



SOUTH FLORIDA
COMMUTER
SERVICES

Share the Ride



CARPOOLING ◊ **VANPOOLING** ◊ **TRANSIT**
COMMUTER TAX BENEFITS ◊ **EMERGENCY RIDE HOME PROGRAM**

South Florida Commute

free transportation solutions that aid in recruitment, re



South Florida
Commuter Services
(SFCS), the
regional commuter
assistance program
funded by the Florida
Department of
Transportation, offers
commuting solutions
that can help your



business in today's competitive environment. To get your employees to work on time and to aid in recruiting and retaining a diverse qualified workforce, SFCS offers carpool and vanpool ride matching, the Emergency Ride Home (ERH) program and assistance with the Commuter Tax Benefit program. In addition, SFCS provides customer support to respond to commuter questions.

SFCS can assist you with many other transportation option programs such as compressed work week development, flex time, as well as bike and walk programs. SFCS marketing associates can assist your company and employees with the best commuting options available.

er Services

provides employers with retention and increased productivity in the workplace.

Why should my company partner with SFCS?

EMPLOYEE RECRUITMENT & RETENTION – Employers are keenly aware of the need to maintain high-quality benefit packages and to be sensitive to employees' long or difficult commutes. An effective employee transportation options program addresses both issues, by putting the employer in a positive and proactive recruiting and retention position.

EMPLOYEE PRODUCTIVITY – Studies have shown that commuters using alternative modes have reduced stress and blood pressure, plus increased employee morale and productivity. Workers who share the ride to work also have a decreased tardiness and/or absenteeism record.

EMPLOYER TAX BENEFITS – Shared ride commuting options are becoming an important part of many employee benefit plans and these programs are eligible for federal tax benefits. The Internal Revenue Code allows employers to offer employees benefits that encourage commuting to work by transit or vanpool.

REDUCED PARKING DEMAND – Every new two-person carpool that is formed eliminates the need for one parking space. The average vanpool eliminates the need of 5 to 14 spaces. By reducing parking demand, the employer can cut direct costs on leased parking spaces or the need for employer-owned land that's used for parking.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS – Employers that take the initiative to reduce traffic congestion, lessen air pollution, and conserve fuel are viewed as positive leaders and have the opportunity to be recognized for their efforts. SFCS Transportation Leadership Awards and the Environmental Protection Agency's Best Workplaces for Commuters are examples of how employers can be further recognized within the community and on a national level.

Carpooling

South Florida Commuter Services makes it easy for people to share the ride. Working with employers, SFCS can create a Zip Code analysis for each work shift showing employees' home locations and identifying clusters of possible carpoolers.

SFCS offers RidePro, a free online system that can instantaneously match employee's commute patterns with those who live and work near one another with similar commuting patterns. Those interested in carpooling can log on to www.1800234RIDE.com and input information on where they live, work and their commuting hours and receive an instant match of other commuters who could potentially share the ride.



In addition, SFCS works with your company to develop the best ways to take the next steps to forming carpools; whether it's "Meet Your Match Parties," customized promotions, or assisting the company on developing incentives.

Employees participating in a carpool enjoy these benefits:

- Lower mileage and depreciation on personal vehicles
- Lower commuting costs
- Reduced stress from driving
- Increased opportunity to relax, read or socialize during the commute time
- Preferred parking, if the employer chooses to provide this incentive
- High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane access for a faster commute

Did You Know?

The average South Florida commuter travels 20+ miles to work round trip. If employees are driving alone, this adds up to 100 miles a week, 5,200 miles a year, 51 minutes a day, 4+ hours a week, 218 hours per year, \$3,528 a year spent on automobile costs, not including parking fees, and 239 extra pounds of pollution in our air each year.



Vanpooling

Vanpooling is another popular transportation option that many companies are implementing with their employees. Currently, there are over 10,000 commuter vanpools operating across the U.S. A vanpool is a group of 5 to 15 commuters who voluntarily participate in a shared-ride arrangement in which one or more members of the group volunteer to drive and the passengers share in the cost of operating the van.

Many commuters enjoy vanpooling because it is a convenient, cost effective and stress-reducing way to get to work. Employers support vanpooling because it is a low-cost benefit for employees and one vanpool can remove up to 14 cars from the worksite parking facilities during peak hours. Employees who vanpool to work can subsidize their monthly cost through the Commuter Tax Benefit Program, saving them money on their bottom line.

SFCS will assist your organization to determine the best vanpool options and to ensure that participating employees take advantage of the subsidy programs offered by the South Florida Vanpool Program.

“When our company relocated, we were faced with the possibility of losing more than 25 excellent employees due to the commute. By offering a shared fare benefit, we were able to retain those employees. Vanpooling has definitely made sense and improved employee morale and satisfaction”

-- Barbara Wolverton/LNR Properties

Transit

In addition to carpooling and vanpooling, there are several other commute options that may be appropriate for employees at the worksite. Transit routes offered by Tri-Rail, Miami-Dade Transit, Broward County Transit and PalmTran serve many of the major employment centers in the South Florida tri-county area.

There are several ways of promoting the transit option including: providing transit schedules and additional information at the worksite, selling transit passes at the worksite, subsidizing the cost of bus or train fare or allowing employees to take advantage of a pre-tax purchase of transit passes. Additionally some transit agencies offer discount passes to employers who enroll with the provider.

SFCS marketing associates will assist employers with identifying potential transit (including shuttle services) routes.

“Time management is important to a successful executive and the way I use my commuting time increases my productivity. While my competition wastes energy fighting traffic on their way to work, I sit in the comfort of the MetroRail and read the business section of the newspaper, work on my laptop and do business on my cell phone. It gives me a competitive edge.”

-- J. Gomez/MetroRail rider





Emergency Ride Home

If your employees share the ride, South Florida Commuter Services' Emergency Ride Home (ERH) Program is their "commuter insurance." Registered participants get a FREE taxi ride home in the event of an emergency. To become a registered user, one must ride transit, carpool, vanpool, bike or walk to work at least three or more days a week.

The program is available to all registered users that work in Miami-Dade, Broward or Palm Beach counties. In the event of a personal or family emergency, or if required to work unscheduled overtime, eligible program participants can use an ERH trip voucher to cover the cost (not including tip to the driver) of a taxi trip home. This program includes up to six free taxi ride vouchers per year for each individual.



"Riding Tri-Rail allows me to take advantage of free commuter insurance. I used the Emergency Ride Home program when my wife announced she was in labor! I called 1-800-234-RIDE and by the time I logged off my PC at work and made it downstairs, the taxi was waiting for me at the curb."

-- E. Medina/Tri-Rail & PalmTran Rider

Call today for more information!



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