

## **Community Survey Summary**

Available online from April 12 – May 3, 2017

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the online survey was to collect input from stakeholders on their commuting behaviors, transportation challenges, transportation priorities, public transportation needs, and implementation resources.

### **Outreach**

The online survey was promoted through press releases distributed by the Forsyth County Department of Communications; posts to the County's official Facebook page; through flyer distribution at the public meetings; and via display boards positioned at all of the Forsyth County public library branches. Additionally, members of the Stakeholder and Technical Advisory Committees were encouraged to share information about the survey with their networks. Lastly, all public meeting attendees who provided an email address either at registration or on their comment forms were invited to participate in the survey via direct email.

### **Participation**

A total of 589 individuals participated in the online survey.

### **Survey Design**

The survey included a combination of 20 open ended, multiple choice, and rating style questions. It was available online for a total of three weeks and was accessible directly from the project website (ForsythTransportationPlan.com). The survey was only available in the online format. It was not a statistically valid survey and did not seek to capture a statistical sample size of respondents.

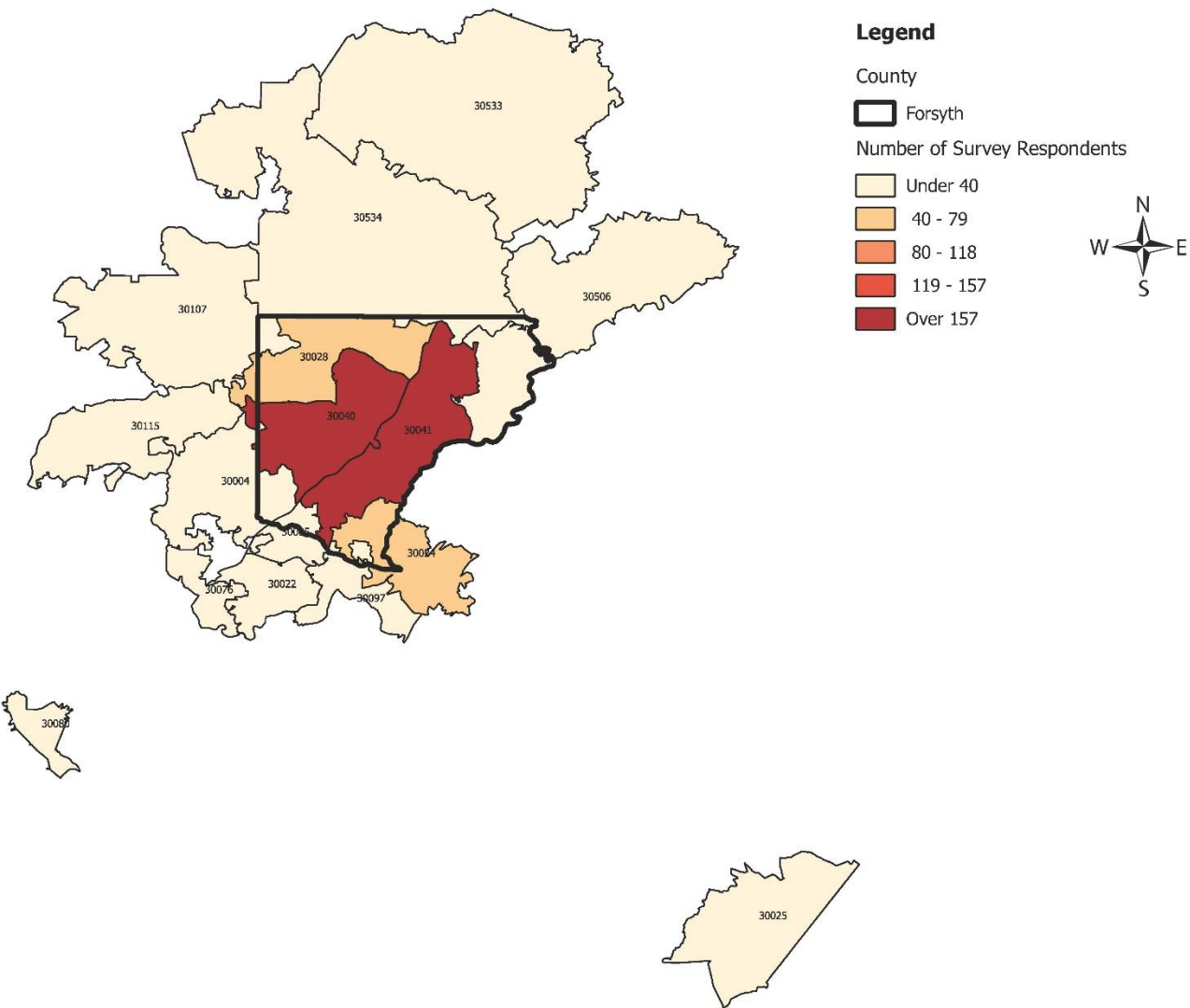
**Section 1: Commuting Behaviors**

**Q1: What is the zip code where you live?**

# of people who answered this question: 582

A majority of the individuals (81%) who responded to the survey live within Forsyth County zip codes.

**Where Survey Respondents Live**





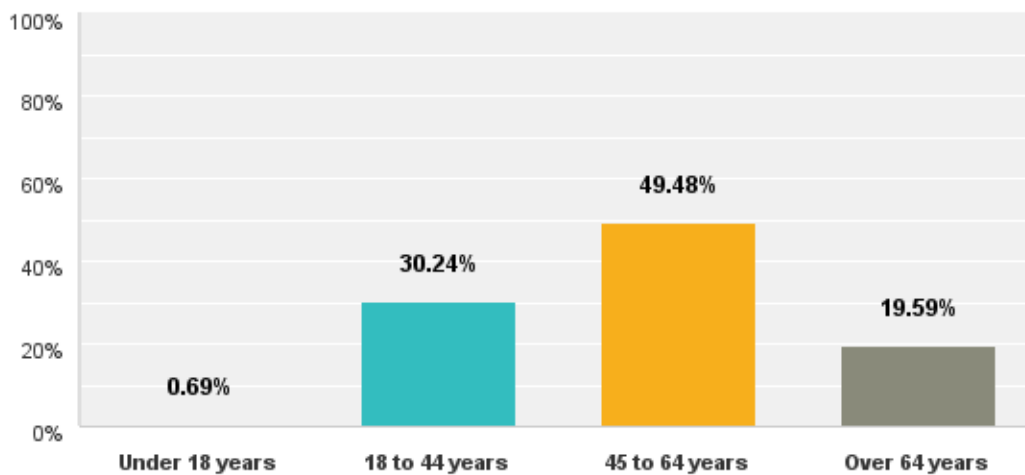
**Q3: Please select your age range.**

*# of people who answered this question: 582*

Answer options for this question were:

- Under 18 years
- 18 to 44 years
- 45 to 64 years
- Over 64 years

Less than 1% of survey respondents were under the age of 18. Individuals ages 18 to 44 make up approximately 30% of survey respondents. The majority of survey respondents (49.5%) were ages 45 to 64 years old. Nearly 20% of survey respondents were over the age of 64 years.



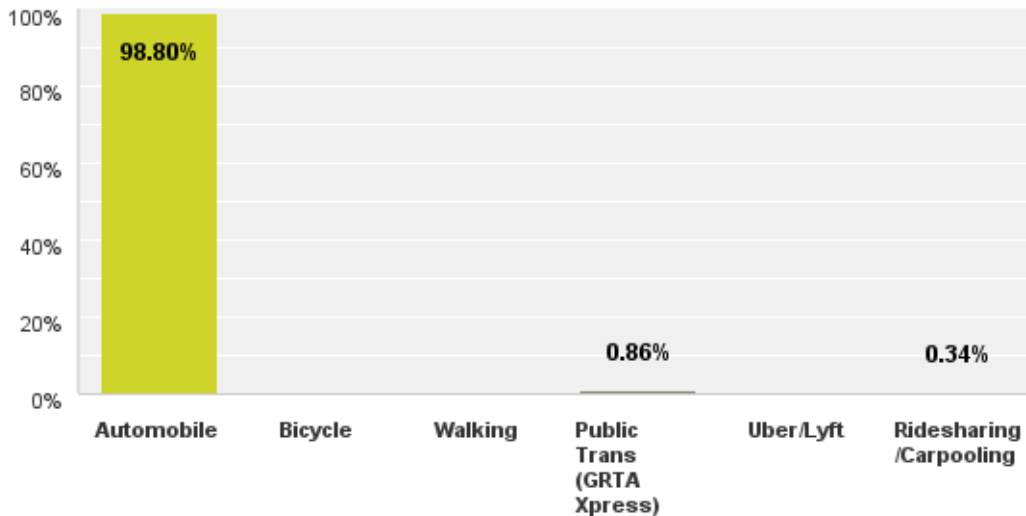
**Q4: What is your primary mode of transportation?**

*# of people who answered this question: 582*

Answer options for this question were:

- Automobile
- Bicycle
- Walking
- Public Transportation (GRTA Xpress Bus)
- Uber/Lyft
- Ridesharing/Carpooling

Nearly all respondents (98.8%) use their automobile as the primary mode of transportation. Less than 1% use public transportation such as the GRTA Xpress service and 0.3% use a ridesharing or carpooling option.



**Q5: In miles, how long is your commute?**

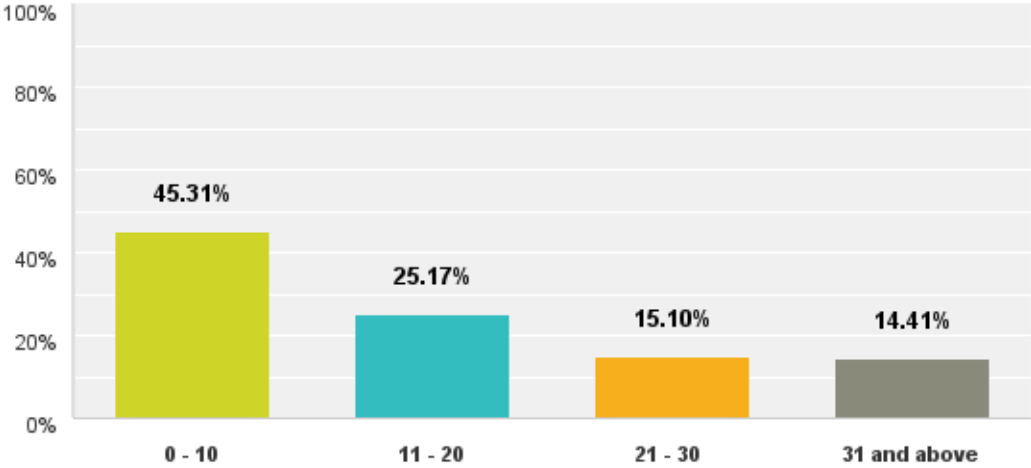
*# of people who answered this question: 576*

Answer options for this question were:

- 0 - 10
- 11 - 20
- 21 - 30
- 31 and above

Most respondents (45.3%) reported a commute distance of 10 miles or less. A quarter (25.2%) have a commute of 11 to 20 miles. Earlier survey questions regarding home and work zip codes supports this finding as 40% of respondents reported working in Forsyth County zip codes and another 20% work within nearby Milton, Alpharetta, and Suwanee.

Nearly a third (29.5%) commute more than 21 miles.



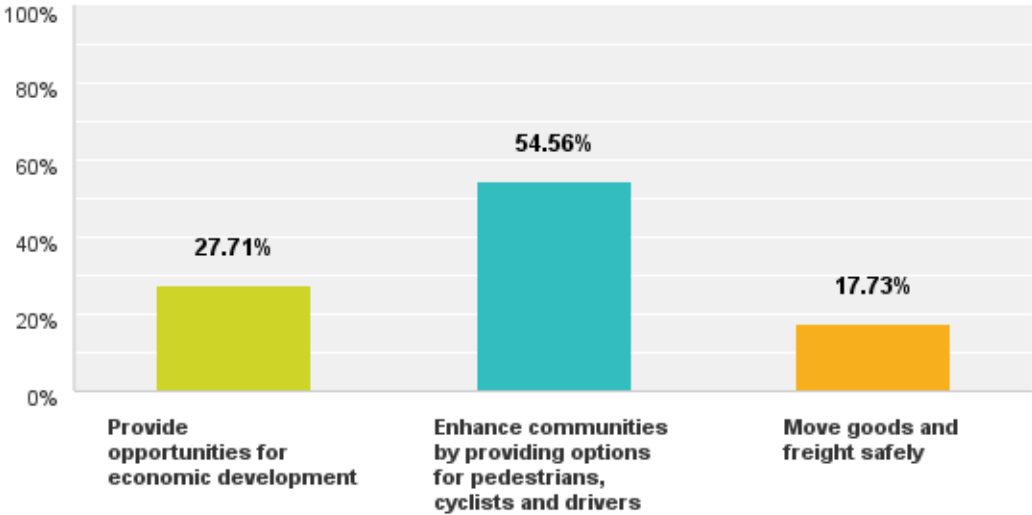
**Q6: Given that the primary purpose of the transportation system is to get people to places they need to be, what do you think is the secondary purpose?**

*# of people who answered this question: 581*

Answer options for this question were:

- Provide opportunities for economic development
- Enhance communities by providing options for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers
- Move goods and freight safely

More than half of respondents (54.6%) believe that the secondary purpose of the transportation system is to enhance communities by providing options for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers.



## Section 2: Transportation Challenges

**Q7: What are Forsyth County's THREE biggest transportation challenges in the next 25 years?**

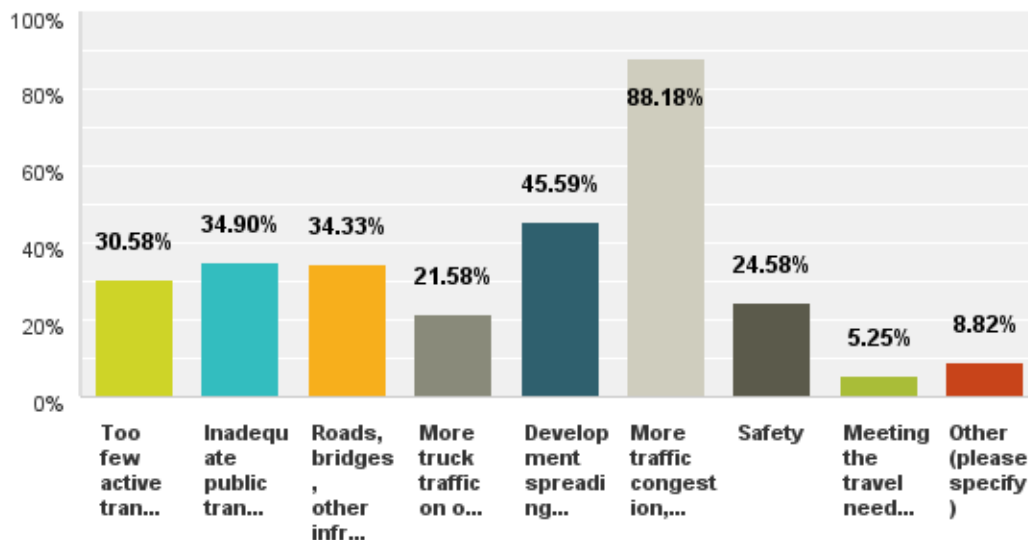
# of people who answered this question: 533

Answer options for this question are:

- Too few active transportation options (sidewalks, bike lanes, trails)
- Inadequate public transportation
- Roads, bridges, other infrastructure in need of repair
- More truck traffic on our highways
- Development spreading further out ("Sprawl")
- More traffic congestion, more delays
- Safety
- Meeting the travel needs of the elderly
- Other (please specify)

According to the survey, the three biggest transportation challenges in the next 25 years in rank order were:

1. More traffic congestion, more delays
2. Development spreading further out ("Sprawl")
3. Inadequate public transportation



An increase in traffic congestion which will result in more delays is perceived as Forsyth's biggest transportation challenge in the next 25 years.

**Q8: Rate the **CONDITION** of each transportation system in Forsyth County (e.g., are roads full of potholes, do signals work properly, do public transportation buses run well?)**

*# of people who answered this question: 531*

Answer options for this question were:

- Roads and streets
- Public transportation (buses, vanpools, park-n-ride lots)
- Sidewalks, greenways, and pedestrian signals
- Bicycle facilities on-road, greenways, designated routes, bike racks)
- Signs & signals (traffic lights, directional, etc.)
- Interstate highways and freeways

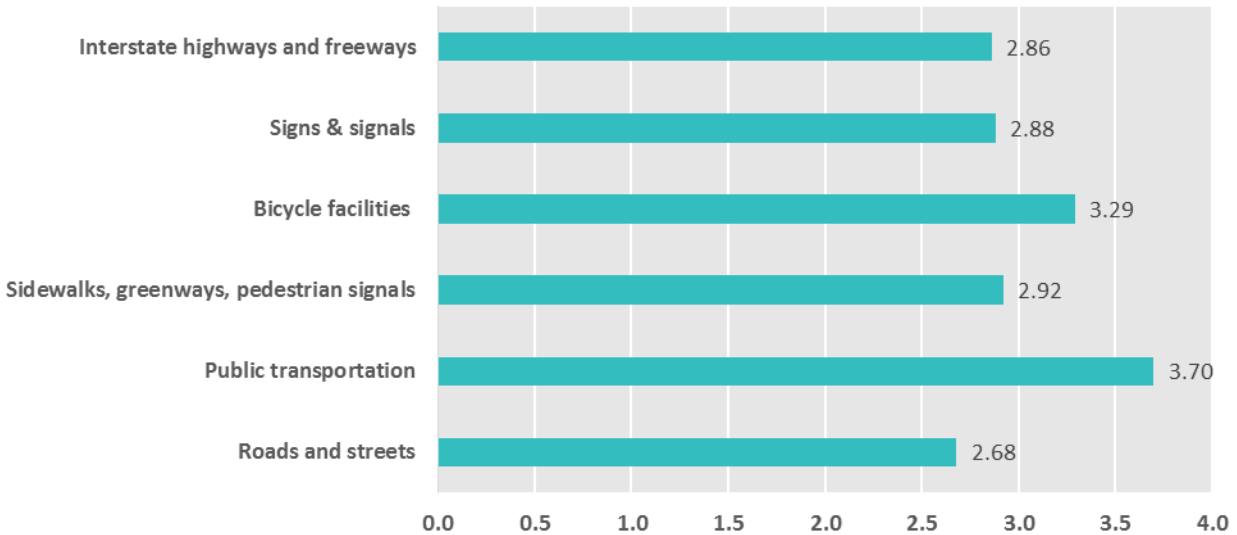
Rating options ranged from 1 to 5 where 1 is excellent, 3 is average, and 5 is terrible. A rating of 3 is considered average.

The following received a **CONDITION** rating between 1 and 3 (at or above average):

- Interstate highways and freeways
- Signs and signals
- Sidewalks, greenways and pedestrian signals
- Roads and streets

The **CONDITION** of bicycle facilities and public transportation received ratings greater than 3, (below average).





**Q9: Rate the AVAILABILITY of each transportation system in Forsyth County (e.g., are signals timed properly, are roads and streets congestion free?)**

*# of people who answered this question: 527*

Answer options for this question were:

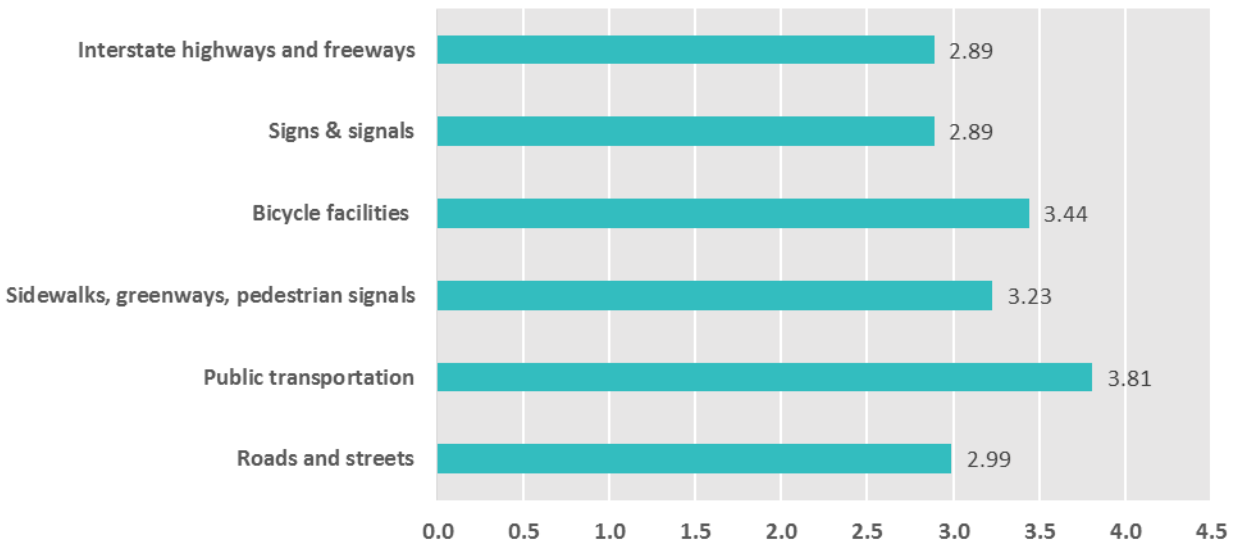
- Roads and streets
- Public transportation (buses, vanpools, park-n-ride lots)
- Sidewalks, greenways, and pedestrian signals
- Bicycle facilities (on-road, greenways, designated routes, bike racks)
- Signs & signals (traffic lights, directional, etc.)
- Interstate highways and freeways

Rating options ranged from 1 to 5 where 1 is excellent, 3 is average, and 5 is terrible. A rating of 3 is considered average.

The following received an **AVAILABILITY** rating between 1 and 3 (at or above average):

- Interstate highways and freeways
- Signs and signals
- Roads and streets

The **AVAILABILITY** of bicycle facilities; sidewalks, greenways and pedestrian signals; and public transportation received ratings greater than 3 (below average).



**Q10: Rate the PERFORMANCE of each transportation system in Forsyth County (e.g., are signals timed properly, are roads and streets congestion free?)**

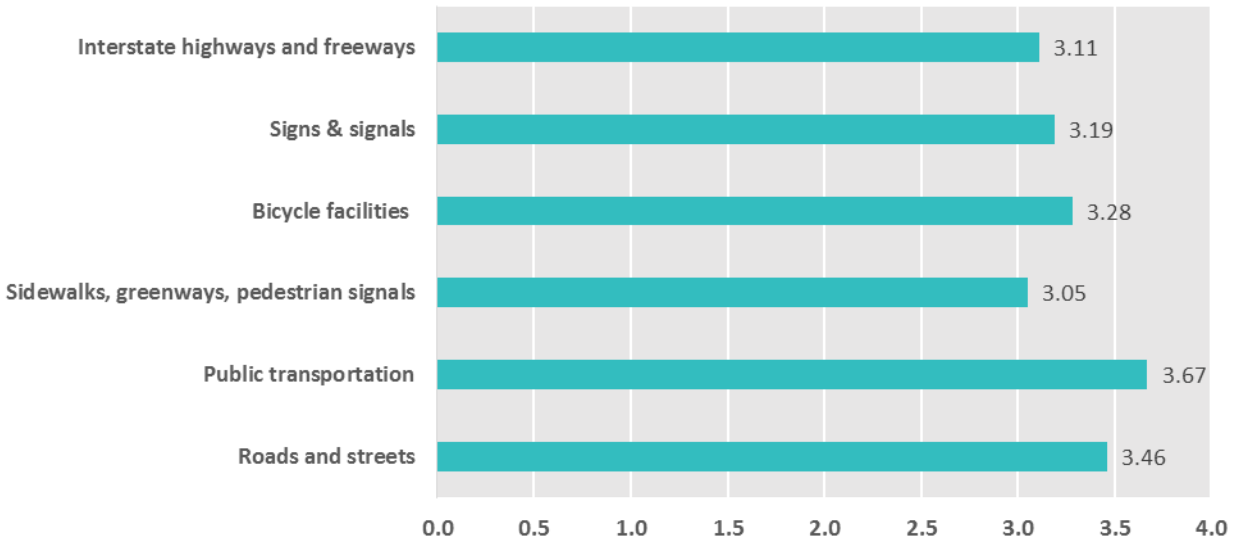
*# of people who answered this question: 529*

Answer options for this question were:

- Roads and streets
- Public transportation (buses, vanpools, park-n-ride lots)
- Sidewalks, greenways, and pedestrian signals
- Bicycle facilities (on-road, greenways, designated routes, bike racks)
- Signs & signals (traffic lights, directional, etc.)
- Interstate highways and freeways

Rating options ranged from 1 to 5 where 1 is excellent, 3 is average, and 5 is terrible. A rating of 3 is considered average.

All of the transportation systems received ratings greater than 3 (below average).



**Q11: Name any specific areas you avoid due to concerns about traffic congestion:**

*# of people who answered this question: 438*

Most frequent responses for this question include various points along the following corridors:

- SR 9
- SR 20
- SR 141
- SR 369
- SR 400
- Bethelview Road
- Old Atlanta Road
- Post Road
- Windermere Parkway

Most frequent responses for specific areas include:

- Commercial areas on Exits 13 and 14
- The City of Cumming/downtown Cumming
- South Forsyth

### Section 3: Transportation Priorities

**Q12: Which THREE of the following do you think is important to consider when SELECTING transportation projects?**

*# of people who answered this question: 513*

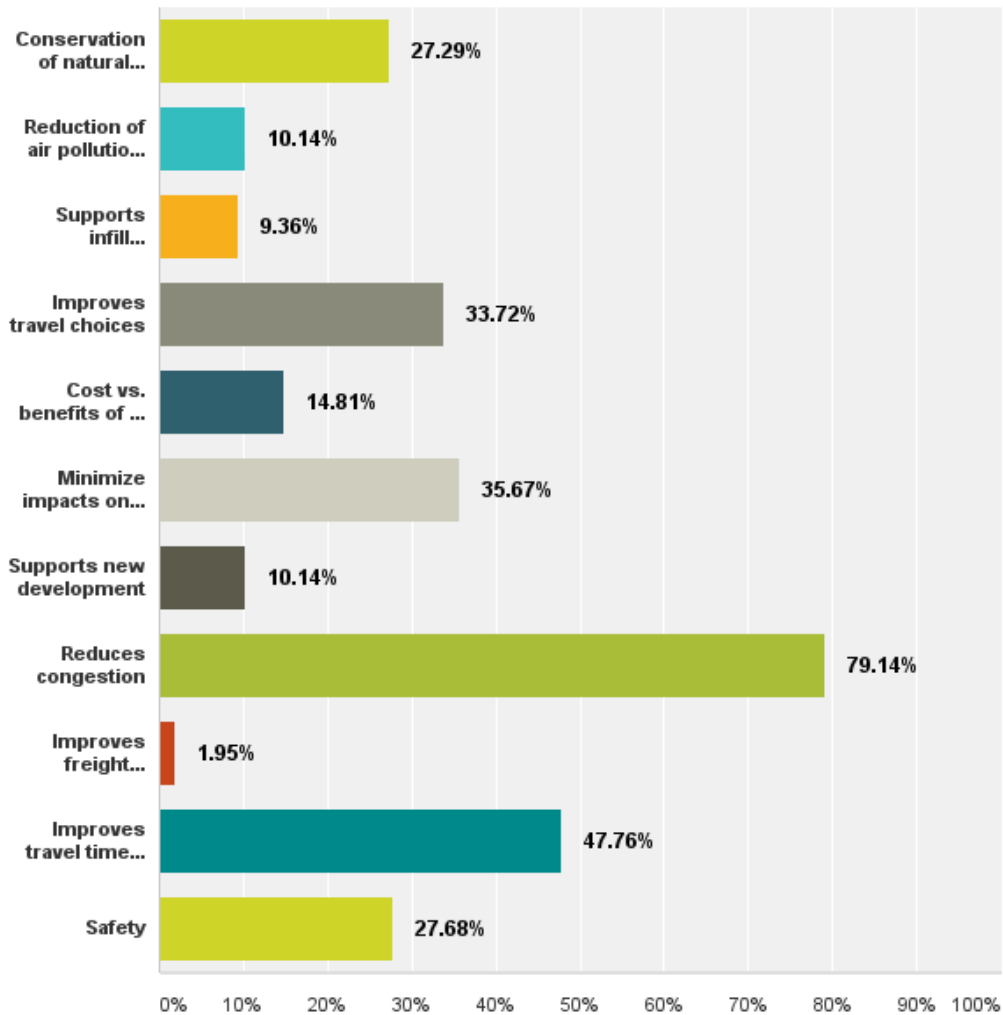
Answer options for this question are:

- Conservation of natural environment
- Reduction of air pollution (ozone, greenhouse gases, etc.)
- Supports infill development in existing corridors
- Improves travel choices
- Cost vs. benefits of the project [bang for the buck]
- Minimize impacts on existing neighborhoods
- Supports new development
- Reduces congestion
- Improves freight movement
- Improves travel time reliability
- Safety

According to the survey, the three most important factors to consider when selecting transportation projects are that the projects (shown in rank order):

1. Reduce congestion
2. Improve travel time reliability
3. Minimize impacts on existing neighborhoods

Survey respondents believe that reducing congestion is the most important factor to consider when selecting transportation projects.



**Q13: Which THREE of the following would be your highest priorities for transportation improvements?**

*# of people who answered this question: 513*

Answer options for this question are:

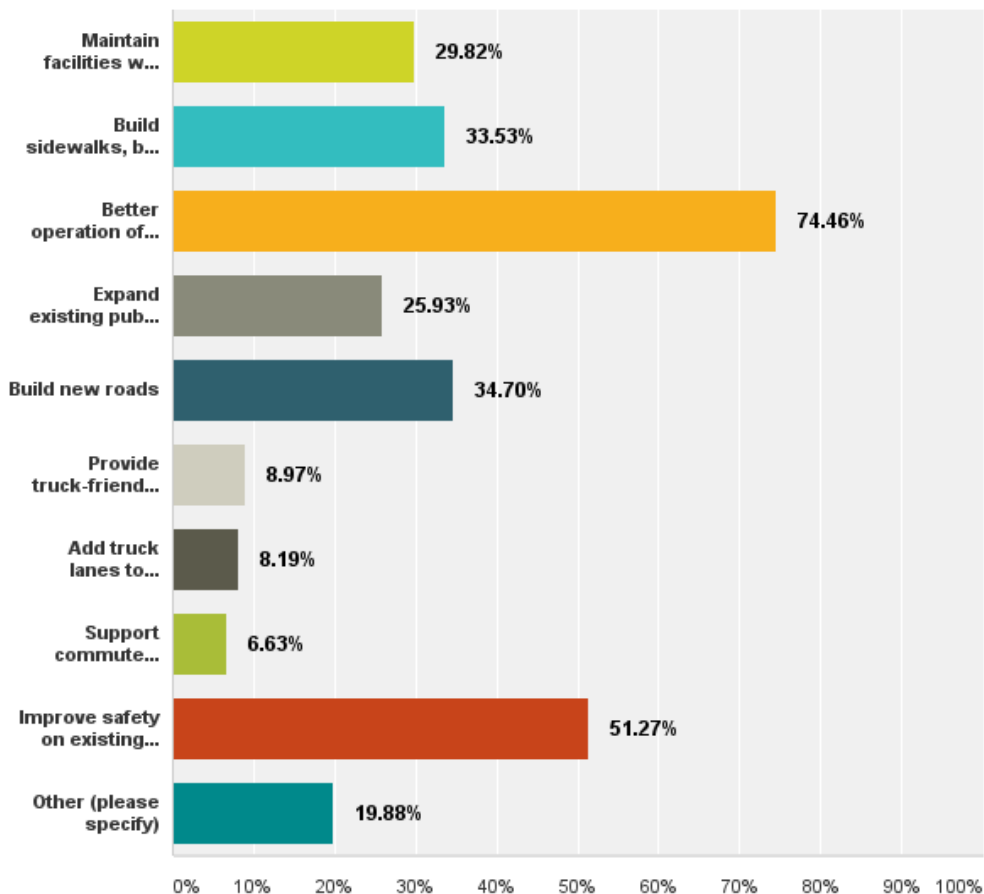
- Maintain facilities we have now
- Build sidewalks, bike lanes, and greenways (trails)
- Better operation of existing roadways (synchronize traffic signals, add turn lanes to intersections, reflective striping, etc.)
- Expand existing public transportation (new bus routes, more vehicles)
- Build new roads
- Provide truck-friendly intersections and roadways where freight traffic is highest
- Add truck lanes to existing roads

- Support commute options, such as carpools and van pools
- Improve safety on existing streets (address sight distances at intersections, add shoulders to rural roads, build medians to decrease head-on collisions, etc.)
- Other (please specify)

According to the survey, the top three priorities for transportation improvements (shown in rank order) are:

1. Better operation of existing roadways (synchronize traffic signals, add turn lanes to intersections, reflective striping, etc.)
2. Improve safety on existing streets (address sight distances at intersections, add shoulders to rural roads, build medians to decrease head-on collisions, etc.)
3. Build new roads

Survey respondents believe that better operation of existing roadways should be the top priority for transportation improvements.



**Q14: What specific changes would you recommend to improve the quality of transportation in the county?**

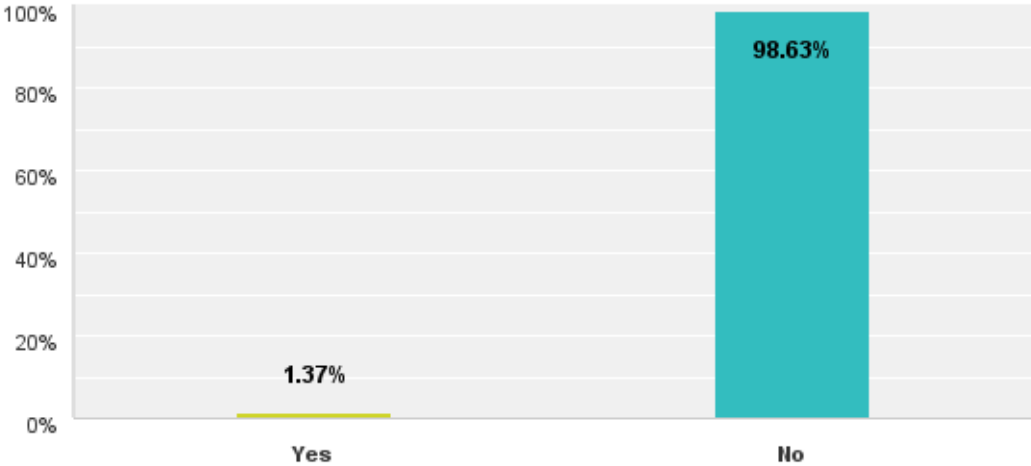
*# of people who answered this question: 339*

**Section 4: Public Transportation**

**Q15: Do you currently use Forsyth County Dial-A-Ride?**

*# of people who answered this question: 510*

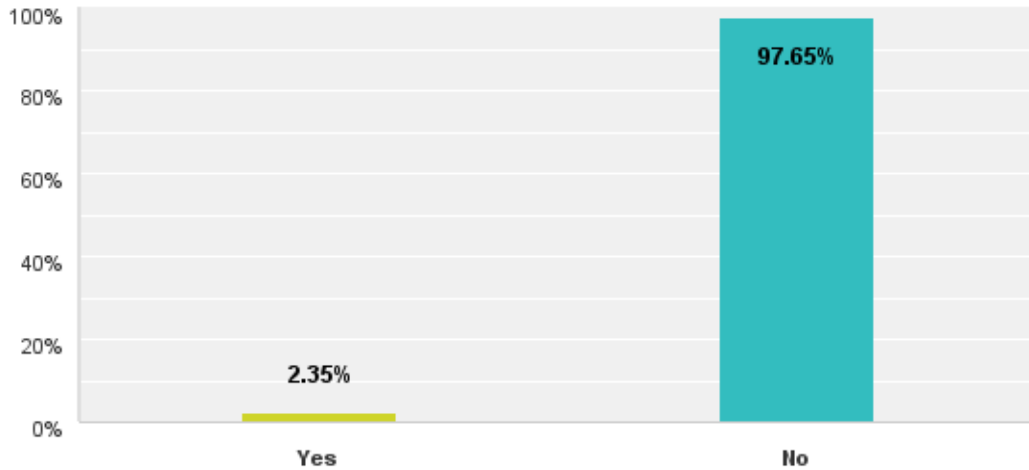
A very small percentage of respondents (1.37%) currently use Forsyth County Dial-A-Ride.



**Q16: Do you currently use GRTA Xpress bus service?**

*# of people who answered this question: 510*

A very small percentage of respondents (2.35%) currently use the GRTA Xpress bus service.



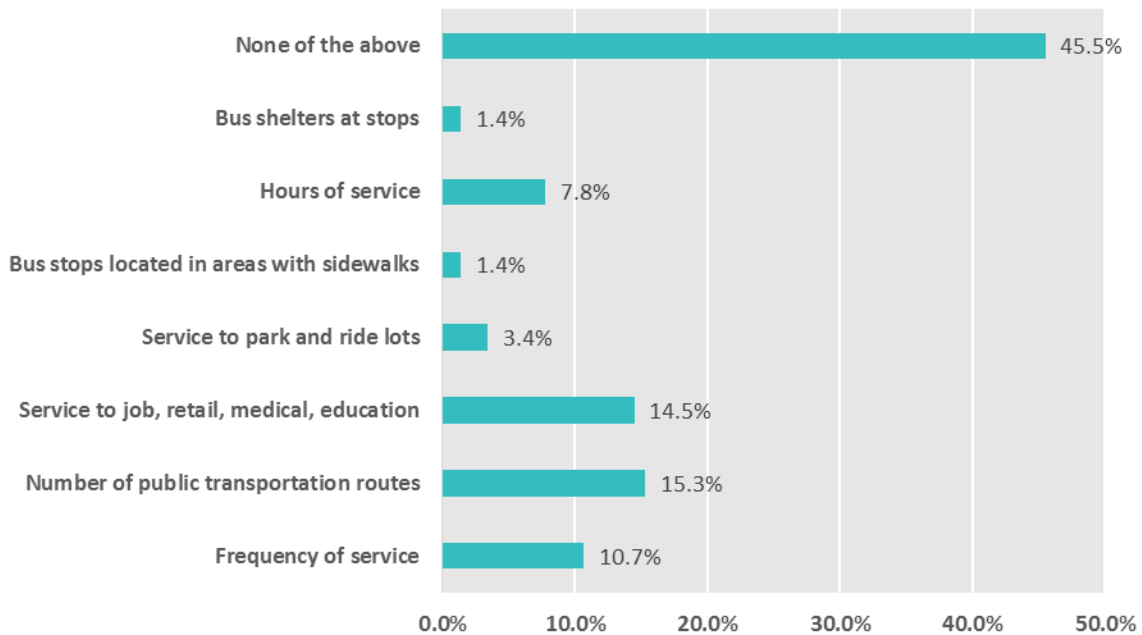
**Q17: If Forsyth County expanded its public transportation system, which of the following would most influence your decision to start or increase your public transportation use?**

*# of people who answered this question: 503*

Answer options for this question were:

- Frequency of service (how often the bus comes)
- Number of public transportation routes
- Service to job, retail, medical and/or educational centers
- Service to park and ride lots for GRTA Xpress bus access
- Bus stops located in areas with sidewalks
- Hours of service (early or late hours, weekend service, etc.)
- Bus shelters at stops
- None of the above





Factors that are most likely to influence stakeholders’ decision to start or increase their public transportation use include the number of public transportation routes (15.3%) and service to job, retail, medical and/or educational centers (14.5%). However, most respondents (45.5%) indicated that none of the factors would influence their decision to start or increase their public transportation use.

**Q18: Where are additional public transportation services needed in the region?**

*# of people who answered this question: 232*

Some responses for specific locations where additional public transportation services are needed in the region include:

- GA 400 corridor
- Along major corridors (Hwy 20, Hwy 41, SR 9, Hwy 369)
- East/west
- Highly populated regions
- Outskirts of town

Other responses to this question include:

- Expand MARTA/increase access to public transportation
- I do not support public transportation in Forsyth County
- Consider light rail

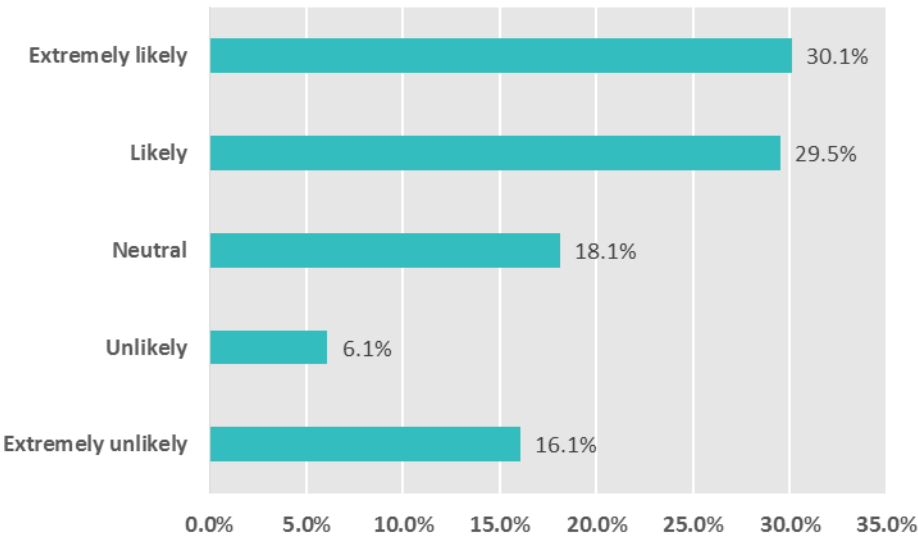
**Section 5: Implementation Resources**

**Q19: How likely are you to vote to renew the SPLOST for the next cycle?**

# of people who answered this question: 508

Answer options for this question were:

- Extremely unlikely
- Unlikely
- Neutral
- Likely
- Extremely likely



Approximately 60% of respondents are either likely or extremely likely to vote to renew the SPLOST for the next cycle.