



Clean Commute Chronicle

March 2010

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Featured Clean Commuter

Open Carpools & Vanpools



Be a Smart & Eco-Friendly Driver

We are so thankful for all of those who regularly ride the bus, bike, walk, carpool or van-pool. For those of you who are sharing the drive, and even for those of you who must drive alone, there are many ways you can not only save money while driving, but also help improve our air quality!

Driving Practices:

- **Avoid Rapid Starts & Stops:** According to reports from the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), gentle acceleration and braking is estimated to save you more than \$1 per gallon; improving your vehicles fuel economy by up to 33%
- **Maintain a Constant Speed:** Slow-and-go is always better than the frustrating and fuel-draining stop-and-go traffic.
- **Ride the Green Wave:** Traffic lights are often supposed to be synchronized so that motorists driving at the recommended speed limits can pass through a series of green lights without having to stop.
- **Maintain Optimum Speed on the Highway:** Highway driving that exceeds 60 mph can use more fuel. Always observe the speed limit and this may improve mileage by 7-23%.
- **Avoid Engine Idling:** Remember, Idling = 0 miles/gallon. Do not leave your car r running just to warm it up, cool it down, or while waiting in the drive-thru. As a rule, shutting off your engine for any stop anticipated to be longer than 30-60 seconds, saves gas and reduces harmful pollutants from being released into our community's air. Also, according to J.D. Power, even on the coldest of mornings in Michigan, Running your car for 30 seconds is all you need before your vehicle engine is ready to drive.
- **Use Air Conditioning at Higher Speeds:** We all love driving with the windows down as soon as the weather warms up. However, when driving at speeds of 40 mph or more, having open windows creates drag, while using the air conditioner will use less fuel. When driving at speeds of 40 mph or less, the open windows are better.

Maintenance Practices:

- **Schedule Periodic Engine Tune-Ups:** Regularly scheduled vehicle tune-ups is estimated to improve your gas mileage by an average of 4%.
- **Replace Air Filters Regularly.** There is no set mileage since it depends on your location, etc. You can check your air filter yourself to determine when it is dirty and needs replacing, by holding it up to the light.
- **Check Your Tire Pressure:** Remember to check your tire pressure at least once per month. Properly inflated tires can translate into a free tank of gas per year, reduces emission levels, and can lead to a smoother ride.
- **Tighten Your Gas Cap:** After fueling your vehicle, always check your gas cap. You may be losing as much as 30 gallons of gas due to evaporation when fuel caps are not tightened properly.
- **Remove Excess Weight From Your Vehicle:** While you may have added more weight to your vehicle for winter driving, now that warmer weather is on it's way, you can remove this weight. Every pound of extra weight requires your vehicle to work harder to move it, and that effort uses more fuel. Remove those extra golf clubs, bowling balls, sand bags, and other excessive items if not needed.





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Other Alternative Transportation Providers

CATA: 517-394-1000

MichiVan: 800-VAN-RIDE

EATRAN: 517-543-3040

Clinton Transit: 800-800-5938

TCBA: www.biketcba.org



Featured Commuter of the Month

Making the choice to become a one-car household was not necessarily the first choice for his month's featured commuter. However, with the constantly fluctuating gas prices and tough economy, Dave and his wife found clean commuting to be a easy money-saving choice.

After selling one of their vehicles, Dave and his wife chose to carpool to work from their home on the west side of Lansing. His wife would drop him off at his office in downtown Lansing and then continue on her way to East Lansing. After about two months of this ride-sharing agreement, a co-worker was talking to Dave and told him about the CATA buses that traveled right by his office and home.

"I decided to try the bus service and it turned out to be much easier than I thought. I was able to cross the street and catch the bus, and was taken right downtown. I only had a short walk to my office and found that the bus ride ended up taking less time than waiting for my wife to come pick me up and continue our commute home. Plus, the bus ride was cheaper than gas and always warm in the cooler weather.

Dave continues to commute via the bus year-round and is even enjoying the added exercise that he is able to fit into his day by walking from the bus stop to his office.

"Not only do I now save money, but I don't worry about the roads or traffic, and I can catch up on my reading all during my commute to work. I encourage other people to at least give it a try and see if the bus may work for them.

For more information on CATA bus service, please call our office or visit us on the web at www.cata.org.

Carpools Looking for More Riders

- Ann Arbor-Lansing
- Brighton-MSU
- Canton-State Secondary Complex
- Charlotte-Lansing
- Corunna/Durand-Lansing
- Dimondale-Holt
- Durand/Perry-MSU
- Eaton Rapids-Lansing
- Eaton Rapids-East Lansing/MSU
- Fowlerville-Lansing
- Grand Rapids-E. Lansing
- Ionia/Portland/Eagle-Lansing
- Jackson-East Lansing
- Jackson-Lansing
- Kalamazoo/Battle Creek-Lansing
- Leslie-Lansing
- Lowell/Ada-Lansing
- Lyons/Portland-Lansing
- Novi-Lansing
- Owosso-East Lansing/MSU
- Owosso-Lansing
- Portland/Eagle-West Lansing
- Portland/Ionia/Eagle-MSU
- Spring Arbor/Jackson-Lansing
- Ypsilanti-State Sec. Complex

Vanpools Looking for More Riders

- Brighton-Lansing
- Canton-Lansing
- Grand Rapids-Lansing
- Grand Rapids-MSU/East Lansing
- Grand Rapids/Portland-Lansing
- Howell-Lansing
- Jackson-Lansing
- Lapeer-Flint-Lansing
- Novi-Lansing
- Lennon/Flint-Lansing
- Milford-Lansing/Secondary Complex
- Southfield-Lansing

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