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Greater Redmond
Transportation
Management Association



rideshare

Easy Steps to a Brighter Future

Do commute alternatives to driving alone really make a difference? On an average weekday morning in 2001, people who chose getting to work without driving solo removed nearly 20,000 vehicles from our state's roadways. The reduction in vehicles prevented 5,130 tons of air pollution and saved 6.4 million gallons of petroleum!

How can I participate and WIN during Rideshare Week? Vanpool, carpool, ride the bus, bicycle, walk, compress your workweek, telecommute or use the train or ferry (walk-on) at least once during the week of October 14th through 18th and

you are eligible to win! *Complete and return the Participation Form* on the back of this newsletter to your Employee Transportation Coordinator (ETC) by October 25, 2002. You may also submit your entry electronically through the Greater Redmond Transportation Management Association (GRTMA) at www.grtma.org.

What if I need help finding a ride? Log on to RideshareOnline.com to find a carpool or vanpool partner. If you do not have Internet access, your ETC (their name and phone number is located on the back page of this newsletter) can assist you.

What Can I Win?

Greater Redmond TMA: (2) \$50 Bravo MasterCard Gift Cards, \$50 Gift Certificates to Larry's Market, Barnes & Noble, Home Depot and Ticketmaster

City of Redmond: \$50 Gift Certificates to Gray Barn Nursery and Eddie Bauer

Royal Celebrity Tours: Fleece Jacket*

Prizes Sponsored by Washington State Rideshare Organization (WSRO)**

Achilles USA: Everett Past and Present Book

Agilent Technologies: Gift Package

Alaska Airlines: Round-trip Airfare for Two

Amgen: \$50 Gift Certificate

Amtrak: Empire Builder Tickets

Boeing: Briefcase

Cascade Bicycle Club: Bicycle Gift Package

City of Bothell: \$50 Gift Certificate

Community Transit: \$50 Starbucks Certificate

Gray Line of Seattle: Mt. Rainier Tour

Greater Redmond TMA: \$50 Bravo MasterCard Gift Card

Hexcel Structures: Emergency Roadside Kit

Jansport: Short Stop Brief Carrier and Tree Frog Backpack

King County Metro: Gift Basket

Kurt Mayer Wanderlust Travel: Spirit of Washington Dinner Train for Two

Northwest Trek: Admission Tickets

Northwest Airlines: Round-trip Airfare for Two

Pierce Transit: Gift Package

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium: 4 Admission Tickets

Precor: Gift Package

Premera Blue Cross: \$50 Gift Certificate

Progressive International Corp: Holiday Cookware Gift Basket

Seattle Mariners: Bret Boone Autographed Baseball

Seattle Seahawks: Team Memorabilia

Seattle Sonics: Souvenir Package

Seattle Sounders: Gift Package

Seattle Storm: Souvenir Package

SonoSite: \$50 Gift Certificate

Southwest Washington Medical Center: Spirit of Portland Cruise

Spokane Chiefs: Gift Package

Spokane County: Gift Package

Tacoma Rainiers: Souvenir Package

Verizon: \$50 Gift Certificate - Olive Garden, Two Baseball Caps, Cordless Phone

...And MORE!!

*Non-WSRO prizes are limited to one winner per member employer.

**WSRO prizes are subject to change.



Who Needs a Car?

Not **Tim White!** He leaves his car at home and takes three different modes of transportation to get to work. He leaves his home in Capitol Hill and rides his bicycle to the Montlake Freeway Station, catches Route 545 to the Bear Creek Park & Ride lot and walks to his employer, **Golder Associates**, at the **Millennium Corporate Park** in east Redmond.

He has been commuting to work for 1-1/2 years using a variety of modes to get there. His one-way commute takes an average of 45-minutes. Tim said, "The bus is much cheaper than driving to and from work and I enjoy the exercise of biking and walking. Also, I like reading and having the opportunity to catch up on a good book while riding the bus."

Know Your Rs!

Watch for oncoming traffic. To help avoid head-on crashes, use these four "Rs":

- **Read the road ahead.** Watch for oncoming traffic and suspicious movement.
- **Drive to the Right.** If there is an oncoming car in your lane, ease over to the right side of your lane. Look for an escape path.
- **Reduce your speed.** Slow down, and keep an eye on the oncoming car.
- **Ride off the road.** If necessary, drive onto the shoulder or completely off the road to avoid the oncoming vehicle. If you have to hit something, aim for soft rather than hard objects – shrubs, for example. Always hit with a glancing blow rather than head-on.

Rules of the Lane

High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes are reserved for commuters who bus, carpool, vanpool, or ride a motorcycle and emergency vehicles. These lanes are marked with a diamond symbol and HOV signs. These lanes make the most of highway lanes we already have, reduce the need to expand highways and make transit work more efficiently – which in turn, saves taxpayers money.

How do you define a carpool?

The minimum number of persons required for a carpool is two. Generally, Washington State HOV lanes require two-person carpools. The number of persons required to qualify as a carpool are clearly posted along HOV lanes. State Route 520 near Bellevue, west of the I-405 interchange, requires a minimum of three people. This lane was originally designed as a shoulder and can't safely handle large traffic volumes.



Do pets count as carpool passengers?

Pets do NOT count as carpool or vanpool passengers.

Can motorcycles use HOV lanes?

Federal law allows motorcycles to use HOV lanes anytime - even if the driver is alone.

How can drivers help encourage respect for HOV lane laws?

The HERO education program ensures the rules of HOV lane use are observed. The program offers law-abiding motorists in the Puget Sound region a safe and appropriate means to report HOV lane violators by calling (206) 764-HERO.

Can single drivers in fuel-efficient vehicles or hybrids travel in the HOV lane?

No. Fuel-efficient and clean-fuel vehicles reduce the amount of pollutants in the environment and improve the air we breathe. However, they do not contribute to reducing traffic congestion when they are operated with only a single occupant. The main purpose of the HOV system is to move people, not vehicles. As a single-

occupant vehicle, fuel-efficient cars do not increase the number of people moved on a freeway HOV lane.

I have a car that only seats two people. Can I use the HOV lane on westbound SR 520 (approaching the Evergreen Point Floating Bridge) where three-persons are required?

Unfortunately, no. The only freeway HOV lane in the Puget Sound region that requires 3-person carpools is west of I-405 on SR 520 near Bellevue and Kirkland.

This requirement is set primarily for safety reasons. The SR 520

HOV lane is actually a converted roadway shoulder. In the early 1970s, the HOV lane was created on the shoulder to allow buses to bypass the tollbooth. For safety reasons, a limit to the volume of vehicles in this lane is needed because the lane is very narrow, has no roadway shoulder, and winds through many merges from ramps that also have large traffic volumes entering the freeway.

Another reason to limit volume of traffic in the HOV lane is to limit the number of cars that arrive at the same time at the Evergreen Point Bridge. This location is a severe bottleneck and every additional car forced to merge into the two lanes crossing the bridge exacerbates the bottleneck, causing longer backups. During morning peak hour, the SR 520 HOV lane carries 34% of the people traveling westbound on SR 520 in only 5% of the vehicles, so the HOV lane essentially allows the equivalent of an additional lane of people to cross the bridge.

You can drive your two-seater on the recently opened HOV lanes east of I-405 between 108th and West Lake Sammamish Parkway - where signs designate it for 2-person carpools. These lanes were constructed according to current HOV lane design standards and can handle higher volumes of vehicle traffic. This strategy of having two HOV lane vehicle-occupancy requirements on SR 520 allows westbound carpools that exit to I-405 use of the HOV lanes.

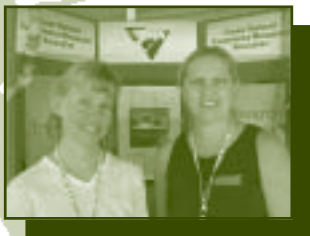


Welcome New Member!

Redmond Ridge Residential Owners Association recently joined GRTMA. Redmond Ridge is a mixed-use, fully contained community within the Novelty Hill area of the Bear Creek Community. Once complete, the 1,046-acre site will include a full range of residential densities, employment, retail and business services, parks and public utilities. Sandi MacCalla is the member representative and Cindi Gyselinck is the Commute Counselor.

No Traffic Stops for this Guy

Scott Oxley puts more mileage on his bike than some people put on their car in one month. He cycles from Ballard to the **SAFECO** campus in Redmond. His average commute is 64-miles round trip. During the month long Bike to Work event, he accumulated 832 miles on his bicycle and averages 500 miles per month on a regular basis! Scott said, "It's great not getting stuck in traffic. The trip around the lake is always visually relaxing and it gives me a chance to clear my mind. I also get in daily exercise instead of getting in my car and feeling frustrated. Sometimes, I have driven 1-1/2 hours going home. Every time I do this, I ask myself why I am driving." Not only does Scott ride his bike to work, he telecommutes one day a week.



The Key to Hidden Treasures

Are you searching for the secret to saving money and reducing stress? Open your mind to the hidden treasures of using commute alternatives. Stop by your employer transportation event and discover your options and win prizes! Listed below are commuters who have already won. (Photos left to right: City of Redmond, CarrAmerica Realty Corporation, Nintendo of America, Inc., Honeywell, Trendwest Resorts, Redmond Town Center/Lake Washington School District, Medtronic Physio-Control, CB Richard Ellis, Millennium Corporate Park, AT&T Wireless (Eastlake), Willows Commerce Park I, Volt Services Group, and Willows Commerce Park II/General Dynamics).

COMMUTE TRIP REDUCTION (CTR) NEWS

Volume III • Fall 2002



The City of Redmond CTR Program • InfoLine (425)556-2442

Vanpoolers Wanted!

Do you work in Redmond? Are you looking for a way to save yourself some time, commute stress, and money?

Join a Vanpool! Start riding in your new vanpool before December 31, 2003, and Redmond's RSVP program will pay the first \$50 per month towards your fare for the first six months, for a total of \$300!

In addition, new vanpool drivers are eligible for a \$100 driver bonus after serving as primary driver for six months. Refer someone else to your vanpool and you can receive a rider recruitment bonus of \$35!



Also, the primary vanpool driver may ride for free and all drivers may be eligible to use the van for personal use.

To get started, find a vanpool by entering your commute information into www.RideshareOnline.com. You can also complete a Ridematch application, and have someone else do the searching for you! To request an application, receive personalized ridematch assistance, or if you found your vanpool and want to sign up for the RSVP subsidy, call (425) 556-2422 or RSVP@ci.redmond.wa.us.

Try vanpooling and see for yourself what you can save by sharing the ride with others!

Overlake Transit Center

Ride, bike or shuttle to Redmond's new transit hub. The construction of the Overlake Transit Center at NE 40th Street is nearly complete. This center is a local and regional transit hub, providing a Park & Ride with 209 parking spaces and a convenient transfer site for riders using buses operated by Sound Transit, King County Metro and for private shuttle services operated by employers in the Overlake area.

The shuttle operations center has been completed and the multi-modal Rider Services Building is under construction with an expected completion of

January 2003. This building will house a bicycle station, the Greater Redmond Transportation Management Association (GRTMA), Redmond police outpost and driver restrooms. For more details, log on to: www.soundtransit.org/stplans/eastling/overlake/Overlake.htm.



Shuttle Operations Center now open at the NE 40th Street Transit Center.



Sail Away

Sail Away with RideshareOnline.com!

In 1999, GRTMA developed the first self-serve, Internet-based ridematching system in the country – RIDEQUEST.COM. Based on advances in Regional technology implementation, on July 15 2002, GRTMA transitioned the local system and users to the Regional system - RideshareOnline.com. It is managed by King County Metro.

RideshareOnline.com is a self-serve, online ridematching system that instantly matches motorists commuting to specific areas of town with others traveling to and from the same area.

GRTMA promoted the transition with the "Sail Away with RideshareOnline.com" campaign. Participants who registered and ran a matchlist between July 15th and September 27th, were eligible to win prizes. There are three lucky winners out there who won these great prizes:

- **7-day Alaskan Cruise for Two** on Norwegian Cruise Lines (donated by Australia New Zealand Vacations and GRTMA)
- **Argosy Cruising Package for Two** – Package includes four cruises: Royal Argosy Dining Cruise, Seattle Locks Cruise, Seattle Lake Cruise and Kirkland Lake Cruise (donated by Argosy Cruises)
- **Sunset Hot Air Balloon Ride** – with Dinner for Two (donated by GRTMA)

Log onto www.grtma.org after October 18th to see who won!

Traffic Trouble Spots

WSDOT is still hard at work improving state roadways.

Northwest Region Construction Information is available on the Internet at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/PugetSoundTraffic/constr.htm>

◆ **I-405: SR 167 Interchange Modifications**

A new ramp is being built to connect southbound I-405 with southbound SR 167. The existing ramp from southbound I-405 to northbound SR 167 will be realigned to accommodate the new ramp. Expected completion – summer 2003.

◆ **Eastbound I-90: On-Ramp from Downtown Seattle**

This project includes building an elevated structure along South Atlantic St. between

Occidental Avenue South and 4th Avenue South over the BNSF railroad tracks. There will be an elevated intersection at 4th Avenue South. The existing eastbound I-90 ramp between 4th Avenue South and 6th Avenue South will be realigned to connect with the elevated intersection.

Portions of the existing eastbound I-90 ramp between 4th Avenue South and 6th Avenue South will be removed to accommodate the new structure. Expected completion – spring 2004.

◆ **I-405: Bellevue Direct Access to NE 8th**

Improvements are being made to the I-405 under crossing near NE 8th St. in Bellevue. Work includes paving, building a bridge approach slab, retaining wall, sidewalk curbs, traffic signals, lighting, guardrails, installing drainage, storm sewer and water lines and more. Expected completion – winter 2004.



Redmond Construction Update

Overlake

The intersection of NE 40th St. and 148th Ave. NE will be reconstructed to improve turning movements. Construction is expected to begin in fall 2002 and be completed by spring 2003.

East Redmond

Expect traffic impacts along Union Hill Road between Avondale Road and 192nd Ave. NE. This work includes installation of a gas main by Puget Sound Energy and resurfacing work under the City's annual overlay project. All construction activities are anticipated to be completed by November 2002.

Miscellaneous Construction

The existing right-turn lane from westbound Redmond Way to 132nd Ave. NE will be reconstructed and lengthened in fall 2002. Expect traffic delays during this work.

Log onto the Information Highway

- <http://www.grtma.org>
- <http://www.RideshareOnline.com>
- <http://www.soundtransit.org>
- <http://www.ci.redmond.wa.us>
- <http://www.commtrans.org>
- <http://metrokc.gov>
- <http://www.mycarstats.com>
- <http://www.carseat.org>

Commuter Information

KC Metro Automated Bus Schedules	(206) BUS-TIME
Community Transit Customer Information	(425) 353-7433
Sound Transit Express Customer Service	(888) 889-6368
WA Statewide Ferry Information	(800) 84-FERRY
WA State Highway Information Line	(206) 368-4499
King County Roads/Traffic Information	(206) 205-9150
Puget Sound Energy	(800) 321-4123
Bicycle Information:	
Cascade Bicycle Club	(206) 522-BIKE
Bicycle Alliance of Washington	(206) 224-9252
Marymoor Velodrome Association	(206) 675-1424

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GRTMA welcomes all your questions and comments.

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Willows Commerce Park

Cindi Gyselink, (425) 556-2490

Enter and Win!

If you participate in Rideshare Week, fill out the rideshare form below. Remember to add the amount of one-way miles it takes to get to work. Cut it out and return to your Employee Transportation Coordinator (ETC) listed on the left, by October 25th to be entered to win all the great prizes listed on page 1!



Instead of driving alone during Washington State Rideshare Week, October 14-18, I chose to:

- Carpool
- Vanpool
- Ride the Bus
- Telework
- Train
- Bicycle
- Walk
- Compressed Work Schedule
- Walk-on Ferry

I participated on the following day(s):

- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday

Daily One-way Miles to Work: _____

- Yes! This is the first time I've used a smart commute!

Enter my name in the drawing for the Greater Redmond TMA and Washington State Rideshare Week prizes!

Please return this form by October 25th to your ETC: (listed on left)

Your Name: _____

Work Phone: _____ Ext. _____

Employer: _____

County: _____

*Incomplete entries are invalid. One entry per person.