

## Sidebars

### Things to Consider When Choosing an Alternative Commute

Deciding to join a carpool or vanpool is an important decision—and if you decide to join, it could mean involvement with the group for 30, 60 or even 90+ minutes on workdays. CommuteInfo<sup>SM</sup> staff recommends that you take some time to meet your potential ridesharing buddies before making the decision to join a ridesharing arrangement. Contact the driver and/or other riders and set up time for a phone call, coffee or lunch.

Here are some things you may want to ask to help you make your decision:

- Where will I need to meet the carpool/vanpool?
- How flexible are the pickup times?
- What type of vehicle is used?
- How many riders are there?
- What costs are shared? (Maintenance, Fuel, Parking)
- Are riders allowed to smoke during the commute?
- Is music played during the commute?
- Are eating and drinking permitted in the vehicle?
- Should I be prepared to drive sometimes?
- What is the back-up plan in case of an emergency?

For more information about these commuting options and more in Southwestern PA, call the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission's CommuteInfo program staff at 1-888-819-6110 or visit the website at [www.commuteinfo.org](http://www.commuteinfo.org).

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### Finding the Commute That is Uniquely You

*Not looking for a long term commitment? Want flexibility? Need something just temporarily?*

**Consider Carpooling.** Carpooling happens when 2 or more people decide to share a ride to work. Many people carpool everyday. Most of those carpools were formed by people who talked with their friends, family, neighbors & co-workers and decided they wanted to share a ride.

*Work a steady shift? Looking for a longer term alternative?*

**Consider vanpooling.** A vanpool is a group of 9 to 15 people who commute to and from work together but do not necessarily work in the same location. One member volunteers to be the van driver. Vanpools typically travel more than 15 miles one way and only have one scheduled trip into work and back home per day.

*Near a transit line or park-n-ride? Need rides at varying times?*

**Consider transit.** There are 10 public transit operators within the Southwestern PA region, many of which provide local as well as commuter services.

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