



## **Nakwema Trailway: Charlevoix ↔ Fisherman's Island State Park Segment Public Input Summary**

The project team and Michigan Department of Natural Resources hosted a virtual presentation on a proposed trail route for the Charlevoix ↔ Fisherman's Island State Park Segment of the Nakwema Trailway on December 17, 2020. The partners shared information on the schematic design process, including a proposed trail route. The live 30-minute presentation was recorded and made available to watch online following the event along with a survey about the proposed trail route. The online survey was available through January 11, 2021. One hundred ninety-six (196) surveys were received. Participants represented 21 counties across the state of Michigan and seven US states. Below is a summary of responses.

What respondents will use the trail for:

- 96% of respondents plan to use the trail for recreation, transportation, or exercise
  - o 84.5% said they will use the trail for recreation
  - o 79% said they will use the trail for exercise
- 3% of respondents indicated that they do not plan to use the trail

How respondents plan to use the trail:

- 97% of respondents shared how they plan to use the trail including:
  - o 90% for biking
  - o 57% for walking/jogging
  - o 5% with a stroller
  - o 1% via wheelchair
  - o Additional uses identified under "other" included cross country skiing, with a walker, snowshoeing, rollerblading, family outings, enjoyment of nature, leashed dog walking, running, backpacking and hunting

Survey participants were asked what about the trail they are most excited and concerned about. Below are common themes from the survey responses.

What people are excited about:

- More trail to enjoy
- Connectivity:
  - o To Fisherman's Island State Park
  - o To communities (Charlevoix, Petoskey, Traverse City, Elk Rapids and others nearby)
  - o To other trails (Lake to Lake Trail, Boyne City to Charlevoix, Little Traverse Wheelway)
- Nature:
  - o Experiencing the natural beauty, woods, birds, wildlife, scenery, and beaches of FISP
  - o Exploring and being in the outdoors

- Accessibility:
  - o Within and to the park
  - o For park users and campers
- Safe trail experience
- Health and exercise
- Carbon neutral park access (*over half of respondents indicated plans to access the trail via bike*)

What people are concerned about:

- Safety
  - o Shared roadway segment
  - o Getting away from US-31
- Paving of the existing foot trail
- Negative impacts on the:
  - o Environment (wetlands, swamp, forest, and dunes)
  - o Existing beauty/wildness of the park
  - o Hunting
- Proximity to Clipperview subdivision
- Time to get it built

*This summary is intended to capture the most frequently cited interests and concern, and does not reflect all individual responses.*