



**The MassINC Polling Group**  
**Barr Foundation – Transportation Poll**  
Survey of 1,390 Massachusetts residents  
Field dates: October 23 - November 6, 2023

In a few words, what would you say is the most important transportation-related issue facing Massachusetts?  
*Open ended. Response coded into categories.*

Existing public transportation	39%
Expanding public transportation	8%
Roads, bridges, tunnels, construction	20%
Traffic / congestion	21%
Cost	9%
Safety	3%
Distracted / reckless driving	2%
None	3%
Other	8%
Don't know	3%

What grade would you give Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey on transportation, including highways, roads and bridges, public transportation like trains, subways, buses and ferries, and walking and biking?

A	7%
B	23%
C	32%
D	16%
F	10%
Don't know / refused	12%

The MBTA provides subway, bus, train, and ferry service throughout Eastern Massachusetts. What grade would you give Governor Healey for her handling of the MBTA?

A	6%
B	24%
C	28%
D	17%
F	13%
Don't know / refused	12%

Massachusetts has 15 Regional Transit Authorities that provide public bus service outside the MBTA service area. What grade would you give Governor Healey for her handling of the Regional Transit Authorities?

A	7%
B	22%
C	28%
D	13%
F	8%
Don't know / refused	22%

The Massachusetts State Legislature is responsible for funding public infrastructure, including roads, bridges, sidewalks, bike paths, and public transportation like trains, buses, and subways. What grade would you give the State Legislature for their handling of transportation infrastructure here in Massachusetts?

A	5%
B	20%
C	31%
D	20%
F	17%
Don't know / refused	7%

Thinking about traffic on the roads and highways in the part of the state where you live, would you say that traffic now is better than it was before the start of the pandemic in March 2020, worse than it was before the pandemic, or about the same?

Better	7%
Worse	52%
About the same	37%
Don't know / refused	4%

How safe do you feel doing each of the following in Massachusetts? If you do not engage in an activity, please just say so.

<b>ROTATE ORDER</b>	Very safe	Somewhat safe	Somewhat unsafe	Very unsafe	Do not do	Don't know / refused
Drive or ride in car on the highway	19%	54%	17%	5%	3%	1%
Drive or ride in a car on local roads	28%	50%	14%	4%	2%	1%
Take the MBTA subway	12%	32%	19%	8%	25%	4%
Take the MBTA commuter rail	17%	33%	12%	6%	30%	3%
Take a public bus (MBTA or RTA)	12%	34%	17%	7%	28%	3%
Walk around your community	39%	42%	10%	5%	3%	<1%
Ride a bicycle	9%	27%	21%	13%	27%	2%

**ASK IF FEELS UNSAFE DRIVING OR RIDING ON LOCAL ROADS OR HIGHWAY**

You mentioned you feel at least somewhat unsafe driving or riding in a car. Are any of the following reasons why? **Please select all that apply.**

Reckless or speeding drivers	82%
Drivers distracted by their phones	77%
Poor road conditions	66%
Road rage	61%
Some other reason	11%
None of these	<1%
Don't know / refused	<1%

**ASK IF FEELS UNSAFE ON ANY PUBLIC TRANSIT**

You mentioned you feel at least somewhat unsafe taking some form of public transit. Are any of the following reasons why? **Please select all that apply.**

Worried about COVID / other illness	26%
Worried about crime or violence	71%
Overcrowding	54%
Old broken transit vehicles	43%
Old or broken transit stations / platforms	43%
Feel unsafe at or getting to or from transit stop	38%
Some other reason	4%
None of these	1%
Don't know / refused	<1%

**ASK IF FEELS UNSAFE WALKING**

You mentioned you feel at least somewhat unsafe walking around your community. Are any of the following reasons why? **Please select all that apply.**

Lack of sidewalks	35%
Reckless or speeding drivers	54%
Drivers distracted by their phones	55%
Poorly maintained sidewalks	42%
Worried about crime or violence	65%
Lack of street lighting	41%
Lack of crosswalks or walk signals	29%
Dangerous street crossings or intersections	42%
Some other reason	8%
None of these	0%
Don't know / refused	1%

**ASK IF FEELS UNSAFE BIKING**

You mentioned you feel at least somewhat unsafe riding a bicycle. Are any of the following reasons why? **Please select all that apply.**

Lack of bike lanes on streets	48%
Lack of secure bike parking	20%
Reckless or speeding drivers	72%
Drivers distracted by their phones	69%
Lack of separated bike paths	40%
Lax enforcement of traffic laws	32%
Poorly maintained bike lanes or paths	36%
Some other reason	6%
None of these	1%
Don't know / refused	<1%

**ASK IF DOES NOT RIDE A BIKE**

You said you do not ride a bike. Are any of the following reasons why you don't ride a bike? **Please select all that apply.**

Lack of bike lanes on streets	7%
Lack of secure bike parking	4%
Reckless or speeding drivers	13%
Drivers distracted by their phones	6%
Lack of separated bike paths	11%
Lax enforcement of traffic laws	3%
Poorly maintained bike lanes or paths	3%
Do not own a bike	55%
Simply not interested in riding	35%
My trips are too far to bike	19%
Don't feel safe riding a bike	19%
Some other reason	15%
None of these	6%
Don't know / refused	<1%

**ASK IF DOES NOT WALK**

You said you do not walk. Are any of the following reasons why you don't walk? **Please select all that apply.**

Lack of sidewalks	20%
Lack of crosswalks	15%
Reckless or speeding drivers	13%
Drivers distracted by their phones	15%
Lack of streetlights	9%
Lax enforcement of traffic laws	4%
Poorly maintained sidewalks / walking paths	19%
Not able to walk	15%
Don't feel safe walking in my neighborhood	15%
My trips are too far to walk	39%
Dangerous street crossings or intersections	14%
Some other reason	18%
None of these	13%
Don't know / refused	0%

**ASK IF DOES NOT RIDE ANY PUBLIC TRANSIT**

You said you do not take public transit. Are any of the following reasons why you don't take transit? **Please select all that apply.**

No transit service near my home	26%
No transit service that takes me where I am going	21%
Transit service is not reliable	11%
Transit schedule does not fit my needs	13%
Transit is too slow	10%
Transit is too crowded	7%
Too expensive to park at transit station	5%
Too expensive to take transit	3%
Worried about crime on transit	10%
Worried about COVID/other diseases on transit	8%
Worried about the safety of transit trains / stations	8%
Simply prefer to drive	48%
Some other reason	12%
None of these	5%
Don't know / refused	1%

**Thank you. Now I'd like to ask you about a different topic.**

Governor Healey has proposed new legislation to build more affordable housing. Part of the bill would let cities and towns charge a transfer fee on the portion of a real estate sale above \$1 million. Cities and towns could use the money raised from the fee to build more affordable housing.

How much would you support or oppose allowing cities and towns to impose such a transfer fee on the portion of a real estate sale over \$1 million?

Strongly support	28%
Somewhat support	30%
Somewhat oppose	13%
Strongly oppose	18%
Don't know / refused	11%

**Thank you. We're almost done! These last questions are for statistical purposes.**

How many cars, if any, does your household own or lease?

None	10%
One	39%
Two	34%
Three	11%
Four or more	5%
Don't know / refused	1%

Do you own or rent your home, or do you have another arrangement like living with family members or student housing?

Own	56%
Rent	35%
Some other arrangement	8%
Don't know / refused	1%

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

Employed full time	48%
Employed part time	13%
Not currently employed	36%
Don't know / refused	2%

**ASK IF NOT EMPLOYED**

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

A student	8%
A homemaker	10%
Retired	52%
Temporarily unemployed	19%
None of the above	9%
Don't know / refused	1%

**ASK IF NOT EMPLOYED OR RETIRED**

If you have been seeking work, how much of an obstacle has transportation been to finding work?

A major obstacle	18%
A minor obstacle	21%
Not an obstacle	25%
Have not been seeking work	34%
Don't know / refused	2%

**ASK NEXT 4 QUESTIONS IF EMPLOYED FULL OR PART TIME**

To the best of your knowledge, does your employer offer any of the following?

A free transit pass for employees	4%
A discounted transit pass	10%
Pre-tax transit benefit, or deducting the cost of transit passes from employees' paycheck	7%
No, my work doesn't offer any discounts for transit passes	69%
Don't know / refused	11%

**ASK IF TRANSIT PASS AVAILABLE THROUGH WORK**

Do you get a transit pass through work?

Yes	29%
No	69%
Don't know / refused	3%

Does your work offer any form of parking, free or paid, for employees?

Free parking	57%
Parking paid per month	5%
Parking paid per day	2%
None of these	32%
Don't know / refused	4%

How often do you work from home right now?

Every work day	14%
A few times a week	20%
A few times a month	7%
Less than once a month	3%
Never, I prefer not to work from home	5%
Never, this is not an option for my work	50%
Don't know / refused	1%

**ASK FOLLOWING 2 QUESTIONS IF COMMUTE TO WORK WITH ANY FREQUENCY**

When you commute to work, how do you do so? **Please select all that apply.**

Drive	83%
Take the MBTA subway	10%
Take a public bus (MBTA or RTA)	11%
Take the commuter rail	7%
Take a ferry	1%
Ride a bike	3%
Walk	11%
Don't know / refused	1%

Why do you commute the way you do? *Open ended. Responses coded into categories.*

Only option	27%
Cost	8%
Time / length of commute	21%
Safety / Health	3%
Parking	3%
Traffic	2%
Dislike / avoid public transit	4%
Convenience / ease / flexibility	27%
Can't drive / no car	4%
Owns a car	5%
Personal preference	6%
Timing / work schedule	3%
Required for Job	6%
Other	6%



## Demographics

### Gender:

Man	47%
Woman	51%
Non-binary	1%
Some other way	<1%
Don't know / refused	<1%

### Age:

18-29	22%
30-44	24%
45-59	25%
60+	28%
Don't know / refused	<1%

### Race:

White	73%
Black	7%
Latino	10%
Asian	7%
All other	3%
Don't know / refused	<1%

### Party ID:

Democrat	34%
Republican	14%
Independent / Other	47%
Don't know / refused	5%

### Education:

High School or less	32%
Some college, no degree	26%
College graduate (BA/BS)	24%
Advanced degree	18%
Don't know / refused	<1%

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## About the poll

These results are based on a survey of 1,390 Massachusetts residents. Oversamples were conducted to obtain a total of 204 Black, 197 Latino, and 151 Asian residents. Responses were collected by online survey and live interviews via landline and cell phones October 23 – November 6, 2023. Results within race and ethnicity were weighted by age, gender, and education level. These were then combined and weighted by race, age, gender, education, geography, and political identification to reflect known and estimated population parameters for the adult population of Massachusetts. The credibility interval for this survey is +/- 3.0 percentage points for the entire sample, including the design effect. This project was conducted by The MassINC Polling Group and sponsored by The Barr Foundation.