

DARTS 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update Survey Summary

The Dougherty Area Regional Transportation Study (DARTS) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) issued a survey about DARTS area transportation needs and opportunities during the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update process to reflect transportation infrastructure and policy needs through horizon year 2050. Ninety-six (96) participants responded to the survey. Sixty-three (63) percent of participants reported living in the City of Albany, nineteen (19) percent, in Lee County, nine percent in Dougherty County and three percent indicated they live outside of the DARTS study area.

Of the respondents, sixty-nine (69) percent commute to work in the DARTS area and nine percent commute to work outside of the DARTS area. Twenty-four percent of participants do not commute to work outside of their home. Of the respondents that do commute to work, seventy-one (71) percent commute alone by car and fourteen (14) percent carpool with one or more additional persons by car. Twelve percent of respondents use public transportation to commute while three percent of respondents walk to work.

For general transportation needs outside of commuting to work, seventy-seven (77) percent of respondents reported driving alone as the transportation mode they use most often. Fourteen (14) percent of respondents use public transportation, seven percent carpool and one percent walk as the transportation mode used most often for general transportation.

When asked, “Within the DARTS Area, have you experienced traffic congestion on roads or at intersections?” thirty-six participants responded to the question with sixty-nine (69) percent indicated they have experienced traffic congestion on roads or at intersections and thirty-one (31) percent indicated they have not. The following locations were reported as congested.

- Leesburg, 19 and Walnut intersection
- Lovers Lane Rd./Old Leesburg Rd.
- Highway 19 AND 82, 32, Fussell Road, James Pond Road
- main streets
- Old Dawson and Westover
- Slappey @ Gillionville
- Slappey Blvd, Dawson Rd. Broad Ave, Westover Blvd, Ledo Rd
- Clark Ave Turner Field Jefferson
- Pointe North Boulevard, Westover, Dawson Road, and Highway 19 (from Ledo intersection to Cedric intersection in particular). There have been several times during peak traffic hours where I was unable to enter or exit Pointe North Apartments from either of its entrances due to severe congestion.

- Pointe North and Dawson Rd- going north at the light on Point North- can't make a left turn onto Old Dawson Rd. Also- going left on Dawson Rd onto Old Dawson Rd Any left turn at a light downtown Albany
- 3rd Avenue & Harding 3rd Avenue & Slappey
- North Slappey Boulevard/ Liberty Expressway
- Slappey Boulevard
- Highway 82 at Old Dawson Road
- Old Dawson, Westover, Stuart, Nottingham
- Smithville RD and Hwy 195
- Us 82
- US 19 Between Albany and Leesburg is bad at times. Traffic in Leesburg can be bad during school traffic. Especially if there is a train.
- Dawson Road and Ledo
- Dawson Rd at Whispering Pines & Westover Slappey at Oglethorpe, Broad, Gillionville, Palmyra, 3rd & Dawson Nottingham @ Westover
- Intersection at Oglethorpe & Radium Springs.

When asked, “Considering all modes of transportation (cars, trucks, cyclists, pedestrians) have you experienced any transportation safety issues in the DARTS Area?”, thirty-five (35) participants responded to the question with fifty-four (54) percent indicating they have experienced safety issues and forty-six (46) participants indicated they have not. The following locations were reported as having safety issues.

- Lovers Lane Rd. where it ends at Old Leesburg Rd.
- Congestion and wrecks morning and evening en route to and from work in Lee County Main Street.
- Radium Springs and Holly Pearce Rd in front of Dougherty High have no sidewalks.
- Clark Ave
- Dawson Road (in front of Publix and Target): Apartment residents and hotel guests often walk across Dawson Road to get to Publix or Target. The nearest crosswalks are a significant distance away for people carrying groceries, so they will run across the street in the middle of busy traffic. The median between Publix, Target, and Pointe North Apartments is also dangerous. Apartment residents coming from Westover often cannot turn safely into the Dawson Road entrance to the complex because of drivers trying to get into the median very quickly due to congestion from the stores.
- Bikers, Walker are especially at risk- and definitely anyone on a scooter/motorcycle.
- Excessive Speeding on Slappey Drive and Dawson Road
- Highway 82
- Dawson/Old Dawson intersection
- US 19.
- US 82

- Traffic light at the Slappey and Palmyra Road intersection near 2741 Palmyra Road.
- A few near misses occur when I ride my bicycle. In town and also on county roads. More sidewalks are needed within the city limits of Leesburg. (Starksville and Peach Street).

When asked, “Within the DARTS Area, have you experienced a lack of sidewalks or connections between sidewalk segments?,” thirty-four (34) participants responded with sixty-two (62) percent indicating they have experienced a lack of sidewalks and thirty-eight (38) percent have not. The following locations were reported as having a lack of sidewalks.

- Dougherty High School Dawson Rd around Firestone This is a problem around many public schools.
- Clark Ave Turner Field Oglethorpe Blvd East Dougherty
- Pointe North Boulevard: Residents and hotel guests often walk to access local businesses, leading to many people walking along lanes of traffic due to the lack of sidewalks.
- Everywhere- sidewalks are mostly nonexistent here unless you are downtown.
- All over the City except for Downtown
- Westover Dawson Road
- Dawson Road.
- Smithville Rd and Hwy 195
- Need sidewalks on Canal. New houses but no sidewalks. Should be an ordinance that requires sidewalks when building new houses.
- Hwy. 32 in Leesburg

When asked, “Within the DARTS Area, have you experienced a lack of safe bicycle routes or connections between bikeable areas?,” thirty-four (34) participants responded with sixty-two (62) percent indicating they have experienced a lack of safe bicycle routes or connections and thirty-eight (38) percent indicated they have not.

- This is problematic in East and South Albany
- East side Dougherty County
- Slappey Boulevard, West Oglethorpe, Newton Road, Gillionville Road, and Dawson Road
- Dawson Road
- Smithville Rd and Hwy 195
- Bike lane on Robert B Lee is overgrown. Dangerous to ride a bicycle on Walnut in Leesburg.
- Bicycles must be used on roadways with speed limits of less than 40 MPH for safety.

When asked, “Within the DARTS Area, have you experienced a need for improved public transit services (additional routes, service frequency, etc.)?,” thirty-four (34) participants

responded with half saying they have experienced a need for improved public transit and half have not experienced a need. The following comments were provided regarding public transit needs.

- More routes and give more time for those who get off later in the evening
Needs to come down to Beattie Road and Gillionville Road
- Pay more to bus drivers.
- Buses run late between campuses of ASU.
- Early morning service needed.
- The entire public transit system here is fractured. You never know when the bus is coming. There is only one bus riding a line at a time. which makes no sense. There should always be two buses per line. one inbound and one outbound
- Watching how many people use Uber to travel- it is plain that public transportation is lacking.
- Buses should run in Leesburg on 19 South
- Most of area needs improved transit.
- There is not a public transportation option for those people living in the Putney area who do not have transportation or reliable transportation.
- No service to Lee County
- Transit employment is down, and this has caused a delay in routes.

When asked, “Within the DARTS Area, have you experienced problems at railroad crossings?,” thirty-six (36) participants responded with twenty-five (25) percent indicating they have experienced problems at railroad crossings and seventy-five (75) percent have not. The following comments were provided regarding problems at railroad crossings.

- Asphalt deterioration on Broadway Avenue, Westover Road, and two on Mock Road
- Slappy Boulevard and Gillionville Road
- Jefferson Street, Washington Street
- Downtown Leesburg stops traffic when a train is there and the tracks need repairing.
- Only at grade crossings throughout the city.

Participants were asked to provide input on any additional transportation needs not covered in previous survey questions and the following comments were provided.

- Drivers turning from Lovers Lane Rd. onto Old Leesburg Rd. do not practice safety. They pull out in front of you displaying no regard for safety. I have had several close calls. VERY DANGEROUS INTERSECTION!! Needs a traffic light there to control these reckless drivers.
- Drainage issues along the side of roadway mostly in Leesburg.
- Roads near the mall need a lot of work.
- 82 19 Clark Ave Turner Field

- Intersection of Pointe North Boulevard and Old Dawson Road: The timing of the traffic lights at this intersection greatly increase congestion. The lights facing Old Dawson Road change very slowly, and the lights facing Pointe North Boulevard change very quickly. This leads to congestion as Pointe North Boulevard often has just as much (or more) traffic than Old Dawson Road.
- Traffic on 82 coming into Albany from Dawson- absolutely not safe due to high speeds and vehicles coming on and off the road for neighborhoods, businesses, etc. Reduced speeds and lights needed.
- In neighborhoods, why not add permanent speed tables where so many use the neighborhoods to "cut through" - like W. Doublegate, Martindale, Lullwater...
- At any traffic light look at the car next to you. They will be on their phone.
- Red lights don't mean anything in Albany. Constantly being run on Slapppy. No one is worried about obeying laws.

When asked, "What transportation issue do you feel is most important to address in the DARTS Area?," the following responses were provided.

- Traffic
- Where the lane ends after going through Philema Rd intersection, people speed up to pass on right. They don't know that the right lane is supposed to yield for through traffic. There needs to be a sign that displays that.
- Road surface on 32W & drainage issues in Leesburg.
- Time Bus arrival times
- More bus routes are needed for longer time frames.
- City Bus
- City bus/public transport
- Not enough buses on the streets to provide more frequency of service. The buses don't run late enough and neither do they run through all parts of the city like they should. This city is small but it's large enough to have a better public transit system.
- Concerning public transportation, the drivers are working 12-hour shifts. The locations for pickup points are saturating neighborhoods, and the working hours are expanded to include Saturday.
- Fixed route buses and routes to move people between Lee County and Dougherty County.
- Probably need more public transportation
- Traffic congestion, specifically in Lee County
- Lack of sidewalks
- Lack of federal interstate highway
- Congestion on exits
- Roads need to be reconditioned all over the city.
- Road and building planning need to be addressed. There are many places in the DARTS area with confusing, offset streets that are difficult to locate or navigate, as

well as busy main roads with many high-traffic buildings but little means for them to be safely accessed during busy times of day.

- My top issue would be pedestrian/bike/car safety on 82.
- Improve the existing road condition and perhaps widen existing roads.
- Highway 82
- Widen Old Dawson, Roundabout at Old Dawson/E Doublegate intersection, Roundabout or improved intersection at Dawson Rd/Old Dawson intersection.
- Speed limits need to be lowered in rapidly growing areas, re, US 82 in Lee County
- Speeding issues require more speed tables or monitoring.
- More sidewalks and bike trails
- Need to close intersections on US 82 in Lee County. Semi's run traffic lights. Road needs to be limited access. No median cuts.
- Traffic Signal upgrades and traffic calming devices are needed.
- East Albany is a community where people walk to destinations. I would consider more sidewalks and road repairs to roads (but not limited to others) Example: Thornton Drive E Broad Ave need a full sidewalk up and down the streets! This will make it safer. Also, road expansion is needed on Clark Ave where it is turning into a commercial road area.
- Consider replacing signalized intersections with roundabouts.
- Uniform policy concerning Taxi and Uber vehicle identification information and standards.

When asked, “How should transportation funding be prioritized? Please indicate level of priority for each category below.,” the following priorities were indicated.

FUNDING CATEGORY	HIGH PRIORITY	MEDIUM PRIORITY	LOW PRIORITY	TOTAL RESPONSES
Build new roads to add capacity to transportation system	35.90% 14	46.15% 18	17.95% 7	39
Widen existing roads to add capacity to transportation system	60.98% 25	21.95% 9	17.07% 7	41
Repair /maintain existing roadways	68.29% 28	26.83% 11	4.88% 2	41

FUNDING CATEGORY	HIGH PRIORITY	MEDIUM PRIORITY	LOW PRIORITY	TOTAL RESPONSES
Increase/ improve public transportation (bus) service	39.02% 16	36.59% 15	24.39% 10	41
Safety improvements (lighting, signage, intersection treatments)	73.17% 30	21.95% 9	4.88% 2	41
Bicycle Facilities	36.59% 15	41.46% 17	21.95% 9	41
Pedestrian Facilities	51.22% 21	43.90% 18	4.88% 2	41

Respondents varied by age as follows: fourteen (14) percent were 18-24; twelve (12) percent were 25-34; Fourteen (14) percent were 35-44; seventeen (17) percent were 45-54; twenty-four (24) percent were 55-64 and fourteen (14) percent were over age 65. Five percent of the respondents did not report their age.