

Transportation Survey Data

An Analysis of 1,184 BHS and MSMS Student Responses

BAR (Burlington Against Racism) Youth

Primary Means of Transportation

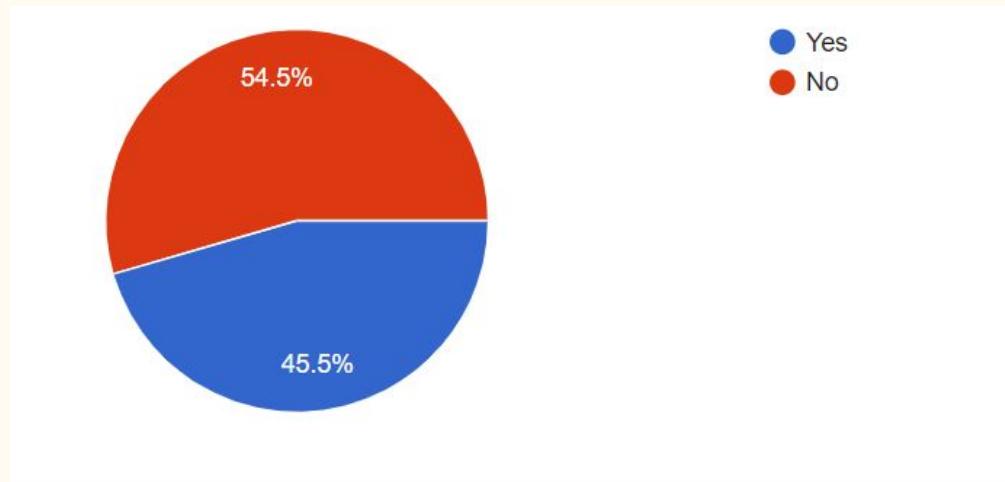
- **54%(am)** and **49%(pm)** of students report that they drive with a parent, guardian, or trusted adult to and from school.
- **34.5%(am)** and **36.9%(pm)** of students take the bus.
- **24%(am)** and **26%(pm)** of students drive themselves or get a ride from a peer.
- **10.2%(am)** and **15%(pm)** of students either walk or ride a bike.

- Outside of school, **81%** of students report that their parents/guardians are their primary means of transportation.
- There is also a significant percentage of students who bike and walk around town.

13% of students report that a lack of transportation has **prevented** them from engaging in **school-sponsored** activities.

Alternative Means of Transportation

- Most students (82%) rely on a parent/guardian for transportation to extracurricular activities, volunteering, and jobs.
- Almost 25% of students have taken the late bus. Many students report that routes are extremely long and that buses are often unavailable when most needed.



45% of students would participate in more school activities if they had the transportation necessary to do so.

Transportation Inequities

A lack of transportation often means that students are unable to attend school activities.

“If there's an event or something i have to think very carefully about how my parents would be able to take me, but usually **they're very tired** so i feel bad asking unless it's required. Also, most of the time their schedule conflicted with the things i was doing.”

“My parents have trouble deciding who is gonna drive me since they are **divorced**.”

“My parents _____ so I don't have a ride.”

“I have missed school before because of no ride to school.”

“Both of my parents are **working during the day from 7am till 10pm** the latest so they have to take work time from their day to drop off/pick us up from school/sports. **I don't do extra clubs or volunteering because no one can take me and I have no family near me.**”

“there have been times when something has gotten done **too late at night** for my parents to pick me up.”

Transportation Inequities

Sports practices: Students report missing practices and try-outs because they have no transportation.

“I wouldn’t have a ride to practice, making me miss that day of practice”

“My parents can’t drive me to basketball practice or can’t pick me up because they are working or taking care of my three other siblings.”

Walking is not safe or practical: Some students shared that there aren’t enough sidewalks. Others report feeling unsafe walking home when activities end after sunset. Some students simply live too far away to walk to school.

“My parents were working or out of the house and a friend wasn’t available to drive me and the walk was too long and far (or at night)”

“when it would be snowing, cold, icy or raining it would be hard for me to walk”

Rideshare issues: Although the age requirement for rideshare services is 18, students resort to these services because they have no other option.

“The uber app isn’t working and it’s too cold to walk so there’s not really another way.”

“I mostly rely on Uber to get to and from places and I spend a lot on it so sometimes if there’s stuff I want to do such as volunteering I have to put into consideration how much money I spend even getting home from school and then the money to the event and back home”

Problematic/Unsafe Places in Town

Student Testimonies

“I take a shortcut crossing Anna Road, but since I have to cross the street and I feel more comfortable doing so with the crosswalk, I walk on the side with the grass/dirt, which makes me a little uncomfortable. I also need to get a ride from my parent when there is snow, although getting the ride isn’t an issue for me.”

“Brown ave. is a really narrow road and I used to walk home from school through sandy Brooke. Brown ave. is really small and is a very steppe hill. You have to hug the trees and stand on peoples lawns to not be in the way of the cars passing through, really unsafe.”

“anywhere at night. Areas without sidewalks or with fewer street lights.”

“sidewalks. cracked and bumpy, they are super hard to ride on.”

“Near Kohl’s, where Wendy is all the way through that street that ends near Hilton hotel where wegmans is located and also near the way to school walking back through the park all the way to the cemetery crossing to go to the Francis Wyman school”

Student Identified Problematic Areas

Click the link to view the street

Simonds Park/Town Common/ Center St. Terrace Hall Ave. (Near Starbucks)

Burlington Mall

Fox Hill Rd.

BHS

Wilmington Rd/Route 62

Third Ave

Mill St.

Winn St

FWY

Lord Baron

Sparhawk Dr.

Cambridge St

Beacon Village

FWY

Wildmere Ave

Lexington St.

Wyman St.

Major Takeaways

- 1) We need safe sidewalks! There are a number of locations in Burlington that have unsafe or problematic sidewalks.
- 2) We need access to transportation! Students who don't have their own transportation are missing out on sports, clubs, and extracurricular activities. We need late buses that can support different school sponsored events.
- 3) As BAR Youth worked to make sense of the data provided by this large survey, we were struck by the stark reality that access to reliable transportation is a form of privilege. Please help us provide all students with equal access to the amazing extra-curricular opportunities offered by BPS.