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**Telecommuting Offers Benefits to Employees,
Employers and the Environment**

'Telecommuter Appreciation Week' reminds us of the advantages of working from home

YORK, Pa. (February 27, 2012) – This week is Telecommuter Appreciation Week, a time to consider the benefits for everyone, as well as the environment, when commuters cut down their time on the road.

For the employee, telecommuting saves time, lowers commuting expenses, reduces stress, provides a more flexible schedule, and increases job satisfaction. For the employer, telecommuting leads to greater employee productivity, loyalty and job satisfaction, as well as better recruiting opportunities and reduced overhead and facility expenses.

Telecommuting is not only great for businesses, but also has positive impacts on the environment and offers a number of benefits.

According to the Telework Research Network:

- The existing 2.9 million US telecommuters save 390 million gallons of gas and prevent the release of 3.6 million tons of greenhouse gases yearly
- Forty-five percent of the US workforce holds a job that is compatible with at least part-time telework
- If those with compatible jobs worked at home part-time, the reduction in greenhouse gases (51 million tons) would be the equivalent of taking the entire state of New York workforce off the roads
- Forecasts predict 69% more eligible people will be teleworking by 2016, that's a total of nearly 4.9 million teleworkers
- If those with compatible jobs worked at home part-time, the US would save 281 million barrels of oil a year, the equivalent of 46% of our Persian Gulf imports

Commuter Services of Pennsylvania provides employers with counseling, best practices, checklists and draft policies to make it easier to consider and implement a telecommuting plan. Interested commuters or employers can learn more at www.PaCommuterServices.org or by calling the toll free number 1-866-579-RIDE.

About Commuter Services
1-866-579-RIDE, www.PaCommuterServices.org

Funding is provided by the Federal Highway Administration through PennDOT and the region's 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 York County Chambers of Commerce; Lancaster and Greater Reading Chambers of Commerce & Industry;
- Adams County Transit Authority (ACTA); Berks Area Regional Transportation Authority (BARTA), County of Lebanon Transit Authority (LT); Red Rose Transit Authority (RRTA, Lancaster); York County 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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