May is Bike Month

There is no better time to try cycling than Bike Month! Bike Month started in 1956 to bring awareness to all the benefits of biking. Biking is good for your health, the environment, and your wallet! Make sure to stop by Wilson Library during the month of May and check out the Bike Month display case that can tell you all about the benefits of biking. As part of the display, come see featured WWU students and staff to see why they like to bike.

If you need a little help getting started cycling, contact the Sustainable Transportation office and we can set you up with a bike buddy to show you the ropes.

Bike to Work and School Day is Friday, May 15th! Stop by our celebration stations in front of the Rec Center and between Bond and Haggard Hall between 6 and 9:30am. We will hand out free treats for those who stop by our stations. Please contact us at transportation@wwu.edu or x7245 if you are interested in volunteering for a few hours in the morning on this day. Tell your friends and family! This is a city-wide event meant to encourage cyclists.

Stop by the Outdoor Center for a tune-up to ensure your bike is all ready for your ride to work on Friday morning.

Biking is for everyone! Try it out this May.

Bellingham Adventures Photo Contest

As part of Transportation Week, happening May 4th-8th, the Office of Sustainable Transportation is introducing the “Bellingham Adventures Photo contest”. Faculty, staff, and students are eligible to enter this contest. Participants are asked to provide a description and photo of a trip featuring them using local transportation during the month of April. All submissions are due by noon on April 29th. There are two categories for prizes; one for staff and one for students. The faculty or staff winner will receive a $25 gift card to REI. See our website for contest rules, guidelines, and an example submission from a previous year. We encourage everyone to try a walking, biking, or bussing adventure this spring!

Winter Quarter Smart Commuters

January: Jackie Caplan Auerbach, Geology
February: Bertil Van Boer, Music
March: Sara Purington, Fairhaven

WWU Sustainable Transportation
MS 9197 transportation@wwu.edu (360) 650-7960
Day Trip to Locust Beach

Locust Beach, nicknamed “Bellingham’s Secret Playground”, is a must-go springtime destination. Enjoy a beautiful sunset, views of Mt. Baker, and a walk out in the shallow bay. This destination is easily accessible by bus or bike. Leaving from the WTA downtown station, take bus 3 towards Maplewood/Cordata. The number 3 bus leaves the station at ten past the hour from 7am to 6pm on weekdays and from 9am to 5pm on Saturday. This bus does not run on Sunday. Hop off the bus at Bennett Dr. and McApline Rd., the 21st stop on the bus ride. Walk south on McApline Rd and turn left onto Locust Ave. Follow the trail that leads to the beach! This trip only takes 23 minutes.

To get back, catch the number 4 bus towards Maplewood/Downtown at Bennett Dr. and Marine Dr. The 4 stops here at 50 minutes past the hour between 6am and 6pm on weekdays, and between 9am and 5pm on Saturday. Biking is another option, and takes the same amount of time as bussing! From campus, head north on Indian St., turn left on Holly, and continue straight onto Eldrige and Marine Dr. until you reach Locust Ave and turn left. The ride is 4.2 miles with moderate hills. Don’t want to commit to riding roundtrip? You can always bike down to the beach and throw your bike on the bus once you’re ready to head home. Parking is tricky at Locust Beach, so leave the car at home and commute to this coastal treasure sustainably.

Earth Week

Earth Week is April 20th-25th. There are plenty of events during the week to attend. See the website for a full list. Sustainable Transportation especially encourages you to check out the bike ride on Earth Day. This is a great opportunity to get some exercise and learn about sustainability and environmental issues in Bellingham.

We will also be hosting a do-it-yourself pannier workshop at the Earth Day Festival in the Fairhaven Complex on April 25th from 11:30-3. Stop by our booth to make your own pannier out of recycled buckets, or to pick up instructions for you to do it at home. All materials are provided at the booth. Note that we will only make panniers for those with their bike at the festival so we can create a custom fit.

Walk, bike, bus, or share a ride to the Earth Day Festival and enjoy a fabulous keynote speaker, delicious food from the Co-op, great music, and informative workshops for a variety of interests.

Bike Parking Etiquette

As spring rolls around, more and more bikes will be filling up the bike racks on campus. This is great—we love to see people biking! It is also important that everyone remembers bike parking etiquette, especially when racks are full. Keep these guidelines in mind when parking your bike at a campus rack:

1. Avoid sticking your pedals into adjacent bike’s spokes. This could cause damage and make it difficult to remove their bike.
2. If you accidentally knock over another bike, put it upright once again.
3. Only lock your bike to a bike rack. Locking your bike to trees, signs, railing, other bikes, etc. can get in the way of the Grounds crew.
4. Take up as little space as possible with your bike. Lock it so it is standing upright and not laying sideways, blocking others from accessing the adjacent parking space.
5. Remove large cargo storage to make as much room as possible.
6. Please do not attempt to move or change the bike rack configuration. If you have suggestions for how bike parking could improve, contact Sustainable Transportation and we will do the best we can to accommodate your request.

First Time Rider Passes

Employees who have never ridden the bus before may request a free one month pass to give it a try. The pass will be mailed directly to your house. All you need is a Smart Trips account and to list yourself as an employee at Western. Visit www.whatcomsmarttrips.org to set up an account. We can even help you plan your commute to work using the bus routes in your area. Contact the Sustainable Transportation office to request a free pass.