

Davison County

MASTER TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Public Participation Summary

Davison County Master Transportation Plan

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Prepared For:

South Dakota
Department of Transportation (SDDOT)

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Prepared By:



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Introduction

Public participation for the Davison County Master Transportation Plan will be conducted over the course of the ten month project. Initially, the public will have the opportunity to provide the Study Advisory Team (SAT) with input on the existing conditions, issues, and needs of the Davison County transportation network. After the initial feedback is incorporated into the existing conditions analysis, transportation system needs will be forecasted to the year 2035 and a list of projects will be developed. The public will have the opportunity to provide input on the list of projects to help prioritize improvements throughout the County prior to the completion of the Master Transportation Plan.

Throughout the study, several opportunities will be available for public participation; including, stakeholder meetings, public open houses, transportation user surveys, and through providing comments to the SAT and project staff.

Stakeholder Meetings: Existing Conditions and Needs Assessment

On December 2, 2014, a series of stakeholder meetings were held at the Davison County Fairgrounds to gather input from businesses, organizations, and individuals identified by the Study Advisory Team (SAT) as stakeholders. During these stakeholder meetings, approximately 25 participants had the opportunity to view a presentation on the purpose of the Master Transportation Plan and the planning process. Participants also viewed displays featuring existing conditions data collected by the SAT and the consultant team.



After review the materials presented at the meeting, participants provided feedback on their issues and concerns for the Davison County transportation network. Participants identified issue locations on maps with previously identified issue locations within

Stakeholders gather around a map of Davison County to discuss transportation conditions and needs.

Davison County provided at the meeting. The following issues and concerns were identified by stakeholders throughout the meetings:

- Funding for bridge and roadway improvements
- Event traffic congestion and management along Spruce Street related to the sale barn and Dakotafest
- Bicycle and pedestrian issues along Shanard Road, across Interstate 90, and safe routes near schools
- Lighting along SD Highway 38 east of the City of Mitchell
- Bridge condition and weight restrictions
- 250th Street functioning as bypass north of the City of Mitchell
- Pedestrian mobility across SD Highway 37 in the City of Mitchell
- Vehicle safety (crashes) at the intersection of SD Highway 37/Minnesota Street and SD Highway 37/8th Avenue

- Traffic from Innovative along 23rd Avenue
- Need for bicycle and pedestrian facilities along Ohlman Street
- Increased train traffic throughout Davison County creating roadway access issues
- Bridge conditions and ability of handle loads from heavy trucks
- Need for railroad crossing lights at county and township roads

Additional issues were identified on the maps provided during the stakeholder meetings (see Appendix A).

Public Open House: Existing Conditions and Needs Assessment

An open house meeting was held December 2, 2014, at the Davison County Fairgrounds to present the existing conditions and gather input from the public on transportation network needs within Davison County. Approximately, 45 persons attended the open house to view a presentation on the purpose of the Master Transportation Plan and the planning process, review displays featuring existing conditions data collected by the SAT and the consultant team, and comment on issues within the County.



Many of the attendees provided feedback directly to the issue maps located at stations around the meeting room (Appendix A). Issues identified on the maps will be included in the overall transportation issues map for Davison County.

Open House attendees listen to a presentation on the Davison County Master Transportation Plan prior to sharing comments with project staff.

Additionally, attendees provided oral and written comments on the transportation network and issues throughout the County. Several major themes for issues within Davison County were shared with SAT members and project staff. The major themes of comments are as follows:

- Bridge condition, weight restrictions, and functionality with current road user equipment
- Traffic congestion in and around the City of Mitchell
- The use of County roadways as “bypass” routes around the City of Mitchell
- Condition of pavement throughout the County
- Intersection and roadway safety

Several written comments were received following the public open house. Written comments are included in Appendix B.

Transportation Survey Results

A transportation survey was administered between November 19 and December 26, 2014. The survey was distributed through both paper and the internet via SurveyMonkey. Persons attending the open house were encouraged to take the survey prior to exiting the meeting or at

a later date on-line. In total, 77 surveys were received by project staff. Survey results are summarized below, with a copy of the survey questions located in Appendix C.

The transportation survey was composed of 36 questions covering travel characteristics for both residents and non-residents traveling on Davison County roads, perceived condition of roadways in Davison County, future transportation improvements, and transportation funding. Below are select responses to survey questions.

Travel Characteristics

According to survey results, the personal vehicle is the most often used mode of transportation for both residents traveling to school or work. Additionally, for the respondents working in Davison County commute times to work (one-way) do not exceed thirty (30) minutes, with the majority of travelers commuting less than ten (10) minutes. The primary reasons for residents and non-residents of Davison County are as follows:

Residents

- To/From Work
- Grocery Shopping
- Household Errands
- Other Shopping

Non-Residents

- To/From Work
- Household Errands
- Grocery Shopping
- Other Shopping
- Dining Out

Road Conditions

Survey takers were asked to provide their opinion of the current conditions of paved roadways within Davison County. Of the 67 respondents to this question, approximately 63 percent stated pavement conditions of Davison County roadways are “Fair condition.” Approximately 27 percent stated paved roadways were in “Good condition” and 7 percent stated paved roadways were in “Poor condition” (Figure 1).

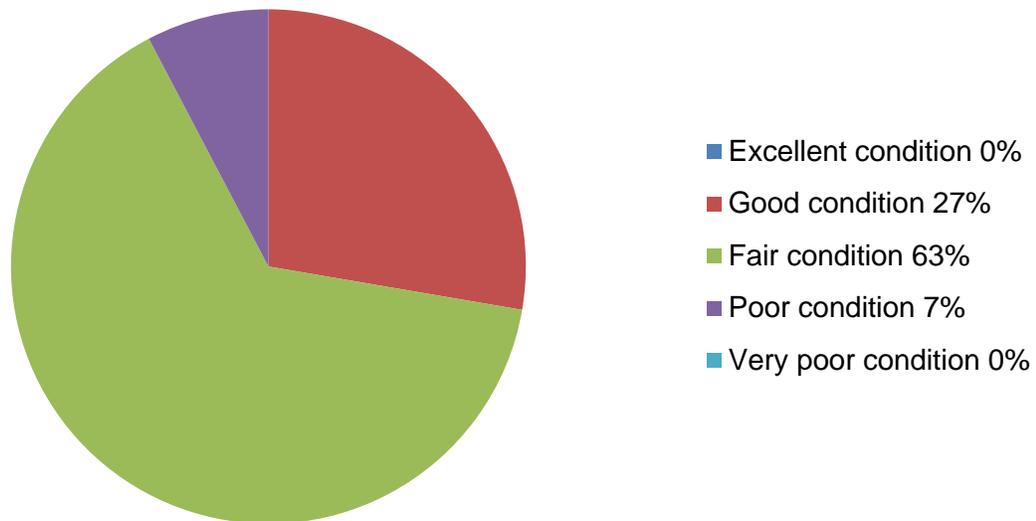


Figure 1 – Paved Roadway Conditions: Percent of Respondents by Condition Level

Additionally, individuals were asked their opinion of the current conditions of gravel roadways within Davison County. Of the 67 respondents to this question, approximately 64 percent noted gravel road conditions in Davison County are “Fair condition.” Approximately 21 percent stated gravel roadways are in “Good condition” and 7 percent in “Poor condition” (Figure 2).

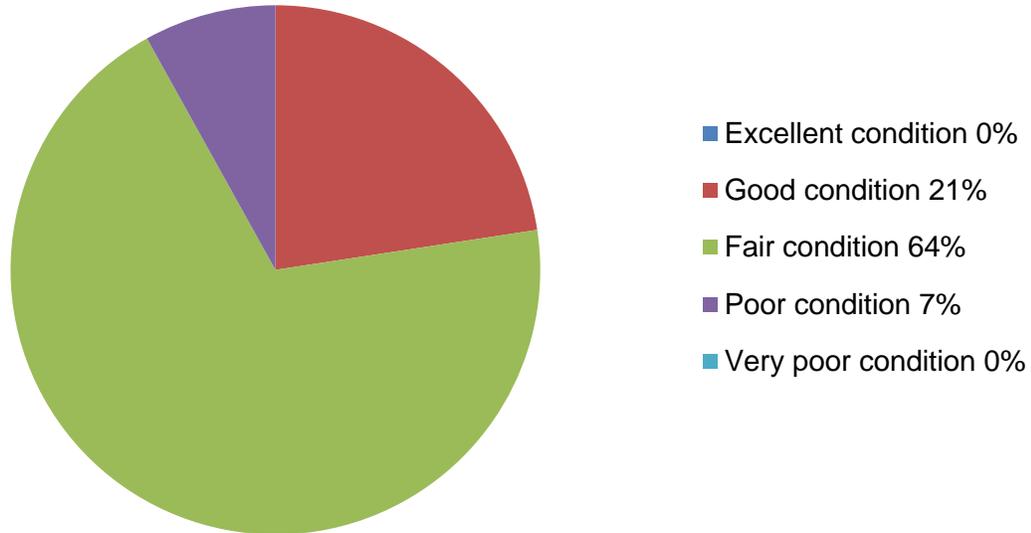


Figure 2 – Gravel Roadway Conditions: Percent of Respondents by Condition Level

Survey respondents were then asked to identify the three safety issues they were most concerned about on roadways within Davison County. Out of 67 responses, the most frequently selected responses were:

- Distracted Drivers (cell phones, texting, etc.)
- Intersections
- Roadway Conditions (pavement surface, ditches, pavement markings, etc.)
- Speeding Vehicles
- Large Vehicles (trucks, farm equipment, etc.)

In order to better understand the perspective of pedestrian and bicyclists in Davison County, survey participants were asked if they walk or bike in Davison County and how safe they feel as a pedestrian or cyclist. Of the 63 participants who answered this question, 47 walk or bike in Davison County of which approximately 30 percent stated they “Somewhat Safe,” as shown in Figure 3. Additionally, only 6 percent of the respondents stated they feel “Not safe” as a pedestrian or bicyclist in Davison County.

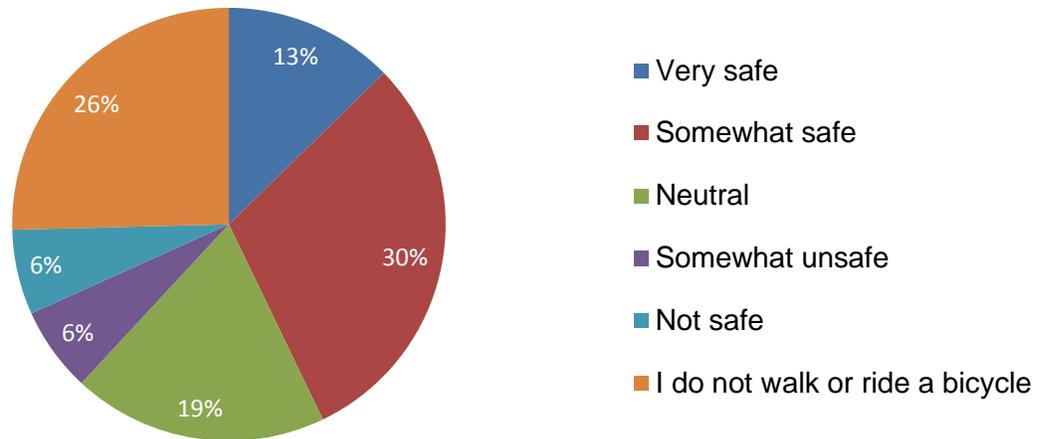


Figure 3 – Pedestrian and Bicyclist Comfort Level: Percent of Respondents by Category

Future Transportation Improvements

Survey participants were also asked a series of questions about the needs of the Davison County transportation system in the next 20 to 30 years. One question asked respondents to select the three most important areas of transportation improvements they see for Davison County. Of the 66 participants who answered this question, the top three areas are:

- County Road Maintenance
- City Street Maintenance
- Township Road Maintenance

Additionally, four participants responded “Other” and provided an explanation for improvements they foresee the county needing over the next 20 to 30 years. Three of the four state bridge replacement or maintenance was important to them. The other participant stated ensuring roads can “handle the heavy traffic without breakup” was important.

Transportation Funding

As a component of prioritizing transportation improvements and evaluating transportation funding possibilities, survey participants were asked about their willingness to support potential increases in fees to support transportation improvements in Davison County. Of the 65 respondents, approximately 49 percent would be in favor of fee increases to support transportation improvements. Additionally, approximately 42 percent stated they were undecided and approximately 9 percent were not in favor of fee increases.

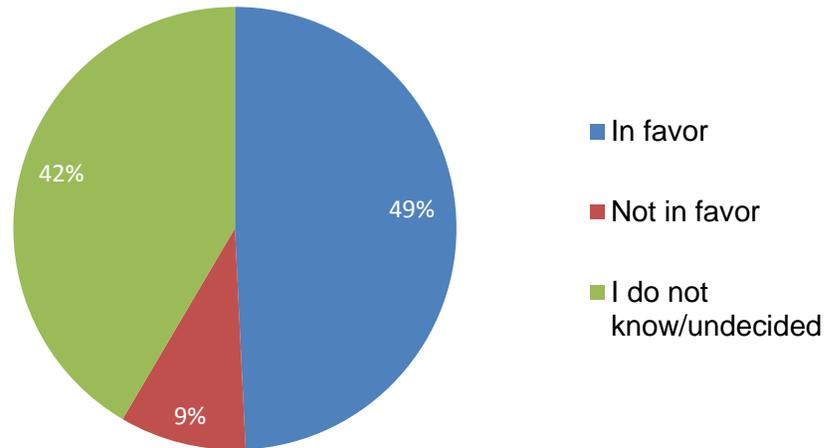


Figure 4 – Support for Increased Fees for Transportation Improvements: Percent of Respondents

Survey participants were also asked to create a budget for future transportation improvement using 100 dollars and distributing the amount between improvement categories. Of the 58 respondents of this question, nearly 56 percent of all funds budgeted were spent on existing road or street maintenance. Of the 58 respondents, 8 chose to budget the entire 100 dollars on existing facility maintenance. Figure 5 presents the percent of the total funds budgeted for each improvement category.

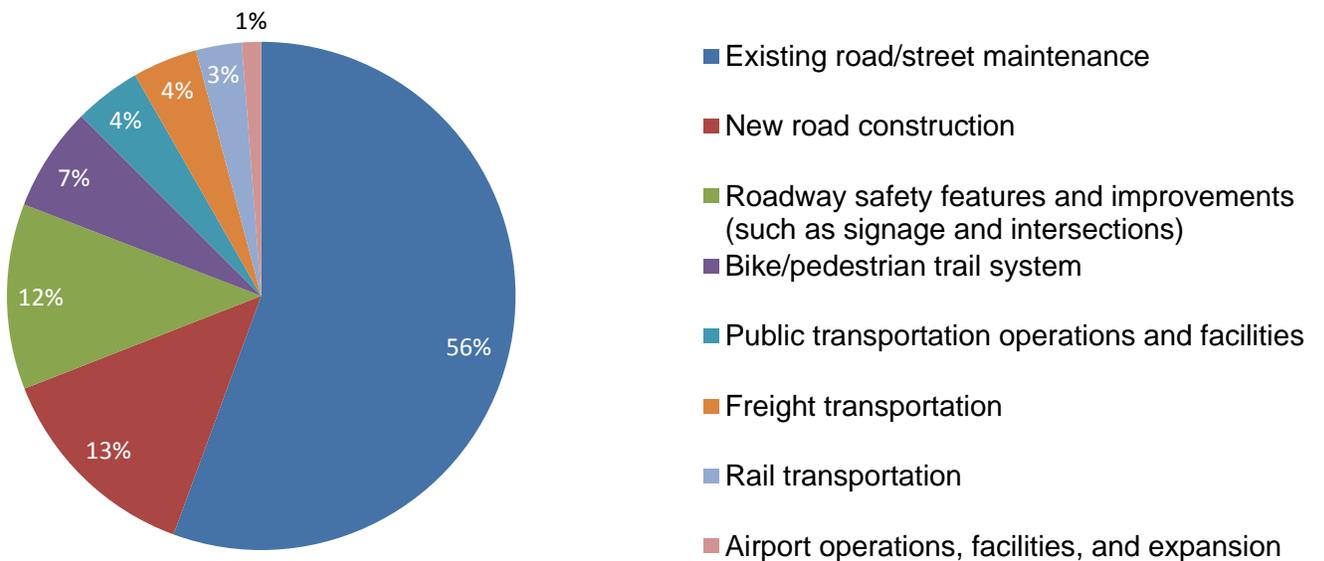


Figure 5 – Budget for Future Transportation Improvements: Percent of Total Amount Budgeted

Stakeholder Meetings: Project Review

This section is a placeholder for a summary of the stakeholder meetings to be held in May/June 2015 to gather feedback on future transportation forecasts and projects developed to address existing and future needs.

Public Open House: Project Review

This section is a placeholder for a summary of the public open house to be held in May/June 2015 to gather feedback on future transportation forecasts and projects developed to address existing and future needs.

Appendix

A: Mark up the Map Results

B: Public Meeting Sign-in and Written Comments

C: Internet Survey Results

D: Press Releases, Meeting Advertisements, and Additional Publicity Summary