

# 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 2020

  
**COMMUTER SERVICES**  
OF PENNSYLVANIA

*Serving Adams, Berks, Carbon, Cumberland,  
Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Monroe,  
Perry, Pike, Schuylkill & York Counties*



# Telework

We held our "Rework Your Commute" telework promotion during the week of February 9th - 15th. Commuters were encouraged to telework during the week and track it in Commute PA. To the right are the statistics from the promotion.



**63**

Teleworkers



**162**

Telecommutes



**285**

Gallons of  
Gas Saved



**\$3,650**

Saved

## Moving Forward

As the remaining counties of Pennsylvania enter the green phase of this Pandemic towards the end of June, many employers look forward to their workforce returning to 100%. While this goal is important, we question why employers feel the need to bring employees back into the physical workplace after weeks of heightened productivity from home. Recent weeks provided a unique "test case" for the use of Transportation Demand Management options such as teleworking. Although shifting to teleworking was mandated rather than chosen by many employers, employees maintained high levels of productivity, all while balancing life and work from home.

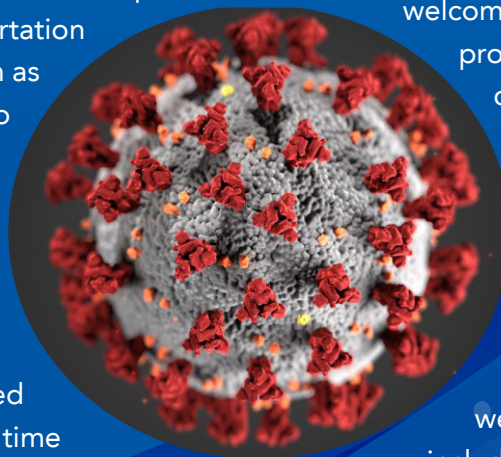
Employers contend the need to monitor productivity and time management during this time but let's not ignore the trust we have in employees and their ability to work from a home desk rather than an office cubicle. Not to mention the decreased overhead costs to employers; the increased disposable income to employees; the productivity benefits of a positive

work-life balance; higher retention and recruitment rates and the environmental and emissions benefits of removing commuting vehicles from the roads.

As we embark to a new norm, we are asking employers to expand their view of the typical work environment. Don't be fearful of remote working or seeing what other modes may be beneficial to employees, welcome the flexibility these options provide your workforce, support the changing culture and take the first step, TODAY, to create or evaluate your employee commute benefits!

Over the past few months, our team has transitioned to a new way of educating local commuters about our free services and how we can help. Many of these methods include interactive virtual events and videos that commuters can watch and ask questions, just like our previous events.

Please reach out to us so that we can assist you with our turnkey approach to Transportation Demand Management and this new normal.



# Employer Telework Survey Conducted

In April, we surveyed 127 employers we work with about the COVID-19 situation, see some of the top line responses below.

**58%**

At the end of 2019 (prior to the COVID-19 pandemic), 58% of the employers surveyed said that their employees did not work from home most of the time.

**Some of the CHALLENGES shared about working from home during the pandemic included:**

**EMPLOYEES:**

- IT – Hardware/software/connection speeds
- Isolation/simply miss going into work
- Child/dependent care

**MANAGERS:**

- Helping employees balance work/life issues
- IT issues
- Higher levels of staff stress

**90%**

At the time of the survey, which was at the height of the pandemic, 32% of the employers had 90% or more of their employees working from home full time.

**Some of the BENEFITS shared about working from home during the pandemic included:**

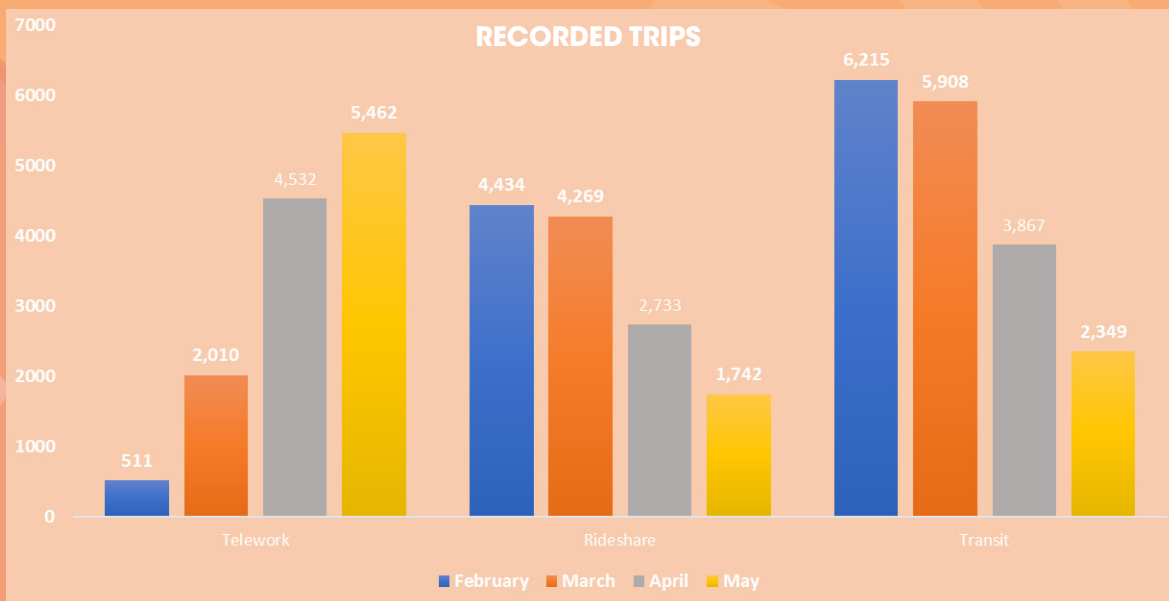
**EMPLOYEES:**

- No commute
- More comfortable work clothes
- Cost savings
- Increase in productivity

**MANAGERS:**

- Appreciative employees
- Increase in personal productivity

**80%** of employers said their employees were just as, if not more, productive while working from home.



This graph represents the mode specific trips tracked in Commute PA from February until May 2020. Due to COVID-19, our outreach efforts have continued to focus more on teleworking and helping employers establish telework programs to keep employees working from home. Bicycle and walking trips have also decreased significantly during the COVID-19 Pandemic.



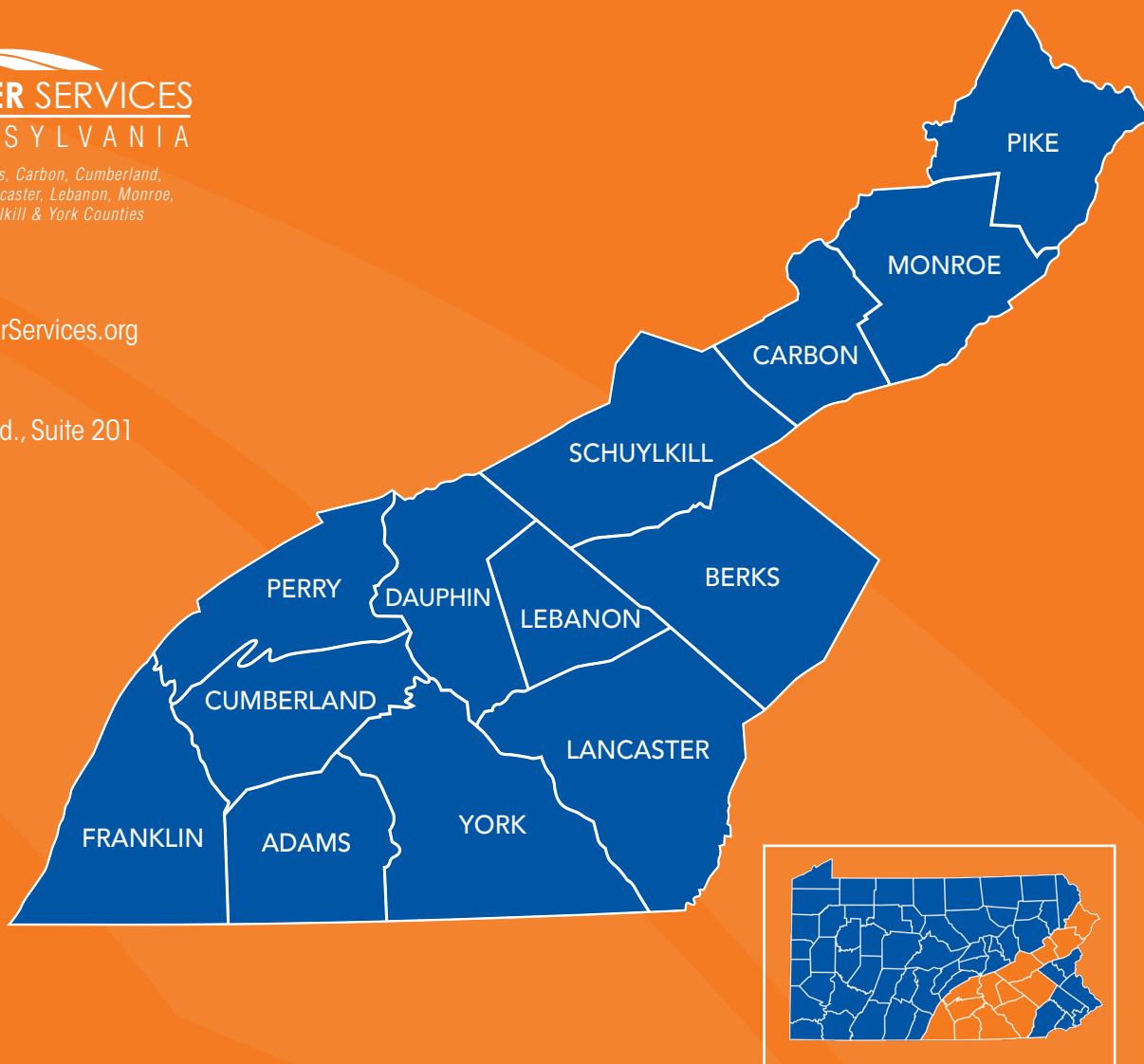
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## We have started a blog!

Commuter Services of Pennsylvania is here to update you on all things involving green transportation. The Commuter Chat blog will be sent every other week. We encourage you to sign up on our website to be notified when they are released!

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 Central Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (rabbitttransit, 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 Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry; the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance and the York County Economic Alliance. Funding is provided by the Federal Highway Administration and PennDOT in partnership with the participating MPOs