

How to Commute without Your Car



Why should you leave your car behind or share a ride?

► Save money on car costs and parking.

Many people underestimate the costs of driving alone. In 2012, according to AAA, the average cost is 59.6¢ per mile, or \$8,946 per year for a sedan, based upon 15,000 miles of annual driving—parking not included. To calculate the *True Cost of Driving*, visit www.commutesolutions.org/calc.htm

► Get a tax-free benefit.

Tell your employer you're eligible for a pre-tax payroll deduction of up to \$125 per month (2012 *benefit*) when you commute without your car. Through the Commuter Choice program you can cover bus or vanpool fares with pre-tax income—so you pay less income tax. See Section 132(f) of the federal tax code.

► Avoid the hunt for parking and frustration of traffic.

When you bike, bus or walk to work, you are the master of your own schedule and have no worries about parking or driving. If you car or vanpool, you may get preferred parking spots and can use the priority lanes on ramps.

► Be more fit and healthy.

Dane County's network of bike routes provide a great opportunity to build regular exercise into your commute. You can combine a bike and bus trip since all Metro buses are equipped with racks that accommodate bicycles. Walking to the bus stop—or to work—is a good way to get your daily exercise.

► Make our environment and community healthier.

Reducing your car use keeps our air healthy since vehicles cause 50% of Dane County's air pollution. You'll also help curb global warming, reduce energy consumption, and decrease traffic congestion.

What are the options to driving alone?

► Share a ride.

It's smart to share your ride, and your expenses. You can cut your daily commuting costs by 50% and save wear-and-tear on your vehicle and yourself.

Carpooling is a door-to-door commute option for a small group of people who live near each other. To connect with these neighbors, you can use the City of Madison's free ride-matching service at rideshare@cityofmadison.com or 266-7433. Visit www.cityofmadison.com/rideshare to learn more.

Vanpools are groups of 7–15 commuters who share the ride and travel cost by using a van supplied by the State of Wisconsin to commuters in the private and non-profit sectors as well as to state employees. The State maintains the van, pays for gas, handles scheduling, and finds parking. You pay a low monthly fee to cover these costs. Learn more about vanpooling at www.cityofmadison.com/rideshare

► Hop on the bus.

By taking the bus even some of the time, you will save money on gas, parking, and car maintenance. Use the time on the bus to read, chat, or just relax while you leave the driving to someone else.

When you ride Madison's Metro Transit, you can economize by purchasing a 31-Day Unlimited Ride Pass or a 10-Ride Card in advance. Or simply pay the fare when you board the bus. Discounts are available for low income or disabled riders and those over age 65.

Visit www.mymetrobus.com for detailed fare, route, accessibility and schedule information. Using *Transit Tracker*, you'll find live bus stop and arrival estimates for phone or your PC.

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If you need help planning your trip, just supply the origin, destination, and time of your trip, and a Metro customer service representative will be happy to route your trip for you 266-4466. Or you can use Google Trip Planner to plan your trip at www.mymetrobus.com. You'll find detailed trip itineraries, street views of stops and transfer points, along with information available in multiple languages.

You can also track your bus travel to calculate how much you save money and reduce pollution.

► Park and ride the bus.

Metro Transit's Park & Ride lots on the outskirts of Madison allow you to park your car for free and complete your commute on a Metro bus. All Metro buses are equipped with bike racks, so you can also combine biking and riding the bus.

► Ride your bike or walk.

Free bike maps are available at bike shops or call 266-6225. You can also download printable maps at www.cityofmadison.com/bikeMadison. Find bicycle policies and regulations, including bike registration and route information, too.

What's the best commuting option for you?

► Get a free personalized Ride Options Report.

Just register for the Rideshare Etc. Program at www.cityofmadison.com/rideshare (rideshare@cityofmadison.com or 266-7433) This free personalized service identifies all of the ways to get from your home to your workplace, including roughly 1500 area carpoolers, 70 vanpools, 60 Metro bus routes, as well as bike paths and walking options. The report will tell you about others in your area who are interested in carpooling or finding a biking companion. You may call the individuals or services directly to make your pick-up/drop-off arrangements.

What if I'm at work and need my car?

► Get a Guaranteed Ride Home —free.

You can get a free taxi ride home when you ride-share, bus, bike, or walk to work. If you are strand-



ded at work without your car, you're eligible for a Guaranteed Ride Home voucher for a trip to your home, to the doctor, day care center, or wherever you need to go.

When you register with the Rideshare Etc. Program and start carpooling, vanpooling, biking, busing, or walking to work, contact Rideshare. They will send the first voucher to your home address. After you use the first one, simply call 266-7433 to receive the next. Six vouchers per year are available, with a maximum value of \$75 per taxi ride. Just call for the taxi, sign the voucher, and give it to the driver. To register for Rideshare Etc. and receive your free vouchers, call 266-7433, email rideshare@cityofmadison.com or visit www.cityofmadison.com/rideshare

► Join a carsharing organization.

You can leave your car at home and still have access to a car during the workday if you work in Madison near one of many Community Car or Zipcar locations. Madison's convenient car sharing services offer a car by the hour when you need it during the day for an appointment or errand. Find car locations and learn more at www.communitycar.com or www.zipcar.com/wisc

► Hop on a B-cycle when you need to get around.

Thanks to the 27 bikesharing stations in Madison, B-cycle members can pick up a bike at any B-station, run an errand, and return it to that same station or any other station when they're done. Details about 225 available B-cycles are at Madison.Bcycle.com