

## BCD Council of Governments mobility program

### TridentRideshare.com

#### Customize

Everyone faces a commute that's just a bit different. From what time you leave home in the morning to the specific route you take, each commuter must find customized travel solutions to meet your individual needs. The more choices that are available, the more opportunity there is to develop a personalized solution.

#### Convenient

The Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments' Mobility Management Programs are designed to make sure that you get to your destinations safely, efficiently and conveniently.

#### Flexible

The choices we make as individuals collectively make the biggest difference in our air quality. By choosing an alternate source of transportation, together we can put fewer cars on the road. Fewer cars on the road means less congestion, less idling, and fewer harmful emissions.

In addition to improving the air quality, alternate sources of transportation also provide benefits to the workplace environment. Employers who offer and support flexible work programs are more likely to attract, and keep, employees who are looking for a balance between work and home. Employees who find that balance tend to be healthier, happier, more productive, and more loyal.

#### Options

Whether taking transit, carpooling, telecommuting, vanpooling or walking, commuters gravitate to travel options that best fit your individual lifestyle and personal preferences. Commuting alternatives and supporting strategies are described in this package of information sheets.

Additional resources are available. Contact Vonie Gilreath, Mobility Manager at the BCD Council of Governments at (843) 529-0400 or [mobility@bcdkog.com](mailto:mobility@bcdkog.com) or visit [www.TridentRideshare.org](http://www.TridentRideshare.org) for more information.



## BCD Council of Governments Ridesharing

### What is it?

Ridesharing is a flexible, convenient and less-expensive way to reach your destination. Additionally, ridesharing helps reduce vehicle emissions to help keep our air cleaner. Share a ride as many days as you want, one-way or roundtrip. All you need is one or two other people to make it work. Rideshare with neighbors, coworkers, family, friends from the gym. Or sign up with the FREE BCDCOG Rideshare Service to instantly find other people who live and work nearby to share commutes.

Visit [www.TridentRideshare.com](http://www.TridentRideshare.com) for more information and to register for this free, online, ride-matching service. BCDCOG's Regional Rideshare Program also provides marketing support to assist local businesses in marketing the program to employees.



### The Benefits of Rideshare

- **Reduce travel expenses.** Typically, you'll save hundreds of dollars a year in commuting expenses, including gas, oil changes, tires, repairs, and parking fees.
- **Reduce stress.** You'll have the opportunity to read, study, work, or relax on the days you don't drive. You'll arrive at work better prepared to face the day.
- **Improve air quality.** Fewer cars on the road mean cleaner air, less congestion and less noise. By lowering the number of single occupant vehicles on the roads we conserve energy. We regain productive time now spent on congested roadways. The air is cleaner. We all benefit from a healthier, more pleasant environment.
- **Benefit from flexibility.** Carpool every day, or just once or twice a week. Your contribution will make a difference without the hassles of a long-term commitment or a binding contract.
- **Improve Networking.** You can organize your own carpool or vanpool, or have the BCD Council of Governments' match your group by computer. If you're worried about compatible personalities, try ridesharing on a trial basis.

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Ridesharing reduces gasoline usage, vehicle wear, traffic, stress, pollution, and dependency on foreign oil. With every 100 people who pair up daily and rideshare for a year, we keep 1,848 pounds of hydrocarbons, 1,320 pounds of carbon monoxide, 792 pounds of nitrogen oxides, and 2,376,000 pounds of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere. You might even make a friend or two.

## BCD Council of Governments Flextime/Compressed Workweek

### What is it?

*Flextime* is the ability to work hours convenient to your situation. This may mean being creative with your scheduled work hours, telecommuting, or changing the number of hours you work per week. You and your employer can agree upon a certain amount of hours each week and you can schedule your working time accordingly. Many employers are now implementing flextime to enable their workers to achieve a work-life balance.

A *compressed work week* gives you the benefit of an extra day off by allowing you to finish your usual number of working hours in fewer days per pay period. Work four 10-hour days each week with one day off every week, or work 80 hours in nine days with an extra day off every other week.



### The Benefits of Flextime

- **Increased productivity and morale.** Flextime allows employees greater freedom to balance their private and work life. A compressed workweek allows greater flexibility for personal or family-time activities and for scheduling personal appointments.
- **Save commute time.** Flextime reduces peak period congestion directly, and can make ridesharing and transit use more feasible. Fewer cars on the road means less idling and fewer harmful emissions in the air.
- **Improve productivity.** Improved employee performance and improved scheduling because “morning” and “evening” people get to work during the best part of their day account for much of the increased productivity.
- **Improve scheduling.** Using employees’ preferences for earlier morning or later afternoon hours can allow for an extension of coverage of service hours. This can be particularly helpful in operations that must take account of different time zones or are interested in providing extended hours of service to customers.
- **Attract top employees.** Flexible work arrangements can attract and retain talented people; greater employee satisfaction, morale, and engagement; increased effectiveness and productivity.

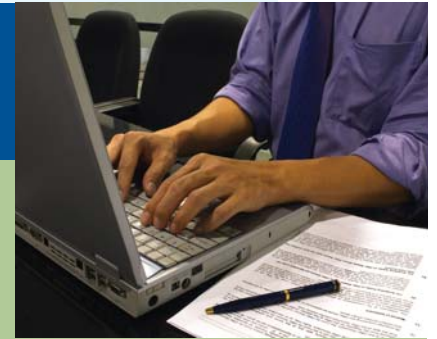
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Employees are frequently more productive when they have more options and flexibility over their work schedules.

## BCD Council of Governments Telecommute

### What is it?

Telecommuting means working at any alternative location other than at your central worksite. A telecommute program gives employees and managers the option of working off-site on a full-time, part-time, or even temporary basis. Staff may choose to work from home offices, telework centers, or satellite offices. How formal or informal your telework arrangement is depends on your company and your needs. Some telecommuting arrangements require nothing more than a phone line, while others involve a full home office setup. How simple your telecommute arrangement is depends on your company's business needs.



### The Benefits of Telecommute

- Increase productivity.** Productivity increases of 40% have been reported. Telecommuters avoid travel time and the interruptions of a office environment. Both telecommuters and their managers consistently report significant productivity gains.
- Improve Resilency.** Organizations with effective telecommuting programs are more resilient in the face of external disruption - for example strikes, severe weather, or natural disasters.
- Cost savings.** The savings are in location costs, office overhead and labor. Companies adopting telecommute methods achieve significant reductions in total office occupancy. Work can be carried out wherever the appropriate skills are available at the optimum mix of costs and other factors.
- Improve air quality.** The fewer cars on the roadways, the safer and healthier the environment is for us all. Companies can also feel good about reducing their employees' dependence on oil.
- Decrease commute time.** No more traffic jams, road rage, searching for a parking space. Gas and parking expenses are reduced. On average, telecommuters add more than an hour to each day by avoiding a roundtrip commute.

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A nationwide survey found that telework helps employees to better manage their work and personal lives. The study also revealed that productivity is the same or higher for telecommuters and that working from home is an employment incentive.

## BCD Council of Governments Bike, walk, & run to work

### What is it?

Get some exercise, save money and help keep the air clean. Biking is a healthy alternative to driving. If you live close to work or school, bicycle commuting may be appealing. If you live close to your work, give walking a try, even just one or two days a week. Like bicycling, walking allows you to combine daily exercise with your commute.

Employers also benefit from their employees walking and bicycling to work. Many organizations have recognized that the benefits of having healthy workers are so great, they have subsidized the cost of various physical activities for their employees. Another direct benefit for employers is requiring less parking space when more employees regularly walk or bike to work.



### The Benefits

- **Promote healthy employees.** Employees who walk or bike to work arrive less stressed and more alert than those who drive alone. Happier employees tend to stay with their employers longer, reducing the high costs associated with losing and recruiting staff.
- **Reduce costs.** Reducing the demand for parking (when employees bike to work) can help lower the cost of employer-paid parking. The cost of providing bicycle parking or storage facilities is also much lower than that for vehicle parking.
- **Reduce stress.** Besides the psychological benefits of feeling better about yourself, walking or biking to work also offers very clear mental benefits – from adrenaline and endorphins – that boost your mood and provide you with a sense of well-being.
- **Improve air quality.** The fewer cars on the highways, the safer and healthier the environment is for us all. And companies can feel good about reducing their employees' dependence on oil.
- **Decrease commute time.** No more traffic jams, road rage, searching for a parking space. Gas and parking expenses are reduced. More and more employers are struggling with limited parking. Once at work, parking is usually a breeze for bike commuters.

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Bicycling is one of the least expensive ways to get to work, and walking saves even more. More than half of all Americans live less than five miles from where they work. The average annual price of keeping an automobile running is at least \$6,000. The cost of riding a bike for a year is less than \$300. Enjoy the savings.

## BCD Council of Governments Transit

### What is it?

Riding the bus can be easy, inexpensive, convenient, and comfortable. It also saves money and wear and tear on personal vehicles while reducing traffic congestion and preventing air pollution. Transit is a critical link to jobs, economic expansion, and quality of life in our community.

CARTA and Tri-County Link provides transportation to where you are going and you help your community by easing traffic problems and conserving fuel when you use public transportation.



### The Benefits of Transit

- **Improve air quality.** Transit preserves air quality. Fewer vehicles on the road mean less harmful emissions are released into the air to create ground level ozone and particulate matter, both of which can cause breathing difficulties.
- **Improve quality of life.** Transit facilities and corridors are natural focal points for economic and social activities. These activities help create strong neighborhood centers that are more economically stable, safe and productive.
- **Ensure safety.** Transit continues to be one of the safest modes of travel in the United States. Riding a transit bus is 91 times safer than car travel. CARTA and Tri-County Link participates in annual safety audit programs that examine all areas of operation.
- **Decrease commute time.** Our roads are growing more congested every day. Buses, trains, carpools and vanpools help save space on highways and manage traffic congestion.
- **Cost savings.** While transit generally requires fares to use the service, it can save you money compared to filling up your car each week. No more traffic jams, road rage, searching for a parking space. Gas and parking expenses are reduced.

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While transit clearly benefits those who use it, even larger benefits accrue to all citizens in the form of economic development, reduced congestion, more livable communities and cleaner air.