Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

2021 TRB ANNUAL MEETING
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Working together to re-open our City and Campus post-COVID: A case study of Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin

Abstract:

Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin (TCD) is located in the city center of Ireland's capital. Since less than 1% of staff drive to the campus and students are not permitted to park on the campus, the University community has been working with Dublin City Council (DCC) to advance planning and built environment interventions to enable staff and students to safely return to work and education, in September 2020. This paper presents the results of the "Commuting to Trinity while Covid-19 Social Distancing is Required" Travel Survey for TCD students and staff, conducted in June and July 2020 (n=2,653). Conducted to determine how staff and students would like to travel to TCD, from September, it identifies which factors influence their mode choice and choice of working locations. The Trinity University campus makes for an interesting case study as it allows us to understand how the reopening of a major employment, educational and cultural site within an urban area, which is primarily served by transit and active transport, can address physical distancing restrictions and decreased capacity of public transport.

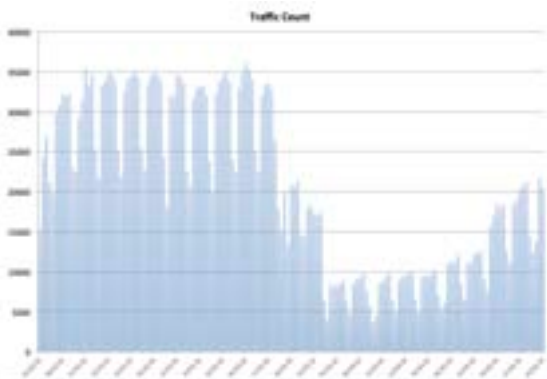Figure 3: Examples of cyclist and pedestrian priority

Impacts of COVID

Figure 1: Dublin daily traffic volumes January – June 2020

Figure 2: Walking and Cycling Zones

Cluster Analysis:

The surveys showed two clusters.

Student Cluster: aged 18-20, that prior to COVID would take the bus to college, and while restrictions are in place would like to study from home 1-2 days a week and when travelling to college would choose to walk (N = 1,499 (63.2%))

Staff Cluster: aged 35-45, that prior to COVID would use rail to get to college, and while restrictions are in place would like to WFH 3+ days a week and when travelling to college would choose to cycle. (N = 873 (36.8%))

Table 1: Cross-tabulation of Cluster Analysis and personal considerations

Variable		Staff Cluster	Student Cluster
If you lived less than 2km from campus would you consider walking?			
I already walk	Count	114	281
	% within cluster	14.7%	19.6%
Yes	Count	501	913
	% within cluster	64.5%	63.8%
Yes, if sufficient space for social distancing was available	Count	80	156
	% within cluster	10.3%	10.9%
No, it would take too long	Count	63	68
	% within cluster	8.1%	4.7%
No	Count	19	14
	% within cluster	2.4%	1.0%
If you lived 2- 5km from campus would you consider cycling?			
I would prefer to walk	Count	154	398
	% within cluster	19.7%	27.8%
I already cycle	Count	156	135
	% within cluster	19.9%	9.4%
Yes, if safe, segregated cycling was available	Count	321	644
	% within cluster	41.0%	45.0%
Yes, for some proportion of my trip	Count	30	70
	% within cluster	3.8%	4.9%
No, it would take too long	Count	40	46
	% within cluster	5.1%	3.2%
No	Count	82	139
	% within cluster	10.5%	9.7%

Table 2: Cross-tabulation of cluster analysis and concerns about contracting COVID

Variable		Staff Cluster	Student Cluster
I am concerned about contracting COVID on public transport			
No	Count	107	274
	% within cluster	32.1%	46.8%
Yes	Count	226	312
	% within cluster	67.9%	53.2%
I feel the chances of contracting COVID are lower walking rather than on public transport			
No	Count	70	247
	% within cluster	21.0%	42.2%
Yes	Count	263	339
	% within cluster	79.0%	57.8%
I feel the chances of contracting COVID are lower cycling rather than on public transport			
No	Count	91	198
	% within cluster	27.3%	33.8%
Yes	Count	242	388
	% within cluster	72.7%	66.2%
I feel the chances of contracting COVID are lower driving			
No	Count	243	507
	% within cluster	73.0%	86.5%
Yes	Count	90	79
	% within cluster	27.0%	13.5%