2017 Regional Fixed Route Transit Rider Survey
Sponsored by Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) in partnership with the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO)

Texas A&M Transportation Institute provided technical assistance to H-GAC and METRO

Survey was conducted by ETC Institute in association with Connetics Transportation Group (CTG) and Resource Systems Group (RSG)
Transit Rider Survey Purpose

- Compile statistically accurate data about transit riders and how they use fixed-route transit services.
- Generate origin-destination data for use by H-GAC and METRO to support travel demand models.
- Gather data for Federal Transit Administration required reporting.
Survey Methodology

- Surveyors conducted intercept interviews of randomly selected passengers riding local bus and rail using tablet personal computers.
- Surveyors distributed self-administered paper surveys to passengers riding AM-inbound trips for park and ride.
- Survey period: February 14 through May 26, 2017
Fixed-Route Transit Agencies Participating

- METRO
- The Woodlands
- Fort Bend County Public Transportation
- Galveston County, Island Transit
- Gulf Coast Center, Connect Transit
- Harris County Transit
- Conroe Connection
- Brazos Transit District (service within H-GAC region)
## Ridership and Sample Size by Transit Agency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transit Agency</th>
<th>Average Daily Riders Spring 2016</th>
<th>Survey Sample Collected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>METRO</td>
<td>270,814</td>
<td>21,421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Woodlands</td>
<td>2,699</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Bend Public Transportation</td>
<td>1,143</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galveston Island Transit</td>
<td>1,189</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connect Transit</td>
<td>1,121</td>
<td>283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris County Transit</td>
<td>377</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conroe Connection</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazos Transit District</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGIONAL TOTAL</td>
<td>277,523</td>
<td>22,446</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Regional Ridership by Agency

- METRO (97.2%)
- The Woodlands (1.2%)
- Fort Bend Public Transportation (0.5%)
- Galveston Island Transit (0.4%)
- Connect Transit (0.4%)
- Conroe Connection (0.1%)
- Harris County Transit (0.1%)
- Brazos Transit District (<0.1%)
# Mode by Transit Agency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transit Agency</th>
<th>Local Bus</th>
<th>Park &amp; Ride</th>
<th>METRORail</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>METRO</td>
<td>●</td>
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<td>The Woodlands</td>
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</table>
Regional Ridership by Mode

- Local Bus: 63.0%
- METRORail: 22.8%
- Park & Ride: 14.2%
Employment

78% Employed

63% Full time
15% Part time
Annual Household Income

Median $33,765

- 18.5% Less than $16,000
- 14.1% $24,000 – $31,999
- 14.1% $32,000 – $39,999
- 13.7% $40,000 – $53,999
- 12.4% $54,000 – $80,999
- 12.1% $32,000 – $39,999
- 10.1% Over $100,000

- 4.8% $81,000 – $99,999

- 14.2% $16,000 – $23,999
Student Status

20% Students

15% College or university
4% K–12th grade
1% Technical school
Age

Between 20 and 50 years: 72%

5% ≥65 years
15% 51–64 years
8% <20 years
Race/Ethnicity

- 43% African American
- 25% Hispanic or Latino
- 22% White
- 6% Asian
- <1% American Indian
- 3% Mixed Race
Ride Frequency

88%
Ride at least 3 days a week

22% 6 or 7 days
46% 5 days
21% 3 or 4 days
Ride Duration

- 25% ≥10 years
- 56% 1 to 10 years
- 19% <1 year
Mode of Access to Transit

- 79% Walk
- 19% Drive
- <2% Bicycle
Transit is important to the region’s economy

Of the passengers surveyed, 58 percent were making the trip on transit for work or work-related, 20 percent were making the trip for shopping or personal business, 10 percent were students traveling to college or school, 8 percent were riding transit for church or a social visit, and 4 percent were going to a medical appointment.
The region’s transit systems have a positive impact on traffic and air quality

If transit was not available, 31 percent of transit riders in the region would drive to make the same trip.
Questions or Comments

- Michael Onuogu
  H-GAC Project Manager
  michael.onuogu@h-gac.com

- Chris Van Slyke
  H-GAC Transportation Program Manager
  chris.vanslyke@h-gac.com