

# Reinventing the Wheel – How Do You Commute?

For Cliff Schulenberg, commuting to campus is a family affair. Since the beginning of the year, Cliff and his wife, Jill, have been carpooling from their home in southeast Fort Collins. He works in the College of Agricultural Sciences' Agriculture Business Center in the Shepardson Building, while Jill works for First National Bank in the Lory Student Center.

How many days a week do you carpool?

I'm currently carpooling five days a week. I will mix that up with some bike commuting in warmer weather.

How long does it take to commute to work? How does that compare to driving yourself?

It takes me 15 to 20 minutes to commute to work. It's the same whether I carpool, or drive myself, since my carpooling partner is also my wife.

Describe your route and how the carpool works.

Our route is pretty simple since we are both leaving from the same place. My wife works in the Lory Student Center, so I usually drop her off and then I park over by Shepardson. We communicate during the day, to find



Cliff and Jill Schulenberg share commuting in the family car. Photo by Kyle Deuschle

out who will be ready to leave earliest. If she gets off before me, then she'll walk over to my office. If I get off earlier than her, then I'll pick her up in front of Lory.

Do you do anything to prepare for the commute?

We prepare for the commute by making sure our two kids are out the door and heading for school. Also, make sure we have coffee....lots and lots of coffee.

Do you do anything along the way, either to or from campus (day care stops, workouts, errands)?

We stop on the way home to pick up our daughter from BASE camp.

How do you spend your time on the commute?

We talk about all the things that families need to talk about and don't have time to, or we listen to a book. We take turns on who gets to pick which book we listen to. Once I got a kiss at a stop light. That doesn't happen when you commute solo.

What concerns did you have about carpooling before you started?

Working the same hours was one concern. My wife works for First National Bank, and we weren't sure how receptive they'd be to set hours that would facilitate us carpooling, but they fully supported the idea, as did my department. Once the hours were set, the other concern was making sure we could get our kids off to school, and pick them up, and still make the carpool work. So far, it's worked great.

Do you ride with the same people every day?

Yes. My carpooling partner is the best.

How do you manage workday business trips when you don't have a personal vehicle on campus?

So far this hasn't been an issue. If either of us needs the car during the day, we can just take it. Multiple sets of keys is helpful. Also, although we haven't used it, we're aware that Parking & Transportation services offers emergency rides home to registered carpoolers (two times per fiscal year).

How does the cost compare to driving and parking on campus?

Carpooling is about half the cost of both of us driving. When you consider the cost of gas, a parking pass and vehicle wear and tear, I'd estimate we are saving \$2,500 a year.

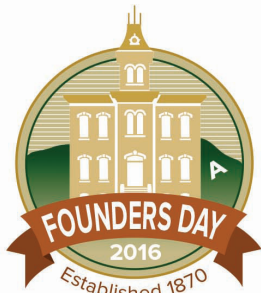
What advice would you give to a fellow employee who is on the fence about using alternative transportation to commute?

I think there are a lot of alternative transportation options to explore, so I'd encourage fellow employees to sample them when they can. Ride a bike, take a bus, carpool and see if anything feels right.

When the weather gets warmer, I think I'll ride my bike more than she does, so there might be some days she drives alone. We've also discussed switching off, where one of us rides to work and the other drives, then vice versa for the return home. We've also discussed issues, like doctor's appointments or days when one of us needs to put in extra hours, and I think on those days one of us will drive to campus and the other will park and ride the MAX. It's nice to have so many options.

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**COME CELEBRATE CSU'S  
146TH BIRTHDAY**



**THURS., FEB. 11, 2016  
LORY STUDENT CENTER  
BALLROOMS C AND D  
AT 4:30 P.M**

Join Colorado State University in honoring  
**Stephen J. Withrow, D.V.M.**, as the 2016  
Founders Day medal recipient for his extraordinary  
service and contributions to the life and future of  
Colorado State University.

**1:46 P.M. JOIN CAM THE RAM AND THE CSU PEP BAND ON  
THE PLAZA FOR BIRTHDAY FUN AND GREAT GIVEAWAYS.**