

Here's What You Told Us In Last Year's Survey

"About 40 percent of respondents to our questionnaire said they are willing to pay additional property taxes for road improvements," announced John R. Gnau, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Oakland County Road Commissioners.

"That is amazing and surprising," he said, adding that the 935 responses received was also unexpectedly large.

"Of course, the majority were opposed to any new property taxes, but who could have reasonably expected 40 percent of any sampling to favor additional taxes for roads," asked Gnau?

"Huge majorities" favored construction of Northwestern Highway and M-275, and favored widening of M-59 and Big Beaver (16 Mile Road). These projects were also ranked as the top priority, although building "more" freeways and interstates was ranked last in priorities, he said.

Gnau said, "We were not surprised that our own Tri-County Alternate transit plan was preferred substantially over a Detroit subway plan proposed by the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMATA).

"Nor were we surprised that the majority of respondents believe progress in county road construction and maintenance is inadequate, because we know full well the needs are greater than funding capability," he said.

TAXES

60% said additional funds should

come from federal and state sources, while 10.9% favored use of county general funds, 1% favored use of city or township funds, 1% favored additional property taxes, 6.2% favored a special tax and 21.1% gave no answer.

(Percentages fail to total 100% due to rounding.)

50.7% opposed any new property tax for countywide road improvements and 7.9% gave no answer. But 41.3% said they would accept a property tax for countywide road improvements, as follows: \$1/\$1,000 property valuation (23.2%); \$2/\$1,000 (10.9%); \$3/\$1,000 (2%); \$4/\$1,000 (5.2%).

51.2% opposed any new property tax for road improvements within their community and 10.2% gave no answer. But 38.6% said they would accept a new property tax for such purpose, as follows: \$1/\$1,000 (21.5%); \$2/\$1,000 (9.6%); \$3/\$1,000 (1.8%); \$4/\$1,000 (5.7%).

PRIORITIES

Priorities favored by respondents for spending of tax money on transportation in the future were ranked as follows:

1. "Build or complete the proposed freeways and interstates (e.g. M-275, Northwestern, and I-696)."

2. "Improve existing roads through widening and straightening programs."

3. "Improve existing roads through surfacing, resurfacing and intersection improvements."

4. "Extend and improve bus service to all populated areas."

5. "Improve transit service and bus services to the rail stations and other areas."

6. "Introduce and promote other forms of transit, such as Dial-a-Ride, Carpools, Vanpools, etc."

7. "Build more freeways and interstates."

STATE HIGHWAYS

By a 72.2 to 20% majority, respondents said county roads are not adequate without proposed M-275, Northwestern Highway, and a wider M-59.

By a 59.2 to 28.8% majority, respondents criticized the state's decision cancelling the M-275 freeway.

By a 60.7 to 21.4% majority, respondents said the extension of Northwestern Highway should be built as planned.

By a 79.8 to 7.7% majority, respondents said widening of M-59 west of Pontiac is long overdue.

MASS TRANSIT

Less than 30% of the respondents said they would use either the Tri-County Alternate proposal or the SEMTA proposal "frequently" or "occasionally." Only 19.8% said they would have that much use for SEMTA's system and 28.1% said they would have that much use for the Tri-County Alternate. Asked which is "preferable," 35.6% said the Tri-County Alternate and 20.7% said SEMTA's plan.

Asked whether suburban taxpayers should help finance a sub-

way system for Detroit, 79.6% said "no" and 12.4% said "yes."

Asked if a suburban community helps pay for a transit system, should it receive its fair share of the service, respondents answered 91.3% "yes" and 2.9% "no."

COUNTY ROADS

Asked if progress in county road construction is adequate, 54.2% said "no" and 30.6% said "yes."

Asked if county road maintenance is adequate, 56.7% said "no" and 32% said "yes."

Asked if Big Beaver Road (16 Mile Road) should be widened to a divided, multi-lane arterial from Coolidge east to Dequindre Road, 41% said "yes" and 18.9% said "no."

DEMOGRAPHICS

• Waterford and West Bloomfield Townships tied for the greatest number of respondents from a single community with 57. Place of residence was omitted by 49 respondents.

• Detroit was the work of desination cited most frequently, by 91 respondents; followed by Pontiac (71 respondents). Respondents answering "unemployed" or "retired" totalled 87. This information was omitted by 101 respondents.

• Waterford was listed as the shopping destination most, by 114 respondents. This information was omitted by 79 respondents.

• The median number of persons per household was three.

• The median number of cars per household was two.

We'd Like To Know What Your Present Opinions Are

The Board of Oakland County Road Commissioners would like your help with several issues being considered now.

You can have an impact by checking your answers to the questions presented below. You needn't sign the questionnaire.

Please return the completed questionnaire to the Oakland County Road Commission, Administrative Offices, 31001 Lahser Road, Birmingham, Michigan 48010 (or 2420 Pontiac Lake Road, Pontiac, Michigan 48054).

SECTION I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- I live in (indicate name of city, village or township).
 - I work in (indicate name of city, village or township).
 - I shop mostly in (indicate name of city, village or township).
 - There are people in my household.
 - There are cars in my household.
- (Please check ONE response for each statement.)

SECTION II. COUNTY ROADS:

- The Oakland County Road Commission made the right decision in putting safety first, even if it means that congestion problems may have to wait.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- I feel the greatest safety problem on our roads today is (check one):

<input type="checkbox"/> Potholes and edge ruts	<input type="checkbox"/> The Other drivers
<input type="checkbox"/> Design of roads (curves, width, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> The vehicles
<input type="checkbox"/> Pavement markings, signs, signals	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) _____

- In my opinion, the most unsafe road in Oakland County is Road, between Road and Road. It is unsafe because

- In my opinion, the most unsafe intersection in Oakland County is the intersection of Road and Road. It is unsafe because

- Progress in county road construction is adequate.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- County road maintenance is adequate.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------
- I would be willing to pay \$1 per \$1,000 of property valuation for county road improvements.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------
- Lack of State highways is a major factor causing overburdened county roads.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------
- The M-275 freeway as originally planned is one State highway that should be built.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

- I travel on roads to destinations outside the county ...

Over 30 Times Monthly	20-30 Times Monthly	10-20 Times Monthly	Under 10 Times Monthly	Never
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION III. MASS TRANSIT:

- If one of the proposed SEMTA light rail systems were operating, I would use it ...

Over 30 Times Monthly	20-30 Times Monthly	10-20 Times Monthly	Under 10 Times Monthly	Never
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Rather than a fixed-rail system, regional transit should develop more bus, dial-a-ride and similar regional services.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- A subway for Detroit should be part of the regional transit plan.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

SECTIONAL IV. PRIORITIES:

- In terms of spending tax money on transportation in the future, I think the priorities of Federal, State, County and Local governments should be as follows: (Place the number 1 in front of the area that should be the highest priority; the number 2 in front of the second highest priority, and so on.)

- _____ Build or complete the proposed freeways and Interstates (eg M-275, Northwestern, and I-696).
- _____ Build more freeways and Interstates.
- _____ Improve existing roads through widening and straightening programs.
- _____ Improve existing roads through surfacing, resurfacing, and intersection improvements.
- _____ Improve transit service through addition of rail transit service and bus service to the rail stations and other areas.
- _____ Extend and improve bus service to all populated areas.
- _____ Introduce and promote other forms of transit such as Dial-A-Ride, Carpools, Vanpools, etc.
- _____ Other (please explain)