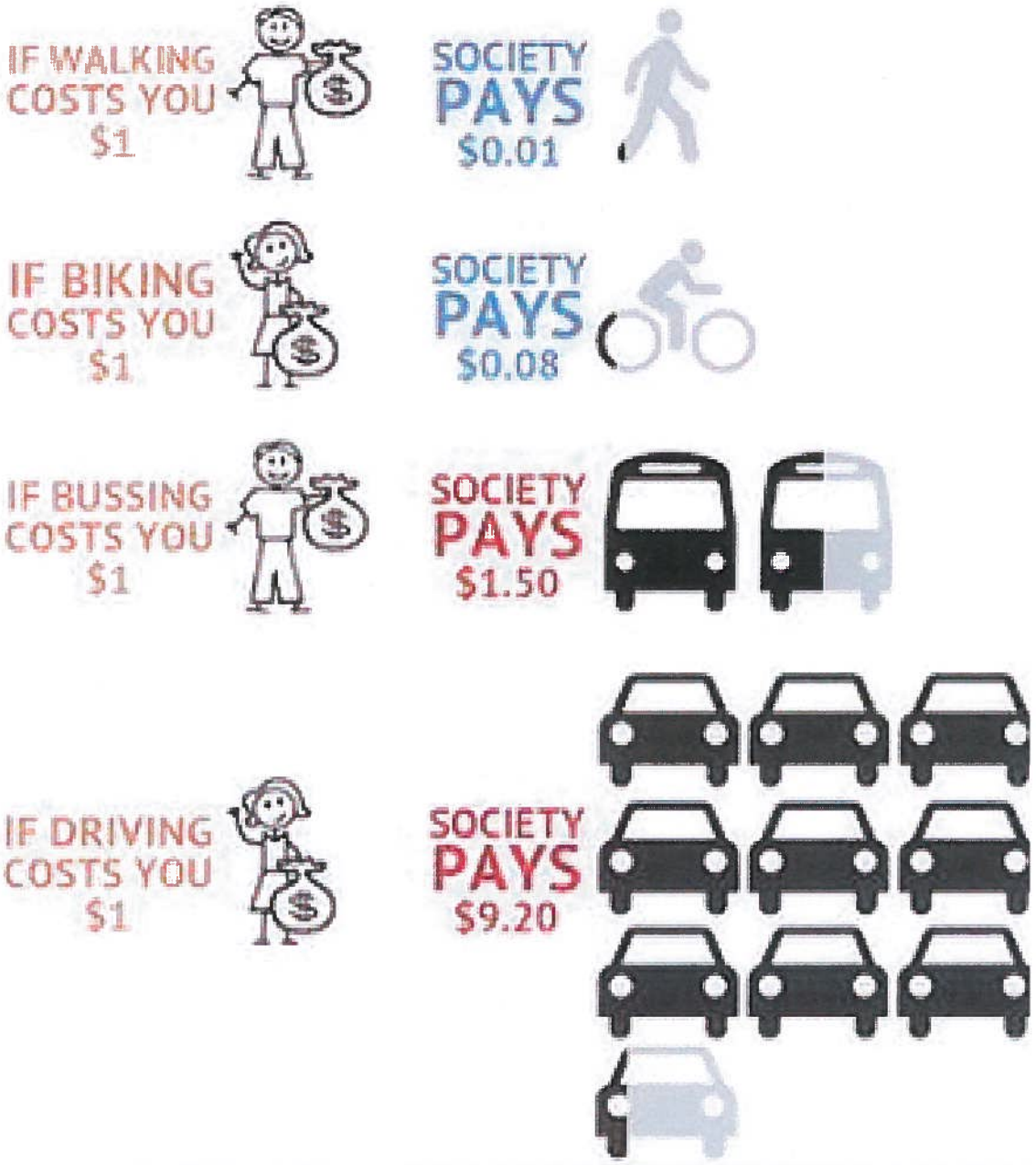
How much does your commute cost (or save) society?

Every time you travel you put money into the system, but you also cost the system. Your contribution to and burden on the system differs depending on how you travel.

For example, when you ride the bus you pay a fare – money into the system. Your burden on the system includes the cost of operating the bus, and also less obvious impacts like emissions and noise pollution.

By looking at the ratio of what we put in versus what we cost the system, we see that different ways of travelling are more subsidized than others.

The practice of taking these into tangible costs and benefits into consideration and assigning them a dollar value is known as "full cost accounting." While there are many ways of doing this, this infographic shows one example of how these costs and charges can be calculated.



Produced by Discourse Media, data by George Poulos. Calculate your commute at MovingForward.DiscourseMedia.org/CostofCommute