

Excerpt from CATA's Internet Website Describing the Centre Commute Programs

CENTRE COMMUTE is a family of CATA services that includes Rideshare, carpools, vanpools and Guaranteed Ride Home.

RIDESHARE is a free ride-matching service helping long-distance commuters to find easy and economical ways to get to and from work via commute alternatives (carpools and vanpools).

CATA uses a web-based, computerized program to match individuals from the surrounding communities who share the same commute. When you register online at www.catabus.com, you will be asked to provide information to create a match list personalized to your schedule. Participants receive a free, custom report that provides a list of participants who live in or commute through your area. You can create or join a carpool or vanpool and/or contact a participant with a question. All information is protected and confidential.

A **CARPOOL** is simply two or more people riding 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 to determine whether cash will be exchanged or whether members share the driving.

A **VANPOOL** is typically a group of 7 to 15 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. The vanpool group shares the total cost of the operation. The cost to operate a vanpool includes fixed costs (vehicle depreciation, insurance, registration and licensing) and operating costs (fuel, preventative maintenance, repairs, and tires).

Driving is expensive. Ridesharing can save money, reduces stress, and is a cost-effective way for individuals to reduce their impact on the environment and improve health.

GUARANTEED RIDE HOME (GRH): CATA is aware of the possible emergency needs faced by commuters. In an effort to address this concern, we offer the Guaranteed Ride Home Program.

Registered members of the RideShare program who are in a shared ride arrangement (carpool or vanpool) have the opportunity to join GRH for an annual fee of \$10 (no fee required for full-time Penn State Faculty and Staff). CATA staff will assist you with a free ride home (up to 50 miles) in case of an emergency, up to four trips per calendar year. The Guaranteed Ride Home program includes such emergencies as personal illness and/or medical emergency (including riders and/or family members), workplace shut-down, family disasters (flood, fire, etc.), and mandatory, unscheduled overtime.