

**TO:** Interested Parties

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**RE:** Key Findings From Survey on Transportation Options – Bucks and Montgomery Counties, Pennsylvania

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The bipartisan polling team of Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (D) and Public Opinion Strategies (R) recently partnered to complete a national opinion research project to assess public attitudes toward transportation, and in particular funding of public transportation and walking and biking options.<sup>1</sup> The research scope included a complementary set of 150 interviews with residents of Bucks and Montgomery Counties, Pennsylvania. The survey results in Bucks and Montgomery Counties reveal mixed feels about existing transportation options in their community, and show that local residents embrace a program of local investment in expanding public transportation options, including buses, trains and light rail.

Specifically, key findings in Bucks and Montgomery Counties include the following:

- **Less than one-half of Bucks and Montgomery Counties respondents assign “the availability of convenient public transportation system” in their community a grade of an “A” or a “B.”** Bucks and Montgomery County residents were asked to provide a report card for the availability of public transportation in their community. While 44 percent of survey respondents give public transportation in their area positive marks, another 22 percent only grade it a “C” – with 13 percent a “D” and 13 percent a failing grade of “F.”
- **Seven-in-ten residents say they have no choice but to drive as much as they do.** Most Bucks and Montgomery Counties residents feel they have no other option than to drive (72 percent agree). One-third of Bucks and Montgomery Counties residents (36 percent) *strongly* agree with that they have no choice but to drive.
- **Bucks and Montgomery County residents view the current transportation system as outdated and inadequate for our current needs.** Three-quarters of Bucks and Montgomery Counties residents (74 percent) say that “our nation's transportation infrastructure is outdated, unreliable and inefficient.”
- **Bucks and Montgomery County residents are nearly three times as likely to say that they would invest in public transportation – as opposed to building new roads – as a way to solve traffic problems.** A combined 66 percent of Bucks and Montgomery Counties respondents say improving public transportation (46 percent) and developing communities where people don't have to drive as much (20 percent) are the best “long term solutions to reducing traffic” in their area – rather than other options like building roads (14 percent).

Moreover, most Bucks and Montgomery County residents would prefer to use public transportation if it were more convenient. Three-in-five (62 percent) say that they “would like to use public transportation more often, but it is not convenient to or available from my home or work.”

- **In order to expand transportation options, Bucks and Montgomery Counties respondents overwhelmingly favor increased local investment in transportation.** 82 percent of Bucks and Montgomery County residents back increased local government spending to expand public transportation options, including buses, trains and light rail.

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<sup>i</sup> **Methodology:** From June 24 – July 1, 2012, FM3 and POS completed 800 telephone interviews with registered voters nationwide likely to cast ballots this November. Interviews were conducted on land lines and cell phones. The margin of sampling error for the full national sample is +/- 3.8%; margins of error for within the sample will be larger. The survey included a complementary sample of 150 likely voters in Bucks and Montgomery Counties, Pennsylvania, with a margin of error of +/- 8.0%.

Prior to the survey, FM3 and POS held seven focus groups in four communities predominantly in outlying suburban areas of major metro areas, to assess their views on key issues related to transportation: Bucks and Montgomery Counties, NC on May 14<sup>th</sup>; Raleigh, NC on May 15<sup>th</sup>; Philadelphia on May 21<sup>st</sup>; and Cleveland on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.