

Tulane University Students' Replies to Transportation, Parking, and Energy Use Survey

David A. Gray
Office of Environmental Affairs
Tulane University

April 2010

During the Fall semester of 2008, Tulane University (New Orleans, LA) students were asked to participate in a phone survey assessing their energy consumption and transportation use habits. This report provides background information on the survey, outlines the methods used in distributing the survey, and lists students' responses to survey questions.

The Transportation, Parking, and Energy Use Survey

The Transportation, Parking, and Energy Use Survey was administered to Tulane students to collect data on their energy use and transportation habits. It contained 39 questions for on-campus student residents and 34 questions for off-campus student residents. Overall, 267 students responded to the survey (N=267).

Methods

Twenty-three students enrolled in Professor Richard Duque's Environmental Sociology course (Fall 2008) conducted the student telephone surveys.¹ Participants' phone numbers were retrieved from the 2008 Tulane University Student, Faculty, and Staff Directory.

This survey was administered to respondents as a telephone survey. The students conducting the survey (referred to as "administrators") signed up for two-hour-long telephone shifts (i.e. from 9am until 11am), each taking place on the university's Uptown Campus in Alcee Fortier Hall. Each administrator attended an orientation session in Alcee Fortier Hall on the surveying process. In addition, each administrator was provided with a manila folder containing all of the information disclosed during their orientation, guidelines for conducting phone interviews, copies of pages from the Tulane student, faculty, and staff telephone directory, a phone code sheet (used for long distance calls), and several blank surveys.

Once administrators received their packet of materials, they were instructed to preselect ten freshman or sophomore students located on their telephone directory lists using a standard random sampling methodology. Administrators were instructed to circle the first freshman or sophomore student on their telephone directory list, count to the next 125th student, regardless of classification, and then circle the next freshman or sophomore student – either the 125th student counted or the next freshman or sophomore following the 125th student. This process was repeated until 10 freshman or sophomore students were circled.

Administrators were then provided with specific instructions on conducting the survey. If the administrators called a student but the telephone line was busy, administrators noted that the line was busy on their telephone directory list and proceeded to their next pre-identified 125th name and phone number on their list. A few moments later, administrators recalled students whose lines were busy. Administrators were instructed to do this at least three times over their two-hour session before calling the

¹ Other students from Prof. Duque's class conducted a similar survey to Tulane faculty and staff. This report only highlights the replies from the student surveys; however, the students who conducted the faculty/staff surveys are also listed in Appendix A to recognize their contributions to this project.

next freshman or sophomore student on their telephone directory list (not the next circled freshman or sophomore, but the next freshman or sophomore listed in the directory).

If a respondent answered the phone but rejected the survey, or if no one answered the phone call, administrators were instructed to indicate the occurrence on their phone list and call the immediately following number, regardless of the student's classification. When a survey was completed successfully, administrators were instructed to call the next 125th pre-identified name and repeat the entire process.

If the administrator called a student but another student answered the phone, administrators were not permitted to recruit the answering student to participate in the survey. Instead, administrators were instructed to call the next freshman or a sophomore student listed on their telephone directory list (not the next circled freshman or sophomore).

Administrators did experience several minor problems regarding reaching students for interviews. First, some students' telephone numbers listed in the telephone directory contained permanent home telephone numbers rather than cell phone or local contact numbers. Hence, some administrators accidentally left messages at students' homes in other states – which were received by parents. Many of these students were excluded from the survey. A second problem faced by administrators was matching the times they called students to the times that students were awake and available to be interviewed. Many Tulane students were not awake during morning phone call shifts, and most students were in class or at another obligation throughout the day. Addressing this issue, administrators were permitted to place calls from Alcee Fortier Hall during weekend hours. This solution did allow administrators to contact many students that could not answer during normal interview times. Administrators also conducted some surveys face-to-face with students in residence halls to increase the number of on-campus respondents. However, a large majority of surveys were conducted via telephone.

Survey Check and Data Analysis

At the end of each surveying session, administrators forwarded their completed surveys to Prof. Duque or David Gray. These two reviewed each survey for completion, and they checked a random sample of the surveys to ensure that the surveys were actually completed by students. This process ensured that none of the submitted surveys were forged by administrators. Every survey selected for review (which included calling the participant listed on the survey and confirming that the listed participant actually completed the survey) passed this check. Once all surveys were submitted and all of the checks were complete, the respondents' names were removed from the surveys – ensuring that each survey could not be linked back to the individual. This process was completed to guarantee that the respondents would remain anonymous.

Prof. Duque and David Gray then inserted in each surveys results into SPSS for statistical analysis. Once all the results were inserted, Prof. Duque and Gray rechecked each inserted response to ensure that all of the information was correctly recorded in SPSS.

Highlighted Results

Most of the survey respondents were from the Uptown Campus, were off-campus students, and lived within two miles from the Uptown Campus. Most on-campus students leave campus to get to nightlife activities, to eat out, or to go home. Their most frequent method of transportation is walking. Most off-campus students indicate that they drive a car to campus, even though over 42% live within one mile to campus. Of the students that own a vehicle, the majority park on neighborhood streets. More than half report campus parking as a problem.

The majority of Tulane students know that Tulane offers shuttle service but have never used a Tulane shuttle. The most frequently used shuttle is the Uptown/Downtown shuttle (which provides services between Tulane’s Uptown Campus and Downtown Campus). Students did indicate an interest in using a shuttle that provides service to different locations within the Uptown Campus.

While a majority of surveyed students drive a car to and from campus, most do not car-pool. Of those who do not car-pool, almost half stated that they do not use this mode of transportation because they do not know anyone who goes their way. Almost half of students that currently do not carpool indicate an interest in using a university-operated carpool website to find a carpool driver or passenger from their area.

The top three motivators for students to use the New Orleans’ public transport system more frequently than they do now are more frequent schedules, more key routes throughout the city, and the ability to have a free or discounted year-round transit pass. The top three motivators for students to bicycle more than they do now are increased number of bike lanes on city streets, a free campus “share-a-bike” service, and secure bike parking on campus.

Nearly half of Tulane students do not own an Energy Star labeled appliance, and nearly 16% of students indicated that they never heard of Energy Star. Most students do turn off the lights when they are the final person to exit a room, and most use compact florescent light bulbs.

Raw Survey Results

The questions below were asked to all respondents.

1. On which Tulane campus do you spend most of your time?
 - a. Downtown/Health Sciences Center – **14.6%**
 - b. Uptown Campus – **84.6%**
 - c. Primate Center (Convent) – **0.4%**

2. What is your New Orleans area zip code?
 - a. 70118 – **60.9%**
 - b. 70115 – **12.4%**
 - c. 70130 – **6%**
 - d. 70125 – **2.6%**
 - e. Other – **18.1%**

3. Based on your credit hours, what year of college are you in?
 - a. Freshman – **13.1%**
 - b. Sophomore – **18.7%**
 - c. Junior – **6.7%**
 - d. Senior – **17.6%**
 - e. Fifth Year Graduate Student – **3%**
 - f. Graduate School/Professional Student – **40.4%**

4. Do you live in an on-campus dorm?
 - a. No – **70.8%**
 - b. Yes – **29.2%**

The questions below were asked only to on-campus students.

5. What university property do you live in?
 - a. Aron – **1.5%**
 - b. Butler – **1.9%**
 - c. Demming – **0.7%**
 - d. Irby – **2.6%**
 - e. J.L. – **1.5%**
 - f. Mayer – **3.4%**
 - g. Medical Center – **0.4%**
 - h. Modular – **1.5%**
 - i. Monroe – **4.9%**
 - j. Patterson – **2.6%**
 - k. Phelps – **1.5%**
 - l. Sharp – **1.9%**
 - m. Unknown – **0.4%**
 - n. Wall – **2.2%**
 - o. Warren – **0.7%**
 - p. Willow – **1.5%**
 - q. *Off-Campus Resident* – **70.8%**

6. (A) What is the primary reason you leave campus?
 - a. To get to off campus job – **10.5%**
 - b. To grocery shop – **10.5%**
 - c. To go home – **15.1%**
 - d. Casually shop – **8.1%**
 - e. Eat out – **15.1%**
 - f. Get to nightlife – **36%**

- g. Other – **4.7%**
6. (B) When you leave campus for this primary reason, how do you usually leave?
- a. Walk – **44.2%**
 - b. Bike – **10.5%**
 - c. Tulane shuttle – **5.8%**
 - d. Streetcar – **7%**
 - e. Motorcycle – **1.52%**
 - f. Ride with someone else at Tulane – **7%**
 - g. Ride with someone else not at Tulane – **0%**
 - h. Drive a car – **20.9%**
 - i. Other – **3.5%**
6. (C) What days of the week do you usually leave campus for this primary reason?
- a. Monday – **26.7%**
 - b. Tuesday – **24.4%**
 - c. Wednesday – **27.9%**
 - d. Thursday – **46.5%**
 - e. Friday – **73.3%**
 - f. Saturday – **82.6%**
 - g. Sunday – **44.2%**
7. (A) What is the secondary reason you leave campus?
- a. To get to off campus job – **4.9%**
 - b. To grocery shop – **8.6%**
 - c. To go home – **7.4%**
 - d. Casually shop – **22.2%**
 - e. Eat out – **19.8%**
 - f. Get to nightlife – **24.7%**
 - g. Other – **12.3%**
7. (B) When you leave campus for this secondary reason, how do you usually leave?
- a. Walk – **32.9%**
 - b. Bike – **3.8%**
 - c. Tulane shuttle – **5.1%**
 - d. Streetcar – **13.9%**
 - e. Motorcycle – **1.3%**
 - f. Ride with someone else at Tulane – **13.9%**
 - g. Ride with someone else not at Tulane – **6.3%**
 - h. Drive a car – **20.3%**
 - i. Other – **2.5%**
7. (C) What days of the week do you usually leave campus for this primary reason?
- a. Monday – **21.5%**
 - b. Tuesday – **27.8%**
 - c. Wednesday – **26.6%**
 - d. Thursday – **43%**
 - e. Friday – **59.5%**

- f. Saturday – **70.9%**
- g. Sunday – **40.5%**

The questions below were asked only to off-campus students.

5. Approximately how many miles do you usually travel to get to campus?
 - a. Zero to One – **42.8%**
 - b. One to Two – **13.9%**
 - c. Two to Three – **6.6%**
 - d. Three to Four – **6.7%**
 - e. Four to Five – **7.8%**
 - f. More than Five – **22.2%**

6. How do you usually get to campus?
 - a. Walk – **28.3%**
 - b. Bike – **15%**
 - c. Tulane Operated Shuttle – **3.3%**
 - d. Streetcar – **1.1%**
 - e. Motorcycle – **1.1%**
 - f. Ride with someone else at Tulane – **1.1%**
 - g. Drive car – **49.4%**
 - h. Other – **0.6%**

7. (A) If you leave campus during business hours, what is the primary reason?
 - a. Work errand – **17.7%**
 - b. To go to lunch – **39.5%**
 - c. Personal errand – **42.7%**

7. (B) When you leave campus during business hours for this primary reason, how do you usually leave?
 - a. Walk – **36.3%**
 - b. Bike – **16.1%**
 - c. Tulane Shuttle – **0.8%**
 - d. Streetcar – **0.8%**
 - e. Motorcycle – **1.6%**
 - f. Ride with someone else at Tulane – **2.4%**
 - g. Ride with someone else not at Tulane – **0.8%**
 - h. Drive car – **41.1%**

The questions below were asked to all respondents.

8. What kind of motor vehicle do you own in the New Orleans area that is your primary means of transportation?
 - a. None – **6.2%**
 - b. Motorcycle – **2.8%**
 - c. Small size car – **37.6%**
 - d. Hybrid car – **0%**
 - e. Medium size car – **27.5%**
 - f. Full size car – **7.9%**

- g. Hybrid SUV – **0.6%**
 - h. Light truck, minivan, or SUV – **17.4%**
9. About how many miles per gallon do you get in the City?
- a. One to Fifteen – **10.8%**
 - b. Sixteen to Twenty – **31.2%**
 - c. Twenty-One to Twenty-Four – **16%**
 - d. Twenty-Five to Twenty-Nine – **28%**
 - e. Thirty to Thirty-Five – **12.1%**
 - f. Above Thirty-Five – **1.9%**
10. Do you own a parking permit?
- a. No – **75.6%**
 - b. Yes – **24.4%**
11. Have you purchased a set number of single day parking passes as an alternative to annual parking permits?
- a. I did not know Tulane offered this option – **50%**
 - b. I do know, but have not purchased any – **46.3%**
 - c. I have purchased them as an alternative to annual parking pass – **3.7%**
12. Are you presently eligible for handicap parking?
- a. No – **96.4%**
 - b. Yes – **3.6%**
13. Where do you usually park when you drive or car-pool to campus?
- a. Side street – **55.3%**
 - b. University parking structure or lot – **38.4%**
 - c. Other – **6.3%**
14. How many minutes did it take you to find parking the last time you drove or car-pooled to campus in a car?
- a. Zero to One – **14.7%**
 - b. One to Three – **20.6%**
 - c. Three to Five – **38.4%**
 - d. Five to Seven – **1.9%**
 - e. Seven to Ten – **15.4%**
 - f. Ten to Fifteen – **6.4%**
 - g. Fifteen to Twenty – **1.3%**
 - h. Above twenty – **1.3%**
15. How would you characterize the parking situation on your Tulane campus?
- a. A major problem – **35.5%**
 - b. A minor problem – **39.3%**
 - c. Not a problem – **10.9%**
 - d. Good – **1.4%**
 - e. Excellent – **1.4%**
 - f. No opinion – **11.4%**

16. Which Tulane shuttles have you used? (Indicate all that apply)
- a. I did not know Tulane had shuttle service – **3.4%**
 - b. I do know, but have never used one – **52.7%**
 - c. Saturday Grocery Shuttle – **9.8%**
 - d. Saturday Entertainment Shuttle – **7.9%**
 - e. Uptown/Downtown Shuttle – **20.1%**
 - f. On/Off Campus Shuttle – **5.7%**
 - g. University Square Shuttle – **3.8%**
 - h. Saturday Wal-Mart Express – **7.2%**
 - i. Safe Ride Shuttle – **14.7%**
17. If available, would you use a shuttle to travel to different locations within campus?
- a. No – **0.4%**
 - b. Maybe – **58.3%**
 - c. Yes – **12%**
 - d. No Opinion – **29.3%**
18. If you do not car-pool at present, what is the main reason you do not?
- a. I walk most places – **35.9%**
 - b. I bike most places – **12.6%**
 - c. I ride a Tulane shuttle most places – **3.9%**
 - d. I ride the bus or streetcar most places – **0.9%**
 - e. I ride a motorcycle most places – **0.9%**
 - f. I drive my car most places – **44.6%**
 - i. I arrive and depart at different times of the day – **50.6%**
 - ii. I drop off and pick up my children to and from school – **1.1%**
 - iii. I do not know anyone who goes my way – **48.4%**
 - g. Other – **0.9%**
19. If you do not car-pool, would you use a carpool website to find a Tulane car-pool driver or passenger from your area?
- a. No – **53.6%**
 - b. Maybe – **27.8%**
 - c. Yes – **16.5%**
 - d. No opinion – **2.1%**
20. Rank from 1 – 5 which would motivate you to use the New Orleans’ public transport system more than you do now.

Motivation	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3	Rank 4	Rank 5
Frequent Schedules	30.4%	23.2%	18.4%	17.6%	10.4%
More Key Routes	19.2%	30%	20%	20.8%	10%
More security	18.8%	12%	25.6%	23.2%	18%
A free/discounted all year pass	21.2%	22%	21.2%	23.2%	12.4%
More comfort	9.2%	8.4%	12.4%	21.7%	48.2%

21. Rank from 1 – 5 which would motivate you to use a bicycle to and from campus more than you do now.

Motivation	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3	Rank 4	Rank 5
Bike lanes on city streets	48.5%	15.6%	11.2%	9.9%	14.7%
Secure bike parking on campus	12.2%	29.6%	27.4%	23%	7.8%
Covered bike parking on campus	8.3%	19.1%	29.6%	18.7%	24.3%
Campus bike rental program	11.7%	13.9%	17.9%	34.3%	22.2%
Free campus “share-a-bike” service	22.2%	19.6%	12.1%	17%	29.1%

22. The last time you were the final person to exit a room in your dorm or office for an extended period, did you turn the light off if it was on?

- a. No – **13.9%**
- b. I can’t remember – **6%**
- c. Yes – **80.1%**

23. Do you usually leave a charger plugged into the electrical socket even when you are not charging your mobile phone, digital camera, laptop computer, or other consumer electronic?

- a. No – **22.5%**
- b. Yes – **76.8%**
- c. I do not own any of these electronic items – **0.7%**

24. Have you ever purchased an energy star labeled appliance?

- a. No – **32.2%**
- b. I have never heard of energy star – **16.1%**
- c. Yes – **51.7%**

25. Do you use compact florescent light bulbs?

- a. No – **32.2%**
- b. I have never heard of these – **6.4%**
- c. Yes – **61.4%**

26. Where have you brought recycling in the last 3 months?

Responses for this question vary widely since the question was open-ended. The majority of people brought recyclables to one of Tulane’s on-campus sites. The most replied answers included “on-campus” (15.7%) and “Phoenix Recycling” (13.7%).

27. What items have you recycled in the last year? (Indicate all that apply)

- a. Plastic – **67.4%**
- b. Metal – **36.7%**
- c. Paper/Cardboard – **58.1%**
- d. Wood – **9%**
- e. Glass – **40.1%**
- f. Clothes – **26.2%**
- g. Appliance – **9%**
- h. Furniture – **9.4%**

- i. Electronics/Batteries – **13.5%**
 - j. Cars/Car Parts – **5.6%**
 - k. Used Paint, Chemical Solvents, Oils – **5.2%**
 - l. Other – **3.7%**
28. What recycled items have you purchased in the last year (Indicate all that apply)
- a. Paper – **61.8%**
 - b. Building Materials – **6.4%**
 - c. Clothes – **28.5%**
 - d. Appliance – **11.2%**
 - e. Furniture – **14.2%**
 - f. Electronics – **14.2%**
 - g. Car/Car Parts – **7.1%**
 - h. Other – **5.6%**
29. In what year were you born?
- a. Prior to 1960 – **0.8%**
 - b. 1960 to 1969 – **2.3%**
 - c. 1970 to 1979 – **11.6%**
 - d. 1980 to present – **85.4%**
30. What is your major?
Responses vary across all academic departments
31. Sex
- a. Male – **49.4%**
 - b. Female – **50.6%**

Appendix A: Administrators

Administrators of the Student Survey:

Corrigan, Brendon

Darling, Jeff

Douglass, Jenny

Johnson, Grant

Keefe, Kellie

Lade, Andrew

Martinez, Cristina

Mendez, Maya

Pyle, Lauren

Scher, Bradley

Schwartz, Eric

Tempesta, Josephine

Thornton, Alexandra

Toplin, Elyse

Washington, Christina

Zhao, Daniel

Administrators of the Faculty/Staff Survey:

Burns, Cecilia

Burr, Amanda

Cho, Daniel

Effe, Esin

Fitch, Stephanie

Gutman, Sarah

Haag, Rachel

Kimble, Renee

Matin, Nolan

Papale, Natalie

Schunter, Dana

Silva, Crystal

Stumpf, Jennie