

Rideshare Review

A bimonthly publication from Capitol Rideshare

September/October 2022



FREE Platinum Pass pilot program extended

Capitol Rideshare will pay the full subsidy through June 30, 2023

The state-subsidized Platinum Pass allows employees to take light rail, local buses and commuter buses to and from work at a discounted rate. To encourage more employees to use transit and help offset rising gasoline costs, Capitol Rideshare launched a pilot program offering a fully subsidized Platinum Pass to state employees for six months, June 1 – November 30, 2022, subject to the ongoing availability of funding. During the pilot program, Capitol Rideshare staff analyzed the ridership data against a baseline average of ridership data in the five-month period following Valley Metro's reinstatement of fare collection in October 2021. Staff determined that during the first three months of the pilot period, the Platinum Pass program increased its users by 25%, with the largest increase in users coming from employees who take the commuter buses (RAPID and Express buses). In the first four months of the pilot, employees have collectively saved more than \$41,000 in subsidy payments and thousands more in fuel costs. After reviewing the success of the pilot and determining that funding is available to continue the program, Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA) leadership decided to extend the pilot program for the remainder of fiscal year 2023, which ends June 30, 2023.



Previously, the state's Platinum Pass program provided a 50% subsidy and employees' half was paid via a payroll deduction, usually the second pay period of the month. Capitol Rideshare staff will publicly announce when a cost-sharing model will return, providing no less than 30 days' notice. Please be sure to watch the Capitol Rideshare website for updates regarding this program.

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How to sign up for the Platinum Pass transit card

To sign up for the Platinum Pass program, please visit the [Capitol Rideshare website](#) to learn more about the program and download the application (applications should be returned to the employee's human resources contact for processing; Capitol Rideshare staff cannot process Platinum Pass applications). Please allow two weeks to receive the card, which is mailed to the employee's home address.

Contact:

Capitol Rideshare
100 N. 15th Ave.
Suite 301
Phoenix, AZ 85007
602.542.RIDE
RideshareHelp@azdoa.gov
CapitolRideshare.az.gov

State employees recognized with Clean Air Campaign awards for outstanding dedication to alternative mode commutes

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 took place on October 17. Three state employees were among the finalists this year and two of the three were announced as winners at the awards ceremony.

Sarah Rose Webber — Telework (won). Sarah Rose Webber, the governor's former Chief of Operations, launched and led the Arizona's Connected Workforce (ACW) remote work initiative in the wake of the Covid pandemic. She marshaled resources to revise the statewide remote work policy to include a virtual office option, create additional training options for employees and supervisors, and produce an online remote work agreement. In 2021, the ACW team launched Remote-Work.AZ.gov, which highlights program successes and provides resources for state employees. Additionally, the Governor's Office worked with the legislature to secure funding for Arizona's Connected Workspace, a state-of-the-art hoteling facility and collaborative workspace. Sarah continuously encouraged agency directors to embrace the program, shared participation data, and highlighted the program's success in media interviews. Her leadership has contributed to a successful expansion of remote work that continues today.

Elvin Farr — Transit (won). Elvin Farr, currently employed with the Arizona Corporation Commission, has been riding the bus for a majority of his work days for 35 years. During his bus rides, he can read, rest, and socialize. Elvin highlights his positive experiences on public transit with his coworkers, encouraging them to try it out as well, and influencing a few of them to adopt this alternate commute. He takes advantage of the State's subsidized Platinum Pass and in the last year he has saved 7,718 miles, more than 500 gallons of gas and, using the IRS mileage rate of \$0.58 per mile, has saved \$4,476 and reduced air pollution in the process.

Carolyn Davis — Vanpool (finalist). Carolyn Davis, a former Help Desk Analyst at the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, was a vanpool coordinator and driver for 13 years before she retired in September. Her vanpool's commute was more than an hour each way and totaled 95 miles round-trip from the City of Maricopa to the Capitol Mall. Her vanpool participants were state employees and employees that work for Maricopa County; they enjoyed the benefits of vanpooling such as using the HOV lane and saving wear and tear on their personal vehicles. Carolyn's friendly demeanor and enthusiasm for the program will be greatly missed.



Above, L-R: Tempe Vice Mayor Jennifer Adams, Phoenix Vice Mayor Laura Pastor, former COO for Governor Ducey Sarah Rose Webber, Valley Metro CEO Jessica Mefford Miller.

Below, L-R: Tempe Vice Mayor Jennifer Adams, Phoenix Vice Mayor Laura Pastor, Corporation Commission employee Elvin Farr, Valley Metro CEO Jessica Mefford Miller.



Congratulations to our RideAmigos contest winners!

Capitol Rideshare launched the RideAmigos monthly contests in June 2020 and employees are logging trips, earning and redeeming points to enter contests for 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 gift card winners via the RideAmigos gamification module.

August winners	Agency
Erin McDowell	Dept. of Economic Security
Susan Webner	AZ State Retirement System
Patricia DiMaggio	Dept. of Economic Security
Stacey Lee	Dept. of Economic Security
Maria Morales	Dept. of Economic Security
Matthew Hernandez	Dept. of Economic Security
Karla Henriksen	AZ Lottery
Luane Mansansares	AZ Lottery
Lora Riordan	Dept. of Administration
Theresa Cartwright	Dept. of Administration
Elizabeth Douglas	Legislative Council
David Coffey	Dept. of Corrections
Debora Kimmick	Industrial Commission
Laura Minnick	Accountancy Board
Cory Homuth	Land Department
Marta Raiford	Dept. of Transportation
Mary Cimaglio	AZ Lottery
Cindy Narvaez	Senate
Linda Hogan	Dept. of Transportation
Shelley Ponce	Senate

Sept. winners	Agency
Gary Glatting	Dept. of Administration
Daniel Lukose	Dept. of Transportation
Judy Leung	Dept. of Economic Security
Nicole Kelsheimer	Dept. of Education
Tami Schuler	Dept. of Administration
Melanie Lam	Dept. of Economic Security
Carolinne Shaffer	AHCCCS
Chyla Dalton-Nava	Comm. for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing
Eric Ashenfelter	Dept. of Education
Muna Haddad	Dept. of Economic Security
Frances Savedra	Dept. of Economic Security
Marta Raiford	Dept. of Transportation
Karen Eatherly	Dept. of Transportation
Cory Homuth	Land Dept.
David Schahn	Dept. of Administration
Desiree Fizer	Dept. of Revenue
Gerardo Rodriguez	Corporation Commission
Jessica Shuster	Dept. of Transportation
Christie Abrams	AZ Schools for the Deaf & Blind
Sherita Teachey	Comm. for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

Members of [Commuter Club](#) are eligible to join the fun and start redeeming their points for the chance to win a gift card (\$10 or \$25)! 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](#).

Coordinator's Corner

2023 Capitol Rideshare calendars have been sent out to coordinators

Capitol Rideshare staff sent out the 2023 Capitol Rideshare calendars for members of Commuter Club (staff emailed each agency's list of Commuter Club members prior to shipping the calendars). These shipments included additional calendars that agency staff can include in the new hire packets provided to employees during onboarding. If you have not received your shipment of calendars or you need new hire brochures or Platinum Pass applications, email RideshareHelp@azdoa.gov.

Please do not cancel transit cards when employees transfer agencies

Employees who use the Platinum Pass should 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, they must apply for a new pass and pay the replacement fee. Capitol Rideshare will end up paying the fare costs for both passes, which may exceed the monthly cap of a single pass. Please refer to ADOA's [HRIS training resources webpage](#) for related information or please contact Central Payroll if you have any questions.

Commuter Club database cleanup

Capitol Rideshare staff recently reached out to coordinators to request assistance updating the list of their agencies' respective members of Commuter Club. We need your help identifying employees who have left your agencies. If you have not responded, please send the updates by November 4.

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; Contributor: Karissa Rodorigo

Reminders & Notes

Valley Metro notice: Service changes are effective October 24

Starting October 24, Valley Metro added a new route, extended routes, increased service, as well as reduced or eliminated service as part of the bi-annual service change. Riders should check to see how their regular travel is being impacted or try new transit options being introduced into service. **Please note: Route 541 (Chandler/Mesa Express) is being eliminated. Other east valley routes will be reduced.** A full description of changes can be found on the [Valley Metro website](#).

Emergency Ride Home: Enroll now in Commuter Club for this benefit

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. This includes an emergency ride home (ERH) from work, up to twice per fiscal year, for unexpected emergencies. Note: you must have a Lyft account to self-dispatch the ERH; Capitol Rideshare provides a Lyft voucher credit to pay for up to \$50 for an emergency ride. Visit the [Commuter Club page](#) to learn more.

ADOT invites public input for statewide electric vehicle charging station plan

Over the next five years, the state will receive \$76.5 million in federal dollars through the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program to establish publicly accessible EV charging stations along Arizona's designated alternative fuel corridors, which are currently the interstate highways. Additional highways can be added in the future. [Open house meetings](#) will be held throughout the state in fall 2022, providing the public an opportunity to review details of the plan with project staff and provide input on the plan implementation. For more information, visit AZDOT.gov/EVPlan.



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Ride smarter. Breathe easier.