

**Sound Transit
RTA District Tracking Survey
August 28 – September 1, 2005
n = 800, ± 3.5 points
EMC 05-3342**

When applicable, results are compared to previous survey for:

**Sound Transit
RTA District Tracking Survey
November 17 – 23, 2004
n = 802, ± 3.5 points
EMC 04-3187**

Hello, my name is . May I speak to (NAME ON LIST).

Hello, my name is and I'm taking a survey for _____. We're trying to find out how the people in the Puget (“PYEW-jet”) Sound region feel about some of the issues facing them. I'd like to ask you a few questions on a strictly confidential basis.

		<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
3.	SEX		
	Male	48%	47%
	Female	52%	53%
4.	Are you registered to vote at this address?		
	Yes----->CONTINUE	100	100
	No-----> (TERMINATE)	-	-
5.	Do you feel things in the Puget Sound region are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?		
	Right direction	42	42
	Wrong track	41	43
	(Don't know)	17	15

6. What do you think is the most important problem facing the Puget Sound region today?

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
(Roads/trans/traffic)	48	54
(Economy/econ. development)	8	10
(Growth)	3	7
(Local/fed. government)	4	6
(Unemployment/jobs)	10	4
(High cost of housing)	-	4
(Education/teachers)	4	3
(Environment/pollution)	4	3
(Crime/drugs)	2	1
(Taxes)	4	-
(Health Care)	2	-
(OTHER)	7	5
(Don't Know/Refused)	4	3

I'm going to read you a list of public organizations. Please tell me if you have a strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or strongly unfavorable opinion of each one. If you have never heard of one please just say so.

(RANDOMIZE)

SCALE:	1. Strongly Favorable		2. Somewhat Favorable		3. Somewhat Unfavorable			
	4. Strongly Unfavorable		5. (Can't Rate)		6. Never Heard			
SCALE:	1	2	3	4	5	6	Ratio	Name ID
7.	Pierce Transit							
'05:	16	24	5	2	26	27	5.7 to 1	47 %
'04:	16	23	3	2	29	27	7.8 to 1	44 %
8.	Sound Transit							
'05:	22	39	12	11	9	7	2.7 to 1	84 %
'04:	23	37	12	12	11	5	2.5 to 1	84 %
9.	King County Metro Transit							
'05:	26	39	9	8	11	7	3.8 to 1	82 %
'04:	26	37	10	6	15	7	3.9 to 1	78 %
10.	the Washington State Department of Transportation							
'05:	13	43	21	11	9	2	1.8 to 1	88 %
'04:	12	44	20	9	13	3	1.9 to 1	84 %
11.	the Washington State Ferry System							
'05:	37	44	7	1	9	2	10.1 to 1	89 %
12.	the Seattle Monorail Project							
'05:	12	17	20	40	8	3	0.5 to 1	89 %
13.	Community Transit							
'05:	19	31	7	5	15	23	4.2 to 1	62 %
'04:	19	31	6	3	19	23	5.6 to 1	58 %

(END RANDOMIZE)

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
14. Have you heard, read, or seen anything about Sound Transit recently, or not?		
Yes	43	49
No	55	49
(Don't Know/Refused)	2	2

(IF Q14 = 1, ASK Q15; ELSE SKIP TO Q16)

15. What have you heard? **(TAKE TWO RESPONSES ONLY)**

	<u>2005</u>
Expansions (ex. Light rail project)	22
Money/Economic issues on the building plans	17
Oppositions about the project	17
Advertisements/Propaganda	10
Projects' progress reports	9
More train stations and routes	9
There's a route to the airport	2
Buses	2
Others	4
Don't know / Refused/Can't Remember	8

	<u>2004</u>
General information on light rail / Light rail development plans	10
They're over budget / Cost is too high	8
Expanding / Extending routes	7
Beginning construction on Light Rail	5
Information on their trains	5
Just that there is a controversy	4
Promotions / Advertisements to increase ridership	4
Information / Issues on the Monorail	4
Progress reports	3
Pushing for more funding / Expansion	3
They're behind schedule / Not getting done on time	3
Ballot issues / Election coverage	3
Groundbreaking on new stations	2
Too much indecision	2
They're not expanding far enough / Not meeting needs	2
They're making bad decisions / Poor management	2
Freeway / Highway / Road construction	2
They're improving travel / Commuting	2
Nothing specific, just about Sound Transit	4
General Neutral	2
General Negative	2
General Positive	2
Other	14
Don't Know	5

(RESUME ASKING EVERYONE)2004 2005

- | | | | |
|-----|---|----|----|
| 16. | From what you know or have heard, has Sound Transit implemented any transit services to date, or not? | | |
| | Yes | 45 | 48 |
| | No | 30 | 23 |
| | (Don't Know/Refused) | 26 | 29 |
| 17. | From what you know, are there any specific Sound Transit services or projects that serve your area? | | |
| | Yes | | 44 |
| | No | | 39 |
| | (Don't Know/Refused) | | 17 |

(IF Q17 = 2 OR 3, SKIP TO Q19)

- | | | |
|-----|--|----|
| 18. | What Sound Transit services or projects are you aware of that serve your area? (n=349) | |
| | Express Buses | 32 |
| | Sounder Commuter Train | 18 |
| | Inter-County Connection | 13 |
| | Sound Transits that go to Everett, Seattle and Tacoma | 7 |
| | Busses going to the ferry terminal | 4 |
| | Light rail | 4 |
| | Metro Bus | 3 |
| | Sounder Commuter Rail | 2 |
| | Pierce County Bus Station | 2 |
| | Busses going to Stadiums (ex. Mariner baseball transit) | 2 |
| | Big parking lots | 2 |
| | Don't use it | 2 |
| | Others | 4 |
| | Don't Know/Refused | 4 |

(RESUME ASKING EVERYONE)

Sound Transit offers a variety of transit services. From what you know or have heard, please tell if you think Sound Transit currently provides or operates any of the following types of services. You can answer yes, no, or not sure.

(RANDOMIZE)

SCALE:	Yes	No	Not sure/(Don't Know)	(Refused)
19. Express bus service	59	13	27	-
20. Commuter train service	70	11	20	0
21. Monorail service	25	42	32	0
22. Light rail service	57	19	24	-
23. Building and expansion of park and ride lots for commuters	49	13	38	0
24. Projects to build and improve transit centers and freeway transit stations	49	13	38	-
25. Projects to build freeway ramps that give carpools and buses direct access to the freeway	41	18	41	-

(END RANDOMIZE)

26. As you may know, Sound Transit was created by voters ten years ago to build and operate a regional transit system that includes Express Buses, Commuter Rail, and Light Rail. Most pieces of this system are in place and running now. In general, do you think the investments in Sound Transit thus far have been completely worth it, mostly worth it, not worth much, or not worth anything at all?

Completely worth it	16
Mostly worth it	45 => 61
Not worth much	23 => 31
Not worth anything at all	8
(Don't know/Undecided)	7

27. What makes you say the investments have been [RESPONSE TO Q26]?

Positive

Made steps to improve mass transit / Better transportation	33
Alleviated the traffic conditions	8
Transit completed and being used	3
Buses are better	1

Negative

Too expensive / Waste of money	4
No progress (ex: nothing has changed on traffic congestion)	9
Going the wrong direction / concentration on some areas only	3
Don't use it	6
Others	29
Don't know / Refused	4

(RESUME ASKING EVERYONE)

28. By two thousand nine, Sound Transit will finish construction and operate the transit system passed by voters in nineteen ninety six. Do you think expansion of this system with commuter trains, express buses, and light rail more often to more places is a great idea, a good idea, neither good nor bad idea, or a bad idea?

Great Idea	38
Good Idea	40 => 78
Neither Good nor Bad Idea	8
Bad Idea	10
(Undecided/Don't Know)	3

29. What makes you say that?

Positive

Its availability will lessen traffic jams / congestions	14
Commuting/Mass transit is better than having individual cars	12
It is needed	14
It gives more options/alternatives	10
Lesser cars on the road	7
Riding your own car is more beneficial	2

Negative

Public transit system needs to be improved to accommodate more	16
It doesn't benefit us / ineffective	14
It's far behind	3
Others	5
Don't know/Refused	3

(IF Q28 = 4 OR 6, SKIP TO Q31)

30. What specific types of services would you like to see added or expanded next? (ASK OPEN-ENDED: ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES) (n=320)

Light rail	16
Express Bus Services	8
Routes/Direct access to other suburban areas	7
Monorail	6
Route to the airport	4
Routes closer to where I am	4
Direct access to Eastern area of the region	3
Transit services to Seattle	3
Transit services to Tacoma	2
Earlier morning schedule	2
Direct access to Northern area of the region	2
Highways/Roads	2
Late night schedule	2
Stops	1
Train schedule seven days a week	1
Transit services to Everett	1
I don't use it	1
Affordable rates	1
Special services for disabled and aged	1
Freeways	0
Others	20
Don't know/Refused	13

(RESUME ASKING EVERYONE)

31. Regardless of whether or not you use transit, how much do you think you personally benefit from the additional transit options Sound Transit has put in place? Use a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means "you do not benefit at all" and 5 means "you benefit a great deal."

SCALE:	1	2	3	4	5	(DK/Refused)
	Do not benefit at all			Benefit a great deal		
	26	18	22	17	14	2
Mean	2.75					

32. In what ways do you personally benefit from transit? (ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES)

Reduce traffic congestion / Fewer cars on the road	26
I don't benefit from it	15
Saves money / Economical	7
I use it occasionally/rarely	7
Improves ones mobility/flexibility / Helps me get around	6
Provides options/alternatives	6
I use it regularly	6
Nothing / I don't use it	4
Reduced pollution	3
Convenience / Easy to commute	3
Reduce accidents / Keep roads safer	1
Others	14
Don't now / Refused	2

For each of the following things Sound Transit is doing, please tell me if that makes you much more likely, somewhat more likely, somewhat less likely, or much less likely to support more transit services. (RANDOMIZE)

SCALE:	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Much more likely		Much less likely		(Und)	(Refused)
33. Sound Transit has invested more than eight hundred million dollars in projects that make it easier for people to connect with transit and access the freeways, including park and ride lots with over ten thousand spaces, ramps that give carpools and buses direct access to the freeway, transit centers where people can quickly and easily catch a bus, and arterial street improvements.	37	41	8	8	4	0
34. Construction will be finished on the first segment of light rail that will connect downtown Seattle with Sea-Tac Airport by two thousand nine	40	28	11	15	5	0
35. Sound Transit Express buses carry riders on routes throughout the region, from Dupont in the South and Everett to the north, and Seattle in the west and Issaquah to the east.	35	40	11	8	5	1
36. Sound Transit commuter rail carries thousands of passengers every day between Tacoma, Puyallup, Sumner, Auburn, Kent, Tukwila, Renton, Seattle, Edmonds and Everett	36	39	8	11	6	1
37. Sound Transit has worked closely with local and state agencies building freeway and arterial improvements so roads and transit work better together	33	40	10	8	8	0
38. Sound Transit has its act together – it's actually building and delivering transportation services throughout the region.	29	39	12	12	6	2

- | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|----|----|----|----|---|---|
| 39. | Sound Transit is beginning construction of light rail that will extend the line from downtown Seattle through Capitol Hill to the University of Washington with existing funds | 33 | 29 | 15 | 15 | 7 | 1 |
| 40. | Light rail is operating in Tacoma right now. It runs every ten minutes through downtown Tacoma, and it is free to ride | 39 | 25 | 11 | 14 | 9 | 2 |

(END RANDOMIZE)

41. Given what you've just heard, do you think Sound Transit's projects thus far have completely worth it, mostly worth it, not worth much, or not worth anything at all?
- | | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Completely worth it | 22 |
| Mostly worth it | 50 => 72 |
| Not worth much | 18 => 24 |
| Not worth anything at all | 6 |
| (Don't know/Undecided) | 3 |
42. Sound Transit services move nearly thirty seven thousand people a day throughout the region. Puget Sound is expected to grow by one point two million people over the next twenty years and getting around is going to be more challenging than ever. Sound Transit ready to take on this challenge by extending and expanding our transit system to meet our region's future demands. Do you think further expansion and improvement of this system is a great idea, a good idea, neither good nor bad idea, or a bad idea?
- | | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Great Idea | 45 |
| Good Idea | 35 => 80 |
| Neither Good nor Bad Idea | 9 |
| Bad Idea | 10 |
| (Undecided/Don't Know) | 1 |
43. Expanding the regional system of buses, light rail, and commuter rail to improve connections, north and south, east and west, will keep our region moving forward and get more riders where they're going easier and faster. Do you think further expansion and improvement of this system is a great idea, a good idea, neither good nor bad idea, or a bad idea?
- | | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Great Idea | 44 |
| Good Idea | 37 => 81 |
| Neither Good nor Bad Idea | 8 |
| Bad Idea | 11 |
| (Undecided/Don't Know) | 1 |

44. Do you think that expanding and improving Sound Transit bus, light rail, and train services will get more people out of their cars and using transit services, or not? (IF UNDECIDED) Well which way do you lean, will it get more people out of their cars, or not?
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| More people out of their cars | 63 |
| (Lean more people out of their cars) | 7 => 70 |
| Not | 26 |
| (Lean Not) | 1 => 27 |
| (Undecided) | 2 |
| (Don't Know) | 2 |
45. Do you think that expanding transit services will take pressure off the roads, or will it not help? (IF UNDECIDED) Well, do you lean towards it will take pressure off, that it will not help?
- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Take Pressure of Roads | 67 |
| (Lean Take Pressure of Roads) | 7 => 74 |
| Will Not Help | 23 |
| (Lean Will Not Help) | 1 => 24 |
| (Don't Know/Undecided) | 2 |

I'm going to read you some statements about transit. Please tell me if that reason is a great reason, a good reason, neither good nor bad, or a bad reason extend and improve transit services.

SCALE: 1. Great Reason 2. Good Reason
 3. Neither Good nor Bad 4. Bad Reason 5. (Undecided) 6. (Refused)

(RANDOMIZE)

<u>SCALE:</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
	Great reason	Good reason	Neither Good or bad	Bad reason	(Und)	(Ref)
46.	Sound Transit is part of the solution for dealing with congestion from population growth throughout the region. Expanding and improving transit will give people options to get out of congestion					
	36	47	8	8	1	0
47.	Sound Transit is our regional transit agency, providing transit between cities and counties, which coordinates with your local transit service so they can provide local transit					
	27	49	14	7	2	1
48.	Extending Sound Transit to where housing is affordable gives people throughout our region options for getting out of congestion					
	34	46	8	10	1	0
49.	It will take about a half hour to ride from Redmond through Bellevue to Seattle on light rail. That means it will be faster to take transit than drive most of the time					
	43	42	6	7	2	1
50.	The best feature of transit services like light rail, commuter trains, and express buses is that they are separated from traffic is the ride is predictable. You can count on these services to get you to your destination quickly and predictably because they don't have to wait for traffic					
	43	41	6	8	1	0
51.	Transit projects are complicated and take time to plan. We need to act now to keep building and extending services in our region to keep up					
	33	45	11	10	1	0
52.	Sound Transit promised to return to the voters in nineteen ninety six to ask for more when the time came. Now is the time to further expand and improve our system					
	23	41	14	18	3	1
53.	Extending transit services will help preserve and improve the quality of life for everyone in our region					
	32	45	10	10	2	0
54.	Adding new modes of transportation helps take pressure off the roadways.					
	35	47	8	8	1	0

(END RANDOMIZE)

55. Given what we've just talked about, do you think further expansion and improvement of the system with commuter trains, express buses, and light rail more often to more places is a great idea, a good idea, neither good nor bad idea, or a bad idea?

Great Idea	46	
Good Idea	35	=> 81
Neither Good nor Bad Idea	9	
Bad Idea	9	
(Undecided/Don't Know)	0	

I'm going to read you some potential projects. Please tell me how high a priority you think that project should be for expanding or improving the Sound Transit regional transit system in the next phase. Use a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 means "a very low priority" and 7 means "a very high priority."

(RANDOMIZE)

SCALE:	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	Mean
	Very low priority				Very high priority			(Don't know)	
56. Extending light rail across Lake Washington to connect Seattle and Bellevue	12	5	7	9	18	17	30	1	4.91
57. Extending light rail across Lake Washington to Redmond via Bellevue	12	6	7	11	19	17	25	3	4.75
58. Establishing bus transit on its own roadway separated from traffic to connect Seattle and Bellevue	16	9	11	13	20	12	17	3	4.20
59. Extending light rail north to connect Seattle and Everett	11	4	8	9	20	17	29	1	4.93
60. Providing more frequent express bus service	5	5	6	13	25	19	25	2	5.08
61. Providing express bus service earlier in the morning and later at night	6	4	8	12	23	18	26	3	5.05
62. Providing express bus service to more locations in the region	6	3	6	11	26	18	27	1	5.14
63. Providing very frequent bus service running on dedicated freeway lanes that could be converted to light rail in the future	10	4	7	9	23	16	28	3	4.98
64. Building high speed bus service to connect Kirkland and Issaquah to light rail in Bellevue	11	9	11	14	26	12	13	4	4.28
65. Building more park and ride lots	7	7	12	15	24	14	19	3	4.62

(RANDOMIZE)

SCALE:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Mean
	Very low priority				Very high priority			(Don't know)	
66.	Extending light rail from Sea Tac Airport south to Federal Way								
	13	6	9	10	20	15	23	2	4.59
67.	Expanding the first segment that connects the Airport to Downtown, further north to Northgate, further south to Federal Way, and east to Redmond through Mercer Island and Bellevue								
	8	4	6	10	18	17	35	2	5.20

(END RANDOMIZE)

Now, I'd like to ask you some questions for statistical purposes only.

	2004	2005
68.	Have you heard any advertisements on the radio or seen any billboards for Sound Transit lately, or not?	
	Yes	23 30
	No/(Don't Know)	76 70
	(Refused)	1 0

(IF Q68 = 1, ASK Q69; ELSE SKIP TO Q70)

69.	Specifically, what advertisements have you heard or seen?	
	Newspaper/Billboard	20
	Don't remember specifics	17
	Radio	14
	Sound transit	11
	Restaurant/Side buses	8
	Television commercials	7
	Monorail	6
	Don't know/Refused	5
	Progress of the projects	4
	Hassle free rides	2
	Others	6

(RESUME ASKING EVERYONE)

2004 2005

70.	Have you ever seen any Sound Transit Regional Express Buses, also known as Ess Tee Express, or not?*		
	Yes	59	50
	No	32	44
	(Don't Know)	9	5
71.	Have you ever seen any Sound Transit Sounder Commuter Rail trains, also known as Sounder, or not?†		
	Yes	57	68
	No	40	31
	(Don't Know)	3	1
72.	Have you ever seen Sound Transit's Tacoma Link Light Rail, or not?		
	Yes		35
	No		63
	(Don't Know)		2
73.	Have you ever seen any trains, buses, or other transit vehicles that have a blue and green wave logo on them, or not?		
	Yes	56	64
	No	32	29
	(Don't Know)	12	7
74.	How often do you or someone in your household ride public transit – daily, two or more times per week, once a week, less than once a week, or never?		
	Daily	11	10
	Two or more days/week	8	10
	Once a week	3	6
	Less than once/week	28	32
	Never	50	41
	(Don't Know/Refused)	1	1

(IF Q74=5 OR 6, ASK Q75. ELSE, SKIP TO Q76)

* In 2004, question read "Have you ever seen any Sound Transit Regional Express Buses, or not?"

† In 2004, question read "Have you ever seen any Sound Transit Sounder Commuter Rail trains, or not?"

75.	Thinking about this survey and your commute, what would it take to get you to ride transit?	
	It wouldn't happen	12
	Convenience	11
	More directions/routes	11
	Close to where I am	9
	Speed commute	7
	I don't commute much	7
	Good scheduling	7
	Frequency of bus services	4
	Availability of the service	4
	Less expensive	3
	Change employment	3
	Not having a car	3
	Don't know/Refused	4
	If gas price goes up	2
	It should meet my needs	2
	Others	11

(RESUME ASKING EVERYONE)

I'm going to read you some reasons a person might take transit, and I'd like you to tell me how persuasive that reason is for you. Use a scale of one to seven, where one is not at all persuasive, and seven is very persuasive.

(RANDOMIZE)

SCALE:

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>		<u>8</u>	Mean
Not at all persuasive				Very persuasive				(Don't know)	

(N = 173 FOR QUESTIONS 76 THROUGH 82)

76.	Gasoline prices above three dollars a gallon	13	2	4	7	11	13	46	3	5.32
77.	A commute that was predictable and immune to traffic jams	10	1	3	4	15	15	49	2	5.61
78.	A commute that was faster than driving	6	3	1	8	13	14	52	2	5.78
79.	A commute that was cheaper than driving	6	2	5	4	16	14	51	2	5.74
80.	A commute that was less stressful since you wouldn't have to deal with other drivers	10	3	3	8	19	18	36	3	5.29
81.	A more comfortable commute with a wider seat	18	7	5	5	25	10	27	2	4.53
82.	A commute where you can use your time to do something other than have your hands on the wheel	11	5	5	11	15	17	34	2	5.06

(END RANDOMIZE)

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
83. How long have you lived in the Puget Sound region?		
Less than 2 years	1	2
2 to 4 years	5	3
5 to 9 years	8	6
10 to 14 years	8 => 22	9 => 20
More than 15 years	76 => 76	79 => 79
(Don't Know/Refused)	1	1
84. What is your age? (READ CODES IF NECESSARY)		
18-24	3	2
25-29	4	3
30-34	6	3
35-39	8	7
40-44	10	9
45-49	11 => 42	11 => 36
50-54	12 => 58	14 => 64
55-59	12	13
60-64	9	10
Over 65	23	25
(Refused)	2	2

THANK YOU!!