



Public Opinion Poll Shows Support for Transportation Options and Complete Streets Built to Be Safe and Accessible For All

Key Findings

- Eighty-five percent (85%) of New Orleans residents believe people deserve as many safe transportation options as possible to get to work on time.
- Seventy-six percent (76%) of residents understand that having protected lanes separating bicycles from cars makes the roads safer for drivers, and sixty-eight percent (68%) say that they would be more inclined to ride a bicycle if there were protective barriers separating bicycles from cars.
- Seventy percent (70%) of residents think that the most efficient transportation system for New Orleans would have separate spaces for people driving, using the transit system, biking, and walking.

Detailed Highlights

New Orleanians are ready for more transportation options. Fifty-eight percent (58%) of residents strongly or somewhat agree that the city should do everything it can to get people out of their cars and provide them with mobility alternatives. Sixty-four percent (64%) of residents would like to see more people use bicycles as a means of transportation.

Creating transportation options, including bicycling and public transit improvements, is good for New Orleans' businesses and workers. Eighty-five percent (85%) of residents strongly or somewhat agree that New Orleanians deserve as many safe transportation options as possible to get to work on time. Fifty-six percent (56%) of residents are more inclined to support a business that demonstrates a commitment to non-car transportation solutions.

The public wants to solve traffic congestion with more transportation options, including bikes and public transit. Sixty-seven percent (67%) of New Orleanians strongly or somewhat agree that the only way to solve traffic problems is to spend more money on alternatives to cars because we can never build enough roads to solve New Orleans' traffic problems. Seventy percent (70%) of voters believe the most efficient transportation system for New Orleans would have separate spaces for people driving, taking public transit, biking, and walking.

NEW ORLEANS COMPLETE STREETS COALITION

Bike infrastructure is seen as part of the solution to traffic safety for everyone on the roadways. Seventy-six percent (76%) strongly/somewhat agree that having protected lanes separating bicycles from cars makes the roads safer for people driving. Sixty-eight percent (68%) say that they would be more inclined to ride a bicycle if there were protective barriers separating bicycles from cars.

The public believes we can have peace on the road when everyone has their piece of the road. Sixty percent (60%) of voters are very or somewhat willing to build protected bike lanes, even if it meant reducing the number of driving lanes, and more than half are very or somewhat willing to build protected bike lanes even if it meant the loss of on-street parking spaces in front of homes and businesses.

Public perception of different modes of transportation varies by neighborhood in New Orleans. Residents living in neighborhoods that have historically had well-resourced transportation options and access to safe, walkable and bikeable streets express a stronger interest in maximizing those transportation options, improvements and accessibility. Economically-challenged and geographically isolated neighborhoods were less receptive to bicycling infrastructure, but supported it in conjunction with general street and infrastructure improvements.

Background

The New Orleans Complete Streets Coalition commissioned Dr. Silas Lee & Associates to conduct a poll to evaluate perceptions and opinions of New Orleans voters towards non-car transportation options, with a focus on bicycling and expanding bicycle infrastructure. The five hundred (500) respondents reflected the social and economic demographics of New Orleans, and 55% of the respondents were cell phone only households. The poll has a margin of error of +/- 3%. For more information, please contact Dan Favre, dan@bikeeasy.org or 504-321-1247.

