



2007

Metro Residents Survey

Public opinion on the region's quality of life, leading regional issues, and the Metropolitan Council



Background

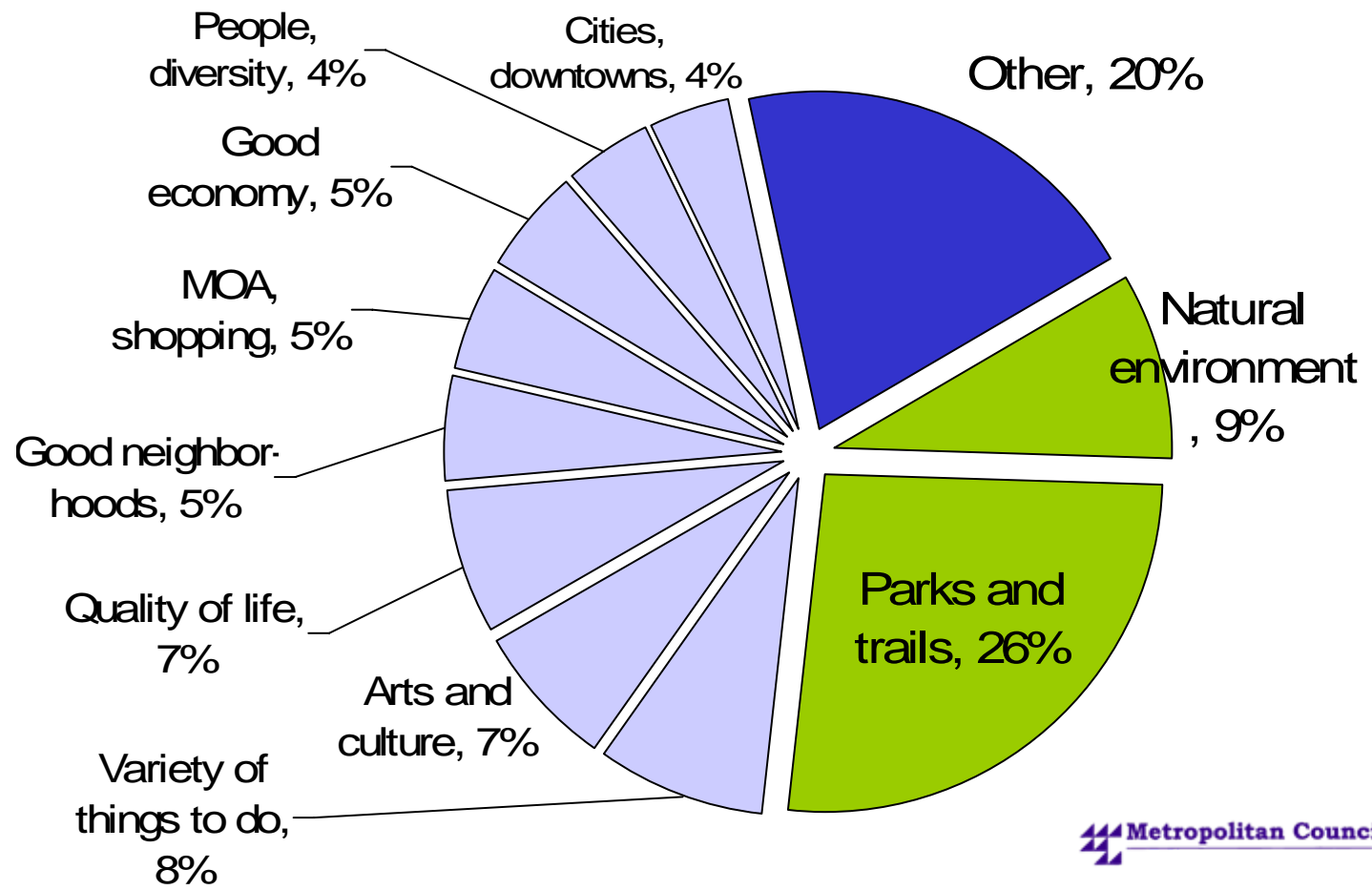
- An opinion poll – measuring and understanding public opinion
- 1,349 metro area residents participated by mail response or phone interview (48% response)
- Provides a time-series – 1982-2007



Topics investigated

- Assets of the region – quality of place
- Major problems facing the region
- Commuting solutions
- The Metropolitan Council, its responsibilities and performance

Most attractive feature or asset



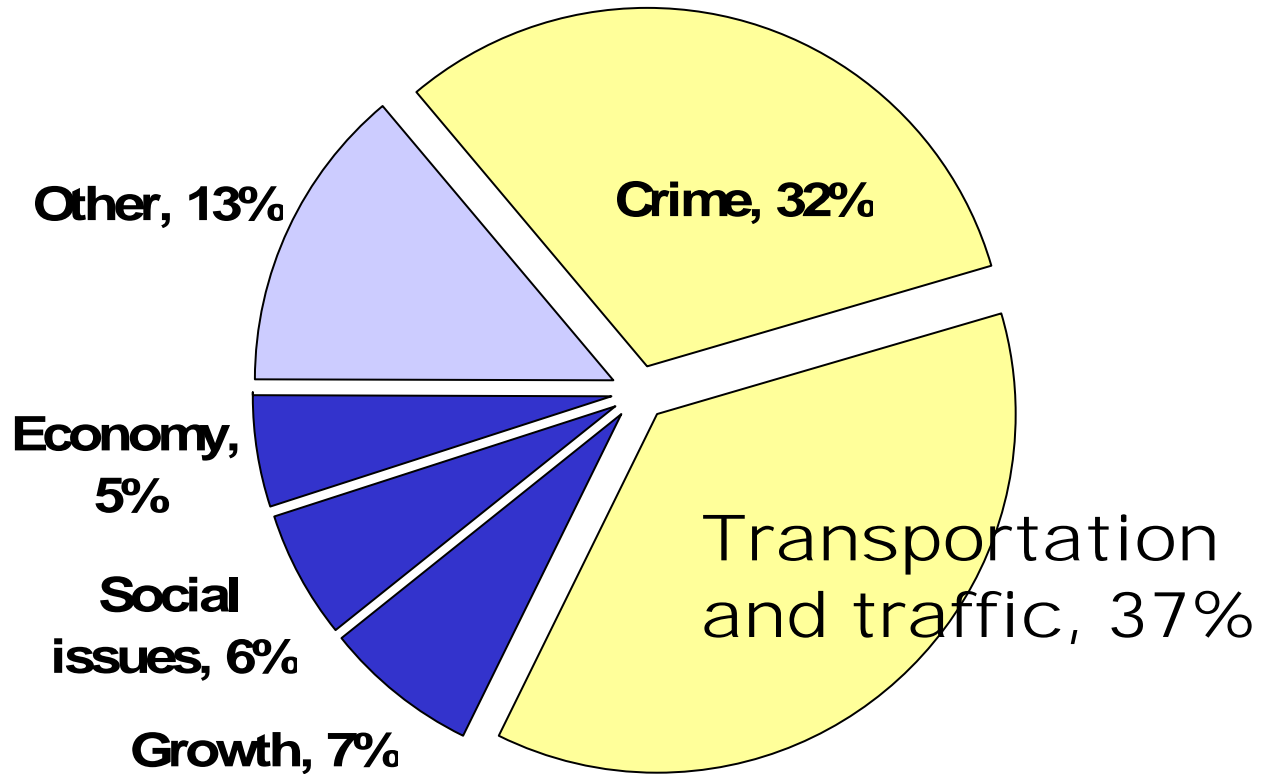
The most important problem facing the Twin Cities



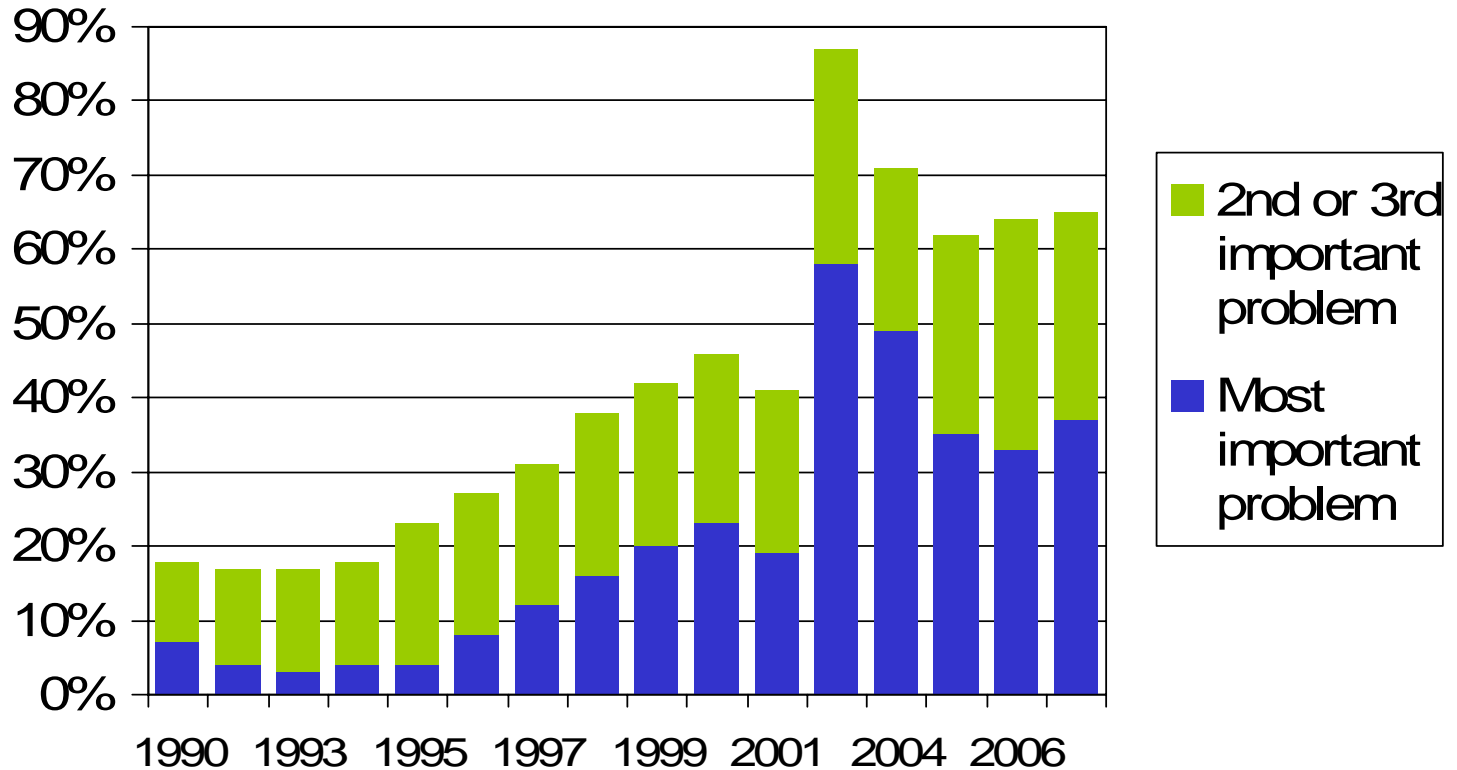
transportation road safe fix need lanes state highway it's roadway
poor repair planning just transit lack freeway better twin-cities bridge
moving people areas 35w can't issues infrastructure public traffic
congestion think projects real light-rail lot inner city use work
government growing population taxes new money construction mass
build there's big funding problem maintain car options development keeping
growth bad worse rail metro control small hard gas price getting time budget
spending way live suburbs having bus street cities rate increased spend stop
area especially north going congested school place life urban sprawl living far
business downtown like know minneapolis expensive saint-paul gas-taxes lrt
bike reduce support expand large route neighborhood education suburban
resource teachers kids quality poverty children safety services lower
property-taxes pay pollution water air clean low housing jobs job
healthcare too-high cost increasing higher rising health affordable home
house homeless paying welfare illegal immigration income high away county
involvement politicians good working rid responsible things care make right
program stadium crime violence violent murder drug guns gang murders
shootings increase criminal different tougher young jail police streets
law-enforcement force youth activity making social law
community building taking activities parent start servi

Text frequencies of Metro Residents Survey responses using TAPORware Word Cloud
<http://taporware.mcmaster.ca>

The most important problem facing the Twin Cities



Most important problem: Transportation and traffic





Concern over traffic and transportation

- Roads filled in the 1990s – and congestion delays quickly **doubled** during 1996-2000
- Public concern erupted during 2000-2003: 58% identified transportation as region's most important problem
- In 2007: 37% identified transportation



Still a concern

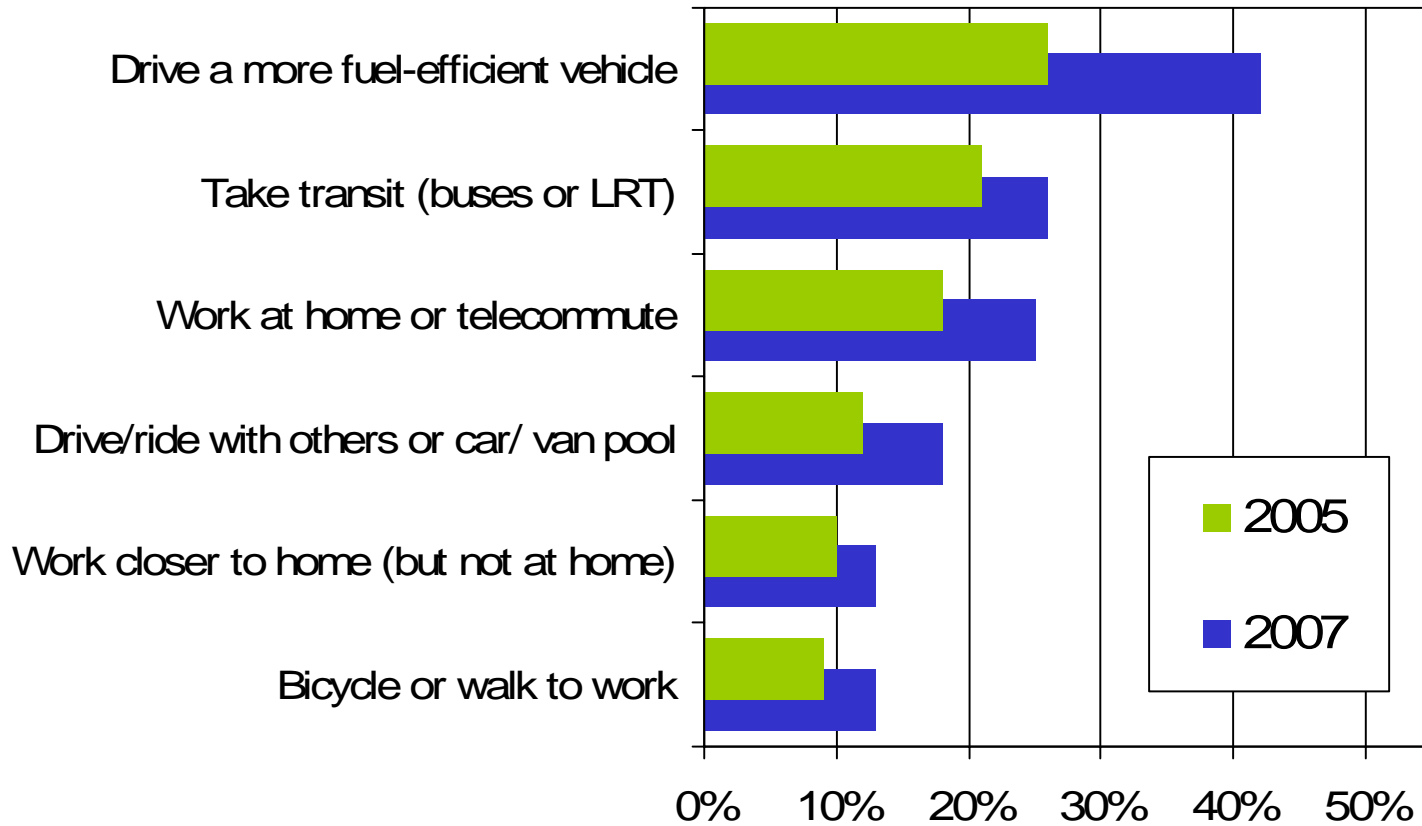
- Some bottleneck relief
- Some drivers have become accustomed to the new commute
- There was an uptick in concern in 2007: Many surveys mentioned bridges or “infrastructure”

Survey comments on transportation problems

traffic transportation road light-rail transit congestion need public mass bridge highway better bus infrastructure lack money lanes suburbs people freeway construction gas-taxes sprawl rail build increase city funding roadway use area poor building 35w options expand way problem urban like new getting stop route lrt time think car repair congested taxes it's projects work planning rush-hour just saint-paul bike increased trains growth metro south issues improve cities worse street areas downtown cars potholes service lines there's fix spend make minneapolis population twin-cities big train north going growing parking metrotransit drivers good commuting raise state lot know add ahead future systems streets rapid expanded behind safety existing east heavy means expansion suburban takes start plan town place funds condition terrible major line far county falling travel bigger communities speed west commuter government invest real river needed small conditions especially can't expanding improved expensive maintain access subway safe fixing issue flow bad reduce fixed maintenance slow support crowded paths budget live using rush-hours widen faster long met-council convenient taking outer lane efficient ramps large instead adequate day built light rage commute housing that's

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Commuters very likely to try alternatives



Commuters very likely to try alternatives

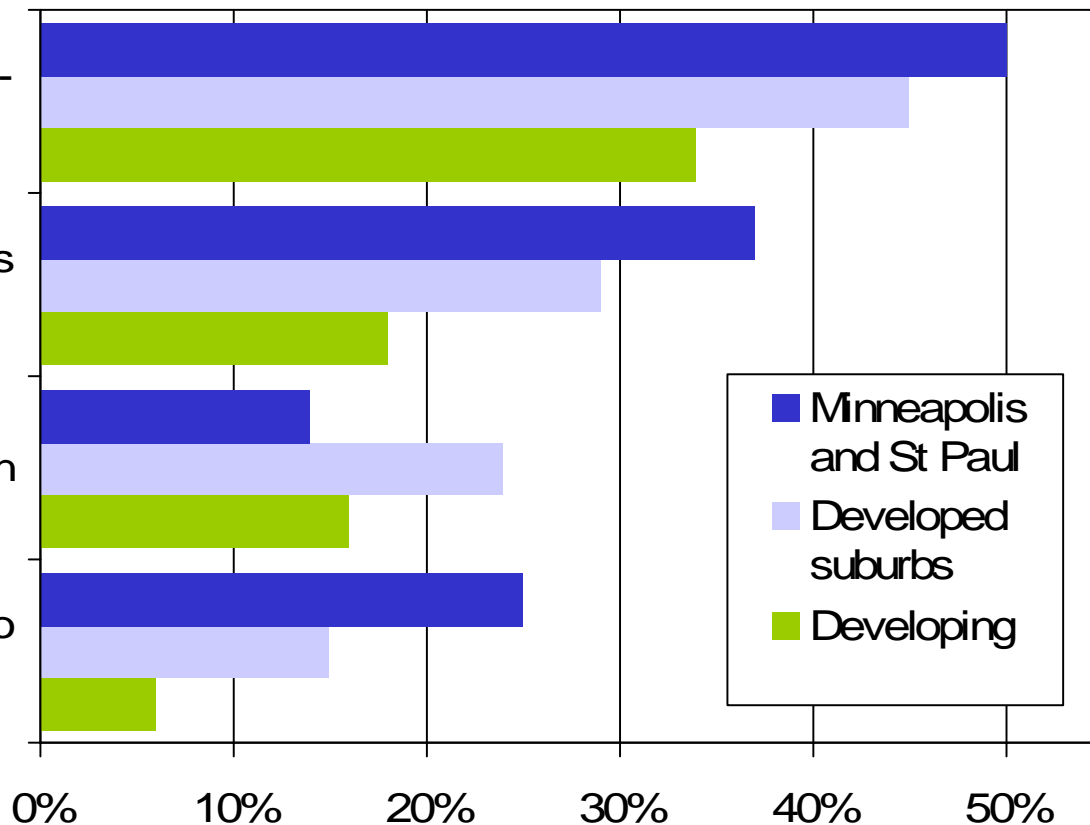


Drive a more fuel-efficient vehicle

Take transit (buses or LRT)

Drive/ride with others or car/ van pool

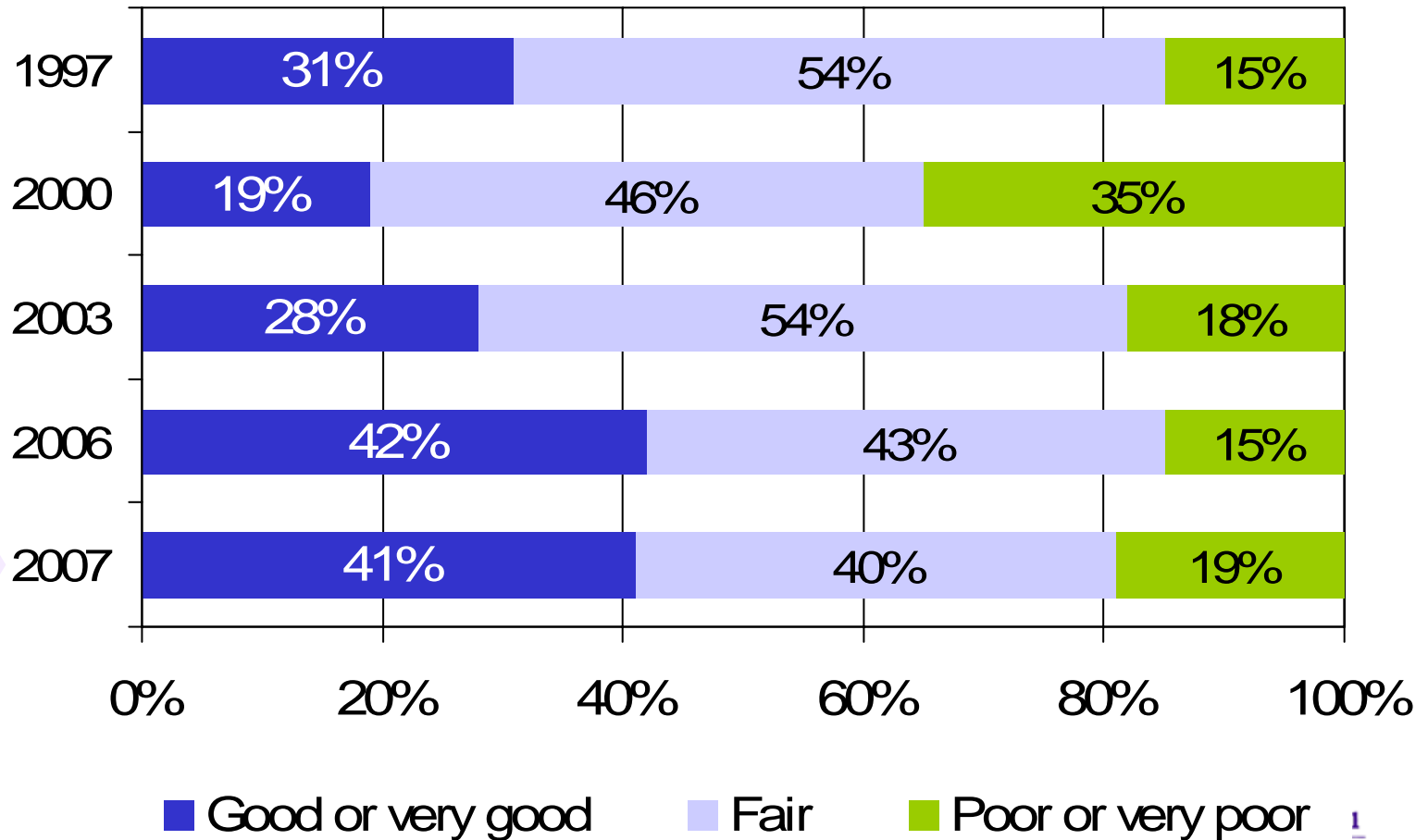
Bicycle or walk to work





Public opinion on Metropolitan Council's programs and performance

Performance approval





Factors shaping “approval” of Council

- Geographic area somewhat significant
- Opinion on change in the region’s quality of life significant
- Also valuation, perceived importance of Council’s program responsibilities (planning, transit, grants programs)

Importance of Council programs

Monitoring water supply and quality

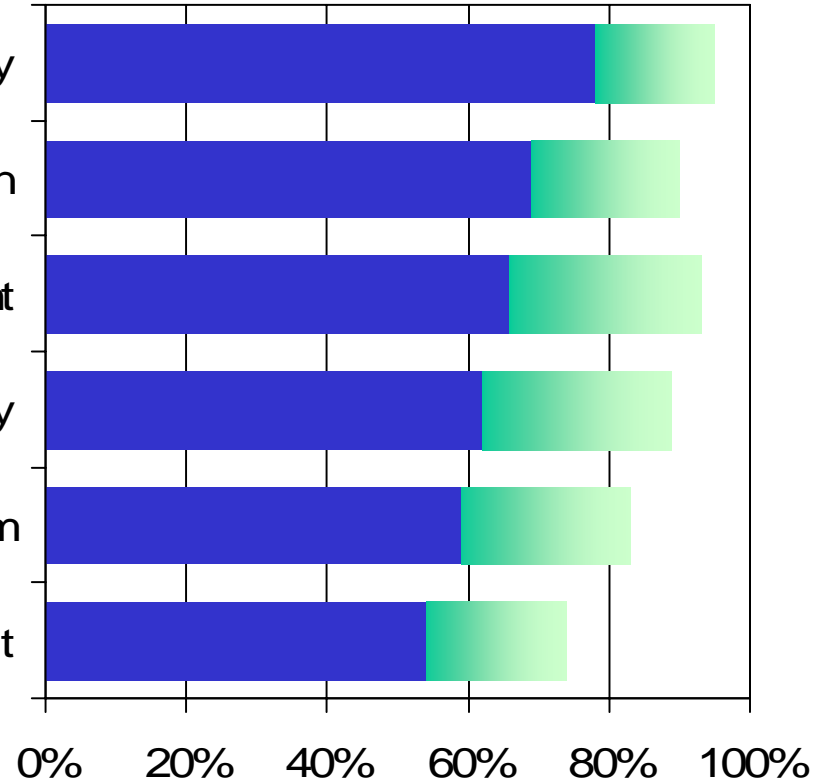
Planning for a growing population

Wastewater treatment

Natural resources, land conservancy

Metro Transit bus system

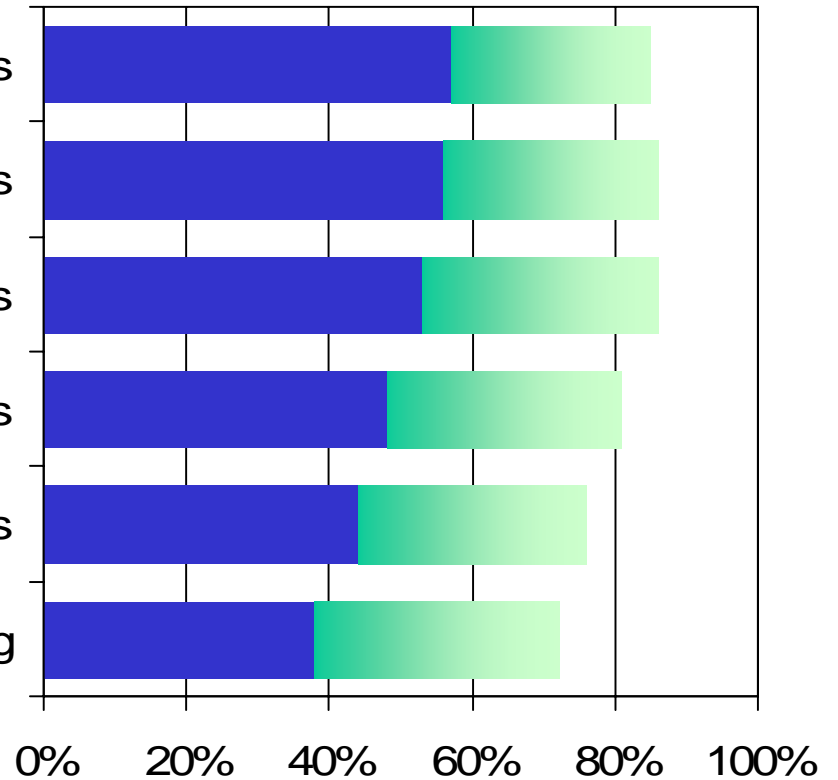
Light Rail Transit



■ Very important ■ Moderately

All programs considered very or moderately important by 70–90%

- Transportation projects grants
- Clean up and reuse brownfields
- Regional parks and trails
- Jobs, housing connections
- Coordinating across communities
- Develop and preserve housing



■ Very important ■ Moderately



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