

CATS

Partners in Progress Meeting

Results for Winfield, Illinois

August, 2004



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

Public Outreach Report

Winfield Chamber of Commerce

Prepared by: LynnToi Lawson
August, 2004

On April 20, 2004 staff from the Chicago Area Transportation Study took part in our second "Lunch & Learn" meeting for northeastern Illinois. It was held for 35 members of the Winfield Chamber of Commerce at the Winfield House Restaurant in Winfield.

CATS hosted the meeting to educate and involve local business owners and community stakeholders in the transportation planning and decision-making process. CATS sought to use this meeting as a looking glass, affording us a chance to glean some of the transportation concerns and issues facing residents of Winfield. We hoped this forum would allow us to demonstrate the impact each community/resident can have in shaping the future of transportation simply by getting involved and staying involved in the process.

Speakers at the meeting included Kermit Wies, CATS Director of Plan Implementation, who discussed the Regional Transportation Plan; and Richard Smith, IDOT Office of Programming and Planning and guest speaker for the CREATE (Chicago Region and Environmental and Transportation Efficiency) Program.

Winfield proved to be a small, yet close-knit and involved business community, dedicated to understanding and improving their community through personal involvement. As our Partners in Progress outreach initiatives continue, we are convinced now more than ever that by working directly with communities, increasing public awareness, and encouraging open dialogue throughout the region, CATS can serve as the critical link connecting people to the transportation planning process one community at a time.

CATS would like to extend a special note of thanks to Rich Bysina, Executive Director of the Winfield Chamber of Commerce, for his 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 the perceived strengths, weaknesses and needs from a local perspective. Survey results can be found on the following pages.





Winfield 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.

Due to a production error, questions 3 through 11 were not included in the surveys distributed in Winfield. Therefore, no information on employment status, ability to use public transportation to get to work, or methods of receiving transportation information was collected.

The number of people who completed the Transportation Opinion Survey in Winfield was 28: 16 males, 11 females and one not specifying gender. The average age of the respondents was 53, with the oldest being 77 and the youngest 23.

The primary means of transportation for 89 percent of the respondents is driving an auto/van/pickup/SUV. Fifty-seven percent said they also travel as passengers in autos/vans/pickups/SUVs. While 46 percent said they use Metra, none ride CTA or Pace buses. Eleven percent use taxis. The survey also showed a health-conscious group, as 25 percent ride bicycles and 57 percent walk to their destinations. One rides a motorcycle, another is driven in a limousine, a third rides a horse, and a fourth telecommutes.

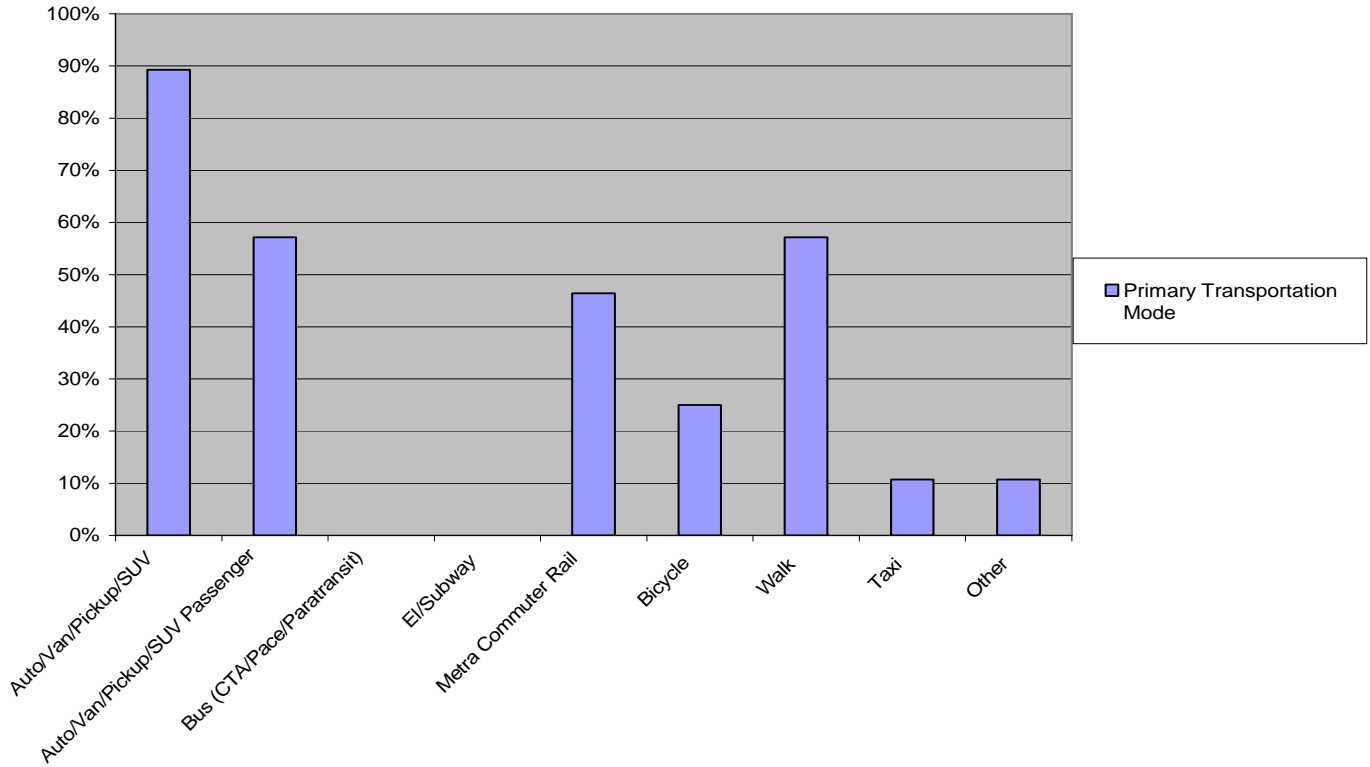
Railroad crossings were cited by 79 percent of the respondents as their most significant traffic problem, followed closely by traffic congestion (71%). Poor road conditions (50%) and intersection delays (46%) were reported as secondary problems. Inadequate or lack of signage was cited by 11 percent.

With regard to transit problems, lack of service where respondents live (21%) and where they need to travel (25%) were cited by 46 percent of the respondents. Eighteen percent stated that service is either too slow (11%) or too infrequent (7%). An astounding one-fourth of the respondents reported having no information about available transit services.

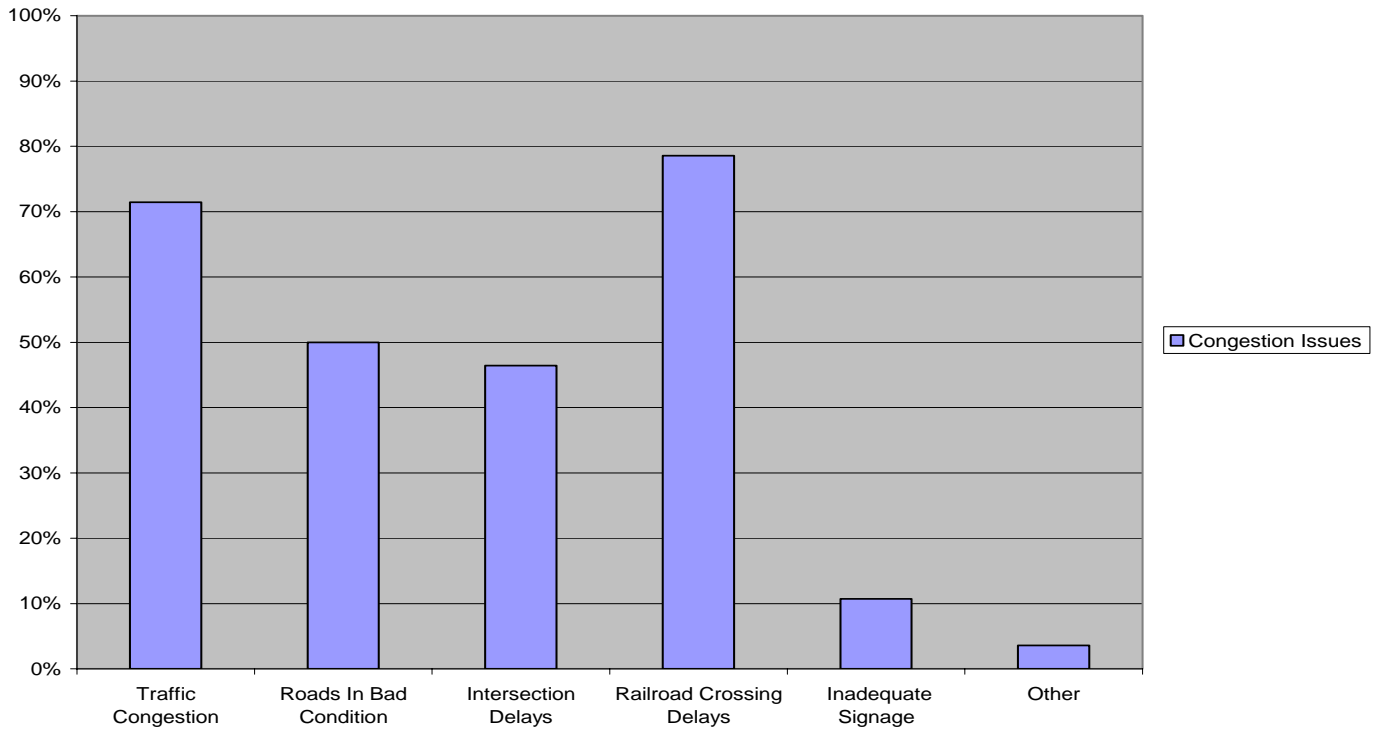
When asked to comment on what could be done to improve the transportation system in northeastern Illinois, the respondents indicated three categories where improvements are needed. These categories are:

- Eliminating rail crossing delays.
- Extending I-355 to I-80.
- Encouraging bike path development.

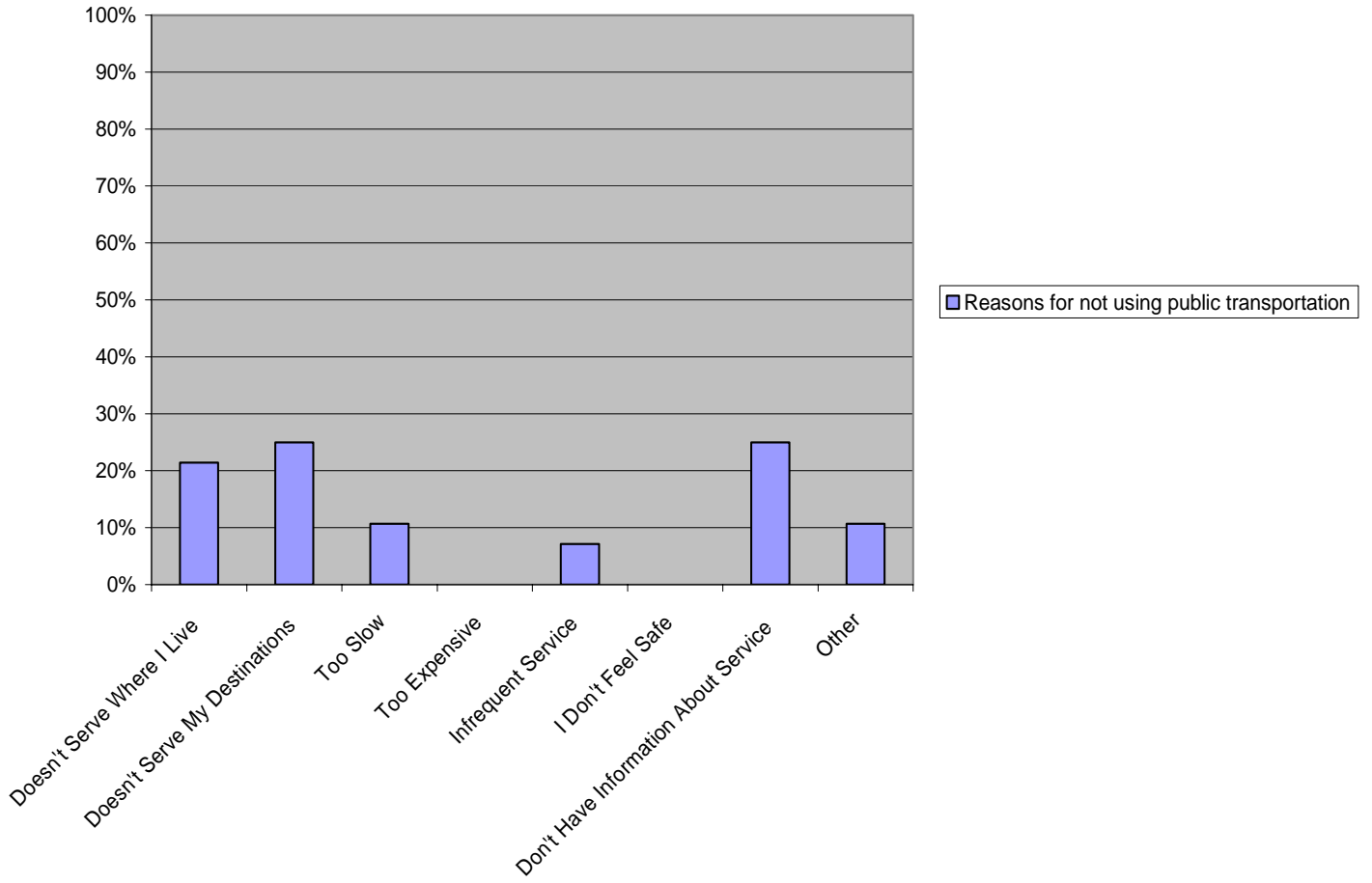
Question: What types of transportation do you typically use?



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



Question: Public transportation problems?



Written Responses To Survey Questions

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

“Railroad crossing delays on Route 38 west of West Chicago & on Washington St. in West Chicago are horrendous. Overpasses are desperately needed.”

“A – Truck congestion on highways! B – Railroads.”

“Inadequate sidewalk/bike or pedestrian walkways on main roads.”

“Seems adequate for my needs.”

“Need more bike paths for regular routes.”

“Construction delays.”

“(I’ve) known minor delays.”

“None that really affect my day. I just accept what's going on.”



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

“Need 11:14 train from Winfield to Chicago. Hard to use the train at night because the train times are so infrequent.”

“Personally, I think Metra is great. I hate the constant train (freight) delays though.”

“Parking for Metra needs to be increased.”

“Not used enough to give an opinion on.”





Question 2C: Problems with other types of transportation

“Is Pace out here at all?”

“Metra – Too noisy. Why have horns & loud freight engines & cars go through Winfield from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.?”

“I travel from Bolingbrook to work in this gridlock daily. The problems I incur are that which may be common among many. Road improvements are done ‘too little, too late.’ There are too many occurrences of congestion.”

“Road congestion going into Chicago. Frequent delays at all times of day.”

“None that affect me.”



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

“Additional federal funding.”

“Railroad crossing stoppages all the time from Union Pacific on Winfield Rd. & Roosevelt Rd. east of Kirk Rd.”

“One of the reasons I thought Winfield received the new train station and platform way back was the commuter trains could pull past or stop before the crossing so car traffic could keep moving. That has never happened! Why?”

“Extend I-355 to I-80! Encourage bicycle use by developing more bike trails in towns.”

“Scheduling trains so more than one does not delay crossing at same towns. Overpasses/underpasses.”

“Signage on streets in rural areas. More info in papers or radio updating the road construction areas. How long will it take or how soon will it be done? How soon will I-355 extend to I-80? How soon will the Elgin Expressway be completed?”

“Improve railroad transportation.”

“High speed passenger rail east and west. Separate passenger/freight rail time. Encourage public use via ‘nickel days’ or something such. Public education at elementary schools – kids love trains – even ‘adult’ kids. Encourage bike travel.”

“Provide inexpensive transportation north & south in DuPage to service shopping & entertainment areas.”

“Widen Butterfield Road to four lanes.”

“Turn lanes in center used for both directions of traffic. Bike paths or lanes on most roads. Railroad passenger extending west to Elburn and DeKalb.”

“When you make road improvements, consider future needs, growth, etc. Eliminate tollways and the toll booths. Fire anyone who suggests that a four-lane road should merge into three lanes!”

“More limited access roads, such as the dead-end cul-de-sacs, on Roosevelt/Wheaton cross streets. Consideration given to more exit ramps/on ramps on Routes 88 and 294 (where you can now get off, but not on, such as Highland Ave.)”

“Congestion will always be a problem. That is my biggest challenge.”

“To educate people on how to drive. Because people cause traffic and congestion, not the roadways!”

Expedite north/south CTA rail plans through West Chicago & North. Overpasses for train crossings. Adequate cell tower placement on Route 59. Expand Peotone & DuPage Airport Service.”

