

The Insider's Answers on Green Transportation

Can I save money if I used mass transit rather than drive to Rush?

If you switch to mass-transit options to get to Rush, you may pocket considerable savings in auto insurance. For consumers who don't drive long distances, insurance companies often offer discounts. If you use mass transit options to travel to Rush but keep your car, call your insurance company to see if you qualify for a lower rate.

Potential savings: Drivers who cut back to fewer than 7,500 miles a year can often save 5% - 15% off annual premiums (depending on the carrier). According to the Insurance Information Institute, the average driver pays \$817 each year for auto insurance coverage. Your discount could annually average at least \$40.85 up to \$122.55. So, you will be helping the environment and your checkbook.

Do employees who drive energy-efficient cars to Rush receive any special advantages in the new parking garage?

Employees who drive hybrid or energy-efficient cars will have the opportunity to take advantage of preferred parking in the new staff and student garage. Twenty-five parking spots are reserved for energy-efficient vehicles on a first-come, first-serve basis (next to the elevator on the second floor). All hybrid cars are eligible to park in this section, as well as other energy-efficient cars recognized by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy as LEED-certified. You can view a list of LEED-certified cars on the Rush intranet.



A placard for your dashboard is required to park a LEED-certified car in one of these spaces -- and the spaces are monitored. A printable copy is available on the intranet. You can also stop by the parking office on the ground floor of the main parking garage, weekdays between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. for a free copy.

Can biking to Rush save me money?

If you drive to campus, add up how much you now pay in gas, tolls, parking fees and vehicle maintenance. Clearly, you can save a substantial amount by riding your bike to the Medical Center.



Visit [Kiplinger.com](http://www.kiplinger.com) to use their "How Much Can I Save Bicycling to Work?" calculator: <http://www.kiplinger.com/tools/bike>

If I do ride my bicycle to Rush, where can I safely park it?

Three bike storage options are available to Rush employees and students who cycle to the campus.

Storage Room: The main parking garage on the ground level of section C offers a storage room for riders with space for 40 to 50 bikes. This room features electronic keys and security cameras and requires a refundable deposit of \$10 for the key. For more information, contact the Parking Office at extension 2-6594.

Covered Racks: The main parking garage offers free access to covered bicycle racks near the employee entrance. This highly visible, covered area includes security cameras and is available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Sidewalk Racks: Several locations around the campus are equipped with bike racks, including the Woman's Board Center for Radiation Therapy, just west of the Atrium, and racks on Paulina Street and south of the Professional Office Buildings.

How do I know where it is safe to ride my bicycle?

Chicago streets have 114 miles of on-street marked bike lanes plus marked shared lanes and the lakefront path. Other streets are admittedly not always bicycle-friendly (but the fatality rate per millions of hours of exposure for cycling is about *half* that of people driving cars). Please wear a helmet when you ride. Visit the Active Transportation Alliance website: www.activetrans.org/. This group works to make bicycling a safer and more popular means of transportation in Chicago and can use your support! They sponsor an annual Bike to Work week and their website offers a wealth of cycling information. If you become a member, you also get a free copy of their coveted *Chicagoland Bicycle Map*, which details the best bike routes in the city. Also, check out the commuting guide for cyclists at this site: www.bicyclinglife.com/PracticalCycling/commuteguide.htm



What if I don't want to own a car but sometimes it would be helpful to drive one?

There are two car-sharing programs in Chicago that provide the convenience and flexibility of having a car without the hassles of owning one in Chicago. Both are good alternatives to owning a car if you only need to use one occasionally. You pay a membership fee and an hourly rental fee to participate in either program. The program pays for gas, premium insurance, maintenance, and 24-hour assistance:

-  I-GO Car Sharing (www.igocars.org/) members have 24-hour access to a fleet of cars (e.g., Prius, Matrix, CR-V, etc.) in reserved parking spaces located throughout the city and suburbs.
-  Zip Car (www.zipcar.com/) provides an access pass to trucks, hybrids, MINIs and coupes when you want them, also in sites across the city. Zip has cars in many cities around the world.



I want to take the CTA but how do I figure out what route to take?

Google has partnered with the CTA to offer a trip planning service. Just go to maps.google.com/help/maps/transit/chicago/, enter your starting address and ending address. The website will tell you suggested routes using CTA bus lines and "L" trains, PACE busses and Metra trains to get to your destination, as well as travel times.

I want to take Metra out to the suburbs. When do the trains leave?



To check out Metra commuter rail train schedules, head to the website metrarail.com. You can check out all the train lines, system maps, fares, and schedules. They even offer a *New Riders Guide* to help you feel at home on the trains.

I actually just want to walk! Any tips?



The City of Chicago has a website with helpful information for pedestrians: www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cdot/provdrs/ped.html. It offers information on relevant ordinances, safety tips, the downtown Pedway pedestrian walkway system, the Mayor's Pedestrian Advisory Council, and the Safe Streets for Chicago initiative.