



**1-866-579-RIDE, [www.PaCommuterServices.org](http://www.PaCommuterServices.org)**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contacts:**

Brandy Heilman 717-718-0015

Pat Wood 717- 236-3700

Dennis D. Louwerson, Berks Area Reading Transportation Authority, 610-921-0605

January 22, 2009

**Berks County to join Commuter Services**  
*Non-profit partnership poised to serve 1 million commuters*

York, Pa. – The Susquehanna Regional Transportation Partnership (SRTP) board voted at its January 21 meeting to include Berks County in the Commuter Services of South Central Pennsylvania program, which SRTP oversees. Adding Berks' estimated 204,000 commuters brings to more than one million the number of commuters in Commuter Services counties.

The action followed votes by the Reading Area Transportation Study Technical and Coordinating committees on January 8 and 15, respectively, to bring Berks into the Commuter Services partnership.

Commuter Services has encouraged commuting options through employer and commuter outreach and free services since 2005 in Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, York and Perry counties. Adams County joined in December 2006, bringing commuters served to more than 800,000.

Services to regional employers and commuters are free. Funding for the project is through federal Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality funds, which are dedicated to reducing traffic congestion and air pollution and are provided through the various regional planning organizations.

SRTP notes it will take a few months to formally incorporate Berks into the program, including actions such as bylaw revisions and seating Berks' representatives on the board. Once those steps are complete, outreach will begin in Berks to offer special employer programs and counsel, confidential ridesharing matching, transit support and promotion, and guaranteed ride home reimbursements to qualified commuters.

Information on Commuter Services is available at [www.PaCommuterServices.org](http://www.PaCommuterServices.org).

#####

## **About Commuter Services of South Central Pennsylvania:**

**1-866-579-RIDE, [www.PaCommuterServices.org](http://www.PaCommuterServices.org)**

Commuter Services is a program of the non-profit Susquehanna Regional Transportation Partnership, whose board includes the Harrisburg Regional Chamber; the Gettysburg Adams, Lebanon Valley and York County Chambers of Commerce; Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Adams County Transit Authority (ACTA); County of Lebanon Transit Authority (COLT); Red Rose Transit Authority (RRTA, Lancaster); York County Transportation Authority (rabbitransit); Capital Area Transit (CAT, Cumberland-Dauphin-Harrisburg); the Lancaster, Lebanon and York metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs); Harrisburg MPO (Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry counties) and Adams Rural Planning Organization (RPO). Funding is provided by the Federal Highway Administration and PennDOT.

\*\*\*\*\*