



News for employers

May 2011

CommuteInfo

The CommuteInfo program is dedicated to increasing the number of commuters in Southwestern Pennsylvania sharing a ride to work or school. The goal is for commuters living, working or attending school within the 10-county SPC region to choose ridesharing at least twice a week.

May is CommuteInfo Commute Options Awareness Month

May is designated as CommuteInfo Commute Options Awareness Month to focus extra attention on the promotion of commuting options available to commuters and employers in southwestern Pennsylvania. **The overall goal for the month is to encourage people regionally to use an alternative commute (transit, vanpools, carpools, biking, and/or walking) to get to work or school.** May was chosen as this special month since it includes National Transportation Week, National Bike to Work Day, National Employee Health and Fitness Day, and

National Clean Air Week. CommuteInfo Commute Options Awareness Month has been celebrated annually since 2004.

Each year a calendar is established which contains activities for both the registered CommuteInfo vanpool, carpool, and bikepool participants as well as awareness events to help get more people sharing a ride. The activities may be sponsored by SPC or other organizations. [Click here](#) to learn more about CommuteInfo Commute Options Awareness Month and view the 2011 calendar.



10 Ways to Celebrate CommuteInfo Commute Options Awareness Month

1. Sponsor a lunch-n-learn to help employees learn more about their options.
2. Add the CommuteInfo website to your company's intranet.
3. Include CommuteInfo as a resource in your new hire packets.
4. Provide employees with information about CommuteInfo and transportation options at your annual benefits meetings.
5. Sponsor a transportation information table to help employees learn more about their options.
6. Include an article in your next company newsletter about CommuteInfo. Sample articles can be downloaded from the [CommuteInfo website](#).
7. Provide an incentive for employees to share a ride.
8. Work with the CommuteInfo staff to create a map to show where your current employees travel from to determine whether there might be some "clusters" of employees who could share a ride.
9. Tell other companies, organizations, or associations about CommuteInfo.
10. Tell your employees about CommuteInfo and encourage them to sign up to get their free list of commuting options. The request can be completed [on-line](#) or over the phone at 1-888-819-6110.

May 18 - CommuteInfo Open House

CommuteInfo will be sponsoring an **Open House** on **Wednesday, May 18th**, from 7:30 AM - 2 PM in Xplorion (the lobby of the Regional Enterprise Tower - corner of Sixth Avenue and William Penn Way in

downtown Pittsburgh). What makes the open house unique is that people will be able to stop by, register and walk away with a match report. Please let your employees, and co-workers know about this event so they can plan to stop by and join us for our Open House. For more information or directions, contact [CommutelInfo](#).

May 20 - Car Free Fridays

Bike Pittsburgh, a membership based bicycle advocacy organization serving cyclists in Pittsburgh, has joined forces with a wide range of partners in Southwestern Pennsylvania, including CommuteInfo, to encourage commuting by transit, vanpool, carpool or biking through a promotion called Car Free Fridays.

It's easy to participate. Don't drive alone on Fridays - take transit, carpool, vanpool, walk or join one of the bikepools departing from neighborhoods throughout the city and going to major commuting destinations such as downtown Pittsburgh, Oakland and the South Side. Help spread the word to co-workers, friends, neighbors, etc.

The first Car Free Friday for 2011 is Friday, May 20th. To mark the occasion, Bike Pittsburgh is sponsoring a special event from 7:30 AM - 9:30 AM in Market Square in downtown Pittsburgh.

Keep checking back to the [Car Free Fridays website](#) for announcements of breakfasts, discounts, and specials on Fridays throughout the year.

May 26 - Free CommuteInfo Webinar: Regional Transit - Make the Connection

The CommuteInfo Program sponsors webinars on topics related to commuting alternatives, employer transportation programs and other related topics. The next CommuteInfo webinar will be held on Thursday, May 26th from Noon - 1 PM. The topic for this session is: Regional Transit - Make the Connection.



Register to join us and learn about transit services provided in Southwestern Pennsylvania, receive an overview of the transit operators, shared ride providers, and last mile services. This webinar will give you, your employees or co-workers all the facts you need to know in order to understand how transit works regionally in Southwestern Pennsylvania, and provide an opportunity for attendees to ask questions. To register for this webinar, [click here](#).

Let Your Employees and Co-workers Know How they Can Find Out Which Alternative Commutes Are Available to Them

Let your employees and co-workers know that to obtain a complete list of bikepool buddies, vanpool, or carpool groups that match a particular commute, they simply need to [click here](#) or by call 1-888-819-6110.

Get Rewarded for Carpooling

If your employees or co-workers are already carpooling, let them know they can register their carpool with CommuteInfo and be covered by CommuteInfo's [Emergency Ride Home service](#). Registering takes less than 5 minutes - each person in the group completes a [commuter profile](#) and in the "other comments" section, simply state that they are part of a carpool and list everyone else in the carpool.

CommutelInfo 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.

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

Check out previous newsletter editions by [clicking here](#). Also, [send](#) your story ideas -

[email](#) your ideas today!

Want to include CommuteInfo information at your community event or meeting? CommuteInfo staff can provide a complimentary supply of CommuteInfo program printed materials for your use. [Contact us today!](#)

