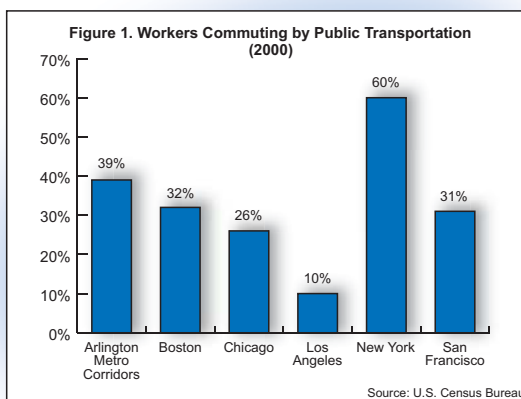


Transit Use in Arlington's Metro Corridors Higher Than in Boston or Chicago

Arlington residents commute by public transportation more than residents of most other Washington DC area jurisdictions. Furthermore, the commuting patterns of people living in Arlington's Metro Corridors are similar to those of people living in the nation's most densely populated urban areas.

Almost one-quarter of Arlington residents take public transportation (e.g. subway or bus) to work, compared with just 16 percent of Alexandria City residents and 7 percent of Fairfax County residents. Only the District of Columbia has a larger share of residents commuting by public transportation. However, the rate of public transportation use among residents of Arlington's Metro Corridors (the area within one-quarter mile of seven Metro stations in Arlington) is higher than the rate of public transportation use in the District



of Columbia. In D.C. about 33 percent of residents get to work by public transportation. In Arlington's Metro Corridors, almost 40 percent commute via public transportation. In fact, residents of Arlington's Metro Corridors are more likely than residents of Boston,

Chicago or San Francisco to take public transportation to work; only New York City residents use transit more. (Figure 1)

The highest transit ridership rates are in the Court House and Pentagon City neighborhoods. (Table 1) In Court House, 43 percent of residents commute by public transportation and in Pentagon City

Table 1. Means of Transportation (2000)
Resident Workers in Arlington

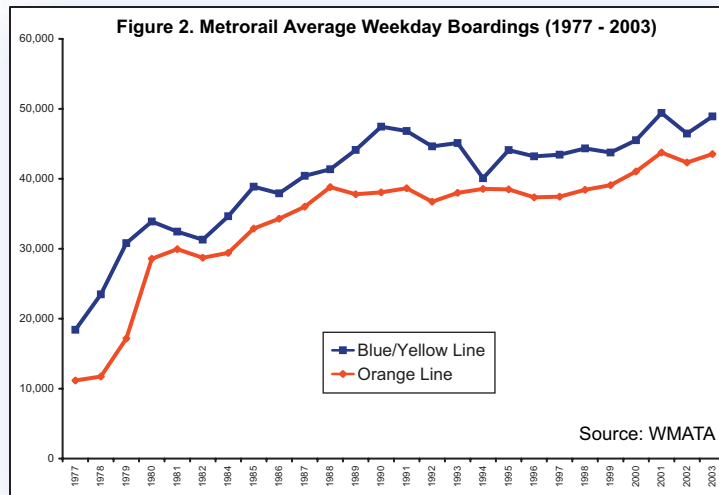
	Metro Corridors		Non-Metro Corridors		Arlington County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Workers	31,450	100%	84,596	100%	116,046	100%
Drive alone	12,539	40%	51,187	61%	63,726	55%
Carpool	2,452	8%	10,887	13%	13,339	11%
Public transportation	12,287	39%	14,761	17%	27,048	23%
Subway	11,127	35%	9,659	11%	20,786	18%
Bus	895	3%	4,737	6%	5,632	5%
Other	267	1%	363	0%	630	1%
Walk	3,147	10%	3,328	4%	6,475	6%
Other means	319	1%	1,251	1%	1,570	1%
Work at home	704	2%	3,184	4%	3,888	3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, tabulated by the Arlington County Planning Research and Analysis Team.



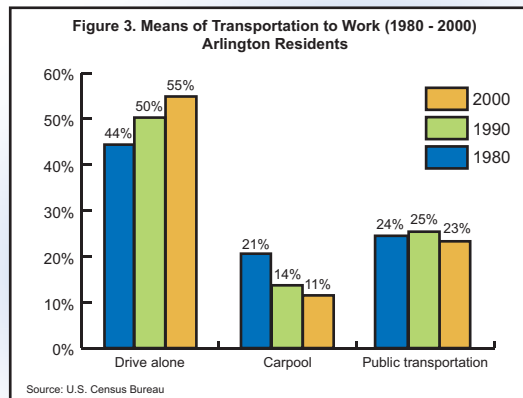
the percentage is 45 percent. People living in Arlington's Metro Corridors also walk and use other means of transportation, such as bicycle, much more frequently than other Northern Virginia residents. Nearly one in five residents of Crystal City walks to work. Over 12 percent of Rosslyn residents also walk to work.

Strong transit ridership in Arlington's Metro Corridors is reflected in data on average weekday boardings. (Figure 2) Between 1980 and 2003, the average number of weekday boardings at Arlington stations on the Orange Line increased by over 52 percent, from 28,556 boardings on a average weekday in 1980 to 43,530 in 2003. (The East Falls Church Metro station opened in 1987; all other Orange Line stations were open in 1980.) On the Blue/Yellow Line, ridership jumped 44 percent between 1980 and 2003. In 1980, the average number of weekday boardings along the Blue/Yellow Line in Arlington was 33,880; by 2003, that figure had increased to 48,904.



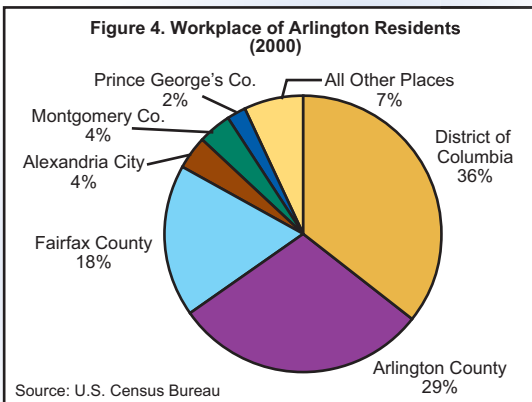
Part of the reason for the decreased use of public transportation and the increased use of private automobile for commuting is the shift in the location of jobs in the region. In 1980, over 41 percent of all Arlington residents commuted to jobs in the District of Columbia; less than

Despite significant transit use by Arlington commuters, use of public transportation as a mode of commuting actually declined slightly between 1990 and 2000. (Figure 3) In 1990, a little over 25 percent of Arlington residents commuted by public transportation and 50 percent drove alone to work. In 2000 the percentage using public transportation dropped to just over 23 percent and the percentage driving alone increased to 55 percent.



8 percent commuted to Fairfax County and 4 percent commuted to Prince George's or Montgomery Counties in Maryland. In 2000, just 36 percent of all commuting trips were to the District of Columbia and 18 percent were to Fairfax County. About six percent of Arlington residents now commute to Prince George's or Montgomery Counties. (Figure 4)

For more information on commuting data, please contact the Arlington County Planning Research and Analysis Team at PRAT@arlingtonva.us.



Commuting

About PRAT

The Planning Research and Analysis Team (PRAT) is part of the Planning Research, Analysis and Graphics Section of the Arlington County Planning Division and is responsible for maintaining, analyzing and disseminating information related to planning, development and demographics. PRAT's mission is to provide accurate and timely data to a broad array of decision-makers, including the County Board, County staff, citizens, business, students and others.

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