

We Get Email

Re: Riding Trains is good exercise

All this talk about bikes and public transportation reminds me that when I was a kid (in the 1930s) in Los Angeles, Los Angeles Railway had a system that provided that none of its passengers had to walk more than half a mile to obtain public transportation as long as they lived in the city. If they chose to live in the country, they could ride a horse. A one mile walk to and from work kept that generation free of modern ailments such as obesity, diabetes, and heart problems. Maybe we should consider reinstating that policy.
Don Richardson

**That and slow food i.e. home cooked meals made from scratch were much healthier than today.
NB**

Re: Bikes on Trains

In Japan one doesn't see bicycles on buses or trains. What one does see are lots of bikes. In the big cities there are large bicycle parking lots near the train stations. In Osaka I saw a multi-story parking garage, filled entirely with bicycles. At another station I saw a surface parking lot which appeared to be almost an acre in size, filled with bicycles.

In Japan, people who want to ride their bikes at both ends of a transit trip simply buy two bikes, and store the one they're not using at the station. Or rent a bike for one leg of their trip. What novel ideas! Nor do there appear to be the bike/auto conflicts in Japan that we suffer from here. That's because the bicyclists use the sidewalks. When the sidewalks are filled with walkers the bicyclists slow down to the point where they pose no danger or inconvenience to pedestrians. Courtesy and patience! More novel stuff.

Jerry Cauthen

We need better bicycle storage at stations and more bike rentals. In the United States bicycles are vehicles and subject to the same laws as other vehicles on public roads. A healthy cyclist can ride 20 miles per hour or more which is too fast to ride safely on the sidewalks. The problem is with our roads; our transportation system which unlike Japan is dependent on the auto in most cases. There are lots of places you can get close to but are not walking distance by rail or bus in this country. Having access to a bike can get you where you want to go and fly pass traffic with the help of transit. NB

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