Making Our Trips Count: Pittsburgh relies on many modes other than driving alone, and our transportation funding priorities should reflect that.

Pittsburgh, PA – The 2015 Make My Trip Count survey results are out, and while driving alone may be the single-largest preferred mode, it’s not in the majority. Especially in Downtown, transit a real contender for the mode choice throne. Biking and walking are also growing, and fast. Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group lauds the MMTC survey because it further reinforces the need for expanded, more robust transit, biking, and walking infrastructure, and not just in Downtown and Oakland. Access and development built around non-auto modes are in demand.

“This survey makes clear that transit, biking, and walking are indispensable to a functioning Pittsburgh-region economy,” noted Chris Sandvig, PCRG Regional Policy Director. “Commuters have spoken – nearly 21,000 of them – and they are reinforcing our message that the region needs to invest in non-auto modes at levels similar to the car.”

Sandvig also noted walking and biking's importance, especially in Oakland. “Nearly 13% of Oakland commuters do not use a motorized vehicle as their primary mode, and all over, this is the fastest-growing mobility segment. This reinforces just how important better biking and walking infrastructure is in both job centers. This isn’t just some fringe group, and this really reinforces what we’ve been saying all along. Bikes are here to stay, and we all walk to our destination once we park, lock up, or get off the bus.”

PCRG, through its GoBurgh programming, advocates for increased mobility choices throughout Allegheny County. The survey data is important, it says, because it reinforces the need for its GoBurgh programming and highlights the need for non-auto investment strategies not just in the region’s job centers, but in the communities where our region’s employees live – especially communities where the vast majority of residents don’t have access to a car.

"(MMTC) respondents represent a broad cross section of Allegheny County community locations and types," noted Sandvig. "These trips originate in our urban neighborhoods and suburban communities. Shouldn't we be changing our street investment strategies there as well as in the core? This reinforces our need to change our infrastructure investment way of thinking if our region is to continue to grow, attract new talent, and do so in a way that doesn't leave those most vulnerable behind. Everyone plays a part, and everyone can benefit."

Make My Trip Count is a strategic effort to generate up-to-date information about how Pittsburgh-region commuters regularly travel to work or school, and to and figure out how those daily trips can be improved. PCRG was one of a dozen MMTC collaborating partners. The effort was spearheaded by the Green Building Alliance’s 2030 Districts initiative. Survey results can be found at makemytripcount.org.

###

Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group (PCRG) is a coalition of leaders working for economic justice and equitable resources to revitalize the Pittsburgh region. PCRG utilizes its strengths of engagement, advocacy and policy formulation to focus its efforts on ensuring equitable access to land, capital, and mobility choices to improve the health and wealth of communities.