

# USER TYPES: Who Bikes and Walks?



The first step in the development of this Plan was to develop an understanding of the wide variety of people walking and biking in St. Croix County. From children biking to school, to people walking to a neighbor's house, to avid road cyclists riding 100 or more miles on a Saturday morning, there are wide variations in peoples' preferences, behaviors, skill levels, and reasons for walking and biking. An important objective of this Plan is to identify ways to increase safety and meet the needs of a broad cross section of the population, especially those that are less comfortable interacting with motor vehicle traffic.

## DIVIDING THE POPULATION INTO DISTINCT USER TYPES

For the sake of simplicity and clarity three categories or "user types" have been established for this Plan. This classification largely correlates with a survey of St. Croix County residents performed in 2015 (see right). However, it is important to recognize that people can shift between categories depending on where they are or who they are with—for example, someone that regularly bikes on county highways may avoid traffic when biking with their child.



### PEDESTRIANS

This category includes all people that walk, run, or use a wheelchair or other mobility device, regardless of age or ability. The needs of almost all pedestrians can be met with the same infrastructure approach since federal and state mandates require all sidewalks and paved paths to be usable for people with disabilities.



### CASUAL BICYCLISTS

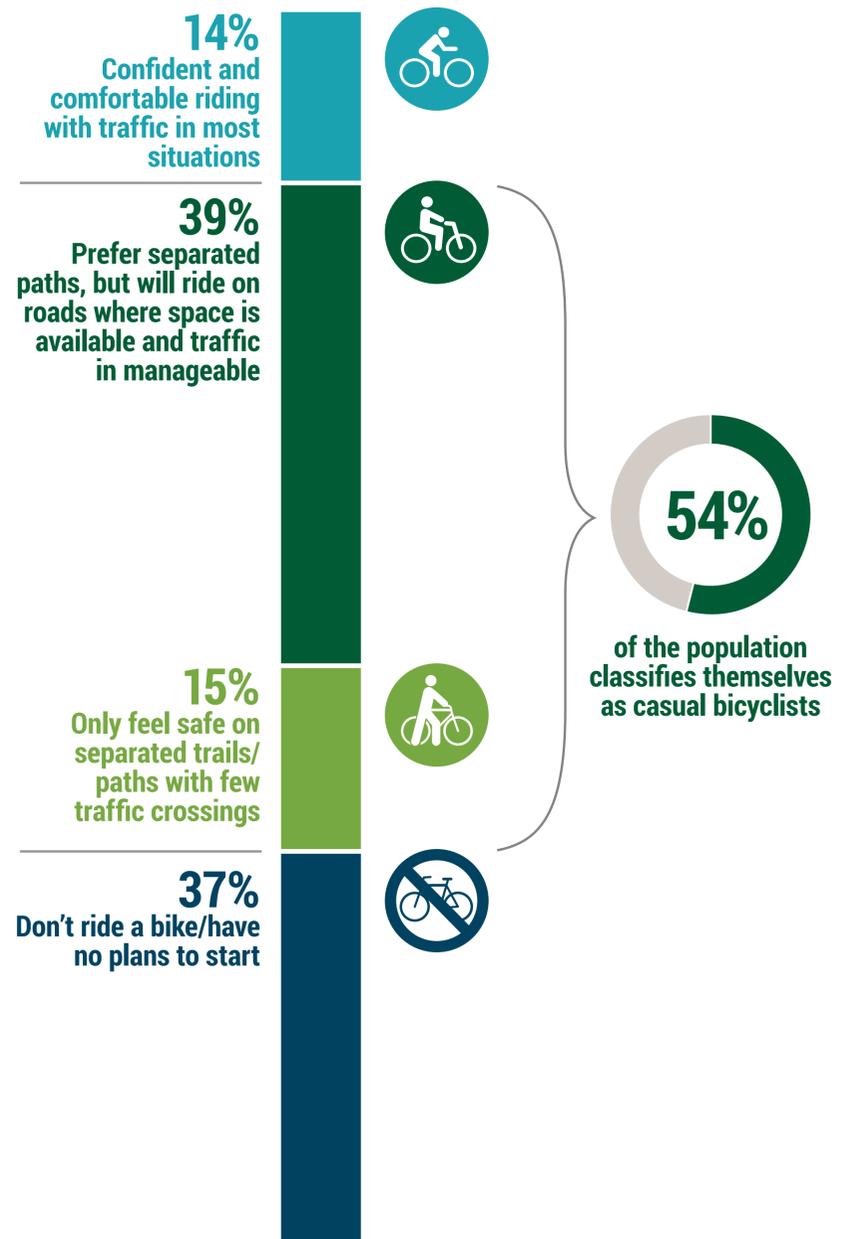
This category equates with 54% of the population, including the 15% that only feels safe on separated trails/paths with few traffic crossings and the 39% that prefers separated paths, but will ride on roads where space is available and traffic is manageable.



### CONFIDENT BICYCLISTS

This category equates with the 14% of the population that is confident and comfortable riding in traffic in most situations.

## UW RIVER FALLS SURVEY



The UW River Falls Survey Center distributed 1,700+ random surveys in the mail and received 626 responses. This results in a 95% confidence level with a +/- 3.1% margin of error.