

Western Washington University
 Parking and Transportation Services
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WWU Parking and Transportation Information for Faculty and Staff.

The information in this newsletter is accurate as of September, 2003. For updated information, call Alternative Transportation Coordinator Carol Berry at 650-7960, or Parking and Transportation Services at 650-2945 between 7:30am and 5:00pm. If you need assistance after hours, call the Office of Public Safety, 650-3555.

Payroll Deduction Benefits

Recent changes to federal tax laws have made it possible to offer qualified parking and transit expenses on a pre-tax basis. Benefit-eligible WWU employees can pay for their bus passes through a one-time payroll deduction, and save the cost of paying federal tax on that expense.

- The amount deducted per pay period for the parking permit or bus pass will be excluded from employees' taxable income.
- Employees must pay for their permit or bus pass by payroll deduction to qualify for the pre-tax benefit.
- All benefit-eligible employees who elect to have their parking permit or bus pass placed on payroll deduction will automatically be enrolled in the program.
- Employees cannot use payroll deduction nor receive the pre-tax benefit to purchase a permit or pass for a family member.
- Questions directly related to the pre-tax portion of the paycheck should be directed to the Payroll Department at (360) 650-2991.

Campus Express 2003-2004

There will be more buses on the schedule for the Campus Express/WTA route 90 this year.

- ➔The late evening bus returning to Civic Field will leave the VU at 7:10 and 8:10 pm, and will run Monday -Friday starting September 24, 2003.
- ➔A second bus will be provided at :42 on every run. Riders will no longer take the chance of being left behind at Civic Field due to over-crowded buses.
- ➔Additional routes serving WWU have been added. For a complete schedule, contact WTA

www.ridewta.com
 or call (360)676-7433 (676-RIDE)
 TTY: (360)676-6844
 Hours: weekdays 5:30am-10:30pm
 Saturday 8:00am - 10:30pm
 Sunday 9:00am - 7:30pm
For bus service from Everson/Sumas/ Nooksack, and increased evening & Sunday Service go to www.ridewta.com.

A Guaranteed Ride Home

Employees who ride the bus, carpool, vanpool, bike or walk to work are guaranteed a free ride home via taxi in the event of illness, emergency, or unexpected overtime. Register in the Smart Commuter Program to be eligible for Guaranteed Ride Home. Then, if you need an emergency ride, contact the Employee Transportation Coordinator at x7960, or Parking and Transportation services at x2945. After hours, call the Department of Public Safety at x3555.



2003-2004 Parking Information

Alternatives to driving alone are not always possible for everyone. As an employee of WWU, you have the option of purchasing a permit to park on campus. Parking lot assignments are made on the basis of demand and seniority.

Permit Prices	Quarterly	Academic	Annual	Summer
G/R	\$73.00	\$219.00	\$279.00	\$60.00
C/12A	\$67.00	\$201.00	\$256.00	\$55.00
16CR	\$43.00	\$129.00	\$164.00	\$35.00
M	\$13.00	\$40.00	\$50.00	\$10.00
Reserved	\$160.00	\$480.00	\$640.00	\$160.00
G Fac/Staff Carpool	\$55.00	\$165.00	\$210.00	\$45.00
C Student Carpool	\$50.00	\$150.00	\$191.00	\$41.00
Vanpool	\$40.00	\$120.00	\$153.00	\$33.00
Commuter Packet (packets of 10 -sold quarterly only)				\$21.00

Motorist Assistance If you are parked on the WWU campus, Parking Enforcement officers can jump start cars, unlock cars when the keys have been locked inside, provide a can of fix-a-flat when no spare is available, or gas when someone runs out. If you need assistance during the day, call Parking and Transportation at 650-2945. After hours, call University Police at 650-3555. From a campus phone, just dial the 4-digit extension. Tell us where your car is located, and we will call an officer for you and give you an estimated time of arrival.

WWU Parking & Transportation Information for Faculty and Staff

Fall-Winter
 2003-2004

You got the job!

Now, how are you going to get to work every day?

Did You Know...

Parking and Transportation Services has a designated Alternative Transportation Coordinator. Carol Berry is available to help you:

- ➔Understand your commute options
- ➔Find Solutions to commuting problems
- ➔Use our Guaranteed Ride Home service.
- ➔Use our parking facilities
- ➔Find a carpool partner
- ➔Figure out bus routes and schedules.
- ➔Find a bicycle commuting mentor.

Call Carol at x7960, x2945, or send an email to carol.berry@wwu.edu, or parking@wwu.edu.

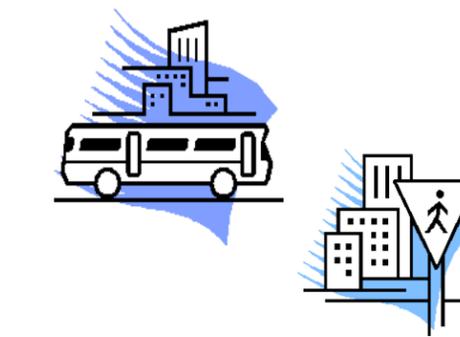
WWU Students, Faculty and Staff are eligible to purchase the Viking Xpress Bus Pass. Unlimited Rides for \$50.00 for the Academic year!

The price structure and schedule for the Viking Xpress Pass has changed this year, bringing added benefits, especially for full-time staff. The cost of a quarterly pass has increased, to \$20.00 per quarter. The Academic Annual bus pass will be \$50.00 for all three quarters. The Academic Pass and the quarterly passes, including the Summer 2004 pass will be valid for bus rides during the breaks when class is not in session. This is a great bonus for full-time staff and student employees who work during breaks!

Smart Commuter Registration & Benefits

Smart Commuter Program Website! go to <http://www.smartcommuter.org>.

Would you like to have more money and less stress? Smart Commuting can do that for you and more! Western has teamed up with Whatcom Council of Governments to offer special benefits for employees who use an alternative to driving alone at least once a week. As a large Employer in Whatcom County, Western has participated in the Smart Commuter program since 1997. Go online for help getting started and to learn about the benefits of the Smart Commuter Program. <http://www.smartcommuter.org>. You may register online, or request a registration card from the WWU Alternative Transportation Coordinator, and register through the mail. About a week after submitting your registration, you'll get a



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Smart Commuter registration makes you eligible for:

- Guaranteed Ride Home - FREE taxi service in case of illness or unexpected overtime.
- Smart Commuter Discounts - Valuable discounts on goods and services from businesses throughout Whatcom County
- Community Recognition - Special events and rewards to honor Smart Commuters
- Registering also gives WWU and Whatcom County a better idea of how many employees think facilities and benefits for walkers, bicyclists, transit riders and carpoolers are important. This helps our community in planning a balanced transportation system for the years ahead.

Walking

Whether you commute on foot, walk at lunch, or combine walking with riding the bus, walking is considered the easiest way to get more physical exercise into your day. And walking is the lowest cost commute option. For more about walking safety, health, and advocacy, go to www.walkinginfo.org.

"I gave up my parking permit nine years ago. My wife gave me a choice between walking to work or joining a health club. I chose the easier of the two, and I've been walking to work for the last eight years."

-Dr. Moheb Ghali, Dean of the Graduate School, Vice Provost, Bureau for Faculty Research

Bicycling

There are showers and lockers available at Carver Gym for employees. For towel service, buy a towel at the bookstore. To get your bike in shape, check out the Outdoor Center bike shop. They have parts, tools, and can order just about anything you need. One staff member got mylar streamers for her handlebars!

WWU OUTDOOR CENTER Bike shop:
Viking Union 150 650-3112
www.as.wvu.edu/programs/outdoor

"I choose to bicycle because it doesn't add pollutants to the environment and it's cheap, especially if you plan for it. When I was hired at Western, my wife and I bought a house within biking distance of campus, so we would only have to own one car. I also bicycle for my health. Sometimes it's the only exercise I get all day."

-Bob Mitchell, Assistant Professor in Geology

BikeWestern

BikeWestern is an organization made up of WWU staff, faculty and students. The club is dedicated to increasing bicycle commuting and safety by:

- ✪ Providing information and support to current and future bicycle commuters.
- ✪ Supporting trip reduction programs such as Bike to Work/School Day and the Smart Commuter Program.
- ✪ Coordinating efforts to integrate campus planning with bicycle commuter's needs.
- ✪ Reducing the demand on parking facilities
- ✪ Reducing environmental damage from automobiles.

For more information, or to join BikeWestern, go to www.wvu.edu/~bikewwu.

Buses

If you live near a bus route, you can have a professional drive you to work while you read the paper or plan your day. For \$20.00 per quarter, or \$50.00 for the Academic year WWU employees can get a Viking Xpress Pass, available at the WWU Parking Office.

Route maps, schedules and personalized bus commute options are available through the WWU Alternative Transportation Coordinator, or contact WTA for trip planning by phone or online:

(360)676-7433 (676-RIDE) www.ridewta.com

"Taking the bus helps me start the workday with a mellow pace. I have time to relax on the bus; sometimes I read or prepare for my day during the ride, and I don't frantically look for a parking spot when I get there! Sometimes I bring my 15-month old son on the bus with me. We are getting to know the bus drivers and their different personalities, which is fun. I feel more connected to others when I ride the bus."

*-Lisa Moulds, Director
WWU Center for Service Learning*

Carpool & Vanpool

Sharing a ride is cheaper and more fun than riding alone. Registered carpools get parking in preferred lots, too. Get help finding a carpool partner online with www.rideshareonline.com, or by calling the WWU Alternative Transportation Coordinator. Ask about carpool regulations and commuter packets.

Vanpools are usually most economical when a number of employees are coming from a distance of 25 miles or more. You only need 4 other riders and yourself, but the more riders the cheaper your fare. WTA provides a 12 or 14 passenger van for a flat fee that includes all insurance, maintenance, fuel and other operating costs. Plus, the driver gets to use the van during non-commute hours.

Teleworking & Compressed Schedule

Also referred to as "telecommuting," **teleworking** is defined under the CTR law as the "use of telephones, computers, or other technology to permit an employee to work from home (eliminating a commute trip) or from a workplace closer to home (reducing the distance traveled in a commute trip by at least half)."

With a **compressed work week**, the total number of hours an employee works does not change - only the way his or her hours are scheduled. The most typical compressed work schedules are:

- ➔ 4/10 work week - Forty hours are worked in four 10-hour days, thus reducing the employee's commute trips by 20 percent.
- ➔ 9/80 work week - Eighty hours are worked in nine days with the tenth day off, thus reducing the employee's commute trips by 10 percent.
- ➔ 3/12 work week - Thirty-six hours are worked in three days, which means the employee commutes two fewer days than the typical 8am to 5pm worker.

Choices, Rights & Responsibilities

Walking is healthy and free, Bikes are speedy and cheap, cars can carry several people and their goods, riding the bus leaves the driving to a professional and gets you there even when it snows. We each use multiple modes within the transportation system, making choices based on how far we are going, what time of day we travel, who we are going with and how much we're carrying.

It's good to remember that everyone walks at least some of the time, whatever other transportation modes we use. How do all users get to their destinations safely? Here are some tips for pedestrians, transit users, bicyclists and motor vehicle drivers, to help us all understand what to do, and accommodate one another, depending on our transportation choice(s).

Be Visible. Use lights. Signal your intentions

Users of every transportation mode must see and be seen for the greatest safety to all. For pedestrians, that means wearing light-colored clothing, reflective clothing at night if possible, even carrying a flashlight or wearing a headlamp. Light-colored clothing increases bicyclists' visibility as well, even in the daytime. Many bus stops are not well-lit, and WTA recommends using a flashlight to signal bus drivers after daylight hours. Cars are required to have working headlights, taillights and turn signals. Bicycles must have a headlight and rear reflector at night. Signal your intentions to turn or stop. Look out for all other users of the roadway.

When can the pedestrian cross the Road?

As a pedestrian, you have the right to cross at the intersection of any two streets, (unless there are signs prohibiting crossing) or any other marked crossing. Vehicles are required to yield, even if there is no stop sign. Pedestrians must not step in front of a car that hasn't enough room to stop. Look both ways, even at a light, to ensure that a turning motorist has seen you crossing, and is stopped to let you pass. Don't be dead right.

2000 lb car + speed = One big responsibility

The speed limits in Bellingham are 25mph, unless posted otherwise. At car speeds over 25 mph, a pedestrian has an increasingly greater chance of sustaining fatal injuries if hit. The greater your speed, the less you see, and the harder it is to react in time. Don't speed. Don't run red lights. Look for pedestrians and bicycles before you turn.

Alcohol is a serious impairment.

The greatest danger of death from traffic crashes for all modes is the use of alcohol or drugs. Being under the influence of Alcohol or other drugs impairs your driving skills. Alcohol impairs your judgment, reaction time, and balance when walking or bicycling, too. Calling 734-TAXI will get you a cab in Bellingham, the dispatcher can accept credit cards for fares over \$10.00 and most of the cabs can accommodate a

bicycle. Don't drive, walk, or bicycle while impaired, especially at night. You could kill or be killed.

Bicycles have the same rights and responsibilities as motor vehicles.

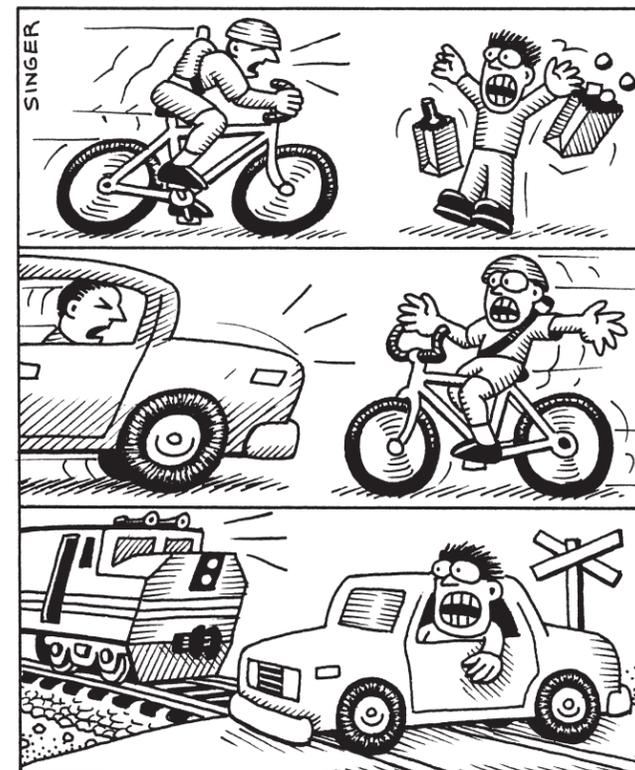
Bicycles are the most efficient means of transportation ever devised. Bicycles are rightfully considered vehicles, and are governed by the same traffic regulations as motor vehicles. Posted stop signs, yield signs, pedestrian signs and dismount signs must be obeyed.

Safety is everyone's responsibility.

Motorists have the most power to harm other users of the public roadways, and must always keep in mind their responsibilities as operators of dangerous machinery. Likewise, other users of the transportation system have responsibilities: Watch for danger, use caution, be visible, don't be aggressive. If your thinking, walking or balance are impaired, call a cab. We all want to have choices, be healthy, and live to old age.



NO EXIT © Andy Singer



"Carma" from *Car-toons*, by Andy Singer. Used with permission of the artist.