

Megan Olson
Microsoft
Carpooler



Megan Olson has been regularly using an alternative commute since she started working at Microsoft over a year ago. She began using public transit and then switched to a carpool.

Megan initially started taking the bus across the lake because she found the daily 520 commute so stressful. She made a commitment to try the bus for “at least 3 weeks”, and she found she immediately loved it. Instead of sitting in traffic behind the wheel, she sat on the bus and read, checked e-mail, and listened to music.

When she moved into her new home, she left a convenient bus route. It would now take her two transfers to get to work by bus, so she was happy to join a carpool when a colleague suggested it. Megan now drives to her colleague Kim’s house, and Kim drives in from there.

While they both save time (Megan estimates at least 30 minutes a day), they also experience some unexpected benefits. Kim is a director at Microsoft and has worked there for 11 years. The daily commute offers Megan some time to solicit some informal mentoring from someone at the company who’s been there a decade longer.

Megan says Kim appreciates the carpool because she feels like she’s being environmentally friendly and she gets out of the office at a more regular time. However, on those nights Kim has to work out, Megan either works out or puts in additional time herself. Kim credits Megan’s flexibility as the reason the carpool works 4-5 times a week, and that’s why Megan is one of this year’s Commute Champions!