

KISS fans in Q-C support, celebrate classic rock band A3



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Drivers on 19th Street at 7th Avenue wait for the traffic light to change Thursday in Moline. U.S. Census Bureau statistics suggest that traffic flow is better in the Quad-Cities than it is in other metro areas in Illinois and Iowa.

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Corn in Iowa. Soybeans in Illinois. Slow and snarled traffic in the Quad-Cities.

Which of these things doesn't hold true?

Quad-Citians don't hold back about the busyness — and quality — of their roadways. As the Interstate 74 renovation project barrels on, congestion on major roads likely will get worse.

But data from the U.S. Census Bureau suggest that residents of the Quad-Cities have less to complain about than residents of other metro areas in Illinois and Iowa do. In the Quad-Cities, commutes tend to be relatively short, and traffic tends to be lighter than it is elsewhere in the bi-state region.

In Rock Island County, a majority of people who leave home for work have a commute time of less than 20 minutes, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS).

In Scott County, the average commute is 19 minutes long — exactly the state average.

In both counties, only about 2.7 percent of commuters travel

STIFLE THAT ROAD RAGE!

Q-C traffic flow is better than you might think

more than 60 minutes to work. Six times as many workers travel less than 10 minutes, according to the data.

"For the most part, we've got a fairly good level of service throughout the city," said Brian

Schadt, city engineer of Davenport. "When you think about driving around, it's not very often that you have to sit through multiple light cycles, unless there's an issue of some sort."

When compared to drivers

across the nation, Iowans have the seventh-shortest average commute, according to census data, whereas Illinoisans have the seventh-longest.

In Illinois, counties of similar size to Rock Island County occasionally have longer commutes. In Winnebago County, which contains the city of Rockford, the average commute time is almost 20 percent longer than the commute time in Rock Island County. In Sangamon County, which includes the state capital, the average commute is 12 percent longer.

Congestion in Scott County compares favorably to other counties across Iowa. According to recent data on major roadway congestion across the state, Scott County had a better vehicle-to-capacity ratio — a measurement of roadway congestion — than Polk and Linn counties, Iowa's most populous counties.

For Quad-Cities drivers, the relatively easy flow of traffic is a perk, especially as commutes grow longer nationally.

It also might be a boon to

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Illinois' marijuana industry is booming

Minority-run businesses want in on the action

ALLY MAROTTI

Tribune News Service

CHICAGO — Illinois' marijuana industry is flourishing. More residents are buying the drug for medicinal use, and the state is on the brink of legalizing recreational use of cannabis, potentially creating opportunities for a new wave of entrepreneurs.

But right now, businesses in line to reap the financial rewards are overwhelmingly male and mostly white.

Seventeen companies own li-

censes to grow and process marijuana in Illinois. Most have CEOs or executive directors who are white, but exact ownership information is unknown.

The state denied a Freedom of Information Act request for data on individuals with ownership stakes in dispensaries and cultivation centers, saying the information was confidential.

The makeup of the nascent industry is not lost on the few minorities in leadership positions at Illinois cannabis companies, who worry about their role in a field that could generate sales of \$224 million by 2022, compared with \$136.5 million for medical marijuana last year. Illinois' medical

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Edie Moore, executive director of Chicago NORML, which works toward marijuana law reform, says there are high barriers for minorities trying to break into Illinois' cannabis industry.

WEATHER

High: **44** Low: **25**



Mostly sunny.
Full report A10



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