

Bikes, Buses, Trolleys and Trains

A Quick Guide to Multimodal Commuting

All SEPTA vehicles except for trolleys can accommodate bicycles, but SEPTA prohibits bicycles on subways and regional rail during rushhour. Bicycle commuters traveling during peak hours should find a secure place to lock their bike before boarding a trolley, train or high speed rail.

Buses



All SEPTA buses have bicycle racks mounted to the front that can accommodate two bikes at a time. These racks are designed to be quick and easy to use and can be operated by people of many age groups and levels of physical fitness. However, it is good to follow a few precautions and recommendations when using the rack:

Take off any loose items. – Bags, panniers and unsecured locks and lights can fall off when the bus hits potholes. For everyone's safety, it is best to remove these items before using the bus rack.

Communicate with the driver! – Operating the bike rack requires standing in front of the bus. Make sure to communicate with the driver to ensure he or she knows what you are doing.

Stand with the bike between you and the bus. – You will have to lift the bike into the rack and don't want to have to turn around when carrying the weight.

Use the rack closest to the front of the bus. – Your bike will be more stable and secure if you use the inside slot. Also, this makes it easier for other bicyclists to load their bikes.

If another bike is in your way, remove your bike from the side. – The bike racks are set up so you can easily remove the stabilizing arm and pull your bike out while standing on the curb. The curb is the safest place to stand and prevents you from disturbing someone else's bike.

Non-folding bikes are not allowed on the bus. – You will have to wait for the next bus if both bike slots are currently filled, as you cannot bring a bicycle on a SEPTA bus.

Trolleys



SEPTA's current generation of trolleys is incapable of carrying bicycles due to steep stairs and narrow interior spaces. Bicyclists should lock their bikes in a secure location before boarding. Folding bicycles are allowed on as luggage, but must be fully collapsed prior to getting on the trolley.

Subway



Both of SEPTA's subway lines, the MFL and BSL, allow riders to bring bicycles on the trains, except during peak hours, from 6-9 am and 3 to 6 pm Monday through Friday. Folding bicycles are allowed at all times of the day, as long as they are fully collapsed. If your commute happens outside these hours, follow these tips:

Make sure you can easily carry your bike. – Many MFL and BSL stations are not ADA accessible, meaning there are no elevators or ramps for bicyclists, and stations do not have bicycle ramps on staircases.

Use the emergency or swing-door gates. – Talk to the SEPTA attendants and have them buzz you through a gate. Don't try to lift your bike over the turn-style.

Stay near the doors on the subway. – Getting on and off the subway with a bike can be a hassle if people hem you in. Stay near the doors to make an easy exit, but don't block other passengers!

Regional Rail and High Speed Line



SEPTA's Regional Rail system offers an excellent opportunity for multi-modal transportation across the metro region, as it frequently intersects local and regional bicycle routes. However, SEPTA limits the Regional Rail system's usability for multi-modal commuting by prohibiting bicycles from 6:30 to 9:30 am and 3:30 to 6:30 pm. Neither existing cars nor the new Silverliner V cars have bicycle racks, but many regional rail stations do offer secure places to lock bicycles. If your commute falls on off-peak hours, follow these tips:


Be able to lift your bike! – Many regional rail stations are not level with the train entrances, requiring bicyclists to lift their bikes up into and down out of the train cars unassisted.


Wait until other passengers have boarded the train. – Bicycles can take time to load and maneuver through train corridors. Wait until other passengers are on the train before entering.

Store your bike in the handicapped-accessible seats. – The wider space between handicapped-accessible seating is the designated storage spot for bicycles. Be aware that bicyclists will have to vacate the train if handicapped passengers are in need of the seats!

Wait until all the other passengers have exited the train. – Make sure both the conductor and the passengers entering the train know that you are bringing your bicycle off so they can give you adequate room to exit!

FIND MORE AT: <http://CommuterConnectionPA.CleanAir.org> & <http://www.CommuteByBike.com>

 Twitter :#@CommuterConnec1

 Facebook: Commuter Connection Program

