NEXTGEN HIGHWAYS

March 2023

Minnesota Survey Summary

When new electric transmission lines are needed, by wide margins, Minnesotans want them built in existing right-of-way corridors.

- Seventy-nine percent of people surveyed prefer the use of existing corridors compared to just three percent who prefer private lands.

By similar numbers, Minnesotans want transmission lines built on the state's highways and Interstates and would more likely support their development.

- A vast majority of Minnesotans, 77%, would support needed electric transmission lines being built on highway and interstate right-of-way (ROW) with just four percent not supporting.
- By a margin of 43% to 6%, Minnesotans are more likely to support transmission line development if they are placed in highway and interstate corridors.

When asked if they support necessary policy changes to allow for the permitting and building of new transmission lines in highway right-of-way, a clear majority or residents expressed support.

- 62% of residents would support policy changes to allow for electric transmission lines to be placed in highway ROW.

Minnesotans also believe the climate is changing and the issue is important to a clear majority

- 65% said the climate is changing and 26% responded it is not.
- The same 65% of respondents said the issue of climate change is important to them while 16% said it was not important at all.

Residents also understand the important role transmission has in the energy delivery system

- Nearly 70% of Minnesotans believe that transmission lines are an important component of the energy system that delivers electricity.
- 47% support the development of new transmission lines with just 8% opposed to new transmission lines.

Public Policy Polling interviewed 684 registered voters in Minnesota from February 21-22. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 3.8%. 33% of the interviews were conducted via telephone and 67% were conducted via text message.

About NextGen Highways

The NextGen Highways is a collaborative initiative promoting the use of highways and other existing rights-of-way as infrastructure corridors where electric and communications infrastructure are strategically and safely co-located in existing highway right-of-way. Learn more at http://www.NextGenHighways.org