

Rideshare Review

A bimonthly publication from Capitol Rideshare

November/December 2021



State wins Clean Air Campaign award for Arizona's Connected Workforce remote work program

Recognized for efforts to reduce commute-related pollution via remote work

For 34 years, Valley Metro has recognized excellence among the valley's travel reduction programs through its annual Clean Air Campaign awards. In October 2021, the State of Arizona was announced as the winner for its work on the [Arizona's Connected Workforce remote work program](#) in the new category of Pandemic Pivot, which recognized an organization that has adjusted its travel reduction program in the wake of the pandemic. Telework has been a policy-driven travel reduction measure for the State of Arizona since 1993; 12% of state employees in Maricopa County were teleworking pre-pandemic. When Governor Doug Ducey issued his "Stay Home, Stay Safe" COVID-19 executive orders in March 2020, more than half of state employees in Maricopa County began working remotely. The Governor's Office moved to leverage these unexpected gains in telework, launching the Arizona's Connected Workforce (ACW) initiative in July 2020. The ACW initiative sought to expand on the existing telework program, move large numbers of employees to a permanent virtual office status, and reduce the state's real estate footprint. The Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA) issued a revised statewide remote work policy. A multi-agency training team developed remote work training academies for employees and supervisors aligned with the revised policy. ADOA adapted the remote work agreement to an online application that interfaces with the state's Human Resources Information Systems, allowing for system-wide reports and automation of renewal notifications. ADOA is developing a real estate compression plan for fewer in-office workers, saving millions of tax dollars. By summer 2021, more than half (12,000+) of the state's workforce in Maricopa County continued working remotely, with many of these employees in virtual office status. There were more than 13,000 completed FY22 remote work agreements by September 2021. Information about the 2021 winners is available online: [Valley Metro announces the 2021 Clean Air Campaign Award Winners](#).



The state has won several Clean Air Campaign awards over the years that recognized excellence in the travel reduction program (Capitol Rideshare), the state's travel reduction program staff and individual state employees who demonstrate commitment to using alternative modes for their work-related commutes.

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Maricopa County offers discounts to replace wood-burning fire pits

In an effort to reduce smoke produced by outdoor wood burning fire pits, the Maricopa County Air Quality Department has created a Propane Fire Pit Program in partnership with the Arizona Propane Gas Association, the Propane Education & Research Council and Home Depot. The program provides a \$75 voucher for the purchase of a propane fire pit at a participating Home Depot store.

The program is available to all Maricopa County residents. There is a limit of one voucher per household. Vouchers can only be used for outdoor propane fire pits. For more information, please visit the [Propane Fire Pit Program website](#).

2022 Capitol Rideshare calendars for Commuter Club members

The [2022 Capitol Rideshare calendars](#) have been sent to agency travel reduction coordinators for distribution to Commuter Club members. Please reach out directly to your coordinator; Capitol Rideshare will not fulfill individual requests.

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JUNE	Capitol Rideshare 602.542.RIDE CapitolRideshare.AZ.gov	JULY
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State Paid Holiday State Service Pay Cycle

Valley Metro/Mesa Polar Express is back!

The Mesa Polar Express will run from 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights (December 10 – 18). Originating at the [Park and Ride at North Mesa Drive and East Main Street](#) in Mesa, the journey is a 20-minute light rail round trip ride along [Merry Main Street](#), which includes an ice rink, marketplace and food trucks. No tickets are required; this is a free event for the community. Please dress in warm attire as this is an outdoor event. Arrive early due to the popularity of this event. Valley Metro suggests participating on the first weekend as families are always turned away on the last night of the event. Please note: masks are required for this event. For more details, please visit www.themesapolarexpress.com.



Emergency Ride Home: Sign up now for the Commuter Club; don't wait for an emergency!

Employees who use an alternate mode at least twice per week—carpool, transit, telework, compressed work week, electric vehicle, biking or walking—are eligible for free membership in Commuter Club. The primary benefit of Commuter Club is to offer employees who use alternate modes of transportation an emergency ride home (ERH), up to twice per fiscal year, for unexpected emergencies. Examples of qualifying emergencies include medical emergency, family emergency or the commuter's carpool driver unexpectedly left early. ERH will return the employee to their car or their home. **Please note: you must have a Lyft account to self-dispatch the ERH;** Capitol Rideshare provides a voucher credit to pay for up to \$50 for an emergency ride (this will not cover a driver tip). For more information regarding the Emergency Ride Home Program, visit the [Commuter Club page](#) online.

Congratulations to our RideAmigos contest winners!

Capitol Rideshare launched the RideAmigos monthly contests in June 2020 and employees are logging trips, earning points and redeeming the points to enter contests to win prizes! **Remember, remote work days count as alternate modes—so log those remote work days!** Below are lists of Commuter Club members who entered the contests and were randomly selected as winners via the RideAmigos gamification module.

Members of [Commuter Club](#) are eligible to join the fun and start redeeming their points for the chance to win a gift card! Here's how it works:

1. Log your alternate modes and collect your points.
2. Once you have at least 100 points, scroll to the bottom of your dashboard to your My Rewards section. Click on RideAmigos Sign Up and Trip Logging Points.
3. Under your points total, click on Show Details and Inventory.
4. The dashboard expands to show you the awards available to you and the points required to enter the drawing.
5. Click on the drawing you wish to enter. If you have the points available, you can redeem points for up to three entries. Example: If you have a points balance of 300 and each entry is 100 points, you can redeem the balance of your points for three drawing entries.

Start redeeming your points today—and if you haven't started logging your trips, get started! You can log previous trips up to 30 days! If you need help learning how to log trips, please visit the FAQs linked posted on [Capitol Rideshare's RideAmigos information page](#).

October winners	Agency	November winners	Agency
Terrence Follmer	Dept. of Economic Security	Fiona Donohoe	Dept. of Economic Security
Rajinder Sullhan	Dept. of Revenue	Shelby Williams	AZ Schools for the Deaf & Blind
Michelle Carella	Dept. of Revenue	Michelle Carella	Dept. of Revenue
Carolinne Shaffer	AHCCCS	Samantha Goldstein	Dept. of Economic Security
Megan Baker	Dept. of Education	Naomi Moreno	Dept. of Revenue
Barbara Rutledge	AHCCCS	Daniel Lukose	ADOT
Alice Chow	Dept. of Health Services	Nicole Kelsheimer	Dept. of Education
Sandra Tiller	Dept. of Economic Security	Cheryl Schnell	Dept. of Administration
Tami Schuler	Dept. of Administration	Emilie Steinhoff	Dept. of Administration
Christina Lane	Dept. of Education	Lauren Prole	AHCCCS
Margaret Hinchey	Corporation Commission	Katie DiTullio	Dept. of Education
Desiree Fizer	Dept. of Revenue	Dee Woodard	AHCCCS
Michael Scheller	Dept. of Economic Security	Linda Hogan	ADOT
Shiela McCurdy	ADOT	Donna Auguste	Dept. of Economic Security
Marc Atonna	Dept. of Child Safety	Barbara Sullinger	ADOT
Danyelle Harris	Dept. of Economic Security	Julia Davis	Dept. of Child Safety
Jennifer Widlowski	Dept. of Environmental Quality	Chris Feasel	Attorney General's Office
Fran Parmenter	AHCCCS	Justin Bohall	Osteopathic Examiners Board
Wayne Miller	Dept. of Environmental Quality	Maria Morales	Dept. of Economic Security
Becky Donnelly	Dept. of Economic Security	Susan Shurtz	Dept. of Public Safety

Coordinator's Corner

Please don't cancel state employees' Platinum Passes when they transfer to another state agency

It is not uncommon for state employees to work at multiple state agencies over the course of their public service careers. For employees who use the Platinum Pass to take transit, it is essential that they are able to take their Platinum Passes with them when they transfer agencies. Please do not cancel a Platinum Pass if the employees are transferring to another state agency unless an employee requests it. The transit passes will transfer with them to their new agencies. If the employee's pass is canceled and he/she must apply for a new pass, the employee will be billed for two passes (and Capitol Rideshare will pay 50% of the cost for both passes).

Please refer to ADOA's [HRIS training resources webpage](#) for related information or contact Central Payroll if you have any questions.

The Annual Travel Reduction Survey is right around the corner!

In January, Capitol Rideshare staff will be reaching out to you to update the employee counts for the upcoming annual Travel Reduction Survey. You will be asked to review the information exported from HRIS to confirm the employee count by location. The employee/location counts must be as accurate as possible to ensure accurate survey results. You will need to note if your agency has had address changes in 2021. Capitol Rideshare staff also will provide a survey schedule and updated training prior to the survey launch. Staff will provide support throughout the survey process.

Capitol Rideshare is administered by the Arizona Department of Administration Human Resources Division; it is funded by the Federal Highway Administration through the Maricopa Association of Governments and by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

Editor: Mary Marshall

Reminders & Notes

Reduce commute costs with Platinum Pass

Valley Metro Local, Express, and RAPID buses and light rail can get you to work without the hassle of driving in traffic! The state offers employees a subsidized Platinum Pass; there is no fee to apply for the pass. The current subsidy rate is 50 percent of the fare, up to half the cost of a monthly pass. Just [complete the application](#) and send it to your agency's human resources unit. Please visit the [Capitol Rideshare's website](#) to learn more about this program.

Do your part to fight transit fraud!

Employees are responsible for all charges incurred on their Platinum Pass until they notify their human resources department, in writing, that the pass is lost or stolen. To prevent fraud, please do the following:

- Keep your pass secured.
- Check your paystub for charges, even when you have not used your pass.
- NEVER loan your pass to anyone else.
- Report your pass missing immediately, in writing, to your human resources liaison.
- If replacing, follow up with HR to ensure your missing pass has been replaced and mailed.

Reminder: new Platinum Passes were mailed to employees in September 2020 to replace expired passes. If you are a Platinum Pass holder, please check the expiration date on your card and [email RideshareHelp@azdoa.gov](mailto:RideshareHelp@azdoa.gov) if your pass is expired, even if you are not using it.

2021 Valley Metro holiday schedule

Employees who take transit are advised to check the [Valley Metro Holiday Schedule](#) to ensure transit is available as needed.



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RIDESHARE**

Ride smarter. Breathe easier.