

2002 Promotional article for Queen Anne/Magnolia Journal, a neighborhood newspaper:

Can your household get by with "one-less-car"?

Mary Pat and Jay Gotschall of Magnolia gave it a try along with 21 other families by giving up the use of their 1993 Subaru Wagon for six weeks the fall before last. They participated in the first round of the City of Seattle's Way to Go, Seattle "One-Less-Car" Demonstration Study. Each week of using "one-less-car," Mary Pat and Jay made 22 fewer trips through the neighborhood and drove 57 fewer miles, primarily by walking, bicycling, ridesharing, and taking the bus more. That added up to a total of 131 fewer trips and 339 fewer miles of local traffic congestion that they saved. In addition, they kept nearly 275 pounds of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses out of our lungs and atmosphere. How much did they save? An average of \$55 per week (or over \$2,800 per year) through what they would have in their pocket if they gave up their "extra car" for good.

"The goal of the study is to demonstrate ways to ease neighborhood traffic and reduce automobile-caused air pollution. By making smart transportation choices - that include utilizing the full range of transportation modes available, Seattle families can not only save an average of over \$4,000 per year (or \$85 per week - the national average cost of a second car), but also improve neighborhood livability and the environment," said Jemae Hoffman, Mobility Manager for Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT). "If every household in Seattle did what the 23 participants in last summer's study round did, nearly 16 million miles of automobile traffic would be kept out of our neighborhoods, and 7160 tons of carbon dioxide and 357 tons of other pollutants would be kept out of our air each week. While not every family can get by with one-less-car, we want to encourage people to think about their transportation choices and costs." The data collected will help the City understand how Seattleites make transportation choices, and will be used in crafting a future public education campaign.

What did Mary Pat and Jay learn from participating in the project? "We felt more free not being chained to the car, (and had) more interaction with people and the world. We think our lives just became more simple overall." Households that participate in the upcoming round of the "One-Less-Car" Study will simulate the real life conditions and financial benefits of eliminating the use of one car for a period of nine weeks this fall. In exchange for keeping detailed daily travel diaries, participants will receive a participation stipend during the study period comparable to savings they would realize if they actually owned "one-less-car." SDOT is currently accepting applications for the final round through July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2002. Families and individuals interested in applying to be included in the study should call 206.615.1550 to receive an application, or apply online by visiting the project website at [www.cityofseattle.net/waytogo](http://www.cityofseattle.net/waytogo).