

Oakland office boom reverses traffic pattern

By Teri Benas
staff writer

Wayne County north to suburban Oakland than from Oakland to Wayne. More people travel daily from that flow occurred despite the fact

that Wayne still has twice as many people (2.1 million) as Oakland (1 million). And it reverses the classic pattern of traffic from the suburbs to the area of heavier population (Detroit).
The changing pattern was reported this week by SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. The findings:

- Wayne-to-Oakland travel amounts to some 574,000 daily trips.
- Oakland-to-Wayne travel amounts to 442,000 daily trips — about one-third less.

RESIDENTS OF southeastern Michigan — particularly those in Wayne and Oakland counties — seem to be "on the move" a lot more than counterparts in other major urban settings across the country, with the exception of New York and Los Angeles.
Local residents criss-cross county borders daily, according to the traffic pattern report from SEMCOG.

lion trips began and ended in Wayne County each day compared to 2.3 million trips beginning and ending in Oakland County each day.
A large percentage of activity in the region still focuses on Wayne County and the city of Detroit, though there's

considerable travel in outlying counties," he said.
The study results will be used by SEMCOG to help determine transit needs in the region, said SEMCOG executive director John Amberger.

Travel From	Wayne	Oakland	Macomb	Washtenaw	Monroe	St. Clair	Livingston	Total
Wayne	574							890
Oakland	442							633
Macomb								615
Washtenaw								84
Monroe								153
St. Clair								100
Livingston								128
Total To	995	926	399	232	21	15	15	

DAILY TRIPS (Thousands)

Source: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

"SURE, THERE are more jobs in Wayne County although the big growth in office jobs has been in Oakland County, Southfield and Troy, in particular," said Paul Tait, SEMCOG's deputy executive director.
"Detroit suffered very hard in our recessionary period, but with the development on the Riverfront and other economic recoveries, that trend outward certainly will slow or at least be somewhat counterbalanced by the development in Detroit," he said.
Tait's further backed up by population projections in SEMCOG's Year 2005 report, he said. It indicates Detroit's decline will slow or at least level off and rebound by the year 2005. He said there's optimism for growth in Oakland County as well, particularly because of the recent sprouting of high tech developments such as the one in Avon Hills.

The report shows that no county in southeastern Michigan is an island onto itself, Tait said.
Meanwhile, 70 percent more Macomb County residents travel to Wayne County than vice-versa. In general, Macomb exports people during the daytime — 50 percent more Macomb residents leave the county than enter it.
A GOOD freeway system coupled with the region's development around the automobile industry has meant that residents are more inclined to travel some distance each day, said Tait.
The report took in the seven-county region of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, Monroe, St. Clair and Livingston. It was based on information culled from the 1980 federal census, Michigan Employment Security Commission, and building permits.
The SEMCOG report further showed that more Wayne and Oakland people still live in the same county where they work. The survey showed that 5.2 mil-

Picnic aids humane society

The Four Bears Water Park in Ulica is hosting a "Teddy Bear Picnic" Friday, when proceeds will benefit the Michigan Humane Society.
Youngsters who bring along their Teddy Bears along will receive a \$2 reduction off the \$10.95 entrance fee. The first "Teddy Bear Picnic" is billed as a family day.
There will be Teddy Bear contests in 15 categories, including biggest, fuzziest, most loved (worn out), most unusual, best dressed (evening attire), 1950's bear, ethnic bear, punk rock bear and others. Prizes will be awarded in each category.

Among the featured friends will be Smokey the Bear, Kinderoo Kangaroo, Chuck E. Cheese, Ted E. Bear and Goldilocks.
A portion of the admissions will be donated to the Michigan Humane Society in memory of All Hurwitz, the beloved pet of Steve and Joan Hurwitz.

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