

# Elliott Ave W and 15th Ave W Bus Lanes

## Traveler Survey Summary

January 2023



Presented by



# Overview

## Introduction

In fall of 2022, SDOT conducted a survey of people who travel on Elliott Ave W and 15th Ave W to better understand how people travel through this area, learn about the experience of people who ride the bus, and what would encourage people to take more bus trips. The survey was live for three weeks, from October 20 to November 13, 2022, and was translated into Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, and Spanish. We received 415 responses. This report summarizes the survey results.

## Survey Goals

The goal of the survey was to answer the following questions:

1. Who is utilizing transit on the Elliott Ave W and 15th Ave W corridor?
2. What can be done to make riding the bus more convenient?
3. What else can be done to improve transit rider experience?

# Demographics

## Gender

The majority of respondents self-identified as either men or women, with about 45% of respondents identifying as male, and 40% identifying as female. Non-binary or gender non-conforming and transgender respondents made up a smaller group, with 6% and 2% of answers respectively.

## Race and Ethnicity

About 72% of respondents self-identified as white and of European ancestry, followed by those who identified as Asian, which was just over 9%. Hispanic/Latino/Latina/Latinx respondents landed in the middle with just under 6%. 4% of respondents identified as Black/African American, and 0.7% of respondents identified as American Indian/Native Alaskan. About 8% of respondents chose not to identify their race.

# Feedback on Making Riding the Bus Easier and More Convenient

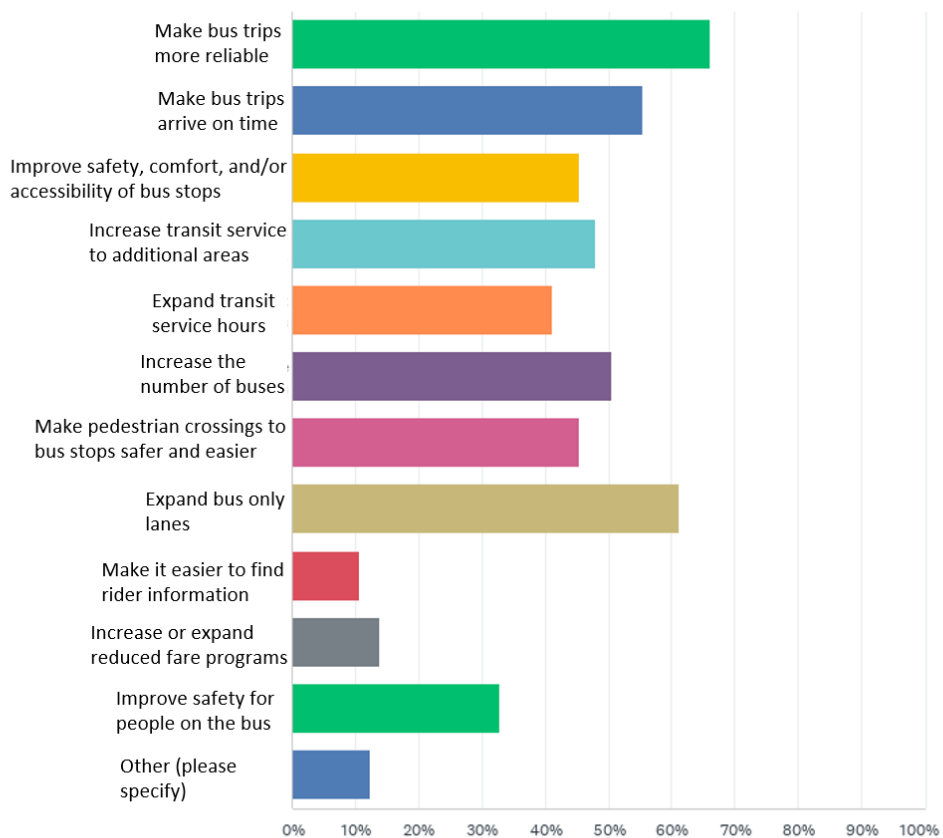
Respondents were asked to identify what SDOT, or King County Metro can do to make riding the bus easier and more convenient. Respondents picked their top five suggestions from a list of options, with the option to add in their own responses as well. The top choices include:

- Making bus trips more reliable (270 respondents chose this option)
- Expanding the bus only lanes (250 respondents chose this option)
- Making bus trips arrive on time (227 respondents chose this option)

Respondents cared the least about it be easier to find rider information, with only 44 respondents picking this as one of their top five choices.

The below graph shows the breakdown of how survey takers responded to this question.

**Q6 Are there other things that SDOT or King County Metro can do to make riding the bus easier and/or more convenient? Select your top 5 choices or write in your own ideas.**



### Open Ended Responses:

Below is a summary of the open-ended responses that we received from respondents who included “Other” as one of their top five choices.

- **Bus lanes expansion:** Respondents voiced their support for an expansion to the bus lanes, mostly in terms of expanded hours but with some voicing a desire for more buses or better bus reliability on weekends.
- **Better infrastructure:** Respondents pointed out the need for better infrastructure surrounding transit. This was primarily regarding safer and better placed bus stops, more crosswalks both near stops and in general, and the elimination of street parking in specific areas to aid traffic.
- **Bike lanes expansion:** Respondents identified a need for the expansion of bike lanes to correspond with bus lanes. Respondents brought up how they would like to use both transit and

bike lanes in order to make commuting easier. They desire additional investments in bike lanes and bike infrastructure in addition to improving transit.

- **Bus lanes enforcement:** Respondents voiced a desire for enforcement of bus lanes violations. There were multiple anecdotes about cars using the bus lanes for passing or to park in, causing significant bus delays.
- **Timeliness and reliability of buses:** Respondents noted that timeliness and reliability of buses is a barrier for people to take the bus. People want to use transit but need service to be more widespread and consistent.

## Other Comments

Respondents were asked if they had anything else they would like to share about their needs as someone who uses Elliott Ave W and 15th Ave W. Below is a summary of their responses:

- **Safety:** Respondents brought up feeling unsafe both on and off the bus. Respondents spoke to seeing drug use, being harrassed on the street or on buses. People also feel endangered by the street itself and dangerous traffic driving on it.
- **Speeding:** Respondents shared their frustration with excessive speeds in this corridor and mentioned how speeding drivers endanger everyone.
- **Street parking:** Respondents raised a desire to heavily reduce or eliminate street parking on major streets. This was seen as a measure that could benefit both drivers and transit commuters, freeing up additional space for everyone to use. On the contrary, there were a few respondents who requested to keep street parking available, citing the health of local businesses and needing to park near work as reasons to maintain access to parking.
- **Traffic congestion:** Some respondents were worried that the expansion of the bus lanes hours would lead to an increase in traffic along this corridor.
- **Connectivity to other transit:** Many respondents voiced a desire for bus routes that better connect people to other transportation options, including light rail.

## Appendix

[Traveler Survey](#)