Harvard Commuters

- 478 Bike commuter benefit participants
- 8,972 Harvard members
- 712,836 Harvard shuttle trips
- 94,382 Hubway trips taken by Harvard members

How we get to work

86.5% of Cambridge Harvard commuters use sustainable transportation options!

Recognition

Harvard was the first Ivy League school and university in the Northeast to be named a Gold Level Bicycle Friendly University

CommuterChoice received the inaugural TDM Excellence Award from the Association for Commuter Transportation

"The emergency ride home program, real-time tracking information of Harvard shuttle routes, and discounted Zipcar membership are wonderful services that have improved my quality of life."  - Harvard commuter

WWW.COMMUTERCHOICE.HARVARD.EDU
Harvard University is a leader among large employers in maintaining an exceptionally low Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) rate. This accomplishment represents a significant contribution to state and local transportation planning and is an important component in Harvard’s goals for greenhouse gas emission reduction. Since 1998, Harvard’s Commuter Choice Program has developed a broad range of programs encouraging sustainable transportation choices to meet the Parking and Transportation Demand Management (PTDM) Plan goals in Cambridge and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Rideshare Report goals for Harvard’s Boston campuses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commute Mode</th>
<th>Cambridge Campus</th>
<th>Cambridge and Allston Campus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drive Alone</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpool</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanpool</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Transit</td>
<td>35.1%</td>
<td>34.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>27.9%</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2016 transportation survey data indicates an SOV rate for Cambridge-based employees and off-campus graduate students of 13.5%, and 14.2% SOV rate for the Allston and Cambridge campuses combined, the results of a careful balance of campus planning, parking prices, financial incentives for transit, bicycle and carpool commuting, and educational initiatives to foster the use of single occupant vehicle alternatives.

SUPPORTING HARVARD COMMUTERS

Transit Programs, Advocacy & Opportunities

Harvard offers employees a 50% subsidy and pre-tax savings on monthly MBTA passes; on average, over 7,550 monthly passes were purchased in 2016. As reported in the annual transportation survey, this incentive is influential to many employees’ commuting decisions. Employees may also purchase private transit passes with pre-tax funds. Employees may also dedicate pre-tax funds for parking in conjunction with transit, walking or bike commutes; participation is increasing and in 2016, 282 employees dedicated a total of $239,073.50 to this program.

44% of Harvard employees’ commute choices were influenced by the MBTA subsidy.

Participation in the pre-tax parking program increased by 45% in participants and 6% in funds in 2016.

2,419 Emergency Ride Home registrants.

To maintain and increase public transit ridership at Harvard, University representatives meet and communicate with MBTA and MassDOT staff to discuss service improvements and to share the comments collected from Harvard community members. Comments were collected through the annual survey and the online Transportation Feedback form. Commuter Choice continues to explore the possibility of imbedding MBTA Charlie Card technology in University identification Cards, reducing barriers to transit ridership for all members of the Harvard community. A successful pilot program with the Undergraduate Student Council was launched last year with 64 student identification Cards embedded with Charlie Card technology; Commuter Choice continues to explore options for improving transit access and mobility.

Emergency Ride Home

Harvard University partners with MassRIDES, a service of MassDOT, to provide employees who do not drive alone with a comprehensive Emergency Ride Home (ERH) program. Eligible employees may take a taxi, rental car or transit in the event of a family or personal emergency and be reimbursed for the trip excluding tip and tax, up to four times per calendar year.
**Non-Motorized Transportation** Bicycling and walking are recognized as integral components of the University’s transportation system, and Harvard’s Schools and administrative units support the strengthening of the campus pedestrian and cycling network. Harvard invests considerable effort in developing programs, infrastructure, and supporting the improvement and growth of local and regional networks that connect the University with Cambridge and Boston.

**Infrastructure Planning** Harvard University works collaboratively with MassDOT, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the City of Cambridge, the City of Boston and other stakeholders on municipal pedestrian and bicycle planning initiatives and on incorporating bicycle facilities and pedestrian enhancements into planning efforts in areas of Boston and Cambridge that affect the Harvard community.

CommuterChoice works with the Harvard Planning Office to improve the cycling and pedestrian environment on and between the Cambridge and Allston campuses. Harvard is also planning pedestrian and bicycle improvements on Western Avenue and in Barry’s Corner, consistent with Boston’s Complete Streets Guidelines.

**Abandoned Bike Removal** Abandoned bikes pose a challenge by reducing the number of available and accessible bike parking spaces. CommuterChoice created a consistent mechanism for abandoned bike removal and donation. Abandoned bikes have been removed from the Science Center Plaza, Francis Ave Bike Shelter, and the Kennedy School.

**Campus Safety** Since 2014 the Harvard University Police Department and the Harvard Transportation Department have collaborated on the LOOK Campaign, which combines educational, encouragement and enforcement strategies to remind all road users to be alert and aware of their surroundings. Dozens of targeted outreach events have occurred since the program’s inception at high traffic campus locations.

**Bike Commuter Resources & Programs**

**Bicycle Commuter Benefit** reimburses employees up to $240 annually for bike-related expenses. Participation is growing!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Reimbursements</th>
<th>Total Participants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$42,669</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$52,966</td>
<td>349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$71,635</td>
<td>478</td>
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</table>

**Reimbursements** for eligible employees who take bike safety and maintenance classes on their own.

**Discounted $50 Hubway annual memberships** for all Harvard affiliates.

**$10 bike helmets** available to all Harvard affiliates.

**6,300+ bike parking spaces and 9 bike repair stations.**

**Annual Bay State Bike Week celebration on May 18th** brought together 150+ cyclists for a bike commuter appreciation breakfast, free bike safety checks, and giveaways.
Ridesharing Incentives: Employees receive a 50% - 75% discount on their annual parking permits if they drive with others to work. In 2016, 315 individuals (154 carpools) participated in this program in Cambridge and Allston. Individual carpoolers may also use four free daily parking permits per month to drive separately when schedules vary. Enhancements to the program in 2016 allowed certain contractors at the Business School to utilize the benefit. Vanpool commuters receive a 50% subsidy and pre-tax savings on annual costs, free designated parking on Harvard’s campus, and individual commuters may also receive two free daily parking passes per month.

Carpool Formation Events: CommuterChoice hosted three carpool formation events at parking facilities and classroom spaces in Cambridge and Allston in 2016, providing commuters the opportunity to meet each other and identify those with similar commutes using customized zip code density maps.

Zipcar: Harvard has a total of 48 Zipcars across campus, the most for a New England university. Discounted annual $15 memberships are offered to employees and students, and departmental accounts can be set up at no cost and receive discounted rates for work-related travel.

Fleet Management and Shuttle Services: Harvard maintains a year-round comprehensive shuttle bus system operating throughout the Cambridge and Allston campuses that is free for the Harvard community. Those traveling to the Longwood Medical Area can ride the M2 Shuttle operated through MASCO.

Harvard provides a variety of fleet and passenger transport services including the TransLoc system for real-time bus locations; the Harvard Daytime Van Service for door-to-door service for riders with mobility impairment or medical conditions; and the Harvard Evening Van Service, an on-call service that transports Harvard affiliates throughout the Cambridge and Allston campuses.

CommuterChoice coordinated with Boston University and MIT to host the second annual Sustainable Transportation Summit on March 9, 2016. The event brought together forty area transportation leaders and university experts to discuss best practices for TDM program development.