



The Barr Foundation Transportation Policy Survey
Topline Results
Statewide Survey of 797 Registered Voters in Massachusetts
Field Dates: July 17-20, 2020

How would you rate the condition of the road system here in Massachusetts, including the local roads, highways, bridges, and tunnels?

Excellent	8%
Good	25%
Fair	40%
Poor	24%
Unsure	3%

How would you rate the condition of public transportation here in Massachusetts, including subways, trains, buses, and ferries?

Excellent	7%
Good	27%
Fair	34%
Poor	21%
Unsure	11%

Who do you think is ultimately most responsible for the condition of the transportation system in Massachusetts?

Governor Charlie Baker	15%
The Massachusetts State Legislature	19%
Transportation agencies (MassDOT, the MBTA, etc)	48%
Local elected officials	6%
Unsure	12%

Thinking about how residents will get around as Massachusetts reopens from COVID-19, which is closer to your point of view?

We just need to go back to the transportation system we had before the crisis	16%
We need to make big changes to the transportation system coming out of the crisis	67%
Unsure	17%

Do you think that public transportation agencies in Massachusetts (the MBTA and Regional Transit Authorities that run bus services) have the money they need to provide safe service as the state reopens?

Yes, they do	35%
No, they do not	38%
Unsure	26%

How likely do you think it is that the federal government will provide additional aid to states to deal with budget deficits due to additional expenses and reduced tax revenues as a result of COVID-19?

Very likely	11%
Somewhat likely	37%
Not very likely	32%
Not at all likely	10%
Unsure	11%

If Massachusetts ends up with a state budget deficit as a result of COVID-19, do you think that transportation taxes and fees should be among the options on the table for closing that budget gap?

Yes	37%
No	30%
Unsure	33%

How much would you support or oppose the Commonwealth raising new money to invest in the Massachusetts transportation system, including improving roads, bridges and public transportation?

Strongly support	22%
Somewhat support	47%
Somewhat oppose	13%
Strongly oppose	6%
Unsure	11%

In many other states, cities and towns can ask voters to raise money to pay for specific transportation projects to benefit their region. Would you support or oppose allowing Massachusetts cities and towns to place transportation projects, and ways to pay for them, on the ballot for voters to approve or reject?

Strongly support	24%
Somewhat support	41%
Somewhat oppose	15%
Strongly oppose	8%
Unsure	13%

Right now, cities and towns cannot charge a fee on spaces in large private parking lots and garages in their communities. Would you support or oppose the state allowing cities and towns to charge the owners of large private parking lots and garages a fee per parking space, if all the money raised were dedicated to improving transportation in those communities?

Strongly support	20%
Somewhat support	35%
Somewhat oppose	17%
Strongly oppose	10%
Unsure	17%

Would you support or oppose collecting contributions from real estate development projects near highways or public transportation to help pay for that transportation infrastructure?

Strongly support	27%
Somewhat support	41%
Somewhat oppose	13%
Strongly oppose	6%
Unsure	13%

Would you support or oppose increasing the fee on trips taken with ride-hailing apps like Uber and Lyft and dedicating those fees to improving transportation in the Commonwealth?

Strongly support	17%
Somewhat support	34%
Somewhat oppose	20%
Strongly oppose	15%
Unsure	14%

Right now, rental car companies do not have to pay the state sales and use tax when buying cars and trucks for their rental fleets. Would you support or oppose applying the state sales and use tax to these rental car purchases, if all the money collected were dedicated to improving transportation in Massachusetts?

Strongly support	36%
Somewhat support	38%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	5%
Unsure	13%

Would you support or oppose giving lower-income residents a discount on public transportation fares and passes?

Strongly support	36%
Somewhat support	35%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	7%
Unsure	10%

The next two questions were each asked of a random half of the sample.

As Massachusetts reopens after COVID-19, would you support or oppose cities and towns redesigning city streets to create more space for socially distanced activities like walking and biking?

Strongly support	27%
Somewhat support	41%
Somewhat oppose	14%
Strongly oppose	10%
Unsure	9%

As Massachusetts reopens after COVID-19, would you support or oppose cities and towns redesigning city streets to create more space for socially distanced activities like outdoor dining?

Strongly support	32%
Somewhat support	34%
Somewhat oppose	13%
Strongly oppose	8%
Unsure	12%

Thinking back to **before** the coronavirus outbreak, which modes of travel did you use regularly to get around? Please check all that apply.

Drive alone	76%
Drive or ride with others	40%
Walk	35%
Take a taxi, Uber or Lyft	17%
Take the MBTA subway (Red, Orange, Blue, Green, Silver lines)	17%
Take a MBTA or other public bus	13%
Take the commuter rail	6%
Ride a bicycle	6%
Take a corporate or private shuttle	2%
Take a ferry	2%
Other	1%
Prefer not to say	1%

As the state reopens, do you expect that you will do each of the following more, less, or about as much as before the lockdown?

ROTATE ORDER	More	Same	Less	Unsure
Drive (alone or with others)	29%	58%	11%	2%
Ride the MBTA subway	5%	40%	46%	10%
Ride the MBTA commuter rail	5%	42%	43%	11%
Ride a bus	5%	42%	45%	8%
Ride a bike	13%	57%	19%	10%
Walk	32%	58%	8%	3%

Which one of the following best describes your work situation—employed full time, employed part time, or not currently employed?

Employed full time	42%
Employed part time	15%
Not currently employed	41%
Prefer not to say	2%

Following asked if “not currently employed”.

Are you a student, a homemaker, retired, or temporarily unemployed?

A student	7%
A homemaker	13%
Retired	55%
Temporarily unemployed	21%
Prefer not to say	4%

The following asked of those employed full- or part-time.

If given the option, how often would you prefer to work from home at the state reopens?

Every work day	39%
A few times a week	29%
A few times a month	9%
Less than once a month	2%
Never	5%
Not an option for my work	15%
Prefer not to say	1%

DEMOGRAPHICS

Party Identification

Democrat	34%
Republican	14%
Independent / Other	49%
Prefer not to say	3%

Race and Ethnicity

White alone	79%
All others	19%
Prefer not to say	2%

Age

18-29	19%
30-44	23%
45-59	26%
60+	32%
Prefer not to say	1%

Gender

Male	47%
Female	52%
Transgender	1%
None of the above	<1%
Prefer not to say	1%

Education

High School or less	33%
Some college, no degree	23%
College graduate (BA/BS)	26%
Advanced degree	18%
Prefer not to say	<1%

About the Poll

These results are based on a survey of 797 Massachusetts registered voters. Responses were collected via online survey interviewing July 17-20 2020. Final survey data was weighted to known and estimated population parameters for the state's registered voters by age, gender, race, education, geography, and party identification. This project was sponsored by The Barr Foundation.