed connecting parks in Moorhead. Better bike trails/bike lanes on roads to make safety a priority and get more people active in the community.
Make a trail along the Moorhead side of the river.
Better use of the river for recreation and nature experiences.
Better law enforcement on speeding streets such as 4th and 5th Street South (the one-ways).
Traffic light at 17th Street and 1st Avenue North.
Codes enforcement (junk vehicles in yards).
Redevelop 1st Avenue North.
Mosquito control.
Mix of retail and housing and parks.
Better advertisement of who to call to report service/complaint/requests.
Bike lanes – clear.
Better bike bridge.
Earlier/later bus hours.
Community center.
Obstacle for winter walking: Are bike trails to be cleared of snow in the winter? If so, 40th Avenue is not cleared fully of snow, much of the lanes have drifts in them.
When we have these neighborhood meetings, it would be nice to have a “begin” and “end” time that is published prior to the meeting.

<b>Written Comments from Participants at Meeting 2 at the Hjemkomst Center:</b>
Shopping - Center Mall needs more tenants. If it wasn't for Herberger's, there wouldn't be any people there! What is our economic development department doing to get business to locate in Moorhead? There is a competition to Sam's called Costco, have they ever been contacted? What about the strip mall that was talked about years ago on 1st Avenue?

Recreation - I would like to see a short par 3 golf course explored for our youth, maybe in the meadows area wherever there is land that might be available.
I would ride the city bus to Menards in Moorhead every weekday during the winter months if the bus went to Menards. I work there Monday-Friday and live in downtown Moorhead. Right now the closest the bus gets to Menards is about a mile away. I also think it would be good for our business at Menards if people have bus access to shop there. Also, downtown Woodlawn Park is next door to my apartment and although I love to bike and walk there, it is very poor for rollerblading. The Frisbee Park at Woodlawn is so popular in the summer that I am surprised it is not maintained better (weeds, tennis courts beat up, Frisbee golf is used so much the grass is worn out and the dirt shows).
I love living on the Juano's/Moxie Java block. That block makes Moorhead downtown fun, attractive and urban feeling. It is so great! Thank you!! Actually, it is the reason I moved back to Moorhead to open the new Menards store after working at the three Menards in the Chicago area. I wanted to live somewhere that felt urban.
Need stronger controls on rental homes especially with absentee landlords who do not respond to weed removal, etc.
More controls on preventing homes being bought for rental.
More snow removal and weed control enforcement.
Are citizens going to have input on police building in new area?
We need to develop Moorhead Center Mall rather than start a new retail place, especially restaurants – the one we had that lost their lease was doing great!!
Skate Park would be great! Nice location, in winter cross country skiing and sledding. In the summer: biking, hiking, bigger play areas, downtown theatre area.
Woodlawn Park is unusable every summer when it floods – cleanup is not prompt!
Bring back small family housing rather than rentals (near Concordia). Their parties are NOT wanted.
I know that this would cost money, so I don't know that this would needs to be #1 priority but in older neighborhoods the curbs that are not family friendly make it hard to lift a stroller up and down the curbs every time we cross the street. Plus it's difficult for bike riders who chose not to use the street. If these old curbs could be updated at some point that would be great.
People need to clear their walkways of snow and not be allowed to park in driveways blocking the sidewalk. It does not allow me to take my daycare children out for a walk and makes it difficult for me to walk with my pets and family. If the city were to fine these people, we all could be more active and the city could make some money to compensate for the budget cuts. It's a win-win! Also, people should not need warnings or notices to remove their snow. After 24 hours, homeowners should know they need to remove snow or the city will remove the snow and charge these people.
Taking down stop signs a 5th and 4th Street cuts down children getting across streets safely.
Make rentals recycle.
Someone commented on the need for more parks/equipment for kids. I think we have enough equipment type parks. We need more nature areas where kids can play/explore and use their imaginations as opposed to rough-housing and playing on things a lot. I'd encourage city planners who work with parks to read Last Child In the Woods by Richard Louv. There's so much I could say about this but I will stop for now.

Many streets in north Moorhead do not have sidewalks. Can make it difficult while walking.
Public transportation is very difficult because many times you must go to Fargo and back to get to Moorhead and transfer.
Need more stops on bus routes. I live in north Moorhead and I need to go to south Moorhead to shop. Always get stuck at train tracks.
Would like the library moved to the old Power Plant.
Restrict rentals near MSUM and Concordia.
Enforce shoveling regulations quickly after complaints.
We need better bus service more buses and longer hours. It doesn't do you any good to take bus to work and have to walk home because you close the shop three hours after the bus stops.
Small neighborhood parks with equipment for young children with park benches for parents to sit and watch their children. Then, equipment for older kids in a separate area.
A stop light on south 8th Street between Belsly and 40th South.
Sidewalks on 12th Street south of Belsly have been there for 12 years - no public sidewalks.
Have Lisa Vatnsdal come to the meetings.
Trim trees so they don't obscure stop signs.
Economic Development: Empty space in south Moorhead across from SunMart many years. Moorhead Center Mall is TERRIBLE. Some day complete tear down of City Hall and Center Mall. Complete re-design to accommodate car and foot traffic. New buildings too close to streets; not enough space for trees, sidewalks, snow.
Empty buildings and warehouses downtown - seems too industrial.
I think the re-development of downtown Fargo is partly due to restaurants, shops, arts, galleries (not large industry or chain stores).
Really need to limit rental development near colleges.
More curbside recycling.
Moorhead's greatest asset is its old established neighborhoods. The city must protect this asset from encroachment by business and high density residential development. The city must keep quality of life on residential streets as its top priority.
The added stop sign at 4th and 2nd Avenue South was a mistake. It's not needed. The light on Main Avenue ensures breaks in the traffic flow. Traffic backs up at that sign even to the Main Avenue intersection, especially as cars stop to let others back out of the parking. The backed up traffic blocks those parked cars. The sign creates a constant drip of traffic during busy times making it hard to cross the street downstream for both pedestrians and vehicles. Without the stop sign the light on main would provide regular pauses in the flow (which also helps the diagonally parked cars if there is no backup)!
Something nice could be done with the Townsite Center green space, though maybe there are reasons to keep it wide open.
Stop sprawl to promote renewal.
Currently there is an entrance to the bike path system on 6th Avenue South and Elm Street. Many people both walking and biking find the most convenient way to get there is from 5th Avenue South, north of the Power Plant. There has been slumping on the hill where 5th Avenue South leads to the bike path and river. Though it's dangerous many people use it. It would be good to make the access safer, perhaps by paving a safer path from 5th Avenue South to the south of some trees and brush.

Woodlawn Park has been neglected. It would be nice to replace the picnic shelter that used to be there. It would be nice to repair the playgrounds there to have some benches for adults accompanying children.

Another microphone at meetings.

**Written Comments from Participants at Meeting 3 at Horizon Middle School:**

I deal with many different agencies and three children of my own who use the bus. Transportation is an ongoing growing need. People rely on them for getting to their own jobs that are already 8 plus hours days. Then you have buses that add on 2-4 more hours of a day and that is if the busses are still running at the hours of your job. It affects elderly handicapped, poor and young. Also buses to school starts out by the traffic light with no shelter in the cold/rain.

I will be taking the bus a lot when we start having nicer weather. No complaints, it's too cold to have a child out in this weather. Bus needs to start going by the townhomes in Village Green again. Taxis are very expensive kids need to get out of the house. When the walk button is pushed for a pedestrian to cross at the lights, the light and walk sign need to change in favor of pedestrian. The MSUM crosswalk is an excellent example where it works great! Downtown Moorhead – when a train is coming, it is impossible to beat it. Going north to south or south to the north side those lights need to be on a pattern so they are all green. Very good example – when you are on NP Avenue just getting into Fargo and driving west, if you hit one green right when you get to it makes traveling smoother.

Concerns: What, if anything, is planned for the land west of 34th Street and south of 24th Avenue? If commercial use, how will the adjacent neighborhood be protected?

**Written Comments from Participants at Meeting 4 at S.G. Reinertsen Elementary School:**

Biking/hiking trails all along river. More retail in Moorhead, especially south of interstate. Moorhead Center Mall, redeveloped! How about: new management, focus on college students and seniors, much nicer décor and food court (brighter), trolley from colleges to MCM. Restaurants - need more of them especially downtown (family friendly). Old buildings need to have some degree of aesthetic standards... if they don't increase taxes for encouragement to owners. Should be retail center with no tax on clothing. Make all of Moorhead look like Concordia's campus.

Pave parking lot in Ridgewood Park.

How satisfied are you with the upkeep of neighborhood properties? My home backs to the MN welcome center off of I-94. The state or county or city is responsible for mowing the grass adjacent to my property and this is mowed only once or twice a year. The grass grows to 4 feet tall most of the time. My neighbors have repeatedly called to get this taken care of but the response is not timely. This is breeding ground for mosquitoes and impairs our use of back yards due to the increased insects. What agency/person is best to contact to solve this problem?

Condo at 1318 1st Avenue North, Moorhead, MN – a lot of problems with the building parking of tenants, dogs, and problems with traffic constantly going in and out and hit and runs, building is falling apart.

<p>Enforce sign ordinance. We have a “temporary” rent sign across the street that has been there for 3 years! Develop the area around Concordia College and Minnesota State University - Moorhead to get college students to live in Moorhead. Cut back on all the cars traveling from Fargo to the colleges every day. Need to grow up rather than grow out. FM is eating up agricultural productivity.</p>
<p>Upkeep! North Moorhead homes need fixing, abandoned in MSUM, and north Moorhead – improve with grants. Need apartment condemned and no partying. For sale change to rental or left empty. No maintenance of grass and snow removal. Some houses reverting back to owning rather than renting as destructive tenants. Shopping area by college: three-fourths of Moorhead students commute from Fargo. Prevent economic development and traffic congestions. Need high-rises by MSUM. NDSU has five complexes recently by 19th Avenue and it’s working. Improvements: bigger trees, dedicated paths, narrower streets, rec. center, general upkeep.</p>
<p>We need to focus on developing our already developed neighborhoods, ex: promoting owner occupied homes. Homeownership. Already developed neighborhoods tend to have: sidewalks, access to amenities, access to parks, access to MAT. Develop a place for students to live and shop.</p>
<p>Need better awareness of residents that are prone to flooding and help them be proactive with stopping flood water, same as Fargo, providing help sooner during flooding, providing longer help to prevent. A couple of years ago it seemed that by accident city employees found out we were fighting flood waters, they had been south and did not even know we had issues. Help came at the end of the day after we had been sandbagging for 1 ½ days.</p>
<p>I don’t walk or bike in my neighborhood because I don’t feel comfortable. I go to the Y downtown to work out instead. Something needs to be done about traffic in Moorhead coming into Moorhead from Fargo on Main Avenue at 5pm. The new stop light system with the trains isn’t working either. Traffic needs to flow more fluently in this city, especially as we get bigger. The underpass on 20th and 21st Street needs to be completed soon. I know the holiday station has been bought out for this project. I would recommend the condos to the east of holiday and across the street from the high school be bought as well. I would use the bust to get to work. But I work in Fargo and I’d have to make two transfers which take 45 minutes. I can drive the distance in 12 minutes. MSUM needs more parking lots. They have less parking lot space now than when I went to college in the 80’s.</p>
<p>More senior housing. How many units in new building on 24th? It would be great to see policemen riding bikes through neighborhoods in summer. They could stop to say hi to kids and adults.</p>
<p>I really enjoy the path around the “Mallard Creek” area, pond and the new neighborhood businesses. Areas with no sidewalks should have one side of the street with no on-street parking for people to walk. I have to walk in the grass/snow because there is not enough room on the street to walk safely with cards parked on both sides and cars driving through. Southside dog park! Let people with dogs walk around the 100 acre park!</p>
<p>The report asks average commute times. In the near future a better report is going to be commute costs, energy concerns are going to drive community planning. Moorhead should try to plan for this eventually. I applaud the focus tonight on the non-motorized transportation options/questions.</p>
<p>Thank you for having these input meetings!</p>