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Mike Rodland, a volunteer vanpool driver, says:

*“The biggest benefit of a vanpool is the overall savings of money. With the price of gas these days, one or two fill ups will pay for an entire month riding in a vanpool. If you look at the big picture, you save on the cost of regular vehicle maintenance (oil changes, tires, brakes, etc.). As a rider, you also have the added bonus of a relaxing ride without having to deal with rush hour traffic or driving in bad weather. Overall, the vanpool has been a valuable asset to me and the participants I drive to and from work.”*

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### Information Needed to Complete an Online RideShare Registration

Name  
Home Address (or Start Location)  
Home Phone  
Flexible Home Radius (5 miles, 10 miles, etc.)  
Destination Name and Work Address  
Work Phone  
E-Mail Address  
Normal Work Schedule: Start and End time  
Flexible work schedule (15 min., 30 min., etc.)  
Gender and gender preference  
Do you have a car to use  
Smoking Preference  
Drive or Ride Preference  
Carpool, Vanpool, or Either preference



**CENTRE  
COMMUTE**

EFFECTIVE 9/01/08

**YOUR GUIDE TO  
LONG DISTANCE  
COMMUTING**

RIDESHARE MATCHING  
VANPOOL PROGRAM  
GUARANTEED RIDE HOME



**CATA**  
Centre Area Transportation Authority

INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION:  
(814) 238-CATA(2282) EXT. 134  
www.catabus.com

## CENTRE COMMUTE

CENTRE COMMUTE is the family of CATA services that includes Rideshare (carpool and vanpool matching), a Vanpool Program, and Guaranteed Ride Home.

### RIDESHARE

#### What is RIDESHARE?

RIDESHARE is a service helping long-distance commuters find easy and economical ways to get to and from work via commute alternatives (carpool or vanpool). CATA uses a web-based matching program. When you register, you will be asked to provide information that is needed to create a match list personalized to your schedule. This list will allow you to contact an individual to ask questions or join their carpool or vanpool. You can also create your own carpool and invite others to join! You are under no obligation to use the information provided to you and your profile may remain inactive if you prefer that your information not be provided to others (i.e., you are already in a shared commute). All information is protected and confidential.

Commuting with others can save you money on fuel, maintenance, insurance and parking costs. According to the American Automobile Association (AAA), it costs 54 cents a mile to drive your own vehicle. With other commuters riding in your car or van, everyone is sharing in the cost of driving one vehicle and paying operating costs. You will feel more relaxed when you arrive at work



meet new people, reduce wear and tear on your own vehicle, and contribute to a cleaner environment while reducing congestion on the roadways.

#### **How Do I Find a Pool?**

To register, go to [www.catabus.com](http://www.catabus.com) and click on the CENTRE COMMUTE box on the home page. You will be directed to a registration page where you will register as a New User. Once you have created your login and password, you will be asked to provide information such as your home address (or starting point), work schedule, place of employment (or ending point), e-mail address, and preferences such as smoking, driving and gender preference. The program will provide you with a Match List from which you can choose your shared ride partner(s). It's simple and it's free!

CATA's RideShare Coordinator will provide assistance with the recruitment of participants interested in either carpools or vanpools.

### GUARANTEED RIDE HOME

#### **What is GUARANTEED RIDE HOME?**

CATA is aware of the possible emergency needs faced by commuters who share their rides. The Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) program is designed to provide a ride home (up to 50 miles) in case of emergencies. The program includes such situations as illness and/or medical emergencies, workplace shut-down, family disaster (flood, fire, etc.) and unscheduled, required overtime. Up to four (4) rides per year are permitted.

### What does it cost?

All registered members of the RideShare program who share their commute on a regular basis have the option to participate for an annual fee of \$10 (no fee required for full-time Penn State faculty and staff).

### What are the limitations?

The GRH program provides service to van and car poolers in emergencies, not on a routine basis. Use of the program is limited to emergencies and will be monitored by CATA. Any abuse of the program will result in a warning, followed by immediate removal from the program for further abuse.

The GRH program does not consider mechanical difficulties, such as flat tires, dead batteries, etc. as qualifying emergencies. Nor will rides be granted because of poor weather conditions, such as a driver who decides not to risk driving, or a rider who decides to leave work early because of an impending snow storm. This program also does not apply to being late and missing the van or car pool.

### How do I register?

Contact the RIDESHARE Office at CATA at 814-238-2282 ext. 134 if you are interested in registering for the GRH program.

## CARPOOLS

### What is a CARPOOL?

A CARPOOL is simply two or more people going together in one vehicle to their destination. Carpooling is flexible and can usually accommodate everyone's needs. It is up to the individuals in the group whether



cash will be exchanged or whether members share the driving.

Driving is expensive. *Carpooling can save money.* Our roads are becoming congested with cars, hours are wasted stuck in traffic, road rage is becoming a regular occurrence, and experiencing all of this by yourself isn't any fun. *Carpooling reduces stress.* Transportation accounts for half of individual greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. The effects of air pollution include respiratory illness and asthma conditions. *Carpooling is a cost-effective way for individuals to reduce their impact on the environment and improve health.*

### Carpool Guidelines for Success

- Establish a trial period for the carpool and always meet the potential rider/driver in a public place prior to scheduling a ride.
- Determine drop-off and pick-up points and times. Determine your route and schedule. Be on time! Establish how long a driver will wait.
- Decide if one person will always drive or if members will rotate. If the driving is not shared equally among members, decide what is a fair share for those not using their own vehicle as part of the carpool.
- Discuss personal preferences (i.e. radio, smoking, eating & drinking in the vehicle, etc.).
- Establish how you will communicate in case of emergencies or schedule changes. Everyone should have a list of members and their phone numbers.

- Practice the three C's (consideration, compromise, commitment).

- Keep vehicles in good working order and drive carefully.

- Sign up for the Guaranteed Ride Home program for emergency rides home.

## VANPOOLS

### What is a VANPOOL?

A vanpool is typically a group of 7 to 12 people who share their commute. The vanpool travels from home (or a prearranged meeting place) to work, school, or other destinations. To be cost-effective, a vanpool generally should travel at least 40 miles round trip each day.

### How much does it cost?

The vanpool group shares the total cost of the operation. The cost to operate a vanpool is based on both fixed costs and operating costs. Fares are calculated on the fixed cost as the "base" plus a "charge per mile" that the van is driven round trip each day, then divided by the number of riders for a per person cost. Fares are due the first of each month and reviewed every six months. Fare adjustments are made in January and July each year.



### What are the driver responsibilities?

As the driver in a vanpool, you are considered the group's coordinator. CATA owns the vans and requires vanpool drivers to be at least 25 years of age, have no traffic violations within the past three years, and hold a valid PA drivers license. As the driver/coordinator, you are responsible for paying the full fare to CATA monthly, maintaining logs and records, arranging van maintenance and fueling; as well as helping to establish vanpool guidelines within the group. You are also responsible for having a back-up driver, keeping a list of active vanpool participants, and driving safely.

### What are the participant responsibilities?

Participants pay their fare to the Driver. You also agree to wear safety belts while occupying the van, abide by the vanpool rules, be on time, comply with reasonable requests from the Driver, be courteous, demonstrate good personal hygiene, and help to keep the van clean inside. You are also responsible to report any unsafe driving situations to the RideShare Coordinator.

### Tips for Effective Vanpool Management

It is important to have open communication with all vanpool participants so that schedule changes and emergencies are shared with everyone. It is good to have an emergency plan for adverse weather conditions and/or if the van breaks down. Democratic rule-making is advisable and will cause less tension in the group. It is also valuable to have group meetings to discuss suggestions and work out any problems.