Policy Development and Research

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Transformation of the American Commuter - At a Glance

Overview

The way that consumers access transportation, travel to their destinations, and think about new mobility is evolving. Technological and generational change will make people more likely to use multi-transit options and will allow the transit industry to reach new users. This report lays out APTA’s position on these changing mobility trends and why strong public transportation systems will continue to be necessary. Public transportation agencies and transportation authorities are uniquely positioned as “mobility managers” to help organize transportation options throughout an area efficiently, accessibly and equitably.

Key Polling Results

As part of the APTA Policy Department’s research, a survey on the future of mobility was conducted on one thousand adults nationwide. They were polled on wide-ranging transportation topics based on results from a qualitative focus group of millennial commuters. Below are highlighted results discussed in the report:

On Travel Behavior

- 82 percent of millennials agreed that public transportation is the backbone of a multi-transit lifestyle
- 67 percent of millennials own a car more because they need one than because they enjoy owning one
- 88 percent of millennials say the length of their commute is important

On the Future of Mobility

- 74 percent of millennials would use a Mobility-As-A-Service app
- 60 percent of total respondents support bus lanes, even if parking is lost
- 71 percent of millennials prefer a rideshare driven by a real person over a self-driving one

On Funding Issues

- 50 percent of millennials support congestion pricing, even before a campaign
- 68 percent of total respondents support additional funding for public transportation

How to Use this Report

This study is for media, transit agencies, planning organizations, and elected officials. The report helps audiences understand:

- Commuters’ opinion on transportation and new mobility, with an emphasis on the Millennial generation, now the largest generation
- Recommendations for public transportation agencies and policy leaders to guide new mobility