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*A bimonthly publication from Capitol Rideshare*

[www.capitolrideshare.com](http://www.capitolrideshare.com)



# Capitol Rideshare program moved to the Office of Grants and Federal Resources

## *Changes coming to the Carpool Parking Permit process and Commuter Club*

In December 2016, the Travel Reduction Program (TRP) Capitol Rideshare office was moved under the Office of Grants and Federal Resources (GFR) at the Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA). The organizational move was coupled with a physical move: the staff of GFR and TRP are now located in suite 305 of the ADOA building. As part of this transition, staff is reviewing existing programs for efficiency and user friendliness, methods for increasing inclusiveness and providing meaningful benefits to commuters who choose to use alternate modes of transportation. Look for exciting changes to the travel reduction efforts.

### **Carpool Parking Permit and Commuter Club changes**

The Capitol Rideshare team is currently in the process of revamping the carpool parking permit process and the Commuter Club. In years past, employees were required to renew their parking permits and Commuter Club membership via an active opt-in method. This year, employees will not be required to actively renew their parking permits. Capitol Rideshare will send out stickers for the hanging parking permit with a new expiration date to the Travel Reduction Coordinators (TRC). The TRCs will distribute the stickers to employees on record as having a permit.

The primary purpose of Commuter Club is to offer employees who use alternate modes of transportation an emergency ride home (ERH), up to twice per fiscal year, for unexpected emergencies. However, many of our alternate mode users don't know about ERH or don't opt-in to the Commuter Club to take advantage of this service. As such, Capitol Rideshare will make this service available to every employee who has a parking permit or a Platinum Pass and who used this alternate mode on the day of the emergency. Examples of qualifying emergencies include medical emergency or the commuter's carpool driver unexpectedly left early. We are negotiating new terms of service with transportation providers to ensure that our commuting employees who experience an emergency while at work have the peace of mind to know they can get back home or back to their vehicles. We will share this information with agency Travel Reduction Coordinators as soon as it is finalized. In addition, club members receive a card with discount offers to a number of select vendors. CRS staff is currently reviewing options for more meaningful benefits for registered alternative mode users. We will update your Travel Reduction Coordinators as we finalize new program benefits. However, if you have ideas or comments we would love to hear from you. **Email us at [ridesharehelp@azdoa.gov](mailto:ridesharehelp@azdoa.gov).**

# Ozone and HPA season has arrived

As the weather warms, we will see an increase in ozone pollution. To raise awareness about the problem, Capitol RideShare will send out Air Quality Index bulletins issued from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) reports each Monday morning to state Travel Reduction Coordinators (TRCs) until the end of September. These forecasts are far more detailed than prior weekly forecasts; the ADEQ forecast team updates the AQI reports daily. These daily AQI reports are available at the [ADEQ Air Quality forecast page](#).

In addition, when ADEQ issues a High Pollution Advisory (HPA), we will communicate this information to the TRCs for distribution to their colleagues. This summer, especially on HPA days, you are urged to carpool, try transit, or telework. And if you do, log on to [www.capitolrideshare.com](http://www.capitolrideshare.com) and enter the HPA Day Contest! Just tell us who you are and what mode you used.

At the end of the month, we will draw winners from the pool of names! The more frequently you use an alternate mode on HPA days, the more chances you have to win! You can contribute to trip reduction and pollution abatement by:

- Observing HPA
- Refueling after dark
- Carpooling
- Teleworking
- Taking mass transit
- Staying in for lunch
- Combining trips
- Choosing web conferencing instead of physical meetings



## James Tiffany is our April HPA alternate mode winner!

James Tiffany from Health Services observed a High Pollution Advisory (HPA) in April and he used an alternate mode of transportation for his commute to work. James logged his alt-mode trip on the [HPA entry page](#) at [www.capitolrideshare.com](http://www.capitolrideshare.com).

James and other alt-mode users who observed the HPA and logged their alt-mode trips were eligible to win a prize. Be sure to watch for the HPAs and log your alt-mode trips to enter the contest!

## April 1 - September 30 Ozone & Particulates

**Particulate matter**, which includes acid sulfates, toxic organic compounds and metals, and insoluble dusts, are capable of penetrating to the deeper portions of the respiratory system and producing acute reductions in lung function, increasing the incidence of respiratory disease in children. It can also increase the risk of premature mortality in elderly and ill persons. Traffic on unpaved roads, wind-blown dust, construction and demolition are all major contributors.

**"Smog" ozone** (rather than the protective ozone in the stratosphere) is a major health hazard at high concentrations. Especially troublesome during our hot summer months, ozone causes inflammation of the lungs, impaired breathing, coughing, chest pain, nausea, and throat irritation. Long-term effects from exposure include increased susceptibility to respiratory infection and permanent damage to lung tissues. Ozone also causes severe damage to commercial crops and forests.

# Bike to Work Day 2017

Maricopa County, the City of Phoenix and Valley Metro hosted the annual Bike to Work Day on April 19. State employees were encouraged to register to participate in the group ride or solo ride; participants received a light breakfast at CityScape in downtown Phoenix and a t-shirt commemorating the experience. Registered participants were entered to win prizes; ADOT employee John Walker won a \$25 gift card to Coach's Corner Grill.

A shout out to the following state employees who registered for the bike ride: Mario Casillas, Kristie Chavero, Troy Cheesman, Steven Conolly, Cristi Cost, Becky Eden, Sandy Flores, Peter Gray, Galileo Gutierrez, Eric Lewis, Lorena Lewis, Elizabeth Lopez, Catherine Lucke-McDowell, Paul Manley, Andrew Puccino, Glenn Russell, Wendy Sanders, Jeremy Shorter, Lori Sloat, Willie Sommers, Mike Sonenberg, Pamela Voza, John Walker, and Evie Williams.



*Clockwise from left: ADOA's Cristi Cost and Jasmine Matus at CityScape; ADOT employee John Walker participated in the group ride and won a prize; group ride participants enjoy breakfast after their morning ride from Park Central; ride sponsor Valley Metro provided bike parking for the event.*



# Electric cars: Saving money and reducing air pollution

*Charging stations allow employees to refuel during the work day*

With several automotive manufacturing companies offering a variety of options from economy to luxury, the public has been embracing hybrid and electric vehicles. For state employees who have invested in electric or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PEHV), Lincoln Property Management partnered with [ChargePoint](#) to install charging stations in the garages at 1110 W. Washington (ADEQ building) and 100 N. 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. (ADOA building). Employees set up an account with ChargePoint, which has a network of more than 25,000 charging stations globally. ChargePoint has multiple charging stations near many state work sites. The website features an interactive map detailing where charging stations are located and the associated costs.

Users can order a card or download an app onto their smartphones, which will allow them to plug in and use the charging stations. User fees are \$1.50 per hour for the first three hours and \$5.00 per hour after; the higher rate serves as a deterrent to a single employee monopolizing the charging station. The phone app will alert the user when their charging time is up.



*Nicole Petker uses her smartphone application to utilize the electric vehicle charging station at the ADOA building.*

Nicole Petker, an environmental engineer at the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) made the decision to buy an electric car, her blue Nissan Leaf, because she wanted to save money on gasoline as well as gain access to the HOV lane during high traffic times. The charging station at the ADOA building facilitates her commute. “It makes it possible; there is no way I could utilize a fully electric vehicle without it. It’s easy, convenient, and gives me peace of mind that I’ll have more than enough energy to get home from work,” she said. For anyone on the fence about buying an electric car, she offers this: “It’s so much easier than you think. Talk about it. I was surprised how knowledgeable many of my colleagues are about electric cars. Or you can come ask me. I’ve had a great experience and would love to share my knowledge.”

**Need to find someone to share the ride? Log on to [www.capitolrideshare.com](http://www.capitolrideshare.com) and do a matchlist. It takes just a few minutes and it is confidential. It is a great way to find someone who shares your commute! Need help? Call us at 602.542.7433.**

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Valley of the Sun

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Capitol Rideshare (602) 542-RIDE [www.CapitolRideshare.com](http://www.CapitolRideshare.com)  
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