



Clean Commute Chronicle

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Winter Driving Tips

As we all know, especially those of you with longer commutes, winter weather often means hazardous driving conditions. Here are a few winter driving tips to help remind all of our clean commuters about being safe on the roadways!

- Make sure your tires are properly inflated. Under inflation can reduce the gripping action of tires because the tread will not meet the road surface as it was designed to do. Over inflation has the same effect.
- Keep your gas tank at least half-full. It also adds helpful weight to your vehicle and the extra volume can help reduce moisture problems in your fuel system.
- In rear-wheel drive vehicles, extra weight in the trunk may be helpful. Use care — unsecured weight can shift while you are moving or if you have to stop suddenly. Bags of sand can provide weight and if sprinkled on the ice, sand helps provide traction.
- Before you leave your driveway, scrape the ice and snow from every window and the exterior rear view mirrors, not just a small patch on the windshield.
- Always use safety belts, both lap and shoulder straps.
- Adjust head rests. Rear-end collisions are common in winter driving and a properly-adjusted head rest can really prevent or reduce neck injuries.
- Do not use your cellular phone when driving. Even if you have a hands-free model, you should focus all of your attention on driving, not on your phone conversation.
- Drive slowly and remember to pay attention to posted speed limits. These are the maximum speed allowed in ideal weather conditions. Weather conditions can warrant a slower speed, so please use caution.
- Be alert to other vehicles on the road. Try to anticipate cars coming from side streets and maintain extra distance between your vehicle and the one in front of you. If someone is driving too close to your vehicle, don't speed up; please slow down or let them pass you.
- To ensure that other drivers can see you, always drive with your lights on in bad weather. At night, in fog, or in heavy snow conditions, low beams may sometimes be more effective than high beams.
- Always be prepared to break. Apply light pressure to the breaks to avoid locking the breaks and causing a skid. Pumping the break pedal may be appropriate in some vehicles, but refrain from slamming on the brakes.
- Always keep both hands on the wheel and remember to keep your wheel pointed where you want your car to go if you begin to skid or slide.

Drive Safely this Winter!!

Winter Cycling Tips

With the winter weather, some of our dedicated cyclists might be searching for ways to improve the fun and safety of your winter bicycling. Thanks to MSU Bikes and Bikewinter.org, we are happy to help you keep up your clean commuting during the winter!

Visibility: Make sure you are visible! Use front and rear lights on your bike during the day, dusk, and at night to help other vehicles see you. Also, use a safety vest for additional visibility when it's dark or the weather is nasty.

Chain Protection: Keep your bicycle chains well lubed with "wet condition" lube for safer winter riding.

Check tire pressure- Just like cars, you need to consistently check your bike's tire pressure during the winter. They'll get softer faster in the winter, which can actually help increase the grip on the ice/snow, but don't let them get too flat or you may get more "pinch-flats" and it will be very hard to get down the road. The recommended tire pressure is almost always printed on the sidewalls of your bike tires and often gives a range. Go with the recommended lower pressure during the winter months, and the higher pressure during dry and warmer months.

Watch for Frozen Locks: Any lock can/will freeze and rust on your bike, to the point where you can't easily open them. To reduce the chances of this happening, make sure the locking mechanisms are facing down, so that water doesn't sit in them and freeze the unit solid. Also, lubricate the locking mechanism with a good lube BEFORE it gets stuck shut. This will help it continue to keep functioning as it should. If your lock does freeze up, use a cup of hot water/hot coffee to pour over it and defrost the mechanism to avoid breaking off the key in the lock! A lock de-icer can also be good for limited circumstances.

Note on Studded Tires: You may have heard that as long as you ride in a straight line and don't make any quick turns, that you should be ok with your normal tires in icy conditions. This may not be true! Studded tires can be good for winter cycling. However, those commercially available studded tires can also be very expensive! For some help creating your own studded tires, please contact local bike guru Tim Potter at bikes@msu.edu for some helpful tips and instructions. With a little dedication and about 1.5 – 2 hours of work, you may be able to create your own, cheaper, studded tires.

Many of the items mentioned above, as well as additional bicycling items needed for cold weather biking, can be found at MSU Bike Shop on the Campus of MSU in East Lansing. You can view their website at www.bikes.msu.edu for store hours and more information on safe winter cycling.

Parking Incentive Message from the City of Lansing

Please note, for those of you who have already sent in your VIP parking card applications: One person in each carpool must have a parking permit in one of the City-owned facilities in order to get the "free" day per month.

A \$10 deposit per card is required, which you will get back when the card is returned if you stop carpooling. That is to ensure that the City will get the card back. There is one use per month per card which means, if you have four people carpooling, there are 4 cards administered to your carpool.

For further questions, please feel free to contact the Clean Commute Options office by calling 393-7433 or email cleancommute@cata.org. Thank you!



CATA Leads Michigan Avenue/Grand River Transportation Corridor Study

With regional, state, and federal partners, CATA is coordinating a major study of the Michigan and Grand River Avenue corridor. The study will focus on transportation infrastructure improvements needed to support the Greater Lansing Region's future regarding mobility. It will be looking at roadway, vehicle travel, public transportation, and non-motorized improvements to this main corridor.

Cities across the country have used smart investments in transportation infrastructure to catalyze development and redevelopment. By improving the physical links between the Greater Lansing Region's largest concentrations of employers and residents, CATA and their partners, can modernize this community's transportation infrastructure, decrease congestion, decrease reliance on imported fuels, and increase the safety and reliability of the system.

The Michigan and Grand River Avenue corridor is the first to be studied because of the vital role it plays in our region. Existing business and residences have already used CATA's public transportation system at, or above, capacity. As regular commuters and community partners, you have seen first-hand how increased congestion on our roadways causes not only delays, but endangers motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians alike.

We need your help! - Come **LEARN** about different options for transportation, **SEE** what the study will be analyzing, and **TELL** us what you think! Attend a public meeting, follow the study's progress at www.migrtrans.org, or become a 'Fan' of the study on Facebook ("Michigan/Grand River Ave Transportation Study").

Public Meeting Dates & Locations:

Tuesday, Jan. 12th 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Hannah Community Center 819 Abbott Rd. East Lansing, MI 48823	Wednesday, Jan. 13th 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Foster Community Center 200 N. Foster Ave. Lansing, MI 48912	Thursday, January 14th 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Meridian Township Hall 5151 Marsh Rd. Okemos, MI 48864
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Study partners include the Cities of Lansing and East Lansing, Townships of Lansing and Meridian, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, Ingham County Road Commission, Michigan Department of Transportation, Michigan State University, Lansing Economic Area Partnership, Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, Federal Highway Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration.

Please visit the website for more information at www.migrtrans.org. You may also call the CATA offices at (517) 394-1100. Thank you for your continued input and support!



Featured Commuter of the Month

Commuting daily from his home in Jackson to the campus of MSU, this month's featured clean commuter is happy for the extra savings that carpooling affords him. Ehren shares the ride with two others for their daily 40-45 minute drive to the East Lansing campus.

Ehren always found driving alone to be relaxing and never disliked his commute, but when gas prices had increased, he decided to contact the Clean Commute program and look for alternatives. Now, after two years of carpooling, Ehren still enjoys sharing the ride.

(continued on next page)

Contact Us

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Visit us on Facebook & Twitter!

Other Alternative Transportation Providers

CATA: 517-394-1000

MichiVan: 800-VAN-RIDE

EATRAN: 517-543-3040

Clinton Transit: 800-800-5938

TCBA: www.biketcba.org

Featured Commuter of the Month (*continued*)

"Riding with my carpoolers is very enjoyable and has made the daily commute much more relaxing, with just being able to ride, instead of driving everyday. It's also lead me to making some good friends. Even now that gas is not as expensive, it is still very worthwhile as the savings are still noticeable! And taking at least two cars off of the road each day is a plus for our energy independence." states Ehren.

Ehren also enjoys the Emergency Ride Home benefit that he receives for sharing the ride at least three days per week. For him, it's nice to know that he will not be stranded in Lansing if something happens.

Ehren has had some interesting experiences, and knows all too well, the hazards that winter driving can bring. One day on his way to pick up his carpool partner for their ride home, he was navigating the roads in blizzard-like and icy conditions, when he had to veer off the road to avoid sliding into a collision. This resulted in a blown out tire, and while he waited, Ehren assisted other to get off the road. Instead of using his Emergency Ride Home, Ehren's carpool partner was dropped off at the scene by a co-worker, and he decided to stay with Ehren to help and see how "the adventure would unfold". While waiting for the tire to be replaced at the Okemos Discount Tire, the two poolers ate at McDonalds across the street, sharing some interesting conversations with others seated around them. After all was said and done, they finally reached their homes in Jackson around 9:00pm, but overall had a fun experience while they were waiting.

Ehren only has one request to share: "Carpooling has been great! With all of the people that work at MSU, I just wish there was a better way to let everyone know about this program so we could all fill our carpools!"

Carpools Looking for More Riders

- Ann Arbor-Lansing
- Brighton-MSU
- Canton-State Secondary. Complex
- Charlotte-Lansing
- Corunna/Durand-Lansing
- Dimondale-Holt
- Durand/Perry-MSU
- Eaton Rapids-Lansing
- Eaton Rapids-East Lansing/MSU
- Fowlerville-Lansing
- Grand Rapids-E. Lansing
- Ionia/Portland/Eagle-Lansing
- Jackson-East Lansing
- Jackson-Lansing
- Kalamazoo/Battle Creek-Lansing
- Lowell/Ada-Lansing
- Lyons/Portland-Lansing
- Novi-Lansing
- Owosso-East Lansing/MSU
- Owosso-Lansing
- Portland/Eagle-West Lansing
- Portland/Ionia/Eagle-MSU
- Spring Arbor/Jackson-Lansing
- Ypsilanti-State Sec. Complex

Vanpools Looking for More Riders

- Ann Arbor-Lansing
- Brighton-Lansing
- Canton-Lansing
- Grand Rapids-Lansing
- Grand Rapids-MSU/E.L
- Grand Rapids/Portland-Lansing
- Howell-Lansing
- Jackson-Lansing
- Lapeer-Flint-Lansing
- Novi-Lansing
- Lennon/Flint-Lansing
- Milford-Lansing/Secondary Complex
- Southfield-Lansing

Contact Clean Commute Options by calling (517) 393-7433 or email cleancommute@cata.org for more information on how to join.