

DCHC MPO WILDLIFE CROSSINGS PLAN

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DCHC MPO Technical Committee

November 5, 2024

Presentation Overview

**1: Public
Engagement
Overview**

**2: Updates
Made to the
Plan**

**3: Remaining
Anticipated
Timeline**

**4: Discussion
and
Questions**

Public Engagement

October 1 – 21, 2024

- 8 events
 - in-person, virtual, and hybrid formats
- Survey in both online (ArcGIS Survey123) and paper formats
 - 129 survey respondents
- Email blasts from MPO and partner organizations
- Social media campaign
- Project webpage update
 - Event details
 - Link to draft plan and survey
 - Webmap of project recommendations

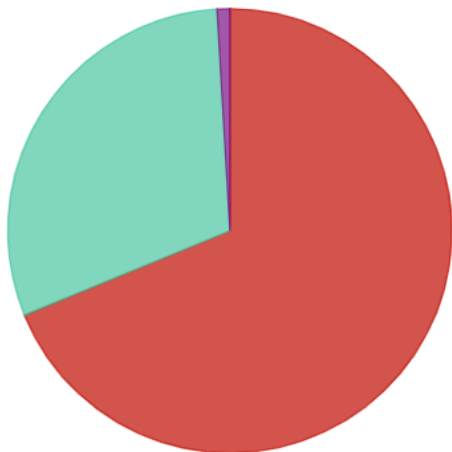


Survey Respondent Demographics

What is your age group?

Answered: 109 Skipped: 20

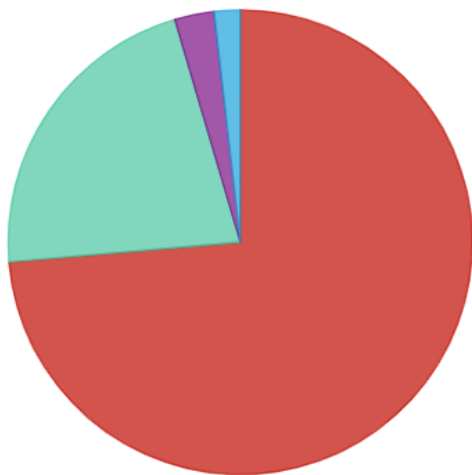
- I am 25-64 years old
- I am 65 years or older
- I am 18-24 years old
- I am 17 years or younger



What is your gender identity?

Answered: 110 Skipped: 19

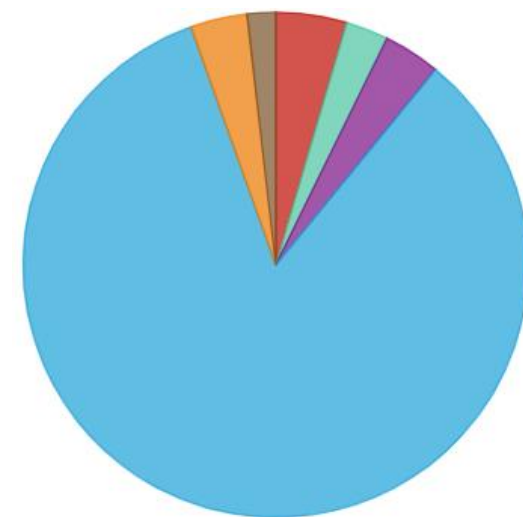
- Female
- Male
- Non-binary/non-confirming
- Transgender
- Prefer not to say



Which race/ethnicity best describes you? (Please choose one)

Answered: 110 Skipped: 19

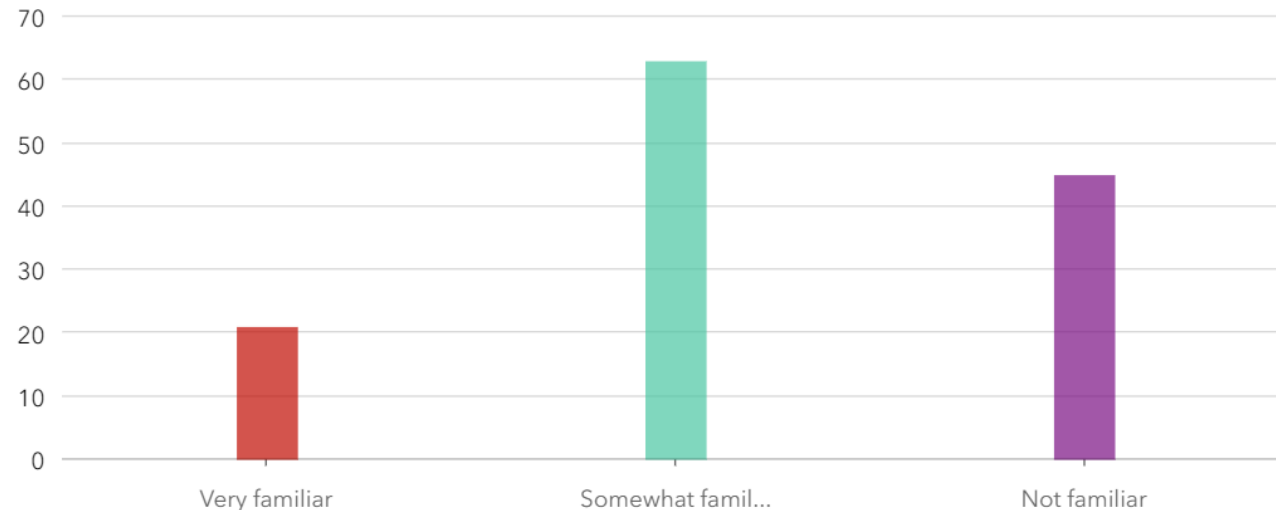
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- Native American or Alaskan Native
- White or Caucasian
- Multiracial or Biracial
- Other



Summary of Findings

Prior to learning about the MPO's wildlife crossing study, how familiar were you with wildlife crossing countermeasures and wildlife-vehicle crash impacts?

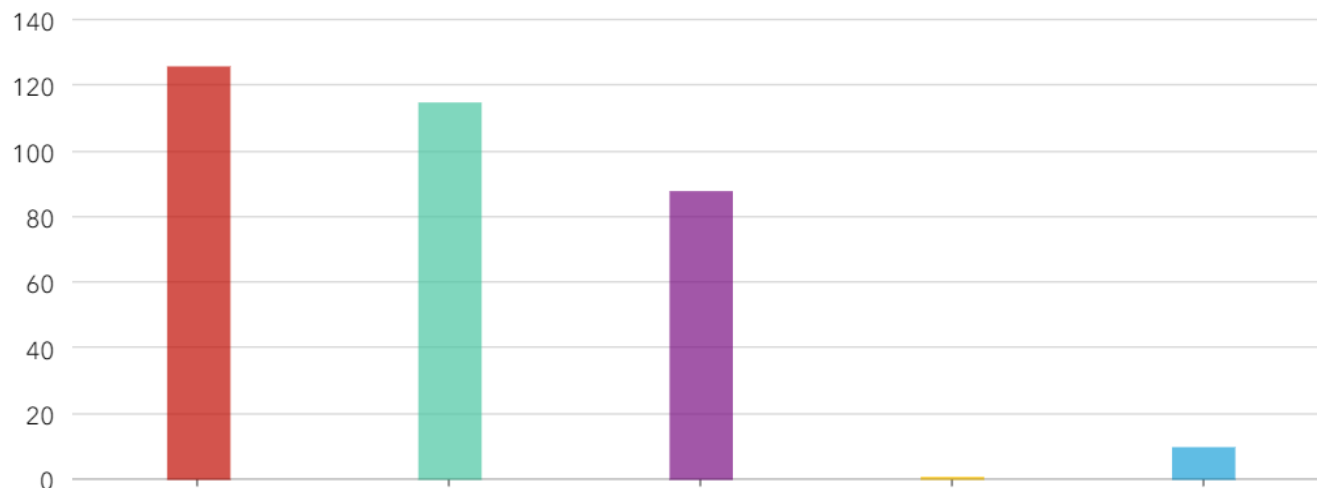
Answered: 129 Skipped: 0



Please share the reasons why you feel incorporating wildlife crossing solutions within our transportation network is important or not important. Check all that apply:

Answered: 129 Skipped: 0

- Wildlife well-being and connectivity
- Reduction in vehicle crashes
- Costs associated with wildlife-vehicle crashes (medical, repair, etc.)
- I do not feel that incorporating wildlife crossings solutions within our transportation network is important
- Other



Representative Survey Respondent Comments

With the growth in our area, wildlife collisions are only going to increase as animals attempt to traverse a changing landscape. We need to provide connective corridors between large natural areas for our own human health (natural eco-system services, mental health (walking trails, wildlife viewing, etc), and for wildlife benefit - keeping common species common and protecting the food web.

I've been in near-crashes many times! A big concern for my family.

There are so many places on our roads where wildlife routinely tries to cross- providing safe alternative paths is absolutely necessary for conservation purposes as well as traveler safety.

We drive cautiously to avoid deer casualties, especially around dawn and dusk. Despite our best efforts, a deer that lagged behind the herd hit our van, wandered off hurt. It cost us a four-figure amount to fix the damage. No winners in this story - thanks for your work to keep everyone safe!

Please have wildlife crossings! It's so important for living peacefully with nature. It's also much safer for us and our families!

I think this is great and long overdue. I live on a road in Carrboro where the speed limit is 20mph. Yet vehicle speed plus heavy traffic means I see dead animals on my street every day and many single-vehicle accidents. I personally witnessed a one-month old fawn be hit and killed by a driver in the middle of a clear sunny afternoon. Even roads with traffic 35mph and under are hazardous, but the proposals in the plan are a great start.

I have had 2 significant vehicle deer encounters, as well as many, many near hits. I would like to see the wildlife crossing plan implemented throughout the DCHC area. Thank you.

I am thrilled to see this effort in Durham, Orange and Chatham Counties. As a regular cyclist and motorist, it is clear to me how many animal collisions (large and small) regularly occur. It is my hope that these projects are implemented to increase the safety of humans and wildlife.

Survey Respondent Themes

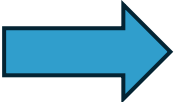
1. Feedback from people's personal experiences shows that building wildlife crossings is important for keeping both people and animals safe.
2. Protecting natural areas for wildlife is a key step in helping animals move around, keeping their habitats safe, and ensuring safe wildlife passage through our transportation network.
3. We need to develop infrastructure that supports wildlife crossings, connects wildlife habitats, and allows people to coexist with wildlife.
4. Based on survey responses, wildlife-vehicle crashes and roadkill impact human physical and mental health, have contributed to financial losses, and have caused animal suffering and death.

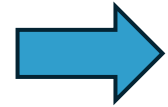
Plan Updates

- All updates made to the draft plan included as an attachment in the agenda packet
- Added summary of public engagement process (Section 2.5), the survey and full results in Appendices
- Updated bridge replacement status for Farrington Road over Little Creek (DurhamCo12):
 - “The NCDOT is currently conducting environmental, planning, and design studies to support the future replacement of this bridge. The current let date is October 2030.”
- Added Table 2.6.3 to show reported and likely crash cost estimates for each county and all projects combined



Remaining Anticipated Timeline

ACTION	DATE
CTT reviewed the draft plan	August 28
TC recommended the Board release the draft plan for public comment	September 10
Board released the draft plan for public comment	September 30
21-day public comment period and public engagement events held	October 1 - 21
MPO reviewed and incorporated public comment into the draft plan	October 22 - 25
CTT reviewed public comments and the updated draft plan	October 25
CTT endorsed the plan	
 TC considers recommending the Board adopt the plan	November 5
Board considers adoption of the plan	November 19
MPO begins incorporating project recommendations into CTP update	December



Technical Committee Action (11/5): Recommend that the MPO Board adopt the DCHC MPO Wildlife Crossings Plan

Board Action (11/19): Adopt the DCHC MPO Wildlife Crossings Plan

Discussion and Questions

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Project Webpage:

- www.dchcmpo.org/what-we-do/programs-plans/special-studies/wildlife-crossing-planning-study