



Where You Live Makes a Difference

Where you live makes a difference when it comes to the travel choices you and your family have, your access to jobs and services, how much you have to drive and the impacts of that on your household budget.



CITY CENTER

Concentrated areas of activity providing live-work-shop-play opportunities within walking distance. Diverse public amenities and civic opportunities close by. Parking is limited, and may cost money. Widest range of travel options includes high frequency, direct route transit service, walking, and biking.



URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD

Old-style neighborhoods close to city centers offer range of housing types with neighborhood commercial within 1/2 mile. Neighborhood and city parks are close by. On-street parking augments on-site business parking. Frequent, direct transit service and good walking and biking routes.



SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD

Mix of older auto-oriented cul-de-sac neighborhoods and modern neighborhoods built on connected street grids with sidewalks. Large retail and commercial areas within 1 - 3 miles, with free and abundant parking. 30-60 minute transit service, where available, and extensive network of bike lanes.



SMALL CITY

Primarily older neighborhoods built on connected street grid with some newer, suburban style neighborhoods. Range of retail, service, civic, and recreational activities within 1/4 - 3/4 mile with limited parking. Parks and amenities are in walking distance. Transit does not serve these cities.



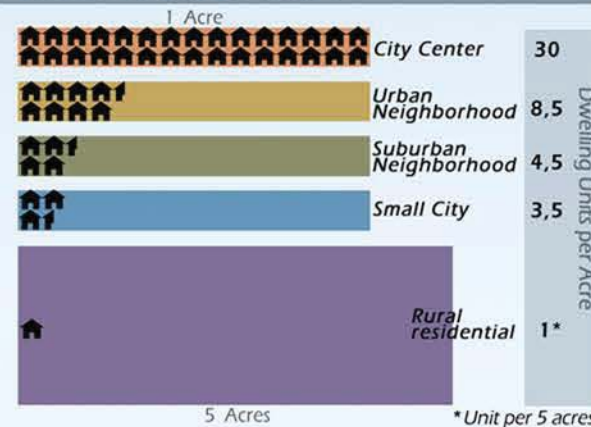
RURAL RESIDENTIAL

Dispersed residential uses do not create traditional neighborhoods except in a few locations of concentrated development. Services, retail, civic, and other activities are not close, and may be many miles away. Business parking is free and abundant. Transit service is not feasible.



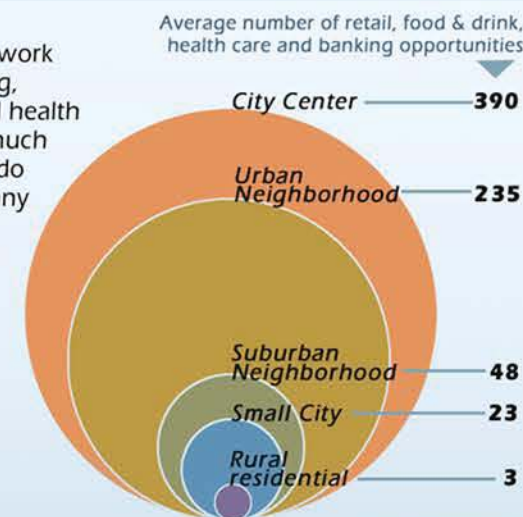
RESIDENTIAL DENSITY

Density is a key factor for transit. Basic 30-minute bus service needs at least seven units per acre to work. Higher-frequency urban service of 15 minutes or better needs at least ten units per acre to be viable.



NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESSES WITHIN ONE MILE

The majority of non-work trips are for shopping, eating, banking, and health care services. How much driving you have to do depends on how many of these basic services are close to where you live, which also determines if walking, biking, or transit are good alternatives to driving.



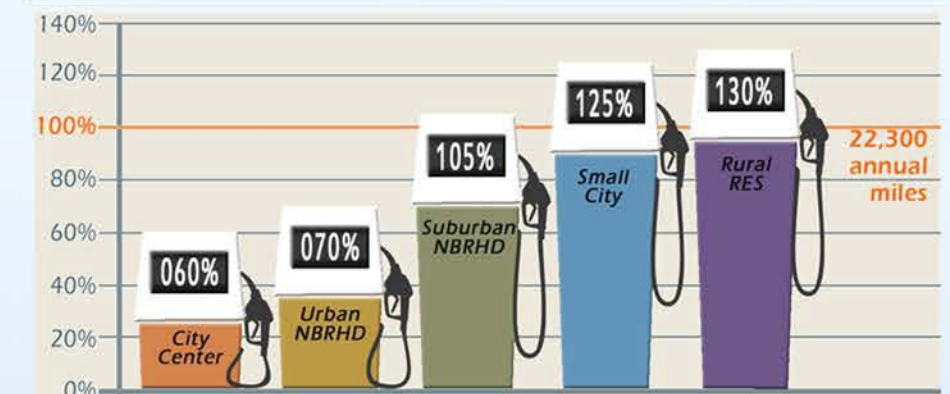
TRANSPORTATION CHOICES

All places have travel choices; they differ depending on where you live and why you need to travel. For example, driving may be the best option for shopping but carpooling may be better for going to work. Telework even makes it possible to "go to work" without traveling at all!

Transportation Choice	City Center	Urban	Suburban	Small City	Rural RES
Walk	●	●	●	●	○
Bike	●	●	●	●	○
Transit	●	●	●	○	○
Driving	●	●	●	●	●
Vanpool/Carpool	○	●	●	●	●
Flexible Schedule	●	●	●	●	●
Telework	●	●	●	●	●

Legend: Full range of options = ●, Limited options = ○

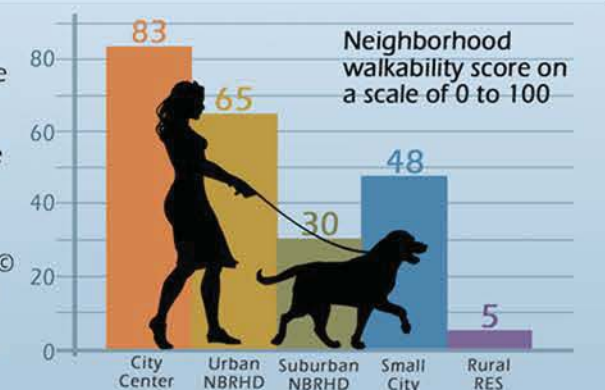
ANNUAL MILES OF DRIVING



On average, Thurston County households rack up 22,300 miles of driving per year. This varies widely depending on household location. Households located in city centers can average less than 14,000 miles per year while households located in outlying rural areas can average more than 29,000 miles annually. Location efficiency means some households pay a lot less for basic transportation than others.

WALK SCORE®

Walkable neighborhoods benefit personal health, the environment, household finance, and community vitality. The more walkable a neighborhood, the less dependent those households are on driving for every need. Walk Score® is a measure of how easy it is to live a car-lite lifestyle based on proximity to jobs, services, and amenities.



TRANSIT ACCESS

Because transit service is linked to residential density and concentration of jobs, households in densely populated, mixed-use urban areas have access to more routes with greater frequency than households in suburban areas. Transit is not a viable option for rural households.

Thurston News Classifieds Monday, October 24, 2011

★ JOBS WITHIN ONE MILE ★

Commuting to work accounts for a big part of household travel. The more job opportunities close to where you live, the greater the likelihood you will have a shorter commute trip. Transit also works best where jobs are concentrated.

Average number of jobs:

Neighborhood Type	Average number of jobs
City Center	18,750
Urban Neighborhood	11,750
Suburban Neighborhood	1,100
Small City	875
Rural Residential	100