

The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) conducted a survey to better understand the commuter transportation needs related to work trips for Iowans in the eastern Iowa counties of Johnson, Linn, Benton, Jones, Iowa, Cedar and Washington. The Iowa DOT is interested in enhancing mobility options. This input is helpful in the evaluation process. The survey was available for 28 days from September 15 through October 12, 2014, and 619 surveys were completed. Two results worth noting include: 61 percent of respondents indicated they might use a form of public transportation-carpool/vanpool, public bus transportation. 86 percent of respondents said they may be willing, depending of the type of revenue generating approach, to support a future increase in public funding for inter-regional public transportation improvements.

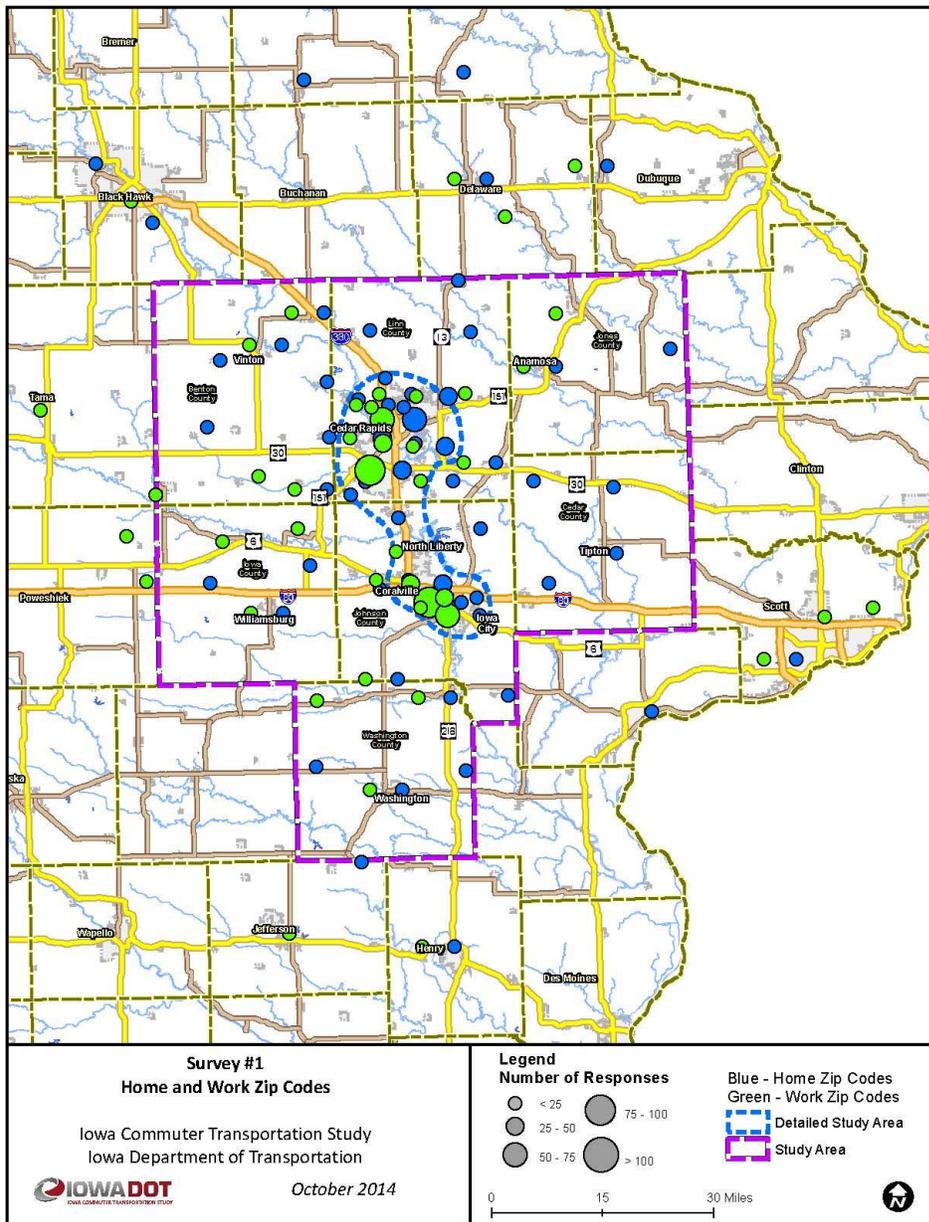
Key highlights of the survey results include:

- 89 percent of respondents commute alone to work.
- 82 percent work a traditional Monday through Friday 8 am to 5 pm schedule.
- 63 percent of respondents travel 21 or more minutes in their commute.
- 40 percent of respondents travel 21 miles or more every day.
- Increased congestion and safety are the top two existing transportation concerns.
- 93 percent of respondents think improvements are needed to the I-380 corridor.
- 57 percent of respondents indicated they would use public transportation options if there were more convenient options available.
- 40 percent indicated an increase in the price of fuel would cause them to use public transportation options.
- 45 percent of respondents indicated that improved frequency was a critical factor in their likelihood to use public transportation options.
- 61 percent of respondents have access to free parking at their place of employment.
- 65 percent of respondents would be willing to pay \$7 or less for daily round trip service between Cedar Rapids and Iowa City.
- 85 percent have two or more people of legal driving age and two or more cars in their household.

The following pages provide a summary of the Survey responses.

Home and work locations are identified on the map below. Although people live throughout the seven county study area, shown by the dotted purple line, the ZIP codes with the highest density of home and work locations are within the primary study area, shown by the dotted blue line.

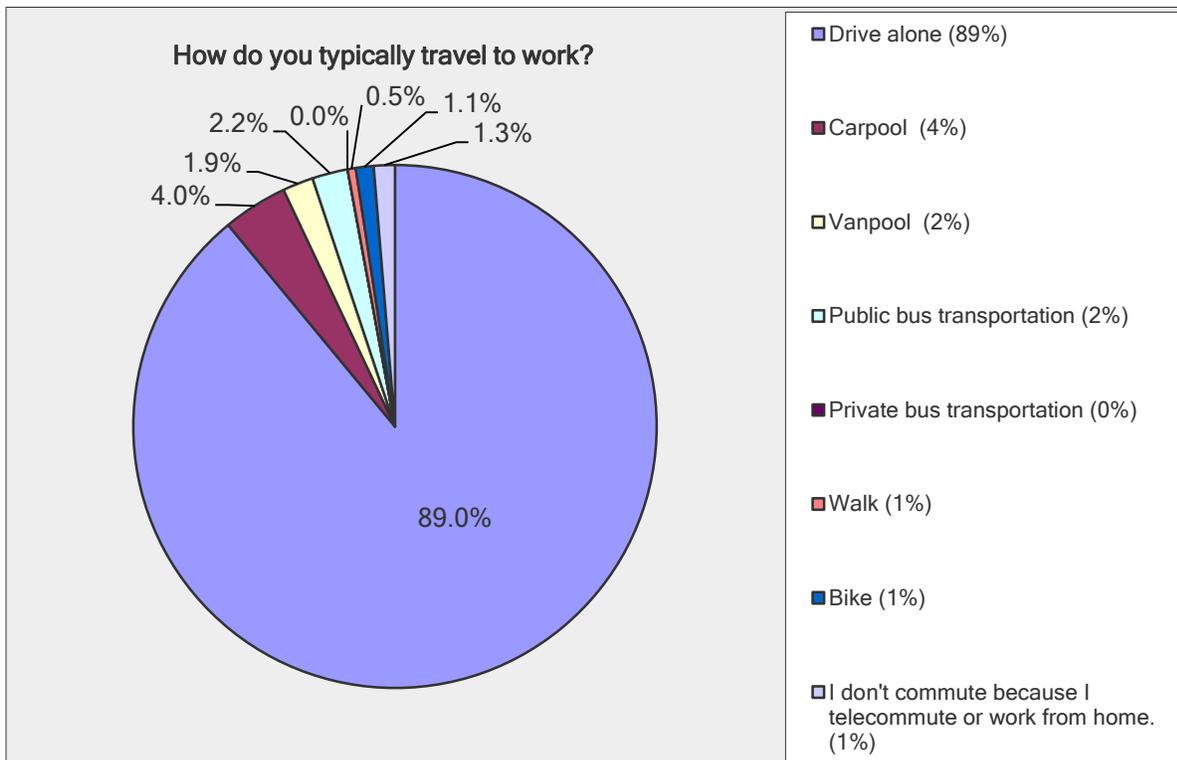
Home and Work Zip Codes



Initial Needs Survey Summary

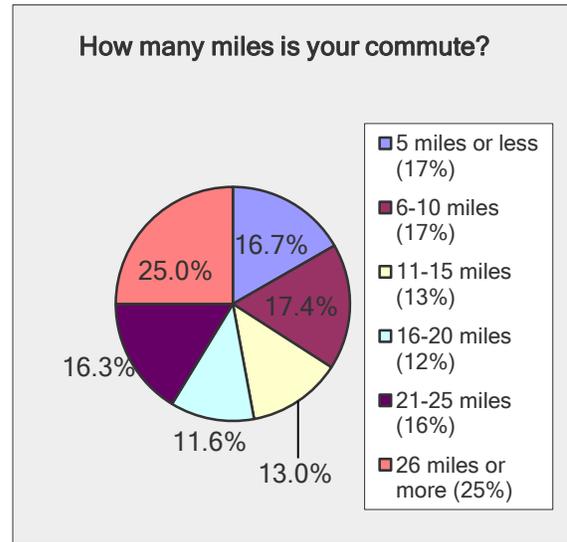
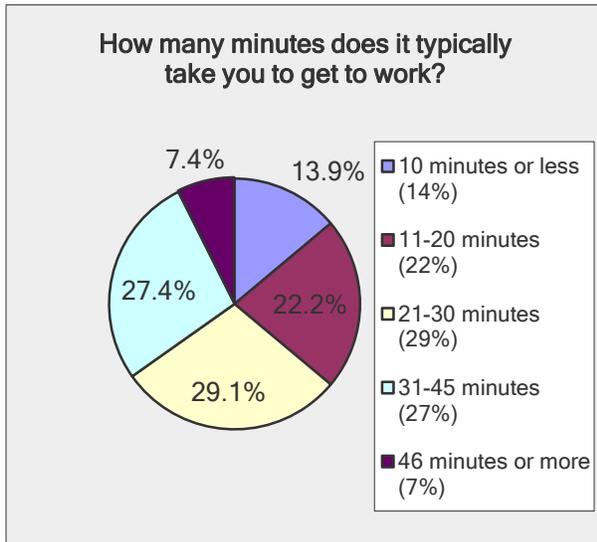
Responses to the survey covered 66 different ZIP Codes. The top ZIP Code response areas with 40 or more responses are:

Home—52317 (166), 52402 (56), 52404 (48), 52403 (41), 52302 (40) Work—52404 (100), 52242 (80), 52402 (66), 52240 (64) 522401 (46), 52241 (40).

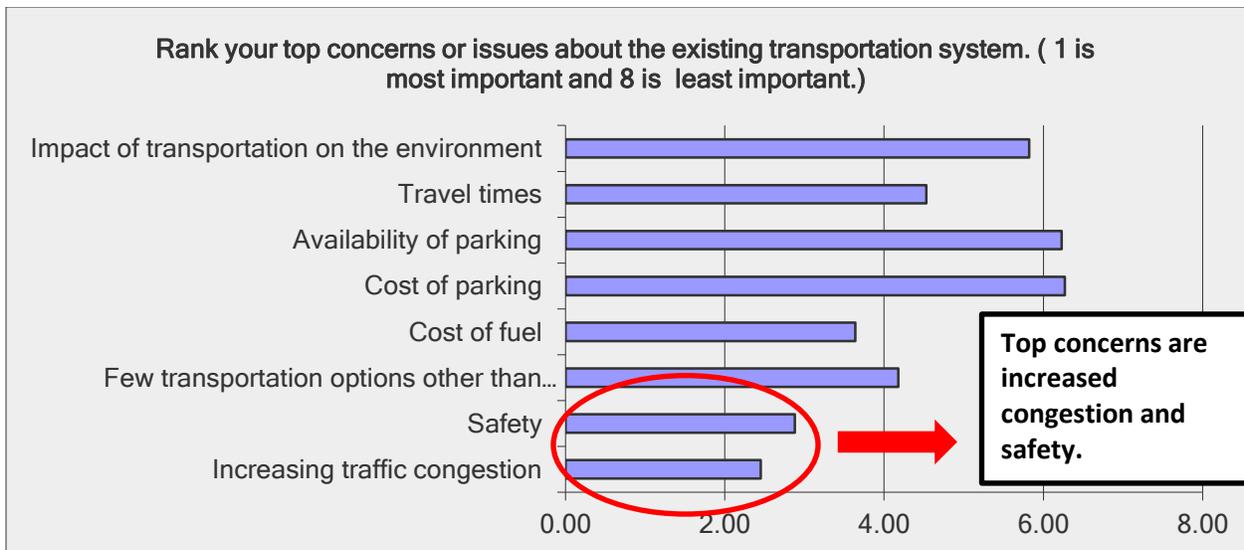


As indicated in the graph above, a majority of the individuals that responded to the survey work Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm, and drive alone. 89 percent of respondents drive alone with 82 percent making that drive during the standard work week. Of those that do use alternative transportation options, carpooling is the most used mode. 63 individuals, or 13 percent, stated they have used alternative means of transportation but do not use currently; 9 percent are regular users of alternative transportation options, 5 percent use 2-4 times per week and 6 percent use 1-2 times per month.

Initial Needs Survey Summary



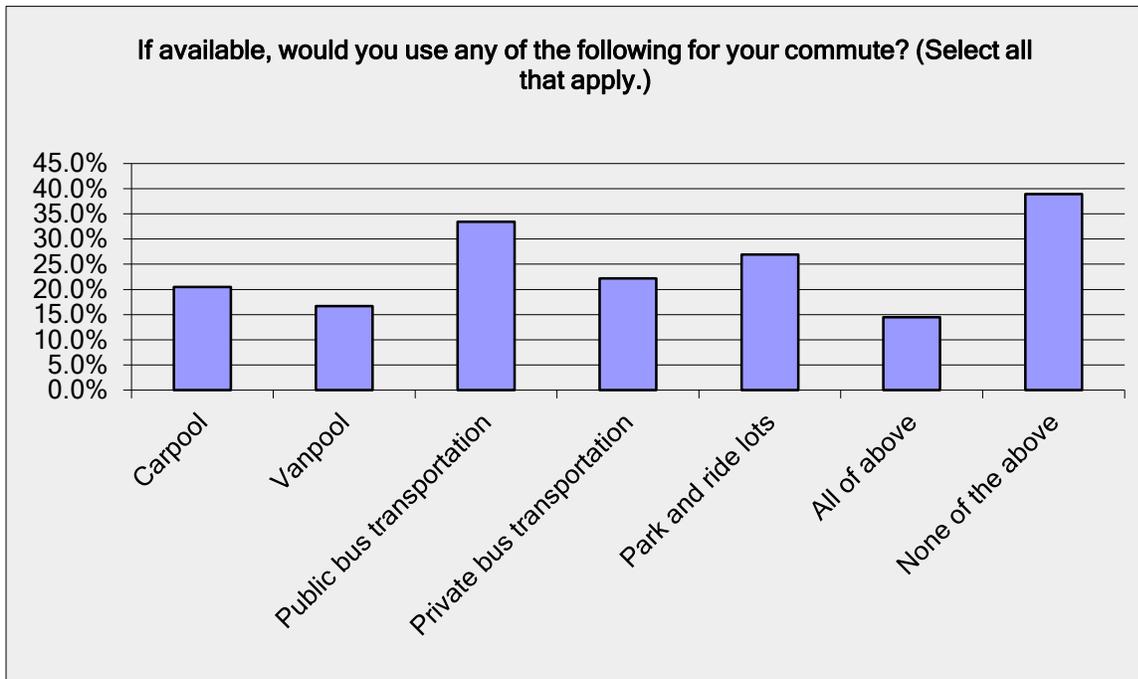
Over half of the respondent's listed their daily drive to work as taking more than 20 minutes, with 35 percent taking over half an hour. In mileage, 40 percent of the people drive over 20 miles to work each way. Most individuals do not make any stops on the way to work. If they do, the reasons are typically to drop children off or to run errands.



When asked to rank the top concerns about the existing transportation system, "Increasing traffic congestion," was ranked number one by 37 percent of respondents; 64 percent ranked this as either the number 1 or 2 concern. "Safety" followed as the second top concern with 28 percent listing as a number one concern and 26 percent ranked as the number two concern.

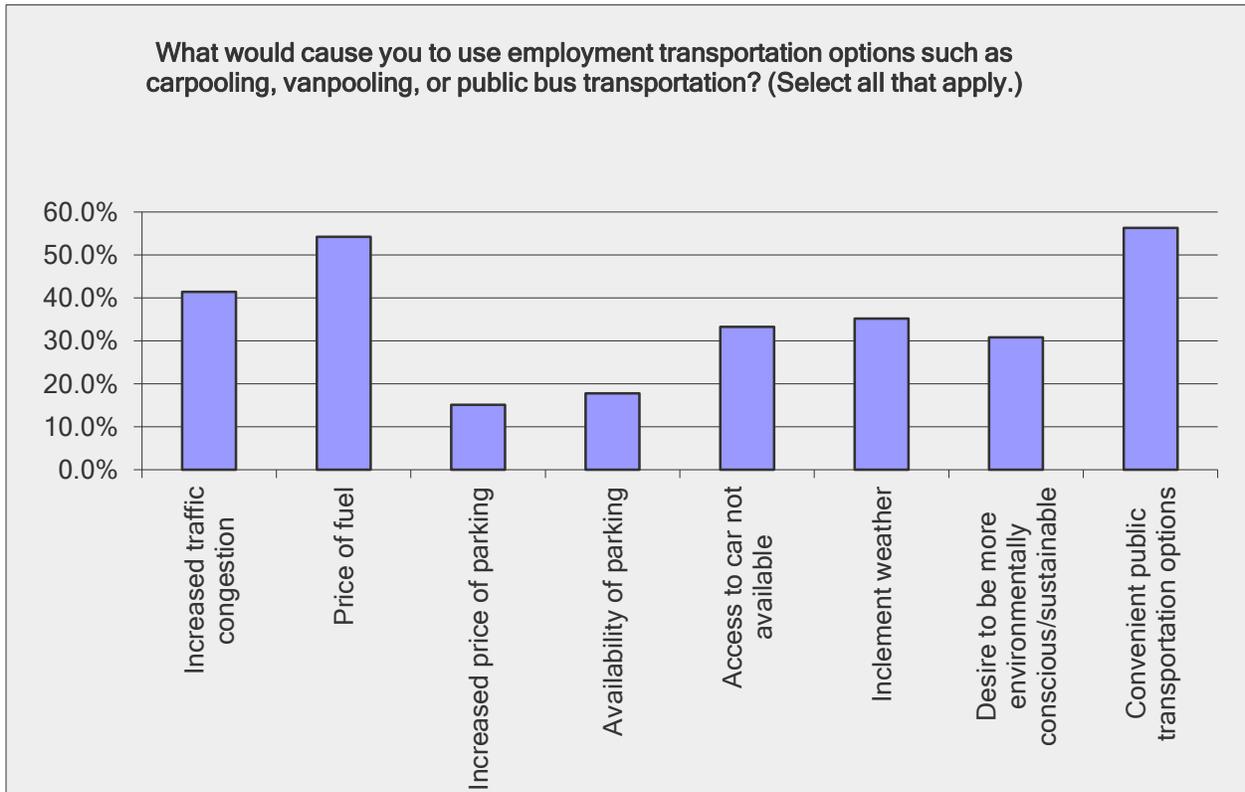
When asked to identify other concerns not listed above, respondents indicated that they would like to see improved public transportation, more affordable transportation and better bus schedules and

routes to accommodate those in rural areas. A number of respondents would also like to see better bicycle routes.

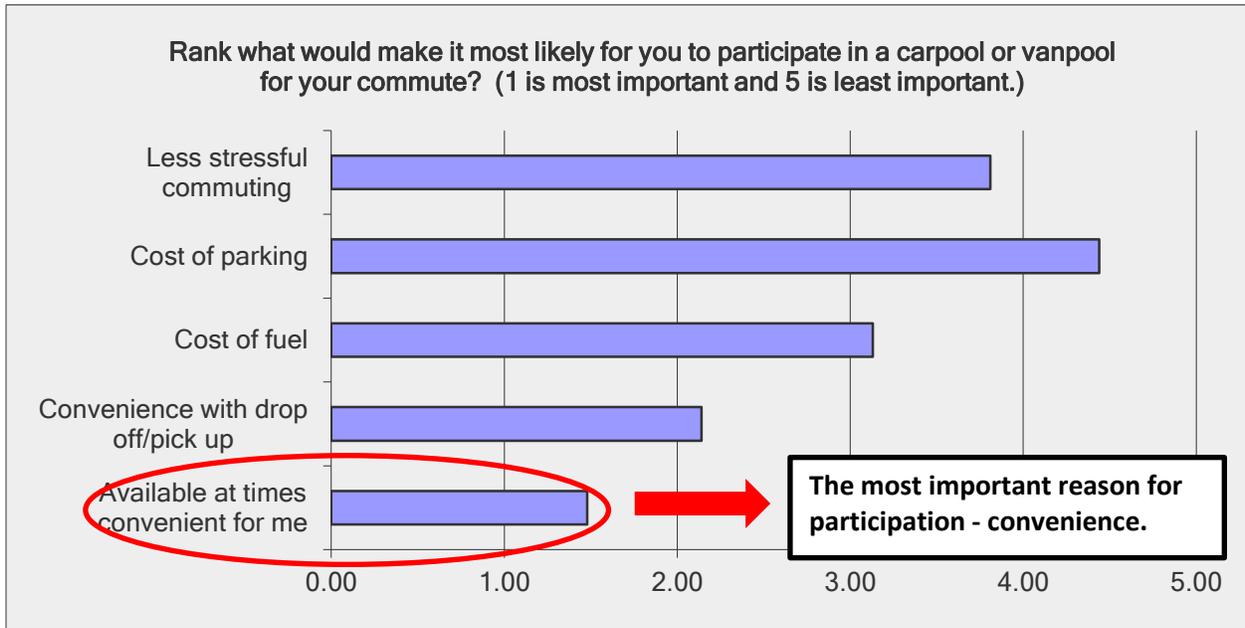


93 percent of respondents agree that there is a need for commuter transportation improvements along the I-380 corridor. A third of those surveyed said they would use public bus transportation, 22 percent would take advantage of private buses and 20 percent would carpool; while these numbers seem low compared to those who prefer to drive alone, a 10 percent mode split for public transportation options would be significant in the corridor.

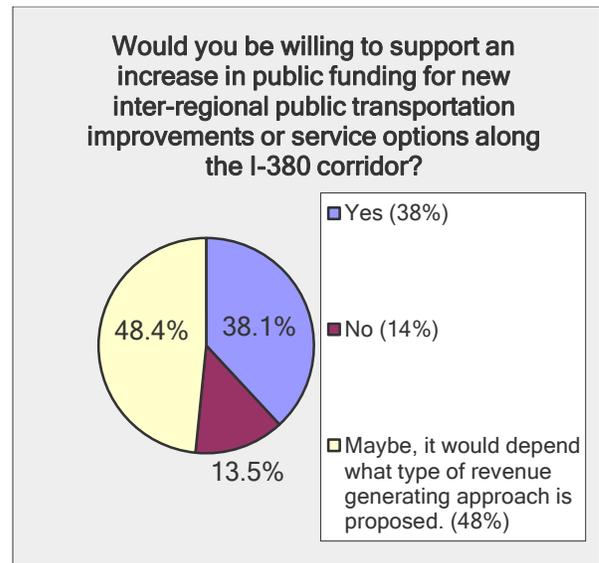
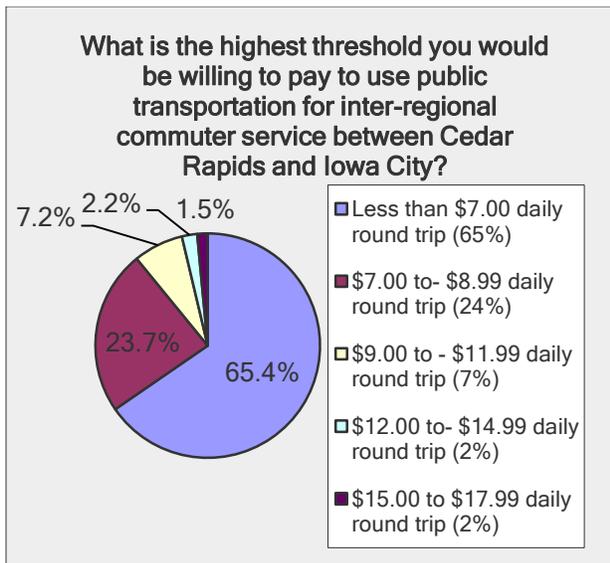
Another alternative the public would like to see is lane/capacity expansion, with 70 percent of responders interested in this improvement. Approximately seventy respondents noted that they would like to see a train/passenger rail or light rail type of option.



Two of the primary motivators that would encourage people to use public transportation are the “convenient public transportation options” and the “price of fuel”. Over half of the respondents chose these issues, along with 42 percent choosing “increased traffic congestion” as a cause to use commuter transportation services.

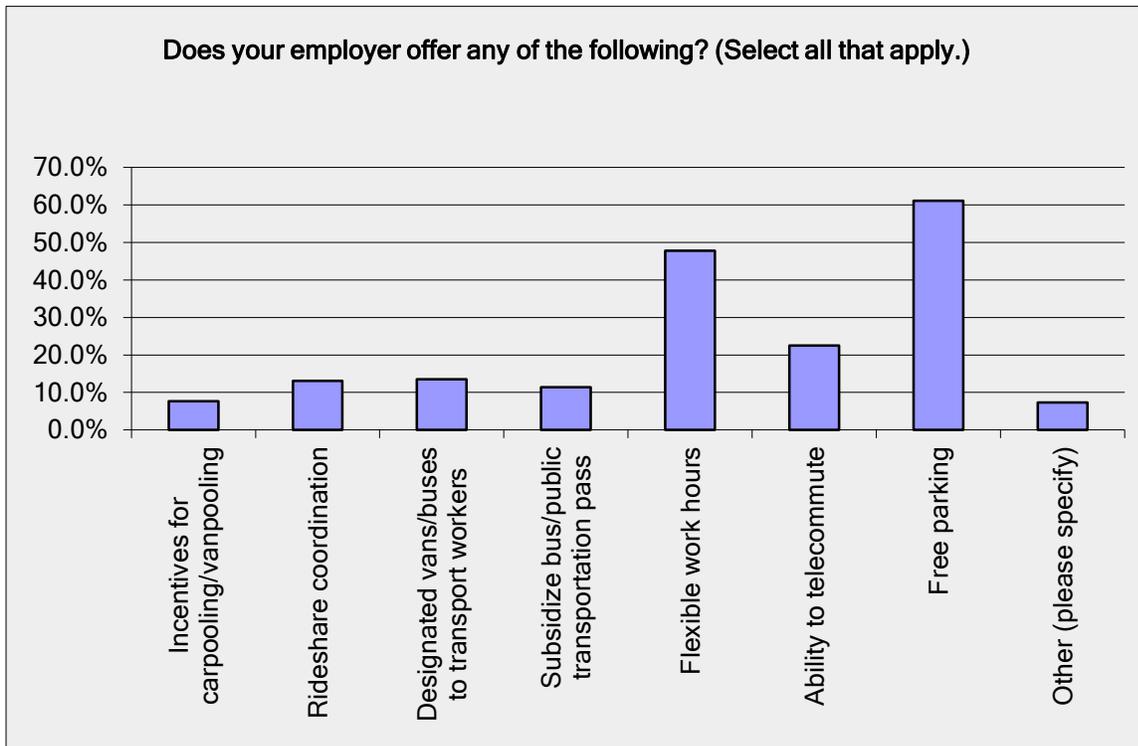


Convenience is the most important factor when it comes to commuter transportation. Improved frequency or convenient pick up/drop off times were identified as they number one importance factor that individuals are looking for if they were to use public bus transportation or carpool/vanpool, followed by more convenient drop off/pick up locations.



In terms of cost, the most respondents would be willing to pay for inter-regional commuter service between Cedar Rapids and Iowa City is less than seven dollars for a daily round trip. 10 percent are willing to pay more than nine dollars for the daily round trip. Depending on the approach, 86 percent of

respondents are supportive of increasing public funding for public transportation improvements and options.



Currently, many employers do not offer commuter transportation options to help get their employees to work. More than 60 percent of employers offer free parking. 48 percent of employers offer flexible work hours so employees can avoid heavy rush hours. As available per the employer, most employees take advantage of the free parking and flexible work hours, as well as telecommute. Most individuals that selected “Other” and provided comments stated their employers did not offer any of the listed options or they work from home.

Additional comments

Respondents were asked to provide further comments regarding transportation in Johnson and Linn Counties. People generally see that there is a need to move forward with more transit options. Many commented that they would like to see a light rail or passenger rail. People want options that are convenient in terms of time and location.

Another reoccurring theme is that people want I-380 to be a safer route to travel. There were several comments that noted the speed of other motorists on the highway as well as unsafe activities such as texting and driving.