

COVID and the Commute

Data from before and during the pandemic, and what the future might hold

February 26, 2021

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2019 Center City Modesplit

The transportation landscape before COVID-19

74%

All other modes

46% of commuters used transit to get downtown. Approximately 135,000 trips per day.

-  Transit
-  Telework
-  Bike
-  Walk
-  Carpool & Vanpool



26%

Drive alone

Drove a personal vehicle to get downtown. Approximately 78,000 trips/day

-  Drive Alone

Commute Evolution 2010 - 2019

Improvement over the decade

Mode	2010 203,000 Jobs		2019 295,000 Jobs		Absolute Change since 2010	If we still had 2010 Mode Split in 2019	Change From 2010 Baseline (a- b)
	%	Daily Trips	%	Daily Trips (a)	New Trips	Daily Trips (b)	Daily Trips
<i>Transit</i>	42.3%	85,869	45.8%	135,110	49,241	124,785	10,325
<i>Drive Alone</i>	35.2%	71,456	26.4%	77,880	6,424	103,840	-25,960
<i>Carpool/Vanpool</i>	9.6%	19,488	9.2%	27,140	7,652	28,320	-1,180
<i>Walk</i>	5.9%	11,977	7.3%	21,535	9,558	17,405	4,130
<i>Bike</i>	2.8%	5,684	3.4%	10,040	4,356	8,260	1,770
<i>Telecommute</i>	2.7%	5,481	5.7%	16,815	11,344	7,965	8,850

Shared Modes

More people per vehicle

Percent of center city workers using transit, carpool or vanpool pre-COVID.

55%

162,000 trips in 2019



Multi-Modal

Using more than one commute mode

Percent of center city workers using more than one commute mode throughout a typical week.

36%

In 2019



Telework

Already hot pre-COVID

2019 Headline: Telework
fastest-growing commute
mode for Center City
Workers

5.7%

Center City Telework
Modeshare, 2019



Active Modes

Small but mighty

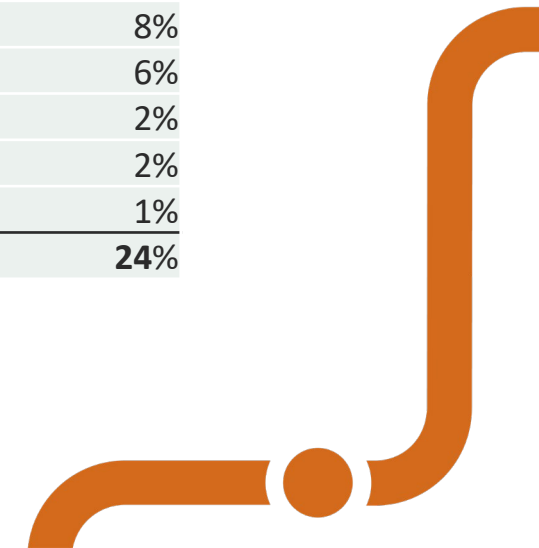
Walking/biking growing, especially as more residential is built near Center City worksites.

11%

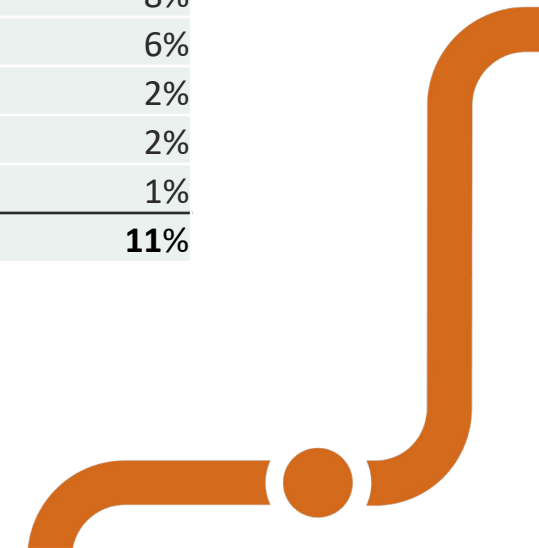
Center City Telework
Modeshare, 2019



Industry:	Total # Employees	# employees working in the physical office	% of employees working in the physical office
Health & Hospital	45,456	35,516	78%
Life Sciences, Biotech & Research	2,369	970	41%
Built Envi (Arch, Engr, Plan/Design)	1,611	599	37%
Non-Profit (Foundation, Human Services)	2,399	789	33%
Government	22,874	7,233	32%
Manufacturing	1,510	458	30%
Personal Services	416	104	25%
Hospitality & Tourism	811	168	21%
Utilities & Communications	219	44	20%
Real Estate	982	120	12%
Other	8,045	972	12%
Education	22,453	2,507	11%
Media (News, Film & Creative Design)	1,255	133	11%
Retail/Trade	10,616	1,096	10%
Construction	1,289	124	10%
Business & Management Consulting	12,786	1,076	8%
Bank, Finance & Investment Services	6,581	524	8%
Technology, Software & Web Services	92,237	5,439	6%
Transportation	1,946	47	2%
Legal	255	5	2%
Insurance	2,351	34	1%
Total:	238,461	57,958	24%



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Total:	190,636	21,472	11%



Shared Modes

What Will Recovery Look Like?

Transit capacity currently at ~20 – 25% of normal to maintain social distancing.

A 40' bus with 12 people on board IS full.

Essential workers and transit dependent still significant rider population – peak commuters dropped off.



Driving Alone

What Will Recovery Look Like?

Physical limit = parking

Attractive in the short-run

Never the answer in the long-run



Opportunities

In transportation and commuting

Behavior Change – Sustain the good parts, mitigate against increased Drive Alone rates

Public Realm – Quick, while there's time: re-allocate car spaces for active modes, civic life and commerce

Equity – Reallocate resources to boost access for those who need public transit and safe bike/walk infrastructure the most

