

Dogs on Trams Public Consultation

March 2025

Introduction

A consultation was carried out to understand the public's opinion on changing the tram conditions of carriage to allow non-assistance dogs onto trams without being in a carry cage. Currently, non-assistance dogs are allowed freely on buses and trains in South Yorkshire.

The 4 week consultation opened on 3rd February 2025 and closed on 3rd March 2025, with the closing date for paper responses being 10th March 2025.

For the rest of the report, the expression 'dogs on trams' will be used instead of the full meaning 'non-assistance dogs on trams without being in a carry cage'.

Key Points

- The consultation received 10,634 responses, an average of 380 a day
- 81% of respondents lived in Sheffield, with 9% from Rotherham, 3% from Barnsley and 3% from Doncaster
- Over half of respondents (56%) had at least 1 non-assistance dog, 42% did not have a dog and 2% had an assistance dog
- 75% of respondents either agree or strongly agree with allowing dogs on trams, 23% either disagree or strongly disagree
- 45% of respondents would get the tram more often if dogs were allowed on trams, 18% would get the tram less often
- Over half of respondents (53%) would support a dog travel pass, and 36% would support a small annual fee for this pass
- The most popular personal benefit to allowing dogs on trams was a fully integrated transport network (93% of the 5,683 respondents who were asked)
- The most frequently cited personal impact to allowing dogs on trams was worse smells (75% of the 2,399 respondents who were asked), messier trams (72%) and less space around dogs (69%)

Results

1. In the last year, 91% of respondents had used the tram, 9% had not.

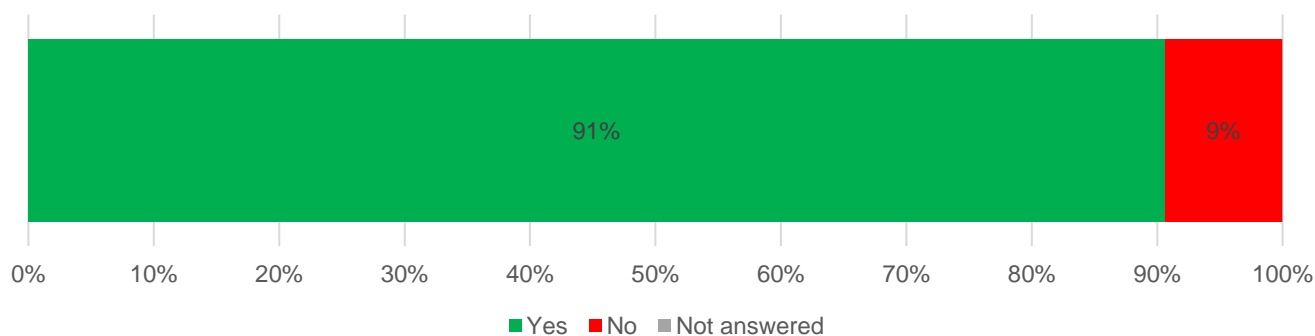


Figure 1. Had respondents used the tram in the last year

2. Figure 2 shows the frequency that respondents currently use the tram.

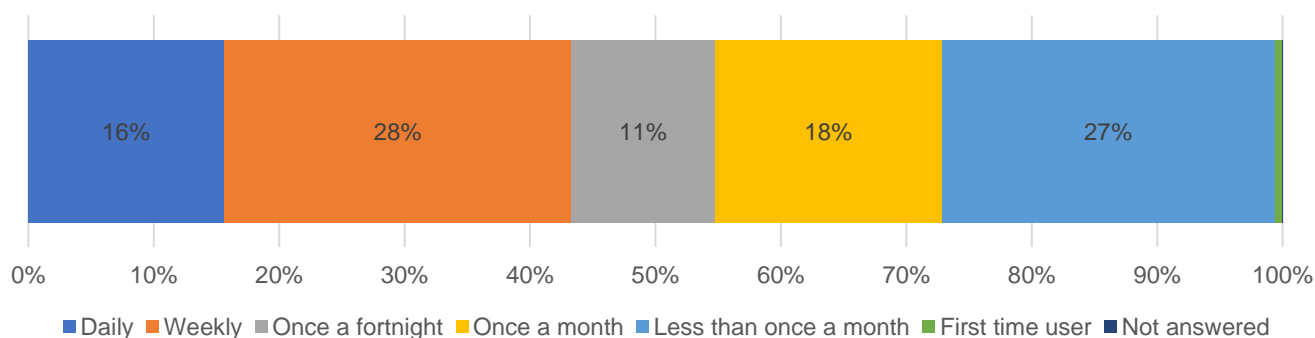


Figure 2. Frequency of tram use

3. Just over half of the respondents (56%) currently have a non-assistance dog, 42% do not have a dog and 2% (219 respondents) have an assistance dog.

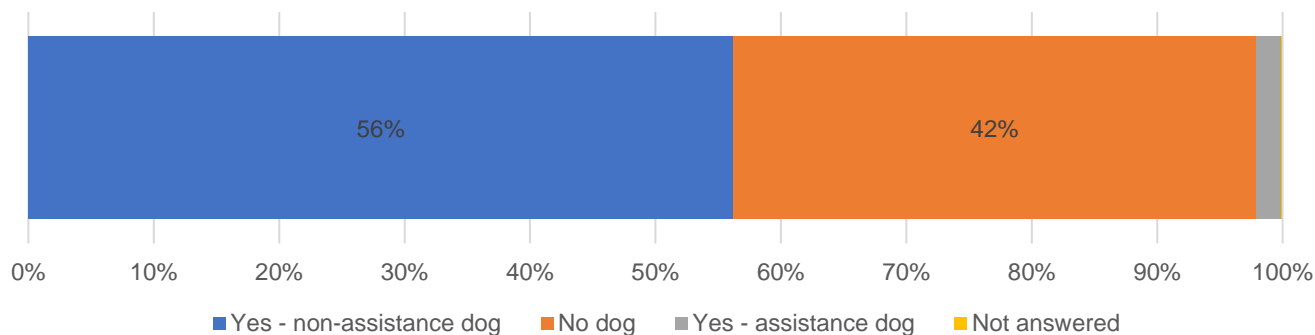


Figure 3. Do respondents currently have at least one dog

4. Respondents were asked if they thought that non-assistance dogs should be allowed on trams without needing to be held in a carry cage; 60% strongly agree, 15% agree, 2% neither agree or disagree, 5% disagree and 18% strongly disagree.

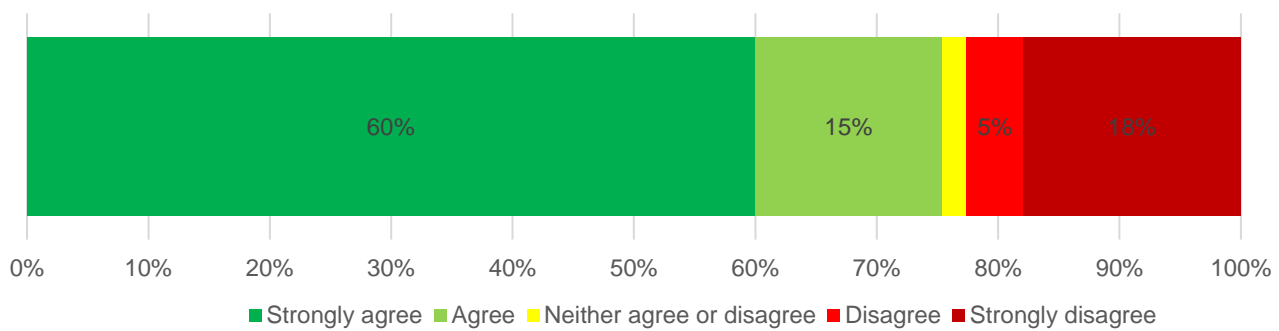


Figure 4. Responses to allowing dogs on trams

5. If dogs were allowed on trams, 45% of respondents would use the tram more often, 33% would not change how often they used the tram, 18% would use the tram less often and 4% did not know.

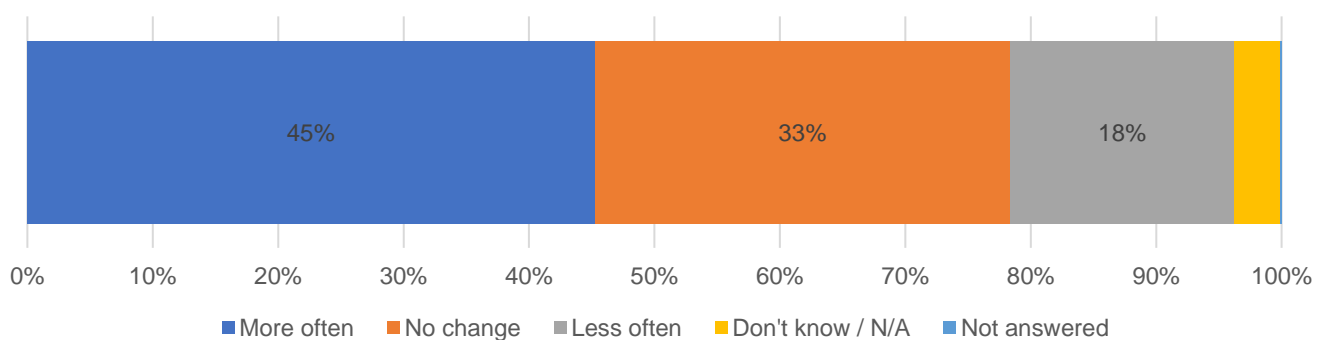


Figure 5. Change in tram usage if dogs were allowed on trams

6. Respondents were given a free text box to explain their thoughts on dogs on trams:
- 88% of respondents wrote something in the free text box (9,328 responses)
 - Among respondents who agreed with dogs on trams, the common themes were about dogs already being allowed on buses and trains, dogs helping vulnerable people, the tram being a preferred mode of transport to buses or trains, and dogs on leads
 - The most common themes from respondents who disagreed with dogs on trams were about allergies, public safety (including dog bites), fear of dogs and dog owners having no control or being irresponsible
 - Interactions of assistance dogs and non-assistance dogs was also raised frequently
7. Over half of respondents (53%) would support the introduction of a dog travel pass to permit customers to bring their dogs on board the trams, 16% did not know and 30% would not support a pass.

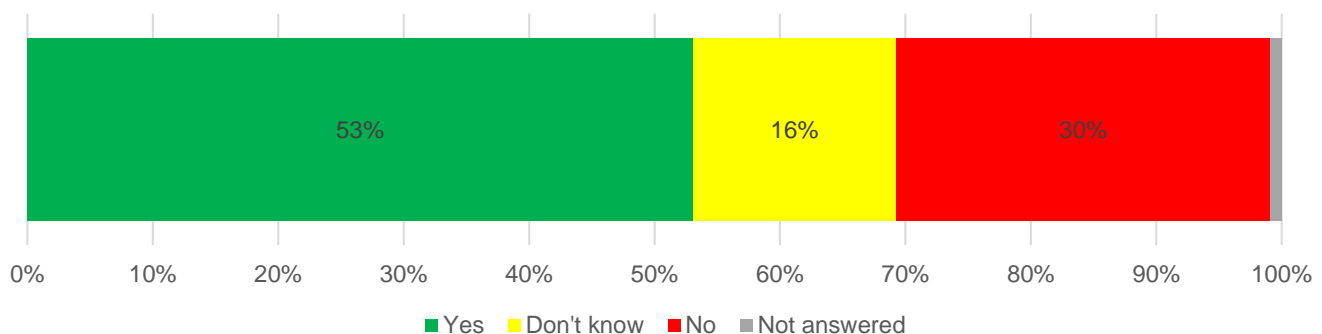


Figure 6. Support for introduction of dog travel passes

8. The respondents who would support, or did not know if they would support, the introduction of a dog travel pass were asked if they would support a small annual fee for the pass:
- 7,365 respondents (69% of the total) were asked this question
 - Half of these respondents (52%) would support paying for the travel pass, 20% did not know and 27% would not support paying

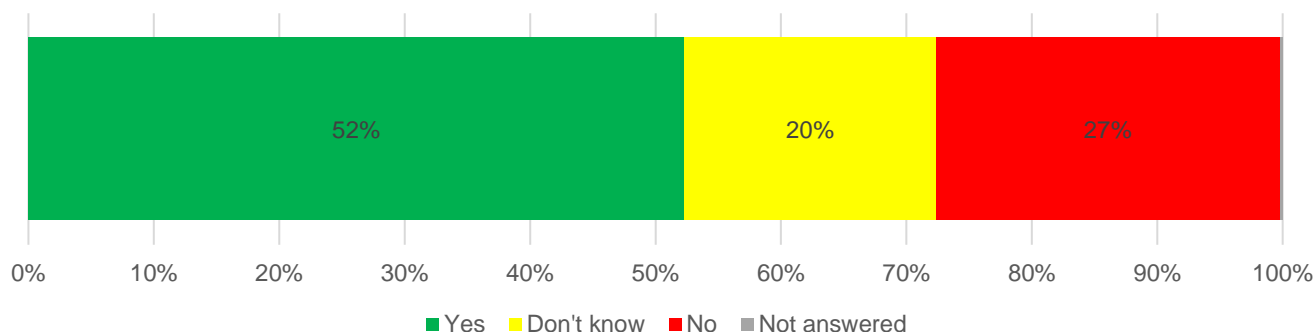


Figure 7. Support for a payment for the dog travel passes

9. Respondents who agreed or strongly agreed with allowing dogs on trams were asked what were the personal benefits of allowing dogs on a tram (multiple choice), the results are shown in Figure 8.

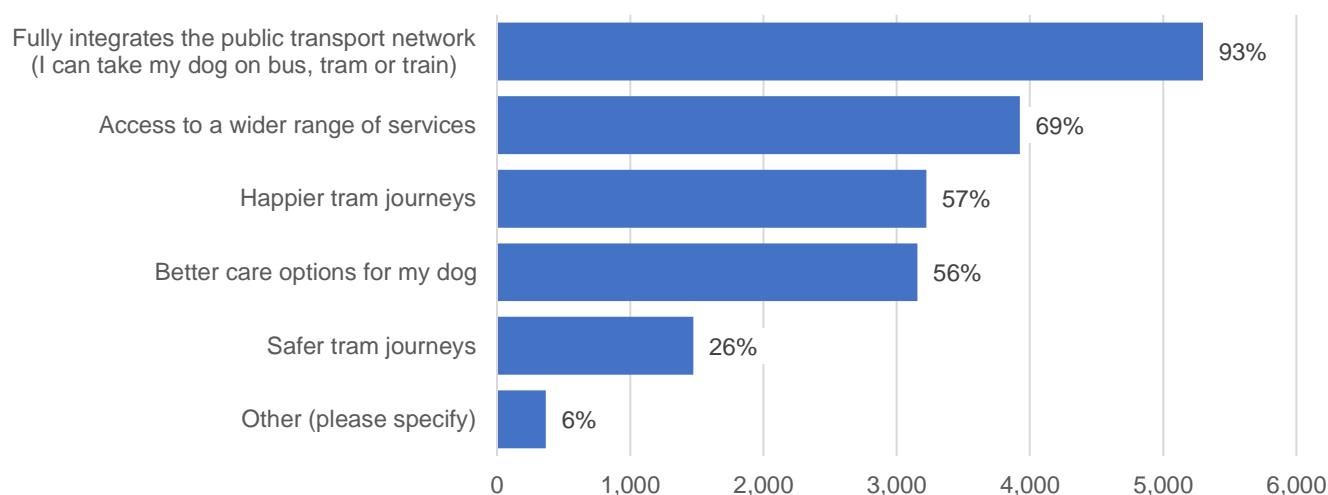


Figure 8. Personal benefits to dogs on trams

10. Respondents who disagreed or strongly disagreed with allowing dogs on trams were asked what were the personal impacts of allowing dogs on trams (multiple choice), the results are shown in Figure 9.
- Other answers were about hearing dogs barking, risk of being harmed/bitten and tripping on dogs/leads

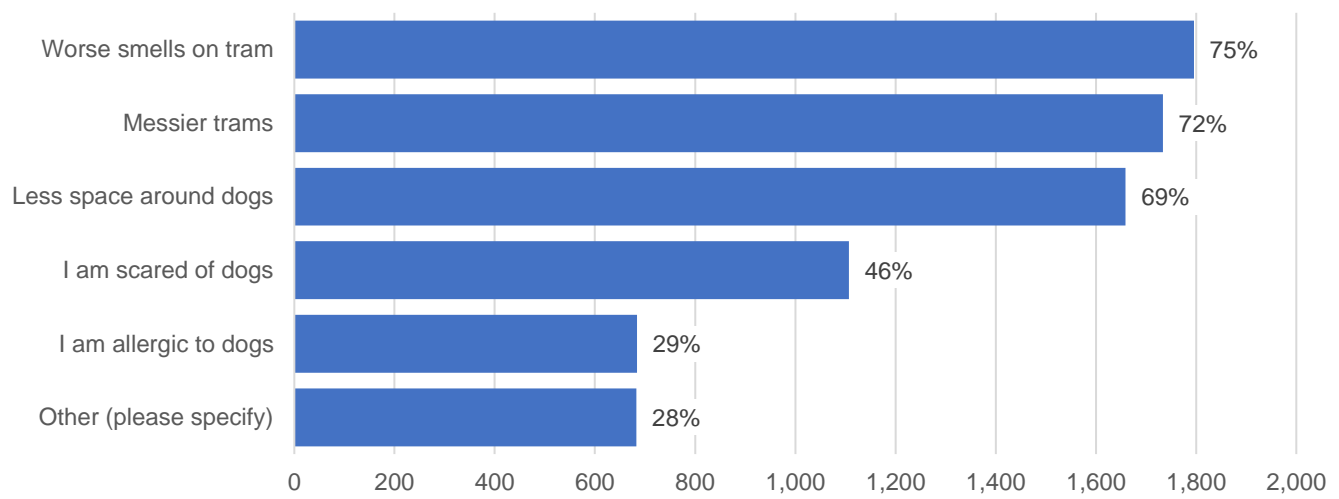


Figure 9. Personal impacts of dogs on trams

Demographics

11. Nearly a quarter of respondents (24%) were aged 25-34 years old; about a third (34%) were aged 16-34, 33% were aged 35-54 and 30% were aged over 55.

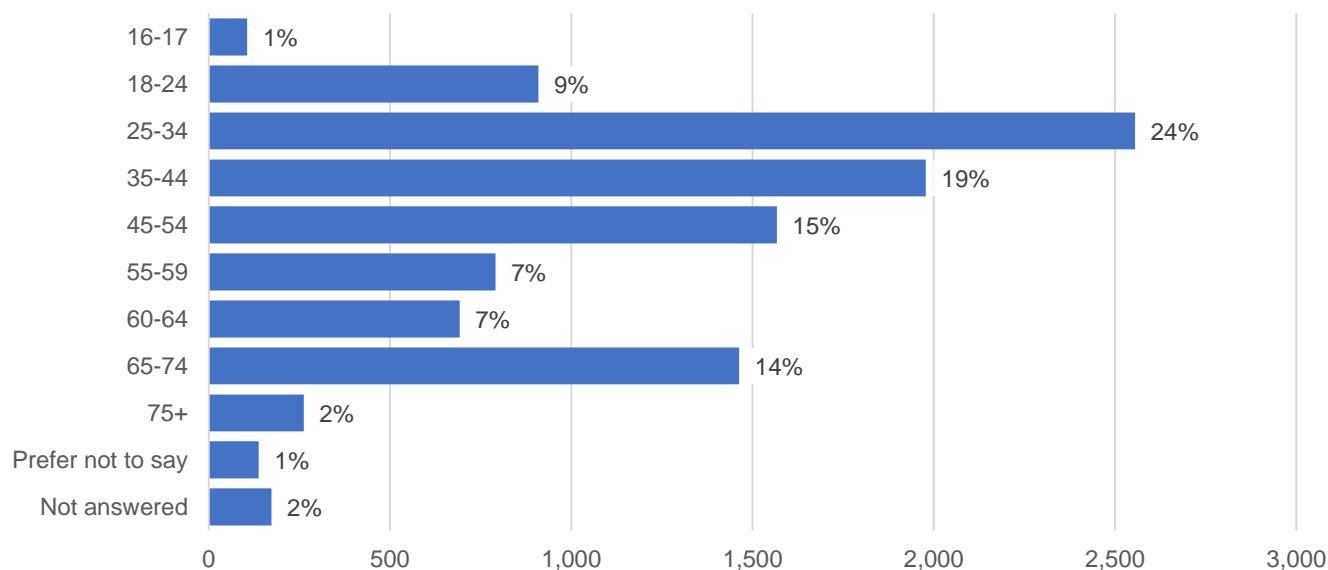


Figure 10. Ages of respondents

12. More than 4 in 5 respondents (81%) lived in Sheffield, with 9% living in Rotherham, overall 96% of respondents lived in South Yorkshire. Of the 274 respondents who lived outside of South Yorkshire:
- 102 lived in either Chesterfield, Dronfield, Derbyshire or North East Derbyshire
 - 28 lived in either Leeds, Huddersfield, Wakefield or West Yorkshire
 - Responses were received from Scotland, Cardiff, Norwich, Sussex and Bavaria (Germany)

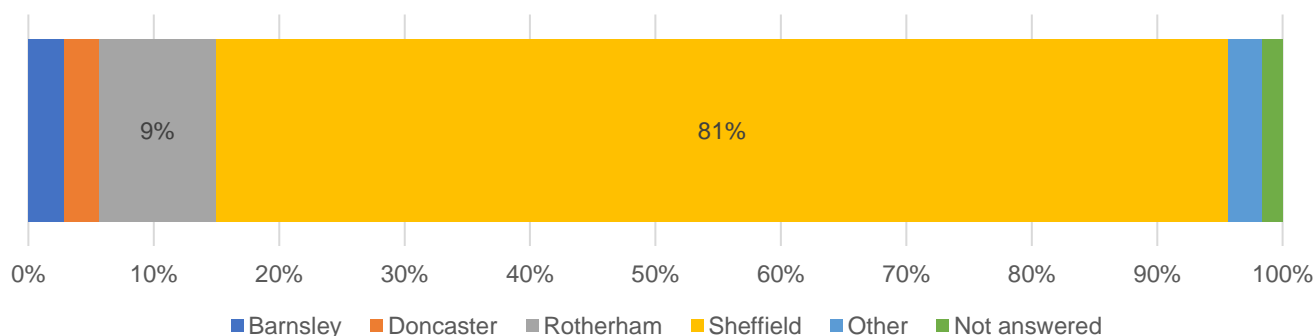


Figure 11. Where respondents came from

13. Respondents were asked if their day-to-day activities were limited because of a long-term health problem, impairment or disability; 71% of respondents said they were not limited, 24% said they were limited in some way, 4% preferred not to say.

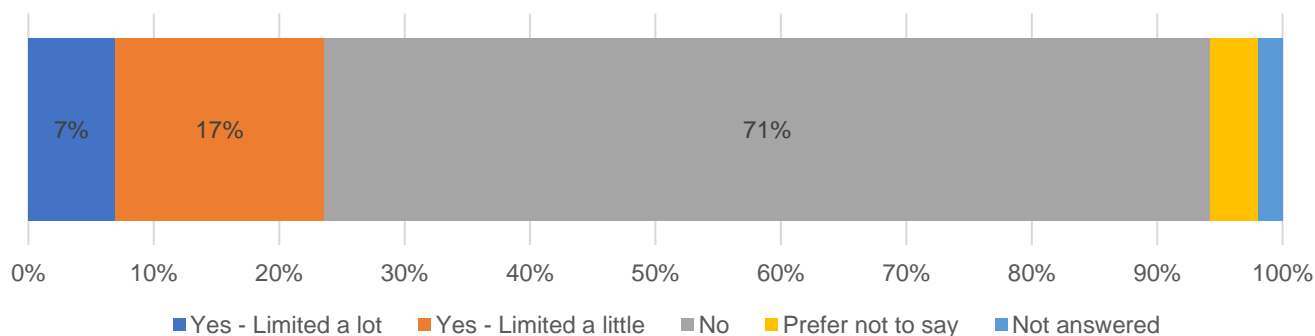


Figure 12. Limitations of respondents in day-to-day activities