

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS?

The benefits of transportation options programs extend beyond “transportation” and helping people get from “point A to point B.” These programs support our communities – large and small – across the state of Oregon.

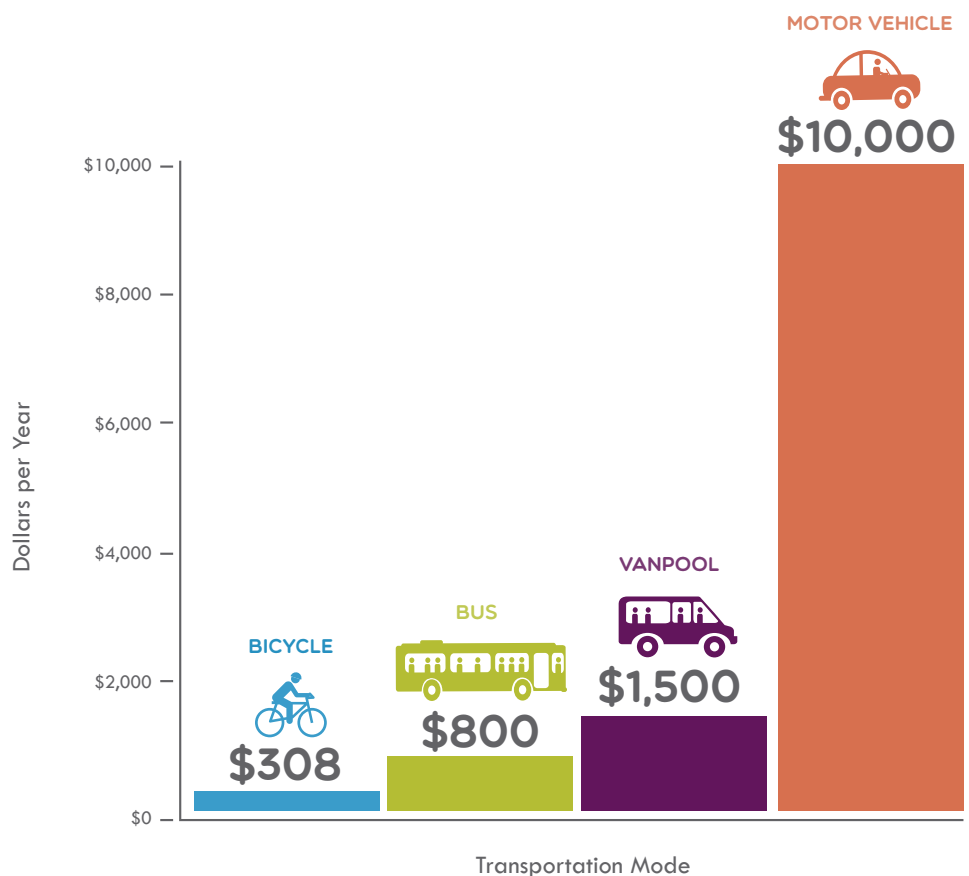
1. Improve access and travel choices for all Oregonians

Although transportation options are plentiful in more urban areas, they are also available in suburban and rural areas, 16.4% of Oregonians live in low-density rural areas. Transportation options programs can improve opportunities for people who live in low-density areas without a car to reach destinations in their communities and throughout Oregon.

2. Provide a more affordable way to travel

The percentage of income that Oregonians spend on transportation varies for urban and rural households. For example, on average, Portland residents spend 24% of their income on transportation while Roseburg residents spend 36% of their income on transportation (Housing + Transportation Affordability Index). Transportation options such as biking, walking, taking transit, sharing rides, and telecommuting cost less, allowing households to invest money into savings, housing, or other goods and services.

Average Annual Cost Comparison of Biking, Taking Transit, Vanpool, and Driving



Source: (1) Biking: The League of American Bicyclists and the Sierra Club. “The New Majority: Pedaling Towards Equity.” (2) Transit: Based on an average of annual transit pass costs in the five metropolitan areas (Salem-Keizer, Bend, Portland, Eugene-Springfield, and Rogue Valley). Corvallis was excluded because transit is fare-free. (3) Vanpool: Based on average cost of vanpool for Valley Vanpool Riders. Cost is offset by Federal dollars. (4) Driving: American Automobile Association. “Your Driving Costs.” 2013.

Space Requirement by Mode

MOVING CARS



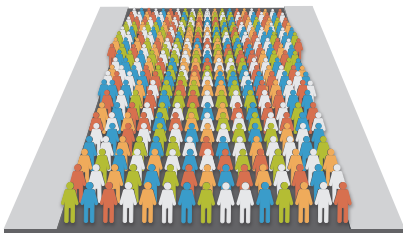
28.4 PEOPLE
PER BLOCK

MOVING TRANSIT



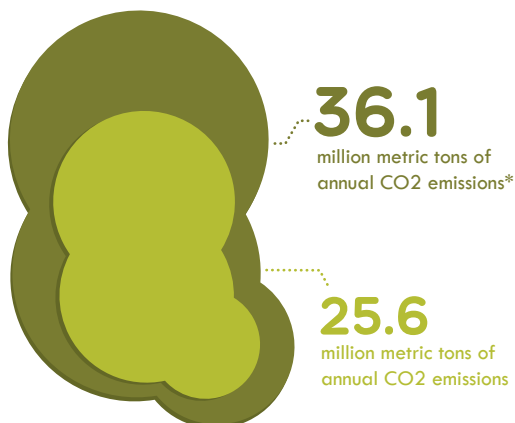
225 PEOPLE
PER BLOCK

MOVING PEDESTRIANS



1,000 PEOPLE
PER BLOCK

CO₂ Emissions are Projected to Increase Under Current Trends



■ 2012
■ 2025

*Assumes that transportation will continue to represent 38 percent of total CO₂ emissions in the state

3. Improve roadway safety

In Oregon, traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for people under 35. Transportation options programs educate all roadway users to help improve safety.

4. Support a variety of travel needs and preferences

Transportation options programs respond to changing user needs and preferences—such as driving less, using transit more, and living in walkable neighborhoods. At different times of life, people may be unable drive due to age, ability, or income, or may simply prefer to live in a more walkable environment.

5. Support cost effective investments

Transportation options, such as walking and biking, put less wear and tear on the road, limiting the need for costly capital infrastructure and reducing the cost of operations and maintenance over time.

6. Use roadway space more efficiently

Transportation options maximize the use of roadway space. Bicyclists, pedestrians, and transit require less roadway space per passenger than single-occupant vehicles. Biking and walking also results in less wear and tear on roads than do cars and trucks.

7. Lessen the effect of worsening congestion.

Encouraging and increasing the use of transportation options can help manage system congestion and improve the reliability of transportation for people and goods, including making freight deliveries more reliable.

8. Improve access to jobs

Employers who offer robust transportation choices such as transit passes, flexible schedules, and secure bike parking experience greater employee retention and satisfaction.

9. Foster healthier communities

Just 20 minutes per day of moderate physical activity can lower blood pressure and help maintain a healthy weight. Transportation options programs encourage walking, bicycling, and taking transit for work or for play.

10. Reduces greenhouse gas emission from the transportation sector

Transportation options such as biking, walking, and transit emit less emissions per capita.