



## Alternative Travel Options: What Residents Think

In 2015, the MPO commissioned a survey of El Paso residents just like you by the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI). The survey asked how people get around in El Paso, how they feel about the various travel options available to them, and what the MPO could do better to make alternative travel options more attractive to residents. By and large, respondents preferred driving their own vehicles to and from work and, for the most part, for non-work trips (e.g., shopping, leisure) as well. However, they were also very interested in active travel and public transportation but had understandable concerns, including the following:

- Is traffic safe enough for me to bike?
- Are there adequate bicycle facilities and amenities in my neighborhood?
- Is my neighborhood safe enough to walk in?
- Does my neighborhood have pedestrian-friendly businesses?
- What if it's too hot walk?
- Is there a bus stop near my home?
- Can I rely on transit schedules to get me there on time?
- What if I need to carry a lot of groceries home from the store?

The MPO is currently using feedback from the survey to help shape its regional multimodal plan to create the best plan possible for residents. And it needs your help.

## You Have a Voice

The survey provided great feedback to help us make El Paso a safer, healthier, resident-friendly traveling environment for you, your children, and your neighbors.

Would *you* be willing to walk, bike, or ride a bus? What would get you to choose one of those options? What are *your* concerns about them? You can get involved by letting the MPO know what you think of their efforts to offer more travel options to El Paso residents.

**Contact the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization and let them know: (915) 591-9735 or visit [elpasompo.org](http://elpasompo.org).**

### RESEARCH PERFORMED BY:

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### RESEARCH SPONSORED BY:

**Center for International Intelligent Transportation Research**

in cooperation with:

**El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization**



# Get Active, El Paso!

*Travel Options for El Paso Residents*



## Traffic Isn't Getting Any Better

We Texans are fond of our cars. They grant us independence. We can go anywhere we want anytime we want. But the next time you're sitting in traffic going nowhere fast, take a look around. There's not a lot of space left to expand the lanes around you. It's already taken up with businesses and residences along the roadway. So, if we can't build our way out of traffic congestion, what can we do? Flying cars aren't here...yet.

One thing we can do is to choose a different way of getting to our destinations. Walking, biking, taking the bus, carpooling—for many trips, these alternatives can help you bypass that line of cars waiting in traffic.

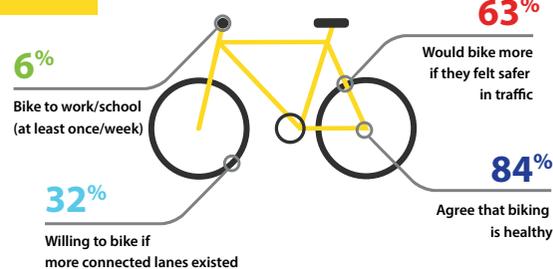
## The El Paso MPO and You

The El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is the regional planning and programming agency responsible for working with residents; neighborhood groups; local, state and federal agencies; and transportation providers in El Paso County, Texas, and southern Doña Ana and Otero Counties in New Mexico. The MPO's goal is to create one voice across these various agencies to benefit the most area residents possible while reflecting the community's unique needs and concerns.

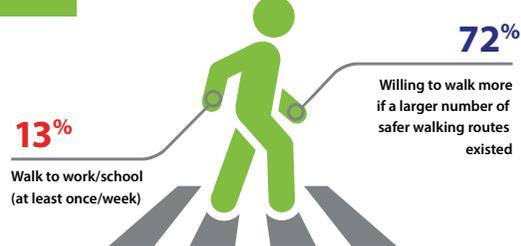
Currently, the MPO is looking at ways to increase mobility for residents as it creates its multimodal plan for the future. Part of that plan involves motivating you to take different travel choices. What would convince you to bike more? Is walking more feasible in certain situations than others? By encouraging residents to choose other travel options, we can relieve roadway congestion and increase public health at the same time.

### SUMMARY STATISTICS: RESIDENTS AND ALTERNATIVE TRAVEL MODES

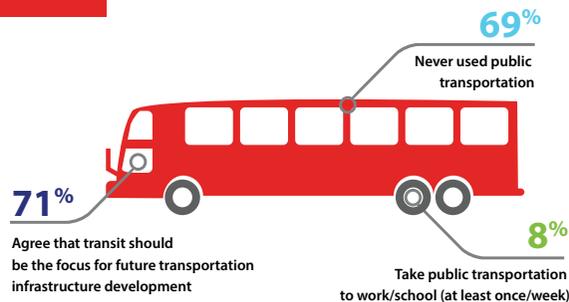
#### BIKING



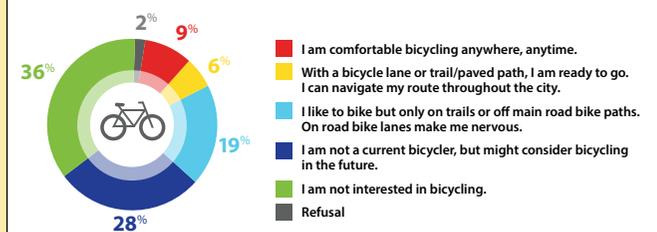
#### WALKING



#### TRANSIT



### BICYCLING ORIENTATION



More enthusiastic cyclists believed more strongly in the **positive health effects of bicycling** and its lower levels of stress compared to driving.



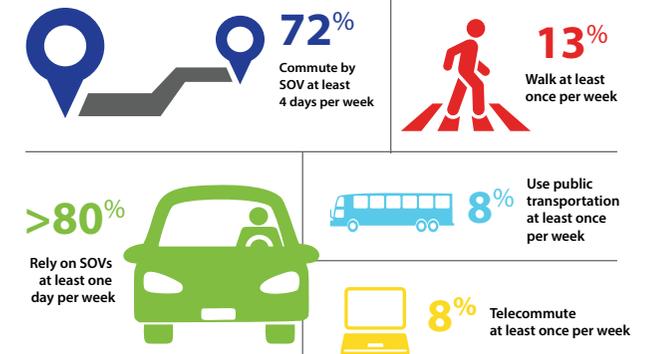
**Traffic safety** was the most frequently cited deterrent to bicycling, except for those "comfortable bicycling anywhere." The most comfortable cyclists selected **distance** as a deterrent slightly more frequently than safety.



The **provision of bicycle lanes** appeared to be the strongest motivator of bicycling among all groups currently cycling or interested in it.

### HOW RESIDENTS PREFER TO COMMUTE

Like most Texans, El Paso residents rely heavily on single-occupancy vehicles (SOVs) for commuting.



These statistics are based on the 2015 El Paso Multimodal Survey conducted by the Texas A&M Transportation Institute.

## It's About Choice

Sometimes driving a car is necessary, but sometimes it isn't. The MPO wants to give residents choices in how they get where they're going. A quick trip to the local market for a few things might be quicker by bicycle than by car. If you and a neighbor work in the same neighborhood, carpooling could save you both money. Is the bus stop within walking distance of your home? Taking the bus could save you the headache of parking. The MPO is looking at how its future planning efforts can help promote these options to you and your fellow residents.

## It's About Health

Did you know that El Paso's population has a very high rate of diabetes and obesity? A sedentary lifestyle—which can include driving everywhere in a car—contributes to poor health. More cars on the roadways also mean more pollution in the air, and that can cause cardiopulmonary problems, too. By choosing more active travel options, like biking and walking, El Paso residents can not only increase their personal health, but help reduce health threats to others by, for example, helping clear the air of car exhaust.