

# 2022 Mid-Continent Transportation Research Symposium

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## Telecommuting, Congestion, and Equity in the Twin Cities Metro Region

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### Abstract

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, telecommuting has become increasingly dominant across the United States and the world. This research goal is to study the impacts of telecommuting on congestion, and the equity issues that arise from shifting employment to telecommuting. The research team will use national-and state-level data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the American Community Survey and ReferenceUSA to categorize jobs by industry sector in order to discern which jobs can or cannot be done by telecommuting (i.e., service industry jobs versus white collar jobs). Additionally, the research team will use congestion and VMT data from MnDOT and comparable datasets from other state departments of transportation. The degree of congestion before and after the outbreak of COVID-19 will be overlaid with various industries to explore the potential impacts of teleworking. This high-level evaluation will allow the research team to draw high-level conclusions that may inform future transportation investments. The research team conducted interviews with agencies and entities managing transportation demand or working with telecommuting to inquire about the remedies agencies put forward to sustain the benefits and mitigate harm in teleworking disparities across gender, race, socio-economic status, and educational attainment. The methodology and findings of this research will be summarized in a whitepaper.