

WBUR Poll on Boston-area Traffic
Survey of 502 Registered Voters within Route 128
Field Dates: April 17-20, 2016

I'd like to ask you about issues that Governor Baker and the State Legislature could focus on over the next few years. Please tell me if you think each should be a major priority, a minor priority, or not a priority for state government?

<i>Order rotated.</i>		Major priority	Minor priority	Not a priority	Don't Know / Refused
Repairing and modernizing the state's roads and bridges	Boston Region	79%	18%	2%	<1%
	City of Boston	77%	21%	1%	1%
Repairing and modernizing the MBTA	Boston Region	79%	18%	2%	1%
	City of Boston	76%	22%	1%	1%

Which of these modes do you use regularly to travel to work or school? *Order rotated. Multiple answer allowed. Percentage total more than 100%.*

	Boston Region	City of Boston
Drive by yourself	60%	48%
Carpool with others	6%	8%
A ride hailing service such as Uber, Lyft, or Bridj.	8%	11%
Take a public bus	16%	25%
Take a train or subway	24%	33%
Take a ferry	2%	1%
Walk	17%	24%
Ride a bike	7%	7%
Other (do not read)	1%	1%
Do not travel to work or school (do not read)	8%	4%
Don't Know / Refused	1%	1%

The following five questions asked of those who commute to work or school.

On an average day, how many minutes does it take you to get from your home to work or school?

	Boston Region	City of Boston
Median Commute Time (minutes)	25	25

How about coming home? On an average day, how many minutes does it take you to get back home from your work or school?

	Boston Region	City of Boston
Median Commute Time (minutes)	30	30

Overall, how satisfied are you with the amount of time you spend commuting? *Order rotated top to bottom, bottom to top.*

	Boston Region	City of Boston
Very satisfied	38%	36%
Somewhat satisfied	29%	37%
Somewhat dissatisfied	19%	15%
Very dissatisfied	12%	11%
Don't Know / Refused	2%	1%

How frequently do you encounter significant delays during your commute to and from work or school?

	Boston Region	City of Boston
Every day	14%	14%
A few times a week	21%	21%
Once a week	12%	12%
A few times a month	23%	24%
Once a month or less	15%	15%
Never	12%	14%
Don't Know / Refused	2%	<1%

How frequently do you encounter each of the following types of delays—every day, a few times a week, once a week, a few times a month, once a month or less, or never?

<i>Order rotated.</i>		Every day	A few times a week	Once a week	A few times a month	Once a month or less	Never	Don't Know / Refused
Weather related delays	Boston Region	2%	4%	7%	30%	40%	17%	2%
	City of Boston	1%	2%	7%	25%	45%	18%	2%

Next 3 asked only of those commuting by road

Construction slowing down traffic	Boston Region	13%	18%	13%	21%	22%	12%	2%
	City of Boston	18%	21%	9%	20%	21%	10%	1%
High traffic volume on the roadways	Boston Region	35%	20%	11%	12%	13%	8%	1%
	City of Boston	38%	20%	10%	9%	13%	10%	<1%
Crashes or accidents slowing down traffic	Boston Region	4%	11%	10%	18%	37%	19%	1%
	City of Boston	2%	9%	10%	21%	34%	24%	0%

Next 3 asked of those commuting by train

Train delays	Boston Region	5%	15%	11%	28%	28%	13%	1%
	City of Boston	5%	16%	18%	28%	25%	9%	0%
Train breakdowns	Boston Region	3%	10%	4%	16%	40%	23%	4%
	City of Boston	4%	10%	2%	17%	41%	23%	3%
Trains that are too full to board	Boston Region	12%	20%	11%	9%	19%	28%	1%
	City of Boston	15%	19%	11%	10%	22%	24%	0%

Next 3 asked of those commuting by bus

Buses traveling slowly	Boston Region	18%	19%	11%	11%	16%	25%	0%
	City of Boston	26%	18%	10%	10%	6%	29%	0%
Buses too full to board	Boston Region	19%	8%	5%	13%	24%	29%	2%
	City of Boston	27%	10%	8%	14%	15%	24%	1%
Buses not coming on time	Boston Region	17%	28%	6%	11%	20%	15%	3%
	City of Boston	19%	29%	12%	6%	15%	18%	0%

Compared to five years ago, would you say traffic congestion in the Boston region has **ROTATE OPTION 1 AND 2** or stayed about the same?

	Boston Region	City of Boston
Gotten better	5%	7%
Gotten worse	57%	50%
Stayed about the same	34%	38%
Don't Know / Refused	5%	5%

If better policies were put in place, do you think traffic could be improved significantly, improved somewhere, only improved a little, or not improved at all?

	Boston Region	City of Boston
Improved significantly	21%	28%
Improved somewhat	42%	35%
Only improved a little	18%	17%
Not improved at all	11%	13%
Don't Know / Refused	9%	6%

In the last few months, has the amount of traffic in the Boston region made you consider changing jobs to improve your commute?

	Boston Region	City of Boston
Yes it has	13%	14%
No it has not	80%	81%
Don't Know / Refused	7%	5%

In the last few months, has the amount of traffic in the Boston region caused you to miss an important event with friends or family?

	Boston Region	City of Boston
Yes it has	18%	24%
No it has not	81%	76%
Don't Know / Refused	1%	<1%

In the last few months, has the amount of traffic in the Boston region caused you to be late for work?

	Boston Region	City of Boston
Yes it has	39%	48%
No it has not	57%	50%
Don't Know / Refused	5%	2%

In the last few months, has the amount of traffic in the Boston region made you consider leaving the Boston region entirely?

	Boston Region	City of Boston
Yes it has	14%	19%
No it has not	86%	81%
Don't Know / Refused	<1%	0%

How effective would **READ FIRST** be in reducing traffic congestion in the Boston region—very effective, somewhat effective, not too effective, or not at all effective? How about **READ NEXT**? **REPEAT SCALE AND QUESTION STEM ONLY AS NEEDED.**

<i>Order rotated.</i>		Very effective	Somewhat effective	Not too effective	Not at all effective	Don't Know / Refused
Making MBTA service more frequent and reliable to encourage more people to use it	Boston Region	60%	32%	4%	2%	2%
	City of Boston	69%	22%	8%	1%	1%
Widening highways and roads in the Boston region to accommodate more cars	Boston Region	34%	34%	12%	16%	5%
	City of Boston	39%	30%	12%	17%	2%
Increasing highway tolls during rush hour to encourage drivers to use the roads at other times	Boston Region	12%	24%	19%	41%	4%
	City of Boston	18%	23%	20%	36%	4%
Make the MBTA cheaper to encourage more people to use it	Boston Region	43%	34%	12%	10%	2%
	City of Boston	51%	28%	10%	9%	2%
Removing toll booths to avoid the backups that occur there.	Boston Region	41%	29%	11%	11%	8%
	City of Boston	40%	29%	13%	13%	6%
Adding smart highways signs that direct drivers around traffic congestion	Boston Region	32%	44%	12%	8%	5%
	City of Boston	35%	44%	10%	6%	5%

There is a proposal which would raise the State income tax by 4 percentage points on people in Massachusetts who earn a million dollars or more each year. The money raised from this tax would go to fund education and transportation in Massachusetts. Would you support or oppose this proposal?

	Boston Region	City of Boston
Support	72%	78%
Oppose	24%	18%
Don't Know / Refused	5%	4%

Would you support or oppose **READ FIRST** if there were a guarantee that all of the money raised would go to transportation improvements in Massachusetts?

<i>Order rotated.</i>		Support	Oppose	Don't Know / Refused
Raising the state tax on gasoline	Boston Region	42%	55%	3%
	City of Boston	41%	56%	3%
Increasing highway toll amounts	Boston Region	37%	58%	5%
	City of Boston	41%	57%	2%
Adding tolls to more highways	Boston Region	28%	68%	5%
	City of Boston	29%	65%	6%
Adding a fee for cars entering or exiting Boston at rush hour	Boston Region	27%	70%	4%
	City of Boston	31%	67%	2%
Charging an annual fee for cars based on how many miles they drive	Boston Region	29%	66%	5%
	City of Boston	32%	64%	4%

Demographics

Party Registration

Democrat	46%
Republican	8%
Unenrolled	46%

Race

White / Caucasian	78%
All others	19%
Don't Know / Refused	3%

Age

18 to 29	16%
30 to 44	25%
45 to 59	28%
60+	31%

Gender

Male	47%
Female	53%

About the Poll

These results are based on a survey of 502 registered voters living in the Boston area. For the purposes of this poll, the Boston area was defined as communities inside Route 128 or which straddle Route 128. The poll included a base sample of 402 residents in the entire area including Boston, with an additional 100 voters living in the City of Boston. Between the base sample and oversample, a total of 229 voters in the City of Boston were interviewed, which were weighted down to the city's actual share of the area's total population of registered voters.

Interviews were conducted April 17-20, 2016 by live telephone interviews via both landline and cell phone using conventional registration based sampling procedures. The margin of sampling error for the full sample is +/- 4.9 percent with a 95 percent level of confidence, and 6.5 percent for the City of Boston figures. The poll was sponsored by WBUR, a National Public Radio station in the Boston area.