

SOUTHEASTConnections

Commute Options Can Help Metro Residents Trim Costs During Economic Downturn



December 2008

TRIP 2009 Now Underway

The South I-25 Urban Corridor Transportation Management Association has decided to offer the Transit Rider Incentive Program (TRIP) in 2009. TRIP 2009 has slight modifications from TRIP 2008. The main change will be a reduction in the subsidy offered from 50% in 2008 to 35% in 2009.

On January 1, 2009, RTD is raising fares. Due to this increase and the high demand for TRIP passes, the TRIP program will reduce its rate on regular monthly transit passes from a 50% subsidy to a 35% subsidy. Transit passes include access to RTD light rail, bus, and call-n-Ride services. The fare for a local monthly pass through RTD will be \$70; TRIP will offer the local passes for \$45.50. The fare for an express monthly pass through RTD will be \$128; TRIP will offer express passes for \$83.20. Finally, the fare for a regional monthly pass through RTD will be \$164; TRIP will offer regional passes for \$106.60.

TRIP is the result of the South I-25 Urban Corridor Transportation Management Association's efforts. This group is a coalition of local governments including the City of Lone Tree, City of Greenwood Village, City of Centennial, Arapahoe County, Douglas County, the Southeast Public Improvement Metropolitan District (SPIMD), and the business community represented by the Southeast Business Partnership (SEBP). TRIP passes are available to eligible employees working in the South I-25 Urban Corridor.

-Provided by 360 Media

Looking for a way to save money on transit - RideArrangers can help!

As the economy shows volatility, families and individuals are evaluating budgets and looking for ways to trim expenses. The Denver Regional Council of Governments' (DRCOG) RideArrangers program can help metro commuters reduce their monthly commuting costs to save money for other necessities or leisure.

DRCOG's program helps commuters and businesses with many options, such as carpooling, vanpooling, telecommuting and using transit, to reduce commute costs. RideArrangers offers free ride-matching carpool and vanpool services in the Denver metro area. The simple matching tool requires interested persons to enter name and contact information, the closest intersections to their work and home, and the radius within which they wish to be matched. The process is quick and can be accessed using an online form that identifies matches immediately, or by calling a RideArrangers representative to submit information by phone and receive a match list by mail.

A person with an average one-way commute distance of 11 miles (22 miles roundtrip), paying \$3.50 a gallon for gasoline and averaging 19 miles per gallon spends about \$180 per month driving alone -- that's over \$2,000 a year!

By sharing the ride with one person, this commuter would save \$1,093 a year; with two people, \$1,458 per year. This doesn't include parking. Commuters can calculate the total cost of their drive to work by using RideArrangers' online commute calculator at www.drcog.org/ridearrangers.

For more information on RideArrangers' programs, contact Sarah Carroll at 303-480-6705 or visit www.drcog.org. DRCOG is a place where local officials can work together to solve the region's problems. The RideArrangers program mission is to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution.

-Provided by the Denver Regional Council of Governments

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U Route Service Update

The U Bus Route now departs Belleview Light Rail Station @ 4:20 PM and 5:20 PM, heading west. The U serves the DTC from the Southwest along Hwy 285. Major stops include Ulster and Tufts, Syracuse, Belleview Light Rail Station, Englewood Light Rail Station, Wadsworth PnR, the 285 Mountain Corridor, and everything in between. If you commute from the West, this is the Route for you. For more information, contact <http://www.rtd-denver.com/> for complete schedule listings and route planning. Additional U route assistance is available from a volunteer coalition of riders along the 285 corridor. Volunteers can help you learn how to commute from the west, including a riding companion to assist you if you are a new rider. Please contact <http://www.riders285.org/> for assistance.

-Provided by Riders 285

RTD's Parking Management Program To Begin in 2009

RTD will implement the first phase of its Parking Management Program in February 2009. The purpose of the program is to make more parking spaces available for patrons at the busiest RTD park-n-Rides.

Vehicles with license plates registered to an address within the RTD district boundaries may be parked up to 24 hours at no charge. Vehicles with license plates registered to an address outside the boundaries will be subject to a fee every 24-hour period.

For more information visit www.rtd-denver.com.



For more information on transportation news in the Southeast Corridor or TRIP, email info@TripToWork.com

Getting There Guide Provides Options

Need a ride? If you are a senior or have physical disabilities, the getting there transportation program initiative may provide an answer for you. It offers a variety of ways to get where you need to go.

Houston "Tex" Elam, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Denver Regional Mobility and Access Panel, said, "The program helps people stay at home and be independent."

The getting there initiative offers "a resource guide to transit services for older adults. Transit providers include the Shopping Cart, Littleton, and Omnibus Littleton, Art Shuffle, Englewood, First Ride, Arapahoe and Denver counties, as well as the American Red Cross."

Therese Ellery, senior program officer at Rose Community Foundation, said, "Transportation is one of the most frequently requested services by older adults, especially those who are frail and have limited functional ability. Mobility is often considered the 'glue' that keeps seniors independent, giving them access to food, health care and social interaction. According to current estimates, existing transit service can only provide 65 percent of demand, and that need will continue to grow rapidly over the next several decades."

The getting there initiative got started with an effort to coordinate senior transportation efforts in the Denver/Boulder metro area. Rose Community Foundation convened a Transportation Summit in October 2000. The Senior Mobility Alliance was formed to explore ways to increase transportation.

The guide will be available at senior centers in Littleton and Englewood, as well as other locations that serve seniors. Some of the transit providers have a charge for the service, others ask for a donation or are free. The guide shows costs. For information on where to get the guide, call 303-607-4764.

*-Provided by The Villager
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