

State Transportation Commission Public Comment Period Summary and Findings

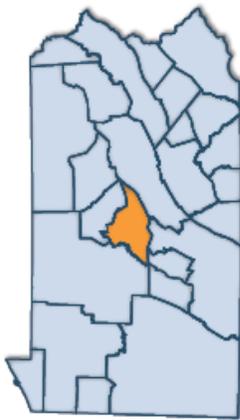
The State Transportation Commission (STC) kicked off their six week open comment period on April 16, 2015 with an online public meeting and a survey to invite public input into the Twelve Year Program update.

It is noteworthy that there were 970 individual transportation issues identified in Centre County from approximately 379 respondents, which was one of the highest response rates in the state.

This appendix to the Centre County LRTP includes the following:

- The STC's summary of priorities and trends (Statewide vs. Regional)
- The STC's summary of transportation issues identified in Centre County
- A demographic summary of respondents making Centre County comments during the STC's public comment period
- The MPO's analysis of key findings/themes from the individual comments received.

A Closer Look at Your Region



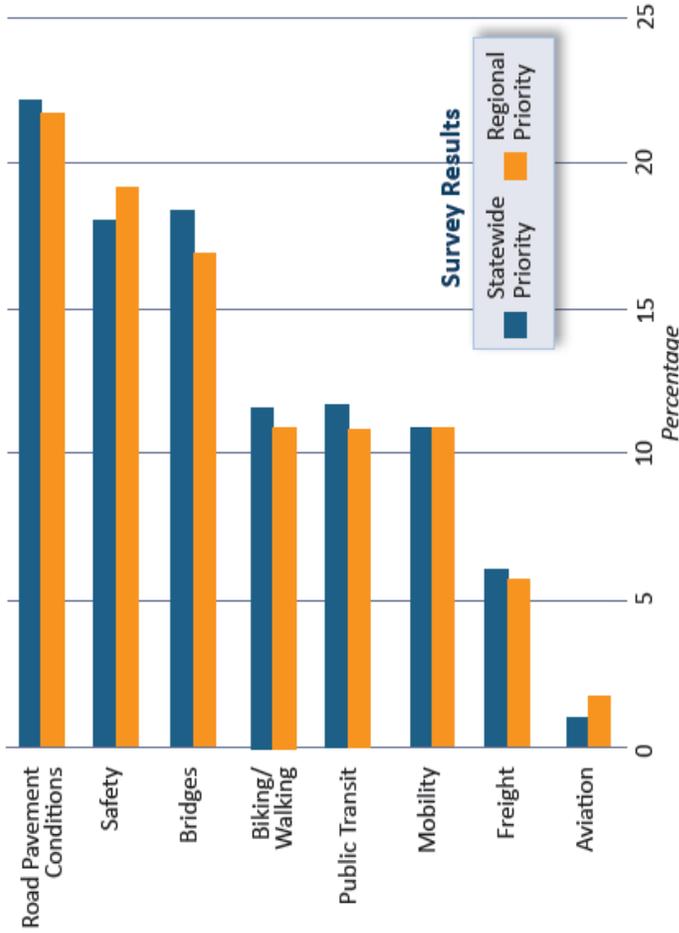
The State Transportation Commission kicked off their six-week open comment period on April 16, 2015 with an online public meeting and survey to invite public input into the Twelve Year Program update. Survey comments for each Planning Partner region were analyzed to understand regional priorities and transportation trends. This report shares the regional results.

Balancing Transportation Priorities and Investment

Participants were asked to rank their top five priorities from a list of eight transportation issues and budget investment for each priority. In general, customers' priorities aligned with investment in each category.



Survey Results: Statewide Priorities vs. Regional Priorities



About the Chart

This chart examines how survey respondents ranked transportation priorities. The top priorities for the statewide and regional level are compared. Survey respondent's location was determined by the location of the issues identified.



Twelve Year Program Update - Survey Results by Region CENTRE COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

Transportation Issues Identified

Survey participants identified **970** transportation issues in the Centre County MPO region. **Road pavement conditions, safety and biking/walking** were the most commonly identified issues in the region.

Number of Issues Identified

	281	Road Pavement Conditions
	264	Safety
	257	Biking/Walking
	89	Transit
	51	Freight
	28	Bridge

Comment on Biking and Walking



"Bike lane [is needed] to connect Houersville to Rt. 26 and to Branch Rd. to connect with bike lanes along those two routes."

- Local Survey Participant

For More Information

Office of the State Transportation Commission

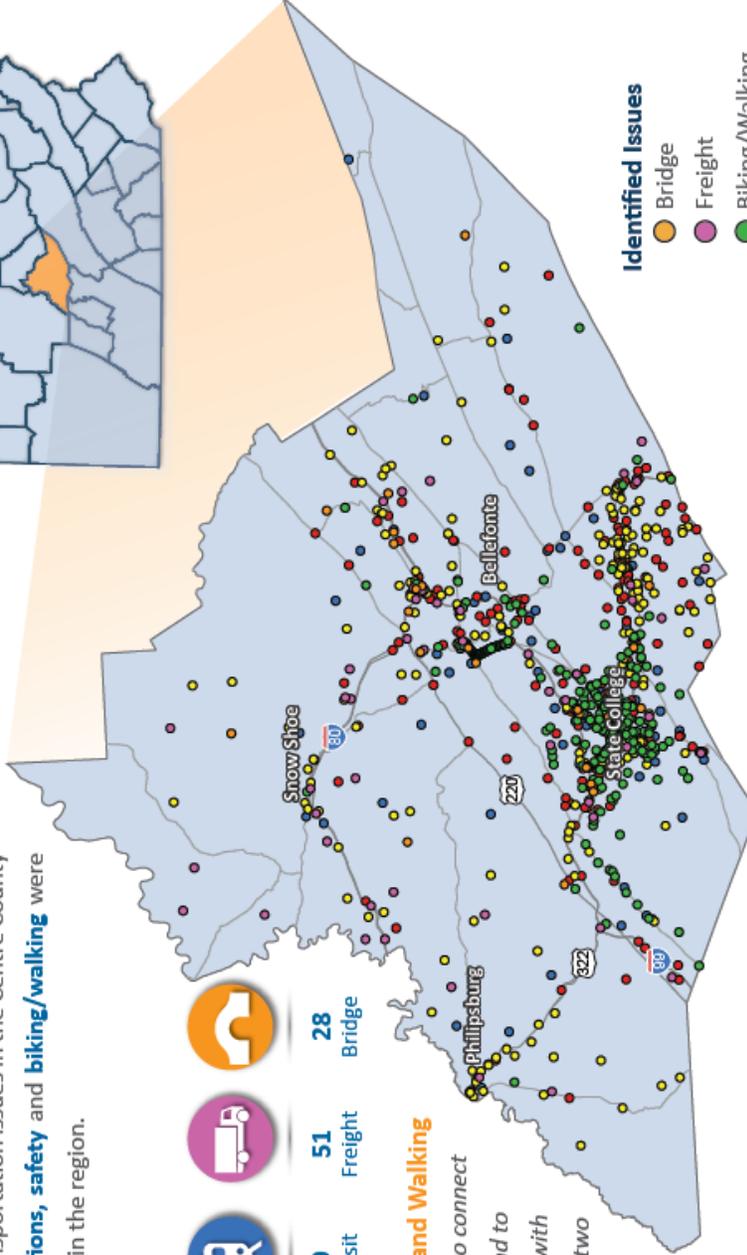
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Identified Issues

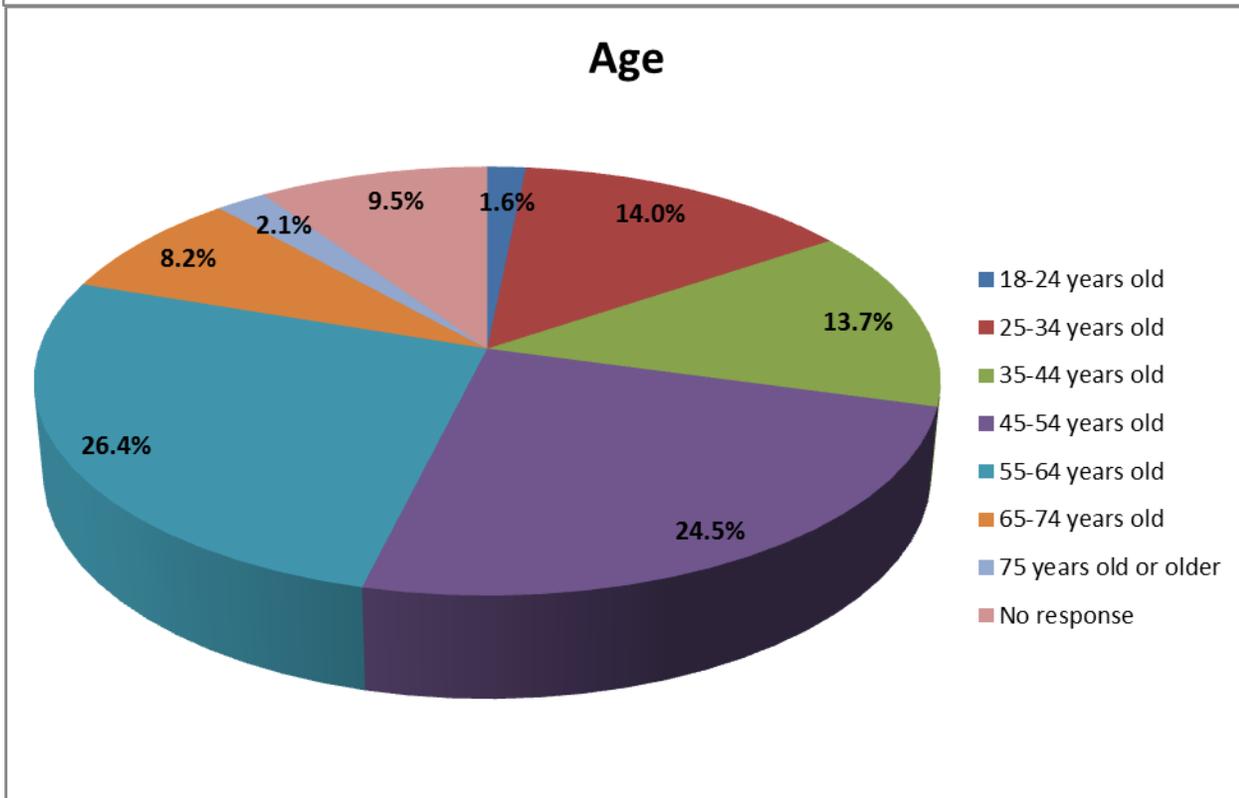
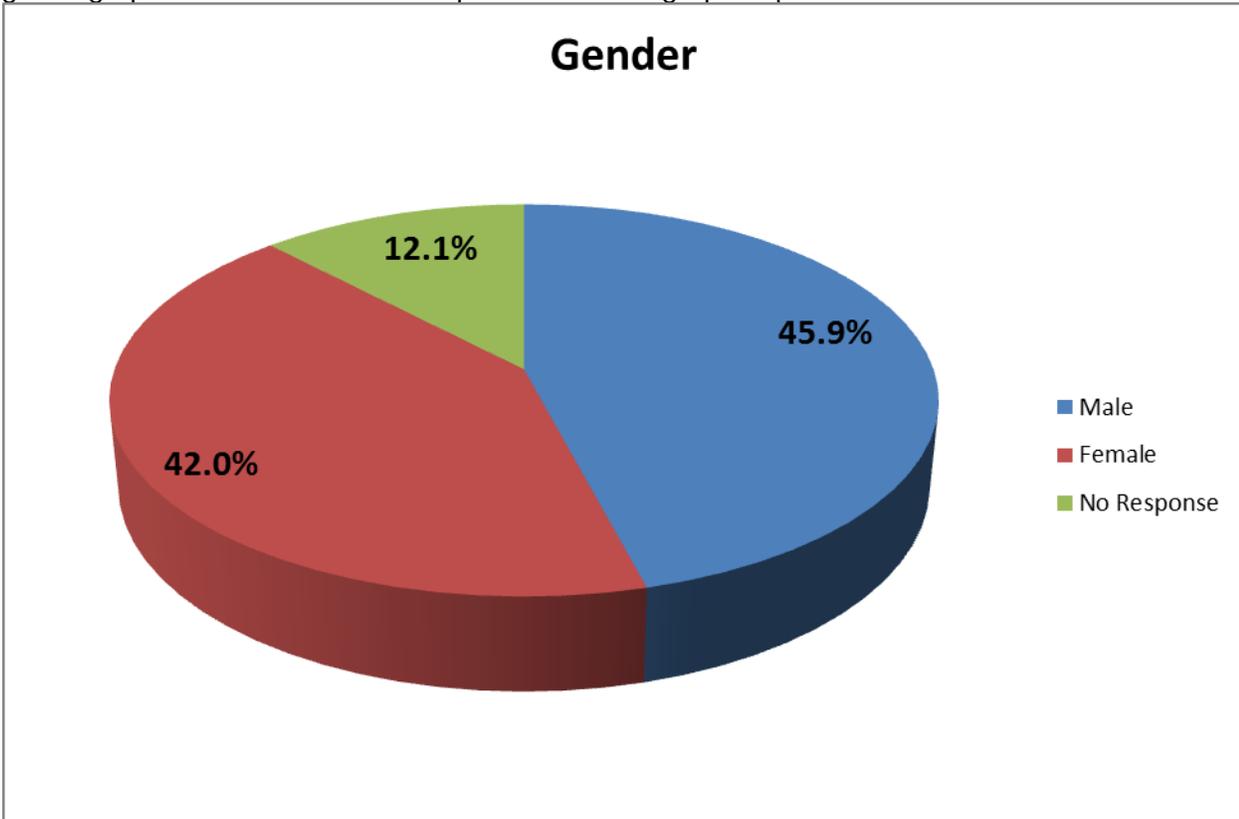
-  Bridge
-  Freight
-  Biking/Walking
-  Road Pavement Conditions
-  Safety
-  Transit



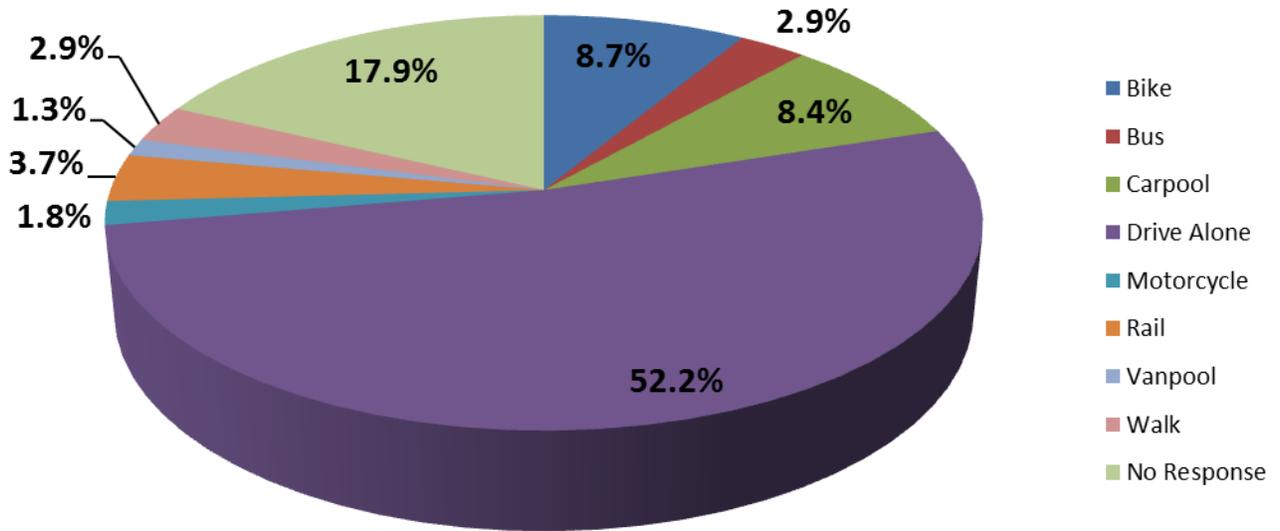
Explore the map at: www.TalkPATransportation.com/SurveyResults.html

Respondent Demographic Summary

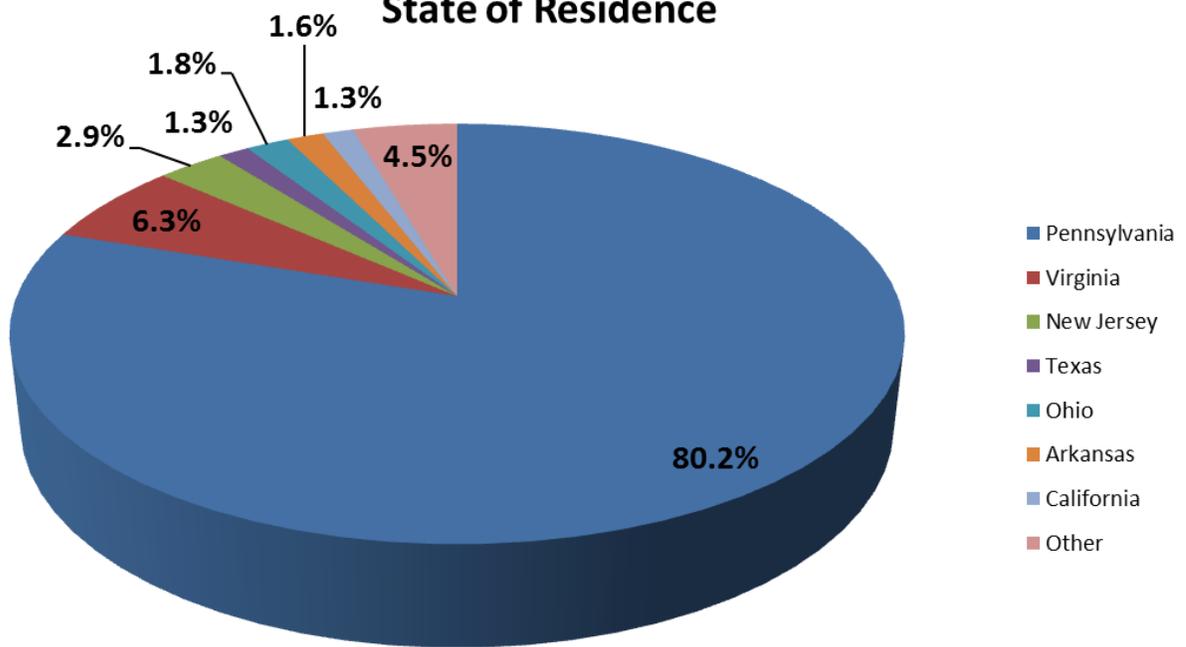
There were 379 individual respondents that identified issues within Centre County. This section will give a graphic overview of their responses to demographic questions.



Preferred Mode of Travel



State of Residence



Key Findings

MPO staff performed an analysis of comments received during the STC public comment period. In terms of a general summary, the comments received support the goals and objectives established within LRTP 2044. The following are some key findings/themes that were prevalent within the 970 individual transportation issues raised within Centre County.

Highway & ITS

- Safety was an overarching comment received across all modes.
- Respondents noted concerns related to traffic congestion on Atherton Street, within downtown State College and along SR 322 within the two lane section between Seven Mountains and Boalsburg and on the approaches to Philipsburg.
- Another frequently received comment dealt with speeding. This comment was received for numerous roadways throughout the county.
- Intersection safety was a common theme, in particular these comment area focused on red light running and the movement of bicyclists and pedestrians through intersections.
- There were numerous comments related to roadway conditions, with pot holes being the largest single concern.
- Out of 970 issues received, 121 dealt directly with the need to complete the following Projects For Future Consideration:
 - Routes 322/144/45 project – 76 comments
 - Interstate 80 & 99 Interchanges – 35 comments
 - Corridor O – 10 comments

Public Transportation

- As mentioned previously, safety was a recurrent comment. Under this category, safety focused primarily on transit driver and vehicle safety concerns.
- Need for additional service was a recurrent comment, this dealt with both a higher level of frequency of service as well as a need for more long distance commuter service.
- Transit stop amenities, in particular the need for additional locations and/or the upgrade of safety and accessibility at existing locations, was mentioned several times.
- Several respondents would like to see a passenger rail option available within Centre County.

Bicycle and Pedestrian

- Again safety dominated the comments under this category, with a primary focus on finding way to separate or better delineate vehicle & bicycle traffic and providing safe crossing locations for pedestrians.

- There were 82 individual requests for bike lanes. These requests were primarily focused within the Centre Region, however, there were some request made for longer distance commutes along Routes 26, 45, 150, 322 and 550.
- Numerous trails or trail connections were also requested throughout the county. A trail connecting State College and Bellefonte was mentioned several times.
- Providing a safe and thoroughly connected system of sidewalks was a frequent request. In particular, there were numerous sidewalk links requested in Bellefonte Borough.

Bridges

- There were few bridge comments. Those received dealt with safety, structural condition and providing pedestrian/bicycle amenities on the bridges.

Freight

- Safety was the largest issue raised. The largest single concern raised under freight was the mix of heavy trucks with commuter traffic on Route 322 and Interstate 80.
- Several commenters would like to see an emphasis placed on rail freight; again this pertained to removing some of the truck traffic off of major commuter routes.
- There were a couple comments geared toward upgrades at rail crossings to improve safety as well.

Again, overall the comments received mesh well with the goals and objectives of LRTP 2044. The STC comment period occurred following the project solicitation for LRTP 2044, however, most of the project specific comments received match against the project lists found within this plan. This reaffirms that that LRTP 2044 is in touch with what citizens and municipal officials alike are observing within the county transportation network.