

Summary of Public Survey Results

To support development of the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), CORTPO conducted a regional transportation survey designed to gather community input on travel habits, transportation needs, and priorities for future investment. The survey was available both online and in paper format and was promoted through the CORTPO website, social media, and community outreach events. The feedback gathered provides valuable insights into current transportation patterns and public opinion throughout the region.

Travel to Work

A strong majority of respondents, 91%, reported that they drive to work, either alone or in a carpool. Modes such as walking, using public transportation, or other forms of travel accounted for just 2.7%, and no respondents reported commuting by bicycle. This result reflects the rural nature of the region, where limited access to transit and long distances between destinations make active or alternative transportation more challenging.

Despite the dominance of driving, most respondents 63% indicated they would consider increasing walking or biking as part of their commute or daily travel if conditions improved. This highlights an opportunity for future investment in active transportation infrastructure such as sidewalks, trails, and bike lanes.

Travel Outside of Work

Respondents were also asked about their weekly travel mileage for non-work trips, such as errands, shopping, and medical appointments. Responses showed a wide range of travel distances, indicating varied access to essential services and amenities:

32.4% travel more than 50 miles per week for non-work purposes.

24.3% travel between 31 and 50 miles per week.

18.9% travel 11 to 20 miles per week.

Smaller percentages reported traveling 21 to 30 miles (10.8%), 2 to 10 miles (1.8%), or less than 1 mile (2.7%) per week.

These numbers underscore the importance of regional connectivity and the need for reliable transportation options across longer distances, particularly for rural residents who may live far from essential services or employment opportunities.

Transportation Barriers and Employment

Transportation access also has a direct impact on employment. Notably, 10% of respondents stated that they had lost or quit a job at some point due to a lack of reliable transportation. This finding reinforces the need for expanded mobility options, especially for individuals without access to a personal vehicle.

Public Priorities for Transportation Investment

Survey participants were asked to rank transportation investment priorities. The results reflect a strong preference for maintaining and enhancing core infrastructure and expanding mobility options:

1. Maintenance of existing roadways and bridges
2. Public Transit
3. Active Transportation (walking, biking)
4. Connections to state and U.S. highways
5. Improved signage and traffic signals
6. Support for economic development
7. Reducing traffic congestion
8. Environmental protection

Re-evaluating existing speed limits

Prioritization suggests that while road maintenance remains the top concern, there is clear public interest in diversifying the transportation system to include transit and active modes, even in a primarily rural context.