



TA Community Advisory Committee
Meeting of December 1, 2026

Correspondence as of October 30, 2026

Subject

1. Fewer people have cars and driver's license than you think

From: [Mike Swire](#)
To: [Board \(@smcta.com\)](#); [cacsecretary \(@smcta.com\)](#); [Mima Crume](#); [Audrey Shiramizu](#)
Subject: Fewer people have cars and driver's license than you think
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2026 11:43:25 AM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

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Dear SMCTA and CCAG leaders,

I wanted to pass along the following graphic that demonstrates how Americans' beliefs may not align with the realities of American demographics. Take a look at the bottom few figures. Americans grossly overestimate the percentage of Americans who own cars and hold driver's licenses. This has likely contributed to the automobile-focused skew in our decisions regarding residents' transportation needs and preferences. I hope that going forward we can make decisions reflecting the underappreciated number of people who don't drive.

Thanks for listening,

Mike Swire

Americans overestimate the size of minority groups and underestimate the size of most majority groups

Estimated proportions are calculated by averaging weighted responses (ranging from 0% to 100%, rounded to the nearest whole percentage) to the question "If you had to guess, what percentage of American adults..." True proportions were drawn from a variety of sources, including the U.S. Census Bureau, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and polls by YouGov and other polling firms.

