



St. Clair Avenue West Residential Travel Survey Neighbourhood Update

 **TORONTO** Urban Development Services

Introduction

The St Clair Avenue West corridor is one of the many areas in the city that will play an important role in achieving the strategic growth objectives of Toronto's new Official Plan. The St Clair Avenue corridor is a vibrant community with a unique mix of employment, residential, and commercial uses. To better understand the travel patterns and behaviours of residents within the corridor, the City Planning Division has undertaken a residential travel survey. Similar surveys have been undertaken at various locations across the city, including the Kings and Waterfront areas downtown and the Centres (Scarborough, North York and Etobicoke).

The data provided in this update is intended for information purposes only.

Survey Results

In order to ensure the statistical validity of the results, comparisons were made to the 2001 Transportation Tomorrow Survey (TTS). The TTS was conducted on behalf of 19 local, regional, provincial, and transit operating agencies across the GTA and surrounding areas. The TTS is the largest and most comprehensive travel survey ever conducted in Ontario. The survey data (2001, 1996, 1991 and 1986) are now with the Data Management Group at the University of Toronto.

Household Information

Dwelling Types

The data indicate that the predominant form of housing in the sample is apartment type (51%). Within the apartment category, 37% are rental units and 14% are condominium units. Houses (detached, semi-detached, duplexes, triplex) represent 45% of the surveyed dwelling types. Detached and semi-detached houses are predominate (24% and 19% respectively). The remaining 4% comprise townhouse units and other dwelling types.

Household Occupancy

Of the households surveyed, a significant proportion of respondents indicated that they live in single-person households or two-person households (38% and 32% respectively). The remaining 30% includes households of three or more people, with 16% at more than three occupants. On average, there are 2.16 people per household.

Design and Method of Surveys

Approximately 11,500 households within the St Clair Avenue West corridor received questionnaires in the summer of 2003. All households with 250 metres of St Clair Avenue West were mailed a survey. This sample includes all dwelling types ranging from detached houses to rental apartment units. The questionnaires were directed at residents over the age of 16 and gathered valuable insights into household and residents travel characteristics. Approximately 27% of the households responded; this is considered a good response rate for this type of survey.

Auto Ownership

A major objective of the City's new Official Plan is to work towards reducing reliance on the use of the automobile and attaining a high transit modal split. Some 29% of the households indicated that they do not own or lease a motor vehicle, while 48% of the household have access to one vehicle. Of the remainder, 19% had two vehicles and 4% had access to two or more vehicles. On average, there are 0.97 vehicles per residential unit.

Travel Information

The survey gathered information on residents' trips including trip purpose, destination, mode of travel and number of trips made between 6:00-10:00 a.m. on the weekday morning that the household received the survey. The morning peak period is most reflective of typical travel patterns and behaviours.

A "trip" is defined as a one way journey from one place to another. For example, a journey from your home to work is one trip. If you travel to a child care centre on your way to work, the journey from your home to the childcare centre is one trip, and your journey from the child care centre to work is another trip.

Number of Trips

During the four-hour morning study period, 31% of the residents did not make any trips. Of the area residents who made trips, 59% made a single trip, 8% made two trips and only 2% made more than two trips, resulting in a total of 4,609 trips. The peak hour (7:45 - 8:45 a.m.) accounts for 36% of all trips made during the a.m. study period (6:00-10:00 a.m.). The survey results indicate that 969 trips, (or 21% of all trips) are destined for a location somewhere along St Clair Avenue West.

Table 1

Trip Purpose	St. Clair Ave. W.	Other Areas	All Trips
Work	23%	63%	54%
Shopping	29%	7%	12%
Took Someone Somewhere	7%	7%	7%
School	2%	5%	5%
Returned Home	20%	2%	6%
Appointment (Doctor, Dentist)	7%	5%	6%
Other purposes (Volunteer, Visiting, Exercise)	12%	11%	10%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Trip Purpose

Trips to work (54%) represented the highest percentage of trips during the a.m. peak period. Shopping trips account for 12% and other purposes such as doctor appointments, account for 6%. Recreational activities, volunteer work and visiting represented 10% of all trips.

More specifically, of the trips destined to St Clair Avenue West, 29% are for shopping purposes and 23% are to work. The majority of trips to other areas, not along St Clair Avenue, are to work (63%). Table 1 illustrates a comparison of trip purposes.

Trip Distribution

The survey results indicate that during the a.m. peak period, 93% of all trips remain within the municipal boundaries of Toronto. Of these, 969 trips (23%) are along St Clair Avenue West. Outside the city, 3% of the trips are destined for both York and Peel regions. The remaining trips (1%) are destined to the other outlying regions, including Halton, Hamilton, and Durham.

Table 2

Mode of Travel	Work Trips		Shopping Trips		All Trips	
Car Passenger Drove Car	4%	Auto	5%	Auto	5%	Auto
	42%	46%	39%	44%	42%	47%
Subway	32%		10%		24%	
Streetcar	6%	TTC	7%	TTC	7%	TTC
Bus	6%	44%	4%	21%	5%	36%
GO Transit	0%		0%		0%	
Bicycle	4%	Other	2%	Other	4%	Other
Walked	5%	10%	32%	35%	12%	17%
Other	1%		1%		1%	
Total	100%		100%		100%	

Mode of Travel

The survey revealed that auto trips account for 47% of all trips made during the a.m. peak period. All other non-auto modes combined (subway, streetcar, bus, bicycle, walking and other) represent 53% of the peak period trips. It is interesting to note that the TTC accounts for 36% of the non-auto trips during the a.m. peak period.

Table 2 reveals the breakdown of work and shopping trips in comparison to all trips during the a.m. peak period, by mode of travel and trip purpose.

Further Information

To obtain more copies of this update or further information on the results of the St Clair Avenue West Residential Travel Survey, please contact Alan Filipuzzi at afilipu@toronto.ca or (416) 392-8698.

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