



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What is the Victorian Integrated Survey of Travel & Activity?**

The Victorian Integrated Survey of Travel & Activity is a survey of day-to-day travel. The survey is being conducted in the Melbourne metropolitan area and in a number of regional centres across the state. "Day-to-day" travel includes all the travel that people do as they go about their lives, such as going to and from work, going shopping, visiting friends, attending sporting events, and even just walking the dog!

### **When is the survey being conducted?**

The survey is being conducted over a 12-month period from July 2009 through to July 2010.

### **How often is the survey conducted?**

The last survey of this type was conducted in 2007-08. Since that survey, demographics and travel patterns have continued to change, requiring an update of the data.

### **Who is conducting the survey?**

The survey is being designed and conducted by The Urban Transport Institute and I-view Pty Ltd, two companies with extensive experience in such surveys throughout Australia and overseas.

### **Who is the survey being conducted for?**

The survey is being conducted for the Victorian Department of Transport.

### **Where is the survey being conducted?**

The survey is being conducted in metropolitan Melbourne, Geelong, and a number of regional areas including, Ballarat, Bendigo, Shepparton and the Latrobe Valley.

### **Who is being surveyed?**

All residents of the Melbourne metropolitan area, Geelong, and regional areas including Ballarat, Bendigo, Shepparton and Latrobe are eligible for inclusion in the survey.

### **Why is the survey being conducted?**

The survey is being conducted to obtain up-to-date information on travel and activity patterns of Victorian residents. This information is required to ensure that decisions about transport infrastructure and service investment are based on current travel and activity patterns.

## How is the survey being conducted?

Questionnaires are personally delivered to households by the survey team, and all people in the household are asked to complete a travel diary for a specified Travel Day. Each household is also asked to provide demographic information about the people living there. The completed questionnaires are picked up from each household after their Travel Day, or alternatively mailed back to the survey office using a reply-paid envelope.

## How are households selected for the survey?

Households are selected for the survey, at random, from a listing of all residential addresses in the study areas.

## What will be done with the data that is collected?

The data that is collected from households will be summarised statistically to describe a variety of travel patterns. For example:

- how many trips do people make per day?
- why are these trips made?
- where do these trips come from and go to?
- what methods of transport are used?
- what time of day do these trips occur?

These findings will be used by the Department for a range of transport planning purposes.

## Is the survey compulsory?

The survey is not compulsory, but participation by all selected households is encouraged so that a representative picture of travel in the study areas is available when decisions are made about transport investment.

## What about privacy and confidentiality of the data?

The data collected from households will be treated with absolute confidentiality. All data collected will be merged with data from other households. No information will be released which could possibly identify any individual person or household.

## What is meant by "travel"?

For this survey, all activities conducted outside of the home will involve some form of travel. This could be a trip to go to work or the shops, a bus ride to school, a jog at lunchtime, or even a walk across the road to visit a neighbour. At the other end of the scale, travel also includes longer journeys such as a flight out of the country. All travel is of interest to the Department, and it is requested that all travel is reported in the survey.

## For how many days do households need to complete the survey?

While the survey itself will run for 12 months, households record their travel for only one day.

## What is the Travel Day?

Each household is assigned a specific Travel Day by the survey team. Household members are asked to report what they do on this specific day, even if they feel that this day is not "normal" for them (for example, they travelled much more than usual on this particular day, or they didn't travel at all). To minimise the impacts of seasonality, Travel Days are spread across the full 12 month period. By having households report only on the specific Travel Day assigned to them, the average travel across all days can be accurately obtained.

## Why does the Travel Day start at 4.00am, and not midnight?

The Travel Day starts at 4.00am, and runs till 4.00am on the next day. The 4.00am start time is chosen because this is the time of day when the fewest number of people are actually travelling. This reduces the possibility for confusion about what happens if people are already travelling when the Travel Day starts, or are still travelling when the Travel Day ends.

## What if a person doesn't do any travel on the Travel Day?

There are some people who won't do any travel on their specific Travel Day. For example, they may not need to travel on that day, or they may be home sick. These people are still asked to complete the survey and report why they didn't travel. This information is an important part of obtaining a complete picture of daily travel and activity patterns.

## Do people who drive for a living complete the survey?

The survey would be difficult for 'professional drivers' (that is, those who are specifically employed to move *goods* or *people*) to write down all the travel made on their survey day, and it is not expected that they do this. Instead, it is asked that professional drivers record only their personal travel, including any trips from home to work and back again.

If a person is not employed as a professional driver, but does sometimes travel as part of their work (for example, to attend a meeting, or travel between different locations for work purposes), then they should record all of their work-related travel.

## What if people are away from home on their Travel Day?

Even if household members are away from home for the whole of their Travel Day, they should still report all of the travel completed.

## What if a person travels out of Victoria on the Travel Day?

If a survey participant travels outside of Victoria on their Travel Day, they should describe the details of all the travel completed within Victoria and where they first went when they left the state. For instance, if a respondent takes a flight outside of Victoria, they should report their trip to the airport and the place that they were travelling to. Any return travel back into Victoria should be described fully.

## **Why are questions asked about personal characteristics of survey respondents?**

The survey asks a number of questions about the household and the people who live there. This is because the reported data is used to not only describe travel patterns in Victoria, but also to understand why travel occurs. Previous studies have shown that there are characteristics of people and households that explain why they travel in certain ways. Collecting this information along with their travel patterns allows for a better understanding of why people travel the way they do. This also enables better estimations of future travel patterns as the population grows and changes.

## **Why does the survey include a question about personal income?**

As explained above, some characteristics explain a lot about travel patterns. Income has been found to be one of the best predictors of travel patterns. It is also useful when trying to explain the social implications of various transport investments, and in comparing the survey sample with that of the population as measured in the Census. The information about income is kept strictly confidential and will not be used for any purpose other than in connection with explaining travel patterns, or comparing the survey sample with the Census population.

## **Why are so many questions asked about the vehicles in each household?**

There are a number of questions about the vehicles in each household (including any company or government cars that are garaged at the household on the night before the Travel Day) to help explain how these vehicles are used. It is important to know what type of vehicles are being used for travel so that estimates can be made of things like the fuel consumption and Greenhouse Gas emissions caused by daily travel patterns.

### **For other questions not answered here...**

If you have further questions about the survey, you can contact the Travel Survey Team on 1800 034 523 (freecall). Information is also available from the Department of Transport's website at [www.transport.vic.gov.au/vista](http://www.transport.vic.gov.au/vista), or by emailing [vista@transport.vic.gov.au](mailto:vista@transport.vic.gov.au).