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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Does Rising Cost of Gas Have You Looking for a Better Way to Work?** One Group of Co-Workers Sought Out an Alternative

PITTSBURGH, PA – After spending more than \$400 per month on gas alone, Chris Zema, who lives in Pittsburgh but works in Wheeling for the Global Operations Center of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, LLP, knew there had to be a better way to get to work. After learning about the options the CommuteInfo program offers, CommuteInfo staff was brought in to meet with the employees at the law firm's Wheeling center. Some other commuters like Chris agreed that they would prefer to save some money and decided to band together to form a vanpool.

Starting on August 1<sup>st</sup>, this group of co-workers began sharing their ride to work, in a 15-passenger vanpool vehicle. In addition to saving gas money, each member of the vanpool will save over 120 miles from being put on their own personal cars each day. In addition, some will even be able to get their car insurance lowered because they are no longer commuting such a long distance in their own cars. Chris enthusiastically says "...this is so much better than driving alone - - I am so glad we got this vanpool group started."

"One of the great success stories of Orrick's operation in Wheeling is that we have attracted great people from throughout the region, including Pittsburgh," said Michele Hesske, Human Resources Manager at Orrick. "We're thrilled to work with CommuteInfo to make it easier and more economical for our employees to get to and from work each day."

Lisa Kay Schweyer of the CommuteInfo Program says she "would like to see more commuters utilizing our online tools to help find transit information, as well as vanpool & carpool partners." Go to [www.commuteinfo.org](http://www.commuteinfo.org) and complete a commuter profile. Just

enter an origin, destination, and commute times and you will get a list of individuals who may be willing to carpool or vanpool to work. And it is free.

CommuterInfo 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, CommuterInfo 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

CommuterInfo 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 CommuterInfo and ridematching, please visit [www.commuterinfo.org](http://www.commuterinfo.org) or call toll free 1-888-819-6110.

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#### ***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.

#### ***About Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP***

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP is an international law firm with more than 700 lawyers in North America, Europe and Asia. The firm focuses on litigation, complex and novel finance and innovative corporate transactions. Orrick clients include *Fortune* 100 companies, major industrial

and financial corporations, commercial and investment banks, high-growth companies, governmental entities, start-ups and individuals. The firm's 15 offices are located in New York, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Silicon Valley, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Orange County, Pacific Northwest, London, Milan, Moscow, Paris, Rome, Taipei and Tokyo. The Global Operations Center, in Wheeling, West Virginia, provides the firm and its clients with a central business infrastructure that delivers comprehensive and reliable support services around the world, around the clock. It houses Orrick's core technology, finance and human resource operations, as well as document and transcript production services. Operating 24/7, the center is the hub of the firm's day-to-day operations.

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