

**WBUR Poll on Boston Area Transportation Issues  
Survey of 553 Registered Voters within Route 128  
Field Dates: June 21-24, 2019**

I'm going to read you the names of several people who are active in public affairs. After I read each one please tell me if you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable view of the person. If you have never heard of the person or if you are undecided, please just say so. **READ FIRST NAME.** How about **READ NEXT NAME?**

**REPEAT QUESTION TEXT ONLY IF NECESSARY, PROBE IF RESPONDENT SAYS "DON'T KNOW".**

Have you heard of **READ NAME** and are undecided about (him/her)? Or **PAUSE** have you never heard of (him/her)?

<b>ROTATE ORDER</b>		Favorable	Unfavorable	Heard of / Undecided	Never heard of	Refused
Charlie Baker	Boston region	69%	21%	8%	2%	<1%
	City of Boston	69%	20%	9%	1%	<1%
Marty Walsh	Boston region	66%	19%	12%	2%	<1%
	City of Boston	70%	18%	11%	<1%	<1%
Michelle Wu	Boston region	32%	9%	22%	37%	<1%
	City of Boston	49%	6%	23%	22%	<1%

In your own words, what is the single most pressing issue facing the Greater Boston region right now? **OPEN ENDED, RESPONSES GROUPED INTO CATEGORIES.**

	Boston region	City of Boston
Housing costs	17%	20%
Public education	6%	11%
The economy / development	3%	2%
Crime/public safety	4%	8%
Public transportation	15%	14%
Race relations	1%	2%
Traffic	11%	9%
Opioids	4%	2%
Climate change	5%	3%
Health care costs	1%	1%
Immigration	5%	4%
Taxes / budget issues	4%	2%
Other	16%	16%
Don't Know / Refused	7%	6%

Who do you think is ultimately most responsible for issues around transportation in the Boston region, including the roads and the public transportation system? **READ AND ROTATE FIRST THREE**

	Boston region	City of Boston
Governor Charlie Baker	32%	33%
Boston Mayor Marty Walsh	7%	7%
The Massachusetts State Legislature	38%	35%
All of them / some combination (not read)	12%	15%
Someone else (not read, specify: _____)	3%	2%
Don't know / Refused	7%	8%

Do you approve or disapprove of how Governor Charlie Baker is handling transportation in the Greater Boston area?

	Boston region	City of Boston
Approve	40%	39%
Disapprove	45%	44%
Don't Know / Refused	16%	17%

And how about the MBTA specifically? Do you approve or disapprove of how Governor Baker is handling the MBTA?

	Boston region	City of Boston
Approve	29%	29%
Disapprove	52%	51%
Don't Know / Refused	18%	20%

Do you think Governor Baker should ride the MBTA sometimes to better understand the problems with the system, or do you think that is not necessary?

	Boston region	City of Boston
Should ride the T sometimes	72%	74%
Not necessary	26%	24%
Don't Know / Refused	2%	2%

What about Boston Mayor Marty Walsh? Do you think he should ride the MBTA sometimes to better understand the problems with the system, or do you think that is not necessary?

	Boston region	City of Boston
Should ride the T sometimes	70%	73%
Not necessary	28%	26%
Don't Know / Refused	2%	1%

Which of the following best describes the situation with traffic in the Boston region? **READ AND ROTATE ORDER TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP**

	Boston region	City of Boston
Is in crisis	27%	29%
Has major problems	59%	59%
Has minor problems	11%	10%
Does not have problems	1%	1%
Don't Know / Refused	1%	1%

Which of the following best describes the situation with the MBTA? **READ AND ROTATE ORDER TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP**

	Boston region	City of Boston
Is in crisis	32%	29%
Has major problems	50%	54%
Has minor problems	11%	12%
Does not have problems	1%	2%
Don't Know / Refused	6%	2%

Compared to five years ago, would you say that getting around the Boston region on the roads and public transportation has **ROTATE OPTION 1 AND 2**, or stayed about the same?

	Boston region	City of Boston
Gotten better	4%	5%
Gotten worse	69%	73%
Stayed about the same	23%	19%
Don't Know / Refused	4%	3%

Compared to just after the historic winter snowstorms of 2015, do you think the MBTA system is in **READ AND ROTATE?**

	Boston region	City of Boston
Better condition	14%	16%
The same condition	35%	39%
Worse condition	41%	37%
Unsure	10%	9%

Fares to ride the MBTA are scheduled to go up on July 1. Should the fare hike be postponed until the T's Red Line is fixed from the recent derailment or should it go into effect as planned?

	Boston region	City of Boston
Should be postponed	70%	71%
Should go into effect as scheduled	24%	26%
Don't Know / Refused	7%	3%

If the MBTA does raise fares as planned, how likely do you think it is that **READ FIRST**? Would you say that's very likely, somewhat likely not very likely or not at all likely? How about **READ NEXT**. **ROTATE ORDER.**

		Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not very likely	Not at all likely	Unsure
Traffic in Greater Boston will get worse	Boston region	34%	30%	16%	13%	7%
	City of Boston	40%	30%	11%	11%	7%
MBTA service will get better	Boston region	4%	23%	34%	33%	6%
	City of Boston	3%	21%	38%	33%	5%

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Public transportation helps get cars off the roads. Without it, traffic would be much worse. **PROBE:** And would you say you strongly agree/disagree or just somewhat?

	Boston region	City of Boston
Strongly agree	58%	57%
Somewhat agree	27%	29%
Somewhat disagree	7%	3%
Strongly disagree	6%	10%
Don't Know / Refused	1%	1%

Do you think that ride-hailing services like Uber and Lyft have **READ AND ROTATE FIRST TWO** made traffic better, made traffic worse, or not made much of a difference?

	Boston region	City of Boston
Better	11%	11%
Worse	38%	45%
No difference	41%	36%
Don't Know / Refused	10%	8%

Would you support or oppose **READ FIRST** if there were a guarantee that all of the money raised would go to transportation improvements in Massachusetts? What about **READ NEXT**?

<i>Order rotated.</i>		Support	Oppose	Don't Know / Refused
Raising the state tax on gasoline	Boston Region	36%	61%	3%
	City of Boston	41%	57%	2%
Increasing highway toll amounts	Boston Region	37%	58%	5%
	City of Boston	41%	54%	5%
Adding tolls to more highways	Boston Region	32%	64%	3%
	City of Boston	31%	63%	6%
Adding a fee for cars entering or exiting Boston at rush hour	Boston Region	32%	64%	4%
	City of Boston	32%	62%	6%
Raise fees on ride-hailing services like Uber and Lyft	Boston Region	41%	50%	9%
	City of Boston	44%	48%	8%

Would you support or oppose raising the state's income tax on any income over one million dollars and using that money to pay for education and transportation? **PROBE:** And would you say you strongly support/oppose or just somewhat?

	Boston region	City of Boston
Strongly support	56%	57%
Somewhat support	13%	18%
Somewhat oppose	8%	7%
Strongly oppose	20%	16%
Don't Know / Refused	3%	2%

Have the recent derailments of MBTA trains caused you to change the way you commute? **IF NO, PROBE:** Have they caused you to reconsider the way you commute?

	Boston region	City of Boston
Yes, I have changed my commute	10%	15%
No, but I have considered changing my commute	8%	6%
No, I have not changed or considered changing my commute	82%	78%
Don't Know / Refused	1%	<1%

## Demographics

### Party Registration

Democrat	46%
Republican	8%
Unenrolled	46%

### Race

White / Caucasian	78%
All others	18%
Don't Know / Refused	3%

### Age

18 to 29	16%
30 to 44	25%
45 to 59	28%
60+	32%

### Gender

Male	47%
Female	53%

## About the Poll

These results are based on a survey of 553 registered voters living in the Boston area. For the purposes of this poll, the Boston area was defined as communities inside Route 128 or which straddle Route 128. The poll included a base sample of 403 residents in the entire area including Boston, with an additional 150 voters living in the City of Boston. Between the base sample and oversample, a total of 283 voters in the City of Boston were interviewed, which were weighted down to the city's actual share of the area's total population of registered voters.

Interviews were conducted June 21-24, 2019 by live telephone interviews via both landline and cell phone using conventional registration based sampling procedures. The margin of sampling error for the full sample is +/- 4.9 percent with a 95 percent level of confidence, and 5.9 percent for the City of Boston figures. The poll was sponsored by WBUR, a National Public Radio station in the Boston area.