



2026 Transportation Needs Assessment Survey

Supporting the Update of
FutureLV: The Regional Plan

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Transportation Needs Assessment Survey

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) conducted a Transportation Needs Assessment (TNA) Survey as part of the updates of *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* and the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study's (LVTS) Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The TNA Survey is intended to understand the public's most urgent concerns, identify their long-term priorities, and establish how limited financial resources should be allocated. The survey was created in Microsoft forms, and it was open from April 16 to May 17. It was distributed through email, social media, event program advertisements, and in-person events such as the Northampton County Festival and the LVPC's Strategy Labs. It was also promoted at public meetings of the LVTS and LVPC.

Survey Findings

The following pages summarize the findings from this year's survey and compare them to the results from a similar survey taken in 2023. Additional response options and changes in several question's wording are the bulk of the difference between the 2023 and 2026 surveys. These changes were made to reflect discussions with the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and public. The comparison notes where the survey methodology or questionnaire between the two surveys was somewhat different, which affected an exact comparison between the two.

1. Survey Participation

The 2026 survey was live for just over four weeks and gained 601 responses, while the 2023 survey ran for two months, yielding just more than 1,000 responses. The 2026 survey allowed responses to list more than one role, which is why the percentages in the 2026 column exceed 100. Roughly 80% of the responses to both surveys came from residents. The share of responses from elected officials doubled and appointed officials increased from 4.8 to 6% in 2026, while the response shares from municipal staff declined from 5.8% to 4.8%. The participation shares from external commuters and businesses operating in the Lehigh Valley more than doubled.

Participation Metric	2023 TNA Survey	2026 TNA Survey*
Total Responses	1,007	601
Residents	802 (79.6%)	502 (83.5%)
Appointed Officials	48 (4.8%)	36 (6.0%)
Elected Official	32 (3.2%)	39 (6.5%)
Municipal Staff	58 (5.8%)	29 (4.8%)
External Commuters / Businesses ("Other")	67 (6.7%)	90 (15.0%)
Geographic Coverage	60 out of 62 municipalities	58 out of 62 municipalities
Margin of Error	3.09%	4.00%

*The total percentages for 2026 responses exceed 100% because participants were permitted to choose as many roles as applied to them.

2. What Transportation Issues does the Lehigh Valley Care About?

The first question asked people what general transportation issues were most concerning to them, rating each concern on scale of 1 to 5 (most important). Traffic flow and congestion and road pavement conditions were the top issues in both surveys. Walking, bridge conditions, and interstate highways were almost as high in both the 2023 and 2026 surveys. Trails were not on the questionnaire in 2023 but were highly rated in 2026. Truck and rail freight saw a significant increase in importance, reflecting increasing concerns about truck volumes and parking issues. Transit saw a marked decline in interest. Bicycling, local bus transit, and intercity bus all had lower overall ratings, but in each case a significant number of responses rated them as highly important (for this reason, the average scores were not statistically significant).

Rating of Transportation Issues

Variable		2023	2026
Traffic Flow/Congestion		4.3	4.2
Road Pavement		4.3	4.1
Walking		4.0	4.0
Bridges		4.1	3.8
Interstate Highways		3.7	3.8
Trails		N/A	3.8
Freight (Trucks and Rail)		2.9	3.6
Bicycling		3.4	3.3**
Passenger Rail (to NY/NJ, Philadelphia, and/or Harrisburg)		3.3	3.3
Aviation		2.9	3.1
Bus Transit (Local/Lehigh Valley)		3.6	2.9**
Intercity Bus (to NY/NJ, Philadelphia, and/or Harrisburg)		N/A	2.9**

***Not statistically significant*

3. What are the Region's Top-Ranked Roadway and Bridge Objectives?

The survey then focused on specific transportation categories and asked people to rank which issues were most important for each.

For roads and bridges, three new categories; congestion management, emergency response and incident management, and public transit access and reliability were added to the survey in 2026 and respondents were asked to rank the options from 1-10. Congestion management was the clear respondent favorite as the most important issue in 2026, rated the highest by more than a third of all respondents. Roadway operations, transportation safety, and road and bridge conditions were also highly rated, as was the case in 2023.

Ranking of Road and Bridge Categories

Categories	2026 Rank	2023 Rank
Congestion Management (reducing traffic delays, bottlenecks, peak-hour travel)	1	N/A
Roadway operations (signal timing, traffic flow)	2	2
Transportation safety (crashes, turn lanes, improving safety measures)	3	1
Condition of roadways and bridges (maintenance, resurfacing or refurbishing)	4	3
Emergency response and incident management (emergency vehicle access, clearance times, disaster response)	5	N/A
Funding for transportation infrastructure maintenance and improvements	6	4
Freight movement (truck parking, establishing, or enhancing truck routes)	7	6
Accessible roadway design for all ages, abilities, and transportation modes (sidewalks, transit infrastructure, bicycle infrastructure, trails)	8	5
Public transit access and reliability (Increase service & routes, improve transit stops)	9	N/A
Transportation technologies (electric vehicle charging infrastructure, smart signals)	10	7

4. Trails as a Part of the Transportation Network

We asked people to rate the importance of the Lehigh Valley's Trail network as part of the transportation system. In 2026, 35% of respondents said they consider trails as a part of their transportation network, as opposed to 2023, where the response was 48%. The number who said they were not part of their transportation network increased from 31% to 44%. In both years, 21% of respondents had mixed opinions. This shift suggests that the trail network has not yet matured to the point where it is a full alternative to other transportation modes. The priority trail gaps that were recently identified in LVPC's *Lehigh Valley Trail Connection Strategy* will significantly strengthen the network and may help increase recognition of the trail network as a robust transportation system.

Are Trails a Part of Your Transportation Network?

Opinion	2023	2026
Yes	48%	35%
No	31%	44%
Maybe	21%	21%
Total	100%	100%

5. Walking, Cycling, Rolling, & Accessibility

The survey sought community feedback on infrastructure that improves conditions for walking, cycling and accessibility. Three new options were added to this year's survey, including traffic-calming measures, expanding trails and connecting to the road network, and improving pedestrian and accessible connections to bus stops. Respondents were asked to rate each objective on a one-to-five (1-5) scale, with 5 being most important. The distribution of rankings was relatively narrow, with all of the options having moderate-to-strong support. Traffic-calming, one of the new objectives in the survey, and was rated highest overall.

Bike, Pedestrian and Accessibility Objectives	2023	2026
Implementing traffic-calming measures	N/A	3.9
Adding or marking crosswalks	3.7	3.6
Adding sidewalks to new and existing roads	3.7	3.6
Adding or improving sidewalks and intersect	3.8	3.6
Expanding trails and connecting to the road	N/A	3.5
ADA Accessibility/Adding or improving curb ramps for accessibility by all persons	3.6	3.3
Building and connecting bike lanes	3.5	3.2
Connecting bus stops to walking or rolling	N/A	3.1

6. Transportation Mode Choices

The survey asked respondents to estimate how many times they had used each transportation mode in the previous twelve months, ranging from 25 times or more to once or twice or not at all. The tables below show the percentage of responses for each mode and provides the 2023 survey results for comparative purposes. For 2026, two modest, but consistent trends emerged. More people are walking, rolling and using trails. Meanwhile, the percentage of persons making frequent drive-alone trips dropped from 91% to 88%. Transit received mixed responses: the percentage making frequent trips went down slightly, but percentage of people making occasional trips increased.

Transportation Mode Choices (percentages)

2026 Survey

How Often did you use the modes	Walking/Rolling	Cycling	Trails	Transit	Driving Alone	Carpooling	Taxi or Rideshare (Uber, Lyft, etc)
25 Times or More	32%	13%	16%	2%	88%	14%	3%
13-24 Times	12%	6%	13%	2%	5%	13%	5%
3-12 Times	23%	15%	22%	5%	3%	20%	18%
Once or twice	16%	14%	19%	10%	1%	16%	23%
Never	17%	52%	30%	81%	3%	37%	52%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

2023 Survey

How Often did you use the modes	Walking/Rolling	Cycling	Trails	Transit	Driving Alone	Carpooling	Taxi or Rideshare (Uber, Lyft, etc) or
25 Times or More	29%	10%	14%	3%	91%	14%	2%
13-24 Times	10%	6%	10%	2%	4%	10%	4%
3-12 Times	24%	12%	20%	3%	2%	20%	19%
Once or twice	16%	15%	20%	8%	1%	15%	23%
Never	22%	58%	36%	83%	2%	42%	53%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100	100%	100%

7. Ranking Transit Objectives

Respondents were asked to identify three important transit objectives for their community. New options were added to the previous survey, including bus stop amenities, expanding hours of service, and increasing bus speeds. One broad topic: expanding the span of public transportation service across the region, was dropped; the aspects covered in that category are addressed elsewhere. Improving transit service to connect major employment centers with residential neighborhoods was the highest priority, followed by improving bus stop amenities.

Transit Issues	2023	2026
Expanding transit service to connect major employment centers with residential neighborhoods	24.90%	24%
Adding shelters, seating, lighting, and real-time schedule information at bus stops	N/A	19%
Increasing service frequency to reduce wait times	16.60%	16%
Expanding on-demand public transportation options (LANTA Flex)	13.40%	11%
Improving customer information on LANTA services	10.15%	10%
Expand hours of service	N/A	10%
Increasing bus speed to reduce travel times	N/A	5%
Expanding the span of service of public transportation across the region	25.37%	N/A
Others	9.49%	6%

8. Freight Issues

Respondents were asked to identify three important freight-related issues in their community. This was a new question, so no response comparison to the 2023 survey is possible. This question was added to assess the growing freight movements to, from, and through the Lehigh Valley. The most popular responses addressed concerns about the impacts of trucking on street and highway congestion, damage to local roads, trucks driving on neighborhood streets, and air and noise pollution from air/road/rail freight. Truck parking and safety at rail crossings received lower concern responses.

Freight Issues	Percentage
Trucks adding to street and highway congestion	24%
Trucks damaging local roads	20%
Trucks on neighborhood streets	18%
Air and noise pollution from <u>freight</u> , and air cargo	17%
Truck impacts on drivers, <u>bicycles</u> , and pedestrian safety	12%
Trucks parking on road shoulders and ramps	5%
Safety at rail crossings	2%
Others	1%
Total	100%

9. Allocation of Public Funds

The final question in the survey asked people to engage in an exercise to see how public dollars should be invested. Each respondent was given a theoretical budget of \$100 and asked to choose how these funds should be spent on various transportation investments. Two new options were added for this year's survey: passenger rail or bus service to other regions, and aviation and airports. Roads and bridges were the overall response leader in both surveys. Infrastructure resilience and passenger rail or inter-regional bus were tied for second area of investment in this year's survey, whereas infrastructure resilience and walking, biking, and accessibility were tied for second place in 2023.

Funding Category	2023 Allocation (Average)	2026 Allocation (Average)
Roads and Bridges	\$35	\$28
Infrastructure Resilience	\$23	\$17
Walking, Biking, and Accessibility	\$23	\$16
Transit Within Region	\$18	\$14
Passenger Rail or Bus To Other Regions	NA	\$17
Aviation and Airports	NA	\$8

Conclusion

This year's survey provides a good snapshot of public opinion regarding the transportation challenges facing the Lehigh Valley. Auto travel is by far the dominant mode, so traffic congestion and road and bridge conditions were top of mind for respondents overall. However, there is also substantial interest in transit and active transportation modes, and substantial support for improving these networks. The mode choice question revealed walking/rolling and cycling have mode shares that are greater than what is seen in our journey to work data. This indicates that people are more likely to walk or roll for non-work trips like shopping and recreation. Concerns about safety informed much of the support for both road and bridge improvements as well as pedestrian, cycling and accessibility needs.

The results of this survey, along with the recently completed community dialogue and solutions-focused Strategy Labs will shape LVPC's efforts as we undertake the project selection process and policy development for *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Transportation Needs Assessment survey. More information and additional opportunities to shape the future of the Lehigh Valley may be found at www.lvpc.org, emailing planning@lvpc.org or by calling the LVPC at (610) 264-4544.

Appendix

Transportation Needs Assessment Survey Questions and Response Options

Lehigh Valley Transportation Needs Assessment Survey

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission wants to hear from you about the region's transportation needs and priorities. Your feedback will help shape updates to the transportation components of *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*—guiding future transportation investments, projects, and policies across the region. This survey takes about six minutes to complete. Your responses are completely anonymous, and the survey does not ask for any information that could identify you. Results will be combined with others' responses and used only to support regional planning efforts. Please Note: An (*) indicates a required question response.

1. Which municipality do you reside in? *

- ☐ Alburtis Borough
- ☐ Allen Township
- ☐ Allentown City
- ☐ Bangor Borough
- ☐ Bath Borough
- ☐ Bethlehem City
- ☐ Bethlehem Township
- ☐ Bushkill Township
- ☐ Catasauqua Borough
- ☐ Chapman Borough
- ☐ Coopersburg Borough
- ☐ Coplay Borough
- ☐ East Allen Township
- ☐ East Bangor Borough
- ☐ Easton City
- ☐ Emmaus Borough
- ☐ Forks Township
- ☐ Fountain Hill Borough
- ☐ Freemansburg Borough
- ☐ Glendon Borough
- ☐ Hanover Township (Lehigh County)
- ☐ Hanover Township (Northampton County)
- ☐ Heidelberg Township
- ☐ Hellertown Borough
- ☐ Lehigh Township
- ☐ Lower Macungie Township
- ☐ Lower Milford Township
- ☐ Lower Mount Bethel Township

- ☐ Lower Nazareth Township
- ☐ Lower Saucon Township
- ☐ Lowhill Township
- ☐ Lynn Township
- ☐ Macungie Borough
- ☐ Moore Township
- ☐ Nazareth Borough
- ☐ North Catasauqua Borough
- ☐ North Whitehall Township
- ☐ Northampton Borough
- ☐ Palmer Township
- ☐ Pen Argyl Borough
- ☐ Plainfield Township
- ☐ Portland Borough
- ☐ Roseto Borough
- ☐ Salisbury Township
- ☐ Slatington Borough
- ☐ South Whitehall Township
- ☐ Stockertown Borough
- ☐ Tatamy Borough
- ☐ Upper Macungie Township
- ☐ Upper Saucon Township
- ☐ Walnutport Borough
- ☐ Washington Township (Lehigh County)
- ☐ Washington Township (Northampton County)
- ☐ Weisenberg Township
- ☐ West Easton Borough
- ☐ Whitehall Township
- ☐ Williams Township

- ☐ Wilson Borough
- ☐ Wind Gap Borough
- ☐ I Don't Know
- ☐ Other

2. Do you represent an organization(s)? If so, which one(s)?

3. What is your role within the community or organization (Check all that apply)? *

- ☐ Resident
- ☐ Appointed Official
- ☐ Elected Official
- ☐ Municipal Staff
- ☐ Business Owner
- ☐ Representative of Community Organization
- ☐ Other

4. Please rate **Traffic Flow/Congestion** according to your personal priorities. 1 Star means "Not Important" and 5 Stars means "Most Important." *



5. Please rate **Road Pavement** according to your personal priorities. 1 Star means "Not Important" and 5 Stars means "Most Important." *



6. Please rate **Bridges** according to your personal priorities. 1 Star means "Not Important" and 5 Stars means "Most Important." *



7. Please rate **Freight (Trucks and Rail)** according to your personal priorities. 1 Star means "Not Important" and 5 Stars means "Most Important." *



8. Please rate **Interstate Highways** according to your personal priorities. 1 Star means "Not Important" and 5 Stars means "Most Important." *



9. Please rate **Bus Transit (Local/Lehigh Valley)** according to your personal priorities. 1 Star means "Not Important" and 5 Stars means "Most Important." *



10. Please rate **Passenger Rail (to NY/NJ, Philadelphia, and/or Harrisburg)** according to your personal priorities. 1 Star means "Not Important" and 5 Stars means "Most Important." *



11. Please rate **Intercity Bus (to NY/NJ, Philadelphia, and/or Harrisburg)** according to your personal priorities. 1 Star means "Not Important" and 5 Stars means "Most Important." *



12. Please rate **Aviation** according to your personal priorities. 1 Star means "Not Important" and 5 Stars means "Most Important." *



13. Please rate **Trails** according to your personal priorities. 1 Star means "Not Important" and 5 Stars means "Most Important." *



14. Please rate **Walking** according to your personal priorities. 1 Star means "Not Important" and 5 Stars means "Most Important." *



15. Please rate **Bicycling** according to your personal priorities. 1 Star means "Not Important" and 5 Stars means "Most Important." *



16. Please rate **ADA Accessibility** according to your personal priorities. 1 Star means "Not Important" and 5 Stars means "Most Important." *



17. Rank the following road and bridge objectives for your community from one (1 – most important) to ten (10 – least important). Please drag the objectives below into your preferred order from one to ten. *

Roadway operations (signal timing, traffic flow)
Congestion Management (reducing traffic delays, bottlenecks, peak-hour travel)
Transportation safety (crashes, turn lanes, improving safety measures)
Freight movement (truck parking, establishing, or enhancing truck routes)
Emergency response and incident management (emergency vehicle access, clearance times, disaster response)
Transportation technologies (electric vehicle charging infrastructure, smart signals)
Accessible roadway design for all ages, abilities, and transportation modes (sidewalks, transit infrastructure, bicycle infrastructure, trails)
Funding for transportation infrastructure maintenance and improvements
Condition of roadways and bridges (maintenance, resurfacing or refurbishing)
Public transit access and reliability (Increase service & routes, improve transit stops)

18. Do you consider trails as part of your transportation network? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe
- ☐ No Opinion

19. Please rate the following walking, rolling and accessibility objectives for your community. 1 Star means "Not Important" and 5 Stars means "Most Important." **Adding or marking crosswalks, adding pedestrian islands or median crossings** *



20. Please rate the following walking, rolling and accessibility objectives for your community. 1 Star means "Not Important" and 5 Stars means "Most Important." **Adding sidewalks to new and existing roads and developments** *



21. Please rate the following walking, rolling and accessibility objectives for your community. 1 Star means "Not Important" and 5 Stars means "Most Important." **Adding or improving sidewalks and intersections for accessibility by all persons** *



22. Please rate the following walking, rolling and accessibility objectives for your community. 1 Star means "Not Important" and 5 Stars means "Most Important." **Building and connecting bike lanes** *



23. Please rate the following walking, rolling and accessibility objectives for your community. 1 Star means "Not Important" and 5 Stars means "Most Important." **Implementing traffic calming measures to make roads safer for all users** *



24. Please rate the following walking, rolling and accessibility objectives for your community. 1 Star means "Not Important" and 5 Stars means "Most Important." **Expanding trails and connecting to the road and sidewalk network** *



25. Please rate the following walking, rolling and accessibility objectives for your community. 1 Star means "Not Important" and 5 Stars means "Most Important." **Connecting bus stops to the walking, rolling and accessibility network** *



26. How often did you use the following transportation modes to reach a destination in the past 12 months? (Check one circle for each row). *

	Never	Once or Twice	3-12 Times	13-24 Times	25 Times or More
Walking/Rolling	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cycling	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Trails	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Transit (LANTA)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Driving Alone	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Carpooling	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Taxi or Rideshare (Uber, Lyft, etc)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

27. What are the most important transit objectives for your community? (Select three): *

Please select at most 3 options.

- ☐ Increasing service frequency to reduce wait times
- ☐ Expanding transit service to connect major employment centers with residential neighborhoods
- ☐ Increasing bus speed to reduce travel times
- ☐ Expanding on-demand public transportation options (LANTAFlex)
- ☐ Expand hours of service
- ☐ Improving customer information on LANTA services
- ☐ Adding shelters, seating, lighting, and real-time schedule information at bus stops
- ☐ Other

28. What are the most important issues related to freight in your community? (Select three): *

Please select at most 3 options.

- ☐ Trucks on neighborhood streets
- ☐ Trucks parking on road shoulders and ramps
- ☐ Trucks damaging local roads
- ☐ Trucks adding to street and highway congestion
- ☐ Truck impacts on driver, bicycle, and pedestrian safety
- ☐ Air and noise pollution from trucks
- ☐ Air and noise pollution from freight rail
- ☐ Air and noise pollution from air cargo
- ☐ Delays at rail crossings
- ☐ Safety at rail crossings
- ☐ Other

How would YOU allocate funds?

If you had \$100 in public funds to spend on the following transportation issues anyway you wished, how would you spend it? (Your total should add up to \$100)

29. Walking, Biking + Accessibility *

Number must be between 0 ~ 100

30. Transit within the region *

Number must be between 0 ~ 100

31. Passenger Rail or Bus to Other Regions *

Number must be between 0 ~ 100

32. Road + Bridge *

Number must be between 0 ~ 100

33. Aviation and Airports *

Number must be between 0 ~ 100

34. Infrastructure Resilience *

Number must be between 0 ~ 100

35. Add up your totals above; do they equal 100? If not please go back and redistribute funds! *

☐ Yes

☐ No