



CHAPTER 2 >>>>>

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS,
TRENDS AND ISSUES

2.1 Key Facts and Statistics

A key element to ensure the 2040 Erie LRTP addresses the specific needs of Erie County is to understand how residents, workers, and visitors live, work and play. This includes how residents travel to work, where they most frequently travel both locally and county-wide, and where visitors most frequently travel.

Travel to Work

Work trips traditionally make up nearly 25% of all travel and are one of the leading causes of peak period traffic congestion. This makes understanding the travel to work habits and patterns essential to understanding the regional transportation system.

Based on the US Census Bureau's American Community Travel Survey, Erie County has a significantly higher percentage of residents that work within the County than the rest of the state or country (*Exhibit 2.1.1*). This is a significant indicator of Erie County's overall vitality and its role as the regional hub for growth and industry.

Exhibit 2.1.1 - Worker Residence Summary

Place of Work	Erie County	Pennsylvania	United States
Worked in state of residence	98.1%	94.5%	96.2%
Worked in county of residence	95.6%	70.8%	72.6%
Worked outside county of residence	2.5%	23.8%	23.6%
Worked outside state of residence	1.9%	5.5%	3.8%

Data Source: 2005 - 2009 American Community Survey



At the same time, Erie County has a significantly lower average commute time to work (18.6 minutes) than the rest of the state (25.4 minutes) and the rest of the country (26.5 minutes). This shorter than average commute contributes to an improved quality of life for Erie residents and is directly tied to the fact that most workers in the County are employed in the county.

The means of travel to work for Erie County workers was also compared to statewide and national averages (*Exhibit 2.1.2*).

Erie County has a lower percentage of people using public transportation (1.4%) to travel to work than the statewide average (5.4%) or national average (5.0%). This is largely due to the rural nature of Erie County outside of the urbanized area, which includes: the City of Erie, Wesleyville Borough, and the Townships of Fairview, Harborcreek, Lawrence Park and Millcreek. Aside from the Boroughs of Edinboro and Northeast, no other communities outside of the urbanized area have daily bus service, due to low populations and population densities that make it difficult to support efficient and effective transit service.

Where People Travel

Based on the personal travel survey and public meeting responses conducted during the development of the 2040 LRTP, the most frequent destinations for local and countywide travel were determined. Since Millcreek Township and the City of Erie have the largest populations and represent the urban core of the County the results of their local travel destinations were compared with the countywide destinations of the rest of the county residents (*Exhibit 2.1.3*).

Exhibit 2.1.2 - Means of Transportation to Work

Means of Transportation to Work	Erie County	Pennsylvania	United States
Drove alone	80.8%	76.4%	75.9%
Carpooled	10.0%	9.5%	10.5%
Public transportation (excluding taxicab)	1.4%	5.4%	5.0%
Walked	4.2%	4.1%	2.9%
Bicycle	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%
Taxicab, motorcycle, or other means	0.9%	0.9%	1.2%
Worked at home	2.3%	3.4%	4.0%

Data Source: 2005 - 2009 American Community Survey

Exhibit 2.1.3 - Top County Destinations

★ City of Erie	★ Millcreek Township	★ Remainder of County
Peach Street	Peach Street	Peach Street
Downtown Erie	Downtown Erie	Downtown Erie
State Street	Presque Isle	Presque Isle
Courthouse	26 th Street Near I-79	Harborcreek Township
Blasco Library	Bayfront	Blasco Library



Exhibit 2.1.4 - Top Recreational Destinations

Erie Area Attractions	Attendace 2009
Asbury Woods & Asbury Park	170,000
Bicentennial Tower	22,515
Erie Art Museum	35,000
Erie Civic Center/Tulio Arena (Otters incl.)	288,877
Erie Historical Museum & Historical Society	23,646
Erie Maritime Museum	23,950
Erie Zoo	462,000
expERIEnce Childrens Museum (off and on site)	36,120
Family First Sports Park (visits, not visitors)	2,467,081
Jerry Uht Park	224,957
Splash Lagoon Indoor Waterpark	393,382
Mazza Vineyards	50,000
Presque Isle State Park	3,965,643
Presque Isle Downs & Casino (opened 2/28/07)	2,290,000
TREC (opened spring 06)	125,155
Victorian Princess	14,490
Waldameer Park & Water World	550,000
Warner Theater	105,617
Wooden Nickel Buffalo Farm	10,000
Total	11,258,433

Data Source: Visit Erie

As can be seen, residents across the county identified similar destinations to residents within the urban core. These destinations include Peach Street, Downtown Erie, Presque Isle, and the Blasco Library. This highlights the regional nature of travel in Erie County since many residents travel to the same destinations, regardless of where they live. One of the key influences on the quality of life for County residents and the economic vitality of the region is the ease of access to these destinations.

Where Residents and Visitors Play

Erie County has many recreational opportunities available for residents and visitors and tourism is one of the key industries in the County (*Exhibit 2.1.4*).

Approximately 11,258,433 visitors enjoyed Erie County's top attraction in 2009 (the last year data was available). Access to these destinations is key to the quality of life for Erie residents and the economic competitiveness of the County.

Goods Movement

According to the Economic Development Corporation's 2011 Market Assessment and Analysis of the East Lake Erie Region, Erie County is part of the twelve county region in northeast Pennsylvania, northwest Ohio, and southwest New York within 60 miles of the Erie MPO. The region produces and attracts over 30,000 loaded containers for shipment by rail or port and over 77 million tons of truck freight. Most of the region's freight movements originates from or is destined to states east of the Mississippi River. Rail, port, and truck access are critical to the economic competitiveness of the region.



