



Transportation Seminar Series

Friday, October 10, 2008

4 - 5 p.m. in 240 Bechtel Engineering Center

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City CarShare: Travel Demand and Car Ownership Impacts

Abstract: This project examines the longer-term impacts of the City CarShare program on travel demand and car ownership. A controlled comparison of travel patterns between members and a statistical control group of non-members is used. Factors that explain carshare members' travel choices and car-ownership behavior are also modeled. Results indicate that four years after the introduction of City CarShare in the San Francisco Bay Area, 29% of members had gotten rid of one or more cars and 4.8% of members' trips and 5.4% of their vehicle miles traveled were in carshare vehicles. Matched-pair comparisons show that members have reduced total vehicular travel compared to non-members. Most of the decline, however, occurred during the first 1-2 years of the program; 3-4 years after City CarShare's inauguration, earlier decline had leveled off. Because carshare vehicles tend to be small, fuel-efficient, and carry several people, per-capita levels of gasoline consumption and accordingly greenhouse gas emissions have also trended downwards. Mindful of the cumulative costs of driving, carshare members appear to have become more judicious and selective when deciding whether to use a car, take public transit, walk, bike, or even forego a trip. These factors, coupled with reduced personal car ownership, have given rise to a more resourceful form of automobility among car-sharers.

Bio: Dr. Golub's interests involve public transportation planning, social justice issues in transportation planning and finance, and environmental impacts of transportation. He earned his Ph.D. in transportation engineering at UC Berkeley in 2003 and his dissertation involved an evaluation of policy responses to informal transport operators in Brazil. He then worked as a postdoctoral researcher on projects related to public transit planning and car-sharing. He has also worked extensively in the developing world as a consultant to the World Bank, the United Nations, and several city governments and non-governmental agencies on various transportation policy and planning projects. Currently, he is an assistant professor at the School of Planning and Sustainability of Arizona State University

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