

## Owning a Car Not Required Here

By Bonnie Eisenfeld



Center City's tree-lined sidewalks and bike lanes encourage human-powered means of commuting.

Center City West is a walker's paradise according to Walk Score, a national rating service that assigns walkability scores to cities and neighborhoods. With a Walk Score of 97 out of 100, our neighborhood also achieved a Transit score of 100 and a Bike Score of 98 with raters. Daily errands do not require a car, residents have easy access to public transportation, and the streets are flat and have bike lanes. Walk Score provides its scores to renters, home shoppers, property managers, real estate agents and developers, all of whom have reported that walkability, short commutes, bike-ability, and access to public transportation are increasingly important to their markets.

Based on a Walk Score of 77, the City of Philadelphia overall ranked number one as a place to retire without a car and the fourth most-walkable city in the U.S. Raters gave Philadelphia a Transit Score of 67 and a Bike Score of 68. Walk Score's patented system measures walkability utilizing a variety of data sources, analysis of walking routes, distance to amenities, and pedestrian friendliness.

Among Millennials, a group approximately ages 18 to 34, avoiding car ownership is becoming a trend. Current attitudes toward cars are completely different from

those of their same-age counterparts in the 1950s when the car was king. A 2014 survey, conducted for The Rockefeller Foundation by Global Strategy Group, asked Millennials in 10 major cities for their views about transportation options. Two-thirds of respondents said that access to high-quality transportation is one of their top three criteria for deciding where to live, and they aspire to be less reliant on a car primarily to save money. Eighty percent said it's important to have many transportation options, including public transportation, car-sharing, bike-sharing, and pedestrian-friendly streets.

ZipCar's 2013 independent study of Millennials, conducted by KRC Research, reported that the increased availability of on-demand mobility services (bike-sharing, ride-sharing, and vehicle-sharing) helps them reduce driving and makes it easier to live without owning a car. Millennials consider mobile devices and on-demand transportation apps more important than car ownership. Three-quarters of them would rather shop online than drive or ride to a store, and almost half sometimes socialize with friends online instead of driving to meet in person.

## CCRA Merchant Members Discount Program

Support our local merchants and save money too. Just present your current CCRA membership card and personal identification to these local merchants, who will provide a discount, described here, in the case of new merchants to the program. (Check the CCRA website at [www.centercityresidents.org](http://www.centercityresidents.org) under the "Merchant Member" tab for descriptions of other merchants' discounts; Di Bruno Bros. has its own CCRA card.)

**Koresh Dance Company**  
2002 Rittenhouse Square Street  
267-687-1769

**PhotoLounge**  
1909 Chestnut Street  
267-322-6651

**Rim's Dry Cleaners & Tailors**  
2203 South Street  
215-546-1889

**Rittenhouse Hardware**  
2001 Pine Street  
215-735-6311

**Rittenhouse Pet Supply**  
135 South 20th Street  
215-569-2555

**Computer Troubleshooters**  
108 South 20th Street  
215-825-2101

**Di Bruno Bros.**  
1730 Chestnut Street  
215-665-9220  
The Market at the Comcast Center  
215-531-5666

**Dom's Shoe Repair**  
203 South 20th Street  
215-972-0098

**Eye Candy Vision**  
218 South 20th Street  
215-568-3937

**Uber - Limo service**  
10% discount for CCRA Members  
using code CCRA14  
[www.uber.com](http://www.uber.com)

**Philly Foodworks**  
Use the code "CCRA" when signing up for home delivery and receive a \$20 discount on delivery charges  
[www.phillyfoodworks.com](http://www.phillyfoodworks.com)