

A Vision for Transportation - Community Input Survey Results

CHATS 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan Update



2/12/2010

Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments

The CHATS Metropolitan Planning Organization's (CHATS) current Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) was last updated in 2005. Federal metropolitan planning requirements require that an update long range transportation plan be completed in 2010. The 2035 LRTP for CHATS will incorporate best practices from past planning, while focusing on proactive strategies for the future. A successful LRTP update will complement both economic development initiatives and community investment without compromising quality of life. With these goals in mind, this study addresses federal and state planning requirements while building upon the community vision for the future transportation system.

The LRTP seeks to address regional needs through continuous coordination with representatives of numerous stakeholders, including:

- CHATS MPO
- Cities of Charleston, Hanahan, North Charleston, Goose Creek, Isle of Palms, and Folly Beach
- Towns of Mount Pleasant, Sullivan's Island, Summerville, Lincolville, James Island, Kiawah Island, Rockville, and Seabrook Island
- Berkeley, Dorchester, and Charleston Counties
- Various local, regional, state, and federal agencies, including the local transit operators (CARTA and TriCounty Link), SCDOT, FTA, and FHWA

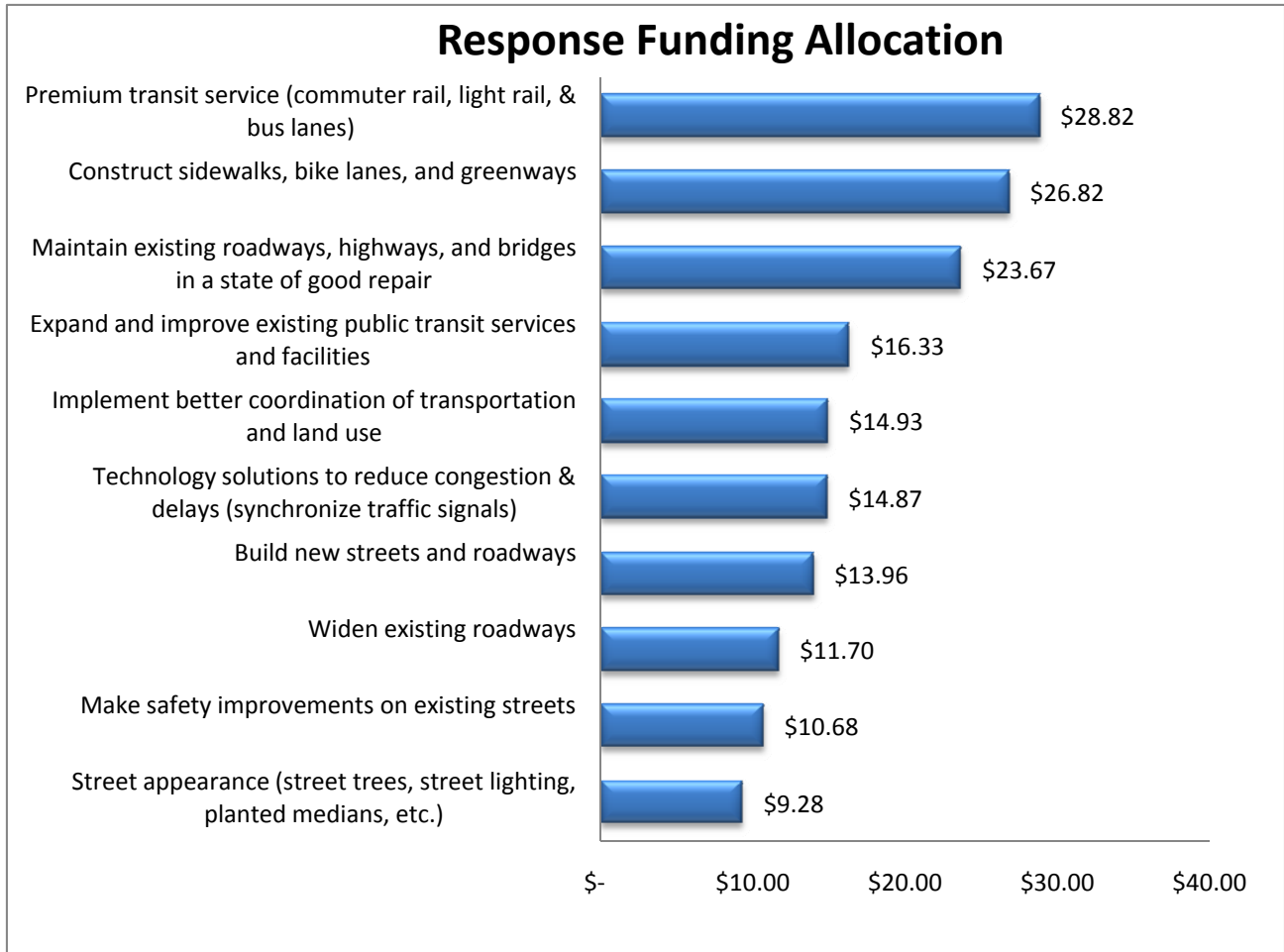
Users of the transportation system are the ones that face the daily challenges associated with travel. To ensure that the CHATS 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan considers the issues that are important to citizens of the region *and* keep the region's best interest in mind, a community survey was conducted to guide the planning process. In order to make sure that the community was adequately represented, this survey was widely distributed to citizens, via newspaper articles, community newsletters, civic organizations, public libraries, Chambers of Commerce, and municipal contacts.

The tables and graphs on the following pages summarize the community feedback and will be incorporated into an update of the CHATS 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan.

Question #1

If you had \$100 to fund transportation improvements how would you spend it? (The dollar amounts must add up to 100)

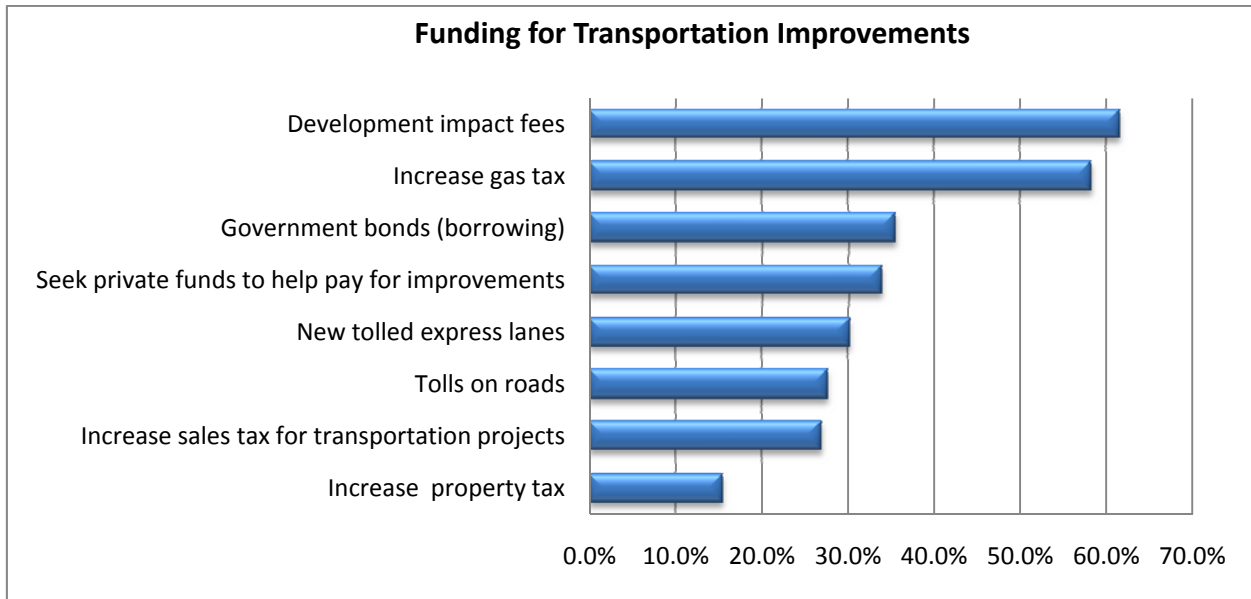
Answer Options	Response Average	Response Total	Response Count
Premium transit service (commuter rail, light rail, & bus lanes)	\$ 28.82	7,695	267
Construct sidewalks, bike lanes, and greenways	\$ 26.82	8,369	312
Maintain existing facilities	\$ 23.67	6,793	287
Expand existing transit services	\$ 16.33	3,657	224
Better coordination of transportation & land use	\$ 14.93	3,106	208
Use technology to reduce congestion and delays (synchronize traffic signals)	\$ 14.87	3,778	254
Build new streets and roadways	\$ 13.96	2,010	144
Widen existing roadways	\$ 11.70	1,744	149
Safety improvements on existing streets	\$ 10.68	2,040	191
Street appearance (trees, lighting, planted medians	\$ 9.28	1,708	184



Question #2

If additional funding for transportation improvements were needed, would you support any of the following?

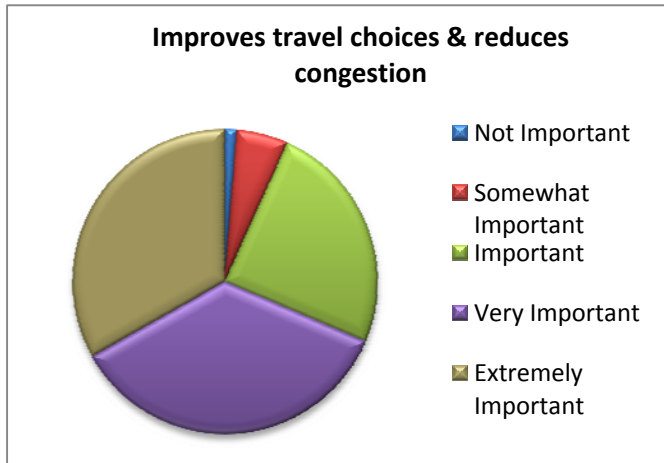
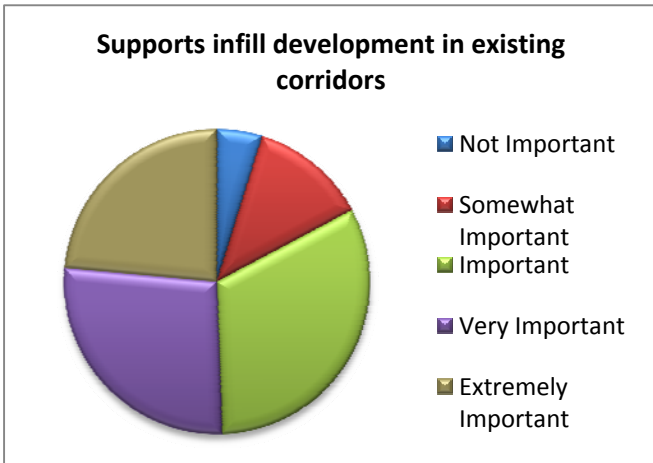
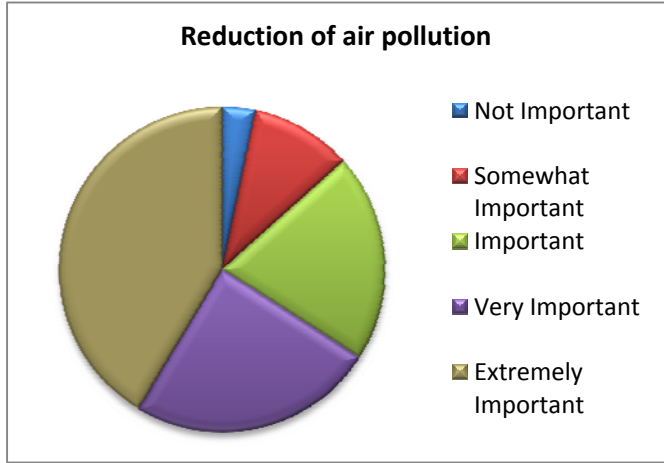
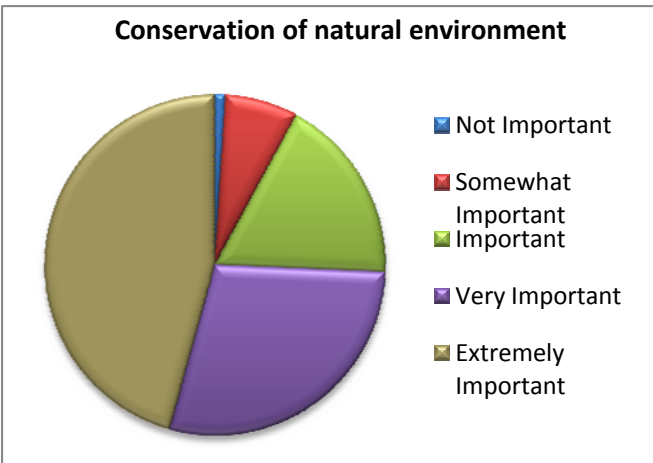
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Increase gas tax	58.3%	229
Increase sales tax for transportation projects	27.0%	106
Increase property tax	15.5%	61
Tolls on roads	27.7%	109
Development impact fees	61.6%	242
Government bonds (borrowing)	35.4%	139
Seek private funds to help pay for improvements	33.8%	133
New tolled express lanes	30.3%	119
Other (please specify)	45	45



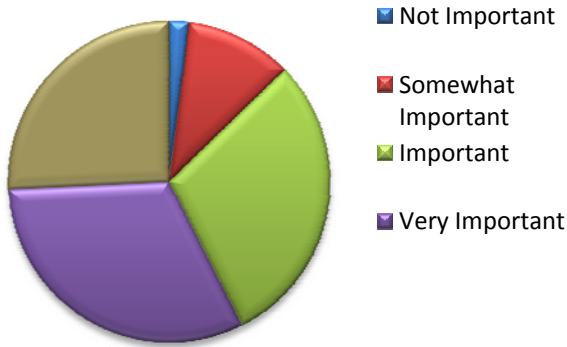
Question #3

What do you think is important to consider when SELECTING transportation projects?

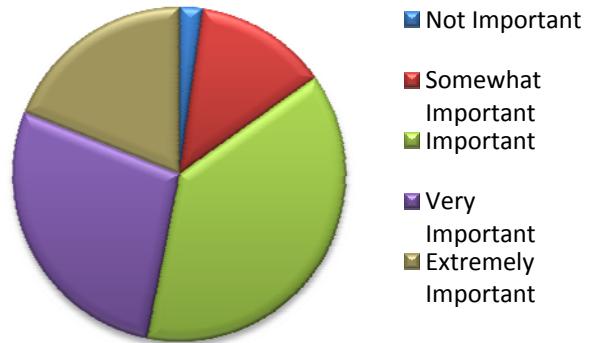
Answer Options	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Important	Very Important	Extremely Important	Rating Average	Response Count
Conservation of natural environment	4	28	72	116	185	4.11	405
Reduction of air pollution (ozone, greenhouse gases, etc.)	13	40	82	97	164	3.91	396
Supports infill development in existing corridors	18	47	122	102	89	3.52	378
Improves travel choices & reduces congestion	5	22	99	142	133	3.94	401
Cost vs. benefits of the project [bang for the buck]	8	43	119	127	103	3.69	400
Minimize impacts on existing neighborhoods	9	52	152	112	76	3.48	401
Supports new development	113	125	81	47	31	2.39	397
Reduces energy consumption (oil, electricity, etc.)	7	41	101	99	156	3.88	404
Improves freight movement	21	97	149	87	47	3.10	401



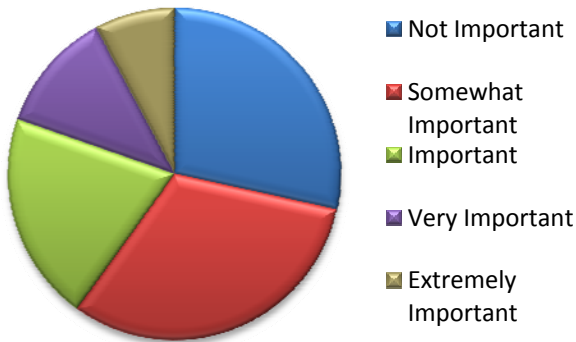
Cost vs. benefits of the project [bang for the buck]



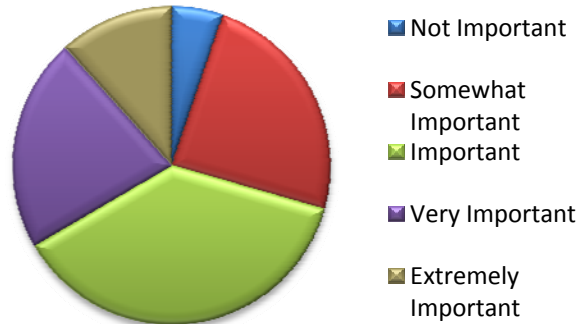
Minimize impacts on existing neighborhoods



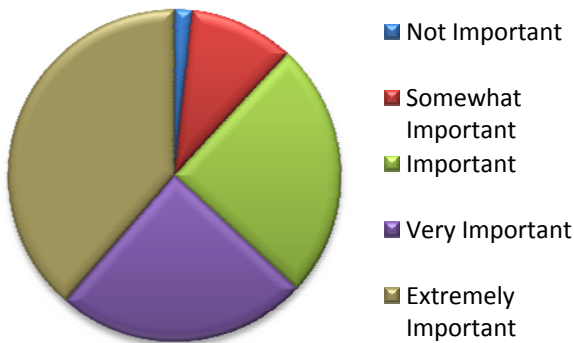
Supports new development



Improves freight movement

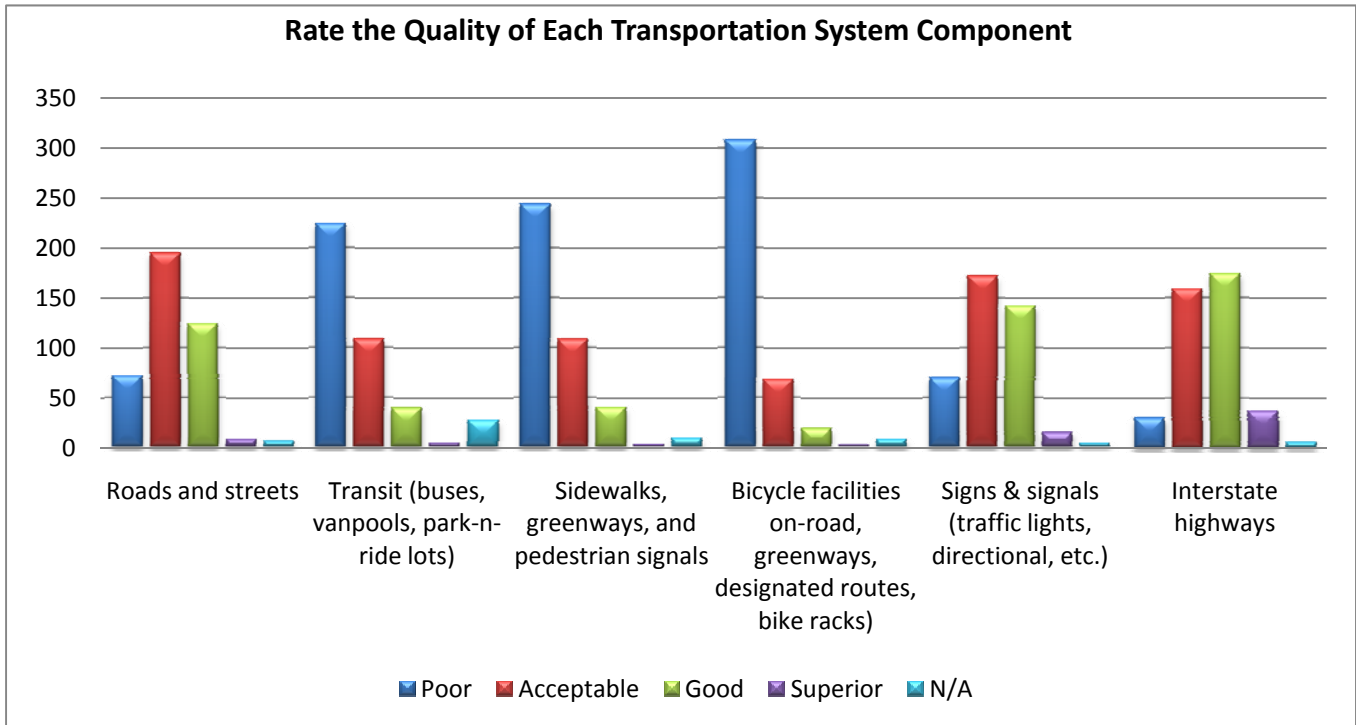


Reduces energy consumption (oil, electricity, etc.)



Question #4

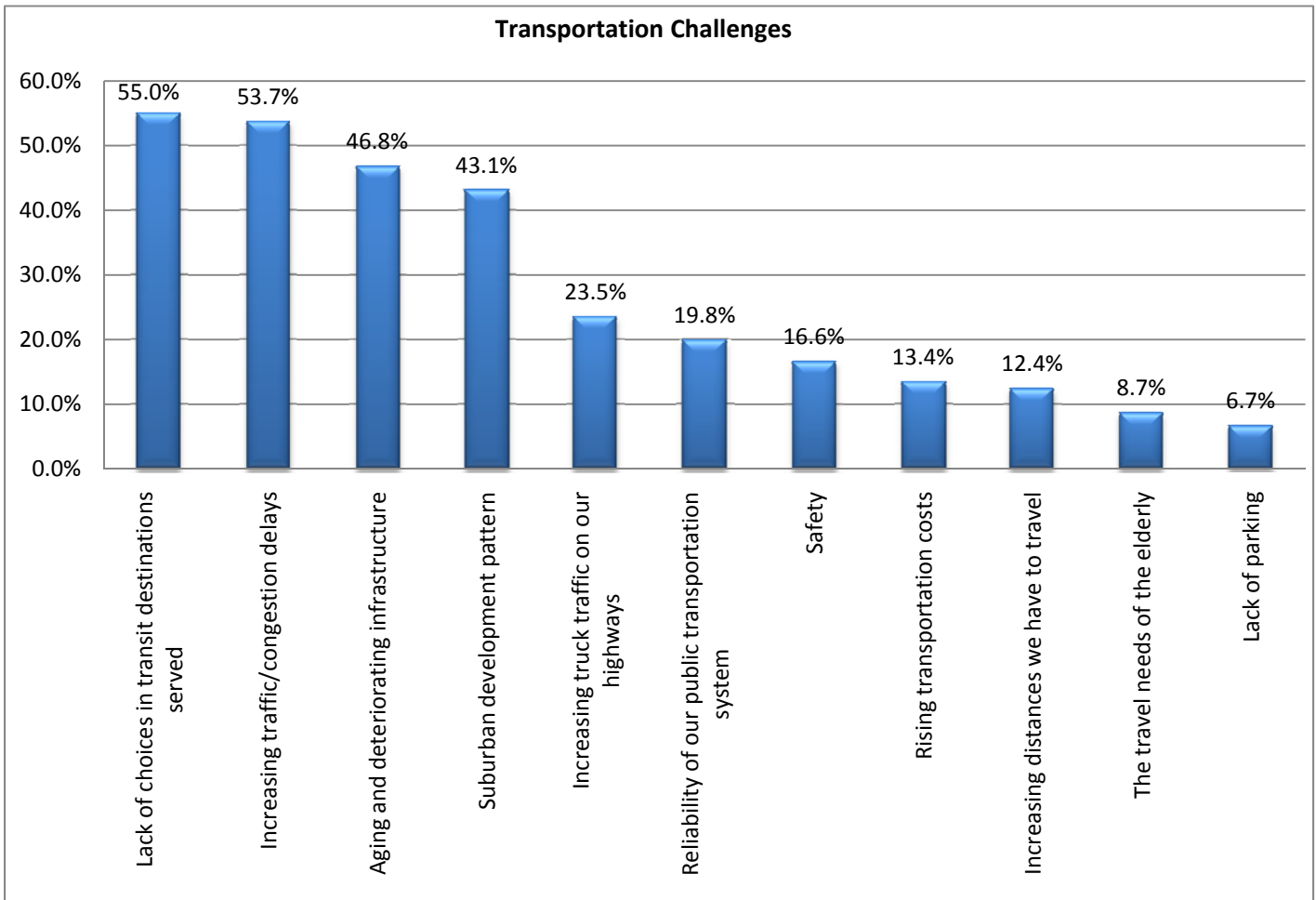
Rate the QUALITY of each transportation system in the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Region.							
Answer Options	Poor	Acceptable	Good	Superior	N/A	Rating Average	Response Count
Roads and streets	72	195	124	8	6	2.17	405
Transit (buses, vanpools, park-n-ride lots)	224	108	39	4	27	1.53	402
Sidewalks, greenways, and pedestrian signals	244	108	40	3	9	1.50	404
Bicycle facilities on-road, greenways, designated routes, bike racks)	308	68	19	2	8	1.28	405
Signs & signals (traffic lights, directional, etc.)	70	172	142	15	4	2.26	403
Interstate highways	30	159	174	37	6	2.55	406



Question #5

What are the three most significant transportation challenges the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester region faces in the next 25 years? (Select 3)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Lack of choices in transit destinations served	55.0%	222
Aging and deteriorating infrastructure	46.8%	189
Reliability of our public transportation system	19.8%	80
Rising transportation costs	13.4%	54
Increasing distances we have to travel	12.4%	50
Increasing truck traffic on our highways	23.5%	95
Suburban development pattern	43.1%	174
The travel needs of the elderly	8.7%	35
Safety	16.6%	67
Lack of parking	6.7%	27
Increasing traffic/congestion delays	53.7%	217
Other (please specify)	44	44



Question #6

Please tell us how you feel about the following transportation and land use strategies to address the transportation challenges.

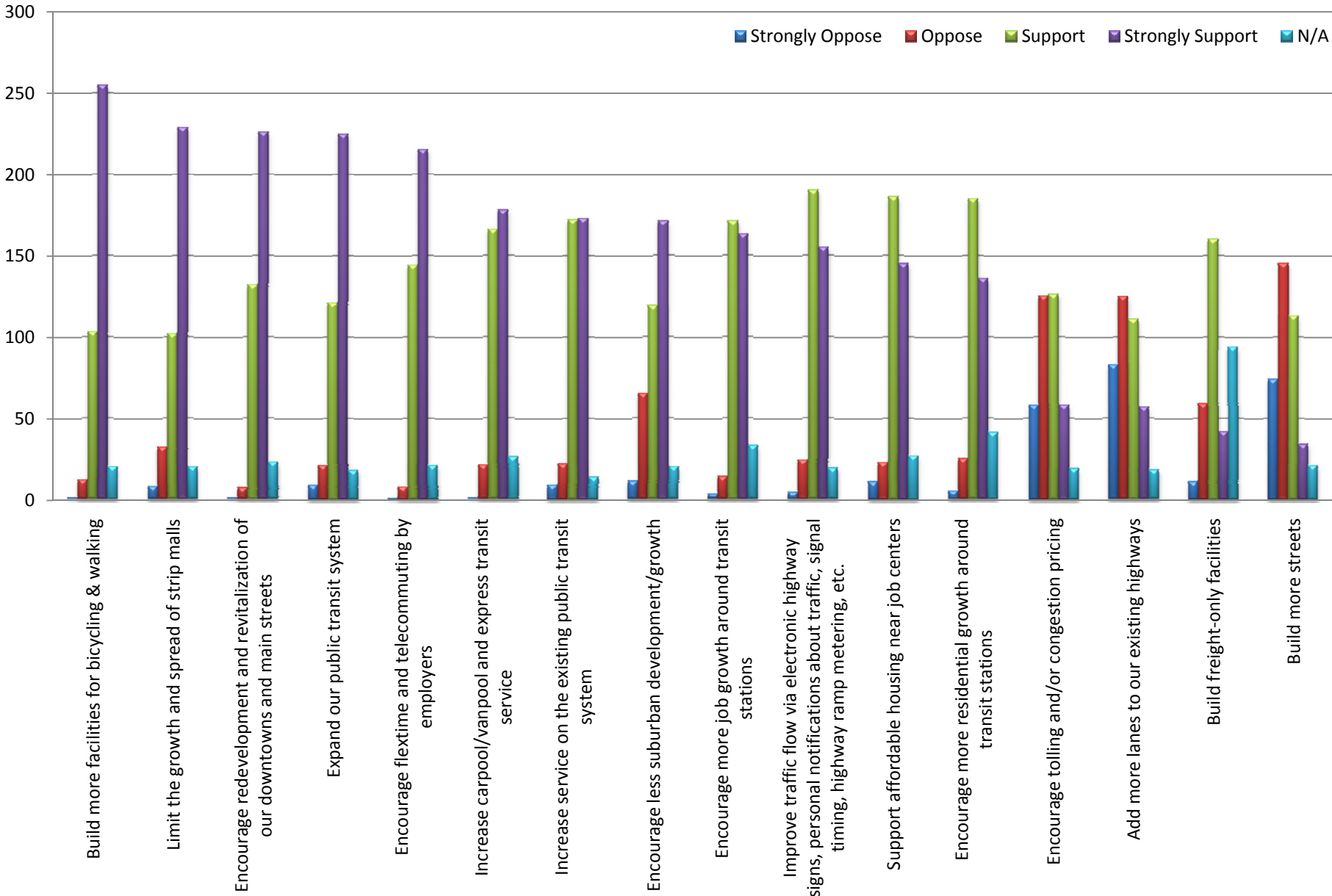
Answer Options	Strongly Oppose	Oppose	Support	Strongly Support	N/A	Rating Average	Response Count
Build more facilities for bicycling and walking	1	12	103	255	20	3.65	391
Limit the growth and spread of strip malls	8	32	102	229	20	3.49	391
Encourage redevelopment and revitalization of our downtowns and main streets	1	7	132	226	23	3.59	389
Expand our public transit system	9	21	121	225	18	3.49	394
Encourage flextime and telecommuting by employers	1	8	144	215	21	3.56	389
Increase carpool/vanpool and express transit service	1	21	166	178	26	3.42	392
Increase service on the existing public transit system	9	22	172	173	14	3.35	390
Encourage less suburban development/growth	11	65	119	171	20	3.23	386
Encourage more job growth around transit stations	3	14	171	163	33	3.41	384
Improve traffic flow through more electronic highway signs, personal notifications about traffic conditions, traffic signal timing, highway ramp metering, etc.	4	24	190	155	19	3.33	392
Support affordable housing near job centers	11	23	186	145	27	3.27	392

(Question #6 Continued)

Please tell us how you feel about the following transportation and land use strategies to address the transportation challenges.

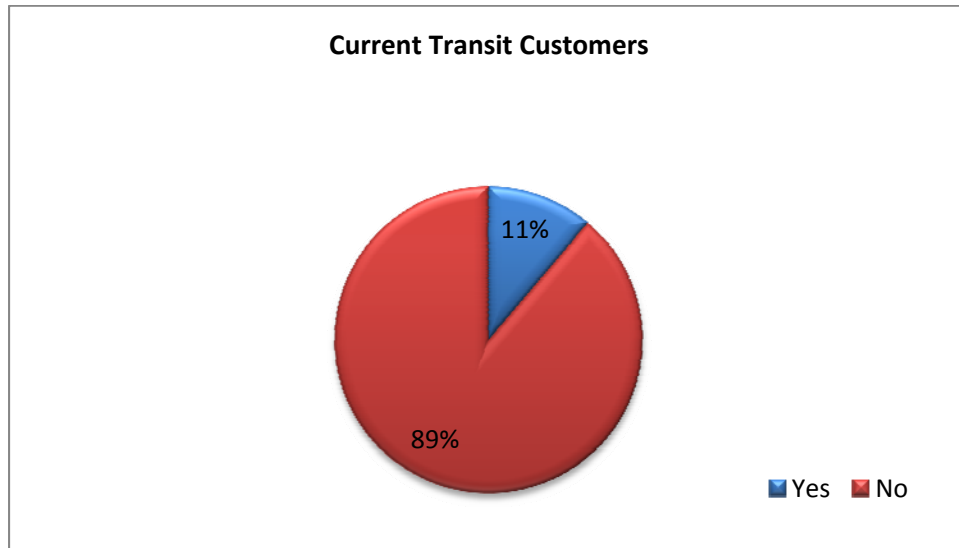
Encourage more residential growth around transit stations	5	25	185	136	41	3.29	392
Encourage tolling and/or congestion pricing	58	125	126	58	19	2.50	386
Add more lanes to our existing highways	83	125	111	57	18	2.38	394
Build freight-only facilities	11	59	160	42	94	2.86	366
Build more streets	74	145	113	34	21	2.29	387

Rate Strategies to Address Transportation & Land Use Challenges



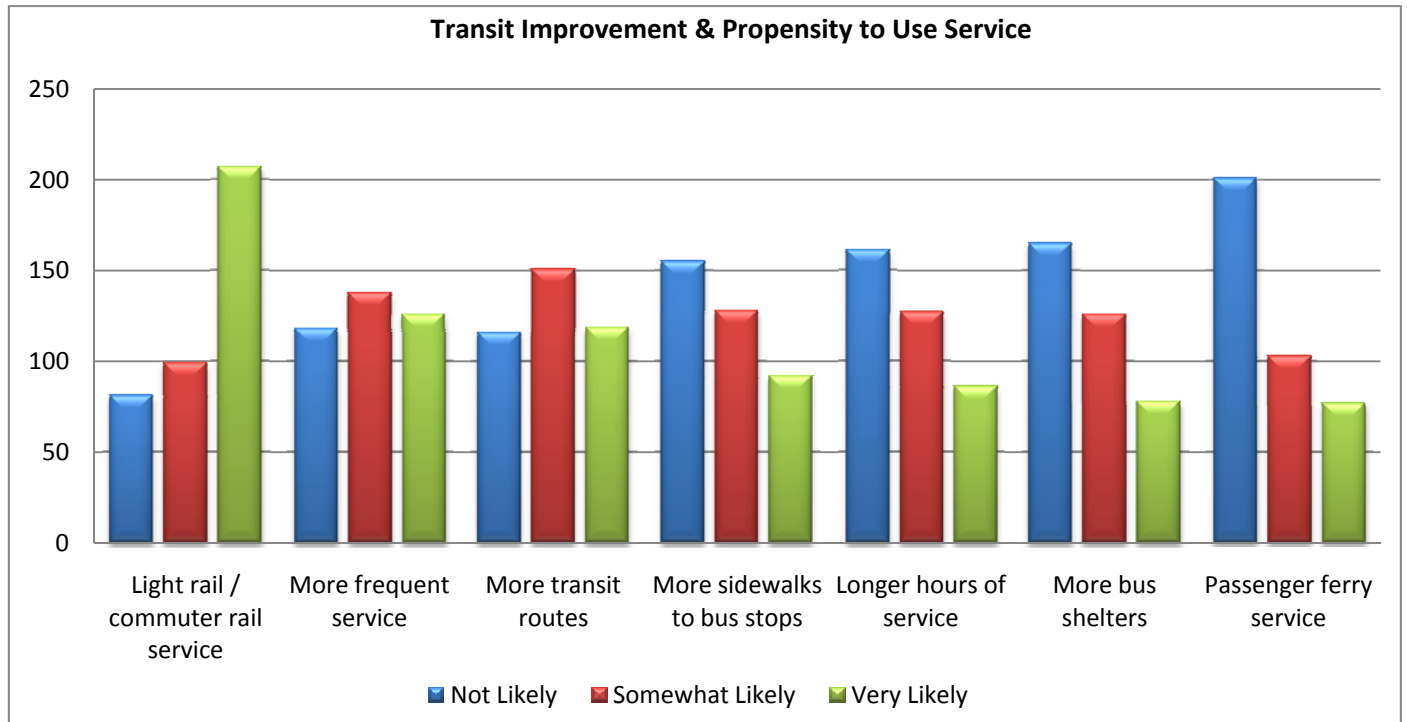
Question #7

Do you currently use transit (CARTA, TriCounty Link, etc.)?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	11.2%	45
No	88.8%	358



Question #8

How likely would you be to start or increase your use of transit if the following improvements were made?					
Answer Options	Not Likely	Somewhat Likely	Very Likely	Rating Average	Response Count
Light rail / commuter rail service	81	99	207	2.33	387
More frequent service	118	138	126	2.02	382
More transit routes	116	151	119	2.01	386
More sidewalks to bus stops	155	128	92	1.83	375
Longer hours of service	161	127	86	1.80	374
More bus shelters	165	126	78	1.76	369
Passenger ferry service	201	103	77	1.67	381



Question #9

Name any specific areas you avoid due to concerns about traffic congestion:

Write-In Answers

Response Count

Summary

310

I-26 in general	69
Hwy 17	41
I-526 & I-26	35
Ashley Phosphate Rd	29
Dorchester Rd	27
Folly Road	27
Downtown Charleston	25
Hwy 17 (Mt. Pleasant)	23
Hwy 61	22
Rivers Ave	19

Bohicket Rd/ Main Rd/ River Rd	14
North Rhett	11
Main Street, Summerville	11
Mt. Pleasant	11
I-526 in general	10
North Charleston	9
West Ashley	8
Dorchester & Ashley Phosphate	7
Crosstown (US 17)	6
None	6
Maybank Hwy	6

SC 642 near Air Force Base	5
Bowman Rd	4
Harbor View Rd	4
Glenn McConnell	4
US 17A	3
Ladson	2
North Main Street	2
Butternut Rd	2
Hwy 41 @ Us 17	2

Bees Ferry Rd	2
Leeds Ave	1
Hwy 165	1
James Island	1
College Park Rd	1
Old Orangeburg Rd	1
Rifle Range Rd	1
Lockwood Dr	1

Question #10

What specific changes would you recommend to improve the quality of transportation in the region?

Write-in Answers	Response Count
	310

Summary

Bike & Ped	80
Improve transit, park & ride	73
Commuter Rail	43
Less development	25
Technology: light sync, lighting, signage	18
More lanes	16
Improve efficiency of roads	13
Alternate Routes (east to west or N. to S.)	12
Improve current roads (pot hole, landscaping, etc)	12
Traffic enforcement, improve safety	12

Freight Rail	10
HOV	10
Developers pay to improve infrastructure	8
Connectivity	7
Cross agency planning	7
Build Sea Island Greenway	7
Turn lanes	6
More roads	6
Limit trucking	5
Ride Sharing	5
Fix downtown drainage	3

Alternative management (flex time, telecommute)	2
Complete I-526	2

Less politics	1
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Question #11

Where are additional transit services needed in the region?

Write-In Answers		Response Count	
		231	
Commuter rail	53	Moncks Corner to N. Charleston	4
Public transit (Express services, routes, shelters, longer service)	39	Direct Services between the different regions	4
Summerville	18	Improve CARTA in Mt P	3
Johns Island	11	Improve current roads (maintenance)	3
Bike lanes & Pedestrian	11	I-526	2
Mt P to Charleston	8	Freight rail	2
Goose Creek	8	HOV	2
Everywhere	8	Airport	2
I-26	7	Senior Aide with travel	2
N. Charleston to Charleston	7	Crosstown (US 17)	2
W. Ashley to North Charleston	7	Folly Road	1
Folly rd	7	I-526 Extension	1
Near employment centers	6	Glenn McConnell Expressway	1
West Ashley	6	Efficient green transportation	1
James Island	6	Inside metro area	1
Charleston	5	Harbor View Rd	1
Hwy 17	4		

Question #12

General Comments:

Write-In Answers

**Response
Count**

Summary

162

More bike & pedestrian lanes	46	Improve safety on Johns Island Roads	3
Add Commuter Rail	30	Air Force Base traffic problems	2
Improve public transit (shelters, routes, etc)	30	More public involvement	2
Better land use	22	Alternative traffic solutions (flex time, calming, etc)	2
Low cost solutions for traffic improvements	20	More/improve routes for public transit	2
Less development	18	Later CARTA services	2
Fix current roads (pot holes, etc)	12	Less dependence on cars	2
More rail for freight	9	Make developers pay for improving infrastructure	2
Increase road capacity	8	Finish I-526	2
Improve public safety / enforce traffic laws	6	More roads on Johns Island	2
Improve infrastructure	6	Better signage	2
Better interconnectivity	6	Protect greenways and trees	2
Better planning, also across different agencies	5	More park & rides	2
Less politics in transportation	5	Stop adding lanes to highways	2
HOV lanes	4	No to commuter rail	1
Better bus stop lanes	4	Better affordable housing locations - near employment centers	1
No I-526 extension	4	Add roundabouts in Mt. Pleasant	1
No to the greenway on Johns Island	4	Improve bikes on CARTA	1
Reduce traffic downtown	4	No more roads on Johns Island	1
More green transportation options	3	Make a Johns Island Transportation Plan	1
Preserve rural areas	3		

Consider all income groups	1
No toll roads	1
Forget about public transit it is useless	1
Help seniors with transportation	1

Better traffic management with schools	1
No to I-26 widening	1
Turn lanes on Calhoun and James Island connector	1

Question #13

What is the ZIP Code where your home is located?

Answer Options	Response Count
	396

