

**Section 5:**  
**Focus Groups Summary**

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# 2019 Sioux Falls LRTP Market Research Study Focus Group Responses

Final Report

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# Overview

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ETC Institute conducted interviews with focus groups in the Sioux Falls area during the month of May 2019. The purpose of the focus groups was to gather input about a wide range of issues related to the Sioux Falls Long-Range Transportation Plan Survey which will be conducted later this year

Some of the specific topics that were covered during the interviews included:

- Perceptions of the transportation system
- Priorities for transportation improvements
- Expectations for various agencies when it comes to transportation
- The importance of various transportation issues
- Public transportation and other transportation alternatives
- Bicycle transportation
- Pedestrian transportation
- Autonomous vehicles
- Air transportation
- Uber and Lyft
- Funding
- Survey development

A total of 47 participants were interviewed.

This report contains a summary of the focus groups conducted. The information from these focus groups will be used to develop questions for the Sioux Falls LRTP Market Research Study that will be administered to residents and other key groups in late 2019.

## Perceptions of the Transportation System

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Respondents were asked to describe the aspects they liked the best and the least about the Sioux Falls metropolitan area. Some of the reasons respondents gave for their ratings are summarized below:

### What Do People Like Best?

- The relatively short travel times by car
- There is access to high speed facilities
- The main interstates and highways are in good condition
- It takes 30 minutes to get anywhere by bus
- The bus routes are relatively easy and fast
- There are many options with roads (i.e. the grid system is well planned)
- The connectivity is good inside the loop
- The bus drivers are friendly, respectful, and well-trained
- There are numerous, well-marked bus stops
- The buses are always on time
- The buses don't miss routes
- The 80-mph speed limit is very nice

- The bus system is affordable and clean
- There are free bus rides for kids and veterans in the summer
- The traffic light system well synchronized
- That improving the transportation services and facilities seems to be a priority for the city government
- The city is working with various groups to provide services/funds
- The maps are easy to read
- There is good coverage of the MPO
- There is good traffic flow for businesses
- There is low traffic congestion (where no construction)
- The air travel has improved
- The bike trail system suites the residents' needs
- The intersection for I-90 is well designed and implemented
- Lyft & Uber services are very helpful
- Everything is easily accessible within downtown Sioux Falls
- The para transit services are very appreciated

### **Ways the Sioux Falls MPO Can Improve**

- There is a general lack of walkability, as services(e.g. bus stops) are spread too far apart
- There should be fewer cul-de-sacs
- There needs to be more bus routes to the edges of the MPO
- The interior of municipalities have aged roads
- There are problems with the bike trail not being interconnected very well
- There is a general low driving education, and it is a safety concern
- There needs to be a bigger airport with more flights and airline companies
- There are needs to be interstate exits to downtown Sioux Falls
- The bus system is inefficient, as there are many buses running empty
- There should be better coordination between the buses and other services
- There needs to be more accessibility for seniors/disabled
- There should be a more user-friendly route assistance
- The buses should run more hours on weekends, in particular on Sunday
- The buses have too many luggage restrictions
- The bus stops need to be enclosed for bad weather
- The roads are poorly maintained
- There is too much road construction
- There are not enough free/low-cost transit options
- The current taxes are too high
- Air travel is currently too expensive
- The buses occasionally arrive late

### **Safety Concerns**

- Currently, bicyclists are sharing road, so there needs to be designated bike lanes
- Resident drivers are not aware enough of cyclists and pedestrians

- There has been poor snow removal the last couple of years
- The road conditions are still very bad
- Some sidewalks are too narrow and too close to roads
- Traffic congestion is bad in the morning and evening
- There is poor traffic flow in various areas
- Resident drivers are ignoring school bus stop signs
- There needs to be seat belts on buses
- Resident drivers are texting while driving

### **Traffic Congestion concerns**

- There are too many lights getting from west to east through central Sioux falls
- Connectivity from east to west is poor
- There is no fast way to get to downtown Sioux Falls
- The 229 highway gets very congested, especially during school hours
- The current traffic light systems don't seem to be adjusted for motorcycle weight
- There is a lack of pedestrian facilities

## **Priorities for Transportation Improvements**

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Respondents were asked to indicate what they think should be the top transportation priorities for the Sioux Falls area over the next 20 years. Some of the items respondents stated would be most important for Sioux Falls to focus on over the next 20 years are summarized below.

### **What should be the Top Priorities for the Sioux Falls MPO over the next 20 years?**

- Fixing the Russel to Rice connection
- Funding programs to matches the associated needs; there is a need for more funds in most developmental areas
- Completing the highway 100 loop
- Putting more emphasis on physically active transportation roles such as walking, cycling, etc.
- Developing new public transit options
- Improving the highway interchanges
- Ensuring safe bus routes
- Getting roads in a state of good repair, in particular Minnesota Ave
- Adding in more interstates and off-ramps
- Putting bus stops closer, even offering a door to door service
- Moving accidents off of the road
- Creating and developing faster transit options such as a light rail
- Providing more frequent bus service on weekends
- Planning construction projects better with business needs
- Improving and/or removing the east to west congestion
- Keeping up with the population growth and road expansion
- Improving road infrastructure and ensuring routine maintenance

- Expanding the hours, reach, and growth for public transit systems
- Expanding the bypasses
- Ensuring safer pedestrian and cyclist traffic options
- Creating better marketing for public transit to inform the public of all available options
- Investing in traffic cameras for public transit safety and law enforcement
- Ensuring better traffic flow
- Expanding the highway routes to outer areas through growth and investment
- Investing more in the design and construction of transit projects to ensure longevity
- Providing public transportation services to more people
- Improving traffic flow and creating additional east to west routes
- Creating more overhead roads/general transit options
- Reducing the cost of public transit
- Ensuring the bus service is reliable
- Creating more two-way streets in downtown Sioux Falls
- Improving the bus transfer service

## Expectations for Various Agencies

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Respondents were asked what their expectations from various agencies were when it comes to providing transportation facilities in the Sioux Falls Metropolitan Area. Some of the respondents' expectations from various agencies when it comes to providing transportation facilities in the Sioux Falls Metropolitan Area are summarized below:

### Expectations for Local Governments

- They need to create and maintain public transit
- They should get involved in the larger public process
- They should manage the bus systems better
- There need to better coordinate growth between areas
- They should be developing and implementing an info network
- They need to keep cost for services affordable
- They need to keep public transit timely and reliable
- They need to extend the current reach of public transit to rural areas
- They must maintain safety and efficiency
- They should listen to residents
- They should create skywalks for day workers and employees
- There needs to be better vertical integration between the different governments
- They need to better allocate funds
- They should be the leader in innovation
- They should leverage new technological advancements
- They need to improve and maintain good air transit options
- The should plan ahead for future needs
- They need to improve overall traffic controls

## **Expectations for Employers and Businesses**

- Businesses should locate next to existing routes
- They should offer flexible schedule options, not just a strict 8 to 5
- They need to provide relevant transportation information to employees
- They should promote walking and cycling to work
- They should offer free transit options to employees
- They should provide free parking to employees
- They must take responsibility for their own roads and/or lots
- They need to help develop local infrastructure
- When it comes to topical, city-wide issues, they should lobby and give feedback
- They must promote stewardship
- They need to facilitate growth
- They should embrace new technology
- They should promote designs around longevity and future proofing
- They need to be accountable with the public
- They should be involved locally
- They must ensure safety and certification of employees

## **Expectations for SDDOT**

- They need to improve regional travel
- They should provide connections to new developing businesses
- They need to provide a well maintained interstate system with room to grow
- They should generate connections between communities and the central MPO
- They need to increase necessary funding for projects
- They need to establish 'No strings' funding for new and existing projects
- They need to provide more connections between interstate areas
- They must have oversight of all the moving parts within Sioux Falls
- They need to keep public transit well maintained
- They should allow innovation to happen
- They need to use funds appropriately
- They must prioritize growing populations
- They need to work with city governments better
- They should create more places to park trucks for businesses (truck stops, rest stops, etc.)
- They need to establish regulatory laws
- They must plan infrastructure around future growth

## **Expectations for Residents**

- They should pay their fair share
- They need to participate in the planning processes and attend open house
- They should obey traffic laws
- They need to keep sidewalks in shape and brushed off
- They should live next to where they work

- They need to work together as a community

## Gauging the Importance of Transportation Issues

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Respondents were asked to indicate how important they think transportation issues in the Sioux Falls Metropolitan area are compared to other issues in the region. Twenty-one (21) of the 47 respondents indicated they think it is “Very Important,” 23 think it is “Somewhat Important,” and three (3) think it is “Not Important.” Some of the reasons respondents gave for their ratings are summarized below:

### **Why Respondents Think Transportation Issues are Very Important:**

- It will sustain economics
- It is how people get to work, including emergency services
- It helps facilitate other needs and issues
- It is needed for access to important resources
- It allows for job growth
- It allows for population growth
- It gives accessibility to everyone

### **Why Respondents Think Transportation Issues are Somewhat Important:**

- There are lots of other issues to consider first
- It already appears to be a priority for Sioux Falls
- It is just one of many important components (Nesting )
- Jobs growth in Sioux Falls is more important
- Health concerns are more important
- Housing is more important
- Food is more important
- Crime is more important
- Education is more important
- Waste/pollution prevention is more important

### **Why Respondents Think Transportation Issues are Not Important:**

- Preventing homelessness should come first
- Preventing flooding should come first

## Public Transportation & Other Transportation Alternatives

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Respondents were asked several questions about the various public transportation options in the Sioux Falls Metropolitan Area. Listed below is a summary of the questions asked and their related responses:

## General Impressions of Public Transportation Services:

Ten (10) of the 47 respondents indicated that they think the public transportation services in the Sioux Falls metropolitan area are “Good.” Some of the reasons the respondents gave for why they think the public transportation services in the Sioux Falls metropolitan area are good are summarized below:

- It is important to neighboring areas to have important systems
- They do what they do well
- The buses are always on time
- The drivers are polite and responsible

Thirty-one (31) of the 47 respondents indicated that they think the public transportation services in the Sioux Falls metropolitan area is “Average.” Some of the reasons the respondents gave for why they think the public transportation services in the Sioux Falls metropolitan area are average are summarized below:

- The cleanliness and upkeep of the buses could be better
- It does not seem to be a top priority for government
- There are not enough para transit services
- There is room for improvement
- The buses run for too few hours and lack coverage of external areas
- There are long travel times for workers and business
- Transponders should be put on buses so riders know exact arrival times to all routes
- There should be more options for those without phones
- There needs to be more consistency with the bus routes

Four (4) of the 47 respondents indicated that they think the public transportation services in the Sioux Falls metropolitan area is “Poor.” Some of the reasons the respondents gave for why they think the public transportation services in the Sioux Falls metropolitan area are poor are summarized below:

- There are not any good transit options outside of Sioux Falls. Other options don’t meet important needs.
- Not enough bike trails
- Empty space, needs growth for other types of non-automotive transit
- Bad coverage of bus routes

## How Many Use Public Transportation Services:

Sixteen (16) of the 47 respondents indicated they use public transportation services on a regular basis. Some of the reasons respondents gave for why they use public transportation services are summarized below:

- Used for travel to and from work
- Used for travel to and from medical appointments
- Used for allocating rides to move clients around Sioux Falls as necessary
- Used instead of owning a car

Thirty-one (31) of the 47 respondents indicated they do not use public transportation services on a regular basis. Some of the items that would convince those who do not currently use public transportation to do so, as stated by those who apply, are summarized below:

- There needs to be more and/or longer-running bus routes throughout the week
- The bus routes should be closer to businesses
- The route times for the bus system should be shorter
- A feeder system of smaller, shorter bus routes into bigger, longer routes should be implemented

## Bicycle Transportation

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Respondents were asked a series of questions about the quality of bicycle transportation in the Sioux Falls metropolitan area. Eleven (11) of the 47 respondents indicated they use bicycles in the area, and most of the respondents indicated they use a bicycle as a means of exercise and/or as a form of recreation. A summary of the respondents' impressions of the bicycle facilities and their reasons for using the bicycle facilities are provided below:

### General Impressions of Biking Facilities in the Sioux Falls Metropolitan Area

Twenty (20) of the 47 respondents indicated that their general impression of the biking facilities in the Sioux Falls metropolitan area was "Good." Some of the reasons respondents gave for why the biking facilities in the Sioux Falls Metropolitan area are good are summarized below:

- The bike trails are efficient for the community
- The bike trails are great
- The bike trails are beautiful
- All of the city parks are connected via the bike trails
- There are lots of bike racks, lanes, etc.
- The buses offer a place to store bikes while commuting

Fourteen (14) of the 47 respondents indicated that their general impression of the biking facilities in the Sioux Falls metropolitan area was "Average." Some of the reasons respondents gave for why the biking facilities in the Sioux Falls Metropolitan area are average are summarized below:

- The bike trails could have better coverage
- Compared to other cities, Sioux Falls is doing good things for cyclists
- More improvement is possible with the current bike facilities

Four (4) of the 47 respondents indicated that their general impression of the biking facilities in the Sioux Falls metropolitan area was "Poor." Some of the reasons respondents gave for why the biking facilities in the Sioux Falls Metropolitan area are poor are summarized below:

- There is a gap between the greater and smaller areas of the Sioux Falls MPO in terms of quality
- Some had worries about the safety of the bike trails
- There are persistent flooding issues

- Some of the bike trails impede automotive traffic flow

## Pedestrian Transportation

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Respondents were asked a series of questions about the quality of pedestrian/walking facilities in the Sioux Falls metropolitan area. A summary of the respondents' impressions of the pedestrian/walking facilities and their reasons for using the pedestrian/walking facilities are provided below:

### General Impressions of Pedestrian/Walking Services in the Sioux Falls MPO

Twenty (20) of the 47 respondents indicated that they think the pedestrian/walking services of the Sioux Falls metropolitan area are "Good." Some of the reasons respondents gave for why they think the pedestrian/walking services of the Sioux Falls metropolitan area are good are summarized below:

- The Sioux Falls MPO is doing well compared to other communities of a similar size
- There is currently an expansion of current sidewalks being undertaken
- There are lots of amenities to use

Twenty-two (22) of the 47 respondents indicated that they think the pedestrian/walking services of the Sioux Falls metropolitan area are "Average." Some of the reasons respondents gave for why they think the pedestrian/walking services of the Sioux Falls metropolitan area are average are summarized below:

- Skywalks need to be created for downtown Sioux Falls pedestrian travel
- The sidewalks are too narrow
- The sidewalks are too close to the road
- Some would prefer the rough surface texture of sidewalks on the east coast
- The pedestrian traffic lines are not visible enough due to worn paint
- Some had general safety concerns
- The crosswalk timers are too short

Three (3) of the 47 respondents indicated that they think the pedestrian/walking services of the Sioux Falls metropolitan area are "Poor." Some of the reasons respondents gave for why they think the pedestrian/walking services of the Sioux Falls metropolitan area are poor are summarized below:

- There needs to be more pedestrian signage around the Sioux Falls MPO
- Skywalks need to be implemented all over downtown Sioux Falls

### How Many Use Pedestrian/Walking Services in the Sioux Falls MPO

Seventeen (17) of the 47 respondents indicated that they use the pedestrian/walking services of the Sioux Falls metropolitan area on a regular basis. Some of the reasons respondents gave for why they use pedestrian/walking services are summarized below:

- Some used pedestrian/walking facilities to grab groceries from local businesses
- Some used pedestrian/walking facilities for daily running and/or exercise

- Some used pedestrian/walking facilities in downtown Sioux Falls for entertainment and business

Sixteen (16) of the 47 respondents indicated that they do not use the pedestrian/walking services of the Sioux Falls metropolitan area on a regular basis. Some of the items that would convince those who do not currently use pedestrian/walking services to do so, as stated by those who apply, are summarized below:

- Businesses and pedestrian/walking services needs to be close
- The sidewalks need to interconnect
- There needs to be a buffer between the roads and the sidewalks
- More crosswalks are needed
- Improving the road conditions should come first

## Autonomous Vehicles

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Respondents were asked various questions related to the introduction/implementation of autonomous vehicles in the Sioux Falls metropolitan area. Listed below are these questions and the respondent's answers:

### General Impressions of Autonomous Vehicles

Twenty-eight (28) of the 47 respondents indicated that they think that the implementation of autonomous vehicles in the Sioux Falls metropolitan area is a "Good Idea." Some of the reasons respondents gave for why they think that the implementation of autonomous vehicles in the Sioux Falls metropolitan area is a good idea are summarized below:

- Autonomous vehicles will reduce traffic congestion
- Road safety will increase once most cars are autonomous
- Autonomous vehicles will be more reliable
- Autonomous vehicles are more likely to stop for pedestrians
- If everyone uses autonomous vehicles, traffic flow will improve
- Autonomous vehicles are an inevitable advancement
- Autonomous vehicles will help prevent human error
- Autonomous vehicles will give autonomy to those who can't normally drive (e.g. disabled)
- Traffic efficiency will improve with autonomous vehicles, as well as route planning
- Autonomous vehicles will create better communication between cars
- Autonomous vehicles will prevent accidents
- Autonomous vehicles will prevent drunk driving

### Expectations for Technological Developments

Respondents were asked what their expectations for technological developments, such as autonomous vehicles, when it comes to providing transportation facilities and services in the region. Some of their expectations for technological developments when it comes to providing transportation facilities and services in the region are summarized below:

- With it being predominately electric, there will be potential issues/conflicts on the energy grid
- There is a potential decrease in state funds through less gas consumption
- Local government needs to prep the traffic light systems for autonomous vehicles
- The public needs to be educated on how to operate these vehicles
- Speed lanes for more capable drivers via computer chip should be implemented
- 2025 should be the goal for a fully implemented rideshare pickup
- On board cameras for cars and transit need to be implemented
- Other technology, such as on board cameras, should be the priority
- There will be a high expectation for safety from the residents
- Local government should help prevent/limit any loss of jobs from implementing autonomous vehicles
- The lower class should not get left behind with the rising tech due to cost
- Implementation should include the extremities of the MPO, not just Sioux Falls
- There is a general worry about the loss of human interaction
- There needs to always be in mind when it comes to future planning
- New technology needs to be user friendly
- New technology needs to be cost effective
- New technology needs to be efficient
- New technology needs to allow for retrofitting
- Local governments should ensure appropriate investments in infrastructure
- Local governments and the Sioux Falls MPO should embrace new technology and opportunities
- The various research and data needs to be made available to the public to ensure general trust in the technology
- Vehicles need to be ensured to work well within established systems

## Air Transportation

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Respondents were asked about their general impressions about the quality of air transportation facilities in the Sioux Falls metropolitan area. A summary of the respondents' impressions of the air transportation facilities and their reasons for using them are provided below:

### **General Impressions of the Air Transportation in the Sioux Falls Metropolitan Area:**

Thirty-two (32) of the 47 respondents indicated that they think the air transportation services of the Sioux Falls metropolitan area are "Good." Some of the reasons respondents gave for why they think the air transportation services of the Sioux Falls metropolitan area are good are summarized below:

- The airport is small and accessible
- There is a good selection of airline carriers
- The airport has good fares
- The airport is easily accessed
- The recent upgrades to the airport were good
- The current selection of airline carriers are financially competitive
- There have been lots of improvements to air transportation in the last few years

- The Sioux Falls airport runs smoothly compared to other airports
- There will be a need for more airline carriers as the population of the area increases
- The Sioux Falls MPO air transportation services serve the locals' needs
- Given the area's size, there are no pressing issues
- Planes are a safer form of transportation

Nine (9) of the 47 respondents indicated that they think the air transportation services of the Sioux Falls metropolitan area are "Average." Some of the reasons respondents gave for why they think the air transportation services of the Sioux Falls metropolitan area are average are summarized below:

- There needs to be more destinations and carriers, such as Southwest
- There's been improvement, but there needs to be more
- There needs to be cheaper fares

Four (4) of the 47 respondents indicated that they think the air transportation services of the Sioux Falls metropolitan area are "Poor." Some of the reasons respondents gave for why they think the air transportation services of the Sioux Falls metropolitan area are poor are summarized below:

- The price of air fare is too expensive
- Some are compelled to drive instead, given the cost of air fare
- Other airports have better fares, so it is better to drive to other airports and board flights from them
- There are not enough flight selections

## Uber and Lyft

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Respondents were asked various questions related to Uber and Lyft services when it came to the Sioux Falls metropolitan area. Out of the 47 respondents, only three (3) were unfamiliar with either service. Some of their responses to the given questions are summarized below:

### **General Impressions of Uber and Lyft Services in the Sioux Falls Metropolitan Area**

Thirty-one (31) of the 47 respondents indicated that they think the Uber and Lyft services of the Sioux Falls metropolitan area are "Good." Some of the reasons respondents gave for why they think the Uber and Lyft services of the Sioux Falls metropolitan area are good are summarized below:

- There should be public terminals to order rideshares
- The services are good for when needing a lift when buses aren't available
- Both Uber and Lyft are cheaper than catching a taxi, will hopefully allow for more competition between cab companies
- Both services provides hours that taxis don't
- Using Uber or Lyft reduces some of the congestion in parking lots
- Rideshare services offer fair prices

Five (5) of the 47 respondents indicated that they think the Uber and Lyft services of the Sioux Falls metropolitan area are “Average.” Some of the reasons respondents gave for why they think the Uber and Lyft services of the Sioux Falls metropolitan area are average are summarized below:

- Some respondents do not have phone data to access the services
- Some respondents have general safety concerns about the service

Three (3) of the 47 respondents indicated that they think the Uber and Lyft services of the Sioux Falls metropolitan area are “Poor.” Some of the reasons respondents gave for why they think the Uber and Lyft services of the Sioux Falls metropolitan area are poor are summarized below:

- Some respondents were unsure of the long-term sustainability of the services
- Some respondents have general safety concerns about the service

### **Reasons for Using Uber and Lyft**

Forty-four (44) out of 47 respondents stated that they used Uber or Lyft services in the Sioux Falls metropolitan area. Some of the reasons respondents gave for using either service in the Sioux Falls metropolitan area are stated below:

- Used to ensure a safe ride home
- Used to get to and from the airport to avoid parking
- Used to get to and from work
- Used for medical situations
- Used to get to and from various entertainment offerings
- Used to give business clients rides as needed
- Used for various business needs
- Used to help with clients
- Used because both services are good for safety
- Both services are more convenient than other service offerings
- Both services provide competition to taxi services
- Used to see family

## **Funding**

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Respondents were asked questions related to funding the various transportation projects for the Sioux Falls metropolitan area. The responses respondents gave to these questions are summarized below:

### **Are the Taxes and Fees a Good Value**

Twenty-two (22) of the 47 respondents indicated that they think they receive a good value for the taxes and fees they currently pay to support the transportation services and facilities in the Sioux Falls metropolitan area. Some of the reasons respondents gave for why they think they receive a good value for the taxes and fees they pay are summarized below:

- Sioux Falls residents do not pay much compared to other services and states, but this can also be a negative
- Local government gives priority to improving
- Local government takes care of bad weather conditions
- There is good infrastructure development
- Lots of construction means lots of improvements
- Local government does a good job of providing information to the public
- Sioux Falls is acting responsibly when it comes transportation services
- The design and engineering of transportation services is well thought out
- The bus system is worth the value asked
- The services offered are good compared to most other bus systems

Eight (8) of the 47 respondents indicated that they think they do not receive a good value for the taxes and fees they currently pay to support the transportation services and facilities in the Sioux Falls metropolitan area. Some of the reasons respondents gave for why they think they do not receive a good value for the taxes and fees they pay are summarized below:

- The current taxes seem expensive for the output seen
- Some respondents have not seen many improvements in Harrisburg
- Funds need to be a better allocated
- Currently, the local government is not serving all the respondent's needs – not enough bus stops and the buses do not run enough hours

### **Gauging Willingness to Pay More for Improvements**

Forty (40) of the 47 respondents indicated that they would pay more to improve the quality of the transportation services and facilities in the Sioux Falls metropolitan area. Some of the items respondents wanted to see the extra funding go towards are summarized below:

- Some respondents are willing to pay more if the priorities already listed are taken into account
- Previous legislation to increase funding fell through, therefore some respondents wanted to make up for the loss
- The same reasons are continually brought up each year from public legislation, so there are needs that still need to be met
- Reasonable increases in taxes and fees to go towards general improvements
- As long as it is a reasonable increase
- Improving public transit
- Carpool/shared driving services for business
- Better road conditions
- Accommodations for wheelchairs, especially with snowfall
- Creating northeast to southwest transit options
- Maintaining current systems and facilities
- Providing incentives to own and operate electric car
- Improving pedestrian services

- Increases need to be made through an increase in the gas tax, as there has been none since 1993
- Improving the quality of roads
- Increasing the reach of public transit
- Accessibility in and out cities with interstates
- Opportunities to create more value for already paid taxes and fees
- Creating overhead walkways
- Creating an option to go west on 26th street
- Establishing better street markings
- Creating dedicated bike areas for workers (more interconnectivity)

Seven (7) of the 47 respondents indicated that they would not pay more to improve the quality of the transportation services and facilities in the Sioux Falls metropolitan area. Some of the reasons respondents gave for why they would not pay more to improve the quality of transportation services are summarized below:

- Some respondents do not have extra money to give to taxes
- There needs to be a better allocation of funds towards improving the buses

## Survey Development

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Respondents were asked to give any questions that they feel were necessary to be on the surveys that will be administered later this year. Some of these questions and/or concepts are stated below:

### Suggested Survey Questions/Concepts:

- Do you know where the closest bus stop is to your home?
- How would you prefer to fund your priority transportation project?
- Are you supportive of growth within the MPO?
- Do you know we have an MPO?
- Is there a need to priority to connect smaller communities to/from Sioux Falls?
- How would you rate the surface conditions of the roads?
- Gauge support for sales tax increases with some set provisions.
- How large do you think the population will be in 2045/2050 (sunset year)?
- Gauge potential interest for subway/train
- Gauge potential interest for bus only lanes
- What transportation issue should the city/state government focus on in the next few years?
- Rate basic transportation quality
- How long does it take you to get to where you need to be?
- Carpooling questions such as “Would you use it?” and “How would you use it?”
- What are you able to pay should taxes rise?
- Where should the taxes increases come from?
- What would make a rideshare program more appealing to you?
- Would you agree to pay more for improvements?
- How long do you expect improvements to take?

- Should we plan construction around low peak hours – nights, before and after rush hours, etc?
- How best to link outer areas to greater Sioux Falls? Whose responsibility is it?
- What would encourage you to use public transit if you do not already do so?
- Prioritize top issues of the area (community as opposed individuals)
- Questions relating to seniors/elders services
- Would you have a problem if you needed to use a smart phone to access public transit?
- Are people allowed to ride their bikes on the sidewalks (gauge overall awareness)?
- Do you want more bus hours?
- What improvements can be made to the bus system?
- Questions about safety
- Ask respondents about bus transfers

## Additional Comments

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Respondents were given the opportunity to make any additional comments at the end of their interview. Below is a summary of the additional comments collected.

### **Additional Comments:**

- There is an attempt to improve walkability, but some aspects affect east to west travel. There is a push-and-pull between systems that needs to be accounted for
- “Are you in support of increased walkability?” as a question. Seems like people say they are, but then they argue against developments when it affects other aspects of planning.
- Ask how comfortable respondents are with density when it comes to both population and infrastructure
- There is need for mixed use with zoning
- The survey should specifically display your previous responses on the appropriate page, especially if similar questions are asked on later pages
- Sioux Falls needs to educate the public on the zoning processes (potentially use the survey to do so)
- It is hard to change already established processes when it comes to urban development
- The overall system is good, but there is a need for wider freeways, more bus routes, and more bike trails
- It is hard with current bus hours to use it effectively
- It is a good system overall, but development is needed with the increase in population and size
- A crosswalk lane for cyclists and/or disabled is needed
- Residents need to clear off sidewalks for wheelchair users (in particular when it comes to snow)
- Make sure there is a focus group for low income groups when it comes to the surveys
- There needs to be more bus passes available to individuals, or otherwise more options
- Sioux Falls should be aware and prepared for potential issues with language barriers
- Transportation infrastructure is a nationwide problem, not just one in Sioux Falls
- Would do this type of focus group again if given the opportunity
- Sioux Falls has grown a lot in the last 20 years
- There is lots of potential when it comes to population growth
- Improving transportation infrastructure helps with solving other issues

- Workforce development is still an issue
- There is a want for a free bus system to encourage overall use from the general public, as well as to increase the efficiency of current routes
- Sioux Falls is continuing to grow, so there is a need to accommodate for outlying areas
- There needs to be more longevity of road repair materials
- The roads need to be better maintained
- Drivers who pay attention to pedestrians are impressive
- Sioux Falls is very responsive to these issues
- The local law enforcement needs to crackdown on loud vehicles
- There are safety concerns about the use of smaller vehicles, such as ATVs, golf carts, etc., being used on the roads
- The bigger potholes need more safety cones around them
- Idea for spring-loaded pedestrian signs to make sure they bounce back into place if hit by a truck
- Stop when seeing people approach, allow buses to drive both ways on the streets, and bring back bus transfers
- There needs to be more buses running
- The bus fare should be cheaper for those who medically can't ride a bike or drive
- Overall improvement needed is needed to transportation services
- Please keep fixing the potholes
- The transportation infrastructure is pretty good overall in areas besides the bus system