

DRISI

CALTRANS DIVISION OF RESEARCH,
INNOVATION AND SYSTEM INFORMATION

Research Notes

Planning, Policy
and
Programming

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Project Title:
The Impact of Work-From-Home on
Job and Housing Location in the
Bay Area—Central Valley Region

Task Number: 3464

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The Impact of Work-From-Home on Job and Housing Location in the Bay Area—Central Valley Region

An Analysis of the Relationship Between Traffic, Telecommuting,
and Mitigation During and After COVID-19

WHAT IS THE NEED?

This research will examine the growing trend of working from home and its impact on job and housing locations before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. The current debate has begun to connect work-from-home with the potential for moving from one home location to another. However, due to data limitations, the relationship between telecommuting and home location changes is still unclear.

Current studies looking at commute patterns during the pandemic are mostly based at home locations. No studies have looked at the changes at work locations with home locations.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

We will first identify major areas of places that attract trips in the Bay Area and Central Valley. We will then analyze the change in commute trips at these locations during the pandemic. Next, we will identify areas that produce these changes by using commute data to connect job locations with home locations. Last, we will look at the commute data to assess whether different kinds of commuters are more likely to move further away from job centers.

WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

The goal of this project is to learn new commute patterns to adjust existing policies, need allocations, and statewide travel demand modeling where appropriate to incorporate new trends. The project will assist agencies in addressing the congestion and/or increased GHG potential from super commuting.



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

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

This project aims to answer three questions:

1. Where and in which industries did traffic change the most during the COVID-19 pandemic?
2. Did work-from-home reduce traffic at job centers? Has this been a more permanent change?
3. Have telecommuters been more likely to move further away from job centers? If so, have they been more likely to super-commute?

WHAT IS THE PROGRESS TO DATE?

A kick-off meeting was held on September 11, 2023. The researchers completed a literature review, obtained data from Streetlight, and analyzed commuting patterns to and from zip codes in the study area. The next step is to build regression models. The panel will meet to discuss the next deliverable in November or early December.

IMAGES



Image 1: Working from home