Vermont Travel

FACT SHEET #5

mobility, sustainability, livability.

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The National Household Transportation Survey (NHTS) is a comprehensive survey of personal travel in the U.S. conducted by the U.S. Department of Transportation approximately every eight years. Survey participants completed a one-day travel diary and telephone interview. Surveys were conducted throughout the year, providing travel data for all seasons. Information was gathered on 3,550 people in 1,690 households in Vermont. In this Fact Sheet TRC researchers explore patterns in Vermonters' trip making behaviors for shopping. A shopping trip is a one-way trip where the trip purpose or destination is shopping.

Shopping trips comprised 20% of survey respondents’ total trips (2,167 trips out of 10,865), and are thus an important component of Vermonters’ daily travel. Women reported making approximately 12% more shopping trips per day than men: 1.9/day vs. 1.7.

The vast majority of shopping trips were taken in personal vehicles, and most were taken to buy goods such as groceries and clothing.

Shopping Trip Mode

Linking shopping trips with other trips was common among survey respondent. Nearly 30% of all shopping trips originated at the end of another shopping trip and over 60% of trips originated from somewhere other than home. TRC researchers also examined trip chains that started and ended at home (e.g., a chain might include a trip from home to work, work to the dentist, dentist to the grocery store and then back home). Of these home-to-home chains, 41% included a shopping leg.

Shopping Trip Origin

The mean shopping trip length (one-way) was 5.9 miles. Nearly a quarter of shopping trips were less than a mile, and nearly half of all trips were less than three miles.

Shopping Trip Length

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