

8 Reasons Why Star Commuter Bill Taylor Rides the Bus

Before joining Seattle Children's nine months ago as the Retail Operations manager, Star Commuter **Bill Taylor** hadn't ridden the bus since high school. But after picking up his new ID badge and attending Day One, he noticed something different about Children's compared to his previous workplaces.

Here, he noticed a unique kind of commuting culture — one where most people don't drive alone to work.

So with support from the Transportation Department, Bill — a long-time drive-to-work commuter — tried commuting by bus. To his surprise, he loved it.

"Busing always struck me as a hassle," says Bill. But now that he's a daily bus commuter, he realizes the real hassle was driving alone.

June is Ride Transit Month, and Bill shares the reasons he decided to make the switch to busing.



Why bus? Bill shares his top 8 reasons

- **Commuting made easy.** The Transportation Department hooked Bill up with a personalized commute plan showing just how easy his bus commute would be, and a deeply discounted ORCA card. "The first time I rode the bus, I traveled with someone who showed me how the ORCA card works. It's really easy," says Bill.
- **Riding in the fast lane.** "I was always envious of people on the bus who zipped by me in the carpool lane while I was stuck in traffic," says Bill. Now Bill gets to speed by on a stress-free commute.
- **Dedicated transition time.** Bill takes advantage of his commute by using time on the bus to transition from home to work, and vice versa. "During my morning commute, I peek at work emails and review my calendar," says Bill. "On the way home I do the opposite: I read and respond to personal emails, check Facebook and read the news."
- **Mental and physical wellness.** "I didn't understand the mental health benefits of busing until I started doing it," says Bill. No longer dealing with the aggravation of driving, Bill can kick back and relax on his commute. And the one-mile walk (downhill to work, uphill to home) adds 30 minutes of physical activity to his day.
- **Dollars in his pocket.** Bill says his savings on parking charges and the \$4.50 a day commute bonus are enough of an incentive to commute by bus. But to top it off, he's saving wear and tear on his car, and his car insurance recently dropped by about \$1,000 a year after his insurance company verified that he's driving far fewer miles. All-in-all, he estimates he's saving thousands of dollars annually.
- **Options.** Although Bill's commute includes that one-mile walk and two buses, it only takes 40 minutes door-to-door. For each leg of his bus trip, there are multiple buses he can take. "I never wait more than five minutes for the next bus," says Bill.
- **Camaraderie.** "There is a community aspect of bus riding," says Bill. "I've struck up conversations about everything from music to politics. It's really pretty fun!"

- **Lower carbon footprint.** “Busing is a responsible way to travel,” says Bill. “You have a smaller carbon footprint when you travel by bus, and that’s important to me.”

Just try it

If Bill hasn’t convinced you to try transit, Transportation has one more benefit you should consider: Children’s offers a Guaranteed Ride Home program that provides up to eight free emergency rides per year.

As Bill says, “Get on the bus, Gus,” and give it a try!

For more information about commuting by transit, including a new park and ride map showing which park and rides serve you best, check out [Commute Tools](#).