



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**From:** Commuter Connections  
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**Subject:** Transportation Alternatives For Commuters

Vancouver area commuters have another alternative to Monday's brewing traffic crisis.

The website <http://www.carpool.ca> will help Vancouver area commuters find matches, share the ride to work and ease traffic congestion.

Anne Marie Thornton is the Executive Director of Commuter Connections, the non-profit organization that created the web application with the support of the Federal Government's Climate Change Action Fund. Thornton wants to encourage drivers, as well as riders, to register. "Next week there will be a lot of people in Vancouver driving to work with empty seats. Sharing the ride can really help out a neighbour or co-worker."

To use <http://www.carpool.ca>, commuters have to select a destination from the list on the application's "Find a Carpool" page. Employers can become listed as a destination simply by sending an e-mail to [information@carpool.ca](mailto:information@carpool.ca). "We're working to add worksites to the system as quickly as possible," says Thornton. The [www.carpool.ca](http://www.carpool.ca) database already has over 1,000 Lower Mainland registrants.

"Carpool.ca takes about two minutes to use", says Gordon Lovegrove, UBC's Director of Transportation Planning. "Commuters enter in their own information and instantly receive a match list of potential carpoolers. The site is free, easy to use, secure and contains lots of information about commuting costs, carpool etiquette and greenhouse gas savings."

The web-based rideshare program has been used since September 2000 to match people into carpools at UBC, Langara College and SFU. The program is also available in six other provinces.

ICBC and TransLink have been working towards bringing the Web-based rideshare program into use for several months. ICBC is studying the service to see if people who rideshare are safer drivers than commuters who drive alone. TransLink is examining alternative transportation services for their efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

Contact:

Anne Marie Thornton  
Executive Director  
Commuter Connections  
1-250-743-8035