

Transportation Challenges Survey

Summary

Purpose

This memo provides a summary of the process and an overview of findings from the Transportation Challenges Survey. The survey will help influence the recommendations and shape the development of Dutchess County Transportation Council's (DCTC) Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), *Moving Dutchess Forward*.

Survey Distribution and Outreach Summary

The Transportation Challenges Survey was developed to gather information from Dutchess County residents to help guide and inform DCTC's update of its LRTP, especially as it relates to transportation-based challenges and barriers. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the public health precautions in place, and extremely limited opportunities for in-person outreach, the team offered the survey electronically through the SurveyMonkey platform in two languages: English and Spanish.

The survey was issued between November 23, 2020 and February 1, 2021. The team carried out several forms of outreach for the survey, such as providing a link on the [plan website](#), multiple social media posts, four Constant Contact e-blasts to a contact list of over 500 stakeholders (including 63 media contacts), and an email to over 1,000 county employees. Additionally, [Mid-Hudson News](#) published project information including a link to the Transportation Challenges Survey on November 24, 2020, as did the Northern Dutchess News in a print and digital article on December 2, 2020.

In total, 364 survey responses (362 English, two Spanish) were received from 33 (of 34) Dutchess County ZIP Codes. To incentivize completion of the survey, the team advertised a random drawing of two \$25 Visa/Mastercard gift cards that were awarded to two randomly selected respondents.

Recurring Transportation Themes and Barriers

There were several open-ended questions in the Transportation Challenges Survey, but the focus of this document will be on the quantitative questions and responses to the survey.

Of all survey respondents, the two most cited modes of transportation for daily trips were driving (91%) and walking (26%). The total is greater than 100% because respondents had the option to select multiple modes of transportation.

Survey respondents were asked about transportation challenges in accessing seven destinations including work, school/college, grocery stores/supermarkets, pharmacies/clinics/hospitals, community resources (centers, libraries, post office, city/town/village halls, etc.), recreational spaces, and other. Table 1 below provides a total count of transportation challenges when accessing all destinations and Table 2 illustrates how each transportation challenge ranked when considering access to each specific destination.

Transportation Challenges to Various Destinations	Total Count
Lack of sidewalks/crosswalks/safe walking routes	535
Lack of safe bicycling routes	530
Congestion/traffic issues	466
Safety of the roads	456
No access to public transportation*	435
Limited transit routes or schedules*	434
Too far/takes too long to reach with options available	287
Personal safety concerns	230
Lack of accessibility (for wheelchairs, strollers, persons with disabilities, etc.)	180
Lack of a vehicle/unable to drive	167
Other transportation challenge(s)	111

Table 1 - Transportation challenges to various destinations. (Respondents could select all that apply.)

Transportation Challenges to Specific Destinations (Ranked)	Work	School/College	Food	Medical	Community Resources	Parks/Trails	Other Destinations
Lack of sidewalks/crosswalks/safe walking routes	5	2	1	2	1	1	1
Lack of safe bicycling routes	3	1	3	1	2	2	2
Safety of the roads	2	3	4	3	3	5	6
Congestion/traffic issues	1	4	2	5	6	7	5
No access to public transportation*	6	6	6	4	4	3	3
Limited transit routes or schedules*	4	5	5	6	5	4	4
Too far/takes too long to reach with options available	8	7	7	7	7	6	7
Personal safety concerns	7	8	8	8	8	8	10
Lack of a vehicle/unable to drive	9	9	10	10	10	10	9
Lack of accessibility (for wheelchairs, strollers, persons with disabilities, etc.)	10	10	9	9	9	9	11
Other transportation challenge(s)	11	11	11	11	11	11	8

Table 2 - Ranking of transportation challenges based to each destination.

In Table 1, the primary transportation challenges to all destinations include:

- “Lack of sidewalks/crosswalks/safe walking routes” (535) and “lack of safe bicycling routes” (530) were selected as the top transportation challenges when accessing the seven destinations. “Congestion/traffic issues” (466) and “safety of the roads” (456) followed. Note: The number of responses is greater than the number of survey participants because people could select the same transportation challenge for multiple destinations.
- If both public transportation options were combined (“limited transit route or schedules” and “no access to public transportation”), limited public transportation services (869) would be the top cited challenge.*

Table 2 illustrates that transportation challenges varied based on each destination. Some patterns that emerged include:

- Generally, “lack of sidewalks/crosswalks/safe walking routes” was cited as the first- or second-ranked transportation challenge to all destinations except for work (with an average rank of 1.9). “Lack of safe bicycling routes” was a close second with an average rank of 2.0.
- “Congestion/traffic issues” and “Safety of the roads” were the top two transportation challenges when work was the destination but received average rankings of 3.7 and 4.3 respectively when all destinations were considered.
- If the two public transportation related transportation challenges (“no access to public transportation” and “limited transit routes or schedules”) were combined, limited public transportation services would rank as the top transportation challenge to all destinations.*

Table 3 below summarizes which transportation challenges affect the daily life of survey respondents the most.

Transportation Challenges Affecting Daily Life the Most	Total Count
Congestion/traffic issues	109
Safety of the roads	101
Lack of sidewalks/crosswalks/safe walking routes	95
Lack of safe bicycling routes	80
Limited transit routes or schedules*	74
No access to public transportation*	48
Too far/takes too long to get to common destinations	42
Personal safety concerns	42
Other (please specify)	26
Lack of accessibility (for wheelchairs, strollers, persons with disabilities, etc.)	23
Lack of a vehicle/unable to drive	16

Table 3 - Transportation challenges that affects daily life the most. (Respondents could select all that apply.)

Table 3 shows that:

- “Congestion/traffic issues” was cited the most (109), followed by “safety of the roads” (101) and “lack of sidewalks/crosswalks/safe walking routes” (95).
- If both public transportation options were combined (“limited transit route or schedules” and “no access to public transportation”), limited public transportation services (122) would be the top cited challenge.*

Table 4 below illustrates what survey respondents selected as their top transportation priorities for their community.

Top Transportation Priorities for Your Community	Total Count
Better walking routes/access	106
Reduced congestion	94
Improved public transit service	89
Safety of the roads	83
Better bicycling routes/access	83
More transportation options	67
Access to basic needs (food, educational, medical)	45
Personal safety concerns	28
Improved accessibility (for wheelchairs, strollers, persons with disabilities, etc.)	25
Other (please specify)	21
Ability to get around easily (school, shopping, childcare, appointments, etc.)	0

- *Table 4 - Top transportation priorities. (Up to three selected per respondent.)*

Findings from Table 4 include:

- The most common transportation priority was “better walking routes/access” (106), followed by “reduced congestion” (94) and “improved public transit service” (89).

Summary

In general, people who do not drive for most of their daily trips appeared to face the most difficulty in getting around Dutchess County.

Though 91% of survey respondents indicated driving was one of their typical modes of transportation, bicycling, walking, and public transportation-related challenges were disproportionately identified over driving-related challenges.

Most driving-related transportation challenges highlighted congestion, while challenges related to other modes focused on access and safety.

Nearly 60% cited no change in access to destinations in recent years. An additional 20% cited improvements and 20% cited a decline.