

City of Ramsey Long-Term Road Maintenance Program Residential Survey Results – July 2011

- 1. More than 9 out of 10 respondents believe the quality of life in Ramsey is good or excellent, and a majority of participants believe they are receiving good value for their taxes.**
 - 21% rated the quality of life as “excellent” and 72% rated it as “good.”
 - When asked to consider the amount of taxes paid to the city and the quality of services received in return, 59% of respondents believe they receive good or excellent value.

- 2. Majorities of respondents believe the city’s streets and roads currently are in good condition and well maintained, but they still consider road maintenance to be a significant issue for the city.**
 - When asked to rank Ramsey’s local streets and roads according to various characteristics, the following majorities gave rankings of excellent or good:
 - Road width (82%)
 - The city’s responsiveness to road maintenance and repair needs (62%)
 - The quality and condition of Ramsey’s roads compared to neighboring cities (57%)
 - Safety features such as lights, sidewalks and signs (55%)
 - The overall quality of streets and roads (54%)
 - Road maintenance and The COR (Ramsey’s downtown development project) were identified equally as the “most serious issue facing the city.”

- 3. Almost three out of four respondents believe Ramsey needs to develop a long-term street reconstruction and funding policy.**
 - After learning that reconstruction of nearly half of the city’s roads will be necessary between 2016 and 2025 and that the city’s current policy provides for funding reconstruction with assessments, 73% of respondents said the city should develop a new policy; 11% of those felt strongly about this.

- 4. Among three options presented for funding long-term road maintenance and reconstruction, a citywide franchise fee is more acceptable than a property assessment or citywide property tax.**
 - 49% of respondents favored a franchise fee, 47% opposed.
 - 39% favored a citywide property tax, 57% opposed.
 - 77% opposed – 27% strongly – a standard property assessment based on lineal footage.
 - When asked to choose among all three options, 44% favored the franchise fee (18% strongly).

- 5. Ensuring safety and spreading out the cost of long-term road maintenance and reconstruction are the most compelling reasons for supporting a new policy, according to respondents.**
 - 74% believe safety is an important reason to pursue a new policy; 39% of those felt strongly.
 - 69% of respondents believe spreading out the costs and keeping property owner assessments low is a compelling reason; 22% of those felt strongly.
 - Concern about the current economy was the most compelling reason tested in opposition to doing a long-term road maintenance and funding program.

Decision Resources, Ltd. conducted a telephone survey administered to 300 randomly selected adults living in the city of Ramsey. Professional interviewers conducted the survey June 7-21, 2011. The typical respondent took 11 minutes to complete the questionnaire. The results of this study are projectable to the universe of adult Ramsey residents within 6.0% in 95 out of 100 cases.