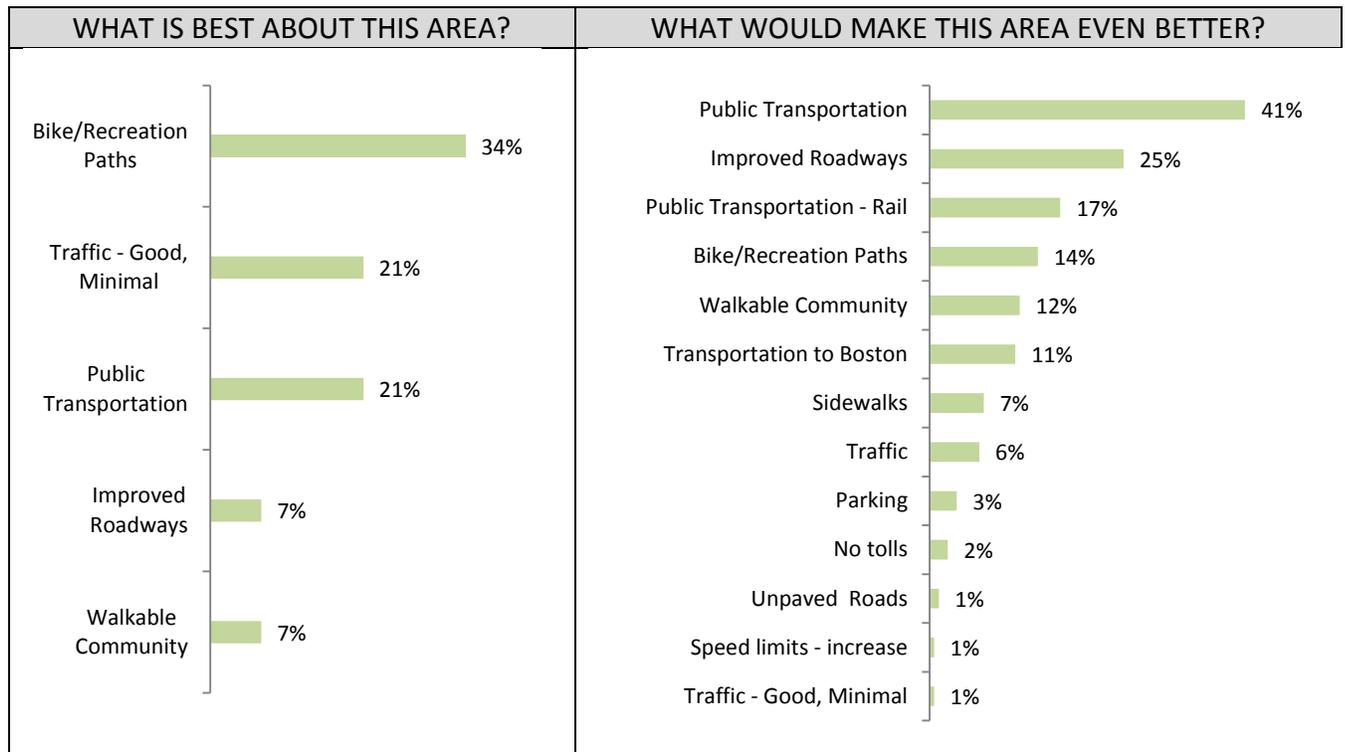


What We Heard About Transportation

Of the 771 respondents to the opinion survey, 216 responses were related to the transportation chapter. Within those responses, 29 suggestions were made to “What is best about this area” that described what people currently like about transportation in the region. Bike and recreation paths were the region’s most talked about asset, referenced in 10 comments. Interest in the existing biking trails was expressed throughout these comments. The region’s relatively minimal traffic was the second most cited theme within statements of what is best about transportation. Public transportation was also a common theme among responses to the opinion survey, referenced within 6 comments.

The vast majority of the transportation related comments were contained within 242 different improvements were offered in response to the question “What would make this area even better?” Almost half of the suggested improvements called for public transportation, rail or alternative transportation to Boston. Many people within the region expressed the desire for a public rail service connecting New Hampshire towns to the Boston area. Improvements to bicycle and recreation trails, sidewalks, and making communities more walkable combined to represent the second most frequently cited suggested improvements (23%). Many of the comments related to these themes voiced the need for more paths along roads and trails through the woods. Seventeen percent (17%) of the suggestions pertained to improving roads within the region.

Overall, transportation was a common theme found throughout the opinion surveys. Transportation plays a significant role in the mobility and quality of life of the region’s citizens and it is important to sustain the regional transportation system to satisfy the people’s vision and needs for the future.



Many of the comments received directly relate to the categories of Mobility, Quality of Life and System Sustainability. Responses related to Mobility are linked through congestion issues, transit needs, bike pedestrian (non-motorized) and east-west travel. Quality of Life consists of safety, economic development, rail and inter-region bus connections. System Sustainability includes bridge conditions, system maintenance and expansion, and funding public private partnerships. The following quotes are examples of the many comments received.

WHAT IS BEST ABOUT THIS AREA?	WHAT WOULD MAKE THIS AREA EVEN BETTER?
MOBILITY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks, hiking trails, waterfalls, trails and wildlife – Milford • Accessibility to public transportation, aid services, & shopping – Nashua • The trail and peaceful atmosphere - Litchfield • Can access highway in many different directions – Merrimack • Bike path and little traffic - Litchfield 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better routes to go from the eastern part of the state to the western part of the state. 101 can get bogged down – Merrimack • Mass Transit to Nashua, Manchester, & Boston businesses- Litchfield • Less traffic on bridges – Pelham • Better walking access to downtown and connected features (no sidewalks in many areas) – Milford • More bike lanes – difficult to bike on 122 & So. Merrimack, etc. – Hollis
QUALITY OF LIFE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friendly, safe community – Pelham • Close to bus line & Main Street – Nashua 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More affordable housing for seniors; commuter train service would be nice. It would be nice to ride the train to Boston – Amherst • Oval traffic can be dangerous –Milford • Public rail service through Nashua on to Manchester, down to Boston – Pelham • More walkability , expand on the charm to attract more guests, tourists, shoppers – Nashua
SYSTEM SUSTAINABILITY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiet, love being in Nashua. More improvement everyday stability and improvement on roads and rent. – Nashua 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better roads and infrastructure support. Towns are not paying for necessary maintenance. – Amherst • Town needs taxi service – free enterprise taxi – not by town control. Town area needs bike paths. Nashua to Milford public transportation needed. – Milford • Better public transportation, adding activities/venues/affordable housing to attract younger demographics. – Nashua