



Contact Information:
Brad Schulz, Triangle Transit (919) 485-7434
bschulz@triangletransit.org

Take the SmartCommute Challenge and Commute by Vanpool for Free

Research Triangle Park, NC (April 24, 2008) The week of April 28th-May 2nd, is SmartCommute Challenge Rideshare Week. This week's goal is to highlight the benefits of sharing the ride by carpooling or vanpooling to work rather than driving alone.

Rewards of sharing the ride:

- o Save money on gas
- o A less stressful, more productive commute
- o Less vehicle maintenance and possibly lower insurance premiums (check with your insurance agent)
- o Save money on parking
- o Reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality
- o Talk with a friend while you sit in traffic
- o Anyone who takes the SmartCommute Challenge and pledges to carpool or vanpool before May 30th will have as an additional incentive, the chance to win a trip for two!

Free Vanpool Fare Promotion

A vanpool is made up of seven or more commuters who share the ride to work. Triangle Transit provides the van, takes care of insurance and maintenance, and best of all – pays for gas! The vanpool fare is based on the number of miles the vanpool travels each month and the number of people riding in the van.

The SmartCommute Challenge is making a vanpool commute an even more attractive choice by offering ONE MONTH FARE FREE to anyone who joins an existing vanpool or starts a new vanpool route before May 30th.

To take the SmartCommute Challenge and find out more about the Free Vanpool Fare Promotion, visit: **www.smartcommutechallenge.org**.

For more information about Triangle Transit vanpools, visit: **www.gotriangle.org**.

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About the Challenge

The 2008 SmartCommute Challenge is a regional public awareness campaign to encourage Triangle commuters and college students to try a smarter, cheaper, and more environmentally friendly commute.

The Challenge is a pledge to try a commute alternative at least once before May 30, 2008. Eligible commute alternatives include:

- Carpool
- Telework (work from home)
- Bus
- Vanpool
- Bike
- Walk

Challenge Sponsors and Partners

- Gold Sponsors: BASF, CAT, Cisco, IBM, The News & Observer, RTI International
- Bus System Partners: Cary Transit, Capital Area Transit (CAT), Chapel Hill Transit, Durham Area Transit Authority (DATA), NCSU Office of Transportation, and Triangle Transit
- 10 Silver Sponsors: Bayer CropScience, Cherokee Investment Partners, Credit Suisse, Gillig Corporation, GlaxoSmithKline, EMC Corporation, NetApp, Progress Energy, Redwoods Group, US EPA
- 12 Bronze Sponsors

Free, On-line Carpool Matching

Triangle commuters looking to save gas by sharing the ride can find their perfect ride-match using SharetheRideNC, a free on-line carpool and vanpool matching tool. Commuters can enter in their home address, work address, work schedule and personal preferences (such as non-smokers or females only) and SharetheRideNC will put them in touch with possible carpool partners.

Visit: **www.gotriangle.org** to register.

Calculate How Much You Can Save By Sharing the Ride

Visit: **<http://www.gotriangle.org/About/commuteCostCalculator.html>**

Carpool and Vanpool Commuters Available for Interview

Please call Brad Schulz at (919)485-7434 to schedule an interview with a carpooler or vanpooler.

About SmartCommute@rtp:

SmartCommute@rtp is the transportation management association (TMA) of The Research Triangle Park (RTP). Its purpose is to coordinate the transportation demand management (TDM) efforts of RTP employers to address common transportation concerns, reduce traffic congestion, and improve air quality. SmartCommute currently has 25 member employers, which account for over 80% of the RTP's employees. SmartCommute@rtp is staffed by the Research Triangle Foundation of North Carolina, owner and developer of The Research Triangle Park. For more information, visit **www.SmartCommute.org**.

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About Triangle Transit:

Triangle Transit is a regional public transportation provider, offering a wide variety of transit and vanpool services to North Carolina's greater Triangle Region and outlying counties. Bus service is available to Apex, Cary, Chapel Hill, Durham, Garner, Hillsborough, RDU International Airport, Research Triangle Park (RTP) and Raleigh. For more information, visit **www.triangletransit.org** or call (919) 485-RIDE.

About Triangle Tomorrow:

Triangle Tomorrow, a program of the Research Triangle Regional Partnership (RTRP), works closely with business and community leaders to improve the quality of life and economic competitiveness of the 13-county Research Triangle Region. For more information, visit **www.triangletomorrow.org**.

About Triangle Air Awareness Program:

The Triangle Air Awareness Program provides education and outreach on air quality issues to the 13 county region. A partnership of Triangle Tomorrow and the NC Division of Air Quality, it is the only Triangle region public-private air quality initiative. The program, through its free Coalition membership, mobilizes representatives of business, industry, government, academic and individuals to be aware of the air quality forecast, to improve air quality by their actions, and to protect their health on bad air quality days. For more information, visit **www.triangleairawareness.org**.

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