# COMMUTER SERVICES OF PA Program Update

Serving employers and commuters in Adams, Berks, Carbon, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Monroe, Perry, Pike, Schuylkill and York Counties.

## TRANSIT CARPOOLING VANPOOLING WALKING



BIKING TELECOMMUTING STAGGERED SHIFTS

Spring-Summer 2015



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# The Susquehanna Regional Transportation Partnership (SRTP) completed a major expansion of the Commuter Services of PA coverage area in March 2015

Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the NEPA Alliance the counties of Schuylkill, Carbon,

Monroe and Pike were added to the existing nine counties of the Commuter Services region. This expansion offers greater access to carpool matches and more cost effective commuting modes for all individuals enrolled in the rideshare program from the Maryland/Pennsylvania border to the Pocono Mountains and into the northeast.

Commuter Services is working diligently to distribute informational and educational materials to potential new employer and community partners to help spread the word of the many benefits offered by our commute assistance programs. Throughout the summer months we anticipate



hiring of new staff to be completed and a formal roll-out of the program to be completed in the NEPA region.

Commuters traveling in the region will soon see additional marketing materials on billboards and in various media outlets offering details of the enrollment process and the vast benefits offered to help individuals save money, decrease traffic congestion and improve regional air quality.

Information for commuters who live in these four new counties or who travel to these counties to work can locate Commuter Services program details immediately by visiting our website.

### Bike to Work Week Challenge



A total of 120 participants logged 4,843 miles while commuting to work by bicycle during this year's annual Bike to Work Week Challenge. Phoenix Contact took first place as the employer with the most participation; eleven employees participated in the event, logging a total of 603 miles commuted by bike. Bob Johnston of Dauphin County was the randomly selected Grand Prize Winner and rode 50 miles to his job at Milton Hershey School.





Penske Racing Shocks, Reading Health System and Commuter Services of Pennsylvania help facilitate new police bicycles to law enforcement personnel in the City of Reading and the Borough of West Reading.





#### Commuter Services Designates Five Employers as "Best Workplaces for Commuters"

Commuter Services of Pennsylvania, in partnership with the National Center for Transit Research (NCTR) at the University of South Florida, has designated five local employers as "Best Workplaces for Commuters" for 2015. The employers are receiving this national recognition for the standard of excellence they have set while offering an extensive list of commuter benefits and a wide range of transportation options to their employees. Companies who pursue "Best Workplaces for Commuters" status must meet a stringent set of national guidelines established by NCTR. Only a small percentage of employers nationwide possess the willingness and ability to attain this exceptional standing.

The "Best Workplaces for Commuters" designation acknowledges employers who have excelled at implementing green commuter programs. These programs include ridesharing, transit benefits, biking/walking, teleworking, flexible work schedules and other transportation demand management strategies designed to decrease traffic congestion and improve traffic related air pollution levels. By offering these commuter benefits, these five employers are committing to regional pollution reduction, greater economical savings related to commuting costs and lessening employee stress caused by single occupant vehicle travel to and from work. The employers receiving this recognition include:

- Fleetwood Fixtures, Berks County
- PetSmart, Berks County
- County of Dauphin, Dauphin County
- Bayer HealthCare, Lebanon County
- United Natural Foods, Inc., York County

"Best Workplaces for Commuters recognizes employers who offer commuter benefits such as subsidized transit passes, vanpool subsidies, ridematching services or telework programs," said Phil Winters, NCTR's national transportation demand management program director and co-manager for Best Workplaces for Commuters. "Offering commuter benefits is a win-win situation for employees who change their commuting habits save time, money and stress and employers who gain a competitive edge in employee recruiting and retention."

Commuter Services will be holding an awards ceremony later this summer to congratulate these employers and publicly recognize their efforts. For more information on "Best Workplaces for Commuters" please visit www.bestworkplaces.org.

#### **Earth Day Challenge**



Commuter Services of Pennsylvania issued its annual challenge to commuters to try a green commuting option, other than driving alone, during the week of Earth Day. In total, 340 commuters logged more than 65,722 miles by taking alternative transportation during the week of Earth Day. A winner was chosen for each of the nine counties who participated. Carrie McGough of Millersville, Lancaster County logged 20 miles during Earth Week by carpooling and was the randomly selected grand prize winner. Sweet Street Desserts had the most participants during the week with 19 employees logging a total of 487 miles of green transportation.

#### 2014 Annual Report Released

To view the 2014 Annual Report visit: http://pacommuterservices.org/wp-content/uploads/ CommuterServices\_AR\_2015.pdf



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1.866.579.RIDE www.PaCommuterServices.org



Commuter Services is a program of the non-profit Susquehanna Regional Transportation Partnership, whose board includes Capital Area Transit (CAT, Cumberland-Dauphin-Harrisburg), Lebanon Transit (LT), South Central Transit Authority (BARTA, Berks & RRTA, Lancaster) and York Adams Transportation Authority (rabbittransit, York & Freedom Transit, Adams). Adams, Franklin, Harrisburg (Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry counties), Lancaster, Lebanon, NEPA (Schuylkill, Carbon, Monroe and Pike counties), Reading and York MPOs. The Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC; the Gettysburg Adams, Greater Chambersburg and Lebanon Valley Chambers of Commerce; the Greater Reading and Lancaster Chambers of Commerce & Industry and the York County Economic Alliance.

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