



## RESEARCH BRIEF

# Residents' perceptions of neighborhood development for active living opportunities

### Overview

While building new active living infrastructure, like bike lanes or parks, may benefit communities, these changes may spark fear of gentrification or displacement pressures among neighborhood residents of lower income. However, little research quantifies the amount of **concern** and **support** among residents for building new active living infrastructure

### Main Questions

1. To what extent do residents have **concerns** about increased cost of living caused by neighborhood development?
2. To what extent do residents **support** infrastructural improvements, even if the changes lead to a higher cost of living?

### Study Context

Changes in community design and new development can increase opportunities for active living. These changes would be especially beneficial to communities with primarily residents of lower income as they tend to have minimal amenities and resources for physical activity. However, community fears of gentrification have created concerns about building active living infrastructure in neighborhoods with low-income populations. In this study, we evaluated concerns about or support for transportation-related and land use-related improvements by sociodemographic characteristics among a national sample in the U.S. (N= 3,782) who conducted the 2018 SummerStyles survey. Our report sheds light on the complexities of public opinions on neighborhood improvements. It highlights the need for community engagement on new built environment projects.

### Call to Action

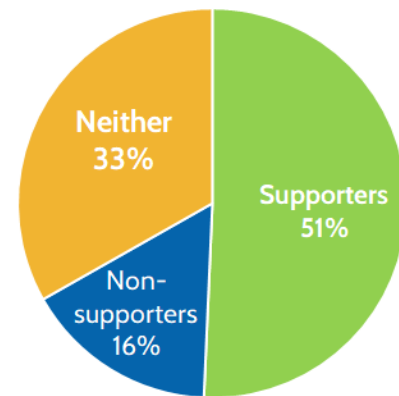
Participatory planning holds potential for community engagement in decisions about active living infrastructure. Public health and planning professionals can partner with communities to select the most appropriate for each context and evaluate each project for equity and effectiveness.

### Source

Dsouza N, Serrano N, Watson KB, McMahon J, Devlin HM, Lemon SC, Eyley AE, Gustat J, Hirsch J. Exploring Residents' Perceptions of Neighborhood Development and Revitalization for Active Living Opportunities. *Prev Chronic Dis* 2022;19:220033. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5888/pcd19.220033>

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### Percent of respondents supporting changes to make it easier to walk or bike even if they lead to a higher cost of living



### Spotlight on results

- Overall, **19.1%** of survey respondents agreed that new development caused concerns of a higher cost of living.
- Still, about half (**50.7%**) support neighborhood changes for active living, even when leading to a higher cost of living.
- Prevalences of both support and concern were higher among respondents who were younger and who had higher levels of education than their counterparts.
- Support did not differ between racial or ethnic groups. However, concern was reported more often by Hispanic/Latino respondents (28.9%) than by non-Hispanic White respondents (15.6%)
- New businesses with condos above were the greatest land use-related concern (21.7% of respondents)
- Expanded public transportation was the greatest transportation-related concern (8.0% of respondents)

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