

ITEM 8 – Information

September 18, 2019

Briefing on the 2019 State of the Commute Report

Background:

Every three years since 2001, Commuter Connections has conducted a random sample survey of employed persons in the Metropolitan Washington Region to monitor trends in commuting behavior such as mode shares, telecommuting, and distance traveled, as well as attitudes about commuter assistance services. The Board will be briefed on the highlights from the 2019 State of the Commute Survey.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board
FROM: Nicholas Ramfos, Transportation Operations Programs Director
SUBJECT: 2019 State of the Commute (SOC) Survey Highlights
DATE: September 12, 2019

The 2019 State of the Commute (SOC) Survey was conducted between January and April this year. This survey is conducted every three years and is the seventh in a series dating back to 2001. The SOC documents trends in commuting patterns, such as commute mode shares and distance traveled, and prevalent attitudes about transportation services that are available in the region. It also examines how commute alternative programs and marketing efforts might influence commute travel behavior of workers in the region. The SOC survey also collects data needed to estimate the impacts of Commuter Connections. Finally, the survey explores commuters' opinions about and interest in current transportation initiatives. The TPB will be presented with the draft results of the survey (the presentation will be available prior to the September 18 TPB meeting).

The geographic scope of COG's responsibility encompasses the 11 independent cities and counties that make up the Washington metropolitan non-attainment region. 3,138,443 employed residents who lived within this geographic area were eligible for selection in the study.

The 2019 survey was conducted in two components that included an address-based sampling (ABS) method involving a postcard survey invitation mailed to selected addresses asking employed adult residents to complete the survey through the web. A telephone "follow-up" survey was also conducted to a sample of employed adult residents who had received the postcard survey invitation, but who did not complete the web survey. A total of 8,246 interviews were completed for the survey, including 7,808 from the internet survey and 438 through the telephone survey.

Upon completion of the interviews, the internet and telephone survey data were combined, and responses were expanded to represent the employed population of the jurisdictions. The results were adjusted to align survey results to known race/ethnicity and age distributions. ACS population statistics for combinations of employment status, race/ethnicity, and age by jurisdiction were used to calculate values that expanded the sample to counts of employed residents with correct representations by age and race/ethnicity.

A draft Technical Report was prepared and presented to the Commuter Connections Subcommittee on July 16, 2019. After a comment period, a revised final draft report was prepared for review and endorsement for release by the Commuter Connections Subcommittee on September 17. The report can be found at this [link](#). A report for the public will be prepared and published by August 2020.