

commute

95

your guide to

**COMMUTING
OPTIONS!**

COMMUTE BETTER. WORK BETTER.



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



DELAWARE VALLEY
dvrpc
REGIONAL
PLANNING COMMISSION

We all know it's out there: construction to improve Interstate 95 in Philadelphia. It will be great when it's finished, but it will take a while to complete. Ongoing work to rebuild the pavement, bridges, and ramps along I-95 between Interstate 676 and Cottman Avenue means temporary delays for travelers, especially weekday commuters. Employees need to reach their workplaces on time, and employers need their employees to arrive safely and promptly. It's in *everyone's* interest to find the best way to reach the workplace during the main phases of this highway improvement project.

There is a wealth of information about I-95 construction—project details, schedules, traffic patterns, travel impacts—on the corridor website: WWW.95REVIVE.COM. *This kit contains pages specifically developed to help employers understand the effects of this construction on employees' commutes, and the services and options available to help find the travel option that works best for each company and its employees.*

Not all employees drive to work: some take public transportation, or ride with others in a car or van pool. But for those who travel through the I-95 construction to reach Philadelphia and the immediate suburbs, traffic congestion may increase. Thankfully, this situation is temporary, and the improvements being made will result in an improved and safer highway to move motorists into and around Philadelphia.

However, during the most challenging phases of construction, it's our mission to help employers and employees plan and implement customized programs **to make commuting easier and better for everyone.**



If your company or organization would like to encourage its employees to use public transportation, we can work with everyone there to bring greater awareness of the services available in your area, and in overcoming obstacles to using transit.

Learn which trains run where and at what times; which buses serve your worksite; how the El or subway can help move your employees; and what to do if your location is just short of a convenient transit station or stop. During construction, SEPTA will add service and extra seats to the Trenton line, which parallels much of the I-95 construction corridor. We can arrange for our staff to explain these improvements to employers and employees.



**USING
TRANSIT**



www.septa.org



www.njtransit.com



www.ridepatco.org



www.amtrak.com

**When transit doesn't work,
employees can think about sharing
their commute via car or van pools.**

When buses, trains and trolleys are not convenient – either because of where your employees live or because of schedule conflicts – car or van pooling may be a practical option. We can help your employees find other people who make similar commutes so they don't have to drive alone, thereby adding to the congestion and increasing their travel time. Whether it's finding rideshare matches within your company, or with other companies nearby, we can help set up groups that make everyone's commute a little easier.





www.vride.com



www.enterprisevanpool.com

Here's an easy way to find people to commute with: **The Share-A-Ride program is a free, computerized service that can match your employees with convenient transit services, car pools, vanpools, and even bicycling opportunities.**

Employers can get on board by entering employees into the database, or commuters can apply on their own. We're here to help employers with questions, the employee application process, and even bringing the groups together.





www.share-a-ride.org

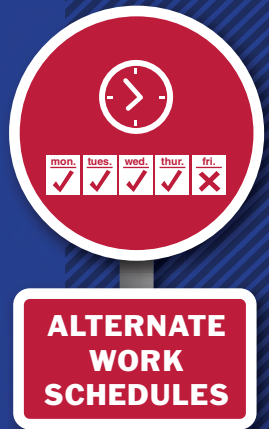


pacarpool.com

www.pacarpool.com

When your employees start finding other ways to reach your worksite, they may need to adjust their arrival and/or departure times for the most effective commute. **Flextime** allows employees to alter their arrival and departure times slightly to accommodate commuting schedules and reduce rush hour traffic volumes.

Another alternative is setting up a **Compressed Work Week** to reduce employee commuting days. This program allows certain employees to condense the hours they work into fewer days, increasing the length of each work day, and thus decreasing the number of days spent at the worksite. We can help you set up policies for either or both options, and educate employees on how these programs work.



Park and Ride (P&R) lots are areas specifically dedicated for use by commuters to park their personal vehicles while using public transportation or participating in carpools or vanpools.

Information on these official lots is available online and can be used to help commuters find a common place to meet to rideshare or to catch a bus or train. Our partners may also be able to help arrange “informal” P&R arrangements.



If your company provides parking but you want to encourage more employees to find alternate ways to reach the workplace, Parking Management is one way to make sharing a ride more attractive.

Programs like setting up preferential parking for car and van pools, establishing a parking “cash-out” system (a type of reimbursement for those who do not utilize parking), and reducing the number of spaces available for employee parking are a few options to consider.



One way to make a commute easier is to eliminate the commute!

Telework allows certain employees to work from home via computer and phone, per an agreement with their company. Programs can be tailored to your company's needs and your employees' responsibilities. Whether it's one day a week, or one week a month, we can help you develop and set up formal policies that work for everyone.



When commutes are tough, work is tough. That's where an employer can help – not just by helping employees find a better way to reach the office or building, but also by offering incentives or rewards for making the change.

For example, coupons for discounts at local restaurants and stores mean employees can eat and shop without using a car. Raffles and contests for gas cards, car washes, and bicycle equipment help make carpooling and other options more attractive to employees.

One major program is the RideECO transit benefit. This works like a *Flexible Spending Account (FSA)* using an employee's pre-tax dollars, but is easier to implement, and saves employers on FICA taxes. On-site amenities like bicycle racks or bicycle storage and showers help make bicycling more attractive.



**EMPLOYEE
INCENTIVES**



Ride  **ECO** SM

www.RideECO.org

A critical piece of this puzzle is making sure those employees who choose to leave their cars at home feel secure at work should an emergency arise during business hours.

The Emergency Ride Home (ERH) program is a “safety net” for these commuters, offering reimbursement for any type of service (taxi, transit, car share, rentals, etc.) used to get where they need to be as quickly as possible, whether it’s a school, hospital or home.



**EMERGENCY
RIDE HOME**



www.dvrpc.org/MobilityAlternatives/ERH.htm

Sometimes the best way to avoid traffic is to avoid using your car. For many people, bicycling is a reasonable, and affordable, alternative.

Many of the streets in Philadelphia, some which parallel I-95 or run near it, have lanes clearly marked for bicyclists only, making this a safe alternative. The Share-A-Ride program can also match bicyclists who want to “pool” together.





www.bicyclecoalition.org



www.connectthecircuit.org



www.rideindego.com

Motorists can check conditions on more than 40,000 roadway miles in Pennsylvania by visiting www.511PA.com.

511PA, which is free and available 24 hours a day, provides traffic delay warnings, weather forecasts, traffic speed information and access to more than 770 traffic cameras. 511PA is also available through a smartphone application for iPhone and Android devices, by calling 5-1-1, or by following regional Twitter alerts accessible on the 511PA website.



**TRAVELER
INFORMATION**



www.511PA.com



**HELPING YOU
TO HELP EMPLOYEES
COMMUTE BETTER
SO YOU CAN WORK BETTER...**