Rutherford County Comprehensive Transportation Plan Survey:

Results Compiled July 7, 2015

Notes:

Free response questions could have more answers or routes identified than the total number of respondents. This is because if one respondent wrote two or more distinctly different ideas or routes, then the response was broken into two or more different answers.

Questions that allowed multiple answers from each respondent (question says "Select all that Apply") will have more answers provided than respondents.

1. Do you live in Rutherford County?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes, full time	90%	510
No, but I work in Rutherford County	6%	31
Yes, part time	4%	22
No, I'm a visitor	1%	5

Answered Question	**568**
Skipped Question	**0**

2. Please provide the zip code of your local residence (if part time resident, enter zip code of house owned in Rutherford County):

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
28043 - Forest City, Alexander Mills, Chase High area	29%	163
28139 - Rutherfordton & western Rutherford County	28%	156
28018 - NE Rutherford Co (Bostic to Golden Valley)	10%	56
28040 - Ellenboro area	8%	47
28746 - Lake Lure area	8%	44
28114 - SE Rutherford Co & SW Cleveland Co	5%	28
28167 - North Rutherford Co (Thermal City area)	3%	16
28160 - Spindale	3%	15
28152 - South Cleveland Co	1%	8
28720 - Chimney Rock	1%	5
28024 - Cliffside	1%	3
28150 - Central Cleveland Co	1%	3
28076 - Henrietta	1%	3
28019 - Caroleen	0%	2
28090 - North Cleveland Co	0%	2
Other	1%	8

Answered Question	**559**
Skipped Question	**9**

3. What is your primary reason for regular, daily travel?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Work	64%	359
School	27%	153
Recreation	3%	15
Shopping	2%	13
I do not have regular, daily travel	2%	12
Medical Needs	2%	9
Other	0%	2
	Answered Question	563
	Skipped Question	5

4. What county do you work in (or regularly travel to daily for another reason)?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Rutherford	89%	500
Cleveland	3%	15
Spartanburg County, SC	1%	8
Buncombe	1%	7
Henderson	1%	5
Mecklenburg	1%	4
Greenville County, SC	1%	3
Polk	1%	3
McDowell	0%	2
Gaston	0%	1
Other	2%	13
	Answered Question	561
	Skipped Question	7

5. If you work in Rutherford County, where more specifically do you work (or regularly travel to daily for another reason)?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Forest City	32%	173
Rutherfordton	20%	108
Bostic	11%	59
Spindale	10%	54
Ellenboro	5%	25
Lake Lure	4%	24
Cliffsdale	4%	21
Gilkey	3%	17
Henrietta	2%	11
Chimney Rock	1%	7
Chase	1%	5
Harris	1%	4
Other	7%	40
	Answered Question	534
	Skipped Question	34

6. What is the primary route you take to work (or to the destination of your regular daily travel)? Select all that apply.

Top Responses	Response Percent	Response Count
US 221	19%	170
US 74	14%	127
Main St (Forest City)	11%	96
US 74 Business	8%	75
US 64	7%	60
US 221 Alternate	6%	55
Main St (Spindale)	5%	48
US 74 Alternate	4%	39
Oak St (Forest City)	4%	32
Bostic-Sunshine Highway	3%	31
Whitesides Rd	1%	12
Other Responses	17%	148
Total Routes Identified		**893**

Common "Other Responses" with 5 - 10 responses:

NC 108 (9), Hudlow Rd (8), Chase High Rd (6), Painters Gap Rd (6), Ellenboro-Henrietta Rd (5), Hollis Rd (5), Old Caroleen Rd (5)

7. How do you typically commute?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Car	93%	522
Bus	4%	21
Walk	2%	9
Carpool	1%	7
Bicycle	0%	2
Answered Question		**561**
Skipped Question		**7**

8. What one road is the most congested in Rutherford County?

Top Responses	Response Percent	Response Count
US 74	14%	58
US 221 (Includes Main St in Rutherfordton)	12%	52
Railroad Ave	10%	41
US 64	8%	32
Main St (Forest City)	7%	29
Main St (Town Unspecified)	5%	21
US 74 Business	4%	18
Chase High Rd	4%	16
US 74 Alternate	4%	16
Oak St (Forest City)	4%	16
US 221 Alternate	3%	14
Broadway St	2%	10
Main St (Spindale)	1%	3
Other or Not Applicable	23%	98
Total Routes Identified		**424**

10. What improvements would need to be made to the transit system to make it a desirable choice for transportation?

Top Responses	Response Percent	Response Count
More, better, or more convenient bus stop locations	8%	23
Lack of accessibility outside of urban areas	6%	17
Better bus sanitation, aesthetics, or accommodations (i.e. food, air conditioning, Wi-Fi, bathroom)	5%	15
More Accessible or Available	5%	13
Unaware of transit system (either unaware of entire system or of accessibility for general public)	4%	10
More sidewalks or better sidewalk connections	3%	9
Safer bus stops, parking, & sidewalks to bus stops	2%	7
More reliable bus schedule (buses need to arrive on time)	2%	6
Faster commute times to destinations	2%	6
Uses buses instead of vans (or bigger vans)	2%	6
More affordable or no charge to ride	2%	5
Desire passenger train service	1%	4
Convienence	1%	4
More or Better Routes	1%	4
Frequency	1%	3
Access to commuters who live in other counties	1%	3
Better bus schedule	1%	2
More buses	1%	2
Pick you up at your house	1%	2
Other or Not Applicable	50%	140

Total Improvement Ideas Identified **281**

11. What are locations you currently use or would like to use for a park and ride lot for carpooling or transit facilities? Select all that apply.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I have no interest in using a park and ride lot.	80%	378
I currently use an informal location as a park and ride lot	5%	26
Locations identified as being used as an informal park and ride lot or as a location for a potential park and ride lot:		
Forest City	1%	7
Downtown Rutherfordton	1%	5
Lake Lure	1%	5
Ingles Parking Lot	1%	5
Bostic	1%	3
Spindale (Spindale House 2 of those responses)	1%	3
Food Lion Parking Lot	0%	2
Crestview Park	0%	2
Tri-City Mall	0%	2
Wal-Mart	0%	2
US 74 & US 221	0%	2
Cliffside	0%	2
Other or Not Applicable	6%	29

Total Responses **473**

12. How many people live in your household, including yourself?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
2	28%	156
4	28%	154
3	19%	108
5	13%	70
1	6%	35
6	3%	18
7+	3%	17
	Answered Question	**558**
	Skipped Question	**10**

Rutherford Co average in survey = 3.34 persons/household
Rutherford Co average in American Community Survey (2009-2013) = 2.43 persons/household

13. How many total vehicles do the people in your household own?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
2	34%	189
3	28%	156
4	15%	84
5+	11%	62
1	11%	59
0	1%	3
	Answered Question	**553**
	Skipped Question	**18**

Note: The "0 car" option was accidentally left off of the online version of the survey and was only included on the paper surveys.

14. Which destinations would you bike to if safe bicycle facilities were provided? Select all that apply.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Parks	48%	250
Still would not bike	39%	203
Shopping	18%	92
School	17%	89
Work	15%	78
Leisure in General	3%	16
Thermal Belt Rail Trail	1%	5
Church	1%	4
Restaurants	1%	4
Too long of distance from places to bike	1%	3
Short Trips into Town	1%	3
Mooneyham Library	0%	1
Other or Not Applicable	1%	6
	Answered Question	**524**
	Skipped Question	**44**

15. Please identify any sidewalks or greenways that need improvement:

Top Responses	Response Percent	Response Count
Forest City	5%	10
US 74 Business/Main St (Forest City & Spindale)	5%	10
Everywhere in the County	5%	10
Spindale	5%	9
Thermal Belt Rail Trail (includes better maintenance of existing trail)	5%	9
Connect Lake Lure to Chimney Rock	4%	7
Cliffside	3%	5
Chimney Rock	2%	4
US 221	2%	3
Bostic	2%	3
Broadway St (Forest City)	2%	3
Main St (Rutherfordton)	2%	3
Charlotte Rd	2%	3
Main St (town unspecified)	2%	3
Various Other Locations or Not Applicable	58%	112
Total Locations Identified		**194**

16. Are you concerned with safety or crash problems at a specific location?

Top Responses	Response Percent	Response Count
No	63%	318
Yes - US 74 Business & Bostic-Sunshine Hwy Intersection	3%	16
Yes - Roads and parking lots around Wal-Mart & Tri-City Mall	3%	13
Yes - US 221	2%	9
Yes - Railroad Ave & Charlotte Rd/Main St Intersection (and driveways nearby)	1%	6
Yes - Railroad Ave	1%	5
Yes - areas around schools	1%	3
Yes - Harris Henrietta Rd & Chase High Rd Intersection	1%	3
Yes - Whitesides Rd, Engineer Rd, & Brooks Rd Intersection	1%	3
Yes - Oak St & Church St Intersection	1%	3
Yes - Arlington St (intersections with Old Caroleen Rd & US 221A)	1%	3
Yes- various other locations	21%	104
Yes - no location specified	4%	21
Total Locations Identified		**507**

17. Is truck traffic a problem in the area?

Top Responses	Response Percent	Response Count
No	80%	421
Yes - US 221	2%	13
Yes - US 64	1%	7
Yes - Hudlow Rd	1%	5
Yes - Lake Lure & Chimney Rock	1%	5
Yes - Chase High Rd	1%	4
Yes - Railroad Ave	1%	4
Yes - US 221 Alternate	1%	3
Yes- various other locations	7%	37
Yes - no location specified	5%	28

Answered Question **527**
Skipped Question **48**

18. How can transportation for business and industry be improved in Rutherford County?

Top Responses	Response Percent	Response Count
Improve the public transportation system	7%	14
Finish US 221 widening and bypass	6%	12
Better road maintenance and paving	6%	11
Keep trucks off of roads	3%	6
Improve accessibility of roads	2%	4
Wider travel lanes (one response mentioned for trucks)	2%	3
More pedestrian and bicycling facilities	2%	3
Provide more places to park	2%	3
Remove stop lights from wider "bypass" roads	2%	3
Other or Not Applicable	70%	139

Answered Question **198**
Skipped Question **370**

19. Do you believe that multiple routes named US 74 or US 221 cause confusion? If so, what could be done to improve getting around the county?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
No, it is not confusing.	38%	203
Yes, need to change highway names.	25%	130
Yes, need more signs.	19%	98
Yes, need special wayfinding signs.	14%	73
Yes - Other	5%	25

Answered Question **529**
Skipped Question **40**

20. Other than confusion over US 74 or US 221, how could navigation for a visitor be improved?

Top Responses	Response Percent	Response Count
More and/or Better Signs (road signs, destination signs, wayfinding signs were all mentioned)	44%	97
Visitor center with brochures & maps	5%	10
Provide county maps to visitors	2%	5
Change road names	2%	5
Build interstates or wider roads in general	2%	5
Other or Not Applicable	45%	100

Answered Question	**222**
Skipped Question	**348**

Note: several comments mentioned that GPS systems need to be updated

21. Do you have any other comments or concerns regarding the transportation system in Rutherford County?

Top Responses	Response Percent	Response Count
Need new or better sidewalks and/or bike facilities	4%	7
Finish construction of US 221 or do not like project	3%	5
Need better bus service for people with low income	3%	5
Other Improvements to transit system	3%	5
Would like passenger rail service	2%	4
Need better bus service for residents outside of Tri-City area	1%	2
Other or Not Applicable	85%	155

Answered Question	**183**
Skipped Question	**381**

22. What race or ethnicity do you most identify with? Please check all that apply.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
White	93%	490
African American	8%	40
Hispanic	4%	21
Asian	3%	13
Native American	2%	11
Other	2%	12

Answered Question	**529**
Skipped Question	**39**

23. What was your household income last year?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
$30,000-$49,999	28%	129
$90,000 or above	22%	103
$50,000-$69,999	21%	96
$70,000-$89,999	15%	71
Below $30,000	15%	68
Answered Question		**467**
Skipped Question		**101**

24. What is your age?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
45-64	40%	212
Under 18	23%	124
35-44	17%	90
25-34	10%	54
18-24	6%	31
65-74	3%	18
Over 74	2%	8
Answered Question		**537**
Skipped Question		**31**

25. How did you find out about this survey?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
E-mail	86%	465
Internet	8%	45
Word of Mouth	3%	15
Town Hall	2%	10
Social Media	1%	4
Newspaper	0%	2
Radio	0%	1
Library	0%	0
Answered Question		**542**
Skipped Question		**26**

Note: Got a few hand written responses that had been provided to a senior center (included in "Word of Mouth")

9. Would you use the following transportation facilities in your daily commute instead of your personal vehicle if they were convenient to access?

Answer Options	Yes	No	Already use	Response Count	% Yes	% No
Off-road trails or greenways for walking and biking	210	301	12	523	40%	58%
Rail Service (throughout the county and to nearby towns)	191	309	3	503	38%	61%
Sidewalks	175	305	34	514	34%	59%
Bus/Transit Service	142	348	14	504	28%	69%
On-road bike facilities (i.e. bike lanes or wide shoulders)	130	360	6	496	26%	73%

Answered Question	**547**
Skipped Question	**21**