

Life as a Baltimorean Commuter to Loyola

By Ribka Fisehaye

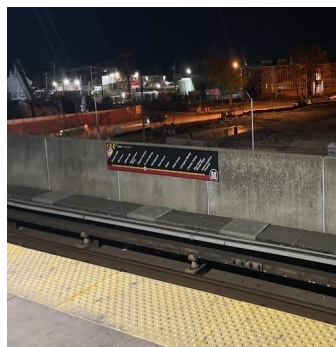


Bus Pass

Having lived in Baltimore for six years, attending Loyola was not as foreign to me as for out of staters. But even then, I have learned many things about my community and Baltimore in general commuting to campus each day. I use public transportation, trains and buses, not a car. Because if it was commuting with a car, this would be more about what hours in the day are the busiest and where to park on campus with a warning to be careful when parking on the street because your car can get towed after four or earlier in the morning and things like that. If you are not a commuter, you will also find this especially helpful on how to get around because using Uber for everything is not ideal.

At first, I had to figure where the nearest bus stop was from my apartment and which side of the road to stand on because I didn't want to end up taking the bus that would take me the opposite direction to where I was supposed to be going. Since I had used the bus a couple times and the train sometimes, I knew something about how to get a bus pass. But I did not like the fact that I always had to carry cash and the machine in the buses did not give change. So, basically, a one-way pass or a 90-minute pass was a dollar ninety cents and a full-day pass was four dollars and forty cents, so if you only have fives or have dollars and no coins, you're losing sixty cents every time you get a full-day pass unless you have the exact change.

But one day I didn't have any cash after school, and I did not want to spend money on an Uber, so I decided to walk. It was a beautiful evening. It was all good until I reached a place where there was no more sidewalk and cars were passing by me like crazy; not a deed I will ever repeat again. The next day, when I was on the bus, I decided to ask why some people showed their phones to the driver and a nice lady who sat beside me explained that there is an app called "Charm pass" where you can buy bus passes—you just need to input your bank card once and purchase passes whenever needed. From then on, I did not have to worry about getting cash until recently when my phone was broken. So, I am dearly thankful for that interaction, and as for my walk home, I learned to never walk next to cars!! You would think that is an obvious side note that does not need to be learned but, in my case, not having have walked the route before I guess I had to learn it.



West Cold Spring Train Station at night



Charmpass app

NAVIGATING

Baltimore by public transportation is fairly easy, you just need your phone and a full-day pass. You can input wherever you would like to go into the google maps app—when you press directions, there are a number of choices, car, by foot, public transportation (which looks like a train logo), bike, and the last one is Uber and similar ride-booking apps. So, you would choose the one that looks like a train and there will be options of what bus(es) or train you can use to get where you need to go. One of my favorite places to go by train is the Owings Mills Public library. It is like a town square because there are so many places you can eat at, shop at, and the movie theater is walking distance from when the train drops you off. So, let's say you wanted to go there from campus. When you input the location there is one option, which is to take the 28 bus to the Cold Spring Metro Station and then take the train from there to the Owings



Bus stop for #51 bus

Mills train station, which is exactly where the library is. The 28 bus stop is right out of the Fernandez building but closer to the traffic lights. One great way to know how long the bus is going to be is to text the specific bus code, which is normally on the red bus stop stand, to MDMTA, which is also 68263 and the specific bus stop I am referring to right now's code is 10352. This will state when the next bus(es) are going to come, so that you don't have to wait forty minutes outside—you can just come out of the Fernandez building when there are five minutes left. You can either use the app to get a day pass or four dollars and forty cents and the pass works for the train too. So, you will get off at West Cold Spring, take the train from there and get off the Owings Mills Train Station and from the exit you take a left, a right, and the library is to your right.

SETTING ASIDE

transportation for a second, attending University as a commuter is somewhat different than for those who live on campus. There are many things that Loyola does to try and make sure that commuters can get the full college experience, without living on campus—many events that are designated for commuters and other events that all students can attend. There are also many clubs and organizations that you can take part in. CCSJ is an organization that you can really get involved on,

around and outside of campus. York Road clean up community service days are done as groups and can help introduce you to fellow freshmen and even upper classmen along with our neighbors living on York Road. Volunteering through Loyola is not restricted to these days but along with many partners, including the York Road schools, such as Tunbridge, Govans elementary, etc.

Another partner is Soccer Without Borders that work with immigrant kids, through tutoring and soccer coaching. These volunteer opportunities are a great way of interacting with fellow students but also our community and contribute in which ever way that we can, would like to and in the ways that are needed. You can check out the opportunities on the [CCSJ](#) website.



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Here are some places recommended to me by Luke Haus, Associate Director of Student Engagement, that are near campus.

- ✦ Belvedere Square Market—has lots of good vendors inside the market
- ✦ Roland Park Bagels—on Cold Spring Lane is a good stop for breakfast before coming to campus
- ✦ Evergreen Café—across from Roland Park Bagels is a good lunch spot to sit and do homework
- ✦ Alonso's—on Cold Spring Lane is a full restaurant with lots of options
- ✦ Namaste—an Indian restaurant on Cold Spring Lane
- ✦ R House—another market-style place with good vendors.

Thanks Luke

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LUKE HAUS*