

NORTH CAROLINA TRIANGLE TRANSPORTATION SURVEY

Durham, Orange and Wake Counties

3/7 – 3/11/2009

n=1,006, +/- 3.08%

Registered Voters

(percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)



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Q. 1. Generally speaking, would you say that your community is going in the right direction, or has it gotten off onto the wrong track?

- 69.9% Right direction
- 17.3 Wrong track
- 4.2 Mixed/both (volunteered)
- 8.7 Unsure/no answer

Q. 2. What do you think should be the top priority for local elected officials to work on right now? Do you think it is...

(randomly rotated)

- 28.2% Improving the quality of public education
- 28.5 Attracting more businesses and jobs to the area
- 3.3 Reducing traffic congestion
- 8 Preventing home foreclosures
- 8.7 Expanding public transportation systems
- 16.4 Lowering taxes
- 4.8 Other (volunteered)
- 2 Unsure/no answer

Thinking more about transportation...

As you may or may not know, there was a bill recently introduced in the North Carolina State Legislature to allow Durham, Orange and Wake Counties to ask voters for approval to levy a sales tax for public transportation systems.

Q. 3. Based on what you may have heard, read or know about the proposed law to allow Durham, Orange and Wake Counties to ask voters for approval to levy a sales tax of one-half percent for public transportation, do you favor or oppose it? Follow-up: Would you say that you strongly favor/oppose it, or just somewhat favor/oppose it?

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| TOTAL FAVOR | 20.2% Strongly favor |
| 49.1% | 28.9 Somewhat favor |
| TOTAL OPPOSE | 15.8% Somewhat oppose |
| 42.1% | 26.3 Strongly oppose |

8.7% Unsure/no answer

Q. 4. If the legislator that represents your area votes in the favor of the proposed law, would you be more or less likely to re-elect him or her, or would it make no difference in your decision?

18.9% More likely
20.2 Less likely
55.7 No difference
5.1 Unsure/no answer

Q. 5. Which of the following would you say is the biggest benefit from new or expanded public transportation? Is it...

(randomly rotated)
33.1% Less traffic congestion
26.5 Better air quality and environmental preservation
9.2 Lower commuting costs
13.3 Greater convenience
9 Ability to travel to more destinations
1.5 Other (volunteered)
3 No benefit (volunteered)
4.5 Unsure/no answer

Q. 6. Which of the following would you say is the biggest drawback from new or expanded public transportation? Is it...

(randomly rotated)
6.8% Less money to spend on roads
21.8 Higher taxes
14.9 Low ridership
24.9 It takes a long time to implement
25.6 It probably will not benefit you
.7 Other (volunteered)
1.8 No drawback (volunteered)
3.6 Unsure/no answer

Q. 7. Which of the following routes do you think should be the highest priority for a new or expanded public transportation system? Is it...

(randomly rotated)
28.1% Traveling to and from the Research Triangle Park area
13.1 Traveling to and from the Raleigh Durham Airport
10.8 Traveling to and from the Raleigh downtown area

- 26.3 Traveling between Durham, Orange and Wake Counties
- 14.3 Traveling within the county where you live
- .9 Other (volunteered)
- 1.9 No priority (volunteered)
- 4.7 Unsure/no answer

Thinking about the types of transportation systems that could be built or expanded for the Triangle area...

(RANDOMLY ROTATED QUESTIONS 8 THROUGH 11)

Q. 8. Do you favor or oppose a light rail transit train system for commuters? Follow-up: Would you say that you strongly favor/oppose it, or just somewhat favor/oppose it?

TOTAL FAVOR	45.1%	Strongly favor
74.5%	29.4	Somewhat favor
TOTAL OPPOSE	6.9%	Somewhat oppose
20.3%	13.4	Strongly oppose
5.2% Unsure/no answer		

Q. 9. Do you favor or oppose more buses and bus routes? Follow-up: Would you say that you strongly favor/oppose it, or just somewhat favor/oppose it?

TOTAL FAVOR	35.1%	Strongly favor
67.2%	32.1	Somewhat favor
TOTAL OPPOSE	14.9%	Somewhat oppose
25%	10.1	Strongly oppose
7.7% Unsure/no answer		

Q. 10. Do you favor or oppose a combined system of light rail trains for major destinations and connector buses to individual neighborhoods? Follow-up: Would you say that you strongly favor/oppose it, or just somewhat favor/oppose it?

TOTAL FAVOR	43.9%	Strongly favor
74.9%	31	Somewhat favor
TOTAL OPPOSE	8.8%	Somewhat oppose
20.7%	11.9	Strongly oppose

4.4% Unsure/no answer

Q. 11. Do you favor or oppose dedicating an existing lane on streets in downtown areas so that they could be used for a system of buses or electric streets cars that would run on regular schedules without being delayed by car traffic? Follow-up: Would you say that you strongly favor/oppose it, or just somewhat favor/oppose it?

TOTAL FAVOR	34%	Strongly favor
66.7%	32.7	Somewhat favor
TOTAL OPPOSE	11.7%	Somewhat oppose
27.8%	16.1	Strongly oppose

5.5% Unsure/no answer

Thinking about various ways to pay for a new or expanded public transportation system for the Triangle area...

(RANDOMLY ROTATED QUESTIONS 12 THROUGH 14)

Q. 12. Would you vote for or against a property tax increase that would amount to \$ [\$38 for Durham County/\$23 for Orange County /\$27 for Wake County] for each \$100,000 of property value to pay for new or expanded public transportation, if one was on the ballot in your county?

39.2%	For
56.9	Against
3.8	Unsure/no answer

Q. 13. Would you vote for or against a 30-year general obligation bond issue of \$ [\$300 for Durham County/\$100 for Orange County/\$600 for Wake County] million dollars to pay for new or expanded public transportation, if one was on the ballot in your county?

49.8%	For
38.7	Against
11.5	Unsure/no answer

(SPLIT SAMPLE - Random assignment between versions A and B)

*Q. 14a. Would you vote for or against a sale tax increase of **one-quarter** of a percent to pay for new or expanded public transportation, if one was on the ballot in your county?*

57.9%	For - skipped next question
38.1	Against

4 Unsure/no answer - skipped next question

*Q. 14b. Would you vote for or against a sale tax increase of **one-half** of a percent to pay for new or expanded public transportation, if one was on the ballot in your county?*

52.8% For - skipped next question

43.7 Against

3.5 Unsure/no answer - skipped next question

Q. 15. What is the biggest reason that you would vote against the sales tax?

n=396

47.1% Taxes are already too high/against increased taxes

13.3 Timing is poor due to economic crisis

11 Non-riders should not have to pay/I won't use it

6.2 Do not trust government to tax and spend responsibly

5.6 Would not get enough use/no need

5.3 Money could be better used on other projects

4.2 Tax increase is not necessary/money should be allocated from existing revenue

2 Would not be cost effective

1.3 Area not suitable for public transportation

3.8 Other

0 Unsure/no answer

(RANDOMLY ROTATED QUESTIONS 16 THROUGH 18)

Q. 16. Do you agree or disagree with people who say that they could not vote for any funding plan for new or expanded public transportation unless there is also an increase in ridership fees, so the people using the systems are paying more to help defray the costs?

52.7% Agree

39.7 Disagree

7.6 Unsure/no answer

Q. 17. Do you agree or disagree with people who say that they could not vote for any funding plan for new or expanded public transportation unless there is also an increase in housing and development impact fees, so that new growth is helping to defray the costs?

52.4% Agree

39.9 Disagree

7.7 Unsure/no answer

Q. 18. Do you agree or disagree with people who say that they could not vote for any funding plan for new or expanded public transportation that would allow tax money collected in their

county to be spent in nearby counties?

42.2% Agree
52.4 Disagree
5.4 Unsure/no answer

Thinking about how a new or expanded public transportation system would be planned and managed in the Triangle area...

Q. 19. I would like to read you two things that people have said. After I am done, please tell me which opinion comes closest to yours...(rotated)....

...(Some/other) people say that a regional approach is a good idea, so that a single plan can be developed for traffic problems that affect the entire area, rather than each county making their own plans. They want future new or expanded public transportation systems to be planned and managed on a regional basis...

...(Other/some) people say that traffic issues should be managed locally by each individual county because their needs are different and, covering such a large area, it won't be possible to come up with fair solutions which meet each county's needs. They want future new or expanded public transportation systems to be planned and managed by each individual county...

Which opinion comes closest to yours?

63.2% Planned and managed on a regional basis
32.8 Planned and managed by each individual county
4 Unsure/no answer

Q. 20. Thinking about the kinds of people who should be on the board of directors to oversee a new or expanded public transportation system in the Triangle area, do you think it should be made up of...(rotated)...elected officials that will be accountable to voters...or...experts that have specialized skills and knowledge?

17.3% Elected officials
59.1 Experts
20.1 Both (volunteered)
3.5 Unsure/no answer

Q. 21. Prior to this survey, have you ever heard of the agency named Triangle Transit, or also known by the initials T-T-A? Follow-up if yes: Would you say that you approve or disapprove of the work that it does?

57.6% Yes, approve
5.9 Yes, disapprove

2.9 Yes, mixed opinion (volunteered)
20 Yes, heard/no opinion (volunteered)
10.7 No, never heard
2.9 Unsure/no answer

Finally, I have a few short questions for statistical purposes...

Q. 22. I would like to read you a list of age groups. Please stop me when I get to the one you are in.

20% 18 to 29
27.9 30 to 44
28.6 45 to 59
22 60 and older
1 Refused
.5 Unsure

Q. 23. What is your main racial or ethnic heritage? Is it...

69.3% White
21 African-American
1.1 Hispanic
5.5 Something else
.1 Mixed race (volunteered)
2.8 Refused
.2 Unsure

Q. 24. Thinking about your current occupational status, are you currently employed working outside the home?

60.5% Yes
37.5 No - skipped next question
2 Unsure/no answer - skipped next question

Q. 25. Is the place of employment that you travel to located...

n=614
65.7% Within the county you live
30.4 An adjacent county
3.9 Unsure/no answer

Q. 26. How many automobiles do have at your household?

23.2% 1
43.7 2
20.5 3
7.2 4 or more
3 None
2.5 Unsure/no answer

Gender:

47.5% Men
52.5 Women

Area:

30% Durham County (n=302)
29.8 Orange County (n=300)
20.2 Raleigh (n=203)
20 Wake County/except Raleigh (n=201)
