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RIDESHARING BENEFITS

Over the last year, working families have seen their savings shrink and, in many cases, their job security threatened. Finding ways to save money and still meet daily living expenses is a hallmark of these times. Many workers have significantly cut down on driving or given up their cars completely and chosen other methods of commuting.

It's easy to understand why ridesharing is increasing in popularity. Whether via vanpool or carpool, ridesharing can offset fluctuating gasoline costs and growing traffic congestion. Ridesharing also reduces pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as saves wear and tear on vehicles. Ridesharing can make a long commute interesting, enjoyable and affordable—all while helping commuters arrive at work relaxed and ready to concentrate on the tasks at hand.

Employers benefit when their employees are able to access rideshare options. Their workers are likely to be more productive, miss fewer hours at work, and stay on the job longer when they have a predictable, cost-effective means for traveling to work. Having fewer employees drive to work also frees up parking spaces for customers or other visitors. Employers can encourage ridesharing by maintaining a rideshare bulletin board or e-mail list-serve; reserve premium parking for vanpools and carpools; and posting tax benefits available to employees who ride in vanpools or public transportation.

VANPOOL PROGRAM

A vanpool group is formed when 7-12 people who have the same commute get together and share the ride in a 12-passenger van. Vanpools typically travel 20 or more miles one way and only have one trip to and from work. A volunteer driver rides for free. Each rider helps to pay toward the cost of operating the van on a monthly basis; and the group agrees on a set of rules that govern rider etiquette. The **CATACOMMUTE** program provides the van, insurance, maintenance and gas card.

CARPOOLS

Carpools form when two or more people decide to share a ride to work. Carpooling is the easiest and most flexible way to share a ride to work. Many carpools are formed by people who talk with their friends, family, coworkers or neighbors. If you do not have anyone who you can carpool with yet, **CATACOMMUTE's** free *RideShare* program can provide you with a list of people who are also interested in sharing the ride.

GUARANTEED RIDE HOME (GRH)

Fear of not being able to get home in the event of an emergency is a major reason why many are reluctant to carpool or vanpool. The GRH program takes the fear out of being stuck and provides four free rides home per year in the event of an emergency or mandatory overtime.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Commuters are often looking for alternatives to their long distance ride to work. If you are thinking about carpooling or joining a vanpool, contact **CATACOMMUTE** at 814-238-2282 ext. 134 or visit www.catabus.com for more information.