



Manayunk Travel Awareness Campaign

Residents Speak Out On Transportation Problems

www.cleanair.org

FactSheet # 4

Clean Air Council is conducting a survey to assess the travel and transportation habits of Manayunk residents.

The results thus far have shown that the majority of residents rely on personal vehicles while public transportation is under-used. To be successful, the Manayunk Travel Awareness Campaign (MTAC) aims to reduce the number of automobile trips in Manayunk by 5 percent, therefore improving the overall livability for the Manayunk community.

The survey results did however, reveal an awareness among residents of the traffic problems in Manayunk. The majority of those surveyed welcomed the possibility of change.

Manayunk Residents Wish the Local Traffic Situation Were Different

- Almost 90 percent of residents surveyed feel there are too many cars in Manayunk.
- 55 percent of those surveyed “frequently” have problems with parked cars in Manayunk. Only 5 percent of those surveyed reported that they never encounter problems with parked cars.
- 50 of those surveyed “frequently” have problems with traffic in Manayunk. Only 4 percent of those surveyed reported that they never encounter problems with traffic.
- Over 70 percent of those surveyed feel it is important to, and express an interest in, reducing traffic in Manayunk.

Manayunk Residents Are Extremely Concerned About Their Environment

Air pollution, pollution-related health problems, environmental destruction, and loss of open space ranked highest as concerns amongst Manayunk residents when they were asked about aspects of car use. These environmental concerns far outranked concerns about vehicle maintenance costs and increases in fuel costs.

What Are the Trends With Regards to Personal Vehicles in Manayunk?

- A current trend in Manayunk is a move away from family residences towards apartments occupied by a number of younger, single residents. This has prompted the increase in ownership of cars per household. Of those surveyed, the average household owns 1.5 cars.
- The most popular uses for cars amongst the residents of Manayunk include shopping, driving to work and recreational trips, although many residents state that these activities can be undertaken without resorting to private motor vehicle use.
- 45 percent of those surveyed said they could use any one of several transit alternatives instead of their cars to complete their day-to-day tasks.
- Despite the availability and awareness of public transportation options, on average, the residents that were surveyed use their personal vehicles more than five days a week! Many residents drive their cars every day, and often people use their cars for trips of less than one mile!

What Are the Public Transportation Trends in Manayunk?

- 87 percent of those surveyed said that public transit is easily accessible in Manayunk.
- Despite the availability and accessibility of public transportation in the area, Manayunk residents continue to under-use the services:

Frequency of public transportation use	Residents surveyed
Never	20%
Less than once a month	23%
Once a month	9%
Once a week	18%
Once a day	10%
More than once a day	20%

- 70 percent of those surveyed do not use public transportation on a regular basis (more than once a week).
- Despite its apparent accessibility, public transportation remains under-used. Cost is a major factor in the public's transport choices. SEPTA is the second most expensive public transportation authority in the nation and only 59 percent of those surveyed think public transport is affordable.

Get On Your Bike!

- Manayunk is extremely well located in terms of safe cycling routes. Manayunk plays host to the Schuylkill River Trail and the newly renovated Canal Towpath. Manayunk also has a direct link to center city Philadelphia along the Kelly Drive bicycle path. Despite this, under 20 percent of Manayunk residents use their bicycles to commute to work. The majority of those that commute to work on their bicycles do not do so on a regular basis.
- The number of recreational bicyclists is slightly higher with 29 percent of those surveyed frequently, and 53 percent occasionally using their bicycles for recreation.

What Are the Consequences of Excess Vehicles in Manayunk?

Manayunk is a historic district, initially settled in the late 1800's. With Manayunk's renewed popularity over the past 20 years its constrained infrastructure has caused many problems. The residential streets are narrow, with slim, often restricted sidewalks separating houses from roadways. Many residents are inconvenienced on a daily basis because of the congestion caused by parked cars and traffic. Vehicles restrict the availability of parking for residents, who often have to park up to 6 blocks away from their homes due to the volume of visitors to Main Street.

Traffic congestion increases the level of pollution in the Manayunk region. Pollution from automobiles exacerbates respiratory problems. Traffic congestion also increases the occurrence of accidents.

What Can We Do?

The Manayunk Travel Awareness Campaign aims to develop the positive attitude amongst residents towards changing travel behaviours, to improve the quality of life in Manayunk.

The educational workshops held by the campaign will empower residents to voluntarily alter their travel habits and thereby decrease traffic congestion, parking problems, traffic accidents, pollution from vehicles, and improve the overall livability of the community.

Clean Air Council is a membership-supported non-profit environmental organization dedicated to protecting everyone's right to breathe clean air. The Council works through public education, community advocacy, and oversight of the government to ensure enforcement of environmental laws.

Clean Air Council
135 S. 19th St.
Ste. 300
Philadelphia
PA 19103

PH: 215-567-4004
FX: 215-567-5791

www.cleanair.org

