

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 2008, according to AAA, the average household spent about \$9,158 a year on car expenses, not including parking. To calculate your annual car costs, 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 \$115 per month 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. Learn more at www.commuterchoice.com/

▶ 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 266-RIDE or rideshare@cityofmadison.com. 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 disabled riders and those over age 65.

Visit www.mymetrobus.com for detailed fare, route, accessibility and schedule information.

If you need help planning your trip, just supply the origin, destination, and time of your trip, and a Metro

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customer service representative will be happy to route your trip for you. You can also use the automated trip planner at www.mymetrobus.com.

▶ **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.

▶ **Ride your bike or walk.**

The City of Madison Bike Map is available at (608) 266-6225, or you can download it at www.cityofmadison.com/transp/bicycle.html. 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-RIDE. This free personalized service identifies all of the ways to get from your home to your workplace, including roughly 1,500 area carpools, 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 stuck at work without 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 an emergency comes up while you are at work without your car, you are eligible for a Guaranteed Ride Home voucher



for a taxi ride to your home, to the doctor, day care center, or wherever you need to go.

When you register through the Rideshare Etc. Program, the first voucher will be sent to your home address. After you use the first one you simply call 266-RIDE to receive the next voucher. Six vouchers per year are available, with a maximum value of \$75 per taxi ride. If an emergency comes up, you simply 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-RIDE, 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 locations. Madison's convenient car sharing service offers a car by the hour when you need it during the day for an appointment or errand. You just log in to reserve the car, then pick it up when you need it. Find car locations and learn more at www.communitycar.com