



WEB CARPOOL PROGRAM SAVES TAXPAYERS \$\$

From: Commuter Connections Society
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Subject: ICBC/TransLink www.carpool.ca Project a Success

GVRD taxpayers are saving \$464,000 annually on road repairs thanks to a service that forms carpools over the Internet.

Since March, Lower Mainland commuters have been able to use the www.carpool.ca application to link up with others to form carpools. Anne Marie Thornton, Executive Director of Commuter Connections, the non-profit organization responsible for creating www.carpool.ca, says, "Based on conservative estimates, we've saved GVRD taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars by reducing wear and tear on the roads and by mitigating environmental damages. In addition, our carpoolers reduce greenhouse gas emissions and tailpipe emissions by over 95 tonnes annually."

ICBC and TransLink provided start-up support to Commuter Connections to market the service to large employers and institutions in the Lower Mainland. Telus, BC Hydro, Vancouver International Airport, ICBC, UBC, Langara College, and BCIT are among the organizations actively participating in this ridesharing initiative. Commuters can access rideshare information and search for potential carpool partners 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The initiative has formed approximately 100 carpools in the Lower Mainland and has over 3,500 participants registered locally.

"The transit strike helped create a short-term demand for our services," says Thornton, "but the momentum just keeps building. People are spending too much time commuting and too much money on their cars. By using the www.carpool.ca, they can reduce their commuting costs and vehicle emissions by carpooling with neighbours and co-workers. The service is secure, fast and best of all - FREE."

The service is available nationally on a limited basis and is currently used in 6 provinces. The application www.carpool.ca was created in 2000 with assistance from the federal government.

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