

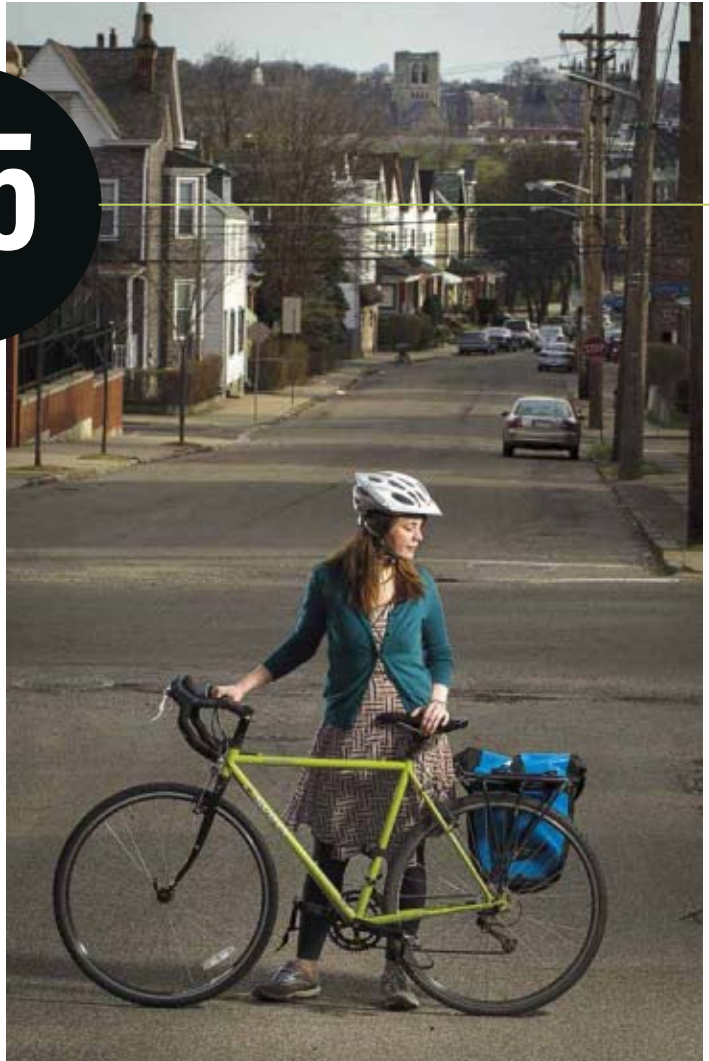
6.5

MILES

Sara Cole is a true believer. Almost every weekday, the 28-year-old rides her bicycle for 40 minutes to an hour, depending on weather and traffic, from her house in Pittsburgh's East Liberty neighborhood to her job Downtown as an instructor at the Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council. As some of the snapshots to the right show, Cole's nearly 7-mile trek takes her on busy city thoroughfares and narrow side streets, around a neighborhood park and along a bike trail. The commute could be shorter if she rode a more direct route. But Cole stays on streets with bike lanes when she can, and her favorite stretch is the bike trail, though she usually doesn't travel it in the winter.

Biking has been one of Cole's passions since she graduated from the University of Pittsburgh and taught English in Antwerp, Belgium, as part of a Fulbright fellowship. What was a normal part of the culture in Belgium became a normal part of Cole's routine as she moved to Chicago to teach at a community college and later returned to Pittsburgh. And she doesn't just ride; she also spreads the message about the personal and environmental benefits of biking. Cole writes a column on the topic one to three times a month for The Union Hall Times, a publication of Bar Marco restaurant and art gallery in the city's Strip District. In March, she led a "Fundamentals of Riding" workshop that was part of Bike Pittsburgh's first Women & Biking Forum.

For Cole, biking as a lifestyle has meant that she hasn't owned a car since she was 18, and she has no second thoughts about that decision. "I save a ton of money. I'm not harming the environment, and I have a lot of energy," she says. "I just don't see a downside."



Photography: Joshua Franzos

3 RIVERS × 2 WHEELS

OF THE 60 LARGEST CITIES IN THE U.S., PITTSBURGH RANKS

16

IN BIKE COMMUTERS
AND HAD THE

2nd

LARGEST JUMP IN
BIKE COMMUTERS
FROM 2000 TO 2010

24 MILES

length of the Three Rivers Heritage Trail

300

NUMBER OF BICYCLE RACKS THE CITY HAS INSTALLED,
INCLUDING 4 ON-STREET BIKE CORRALS.

100%

of Port Authority buses have a rack
on the front to load up to two bicycles



50

500

In August, Bike Share will launch
with 50 stations and 500 bicycles



