



Clean Commute Chronicle

November 2008

CATA & Clean Commute's Community Impact

CATA services and the Clean Commute Program have seen significant growth in the past year due to an increase in fuel costs, environmental awareness, and people choosing alternative ways to commute.

We are proud to report that CATA bus ridership this past year totaled over 11 million rides! This was a new ridership record for CATA, resulting in the strongest year in our 37-year history!

“We are doing all we can meet the growing demand for public transportation,” states Sandy Draggoo, CATA CEO/Executive Director. “Regular customers are using CATA for more trips than in the past. Many work commuters started using CATA services to save money when gas prices rose.”

CATA is also happy to report that over 915 people have registered for the Clean Commute Options program. More single-occupant vehicles continue to be taken off of our roadways as more commuters join our 80-plus carpools and 26 vanpools that commute into the Greater Lansing Area.

Registered clean commuters have been able to make significant cuts in emission levels. Over 37 tons of pollutants have been eliminated from our environment and 1,896,476 vehicle miles have also been eliminated from our roadways as a result of our registered commuters alone! CATA will continue to work hard at assisting people with their commute modes and reducing improving overall air quality.

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Trip Planning for Bus Routes Now Online!

If you have recently visited the CATA website at www.cata.org, you may have noticed the new Trip Planning Feature. CATA is now live with an interactive trip planning tool that works similar to Google Maps!

To use the online trip planner, simply type in your starting location, the address of your destination, the time and date that you are expected to be traveling. Once you complete this information, click on the “Display Trip” button and you will receive a results page listing the bus route options and bus travel times. To display more details simply click on the “Details” button and you will receive step-by-step instructions

for your bus trip. An interactive map is also included with these instructions.



Not only is the trip planning feature new, but the overall CATA website has been updated with a new look and way to view our services. The new site is more interactive and easier to navigate, making it more usable for site visitors.

If you haven't had a chance to do so yet, please visit www.cata.org to learn more about all CATA services. If you have any questions or comments about the new website, please contact us at (517) 394-1000 or email info@cata.org.

Contact Us

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Featured Commuter

With all of the miles that were put on her vehicle, and the cost of fuel for her daily trek, this month's featured commuter decided it was time to leave her car at home and try clean commuting.

Karen commutes daily from her home in Flint to downtown Lansing. She participates in a vanpool with 11 other people who have a similar commuting route and schedule. The vanpool has 2 stops that it makes between Flint and Lansing to pick up all of the riders and that seems to work out well for the group. Their one-way commute takes approximately 70 minutes from their first pick-up location.

Karen definitely prefers being able to ride into work instead of driving by herself. However, she has had to drive her vanpool group a couple of times. Her driving experiences show that vanpooling doesn't just help to reduce emissions, gas prices, or meet other people; it can have additional unique benefits as well!.

"The second time I was going to drive right by the exit, and take everyone home with me. [I] guess I was day dreaming. Thank goodness for my co-pilot! She woke up in time to see that we were going to fly by [the exit] and told me to turn!"

Karen is also registered for CATA's Emergency Ride Home Service that is available to carpool and vanpool participants who share the ride at least 3 days a week. She decided to sign up for the ERH program after she was left stranded for a couple of hours in downtown Lansing.

Karen's Flint vanpool is currently looking for more riders. She would like to remind other commuters that winter is coming, and I-69 can get ugly, especially when you are driving alone! Why not join a vanpool so you can at least catch up on some sleep during your commute?!



Other Alternative Transportation Providers

MichiVan: 800-VAN-RIDE

EATRAN: 517-543-3040

Clinton Transit: 800-800-5938

TCBA: www.biketcba.org

Carpools Looking for More Riders

- Ann Arbor-Lansing
- Ann Arbor-East Lansing/MSU
- Brighton-MSU
- Charlotte-Lansing
- Corunna/Bancroft-Lansing
- Durand/Perry-MSU
- Jackson-Lansing
- Eaton Rapids-Lansing
- Eaton Rapids-East Lansing/MSU
- Novi-Lansing
- Owosso-East Lansing/MSU
- Portland/Eagle-West Lansing
- Saginaw/Flint-East Lansing/MSU
- Spring Arbor/Jackson-Lansing

Vanpools Looking for More Riders

- Brighton-Lansing
- Howell-Lansing
- Ionia/Saranac-Lansing
- Southfield-Lansing

Contact Clean Commute Options by calling (517) 393-7433 or email cleancommute@cata.org for more information on how to join these carpools.