Downtown Seattle Commuter Trends

More people are commuting to Downtown Seattle than ever, but the proportion of commuters driving alone fell to a historic low in 2014. Just 31% of Downtown commuters now drive alone to work, continuing a strong downward trend from 35% in 2010 and 34% in 2012.

How Commuters Get Downtown

Public transit continues to serve more commuters than any other mode, growing from 43% in 2012 to 45% today. Non-motorized commutes - walking, bicycling, and teleworking - now account for 15% of all commutes, another all-time high.
Commuter Trends Since 2010

Downtown Seattle has added 26,000 jobs since 2010. Although an ever smaller share of commuters are driving alone, there are still just as many cars on the road. As our Downtown grows, all commute modes grow with it, increasing the need to invest in an efficient transportation network.

Commute Seattle is a Transportation Management Association founded in 2004. Our mission is to help Downtown users live more and drive less by improving access and mobility in Downtown Seattle. We are an alliance of Downtown Seattle Association/Metropolitan Improvement District, King County Metro Transit, and the Seattle Department of Transportation. For more information about Commute Seattle, visit commuteseattle.com

Fastest Growing Commute Modes 2012-2014

More Downtown workers are discovering that the best commutes are short commutes. Downtown Seattle added 6,000 new residential units between 2012-2014, so it’s no surprise that transit and non-motorized commutes (walking, bicycling, teleworking) were the fastest growing modes.

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This data captures modal trends for weekday commute trips that arrived in Center City between 6-9am. For the purposes of the study, Center City includes the Commercial Core, Belltown, Denny Triangle, Uptown, South Lake Union, First Hill, Capitol Hill, the International District, and Pioneer Square. Employment data is provided by the Puget Sound Regional Council and the Downtown Seattle Association.