

chelmsford
center village

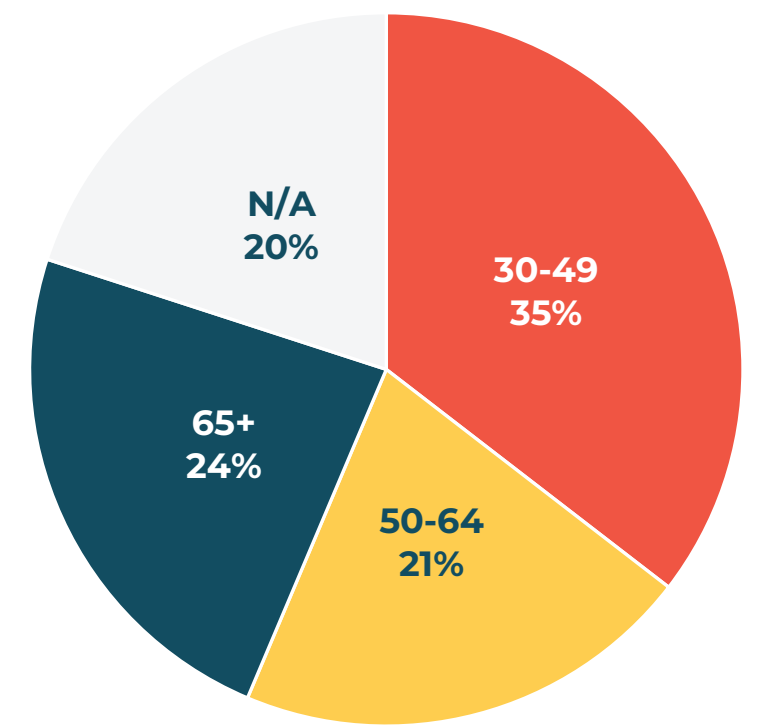
SURVEY SAYS...



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Unsurprisingly, most (93%) of respondents drive on Chelmsford Street, although 50% indicated that they walk or would like to walk and 28% indicated that they bike or would like to bike if conditions were improved.



Aesthetics could be improved

"There isn't a 'reason' to go there. I'm not comfortable... it's just not attractive."

"The older buildings need to maintain their charm. Most importantly, there needs to be more trees and greenery."

Walking feels a little safer...* *question referred to Center Village overall, not exclusively Chelmsford Street

"Maintenance of existing sidewalks remains poor... not safe for wheelchairs."

*"Crossing Chelmsford Street
to access the Bruce Freeman
is dangerous"*

It is unsafe to bike

"I'd prefer to go grocery shopping by bicycle but I don't... BFRT crossing is so dangerous."

*"Biking up the rail trail
by Chelmsford Street is a
nightmare."*

Parking is adequate / easy to find, however...

"I wish there was more parking to access the Bruce Freeman Trail."

At outreach events, people confirmed that parking exists but can be hard to find. Suggests that parking issues are less about quantity than about wayfinding and distribution.

Among potential amenities, **burying the power lines** along Chelmsford Street (72%) and adding **street trees** (73%) ranked highest, although traffic calming (42%), benches (46%), and public art / historical markers (49%) also scored well.



Pedestrian-oriented improvements ranked highest, with **sidewalks** (64%) and **crosswalks** (57%) garnering majority support.

“If I could change one thing about Chelmsford Street...”

"More shade—that stretch has very little shelter and is miserable in hot weather."

“Plant trees on both sides of the road... wildflowers to minimize maintenance.”

The Bruce Freeman crossing at Fletcher Street is widely viewed as dangerous.

"A separated bike lane to safely connect the rail trail."

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"Safer Bruce Freeman
Rail Trail crossing near
Fletcher Street."

Sidewalks and crosswalks are missing or unsafe. Major calls for continuous sidewalks on both sides of the street.

- “Safe crossings--especially for the bike path.”
- “Better sidewalks and crosswalks.”
- “Full sidewalks all the way on both sides of the street.”

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“Full sidewalks all the way on both sides of Chelmsford Street.”

Too many curb cuts create dangerous conditions (each curb cut is essentially another intersection)

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Survey Results were generally verified through outreach and pop-up events throughout the fall, along with conversations with property owners. In-person engagement revealed that people want:

- to make the area a “destination, not just a pass-through.”
- a “more connected” Chelmsford Street.
- safer conditions along the street for vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists.
- better connections to Bruce Freeman.