



COMMUTER
CHOICE
AWARDS
2009

Organization Nominations

Abbott Northwestern Hospital, Minneapolis

- Hosts commuter fairs
- Offers Metropass and SuperSavers to employees
- Added bike racks and facilities in the past year
- Measures and tracks percentage of employees not driving alone; end of year 2008 was 22%, currently 28%
- Increased number of available parking spaces from 71 to 320 in one year by promoting commuter options
- Funded the addition of two turn signals to relieve and disperse the traffic near the hospital
- Rewards commuters who take transit or share the ride with free bus passes or debit card to pay for ramp parking

Avalon School, St. Paul

- Provides transit passes to all students who live more than two miles away
- Provides indoor and outdoor bike parking options

Aveda, Blaine

- Hosts commuter fairs
- Promoted Bike to Work event and Commuter Challenge
- Is implementing eWorkplace, the state's telework program
- Despite location, 8 percent of employees regularly use an alternative to driving alone

Carmichael Lynch, downtown Minneapolis

- Hosts a green blog informing employees about transportation options
- Attends city transportation meetings to stay informed and contribute to the discussion
- Named a Bicycle Friendly Business by the League of American Bicyclists
- Provides financial incentives and formally recognizes employees who are making smart transportation decisions

Ryan Companies US Inc., downtown Minneapolis

- Hosts and advertises commuter fairs for tenants
- Provides free bike storage

Grand Avenue Business Association, St. Paul

- Promoted Grand Old Day with the theme "It's Grand Being Green"
- Coordinated free transit passes to Grand Old Day, hosted a successful Commuter Challenge event and provided free temporary bike parking, biofuel shuttle buses and HOURCAR information
- Created consensus among businesses to add 144 new bike parking spaces this year

HMS Host, Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport

- Hosts and advertises commuter fairs and presentations
- Promoted a Bike to Work event
- Promoted biking options to the airport

HOURECAR, a program of the Neighborhood Energy Connection, St. Paul

- Is a car-sharing non-profit organization with more than 20 hubs in Minneapolis and St. Paul
- Makes car-ownership an option rather than a requirement for its 1,000 members

Impark, downtown St. Paul

- Offers reduced parking rates for carpools, vanpools and fuel-efficient vehicles
- Provided Go-To Cards to help move customers from the western edge of downtown to their workplace

Ingersoll Rand - Thermo King, Bloomington

- Organized transportation week and promoted a Commuter Challenge and bicycle information sessions
- Increased bicycle racks on site
- Created a shared Google map to list employees interested in carpooling

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), Minneapolis

- Created TravelBetter program, a friendly competition to encourage staff and office tenants to try alternatives to driving alone
- Subsidizes the full cost of transit passes
- Added bike storage for employees

Lake Region Medical Manufacturing, Chaska

- Hosted commuter fair and Van-GO! presentations
- Formed first vanpool as a result of presentations
- Assigned preferred parking for car- and vanpools
- Created a pre-tax deduction option for employees who are ridesharing
- Promoted commuter options for the first time

Macalester College, St. Paul

- Subsidizes the cost of transit passes for employees and students
- Hosts commuter fairs and bike commuting workshops
- Organized a weekly Bike Walk Commuter Club

Minneapolis Community and Technical College, downtown Minneapolis

- Recorded a 30 percent participation in the Go-To College Pass program (a 15 percent increase from last year)
- Added 50 motorcycle parking stalls
- Increased bicycle racks by 50 percent and experienced a 40 percent increase in the number of bicyclists on campus
- Participates in TransitSchools
- Student organizations support significant subsidy of Go-To College Pass

Minnesota Department of Transportation, St. Paul

- Hosted 8th annual Walk Around the Capitol day to promote transportation options and wellness
- Hosts commuter fairs and bike workshops
- Promoted Bike Walk Week

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, St. Paul

- Hosted commuter events for Rideshare to Work Week and Bike Walk to Work Day
- Created a commuter station that includes a rideshare board and bike maps
- Subsidizes Metropass program with 102 employees participating
- Hosted online training on how to use Metro Transit's Trip Planner and NexTrip

Northfield Lines, Inc. & Benjamin Bus, Inc., Northfield

- Offers transit service from the Northfield area to the airport for area students and residents

NorthMarq Real Estate Services, Bloomington

- Hosted commuter fairs throughout the year and promoted Rideshare to Work Week
- Hosted a lunch-and-learn series about bicycling to work
- Provides locker rooms with shower facilities and bike racks and storage
- Provides preferred parking for car and vanpools

Northwestern Health Sciences University, Bloomington

- Hosts and advertises commuter fairs
- Participates in the Go-To College Pass program
- Provided a bicycle tune-up event in the spring

Perkins+Will, downtown Minneapolis

- Participated in Bike Walk to Work Day
- Partnered with Dero Bike Racks to create a bike storage system for employees
- Provides a \$55 commuter subsidy with more than 50 percent employee participation

Quality Bicycle Products, Bloomington

- Organized a bike tune-up event that was also a fundraiser to benefit Trips for Kids Twin Cities
- Provides bicycle amenities including a towel service for bicycle commuters and 105 indoor racks
- Created a carpool database with 58 employees registered

Ramsey County

- Hosts and advertises commuter fairs
- Installed new bicycle racks at four county buildings
- Initiated a bicycle share program called "Bikes Belong!"
- Formed a Bicycle Commuters Club

Sibley Bike Depot, St. Paul

- Operates a free open repair shop
- Provides an earn-a-bike program that donates bicycles to youth who complete rigorous bike maintenance courses
- Partners with St. Paul Public Schools to offer class credit for courses
- Has a volunteer network of more than 150 supporters

Simon Property Group - Southdale Center, Edina

- Provides transit schedules and commuter materials
- Hosted Southdale Bike Expo to provide resources about biking to work for store employees and customers

Starkey Laboratories Inc., Eden Prairie

- Provides \$25 subsidy for commuters who carpool, vanpool, take transit or bike to work
- Hosts commuter fairs
- Offers preferred parking for car- and vanpools

SUPERVALU, Eden Prairie

- Hosts commuter fairs during Commuter Challenge and Rideshare to Work Week
- Offers preferred parking for carpoolers

TCF Bank, downtown Minneapolis

- Hosts commuter fairs and provides commuter information to employees during orientation and various communication efforts
- Has more than 25 percent of employees participating in the Metropass program company-wide and more than 68 percent participating in the three largest office locations
- Encourages use of teleconferencing instead of driving to offsite meetings

Travelers Indemnity Company, downtown St. Paul

- Participates in the Metropass and TransitWorks programs
- Hosts commuter fairs and promoted Bike Walk to Work Day
- Provides secure indoor bike parking, showers and lockers for employees who bike or walk to work

Individual Nominations

Martha Capp is a marketing consultant for Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport. She writes a newsletter to keep employees informed about commuting topics and has been a strong advocate for bicycle commuters. She is promoting transportation options even though it is outside of her marketing scope. Her efforts are tremendous in the face of a challenging environment that normally promotes its parking facilities over other options.

Steve Clark advocates for bicyclists in the Twin Cities in his professional and personal life. He is an inspiration for year-round bicyclists and would like to start a "52 Club" that would recognize people who bike or walk at least once per week all 52 weeks of the year. As an example of his dedication, he designed a bike trailer that can haul 1,000 pounds and used it to travel to the Mora Vasaloppet marathon ski race with his son.

DeWayne A. Combs is a physical education teacher at Battle Creek Middle School in St. Paul. He is an advocate for bicycling and has partnered with various organizations to purchase more than 30 bikes and safety gear to be included in his curriculum called "Fit for Life." He also teaches bicycle commuter courses through St. Paul's and Stillwater's community education programs. In his free time, he enjoys competing in mountain biking races.

Scott Conwell is an inspiration to his coworkers at Best Buy as a passionate bicycle commuter. He embraces this alternative commuting and shares his expertise and enthusiasm with others. Despite being in an accident on his bike and being badly injured, he is still commuting by bike. He plans to exceed 3,000 miles in 2009 on his bicycle.

Nathan Cooley led efforts at his employer, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, to create a commuter station where employees can find ridesharing and bicycle commutes. A 27-year veteran carpooler, he leads by example in his company and community.

Joel Demos shows how an individual can have a big impact on his or her peers. Joel advocates for lifestyle choices that benefit one's health and the environment. Because Joel chooses to walk to complete many trips, his family has been able to get rid of a car so they are now a one-car household.

Ted Duepner is a year-round bicycle commuter with an 18-mile roundtrip to work. He works as a project coordinator at The Depot Coffee House in Hopkins and started Bike Scream Sundae, a community bike ride to local ice cream shops. Ted uses his job and passion for bikes to encourage and influence others to try bike commuting. He is also a volunteer for the Greenway Coalition's Trail Watch program.

Amanda Greenhart created a commuter page on Capella University's intranet to help her co-workers learn about the available transportation options. It is partly due to her efforts that two-thirds of Capella University employees participate in the Metropass program. She also coordinates secure indoor bike storage and "lunch and learn" sessions about winter bicycle commuting.

Ann Kirn created a Bicycle Commuter Group at her worksite, United Health Group. She also helped develop a mentor program pairing those new to bicycle commuting with seasoned bike commuters. She is proud to promote a practice that treads lightly on the earth and promotes a healthy lifestyle.

Don Kim is an avid user of all transportation options and has a special liking for scooters and mopeds. He has promoted the use of more scooters and mopeds instead of cars on the University of Minnesota campus.

Linda Mainquist was on a mission to keep sidewalks clear during the winter after she witnessed a young woman in a wheelchair unable to travel down University Avenue because the sidewalk wasn't clear. She contacted her city council member and began her outreach to persuade property owners to shovel their sidewalks promptly after a snowstorm. She worked with St. Paul Smart Trips to create door hangers and generate publicity after the first big snowfall.

Chris Schoonover is a bicycle commuter who also uses the bus and light-rail train to complete longer trips. He bikes approximately 125 miles per week and regularly commutes from Minneapolis to Maple Grove. He is excited about the opening of the Northstar Commuter Rail Line because it will help him travel even longer distances and avoid drive-alone trips.

Chad Skally partnered with the Grand Avenue Business Association, the City of St. Paul, Dero Bike Racks, the MacGroveland and Summit Hill community organizations and the business owners of Grand Avenue to fund, design and install bike parking along the avenue. Chad's dedication and collaborative effort resulted in 66 racks being installed on Grand Avenue, right in time for the Grand Old Day parade.

Mike Klick, Jen Pendrill, Carolyn Hansen, and Mike Will coordinated their work schedules and formed a carpool. They have been completing their 50-mile round trip commute together for more than a year and have saved money and carbon emissions. They are a great example within their workplace, Thomson Reuters, of the many advantages of carpooling.

Mika Turner, a student at Northwestern Health Sciences University, is an avid carpooler and single handedly organized commuter fairs at her school. She helped promote the Go-To College Pass program and serves as an excellent commuting resource for her peers.

Melissa Wenzel commutes by an electric assist bicycle and has organized various commuter fairs to provide information about bike commuting options to her colleagues at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. She also coordinated a computer training course to showcase Metro Transit's website tools including the Trip Planner and NexTrip. She is also working on creating an internal website for employees that provides more details about commuting options.