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Contact: Jim Wick
Phone: 405-651-9920
Email: jim@moveatx.org

MOVEATX RELEASES SURVEY RESULTS ON MOBILITY DURING THE PANDEMIC

Austinites walking and biking more than ever before; significant support for infrastructure

Austin, TX – MoveATX, a coalition of community leaders, businesses, and advocacy organizations working to support the city’s strategic mobility plan, released a new survey that it recently conducted between July 19 and July 23 using polling firm Opinion Analysts.

“Our new survey confirms what many Austinites have seen with their own eyes,” said Jim Wick, Lead Organizer for MoveATX. “More than two-thirds of residents in our city are walking more, and more than a fifth of residents are riding bikes more as a result of the pandemic. Austinites are using our urban trails, parks, sidewalks, and bikeways at record levels. The survey also demonstrates that some of these changes in behavior will be permanent.”

The survey sample was based on the 2018 City of Austin General Election, and 400 respondents were selected based on their age, ethnicity, location, gender, and political preference.

Nearly 55% of respondents said they would prefer to get around town using a mode other than personal car, an increase of 5% since last year. 78% agreed we can’t build enough roads to solve our traffic problems, and nearly 65% disagreed that the money we are spending on trails, sidewalks, and bikeways would be better spent on roads, an increase of 10% since 2019.

Austinites also support making more infrastructure investments for alternate modes of transportation. More than 70% of residents say they would definitely vote for or are leaning toward voting for a \$500 million bond for sidewalks, bikeways, urban trails, and safety improvements. More than 70% say they are inclined to support any proposition that helps people get around Austin.

“These survey results demonstrate the significant will of Austinites to support improvements that allow people to get around safely without a car,” said Wick. “It bodes well for a November election when Austin will have the chance for a generational investment in active transportation and transit. The two really go hand in hand, and Austin is ready.”

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