

U-Commute News



MAY 2005

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON TRANSPORTATION OFFICE

How Do We Get Here?

Critical Commutes and Critical Commuters

In this issue:

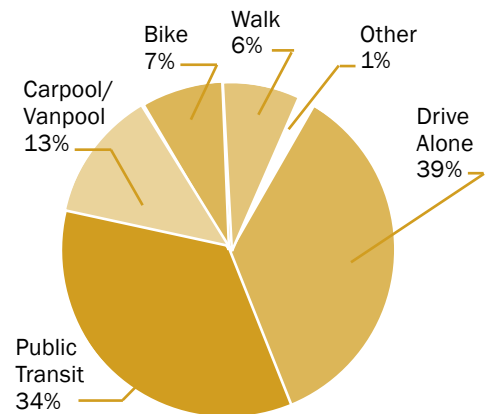
How Do We Get Here?	1
Commuter Profile	2
Vanpools	2
Commuter Gurus	3
Transit Changes	3
Walk In 2005	4

We all make our way to campus. We walk. We take the bus. We ride a bike. We carpool or we drive alone. By whatever mode we choose, our experiences getting here can significantly affect how we feel about our work. A U-PASS can help make your commute a positive part of your day.

How do we get here? Most of us choose alternatives to driving alone for the trips we make to campus. Some of us do so to avoid traffic congestion and the expenses associated with driving. Others prefer to let someone else do the driving. Some of us just like to bike or walk. We may be motivated by a concern for the environment or the desire to work exercise into our commute.

The U-PASS program was designed to give you choices. It includes incentives for carpooling, bus passes, merchant discounts, and the emergency taxi ride home program. With a U-PASS you can even park on campus at a discounted rate on the days you really have to drive. The U-PASS lets you mix up your commute in ways that work for you.

To help you make well-informed commute choices, the Transportation Office produces the U-Commute News newsletter. It provides up-to-date information on your commute options, updates on transit and parking, and stories about how other UW employees approach their regular treks to campus.



Less than 40 percent of UW employees drive alone to campus. Nearly half either take the bus or ride in a carpool or vanpool. The rest ride a bike or walk.

**Tell us what you think.
Take the U-Commute
Survey online at
www.washington.edu/upass**

We want to know how well this newsletter works for you. Do you find the information useful and interesting? Do you like getting a printed copy, or would you prefer to receive this information through our website? What would you like to see more (or less) of?

Thank you for helping us help you with your commute.

Commuter Profile

Nigel Heinsius
Web Publisher
Publications Services

Mix-It-Up Over Water

At 6:50 am, Nigel Heinsius flashes his U-PASS at the dock and boards the earliest water taxi from West Seattle. After securing his bike in one of the special spaces provided with bungee cords, he joins a couple of dozen people for the short ride to the Argosy terminal in downtown Seattle—ETA 7:05.

“Twelve minutes is just enough time to scan the paper, get your iPod playlists in order, or have a quick cup of coffee. Everyone is very friendly and talkative on the boat.”

The water taxi is only one leg of Nigel’s commute to campus. He pedals the last part—another 5.5 miles—and can reach his office at Publications Services before 7:30.

“There is a medium hill up Western to the Pike Place Market. Then a -MEAN- hill with cobblestones up to First Ave. I cut over to Dexter which has a very friendly bike lane down to Fremont. At this time in the morning there are not too many cars on the road so it’s a pleasant ride. Finally, I hop on the Burke-Gilman Trail to campus.”

Nigel isn’t always able to bike to work, or spend a quarter of an hour relaxing on the boat—there are days when he has to bring his car. But, he’s glad he has the option of a mix-it-up commute.

“I really like biking to work because it makes me feel more energetic all day. On the days I drive in, grabbing a coffee and doughnut on the way in, I just don’t feel as lively. Maybe it’s the doughnut!”



Transportation and Parking Fee Changes

The second phase of the stepped increases in U-PASS and Parking fees approved by the Board of Regents in 2004 will go into effect on July 1, 2005.

The new prices will be as follows:

- ◆ U-PASS- \$57 per quarter for staff and faculty
- ◆ SOV parking permits- \$232.86 per quarter
- ◆ Individual commuter tickets- \$2.80 with a U-PASS and \$4.75 without
- ◆ Carpool parking permits- \$15 per month
- ◆ Impromptu carpools- \$.60 per vehicle per day in E-1 and \$.78 per vehicle per day on upper campus. Carpools require participants to have current U-PASSes and money in a Husky Card™ account.

For more complete information on parking rates, visit www.washington.edu/admin/parking

Vanpools Seeking Riders

The following vanpools are currently seeking new riders. To find out more, go to the U-PASS web site at www.washington.edu/upass/getting_here/vanpools

Bainbridge Island to UW

Bremerton to UW

Des Moines/Burien to UW-S1

Kent/Renton to UW

Kingston to Safeco/UW

Kirkland to Safeco/UW

Lake Stevens to UW

Mariner H.S. to Northgate

Marysville to UW

Mill Creek to Safeco/UW

Monroe to UW

Poulsbo to UW

Poulsbo/Kingston to UW

Snohomish to UW

Southworth to UW

West Seattle to UW

Whidbey Island to UW

Whidbey to Fremont/Ballard

June Transit Service Changes

King County Metro has announced several changes to its University District bus service that will go into effect on Saturday, June 4.

Route 7 will be split into two separate routes. The portion serving the University District, Capitol Hill, and Downtown Seattle will become Route 49 and will provide service to UW every 15 minutes during most hours. A separate route, retaining the Route 7 name, will provide service between Rainier Beach and Downtown Seattle. Operating as two shorter routes, buses will be better able to stay on schedule.

Route 9 will become a limited-stop express route between Rainier Beach and Capitol Hill only. It will no longer connect to the UW.

Summer Bus Service Reduction- Metro cuts back on trips to UW each summer when our population decreases. With service hours saved by temporarily suspending low-demand trips, Metro is able to fund additional trips during the fall, winter and spring quarters when the service is most needed. Routes affected by the trip reduction are: Routes 31, 48, 65, 67, 68, 75, 167, 197, 205, 271, 272, 277, 372.

Go to our home page, www.washington.edu/upass/ for detailed information.

Please direct your comments regarding Metro service changes to customer.comments@metrokc.gov



Bus Tunnel Closing for Retrofit

Beginning September 24, 2005, the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel will close for two years to be retrofitted for future use by both buses and light rail vehicles.

Buses that now operate in the tunnel, including the popular 71, 72, and 73 express service to UW, will use surface streets instead.

What can bus riders expect? Metro estimates this change will increase the time it takes for buses to travel through downtown by about 5 minutes. To keep buses, cars, trucks, and pedestrians moving during the temporary closure, Metro, Sound Transit, Community Transit and the City of Seattle are making over \$16 million in downtown street improvements and other mitigation efforts.

Most people who ride any bus through downtown Seattle will see some change to their travel routine. Resources that can help you learn how your commute will be affected include:

- ◆ www.seattletunnel.org, and
- ◆ <http://transit.metrokc.gov/up/tunnel/tunnel-project>.

Commuter Gurus Get Answers

There is a new way for UW employees to share their concerns about commuting. Parking Services and the Transportation Office have formed a new group called Commuter Gurus to help spread the word about campus commuting and parking options. Gurus learn about UW's transportation programs, and they are given resources they can use to help keep their departments current. So far, more than 70 UW faculty and staff have signed on to be Commuter Gurus.

Be the person in your office with the answers to questions like:

“What bus do I take when my car is in the shop?”

“How do carpools park on campus?”

“What are the transportation options for campus visitors?”

Join us online at: www.washington.edu/admin/parking/uwguru.html.



Transportation Systems Manager Paul Roybal shares information about the upcoming “smart card” transition, and answers questions from Commuter Gurus.

Walk to Work. Walk at Lunch. Walk to meetings.



The third UW Walk In Challenge is in full stride! The challenge rewards staff and faculty who make walking a part of their commute.

Walkers win prizes for points earned by walking to campus or on errands during the day. They can also earn points by participating in the Walk of the Week and Campus Clues. A Quote of the Week is selected from submissions to the Walk In discussion forum. The first week's featured quote was written by Leslie Zeman:

*A bush full of birds;
Many different voices
As I walk to work*

The Spring Walk In started on May 1st with more than 250 people walking as individuals or on one of 21 teams. Prizes will be awarded for participation in May, and again in June. There is still time to join in the fun—get a new team together, or sign-up as an individual and start walking. Sign-up now at: www.washington.edu/upass/walkin.

Mark you calendar, because this year Walk In will continue in the fall. Plan to put back on your walking shoes and step out for prizes and recognition from September 1 through October 31.

WWW.WASHINGTON.EDU/UPASS

U-Commute News is published twice a year for staff and faculty at the University of Washington. For more information, or to offer comments/suggestions, visit our web site at www.washington.edu/upass or email us at upass@u.washington.edu.



UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON
TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
BOX 355212
1127 BOAT STREET
SEATTLE, WA 98105-6709

If the name or address above is incorrect, please request a change through your payroll coordinator or go to my UW at <http://myuw.washington.edu/> to make changes directly. Our mailing list is generated through HEPPS. We are unable to make individual changes.

Simplify Life & Save Paper.
Request U-Commute online at
www.washington.edu/upass