

BIKE TO METRA

*Your guide to bike commuting
to and from the downtown
Aurora Metra station*



For many Metra commuters, riding a bike to the station is feasible. Bike commuting offers some great benefits:

- Reduce the stress of finding vehicle parking and park closer to the trains
- Save money on gas and parking fees
- Play a part in helping the environment
- Get the daily physical activity we all need to be healthy and fit
- Start your day feeling better mentally and physically

This brochure offers you tips on how to begin bicycle commuting.

SELECTING A BICYCLE

Select the right bike for your commute. No need to compete with Lance Armstrong! Use a bike that's affordable and can withstand the weather. Check that your seat and handlebars are adjusted for a comfortable fit. Make sure your bike is tuned up with fully inflated tires, working brakes, and smooth shifting gears.

FINDING A ROUTE

Plan your bike route by using this map or asking other cyclists for advice. Avoid busy streets whenever possible. Instead, look for streets with low vehicle traffic and speeds, good lane width, and stoplights at busy intersections. Try a test ride of your route so you'll know how much time you will regularly need, including the time needed to park and lock your bike at the station.

Loading your bike onto a Pace bus can become part of your commute — or serve as a backup ride home if needed. Find bus route information and learn how to use bicycle racks on buses at www.pacebus.com.

CLOTHING

Some bicycle commuters ride wearing their work clothes, others change once they arrive at work. If changing at work, roll clothes to minimize wrinkles and store them in a messenger bag, backpack, bike basket, or panniers. Another option is to drive once a week and take a supply of clothes to work.

GOING GREEN AND STAYING CLEAN

- Ride at an easy pace.
- Fenders can keep water and mud off you.
- Showers may be available at work or a nearby health club.
- Deodorant and baby wipes are inexpensive products to help you smell fresh and stay clean.

HOW TO STAY SAFE

- Cyclists fare best when they act and are treated like others on the road.
- Ride on the right with the traffic flow and follow all signs and signals.
- Ride predictably and in a straight line.



WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR BIKE

Bike racks and lockers offer the best place to store your bike. Call the City of Aurora's Motor Vehicle Department at 630-801-5260 to check availability of bicycle lockers at the train station.

- When locking your bike:
 - Secure any items or equipment that can be removed from your bike, or else take it with you.
 - Invest in a good quality U-lock and secure both the frame and wheels, if possible. If using a cable lock, keep the cable tight so it's hard for thieves to cut.
 - If the bike racks are full, lock your bike to something that cannot be taken apart or easily lifted. No trees, please!
- Metra allows bikes on many reverse commute, off-peak hour, and weekend trains. Learn more at www.metrarail.com or call 630-836-7000.

- When passing a parked vehicle, be alert for opening doors.
- Always wear a helmet.
- Wear bright clothing and use lights on the front and rear of your bike if riding at night or dusk.
- Never assume a driver recognizes your presence.
- Cycle defensively.

For more tips on safe riding, see the City of Aurora's Bicycle Map at www.bikelib.org/aurora.

BICYCLING JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTER!

The first few days may be rough and include forgotten items and logistical challenges. Stick with it. As the days go by, you will get into a routine and find ways to make the commute easy and fun. You will also become more accustomed to riding in traffic and handling yourself on the bike. In addition, you will feel good about doing something healthy for yourself and the environment, and you'll lighten your mental load by not having to search for a place to park your vehicle.