Impact of Information Access on Attitudes about Intercity Travel by Automobile, Bus, and Passenger Rail

Much research exists on intercity travel behavior between large metropolitan areas. There is an opportunity for more research on travel from less populated areas to large metropolitan areas. When planning a trip from Northern New England to major cities in the Northeast, there are often several transportation options to consider. This work examines the impact of information access on attitudes about transportation options for this type of travel, using automobile, intercity bus, and passenger rail.

This research uses a data set compiled from a travel survey conducted for trips from Northern New England to four major cities in the Northeast. The survey had questions on actual trips taken, a hypothetical trip to New York City, and attitudes about traveling by automobile, intercity bus, and passenger rail. The sample was split into two groups, with and without access to an intercity travel planning web tool, designed with this survey. The tool had scheduling options for travelling to New York City by intercity bus or rail.

So far, this research has included reviewing the literature, exploring the data set, and developing research questions. One question is: What impact does access to information have on people’s attitudes about traveling from Northern New England to major cities in the Northeast by automobile, intercity bus and passenger rail? Differences in survey responses between the two groups are being considered, to identify and measure the possible significance of information access on the outcome of a variety of questions related to this type of intercity travel. Descriptive statistics will be presented for the data set. The two study groups are being evaluated for preexisting bias. The goal is to better quantify impacts of access to information on attitudes about traveling from Northern New England to major cities in the Northeast by automobile, intercity bus and passenger rail.

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