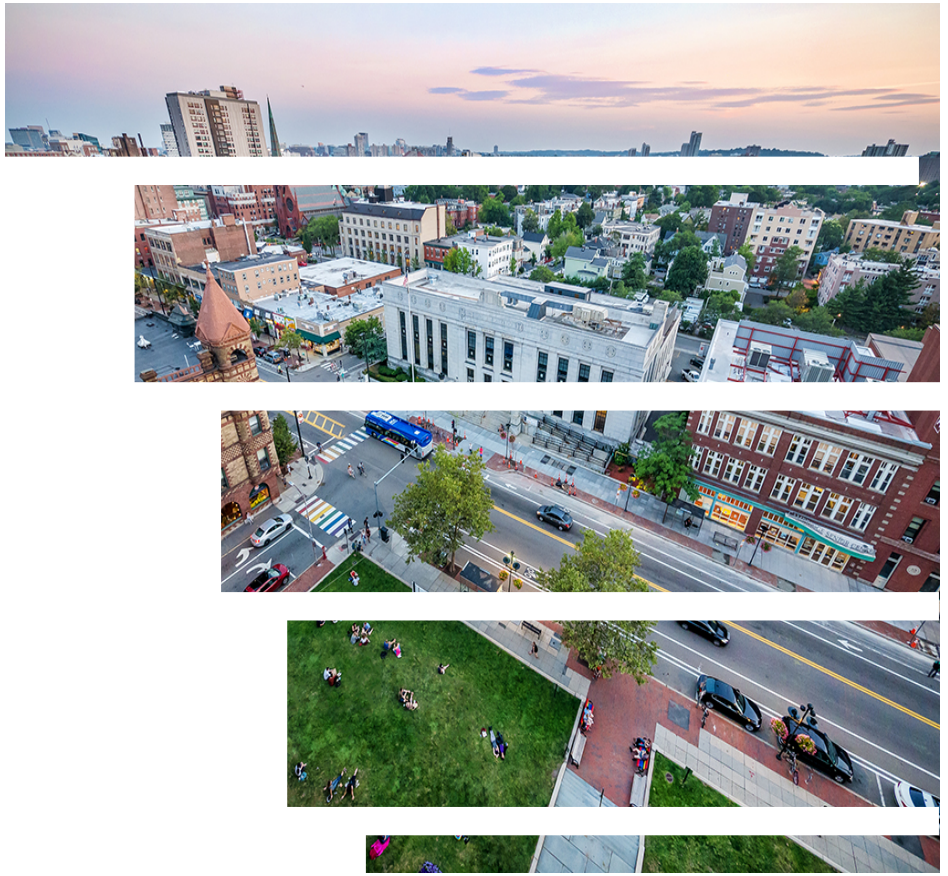


Cambridge Community Development Department

Net Zero Transportation Plan: Advisory Group Meeting #2

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Welcome!

Meeting objectives:

- ✓Continue getting to know each other
- ✓Agree on how we will work together in this process
- ✓Learn from each other about:
  - How people in Cambridge move around, and
  - Where Cambridge's transportation greenhouse gas emissions come from

Check-in question (and re-introductions): What is your favorite springtime activity?

Agenda

I. Welcome, agenda review, check-in question

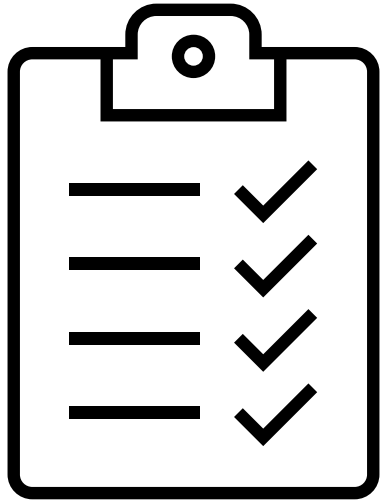
II. Revisit and revise draft charter

III. Overview of transportation in Cambridge:
   a. How do people move around the city?
   b. Where are current transportation emissions coming from?

IV. Looking ahead to next meeting; scheduling logistics

V. Public comment

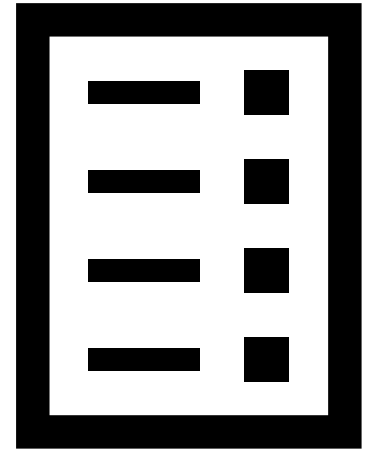
VI. Review next steps & check-out question



Advisory Group charter (continued)

- Purpose of the Advisory Group
- Roles & responsibilities
  - **Advisory Group members**
  - **City staff**
  - **Consultant team**

- What does the Advisory Group have the power to decide? What has the City already decided?
- Meeting structure – how can we make our time together work best for you?
- Group agreements for how we interact with each other



Focus on second half today

Overview of transportation in Cambridge

We will share information on:

1. How people move around Cambridge for different purposes
2. How transportation greenhouse gas emissions compare to emissions from other sectors
3. How different parts of the transportation sector contribute to Cambridge's emissions

We want to hear your feedback to understand better how transportation is working in Cambridge

Why start here?

1. Provides a **starting point to measure progress** as we reduce emissions and improve quality of life
2. Helps understand **what is working well and what is not** and from whose perspective
3. Clarifies and helps **improve our assumptions**

Some context for this data

1. COVID-19 has disrupted a lot – including transportation – and shifted patterns from the past few years
   - More people working from home, so there is less pressure on parking and people using transit less
   - We do not know if or when previous patterns will return or what new patterns will be

2. We don't know what choices people would make if they had other or better options
   - For example, deterioration in MBTA service
     - Deferred maintenance = big delays on the subway
     - Bus driver shortages = buses can’t run on schedule, etc.

3. These data are just snapshots and there are other important pieces
   - Your experience will help paint a fuller picture

How do people get around Cambridge?

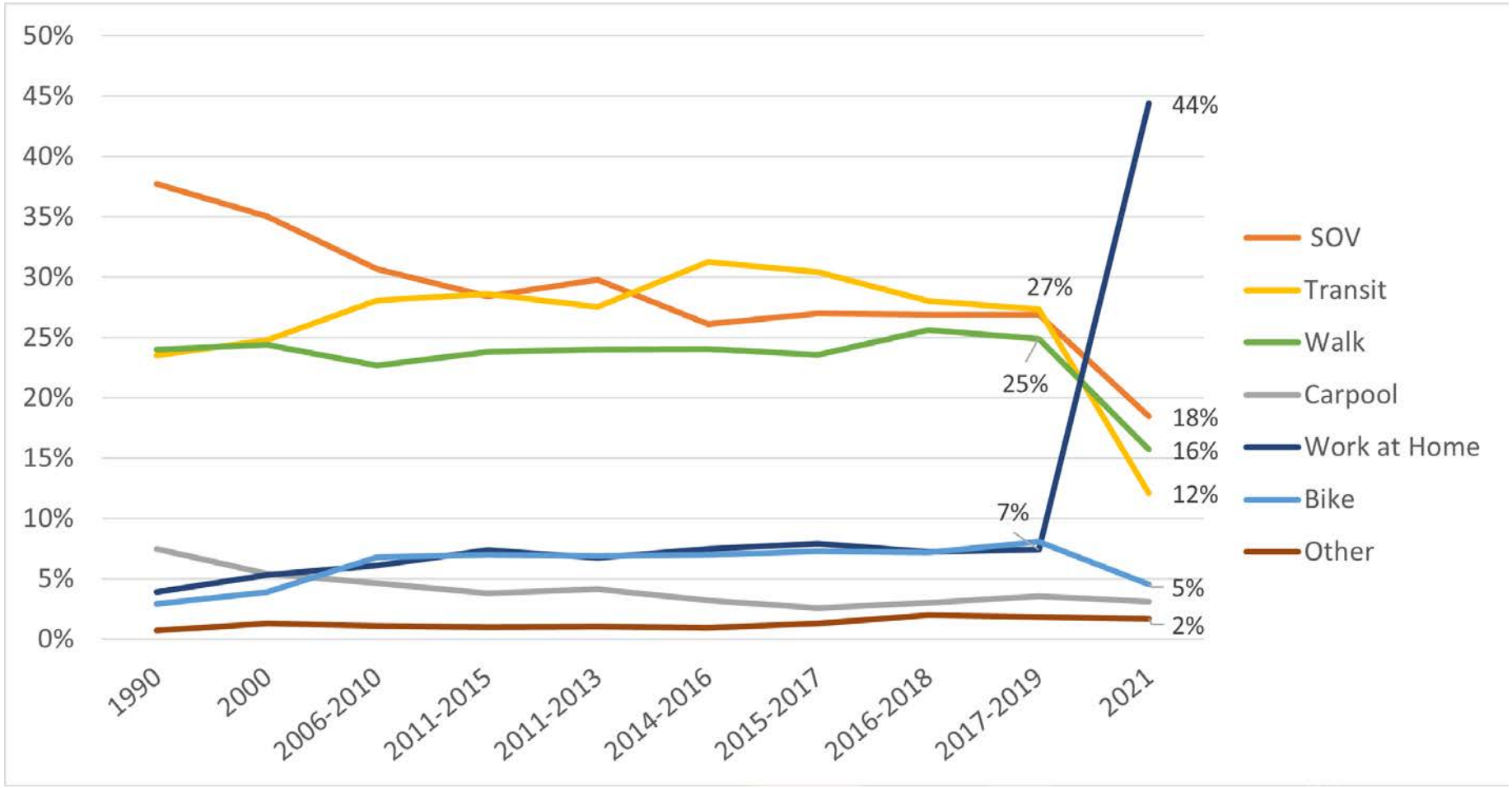
A lot of different ways!

1. Cars, motorcycles, scooters, etc.
2. Bus, subway, commuter rail, the RIDE
3. Bicycles
4. Walking
5. Others?




(70,000 residents)

How do people who live in Cambridge get to work?



Driving alone (SOV), transit, and walking declined

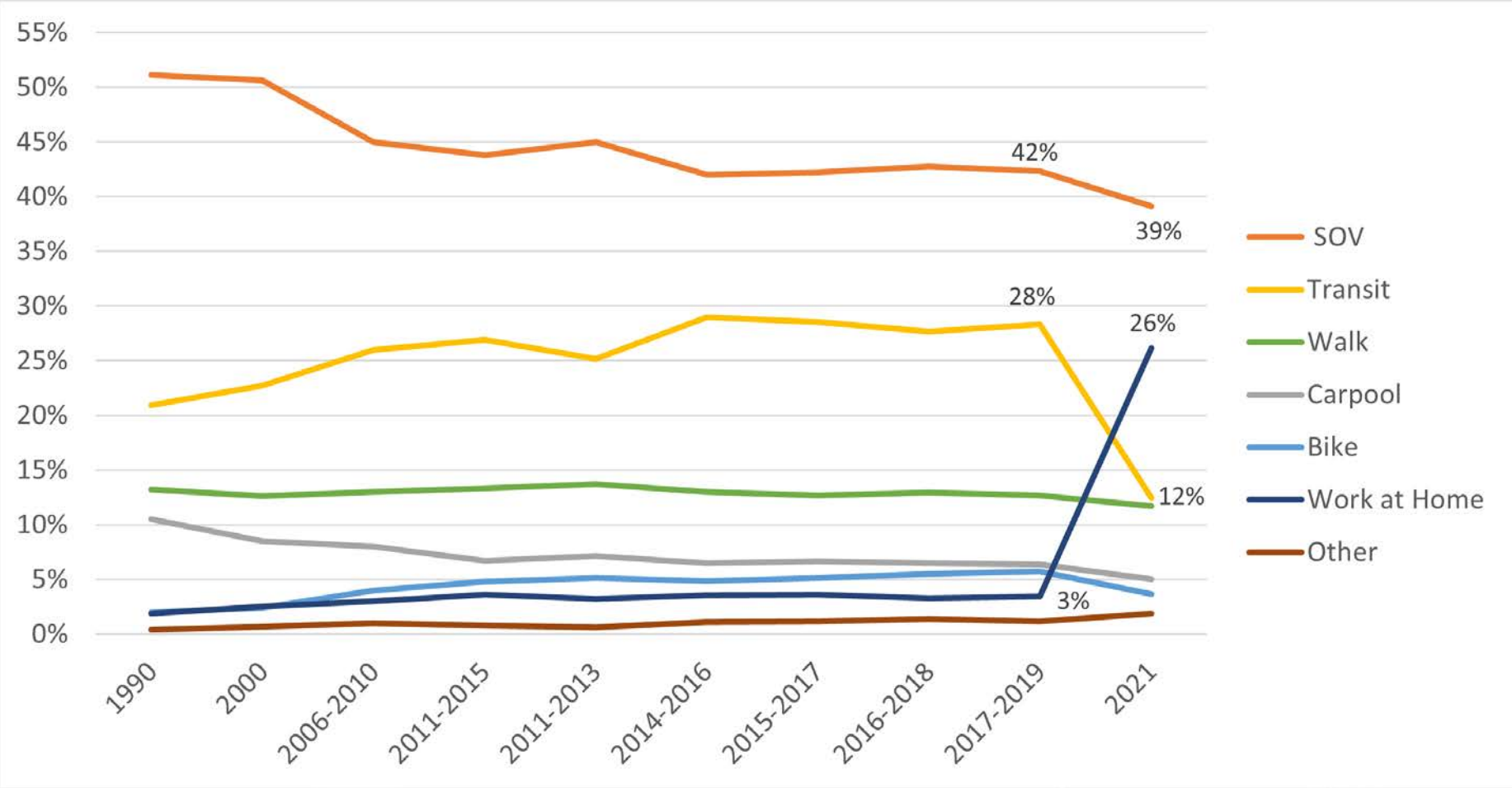
Big increase in work at home w Covid

What else do you notice? What is missing from this?

(Data from the US Census and American Community Survey)

(119,000 workers)

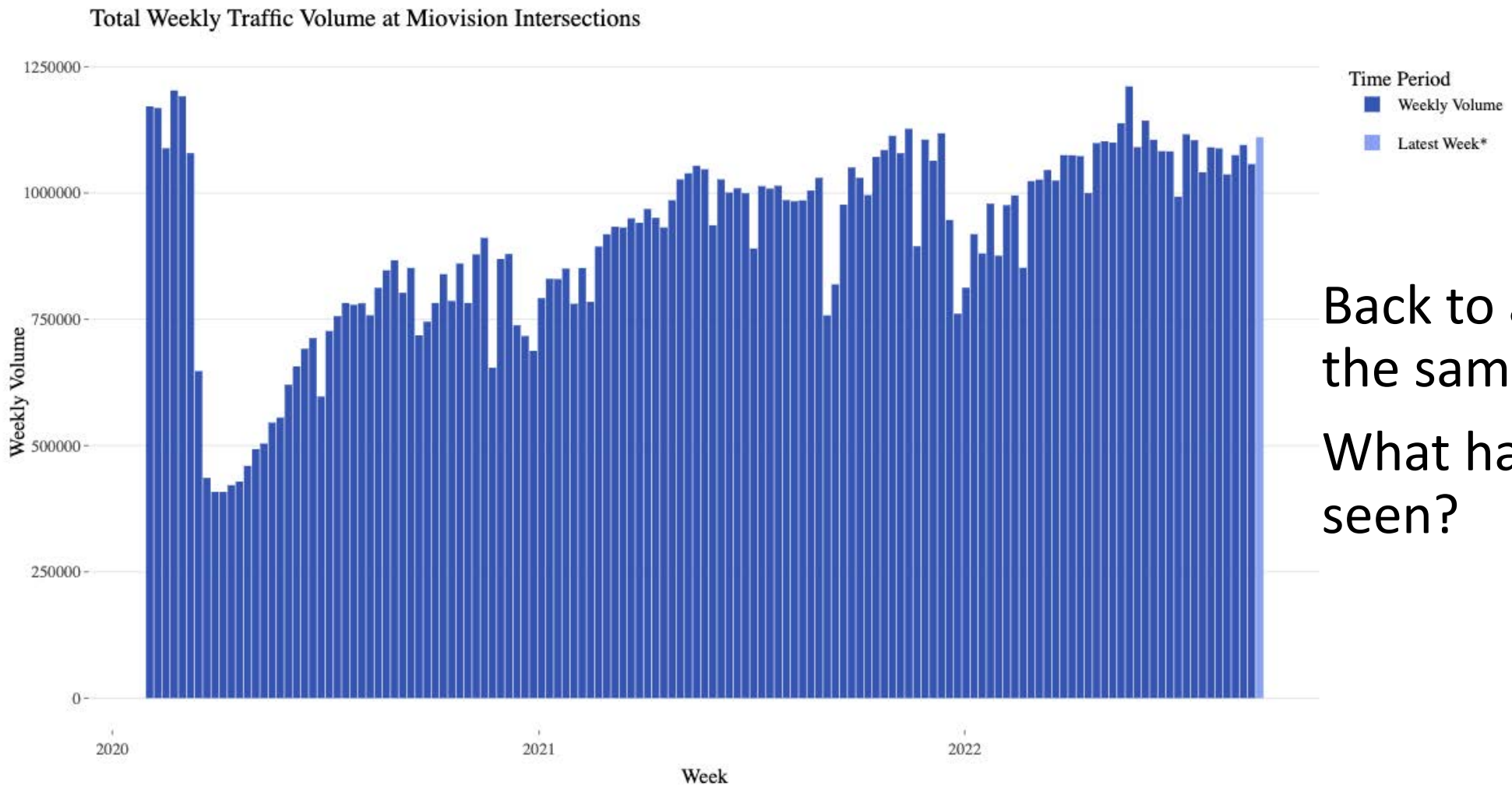
How do people commute to work in Cambridge?



- Driving alone (SOV) is down
- Transit was going up, but dropped in Covid
- Big increase in work at home
- Walking stayed the same
- What else do you notice? What may be missing?

(Data from the US Census and American Community Survey)

How has traffic changed since before Covid?

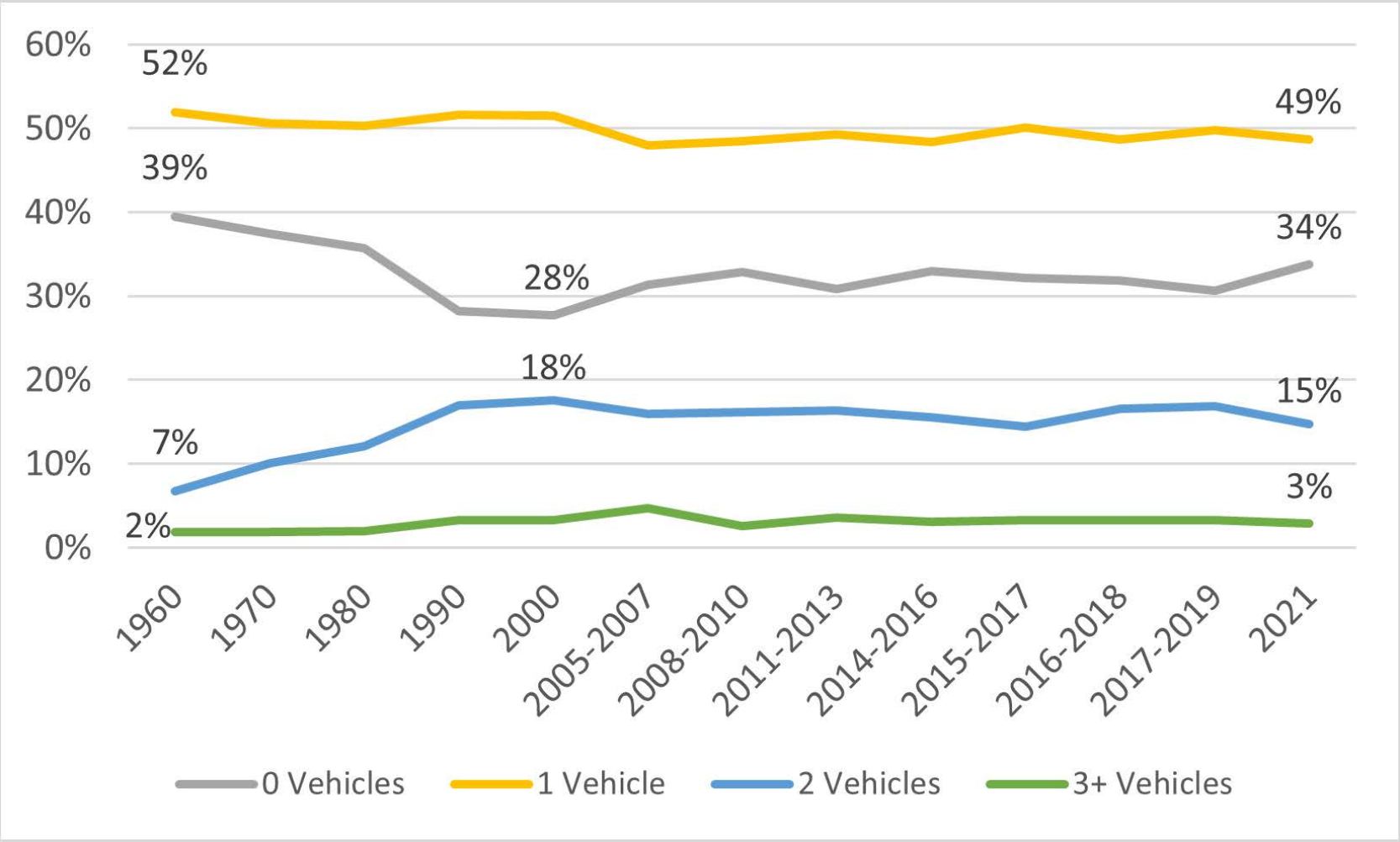


Back to almost the same now

What have you seen?

(52,500 cars and households in ’21)

How many cars do Cambridge households have?



0-car HH increasing

1-car HH decreasing

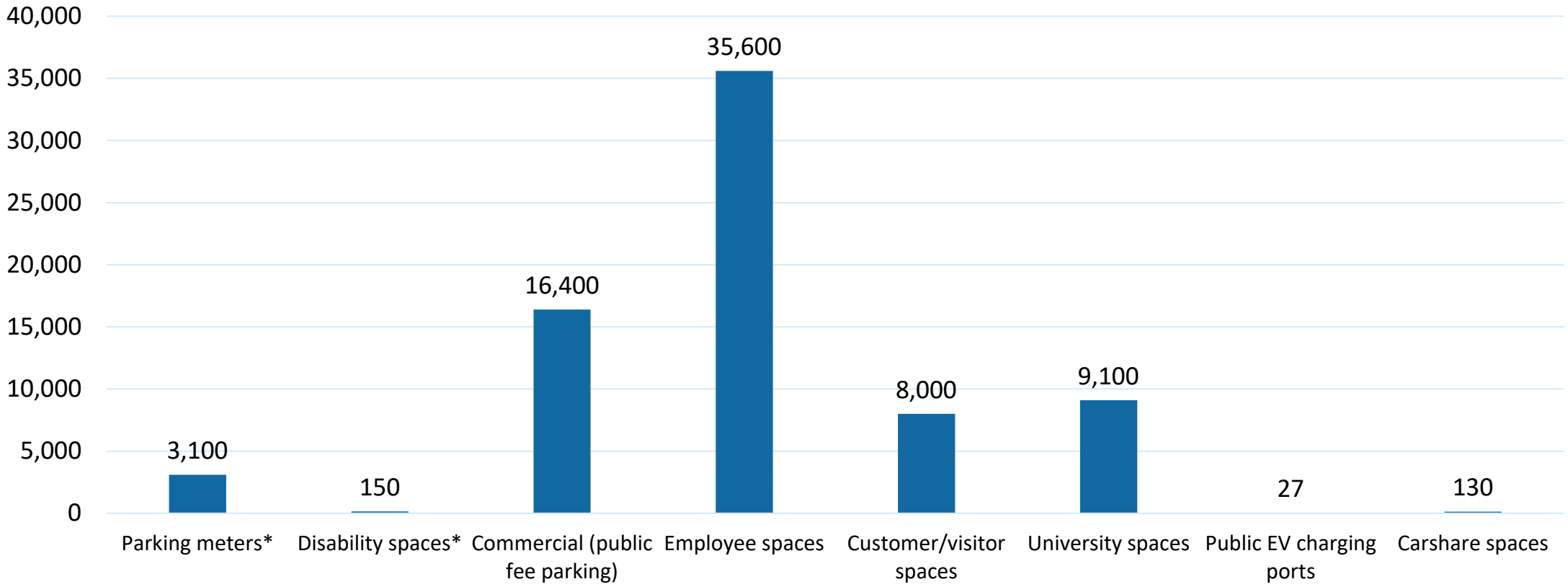
2-car HH decreasing

New housing =
Total # cars is up

What else do you notice? What may be missing?

(Data from the US Census and American Community Survey)

What kinds of parking spaces do we have? (2022)



Next: We need to count resident permit spaces, residential off-street spaces, and loading zones.
*on-street parking spots (data from 2022 Cambridge Parking Study Draft Report)

How many people ride bikes in Cambridge?

4 times as many people riding now as 20 years ago

Number of bikes counted at several intersections in Cambridge during rush hour (data from Cambridge Citywide Bicycle Count Data)

Help us get a fuller picture

- ✓What takeaways do you draw from this data? What is surprising?
- ✓What questions do you have? Is anything unclear?
- ✓What else needs to be included?

Greenhouse gas emissions in Cambridge

- From the **2019 Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report**
- There are different ways to measure Cambridge's emissions
  - We use models to help make these estimates.
  - These models use assumptions that are imperfect and often miss key pieces of the picture.
- This is pre-COVID data

How much of Cambridge's greenhouse gas emissions come from Transportation?

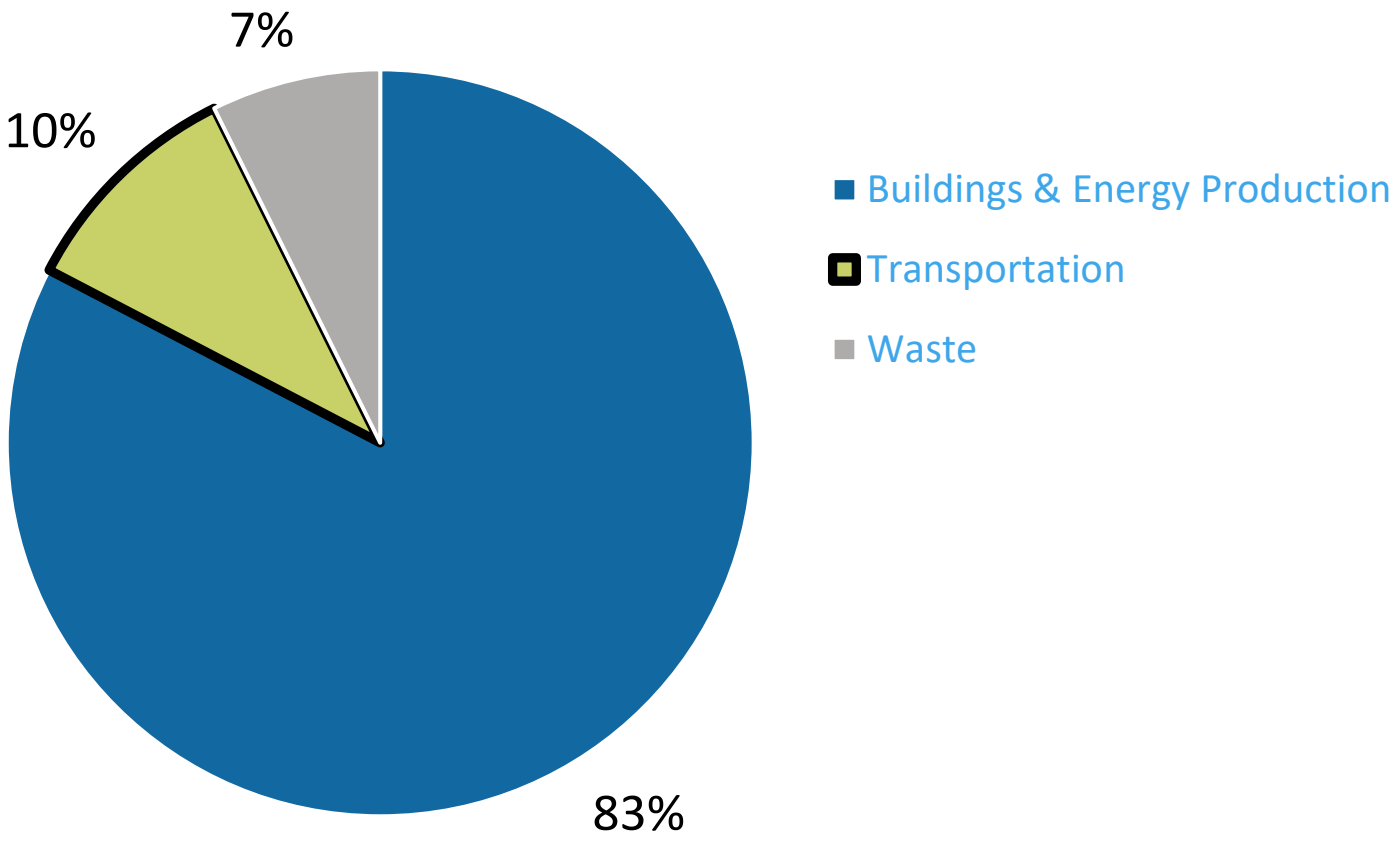
2019 total emissions estimated:

- **1,413,026** metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MT CO_2e).

10 percent from transportation:

- Gas and diesel releases pollution into the atmosphere
- Electricity from burning fossil fuels

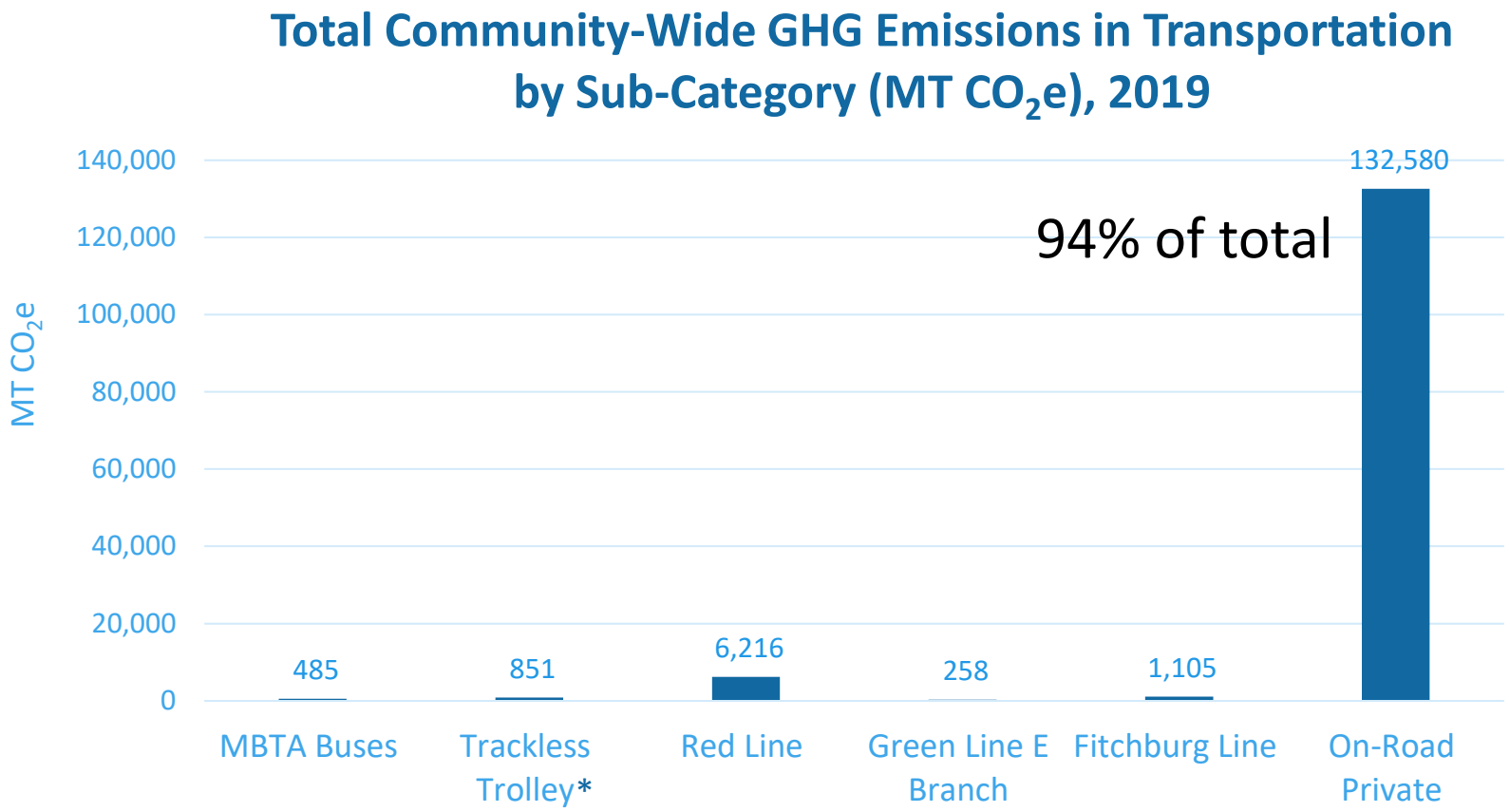
Total Community-Wide GHG Emissions by Sector (MT CO_2e), 2019



How many emissions come from different transportation modes in Cambridge?

Most transportation emissions come from on-road private vehicles

Next largest was the Red Line



*Note: trackless trolleys have been replaced with hybrid diesel-electric buses, but in 2025 they will be replaced by 100% electric [when the new Trolley Sq facility has been rebuilt]

How did transportation emissions change between 2012 and 2019?

Decreased an estimated **13%** from 2012 to 2019

Due mostly to **bus** and **on-road private transportation** (more efficient buses)

Sub-Sector	Sub-Category	2012 Emissions (MT CO_2e)	2019 Emissions (MT CO_2e)	Change
Private Transportation	On-Road Private	149,815	132,580	- 12 %
Public Transportation	MBTA Buses	3,061	485	- 84 %
	Trackless Trolley	1,118	851	- 24 %
	Red Line (Subway Heavy Rail)	7,088	6,216	- 12 %
	Green Line E Branch (Light Rail)	310	258	- 17 %
	Fitchburg Line (Commuter Heavy Rail)	967	1,105	+ 14 %
Total Transportation Sector Emissions		**162,359**	**141,495**	**- 13 %**

Emissions - help us get a fuller picture

- ✓What questions do you have?
- ✓What else do we all need to consider as we measure emissions from transportation?

Planning our next meeting(s)

What topics should we discuss at upcoming meetings?

- Some topics you've suggested so far:
  - What kinds of approaches can we use to reduce emissions from transportation?
  - How can we assess whether this process is successful in making planning more equitable?
  - How can communities beyond Cambridge learn from our process?
  - Others?

- Standing meeting time: 4th Thursdays at 6-8pm?

Public comment

- Public comments are welcome
  - Share thoughts in Zoom Q&A or verbally
  - To comment verbally, raise your virtual “hand” (or actual hand if in person), or signal interest in Q&A window
  - Please limit your comments to 2 minutes (we may reduce this time if the queue fills up)
- Please keep all comments…
  - Relevant to the topics discussed today
  - Respectful
  - Focused on issues (not individuals)

Next steps

- ✓We'll share follow-up materials
- ✓Look out for a save-the-date for the next meeting
- ✓Others?

Check out question

- ***What is one new idea or thought that you are taking away from this meeting?***

Thank You