Travel Markets and Major Employment Centers

Travel markets are people making trips that are similar in purpose or geographically, in terms of start and end points. The RTA’s Cook DuPage Corridor Travel Market Analysis published in December 2005 identified nine travel markets that are similar in both purpose and geography. The direction and proportional magnitude size of the travel patterns are depicted conceptually with the arrows below.

The Travel Market Analysis also concluded that the reverse commute and all intersuburban travel markets are not currently well served by the existing transportation system. Particularly poorly served are Travel Markets 5 and 6, Travel Markets 2 and 7, Travel Market 3. Six major employment centers in or near the Cook DuPage Corridor sustain much of its workforce.

The Cook DuPage Corridor Travel Markets

1 Traditional Commute

Trips in this travel market begin in the corridor and surrounding suburbs with destinations in Chicago, crossing Cicero Ave. eastbound in the morning. This is the single largest travel pattern affecting the corridor, accounting for 23% of all work trips made from the Cook portion of the Corridor and 9% of all work trips made from the DuPage portion. 426,000 daily work trips.

2 Reverse Commute

Mirroring the Traditional commute, Reverse Commute trips begin in the City of Chicago with destinations in the western suburbs, crossing Cicero Ave. westbound in the morning. All six corridor employment centers, and O’Hare and Midway airports are destinations of this market. 246,000 daily work trips.

3 Central DuPage

This inter-suburban travel market is comprised of work trips that originate west of IL 53 in DuPage, and in Will county and that are destined for east-central DuPage. The Yorktown/Oak Brook employment center is the main destination of this travel market. 69,000 daily work trips.

4 South Central Cook

Trips of this travel market originate between the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and Cicero Ave south of the Metra UP-West line and have destinations in east-central DuPage. The Yorktown/Oak Brook employment center is the main destination of this travel market. 26,000 daily work trips.

5 East Central DuPage

This is a bi-directional travel market of north-south work trips east of Gary Ave. Southbound trips are destined for the Oak Brook/Yorktown area, Lombard and Lisle; northbound trips are destined for Elmhurst/Addison, Thorndale and Schaumburg. This is the largest of seven inter-suburban markets. 113,000 daily work trips.

6 Far West DuPage

This travel market originates in the western two-thirds of DuPage County and northwest Will County. The main destination of this travel market is the Lisle/Naperville/Warrenville employment center in west central DuPage. 34,000 daily work trips.

7 North DuPage

This travel market consists of short, overlapping trips originating in Kane, northwest Cook and northern DuPage and are destined for northern DuPage, particularly to the Thorndale and Elmhurst/Addison employment centers. 52,000 daily work trips.

8 North Central Cook

from the far west and northwest sides of Chicago and the near-west suburbs of Cook county that are destined for suburban communities located south-southeast of O’Hare International Airport. 12,000 daily work trips.

9 West Central Cook

The West Central Cook travel market consists of north-south travel in Cook County that takes place between Mannheim Road and Cicero Avenue. This travel market consists of nearly 48,000 daily work trips.