

Pioneer Valley Self-identification Survey (2022)

In 2022, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission staff conducted a survey on public participation methods used by the agency. The survey was distributed to representatives of groups and organizations that are frequently consulted. The representatives surveyed also include members of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC), the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The goal of the survey was to understand how individuals prefer to participate in meetings and which methods of outreach were most effective. Most respondents to the survey indicated that they receive PVPC meeting information most efficiently through email, rather than paper. The survey also included a series of questions regarding virtual meetings and how to improve the experience for their participants. Respondents indicated that they were satisfied with the format of meetings held on the Zoom platform and that this is an efficient way to hold virtual meetings. Many said they would like to see more peer presentations given during these virtual meetings. These insights are valuable to improve the public participation experience and to increase accessibility of the tools being used. The survey also included questions on racial and ethnic demographics. The response to self-identification of race and ethnicity is summarized in Table 1 and Table 2.

Table 1: Survey Question of Race: “How do you self-identify by race? (Select all that apply.)”

Organizational Body	Responses		American Indian or Alaskan	Asian	Black or African American	Nat Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	White	Prefer not to say	Other (please specify)
	Pioneer Valley MPO	7.84%	4	0%	0%	0%	0%	50%	50%
PVPC Executive Committee	3.92%	2	0%	0%	0%	0%	50%	0%	50%
PVPC Commission/ or Appointed Rep	21.57%	11	0%	9%	9%	0%	73%	0%	9%
Joint Transportation Committee (JTC)	19.61%	10	0%	0%	10%	0%	60%	30%	0%
JTC Bicycle, Pedestrian Advisory Committee	11.76%	6	0%	0%	0%	0%	67%	33%	0%
New England Knowledge Corridor Part.	3.92%	2	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
PVTA Advisory Board	1.96%	1	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
Plan for Progress Coordinating Council	11.76%	6	0%	0%	17%	0%	83%	0%	0%
CT River Stormwater Committee	3.92%	2	0%	0%	0%	0%	50%	50%	0%
No affiliation	39.22%	20	0%	0%	0%	0%	90%	5%	5%
Other (please specify)	13.73%	7	0%	0%	14%	0%	86%	0%	0%

Table 2: Survey Question of Ethnicity, “Are you Hispanic or Latino/Latina.”

Affiliation	No	Prefer not to say	Yes	Responses	
Pioneer Valley MPO	2	1	1	4	6%
PVPC Executive Committee	1	1	0	2	3%
Joint Transportation Committee (JTC)	8	1	1	10	14%
JTC Bicycle, Pedestrian Advisory Committee	5	1	0	6	8%
PVPC Commissioner/ Appointed Rep.	10	1	0	11	15%
New England Knowledge Corridor Partnership	2	0	0	2	3%
PVTA Advisory Board	1	0	0	1	1%
Plan for Progress Coordinating Council	5	0	1	6	8%
Connecticut River Stormwater Committee	2	0	0	2	3%
No affiliation	19	1	0	20	28%
Count of Other (please specify)	6	0	1	7	10%
Totals	61	6	4	71	100%