

CROSS-ANALYSIS OF TAX SITE SURVEY DATA

METHODOLOGY:

In order to perform a cross-analysis of the information gathered with the *Community Action Duluth's 2008 Tax-Site Survey*, a couple of modifications were made to the data in its original form. Firstly, all entries for a question that were similar in nature were re-entered to read in the same way. For instance, if "rides the bus" was entered as the respondent's primary mode of transportation, while "bus" was how it was entered for the majority of respondents, then the former entry was altered to also read "bus."

Next, a second, more dramatic modification was made to the original data; an arbitrary hierarchy was applied to all the available answers for question no. 1 (What is your primary form of transportation?). Many responses to this question included multiple answers, and for reasons necessary to the cross-analysis, this question needed to have only *one* answer. Therefore, the assumption was made that, if there were no restrictions on a respondent's transportation choice, they would chose the mode that provides them the fastest, most direct, and most independent trip. Therefore, the possible answers for question no. 1 were ranked as such:

1. Car
2. Rides from family and friends
3. Bus
4. Bike
5. Walk
6. Other

So, if a respondent selected "car," "bus," and "walk" in question no. 1 as their primary forms of transportation, then the data was re-entered to reflect "car" as the primary mode.

SURVEY RESULTS:

Drivers:

Of all respondents to the tax-site survey, 71% of them reported that the automobile was their primary mode of transportation. Of that group, only 6% answered that transportation was a barrier for them to access jobs. Overwhelmingly, for those respondents who use automobiles, repair costs and the cost of fuel were identified as the biggest challenges facing their transportation needs (47% and 7%, respectively).

Public Transit Users:

Of those respondents who cited public transit as their primary mode of transportation (19% of everyone surveyed), a larger portion (39%) reported transportation as being a barrier to accessing jobs. This group identified bus routes & times as being their biggest challenge (40%), with the cost of riding being their next biggest challenge (32%).

Those Who Rely on Rides from Others:

Nearly 5% of those surveyed reported getting rides from others as being their primary form of transportation. Of these individuals, 16% said that transportation was a barrier for them in accessing jobs. Obtaining a license was reported as the biggest transportation challenge (41%).

Walkers, Bikers and “Others”:

Those who do not drive or use public transit represent the smallest group of respondents (5%). However, 41% of this group indicated that transportation is barrier to them being able to access jobs. Bus fares (23%), “other” (19%), and bus routes & times (13%) were among the challenges most reported by this group. Disabilities, Snow, and lack of money were some of the challenges included in the “Other” category.