

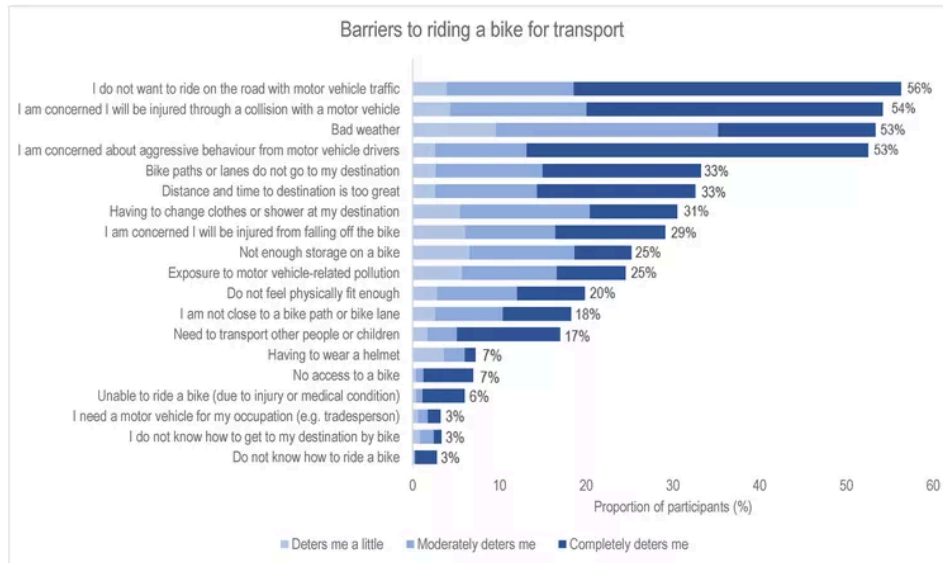
What makes GOOD public transportation?

- Frequency is vital
 - The longer you have to wait the less it feels like you're in "control" of your transportation.
 - People typically prefer a longer more winding route, even with a car, if it means they're constantly in motion and "controlling" their trip, rather than stop and go traffic
 - To apply this to public transportation, nobody wants to be sitting at a stop for potentially 30+ minutes waiting for a bus to come, 10 minutes or fewer should be the maximum wait time if we want people to make the choice to take public transit over driving
- Reliability
 - Feeling stranded when a bus doesn't show up not only makes you feel helpless, but also could potentially ruin plans
 - Need to get somewhere at a specific time? Well now you have to plan around an extra 30+ minutes since who knows if your bus will actually arrive or not
- Access to the places they need to go regularly
 - Work, school, family, gym, grocery store, medical services, library, etc...
- Having stops reasonably close by to people
 - Typically under 1km is the sweet spot for people walking
 - This can be opened up even further if we have a bike accessible network to get to transit stations, as you can now easily travel further in the same amount of time
 - Combining bikes + public transit is key for opening up your city to more people
 - Accessible to all, e.g. transit users with mobility issues (seniors, people with disabilities)
 - But we also don't want to make them TOO close to people, this leads to having to stop too often, making it less efficient to take
- Destinations with multiple amenities close by
 - Being able to chain together multiple "trips" into one thing makes it much easier to get things done
 - Think of having a grocery store nearby your library, this would make it so you can go pick some food as well as drop off the book you had borrowed all in the same trip, no need to split it up into multiple trips and take even more time out of your day

What makes people choose active transportation?

- Safety

- The largest barrier is people being scared to bike/walk on roads that have large and fast moving vehicles, the more we invest into



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- Connectivity
 - We need to be able to get to the places we actually want to go to, if your car lanes ended every 500m and had 2km gaps between them then nobody would use their car to get around either
- Making sure things are close enough
 - Many people feel like they're not fit enough to make 10+km trips, so we need to make sure things are relatively close by in distance
- Bike storage
 - Have to make sure
- Trees
 - Shade helps immensely in the warm summer days, helping reduce the heat island effect, while also keeping us out of the damaging rays of the sun for long periods of time
 - Many of our roads have been made barren of trees, which is something we need to immediately reverse
 - This would also help with traffic calming and provide safety if put between sidewalks and roads

What are some nice to haves?

- Stops that are protected from the weather
- Dedicated bus lanes along priority corridors, allowing them to not have to wait in traffic caused by a slower/less efficient form of transportation in cars
- Stores/amenities at train stations that give people reasons to hang out there, many train stations in Europe are filled with cafes, restaurants, grocery stores
 - This allows you to easily trip chain because you have so many things right there at the station itself

How do we get these things?

- Density
 - Extreme example : if everyone lived 200m apart, how would we possibly run transit often enough for people to have frequent service that gets them where they need to go
 - Having more people near a stop means we have more potential riders, more ridership = more demand for the service
- Mixed zoning
 - Having people live near where they need to go helps cut down on the distance they need to travel in the first place; what was potentially a 10km bus/car ride can now be a 5 minute walk paired with a 15 minute bus ride
 - There is no need for your local coffee shop to be 3km away from you, or for a grocery store to be a 20 minute drive instead of a 10 minute walk
- End sprawling
 - The further everything is the harder it is to service it all, and because we still want to provide services to those living further away it means everyone suffers
 - Everyone is required to drive further and further the more we sprawl, not just to work, but to everything
- Fewer winding cul-de-sacs
 - These are inherently inefficient for transporting people, they are windy and often serve too few residences, this causes us to have way more transit lines than we need to, and each line is made much less efficient
 - Even walking/cycling/driving it is much less efficient to move through these areas
 - Cul-de-sacs were initially created to slow down the speed and reduce the amount of cars, but we can do this through other means while keeping our neighbourhoods vibrant for those living there

Why should YOU care about public/active transportation, even if you don't use/want to use it yourself?

- Even if you drive a car for every trip it benefits you to have good public transportation
- Provides freedom for those who can't drive
 - If you have elderly parents, or if you yourself are aging, there will be a point where they can no longer drive themselves, public transportation is key to continuing to give them the ability to support themselves
 - Children currently depend on their parents to get them everywhere until they can drive, this is a huge waste of time for parents
 - This also would help give them a sense of independence instead of relying on parents for everything
- Getting people out of cars means less damage to roads
 - Less traffic for you
 - People who aren't comfortable driving (typically bad drivers) no longer have to drive, making your drive safer and more enjoyable
 - Makes cities quieter with fewer cars

- Opens up job opportunities for people who can't get around as easily, leading to less poverty and homeless people
- Less space is taken up in our cities
 - As rail lines are more efficient than roads at moving people, this means more space can be used for parks, stores, housing, cultural spaces, event areas, etc...
- Less space wasted for parking everywhere
 - This leads to cheaper prices for goods/services as even if there is "free" parking, they have to pay for that land, meaning it gets included in the prices of everything else you pay for
 - City also has to maintain less parking spots, and can again use this for more fruitful purposes, ones that enhance the lives of people
- It opens up options for you
 - Maybe you don't always want to drive, maybe you want to go drinking with friends but don't want to pay 30\$+ for a taxi/uber ride home, wouldn't you want good transportation options alternative to driving?
 - What if you want to get to the airport? Now you don't have to pay for parking at the airport
- Don't have to pay for/find parking at large events like concerts, sports events, parades, markets, etc...
 - If you've ever gone to Lansdowne for a sporting event or a flea market you know how terrible it is to get parking/leave afterwards, this is because for every car you add it gets that much harder for everyone else to move around with a car
- Can save lots of money if you end up choosing to reduce your car usage
 - Current estimates for car ownership in Canada put it at 1400\$ a month or 17000\$ a year, according to [RateHub](#) this is life-changing amounts of money if you can instead pocket even half of that amount a year
 - Average Canadian family has 2 cars, if you could cut it down to 1 that's huge savings
- Reduced tax burden for you
 - Since much of our taxes go towards building and maintaining the roads, being able to reduce the amount of road space we need would save ourselves lots of money
- Reduced emissions/smog
 - Close to 20% of our CO2 equivalent emissions are from the transportation sector, we could make huge gains by getting people out of their cars
 - Less smog from the fumes of cars also makes the air cleaner in cities, cities with more cars are linked to respiratory issues
- Obesity
 - If you do ever want to start using active transportation it would help you become more fit and active, helping cut down on one of the largest killers in the country right now (obesity/heart problems)
- Mental health
 - People who commute/get around using active transportation have been shown to have better mental health than those who get around by driving

What can we learn from other cities/countries?

- Bike share in MTL around stations helps more people be connected
 - Makes it so you don't have to own your own bike, and even if you do you don't have to always carry it around with you
- Dutch drivers are the happiest drivers on Earth, why is that?
 - Only the people who really have to or really want to are left driving, meaning overall better drivers
 - Less roads to maintain = better infrastructure
 - Less traffic = faster travel times

How can you get involved?

- Join Strong Towns Ottawa!
 - We're constantly informing our group members about upcoming projects in the city that they can speak out at, councilors they can reach out to, using our platform to push councilors in the right direction, informing people about how to advocate for the things they want
- Join your local community association
 - Become a board member
 - Join the committees that interest you such as the transportation committee
 - Have your voice heard, speak out at these meetings if you think something is being missed
 - CAs are vital parts of their areas and often fight for the wants of the residents, but if you're not voicing your wants how can you possibly get them? Join them and speak up about what you'd like to see!
- Reach out to your local councilor if you see an issue in your area that needs addressing
 - It might not get addressed right away, but it puts it on their radar, the more people asking for something, the more likely it'll be to get changed!
 - The City of Ottawa website has a list of all the councilors for each ward available here : <https://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/mayor-and-city-councillors>
 - If an issue is happening in a ward that isn't your own, feel free to reach out to another councilor, just because they're not your councilor doesn't mean they're not accountable to the city as a whole!
- Inform your family/friends about these ideas, build a local community around yourself and branch out from there, maybe others feel the same way as you but they just don't know how to voice it/argue for it?
- Go to public consultations and have your voice heard!
 - Typically these consultations only even have 5-10 people speaking out, should those people's voices be the only ones considered when it comes to potentially vital changes to your area?
- Sign up to delegate at committees if you have the time
 - They can be done online at zoom so you don't even have to make it to City Hall if you don't want to! Maybe important things get talked about there, and having a

couple voices that speak out about things that weren't considered can make a huge difference

- Do you see a glaring issue that needs solving RIGHT NOW?
 - Contact 311 and your local councilor, make sure they're aware of it and highlight how important it is