



1-866-579-RIDE, www.PaCommuterServices.org

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Carpools save nearly \$12,000 each
Carpoolers reduce regional traffic by 54 million miles a year

York, Pa. – Commuter Services today reported results of a 2009 poll of its ridematching and Emergency Ride Home Program database.

- ♦ 25% reported carpooling as their primary or secondary way to commute.
- ♦ Carpoolers in the database removed an estimated 54 million miles of traffic a year from regional roadways or about 88 miles of traffic per work day per carpool.
- ♦ Carpoolers' total annual savings by ridesharing were estimated at \$31.6 million, nearly \$12,000 per carpool.*

Telecommuting showed increased participation: 14% said they telecommute weekly or occasionally, up from 10% in 2008 and from 5% in 2007 poll results.

Other alternatives to driving alone reported were:

- ♦ Transit by approximately 7%
- ♦ Biking by less than 2%
- ♦ Walking/jogging by less than 2%
- ♦ Vanpooling by less than 1%.

When asked about what barriers they had to using an alternative to driving alone:

- ♦ 36% cited work shifts and unpredictable schedules
- ♦ 34% said finding someone with whom to carpool
- ♦ 27% cited the lack of/timing of transit or bus service

Respondents were asked if they changed their driving habits (such as driving less or commuting alone less) when gasoline reached \$4 per gallon, and 73% said they did. When asked if they changed habits again when gasoline dropped below \$2, 82% said they did not.

A primary reason commuters gave for signing up with Commuter Services was to save money (43%). Another 26% said they were encouraged at work, with employer sites and events a major focus of Commuter Services outreach.

* Based on the 2008 IRS mileage reimbursement rate of 58.5 cents per mile. Mileage reductions and savings were not calculated for additional options such as transit, biking, walking, vanpooling and telework. The survey was a sample of 11,500 database participants by Susquehanna Polling & Research and has a margin of error of +/-3.1%.

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About Commuter Services of South Central Pennsylvania:

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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 (rabbittransit); 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.