

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In January and February 2010, the Mid-Region Council of Governments conducted a survey to gather people's views on transportation in the Albuquerque Metropolitan Planning Area. This area includes southern Sandoval County (from Algodones continuing south), all of Bernalillo County and Los Lunas in Valencia County. Results from this survey will be incorporated in the 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

The survey was conducted mostly online. English and Spanish versions of the survey were available, as well as a paper/postal mail version. The wide-spread participation in the survey can be attributed to outreach to member governments, business and neighborhood associations, educational institutions, special interest groups and the mass media. There were 3,648 respondents to the survey. More than 83% of people who took the survey have never provided their views for a transportation plan previously. The majority of people who took the survey (67.4%) report driving alone as their predominant mode of travel to work or school. However, people who take public transit, walk, and bicycle as their predominant mode of travel to work or school were well represented.

Overall people's views on how the current transportation system meets their needs are fairly well-balanced. Nearly equal numbers fall into three categories of the transportation system meeting their needs (30.4%), not meeting their needs (32.3%), or not having a strong opinion (37.2%). How well needs are met corresponds to how people view traffic congestion and travel options. Of those who respond that traffic congestion is a serious problem, 50.1% report that the transportation system does not meet their needs. This percentage drops to 22.8% for those who do not see traffic congestion as a serious problem. The difference is more dramatic when separating responses by how many travel options people report having. Of those who report that they have many different travel options, 60.2% report that the transportation system meets their needs. This percentage drops to 12.9% for those who report having very few travel options.

Retired people, people that take the Rail Runner Express for work or school, and people who live in Valencia County and commute to Albuquerque's Eastside for work or school also report the transportation system meets their needs at relatively high rates. Many from this last group from Valencia County report using the Rail Runner Express for their commute. Respondents from Albuquerque's Westside/West Bernalillo County or Sandoval County report relatively low rates of satisfaction with the current transportation system for both those who commute within their area and commute to Albuquerque's Eastside.

Most survey takers want better access to the bus. Of the total survey takers, 60.4% would like better bus access, followed by better access to: the train (49.6%); bicycle (35.7%); walking (24.8%); and the automobile (14.4%). Students, in particular, would like better bus access.

Survey takers were asked to prioritize a list of planning issues. The highest priority planning issue is "Develop the system so that people can travel to centers of employment, education and commerce easily by public transit, bicycle and walking." This is followed by "Expand and enhance public transit," and then "Reduce traffic congestion." People from Albuquerque's Eastside rate highly "Maintain and repair the existing transportation system." Whereas, people from Sandoval County and Valencia County tended to rate highly "Expand and enhance the transportation system to better serve outlying areas."

The information collected as part of this survey will be invaluable for use in the regional transportation planning process led by MRCOG, which includes the development of the 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). MRCOG would like to thank all the survey participants for taking the time to make their voices heard. Further opportunities for participation in the MTP process will be publicized on the MRCOG website (www.mrcog-nm.gov).