



Regional Enterprise Tower
425 Sixth Avenue, Suite 2500
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1852
Telephone: 412.391.5590
Fax: 412.391.9160
Email: comments@spcregion.org
www.spcregion.org

PRESS RELEASE

Contact:

Shannon O'Connell, Communications Coordinator
Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
412-391-5590 ext. 334; email: soconnell@spcregion.org

For Immediate Release
08/29/05

Does Rising Cost of Gas Have You Looking for a Better Way to Work? Online Tools Help Save Money & Time

PITTSBURGH, PA – Are you spending all of your free time searching for the best price on gas? Southwestern PA residents looking for effective ways to keep more gas money in their pockets might be able to find some extra time as well.

The CommuteInfo Program reminds you that sharing the drive to work not only helps cut commute costs, but can mean a shorter ride to work by traveling in HOV lanes or in buses (on the bus lanes) during peak commuting hours – saving you time as well as money. Just go to www.commuteinfo.org, complete a commuter profile and you will get a list of individuals who may be willing to carpool or vanpool to work. It's fast, easy, and there is no cost to use these online tools.

Lisa Kay Schweyer of the CommuteInfo Program says she "...would like to encourage more commuters to try the online tools to help find transit information, as well as vanpool & carpool partners." The number of requests to the program for information has been increasing. Many of the commuters contact the program initially because they are looking for ways to save money, but then find that the alternative commute is helping them save time as well.

CommuteInfo promotes regional commuter ridesharing initiatives by reaching out to area employers, transit providers, professional organizations, and current and potential ridesharers. 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.

With more than 700 new commuters enrolling just last year, CommuteInfo is well on the way to demonstrating how a strong and effective ridesharing program can benefit the region in many ways, such as:

- Reducing traffic congestion and road wear
- Promoting healthier lifestyles and less stressful commutes
- Contributing to workforce flexibility
- Lowering auto emissions
- Reducing demand on parking resources

CommuteInfo partners with other agencies to offer a wide range of services to employers and commuters within the region, including a toll free number for information and referrals, telecommuting resources, vanpool/carpool rider matching, transit/biking/walking resources, park and ride lot maps, and transportation resource fair lists. For more information about CommuteInfo and ridematching, please visit www.commuteinfo.org or call toll free 1-888-819-6110.

About Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

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.