TRAVELWise™
A UDOT Program

COME RIDE THE TRAIN, OR BUS OR VANPOOL

Every day, many Utahns wake up, climb in their cars and drive to work—alone. The effects of these solo commutes are regularly felt in the form of traffic congestion, accidents, pollution and increased stress levels. As a result, more and more people are deciding to leave their cars at home and utilize buses, trains and other forms of public transportation in their daily commute.

TRANSIT GAINING POPULARITY

Commuting by way of public transportation is not a new concept, but it is one that is currently regaining popularity. This upswing can be attributed in part to the creation of better transit access and systems, the growing concern for the environment and the increasing ease of multi-tasking, for business or pleasure, while commuting.

If an individual switches a daily 20-mile round-trip commute to public transportation, his or her annual CO_2 emissions will fall by 4,800 pounds per year, equal to a 10 percent reduction in a two-car household's carbon footprint.

Source: PublicTransportation.org

DID YOU KNOW?

In the year 2000 it was estimated that 76 percent of Americans drove to work alone.

Source: The Federal Highway Administration

ADVANTAGES OF USING PUBLIC TRANSIT

Using public transportation saves money on gas, parking and car maintenance. It also allows individuals to do their part to reduce the emissions of green house gases and ease traffic congestion. In addition, with more time to read, relax, listen to music or work during the commute, people arrive at their destinations less stressed than those who spend their drive fighting traffic.

WHERE TO START

Employers who are interested in offering public transportation options to their employees can do so by following these simple steps:

- Survey employees to determine interest in a transit benefit system.
- Explore the possibility of providing shuttle service to and from the nearest transit stop or station.
- Coordinate with other nearby employers to see if they are interested in combining to provide transit services and share the costs.
- Talk with your HR representative or accountant about potential tax saving opportunities.

TRANSIT RESOURCES

Utah Transit Authority
A resource for local public transportation options.
www.rideuta.com

Transit and Vanpool Benefits
A guide to the employer/employee benefits of using public transportation.
www.bestworkplaces.org/pdf/transitvan_07.pdf

UTA Rideshare
UTA's ridematching software—find someone to carpool with or join a vanpool.
www.utarideshare.com