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USEFUL TIPS FOR COMMUTERS

Emergency Ride Program Helps Stranded Transit Riders

Commuting to work using public transportation or a car or vanpool is great for the environment and your budget, but what happens when there is an emergency and you don't have your car?

The Emergency Ride Home (ERH) program provides an easy answer to the problem of how to get a ride in the case of an emergency.

Emergencies might include: a sudden illness or injury of a member of your immediate family; a catastrophic problem at home that is immediately threatening (such as a flood, fire, or collapse); or unplanned and required overtime that prohibits use of your regular ride. This free program provides reimbursement for transportation by local taxi service, rental car, or public transit in the event of an emergency.

Traffic, gas prices, wear and tear on your car – commuting can be a hassle. Sharing a ride is a great alternative, but what if an emergency happens and you don't have a car at work?

To qualify for this free program, you must work in southeastern Pennsylvania and use a car or vanpool, public transportation, or ride a bicycle to work at least three days a week. For more information and an application, visit the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission at www.dvrpc.org. ■

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Transportation News Updates Inside

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INROADS

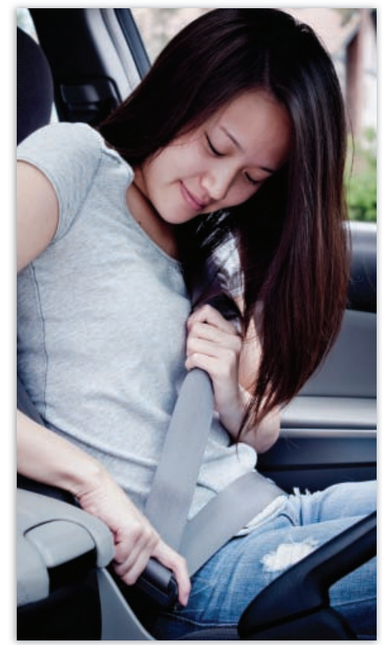
TRANSPORTATION NEWS AND INFORMATION

WINTER 2011 DCTMA.org

'MAKING IT CLICK' WITH TEEN DRIVERS

DCTMA Promotes Seat Belt Usage among Local High School Students

We are working with interested Delaware County high schools and their student organizations to challenge the student body to increase their percentage of seat belt users.



Participating schools will compete for a $500 cash prize for their student organization and the Seat Belt Challenge plaque, which will be displayed all year at the winning school.

Teens have the highest fatality rate in motor vehicle crashes than any other age group. One key reason is that they have lower safety belt use rates than adults.

— National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

We began by surveying all Delaware County public and parochial high school student drivers as they entered their schools on an unannounced day in October to create a baseline of seat belt use at each school. Each school was contacted with the survey results and invited to participate in the program.

Those participating will host a "Survival 101" presentation for students presented by local police, where they will hear facts and real stories about the consequences of not wearing seat belts. The students will then be challenged and given two months to increase their seat belt use beyond what their first survey showed. A second unannounced survey at

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DCTMA Annual Dinner Celebrates Accomplishments and Recognizes Membership

Travel Instruction Enhances Quality of Life for Riders

Emergency Ride Home Program Provides Service to Stranded Commuters

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IMPROVING THE WEST CHESTER PIKE CORRIDOR

DCTMA Administering Transit Signal Priority Feasibility Study and Implementation Plan

In an effort to increase the number of SEPTA riders, improve service quality, and alleviate traffic congestion along the West Chester Pike (PA Route 3) corridor in Delaware County, we are administering a Transit Signal Priority (TSP) feasibility study. The goal of the study is to identify opportunities for TSP and outline an implementation plan that defines action items, a phasing order, costs, and potential funding sources.

Stakeholders in this effort are: PennDOT, SEPTA, DVRPC, the Delaware County Planning Department, and municipalities along the corridor. Jacobs Engineering has been hired as the consultant to complete the study and provide recommendations.

Following an introductory meeting on June 21st to introduce the project goals and parameters to the key stakeholders, Jacobs Engineering

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Delaware County Council members accept the 2010 Public Service Award. Shown left to right: Council members Andy Lewis and Tom McGarrigle, DCTMA Executive Director Cecile Charlton, Council Chairman Jack Whelan, Council Vice Chair Christine Fizzano Cannon, and DCTMA Board President John Nawn.

ANNUAL DINNER CELEBRATES ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Members recognized for their commitment to DCTMA mission

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The DCTMA's annual dinner was held on Thursday, December 2nd at the Drexelbrook Corporate Events Center. This event is an opportunity to recognize our members for their commitment to our mission and improving the quality of life in Delaware County and the region.

We were proud to recognize four members this year for their contributions to making Delaware County a cleaner and more environmentally-safe place to live and work.

UPS received the Chairman's Award in recognition of their commitment to the environment by adding hundreds of low emission and hybrid vehicles to their fleet. Monarch Staffing, Inc. received the Green Member of the Year Award for their extensive use of green business practices in their daily operations. The Public Service Award was given to Delaware County Council in recognition of their website additions of helpful resources for individuals and municipalities, in addition to the numerous and ongoing improvements to County buildings and daily business practices that promote a cleaner, healthier environment. Expresspark, Inc. was the recipient of the Smart Growth Award for their use of environmentally-friendly paving and building materials in their new facility in Essington, PA.

Each recipient shared brief remarks about their organization's focus on environmentally-responsible business practices and commitment to a cleaner, greener county and region.

We are grateful for the generous support of our sponsors that made this event possible. Platinum sponsors included Beneficial Bank, Conoco Phillips Trainer Refinery, Delaware County Council, and Expresspark, Inc.

AWARD WINNERS

Chairman's Award
UPS

Green Member of the Year
Monarch Staffing, Inc.

Public Service Award
Delaware County Council

Smart Growth Award
Expresspark, Inc.

Gold sponsors were Jacobs Engineering and Community Transit, Inc., and KS Engineers sponsored the dinner at the Silver level. ■

– Cecile Charlton

Stephanie Kozak-Allen of Expresspark, Inc. accepts the Smart Growth Award from Cecile Charlton and John Nawn.

DID YOU KNOW? Fines of up to $1000 can be charged if snow or ice falls from a moving vehicle and strikes another vehicle or pedestrian.

GOING PLACES WITH PUBLIC TRANSIT

Travel Instruction Enhances Quality of Life for Riders

The DCTMA hosted *Going Places with Public Transportation: Travel Instruction for Wheelchair Users* on Thursday, October 28 at the Granite Run Mall. The presentation covered how to plan a trip on public transportation, how to pay the fare, and how to be safe and enjoy the ride.

SEPTA staff were on hand to provide information about paratransit eligibility and discounted fares for persons with disabilities. An out-of-service SEPTA vehicle gave participants the opportunity to see first-hand how to board and secure wheelchairs and other mobility devices.

This presentation is part of the DCTMA's new Travel Instruction program, designed to assist senior citizens and persons with disabilities with becoming familiar with their transportation options and become more comfortable with using public transit. Travel instruction can enhance individuals' ability to live within their community and access all it has to offer. For more information about travel instruction, please visit www.dctma.org or call 610-892-9440. ■

WEST CHESTER PIKE

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completed a land access and amenity audit of every bus stop along the Delaware County portion of this corridor. This report documents the existing conditions along the corridor which runs through five townships in Delaware County: Upper Darby, Haverford, Marple, Newtown, and Edgmont.

While the land uses and community character vary along the corridor, all share a common linkage – the Route 104 bus. Transit-user amenities were noted based on field observations collected in the summer of 2010.

Finally, traffic signal elements were documented. This information will be used to develop the transit signal priority implementation recommendations and cost estimates at later stages in this project.

Next steps include completion of the Phase 1 report and development of Phase 2 of the study which will focus on the feasibility of specific corridor improvements and provide cost estimates.

For more information about this study, or to receive a copy of the report and bus stop audit, contact Kara Rahn at krahn@dctma.org or 610-892-9440. ■

MAKING IT CLICK

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participating schools and comparison to the schools' baseline results will determine which school has the highest percentage increase and who will be awarded the cash prize and plaque.

We have received a "Safe Neighborhoods" grant from State Farm, and sponsorships from AAA Mid-Atlantic, Boeing, and Wheat Services. Thanks to all four for their commitment to safe driving! For information on how you can be involved, please visit our website or contact Kara Rahn at 610-892-9440. ■

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

FOR MORE INFORMATION
about any of the events listed at right, please call DCTMA at **610-892-9440** or visit **www.dctma.org**

DCTMA BOARD & MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Wednesday, March 16, 2011
State Farm Insurance Companies
Concordville, PA

2011 MUNICIPALITIES CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW
Thursday, April 14, 2011
Drexelbrook Corporate Events Center
Drexel Hill, PA

2011 BIKE TO WORK DAY
Friday, May 20, 2011
Delaware County Courthouse
Media, PA

ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST
June 2011
Maris Grove
Glen Mills, PA