

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 4



City and County of San Francisco

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**SUPERVISOR KATY TANG ANNOUNCES FINDINGS OF CHILD TRANSPORTATION
SURVEY**

Survey targeted parents of public, private and parochial school children grades K-5 to shed light on major school and after-school commute challenges

Supervisor Katy Tang today announced [findings of the child transportation survey](#) and was joined by her partners in this effort including Supervisor Jeff Sheehy, the Mayor's office, the San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA), and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA). The goal of the study is to provide a comprehensive analysis of the various transportation challenges San Francisco families and caregivers with children grades K-5 face every day, and to identify potential solutions to help mitigate school commute difficulties. The survey was conducted last year and was developed by outside consultant Fall Line Analytics.

"My purpose in leading the effort on this survey was to get citywide data on the experiences of our parents during their daily commutes," said Supervisor Tang. "We have always heard anecdotally that parents were frustrated with trying to get their children to and from school and afterschool programs, but we have never had any citywide quantitative information that can inform policies and programs going forward."

The survey results and report paint a picture of the difficult school commute that many San Francisco parents of young children experience daily. The majority of parents are driving their children to school and afterschool programs, which causes localized congestion around schools during pickup and drop-off times.

"I want to thank Supervisor Tang for taking on an important issue facing public school parents. My daughter just started middle school and each day our family travels from Glen Park to the north side of the City," said Supervisor Jeff Sheehy. "This survey gives voice to parents who are now adding transportation to the ever growing list of challenges we face in sending our kids to public schools."

For 65% of parents, school is not on the way to work, and they drive to work after drop-off. Because more than half of parents have children in aftercare and are picking their children up during rush hour, parents feel their aftercare choices are restricted and make aftercare placement decisions based exclusively on transportation.

"These results underscore the need for the city to combat the achievement gap between students of different ethnicities by supporting parents of color who are struggling to get their kids to school and to get themselves to work on time," said Christina Feliciano, parent of a 10 year old. "These same children are restricted from after school enrichment activities because of a lack of transportation. We can do better. We must to improve the lives of all families in San Francisco."

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“This study really highlights the need for San Francisco families to be better supported in their transportation and parenting needs,” said Rosi Bustamante, parent of two children ages 12 and 14. Their family lives without a car in the Mission/Noe Valley area and their children have always attended public schools. “Being a parent in a city with so much traffic and so few childcare and enrichment options makes transportation a major barrier to better experiences growing up in this urban area.”

The survey also showed that a majority of parents are strongly supportive of the government intervening to improve school commutes. Those seeking alternative commutes are most interested in buses, shuttles, or carpools – and are the least interested in bicycling.

“The results of the survey provide the data that backs up a lot of what we already knew, including that families are making difficult choices every day about how they move through our city,” said Supervisor Tang. “The reality is that if we want to keep families in San Francisco, we will need to provide real transportation solutions that get children to and from school and afterschool programs, and make it easier for parents to get to work. The ultimate goal would be to improve the daily commute for families, reduce stress, remove congestion around our schools, and increase the ability for parents to choose the great afterschool programs that are offered in academics, sports, and the arts.”

The survey results were distilled from 1,746 valid, completed surveys in three languages, including English, Spanish and Chinese. The survey was created through three focus groups attended by parents and caregivers. The survey was then distributed via social media, email and paper copies to parents and caregivers over a period of six weeks in May and June of last year.

Visit the Child Transportation Study survey results online at www.sfcta.org/child-transportation-study.

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