

# Connecticut 2055 Initial Comment Period Public Engagement Summary

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## Overview

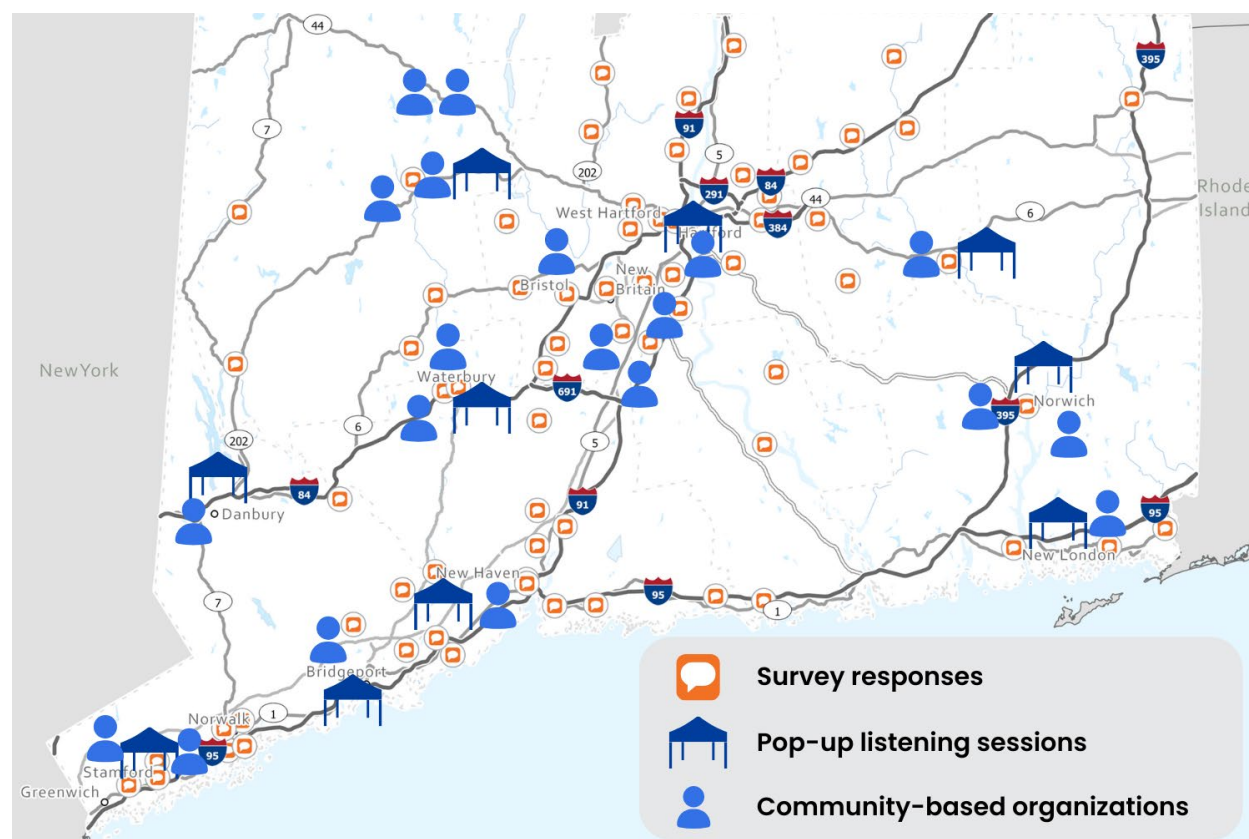
This report summarizes the engagement activities that occurred during the initial public comment period for the Connecticut 2055 Long-Range Transportation Plan which ran from April 9, 2025, through May 23, 2025.

During this initial public comment period, materials were made available to the public in English and Spanish on the Plan webpage ([portal.ct.gov/LongRangeTransportation](https://portal.ct.gov/LongRangeTransportation)). In addition to other engagement activities detailed later, two virtual public information meetings (VPIMs) were held on April 22, 2025, at 12 p.m. and 6 p.m. to provide a brief overview of Connecticut 2055 and offer a question-and-answer session with members of the Plan team. Questions and comments during the meeting were documented in the Plan record. Outside of the meeting, the public was invited to provide comments via email ([DOT.LongRangePlan@ct.gov](mailto:DOT.LongRangePlan@ct.gov)) and by mail.

To offer in-person engagement, the Plan team hosted ten (10) in-person pop-up listening sessions and informed communities across the state about the Plan while gathering public feedback. The Plan team reached approximately 500 individuals in total and engaged with participants through an interactive activity board, which received 302 responses.

Lastly, an online survey was administered throughout the public comment period and used to collect additional input, with a total of 113 completed surveys and 268 digital sticky-note responses.

In total, there were 711 responses, completed surveys, recorded questions and comments from the VPIM, and public comment forms received throughout the 45-day public comment period. **Figure 1** shows the locations of the pop-up listening sessions, the community-based organizations materials were distributed to, and the locations of people who submitted survey responses.



**Figure 1: Initial Comment Period Activities and Feedback Locations**

## Results: What We Heard

Throughout the 45-day public comment period, the Plan team heard over 700 different ideas, suggestions, questions, comments, and concerns. Collectively, people envisioned a future with:

- An **enhanced, user-friendly, affordable public transportation system** with improved connectivity between communities (regional hubs, small cities, suburban areas, and rural areas, particularly in the eastern portion of the state) and essential services and experiences.
- **Efficient, reliable, and accessible public transportation services** with easy-to-locate schedules (via signage and mobile applications), limited transfers, ADA compliance, and expanded availability through evenings and weekends.
- **Solutions to address traffic and congestion on major roadways** such as I-95 and I-84, in addition to improved overall road safety via increased enforcement and efforts to address dangerous driving behavior.
- **Investment in sustainable infrastructure and technologies** to support the current and future movement of people and goods.

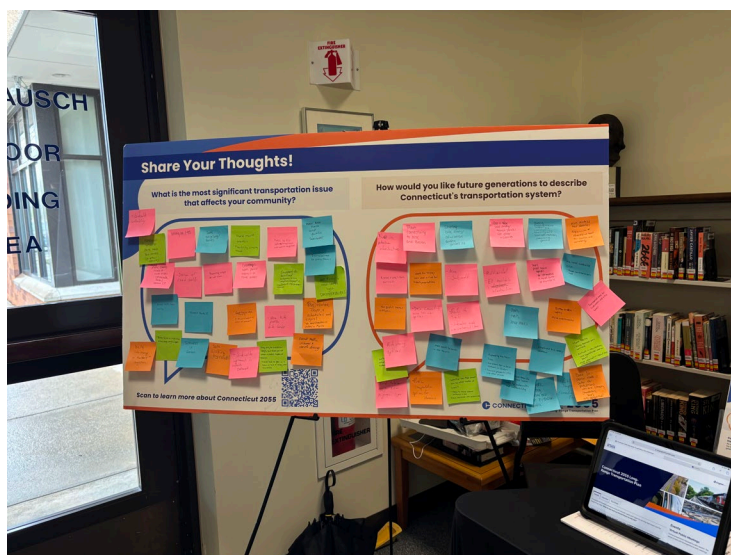
## Pop-Up Listening Sessions

At each of the ten pop-up listening sessions, detailed in **Table 1**, the Plan team engaged with the public through conversation and an activity board, shown in **Figure 2**.

**Table 1: Pop-Up Listening Sessions**

Date	Location
Saturday, April 12, 2025	Waterbury YMCA
Wednesday, April 16, 2025	Norwich Transportation Center
Saturday, April 26, 2025	Groton Earth Day Expo
Monday, April 28, 2025	Hartford Union Station
Sunday, May 4, 2025	Winsted/Winchester Stop and Shop
Tuesday, May 6, 2025	Bridgeport Transportation Center
Thursday, May 8, 2025	Danbury Public Library
Thursday, May 15, 2025	Willimantic Street Fest
Friday, May 16, 2025	New Haven Union Station

Date	Location
Monday, May 19, 2025	Stamford Transportation Center



**Figure 2: Interactive Activity Board at Groton Earth Day Expo**

Individuals were invited to answer one or both of the following questions:

- What is the most significant transportation issue that affects your community?
- How would you like future generations to describe Connecticut's transportation system?

There were 302 total responses, which were qualitatively categorized, similar to the survey results and public comments. The top five themes, ordered by their frequency, are defined and detailed below:

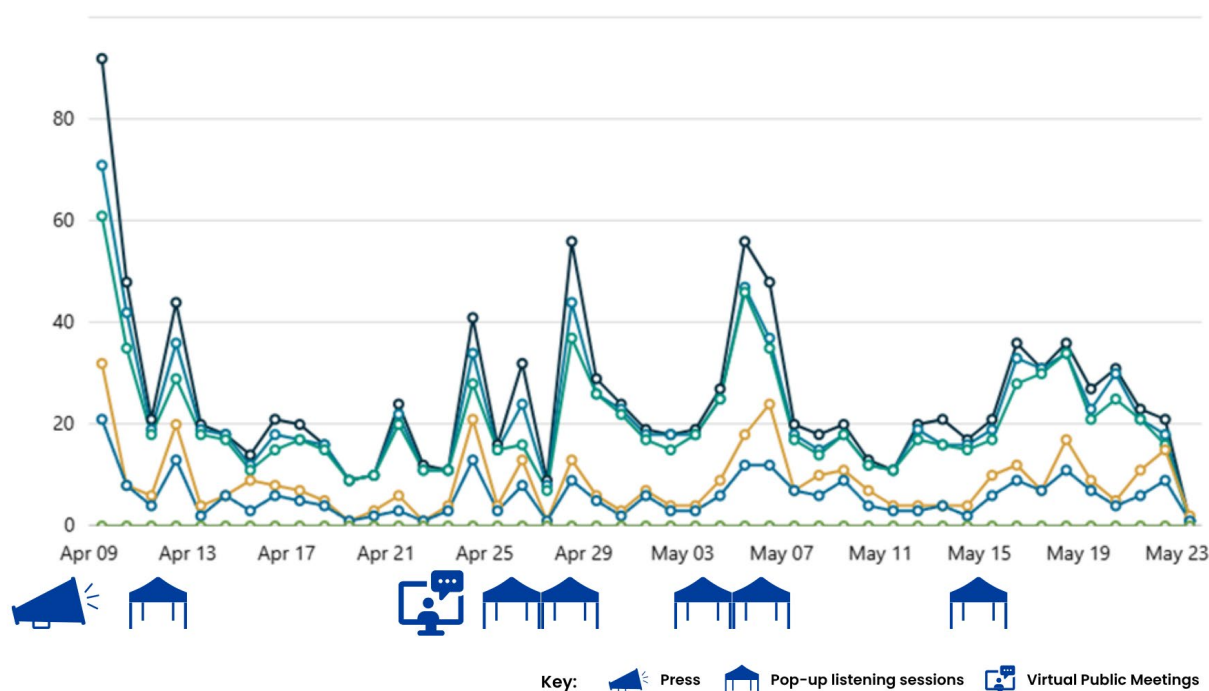
- **Public Transportation** (46 percent)
- **Traffic and Roadway Improvements** (21 percent)
- **Safety and Security** (15 percent)
- **Pedestrian and Bicycle Infrastructure** (14 percent)
- **Accessibility and Affordability** (4 percent)

## Online Survey

The online survey, which was offered throughout the initial public comment period, had two distinct ways to gather input. The first part included a single, open-ended

question to gather words on how respondents would like future generations to describe the transportation system in the state, while the remainder of the survey included multiple-choice questions about transportation experiences, issues, and demographics. Participants could complete either part of the survey without the other, allowing them to provide feedback during their available time and to their desired level of detail. There were approximately 1,150 total page views and 1,000 visits to the online survey.

**Figure 3** illustrates overall survey participation trends throughout the 45-day public comment period and key dates the Plan team was engaging with the public. Participation fluctuated throughout April and May, with the highest level of engagement occurring at the start of the public comment period. Peak periods of survey participation often occurred following outreach activities and sustained engagement throughout the public comment period which are displayed in the graphic.

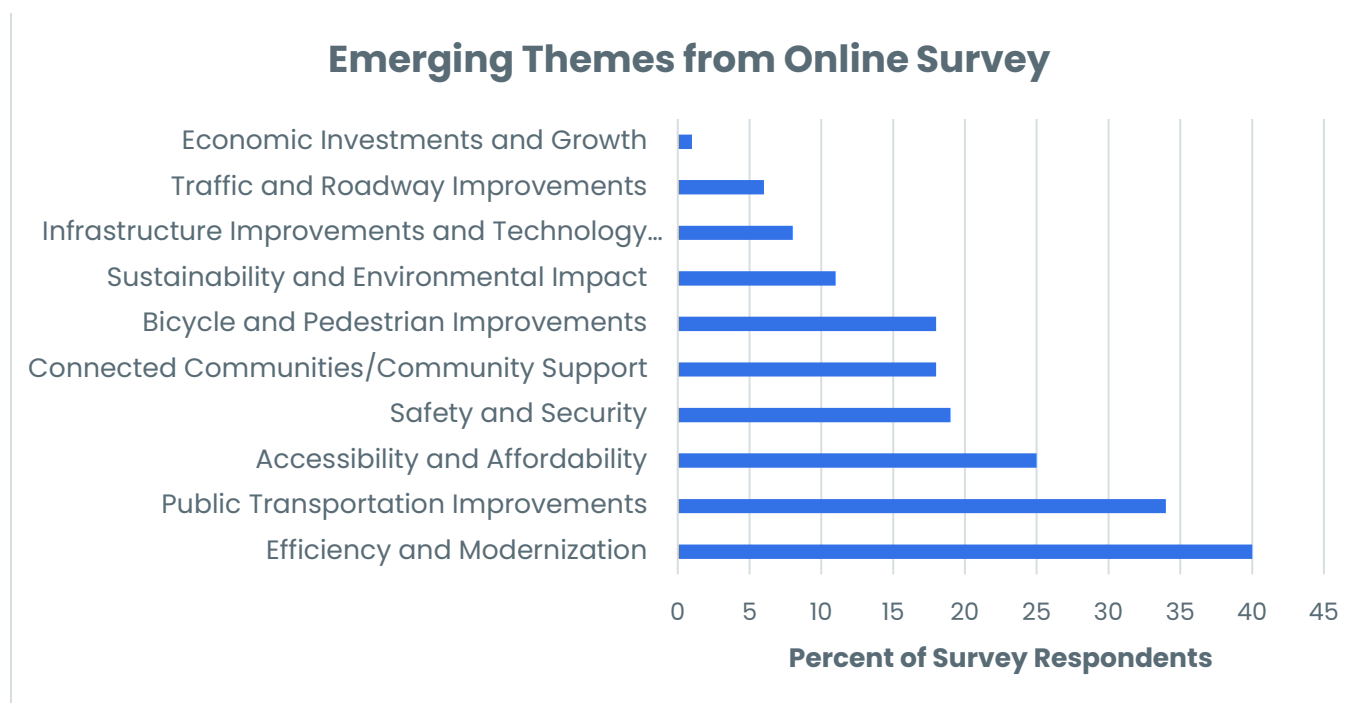


**Figure 3: Survey Participation Throughout Public Comment Period**





- **Public Transportation Improvements (34 percent):** Responses focused on improved and expanded public transportation such as bus and rail, with a particular emphasis on service to rural and urban areas.
- **Accessibility and Affordability (25 percent):** Responses emphasized the need for transportation options that are inclusive, user-friendly, affordable, and accessible across the state and beyond.
- **Safety and Security (19 percent):** Responses focused on safe streets, pedestrian and cyclist safety, increased enforcement of speed limits and laws on roadways, and concerns about unsafe driving practices.
- **Connected Communities/Community Support (18 percent):** Responses emphasized a desire to create interconnected networks between urban, suburban, and rural communities in Connecticut, improved connectivity to the Northeast region and major hubs like New York City and Boston, and vibrant communities that support and transport everyone.
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements (18 percent):** Responses mentioned protected bike lanes, flashing lights, and increased bike lanes and connectivity.
- **Sustainability and Environmental Impact (11 percent):** Responses highlighted green infrastructure, reduced carbon emissions, and the potential for renewable energy sources.
- **Infrastructure Improvements and Technology Improvements (8 percent):** Responses expressed desires for upgraded rail lines, bus shelters, and improved transportation systems.
- **Traffic and Roadway Improvements (6 percent):** Responses highlight the desire for improvements to traffic conditions and roadway design, with references to increased roundabouts, reduced traffic congestion, and general improvements to road and work zone safety.
- **Economic Investments and Growth (1 percent):** Responses emphasized interest in sustainably-funded transportation, investments in infrastructure, and transportation hubs to support economic growth.



**Figure 5: Emerging Themes from Survey**

## Part 2: Transportation Experiences, Issues, and Demographics

Responses: 113

Number of Participants: 109

The second part of the survey consisted of multiple-choice questions. Below is a summary of the results for each question.

**Question One:** “Connie, like many Connecticut residents, relies on our road network to get around. What are your **top priorities for road improvements** in Connecticut? Select all that apply.” Six percent of respondents skipped this question. Below are the results:

- Increased safety with fewer crashes (72 percent)
- Well-maintained roads and bridges (64 percent)
- Better flow of traffic during rush hour (44 percent)
- Improved direction signs, traffic signals, and pavement markings (35 percent)
- Better delivery of goods and supplies (10 percent)



**Question Two:** “What are your **top safety concerns** when traveling in Connecticut? Select all that apply.” Four percent of respondents skipped this question. Below are the results:

- Motorists’ risky driving behaviors (79 percent)
- Limited bus or train routes and connections (64 percent)
- Uneven or incomplete sidewalks (57 percent)
- Conditions of roads and sidewalks during winter (39 percent)
- Adequate ADA compliant infrastructure (25 percent)
- Lack of ‘on-demand’ transportation services (17 percent)

**Question Three:** “What are your **top priorities for multimodal transportation** in Connecticut? Please drag and drop to rank the improvements from most important to least important.” 17 percent of respondents skipped this question. Below are the results, in order of most important to least important:

1. More options for pedestrians and bicyclists
2. Safe and easy transit between different types of transportation
3. Access to bus services within communities
4. Addition of bus routes between cities
5. Better delivery of our goods and supplies

**Question Four:** “Which types of **transportation do you use weekly** to get to where you want to go? Select all that apply.” One percent of respondents skipped this question. Below are the results:

- Driving alone (83 percent)
- Walking (54 percent)
- Bus and train (37 percent)
- Bicycle (32 percent)
- Carpool/Vanpool/Rideshare (15 percent)
- Other (4 percent)

**Question Five:** “What do you see as the **most significant transportation issues** that affect your community? Select all that apply.” Three percent of respondents skipped this question. Below are the results:

- Lack of transportation options (60 percent)
- Bike and pedestrian concerns (56 percent)
- Safety concerns (48 percent)
- Aging infrastructure (45 percent)
- Congestion and long travel times (43 percent)
- Resilience and sustainability concerns (23 percent)
- Freight movement/supply chain connectivity (5 percent)
- Other (12 percent), with comments about unsafe driving behaviors, overall convenience and efficiency of public transportation, and lack of connected communities.

**Question Six:** “Which **transportation mode** do you wish you had more access to? Select all that apply.” Eight percent of respondents skipped this question. Below are the results:

- Transit (bus or rail) (74 percent)
- Walking (41 percent)
- Biking (40 percent)
- Personal vehicle (11 percent)
- Rideshare or taxi (9 percent)
- E-scooter (6 percent)
- Other (7 percent), with comments about trams, trolly lines, bikeshares, and ADA transit.

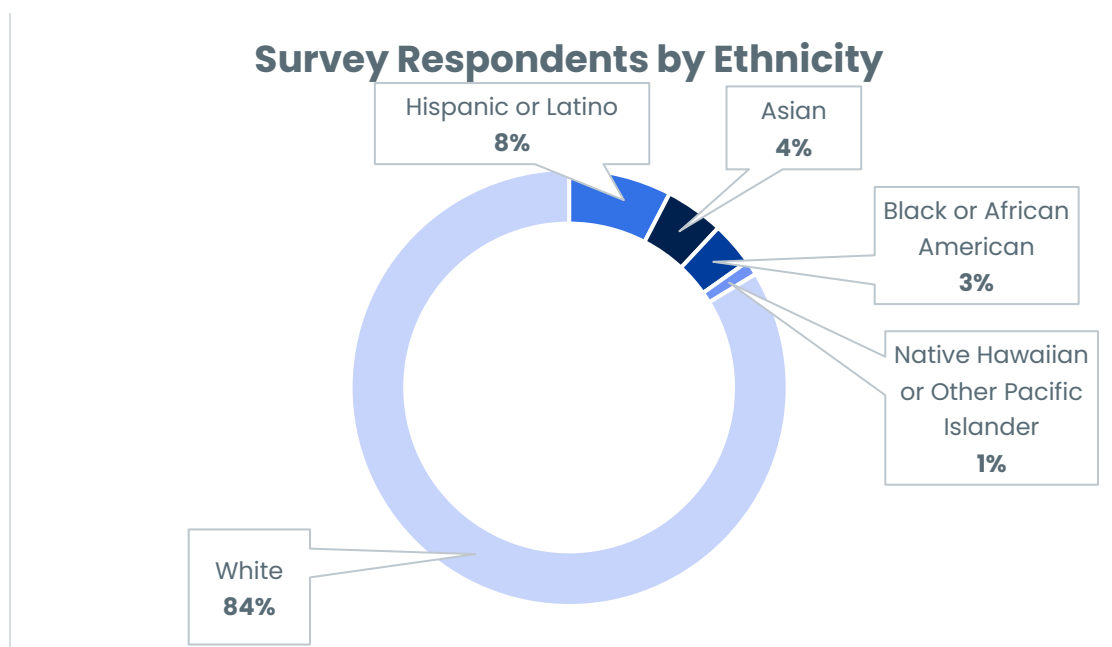
The next six questions asked respondents to rate the **importance of different transportation-focused priorities**. Respondents rated items from zero (not important) to five (very important). When averaged, items received the following scores of importance, listed in order from most important to least important:

- Travelers in Connecticut feel safe and are safe using the transportation system (4.4)
- People in Connecticut can rely on a transportation network that enhances community livability, supports economic vitality, and protects the environment (4.3)
- People in Connecticut can have their choice of a safe, reliable, and convenient mode of transportation (4.2)
- A multimodal transportation network that connects people to where they need and want to go, fostering prosperity and improving their quality of life (4.2)
- Connecticut communities can thrive through the integration of land use and transportation infrastructure improvements (4.0)
- We leverage emerging technology (3.2)

Next, respondents could share about any of the previous six responses they rated below three. Responses expressed concern about emerging technologies and mentioned that these technologies may not address major transportation issues. Other comments mention public transportation is not an option for everyone and that all the items mentioned are equally important.

In the next question, respondents self-identified their racial ethnicity. Note that 2 respondents skipped the question and 17 respondents (15 percent) selected 'Prefer not to answer.'

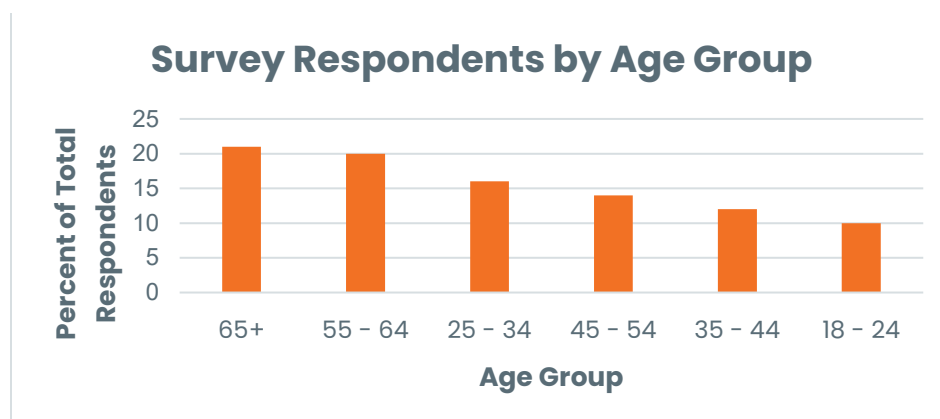
The top ethnicities of respondents who completed the second part of the survey, shown in **Figure 6**, include White (84 percent), Hispanic or Latino (8 percent), Asian (4 percent), Black or African American (3 percent), and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (1 percent).



**Figure 6: Survey Respondents by Ethnicity**

For the percentage of the population identifying as White, the responses align closely with the American Community Survey (ACS) Census Data in 2023. However, other racial groups such as Black or African American, Asian, and Hispanic or Latino were underrepresented. Future outreach efforts may incorporate additional efforts to reach a broader array of racial groups.

Next, respondents shared their age group. Note that 1 respondent skipped the question and 7 respondents (6 percent) selected 'Prefer not to answer.' The breakdown of age groups who completed the survey is shown in **Figure 7**. The most common age group among respondents was 65 and older (21 percent), followed by 55 to 64 years old (20 percent), 25 to 34 years old (16 percent), 45 to 54 years old (14 percent), 35 to 44 years old (12 percent), and 18 to 24 years old (10 percent).



**Figure 7: Survey Respondents by Age Group**

Collectively, the insights from the public comments, pop-up listening sessions, and survey reflect public sentiment and may inform a forward-looking long-range transportation plan that will improve the lives of all Connecticut residents.

## Virtual Public Information Meeting and General Comments

During the two VPIMs, the Plan team received 20 questions and comments. In addition, there were three comment forms received via email and five comment forms received at the pop-up listening sessions. The top themes, ordered by their frequency, are detailed below:

- **Public Transportation Improvements** (54 percent): Comments include specific concerns and suggestions to improve public transportation, including bus, rail, and ferry services.
- **Efficiency and Modernization** (32 percent): Comments discuss improving efficiency by creating a cohesive, user-friendly transportation network that is efficient (shorter waiting times, faster routes, easier connections) and modern (such as upgrading the CTrail app and creating an overall transportation system similar to Europe).
- **Infrastructure Improvements and Technology Improvements** (29 percent): Comments express desire for physical and technical upgrades to rail lines, buses, roads, bridges, and particular mentions of electrification and e-aircraft.
- **Safety and Security** (25 percent): Comments discuss physical safety concerns such as platform gaps at rail stations, dangerous intersections,

crash prevention, and the desire to address unsafe driving behaviors such as speeding.

- **Traffic and Roadway Improvements** (25 percent): Comments mention concerns about congestion, work zone safety, and improvements to roadways.
- **Connected Communities and Community Support** (18 percent): Comments express desire for improving connectivity across the state, particularly in urban hubs and low-income areas, and connecting people to work, health facilities, and other community locations.

Additionally, a small portion of comments addressed **sustainability and environmental impacts**, such as considering climate modeling as part of the Plan (14 percent), **accessibility and affordability** (14 percent), **economic investments and growth** (11 percent), and **bicycle and pedestrian improvements** (4 percent).

## Initial Comment Period Awareness Methods

The Plan team utilized multiple types of advertisement to publicize the VPIMs and associated outreach activities. These methods are described below.

### Legal Advertisement

Legal advertisements were published in various media outlets across Connecticut to effectively reach the study's target audience, including *CT Post*, *Hartford Courant*, and *La Voz Hispana in Spanish*. The notices were published two weeks prior to the public meetings and provided the Plan's webpage and essential information about the upcoming meetings, public comment period, and survey.

### Press Release

CTDOT's Communications Office distributed a [press release](#) with information on the public meeting and how the public could learn more about the Plan, submit comments, and participate in the survey.

### Email Blast

An email blast is an email message that goes out to a group of people simultaneously. Using addresses of those who had previously expressed interest in

the Connecticut 2055 LRTP, the Plan team promoted the VPIMs and public comment period by distributing an [email blast](#) on April 9, 2025.

## Community-Based Organizations Materials Distribution

To reach a wide audience across Connecticut, the Plan team distributed print newsletters to 20 community-based organizations at the start of the comment period for display and distribution to their various constituents, listed in **Table 2**, at the start of the public comment period. Newsletters included a QR code linking to the Plan’s webpage and directed attention to the pop-up listening sessions, public meetings, and online survey. The following community-based organizations received and distributed the Connecticut 2055 print newsletter:

**Table 2: Community-Based Organizations**

Organization	Location
Beardsley and Memorial Library	Winsted
Bridgeport Public Library, Newfield Branch	Bridgeport
Bristol Public Library	Bristol
Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants	Stamford
Danbury Public Library	Danbury
Disabilities Network of Eastern Connecticut, Inc.	Norwich
Ferguson Public Library, South End Branch (Stamford)	Stamford
Friends in Service to Humanity of Northwestern Connecticut, Inc. (FISH)	Torrington
Groton Public Library	Groton
Hartford Public Library, Park Street Branch	Hartford
Meriden Public Library	Meriden
New Britain Public Library	New Britain
New Haven Public Library, Stetson Branch	New Haven
Otis Library	Norwich
Silas Bronson Library	Waterbury
Torrington Library	Torrington
Waterbury YMCA	Waterbury
Willimantic Public Library	Willimantic
Winsted Area Branch YMCA	Winsted
Women and Families Center	Meriden



## Social Media

Paid social media content, shown in **Table 3**, was published via the CTDOT Meta account and built public awareness and interest throughout the state in both the survey and VPIMs. The Plan team adjusted the last ad's geographic audience to account for any identified gaps. **Across the paid ads, there were approximately 127,100 total views, 76,300 reaches, and 1,800 link clicks.**

**Table 3: Social Media Ad Engagement**

Post	Dates	Engagement
	April 1 – April 9, 2025	17,350 views 8,530 reach 230 link clicks
	April 9 – April 15, 2025	23,580 views 14,350 reach 311 link clicks
	April 9 – May 23, 2025	42,620 views 28,100 reach 760 link clicks
	April 16 – 24, 2025	25,280 views 15,210 reach 270 link clicks
	May 16 – 23, 2025	18,250 views 10,100 reach 220 link clicks

## Website Analytics

During the public comment period, the Plan webpage ([portal.ct.gov/LongRangeTransportation](https://portal.ct.gov/LongRangeTransportation)) had a total of **1,281 views**. The subpage hosting VPIM engagement materials had 447 views, making up nearly 35 percent of all visits to the Connecticut 2055 microsite. On average, visitors viewed the page for 42 seconds. There were approximately 393 active users regularly visiting the site, each viewing the webpage an average of 3 times.