

Rachel Aronson



Cutting car trips was easy in the sense that Seattle is very walk, bike, and ride friendly. Almost always, I can technically get where I need to go without using a car. However, motivation was sometimes harder to come by. The Walk Bike Ride Challenge was a good way to get me off my butt when I might have taken the easier way and driven.

Taking the Challenge changed the way I commuted around Seattle. I realized that often it's faster to bike than drive - especially in rush hour or when driving to congested areas, like the U-district or South Lake Union.

My favorite experience during the Walk Bike Ride Challenge was biking from Ballard to Greenlake, over Phinney Ridge. I wouldn't have done it before, or even thought that I could do it! I also had the satisfaction of biking from Ballard to First Hill for a doctor's appointment, and having the doctor compliment me on my low blood pressure. Not driving = good for you!

For those who want to take the Challenge - find your motivator. Maybe it's your time (seriously, biking can be faster than driving!), your money or your health (cars run on money and make you fat, bikes run on fat and save you money). Not paying for gas is pretty awesome.

Dave Bishop



I'm happy to share my feedback. I work in Everett and driving would be easier and faster than the bus but I like that I can bike to the bus and then catch up on my reading.

The biggest obstacle I faced was that there are no direct busses from Magnolia to Everett. So I chose to ride my bike to the U-District to catch the 510. However that presented a new obstacle as the bike racks would be full and I'd have to wait for later busses.

So instead I started riding the Interbay trail down to Myrtle Edwards and along the waterfront to catch the 510 at King Street Station and secure a rack spot. I enjoyed the early morning ride along the waterfront and the views of Mt. Rainier and the city skyline. On the way home, I still got off in the U-District and rode the Burke Gilman trail to the Fremont Bridge and biked along the ship canal and the Nickerson Street bypass which is great.

I'm going to invest in some bike lights and rain gear so I can continue to ride during the fall and possibly the winter. To those considering trying it, I would say you may lose some time but you can use it to catch up on your reading, phone calls or use your smart phones while on the bus. You can save a little cash by not filling your gas tank that often, and you get some great exercise and see some parts of Seattle that you might otherwise miss. I also wasn't so stressed out from bad traffic/drivers on the freeway when I got home.

Katie Bernhardt

I found cutting car trips was easy since I barely use the car anyways because gas is so expensive nowadays. The Walk Bike Ride Challenge gave me a little more motivation to not use it and take the bus instead.

The biggest obstacle I faced was grocery shopping. I only live about 3/4 of a mile away from the store, so I walk there and back, or if I have really heavy items, I will walk there and take a bus back.

Taking the challenge changed my commute in Seattle as I definitely walked a lot more places than usual. My favorite experience during the challenge was just feeling a little better about doing my part to help reduce carbon emissions. **For those people thinking about taking the Walk Bike Ride challenge – try it.** It's way too easy to do here in Seattle where we have a great public transport system.

Christine Lopez



Since I work downtown, taking the challenge was easy. The bus is very convenient! It took some time to adjust to the schedule changes but other than that, it was a smooth trip. The Walk Bike Ride Challenge was an extra incentive.

Did taking the Walk Bike Ride Challenge alter the way you commute around Seattle?
Not too much since I don't want to pay for parking anyway.

My favorite experience during the Challenge was going to Gasworks Park and not having to fight for parking.

My advice for those considering the challenge is to try it for a month and you will see how easy and cost effective it is.