

New Yorkers on Traffic & Transportation



Key Findings of:

Telephone Survey of 800 New York City Residents
May 2006

Conducted by Michaels Opinion Research for
the Tri-State Transportation Campaign

TRI-STATE TRANSPORTATION CAMPAIGN



Mobilizing the Region

New Yorkers on Traffic & Transportation

Survey Highlights

■ Overall, the public believes traffic congestion is a major problem plaguing New York City and they express strong dissatisfaction with the job Mayor Bloomberg is doing to address traffic problems throughout the city. For example, the survey discovers that:

—79% believe traffic jams on city streets are a problem and 50% believe congestion in Manhattan on a normal work day is unacceptable.

— 73% of New York City residents think truck traffic in the city is a problem, and 70% cite unsafe conditions for pedestrians from cars and trucks as a problem.

—While the majority of New Yorkers give positive ratings to the Mayor's performance in keeping parks and neighborhoods clean and reducing crime, he fares far worse on his accomplishments relating to increasing affordable housing, healthcare for the uninsured and increasing employment opportunities for minorities.

—When assessing the Mayor's attention to reducing traffic jams throughout the five boroughs of New York, 59% give him a negative rating. In fact, only his performance on increasing affordable housing is rated more harshly at 60% negative.

—Discontent with the Mayor's performance on traffic issues cuts across most segments of the city's population, but people in Manhattan and Staten Island are especially displeased with the Mayor's performance....and so are motor vehicle owners and non-owners alike (62% and 56%, respectively).

■ New Yorkers say traffic issues are a multi-faceted issue facing the city, and are impacting the quality of life in their neighborhoods:

— According to half of New Yorkers, noise and air pollution are traffic-related problems in their neighborhoods. Among those in Manhattan, from 63% to 66% cite these conditions as problems in their neighborhoods.

— 44% of New Yorkers say that dangerous conditions for pedestrians and cyclists are a problem in their neighborhood. Manhattan (53%) and Bronx (51%) residents are more likely to report this as a problem.

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Detailed Findings

Rating the Mayor of New York

Before being asked questions about traffic and transportation in the city, survey respondents were asked to rate Mayor Bloomberg's performance.

- New Yorkers give Mayor Michael Bloomberg decidedly mixed reviews when evaluating his performance across a range of issues that impact the quality of life in New York City.
- Overall, a majority of New Yorkers give the Mayor positive ratings for his performance in keeping parks clean and safe, reducing crime, keeping the city clean of litter and illegal dumping, increasing access to public transportation.....and by a slim margin....improving education standards at city schools.
- For those issues where the majority give overall positive ratings, Manhattan residents tend to be more positive about the Mayor's performance than residents of other boroughs. Women are consistently more negative than men about the Mayor's response to key city issues.
- Across all boroughs the Mayor's performance ratings are solidly negative on issues relating to increasing affordable housing, improving opportunities for minorities, healthcare for the uninsured, pollution andimportantly.... traffic and congestion on city streets, highways and bridges.

The Mayor's Performance on Traffic Issues

- In fact, 59% of New Yorkers give the Mayor a negative rating for the way he has addressed traffic issues in the city, and on only one other issue— affordable housing—does he score mildly worse with a 60% negative rating.
- Among sub-groups of New Yorkers:
 - 62% of motor vehicle owners give the Mayor a negative rating on reducing traffic jams and delays throughout the city. Non-vehicle owners are not satisfied with his performance as well (56% negative), nor are those who drive to work (70% negative).
 - Residents of Staten Island appear especially angry about traffic issues – 82% give an overall negative rating – while slightly more of those in Manhattan and the Bronx (60%-62%) give negative ratings than residents of Brooklyn and Queens (55%-57%).
 - Discontent with the Mayor's performance on traffic issues cuts across age and income groups,

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though a solid third of middle and upper income residents give intensely negative ratings (33%-36% rate the job he is doing on traffic issues as “poor”).

— And among the working population, 59% of those who work below 60th Street in Manhattan and 67% of those working outside Manhattan say the Mayor has done, at best, a fair-to-poor job reducing traffic on city streets, highways and bridges.

RATINGS OF MAYOR BLOOMBERG'S JOB PERFORMANCE IN ...

-----BOROUGH OF RESIDENCE-----

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Bronx</u>	<u>Brooklyn</u>	<u>Man- hattan</u>	<u>Queens</u>	<u>S.I.</u>
Keeping parks clean and safe						
Excellent	16%	15%	12%	25%	15%	9%
Good	47	46	43	50	47	57
Fair	24	26	26	19	26	24
Poor	8	9	12	3	5	6
Reducing crime						
Excellent	18%	18%	14%	22%	18%	23%
Good	39	32	35	46	42	42
Fair	27	33	29	23	27	25
Poor	12	15	18	7	8	10
Keeping the city clean of litter and illegal dumping						
Excellent	11%	17%	9%	13%	9%	8%
Good	44	37	40	46	48	53
Fair	27	24	31	22	28	29
Poor	15	17	17	16	13	7
Increasing access to public transportation—buses and subways						
Excellent	11%	14%	8%	9%	14%	13%
Good	42	39	41	43	46	38
Fair	27	28	33	26	23	24
Poor	12	13	13	13	9	10
Improving education standards at city schools						
Excellent	15%	16%	14%	20%	14%	14%
Good	35	35	35	32	39	34
Fair	23	22	24	23	25	16
Poor	17	22	19	12	14	27

DK/NA not shown. For weighted Total, n=800.

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-----BOROUGH OF RESIDENCE-----

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Bronx</u>	<u>Brooklyn</u>	<u>Manhattan</u>	<u>Queens</u>	<u>S.I</u>
Increasing affordable housing for working families						
Excellent	6%	6%	9%	3%	5%	4%
Good	21	25	18	18	25	18
Fair	24	22	23	23	25	39
Poor	36	37	43	35	30	29
Reducing traffic jams and delays on city streets, highways and bridges						
Excellent	5%	6%	5%	4%	6%	*%
Good	26	23	27	24	31	12
Fair	30	30	29	32	29	34
Poor	29	32	28	29	25	48
Reducing air pollution						
Excellent	4%	10%	3%	4%	2%	5%
Good	25	19	23	29	30	21
Fair	31	34	31	26	28	49
Poor	21	18	26	21	19	8
Improving employment opportunities for minorities						
Excellent	8%	11%	6%	6%	7%	14%
Good	23	24	15	22	33	24
Fair	26	29	28	25	24	32
Poor	25	29	34	21	19	11
Reducing noise						
Excellent	7%	11%	9%	7%	4%	10%
Good	35	27	36	31	39	44
Fair	31	32	32	31	29	35
Poor	17	22	16	22	15	*
Providing health care to the uninsured						
Excellent	8%	9%	9%	8%	6%	2%
Good	28	27	28	21	32	28
Fair	22	29	16	27	21	29
Poor	23	24	29	18	21	16

DK/NA not shown. For weighted Total, n=800.

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Perceptions of Traffic Issues in NYC

How Big a Problem is Traffic?

Regardless of the borough in which they live, fully 50% of the New Yorkers surveyed believe that traffic congestion in Manhattan on a normal work day is **unacceptable**.

— Not surprisingly, those who drive to work are among those most likely to say traffic in Manhattan is unacceptable (57%). Yet even those who use public transportation strongly share the view that traffic in Manhattan is unacceptable (50%).

■ According to 79% of New Yorkers, traffic jams on city streets, highways and bridges are a problem in the city and 53% consider congestion a “major problem.”

— Residents who drive to their jobs are particularly apt to say traffic jams are a “major” problem (65%), as are those who work outside of Manhattan (62%).

■ Overcrowding on subways and buses is also considered a significant problem by New Yorkers, with younger adults (60%) and those traveling to work on public transportation most likely to express this view (56%).

■ Over four-in-10 residents also consider truck traffic, the condition of roads and safety conditions for pedestrians to be major problems in the city.

— Truck traffic is judged as an especially acute problem by those who use their own vehicles to travel to work (53%).

— And Manhattan residents are more likely than others to consider unsafe conditions for bicyclists a significant problem (43%).

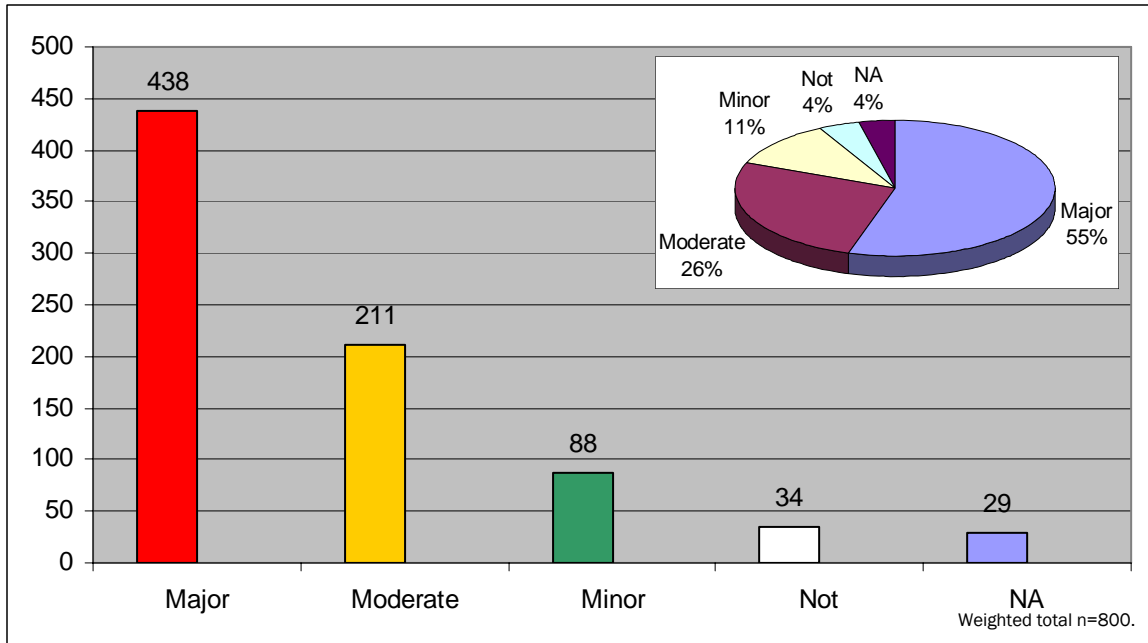
■ A third of New Yorkers also contend that slow moving public buses are a significant problem.

— Notably, those who are especially likely to consider slow moving buses a “major” traffic-related problem are city residents in their 40s and 50s (40%-46%) and New Yorkers who work in Manhattan above 60th Street (62%).

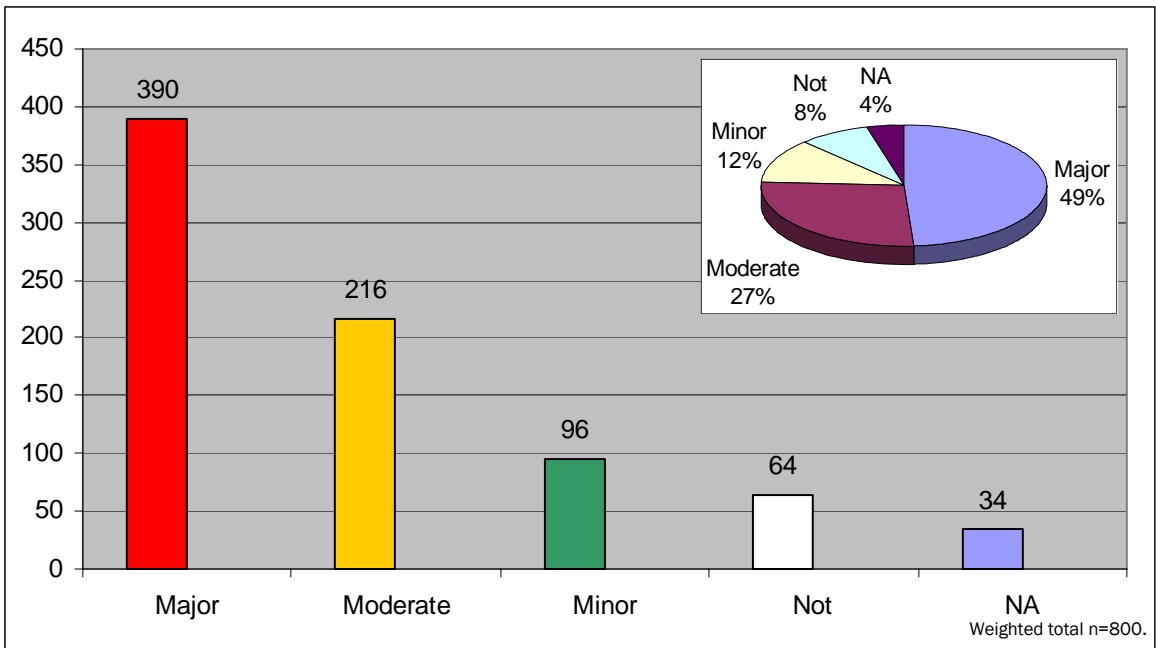
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Rating Transportation Issues in New York City

“Do you consider **traffic jams and backups** on city streets, highways and bridges a major, moderate, or minor problem, or not a problem?”

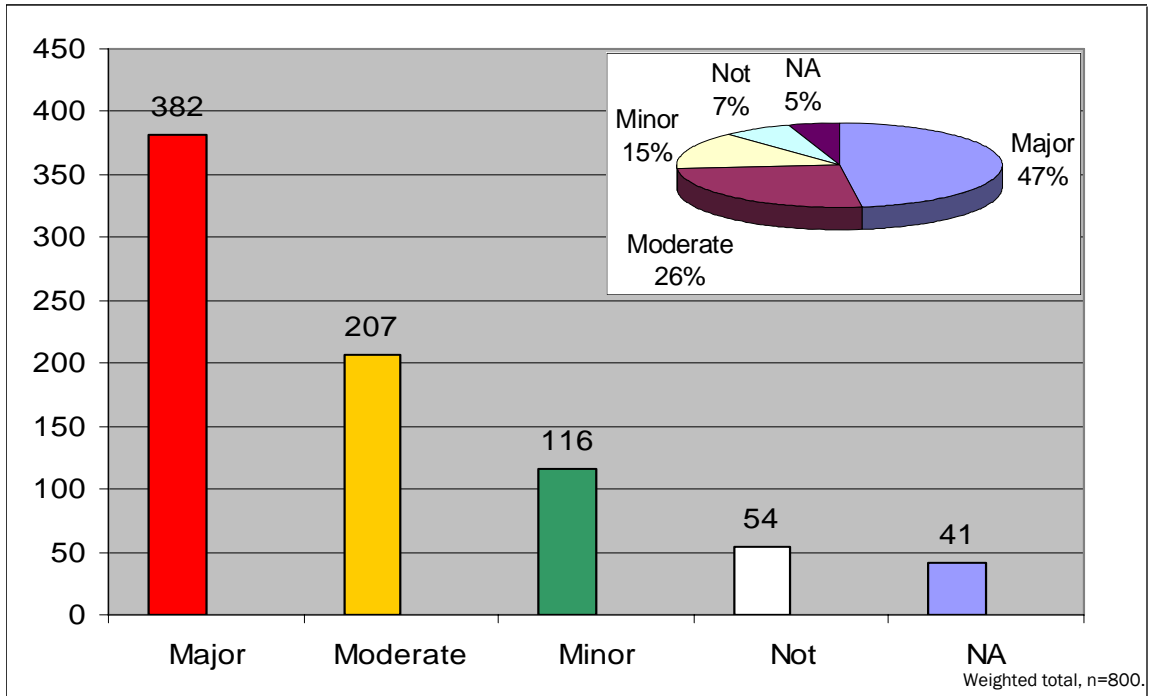


“Do you consider **overcrowding on buses and subways** a major, moderate, or minor problem, or not a problem?”

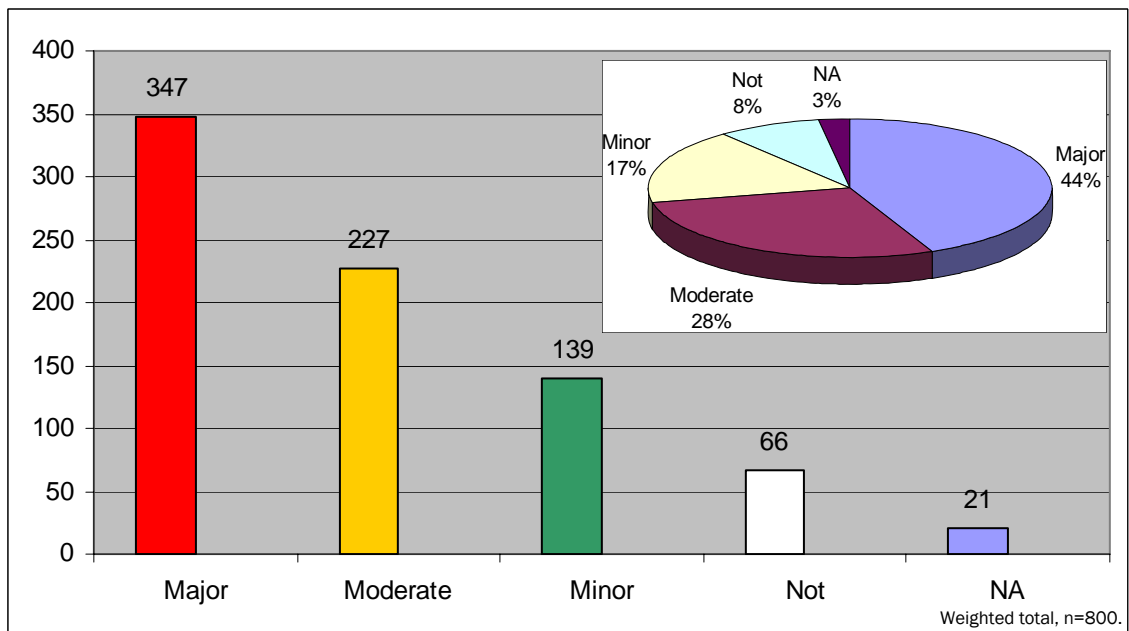


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“Do you consider **truck traffic in the city** a major, moderate, or minor problem, or not a problem?”

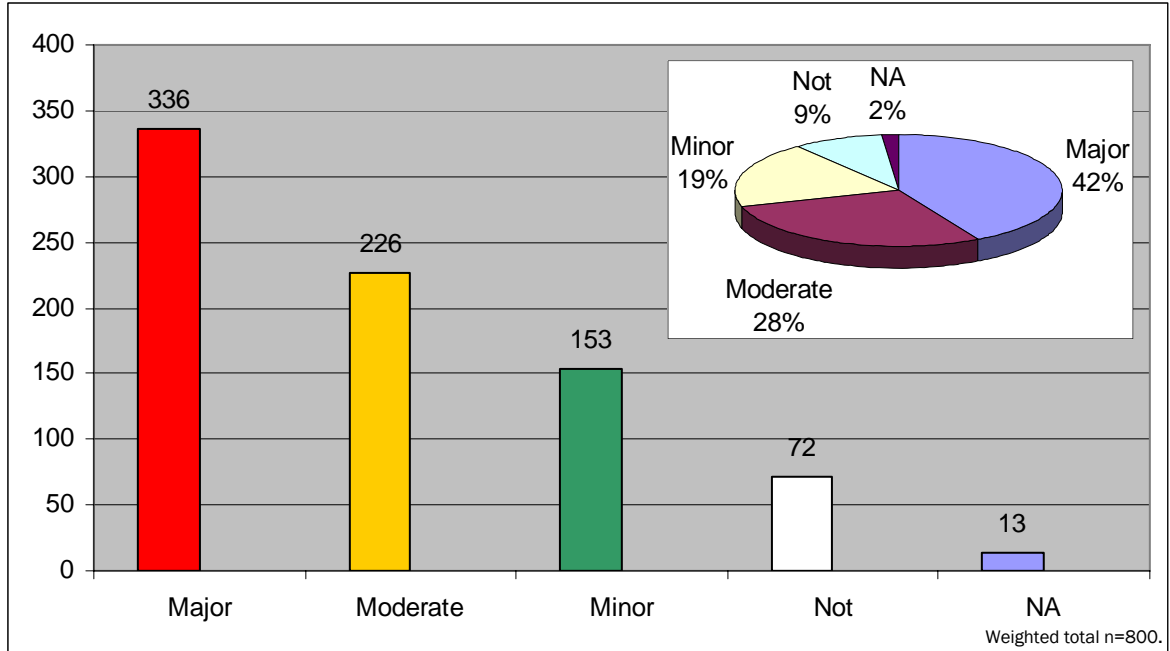


“Do you consider the **condition of streets and highways** a major, moderate, or minor problem, or not a problem?”

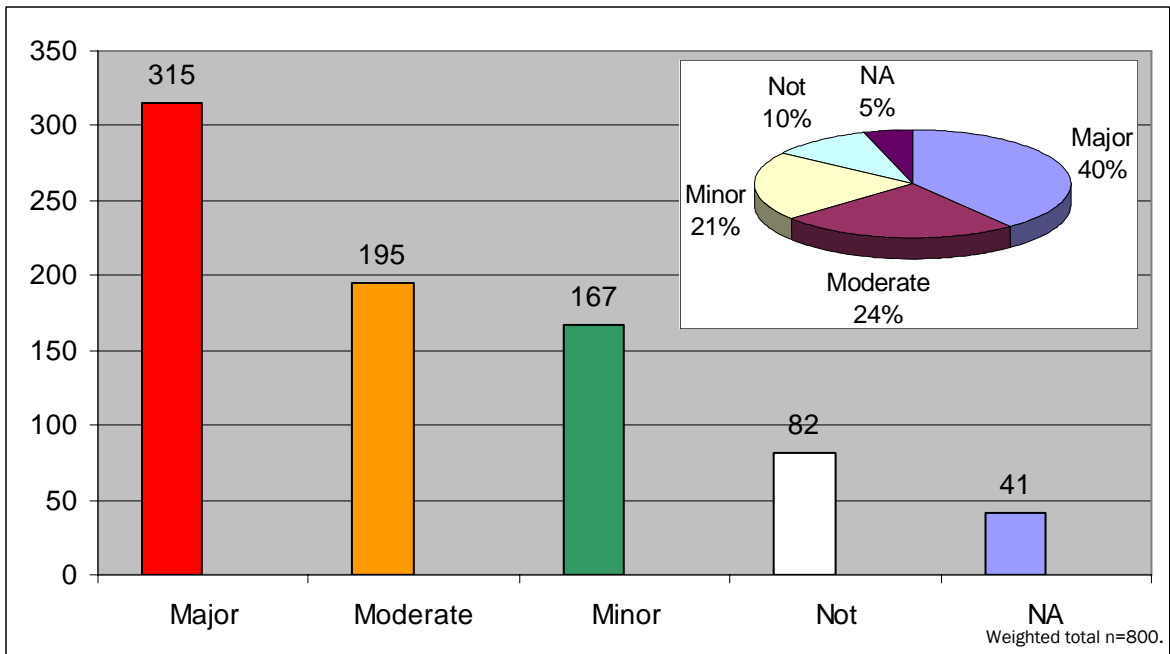


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“Do you consider **unsafe conditions for pedestrians caused by cars and trucks** a major, moderate, or minor problem, or not a problem?”

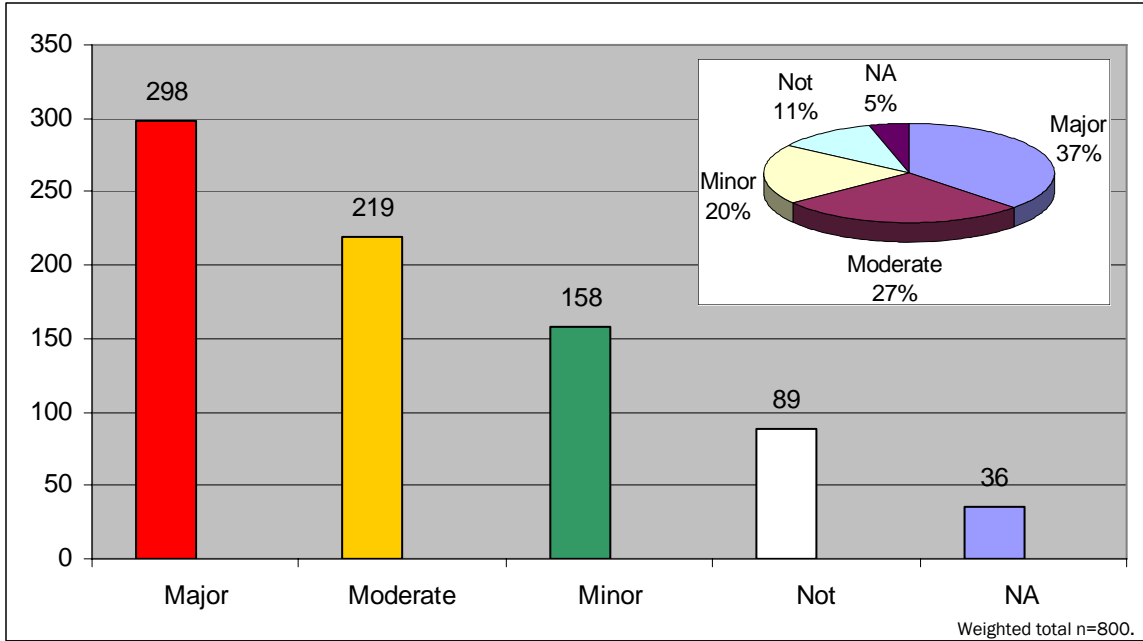


“Do you consider **unsafe conditions for people on bicycles** a major, moderate, or minor problem, or not a problem.”

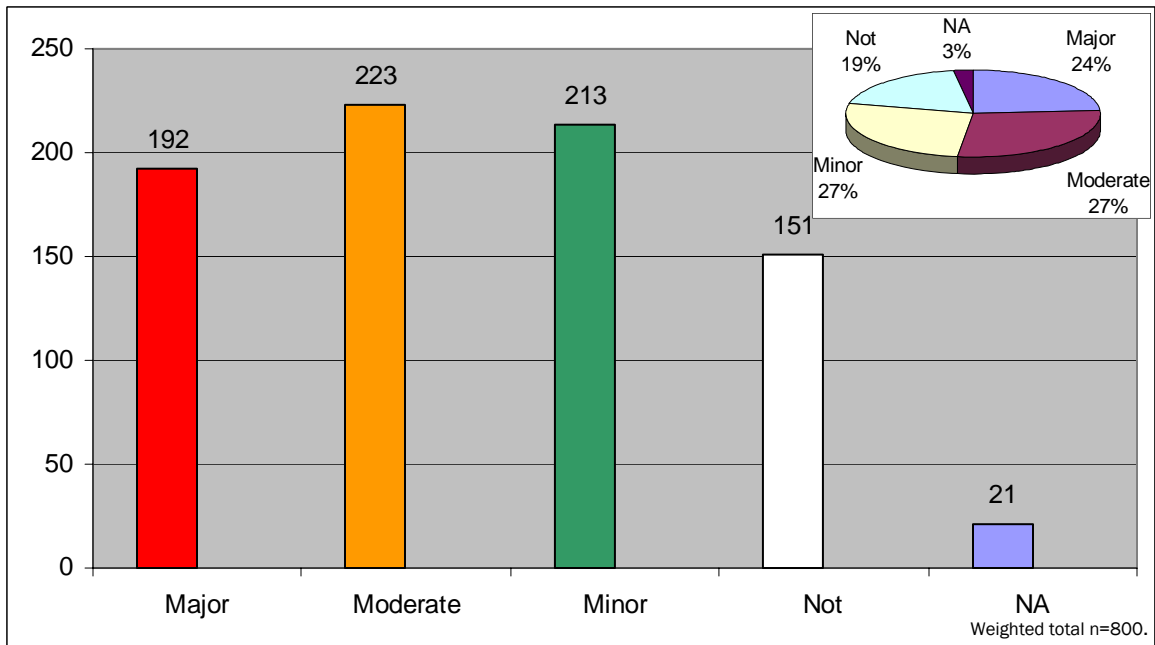


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“Do you consider **slow moving bus transportation** a major, moderate, or minor problem, or not a problem?”

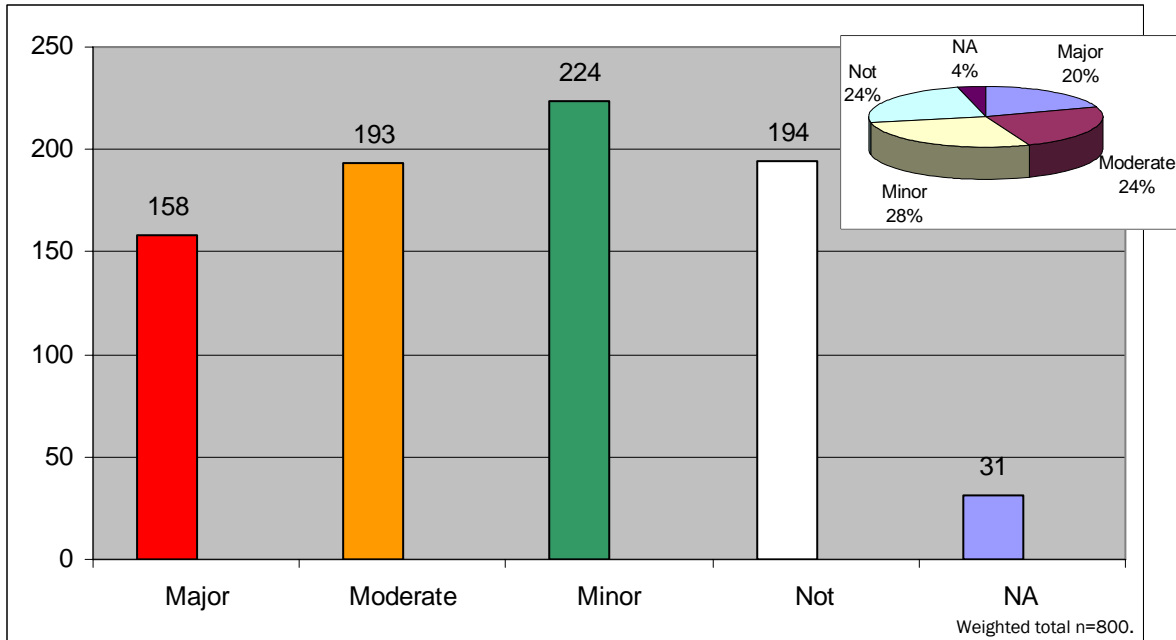


“Do you consider **crowded sidewalks** a major, moderate, or minor problem, or not a problem?”

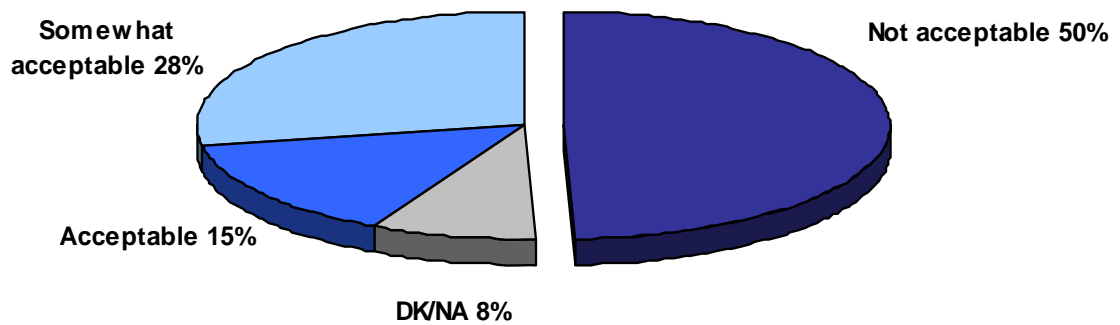


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“Do you consider lack of access to public transportation a major, moderate, or minor problem, or not a problem?”



Rating Traffic Congestion in Manhattan On A Normal Work Day



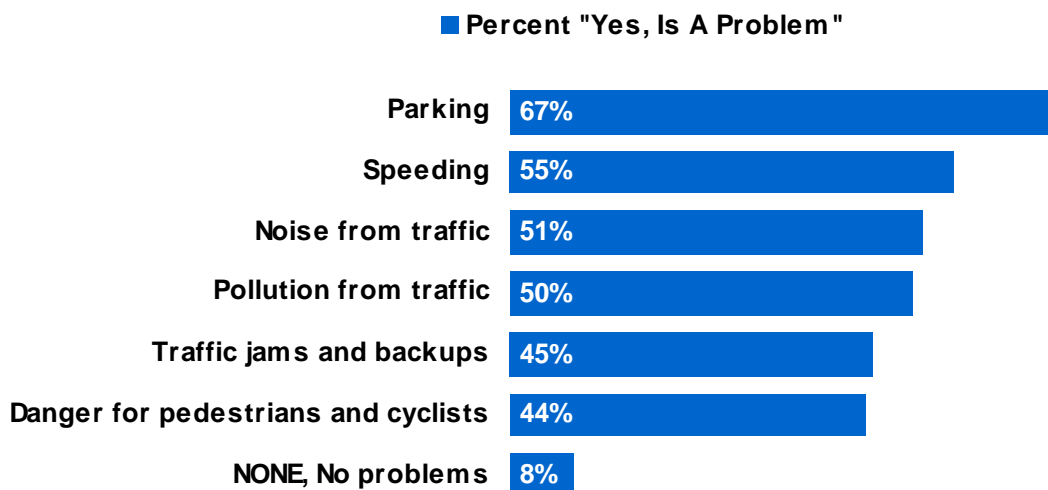
Base: Total sample. Weighted n=800.

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New Yorkers identify a range of traffic-related problems that plague their neighborhoods:

- More than three-fourths of Bronx and Manhattan residents say parking is a problem in their neighborhoods. Almost as many (72%) make this report from Brooklyn.
- Speeding is also a frequently cited neighborhood problem for New Yorkers (55%), but less often among those in Manhattan (44%).
- Noise from traffic is an especially acute problem for those in Manhattan (66%) and the Bronx (60%).
- 50% citywide say their neighborhoods suffer from traffic pollution, but significantly more from Manhattan make this report (63%).
- Traffic jams and dangerous conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists are each cited by about 45% of New Yorkers as neighborhood problems. Manhattan residents are especially likely to report traffic jams as a problem in their neighborhoods (56%).

Traffic-Related Problems in “Your Neighborhood”



Weighted total n=800.

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Traffic-Related Problems in “Your Neighborhood”

-----BOROUGH OF RESIDENCE-----

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Bronx</u>	<u>Brooklyn</u>	<u>Man- hattan</u>	<u>Queens</u>	<u>S.I.</u>
Parking	67%	78%	72%	76%	58%	32%
Speeding	55	60	55	44	54	81
Noise from traffic	51	60	44	66	46	27
Pollution from traffic	50	51	50	63	44	34
Traffic jams and backups	45	49	43	56	37	56
Dangerous conditions for pedestrians or bicycles	44	51	40	53	38	47
None of these problems	8	8	7	4	14	6

For Total, weighted n=800.

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About The Survey:

The public opinion data reported in this study are the result of a random and representative telephone survey conducted May 19 through June 4, 2006, with 800 New York City residents, 18 years of age and older. Sample distribution includes proportional representation across all five boroughs.

Interviewing was conducted from a central telephone facility utilizing a random-digit-dial (RDD) sampling methodology to ensure that both listed and unlisted telephone numbers were included. The questionnaire was administered in Spanish for non-English speaking Hispanic residents.

Final data were weighted using demographic information from the US Census Bureau to adjust for sampling and other non-sampling deviations from population distributions. Weights were assigned so the proportion in cells for borough, age, and race/ethnicity reflects the actual New York City adult population according to the US Census Bureau's most recent data.

For total sample results based on weighted data from 800 completed telephone interviews, the margin of error calculated at the 95 percent confidence level is ± 3.5 percentage points.

The **Tri-State Transportation Campaign** is an independent, non-profit policy and advocacy group promoting environment-friendly transportation policies in the New York metropolitan region.

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