



TRANSPORTATION FACTS - **Commuter and Transport Trends in the GVRD**

A recent poll published in the Vancouver Sun showed that 47% of Lower Mainland citizens felt that transportation was 'the most important local issue facing local residents' well ahead of crime (17%), health care and education (12% each). No doubt the poll reflects media headlines 2000/2001 regarding debates over vehicle levies and transportation taxes, a long transit strike, cuts to transit service and the political difficulties of TransLink (the region's transportation authority).

However it's likely that the poll also reflects the genuine public recognition that transportation is a central force shaping the current growth and livability of the Vancouver region. Many citizens understand that issues such as traffic congestion, pressures on public transit, air quality and transportation funding and taxes are shared by cities and regions across the planet. The connections between daily transportation choices, trends in vehicle purchases, fossil fuel consumption and global climate change are beginning to be widely understood.

Some Interesting Facts:

- 2001 Census results of how GVRD residents (almost 906,000 in total) get to work:
 - 72% or 654 000 were drivers
 - 7% or 63,000 were passengers
 - 11% or 104,000 took transit
 - 8% or 75,000 walked or biked
 - 1% or 8700 traveled to work by some other means
- The average car makes 2000 trips of 3 kilometres or less a year, and many of these trips could easily be done on a bicycle. Over 1/3 of work trips in the GVRD are less than 5 kilometres. (*Source: TransLink Regional Bicycle Plan. Urban Systems, May 2000.*)
- 50% of Lower Mainlanders commute every day, mostly in autos by themselves. (*Source: GVRD. 1995. A Comprehensive Overview of Transportation Demand Management Public Opinion Research.*)
- Of all journeys in the region, some 83% are taken by private automobile, 9% by public transit, and 8% by foot and bicycle (combined). (*Source: GVRD. Transport 2021: Long Range Plan For Greater Vancouver*)
- Greater Vancouver's 1.6 million citizens operate 1 million motor vehicles (cars, buses, trucks, trains and vessels) over the regions 10,000 km of roads, tracks and ferry lanes. (*Source: GVRD. Transport 2021: Long Range Plan for Greater Vancouver.*)

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Greater Vancouver transportation stats:

- There are approximately 5.5 million person-trips per day in the GVRD
- Each year, about 85 % of adults in the GVRD use transit at least once.
- The amount of travel and the number of motor vehicles on our roads are growing faster than our population.
- From 1996 to 1999, traffic volumes grew twice as fast as our population. More than 3 vehicles are added to our road system every hour – or about 63 new cars per day.
- Travel times in the last decade have increased due to worsening congestion.
- The average trip time has increased by 33 per cent - 20 minutes instead of 15.
- "Rush hours" are 33 per cent longer - four instead of three in length.
- During the peak commuting period 45 % of commuters into downtown Vancouver use transit.
- About 50% of work trips to downtown Vancouver are made by transit, cycling or walking.
- Cycling and walking trips have increased by 29% across the GVRD between 1994 and 1999. Auto trips increased by 15% in the same period.

(Sources: TransLink, GVRD, City of Vancouver.)