Survey of Local Elected Officials

Codebook

The codebook is used as a reference to interpret the layout of the data file. It provides a list of all the survey questions and the numeric value of each answer option.

Please note: Questions in the data file with cells that have no value (blank) indicates the respondent was either not shown the question (due to skip logic) or chose to not answer the question. Questions in the data file with cells that have a value of -99 were displayed but are unanswered.

Questions of the type "select all that apply" list a "1" or "0" for each possible choice for that question, with each checkbox having its own variable. The suffix "1" indicates "checkbox 1", "2" for "checkbox 2" and so on. For instance, a variable named "Q10_1" refers to the first checkbox for Q10.

Questions of the ranked type which ask for less than choices to be ranked than the total amount of choices (ex. ranking 3 of 5 choices) use a 0 to indicate if a choice went unranked.

CASEID

A unique identifying number assigned to each record (respondent).

USERLANGUAGE

Language that was used by respondent at the start of the survey.

DISPOSITION

Complete or partial (S1=1 and S2=1).

PROVINCE; POLITICAL_BODY; CITY; REGION; COUNCILLOR; MAYOR; FRENCH; and POPULATION_CATEGORY

Embedded data assigned to each record by the research team.

Screening Questions

S1
Which of the following best describes your paid work for your municipality or region?

I am an elected official (i.e., councillor, mayor) (1)

I am a staff member (2)

Other, please specify: (3)

I am not involved in paid work for my municipality or region (4)

S1_3_TEXT
Open-ended text response associated with S1 code 3

S2
Does your municipality or region have a public transit system (buses, paratransit, light rail, streetcars or subways)?

Yes (1)

No (2)

Survey Questions

Q1

In your opinion, how successful or unsuccessful has your ward/community been at implementing the following transportation-related initiatives:

	Not at all successful (1)	Slightly successful (2)	Moderately successful (3)	Very successful (4)	Not applicable (5)
Keeping roads well maintained (Q1_1)	1	2	3	4	5
Addressing traffic congestion (Q1_2)	1	2	3	4	5
Offering transit services (bus, streetcar etc.,) (Q1_3)	1	2	3	4	5
Offering paratransit services (service for people with disabilities) (Q1_4)	1	2	3	4	5
Developing biking paths or biking infrastructure (Q1_5)	1	2	3	4	5
Maintaining sidewalks (Q1_6)	1	2	3	4	5
Developing walking paths (Q1_7)	1	2	3	4	5
Investing in future transportation initiatives (i.e., light rail, electric buses etc.,) (Q1_8)	1	2	3	4	5
Other, please specify: (Q1_9)	1	2	3	4	5

Q1_9_TEXT

Open-ended text response associated with Q1_9 code if answered

Q2

Below is a list of common goals for transportation investments. What do you think are the top three priorities for your ward/district? Please select and rank up to 3 from the following list: (1 = highest priority)

	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3
Reduce the impact of transportation on the environment (Q2_1)	1	2	3
Reduce traffic congestion (Q2_2)	1	2	3
Ensure everyone has access to reliable transportation (Q2_3)	1	2	3
Reduce travel time to local destinations (Q2_4)	1	2	3
Improve transportation safety (e.g., injuries caused by collisions) (Q2_5)	1	2	3
Ensure value of transportation investments (Q2_6)	1	2	3
Support economic development and/or job creation (Q2_7)	1	2	3
Shift more driving trips to walking, bicycling, rolling or public transit (Q2_8)	1	2	3
Support population growth and new development (Q2_9)	1	2	3
Improve how transportation is integrated with land uses (Q2_10)	1	2	3
Other, please specify: (Q2_11)	1	2	3

Q2_11_TEXT

Open-ended text response associated with Q2_11 if ranked

Q3

What do you think are the top three priorities for the majority of your council? Please select and rank up to 3 from the following list: (1 = highest priority)

	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3
Reduce the impact of transportation on the environment (Q3_1)	1	2	3
Reduce traffic congestion (Q3_2)	1	2	3
Ensure everyone has access to reliable transportation (Q3_3)	1	2	3
Reduce how long it takes to get to places (Q3_4)	1	2	3
Improve transportation safety (Q3_5)	1	2	3
Ensure value for money of transportation investments (Q3_6)	1	2	3
Support economic development and/or job creation (Q3_7)	1	2	3
Shift more driving trips to walking, bicycling, or public transit (Q3_8)	1	2	3
Support population growth and new development (Q3_9)	1	2	3
Improve how transportation is integrated with land uses (Q3_10)	1	2	3
Other, please specify: (Q3_11)	1	2	3

Q3_11_TEXT

Open-ended text response associated with Q3_11 if ranked

Q4
How would you rate your jurisdiction's investment in the following:

	Should invest more (1)	Should invest less (2)	Right amount (3)
Public transit service (operating) (Q4_A_1)	1	2	3
Public transit infrastructure (capital) (Q4_A_2)	1	2	3
Road and/or highway maintenance (Q4_B_1)	1	2	3
New roads and/or highways (Q4_B_2)	1	2	3
Sidewalk and walking path maintenance (Q4_C_1)	1	2	3
New sidewalks and walking paths (Q4_C_2)	1	2	3
Bike lane maintenance (Q4_D_1)	1	2	3
New bike lanes (Q4_D_2)	1	2	3
Other, please specify: (Q4_E_1)	1	2	3

Q4_E_1_TEXT
Open-ended text response associated with Q4_E_1 if answered

Q5
What are the most significant transportation barriers people face in your jurisdiction? Please select and rank up to 5 from the following list: (1 = most significant barrier)

	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3
Long travel times to get places by public transit (Q5_1)	1	2	3
Unable to reach destinations by public transit (Q5_2)	1	2	3
Long travel times to get places by personal vehicle (Q5_3)	1	2	3
High costs of car ownership (Q5_4)	1	2	3
Inability to afford transit fares (Q5_5)	1	2	3
Safety issues while using public transit (Q5_6)	1	2	3
Safety issues while walking, biking or rolling (Q5_7)	1	2	3
Safety issues while driving (Q5_8)	1	2	3
Discrimination based on gender, age, sexuality, race, ability while using public transit, walking or biking (Q5_9)	1	2	3
No significant barriers (Q5_10)	1	2	3
Other barrier, please specify: (Q5_11)	1	2	3

Q5_11_TEXT
Open-ended text response associated with Q5_11 if ranked

Q6_A
Which statement most closely aligns with your views?

Public consultation is only fair if people from different identities and communities are able to fully participate. (1)

If people choose not to participate in public consultation, that does not impact the fairness of the process. (2)

Q6_B
Which statement most closely aligns with your views?

Regardless of what mode people travel by, they should be able to reach the destinations they need, with similar time, costs and comfort. (1)

People choosing to travel by transit, biking or walking can expect that their trips may take longer, be less comfortable, or cost more than travelling by car. (2)

Q6_C
Which statement most closely aligns with your views?

Investment should be prioritized in areas of the city/region that have historically not received the same level of investment as other areas. (1)

All areas of the city/region should receive similar levels of investment. (2)

Q6_D
Which statement most closely aligns with your views?

Transportation policies should be prioritized to benefit marginalized people and communities. (1)

Transportation policies should provide benefits to the greatest number of people. (2)

Q6_E
Which statement most closely aligns with your views?

For transportation systems to be fair, sometimes changes to existing costs (i.e., parking, bus fares) or infrastructure (i.e., adding bike or bus lanes at the expense of car traffic) are needed. (1)

For transportation systems to be fair, existing costs and infrastructure that people have come to expect should remain the same as much as possible. (2)

Q6_F
Which statement most closely aligns with your views?

Public transit should be provided only if people are willing to pay the full cost of it. (1)

Car users should be required to pay the full costs of the infrastructure required for driving (roads, parking and bridges). (2)

Q7

Have you OR someone important to you ever had issues with transportation due to:

	You personally (1)	Someone important to you (2)	No experience with this issue (3)
A physical or other disability that limits mobility (Q7_1)	1	2	3
Inability to afford costs of public transit (Q7_2)	1	2	3
Inability to afford private transportation costs (i.e. gas, purchasing car, car repairs, car insurance) (Q7_3)	1	2	3
Difficulty getting a driver's licence (Q7_4)	1	2	3
Long commute times (Q7_5)	1	2	3
Public transit doesn't go to locations you need (Q7_6)	1	2	3
Being harassed or fear of being harassed while travelling (Q7_7)	1	2	3
Issues with public transit service (i.e. unreliable arrival times, long wait times, etc.) (Q7_8)	1	2	3
Difficulty or inability to walk (Q7_9)	1	2	3
Difficulty or inability to ride a bicycle (Q7_10)	1	2	3
Other, please specify: (Q7_11)	1	2	3

Q7_11_TEXT

Open-ended text response associated with Q7_11 if answered

Q8a

If your main way of travelling was unavailable, how often, if at all, would you be able to find another way of travelling?

Never (1)

Rarely (2)

Sometimes (3)

Often (4)

Always (5)

Q8b

If your main way of travelling was unavailable, what other options would you use for travelling within your jurisdiction? Select all that apply.

	Not selected	Selected
Ride from friend or family (Q8b_1)	0	1
Taxi or ride-hail (i.e. Uber, Lyft) (Q8b_2)	0	1
Public transit (Q8b_3)	0	1
Rent or borrow car (Q8b_4)	0	1
Walk (Q8b_5)	0	1
Bicycle (Q8b_6)	0	1
Other, please specify: (Q8b_7)	0	1

Q8b_7_TEXT

Open-ended text response associated with Q8b_7 code 1

Q9

Imagine you are asked to vote on a long-range transportation plan (i.e. transportation master plan) in the next month. If you had questions about the policy directions of the plan, who would you most likely consult?

	Not likely (1)	Somewhat likely (2)	Very likely (3)	Not applicable (4)
Transportation-related municipal/regional staff (such as planners or engineers) (Q9_1)	1	2	3	4
Other types of municipal staff (i.e. housing, social services, economic development) (Q9_2)	1	2	3	4
Political staff (Q9_3)	1	2	3	4
Industry groups (i.e. construction or builders associations) (Q9_4)	1	2	3	4
Constituents or resident associations (Q9_5)	1	2	3	4
Advocacy groups (Q9_6)	1	2	3	4
Do my own research, please specify: (Q9_7)	1	2	3	4
Other, please specify: (Q9_8)	1	2	3	4

Q9_7_TEXT

Open-ended text response associated with Q9_7 if answered

Q9_8_TEXT

Open-ended text response associated with Q9_8 if answered

Q10

To understand any transportation issues your constituents face, what sources do you or would you draw on?

	Never (1)	Rarely (2)	Sometimes (3)	Regularly (4)	Not applicable (5)
Emails, phone calls or meetings with individual constituents (Q10_1)	1	2	3	4	5
Emails, phone calls or meetings with constituent associations (i.e., homeowner or resident groups) (Q10_2)	1	2	3	4	5
Public meetings or open houses (Q10_3)	1	2	3	4	5
Professional surveys (Q10_4)	1	2	3	4	5
Staff reports or other information from staff (Q10_5)	1	2	3	4	5
Traditional media (i.e., newspapers, radio) (Q10_6)	1	2	3	4	5
Advocacy groups (i.e., non-profits, community associations) (Q10_7)	1	2	3	4	5
Social media (i.e., Twitter, Facebook) (Q10_8)	1	2	3	4	5
Other, please specify: (Q10_9)	1	2	3	4	5

Q10_9_TEXT

Open-ended text response associated with Q10_9 if answered

Q11

Before the pandemic (prior to March 2020), what was your usual way of travelling to work?

Drive (alone or carpool) (1)

Walk (2)

Public Transit (bus, subway, streetcar, etc.) (3)

Paratransit (transit service for people with disabilities) (4)

Bicycle (5)

Ride-hailing or taxi (6)

I did not travel to work (worked from home) (7)

Other, please specify: (8)

Q11_8_TEXT

Open-ended text response associated with Q11 code 8

Q12

Before the pandemic (prior to March 2020), did you use any of these ways to travel?

	Never (1)	Once a year or less (2)	A few times a year, but less than once a month (3)	At least once a month, but less than once a week (4)	At least once a week, but less than once a day (5)	Daily (6)
Drive (alone or carpool) (Q12_1)	1	2	3	4	5	6
Walk (Q12_2)	1	2	3	4	5	6
Public Transit (bus, subway, streetcar, etc.) (Q12_3)	1	2	3	4	5	6
Paratransit (transit service for people with disabilities) (Q12_4)	1	2	3	4	5	6
Bicycle (Q12_5)	1	2	3	4	5	6
Ride-hailing or taxi (Q12_6)	1	2	3	4	5	6
Other, please specify: (Q12_7)	1	2	3	4	5	6

Q12_7_TEXT

Open-ended text response associated with Q12 if answered

Q13

Do you or someone in your household own/lease a car?

Yes, I do (1)

Yes, another person in my household does   (2)

Yes, I do and another person in my household does (3)

No   (4)

Q14
How long have you been in your position as an elected representative?

Under 1 year (1)

1– 4 years (2)

5 - 10 years   (3)

More than 10 years (4)

Q15
Do you sit on any (municipal/regional) transportation-related committees?

Transportation Committee or similar (1)

Transit Agency Board (2)

Other, please specify: (3)

No, I don't sit on any municipal or regional transportation-related committees (4)

Q15_3_TEXT

Open-ended text response associated with Q15 code 3

Q16
Do you identify as any of the following: Select all that apply.

	Not selected	Selected
Visible minority or member of a racialized group (Q16_1)	0	1
Senior (Q16_2)	0	1
Person living with disability (Q16_3)	0	1
Indigenous, Metis, Inuit or First Nations (Q16_4)	0	1
Woman (Q16_5)	0	1
LGBTQ2S+ (Q16_6)	0	1
Newcomer, immigrant or refugee (Q16_7)	0	1
None of the above (Q16_8)	0	1

Q17
Please indicate if there is anything else we should know about transportation decision making in your community:

Open-ended text response