



DEQ Commute Survey Highlights



Purpose of the Survey

Employee Commute Options Program Oregon
Administrative Rules 340-242-0010 through 0290

Reed College, as location in the Portland metro area with 100 or more employees, is required to participate in the Employee Commute Options Program. This includes regularly participating in a survey about commute habits and providing incentives to reduce commuting by single occupant vehicles.

Why your commute matters

Car exhaust is one of the Portland region's single largest sources of air pollution—and traffic congestion makes it significantly worse, especially during summer months.

- **Smog & Respiratory Health:** Exhaust creates ground-level ozone (smog), which triggers asthma and reduces lung function. Oregon's adult asthma rate sits at 12.2%—well above the national average. Children, older adults, and those with heart or lung conditions are most at risk.
- **Air Pollutants in Portland:** Vehicle emissions released account for high levels of air toxics like benzene, which are linked to cancer and serious health risks.
- **Climate Impact:** Driving remains a primary driver of carbon dioxide emissions, contributing to local climate impacts.

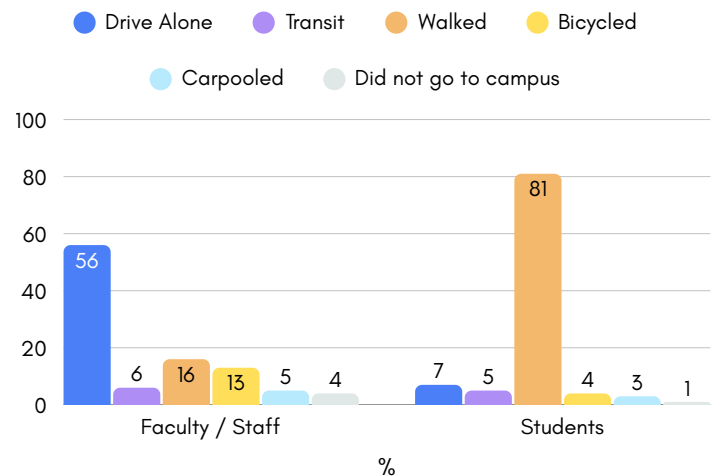
— Source: Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

2025 DEQ Survey Responses

73% of respondents to the survey (n=780) indicated they were aware of ½ price Trimet passes being available for students, staff and faculty.

Respondents were asked to report the travel methods they used in a week. The chart below shows the percentage of trips by method reported by role at Reed.

How did you travel to campus last week?
(aggregated responses for the week)



80% response rate (379 employees, 958 students-on campus, 125 students-off campus)

What can you do?

Public Transit

Taking transit reduces congestion and air pollution. Even if you can't ride every day, every trip off the road helps! Reed offers discounted monthly transit passes through the Employee Commute Options Program to support your commute.

Bicycling

Bike to campus! Employees who commute by bike most of the time (at least 3/5 of the month) are eligible for reimbursement on bike upkeep, tune-ups, and repairs.

Walking

Live close to Reed? Walking to work is a great way to squeeze in daily exercise while cutting down on car trips.