

“Yeah, um, my parents were very much nervous about being in that setting. So they wanted to teach me and my brother what they thought as the correct behaviors that would like, one, keep us safe, and also make sure that we're not bothering other people. So I don't remember the specifics of it. But it was along the lines of like: make sure that you're always standing or sitting next to me; don't talk to anybody else, just like talk to my family; if somebody else talks to you, you can politely respond, but then like, don't do anything else. I also remember them emphasizing, like, don't sit in the priority seating just follow us. So they were just kind of training us to follow along with what they were doing.”

*Kate, about using public transportation growing up*

“Before I had access to a car, I would have to walk everywhere, which would mean that I would probably like, move around less, try to stay home more. I don't think that I would, like try to do as many like, fun things that are further away from like, Macalester's campus because then I would have to likely like Uber there and that is an expense that like can stack up really fast. So I'd say like without access to Metro Transit, I wouldn't be able to do as many fun things and then it would also take me a lot more time to commute, via walking, and it would probably make me like much more interested in trying to get a car like sooner than I have.”

*Kate, about the role of Metro Transit in her life*

“For the most part, it was just like, you know, keep an eye out, you know, if someone's, I mean, this is still like, I feel a pretty common sense stuff that a lot of kids are taught, but like, if someone is being a bit weird on the bus, like, they look like they're drunk, or not in a great headspace, just stay away from them. You know, give them their space. Unless they need like medical help or whatever. But then also, just like, you know, especially if it's like a more empty train. So like, middle of the day, or like evening. You would either sit in the front car or the middle car, because that's where the conductor's cabs are. So that way, like, if you do need help with anything, you know, each car has like a call button where you can call the conductor's cab if you need help, like medical help, or, you know, the police or something, but that way, they're able to respond a lot quicker[...] So it was just stuff like that, that I grew up learning.”

*Max, about growing up using public transportation*

“ It's always a lot of fun just because you see other people who are also going to the same concert and or like the same show or convention and you're just like, your costume looks so cool. Or that's an amazing fit. Those are, I feel like, riding transit you get a lot of those fun little, you know, random interactions of people who wouldn't otherwise[...] It's definitely a thing. Like, where would have been like, on a road trip, or, like, been commuting with other people by car, by car, just like, you kind of miss out on a lot of that, you know, you don't get like the feel of the area you're in.”

*Max, about their positive experiences on public transportation*