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The MPO Wants to Know: Metro Congestion

In an effort to better understand public views, the MPO continues its series of online surveys about various transportation-related topics. The survey results will help the MPO develop plans and projects for the future. The responses also will be shared with appropriate roundtables and policymakers. For a list of available surveys, please visit the MPO website at <http://www.dmampo.org/user/survey.html>. Below are the results of a survey related to congestion in the greater Des Moines metropolitan area.

Question 1. Do you perceive congestion to be an issue in the greater Des Moines metropolitan area?

Yes58.6%
 No.....41.4%

Question 2. If yes, how often does it occur?

Everyday63.6%
 A few times per week20.5%
 Once a week.....11.4%
 Monthly.....4.5%
 Other25.0%

Responses included “daily, but for a limited time,” “in short spurts during peak traffic times,” “not often at all!,” “once in a blue moon,” “only when there is an accident,” and “very short periods of times at peak travel time, usually during bad weather.”

Question 3. If yes, what is the cause of this congestion? (Please check all that apply)

Traffic volume/inadequate roadway capacity76.1%
 Accidents.....63.0%
 Weather28.3%
 Construction.....13.0%
 Other32.6%

Responses included conventions, “discourteous drivers,” improper traffic signal coordination, suburban sprawl, too many cars with single occupants, and trains.

Question 4. Which roadways have the worst congestion?

Interstate 235.....	42.5%
Interstates 35/80.....	11.5%
University Avenue.....	5.7%
Grand Avenue.....	4.6%
Hickman Road.....	4.6%
Highway 141.....	4.6%
East/Southeast 14 th Street.....	3.4%
2 nd Avenue.....	2.3%
22 nd Street/86 th Street.....	2.3%
Downtown area streets.....	2.3%
Jordan Creek Parkway.....	2.3%
Park Avenue.....	2.3%
Southwest 9 th Street.....	2.3%
Westown Parkway.....	2.3%
Other.....	6.9%
Douglas Avenue.....	1.1%
Eastside streets.....	1.1%
Highway 5 Bypass.....	1.1%
Ingersoll Avenue.....	1.1%
McKinley Avenue.....	1.1%
Merle Hay Road.....	1.1%

Question 5. Does perceived congestion affect your route choice?

Yes.....	52.3%
No.....	47.7%

Question 6. Does perceived congestion affect the time you leave?

Yes.....	61.5%
No.....	38.5%

Question 7. What measures have you taken to avoid congestion?

Respondents have used a variety of measures to avoid the perceived congestion in the Des Moines metropolitan area. These include altering their departure times as well as the routes along which they travel. Others have opted to utilize other modes of transportation. A few respondents have moved to live closer to their jobs in order to avoid congestion.