

Green Mobile News

BOSTON UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

WHAT SERVICES DO WE PROVIDE?

- Public Transit Advocacy
- MBTA Pass Program
- Carpooling & Vanpooling
- Bicycling
- Walking
- Personalized Commuter Assistance
- Employee & Student Orientations

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GETTING TO KNOW TRANSCOMM

Transportation Solutions for Commuters, Inc (TransComm) is a transportation management association (TMA) that coordinates the transportation needs at BUMC and in the Albany Street neighborhood of Boston's lower South End. TransComm develops employee programs that promote alternatives to driving alone and enhances accessibility in our neighborhood.

TransComm is a pro-active organization committed to working collaboratively with local, state and federal agencies to propose and implement transportation options for the Medical Center, its affiliates, and the South End community.

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Clockwise from top-left:
Michelle, Maureen, Jen, Thu

The Friendly Folks at TransComm have tea at the Taj to celebrate the holidays!

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A NOTE ABOUT THIS EDITION:

For the Fall/Winter newsletter, the folks at TransComm recruited a few commuters to write about their personal experiences with alternative means of transportation. Their articles are featured throughout the newsletter to provide insight into the varied perspectives of BUMC and BMC commuters.

We would like to offer our thanks to all those who contributed, and if you have a commute story or suggestion you'd like to share, email us at BUMCTransComm@gmail.com!

New Website!

www.bumc.bu.edu/transcomm

Hybrid Parking

by Trysha Ahern, Financial Manager, Pediatric Department

Even though my mini-van was just two years old, I decided that between the amount of gas I was spending and the ten extra minutes getting to the 8th floor each morning and leaving every evening, it was time for a change.

Knowing that owners of hybrids were given preferred parking weighed heavily on my decision to trade in my car 18 months ago. After sitting in traffic for an hour every morning, it is such a relief to pull in and make it to my desk within 5 minutes of entering the garage. I feel that the savings in time and energy have greatly increased my daily productivity.

Zipcar Low Car Diet Challenge

The Low-Car Diet Challenge is an annual Zipcar event that encourages people across the country to test drive a car-free routine and to see how it works for their daily lifestyle. To date, Zipcar estimates that it has taken more than 90,000 personally-owned vehicles off urban streets. At the event, participants handed over their keys and committed to living without their car for 30 days.

A'Llyn Ettien, a librarian at the BU Medical Campus, remarked, "it has been extremely easy to have a Zipcar. It's great to know that there is a car if I need one, and without the hassle of having to find a place to park it when I'm done. I am definitely a Zipster!" She personally utilized the subway and foot travel to get around sans automobile.



H A P P E N I N G S

MBTA Student Semester Passes

- Students may purchase a 4 month bundle of passes of MBTA monthly unlimited passes
- Students who purchase the bundle receive an 11% discount off the regular price of a monthly pass
- **Student Spring Semester Pass** includes passes for February, March, April, May
- **Student Fall Semester Pass** includes passes for October, November, December, January
- Hundreds of students participate each semester



Walking for Health, Fun and History!

This year, TranSComm added **Discover Roxbury** to its menu of "neighborhood walks." Discovery Roxbury is a non-profit organization which promotes the economic development of Roxbury through sustainable cultural tourism that highlights the neighborhood's rich history, arts, and its contributions to the world.

Historic tours give participants authentic and accurate portrayals of the neighborhood as led by resident guides from the community. TranSComm was fortunate to have Fulani Haynes, jazz singer, local resident and artist to lead our lunchtime walk.

As Florina Tynyanova, medical center employee, said, "[t]he walks are excellent! Walking really makes our lunches interesting." We exercised, enjoyed the sights and gained an insider's perspective of this vibrant Boston neighborhood, only minutes away from the medical center.



Sights from our Discover Roxbury neighborhood walk.

Fall Bike Tune-Up

On Tuesday, October 6, 2009, TranSComm held its seasonal bike check-up for Boston Medical Center and Boston University Medical Campus cyclists. Our swift mechanic checked and tuned forty-three different bikes in only four and a half hours! Bike tune-up participants enjoyed snacks and water bottles. They were also eligible to partake in a free raffle to win various cycling prizes including bike locks, helmets, pairs of cycling gloves, and t-shirts. The lucky ten winners were selected at random. Congratulations to the winners!

A special thanks to EG Bikes for the generous donation of these prizes and their skilled mechanics.



CYCLING

New and Replaced Bike-racks

TranSComm installed new Dero® Hitch and Cora® racks throughout the campus to accommodate the influx of student and employee cyclists. These new racks are a handsome addition to our ever-expanding capacity.

New racks can be found at:

- Talbot Building
- Albany Street Emergency Room Entrance
- 610 Parking Garage (scooter parking)

Ride the electric ride!

by Sylvia Baedorf, Regulatory Education Manager

My first impression when I encountered the Pietzo was one of skepticism. This was an electric bike? I had always thought that electric bikes were large, ungainly and bulky. This bike, however, hid its electric turbo charge in the guise of a small discreet box behind the seat, only the most keen observer would ever be able to notice! I was able to get all my errands done fast and conveniently. I appreciated the bike's pick-up as it was able to pull away at intersections, sometimes even faster than the cars I was riding next to. I also came to love the extra boost I got riding up long hills. My favorite, however, was riding in what my fiancé jokingly called the "Segway Pose," standing up, riding the bike like Leo and Kate rode the bow of the Titanic, wind blowing through my (helmet-covered) hair. Wouldn't you agree that arriving at work without being doused in a profuse sweat is a major bonus? Overall, this bike is easy on the eyes, great for your wallet, and even better for the environment. In the future, when someone asks you what you ride, tell them you ride electric!

The 2009 Bike Cage Awards

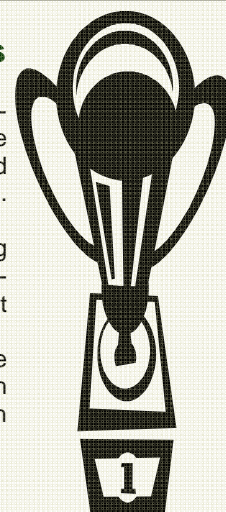
by C. James McKnight, PhD, Assistant Professor of Physiology and Biophysics

I've been commuting to the BUMC/BMC campus from Milton by bicycle for over 14 years (at least usually...when it's not raining too hard...or too cold and dark). I love the East Concord Bike Cage and I'm sure the East Newton Cage is also great. The Cage is well worth the annual fee (\$20) as it keeps my bike both safe and dry. I've also gotten tons of free tune-ups and swag from the TranSComm folks and free lunch now and then. Now we just need a shower facility...

I also like meeting and talking to other bikers about their commutes. I must admit I also love checking out the wide variety of bikes that people use to get here. I've been so struck by some of them that I began snapping photos with the idea of giving out my own awards. Then Maureen from TranSComm asked me to write a bit for the newsletter and I realized this was the perfect venue to introduce my informal awards.

So here they are: my unscientific 2009 Bike Cage Awards. Sorry, there are no prizes. Also, these are just a few of the bikes that caught my fancy while I had my phone with me this Fall. Perhaps I'll continue with these awards in the future. Possibly the award thing will go viral and everyone will start emailing Maureen with pictures and suggested awards. We'll see.

So, in no particular order here are my Bike Cage Awards for 2009:



BREAST CANCER AWARENESS



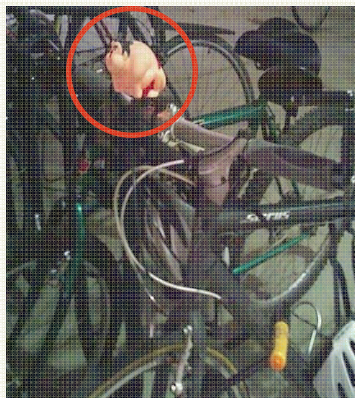
This bike has the coolest pink handle bar tape. A great look!

MICHAEL JACKSON MEMORIAL



The owner of this nifty folding bike keeps a glove hanging from her ride for when the chain falls off.

"HORN"-IEST



I love this big, soft plastic horn.

MOST LAID-BACK



This award was a gimme for this nice recumbent bike.



Winner's Roll

**Congratulations,
Rebecca Caruso**

Winner of a gift
card to
WholeFoods for
naming our
newsletter, Green
Mobile News!

**Congratulations,
Jonathan Hall**

Winner of a
calendar and a gift
card to
Starbucks in the
Carpool & Hybrid
raffle!



Jonathan Hall, winner, pictured with Michelle Tse.

THE BUS

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SHUTTLE

The spring semester shuttle schedule began January 13. The BUS (BU Shuttle) operates every ten minutes during peak hours and every twenty minutes otherwise. First buses leave Albany St. & Agganis Way at 7:00 AM. Last buses leave Albany St. & Agganis Way at 10:20 PM.

WANT TO WIN TOO?



Fill in the TranSComm crossword puzzle below, cut out the completed puzzle, and return to our office at 710 Albany Street (in person or by inter-office mail) by **February 11, 2010**. All correctly completed puzzles will be entered in a raffle to win a **box of Godiva Chocolates to share with your sweetie on Valentine's Day!**

ACROSS

- 1 Greenhouse gas that can be reduced by the use of alternative transportation.
- 4 To reuse waste.
- 6 These cars have two sources of energy.
- 8 Community in which TranSComm coordinates transportation needs.
- 9 Boston's public transit system.
- 10 TranSComm's favorite color.

DOWN

- 2 Street on which TranSComm is located.
- 3 The safest place to park a bike on campus.
- 5 To share an automobile ride.
- 7 BU offers free rides on this service between the Medical Campus & Charles River Campus.



Please contact us at
BUMCTranSComm@gmail.com with any
suggestions, concerns, ideas, & feedback.

TranSComm Crossword

