



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Franklin County joins Commuter Services
Ninth county to join, brings services to 1 million commuters

Chambersburg, Pa. – Commuter Services of Pennsylvania today announced that Franklin County is joining the regional commuter options program. Adding Franklin's estimated 62,000 commuters and 145,000 population means Commuter Services now will serve a population of 2.2 million, including about one million commuters in the nine-county partnership.

Commuter Services is a program unique in the United States as it includes business representatives from area chambers, transit agencies and county planning officials on its non-profit board. It offers free services to employers and commuters to encourage options to commuting alone, such as carpooling, vanpooling, transit, biking, walking and telecommuting.

The program, designed to reduce traffic congestion and vehicle pollution, is funded through Federal Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality dollars, which are passed through PennDOT and the county planning organizations.

"Bringing Commuter Services' program to Franklin County is an opportunity for employees to save money getting to and from work. With fewer cars on the road, traffic will flow better, air quality will improve and, no doubt, there will be less dependence on fossil fuels," said Robert L. Thomas, Franklin County commissioner and chair of the Franklin County Rural Planning Organization (RPO).

Commuters and employers in Franklin can visit the Web site, www.PaCommuterServices.org, or call toll-free 1-866-579-RIDE for help.

Franklin County is represented by two board members named by the Franklin County RPO, Sherri Clayton, AICP, and Larry Camp. The Greater Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce has appointed one director, Noel Purdy, and alternates Kathleen H. Berard and Derrick Donnell, who are members of the chamber's board of directors.

Clayton is secretary to the Franklin County RPO and a senior planner at the Franklin County Planning Department. She is an Amberson resident.

Camp is a member of the Franklin County RPO Advisory Board and a GIS analyst with the Virginia Department of Transportation. He lives in Chambersburg.

Purdy, executive director of the Greater Chambersburg Chamber Foundation, is a Chambersburg resident.

Berard is senior gift officer for special gifts and community relations for the Advancement Office at Wilson College. She lives in Chambersburg.

Donnell is an administrator for PA Careerlink® Franklin County and resides in Camp Hill, Cumberland County.

Welcoming Franklin County to the Commuter Services partnership was Board Chair Jonathan Fitzkee, transportation planner, Lebanon County Planning Department.

Overseen by its non-profit board, Commuter Services delivers free services that are based on best national practices tailored to the region. The professional staff provides counsel to employers and commuters on their options and participates in a wide variety of outreach efforts.

Outreach is to employers in the nine participating counties and to commuters who live or work in these nine counties.

Nearly 200 employers, representing more than 100,000 workers, already are actively involved in the program.

Commuter Services has a confidential ridematching database, with more than 13,300 participants, which commuters can join to find someone to share their commute.

The program also offers reimbursements for emergency rides home for commuters who use options, other than driving alone, at least twice each week and have a family emergency.

The Commuter Services project began with a partnership of Lancaster, Lebanon, York, Perry, Cumberland and Dauphin counties. Adams County joined in 2006, and Berks County joined in 2009.

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About Commuter Services
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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 Area and York metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs); Harrisburg MPO (Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry counties) and Adams and Franklin counties Rural Planning Organizations (RPOs).