

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF STATE BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT**

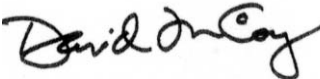
MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

DAVID T. MCCOY
STATE BUDGET DIRECTOR

July 24, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Agency Heads, Chief Financial Officers

FROM: David McCoy 

RE: Commuting Alternatives for State Government Employees

The high price of gasoline is adversely affecting our employees' personal budgets just as it is those of government agencies and private business. The Public Transportation Division in the N.C. Department of Transportation offers the following advice to state government employees interested in saving on their commuting costs.

- **Public transportation** is cheaper than driving your car. Fixed-route transit systems are based in 23 North Carolina cities with some serving nearby towns as well. Some systems offer frequent-rider discounts. Raleigh-based state government employees ride for free with a GoPass on both Raleigh's Capital Area Transit and Triangle Transit, including express routes operated by Triangle Transit between Chapel Hill and Raleigh, Durham and Raleigh, and Wake Forest and Raleigh. For a 2008-09 GoPass, contact the parking coordinator in your department.
- Not on a bus route? What about using a **park-and-ride**? Many of the larger urban transit systems maintain parking lots where commuters can park and ride the bus to their destination, saving part of the commuting costs and eliminating parking fees.
- Try **carpooling**. A good start is at www.sharetheridenc.org, a statewide Web-based rideshare matching service sponsored by NCDOT and administered by Triangle Transit. Once registered, a prospective carpooler can generate a list of other interested individuals who live in the same general area, commute to similar destinations and have the same work schedule. The Web site also matches people interested in a vanpool or even biking. It takes only about five minutes to establish a limited-identity profile, and it's free to the user.
- A free **Emergency Ride Home** program is offered to registered program participants in Wilmington, the Triangle area, the Triad area, Charlotte and Asheville. Each local program has policies as to who is eligible and how often the service may be used. Learn more at www.sharetheridenc.org.

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- A **\$15 monthly vanpool subsidy** is available for Raleigh-based state government employees. While this subsidy is limited to Raleigh-based employees through Triangle Transit's vanpool program, the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation and the Charlotte Area Transit System also provide vanpool services. Detailed information on the local vanpool programs can be found at www.sharetheridenc.org.
- You have options with the state-sponsored **North Carolina's Amtrak Service**. Gov. Mike Easley announced in June that a third intercity passenger train between Raleigh and Charlotte will be added to the current morning and late afternoon schedule to help meet growing demand. The added frequency will run at midday, with departures from Raleigh and Charlotte. The third run will begin in six to 12 months after rail cars and locomotives are refurbished. Bike racks are available on some trains. Find schedules and fare information on train travel at www.bytrain.org.
- For information about **all forms of public transportation in North Carolina** – urban, community and intercity transit service, rail, air and ferry – visit www.ncdot.gov/transit/nctransit.org.
- **Transportation demand management programs** across the state work full time helping citizens to locate and use alternative commutes. For more suggestions, check out the Web site of the program closest to you:

Asheville – Blue Ridge Commuter Connections - www.blueridgecommute.org/

Charlotte Area Transit System - www.charmeck.org/Departments/CATS/commute+options/home.htm

Triad area - Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation - www.partnc.org/TDM.html

Research Triangle area - Triangle Transit - gotriangle.org/

Wilmington – Cape Fear Breeze - www.capefearbreeze.com/

Your assistance in sharing this information with your employees is appreciated.

Best regards.

dmc