

CATS

Partners in Progress Meeting

Results for South Holland, Illinois

August, 2004



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Public Outreach Report

South Holland Business Association

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On February 26, 2004, staff from the Chicago Area Transportation Study took part in a luncheon meeting of the South Holland Business Association at the Community Center in South Holland.

CATS attended the meeting to educate and empower local business people and residents in the South Holland area about transportation planning and the decision-making process. We hoped to demonstrate the impact each community/resident can have in shaping the future of transportation, and to encourage their continued input and support in the process.

Speakers at the meeting were Kermit Wies, CATS Director of Plan Implementation, who discussed the Regional Transportation Plan; Patricia Berry, CATS Transportation Improvement Program Director, who discussed the TIP; and Tom Zapler, Central Region Government Affairs Director for the Union Pacific Railroad, who discussed the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Project.

By all indicators, the event was a complete success. The Partners in Progress (SHBA and CATS) meeting was attended by 115 residents and business professionals from South Holland, Chicago, Lansing, Calumet City, Dolton, Homewood and Tinley Park. South Holland Village President Don A. DeGraff and other local elected officials were also present.

CATS would like to extend a special note of thanks to Patricia Bohacik, executive director of the South Holland Business Association, for her role in ensuring that this event was a success.

Each meeting participant was asked to fill out a brief Transportation Opinion Survey designed to identify their transportation concerns and issues. It is our intent to provide each community we visit with this survey to better understand transportation strengths, weaknesses and needs from a local perspective. Survey results can be found on the following pages.





South Holland 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.

There were 63 surveys returned. Fifty-eight people reported they live, work or both live and work within the South Holland Zip Code of 60473, with 55 percent of the respondents being male and 45 percent female. Almost 92 percent of respondents reported they are employed, and of those employed individuals, at least five percent are also students. Both the mean and median ages of the respondents were approximately 48 years, with the youngest age 25 and the oldest age 81.

Generally, by a ratio of 3:1, the respondents reported auto/van/pickup or SUV, either as a driver or a passenger, as their primary mode of transportation to work. The remaining modes are divided almost equally between transit and other (bike, walk), with Metra being used almost exclusively as a transit provider.

Congestion and railroad crossing delays were reported as the most significant traffic problems, with poor roads and intersection delays being reported as significant, but to a lesser extent. Poor signage or lack of signage was insignificant to the problems of traffic delays, as reported.

With regard to transit problems, lack of service where respondents live and where they need to travel (59 percent reported that they are unable to use transit to travel to work) were by far the most significant factors for not utilizing public transportation. Levels of service and lack of information regarding service were ranked as secondary, with costs and safety considerations regarded as insignificant factors. Almost 40 percent of the population reported they use transit for non-work trips.

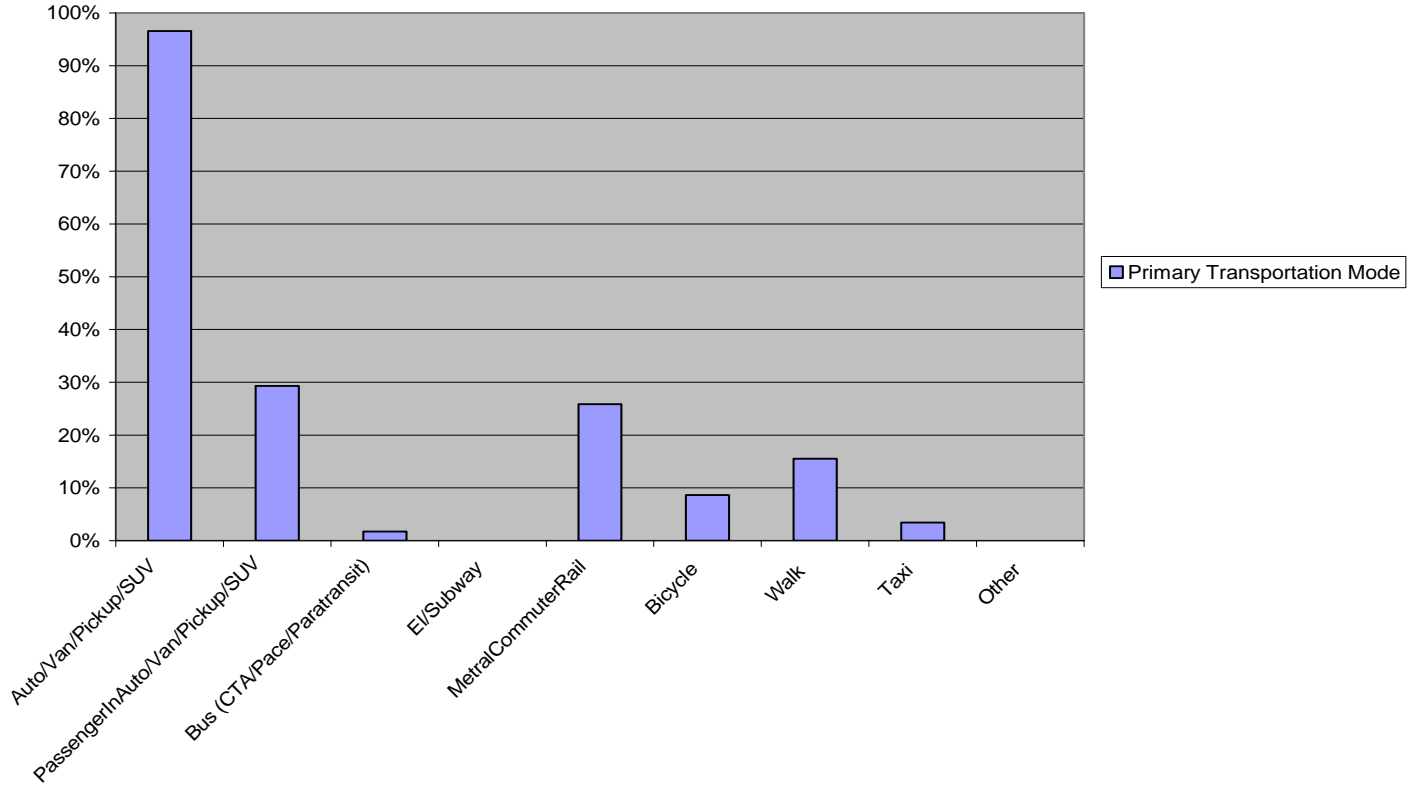
Radio and television were reported as the primary means of receiving transit information for an overwhelming majority of the respondents, with the Internet and newspapers representing a secondary means. Respondents indicated that the service boards (CTA, Pace and Metra) provided a significantly lesser amount of information.

When asked what could be done to improve the transportation system in northeastern Illinois, the respondents indicated four categories where improvements are needed. These categories are:

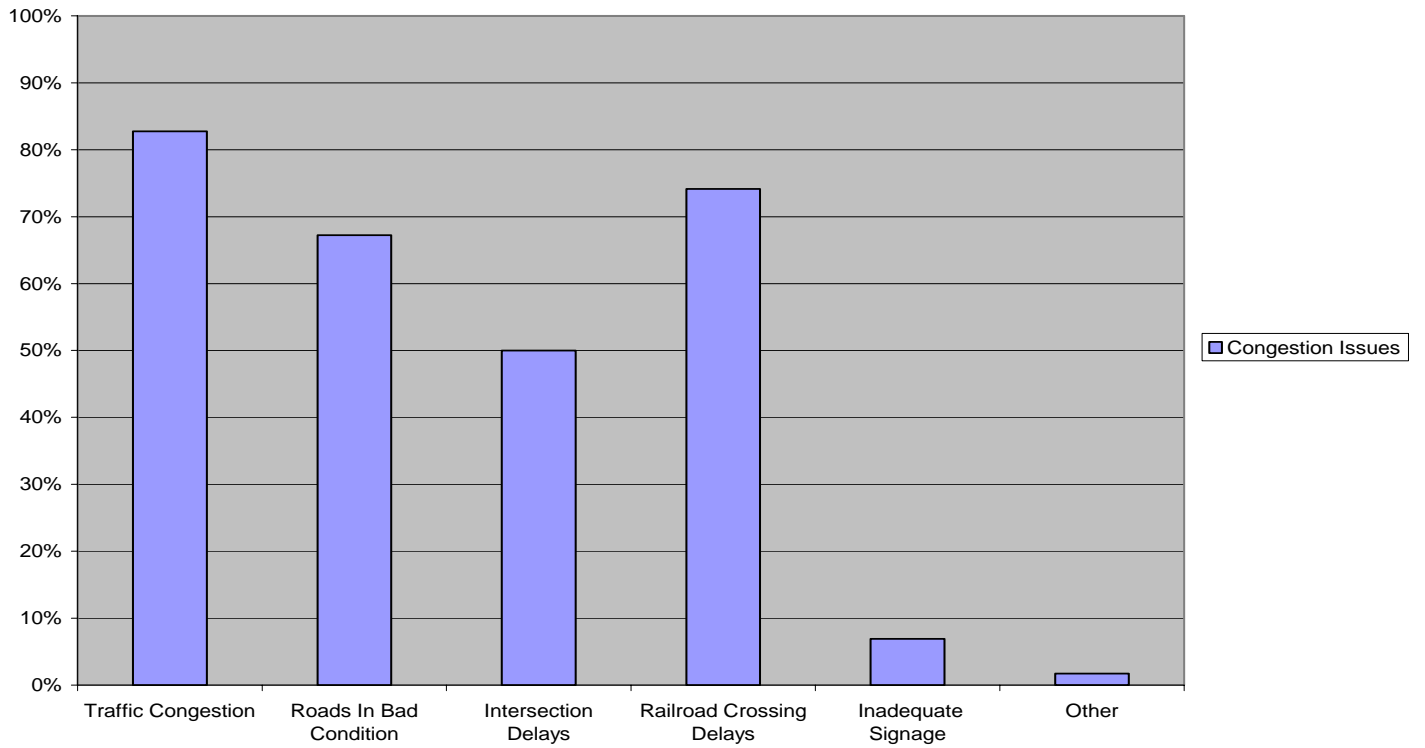
- Increase capacity of Interstates and local roads.
- Remove existing toll booths.
- Increase commuter rail service for suburb-to-suburb transportation and incorporate an increase in suburban routes to service these new stations.
- Increase funding for highway and transit improvements.

The charts on the following pages give breakdowns on the responses CATS received in South Holland.

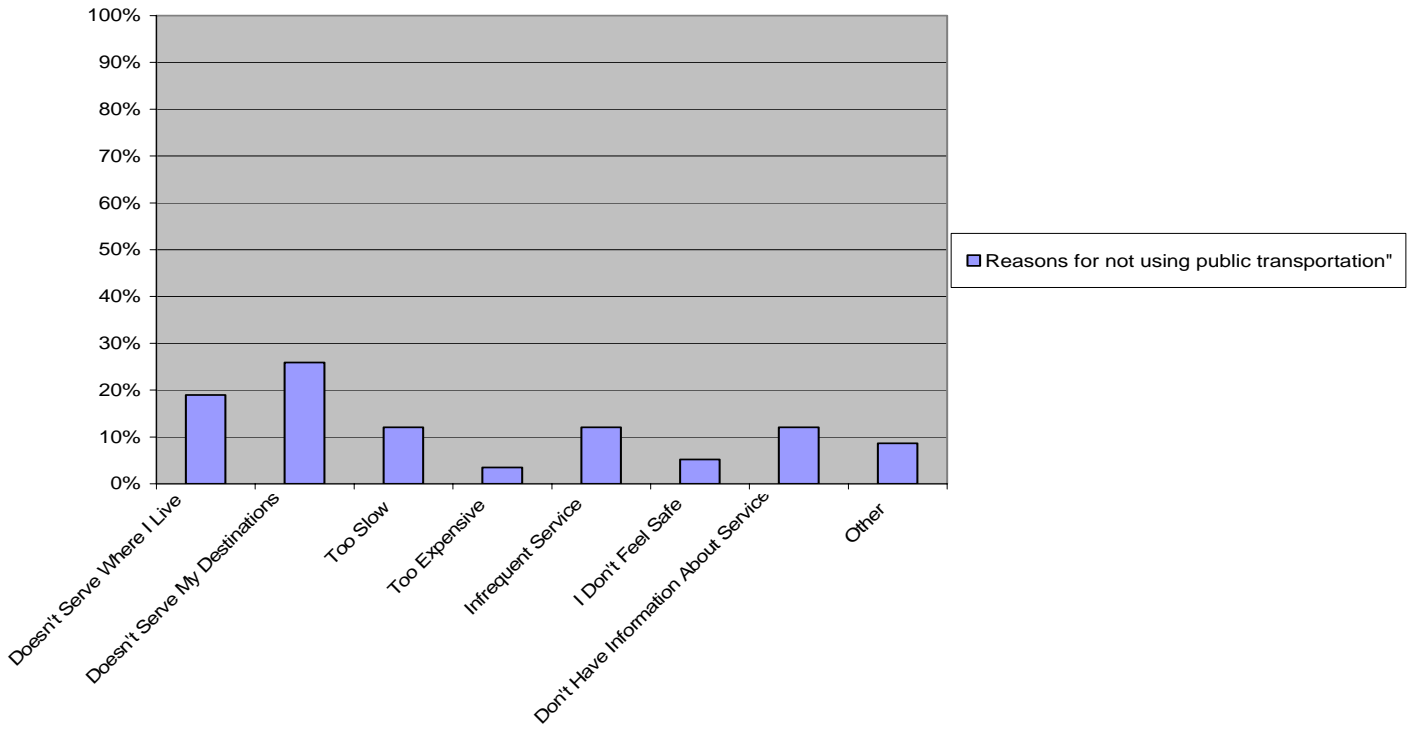
Question: What types of transportation do you typically use?



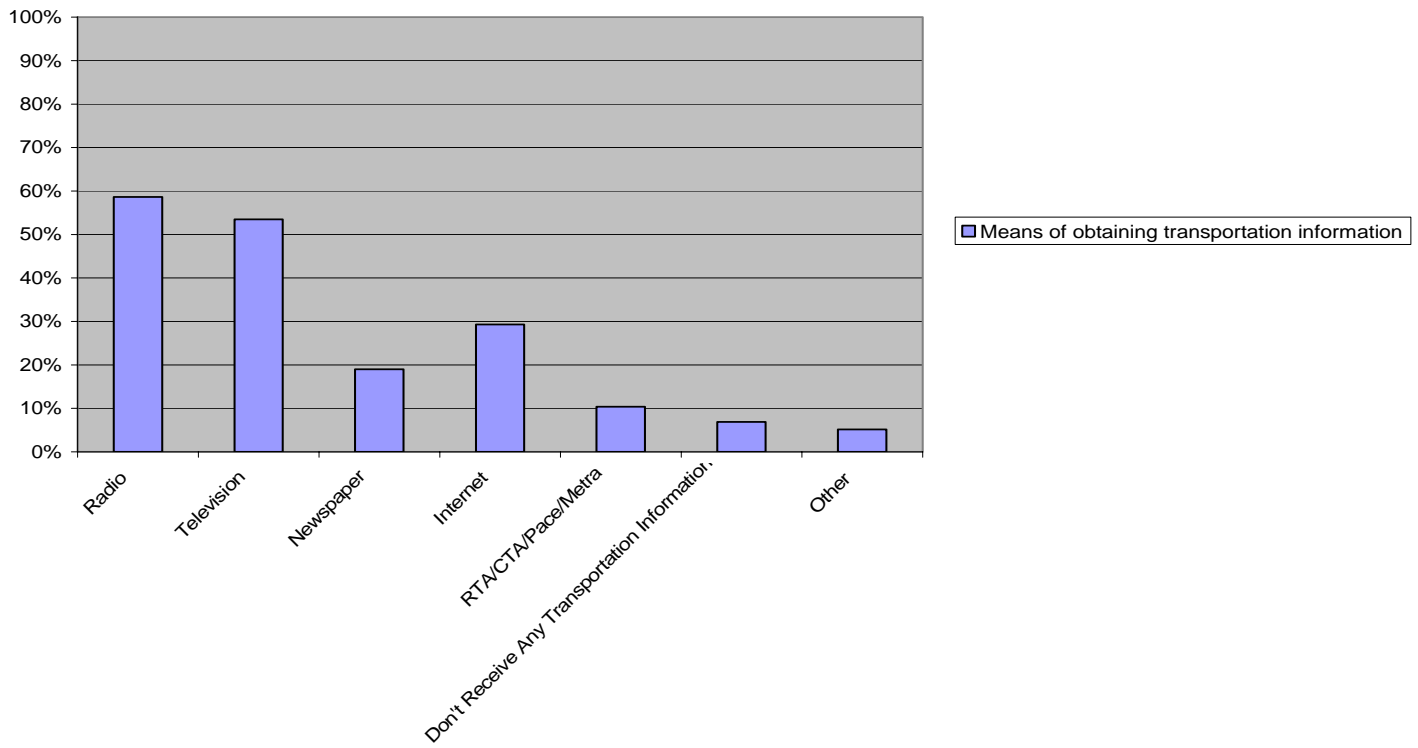
Question: What types of problems have you experienced in your daily travel?



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)

"162nd Ellis - Going S. on Ellis & turning eastbound on 162nd. The light delay is no less than 5 minutes."

"Delays caused by road construction every spring thru fall."

"Long back-ups at toll booths even though I have I-pass."

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

"Fortunately, I don't take public transportation. Sometimes Metra."

"Doesn't easily service the area where I work from my home."

"I rarely use it."

"Don't use."

"Non driver."





Question 2C: Problems with other types of transportation

“Not enough funding available.”

“Availability/salary.”

“Residents on I-80 by Lincoln Oasis have noise and pollution due to traffic congestion. If they widen it (I-80) how does it affect health issues on residents along the expressway?”

“Management and focus usually poor or lost.”

“Our south suburban region seems to lose service rather than an increase.”

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

“We need to add more lanes to the highways and local roads. The I-80/94 project will help a lot when completed. I like that it is finally started.”

“Not much. It's 20 years behind the S.E. IL 80/94 and related community roads are 20 years behind.”

“Highway system, rail system (Metra), tollroad.”

“I would continue to drive to work. I use my car at work to call on customers.”

“Passenger rail service to downtown Chicago is excellent.”



“Generally speaking, there is enough access by main expressways to get where you need to expediently.”

“If you have to have tollways, I-Pass is great!”

“Although I generally don't ride public transportation, it seems to be adequate (e.g., goes to all areas, consistent/timely, etc.). Although not perfect, highways are more than adequate in meeting my needs.”

“Commuter trains - scheduling is good and on time.”

“Metra rail system to downtown Chicago.”

“I-pass is a major improvement on tollways and should be expanded to be accessible, reasonable.”

“Congestion on expressway, trains.”

“The whole Chicagoland area is a big parking lot.”

“Very little - most service continues to serve the desires of the CTA. Until a new focus is defined, few improvements will be forthcoming.”

“Lots of choices in and around Chicago.”

Question16: In your opinion, what can be done to improve the transportation system in northeastern Illinois? (Please consider improvements to all types of transportation.)

“Add more lanes to the highways in the South Cook County areas. Also, add lanes to the local roads. We need to keep the traffic moving to keep the economy moving.”

“Improve traffic flow on interstates. When highways back up, the exit ramps and side roads are packed with cars looking for alternate routes.”

“Move faster. I-294/57 connections and I-355 extension have been delayed because you have money elsewhere. If you do the planning why can't you move money overnight to a different project?”





“Build roads to last longer - too many repairs of the same places always going on at the same time.”

“New commuter rail.”

“Bigger intersections with two left turn lanes. Rail transportation to Union Station to be able to link rail service north and west. A Metra station in South Holland. Transportation link to O'Hare - also to New Buffalo, MI.”

“Get rid of tollbooths (do what Indiana does -- you pay when you get off the tollway).”

“Get the third airport completed.”

“I am considering moving out of the state if the road conditions don't improve soon.”

“Transportation from the suburban areas to the outside of the southern suburbs in an easier connecting pier ups.”

“#1 - South connector to Indiana I-65 - 41 to IL 394 to I-57; #2 – I-80/94 widened; #3 - I-294 widened; #4 - IL394 widened; #5 - Exchange at I-57 & I -294; Also: I-80 & I-94 exchange.”

“Widen expressway/highways. Eliminate railway delays.”

“Availability/Safety.”

“Security on weekends at Metra parking lots. (I have had 2 cars stolen.)”

"Anything to reduce traffic."

"More express I-pass lanes. Road conditions – Improve."

"Fix the existing road conditions. Expand I-294. Create more express I-pass lanes."

"Increase Metra transportation to south side."

"1. Need far more dollars. Need Illinois to better job bringing back \$\$\$ from Washington D.C. instead of being a donor state. 2. Need to design roadways for traffic projections 30-40 years instead of 20 years, since projects take so long in process."

"1. Illiana expressway to relieve congestion from I-65 to I-80-94. 2. Rail electric or other from south Lake County IN. to Chicago."

"Extend commuter trains to south suburbs."

"Expansion of expressways."

"More Metra train stations on southeast side of Cook County. Keep current train stations updated and secure."

"Less federal restriction on local projects; more local control to allow 'best value' approach to local improvements."

"Southeast passenger rail line."

"We need southeast rail service/commuter buses."

"More lanes? No good ideas!"

"Less toll booths. Plan further ahead so there isn't as much major construction. Connect I-355 to i-80. The trains leaving and entering the station yards in Alsip/Blue Island all stop and block traffic. Keep the trains moving."

