



The Barr Foundation Transportation Issues Survey
Topline Results
Statewide Survey of 1,340 Massachusetts Residents
Field Dates: November 19-30, 2020

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of Charlie Baker?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Very favorable | 29% |
| Somewhat favorable | 39% |
| Somewhat unfavorable | 13% |
| Very unfavorable | 9% |
| Unsure | 9% |

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of the Massachusetts State Legislature?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Very favorable | 12% |
| Somewhat favorable | 47% |
| Somewhat unfavorable | 18% |
| Very unfavorable | 9% |
| Unsure | 14% |

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of the MBTA, or Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Very favorable | 11% |
| Somewhat favorable | 38% |
| Somewhat unfavorable | 26% |
| Very unfavorable | 10% |
| Unsure | 16% |

How much, if anything, have you seen or heard about service cuts at the MBTA, which is the agency that provides bus, subway, ferry, and train service across Eastern Massachusetts?

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| A lot | 18% |
| A little | 40% |
| Not much | 24% |
| Nothing at all | 13% |
| Unsure | 5% |

As you may have heard, the MBTA has announced service cuts to balance its budget for the coming year. Under the plan:

- Subways would come less often and stop running an hour earlier at night.
- Commuter rail trains would run less often, stop running at 9pm, and not run at all on weekends. Six commuter rail stations would close altogether.
- Ferry service would be eliminated completely.
- Bus service would be reduced and stop at midnight, and 25 bus routes would be eliminated.

Most of these cuts would take place during the Spring and Summer of 2021.

Do you support or oppose the MBTA making these proposed service cuts?

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Strongly support | 7% |
| Somewhat support | 20% |
| Somewhat oppose | 31% |
| Strongly oppose | 33% |
| Unsure | 10% |

The MBTA receives funding from the state budget in addition to rider fares and other funds it generates on its own. Would you support or oppose the State Legislature increasing the amount of funding it gives the MBTA through the state budget so that the MBTA can balance its budget without the service cuts outlined above?

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Strongly support | 24% |
| Somewhat support | 42% |
| Somewhat oppose | 16% |
| Strongly oppose | 9% |
| Unsure | 9% |

How much would you support or oppose each of these specific service cuts proposed by the MBTA? *Order randomized; sorted by "strongly oppose" for display.*

| | Strongly support | Somewhat support | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose | Unsure |
|---|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|
| Eliminating commuter rail service on weekends | 6% | 14% | 28% | 48% | 5% |
| Eliminating 25 bus routes | 5% | 14% | 30% | 40% | 11% |
| Closing six commuter rail stations | 5% | 15% | 32% | 38% | 10% |
| Eliminating all ferry service | 7% | 16% | 30% | 37% | 11% |
| Increasing the wait times for subways, buses, and commuter trains | 6% | 21% | 30% | 36% | 7% |
| Stopping commuter rail service on most lines at 9pm | 8% | 24% | 29% | 32% | 7% |
| Stopping subway and bus service at midnight instead of 1am | 17% | 33% | 22% | 21% | 8% |

If the MBTA goes forward with these cuts, how likely do you think it is that they will restore service to previous levels once Massachusetts reopens after COVID-19?

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Very likely | 9% |
| Somewhat likely | 27% |
| Not very likely | 37% |
| Not at all likely | 17% |
| Unsure | 10% |

Thinking back to **before** the coronavirus outbreak, which modes of travel did you use regularly to get around? Please check all that apply.

| | |
|---|-----|
| Drive alone | 68% |
| Drive or ride with others | 39% |
| Take a taxi, Uber or Lyft | 25% |
| Take the MBTA subway (Red, Orange, Blue, Green, Silver lines) | 27% |
| Take a MBTA or other public bus | 22% |
| Take a corporate or private shuttle | 3% |
| Take a ferry | 4% |
| Take the commuter rail | 15% |
| Ride a bicycle | 11% |
| Walk | 39% |
| Other | 2% |
| Prefer not to say | 1% |

Before the pandemic, how often did you take public transportation (a train, bus, subway, or ferry)?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Every day | 12% |
| A few times a week | 15% |
| A few times a month | 17% |
| Once a month or less | 23% |
| Never | 31% |
| Unsure | 2% |

Since the start of the pandemic, how often have you used public transportation?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Every day | 5% |
| A few times a week | 9% |
| A few times a month | 10% |
| Once a month or less | 13% |
| Never | 61% |
| Unsure | 2% |

Looking ahead to when a coronavirus vaccine is widely available, how often do you think you will use public transportation?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Every day | 9% |
| A few times a week | 14% |
| A few times a month | 15% |
| Once a month or less | 25% |
| Never | 28% |
| Unsure | 9% |

Which one of the following best describes your work situation?

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Employed full time | 40% |
| Employed part time | 16% |
| Not currently employed | 39% |
| Prefer not to say | 4% |

Asked of those not employed:

Which of the following best describes your situation?

| | |
|---|-----|
| Furloughed or on temporary leave by my employer | 4% |
| Unemployed and looking for work | 18% |
| Unemployed and not looking for work | 15% |
| Stay-at-home parent or caregiver | 9% |
| Retired | 38% |
| Full-time student | 7% |
| Prefer not to say | 9% |

Asked of those employed, furloughed, or unemployed and looking for work:

If given the option, how often would you prefer to work from home as the state reopens?

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Every work day | 34% |
| A few times a week | 28% |
| A few times a month | 9% |
| Less than once a month | 3% |
| Never | 7% |
| Not an option for my work | 17% |
| Prefer not to say | 2% |

DEMOGRAPHICS

Party Identification

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Democrat | 34% |
| Republican | 14% |
| Independent / Other | 47% |
| Prefer not to say | 5% |

Race and Ethnicity

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| White alone | 75% |
| Non-white | 25% |
| Prefer not to say | <1% |

Age

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| 18-29 | 22% |
| 30-44 | 24% |
| 45-59 | 27% |
| 60+ | 27% |
| Prefer not to say | 1% |

Gender

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Male | 48% |
| Female | 52% |
| Non-binary / some other gender | 1% |
| Prefer not to say | <1% |

Education

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| High School or less | 34% |
| Some college, no degree | 26% |
| College graduate (BA/BS) | 23% |
| Advanced degree | 17% |
| Prefer not to say | 1% |

About the Poll

These results are based on a survey of 1,340 Massachusetts residents. Responses were collected via online survey interviewing November 19-30, 2020. Final survey data were weighted to known and estimated population parameters for adults (18+) in Massachusetts by age, gender, race, education, geography, and party identification. This project was sponsored by The Barr Foundation.