The Handlebar Chronicles

One commuter’s tales from the trails.

Presenter: Paul Klauda, bike commuter

Thursday, June 24, 2021
Meet Paul Klauda

- Prep Sports Editor at the Minneapolis Star Tribune
- Graduate of the College of St. Thomas
- Taught media writing at the University of St. Thomas
- Bike commuter since 2010
Your questions, our answers

- A recording of this training and the slide presentation will be provided to all attendees within a week

- Questions will be answered throughout the webinar

- To submit questions you may:
  - Use the Chat option to ask questions during the webinar – *or* –
  - Use the Q&A tool on Zoom to enter your written question – *or* –
  - Email questions after the webinar to Michelle Leonard at mleonard@494corridor.org and we will get back to you!
In the beginning...

First ride: April 29, 2011

“Not much traffic on a casual Friday morning.”
In the beginning...

An 18-mile trip from door (Chanhassen) to door (Minneapolis Star Tribune).

May 24, 2011
In the beginning...

July 14, 2011

“The commute is history-free unless you count passing over this spot: site of the former Graffiti Bridge in Eden Prairie... It once sported a 10-foot portrait of Minneapolis-born Prince, who lived in nearby Chanhassen.”
"What $4.29/gal looks like when you bike to work."

May 21, 2013
"Government wheels are churning to put light-rail commuter trains through here. Hope the trail survives."
Sept. 5, 2012

“Cyclist: ON YOUR LEFT!
Goose: HONK! HONK!”
The commute

"Sky bridge view from the Cedar Lake Trail on the ride home Tuesday evening."

June 3, 2015
"I wonder what old Harley Hopkins would think of what's happening here in the town that bears his name, where construction on a $2 billion commuter light rail line has torn up and taken over what had been a tree-lined stretch on the ride to and from work."

Sept. 3, 2020
The commute

July 19, 2019

"A breezy Monday evening put the Berger Fountain in the spotlight."

Sept. 23, 2019

"Because nothing says the first day of autumn like a giant parrot and a T-Rex."
The people you meet

July 20, 2012
"My oldest trail friend on the ride to and from work."

June 12, 2013
“It’s nice to get to know the people along the commute.”

August 19, 2019
The people you meet

Oct. 1, 2014

“Over the years, he’s talked about his kids, my kids, my job, his wife, sloppy writing, great literature, apple cider vinegar for bad knees, Lincoln, his desire for an English garden.”

Oct. 30, 2020

In 2020, with the pandemic, I never saw him until the very last ride of the year.

“Tell ’em the ghost of Al Holmbeck is still on the trail,” the ex-Marine called out with a smile.”
“Sharing the morning ride to work with the Eden Prairie cross-country team. Must have been 150-200 boys and girls.

“I’ve had shorter waits for trains than that horde of runners. But hey, I’ve got a soft spot for cross-country.”

Aug. 14, 2013
The people you meet

“Years of experience have taught me a personal mantra: The ride will provide.

“Monday evening it provided a big dog named Porsche, riding on top of a kind-hearted human pedaling a Volvo bike.”
The people you meet

"It’s always fun to make connections on the trail.”
“Halfway home and the worst was over Thursday evening on the ride home from work.”
“Let’s just say it wasn’t raining when I left home... The puddles were ones you’d kill to splash through as an 8-year-old.”
Nature’s wonder

"Mitchell Lake in Eden Prairie, Tuesday morning commute on the bike ride to work."

October 17, 2017
"The ride from the office started with rain in Minneapolis, included a 5-mile rainbow escort and ended with a bit of fireworks over the marsh near home."
"On the bike ride past Cedar Lake en route to the office. Canoeing to work -- now that would be sweet."
``The view from the commute to work when the only thing over your head is a bike helmet.''

June 10, 2014
"While working from home, the rides I've been taking have been mostly halfway affairs from Chanhassen into Hopkins, sometimes a bit further, and then back home. Occasionally the day’s schedule and the weather have allowed for the full trip downtown, and Wednesday was one of those beautiful days."
Nature’s wonder

May 21, 2020

July 24, 2018
Nature’s wonder

“Upside down on the ride to work.”
Nature’s wonder

“Late summer morning, evening on the ride to and from work.”
Nature’s wonder

April 30, 2015

Aug. 14, 2017
Nature’s wonder

"The science of how this happens — just wow."
Commuter Services

Nature’s wonder

July 8, 2014

Puddles are a bike commuter’s best friend.

April 12, 2018
Scenes from downtown

May 4, 2019
“Rolling down 9th Street on the ride out of downtown, filled with gratitude for the many, many birthday wishes.”
"After all that rain, Minneapolis offered a 2-for-1 deal on sun-kissed skylines Tuesday evening on the bike ride home from work."
Scenes from downtown

“Minneapolis puffs itself up for the weekend... a city lit up on one end and, once you got west of Hopkins, a wooded trail lit up by an escort of twinkling fireflies.”
Scenes from downtown

Aug. 20, 2015

"The view from the top of the bike helmet at 7th and Marquette."

May 28, 2021

"The Capella Tower showing a bit of bed head."
"Getting out of downtown during the workweek is always a bit of a circus. But the Wednesday ride home took it up a few notches."

July 18, 2019
“On a day when all the world seemed sad, I stopped on the bike ride home at the span once known as Graffiti Bridge.”

April 26, 2016

Twin memorials on both sides of the bridge, whose predecessor once featured Prince's likeness on its colorful facing and became the title of his movie sequel to "Purple Rain."
“In a colorful former life, the railroad trestle over rural Valley View Road in Eden Prairie ... reflected peace signs anti-war views ... Nearly 30 years after the trestle came down, it came full circle on social concern.”
Oct. 19, 2019

Oct. 19, 2019 (last ride of the season): "See you next spring, God willing."

March 31, 2020: “On Tuesday morning, during the first ride to work this year, the idea that health and employment can’t be taken for granted never seemed more front-and-center.”
“Fresh graffiti, could be her message, probably not her hoofwriting.”
"Last time on the homestretch in Eden Prairie, one that will be replaced in a week by one along the Mississippi River when Rita and I move to downtown Minneapolis."

June 9, 2021
Questions?
Follow Paul Klauda

To see more photos from Paul’s collection, follow him on social media or contact him by email:

Instagram: @pklauda

Facebook: Paul Klauda

e-mail: paul.klauda@startribune
Bike to Work Resources

Commuter Services offers many bike to work resources for bike commuters on our website, [www.494corridor.org](http://www.494corridor.org):

- Bike Trail Update emails
- Bike Tips Brochure (a how-to guide for bike commuting)
- Clothing Recommendations
- Winter Bike Commuting Handout
- Hennepin County Bike Trail Map
- Links to Bike Route Resources
- Bike Commuting Webinars/Recordings
Commuter Resources

- Bike to work materials and trail construction updates
- Customized transit itinerary and free ride passes
- Carpool, vanpool matching and tips
- Sign up for monthly commuter newsletter
- Guaranteed Ride Home
- Telework resources
Employer Resources

- Free outdoor bike rack
- Bike to Work events
- Bus pass programs – Metropass
- Preferential carpool / vanpool parking management
- Information and articles for your employee publications
- Telework resources and guidance
Visit our new Twin Cities Telework website: www.tctelework.com

- Employer, commuter and manager telework resources
- Twin Cities Telework Webinar Series
- Twin Cities Telework Newsletter
Contact Us

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