

## 2010 Commuter Choice Awards Nomination Summaries

### Individual Category

**Autumn Amadou-Blegen** and her family have lived completely car free for more than 3½ years. Her family depends on its school transportation program, Metro Transit, sometimes on grocery delivery services, but mostly on their own feet and a fleet of bicycles, tandems and trailers. She has commuted by bicycle year-round for more than 20 years and promotes her passion for bicycling at community events and at work.

**Dennis Berg** will retire in December as chair of the Anoka County Board of Commissioners. For more than 20 years, Dennis has advocated for safe access on roads for pedestrians, bicyclists and transit users. Among his accomplishments, he worked to make the Northstar Commuter Rail Line a transportation option for residents along the Highway 10 corridor. He encouraged the development of bike/pedestrian paths and supported transit options in Anoka County. His leadership on transportation includes serving on the Northstar Corridor Development Authority and the Counties Transit Improvement Board.

**Jennifer Desrude** is committed to promoting alternative transportation options and encourages her employer, the City of Bloomington, to walk the talk when it comes to offering commuter programs. As the city's civil engineer, she worked with the city council to develop a Travel Demand Management (TDM) ordinance in December 2009. Taking that a step further, she organized a group of employees to create a TDM plan of its own, aimed at getting city employees to try alternative commuting options. She also invites 494 Commuter Services to staff commuter information booths at employee events.

**Dan Erhart** is an Anoka County commissioner and member of the Northstar Corridor Development Authority. Affectionately referred to as the godfather of the Northstar Commuter Rail Line, he worked diligently for nearly 13 years to make Minnesota's first commuter rail line a reality. Dan not only envisions a Phase II that will extend the line from Big Lake to St. Cloud and beyond, he also has advocated to get a proposed \$615 million passenger line from Minneapolis to Duluth on track.

**George Hamm** commutes by bicycle nine months out of the year, stopping only for snow and ice. His support for bicycle commuting can be found at his workplace – Ramsey County – and through his work in the community. He is a member of the Ramsey County Bicycle Commuter Club and regularly volunteers his time for Bike Walk Week events. George's dedication to bicycling doesn't stop there: he donates his time to edit and provide content for the Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota newsletter.

**Don Kim** initiated an effort at the University of Minnesota to promote transportation options. As coach of the water polo team, he encouraged team members to carpool or bike to practices and carpool to tournaments. Don spreads the message of the benefits of taking transit, ridesharing and bicycling among his fellow U alumni and residents at his condominium.

**Laura Kirstein and Christopher Wurtz** are helping address a growing interest in bike commuting at their employer, Wells Fargo. Through their work as co-chairs of the Wells Fargo Twin Cities Bike Commuter Team, which has tripled membership under their leadership, they are proving that any employee can bike to work, regardless of job level or dress code. They are helping to foster a community of bike commuting at Wells Fargo with programs such as the Wells Fargo Bike Commuter Challenge, where 120 employees pledged to bike to work between May and October. Chris and Laura are devoted and passionate about their roles as leaders of a growing bike commuter group. In partnership with Wells Fargo Amigos, the Bike Walk Ambassadors, the Midtown Greenway

Coalition and Sibley Bike Depot, the duo promoted a bike event on the Midtown Greenway to increase awareness of alternative transportation options among a diverse and underserved population.

**Mark Lewandowski** works at Lake Region Medical in Chaska where he led an initiative to form a carpool with four other co-workers who travel from Hutchinson to Chaska. The group has a 90-mile roundtrip commute. Each member saves \$175 a month in gas while reducing road congestion and carbon emissions

**Eric Mann** is responsible for more transportation options being available for employees at HealthEast. By working with HealthEast management, 6,000 HealthEast employees now have access to Metropass. He was able to make the passes even more affordable by presenting the case to management that the organization should subsidize part of employees' cost. A bicycle commuter, he volunteered with bike and pedestrian counting in conjunction with St. Paul Smart Trips and Transit for Livable Communities.

**Paul Nelson** is chair of the St. Paul Greenway Committee, which is advocating for an extension of the Minneapolis Greenway into St. Paul. Paul began campaigning for a trail five years ago and worked with the Midway Transportation Management Organization to get it on the City of St. Paul's radar. Following this victory, Paul helped organize the St. Paul Greenway Committee to shepherd the project. The group meets monthly to discuss the project's progress and a vision for the bike/walk corridor.

**Mary Osterbauer** partnered with Downtown Minneapolis TMO to educate her co-workers at Quayside Publishing Group on transportation options available to them before the company moved from Osceola, Wis., to downtown Minneapolis. After exploring several options, Mary championed efforts to establish a 15-passenger VPSI vanpool as the most cost effective and convenient choice for their new commuting arrangement.

**Thomas Reese**, who works for the Department of Employment and Economic Development, established a partnership with 494 Commuter Services to reach more employers with information about commuting topics and resources. Presentations and discussions take place at monthly community meetings at the WorkForce Center, in addition to regularly scheduled meetings with human resource professionals and at job fairs.

**Sara Rehm** practices what she preaches, especially with her work colleagues at Hennepin County. She is passionate about health and wellness, physical activity and protecting the environment. An avid bicyclist, Sara created a bike-commuting web page for Hennepin County employees. She also created bulletin boards with commuter resources, highlighting transit and route information, walking paths, bike routes and programs such as Guaranteed Ride Home.

## Employer Category

### **American Medical Systems, Minnetonka**

- established free bicycle safety check event in partnership with 494 Commuter Services and Penn Cycle
- hosts commuter fairs
- promoted Commuter Challenge and Twin Cities Bike Walk Week

### **ATK - Advanced Weapons Division, Plymouth**

- provides financial incentive for employees who use commuter program options at least 10 days per month
- promotes commuter program and financial incentive widely through internal channels
- hosts commuter fairs

**Aveda, Blaine**

- established Aveda Green Commuter Program to reduce the number of employees driving alone to work
- provides employees Green Bucks that can be used to buy products at company store
- offers telework through eWorkPlace and a flexible hours/compressed work schedule
- promotes Commuter Challenge

**Carmichael Lynch, Minneapolis**

- conducted internal survey to get understand employee commuter habits
- helped reduce downtown congestion by encouraging employees to pledge to use transportation options on days Twins played at home
- established Ework telework program
- participated in Twin Cities Bike Walk Week, Commuter Challenge and other programs

**Compellent Technologies, Eden Prairie**

- hosted commuter fair
- promoted Commuter Challenge and sponsored team competition to encourage employees to try alternative commuting options

**Dero Bike Rack Company**

- Developed Dero ZAP, a solar-powered, wireless, web-based application that allows organizations to reward employees who commute by bicycle; this program was first launched with the company's own employees this year
- Provides cash incentive (\$3 each day) to employees who use alternative commuting options to get to work
- Offers telecommuting option

**Express Scripts, Bloomington**

- worked with Metro Transit to improve frequency of bus service to work site and move bus stop to a safer and more convenient location for employees
- hosts commuter fairs
- provides financial incentive for employees who use alternatives to driving alone to work

**Gillette Childrens, St. Paul**

- gives \$50 gas cards to employees in registered carpools
- provides free Metropasses to employees who opt out of their assigned parking spaces
- offers preferential parking for car- and vanpoolers

**Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis**

- conducted employee survey to determine commuting habits
- hosted bike maintenance and bike safety courses to provide on-site bike tune-ups for employees and their families
- subsidizes employees' cost of bike lockers in nearby city ramp
- gives employees option to purchase discounted SuperSavers through employer's Bus Pass Club

**Lifetrack Resources, St. Paul**

- established telework pilot program through eWorkPlace
- organized a Bike/Walk/Rideshare to Work Month for employees in cooperation with St. Paul Smart Trips
- installed a bike rack at worksite

### **Logic PD, Minneapolis**

- provides bike rack, free on-site showers and a high quality office bike pump for bicycle commuters
- offers Metropass to employees
- gives monthly reimbursement to employees who give up parking space and get to work using alternatives to driving alone

### **Macalester College, St. Paul**

- surveyed faculty and staff to determine commuting habits
- provides pre-tax benefits for employees who take transit
- began telework pilot program for three departments through eWorkPlace
- offers bicycle parking at most buildings
- subsidizes the cost of transit passes for students, faculty and staff
- hosts two HOURCARs on campus

### **Minneapolis College of Art and Design**

- eliminated free parking for faculty and staff, reducing parking demand by 24% as more people chose alternatives
- subsidizes cost of Metropass
- invited HOURCAR car-sharing and Nice Ride bike-sharing programs to campus
- developed transportation information wall and intranet site with commuter information; promotes HOURCAR widely on campus
- encourages walking and biking through "Healthy Benefits" program that allows a reduction of \$250 of health plan deductible when employee completes a health improvement program
- added 122 spaces for bicycles on campus
- sponsors annual transit fair in partnership with Metro Transit and HOURCAR
- offers free parking for vanpools and carpools registered through Metro Transit
- offers flextime and a telecommuting option
- reimburses employees up to \$20 for bicycle expenses each month they regularly commute by bicycle

### **Minnesota Department of Transportation, St. Paul**

- encourages employees at agency and other state agencies to walk around the capitol during lunch breaks
- hosted Bike Walk to the Capitol in May to encourage employees to bike to work
- established telework pilot program through eWorkPlace

### **Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, St. Paul**

- created fleet carpool program that brings the most fuel-efficient vehicle to the top of the list and alerts users of carpool opportunities
- established Wednesdays as meeting day at the agency to provide more carpool opportunities for regional staff traveling to St. Paul
- created multi-agency transportation committee at Lafayette Park office complex (MPCA headquarters)
- upgraded employee intranet site to promote a buddy system for taking the bus, bicycling and carpooling

### **Quality Bicycle Products, Bloomington**

- hosted a Bike to Work Day event, with 75 percent of employees participating
- created employee benefit to subsidize the purchase of a bike
- held bike tune-up festival to help raise money for Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota
- provides bicycle amenities for employees and preferential parking for carpools
- offers employees who use transportation options credits good toward the purchase of bike products

### **Ramsey County, St. Paul**

- provides employees a bike sharing program called Bikes Belong
- hosts a Bicycle Commuters Club
- partnered with Sibley Bike Depot to offer bicycling workshops and classes
- recognized as a bike-friendly business by the League of American Bicyclists
- hosts commuter fairs
- offers Metropass and flextime scheduling options for employees

### **Syngenta Seeds, Minnetonka**

- hosted commuter fairs and promoted Commuter Challenge and Twin Cities Bike Walk Week
- created intranet page on employer website to promote transportation resources for commuters
- installed bike racks and shower facilities and preferential parking for carpoolers

### **Thermo King - Ingersoll Rand, Bloomington**

- offers preferential parking spaces for carpoolers
- hosted Green Auto workshop to encourage use of efficiently running cars for best gas mileage and fewer emissions
- held workshop on safe bicycle commuting and proper bike maintenance
- hosted commuter fair and promoted Commuter Challenge

### **UnitedHealth Group, Minnetonka**

- hosted and promoted Bike to Work Week
- worked with the City of Minnetonka to improve access to corporate campus by providing feedback on the design of a new bridge and road upgrades nearby
- includes bicycling and bicycling commuting topics on new internal electronic communication channel
- provides bicycle amenities to employees, including bike racks, showers and facilities for bike-repair clinics

## Organization Category

### **Allied Parking Inc., Minneapolis**

- opened four parking locations to offer discounted carpool rate
- worked with Downtown Minneapolis TMO to develop a brochure that promoted discounted carpool parking locations
- provide early-bird parking rate for teleworkers who participate in eWorkPlace program

### **Campbell Mithun Tower, Minneapolis, NorthMarq Real Estate Services**

- installed additional bike racks
- promoted Commuter Challenge and Rideshare to Work Month

### **City of Bloomington**

- passed in last 2009 an ordinance with a financial guarantee that requires new developments with 350+ parking spaces to submit a Travel Demand Management (TDM) plan with strategies for peak period trips.
- partnered with 494 Commuter Services to provide commute information at city events
- joined the I-494 Corridor Commission to help engage employers and property managers in the promotion of alternative transportation options

### **Hope Community, Minneapolis**

- partners with Sibley Bike Depot to provide bike library to give underserved residents access to affordable, reliable transportation
- hosts classes for residents on safe cycling, bike maintenance and group rides

### **Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts, Mendota Heights**

- offers College Pass program
- working with Metro Transit, launched College Pass program at consortium of career colleges in the Twin Cities

### **Liberty Property Trust, Eden Prairie**

- coordinated on-site commuter fair at Eden Prairie tenant with 775 employees and provided commuter resources at tenant ice cream socials

### **Minneapolis College of Art and Design**

- provides students a shuttle van for grocery or other supply trips
- brought HOURCAR car-sharing and Nice Ride bike-sharing programs to campus, with HOURCAR in use an average of six hours per day
- developed transportation information wall and intranet site with commuter information; promotes HOURCAR widely on campus
- sells College Pass and bicycling equipment in bookstore
- added 122 spaces for bicycles on campus
- sponsors annual transit fair in partnership with Metro Transit and HOURCAR
- offers free parking for vanpools and carpools registered through Metro Transit

### **Normandale Lake Office Park, Bloomington, NorthMarq Property Management**

- held 10 commuter fairs during the year to promote taking transit, ridesharing and bicycle commuting
- provided bicycles as incentives for tenants to take the 2010 Commuter Challenge
- hosted bike tune-up and bike safety clinics for tenants
- sells discounted transit passes and provides transit information for tenants at concierge services
- provides shower facilities, bike racks and storage
- offers preferential parking for car and vanpools

### **Quality Bicycle Products, Bloomington**

- provided in-kind donation for Sibley Bike Depot for a bike-lending program
- raised money to provide bikes and bike gear to four needy families
- sponsored training and provided resources for 2010 Minnesota Bike Summit

### **Rise, Inc., Spring Lake Park**

- raised \$ 1 million over three years to purchase newer, more efficient paratransit vehicles and a web based routing system
- received grant funding to provide 300 welfare-to-work program participants bus passes and training on how to take transit

### **St. Paul Preparatory School**

- participated in a pilot program with Metro Transit to offer Go-To Cards to students after the school relocated to downtown St. Paul

### **Union Park District Council, St. Paul**

- surveyed residents to determine use of multi-modal and bicycle pedestrian bridges over I-94
- partnered with Councilmember Russ Stark, St. Paul Smart Trips and the city's Public Works department to keep Marshall Avenue plowed from curb to curb during the winter
- hosted bike safety event for kids at annual ice cream social