

CARPOOLING WITH CAITLIN & LIAM

My name is Caitlin Troyer ... and my name is Liam Seymour. We live in the Riverfront neighborhood and commute to the Poverello Center in the Westside Neighborhood. Both of us work 10 hours a day, 4 days a week and **we've carpooled together for most of those days for the past several months.**

We're roommates and it didn't make sense for both of us to wake up, wave each other "good morning," make breakfast, and then take two separate cars to work. Now that we work the same schedule, we can drive each other between work and home. It was more convenient, and it just made more sense rather than using two cars to go to the same place. Plus, **we save on gas and wear & tear.** And if something was wrong with one car, we never have to worry about how we're getting to work.

When something crazy happens at work, we can unpack it on the way home. Sometimes we walk into the building and there's a lot going on and it's grounding to be like, "Whoa, that was weird." Those carpools are more memorable to me when we're able to unpack things together. It's just nice to have someone to start and end the day with. It wakes me up for the day and then also makes it easier to leave work behind at the end of the day.

We switch off who's driving depending on if either of us have errands to run during the day. We'll know that in advance and just communicate. If I end up having to work late or there's an event, I have to communicate that ahead of time. It's been nice knowing more about each other's days.

Caitlin: My favorite part about our commute is getting to go over bridges and drive next to the river for so much of it. In all seasons, whether I'm carpooling, biking, or walking, I just love being able to see the river on my daily commute. It's frozen during the winter and it's enticing in the heat of the summer- it's such a great part of my day.

Liam: I would echo that the bridge is always my favorite part. I love being able to see the M as you drive across the bridge. I just love that view. And then I also love to see the other side of the river on the way home. I'm really grateful that I live on one side of the river and work on the other side because it means I get cross it every day and see that beautiful water.

What bad press does carpooling get? I don't feel constrained by it. If you're good about being open with the person or people you're carpooling with, it works out. I've never really felt like I couldn't do something or go somewhere that I wanted to.

If you're new to carpooling try it and see what happens. You can work out anything that might feel intimidating about it. Carpooling looks different in lots of scenarios based on who you're doing that with. Just make sure you're talking to each other and saying if something's not working for you because it's better to work through that than give up on it altogether; there are so many benefits. Pretty much anything that can be frustrating about it can be solved if you're open about what you're feeling.
