Public Opinion on Rail Transit in the Tulsa Region

Source (clickable links): 2008 Tulsa Regional Transportation Survey Executive Summary (August 2008)
2008 Tulsa Regional Transportation Survey Charts & Graphs

Methodology

The survey was administered by mail with follow-up by phone to a random sample of 806 households in the INCOG transportation planning area. The sample was designed to ensure that the results would be statistically valid for the entire region and for each of the following demographic groups: (1) racial and ethnic minorities, (2) seniors, (3) non-English speaking residents, (4) single parents with children, and (5) persons with recognized disabilities. The overall results for the survey have a precision of at least +/- 3.5% at the 95% level of confidence.

Satisfaction with Specific Components of the Region's Transportation System. More than half of those surveyed gave positive ratings (ratings of a 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale, where 5 means very satisfied) with the ease of travel between home and work (55%) and the ease of travel by car on highways in the region (50%). Residents were least satisfied with the adequacy of public transportation services (15%), the ease of travel by bicycle in the region (17%), and the adequacy of public transportation services for the elderly and persons with disabilities (25%).

Top Transportation Priorities for the Region. From a list of 9 transportation issues, residents were ask to identify which issues should receive the most emphasis from community leaders over the next 5-10 years. Based on the sum of the top choices provided by all respondents, the top four transportation priorities were: **(1) improving public transportation services**, **(2)** making it easier to travel by car on major city streets, **(3)** improving north/south travel in the region, and **(4)** making it easier to travel by car on major highways in the region.

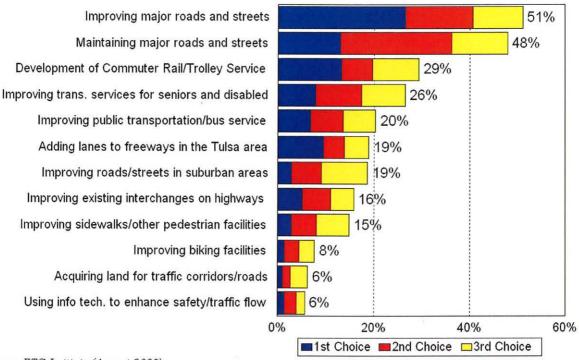
Satisfaction with Public Transportation. Residents were generally not satisfied with public transportation services in the Tulsa area. More than half (59%) of those surveyed were dissatisfied with the number of destination served by public transportation in the region; 58% were dissatisfied with the frequency of bus service, and 58% were dissatisfied with the availability of information about carpooling.

Importance of Developing Alternative Forms of Transportation. More than three-fourths (77%) of those surveyed thought it was very or somewhat important for community leaders to encourage the development of alternative forms of transportation to the single occupant car. Only 7% did not think it was important, and 16% did not have an opinion.

Willingness to Support Alternative Forms of Transportation with Tax Dollars. From a list of 10 alternative forms of transportation, residents were ask to identify which ones they would be most willing to support with their tax dollars. Based on the sum of the top choices provided by all respondents, the alternative forms of transportation that residents would be willing to support most were: (1) commuter rail service, (2) expanded trolley services, (3) door-to-door services for the elderly and disabled, and (4) HOV lanes.

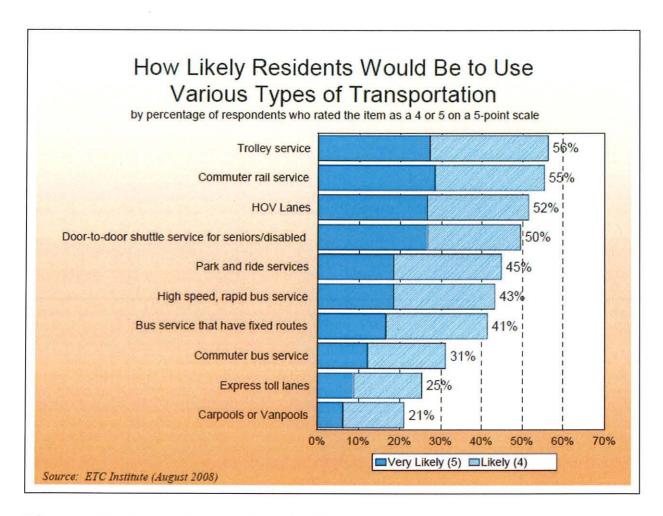
Transportation Investments that Should Be the Top Priorities for the Tulsa Area Over the Next 5-10 years

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top three choices

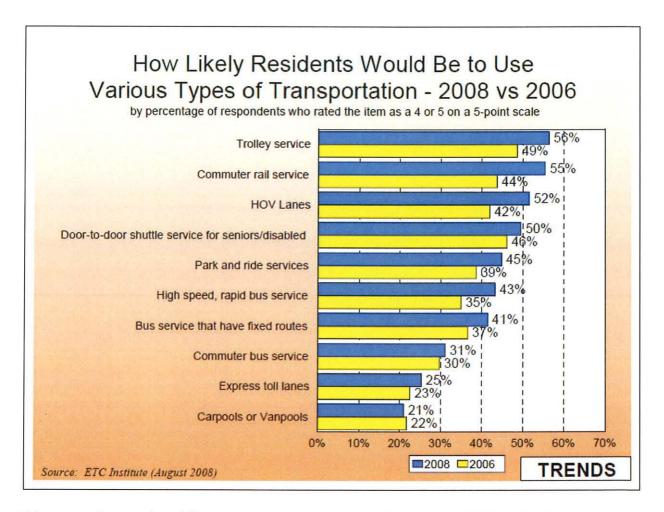


Source: ETC Institute (August 2008)

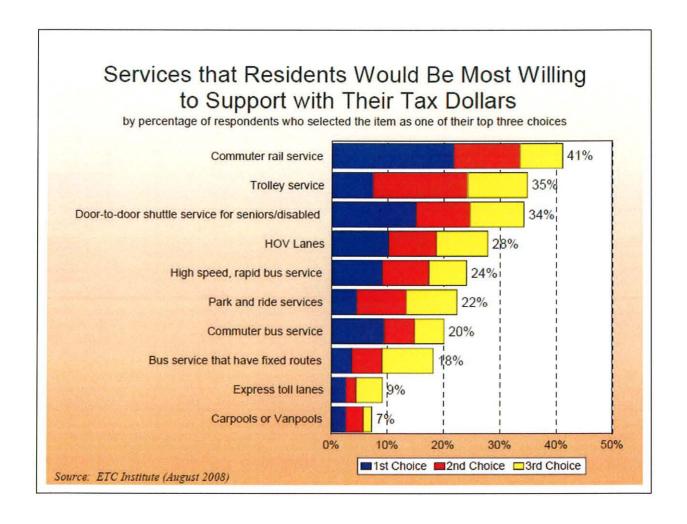
Takeaway: 29% of respondents believe that development of Rail/Trolley service should be in the top 3 priorities for the Tulsa region.



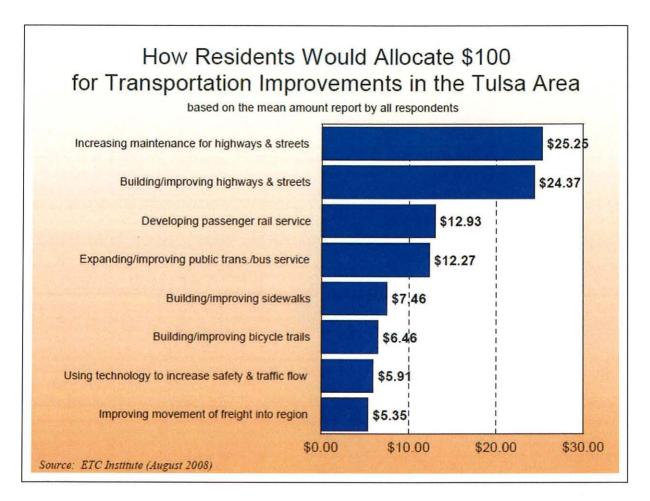
Takeaway: Most interest in commuter and trolley service.



Takeaway: Interest in public transportation is increasing (trend from 2006 to 2008)



Takeaway: Residents ARE willing to support commuter rail and trolley service with their tax dollars in the Tulsa region.



Takeaway: passenger rail service is on the top 3 priorities in terms of how citizens believe their tax dollars should be spent.