

Rethinking Transportation Workshop

Minnesota Regional Arts Council

August 13, 2015

noon	Welcome + Introduction + Opening Activity
12:20 – 1:15	Transportation Options—Accessibility, Travel Behavior, Trends
1:15 – 1:30	Break
1:30 – 2:15	Site Evaluation & Route Planning
2:15 - 2:45	car2go, Josh Johnson & James Vierling
2:45 – 3:15	HOURCAR, Scott Vargo
3:15	walk to Green Line station for 3:23 train. Bike on train demo.
3:30 – 4:15	Walk audit, mural tour, Nice Ride station, bicycle boulevard
4:23	Catch Route 16 bus. Bike on bus demo.
4:40	Debrief & adjourn by 5pm

Presenters:

Hilary Reeves, Transit for Livable Communities

Erin Kindell, MN GreenCorps Member at Transit for Livable Communities



Compensation Options & Steps to Encourage Use of All Modes



The biggest change can be to create an office culture that is accepting of all forms of transportation and equally rewards them.

Note: Tax advice should always come from legal, human resources, and financial advisors of each organization.

- 1. Transportation Pretax Benefits.** Payment for transit passes or vanpooling (up to \$130/month). Bicycle commuter expenses reimbursed up to \$20/month. Pre-tax means that the expense is taken out of your paycheck before all taxes (federal, state and social security) are taken out and excluded from gross income. Can only be used for commute expenses, not travel during the day.
Administrative process: The employer sets up a Transit Expense (TEA) Plan to allow employer to set aside payroll deductions taken on a tax-free basis in two separate accounts (the two separate accounts are parking and non-drive alone options) to pay for qualified parking (\$250/mo max), transit or vanpool (\$130/mo max) or bicycle expenses (up to \$20/mo max). The simplest approach is for employee to commit to a regular monthly pre-tax transportation benefit amount.
- 2. Metropass discounted transit passes.** Normally a monthly “all you can ride” pass is \$113. With Metropass, an “all you can ride pass,” the cost is \$76. There must be at least 10 people using transit at a given employer. Employer has to commit to doing it for 1 year, then can shift to monthly.
Administrative process: Metropass administrator tracks transit passes of employees, pays Metro Transit for passes.
- 3. My Fare Card.** Designed for smaller organizations/companies. Employer coordinates purchase of up to 100 fare cards (Go To Cards) and submits payment for all. Doing this would be one way to equalize transportation benefits, especially if free parking is offered.
- 4. With Metropass or My Fare Card** Employers can also opt to pay a share of the cost, making it even cheaper for employees (employer contribution is tax-deductible for for-profit employers).
- 5. Direct Payments for Transit, Bicycling, Walking, Carpooling.** Ideally employers would at least minimally compensate employees that don’t drive in a manner comparable to the cost to the employer of free parking.
Administrative process: Employees need to track mode to work. Employer needs to set amount paid per transit/bike/walk/carpool trip. At some organizations, a payment (of \$xx per trip) is added to employee pay check. At others, employees must achieve a minimum number of trips per month for payments to occur. In some cases, payments go to the employee’s Health Savings Account.
- 6. Employer memberships or contributions to car or bike sharing.** Organizations can set up memberships with HOURCAR and Car2Go so that employees can easily use them for work trips. Individuals have to also sign up for membership. For Nice Ride Minnesota bike-sharing, employer agrees to contribute at least \$15 to cost of individual subscriptions of employees. Nice Ride contributes an additional \$15 per subscription,

for a total savings of at least \$30 off the annual cost of \$65. Individuals sign up on their own using a group code.

7. **Cash-Out Parking.** If employer contracts for parking for employees, but an employee doesn't need that parking, compensate that employee for the value of the parking. A contract for parking allows for an expense to cash-out and reallocate to non-car commute options.
8. **Flex or Telework.**
9. **Wellness programs** that encourage bicycling, walking, transit ("active transportation").
10. **Employer-sponsored infrastructure, amenities, practices.** Here are several options.
 - a. Provide multimodal directions on web site and for events, meetings, etc. Make the most of your location near transit and other options.
 - b. For meetings and appointments during the day, encourage use of transit, bicycling, walking or sharing options. As noted above, organizational memberships or contributions to these options signify approval.
 - c. Validate for all modes, not just parking. If your organization typically reimburses visitors for parking for a meeting, make sure to provide comparable reimbursement for transit, bicycling, walking.
 - d. Changing room and shower facilities. Ideally organizations provide these facilities such that employees can arrive on bike or foot and be able to change before entering work environment (example: Target).
 - e. Secure & covered bicycle parking.
 - f. Convert parking space to bike parking.
 - g. Priority parking for carpools or electric vehicles.
 - h. Add more bike parking near building for visitors and staff.
 - i. Provide bike pump & other basic bike maintenance equipment.
 - j. Display in visitor areas bus & train information, a map of nearby bicycle routes and parking for bikes and vehicles as well as HOURCAR and Nice Ride stations (in season). If available, display real-time transit information.
 - k. Assign a staff person to be a commuter resource person and/or wellness person (coordinate weekly or monthly outings, offer ride-matching for carpooling or bike buddies, offer training/education within offices, such as commuter fair, bike mechanics or safety). Ideally make this work part of the employee's job description.
 - l. Participate as an organization in active transportation events, such as Bike to Work Day, or encourage staff participation in events such as Open Streets. Participate or encourage staff to participate in transportation projects affecting you. This could be new bike plans, street projects, or transit projects.
 - m. Clear snow from sidewalks near your location.
 - n. Adopt a bus shelter with Metro Transit.

For more information on commuter benefits, contact your local Transit Management Organization, listed here: <http://www.metrotransit.org/outreach>

TRANSPORTATION LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATION

«ON THE GREEN LINE»



Adopt innovative best practices for transportation and foster a more equitable, sustainable workplace!

With the opening of the Green Line, more bicycle routes, and options for car and bike sharing, more people have a choice about how they get to work and other places. These new options can open up new ways of approaching the workday, with results that are more environmentally friendly, save money, and create better connections with the community.

Transit for Livable Communities is launching a new program to encourage nonprofit organizations to be leaders in rethinking transportation in the workplace. We've teamed up with the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits with the goal of establishing transportation best practices and certifying nonprofit transportation leaders.

BENEFITS FOR NONPROFITS

- Reduce transportation costs for employees and communities served
- Improve employee health & productivity
- Provide innovative benefits for employee retention and recruitment
- Support transportation options for a diversity of staff, clients, & visitors
- Take advantage of the Green Line and connecting bus service to support transportation options
- Be recognized for leadership in transportation best practices
- Foster a stronger connection with your community
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which results in less air pollution and cleaner air

GET CERTIFIED!

- Complete an easy transportation assessment of your organization
- Select at least one representative to attend a Transportation Options workshop to learn about and experience transportation systems
- Complete a certification application and agree to encourage multiple modes of transportation within your organization and potentially adopt new transportation practices, benefits, and/or infrastructure
- Distribute pre- and post-program surveys to measure change

LEARN MORE

tlcminnesota.org/leader.html

CONTACT

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Do you or your coworkers arrive to work stressed out?

A study of commuters in Portland, OR, found that commuting by active modes correlates with higher levels of "commute well-being."

Hidden bonus: time on a bus or train can be extra work time or new-found personal time.

Do benefit packages at your organization equally reward different forms of commuting?

The latest MCN salary survey shows that 27.5% of organizations provide free parking or pay the cost for their employees but only 4.6% provide any contribution for arriving by other modes.

Are you or the audiences you're trying to reach spending too much on getting around?

The cost of getting places--transportation--is one of the highest in every household's budget. The American Automobile Association reports that the average annual cost of owning a car is more than \$8000 for Twin Cities residents. If it's possible to leave the car at home or avoid buying a second car, the potential savings range from \$2000-5000 or more per year.

Do your organization's transportation practices reflect the communities you serve?

According to the League of American Bicyclists, between 2001 and 2009, cycling increased the fastest among African Americans, Hispanics, and Asian Americans. Those three groups also account for a growing share of all bike trips, rising from 16% in 2001 to 21% in 2009.



Use the tables below to create your own transportation budget. Compare what you will spend on car ownership with your costs for transit, bicycling, walking, and car sharing. How much can you save each month or each year using these other transportation options?

Individualized Car Budget

Car Make/Model/Year	Purchase Cost/Down Payment
Item	MONTHLY Cost
Financing/Monthly Payment	
Taxes & Fees (i.e.: tabs, plates, tickets/towing fees, parking costs @ home or work, etc.)	
Insurance	
Fuel	
Scheduled Maintenance (i.e.: oil changes, tires, wipers, light bulbs, battery, wheel alignment, parts, etc.)	
Unscheduled Repairs/Unexpected Failures (i.e.: broken glass, flat tires, motor problems, accidents, etc.)	
MONTHLY TOTAL	
ANNUAL TOTAL FOR PURCHASE YEAR (Down payment + Monthly total x 12)	
ANNUAL TOTAL AFTER PURCHASE YEAR (Monthly total x 12)	



Individualized Transit/Bike/Walk Budget

Item	Purchase cost	Monthly Cost
Refurbished bicycle		
Light, lock, helmet, basket and/or rack		
Bike maintenance		
Winter tires		
Rain and cold gear		
Used 2-kid bike trailer		
Pedestrian cart for shopping		
Metro Transit bus/train		
Taxis/rides w/family, friends		
Car sharing Membership		
Bike Membership		
PURCHASE TOTAL		
MONTHLY TOTAL		
ANNUAL TOTAL FOR PURCHASE YEAR (Purchase total + monthly total x 12)		
ANNUAL TOTAL AFTER PURCHASE YEAR (Monthly total x 12)		

CAR vs. TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS: A Cost Comparison

	Car	Bike/Walk/Transit
Monthly Cost (after purchase year)		
Annual Cost (after purchase year)		
RATIO of costs	:	



Not sure how much it costs to get around? The numbers below will help you create your personal transportation budget.

CHANGE IN MONTHLY CAR EXPENSES *

While monthly bills for taxes, fees and financing may decrease over the years, the *cost of insurance, fuel, maintenance and repairs increase* so that owning a car actually costs more each year (even as one is paying it off).

	~Monthly costs for purchase year	~ Δ in monthly costs for subsequent year (an average of year 2,3,4,5)
Financing (Car Payment + Interest)	\$350 (or more)	n/a
Taxes & Fees	\$30/month	-31%
Insurance	\$140/month	+9%
Fuel	\$150/month	+7%
Maintenance	\$50	+42%
Repairs	\$25	+51%
Annual cost	\$8,940	\$9,510

*Costs & percentages are based on a 2008 Hyundai Accent using Edmunds.com's True Cost to Own Calculator®

AVERAGE PRICE RANGES for bike/walk/bus

Refurbished Bike	\$100 to \$400
Rear & Front Lights	\$10 to \$60
U-Lock (high quality)	\$45 to \$60
Basket or Rack	\$30 to \$60
Winter Tires	\$25 to \$250
Rain & Cold Gear	\$60 to \$200
Used 2-kid Bike Trailer	\$60 to \$200
Pedestrian Shopping Cart	\$30 to \$75
Taxis / Rides with family/friends:	\$5 - \$15 / ride
Car membership:	\$5 to \$15 / month + \$8 to \$6/hour + 25¢ / mi
NiceRide annual membership:	\$65
Average bike repairs:	\$10/month
Metro Transit Passes/Fare	\$1.75 (non-rush hour) or \$2.25 (rush hour) or \$3.00 (express) or \$59 or \$85 or \$113.50 (31 day passes) or \$22 (7 day pass) or \$18.50 (10 rides)



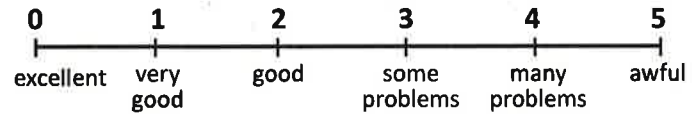
Walkability Checklist

Take a walk and use this checklist to rate your street's walkability.

Read the checklist before you begin and, as you go, take note of what you would like to change and where. Take photos too!

Location of Walk: _____

Rating Scale:



1. Did you feel safe and unimpeded?

- Yes No:
- No sidewalks or paths
 - Sidewalks were broken or cracked
 - Obstacles present (i.e. vegetation, construction, snow, debris, etc.)
 - Sign-posts, utility poles, fire hydrants, benches not properly anchored.
 - Inadequate space
 - There isn't enough light at night
 - There are intimidating dogs/people/etc
 - Vulnerable spaces with few protective measures (emergency phones, alt. routes)
 - Other _____

Rating (circle one): 0 1 2 3 4 5

2. Is there a sense of community or liveability?

- Yes No:
- No green spaces, parks or seating for recreation or rest
 - No access to comprehensive or healthy food outlets
 - No access to shops or entertainment (movie theatre, museum, restaurants, galleries, venues, etc.)
 - No public amenities like bathrooms, water fountains, etc.
 - Litter or trash present
 - Buildings have blank walls providing no sense of pedestrian interest
 - Other _____

Rating (circle one): 0 1 2 3 4 5

3. Did drivers act responsibly?

- Yes No:
- Drivers do not adjust their speed as needed
 - Drivers passed too closely
 - Motorists do not yield to pedestrians and bicyclists before changing lanes, turning, parking or opening car doors
 - Bicyclists do not give alert call for pedestrian and/or ride at a safe speed
 - Buses do not move at a considerable speed and stop when prompted
 - Other _____

Rating (circle one): 0 1 2 3 4 5

4. Was it easy to cross streets?

- Yes No:
- Road was too wide
 - Traffic signals made pedestrians wait too long or didn't give enough time to cross the street
 - Needed crossed striped or traffic signals
 - Obstacles such as parked cars, trees, etc. that block the view of traffic
 - Need curb ramps or existing ramps need repair
 - Other _____

Rating (circle one): 0 1 2 3 4 5

How does your street stack up? Add up your ratings and decide!

1. _____	0-5 Celebrate! You have a great street for walking.	11-15 Your street needs lots of work. But don't despair.
2. _____		
3. _____		
4. _____	6-10 Celebrate a little. Your street is pretty good.	16-20 Your street is a disaster! You deserve better.
Total _____		