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Car congestion having a greater impact on travel choices, say GVRD residents

- ✓ GVRD residents broadly agree that **car congestion is becoming worse** in the region. About eight-in-ten say that auto congestion in the Lower Mainland is not getting better or even staying the same, but has increased in the past year.
- ✓ Furthermore, almost half of residents tell us that their **driving or travel habits have changed in the past year** due to traffic congestion and/or higher gas prices.
- ✓ Those who have changed their habits are taking a number of different actions more than in the past. The most **common changes** are:
 - **Shopping more often locally** (84%)
 - **Varying** their commuting or travel **schedule** to avoid peak rush hours (83%)
 - Looking for **alternate routes** that are less congested (81%)
 - **Listening to road reports** before leaving (67%), and especially those who live in the suburbs (73%)
 - Other actions being taken include:
 - Walking or riding bicycles instead of using a car (55%)
 - Eliminating some trips completely (54%)
 - Carpooling to take advantage of HOV lanes (42%)
 - Using public transit more (37%), especially COV residents (52% vs. 30% of suburbanites)
 - Telecommuting or working more from home, however, has increased for 13% of those who have changed their travel habits; representing almost 20% of commuters who have changed their habits in the past year due to traffic congestion and/or gas prices.
- ✓ When asked which is having a greater impact on driving habits, **traffic congestion is more influential than gas prices** (47% vs. 33%; 19% say both have equal influence).
- ✓ **Life in the commuter lane ...** GVRD commuters report:
 - Currently, the **average commute time is 30 minutes**.
 - Over one-third says their **commute time has increased in the past year**; in the suburbs over four-in-ten say their commuting time has increased.
 - Among those experiencing longer commutes, the **average increase** in commuting time is **14 minutes longer**.

Survey conducted:	August 31-September 2, 2007
Methodology:	Random sample of 413 GVRD residents; adults aged 18+
Margin of error:	±4.8% at the 95% confidence level
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