

# CATS

## Partners in Progress Meeting

Results for Fox Lake Area Chamber of Commerce  
Fox Lake, Illinois

June, 2005



Chicago Area Transportation Study  
300 West Adams  
Chicago, IL 60606  
(312) 793-3460  
[www.catsmpo.com](http://www.catsmpo.com)



## **Public Outreach Report**

### **Fox Lake Area Chamber of Commerce Fox Lake, Illinois**

**June, 2005**

On February 22, 2005, the Chicago Area Transportation Study teamed up with the Fox Lake Area Chamber of Commerce to continue our regional outreach initiative, the "Partners in Progress" transportation luncheon in McHenry County. The event was held at Dino's Den in Fox Lake.

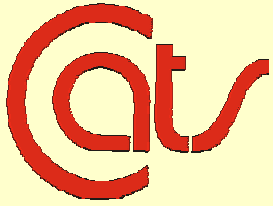
The purpose of this meeting was to educate and seek feedback from local businesses, elected officials and other stakeholders on the transportation planning process.

Featured speakers at the luncheon were Tom Murtha, Chief Transportation Planner with CATS; Ed Wilson, Area Programmer with IDOT District I; and Bruce Christensen, Transportation Coordinator with the Lake County Division of Transportation.

CATS would like to thank Bridget Montano, President of Fox Lake Area Chamber, and Debbie Mikesch, Executive Secretary at the chamber, for reaching out to their members and recognizing the importance of transportation in their area.

Guests filled out a brief Transportation Opinion Survey to give feedback on transportation related concerns and issues in the Fox Lake area. It is our intent to provide each community we visit with this survey to better understand transportation strengths, deficiencies and needs from a local perspective. There were 32 surveys returned. Survey results can be found on the following pages.





## Fox Lake Transportation Opinion Survey Results

The following conclusions are to be regarded as general in nature. The results are not a product of rigorous quantitative or qualitative analysis. In several instances, the survey offered multiple options for answers, and as expected most respondents chose more than one option. Therefore, the responses to some questions add up to more than 100 percent.

The number of people completing the Transportation Opinion Survey in Fox Lake was 32: 15 males and 17 females. The average age of the respondents is 52 years, with the youngest being 18 and the oldest 85. Eighty-one percent said they are employed, and 19 percent said they are retired. Six percent said they are also students at universities or community colleges in the Chicago area. Among the employed respondents, 66 percent said they cannot get to work using public transportation, with only three percent saying they can use public transportation.

The primary means of transportation for 97 percent of the respondents is driving an auto, van, pickup or SUV. Thirty-one percent each report being passengers in autos, vans, pickups or SUVs, riding Metra commuter rail or walking to their destinations. Sixteen percent ride bicycles, and nine percent use taxis. Only six percent (three percent each) ride CTA, Pace or paratransit buses or utilize EIs or subways.

Respondents said they do not utilize public transportation because service is infrequent (34%), it doesn't serve their destinations (28%) or it doesn't serve where they live (19%). Nine percent said they have no information about available service, the same percentage who said service is too slow. Three percent each said service is too expensive or unsafe.



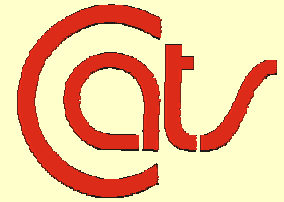
Since the vast majority of the respondents drive to their destinations, their chief concern (84%) is traffic congestion. Poor roads (69%), intersection delays (56%) and railroad crossing delays (31%) were also cited as significant problems encountered in daily travels.

Radio (53%) is the primary source for transportation information for survey respondents. Television (38%), newspapers (34%), and the Internet (31%) are other major sources of information, with 22 percent saying they receive information from the RTA/CTA/Metra/Pace and six percent saying they receive no information whatsoever.

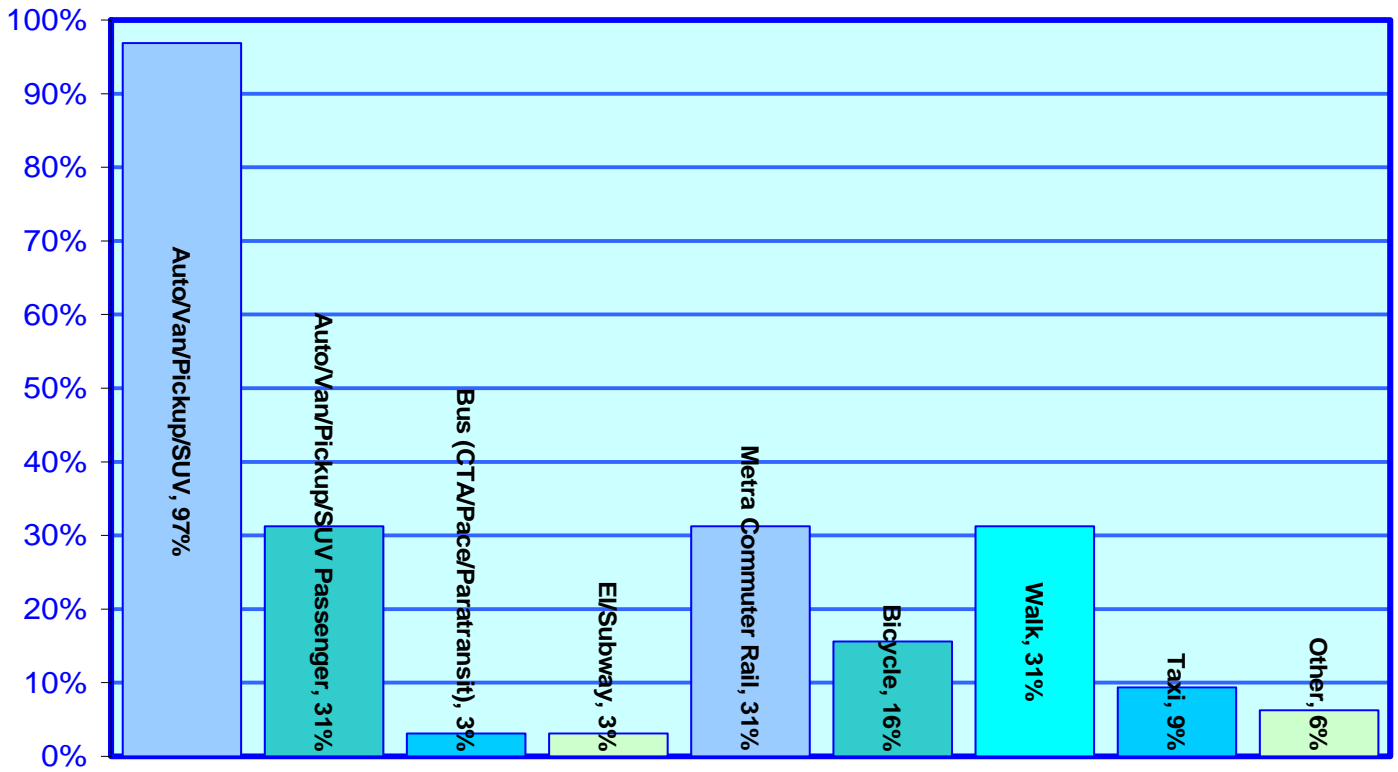
When asked to comment on what could be done to improve the transportation system in northeastern Illinois, the respondents indicated the following categories where improvements are needed:

- Wider roads;
- More bus service;
- Extending Route 53.

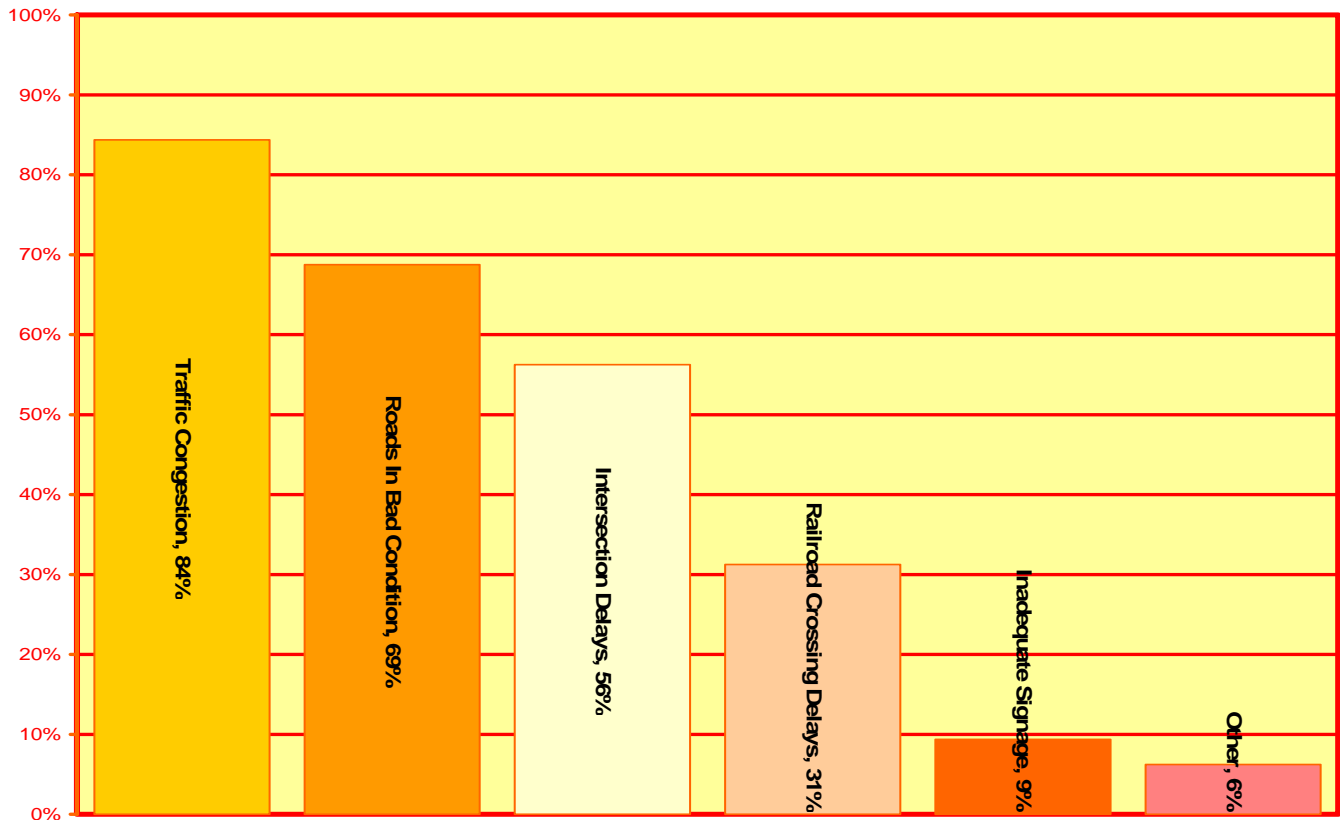
The charts on the following pages give breakdowns on responses CATS received from participants at the Fox Lake meeting.



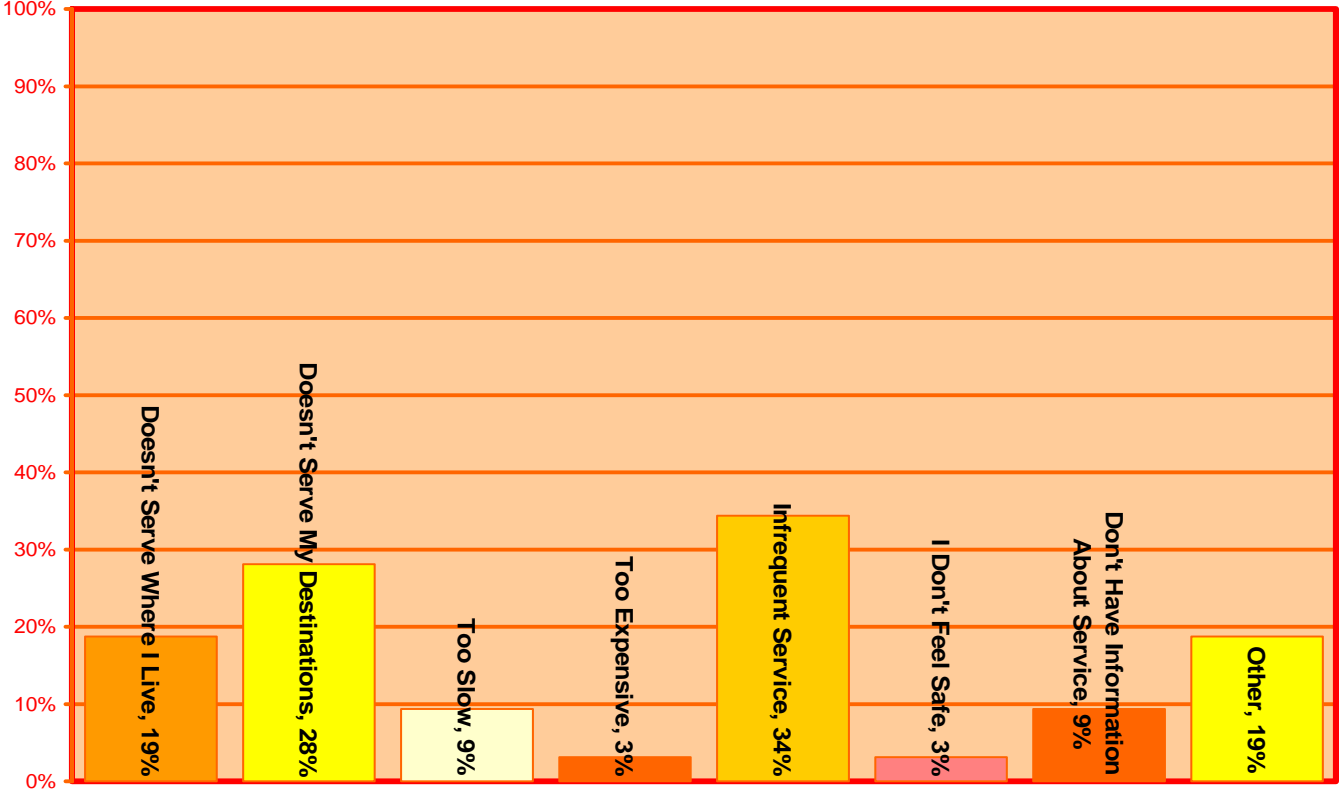
Question: What types of transportation do you typically use?



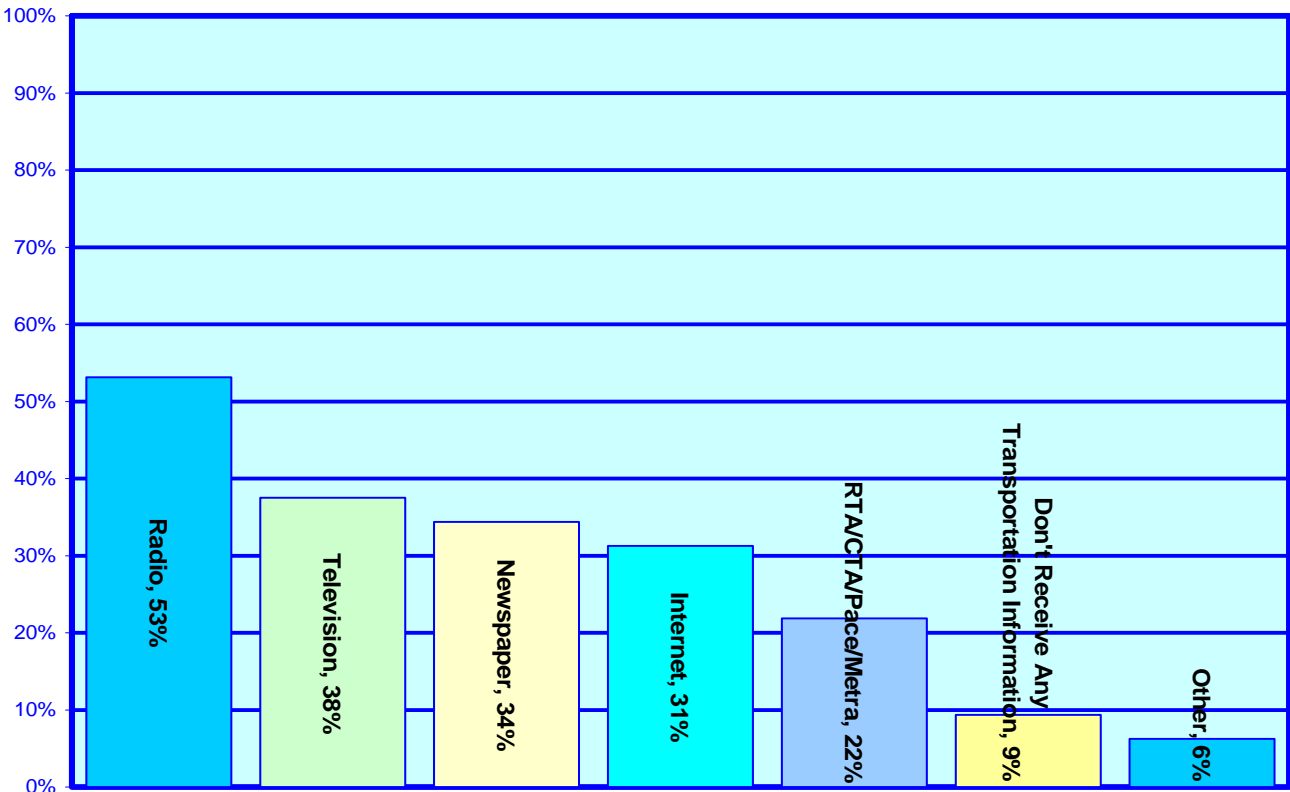
Question: What types of problems have you experienced in your daily travel?

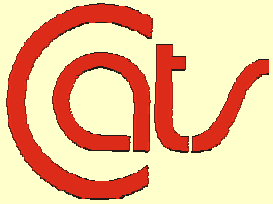


**Question: Public transportation problems?**



**Question: How do you receive transportation information?**





## Written Responses To Survey Questions

**Question 2A. What types of problems have you observed or experienced in your daily travels? Other (please specify).**

Traffic congestion – east to west – all Lake County, late afternoon.  
Intersection delays – 176/31.

I don't travel more than 3 miles to work. Although congestion on 60, 120, 83 and 45 need to be 4 lanes.

Not enough turn lanes.

Intersection delays – 12 and 134 eastbound; 134 – left turn lane backups.

**Question 2B. Public transportation related problems. Other (please specify).**

Doesn't effect me. My needs are met.

I don't use this service often.

Hard to enter for (people with) walkers and canes.

Bus transportation service is infrequent.

The bus service (Pace) is very limited and hours are not commuter friendly.

Would like weekend train service to Antioch.

Metra trains OK.



**Question 2C. Problems with other types of transportation.**

Highway 12.

Congestion.

Parking and where you pay.

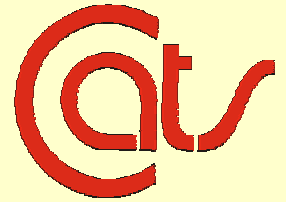
Walk ways over major roads to get to railroads would help with safety and would help people get around town without driving.

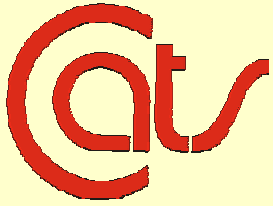
More highways.

Major road construction (on main routes) occurs at the same time as those on alternate routes. This is a problem here in Illinois.

Pace buses – boarderless boundaries.

Metra's Mayfair stop – steep stairs, dangerous facility, old design. Hard to rise for people, especially elderly. My mom is not safe.





**Question 3. Please tell us what you like about the transportation system in northeastern Illinois. Feel free to comment on all types of transportation.**

Nothing. Too long to go from Antioch to Lincolnshire at 8 a.m. I-94 is bad, back roads are worse.

Fox Lake is fortunate to be on the train line. We are not so fortunate to be near major roads.

Non-existent.

Variety of options when one route is too crowded.

Roads and routes are better than years ago, though more heavily traveled. Thank you!

Having used it, to be able to comment. Six years ago, I had to change trains halfway home. I now always drive.

Not as congested as Chicago.

The train is good to travel on to downtown.

Trains to Antioch really opened opportunities to Chicago and O'Hare.

On-time Metra.

Metra is great to downtown, but county (Lake) to county (Cook, McHenry) is becoming very overly congested with new development.



**Question 16. In your opinion, what can be done to improve the transportation system in northeastern Illinois? (Please consider improvements to all types of transportation.)**

Rte. 12 highway extension.

Get half the cars off the road.

Highway 53.

Expand road lanes.

Do anything: improve flow, widen roads, build new roads.

More routes over Fox River.

Main N-S and E-W routes with limited exits that tie into tollway system.

Walk traffic lights on Rt. 12.

Extend Rt. 53 northward.

Pace bus or better bus service.

County tax for road improvements so county roads can be widened. Extend Rt. 53 through Long Grove to Grayslake and Rt. 120 east and west.

More bus service and more places of travel too.

Widen roads.

Make public transportation available in areas where people work and live. Keep it affordable. Do not schedule road repairs (on main roads) at the same time as alternates. Give businesses plenty of notice.

Consider at least more turn lanes.

Besides building 53 extension and improving local roads, timing of traffic lights through Deer Park, Lake Zurich and Fox Lake would help move traffic more freely.

