

APPENDIX B PUBLIC SURVEY #1 SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

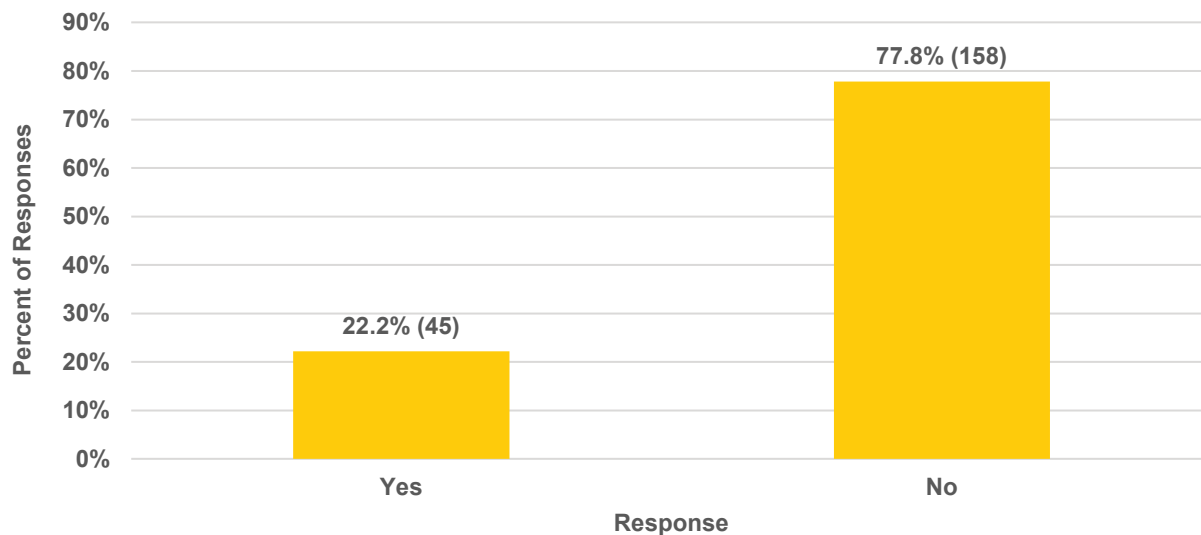
The first public survey was released online in February 2024 and remained open until May 2024. The survey was available in English and Spanish. The survey was used to collect input from rail users on issues and opportunities regarding rail services and facilities in Kentucky. While open, the survey received 2,847 total responses. The following appendix summarizes the first public survey.

B.1. INDIVIDUAL QUESTION SUMMARY

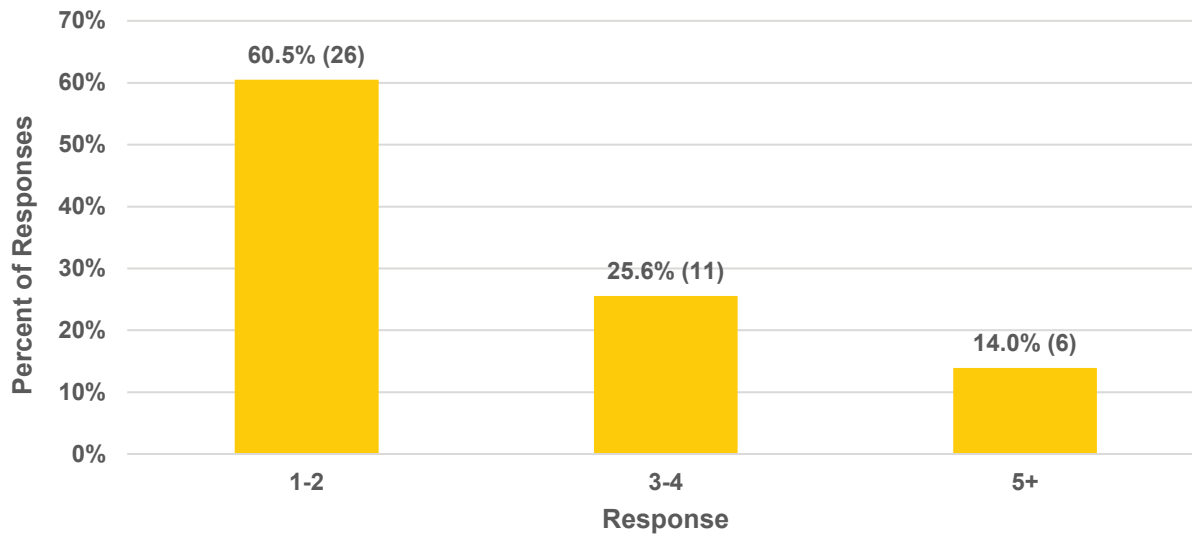
B.1.1. Western Kentucky, Fulton Service Area

There were 240 people who identified as living in the western Kentucky service area who answered the following questions.

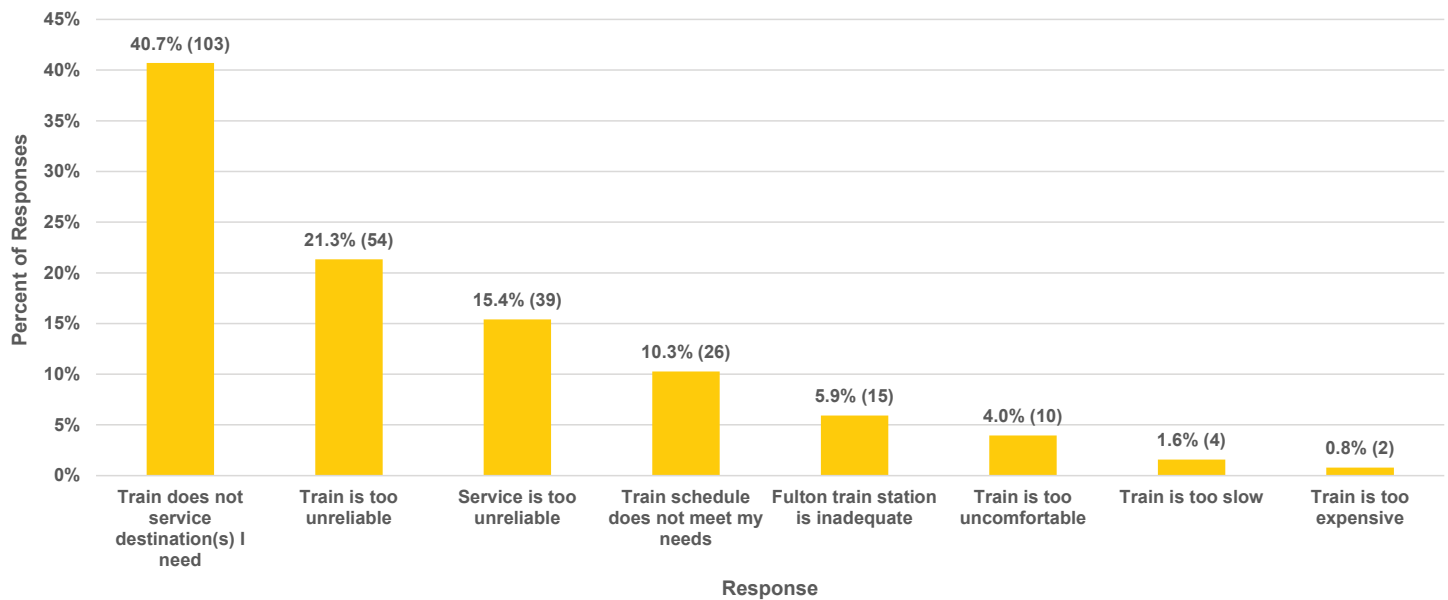
Survey Question: Have you previously travelled on the Amtrak City of New Orleans?



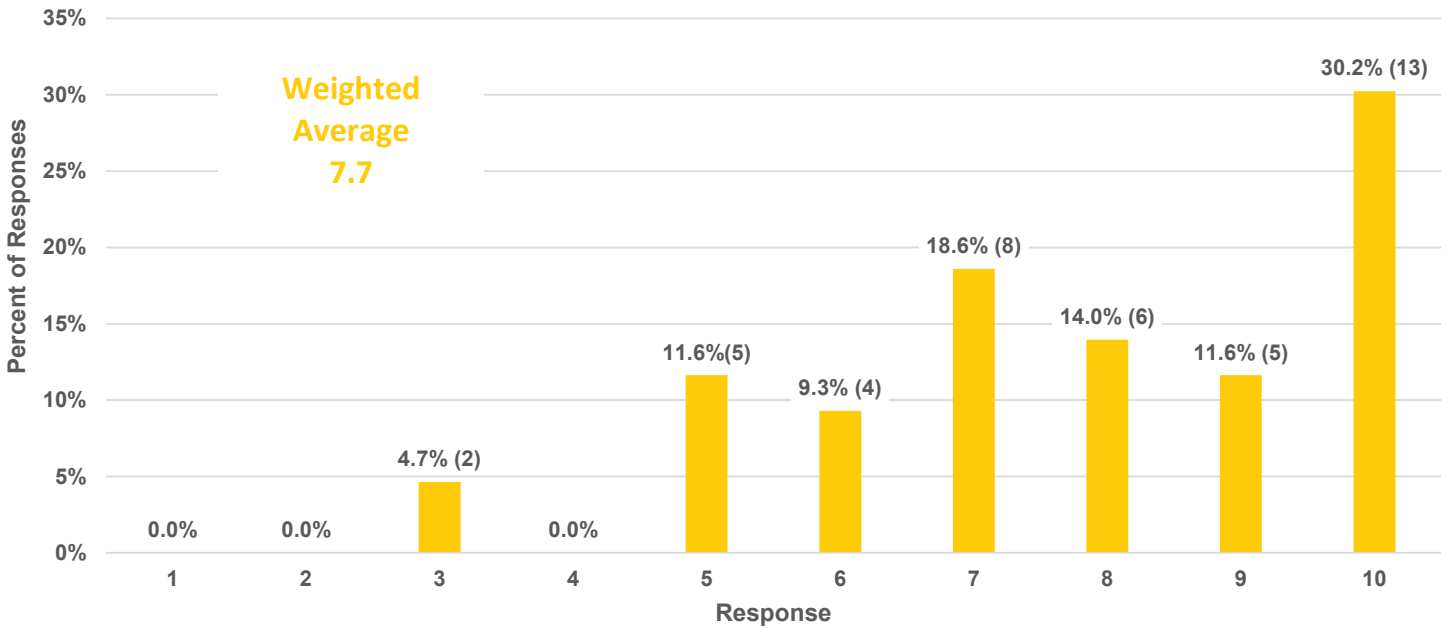
Survey Question: If yes, approximately how many times have you ridden the City of New Orleans in the past 5 years?



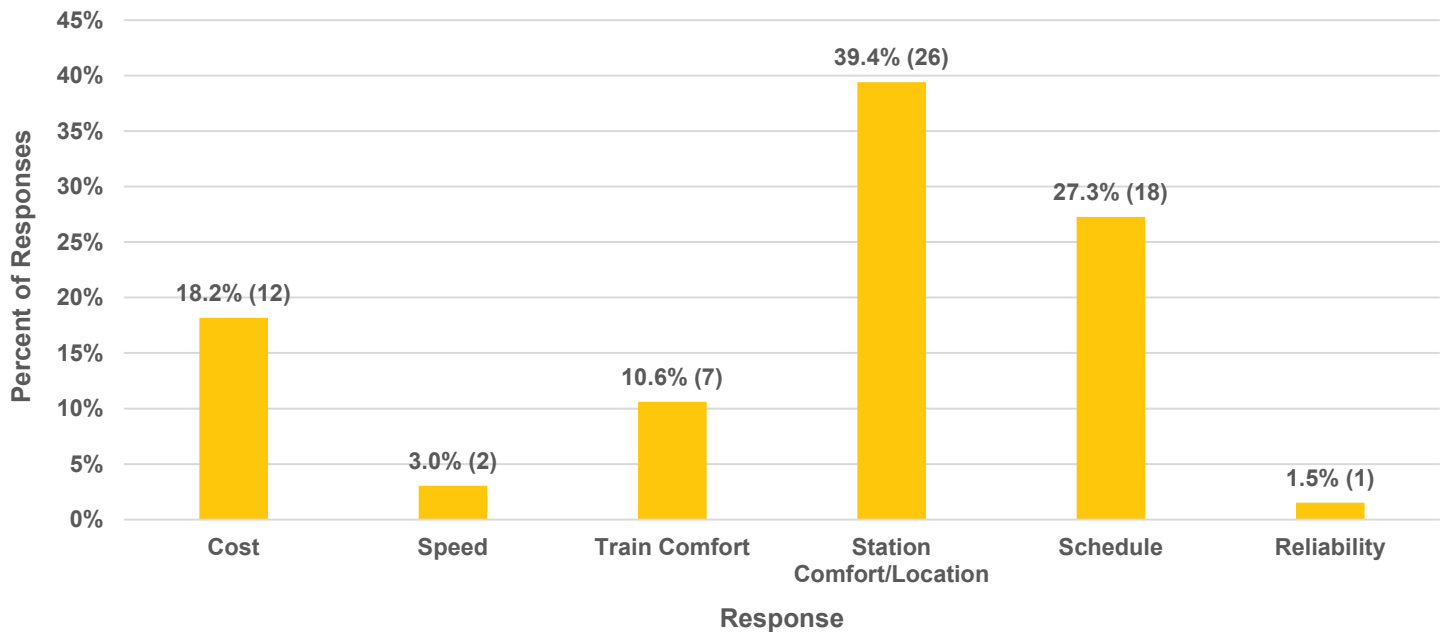
Survey Question: If you have not ridden the City of New Orleans, what factor(s) have kept you from using the service? Chose up to two/three.



Survey Question: If you have ridden the City of New Orleans, please rate your total travel experience from station to station from 1-10.



Survey Question: If you have ridden the City of New Orleans, what single aspect of the service would you most prefer to have improved?



Survey Question: Please provide any additional comments on the Amtrak City of New Orleans Service.

In total, 53 additional comments were received. Key points are:

- **Limited Service and Lack of Accessibility:** Respondents feel there are too few train stations and limited routes, making it difficult to travel within the state or connect to major cities.
- **Fulton Station Concerns:** The current Amtrak station in Fulton is inconvenient due to its location, lack of amenities, unsafe environment, and late-night boarding times.
- **Desire for Expansion:** People want more routes connecting major Kentucky cities like Louisville, Lexington, Paducah, and Elizabethtown as well as Cincinnati, OH.
- **Environmental Benefits:** There's support for expanding passenger rail as a sustainable and environmentally friendly alternative to driving.
- **Cost Concerns:** Affordability is important, especially compared to driving and flying.
- **Improved Scheduling:** More convenient departure and arrival times are crucial for wider ridership.
- **Marketing and Awareness:** Many respondents were unaware of existing Amtrak services, highlighting the need for better promotion.
- **Safety and Security:** Security concerns at stations and late-night boarding are deterrents for some potential riders.
- **Senior Travel:** Recently retired individuals see passenger rail as an attractive travel option with more leisure time.
- **Economic Benefits:** Rail is seen as a way to connect respondents to jobs, healthcare, and other opportunities.

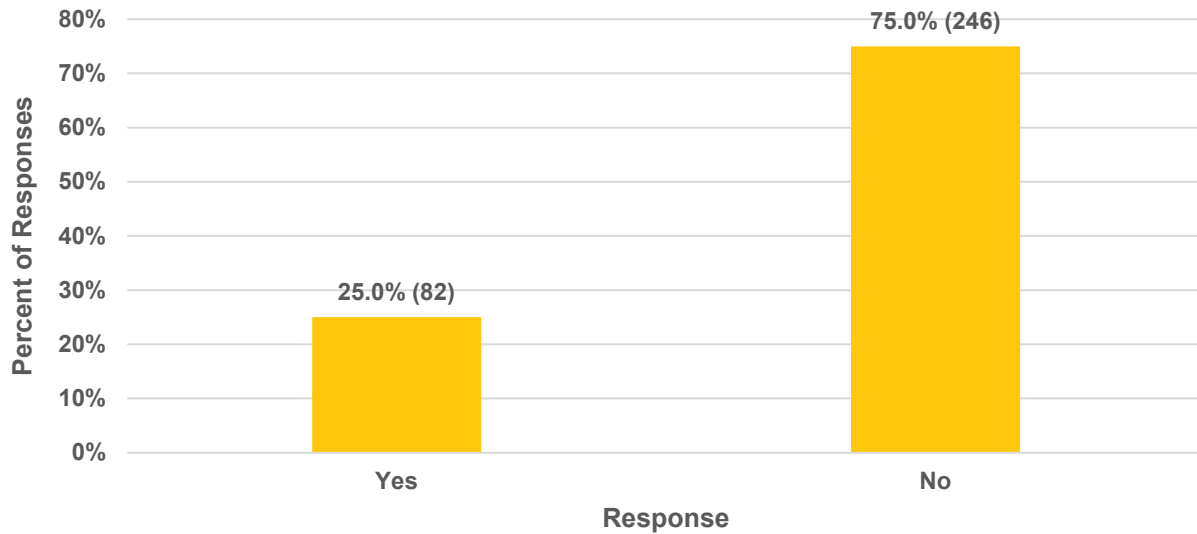


Source: Kentucky Statewide Rail Plan Team

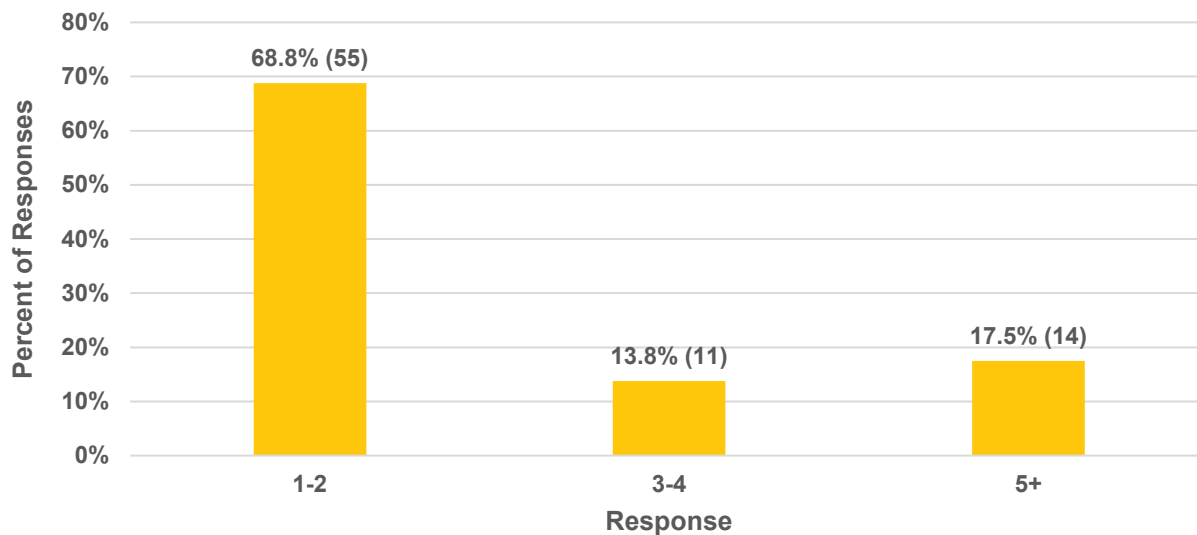
B.1.2. Northern and Eastern Kentucky, Ashland-Maysville Area

There were 362 people who identified as living in the northern and eastern Kentucky service area who answered the following questions.

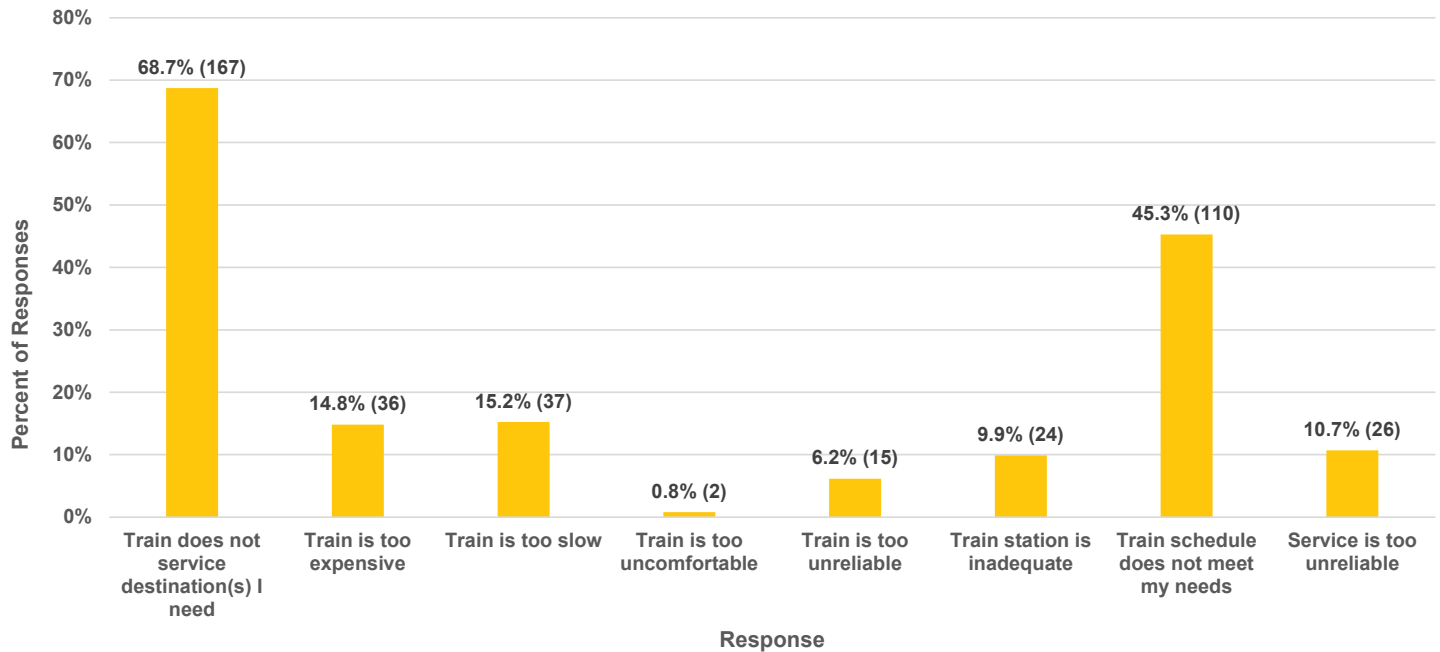
Survey Question: Have you previously travelled on the Amtrak Cardinal?



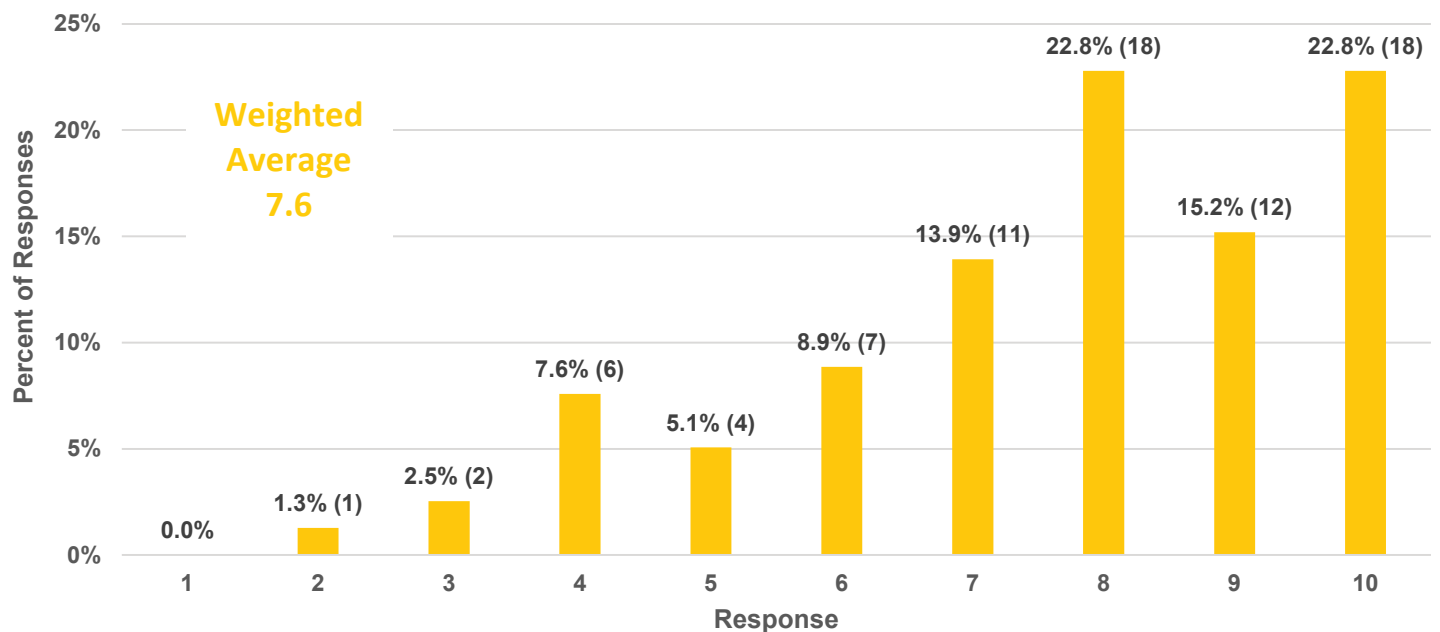
Survey Question: If yes, approximately how many times have you ridden the Cardinal in the past 5 years?



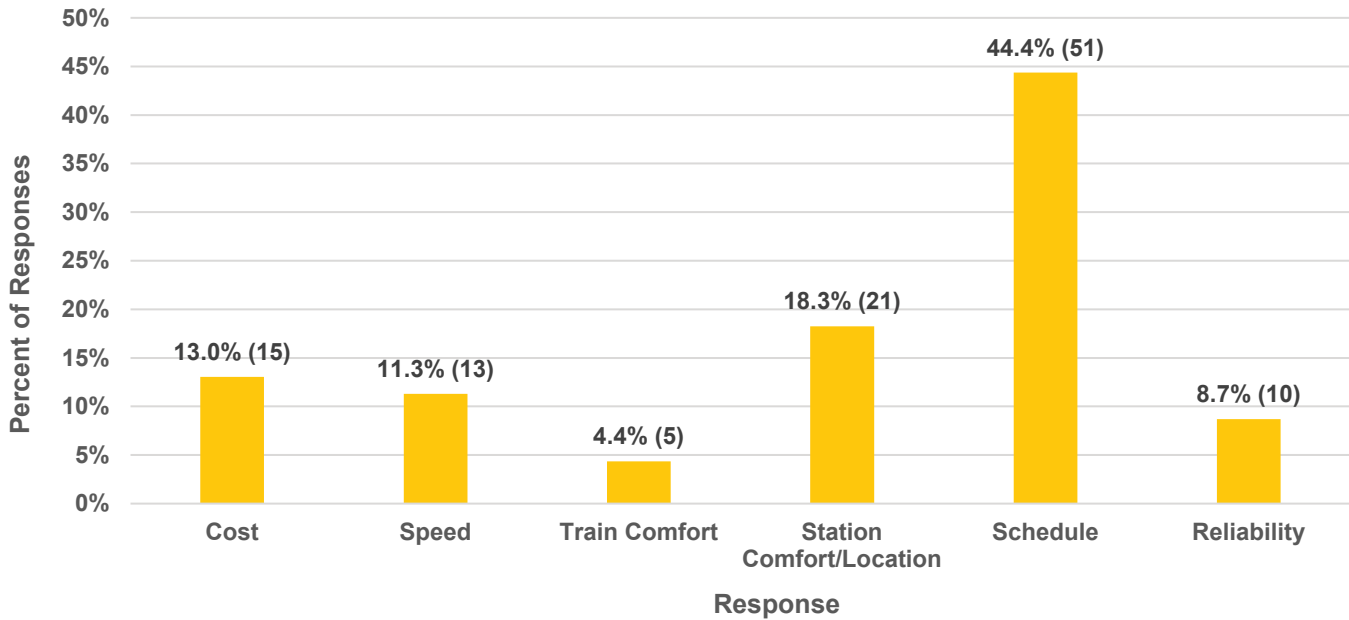
Survey Question: If you have not ridden the Cardinal, what factor(s) have kept you from using the service? Choose up to two/three.



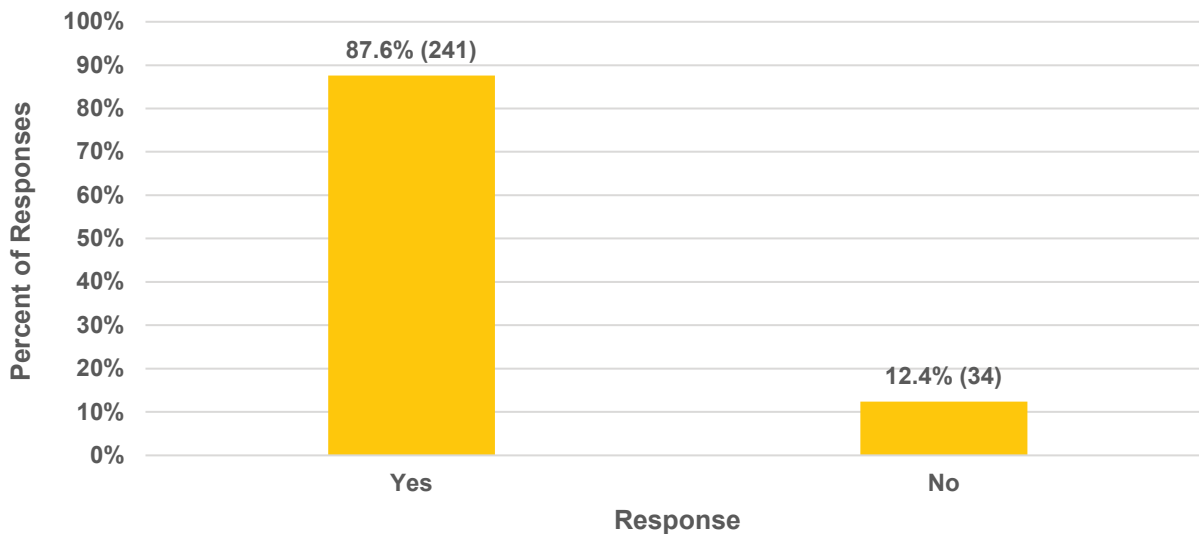
Survey Question: If you have ridden the Cardinal, please rate your total travel experience from station to station from 1-10.



Survey Question: If you have ridden the Cardinal, what single aspect of the service would you most prefer to have improved?



Survey Question: Would the proposed increase in Cardinal service from three times weekly to daily make it more likely that you would use this service?



Survey Question: Please provide any additional comments on the Amtrak Cardinal Service.

In total, 110 additional comments were received. Key points are:

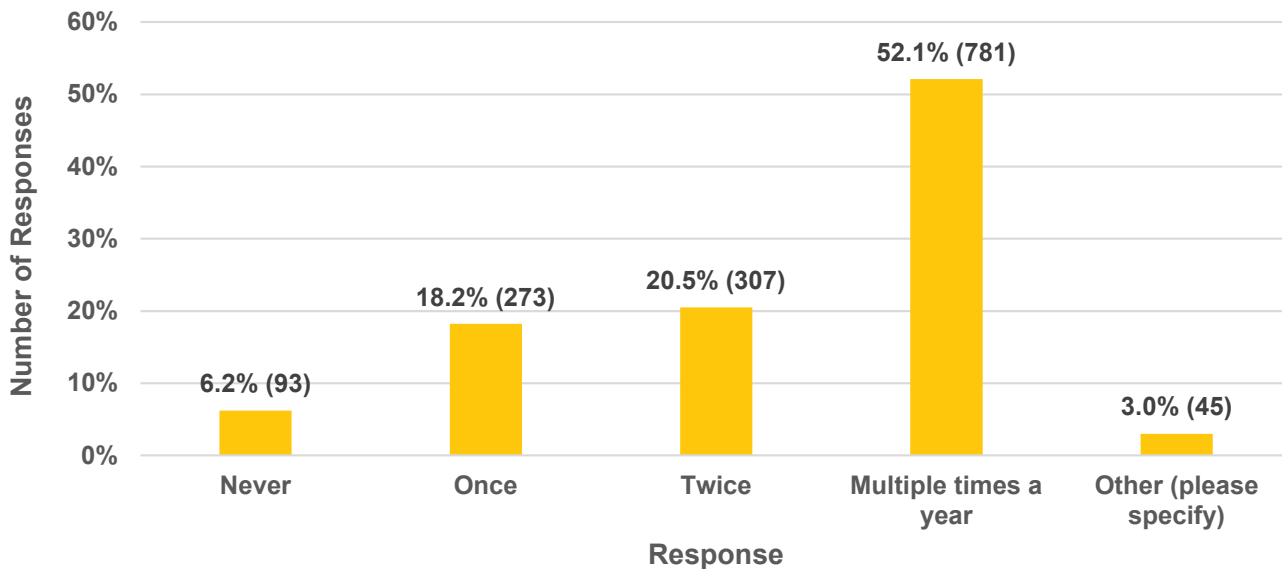
- **Strong Desire for Expanded Service:** Many respondents want better access to passenger rail, especially for travel between major cities like Louisville, Lexington, Cincinnati, and Atlanta.
- **Safety Concerns:** Safety is a major concern, with people expressing concerns about security at stations and the potential for accidents.

- **Affordability:** Cost is a factor, with some comparing it to driving and finding it less affordable.
- **Convenience and Accessibility:** People want more convenient schedules, better access to stations, and easier connections to other modes of transportation.
- **Infrastructure Needs:** Investment in new infrastructure, including stations and improved tracks, is necessary for expansion.
- **Route Priorities:** Specific routes like Louisville-Lexington-Cincinnati and Louisville-Atlanta are frequently mentioned as priorities.
- **Economic Benefits:** Rail service is seen to boost tourism, create jobs, and improve economic development in Kentucky.
- **Environmental Impact:** Many see rail as a more sustainable and environmentally friendly alternative to driving.
- **Public Awareness:** There is a need for better marketing and awareness of existing rail services in Kentucky.
- **Balance Between Passenger and Freight:** There is a debate about the balance between passenger and freight rail, with some advocating for prioritizing passenger services.

B.1.3. Louisville Service Area

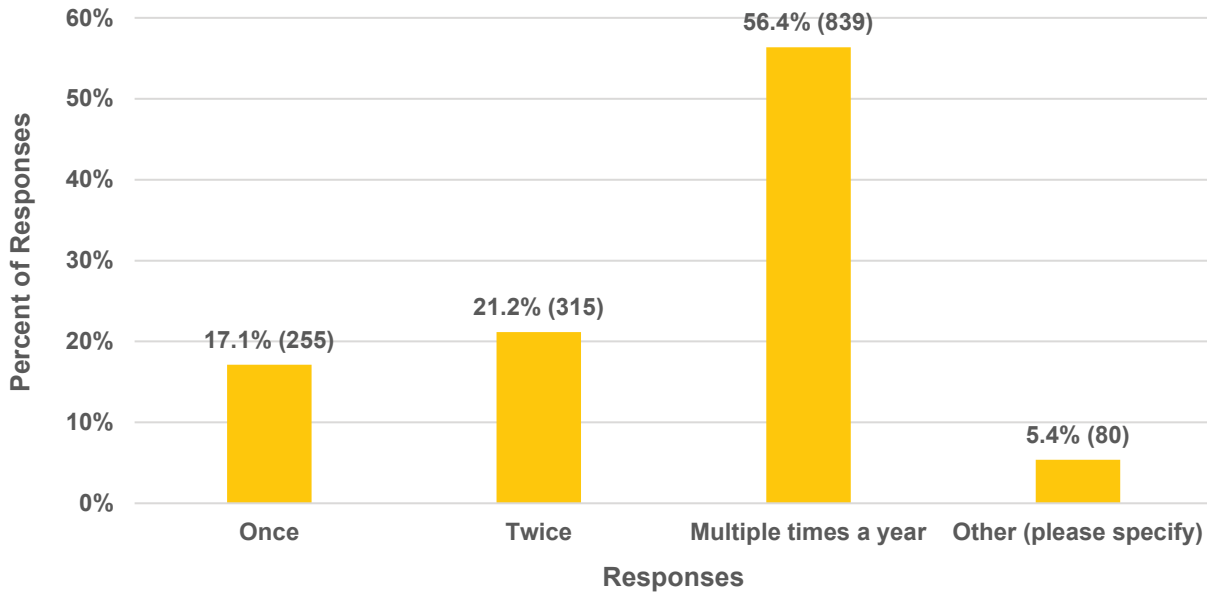
There were 1,543 people who identified as living in the central Kentucky service area who answered the following questions.

Survey Question: How often annually would you be likely to use this service to travel to the Indianapolis area?



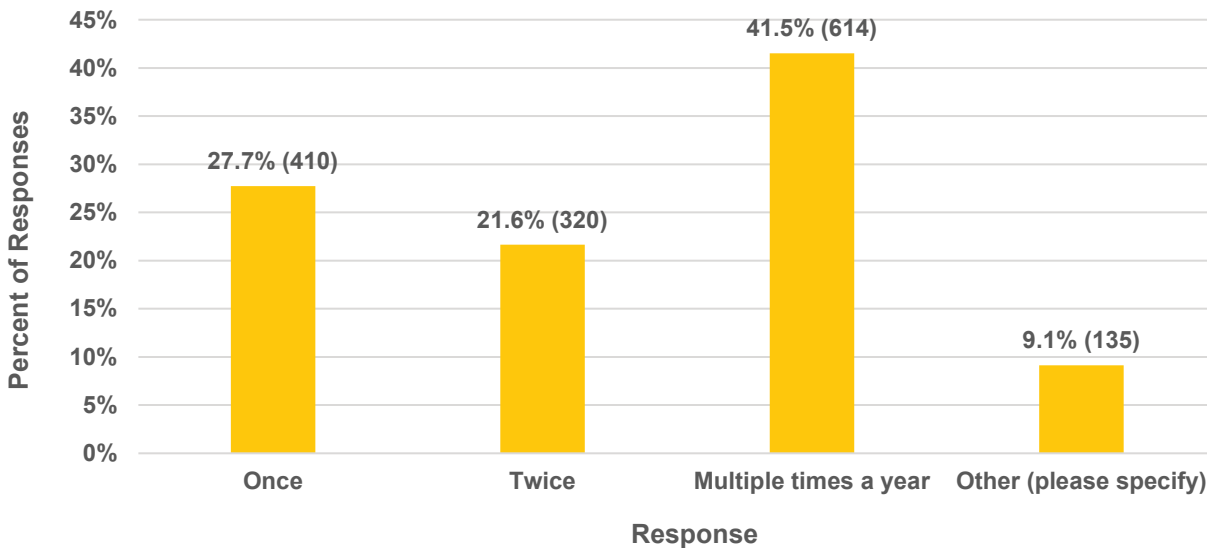
Additional comments noted that use would fluctuate based on cost and location of the station.

Survey Question: How often annually would you be likely to use this service to travel to the Chicago area?



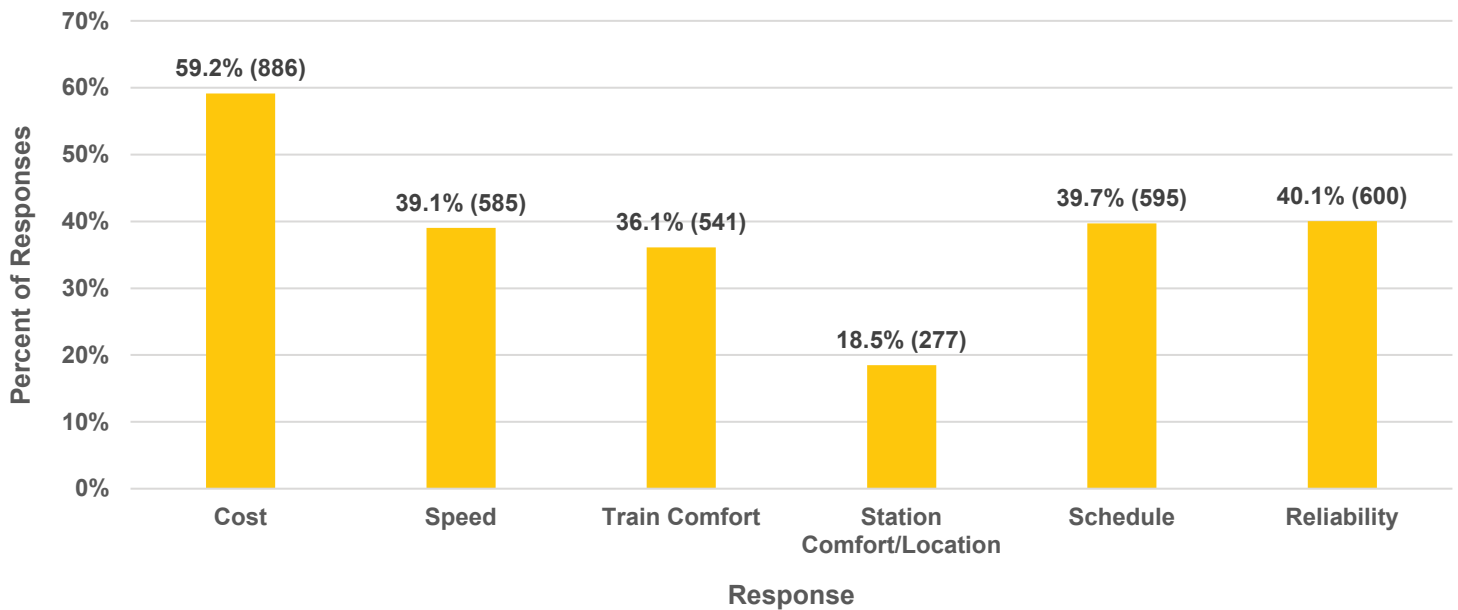
Utilizing the “Other” option, additional comments noted that they would not use the service.

Survey Question: How often annually would you be likely to use this service to travel to further Amtrak destinations via connection in Chicago?



Utilizing the “Other” option, additional comments noted that they would not use the service.

Survey Question: What aspects of the proposed rail service are most important to you? Choose up to two (2).



Survey Question: Please provide any additional comments.

In total, 528 additional comments were received. Key points are:

Strong Support:

- Respondents overwhelmingly support expanding passenger rail service in Kentucky.
- Many see it as a more relaxing and scenic alternative to driving or flying.
- Potential benefits include reduced traffic congestion, environmental advantages, and economic growth.
- Popular destinations include Chicago, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Nashville, and Lexington.
- Features like affordability, reliability, safety, and station convenience are important.
- Some respondents would like to see service within Kentucky, connecting smaller cities.

Concerns:

- A few comments expressed skepticism about the project's feasibility or cost-effectiveness.
- Others worried about competition with freight trains or questioned Amtrak's reputation.
- Accessibility for people with disabilities was mentioned as a concern.

Additional points:

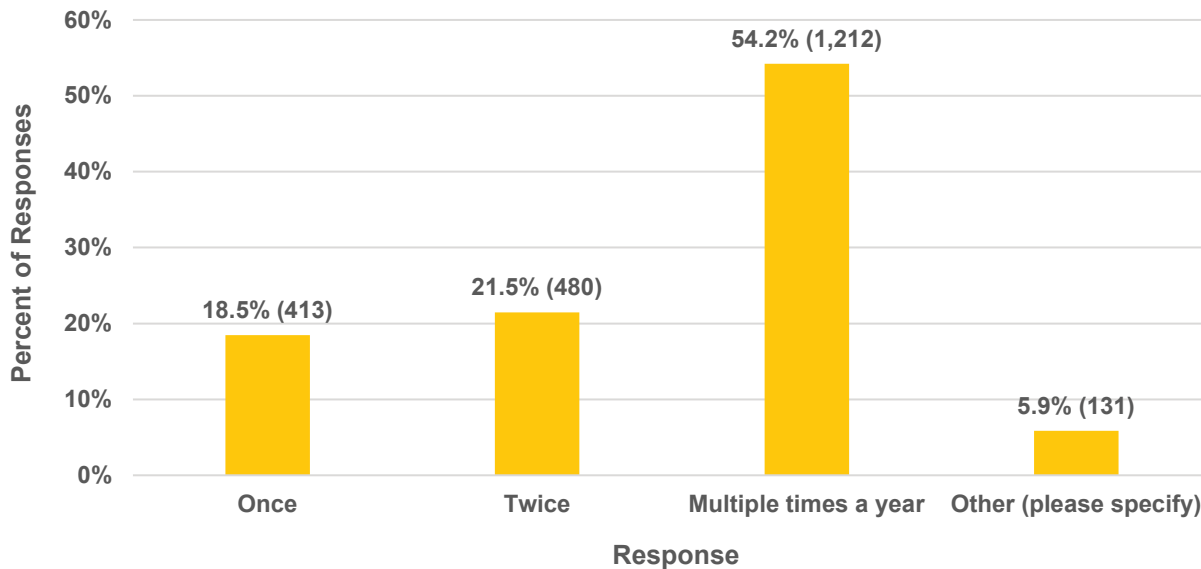
- Some comments highlighted the potential for high-speed rail.
- Several people mentioned a desire for weekend getaways and ease of travel for visiting family.
- Love of trains and the desire for a more sustainable transportation option were expressed.

Overall, the sentiment leans heavily in favor of expanding passenger rail service in Kentucky.

B.1.4. Potential Amtrak long distance train service in Kentucky

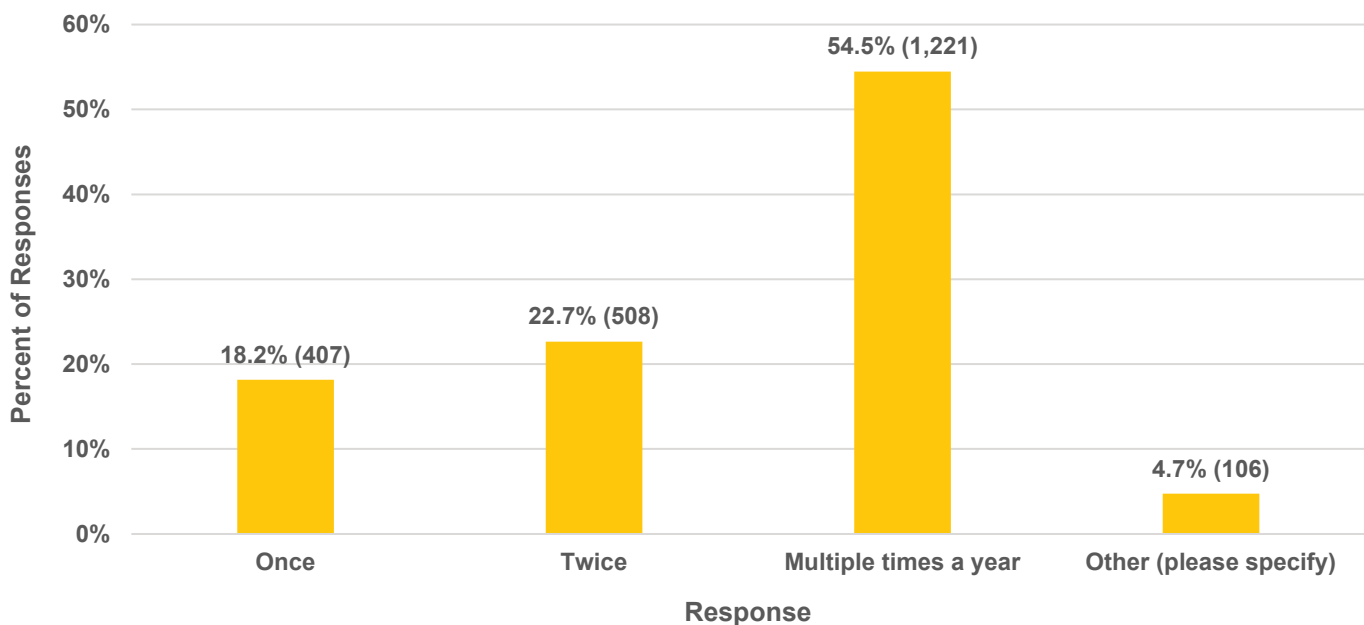
There were 2,307 respondents who provided input for the potential long distance train service in Kentucky.

Survey Question: How often annually would you be likely to use this service to travel to access long distance destinations north of Kentucky (Cincinnati, Columbus, Detroit)?



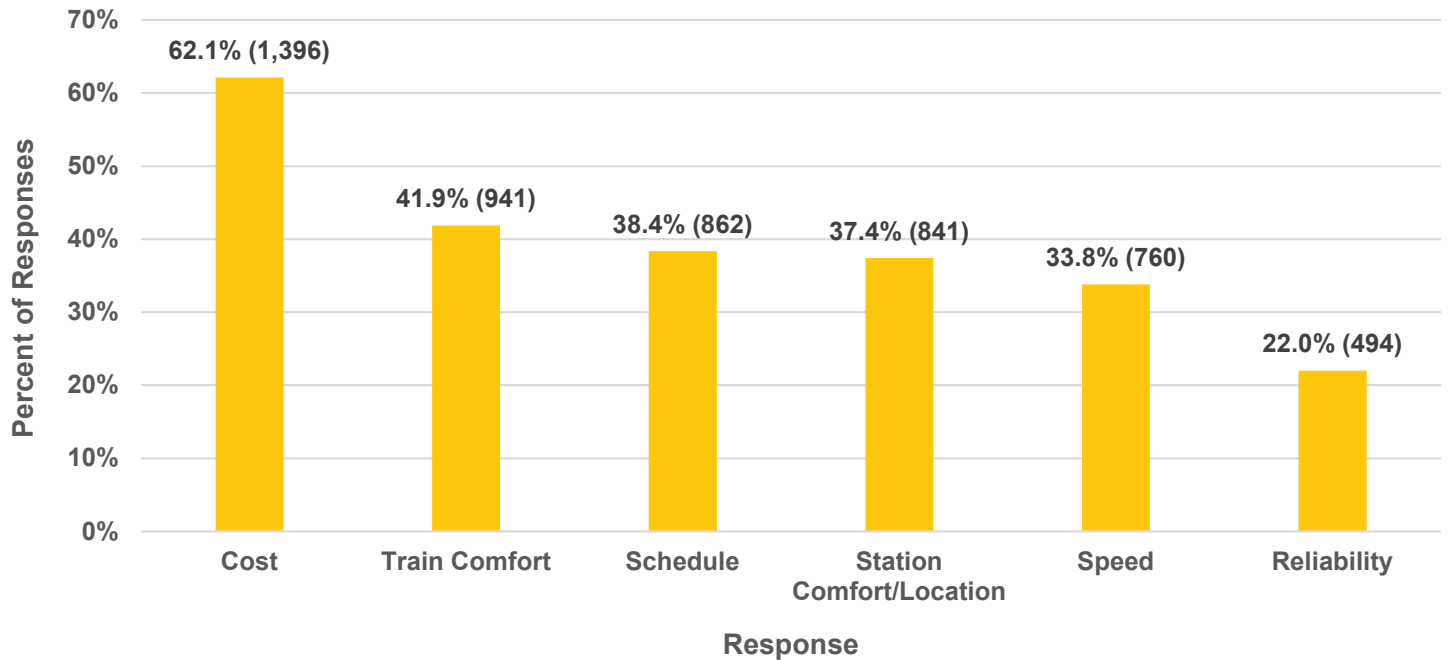
Utilizing the “Other” option, additional comments noted that they would not use the service.

Survey Question: How often annually would you be likely to use this service to travel to access long distance destinations south of Kentucky (New Orleans, Miami, Nashville)?



Utilizing the “Other” option, additional comments noted that they would not use the service.

Survey Question: What aspects of the proposed rail service are most important to you? Choose up to two (2).



Survey Question: Please provide any additional comments.

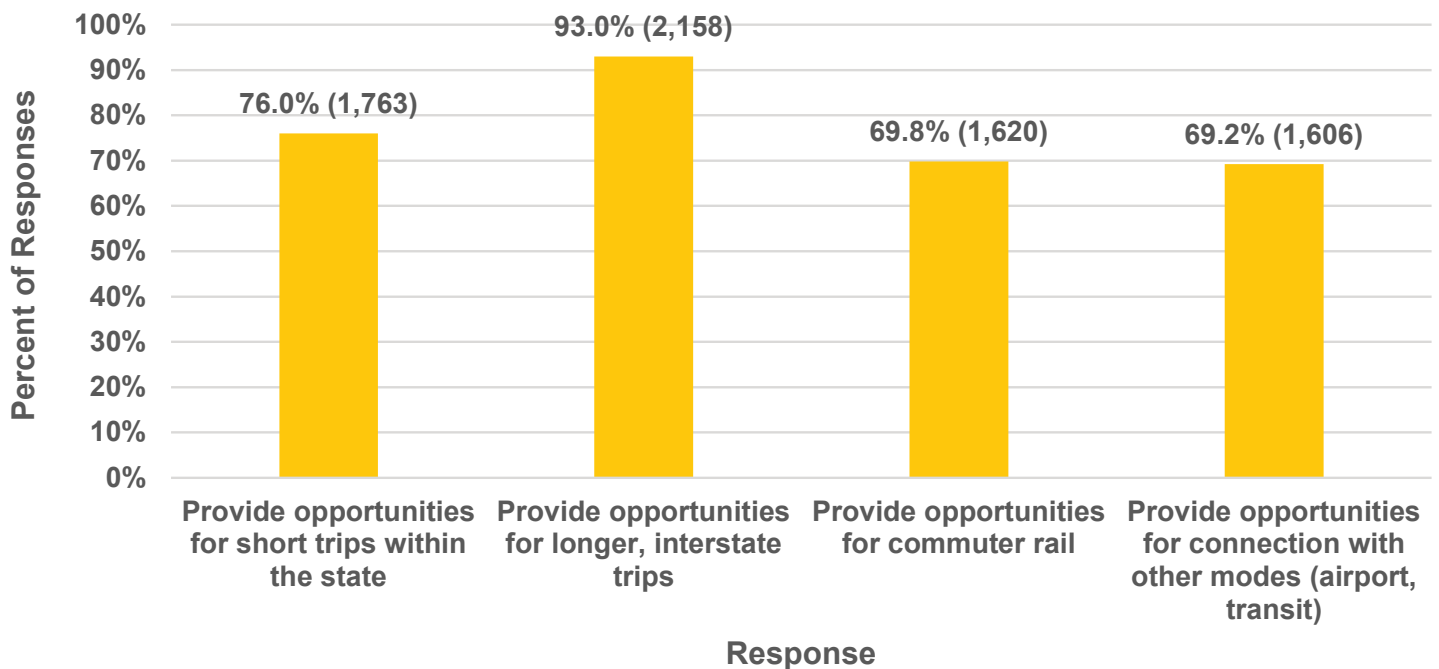
In total, 549 additional comments were received. The input is overwhelmingly in favor of expanding passenger rail service in Kentucky. Key points are:

- **Strong Public Support:** There is widespread public support for expanding passenger rail service in Kentucky. People see it as a safer, more relaxing, and more environmentally friendly alternative to driving.
- **Desired Routes:** People are interested in a variety of routes, including:
 - Connecting Louisville and Cincinnati
 - Connecting Louisville and Lexington
 - Connecting Kentucky to Atlanta and Florida
 - Connecting Kentucky to Chicago and Detroit
 - Including smaller towns like Bowling Green and Owensboro
 - East-west routes connecting Kentucky to cities like Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.
- **Important Considerations:**
 - **Cost:** People want affordable fares.
 - **Schedule:** Trains need to run at convenient times, with connections to other forms of transportation in destination cities.

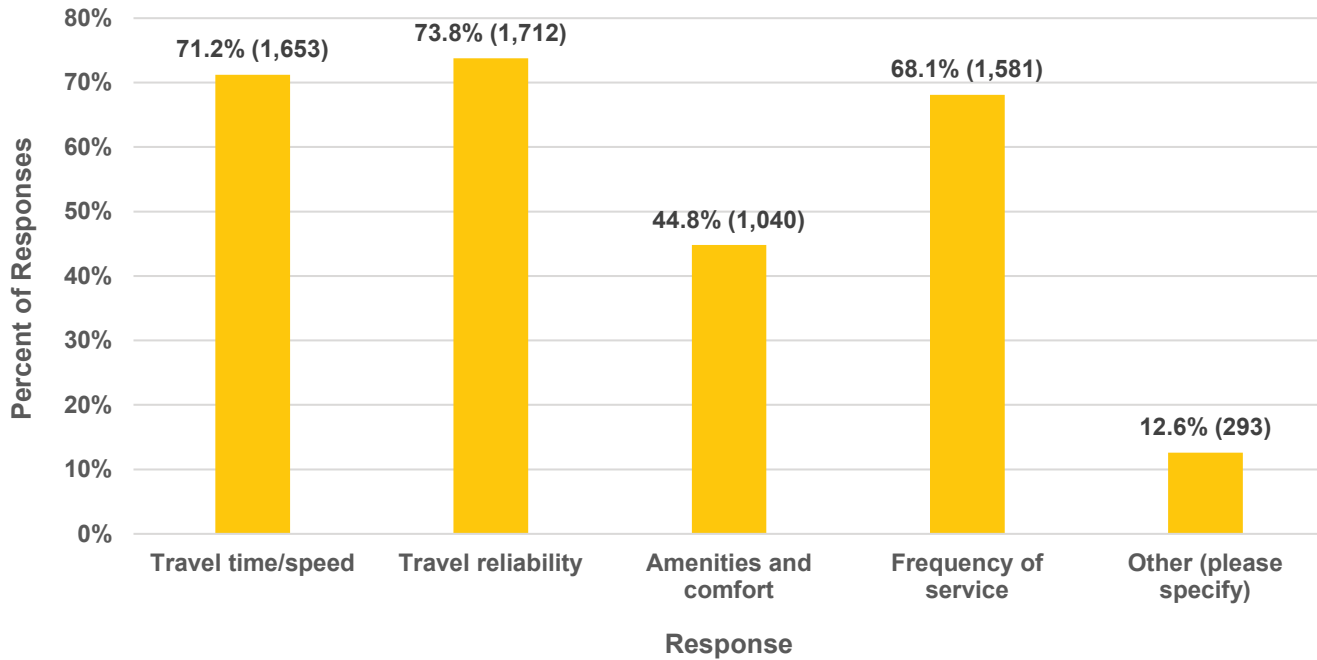
- **Safety:** Stations and trains need to be safe and secure.
- **Comfort:** Trains should be comfortable for long-distance travel.
- **Accessibility:** Stations should be easily accessible by car or public transportation.
- **Lexington:** Many people specifically requested a stop in Lexington.
- **Worker treatment:** People want rail workers to be treated fairly and paid adequately.
- Additional Notes:
 - Some people expressed concerns about the cost of building and maintaining passenger rail service.
 - A few people felt that passenger rail service would not be well-used in Kentucky.
 - There were suggestions for additional features, such as sleeper cars, auto transport, and connections to major airports.

B.1.5. General Questions

Survey Question: What should passenger rail accomplish in Kentucky? Choose all that apply.

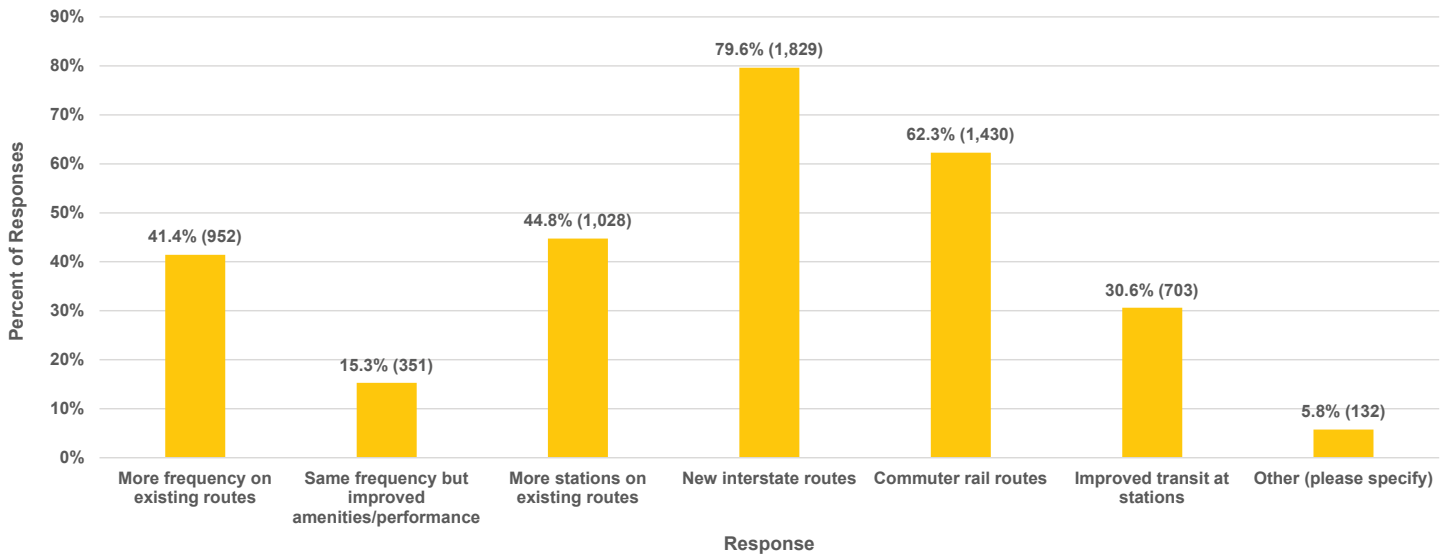


Survey Question: What are the most important aspects of passenger rail service for you? Choose all that apply.

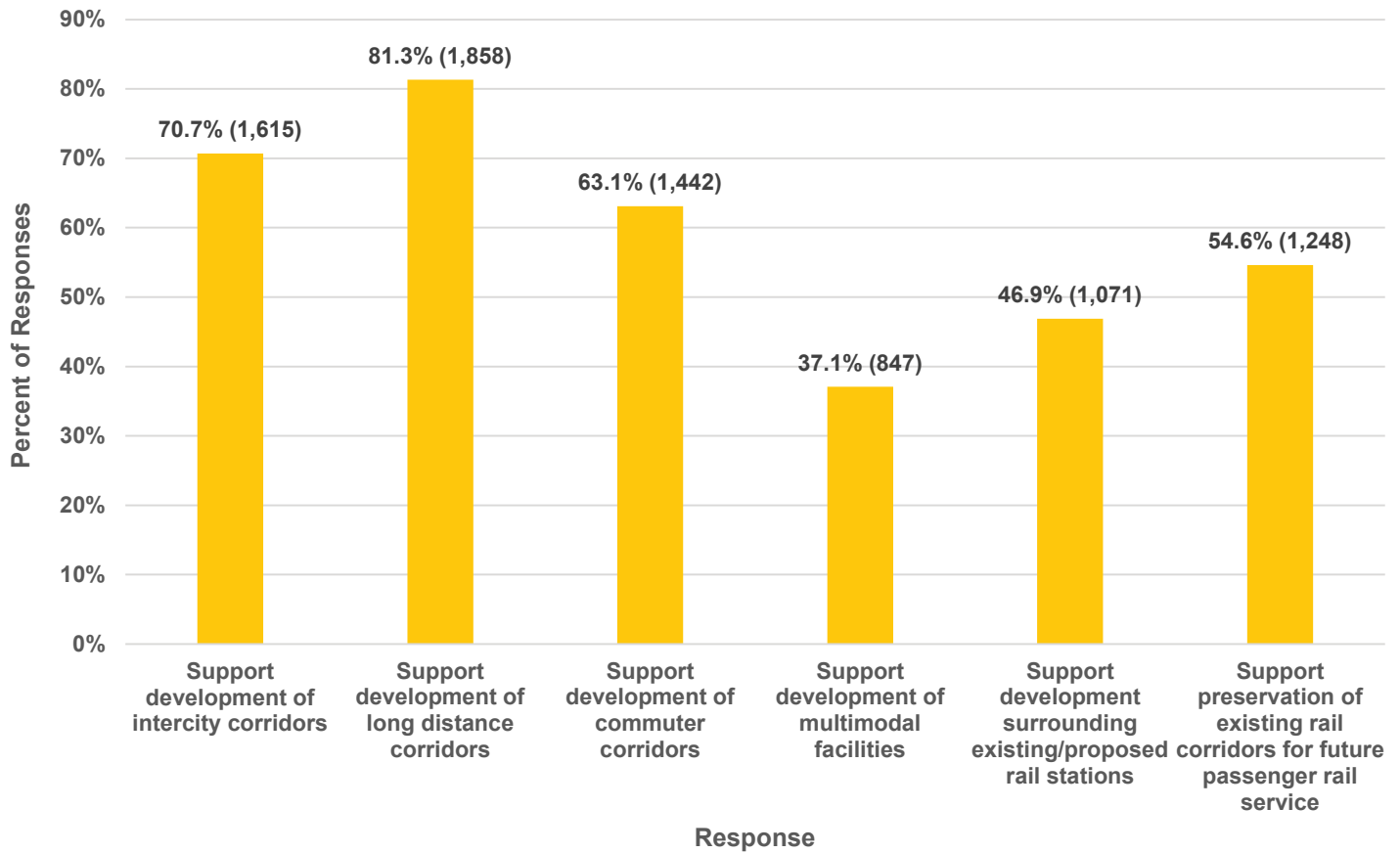


Additional comments noted that cost, accessibility, and safety were also important aspects to consider.

Survey Question: How should Kentucky prioritize future passenger rail service destinations? Choose all that apply.

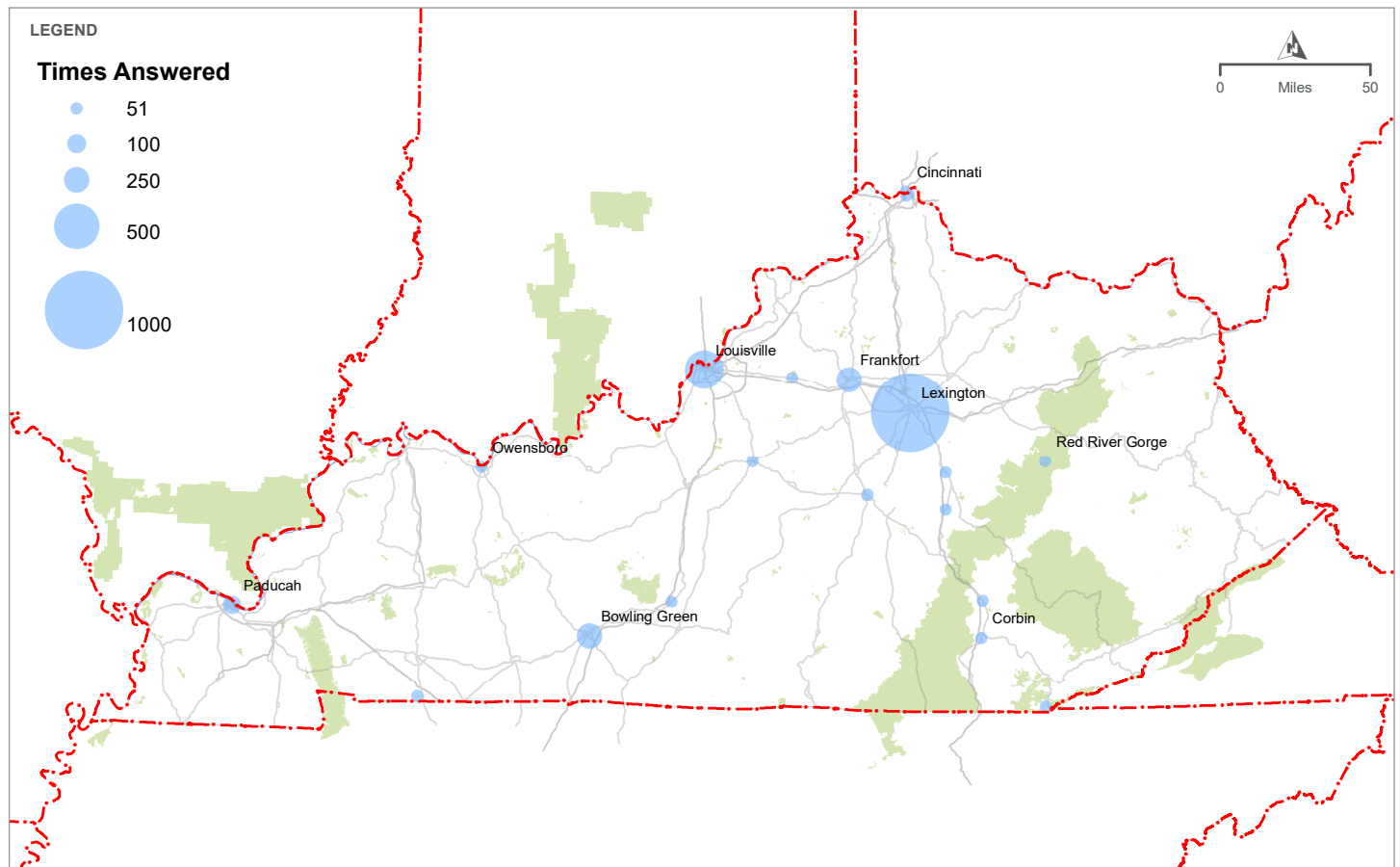


Survey Question: How should the KYTC prioritize supporting passenger rail in Kentucky? Choose all that apply.



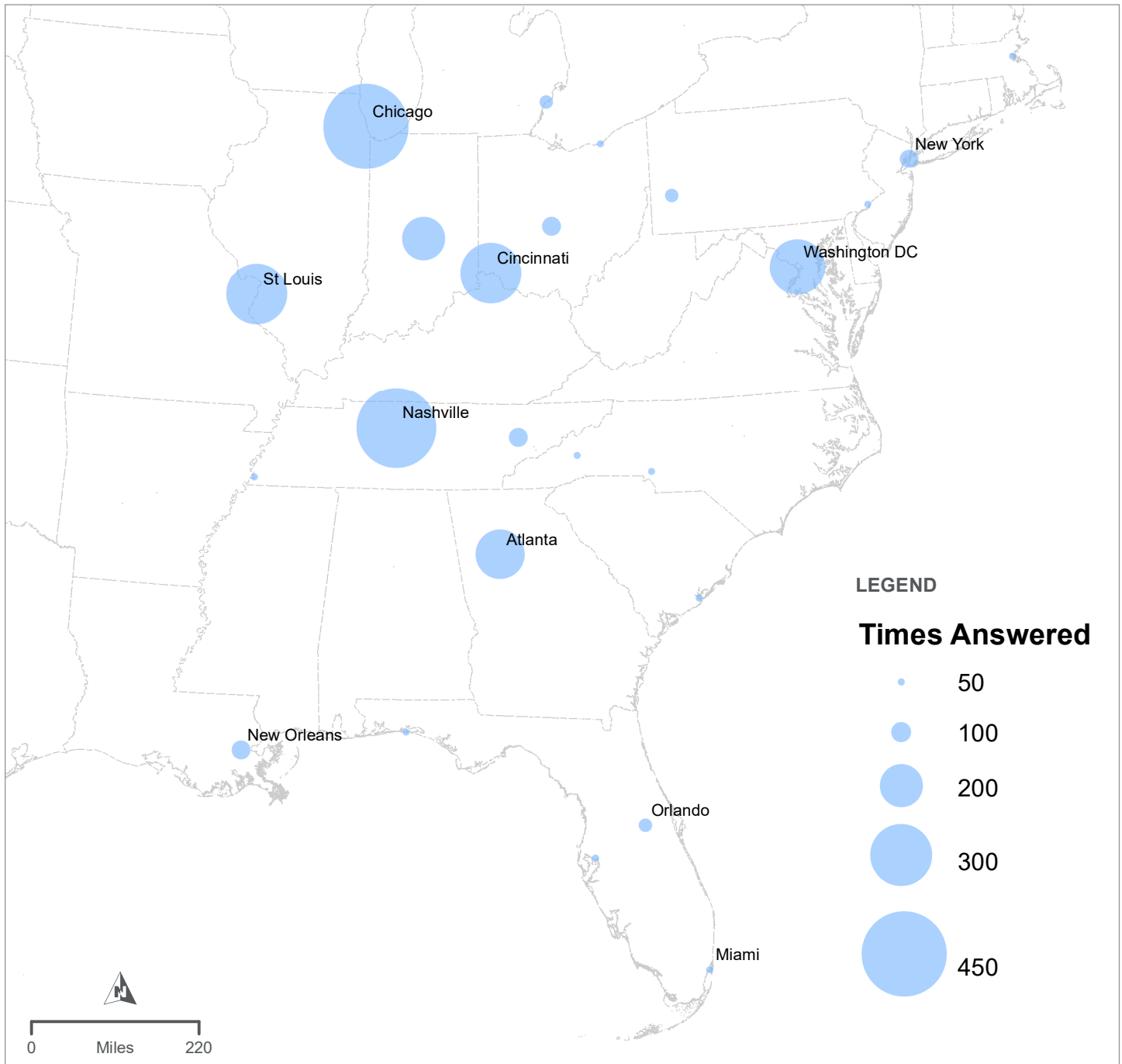
Source: Kentucky Statewide Rail Plan Team

Survey Question: What other destinations within Kentucky would you like to be able access via passenger rail?



Source: Kentucky Statewide Rail Plan Team

Survey Question: What other destinations outside of Kentucky would you like to be able access via passenger rail?

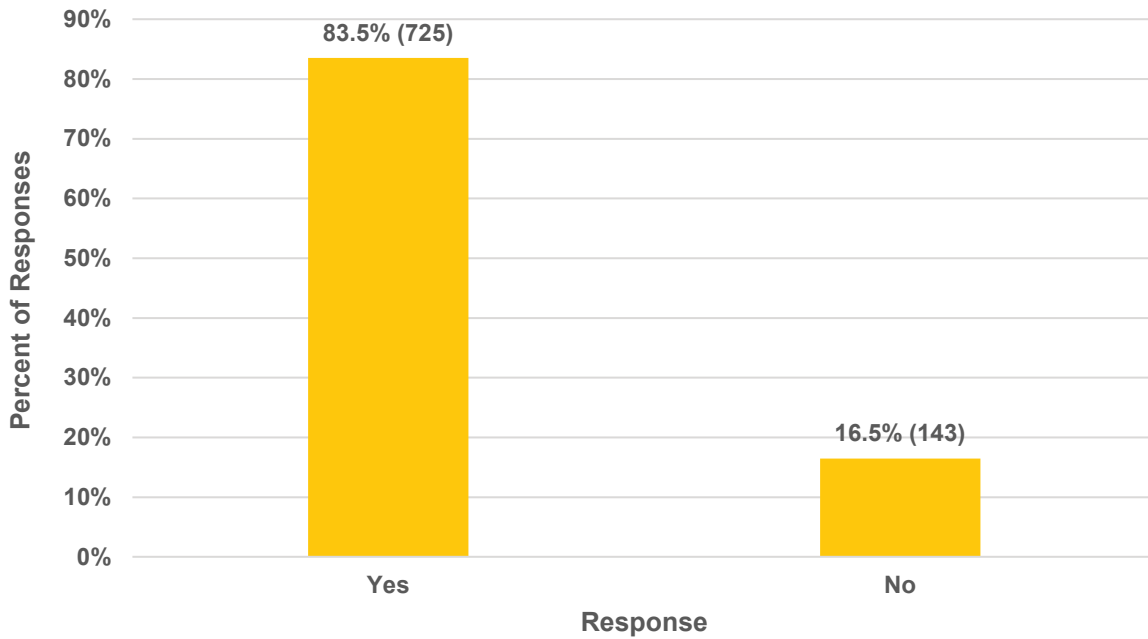


Source: Kentucky Statewide Rail Plan Team

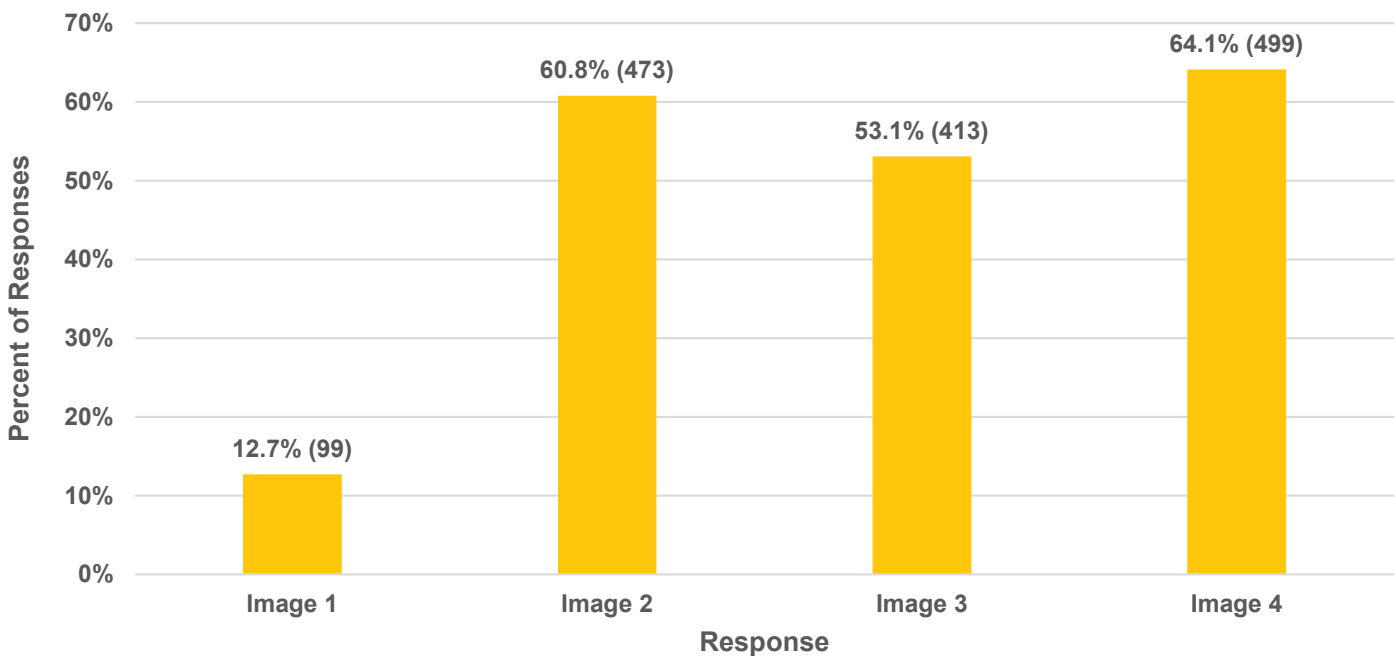
B.1.6. Freight Rail

There were 905 respondents who provided input freight rail service in Kentucky.

Survey Question: Should Kentucky prioritize investment in freight rail service and operations in the state?



Survey Question: How should Kentucky prioritize grade crossing improvements? Choose all that apply.



Removal of existing grade crossings

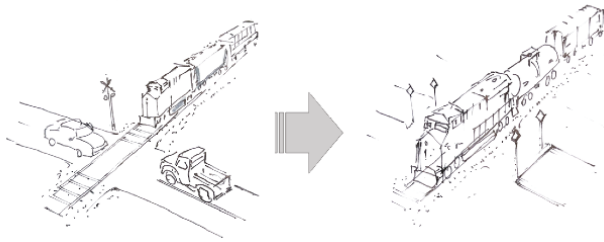


Image 1

Upgrade of existing signalized grade crossings

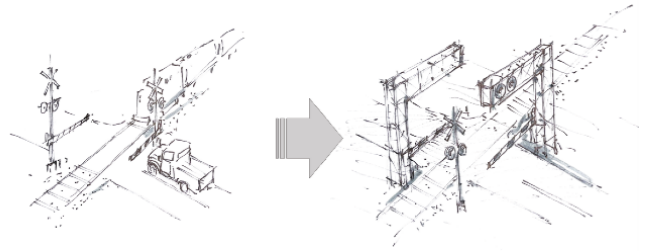


Image 3

Grade separation of existing grade crossings

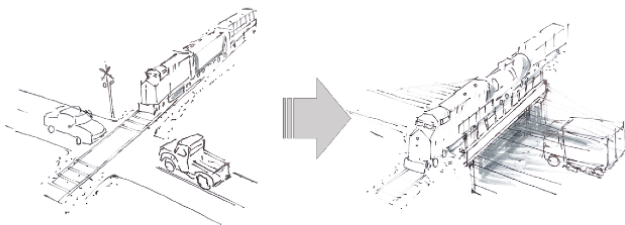


Image 2

Signalization of existing unsignalized grade crossings

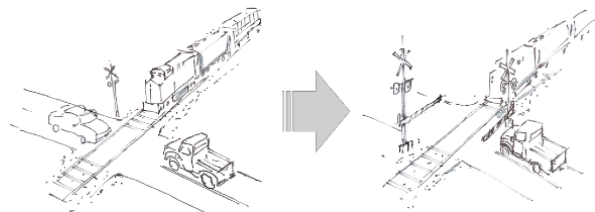
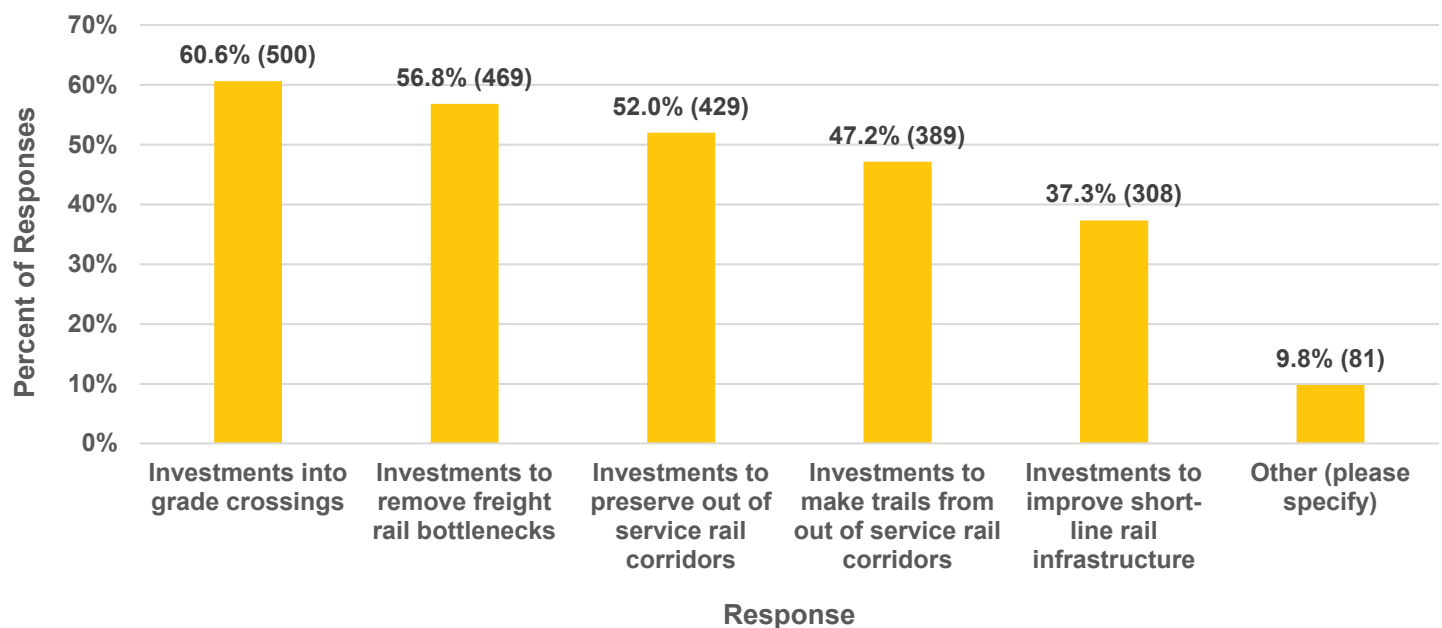


Image 4

Survey Question: How should Kentucky prioritize investment in freight rail service and operations?
Choose all that apply.



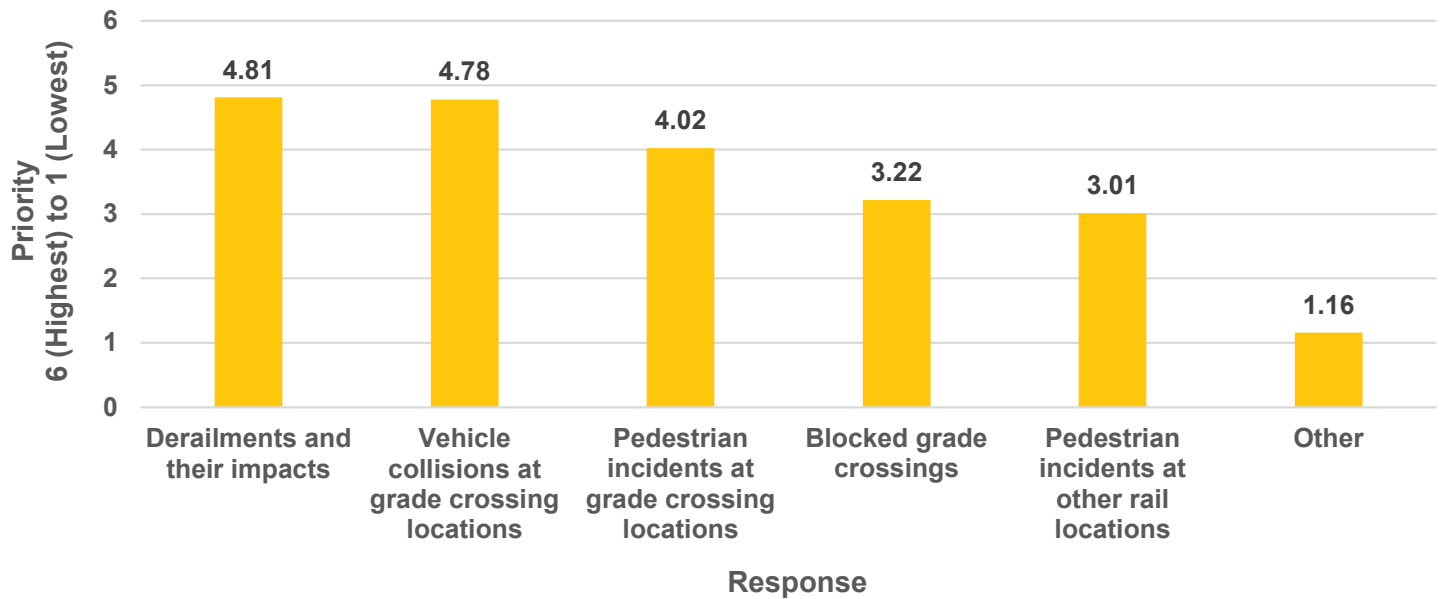
Survey Question: What opportunities do you see for specific grade crossing improvements in Kentucky?

In total, 275 comments were received. Key points are:

- **Safety Concerns:** Many people expressed concerns about the safety of railroad grade crossings, particularly in urban areas.
- **Improvements Needed:** The most common recommendations for improvement were:
 - **Grade separations:** Constructing overpasses or underpasses to eliminate conflicts between road and rail traffic.
 - **Improved signals and warnings:** Installing better lights, bells, and gates at crossings.
 - **Pedestrian safety:** Providing safer pedestrian crossings, including sidewalks and designated crossing areas.
 - **Reduced train delays:** Implementing measures to reduce the time trains block road crossings, such as scheduling changes or improved communication systems.
- **Other Concerns:** Additional concerns raised included:
 - **Dangerous crossings:** People identified specific crossings that they considered particularly dangerous.
 - **Infrastructure maintenance:** The need for better maintenance of existing crossings and infrastructure.
 - **Economic impact:** The potential economic benefits of improving grade crossings, such as increased tourism and reduced traffic congestion.
 - **Safety for pedestrians and cyclists:** Concerns about the safety of pedestrians and cyclists at grade crossings.

Overall, the public is calling for significant improvements to railroad-grade crossings in Kentucky to enhance safety, reduce traffic congestion, and improve the overall transportation infrastructure.

Survey Question: What are your highest safety concerns as they relate to the railroad network and the general public? Please prioritize your concerns using the list below.



Survey Question: Are there any specific rail service improvement or infrastructure projects that would benefit you? If so, what are they, and how would they help?

In total, 243 comments were received. Key points are:

- Support for Light Rail:
 - There is strong support for implementing light rail service in both Lexington and Louisville.
 - Many see it as a safer, more efficient, and environmentally friendly alternative to driving.
 - Light rail could reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality.
- Safety:
 - Improved safety at railroad crossings, including grade separations and better signals.
 - Reduced risk of accidents and injuries.
- Infrastructure:
 - Investment in upgrading existing rail infrastructure.
 - Construction of new lines and stations.
 - Improved maintenance of tracks and crossings.

- Economic Benefits:
 - Potential for economic growth in the region, especially with improved access to major cities.
 - Job creation in the rail industry and related sectors.
 - Reduced transportation costs for businesses and individuals.
- Accessibility:
 - Improved accessibility for people with disabilities.
 - Easier access to neighborhoods and attractions in both cities.
- Environmental Impact:
 - Reduced carbon emissions and air pollution.
 - More sustainable transportation option.
- Specific Routes:
 - A route connecting Lexington and Louisville.
 - A route connecting Louisville to Cincinnati.
 - Expanding existing rail lines in the region.

Overall, the public is enthusiastic about the potential benefits of light rail service in Lexington and Louisville and is calling for further investment and planning to make it a reality.

Survey Question: Are there any specific rail service improvements or infrastructure projects that would benefit you? If so, what are they, and how would they help?

In total, 183 additional comments were received. Key points are:

- **Strong Support for Passenger Rail:** There is widespread public support for investment in passenger rail service, with many seeing it as a safer, more efficient, and environmentally friendly alternative to driving.
- **Prioritize Passenger Rail Over Freight:** Many comments call for prioritizing passenger rail over freight rail, especially for improving travel times and accessibility.
- **Economic Benefits:** Investment in passenger rail is seen as having economic benefits, including job creation, reduced transportation costs, and improved access to major cities.
- **Safety Concerns:** Safety is a major concern, with comments highlighting the need for improved infrastructure, crossing signals, and crew staffing levels.
- **Desired Routes:** Specific routes are frequently mentioned, including connections between Lexington and Louisville, Cincinnati, and other major cities. Some suggest re-using existing abandoned rail lines.
- **Environmental Benefits:** The potential for reduced pollution and a more sustainable transportation system is a key argument for expanding passenger rail service.

- **Learning from Other Countries:** Several comments call for learning from countries with successful passenger rail systems, like Japan, with efficient schedules and high ridership.
- **Frustration with Current Freight Trains:** Long train blockages, noise, and safety concerns regarding freight trains are frequently mentioned.
- **Need for Reliable Service:** Comments emphasize the importance of reliable schedules, competitive travel times compared to driving, and affordability for passenger rail to be successful.
- **Modernize and Improve Overall Rail Infrastructure:** Investment is needed to improve both passenger and freight rail infrastructure, including tracks, crossings, and signaling systems.



Source: Kentucky Statewide Rail Plan Team