

# Inside Lane

## IN THIS EDITION

- [We're saluting creative commuting options](#)
- [Another incentive to share the ride](#)
- [Consider the benefits of teleworking](#)
- [Employer Spotlight](#)

## NEWS LINKS

- [Central Corridor project reaches important milestone](#)
- [Northstar Line service begins Nov. 16](#)

## HELPFUL WEBSITES

- [Route changes start Sept. 12](#)
- [Coming soon: New Lakeville Park & Ride options](#)
- [Your commuter transportation solution partners](#)

## FORWARD

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## We're saluting your creative commuting options



COMMUTER  
CHOICE  
AWARDS  
2009

You can help us call attention to all the innovative work by organizations and individuals who promote alternatives to driving alone.

Do you work for an organization that has been successful with programs that promote transit, bicycle commuting, carpooling or vanpooling? Do you know of individuals who advocate for smart commuting options? If so, consider nominating them for a 2009

Commuter Choice Award.

What judges look for is that you've shown a high level of commitment at expanding commuter options – no matter the size of your organization.

Get nomination forms [here](#).

Nominations must be received at Metro Transit by 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 9. Winners will be recognized at an awards luncheon at Bloomington Center for the Arts (1800 W. Old Shakopee Road) on Tuesday, Nov. 17. Get details about the [location](#). The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Carpool to the event!** Use the [Trip Matching](#) tool to join others headed to the same destination.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

## Here's another incentive to share the ride

Sharing the ride to work can save on gas and parking expenses, plus help reduce congestion and exhaust going into the air.

During Rideshare to Work Month in October, we're providing an extra incentive to share the ride. If your employees search for potential rideshare partners with our free [Rideshare Planner](#) in October, they can receive a \$10 gift card!

To get started, simply create a commuter account or log in to an existing one. Our Rideshare Planner can help match commuters with others who are traveling the same direction and time.

Get more details about [Rideshare](#).

Terms and conditions may apply. Limit one gift card per registered e-mail and household address. Persons must work or live in the seven-county region and be active for ridematching on the Rideshare Planner.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

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## Consider the benefits of teleworking

Telework programs can reduce congestion on roadways, save money for your workers and help the environment! Those are goals of [eWorkplace](#), an initiative that is helping companies start or expand telework programs.

Teleworking allows employees to work from home and use technology to connect to the office.

The goal of eWorkplace is to enroll 2,700 participants in the program by June 2010. Among the first employers to sign up for eWorkplace was Fairview Hospitals; Carver County officials recently pledged to review their jobs to see what positions might qualify for telecommuting.

If you don't have a telework program at your company, or are looking to expand an existing one, you might be eligible for free or discounted professional consulting services and training through eWorkplace. Consider some of the benefits of teleworking for your company:

- Increased worker productivity and reduced absenteeism
- Enhanced employee recruitment and retention

For more details about eWorkplace, contact your [representative](#).

[BACK TO TOP](#)

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EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

## Ramsey County



Ramsey County employees who work in the Government Center West and Ramsey County Courthouse in downtown St. Paul can sign out bicycles to use during breaks, after work or on weekends.

Four bicycles are available between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m., seven days a week. The bicycles are part of a pilot program to encourage county employees to exercise, said Mary Brauer, of Ramsey County Human Resources.

The program is already a hit with employees, she said. Since the program began in mid-July, the bikes have been checked out more than 50 times. The downtown setting provides an added incentive.

"We have a beautiful path along the riverfront that employees can easily enjoy during their lunch break or before or after work," Brauer said.

There is no charge to use the bicycles; helmets and locks are also provided. The bicycles were donated to Ramsey County after the 2008 Republican National Convention, which included a bike-sharing program as an alternative to using cars during the convention.

If successful, the bike-sharing program may be expanded to other county locations.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

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