Commuter Spotlight

Every day, like thousands of other commuters to the Perimeter area, Samantha Rich puts on her boots, pulls on a jacket, packs her bag and begins the trip to her office. What makes Samantha’s morning different is that she is part of the 1% of Perimeter commuters who walk to work.

“I would not trade walking to work for the world,” said Samantha, a Quality Engineer at AirWatch. Last July, Samantha moved to an apartment three quarters of a mile from her Perimeter Center West office after growing tired of commuting by car from Midtown. “Every day I would sit in traffic grinding my teeth. It was so stressful. Now I don’t end my day day on a stressful note.”

Samantha said it takes her less than eight minutes to stroll to work, and she does it four times a day. “I usually walk home for lunch. I save money on eating out, plus I get my exercise.” When Samantha does visit a local restaurant for a meal, she walks there and encourages her coworkers to join her. “People think a mile is really far. I try to show them that it isn’t.”

GoogleMaps has made planning her trips to restaurants, grocery stores and errands much easier, since the map provides walk times and the best routes.

Samantha says that planning ahead is key to making her commute smooth. She checks the weather forecast and dresses accordingly. “When it’s pouring, I bring my bigger umbrella and bigger jacket. I also invested in a pair of really great rain boots.” Although the boots were an expensive purchase, Samantha said the money she saves in gas offset that.

Samantha also likes living near the Sandy Springs MARTA station. She uses transit to to visit friends in Midtown and get to the airport.

Living within walking distance of work will remain high on her list of priorities. “Having done both a car commute and walk commute, I will always choose to walk.”

MARTA Guide

Did you know that there are dozens of restaurants and shops and several hotels located near Perimeter’s three MARTA stations? Many of those destinations are in walking distance. It’s easy to find your way around with the [MARTA Guide.](http://www.martaguide.com/) This handy website details 500 destinations served by MARTA rail and buses. Also on the site is an event guide featuring festivals and other happenings plus the easiest way to travel there on MARTA. Don’t miss the “Best of MARTA” list for the best food, shopping and tourist attractions in the city.

The MARTA Guide is also helpful to those seeking to relocate to a home closer to transit, breaking down neighborhoods into categories such as “family-friendly,” “historic” and “suburban.” Links to homes for sale in each neighborhood are also included.

The MARTA Guide website is a terrific resource to answer all transit related questions, and even includes videos of how to navigate your way around stations.

The MARTA Guide is an informative supplement to the official MARTA website at [www.itsmarta.com](http://www.itsmarta.com). Check out both resources and enjoy the many benefits of taking transit to Perimeter area businesses.

Holiday Shopping

It’s that time of year when many of us use our lunch break to do your holiday shopping. This season, consider walking to your retail destination instead of driving. The Perimeter area offers many stores within an easy 5 to 10 minute walk of most major office buildings. If you aren’t sure how far of a walk your favorite shop is, consult this walkability map put together by the Perimeter Community Improvement District: <http://www.perimetercid.org/walkability-map.html>.