

The REAL Cost of Commuting

You are smart enough to know that the cost of driving is much more than what you pay for gas, but do you know how much more? Below are the national average driving costs from AAA's 4th quarter 1999 surveys, updated by Arlington Transportation Partners. Don't fool yourself. Sooner or later you have to pay for repairs, maintenance and wear and tear, so you will need to consider those costs when calculating the real cost of your commute.

Gas and oil	8.4 cents per mile
Maintenance, repairs, tires	5.3 cents per mile
Wear and tear (how much value you lose at resale)	16.2 cents per mile
Total	29.9 cents per mile

Scroll through the examples below (and the simple charts that follow) to get a quick idea of how much a drive alone commute really costs and how much you could save by carpooling, vanpooling or taking transit. For short commutes try bicycling.

10 mile commute:	Drive alone average: \$110/month.	Save \$63 - \$110/month.
30 mile commute:	Drive alone average: \$229/month.	Save \$145 - \$153/month.
50 mile commute:	Drive alone average: \$349/month.	Save \$209 - \$249/month.
80 mile commute:	Drive alone average: \$528/month.	Save \$372 - \$417/month.
100 mile commute:	Drive alone average: \$648/month.	Save \$432 - \$524/month.

Save money by carpooling, vanpooling, taking transit, walking or bicycling to work!

Try the Cost of Commuting Calculator

To get an even closer estimate, you can plug your own numbers into the [Cost of Commuting Calculator](#). Note your estimated costs per mile from the chart below, then click the link above to CommuterPage.com and plug in your costs, including parking and tolls. Compare that to the cost of alternatives from the charts that follow. Try it. The Calculator is fun! And you'll be amazed at what you can save.

Costs of Driving	Small Car	Mid-Size	Luxury	Minivan
Operating cost (in cents per mile)	11.6	14.2	15.3	13.9
Wear and tear depreciation (in cents per mile)	15.3	16.3	17.1	15.9
Total cost (in cents per mile)	26.9	30.5	32.4	29.8

10 Mile Round Trip Commute Costs and Savings

Example: Ballston to Pentagon 200 miles per month 2,400 miles per year

Commute Mode	Out of Pocket	Wear & Tear	Monthly Total	Annual Total
Drive Alone costs per month				
Gas and oil (8.4 cents/mile* x 200 miles) = \$17	\$17			
Maintenance, tires, and repairs (5.3 cents/mile* x 200 miles) = \$11	11	\$162 per 1,000 miles*		
Parking (\$50 - \$100/month)	50	\$162 x .2 = \$32		
Total Drive Alone Costs	\$78	+ \$32	= \$110	x 12 = \$1,320
Carpool costs per month				
Drive Alone cost divided by 3 for a 3-person carpool \$78/3 = \$26	-26	+ \$32/3 = -11	= -37	x 12 = -444
Carpool Savings	\$52	\$21	\$73	\$876
Transit costs per month				
Arlington Metrobus: 28-day pass (unlimited rides) = \$40	-40	+ 0	= -40	x 12 = -480
Transit Savings	\$38	\$32	\$70	\$840
Bicycling costs per month				
Assuming already own bike = \$0	-0	+ 0	= -0	x 12 = -0
Bicycle Savings	\$78	\$32	\$110	\$1,320

* AAA 1999 Cost of Driving Survey (updated by ATP). Wear & Tear is average vehicle resale value depreciation: \$162 per 1,000 miles.

30 Mile Round Trip Commute Costs and Savings

Example: Lorton to Pentagon 600 miles per month 7,200 miles per year

Commute Mode	Out of Pocket	Wear & Tear	Monthly Total	Annual Total
Drive Alone costs per month				
Gas and oil (8.4 cents/mile* x 600 miles) = \$50	\$50			
Maintenance, tires, and repairs (5.3 cents/mile* x 600 miles) = \$32	32	\$162 per 1,000 miles*		
Parking (\$50 - \$100/month)	50	\$162 x .6 = \$97		
Total Drive Alone Costs	\$132	+ \$97	= \$229	x 12 = \$2,748
Carpool costs per month				
Drive Alone cost divided by 3 for a 3-person carpool \$132/3 = \$44	-44	+ \$97/3 = -32	= -76	x 12 = -912
Carpool Savings	\$88	\$65	\$153	\$1,836
Transit costs per month				
Fairfax Connector Express: \$2 one-way x 2 = \$4/day x 20 = \$80/month	-80	+ 0	= -80	x 12 = -960
Transit Savings	\$52	\$97	\$149	\$1,788
Vanpool costs per month				
Cost, including fuel, maintenance and insurance** = \$84	-84	+ 0	= -84	x 12 = -1,008
Vanpool Savings	\$48	\$97	\$145	\$1,740

* AAA 1999 Cost of Driving Survey (updated by ATP). Wear & Tear is average vehicle resale value depreciation: \$162 per 1,000 miles.

** Source: VPSI Commuter Vanpools.

50 Mile Round Trip Commute Costs and Savings

Example: Dale City to Pentagon 1,000 miles per month 12,000 miles per year

Commute Mode	Out of Pocket	Wear & Tear	Monthly Total	Annual Total
Drive Alone costs per month				
Gas and oil (8.4 cents/mile* x 1,000 miles) = \$84	\$84			
Maintenance, tires, and repairs (5.3 cents/mile* x 1,000 miles) = \$53	53	\$162 per 1,000 miles*		
Parking (\$50 - \$100/month)	50	\$162 x 1 = \$162		
Total Drive Alone Costs	\$187	+ \$162	= \$349	x 12 = \$4,188
Carpool costs per month				
Drive Alone cost divided by 3 for a 3-person carpool \$187/3 = \$62	-62	+ \$162/3 = -54	= -116	x 12 = -1,392
Carpool Savings	\$125	\$108	\$233	\$2,796
Transit costs per month				
OmniRide: \$3.5 one-way x 2 = \$7/day x 20 = \$140/month	-140	+ 0	= -140	x 12 = -1,680
Transit Savings	\$47	\$162	\$209	\$2,508
Vanpool costs per month				
Cost, including fuel, maintenance and insurance** = \$100	-100	+ 0	= -100	x 12 = -1,200
Vanpool Savings	\$87	\$162	\$249	\$2,988

* AAA 1999 Cost of Driving Survey (updated by ATP). Wear & Tear is average vehicle resale value depreciation: \$162 per 1,000 miles.

** Source: VPSI Commuter Vanpools.

80 Mile Round Trip Commute Costs and Savings

Example: Leesburg to Pentagon 1,600 miles per month 19,200 miles per year

Commute Mode	Out of Pocket	Wear & Tear	Monthly Total	Annual Total
Drive Alone costs per month				
Gas and oil (8.4 cents/mile* x 1,600 miles) = \$134	\$134			
Maintenance, tires, and repairs (5.3 cents/mile* x 1,600 miles) = \$85	85	\$162 per 1,000 miles*		
Parking (\$50 - \$100/month)	50	\$162 x 1.6 = \$259		
Total Drive Alone Costs	\$269	+ \$259	= \$528	× 12 = \$6,336
Carpool costs per month				
Drive Alone cost divided by 3 for a 3-person carpool \$269/3 = \$90	-90	+ \$259/3 = -86	= -176	x 12 = -2,112
Carpool Savings	\$179	\$173	\$352	\$4,224
Transit costs per month				
Loudoun Commuter Bus: \$4 one-way x 2 = \$8/day x 20 = \$160/month	-160	+ 0	= -160	x 12 = -1,920
Transit Savings	\$109	\$259	\$368	\$4,416
Vanpool costs per month				
Cost, including fuel, maintenance and insurance** = \$111	-111	+ 0	= -111	x 12 = -1,332
Vanpool Savings	\$158	\$259	\$417	\$5,004

* AAA 1999 Cost of Driving Survey (updated by ATP). Wear & Tear is average vehicle resale value depreciation: \$162 per 1,000 miles.

** Source: VPSI Commuter Vanpools.

100 Mile Round Trip Commute Costs and Savings

Example: Fredericksburg to Pentagon 2,000 miles per month 24,000 miles per year

Commute Mode	Out of Pocket	Wear & Tear	Monthly Total	Annual Total
Drive Alone costs per month				
Gas and oil (8.4 cents/mile* x 2,000 miles) = \$168	\$168			
Maintenance, tires, and repairs (5.3 cents/mile* x 2,000 miles) = \$106	106	\$162 per 1,000 miles*		
Parking (\$50 - \$100/month)	50	\$162 x 2 = \$324		
Total Drive Alone Costs	\$324	+ \$324	= \$648	x 12 = \$7,776
Carpool costs per month				
Drive Alone cost divided by 3 for a 3-person carpool \$324/3 = \$108	-108	+ \$324/3 = -108	= -216	x 12 = -2,592
Carpool Savings	\$216	\$216	\$432	\$5,184
Transit costs per month				
Virginia Railway Express: \$186/month	-186	+ 0	= -186	x 12 = -2,232
Transit Savings	\$138	\$324	\$462	\$5,542
Vanpool costs per month				
Cost, including fuel, maintenance and insurance** = \$119	-119	+ 0	= -119	x 12 = -1,428
Vanpool Savings	\$205	\$324	\$529	\$6,348

* AAA 1999 Cost of Driving Survey (updated by ATP). Wear & Tear is average vehicle resale value depreciation: \$162 per 1,000 miles.

** Source: VPSI Commuter Vanpools.