

## Frequently Asked Questions TRANS 2009 External Travel Survey

**Q1: What is the External Travel Survey?**

A1: The survey is an initiative to collect comprehensive data on trip patterns made into and out of the National Capital Region (NCR), and it will be an important supplement to the 2005 Origin-Destination (O-D) Survey. Trip information such as trip origin, destination, purpose and frequency will be collected at designated survey locations which act as gateways to the Region.

**Q2: Who is conducting the survey?**

A2: The survey is co-ordinated by the TRANS Committee – a joint technical committee on transportation systems planning in the National Capital Region (NCR). It spans both sides of the Ottawa River and includes all levels of government through its member agencies: the National Capital Commission (NCC), the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO), the City of Ottawa (including OC Transpo), the ministère des Transports du Québec (MTQ), Ville de Gatineau and the Société de transport de l'Outaouais (STO). TRANS Committee members have been working together for the last 30 years to co-ordinate transportation planning throughout the National Capital Region. R.A Malatest and Associates Ltd., an independent research and evaluation firm, has been hired by the TRANS Committee to carry out the survey.

**Q3: What is the purpose of this survey?**

A3: The survey will gather information on trip patterns not captured in the household-based 2005 O-D Survey, namely those trips with an origin and/or destination outside the National Capital Region. This fundamental source of information is invaluable for all levels of government in the Capital region for the purpose of examining regional transportation infrastructure and transit needs and service, monitoring and evaluating trends and developing and implementing transportation policies.

**Q4: When will the survey take place?**

A4: The survey will be conducted over a six-week period, from mid-May to end of June 2009. Data collection will occur one day at each location between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday.

**Q5: How will the public be notified about the survey?**

A5: A Notice of Study Commencement, including specifics about the survey, will be published in the local newspapers within the study area. General information about the survey will be available on the TRANS Committee website at [www.ncr-trans-rcn.ca](http://www.ncr-trans-rcn.ca).

**Q6: What is TRANS going to do with the data it collects – will motorist privacy be protected?**

A6: Survey participation is voluntary. No personal information is collected and the survey data is aggregated, ensuring the protection of individual privacy. The aggregated data is used to identify and assess travel patterns of motorists on the road network.

**Q7: Do other jurisdictions undertake travel surveys?**

A7: Most Canadian and American jurisdictions regularly carry out travel surveys. The province of Ontario has partnered with the states of New York and Michigan in undertaking similar types of travel surveys for long range highway infrastructure planning.

**Q8: How many sites will be included in the survey?**

A8: The survey consists of 27 survey sites; 22 in Ontario and 5 in Quebec (see attachment).

**Q9: What method of data collection will be used to gather the travel pattern information?**

A9: There will be two separate methods of data collection used for the survey:

1. Roadside intercept survey method – stops passenger vehicles on or next to the roadway to ask motorists to participate in a travel pattern survey.
2. Licence plate capture prepaid mail-back survey method – captures licence plate information from vehicles passing through a clearly marked survey zone and a questionnaire is mailed to the household of the registered vehicle owner.

**Q10: Why are two different methods of data collection being used?**

A10: Safety of the survey crews and motorists dictates the use of two different methods of data collection:

1. Roadside intercept surveys will be employed at low- to medium-volume roadway sites.
2. Licence plate capture prepaid mail-back surveys will be utilized on high-volume and higher speed roadways (in Ontario only).

**Q11: Why are Ontario & Quebec provincial highways being surveyed by TRANS?**

A11: The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) and the ministère des Transports du Québec (MTQ) have been two key TRANS Committee partners. Due to expanded NCR boundaries, provincial highways in both Quebec and Ontario become more significant gateways into the region and are included in the established 27 survey locations.

**Q12: What measures will be taken to ensure road safety while this survey is being conducted?**

A12: All survey site locations are thoroughly investigated by TRANS Committee staff, its consultant and appropriate police enforcement personnel to ensure safe survey locations and that all appropriate safety measures are implemented.

**Q13: How will motorists know that they are entering a survey work zone?**

A13: Signs will be posted on the roadway in advance of the location where the survey is being conducted. The survey work zone will also be signed and traffic cones will identify the survey work area.

**Q14: What measures will be taken to ensure that there are no traffic delays due to this survey?**

A14: Crews conducting a license plate capture with mail back surveys on provincial highways will either be located at the side of the highway right of way (ROW), or on a municipal highway overpass and will not interfere with traffic movement. Intercept surveys will either take place on the ROW or on the shoulder of the ROW, with pre-approved traffic control and safety plans that will include police officers to provide for traffic direction and safety where warranted. The average time required to conduct a survey is two to three minutes per vehicle.

**Q15: How will the safety of those conducting the survey and traffic counts along the highways be ensured?**

A15: The TRANS project team will ensure the survey is conducted in a manner that complies with the Ministry of Labour Guidelines, Occupational Health and Safety Act, Loi sur la santé et la sécurité du travail, MTO's Book 7 – Temporary Conditions Manual and MTQ's Volume V – Traffic control devices, Chapter 4 – Roadwork signing. Signs will be posted on the roadway in advance and at the clearly marked work zone where the survey is being conducted.

**Q16: Is participation in the survey voluntary?**

A16: Participation in the survey by the drivers or owners of the vehicles is voluntary.

**Q17: What steps are being taken to ensure that the information provided remains confidential?**

A17: No personal information is collected during travel surveys. All data collection will conform to Freedom of Information and Privacy guidelines.

**Q18: Will police actually be stopping vehicles?**

A18: Police presence and the amount of their direct participation at each survey location is based on consultation with the appropriate police authority and trained traffic control personnel to ensure appropriate traffic control and safety of the motorists and survey personnel. Any police participation at travel surveys work sites would be special paid duty outside of their regular police enforcement responsibilities.

**Q19: What happens if drivers don't stop or stop but don't want to provide information? Will they be penalized?**

A19: A survey site is considered a work zone. Motorists that disobey traffic control personnel and safety control devices, as outlined in Ontario Traffic Manual, "Book 7, Construction / Survey Site Set Up" and in MTQ's Volume V – Traffic control devices, Chapter 4 – Roadwork signing, could be subject to the same indictable penalties. Participation in the travel survey is voluntary in nature. Once in the survey site work zone any motorist may decline to be surveyed and will be allowed back into the traffic flow when it is safe to do so.