



NEWS RELEASE / COMMUNIQUÉ

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Study shows nine per cent increase in transit use since 2005

Ottawa – More Ottawa and Gatineau residents are using transit or cycling in their daily travel, according to the results of the 2011 Origin Destination Survey for the National Capital Region (NCR), released today.

The 2011 Survey results show that since the last survey in 2005, the population of the NCR grew by 7.2 per cent to 1,233,880. In the same period, daily transit use rose by nine per cent, while the daily use of automobiles increased by only 4.7 per cent. Cycling also increased significantly, as transit and cycling trips represented the largest percentage user increases of all modes of transportation.

"It is good to see that more people are choosing alternative modes of transportation for their daily travel across the City and region," said Mayor Jim Watson. "As we work to improve our transportation networks, including the construction and implementation of the Confederation Light Rail Line, people will have even more reasons to make these more sustainable choices."

"I am happy to see that sustainable transportation is becoming increasingly popular in Gatineau and in the National Capital Region. These results clearly show that Gatineau has taken the right turn by focusing on the development of transit and bicycle paths. I would like to commend and thank the numerous partners who help make Gatineau a greener city," said Marc Bureau, Mayor of Gatineau.

"The upward trend observed in the use of public and active modes of transportation in the National Capital Region is encouraging," said Patrice Martin, Chairman of the Société de transport de l'Outaouais (STO). "The survey indicates that bus use in Outaouais has jumped 17 per cent. We must continue our efforts in this direction, and the launch of Rapibus this year will enable us to rally even more people to use public transit with the new corridor reserved exclusively for buses. Cyclists will also have a place, as a bike path will be added."

The survey also revealed that 49 per cent of trips to downtown Ottawa during the morning peak are made using transit. In the afternoon, transit accounts for 48 per cent of downtown trips. This compares to 43 per cent and 41 per cent, respectively, during the same travel periods in 2005.

"Our government is committed to making alternative transportation choices easier for commuters," said Minister of Transportation Bob Chiarelli. "Our unprecedented investments in public transit provide commuters with a better choice to travel and helps reduce congestion on our roads and provides a better quality of life for Ontario families."

In the Outaouais, work-related transit travel to downtown Gatineau had a 34 per cent (two per cent higher than 2005) share in the morning rush hour and 32 per cent share (three per cent higher than 2005) in the afternoon peak period.

"Considering that the department's mission is to ensure sustainable mobility throughout Québec, it finds the results of the 2011 Origin Destination Survey very useful to take the needs of the Ottawa-Gatineau region into account when developing the sustainable mobility plan for the Outaouais," said Sylvain Gaudreault, Québec Minister of Transport.

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For interprovincial travel, 27 per cent of the Outaouais commuters travelled to Ottawa for work, while four per cent of Ottawa commuters crossed the river for the same reason. Across the NCR, 76 per cent of the travel during the am peak was commute to work and school, while the evening return trips accounted for 64 per cent of the pm peak travel.

The Origin Destination Survey for the NCR was conducted in fall 2011 as a partnership between the City of Ottawa, Ville de Gatineau, Ontario Ministry of Transportation, Ministère des Transports du Québec, OC Transpo and Société de transport de l'Outaouais (STO). The survey captured the travelling habits, over a 24-hour period, of 25,000 randomly selected households from the NCR – Ottawa, Gatineau, MRC des Collines. The survey results will be used to inform future transportation infrastructure and services planning.

Visit www.O-DSurvey.ca for more about the results of the survey.

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