

Weber State University Commuter Survey 2017 Results

The Energy and Sustainability Office at Weber State University primarily conducted this survey to estimate the total amount of carbon emissions produced by WSU commuting activity. Annually, the Energy & Sustainability Office collects data on WSU's total carbon emissions and reports on the University's progress towards meeting the carbon reduction targets outlined in WSU's Climate Action Plan. The Climate Action Plan can be found at:

http://www.weber.edu/environment/green_initiatives.html

Another objective of the survey was to gain a better understanding of why different modes of transportation are favored by WSU faculty, students and staff. Finally, the Energy and Sustainability Office was hoping to determine which potential incentives or programs might encourage the use of alternative modes of transportation.

Surveys were emailed to a random sample of WSU students and to a random sample of WSU staff and faculty. A total of 337 students and 268 faculty/staff completed the survey. The collection period of this survey was from September 2017 to November 2017.

Survey Results: Part I

The first half of the survey asked respondents to identify which campuses they travel to, how far their home is located from those campuses, the number of days they travel to campus per week, and the mode(s) of transportation used to travel there. Using this information, the total mileage traveled each year by students, faculty and staff for each mode of transportation was calculated. This mileage information was then used to estimate WSU's commuting carbon footprint (see carbon report).

Tables 1 and 2 provide information on the number of respondents traveling to the Ogden Campus, the Davis Campus, or neither campus. Students, faculty and staff do also commute to other WSU facilities. However, 98% of the WSU population travels primarily to the Ogden or Davis campuses. For simplification purposes, survey questions addressed the Ogden and Davis campuses only.

Table 1: Sample Student Population

Campus Travel	Number of Students
Travel to Ogden campus	506
Travel to Davis campus	180
Do not travel to campus	30
Total Responses	716
Total Respondents	572

Table 2: Sample Faculty/Staff Population

Campus Travel	Number of Faculty/Staff
Travel to Ogden campus	304
Travel to Davis campus	79
Total Responses	385

If survey respondents indicated that they traveled to one or both campuses, they were asked to indicate how many miles they live from each campus they travel to. Average distance from each campus (for each subgroup) is reported in Tables 3 and 4.

Table 3: Average Distance Students Live From the Ogden and Davis Campuses

Average Distance From Ogden Campus	18 miles
Average Distance From Davis Campus	13 miles

Table 4: Average Distance Faculty & Staff Live From the Ogden and Davis Campuses

Average Distance From Ogden Campus	11 miles
Average Distance From Davis Campus	15 miles

Survey respondents were asked to indicate the percentage of time they utilize different modes of transportation to travel to each campus. Questions regarding modes of transportation used during the academic year versus during the summer were asked to see if commuting behavior varied by season. Figures 1 and 2 report the percentage of students utilizing various modes of transportation (driving alone, carpooling, taking the bus, taking the Frontrunner, bicycling, and walking) to travel to the Ogden and Davis campuses during the academic year and summer. Figures 3 and 4 provide the same information for faculty and staff.

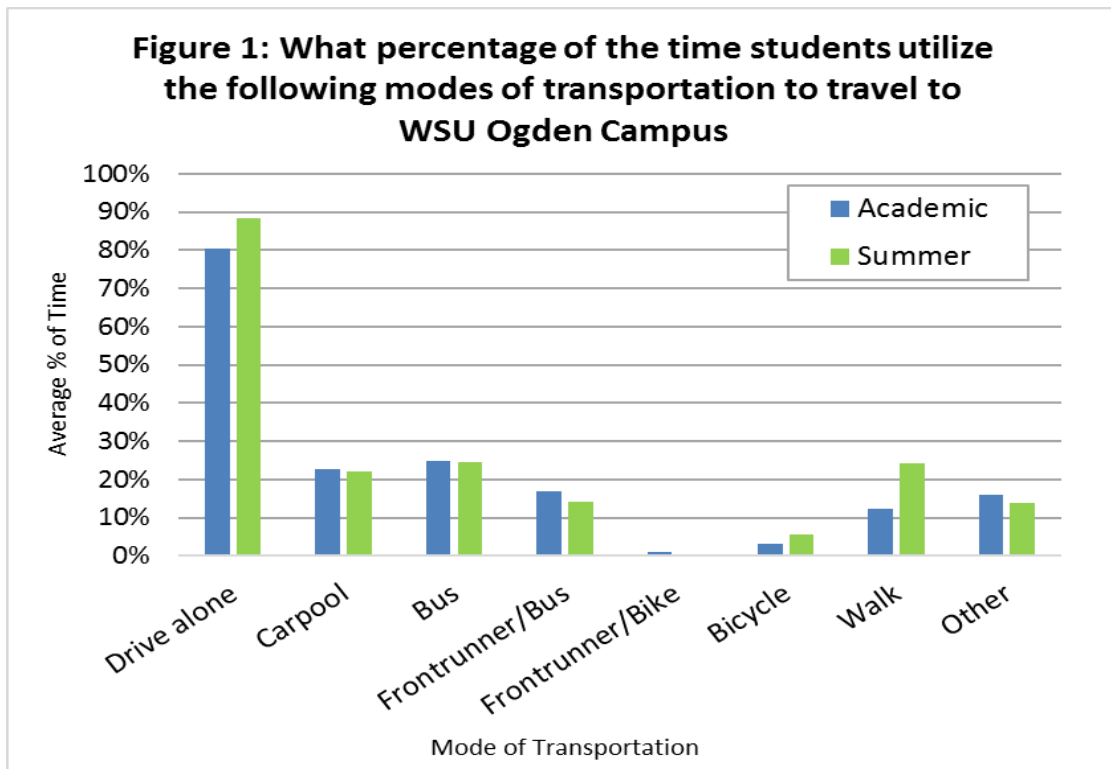


Figure 2: What percentage of the time students utilize the following modes of transportation to travel to WSU Davis Campus

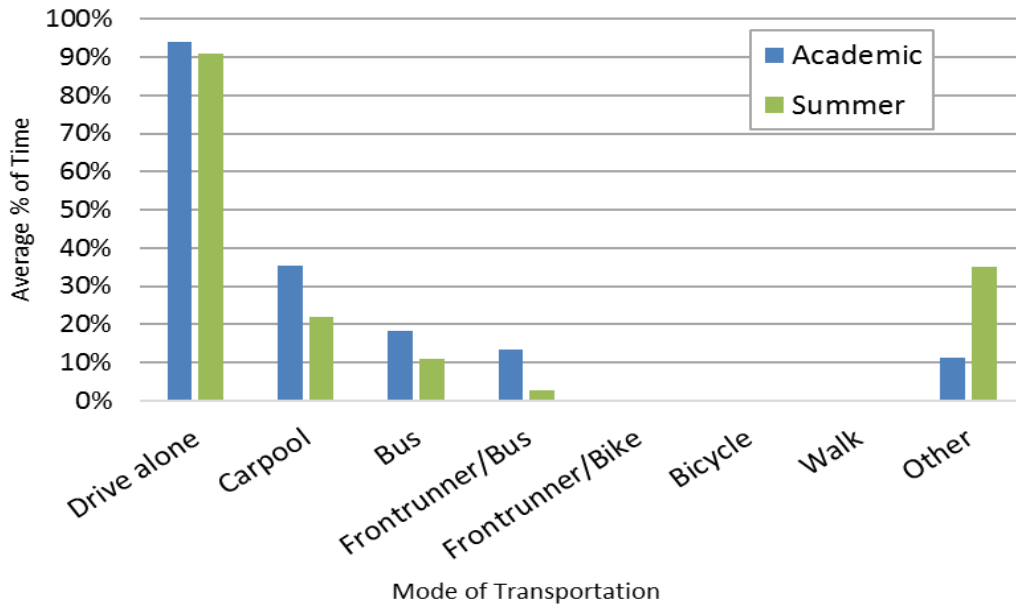
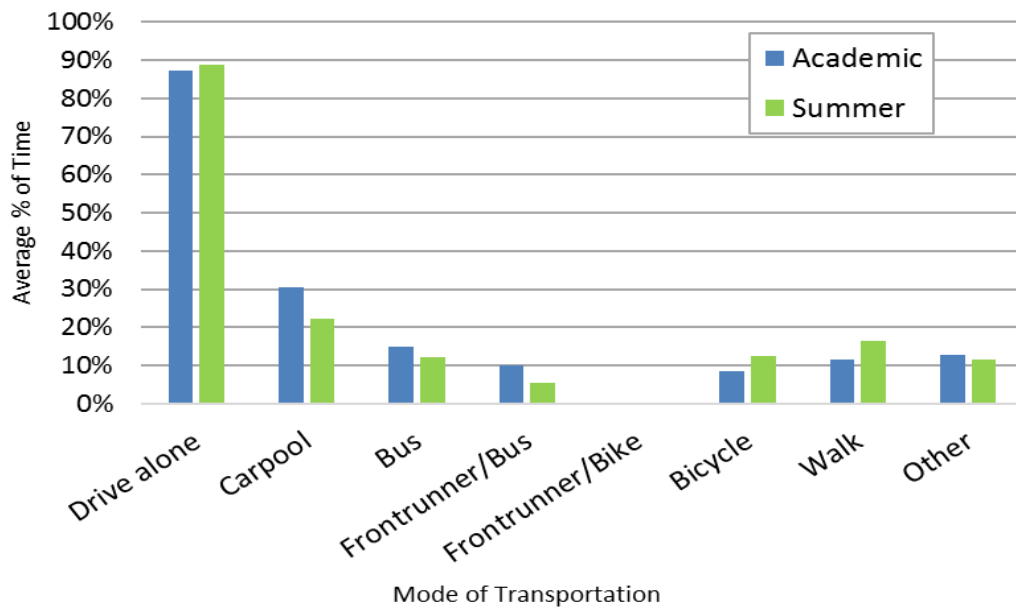
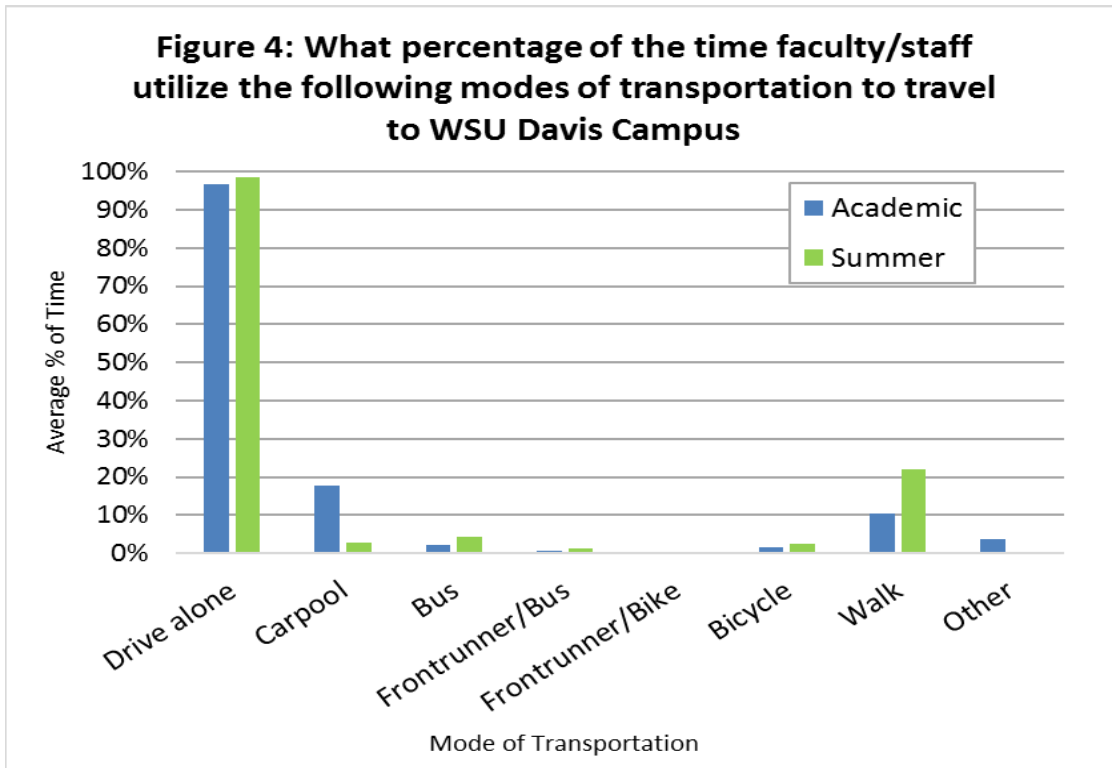


Figure 3: What percentage of the time faculty/staff utilize the following modes of transportation to travel to WSU Ogden Campus





Survey Results: Part II

The second half of the survey focused on obtaining a better understanding of why different modes of transportation are favored by WSU faculty, students, and staff as well as determining which potential incentives or programs might encourage the use of alternative modes of transportation. Survey respondents who indicated that they drive alone to campus either some or all of the time were asked about the reasons in determining the choice to drive alone. Table 5 shows the top reasons students as well as faculty and staff chose to drive alone.

Table 5: Top reasons students as well as faculty and staff choose to drive alone

Reason	Number of student responses	Number of faculty/staff responses
Enables freedom to come and go as needed	227	158
Saves time	191	125
Irregular schedule	157	76
Too far to walk or bike	115	67
Need to make special trips before, during, or after WSU commitments	98	93
No one to carpool with	85	33
Public transit takes too long	69	49
Other	24	21

Public transit does not run frequently enough or conveniently	30	23
Want car for emergencies	28	33
Public transit is not available where I live	26	32
Prefer alone time	28	9
Weather-related	17	21
Public transit is unpleasant to ride on	3	3

Other/Comments:

Comments	Student Count	Faculty/Staff Count
Have to pick up/drop off children	3	8
Have to come/stay late or early	1	2
Need to wait for transfer/takes extra time	1	1
Medical Reasons	1	1
Bus/train stops not located nearby	1	2
Frequent meetings/duties at both campuses	0	2
Carrying heavy/too many things	1	0
Live far away (e.g. SLC)	2	0
No safe path for bikers/pedestrians	0	2
Class/work schedules don't align effectively with transit	2	1
Miss bus/frontrunner	2	1

Survey respondents who indicated they drive alone to campus either all of the time or some of the time, or carpool some of the time were asked what might encourage them to carpool more frequently, ride public transit, or walk/ride a bike. The following incentives/services in Table 6, 7 and 8 are ranked based on the responses that were most popular amongst the student population and the faculty/staff population.

Table 6: Top incentives/services that would encourage students as well as faculty and staff to carpool.

Incentive/Service	Number of student responses	Number of faculty/staff responses
Reduced price parking pass for carpools	252	82
Reserved parking for carpools	251	66
Incentives for carpools	204	75
Help finding carpool partners	180	80
Having a rental car available for emergencies or errands	61	63
Other	16	11
No benefits would encourage me/ Not Applicable	131	140

Other/comments:

Comments	Student Count	Faculty/Staff Count
Friend/colleague with a similar schedule	4	2
Schedule Flexibility	2	1
Children's schedules (need a way to drop off kids at school)	0	1
Website/Mobile App for arranging carpools	1	0
More shuttle stops from Dee Event Center	1	0
University rental cars for carpools	1	0
Vehicles available for trips between Ogden and Davis campuses	0	1
Better food options nearby	0	1
No incentive required/Not applicable	0	0

Table 7: Top incentives/services that would encourage students as well as faculty and staff to ride public transit.

Incentive/Service	Number of student responses	Number of faculty/staff responses
Incentives for public transit riders (e.g. bookstore discounts)	187	58
A free Ed Pass (UTA transit Pass)	177	54
No benefits would encourage me/not applicable	154	138
More information on public transit schedules & trip planning	134	43
A direct (no stop) bus between Davis and Ogden campus	126	49
Having a rental car available for emergencies or errands	59	54
Other	42	50

Other/comments:

Comments	Student Count	Faculty/Staff Count
Better public transit schedule (Less wait time, more frequent services)	17	15
Bus stop closer to residence	6	10
Direct bus line/more efficient, Frontrunner/bus line to other areas	6	6
Fast bus between Frontrunner & Davis Campus	4	0
Later evening route	3	0
less crowded buses	2	0
More 650 bus route times/or add more shuttles	2	2
Affordable daycare on campus	1	0
Bus stop closer to Southside of Ogden campus	1	0
more bus stop shelters/safer from bad weather	1	1
Need public transit available in my area	1	6
Nicer bus or train direct to Ogden campus	1	0
Student friendly Bus schedule/more student ridership	1	0

Updated/active online bus schedule	1	0
Better Sidewalks/walking infrastructure (safer).	0	1
Cash incentive	0	2
Change in personal commitment/kid's schedule	0	1
Direct route from Layton to campus	0	1
Early morning route	0	1
Ed pass not covered by student fees/Give adjunct Ed pass.	0	1
Farmington to Ogden route not passing through Layton/Roy	0	1
Fix teaching/class schedule	0	2
Housing closer to campus	0	1
Medical reasons	0	1
More expensive parking	0	1

Table 8: Top incentives/services that would encourage students as well as faculty and staff to walk or ride a bike.

Incentive/Service	Number of student responses	Number of faculty/staff responses
A few free day parking passes only to use as necessary	108	33
Incentives for walkers/bikers (e.g. bookstore discounts)	104	48
Dedicated walking/bike paths	102	72
Covered bike racks or bike lockers	100	46
Having lockers available on campus to store personal items	96	27
A place to shower and change my clothes	75	34
Other	29	45
No benefits would encourage me.	266	173

Other/comments:

Comments	Student Count	Faculty/Staff Count
Housing options/Living closer to campus	10	3
Change in personal commitments/kid's schedule	5	5
More and safer biking/walking trails/lanes to campus.	3	7
Bikes provided	2	2
More bike rack security or covered bike lockers	1	2
Better & safer bike infrastructure/routes on campus	1	3
Discounts to purchase a bike	1	0
Class to learn how to ride a bike	1	0
Incentive to purchase electric bikes.	0	1
Having a rental car available for emergencies or errands	0	1
More bike racks	0	2
Bike racks close to buildings	0	2
More open space around bike racks (free from bushes)	0	1
Better bike options using public transit	0	1

Free Bike lockers	0	1
Wellness incentives	0	1
More and safer biking/walking trails/lanes to public transit.	0	1
Department teaching schedule changes & incentives	0	3

Survey respondents who indicated they take alternative modes of transportation to campus either all of the time or some of the time where asked to list their reasons why they chose to take alternative modes of transportation. Table 9 lists the most popular reasons amongst the student population and the faculty/staff population to take alternative modes of transportation.

Table 9: Reasons people chose to take public transit, walk, or ride a bike to campus

Reason	Number of student responses	Number of faculty/staff responses
Saves money	77	37
Parking is hard to find	60	2
Parking is costly	42	4
Less stress than driving	40	26
Reduces air pollution	38	37
I can get work done on public transit	30	15
Exercise	27	40
Share my car/do not have car all of the time	21	12
Do not have a car	17	2
Other (please specify)	12	5

Other/comments:

Comments	Student Count	Faculty/Student Count
Enjoy the experience	3	4
Do not like driving in bad weather	2	0
Live very far away	2	0
No parking on campus	2	0
Live close to campus	2	0
Car repairs	1	0
Shuttle at the Dee Event Center is too crowded	1	0
Mental Wellness	0	1

The last survey question provided respondents with an opportunity to offer any additional comments and suggestions if desired. Comments addressed everything from clarification of survey responses and concerns with survey question structure to elaborating on commuting behavior and explanations of personal circumstances. Some of the most frequent comments included the following:

Question: Do you have any other suggestions/comments to improve WSU transportation options?

Some of the most frequent faculty/staff comments included the following:

- Make the campus and area around campus more bike & pedestrian friendly/safe
- Faster bus times are needed as well as more direct bus routes
- A shuttle or car available for traveling between the Ogden campus & Davis campuses
- Help facilitating carpools
- More parking/parking garage
- Electric vehicle parking & preferred parking for electric vehicles
- Provide hourly workers/adjunct faculty access to the Ed transit pass

Some of the most frequent student comments included the following:

- There needs to be a shuttle or fast bus between the Davis & Ogden Campuses
- Discounted or preferred parking spaces for carpools, fuel-efficient vehicles etc.
- Discussion boards for connecting Carpoolers
- More parking, parking garage, add more student "W" lots etc.
- Secure bike racks/lockers & showers available for bikers
- Make the campus & the area around campus more bike & pedestrian friendly/safe
- Extended (later) hours for fast bus (650) UTA.
- Adjust Class time or UTA times to line up better.
- Cheaper parking passes
- More frequent & direct bus routes
- Provide incentives & show benefits to bike, walk, & take alternative transport
- More shuttles at the Dee & more shuttle stops on campus
- More promotion & info of UTA schedules/locations & WSU transit option in general
- Putting a max on how many parking passes can be sold