

## CommuteInfo® ...At a Glance

### Mission

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission's CommuteInfo program is coordinated in partnership with transportation management associations, transportation providers, businesses and non-profit service organizations throughout Southwestern PA. The CommuteInfo program is dedicated to increasing the number of commuters in Southwestern PA 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 by providing them with viable options, incentives and encouragement.

### Partners

- Airport Corridor Transportation Association
- Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson Metropolitan Planning Commission
- Oakland Transportation Management Association
- Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership – Transportation Management Association
- Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board

In addition, the Port Authority of Allegheny County, Fayette Area Coordinated Transit, Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority, Westmoreland Transit, Butler Transit Authority, PennDOT, various regional CareerLink offices, Bike Pittsburgh, The Accessible Transportation & Workforce Interagency Collaborative and VPSI are also regular participants in CommuteInfo program planning.

### Program Services

- **RideMatching Reports** – Available via internet, telephone (toll-free phone number) or fax. The CommuteInfo staff processes completed Commuter Profiles within 2 business days and provide the commuter with a report of matches.
- **Information and Referral** – Also available by internet, telephone or fax. The CommuteInfo website provides detailed information on the program services and commute alternatives. The CommuteInfo staff also provides individual consultations to employees as well as employers on commuting alternatives, park and ride lots and commuter choice benefits.
- **Vanpool Services** – The CommuteInfo staff works with 3<sup>rd</sup> party provider to oversee the delivery and maintenance of the vanpool groups.
- **Park-n-Ride Facility Information** – An inventory of the region's park-n-ride facilities is available on the CommuteInfo website that contains detailed information for each of the 104 park-n-ride facilities in the region. Data about each park-n-ride facility includes facility location, number of parking spaces, ownership information, parking fee (if any), links to the public transit service provider(s) and the individual transit routes serving the facility (if any), and listings of on-site and nearby amenities.
- **Community/Organizational Speaker** – CommuteInfo representatives provide customized presentations/programs about ridesharing and the benefits for commuters and employers.
  - **Transportation Information Table (Commute Options Awareness Event)** – The CommuteInfo staff set up and staff information tables to educate employees or potential employees about the benefits of ridesharing.
  - **Individualized Employer Transportation Needs Assessment** – CommuteInfo staff meet with regional employers to assess their unique transportation needs and help design a customized transportation plan for them.
  - **Employer Relocation Assistance** – CommuteInfo staff can help employers and employees plan for the change in workplace location by providing information and resources on commuting alternatives.



## Program Statistics For 2009

- ⇒ 529 participants in the regional vanpool program (43 vanpools).
- ⇒ 492 participants in the regional carpool program (230 carpools).
- ⇒ 61 participants registered for bikepool matching.
- ⇒ Added 586 new commuters into the ridematching database.
- ⇒ Responded to 870 calls from commuters, providing information on transit, vanpools, carpools, bikepools and park-n-ride facility locations.

## Estimated Program Benefits

*For the year, assuming 20% of the match reports result in a rideshare arrangement*

- ⇒ \$3,434,273 Commuting Costs Saved
- ⇒ 221.31 Carbon Monoxide Reduction (tons)
- ⇒ 29.03 Volatile Organic Compounds Reduction (tons)
- ⇒ 35.65 Oxides of Nitrogen Reduction (tons)

## Highlights from 2009

The year included continued development of a localized corridor-based outreach model, assistance in developing a new downtown Pittsburgh bike parking facility, several train the trainer educational sessions, webinars and on-going program monitoring and evaluation.

During 2009, the CommuteInfo program received the Earth Friend Award. The award was sponsored by Sony, the Pennsylvania

Environmental Council and WTAE-TV. The Earth Friend Award is presented to recognize specific efforts being made by persons, schools, groups, organizations, or communities to improve or conserve our environment and our communities in the Greater Pittsburgh Region.



The Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County also recognized the CommuteInfo program's localized corridor-based outreach efforts with an award and a U.S. House of Representatives Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition in acknowledgment of the program's efforts supporting Smart Growth practices and contributions to the Smart Growth effort in Westmoreland County.

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](http://www.spcregion.org)