



## Southbridge Transportation Action Plan

### Workshop 1 Summary

Century Engineering prepared and attended the first public workshop for the Southbridge Transportation Action Plan. Members of the community who attended were greeted with boards providing information on the Plan including the study area, project purpose and goals, roadway reconfiguration ideas, and maps where the community was prompted to provide information on bicycle/pedestrian concerns, trucks, traffic calming, transit, connectivity, lighting, beautification, landscaping, and stormwater among other topics. The workshop was held from 4-6 pm at the Southbridge Neighborhood House prior to the Southbridge Civic Association Meeting on October 18, 2022. During the Civic Association Meeting a summary of the Plan goals were discussed and the community was introduced to two community members who were hired to assist with the plan development: Sauntra Kanu and Diana Dixon. A local area resident experienced in survey collection, Dora Williams, was hired as well. The project schedule was provided, as well as a survey which attendees could take in person during the event or submit at a later date. Overall, the feedback provided was positive and excited for the Transportation Plan.

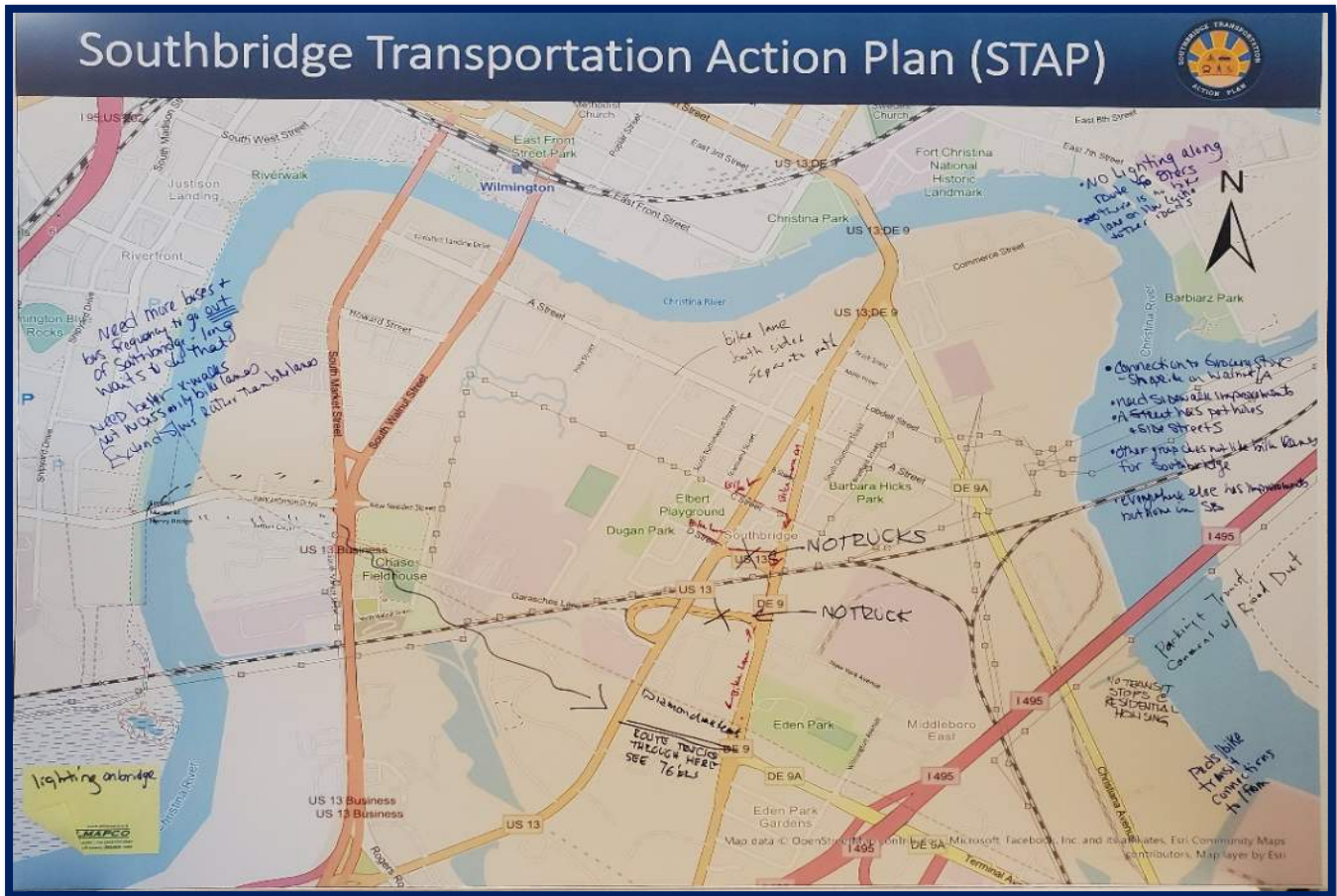
The workshop welcomed 25 community members and representatives. Thirteen of the attendees requested to be added to project updates. Forty-three surveys were completed and submitted.

### Community Feedback

The Community Workshop provided various opportunities for the community to provide input on Transportation concerns and issues throughout Southbridge. In addition to issues and concerns, the community was offered the opportunity to discuss what is in place that is already successful as well. The interactive portion of the workshop included three maps of the study area which were located throughout the walk-through discussions. A moderator was positioned at each map to discuss specific topics. The feedback was written onto the maps and maps were later scanned and saved as project documents. The following maps provide information collected during the community workshop. The topics discussed were based on action items and major topics of discussion that were presented in the Southbridge Neighborhood Action Plan (SNAP)



## Pedestrian and Bicycle Traffic Related Suggestions



The community was asked to provide input on concerns, issues, or areas that are currently successful and working properly as it pertains to bicycle and pedestrian transportation. The community was encouraged to think of origins and destinations that currently have connectivity issues or issues and concerns that they are aware of as they travel throughout the study area. The following were the suggestions and results:

- Improve crosswalks throughout
- Widen sidewalks throughout
- Route to Chase Fieldhouse needs improvement
- Widen sidewalks instead of placing bike lanes
- Bike lane needed along New Castle Ave between A Street and Terminal Avenue
- Add bike lanes along D Street and C Street between New Castle Avenue and Heald Street
- Build a Shared Use Path along A Street between South Market Street and Barbara Hicks Park
- Build a bike lane and improve walking route to Chase Fieldhouse



## Public Transit Suggestions

The community was also asked to provide feedback on public transportation and connectivity within the study area but also to destinations outside of the study area like greater Wilmington and beyond. The following feedback was captured:

- Need more route options to destinations outside of Southbridge
- Operate buses more frequently
- Limited bus options between ShopRite on Walnut St. and A St. from Southbridge
- Create transit stops in Southbridge

## Lighting Requests

A concern that was reiterated throughout the SNAP and subsequent community meetings was the need for lighting. As a result, the community was asked to provide feedback on locations where additional lighting is needed to be added or improved. We understand that the City of Wilmington is currently replacing existing lighting within the Study Area with LED lighting, which a few residents have noted that the changes improved over all lighting. As part of this study the limits of that efforts will be investigated and noted. The following are the feedback received as it pertains to lighting improvement locations:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • On bridge over Christina River                     | • Along route between Southbridge and Field House |
| • A Street between S. Market St. and Christiana Ave. | • Peach St. and Apple St.                         |
| • B St.  | • South Claymont St.                              |
| • C St.  | • Bradford St.                                    |
| • D St.  | • Barbara Hicks Park                              |
| • South Buttonwood St.                               | • Heald St.                                       |
| • Townsend St.                                       | • New Castle Ave.                                 |
| • Elbert Palmer Playground                           | • Eden Park                                       |







## Flooding/Stormwater Management Requests

While the wetland park is assisting in the mitigation of flooding issues within the study area, other areas not encompassed in the wetland park mitigation are also in need to flood mitigation strategies. The community was asked to identify those areas and potential solutions. The following are the results of that query providing locations of existing flooding:

- Commerce Street near junkyard
- Ezion Fair Baptist Church
- Electrical Substation along Christiana Avenue
- Along New Castle Ave at the entrance to Eden Park Gardens
- Address stormwater management and flooding in the area of A Street and Lobdell Street, Peach Street, Apple Street and the area south of the Christina River
- Along Christiana Avenue at Lobdell Street

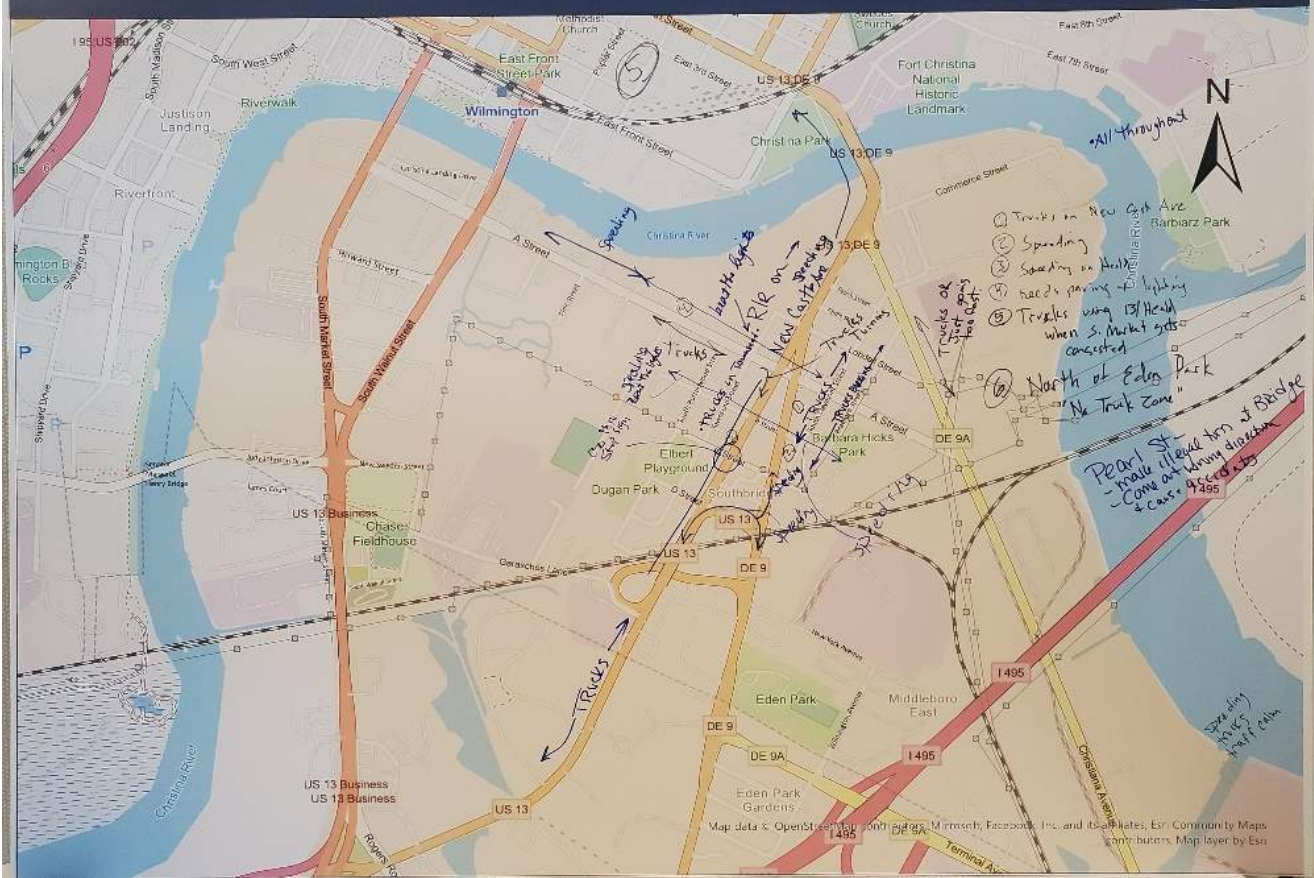
## Traffic, Truck, and Road Diet Suggestions

Many of the action items and discussions in the SNAP pertained to truck traffic and speeding being an issue throughout Southbridge. To understand the issues in more depth the community was asked to expand on the issues with trucks and speeding within the community. Locations where trucks are traveling, parking and speeding was discussed as well as roadway issues pertaining to speeding, configurations, accidents, and condition. The following is the feedback collected during this discussion:

- Apply and enforce truck restrictions on D Street, Garasches Lane, and the off ramp from US 13 to New Castle Avenue in the area between New Castle Avenue and Heald Street
- Enforce no truck parking on Bradford Street
- Enforce no truck parking on S Claymont Street



# Southbridge Transportation Action Plan (STAP)



- Add signage and enforce no truck parking along Townsend Street
- Enforce no truck parking on A Street
- Trucks turning unsafely from A St. to Heald St.
- Maintain trucks being allowed on Christiana Avenue
- Trucks travel down Heald Street and enter Southbridge – Make north of Eden Park a no truck zone
- Trucks use US 13 and Heald St. when S. Market St. gets congested
- Fix potholes along A St. and side streets
- Concern about lack of parking and taking away space for bus stops
- Speeding and unsafe driving along A Street between Christina Ave and South
- Walnut St. – vehicles race down the street trying to “beat the lights”
- The New Castle Ave and South Claymont Ave split is confusing
- Speeding along E 4<sup>th</sup> St. near Christina River
- Speeding along South Claymont Street between Lobdell Street and D Street
- Speeding on B St. - vehicles race down the street trying to “beat the lights”
- Speeding on D Street Sweep
- Trucks are speeding on Christina Ave.
- Trucks speeding on New Castle Ave.
- Trucks speeding on Heald St.
- Vehicles driving through stop sign near Heald St. and C St.
- Vehicles driving wrong direction at Pearl St. and make illegal turn at the bridge



## Miscellaneous Requests

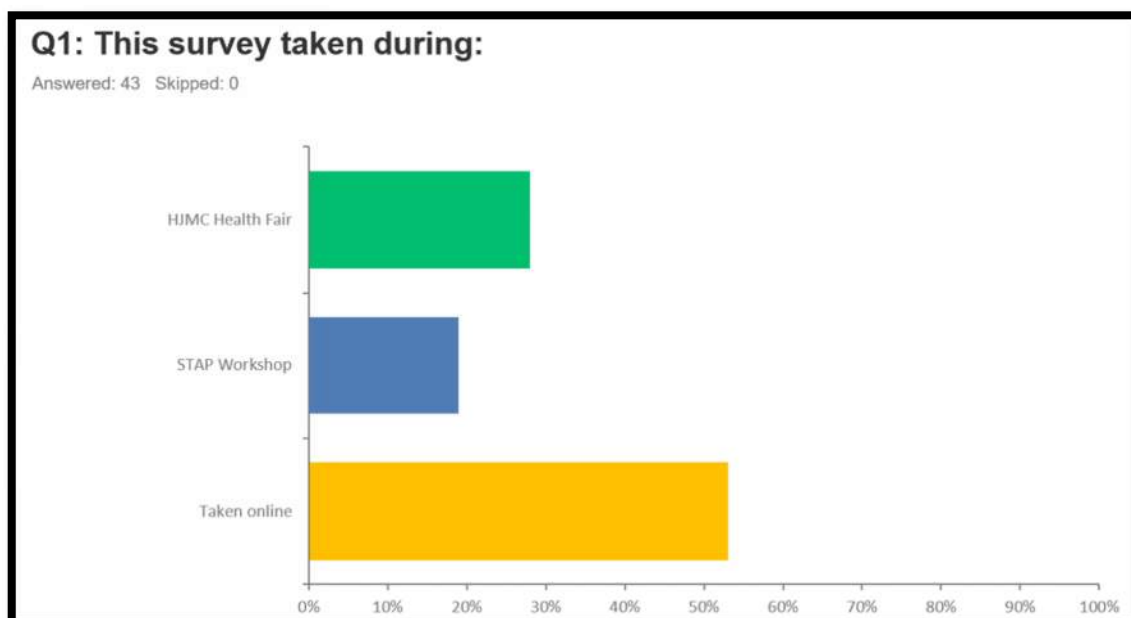
- Revise zoning to be less industrial and more residential
- Revise zoning to allow for nicer destinations within Southbridge such as nicer retail or restaurants
- Build soccer fields for recreation

## Survey Results

Several efforts were implemented to gather feedback from the community. A survey was developed and posted on the project website. Flyers were placed around the community including at the Henrietta Johnson Community Center and the Neighborhood House. Flyers included a QR Code for quick and easy access to the survey using a smart device such as a cell phone and hard copies surveys were available such as at the Neighborhood House. A total of 43 surveys were received from the community. An incentive of winning a \$50 gift card for preparing the survey was provided. Surveys were collected online, at the Henrietta Johnson Medical Health Fair held on October 15, 2022, and at the STAP Workshop #1. The following are the survey results.

Most surveys were taken online and at the Health Fair ahead of the Public Workshop. More than half of the surveys were taken online leaving about 45% of surveys taken at the public workshop and health fair. The successful advertisement of the survey meant that many community members had already completed the survey prior to the public workshop. During the workshop we were able to capture a few more respondents who had not seen the information previously.

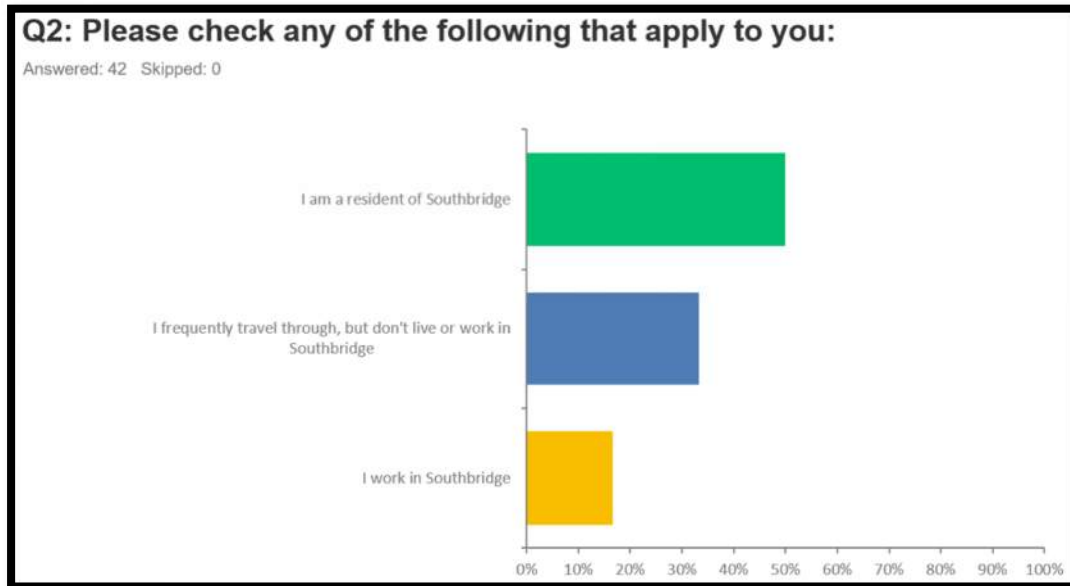
About half of surveys were taken during workshops and half were taken online.



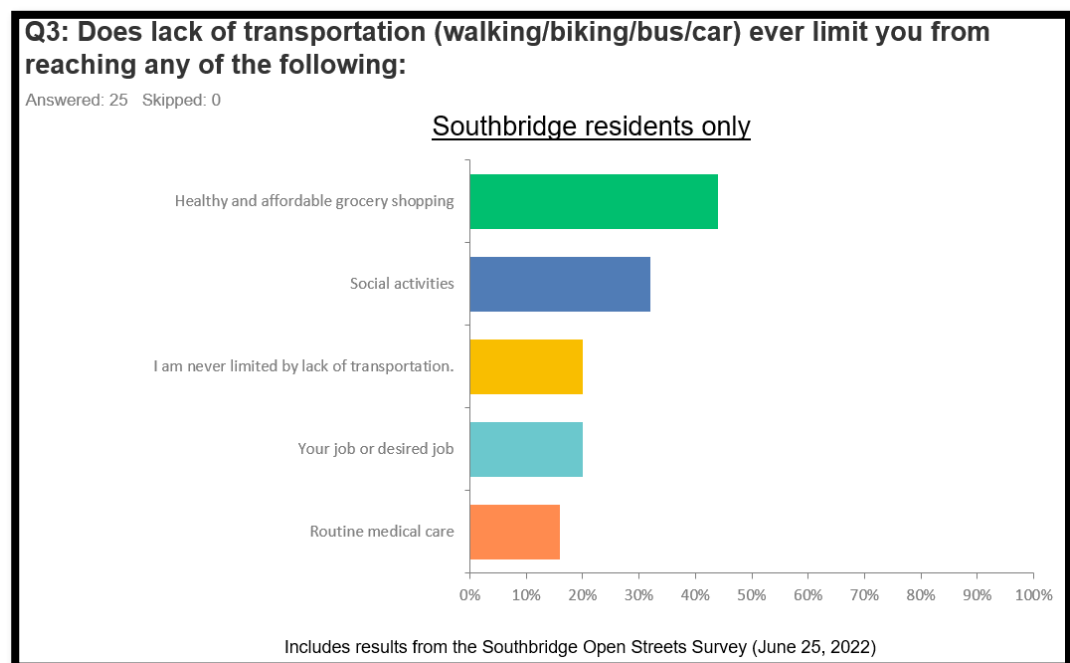




Most of the survey respondents reside in or travel through Southbridge frequently. Some respondents work in Southbridge.



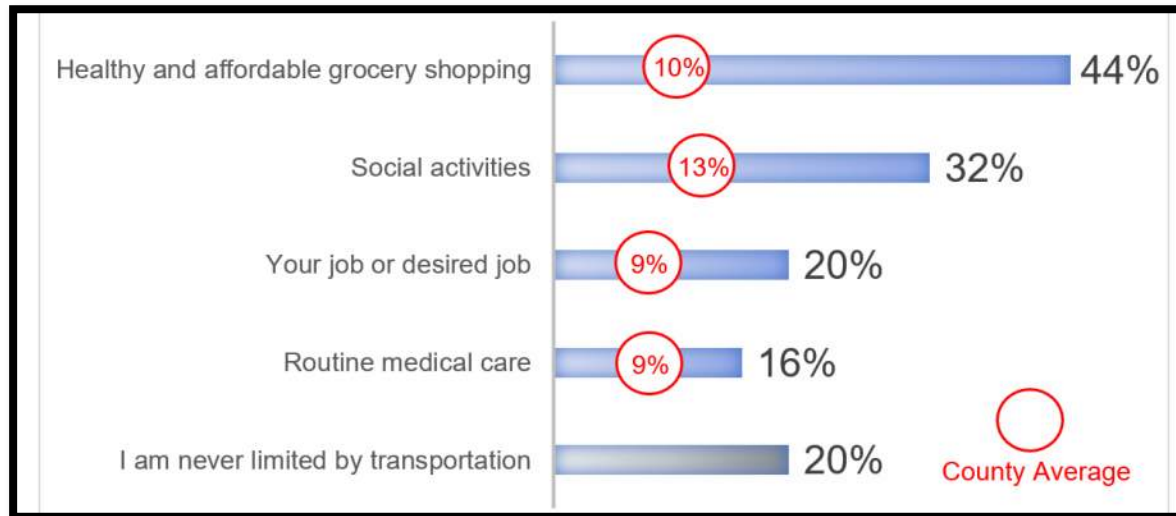
Southbridge residents feel significantly limited in their ability to grocery shop and gather socially due to lack of transportation. More research needs to be completed to determine which medical care facilities are problematic from a connectivity standpoint.



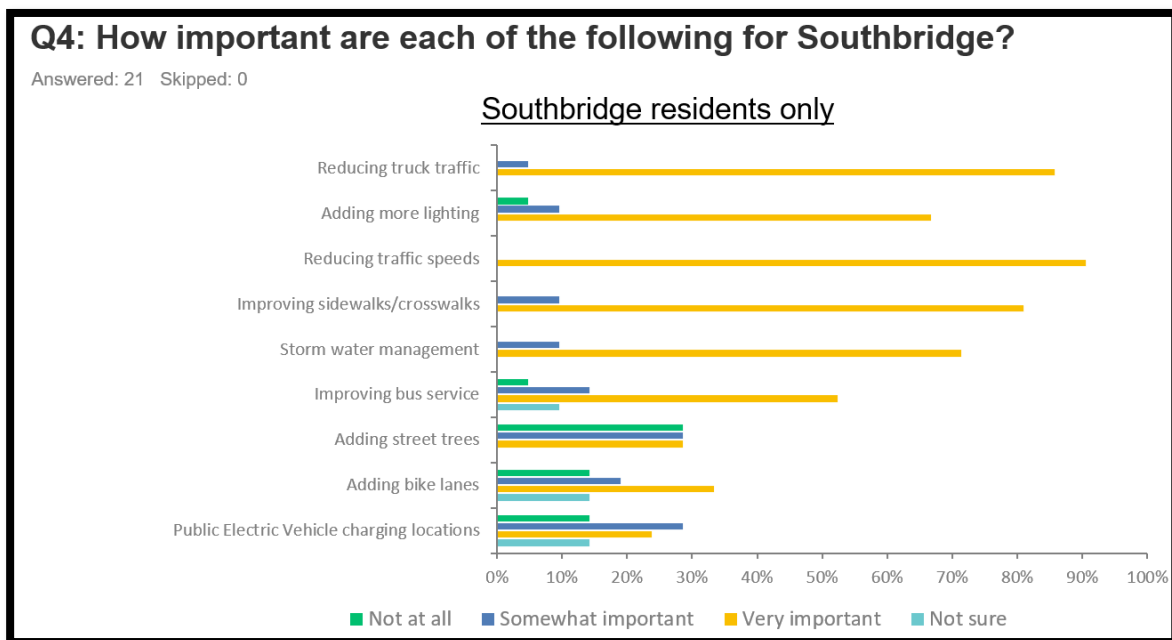




The survey results were compared to County Averages below:

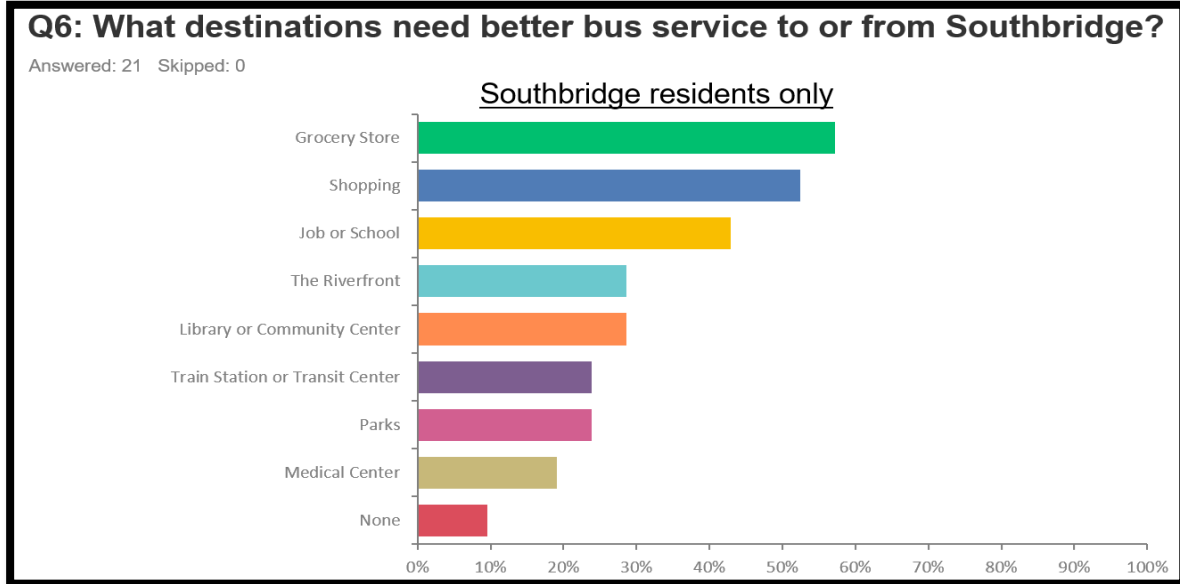


Reducing truck traffic, reducing traffic speeds, improved lighting, improved walking areas, improved stormwater management, and improving bus service, are priority requests of Southbridge residents. Adding street trees, bicycle lanes, and public electric vehicle charging stations were secondary priorities for the Southbridge residents who took the survey. They will be considered in conjunction with or after the main priorities.

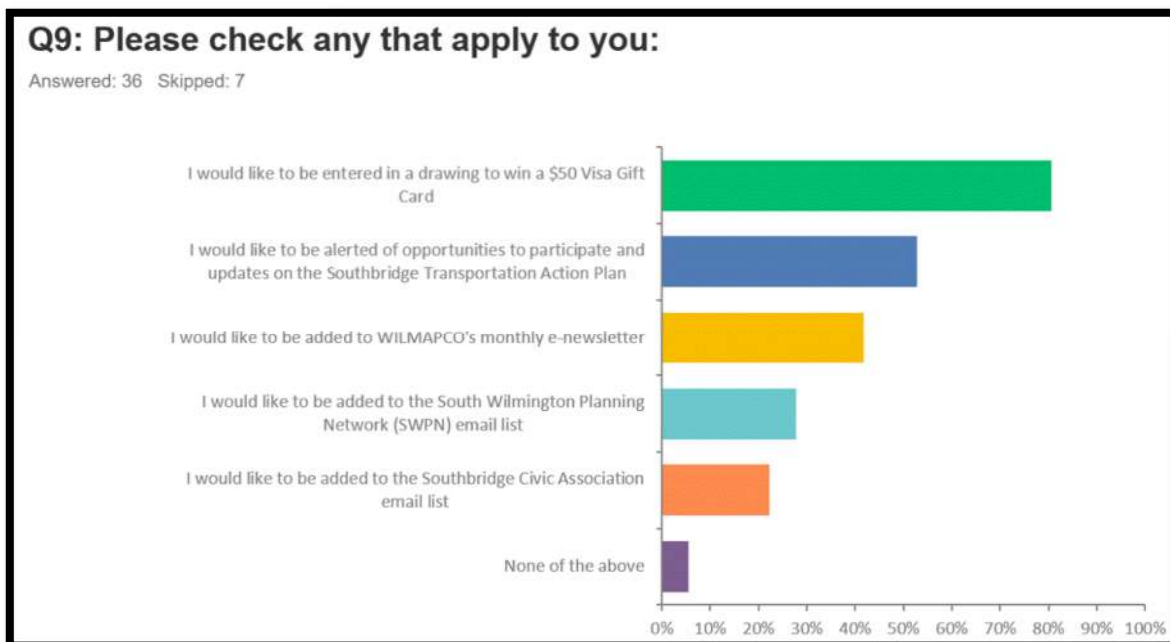




Respondents feel service improvements should be allocated towards transportation to/from grocery stores, shopping, workplaces, and schools.



Most respondents would like to be entered in a drawing for a gift card and to be alerted about future opportunities to participate in STAP. Most respondents would not like to be added to email lists.

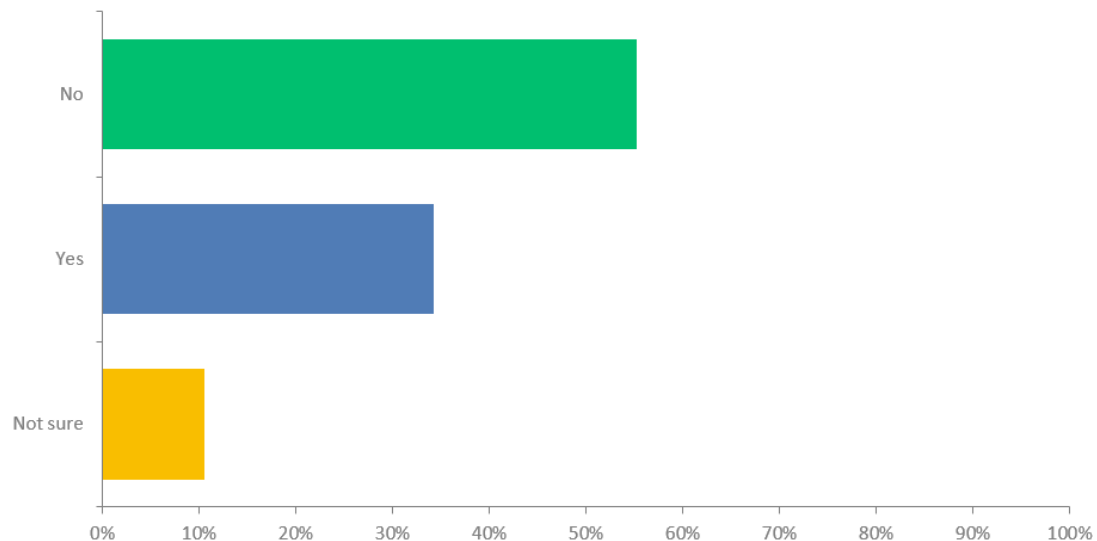




Respondents aren't in favor of closing streets to promote biking.

### Q7: Would you be in favor of closing streets at certain times or days to promote walking and biking?

Answered: 38 Skipped: 5



### Study Schedule

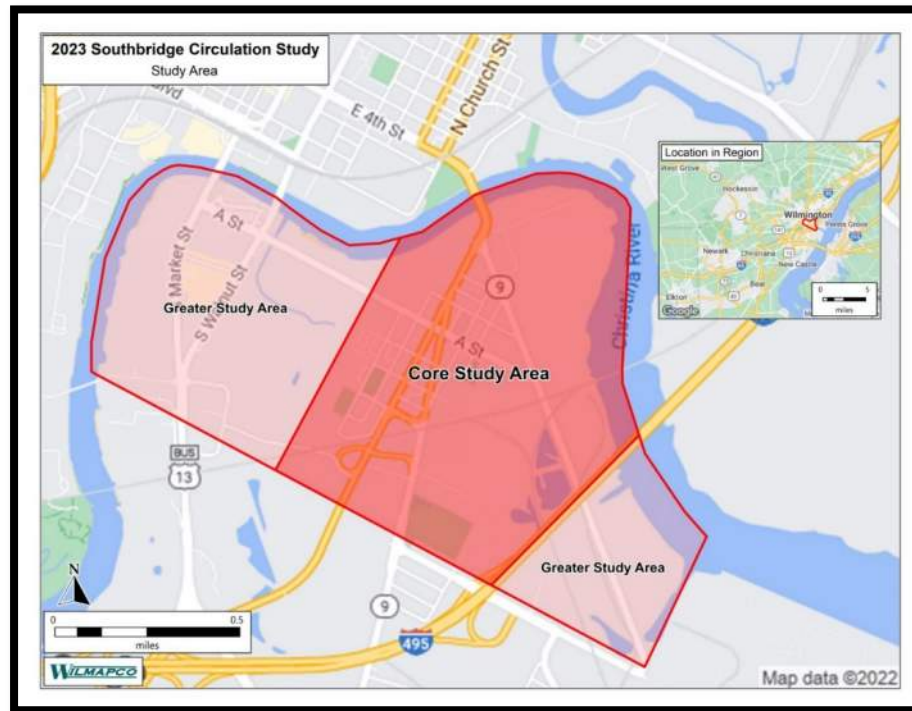
The data gathering and community visioning events for this study are completed. Efforts are now turning toward the alternatives analysis which will continue through the winter as shown in the schedule below:

•Data Gathering	Summer 2022
•Community Visioning	Fall 2022
•Alternatives Analysis	Fall/Winter 2022/2023
•Second Public Workshop	March 2023
•Draft Report	Spring 2023
•Third Public Workshop	May 2023
•Final Public Workshop	June 2023



## Workshop Boards

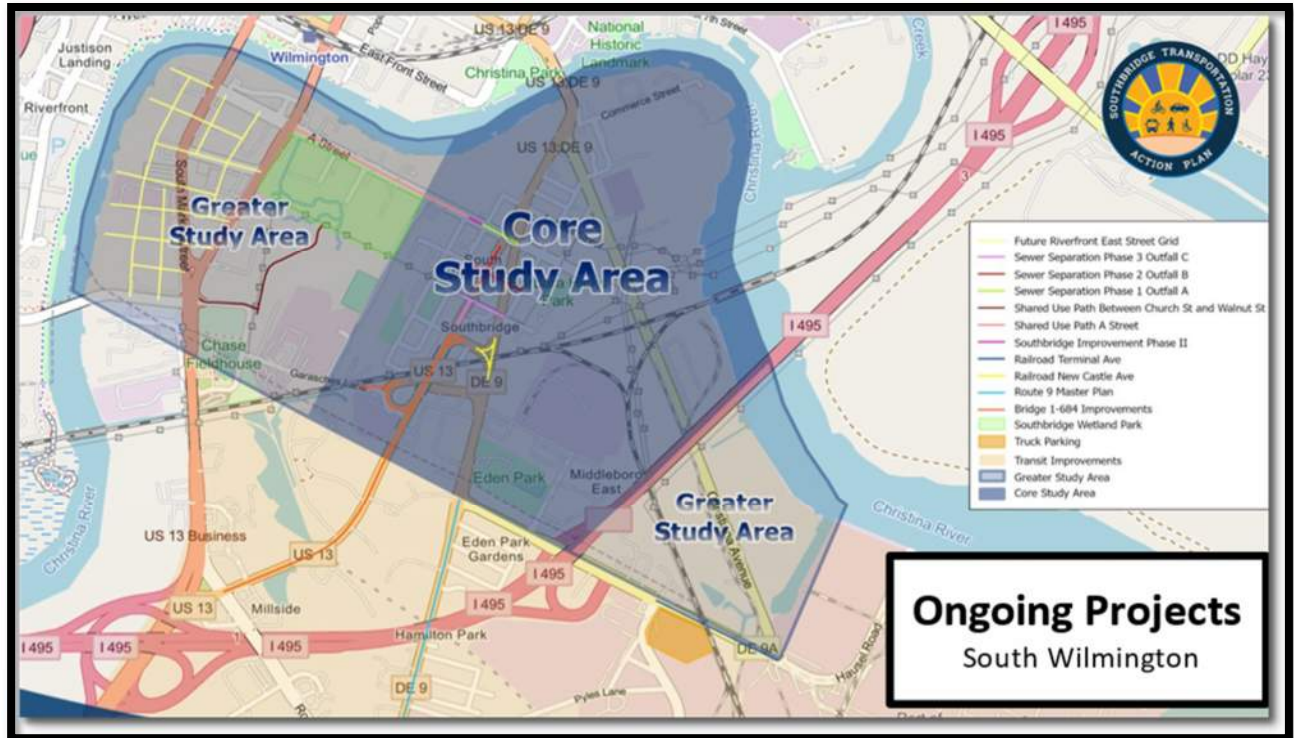
### Study Area Map







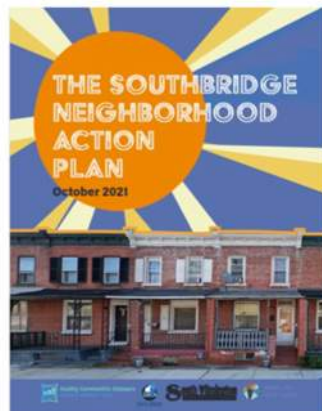
## Current Projects in Southbridge



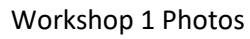
## Plan Foundation

### Foundation

- **South Neighborhood Action Plan (SNAP)**
- 2008 Southbridge Circulation Study
- Statewide Truck Parking Study
- Port of Wilmington Traffic Circulation Study
- Route 9 Master Plan



[www.wilmapco.org/Southbridge](http://www.wilmapco.org/Southbridge)





## Workshop 1



## Youth Outreach

Century Engineering prepared and attended a Youth Outreach event for the Southbridge Transportation Action Plan on December 6, 2023 from 4-5:30 at the Southbridge Neighborhood House. Children in grades ranging from first through tenth grade who attend after school programs at the Neighborhood House

were invited to attend. The workshop welcomed 20 youth representatives from the Southbridge community. The children were very engaged in the event and provided interesting feedback from their perspective of living in and traveling within Southbridge.

The event was divided into three mini-sessions. The first session included a brief discussion on careers in







Transportation Planning, Urban Design, and Civil Engineering. Types of work within each of the career choice was discussed. The second session included a discussion on specifics about the Southbridge Transportation Action Plan to introduce the youth to the study and the types of information we collect. The project schedule and workflow were discussed as well. The final session was an interactive session to gather feedback spanning topics such as bicycle/pedestrian concerns, speeding,

transit, connectivity, lighting, and safety.

The feedback received from the third session echoed the information received from the first public workshop. The children discussed how it takes a long time waiting for buses to arrive for trips to school, shopping, groceries, and doctors. The children discussed how different areas of Southbridge are not well lit and feel scary at night. Most of the children find it difficult to cross intersections because of the higher speeds of traveling cars. The children like the community parks but want a safer more direct route to some of them with better lighting. The children also would like more infrastructure to ride their bicycles around the community. The children also like the idea of more trees and grass areas.





# Sign up for updates on the Southbridge Transportation Action Plan



Name	Email	Address	Phone (text messages)	Southbridge Transportation Action Plan Updates	WILMAPCO Newsletter
Pammy Salazar				✓	✓
Laceta Wilson				X	
Betty Anderson					
Cynthia Richter				✓	
Joseph Jones					
Marlene A. Wrig				✓	
Edward Hammond					
Maria Cuero					
Felix Moreno					
Maria Calderin					

# Sign up for updates on the Southbridge Transportation Action Plan



Name	Email	Address	Phone (text messages)	Southbridge Transportation Action Plan Updates	WILMAPCO Newsletter
Marco Zullo				/	/
Rachell Romero				/	/
Karen Anderson				/	/
Geneen Chase					
Dan Hilliard				✓	✓
Haneef Sakam					
Rep Frank Cooke				✓	✓
Hanya Shabazz				✓	✓
Jenna Harwanku				✓	✓
Katie Gibson				✓	✓

# Sign up for updates on the Southbridge Transportation Action Plan



Name	Email	Address	Phone (text messages)	Southbridge Transportation Action Plan Updates	WILMAPCO Newsletter
Robert Penkies					
THELMA HIND					
Andrea Johnson				X	
MARK & AYODELE JO					
Wayne Marshall					