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## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—  
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### **COMMUTEINFO HONORED WITH SMART GROWTH AWARD MAY IS *COMMUTEINFO* COMMUTE OPTIONS AWARENESS MONTH**

*PITTSBURGH, PA.* — On May 21, the Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County recognized the CommuteInfo program with an award in acknowledgment of the program's efforts supporting Smart Growth practices and contributions to the Smart Growth effort. The award comes at a unique time for the program, as they are currently celebrating May as CommuteInfo Commute Options Awareness Month.

In order to reach more regional commuters and employers, the CommuteInfo program began testing an outreach model which focuses on increasing the level of participation in ridesharing arrangements within specific suburban travel corridors and employment centers. CommuteInfo began this effort in 2008, in the Route 30 corridor in Westmoreland County. A coalition of interested individuals have come together to form a Westmoreland Route 30 Corridor Advisory Team.

The CommuteInfo staff and advisory team members have met with regional employers and commuters to provide technical assistance and commuting alternative resource information. These efforts have contributed to 176 commuters from the outreach area registering with the CommuteInfo program; 90 of those report participating in a registered CommuteInfo vanpool. Over 55% of those registered have changed their commuting habits.

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As gas prices remain steady, many are looking for ways to save some money. Every day, approximately 60% of the region's 1.5 million workers travel outside their resident municipality to work. That can add up to lots of money spent on gas, parking, maintenance, etc. Alternatives to driving alone, like carpooling, using public transit or biking to work, are just a few ways to lower the commuting bill. Visit [www.commuterinfo.org](http://www.commuterinfo.org) and take advantage of our Commute Cost Calculator to estimate how much you could be saving!

CommuterInfo is a program of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission designed to increase the number of people who use transit, vanpooling, carpooling or bikepooling to travel to work or school. The goal is for commuters living, working or attending school within the 10-county Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission region (including Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Washington, and Westmoreland counties) to choose ridesharing at least twice a week by providing them with viable options, incentives and encouragement. CommuterInfo is also an information clearinghouse and resource center for commuters and employers.

For more information about CommuterInfo and commuter alternatives, please visit [www.commuterinfo.org](http://www.commuterinfo.org), or call toll free **1-888-819-6110**.

May also includes National Transportation Week, National Bike to Work Day, National Employee Health and Fitness Day, National Try Transit Week, and National Clean Air Week.

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*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.*