

- **Why Residents Choose to Live Near Transit** (*Tony Manno – Regional Transportation Authority*)

Empirical research in the Northeastern Illinois region about what factors motivate people to move into a Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) area is limited. Such research is necessary to inform and enhance the future planning of TOD areas. The RTA administered a TOD Resident Survey to 35,000+ residents of 14 suburban TOD areas throughout the region in early 2014. The purpose of the survey was to gain a better understanding of why individuals chose to live in a TOD area and how it may have changed their travel habits from their previous residence. The survey also collected information on how the availability of transit service and living in a TOD area may impact lifestyle choices and behaviors.

An online survey was developed consisting of 32 questions ranging from simple demographics to detailed questions on the resident's travel behaviors, when and why they moved to their current home, and where they use to live. The survey questions were vetted through the RTA's Regional TOD Working Group, which includes Metra, Pace and CTA. Residences within a half-mile of the 14 municipalities' rail stations were mailed a postcard describing the purpose of the survey and a link to the survey online.

The survey results will be analyzed and summarized in a report that will inform the RTA's TOD technical assistance efforts moving forward and help local municipalities make appropriate land use decisions near their rail stations that will attract the most residents.