



Caltrans Division of Research,  
Innovation and System Information

# Research



# Notes

Planning, Policy,  
and  
Programming

NOVEMBER 2022

Project Title:  
Factors Impacting Mode Share  
Changes in California

Task Number: 3363

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2022

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## Factors Impacting Mode Share Changes in California

This study explores factors contributing to the decrease in biking and walking in California over the period from 2012 to 2017.

### WHAT IS THE NEED?

This study explores factors contributing to the decrease in biking and walking in California over the period from 2012 to 2017, as observed in comparisons of the most recent California Household Travel Survey (CHTS) and the California add-on sample of the National Household Travel Survey (NHTS), respectively. Previous analysis conducted for Caltrans shows that these changes likely represent real shifts in the use of active travel modes; the observed changes cannot be attributed to methodological differences in the survey and data processing on its own. The changes can be attributed to changes attributed therefore to other, real factors.

### WHAT ARE WE DOING?

This study builds on a previous Caltrans task order: NCST project 65A0686 TO 042, [Changes in Mode Share in California](#) and is a continuation of this work. The purpose of the earlier study was to develop possible explanations for the apparent changes in mode share using the 2010-2012 CHTS and the California sample in the 2017 NHTS. The previous study identified numerous differences in the methodologies between the two surveys and the research largely investigated the impacts of these differences.

### WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

The outcomes of this study will help Caltrans with evaluating our progress toward strategic goals of tripling bicycling, doubling walking and doubling transit ridership.

### WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

This study will address and provide meaningful results to Caltrans in our strategic planning for increasing biking, walking, and transit ridership throughout the state of California.



DRISI provides solutions and  
knowledge that improves  
California's transportation system

## WHAT IS THE PROGRESS TO DATE?

Caltrans DRISI met with Sustainability Program representative and PI in May of 2022 for a kick-off meeting. Data analysis was initiated in the spring and has continued. Several meetings between the research team and Caltrans have occurred in order to identify data sources within the State to support this project. Some factors have emerged as potential factors impacting mode share, including shifting demographics within the state during the study time period and changes in driver's license requirements.

Final analyses will be completed, and a draft report will be produced and revised and finalized by the end of December 2022.

## IMAGE

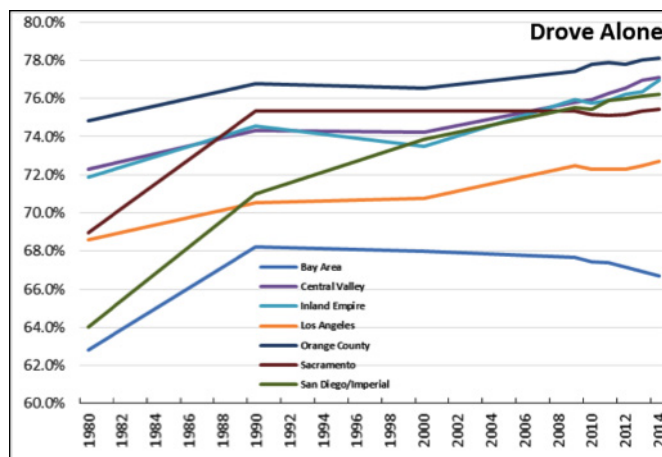


Image 1: Share of commuters who drove alone as their main mode of commuting for select California cities: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census & American Community Survey.