**Results from ESF Commuter Survey 2016**

The campus community and Sustainability Office are striving to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sustainable transportation options at ESF. The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) provides guidelines and recognizes achievements towards these goals through the Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) to track commuting patterns.

The 2016 data was collected in an online survey that was emailed to all part time and full time ESF students, faculty, and staff in February 2016. The survey population consisted of 1,666 undergraduate students, 527 graduate students and 547 employees. The response rate was 34% for undergraduates, 39% for graduates, and 48% for employees. The combined response rate for all students was 35%. In 2012, a similar commuter study was conducted and resulted in 865 total responses (648 students, 217 employees). Data from the 2012 survey is located at the end of this webpage. In 2016, there was an improved response rate with 1,049 total responses (769 students, 274 employees).

The survey collected data on commuting activity in colder months and warmer months. Weighted averages were calculated for commuting habits accounting for warm months, cold months, and students/employees who come to ESF year-round (12 months out of the year) versus only in the spring and fall terms (9 months out of the year). Based on average yearly temperature, Syracuse has 4 cold months (Jan, Feb, March, Dec) and 8 warm months (April, May, June, July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov). 20% of students said they attended school in the summer and 80% did not. 76% of employees said they come to ESF in the summer and 24% did not.

Data was analyzed by graduate student and Sustainability Office staff member Vanessa Graventine (vrgraven@syr.edu).
### Mode of Transportation

Students (35% response rate)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Colder months #</th>
<th>Colder months %</th>
<th>Warmer months #</th>
<th>Warmer months %</th>
<th>Total weighted average %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drive Solo</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpool</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skateboard</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorcycle</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>755</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>759</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Student Commuting in Colder Months

- **Drive Solo**: 22% (168 students)
- **Carpool**: 8% (64 students)
- **Bicycle**: 3% (24 students)
- **Walk**: 56% (424 students)
- **Skateboard**: 0% (0 students)
- **Bus**: 10% (75 students)
- **Motorcycle**: 0% (0 students)
- **Other**: 0% (0 students)
Employees (48% response rate)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Colder Months #</th>
<th>Colder Months %</th>
<th>Warmer Months #</th>
<th>Warmer Months %</th>
<th>Total weighted average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drive Solo</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpool</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skateboard</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorcycle</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>271</td>
<td></td>
<td>270</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ESF Employee Commuting in Colder Months
Feb 2016

- drive solo: 83%
- carpool: 3%
- bicycle: 6%
- walk: 7%
- bus: 0%
- motorcycle: 0%
- other: 0%
ESF Employee Commuting in Warmer Months
Feb 2016

ESF Employee Commuting (Weighted Average)
Feb 2016

- drive solo
- carpool
- bicycle
- walk
- bus
- motorcycle
- other
As can be seen in the above graphs, employees live farther from campus than students and therefore more commonly drive or carpool to ESF. However, difference can be noticed between employees and students who live 1-2 miles from campus. Students more commonly walk, bicycle, carpool, or take the bus from this distance as opposed to employees who drive. In the 3-4 mile distance, students more often took the bus than employees; this could be due to the free bus pass available to students and not employees. Percentages are of the total responses for students and total responses for employees.
Top Factors Influencing Transportation Choices

Number 1 Factor Influencing Transportation Choice

Top Reason for Transportation Choice by Distance
Speed/time and distance were the top ranked factors influencing commuting mode choices. For commuters living less than 2 miles from campus, convenience was also a popular motivating factor. When broken down by primary mode of transportation, distance most influenced the decision to walk or drive solo. Speed/time was a high-ranking factor for walking and bicycling.
Open Ended Responses

The final question on the survey asked the open ended questions, “Is there anything about ESF commuting that you’d like to add that wasn’t covered on this survey?”

In order of popularity, the responses fit into the following categories:

**Bicycling and Bikes Lanes:** i.e. “A bike land is needed throughout Euclid Ave”
**Parking:** i.e. “The parking situation is terrible, so expensive”
**Other (such as weather and requiring a car for other obligations):** i.e. “Classes should be cancelled on days when the roads are covered in snow, it is unsafe for commuters”
**Public Transit:** i.e. “It would be nice if bus schedules and stops were better advertised”
**Safety:** i.e. “I drive my car to ESF at night whenever I need to be on campus late because I wouldn't feel 100% safe walking home alone at night”
**Walking:** i.e. “Walking would be easier if the residential areas would shovel the sidewalks”
**Carpooling:** i.e. “I tried to find carpool candidates from my area and could not, even called SU’s carpool”