



Photo Credit: Seven Days

Clean Transportation Equity: Community Feedback & Findings

Testimony to the legislature

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Clean Transportation Equity - Goals

Clean Transportation Equity Team: Broad group of partners coordinated by EAN, including Capstone, VBSR, VEIC, Bennington Planning Commission, Green Mountain Transit, VT DEC, VPIRG, and others.

Network Action Team goal: **Advancing a collaborative process to identify Vermonters' challenges in the transportation space and their experiences navigating existing clean transportation programs. Hear from Vermonters how they would want clean transportation investments made.**



Clean Transportation Equity - Process

RFP issued for organizations to host focus groups, whose communities may experience unmet transportation needs, and/or those whose participants may be less represented in statewide conversations around clean transportation

8 focus groups held over the summer of 2022 with 78 participants from these organizations

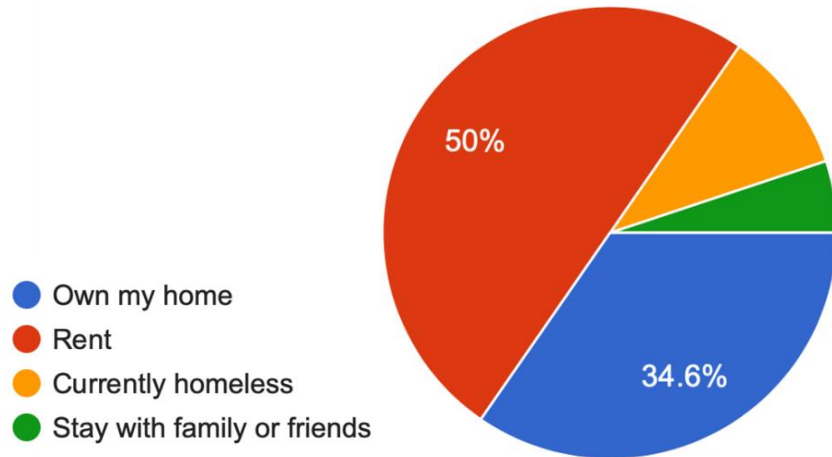




Clean Transportation Equity - Demographics

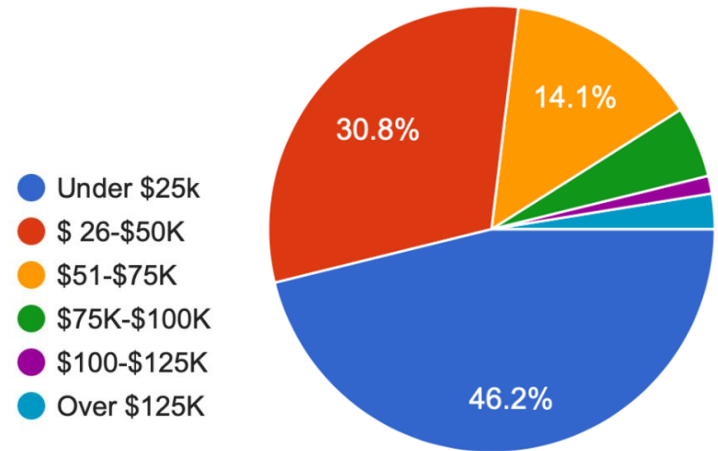
What's your living situation?

78 responses



What is your household income

78 responses

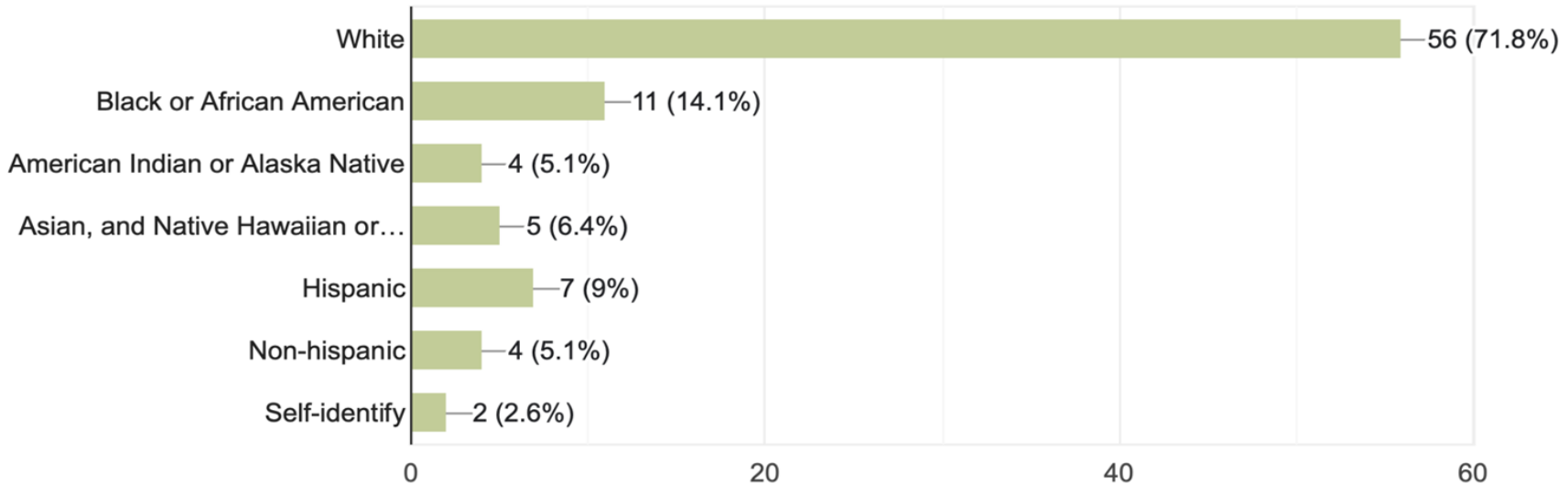




Clean Transportation Equity - Demographics

What is your Race and Ethnicity? (Choose all that Apply)

78 responses

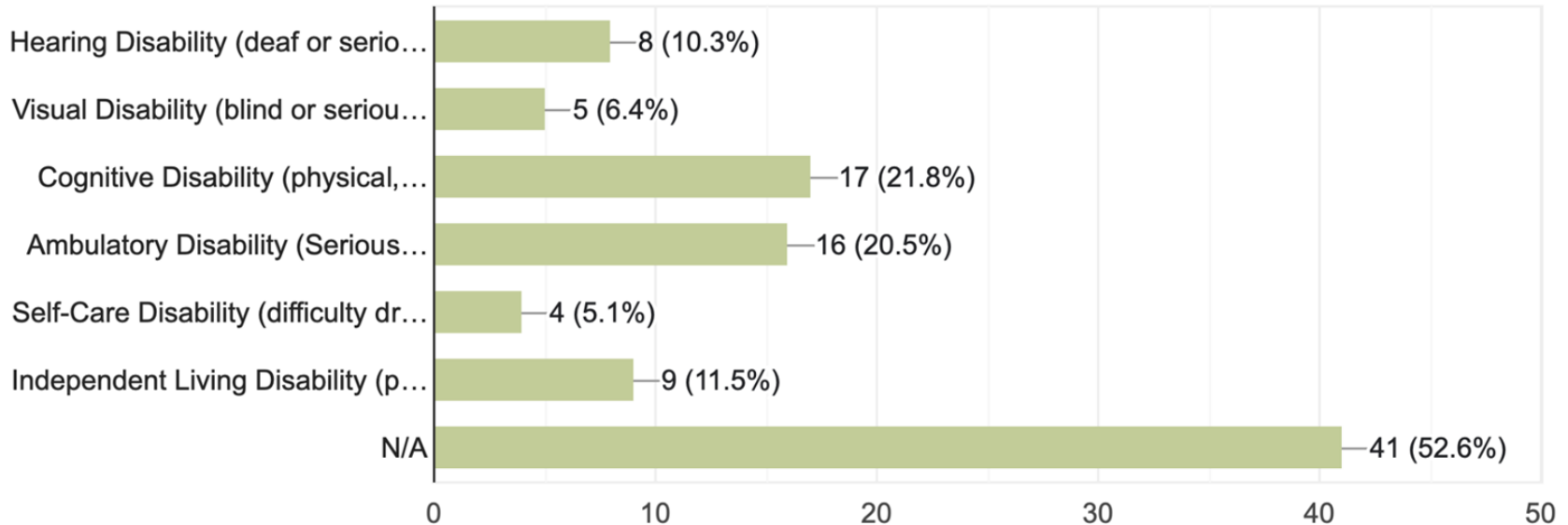




Clean Transportation Equity - Demographics

Do you have a disability? If so, please check all that apply.

78 responses





Feedback From Focus Group Participants

“I want more expanded bus service to places that aren’t just the grocery store. I want a full life like everybody else...”



Feedback From Focus Group Participants

“...I’d just like more hours in the evenings and weekends - [social events and meetings] are just as important for your health as your physical health like getting to the doctors.”



Feedback From Focus Group Participants

“Many people I know just from working there, they tried to apply and even if they are qualified and would be hired, they can’t take the job sometimes because it's at the end of a long dead end road. And as a female employee getting done at midnight, you’re not going to walk down a dark road with no streetlights by yourself.”



Feedback From Focus Group Participants

“E-Bike Rentals with stations along the Rail Trail, an extra month stipend on EBT cards that are used for the E-Bikes. So much money is going into the Rail Trail and it connects so much of Vermont this is a great way to get people around in a way that also reduces pollution as well.”



Feedback From Focus Group Participants

“Taxi service for low income families to access things they can not through RCT, regular taxis are way too expensive.”



Clean Transportation Equity Findings

Transportation Challenges

- Cost to own a vehicle is financially burdensome
- Costs of EVs are prohibitive
- Concerns about availability of charging infrastructure
- Public transit schedule - minimal mid-day, weekend or evening service
- Availability of public transit outside of town centers
- Accessing public transit information
- Lack of sidewalks for walking. Sidewalks in disrepair, and challenging to navigate
- Rural roads lack shoulder for walking or biking



Clean Transportation Equity Findings

Ideal Transportation System

- Expanded public transportation
- More weekend and evening service
- Centralized public transit information hub
- More infrastructure connecting communities via walking and biking
- Greater subsidies for EVs
- Standardized EV charging system
- Standardized education and outreach program about EVs
- Greater e-bike subsidies
- Rural rideshare program like a “rural Uber” or safe hitchhiking like “The Hitching Post”



Clean Transportation Equity - Follow Up

Participant Funding Priorities in Order of Response

What participants see as the most critical investments in VT:

1. More bus routes and more frequent bus service
2. Invest in public transit infrastructure e.g. bus shelters, accessibility infrastructure, public transit communication
3. New forms of transit e.g. rural on-demand ride service, formalized hitchhiking, affordable taxis
4. EV infrastructure and incentives
5. Walking and biking infrastructure

Thank You!

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