TRANSIT DEMAND IN RURAL DOUGLAS COUNTY: PRELIMINARY BACKGROUND DATA

Lawrence-Douglas County MPO Regional Transit Advisory Committee
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Basic County Data

• In 2010 Census:
  • Douglas County population: 110,826
  • Population inside Lawrence urbanized area: 88,053
  • County’s “rural” population: 22,773
  • Eudora population: 6,136
  • Baldwin City population: 4,515
  • Other rural areas in county: 12,122

• As of 2015, countywide population estimated to have increased 3.7%, to 114,967.
  • Almost all growth has been in Lawrence.
  • Eudora has grown 2.3%, to 6,276
  • Baldwin City has grown 1.6%, to 4,588
Population by Age Cohorts

**Douglas County**
- Age 0 - 17: 14%
- Age 18 - 64: 76%
- Age 65+: 10%

**Eudora**
- Age 0 - 17: 24%
- Age 18 - 64: 67%
- Age 65+: 9%

**Baldwin City**
- Age 0 - 17: 20%
- Age 18 - 64: 67%
- Age 65+: 13%
2015 Population by the Numbers: Douglas County

• Total population: 114,967
• Population 0 – 17: 15,570 (13.7%)
• Population 18 – 64: 87,900 (76.3%)
• Population 65+: 11,497 (10.0%)
• Population with disabilities: 11,153 (9.8%)
• Population below poverty: 20,137 (19.0%)
• Population in zero-car households: 3,813 (3.3%)
• Unemployment rate: 6.0%
2015 Population by the Numbers: Baldwin City

- Total population: 4,588
- Population 0 – 17: 936 (20.4%)
- Population 18 – 64: 3,060 (66.7%)
- Population 65+: 592 (12.9%)
- Population with disabilities: 374 (8.3%)
- Population below poverty: 404 (10.4%)
- Population in zero-car households: 29 (0.6%)
- Unemployment rate: 5.0%
2015 Population by the Numbers: Eudora

- Total population: 6,276
- Population 0 – 17: 1,487 (23.7%)
- Population 18 – 64: 4,199 (66.9%)
- Population 65+: 590 (9.4%)
- Population with disabilities: 785 (12.7%)
- Population below poverty: 700 (11.3%)
- Population in zero-car households: 149 (2.4%)
- Unemployment rate: 12.1%
2015 Employment, Douglas County

• Employed population: 49,267
• Workers earning less than $15,000/year: 11,664 (23.7% of workforce)
• Leading employment sectors:
  • Education
  • Health Care and Social Assistance
  • Retail
  • Accommodation and Food Service
  • Professional/Scientific/Management
2015 Employment, Baldwin City

• Employed population: 2,233
• Workers earning less than $15,000/year: 434 (21.5% of workforce)
• Leading employment sectors:
  • Education
  • Health Care and Social Assistance
  • Manufacturing
  • Retail
  • Public Administration
2015 Employment, Eudora

• Employed population: 3,020
• Workers earning less than $15,000/year: 560 (18.5% of workforce)
• Leading employment sectors:
  • Education
  • Health Care and Social Assistance
  • Manufacturing
  • Retail
  • Public Administration
Getting to Work: Douglas County

• 28,634 people both live and work in Douglas County
• 17,236 people commute to Douglas County jobs from outside the county
• 20,633 Douglas County residents commute to out-of-county jobs
• Non-automobile commuters: 5,274 (8.8%), of whom 1,193 use transit and 4,081 walk or bike to work. Among Douglas County’s employed residents, 1,448 (2.4%) live in households without automobiles.

• Leading employment locations for employed Douglas County residents:
  • Lawrence – 26,168 people (53.1% of Douglas County employed persons)
  • Topeka – 3,362 people (6.8% of Douglas County employed persons)
  • Overland Park – 2,564 people (5.2% of Douglas County employed persons)
  • Lenexa – 1,695 people (3.4% of Douglas County employed persons)
  • Kansas City MO – 1,657 people (3.4% of Douglas County employed persons)
Getting to Work: Baldwin City

• 355 people both live and work in Baldwin City
• 1,207 people commute to Baldwin City jobs from elsewhere
• 1,668 Baldwin City residents commute elsewhere to jobs
• Non-automobile commuters: 172 (7.7%), all of whom walk or bike to work. None of Baldwin City’s employed residents live in households without automobiles.

• Leading employment locations for employed Baldwin City residents:
  • Lawrence – 471 people (21.1% of Baldwin City employed persons)
  • Baldwin City – 355 people (15.9% of Baldwin City employed persons)
  • Olathe – 132 people (5.9% of Baldwin City employed persons)
  • Overland Park – 128 people (5.7% of Baldwin City employed persons)
  • Topeka – 126 people (5.6% of Baldwin City employed persons)
Getting to Work: Eudora

• 268 people both live and work in Eudora
• 682 people commute to Eudora jobs from elsewhere
• 2,752 Eudora residents commute elsewhere to jobs
• Non-automobile commuters: 103 (3.8%), all of whom walk or bike to work. Among Eudora’s employed residents, 41 (1.5%) live in households without automobiles.

• Leading employment locations for employed Eudora residents:
  • Lawrence – 927 people (30.7% of Eudora employed persons)
  • Eudora – 268 people (8.9% of Eudora employed persons)
  • Overland Park – 225 people (7.5% of Eudora employed persons)
  • Lenexa – 220 people (7.3% of Eudora employed persons)
  • Olathe – 185 people (6.1% of Eudora employed persons)
Potential Segments of Un-met Mobility Need: Countywide, Baldwin City, Eudora

• **Persons under the age of 18**, including some first-year college students, as well as children, teens and toddlers, countywide (13.7% of population), including both Baldwin City (20.4% of population) and Eudora (23.7% of population)

• **Persons living in poverty**, countywide (19.0% of population), including both Baldwin City (10.4% of population) and Eudora (11.3% of population), noting that many college students have earned incomes below the federal poverty line

• **Older adults age 65+**, countywide (10.0% of population), but especially in Baldwin City (12.9% of population), noting that 107 workers living in Baldwin City and 84 workers living in Eudora are age 65+

• **Persons with disabilities** in Eudora (12.7% of population)

• **Unemployed individuals** in Eudora (12.1% of population)

• **Commuters to Lawrence**, from various origins, including Eudora
Rough Estimates of Transit Demand

• Very approximate numbers of persons with some form(s) of transit need:
  • 24,000 persons in all of Douglas County
  • 400 persons in Baldwin City
  • 800 persons in Eudora

• Very approximate estimates of rural transit demand:
  • 137,000 annual one-way passenger trips in all rural areas of Douglas County, including
  • 18,000 annual one-way passenger trips originating in Baldwin City and
  • 65,000 annual one-way passenger trips originating in Eudora

• Very approximate estimates of “non-agency” rural public transit demand:
  • 17,500 annual one-way passenger trips in all rural areas of Douglas County, including
  • 2,100 annual one-way passenger trips originating in Baldwin City and
  • 4,100 annual one-way passenger trips originating in Eudora
Questions to Consider, Points to Ponder

• What do we know about travel needs and travel patterns of persons age 0 – 17 in Baldwin City and Eudora? How much of this travel need is not adequately met by adult family members, school buses, or bicycle/pedestrian mobility?
• What do we know about un-met travel needs of college students, both at Baker University and among those KU students living outside the city of Lawrence?
• What transportation-related barriers (or solutions) are most impacting the lives of non-collegiate households with incomes below poverty, both in Baldwin City and Eudora?
• What do we know about the travel needs and travel patterns of older adults, especially (but not exclusively) in Baldwin City? How is transportation or its absence most affecting workforce participation among these older adults?
• What do we know about the travel needs and travel patterns of persons with disabilities, especially (but not exclusively) in Eudora?
• What transportation-related barriers are contributing to the apparently high unemployment rate in Eudora?
Just to Focus on One Aspect of Eudora

Eudora has 5.5 percent of Douglas County’s residents, but 10.0 percent of Douglas County’s unemployed population.

• Why is this the case?
• Can we set a target of bringing Eudora’s rate of unemployment (12.1% in 2015) closer to the countywide unemployment rate of 6.0%? This could mean placing approximately 200 additional Eudora residents into jobs.
• If those 200 newly filled jobs paid a wage of $15,000 per year, that’s an increase of $3.0 million in annual payrolls in Douglas County. How might that affect shifted social service demands, and how might that affect improvements to the county’s tax base and the county’s economic output?
• In all likelihood, only about 15 currently unemployed Eudora residents would depend exclusively on a transportation solution as their assurance for gaining and retaining employment. However, the availability of transportation may help assure employment among more currently unemployed Eudora residents. What transportation or mobility solutions could best serve this audience, and what might be their costs and benefits?
Questions? Following Up?

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