

Rideshare Review

A bimonthly publication from Capitol Rideshare

November/December 2023



Valley Metro will be issuing new Platinum cards in 2024

The new transit cards will be compatible with new fare readers for bus and light rail

Transit riders have likely noticed new purple fare card readers on Express, RAPID and local buses and at light rail stations throughout the valley. Currently, the fare readers are being used by transit riders who purchase mobile fare via the Valley Metro app. In the future, the fare readers will also be used for reloadable fare cards, including new Platinum cards. Valley Metro will issue new Platinum cards in 2024 that will replace the current transit cards.

Transition to the new Platinum cards

While Valley Metro has not released a timeline for the transition to the new Platinum cards, they are working to have new cards distributed to participating organizations in the first half of 2024. They are aware that the State of Arizona's current Platinum Passes expire September 30, 2024 and will work with us to ensure we make that transition prior to the current passes expiring. When

we receive the new cards, we will receive a small business card-sized set of instructions that we will include when we mail out the new cards. The card will have the end date for the old pass and the start date for the new card so users know when they must start using the new card. We will mail the cards to the employees' mailing address in YES, so please ensure your information in YES is current and accurate. The new cards do not have an expiration date, so we will not have to mail out new cards to employees every four years.



At some point in the future, Valley Metro will roll out the ability for Platinum card users to use a virtual Platinum card in the Valley Metro app. Once that technology becomes available, we will work with Valley Metro to roll out that option to our employees who would prefer to use a smartphone app version of the Platinum card. Again, that technology will not be available with the 2024 transition and distribution of new Platinum cards for our employees.

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Join the fun with Mesa Santa Express and Merry Main Street!

Merry Main Street and the Mesa Santa Express are returning this year! The Mesa Santa Express will run from 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. on December 8 – 9 and 15 – 16. The ride will begin



at the park and ride at [N Mesa Drive/E Main Street](#). Enjoy a 20 minute round-trip ride with Santa in a festive light rail car along [Merry Main Street](#), where there will be an ice rink, 40-foot tall Christmas tree, food

trucks, and a marketplace. Riders are encouraged to dress up or wear festive pajamas. Arrive early! Seats are first come, first served. Be sure to request a commemorative ticket upon arrival. Visit www.mesasantaexpress.com for additional information.

Valley Metro is spreading holiday cheer with free light rail riders for those who are joining in the festivities at Merry Main Street in Mesa. Climb onboard at stations on main Street between Country Club and Gilbert Road 5:00 – 10:00 p.m. each Friday and Saturday night in December and join the fun!

2024 Capitol Rideshare calendars for Commuter Club members

The [2024 Capitol Rideshare calendars](#) have been sent to agency travel reduction coordinators for distribution to Commuter Club members. Please reach out directly to your agency’s coordinator to receive a calendar; Capitol Rideshare will not fulfill individual requests.

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Emergency Ride Home: peace of mind for Commuter Club members

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 a free emergency ride home (ERH), up to twice per fiscal year, for unexpected emergencies. For more information regarding the Emergency Ride Home Program, be sure to visit the [Commuter Club page](#) online.

Please note: you must have a Lyft account to self-dispatch the emergency ride home

Capitol Rideshare provides a Lyft Pass code to pay for up to \$50 for an emergency ride (this will not cover a driver tip). Capitol Rideshare cannot reimburse employees for an emergency ride home; you must download the Lyft Pass credit via your Commuter Club dashboard and apply it to your Lyft account prior to booking the ride. Please ensure you are enrolled in the Commuter Club, you have an active Lyft account in good standing and you follow the instructions for downloading and using your [Lyft Pass credit](#). To learn more about the Emergency Ride Home Program, please 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 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.

October winners	Agency	November winners	Agency
Stephen Skuba	Dept. of Public Safety	Cheryl Schnell	Dept. of Administration
Clementine Webb	Dept. of Transportation	Danette Hernandez	Dept. of Economic Security
Donna Auguste	Dept. of Economic Security	David Schahn	Dept. of Administration
Tracy Rotan	Dept. of Public Safety	Mark Welsh	AHCCCS
Katherine Faso	Dept. of Health Services	Jennifer Herron-Ulmer	Dept. of Transportation
Amanda Weldy	Registrar of Contractors	Cory Homuth	Land Department
Katie DiTullio	Dept. of Education	Jeffrey Law	Dept. of Education
Mary Nesteruck	Dept. of Education	Fiona Donohoe	Dept. of Education
Bridget Henke	Dept. of Education	Erick Gunness	State Parks Board
Kelly Alkhoury	Game & Fish Dept.	Stephen Skuba	Dept. of Public Safety
Monica Petersen	Board of Accountancy	Gerardo Rodriguez	Corporation Commission
Michelle Salazar	Dept. of Water Resources	Erica Johnson	Dept. of Water Resources
Ben Black	Dept. of Transportation	Amanda Weldy	Registrar of Contractors
Mary Cimaglio	Lottery Commission	Angelica Martinez	Dept. of Child Safety
Christy Kramer	Dept. of Administration	Nidhi Krishna	Dept. of Health Services
M. Theresa Johnson	Dept. of Water Resources	Tammy Seilheimer	Dept. of Economic Security
Kerry Schleappe	Dept. of Administration	Shawna Robles	Dept. of Economic Security
Laurie Kelly	Dept. of Administration	Loren Prole	AHCCCS
Theresa Mendoza	Treasurer's Office	Cindy Narvaez	Senate
Matthew Hernandez	Dept. of Transportation	Gwyndolynn Gentry	Attorney General's Office

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 point 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

Next annual travel reduction survey takes place in September 2024

For 33 years, Capitol Rideshare has administered the annual travel survey to employees working in Maricopa County in March. Starting in 2024, we will administer the annual travel reduction survey in September. We worked with the Maricopa County Air Quality Department, the agency authorized to implement the county-wide travel reduction program requirements, to move the survey schedule to early fall. We believe the new schedule will benefit our agencies and employees by relieving survey fatigue in the spring. In January, we will send you a revised timeline for the pre-survey and survey administration schedule.

Please cancel transit cards when an employee leaves state service

Agencies must cancel an employee's transit card when an employee is leaving state service. Transit Capitol Rideshare staff are reviewing data at the beginning of each month and finding active transit cards for inactive employees. Staff then emails the list of these active cards to the Platinum Pass processor for the agency with a request to cancel the card. If your agency has received such a list and request, please work with the processor (if it is someone other than you) to review the agency's procedures to determine how this is happening and change the process to ensure former employees are not leaving with active transit cards. **Please do not cancel the transit card if the employee is transferring to another state agency.** Please refer to ADOA's [HRIS training resources webpage](#) for related information or contact Central Payroll if you have any questions.

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, free through June 30, 2024

Valley Metro buses and light rail can get you to work without the hassle of driving! Capitol Rideshare launched a pilot program offering a fully subsidized Platinum Pass through June 30, 2024. To sign up for the pass, 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.

Two state employees finalists in the 2023 Clean Air Campaign awards

Transit rider Linda Heberling from the Arizona Attorney General's Office and carpooler Shirley Holm from the Department of Child Safety were finalists in Valley Metro's 2023 Clean Air Campaign Awards. Congratulations to both!

Ride-matching for carpool and vanpool

Employees who are seeking a carpool partner or an open seat in an established vanpool should create a profile on the [Capitol Rideshare Ride-Amigos](#) platform as well as the Valley Metro [ShareTheRide.com](#) platform. This will allow employees to seek and reach out to rideshare partners whose routes and schedules match their own.

Valley Metro 2023 holiday schedule

Employees who take transit are advised to review the Valley Metro [2023 holiday service schedule](#).



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RIDESHARE**

Ride smarter. Breathe easier.