

Seaside Transportation System Plan

Web-Based Survey Summary
April 15 – May 15, 2008

This document summarizes the findings from the first Seaside TSP community survey. The objective of this community survey is to gather feedback from Seaside residents, employers/employees, and visitors on how they view the area's transportation system. Information from this survey will be used to help identify transportation needs and generate potential solutions.

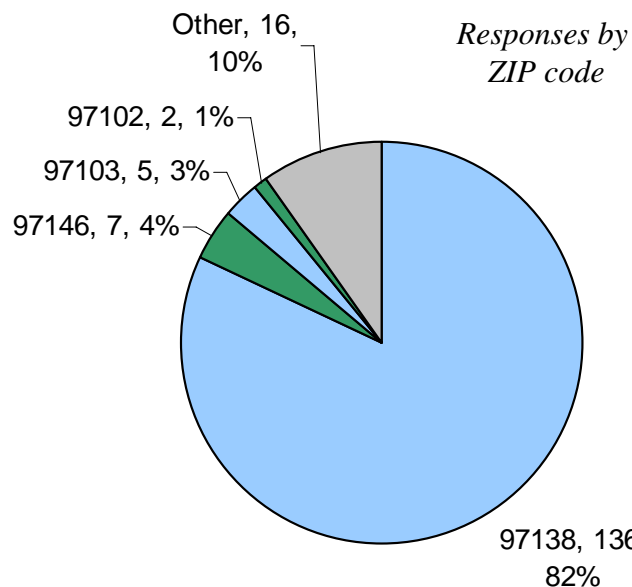
The survey was available online from April 15 to May 15, 2008. Most survey respondents accessed the survey from the project's website www.seasidetsp.org. Paper copies of the survey were also available at Seaside City Hall. The survey was posted as a link from the Seaside TSP website, as well as a link from the City of Seaside, Clatsop County, and ODOT websites. Announcements were included in two area papers, the *Seaside Signal* and the *Daily Astorian* newspapers, and posters advertising the survey were displayed at various locations throughout the City. Notices of the survey were placed in all residents' water bills (mailed April 2008). Announcements about the survey were made at Seaside City Council and Planning Commission meetings. At the survey close, 167 respondents had provided input, either online or in hardcopy form.

The priorities, values, and concerns gathered from the public will serve as the basis for Transportation Summit meeting and workshops during the summer of 2008. The pages that follow describe highlights from the survey, and are organized by survey question.

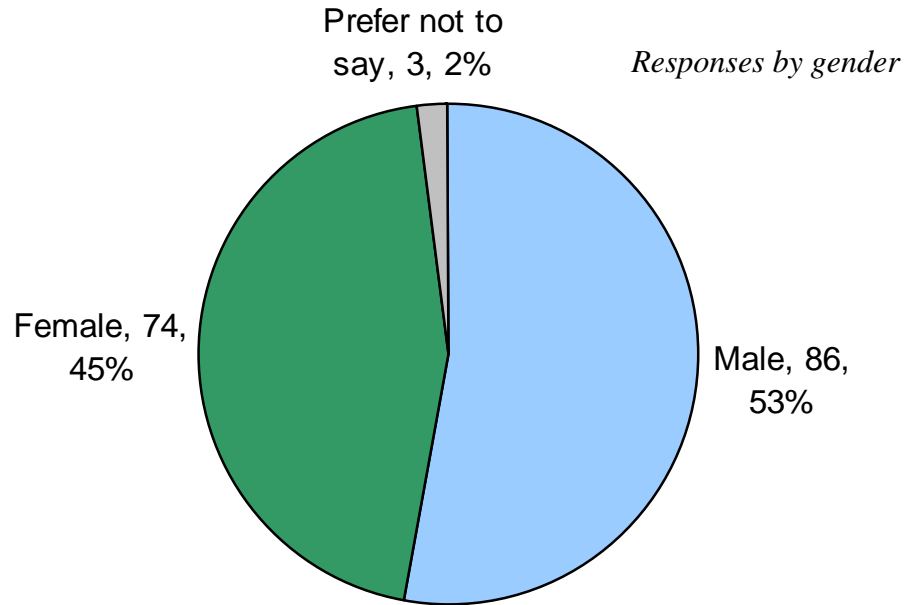
Survey question #1 dealt with personal contact information for respondents, and is not discussed below.

Question 2: What is your ZIP code? (Required)

Observations: The majority (82%) of respondents were from the Seaside zip code (97138). The next largest bloc included the Astoria/Warrenton area (97103 and 97146) with 7%. "Other" responses included zip codes with only one respondent. Most of these respondents identified with the region surrounding the Portland Metro Area.



Question 3: What is your gender?

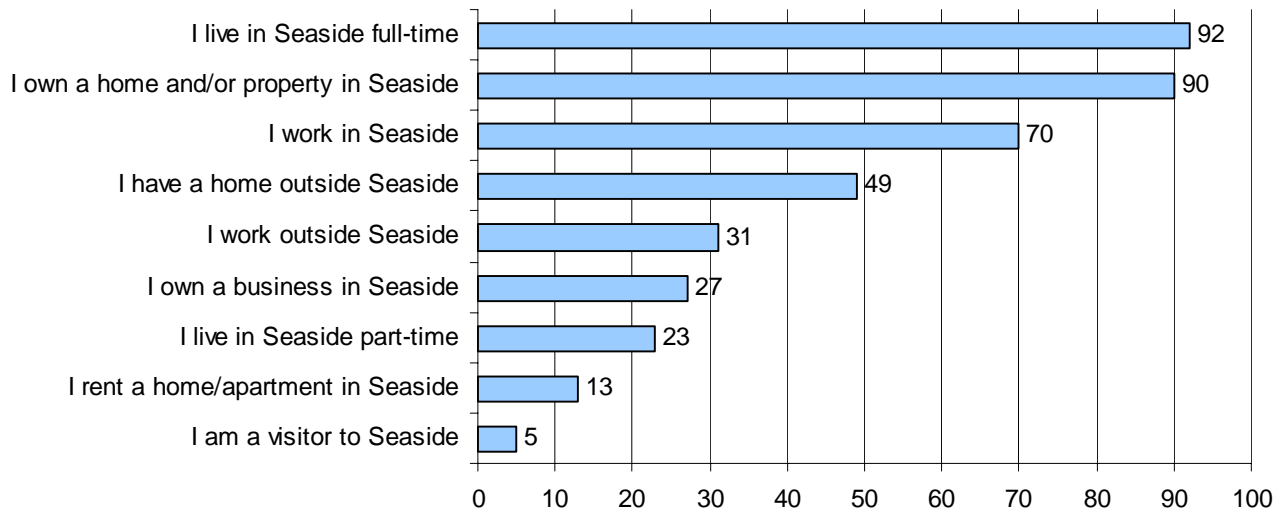


Observations: Respondents were asked to provide their gender to identify whether survey respondents represented observed gender ratios in Seaside (2006 estimates: 47.5% male, 52.5% female). The findings indicate that responses were provided in similar gender patterns to what exists in Seaside.

Question 4: What is the name of the street where you live? (97138 zip code only)

Street names were gathered to help track specific issues within the city of Seaside and to ensure that the distribution of survey responses is geographically representative. Of the 134 respondents from the 97138 zip code, respondents identified 83 unique street names. These street names, though not reported in this summary, can be used as needed by the project team at a later date to cross reference by specific transportation needs.

Question 5: Tell us about yourself



Observations: Consistent with the zip code responses, most survey respondents identified themselves as full-time Seaside residents who own a home and/or property in Seaside. Relatively few respondents who completed the survey identified themselves as visitors only. Because of the findings from Question 2, and because respondents were able to select more than one response to this question, it is assumed that many of those selecting “I own a home and/or property in Seaside” overlapped with those selecting “I live in Seaside full-time.”

Due to the small number of respondents living in Seaside part-time or visiting Seaside, it is expected that the community survey findings more closely represent the opinions of year-round residents.

Question 6: How often do you use the following methods to get around or through Seaside?

Please note: The table showing results for Question 6 is shown on Page 5.

Observations: Most respondents indicated that they typically drive on their own, although a significant number reported walking on a daily or weekly basis. Notably, a large percentage of respondents reported that they use bicycles for transportation, if less frequently than other modes. “Other” responses included skateboards, motorcycles, RVs, and taxi services.

Question 7: How satisfied are you with the following aspects of Seaside's current transportation system?

Please note: The table showing results for Question 7 is shown on Page 6.

Observations: Capacity and congestion on Highway 101 received the highest number of “very dissatisfied” responses (80 total), with only 17 respondents stating that they were “satisfied” with this element. Other transportation elements that rated poorly (with more than 50 percent or respondents rating as “dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied”) were east/west connections across Highway 101, access to and from Highway 101, safety for bicycles and pedestrians, access to evacuation routes, and sidewalks and pedestrian facilities. Interestingly, as many respondents rated being “satisfied” with sidewalks and pedestrian facilities as the number rating as being “dissatisfied.”

Question 8: What other aspects of Seaside's transportation system should be reflected in the TSP?

Top five issues:

1. Improvements to Highway 101
2. Added Public Transportation Services
3. Addressing Congestion and Traffic Flow
4. Improved Evacuation Routes
5. Enhanced pedestrian facilities

Observations: As above, respondents listed a variety of issues specific to Highway 101 as their top concerns, generally focusing on the problems of existing congestion and poor traffic flow. A number of respondents made specific capacity suggestions for improvements. Public transportation issues were the second most common theme, and respondents suggested a variety of improvements such as better stations and ticket affordability. Other concerns included improvements to evacuation routes, enhanced pedestrian facilities, roadway improvements, public parking, and bicycle facilities. A number of comments noted that improvements could be made to signal timing, enforcement of existing traffic laws, and simplification of area speed limits.

Question 9: What should be the top three transportation priorities for Seaside over the next 20 years?

Observations: Three items were on the list of first, second, and third priority for most respondents:

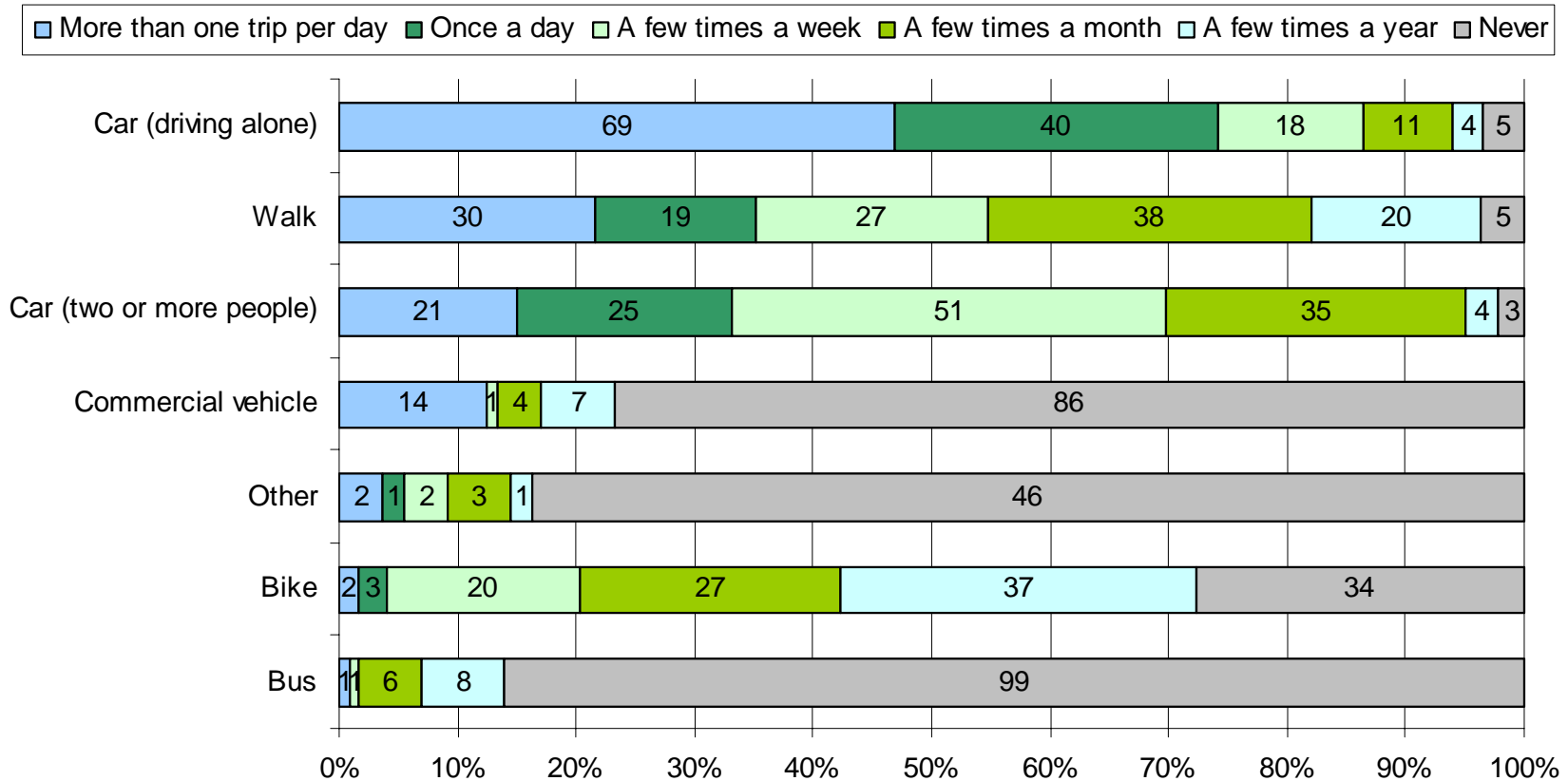
- Highway 101 issues
- Traffic congestion/flow
- Bicycle/pedestrian improvements

These were followed by:

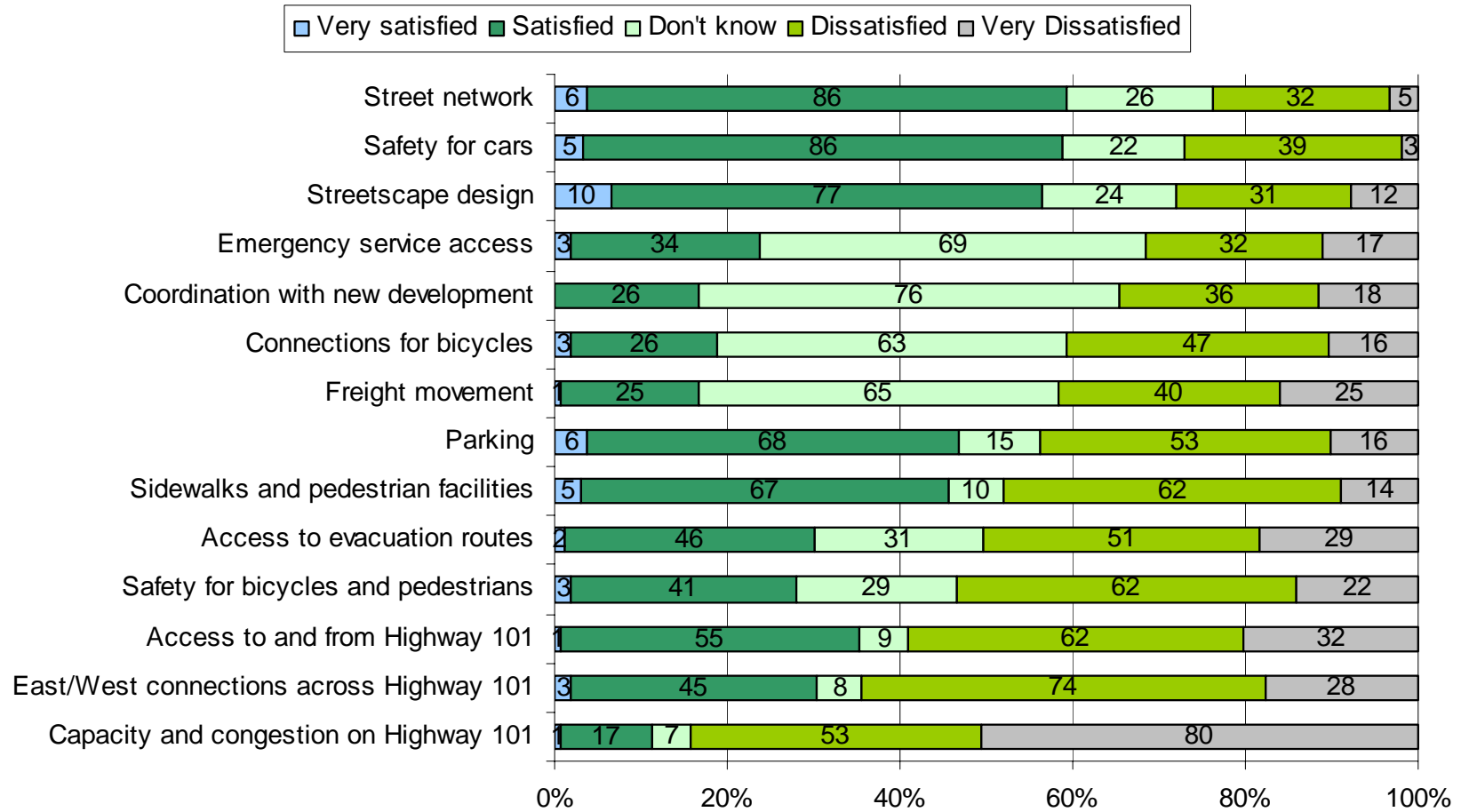
- Public transportation improvements (which was popular as a first priority, but didn't appear as a common element for second or third level priorities)
- Infrastructure repair/improvements
- Public parking
- Emergency service issues/routes

Suggestions made for addressing Highway 101 issues included building a bypass and widening the highway. Suggestions made for bicycle/pedestrian improvements included the designation of "safe routes," through-connections, pedestrian only areas, and facilities that generally encourage bicycling and walking.

Question 6: How often do you use the following methods to get around or through Seaside?



Question 7: How satisfied are you with the following aspects of Seaside's current transportation system?



Question 10: Twenty years from now, how will we know if we've done a good job planning Seaside's transportation system?

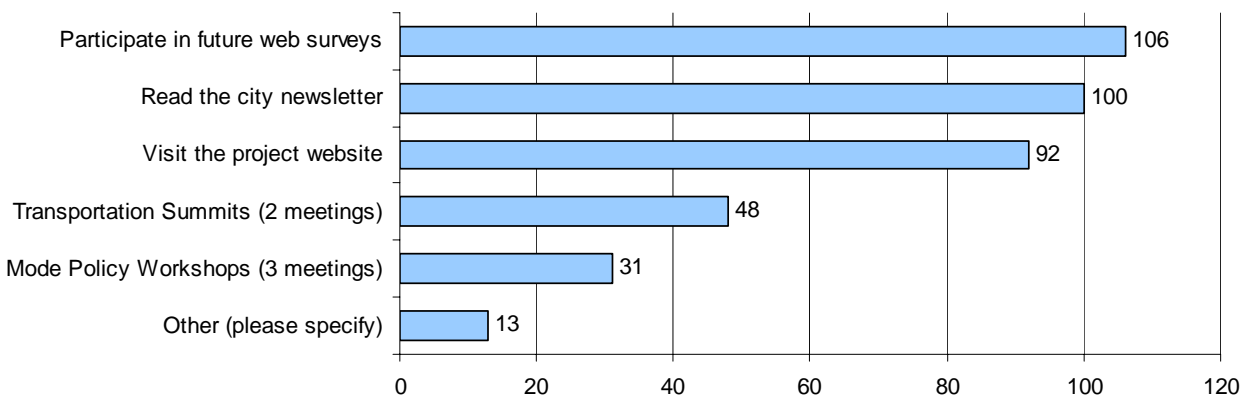
Top 5 Items:

1. Traffic flows smoothly year-round
2. Decreased reliance on cars
3. More bike and pedestrian traffic
4. Visitors and tourists still come to Seaside
5. Alternate routes are available through/around town

Observations: Although the first and last items above are consistent with the two major priorities listed in Question 9, the other items commonly cited denote a reduced reliance on automobiles (decreased reliance on cars, more bike and pedestrian traffic). Respondents envisioned a successful TSP as one where Seaside was still a tourist destination, but was safe and accessible via all modes of travel.

Additional responses to this question included that the city should see fewer accidents, more attractive streets, better evacuation routes, and a happy and growing population.

Question 11: How would you like to participate in the development of the Seaside TSP?



Observations: Far more respondents were interested in participating in the TSP online (via future web surveys, visiting the project website) or through reading city newsletters than through attending meetings (summits or workshops). Several respondents suggested using email updates to keep interested parties informed, as well as providing regular updates using area newspapers. Other respondents suggested presentation at local community commissions and gatherings.

Question 12: Are there any special events or festivals we should consider when scheduling events?

Respondents noted the following as posing potential conflicts with TSP related events:

- Hood to Coast
- Volleyball tournaments
- Wine walk
- Fourth of July
- Wheels and Waves (Sept. 4-7)
- Car Shows
- Cruise in
- Jazz Festival
- Art Walks
- Astoria Sunday Market
- Sandcastle contest in Cannon Beach

Some respondents felt that holding events on weekends or over the summer months was not preferred. Respondents suggested coordinating with the Sunset Recreation Center, Chamber of Commerce, and Seaside Convention Center when scheduling events.

Question 13: Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

A number of respondents said that they appreciated the opportunity to be involved in the TSP process, and several said that they appreciated the use of the survey tool. Respondents acknowledged the complexity of the issues and encouraged creative thinking with regard to solutions. Several expressed disappointment with the outcome of previous plans, and several encouraged that the process be honest, open, and considerate of other future plans and regional needs.

Respondents reiterated a number of the concerns expressed above: the impact of congestion, the importance of decreasing dependence on cars by improving transit and bike/ped facilities; questions about the feasibility of a bypass; and addressing flooding and tsunami concerns.