

LOSE THOSE
EXTRA MILES!

May 7–20



Trip Tips

How to Get Around 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. The average Madison household spends \$9,300 a year on car expenses, not including parking. To learn what your annual car costs are, visit www.healthyair.org

★ **Avoid the hunt for parking and frustration of traffic.**

If you car or vanpool, you get preferred parking spots and can use the priority lanes on highway ramps. When you bike or walk to work, you are the master of your own schedule and have no worries about parking. Metro Transit's Park & Ride lots on the Southeast and North sides of Madison allow you to park for free and complete your commute on a Metro bus.

★ **Be more fit and healthy—and get to work free.**

You can get your exercise while you commute. Even if you can't walk to work, walking to and from the bus stop is an effective way to get your recommended daily exercise. You can also combine a bike and bus trip. All Metro buses are equipped with racks that accommodate two bicycles. Dane County's network of bike routes provide a great opportunity to get exercise and clear your head on the way to work.

★ **Make our environment and community healthier.**

Reducing car use is the single most significant action you can take to protect the environment. You help improve air quality, curb global warming, reduce energy consumption and decrease traffic congestion. Plus getting outside and breathing fresh air is good for your mind and body, and you don't have to make a separate trip to the gym.

What can you try instead of 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.rideshareetc.org/ 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. 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.rideshareetc.org/

★ **Hop on the bus.**

By taking the bus even some of the time, you will save hundreds of dollars a year on gas, parking, and car maintenance. You can use the time on the bus to read, chat, balance your checkbook, or just relax while you leave the driving to someone else.

When you ride Metro Transit, you have your choice among these low-cost fare options:

31-Day pass (unlimited rides) **\$47.00**

Adult 10-ride card **\$12.00**

(\$7.50 for seniors and disabled riders)

One-way fare **\$1.50**

(\$0.75 for seniors and disabled riders)

One-Day Pass (unlimited rides for one day) **\$3.40**

Visit www.cityofmadison.com/metro/ for detailed route and schedule information.

If you need help planning your trip, just supply the origin, destination, and time of your trip, and Metro will e-mail you a personalized trip itinerary.

All Metro routes provide accessible service, and service animals are allowed on buses to assist people with disabilities. Metro also offers paratransit service for passengers unable to use fixed-route buses. To request information in accessible formats, or to schedule a paratransit ride, call 266-4466 (TTY 267-1143).

★ **Park and ride the bus.**

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

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Trip Tips

How to Get Around without Your Car, continued

★ 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/BikeMap/BikeMap.html

You can download a bike map of Dane County at www.madisonareampo.org/MAPPDF/public_bike_map_2001.pdf or call 266-4336.

Visit www.cityofmadison.com/transp/bicycle.html for bicycle policies and regulations, including bike registration and route information.

★ Run your errands online.

You can reduce car trips by banking or shopping online.

What's the best commuting option for you?

You can get a Ride Options Report, at no charge or obligation, when you register for the Rideshare Etc. Program at www.cityofmadison.com/rideshare/index.cfm, rideshare@cityofmadison.com, or 266-RIDE. This free personalized service identifies all of the ways to get from your home to your workplace, including 1,500 area carpools, 78 vanpools, 63 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 rideshare, 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 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. Three vouchers per year are available, and the maximum value of the taxi ride is \$50. 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/index.cfm

★ Become a Community Car member.

You can leave your car at home and still have access to a car during the workday. If you work near one of eleven Community Car locations near downtown Madison, consider membership. Perfect for meetings and errands during the day, Madison's convenient car sharing service offers a car by the hour when you need it. Membership includes everything, even gas, insurance and car washes.

Community Car members share access to a fleet of hybrid-electric and high gas-mileage vehicles located in reserved parking spots throughout Madison. Whether you need a car for a meeting across town or a business convention in Milwaukee, just log in to reserve the car, then pick it up when you need it. Find the car locations and learn more at www.communitycar.com

Owning, insuring, maintaining and parking a car can be very expensive. If you only need a car occasionally and can use Community Car for your personal and work-related needs, maybe you can give up the cost and hassle of owning a car or second car.