

We are so thankful to everyone who completed our survey about biking and walking on Cumberland Avenue! This data allows us to share the lived experience of community members using active transportation with our various partners, and we hope it will become an important part of helping the city to make the best decisions moving forward to ensure the safety of roadway users of all types.

The majority of our survey respondents do not feel safe walking or biking on Cumberland Avenue despite the completion of the streetscape project. While improvements have certainly been made, and we want to acknowledge that effort, many participants noted that the roadway needed more work for it to feel like a comfortable place for those not in a car. This rang especially true for cyclists, many of whom stated that the project seemed to prioritize aesthetics and pedestrians while leaving bicyclists behind.

But, don't just take our word for it! Here are some anonymous quotes from our survey participants, sharing what they feel are the good, the bad, and the ugly about Cumberland Avenue:

- “Feel visible, like my bike belongs there as much as any car . . . less feeling that someone behind me is angry at me for existing in their space.”
- “The completed design feels like it's for everybody, and prioritized the people who are there for the Cumberland experience, not just for automobile through traffic.”
- “It seems like it was redesigned to be aesthetically pleasing but not actually functional for biking whatsoever.”
- “This project worked well for pedestrians, but cyclists are left wanting for safer passage through this area. Protected bike lanes would have led to better bike accessibility.”
- “For me, the biggest problem cycling or walking on Cumberland Ave. is the many curb cuts. . . . the curb cuts make for a chaotic traffic flow, with autos in front of me unexpectedly stopping to turn into a business, or pulling onto the street from one of the cuts, not looking for a cyclist - and so not seeing me.”
- “There is a big disconnect between City Engineering/road designers/builders and what cyclists need to have for safe roads. It's impossible to design something that you have never used; it's obvious that the city engineering department does not commute by bike or foot from the projects that have been installed recently.”
- “The single lane is not wide enough, there is no protected bike lane. This renovation was doomed to fail from its inception.”

Clearly, there are a wide variety of opinions regarding Cumberland Avenue, and we are so glad to be a part of that important discourse. By communicating the wants and needs of all members of our community, whether cyclists, pedestrians, or drivers, we can help make sure everyone can meaningfully participate in the Knoxville we all love. Furthermore, we can help make this a safe place for transportation users of all types. Thank you again to everyone who participated in our survey, and keep up with us for more details on the work we do!