How will the COVID-19 pandemic affect transport choices into the future?

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COVIDFUTURE Survey
www.covidfuture.org
The Research Team
Survey Sections

I. Employment
II. Working and Studying
III. Shopping and Dining
IV. Transport
V. Attitudes
VI. Demographics
Length: Between 15 and 30 minutes
Wave 1: April 2020 – Oct 2020

Sample size: ~ 9,000
Wave 2: Nov 2020 – April 2021

Sample size: ~ 3,000
Wave 3: October-November 2021

Deploying soon!
Spatial distribution of respondents
Survey Weighting to match regional distributions of

AGE
GENDER
EDUCATION
HISPANIC

VEHICLES
INCOME
CHILDREN
Our data forecast a large increase in remote work.
... a related large decrease in car commuting

![Bar chart showing decrease in car commuting]

- **Pre-COVID**: 69%
- **Post-COVID**: 54%

Legend:
- Always
- Most days
- Some days
- Rarely/Never
... and a related even larger percent decrease in transit commuting.

Transit Commuting

- Pre-COVID: 92%
- Post-COVID: 94%

Legend:
- Always
- Most Days
- Some Days
- Rarely/Never
... and a related even larger percent decrease in transit commuting.
This equates to a 15% reduction in car commute VMT, all of which comes from more telecommuting.

Of course, latent demand is already filling up the roads…
and a 40% projected drop in transit commute trips/week, half from telecommute increases and half from mode switching.

Half of pre-COVID transit trips were commute trips (NHTS, 2017)
Key Takeaways

- More telecommuting = Less commute driving
- Online shopping and grocery/restaurant delivery have also increased, but the travel impact is almost certainly much smaller

The other big change is a projected decrease in business air travel.
Recommended Policy Actions

- Consider policies to support helping telecommuting to “stick”

Some employers are already calling their workforce “back to the office.”
Equity Considerations

• Not every job is telecommute-eligible
• Jobs that need to be done in person are more likely to be lower pay jobs

But all workers who can telecommute generally want the option to continue…
VMT Reduction Potential

- Our data suggest that commute VMT could go down by about 15%
- Latent demand will fill the space if pricing mechanisms are not implemented

But at least these new trips are more valuable – those old commute trips have now been proven to be virtually useless.
Data Available for Download and Links to our Publications At: covidfuture.org

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Thank you for listening!

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