



# WTP2035

WASHINGTON TRANSPORTATION PLAN

CONNECTING WASHINGTON COMMUNITIES  
FOR A HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS FUTURE

## Washington State Department of Transportation WTP 2035 Survey

July 2015

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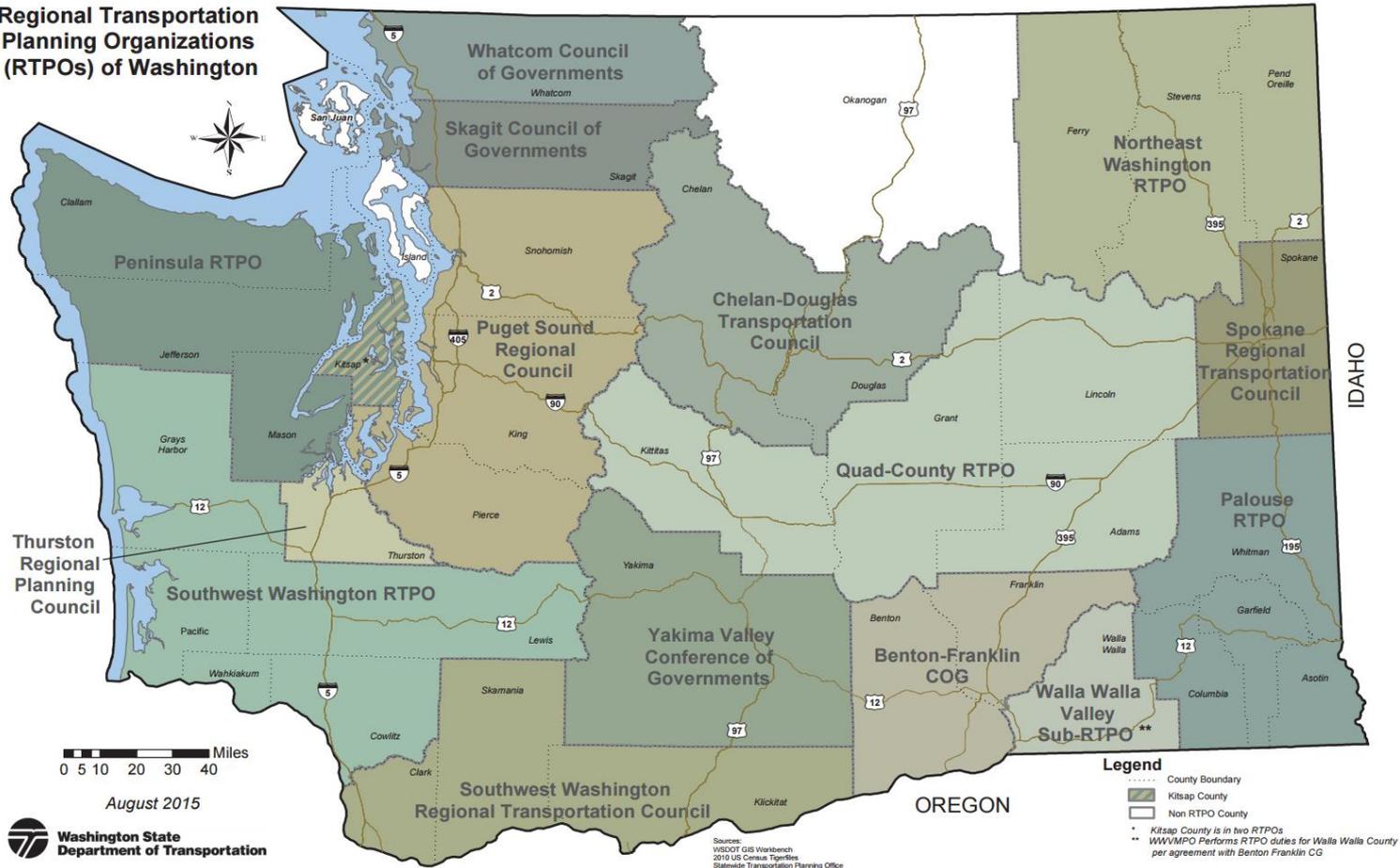
- The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) conducted a statewide survey using the Washington State Transportation Commission's (WSTC) Voice of Washington State (VOWS) web panel to gauge attitudes and priorities around transportation issues and WTP 2035.
  - Total number of surveys sent: 30,631
  - Total number of completed surveys: 7,524
  - Number who started but didn't finish: 12,313
- A total of 7,524 surveys, or 25% of the total sent, were completed from June 11-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. The 2014 VOWS survey resulted in 19% (5,531) of the surveys being completed.
- The Margin of Error for the overall results is  $\pm 1.1$  percentage points at a 95% confidence interval.
- Weighting was used to adjust the data to account for over- and under-represented groups. This survey data was weighted by age, gender, and Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) to match the distribution of the statewide adult population.
- For all A-F grading questions, the average grade calculation EXCLUDES those respondents who checked "Not sure."
- Some questions are compared to the 2012, 2013, and 2014 WSTC VOWS surveys.

*Please note that due to rounding, some percentages may not add up to exactly 100%.*

- The overall grade for Washington's statewide transportation system (1.75 / C-) is similar to 2014, while the overall grade for local transportation systems has continued to decline slightly.
  - 18% give the state transportation system an above average grade (A or B), 47% give it an average grade (C), and 34% give it a below average grade (D-F).
  - 19% give their local transportation system an above average grade, 38% give it an average grade, and 43% give it a below average grade.
- Local public transportation systems (1.74), walking facilities (1.87), and biking facilities (2.01) all get C- grades.
- 78% have a favorable reaction to the vision statement for the Washington Transportation Plan.
- While all six state policy goals for transportation investment (Mobility, Safety, Economic Vitality, Preservation, Environment, and Stewardship) are seen as important, Mobility is the top priority, followed by Safety, Economic Vitality, and Preservation.

- When respondents were asked an open-ended question (respondents answer in their own words) what one transportation issue “most needs to be addressed as the state thinks about long term transportation planning,” the top mention for both the state and local systems is traffic/congestion.
- When asked how they would invest \$1.00 in transportation spending across five transportation objectives – maintaining the system, increasing capacity, expanding travel options, improving safety, and protecting the environment - respondents are most interested in increasing capacity and investing in maintaining the system, followed by expanding travel options.
- The overall grade for local transportation funding fairness has dropped from a C- (1.67) to a D+ (1.63) since 2014, with 38% of respondents giving a below average grade and 36% giving an average grade.

## Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs) of Washington



- **San Juan County** is not part of any RTPO, and was included in Skagit COG, as in previous VOWS surveys.
- **Okanogan** is no longer part of an RTPO, but is included in the Chelan-Douglas TC for consistency with previous VOWS surveys.
- **Kitsap County** is a member of PSRC and Peninsula RTPO. Kitsap is only included in Peninsula, as in previous VOWS surveys.
- **Walla Walla Valley** is now its own sub-RTPO but is included in the Benton-Franklin COG for consistency with previous VOWS surveys.

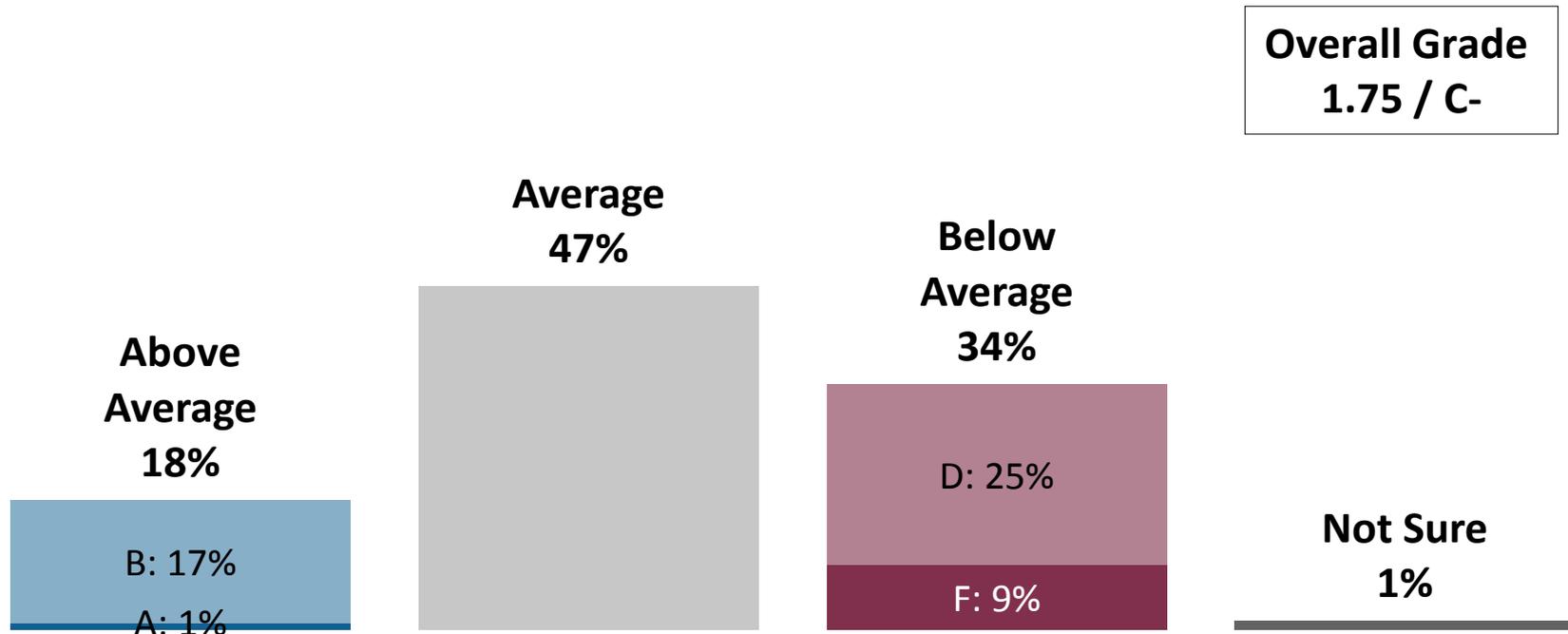
# Surveys Completed by RTPO

| RTPO Grouping                                          | Completed Interviews | Margin of Error | Weighted Interviews | Weighted %  |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Benton/Franklin ( <u>plus</u> Walla Walla)             | 387                  | ± 5.0%          | 308                 | 4%          |
| NE Washington                                          | 89                   | ± 10.4%         | 83                  | 1%          |
| Chelan-Douglas ( <u>plus</u> Okanogan)                 | 196                  | ± 7.0%          | 151                 | 2%          |
| Palouse                                                | 99                   | ± 9.8%          | 76                  | 1%          |
| Peninsula ( <u>includes</u> Kitsap)                    | 734                  | ± 3.6%          | 496                 | 7%          |
| Puget Sound Regional Council ( <u>excludes</u> Kitsap) | 3,431                | ± 1.7%          | 3,905               | 52%         |
| Quad-County                                            | 146                  | ± 8.1%          | 135                 | 2%          |
| Skagit/Island ( <u>plus</u> San Juan)                  | 553                  | ± 4.2%          | 248                 | 3%          |
| Spokane                                                | 481                  | ± 4.5%          | 549                 | 7%          |
| SW Washington Regional Transportation Council          | 533                  | ± 4.2%          | 512                 | 7%          |
| SW Washington                                          | 273                  | ± 5.9%          | 293                 | 4%          |
| Thurston                                               | 248                  | ± 6.2%          | 316                 | 4%          |
| Whatcom                                                | 177                  | ± 7.4%          | 248                 | 3%          |
| Yakima Valley                                          | 177                  | ± 7.4%          | 203                 | 3%          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                           | <b>7,524</b>         |                 | <b>7,524</b>        | <b>100%</b> |

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- **Okanogan** is no longer part of an RTPO, but is included in the Chelan-Douglas TC for consistency with previous VOWS surveys.
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- **Walla Walla Valley** is now its own sub-RTPO but is included in the Benton-Franklin COG for consistency with previous VOWS surveys.

Overall, respondents give Washington State's transportation system a C minus grade. Only 18% give the state transportation system an above average grade (A or B), while 34% give it a below average grade (D or F).

## State Transportation System Grade



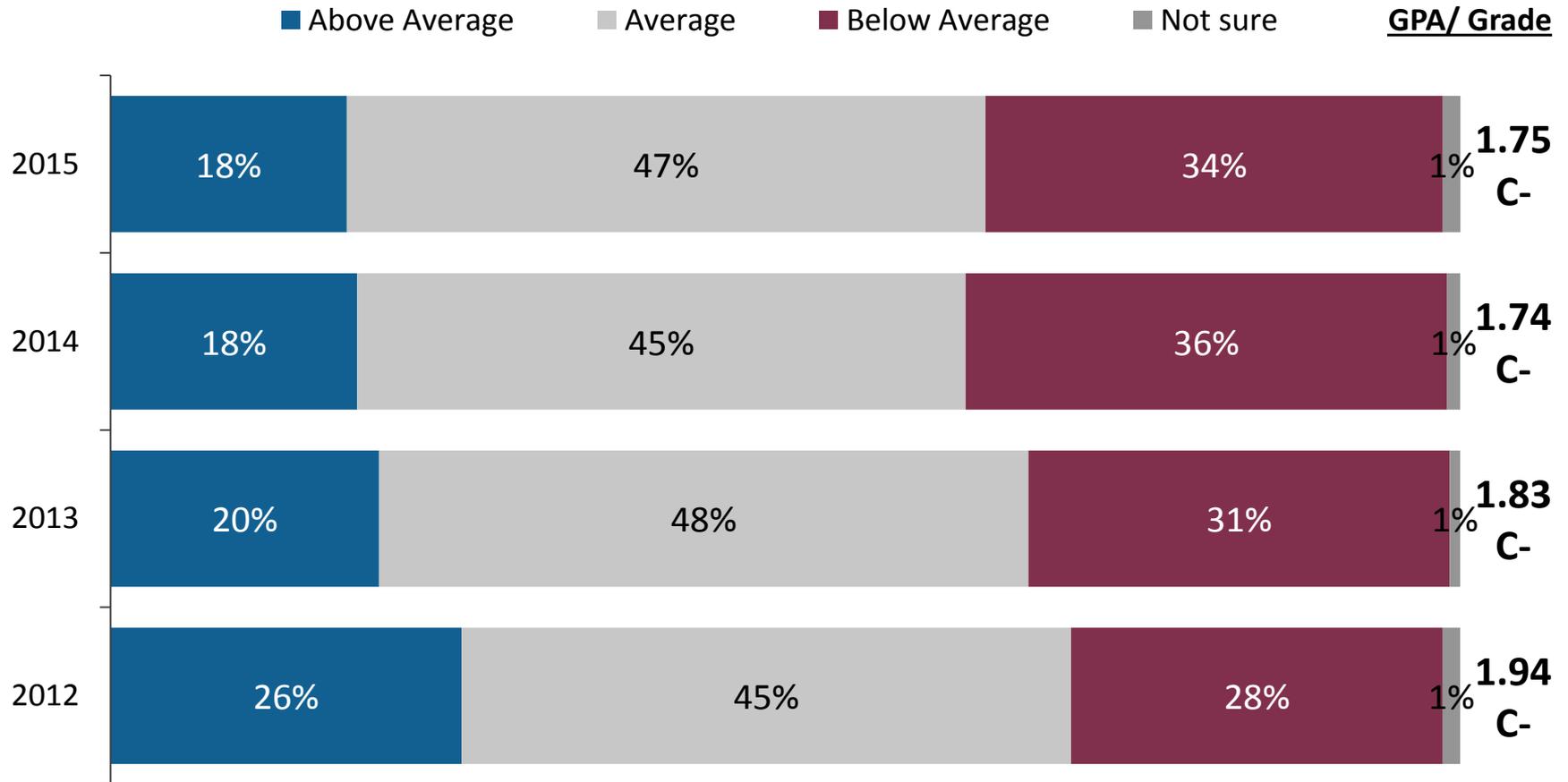
**DEFINITION: "Washington State's transportation system"** - the roads, highways, bridges, public transit, rail, ferries, airports, sidewalks, and bike lanes that connect the state to move people and goods.

Q1. Using an A, B, C, D or F grading scale, How would you rate Washington's transportation system overall?

# Statewide System Grade - by Year

The overall grade for Washington's transportation system is similar to 2014.

## State Transportation System Grade



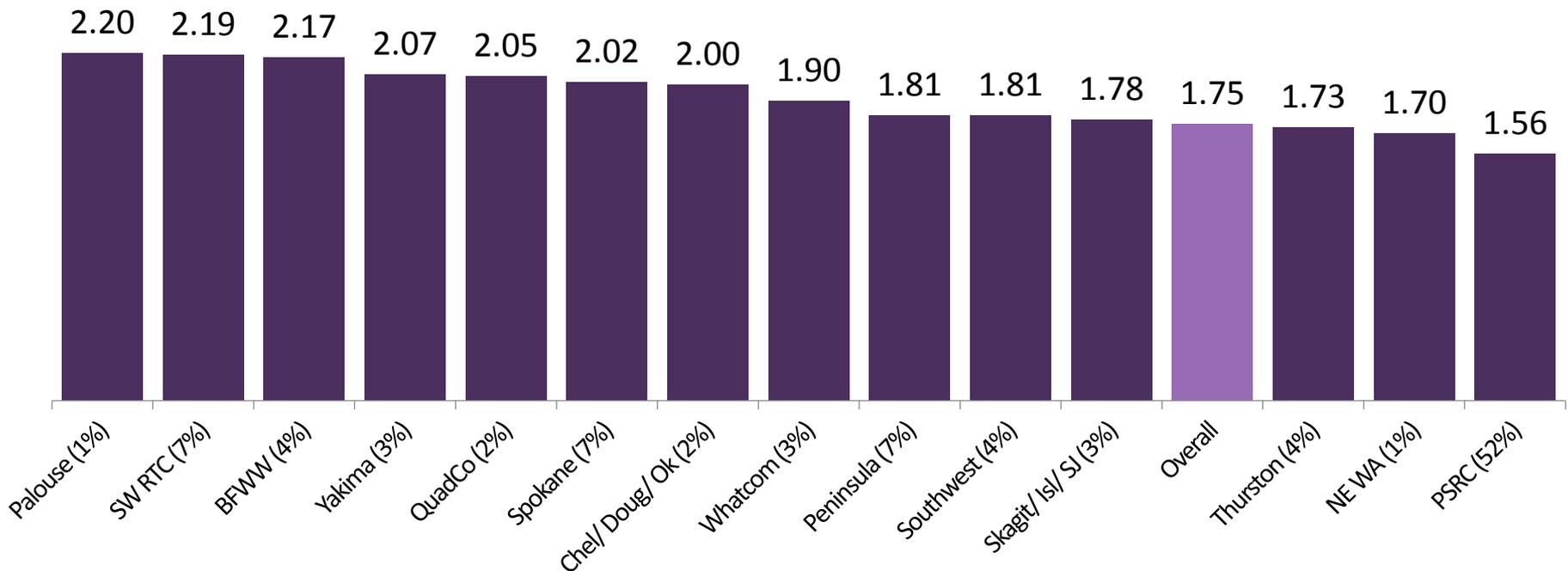
Q1. Using an A, B, C, D or F grading scale, How would you rate Washington's transportation system overall?

# Statewide System Grade - by RTPO

*In every RTPO, respondents give the state transportation system a C or lower grade. The grade is lowest in the PSRC (1.56 / D+), which contains 52% of the state's population.*

## State Transportation System Grade

*(n%) is the % of the state voting population in that RTPO*

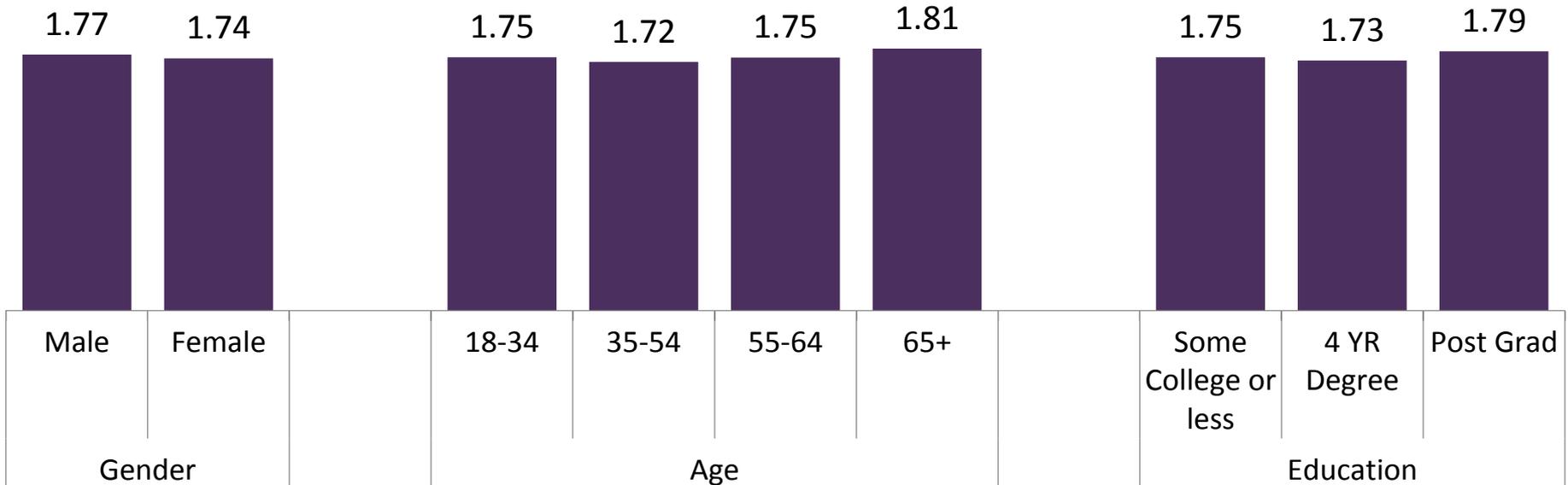


Q1. Using an A, B, C, D or F grading scale, How would you rate Washington's transportation system overall?

# Statewide System Grade - by Key Demographics

Residents age 65+ give the state transportation system slightly higher grade than younger residents (18-64). Residents who have completed a post-graduate degree give slightly higher ratings than residents without a post-grad degree.

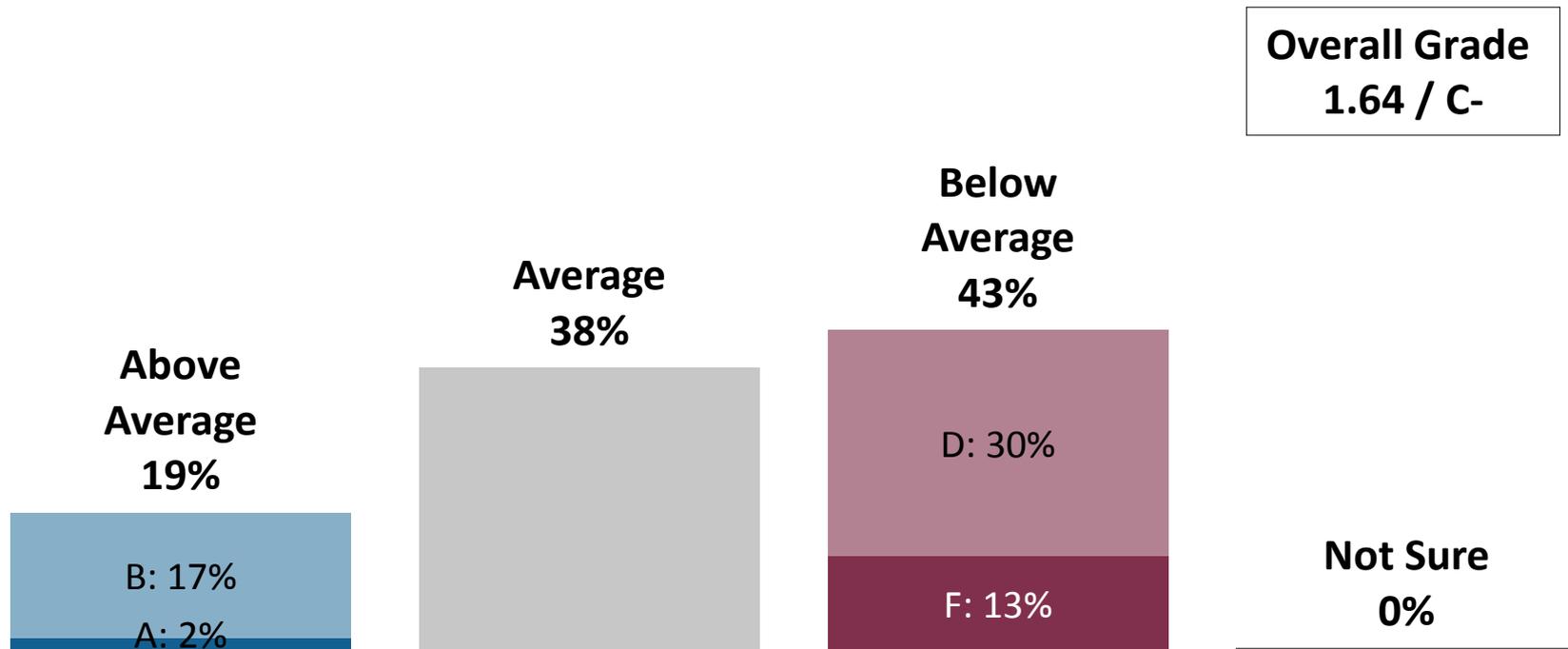
## Statewide System Grade



Q1. Using an A, B, C, D or F grading scale, How would you rate Washington's transportation system overall?

Overall, respondents give the transportation system in their local area a C minus grade. Only 19% give their local transportation system an above average grade, while 43% give it a below average grade.

## Local Transportation System Grade



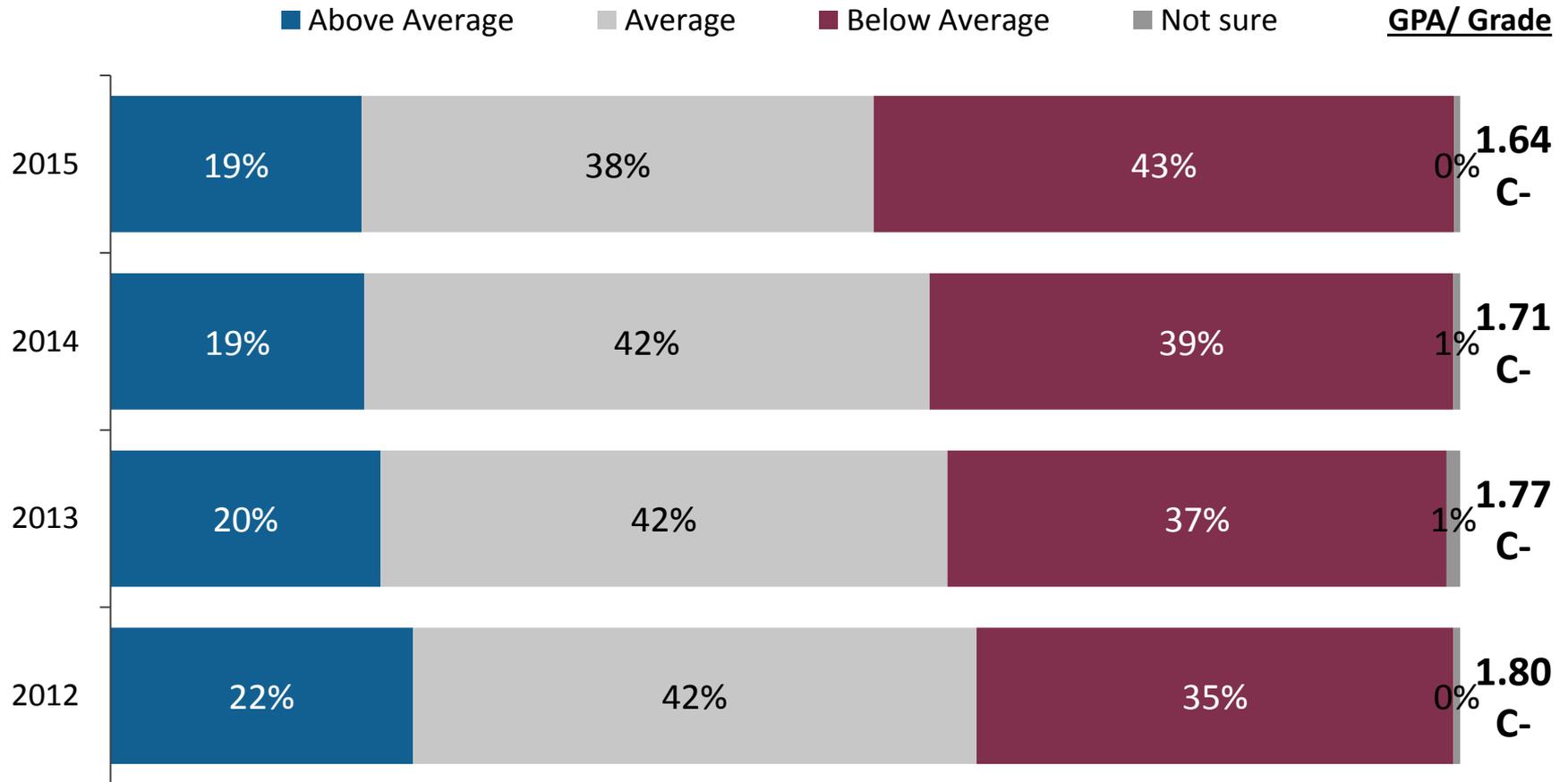
**DEFINITION: “transportation system in your local area”** - the roads, highways, bridges, public transit, rail, ferries, airports, sidewalks, and bike lanes that connect your city or town to the immediate surrounding areas to move people and goods

Q2. Using an A, B, C, D or F grading scale, How would you rate the transportation system in your local area?

# Local System Grade - by Year

Overall ratings for the local transportation system have continued to decline slightly.

## Local Transportation System Grade



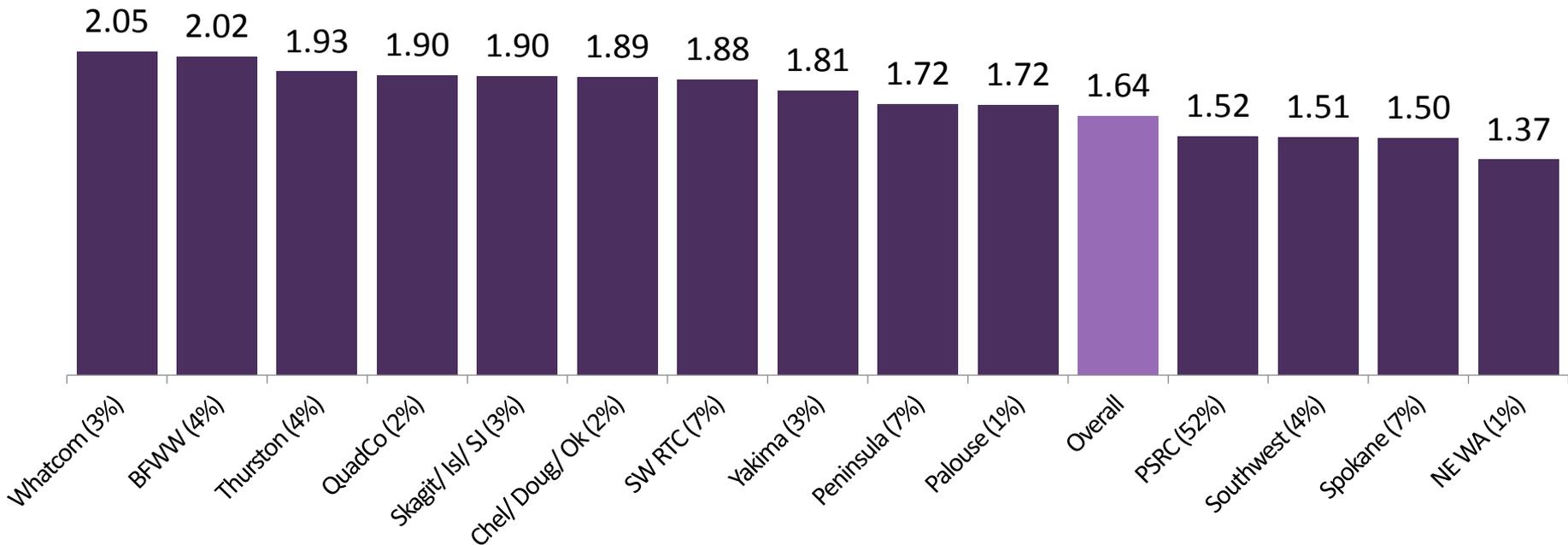
Q2. Using an A, B, C, D or F grading scale, How would you rate the transportation system in your local area?

# Local System Grade - by RTPO

*In every RTPO, respondents give their local transportation system a C or lower grade. The grade is lowest in the Spokane RTPO (1.50 / D+) and NE WA RTPO (1.37 / D+).*

## Local Transportation System Grade

*(n%) is the % of the state voting population in that RTPO*

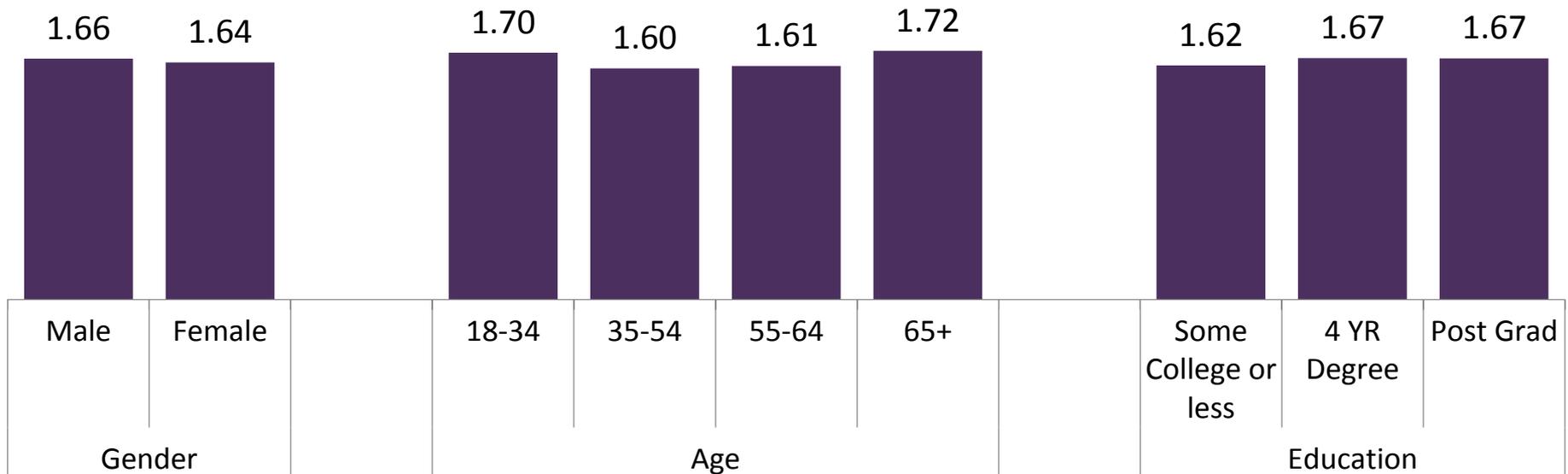


Q2. Using an A, B, C, D or F grading scale, How would you rate Washington's transportation system overall?

# Local System Grade - by Key Demographics

*As with the statewide transportation system, men, older residents, and residents who have completed college give their local transportation system slightly higher grades, but the differences are small.*

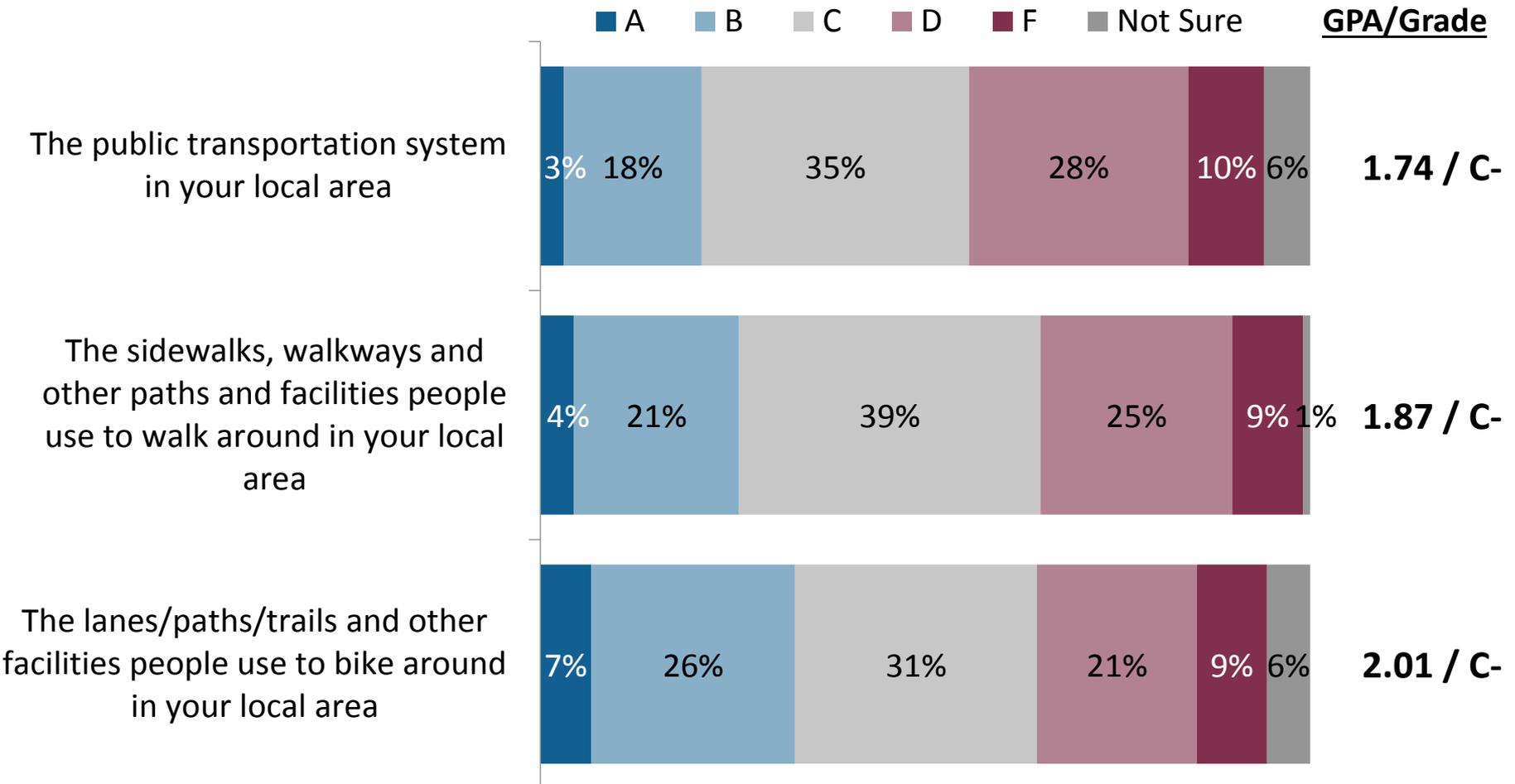
## Local System Grade



Q2. Using an A, B, C, D or F grading scale, How would you rate Washington's transportation system overall?

# Transit, Walking, and Biking Facility Grades

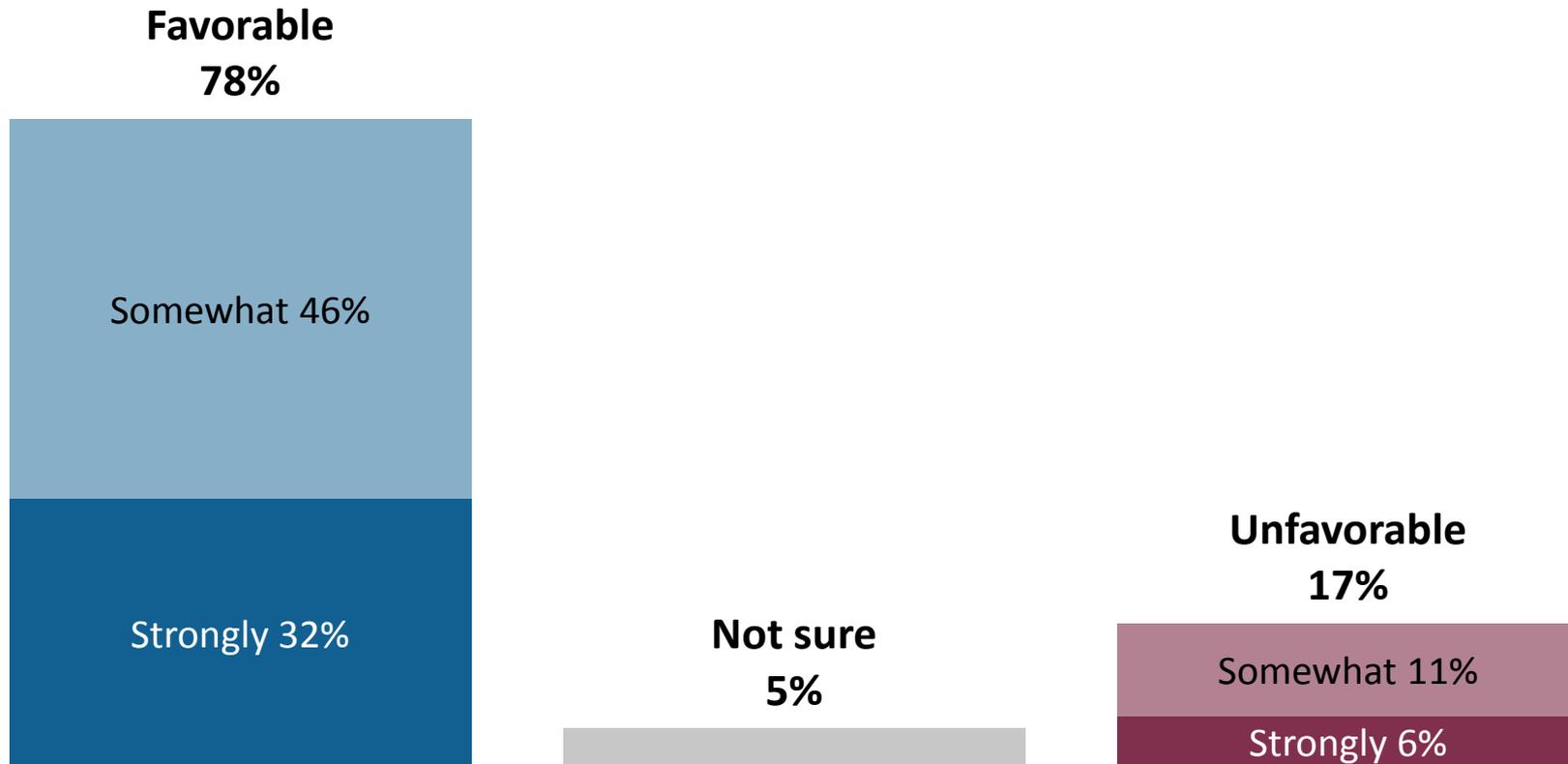
Local transit systems, walking facilities, and biking facilities all get C- grades. Biking infrastructure is rated slightly higher (2.01) than walking infrastructure (1.87). Local transit systems are rated the lowest (1.74).



Q3-5. Using an A, B, C, D or F grading scale, how would you rate...

*Almost 8 in 10 respondents have a favorable reaction to the vision statement for the Washington Transportation Plan.*

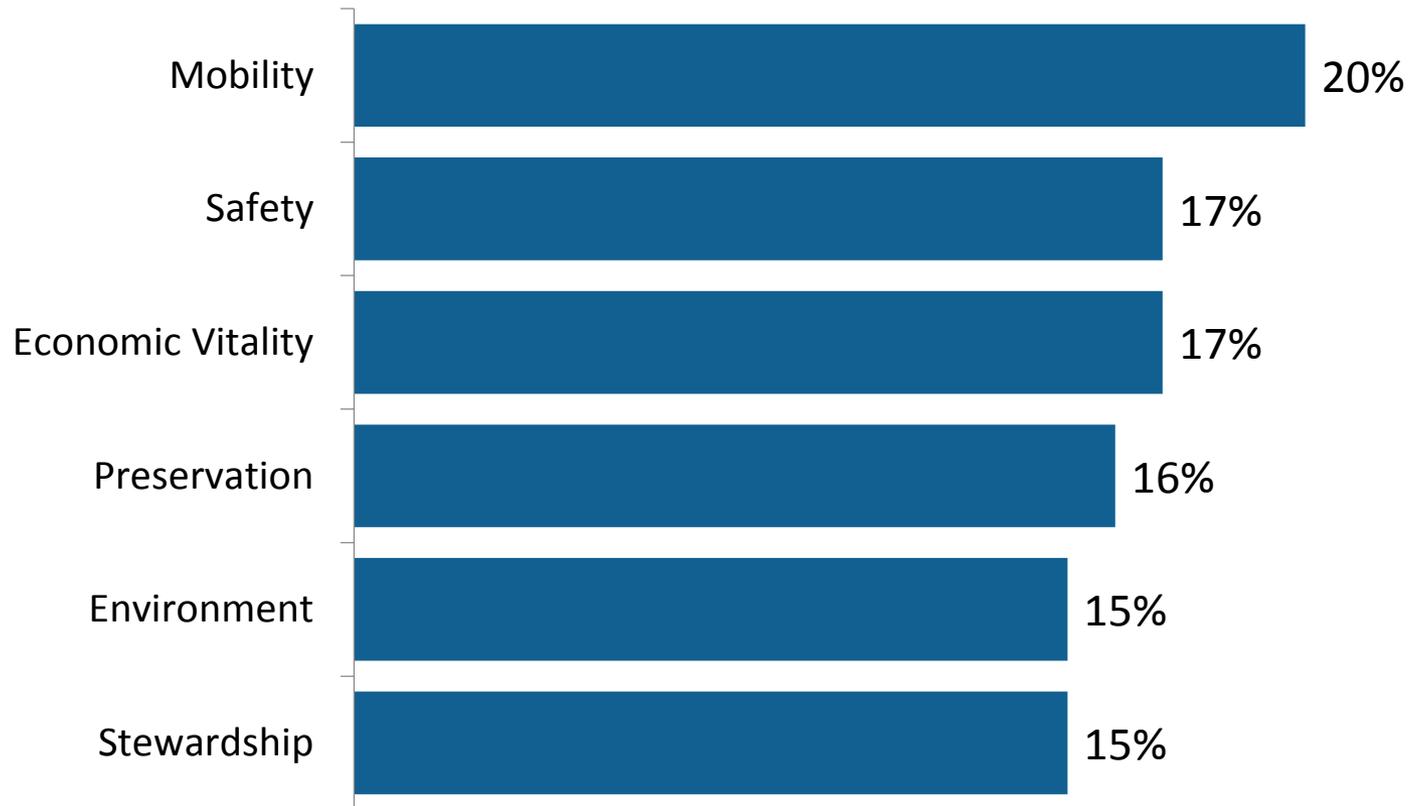
## WTP Vision Statement



Q6. The vision statement for the Washington Transportation Plan says: "By 2035, Washington's transportation system safely connects people and communities, fostering commerce, operating seamlessly across boundaries, and providing travel options to achieve an environmentally and financially sustainable system." In general, do you have a favorable or unfavorable reaction to this vision statement?

*Respondents were asked which of the six policy goal areas the WTP should focus on. While all six goals are seen as important, Mobility is the top priority, followed by Safety, Economic Vitality, and Preservation.*

## Which Policy Goal Should WTP Focus On?



*Q7. The legislature has said that public investments in transportation should support the achievement of all six of policy goals outlined below. Knowing this background, how much focus do you think should be put on meeting each goal? You can assign any percentage from 0% to 100%, or anything in between, but the total for all six goals must add up to 100%.*

# Policy Goals - by RTPO

*The table below shows how important respondents WITHIN each RTPO think each state policy goal is and gives a sense of geographic differences in attitudes about state transportation policy goals. Darker green shades indicate that state policy goal was rated high by respondents within that RTPO and yellow shades that state policy goal was rated lower by respondents within that RTPO.*

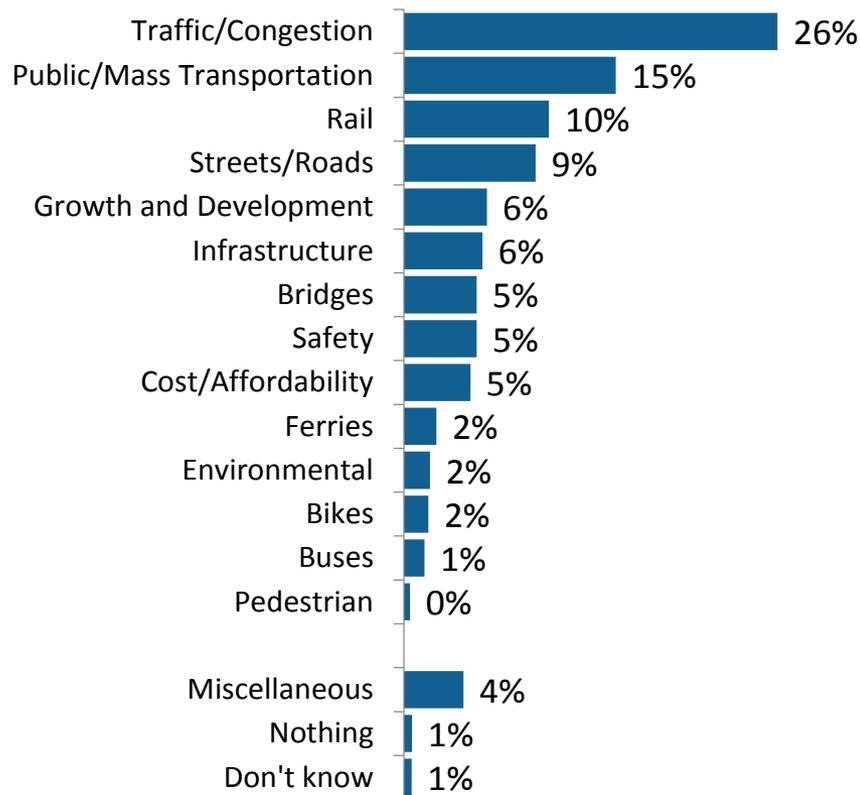
| RTPO                  | Mobility | Safety | Economic Vitality | Preservation | Environment | Stewardship |
|-----------------------|----------|--------|-------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| PSRC (52%)            | 22       | 16     | 17                | 15           | 15          | 15          |
| Spokane (7%)          | 16       | 19     | 18                | 18           | 14          | 15          |
| SW RTC (7%)           | 18       | 17     | 19                | 18           | 14          | 14          |
| Peninsula (7%)        | 18       | 18     | 17                | 16           | 16          | 14          |
| Thurston (4%)         | 19       | 17     | 16                | 17           | 15          | 16          |
| BFWW (4%)             | 16       | 20     | 16                | 18           | 15          | 14          |
| Southwest (4%)        | 17       | 19     | 18                | 19           | 12          | 15          |
| Skagit/Island/SJ (3%) | 18       | 17     | 16                | 18           | 17          | 14          |
| Whatcom (3%)          | 17       | 18     | 15                | 16           | 19          | 15          |
| Yakima (3%)           | 17       | 20     | 19                | 18           | 13          | 13          |
| Chel/ Doug/ Ok (2%)   | 17       | 19     | 18                | 19           | 14          | 12          |
| QuadCo (2%)           | 16       | 20     | 18                | 19           | 13          | 15          |
| NE WA (1%)            | 17       | 19     | 22                | 16           | 12          | 13          |
| Palouse (1%)          | 15       | 23     | 17                | 18           | 14          | 14          |

*Q7. The legislature has said that public investments in transportation should support the achievement of all six of policy goals outlined below. Knowing this background, how much focus do you think should be put on meeting each goal? You can assign any percentage from 0% to 100%, or anything in between, but the total for all six goals must add up to 100%.*

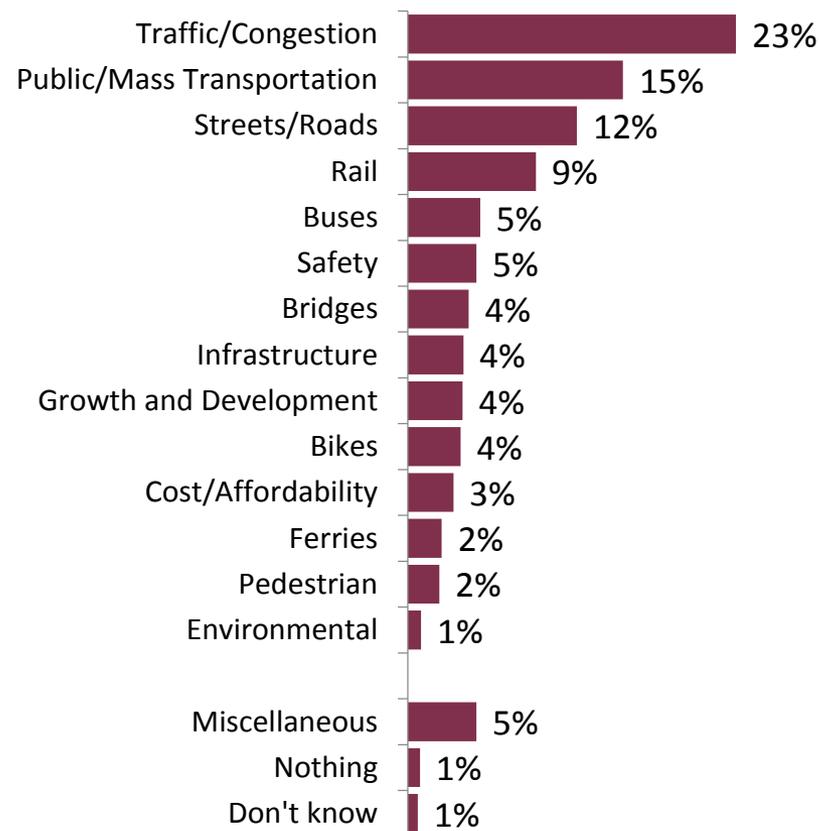
# Top Transportation Issues

*When respondents were asked to write in (no choices offered) what one transportation issue most needs to be addressed as the state thinks about long term transportation planning, the top mention for the state and local systems is the same: traffic/congestion.*

## Statewide



## Local

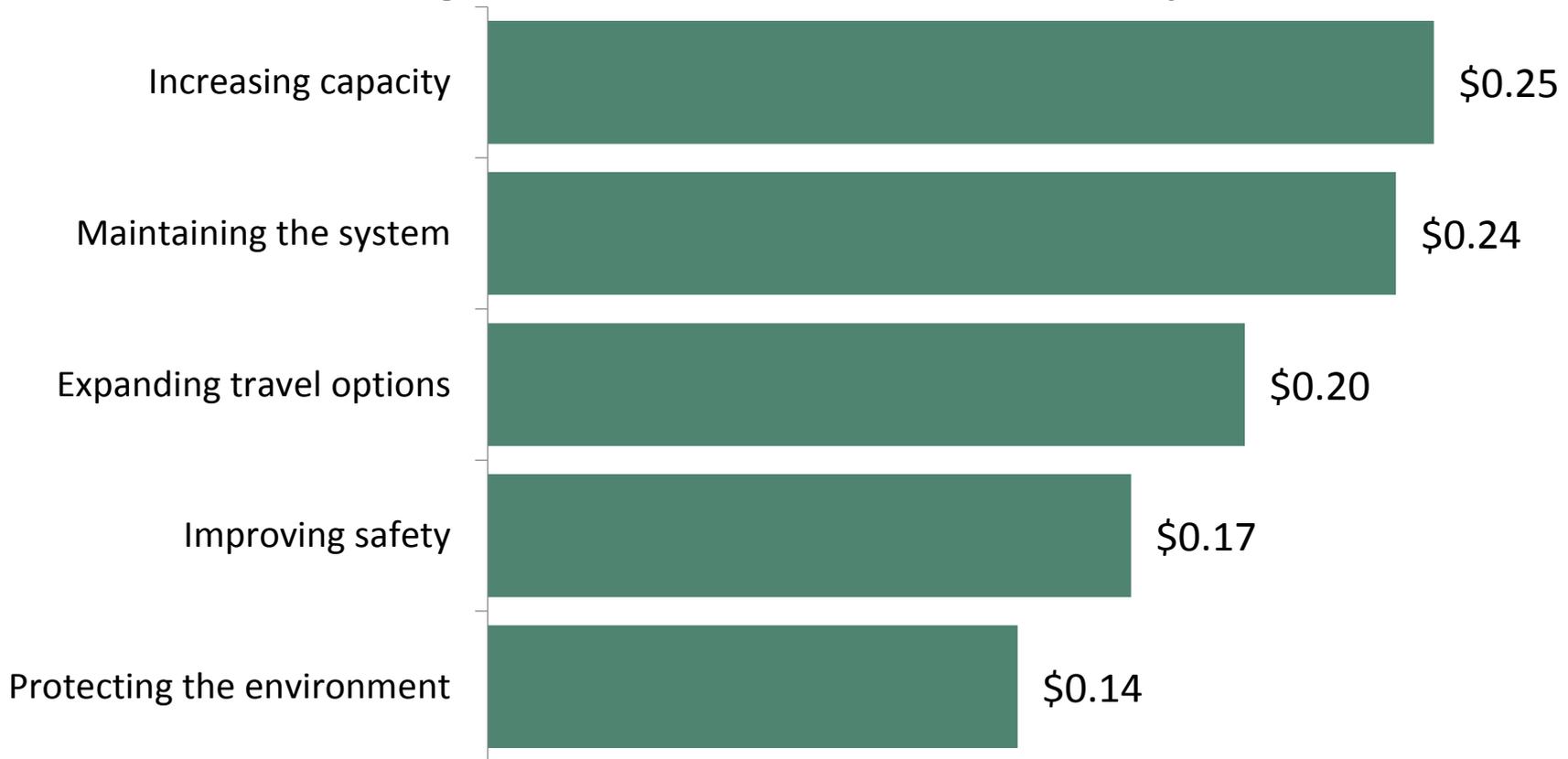


Q8/9. What one statewide/local transportation issue do you feel most needs to be addressed as the state thinks about long term transportation planning?

# Hypothetical Funding Allocation

*Consistent with earlier VOWS studies, respondents are most interested in investing in increasing capacity and maintaining the system, followed by expanding travel options.*

## Average Amount Allocated to Each Priority out of \$1.00



*Q10. If you had \$1.00 to divide between the five objectives below, how much would you spend on each objective? For example, if you enter 25 for "improving safety" that means you think "improving safety" should get 25 cents out of the \$1.00 you have to spend on transportation. The total for the 5 objectives must add up to \$1.00*

# Funding Allocation - by RTPO

*Increasing capacity and maintaining the system are seen as the most important objectives for state transportation investments by respondents in every RTPO except Whatcom, where expanding travel options is tied for first. The table below shows how important respondents WITHIN each RTPO think each transportation objective is and gives a sense of geographic differences in attitudes about what objectives the state should focus on when making investments. Darker green shades indicate that investment objective was rated high by respondents within that RTPO and yellow shades that investment objective was rated high lower by respondents within that RTPO.*

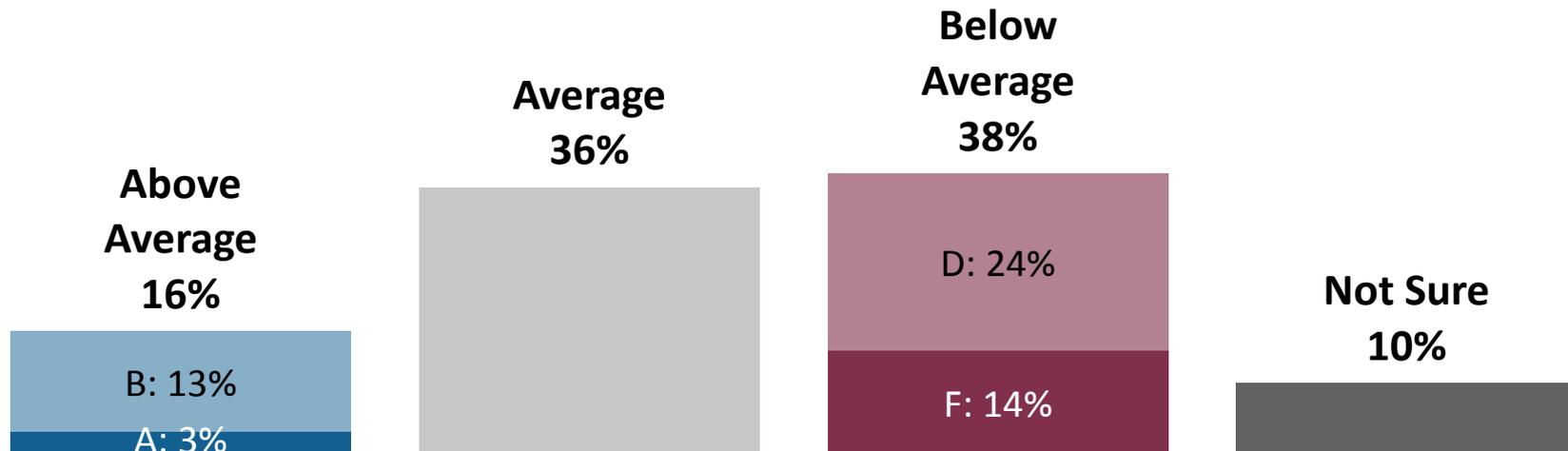
|                      | Increasing capacity | Maintaining the system | Expanding travel options | Improving safety | Protecting the environment |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| PSRC (52%)           | 26                  | 22                     | 22                       | 15               | 14                         |
| Spokane (7%)         | 22                  | 30                     | 17                       | 18               | 13                         |
| SW RTC (7%)          | 27                  | 26                     | 16                       | 18               | 14                         |
| Peninsula (7%)       | 22                  | 26                     | 20                       | 17               | 14                         |
| Thurston (4%)        | 26                  | 23                     | 21                       | 16               | 14                         |
| BFWW (4%)            | 22                  | 28                     | 17                       | 20               | 13                         |
| Southwest (4%)       | 24                  | 29                     | 17                       | 19               | 12                         |
| Skagit/ Isl/ SJ (3%) | 21                  | 27                     | 21                       | 16               | 16                         |
| Whatcom (3%)         | 18                  | 23                     | 23                       | 19               | 18                         |
| Yakima (3%)          | 20                  | 28                     | 18                       | 20               | 14                         |
| Chel/ Doug/ Ok (2%)  | 23                  | 28                     | 17                       | 19               | 13                         |
| QuadCo (2%)          | 22                  | 27                     | 19                       | 20               | 12                         |
| NE WA (1%)           | 20                  | 29                     | 18                       | 19               | 13                         |
| Palouse (1%)         | 19                  | 28                     | 19                       | 22               | 12                         |

Q10. If you had \$1.00 to divide between the five objectives below, how much would you spend on each objective? For example, if you enter 25 for "improving safety" that means you think "improving safety" should get 25 cents out of the \$1.00 you have to spend on transportation. The total for the 5 objectives must add up to \$1.00

*Overall, respondents give the state a D+ (1.63) for “making sure [their] area of the state gets a fair share of transportation funding.”*

## Funding Fairness Grade

**Overall Grade**  
**1.63 / D+**

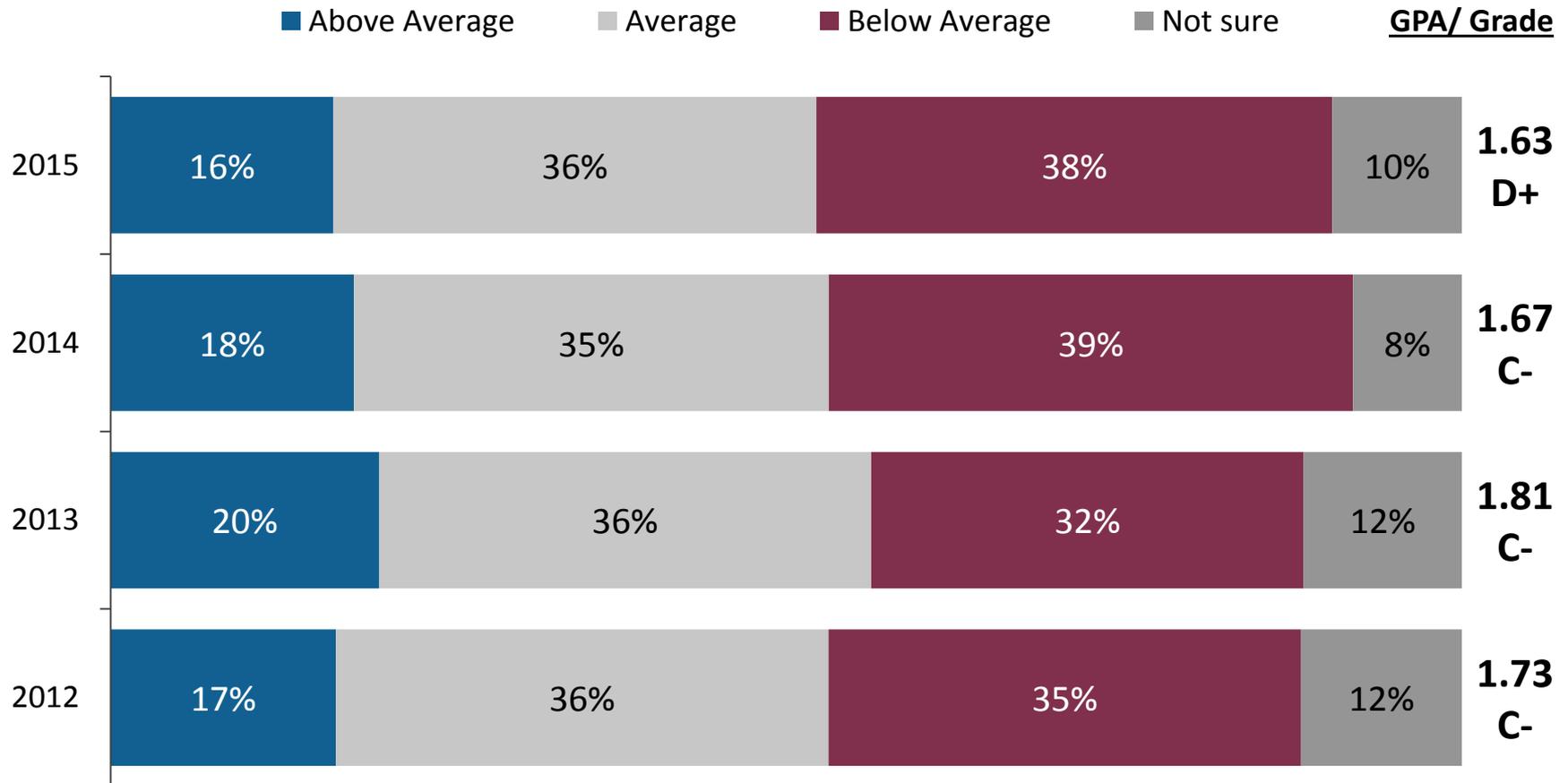


Q11. What grade would you give the state for making sure your area of the state gets a fair share of transportation funding?

# Funding Fairness Grade - by Year

The overall grade for local transportation funding fairness has dropped from a C- to a D+.

## Funding Fairness Grade



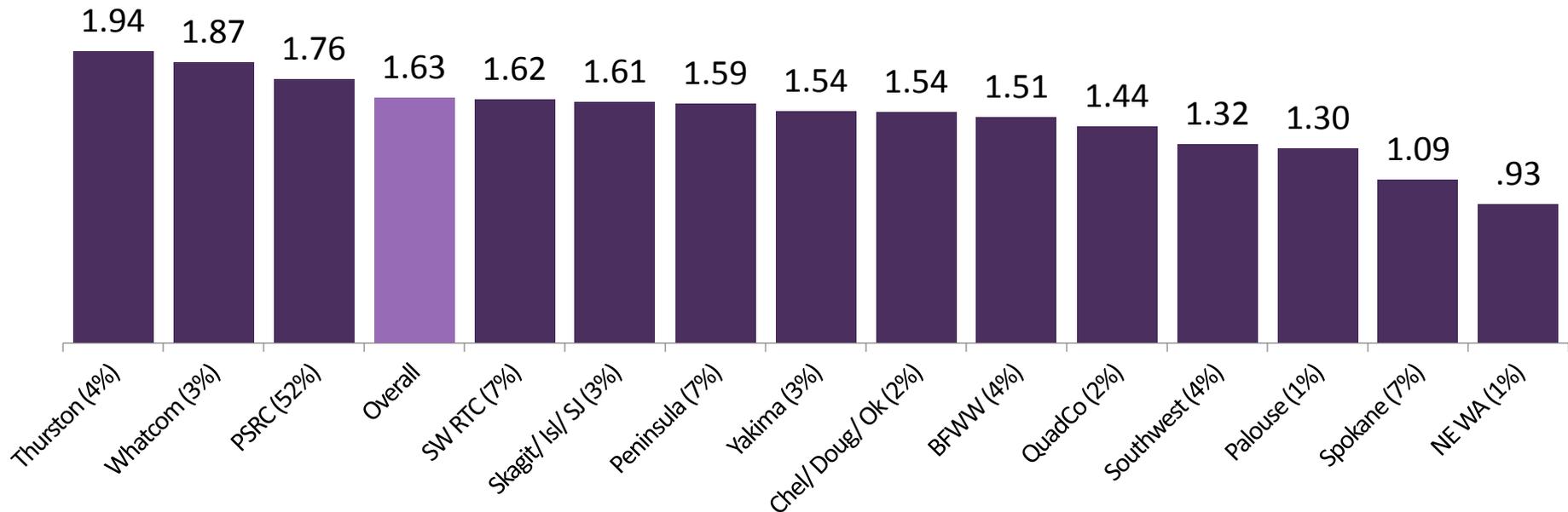
Q11. What grade would you give the state for making sure your area of the state gets a fair share of transportation funding?

# Funding Fairness Grade - by RTPO

*Thurston, Whatcom, and PSRC give the state a C- grade for funding fairness. Every other RTPO gives the state a D+ or lower grade for funding fairness.*

## Funding Fairness Grade

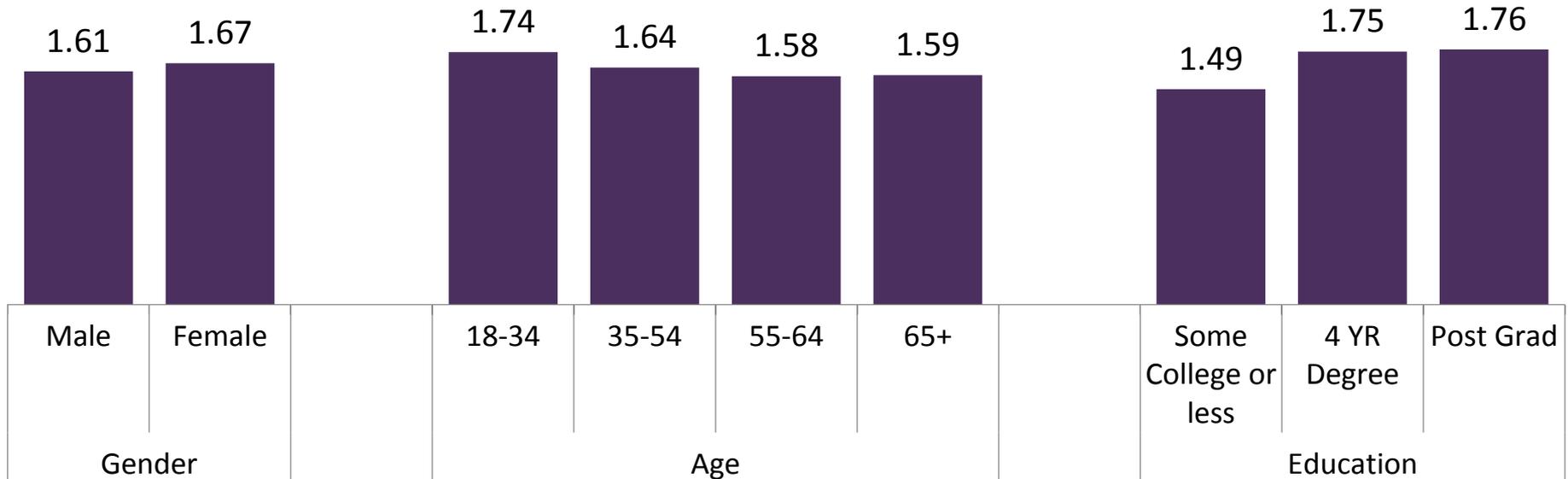
*(n%) is the % of the state voting population in that RTPO*



Q11. What grade would you give the state for making sure your area of the state gets a fair share of transportation funding?

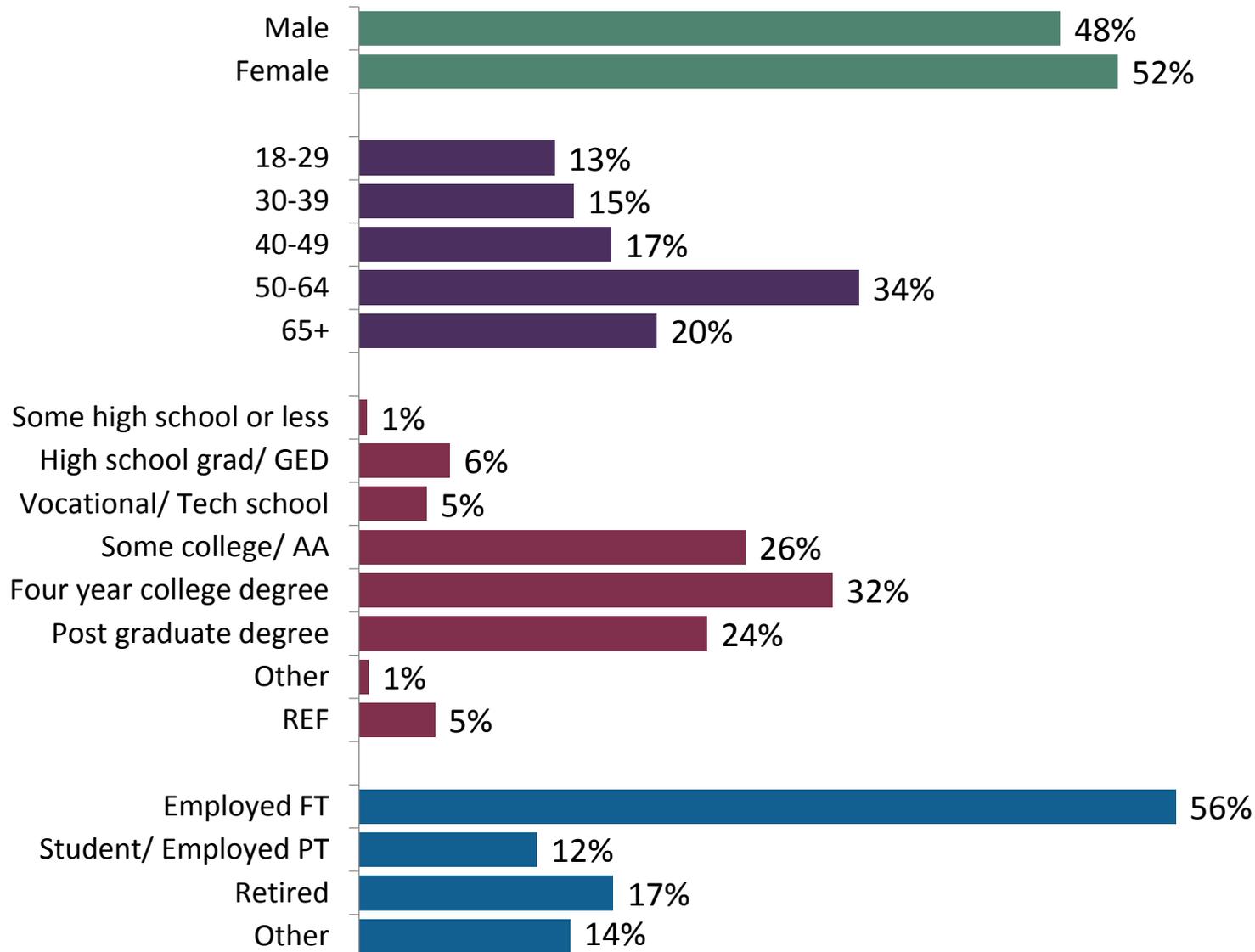
*Although all the funding fairness grades are below average (C- or lower), younger respondents and respondents who have completed college give higher grades for funding fairness.*

## Funding Fairness Grade



Q11. What grade would you give the state for making sure your area of the state gets a fair share of transportation funding?

# Demographic Profile of Respondents



| RTPO                                                   | Weights |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Benton/Franklin ( <u>plus</u> Walla Walla)             | 0.80    |
| NE Washington                                          | 0.93    |
| Chelan-Douglas ( <u>plus</u> Okanogan)                 | 0.77    |
| Palouse                                                | 0.76    |
| Peninsula ( <u>includes</u> Kitsap)                    | 0.68    |
| Puget Sound Regional Council ( <u>excludes</u> Kitsap) | 1.14    |
| Quad-County                                            | 0.93    |
| Skagit/Island ( <u>plus</u> San Juan)                  | 0.45    |
| Spokane                                                | 1.14    |
| SW Washington Regional Transportation Council          | 0.96    |
| SW Washington                                          | 1.07    |
| Thurston                                               | 1.27    |
| Whatcom                                                | 1.40    |
| Yakima Valley                                          | 1.15    |
| Male                                                   | 0.79    |
| Female                                                 | 1.34    |
| 18-29                                                  | 5.59    |
| 30-39                                                  | 1.87    |
| 40-49                                                  | 1.20    |
| 50-64                                                  | 0.84    |
| 65+                                                    | 0.58    |

- Data was weighted to reflect the demographic makeup of the statewide adult population.
- Weighting is used to adjust the data to account for over- and under-represented groups.