BACKGROUND

Cycling in SE Portland and around Hawthorne Boulevard has been well documented and researched. However, the perceived physical barriers to cycling for people living and working in the area has not been researched in depth. Yearly bike surveys and counts in Ladd’s Addition document cyclist demographics, but what do they think of the routes they take? Rather than look at how to get more people to cycle as well as why they do not ride, our team takes a look at what current cyclists perceive as physical barriers that do not deter them from cycling, but barriers they would like to be addressed to make their route feel safer and more comfortable.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

Our study focuses on what people perceive as the most important physical barriers on their route through SE Portland. We will find out what specific things on their route impact them the most and how to keep them to continue cycling.

FINDINGS

The results of our online survey pointed directly to safety issues as the main reason for choosing a specific route. Riding on a street with vehicles is identified as a specific issue with feeling unsafe. Cyclists want more bicycle infrastructure and would ride more often if the infrastructure was expanded. A majority of respondents were either intermediate or advanced cyclists, and issues involving weather, hills, lighting, and bike parking were not as important to them as vehicle traffic, bicycle infrastructure and pavement quality. People are riding their bicycles often and do so to commute to work and recreation, and want separated bike lanes to ensure safety.

CONCLUSIONS

More bicycle infrastructure will result in a higher rate of ridership and a higher overall sense of safety. Vehicles and drivers are perceived as the number one threat to cyclist safety and bike lanes are the recommended solution by the cycling community surveyed.