



Let's do something about it

Fall 2006

Why partner with TMA?

With traffic congestion becoming a major problem on the Eastside highways and Freeways the role of CRC-TMA is becoming more and more critical. By addressing congestion issues, air pollution will be reduced, customer accessibility will increase and communities will be strengthened.

The value of the CRC-TMA is not just in environmental concerns. It is also a smart business choice to join with other businesses combining resources for mutual benefit. Tax credits, business savings, better customer service, happier employees with guaranteed transportation, and marketable employee benefits add to your profitability.

Ultimately, the partnership helps the environment, the business community, your employees, your customers

and the larger community.



Reasons for being involved in CRC-TMA:

1. Transit Helps Reduce Traffic Congestion
2. Transit Spurs Development And Economic Growth
3. Public transportation provides personal mobility and freedom.
4. You do not have to ride public transportation to benefit.
5. Public transportation is an immediate means of helping our environment and conserving energy.

According to www.publictransportation.com, if one in ten Americans used public transportation regularly, the U.S. reliance on foreign oil could be cut by more than 40 percent-the amount we import from Saudi Arabia each year.

BETC: Business Energy Tax Credits

Save your business money

It's possible for you to reduce your company's taxable earnings, and reduce the taxes paid by your employees at the same time. Offering employees a commute subsidy or even just a pre-tax flexible spending account can save your company money on federal or state taxes, or both!

Are you already purchasing annual passes for your employees? There are many ways to review your current transportation plan and apply current spending toward the BETC tax credits.

Example of Savings with BETC

# employees	1	100
one year of TriMet passes	\$792	\$79,200
BETC tax credit (35%)	(\$277.20)	(\$27,720)
Actual cost to employer	\$514.80	\$51,480

Subsidy-related federal tax benefits

Offering a transit subsidy gives employees more and costs employers less than a comparable salary increase or bonus. If your company pays for any part of an employee's transit pass or vanpooling costs, you may be able to claim the costs as an allowable business expense on your taxes.

Federal and Oregon state tax laws allow tax-free transit benefits, up to \$1,200 per employee, per year. For more information on subsidy-related tax benefits, refer to the IRS Code Procedure 95-53, paragraph 1 132-6T (d) (1). Also check with your tax advisor.

When it comes to state business taxes, the Oregon Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC) can really pay off. BETC allows your company to take a tax credit equal to 35% of the eligible costs for transportation-related programs such as:

- Subsidizing all or part of your employees' monthly or annual TriMet passes through TriMet's In-House Sales, Passport or Snap Pass programs
- Purchasing equipment that allows employees to work from home (telecommuting)
- Purchasing and operating a vehicle for shuttling employees to a MAX station or transit center (shuttle van)
- Offering financial incentives for employees to carpool because of limited public transportation during your shift hours
- Buying equipment to store bicycles
- Financially supporting a Transportation Management Association (TMA)

For more information on Oregon's BETC program or to request an application, contact the Oregon Department of Energy at 1-800-221-8035.

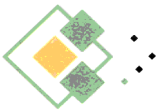
Your TMA Works with:




Drive less. Save more.
www.DriveLessSaveMore.com





DEQ's Eco Rule

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) implemented the Employee Commute Options (ECO) Rule in 1996. The rule asks Portland metro-area employers to reduce employee auto trips by 10 percent over three years by implementing programs that encourage employees to use alternatives to driving alone. DEQ's goal is to improve air quality. In the region-over 50 percent of air pollution is caused by vehicle emissions.

ECO & Your Company

The ECO Rule only affects employers with more than 50 people at any single worksite located within the Portland Air Quality Maintenance Area, which encompasses most of Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties. For more information, see the Oregon DEQ website.

How to comply

First, you must conduct a baseline survey to document how employees currently commute to work. You'll administer a follow-up survey each year to measure progress towards compliance. DEQ requires a 75%



response rate on these surveys.

Implementing a Trip Reduction Plan

Using the baseline survey results, you'll determine a commute trip reduction target and develop a plan for how to achieve that target at the worksite(s). You can choose to implement the plan in one of two ways:

Prescriptive

File your commute trip reduction plan with DEQ for approval. Once approved, you implement the plan. DEQ considers your company to be in compliance with the rules as long as you submit and implement an approved plan, whether or not you fully achieve your trip reduction target.

Performance

If you choose this option, you don't file a plan with DEQ. Instead, your company implements a commute trip reduction program you think will work and monitors its progress by surveying employees. If your company is not able to meet its trip reduction target, you must demonstrate to DEQ that a "good faith effort" was made to do so. No evidence of "good faith effort" is needed if your company meets its trip reduction target.

Whichever method you choose, CRC-TMA can help. Call your TMA for assistance with resources and support for DEQ's Eco Rule at 503-654-7777.

I-205 Light Rail - A segment of the larger project Ready or not, here it comes

The I-205 Light Rail Project is a segment of the larger 8.3-mile I-205/Portland Mall Light Rail Project.

By 2030, planners forecast a million new residents in the region. I-205/Portland Mall Light Rail is a key compo-

**Clackamas County is Oregon's third
most populous county . . . and growing**

nent in the planning effort connecting Clackamas County, one of the region's fastest-growing areas, with Portland State University (PSU), the number one destination in our transit system.

The extension of the region's light rail system also is a critical element in the long-range regional transportation plan, positioning the region for future growth of high-capacity light rail to the southeast and southwest portions of the metro area.

Clackamas County is Oregon's third most populous county, and it's growing. Communities such as Boring, Damascus, Happy Valley and Wilsonville lead this expansion, and residents are eager to access TriMet's high-capacity rail system. Extensive community input and support have made light rail the preferred transportation option along the I-205 corridor.

Drive Less Save More Campaign aims to increase public awareness

Jointly launched by the Oregon Department of Transportation, Metro, TriMet, Washington County and many other public and private partners, the Drive Less, Save More Campaign aims to increase public awareness about transportation choices to reduce single person car trips.

Research shows that nearly two-in-three residents believe it would not be difficult to take one less car trip each week. If each household in the region eliminated just two single person car trips (one round-trip) each week, there could be a four to five percent reduction in the number of cars on the road.

Other benefits of trip chaining or using alternative transportation include saving money at the gas pump and time on the road.

Reducing single person car trips is part of the solution to addressing traffic congestion, as well as helping to reduce Oregon's energy consumption and our nation's dependence upon oil.

To help people make the choice to drive less and save more, a web site has been created with information to help people use alternative modes of transportation. Find out more at www.DriveLessSaveMore.com.



CRC-TMA Partners



Emergency Ride Home option available

For employers who offer a transit pass program or a subsidy for employee alternative commute options, TriMet will provide a free taxi ride or rental car if a participating employee has a family emergency, gets sick during the work day, or even if they work unscheduled hours.



Eligible companies are those with work sites located in the TriMet service district who offer a minimum subsidy of \$10

per month for employees who use transit or who carpool, vanpool, bike or walk to work. Employers using the Passport program are automatically eligible. Companies must have a transportation coordinator or similar staff who can administer and promote Emergency Ride Home.

How it works

After you set up an Emergency Ride Home contract with TriMet, we will send you Emergency Ride Home vouchers (the number you receive will depend on the size of your company). If a participating employee needs to use the service, the Transit Coordinator fills out the voucher and calls one of the taxi companies listed on the voucher. The taxi driver will complete the form and give one copy to the employee. The employee will give the voucher back to the Transit Coordinator, and the taxi company will bill TriMet directly.

How you benefit

- Emergency Ride Home is a free service for eligible companies participating in a commute subsidy program
- Employees have a safety net when they take transit to work, so more employees are likely to participate in transit pass programs or commute subsidy programs
- Very little administrative paperwork—TriMet deals directly with the taxi companies

TriMet can provide you with materials to help promote the program

In the WINTER 2006 Transit Talk

Update on:



I-205 Light Rail.



Sunrise Corridor

Feature:

CarpoolMatchNW.org
LOG ON · MATCH UP · DRIVE OFF



EMPLOYERS:

Host a Transit Fair or Booth

A CRC-TMA representative is available to come to your business location, at no cost to you, to share the many options available for alternative transportation with your employees.

We will provide handouts, bus route maps and more, and answer questions about transit.

Call today, 503-654-7777, about gifts for participating.

503-654-7777

www.crc-tma.com

Carpooling

Your CRC-TMA can help with

Let CRC-TMA help you get a carpooling effort off the ground. There are several resources you can use to help your employees start carpooling.

TMA staff will work directly with your human resources to create a map of your employees' addresses using numbers rather than names so your employees can see if anyone lives near enough to make carpooling easy. Interested parties can contact your human resources department to find out who lives at the addresses.



Interested parties can also log on to www.carpoolmatchnw.org/ to find out about carpooling with people who take similar routes to work every day. It's anonymous! It's fast! It's convenient!

A carpooling program may be eligible for BETC credits and may count toward ECO compliance. Contact the Coordinator at 503-654-7777 to get more details.

For more information, visit the City of Portland Office of Transportation www.portlandonline.com/transportation/

www.crc-tma.com

Areas served by the N. Clackamas TMA:

- ◆ Clackamas Town Center Regional Mall
- ◆ Clackamas Industrial Park
- ◆ Kaiser Sunnyside Hospital Campus
- ◆ Omark Industrial Park
- ◆ Johnson Creek Industrial Area
- ◆ Sunnyside Road east to 122 Avenue
- ◆ Harmony Road to Railroad Avenue



CRC-TMA Partners



How do you commute?
We can help!
503-654-7777



CLACKAMAS
TOWN CENTER

Clackamas
County



TRI MET

KAISER PERMANENTE

Veritas
Investment Company LLC



City of Happy Valley

CLACKAMAS REGIONAL CENTER

TMA

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www.crc-tma.com