INTERSTATE 275 SURVEY RESULTS
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

www.FloridaOpinionResearch.com
All Materials and Intellectual Property ©2019 Florida Opinion Research
Telephone interviews performed by specially-trained opinion research interviewers

Conducted with 401 randomly-selected adult residents residing in Hillsborough County, Florida, using a combination of valid residential, VOIP and cellular telephone listings

+/- 4.89% overall estimated margin of error, with a confidence interval of 9.78% within which the results can vary

May 13 – May 16, 2019

Data was stratified so that the differences in vital characteristics, such as age, race, gender and geography are represented in proportion to their percentages of estimates of the county’s adult population

Due to rounding, not all results add up to 100%, and the data is presented in a different order than the questions were asked

Unless otherwise noted, only statistically-significant differences that were outside the confidence interval for the overall estimated margin of sampling error have been reported in this presentation of key findings
The opinion environment was a fairly placid one with little to indicate that discontentment may have, in some way, been tainting views of I-275 or proposed changes to it.

Would you say that Hillsborough County is going in the right direction, or has it gotten off onto the wrong track?

**Political Climate**

www.FloridaOpinionResearch.com

All Materials and Intellectual Property ©2019 Florida Opinion Research

* Differences are not statistically significant
Nearly one-third of residents reported they were frequent users for intra-county travel, which indicates I-275 was viewed as a critical mobility asset in Hillsborough County, and many have a stake in its future.

**I-275 Usage**

How often do you travel on the portion of Interstate 275 that runs from downtown Tampa to Bearss Avenue for your work, commuting, personal errands or other needs?

**NOTABLE SUB-GROUP RESULTS:**
- 46% 18 to 44
- 42% African-Americans
- 41% Hispanics
- 45% Other races
- 38% 2 to 5 miles from I-275

Would you generally say that you travel on the portion of Interstate 275 that runs from downtown Tampa to Bearss Avenue mostly for travel within Hillsborough County or travel to other nearby adjacent counties?

- Hillsborough County: 75
- Other counties: 16
- Mixed (vol.): 7
- Unsure: 2
- Hillsborough County
- Other counties
- Mixed (vol.)
- Unsure

n=313
Although frequent users appeared to be most affected, prevalence of perceptions of congestion were widespread and consistent sentiment among most key segments of the community.

Generally speaking, how much of a problem would you say traffic congestion is on the portion of Interstate 275 that runs from downtown Tampa to Bearss Avenue?

* Differences are not statistically significant
The robust responses leave little room for ambiguity, as it appears that I-275 was viewed as an essential component of the County’s transportation infrastructure.

Do you generally agree or disagree that...

- Interstate 275 helps connect people to jobs and opportunities?
- Interstate 275 is a vital piece of the transportation network that must be preserved?
- Interstate 275 divides neighborhoods and is detrimental to the people who live nearby it?
- Interstate 275 is not vitally important, because there are other roads that can get you where you need to go?

General Sentiments

Do you generally agree or disagree that...
The sentiment about adverse effects of I-275 was strongest among those residing in closest proximity, but did not garner a majority among any sub-group.

Do you generally agree or disagree that...Interstate 275 divides neighborhoods and is detrimental to the people who live nearby it?

**Results By Area**
Awareness of possible changes to I-275 was consistently low among all major segments of the community, which means that views may change as more specific information is learned.

Plans and changes are being considered for the portion of Interstate 275 that runs through Hillsborough County from downtown Tampa to Bearss Avenue. How much news and information have you heard about this matter?

**Informed Awareness**

- **A lot**: 5
- **Some**: 28
- **Nothing**: 65
- **Unsure**: 1

33% Informed Awareness

---

**INFORMED AWARE SELECT KEY SUB-GROUP RESULTS**

- **Men**: 31
- **Women**: 36
- **Tampa**: 32
- **County (-Tampa)**: 34
- **Less than 2 miles from I-275**: 35
- **2 to 5 miles from I-275**: 31
- **More than 5 miles from I-275**: 35
- **Use I-275 frequently**: 32

* Differences are not statistically significant
Support for the boulevard concept did not receive a majority with any sub-group and opposition was consistent, including among those who have heard the most.

Would you support or oppose removing the section of Interstate 275 from downtown Tampa to Bearss Avenue…and replacing it with a boulevard connected to local streets and intersections…that would include dedicated lanes for public transit, bicycle and pedestrian paths, as well as landscaping and green space?

Support for the boulevard concept did not receive a majority with any sub-group and opposition was consistent, including among those who have heard the most.

Support for the boulevard concept did not receive a majority with any sub-group and opposition was consistent, including among those who have heard the most.

Would you support or oppose removing the section of Interstate 275 from downtown Tampa to Bearss Avenue…and replacing it with a boulevard connected to local streets and intersections…that would include dedicated lanes for public transit, bicycle and pedestrian paths, as well as landscaping and green space?

Support for the boulevard concept did not receive a majority with any sub-group and opposition was consistent, including among those who have heard the most.

Support for the boulevard concept did not receive a majority with any sub-group and opposition was consistent, including among those who have heard the most.

Would you support or oppose removing the section of Interstate 275 from downtown Tampa to Bearss Avenue…and replacing it with a boulevard connected to local streets and intersections…that would include dedicated lanes for public transit, bicycle and pedestrian paths, as well as landscaping and green space?

Support for the boulevard concept did not receive a majority with any sub-group and opposition was consistent, including among those who have heard the most.

Support for the boulevard concept did not receive a majority with any sub-group and opposition was consistent, including among those who have heard the most.

Would you support or oppose removing the section of Interstate 275 from downtown Tampa to Bearss Avenue…and replacing it with a boulevard connected to local streets and intersections…that would include dedicated lanes for public transit, bicycle and pedestrian paths, as well as landscaping and green space?

Support for the boulevard concept did not receive a majority with any sub-group and opposition was consistent, including among those who have heard the most.

Support for the boulevard concept did not receive a majority with any sub-group and opposition was consistent, including among those who have heard the most.

Would you support or oppose removing the section of Interstate 275 from downtown Tampa to Bearss Avenue…and replacing it with a boulevard connected to local streets and intersections…that would include dedicated lanes for public transit, bicycle and pedestrian paths, as well as landscaping and green space?

Support for the boulevard concept did not receive a majority with any sub-group and opposition was consistent, including among those who have heard the most.

Support for the boulevard concept did not receive a majority with any sub-group and opposition was consistent, including among those who have heard the most.

Would you support or oppose removing the section of Interstate 275 from downtown Tampa to Bearss Avenue…and replacing it with a boulevard connected to local streets and intersections…that would include dedicated lanes for public transit, bicycle and pedestrian paths, as well as landscaping and green space?

Support for the boulevard concept did not receive a majority with any sub-group and opposition was consistent, including among those who have heard the most.

Support for the boulevard concept did not receive a majority with any sub-group and opposition was consistent, including among those who have heard the most.

Would you support or oppose removing the section of Interstate 275 from downtown Tampa to Bearss Avenue…and replacing it with a boulevard connected to local streets and intersections…that would include dedicated lanes for public transit, bicycle and pedestrian paths, as well as landscaping and green space?

Support for the boulevard concept did not receive a majority with any sub-group and opposition was consistent, including among those who have heard the most.

Support for the boulevard concept did not receive a majority with any sub-group and opposition was consistent, including among those who have heard the most.

Would you support or oppose removing the section of Interstate 275 from downtown Tampa to Bearss Avenue…and replacing it with a boulevard connected to local streets and intersections…that would include dedicated lanes for public transit, bicycle and pedestrian paths, as well as landscaping and green space?

Support for the boulevard concept did not receive a majority with any sub-group and opposition was consistent, including among those who have heard the most.

Support for the boulevard concept did not receive a majority with any sub-group and opposition was consistent, including among those who have heard the most.

Would you support or oppose removing the section of Interstate 275 from downtown Tampa to Bearss Avenue…and replacing it with a boulevard connected to local streets and intersections…that would include dedicated lanes for public transit, bicycle and pedestrian paths, as well as landscaping and green space?

Support for the boulevard concept did not receive a majority with any sub-group and opposition was consistent, including among those who have heard the most.

Support for the boulevard concept did not receive a majority with any sub-group and opposition was consistent, including among those who have heard the most.

Would you support or oppose removing the section of Interstate 275 from downtown Tampa to Bearss Avenue…and replacing it with a boulevard connected to local streets and intersections…that would include dedicated lanes for public transit, bicycle and pedestrian paths, as well as landscaping and green space?

Support for the boulevard concept did not receive a majority with any sub-group and opposition was consistent, including among those who have heard the most.

Support for the boulevard concept did not receive a majority with any sub-group and opposition was consistent, including among those who have heard the most.

Would you support or oppose removing the section of Interstate 275 from downtown Tampa to Bearss Avenue…and replacing it with a boulevard connected to local streets and intersections…that would include dedicated lanes for public transit, bicycle and pedestrian paths, as well as landscaping and green space?
The proposal did not garner a majority anywhere within the County, including, most notably, among those most proximal to the proposed site of the boulevard.

Would you support or oppose removing the section of Interstate 275 from downtown Tampa to Bearss Avenue…and replacing it with a boulevard connected to local streets and intersections…that would include dedicated lanes for public transit, bicycle and pedestrian paths, as well as landscaping and green space?

**Results By Area**
A plurality, including those who lived closest, appeared to be concerned about the effect it will have on their mobility and commuting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>39%</td>
<td>Increased congestion on local streets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28%</td>
<td>The loss of vital routes for employment and other travel needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7%</td>
<td>Reduced public safety and evacuation routes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21%</td>
<td>Combination (vol.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2%</td>
<td>Other (vol.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3%</td>
<td>Unsure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which of the following would you say is the biggest reason that you oppose removing Interstate 275?

*Sub-group differences may not be statistically significant for this measure due to the structure of the question and multiplicity of values for the variables.

**Forced Choice Battery**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>n=251</th>
<th><a href="http://www.FloridaOpinionResearch.com">www.FloridaOpinionResearch.com</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>@PFallonResearch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTABLE SUB-GROUP RESULTS:**
- 47% African-Americans
- 46% District 3
- 45% Informed/aware
- 44% Do not use I-275

- 34% District 4
- 35% Less than 2 miles from I-275
Would you support or oppose improving the section of Interstate 275 from downtown Tampa to Bearss Avenue...by adding more lanes...easier access to Interstate 4 ...creating widened shoulders for public transit...as well as sound barrier walls for the benefit of the adjacent neighborhoods?

Support for improving I-275 was exceptionally high and consistent, signaling that there is a clear mandate for steps to be taken.

- **Support**: 84%
- **Oppose**: 10%
- **Unsure**: 6%

**Support Select Key Sub-Group Results**

- 18 to 44: 90%
- 45 to 64: 88%
- 65 and older: 73%
- Whites*: 85%
- African-Americans*: 85%
- Hispanics*: 85%
- Other races*: 79%
- Men*: 86%
- Women*: 82%
- Use I-275 frequently*: 89%
- Not informed/aware: 87%

*Differences are not statistically significant*
With support above 70 percent in every area, improving I-275 was a highly popular notion that residents appeared quite eager to embrace.

Would you support or oppose improving the section of Interstate 275 from downtown Tampa to Bearss Avenue...by adding more lanes...easier access to Interstate 4...creating widened shoulders for public transit...as well as sound barrier walls for the benefit of the adjacent neighborhoods?

Results By Area

Support 84%
Oppose 10%
Unsure 6%

Tampa residents: 78%
District 1: 85%
District 2: 84%
District 3: 75%
District 4: 90%
County (-Tampa): 86%

Less than 2 miles to I-275: 73%
2 to 5 miles to I-275: 87%
More than 5 miles to I-275: 86%

* Differences are not statistically significant
The prospect of reducing congestion weighed most heavily in support of improving I-275, which could be expected given perceptions of congestion on it.

43%  Relieve current traffic congestion

34%  Expand it to meet future needs as growth occurs

8%   Increase public safety

14%  Combination (vol.)

1%   Unsure

Which of the following would you say is the biggest reason that you support improving Interstate 275?

* Sub-group differences may not be statistically significant for this measure due to the structure of the question and multiplicity of values for the variables

n=337

NOTABLE SUB-GROUP RESULTS:

- 53% Hispanics
- 53% District 3
- 51% Less than 2 miles from I-275

NOTABLE SUB-GROUP RESULTS:

- 40% Informed/aware
- 46% African-Americans
Leaving little interpretation, the vast majority believed that the best way to improve transportation was a 2-pronged approach of better interstates and transit

79% To create a better transportation system, we should improve our interstates and also invest in transit options

15% To create a better transportation system, we should stop spending any money on interstates and only invest in transit, instead

4% Combination (vol.)

0% No need to create better system (vol.)

3% Unsure

Which opinion comes closest to your view?

Better System*

NOTABLE SUB-GROUP RESULTS:
83% Support improving I-275
72% Support replacing I-275
83% I-275 congestion is very big problem
83% Use I-275 frequently

NOTABLE SUB-GROUP RESULTS:
37% Oppose improving I-275
13% Oppose replacing I-275
22% I-275 congestion is not a problem

* Sub-group differences may not be statistically significant for this measure due to the structure of the question and multiplicity of values for the variables
A hypothetical juxtaposition of the concepts showed that the public vastly preferred improving I-275 over a boulevard and most wanted something done, rather than nothing.

VERSION A: Removing the section of Interstate 275 from downtown Tampa to Bearss Avenue and replacing it with a boulevard…or…improving 11 miles of Interstate 275?

VERSION B: Removing the section of Interstate 275 from downtown Tampa to Bearss Avenue and replacing it with a boulevard…or…improving 11 miles of Interstate 275…or do nothing and leave it as it is?

Supposing for a moment that you could choose, would you prefer…

* The response option “Do nothing and leave it as it is” was not explicitly offered in Version A.
Supposing for a moment that an elected official representing your area voted to improve Interstate 275, would you be more or less likely to re-elect him or her, or would it make no difference in your decision?

In regards to impact on voters, the issue appears to make little difference to most voters who support improving I-275.