

Research Topic: Public Transportation

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Public Transportation in Garfield

Introduction

Public transportation is defined as forms of transportation that charge a set fare and are available to the public. It is a key factor in everyone's lives, especially for people who do not have access to private transportation. Lack of public transportation can be a serious issue in many places; this specific research focuses on the Garfield community. Public transportation includes methods such as: bike rentals and Port Authority buses. This topic is important to study because it is an ongoing issue for some of the urban communities like Garfield; lack of public transportation can make the residents' lives more inconvenient, more problems like getting around the neighborhood and is complicated to move around.

Literature Review

According to E. Traut and A. Steinfield's article "Identifying Commonly Used and Potentially Unsafe Transit Transfers With Crowdsourcing," public transit is a necessary way to travel and should be a reliable resource to depend on. This study has found that the lack of public transportation around Pittsburgh is problematic for people with disabilities, which has been a serious issue for the residents.

The article "Public Transportation" by John Pucher suggests that transportation policy should be more inclusive. Most scholars agree with the statement as shown by work from Jessica Berg and Jonas Ihlstorm as well as Hector Correa, John Jacoby, and Russ Vogel. This study has found that public transportation should be improved in general, which includes the walking condition and bicycling conditions.

Methods

Researchers conducted a survey on public transportation in Garfield with questions that were developed in class. The first two sets of questions examined demographics and general community issues. The next set explored the opinion of 43 Garfield residents and explored their personal opinions and personal experiences related to public transportation in the community. Respondents were asked the following questions such as "On a scale of 1-5, how satisfied are you with public transportation inside of this community?", "Do you think public transportation in

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this community should improve?”, and “Do you think the Port Authority should give free bus passes to the youth all year around?” Additionally, researchers distributed their surveys by asking the residents to scan the QR code of the survey and giving out hard copies. Researchers asked for consent from respondents.

Results

Our study sought to explore the effect of public transportation on residents in Garfield. Results reveal that public transportation is a huge problem in Garfield. The following sections provide further insight into the data and collects intel about the people who completed the survey.

Respondent Profile:

Survey respondents provided their thoughts and feelings about the transportation in Garfield. Our total survey population is 42 respondents. Of those surveyed, our typical survey respondent fits a unique profile. The most people who did our survey were African-American, the average gender was male, the highest education they obtained is the high-school diploma, the average household status is a two parent home and lastly the average income is between 25,001 and 50,000.

Community Needs Assessment:

Respondents provided important feedback on their community. They noted that there is a need to add more transportation for residents to get around. 53.5% of the residents surveyed reported they feel safe in their community at night time. From this, we can conclude that Garfield feels moderately safe to residents. However, the data also showed that 81% of the community feels unprotected by the police. Last but not least, 62% of the residents inside Garfield feels unsatisfied with the public transportation.

Study Specific Findings:

66% of the residents in Garfield would take the bus for school/work instead of using it for sports/activities. Additionally, 95.3% of the residents in Garfield believe that the youth should be given free bus passes all year round. Also, 62.8% of residents would use public transportation in a rush. 93% of the residents in Garfield think public transportation should improve in the community.

Results from our survey questions suggest that the youth should get free buses all year around. They also suggest that public transportation should not only improve, it should be more accessible. Lastly, a lot of residents within the community would rely on public transportation in

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an emergency situation which conveys that while public transportation in Garfield is typically unreliable, residents genuinely need to use it to get to their destination.

Overall, results from our survey reveal that residents feel like there should be more buses and public transportation should be more accessible.

Discussion

With our study we experienced difficulty finding people to do the surveys. We also had difficulty getting transportation around the community and back which emphasized that our problem is relevant. Additionally, a lot of residents were not answering the door and were not interested in taking our survey. When we completed the research-gathering process, we found out that most residents face similar issues as we did in their day-to-day lives.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the findings from this study would also help other researchers to understand that transportation around Garfield is lacking support. Results from our research suggest that the Port Authority needs to improve public transportation to make it convenient and efficient for Garfield residents to get to and from their destination. We think transportation should come more often in addition to another bus line being available for residents. Lastly, transportation should be more accessible in frequency and location of bus stops throughout this community.