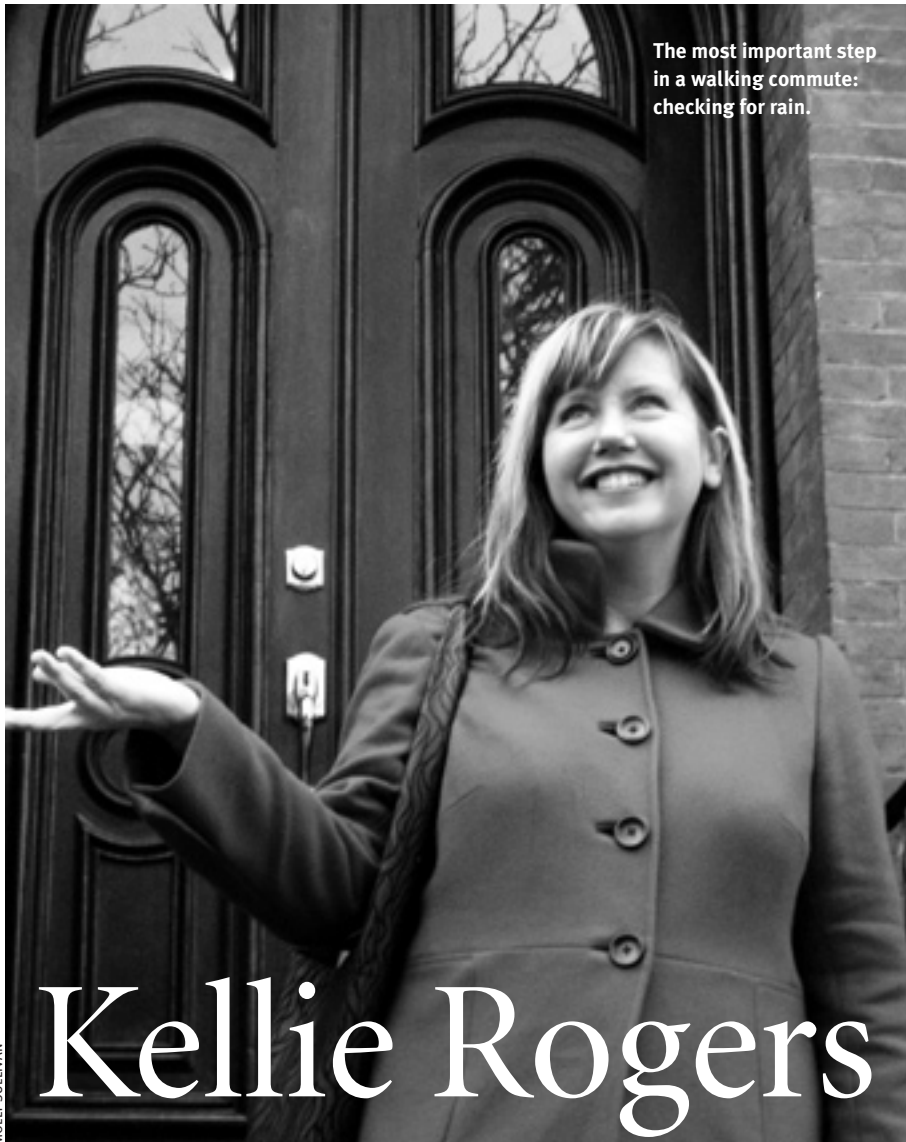


Commuter Profile

The most important step in a walking commute: checking for rain.



MOLLY SULLIVAN

Kellie Rogers

Following last issue's acclaimed profile of M8 bus riders, we bring our readers another non-bicyclist commuter. Kellie walks to work in Brooklyn each day, finding new ways to knit together the neighborhoods where she lives and works.

Age: 40

Occupation: Director of Programming, Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy

Are you a T.A. member? No, but I work with T.A. on our outdoor summer film series at Brooklyn Bridge Park

Where do you commute to/from? I commute from South Park Slope to Brooklyn Heights. It is a couple of miles.

How long have you been walking to work? For about a year.

Why did you start walking to work? I used to take the R train. My commute was a half hour door to door. I began walking to get fit. I'm too busy for classes or a gym and walking is my favorite form of exercise.

“I take a different path every day. It's the best way to really get to know the city.”

Do you walk in all weather? I do not walk if it is below 20 degrees or if it is above 90 degrees outside.

What kind of response do you get from co-workers? About half of my colleagues walk to work, so they are not surprised. But all of them live closer to the office than I do (within 20 minutes). My commute is the longest.

What is the most memorable experience you have had while walking to work? I love walking through Gowanus. If I am lucky, the Third Street drawbridge will be up and I get a chance to take a break and watch the boats go by.

What was your worst commute? Falling! I've tripped a few times on potholes and uneven sidewalks. Also, some drivers are just downright crazy and full of rage. Drivers who talk on their cell phones are the worst.

What is your advice for people who want to start walking to work? Start on a sunny warm day. Begin walking a couple days a week and build up every day. Stretch a bit before you head out, bring a tiny umbrella if it's cloudy, wear comfortable sneakers and lighten your load. A heavy bag will hurt your shoulders after a while.

What is the best aspect of your daily commute to work? I take a different path every day and always discover something new. I think it's the best way to really get to know the city.

What are improvements that would make your commute easier? It's pretty easy as is. The biggest hassles are drivers and construction scaffolding, but it's unlikely that will ever change. I'm a defensive walker. □

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