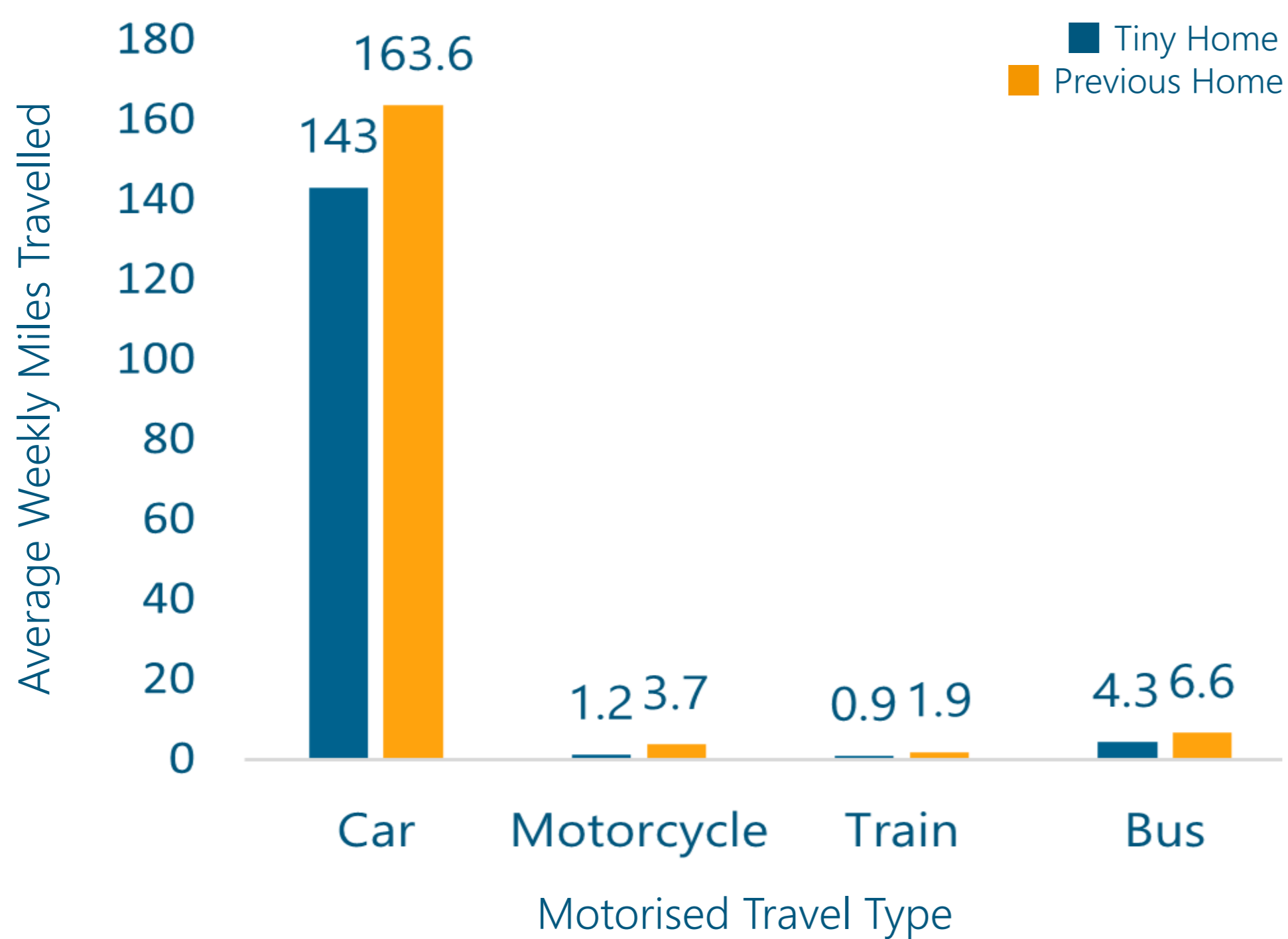




Averages of Weekly Motorised Travel Distance in Miles for Tiny Homes vs. Previous Homes



The tiny house movement is an architectural and social movement that is informed by an interest in downsizing, simplifying, and minimising one's living space with a strong culture of resource sharing and reducing environmental impact. It has emerged, particularly over the last decade, as a way of living which offers many social, economic, and environmental benefits (Anson, 2014), and as such considered one solution to many of the current housing problems such as undersupply and unaffordability.

The tiny house movement can play an important role in inspiring new development to be liveable, support sustainable travel and help address housing affordability and climate change. Research has found that new tiny house residents reported travelling less by car, motorcycle, bus, train, and airplane, driving more fuel-efficient cars than they did before downsizing, and more likely to car share with others (Saxton, 2019).

However, it is important to note that some participants reported driving more than they used to, with one of the main reasons being that they lived further away from their jobs and friends. This is why it is important to incorporate tiny house principles into urban areas rather than encouraging large developments far from public transport and other services. These are important reasons to legislate for tiny houses in policy and raise their awareness, so they can be developed and planned for more easily.

## Problems we're facing

### Nationally & Globally

- Climate change
- Unaffordable housing
- Cost of living

### Transport

- Car dependency
- Pollution
- The patronage & funding of public transport
- Transport inequalities
- Public realm quality

## Tiny house principles and opportunities

- Higher density housing
- Resource sharing
- Strong communities
- Downsizing
- Affordability
- Reducing the need to travel
- Walkability
- Modal shift to public transport & micromobility

## References:

Anson, A. (2014) "The world is my backyard": Romanticization, thoreauvian rhetoric, and constructive confrontation in the tiny house movement. In From sustainable to resilient cities: Global concerns and urban efforts. Emerald Group Publishing Limited.

Saxton, M.W. (2019) The ecological footprints of tiny home downsizers: an exploratory study (Doctoral dissertation, Virginia Tech).