



Media Advisory

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Minneapolis City Goals: A Safe Place to Call Home ▫ One Minneapolis ▫ Lifelong Learning Second to None ▫ Connected Communities ▫ Enriched Environment ▫ A Premier Destination

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What's the best way to get around town: biking, riding public transit or driving?

Mayor Rybak and others to take part in the Great Commuter Challenge

WHAT: Mayor R.T. Rybak joins Ramsey County Commissioner Toni Carter in the Great Commuter Challenge.

WHEN: Monday, May 12 (Rybak and others expected to arrive between 8 and 8:15 a.m.)

WHERE: Minneapolis Central Library Plaza

MORE: People often think driving is the quickest way to get from point A to point B. While cars are certainly fast, having to make stops along the way and getting caught in traffic snarls may make other forms of transportation a better fit. Driving has also become costly, with gasoline prices hitting record highs this year. So what's the best way to get around town?

As part of Bike Walk Week, the Great Commuter Challenge will put three different ways to commute to the test:

- Mayor R.T. Rybak will be biking;
- Ramsey County Commissioner Toni Carter will be walking, taking buses and riding light-rail line; and
- Star Tribune reporter Jim Foti (aka Roadguy) will be driving.

The three commuters will try to be the first to get from Merriam Park Community Center in Saint Paul to the Central Library in downtown Minneapolis. Like many typical commutes, they'll be making stops along the way. First, they'll head to the Hiawatha/Lake St. light-rail stop to pick up a newspaper. Next, they'll go to the Bedlam Theater for complementary tickets to "Romeo & Juliet." (Carter will be met at the light-rail station for her tickets, a service the theater provides for all customers.)

Along the way, Foti will need to stop to get gas for his vehicle. Rybak will also be refueling; he'll pick up a hot morning beverage on his way.

Regardless of which commuter finishes first, Rybak and Carter will see some benefits to their methods of transportation. Rybak will get some good exercise in during his bike ride, and Carter will have time to read her paper while Foti and other drivers navigate through rush-hour traffic.

After the competition ends at the library, Rybak will accept an award on behalf of the city from the League of American Bicyclists, which recently designated Minneapolis to be an official bike-friendly community.