

WINTER BICYCLE SURVEY REPORT

Created December 2020

by Emily Casey



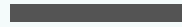
Bike Right!

with  **TransOptions**



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OUTLINE



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INTRODUCTION

In the fall of 2020, we asked northwestern New Jersey-area bicyclists about their winter biking habits, barriers to winter riding, and ideas for change. 108 riders responded* with their feedback revealing that although people who ride in the Garden State are a hardy bunch — 58% ride regularly in winter — more could be done to encourage winter ridership.

Chilly cities around the globe such as Minneapolis, Madison, Montreal, Stockholm, Boulder, and Copenhagen have high levels of snowfall, yet enjoy high levels of bicyclist satisfaction year round. There's nothing we can do about New Jersey's cold and unpredictable winters; however, there are additional measures municipalities and state agencies can take to ensure that everyone who wants to bike in winter can do so safely. In this report, we summarize what northwestern New Jersey bicyclists have to say about getting around on two wheels and offer insight to data trends. After careful analysis of these trends, we have included recommendations for improvements based on best practices. We hope the improvements laid out in this report will help people in the communities we serve get around by bike, safely and conveniently, all season long.

*We understand some survey sampling bias exists as the pool of respondents primarily reflects dedicated bicyclists and/or people engaged with our work.

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THE PANDEMIC AND WORKING FROM HOME HAS MADE DRIVING A CAR UNNECESSARY AND TRAVELING BY BIKE FOR ERRANDS AND EXERCISE A BETTER, HEALTHIER AND ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY OPTION.

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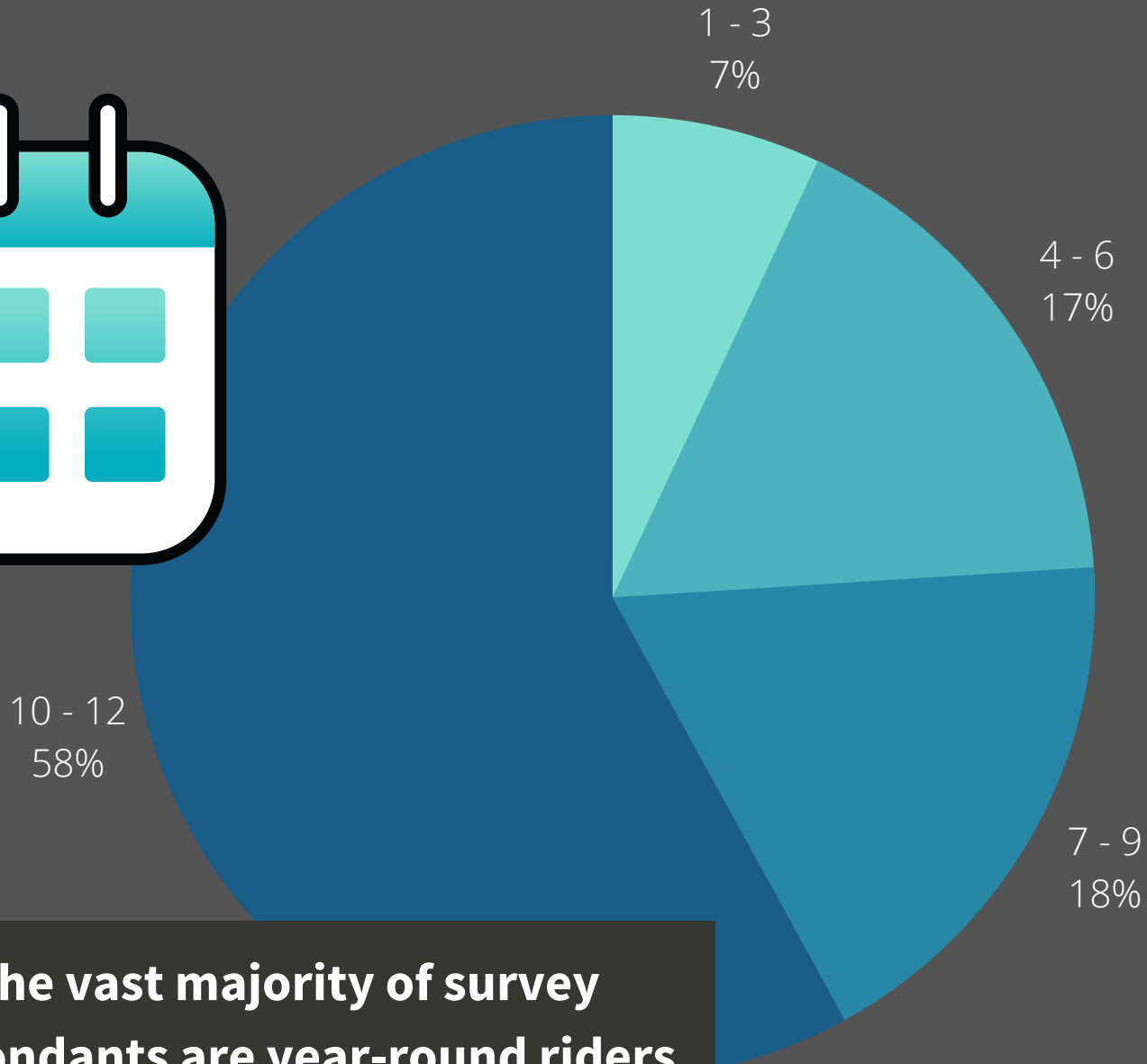
QUESTION SUMMARIES

108 Total Responses

from members of the community who currently live and ride a bicycle in Northwest New Jersey (Morris, Sussex, Warren, Union, Essex or Passaic County)



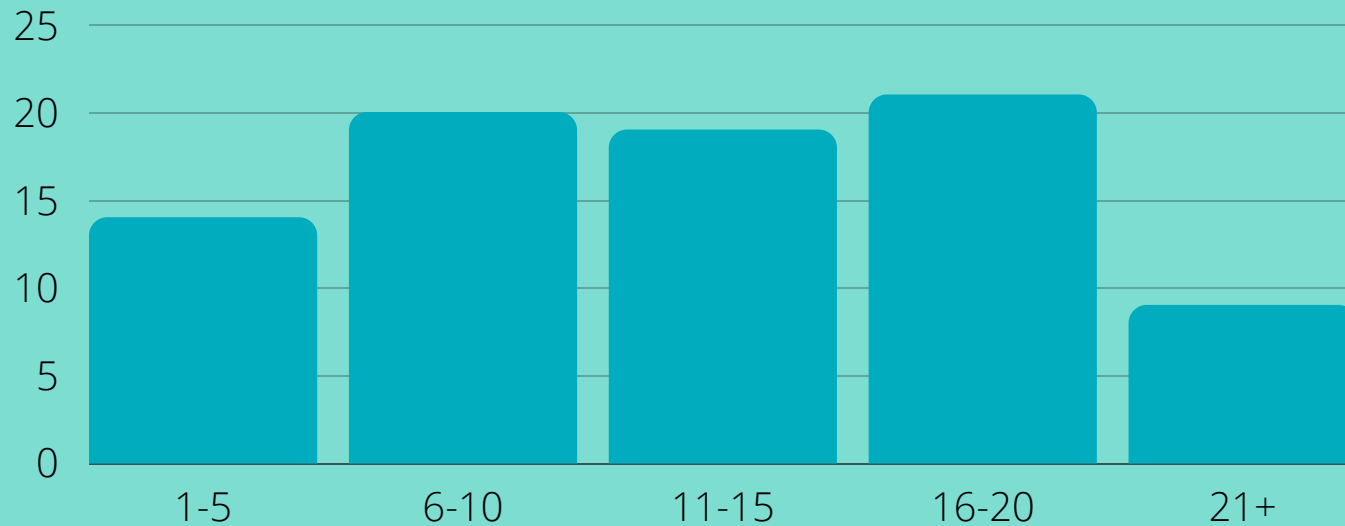
HOW MANY MONTHS OUT OF THE YEAR DO YOU RIDE?



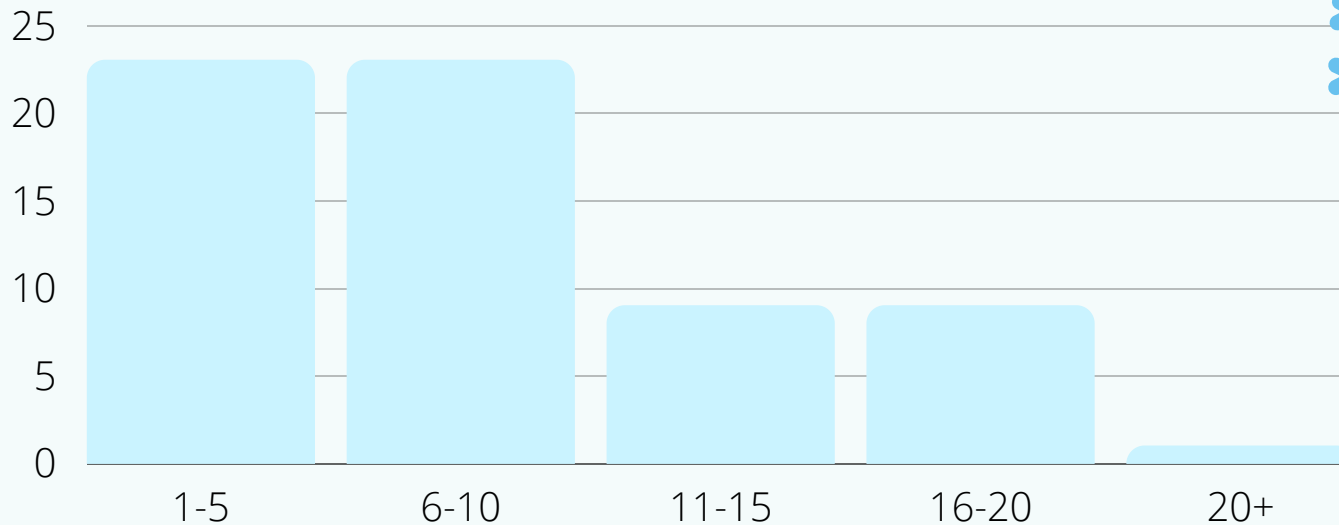
The vast majority of survey respondents are year-round riders.

HOW MANY DAYS DO YOU RIDE PER MONTH?

IN SPRING, SUMMER, FALL



IN WINTER



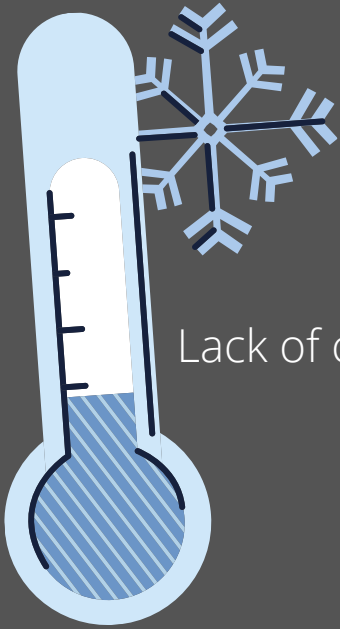
High frequency riding decreases by about 35% in winter

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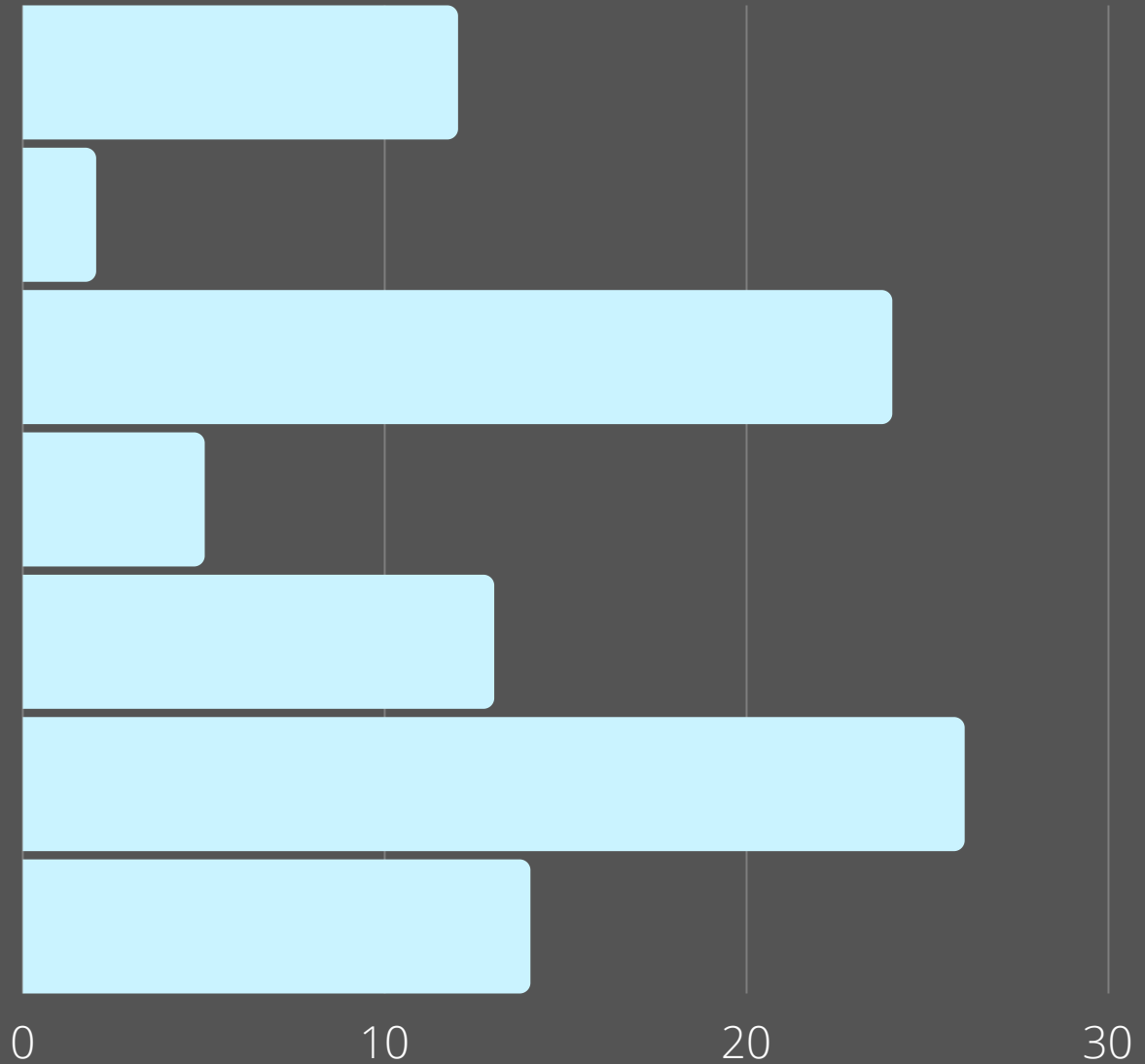
WHILE I USUALLY CURTAIL MY RIDING IN WINTER ONE OF MY MILESTONES FOR STARTING UP AGAIN WOULD BE THE CLEANING UP OF THE SALT AND SNOWPLOWING DEBRIS IN SHOULDERS.

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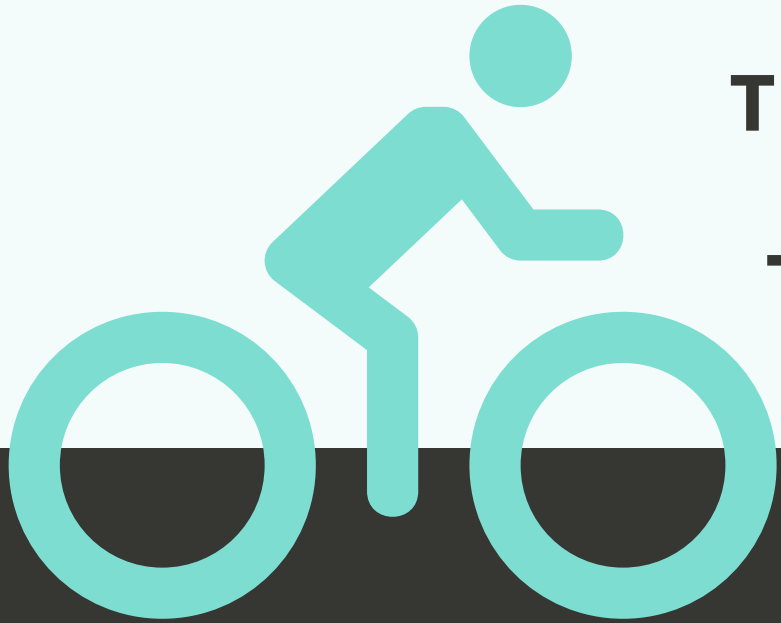
WHAT IS MOST LIKELY TO PREVENT YOU FROM RIDING IN WINTER?



- Lack of daylight
- Lack of covered bike parking
- Cold temperatures
- Rain
- Snow
- Ice
- Poor road conditions/maintenance

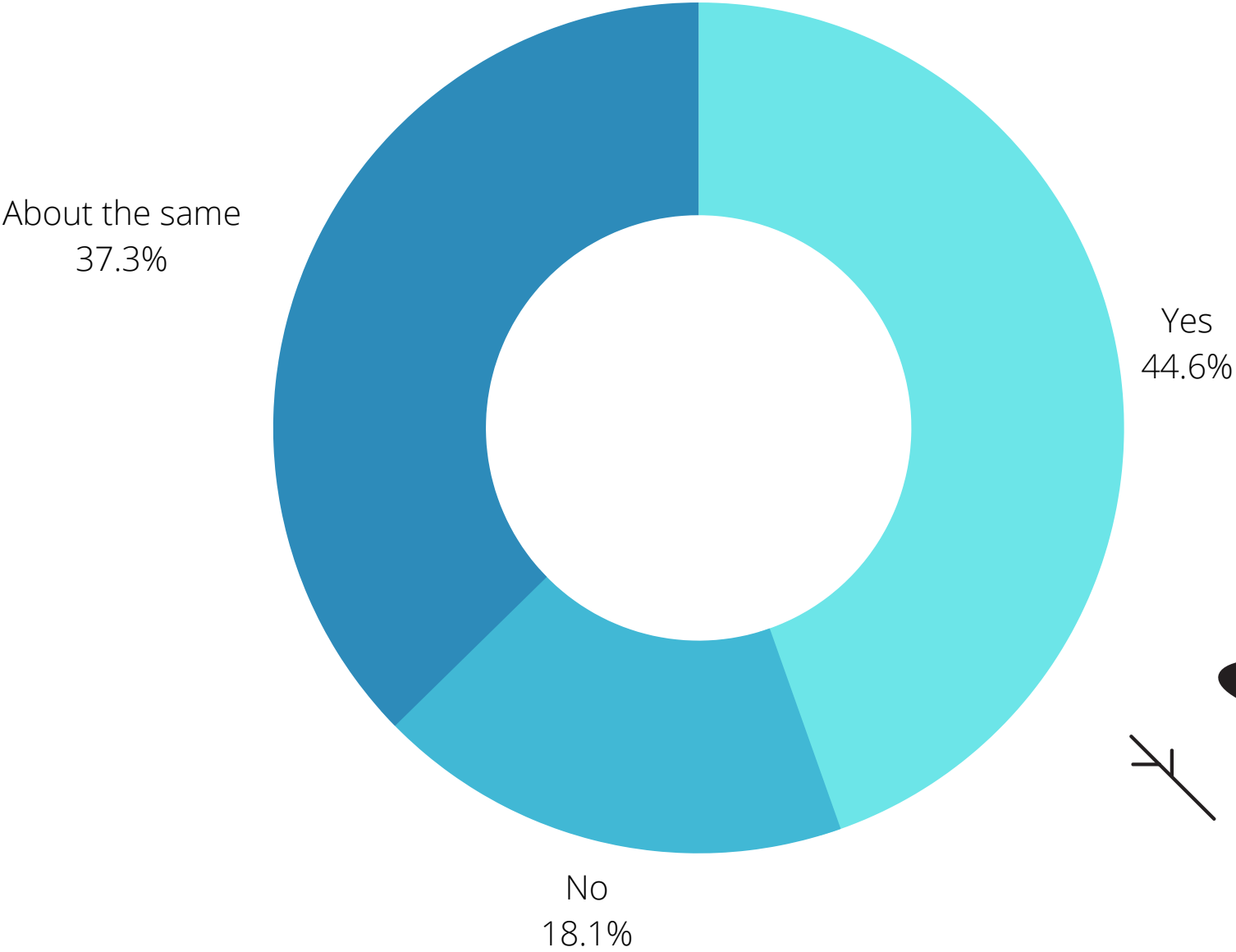


***ICE, COLD TEMPERATURES AND
POOR ROAD
CONDITIONS/MAINTENANCE
ARE THE TOP 3 FACTORS
THAT PREVENT PEOPLE FROM
RIDING IN WINTER – NOT
THE BAD WEATHER ITSELF.***



**A GOVERNMENT
COMMITMENT TO BETTER
WINTER ROADWAY AND
BIKEWAY MAINTENANCE CAN
MITIGATE THE MAJORITY OF
WINTER RIDING BARRIERS.**

DO YOU FORESEE YOURSELF RIDING MORE THIS WINTER THAN IN PAST WINTERS?



“

**COVID ALLOWED ME THE CHANCE TO DO
MORE RIDING, AND I WANT TO KEEP IT UP!**

”

“

**GETTING OUTSIDE IS MORE VALUABLE THAN EVER, WHETHER
RIDING, HIKING, OR JUST WALKING, IN LIGHT OF OTHER
ACTIVITIES THAT ARE NOT AVAILABLE DURING THE PANDEMIC,
E.G. GOING TO THE GYM, SWIMMING, SKIING.**

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RECOMMENDATIONS AND BEST PRACTICES



Increase funding for bike infrastructure and construction of protected bike lanes. Separated infrastructure is safer and more inviting for riders of all ages and abilities in variable road conditions, especially snow and ice, and makes snow removal easier.



Prioritize bikeway and road shoulder clearance. Identify high-use bike routes and create a plan to ensure they are cleared of snow and ice.



Purchase more small-vehicle plows for separated bike lanes and off-road bike paths. Keeping routes clear will prevent bicyclists from having to ride in traffic.



Restrict on-street parking during snow events so that bike routes can be cleared. Keeping parking lanes plowed will prevent snow from spilling into bike lanes and shoulders.



Utilize preventative anti-icing three hours before snow events. Ice is much easier to prevent than remove.

TransOptions can help your municipality take its next steps to improve winter riding conditions for all road users by bringing together diverse community partners to tackle the issues that matter most in your area.

WHO WE ARE

TransOptions, one of eight Transportation Management Associations (TMAs) in New Jersey, delivers programs and services that improve mobility, the environment and overall quality of life in northwestern New Jersey.

TransOptions provides commute options such as carpooling, vanpooling, mass transit, biking and walking and are also advocates for a safer and more sustainable future.

TransOptions offers a variety of programs for employers and employees, safety programs for bicyclists, pedestrians and teen drivers, and programs in environmental education and sustainability.

TransOptions' Bike Right® program offers bike riders of all ages and skill levels FREE bike training courses with League of American Bicyclist certified coaches.



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CONTACT US

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