SOV Reduction Study
Part 1 – Background & Study Process

Lake County Public Works & Transportation Committee

November 1, 2023

Study Purpose

MY COMMUTE LAKE COUNTY

Develop projects and programs that can be implemented by Lake County and others to reduce Single Occupancy Vehicle use in the County.

Introductions

Consultant Team:

Purpose of Meeting

- The SOV Reduction Study is to be presented over two meetings of the Public Works & Transportation Committee

- Meeting 1 will provide background and a description of the study process

- Meeting 2 will present the proposed 34 SOV Reduction projects

Meeting 1 Agenda
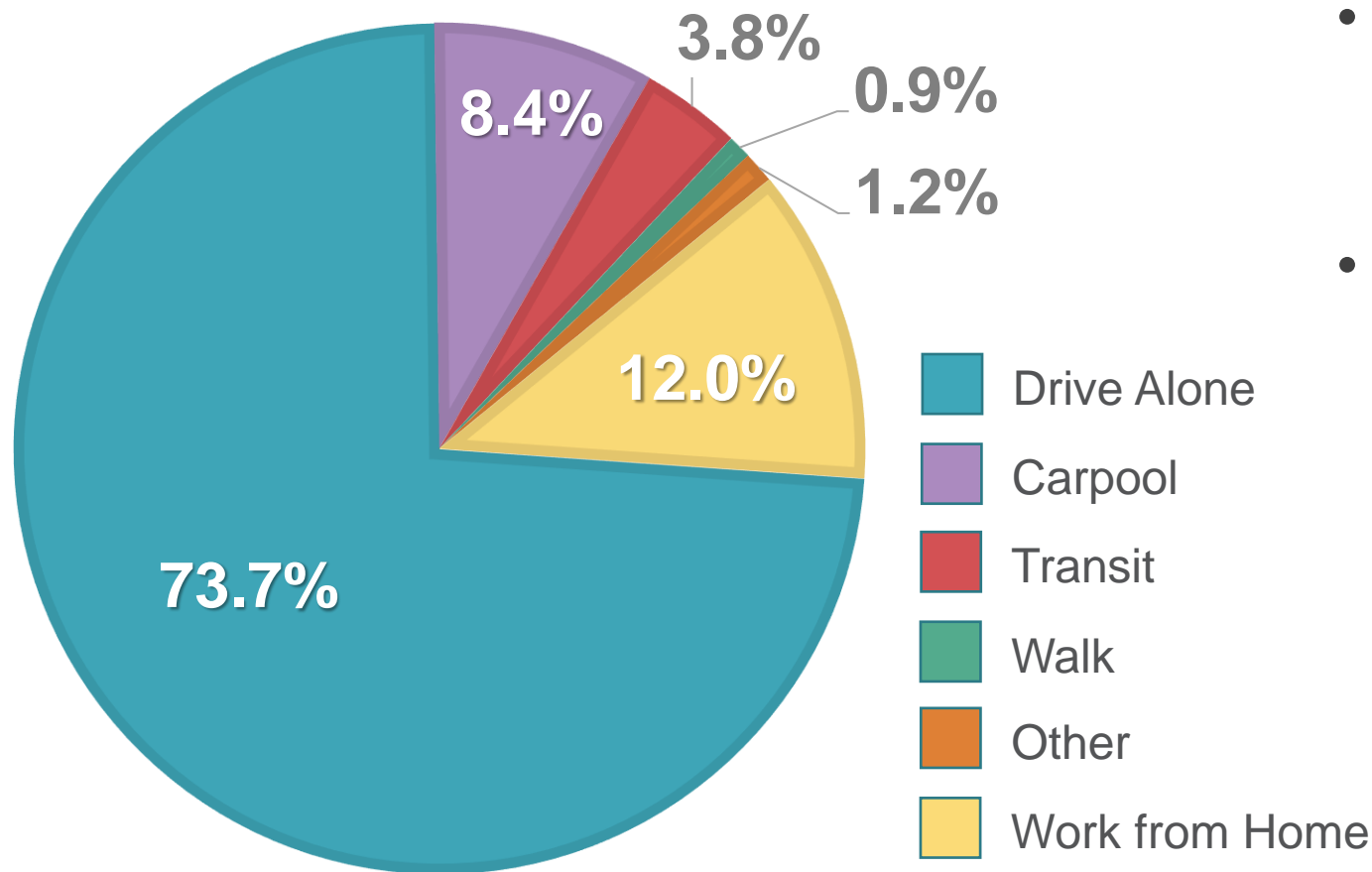
Study Background & Purpose

Review of Study Tasks:

1. **Existing and Future Conditions**
2. **Public and Stakeholder Outreach**
3. **ID Potential SOV Reduction Measures**
4. **Intro to Candidate SOV Reduction Projects**

Study Background & Purpose

Commute Mode – Average for 2017-2021

- Drive Alone — 73.7%
- Carpool — 8.4%
- Transit — 3.8%
- Walk — 0.9%
- Other — 1.2%
- Work from Home — 12.0%

- Driving alone is the dominant travel mode used by Lake County residents to commute to work

- Heavy reliance on Single Occupancy Vehicles (SOV) contributes to congestion and environmental impacts due to vehicle emissions

Study Purpose

Recommend Strategies	ID projects & programs to shift individuals from driving alone, making the transportation system more efficient for residents, workers and visitors
Encourage Mobility Options	Think differently in addressing mobility for the long-term well-being of Lake County
Develop Partnerships	ID willing partners to develop or collaborate on action and marketing plans to implement SOV reduction strategies

Study Tasks

This presentation will cover Tasks 1-3, & introduce Task 4

Task 4 details to be covered in Meeting 2

1. Existing/Future Conditions & Market Analysis
2. Public and Stakeholder Outreach
3. ID Potential SOV Reduction Measures
4. Candidate Lake County SOV Reduction Projects
5. Grant Program for SOV Reduction Projects
6. Final Report

1. Existing/Future Conditions & Market Analysis

# Existing & Future Conditions Report

Reviews existing and future conditions of travel characteristics and transportation resources. The tech memo covered:

- Summaries of Relevant Plans and Studies;
- Socio-Economic Characteristics;
- Travel Characteristics;
- Travel Flows, and
- Transportation Services and Facilities
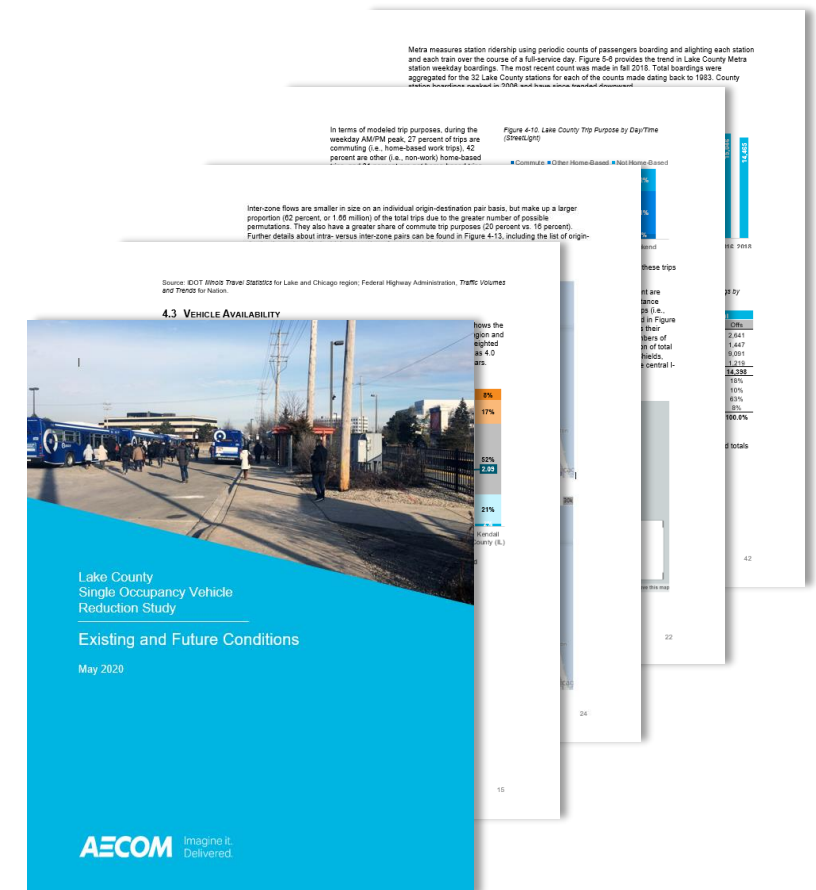
Travel Flows by Mode

- Mode share split varies by corridor, but typically >75% SOV
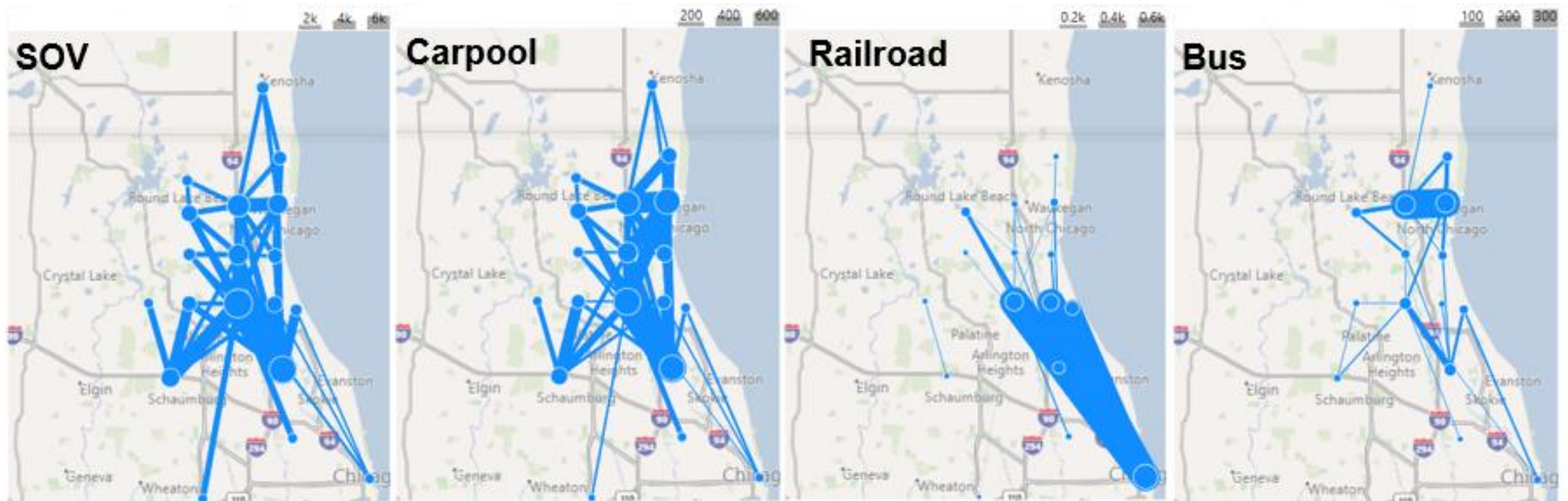
SOURCE: Census Transportation Planning Products (CTPP) for period 2012-2016

Metra Lines Serving Lake County

4 Metra Lines & 32 stations

- To Ogilvie Transportation Center
  - **UP-N** to Kenosha (12 stations)
  - **UP-NW** to Harvard & McHenry (1 station)

- To Union Station
  - **MD-N** to Fox Lake (10 stations)
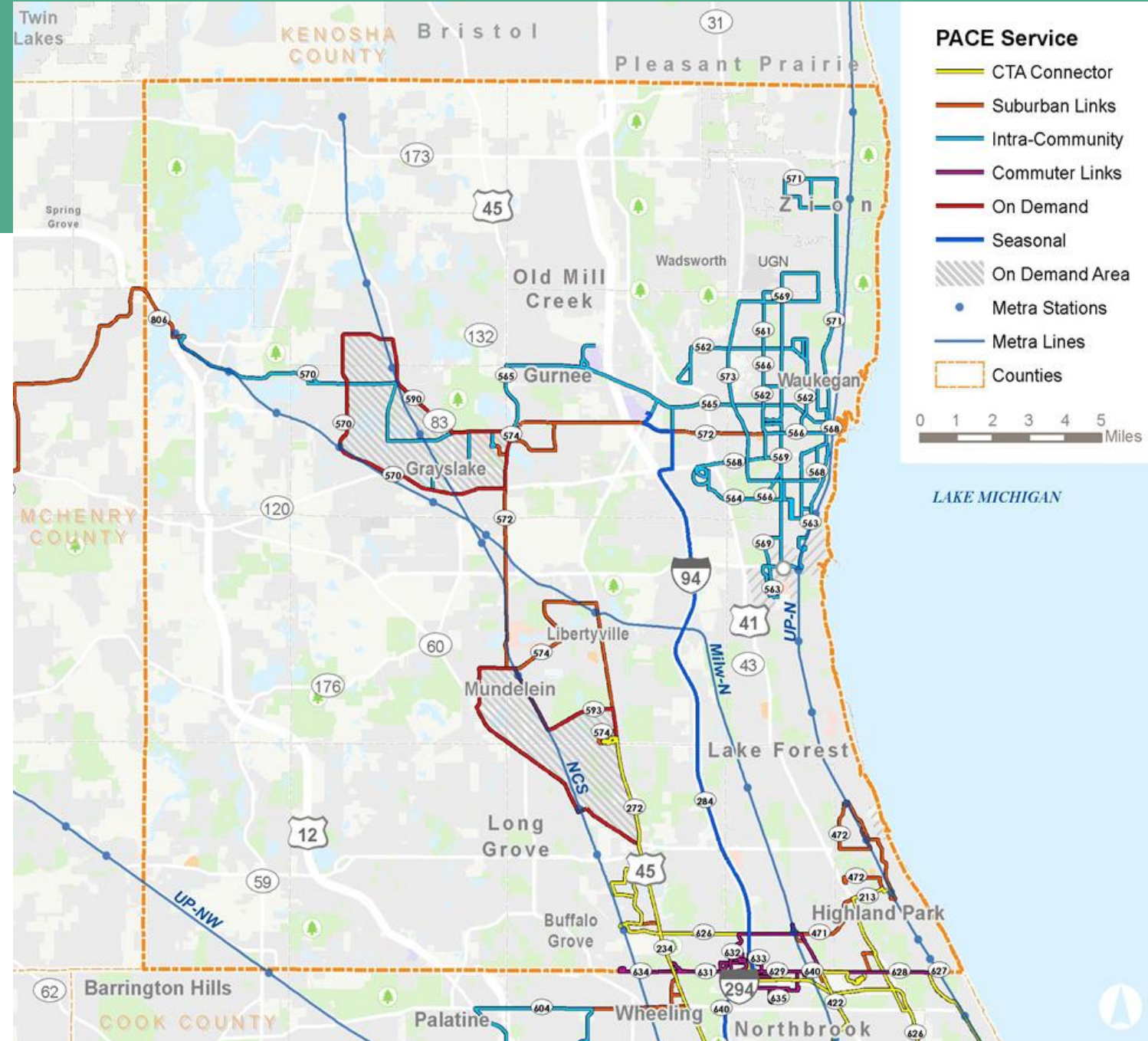 - **NCS** to Antioch (9 stations)

NCS has limited weekday service and no weekend service

Existing/Future Conditions Report
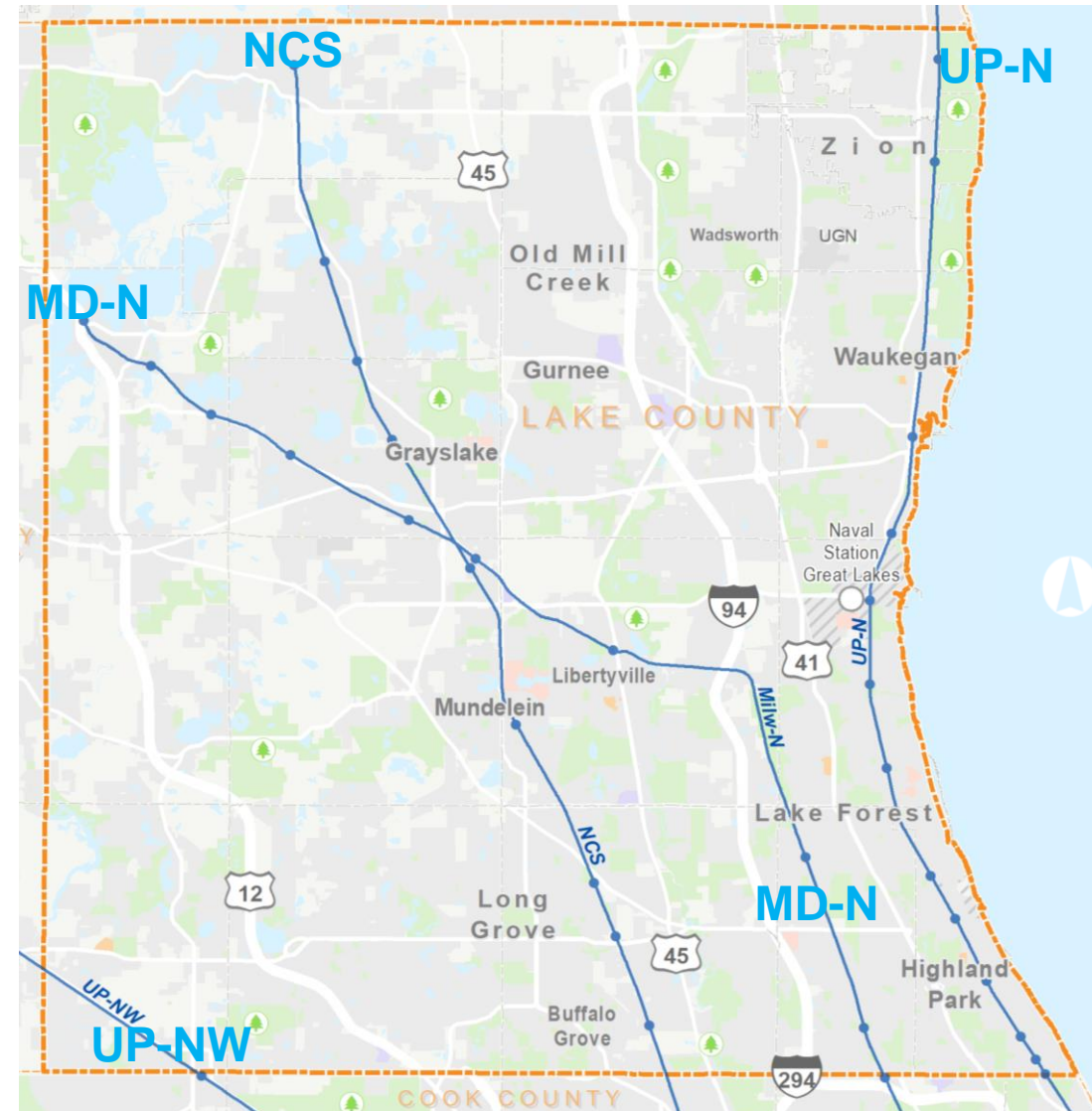
Pace Bus Routes

- In 2019,
  - 30 Fixed-route
  - 2 Seasonal
  - 2 On-Demand

Existing/Future Conditions Report

Pace, Other Programs

- Regional RideShare
- Vanpool
  - Traditional
  - Employer Shuttle
  - Metra Feeders
  - Advantage Van
- Paratransit Services

2. Public and Stakeholder Outreach

Public Involvement Tasks

- Informed by the <u>Project Engagement Plan</u>
- Developed <u>Project Logo</u>

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- Created <u>Project Webpage</u> *<u>www.lakecountyil.gov/4463/</u>*<u>MY-Commute-Lake-County-Study</u>
- <u>Peer agency interviews</u> – 9 agencies from across the Country thought to have innovative programs to encourage non-SOV use
- <u>Public On-Line Survey</u>, Aug/Sep 2020
  - Objectives
    - Assess effective ways to reduce SOV travel
    - Better understand travel habits & barriers to use of non-SOV options
    - Pre- and post-COVID-19 travel preferences
  - 1,429 responses

Public Involvement Tasks, cont'd

- Advisory Group
  - Membership: 12 stakeholder agencies
  - Convened 4 times to provide comments on Study products (Jun 2020, Nov 2020, Jun 2021, Oct 2022)
- Stakeholder Interviews, Round 1, Sep 2020
  - Lake County Partners, Pace, Metra, RTA
- Stakeholder Interviews, Round 2, Mar/Apr 2021
  - TMA of Lake-Cook, Lake Co. Partners, Lake Co. Workforce Development Board, Lake County Building & Development, Visit Lake County, seven municipalities/townships
- Employer & Business Park Survey, spring 2021

3. ID Potential SOV Reduction Measures

SOV Reduction Measures Task

- Purpose: ID long list of possible measures that could be considered to reduce drive-alone travel in Lake County
- Recommended SOV Reduction projects were drawn from this research
- Task elements
  - Sources
  - Categories
  - SOV Reduction Measures
  - Evaluation

Sources

Multiple sources used to ID possible measures
- Existing/Future Conditions and Market Analysis Report
- Peer Agency Interviews
- Literature/Web search – 158 docs collected
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Advisory Group Member Input
- Local Case Studies (six)
- Emerging Mobilities & Technologies White Paper - Future trends & impacts of emerging mobility options
- Electric-Assist Mobility White Paper - Variation to the bicycle mode.

Categories

- A taxonomy of strategies to provide a framework for classification. Served to sort-out strategies that overlap, are duplicative, or are complementary.

- The nine categories:

1. **Commute Options Programming**
2. **Rideshare**
3. **Transit**
4. **Pedestrian/Bicycle**
5. **Non-commuter Strategies**

6. **Technology**
7. **Parking**
8. **Roadway**
9. **Land Use & Policy**

SOV Reduction Measures by Category

79 measures identified as possible SOV Reduction projects

	Categories	Measures
1	Commute Options Programming	20
2	Rideshare	6
3	Transit	12
4	Pedestrian & Bicycle	9
5	Non-Commuter Strategies	7
6	Technology	3
7	Parking	6
8	Roadway	5
9	Land Use & Policy	11
	Totals	**79**

*from SOV Reduction Measures Report

Evaluation of SOV Reduction Measures

- Rating scheme developed
- Evaluation factors tied to goals & objectives of planning docs
- Evaluation of 79 measures helped inform the development of SOV Reduction projects

4. Intro to Candidate SOV Reduction Projects

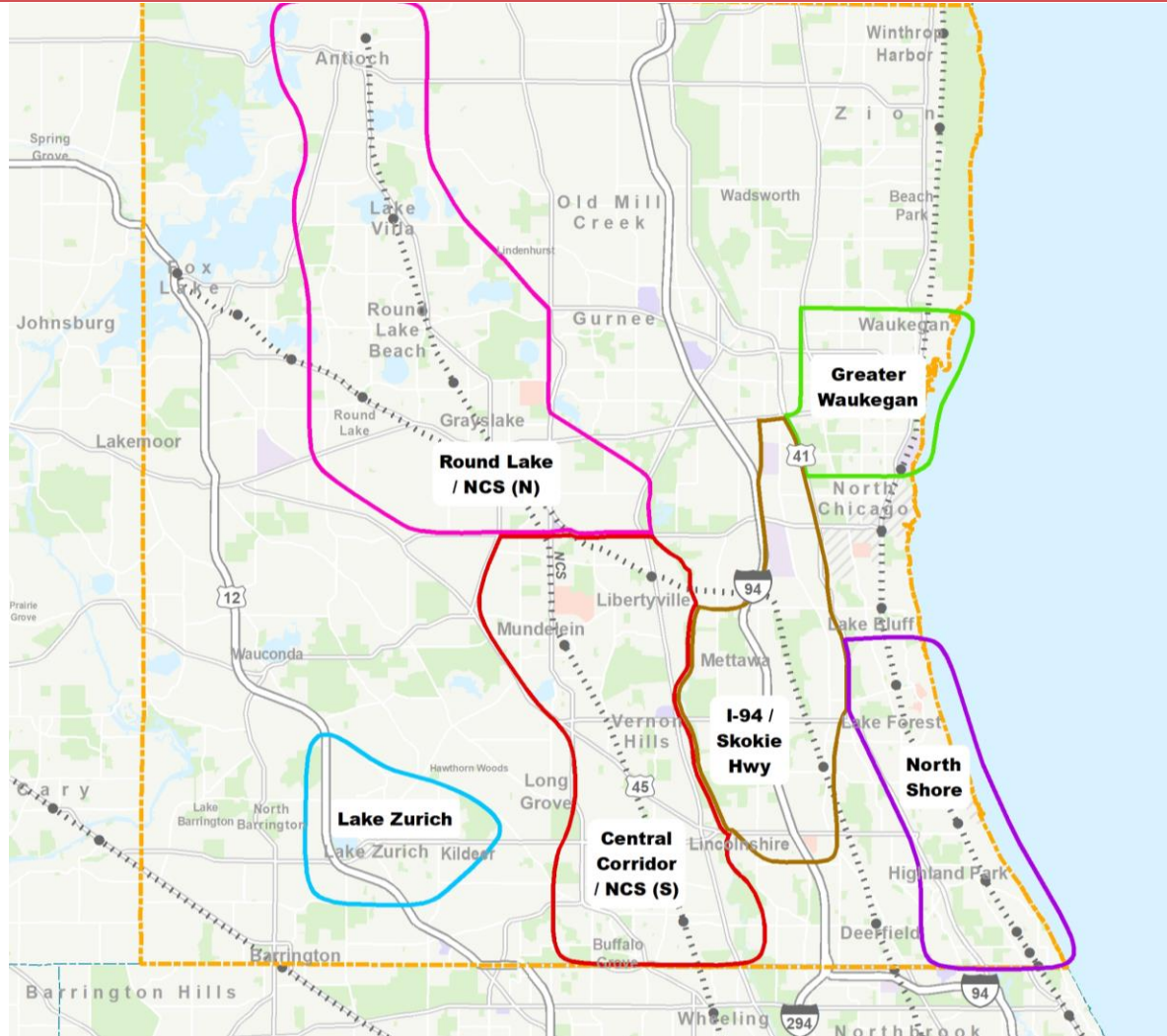# Study Process to ID SOV Reduction Projects for Lake County

Study Initiation

Existing Conditions and Market Analysis	Surveys / Stakeholder Outreach	Literature Online Research	Local Case Study Documentation	Emerging Mobilities & Electric-Assist White Papers

79 SOV Reduction Measures Identified

Research and Documentation of Possible SOV Reduction Measures	Assessment of Measures Applicable to Lake County and Ability to Reduce SOV Travel	Evaluation Results

34 Candidate SOV Reduction Projects Advanced

Sub-Regions/Micro Zones for Potential Projects Identified and Analyzed	Potential Form/Parameters of SOV Reduction Projects Developed	Projects Evaluated based on Benefit, Ease of Implementation, Cost.

Summary Recommendations

Project Identification Overview

- Create possibilities for the County to consider for advancement and implementation.

- Project list is not static or final; other opportunities may be identified in the future from ongoing outreach activities

- Projects most relevant to Lake County developed from outreach and research. In addition, two other areas influenced recommendations,
  - Sub-Region & Micro Zone Mapping
  - COVID-19

Use of Mapping to Develop Recommendations

- To provide more geographic focus.

- Sub-Regions have different transportation demand and resources.

- Within Sub-Regions, Micro Zones were defined to represent areas that <u>attract</u> trips; mostly areas of employment.

- Mapping used to define:
  - Pace shelters & stop sidewalks, sidewalk gaps, bike pathways, bike parking at transit

Sub-Region and Micro Zone Maps
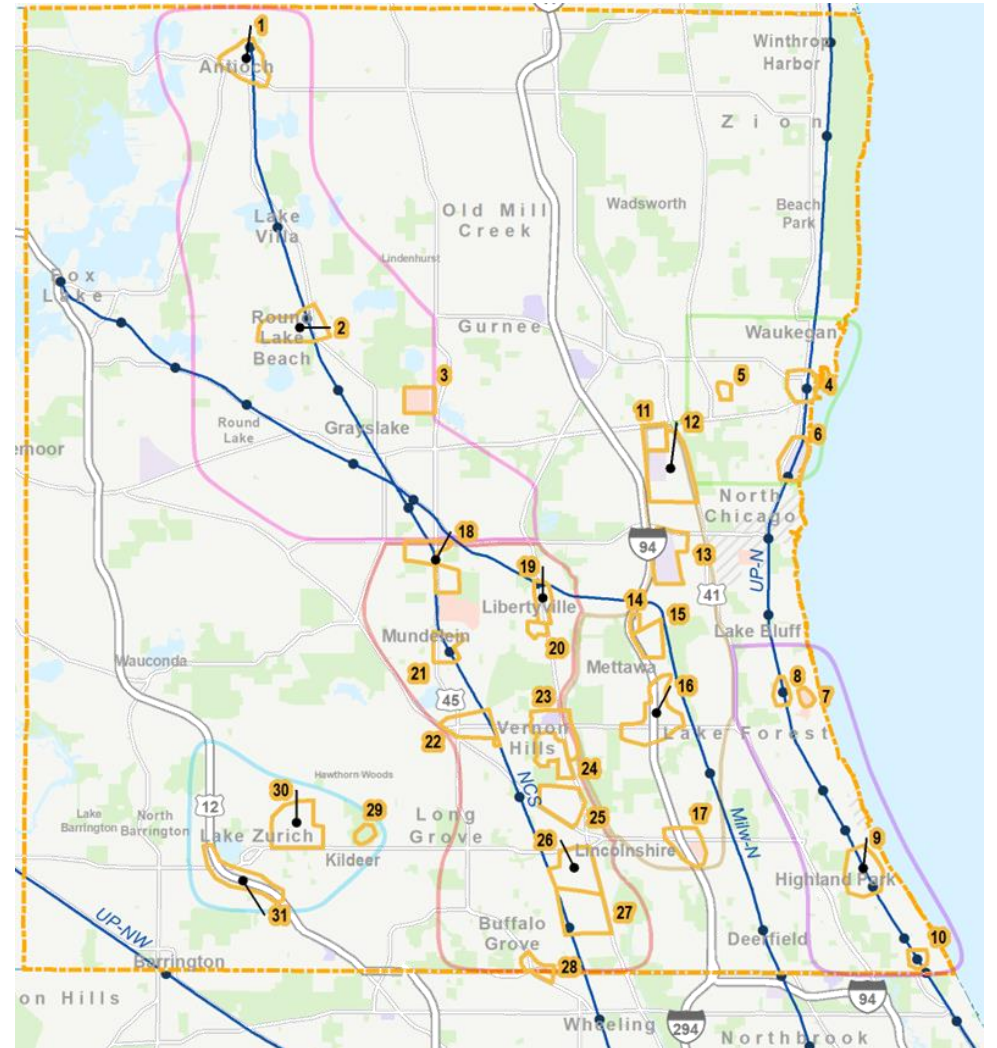
Impacts of COVID-19

- Impacts on commuting, transit, and work-from-home

- pre- vs post-pandemic comparisons:
  - Transit Service
    - Lake County Pace - 9 Lake-Cook Shuttles discontinued; 4 fixed routes reduced
    - Metra – initial major reductions in number of trains, some since restored
  - Transit Ridership
    - Lake County Pace Fixed Route – Jan-June 2023 **64%** of 2019
    - Systemwide Pace Vanpool – Jan-June 2023 **41%** of 2019
    - Lake County Metra – Jan-June 2023 **43%** of 2019
  - Work-from-Home – from Census, for Lake County residents
    - In 2019: **8%**; 2021: **21%**; 2022: **18%**

Preview of 34 Candidate Projects – Meeting 2

- Project profiles of each project to include
  - Short description
  - General sense of effort to implement and maintain
  - Possible organizations that could lead or support projects
  - Evaluation ratings (3 levels)
    - o Potential for reducing SOV travel
    - o Ease of implementation
    - o Rough level of capital and operating costs

SOV Reduction Project Profile Format

The SOV Reduction Project Profiles to be presented on Nov 8th will include basic information on each of the candidate projects, including:

Description - Thumbnail of each project

Level of Effort - General sense of effort to implement and maintain, both in terms of staff and financial support

Possible Sponsor - Tentative list of potential lead entity for projects, and well as groups requiring coordination

Evaluation Ratings:

- **Reduce SOV Travel:** = maximum reduced, = many reduced, = least reduced
- **Ease of Implementation:** = best defined, = better defined, = least defined
- **Capital Cost:** $ = low, $$ = mid, $$$ = high
- **Operating Cost:** $ = low, $$ = mid, $$$ = high

Questions?

Thank you!