



a service of DART First State

Twelve Actions Employers Can Take To Address Rising Gasoline Prices for Employees

Commute Options Play Key Role in Conserving Gasoline, Reducing Congestion, and Improving Air Quality

For Immediate Release
March 20, 2008

Tammy Ford, Project Manager
DART's RideShare Delaware
1-888-RIDE-MATCH

Wilmington, DE - With gasoline prices reaching historical highs and an increasing amount of pain at the pump on everyone's mind, DART's RideShare Delaware announced today 12 actions employers can take to help their employees address the high cost of gasoline.

1. Offer commute benefits. Tax law allows employers to provide commuters with fare media worth up to \$115 per month for public transportation or vanpooling. Such benefits are best provided on an ongoing basis, however, even offering them on a short-term, emergency basis during gasoline price spikes is helpful.
2. Keep current transit schedules on hand and posted on employee bulletin board(s). During gas price spikes, employees need to determine in advance what transit routes can take them between home and work to help them save gas.
3. Allow employees flexibility in selecting their own start/end times during periods of gasoline price spikes. Doing so increases an employee's chance of finding a ridesharing partner, riding transit, and avoiding peak congestion.
4. If direct transit service to the company's worksite is unavailable, establish a shuttle service between transit stations and the worksite. If the company has fleet vehicles, they can be used as shuttles.
5. Designate parking spaces in close proximity to building entrances for employees who carpool or vanpool to the worksite.
6. Offer bike storage, clothing lockers, and shower facilities for employees who opt to walk or bicycle to work. Arrange a meeting to discuss these options.

-more-

7. Provide on-site amenities such as dry cleaning pick-up/drop-off, concierge services, and other convenience that would eliminate the need for employees to drive away from the worksite during the course of the business day.
8. If the company has fleet vehicles, allow employees who got to work without driving to use them in the event of offsite business meetings. Augment company fleet vehicles by working with local carsharing programs like PhillyCarShare offered in the City of Wilmington, for example, or car rental companies.
9. Collaborate with DART's RideShare Delaware to conduct an employee commute survey to determine what commute alternatives would interest employees the most, and to enable employees to receive a commuter matchlist containing the names of co-workers and employees from other neighboring companies with whom they could carpool or vanpool.
10. Designate a key company representative as the primary contact for employees to go to for information on commute options.
11. Identify employees who have tasks that can be accomplished while working at home, or at an alternative company location closer to the employee's home.
12. Encourage employees to live near where they work.

DART's Rideshare Delaware is part of a nationwide effort, through the Association of Commuter Transportation (ACT), to invite employers to encourage their employees to change their daily travel behavior. Instead of driving alone to work, employees can carpool, vanpool, take public transportation, bicycle, walk or telecommute to conserve fuel and thus save money.

"After housing, transportation is the second largest household expenditure, exceeding medical care, food and recreation expenses," said Tammy Ford, Project Manager for DART's Rideshare program. "Depending on an employee's income, those expenditures can range from 10 percent to nearly a third of his or her expenses—and they certainly have taken a bigger chunk out of their pockets over the past few months. Commuters want relief from rising gas prices—and they can get that relief by choosing a mode of transportation that doesn't involve driving alone."

#

DART's RideShare Delaware is a free public service offered by DART First State open to all commuters working in Delaware along with their employers. RideShare Delaware works to promote the use of alternate commute modes including carpooling, vanpooling, riding transit, walking or biking to work. RideShare Delaware's goals include reducing congestion, increasing mobility and improving air quality. Commuters and business representatives can contact DART's Rideshare toll-free at 1-888-RIDE-MATCH or visit the RideShare website www.ridesharedelaware.org to learn more.

About ACT - The Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT), a national association that supports individual transportation demand management professionals and organizational members in their efforts to reduce traffic congestion, enhance mobility, improve air quality, and conserve energy. Visit the ACT National website at www.actweb.org or www.midatlanticchapter.com to learn more about getting involved locally.