AARP Survey Results - 2006

2006 Utah Transportation Survey: Aging & Mobility Released Driving Remains Primary Mode of Transportation for Older Utahns

At a meeting of the Utah Commission on Aging June 20, AARP Utah's State Director, Rob Ence released AARP's 2006 Utah Transportation Survey: Aging and Mobility. Responses from more than 1,200 Utah residents, 50 years of age and older, was undertaken as a baseline assessment in recognition of the fact that as the state's population ages, transportation mobility will become an increasingly important issue. The results provide an overview of the public's awareness and utilization of transportation options as well as the limitations of the existing systems. In addition to the overall statewide report, the survey focuses on specific findings of responses from Utahns 85+ years of age and those of rural Utahns 50+ years of age. "These results clearly indicate that while Utahns love their cars, more awareness is needed regarding driver safety and the population's ability to remain mobile as we age," said Ence. "This report provides a springboard for strategic discussion in counties, towns and homes throughout the state as we move forward in our public policy, exploring more flexible options for access to services, maintaining social contacts and preserving the independence of the individual."

Highlights of the survey include:

- Ninety percent of all respondents report that they have driven within the last month. This percentage declines only slightly with age with 89% of Utahns 85 years or older having driven within the same timeframe and increases to 98% when polling rural Utahns 50 years of age and older.
- Ninety-three percent of residents report that driving is their primary mode of transportation with sixty-seven percent 85 years or older indicating that they drive to get where they need to go.
- Four out of five Utahns say that public transportation is available in their community, but only seven percent utilize it once a week or more citing the amount of time needed to use it and not being able to get where they need to go.
- Most Utah residents are satisfied with their ability to get to a place they need or want to go. But age, health and disability status and driving status influence satisfaction dramatically. Older residents, those with poor health and disability status and non-drivers are significantly less satisfied than their counterparts.

http://www.aarp.org/states/ut/ut-news/2006_utah_transportation_survey_aging_mobility_re.html