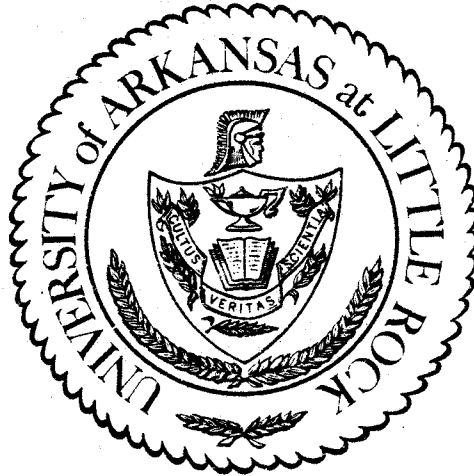


EFFECTS OF INTERSTATE 630 AND EAST BELT FREEWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY
ACQUISITIONS ON PULASKI COUNTY, ARKANSAS, RELOCATEES



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By

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ABSTRACT

This study analyzes the attitudes, opinions, experiences, and characteristics of those persons in households displaced by the construction of I-630 and the East Belt Freeway in Pulaski County, Arkansas; the impact of relocation on various groups (age, sex, race, income, and homeowners or renters); and it also attempts to identify the number of minority business enterprises created, lost or relocated.

The sample consists of 179 relocatees, 153 displaced by I-630 and 26 displaced by the East Belt Freeway.

The findings indicate that the opinions, attitudes, and experiences of residential relocatees were generally favorable and that relocation did not adversely effect any group considered within the scope of the study, e.g., age, sex, race, income, owner or renter.

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Chapter I
METHODOLOGY

Sample Selection

The population for this study is all those households relocated by the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department because of land acquisition for the I-630 and East Belt Freeways. According to the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department's files, there were 422 households relocated for right-of-way acquisition for the I-630 freeway and 44 households were relocated for the East Belt Freeway. The first households relocated by I-630 were in 1969, and 1976 marked the first such relocation for the East Belt Freeway.

Evidence from other research projects (Colony, 1971: 16-20; 1974: 5-6; Burke: 57-8; Thursy: 11; House: 75; Buffington, 1973: 5-7; Perfatu: 5-9) indicate that it is extremely difficult to locate individuals for interview after they have been moved by right-of-way acquisition, urban renewal, or similar programs. Further, the literature suggests that the longer the time between relocation and research, the more difficult it is to find and interview relocatees. (Colony, 1971: 16; Thursy: 11) Finally, efforts to contact relocatees to set up structured group interviews indicated great difficulty. Out of 50 phone numbers supplied by the Highway Department, only six were working numbers of households that had been relocated by I-630 or East Belt right-of-way acquisitions. Based on the evidence cited above, efforts to interview a random sample of relocatees seemed destined for failure. While a random sample could be drawn, its

integrity was not likely to be maintained due to the inability to locate respondents. Thus, the entire population of all households relocated by I-630 and East Belt freeway acquisitions were defined as the subject of the research.

The Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department provided a list of relocatees and their last known addresses and phone numbers. Table 1 shows a summary of address information on relocatees provided by the Highway Department. Using telephone directories for 1978, the Survey Market Research Unit (SMRU) staff attempted to locate the addresses of those not provided by the Highway Department.

TABLE 1

Address information supplied by Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department.

	<u>I-630</u>	<u>East Belt</u>
Original relocation address unknown	41	4
Original relocation address out of greater Little Rock Metro Area	12	7
Original relocation address out of state	4	0
Original relocation address in Little Rock Metro Area	<u>365</u>	<u>44</u>
Total	422	55

Following this, a letter of introduction to each relocation household was mailed. (See Appendix A) The letter was designed to perform two functions. First it acted as an initial contact between SMRU and the relocatee. It informed the relocatee of the study, indicated its general purpose, and requested cooperation with staff interviewers. Secondly, an "address correction request" was sought so that both the Highway Department address and the phone directory address information could be checked for accuracy.

Table 2 shows the distribution of returns on this effort to establish the addresses of relocatees. It should be noted that the number of "address unknowns" doubled for both the I-630 and East Belt population after the letters were returned.

TABLE 2

Address status information after first mailing.

	<u>I-630</u>	<u>East Belt</u>
Address unknown (returned letter)	44	5
New address given (letter not returned, no correction provided)	26	2
Letter not returned, no correction provided	311	33
Address unknown	<u>41</u>	<u>4</u>
Total	422	44

The Little Rock Water Department agreed to use its files to help locate a limited number of addresses. Those names for which the Highway Department had no addresses and those relocatees whose letters had been returned were forwarded to the Little Rock Water Department. The Water Department's search of its files produced three addresses. All of these, however, had already been located by SMRU's staff through telephone interviewers.

In addition, staff phone interviewers discovered that an additional large number of addresses were either incorrect or that the relocatee had died or that they simply refused to cooperate in the survey. Table 3 shows the status of relocatees after the first series of interviews were completed.

TABLE 3

Address status of relocatees after first series of interviews.

	<u>I-630</u>	<u>East Belt</u>
Address unknown or unable to make phone contact	252	19
Relocatee deceased	15	0
Relocatee in hospital or nursing home	2	0
Relocatee refused to be interviewed	12	0
Interviews completed	<u>141</u>	<u>25</u>
Total	422	44

The next step in locating those relocated by I-630 and East Belt was to run a classified ad in the Arkansas Democrat and Arkansas Gazette. (See Appendix B) The ad ran from December 17, 1978 to December 24, 1978 and produced no responses.

Finally, all those with whom telephone contact had not been made but whose first letter of introduction had not been returned were sent a second letter. (See Appendix C) The second letter reminded them of the study and requested phone numbers and asked that they indicate a convenient time to call. This produced an additional 11 interviews. Table 4 indicates the location status of relocatee households at the time all interviews were concluded.

TABLE 4

Address status of relocatees after all efforts to locate.

	<u>I-630</u>	<u>East Belt</u>
Address unknown or unable to make contact	240	18
Relocatee deceased	15	0
Relocatee in hospital or nursing home	2	0

Relocatee refused to be interviewed	12	0
Interviews completed	<u>153</u>	<u>26</u>
Total	422	44

Generalizability of Findings

The completed interview rate for the East Belt Freeway was 26 out of 44 households or 59 percent and 153 out of 422 or 36 percent for I-630. As mentioned above, this low rate was anticipated and, of course, raises serious questions about the generalizability of the findings.

In an effort to ascertain the amount and type of bias caused by the low return rate, information contained in the Highway Department files on all relocatees was compared with that of the households interviewed. Table 5 provides a tabular account of that comparison.

TABLE 5

Comparison of relocation population characteristics to sample characteristics.

<u>RACE</u>	<u>I-630</u>		<u>EAST BELT</u>	
	<u>POP</u>	<u>SAMPLE</u>	<u>POP</u>	<u>SAMPLE</u>
Whites	69%	80%	55%	54%
Non-Whites	28%	19%	45%	42%
Not Known	<u>3%</u>	<u>1%</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4%</u>
Total	422	153	44	26
<u>OWNERSHIP STATUS</u>				
Owners	39%	55%	66%	50%
Renters	61%	45%	34%	42%
Not Known	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8%</u>
Total	422	153	44	26

Generally, it may be said that for both the I-630 and East Belt sample, renters are under-represented and owners over-represented and that non-whites are under-represented in the I-630 sample while whites over-represented.

Z scores were computed for the data in Table 5 with the unknown category dropped. The probability was found to be greater than .05 that the I-630 sample of relocatees interviewed are not representative of the population of all relocatees displaced by land acquisition with regard to race and home ownership. The East Belt sample is, however, representative.

This conclusion was not altogether unexpected. As discussed earlier, a number of other studies encountered similar low return rates. In order to remain consistent with similar studies, where cell frequencies are sufficient, chi square tests of significance will be reported and used as a guide in interpreting results.

Further, except where relocatee experience was significantly different, data on I-630 and East Belt relocatees will be combined for presentation and discussion.

Data Collection

The data for this study was collected by the use of a structured phone interview. The anticipated difficulty in locating respondents and the cost of field interviews when addresses are incorrect dictated that phone interviews would be the most economical and efficient.

Prior to the creation of a questionnaire, a small group of relocatees were contacted and invited to participate in an informal interview session. The session was designed to identify any unusual problems or issues that were not characteristic of other relocation experiences in the U.S. Appendix D provides a copy of the transcript of the focused group interview session.

The final questionnaire was developed after interviews with the Highway Department Relocation Coordinator and other related Highway

Department staff. A copy of the questionnaire may be found in Appendix E.

All data were collected during the months of December 1978 and January 1979. Trained telephone interviewers conducted most of the interviews between 6:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Saturday and a limited number of Sunday and weekday interviews were conducted when interviewers were unable to locate respondents on week nights.

Interviewers were instructed to ask for the head of household name supplied by the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department and to interview that person if possible. However, if the head of household was deceased, ill, or would not cooperate, spouses were interviewed if they had experienced the relocation.

Chapter 2

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

The questionnaire contained a series of questions regarding certain demographic information about the respondent and his or her family. This chapter will report on the race, sex, age, education, occupation, income and date of relocation of all those interviewed.

Sex and Race

Table 6 shows the distribution of respondents by race and sex. Approximately three-fourths of the respondents were white and slightly over half were female. Bureau of Census (1972) data for 1970 for the city of Little Rock suggests that approximately 17 percent of the household heads were non-white. However, it should be remembered that Highway Department data on relocatees indicates that approximately 31 percent of those households relocated were headed by individuals who were non-white. This seems to suggest an over-representation of non-whites among relocatees.

TABLE 6

Race and sex of respondents.

<u>Race</u>		<u>Sex</u>	
White	76.0%	Male	45.8%
Non-White	22.3%	Female	54.2%
Not Known	<u>1.7%</u>		
Total	179		179

Age

Table 7 shows the distribution of age for those interviewed both at the time of the interview and at the time of the relocation. The mean age of both distributions is higher than the mean age for those living in Little Rock. The Bureau of the Census (1977) reports 9.9 percent of the Little Rock population in 1970 was 65 and over. The relocatees sample shows that at the time of relocation, 28.1 percent were 65 and over. Thus based on the sample interviewed, one may conclude that the elderly were over-represented among relocatees. Adkins and Eichman (1961) in a similar study of Dallas, Texas, found the head of household's average age was 60; Colony's (1971) study of right-of-way acquisition for I-90 in Cleveland, Ohio, found the average age of head of household was 54, and Buffington's study (1973) of low valued housing in the Austin and Houston area indicated an average age for heads of household of 49. Thus, those relocated by I-630 and the East Belt Free-way do not appear to deviate markedly from other urban relocatees with regard to age.

TABLE 7

Age of respondent at interview and relocation.

<u>Age at Relocation</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Age at Interview</u>	<u>%</u>
20-30	12.3	24-30	9.5
31-40	14.5	31-40	11.7
41-50	11.2	41-50	15.6
51-60	16.8	51-60	11.2
61-70	23.5	61-70	23.5
71-80	13.4	71-80	20.7
81-90	1.7	81-90	3.9
N/A	<u>6.7</u>	N/A	<u>3.9</u>
	179		179
Mean	52.78	Mean	56.56
Mode	61.00	Mode	62.00
Median	56.25	Median	60.50

Education and Occupation

Table 8 provides a summary of what is usually considered social status indicators: education, occupation. The Bureau of the Census (1972) for 1970 reports that for the Little Rock Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area 12.86 percent of the heads of household had less than eight years of school and 26.84 percent had one year of college or more. The relocation sample seems to be generally very near those figures.

TABLE 8

Education and Occupation of Relocates.

<u>Education</u>	<u>%</u>
0-6 Years of Schooling	6.9
7-9 Years of Schooling	15.0
10-12 Years of Schooling	46.8
Some College	18.5
College Graduate	6.4
Beyond B.A. Degree	<u>6.4</u>
Total	173
 <u>Occupation</u>	
Major Profession	2.4
Minor Profession	6.0
Administrative Personnel	21.1
Clerical	10.2
Skilled	10.8
Semi Skilled	9.0
Unskilled	5.4
Housewife	8.4
Retired	<u>26.5</u>
Total	166

Regarding occupation, there seems to be an unusually high percent of retired heads of households among relocatees. This fact, however, is consistent and altogether expected given the age distribution of the relocatees. Buffington, (1973) found a similar age and retirement distribution in the Austin and Houston area.

Year of Relocation

Table 9 shows the distribution by year of relocation for those relocated by land acquisition by I-630, the East Belt, and the sample as a whole. According to the respondents, the first relocations for the I-630 occurred in 1969 with over half of the relocations taking place in 1974 and 1975.

TABLE 9

	Year of Relocation		
	<u>East Belt</u>	<u>I-630</u>	<u>Total Sample</u>
1969	-	.6	.6
1970	-	.6	.6
1971	4.0	2.6	2.8
1972	-	6.5	5.6
1973	4.0	7.8	7.3
1974	4.0	30.0	26.8
1975	27.0	28.7	28.5
1976	15.0	15.0	15.1
1977	27.0	3.2	6.7
1978	15.0	1.3	3.4
Could not Recall	<u>4.0</u>	<u>3.3</u>	<u>2.8</u>
Total	26	153	179

The first relocations for the East Belt were in 1971, according to the respondents, with most relocation occurring in the 1975 to 1978 period.

Slightly over half (59 percent) of all those relocated by the East Belt project were located for interviewing while only 36 percent of all those in the I-630 right-of-way were located for interview. The reason for this disparity may be seen in the fact that East Belt relocations were more recent and thus easier to find.

Summary

Non-white households were over-represented in comparison to census figures for 1970 as were the elderly. With regard to the traditional social class measures, the sample seemed to be representative of the Little Rock Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area with regard to education and somewhat low with regard to income.

Chapter 3

CHARACTERISTICS OF RESIDENTIAL UNITS RELOCATED

The questionnaire provided a number of questions regarding the general characteristics of the residential unit from which relocatees were moved and the characteristics of units into which they were relocated.

Number in Household

Table 10 indicates the number of people in the household before and after relocation. The average number before relocation was 2.58 while after relocation it was 2.43. Thus, relocation seems to have reduced the average size of the relocation household. The reasons for increases or decreases in household membership were not asked in the questionnaire; however, a few respondents did volunteer this information. The reasons, while not representative, ranged from death and divorce, to children starting new households or leaving home to attend college. Of the reasons volunteered by respondents, there did not appear to be any consistent pattern.

TABLE 10

Number of People in Household Before and After Relocation

<u>Number in Household</u>	<u>Percent Before</u>	<u>Percent After</u>
1	29.9	33.1
2	31.1	32.0
3	15.8	12.4
4	12.4	14.0
5	3.4	1.7
6	4.5	4.5
7	1.1	-
8	.6	-
9	.6	1.1
12	.6	-
13	-	.6
Total	(177)	(178)

Number of Rooms

The number of rooms in the relocation residence and in the original residence are shown in Table 11. While many households reduced or increased the number of rooms from their first residence to their relocation residence, the average number of rooms per household remained the same: 5.20 rooms per household. Buffington's (1973) study of relocatees in Austin and Houston found that relocatees maintained approximately the same number of rooms in both their original and relocation households.

TABLE 11

Number of Rooms in Household Before and After Relocation

<u>Number of Rooms</u>	<u>Percent Before Move</u>	<u>Percent After Move</u>
1	1.8	1.2
2	2.4	5.8
3	10.8	7.6
4	19.2	18.6
5	18.0	22.7
6	26.9	20.3
7	15.0	16.3
8 or More	6.0	7.6
Total	(167)	(172)

Age of Dwelling

Table 12 compares the age of household dwelling units before and after relocation. Generally, relocation has meant that households have occupied newer dwelling units. It should be noted that while over 60 percent of the sample lived in houses over 20 years old before relocation, that number is cut in half after relocation. This pattern is reversed in the households in the Austin-Houston study (Buffington, 1973) where 35 percent of the sample lived in houses over 20 years old and that figure increased to 63 percent after relocation.

TABLE 12

Age of Dwelling Unit Before and After Relocation

<u>Age</u>	<u>Before Relocation</u>	<u>After Relocation</u>
New	1.7	4.7
1-5 Years Old	3.5	20.3
6-10 Years Old	12.2	16.3
11-20 Years Old	18.6	24.4
Over 20 Years Old	64.0	34.3
Total	172	172

Newer dwelling units do not necessarily mean that the objective quality of the dwelling unit was improved. However, respondents were asked to compare their original dwelling unit to that of their relocation unit, and that data will be presented in the following pages.

Permanence of Relocation

Over four-fifths of those interviewed had not moved from their relocation residence. This figure should be viewed with caution, however, because those who remained in the relocation housing were the easier to locate and interview. However, the high percentage who had not moved does seem consistent with the general satisfaction noted

earlier with the relocation unit. Those that had moved from their relocation dwelling were asked the reason for the move. The largest single response category for moving was that they were not satisfied with the relocation dwelling and found a better unit.

TABLE 13

Permanence of Relocation and Reasons for Additional Moves

<u>Permanence of Relocation</u>	<u>%</u>
Still in Relocation Unit	82.1
Moved to Another Dwelling	<u>17.9</u>
Total	179
 <u>Reasons for Moving</u>	
A. Bought New Home	11.5
B. Found Better Housing	38.5
C. Disliked Area	3.8
D. Closer to Work	3.8
E. Costs Were Too High	19.2
F. Changed Jobs	15.4
G. Misc.	<u>4.0</u>
Total	26

Permanence of relocation was cross-tabulated with ownership status, age, race, sex, and income in an effort to check for any relationship. While no significant differences were found between permanence and age, race, sex, and income, it was found that renters were much more likely to move than owners. This pattern is not surprising, given the fact that renters are more residentially mobile than owners. Further, nothing in the reasons mentioned for moving suggests reasons which might be given only by renters.

Comparison of Dwelling Units

Finally, relocatees were asked to compare the quality of their relocation dwelling unit to that of their original unit. Table 15

Table 14
 Permanence of Relocation
 by Demographic Variables

Permanence Of Residence	Still In Relocation Unit	Moved To Another Unit	Total
<u>Ownership Status</u>			
Owner	92.9	7.1	98
Renter	68.8	31.3	80
Corrected $X^2 = 15.76$; $p = .0001$			
<u>Age</u>			
59 & below	79.4	20.6	97
60 & over	85.4	14.6	82
Corrected $X^2 = .71$; $p = .39$			
<u>Race</u>			
White	83.8	16.2	136
Non-White	75.0	25.0	40
Corrected $X^2 = 1.07$; $p = .29$			
<u>Sex</u>			
Male	80.5	19.5	82
Female	83.5	16.5	97
Corrected $X^2 = .10$; $p = .74$			
<u>Income</u>			
*I	78.1	21.9	96
II	81.0	19.0	42
III	100.0	-0-	9
IV	94.1	5.9	17
$X^2 = 4.60$; $p = .20$			

*I = Below \$10,000; II = \$10,000 to \$15,000; III = \$15,000 to \$20,000;
 IV = Over \$20,000

presents data on this issue. Most of those interviewed indicated that their relocation unit was an improvement: 40 percent indicating much improved and 24 percent indicating somewhat improved. Only 17 percent indicated that their relocation unit was worse than their original unit. This perception of improvement is consistent with other studies of relocatees. A similar study in Austin and Houston (Buffington, 1973) found that 85 percent felt that the overall quality of the replacement dwelling was equal or better than the original while 15 percent felt it was worse.

In an effort to account for those who found their replacement housing worse than their original, the respondents subjective evaluation was checked against ownership status, age, race, sex, and income level. Table 16 indicates the results of this comparison. It can be clearly seen that none of these basic demographic variables helps account for those who felt their replacement housing was worse than their original.

TABLE 15

Respondent's Comparison of Relocation Dwelling Unit to Original Unit

<u>Evaluation of New Unit</u>	<u>%</u>
Much Improved	39.9
Somewhat Improved	24.7
Same	18.0
Somewhat Worse	11.8
Much Worse	5.6
Total	178

Summary

A number of different indicators of adjustment to and satisfaction with the relocation dwelling unit were considered. It was found that

Table 16
 Comparison Of
 Relocation Dwelling Unit
 To Original By Demographic Variables

Evaluation Of New Unit	Much Improved	Somewhat Improved	Same	Somewhat Worse	Much Worse	Total
<u>Ownership Status</u>						
Owner	38.8	24.5	16.3	15.3	5.1	98
Renter	41.8	25.3	19.0	7.6	6.3	79
$X^2 = 2.59; p = .62$						
<u>Age</u>						
59 & below	41.7	26.0	16.7	9.4	6.3	96
60 & over	37.8	23.2	19.5	14.6	4.9	82
$X^2 = 1.96; p = .79$						
<u>Race</u>						
White	36.0	28.7	17.6	12.5	5.1	136
Non-White	56.4	12.8	17.9	7.7	5.1	39
$X^2 = 6.74; p = .14$						
<u>Sex</u>						
Male	35.8	24.7	17.3	13.6	8.6	81
Female	43.3	24.7	18.6	10.3	3.1	97
$X^2 = 3.48; p = .48$						
<u>Income</u>						
* I	31.6	23.2	25.3	13.7	6.3	95
II	50.0	26.2	11.9	7.1	4.8	42
III	66.7	22.2	-0-	-0-	11.1	9
IV	41.2	23.5	11.8	23.5	-0-	17
Kendall's tau = $-.14; p = .009$						

* I = Below \$10,000; II = \$10,000 to \$15,000; III = \$15,000 to \$20,000; IV = Over \$20,000