

# 7 Tips on Transportation



From Fairfax County, VA  
to Washington, DC

Presented by Home by School.com

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Because we want you to be successful in ultimately finding the right home for your family, we have put together the **7 Tips on Transportation (from Fairfax County, VA to Washington, DC)**. In this document we have compiled information from multiple public websites.



**Equal Housing Opportunity:** Please know that, by law, we cannot recommend a school or a boundary over another.

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# 7 Tips on Transportation

(From Fairfax County, VA to Washington, DC)

Last year, Alison was moving with her family from Tokyo, Japan to the DC area. They chose schools for the kids, and even narrowed down their search to a couple of neighborhoods. Now the only thing left was to figure out how Alison and her husband, James, would get to work.

So, I helped Alison and James by presenting them the following commuting options starting with riding the Metro into Washington, DC:

## 1. Ride the Metro

Metro is the subway system that connects DC with its suburbs.



- The orange line connects downtown DC with Vienna, Virginia (right around the middle of Fairfax County).
- The yellow line connects the southern part of DC with Alexandria, VA.
- The blue line connects DC with Springfield, VA (more toward the South of Fairfax County)
- The new line (currently called "Silver") will connect Tysons Corner and, eventually, the Dulles Airport with Washington, DC via rail.

As you can see, the Metro reaches far into Fairfax County, but the County is quite large, and sometimes riding the bus is a better choice.

## 2. Ride the bus



Metrobus is one of the kinds of buses that operate in Fairfax County, VA

There are plenty of bus options in Fairfax County. The best way to figure out the best route is to use the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (WMATA) [WMATA Trip Planner](#). This trip planner can also include Metro rail as an option for all or part of the trip.

Speaking of rail, there is another rail option in Virginia to get to downtown DC - the Virginia Railway Express (VRE).

## 3. Ride the VRE

The Virginia Railway Express (VRE) is another alternative to commuting by rail to and from downtown DC. There are two lines:

- The Fredericksburg line leaves from Union Station and links the southern part of Fairfax County all the way to Lorton, going through Springfield. This line continues south to Fredericksburg, VA (not in Fairfax County).
- The Manassas line also leaves from Union Station, and it links some of the western parts of Fairfax County: Burke and Springfield, and it continues west toward Manassas, VA (in Prince William County).

Here is the VRE new rider page:

<http://www.vre.org/service/newrider.htm>

If rail and bus aren't the best options for commuting, driving a car is another option.

## 4. Drive a car

When driving, the major roads that go into DC are:

- Interstate I-95 and I-395 - if coming from the southern part of Fairfax County, these are the main arteries to get into the city.
- Route I-66 - Coming to DC from the west, I-66 is the most direct route but one must watch for High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV-2) restricted times for the section of I-66 that is inside the Beltway. An alternative to I-66 is Route 50.
- Interstate I-495 - Also called "The Beltway", it goes around DC. From it, one can take an exit out of it to go toward the city.

One thing to keep in mind if one chooses to drive a car is that traffic can be pretty heavy especially during rush hour. A good way to make driving a little easier is to carpool.

## 5. Carpool



High  
Occupancy  
Vehicle 2 sign

With carpooling, two or more people share the same car when going into or out of the city. This helps with being able to use the High Occupancy Vehicle HOV-2 (or HOV-3) lanes and saving some driving time. There are many carpooling arrangements, and one of the most interesting ones is called "slugging".

- There are slugging lines at certain locations mostly on the southern suburbs of Fairfax County (in Springfield, VA). On these lines, drivers pull up with a destination sign, and hopeful sluggers stand waiting for a car going to their destination.
- Find out more about slugging at [http://www.slug-lines.com/Slugging/About\\_slugging.asp](http://www.slug-lines.com/Slugging/About_slugging.asp).

If your commute is short, or you are very fit (or hoping to be), you could bike to work.

## 6. Bike to work

There are several trails along Fairfax County that host bikers on their way to work. Mostly, these trails connect locations within Fairfax County.

- For example, getting to Reston, VA from the East could be accomplished by riding on the W&OD trail. Or, from the South, one could ride along the Fairfax County Parkway.
- Download bicycle route maps at this address: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/bike/bikemap.htm> (the maps available on this page are very large files).

But what if biking to work was just a bit too hard to do? Then, you could always mix and match how you get to work.

## 7. Mix n' match

You don't have to stick to just one way of transportation when choosing how to get to work. In Fairfax County, you could ride your bike to a bus stop and then take the bus into work. You can even take your bike on the Metro.

If biking isn't for you, then you could drive to one of the park n'ride bus stops, then take a bus to the metro station, and ride the Metro all the way into the city.

As you can see, the possibilities are plentiful. It's simply a matter of figuring out what's best for you, and then enjoying your daily commute.

To re-cap, 7 ways to get to work are:

1. Metro
2. Bus
3. VRE
4. Car
5. Carpool
6. Bike
7. Mix n' match

In the end, Alison and James each chose their preferred method for getting to work based on where they accepted their new jobs and in the neighborhood where they chose to live.

[HOV](#)  
[Metrobus](#)  
[Map](#)

# Your next step

## No-Tears Guide



Presented by Right School, Right Home

The No-Tears Guide to Moving to Fairfax VA will save you over 97 hours of research

If you are moving to Fairfax, Virginia, you'll want to save yourself over 97 hours of research.

Download the **FREE No-Tears Guide to Moving to Fairfax VA** at <http://www.HomebySchool.com> and you'll have a pretty good compilation of information to get you started.

Also remember that the Guide contains a unique home search tool that allows you to see homes for sale **INSIDE** of a school boundary (not just homes ~near~ the school, or in the same zip code as the school).

If you are looking for information about schools, transportation, or real estate, give us a call at (703) 480-6575 and we'll be happy to help.

We look forward to helping you find the Right Home,



**Marina Brito**  
Home by School Specialist  
RE/MAX Premier



# Contact Us

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Happy house hunting!

 **\*\* Equal Housing Opportunity \*\*** 


Everyone is welcome to find a home by school boundary. A school boundary is simply a geographical area, just like a zip code or a postal city.



P.S. If you find anything that bugs you, please click on the bug to send me an email. Nothing is too small or too big. And if I can, I'll be sure to fix it.

Home by School.com

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