



NEWS RELEASE [2000-IV-13]

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PUBLIC FORECAST: TRAFFIC PLANNERS
WILL MAKE NO GAINS ON CONGESTION

Phoenix, Arizona (December 6, 2000). Arizonans expect that the best efforts of traffic engineers and highway planners will nonetheless fail to keep pace with traffic problems and that traffic congestion will worsen in the coming five years. The most pessimistic views are held with regard to freeway congestion, where seven of ten urban residents expect to see a worsening in congestion despite freeway construction programs. Even in Arizona's rural cities and towns, many of which have Interstate highways or major state arterials passing through or near them, 56 percent anticipate more freeway congestion.

In all areas of the state, not even a fifth of the population anticipates a lessening in street traffic congestion in their communities while six in ten to two-thirds forecast congestion will worsen.

Additionally, barely half opine that the huge dollar volumes approved by voters over the past five years in many Arizona cities to improve public transit will in fact do so in their communities. Views in Maricopa County are the most optimistic, but none the less sharply divided, with 51 percent expecting to see improved service but 49 percent forecasting no improvement. In Pima County, 64 percent see no improvements on the horizon.

The findings outlined in this report are based on a survey of 718 residents of Arizona conducted in October by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona as part of the Center's independent and non-partisan Rocky Mountain Poll series. For more information you may visit www.brcpolls.com.

- 30 -

EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2000-IV-13), is based on 718 interviews with adult heads of household throughout Arizona between October 1 and 6, 2000. Where necessary, figures for age, sex, race and political party were weighted to bring them into line with their actual proportion in the population. In a sample of this size, one can say with a 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 3.7 percent of what they would have been had the entire adult population been surveyed. The Rocky Mountain Poll is conducted by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona and is an independent and non-partisan research program sponsored by the Center.

This statement conforms to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

ENCLOSED: Statistical tables.

STATISTICAL DATA

Behavior Research Center
Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona
RMP 2000-IV-13

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“Five years from today, do you think [traffic congestion on freeways][traffic congestion on streets] in your community will get better, get worse or remain about the same as it is today?”

	<u>FREEWAY CONGESTION WILL...</u>			<u>STREET CONGESTION WILL...</u>		
	Get Better	Remain the Same	Get Worse	Get Better	Remain the Same	Get Worse
Maricopa	14%	14%	72%	16%	18%	66%
Pima	11	17	72	18	19	63
Rural	23	21	56	18	24	58

“Five years from today, do you think the availability of public transportation in your community will improve, get worse or remain about the same as it is today?”

	<u>AVAILABILITY OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION WILL...</u>		
	Get Better	Remain the Same	Get Worse
Maricopa	51%	36%	13%
Pima	36	48	16
Rural	47	39	14

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