

# *Press Release*

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## *CATA Implements Community Vanpool Program, Incorporates Penn State Vans*

Effective October 1 the Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA) is expanding its “family of public transportation services” by introducing vanpools to the RideShare program, CATA’s carpool matching service.

RideShare, in operation since 1999, brings together people traveling from or through the same communities to work in the Centre Region, and helps them establish carpools. “The RideShare program has proven itself to be a great success,” notes Terri Quici, CATA’s RideShare Coordinator. “Today, the RideShare participant list includes over 500 individuals and more than 200 active carpools, coming into the State College area from eleven counties throughout central Pennsylvania.”

As the first step in the creation of CATA’s new community-wide vanpool service, Penn State and CATA have agreed to transition six existing faculty/staff vanpools to the new initiative. For almost twenty years Penn State has made vans available to groups of University employees commuting long distances. Currently vanpool groups originate in the Moshannon Valley, Lewistown, Altoona and Tyrone areas. With Penn State and CATA working together, the new arrangement will enable commuters traveling in or out of the Centre Region to participate in the program.

The new vanpool initiative has been made possible by funding from the federal Congestion Management / Air Quality (CMAQ) program, for which the Centre Region became eligible this year. The Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization allocated funds to the new program, in response to a request by CATA, as a small step towards reducing traffic congestion and air pollution. Over the course of the coming months, additional vanpools will be added, as rider interest develops and funding becomes available.

According to Hugh Mose, CATA General Manager, “We have wanted to add vanpools to our carpool matching program since the late 1990’s, but until the funding became available, it just wasn’t possible. Now, as a result of the funding allocated by the Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization we are able to get the program started, and thanks to the cooperation and support of the University, we are able to jump start it with the six existing Penn State vans.

Carpooling and vanpooling are cost-effective alternatives for long-distance commuters, who can enjoy the savings and convenience of sharing a ride to work. Persons interested in participating in a car- or vanpool may self-register on the CATA website, [www.catabus.com](http://www.catabus.com). For more information on the RideShare Program, please visit the CATA website or contact Terri Quici, CATA RideShare Coordinator, at (814) 238-CATA(2282) ext. 134 or [rideshare@catabus.com](mailto:rideshare@catabus.com).

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