

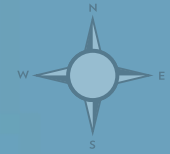
Passenger Vehicle Miles Travelled

Few of us love to spend time in traffic, but some households have to endure more of it than others.

According to odometer readings from annual safety inspections, non-commercial passenger vehicles registered in MAPC municipalities rack up more than 20 billion road miles each year, equivalent to 62 miles per day per household. With that amount of driving, it's no wonder that our highways are clogged, our climate is warming, and our waistslines are expanding.

Not everybody drives the same amount, of course. As shown in the map on the right, people in urban areas tend to drive less than their suburban counterparts. In Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea and Somerville, passenger vehicles logged fewer than 30 miles per day per household. Meanwhile, more than a quarter of the region's municipalities averaged more than 75 miles per day. Topping the list was Bolton, where the average household drives 104 miles per day.

Statistical analysis by MassGIS confirms there are certain key factors that can help explain driving patterns. Higher neighborhood density, proximity to employment, proximity to shops and services, and access to transit are all correlated with lower daily mileage. Income is also an important predictor: households in wealthier localities drive more than those in other areas. Even within individual communities, households that are closer to shops and services drive less than those in isolated residential areas. A better understanding of how these factors influence travel patterns will help the region focus growth in areas where people can spend less time in the car and more time with their families.



Average Daily Passenger Vehicle Miles Per Household, 2007

