

YOUNG GREENS

ÓIGE GHLAS

THE REVOLUTION WILL NOT BE MOTORISED

Young Greens Transport Policy 2006

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In Ireland today our attitudes to the issue of transportation remains one of ignorance. Poorly managed resources have led to a poor and unreliable public transport system leading most of the population to the roads, when oil was cheap and the roads anew and plenty. But now the Mecca of motors is causing gridlock in our major cities and reducing quality of life and air with not only health and environmental repercussions but increasing carnage on our roads. We as Young People encounter these problems in some facet of our every day lives and as Young Greens we call for a radical and sustainable solution.

We have asked Ministers, C.E.O's and most importantly students what they think the main problems and best remedies are. Based on these answers was born our Student Transport Campaign "The Revolution will not be Motorised". The document you are now holding is a culmination of those Ministerial Answers, extensive research and the Young Greens National Third Level Student Survey 2006. By incorporating your input with working solutions investigated in campuses across the country we aim to recommend a new mode of best practice in student transport provision.

However, this paper is not intended to highlight the national problems of our transport system. This is the governments forte after all. Here we more importantly address the problems that so obviously exist for students commuting

in and out of college every day and offer simple, cost effective ways to improve the quality of your journey and life overall.

Young Greens actively encourage non-car modes of travel to college and to reduce the number of single person car journeys to and from the student's respective campuses. This will decrease commuting time for everyone involved as well as making the surrounding areas of the campuses much safer for residents and pedestrians. To curb these single journeys Young Greens positively support and promote public transport, walking, cycling and car sharing as sustainable modes of transport. We focus on the main problems in the transport sector for students over the coming pages;

- 1) Ineffective facilities on campuses such as the lack of bike shelters and bus shelters
- 2) The Cost of travel for students. Why is there such variation in nationwide city route student fares?
Who is responsible? And how can we resolve this?
- 3) And finally The Student Travel Card. Why was it Introduced? Why can't we just use our college ID that works for Bus Eireann and not Irish Rail? And why can't we just introduce a SmartCard, which will give the students discounts in modes of transport across the board as well as GAA and store discounts?

Proposing viable alternative solutions for them. We see the need for each College in Ireland to have it's own Commuter Plan to deal with sprawling campuses and growing student numbers and for it to be engineered as to best suit your needs as pedestrian, cyclist, motorist or public transport user at a cost affordable to all.

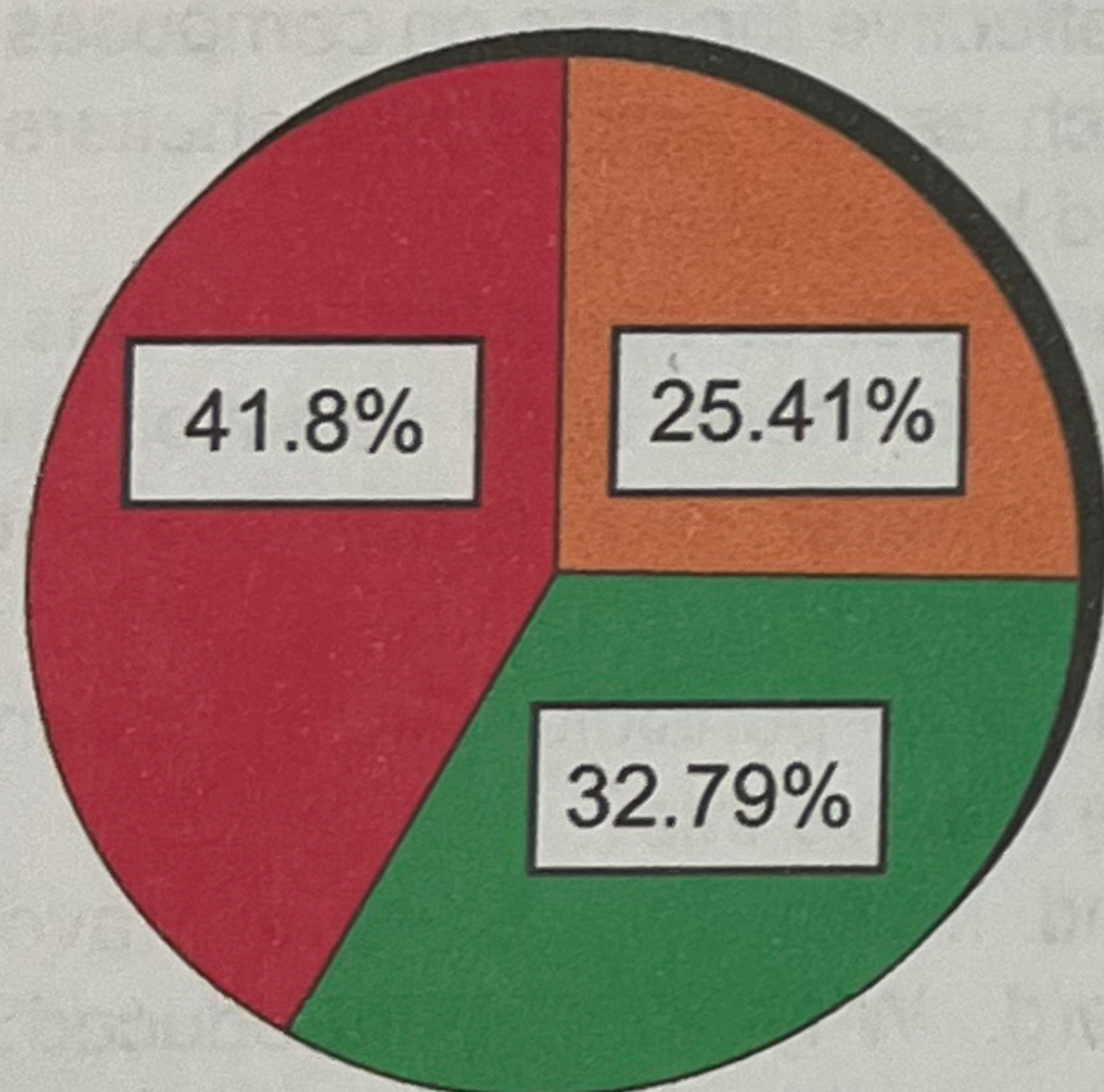


"QUICKER TO CYCLE ANYWAY, MATE..."

Survey Says;*

Keeping students in mind at all times Young Greens drew up a Transport Survey to see how did students themselves commute day in, day out to and from college. It also questioned the student's attitude towards public transport and drew on the creativity of students to solve the problems they face. The survey carried out in NUI Galway, Trinity College Dublin, UCD and DLAIT forms the backbone of our Policy, the focus and orientation of the "Revolution" campaign.

- 73% student motorist would consider changing forms of transport. Men more inclined than women.
- 69% motorists would consider car sharing with no gender differentiation, your main reason to cut costs.
- 48% of motorists and 39% cyclists/pedestrians said their main reason for not using public transport was it was unreliable or infrequent. Your second reason for not using : too costly and time consuming. Women noting a higher inclination to use public transport but safety being a prime concern 40% of them are willing to invest in to improve.
- 54% students don't think efforts improve Public Transport in line with increasing costs.
- Investment in Transport should be focused on Public Transport over Infrastructure with 16% having concern for environmental impact studies.
- No bike was your main reason for not cycling with the majority preferring to see improvements in footpaths, crossings ,bike lanes, lighting for pedestrians and cyclists over monetary incentives.
- Women felt unsafe walking to college and cited insufficient lightning as a cause while men were indifferent on the subject.



Would you be prepared to switch from driving your car to other means of transport?

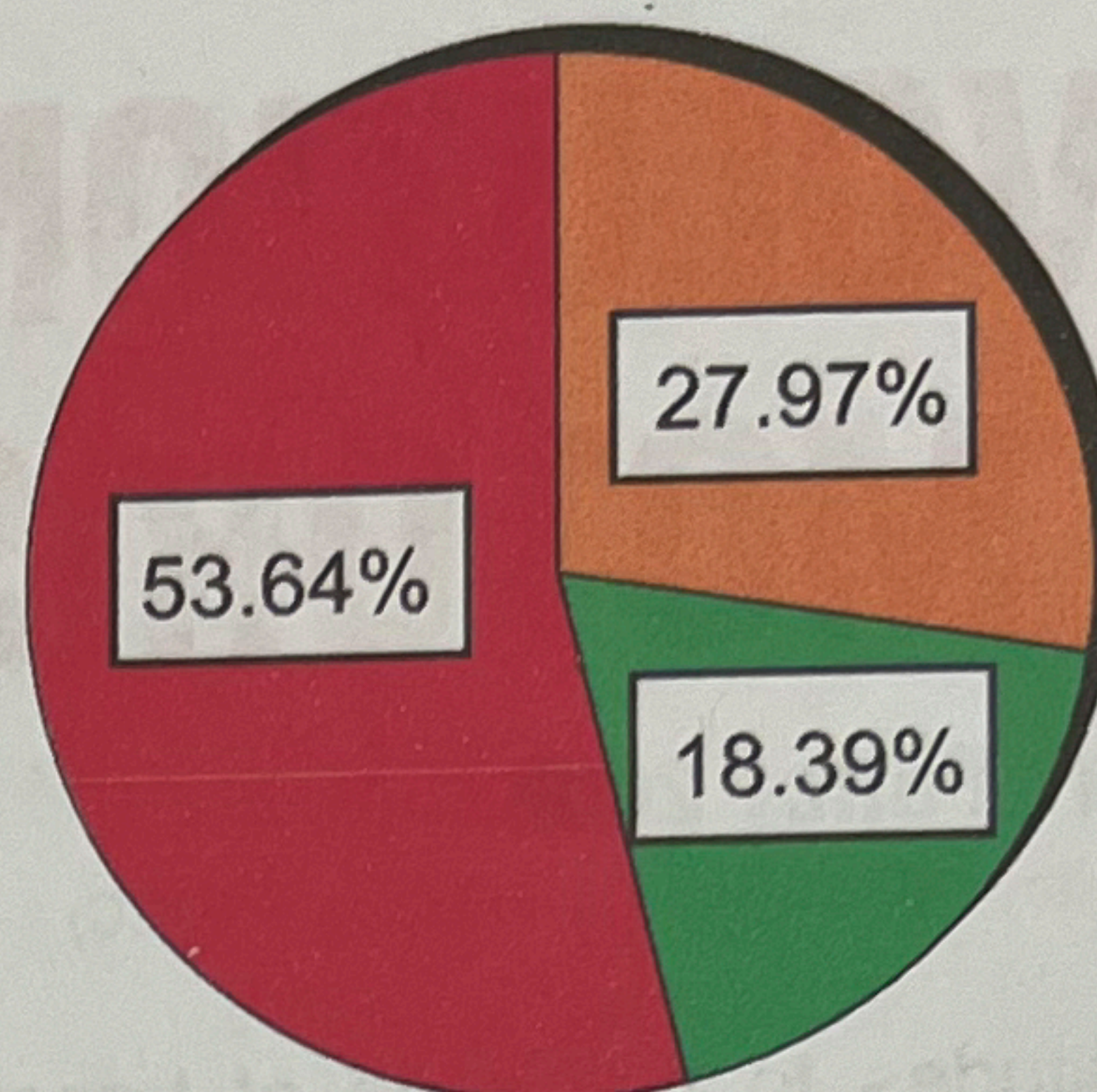
- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Reading the results it would have us believe that the vast majority of drivers want to move to other forms of transport. There is a willingness for change but it seems that it depends in improvements in public transport . Over half of students think that efforts to improve public transport are not in line with increasing costs or invested in the right areas and the main reasons many students didn't use public transport was that the service was unreliable, infrequent, unsafe or too costly.

Young Greens however realise that until improvements in service, infrastructure and facilities take place 39% of you will continue to travel to college by car. What can change though is how and with whom you travel with on your commute. Over 69% of motorists would consider **CARsharing** as part of their commute. **CARsharing** not only cuts running costs of your car but it cuts also down emissions therefore cutting the tax you'll pay towards carbon credits. There are 3822 solo drivers from UCC alone. Fitting one or two more people in the car could take up to 2500 of those cars off

The Revolution will not be motorised continued from front page

the road in Cork. Imagine how smooth the commute in your area could be with such minor changes ? **CARsharing** has already had pilot projects in the University of Ulster Liftshare programme and can be just as transferable to your SU or even as an informal network between friends. Young Greens aim is to encourage **CARsharing** networks throughout campuses online as well as introducing incentives for car sharers such as joint parking permits and designated car share parking.

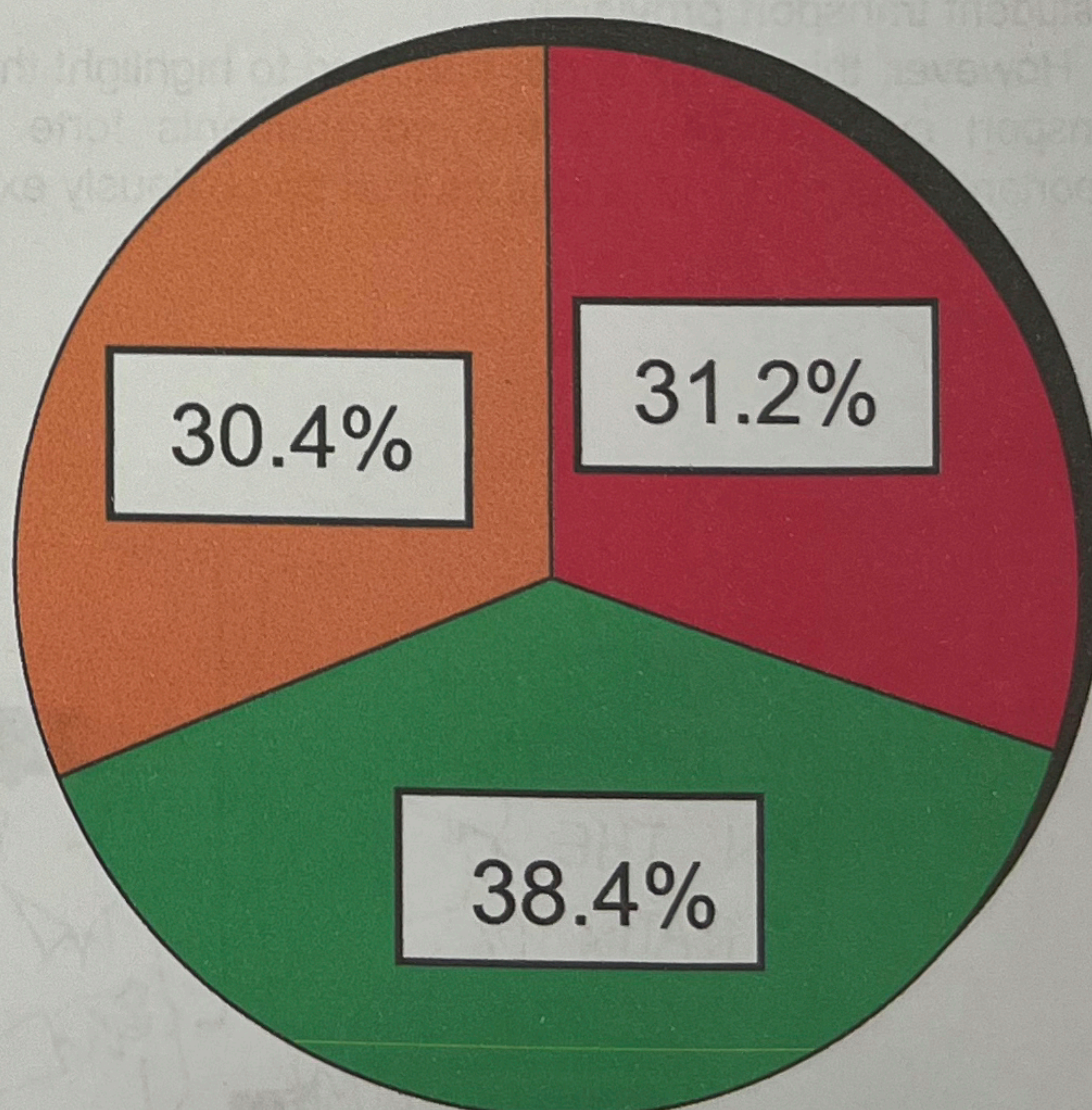


Do you think efforts to improve public transport are in line with increasing costs?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

Or why not **Park&Ride**? UCC is the first campus in the country to introduce a **Park&Ride** system for students to great success. Not only does this cut the volume of traffic in the surrounding areas it also curbs costs as revenue from on campus car parking can be used to fund the Commuter Plan Initiatives ; **Park&Ride**, better **BICYCLE&PEDESTRIAN** services and an enhanced **CARsharing** scheme as well as better management of existing parking resources without students footing the entire bill with rising prices.

* Based on findings of ThridYoung Greens Level Student Transport Survey Spring 2006



Would you consider car-sharing?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Getting there and Away:

The Commuter Plan—An integrated Approach

With growing campuses and increasing student numbers in all Universities around Ireland there has been an growing demand for car parking spaces in line with rising staff and student car ownership levels. It is increasingly apparent that past policies are no longer

Sustainable in light of this trend. Heightened traffic volumes have not only lengthened commuting times but led to strenuous conditions for cyclists and pedestrians. The regular commuter facing one to two hours in this unhealthy environment everyday.

Newer policies need to be introduced to actively encourage non-car modes of travel to college in an integrated alternative transport system if volumes of traffic are to decrease. To achieve this, Universities need to promote park&ride, carsharing networks, public transport, walking, cycling and any other means to reduce car traffic especially solo motorists.

UCC are the only college successfully implementing these solutions to date. Their extensive commuter plan not only supports its continued development but is also consistent with the sustainable transport policies now being pursued by Cork County Council. The Commuter Plan also acts as a framework that UCC can use to demonstrate to Cork City Council that it is serious about implementing sustainable transport policies. Therefore we take it's example as a case study for the way forward as a mode of best practice.

The main aims of this Commuter plan are:

Improve accessibility by alternative modes

Control and manage parking demand

Improve the environment around UCC

In trying to reach these aims UCC have been the first University in Ireland to introduce "Park and Ride" an initiative whereas students park their cars in allotted car park, a sizeable distance from the campus. A shuttle Bus runs regularly from this car park to college for the students and service costs nothing to the student. This decreases the build up of traffic near the campus area and has proven to be highly effective with students.

Other measures include charging for parking at the new car parks, clamping of unauthorised parked cars and improving cycle facilities. All measures needed on University campuses across the country.

The Young Greens want to see a Commuter Plan drawn up in every University and College in Ireland with the same emphasis on encouraging non-car modes of travel to college and to use other means of transport, be it public or cycling. These plans successfully implemented prove not only beneficiary for students, staff and the environment but also commuters in all the surrounding areas with improvements in bus routes, regularity, shelters and stops, cyclist lanes and pedestrian crossings, improved lightning and cctv monitored bike shelters across campuses as well as fewer cars on the grounds and surrounds of the university.

The SmArt Card

Remember the time when your college i.d. got you all the discounts you could ever need? Plan, train, or busmobile it got you a discount fare no questions. Well why can't it be so again? No-one mourned the loss of these discounts when we were all too caught up in the Celtic Tiger but did anyone even question why it was disbanded in favour of the Iarnróid Éirinn Railcard?

Well out of the haze of SSIA's we did. So we asked Eamon Ryan T.D. to investigate on our behalf. When asked about the introduction of the rail card and why this card was not free of charge the minister declined to answer saying it was the preserve of the individual companies management.

When asked about a standard StudentBUSFARE for city bus routes nationwide; the Minister Declined, again it was the remit of the bus companies. Well the Young Greens believe it should be exactly what it says on the tin 'Public Transport'.

So when we asked you would you be in favour of abolishing the student travel card and the majority of respondents seemed confused. We thought it better to clear up the confusion. Therefore Young Greens propose a radical shift in student discounting at Second and Third Levels that will see direct cost cuttings as well as an incentive for the government to comprehensive introduce integrated ticketing.

The SmArt Card we propose is:

- An Integrated BUS/TRAIN/TRAM card
- With GAA, Travel and Store DISCOUNTING
- Offering a set StudentFARE on each single and return journey
- Will include ONLINE TopUp Payment facilities (similar to LUAS system)
- And Issued in S.U's/USIT/SCHOOLS nationwide



Students.Suss.Iarnróids.Apathy!

Trinity: Winners is the Transport Triathlon: Train, Tram and Toes

Despite being a student wont to complain, transport to Trinity College is probably the best serviced of all colleges, certainly in Dublin. As a suburban based student, I travel to college on the DART which conveniently stops just opposite the campus. Therefore, I usually manage to get to lectures on time! The DART services most suburban towns along the coast, and is probably the quickest way to travel, as you avoid the hellish city traffic. Although, the rare time I have to get up before 9, the carriage tends to resemble the Pav before exams (i.e. overcrowded). It also only suits the small amount of students travelling from costal suburbs and as public transport options go, it is a more expensive way to travel.

If the train breaks the budget though, I have the option of using the Bus route. This is a far more widely accessible service, as there are buses from most locations surrounding the city and it is the cheapest of public transport services. Most buses are frequent, and all terminate at most 10 minutes away from the college. However, if leaving at rush hour, you can expect a long journey and crowded bus.

The LUAS is the ideal way to travel on public transport to college if you're one of the 180 people living in the student accommodation in Dartry, as its close and fast. For everyone else, it's pretty negligible since it serves very limited areas, and is by far the most expensive option. If you're not a fan of public transport, cycling is the answer. The college provides plenty of places to leave your bike (although I can't account for there safety) and if you're close enough to take the LUAS you're probably close enough to cycle. Wouldn't chance cycling in the city traffic myself though!

Walking is a nice green way to get to campus if you live close enough. 99% of us don't.

Then of course, you could be the rare student who drives, and even owns their own car.



More facilities like this Bus Shelter are needed to encourage the use of public transport. In the back ground is bike stands. Although they are the recommended 'Sheffield design', they need to be covered and provided with lighting and CCTV to make them safer for cyclists to use.

If so, you've come to the wrong college. Even if you manage to beat the rush hour traffic and get in early, students aren't allowed to park on campus – in fact, most of the staff can't either.

And I don't know about the rest of the student population, but my budget doesn't stretch to a day of parking fees, let alone the year.

By Jen Kennedy (TCD)

So who is responsible and who can start the "Revolution" ?

We've touched on many different areas of the transport problems facing students over the leaves of this paper and in each area there is a unique responsibility. Therefore in calling for change our campaign rests in three main spheres;

- 1 A call for improvements in infrastructure, service and facilities in public transport networks as well as for cyclists and pedestrians including car cutting measure like **Park&Ride** or **CARsharing** as the responsibility of the Management Committees of Universities nationwide and the Minister for Transport and Minister for Environment.
- 2 A call for an integrated ticketing system such as the SmArt Card for all third and second level student travel and store discounting . As the Responsibility of the Ministers of Transport in conjunction with CIE ,the Minister of Education and student organisations.
- 3 A call for subsidised Third Level travel on city route buses with the Student**BUSFARE** to work in conjunction with the SmArt Card.. As the responsibility of the Minister of Education.

The Young Greens call for the remit of the Minister of Education to be extended to incorporate Third Level Student Travel alongside Primary and Post Primary Travel subsidies and for the issue of transport for students to be integrated across all three departments with you assistance may start the "Revolution" .



How you can help?

- Student involvement essential for campaign success.
- Try to avoid driving to college unless with a few passengers in tow. Even use a Park&Ride
- Try to cycle or walk whenever possible to university.
- Check out your local car sharing network . Betted still ask you uni to set one up.
- Send one of our postcards to the Minister of Education calling for a new student SmArt card and StudentBUSFARE .

Encourage your University to adopt a Commuter Plan for your Campus

Look at the problems on your campus and raise them with the Management Committee or even your local Council

Above all BE SAFE, BE SEEN & BE GREEN and check out your local group or www.younggreens.ie for more.

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