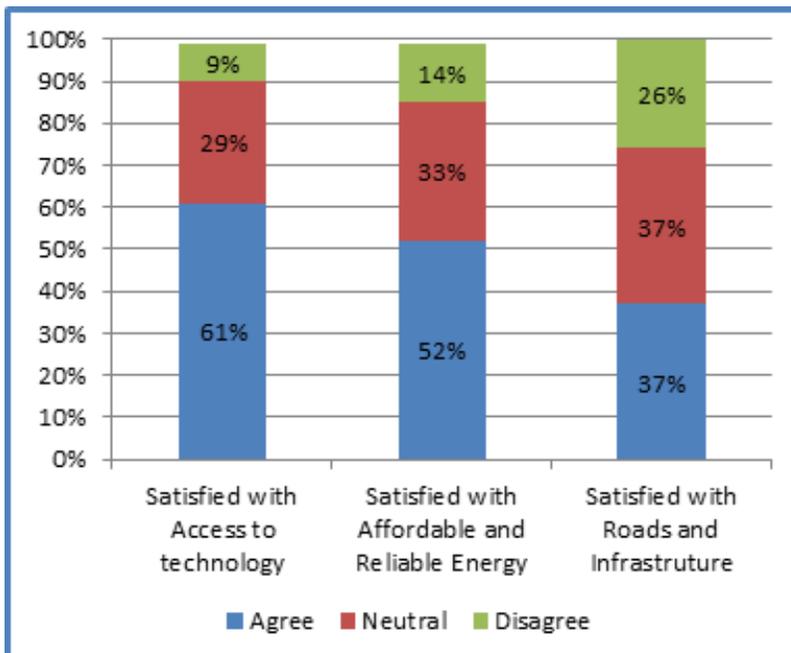


Connecting through Infrastructure

What the research revealed:

Gallup's research also focused on the infrastructure that Missouri's business community needs to grow and be competitive. The research revealed that basic infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, is a prevalent concern of employers, especially industries that depend on roads and airports for the movement of goods. Gallup concluded that, "business owners that operate day-to-day in the state feel aging infrastructure as an increasing challenge for their operations." Respondents were 61 percent satisfied with their access to technology as compared to only 37 percent satisfaction with basic infrastructure, including roads. Transportation was one of the few areas where responses differed based on geography. The Gallup research showed that business owners in the St. Louis area were more satisfied with transportation infrastructure than those in other areas of the state.

Satisfied With Infrastructure



The site selectors interviewed by Gallup were quick to cite location as strength for Missouri. One stated, "Especially in manufacturing, my decision is made 65 percent by logistics and supply chain dynamics. Customers are expecting their goods faster and faster and shipping times are decreasing."

Another site selector commented, "Missouri has so many strengths by default in its central location and needs to take better advantage of these."

Gallup concluded that leveraging Missouri's location through strategic policy making and investment would be a smart move for the state.

Connecting through Infrastructure

How Missouri 2030 can help Missouri connect:

Missouri has always enjoyed a logistics advantage due to its central location, navigable rivers and strong railroad and interstate highway systems. Infrastructure for the future, including global and domestic air connectivity, passenger rail, public-transit service to improve employee mobility, digital coverage and speed can position Missouri as a hub for commerce in the Midwest. At the same time, Missouri enjoys low energy costs. This is an asset that Missouri must actively protect and promote.

Goal – Leverage Missouri’s natural competitive advantage of location by investing in strong transportation infrastructure.

ACTION STEPS:

- Utilizing an analysis of Missouri’s long-term revenue and spending projections, identify how much investment can be made in infrastructure through existing revenue growth.
- Analyze how much additional funding is required to meet needs and conduct polling to see what funding methods or combination of funding methods Missourians will support.
- Focus transportation infrastructure investment priorities on the most leveraged areas for productivity and economic growth.
- Employing the above data, develop a long-range plan for sustainable infrastructure funding.
- Support the Missouri Department of Transportation’s freight plan, and improve freight mobility and connections between roads, rail and ports.

Goal – Expand Missouri’s logistics capacity for domestic and international trade.

ACTION STEPS:

- Create an alliance called Missouri 2030: Trade to bring together current exporters, prospective exporters and international trade professionals to share best practices and develop an actionable plan to grow international trade.
- Support efforts of the Midwest Cargo Hub Commission to create an international air cargo hub at Lambert Airport in St. Louis.
- Partner with corporations to develop a “Made in Missouri” campaign and help Missouri employers to network and learn more about exporting their products.

Goal – Protect Missouri’s advantage as a low-cost energy and utility state.

ACTION STEPS:

- Engage in legislative, agency and legal activity that impacts energy production and distribution.
- Work with business leaders, energy providers, community leaders and elected to establish a collaborative, long-term plan to address Missouri’s future energy and utility needs.

Goal – Develop a competitive advantage in broadband coverage and speed.

- Work with communities, state and local governments and broadband providers to stimulate broadband use. Minimize regulations and rules, which may impede the deployment.
- Support grant programs to provide assistance for consumers, education institutions, and libraries to purchase broadband service/equipment by working with Regional Economic Development Planning Councils.