

Transportation  
Safety and  
Mobility

NOVEMBER 2022

**Project Title:**

Displacement and Commuting in the San Francisco Bay Area and Beyond

**Task Number:** 3437

**Start Date:** August 15, 2020

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2021

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## Displacement and Commuting in the San Francisco Bay Area and Beyond

An analysis of the relationship between the housing crises, displacement, and long commutes.

### WHAT WAS THE NEED?

The San Francisco Bay Area has seen rapid increases in its share of super-commuters, growing from a 2.3% share in 2005 to a 4.8% share in 2016. Several areas of the Central Valley surrounding the Bay Area have seen even higher proportions of super-commuters. For example, Stockton and Modesto, California, had a 10.0% and a 7.3% share of super-commuters in 2016, respectively.

The current policy debate and popular press have begun to connect super-commuting with a lack of affordable housing, but there has been little evidence about the connection between unaffordable housing and long commuting.

### WHAT WAS OUR GOAL?

The study filled a gap on information on long commutes by measuring the changes in the degree of super-commuting over time.

### WHAT DID WE DO?

1. We identified areas where Bay Area residents moved to the Central Valley;
2. Calculated the change of super-commuters;
3. Analyzed whether the share of super-commuters was related to the share of Bay Area residents who moved into the Central Valley;
4. And then separated into parts of super-commuters by income, age, and industry.



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## WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

- Super-commutes are much more prevalent among Central Valley to Bay Area commuters, and much more so among carpool and public transit mode shares. Thus, the burden of the full length in time and distance of super-commutes falls heaviest on transit commuters in the region, most of whom are already of lower socioeconomic status.
- Residents moving from the Bay Area into the Central Valley is correlated with increased super-commuting into Central Valley neighborhoods. Strategies to better connect employees with employers whether to commute, telecommute, or switch to more local jobs may relieve these commuting burdens, and should at least be explored.
- Transportation planning across the regions of cities and counties in Northern California is an important level of governmental coordination to increase the well-being by managing and possibly decreasing super-commuting.

## WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

Caltrans, state agencies, and regional transportation planning agencies may use these study's results to make future planning decisions based on the growth due to the increase of super-commuting and resulting integration of regions, with ever growing commutes between regions.

## LEARN MORE

For more information, see the final report.  
<https://sites.usc.edu/ca-regional-impact/>

## IMAGES



Image 1: The Rise of Super-Commuting