

The Barr Foundation Transportation Survey
 Topline Results
 Survey of 670 Registered Voters in the Boston Area
 Field Dates: May 21-28, 2021

How important do you think each of the following transportation issues is for the Greater Boston region?
Order randomized per respondent; sorted by "very important" for display.

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not important at all	Don't Know / Refused
Improving public transportation	73%	21%	3%	1%	2%
Reducing traffic congestion	72%	23%	4%	1%	1%
Improving transportation for underserved communities	65%	28%	5%	2%	1%
Reducing pollution from transportation	65%	27%	4%	3%	2%
Making streets safer for walking	64%	27%	7%	2%	<1%
Making streets safer for biking	48%	31%	13%	7%	1%
Building more charging stations for electric vehicles	36%	37%	17%	8%	2%

Before the pandemic, studies showed the Greater Boston area had some of the worst traffic in the nation. As COVID restrictions are lifted and more people start to travel more, do you think traffic will be...

Much better than before COVID	6%
A little better than before COVID	15%
Total "better than before"	21%
About the same as before COVID	42%
A little worse than before COVID	13%
Much worse than before COVID	19%
Total "worse than before"	32%
Don't Know / Refused	5%

Thinking back to the year before the COVID-19 pandemic -- March 2019 to March 2020 -- which of the following did you do regularly, for any reason? Please check all that apply. *Multiple responses allowed; percentages add up to more than 100%. Order randomized per respondent; sorted in descending order for display.*

Drive alone	65%
Walk	65%
Drive or ride with others	43%
Take the MBTA subway	38%
Take a taxi, Uber or Lyft	36%
Take a public bus	28%
Ride your own bicycle	17%
Take the commuter rail	14%
Ride a bikeshare bike (Blue Bikes, etc)	5%
Take a ferry	4%
Take a corporate or private shuttle	3%
Other	2%
Don't Know / Refused	1%

As the state reopens from COVID, do you expect that you will use each of the following ways of getting around more, less, or about as much as before the pandemic? *Order randomized per respondent; sorted by "more" for display.*

	More	Same	Less	Don't Know / Refused
Walk	39%	50%	8%	3%
Drive (alone or with others)	27%	58%	12%	4%
Ride the MBTA subway	17%	45%	31%	7%
Ride a bike (your own or a bikeshare bike)	17%	45%	23%	15%
Ride the MBTA commuter rail	14%	44%	34%	8%
Take a taxi, Uber or Lyft	13%	52%	27%	8%
Ride a bus	9%	50%	34%	7%

Before the pandemic, how many cars did your household own or lease?

None	15%
One	44%
Two	30%
Three or more	10%

And now, how many cars does your household own or lease?

None	14%
One	46%
Two	30%
Three or more	9%

What about bikes? Before the pandemic, how many bikes in working order did your household own?

None	50%
One	20%
Two	16%
Three or more	14%

And now, how many bikes in working order does your household own?

None	49%
One	21%
Two	13%
Three or more	17%

Which of the following are barriers to you biking more often than you do now? Select all that apply. *Multiple responses allowed; percentages add up to more than 100%. Order randomized per respondent; sorted in descending order for display.*

Don't own a bike	34%
The places I have to go are too far to bike	29%
The weather (too hot, too cold, etc)	27%
Can't carry things on my bike	27%
Lack of bike lanes or paths where I would ride	24%
Not physically able to bike	16%
Nowhere to store a bike securely at home	12%
Nowhere to lock a bike at my destination	12%
Don't feel comfortable biking with kids	7%
Other	4%
None of the above	9%

What about walking? Which of the following are barriers to you walking more often than you do now? Select all that apply. *Multiple response allowed; percentages add up to more than 100%. Order randomized per respondent; sorted in descending order for display.*

The places I have to go are too far to walk	40%
The weather (too hot, too cold, etc)	30%
Not physically able to walk very far	17%
Lack of sidewalks	16%
Not enough streetlights for walking at night	14%
Lack of safe places to cross the street	12%
Crime in my neighborhood	9%
Other	2%
None of the above	21%

If each of the following were adopted, how willing would you be to ride a bike more than you do now? *Order randomized per respondent; sorted by "definitely" for display.*

	Definitely would ride more	Probably would ride more	Wouldn't make a difference	Don't Know / Refused
Building more paths or trails for biking and walking	29%	22%	41%	8%
Building more bikes lanes that are separated from cars on the streets where I live	25%	21%	49%	6%
Better enforcement when drivers break traffic laws	24%	14%	54%	8%
Lower speed limits for cars in areas where there is a lot of biking and walking	21%	15%	56%	8%
Providing more bike parking at key destinations, like downtown or at transit stations	20%	18%	54%	7%
Allowing riders to bring their bikes on MBTA trains and buses at any time	18%	15%	60%	6%

During the pandemic, many cities and towns in Massachusetts made changes to their streets to create more space for walking, biking, and outdoor dining. In some cases, making these changes meant removing some space for driving or parking.

How much would you support or oppose making each of these changes in your community as the state reopens from COVID-19, even if it means less space for cars? *Order randomized per respondent; sorted by “strongly support” for display.*

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't Know / Refused
More space for outdoor dining	43%	36%	9%	7%	6%
More public seating like benches	43%	40%	7%	3%	7%
Bike lanes that are separated from cars	41%	34%	9%	8%	8%
Giving buses their own lanes to speed up bus trips	37%	30%	12%	11%	11%
Wider sidewalks	35%	36%	13%	6%	10%
More spaces for public art	35%	34%	9%	9%	13%
Adding more parking for bikes	33%	39%	10%	10%	9%
Closing some streets to car traffic and letting walkers and bikers use the entire street	31%	28%	13%	21%	7%
Adding stations for bikeshare bikes	28%	41%	10%	10%	11%

Would you support or oppose the following changes regarding the fares riders pay to ride the MBTA?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't Know / Refused
Discounting fares for lower-income riders	53%	31%	7%	6%	3%
Making MBTA buses free to ride	43%	24%	13%	14%	7%
Making all MBTA services free to ride	41%	24%	13%	15%	7%

Which one of the following best describes your work situation?

Employed full time	45%
Employed part time	13%
Not currently employed	37%
Don't Know / Refused	4%

Asked of those not currently employed:

Which of the following best describes your situation?

Furloughed, or on temporary leave by my employer	<1%
Unemployed and looking for work	11%
Unemployed and not looking for work	13%
Stay-at-home parent or caregiver	8%
Retired	56%
Full-time student	8%
Don't Know / Refused	3%

Asked of those currently employed:

How often, if at all, have you been working from home since the start of the pandemic?

Every work day	48%
A few times a week	20%
A few times a month	4%
Less than once a month	1%
Never	12%
Not an option for my work	14%
Don't Know / Refused	<1%

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

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

Every work day	30%
A few times a week	30%
A few times a month	6%
Less than once a month	3%
Never	12%
Not an option for my work	17%
Don't Know / Refused	1%

DEMOGRAPHICS

Party Identification

Democrat	43%
Republican	9%
Independent / Other	43%
Don't Know / Refused	4%

Race

White alone	73%
Black	11%
Latino	8%
Asian	5%
Other / more than one race	2%
Don't Know / Refused	1%

Age

18-29	18%
30-44	26%
45-59	27%
60+	30%
Don't Know / Refused	<1%

Gender

Men	47%
Women	52%
Non-binary / some other gender	1%

Education

High School or less	32%
Some college, no degree	21%
College graduate (BA/BS)	23%
Advanced degree	22%
Don't Know / Refused	1%

About the Poll

These results are based on a survey of 670 registered voters living in the Boston area. For the purposes of this poll, the Boston area was defined as communities within or bordering Route 128. The poll included 418 voters in the City of Boston, and 252 voters in the surrounding area. Results were weighted in Boston and the surrounding area by age, gender, race, party, education, and geography. Data from the inside and outside Boston was then combined, and the full sample file was weighted to the proper proportion of voters in each area. Interviews were conducted May 21-28, 2021, both online and by live telephone interviews. The poll was sponsored by The Barr Foundation.