

2009 Cycling Survey Key Findings

Majority of Toronto Adults are now cyclists

- 54% of Toronto adults are cyclists, up from 48% in 1999.

Shift from Recreational to utilitarian cycling

- 29% of Toronto adults cycle for utilitarian purposes, up from 20% in 1999. However, distance remains the number one reason why recreational cyclists don't cycle for practical purposes.

Utilitarian cyclists ride further and more often

- Half of bicycle commuters ride to work daily (up from 37%) and 51% commute for trips of 30 minutes or longer (up from 32%).

Largest increase in utilitarian cycling in suburbs

- Although Toronto-East York has the highest proportion of utilitarian cyclists, the largest increase has occurred in the suburbs:

Etobicoke increased from 15% to 26%

North York increased from 11% to 25%

Scarborough increased from 14% to 22%

Awareness of cycling infrastructure has increased

- Many more residents (cyclists and non-cyclists) can identify how close they are to the nearest bikeway trail (increased from 80% to 92%) and to the nearest bike lanes (increased from 56% to 87%).

Quality of bikeways has improved – increased expectations

- 72% of Toronto residents feel that there has been an improvement in the overall quality of cycling routes and facilities over the last 10 years. However, compared to 1999, people in Toronto have greater expectations for cycling infrastructure. Non-cyclists and cyclists feel that separating bicycles from motorized traffic would provide the greatest improvement to cycling in Toronto (note: this question was not asked in 1999).

Bicycle lanes: Priority for improving cycling

- 23% of Torontonians (cyclists and non-cyclists) indicate that more bike lanes remains the **number one** priority for improving cycling.

- 85% of utilitarian cyclists, 84% of recreational cyclists and 76% of non-cyclists said more bicycle lanes on-street would improve cycling in Toronto.

Multi-use trails: Used for more than just recreation

- 80% of cyclists use trails for recreational riding and 25% use trails when they commute
- 96% of utilitarian cyclists, 94% of recreational cyclists and 90% of non-cyclists said more bike paths and trails off-street would improve cycling in Toronto.

Cyclists want more secure bike parking

- 91% of utilitarian cyclists and 87% of recreational cyclists say that more secure indoor parking would improve cycling in Toronto.

Great potential to increase combined cycling-transit trips

- Although few cyclists combine cycling and transit on a regular basis, 74% of utilitarian cyclists and 66% of recreational cyclists say they would combine cycling and public transit more often if secure bicycle parking was provided at subway stations.

Torontonians cycle for health and exercise

- Exercise and health was by far the most popular motivating factor (39%).

Drivers and cyclists are more respectful

- As the level of cycling has increased over the last decade, people in Toronto feel that both drivers and cyclists are more respectful of other road users. However, careless cyclists and drivers remain Torontonians' top concern when it comes to cycling.

Better education needed for both cyclists and motorists

- Both cyclists and non-cyclists alike feel that education for both motorists and cyclists is equally necessary to improve cycling in Toronto.
- 83% of utilitarian cyclists, 82% of recreational cyclists and 83% of non-cyclists said better education for motorists would improve cycling in Toronto
- 86% of utilitarian cyclists, 83% of recreational cyclists and 89% of non-cyclists said better education for cyclists would improve cycling in Toronto