

8/23/23 Public Survey – Summary of Responses

Description: From August – December 2023, the MIC issued and publicized an online survey for the general public, asking respondents to describe their vision for the region’s transportation system, key areas of concern, and ideas for the future.

What We Heard – Summary of Themes:

Transportation System Perceptions

- Most people think traffic congestion is light at middays and weekends and moderate during the morning and evening commutes.
- People perceive transit service in the Duluth-Superior area as average, but few survey respondents are bus riders. Among riders, perceptions are mixed.
- Sidewalks, crosswalks, pedestrian traffic signals and other amenities for walkers are considered poor to average.
- Bike riders in the region do not feel as though biking is safe or convenient; and even non-cyclists feel that bike infrastructure is poor.

Transportation System Values & Priorities

- People feel that the most critical issues to be addressed in the transportation system are maintaining infrastructure in good working condition, keeping transportation safe, and improving conditions for walking, biking, and transit while connecting all modes of travel for efficiency.
- Transportation safety remains the region’s number one priority.

Transportation Issues and Opportunities

- Nearly everyone feels that snow clearance is a critical issue for the Duluth-Superior transportation system, particularly as it affects walking.
- Spot traffic congestion is an issue on a small number of road segments and intersections.
- In many areas, excess road capacity means there is pavement or right of way that can be reallocated to walking, biking, or transit, or reduced in the future to save costs and minimize environmental impacts, like stormwater runoff.
- Limited funding means that maintenance of an efficient transportation system can be difficult and requires prioritization of initiatives.
- We have to be able to accommodate more oversized trucks on our roads as port activities grow, and a truck bypass would benefit all transportation in the region.
- Creating a reliable, base system for walking should be a key feature of the plan – this includes fixing gaps in the sidewalk system, expanding sidewalks and trails with an eye on basic access, determining how to maintain our sidewalks, and figuring out how to keep sidewalks clear of snow in the winter. This is especially critical as the region’s population ages.
- A continuous, safe east-west greenway or bike lane could dramatically improve cycling.
- The bus system has been improved, but still is considered a “second class” mode.