

CHALLENGE

your notions about commuting

The Menu

walk

Who should try it?

People who live close enough to their workplaces to arrive within a reasonable time.

Advantages?

- Can't beat the price (free).
- Walking promotes a healthy heart, good lungs, strong bones and stress reduction.
- Skyways are made for you.
- Traffic jams are common; people pile-ups aren't.
- Creates no harmful air emissions.
- Choose your own speed; sprint, jog, stride, or amble.
- You've heard of road rage, but have you ever heard of sidewalk rage?

Disadvantages?

- Rain, snow, sleet or gloom of night hamper the walker.
- You have to carry your stuff in a backpack or briefcase.
- High-fashion platform shoes quickly become impractical.
- If you need to drive, you have to hunt for a parking spot.
- Got kids to drop off at daycare? 'Nuff said.

bike

Who should try it?

People who like riding, live close to bikeways, know the rules of the road for bikes, and enjoy average health.

Advantages?

- Get to work faster than walking, while still enjoying the great outdoors.
- Parking can be a snap, especially if your workplace has bike lockers.
- A growing network of trails and bike lanes allows bike commuters to avoid car traffic.
- Biking is a great aerobic exercise, with all the attendant benefits.
- The only fuel needed is a decent breakfast, and there are no air emissions.
- You can carry your stuff in saddlebags.

Disadvantages?

- Bicycle thieves.
- Weather surprises.
- Big hills.
- Flat tires.
- Passengers are problematic.
- Gotta shower, or else.

bus

Who should try it?

People who live within easy distance of a busline or a Park and Ride lot. Also great for those who loathe winter driving, and bicyclists without snow tires.

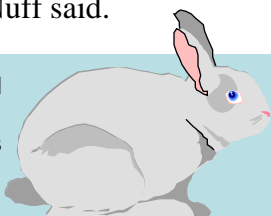
Advantages?

- Usually costs less than driving, saves money on parking fees.
- You can spend your commute reading, napping, conversing or daydreaming without getting in any accidents.
- The bus is heated in the winter and cooled in the summer when you board.
- Buses get to use "sane" lanes.
- Express buses get you to work as fast as your car.
- Many workplaces provide deals on bus passes, and some even support the MetroPass.

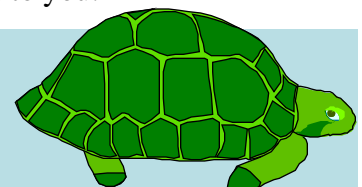
Disadvantages?

- You might have to wait for the bus, regardless of weather.
- You may have to stand.
- You can't control who sits next to you.

Momma said there'd be days like this



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pool

Who should try it?

People who live greater distances from work, and those who like to start the day with social interaction.

Advantages?

- Cost of driving is divided by the number of poolers, sparing everyone's pocketbook.
- If everyone drives, it reduces wear and tear on poolers' vehicles.
- If some people like to drive and others don't or can't, it can still work well.
- Metro Commuter Services will help you form a pool.
- You get door-to-door service.
- If you pool with neighbors or colleagues, you can catch up daily on the gossip.
- If you need to go home sick, there is a Guaranteed Ride Home program.

Disadvantages?

- Individuals may have to give up some flexibility in their schedules for the common good.
- You have to call and make arrangements if you are unable to pool.
- More people could criticize your driving.

alternative vehicle

Who should try it?

Anyone! More efficient conventional vehicles (30 mpg or better), vehicles with more effective pollution equipment (Low Emission Vehicles or LEV), or hybrid gas/electric vehicles are great options for anyone. In addition, the new electric assisted bikes have real potential for bike commuting.

Advantages?

- You'll use less gasoline (up to 70 mpg for hybrids).
- Less gasoline translates to less air pollution.
- Many automakers produce cars with great mileage.
- Two auto makers (Honda and Toyota) have hybrids on the market this year.
- In 2004, all cars will meet the standards for LEVs.
- All your neighbors in SUVs will be talking about you.

Disadvantages?

- While efficient cars are widely available, LEVs and hybrids aren't widely available -- yet.
- New technology can be costly.
- The alternative vehicles don't have a track record for longevity.

clean fuel

Who should try it?

Anyone who wants cleaner air without changing their current driving needs and habits.

Advantages?

- Flexible fuel vehicles are able to use E85, a mostly ethanol blend. (Ethanol is renewable, unlike fossil fuels.)
- E85 is widely available (45 locations in the Twin Cities Metro area).
- Low-sulfur gas can be used in all vehicles.
- Price of E85 and low-sulfur gas is same or comparable.

Disadvantages?

- You have to fill your tank at stations that sell the product.

Stress? Who needs it?

