



CENTRE COMMUTE NEWSLETTER

Spring 2009



"Rather than sitting alone in traffic, perhaps it is time that we, as a community of commuters, think of carpooling as a faster, cleaner, and more convenient way to get to common destinations."



Top Three Benefits Of RideSharing

- Networking
- Less stress
- Overall Savings



FIGURING YOUR COMMUTE COSTS

- Begin with a full tank of fuel and write down the odometer reading. Each time you fill up, note the number of gallons, how much you pay and the odometer reading. These figures can then be used to calculate average miles per gallon and cost of fuel per mile.
- To determine your driving costs accurately, keep personal records on all the costs: gas, maintenance, tires, depreciation, insurance, taxes, registration & license, finance charges, car washing, and accessories.
- To figure your driving costs per mile, divide the total cost per year by the total miles per year.

If you commute to work by car, figure about 54 cents per mile in total vehicle expenses. If that seems like a lot, driving a more fuel-efficient model or looking into public or alternative transportation options could save you money.

For additional information on Figuring Your Costs, visit www.aaa.com/public-affairs and download the "Your Driving Costs" brochure.



The Vanettes singing "The Twelve Days" to Gary vanpool-style! Gary & The Vanettes held their holiday party at the Hublersburg Hotel.



Has anyone seen The Vanettes? I heard they were looking for me.





DID YOU EVER WONDER WHAT VANPOOL GROUPS DO FOR FUN?



WOW—you have anywhere from 12 to 15 people all crunched in one of those passenger vans! How do groups survive the closeness during their commutes? I've been told that most like to sleep, but . . . I hear from time to time that vanpool groups do like to have FUN!

Since our last newsletter, I've heard that a couple vanpools like to have breakfast stops, birthday parties, holiday parties, and an occasional wine (grape juice) & cheese night during their commutes to and from work. Doesn't that make you WANT to rideshare?

I've also heard that when darkness came early during the winter months, a Vanpool Buddy system was created in one group, so no one was left behind in the dark. A couple of vanpools put together a "winter box" so that if they did get stuck in bad weather, they'd be prepared with essentials of survival such as snacks, drinks, and even toilet paper. How clever!!

If you have a story that you'd like to share with others, let us know about it. Do you have some clever idea that has helped your commute? Send an email to rideshare@catabus.com and we'll put it in the next edition of CENTRE COMMUTE Newsletter.



CENTRE COMMUTE—VANPOOL PROGRAM

- CATA'S vanpool program has grown from six vanpools to fourteen since its start in October 2007. Over the next couple of months, it is expected that another six more will be added.
- Each vanpool group consists of 12-15 participants.
- There are 190 participants in the vanpool program.
- CATA facilitates the organization of the groups and provides driver safety orientation, insurance, maintenance and a gas card.
- Fares are calculated on a base rate plus a per mile rate and billed monthly to the vanpool group. The current fare is \$435 plus 24 cents per mile, and divided among the riders.
- Current vanpool groups originate in Philipsburg, Tyrone, Lewistown, and Lock Haven.
- During a six-month period in 2008, vanpools saved 21,834 passenger trips into the State College area, 27265 gallons of gas, and 400 metric tons of CO² emissions.

YOU SAID IT

"Some of the people on the van said they would have called off work several days this winter, but since they didn't have to drive they went to work."

"To be honest, I don't know how we lucked into such a nice group of people brought together by a van."

"Thank you for all you do that keeps this program going. It truly is a gift to me."

"I so appreciate your RideShare program to help those who need to commute. Of all the years here (approximately 29) there's been nothing offered on the scale you have accomplished in such a short time."

CENTRE COMMUTE—RIDESHARE AND CARPOOLS 2008

- Total participation in the RideShare database rose from 576 to 1072.
- Carpool participants increased from 225 to 304.
- 26 Guaranteed Ride Homes were provided.
- There were nine presentations made to local businesses and schools regarding Centre Commute services.

**WE ARE AVAILABLE TO GIVE PRESENTATIONS
TO EMPLOYERS ABOUT THE CENTRE COMMUTE PROGRAM!**
Contact Terri Quici, RideShare Coordinator, to arrange a time.

SAFETY TIPS FOR DRIVING

- Check mirrors regularly for clearance.
- Signal 150 feet from intersections and turns.
- Yield to the right-of-way.
- Keep your windshield clean.
- Slow down 5 mph when driving on wet roads.
- In windy weather, hold the steering wheel firmly and steer into the wind.
- Adjust turning and braking in slippery conditions.
- Take extra caution when traveling near a bicycle or pedestrian.
- Slow down to a safe speed before you enter a curve.
- When reversing, check mirrors and ask for assistance from other riders. Then proceed with caution.
- Be aware of aggressive drivers and driver anger. Control yourself and anticipate situations. Cooperate and don't compete on the road.
- Don't tailgate.
- Slow down.



COMING THIS SUMMER ~ ~

**A NEW LOOK FOR CATA and THE
CENTRE COMMUTE PROGRAM...
STAY TUNED!**

NEW VANS

FOR CATA'S VANPOOL PROGRAM

An Invitation for Bid was advertised in February for the purchase of up to eleven new vans. Some of the vans will replace older vans that have approached the end of their useful lives; others will be used for new vanpool groups. Vans are scheduled to arrive the first of May.

These new vans will be custom fitted to provide additional comfort for riders, with individual seats and more room to navigate to the back of the van. Additional safety features will also be incorporated.

GOOD SAMARITAN COMMUTERS

It was reported that a Tyrone vanpool group stopped to help a group of carpoolers, when their vehicle broke down along I-99. The van stopped to help, had a few seats empty that day, and was able to take them to their cars at the nearby park and ride lot. Thanks, Lindsey and vanpool riders!!



RideShare 2.0 will soon be released, sporting a new look and easier to use!



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FIND US ON FACEBOOK

About three months ago, CATA launched a Facebook site. Please feel free to use this site to post information about your vanpool or carpool, and any positive comments you'd like to add about your experience with the Centre Commute program.



CENTRE COMMUTE is a family of CATA services that includes Rideshare, carpools, vanpools and Guaranteed Ride Home.

RIDESHARE is a free ride-matching service helping long-distance commuters to find easy and economical ways to get to and from work via commute alternatives (carpools and vanpools).

CATA uses a web-based, computerized program to match individuals from the surrounding communities who share the same commute. When you register online at www.catabus.com, you will be asked to provide information to create a match list personalized to your schedule. Participants receive a free, custom report that provides a list of participants who live in or commute through your area. You can create or join a carpool or vanpool and/or contact a participant with a question. All information is protected and confidential.



Centre Commute
Carpools & Vanpools

MAKE FRIENDS • NETWORK
HELP THE ENVIRONMENT
SAVE MONEY

CATA
Centre Area
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814-238-CATA • www.catabus.com

NEW BILLBOARDS DEBUT IN MILROY AND HUNTINGDON

With permission from the vanpool groups selected, CATA staff re-designed new billboards to be used in our marketing efforts this spring.

The cost savings to rideshare has always been one of the important reasons to participate in a carpool or vanpool, but there are many other reasons to share the ride!

We hope to convey the message that you can make new friends, network, help the environment, have fun, AND save money. Adding the pictures of our vanpool groups show that real people, known locally, participate and may encourage others to give it a try.

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