

# Reinventing the wheel: How do you commute?

This month's alternative transportation commuter is Marilyn Morrissey who works in Sponsored Programs in the University Services Center on Howes Street.

Marilyn decided not to purchase a staff parking permit this year and began using her RamCard to ride the bus from the Rolland Moore Park area of Fort Collins – for free – this summer.

**How many days a week do you commute by bus?**

I ride the bus 3-4 days a week. Usually once a week, I get an early start and decide to drive in as (on-street) parking won't be a problem.

**How long does it take to commute to work? How does that compare to driving yourself?**

Figuring in a two-and-a-half block walk from my house and the walk from CSU Transit Center to the USC, it takes a good half hour. But if you consider that I just put in some exercise time, that is an added time efficiency. Driving to work, hunting for parking and walking from my car to my office probably is no more than 15 minutes, unless I have to park very far away.

**Describe your route.**

Buses 19 and 7 have every half-hour routes down Shields Street. During the summer, routes are every hour.



Marilyn Morrissey takes Transfort to campus most days. Photo by Kyle Deuschle.

**Do you do anything along the way, either to or from campus (day care stops, workouts, etc.)?**

I may stop and pick up a coffee at the LSC before I head up to my office (after I arrive at CSU). I occasionally have early morning meetings in the Morgan Library and can go straight from the transit center.

I've taken Around the Horn for meetings on campus. Although I could walk, sometimes Around the Horn is faster.

**How do you prepare for your commute? Anything that is different than if you drove?**

There is not much difference, other than making sure I have walking shoes and preparing to take the bus a half hour earlier if I have an early meeting.

**How do you spend your time on the bus?**

I usually have a book with me but the time on the bus is very short. The walk is the longer part. Usually I just relax for a few minutes.

**What concerns did you have before taking transit to CSU?**

I didn't realize the bus would run often enough that I wouldn't really need to change my schedule. I can get to the office when I want to.

**How do you manage workday business trips without having a personal vehicle on campus?**

From my office, I've walked downtown on business and I've taken the MAX (bus rapid transit down Mason Street).

**How does the cost compare to driving and parking on campus?**

A tank of gas lasts longer than it used to, for sure. I think it is not only that I save by not commuting to work but I save by not driving at lunch time. And I think about what I can do by walking from my office since I don't have the option of stopping on my way home.

**What advice would you give to a fellow employee who is on the fence about using alternative transportation to commute?**

There are a lot of options, considering the bus lines and the MAX and Around the Horn going all the way up Centre Avenue. Some people park at the south transit station and take the MAX in (to campus).

One of the efficiencies is that you combine exercise time with commute time, as you will end up walking more. As I walk more, I've learned that I can get places quicker than I thought. There are no traffic jams or hunting for parking when you walk.

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