

COMMUTE SOLUTIONS MONTH—AUGUST 2009

Background

Commute Solutions is a partnership of the Houston-Galveston Area Council, Texas Department of Transportation, Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, City of Galveston Island Transit, the Gulf Coast Center, and the region's Transportation Management Organizations. Commute Solutions supports NuRide, carpooling, teleworking, vanpooling and other transportation-related options and services.

The Commute Solutions program provides a “one-stop” alternative transportation resource in the Houston-Galveston area for both commuters and businesses. The overall goal of this federally-funded initiative is to reduce vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled (VMT), improve traffic mobility along major congested corridors, and improve regional air quality by reducing ozone-forming vehicle emissions. These efforts have been a clear success. The Regional Vanpool Program, now known as STAR, currently has 740 vans and 7,513 van riders (about 276 new riders added in June) with reductions of over 8.0 million VMT per month. There are about 12,765 NuRide participants with a resulting reduction of over 12.8 million VMT since the start of the program. The Telework program consists of approximately 1,800 participants and results in over 2.2 million VMT saved annually.

Current Situation

The Commute Solutions partners in the eight-county Houston-Galveston Transportation Management Area are celebrating “Commute Solutions Month-August 2009.” The local Commute Solutions partners will recognize this month with a Clean Air Action Leadership Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, August 26, 2009. Twenty-two corporations, organizations and local governments will be recognized as Clean Air Champions or “Best Workplaces for Commuters” for their outstanding leadership in implementing measures which reduce air pollutants associated with companies and their activities within our eight-county region. This year's event honors those companies that encourage their employees to use commute alternatives and those companies that have adopted clean fleet policies. The new companies will be the region's first Clean Air Champions. This group of award recipients will be joining a prestigious list of 125 other companies and organizations that have been recognized as Best Workplaces for Commuters in previous years.

Action Requested

Request adoption of resolution recognizing August as Commute Solutions Month.