



UC Center Sacramento

The Jobs-Housing Balance in California Cities – Implications for Transit Ridership

Wednesday, July 15th

12:00 - 1:00pm

In light of the community concerns regarding COVID-19, this talk will be given as a webinar. The link will be provided on Tuesday, July 14th to those that have registered by 5:00 pm on Monday, July 13th at uccs.ucdavis.edu.

Prior to the current COVID crisis, public transit use was declining and traffic congestion increasing in major metropolitan areas in the U.S. One explanation for these trends is the relocation of households away from expensive cities and neighborhoods to outlying areas where housing is more affordable but transit service and use is more limited. Drawing on employment data for workers in California, I will discuss the relationship between housing affordability and changes in the spatial location of workers relative to jobs. The data that, over time, California workers are less likely to work and live in the same city. This finding is linked to growing commute distances as well as increasing numbers of workers who live in transit-poor neighborhoods. These trends suggest that the utility of commuting via transit is generally waning across California cities, a policy challenge likely magnified in the context of the current pandemic.



Evelyn Blumenberg is a Professor of Urban Planning and Director of the Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies in the Luskin School of Public Affairs at UCLA. Her research examines the effects of urban structure—the spatial location of residents, employment, and services—on economic outcomes for low-wage workers, and on the role of planning and policy in shaping the spatial structure of cities. Her recent projects include analyses of trends in transit ridership, residential location and travel behavior of young adults, the relationship between automobile ownership and employment outcomes among the poor, and predatory auto lending. Evelyn holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California, Berkeley, and a master's degree and Ph.D. in urban planning from the University of California, Los Angeles.

For questions contact Brooke Miller-Jacobs at (916) 445-5161 or bmmillerjacobs@ucdavis.edu

The views and opinions expressed during this lecture are those of the speaker and do not necessarily represent the views of UCSS.