

Jobs & Economic Development 101

TOD University 2013

Instructions for Exercise 1– Where do you live and work, and how do you commute?

Objectives:

- To start by thinking about the role that transportation might play in how we get to and from our jobs, and what job choices are actually available to us.
- To break the ice among module participants.

Materials:

A map of the city or county (get from AAA, for example)

Markers and/or stickers of different colors.

Instructions:

Instruct people to mark down where they live, where they work, and draw a line to connect the two. Have them use different symbols or colors to show how they most often get to work. For example:

A star (or a red line) means they drive

A circle (or a blue line) means they take the bus

An x (or a yellow line) means they take the train

Etc.

Have them mark themselves down. Then have them mark down their friends or family, and others they know (depending on group size).

Look at the map when everyone is finished. Have a brief discussion before starting the presentation about the patterns that emerge. Ideas for consideration:

- Are there clusters where a lot of people work?
(“it seems like a lot of people work in downtown Los Angeles. Can some of you talk about the kinds of jobs you have there?”)
- Do people in those clusters use the same form of transportation or do they get there in different ways?
- Are there people dispersed all over? How do they get around and what types of jobs do they have?
- Are you happy with the kinds of places you work and the ways you get around? What would you like to see change?
- What about that train coming in – would that help you get to your current job? Could it help you get to other jobs?
- How many people have a car available? If you don’t have a car, can you think about how the train might change your job opportunities? Would you look for jobs in different places?
- How far away would you consider taking a job? Would you take a job in San Bernardino? What about Irvine? Why or why not?