

# Summary of Engagement

## **i** Introduction

In September and October of 2021, MnDOT hosted online engagement as an opportunity for the District 6 community and stakeholders to learn more about the project and provide feedback on the overall transportation system.

## How we asked for participation

We asked for community input and participation in a variety of ways.

### **ONLINE ENGAGEMENT:**

» An online engagement platform was available during this phase as a place for viewers to explore at their own pace and convenience, and provide comments via an online comment map or MetroQuest survey.

- **Visitors:** 385
- **Top Locations:** Austin, Albert Lea, Minneapolis, Red Wing, Rochester, Winona
- **Top traffic sources:** Facebook (mobile and desktop), the MnDOT website, and GovDelivery emails

### **DIRECT ENGAGEMENT:**

» Emails and phone calls to key stakeholders asked them to participate in our interviews and online engagement opportunities.

### **INTERVIEWS:**

» The project team facilitated nine stakeholder interviews with key freight stakeholders in the area:



## How we spread the word

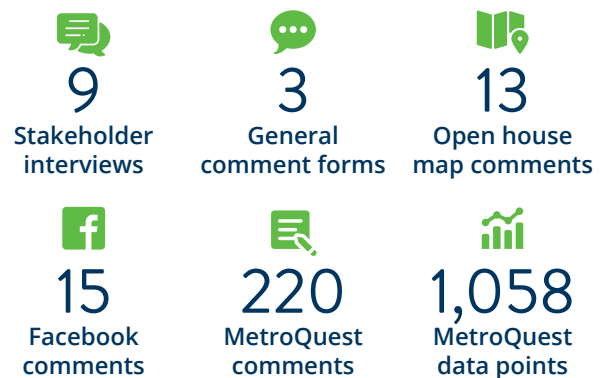
» Targeted social media ads ran on Facebook from September 13–27. They were seen and clicked on by people across the District.



- **Reach (amount of people who saw an ad):** 18,035
- **Impressions (times an ad was seen):** 51,472
- **Reactions (like, love, dislike):** 13
- **Comments:** 15
- **Post shares:** 18
- **Link clicks:** 379

- » Stakeholder emails
- » GovDelivery emails




## How we received input



Take a look at the **MetroQuest survey** data on the following pages.

# MetroQuest Survey Results

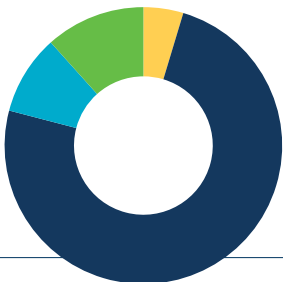
## Results snapshot

-  Total survey data points collected: **1,058**
-  Total comments received: **220+**
-  Total map feature locations added: **88**

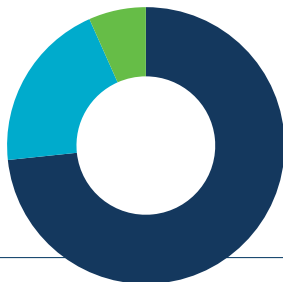
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SECTION 1: HOW DO YOU TRAVEL?</b>	<b>SECTION 2: WHICH CHALLENGES ARE MOST IMPORTANT?</b>	<b>SECTION 3: WHERE ARE THERE TRAVEL CHALLENGES?</b>
Checklist responses: 166 Category responses: 77 Comments: 59	Rankings: 280 Comments: 7	Map markers: 197 Comments: 2

## Participants overview

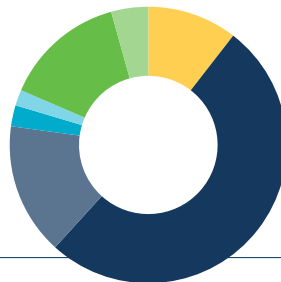
How did you hear about the survey?



Which category best describes you?



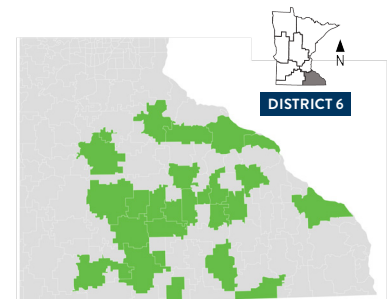
Which transportation modes do you use in the District?



### WHERE IN DISTRICT 6 DO YOU LIVE?

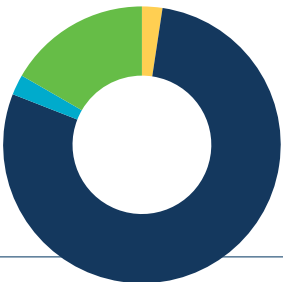
A goal of this survey was to understand transportation needs and ideas throughout District 6.

**Almost 30 different zip codes were represented.**  
See the distribution area highlighted in the map below:



 **The majority of responders said they heard about the survey from MnDOT social media!**

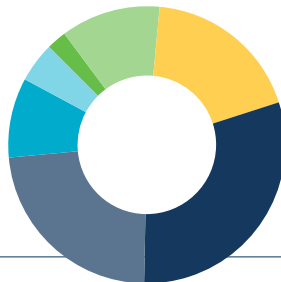
Which best describes your racial background?



Which best describes your gender?



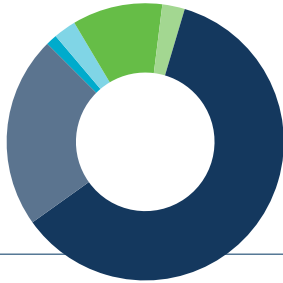
What is your age?



55009	55906	55940
55019	55909	55944
55021	55912	55963
55027	55917	55964
55041	55918	55975
55060	55920	55981
55344	55924	55987
55901	55927	56007
55904	55934	
55905	55939	

# Takeaways and Understanding

In your opinion, what needs the most improvements in the District's transportation system?



Aviation	1%
Bridges	3%
Pedestrian or Bicycle	10.5%
Railroads	2.5%
Roads	60.5%
Two or more listed	22%
Pipelines	0%

## Transportation system needs and improvements

### Key Themes:

- » **Roads** was selected as the top improvement area for the District's transportation system.
- » The next most-selected were *pedestrian and bicycle* and *bridges*.



*"Roads are in terrible need of passing lanes and shoulder/widening improvement. Many roads would benefit from being two lane or at least having regular passing lanes."*

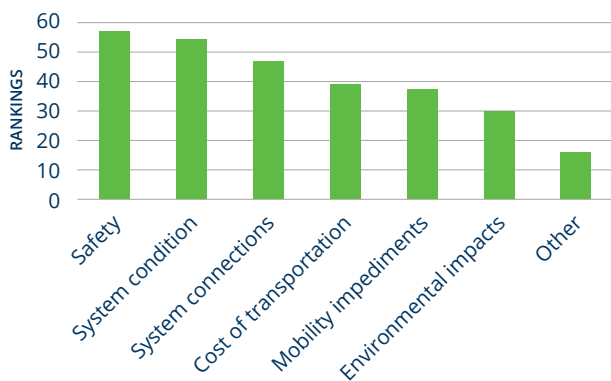
*"Rural roads are deteriorating, and the recent speed increases have made the questionable shoulders insufficient for **bicycle traffic**."*

*"Roads and bridges at not only state but county level. Way too many bridges are in bad shape and roads are falling apart"*

## District 6 system challenges

### Key Themes:

- » **Safety** was the top-rated challenge among all respondents, followed by *system conditions* and *impediments to mobility*.



Respondents that identified as Truck Driver/ Shipper/Manufacturer selected **Safety** and **System Condition** the most times.



*"Keep semi-trucks in right lane instead of taking two miles+ to pass someone bottlenecking traffic flow."*

## Comment map inputs



### Safety

*"Traffic volumes at intersection of TH3/2nd Avenue NW are increasing and intersection traffic control may need to be reviewed."*

### Poor Condition

*"US Highway 63 is in terrible shape from Rochester to Lake City in many places! Too much patchwork, dips, bumps, and poor shoulders on that stretch."*

### Mobility impediment

*"Hwy 63 and 61 intersection—turning movements for trucks is too tight and requires other vehicles to move out of turn and traffic lanes"*

### Freight connections

*"Freight connections in Rochester shouldn't be so difficult and need to be improved, especially for large trucks."*

### Cost of transportation

*"Start utilizing concrete instead of blacktop surfacing. Concrete lasts significantly longer."*

### Environmental impact

*"Wasted time idling at night hours. Instead of relying on sensors for turn signals during overnight hours, suggestion of arrows being yellow."*