

Travel at Reading

The 2025 Sustainable Travel Survey provided our first opportunity to measure progress against the University's 2024–2029 Travel Plan. Over 1,700 staff and students shared how they travel, the challenges they face and where improvements should be prioritised.

At a Glance



Sustainable travel remains the preferred choice for most staff and students.

However, opportunities remain to encourage even greater uptake of low-carbon travel choices.



Cycling is becoming more popular

More students and staff are choosing to cycle to campus than in previous years.



Hybrid working continues to shape staff travel

Many staff continue to work from home for part of the week, reducing commuting journeys.



The number of people travelling alone by car to campus has increased

Progress towards targets has slowed, indicating changing commuting behaviours and highlighting the need for continued action.



Walking is the most popular mode of travel amongst students

Although still the most common choice, fewer students are walking compared with 2024.

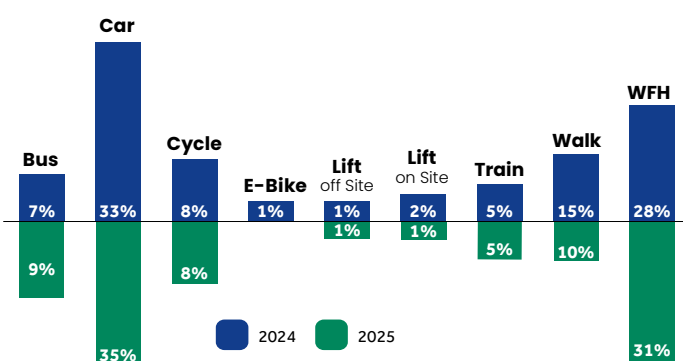


Public transport still faces significant barriers

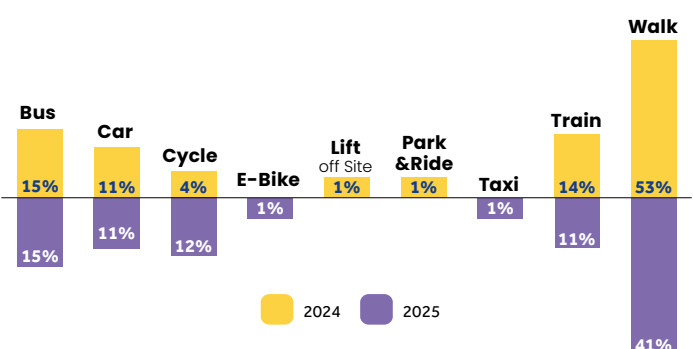
Cost, reliability and journey times remain the biggest challenges for many travellers.

Read the full Report online reading.ac.uk/sustainability

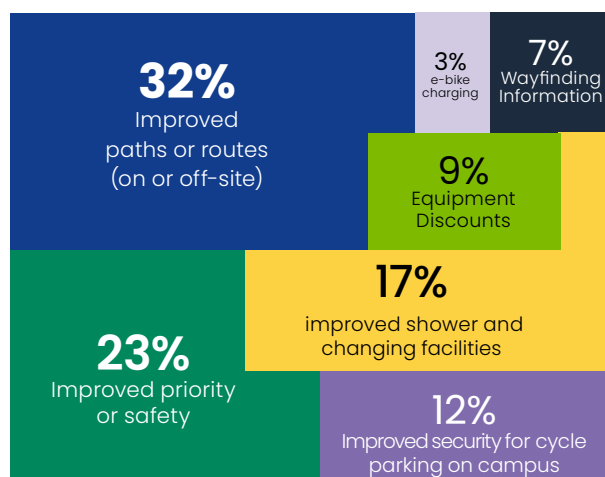
Staff Travel Mode Comparison (Jan 2024 vs Dec 2025)



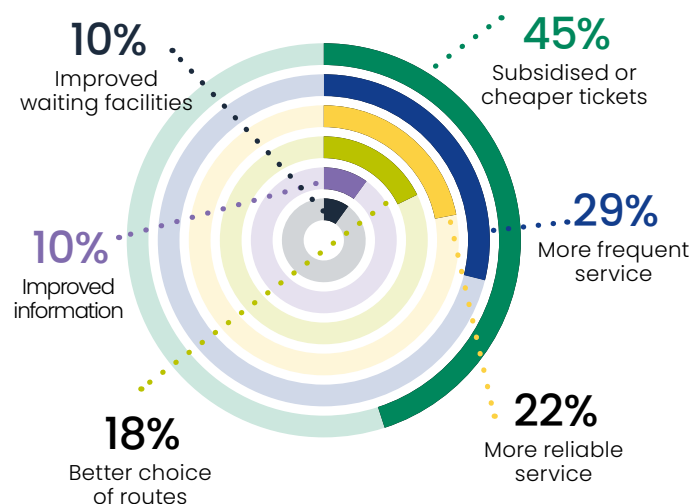
Student Travel Mode Comparison (Jan 2024 vs Dec 2025)



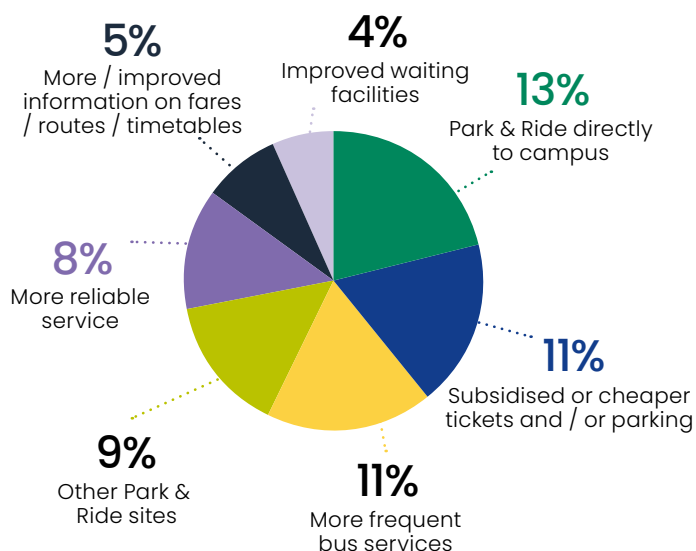
What would encourage a switch towards active travel?



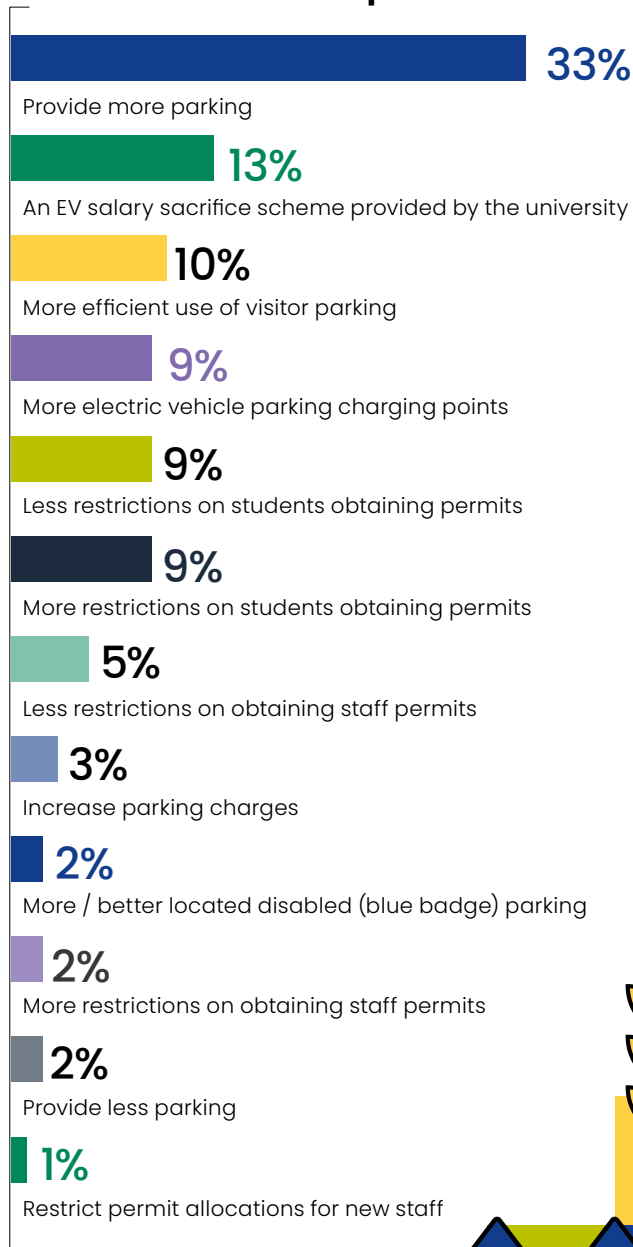
What would encourage a switch towards public transport?



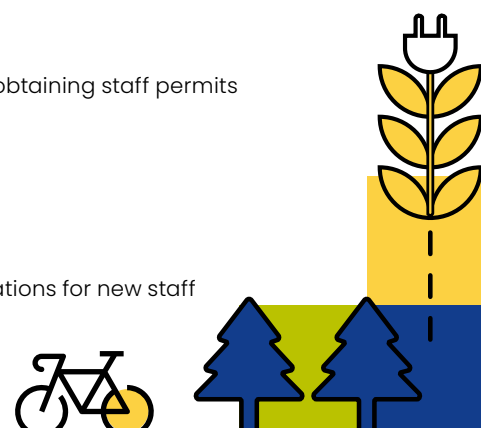
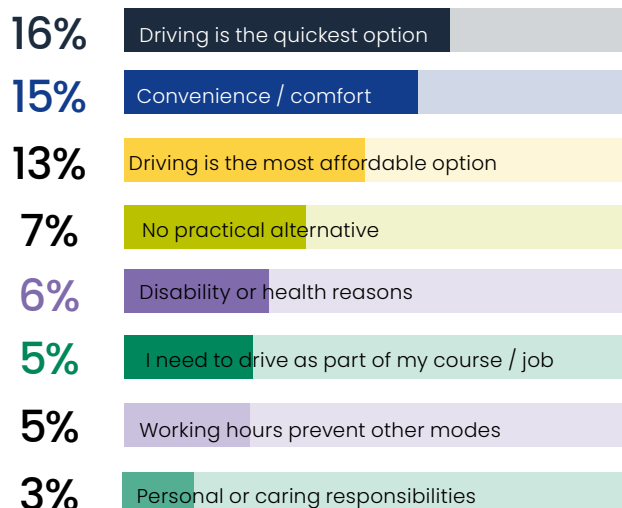
What would encourage a switch towards Park & Ride?



How do you feel parking / car travel could be improved?



Why do you drive over other modes?



Walking & Cycling

- **Safer, better connected routes** – Respondents frequently highlighted the need for safer crossings, improved lighting, better maintained paths and clearer, more direct walking and cycling routes both on and off campus.
- **Better facilities for cyclists** – Secure cycle parking, showers, lockers and maintenance facilities remain important, with continued concerns about bike theft in some locations despite recent improvements.
- **Support for cycling initiatives** – There was strong interest in practical measures such as bike hire, pool bikes and continued incentives to make cycling a more convenient option.



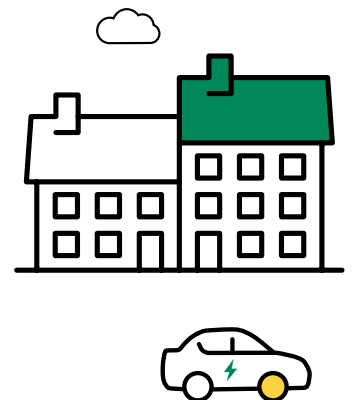
Public Transport

- **Better connectivity** – Respondents called for more direct bus routes, improved links between Reading Station, residential areas and campus, and better integration between bus, rail and University timetables.
- **More affordable and reliable services** – Cost remains the biggest concern, alongside calls for more frequent, reliable services, particularly outside peak periods and university term time.
- **Positive feedback on recent improvements** – Many respondents praised the Whiteknights 20 and existing travel discounts, whilst recognising that wider improvements to the public transport network are still needed.



Car Travel

- **Fairer and more flexible parking** – Respondents highlighted demand for more flexible permit arrangements, better management of parking spaces and improvements to parking infrastructure.
- **Support for lower-carbon driving** – There is growing interest in electric vehicles, additional charging infrastructure, car sharing and Park & Ride where driving remains necessary.
- **Driving remains essential for many** – Comments reinforced that journey time, convenience, caring responsibilities and limited alternatives mean the car remains the most practical option for some staff and students.



The next phase of work will focus on turning these insights into action, ensuring future improvements reflect the needs and experiences of staff and students, while supporting a more sustainable, accessible and connected campus.