

# The truth about travel in Perth



It's how you get there that counts

## TravelSmart tips

- Consider your options for each trip you take - could you walk, cycle or use public transport or a combination, such as cycling to your nearest railway station.
- Be prepared - Have public transport timetables, a SmartRider and local maps and guides on hand. Take your bicycle for a service.
- Try walking the kids to school, shops or the park - Children's travel habits are influenced by their parents' travel choices. If you are a parent, you can set a good example and give your children a healthy start, by walking or cycling with your children.
- Compare the costs - Compare the cost of driving with catching a bus or train or riding your bike for some of the trips that you currently drive (particularly the shorter ones).
- Support your local community - shop local and consider leaving the car behind.



# The truth about travel in Perth!!

## MYTH

**It's a myth that...**  
**...Driving is the most economical option**

- Owning and running cars represents a major cost for households and accounts for 15% of expenditure for WA households.
- The RAC estimates that a Holden Astra doing 15,000km/year would cost over \$158 a week (standing and running costs) and a Nissan Patrol more than \$290 a week! On the other hand;
  - Walking is free, and improves your health.



→ Cycling is also a healthy travel option, with little cost beyond purchasing a bicycle and helmet.

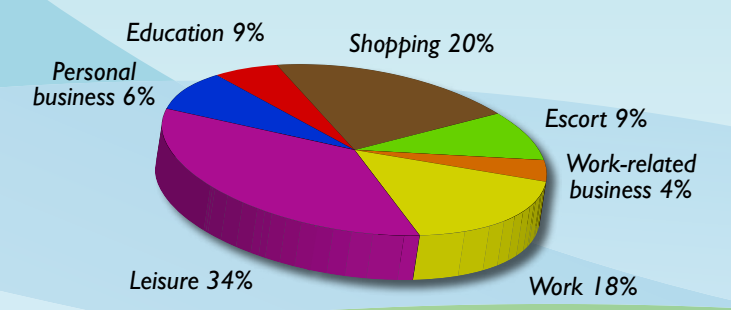


→ Public transport is an attractive option when you consider the discounts available with SmartRider tickets and compare fares with all of the costs of running a car.

**It's a myth that...**  
**...Most trips are to and from work**

- Surprisingly:
- Only about 20% of trips are to and from work.
  - More than 50% of all trips are for leisure or shopping (as per the graph below).
  - Other travel includes going to school or university, and to transport others.

So, there are many opportunities to use alternatives to the car.



**It's a myth that...**  
**...We have to drive because Perth is so spread out**

Yes, Perth is a sprawling city and this has encouraged car use in the past, but:

- Across all suburbs 3 out of 5 trips could easily be made by walking, cycling or public transport (currently only 1 in 5 trips are).
- Perth's public transport services and network of shared paths are ever-expanding, providing additional travel options in all areas of Perth.

**It's a myth that...**  
**...Driving is the safest method of transport**

- In reality:
- 74% of road fatalities and hospitalisations are to drivers or car passengers, with only 4% to cyclists and 9% to pedestrians.
  - The afternoon school pick up between 3.00pm and 5.00pm is the highest risk period for crashes.
  - Driving children to school adds to local traffic making roads less safe for others.
  - Safety on public transport, especially trains, has been raised as a concern in the past. The fact is that public transport is very safe, with relatively few incidents. However, in response to public concern, extra security measures have been introduced to improve safety for all public transport users. In terms of road safety, travelling by bus or train is far safer than car travel.

## MYTH

**It's a myth that...**  
**...Driving is easier than catching public transport**

- In Perth:
- Many public transport trips - especially trips to the city - can actually be faster than driving.
  - When people were asked how long they thought it would take to reach a destination by public transport they over-estimated the travel time by 50%. Car travel time was under-estimated by 20%.
  - Going by bus or train is often far less stressful than driving and gives you time to read, think or chat.
  - By taking an alternative mode of transport (other than the car), you can avoid traffic congestion, parking issues and associated car running costs.

# The truth about travel in Perth!!

**TravelSmart** is a world-leading initiative developed here in Perth that encourages people to change trips made by car to walking, cycling and catching public transport.

The information provided in this brochure will help you to think about the way you travel around Perth and demonstrates why **TravelSmart** has become so popular.

## It's a fact that...

### ...Car use is increasing

- Car use in Perth ranks amongst the highest in the world, we make around 80% of all our personal trips by car.
- Motor vehicles in the Perth Metropolitan Area travelled 26 million kilometres on an average weekday in 1991 and 41 million kilometres on an average weekday in 2005.
- Increasing car use at this rate is not sustainable.
- Such high levels of car use in Perth is having a significant impact on the environment by contributing to climate change.

## It's a fact that...

### ...The community is concerned about increasing car use in Perth and want priority given to public transport, cycling and walking

- 75% of the population say we need to reduce car dependency and increase the use of public transport, and 87% support funding public transport, cycling and walking instead of building new roads.



## It's a fact that...

### ...Half of all car trips are less than 5km

- Half of all car trips taken in Perth cover short distances of less than 5km and 10% cover less than 1km. Most of these trips could easily be changed to walking or cycling trips.
- On an average day, residents in metropolitan Perth make more than 250 000 private car trips that are less than one kilometre.
- Most people can cycle 5km in 20 minutes which would make cycling to your local shops quick and easy.
- Most people can walk 1km in 12 minutes which would make a short walk to the local deli to buy milk and the paper healthy and cost effective.

## It's a fact that...

### ...Children are driven to school more

- Approximately two thirds of metropolitan WA primary students are driven to school.
- Together all of these cars travel 80 million kilometres every year just taking children to school in the mornings.
- Around 1 in 6 metropolitan WA primary students are driven less than 1km to school - an easy 20 minute walk for most children.
- Approximately 20% of the cars on our roads in Perth during the morning peak hour are being used to transport children to school.



## It's a fact that...

### ... Our love of the car is contributing to obesity

- 39% of West Australian adults are overweight or obese.
- In 1985, 9% of boys and 11% of girls were overweight or obese. By 2003 this had risen to 23% of boys and 30% of girls.
- A marked decrease in levels of physical activity within our community - including walking and cycling for transport purposes - is a significant contributing factor to these rising levels of obesity.
- Only 59% of West Australians are currently doing enough physical activity to experience health benefits.
- By just changing one or two trips you make per week to walking or cycling people can reach the required levels of physical activity to experience health benefits.

The **Commonwealth of Australia** recommends the following **Physical Activity Guidelines**:

**Adults:** minimum of 30 minutes moderate-intensity physical activity on most (preferably all) days.

**5-18 year old:** minimum of 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous intensity physical activity every day.

## It's a fact that...

### ...Changing how you travel can make a huge difference

- If everyone changed just one or two car trips a week to walking, cycling or public transport we could reduce traffic congestion and air pollution significantly.
- With concerns about climate change and the effects of greenhouse gas emissions in today's society, it is important that we consider alternatives to car use where possible.
- Walking and cycling for transport provides great opportunities for fitting daily physical activity into busy schedules and provides a chance to get to know your neighbourhood better.
- By walking to your local shops or to work rather than driving, you will save money.

## It's a myth that...

### ...People drive more because they have become busier

People say they have to use their car more because they lead busier lives than before, but there has actually been little change (between 1986 and 2000) in:

- the number of activities we do in a day (eg. shopping, going to/from work, recreation)
- the number of trips we make (average of 3.5 trips each day) and
- the total distance travelled and time taken (26.4km and 57 minutes each day)

## To find out more

- For information and leaflets on bike routes and walking call the Department for Planning and Infrastructure on 9216 8000. Bicycle maps are available from most local bike shops and most local governments now have local TravelSmart Guides available.
- For information on Transperth services log onto [www.transperth.wa.gov.au](http://www.transperth.wa.gov.au). The journey planner will give you the best train, bus or ferry combination to get you to your destination faster. You can also call the Transperth InfoLine on **13 62 13** or **TTY 9428 1999** (for hearing impaired).
- If you want to receive up to date information on services in your area, register with TravelEasy and you will be notified in advance of any changes.
- TravelSmart is an information service run by the Department for Planning and Infrastructure that encourages people to choose walking, cycling or public transport instead of using their car for a few trips each week. See the website at [www.dpi.wa.gov.au/travelsmart](http://www.dpi.wa.gov.au/travelsmart) for more TravelSmart ideas.

## To contact a TravelSmart Officer

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Copies of this document are available in alternative formats on application to the Department.