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Second Annual 'Try Transit' Month Saves More Than 183,000 Vehicle Miles

Local commuters encouraged to try public transportation during the month of September; number of participants almost tripled from last year

YORK, Pa. (November 8, 2012) . Commuter Services of Pennsylvania launched its second annual 'Try Transit' month in September, encouraging local commuters to try bus or rail transportation options rather than driving alone. This year, there were a total of 305 participants, almost triple the amount of participants from last year. Seventeen counties were represented with participants logging a total of 183,293 miles traveled by bus or train instead of in their cars.

To participate, commuters were asked to try out their local bus service or Amtrak, log their miles traveled, and turn it in to Commuter Services at the end of the month to be entered to win a monthly pass from their local transit provider, along with a few other prizes.

Michele Lauter of Berks County was the randomly selected grand prize winner and received an Amazon Kindle. Lauter opted to ride BARTA for nineteen days out of the month, logging a total of 66.5 miles.

Cathy Zarrella of Adams County and Michael Rittel of Lebanon County each won two Amtrak roundtrip tickets to New York City. Zarrella rode Freedom Transit, logging a total of four miles and Rittel rode Lebanon Transit and CAT transit, logging a total of 96 miles.

Other winners won a free monthly pass from their transit agency. They were:

- Michelle Braun of Reading, Berks County, logged 21 miles by riding BARTA.
- Kelly Hoffman of Lemoyne, Cumberland County, logged 27 miles riding CAT transit.
- Bonnie Uravic of Hershey, Dauphin County, logged more than 66 miles by riding Lebanon Transit to her job in Lebanon County.
- Pam Smith of York, York County, logged more than 14 miles by riding rabbit transit
- Stephanie Funk of Lancaster, logged 50.4 miles by riding Red Rose Transit.

Using public transit results in fewer cars and less congestion on the roadways, which helps to improve air quality and lessen travel time, and is often the most affordable mode of transportation to work. Commuter Services works with employers and commuters to encourage options such as taking transit, carpooling, biking, walking, vanpooling or telecommuting in order to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality.

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Funding is provided by the Federal Highway Administration through PennDOT and the regional metropolitan and rural planning organizations.

Commuter Services board includes transit agencies, planning organizations and chambers:

- Harrisburg Regional Chamber; the Gettysburg Adams, Lebanon Valley, Greater Chambersburg, and the York County Economic Alliance; Lancaster and Greater Reading Chambers of Commerce & Industry;
- Berks Area Regional Transportation Authority (BARTA), County of Lebanon Transit Authority (LT); Red Rose Transit Authority (RRTA, Lancaster); York Adams Transportation Authority (rabbittransit); Capital Area Transit (CAT, Cumberland-Dauphin-Harrisburg);
- Lancaster, Lebanon, Reading and York Area Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs); Harrisburg MPO (Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry counties) and Adams and Franklin counties Rural Planning Organizations (RPOs).

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