

GTHA TRAFFIC AND CONGESTION SURVEY

July 2024



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Survey | July 2024



Methodology

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A representative sample of n=1,000 Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) residents 18 years of age and older have been surveyed online.

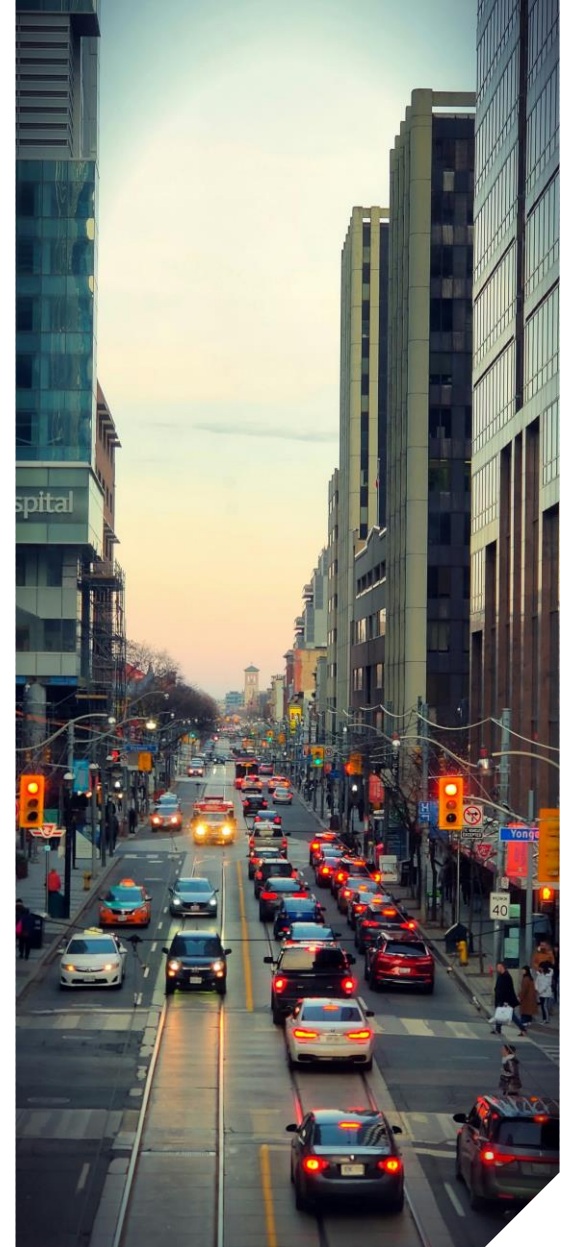
Ipsos conducted research among Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area residents about topics including the impacts of traffic and congestion on quality of life, productivity, life choices, and opinions about impact of efforts to mitigate impacts of construction, even if they caused more disruption for a period of time.

A representative sample ensures that the research findings are reflective of the opinions of adult Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area residents.

The survey was fielded between 7 and 14 June 2024.

Quota sampling and weighting were utilized to design a sample frame that is representative of the population of adult (18+) Torontonians according to age, gender, location of residence (region). The GTHA regions included in the study were: Durham, Regional municipality, Halton, Regional municipality, Peel, Regional municipality, Toronto, City of, York, Regional municipality, and Hamilton, City of.

The latest Statistics Canada Census data (2021) was utilized for the quota sample and weighting scheme.



Reporting Conventions

For the purpose of analyzing the data, this report has grouped selected scale points to allow for more comprehensive data analysis.

Please note that depending on the scale, strong agreement/strong disagreement (T2B/B2B) scale points have been reported together, and appropriate data labels have been used to indicate accordingly.

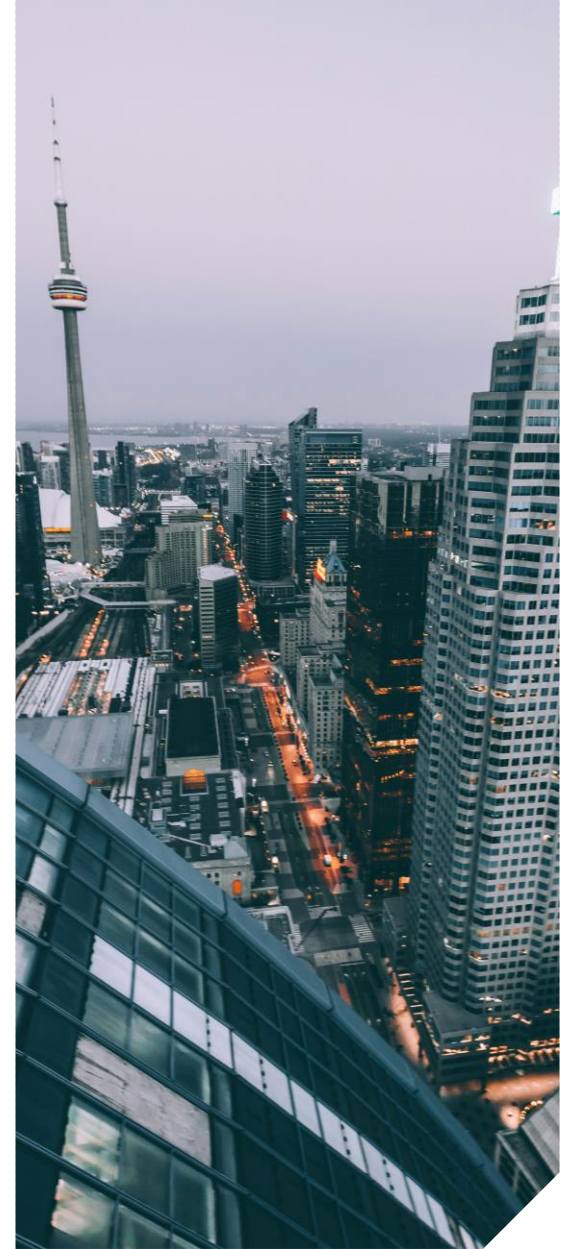
Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding.

Drivers vs Non-drivers definition

Throughout the report “Drivers” refers to those whose main mode of transportation when travelling around the GTHA is driving/carpool. Non-drivers refers to those whose main mode of transportation when travelling around the GTHA is public transit, walking, taxi/ride-share service, bike, motorcycle/Scooter/e-scooter.

Toronto vs the rest of the GTHA

Throughout the report, the City of Toronto, is compared to the rest of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA), which consists of: Regional Municipality of Durham, Halton Region, Regional Municipality of Peel, the Regional Municipality of York, and the City of Hamilton.



Executive Summary



TRAFFIC AND CONGESTION IMPACTS

- Eight in ten (86%) of residents say that there is a traffic and congestion crisis in the GTHA.
- In fact, more than half (53%) of GTHA residents have considered moving outside the region because of traffic and congestion.
- GTHA residents cite too much construction or construction mismanagement (68%) and too many cars and trucks on the road (57%) as the primary causes for traffic and congestion in the GTHA.



IMPACT ON QUALITY OF LIFE

- Residents associate the unpredictability in journey times as the most negative impact of traffic and congestion (61%) on their lives, followed by increased costs (45%), and stress (40%).



ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES

- Eight in ten (85%) also agree that traffic and congestion has a negative impact on the economy in the region.
- The economic consequences of traffic and congestion in the GTHA are varied, including most often fewer shopping trips (42%), fewer outings for entertainment or sporting events (42%), or going out to eat (38%).
- Residents who say they find it difficult to get around the GTHA on their daily commute are more likely to avoid activities such as going shopping in the GTHA (54%) compared to those who have an easy commute (34%).

Executive Summary



COMMUTING

- Four in ten (42%) GTHA residents say that it takes them more time to get to work (or school) compared to one year ago.
- When considering work and employment, 62% of GTHA residents say that they are reluctant to travel to work because of traffic and congestion, while 59% say that their productivity is negatively impacted because of the time spent commuting due to traffic and congestion.



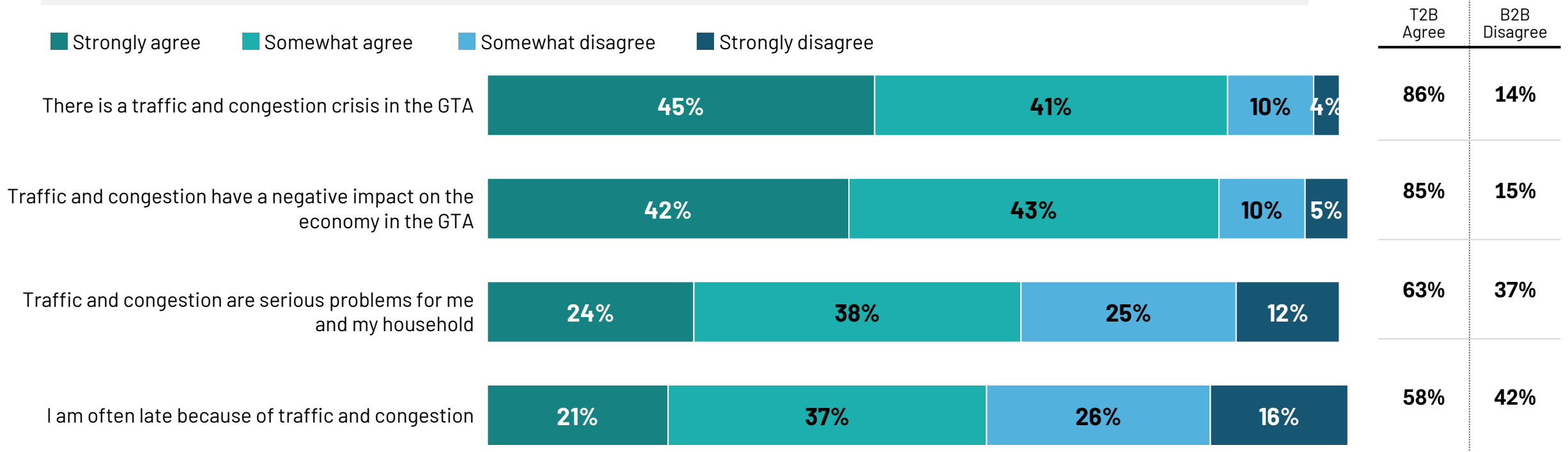
SUPPORT FOR TRAFFIC AND CONGESTION STRATEGIES

- Support for allowing 24-hour construction is high as three quarters of GTHA residents support construction on roads and public transit around the clock to reduce construction times. Support for extended construction schedules is equally strong among residents in the region as a whole or even in their own neighbourhood.
- Six in ten residents support reducing on-street parking to open up roads for more traffic or public transit, while half (49%) support restricting retail and restaurant deliveries outside business hours.

Eight in ten agree that there is a traffic and congestion crisis in the GTHA, three-quarters say it has negative impacts on the economy

- Those with children in the household (74%) are more likely to see the traffic and congestion as a serious problem for themselves and their household (vs no children, 59%).
- Those who say their main mode of transportation around the GTHA is driving (89%) are more likely to agree there is a traffic and congestion crisis in the GTHA than those with another main mode of transportation (82%)

TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ABOUT TRAFFIC AND CONGESTION IN THE GTA?



Base: All respondents (n=VARIES) EXCLUDES DON'T KNOW AND NOT APPLICABLE RESPONSES.

Four in ten say it takes them more time now to commute than a year earlier in the GTHA

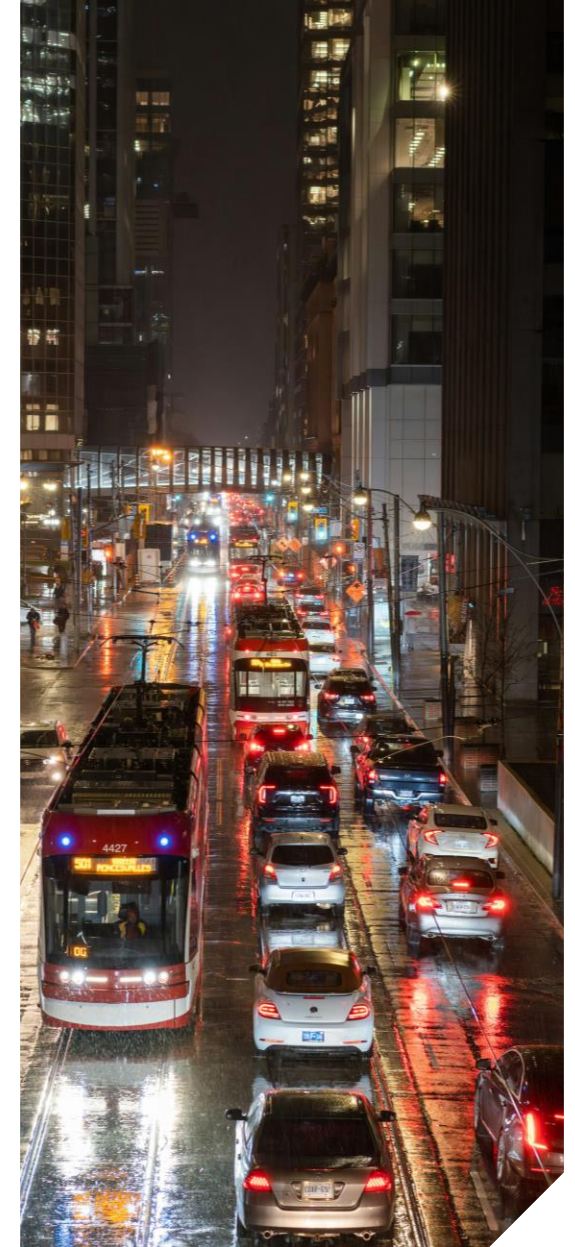
- Among employed/student residents who travel to work/ school, four in ten (42%) say it now takes them more time to reach their destination than a year ago.
- Commuting takes longer for those whose main mode of transportation is driving/carpool compared to one year ago, as almost half (46%) say it takes them longer compared to those with another main mode of transportation (36%).

COMPARED TO ONE YEAR AGO, WOULD YOU SAY THAT IT TAKES YOU MORE, LESS, OR ABOUT THE SAME TIME TO GET TO WORK (OR SCHOOL IF STUDENT)?

- Takes more time
- About the same
- Takes less time



Main mode of transportation:
Driving/carpool (46%)
Non-Drivers (36%)

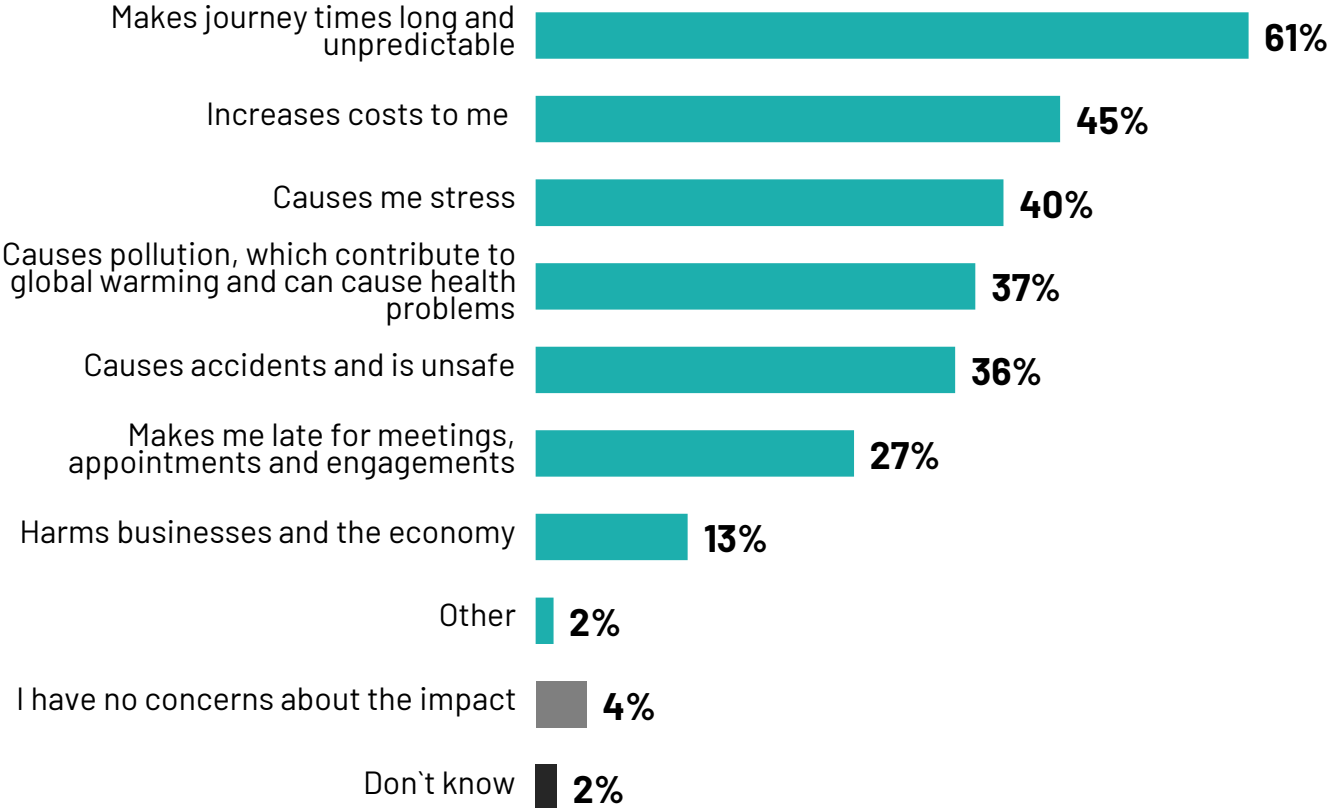


Base: Those who are employed or students and commute 10 to 120 minutes or more to work (n=556)

Biggest concern for residents is the impact of road and traffic congestion to making journey times long and unpredictable

- Making journey time longer and unpredictable (61%), increase in the costs (45%) and stress (40%) are top three concerns of the GTHA residents about the impact of road and traffic congestion.
- Only 4% have no concerns about the impact of road and traffic congestion.
- Females are more concerned about stress or injury due to traffic congestion, while males are more worried about the harm to the businesses. Female respondents (44%) are more likely to be concerned about getting stressed due to the road and traffic congestion than males (35%) and have concerns about safety and accidents as a result of congestion (39% vs 32% males). Males (18%) however are more concerned about the traffic harm to the businesses and the economy than women (8%).

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING, IF ANY, REPRESENT YOUR THREE BIGGEST CONCERNS ABOUT THE IMPACT OF ROAD AND TRAFFIC CONGESTION?



Base: All respondents (n=1000)

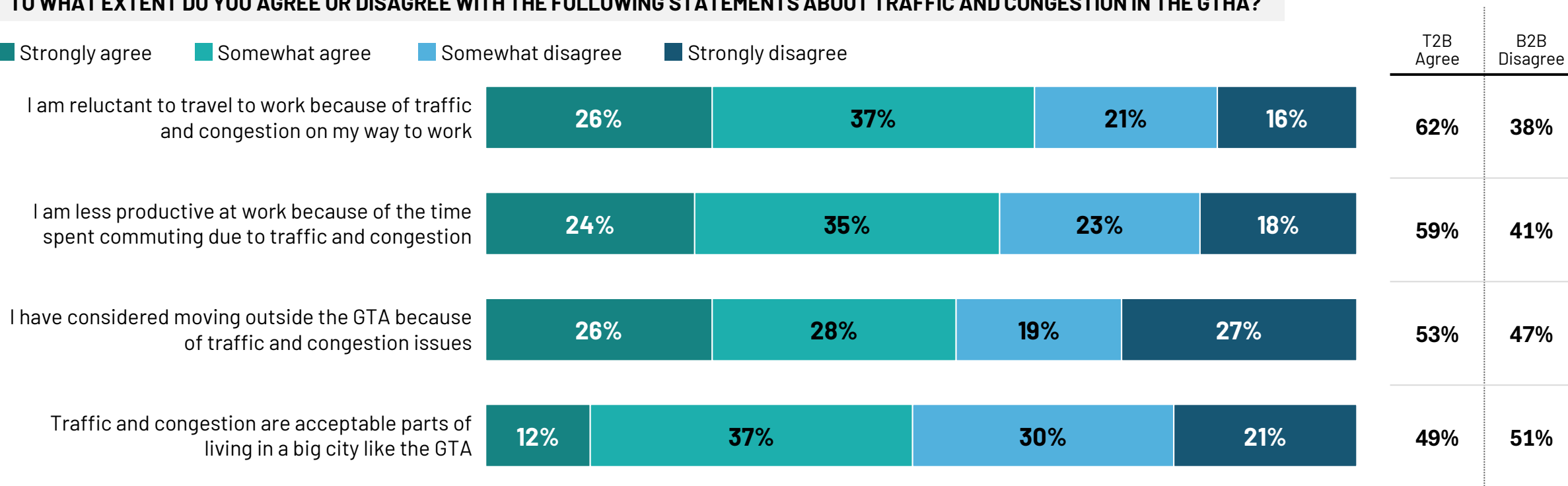


Around half say traffic and congestion are acceptable parts of living in the GTHA, but a similar proportion have considered moving out because of it

- Six in ten GTHA residents agree that road and traffic congestion makes them reluctant to travel to work (62%) and that it negatively impacts their productivity at work (59%).
- Those whose main mode of transportation is not driving/carpool (57%) are more likely to think that traffic and congestion are acceptable parts of living in a big city like the GTHA than those whose main mode of transportation is driving/carpool (44%)

TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ABOUT TRAFFIC AND CONGESTION IN THE GTHA?

■ Strongly agree
 ■ Somewhat agree
 ■ Somewhat disagree
 ■ Strongly disagree



Base: All respondents (n=VARIES) EXCLUDES DON'T KNOW AND NOT APPLICABLE RESPONSES.

Younger residents and females most impacted by traffic and congestion in the GTHA

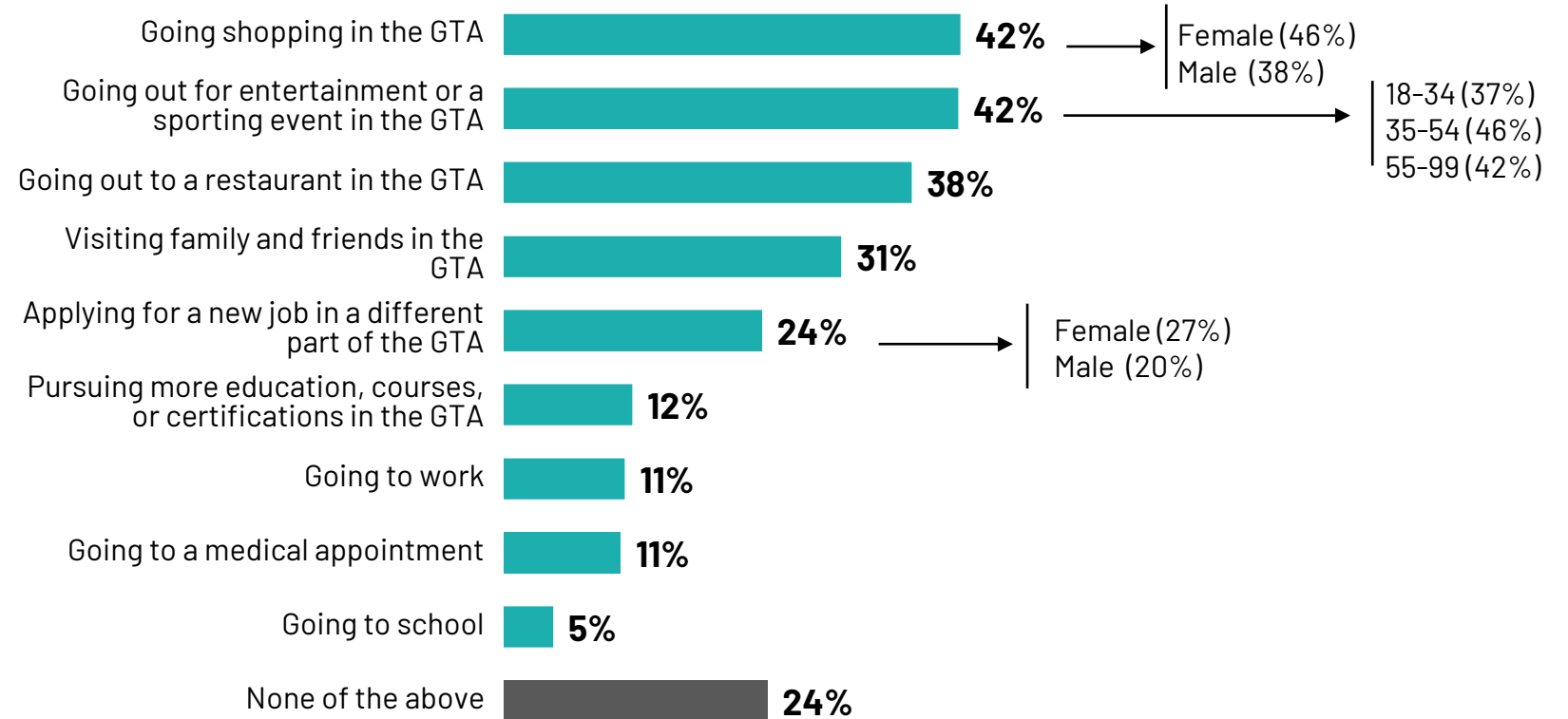
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about traffic and congestion in the GTA?	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55-99
I have considered moving outside the GTA because of traffic and congestion issues	52%	55%	64%	54%	42%
I am reluctant to travel to work because of traffic and congestion on my way to work	60%	65%	68%	62%	55%
I am less productive at work because of the time spent commuting due to traffic and congestion	56%	61%	62%	60%	51%
I am often late because of traffic and congestion	52%	63%	71%	57%	46%
Traffic and congestion are acceptable parts of living in a big city like the GTA	49%	50%	53%	50%	45%
Traffic and congestion are serious problems for me and my household	59%	66%	66%	67%	55%
Traffic and congestion have a negative impact on the economy in the GTA	85%	85%	80%	83%	91%
There is a traffic and congestion crisis in the GTA	85%	87%	81%	86%	90%

Base: All respondents (n=1000)
 Numbers shown in green are statistically significantly higher than corresponding numbers in black.
 Figure exclude don't know and not applicable responses.

Shopping, entertainment and going to restaurants are most avoided activities due to traffic and congestion in the GTHA

- Going shopping (42%), going for entertainment/sporting event (42%) and dining out (38%) are top three activities avoided by the GTHA residents due to the traffic congestion.
- Females are more likely to avoid going shopping in the GTHA due to the traffic congestion (46% vs 38% males) and limit themselves in applying for a new job in a different parts of the GTHA (27% vs 20% males).
- Those aged 35-54 (46%) are more likely to avoid going out for entertainment or a sporting event in the GTHA compared to those aged 18-34 (37%).
- Residents who say they find it difficult to get around the GTHA on their daily commute are more likely to avoid most of these activities (e.g. going shopping in the GTHA (54%) compared to those who have an easy commute (34%).

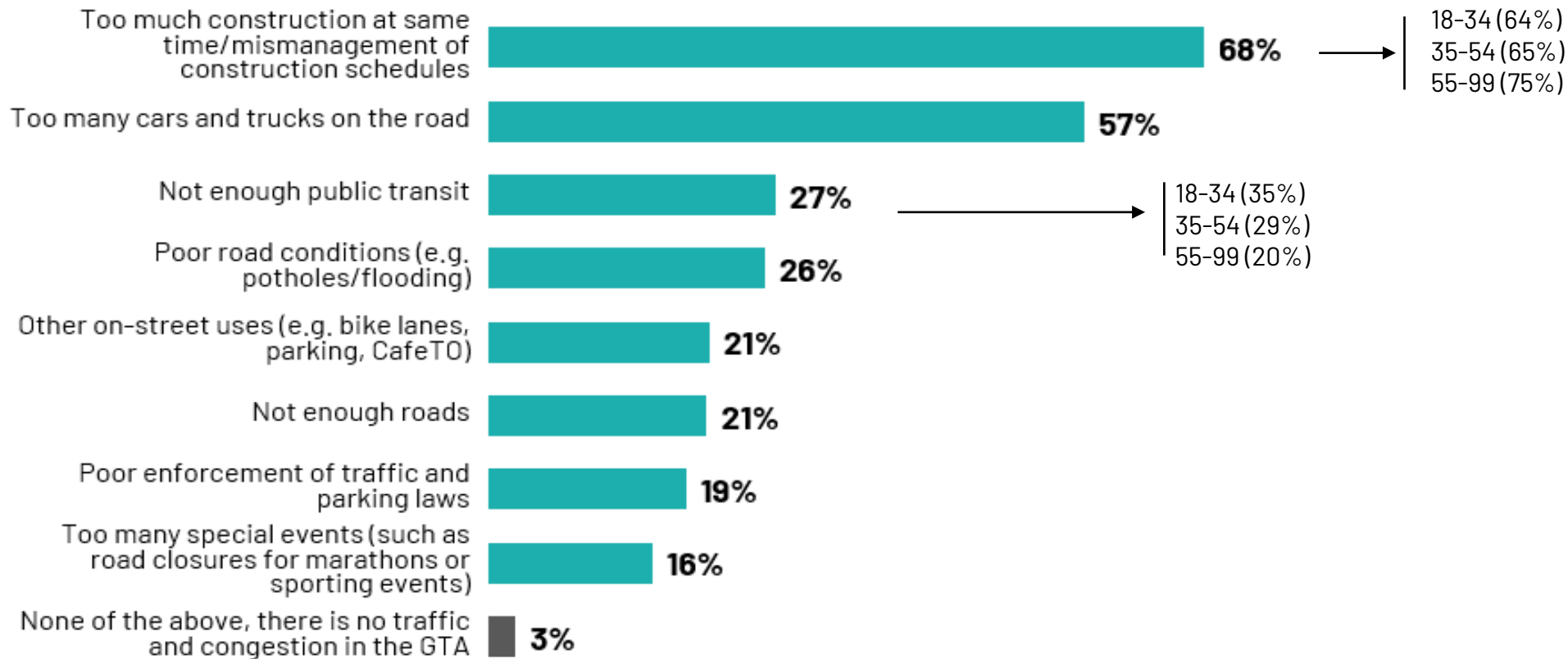
WHICH, IF ANY, OF THE FOLLOWING HAVE YOU AVOIDED DOING BECAUSE OF ROAD AND TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN GTA?



Residents see construction as the main reason for traffic and congestion, followed by too many cars and trucks on the road

While construction is the main reason overall, older residents see construction as a bigger issue than younger residents (18-34 (64%); 35-54 (65%), 55-99 (75%). Conversely, younger residents are more likely to view not enough public transit as a bigger reason for traffic and congestion in the GTA (18-34;35%, 35-54; 29%) compared to older residents (55-99;20%).

WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE MAIN REASONS WHY THERE IS TRAFFIC AND CONGESTION IN THE GTA?



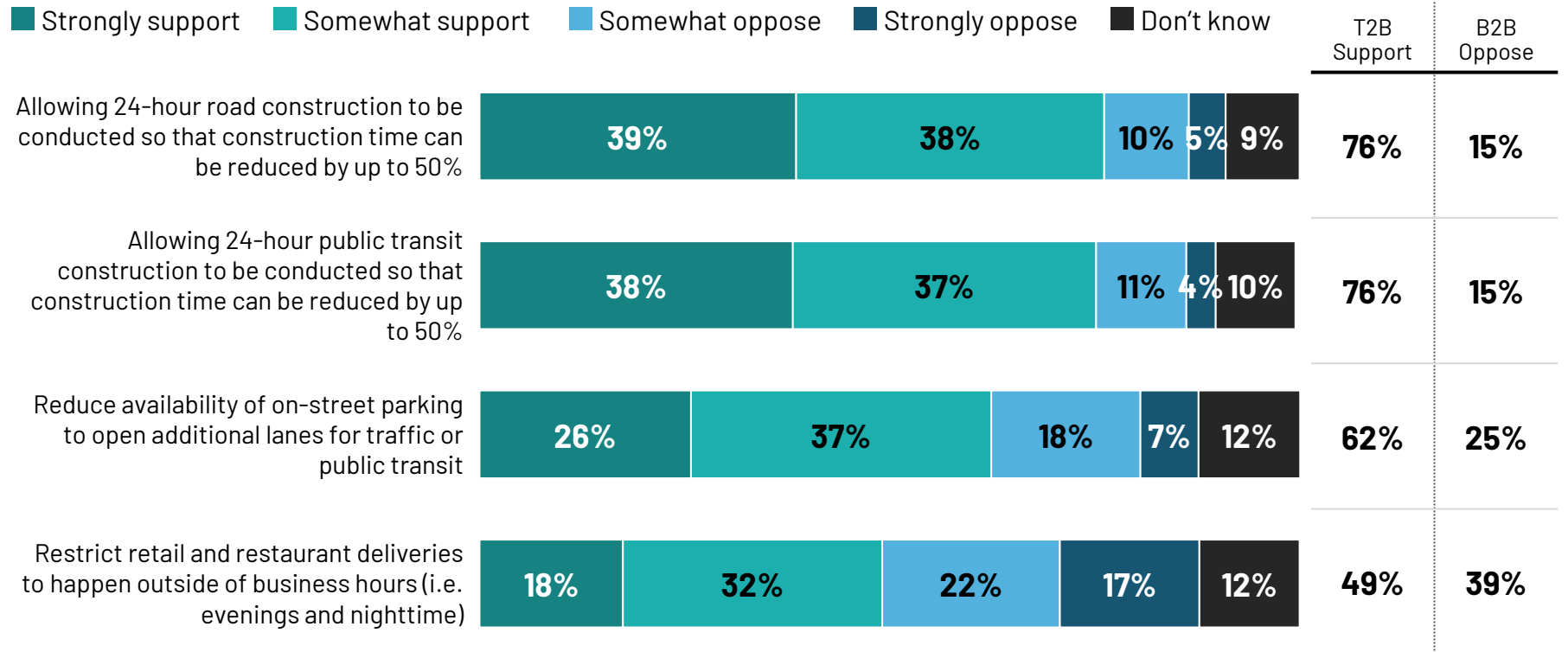
Base: All respondents (n=1000)

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Majority support 24-hour road or public transit construction in the GTHA to reduce the construction time

- Three-quarters (76%) support 24-hour road construction or public transit construction to be conducted so that construction time can be reduced by up to 50%, with almost four in ten strongly supporting these.
- Almost eight in ten residents who are very/somewhat concerned about congestion in the GTHA support 24-hour road construction (79%) compared to those who are not very/not at all concerned (63%).
- The least popular method is restricting retail and restaurant deliveries to happen outside of business hours, although almost half (49%) still support this.

TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THE FOLLOWING WAYS TO REDUCE TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN THE GTHA?



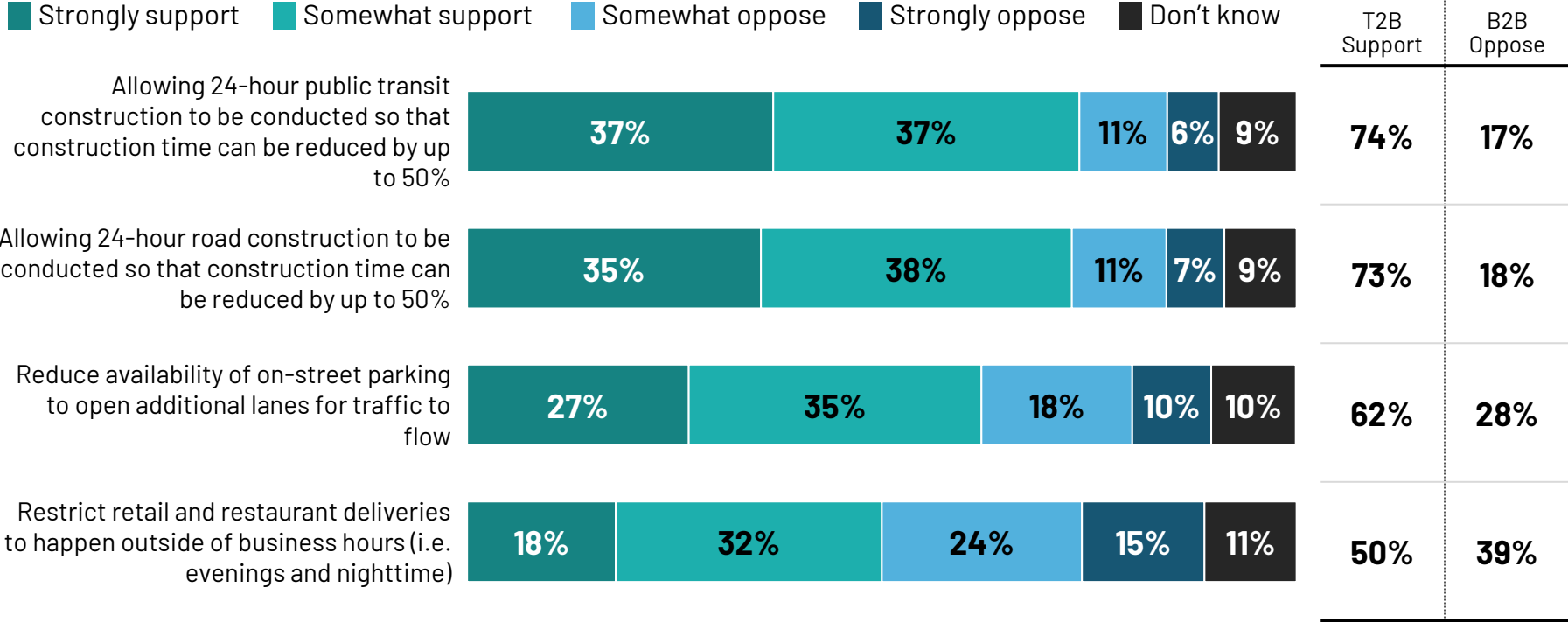
Base: All respondents (n=1000)



Around three quarters still support the 24-hour road and public transit construction in their neighbourhood

- Those who are very/somewhat concerned about congestion in their neighbourhood are more likely to support all measures listed to reduce congestion in their neighbourhood.
- For example, support 24-hour road or public transit construction (76%, vs. those not concerned, 59%).
- Those whose main mode of transportation is driving/carpool (76%) are more likely to support 24-hour road construction in their neighbourhood than those who have another main mode of transportation (69%).

TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THE FOLLOWING WAYS TO REDUCE TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD?



Base: All respondents (n=1000)

