



3.7 Transportation

Residents of Apartment Towers Use Cars Less Often than Other Residents of the GGH

Overview

Residents of Apartment Towers in the GGH are more frequent users of public transit than other residents within the same municipality. Using data from the 2006 Transportation Tomorrow Survey, sixty-two per cent of Apartment Towers were found to be within geographic “traffic zone” areas with higher than average public transit use for their respective municipalities.

A similar trend can be seen with respect to walking and cycling. Fifty-eight per cent of Apartment Towers are in zones with higher than average rates of walking and cycling. This finding is consistent with the findings of the walkability survey research undertaken by Paul Hess of the University of Toronto and Jane Farrow of Jane’s Walk. Those surveys have consistently identified high rates of dependence on walking and cycling in Apartment Tower Neighbourhoods, despite the frequent lack of amenities for pedestrians and cyclists in these neighbourhoods.

In contrast to the higher than average rates of transit use, walking and cycling, 70 per cent of Apartment Towers are located in zones with lower than average car ownership rates.

Collectively, these findings indicate a trend towards alternative forms of transportation amongst residents of Apartment Towers. Further study would be required to determine the extent to which this trend is due to the socio-economic situation of these residents, the level of transit service that is available to them, and/or the built form of the neighbourhood.



01

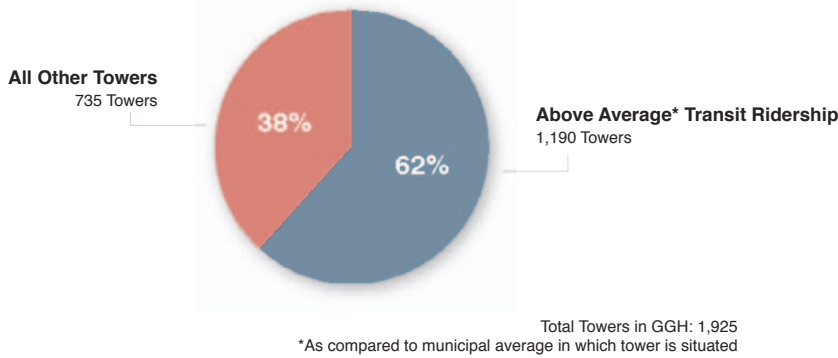
Images

- 01) TTC stop adjacent to Apartment Tower
- 02-03) The quality of pedestrian realm varies within Apartment Neighbourhoods
- 04) Members of focus group for Apartment Neighbourhood Walkability study



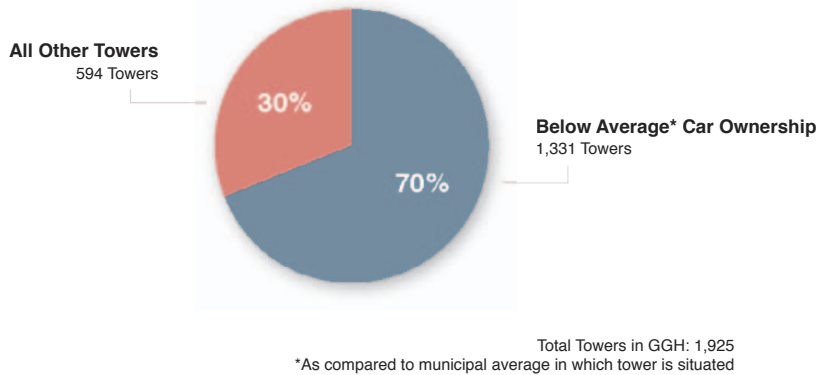
02

Apartment Towers with Above Average Transit Ridership



03

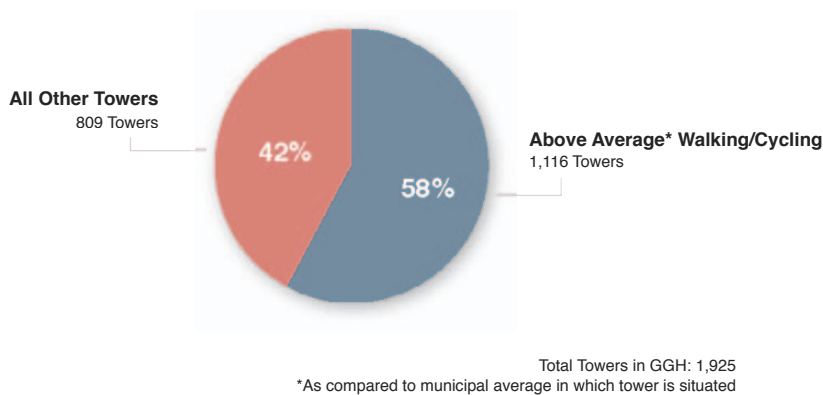
Apartment Towers with Below Average Car Ownership



© Jane Farrow

04

Apartment Towers with Above Average Walking/Cycling



Walkability Studies

Between 2008 and 2010, the University of Toronto and Jane's Walk conducted walkability studies in eight neighbourhoods in the inner suburbs of Toronto with large concentrations of high-rise apartments. Directed by Paul Hess and Jane Farrow, the study consisted of over 30 focus groups with residents. Focus groups revealed that residents are highly reliant on walking and transit to make their regular trips to the grocery store, to work, or to school. Two-thirds of participants report getting most of their errands and shopping done locally, mainly on foot. In the case of grocery shopping, about 50 per cent of participants say they rely strictly on walking to get their groceries and, in some areas, more than 90 per cent of respondents say they walk their children to school. For more information, visit: www.Janeswalk.net.