

# Transportation Access and Housing Affordability in Dakota County



**ESPERANZA**  
UNITED

Fatima Aden, Adrianna Halling, Evelyn Torres, Suri Moctezuma, and Nataly Espinoza

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# Introduction

## **Esperanza United**

- Dakota County (Eagan, Apple Valley, Northfield High schools)
- Focuses on regional issues

## **Main Points**

- Accessible Transportation
  - Affordable Housing
  - Personal Experiences
  - Recommendation for Regional Development Guide
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# Key Issues

1. The issue of **Transportation Accessibility** in the suburban areas.
2. The issue of **Housing Affordability**.



# Data Sources

- Interviews
- Personal Stories
- Group Discussions
- Met Council Research



# Accessible Transportation

## Our Issue:

- Lack of accessible transportation.
- The effect on young adults.
- Lack of accessibility in suburban areas.
- How accessible are sidewalks.



## Issue/Value Importance:

- Young adults/teenagers need transportation.
- Aren't old enough to provide transportation for themselves.
- Alternative options can make people feel uncomfortable/unsafe.
- Biking and walking can be difficult.

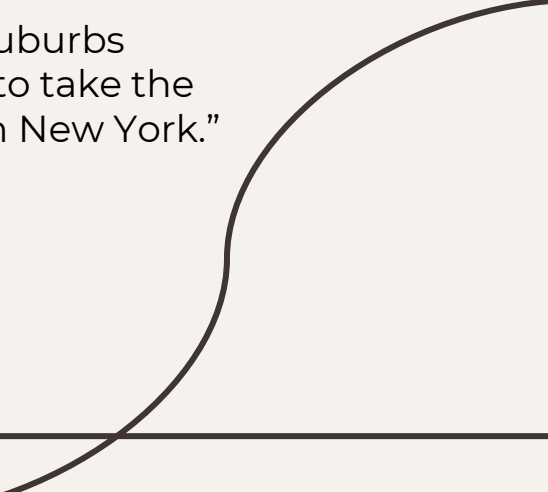
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# Quotes/Personal Experiences

“As a college student, transportation is difficult because I have to find a bus that fits my schedule and the bus route schedule.”

“With my age and the social activities going around at my school, it’s made me have a higher need for access to transportation.”

“I would like to bike more, but the winter is very fierce. In the suburbs everything is spread-out, so biking is not efficient. I would like to take the bus but there are not as many stops, it is not like the subway in New York.”




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# Vision Statement

Our communities have safe environments for youth to freely access busing, bike routes, and sidewalks.

## **If this vision happens:**

- It will help youth explore more work and education opportunities.
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# Affordable Housing

## **Our issue:**

- The definition of housing affordability does not include all the expenses of affording a home.
- Some people need multigenerational housing. Others need chance to live on their own.
- Section 8 does not help enough people.

## **Issue/Value Importance:**

- Unaffordable housing hurts education opportunities.
  - Hard to find a way to move out and leave home.
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# Quotes/Personal Experiences

“Some of us want to move out, but this presents financial challenges. Some people want to move out to have a ‘college experience,’ but they will accumulate a lot of debt.”

“Every year housing goes up, however the pay rate doesn’t seem to go up, a 50 cent raise at work is not sufficient when your housing payment goes up 50 dollars.”




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# Vision Statement

To improve lives and strengthen communities to diversify and flourish for those in financial need.

## **If this vision happens:**

- Young people will be able to pursue education opportunities currently limited due to housing costs.
  - All families will have the housing that meets their needs.
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# Recommendations & Goals

## Goals

- Our region's neighborhood have regular and public transit in and out of them.
- We will build more sidewalks throughout the region.
- Diverse types of affordable housing are built across the region.

## Recommendations

- More bus stops for frequent usage.
  - Increase pedestrian transportation options, including more sidewalks.
  - Create a more accurate definition of affordable housing.
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