

2055 DMATS LRTP Community Survey Results Report

ECIA
7600 Commerce Park
Dubuque, IA 52002

June 16, 2026

Executive Summary

Purpose

This report presents the results of the Community Survey that was conducted by East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA) as part of the planning process for the 2055 Dubuque Metropolitan Area Study (DMATS) Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

To create a plan that accurately reflects the needs of the region, DMATS sought input from the people that live, work, or travel in the region with a survey. The survey's purpose was to gather public input to inform the 2055 DMATS LRTP.

Survey Methods

A 12-question online survey was created through the Survey Monkey platform, allowing participants to respond using their phone, tablet, or computer. The ECIA project website included a link to the Survey Monkey form along with instructions on how to complete it. The survey questionnaire included questions related to level of satisfaction with the operation and planning of the region's transportation system, quality of the transportation system's elements, priorities for future transportation investments, travel behavior, and demographic characteristics of respondents.

ECIA used various communications channels to publicize the survey including word of mouth, online, and local media. A media release and a project flyer with a QR code were distributed to area media, DMATS board and committee members, stakeholders, community partners, and the public. The survey also was marketed through email notifications, the project website, and Facebook posting of the flyer.

The Community Survey was opened on May 28, 2025 and closed on March 31, 2026. ECIA received 154 responses, but not all respondents answered every question. The report provides an overview of the survey methods used and the data collected followed by a summary of the survey responses.

Overall Takeaways

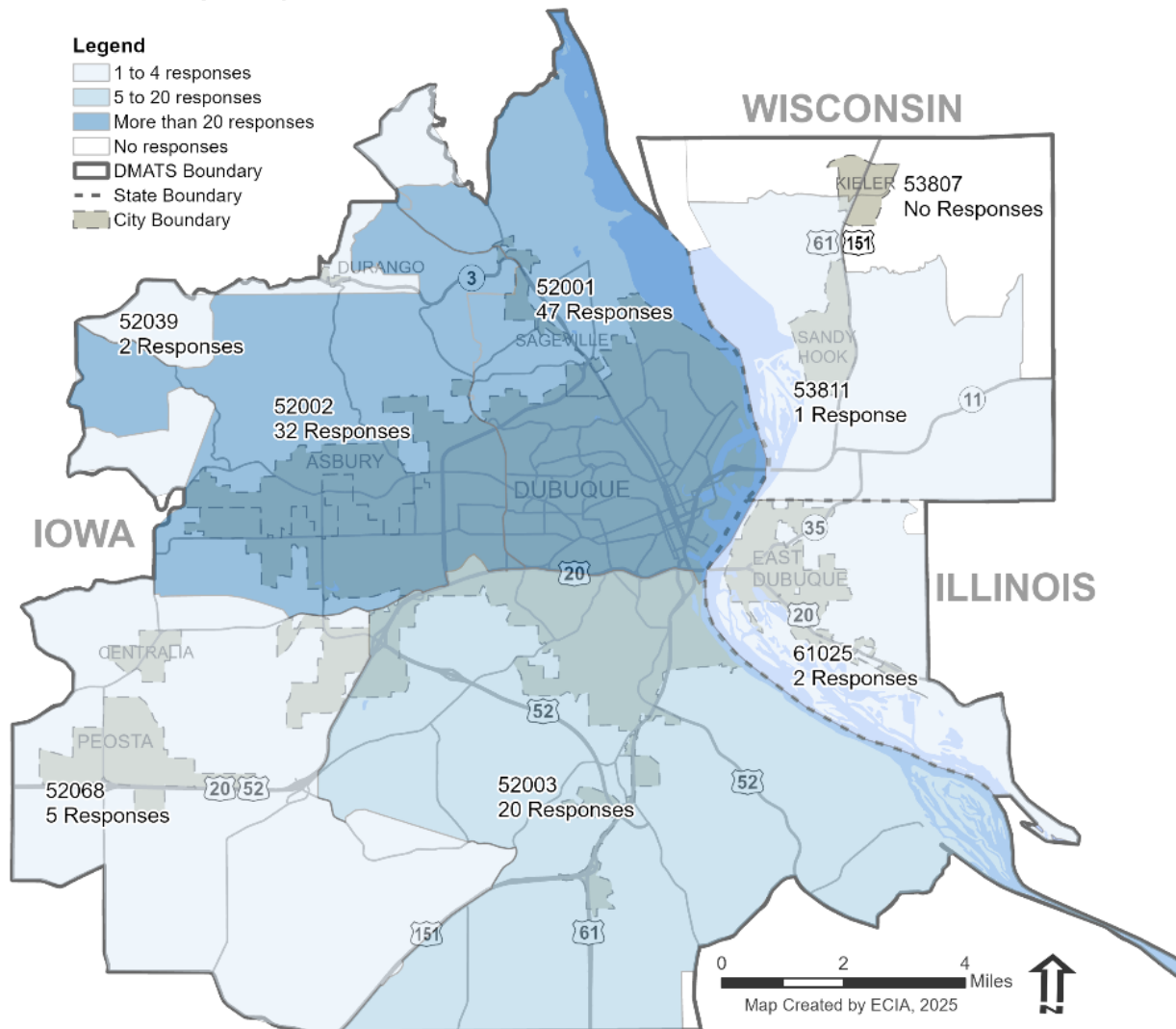
Key findings of the DMATS LRTP community survey results are summarized below.

- Residents generally feel safe and find road conditions acceptable, but see congestion, equity, and multimodal gaps as growing concerns.
- Strong interest in passenger rail and better walking/biking infrastructure, despite continued reliance on personal vehicles.
- Air service dissatisfaction stands out as one of the clearest weaknesses in the regional system.
- Future investments are expected to focus on maintaining existing infrastructure, improving safety, and reducing congestion, rather than expanding entirely new systems.

Of the 154 surveys received, 133 (86%) included a zip code for the respondent. About 56% of the 133 respondents who provided a zip code were from Dubuque zip codes 52001 and 52003. About 24% were from zip code 52002 which includes Asbury and Dubuque.

The map shows the distribution of respondents by zip code within the DMATS boundary. Survey respondents from outside the DMATS boundary resided in communities in Dubuque and Jackson Counties in Iowa and Grant County, Wisconsin.

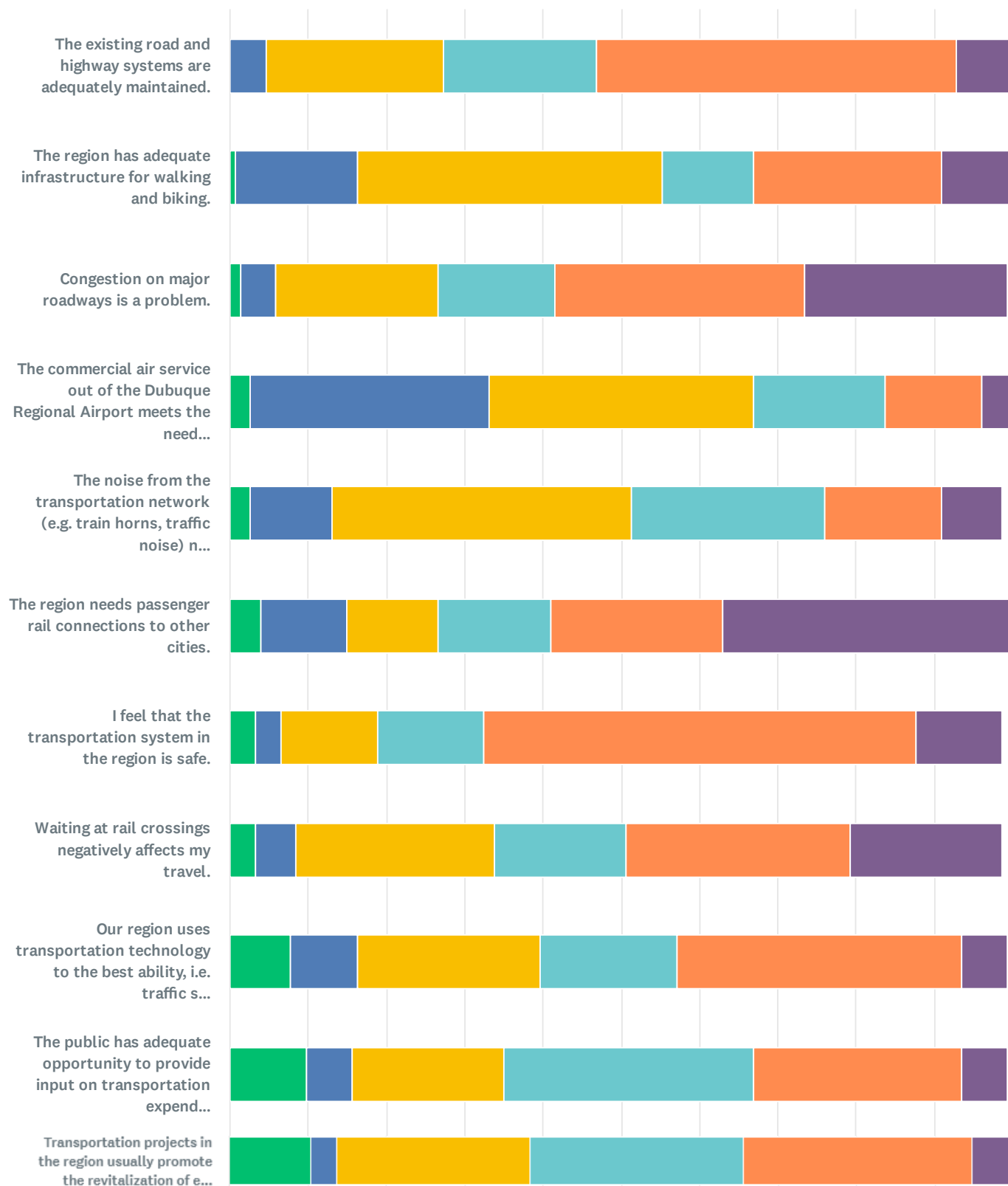
DMATS Survey Responses

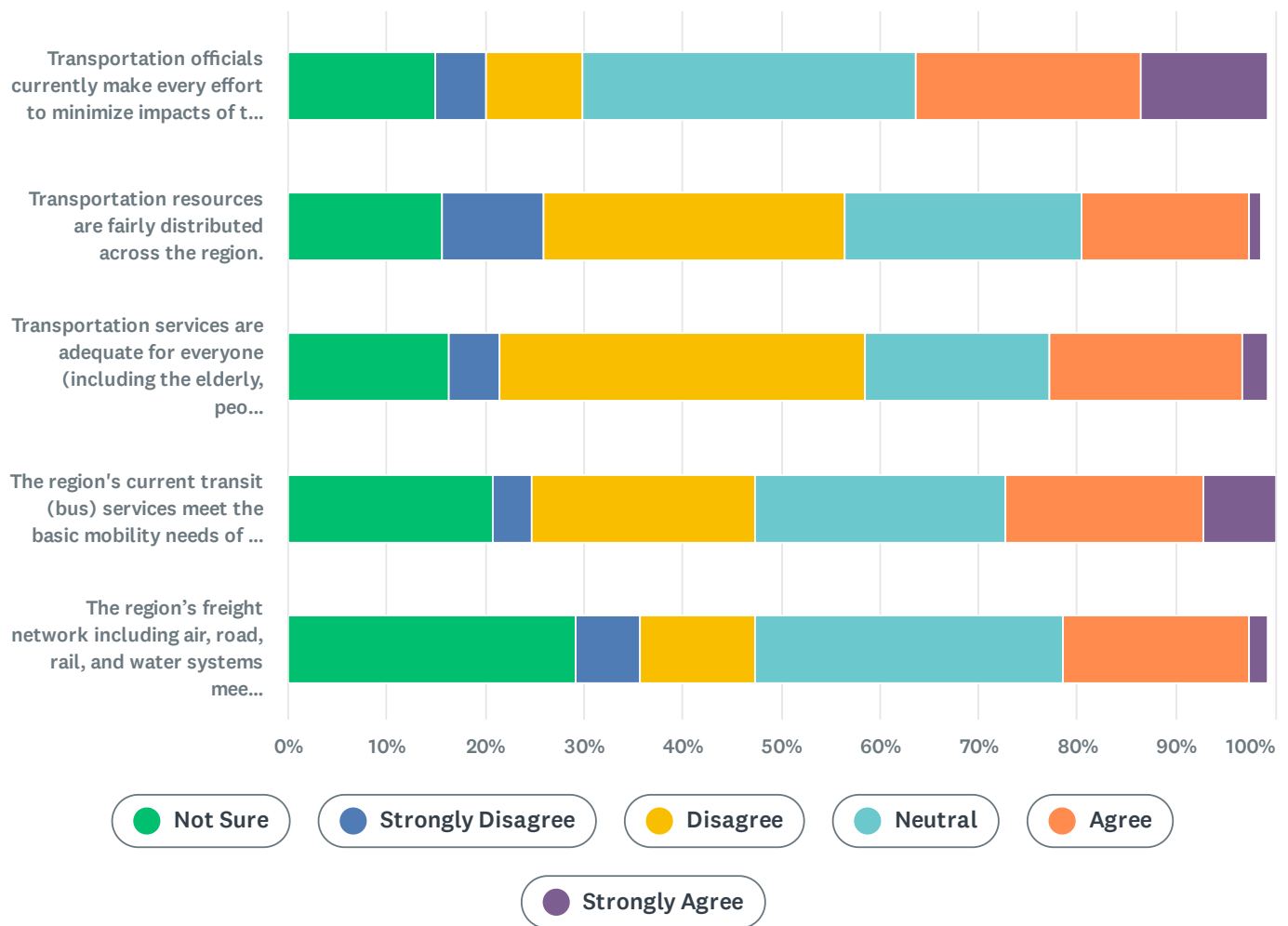


DMATS LRTP Survey: Map of Survey Responses by Zip Code Source: ECIA

Q1 154 responses

Existing Conditions These statements relate to your satisfaction with the operation and planning of the region's transportation system. Please mark (x) the column that best describes your opinion.





	Not Sure	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
The existing road and highway systems are adequately maintained.	0% 0	4.55% 7	22.73% 35	19.48% 30	46.10% 71	7.14% 11	154
The region has adequate infrastructure for walking and biking.	0.65% 1	15.58% 24	38.96% 60	11.69% 18	24.03% 37	9.09% 14	154
Congestion on major roadways is a problem.	1.30% 2	4.55% 7	20.78% 32	14.94% 23	31.82% 49	25.97% 40	153

2450

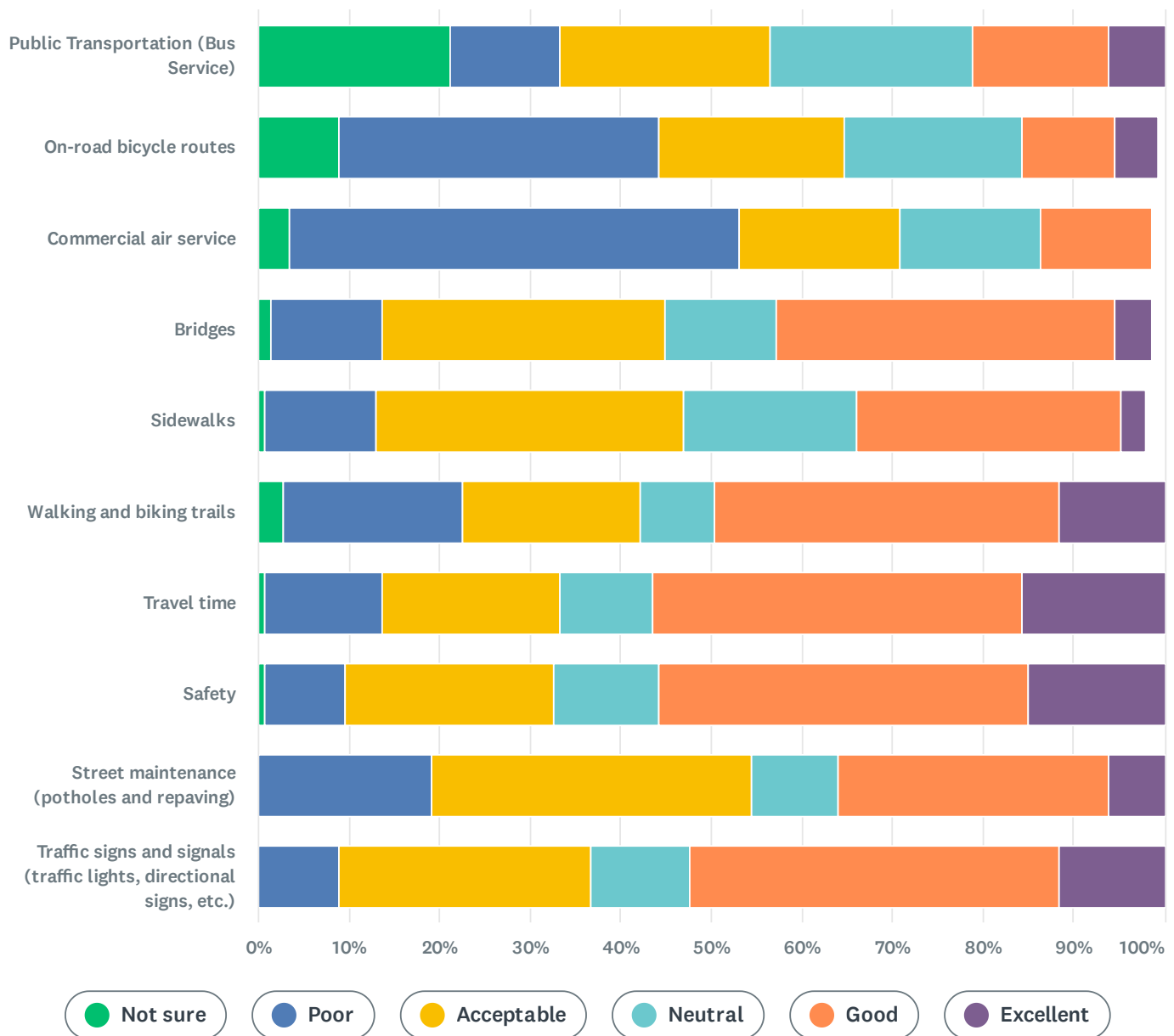
	 Not Sure	 Strongly Disagree	 Disagree	 Neutral	 Agree	 Strongly Agree	Total
The commercial air service out of the Dubuque Regional Airport meets the needs of the region.	2.60% 4	30.52% 47	33.77% 52	16.88% 26	12.34% 19	3.90% 6	154
The noise from the transportation network (e.g. train horns, traffic noise) negatively affects my quality of life	2.60% 4	10.39% 16	38.31% 59	24.68% 38	14.94% 23	7.79% 12	152
The region needs passenger rail connections to other cities.	3.90% 6	11.04% 17	11.69% 18	14.29% 22	22.08% 34	37.01% 57	154
I feel that the transportation system in the region is safe.	3.25% 5	3.25% 5	12.34% 19	13.64% 21	55.19% 85	11.04% 17	152
Waiting at rail crossings negatively affects my travel.	3.25% 5	5.19% 8	25.32% 39	16.88% 26	28.57% 44	19.48% 30	152
Our region uses transportation technology to the best ability, i.e. traffic signal coordination and electronic message boards.	7.79% 12	8.44% 13	23.38% 36	17.53% 27	36.36% 56	5.84% 9	153
The public has adequate opportunity to provide input on transportation expenditures.	9.74% 15	5.84% 9	19.48% 30	31.82% 49	26.62% 41	5.84% 9	153
Transportation projects in the region usually promote the revitalization of existing neighborhoods.	10.39% 16	3.25% 5	24.68% 38	27.27% 42	29.22% 45	5.19% 8	154
Transportation officials currently make every effort to minimize impacts of the transportation system on air and water quality, natural areas, and wildlife habitat.	14.94% 23	5.19% 8	9.74% 15	33.77% 52	22.73% 35	12.99% 20	153

2450

	 Not Sure	 Strongly Disagree	 Disagree	 Neutral	 Agree	 Strongly Agree	Total
Transportation resources are fairly distributed across the region.	15.58% 24	10.39% 16	30.52% 47	24.03% 37	16.88% 26	1.30% 2	152
Transportation services are adequate for everyone (including the elderly, people with disabilities, children, and people who don't own a car).	16.23% 25	5.19% 8	37.01% 57	18.83% 29	19.48% 30	2.60% 4	153
The region's current transit (bus) services meet the basic mobility needs of most residents.	20.78% 32	3.90% 6	22.73% 35	25.32% 39	20.13% 31	7.14% 11	154
The region's freight network including air, road, rail, and water systems meets the needs of local businesses.	29.22% 45	6.49% 10	11.69% 18	31.17% 48	18.83% 29	1.95% 3	153
							2450

Q2 147 responses

System Quality Please think for a moment about the quality of the transportation system in the region. Indicate your level of satisfaction with each of the system elements listed below. Please mark the column that best describes your opinion.



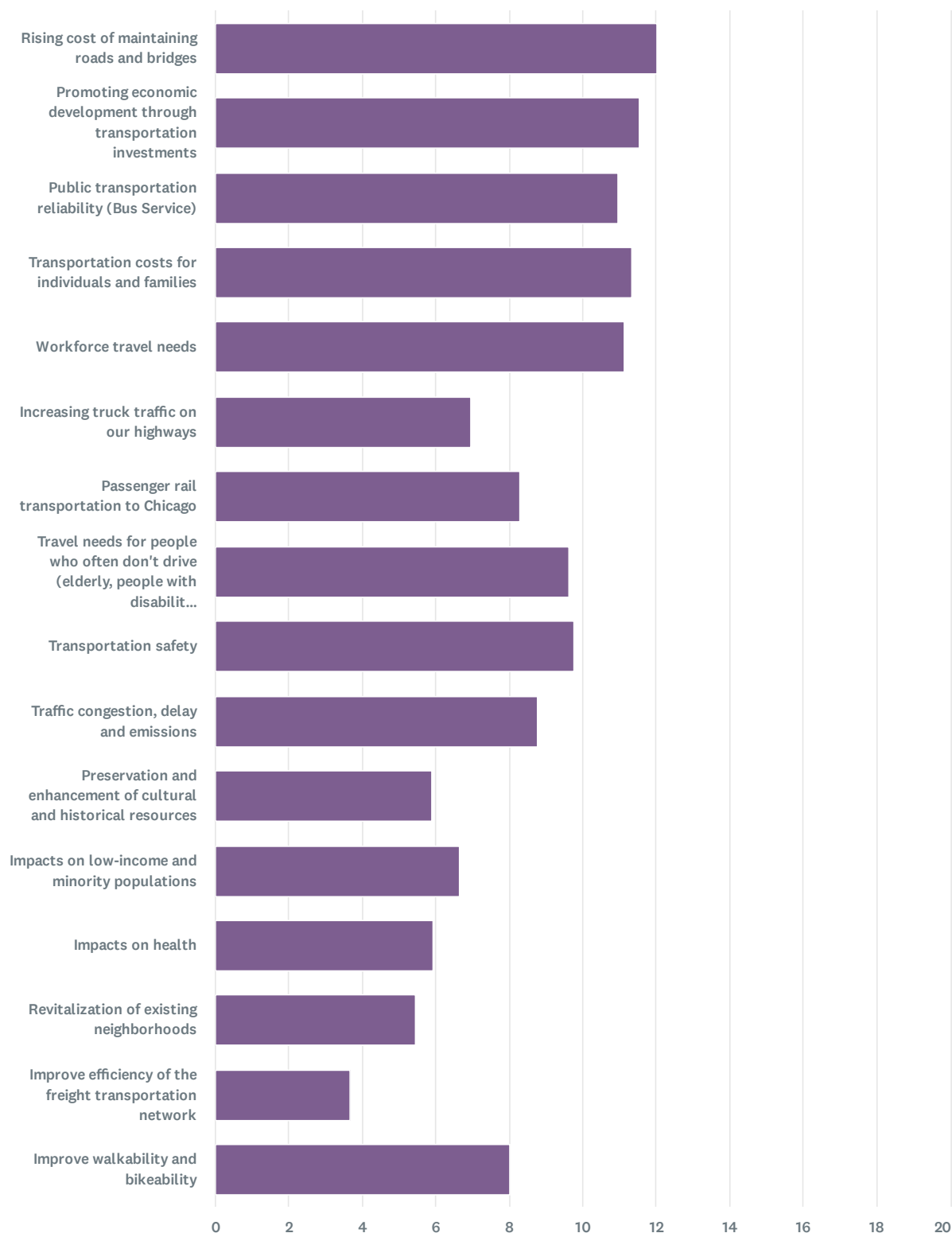
	Not sure	Poor	Acceptable	Neutral	Good	Excellent	Total
Public Transportation (Bus Service)	21.09% 31	12.24% 18	23.13% 34	22.45% 33	14.97% 22	6.12% 9	147

1462

	 Not sure	 Poor	 Acceptable	 Neutral	 Good	 Excellent	Total
On-road bicycle routes	8.84% 13	35.37% 52	20.41% 30	19.73% 29	10.20% 15	4.76% 7	146
Commercial air service	3.40% 5	49.66% 73	17.69% 26	15.65% 23	12.24% 18	0% 0	145
Bridges	1.36% 2	12.24% 18	31.29% 46	12.24% 18	37.41% 55	4.08% 6	145
Sidewalks	0.68% 1	12.24% 18	34.01% 50	19.05% 28	29.25% 43	2.72% 4	144
Walking and biking trails	2.72% 4	19.73% 29	19.73% 29	8.16% 12	38.10% 56	11.56% 17	147
Travel time	0.68% 1	12.93% 19	19.73% 29	10.20% 15	40.82% 60	15.65% 23	147
Safety	0.68% 1	8.84% 13	23.13% 34	11.56% 17	40.82% 60	14.97% 22	147
Street maintenance (potholes and repaving)	0% 0	19.05% 28	35.37% 52	9.52% 14	29.93% 44	6.12% 9	147
Traffic signs and signals (traffic lights, directional signs, etc.)	0% 0	8.84% 13	27.89% 41	10.88% 16	40.82% 60	11.56% 17	147
							1462

Q3 139 responses

Future Issues Which of the following considerations would you want your elected representatives to give most weight to when choosing transportation projects to fund? Rank each issue by its importance. 1 = Most important to consider, 16 = Least important to consider.





	 1	 2	 3	 4	 5	 6	 7	 8	 9
Improve walkability and bikeability	10.79% 15	8.63% 12	10.07% 14	2.16% 3	5.04% 7	2.16% 3	3.60% 5	3.60% 5	3.60% 5
Improve efficiency of the freight transportation network	1.44% 2	2.16% 3	0% 0	2.16% 3	0.72% 1	1.44% 2	0% 0	3.60% 5	4.32% 6
Revitalization of existing neighborhoods	2.88% 4	0.72% 1	0% 0	2.88% 4	2.88% 4	2.88% 4	5.76% 8	2.88% 4	5.04% 7
Impacts on health	1.44% 2	2.16% 3	2.16% 3	3.60% 5	1.44% 2	2.16% 3	5.04% 7	3.60% 5	2.16% 3
Impacts on low-income and minority populations	0.72% 1	5.04% 7	2.88% 4	3.60% 5	3.60% 5	3.60% 5	3.60% 5	3.60% 5	6.47% 9
Preservation and enhancement of cultural and historical resources	0.72% 1	0.72% 1	0.72% 1	1.44% 2	2.88% 4	2.16% 3	3.60% 5	4.32% 6	4.32% 6
Traffic congestion, delay and emissions	10.79% 15	5.04% 7	3.60% 5	4.32% 6	3.60% 5	5.04% 7	6.47% 9	5.04% 7	8.63% 12
Transportation safety	12.23% 17	4.32% 6	4.32% 6	4.32% 6	9.35% 13	5.76% 8	5.76% 8	6.47% 9	15.11% 21

	 1	 2	 3	 4	 5	 6	 7	 8	 9
Travel needs for people who often don't drive (elderly, people with disabilities, children, etc.)	3.60% 5	7.19% 10	5.76% 8	5.76% 8	3.60% 5	7.19% 10	12.23% 17	15.83% 22	13.67% 19
Passenger rail transportation to Chicago	9.35% 13	7.19% 10	5.76% 8	4.32% 6	5.04% 7	6.47% 9	10.79% 15	5.76% 8	5.76% 8
Increasing truck traffic on our highways	0.72% 1	1.44% 2	5.04% 7	4.32% 6	2.16% 3	12.95% 18	6.47% 9	7.91% 11	7.19% 10
Workforce travel needs	3.60% 5	7.91% 11	8.63% 12	12.23% 17	17.99% 25	12.95% 18	12.23% 17	7.91% 11	6.47% 9
Transportation costs for individuals and families	2.88% 4	5.04% 7	16.55% 23	16.55% 23	15.11% 21	10.07% 14	7.19% 10	10.07% 14	5.04% 7
Public transportation reliability (Bus Service)	5.76% 8	8.63% 12	15.83% 22	15.11% 21	9.35% 13	7.19% 10	5.76% 8	7.19% 10	5.76% 8
Promoting economic development through transportation investments	12.23% 17	16.55% 23	8.63% 12	8.63% 12	8.63% 12	12.23% 17	5.76% 8	9.35% 13	2.16% 3
Rising cost of maintaining roads and bridges	20.86% 29	17.27% 24	10.07% 14	8.63% 12	8.63% 12	5.76% 8	5.76% 8	2.88% 4	4.32% 6

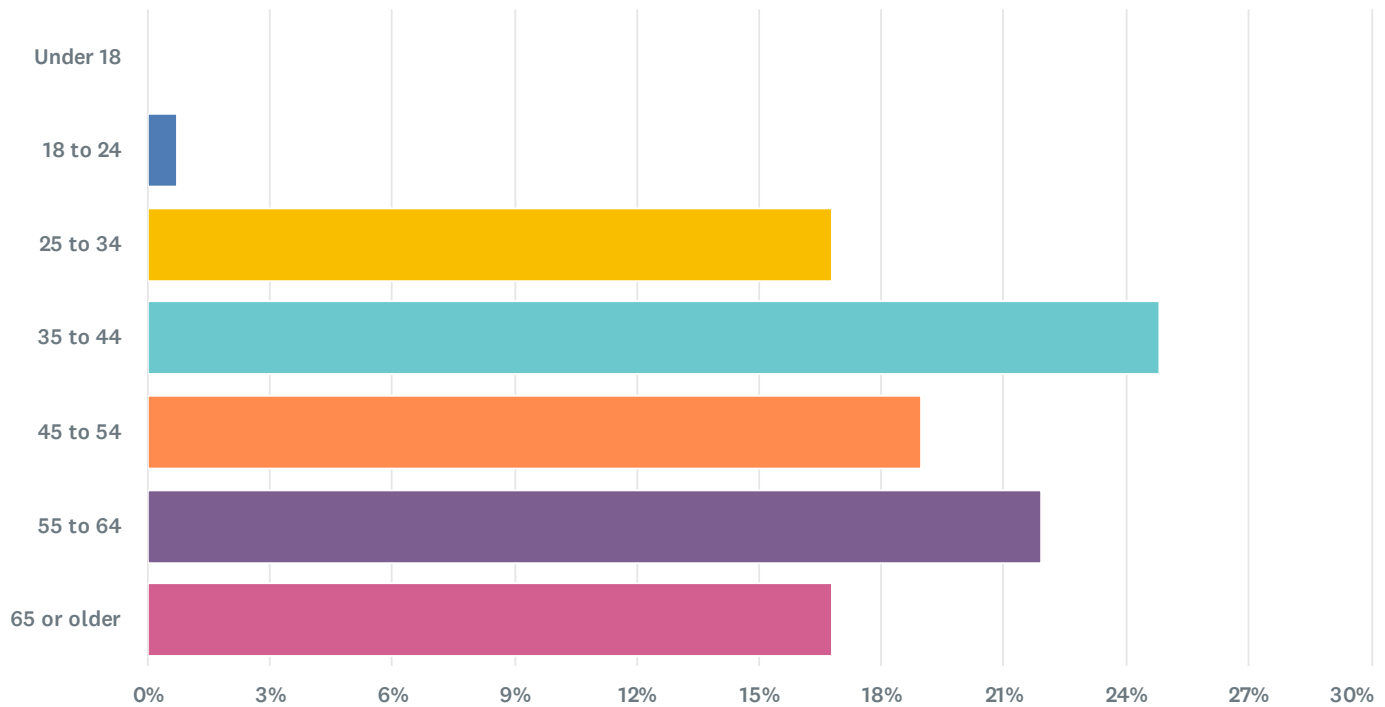
Q4 Home Zip Code

Answered: 133 Skipped: 22

Zip Code	Count
52001	52
52002	32
52003	21
52068	5
52031	4
52045	3
52039	2
52040	2
52073	2
61025	2
25045	1
50021	1
52054	1
52060	1
52079	1
53811	1
53812	1
68516	1
Grand Total	133

Q5 137 responses

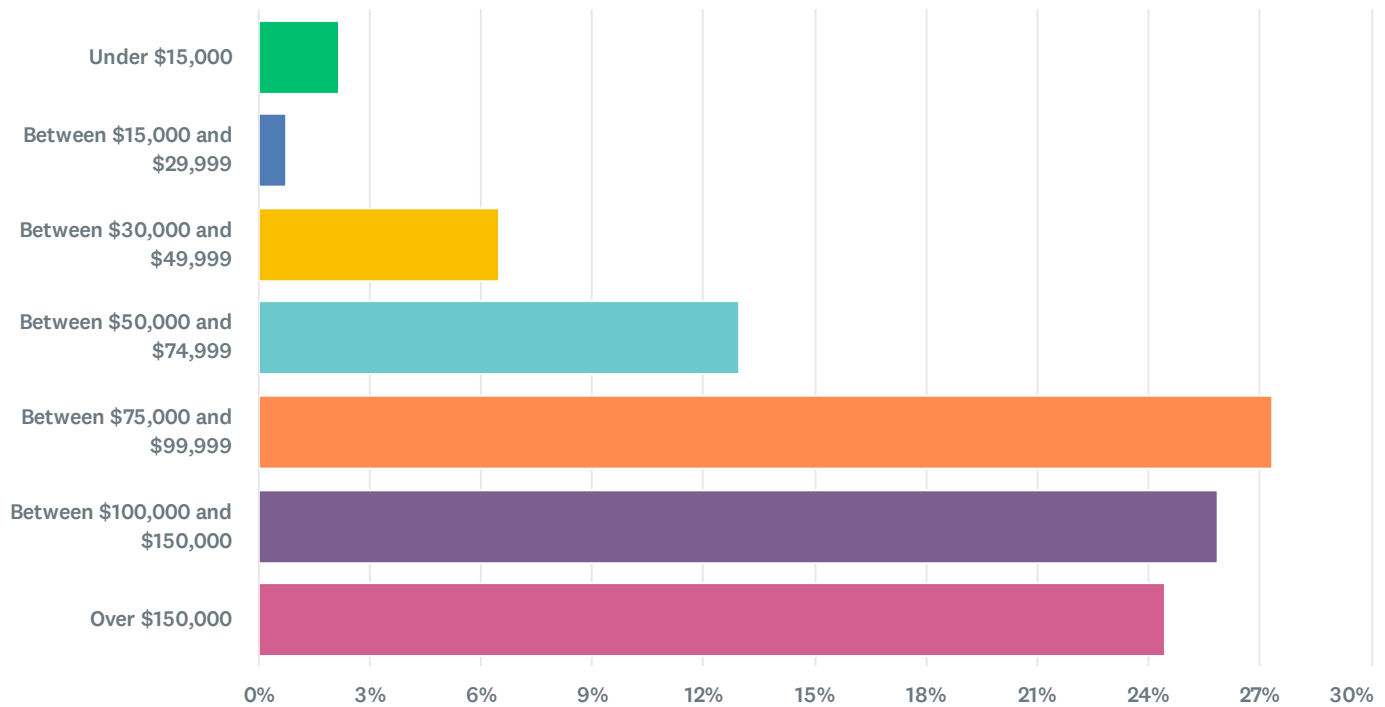
Which of the following categories includes your age?



Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● Under 18	0%	0
● 18 to 24	0.73%	1
● 25 to 34	16.79%	23
● 35 to 44	24.82%	34
● 45 to 54	18.98%	26
● 55 to 64	21.90%	30
● 65 or older	16.79%	23
Total		137

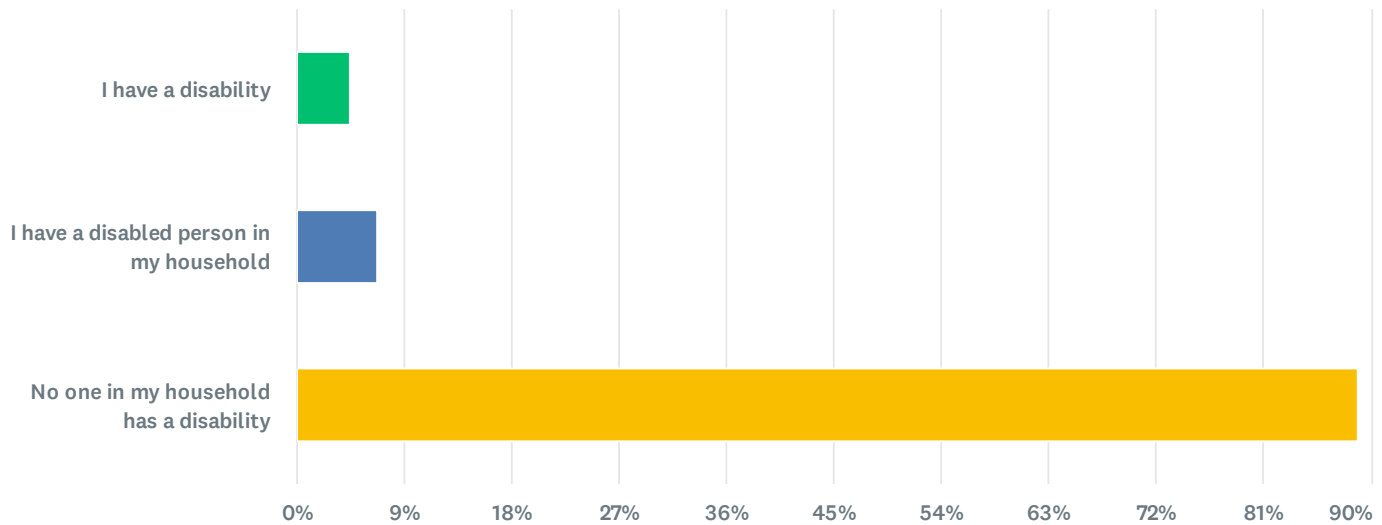
Q6 139 responses

Which of the following categories includes your household income?



Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● Under \$15,000	2.16%	3
● Between \$15,000 and \$29,999	0.72%	1
● Between \$30,000 and \$49,999	6.47%	9
● Between \$50,000 and \$74,999	12.95%	18
● Between \$75,000 and \$99,999	27.34%	38
● Between \$100,000 and \$150,000	25.90%	36
● Over \$150,000	24.46%	34
Total		139

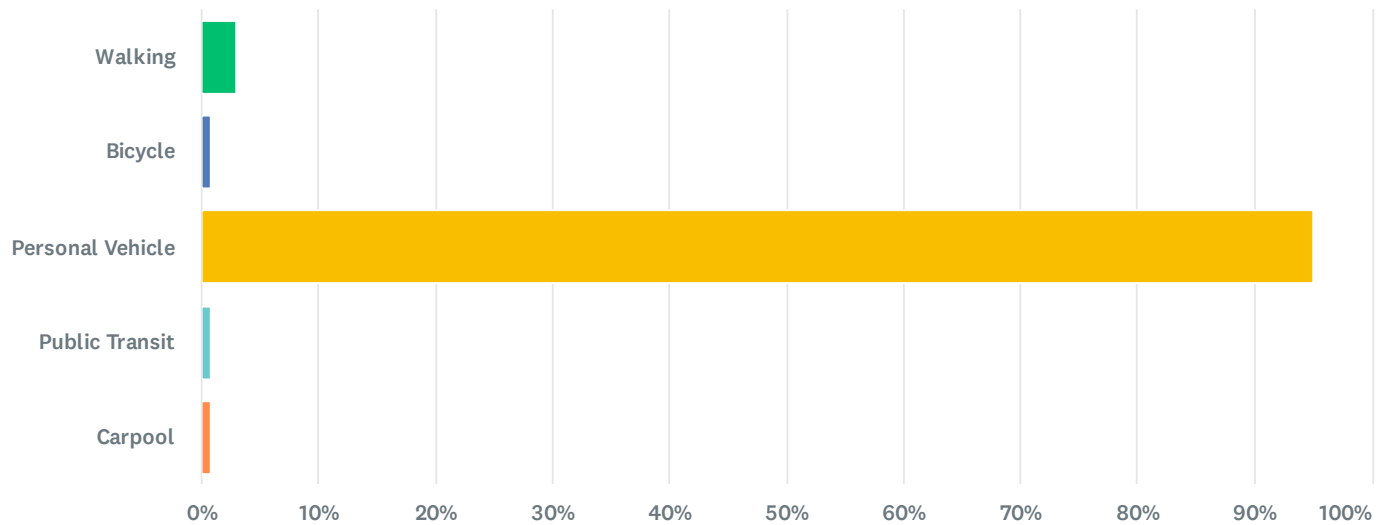
Q7 135 responses

Do you have a disability that affects your transportation choices?

Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
I have a disability	4.44%	6
I have a disabled person in my household	6.67%	9
No one in my household has a disability	88.89%	120
Total		135

Q8 139 responses

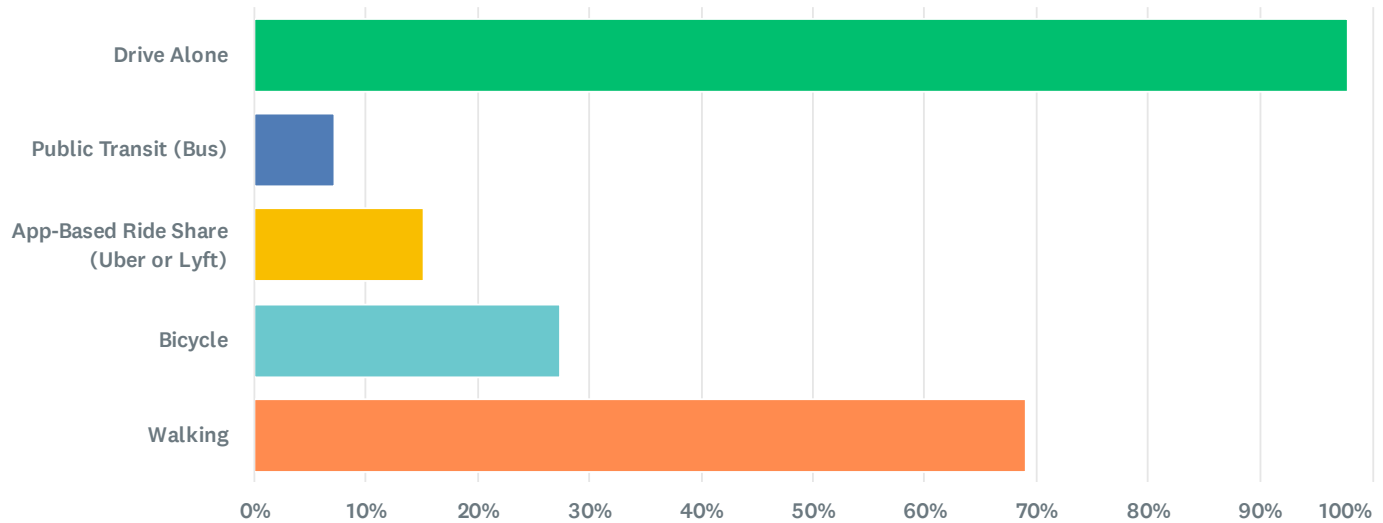
What is your primary mode of transportation?



Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● Walking	2.88%	4
● Bicycle	0.72%	1
● Personal Vehicle	94.96%	132
● Public Transit	0.72%	1
● Carpool	0.72%	1
Total		139

Q9 139 responses

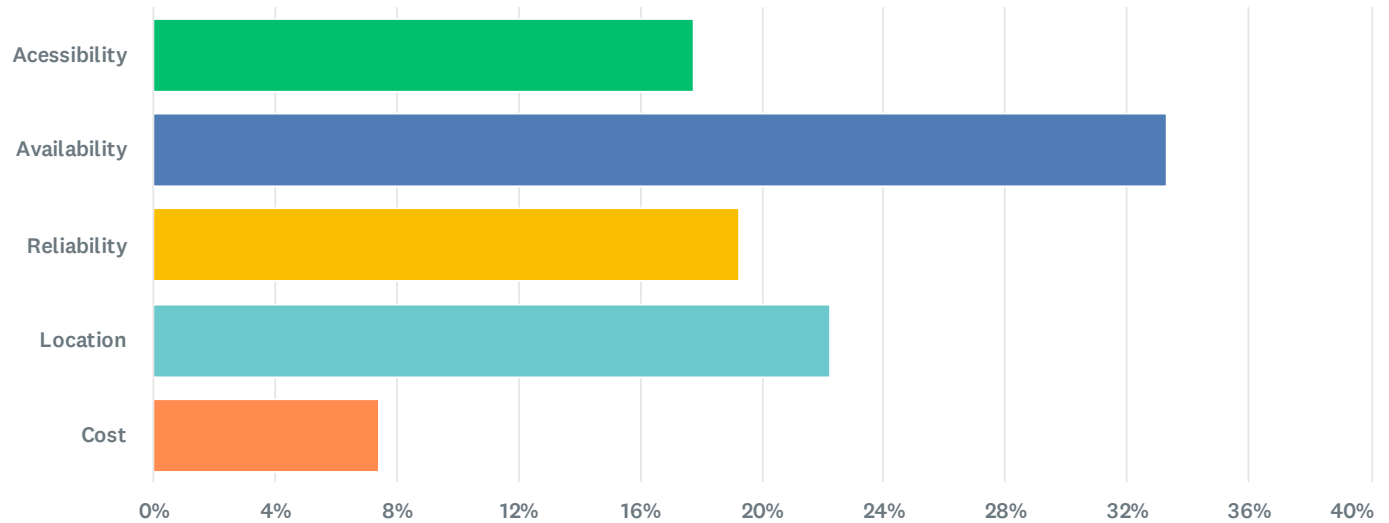
**Which of the following modes of transportation have you used in the past month?
(mark all that apply)**



Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● Drive Alone	97.84%	136
● Public Transit (Bus)	7.19%	10
● App-Based Ride Share (Uber or Lyft)	15.11%	21
● Bicycle	27.34%	38
● Walking	69.06%	96
Total		301

Q10 135 responses

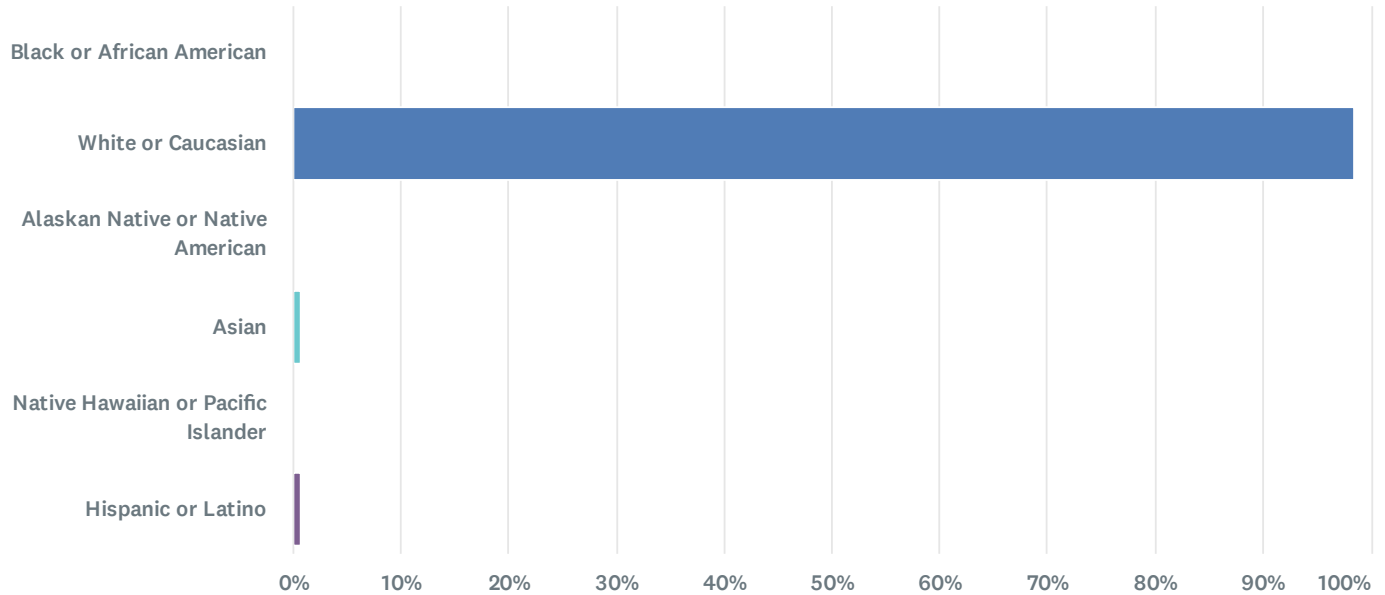
What is the most important factor in choosing your primary mode of transportation?



Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● Accessibility	17.78%	24
● Availability	33.33%	45
● Reliability	19.26%	26
● Location	22.22%	30
● Cost	7.41%	10
Total		135

Q11 136 responses

Which of the following categories best identifies your race?



Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● Black or African American	0%	0
● White or Caucasian	98.53%	134
● Alaskan Native or Native American	0%	0
● Asian	0.74%	1
● Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0%	0
● Hispanic or Latino	0.74%	1
Total		136

Q12 Please provide any additional comments below.

Answered: 51 Skipped: 104

- A bike lane that is not protected is just paint on the ground.
- At some point the Iowa Illinois bridge must become a priority
- Both adults in my household commute from Kieler to work in Dubuque, and the situation with the WI bridge this summer has been extremely frustrating. It is especially difficult to get to my place of employment downtown, as the 9th Street exit is closed, Kerper Blvd going south is down to one lane, and the Dodge Street crossing at First Street is always backed up and dangerous during commute times. The commute to get about 30 miles further north/east into WI would be faster and less stressful than the 8 mile commute into downtown Dubuque. Getting back on to the bridge at 9th, 11th, or even 16th street is also a frustration when there are frequent train interruptions. It sometimes feels like you're trapped. This should be considered an economic development concern for the DMA.
- City buses waste tax dollars
- design and create transportation that reduces our dependency on automobiles and parking them. This will improve air quality, health, decrease costs and maintenance, improve neighborhoods and reduce dependency of fossil fuels
- East West corridor widening. options to Dodge Street. Asbury, Pennsylvania need to be 4 lanes with turning. Dodge to 3 lanes. interchange improvements to Thunder Hills/US20 & Skyline/Monastery US 151.
- Elderly who shouldn't be driving need more available options at lower costs.
- Fix your damn stop lights! Traffic is terrible anytime of day now. Put in frontage roads and get rid of some stop lights.
- Hwy 20/Dodge st is backed up alot Lights not even synchronized. Turning traffic lines cause backup issues
- I am a social worker and I have had many patients who are trying to dig themselves out of financial holes. The Jule not running past 6PM or on Sundays really negatively impacts them. One of my patients literally walks 5 miles to get to work.
- I choose my modes of transportation on two things. Cost and convenience. I weigh both of those options. I tend to you public transit in major cities because it is more convenient and cost less. Here in Dubuque, I can park for free and arrive at my destination in my personal vehicle.
- I recognize the city is working hard to expand air service to the region. I know it will take time to catch on and expand. I support continued investment into this because reliable, flexible, air service will be such a huge benefit to our area if we want to be competitive economically and keep growth coming to the Dubuque area. I support rail service to Chicago as it provides additional options for recreation, but also may make for an interesting option for professionals that don't mind a commute to the area. I don't know what the budget is for this project, but I have some ideas. * Trolley type service from Aquarium/Casino/Convention Center down to town clock plaza. Not a light rail system but a consistent trolley that can let people park away from Main Street (if they wish), and enjoy time in the city day or night without having to move their car around. This could be a cool convenience for locals and tourists alike but also has an opportunity to bring some additional charm to the town almost akin to the New Orleans cable cars but with a modern twist. *Find ways for traffic to be able to dodge the train. Create an overpass/underpass on at least one artery to the highway, maybe on 5th and/or 16th st. *with the airport, consider offering shuttle service to CID or MSN if needed while we work to expand additional flight offerings at DBQ * Highway 20 needs to be adjusted for the future growth of the region. Are there ways to utilize under/over passes that minimize stop/go traffic during rush hour. Look at the Bangerter highway and Mountain View Highway project in Utah as an example. Can we do that here on a smaller scale? I dont underestimate the need and costs of maintaining existing roads and ensuring the basic needs of our local residents are met, particularly those that may not have accessibility to their own transportation. I would love to be more involved with this or other city planning ventures.
- I think in order to secure a sustainable future for Dubuque, we need to establish sufficient non-car transportation to Dubuque from other major cities, and sufficient non-car transportation within Dubuque and its neighbors

Appendix A

- I would consider taking the bus, but it doesn't go anywhere near my home, and it doesn't go anywhere near where my children need to be.
- I would love to see HWY 20 through Dubuque completely revamped to eliminate most of if not all stop lights along the route. Something similar to what Madison did along HWY 151 just south of the Beltline. This would be a huge undertaking, but overall would improve the safety and efficiency of traveling through Dubuque.
- Is it time to start elevating either road or rail to stop the back up of traffic when a train is trying to loose cars in the train yard? More than usual as of late it seems like the roads are blocked for well over 20+ minutes.
- Let's put the complete streets plan into ACTION!
- Lower property taxes. I don't think it's fair that homeowners have to pay for everything.
- Maintaining and improving all roads to the point we are a model for the rest of the State Make Dubuque Region Airport the Best small airport in the Region find a way to provide additional air services
- Make Dubuque more bike-travel friendly. Train to Chicago!
- More biking throughout town would be awesome. Dubuque airport is fine, but a regular bus to O'Hare or cedar rapids would probably be something I'd opt over Dubuque airport
- Nothing will change with the current regime at the wheel sad but true
- One of the biggest problems with our local transportation is the bus system. It takes almost an hour to get anywhere and it does the last run at 6:30 so if you work a normal 9-5 you can't get anywhere after work. Our downtown area is a food dessert making it almost impossible to get actual groceries on a week day. On sundays the bus doesn't even run. And on Saturday it alternates routes all day making it even harder to utilize and longer to go anywhere.
- Passenger Rail is by far and away much more cost effective and user friendly than either car or airline. If the investments in air service were made on rail service (particularly if a friendly rail system owner would be used), the sparse air service at unreasonable costs would not be necessary, leaving more opportunity for the University to expand its aeronautical program.
- Please ask for public input more often. When people see their ideas come to fruition it gives them a sense of home and being part of the community. They will stay.
- Please continue to pursue new bike lanes. The 9th avenue test-run clearly doesn't work because it doesn't connect any neighborhoods to downtown, so there's no safe way to people to get to the bike lane. I live on the west end of town and love to ride my bike. The issue is my trips downtown to work I have to add 2-3 miles onto my trips one-way because I don't feel safe riding on the streets in town. Because of that I instead choose to ride the NW Arterial and Heritage Trails down. I have also heard that from multiple people as reasons why they don't ride their bike in town. Increasing bike usage will reduce car travel, therefore reducing the traffic on roads. I wonder honestly prefer rail transportation between Dubuque and Chicago, rather than relying on flights. Rail transportation between Dubuque and Chicago would be absolutely fantastic. Increasing bus frequency would help with reliability, and I would be more willing to give it another go. 30+ minute frequencies at a stop are not viable, especially during the summer and winter.
- PLEASE make the bus system in Dubuque free at time of use!
- Portions of US 20 near Peosta are very noisy, and some portions are not. It is due to the type of road surface. I wish it were not noisy.
- Roosevelt Street is unsafe for all transportation options.
- Semi traffic in residential areas is unacceptable
- Stop the woke and DEI bullshit replace current city leaders
- Thank you for allowing input, and for your hard work.
- Thank you for asking for the community's opinion on this topic. Please be sure to open all surveys to ordinary people, beyond just TH subscribers and businesspeople.
- Thank you!
- Thank you.
- The area needs a new Mississippi River bridge crossing on the south side of Dubuque so traffic can come off the SW Arterial or 151 and bypass Dubuque and East Dubuque and connect to US 20 in Illinois on the southeast side of East Dubuque.
- The bus system needs to encompass the City of Asbury
- The survey item for prioritizing issues had too many issues to be manageable
- The switch from destination flights to a hub flight to Chicago was the right move. I would love to see Minneapolis and Denver also added as hub destinations out of the Dubuque airport.

Appendix A

- The traffic from East to West and West to East is awful. There is only one two lane road to get to each end without having to drive way out of the way to go on hwy 52 southwest arterial. Highway 20 should be expanded to 3 lanes!! Also Grandview between Kane and 32nd is awful! Needs to be resurfaced
- The traffic in this town continues to get worse. It seems there is no consideration given to the people that commute to and from the surrounding areas everyday. Having insufficient railroad crossings while allowing increased train traffic seems very short sighted. This is worsened when the state closes one down to work on the highway. Makes my commute to Kerper everyday really frustrating.
- The trail around Bergfeld Pond is littered with geese poop. One of them hissed at me when I was walking around them because they had taken over the sidewalk after work on 5/28/25. I didn't know geese could hiss!
- There needs to be a quiet zone at Mud Lake Park for the homes and the campers, there should also be crossing arms at the tracks
- This tweet lives rent free in my head and I liken it to active transportation: A tricky thing about modern society is that no one has any idea when they don't die. Like, the number of people saved by controlling air pollution in America is probably over 200K/Year but the number of people who think their life was saved by controlling air pollution is zero.
- Too many people speeding on roads and no enforcement.
- Transportation is a very complex thing that most citizens don't realize the extensive cost of. There is so much more to transportation and 'fixing roads' than the public realizes. Being a government employee, it gives me some additional insight as to how difficult everything is to maintain and fund, especially considering the stop on federal funding for a lot of projects. Grants aren't 'free' money. Make sure the public knows that first-hand. Thank you!
- Uncontrolled spending of taxes results in population relocation, learn from Illinois
- Vehicle speeds are getting out of hand. Some people follow the speed limits and others excessively speed. Along with people running stop lights safety is a major concern. If people would follow the traffic lights and posted speeds everything would move along more smoothly. I would be all for speed/traffic cameras that are able to issue tickets. It would free up law

DMATS LRTP Survey Results Report

enforcement for other issues since they are short staffed. The fines would be another revenue stream that could be utilized to help maintain the roads and bridges in the area.

- We need a passenger rail connection to Chicago. Also need convenient airline connection maintained to Chicago. Would also like to see airline service to Denver or Dallas.
- We need more over passes. Over Pass over the stopped trains. Over pass over Central/White.
- We need rail service in the area. Please.