



ESTIMATING COVID-19 IMPACTS ON NORTHEAST MEGAREGION TRAVEL PATTERNS

The impact of COVID-19 on transportation – both for routine commuting and for less routine intercity transportation trips – has been significant and uneven across modes. As traveler concerns, beliefs, behaviors, and actual travel needs have changed, researchers have growing concern over the use of pre-COVID-19 travel data to predict travel demand going forward. The extent to which the COVID-19 pandemic will shift the propensity to travel and the mode of travel – both because of changing norms and changing needs – is an open and highly consequential question. The goal of this project is to understand future travel demands (both in trip generation and mode choice) for trips generated from a major anchor institution for both routine commuting and intercity transportation.

By surveying employees at a number of sites in the Northeast Megaregion, including more than 400 members of the faculty and staff at the University of Pennsylvania, the largest trip generator in the Delaware Valley Region, data on travel behaviors prior to the COVID-19 pandemic along with perceptions and plans for travel in the future will inform models providing new insights into the evolving prospects of commuting and intercity travel. For planners looking to incentivize sustainable behavior and control congestion to those planning scheduled transportation modes, this analysis will provide a spatial scenario analysis tool for anticipating future local, regional, and megaregional travel patterns.

Estimating the Impact of COVID-19 on Travel Behavior and Perceptions: An Investigation of Commuting Travel and Intercity Travel in the Northeast Megaregion (#CM2-59)

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1/15/2021-07/30/2022

Project Information Form:
http://sites.utexas.edu/cm2/files/2021/02/UPENN-Y-RYERSON_Impact-of-COVID19-on-Travel-Behavior.pdf

