

2008 Wichita Community Transit Survey

Executive Summary

April 2008

Introduction

ETC Institute, in association with TranSystems Corporation, conducted a survey of Wichita residents during April 2008. The purpose of the survey was to gather input from residents to plan improvements to public transportation services in the community.

Some of the topics that were addressed on the survey included:

- Perceptions of the sufficiency of existing public transportation services in Wichita
- How frequently residents currently use public transportation services
- Reasons residents do not use public transportation
- How likely residents would be to use public transportation under various conditions
- How important residents think it is for the City to fund public transportation in Wichita
- How supportive residents would be of a slight increase in taxes to support expanded public transportation services in Wichita
- The number of residents who are dependent on public transportation (or rides from others) because they do not drive or do not have a car

Methodology

The survey was administered by phone to a random sample of 428 residents. The survey took approximately 10 minutes to complete. The overall results of the survey have a precision of at least +/- 4.9% at the 95% level of confidence.

Findings

- A majority (54%) of those surveyed indicated they had used public transportation outside Wichita.
- 88% of those surveyed indicated they rarely or never used public transportation services in Wichita.

- Most (91%) of those surveyed who were employed outside the home indicated that they normally drive to work alone; 2% indicated that they carpool and the remaining 7% indicated that they use other forms of transportation, such as walking, biking, and public transportation.
- 63% of those surveyed indicated that it typically takes them 10 to 20 minutes to get to work or school.
- 49% of those surveyed indicated that they would be very or somewhat likely to use public transportation if gas remains above \$3.00 per gallon.
- 48% of those surveyed indicated that they would be very or somewhat likely to use public transportation if buses arrived at stops more frequently.
- 91% of those surveyed thought it was very or somewhat important for the City of Wichita to fund public transportation; only 3% did not think it was important, and 5% did not have an opinion.
- 62% of those surveyed indicated that they would be very or somewhat supportive of a slight tax increase to fund improved public transportation services in Wichita.
- 85% of those surveyed thought the City of Wichita should do more marketing and public education to increase awareness of the public transportation services that are currently available.
- The top three reasons residents would use public transportation were to: (1) go to work, (2) run errands/go shopping, and (3) go to medical or dental appointments.
- One in every eight (12%) households in Wichita indicated that at least one person in their household age 16 or older was dependent on public transportation (or rides from others) because they did not have a car or did not drive.
- 22% of those surveyed indicated that they would use public transportation at least five days per week if the service were convenient to use.