

Steve Faiks
Microsoft
Bus Rider, Biker, Walker



Steve Faiks, a Software Development Engineer for Microsoft, has been referred to by one colleague as the undisputed heavyweight champion of healthy commuting. Steve has been commuting 45 miles round trip to and from work for the last 10 years. Only a handful of times a year does he drive his car to work when he absolutely has to for after-work errands.

When Steve first came to Seattle he quickly discovered the benefits of leaving his car at home, and he combined walking, biking, and busing to move him around the city. He now spends his 3-hour-long daily commute studying Japanese, listening to National Public Radio, or simply closing his eyes and relaxing.

“If I can do it, you can do it,” Steve says, adding that most of us commuting to Redmond from Seattle or Bellevue have good bus route options. Steve himself has to take two buses to get to work, but the need to transfer doesn’t deter him.

Among the personal benefits he cites that come with his commute are reduced cost of transportation (Microsoft fully subsidizes the employee bus pass), peace of mind—no need to worry about getting into an accident on the congested roads, seeing things he wouldn’t normally see, meeting people he wouldn’t normally meet, and a chance to visit Seattle’s main library in between buses.

Nominated by two of his Microsoft colleagues, one who refers to him as “Mass Transit Steve,” he is an advocate for public transportation and supportive of anyone who wants to try the bus commute. Steve is clearly a 2009 Commute Champion!