

September 1, 2020

To: Interested Parties
Fr: ALG Research
Re: Summary of Recent Polling in New Orleans

Even in the midst of the economic and coronavirus crises, addressing New Orleans' transportation troubles remains important to residents. Recent polling shows that most New Orleans voters view the lack of safe transportation options in the city as an impediment to getting around, shopping, and their overall quality of life. As a result, we measure strong support for roadway changes across town, including creating more dedicated bike and bus lanes.

Key Findings

- Providing safe bike lanes and improving public transit for residents is critical to making New Orleans a better place to live – a majority of voters (58%) think the lack of transportation options lowers their quality of life.
- Three-fourths of voters (75%) agree that promoting alternatives to driving should be a part of any effort to solve the city's traffic problems and that protected bike lanes create more safety and less stress for everyone on the roadways (77%). Over two-thirds (68%) say they'd be more inclined to ride a bike if there were protected bike lanes, and most voters are willing to give up a driving lane on some roads for protected bike lanes (73% are willing) and dedicated bus lanes (70%).
- Local commerce, particularly downtown commerce, is hurt by the status quo – 55% of voters think getting downtown without a car is hard to do, and 51% think the lack of transportation options makes getting to work on time more difficult. Roadway changes would help businesses – 72% of voters say they would be willing to shop and dine downtown if there were more safe transportation options available for getting downtown, and 58% agree that they'd ride a bike more if there were safe bike lanes between their house and their favorite restaurant or store.
- In addition, voters recognize the toll that the economic crisis has taken on local businesses and the importance of an improved transportation system for businesses and workers during the recovery. Almost universally, voters agree that the city must provide safe alternatives for essential workers to get to their jobs and keep the economy strong (87%) and are willing to build dedicated bike lanes to help downtown hospitality workers get to work more reliably (87%).

ALG Research conducted a phone survey among N=501 registered voters in New Orleans, Louisiana, from August 12-16, 2020. Interviews were conducted by professional interviewers, and 65% of respondents were reached via cell phone. The expected margin of error for the full sample is +/- 4.38 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence.