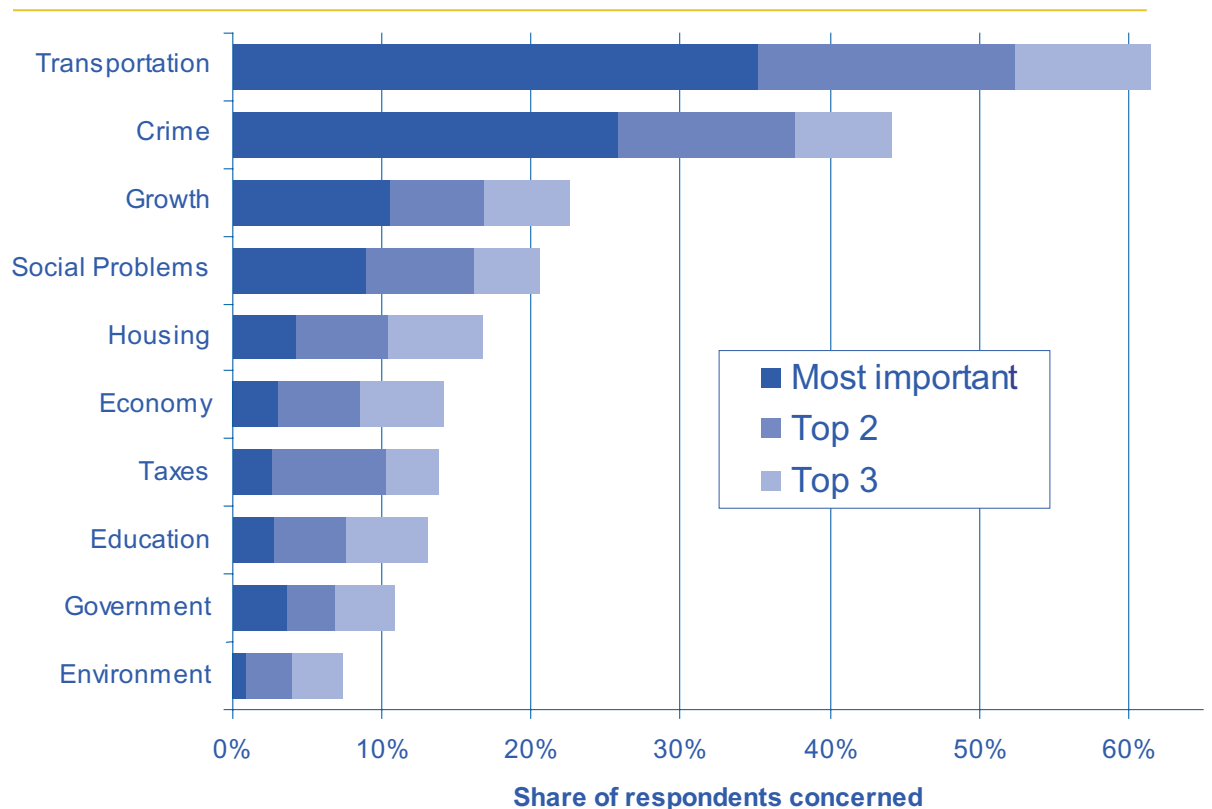


2005 Metropolitan Survey

Transportation and crime top list of resident concerns

Transportation and crime led the region's list of problems in an annual survey conducted by the Metropolitan Council, both as the region's most important issue and as one of the top three issues facing the region. When asked to name the region's "single most important problem," 35 percent of area residents mentioned traffic congestion and transportation. Public concern about crime increased from 17 percent in 2004 to 26 percent in 2005.

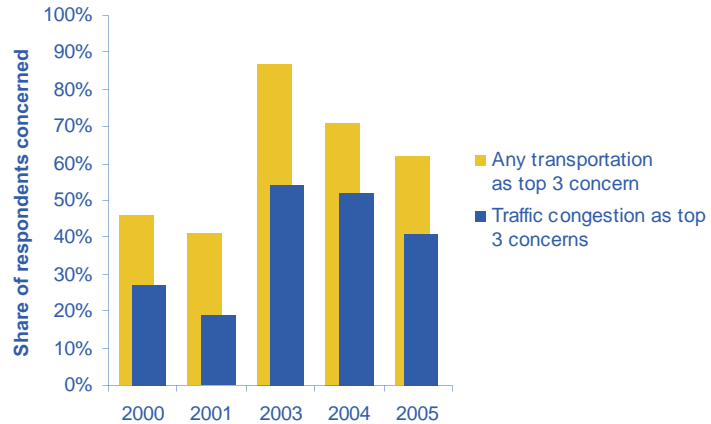
Top 10 concerns in the metro area



Traffic congestion leads transportation concerns

While this is the fifth consecutive top ranking for transportation, fewer people were concerned about transportation in 2005 than in 2003 and 2004. One interpretation is that drivers have become accustomed to traffic conditions. Transportation system research has shown that road congestion in the region may have leveled off since 2003.

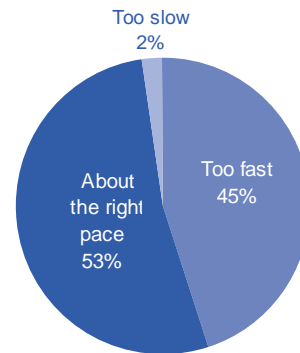
Traffic congestion and other transportation issues as top 3 concerns



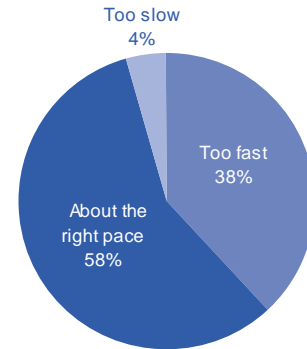
Growing concerns about growth

While most residents continue to feel that the region as a whole is growing at about the right pace, residents are increasingly concerned about growth in their own community. Since 2000, the percentage of residents concerned about local growth has increased from 26 percent to 38 percent.

Public opinion on growth in Twin Cities region



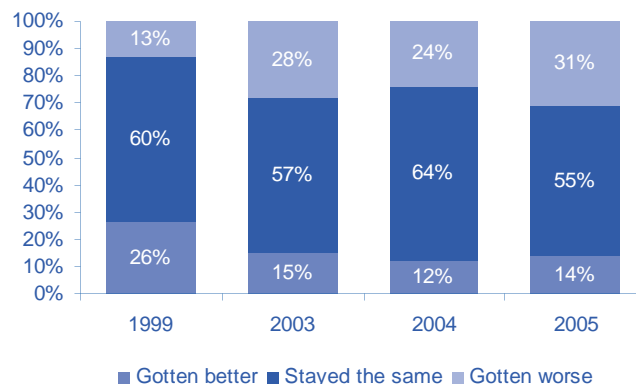
Public opinion on growth in their community



Regional quality of life good, but declining?

Positive feeling about the Twin Cities region has been consistent over 23 years of Council surveys. Ninety-six percent of survey participants said the region is a better place to live than other metropolitan areas. But only 14 percent of those surveyed felt the region's quality of life improved during the past year, while 31 percent said it has declined.

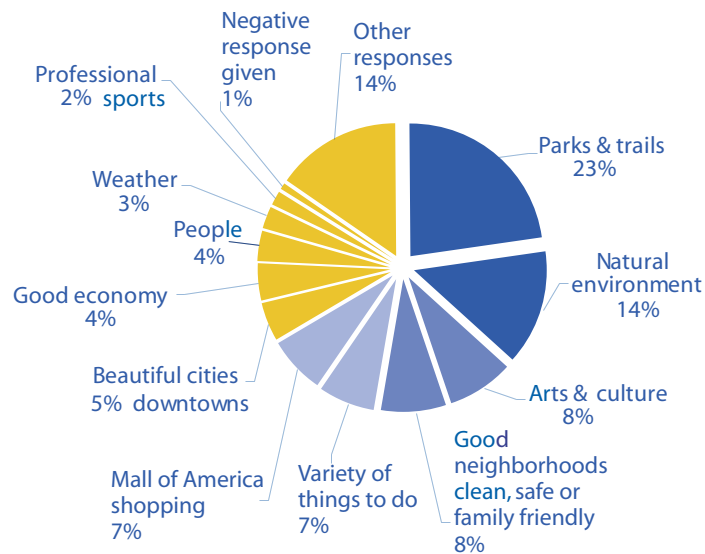
Do you think the quality of life has changed in the past year?



Parks and open space highly valued

In response to a question on the “most attractive feature” of the region, 37 percent of residents identified parks, trails, lakes and the environment. The region’s arts and culture scene attracted 8 percent of those surveyed; an equal number cited good neighborhoods. The region’s diverse variety of things to do and shopping opportunities were each mentioned by 7 percent of those surveyed.

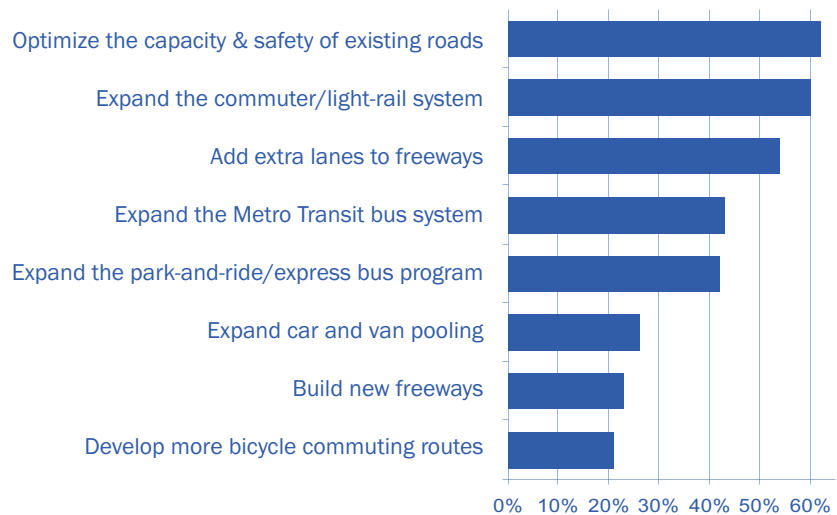
Region’s most attractive feature



Meeting transportation needs

A majority of the region’s residents say it is very important to expand the commuter/light-rail-transit system and to pursue multiple solutions to long-term transportation needs. It’s not a matter of roads or transit; it’s roads AND transit.

Transportation programs considered very important

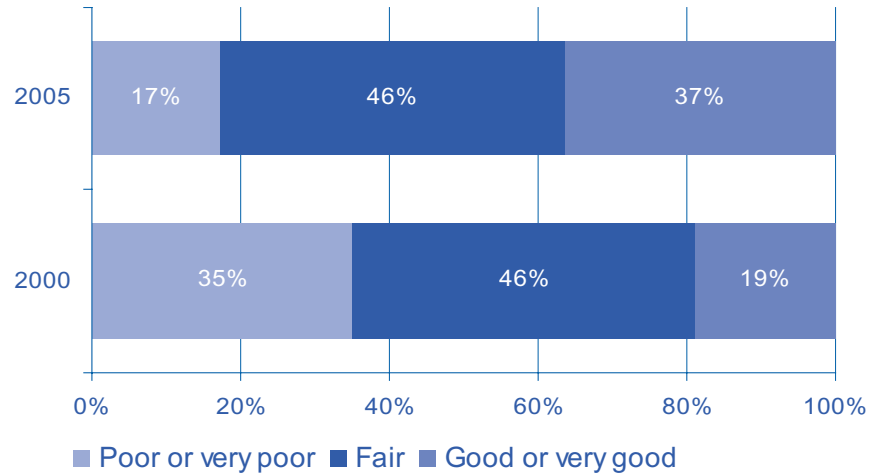


Metropolitan Council performance

The Metropolitan Council is the regional planning organization for the seven-county Twin Cities area. It runs the regional bus and light-rail system, collects and treats wastewater, coordinates regional water resources, plans regional parks and administers funds that provide housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals and families. The Council board is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Governor.

Positive public opinion about the Metropolitan Council remained steady compared to 2004, and is greatly improved from five years ago. Sixty-nine percent of those surveyed said they have heard about the Metropolitan Council; 37 percent of those who had heard about the Council said it is doing a good or very good job.

Public approval of Metropolitan Council performance



Importance of Council programs

At least 90 percent of those surveyed considered Council programs to monitor water quality, plan for regional growth and treat the region's wastewater to be moderately or very important. At least 70 percent of respondents gave similar ratings to all of the Metropolitan Council programs considered by the survey.

Methodology

Results are based on responses from 1,082 survey participants, collected in October and November 2005 by Metropolitan Council research staff. Participants were randomly selected from adult residents of the seven-county region. Responses are weighted to reflect demographic and geographic distribution. Estimates have a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent.

Council programs considered very or moderately important

