City Transportation Needs Research Review

A Look at Past Opinion Research Findings 2007-Now

PREPARED FOR

The Portland Transportation Needs and Funding Advisory Committee

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DAVIS, HIBBITTS & MIDGHALL, INC.

PDOT City Transportation Needs Assessment

Citywide, Two Surveys, N=300 each, Registered Voters

January, 2007

Biggest Transportation Need in City/Your Neighborhood (Open)

Transportation Need	City	Neighborhood
Traffic flow/improvements/reduce congestion	**11%**	9%
MAX/light rail expansion needed	**11%**	8%
Highway/street conditions improved/fix potholes	10%	**13%**
Bus route/schedule expansion/frequency improvements	9%	10%
Transportation accessibility (general)/expansion to outlying areas	8%	6%
Highway/street expansion/more roads/freeways	5%	2%
Bicycle lane expansion/improvement	4%	3%
Pedestrian crosswalk/sidewalk/walkway improvements	3%	5%
Speed control	1%	5%
None/Okay as is	5%	15%
Don't know	9%	10%
All other responses	3% or less	2% or less

Source: Davis, Hibbitts & Midghall, Inc.; January 2007

Possible Improvements/Expansion to Transportation System

(Scale: 1=Least Important to 7=Most Important)

	Citywide		Neighborhood	
	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean
Safety at Intersections	1	5.2	1	4.9
Pothole Repair	1	5.2	1	4.9
Safety Around Schools	2	5.0	2	4.7
Bridges/Overpasses	2	5.0	4	4.4
Freeways	3	4.9	6	4.2
Major Streets	3	4.9	5	4.3
MAX light rail	4	4.7	5	4.3
Bus Service	4	4.7	3	4.5
Pedestrian Sidewalks/Crosswalks	4	4.7	5	4.3
Neighborhood Traffic Speed Reduction	5	4.6	5	4.3
Paving Graveled Streets	5	4.6	4	4.4
Neighborhood Streets	6	4.4	7	4.1
Streetcar System	7	4.2	9	3.8
Freight Mobility	8	4.1	8	3.9
Bicycle Lanes	9	4.0	9	3.8

Source: Davis, Hibbitts & Midghall, Inc.; January 2007

PDOT City Transportation Funding Package Components

Citywide, N=900, Likely Voters

August, 2007

If the Funding Package . . .
Tier 1

Tier 1 If the Funding Package…	Likely to Support Package % (Much More Likely %)
Provided signal synchronization on major city streets to improve traffic congestion	**81%** (47%)
Provided for repairs to the Willamette River bridges to increase safety and maintain unrestricted use	**81%** (44%)
Provided signal synchronization on major city streets to reduce auto emissions	**79%** (46%)
Focused on long delayed maintenance that will reduce future cost of road and bridge repairs	**79%** (39%)

If the Funding Package . . .
Tier 2

Tier 2 If the Funding Package…	Likely to Support Package % (Much More Likely %)
Provided neighborhood matching funds for building sidewalks on busy streets that now lack them	**73%** (36%)
Provided for the construction of projects that minimized trucks in neighborhoods and more efficient movement of freight on designated streets	**70%** (32%)
Provided for more bike boulevards to reduce conflict between motorists and bicyclists	**68%** (42%)
Expanded programs that promote travel options other than driving alone	**68%** (37%)
Provided more crosswalks on streets with bus and transit stops	**67%** (31%)
Provided city funds to match neighborhood/business dollars to upgrade unimproved streets	**67%** (25%)
Charged more for autos that produce more greenhouse gases and less for autos that produce less greenhouse gases	**64%** (37%)

If the Funding Package . . . Tier 3

Tier 3 If the Funding Package…	Likely to Support Package % (Much More Likely %)
Provided poor families a lower rate for the city basic street maintenance and safety fee	**62%** (28%)
Provided enhanced police enforcement on freeways to reduce speeding and help reduce congestion caused by crashes	**60%** (26%)
Ensured all new fees and/or taxes expired after 10 years unless renewed	**59%** (24%)
Provided repairs to increase safety for the city's bridges and overpasses excluding the Willamette River bridges	**57%** (21%)
Provided city funds to provide low-income homeowners with financial assistance to upgrade unimproved streets	**54%** (23%)
Paved all neighborhood gravel and unimproved streets	**53%** (21%)
Charged more for households that have more than two cars	**52%** (28%)
Provided additional red light cameras to reduce intersection auto crashes	**47%** (20%)
Provided more speed bumps to reduce neighborhood speeding	**41%** (19%)

Your City, Your Choice

Citywide, N=410, City Residents

March, 2009

Transportation—Service Urgency

I'm going to read you a list of specific services, then I'm going to ask you to name the service you feel is most urgent, second most urgent, and third most urgent.

Response Category	Most, 2nd, 3rd Most Urgent combined	Most Urgent %
Paving and potholes	70%	39%
Transit	37%	17%
Transportation planning	38%	14%
Bridges	37%	13%
Bicycle paths	33%	7%
Street lighting	23%	5%
Traffic signals and crosswalks	28%	2%
Sidewalks	20%	1%
Street cleaning	4%	1%
Don't know	2%	2%

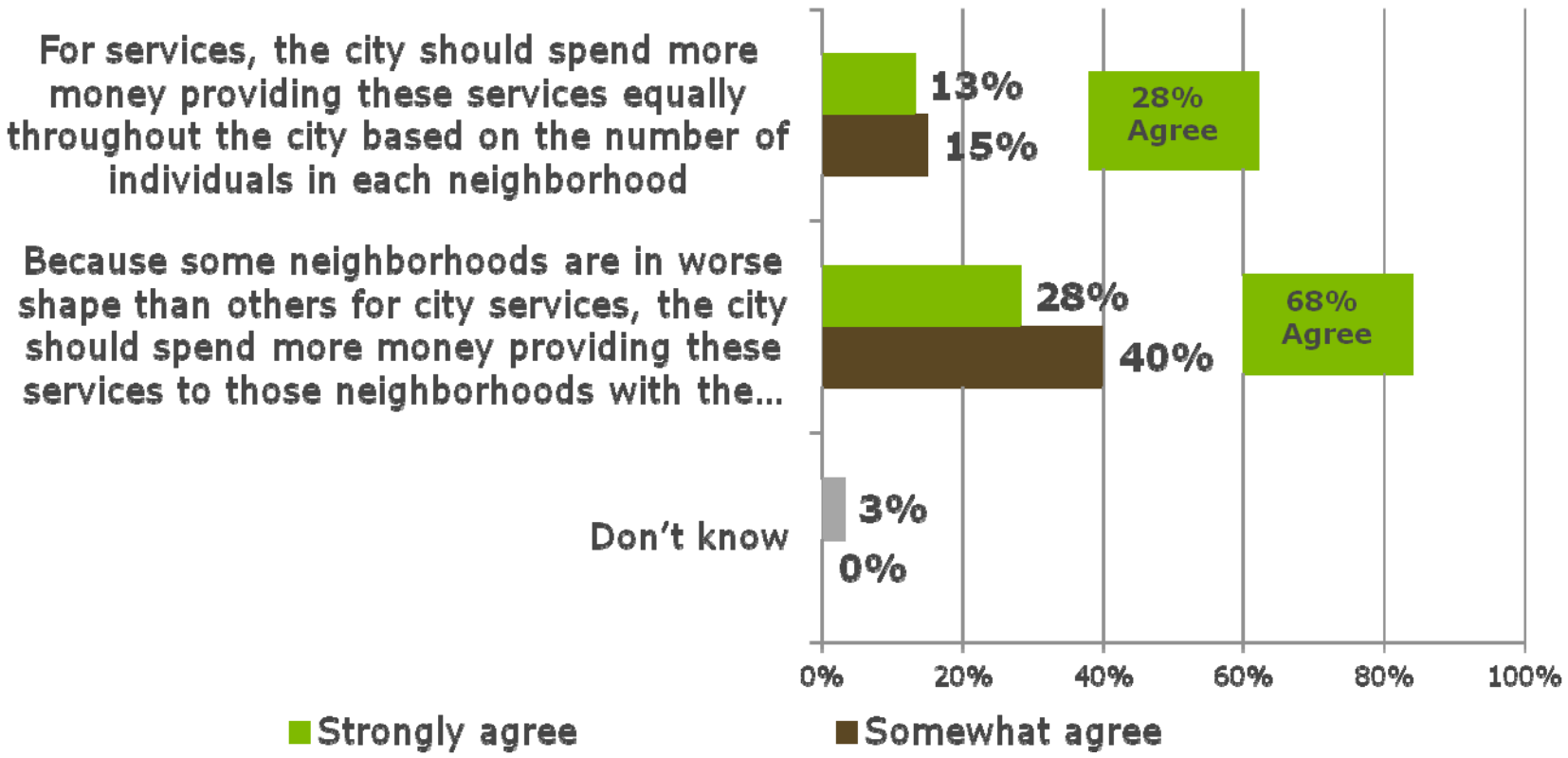
City Budget Survey

Citywide, N=500, City Residents

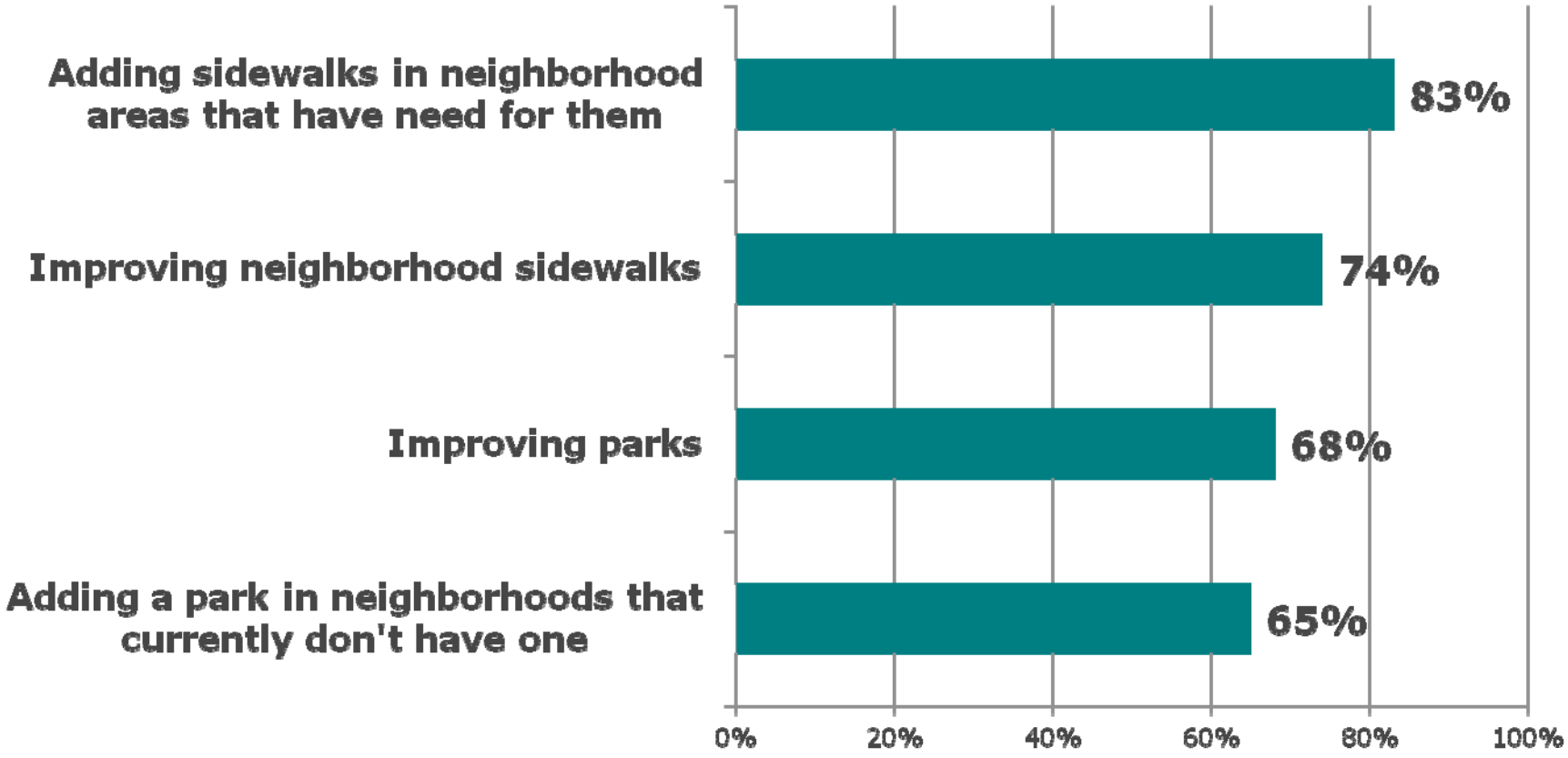
March, 2011

Directing Neighborhood Investment Funds

City services like parks and recreation, street maintenance, water and sewer infrastructure improvements



Spending More Money on Neighborhoods with the Greatest Needs: Specific Improvements

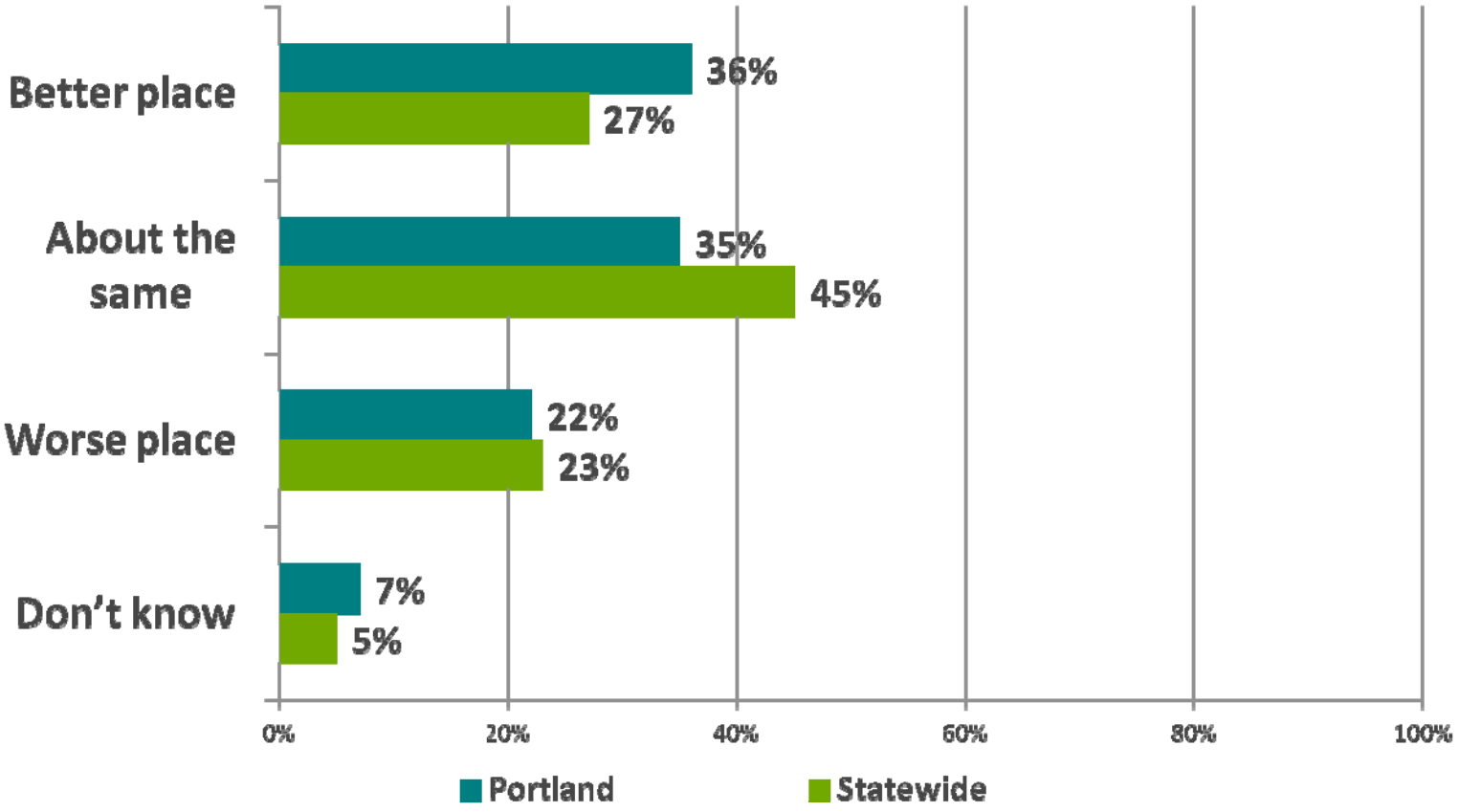


2013 Oregon Values & Beliefs Survey

Citywide, N=1,500, City Residents

, 2013

When you think of your community 10 years from now do you think it will better, about the same or worse than today?



In a few words, why do you think your community will be better (10 years from now)?

Response Category	Portland	Statewide
Making progress/ moving forward	35%	21%
Community caring/ getting involved	22%	20%
Stronger economy	11%	11%
Public transit	11%	6%
Quality of life	11%	4%
Business growth	10%	10%
Environmental awareness	9%	8%
Progressive	7%	4%
Growth planning	6%	5%
Better infrastructure	6%	4%
Population growth	4%	7%
Employment opportunities/ jobs	4%	7%
Better political leadership	3%	5%
Better education system	2%	6%
Better/ revitalized areas/ downtown area	0%	4%
Technological progression	0%	4%
All other responses	3% or less	3% or less
None/Nothing	0%	1%
Don't know/NR	0%	4%

In a few words, why do you think your community will be worse (10 years from now)?

Response Category	Portland	Statewide
Crime	24%	12%
Over population	14%	12%
Unemployment/ lack of jobs	6%	10%
Economy	2%	10%
Poor government leadership	19%	8%
Moral standards declining	6%	8%
Drugs usage/ addition	1%	7%
Too many taxes/ keep raising taxes	6%	6%
Cutting essential public services	8%	6%
Keep going in the wrong direction	7%	6%
Poverty/ homeless	13%	6%
Too many people depending on welfare	4%	6%
Traffic congestion	4%	5%
Less law enforcement	8%	5%
Infrastructure not upgraded	17%	5%
All other responses	5% or less	4% or less
Don't know/NR	0%	1%

What is the most important issue that you want your *local* government officials to do something about?

Response Category	Portland	Statewide
Unemployment / jobs	10 %	11 %
Education funding	8 %	8 %
Taxes	6 %	7 %
Government spending / wasteful spending	4 %	7 %
Road infrastructure	11 %	6 %
Crime / public safety	3 %	6 %
Education-general	6 %	4 %
Economy / economic growth	2 %	4 %
Poverty / homeless	4 %	3 %
Quality of education	3 %	3 %
Government leadership / corruption	2 %	3 %
All other responses	3 % or less	2 % or less
None / Nothing	9 %	6 %
Don't know	7 %	7 %

What is the most important issue you would like your local government officials to do something about?

"Listening to the community before making decisions about transportation and housing." **Female, Southwest PDX**

"Conditions of inner city roads—do not borrow from the street improvement fund to fund the bike traffic world. We do not all ride bikes, but we still do drive our cars and buses." **Female, Northeast PDX**

"Promote active transportation and redevelopment. Our community lacks sidewalks and safe places for bicycles and too many children can't walk or bike to school." **Male, Southeast PDX**

"Progressive politics in Portland, including support for biking, public transportation, libraries, and community safety nets." **Female, Northeast PDX**

"Improving infrastructure—making roads and bridges earthquake safe." **Male, Southeast PDX**

What is the most important issue you would like your local government officials to do something about?

"Traffic: roads need to be widened, drivers need to slow down, dead end streets need to be connected so that traffic flows better." **Female, Southwest PDX**

"Progressive and equitable tax reform, increase alternative forms of transportation, especially bus transit and walking, affordable health care for everyone." **Male, Southeast PDX**

"Responding seriously to changing energy supply and transportation to non-fossil fuel sources. Fast. This includes favoring walkable urban development including making it easier to walk and cycle than to drive a car. Educating our public and youth about the importance of these changes should be a major priority. This is not a matter of politics, but of survival." **Male, Southwest PDX**

In a few words, why do you think your community will be better?

"I moved here from NYC 10 years ago partly because Portland has such good public transportation. My automobile is 47 years old and has only 82,000 miles on it." **Male, Southwest PDX**

"There will be infrastructure improvements, such as roads, public transportation, and community amenities." **Male, Northwest PDX**

"I think there will be improvements to public transportation along with the addition of paved sidewalks providing access to bus stops in more neighborhoods. Incentives will be provided for the maintenance of streets and sidewalks in existing neighborhoods along with an increase in the number of existing public parks and bike/walking/running trails."
Female, Southwest PDX

In a few words, why do you think your community will be better?

"We will have gridlock if we do not attend to our infrastructure. We need our roads fixed, new highways, and bus service to expanding neighborhoods." **Male, Southwest PDX**

"The state is making an effort to improve the parks and public areas of the cities. They are repairing and upgrading roads, working on balancing the budget and improving education." **Male, Northwest PDX**

"I think it will more built up around the city centers and hopefully our public transportation system will be expanded and serving more people. Portland and Metro have a vision that will guide the development of the Portland area and I think that ripples out into the rest of the state. Even if our leaders don't always get it right, Oregon has a better culture of stewardship than anywhere else I've lived." **Female, Northwest PDX**

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