

CommuteInfo...At a Glance

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission's CommuteInfo program is designed to increase the number of people who travel to work or school by riding transit, carpooling, vanpooling, or bikepooling. CommuteInfo joins with partners increase outreach efforts to commuters and employers and expand ridesharing in the region. The goal is for commuters living, working or attending school within the 10-county Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission region (including Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Washington, and Westmoreland counties) to choose ridesharing at least twice a week.

The CommuteInfo program provides resources and information to assist individuals traveling to work or school and helps regional employers learn more about commuting options.



Commuters can register with CommuteInfo to request a commuting options report which includes contact information for the regional fixed route transit operators, nearby park-n-ride facilities and a list of other individuals making a similar commute who are interested in vanpooling, carpooling, and/or bikepooling.

Employers can access technical assistance, articles, posters, and surveys to use during employee recruitment, with job applicants or with existing employees.

Program Statistics For 2010

- ⇒ 524 participants in the regional vanpool program (43 vanpools).
- ⇒ 487 participants in the regional carpool program (232 carpools).
- ⇒ 37 participants registered for bikepool matching.
- ⇒ Added 854 new commuters into the ridematching database.
- ⇒ Responded to 812 calls from commuters, providing information on transit, vanpools, carpools, bikepools and park-n-ride facility locations

Highlights from 2010

During 2010, the CommuteInfo program continued to offer its core set of services, including vanpool/carpool rider matching, consultations with employers, providing transit/biking/walking resources and information about park-n-ride facilities.

In addition, the following activities were accomplished: the redesign of the CommuteInfo website, the launch of an Emergency Ride Home transit pilot, opening of the new downtown Pittsburgh bike parking facility, participation in the Street Smarts campaign, expansion of the local corridor outreach project to the Greater Cranberry area, several "Train the Trainer" educational sessions, and ongoing program monitoring and evaluation.

Redesigned Website – CommuteInfo.org®

The CommuteInfo website contains resources for commuters, job seekers, employers, the media and people just interested in learning more about commuting alternatives. With the help of customer feedback, the site was redesigned to provide easier access to all of the resources the site contains. Most information is now accessible by "one-click." Check out the updated website at www.commuteinfo.org.



Emergency Ride Home Transit Pilot Launched

On July 1st the CommuteInfo's Emergency Ride Home (ERH) transit pilot was launched. Running for one year, qualified riders of the Beaver County Transit Authority (BCTA) and the Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority (MMVTA) are now covered by ERH. The pilot was implemented to investigate the value of offering ERH service for transit riders and whether there is an increase in ridership and non-cash fare pass sales. At the end of the pilot year, a decision will be made whether to continue the service for transit riders. This pilot is being offered through a partnership among BCTA, MMVTA and CommuteInfo.

Since 2006, the CommuteInfo ERH service has provided reimbursement for commuters participating in a registered vanpool, carpool or bikepool to get home in the event of an unexpected personal or family emergency, personal illness, unscheduled overtime, or other eligible event. More details on the ERH service can be found on the CommuteInfo website.

Bike Facility

The Century Building Limited Partnership's bicycle storage facility officially opened in late spring and the leases were fully subscribed within a month. Part of the redevelopment of the Century Building, the construction of the bicycle storage facility was the result of several public-private partnerships including CommuteInfo and other local partners. The facility was designed to increase the quantity of secure, sheltered public bicycle parking available in downtown Pittsburgh's Cultural District by 70%.

The project was designed to assure the facility was easily accessible to the public and add to the continuum of parking choices available to bicycling commuters. In addition to these goals, the project endeavored to increase the public's awareness of bicycling as a commuting alternative to motorized vehicles through its prominent placement on the block and the attractiveness of its design.

The facility serves both as a functional space for storing bicycles as well as an attractive addition to the pedestrian space along Seventh Street in downtown Pittsburgh.



The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) is the region's forum for collaboration, planning and public decision-making. As the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the ten-county region including the City of Pittsburgh and the counties of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Washington, and Westmoreland, SPC is responsible for planning and prioritizing the use of all state and federal transportation funds allocated to the region. As the Local Development District (LDD) and Economic Development District for Southwestern Pennsylvania (as designated by the U.S. Appalachian Regional Commission and the U.S. Department of Commerce), SPC establishes regional economic development priorities and provides a wide range of public services to the region.

www.spcregion.org

Street Smarts - Tips for Safe Commuting

Street Smarts is an educational campaign to provide safety information to regional commuters. As part of the campaign, CommuteInfo staff worked with partner groups to produce and distribute information cards promoting safe commuting by bike, car, and by walking. Under the tagline "*Don't Be a Road Zombie*" each card emphasizes simple steps, and common-sense tips, that anyone can take to make commuting safer, no matter how they travel.

CommuteInfo takes copies of the Street Smarts cards to outreach events to help promote and reinforce the importance of safe commuting. The cards are also available on the Safety page of the CommuteInfo website.

