

ON THE GO!

CATACOMMUTE Newsletter - Summer 2013

Welcome to On The Go!

CATA is proud to present another edition of the quarterly *CATACOMMUTE On The Go!* newsletter, designed to keep CATACOMMUTE participants informed about the program and all that goes on with commuter services in Central Pennsylvania.

If there's anything you'd like to see included in a future newsletter, or if you have a question you'd like to have answered, please contact Terri Quici, CATA's Commuter Services Manager, at (814) 238-CATA(2282) ext. 134 or tquici@catabus.com.

As always, thanks for riding with us!

Summer Parades and Special Thanks!

Many thanks to Kathy Highbaugh, Volunteer Driver for the "Valley Girls" vanpool, who recently helped show off a CATACOMMUTE van in the Millheim parade on June 13th!



And thanks, also, to Peggy Ryder, Volunteer Driver for the "Van Pal Gals" vanpool, who will drive in the Heritage Days parade in Philipsburg on July 13th.

CATACOMMUTE Inaugurates Its 40th Vanpool

When the state announced the closing of the existing State Correctional Institution (SCI) facilities in Cresson and Greensburg in early February and the opening of SCI-Benner in Centre County, employees working at those facilities were offered the opportunity to transfer to the new location in Centre County. Unfortunately, with that transition came long and costly commutes.

With support from the staff at Rockview, Benner and Cresson, Commuter Services Manager Terri Quici introduced CATACOMMUTE to the employees.

With the start of employee transfers on March 18, an initial vanpool group began traveling from the Altoona area to SCI-Benner. Since then, eight additional groups have been added to the already 32 vanpools in service. These vanpool groups currently serve commuters from ten surrounding counties, with the furthest rider living 80 miles away. The most recent vanpool group, traveling from Ebensburg to SCI-Benner, has the distinction of being CATACOMMUTE's 40th vanpool on the road.

To date, between the two State Correctional Institutions (Benner and Rockview) alone, CATA has developed vanpools for more than 240 employees riding on nineteen different vans. The environmental result is impressive – each month over 5,200 cars are taken off the road and over 625,000 fewer miles are being driven. Further, 200 parking spaces are freed up for other employees and visitors. These nineteen vans serving the SCI facilities join over twenty others already in service throughout Central Pennsylvania.

For more information on the vanpool program's recent expansion, please contact Terri Quici, CATA Commuter Services Manager, at (814) 238-CATA(2282) ext. 134 or tquici@catabus.com.

CATACOMMUTE 2013: Vanpools By the Numbers

If it seems as though you've been "seeing vans everywhere," your eyes aren't playing tricks on you! Some updated vanpool program statistics:

- Of the 41 vanpools on the street, seven originate in Lewistown, nine in Philipsburg, six in the Altoona area, seven in the Cresson area, six in the Lock Haven/Mill Hall area, three in Tyrone, and two in Penns Valley/Centre Hall.
- There are 530 participants in vanpools, and the majority of those commute to Penn State, SCI-Benner, and SCI-Rockview. Twenty of those vanpool groups currently on the road commute to SCI Benner and Rockview.
- The shortest vanpool trip is 20 miles and the longest trip is 72 miles (one-way). The longest individual commute is 80 miles one-way.
- Fares range from \$50 - \$125 per person per month, depending on the distance traveled and the number of riders in the vanpool group.
- In the past year, vanpools have removed over 125,700 vehicles from our roadways and saved participants 4.2 million miles of driving.

The number of carpools in the CATACOMMUTE program is on the rise as well! RideShare (CATA's free ridematching program) has grown to over 2,200 participants, of which there are 212 participants in 72 registered carpools.

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Speed-related crashes cost society more than \$23 billion a year, or \$44.19 per minute.

Texting takes your eyes off the road for an average of 5 seconds at a time. At 55 mph, it's like driving the length of a football field - completely blind!

1 in 24 U.S. adults admit that they have recently fallen asleep while driving.

Lancer Insurance Company (May 2013)

The State College Spikes and CATACOMMUTE - A Winning Team!

CATACOMMUTE is again partnering with the State College Spikes this year to sponsor Community Nights at Lubrano Park. CATA staff will be available to present information about transportation options available to commuters and to answer questions on the following game dates:

Wednesday, July 17 (Bellefonte)

Saturday, July 20 (Huntingdon)

Wednesday, July 31 (Philipsburg)

Friday, August 2 (Penns Valley)

Sunday, August 18 (Clearfield)

Saturday, August 24 (Mifflin/Juniata)

Additionally, the Spikes will again be providing a \$2.00 discount on regularly-priced game tickets (excluding Luxury Suite and All-You-Can-Eat Seats) this season to all CATABUS bus pass holders and CATACOMMUTE participants! (Seating is subject to availability.) CATACOMMUTE participants should please contact Terri Quici, CATA's Commuter Services Manager, at tquici@catabus.com for further instruction and a coupon for the discount.

Visit www.statecollegespikes.com or call (814) 272-1711 for 2013 game dates and events.



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"The one thing that unites all human beings, regardless of age, gender, religion, economic status or ethnic background, is that, deep down inside, we ALL believe that we are above average drivers."

*--Dave Barry,
"Things That It Took Me 50 Years to Learn"*

Is YOUR Workplace a “Best Workplace for Commuters”?

Your employer can easily distinguish itself from the competition by earning the “Best Workplaces for Commuters” status. Designated organizations receive local and national recognition for being a great place to work; are viewed as leaders in employee benefits; gain a competitive advantage in recruiting and retaining the best workers; and demonstrate a commitment to their employees, the community and a clean environment.

It’s easy to acquire the distinction of BWC. To qualify, employers must simply provide their employees with commuter benefits such as transit passes, vanpool subsidies, parking subsidies (or payroll deduction for the same through the Commuter Tax Benefit), telework programs, compressed work week options, and/or access to rideshare services such as CATACOMMUTE.

In addition to the prestige that comes along with earning the BWC designation, benefits for the employer also include exclusive rights to feature the BWC logo on all corporate materials; networking opportunities and access to experts in the field; technical assistance through training and web-based tools designed to help enhance existing commuter benefits programs; and opportunities to attend web conferences.

For more information or to apply for BWC status, please visit www.bestworkplaces.org or email info@bestworkplaces.org. For information on how the CATACOMMUTE can help, contact Terri

Quici, CATA Commuter Services Manager, at (814) 238-CATA(2282) ext. 134 or tquici@catabus.com.

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www.bwc.gov



Aggression and Driving Don’t Mix

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), aggressive driving has become a serious problem on our roadways, with incidents increasing significantly over the last 10 years. NHTSA defines aggressive driving as “an individual committing a combination of moving traffic offenses so as to endanger other persons or property, or any single intentional violation that requires a defensive reaction of another driver.”

As the nation’s population continues to grow and new road construction lags behind, motorists are now finding themselves in snail-paced traffic for longer periods of time. Unfortunately, with seemingly everyone in a hurry, more and more drivers are taking out their frustrations behind the wheel.

If you’ve ever been passed on the wrong side, tailgated, cut off or hemmed in by another vehicle, you’ve been the victim of an aggressive driver. But, as a professional driver, you can avoid fueling their fire.

- First, make sure you are mentally prepared to drive before getting behind the wheel. A positive attitude will help make the trip safer and more enjoyable.
- Reduce your own stress by allowing plenty of time to get to all destinations and plan a route that avoids the worst congestion whenever possible.
- Drive courteously to avoid triggering the anger of other drivers. Allow other drivers to pass, merge, turn and change lanes. Use your turn signals and avoid blocking intersections whenever you can.
- Use good judgment and follow safe driving rules. Whenever possible, try to anticipate how other drivers may react in a given situation and plan accordingly.
- Use your horn only to remind others of your presence and avoid gesturing to other drivers in any fashion.

If you are confronted with an aggressive driver, make every attempt to get out of the way. Slow down, add space around your vehicle and let the other driver pass you. Stay calm and don’t make any challenging maneuvers, such as speeding up or slamming on your brakes.

Lancer Insurance Company (May 2013)

Megacommuters in the U.S. and in Central Pennsylvania

About 8.1% of U.S. workers have commutes of 60 minutes or longer, and nearly 600,000 full-time workers have “megacommuters” of at least 90 minutes and 50 miles. The average one-way daily commute for workers across the county is 25.5 minutes, and 1 in 4 commuters leave their county to get to work.

Locally, nearly *14,000 commuters* travel into Centre County each day from other counties to work. Who are they? These are managers and supervisors, support staff, college students, maintenance staff, electricians, plumbers, technical staff, medical workers, EMTs, clerks, laborers, x-ray and lab technicians, meteorologists, professors, correction officers, teachers, human services personnel, etc.

The top five counties commuting into Centre County are: 1. Clearfield County (4,247); 2. Huntingdon County (2,011); 3. Blair County (1,794); 4. Clinton County (1,723); and 5. Mifflin County (1,469).

If you are a “megacommuter” and would like to share the commute and save some money, visit www.catabus.com and click on **CATACOMMUTE** for information on long-distance commuter options available to you.

Source: “Megacommuters: 600,000 in U.S. Travel 90 Minutes and 50 Miles to Work,” U.S. Census Bureau Report

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Driving while using a cell phone reduces the amount of brain activity associated with driving by 37%!

Most vehicular crashes happen on sunny, clear, dry days.

Lancer Insurance Company (May 2013)



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Just What ARE the Benefits of Ridesharing???

Ever hear of paying it forward? This is what sharing the ride can do for you...

It saves money.

- Fewer fill-ups at the gas pump, fewer repairs and maintenance costs (oil changes, tires, windshield wipers, brakes, etc.), and less wear and tear on your vehicle results in more money in your pocket and a longer useful life or increased trade-in on your vehicle.

And more money in your pocket means more money to spend within your own community, which equates to a boost in the local economy, a larger retirement supplement and emergency fund, and more for that special vacation, event, or college education.

It improves our environment.

- Fewer fill-ups at the gas pump, fewer emissions and fewer vehicles on the road provide for cleaner air, improved personal health and thus fewer doctor visits, less dependence on foreign fuel, safer highways and reduced insurance premiums.

It provides valuable personal benefits.

- Ridesharing allows for less stress, a relaxed commute when you don't want to drive, networking opportunities and more time to read a book, knit, write a letter (or email), listen to favorite music (through earphones of course), write to-do list, sleep, catch up on social accounts, read a newspaper, etc. All of this can result in better health and fewer doctor appointments, improved attendance and better work morale, access to valuable information and services, and new friendships.

What is the most valuable benefit you receive from ridesharing? We would like to hear from you! Comments submitted to tquici@catabus.com may be featured in the Winter edition of the *On the Go!* newsletter!