

Draft New Visions 2050



Survey & Public Response Workbook

How to get involved in the 2050 Plan



Online at www.cdtcmpto.org/nv2050

Learn more about how long range planning works, take surveys, request a presentation, find out how to host a “meeting-in-a-box” & sign up for our newsletter & email list to get updates on planning initiatives in the Capital Region & comment opportunities.



In person

Invite us to attend your event or present to your group by contacting our community outreach staff.



Become a citizen planner

Participate in CDTC’s Citizen Planner training, plan & hold your own New Visions 2050 meeting with your friends, family, or other community in the Capital Region. A “meeting-in-a-box” will be provided to citizen planners with all the tools & information needed to present & collect comments on the New Visions 2050 Plan.



On social media

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram to learn about transportation news & when we’ll be out in the community.



Request Printed Material

If you don’t have digital access & prefer information in paper form, you can make that request by calling the number below.



Questions?

Contact our community outreach staff at NewVisions@CDTCMPO.org or (518) 458-2161.

Public Participation Goal for New Visions 2050



*Establish a **thorough, inclusive** process that uses **creative** approaches to offer the public **continuous** opportunities to shape the region’s long range transportation plan.*

CDTC wants to hear from you! If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us. You can return your completed survey workbook to NewVisions@cdtcmpto.org, by USPS or in-person at the address below.

1 Park Place • Albany • NY • 12205
(518) 458-2161
NewVisions@cdtcmpto.org

Investing in a Quality Region

The *New Visions* Planning & Investment Principles are the centerpiece to the long range transportation plan. They are directly related to criteria used by CDTC to evaluate proposed projects and prioritize them for federal funding. These principles influence the types of tasks and initiatives CDTC initiates and supports (ex. Local Road Safety Plan, Capital District Trails Plan, security planning, etc.). For CDTC, creating a “quality region” means maintain a high quality of life while expanding access to transportation choices and creating new economic opportunities. This survey workbook will present the planning and investment principles and major policy recommendations of New Visions 2050 and ask you to tell us what you think and what a “quality region” means to you.

- 1 Invest in a Quality Region
- 2 Support Economic Development
- 3 Make investments regionally equitable
- 4 Preserve and manage the transportation system
- 5 Maintain travel reliability
- 6 Invest in safety
- 7 Invest in security
- 8 Invest in Complete Streets
- 9 Encourage bicycle and pedestrian travel
- 10 Move freight efficiently
- 11 Invest in transit
- 12 Provide essential mobility for all
- 13 Prioritize affordable and convenient travel options
- 14 Preserve the environment
- 15 Leverage technology

Visioning Exercise

The objective of this exercise is to visualize how the transportation system impacts our daily lives. The next several slides describe four separate “visions.” They are illustrations that represent a vision of a potential future and the role of its transportation system to support that future. It is based upon the principles and visions described in New Visions 2050. We are asking you to consider how the transportation system and available services affect these visions and what you like about them. This will help us get to a regional consensus on the type of transportation system the region needs.

The Year is 2050...

Vision 1: Dwayne just relocated to the Capital District. He got a job as a nurse at a local hospital and just purchased his first home. He found an affordable house in a neighborhood close enough to the hospital where he can bike safely to work when the weather is nice. There is a bike share hub nearby so he doesn’t have to bring his bike in and out of his house everyday.

Dwayne has a plug-in vehicle and relies on a nearby electric vehicle charging station because his new house doesn’t have a driveway. It’s convenient and only takes him about 20 minutes to get 300-400 miles, which is perfect for the occasional weekend hiking trip. He uses that charging time to grab a coffee.

Dwayne is happy with his neighborhood – he can meet up with friends after work and on weekends at nearby restaurants, takes a daily jog on a nearby trail and joins pick-up games of soccer and basketball at the park. He loves living in the Capital Region because of the variety and mix of activities in his city but he can be at the top of a mountain or visiting friends in a nearby big city within a couple of hours. He’s grateful to call this his home.



What about this vision do you like? Check all that apply:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation Choices	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bicycle paths, lanes & other bike-friendly infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sidewalks & safe pedestrian crossings
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed land uses	<input type="checkbox"/>	Publicly-accessible electric vehicle charging	<input type="checkbox"/>	Low-carbon, emissions-free transportation

Do you relate to this vision?

Yes No No opinion

Do you have any additional comments on this vision?

New Visions 2050 Plan Survey

Vision 2: Lucy and Ray are life-long residents of the Capital Region and preparing for retirement. They both worked for the State and spent years commuting to Empire State Plaza and the State Office Campus from their home in Colonie. Ray can tell you about years of driving Central Avenue to and from work and the traffic lights that always “tied him up.” But these problems seem like long ago now. While more development has occurred throughout the corridor, traffic moves better since they upgraded the traffic signals with “smart” technology. Sometimes Ray avoids traffic entirely and saves money on gas and parking fees because he can take BusPlus. He can’t believe there’s a lane just for buses now and loves how quickly he can get downtown.

Ray and Lucy are looking forward to not having to commute everyday but are worried about how they will afford two vehicles on a fixed income. Lucy wants Ray to sell his car. She thinks they can get by on just one, even though they both plan on filling their time in retirement helping with their grandkids, volunteering at the local community center, and keeping up with their exercise classes. Lucy doesn’t mind hailing a ride with her smartphone if she needs to. And if they decide they no longer want to maintain their house, Ray and Lucy know they have a range of affordable housing options for seniors close by. They are confident they can continue to live independently and stay in close contact with their friends and family throughout the region. They feel lucky to live in a vibrant place.



What about this vision do you like? Check all that apply:

<input type="checkbox"/>	High quality transit service	<input type="checkbox"/>	Traffic signal upgrades	<input type="checkbox"/>	Affordable housing options
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation choice	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road & safety lighting	<input type="checkbox"/>	Residential neighborhoods with sidewalks

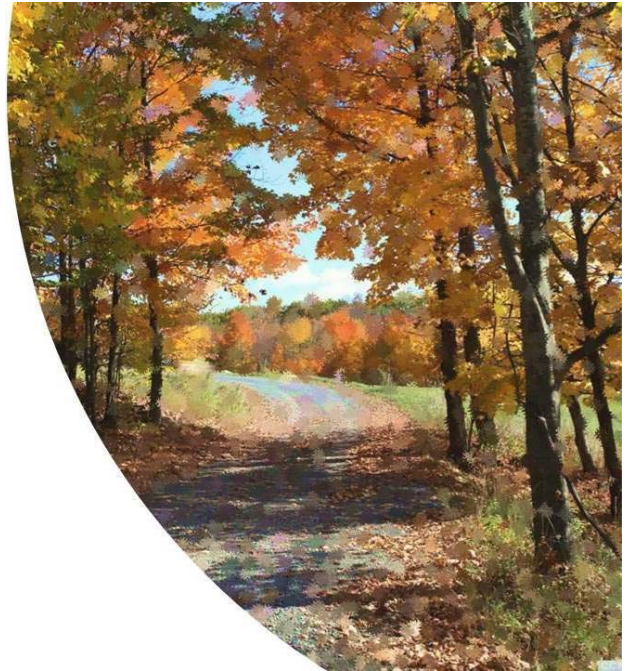
Do you relate to this vision?

- Yes No No opinion

Do you have any additional comments on this vision?

New Visions 2050 Plan Survey

Vision 3: John and Edie sold their construction business nearly 15 years ago and have been living happily in retirement. They were glad to be able to stay in their home on several acres where they live with their dogs and other animals. Their daughter and her family live nearby and come and help out around the house often. Edie loves that their granddaughter, Elsie, can use the new rail-trail to walk or bike to her school with her friends. Edie jokes with Elsie about the “old days” when she had to drive everyone “all over creation” for school and soccer and play dates.



Edie is planning an overnight trip with her daughter but realized it conflicts with one of John’s doctor appointments in the city, 30-minutes away. John can’t drive anymore but Edie remembers that John can request a ride by calling a service or scheduling a ride through a smartphone app. Elsie reminds her grandpa how to use the app. Edie and John are grateful for the new rural transportation services available to seniors like her and John so that they can stay in their home, that they love.

What about this vision do you like? Check all that apply:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Access to trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rural transportation options	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community support for aging-in-place & independent living
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rural community character	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rural road & rail-trail lighting	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rural telecommunications infrastructure (good broadband internet & reliable cell phone service)

Do you relate to this vision?

- Yes No No opinion

Do you have any additional comments on this vision?

New Visions 2050 Plan Survey

Vision 4: Chad, Siobhan, and their three children are a busy family. Both Chad and Siobhan work outside of their home and all three kids are involved in extracurricular activities. This means driving straight from work to the soccer field, swim practice, or piano lessons almost every day of the week. Siobhan’s job is flexible and allows her to work from home some days, which makes it easier for her to manage the family’s schedule and coordinate rides.



Siobhan is glad that she can drive her kids everywhere they need to go and plan trips ahead with all of the real-time traffic information that is easily accessible from her car’s GPS, smartphone, and the new electronic message signs on most of the region’s roadways. She’s able to get across the county from piano lessons to soccer practice in less than 20 minutes and without being delayed by congestion or other issues because of improved incident management.

The family is looking forward to their beach vacation next week. It’s rare that they all get to spend time together. Getting to and from the airport is no problem because they have direct access and they know they will easily be able to get to their terminal on time because they’ve already reserved and paid for their parking ahead of time. They enjoy a high quality of life because of investments in the integration of technology in the region’s highway infrastructure.

What about this vision do you like? Check all that apply:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Easy access to major transportation facilities, like the airport	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delivery of real-time traffic information	<input type="checkbox"/>	Managed congestion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Having the option to telecommute (work from home)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Suburban housing options	<input type="checkbox"/>	Smart parking
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wireless internet connectivity				

Do you relate to this vision?

- Yes No No opinion

Do you have any additional comments on this vision?

New Visions 2050 Plan Survey

Vision 5. Joy rents a two-bedroom apartment in a hard-working area of the city where she lives with her daughters Olivia and Jasmine. Joy is sight-limited and uses a white cane to get around. When the kids were younger, Joy worked part-time as a telephone marketer and then as a secretary at a health insurance company. Getting to work required a 40-minute bus ride which included a transfer. Joy recently got a new job with better benefits that her family needs and it's less than a mile from their apartment.



Joy walks Olivia and Jasmine to their school then gets a bus downtown on weekdays. The road to school was recently redesigned and Joy is less anxious navigating her family around because it's easier to cross the street. The separated bike lane made a safe space for kids to ride their bikes to school and cars drive more slowly. Joy feels like the road was designed with people like her in-mind. Her kids point out colorful public art popping up around the neighborhood and love the new bus shelter with the screens that tell them when the next bus will arrive.

As a result of community advocacy, new three and four-bedroom apartments have been built as well as new homes for low-income families built by Habitat for Humanity. Olivia and Jasmine like the constant stream of new kids to play with and Joy finds comfort in the familiarity of her neighbors, who have lived in the neighborhood as long as Joy has. On weekends they visit the nearby park, community center and sometimes visit the science museum. Sometimes they take the bus downtown to the Amtrak Station where they can catch a train to visit Joy's father in Utica.

What about this vision do you like? Check all that apply:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Easy access to major transportation facilities, like the train station	<input type="checkbox"/>	Safe street crossings for pedestrians	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transit amenities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Homeownership opportunities for households with low incomes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Separated bike lane	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public art
<input type="checkbox"/>	Housing options	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban reinvestment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community amenities (ex. parks)

Do you relate to this vision?

- Yes No No opinion

Do you have any additional comments on this vision?

Planning & Investment Principles

This next section describes each of the 15 New Visions Planning & Investment Principles. CDTC feels these create the best framework for creating a quality region. Each principle is explained in some detail. Please let us know if you agree with each of them.

Investing in a Quality Region – Transportation programming & planning is fair & equitable for all modes (highway infrastructure, transit, walking & bicycling) and all communities. Investments must be strategic to make our region a Quality Region.

Do you agree with this principle?

Yes No No opinion

Preserve & manage the transportation system - Transportation funding must be sufficient to both repair and sometimes replace our highway, bridge, and transit infrastructure.

Do you agree with this principle?

Yes No No opinion

Maintain Travel Reliability – Reliable traffic flow is more important than reducing congestion – traffic congestion is often a sign of an area’s economic vitality.

Do you agree with this principle?

Yes No No opinion

Invest in Safety – Our region will move toward eliminating transportation related deaths and serious injuries by 2050.

Do you agree with this principle?

Yes No No opinion

Invest in Security – Protection of critical infrastructure from natural disasters, acts of terrorism & cyber-attack is of increasing concern. Scenario planning & computer modeling will support regional security planning efforts.

Do you agree with this principle?

Yes No No opinion

Invest in Complete Streets – Street design will serve all users equitably, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, freight & personal vehicle drivers & riders.

Do you agree with this principle?

Yes No No opinion

Encourage bicycle & pedestrian travel – recognize walking & bicycling as socially, economically, & environmentally responsible & healthy approaches to improving the performance of our transportation system. A regional system of sidewalks, bicycle facilities, & multi-use trails will encourage safe bicycle & pedestrian use.

Do you agree with this principle?

Yes No No opinion

Move freight efficiently – our freight system is crucial to the economy; it will be efficient and automated and will minimize its impact on communities. CDTC’s planning efforts will embrace freight’s key contributions to regional prosperity, while also trying to mitigate the negative impacts of all modes of freight movement on local communities.

Do you agree with this principle?

Yes No No opinion

Invest in Transit – Innovative and viable transportation services support concentrated development by providing equitable access to reliable and affordable transportation.

Do you agree with this principle?

Yes No No opinion

Provide Essential Mobility for All – A good quality transportation system allows all residents to live a fulfilling and productive life. This includes households with low incomes, people living with certain impairments and/or disabilities, people who cannot or do not have a driver’s license or own a vehicle.

Do you agree with this principle?

Yes No No opinion

Choosing Our Future

Understanding the likely effects of growth and change on the region is essential to identifying decisions the region’s leaders might make to meet state, regional, and local goals. Rapid technological, social, and cultural change has made the future more uncertain than ever before. Given the uncertainty about the future, CDTC wants to know what’s most important to you. This helps weigh the tradeoffs and opportunities between competing quality of life factors that sometimes arise in the transportation planning process.

Please indicate if each characteristic is a high, medium, or low priority based on your opinion of a “quality region”:

	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority
Vibrant urban (city) centers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protection of rural community character	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safe walking infrastructure like sidewalks, road crossings, and trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protection of open spaces and agricultural lands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Affordable housing options	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to recreation amenities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs and economic development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy efficient housing choices	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Decreased congestion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bike-friendly streets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transit service enhancements, like bus rapid transit (BusPlus)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintenance and expansion of the regional trail network	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Smart land use planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to transit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transportation choices	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electric vehicle charging	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public waterfront access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Air quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural resource and habitat protection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shared transportation services like car share, bike share, carpool, and/or vanpool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accessibility for people who have disabilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Efficient and reliable movement of goods	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Traffic safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please describe what a “quality region” means to you:

Major Policy Choices

A review of the 11 technical area papers included in the *New Visions 2050* plan will find these major policy themes. These recommendations have been developed based on transportation planning best practices and are the best policy pathways for creating a quality region.

Maintain a State-of-Good-Repair on Infrastructure

CDTC encourages funding to be prioritized for construction and reconstruction of pavements, bridges, sidewalks, and other existing infrastructure in order maintain a reliable and structurally sufficient regional transportation system. This is important for all modes of transportation.

Do you support this regional policy?

Yes No No opinion

Comment: _____

Manage Congestion, No New Capacity

Adding capacity, like the addition of lanes or roadway widening reduces safety and increases emissions. New capacity leads to more cars, hence why congestion is never resolved. CDTC should continue its strong policy that congestion management is much more cost-effective than highway capacity increases or new lanes; and that congestion alone does not justify increasing highway capacity or adding new lanes. Strategic removal of bottlenecks can be relieved through the use of less expensive strategies and evolving transportation technology. Additionally, there is an opportunity to right-size existing roadways that were built years ago based on traffic forecasts that never materialized. Underutilized right-of-way can be used to improve access for other modes of transportation like walking, bicycling, transit, or green infrastructure like new trees.

Do you support this regional policy?

Yes No No opinion

Comment: _____

Plan & Implement Complete Streets

Complete streets is a transportation policy and design approach that requires streets to be planned, designed, operated, and maintained to enable safe, convenient and comfortable travel and access for users of all ages and abilities regardless of their mode of transportation.

Do you support this regional policy?

Yes No No opinion

Comment: _____

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Encourage adoption of Safe Systems & Vision Zero Policies

A key finding of CDTC's Local Road Safety Action Plan is that a system approach to safety works best at the local level. CDTC should encourage local governments, as an implementation action of that plan, to adopt Vision Zero policies. The policies can be tailored to the community context and crash patterns while also supporting implementation of safe systems planning. As a starting point, communities should consider establishing an interdisciplinary task force to discuss engineering, enforcement, and policy changes with guidance provided by CDTC. The foundation of creating a safe system is designing roads for safety over speed.

Do you support this regional policy?

Yes No No opinion

Comment: _____

Encourage Smart Land Use Planning

Support Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and Smart Growth. CDTC should continue to encourage planning for new development and redevelopment that supports transit, is near employment centers, and encourages walking and bicycling. This means promoting mixing land uses and increasing density to improve the efficiency and reliability of transportation services, particularly transit. This type of development also attracts new economic activity to communities, generating tax revenue and creating new jobs. These policies are fiscally responsible and help attract reinvestment to our region's existing infrastructure.

Do you support this regional policy?

Yes No No opinion

Comment: _____

Competitive & Sustainable Public Transit

Continue to invest in high quality transit service. CDTC should work with CDTA to explore strategies to improve transit service while also supporting and investing in transportation services that connect more people to transit, like bike share, carpool matching, on-demand ride services (ex. CDTA's FLEX), and other innovative mobility options. Bus shelters, real-time bus arrival information, on-board wifi, and other amenities should be considered in service improvements to attract new riders and sways people who drive to work to take the bus instead.

Do you support this regional policy?

Yes No No opinion

Comment: _____

Budget & Priorities

Budgeting and setting priorities is an important part of updating the long range transportation plan. The table below lists the type and current level of investments being made in the Capital Region. Do you believe any should receive increased funding priority in the future? Reduced funding priority? Which should receive about the same funding priority?

Regional Programs	Current Investment Levels (\$M) (2016-21)	Funding Priority			
		Increase Funding	Reduce Funding	About the Same	No opinion
Intermodal Facilities (ex. Amtrak)	\$31.0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transit Infrastructure & Service	\$121.0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Traffic Signal Infrastructure & Operations	\$2.8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Highway & Bridge Rehab, Reconstruction, Redesign, & Maintenance	\$247.8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strategic Highway & Bridge Actions (adding capacity, economic development & community compatibility projects)	\$22.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Freight/Goods Movement Accommodations	\$0.0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bike & Pedestrian Accommodations (ex. sidewalks, trails, etc.)	\$5.8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access Management (consolidating access to shops & services along major transportation routes)	\$0.0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safety	\$2.6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Programs to reduce driving (ex. car/vanpool)	\$0.5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Integrated Planning & Outreach	\$1.0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electric Vehicle Chargers	\$0.0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Technology to decrease congestion	\$0.0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you think your responses above require an increase in overall funding for transportation in the region?

- Yes No No opinion

If yes, where do you feel the additional funding should come from? Check all that apply:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal gas tax | <input type="checkbox"/> Private sector (construction by developers) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal income tax | <input type="checkbox"/> Carbon tax (tax on emissions) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State gas tax | <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle Miles Traveled Tax (pay per mile) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State income tax | <input type="checkbox"/> High occupancy lanes, tolls, or congestion pricing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local gas tax | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local property and/or sales tax | |

Tell Us About Yourself

Zip Code: _____

Gender: _____

Do you rent or own the home that you live in?

- Rent
- Own
- Neither

What is your living arrangement?

- I live alone
- I do not live alone

What is your Age?

- Under 18
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- Over 65

Are you satisfied with the quality of the Capital Region's transportation system?

- Yes
- No
- No opinion

Are you satisfied with the transportation choices available to you and your community?

- Yes
- No
- No opinion

What is your race/ ethnicity? Check all that apply:

- White
- Hispanic or Latino
- Black or African American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asia/Pacific Islander
- Some other race

Do you have a disability?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

Do any of these describe you? Please check all that apply:

- Low-income
- Zero Vehicle Household
- Minority
- Limited English
- Business-owner operating in Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and/or Schenectady counties

What modes do you use to commute to work? Check all that apply:

- Drive Alone
- Carpool
- Bus
- Bike
- Walk
- Telecommute
- Other

What modes do you use for other types of trips?

Check all that apply:

- Drive Alone
- Carpool
- Bus
- Bike
- Walk
- Telecommute
- Other

Are there modes or services currently not available to you for commute and non-commute trips that you hope become available? Check all that apply:

- Drive Alone
- Carpool
- Bus
- Bike
- Walk
- Telecommute
- Other

