

Report 2015.575
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Committee Sustainable Transport Committee
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Transport Perceptions Survey 2015

1. Purpose

To present the findings of the Transport Perceptions Survey 2015 (TPS 2015).

2. Background

The Transport Perceptions Survey report presents the findings of the TPS 2015, a survey undertaken by Greater Wellington Regional Council. The TPS 2015 provides public perceptions of travel to inform regional indicators. These indicators are utilised in the Annual Monitoring Report for the Regional Land Transport Plan and the Genuine Progress Index.

It is important to note that this is a perceptions survey and uses self-reporting to capture the information presented here. The survey may therefore present information which appears different to other data collected through alternative methodologies eg GWRC public transport patronage.

Changes to the survey in 2012

The survey has been run in various forms regularly every two or three years since 2003. In 2012, the survey was substantially revised such that the questions relating to public transport were removed and were instead reported using the Public Transport Passenger Satisfaction Survey (PTPSS). This survey was reported to this Committee at the meeting held on 9 September 2015.

The methodology for the 2015 survey differed to the 2012 survey in that it was run as an online questionnaire using a research panel. In 2012, both a telephone survey and online questionnaire were used to survey the Wellington region. The 2012 survey results revealed that when comparing both methods the results were not significantly different. With this in mind GWRC changed to the online method for this survey in 2015.

Sample and content

This year 1,501 respondents from the region answer the survey. As in previous years, the sample was weighted to represent the region demographics, which included representative samples at the Territorial Authority (TA) level. So the survey results provide transport perceptions at both the Wellington TA and regional level.

The questionnaire asks respondents about their experience and perceptions of transport in the following areas:

1. Travelling around the region
2. Travel to study or work
3. Getting around the region using a private car
4. Carpooling
5. Cycling
6. Walking
7. Safety.

A copy of the Executive Summary of the 2015 Survey is attached (**Attachment 1**) to this report.

3. Comment

The survey first asks respondents about the modes of transport they have used to travel within the region. The transport usage questions consist of self-reported responses with some multiple-response.

The main findings from the survey are as follows:

Modes of transport

Respondents were asked to identify all modes of transport that were used in the last three months. This question collects multiple responses from each respondent and these results provide information about the range of transport modes used recently for all travel within the region. The 2015 survey results showed that public transport usage increased and car use decreased compared to the 2012 transport perceptions survey.

Reported bus use went up 5 percentage points to 61% compared to 2012, and reported train use went up four percentage points to 50% over the same time period. 68% of respondents reported that they had used a private car, as driver. In 2012, the corresponding figure was 82%. Similarly, reported travel in a private car as a passenger dropped to 61% in 2015 from 73% in 2012.

Respondents that travel to work or study were asked what is their main mode of transport, 2015 results show that private car use (as driver or passenger) has dropped to 43% compared to 56% in 2012. Cycling had increased to 4% (from 2% in 2012) and walking had increased to 8% (from 7% in 2012)

Dedicated cycle-way (new question in 2015)

77% of respondents agreed that providing a dedicated cycleway was a good option to make cyclists feel safer and encourage cycling around their local area. Greatest support for this was in the Hutt Valley.

Travelling in the region

55% rated the ease of travelling in the region as very good or good compared to 65% in 2012. Porirua respondents rated travel less favourably than respondents in other areas. For those with private transport, reliability as good or very good was also down to 49% in 2015 from 63% in 2012.

Cycling

There was a significant increase in the percentage who said cycling was a good option for most of the work/study trips they make – 17% overall in 2015 (up from 12% in 2012), and 15% of those whose main form of transport to work or study is not currently cycling. Strongest agreement (23%) was from respondents in Wellington City.

Walking

Overall, the percentage of employed or studying respondents who said they walked or ran on some occasions has increased to 21% in 2015 (from 16%), while the percentage who would not consider walking to work or study has dropped to 39% in 2015 from 49% in 2012.

4. Communication

The survey report and results have been distributed to external stakeholders.

5. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

5.1 Engagement

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

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Attachment 1: Executive Summary from the Transport Perceptions Survey report 2015