



## News for employers

Summer 2010

CommuteInfo

### *Latest News . . .*

#### **Resources for Employers**

The CommuteInfo program staff stands ready to assist your company in implementing and structuring a ridesharing program that can assist you and your employees. To find out how we can help you, visit the CommuteInfo [website](#) for information on:

- Commuter ridematching service
- Posters and brochures promoting ridesharing
- Transportation survey forms
- Information on tax incentives for ridesharing
- Information on how promoting ridesharing efforts can help earn Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) points

[Click here to request a meeting with a CommuteInfo representative.](#) Or call us toll-free at 1-

888-819-6110.



#### **Find CommuteInfo on Facebook**

To increase CommuteInfo's ability to reach employers, a Facebook page has been set up for the program. The page includes information on commuting alternatives, instructions for commuters on how to register with the program and news about CommuteInfo. You can view the CommuteInfo Facebook page at: [facebook.com/CommuteInfo](https://facebook.com/CommuteInfo).

#### **Emergency Ride Home**

The CommuteInfo Emergency Ride Home (ERH) service is designed to provide a ride home for registered commuters participating in a registered vanpool, carpool or bikepool in the event of an unexpected personal or family emergency, personal illness, unscheduled overtime, or other eligible event.

If an eligible commuter needs an emergency ride home, the commuter simply makes their own arrangements to get home. The reason for the ERH must also fall within the [program guidelines](#).

The commuter can check the list of [suggested resources](#) for help in identifying a transportation provider, but the commuter can also choose a way home not on the list. The commuter then arranges for a ride, pays and gets a receipt. Then, within 30 days of the ride, submits the [refund application](#) and receipt to CommuteInfo for processing.

Learn more about CommuteInfo's ERH service by [clicking here](#) or by calling the CommuteInfo staff at 1-888-819-6110.

## **Emergency Ride Home Transit Pilot Launched**

Starting on July 1, 2010 and running for one year, qualified riders of the Beaver County Transit Authority (BCTA) and the Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority (MMVTA) will be covered by the CommuteInfo's ERH service. 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. To learn more about the ERH transit pilot, [click here](#).

## ***Commuting Options: Information & Resources***



## **Port Authority Implements Additional Route Changes**

Twenty-six Port Authority of Allegheny County routes were changed on June 13<sup>th</sup> as the second round of Transit Development Plan changes went into effect.

Port Authority's Transit Development Plan is the result of more than two years of planning and feedback from thousands of riders, all with the goal to make transit smarter and more efficient.

More than 60 routes changed during the first round in April. Many more routes will change during the next round, scheduled for September. More changes will come in the next few years.

New routes are being added to serve growth areas and redundant or underused routes are being consolidated.

Port Authority is also working to make the system easier to learn and simpler to use for new and occasional riders as well as commuters and daily riders. Renamed routes, streamlined Downtown circulation and more consistent service will help make transit more accessible to a greater number of people.

Details on the Transit Development Plan route changes are available at [www.portauthority.org](http://www.portauthority.org). Please encourage your employees to sign up for email alerts to see if their routes are changing in September. Schedules and brochures are also available at Port Authority's Downtown Pittsburgh Service Center on Smithfield Street.

## **Allegheny County Transportation Management Associations Provide Additional Resources To Help Local Employers Learn About Changes**

As a supplement to the communication efforts of the Port Authority of Allegheny County, the 3 transportation management associations in Allegheny County, the Airport Corridor Transportation Association (ACTA), the Oakland Transportation Management Association (OTMA) and the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnerships Transportation Management Association (PDP) produced a special information piece. It was designed to help explain Port Authority's June 13<sup>th</sup> service changes for their service areas, called 'Change is Coming Soon, So Get on Board'. In addition OTMA and ACTA produced companion pieces that highlighted route changes in their respective areas.

To learn more about the publication Change is Coming Soon, So Get on Board contact any of the TMAs:



[ACTA](#)



[PDP](#)



[OTMA](#)

To learn more about transit, visit the Transit page on the CommuteInfo website:  
[http://www.commuteinfo.org/comm\\_options\\_transit.shtml](http://www.commuteinfo.org/comm_options_transit.shtml)



### Vanpool Groups Looking for Riders

Several vanpool groups have seats available. You can view the entire list of vanpool groups by [clicking here](#). The groups with the highest number of seats available are:

Origin: Knox (Group V503)  
Destination: Boyers  
Time Arriving at Work: 6 a.m.  
Time Leaving for Home: 2:30 p.m.

Origin: White Oak (Group V206)  
Destination: Oakland  
Time Arriving at Work: 8:10 a.m.  
Time Leaving for Home: 5:05 p.m.

Origin: Weirton (Group V104)  
Destination: Downtown Pittsburgh  
Time Arriving at Work: 7:40 a.m.  
Time Leaving for Home: 5:10 p.m.

Origin: Greensburg (Group V107)  
Destination: Downtown Pittsburgh  
Time Arriving at Work: 7:00 a.m.  
Time Leaving for Home: 4:05 p.m.

If your employees are interested in obtaining a complete list of vanpool groups that match their particular commute, encourage them to fill out a commuter profile [www.commuteinfo.org](http://www.commuteinfo.org) or by calling 1-888-819-6110. Your employees can join a vanpool group on either a full-time or part-time basis. Learn more about the vanpool program on the CommuteInfo [website](#).



### **Carpool Groups Looking for Riders**

Several registered carpool groups have seats available this is just a sample, for a complete listing of carpools looking for riders, please [click here](#):

Origin: Irwin (C1268)  
Destination: Downtown Pittsburgh  
Time Arriving at Work: 8:00 a.m.  
Time Leaving for Home: 4:30 p.m.

Origin: Valencia (C1276)  
Destination: Oakland  
Time Arriving at Work: 8:30 a.m.  
Time Leaving for Home: 5:00 p.m.

Origin: Penn Hills (C1174)  
Destination: Oakland  
Time Arriving at Work: 8:30 a.m.  
Time Leaving for Home: 5:00 p.m.

If your employees are interested in obtaining a complete list of carpool groups that match their particular commute, encourage them to fill out a commuter profile today by visiting the CommuteInfo website at [www.commuteinfo.org](http://www.commuteinfo.org) or by calling 1-888-819-6110. Your employees can join a carpool group on either a full-time or part-time basis. Learn more about the carpool program on the CommuteInfo [website](#).



### **Bikepool Groups Looking for Riders**

If you or your employees are considering riding a bike to work, CommuteInfo can help commuters find bikepool buddies. The process works the same way as finding someone to carpool with --- just complete a commuter profile by visiting the CommuteInfo website at [www.commuteinfo.org](http://www.commuteinfo.org) or by calling 1-888-819-6110 and we will send a matchlist with other people interested in biking to work.

Several registered bikepool groups are looking for participants. For the most up to date listing of bikepools looking for participants, please [click here](#):

Origin: Highland Park/East Liberty (Group A)  
Destination: Southside  
Time Arriving at Work: 8:30 a.m.  
Time Leaving for Home: 5:00 p.m.

Origin: Squirrel Hill (Group B)  
Destination: Downtown Pittsburgh  
Time Arriving at Work: 8:30 a.m.  
Time Leaving for Home: 5:00 p.m.

Origin: Squirrel Hill (Group C)  
Destination: North Side  
Time Arriving at Work: 8:00 a.m.  
Time Leaving for Home: 7:00 p.m.



To learn more about walking, teleworking, flextime or compressed work weeks, visit the Other Options page on the CommuteInfo website: [http://www.commuteinfo.org/comm\\_options\\_other.shtml](http://www.commuteinfo.org/comm_options_other.shtml)



Please send community events or speaking opportunities where the CommuteInfo staff and partners can present information about commuting options and learn about local commuting challenges of residents and businesses in your area.

Also, send your story ideas for this e-newsletter [email your](#) ideas today!

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The CommuteInfo program is dedicated to increasing the number of people who share a ride work or school. 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. CommuteInfo is also an information clearinghouse and resource center for commuters and employers.

With approximately 60% of the Southwestern Pennsylvania region's 1.5 million workers traveling outside of their resident municipality to work each day, finding a better way to work is clearly an integral part of life for the regions employers and workers.

[CommuteInfo](#) is a program of the [Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission](#) (SPC), coordinated in partnership with transportation management associations, transportation providers, businesses and non-profit service organizations throughout Southwestern PA.

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*Check out previous e-newsletter editions by [clicking here](#)*

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*Thanks again for your interest in commuting alternatives and CommuteInfo: a better way to work.*