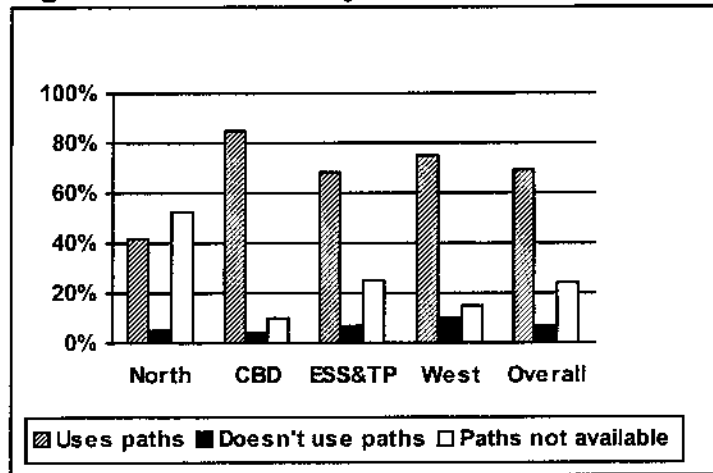


# CHAPTER 5 TRANSPORTATION

## Sidewalks and Paths

- A strong majority, 69 percent, use paths and sidewalks to walk in their neighborhoods. Very few say they don't use paths or sidewalks if available, only 6 percent. However, almost one-quarter, 24 percent, report that paths and sidewalks are not available to go the places they would like to go. In this case, master plan area differences are very strong. Over half of North Silver Spring's residents, 52 percent, said that paths or sidewalks were not available to go where they would like to go, while only 10 percent of those in the CBD said they

**Figure 5-1 Availability of Paths or Sidewalks**



lack this amenity. West Silver Spring residents also believe they are well supplied with paths and sidewalks, only 15 percent disagree. Among East Silver Spring and Takoma Park residents, 25 percent believe they have inadequate walking facilities. The percent having sidewalks/paths but not using them is consistently less than 10 percent, typically around 5 percent.

- When asked for one improvement to make walking safer and more attractive, 31 percent said "none." At the same time, 20 percent said more sidewalks were needed and 15 percent suggested better lighting. Consistent with the perceived lack of sidewalks, 34 percent of North Silver Spring residents suggested more sidewalks. CBD residents were especially interested in improved lighting, 20 percent. East Silver Spring and Takoma Park and West Silver Spring did not vary much from the areawide percentages.

## Bus Service

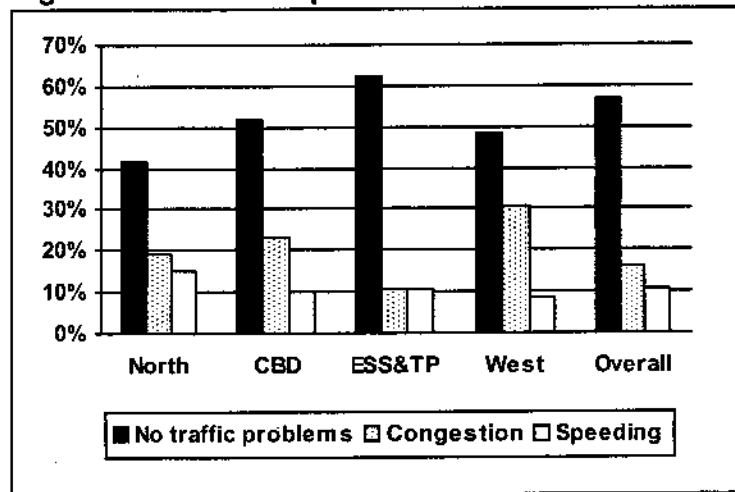
- Fifty-three percent of area residents say they never use buses, while 17 percent use them all or most of the time. North Silver Spring residents are least likely to use buses, 63 percent don't. East Silver Spring and Takoma Park use them most, 19 percent use them some or all of the time.

- *More frequent service was the leading suggestion for improving bus service, 15 percent.* The percentage of those who said they did not know what was needed to improve bus service was very similar to the percentage who say they never ride the bus, 52 percent and 53 percent respectively. It appears that those who don't ride the bus generally did not offer suggestions for improving service.

**Traffic Concerns**

- *Fifty-seven percent of respondents said that there is no traffic problem in their neighborhoods.* Another 16 percent believe that “congestion” is the greatest problem and 11 percent identified “speeding” as the problem. East Silver Spring and Takoma Park residents were most likely to see no traffic problem, 63 percent, while only 42 percent of North Silver Spring residents thought there was no problem. “Congestion” was identified as an issue most frequently in West Silver Spring, 31 percent, and the CBD, 23 percent. North Silver Spring residents were the only group to see cut-through traffic as a major problem, 13 percent. North Silver Spring also was most concerned about speeding, 15 percent. North Silver Spring is clearly affected by the presence of four of the major arteries in the area: Georgia Avenue, 16th Street, Colesville Road, and the Beltway, which either serve as its boundaries or bisect it. The congestion in the commercial area of Montgomery Hills probably exacerbates the problem.

**Figure 5-2 Transportation Issues**



- *When asked to identify a second major traffic problem, “speeding,” 21 percent; “congestion,” 16 percent; and “cut through traffic,” 11 percent were highest overall.* CBD residents mentioned “parking” in 11 percent of the cases, adding it to their “worst problem” list, and East Silver Spring and Takoma Park residents added “cut through traffic,” 11 percent, to their list.

**Table 4-2 Additional Community Facilities Needed by Moving Status**

**Question 3.4 Do NOT plan to move in the next two years**

Question 5.5	Assigned Master Plan Area								Total	
	North Silver Sp		SS CBD		East SS & TP		West Silver Sp		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
No	1567	61.9%	1210	50.1%	8128	69.7%	1616	70.1%	12522	66.2%
Park	240	9.5%	279	11.6%	980	8.4%	117	5.1%	1616	8.5%
Other	214	8.4%	340	14.1%	502	4.3%	229	9.9%	1284	6.8%
Community Center	190	7.5%	99	4.1%	847	7.3%	140	6.1%	1276	6.7%
Playground	70	2.8%	142	5.9%	347	3.0%	52	2.3%	612	3.2%
Don't know	16	.6%	131	5.4%	308	2.6%	86	3.7%	541	2.9%
Swimming Pool	52	2.1%	33	1.4%	109	.9%	52	2.3%	247	1.3%
Rec center	67	2.6%	66	2.7%	157	1.3%			290	1.5%
Library	63	2.5%	66	2.7%	135	1.2%			264	1.4%
Basketball Court	20	.8%	16	.7%	52	.4%			88	.5%
Gym							13	.6%	13	.1%
Ball/soccer fields	16	.6%			52	.4%			68	.4%
Tennis Court	20	.8%			44	.4%			63	.3%
YMCA			33	1.4%					33	.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2533</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2415</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11663</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2306</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>18917</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 4-2 Additional Community Facilities Needed by Moving Status**

**Question 3.4 Don't know if they are moving**

Question 5.5	Assigned Master Plan Area								Total	
	North Silver Sp		SS CBD		East SS & TP		West Silver Sp		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
No	162	57.3%	181	44.0%	1340	66.4%	188	42.8%	1871	59.4%
Park	26	9.2%			188	9.3%	52	11.8%	266	8.4%
Other	16	5.5%	131	32.0%	52	2.6%	35	8.1%	235	7.5%
Community Center	38	13.6%	66	16.0%	109	5.4%	26	5.9%	239	7.6%
Playground					109	5.4%	52	11.8%	161	5.1%
Don't know	17	6.1%	33	8.0%	109	5.4%	63	14.4%	223	7.1%
Swimming Pool	8	2.8%			109	5.4%			117	3.7%
Rec center							23	5.2%	23	.7%
Library	18	5.5%							16	.5%
Basketball Court										
Gym										
Ball/soccer fields										
Tennis Court										
YMCA										
<b>Total</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3151</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 5-1 Do you have paths or sidewalks from your home to places you'd like to walk to?**

Question 6	Assigned Master Plan Area								Total	
	North Silver Sp		SS CBD		East SS & TP		West Silver Sp		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
Uses paths	1463	42.0%	4283	84.8%	13662	68.5%	3289	74.7%	22697	69.0%
Does not use paths	169	4.9%	214	4.2%	1305	6.5%	430	9.8%	2118	6.4%
Paths not available	1813	52.1%	487	9.7%	4980	25.0%	659	15.0%	7940	24.1%
Don't know	38	1.1%	66	1.3%			26	.6%	129	.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3483</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>5050</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>19947</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>4404</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>32884</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 5-2 Which one improvement could be made to make walking in your neighborhood easier and more attractive?**

Question 6.2	Assigned Master Plan Area								Total	
	North Silver Sp		SS CBD		East SS & TP		West Silver Sp		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
None	828	23.7%	1879	37.4%	6321	31.8%	1229	27.9%	10257	31.3%
More sidewalks	1199	34.4%	411	8.2%	4137	20.8%	787	17.9%	6534	19.9%
Better lighting	349	10.0%	1002	20.0%	2929	14.7%	767	17.4%	5047	15.4%
Better maintained sidewalks	243	7.0%	329	6.6%	1446	7.3%	367	8.3%	2384	7.3%
Other	311	8.9%	471	9.4%	1194	6.0%	350	8.0%	2327	7.1%
Don't know	121	3.5%	378	7.5%	810	4.1%	389	8.8%	1698	5.2%
More police/security	81	2.3%	142	2.8%	822	4.1%	180	4.1%	1225	3.7%
More controlled/less traffic	172	4.9%	33	.7%	889	4.5%	75	1.7%	1168	3.6%
Cleaner sidewalks	8	.2%	44	.9%	896	4.5%	13	.3%	960	2.9%
Pedestrian bridges	126	3.6%	49	1.0%	214	1.1%	63	1.4%	453	1.4%
Scenery/trees/flowers/landscaping	26	.7%	181	3.6%	76	.4%	135	3.1%	417	1.3%
Better signs	27	.8%	99	2.0%	162	.8%	50	1.1%	337	1.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3491</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>5017</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>19895</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>4404</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>32807</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Greater Washington Consumer Research, "Survey of Silver Spring/Takoma Park Residents" (1/98); Research & Technology Center, Montgomery County Department of Park & Planning.

**Table 5-3 Do you use bus service?**

Question 6.4	Assigned Master Plan Area								Total	
	North Silver Sp		SS CBD		East SS & TP		West Silver Sp		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
Never use	2205	63.4%	2585	51.2%	10392	52.0%	2253	51.0%	17435	52.9%
Use all the time	155	4.5%	559	11.1%	1378	6.9%	307	6.9%	2398	7.3%
Use most of the time	116	3.3%	329	6.5%	2367	11.8%	271	6.1%	3082	9.4%
Use some of the time	414	11.9%	937	18.5%	2365	11.8%	761	17.2%	4476	13.6%
Use few times	560	16.1%	641	12.7%	3363	16.8%	824	18.7%	5387	16.4%
Don't go	24	.7%							24	.1%
Bus service not available	8	.2%			109	.5%			117	.4%
Don't know					26	.1%			26	.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3480</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>5050</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>20000</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>4416</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>32946</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 5-4 Which one improvement would make bus service more useful to you?**

Question 6.5	Assigned Master Plan Area								Total	
	North Silver Sp		SS CBD		East SS & TP		West Silver Sp		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
Don't know	1778	54.8%	2897	60.1%	9278	50.5%	2019	48.5%	15972	52.2%
More frequent service	357	11.0%	602	12.5%	2769	15.1%	724	17.4%	4453	14.6%
More buses	168	5.2%	164	3.4%	1647	9.0%	234	5.6%	2213	7.2%
Other	180	5.5%	367	7.6%	1271	6.9%	291	7.0%	2109	6.9%
No suggestions/good as is	159	4.9%	49	1.0%	661	3.6%	127	3.0%	996	3.3%
Access to schedules/routes	121	3.7%	33	.7%	627	3.4%	199	4.8%	980	3.2%
Don't use/wouldn't use anyway	148	4.6%	115	2.4%	559	3.0%	111	2.7%	933	3.1%
Less expensive service	69	2.1%	99	2.0%	450	2.5%	142	3.4%	759	2.5%
More bus stops	131	4.0%	263	5.5%	288	1.6%	75	1.8%	757	2.5%
Longer hours	70	2.2%	115	2.4%	406	2.2%	65	1.6%	656	2.1%
Weekend service	35	1.1%			328	1.8%	75	1.8%	437	1.4%
More reliable service	16	.5%	115	2.4%	52	.3%	63	1.5%	246	.8%
More lighting	8	.2%			17	.1%	32	.8%	57	.2%
Safe places to wait	8	.2%					11	.3%	19	.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3246</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>4820</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>18355</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>4166</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>30587</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 5-5 What is the worst traffic problem in your neighborhood?**

Question 6.7	Assigned Master Plan Area								Total	
	North Silver Sp		SS CBD		East SS & TP		West Silver Sp		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
No traffic problem	1457	41.7%	2618	51.8%	12498	62.5%	2126	48.1%	18699	56.7%
Traffic congestion	674	19.3%	1172	23.2%	2085	10.4%	1351	30.6%	5282	16.0%
Speeding	533	15.3%	520	10.3%	2118	10.6%	371	8.4%	3542	10.7%
Cut-through traffic	448	12.8%	197	3.9%	1257	6.3%	83	1.9%	1985	6.0%
Other	123	3.5%	214	4.2%	938	4.7%	259	5.9%	1534	4.7%
Speed bumps	145	4.1%	131	2.6%	616	3.1%	105	2.4%	997	3.0%
Parking	61	1.8%	197	3.9%	383	1.9%	97	2.2%	739	2.2%
Don't know	23	.7%			105	.5%	6	.1%	134	.4%
Running red lights stop signs	26	.8%					18	.4%	44	.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3491</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>5050</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>20000</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>4416</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>32956</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 5-6 What is the second worst traffic problem in your neighborhood?**

Question 6.8	Assigned Master Plan Area								Total	
	North Silver Sp		SS CBD		East SS & TP		West Silver Sp		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
Speeding	395	22.2%	230	11.5%	1439	22.9%	455	23.2%	2519	20.9%
No other problem	329	18.5%	214	10.7%	897	14.3%	554	28.2%	1994	16.6%
Traffic congestion	175	9.8%	378	18.9%	1138	18.1%	204	10.4%	1896	15.8%
Don't know	193	10.8%	526	26.3%	858	13.6%	260	13.3%	1837	15.3%
Cut-through traffic	300	16.9%	126	6.3%	707	11.2%	135	6.9%	1269	10.5%
Other	104	5.8%	214	10.7%	773	12.3%	29	1.5%	1119	9.3%
Parking	96	5.4%	214	10.7%	188	3.0%	167	8.5%	664	5.5%
Speed bumps	147	8.2%	99	4.9%	186	3.0%	137	7.0%	568	4.7%
Running red lights stop signs	42	2.3%			105	1.7%	23	1.2%	169	1.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1781</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>6290</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1964</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>12034</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Greater Washington Consumer Research, "Survey of Silver Spring/Takoma Park Residents" (1/98); Research & Technology Center, Montgomery County Department of Park & Planning.