



Results of Regional Issues Survey

Earlier in October, WMSA conducted a survey of our all those in our data base with valid emails to get input on where to focus our energies.

The survey asked for input as to the urgency, and long-term potential benefits of:

- **Transit in the region**– Transit refers to moving people from place to place. There are several individual transit systems in the region, but no strong regional coordination or long-range action to provide transportation through out the region to get people to and from work and other essential services.
- **Water Quality in the region**– Water is our most precious asset, but we have no way to measure the water quality across our region, nor do we have a long-term regional plan for improving and preserving the quality of our water.
- **Educational Attainment in the region**– A prosperous economy is dependent on an educated workforce. WMSA is involved in a talent retention strategy focused on internships for college students. Is there more that ought to be done in the region to develop, attract and retain talent in West Michigan?

The results pointed very strongly at continuing to affect educational attainment (the percentage of 25 to 34 year-olds with college degrees.)

We thank all those who took time to answer the short survey. You are helping to shape our region!

Survey Results

We received 309 responses out of 3036 emails sent, or about a 10% return.

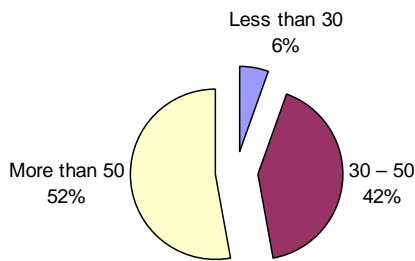
1. In what county do you live?

Allegan	3.6%
Barry	2.3%
Ionia	1.0%
Kent	45.1%
Montcalm	2.6%
Muskegon	11.7%
Newaygo	1.6%
Ottawa	31.2%
Other	1.0%

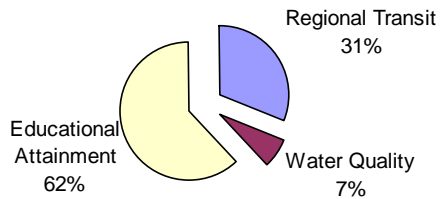
2. In which sector do you work or volunteer? (select all that apply)

Business	129
Education	63
Government	69
Healthcare	17
Nonprofit	77
Law	3
Consulting services	2
Faith based	1
Philanthropy	1
Student	1
Agriculture	1

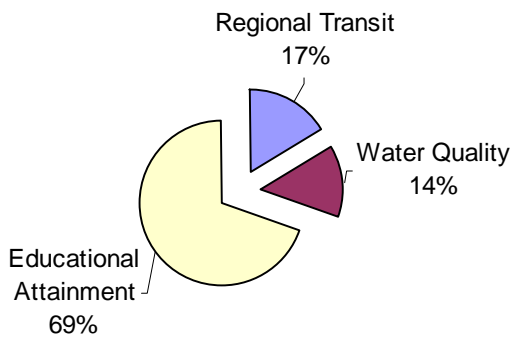
3. What is your age?



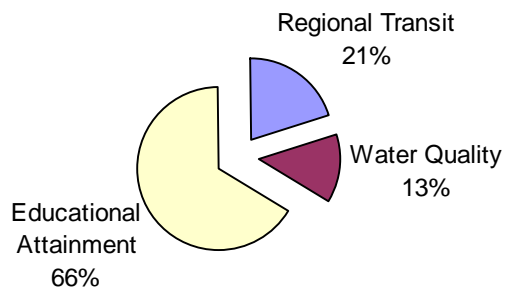
4. Which presents the most **urgent need** for short-term regional action?



5. Which has the greatest potential for **long-term benefits** for the region?



6. Which has the greatest potential to create a **positive impact** on people, the environment and the economy of the region?



7. If none of these three issues are the most relevant issue for regional action, what do you believe is and why?

We received 68 write-in suggestions. Any that were mentioned more than once are noted below:

- 33 – Economic development – various ideas about job creation or more educational attainment activity
- 5 – Transit
- 4 – Land use planning
- 3 – Road infrastructure
- 3 – Affordable housing