

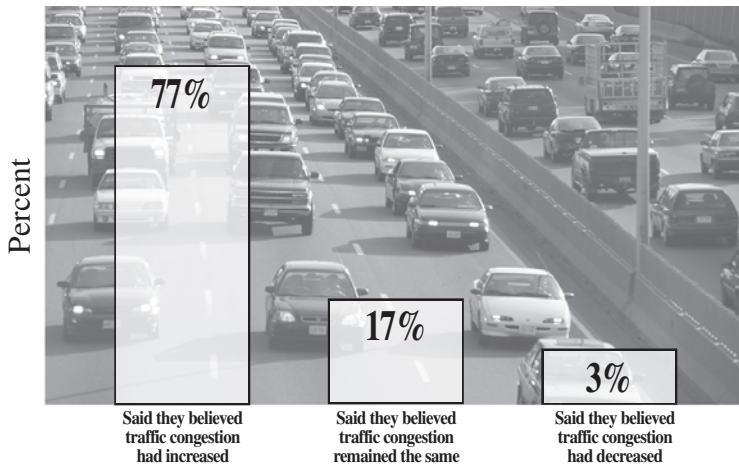


# Poll STATION

With Linda Banister

The City is growing and, as a result, there is an increasing number of vehicles on the roads and more construction to accommodate them. This month's *Poll Station* asked Edmontonians about the different factors that impact driving habits.

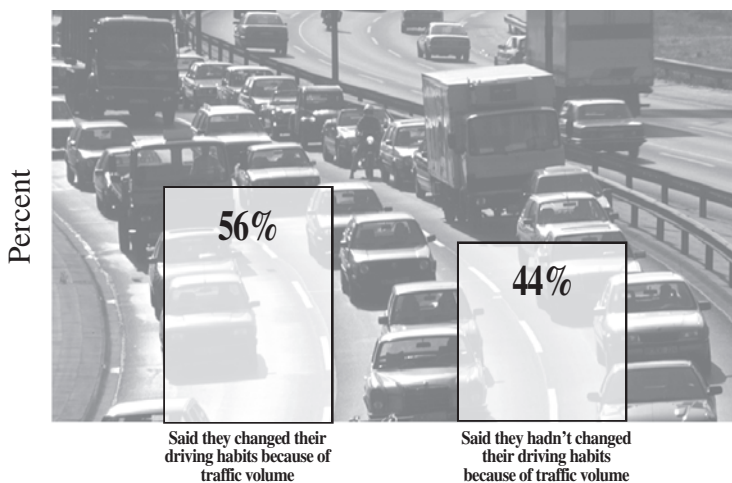
## IN THE PAST YEAR, HAS TRAFFIC CONGESTION INCREASED, DECREASED OR REMAINED THE SAME?



Respondents were asked if they believed traffic congestion in the City in the past year has increased, decreased or remained the same. More than three-quarters of the respondents (77 percent) believed traffic congestion had increased, while 17 percent of respondents felt congestion had remained the same. Only three percent of respondents believed traffic congestion had decreased in the past year.

Of the respondents who felt congestion had increased, 71 percent believed it was a result of the increased number of vehicles on the road, while 26 percent stated the amount of construction, and 12 percent indicated poor road planning. Of the respondents that felt traffic congestion had decreased, 67 percent said it was due to better traffic controls, such as traffic lights and road projects, that increase traffic flow.

## HAVE YOUR DRIVING HABITS CHANGED?



Respondents were then asked a number of questions regarding factors that may have had an impact on their driving habits. First, they were asked if, in the past year, the volume of traffic, especially during peak times, changed their driving route or habits. Fifty-six percent stated it had, with 50 percent of them indicating they found an alternate route or they avoided traveling during peak hours (39 percent). Seventy percent felt construction had changed their driving routes or habits. Of these respondents, 86 percent reported they found an alternate route, nine percent anticipated increased travel times, and four percent obeyed speed limits. Fifty percent indicated increased gas prices impacted their driving habits, stating they were more efficient with their trips (42 percent); or they drove less than usual, used public transportation more frequently or car pooled more often (40 percent).

Finally, when asked if environmental concerns such as global warming and air pollution have changed their driving habits, 24 percent stated it had; of those, 58 percent stated they drive less and 29 percent indicated they practice gas saving techniques such as decreased idling.

## HAVE YOU INCREASED YOUR USE OF ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION?

Respondents were then asked if their frequency of alternative transportation activities had changed over the past year. Twelve percent reported an increased use of public transportation, 40 percent indicated their frequency of walking, biking or rollerblading has increased, while 16 percent stated a greater use of carpooling. When asked the reasons for their increased alternative transportation activities, respondents most frequently mentioned to help the environment, to save money or for health benefits.

Finally, when asked if there were any other factors that have changed their driving habits in the past year, four percent cited the increased number of accidents, three percent stated a change of work schedule, two percent indicated police presence, and 87 percent stated there were no other factors.

### New to the Edmontonians website: Monthly Poll Station Online Question

Visit [www.edmontonians.com](http://www.edmontonians.com) to register your opinion

### Want a question included in the Edmontonians Poll?

Contact Linda at 780.451.4444 or e-mail [lbanner@edmontonians.com](mailto:lbanner@edmontonians.com).

Linda Banister is a certified management consultant and the owner of Banister Research and Consulting Inc., a full service provider of market research and program evaluation services.

Visit [www.banister.ab.ca](http://www.banister.ab.ca).