BACKGROUND

In Portland, the Bicycle Boulevard network is relatively well-developed and is part of the city’s Bicycle Master Plan, and yet little is known about how it affects quality of life, safety, air quality, home value, and sense of community from the perspective of the residents living on affected streets. This study will attempt to gain a better understanding of residents’ perceptions and views of the existing Bicycle Boulevards on SE Ladd. Although similar studies have been done for other streets with bicycle boulevards, we feel it is important to continue building on this limited body of research.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

Results of this study can be used to inform how other bicycle boulevards are developed around the city and country in the future. This is useful for physical design considerations as well as community outreach concerns to address the concerns of residents living on a route hoping to be designated as a boulevard.

FINDINGS

Results of this study indicate that residents who moved to Ladd Ave between five and twenty years ago are more car-oriented and more negative about the bicycle boulevard than newer or older residents. Those who recently moved to Ladd Ave are mostly positive about the bicycle boulevard, and 20-25% of these residents say that bicycle is their primary mode of transportation. Additionally, most residents are owners, but those who do rent are much more positive about the bicycle boulevard. Of all respondents, 20% did not even know that Ladd Ave is a bicycle boulevard.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, there is an inverse relationship between Ladd Ave residents’ seniority and positive attitude towards the bicycle boulevard – the newest residents are the most positive. This suggests that the Ladd bicycle boulevard has become more popular over time and will hypothetically continue to grow in popularity in the eyes of the residents. It also suggests that with bicycle boulevards in general, there is bound to be some controversy and discontentment during the initial years, but as homes change hands and new renters replace old renters, that discontentment subsides and attitudes become much more positive.