



How to Plan Multimodal Trips in the Twin Cities

Tuesday, February 13th | 12pm - 1pm CST
Zoom

Additional Q&A From the Webinar

Q. Does anyone know if Metro Transit is going to make their trip planner options broader? For example, bike 3 miles, walk 2 miles, etc?

Metro Transit: We already do include walking directions to destinations. The walking distance incorporated into trip plans can be adjusted up to one mile of walking under the “more options” tab. We are considering it! There is not a consensus among staff or riders as to the value and importance of facilitating multi-modal trip planning specifically with biking to transit. We welcome feedback from users!

Q. Do you have any advice for traveling with larger items or lots of items (groceries)?

Jordan: For biking adding a front or rear rack on your bike allows you to carry a lot of stuff. Especially if you get panniers or saddle bags that you can attach to the rack. I’ve found that with a rear rack, saddle bags and a few bungee cords I can carry quite a bit. The rack is particularly nice because you can bungee awkward or oversized items down that wouldn’t easily fit in a bag. I’ve carried groceries, fire wood, home repair supplies, clothes, camping equipment and much more.

Amity: If you can, plan not to do it during rush hour or busy times on transit, so that way there's more room for your stuff, like on the seat next to you. There's also room at the front of the bus where you can set stuff; not sure that's what it is for, but people use it all the time. And some buses have single seat options now, which are great for roly carts, or bigger bags. And--be respectful with stuff; if you're in the seating reserved for folks w disabilities, move your bags & yourself from them.

Chris: My carrying stuff on a bike message is to invest in a back bike rack and put a milk crate on it using hooked bungee cords. It takes a little doing at first to figure out how to strap it down. It will tip if you don't make sure it's affixed both back to front AND side to side. You can also attach the crate with zip ties. I put the bag I carry in the crate, and if I obtain more than will fit in the bag, I tie my bags of things to the crate, and carry my bag again. I've also ratchet strapped big boxes to the crate (see below).



Photos courtesy of : Chris Kulhanek

Q. Does anyone have any "secret" sources besides the 4 that were focused on during the webinar?

Amity: I really don't have any secret sources; but it's more like how you use the existing ones. Like, change the arrival and departure times on Google Maps and TripPlanner--sometimes if you need to be somewhere at 1 pm, those sites will have you arriving at 1230. BUT if you say your arrival time is 105 or 110 pm, those resources will get you there at 12:55. They're accounting for all travel time and no wiggle room; and if your stop is right next to where your destination is, 5 mins is fine. The more you take the bus, the more this will start to become a habit.

Chris: My secret is the [Grease Rag facebook group](#) for FTW (femme/trans/women). Their resource library and open shop info changed a lot about how I look at what I can do and who to ask for help.

Jordan: There are many different Twin Cities and Minneapolis specific bicycling Facebook groups. These are for everything from buying and selling bikes and gear to general discussion about how to's and current conditions. These can be a really good resource to connect with supportive communities.

Catherine: [Map My Ride](#) can be used in the app or browser to find or plan bike routes. [Love to Ride](#) can be used in a browser (app is in Early Access development) to track your rides, see your carbon savings, participate in challenges, and get support and resources from others in the bicycling community.