

# **DMATS 2055 LRTP Survey Report**

## **PURPOSE**

This report presents the preliminary results of the Dubuque Metropolitan Area Transportation Study's (DMATS) 2055 Long-Range Transportation Plan Survey as of June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025. This survey has been part of the process of completing the 2055 Long-Range Transportation Plan. 145 responses have been gathered at this point.

This report provides an overview of the methods used and data collected followed by a summary of survey responses.

## **METHODS**

The survey asks respondents to answer questions related to the transportation system within the region. ECIA collaborated with the DMATS Technical Board to develop survey questions.

A 12 question survey was then created through the SurveyMonkey platform, allowing participants to respond using their phone, tablet or computer. No paper copies have been made at this time.

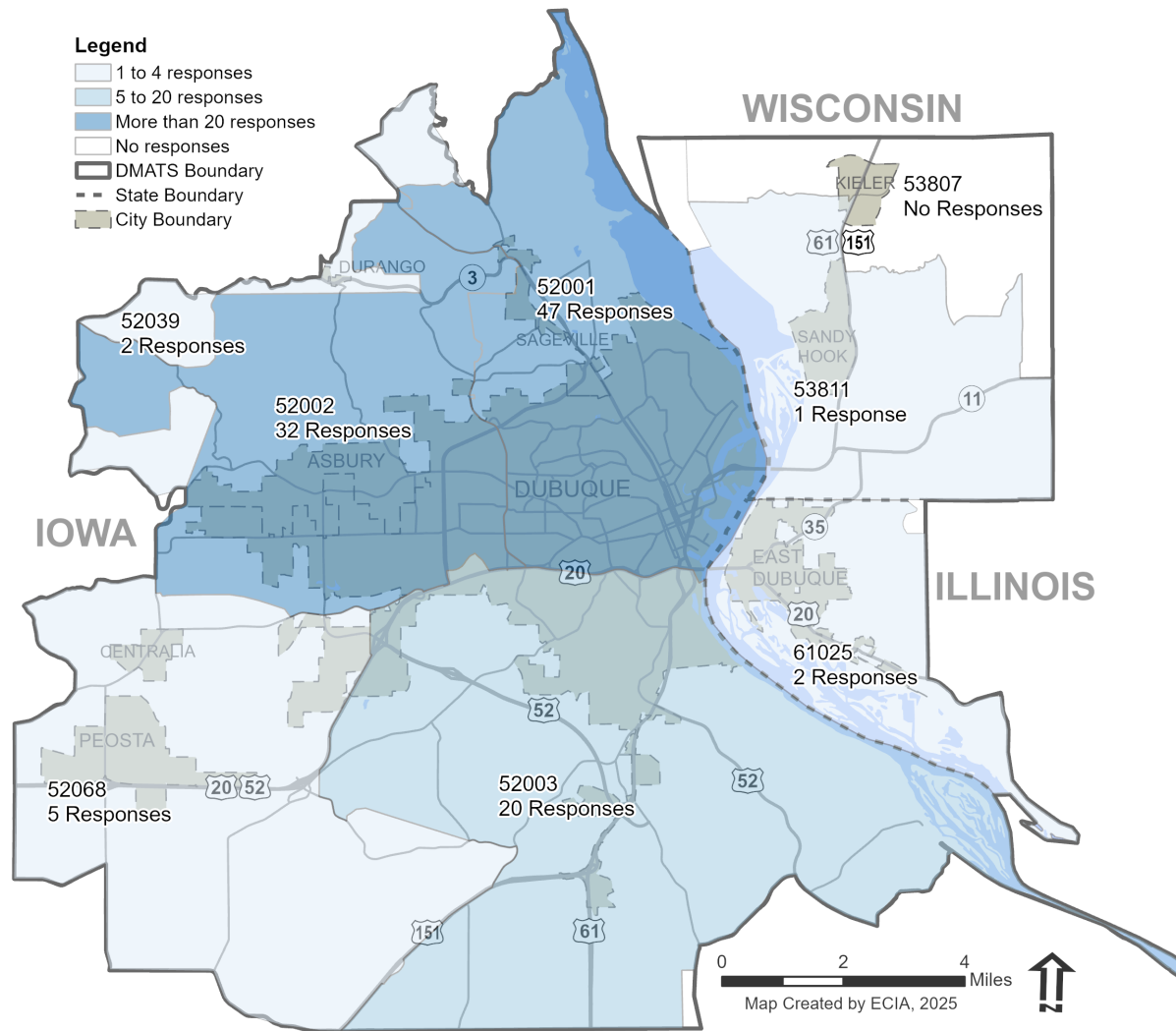
ECIA used various communication channels to publicize the survey, including word of mouth, online and local media. The survey was announced in a media release that was distributed to local media outlets and was announced on the ECIA project website.

The ECIA project website included a link to the survey. The survey opened on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and will remain open for the duration of the planning process.

## **PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS**

Survey responses mostly came from ZIP codes within the cities of Dubuque and Asbury with 52001 (downtown Dubuque) and 52002 (West End/Asbury) being the most common responses. However the 52001 ZIP code was under-represented when adjusted per person. Two responses were collected from Illinois and only one response was collected in Wisconsin, while four responses were gathered from ZIP code 52031 (Bellevue) and three responses were gathered from 52045 (Epworth).

## DMATS Survey Responses



Respondents varied in age with roughly equal representations of groups 25 to 34 years of age to individuals aged 65 and older. Only one respondent was under the age of 25. Over 75% respondents had a household income of \$75,000 and above. For a comparison, the median household income in Dubuque County is \$72,749. 98% of respondents were White or Caucasian.

88.1% respondents had no disability in their household. 95% of respondents primarily use their personal vehicle for transportation, while respondents also reported walking (68.46%), biking (26.92%) and using rideshare (15.38%) within the past month as well. Respondents were mixed between accessibility, availability, reliability and location for choosing their primary mode of transportation.

## QUESTION 1

Question 1 asked respondents thoughts on the operation and planning of the region's transportation system. They were asked on a scale from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree" to assess various statements related to the region's transportation system. SurveyMonkey then assigned a score from 1 to 5 to each answer and calculated a weighted average for each statement. Below is a table of the statements from highest to lowest average rating.

Statement	Rating
The region needs passenger rail connections to other cities.	3.65
I feel that the transportation system in the region is safe.	3.61
Congestion on major roadways is a problem.	3.57
Waiting at rail crossings negatively affects my travel.	3.34
Transportation officials currently make every effort to minimize impacts of the transportation system on air and water quality, natural areas and wildlife habitat.	3.32
The existing road and highway systems are adequately maintained.	3.26
Our region uses transportation technology to the best ability, i.e. traffic signal coordination and electronic message boards.	3.10
The public has adequate opportunity to provide input on transportation expenditures.	3.08
Transportation projects in the region usually promote the revitalization of existing neighborhoods.	3.08
The region's current transit (bus) services meet the basic mobility needs of most residents.	3.08
The region's freight network including air, road, rail and water systems meets the needs of local businesses.	2.95
The region has adequate infrastructure for walking and biking.	2.73
Transportation services are adequate for everyone (including the elderly, people with disabilities, children and people who don't own a car).	2.72
The noise from the transportation network (e.g. train horns, traffic noise) negatively affects my quality of life.	2.66
Transportation resources are fairly distributed across the region.	2.60
The commercial air service out of the Dubuque Regional Airport meets the needs of the region.	2.16

## QUESTION 2

Question 2 asked respondents to rate different aspects of the transportation system from “poor” to “excellent”. Below is each category ranked from “excellent” to “poor” based on the weighted average.

Category	Rating
Safety	3.29
Travel time	3.23
Traffic signs and signals (traffic lights, directional signs, etc.)	3.17
Walking and biking trails	2.97
Bridges	2.86
Sidewalks	2.72
Public Transportation	2.72
Street maintenance	2.71
On-road bicycle routes	2.19
Commercial air service	1.86

## QUESTION 3

Question 3 asked respondents to rank what they would like their elected officials to weigh the most when choosing transportation projects to fund. The priorities ranked from highest to lowest by SurveyMonkey are below.

Priorities	Rating
Rising cost of maintaining roads and bridges	12.08
Promoting economic development through transportation investments	11.60
Transportation costs for individuals and families	11.42
Workforce travel needs	11.15
Public transportation reliability (Bus Service)	10.91
Transportation safety	9.86
Travel needs for people who often don't drive (elderly, people with disabilities, children, etc.)	9.65
Traffic congestion, delay and emissions	8.97
Passenger rail transportation to Chicago	8.29
Improve walkability and bikeability	7.85
Increasing truck traffic on our highways	7.12
Impacts on low-income and minority populations	6.60
Preservation and enhancement of cultural and historical resources	5.91

Impacts on health	5.67
Revitalization of existing neighborhoods	5.25
Improve efficiency of the freight transportation network.	3.67

## **OPEN ENDED RESPONSES**

46 respondents provided open-ended responses to the survey. The following contains a summary of these responses provided by ChatGPT.

### **Infrastructure and Roadways**

- Highway 20 (Dodge St.): Repeated complaints about congestion, poor signal timing, and the need for a complete overhaul suggestions include lane expansions and underpasses/overpasses.
- General Traffic Issues: Concerns about synchronization of stoplights, excessive traffic, and dangerous conditions on roads like Grandview and Roosevelt.
- New Bridge: A few respondents called for a new Mississippi River bridge south of Dubuque.
- Noise & Surface Conditions: Noted especially near Peosta and other US 20 segments.

### **Bike & Pedestrian Infrastructure**

- Demand for Bike Lanes: Interest in better bike infrastructure. Specific mention that current lanes (e.g., on 9th Ave) don't connect useful destinations.
- Safety & Accessibility: Many noted they would bike more if the routes were safer or more direct.
- Active Transportation Benefits: Several highlighted health, air quality, and neighborhood benefits from walking/biking.

### **Public Transit (The Jule)**

- Service Limitations: Broad frustration with hours of operation (ending by 6:30 PM, no Sunday service), route coverage, and frequency (30+ minute waits).
- Accessibility for Marginalized Groups: Transit limitations are especially burdensome for those without cars, such as elderly and low-income residents.
- Bus System Expansion: Requests to extend service to areas like Asbury and to make service free at point-of-use.
- Bus vs. Car Tradeoffs: Several residents favor cars due to free parking and poor transit convenience.

## **Airport & Regional Connectivity**

- Support for Dubuque Regional Airport: Some support for investments to expand air service.
- Alternatives: Others would prefer shuttles to Cedar Rapids (CID) or Madison (MSN), or even rail to Chicago.
- Rail to Chicago: Repeated interest in passenger rail, sometimes preferred over air travel for cost, reliability, and convenience.

## **Urban Planning & Complete Streets**

- Desire for Implementation: Comments ask the city to implement rather than just plan for Complete Streets.
- Local Charm & Accessibility: Ideas include trolley systems for downtown mobility and better east-west corridor alternatives.
- Public Involvement: Appreciation for surveys; suggestions for more consistent community input to encourage civic pride and retention.

## **Safety & Enforcement**

- Speeding & Reckless Driving: Major concerns about speeding, stoplight violations, and lack of enforcement.
- Support for Traffic Cameras: Some favor automated enforcement for safety and as a revenue stream.

## **Policy & Governance**

- Fiscal Concerns: Worries about spending, taxation, and perceived inefficiency.

## **Other Notables**

- Transit's Role in Equity: Social workers and others emphasized how limited transit impacts vulnerable populations.
- Geese Problems: A surprisingly specific complaint about geese on trails!
- Public Education: Calls for better public understanding of how transportation is funded and the limitations of grant-based infrastructure work.