

MEMO

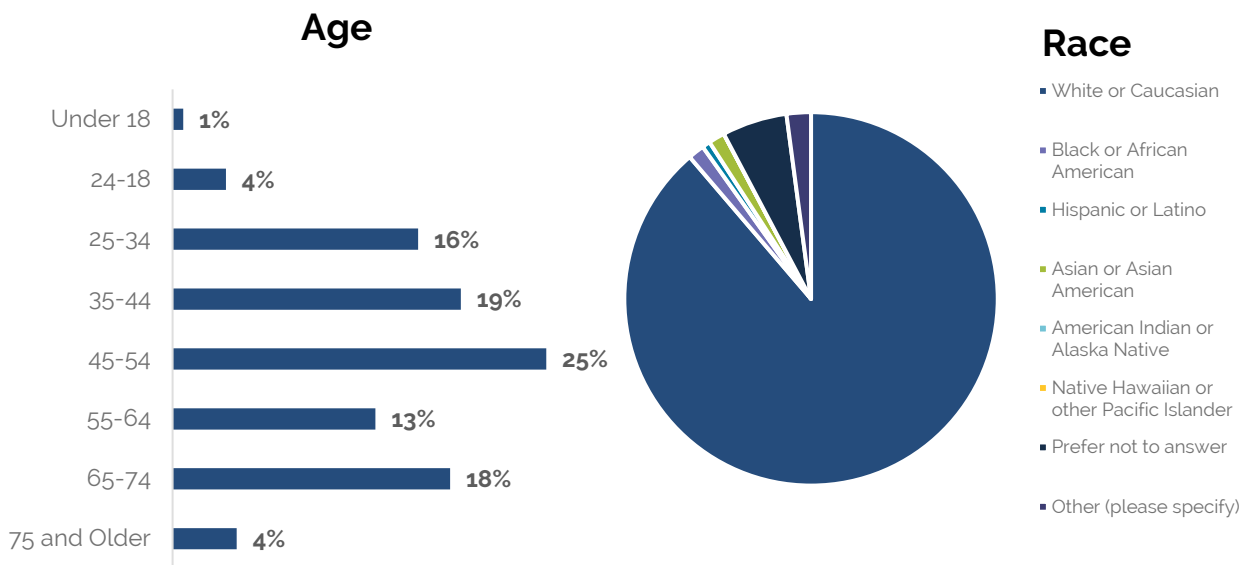
To: Greater Egypt Regional Planning and Development Commission
From: Lochmueller Group
Date: 12/08/2021
Subject: Community Survey Summary

Community Survey

A community survey took place August 5th through November 4, 2021. The survey was available through a link on the Greater Egypt Regional Planning Commission’s website, the project website, and via social media. The survey was created to capture the sentiment of residents toward various mobility topics in the community (transportation modes, commutes, transportation goals, etc.).

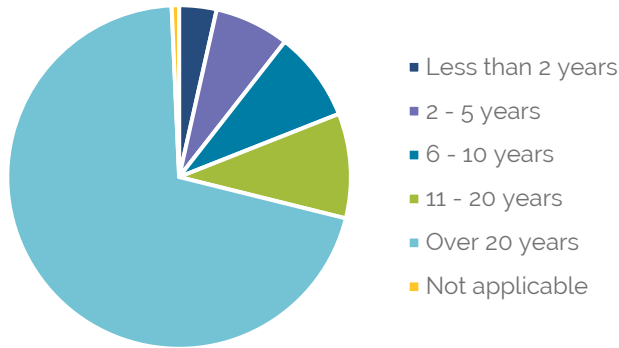
The community survey is an important tool that helps to inform the plan. It helps the planning team confirm trends and identify issues that may have been missed during other engagement activities. The survey included 14 multiple choice, ranking, and open ended questions. Over one hundred and forty respondents completed the survey by the closing date.

Survey Participants

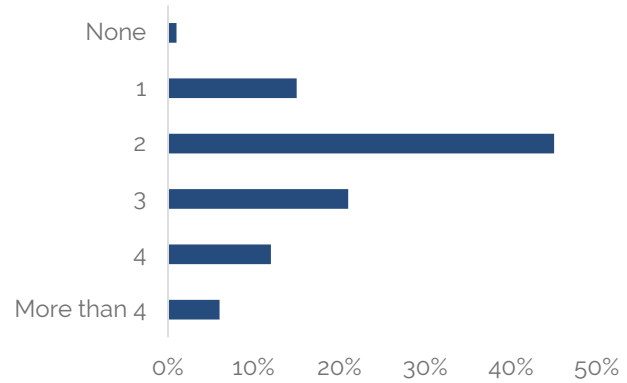


Survey participants included a representative variety of ages and races for the region. Over 64% of survey participants live and work in Greater Egypt, while an additional 33% live but do not work in the 5-county area. Almost all participants surveyed (99%) own at least one car, though most have two or more available at home. It was notable that an overwhelming majority (70%) have lived in the region for 20 years or more. Though this is more common in rural communities, it was nonetheless surprising.

Tenure



Vehicles at Home



Results from the engagement process revealed that almost all people use a car as their primary mode of transportation (87%). When given the option of other modes of transportation such as biking, walking, and bus transit, and the frequency in which they are used, it was found that walking was the next most common mode of transportation. According to the survey, 14% of people walk daily with an additional 52% of people who reported that they walk at least once a month. Over a quarter of all respondents reported that they biked at least once a month (26%) while 14% of people drove farm or agriculture machinery at least once a month.

Of those who responded to the survey, 87% have not used public transportation within the last year. Additional modes of transportation that were reported used in the region included golf carts and mobility services like Uber/Lyft.

87%

Use a car as their primary mode of transportation



66%

Walk at least once a month

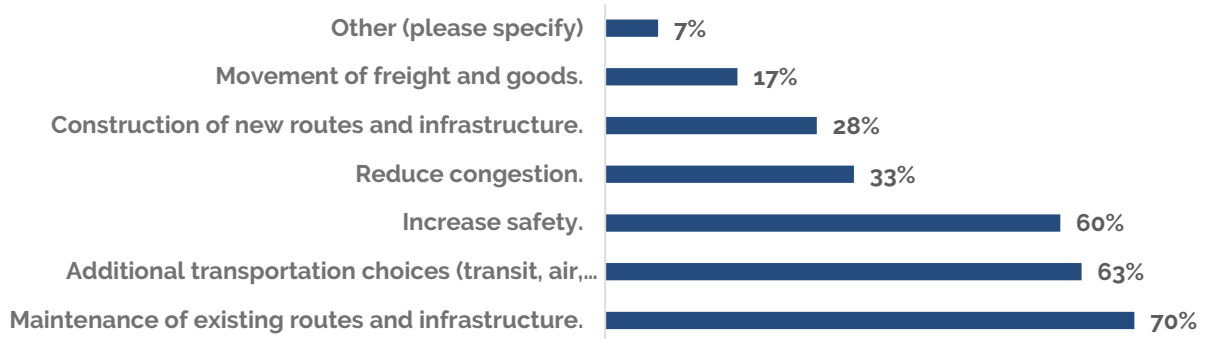


87%

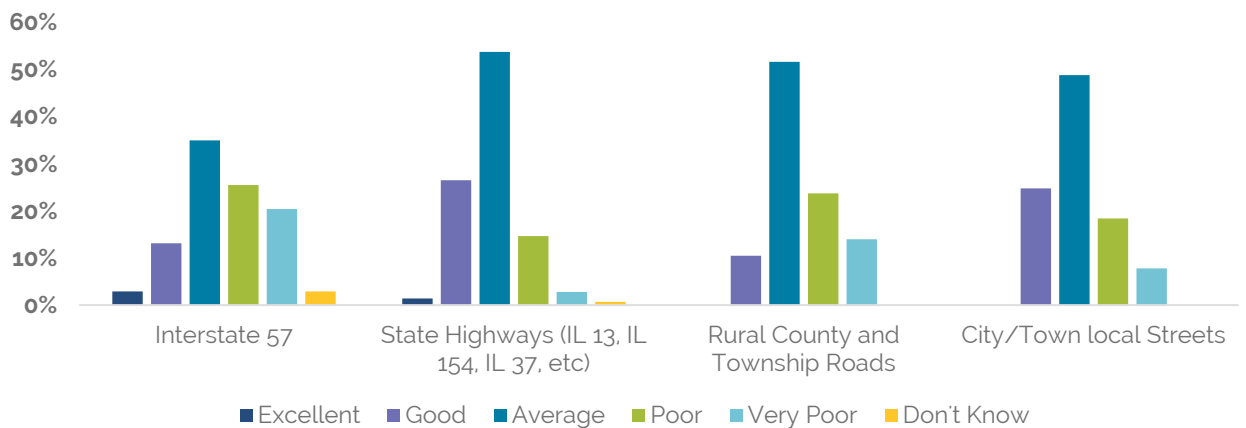
Have not used public transportation in the last year



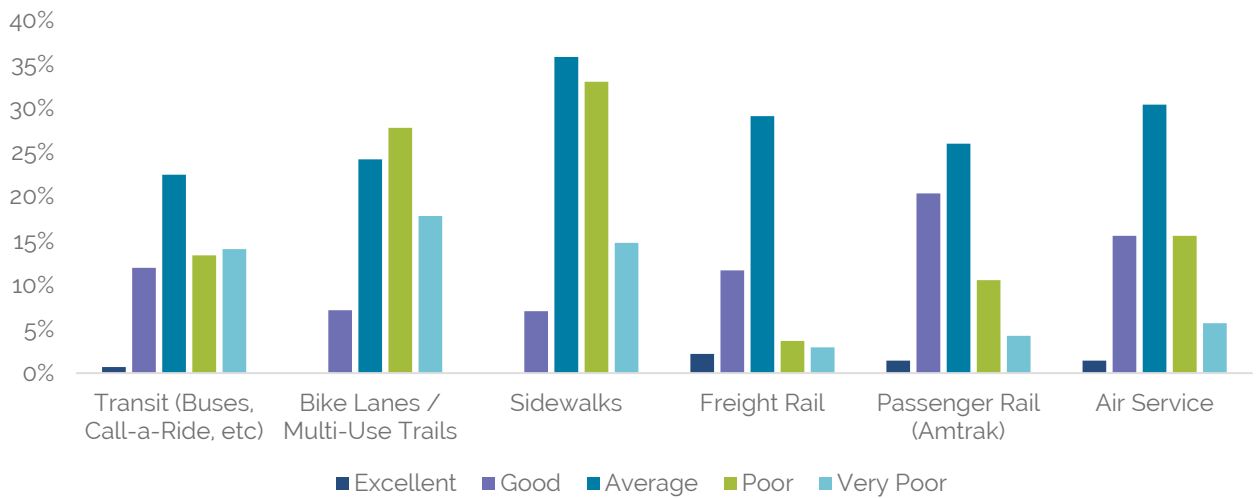
When asked what are the top transportation issues that should be addressed in the Greater Egypt Region, the most common response was the maintenance of existing routes and infrastructure (70%), followed by additional transportation choices (63%), and increase safety (60%). Other responses included a number of suggestions for improved public transit access, more direct connections to St. Louis, and addressing truck congestion on the Interstate.



When asked to report on the condition of the existing road system, respondents reported the state highway in the most favorable condition. Thoughts on the interstate system were divided with similar numbers reporting both excellent and very poor condition. Many comments reported that congestion, safety, and ongoing construction on I-57 as their highest concern. Overall, the interstate system received the least favorable condition rating. Approximately 28% of survey respondents found the state highways to be in excellent or good condition, while 54% reported state highways as average and 17% reported them in poor or very poor condition. City/town streets and county/township roads received average ratings with a number of comments about localized maintenance and flooding concerns.



A similar question was posed about condition of alternative transportation modes. Respondents reported the freight rail and passenger in the most favorable condition with an average rating. The bike lane and multi-use trail program received the lowest overall rating with 46% reporting it in poor or very poor condition. Sidewalks fared only marginally better with a higher percentage of good or average rating balanced by 48% reporting very poor or poor condition. It is notable that no bike lanes/multiuse trails or sidewalks were reported in excellent condition. Comments suggested more and improved walking and biking options, better on-time performance for passenger rail, passenger rail connection to St. Louis, and improved access throughout the rural region to public transportation.



The public was asked to provide up to three specific transportation improvements they would like to see in the Greater Egypt Region and rank in priority. The most common improvement cited as the highest priority was to improve access and availability of transit (23 responses). The next most common high priority improvements cited were enhancement to walking and biking options in the region, followed by increased safety and reduced congestion on Interstate 57. Other topics that appeared repeatedly include improving or providing an alternative to Rt. 13, proving air service to Chicago, increasing connectivity to St. Louis with the Southwest Connector, and improving overall road maintenance throughout the area. A number of specific issues were identified throughout the region, including localized flooding issues, intersection safety concerns, and at-grade rail separations.

Participants were given the opportunity to share any additional comments or suggestions with the project team. Many noted concerns about driving on I-57, suggested strategies to improve driver safety, and comment on their appreciation and support for the region. Some notable responses include:

- “We are a rural region that relies heavily on nature and farming with many families and individuals utilizing ATV/UTV side by side vehicles and golf carts. I would like to see more options for these in communities and traveling from community to community.”
- “Due to the layout of the interstates that run through our area, there is constantly a large amount of semi traffic. While this is extremely important for economic vitality, I would like to see the transportation system accommodate them more.”
- “Glad Greater Egypt is doing this. Regional planning that emphasizes public needs over politics is the smart way to do infrastructure planning. Thank you!”
- “People need to be able to work and do daily business without owning a car.”
- “Elderly who can’t drive have little options. Most cannot use Rides mass transit because they have to sit for long periods at their destination waiting for pickup. More options are really important.”