



The Path to Livability: A Citizen Survey of Burlington, Vermont

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Key Findings

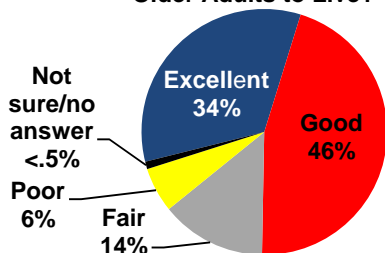
The 50-plus population is the fastest growing age group in the nation and is projected to increase by 23 million, or 21 percent, by the year 2030. Adults age 65-plus are projected to grow even more as this age group will increase by 26 million, or 55 percent, by 2030.¹ Given the aging baby boomers, older adults will continue to be a significantly large proportion of the population for years to come. In Vermont, adults age 65-plus make up 15 percent of the total state population. In the City of Burlington, adults age 65-plus make up 10 percent of the population.² The continued growth in the older adult population must be considered as these adults strive to maintain their independence and quality of life as they age.

The growing population over 50 represents both a transformative force by itself and a net asset to the city of Burlington. In 2006 AARP Vermont launched the Burlington Livable Community Project, a collaborative approach to planning for the demands an aging population will place on Burlington as a city, its residents, and its resources while recognizing how older adults will continue to fuel economic activity far longer than past generations have. Today AARP Vermont's efforts for a "Livable Burlington" aim to provide direction, assess needs and resources, and develop recommendations in the areas of housing, transportation and mobility, and community engagement. In support of this effort, in July 2015, AARP commissioned a community survey of Burlington registered voters age 45-plus to gauge their concerns and needs as they strive to stay in their homes and communities as they age. For the purposes of this report we will refer to Burlington registered voters as Burlington residents.

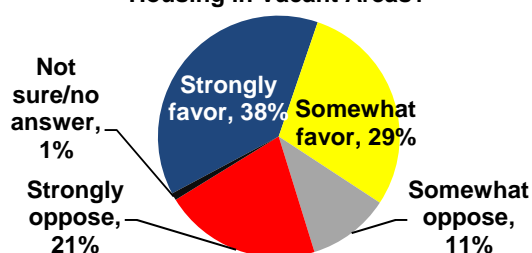
Community and Housing

Burlington residents age 45-plus believe their city is a good place for older adults to live and the large majority (74%) strongly agree that they want to stay in their neighborhood as they age. Nearly half (48%) are very concerned that the cost of living will impact their ability to stay in Burlington, so it is not surprising that the majority favor a change in zoning laws that will allow moderate to low-income housing to be built in vacant areas across the city.

How Does Burlington Rate as a Place for Older Adults to Live?



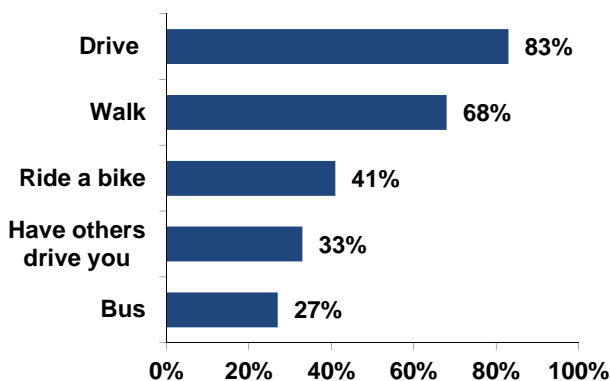
Do You Favor or Oppose Building Moderate to Low-Income Housing in Vacant Areas?



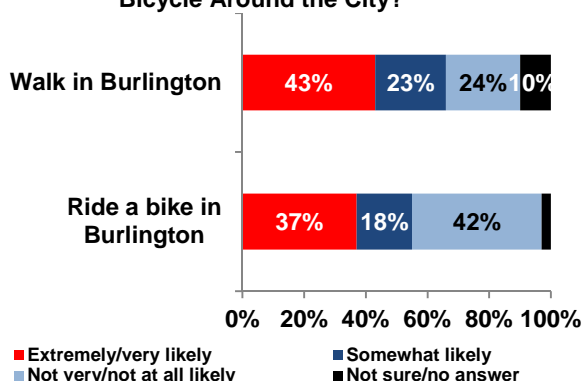
Mobility and Transportation

Most Burlington residents get around by driving themselves or riding with others; many also walk, ride a bike, or use public transportation. Some Burlington residents say they would be extremely to very likely to walk or ride a bike around the city if there were better sidewalks and crosswalks for pedestrians and separate lanes for bicyclists.

How Do Burlington Residents Get Around?



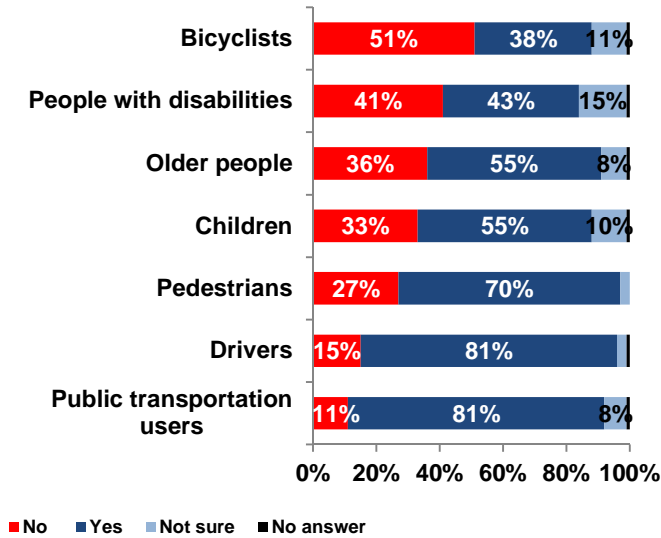
How Likely Are Burlington Residents to Walk or Bicycle Around the City?



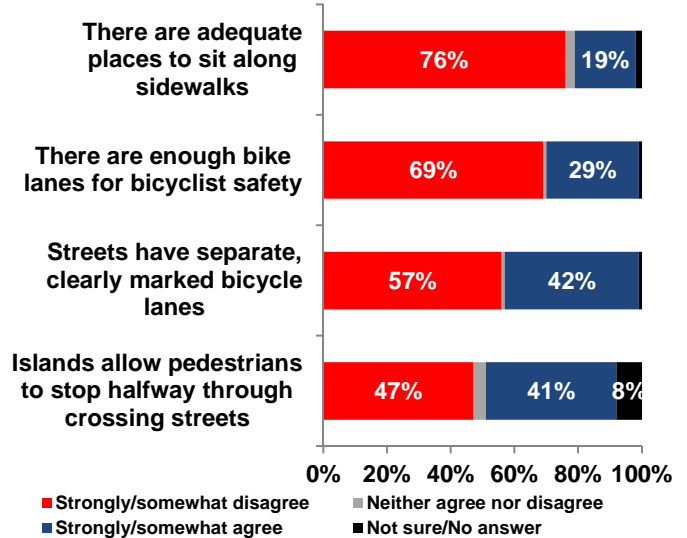
¹ www.census.gov/projections/data/national/2014/summarytables.html
² <http://factfinder.census.gov/tableservices/sf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>
 The Path to Livability: A Citizen Survey of Burlington, Vermont

Half of Burlington residents believe there are street safety issues for bicyclists while a plurality believes this to be true for people with disabilities, older people, children, and pedestrians. Given their concern over street safety, many Burlington residents believe conditions can be improved for pedestrians and bicyclists. The majority do not believe that Burlington has enough dedicated lanes for bicyclists. Likewise, many do not believe that Burlington has adequate places for pedestrians to sit along sidewalks and islands that allow for safe passage across streets.

Are Burlington Streets Safe for Residents?



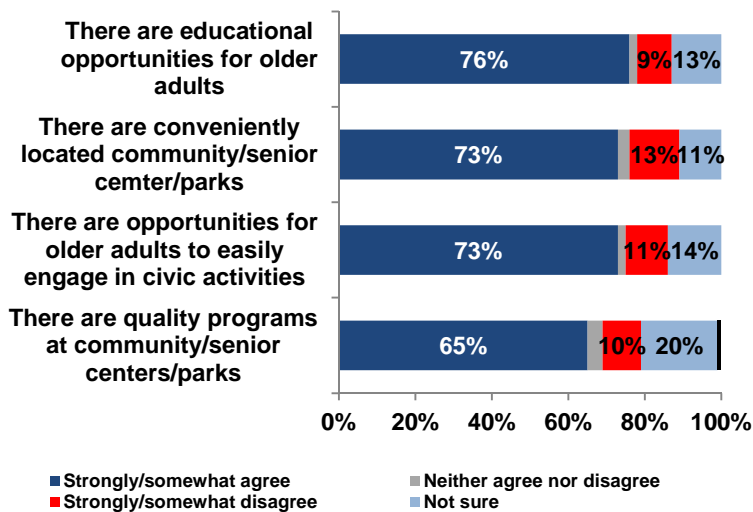
How Do Burlington Residents Feel About Walking and Biking Conditions in Burlington?



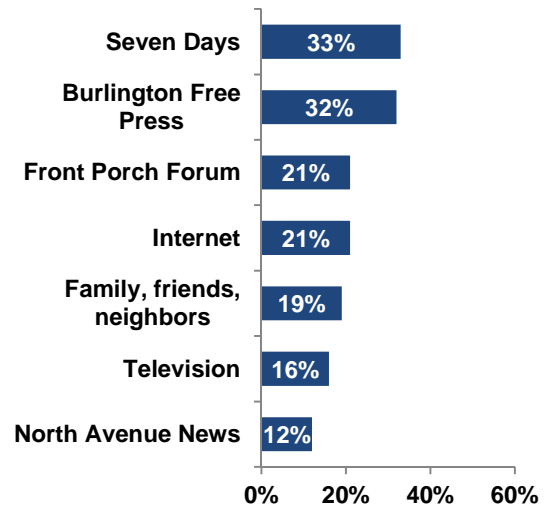
Community Engagement

Burlington residents believe that the city offers older adults educational and civic opportunities at conveniently located community venues that provide quality programs. Seven Days and the Burlington Free Press are the community information sources most commonly used by Burlington residents.

How Much Do Burlington Residents Agree on the Presence of Social Activities?



Which Community Information Sources Do Burlington Residents Turn to?

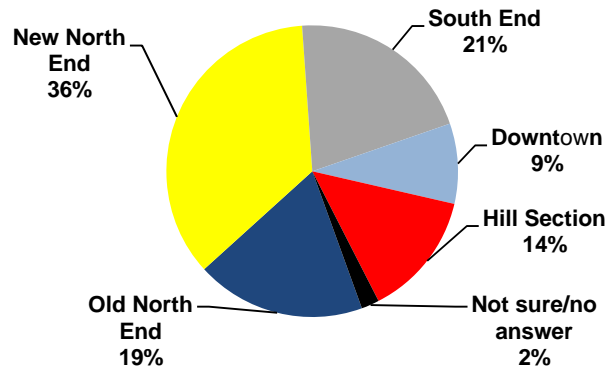


Detailed Findings

Community and Housing

Burlington residents age 45-plus in all parts of the city were included in this community survey. About a third says they live in the New North End and one in five lives in the South End or the Old North End. The remaining respondents identify their neighborhood as being either in the Hill Section or Downtown.

Neighborhoods Where Burlington Residents Age 45+ Live (n=500)

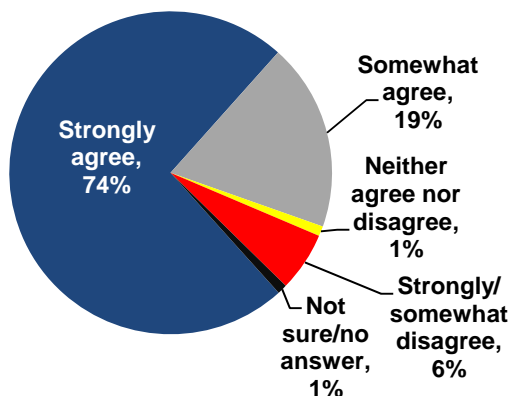


Burlington residents age 45-plus have a strong desire to remain in their neighborhood because they enjoy the people living there and the close proximity to shopping.

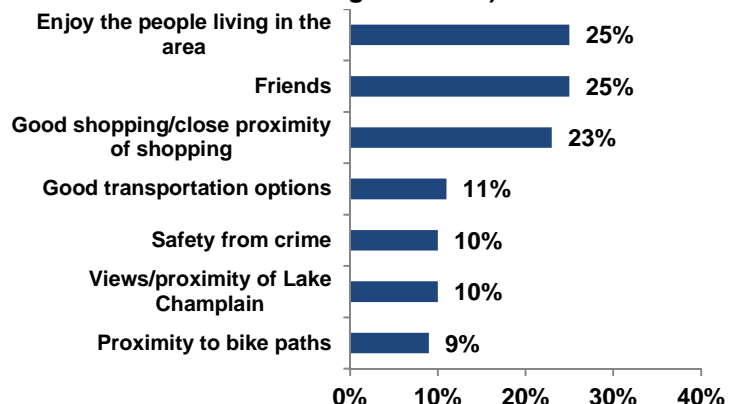
Burlington residents have lived in Burlington for an average of 30 years; and most want to stay here. Three-quarters strongly agree with the statement “What I’d really like to do is remain in my neighborhood for as long as possible.”

Burlington residents were asked why they would want to remain in their current neighborhood as they age. Survey respondents were not given response categories to choose from but were asked to give their own reasons. The most common reasons cited were that they enjoy people in the area including their friends and they like being close to shopping. Other reasons were having good transportation options, the safety of the area, and the close proximity to Lake Champlain and bike paths.

Burlington Residents’ Desire to Remain in Their Current Neighborhood (n=500)



Reasons Burlington Residents Age 45+ Want to Stay in Their Neighborhood (n=470, Respondents who agree that they want to stay in their neighborhood)

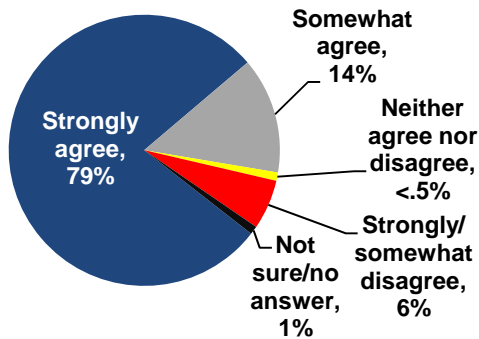


Most Burlington residents age 45-plus want to stay in their own homes for as long as possible, and many would consider a “homesharing” arrangement to enable them to stay in their home as they age.

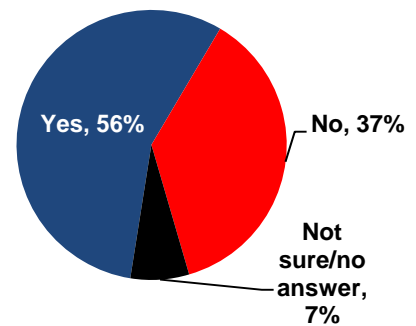
Four in five (79%) Burlington residents own their own home, while one in five (20%) rents. Regardless of home ownership, four in five strongly agree with the statement “What I’d really like to do is remain in my own home for as long as possible.” In fact, over half would consider the concept of “homesharing” or bringing another person into their home to provide services that could allow older adults to continue to live in their homes as they age. The willingness to consider homesharing decreases some with age (71% 45-49; 59% 50-64; 55% 65-74; 44% 75+). The inclination for homesharing also differs across income groups as respondents with incomes under \$20,000 are much less likely than those with incomes over \$20,000 to consider this living arrangement (30% versus 64%).

Openness to a homesharing arrangement has increased in Burlington over the past several years. In a similar 2006 survey of Burlington residents age 45 and older, just over a third (36%) said that they would consider homesharing compared to more than half in 2015 who say they would consider this arrangement.

Burlington Residents’ Desire to Remain in Their Current Home
(n=500)



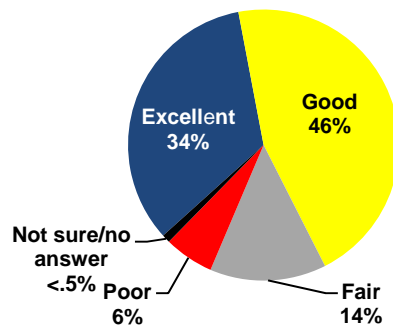
Would Burlington Residents Age 45+ Consider Homesharing?
(n=500)



Most Burlington residents age 45-plus view Burlington favorably as a place for older people to live.

Four in five Burlington residents believe that Burlington is an excellent or good place for older people to live. This high rating of their community is likely influenced by the fact that the large majority have a strong desire to stay in their own homes and neighborhoods as they age. Burlington respondents who live in the South End or the New North End are more likely than respondents living in the Old North End to say their community is an excellent place to live (41% and 37% versus 20%).

Rating of Burlington as a Place for Older People to Live
(n=500)



Burlington residents age 45-plus are the most concerned about the high cost of living making it difficult for them to stay in their home and community as they age.

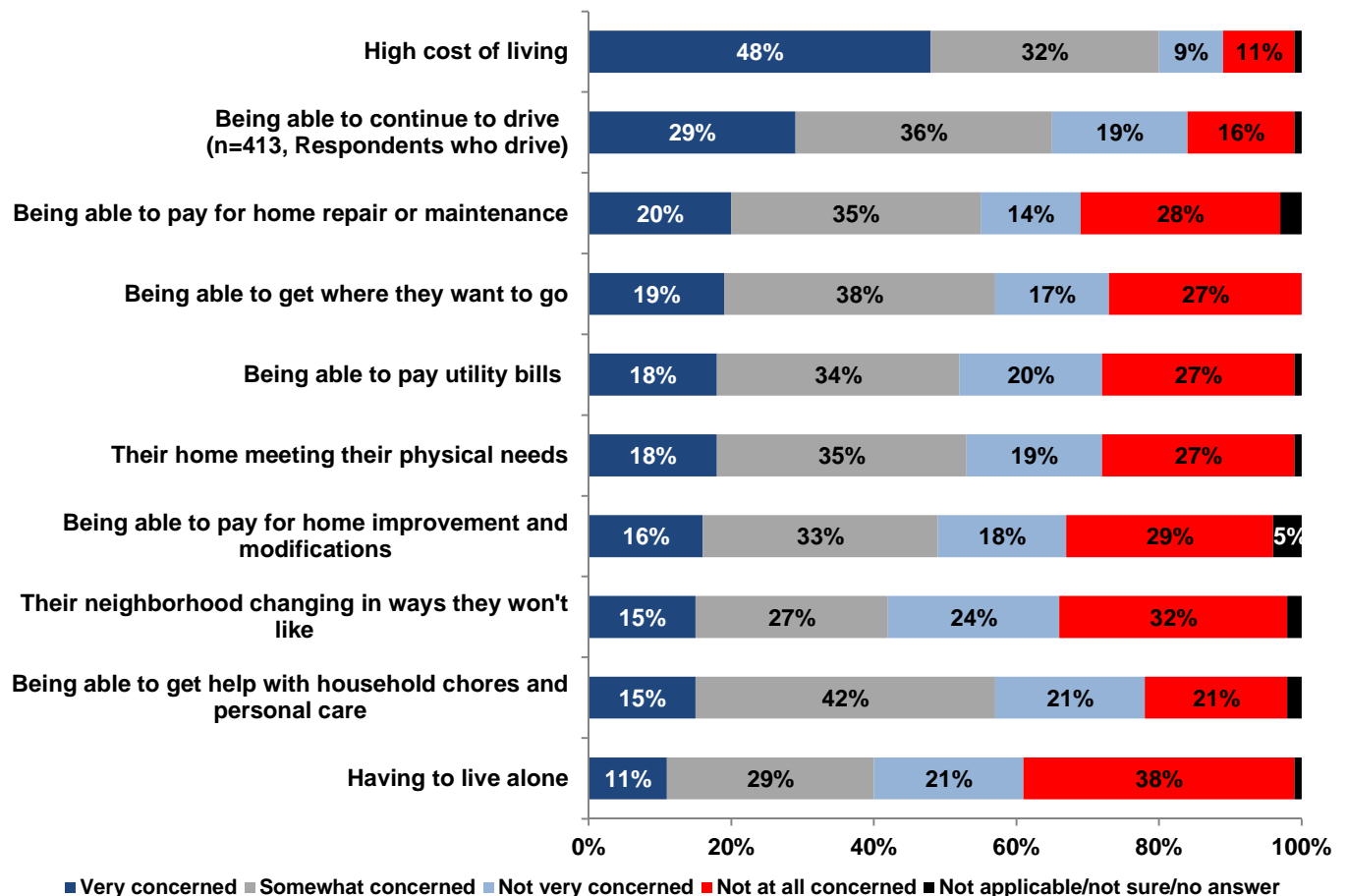
Nearly half of Burlington residents are very concerned about the cost of living impacting their ability to stay in their home and community. Of those Burlington residents who currently drive, nearly two-thirds are very or somewhat concerned that not being able to continue to drive will make staying in their home and community difficult. Further, about three in five of all Burlington residents are very or somewhat concerned that being able to get where they want to go will impact their ability to stay in their home and community as they age.

Factors related to home maintenance and design are also a concern for Burlington residents as they consider being able to stay in their homes and communities for as long as possible. About half are very or somewhat concerned about being able to pay for home repairs and maintenance, their home meeting their physical needs, paying utility bills, and paying for home improvements or modifications.

Almost three in five are concerned about being able to get help with household chores and personal care as they get older while two in five are concerned about having to live alone.

Two in five are also worried that their neighborhood may change in ways they don't like affecting their ability to stay there as they age.

Concern About Factors that Could Make It Difficult for Burlington Residents Age 45+ to Remain in Their Home and Community* (n=500)

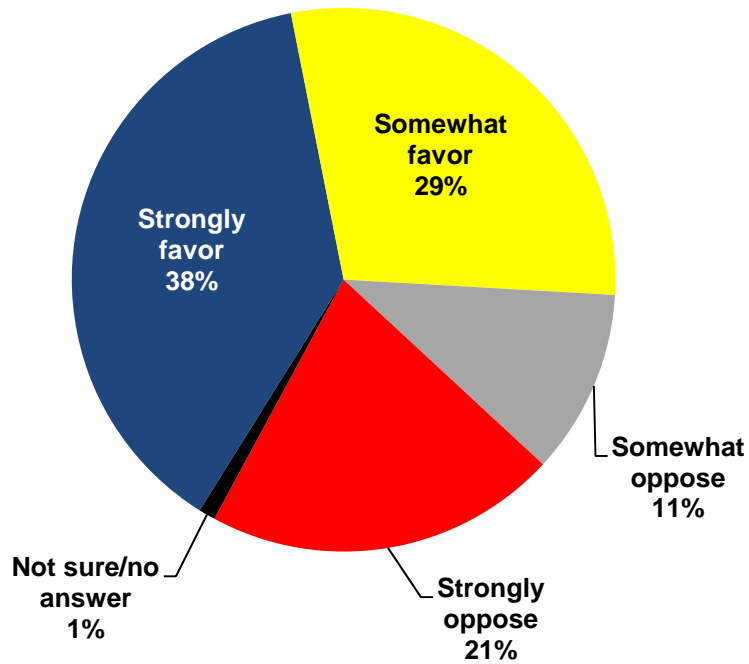


*Percentages less than 5 percent are not shown.

The majority of Burlington residents age 45-plus favor building housing units for moderate and low-income residents in existing vacant lots around the city.

Over two-thirds strongly or somewhat favor the City of Burlington changing the zoning laws so that additional housing units for moderate and low-income residents can be built in vacant lots and areas across the city. Conversely, nearly a third strongly or somewhat opposes this proposal. Support and opposition for this proposal do not vary by age or income.

Favor or Opposition to Building Moderate to Low-Income Housing Units in Vacant Areas of Burlington
(n=500)

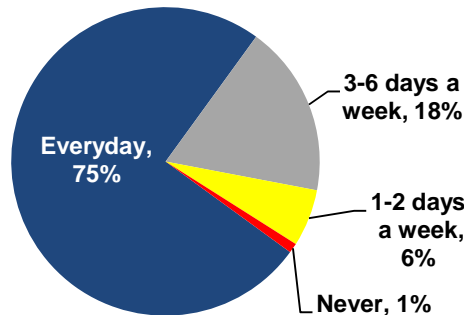


Mobility and Transportation

Frequency of Outings and Current Modes of Transportation

Nearly (93%) all Burlington residents age 45-plus say they get out of their home everyday or three to six days a week in a typical week. The frequency of leaving their home decreases with age: 96 percent of respondents between the ages of 45 and 74 years old say they leave their home at least three days a week compared to 74 percent of respondents ages 75 and older who report they get out at least three days a week.

**Frequency of Outings in a Typical Week
Among Burlington Residents Age 45+**

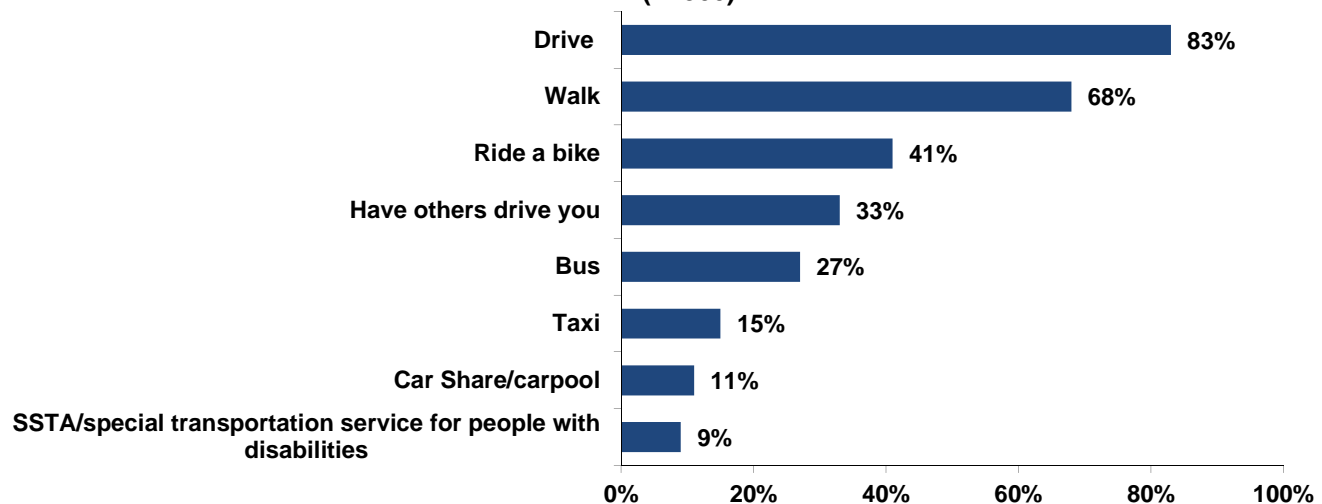


Most Burlington residents age 45-plus drive themselves to get to where they want to go in their community; many also walk.

Just over two in five ride a bike, a third has others drive them, and a quarter takes the bus. Fewer take a taxi or use the Car share or a carpool program, or the SSTA, a special transportation service for people with disabilities. Driving is the preferred mode of transportation regardless of age. However, younger respondents tend to walk or ride a bike more than older respondents: 83 percent of 45 to 49 year olds walk compared to 66 percent of respondents 50 years and older; and 66 percent of 45 to 49 year olds ride a bike compared to 37 percent of respondents 50 years and older.

Residents who live downtown are much less likely to drive than residents living in other Burlington neighborhoods (48% Downtown; 92% South End; 91% Hill Section; 87% New North End; 80% Old North End).

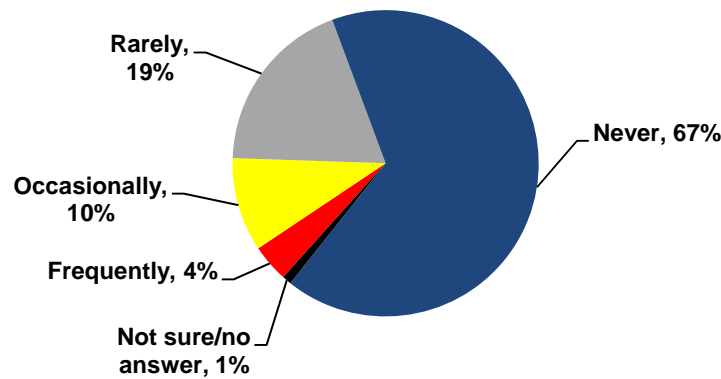
Transportation Modes of Burlington Residents Age 45+*
(n=500)



*Graph shows respondents who checked "yes" under each mode of transportation.

When asked how often they miss opportunities to get out because of a lack of transportation, two-thirds say they *never* miss getting out for this reason, and another one in five says they *rarely* miss an opportunity to get out of their home. However, one in seven (14%) says they *frequently* or *occasionally* are unable to leave their home because of a lack of transportation. The frequency of missing opportunities outside the home does not vary by age.

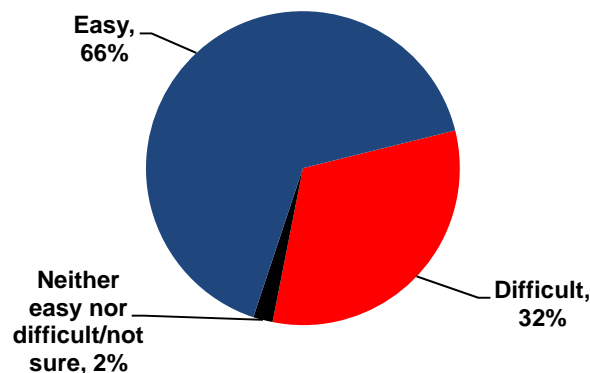
**Frequency of Missing Out on Activities
Among Burlington Residents Age 45+
(n=500)**



While the majority of Burlington residents age 45-plus say it would be relatively easy to continue to get around if they could no longer drive, a plurality says it would be difficult.

Nearly four in ten (37%) Burlington residents say that it would still be very easy to get around their neighborhood if they could no longer drive; and another three in ten (29%) say it would be somewhat easy. On the other hand, about a quarter (23%) says getting around their neighborhood without being able to drive would be somewhat difficult while about one in ten (9%) says losing the ability to drive would make getting around very difficult. This reported level of ease or difficulty does not vary by age.

**Level of Ease or Difficulty Getting Around without the
Ability to Drive
(n=413, Respondents who currently drive)**



Not surprisingly, residents who live downtown are much more likely to say it would be easy to get around their neighborhood if they could no longer drive than residents in other neighborhoods (63% Downtown; 32% New North End; 33% South End; 39% Hill Section; 48% Old North End).

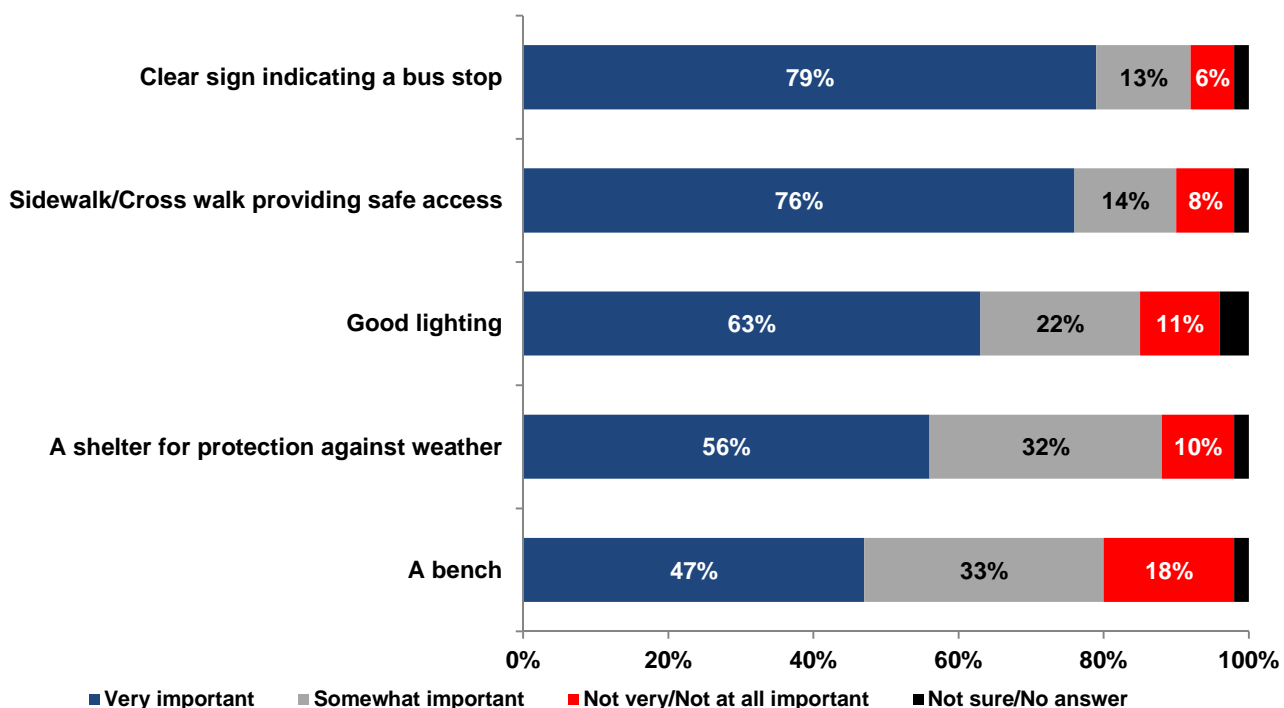
Public Transportation

Burlington residents age 45-plus say the most important bus stop features are clear signage and safe access.

Most Burlington residents say having signs that clearly identify bus stops and having crosswalks or sidewalks that provide safe access to bus stops are very important features. A majority also believes having good lighting at bus stops and shelters for protection from sun, wind, rain, and snow are very important while a near majority says having a bench is very important.

Over seven in ten (72%) Burlington residents say it is very easy to get to the nearest bus stop. About one in seven (13%) says this is somewhat easy while a similar proportion (12%) says getting to a nearby bus stop is very or somewhat difficult.

Bus Stop Features of Importance to Burlington Residents Age 45+*
(n=500)

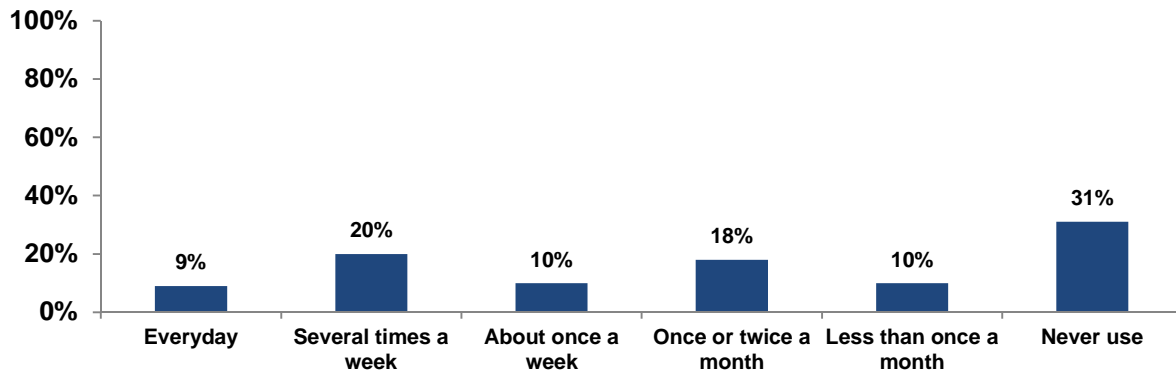


*Percentages less than 5 percent are not shown.

Many Burlington residents age 45-plus who use the bus or SSTA do so several times a week or everyday.

Survey respondents were asked how often they have used the bus or SSTA in the last two months. Three in ten Burlington residents use the bus or SSTA, a special transportation service for people with disabilities, several times a week or everyday, and a similar proportion uses it once a week or a couple of times a month. One in ten uses these services less than once a month. On the other hand, three in ten say they never use these services.

Frequency that Burlington Residents Age 45+ Use the Bus or SSTA
(n=155, Respondents who say they use the bus or SSTA)



Burlington residents were asked why they like using public transportation like the bus or SSTA. Survey respondents were not given response categories to choose from but were asked to give their own reasons. The most frequently cited reasons, by at least a quarter of respondents, for using the bus or SSTA are because it gets respondents where they need to go and it is affordable. About one in five cites not having to drive and timeliness as reasons for using these services. Fewer say they like it because they enjoy the social interaction and they do not have to pay for gas.

Reasons Burlington Residents Age 45+ Like Taking the Bus or the SSTA (n=155, Respondents who say they use the bus or SSTA)	
It gets me where I want to go	35%
It is affordable	25%
I do not have to drive	20%
It is timely	19%
I do not have a car so it provides me with a way to go places	13%
I enjoy seeing other people	12%
I do not have to pay for gas	9%

Burlington residents age 45-plus who use the bus say the biggest problem with the bus service is that there is no weekend or evening service available.

Over three-quarters of respondents who take the bus say the absence of evening and weekend service is a major or minor problem. Other bus schedule issues that are viewed as a problems by at least two in five respondents are inconvenient schedules, the time it takes for the bus routes due to frequent stops, and inconvenient routes.

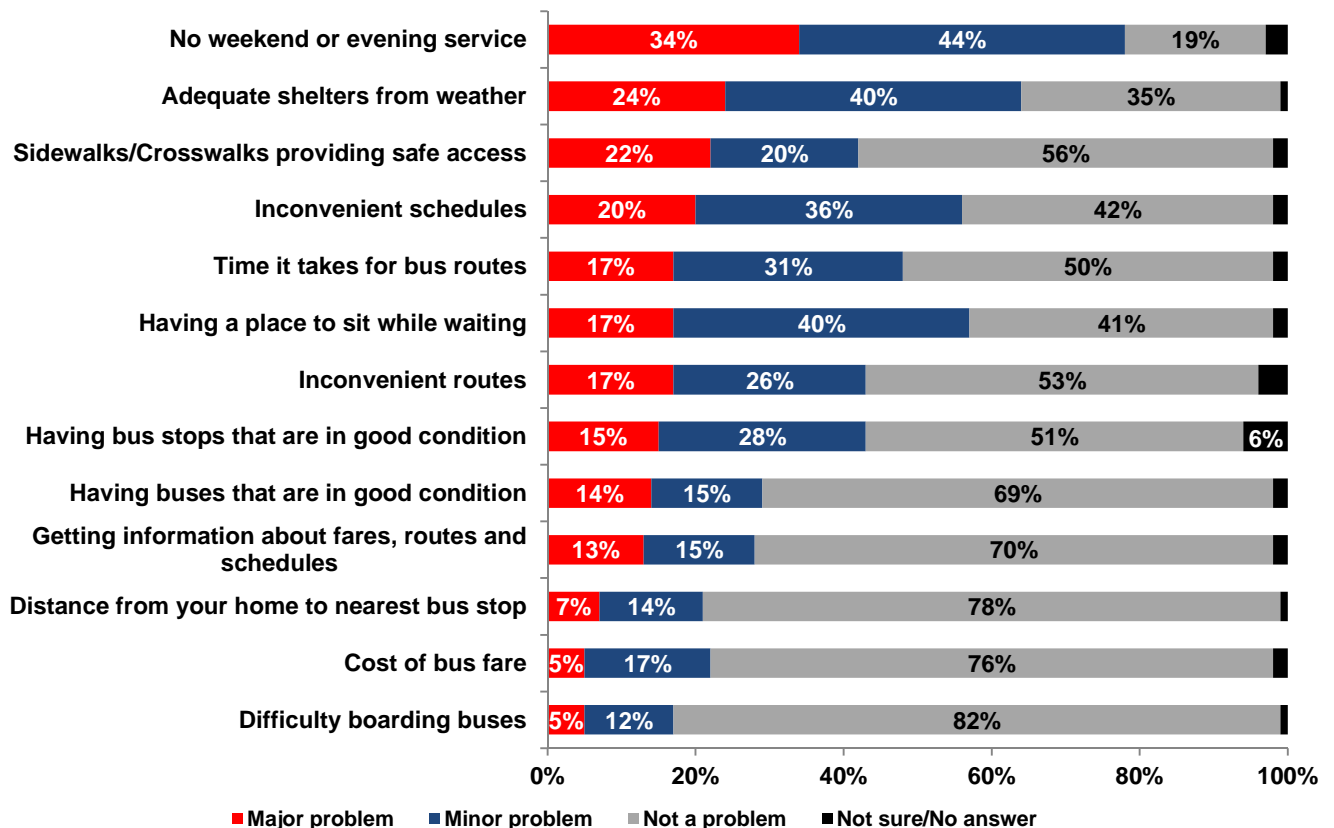
Two in five or more cite conditions related to the bus stops themselves as major or minor problems: adequate shelters from weather, sidewalks giving safe access, having a place to sit while waiting for the bus, and having bus stops that are in good condition. Additionally, one in five cites having a bus stop close enough to their home as a problem.

Nearly three in ten Burlington bus users believe that having buses that are in good condition is a problem while nearly one in five believes difficulty boarding buses is a problem.

About a quarter says getting information on fares, schedules, and routes as well as the cost of the fare is a major or minor problem.

The lack of bus service on the weekends and evenings and not having buses that are in good condition appear to be growing problems for Burlington residents. In the 2006 survey of Burlington residents age 45 and older, nearly half (46%) said that the lack of weekend or evening bus service was **not** a problem. However, in this 2015 survey, a much smaller proportion (19%) say the absence of weekend or evening bus service is **not** a problem. Also in the 2006 survey, nearly all (91%) said that having buses in good condition was **not** a problem compared to about seven in ten (69%) in 2015 who say this is **not** a problem.

Experiences of Burlington Residents Age 45+ in Using the Bus*
(n=132, Respondents who say they use the bus)



*Percentages less than 5 percent are not shown.

Pedestrian Accessibility

Most Burlington residents age 45-plus who walk agree that Burlington has sidewalks and ramps where they are needed and crosswalk signals that are highly visible.

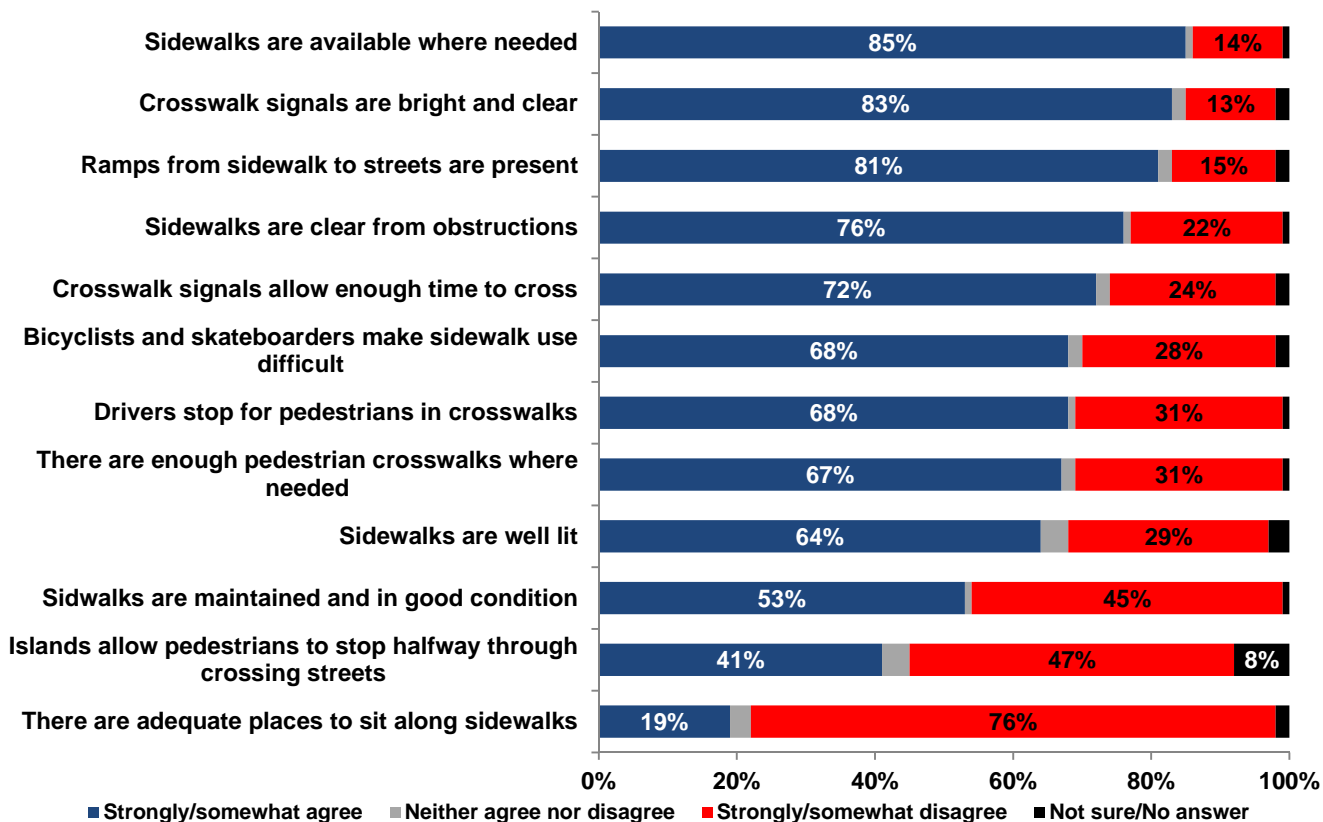
A large majority of Burlington residents also agrees that Burlington has sidewalks that are free from obstruction and crosswalk signals that allow enough time for pedestrians to cross. About two-thirds agree that drivers stop for pedestrians in crosswalks, there are enough pedestrian crosswalks where they are needed, and sidewalks are well lit.

Some Burlington residents believe there are some walkability problems in this city. More than two-thirds agree that bicyclists and skateboarders make sidewalk use difficult. While about half agree that sidewalks are well maintained and in good condition nearly the same proportion *disagree* with this statement. Moreover, about two in five agree that there are islands that allow pedestrians a place to stop halfway through street crossings; however, nearly half *disagree* with this statement. Additionally, less than one in five agrees that there are enough places for pedestrians to sit along sidewalks while on the other hand, three in four *disagree*.

The 2006 survey of Burlington residents age 45 and older shows that three in ten (31%) strongly agreed that crosswalk signals in Burlington allow pedestrians enough time to cross the street. However, in this 2015 survey, a significantly larger proportion (44%) strongly agree with this indicating improvements to crossing times have been noticed.

In the 2006 survey, over half (55%) strongly agreed that there are enough pedestrian crosswalks where they are needed throughout Burlington compared to a significantly smaller proportion (41%) in the 2015 survey who strongly agree with this, possibly showing an increased need.

Level of Agreement About Walking Conditions in Burlington*
(n=342, Respondents who say they walk)

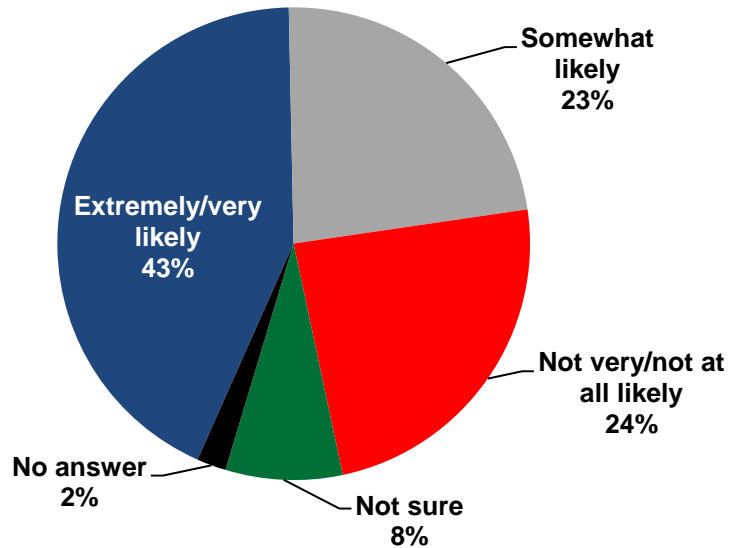


*Percentages less than 5 percent are not shown.

Many Burlington residents age 45-plus say they would walk in their community if there were better conditions for pedestrians.

Over two in five respondents say they would be extremely or very likely to walk if there were better sidewalks and crosswalks for pedestrians, and about another quarter says they would be somewhat likely to walk. Conversely, nearly another quarter says they would not be very likely to walk if conditions for pedestrians in their community were improved. Not surprisingly the willingness to walk more, even with improved conditions, decreases with age (51% 45-49; 48% 50-64; 47% 65-74; 22% 75+).

Likelihood that Burlington Residents Age 45+ Would Walk if There Were Better Conditions for Pedestrians
(n=500)



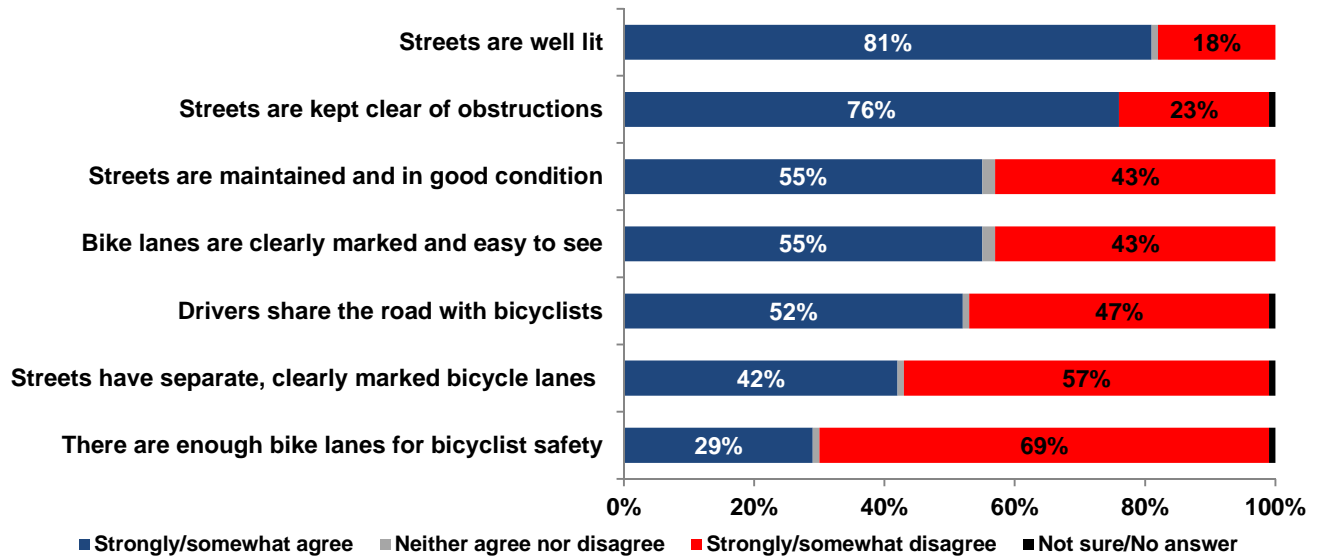
Bicyclist Accessibility

Most Burlington residents age 45-plus who bicycle agree that Burlington has well lit streets that are clear from obstructions.

More than half of Burlington residents agree that streets in the city are in good condition, have clearly marked and visible bike lanes, and have drivers who share the road with bicyclists. On the other hand, at least two in five *disagree* with these three attributes.

Larger proportions *disagree* than agree that there are enough bike lanes to allow cyclists to get safely around Burlington and that the city streets have separate and clearly marked bicycle lanes.

Level of Agreement About Bicycling Conditions in Burlington*
(n=207, Respondents who say they bicycle)

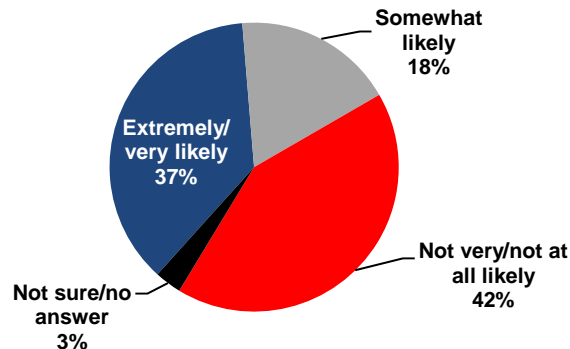


*Percentages less than 5 percent are not shown.

Burlington residents age 45-plus are split in their opinions on whether or not they would ride a bike in their community if there were better conditions for bicyclists.

While just a majority says they would be at least somewhat likely to ride a bike in their community if there were separate bike lanes, over two in five say they would not be likely to do this given the addition of lanes for bicyclists. Willingness to bicycle also decreases with age as shown by differences across age groups among those who say they are extremely or very likely to ride a bike (58% 45-49; 44% 50-64; 28% 65-74; 18% 75+).

Likelihood that Burlington Residents Age 45+ Would Bicycle if There Were Better Conditions for Cyclists
(n=500)



Street Safety

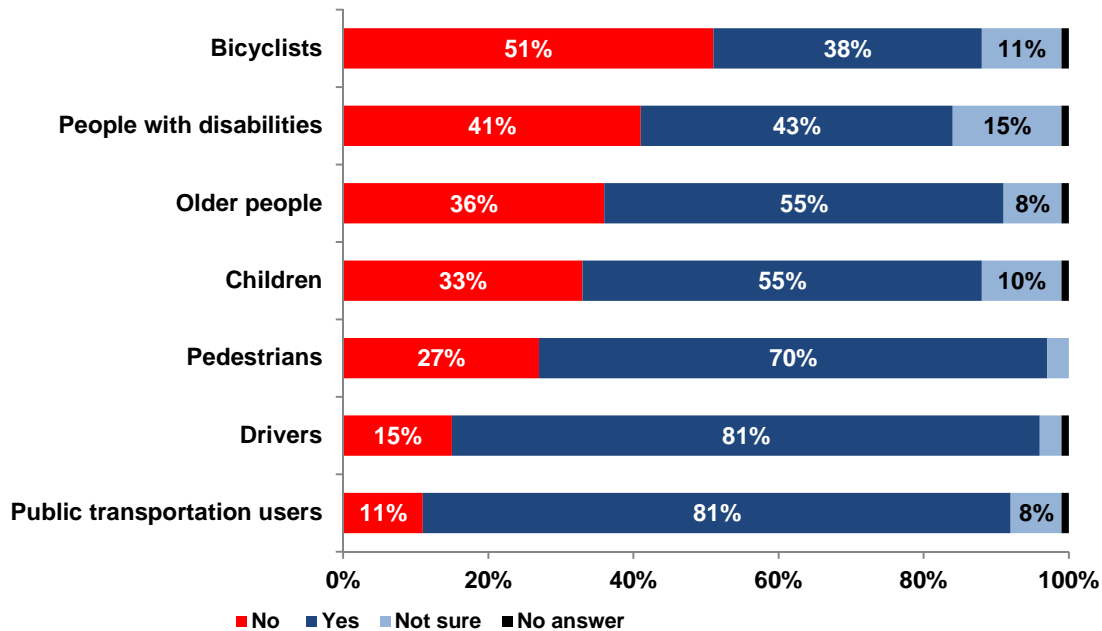
Burlington residents age 45-plus believe there are street safety issues for bicyclists, people with disabilities, and older people.

Survey respondents were told that the City of Burlington has put in place a “Complete Streets Policy,” meaning that the city is making sure that the streets are safe for all users including drivers, public transportation users, pedestrians, bicyclists, older people, children, and people with disabilities.

Half of Burlington residents believe the streets of Burlington **are not** safe for bicyclists. Two in five feel the streets **are not** safe for people with disabilities, and about a third says streets **are not** safe for older people and children. On the other hand, about two in five believe the streets *are* safe for bicyclists and people with disabilities; and over half feel streets *are* in fact safe for older adults and children.

Smaller proportions believe that Burlington streets **are not** safe for pedestrians, drivers, and public transportation users.

Do Burlington Residents Age 45+ Believe the Streets Are Safe for Residents?*
(n=500)



*Percentages less than 5 percent are not shown.

The opinions of Burlington residents on street safety for some users vary by neighborhood. Residents living in the Old North End are *more likely* than residents in any other Burlington neighborhood to say that the streets are safe for pedestrians. Residents living in the South End are *less likely* than residents in any of the other neighborhoods to say that Burlington streets are safe for people with disabilities.

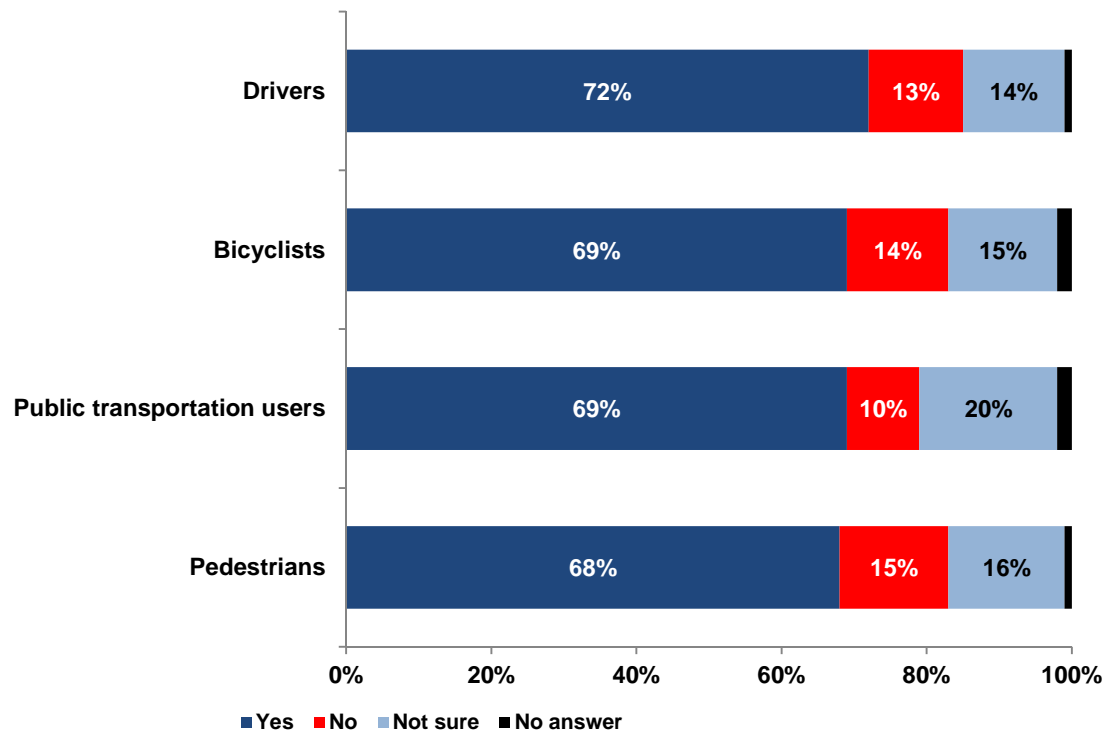
Percent of Burlington Residents Age 45+ in Each Neighborhood Who Respond ‘Yes’ to Burlington Streets Being Safe for Various Users

	Old North End (n=90)	New North End (n=179)	South End (n=100)	Downtown (=41)	Hill Section (n=66)
Pedestrians	83%	70%	68%	64%	54%
People with disabilities	52%	48%	29%	50%	38%

The majority of Burlington residents age 45-plus believe that including certain features in the Champlain Parkway will make it safer for all users.

Survey respondents were told that the City of Burlington’s plans to build the Champlain Parkway include putting in a shared pathway for pedestrians and bicyclists, audible crossing signals, and two lanes for motor vehicles. Approximately seven in ten believe these features will make the parkway safe for drivers, bicyclists, public transportation users, and pedestrians. Younger survey respondents are more likely than older respondents to say that including these features in the Champlain Parkway will make it safe for bicyclists (83% 45-49; 67% 50+). This is not surprising given the fact that younger Burlington residents are more likely to ride a bike than older residents.

Do Burlington Residents Age 45+ Believe Including Certain Features in the Champlain Parkway Will Make it Safe for Residents?*
(n=500)



*Percentages less than 5 percent are not shown.

The opinions of Burlington residents on the safety of the Champlain Parkway for some users vary by neighborhood. Residents living in the South End are *more likely* than residents in the Old North End to say that including the proposed features in the parkway will make it safe for pedestrians. Similarly, residents living in the South End are *more likely* than residents in the Old North End and the New North End to say that including the proposed features in the parkway will make it safe for bicyclists.

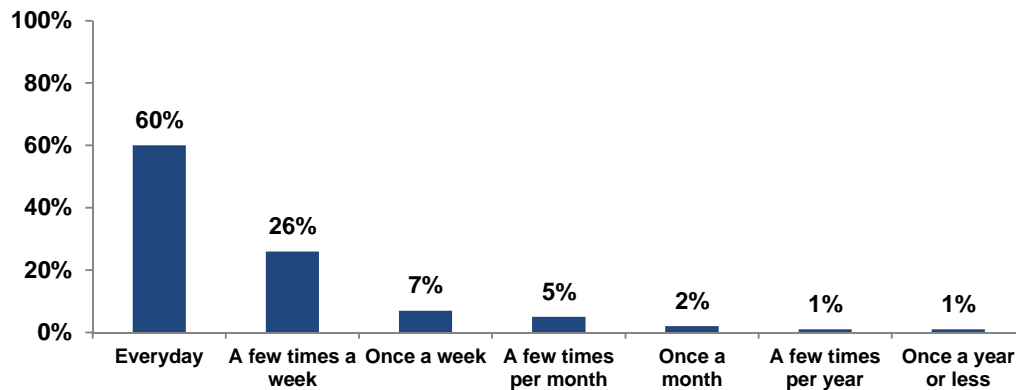
Percent of Burlington Residents Age 45+ in Each Neighborhood Who Respond ‘Yes’ Including Certain Features in the Champlain Parkway Will Make it Safe for Various Users					
	Old North End (n=90)	New North End (n=179)	South End (n=100)	Downtown (n=41)	Hill Section (n=66)
Pedestrians	60%	64%	80%	67%	70%
Bicyclists	65%	65%	83%	68%	68%

Community Engagement

Burlington residents age 45-plus interact regularly with family, friends, or neighbors in their community.

The large majority of Burlington residents interact with people in their community at least a few times a week, with three in five doing so each day. Fewer say they interact with family, friends, or neighbors in their community less frequently. The frequency of interacting with people in their community does not vary by age or neighborhood.

Frequency that Burlington Residents Age 45+ Interact with People in Their Community
(n=500)



Burlington residents age 45-plus believe that the city offers older adults a wide variety of opportunities for education, civic engagement, cultural and art programs as well as convenient places to socialize.

Approximately three-quarters of Burlington residents agree that there are educational opportunities and civic activities for older adults in the city.

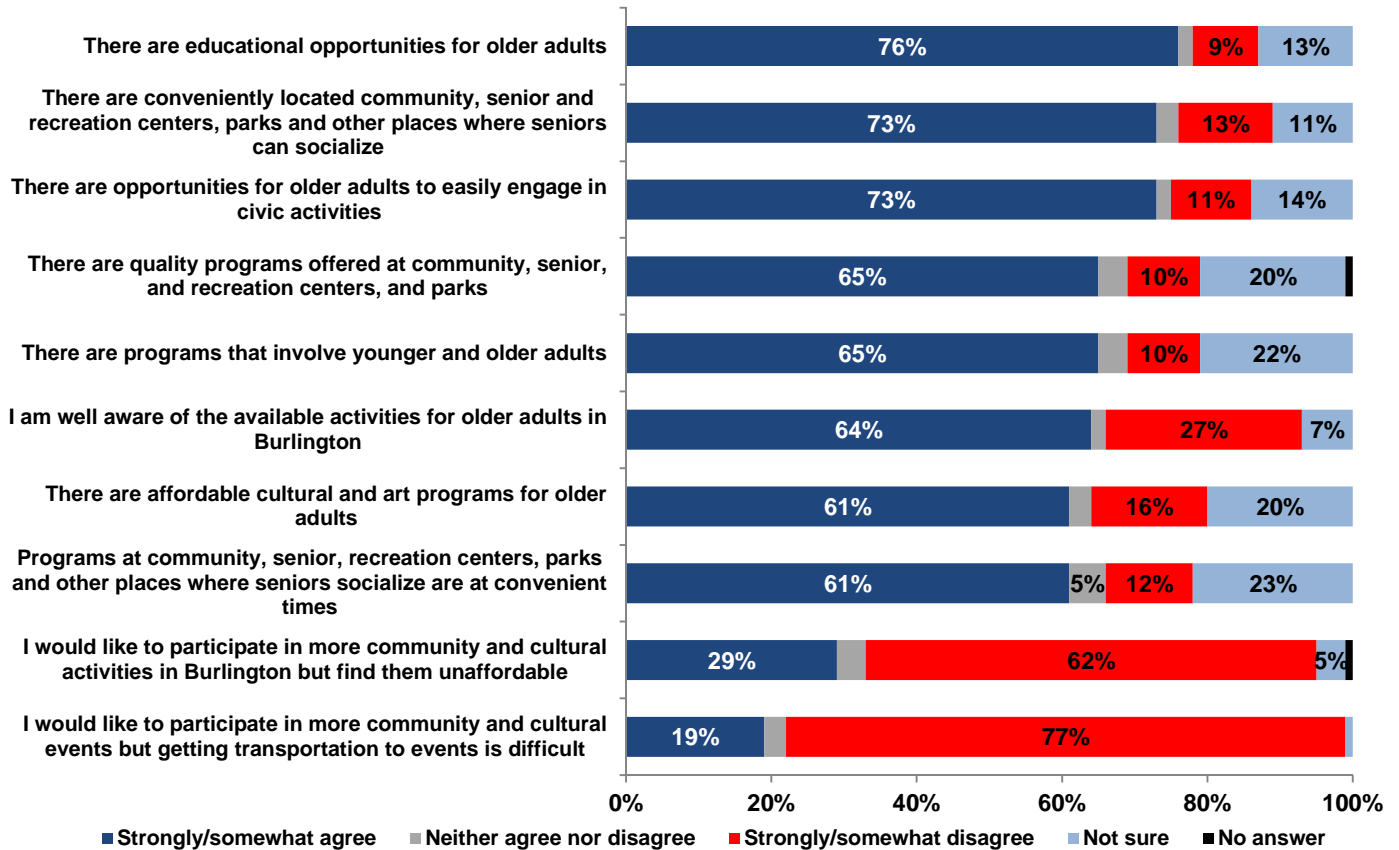
The majority also believe that community, senior, and recreation centers provide good social engagement and enrichment opportunities for older adults. Three in five or more agree that these centers are conveniently located and offer quality programs at convenient times for older adults. Similar proportions agree that Burlington has programs that involve younger and older adults and affordable cultural and art programs for older adults.

Most Burlington residents are aware of activities geared towards older adults and *do not* find these activities unaffordable or difficult to get to. More than three in five agree with the statement “I am well aware of the available activities for older adults in Burlington.” Nearly the same proportion *disagree* with the statement “I would like to participate in more community and cultural activities in Burlington but find them unaffordable.” Additionally, more than three-quarters *disagree* with the statement “I would like to participate in more community and cultural events but getting transportation to events is difficult.”

In the 2006 survey of Burlington residents age 45 and older, over half (54%) strongly agreed that there are convenient places for Burlington residents to engage in social activities. However, in this 2015 survey, a significantly smaller proportion (39%) strongly agrees with this, indicating social programming opportunities may be in decline.

Level of Agreement About Social Activities in Burlington*

(n=500)



*Percentages less than 5 percent are not shown.

There are some differences across neighborhoods regarding social activities in Burlington. Residents living in the Old North End and the New North End are *more likely* than residents in the South End to agree that there are quality programs for older adults at community centers and other social places.

Similarly, residents living in the Old North End, the New North End, and Downtown are *more likely* than those in the South End to agree that community centers and other social places are conveniently located.

Residents in the Hill Section are *more likely* than residents in the Old North End, the New North End, and the South End to agree that there are educational opportunities for older adults.

Percent of Burlington Residents Age 45+ in Each Neighborhood Who Agree that Community Activities Exist

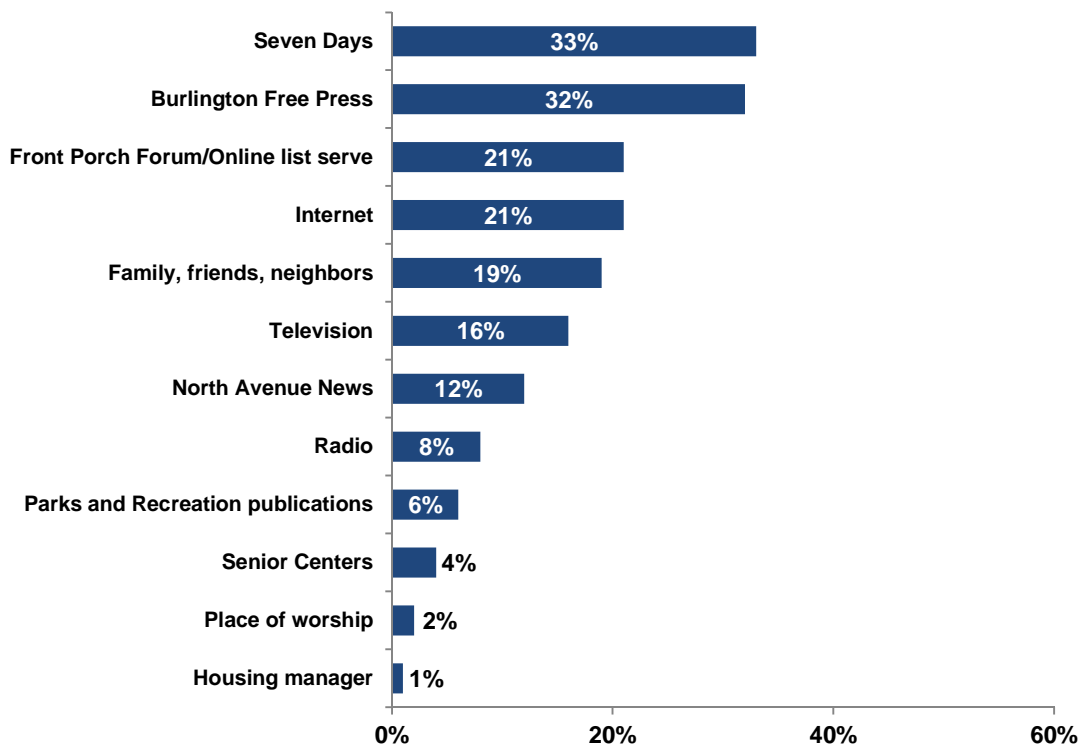
	Old North End (n=90)	New North End (n=179)	South End (n=100)	Downtown (n=41)	Hill Section (n=66)
Quality programs are offered at community, senior, and rec centers, and parks	76%	74%	52%	66%	66%
There are conveniently located community, senior, and rec centers, and parks	91%	83%	52%	74%	65%
There are educational opportunities for older adults	76%	79%	67%	82%	93%

Burlington residents age 45-plus say they turn most to Seven Days or the Burlington Free Press for information on activities in Burlington.

Burlington residents were asked how they find out about activities in their community. Survey respondents were *not* given a list of possible information sources but were asked to give their own sources.

A third seeks out information on community activities from Seven Days or the Burlington Free Press. About one in five finds out about community activities via the Front Porch Forum or other online list serves, the Internet, or family, friends, and neighbors. One in six turns to television for information while one one in eight looks to the North Avenue News. Fewer find out about community activities from the radio, Parks and Recreation, senior centers, faith-based organizations, or housing managers.

Community Information Sources Used by Burlington Residents Age 45+*
(n=500)



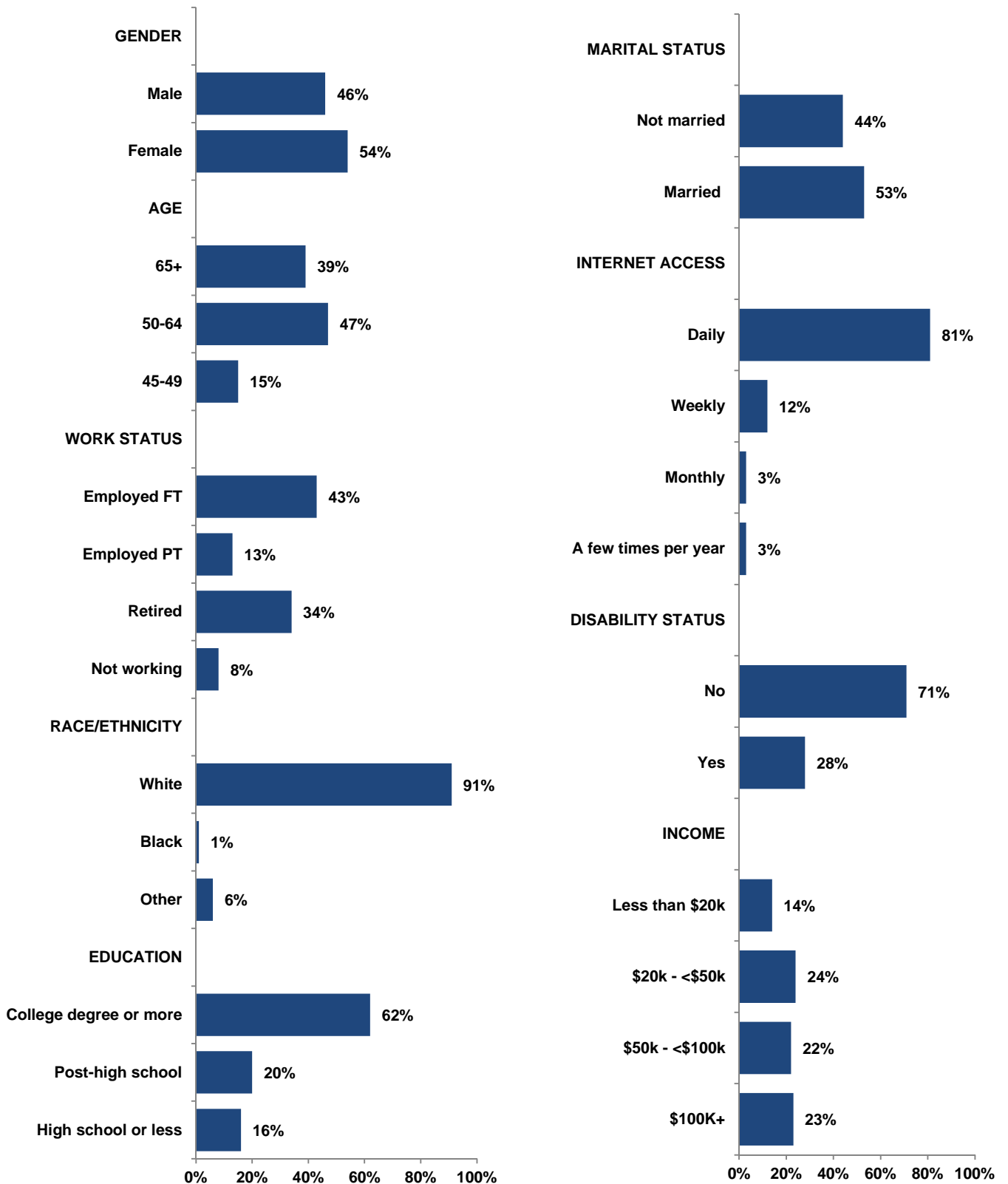
*Graph shows respondents who mentioned each information source unaided.

The Front Porch Forum or other online listserves, Seven Days, and the Internet are used more today to find out about community activities than they were in 2006. Conversely, the Burlington Free Press was more widely used as a community information source in 2006 than it is today.

Percent Change from 2006 to 2015 in Top Community Information Sources of Burlington Residents Age 45+			
	2006	2015	% Change
Seven Days	21%	33%	+12%
Burlington Free Press	57%	32%	-25%
Front Porch Forum/Online Listserve	3%	21%	+18%
Internet	9%	21%	+12%

Demographic Profile of Respondents

(n=500)



Survey Annotation

2015 Burlington Livable Communities Survey
45+ Burlington Registered Voters (n=500)
Margin of Error = +/- 4.3%

QS1. Could you please tell me your age as of your last birthday?	Total
45-49	14.7%
50-54	15.3%
55-64	31.5%
65+	38.5%
45-49	14.7%
50-64	46.8%
65+	38.5%
No Answer	-

QS3. Because this survey is of people who reside in Burlington, would you confirm for me that you live in Burlington?	Total
Yes	100.0%

QS4. And which of the following Burlington neighborhoods do you live in? Do you live in the....	Total
Old North End	18.7%
New North End	36.0%
South End	20.6%
Downtown	8.8%
Hill Section	13.9%
Someplace else	-
Not sure	1.9%
Refused	<0.5%

QS5. How long have you lived in Burlington?

QS6. To ensure it is recorded accurately, could you please state your gender?	Total
Male	46.4%
Female	53.6%
Refused	-

Mobility and Transportation

Q1. In a typical week, how often would you say you get out of your home and go somewhere, for example, work, shopping, the doctor, social activities, church, volunteer activities, or exercising? Would you say...	Total
Everyday	74.7%
Three to six days a week	17.9%
One to two days a week	6.0%
Or, never or not at all	1.0%
Not sure	<0.5%
Refused	-

Q2. When you go to places like work, the grocery store, the doctor, social events, church, volunteer activities, or to exercise do you...

a. Walk

	Total
Yes	68.3%
No	31.3%
I do not get out of the house	-
Not sure	<0.5%
Refused	<0.5%

b. Drive yourself

	Total
Yes	82.5%
No	17.5%
I do not get out of the house	-
Not sure	-
Refused	-

c. Have others drive you

	Total
Yes	32.5%
No	67.1%
I do not get out of the house	<0.5%
Not sure	<0.5%
Refused	-

d. Take a taxi

	Total
Yes	15.3%
No	84.6%
I do not get out of the house	<0.5%
Not sure	-
Refused	-

e. Take a bus

	Total
Yes	26.5%
No	73.2%
I do not get out of the house	<0.5%
Not sure	<0.5%
Refused	-

f. Use the SSTA or transportation provided to people with disabilities who cannot get to or use public transportation

	Total
Yes	8.7%
No	90.6%
I do not get out of the house	<0.5%
Not sure	<0.5%
Refused	<0.5%

g. Use CarShare or a carpool

	Total
Yes	10.6%
No	89.1%
I do not get out of the house	<0.5%
Not sure	<0.5%
Refused	-

h. Ride a bike

	Total
Yes	41.3%
No	58.5%
I do not get out of the house	<0.5%
Not sure	
Refused	

i. Some other way

	Total
Yes	7.6%
No	91.6%
I do not get out of the house	-
Not sure	0.8%
Refused	-

Q3. In general, how often do you miss out on doing something away from your home because you do not have transportation? Would you say you...

	Total
Frequently miss out [ASK QUESTION 4]	3.7%
Occasionally miss out [ASK QUESTION 4]	9.8%
Rarely miss out [ASK QUESTION 4]	18.8%
Never miss out on doing something because you don't have transportation [SKIP TO QUESTION 5]	67.0%
Not sure [ASK QUESTION 4]	<0.5%
Refused [SKIP TO QUESTION 4]	<0.5%

Q4. What is the most common reason for why you miss out on doing activities away from your home? (n=165)

	Total
Cost of transportation	3.4%
No available bus service or other public transportation	12.7%
No available taxi service	0.5%
No safe walking routes	<0.5%
No safe bicycle routes	1.1%
Not within walking distance	7.2%
Some other reason	67.4%
Not sure	6.0%
Refused	1.2%

Q5. How easy or difficult is it for you to get to the nearest bus stop?

Would you say it is...

	Total
Very easy	71.5%
Somewhat easy	12.7%
Neither easy nor difficult	<0.5%
Somewhat difficult	7.3%
Very difficult	4.5%
Not sure	3.2%
Refused	0.5%

Q6. When thinking about bus stops in your neighborhood, how important is it that bus stops have...

a. A sidewalk or crosswalk that provides safe access to the bus stop

	Total
Very important	75.7%
Somewhat important	14.1%
Not very important	4.2%
Not at all important	4.0%
Not sure	1.5%
Refused	0.5%

b. A shelter that provides protection against sun, wind, rain, and snow

	Total
Very important	56.4%
Somewhat important	31.9%
Not very important	5.1%
Not at all important	5.3%
Not sure	1.1%
Refused	<0.5%

c. A bench

	Total
Very important	47.2%
Somewhat important	33.3%
Not very important	10.8%
Not at all important	6.9%
Not sure	1.7%
Refused	<0.5%

d. Good lighting

	Total
Very important	63.4%
Somewhat important	22.2%
Not very important	5.8%
Not at all important	5.2%
Not sure	2.6%
Refused	0.8%

e. A clearly visible sign indicating that it is a bus stop **Total**

Very important	79.0%
Somewhat important	13.3%
Not very important	3.2%
Not at all important	2.4%
Not sure	1.1%
Refused	1.0%

Q7. [ASK ONLY IF IN QUESTION 2 TAKE A BUS OR SSTA = YES.] About how often have you used the bus, SSTA, or transportation provided to people with disabilities who cannot get to or use public transportation in the last two months? Have you used it... (n=155)

	Total
Everyday	8.5%
Several times a week	19.7%
About once a week	9.5%
Once or twice a month	18.1%
Less than once a month	10.3%
Not at all	31.4%
Not sure	2.4%
Refused	

Q8. [ASK ONLY IF IN QUESTION 2 TAKE A BUS OR SSTA = YES.] What do you like most about using public transportation, such as the bus or SSTA? (n=155)

	Total
It is affordable	25.0%
It gets me where I want to go	35.0%
I enjoy seeing other people	12.2%
It is timely	18.6%
I do not have to pay for gas	9.3%
I do not have to drive	20.4%
I do not have a car so it provides me with a way to go places	13.1%
Not sure	8.4%
Refused	0.5%

Q9. [ASK ONLY IF IN QUESTION 2 TAKE A BUS = YES.] Thinking about your experiences with using the bus, I'd like you to tell me whether each of the following is a major problem for you, a minor problem, or not a problem at all for you. (n=132)

a. Difficulty boarding buses	Total
Major problem	5.0%
Minor problem	11.6%
Not a problem at all	82.0%
Not sure	0.7%
Refused	0.8%

b. Cost of the bus fare	Total
Major problem	5.4%
Minor problem	17.3%
Not a problem at all	75.8%
Not sure	0.7%
Refused	0.8%
c. Having a place to sit while waiting	Total
Major problem	17.2%
Minor problem	40.2%
Not a problem at all	40.6%
Not sure	1.2%
Refused	0.8%
d. Having adequate shelter from the weather while waiting	Total
Major problem	24.0%
Minor problem	39.8%
Not a problem at all	34.7%
Not sure	0.7%
Refused	0.8%
e. Getting information about fares, routes, and schedules	Total
Major problem	12.7%
Minor problem	15.0%
Not a problem at all	70.4%
Not sure	1.2%
Refused	0.8%
f. Inconvenient schedules	Total
Major problem	19.5%
Minor problem	36.1%
Not a problem at all	41.7%
Not sure	2.0%
Refused	0.8%
g. Inconvenient routes	Total
Major problem	16.9%
Minor problem	26.3%
Not a problem at all	52.9%
Not sure	3.1%
Refused	0.8%
h. No weekend or evening services	Total
Major problem	34.1%
Minor problem	43.5%
Not a problem at all	19.3%
Not sure	2.3%
Refused	0.8%

i. Having buses that are in good condition	Total
Major problem	14.0%
Minor problem	14.8%
Not a problem at all	68.7%
Not sure	1.2%
Refused	1.3%

j. The time it takes to use the bus, due to it making numerous stops, transferring, or its speed	Total
Major problem	17.4%
Minor problem	30.6%
Not a problem at all	49.9%
Not sure	1.4%
Refused	0.8%

k. Distance from your home to the nearest bus stop	Total
Major problem	7.2%
Minor problem	13.7%
Not a problem at all	77.7%
Not sure	0.7%
Refused	0.8%

l. Sidewalks or crosswalks providing safe access to the bus stops	Total
Major problem	21.6%
Minor problem	19.7%
Not a problem at all	56.2%
Not sure	1.2%
Refused	1.3%

m. Having bus stops that are in good condition	Total
Major problem	15.4%
Minor problem	27.9%
Not a problem at all	51.2%
Not sure	4.7%
Refused	0.8%

Q10. Burlington has put in place a “Complete Streets Policy.” This means that the city is making sure that the streets are safe for all users including drivers, public transportation users, pedestrians, bicyclists, older people, children, and people with disabilities. Do you think the streets in Burlington are safe for...

a. Drivers	Total
Yes	81.2%
No	14.6%
Not sure	3.5%
Refused	0.6%

b. Public transportation users	Total
Yes	81.0%
No	11.4%
Not sure	7.5%
Refused	<0.5%

c. Pedestrians	Total
Yes	69.5%
No	26.7%
Not sure	3.9%
Refused	

d. Bicyclists	Total
Yes	37.9%
No	50.7%
Not sure	10.8%
Refused	0.5%

e. Older people	Total
Yes	55.1%
No	36.2%
Not sure	8.3%
Refused	<0.5%

f. Children	Total
Yes	55.4%
No	33.3%
Not sure	10.4%
Refused	0.9%

g. People with disabilities	Total
Yes	43.1%
No	41.2%
Not sure	15.0%
Refused	0.7%

Q11. The City of Burlington’s plans for the Champlain Parkway include putting in a shared pathway for pedestrians and bicyclists, audible crossing signals, and two lanes for motor vehicles. Do you think adding these things to the Champlain Parkway will make the parkway safer for...

a. Drivers	Total
Yes	71.7%
No	12.8%
Not sure	14.4%
Refused	1.1%

b. Public transportation users	Total
Yes	68.9%
No	10.0%
Not sure	19.5%
Refused	1.6%

c. Pedestrians	Total
Yes	68.1%
No	15.3%
Not sure	15.7%
Refused	0.9%

d. Bicyclists	Total
Yes	69.1%
No	14.4%
Not sure	15.2%
Refused	1.3%

Q12. [ASK ONLY IF IN QUESTION 2 DRIVE YOURSELF = YES.] If you were no longer able to drive, how easy or difficult would it be for you to continue living in your current neighborhood. Would it be... (n=413)

	Total
Very easy	37.2%
Somewhat easy	28.6%
Neither easy nor difficult	1.3%
Somewhat difficult	23.4%
Very difficult	8.9%
Not sure	0.6%
Refused	-

Q13.[ASK ONLY IF IN QUESTION 2 WALK = YES.] I'd like you to tell me how much you agree or disagree with each statement by telling me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree. (n=342)

a. Crosswalk signals are bright and clear.	Total
Strongly agree	49.8%
Somewhat agree	32.9%
Neither agree nor disagree	2.4%
Somewhat disagree	8.4%
Strongly disagree	4.8%
Not sure	1.8%
Refused	-

b. Crosswalk signals allow enough time to cross the street.	Total
Strongly agree	44.0%
Somewhat agree	28.0%
Neither agree nor disagree	1.5%
Somewhat disagree	12.8%
Strongly disagree	10.8%
Not sure	2.9%
Refused	

c. There are enough pedestrian crosswalks where needed.	Total
Strongly agree	40.5%
Somewhat agree	26.4%
Neither agree nor disagree	1.5%
Somewhat disagree	19.5%
Strongly disagree	11.1%
Not sure	1.0%
Refused	

d. Sidewalks are well lit.	Total
Strongly agree	20.0%
Somewhat agree	43.8%
Neither agree nor disagree	3.7%
Somewhat disagree	18.6%
Strongly disagree	10.8%
Not sure	3.0%
Refused	-

e. Sidewalks are maintained in good condition.	Total
Strongly agree	16.5%
Somewhat agree	36.4%
Neither agree nor disagree	1.0%
Somewhat disagree	18.5%
Strongly disagree	26.9%
Not sure	0.6%
Refused	-

f. Sidewalks are kept clear of snow, ice, leaves and trash.	Total
Strongly agree	36.2%
Somewhat agree	39.5%
Neither agree nor disagree	2.1%
Somewhat disagree	12.8%
Strongly disagree	9.1%
Not sure	<0.5%
Refused	-

g. Drivers stop for pedestrians in crosswalks.	Total
Strongly agree	27.8%
Somewhat agree	39.8%
Neither agree nor disagree	0.6%
Somewhat disagree	16.5%
Strongly disagree	14.9%
Not sure	-
Refused	0.5%

h. Sidewalks are available where needed.	Total
Strongly agree	47.7%
Somewhat agree	37.2%
Neither agree nor disagree	0.6%
Somewhat disagree	9.5%
Strongly disagree	4.5%
Not sure	0.6%
Refused	-

i. Ramps from the sidewalk to the street are present	Total
Strongly agree	40.2%
Somewhat agree	40.5%
Neither agree nor disagree	1.9%
Somewhat disagree	9.0%
Strongly disagree	6.3%
Not sure	2.1%
Refused	

j. Islands that allow pedestrians to stop partially through crossing a street are available where needed.	Total
Strongly agree	15.5%
Somewhat agree	25.4%
Neither agree nor disagree	3.9%
Somewhat disagree	21.0%
Strongly disagree	25.9%
Not sure	8.0%
Refused	<0.5%

k. There are adequate places to sit and rest along the sidewalks.	Total
Strongly agree	4.8%
Somewhat agree	13.9%
Neither agree nor disagree	2.9%
Somewhat disagree	35.2%
Strongly disagree	40.6%
Not sure	2.3%
Refused	<0.5%

I. Bicyclists and skateboarders using sidewalks make walking more difficult.

	Total
Strongly agree	41.7%
Somewhat agree	26.7%
Neither agree nor disagree	2.4%
Somewhat disagree	17.9%
Strongly disagree	9.7%
Not sure	1.6%
Refused	-

Q14. How likely would you be to walk if there were better sidewalks and crosswalks for pedestrians? Would you be...

	Total
Extremely likely	20.9%
Very likely	21.8%
Somewhat likely	23.4%
Not very likely	14.1%
Not at all likely	10.1%
Not sure	7.8%
Refused	1.9%

Q15. Can you tell me one or two specific areas in Burlington that you think need to be improved for pedestrians?

Q16.[ASK ONLY IF IN QUESTION 2 RIDE A BIKE = YES.] I'd like you to tell me how much you agree or disagree with each statement by telling me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree. (n=207)

a. Bike lanes are clearly marked and easy to see.

	Total
Strongly agree	18.2%
Somewhat agree	37.0%
Neither agree nor disagree	1.8%
Somewhat disagree	20.9%
Strongly disagree	22.1%
Not sure	-
Refused	-

b. There are enough bike lanes to allow bicyclists to get safely from one destination to another.

	Total
Strongly agree	7.0%
Somewhat agree	22.2%
Neither agree nor disagree	0.8%
Somewhat disagree	20.9%
Strongly disagree	47.9%
Not sure	1.1%
Refused	-

c. Streets are well lit.	Total
Strongly agree	30.3%
Somewhat agree	50.4%
Neither agree nor disagree	1.2%
Somewhat disagree	14.1%
Strongly disagree	4.0%
Not sure	-
Refused	

d. Streets are maintained in good condition.	Total
Strongly agree	14.1%
Somewhat agree	41.3%
Neither agree nor disagree	1.9%
Somewhat disagree	25.3%
Strongly disagree	17.3%
Not sure	-
Refused	-

e. Streets are kept clear of snow, ice, leaves and trash.	Total
Strongly agree	28.4%
Somewhat agree	47.7%
Neither agree nor disagree	-
Somewhat disagree	17.3%
Strongly disagree	5.9%
Not sure	0.6%
Refused	-

f. Drivers share the road with bicyclists.	Total
Strongly agree	11.7%
Somewhat agree	39.9%
Neither agree nor disagree	1.4%
Somewhat disagree	25.2%
Strongly disagree	21.3%
Not sure	0.5%
Refused	-

g. Streets have separate bicycle lanes that are clearly marked.	Total
Strongly agree	11.0%
Somewhat agree	30.9%
Neither agree nor disagree	0.8%
Somewhat disagree	25.9%
Strongly disagree	30.9%
Not sure	0.5%
Refused	-

Q17. How likely would you be to ride a bike if there were separate lanes for bicyclists? Would you be...

	<u>Total</u>
Extremely likely	24.0%
Very likely	13.4%
Somewhat likely	17.7%
Not very likely	11.9%
Not at all likely	29.8%
Not sure	1.8%
Refused	1.5%

Q18. Can you tell me one or two specific areas in Burlington that you think need to be improved for bicyclists?

Housing

Q19. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "What I'd really like to do is remain in my home for as long as possible." Do you...

	<u>Total</u>
Strongly agree	79.3%
Somewhat agree	13.8%
Neither agree nor disagree	<0.5%
Somewhat disagree	3.1%
Strongly disagree	2.9%
Not sure	0.5%
Refused	<0.5%

Q20. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "What I'd really like to do is remain in my neighborhood for as long as possible." Do you...

	<u>Total</u>
Strongly agree	73.5%
Somewhat agree	18.8%
Neither agree nor disagree	0.8%
Somewhat disagree	3.1%
Strongly disagree	2.9%
Not sure	0.7%
Refused	<0.5%

Q21. [ASK ONLY IF QUESTIONS 21 = STRONGLY AGREE OR SOMEWHAT AGREE, NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE, NOT SURE, REFUSED.] What are some of the reasons you would want to remain in the same neighborhood? (n=470)

	Total
Family (positive)	6.5%
Friends (positive)	24.5%
Like the weather/climate	1.9%
Good shopping/ close to shopping	22.7%
Safety from crime/security	10.2%
Place of worship (positive)	3.2%
Recreation (positive)	5.9%
Cost of living (positive)	2.1%
Cost of housing (positive)	2.3%
Good transportation options	11.1%
Employment/job (positive)	1.4%
Taxes (positive)	<0.5%
Good medical care/health services	3.3%
Good opportunities for volunteering	0.8%
Good government services	2.0%
Cultural activities (positive)	5.5%
Good opportunities for political engagement/activism in area	1.9%
Enjoy the people living in the area	24.6%
University offerings	1.1%
Views of Lake Champlain/close to lake	9.7%
Close to bike path/access to bike path	9.2%
Other, not categorized above	51.9%
Not sure	1.6%
Refused	0.6%

Q22. [ASK ONLY IF QUESTION 21 = STRONGLY DISAGREE OR SOMEWHAT DISAGREE, NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE, NOT SURE, REFUSES.] What are some of the reasons you would NOT want to remain in the same neighborhood? (n=38)

	Total
No family close by (negative)	1.9%
No friends close by (negative)	-
Bad weather/climate	4.9%
No or not enough convenient shopping (negative)	2.3%
Crime/security (negative)	8.7%
No or not enough convenient places of worship (negative)	-
No or not enough convenient recreation places or activities (negative)	1.9%
High cost of living (negative)	8.7%
High cost of housing (negative)	9.4%
No or not enough convenient transportation options (negative)	12.9%
No or not enough employment/job opportunities (negative)	2.6%
High taxes (negative)	12.2%
No or not enough convenient medical care/health services (negative)	-
No or not enough volunteer opportunities (negative)	-
Lack of conveniently located government services (negative)	-
Other, not categorized above	77.0%
Not sure	6.1%
Refused	2.6%

Q23. Thinking about your future needs, how would you rate your neighborhood as a place for older people to live? Would you say it is...

	Total
Excellent	33.5%
Good	45.6%
Fair	14.1%
Poor	6.4%
Not sure	<0.5%
Refused	-

Q24. Do you own or rent your primary residence?

	Total
Own	79.3%
Rent	19.6%
Other type of living arrangement	0.7%
Not sure	<0.5%
Refused	<0.5%

Q25. Would you consider homesharing, or bringing someone of your choosing into your home to provide you with services, if that meant you could continue to live in your current home?

	Total
Yes	55.9%
No	37.0%
Not sure	6.8%
Refused	<0.5%

Q26. As I read each of the following items, I'd like you to tell me if it is something you are very concerned about, somewhat concerned about, not very concerned about, or not at all concerned about.

a. Being able to pay my utility bills in coming years

	Total
Very concerned	17.7%
Somewhat concerned	34.2%
Not very concerned	19.7%
Not at all concerned	27.0%
Not applicable	1.0%
Not sure	<0.5%
Refused	-

b. Being able to pay for home repair or maintenance

	Total
Very concerned	20.4%
Somewhat concerned	35.2%
Not very concerned	13.9%
Not at all concerned	27.5%
Not applicable	2.7%
Not sure	<0.5%
Refused	-

c. Being able to pay for home improvement/home modification	Total
Very concerned	15.5%
Somewhat concerned	33.2%
Not very concerned	18.0%
Not at all concerned	28.6%
Not applicable	3.4%
Not sure	1.4%
Refused	-

d. Being able to get where I want to go	Total
Very concerned	18.6%
Somewhat concerned	37.6%
Not very concerned	17.1%
Not at all concerned	26.5%
Not applicable	<0.5%
Not sure	-
Refused	-

e. [ASK ONLY IF IN QUESTION 2 DRIVE YOURSELF = YES.] Being able to continue to drive (n=413)	Total
Very concerned	28.8%
Somewhat concerned	35.9%
Not very concerned	18.8%
Not at all concerned	15.6%
Not applicable	0.5%
Not sure	<0.5%
Refused	-

f. My neighborhood changing in ways that I won't like	Total
Very concerned	15.0%
Somewhat concerned	27.0%
Not very concerned	24.2%
Not at all concerned	31.8%
Not applicable	<0.5%
Not sure	1.3%
Refused	<0.5%

g. My home meeting my physical needs as I grow older	Total
Very concerned	17.5%
Somewhat concerned	35.4%
Not very concerned	19.1%
Not at all concerned	26.9%
Not applicable	0.5%
Not sure	<0.5%
Refused	<0.5%
No Answer	-

h. Being able to get help in the home with chores and personal care as I get older

	Total
Very concerned	14.7%
Somewhat concerned	41.6%
Not very concerned	21.0%
Not at all concerned	20.9%
Not applicable	0.6%
Not sure	1.1%
Refused	<0.5%
No Answer	-

i. Having to live alone

	Total
Very concerned	10.5%
Somewhat concerned	28.8%
Not very concerned	21.1%
Not at all concerned	38.1%
Not applicable	<0.5%
Not sure	1.0%
Refused	-
No Answer	-

j. High cost of living

	Total
Very concerned	47.6%
Somewhat concerned	31.5%
Not very concerned	9.4%
Not at all concerned	10.8%
Not applicable	-
Not sure	0.7%
Refused	-

Q27. Would you favor or oppose the City of Burlington changing the zoning laws so that additional housing units for moderate to low-income residents can be built in vacant lots or spaces around the city?

	Total
Favor [ASK QUESTION 28]	64.0%
Oppose [ASK QUESTION 28]	29.5%
Not sure [SKIP TO QUESTION 29]	5.8%
Refused [SKIP TO QUESTION 29]	0.7%

Q28. Is that strongly or somewhat? (N=468)

	Total
Strongly favor	38.3%
Somewhat favor	28.7%
Somewhat oppose	10.8%
Strongly oppose	20.8%
Not sure	1.4%
Refused	-

Community Engagement

Q29. How often do you have contact with family, friends, or neighbors who do not live with you?

	<u>Total</u>
Everyday	59.5%
A few times a week	25.7%
Once a week	6.7%
A few times per month	4.5%
Once a month	1.6%
A few times per year	0.9%
Once a year or less	0.6%
Not sure	<0.5%
Refused	-

Q30. For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree.

a. There are quality programs offered at community centers, senior centers, recreation centers, and parks where older adults can socialize.

	<u>Total</u>
Strongly agree	36.3%
Somewhat agree	28.8%
Neither agree nor disagree	4.3%
Somewhat disagree	6.7%
Strongly disagree	3.4%
Not sure	19.7%
Refused	0.7%

b. There are conveniently located community centers, senior centers, recreation centers, parks and other places where older adults can socialize.

	<u>Total</u>
Strongly agree	39.2%
Somewhat agree	33.5%
Neither agree nor disagree	3.0%
Somewhat disagree	7.5%
Strongly disagree	5.5%
Not sure	11.3%
Refused	

c. Programs at community centers, senior centers, recreation centers, parks and other places are offered at convenient times.

	<u>Total</u>
Strongly agree	28.2%
Somewhat agree	32.3%
Neither agree nor disagree	4.5%
Somewhat disagree	7.3%
Strongly disagree	4.4%
Not sure	22.7%
Refused	0.6%

d. There are affordable cultural/art programs for older adults.	Total
Strongly agree	27.6%
Somewhat agree	33.0%
Neither agree nor disagree	3.1%
Somewhat disagree	10.5%
Strongly disagree	5.7%
Not sure	19.8%
Refused	<0.5%

e. There are programs that involve younger and older adults.	Total
Strongly agree	30.3%
Somewhat agree	34.6%
Neither agree nor disagree	3.6%
Somewhat disagree	6.6%
Strongly disagree	3.3%
Not sure	21.5%
Refused	<0.5%

f. There are educational opportunities for older adults.	Total
Strongly agree	46.5%
Somewhat agree	29.0%
Neither agree nor disagree	2.4%
Somewhat disagree	6.6%
Strongly disagree	2.3%
Not sure	13.1%
Refused	<0.5%

g. There are opportunities for older adults to easily engage in civic activities.	Total
Strongly agree	42.1%
Somewhat agree	30.4%
Neither agree nor disagree	2.0%
Somewhat disagree	6.6%
Strongly disagree	4.2%
Not sure	14.2%
Refused	0.5%

h. I would like to participate in more community and cultural activities in Burlington but find most of them are unaffordable to me.	Total
Strongly agree	11.6%
Somewhat agree	17.1%
Neither agree nor disagree	3.9%
Somewhat disagree	26.6%
Strongly disagree	35.2%
Not sure	4.9%
Refused	0.8%

i. I would like to participate in more community or cultural events but getting transportation to events is difficult for me.

	Total
Strongly agree	7.8%
Somewhat agree	11.0%
Neither agree nor disagree	2.5%
Somewhat disagree	19.1%
Strongly disagree	57.4%
Not sure	2.0%
Refused	<0.5%

j. I am very well aware of the activities for older adults that are available in Burlington.

	Total
Strongly agree	27.0%
Somewhat agree	36.9%
Neither agree nor disagree	2.1%
Somewhat disagree	13.3%
Strongly disagree	13.6%
Not sure	6.6%
Refused	0.5%

Q31. How do you currently find out about community or neighborhood activities?

	Total
Parks and recreation publications	6.4%
Burlington Free Press	32.4%
North Avenue News	11.7%
Seven Days	33.4%
Front Porch Forum, or an on-line list serve for neighborhoods	21.1%
Television	16.3%
Radio	8.3%
Senior Centers	4.2%
Friends, family, neighbors (word of mouth)	19.0%
Internet	20.7%
Housing manager	0.9%
Place of worship	1.6%
Other, not categorized above	25.7%
Not sure	3.0%
Refused	1.1%

Demographics

QD1. What is your current marital status? Are you

	Total
Married	53.1%
Not married, living with your partner or significant other	3.6%
Separated	1.0%
Divorced	12.9%
Widowed	9.1%
Or are you currently single and never married	17.8%
Not sure	0.8%
Refused	1.8%

QD2. Are you/spouse/partner currently a member of AARP? Total

Yes	48.0%
No	49.6%
Not sure	1.6%
Refused	0.8%

QD3. Thinking about who lives in your household, do you currently

a. Have any children under age 18 living with you Total

Yes	16.0%
No	82.7%
Not sure	0.5%
Refused	0.9%

b. Have any children over age 18 living with you Total

Yes	14.7%
No	84.3%
Not sure	<0.5%
Refused	0.7%

c. Have any children away at college Total

Yes	9.1%
No	89.6%
Not sure	0.6%
Refused	0.7%
No Answer	-

d. Have a parent or other adult relative living with you Total

Yes	5.7%
No	92.9%
Not sure	<0.5%
Refused	1.2%
No Answer	-

QD4. In general would you say your health is... Total

Excellent	35.5%
Very good	31.4%
Good	20.8%
Fair	8.0%
Poor	3.1%
Not sure	<0.5%
Refused	1.0%

QD5. Does any disability, handicap, or chronic disease keep you or your spouse or partner from participating fully in work, school, housework, or other activities?

	Total
Yes, myself	20.4%
Yes, my spouse or partner	4.3%
Yes, both myself and my spouse or partner	3.2%
No	70.6%
Not sure	0.6%
Refused	1.0%

QD6. What is the highest level of education that you completed?

	Total
0 to 12th grade, but with no diploma	3.3%
High school graduate or equivalent	12.9%
Post high school education, but with no degree	6.5%
2 year degree	13.5%
4 year degree	20.3%
Post graduate study, but with no degree	7.1%
Graduate or professional degree	34.2%
Not sure	0.5%
Refused	1.6%

QD7. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

	Total
Self-employed full-time	8.4%
Self-employed part-time	4.8%
Employed full-time	34.4%
Employed part-time	8.3%
Retired and not working at all	34.2%
Unemployed and looking for work	2.8%
Or are you not in the labor force for other reasons	5.2%
Not sure	<0.5%
Refused	1.4%

QD8. Are you of Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino origin or descent?

	Total
Yes	1.5%
No	97.0%
Not sure	<0.5%
Refused	1.3%

QD9. What race do you consider yourself?

	Total
Black	0.8%
White or Caucasian	91.3%
Asian	<0.5%
Native American or Alaskan Native	1.9%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	-
Or are you some other race?	3.2%
Other	-
Not sure	<0.5%
Refused	2.0%

QD10. Would you say you vote always, most of the time, about half of the time, seldom, or would you say you never vote?

	Total
Always	72.5%
Most of the time	19.0%
About half of the time	4.1%
Seldom	1.0%
Never	1.2%
Not sure	<0.5%
Refused	2.0%

QD11. Which political party do you most identify with?

	Total
Democrat	38.7%
Republican	14.0%
Independent	29.5%
Something else	8.7%
Not sure	3.2%
Refused	5.9%

QD12. How would you characterize your political views? Would you say you are...

	Total
Conservative	15.5%
Moderate	30.9%
Liberal	42.1%
None of these	3.8%
Not sure	3.3%
Refused	4.4%
No Answer	-

QD13. In the last 12 months, have you accessed the Internet from your home, work, or from some other source such as your local library?

	Total
Yes [ASK QUESTION D14]	85.2%
No [ASK QUESTION D15]	13.6%
Not sure [ASK QUESTION D15]	<0.5%
Refused [ASK QUESTION D15]	0.8%

QD14. Which would you say comes closest to how often you access the Internet... (n=426)

	Total
Daily	80.5%
Several times a week	12.3%
Several times a month	2.7%
Several times a year	3.1%
Not sure	0.5%
Refused	1.0%

QD15. We realize income is a private matter and so rather than ask you anything specific about your income, I'd like to ask you to please stop me when I get to the category that includes your household's income before taxes in 2014. Was it...

	Total
Less than \$10,000	3.1%
\$10,000 to less than \$15,000	5.6%
\$15,000 to less than \$20,000	5.7%
\$20,000 to less than \$25,000	4.9%
\$25,000 to less than \$30,000	4.9%
\$30,000 to less than \$40,000	7.9%
\$40,000 to less than \$50,000	6.6%
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	12.7%
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	9.6%
\$100,000 or more	22.7%
Not sure	2.3%
Refused	13.9%

QD16. What is your 5-digit zip code?

	Total
00501	<0.5%
05041	<0.5%
05048	<0.5%
05401	57.6%
05402	0.9%
05403	<0.5%
05404	<0.5%
05408	34.4%
05448	0.7%
05450	<0.5%
05458	<0.5%
05482	<0.5%
05488	<0.5%
08408	<0.5%
08659	<0.5%
40508	0.5%
45403	<0.5%
45408	<0.5%
50489	<0.5%
80261	<0.5%
99996	<0.5%
Not sure	<0.5%
Refused	2.4%

Methodology

The Path to Livability: A Citizen Survey of Burlington, Vermont was conducted through telephone interviews with a sample of 500 respondents ages 45 and older drawn at random from a registered voter list in Burlington, Vermont. The registered voter sample was provided by L2. The interviews were conducted in English by VuPoint Research from July 8th through July 17th, 2015. The results from the study were weighted by age and gender to reflect the distribution of registered voters ages 45 and older living in Burlington, Vermont. The margin of error for the complete set of 500 interviews is $\pm 4.3\%$. This means that if 95 out of 100 samples of this same size and population were given the same survey, the responses to the questions would fall within a range of plus or minus 4.3 percentage points of what would have been obtained if every registered voter age 45 and older in the sampled area were asked the same questions.

Respondents were screened to insure that they were residents of Burlington, Vermont and age 45 or older.

The questionnaire was developed by AARP staff. In order to improve the quality of the data, the questionnaire was pretested with a small number of respondents. The pretest interviews were monitored by VuPoint Research and AARP staff.

The response rate for this study was 13.6 percent and was calculated using AAPOR's response rate 3.1 method. The cooperation rate was 50.0 percent as calculated using AAPOR's cooperation rate 3.1 method.³

Throughout the report, statistics representing survey responses are reported in percentages which may not add up to 100 due to rounding and non-response. Also due to rounding, the percentages reported in the text may vary slightly from those in the annotation or in the graphs.

³ Calculated using AAPOR's Outcome Rate Calculator Version 3.1, November 2010

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, with a membership of nearly 38 million, that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse. We advocate for individuals in the marketplace by selecting products and services of high quality and value to carry the AARP name as well as help our members obtain discounts on a wide range of products, travel, and services. A trusted source for lifestyle tips, news and educational information, AARP produces AARP The Magazine, the world's largest circulation magazine; AARP Bulletin; www.aarp.org; AARP TV & Radio; AARP Books; and AARP en Español, a Spanish-language website addressing the interests and needs of Hispanics. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to political campaigns or candidates. The AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. AARP has staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Learn more at www.aarp.org.

State Research brings the right knowledge at the right time to our state and national partners in support of their efforts to improve the lives of people age 50-plus. State Research consultants provide strategic insights and actionable research to attain measurable state and national outcomes. The views expressed herein are for information, debate, and discussion, and do not necessarily represent official policies of AARP.

AARP staff from the Vermont State Office, State and National Group and State Research contributed to the design, implementation and reporting of this study. Special thanks go to AARP staff including Kelly Stoddard Poor, Associate State Director of Community Outreach for AARP in Vermont; Coralette Hannon and Jeanne Anthony, State and National Group; and Cheryl Barnes, Kate Bridges, Cassandra Cantave, Rachelle Cummins, and Eowna Young Harrison, State Research. Please contact Joanne Binette at 202-434-6303 for more information regarding this survey.



AARP Research

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