



90 PER CENT OF METRO VANCOUVER RESIDENTS WANT IMMEDIATE ACTION ON REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

62 per cent think transportation is more painful today than it was five years ago

VANCOUVER, May 25, 2016 – 90 per cent of Metro Vancouver residents think a regional multi-year transportation plan should be rolled out immediately, and say transit improvements are 'necessary', a new survey commissioned by the Mayors' Council reveals.

The survey, conducted by Angus Reid Global, shows that Metro Vancouver residents across the region voiced majority support (over 80 per cent) for all regional transportation plan elements (rapid transit, buses, and road improvements) to be rolled out together rather than a piecemeal approach that addresses one element of the transportation system at a time.

"The Mayors' Council is ready to put shovels in the ground on the 10-year Regional Transportation Plan with the federal government's down payment for transit funding," says Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson, Chair of the Mayors' Council. "Metro Vancouver is under tremendous affordability pressure due in part to the region's rapid growth and worsening transportation options; we need the Province to come to the table to action the 10-year transit plan. A strong transportation system will go a long way to support residents of all 21 communities by giving people more mobility in where they live and work, and making it easier to get around the region."

Two in five residents (41 per cent) say transportation is one of the two most important issues facing the region today, second only to housing affordability. Two thirds (65 per cent) of respondents agree that better mass transit could help resolve the region's housing issues, and a substantial 88 per cent are concerned that high housing prices in the Metro region are exacerbating regional transportation issues by forcing people to live in areas far from work, family and friends.

Many of the survey's respondents (39 per cent) say they are frustrated by the challenge of getting around the region – whether they drive or take transit – and most believe the experience is only going to get worse over the next five years.

Other survey highlights:

- 69 per cent find it 'hard' to get around Metro Vancouver
- Three quarters (75 per cent) of Metro Vancouver residents rate traffic as 'poor'
- 74 per cent think that the current one-half-federal, one-third-provincial, one-sixth-regional distribution funding model for transit improvements is "fair"

- 58 per cent of respondents reported voting 'no' and 42 'yes' in last year's transit plebiscite, closely mirroring the plebiscite's result (62 per cent 'no', 38 per cent 'yes')

"The need for a comprehensive region wide transportation plan is greater than ever," says Surrey Mayor Linda Hepner, Vice-Chair of the Mayors' Council. "Every day we delay in implementing the Mayors' Council plan is costing the region and its residents both valuable time and money. The poll shows that people want action on this issue and now is the time to act on it."

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About the Survey

Angus Reid Global conducted an online survey from May 3-5, of a representative, randomized sample of 1,403 Metro Vancouver adults who are members of the Angus Reid Forum. For comparison purposes only, probability samples of these sizes would carry a margin of error of +/- 2.6 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. Angus Reid Global is headed by Dr. Angus Reid, Canada's best known and longest practicing pollster. He's spent more than four decades asking questions about what people feel, how they think and who they will vote for. He is supported by a team of practitioners conducting high quality research for corporations, governments and non-profit organizations.

Visit the website: <http://www.angusreidglobal.com>

About the Mayors' Council

The Mayors' Council is Chaired by Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson and Vice-Chaired by Surrey Mayor Linda Hepner, and includes representatives from each of the 21 municipalities within the transportation service region, as well as Electoral Area 'A' and the Tsawwassen First Nation. The Mayors' Council approves transportation plans prepared by TransLink, which deal with transportation service levels, major capital projects, regional funding and borrowing limits. It also performs limited regulatory oversight functions related to short-term fares, customer survey and complaint processes, sale of major facilities and assets, and director and executive compensation levels.

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**Interim Report: Metro Vancouver public opinion
on Transportation Issues**

**Conducted by Angus Reid Global for the Mayors' Council on Regional
Transportation**

May 25, 2016

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Executive Summary:

Commissioned by the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation, this public opinion poll canvassed Metro Vancouver residents across age, gender, income, education, ethnicity, and sub-regional demographic groups. The survey solicited views on transportation in the Greater Vancouver region, including personal experiences getting around, opinions on the need for improvements to the regional transportation system, and options for funding such improvements.

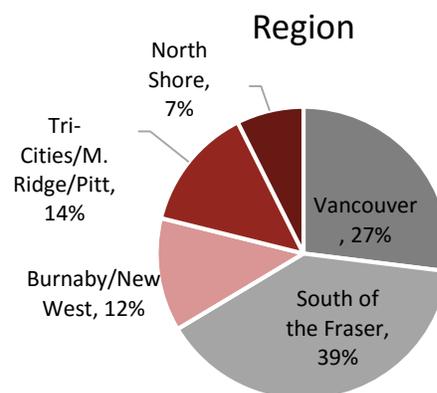
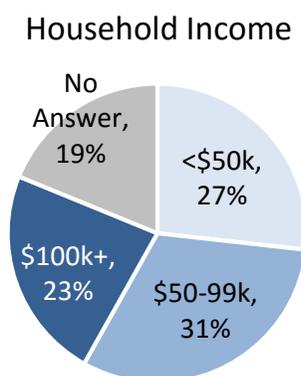
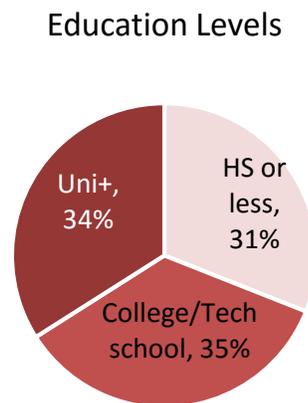
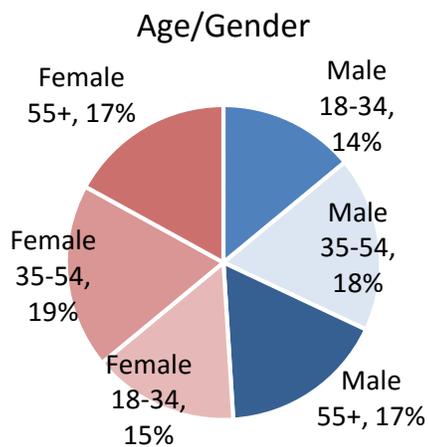
Broadly, the survey finds:

- Two-in-five metro residents (41%) say transportation is one of the two most important issues facing the region today. It is second only to the issue of housing affordability, which most respondents see as related to the region's transportation problems
- Most respondents report having a difficult time getting around the region, and one that has gotten worse – not better – in recent years
- Roughly nine-in-ten respondents across the region say expanding rapid transit, improving bus service, and improving the road system are “necessary”
- More than nine-in-ten respondents across the region say Metro Vancouver should begin implementing a multi-year transportation plan now, rather than waiting a couple of years to revisit the issue

Part One: Background and Methodology

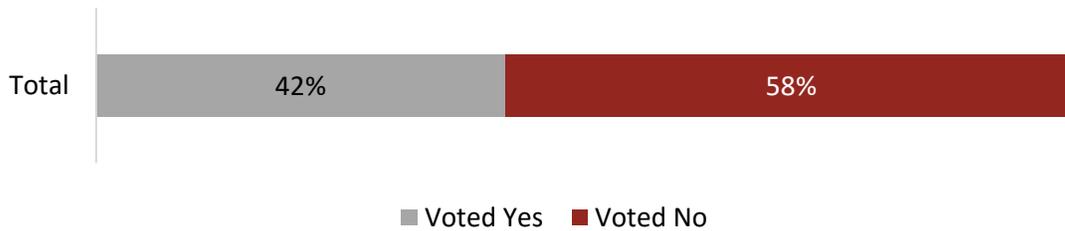
The Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation commissioned Angus Reid Global to conduct a survey gauging the opinions of Metro Vancouver residents on the region's transportation system and the council's plan for upgrading it.

This survey sampled a representative cross-section of the Metro Vancouver population using the Angus Reid Forum online panel. A total of 1,403 people were interviewed from May 3 – May 5, and they came from across all regional municipalities which were then grouped into the following five sub-regions: the City of Vancouver, South of the Fraser River, Burnaby/New Westminster, Tri-Cities/Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows, and the North Shore. The results were then weighted to reflect age, gender, education and regional census targets. Demographic breakdowns can be seen in the graphs that follow:



The sample also included key behavioral and attitudinal profiles – including commute time and method, and vote in the 2015 transportation referendum. The former is summarized in Part Two of this report, while the latter can be seen in the graph that follows. Note that the actual vote outcome was 38 per cent “Yes,” and 62% “No,” totals within the margin of error for a probability sample of this size.

Do you support a new 0.5% Metro Vancouver Congestion Improvement Tax to be dedicated to the Mayors' Transportation and Transit Plan?



Survey Design:

The survey began with a warm-up question asking respondents to name the most important issues facing the metro region, and concluded with a series of questions aimed at collecting the demographic information summarized in this section.

In between, the survey can be broken down into four sections:

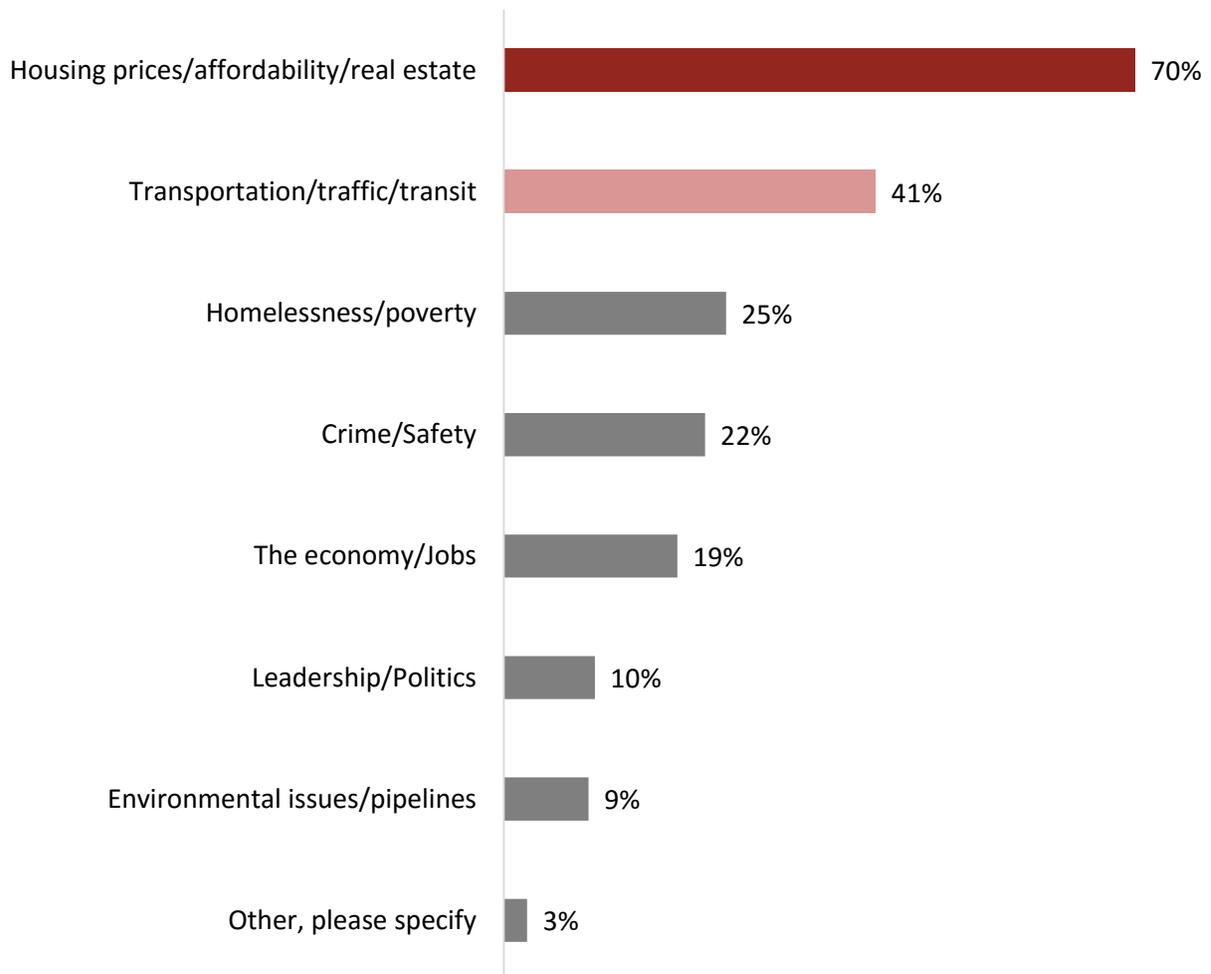
- First, respondents were asked about their own transportation experiences – how easy or difficult they find getting around and how they rate the region's system both overall and in comparison to other North American cities.
 - Second, a series of general questions about what a plan to improve transportation in Metro Vancouver should look like
 - Third, respondents were presented with a general overview of the mayors' plan and asked to weigh in on the necessity of the improvements proposed
 - The fourth – and final – section asked questions about who should pay for the plan, and what options would be preferred for paying for Metro Vancouver's portion of the costs
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Part Two: Getting Around - Experience and Pain Points

Asked to name the two most important issues facing the Metro Vancouver region, respondents offer a clear consensus and overwhelming consensus on two key, and interrelated issues. Fully seven-in-ten (70%) choose “housing prices/affordability/real estate” as one of the top two issues, and two-in-five (41%) choose “transportation/traffic/transit.”

These two issues dwarf all of the others canvassed, as seen in the graph that follows:

What are the two most important issues facing Metro Vancouver?



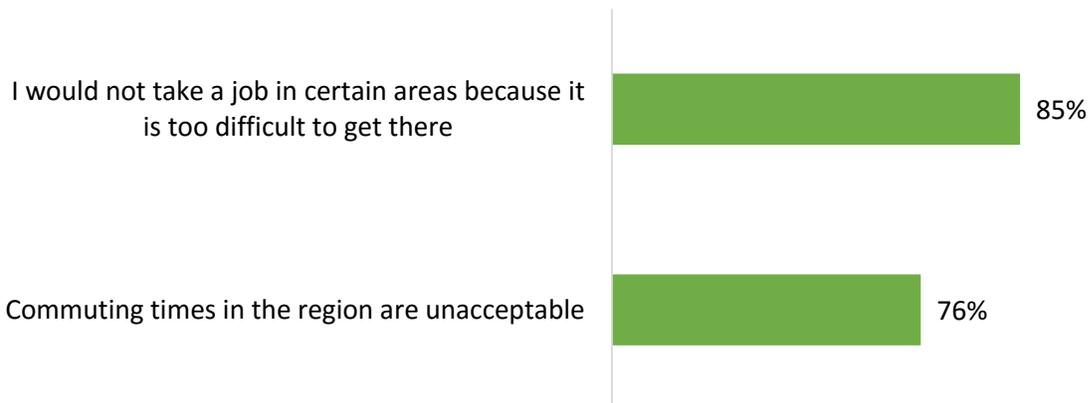
These two issues – transportation and housing – are strongly linked to one another in Metro Vancouver, and this connection is not lost on survey respondents.

A full majority (56%) say they “strongly agree” with the statement “High housing prices sending people to further suburbs is making transportation worse” in the region. Another one-third (32%) moderately agree, for a total of 88 per cent of metro residents concerned that housing prices are exacerbating regional transportation issues.

Likewise, two-thirds of respondents (65%) agree with the related statement “Better mass transit here could help resolve some of our housing issues” (23% strongly agree; 42% moderately).

The vast majority (85%) say there are certain areas in Metro Vancouver where they wouldn’t take a job, and three-quarters (76%) say commute times in the region are unacceptable:

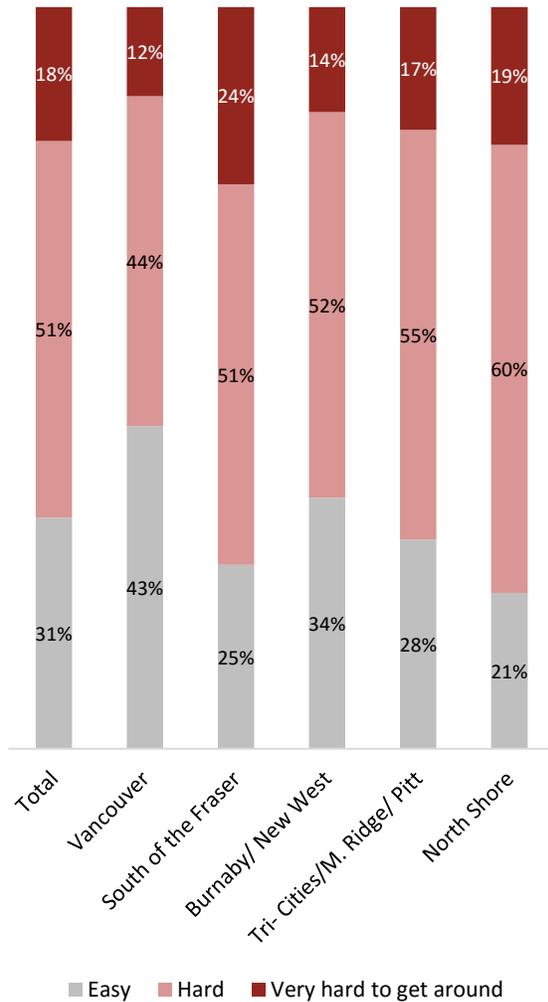
Agreement with statements



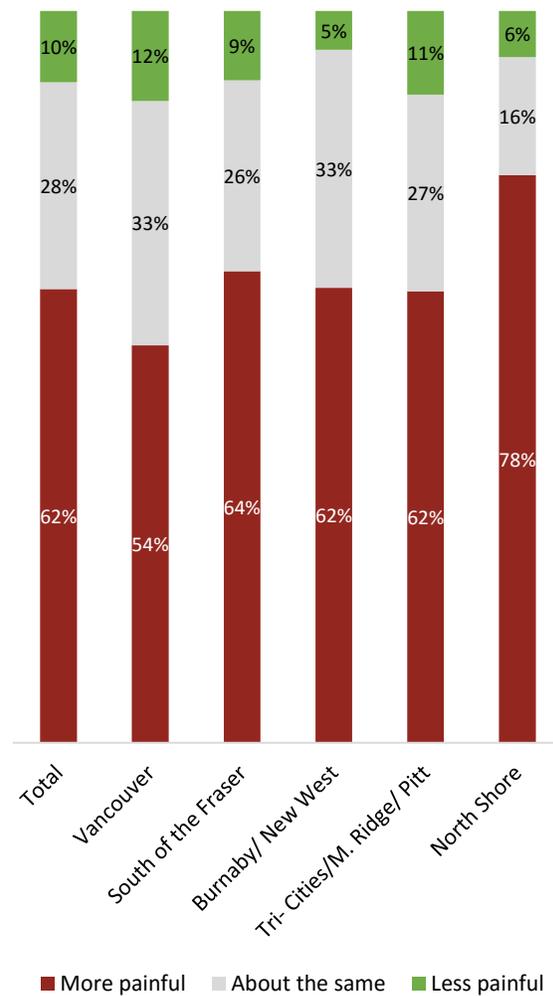
As seen in the graphs that follow, transportation is painful for residents throughout the region, but especially those outside of the City of Vancouver – where many cannot afford to live.

Moreover, metro residents outside of Vancouver proper overwhelmingly feel that transportation is getting worse, not better. As seen in the graphs that follow, transportation pain tends to be most acute on the North Shore and South of the Fraser.

How easy or hard do you find transportation in the Metro Vancouver region?

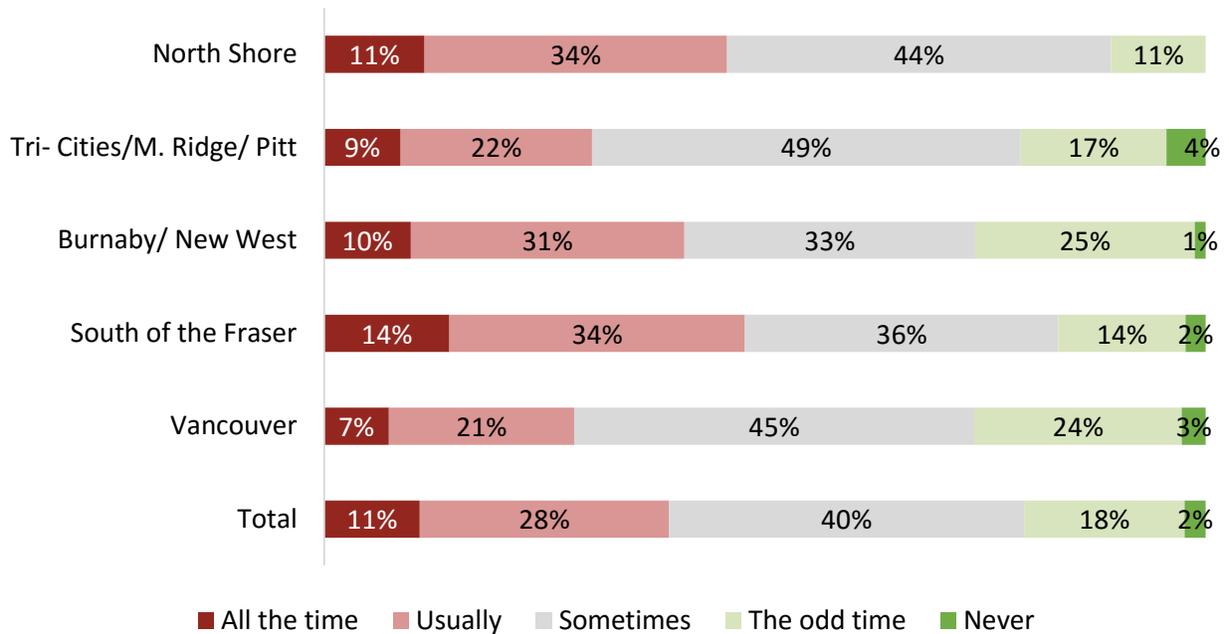


Is transportation in Metro Vancouver more or less painful than it was five years ago?



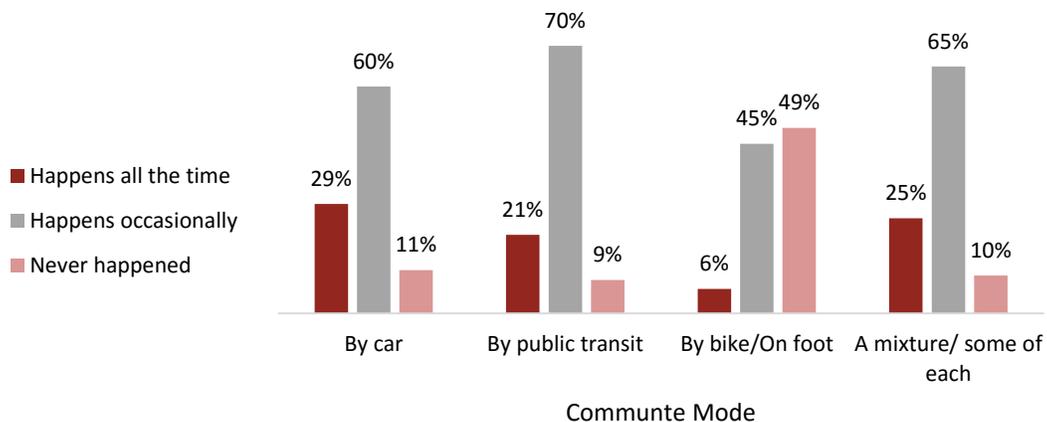
Frustration with getting around is common for Metro Vancouver residents, with one-in-ten (11%) saying they feel frustrated “all the time” and another three-in-ten (28%) saying they “usually” feel frustrated. Only 2 per cent say they “never” feel frustrated getting around:

How often do you feel frustrated getting around Metro Vancouver?



Most respondents (59%) also report mishaps that significantly lengthen their commutes happen at least occasionally, and another one-in-four (24%) say such incidents happen “all the time.” Just one-in-six (17%) say such mishaps have “never happened” in the last six months. Those who commute by car are more likely to say such incidents happen “all the time,” as seen in the following graph:

Thinking over the past 6 months, how often has something gone wrong that lengthens your commute significantly? (Accident, congestion, bus didn't show up, etc.)



It should be noted that those who say they drive everyday are even more likely to say that such an incident happens “all the time” (34% say this).

For the most part, it is traffic congestion that takes the blame for the pain of getting around Greater Vancouver. Fully three-quarters (75%) of survey respondents rate traffic as “poor,” compared to significantly lower numbers who rate public transit similarly. Most of the rest say it is just “adequate” (21%), while only 4 per cent say traffic here is good.

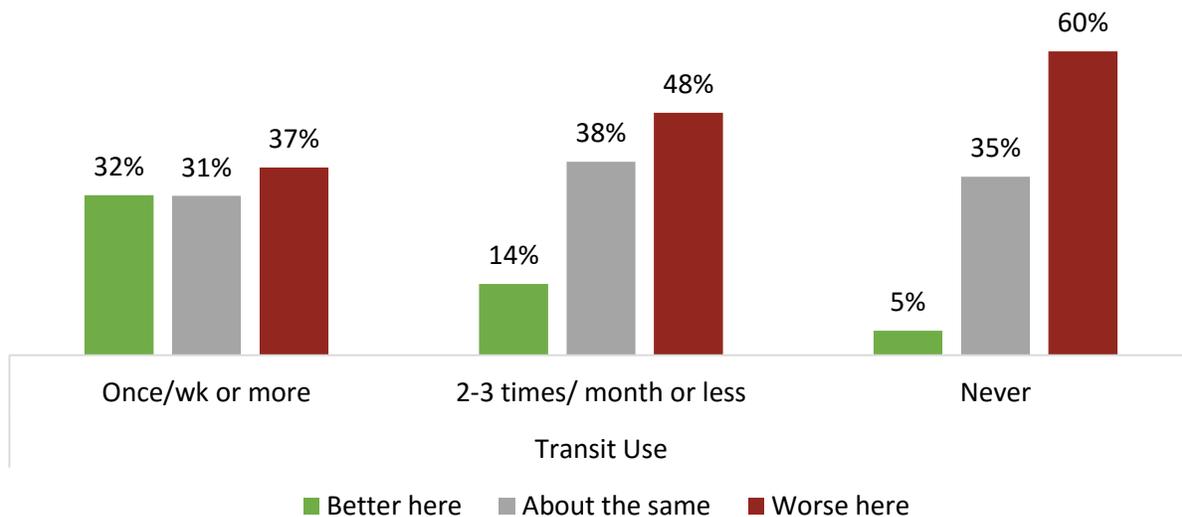
By contrast, just one-in-four (25%) rate rapid transit in the region – SkyTrain, West Coast Express, and SeaBus – as poor. The largest group (39%) rates this genre of service as “good,” while 36 per cent say it is adequate.

Views are slightly– but not significantly less positive when it comes to buses and the transportation system overall:

- **Buses:** 35% poor; 40% adequate; 25% good
- **Transportation system overall:** 38% poor; 41% adequate; 21% good

The region’s public transit system compares less-than-favourably to those of other, similar-sized cities in North America, according to respondents. As seen in the following graph, however, those most familiar with the system are also most inclined to say it functions as well or better than those of other cities:

Would you say public transit is better, worse or about the same compared to other similar-sized cities in North America?



Part Three: A Mandate for Change?

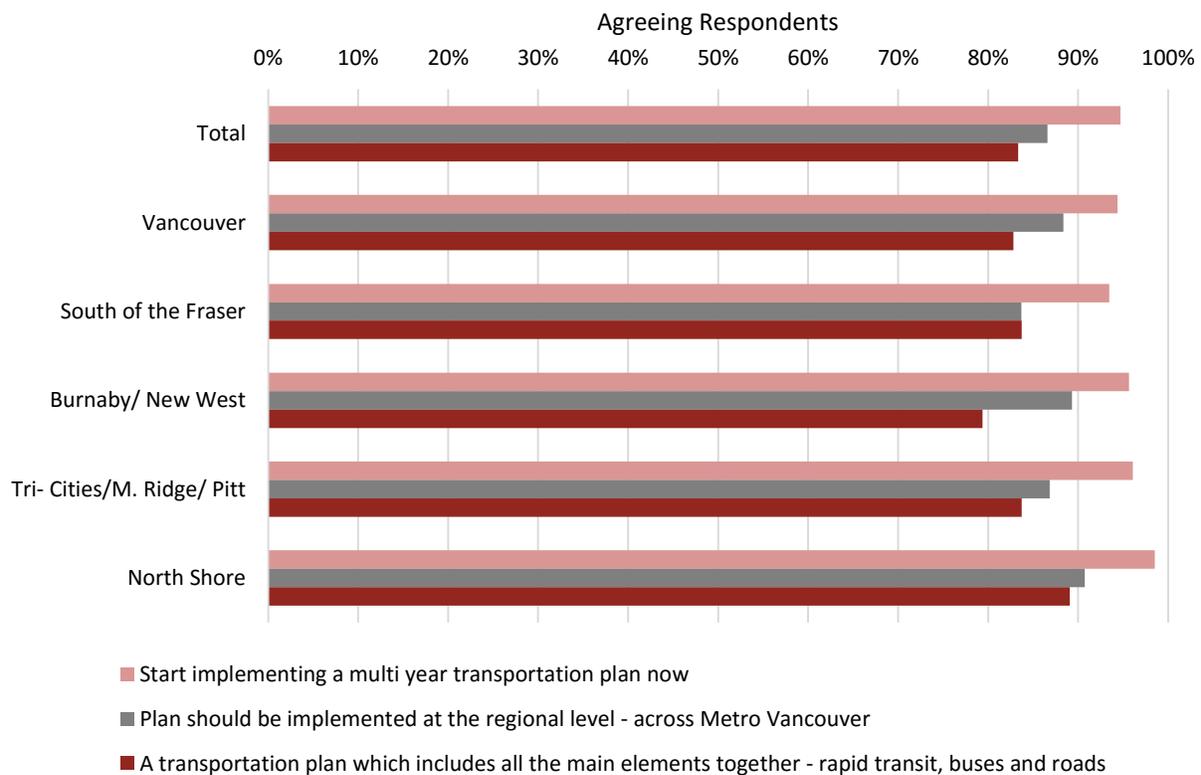
Before being introduced to the regional transportation plan proposed by the Mayors' Council, respondents were asked – in broad terms – how such a plan should be approached.

Respondents were asked three separate questions, each pitting two options against each other. First, they were asked whether they would prefer a transportation plan should include all the main elements (rapid transit, buses, and roads) or a series of separate plans related to one means of transport or one specific project at a time.

Then, they were asked whether such plans should be organized by the metro region or by individual municipalities, and finally they were asked whether plans should begin immediately or be revisited in “a couple of years.”

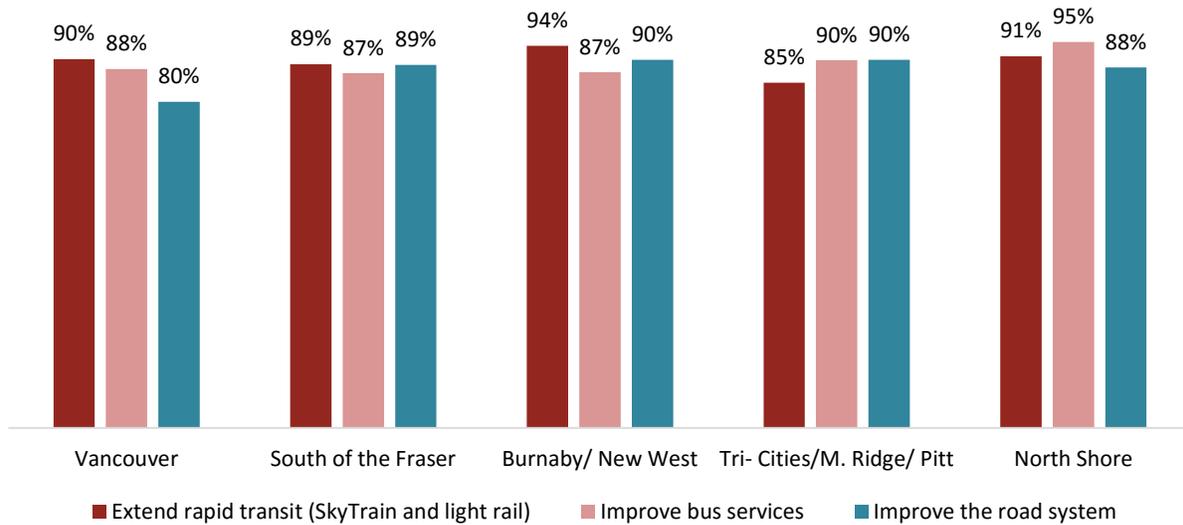
Looking at these three questions together, we see strong majorities across the region opting for a plan that is comprehensive (rather than piecemeal), regionally managed (rather than municipally managed), and immediate (rather than planned for a later date), as seen in the graph that follows.

Broad consensus on approaches to transportation issues in Metro Vancouver:



The broad regional consensus also extends to views on the necessity of improvements to all elements of the transportation system:

Summary of ‘these transportation improvements are necessary’



Part Four: Conclusions

As noted in throughout this report, the results of this survey indicate that when Metro Vancouverites are canvassed on the key pain points they experience in this region, their views on the transit system writ large, and the impetus – if any – for improvements, they offer a broad mandate for a region-wide, immediate plan to enhance and improve transportation in this area.

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