



Partners for Transit

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Transit Supports a Healthy Planet

Earth Day, (annually on April 22) the international movement focused on appreciation for Earth and the environment, turns 40 this year. The movement started in 1970 with grass roots support in a handful of major cities and quickly gained substantial momentum from legions concerned over environmental issues. Today many cities, companies and even entire countries observe Earth



Week challenging people and providing opportunities to adopt sustainable habits.

With global warming, loss of habitat and water scarcity worse than the first Earth Day, there are more opportunities and more reasons than ever to make changes to positively impact the environment. From reusable bags and cups to compact fluorescent light bulbs, low flow water mechanisms and improved insulation, what we buy and how we live can improve to insure a healthier planet for future generations.

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The Partners for Transit mission is to improve the local economy by advancing transit options and improving the quality of life for Washtenaw County residents. The group is comprised of community leaders, local professionals, and motivated residents. To join in the partners movement, visit partnersfortransit.org and select volunteer.

Urban - Transit Rider Profile

Using the AATA transit system is a convenient and reliable way for me to get to and from downtown on a daily basis; and affordable with my go!pass! I love that I don't have to waste my time in traffic or looking for a place to park once I get downtown. Taking the bus to work every day is a relaxing and sustainable commute choice that not only helps the environment, but also helps the traffic/parking congestion in Ann Arbor. If the bus system expanded it's service hours on the weekends and allotted more cabs for the NightRide program, I would never have to worry about driving downtown.

Transit Rider: Mallory Scholl

Employer:  QUINN EVANS ARCHITECTS

Rides: NightRide, Fixed Route



continued - Transit Supports a Healthy Planet

Transportation choices impact the environment on a daily basis. While certain trips require families to own one vehicle, many other trips could be made using a variety of alternative modes of transportation including: public transit (buses), non-motorized (bike and walk) and shared rides (carpools).

“Michigan residents want more travel choices and better connectivity between modes. We learned that there is a significant gap between the public’s expectations for transportation in Michigan and our ability to meet those expectations. That is a challenge for this decade and beyond.”

**KIRK STEUDLE
DIRECTOR,
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION**

In honor of this Earth Day, consider the benefits of using alternative transportation: air quality, physical activity and cost savings. There are, however, challenges to transitioning to alternative transportation. For some, bus service ends too early, no service in desired locations, and for others a lack of safe non-motorized connections between points of travel.

To commemorate and advance the spirit of the Earth Day movement, consider speaking with your elected representatives about the importance of providing adequate public transit for today's needs.

For more information on incorporating alternative forms of transit into your travels continue reading and participate in the [getDowntown](#)



getDowntown Commuter Challenge

The Commuter Challenge is a great way to learn about all of the commuting options available to Ann Arbor residents and employees. Trying a sustainable commute saves money, improves health, is green and is fun!

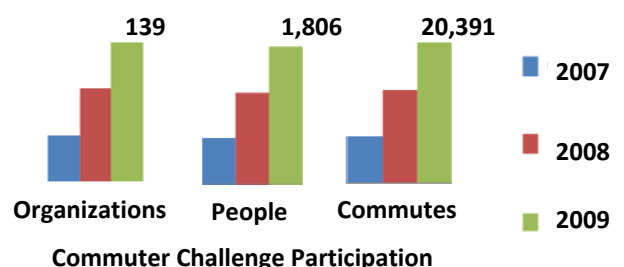
GetDowntown sponsors the Commuter Challenge, a month-long competition in May between organizations and encourages employees to use sustainable transportation to commute. Organizations compete against one another and log sustainable commutes on the [getDowntown](#) website ([getdowntown.org](#)). Common sustainable commutes include walking, biking, busing, moped/motorcycle and carpooling/vanpooling .

During the Commuter Challenge, the website calculates the calories burned, carbon emissions reduced and miles, logged by individuals and organizations. Everyone that participates in the Commuter Challenge receives a prize. Commuter Challenge awards prizes for organizations, in addition to daily prize drawings, and much more!

Sign Up for the Commuter Challenge until May 7th. To date eighty businesses signed up for the Commuter Challenge, including Google, Arbor Brewing Company, Douglas J Aveda Institute, and Zingerman’s Deli.

“People really love the Commuter Challenge. It’s a great way to motivate people to get to know our transit system better. And every year we see more and more people signing up to participate.”

**NANCY SHORE
DIRECTOR
GETDOWNTOWN
PROGRAM**



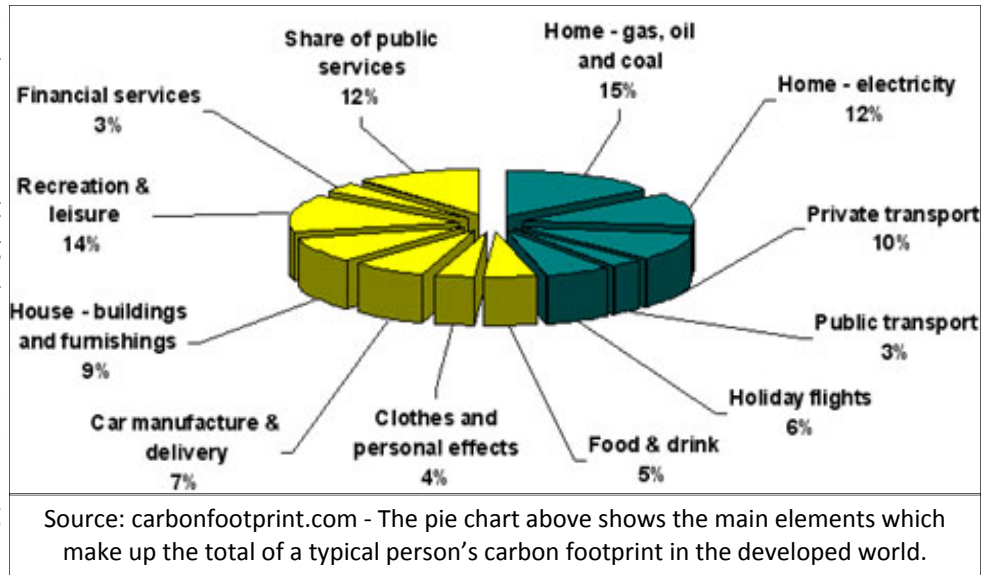
Calculate the Carbon Footprint of Your Trip

Many people naturally feel compelled to reduce their impact on the environment. Others require more understanding of how their daily activities contribute to negative environmental impacts. Carbon footprint calculators measure how our activities impact the environment, and in particular the climate. The carbon footprint calculator identifies the amount of greenhouse gases produced by activities through burning fossil fuels for transportation, electricity and heating, etc. The carbon footprint measures greenhouse gases produced in units of tons (or kg) of carbon dioxide equivalent.

The following chart displays some of the most common daily activities that contribute to a carbon footprint.

■ - **primary footprint** are direct emissions of CO₂ from the burning of fossil fuels including transportation and energy consumption.

■ - **secondary footprint** are the indirect CO₂ emissions from the whole lifecycle of products - those associated with manufacturing and eventual breakdown.



To calculate the carbon impacts your household has on the environment, visit www.carbonfootprint.com. To estimate the fuel costs for trips you make, visit www.annarborgasprices.com.

Zipcars Enhance Transit Options

While increased transit options would satisfy many of the trips that need to be made, some situations will invariably require the use of a car. Zipcars are a new transportation resource expanding options for commuting by reducing road and parking congestion and increasing cost savings and flexibility to families. Zipcar does this by offering cars for shared use strategically located.

Zipcars are available as hourly or daily alternatives to owning and maintaining a full-time vehicle. Zipcar rates include a \$50 annual membership and an all-inclusive (fuel too) rate of \$8 an hour or \$66 per day. Reasons for using a Zipcar may be the occasional need for a second car, moving large items or to supplement the regular use of public transit. Vehicles are parked at various locations and range from hatchbacks and hybrids to sedans and SUVs to accommodate a variety of different needs.



To view a map of locations or to register with Zipcar visit: www.zipcar.com/annarbor

Rural - Transit Rider Profile

Transit Rider: Lori AnnAho

Community: Saline

Rides: People's Express

What would happen if service stopped and you could no longer use the bus?

"This would be devastating to the community and to myself. I was one of the folks who fought so hard to keep Milan transit alive, to no avail. I do not have family in Michigan and all my friends work. My roommate would have to work to take me to all my doctor appointments and most likely get fired."

For what types of trips do you use public transit?

"Doctor's appointments, PT and OT, grocery shopping, errands (such as trips to the pharmacy), drive to work, out to eat, shopping at the mall -anywhere for any reason. To church during the week, etc."

What about the current transit/bus system works for you?

"The drivers are wonderful they are honest, caring, very helpful to those with special needs -help with walkers and groceries. They are always available by phone when your appointment is finished and honest about how long it will take for them to get back to pick you up! "

Would expanded service provide opportunities for your employment or medical care?

"Absolutely!! Especially in the ways and times to schedule rides -knowing the day before if you have a ride is not enough time to cancel a doctor's appointment."

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