

How much do you spend on transportation each month?



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Dallas area families spend more on transportation each year than they do on food, clothing, having fun or even health care. More even than they spend on federal income tax.

That's a message from the **Texas** Public Interest Research Group, which called yesterday Transportation Freedom Day, marking the day by which area households, on average, will have earned enough to pay for a year's worth of transportation costs.

"People may not recognize how much they pay for transportation. Our research and these numbers show that we need long-term solutions that make it easier for Texans to drive less and to get around more efficiently," said Melissa Cubria of TexPIRG.

I've not run a check on all their numbers, but the report makes two reasonable overall points: Namely. that transportation costs are high, and they aren't the same for everyone. Folks living by mass transit or in more walkable areas spend less. From the report:

In the **Oak Lawn** neighborhood between Cole and Lemon station, for instance, residents spend less of their income on transportation than other surrounding places. A typical area household could expect to spend 13 percent of their income on transportation if they lived there, the equivalent of about 4 fewer weeks of income to get around.

That means that Oak Lawn residents had earned enough to cover their transportation costs by Feb. 17, while residents of Aubrey are still waiting, given that they typically some 26 percent of their annual income on transportation costs, the report said.

So tell me, how much do you spend a month to get you (and your family, if you have one) around town, and back and forth to work?