FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—
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Regional Transit and Vanpool Riders
Get Another Reason to Celebrate the Holiday Season

PITTSBURGH, PA — On Friday, December 18, President Obama signed a tax bill that included a $125 per month increase in the federal non-taxable commuter deduction benefits for transit and vanpool riders that employers may provide. This means that transit and vanpool riders may now be able to deduct up to $255 per month toward their commuting costs tax-free. This transportation fringe benefit is provided to commuters through their employers, who choose to offer commuter choice deduction benefits to their employees.

As the regional ridesharing organization for Southwestern Pennsylvania, CommuteInfo’s goal is for commuters in the ten-county region to choose ridesharing, instead of driving alone, at least twice a week. “The increase in allowable deduction benefits may encourage commuters to try transit or vanpooling and can help them keep more of their paychecks in their pocket,” said Lisa Kay Schweyer, CommuteInfo Program Developer.

Along with partner organizations in the region, CommuteInfo provides outreach and information on transit, carpools, vanpools, biking, and walking to work to commuters, as well as works directly with employers and schools, professional organizations, and transit providers.

Commuters and employers can learn more about commuter choice benefits by visiting commuteinfo.org or over the phone at 1-888-819-6110.

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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.