

Means of Transportation to Work for Workers age 16 and over

Means of transportation to work include

- Car, truck, or van, including those who drove alone and those who carpoled
- Public transportation, including Bus or trolley bus, Streetcar or trolley car, Subway or elevated, Railroad, Ferryboat and Taxicab
- Motorcycle
- Bicycle
- Walked
- Other means
- Workers who worked at home

[Data](#) show an increase in overall use of public transportation, with Bus and Subway/Elevated systems showing the highest numeric gains. Because these systems are concentrated in Cook County it appears that if public transportation is available then workers will use it.

Data show increases in less expensive, more environmentally friendly modes of transportation. Bicycle use increased by 89% and walking to work rose by 3% in the region. In addition, the number of workers working at home increased by 47%.

On the other hand, it appears that some transportation patterns are ingrained. The number of workers who drove alone to work increased by 143,000 while the net gain for all other means of transportation was 5,100 workers. Part of this difference can be explained by the decrease of 62,000 workers in carpooling, however this dataset does not give us the opportunity to re-allocate workers who stopped using carpools to other means of transportation.

GOTO2040 references to Means of Transportation to Work

GOTO2040 highlights the importance of local support to make transit work. Counties and COGs can work with transit agencies to plan for transit (such as Bus, Subway or elevated), improvement or expansion. (p. 371)

The regional Congestion Management Process supports the strategy of Transportation Demand Management that helps reduce demand for peak-period single-occupant vehicle travel by encouraging alternatives to traveling alone by auto. (p. 358).

A top priority of GOTO2040 is to maintain and operate the existing transportation system and transit is no exception. (p. 295)

Transit ridership is a standard measure of the use of a transit system. Transit ridership is defined as the number of trips served by transit on an average weekday. (p. 294)

The performance of the transportation system can be measured by the congestion of the highway network. (258). A component of congestion is travel time to work.

A major recommendation of GOTO2040 is promotion of livable communities, or compact, mixed use, walkable and bicycle-friendly development served by transit. Besides their quality-of-life benefits, they also improve energy efficiency through increased use of lower-energy modes of travel (transit, walking, and biking) over automobiles. Measures to reduce congestion are important as well, because congestion corresponds to wasted fuel. (p. 105.)

Link Transit, land use and housing by

- Identifying and exploiting additional opportunities for transit oriented development
- Using livability principles to plan for land use in development near transit
- Targeting housing programs to rehabilitation in areas with transit access
- Requiring supportive land use planning before new transit investment is made (p. 79.)

Link transit, housing and land use by continuing to encourage concentrated development of housing and workplaces within close traveling distance to transit. Also develop model ordinances and codes for local governments that provide for this kind of development. (pp. 75-77.)

What does the indicator suggest? Is the region on a path toward or away from making GOTO2040 a reality?

There is increased use of public transit and environmentally friendly means of transportation that could translate to increased support for encouraging these kinds of transportation. This indicates support for GOTO2040. Support could include funding for infrastructure improvements and their attendant facilities, or for model ordinances that account for and provide for these means of transportation. Increased use of these means of transportation could also bring together partnerships or constituencies that may not otherwise have occurred.

There is cause for concern about the increased number of persons driving alone. The strategy of Transportation Demand Management is attempting to address this issue and will continue to require considerable effort over time.