

# Rideshare Review

*A bimonthly publication from Capitol Rideshare*

July/August 2019

## Seeking nominees for the 2019 Clean Air Awards!

*Capitol Rideshare will nominate employees who are dedicated alternate mode users for Valley Metro's annual awards*

Each year, Valley Metro hosts a Clean Air Awards campaign culminating in an awards ceremony that celebrates October as Rideshare month. This year's awards ceremony takes place on October 30. Capitol Rideshare has participated in the competition, nominating state employees for various categories that recognize their dedication to travel reduction and improving air quality. The honorees have significantly reduced air pollution and traffic congestion by supporting clean air programs and encouraging the use of alternative modes of transportation, including carpool, vanpool, bus, light rail, telework, biking and walking.

State employees who were among recent winners include April Perkins of the Arizona Department of Administration (outstanding commuter, multi-modal user), Michael Sanders of the Arizona Department of Transportation (outstanding commuter, bicyclist or walker), and Fred Hendrix of the Arizona Department of Corrections (outstanding commuter, carpool or vanpool). Their stories were published in the [November/December 2017](#) issue of Rideshare Review. Thomas Betlach, the former director of the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), was honored last year for outstanding leadership. During his nine-year tenure leading AHCCCS, the agency consistently met the state's mandated goal of reducing employee drive-alone commutes to no more than 60 percent.

Do you know a dedicated carpooler? Are you a diehard bus rider? Capitol Rideshare is reaching out to state agencies to recommend employees for the 2019 awards. The categories for outstanding commuter include: Bus or Light Rail Rider, Carpooler or Vanpooler, Bicyclist or Walker, and Multi-modal Commuter (uses at least two alternative transportation modes or a unique mode to commute). Capitol Rideshare also would like to hear if there is a leader who has shown outstanding support of the organization's travel reduction program and/or clean air projects, or led by example.

Nominees should have an interesting and/or compelling story related to their commute (i.e., has your alternate mode use allowed you to develop a lasting friendship through your commute?). April Perkins shared her story about her multi-modal commute that included biking and busing to school with her 12-year-old daughter before heading to work on light rail!

Valley Metro will announce the finalists ahead of the ceremony. Nominees who are finalists will attend the awards ceremony and luncheon at the Pointe Hilton Tapatio in October. Staff will work with nominees to craft an interesting nomination; nominees must be willing to work with staff on the nomination. **Please send your nominations to [RideshareHelp@azdoa.gov](mailto:RideshareHelp@azdoa.gov) by August 16.**



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## Mowing Down Pollution: Receive a voucher to replace gasoline mowers and lawn equipment

In an effort to improve air quality and reduce air pollution produced by gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment, the Maricopa County Air Quality Department (MCAQD), in partnership with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), created the Mowing Down Pollution Program. This lawn and garden equipment replacement program, which is available to residents of Maricopa County, provides up to \$200 in vouchers towards the purchase of a new electric or battery-powered lawn mower and one lawn and garden device when the old working gasoline-powered equipment is recycled. In 2018, MCAQD recycled nearly 900 lawn mowers, reducing 23 tons of pollution. MCAQD has 1,600 lawn mower vouchers and 1,000 vouchers for lawn and garden equipment available this season.

The program encourages the use of clean electric or battery-powered lawn and garden equipment rather than gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment to aid in the reduction of air pollution year round. To learn more about the program, visit [cleanairmakemore.com/lawn](http://cleanairmakemore.com/lawn).

### Help 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:**

- 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.

## Department of Environmental Quality offers repair assistance for vehicles that fail emissions testing; restrictions apply

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), the agency charged with leading the state's compliance with the Clean Air Act, has a voluntary vehicle repair program that provides financial assistance to owners of eligible vehicles that have failed emissions testing. The funds must be used to help pay the cost of repairs at an ADEQ-approved repair facility; vehicle owners are required to contribute a \$150 co-pay toward repairs. Currently, the financial assistance is capped at \$550 for gas-powered vehicles and \$1,000 for heavy duty diesel vehicles. As of July 2019, ADEQ has distributed more than \$775,000 to help repair more than 2,000 vehicles in order to meet the emissions requirements.

A vehicle may qualify for the voluntary vehicle repair program if it:

- Has been registered in Maricopa County or Pima County for the last 12 months and has not been unregistered for more than 60 days.
- Was manufactured in or before 2007 (12 years or older).
- Failed an emissions test less than 60 days prior to your vehicle registration expiring.
- Is not a motor home, motorcycle, salvage vehicle or a fleet vehicle.
- Emission control system has not been tampered with, removed or disabled, in whole or in part.
- Owner has not received previous program assistance within the last 12 months.

**Failed emissions? We can help!**  
**Get up to \$550 toward repairs.**



Learn more at [azdeq.gov/CarHelp](http://azdeq.gov/CarHelp)



Car owners whose vehicles fail emissions testing should request to speak with an emissions testing station manager to verify eligibility requirements and apply for the program.

## **GRID Bike Share: an easy, low-cost way to include a bike in your commute!**

If you live and/or work in the metro area, you may have seen GRID Bike Share bike racks throughout the cities. The green GRID bikes have become ubiquitous in downtown Phoenix, Mesa and Tempe! GRID Bike Share stations are strategically located at transit centers and other hubs. GRID Bike Share offers a transit option for commuters who take the bus or the light rail but need to travel beyond the transit stop.

Capitol Rideshare partnered with GRID Bike Share to offer a discounted, subsidized annual plan (\$30) for state employees to participate in this option. Employees must use their approved state email address to enroll. Other restrictions apply. The Capitol Rideshare offer is available on the GRID Bike Share site [under group plans](#) or employees can [sign up directly here](#). A [video](#) explains how to use this service.

GRID hubs are located in areas near state employees' work sites. There are four hubs in the Capitol Mall area: Washington and 12th Ave., Washington and 15th Ave., Adams and 17th Ave., and Jefferson and 17th Ave. Likewise, state employees who work along the Central Ave. corridor in downtown and midtown Phoenix will find hubs along the light rail line.

Since launching this service in summer 2017, state employees have signed up for more than 90 discounted GRID memberships. This includes employees who have renewed their memberships year over year.

## **Resources for electric vehicles: more EV charging stations in FY20**

State employees who have invested in electric (EV) or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV) have options for charging these vehicles during the work day. ChargePoint has multiple electric vehicle charging stations (EVCS) at (or near) many state worksites, including properties in the Capitol Mall area.

ChargePoint's website features an interactive map detailing where charging stations are located and the associated costs. Drivers set up an account with ChargePoint; users can order a card or download an app onto their smartphones, which will allow them to plug in and use the charging stations. User fees vary by location. The fees at the Capitol Mall stations are \$1.50/hour for the first three hours and \$5.00/hour after. The higher rate serves as a deterrent to a single employee monopolizing the charging station. The app will alert the user when their charging time is done.

The Office of Grants and Federal Resources (GFR), Capitol Rideshare's parent office, plans to add more charging stations in FY20 to accommodate demand. Tom Sahhar, GFR's Energy and Transportation manager, is leading the effort to expand EVCS infrastructure to serve state employees.

"Currently, we will be expanding the infrastructure at two existing sites on the Capitol Mall, at the ADEQ building and at the ADOA building. We know that demand supports this expansion," said Sahhar. "But we're also actively looking at new locations for EV charging stations to serve state employees."

Employees driving zero-emission vehicles at least three times a week are eligible for Capitol Rideshare parking permits and Commuter Club membership.

## **Emergency Ride Home service is available only to Commuter Club members**

Capitol Rideshare provides a free emergency ride home (ERH) twice per fiscal year for unexpected emergencies (restrictions apply). To receive the emergency ride home service, you must be a currently registered member of Commuter Club. Free membership is available to non-university state of Arizona employees working in Maricopa County who use an alternate mode at least twice a week (transit, carpool, vanpool, telework, bike, walk, or use of zero emission vehicle).

To check whether you have an account, or to sign up for [Commuter Club](#), please visit the [online portal](#). Guidance for enrolling in Commuter Club can be [found online](#). Capitol Rideshare will not honor requests for ERH unless the employee is registered!

## Coordinator's Corner

### Platinum Pass final billing: time is critical

When employees leave state service, there is a [GAO process for canceling their Platinum Passes](#). It is essential that this is done in a timely manner—the last day should be no later than the Friday before payroll is due. For employees who tender a resignation with notice, the pass processor can go into HRIS and schedule the bus card cancellation date for the last day of employment. If the card is canceled later, the agency runs the risk of not getting the employee's portion of the transit fare via a payroll deduction—and the agency must pay that cost. Each month, Central Payroll receives a report of no-pay deductions because the final billing was not completed on time. Questions about this policy should be sent to [Central.Payroll@azdoa.gov](mailto:Central.Payroll@azdoa.gov).

### New Employee Orientation and other presentations from Capitol Rideshare

Capitol Rideshare staff is available to present an overview of the state's travel reduction program to employees at your agency's new employee orientation (NEO). We also sent you the redesigned Capitol Rideshare brochures to be included in new hire packets for new state employees. Staff also can set up an information table during the lunch hours to assist employees with travel reduction queries. To order brochures or to request a Capitol Rideshare speaker, please email the request (with times and dates) to [RideshareHelp@azdoa.gov](mailto:RideshareHelp@azdoa.gov).

### Please send Travel Reduction Plans

The 2019 agency TRP plans are past due. If you have not already sent your agency's plan, please email your agency's signed plan to Capitol Rideshare, [RideshareHelp@azdoa.gov](mailto:RideshareHelp@azdoa.gov), by the end of August.

Capitol Rideshare is administered by the Arizona Department of Administration Office of Grants and Federal Resources; 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

### Reduce commute costs with Platinum Pass

Riding transit can save you time, money and reduce traffic-related stress. Valley Metro Local, Express, and RAPID buses and light rail can get you to work without the hassle of traffic, often quicker than driving alone. Sign up today! The state offers a transit subsidy to employees who sign up for the 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. Learn more about this program on [Capitol Rideshare's website](#).

### Be sure to display your parking permit!

Only vehicles with current Capitol Rideshare parking permits may park in the designated Capitol Rideshare carpool parking spaces. FY 2019 permits expired on June 30, 2019; Capitol Rideshare sent the 2020 yellow renewal stickers to each agency coordinator to distribute to their respective permit holders. If you have not received your renewal sticker, please contact your agency travel reduction coordinator or send an email to [RideshareHelp@azdoa.gov](mailto:RideshareHelp@azdoa.gov).

### Valley Metro's Rideshare month competition begins in August—win a prize!

Pledge to use an alternative mode (carpool, vanpool, bus, light rail, telework, work a compressed week, walk, or bike) during Rideshare Month in October to help fight pollution and reduce traffic congestion. When you visit Valley Metro's [ShareTheRide.com](http://ShareTheRide.com), take the pledge from August 23 to September 30, and you will be entered to win a one-night stay at the Pointe Hilton Squaw Peak Resort. Pledge page coming soon!



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