Campus Transportation/Access Guide 2014

INTRODUCTION

Sustainability is a key component of the University of Cincinnati’s long term planning initiatives. Through the efforts of the President’s Advisory Council on Environment and Sustainability (PACES), strategies are underway to reduce the university’s carbon footprint and achieve escalating levels of environmental responsibility. Because transportation accounts for nearly one fifth of UC’s carbon footprint and depends largely on individual decisions, it is an important focus of our Climate Action Plan and sustainability programming.

This Access Guide offers an explanation of the transportation options available to UC’s students, staff, and faculty who wish to choose environmentally friendly alternatives to using personal automobiles to access campus. Included are programs run by the university, such as the Bearcat Bike Share, as well as those available to the UC community that are operated by other organizations, such as Zipcar and Cincinnati’s Metro buses.

TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS: UNIVERSITY

Bikes!

Bicycles offer the opportunity to get exercise, engage with the urban environment, avoid parking hassles, and quickly travel door to destination. UC’s bicycle planning, advocacy, and programming has garnered significant recognition, including being named one of Queen City Bike’s “Gold Level” Bike Friendly Destinations in 2013-14.
Bearcat Bike Share

The University of Cincinnati’s Bearcat Bike Share kicked off on April 22, 2010 with a bike parade down MainStreet as part of Earth Day 40th anniversary celebrations. The program has nearly doubled in size since then, and now offers a fleet of 50 bikes available to the UC community for up to three days at a time, free of charge. All potential riders need to do is swipe their campus ID at the Campus Recreation center, pick up their bike (with provided lock), and head out. Please note that currently helmets are not provided, and although they are not legally mandated, we highly recommend their use.

The Bike Kitchen

In 2010, the University of Cincinnati created a free campus bike shop to service the fleet of the Bearcat Bike Share and to provide an informal workspace for the UC community to participate in bike maintenance. The Bike Kitchen is housed in the refurbished kitchen of the old Faculty Center on Woodside Drive at the base of MainStreet, in the heart of campus. Students can come to the Bike Kitchen to learn about bike maintenance, repair and safety from knowledgeable student mechanics and use the resources to do simple repairs on their own bikes. The Bike Kitchen’s services are all free and the shop is generally open five days a week during the school term.
UC Shuttle System

UC offers two free shuttle services to students, staff and faculty. Combined, they provide over half a million rides every year. The Campus Transit System (CTS) operates four routes between designated stops on UC campuses, Monday - Friday. The Bearcat Transportation System (BTS) operates at various times during academic terms, connecting UC’s Uptown Campus with nearby neighborhoods and local entertainment districts, such as Over-The-Rhine. Both operate on a continuous loop, so although there is not a schedule, you can track their whereabouts online in real time. Via a shuttle tracking program.

NightRide

NightRide is a free nighttime shuttle service provided to UC students to provide safe and reliable transportation to and from locations within a one mile radius around the UC campus. Call 513-556-RIDE to schedule a ride Sunday - Wednesday 8:00pm - 12:00am or Thursday - Saturday 8:00pm - 2:00am.

TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS: AROUND CINCINNATI

For those who wish to travel throughout the Cincinnati area, may it be to enjoy a Reds game or to go grocery shopping at Findlay Market, there are a number of options available. Both Cincinnati’s Metro buses and Zipcar are available at multiple locations directly on campus, and can be linked to Kentucky’s buses providing access further afield to destinations such as the airport.

UC*Metro

Cincinnati Metro is a non-profit, tax-funded public service of the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA) that provides bus service throughout Cincinnati. UC*Metro is an agreement between UC and SORTA that provides students, faculty and staff with discounted fares. The two options currently offered are the UC*Metro Fare Card which provides unlimited rides in the City of Cincinnati for
$53/semester for students, and the free EZ Ride Fare Card allows riders to pay a reduced fare of only $1 for each ride. Both services require registration online at the beginning of each semester.

Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky (TANK)

TANK is the regional bus service of Northern Kentucky. It extends into downtown Cincinnati and can be taken to the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG) as well as many other destinations. UC does not currently have any program for discounted services from TANK.

Zipcar

Zipcar provides the convenience of a car without the hassle and expense of maintenance, parking, and insurance. This car sharing service maintains 24-hour access for students, faculty, and staff (over 18 years of age) to reserve a car by the hour or by the day. Introduced to campus in 2012, there are currently 5 Zipcars located on UC’s main campus. Membership is open to all UC faculty, staff, and students.

Transportation Options: Beyond Cincinnati

Many UC students travel home, to Co-ops, or to conferences, regularly taking them beyond the bounds of the Cincinnati metropolitan area. Recognizing this, UC has worked to facilitate easy access to a variety of transportation options linking campus to destinations such as Chicago, Louisville and New York.

GoBus

GoBus service from Cincinnati to Athens and Columbus now stops at UC in two locations. The route stops on Main Campus at West University Avenue and Commons Way, across from Schneider Hall. GoBus also stops at UC East off Route 32 in Batavia. Visit the GoBus website for more details.

Megabus

This intercity bus service offers daily trips from downtown Cincinnati to Columbus, Indianapolis, Chicago, Atlanta, Buffalo, Chattanooga, and Knoxville. In 2013, UC helped Megabus create a stop on campus at West University Avenue and Commons Way en route to Indianapolis, Chicago, and Columbus.

GotoBus

GotoBus, also referred to as the Chinatown Bus, runs a daily, non-stop route from Cincinnati to New York City for $50. Buses leave from Sharonville, OH, near the intersection of I-275 and I-75.