

Mobility monitor

Transportation Data

Monitoring today,
for tomorrow.

This issue

Walkable and Transit Friendly Communities in Calgary

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Issue #38

When we consider sustainable modes of transportation, walking is by far the most sustainable. Walking has minimal impacts on the environment when compared to other modes and is strongly associated with positive physical, mental and social health benefits. According to a study conducted by Statistics Canada, people walking or cycling to work are more likely to enjoy commuting:

- 61 per cent likes or greatly likes walking to work
- 58 per cent likes or greatly likes cycling to work
- 39 per cent likes or greatly likes driving to work.

This shows that the most likable commuting modes are also active transportation modes. So why not build for this? Studies have shown that people are more active when the key destinations are closer together and easily accessible through a well-connected active transportation network. Within a community, these key destinations (beside residency) can include employment, leisure, goods and services and other amenities. Benefits generated from this style of walkable community include:

- Walkable neighbourhoods encourage people to be active and contribute to social capital/interaction and engagement of the residents.
- Active transportation modes contribute to the reduction in congestion, lower roadway maintenance costs and improved roadway safety and offer increased sense of personal safety and security (“eyes on the street”) as well as contributing to lower greenhouse gas emissions.
- Physical activity assists in prevention of heart and stroke diseases, obesity, diabetes, hypertension and depression to name a few.
- Direct health benefits of physical activity as well as reduced costs associated with traffic collisions contribute to the economic benefits of our society as a whole

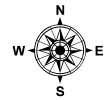
Is your community walkable?



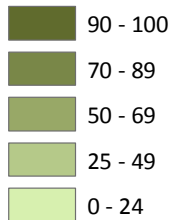
Is your community transit friendly?



Walk Score® of Calgary Communities



Community Walk Score



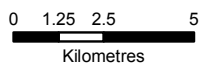
Walk Score Description

- 90–100 Walker's Paradise — Daily errands do not require a car
- 70–89 Very Walkable — Most errands can be accomplished on foot.
- 50–69 Somewhat Walkable — Some amenities within walking distance
- 25–49 Car-Dependent — A few amenities within walking distance
- 0–24 Car-Dependent — Almost all errands require a car

Industrial and Undeveloped Communities are not included in the Walk Score

Data was collected from www.walkscore.com in April 2011.

The walk score is the opinion of a third party.
At this time, The City of Calgary has not done any similar studies to confirm the accuracy of the information presented here.



The City of Calgary provides this information in good faith but provides no warranty, nor accepts any liability arising from any incorrect, incomplete or misleading information or its improper use.

If you have questions, require clarification or would like more details on this data please call 3-1-1.

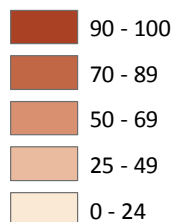
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Transit Score™ of Calgary Communities



Community Transit Score



Transit Score Description

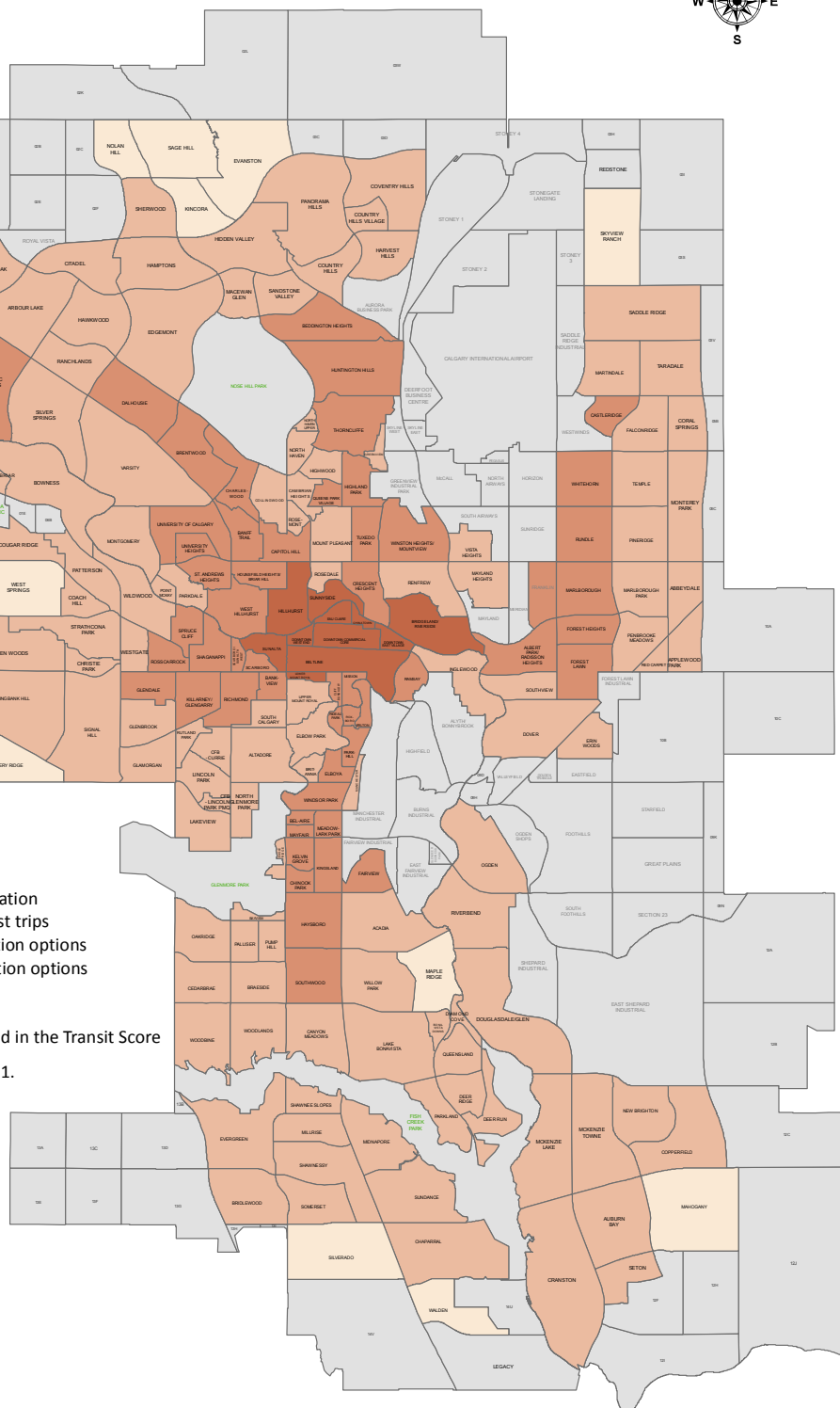
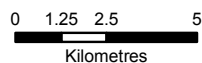
- 90–100 Rider's Paradise — World-class public transportation
- 70–89 Excellent Transit — Transit is convenient for most trips
- 50–69 Good Transit — Many nearby public transportation options
- 25–49 Some Transit — A few nearby public transportation options
- 0–24 Minimal Transit — It is possible to get on a bus

Industrial and Undeveloped Communities are not included in the Transit Score

Data was collected from www.walkscore.com in April 2011.

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What is the Walk Score®?

Walk Score® measures the walkability of an address to the amenities in the community. The walk score algorithm awards point (0 – 100) based on the distance to amenities such as restaurants, parks, coffee shops, libraries, grocery stores, pubs, entertainment, schools and banks.

The map was created based on the community scores; instead of an address, the community name was simply typed in the search box.

Older inner city communities scored the highest as shown on the walk score map. Communities such as Hillhurst, Connaught, Victoria Park, Cliff Bungalow, Eau Claire, Beltline, Chinatown and downtown Calgary qualified as a Walker's Paradise, which is described as "Daily errands do not require a car". This is not surprising given that these communities have mixed land uses and well connected grid street pattern.

What is the Transit Score™?

Transit Score™ is a measure of how well a location is served by public transit on a scale of 0 – 100. To calculate a transit score, a "usefulness" value is assigned to all nearby transit routes. The usefulness value includes the distance to the nearby transit stop, frequency and type of the transit route. Walkable community is very important for the public transit agency as every transit trip starts with walking. The transit route information was provided by Calgary Transit.

Similar to the walk score map, instead of an address, the community name was simply typed in the search box.

And once again, Excellent Transit (described as "Transit is convenient for most trips") is present in the older communities such as Beltline, Bridgeland/Riverside, Chinatown, Eau Claire and downtown Calgary. It is evident from the transit score map that communities along LRT (light rail transit) and BRT

(bus rapid transit) routes scored higher than the rest of the communities in Calgary.

Sources of information

The Walk Score® website was accessed in April 2011. The maps were created in the GIS environment based on the walk and transit scores for each community in Calgary (except Industrial and Undeveloped Communities). To find out more about the walk and transit score methodologies, please access the Walk Score® website.

The data source for characteristics associated with liking the commute to get to work is Like Commuting? Workers' perceptions of their daily commute Statistics Canada General Social Survey, 2005.

The data sources for the benefits of active transportation are:

- Calgary Transportation Plan 2009
- Public Health Agency of Canada Physical Activity, Ottawa, Ontario
- Frank, L. & Co, Inc The Built Environment and Health: A Review 2008
- Walk Score® website
- Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute, Ottawa, Ontario, Making the Case for Active Transportation.

How accurate and reliable are these data?

At the time when data was accessed, there was no distinction in the type of the transit routes (LRT vs. bus). Having that in mind, downtown Calgary and all other communities located along the LRT lines would certainly score higher. You can find the current walk and transit score maps at Transportation Data's Mobility Maps website.

It must be kept in mind that no one source of information can claim to be infallible. Consideration and appropriate weighting of other sources of information is to be encouraged before making decisions.

The Mobility Monitor

The Monitoring and Reporting Program has been established as part of the Calgary Transportation Plan (CTP) Implementation Framework. The purpose of the Mobility Monitor is to report on strategic trends and events that affect the implementation of the CTP. The Mobility Monitor is produced by the Transportation Data division of Transportation Planning.

Calgary Transportation Plan 2009

3.2 Walking and Cycling

Objective: To make walking and cycling attractive and convenient through the provision of additional or enhanced infrastructure and through land use planning that brings homes, jobs, services and amenities closer together.

3.3 Transit

Objective: To provide safe, accessible, customer focused public transit service that is capable of becoming the preferred mobility choice of Calgarians.