



Goal 3: Public Infrastructure

Desired Community Condition: Residents have safe and affordable transportation options that meet the public's needs.



Indicator: **Vehicle Miles Traveled and Vehicle Miles Traveled per Capita**

Progress Rating: **Local Trend: STABLE** **National Comparison: SIMILAR**

Indicator Description

The amount of travel in the region is generally measured in terms of vehicle miles traveled (VMT). This is the total number of miles of vehicular travel in an average day. The per capita VMT is the total VMT divided by the population of the Albuquerque Metropolitan Planning Area (AMPA). Per capita VMT is a measure of the vehicle miles people travel. The VMT data is generated by continuous traffic counts conducted by the Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG), the official transportation planning entity for the AMPA. The AMPA includes the contiguous urbanized area, encompassing the municipalities of Albuquerque, Bernalillo, Corrales, and Rio Rancho. MRCOG does not have data available for 2001 and 2002 due to the BIG I construction project. Data was also obtained from the Texas Transportation Institute to compare similar Cities.

Why is this indicator important?

This indicator, along with journey to work mode split and transit ridership per year, is used to evaluate transportation system utilization and performance. Vehicle miles traveled serves as a proxy for how well localities are incorporating the smart growth principles of accessible and walkable communities, increased public transportation, and a shift away from development practices centered on the automobile. VMT has a direct relationship to air quality, since automobiles are responsible for roughly 70 percent of carbon monoxide emissions. A decline in VMT would likely mean improvement in air quality. Per capita VMT data correlate with various economic and lifestyle factors such as increased car ownership, more women in the workforce, more teen driving and sprawling development patterns.

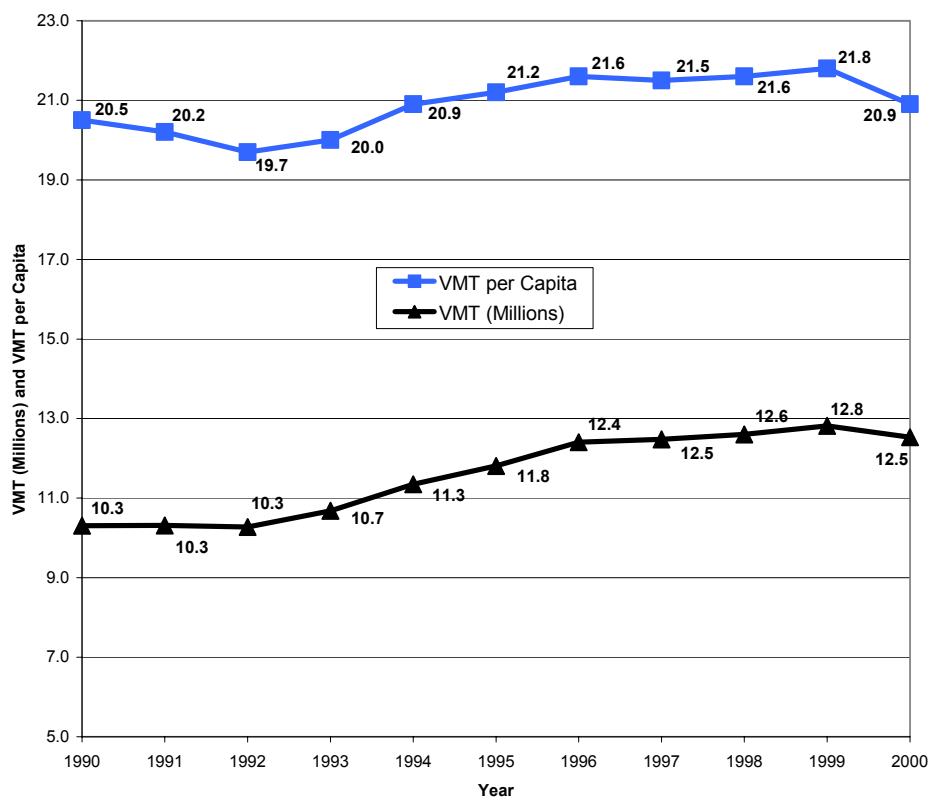
Data Sources

“Local Motion - 2000 Albuquerque Area Travel and Transportation Statistics,” Mid-Region Council of Governments; “2003 Urban Mobility Study,” Texas Transportation Institute

What can we tell from the data?

- Since 1970, when data collection began, population increased 93%; miles of roadway increased 58% and total VMT in the AMPA increased 227%. Most of this change occurred from 1970 to 1990. Since 1990, VMT has increased 21.5%.
- VMT per capita has increased a modest 2.0% since 1990.
- In 2000, per capita VMT and VMT were less than in recent years.
- Albuquerque is slightly above average in VMT per capita when compared to similar Cities in 2000.

Vehicle Miles Traveled in Millions of Miles and Vehicle Miles Traveled per Capita in Albuquerque Metropolitan Planning Area (AMPA) 1990-2000



Vehicle Miles Traveled in Millions of Miles and Vehicle Miles Traveled per Capita in AMPA 1970-2000

Year	VMT	VMT per Capita
1970	3826	12.4
1975	5986	16.1
1980	6912	16.3
1985	8863	18.5
1990	10309	20.5
1995	11812	21.2
2000	12529	20.9

Vehicle Miles Traveled per Capita for Similar Cities 2000

