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March 2012

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Coming in April: The Commuter Challenge!

Get ready for the Commuter Challenge – it's a fun, easy way to encourage your employees to try smarter ways of getting to work.

Between April 1 and June 30, your employees can take the pledge at MyCommuterChallenge.org and replace drive-alone trips and instead take the bus or train, bicycle, carpool, walk, telework or vanpool. Those who take the pledge are entered into a grand prize drawing.

Participants who track their trips are eligible to win even more prizes! Your employees can follow us on [Twitter](#) for more chances to win.

Why participate?

Participating in the Commuter Challenge shows that your company cares about saving money for employees, relieving traffic congestion and improving the region's air quality.

There are many ways your company can get involved, such as hosting a commuter fair, posting information and displays, creating in-house events and more!

Learn more!

At the events listed below, we'll discuss the 2012 Commuter Challenge and update you on other important transportation topics.

Commuter Connection

Downtown Minneapolis Transportation Summit
Thursday, March 29, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

US Bank Plaza

200 S. 6th St., North Tower, 31st Floor, Minneapolis
RSVP by March 26 at
commuter-connection.org/summit.

Commuter Services

State of the Commute Employer Luncheon
Thursday, March 29, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Minnetonka Community Center

14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka
RSVP by March 26 to Melissa@494corridor.org
or call 952-848-4947.

Anoka County Commute Solutions

Transportation Summit
Thursday, April 12, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Anoka County Sheriff Office

13301 Hanson Blvd., Andover
RSVP by April 9 at
commutesolutions@co.anoka.mn.us
or call 763-862-4260.



Say hello to Metro Vanpool

Van-GO! is now Metro Vanpool

The Twin Cities regional vanpool program is now called Metro Vanpool.

If your employees have a long commute and don't have regular bus or train service nearby, joining a vanpool may be a great option. You can't beat the savings and relaxation of a vanpool!

In addition to a new name, the program also leases vans from a new provider. A new vehicle provider means a lower cost on leasing vans!

Metro Vanpool is a regional program, subsidized by the Metropolitan Council, to help meet the commuting needs of those who live or work in the seven-county metropolitan area. Vanpools have five to 15 people sharing the ride to and from work an average of three or more days a week. Each van has a volunteer driver and back-up driver(s).

Why vanpool?

- Save money on mileage, gas and vehicle maintenance
- Relax while someone else drives
- Reduce wear and tear on your vehicle
- Help the environment

Ready to take the next step? Call 651-602-VANS, visit metrotransit.org/vanpool or ask your [employer outreach specialist](#) for more details.

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Help your employees experience the benefits of sharing the ride

We'll help your employees connect with others who want to share the ride in a carpool or vanpool. With our FREE [Rideshare Planner](#), you can help your employees form carpools and cut their commuting costs in half or more. They'll arrive to work relaxed, not stressed, after their ride in a carpool.

Among our services for employers:

- An introduction to our easy-to-use online system
- Ideas for fun events to connect carpoolers with others
- Outreach strategies to help you get started

Marketing your rideshare program

If you have preferred parking available for carpoolers and vanpoolers, we can help raise the profile of your program with parking signs you can use at your worksite.



Questions? Contact your [employer outreach specialist](#) today!

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Some things are too important to let run out.



Get **Auto Refill** and never run out of fares.

Auto Refill is now available!

With Auto Refill, the latest feature available on Go-To Cards and passes, customers never have to worry about having enough fare on their cards again.

Set it and forget it. We'll automatically add value to a Go-To Card or pass from a credit card – just tell us the amount and when to add it.

Learn more at metrotransit.org/AutoRefill.

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