COVID-19
IMPACTS AND IMPLICATIONS

MAY 28, 2020
JEFFREY F. PANIATI, P.E.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO
INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS
DEATHS DECLINING BUT STILL SIGNIFICANT

7-Day Moving Average
IMPACTS UNEVEN ACROSS THE UNITED STATES
LOCALIZED APPROACH TO REOPENING

COVID-19 State Reopening Guide: How Open for Business is Each State?

Open

Closed

Source: MultiState. Data as of May 22, 2020. Note: Ratings are calculated based on eleven factors run through a weighted formula. See methodology for details.
TRANSPORTATION IMPACTS

AIR TRAVEL
- Domestic Flights down 68%
- International Flights down 91%
- Passenger Screenings down 92%

MASS TRANSIT
- Rail Travel down 85-95%

TRAFFIC VOLUMES
- Truck Volumes: steady at 95% of prior year
- Auto Volumes:
  - Late March to late April – 50-60% of prior year
  - Mid-May – 75-80% of prior year

SAFETY
- 2020, Quarter 1:
  - Fatalities down 8%
  - Fatality Rate up 14%

OPEN STREETS
- Hundreds of miles of urban streets opened for increased walking and biking
Short-Term (Pre-Vaccine) Expectations

- This period could last 8 to 18 months,
- Conditions will continue to vary regionally,
- May involve localized closures (Fall?) due to reemergence of virus,
- Remotely enabled workers (30%) will exclusively or largely continue to work from home (WFH),
- Activity will be determined by individual risk assessments, not just “openings,”
- Activity will be “generational” – young people more, older people less.
Short-Term (Pre-Vaccine) Transportation Impacts

- Overall passenger transportation demand will remain depressed,
- Freight transportation demand will be at or above historic levels,
- Air travel will be dramatically depressed,
- Transit use/service will be limited to essential/service workers with limited options,
- Micromobility options/usage will be limited,
- Biking and walking will continue at elevated levels for short distance travel and exercise,
- Single Occupant Vehicle (SOV) usage will have increased mode share; congestion will remain down,
- Overall fatalities will remain down; fatality rate will remain elevated.
LONGER-TERM QUESTIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

• Reduced Long-Distance Travel
  • Continued reliance on video conferencing
  • Reduction in travel budgets

• Shift to Permanent (full or part time) WFH Arrangements
  • Widespread comfort with technology tools
  • Increased employer confidence in managing employee productivity remotely
  • Increased worker desire to work remotely

• Reduction in Demand for Downtown Office Space
  • Impacts on Central Business Districts – restaurants, business, parking
  • Change in demand for micro-mobility
LONGER-TERM QUESTIONS AND IMPLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

• Mode Shift Away from Mass Transit and Toward Single Occupant Vehicles
  • Change in rationale for & availability of transit – equity considerations
  • Potential increase in congestion and parking demand
  • Increased space for walking and biking

• Funding for Transportation
  • Federal stimulus/reauthorization
  • COVID-19 budget pressures at state and local level
  • Length and shape of recovery
**ITE RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

- **Curated Resource Page**
  Transportation Resources, Transportation Impacts, Organizational Tools, Personal/Family Guidance

- **Deeper Dives**
  - Transportation Talks Podcast - Future of Transit
  - Learning Hub Webinar - Open Streets for Walking and Biking
  - Working Group - Traffic Counting Considerations

- **New Engagement Opportunities**
  Virtual Drop-ins – 30-minute, Unstructured Focus-Group Discussions Every Tuesday and Thursday

- **Reimagined ITE Annual Meeting and Exhibit**
  August 4-20
  Tuesday-Thursday, 11:00-5:30 EDT
  Plenary and Technical Sessions, Poster Presentations, Workshops
  Exhibitor Showcase
FOR MORE INFORMATION

ITE COVID-19 RESOURCE CENTER

HTTPS://WWW.ITE.ORG/ABOUT-ITE/COVID-19-RESOURCES/