



*Serving Adams, Berks, Cumberland, Dauphin,
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1-866-579-RIDE, www.PaCommuterServices.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Commuter Services encourages telework planning
*Flu contingency plans and environment can benefit***

York, Pa. – Commuter Services promotes telecommuting, one of the fastest growing alternatives to driving to work, as a way to reduce commuter traffic and vehicle pollution.

“Having a telework policy and plan also is a good way for regional employers to have contingencies for the 2009 H1N1 virus (swine flu) epidemic or other disruptions, such as weather emergencies,” said Brandy Heilman, program director.

Commuter Services provides free assistance to support regional employers with sample policies, checklists and implementation plans to help them tailor a telework system to their unique needs.

The Society for Human Resource Management reports that about 21 percent of employers allow teleworking on a full-time basis, and even more, 35 percent, allow it on a part-time basis.

“There are benefits from allowing workers to telecommute even one day a week or month,” Heilman said. “Companies don’t have to view telework as an ‘all or nothing’ proposition.”

“In fact, the national trend appears to be shifting away from full-time telecommuting by workers to a system that has workers in the office at least a few days during the week or month,” Heilman added.

In Commuter Services’ 2009 survey of its regional database, 14 percent of commuters said they telecommute weekly or occasionally. That was almost triple the 5 percent who reported telecommuting in Commuter Services’ 2007 poll.

In addition to the environmental and traffic reduction benefits, telework has been shown to increase worker productivity, reduce turnover and absenteeism, decrease commuting costs and to generate savings for employers, such as by reducing rent, utility or parking expenses.

Employers may contact Commuter Services at 1-866-579-RIDE for assistance with teleworking and other commuting options for their workers.

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About Commuter Services of Pennsylvania:

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

Commuter Services provides free professional services to regional employers and commuters to promote options to driving alone (including transit, carpooling, vanpooling, biking, walking, telecommuting and shifts that take workers out of rush hour traffic) to reduce vehicle pollution and traffic congestion and to improve highway safety. Participating counties include Adams, Berks, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry and York. Services are funded with federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality dollars in partnership with the region's municipal and rural planning organizations. Funding is provided by the Federal Highway Administration and PennDOT.

About the Non-Profit Commuter Services Board of Directors

Commuter Services board includes transit agencies, planning organizations and chambers: Harrisburg Regional Chamber; the Gettysburg Adams, Lebanon Valley and York County Chambers of Commerce; Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Adams County Transit Authority (ACTA); Berks Area Reading Transportation Authority (BARTA), 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, Reading Area and York metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs); Harrisburg MPO (Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry counties) and Adams Rural Planning Organization (RPO).