



2016 MnDOT Public Opinion Survey Executive Summary

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2016 Public Opinion Survey

Executive Summary (Part 1)

Survey Overview

- MnDOT conducted a public opinion survey in July-August 2017 among a convenience sample of people signed up for MnDOT's Gov Delivery list.
 - Because it is a convenience sample, the sample is not representative of the Minnesota population at large.
 - Therefore, comparisons to previous MnDOT surveys are not appropriate and statistical significance tests are not reported.
- Survey question topics included road maintenance, traffic and construction, zipper merging, bicycle and pedestrian safety, modes of transportation, transit, aviation, environment, communications, and public engagement.
- 195 people completed the survey out of a possible total of 655, for a 30% response rate.
 - 55% of respondents are from Greater Minnesota; 45% of respondents are from the 8-county metro area.

Executive Summary (Part 2)

Summary of Findings

- Maintenance
 - A majority of respondents rate the overall quality of Minnesota's state highways and bridges above average.
 - Respondents give MnDOT the highest scores on “Clearing roads of snow and ice” and “Making highway signs clearly readable” and the lowest scores on “Keeping road surfaces smooth and comfortable.”
- Traffic and Construction
 - 35% of respondents felt construction caused a lot or extreme disruption.
 - Traffic disruption due to construction is more prevalent in the metro area than in greater Minnesota.
 - Only 13% of respondents find the level of disruption unacceptable or completely unacceptable.
 - Respondents in the metro area find the level of disruption less acceptable than respondents in greater Minnesota.

Executive Summary (Part 3)

- Zipper Merging
 - 9 out 10 respondents indicate they know what zipper merging is.
 - 2 in 3 respondents believes zipper merging is somewhat to very effective but those who believe it is ineffective differ on why it is ineffective.
- Bike and Pedestrian
 - 51% of respondents walk on a monthly basis; 28% of respondents bike on a monthly basis.
 - A third of respondents believe their community is safe or very safe for walking.
 - Almost half of respondents believe their community is safe or very safe for bicycling.
- Modes of Transportation
 - Respondents' most frequently used mode of transportation is the car (alone or with others), followed by walking.
 - 9 out 10 respondents use the car to travel to and from places a few times per month or more.

Executive Summary (Part 4)

- Transit

- 51% of respondents are satisfied with the availability of public transit service, such as bus and light rail.
 - Respondents from the metro area are more satisfied with the availability of public transit service.
- Among those dissatisfied with the availability of public transit, the main cause of dissatisfaction stems from availability issues.

- Aviation

- Most respondents believe their local airport contributes a higher than average amount to their community's economic vitality, with a mean of 6.8 on a 10-point scale, with 10 indicating "a tremendous amount."
 - However, a majority of respondents thought of MSP international airport when answering this question. Among the 45 respondents who indicated they were thinking of a non-MSP airport, the mean was 6.9.
- 4 out of 5 respondents believe airline service is a safe or very safe mode of travel in Minnesota.
- 3 out of 4 respondents believe other types of aviation activity, such as cargo service and recreational or military aviation, are safe or very safe in Minnesota.

Executive Summary (Part 5)

- Environment

- Most respondents believe the Scenic Byways program contributes to their quality of life and provides opportunities for economic development in the state.
- A majority of respondents believe it is important or very important for MnDOT to improve pollinator habitat along state roads.
 - Respondents from the metro area are more likely to say it is important for MnDOT to improve pollinator habitat along state roads.
- Almost half of respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with the appearance of vegetation and landscaping along state roads.
 - Respondents from the metro area are more satisfied with the appearance of vegetation and landscaping along state roads than respondents in Greater Minnesota.

- Communications

- Traffic apps are the most popular method to learn about road and traffic conditions.
- 35% of respondents use MnDOT's 511 information sources at least a few times per month.
- 3 out of 4 respondents who use 511 indicate they frequently or always receive accurate information from 511.
- 3 out of 4 respondents who use 511 access 511 most often before traveling.

Executive Summary (Part 6)

- Public Engagement
 - Respondents are most likely to engage with MnDOT through agency emails they receive from MnDOT about projects or transportation topics.
 - 91% of respondents agree it is important for the public to be involved when MnDOT develops long-range plans.
 - Over 90% of respondents prefer to engage with MnDOT through online surveys or email updates.
 - When asked about one thing they would be sure to tell MnDOT's commissioner if they had a 15-minute meeting with him, the top three topics were:
 1. Roads (e.g., general requests/complaints, specific requests/complaints, maintenance/road quality)
 2. Public transit (both in opposition and support)
 3. Construction (e.g., signage/detours, timing)

Questions?

To request the full report, the survey questionnaire, or if you have other questions about this survey, please contact Renee Raduenz at renee.raduenz@state.mn.us or 651-366-4803.

Thank you!

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