

# Digitally Connected Commuter: Tracking the Rising Use of Personal Electronic Devices on Commuter Trains



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## Adding on Amenities, Broadening the Base

2014 Year-in-Review of  
Intercity Bus Service in the United States

Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development  
**DEPAUL UNIVERSITY**

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## The 20 Top "Transit Suburbs" of Metropolitan Chicago

*An Index Approach*

DRAFT: NOT YET FOR FORMAL RELEASE

Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development



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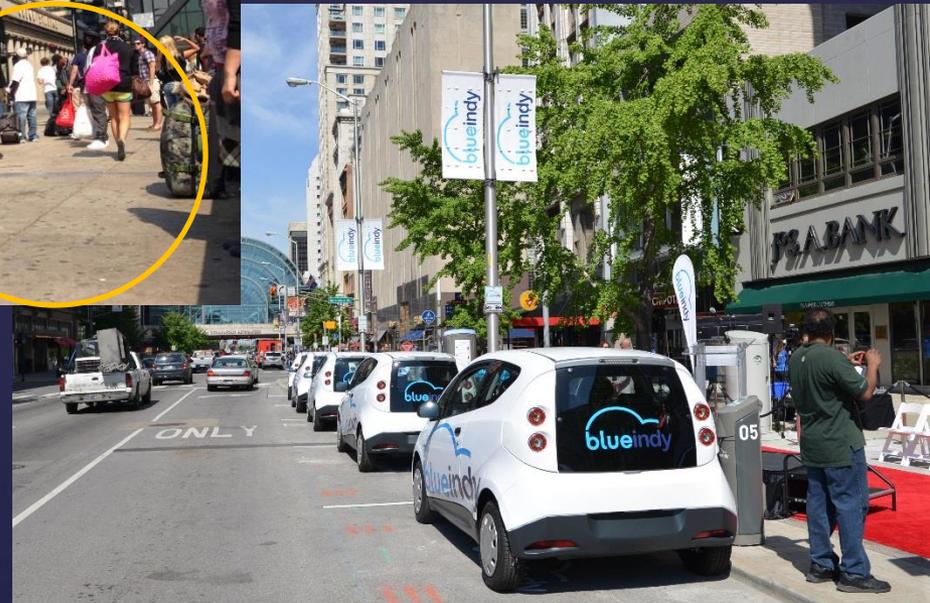
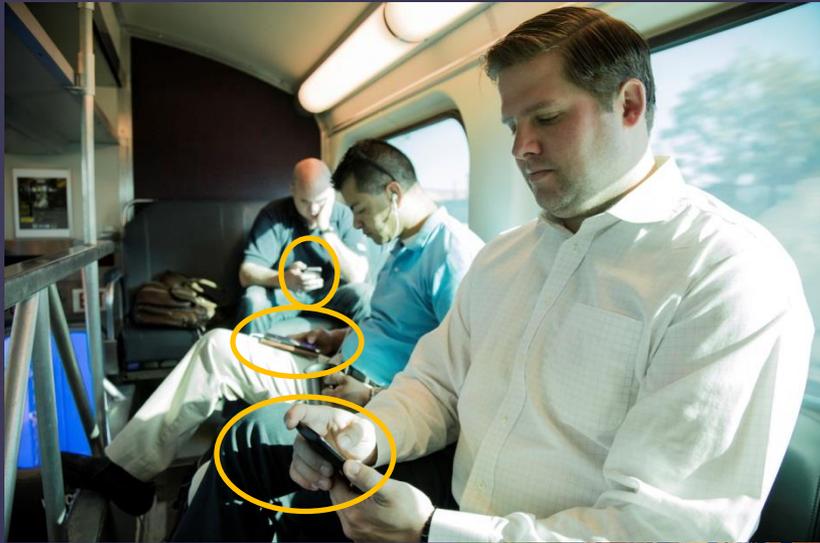


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## THE DIGITALLY CONNECTED COMMUTER:

Tracking the Rising Use of Personal Electronic Devices on Chicago Suburban Trains

# Digital Conveniences and Mobility



find cars by location

find cars by car type

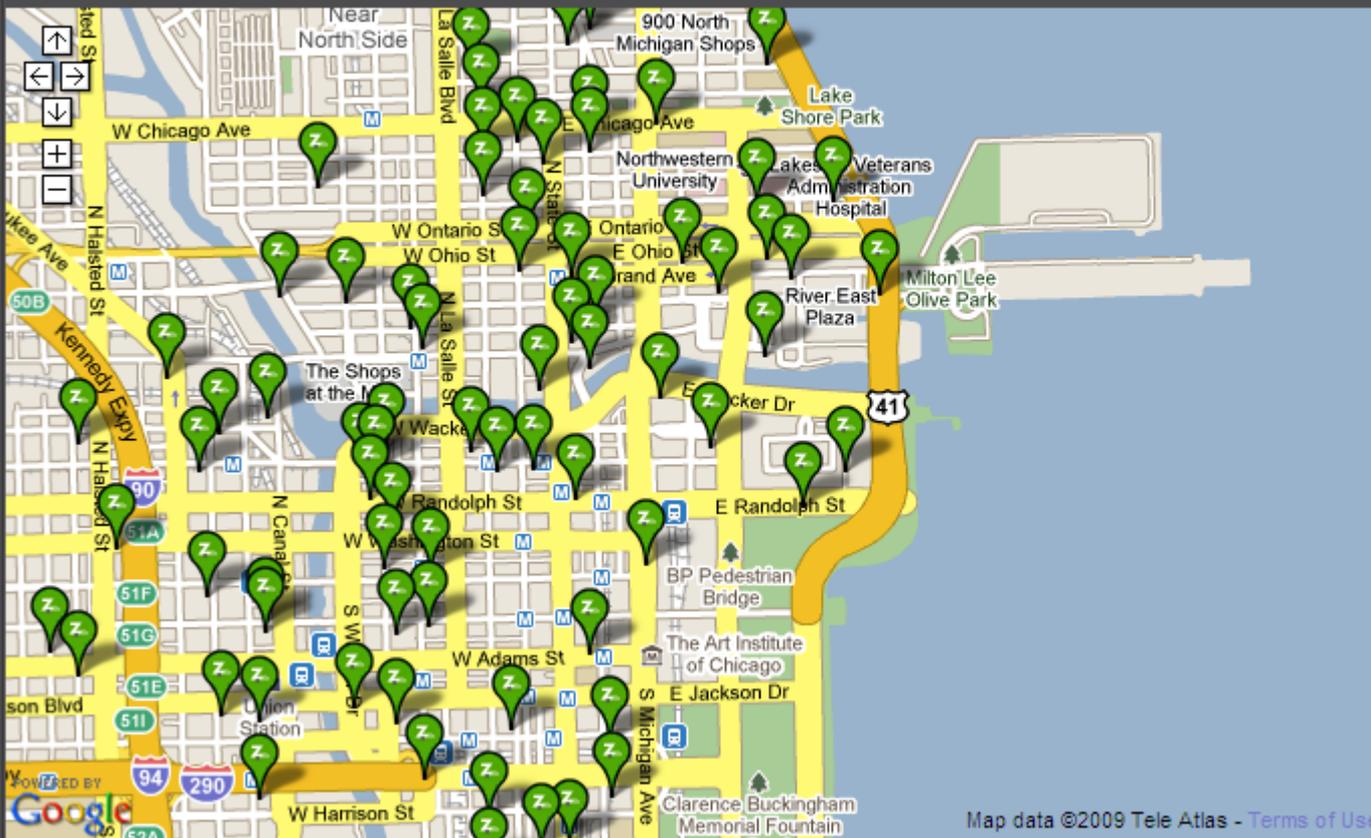
enter some or all of an address

GO

or choose your neighborhood



filter by type



meet the cars

- ▶ 1 E Delaware  
2 vehicles
- ▶ 10 E Grand  
2 vehicles
- ▶ 100 W Chestnut  
1 vehicle
- ▶ 111 E Wacker  
2 vehicles
- ▶ 171 S Peoria  
2 vehicles
- ▶ 175 N Harbor Drive  
2 vehicles
- ▶ 181 N Clark  
1 vehicle
- ▶ 191 N Wacker  
1 vehicle
- ▶ 20 E Randolph Garage  
4 vehicles
- ▶ 203 N La Salle  
2 vehicles
- ▶ 217 N Jefferson  
2 vehicles
- ▶ 225 W Wacker  
1 vehicle
- ▶ 240 E Illinois  
2 vehicles

you are here  
 Zipcars live here  
 viewing Zipcars  
 no cars here meet  
 neighborhood

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Table 1  
**Types of Activity Recorded**

**1. *Audio Activities:*** Devices, such as cell phones or CD players, which can be used with earphones, speakers, or headsets, that are being used strictly for an audio function.

**2. *Visual or Audiovisual Activities on Devices, not including iPads, Kindles and other Tablet Use:*** Visual or audiovisual features, such as laptop computers, Blackberries and other smart phones, DVD players, and iPods. (This category includes any traveler looking at an LCD screen for the purpose of engaging in an activity more substantial than placing a phone call).

**3. *Visual or Audio-Visual Activities on iPads, Kindles and other Tablets:*** Same as Category 2 except focusing specifically on tablet usage. This final category was newly-introduced last year to better calculate how small and lightweight devices affect traveler behavior.



Figure 1  
Passenger Use of Personal Electronic Technology by Mode  
2010- 2014

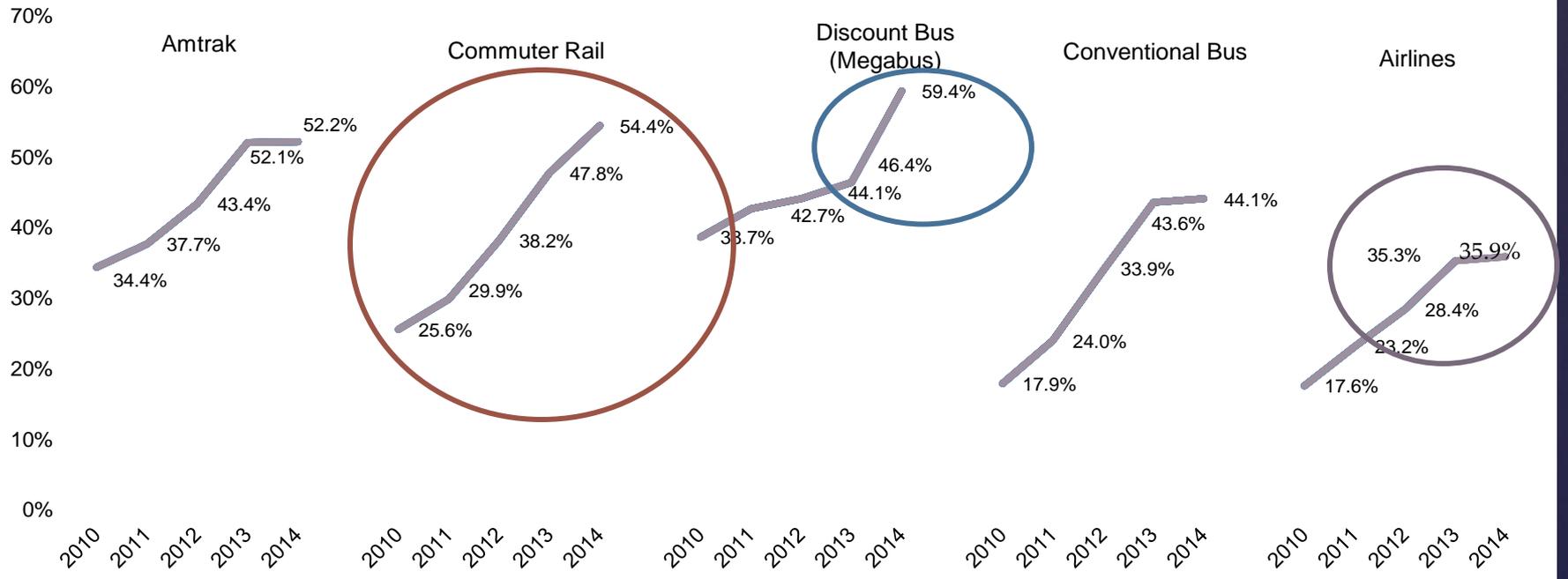
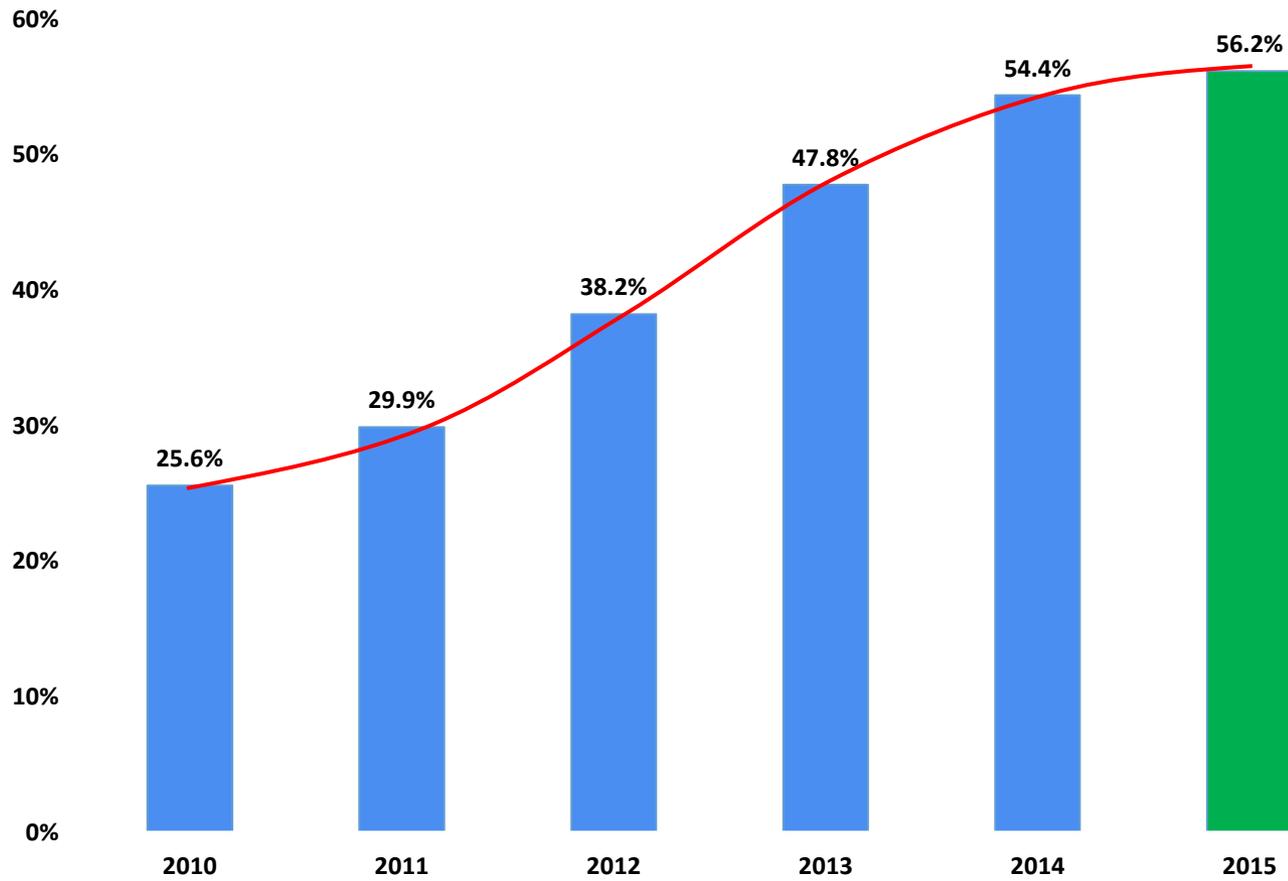
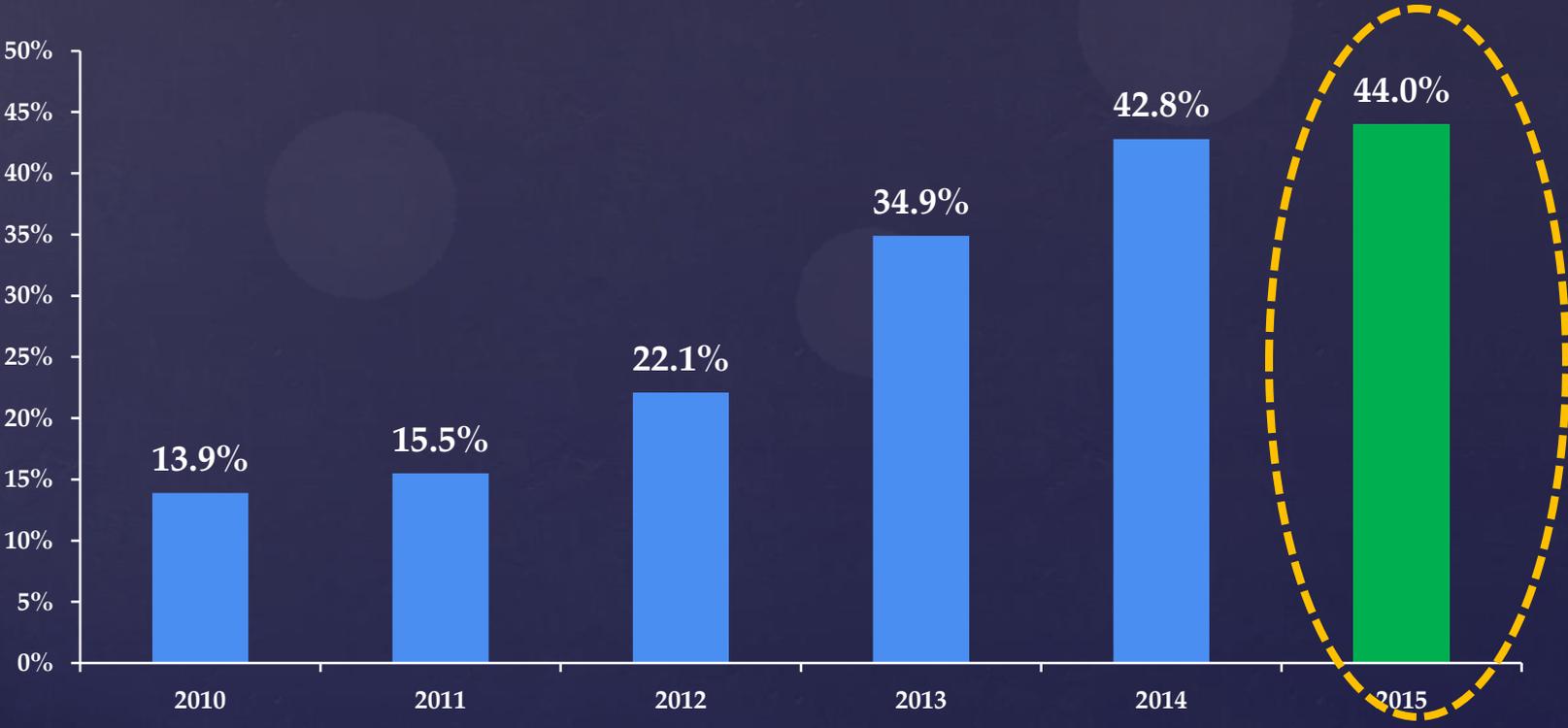


Figure 2  
Percent of Commuter Rail Riders  
Engaged with Technology

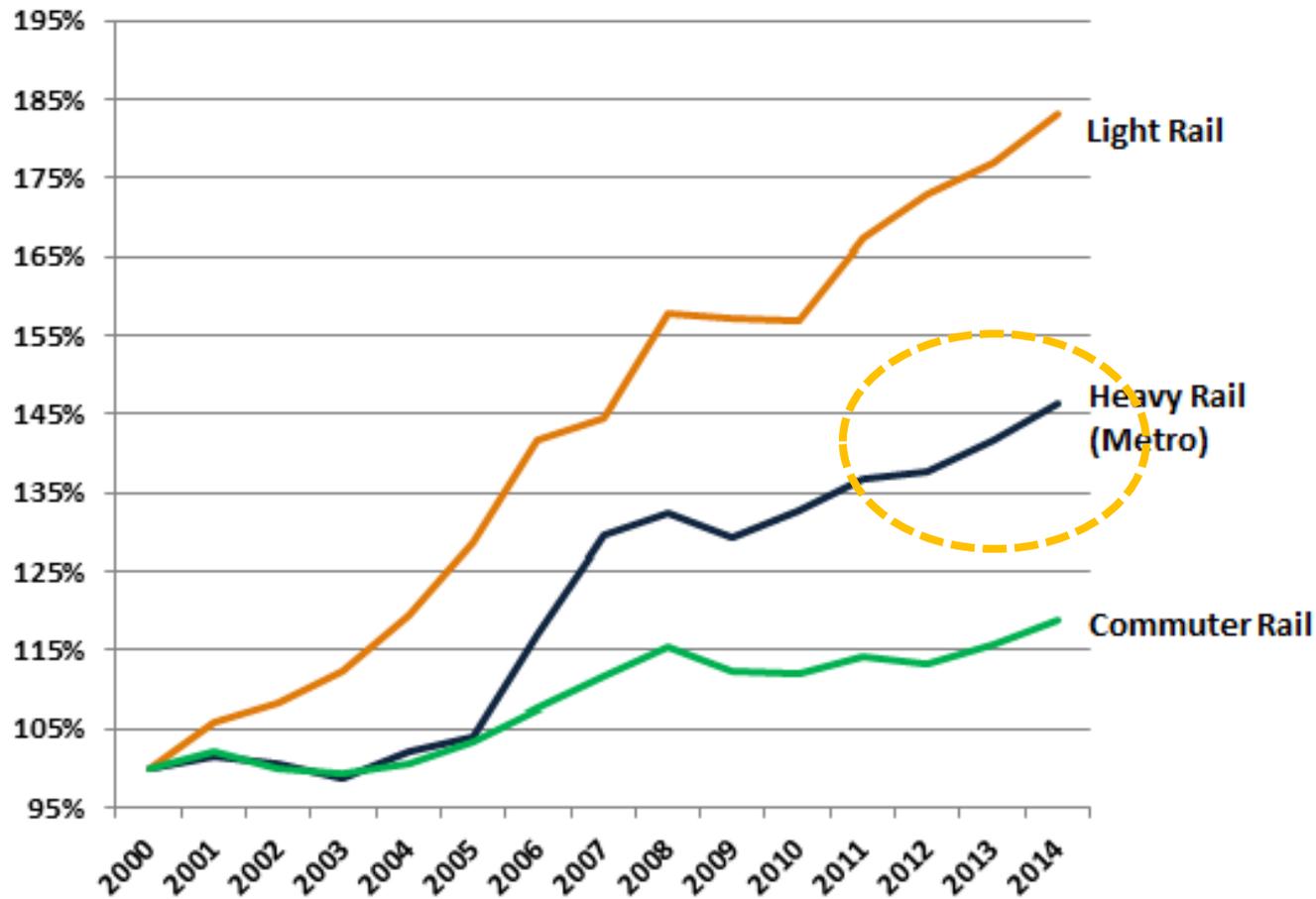


# Percent of Chicago Commuter Rail Riders at Observed Points Engaged in Electronic Tasks Illegal When Driving



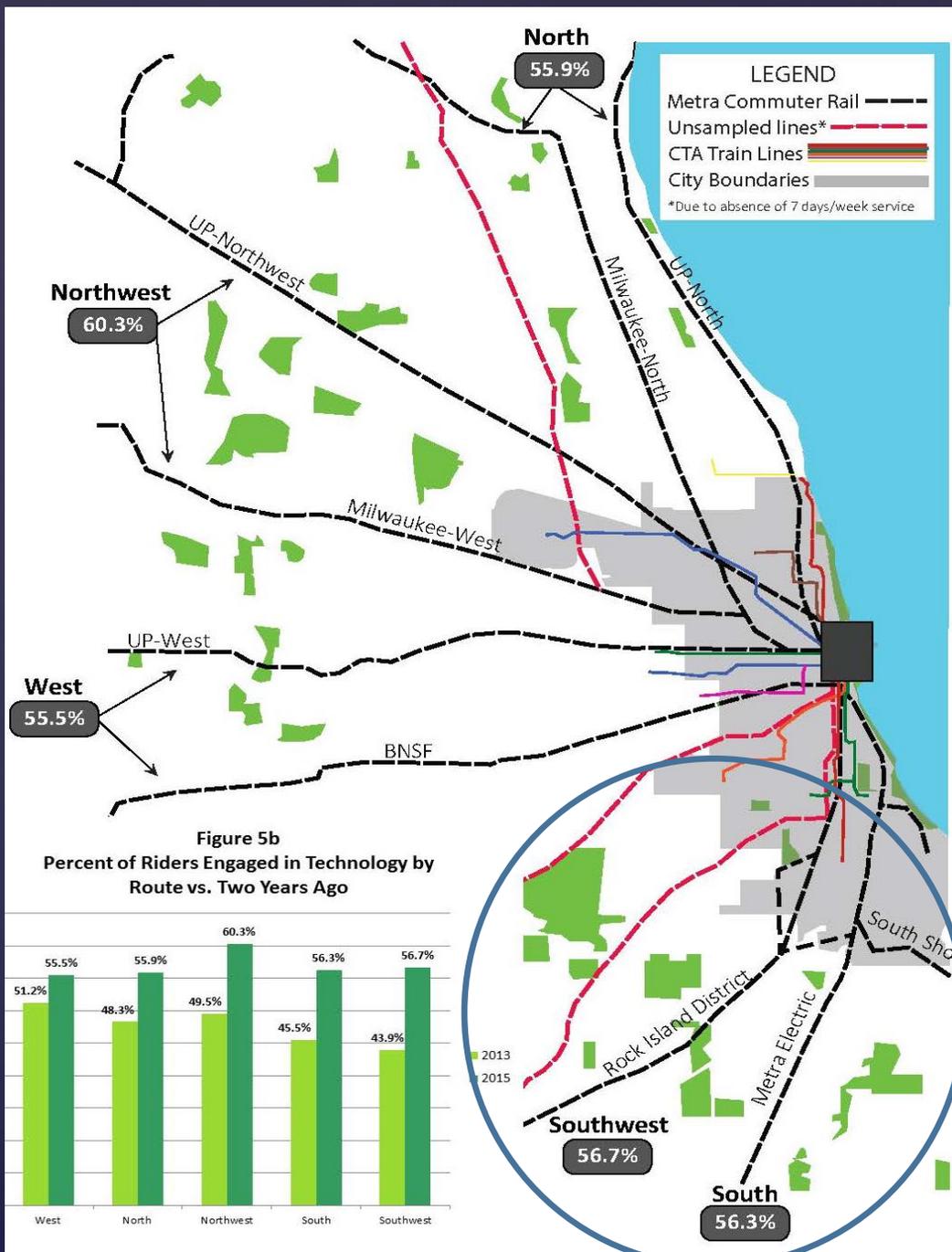


# Explaining Rail Transit Growth



**Question added to survey of 15,000 East Coast and Pacific Northwest travelers to determine link between:**

- Value traveler places on having access to the internet while traveling
- Propensity to travel by bus and rail



# How Important is Wi-Fi?



# Q&A

