



## Preliminary Results of WSGA Transport Survey

### Description and Executive Summary

For the past several months, the Worcester Student Government Association has been distributing to college students a survey on their transportation needs and experiences. The survey was developed collaboratively by the WSGA and the Consortium, with input from the WSGA. The goal is to provide detailed information to policymakers. The survey is still open to new responses, and we hope to gain data from Nichols, Anna Maria, and others.

So far, 814 students have completed the survey, from the following colleges: Clark, Becker, Assumption, College of the Holy Cross, Quinsigamond Community College, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and Worcester State University. On the whole, the survey shows that Worcester college students frequently leave campus, but infrequently use public transport to do so. Only 75 out of 814 described themselves as regular riders of the WRTA. 343 students admitted they did not know where the nearest bus stop was. Some students even expressed surprise at the knowledge that a public bus system exists.

Overall, students reported enthusiastic support for the idea of a cross-campus shuttle or bus, and a substantial portion indicated willingness to pay for such a service. Open comments revealed a wide range of opinions, but frequently contained an expression of frustration or desire for more options. Opinions did not vary widely across campus on any subject, with the exception that a far higher proportion of QCC students already use the WRTA. Across class years, freshman were understandably less likely to have used the WRTA.

### Results

Some additional questions have not been shown due to irrelevance to this report or due to a low number of respondents - for example, we asked students who were cross-registered about their specific transport needs, but only 30 students were asked those questions.

#### 1) What year of college are you in?

32% freshmen, 27% sophomores, 19% juniors, 22% seniors, 1% graduate students

#### 2) How often do you leave campus to go to...

#	Question	several times a week	about once a week	a few times a month	a few times a semester	Never	Total Responses
1	...a grocery store?	70	313	227	117	77	804
2	...a restaurant?	69	148	259	241	76	793
3	...a movie/theater?	21	37	119	370	242	789
4	...a bar?	43	92	90	77	475	777
5	...another place?	116	93	100	75	112	496

**3) What days of the week do you often leave campus? (Pick more than one).**

20% Monday, 21% Tuesday, 24% Wednesday, 37% Thursday, 84% Friday, 82% Saturday, 52% Sunday

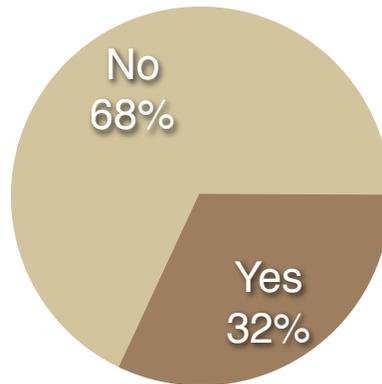
**4) Do you own a vehicle?**

32% Yes, 68% No

**4a) If yes, do you pay for a parking pass?**

58% Yes, 42% No

**5) Have you used the WRTA bus service (public transit) in Worcester?**



**5a) If Yes, are you a regular rider?**

30% Yes, 70% No

**5b) If no, do you know where the nearest bus stop is?**

34% No, 66% Yes

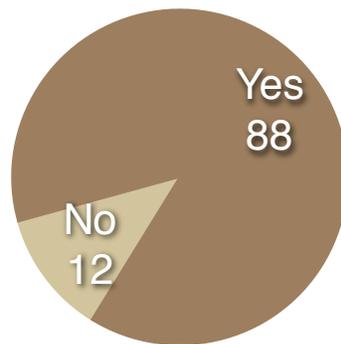
**6) What would motivate you to use WRTA transit, or use it more frequently? (Pick more than one if necessary).**

#	Answer	Response	%
1	<a href="#">More service frequency</a>	378	49%
2	<a href="#">More destinations</a>	385	50%
3	<a href="#">More security</a>	206	27%
4	<a href="#">A closer bus stop</a>	285	37%
5	<a href="#">Later service hours</a>	263	34%
6	<a href="#">More direct service to where I want to go</a>	412	53%
7	<a href="#">More information about the buses</a>	492	64%

**7) What destinations in Worcester would you like to go to? (Pick more than one if necessary).**

#	Answer	Response	%
1	<a href="#">Downtown/City Square</a>	428	56%
2	<a href="#">Shrewsbury Street</a>	553	72%
3	<a href="#">Union Station</a>	488	64%
4	<a href="#">Water Street</a>	192	25%
5	<a href="#">Blackstone Valley Mall</a>	609	80%
6	<a href="#">Other</a>	82	11%

**8) Would you want to see a shuttle service to take students from campus to campus?**



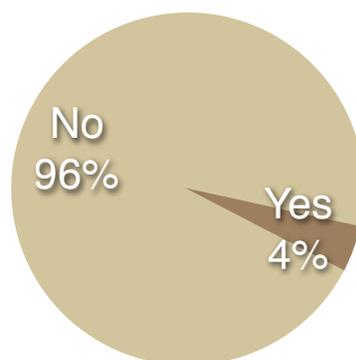
**8a) If Yes, what times would you want it to run (pick more than one)?**

57% weekday mornings, 77% weekend nights, 48% weekday nights, 6% other

**9) Would you be willing to pay for a shuttle service from campus to campus?**

38% Yes, 62% No

**10) Are you cross-registered at a school other than your own?**



**11) Do you have any other comments?**

We received hundreds of other comments. Many mentioned that bus schedules were inconsistent - many others mentioned easier transport to Union Station being an issue. Reduced rates for college students were an unsurprisingly possible suggestion.

**Conclusion**

As a representative of Worcester students, the WSGA thinks the verdict is clear - students want safe, reliable transport both around Worcester and from campus to campus. We support the reestablishment of a Consortium shuttle and hope to work with the WRTA to further our mutual goal of greater student engagement with the system.

Sincerely,

Jean Pierre Miralda, President

Patrick Reilly, Vice President

Dale Watt, Executive Clerk

January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015

