

The Macon County Goals and Objectives Survey was composed by the Macon County CTP Steering Committee, the Southwestern RPO, and NCDOT. The survey included questions that involved ranking the importance of transportation improvements and goals, and several questions requiring a short answer that dealt with specific transportation topics. The Survey was distributed in two formats, paper and electronic. Various means were used to make the public aware of the survey and direct them to a means of completing the survey. These methods included radio and e-mail announcements, news releases in the paper, and physical copies in the library, government and RPO offices. This report contains the results from the Macon County G&O Survey; full details are available in the accompanying PDF. A total of 390 responses were received Through November of 2009. Of these, 28 were paper copies and the rest were filled out online. Significant results for each question will be presented below. Full details of free response questions are available by request only due to their length.

**QUESTION 1:** 182 people out of 390 (or 47%) decided to provide their names along with their survey. No significant transportation related conclusions. Details withheld for privacy.

**QUESTION 2:** Only 1.8% of respondents indicated the do Not own a motor vehicle. This was to be expected based on the rural nature of the county and low density land use.

**QUESTION 3:** The majority of people taking the survey work in Macon County (59.4%). Another 30% are retired and 7.2% work outside of the county. No one responded that they are students in Macon County.

**QUESTION 4:** Franklin was the residence of choice with 36.5%. Other significant responses were Highlands (17.1%), Otto (10.9%), and “NC Hwy 28 North of Franklin” (9.3%).

**QUESTION 5:** 78.2% of respondents are full time residents with over half of the remainder (11.7%) indicating they live in Macon 9+ months a year.

**QUESTION 6:** Two communities served as centers of employment with 63.3% saying the work in or near Franklin and 17.6% in or near Highlands.

**QUESTION 7:** A total of 50% “important” or “very important” was considered supporting, with 50% “not important” or “less important” indicating the opposite. If the 50% fell in “neutral” then the question is considered a tossup. Based on the following people indicated each of the following.

Supported

Safety (92.45); Service of Special Needs (62.02); Consistent Travel Times (63.31); Transportation Mode Choice (68.48); Economic Growth (69%); Environmental Protection (83.98); Community and Cultural Preservation (82.43); Integration with regional Community (64.08)

Only Neutral was Faster Automobile Travel Times (30.49% unsupported and 27.91% supported)

**QUESTION 8:** Safety was the single most important issue with 35% of the vote. Others with over 10% were Economic Growth (13%), Community and Cultural Preservation (11%), Environmental Protection (13%), and Mode Choice (14%).

**QUESTION 9:** Faster Automobile travel time was strongly the Least Important choice with 47%, more than 4 times the nearest competitor (10%). Safety was the only choice to receive zero votes as Least Important.

**QUESTION 10:** Rural and Country living was the most supported lifestyle need (61.2%) with all others below 10%.

**QUESTION 11:** 340 people gave responses to the open ended question for traffic problems. US 441 South from Franklin to Georgia, seems to be the primary concern, along with US 64 East to Clay County. People also mention various individual locations (Bi-Lo, Wal-mart, and the High School) which may show some specific needs.

**QUESTION 12:** When asked which methods should be used to improve the transportation network, not a single choice broke the 50% mark. Those above 40% were “Turn lanes at specific intersections” , “Add on-road bike lanes” , “Increase and expand Sidewalks” , “improve intersection design.” Also 125 free responses were given. Many included better signage, police presence and citations, speed limits, signal timing, and more traffic signals.

**QUESTION 13:** If new funds were needed only Charging Development fees broke the 50% mark (53%), the others ranked in at 43% for bonding, and 33% for gas tax.

**QUESTION 14:** 73% of respondents do not have to go out of their way. Of the 27% who do, US 441 S and downtown Franklin were mentioned repeatedly.

**QUESTION 15:** Using the same criteria as for Question 7.  
Spend Less: Building new roads (49.74%), Building new Freeways (60.73%)

Spend More: Maintaining Major Roads (52.35%), Expanding Bus Service (51.31%), New Sidewalks (55.49%), and Building New Greenways (50.78%).

Spend Same: Maintaining Residential Streets, and Expanding Carpooling/Vanpooling.

**QUESTION 16:** 66.9% indicated they heard about the survey through word of mouth. And 104 people (36%) replied other. The primary response of “other” was via E-mail.

**Question 17:** Many people indicated they want NCDOT to do less / spend money wisely or improve the roads regardless.