

LEGISLATIVE QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY

LOUISIANA STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

PREPARED BY:

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and

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PREPARED FOR:

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT

BATON ROUGE, LA

AUGUST 2012

INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the results of the Legislative Questionnaire conducted for the update to the Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan facilitated by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD). The objective of the Legislative Questionnaire is to gauge Louisiana Legislators' opinions on the future of transportation in Louisiana. The results of the responses will assist the DOTD in developing future transportation scenarios to be discussed during the Visioning Workshop in fall 2012 and analyzed in the Statewide Transportation Plan.

METHODOLOGY

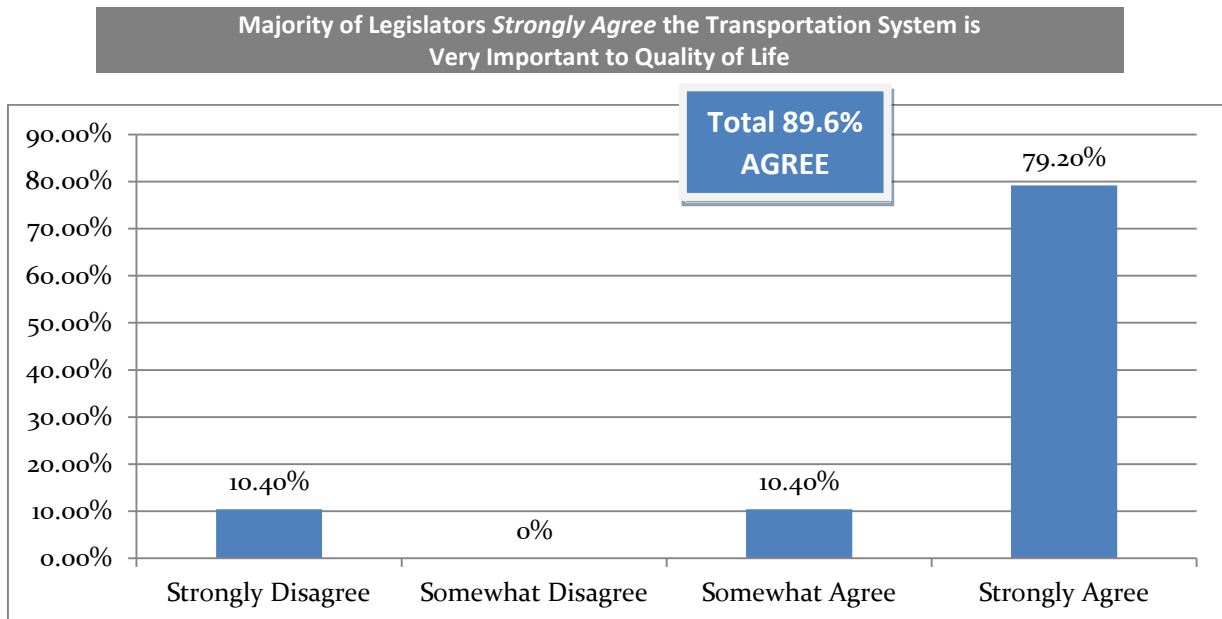
The legislative questionnaire consists of eight questions and was conducted electronically via an online survey vendor called SurveyMonkey®. The legislators were initially alerted to the online survey with an email from LDOTD Secretary Sherri LeBas on July 12, 2012 that explained the purpose of the survey. The link to the online survey was then emailed to each legislator on July 12, 2012 which was generated by SurveyMonkey®. Reminders were emailed to those legislators who had not yet responded on July 23, 2012 and July 30, 2012. The survey completion deadline was August 1, 2012.

RESULTS

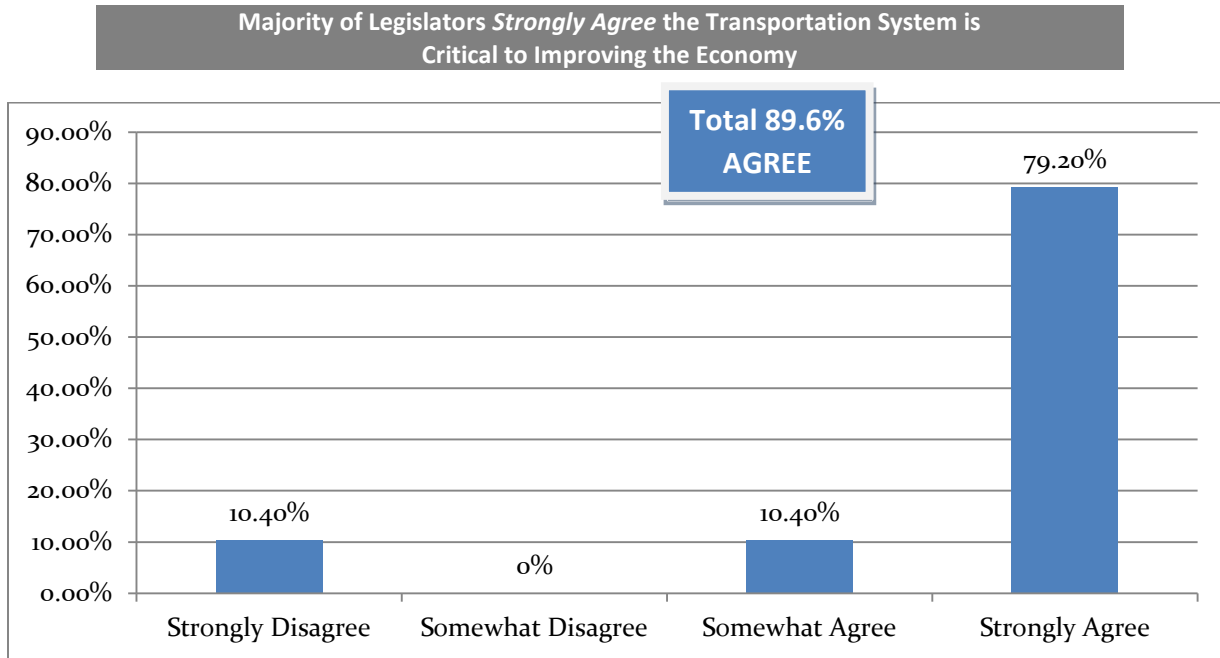
A total of 48 legislators submitted responses to the survey by August 1, 2012. There were no additional responses received after that date. A summary of each question's responses is included below:

Q.1 Please mark the following statements with: Strongly Agree, Somewhat Disagree, Somewhat Agree, Strongly Agree.

Statement A – The transportation system is very important to how citizens and visitors perceive the quality of life in Louisiana.



Statement B – Louisiana’s transportation system is critical to improving the economy and attracting jobs to the state.



Q.2 What do you believe the state’s role in transportation should be? (Please rank 1 through 5 in order of important with 1 being the most important.)

Majority of Legislators think the State’s role in Transportation should serve the entire state or large regions of the state.

State Role	Ranking	Total Results										
Providing state-owned infrastructure and/or services that serve the entire state or large regions of the state.	#1 (Most Important)	<table border="1"> <tr><td>#1</td><td>61.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>#2</td><td>20.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>#3</td><td>7.7%</td></tr> <tr><td>#4</td><td>7.7%</td></tr> <tr><td>#5</td><td>2.6%</td></tr> </table>	#1	61.5%	#2	20.5%	#3	7.7%	#4	7.7%	#5	2.6%
#1	61.5%											
#2	20.5%											
#3	7.7%											
#4	7.7%											
#5	2.6%											
Providing state-owned infrastructure and/or services that serve local or small regional needs.	#2	<table border="1"> <tr><td>#1</td><td>21.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>#2</td><td>35.1%</td></tr> <tr><td>#3</td><td>21.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>#4</td><td>18.9%</td></tr> <tr><td>#5</td><td>2.7%</td></tr> </table>	#1	21.6%	#2	35.1%	#3	21.6%	#4	18.9%	#5	2.7%
#1	21.6%											
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#3	21.6%											
#4	18.9%											
#5	2.7%											

State Role	Ranking	Total Results
Assisting local governments in planning and developing local transportation infrastructure and services.	#3	<p>A pie chart showing the distribution of responses for ranking this role. The categories are: #1 (2.6%), #2 (5.3%), #3 (52.6%), #4 (23.7%), and #5 (15.8%).</p>
Administering federal and state capital assistance to local governments.	#4	<p>A pie chart showing the distribution of responses for ranking this role. The categories are: #1 (9.8%), #2 (24.4%), #3 (14.6%), #4 (34.1%), and #5 (17.1%).</p>
Other*	#5 (Least Important)	<p>A pie chart showing the distribution of responses for ranking this role. The categories are: #1 (13.0%), #2 (8.7%), #3 (4.3%), #4 (8.7%), and #5 (65.2%).</p>

*Seven responses were received for "Other" and the comments are included below:

1. The state transportation system should be coordinated and for that to happen regional systems have to be in place.
2. Cooperative endeavor agreements with local Governmental agencies that could expedite projects and possibly save public dollars. Public private partnerships should be explored on certain projects.
3. Implement a more proactive approach to the overall transportation models that exist, with the motive being to facilitate the various sectors of economic growth. Emphasis should be placed on growth factors and areas that will likely generate higher percentages of financial or monetary growth.
4. Work with DED to create jobs in LA.
5. Evaluating parish roads which serve important locations, such as regional airports, tourist attractions, etc. to see if such ought to be taken into the state system. Maybe working out swaps or exchanges for other roads
6. Making all of this work together. Everyone needs infrastructure. No one place can do it alone nor can the state only serve one area at a time. This is the only way we tie our areas together. It is our responsibility to make legislators, DOTD, and citizens care!!!!!!!!!!
7. Completion of I-49 south.

Q.3 On what do you believe the state should focus existing transportation funding? (Please rank 1 through 6 in order of importance with 1 being the most important.)

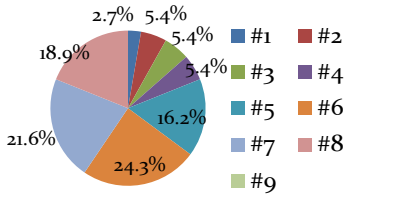
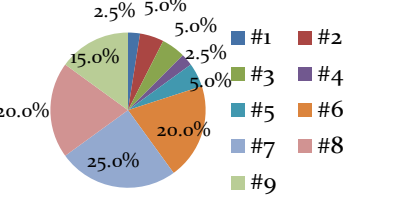
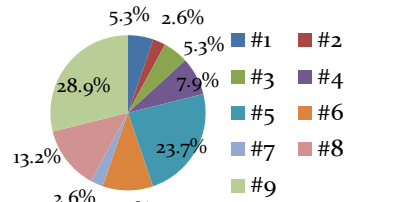
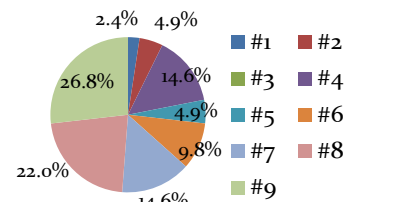
Majority of Legislators believe the state should focus funding on maintaining what we have.

State Focus on Funding	Ranking	Total Results														
Maintaining what we already have.	#1 (Most Important)	<table border="1"> <caption>Ranking Distribution for 'Maintaining what we already have'</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Rank</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>#1</td><td>60.0%</td></tr> <tr><td>#2</td><td>17.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>#3</td><td>12.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>#4</td><td>2.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>#5</td><td>5.0%</td></tr> <tr><td>#6</td><td>2.5%</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Rank	Percentage	#1	60.0%	#2	17.5%	#3	12.5%	#4	2.5%	#5	5.0%	#6	2.5%
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Strengthening the economy and creating/sustaining jobs.	#2	<table border="1"> <caption>Ranking Distribution for 'Strengthening the economy and creating/sustaining jobs'</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Rank</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>#1</td><td>24.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>#2</td><td>29.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>#3</td><td>12.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>#4</td><td>12.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>#5</td><td>12.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>#6</td><td>9.8%</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Rank	Percentage	#1	24.4%	#2	29.3%	#3	12.2%	#4	12.2%	#5	12.2%	#6	9.8%
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Improving transportation safety.	#3/#4 (tie)	<table border="1"> <caption>Ranking Distribution for 'Improving transportation safety'</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Rank</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>#1</td><td>5.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>#2</td><td>13.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>#3</td><td>35.1%</td></tr> <tr><td>#4</td><td>32.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>#5</td><td>13.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>#6</td><td>5.4%</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Rank	Percentage	#1	5.4%	#2	13.5%	#3	35.1%	#4	32.4%	#5	13.5%	#6	5.4%
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Reducing commute times.	#3/#4 (tie)	<table border="1"> <caption>Ranking Distribution for 'Reducing commute times'</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Rank</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>#1</td><td>10.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>#2</td><td>15.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>#3</td><td>23.1%</td></tr> <tr><td>#4</td><td>23.1%</td></tr> <tr><td>#5</td><td>17.9%</td></tr> <tr><td>#6</td><td>10.3%</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Rank	Percentage	#1	10.3%	#2	15.4%	#3	23.1%	#4	23.1%	#5	17.9%	#6	10.3%
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#6	10.3%															
Providing essential public transportation services for elderly, disabled, and low income citizens.	#5	<table border="1"> <caption>Ranking Distribution for 'Providing essential public transportation services'</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Rank</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>#1</td><td>18.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>#2</td><td>18.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>#3</td><td>18.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>#4</td><td>18.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>#5</td><td>28.9%</td></tr> <tr><td>#6</td><td>15.8%</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Rank	Percentage	#1	18.4%	#2	18.4%	#3	18.4%	#4	18.4%	#5	28.9%	#6	15.8%
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Providing additional transportation choices such as walking, biking, and transit.	#6 (Least Important)	<table border="1"> <caption>Ranking Distribution for 'Providing additional transportation choices'</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Rank</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>#1</td><td>8.9%</td></tr> <tr><td>#2</td><td>8.9%</td></tr> <tr><td>#3</td><td>2.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>#4</td><td>13.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>#5</td><td>24.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>#6</td><td>42.2%</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Rank	Percentage	#1	8.9%	#2	8.9%	#3	2.2%	#4	13.3%	#5	24.4%	#6	42.2%
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Q.4 What types of projects are most needed to improve the performance of Louisiana’s transportation system? (Please rank each project 1 through 9 in order of importance with 1 being the most important.)

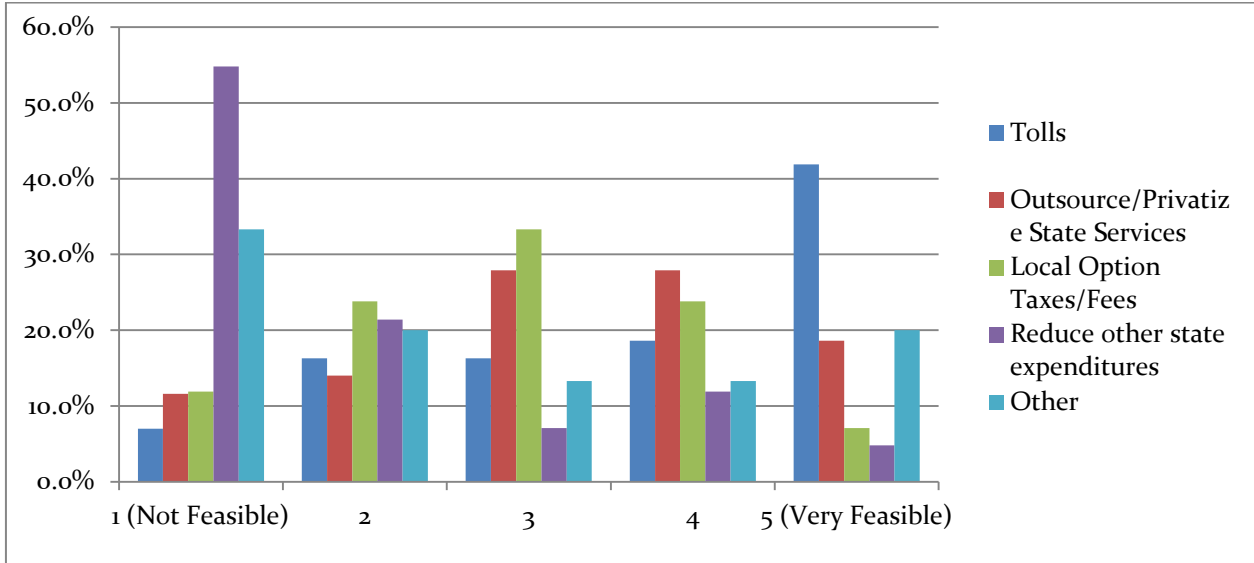
Majority of Legislators believe that maintenance/preservation projects and highway capacity expansion are most needed.

Type of Projects	Ranking	Total Results																				
Maintenance /preservation projects across all transportation modes (airports, highways, ports, railroads, transit).	#1 (tie) (Most Important)	<table border="1"> <tr><th>Rank</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>#1</td><td>45.9%</td></tr> <tr><td>#2</td><td>13.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>#3</td><td>21.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>#4</td><td>8.1%</td></tr> <tr><td>#5</td><td>2.7%</td></tr> <tr><td>#6</td><td>5.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>#7</td><td>2.7%</td></tr> <tr><td>#8</td><td>0%</td></tr> <tr><td>#9</td><td>0%</td></tr> </table>	Rank	Percentage	#1	45.9%	#2	13.5%	#3	21.6%	#4	8.1%	#5	2.7%	#6	5.4%	#7	2.7%	#8	0%	#9	0%
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Reduce congestion by highway capacity expansion (more lanes, new highways).	#1 (tie) (Most Important)	<table border="1"> <tr><th>Rank</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>#1</td><td>39.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>#2</td><td>14.0%</td></tr> <tr><td>#3</td><td>9.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>#4</td><td>7.0%</td></tr> <tr><td>#5</td><td>4.7%</td></tr> <tr><td>#6</td><td>7.0%</td></tr> <tr><td>#7</td><td>7.0%</td></tr> <tr><td>#8</td><td>7.0%</td></tr> <tr><td>#9</td><td>7.0%</td></tr> </table>	Rank	Percentage	#1	39.5%	#2	14.0%	#3	9.3%	#4	7.0%	#5	4.7%	#6	7.0%	#7	7.0%	#8	7.0%	#9	7.0%
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Improving ports in support of Louisiana industry, to attract new business, and create/sustain jobs.	#2	<table border="1"> <tr><th>Rank</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>#1</td><td>25.0%</td></tr> <tr><td>#2</td><td>13.9%</td></tr> <tr><td>#3</td><td>11.1%</td></tr> <tr><td>#4</td><td>11.1%</td></tr> <tr><td>#5</td><td>11.1%</td></tr> <tr><td>#6</td><td>11.1%</td></tr> <tr><td>#7</td><td>5.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>#8</td><td>5.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>#9</td><td>5.6%</td></tr> </table>	Rank	Percentage	#1	25.0%	#2	13.9%	#3	11.1%	#4	11.1%	#5	11.1%	#6	11.1%	#7	5.6%	#8	5.6%	#9	5.6%
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Reduce congestion by improving operations with highway technology advances and low cost projects (signal coordination, incident management, electronic message signs, adding turn lanes, etc.).	#4	<table border="1"> <tr><th>Rank</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>#1</td><td>25.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>#2</td><td>25.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>#3</td><td>28.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>#4</td><td>10.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>#5</td><td>5.1%</td></tr> <tr><td>#6</td><td>2.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>#7</td><td>2.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>#8</td><td>2.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>#9</td><td>2.6%</td></tr> </table>	Rank	Percentage	#1	25.6%	#2	25.6%	#3	28.2%	#4	10.3%	#5	5.1%	#6	2.6%	#7	2.6%	#8	2.6%	#9	2.6%
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#8	2.6%																					
#9	2.6%																					
Safety-related investments across all transportation modes.	#5	<table border="1"> <tr><th>Rank</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>#1</td><td>22.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>#2</td><td>27.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>#3</td><td>20.0%</td></tr> <tr><td>#4</td><td>7.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>#5</td><td>7.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>#6</td><td>5.0%</td></tr> <tr><td>#7</td><td>2.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>#8</td><td>2.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>#9</td><td>5.0%</td></tr> </table>	Rank	Percentage	#1	22.5%	#2	27.5%	#3	20.0%	#4	7.5%	#5	7.5%	#6	5.0%	#7	2.5%	#8	2.5%	#9	5.0%
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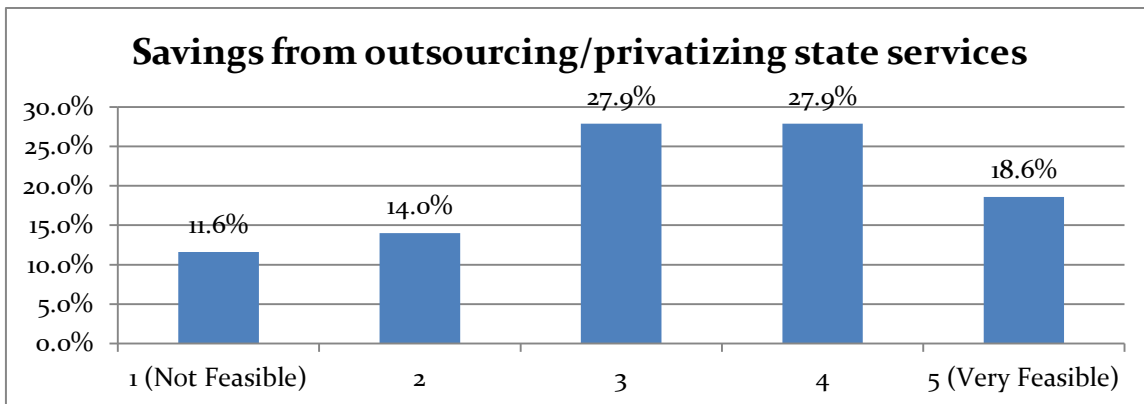
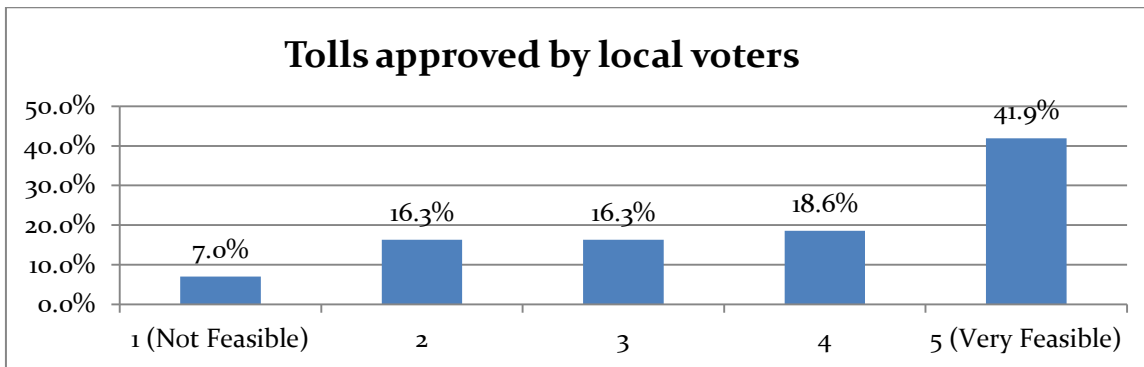
Type of Projects	Ranking	Total Results
<p>Improving airports to better accommodate tourism, business travel, and air cargo.</p>	<p>#6</p>	
<p>Increased modal choices for passengers (bus transit service, streetcars, passenger rail, and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure).</p>	<p>#7</p>	
<p>Reduce congestion by increasing transit services and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.</p>	<p>#9 (tie)</p>	
<p>Improving freight railroads to enhance service and reliability in support of Louisiana industry.</p>	<p>#9 (tie)</p>	

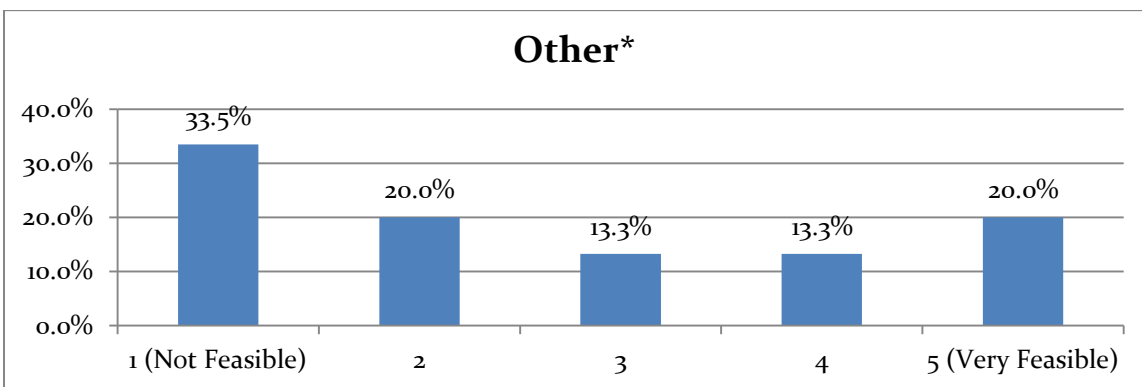
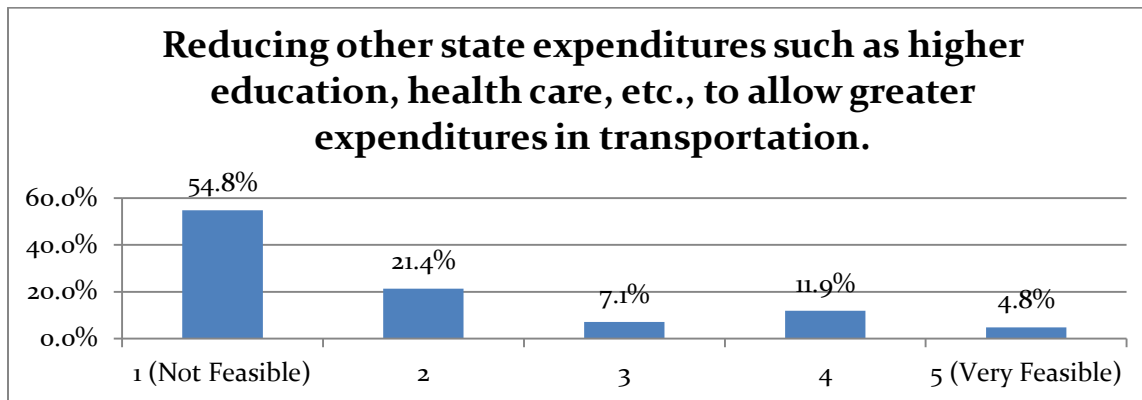
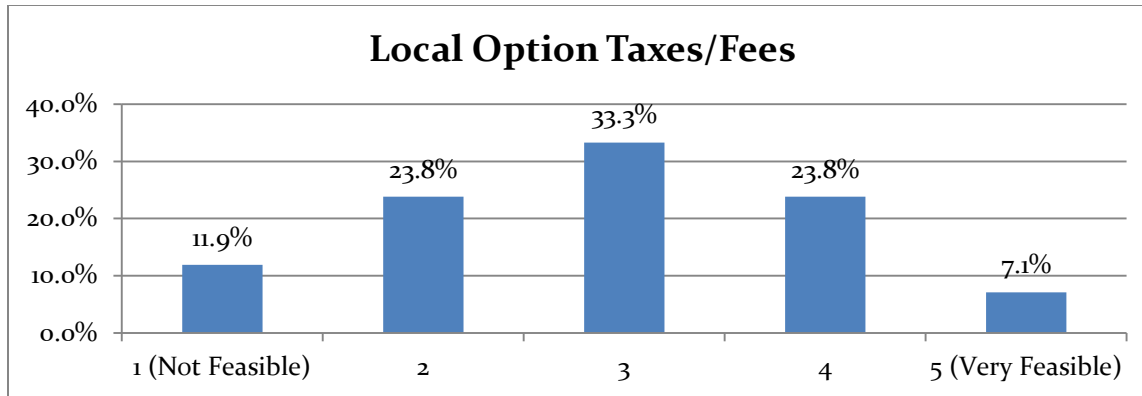
Q.5 What ways do you think are most feasible for increasing transportation funding? (Please rank each option 1 through 5, with 1 being Not Feasible and 5 being Most Feasible.)

Majority of Legislators think tolls approved by local voters are *Very Feasible* and reducing other state expenditures is *Not Feasible*.



A break out of each option is below.



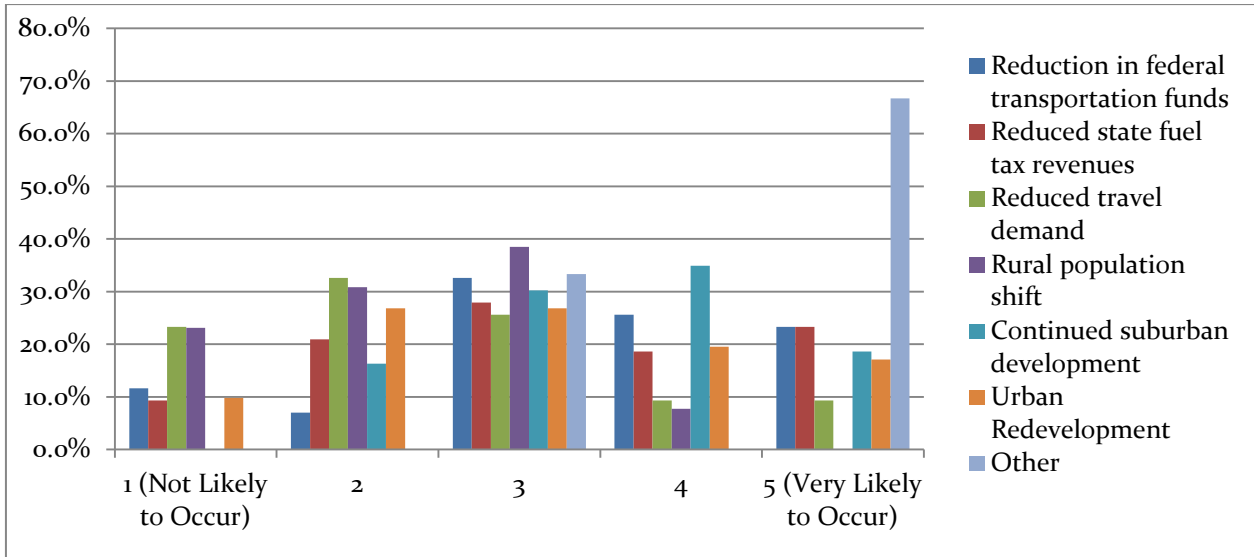


*Seven responses were received for "Other" and the comments are included below:

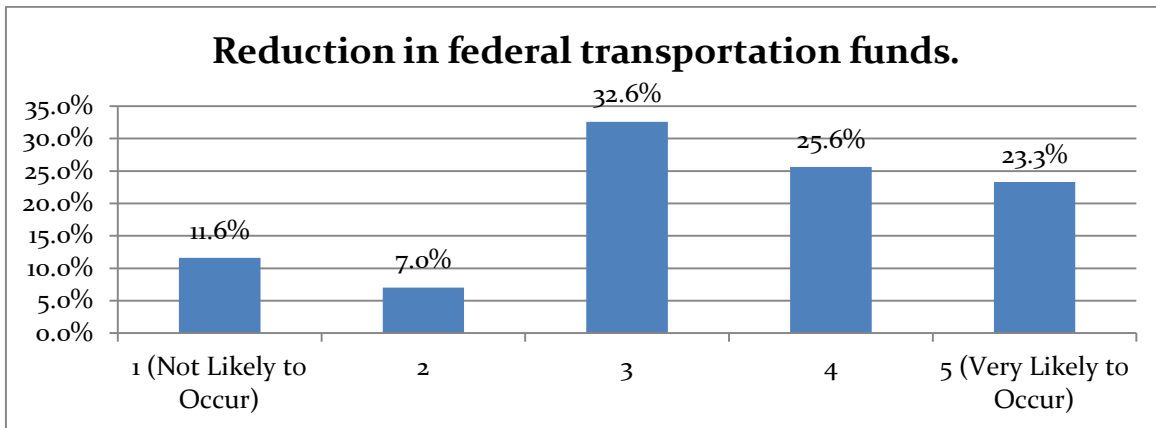
1. Change tax structure.
2. Stop all these extended "studies" that take time and cost millions. Can show you where common sense would have done a better job than an expensive study plan!
3. Reasonable increase and expansion of the states portion of the gasoline tax; this expanding it to include all other alternative fuels. (diesel, LNG, biofuels...) and to also Regionalize taxing districts in order to restrict funding generated to areas where it is collected, in order to achieve completion of more transportation projects in each sector of the State.
4. Public-Private partnerships or private development.
5. Dedicating funds that absolutely are directly related to the upkeep of existing infrastructure.
6. Increase state gas tax by about ten cents per gallon.
7. Increase tax on gasoline with a dedicated use of 100% of proceeds.

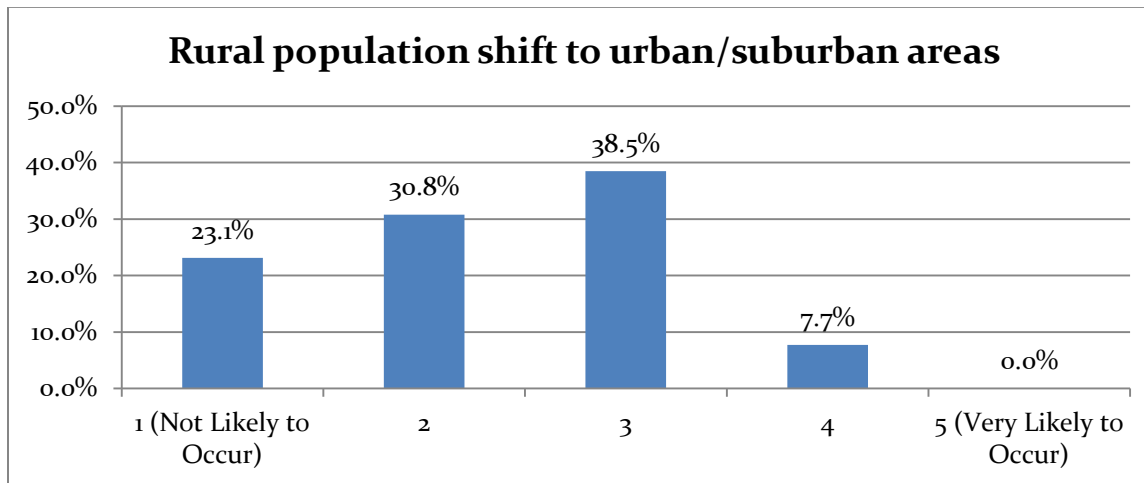
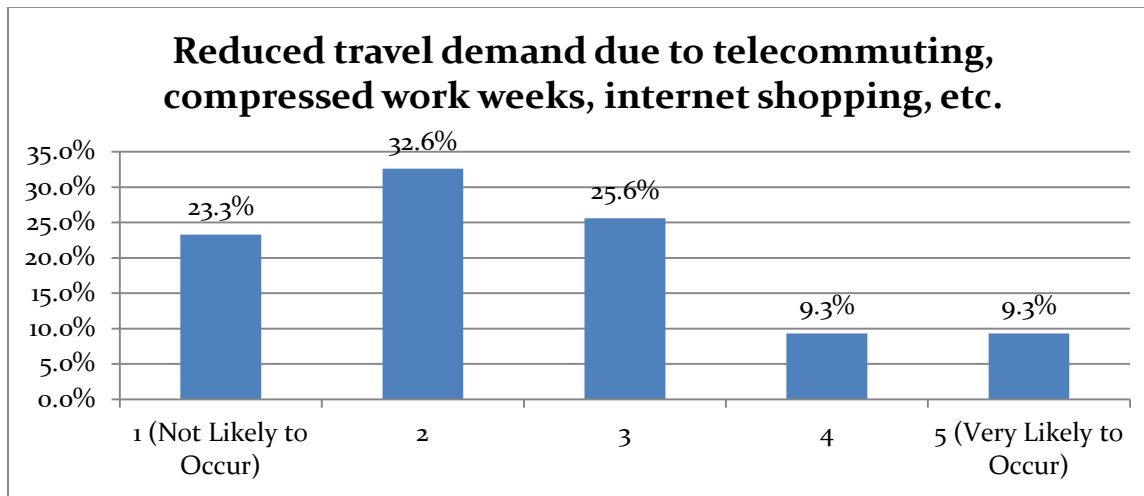
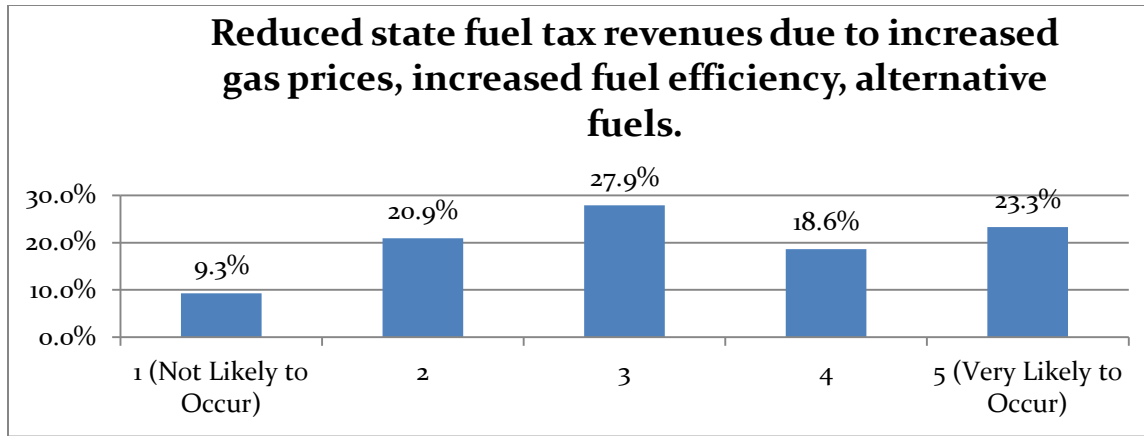
Q.6 What events might occur in the future that could influence Louisiana’s transportation system? (Please choose 1 through 5, with 1 being Not Likely to Occur and 5 being Very Likely to Occur.)

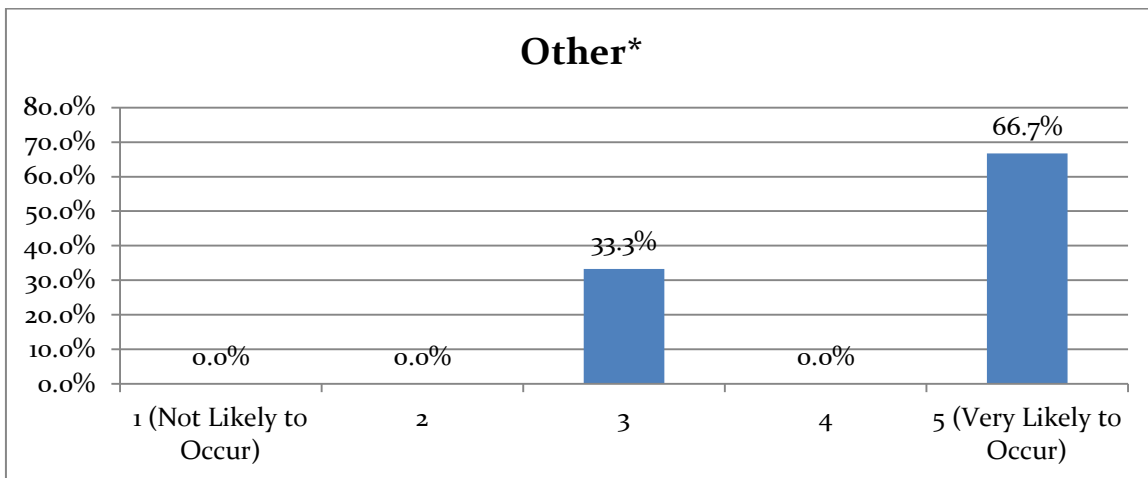
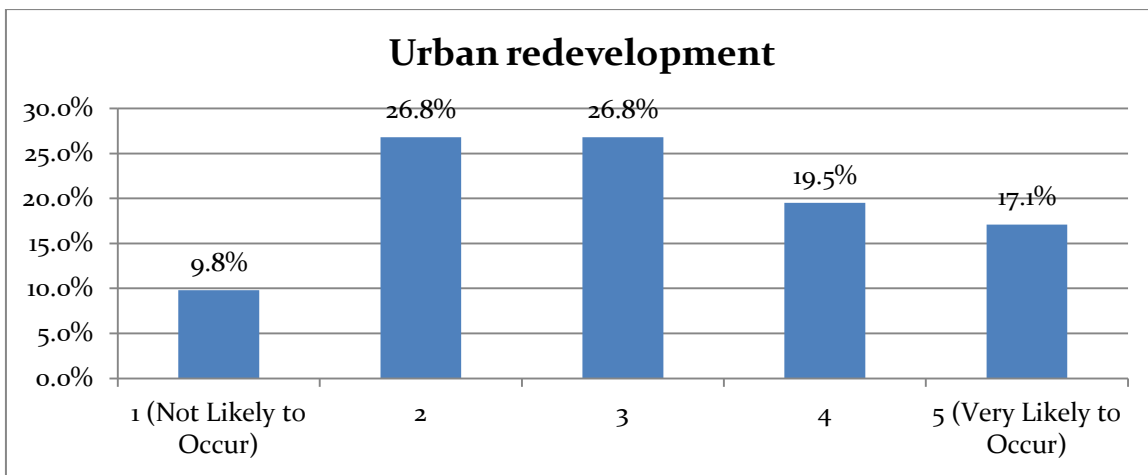
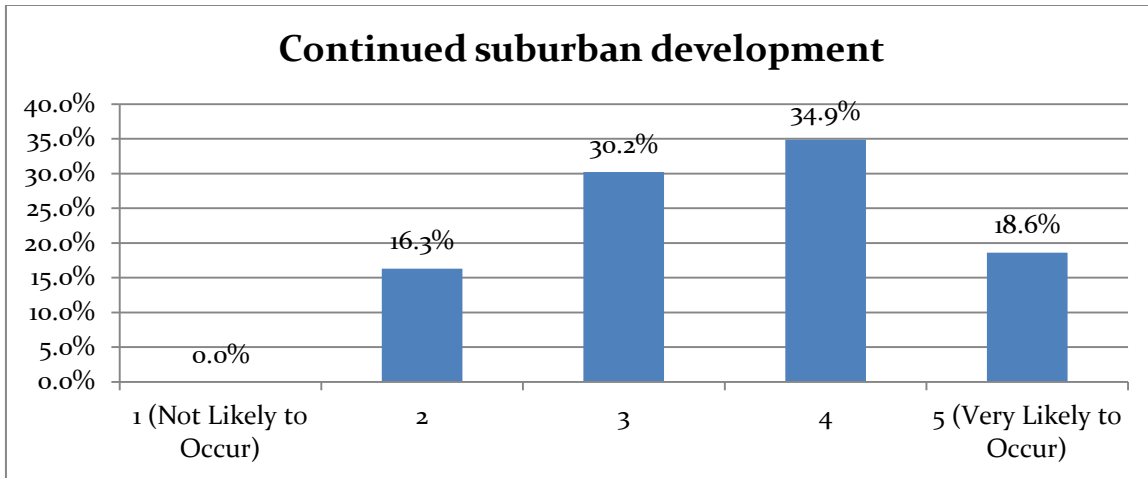
Majority of legislators believe that each option is somewhat likely to occur.



A break out for each future event is below.





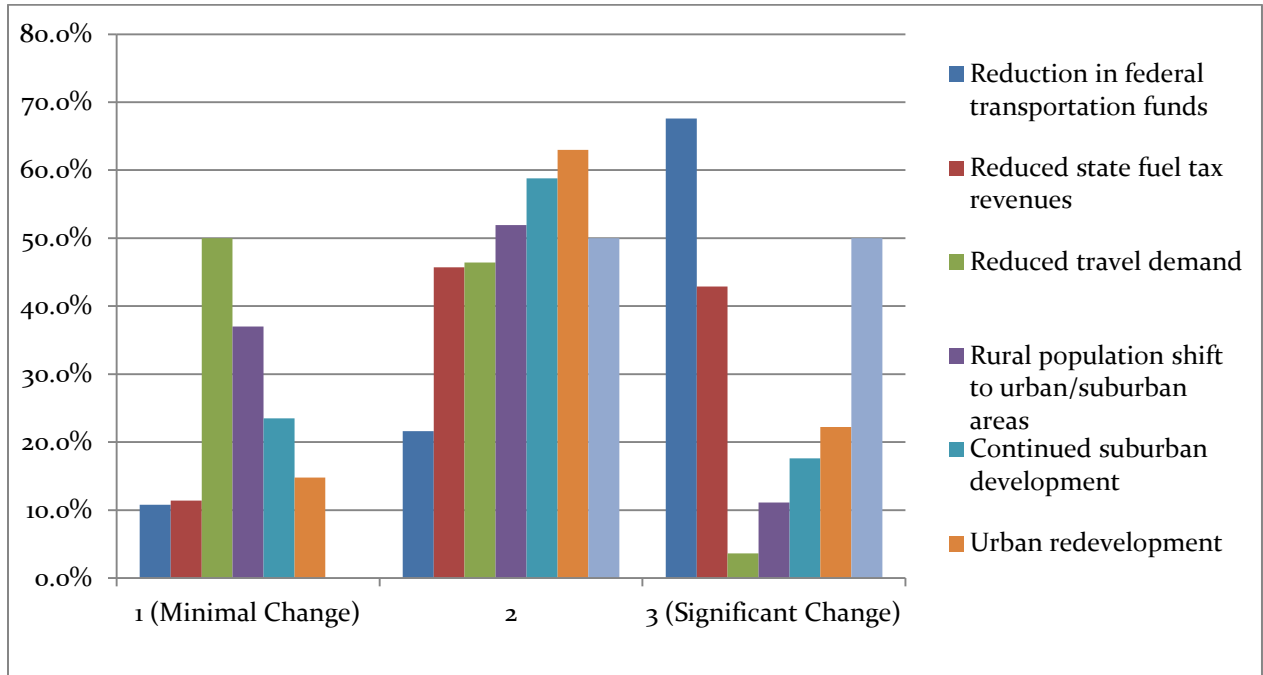


*One response was received for "Other" and the comment is included below:

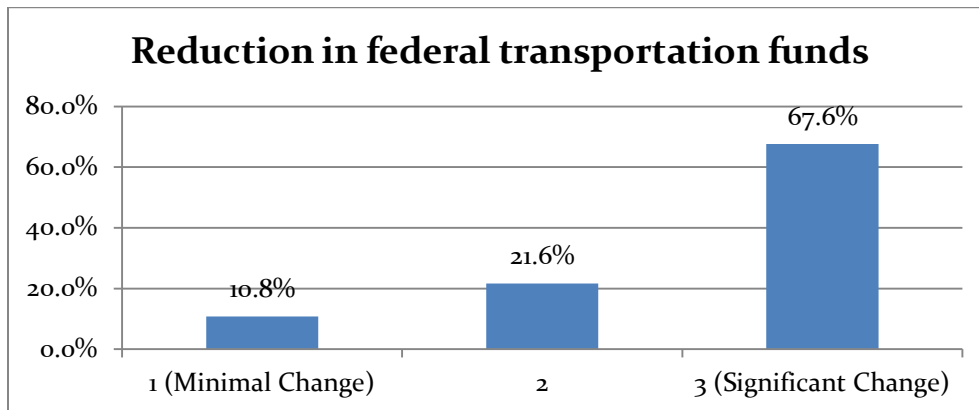
"Use of tolls or other alternate sources of capital for major projects."

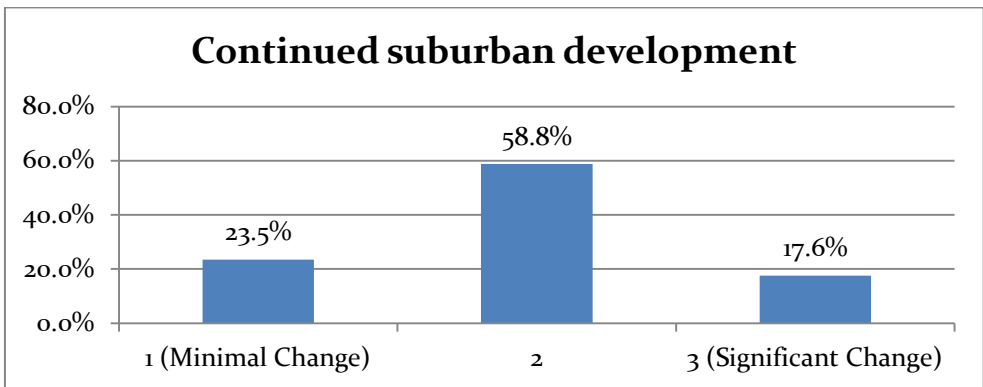
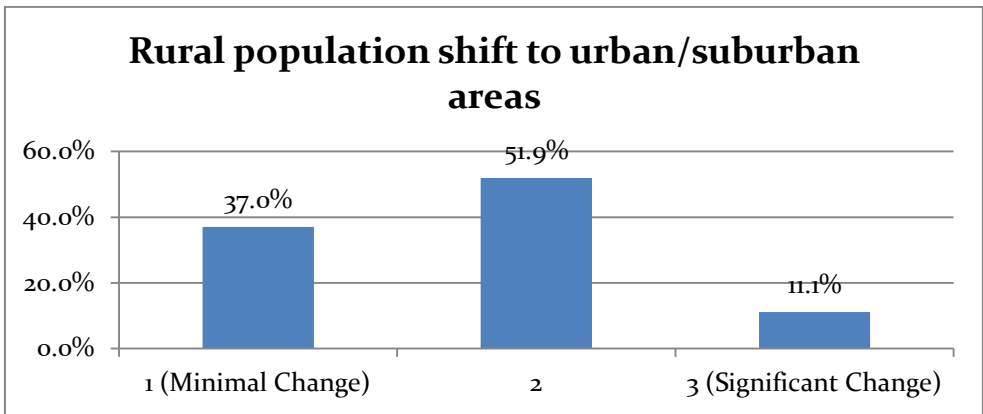
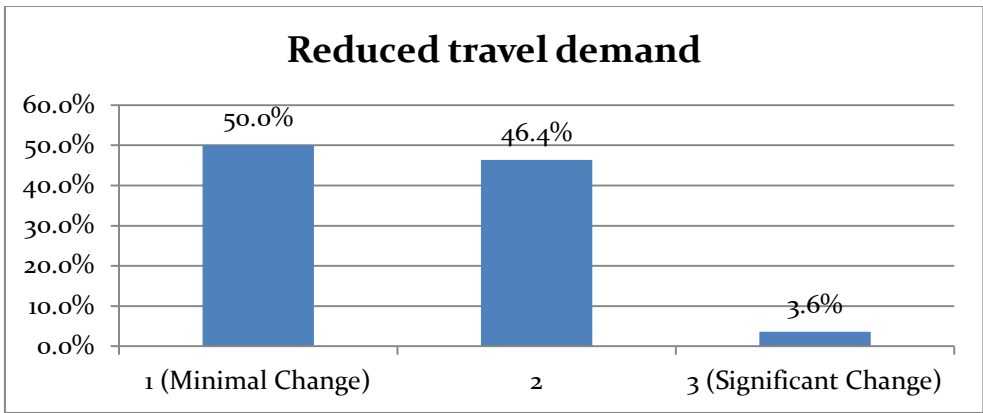
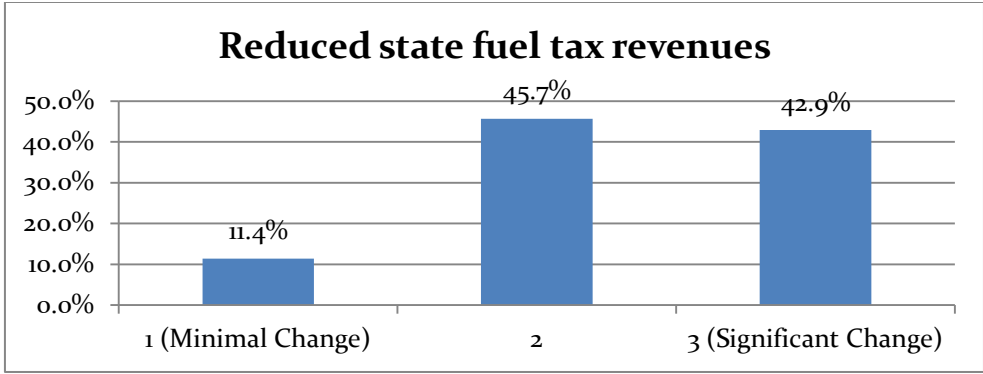
Q.7 For those you rated 3 or greater, to what extent might these change transportation needs/investments? (Please rank each choice 1 through 3, with 1 being a Minimal Change and 3 being a Significant Change.)

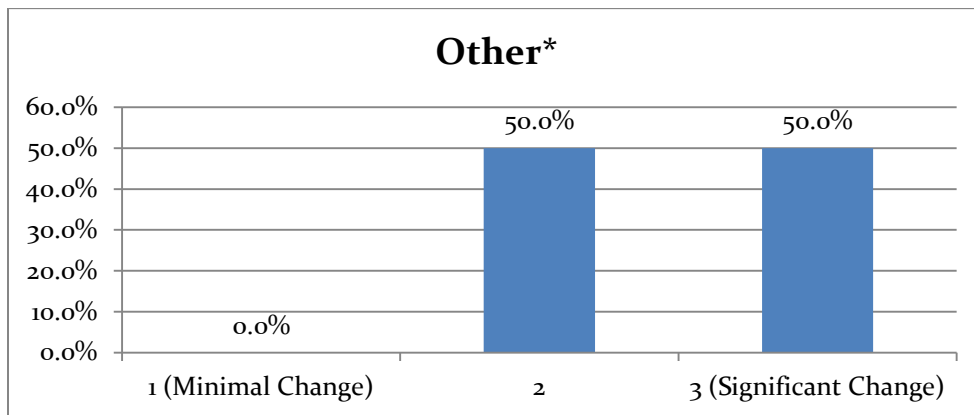
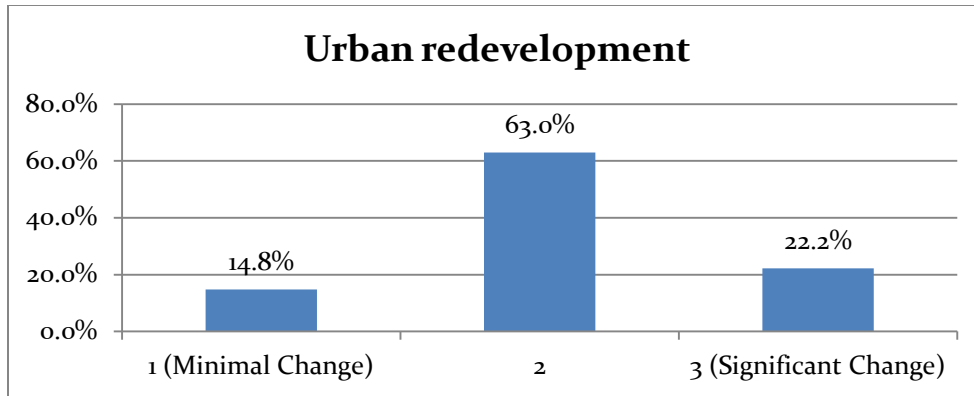
Majority of Legislators believe a reduction in federal transportation funds will *Significantly* Change transportation needs/investments.
 Majority of Legislators believe reduced travel demand will have a *Minimal* Change on transportation needs/investments.



A breakout of each future event is below.

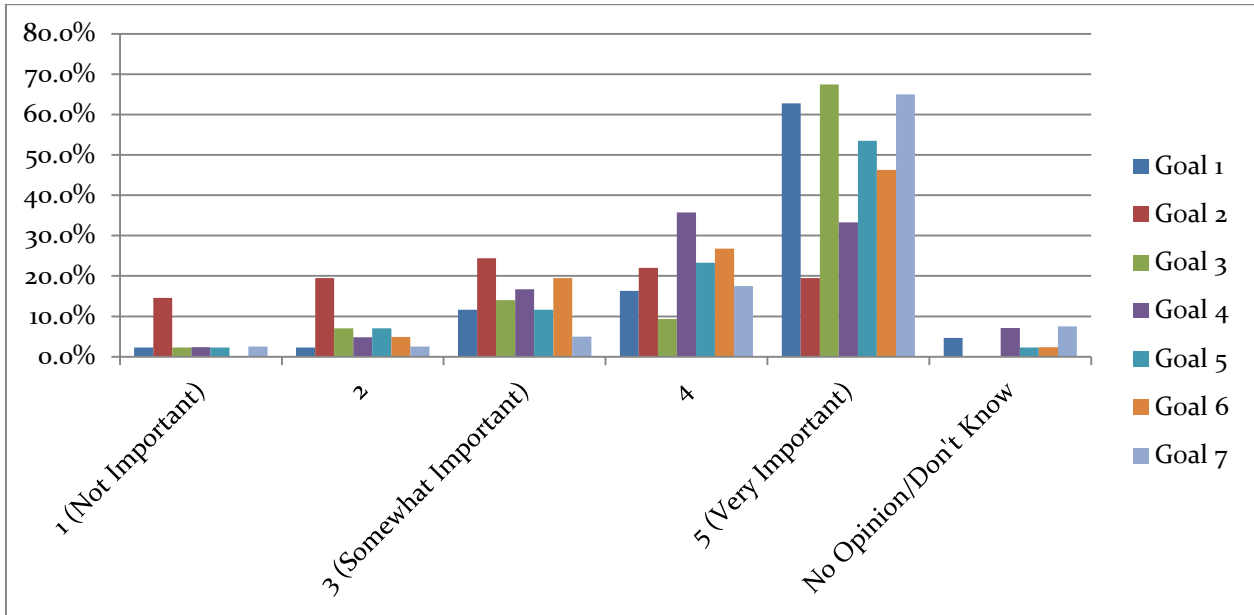




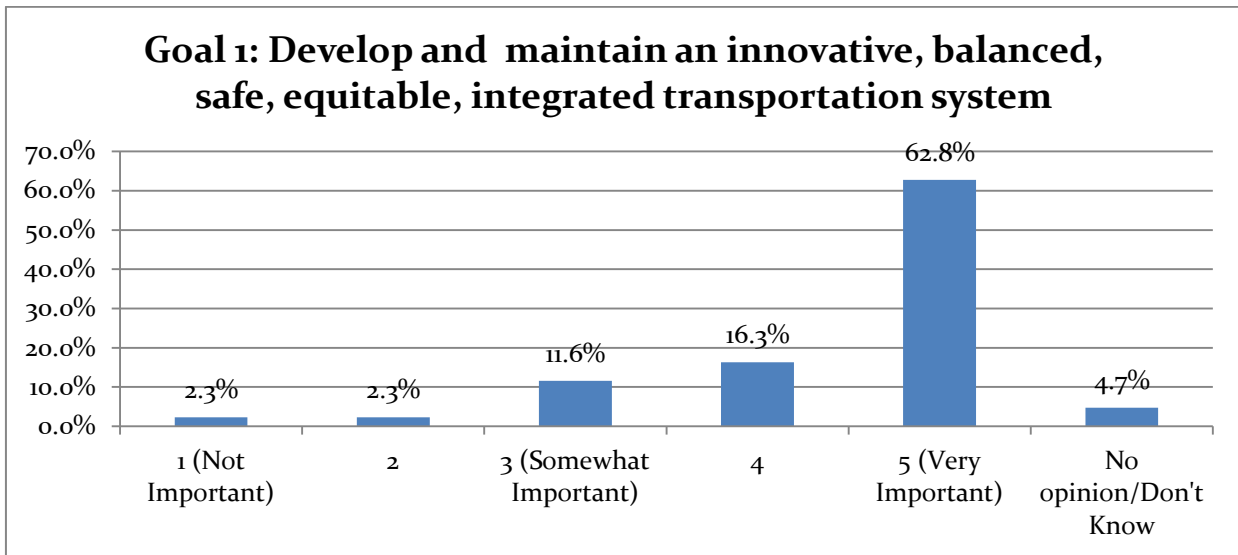


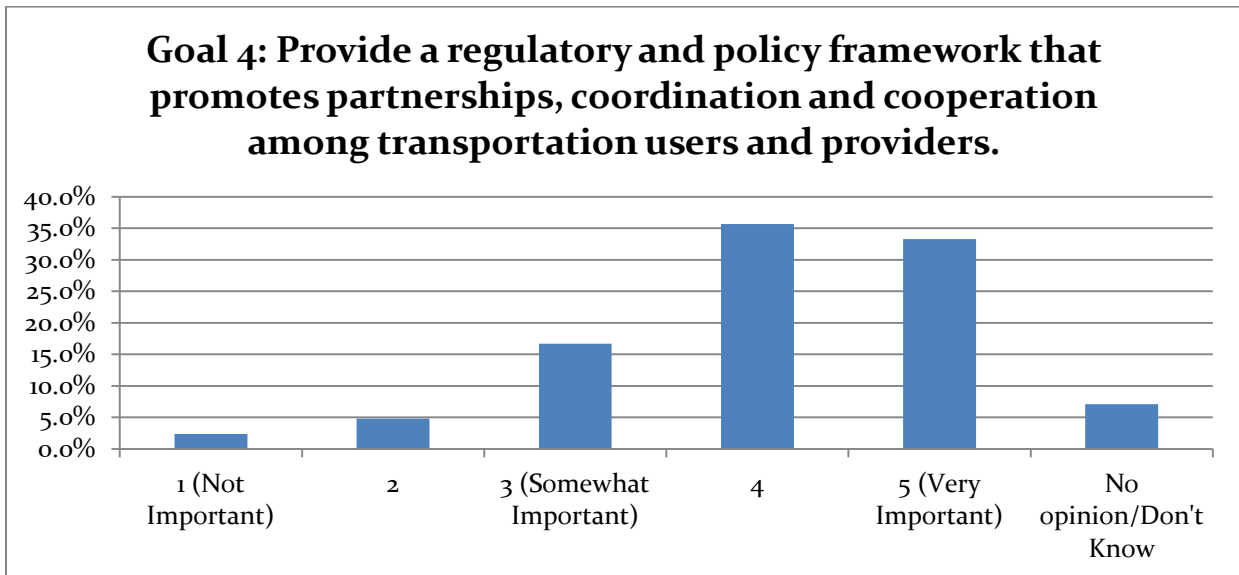
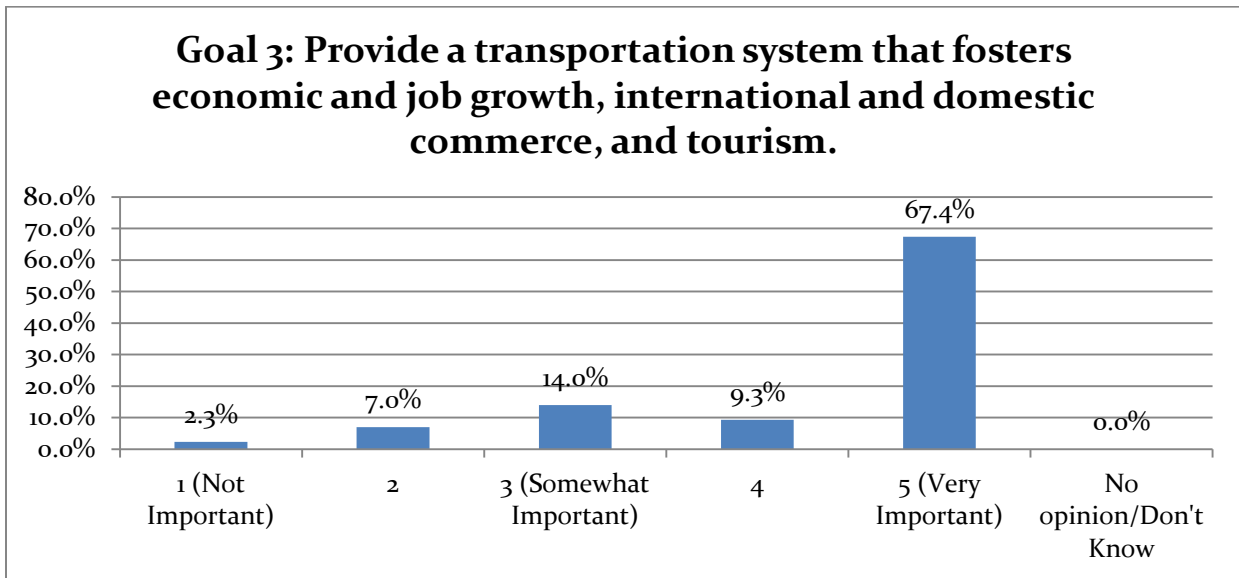
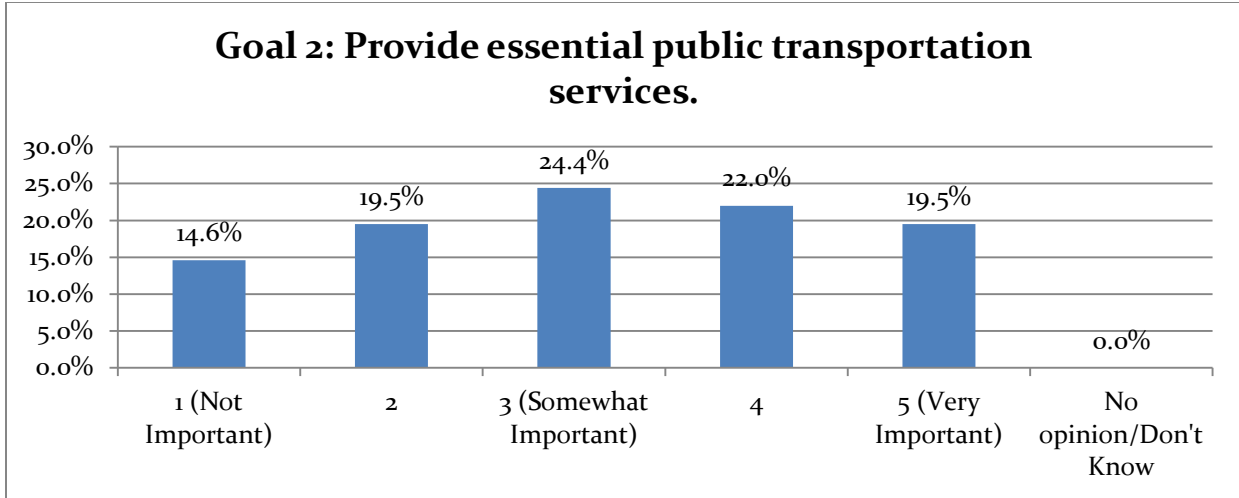
Q.8 The following statewide transportation goals were identified in the 2003 Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan. Please score each one in terms of how important you believe it is to the future of our state. (Score 1 through 5, with 1 being Not Important and 5 being Very Important).

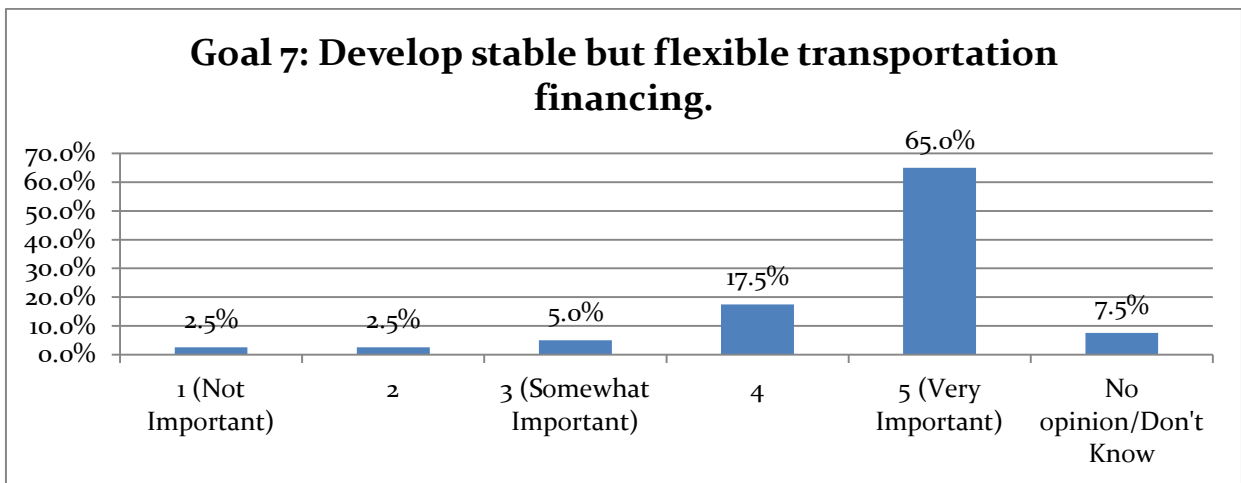
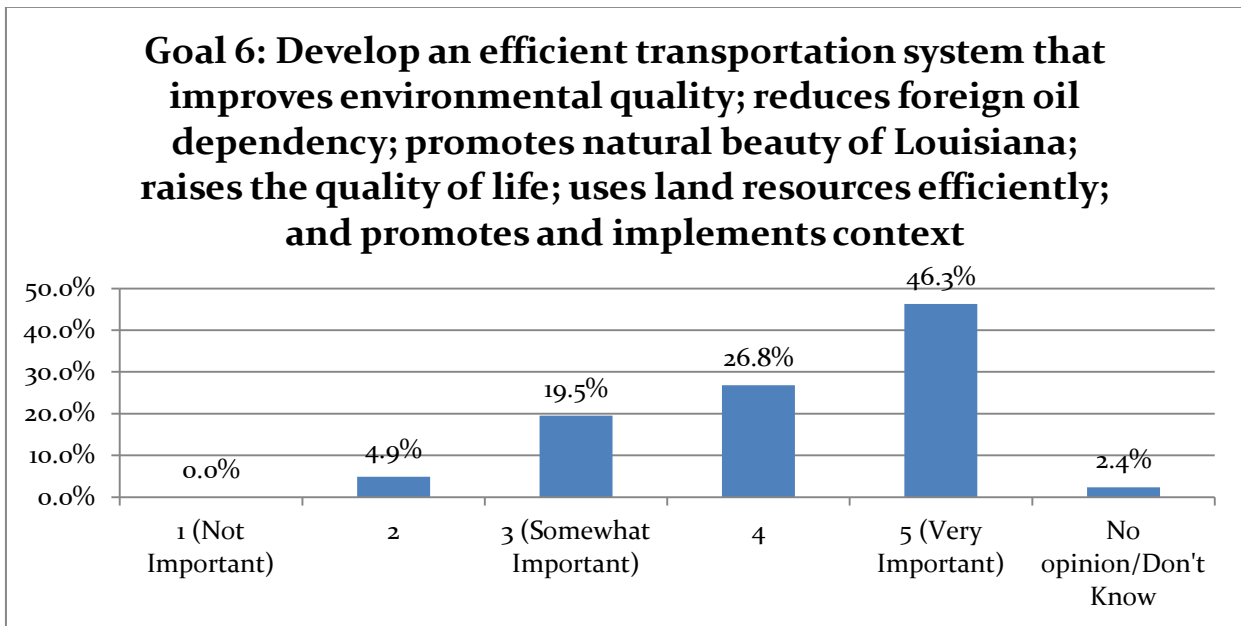
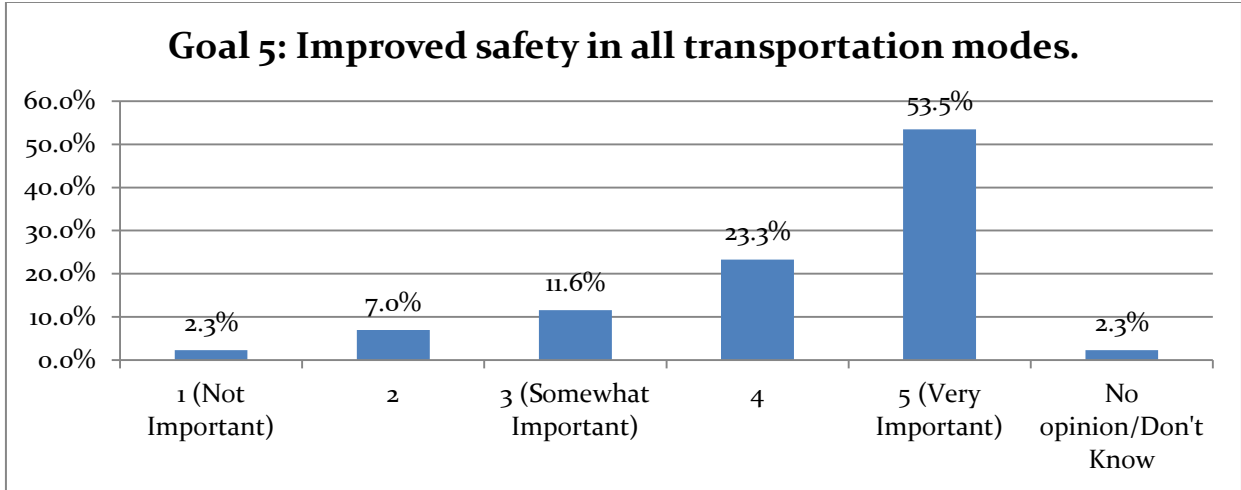
A majority of Legislators believe each Goal is important.



A break out for each Goal is below.







Q.9 Are there any goals that you would like to add? If so, use the space below and also indicate their importance.*

**41 out of 48 respondents skipped this question.*

1. Bridge replacements on Hwy 471, Summerfield Road, in Grant Parish, Louisiana.
2. I feel the State should partner with local Gov's on projects that we could cost share. I know that we have a "highway priority list". If a Parish has an important vital road that is need of repair, but the road is on the priority list, then by cost sharing on the project...maybe the project can be moved up on the list. The State can see a huge savings if the project is important enough to an area that the local government wants to contribute. Example: LA Hwy 3235 in Lafourche Parish. There is a one mile stretch of road that is in deplorable condition. This road is a vital link to Port Fourchon. If this repair was 3 million dollars, the Parish and Port Commission contribute to move up on the "highway priority list". State 75%, Parish and Port Commission 25% to move up list by 2 years. State 50%, Parish and Port Commission 50% to have work immediately.
3. Implement a transport tax as a part of our vehicle registering process, and apply it to every type of vehicle that is regulated by DOTD. In other words, imitate our neighboring States that have enjoyed success with tax or fee initiatives that have yielded proven results.
4. Transportation links (water, highway, rail, and air) are extremely valuable yet underutilized assets in Louisiana. The potential of economic growth yielding expansion of family wealth will rest upon the intelligent application of these assets. Few other regions or states display such potential. The close coordination between the DOTD and the DED especially in the area of International Commerce is critical to the future of our state. Therefore we must link the efforts of both of these important Departments of state government like never before.
5. Bridge safety and upgrades.
6. Completion of I-49 south and other interstate improvements.
7. Research and implement new cost effective materials and processes to address infrastructure needs. (New bridge technology.)

Q.10 Do you have any additional thoughts or comments regarding transportation in Louisiana that you would like to share with us?

1. In North and Northwest Louisiana, more emphasis should be placed on extending mass passenger rail across North Louisiana from Texas to Mississippi, just as South Louisiana has an opportunity for a fast passenger rail from Baton Rouge to New Orleans if politics did not stand in the way. Air travel expansion with lower fares would serve the Ark-La-Tex region, and Shreveport-Bossier in particular well, increasing economic opportunities through existing and future business investments. With the oil and gas shell exploration slowing down, a strategic plan should be developed to anticipate any unforeseen revenue shortages occurring from production activities or the lack there of, that may affect transportation development in Louisiana.
2. Continue to widen Interstate Highway lanes as fast as funding will allow. Vital to future growth in LA.
3. I did not like the fact that some of the goals were not important. I felt they were all important.
4. In order to implement sound transportation initiatives, all strategies will have to be affirmative and across the board in order to have the cost sharing minimized as much as possible. Most important let's be firm in earmarking all funding generated, ONLY to consumer centered transportation options. (Roads, bridges, local streets.....)
5. See the previous comment.

6. Safety of our citizens first and foremost which I know has always been at the top of the DOTD's list. Listen to local elected officials for they usually have been aware of transportation deficiencies in their communities. Thank you.
7. As a member of the transportation committee for the last 8 years, I am hoping that we will sit and discuss possible solutions that we can bring to our voters. They have to believe in us in order for us to go forward. We cannot depend on Congress to address our needs. We need to depend upon ourselves. Karen
8. Completion of Interstate Highways will then reduce that capital investment allowing for more maintenance dollars. We need a new TIME program. We need to complete of evacuation highway improvement systems. We need to enhance port development funding by \$1 million per year over the next 4 years.
9. Tell the legislators and the people of Louisiana soon which (and where) NFA routes will be improved and in what years through the \$325M bond financing program.
10. Identify ways to beautify medians and shoulders. States that have invested in planting perennial wildflowers along roadways and interstates make travel throughout the state appealing while reducing the costs of bush hogging and spraying herbicides. At the very least, red tipped clover can be moderately attractive while reducing erosion. Trash control along all roadways should be performed by inmate populations from Corrections and/or local Sheriffs.
11. DOTD must as one of the larger State Department must look to utilize all resources available with an eye towards any reduction in areas that make the agency more efficient and effective.
12. Transportation in general, and roads in particular, continue to be an important part of the progress Louisiana makes. When you drive from Texas, Arkansas, or Mississippi into Louisiana, and the roads become worse, that's a huge problem for Louisiana. Funding continues to be problematic, and must continue to find innovative and effective ways to fund our transportation system. It is one of the most important things going on in Louisiana. Frank Hoffmann, State Representative District 15