

From: commuteinfo
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 11:49 AM
To:
Subject: CommuteInfo News for Employers



News for employers

Fall 2010

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.

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Latest News

CommuteInfo Launches Redesigned Website on October 1st

The CommuteInfo website contains resources for employers, commuters, job seekers, the media and people just interested in learning more about commuting alternatives. With the help of customer feedback, the site has been redesigned to provide easier access to all of the resources the site contains. Most information can now be accessed by "one-click."

Check out the updated website today, www.commuteinfo.org.

Results from May's On-line Commuter Questionnaire

Each year, during the month of May, the CommuteInfo program posts a questionnaire on the CommuteInfo website asking visitors to the website for information about their commute. While the results are not statistically valid, the answers do provide information about the commuting habits of the visitors to the CommuteInfo website. Thanks to all of you who participated.

During May of 2010, 100 responses were received (about 4.3 percent of those visiting the website during that time). This year was the 5th year a questionnaire was posted. Over that time, 1,227 people responded to the questionnaire.

A few of the observations from the 2010 responses are:

- Over 20% of respondents who drive alone to work or school report doing so because they do not know of anyone with whom they can share a ride.
- Over 40% of respondents who use public transit, vanpool or carpool report doing so to save money.
- Over 75% of respondents were unaware of the CommuteInfo [Emergency Ride Home](#) service.

And with 5 years worth of information, certain observations can be made:



- The majority of people responding to the questionnaire, over 60%, report they drive alone to work or school.
- The respondents report that the number one factor which is used to determine how they commute is dependability. The second most popular factor was cost.
- Respondents report that their employers offer transportation benefits and commuter friendly services. But the number one benefit respondents state they want their employer to offer is organized ridesharing.
- When asked how to improve CommuteInfo, the answer has consistently been "increase awareness of the program."

We appreciate your participation and look forward to learning more from our next questionnaire in May 2011.

CommuterInfo Welcomes New Staff Member

On September 14th, the CommuterInfo program welcomed Bob Vilella to the staff as Ridesharing Coordinator. Bob recently completed his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Urban Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. His concentrations were in public planning and regional economic development. Prior to that Bob was the successful owner and operator of an e-commerce firm located in New Kensington, PA. He is a lifelong resident of Western Pennsylvania. You can email him at BVilella@spcregion.org or you can call him at 412-391-5590 x372.



Port Authority News: 75 Routes Changed in September; Funding Crisis Could Cause Cuts

On September 5, changes were made to more than 75 bus routes as Port Authority continued to implement its Transit Development Plan, a multi-year effort designed to make Port Authority's transit system more convenient, efficient and easier to understand. Virtually every corner of Allegheny County was affected by the changes. To learn more about the changes, visit <http://www.portauthority.org/> and click on the large green banner that says "Catch the New Changes."

Port Authority also recently announced possible service cuts and fare increases due to a \$47 million deficit in its operating budget. These fare and service actions, which are unrelated to the September changes, would reduce transit service by 35-percent and raise fares system-wide, including the introduction of premium fares on light rail and key express bus routes. To learn more about these proposed changes, visit <http://www.portauthority.org/> and click on the black "Service Reduction and Fare Increase Proposals" banner.

To learn about more transit in the region, visit the "Transit" page on the CommuterInfo website: http://commuteinfo.org/comm_options_transit.shtml



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

Origin: Chicora (Group V509)
Destination: Boyers
Time Arriving at Work: 7 a.m.
Time Leaving for Home: 3:30 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: Greensburg (Group V107)
Destination: Downtown Pittsburgh
Time Arriving at Work: 7 a.m.
Time Leaving for Home: 4:05 p.m.

Origin: Mount Pleasant (Group V126)
Destination: Downtown Pittsburgh
Time Arriving at Work: 7:40 a.m.
Time Leaving for Home: 5:10 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 today by visiting the CommuteInfo website at 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: Weirton (CD045)
Destination: Downtown Pittsburgh
Time Arriving at Work: 7:30 a.m.
Time Leaving for Home: 4:00 p.m.

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

Origin: Irwin (CLAWR)
Destination: Lawrenceville
Time Arriving at Work: 8:00 a.m.
Time Leaving for Home: 4:30 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 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](#).



Bicycling

Looking for Someone to Share Your Biking Commute

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 or by calling 1-888-819-6110 and we will send a matchlist with other people interested in biking to work. Learn more about the bikepool program on the [CommuteInfo website](http://www.commuteinfo.org).



Other Options

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

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.

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!

If you know of a community event or speaking opportunity where the CommuteInfo staff or partners can present information about commuting options, [contact us today](#).