

DRAFT

Summary of UnJAM 2035 Online Survey Response

Executive Summary

Public involvement is a major component in the creation of UnJAM 2035. The most recent public outreach effort was the UnJAM 2035 Online Survey, which concluded on June 30th 2008. 420 people from all localities in the Thomas Jefferson Regional Planning District responded to the survey, which identified the public's concerns with transportation in the region and aided TJPDC's update to the long range plan.

This survey consisted of 17 questions that addressed multiple issues related to the region's transportation network. Many of these questions focused on the specific concerns of participants and often allowed for respondents to include additional comments. The survey was presented in three major sections titled, "Tell Us About Your Commute," "Identify the Issues," and "Finding Transportations Solutions."

The first section, "Tell Us About Your Commute," consisted of four questions that determined each respondent's typical method of transportation. During their daily commute, 69% of respondents drove alone, and 66% of respondents drove between 1 to 15 miles to get to their workplace. For 53% of survey respondents, the typical time for a daily commute was either between 5 and 15 minutes or 15 and 25 minutes. When traveling for reasons other than a daily commute, the majority of respondents still drove alone, but a significant number chose to walk to their various destinations. These questions provided a snapshot of the average commute in the region. The data shows that the single-occupancy vehicle is still the most popular mode of transportation.

The second section, "Identify the Issues," consisted of six questions that dealt with the current transportation system, local transit and carpool/vanpool usage, transportation safety concerns, and environmental concerns. To begin, survey respondents were asked to rate their level of satisfaction with the existing transportation network. While 30% of respondents were satisfied with the network, another 30% were dissatisfied. Furthermore, a significant percentage of respondents, 22%, had no opinion or were neutral on the state of the current transportation system. Survey participants were, however, frustrated by a number of issues with the current transportation system. Specifically, respondents expressed frustration with the existing transit system, lack of commuter trails for cyclists and pedestrians, backups at major intersections, unsynchronized stoplights and the volume of traffic (these issues are the top five issues chosen by survey respondents and are in priority order).

For this portion of the survey, respondents also had the opportunity to leave personal comments about their transportation frustrations. Some of the themes that appeared throughout these comments included a need to improved bike/pedestrian infrastructure, a lack of awareness on the road between various modes of transportation, unsafe drivers/driving, and a lack of transportation options for rural areas.

On the topic of transit and vanpool/carpool options, respondents stated that they do not rideshare because of the lack of availability or a lack of convenience of these transportation alternatives. The majority of respondents found transit or vanpool/carpool options too difficult because these options did not serve convenient locations, were slower than driving, were not available in their community, or were not conducive to their working schedule (in priority order). With regards to transportation safety, the majority of respondents were concerned about bike and pedestrian safety and unsafe drivers/driving. Respondents again had the opportunity to leave personal comments and many were concerned about drivers not obeying traffic laws and a lack of appropriate infrastructure for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Finally, in response to the question about transportation and the environment, the majority of respondents expressed concern about air pollution and climate change. However, other environmental issues like loss of green space, water pollution, noise pollution, and disruption of ecosystems (in priority order) were also of significant concerns to respondents. In the comments for this issue, many respondents also noted dependency on oil as an environmental concern.

The third section, "Finding Transportation Solutions," asked survey participants about possible solutions to current transportation problems in the region. Respondents strongly felt that redesigning the existing transportation network was the best solution to the region's transportation problems and generally supported more compact development plans. Respondents also agreed that if gas prices continued to rise then they would consider alternative modes of transportation. However, respondents were split on the issue of constructing new roads as a method for alleviating congestion problems, with about 38% in support of new construction and 42% in opposition.

Concerning other community improvements, a majority of respondents felt that their communities would be improved if bike and pedestrian infrastructure was enhanced and maintained and if transit options were made more convenient. Respondents also generally agreed that they would use public transit more readily if it was near their home/work, and more convenient than driving. Regarding the funding required for these transportation improvements, 55% of survey respondents stated that they would support a statewide tax for the maintenance of transportation infrastructure, while the majority of respondents also felt that they could support a tax increase if it meant the improvement of bike/pedestrian infrastructure and improved public transit. 55% of respondents felt a motor fuels tax was a viable option to fund these improvements, while 24% felt a sales tax was a reasonable alternative.

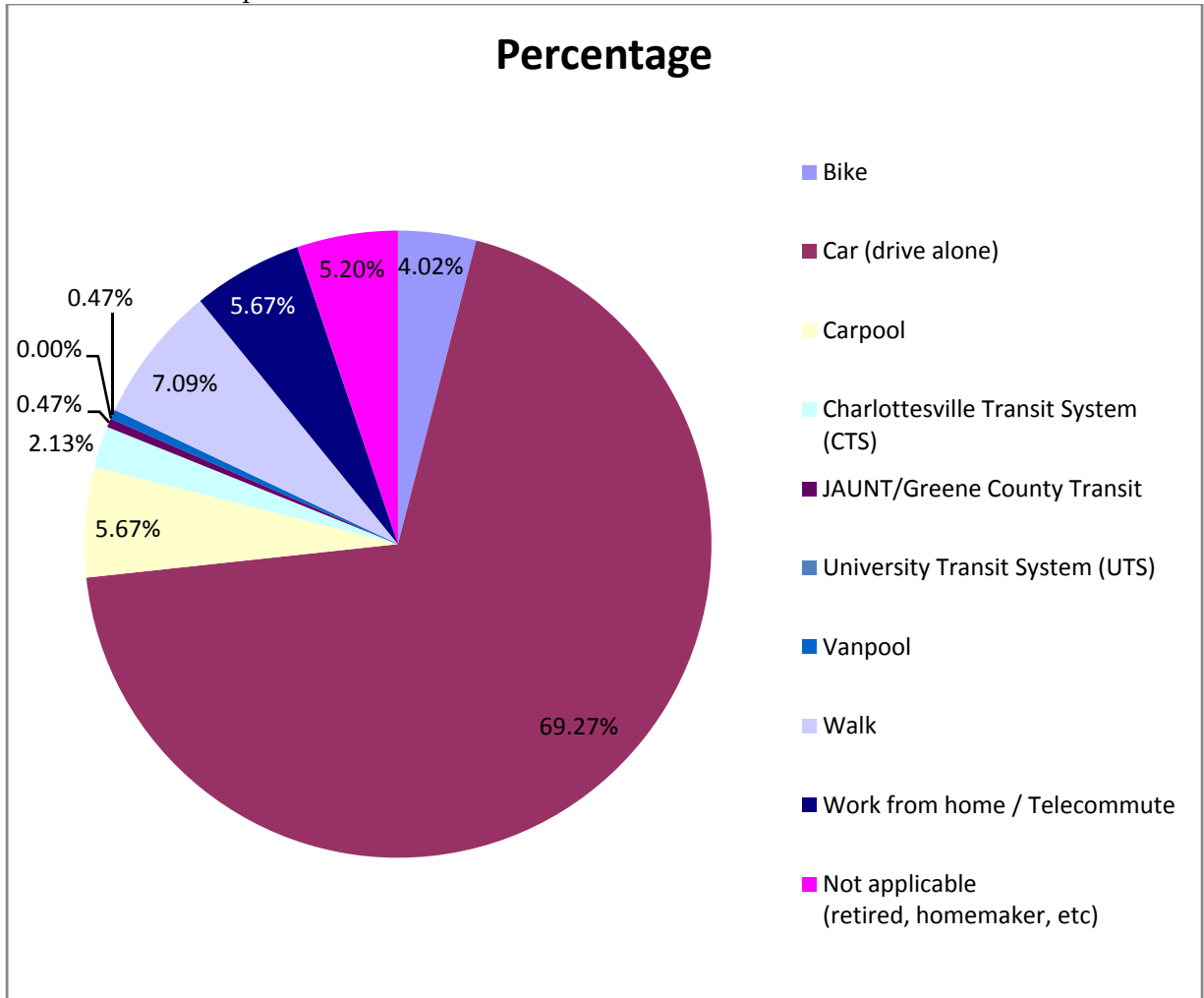
The fourth and final section of this survey, "Tell Us About Yourself," allowed TJPDC to see where most respondents work and also determine which areas of the region still needed more public outreach. Over 75% of the 420 survey respondents were from the City of Charlottesville or Albemarle County. The large number of respondents from the MPO area could explain the strong support for public transit improvements and expanding bike and pedestrian infrastructure, although these needs are widespread and regionally significant.

Survey Responses

Tell Us about Your Commute

1) I usually get to school or work by...

The vast majority of respondents stated that they drove alone, and only about 30% used any other modes of transportation.

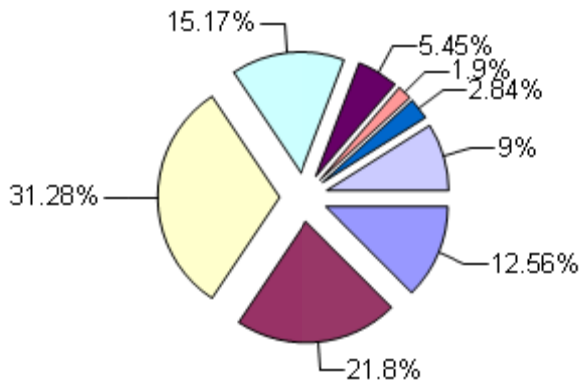


2) How many miles do you travel to work or school?

A majority of respondents stated that their daily commute was within 1 to 15 miles. About 35% of respondents either had longer commutes or did not have a commute.








Choose One	Public	How many miles do you travel to work or school?	422	422	N/A
		0-1		53	12.56 %
		1-5		92	21.80 %
		5-15		132	31.28 %
		15-25		64	15.17 %
		25-35		23	5.45 %

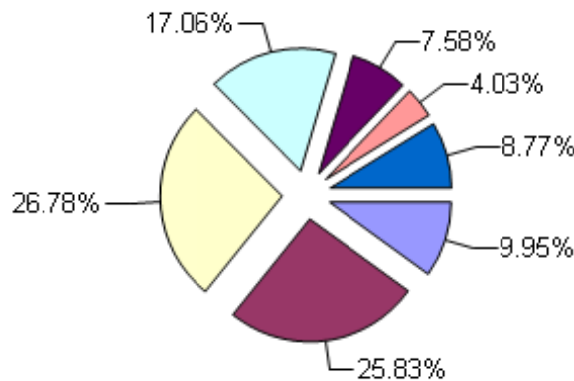
	35-50	8	1.90 %
	50+	12	2.84 %
	Not applicable	38	9.00 %



3) How long does it usually take you to get to work or school?

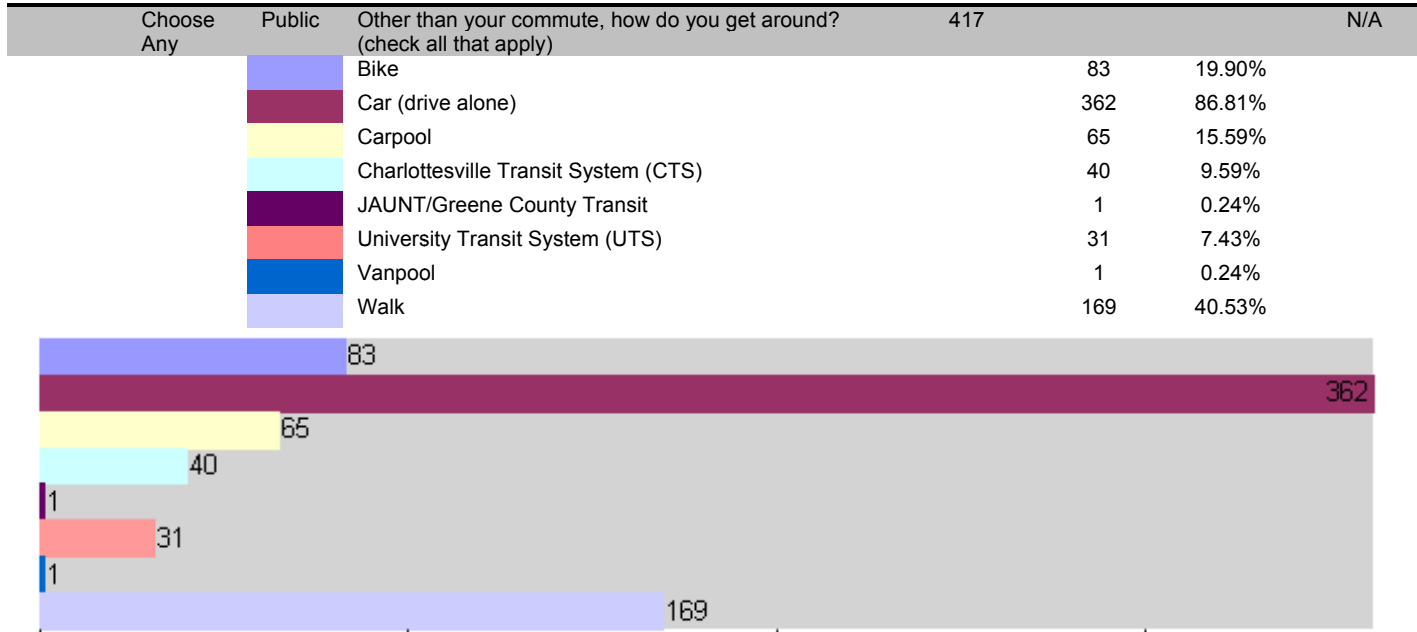
Corresponding to the previous question, the majority of respondents stated that their commute is between 0 and 35 minutes. The remaining respondents had a longer commute or did not have a commute.

Choose One	Public	How long does it usually take you to get to work or school?	422	422	N/A
		0-5 minutes		42	9.95 %
		5-15 minutes		109	25.83 %
		15-25 minutes		113	26.78 %
		25-35 minutes		72	17.06 %
		35-45 minutes		32	7.58 %
		45+ minutes		17	4.03 %
		Not applicable		37	8.77 %



4) Other than your commute, how do you get around?

An overwhelming majority of respondents still drive alone for travel other than their standard commute; however more respondents either rode their bike or walked for non-commute travel. Carpooling was also fairly popular as 9% of respondents used this option. Public transit options like JAUNT, CTS, and UTS were the least chosen transportation options. Vanpool was the least chosen option.

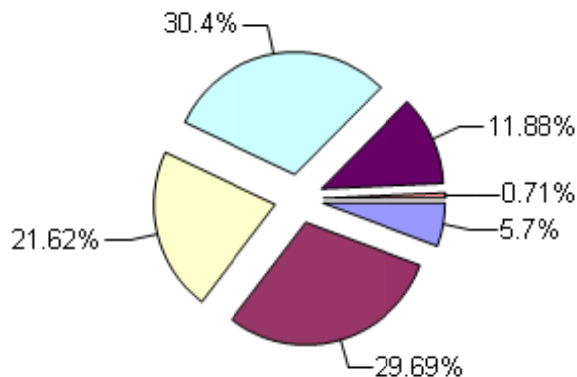


Identify the Issues

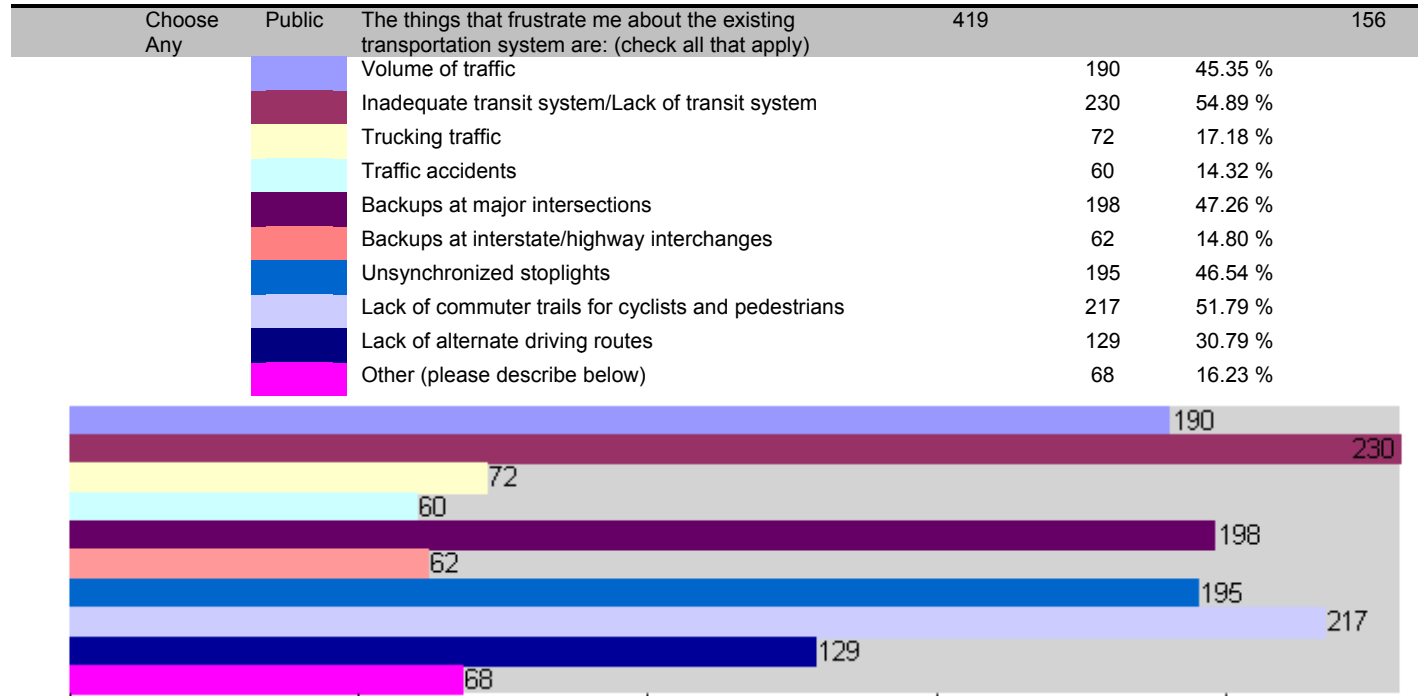
- 5) Rate your level of satisfaction with your ability to travel in your community.

Most respondents were Satisfied, Neutral, or Unsatisfied with their ability to travel in their community. 6% of respondents were Very Satisfied with their ability to travel in their community, while 11% were Very Dissatisfied.

Choose One	Public	Identifying the Issues	421	421	N/A
		We will ask a number of specific transportation questions, but first, please rate your level of satisfaction with your ability to travel in your community:			
		Very Satisfied	24	5.70 %	
		Satisfied	125	29.69 %	
		Neutral	91	21.62 %	
		Dissatisfied	128	30.40 %	
		Very Dissatisfied	50	11.88 %	
		Not Applicable	3	0.71 %	

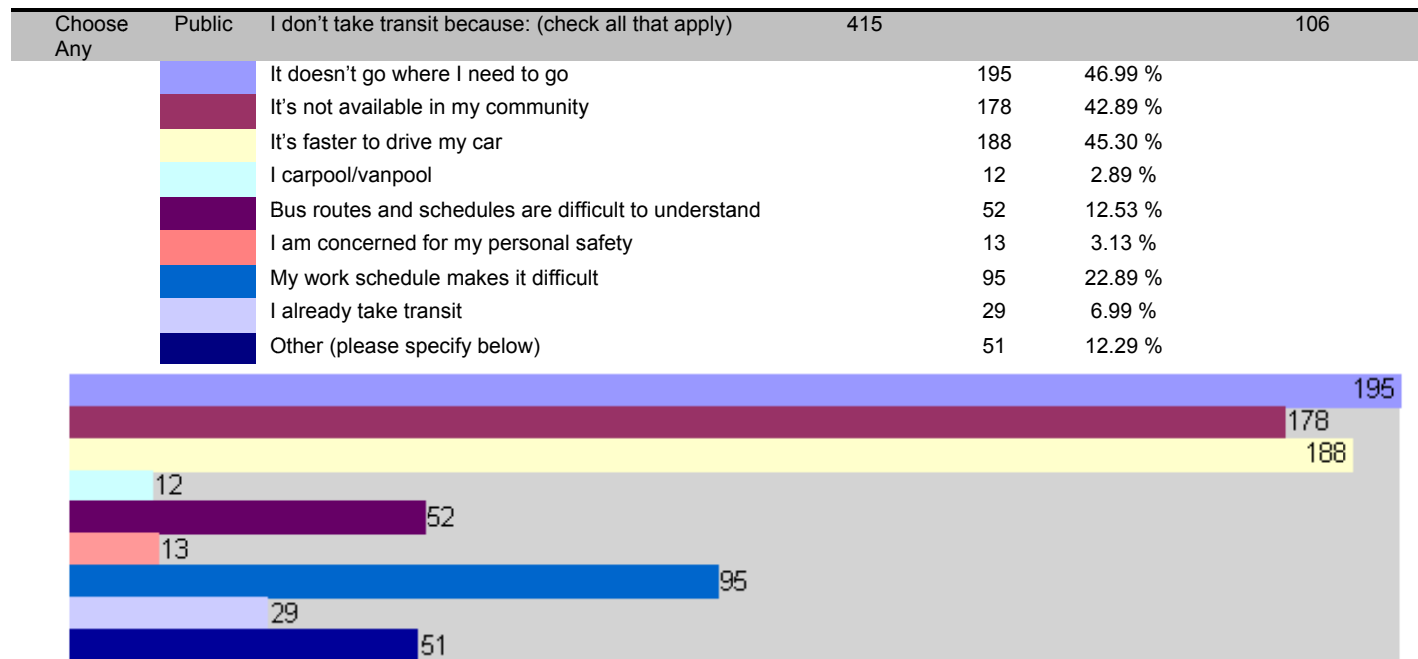


The results for this question were fairly evenly spread as the majority respondents chose the volume of traffic, inadequate transit system/lack of transit system, backups at major intersections, unsynchronized stoplights and lack of commuter trails for cyclists and pedestrians as the most frustrating elements of the existing transportation system.

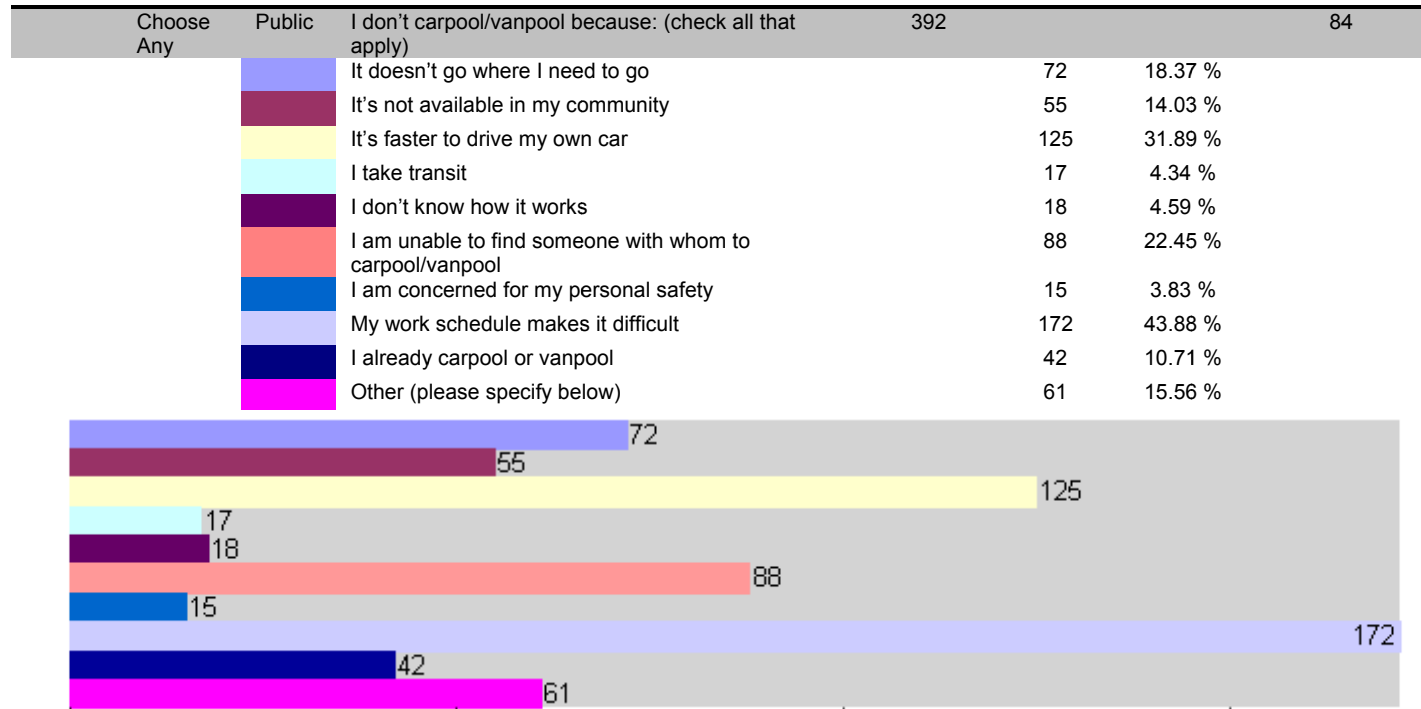


7) I don't take transit because...

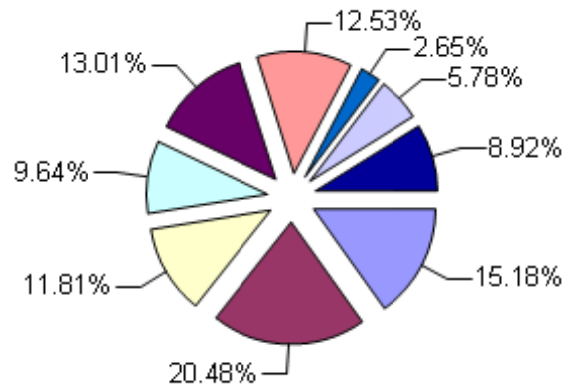
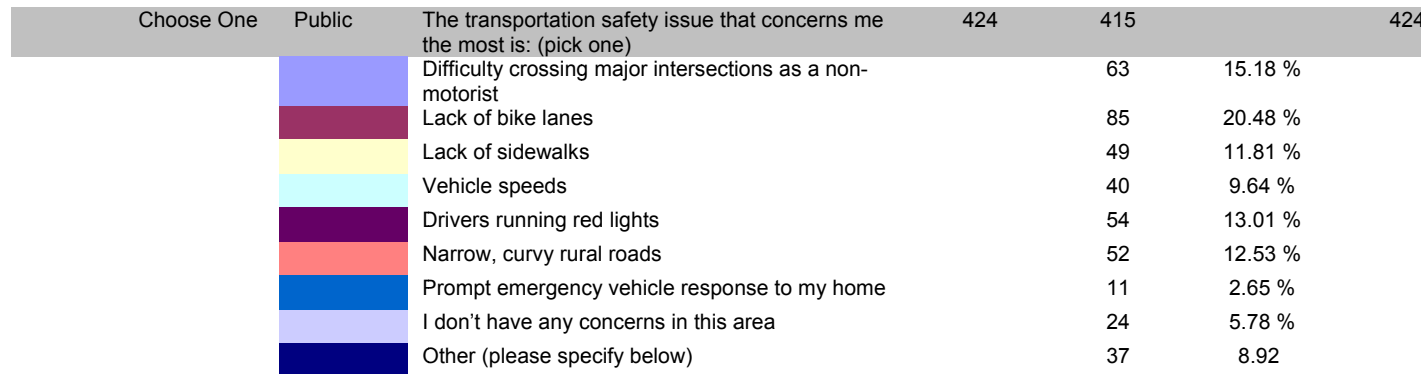
Most respondents stated that they did not take public transit because it didn't go where they needed it to go, it wasn't available in their community, or it was faster to drive their car. A significant amount stated that their work schedule made it difficult to use public transit.



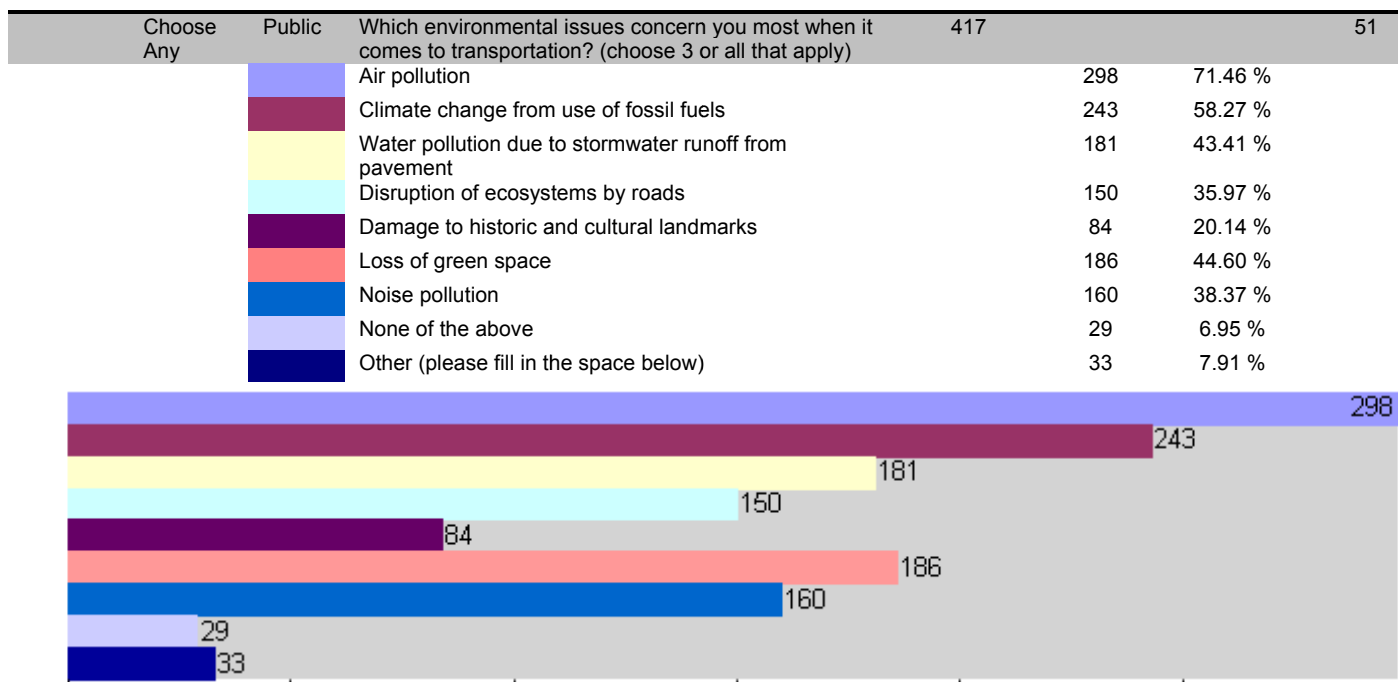
8) I don't carpool/vanpool because...



9) The transportation safety issue that concerns me the most is...



10) Which environmental issues concern you most when it comes to transportation?



Finding Transportation Solutions

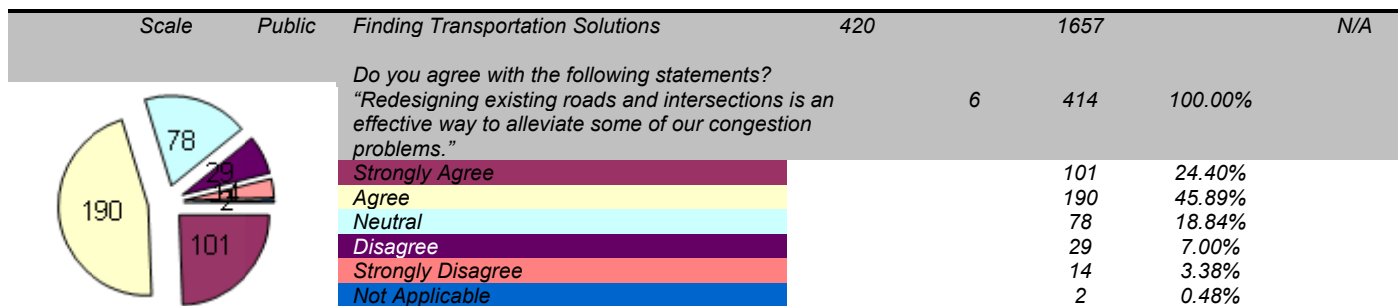
11) Do you agree with the following statements?

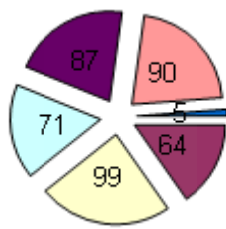
“Redesigning existing roads and intersections is an effective way to alleviate some of our congestion problems.”
 -Respondents strongly agreed or agreed with this statement.

“Constructing new roads is an effective way to alleviate our congestion problems.”
 -Respondents opinions varied greatly concerning this issue. No conclusive opinion could be determined.

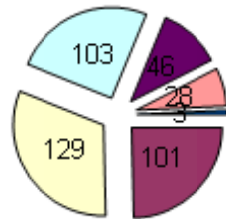
“More compact land development is an effective way to avoid congestion problems.”
 -Respondents generally strongly agreed or agreed with this statement. A significant number of respondents were neutral on the issue.

“If gas prices keep rising I will more likely consider taking alternative modes of transportation or using Rideshare programs”
 -Respondents generally agreed with this statement.

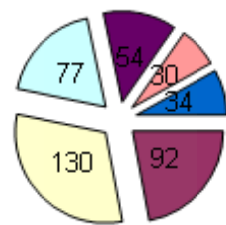




Statement	Count	Total	Percentage
<i>"Constructing new roads is an effective way to alleviate our congestion problems."</i>	4	416	100.00%
Strongly Agree	64		15.38%
Agree	99		23.80%
Neutral	71		17.07%
Disagree	87		20.91%
Strongly Disagree	90		21.63%
Not Applicable	5		1.20%



Statement	Count	Total	Percentage
<i>"More compact land development is an effective way to avoid congestion problems."</i>	10	410	100.00%
Strongly Agree	101		24.63%
Agree	129		31.46%
Neutral	103		25.12%
Disagree	46		11.22%
Strongly Disagree	28		6.83%
Not Applicable	3		0.73%



Statement	Count	Total	Percentage
<i>"If gas prices keep rising I will more likely consider taking alternative modes of transportation or using Rideshare programs"</i>	3	417	100.00%
Strongly Agree	92		22.06%
Agree	130		31.18%
Neutral	77		18.47%
Disagree	54		12.95%
Strongly Disagree	30		7.19%
Not Applicable	34		8.15%

12) My community would be easier to get around if there were...
(This is a Ranking Question.)

Rank	Public	Statement	Count	Total	Percentage
		<i>My community would be easier to get around if there were: (please rank: use up and down arrows to prioritize)</i>	845	2544	0
		<i>More local road connections to nearby neighborhoods and commercial areas</i>	421	424	100.00%
		1		70	16.51 %
		2		95	22.41 %
		3		75	17.69 %
		4		118	27.83 %
		5		62	14.62 %
		6		4	0.94 %
		<i>More bike and pedestrian trails</i>	421	424	100.00%
		1		108	25.47 %
		2		107	25.24 %
		3		91	21.46 %
		4		65	15.33 %
		5		48	11.32 %
		6		5	1.18 %
		<i>More sidewalks and crosswalks</i>	421	424	100.00%
		1		43	10.14 %

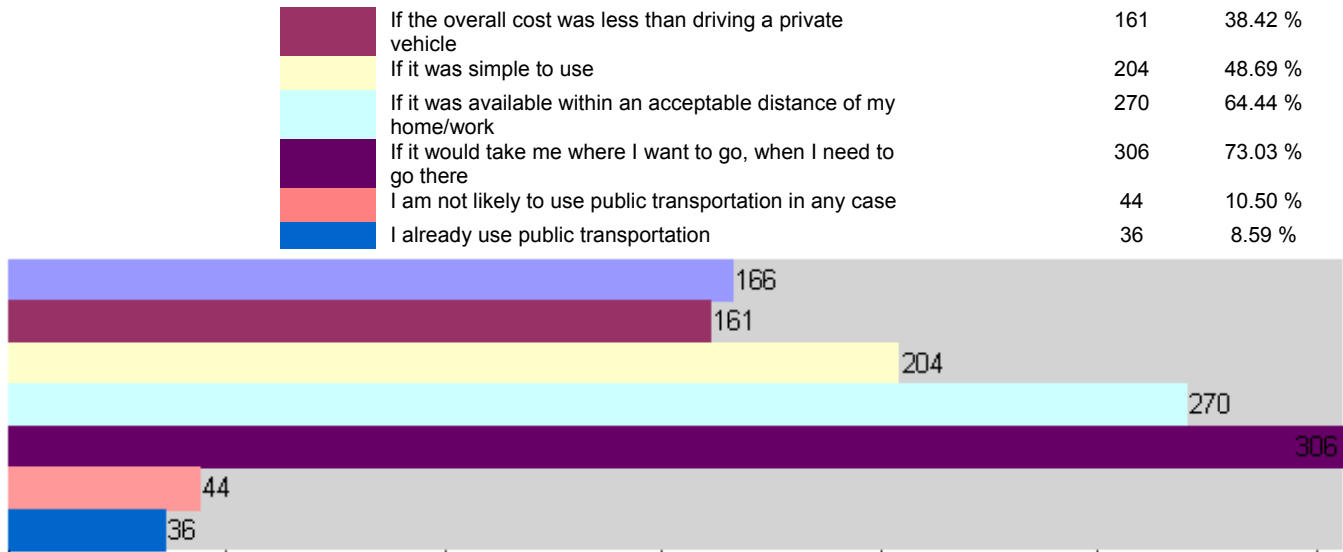
	2	102	24.06 %
	3	123	29.01 %
	4	101	23.82 %
	5	48	11.32 %
	6	7	1.65 %
<i>More bypass/express roads</i>		421	424
	1	83	19.58 %
	2	42	9.91 %
	3	44	10.38 %
	4	64	15.09 %
	5	155	36.56 %
	6	36	8.49 %
<i>A more extensive transit system</i>		421	424
	1	108	25.47 %
	2	72	16.98 %
	3	79	18.63 %
	4	61	14.39 %
	5	97	22.88 %
	6	7	1.65 %
<i>Other (please describe below)</i>		421	424
	1	12	2.83 %
	2	6	1.42 %
	3	12	2.83 %
	4	15	3.54 %
	5	14	3.30 %
	6	365	86.08 %



13) I would start using existing or future public transportation...







Most Respondents felt that they would use public transportation more if it was simple to use, if it was available within an acceptable distance of their home/work, or if it would take them where they wanted to go when they needed to go there. Other significant answers included if public transportation were faster than driving and if the overall cost of using public transportation cost less than driving alone.

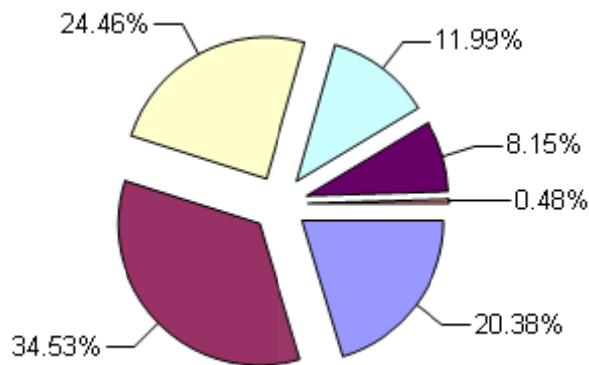
Choose Any	Public	I would start using existing or future public transportation: (check all that apply)	419	N/A
		If it was faster than driving a private vehicle	166	39.62 %



14) "I support a state-wide tax increase for the maintenance of bridges, tunnels, railroad crossings and other transportation infrastructure."

Most Respondents generally agreed that they would support a statewide tax for maintaining a transportation infrastructure.

Choose One	Public	"I support a state-wide tax increase for the maintenance of bridges, tunnels, railroad crossings and other transportation infrastructure." (Please rate your level of agreement with the statement)	417	417	N/A
	Strongly Agree		85	20.38 %	
	Agree		144	34.53 %	
	Neutral		102	24.46 %	
	Disagree		50	11.99 %	
	Strongly Disagree		34	8.15 %	
	Not Applicable		2	0.48 %	



15) In this region, trucking and rail are the most prevalent modes of freight transportation and both systems face congestion, resulting in decreased business capacity and efficiency. The region should explore the following freight initiatives. (Ranking Question)

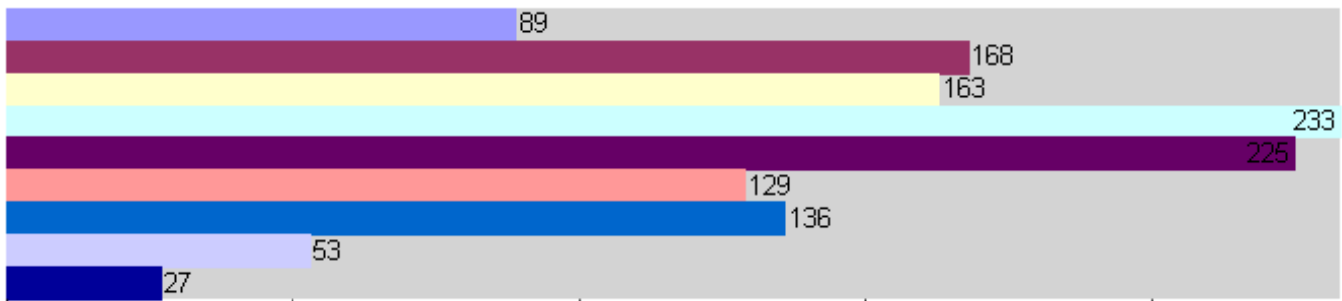
Rank	Public	In this region, trucking and rail are the most prevalent modes of freight transportation and	424	2120	N/A

both systems face congestion, resulting in decreased business capacity and efficiency.				
The region should explore the following freight initiatives: (please rank)				
	Identify strategies to improve highway and rail connections to freight destinations	0	424	100.00%
	1		140	33.02 %
	2		61	14.39 %
	3		83	19.58 %
	4		98	23.11 %
	5		42	9.91 %
	Improve and add rail tracks where needed to allow more trains along each corridor	0	424	100.00%
	1		85	20.05 %
	2		178	41.98 %
	3		80	18.87 %
	4		52	12.26 %
	5		29	6.84 %
	Increase the quantity of freight moved by rail and reduce the number of trucks on roadways	0	424	100.00%
	1		126	29.72 %
	2		80	18.87 %
	3		157	37.03 %
	4		40	9.43 %
	5		21	4.95 %
	Improve services so freight and passengers can both move efficiently on the same railway	0	424	100.00%
	1		59	13.92 %
	2		73	17.22 %
	3		77	18.16 %
	4		175	41.27 %
	5		40	9.43 %
	Facilitate public/private partnerships for finance freight-related infrastructure expansions	0	424	100.00%
	1		14	3.30 %
	2		32	7.55 %
	3		27	6.37 %
	4		59	13.92 %
	5		292	68.87 %

Initiative	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3	Rank 4	Rank 5
Identify strategies to improve highway and rail connections to freight destinations	140	61	83	98	42
Improve and add rail tracks where needed to allow more trains along each corridor	85	178	80	52	29
Increase the quantity of freight moved by rail and reduce the number of trucks on roadways	126	80	157	40	21
Improve services so freight and passengers can both move efficiently on the same railway	59	73	77	175	40
Facilitate public/private partnerships for finance freight-related infrastructure expansions	14	32	27	59	292

Choose Any	Public	I would support a tax increase to further fund: (check all that apply)	420	63
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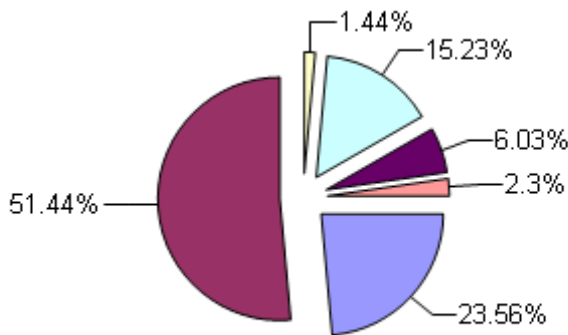
New roadway construction to increase capacity	89	21.19%
Bus system expansion	168	40.00%
Better maintenance of existing infrastructure	163	38.81%
Commuter rail development	233	55.48%
Bike and pedestrian trail construction	225	53.57%
Improving roadway safety	129	30.71%
Freight rail expansion	136	32.38%
None of the above	53	12.62%
Other (please fill in below)	27	6.43%



17) If yes, would you support an increase in...

About half of all respondents felt that they could support a motors fuels tax, while another 24% of respondents felt they could support a local sales tax. A significant number of respondents felt a motor vehicle rental tax was a viable tax option.

Choose One	Public	If yes, would you support an increase in: (choose one)	348	348	N/A
		Local sales tax	82	23.56%	
		Motor fuels sales tax	179	51.44%	
		Grantors tax	5	1.44%	
		Motor vehicle rental tax	53	15.23%	
		Property tax	21	6.03%	
		Real estate tax	8	2.30%	



18) I work in...

Over 75% of respondents worked in Charlottesville or Albemarle County. The remaining respondents worked in Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, or Nelson. There were a significant number of respondents who worked in Louisa County, rather than the other three.

Choose One	Public	Tell us about yourself:	411	411	N/A
		I work in:			
		Albemarle County		115	27.98 %
		City of Charlottesville		199	48.42 %
		Fluvanna County		13	3.16 %
		Greene County		17	4.14 %
		Louisa County		40	9.73 %
		Nelson County		11	2.68 %
		Outside the region		16	3.89 %

