



Transportation Equity Report

Spring 2024

Background

The Utah Developmental Disabilities Council is working to improve transportation access and affordability. We want Utahns with disabilities to be able to get around easily. We also don't want getting around to cost a lot of money. UDDC surveyed statewide to better understand transportation. The survey questions were divided into 6 sections: community characteristics, access to opportunity, safety, active transportation, public transportation, and demographic information.



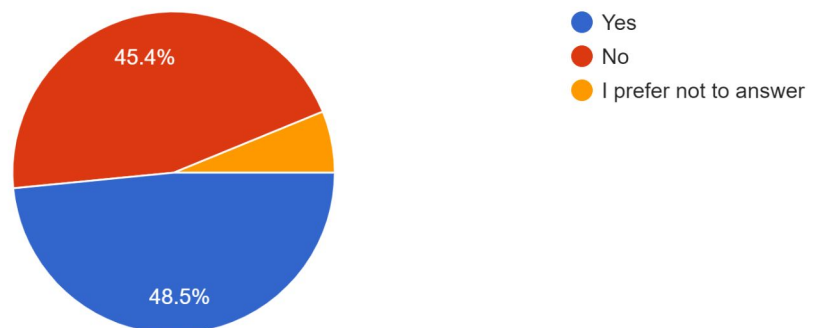
Demographic Data

195 people responded to the survey. The ages of the people who completed the survey can be seen in Chart 2.

Disability Prevalence among Respondents

The survey asked respondents to indicate if they or someone living in their house identity as having a disability; 94 people answered "yes." See Chart 1.

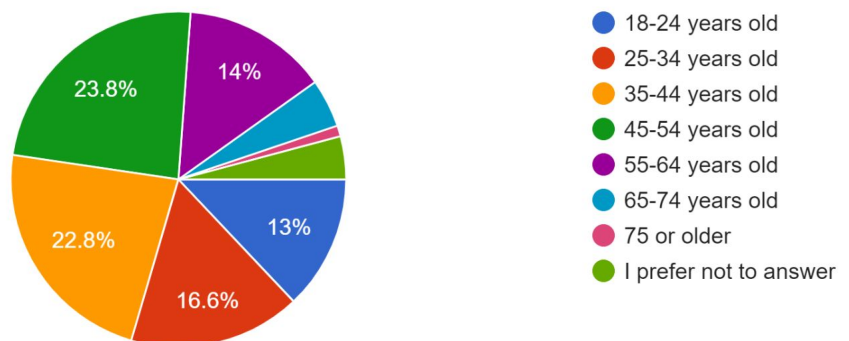
Chart 1: Household member has a disability N=194



Language Spoken in the Home

The language most often spoken at home is English (95.8%) followed by Spanish (2.1%), and Portuguese (1%).

Chart 2: Age of Respondents N=193



Race and Ethnicity

Black or African American 1.6%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander 1.6%
White or Caucasian 86%
Multiracial 2.6%
Prefer not to answer or other 7.7%

Zip Code

Residents in 88 zip codes responded; 64 cities in 21 counties are represented in the data. See Chart 4.

Access to Opportunity

Getting to Work

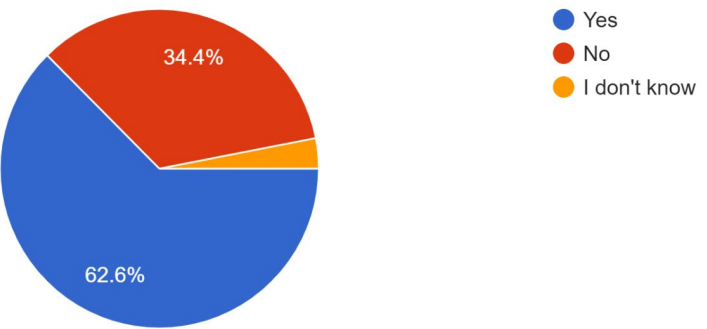
Most respondents indicated that their job is 0-20 miles (69%) from home and their commute time to work is 0-30 minutes (64%). Some respondents indicated that their commute time was 1-2 hours each way (3%). These respondents live in Eagle Mountain, Provo, Santa Clara, Payson, Logan and Draper. People who work remotely or are not employed represent 16% of respondents. Respondents who indicated that they have a difficult or extremely difficult time getting to work represent 14.3%; (difficult: Layton, Eagle Mountain, South Jordan, Ogden, Midvale, Nibley, Price, North Salt Lake, Provo, Magna, Clearfield, Saratoga Springs, Vernal, North Logan, Emigration Canyon) (extremely difficult: Deweyville, Tremonton, Draper, Milford, West Valley City, Logan, St. George, Millcreek, Cedar City.) All people stating it was extremely difficult getting to work also indicated that they or someone in their home has a disability.

Getting to School

Most of the respondents who indicated they travel to school reported that they travel fewer than 20 miles one way (36.5%) and that their commute is fewer than 30 minutes (37.4%). Similar to commuting to work, some students reported a difficult (3%) or extremely difficult (4%) time getting to school. (difficult: Ogden, Tremonton, Moroni, Syracuse, Logan, The Avenues neighborhood of Salt Lake City) (extremely difficult: Provo, Draper, Milford, West Valley City, St. George, Cedar City, Murray.) All people stating it was extremely difficult getting to school also indicated that they or someone in their home has a disability.



Chart 3: Is public transportation like buses, Trax, or Frontrunner available in your community?
N=195



We asked respondents to share places they need to go but can't because they don't have a way to get there.

Recreation and Social

"I can't have my daughter and her husband come to my house, because there is no public transportation for their wheelchairs."

Lakes, trailheads, and canyons
Social activities, my friend's house, leisure activities
Movie theaters
Volunteer opportunities
Recreation centers and swimming pools
Libraries
Community events
Parks
Picnics
Concerts



Health and Wellness

Medical appointments in a different area
Non-emergency hospital visits after hours
Doctor and dentists
Gyms and fitness centers
Church and religious services

Access to Opportunities

"I'd like to be able to do more shopping/recreation/errands but without local bus service, that just isn't an option."

Going places in the evenings, late night, holidays and weekends is difficult for many respondents.

Working evenings and weekends or employment opportunities that are further from home is not an option for many who rely on public transit or friends and family for rides. *"I have to get rides everywhere I go, so it always depends on someone else being available to take me."*

"Anything across town, like to the post office to pick up my mail since we don't have mail carriers."

"Anything out of town is almost impossible."

Getting to Community Services and Resources

While the majority of people responded no or low difficulty (68%), 28% people indicated moderate to extreme difficulty getting to community services and 33% of people indicated that they experienced moderate to extreme difficulty getting to healthcare services. Similar difficulty was reported for traveling to recreational and sporting activities (23%).

The majority of respondents indicated they either have none to little difficulty (55%) getting to religious and church services or that they don't participate in such activities (28%). The remaining indicated they have moderate to extreme difficulty getting to church (17%).

22% of respondents indicated there are places they need to go but cannot because they do not have a way to get there.

Getting to Shopping Centers and Grocery Stores

Many respondents indicated they would like to access shopping centers more often, but they are difficult to access. 15% reported moderately difficult, 9% difficult, and 5% extremely difficult.

Conditions That Make it Difficult to Navigate

Lack of sidewalks or crosswalks (44%), cracked or missing sections of sidewalks (48%), long distances between crosswalks (39%), lack of bike or shared use lanes (40%), seasonal debris blocking road and pathways (50%) untextured, unmarked or lack of curb cuts (32%). Others commented about dim lighting and poorly marked or missing road signs.



"Today I'm going to miss out on a town celebration because the park is too far to walk to. I only live a couple miles out, but still. It's hard to go make more friends and connections if you can't get there in the first place. It's isolating and depressing. Nobody cares."



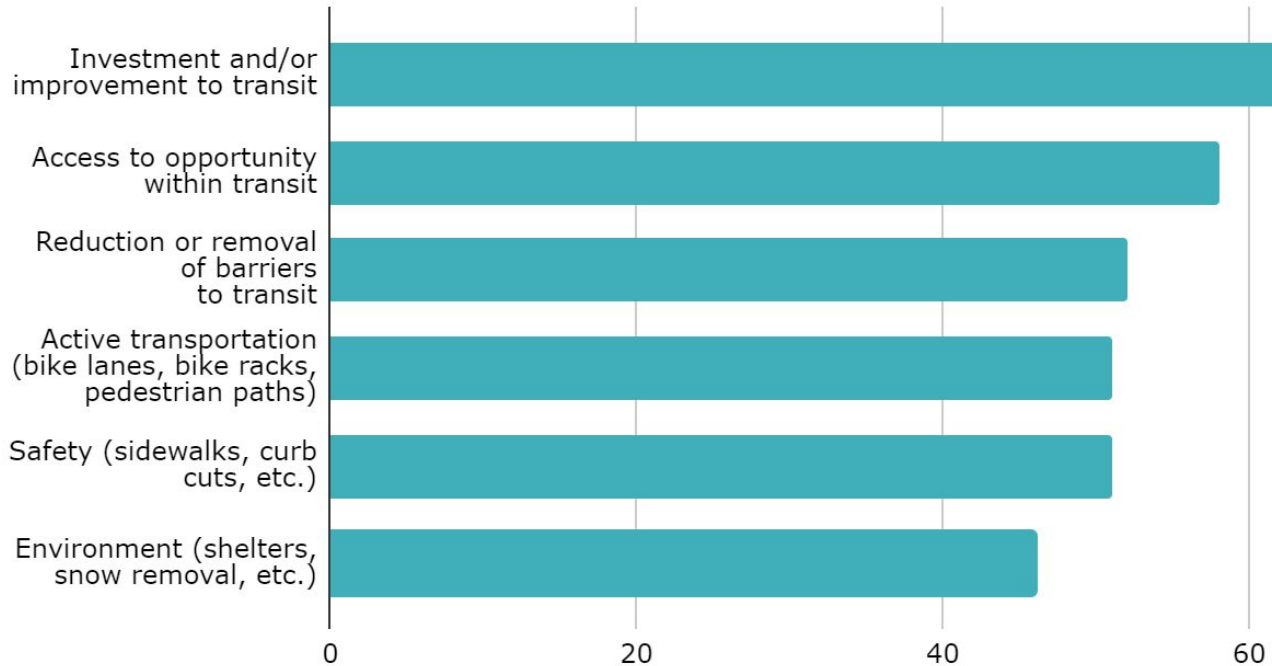
Safety

80% of people feel that it is safe to walk, bike and use transportation in their communities. Respondents notes that the top safety concerns are cars speeding (68%) heavy traffic (50%), lack of accessible sidewalks, meaning they are blocked, there are not curb cuts or they are unmaintained (48%), lack of snow removal (36%), and lack of street lights (32%).

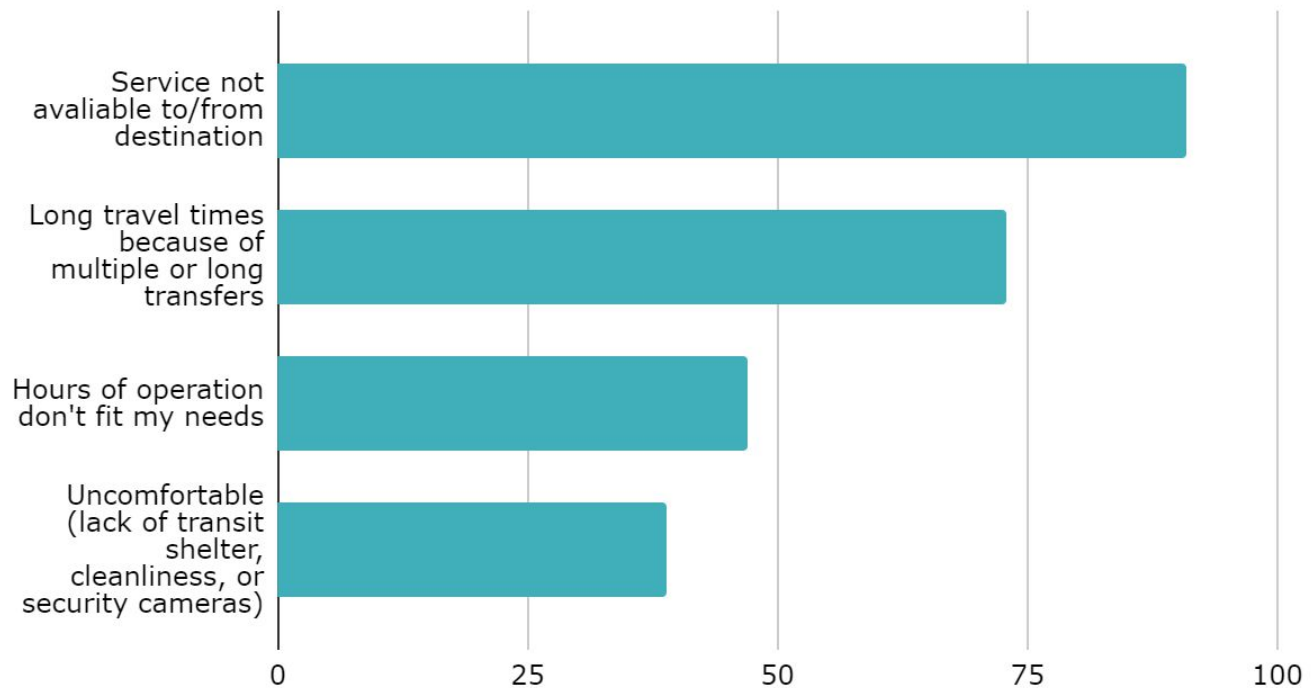
39% of people said they are unaware or unsure of how to access safe areas, shelter or daily needs in the event of a wide spread emergency while 44% of people reported that access to transit was the most prominent community need in an emergency situation. 38% of people stated that community awareness of emergency evaluation plans, resources and services were the most important.

Issues and Priorities

Priority of Addressing Transportation Issues



Top Public Transportation Issues



Improvements According to Respondents

"Culturally-sensitive and aware transportation workers. Have community members from the various communities lead efforts (maybe focus groups?) to understand the needs of the people who need help with transportation the most. Create leaders in each community, bring in consultants from various types of communities who have different needs. This doesn't just include refugees or people who speak different languages. This includes anyone that doesn't look like or think like the public transportation workers, but who live in Utah. UTA and other public transit could also hire more diverse employees from those areas."

"[Utah] is very focused on auto access. It is difficult to live here and get access to work, participate in the community, shop, get access to doctors, etc., without driving your own car every day. That adds to the high cost of living and the poor air quality."

"More Microtransit and ride share options."

"Pedestrian focus- walking and bike paths from smaller communities to larger cities, adding sidewalks on major roads to shopping centers and schools."

"Pedestrian safety- improved lighting, mechanisms to reduce speeding, keeping the sidewalks clear of debris, repairing and maintaining uneven sidewalks, crosswalks and shorter intersection crossings"

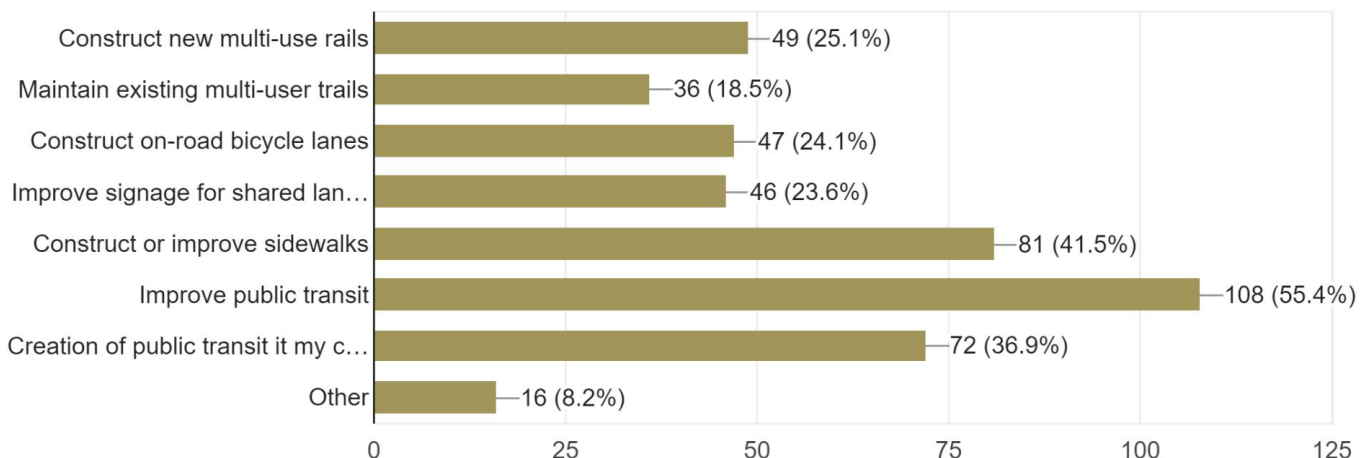
"Improved routes with fewer transfers, frequency, longer operating hours, sunday and holiday service, more bus stops as to not walk as far to access, and lower cost for the rider."

"Routes from east to west."

"Our seniors bus is old and in need of upgrade for them to be comfortable and able to get to doctors appointments and shopping."

Select the three most needed transportation investments in the community.

195 responses



Where Respondents Live

Chart 4: Participating Counties, Cities & Towns

