

The Barr Foundation Transportation Issues Survey
 Topline Results
 Statewide Survey of 1,478 Massachusetts Residents
 Field Dates: May 5-13, 2020

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of Charlie Baker?

Very favorable	41%
Somewhat favorable	37%
Somewhat unfavorable	9%
Very unfavorable	4%
Unsure	9%

In a few words, what do you think is the most important issue facing Massachusetts state government today?

COVID-19 / coronavirus	64%
Reopening / restarting economy	12%
Unemployment / jobs / economy	11%
Charlie Baker	4%
Education / childcare	2%
Taxes	2%
Healthcare	2%
State budget / lost tax revenue	2%
Transportation	2%
Housing	1%
Government relief / stimulus check	1%
Infrastructure	1%
Immigration	1%
Crime / violence	1%
Poverty / inequality / hunger / homeless	1%
Corruption	1%
Drugs / Opioids	1%
Other	8%
Don't Know / Refused	5%

Please rank the follow issues for state government in Massachusetts, where “1” is the highest priority, “2” is second highest, and so on.

	Mean	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
Combatting the coronavirus outbreak	1.65	75%	8%	6%	3%	4%	4%
Growing jobs and the economy	3.04	8%	39%	19%	15%	13%	6%
Keeping taxes as low as possible	3.94	6%	15%	20%	19%	16%	24%
Addressing the high cost of housing	3.94	5%	17%	18%	20%	21%	19%
Improving public education	4.05	3%	12%	21%	24%	23%	17%
Improving the state's transportation system	4.38	3%	9%	15%	19%	23%	30%

How much would you support or oppose the Commonwealth raising new money to invest in the Massachusetts transportation system, including improving roads, bridges and public transportation?

Strongly support	28%
Somewhat support	46%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	7%
Unsure	8%

Massachusetts and other northeast states are currently considering a plan that would charge gasoline distributors a fee based on the amount of pollution their fuels produce. Massachusetts would dedicate a substantial portion of the money raised to reducing greenhouse gas pollution from transportation and improving public transportation. Would you support or oppose this idea?

Strongly support	28%
Somewhat support	39%
Somewhat opposed	13%
Strongly oppose	10%
Unsure	11%

How closely have you been following news about coronavirus, sometimes called COVID-19?

Very closely	60%
Somewhat closely	30%
Not too closely	6%
Not closely at all	3%
Don't Know / Refused	1%

How serious of a threat do you think coronavirus poses to each of the following? Very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not serious at all?

DO NOT ROTATE	Very serious	Somewhat serious	Not too serious	Not at all serious	Don't know / Refused
People across the state of Massachusetts	55%	34%	7%	2%	1%
People in your city or town	45%	38%	12%	3%	2%
You personally	34%	36%	22%	7%	2%
Elderly people	83%	13%	2%	1%	1%
Our state's economy	73%	21%	3%	1%	1%

How would you rate the job Governor Charlie Baker has done managing the coronavirus outbreak in Massachusetts?

Excellent	41%
Good	35%
Fair	14%
Poor	6%
Unsure	4%

At this point, do you think the response to coronavirus in your area has **READ AND ROTATE**?

Gone too far	15%
Not gone far enough	21%
Been about right	60%
Don't Know / Refused	5%

Has the response to the coronavirus outbreak so far made you...?

More confident in state government	43%
Less confident in state government	17%
No more or less confident in state government	33%
Unsure	6%

Thinking back to **before** the coronavirus outbreak, which modes of travel did you use regularly to get around? Please check all that apply. *Sorted for display.*

Drive alone	69%
Walk	48%
Drive or ride with others	41%
Take a taxi, Uber or Lyft	23%
Take the MBTA subway	21%
Take a MBTA or other public bus	17%
Take the commuter rail	11%
Ride a bicycle	11%
Take a corporate or private shuttle	2%
Take a ferry	2%
Other	1%

When Massachusetts reopens, do you think that traffic on highways and roads will...

Be better than before the crisis	16%
Be worse than before the crisis	28%
Be about the same as before the crisis	50%
Unsure	5%

Thinking ahead to getting around when Massachusetts reopens after the worst of the outbreak, do you expect that you will be making...

More trips than before the outbreak	10%
Fewer trips than before the outbreak	44%
About the same number of trips as before the outbreak	41%
Unsure	5%

Thinking about how residents will get around as Massachusetts reopens after the current crisis, which is closer to your point of view?

We just need to go back to the transportation system we had before the crisis	21%
We need to make big changes to the transportation system coming out of the crisis	59%
Unsure	19%

In a few words, what sort of changes do you think we need to make to transportation in Massachusetts coming out of the crisis?

Social distance / less crowding / more trains / buses	25%
Clean / disinfect / sanitize transit	24%
Improve / update / upgrade transit	13%
Improve reliability / efficiency of transit	11%
General safety	8%
Repair roads / bridges	8%
Masks on transit	5%
Traffic management (tolls, HOV, flex schedules, telework)	4%
Affordability / cost / free transit	4%
Expand access to transit	2%
Management	2%
Funding (tolls, gas tax, etc)	2%
Biking / walking	1%
Other	11%
Don't know / Refused	9%

During the average week before the outbreak, how often did you use public transportation (public buses, subways, trains, or ferries)?

All of my trips	5%
Most of my trips	11%
Some of my trips	13%
Just a few trips	19%
None of my trips	48%
Unsure	3%

When Massachusetts reopens after the worst of the outbreak, how often do you think you will use public transportation (public buses, subways, trains, or ferries)?

All of my trips	3%
Most of my trips	7%
Some of my trips	13%
Just a few trips	22%
None of my trips	48%
Unsure	7%

Thinking ahead to when Massachusetts reopens after the worst of the outbreak, do you expect you will do each of the following more, less or about the same amount as you did before the outbreak? *Sorted in ascending order of "Less" for display.*

ROTATE ORDER	Less	More	Same	Unsure
Walk	7%	38%	49%	6%
Drive alone in your own car	10%	28%	55%	7%
Ride a bicycle	18%	19%	49%	14%
Ride in carpool or vanpool	31%	7%	48%	15%
Ride in a corporate shuttle bus	31%	5%	47%	17%
Take a taxi, Uber or Lyft	33%	8%	48%	11%
Ride the MBTA commuter rail	33%	6%	46%	14%
Ride the MBTA subway	35%	6%	47%	12%
Ride an intercity commuter bus	35%	5%	46%	14%
Ride a bus	36%	6%	47%	11%

Thinking ahead to after the worst of the outbreak, how comfortable would you be riding public transportation during...

ROTATE ORDER	Very comfortable	Somewhat comfortable	Not too comfortable	Not comfortable at all	Unsure
During peak times, like the morning and evening rush hours	10%	16%	29%	38%	8%
During off-peak times, like mid-day, at night or on weekends	12%	31%	27%	22%	8%

How comfortable would you be riding public transportation after the worst of the outbreak if the MBTA or the Regional Transit Authority in your area took each of the following steps?

ROTATE ORDER	Very comfortable	Somewhat comfortable	Not too comfortable	Not comfortable at all	Unsure
Require all staff and riders to wear masks	28%	38%	16%	10%	7%
Sanitize trains, buses and stations multiple times a day	36%	38%	13%	8%	6%
Provide real-time information about how crowded trains, buses and platforms are	30%	37%	15%	8%	9%
Scan all passengers for fever before entering a train, bus, or station	27%	34%	18%	11%	10%
Limit passengers on trains, buses, and platforms to allow for social distancing	35%	37%	13%	8%	7%
Install hands-free sanitizer dispensers on trains, buses and platforms	40%	34%	13%	6%	6%

How much would you support or oppose Massachusetts cities and towns closing some streets or parts of streets to cars during the coronavirus shutdown to create more space for residents to access essential services on foot or by bike while maintaining a safe social distance?

Strongly support	25%
Somewhat support	37%
Somewhat oppose	16%
Strongly oppose	11%
Unsure	11%

Cities around the world, including Paris, Berlin, London, and New York, are planning to widen sidewalks and expand networks of bike lanes as they reopen after the coronavirus. How much would you support or oppose Massachusetts cities dedicating more street space for walking and biking at a safe social distance as the state reopens after the crisis?

Strongly support	27%
Somewhat support	37%
Somewhat oppose	16%
Strongly oppose	9%
Unsure	11%

Which one of the following best describes your work situation—employed full time, employed part time, or not currently employed?

Employed full time	40%
Employed part time	15%
Not currently employed	41%
Prefer not to say	4%

ASK THE FOLLOWING ONLY OF THOSE EMPLOYED FULL OR PART TIME

Has your position at work been considered "essential" during the current crisis?

Yes	51%
No	42%
Unsure	7%

Since the coronavirus shutdown, have you been able to work from home for your job?

Yes, all of the time	43%
Yes, part of the time	17%
No	38%
Prefer not to say	1%

Would you consider working from home after Massachusetts reopens if your employer let you or asked you to?

Yes, I would prefer to work from home	41%
Yes, I would work from home if asked but would prefer to go back to work	29%
No, I want to go back into work	22%
Unsure	8%

ASK THE FOLLOWING ONLY OF THOSE “NOT CURRENTLY EMPLOYED”

Are you a student, a homemaker, retired, or temporarily unemployed?

A student	12%
A homemaker	9%
Retired	49%
Temporarily unemployed	25%
Prefer not to say	5%

ASK OF THOSE WHO ARE EMPLOYED OR A STUDENT

On a normal day, how long is your morning commute to work or school?

15 minutes or less	33%
More than 15 minutes up to 30 minutes	27%
More than 30 minutes up to an hour	18%
More than an hour	9%
I do not commute to work or school	5%
Unsure	6%

DEMOGRAPHICS

Party Identification

Democrat	34%
Republican	14%
Independent / Other	46%
Prefer not to say	6%

Race and Ethnicity

White alone	74%
All other	25%
Prefer not to say	1%

Age

18-29	22%
30-44	24%
45-59	27%
60+	27%
Prefer not to say	1%

Gender

Male	48%
Female	51%
Transgender	1%
None of the above	<1%
Prefer not to say	<1%

Education

High School or less	34%
Some college, no degree	26%
College graduate (BA/BS)	23%
Advanced degree	17%
Prefer not to say	1%

About the Poll

These results are based on a survey of 1,478 Massachusetts registered voters. Responses were collected via online survey interviewing May 5-13, 2020. Final survey data was weighted to known and estimated population parameters for the state's registered voters by age, gender, race, education, geography, and party. This project was sponsored by The Barr Foundation.