

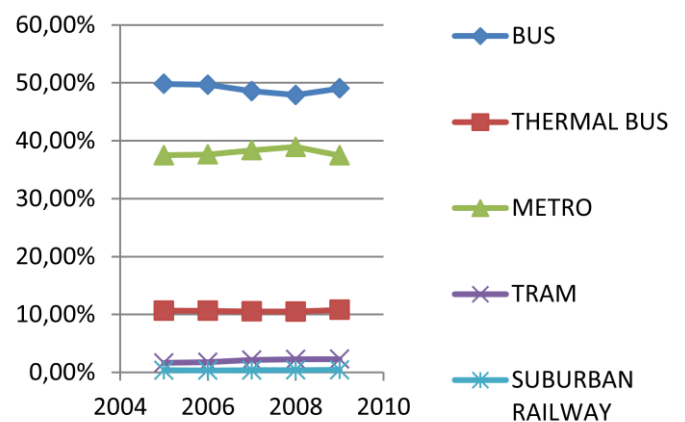
# Transport in Eastern Attica

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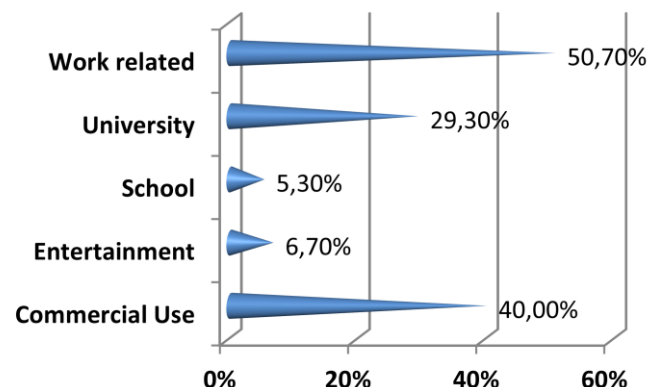
The situation with transport in Greece and specifically regarding ways to save energy, environmentally friendly use of means is not quite common because of State bureaucratic procedures state and legislative loopholes. The local population seems to be ready to adopt such practices, if we consider the steps that have been taken in the general field of saving energy - recycling - respecting the environment, in other areas of everyday life in Greece. Also, the private sector has increasingly focused on marketing electric vehicles, scooters etc.

Particularly, in the case of Eastern Attica, an urban landscape with tourist interest as the Municipality of Rafina - Pikermi hosts the port of Rafina, the area requires re - designing even the traditional forms of public transport. Seeing the results of the use of public transport systems such as bicycles and scooters in other European countries, it is obvious that such a system will particularly benefit the region, would save energy and time for residents, would benefit local tourism offering mini tourist routes within the geographical area of the municipality and of course would be very beneficial for our environment. The present e-article provides a short description of the general characteristics of the geographical area of Eastern Attica, as well as information on the state-of-the-art in the field of renewable energy in transportation.

## Transportation percentages for the years 2005 - 2009



## Reasons for using Public Transport



## The Prefecture of Eastern Attica

The Prefecture of Eastern Attica is an administrative division of the Attica Region of Greece. It comprises of 13 new Municipalities under the Kallikrates Law. The population of the prefecture was 502,090 inhabitants during the 2011 census. Based on the 2001 and 2011 census results, the Prefecture of Eastern Attica presents an increase of inhabitants of approximately 23,7%. Its area is 1.459 km<sup>2</sup> and has a population density of 344 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup> in 2001.

For the past 20 years and due to the hosting of the 2004 Athens Olympic Games, the Prefecture of Eastern Attica which gathered significant activities and events during the games, has met an outburst of development in regards to major infrastructure projects connecting the Prefecture to principal axes of the country's transport, as well as traffic, environmental, cultural and aesthetic improvements occurring in the wider surrounding area.



## Tourism in Eastern Attica

The comparative advantages of Eastern Attica, through a specific marketing plan of tourism product initiate from the area history. The Prefecture hosts world famous monuments, including the Temple of Poseidon at Sounion Lavreotiki, the Marathon Tomb and Battle site, the Temple of Artemis Athena, the Museum in Artemida, the Lion of Kantza, and the Lavrion old mines, which are considered key historic features of the area and have the capacity to become an attraction for both foreign and domestic tourists. The paths of history continue through the oldest continuing theater, that of Thorikos in Laureotiki, the ancient Temple in Vouliagmeni, the paleontological finds in Pikermi and that of the classic Marathon route.

The international airport of "El. Venizelos" in Spata, and the ports of Rafina and Lavrion are key competitive advantages for the tourism development and promotion of East Attica.

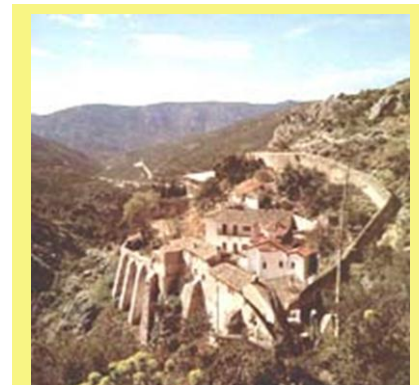
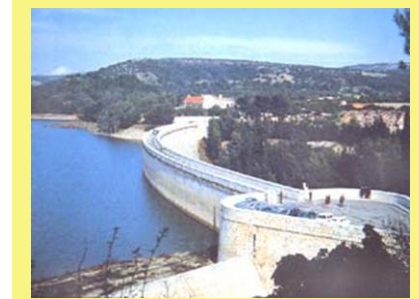
Modern roads in conjunction with the development of the

cruise industry, mainly in the port of Lavrion (next to the International Airport and Sounion), provide an economic breath to the local communities of Messogeia and Lavrion, allowing tourists to visit the area sites, and learn about their history as a region break destination before visiting the Cyclades.

Beaches in East Attica such as Astir Palace in Anavissos, Voula, Black Lithari, Avlaki in Porto Rafti, beaches in Keratea, Cape Sounion, Rafina and Nea Makri and Schinias, are considered amongst the cleanest and best beaches of Attica; awarded with the blue flag, they are considered a destination for foreign tourists, before they embark to a holiday island.

It is also important to note that the Prefectures hosts the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest seaport in Attica, that of Rafina, serving millions of travelers every year.

Both the touristic and infrastructure nature of the area pose significant challenges in the field of transportation within Eastern Attica.



## Transportation in Eastern Attica

Although identified as a significant attraction of both touristic sites and transportation junctions, the Prefecture of Eastern Attica lacks the suburban and intercity transportation network which will allow the area to evolve appropriately and provide its citizens and by-passers with the required high level of services.

In more detail, the metro network has not reached the area of Eastern Attica, although there is a future forecast which indicates that the suburban railway currently noting 4 stations in the area, will serve cover more municipalities within the Prefecture especially in terms of the seaports located in the area, Lavrion and Rafina.

The transportation services available to the public refer to intercity and suburban buses, with an itinerary of 15-45 minutes, based on the weekday and taxi services. It is noted however that due to the underdeveloped transportation network in the area, most citizens and by-passers tend to make use of their own vehicles, thus adding the area problem of circulation.

